

Journal of Texas Philately & Postal History

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Volume 70, No. 2 May 2022



This cover hails from the post office at Ruth which stood in the center of Coryell County. The post office lasted until 1905. The town itself entirely disappeared – every single remnant and trace – by no later than 1942. John Germann explains how and why, starting on page 6.



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Journal of Texas Philately & Postal History

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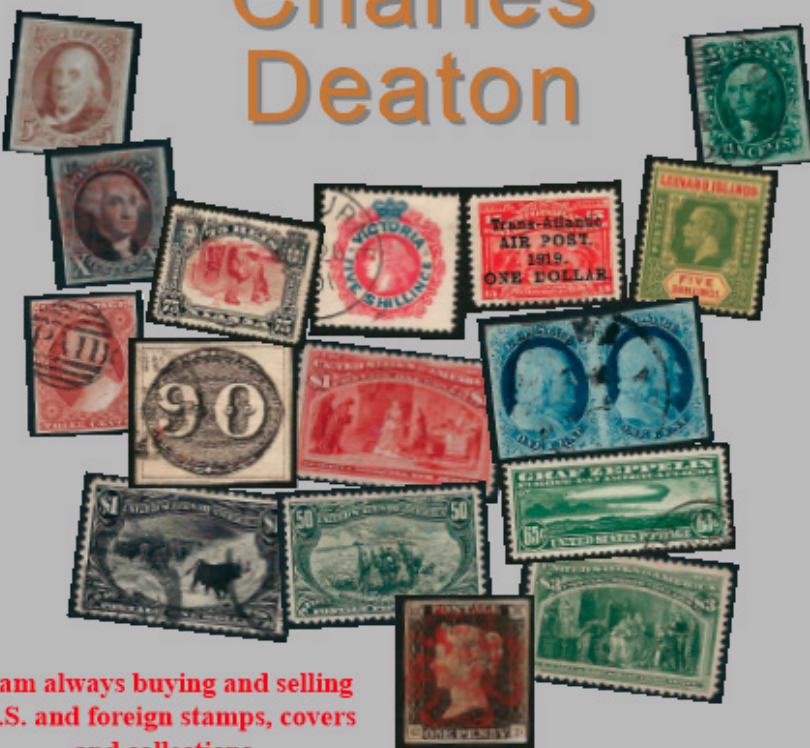


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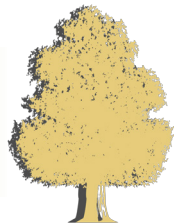
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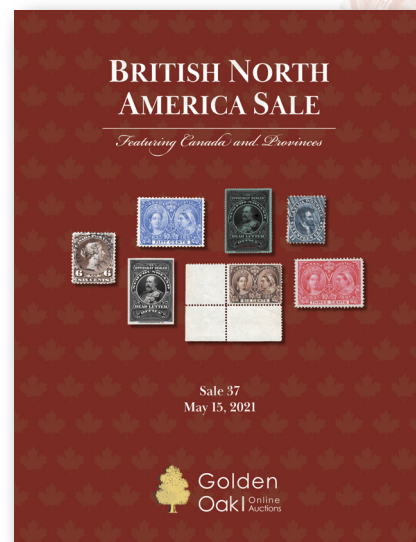
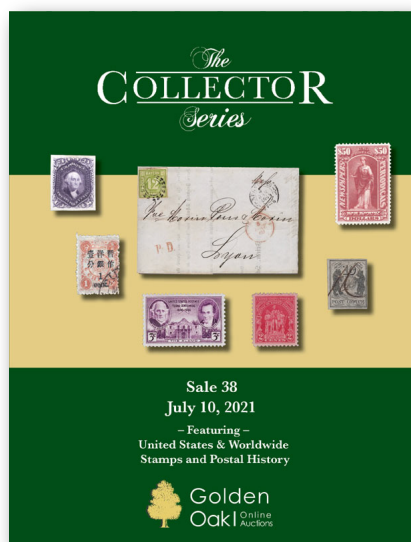
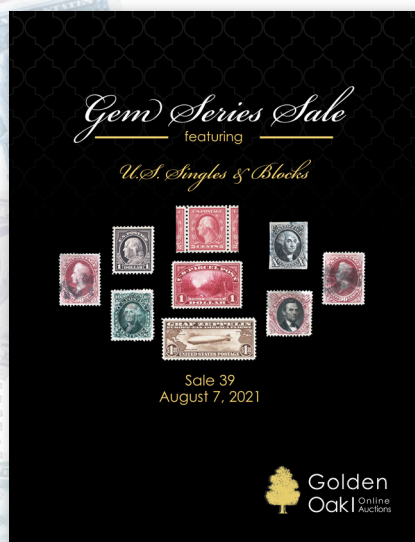
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President's Message

Jonathan Topper

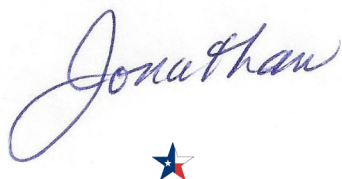
First and foremost, thank you to **Greg Cain** who substituted for me over the last few months. I had a number of business and personal commitments that all came together at the same time, and I was beyond being overwhelmed; (not least of which was moving my daughter to a new job in Phoenix, Arizona along with her 105-pound Golden Retriever)!

Thank you to all the members who subscribed for one more year, as well as the generous donations for our General and Publication Funds we have received in the last few months. The generosity of our membership is very heartwarming, and we will be careful stewards of this investment many of you have made in the name of Philately in Texas.

I have heard several our members are writing a book – or thinking of writing a book – about our stamp and postal history hobby. Keep in mind that we would be interested in possibly financially contributing to the publication of Texas-related research. Proposals for funds would have to be approved by our Board of Directors, but I encourage anyone writing on this subject to contact us for possible support. At the very least, if you are a TPA member, and have published a book or extensive article in another publication recently, we would be more than happy to highlight your achievement in this journal.

Finally, stamp shows across the nation appear to be back to normal in all senses of the word. I recently participated in ARIPEX and WESTPEX, both of which were well attended by dealers and collectors, with many exhibits and presentations.

Time to get out and attend your local stamp club meetings and the local stamp shows! I hope to see you there!



Editor's Notes

Robert Conley

Greetings! We start proceedings with – you guessed it – **John Germann** who gives us an insight into the sheer enormity of Fort Hood and what was subsumed to make it so. One thing is clear from John's tale – the U.S. Army sure has a lot of clout – certain Russian and Chinese despots might want to take note.

Jonathan Topper has had a big couple of months and graces us with three items. His first article regales us about the good citizens of pre-WWI, Rio Hondo, who seemingly had nothing more to worry about than being there when the mail train arrived. That was back in the good old days. A couple of pages later, Jonathan introduces us to the Wineburgh Library's curator, **Cassandra Galus-Zawojek** and tells us what she can do for all those researchers who write for your *Journal*! JT's third contribution starts on page 18 – a sad story of some lowlife criminals taking advantage of the Easter weekend to plunder and wantonly vandalize a Houston-area storage complex. Lessons to be learned there.

On page 12, yours truly has a little spiel about a Texan fancy cancel discovery. New member, **Bob Collins**, out of Westlake, Ohio, then shares a delightful essay on his many decades of philatelic pursuits.

The impossibly-busy, **Vince King** kindly takes the time to talk auctions, before Mr. Germann returns with his sixth instalment of "Pioneer Postmasters."

Closing us out, **Greg Cain**, firstly tells us about what's happening out there among the Chapters, then he provides the usual "Secretary's Report."

All of that constitutes this 32-page volume of your *Journal*. Don't forget to support all our terrific advertisers. Until next time, stay safe, stay well.



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UNITED STATES AND WORLDWIDE

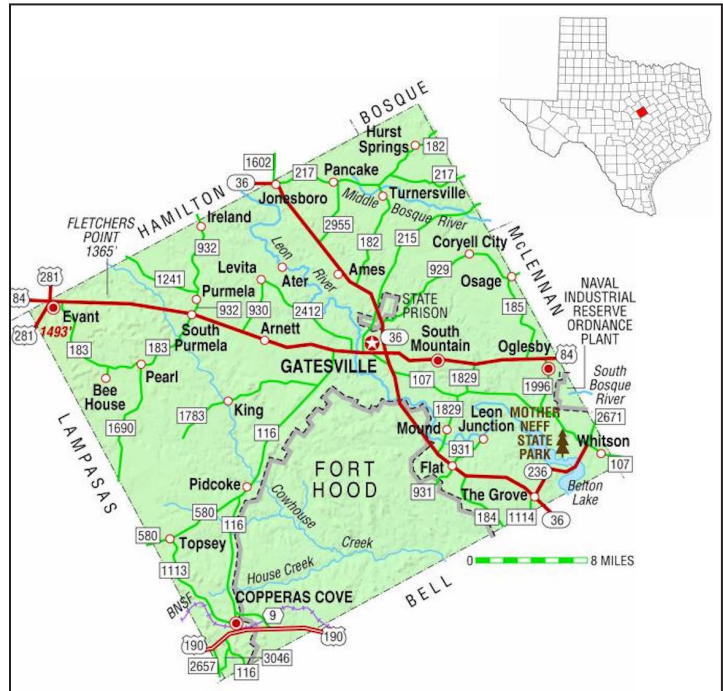


THE GREAT TEXAS LAND GRAB: THE LOSS OF (POSTAL) HISTORY IN CORYELL COUNTY

By John Germann

One of the joys of being interested in Texas history is the ability to travel the state's massive network of farm-to-market roads and get a glimpse of its rural past. One would think that Coryell County would be fertile ground for that, yet a map of Coryell County today displays a large area to the south that is completely devoid of any settlement. Such free-wheeling sightseeing is completely off-limits throughout that region thanks to the presence of Fort Hood, to whom a casual tourist of Texas is *persona non grata*.

Geographically speaking, Fort Hood is today the largest single, operational Army base in the United States, encompassing some 218,000 acres. It is a prime example of what can happen when the power of eminent domain and the exigencies of a war are combined. On January 12, 1942 – just a little over a month after the attack on Pearl Harbor – the US Army announced its choice of location for a tank destroyer base: 80,000 acres of rural land south of Gatesville and north of Killeen. It would be named Camp Hood (changed to Fort Hood in 1950) in honor of the irrepressible Confederate general John Bell Hood. Taking up a big chunk of Coryell County, it also claimed a sizeable slice of Bell County. A year later, another cession of land for a replacement and training center boosted its size to some 108,000 acres. A further 10,000 acres was added after the war.



Coryell County, in the center of Texas, is largely consumed by Fort Hood.



The entrance to Fort Hood, in recent times.

But whose land was that before the United States entered World War II? Approximately 470 farming and ranching families gave up their land, some of it in their family since the pioneer days of the county, to accommodate the new base. They were persuaded, not that they had much choice, by the promise of "just compensation" for the land they were giving up and by patriotism in helping to defeat the Axis powers. All told, 832 tracts of land were gobbled up - 525 by outright purchase and over 300 by a "Declaration of Taking." All the evicted landowners were compensated financially, although sometimes controversially; grazing rights were sometimes accorded too.

The private farms and twenty-five communities (or "hamlets" as the Army liked to call them), many of them still active at the time, disappeared from the map of Coryell County almost overnight, along with their homes, churches, and sometimes cemeteries as the uprooted citizens had to start a new life somewhere else. And they had to do it quickly; two weeks' notice was frequent, and occasionally it was a mere two days. No compensation was offered for any improvements to the land, and the Army generally required that any wells and water tanks be left on each tract of land, to supply troops training in the field; in addition, at least one dwelling had to be left standing, for an artillery target.

Eleven of those bygone communities had at one time or another sported a post office, going back to the mid-1870s. Note that three of them were named for biblical personages - Boaz, Eliga (i.e. Elijah), and Ruth:

ARISTO FLAT/HENSON'S CREEK

1894/1858-1866

BEVERLY

1875-1883

BOAZ

1885-1912

ELIGA

1903-1912

HAMPTON

1877

JINK

1886-1887

PIDCOKE (PIDCOCK RANCH)

1875-1944

RUTH

1885-1905

SEATTLE

1899-1933

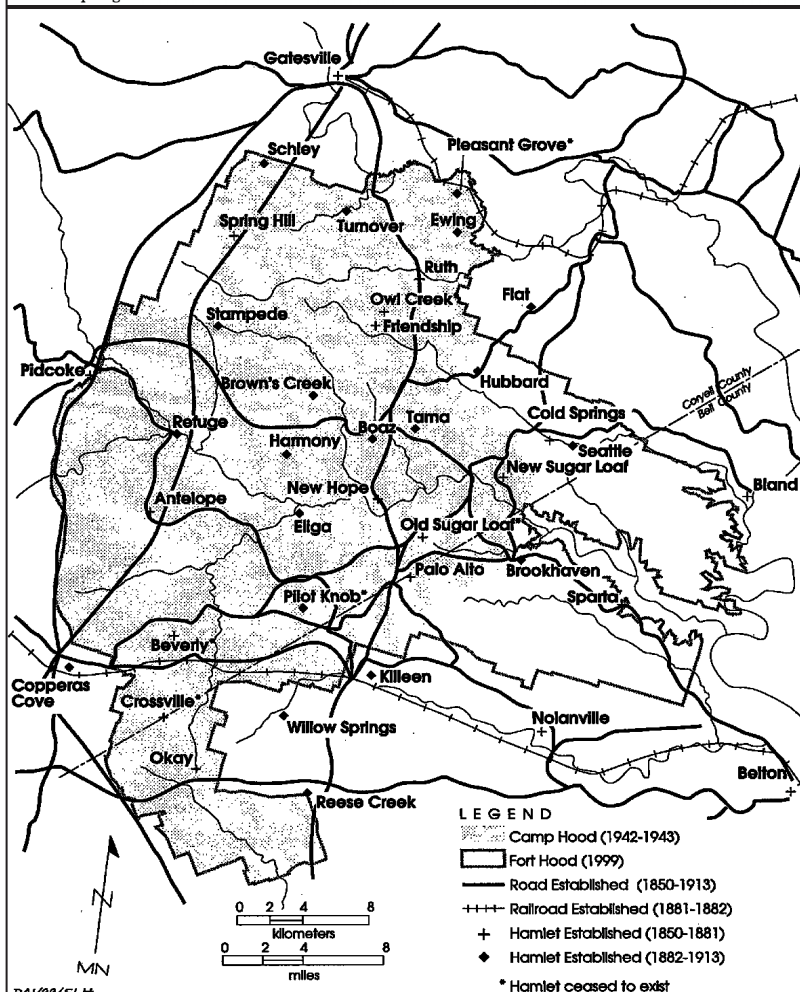
SUGAR LOAF

1874-1899

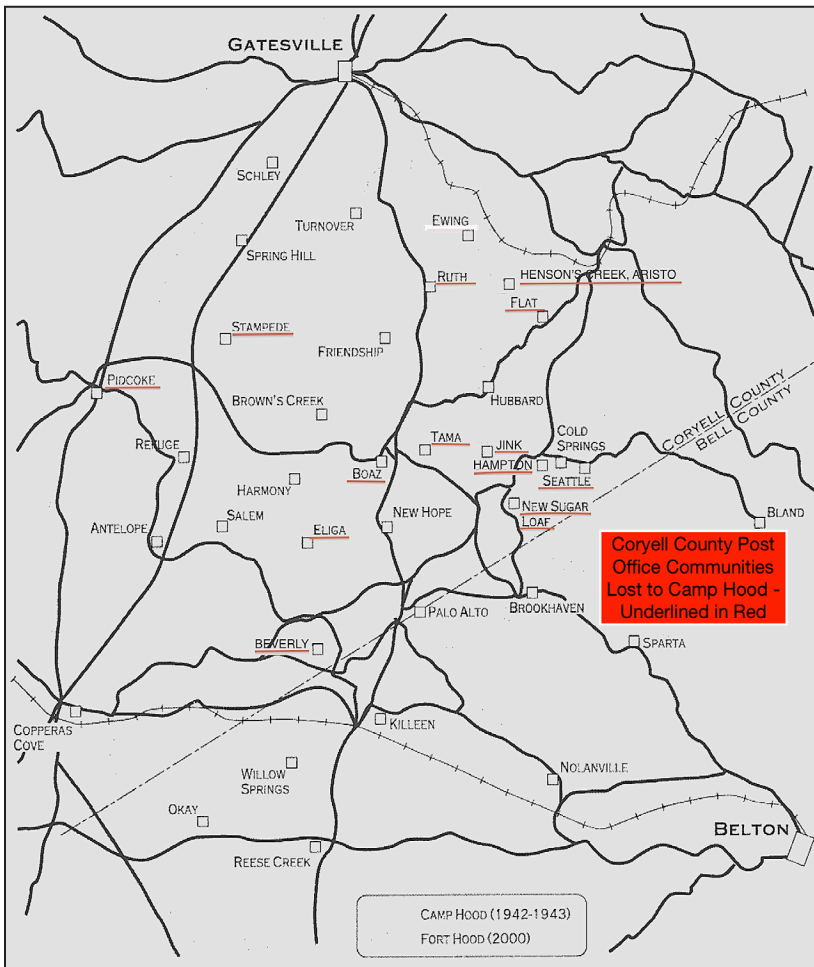
TAMA

1900-1922

Hamlet	County	Church	School	Mill	Gin	Post Office	Black-smith	Store	Other
Antelope	Coryell	x	x	x	x			x	x
Bland	Bell	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Boaz	Coryell	x	x	x	x	x		x	x
Brookhaven	Bell	x	x		x	x		x	x
Brown's Creek	Coryell	x	x						
Clear Creek	Coryell	x	x						
Cold Springs	Coryell	x			x				
Crossville	Bell	x	x						
Eliga	Coryell	x			x	x	x		
Ewing	Coryell	x	x				x	x	x
Friendship	Coryell	x	x						
Harmony	Coryell	x	x						
Hubbard	Coryell	x	x				x	x	
New Hope	Coryell	x	x	x	x				x
Okay	Bell	x	x	x		x	x		
Palo Alto	Bell	x	x						
Pidcoke	Coryell	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Reese Creek	Bell	x	x						
Refuge	Coryell	x							
Ruth	Coryell	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Schley	Coryell	x	x						
Seattle	Coryell		x		x	x		x	x
Sparta	Bell		x			x	x	x	
Spring Hill	Coryell		x						
Stampede	Coryell		x						
Sugar Loaf (Old and New)	Coryell	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Tama	Coryell	x	x		x	x	x	x	x
Turnover	Coryell	x	x	x			x		
Willow Springs	Bell	x	x						



A listing and a map of the lost "hamlets" in Bell and Coryell Counties.



A home lost to Camp Hood.



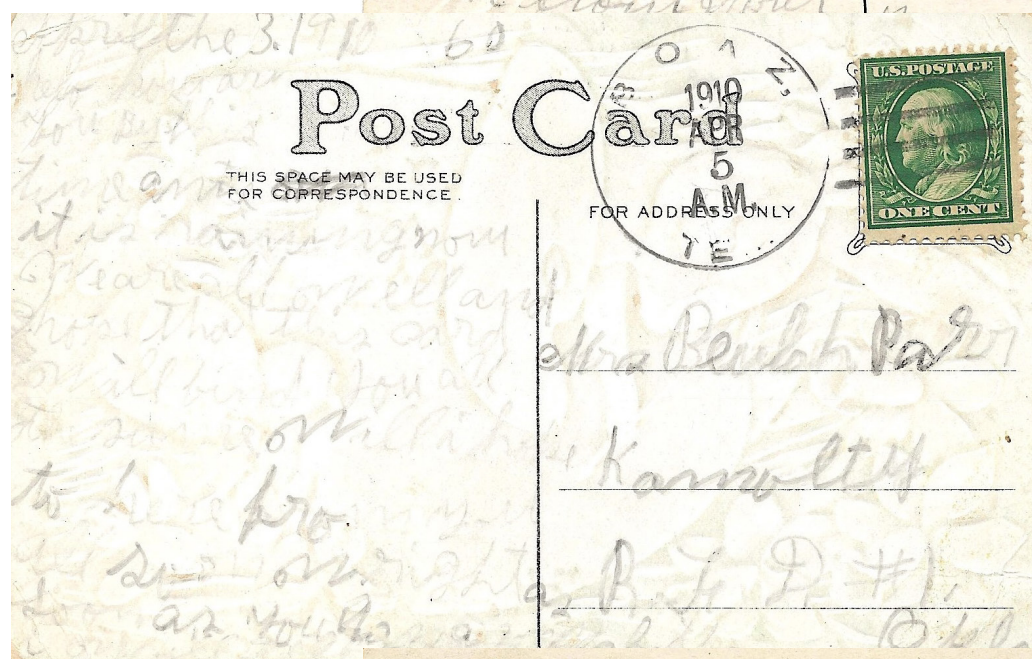
Brashear's Post Office & Store at Tama, c. 1899.

Coryell County Post Offices Lost to Camp Hood.



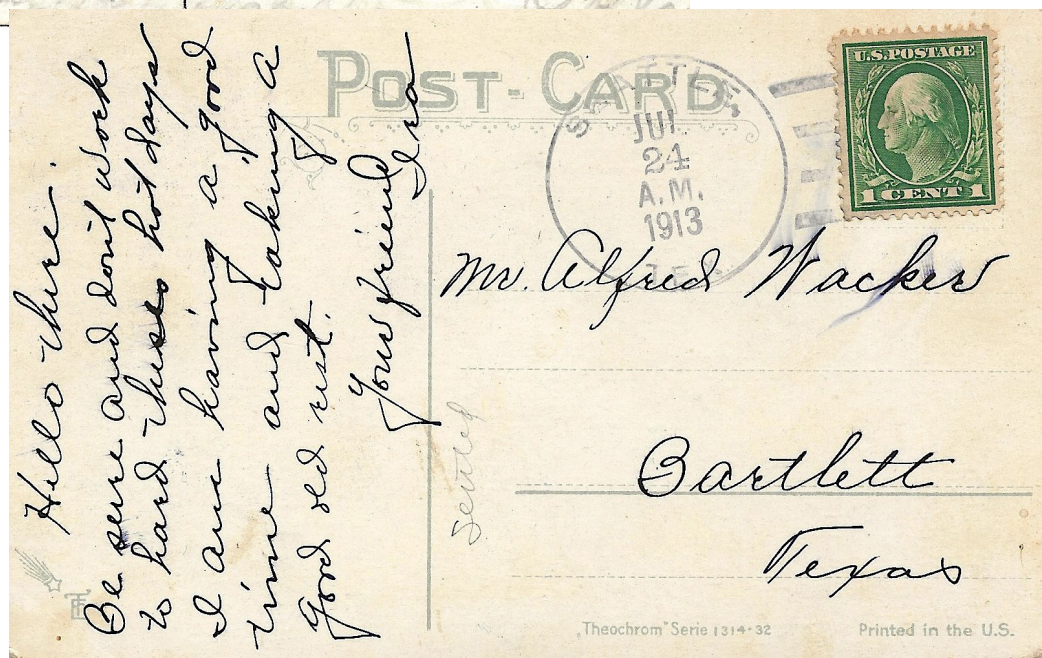
Sugar Loaf's Post Office was established in 1874 near a "mountain" of the same name. Whipple Wesson McCorde, physician and store owner, was the first postmaster. He kept that job until 1884. The doctor had an interesting, but short, life – his store burned down but was rebuilt, and he was shot and killed, at the age of 46, during an argument with the Killeen City Marshall in 1894. The post office continued until 1899.

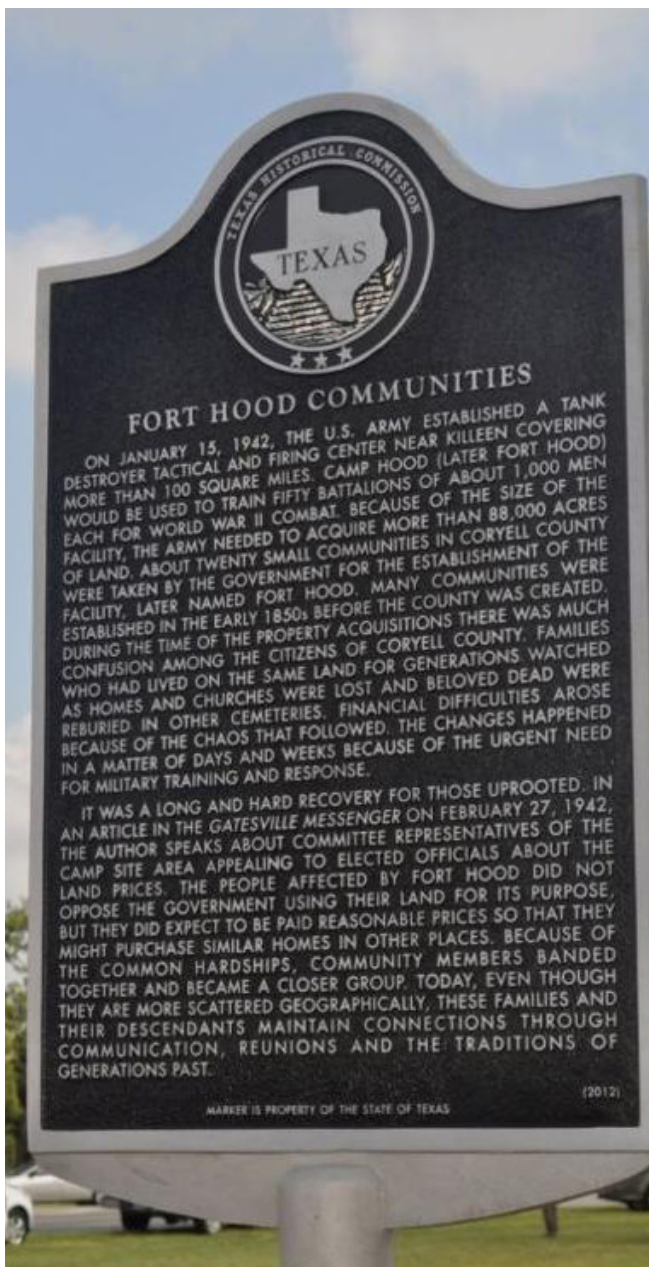
Named for the prophet Elijah, Eliga was a community developing around a popular swimming hole. Leonard McCullough "Cully" Laine (1862-1938) was town blacksmith, farmer, cotton ginner and, from 1903-04, the first postmaster. The post office continued to operate until 1912.



The Boaz Post Office was established by John C. Dunn in 1885. The locality is named after Boaz who was the great grandfather of King David. Boaz's wife, Ruth, is honored with a post office nearby. A cover from the Ruth Post Office is shown on the front page. The Old Testament sure had some sway in this part of Texas in those days.

Euphemia Anita Blackburn Glass, also known as "Annette," was Seattle's first postmaster. Annette opted to open the post office in the summer of 1899, when she was almost sixty years old. Apparently, the job did not suit her; she ran the office for a whole two months. However, nine succeeding postmasters kept the office going until 1933. As for the name "Seattle," it was chosen by Walter A. Unberhagen, local store and gin owner (and eventual postmaster), ostensibly because he liked it! NOTE: The postmaster's name here has been changed to Unberhagen. I got curious and checked the Coryell County censuses and family trees; sure enough, a lot of sources spell it mistakenly with an "m" instead of an "n."





The official historical site marker.



Family members and Coryell County Historical Commission members gather around the newly-dedicated historical marker in 2012.



People locate old family property in Coryell County during an historical marker dedication ceremony at North Fort Hood.

Almost all of the families who sacrificed their private property, and indeed the quality of their lives, for the nation's cause in 1942-1943 are, like their communities, gone now. In 2012, the state of Texas erected a historical plaque at North Fort Hood near Gatesville to make certain that they would not be forgotten. They deserve no less. 🇺🇸

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- www.tankdestroyer.net

WAITING FOR THE SUNDAY MAIL AT RIO HONDO

BY JONATHAN TOPPER



SHOWN HERE IS A REAL PHOTO POSTCARD, WITH A GRAND TOTAL OF AT LEAST 54 PEOPLE IN THEIR SUNDAY BEST CLOTHES WAITING IN MODEL T CARS AND ON HORSES FOR THE UNITED STATES MAIL IN RIO HONDO, CAMERON COUNTY. CAMERON COUNTY IS THE SOUTHERNMOST COUNTY IN THE STATE OF TEXAS. THE COUNTY SEAT IS BROWNSVILLE.

THE RIO HONDO POST OFFICE OPENED ON APRIL 15, 1911, WITH CHARLES E. BOOMER AS POSTMASTER. HE WAS REPLACED FIVE MONTHS LATER BY N. BARNETT MAYNARD. BASED ON THE TYPE OF CARS IN THE PICTURE, THE PHOTO WAS PROBABLY TAKEN VERY CLOSE AFTER THE OPENING OF THE POST OFFICE IN 1911.

THE EARLIEST US CENSUS DATA FOR RIO HONDO SHOWS 713 PEOPLE IN THIS TOWN IN 1930. THUS, THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WAITING FOR THEIR MAIL HERE IN THIS PHOTOGRAPH PROBABLY WAS A SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF THE ENTIRE TOWN'S POPULATION BACK IN 1911. ★

Errata

In the last issue (Volume 70, No 1), the article on page 16-17 about Vince King's exhibit was written and submitted by Lyle Boardman, not Greg Cain. Somehow, no one picked this up until after we hit the presses.

— Editor

The "JWV" Cancel Belongs to Rusk, Texas!

By Robert L. Conley

Any collector with a healthy interest in early U.S. fancy cancels will own a heavily-read copy of *United States Cancellations, 1845-1869* by Skinner & Eno. That fine reference identifies and illustrates thousands of fancy cancels, but makes no secret that it does not and can not show them all. Serious collectors will also possess Kenneth Whitfield's *Cancellations Found on 19th Century U.S. Stamps*, another excellent resource that lists and pictures even more cancels.



The registered cover seen here has a distinctive three-initial obliterator of "JWV" which evaded Skinner & Eno but was recorded by Whitfield. However, probably because the obliterator is not duplexed to the Circular Date Stamp, Whitfield was never able to identify the originating post office. Now, 150 years after it was used, that question has been resolved – it came from Rusk, the seat of Cherokee County, TX. The Rusk Post Office was established in 1847 and is still in operation.

Fancy cancels comprised of two or three initials are not very common (except "U.S."), but when they do arise, one can generally assume they belong to the postmaster or, once in a while, a postal clerk. Predictably, the "JWV" constitutes the initials of Rusk's postmaster, Joseph (Joe) Warren Vining, who served from November 16, 1867 to December 22, 1873.

In 1832, Vining was born into a large Georgia family which came to Texas while he was still a boy. Aged 19, he married a young lady whose settler-family had come from Tennessee. Joe enlisted as a private in the 28th Texas Cavalry in March 1862. He finished the war as a captain. After his six-year term as postmaster, Joe returned to farming for the rest of his days. In all, Joe and his wife had nine children, of which seven reached adulthood. Unfortunately we don't know the ultimate fate of the old Confederate States captain and United States postmaster – both Joe and his wife "vanish" some time after the 1900 Federal census. ★

Endnotes

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Using the TPA Archives at the Wineburgh Library

By Jonathan Topper

The archives for the Texas Philatelic Association are in the Wineburgh Philatelic Research Library (WPRL), located on the University of Texas at Dallas Campus in the Special Collections and Archives Division of the Eugene McDermott Library.

The current Curator of the WPRL is **Cassandra Galus-Zawojek, MSc**, who is responsible for the TPA items in the library as well as all other philatelic materials.

An appointment is strongly encouraged as parking permits are required on campus. Please contact Cassandra about 1-2 weeks in advance of your visit so she can gather your requested materials, prepare a permit for you with a map, or provide you with additional information prior to your visit. There are a few pay-by-space areas, where Cassandra can usually offer a parking code to visitors, particularly the one in Lot G closest to the actual Library. There are a handful of disability parking spots in this lot as well, but if these are full then a visitor pass is only for 'Green' parking. Parking on campus is easiest during the summer when many students are away.

If you are unable to visit the location in person, you may submit a research request or request a title through InterLibrary Loan. Cassandra can copy and email your request to you.

To begin your search for materials, please follow the library web address to the online catalog: <https://library.utdallas.edu/>. Here, you can search for titles you are interested in, and the location will indicate if they are available in the WPRL. You may also suggest a title for purchase if you believe the library should carry a certain philatelic title. There are further links to the Special Collections webpages from here.

From The Wineburgh Philatelic Research Library specific webpage, you have more direct links to the archives, pictures on the Portal to Texas History (items digitized from the TPA Collection), and a list of all current WPRL titles. This is the direct link: <https://library.utdallas.edu/special-collections-and-archives/philatelic-collection/>

All TPA members interested in further research into Texas Postal History and the history of our society are encouraged to use these useful archives. Since some of the hours and parking locations have recently changed, Cassandra has provided the following update on the details for the use of the library.

The University of Texas at Dallas, Eugene McDermott Library Address:

800 West Campbell Rd

Richardson, TX 75080

Interactive online campus map: <https://map.utdallas.edu/>

The Special Collection and Archives Division is located on the 3rd floor (Room 3.504) of the Eugene McDermott Library

Curator: Cassandra Galus-Zawojek

Email: cassandra.zawojek@utdallas.edu

Phone: 972-883-3855

Hours of Operation:

Monday – Friday: 8 AM – 5 PM

Second Saturday of the month: 11 AM – 3 PM

or by appointment (This is for Fall and Spring semesters only). ★



A Lifetime of Stamp Collecting

by Bob Collins

Mr. Collins recently acquired a Confederate cover that started its journey to Louisiana from Beaver, Texas. He wanted to know more about Beaver, so he contacted Greg Cain who then put Mr. Collins onto John Germann. These two fellows so impressed Mr. Collins, that he joined the TPA! And then, he made your editor very happy by snail-mailing some interesting information and covers. The highlights are shared with you here today. Thank you, and welcome, Bob! – Ed.

This bit is from a new club member from the North, actually in Ohio. But there is a common bond between us as we are all stamp and cover collectors. Some of us even exhibit some of our collections, and I started doing just that around 43 years ago at National shows. We had fun going to the different shows around the country, and actually did well and even appeared in the yearly Champion of Champion competition one year. However, there is a dark side to exhibiting. I well remember another exhibitor telling me, "This Is Fun"?

I don't have many Texas covers to show here, but I will show the few I do have. They all came from my so called COLLINS (ville, town, etc.) collection of covers and related postal items. I started this collection over 50 years ago and it was tough going as no dealer has a Collins section. I had to do a lot of hunting to find anything I could use. For the past number of years I am lucky to find one new item a year, and some years the total was zero new additions. The collection covers many different collecting areas from Collins Postmarks, Transatlantic Mail, Foreign, Advertising, and many other collecting areas, but all have something to do with the Post Offices and the mail. I have many early manuscript postmarks from the Stampless time period, to several scarce covers from the Desert Shield/Storm conflict. I even found a Wanted Poster for a man named Collins that was mailed to Police Departments. No, not a relative of mine that I know of.

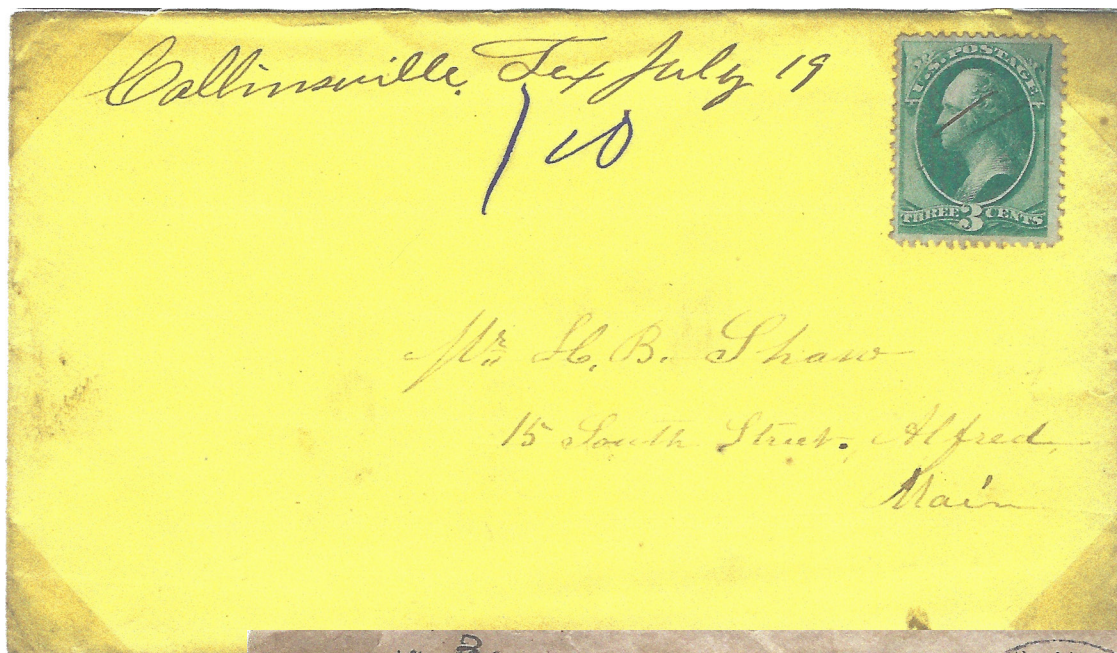
My stamp collecting started back when I was 9-10 years old at the end of WW11. A man who owned a bicycle repair shop was retiring and moving to Florida gave me his stamp collection. He had formed it with stamps from his everyday mail. That was the start of my stamp and cover collecting, and I sometimes wonder if that was a good thing, ha ha. I even was cheated by a mail order dealer who was selling me fake and altered mint stamps I was buying with my paper route money. I caught him when I learned about Watermarks and checked a stamp he had sent. But I still continued to collect stamps.

We had moved when I was 14 to what I called a Farm Town named Westlake, Ohio. It was large in area, but had a small scattered population. Prior to 1940 it was called Dover Township, and had several post offices named, Dover; West Dover; North Dover; Bement; Coe Ridge; Dover Bay; and Eagle Cliff. These postal facilities with one exception were located in General Stores/Residences. I have been collecting covers from these different post offices for a number of years and still do.

Like many of you I also have an understanding wife of 59 years who goes along with my collecting. Sad to say none of our four grown up children are interested in my stamp and cover collections. I also have other collections, one being ten old hand crank record players, and thousands of Cylinder and 78

rpm records to play on them as all are in good working order. Listening to some of them lifts my spirits at times. Like "A Falling Star" by Jimmy C. Newman; "May the Bird Of Paradise Fly Up Your Nose" by Little Jimmy Dickens; "Long Tall Sally" by Little Richard"; "Put On Your Old Red Flannels" by the Hoosier Hot Shots; "A White Sport Coat And A Pink Carnation" by Marty Robbins; and Hank Snow, Tammy Wynette, Loretta Lynn, The Firehouse Five Plus Two, Spike Jones. All the Country Music has some Great background music also. Do you remember hearing any of these records?

I could never get that involved in the Stamp Clubs I was a member of because of my job and extra work. After being drafted into the Army back in the 1950s I found when I was Honorably Discharged work was scarce for a Journeyman Carpenter. So I took tests and interviews for two Police jobs. I was being hired by the D. C. Department when the local Department offered me a job so I stayed here instead of moving. The final thing I had to take was a Long Lie Detector test on my Honesty, and even my sex life back as far as I could remember. I easily passed. I wonder if there is a politician alive who could pass the same test, Ha Ha. However that meant I had to work different shifts, weekends, and Holidays. Little time for club activities or any thing else.



The Collinsville Post Office opened in 1872, and it is still going today. The town was named in honor of Mrs. L. M. Collins who opened the first free school. Collinsville was formed by the merger of two localities – Springville and the unforgettably-named, Toadsuck!



A registered cover from Collinsville, headed to Waxahachie on September 26, 1904.

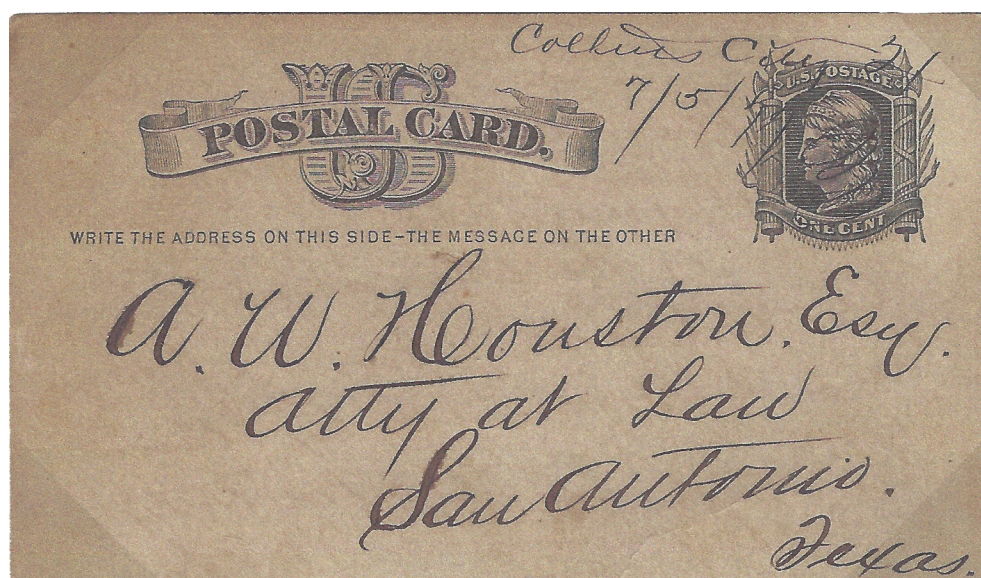
So I got into exhibiting my collections as I could send them back and forth by mail. Thinking it was a way I could help the Stamp clubs. I used to wonder why most exhibitors didn't use stamps when they mailed their exhibits to the shows. I sure found out when I mailed my exhibit by Express Mail, and used high value stamps. Someone cut off the top of my shipping box to get the stamps. I wondered if they considered how the exhibit would be sent back to me? Oh well.

So after collecting stamps for a number of years I turned to collecting Covers. I found them more interesting with the variety of postmarks, addresses, and so forth. I collected early Alaska Territorial covers, and formed an exhibit dating from when Alaska was purchased, to just prior to Air Mail service in the teens. Oh did that exhibit draw many goofy, and ignorant, comments from the Philatelic Judges, who had no idea how different the Alaska mail system was compared to service in the lower 48 states. I also formed a super collection of Korean War covers (Best collection known world wide) from every country involved in the conflict with many POW covers which are very scarce. BTW – If anyone is interested in Korean War POW mail, the APS book on POW mail has some wrong information in it.



The Collins Post Office certainly had an international feel about it on February 1, 1885. Here we have two covers; one destined for Buenos Aires, Argentina, and the other headed to Liverpool, England.





The Collins City Post Office operated for less than nine months during 1877. Named for International & Great Northern Railroad agent, Col. C. F. Collins, the town never took off, despite being on the I&GNRR line. There is only one other cancel known from Collins City.

The main receiving point was Yokohama, Japan, and NOT Panmunjom. All the POW mail in and out of Korea went through Yokohama, and Panmunjom was just an exchange point as mail to POWs went from Yokohama in camp numbered sealed bags, to be picked up by the Chinese and North Koreans.

I am still looking for COLLINS related material for that collection I started many years ago. I just started collecting WW11 Women in the Military covers & cards. (WAACs, WACs, WAVES, SPARS, Women Marines, WASPs, Army and Navy Nurses) To keep busy during the pandemic I also started a collection of Solomon Islands stamps and military covers. That includes PT boats as many years ago growing up during WW11 I loved the Motor Torpedo Boats.

The pictures I have included are the TEXAS Covers I have in my Collins collection. I didn't include the covers from BEAVER, Texas, M/S postmark, with a pair of confederate #7 stamps, and also the Circle postmark from ALTO, Texas, with a Confederate #11c stamp. Both envelopes are home made dark brown heavy paper and do not copy well. Also from that same collection are four covers out of the many I enjoy looking at as they are also Historical. Also examples from the PT Boats and Women in the Military covers I am also collecting. That concludes my story about my 77 years of fun and aggravation in collecting. And the many great and helpful people I have known, and still meet during all these years. Thank you!

Bob Collins ★

Theft and Vandalism of a Stamp Collection

By Jonathan Topper

One evening over the recent Easter weekend, the storage unit where I store my stamps, covers and supplies for my Topper Stamps & Postal History business was burglarized and vandalized. I am sharing my story to help others that have storage of their valuable items outside of their homes.

I looked far and wide to find a safe and secure storage unit for my stamp inventory for my business. I found one over 10 years ago in an upscale neighborhood. It had been there for 20 years with no break-ins. In addition, it never flooded or had roof leaks during thunderstorms, an important consideration here in Houston.

I needed a code to enter the storage facility, and that code was connected to my unit door, so that when I opened the door, the employee monitoring the facility (via computer uplink and many security cameras) knew what was happening and where it was happening throughout the complex.

Even so, around five or six raiders cut the electricity to the facility –disconnecting the alarm systems – cut a hole in the security fence, spray painted the security cameras and used bolt cutters to access 24 individual units all night long. They left behind vandalized boxes and material and made off with any item that they thought would have value. My unit was one of the 24.

The intrusion was discovered the next morning and the owners of each unit were called to come to the storage center. We found a gigantic mess, with the contents of each storage unit vandalized and many items thrown into the hallways, as the thieves were going through the stored boxes to find as many things as they could as quickly as they could. Most of the other storage unit customers reported thefts of guns, tools, jewelry, and expensive household items such as statues and vases.

The unit next to mine had a stock of baseball cards stored there for future sale. I found some of the boxes of baseball cards in my unit, and he found my stamps over in his unit. We traded back and forth so we would end up with the correct inventory.

In addition to the expected amount of chaos found in these situations, the thieves found three different vessels with cremated human remains and had the ashes strewn all over the place. They wanted to either take the elaborate urns, or they thought that the vessels had jewelry inside. So, on top of all that had happened, we then further desecrated the area by walking through the scattered ashes of somebody's deceased loved ones. This is a good reminder that cremated remains should be interred in a cemetery, and not in a storage unit!



The right side of my unit was vandalized, yet the left side was untouched. The left side had boxes that were labeled; "Business Files", "Books", "Taxes" and the like. The right side of my unit had boxes labeled: "To Sell on eBay", "Collections", "Items to Sort" etc... So, it turned out the thieves were educated enough to read and they just concentrated on boxes where they thought they could find something of value.

What was stolen? That's hard to tell. There were a few collections that I had added to the right side of my unit, and they were missing. Much of everything else was scattered on the floor, stepped on, turned over, and thrown about. As time goes on, I will probably discover more of what was missing as I go and try to find an old collection to start working up to sell on eBay, etc.

I do have insurance coverage, but they want copies of the police report, copies of invoices of stolen goods, evidence that I really did own this unit, and plenty more. As at the writing of this story, I have been told it would be at least two more months before I hear anything definitive.

Lessons Learned: From my experience and others to whom I talked to affected by this break-in:

- Have your property insured. I use Hugh Wood, Inc Insurance, who are associated with the APS.
- Have an inventory of what you have in your storage unit, at least the more valuable items.
- If you have invoices for the stamps and covers you purchased, keep those handy.
- Thieves work fast. Use common sense when labeling your boxes in the unit. Boxes with the words; "guns", "grandma's jewelry", "Nice items from the Safe" and similar notations are guaranteed to attract their attention. Use a code system if you find that convenient.

I understand this type of theft is happening more and more in major cities throughout Texas, even in 'better' neighborhoods. I hope this information will help fellow TPA members who are storing their valuable materials off-site. ★

**I WONDER IF WE CAN FOOL A
TEXAN POST OFFICE CLERK WITH...
...A TORN-OFF STAMP & A POSTAL STATIONERY CUT OUT?**



JOHN GERMANN SAYS WE CAN!

Seen at Auction

Vince King

Labels and More

Texas postal historian, Mike Ludeman has spent many years collecting, cataloging and developing census reports for Post Office Registry Labels. His work has been invaluable and ground-breaking. This issue of Seen at Auction features one such registry label and a few labels of a different nature – those used by Express Companies. Rumsey Auction's Westpex Sale held April 21-24 featured over 200 lots of labels used by Transcontinental Expresses, Cross-Border Express, early Local and Regional Expresses, Wells Fargo, Civil War and Later Expresses. Several of these items had Texas connections. Express companies used labels on letters and parcels to designate valuables were enclosed. Carriers way-billed these letters, providing a chain of custody along their route. Few intact parcel wrappers have survived but labels are seen on surviving money letters and covers to courthouses containing depositions or affidavits. Labels did not prepay express charges which could be prepaid or collected from addressee.

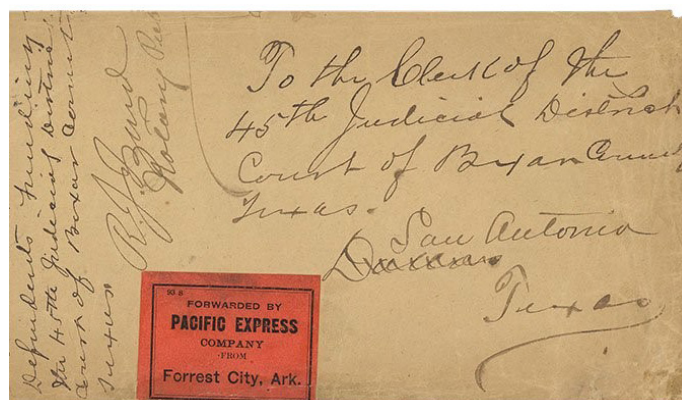
Schuyler Rumsey Westpex Sale, April 21-24, 2022



Lot 658: Wells, Fargo & Co's Express, "Bowie, A.T.", black on orange express label with town handstamp, used on 2¢ carmine entire with printed "Wells, Fargo & Co's Express" 1883 Train frank to El Paso, Texas, manuscript "Col. 2" express rating, reverse with magenta "Wells, Fargo & Co's Express, El Paso, Tex. Jan 3, 1884" receiving oval. Realized: \$190



Lot 794: Mexican War Trail Letter, "Cold Spring, Texas Territory, August 27, 1847", dateline on folded letter from Private Huling Major of Company "E", 1st Regiment Infantry Illinois Vols. to Belleville Ill., endorsed "From the Army" bottom left, carried by military express to the Missouri River where it was placed on board a steamboat bound for St. Louis, entered the mails in St. Louis with red "STEAM 10" straightline for 10¢ postage due, letter reads, "The opportunity I am embracing myself of is that of Four Companies of Mo. Volunteer Cavalry being the last of Col. Price's Regiment the Colonel himself accompanying it looking jovial and hearty in fact his whole appearance calculated well to influence strangers in his favor and bearing indications of a noble and generous spirit and one that would be kind considerate and indulgent to his men or those at all places under his command...we shall make an early start in the morning travel further and finally without doubt be the first company of the Illinois Regiment in Santa Fe...". Realized: \$700



Lot 1006: Pacific Express Company, Forrest City, Ark., black on red express label, affixed on buff large-size courthouse cover to Dallas, Texas, 1893 file docketing at left and reverse; reduced at top and left, edge flaws, F-V.F., a rare Arkansas express label use. Realized: \$220



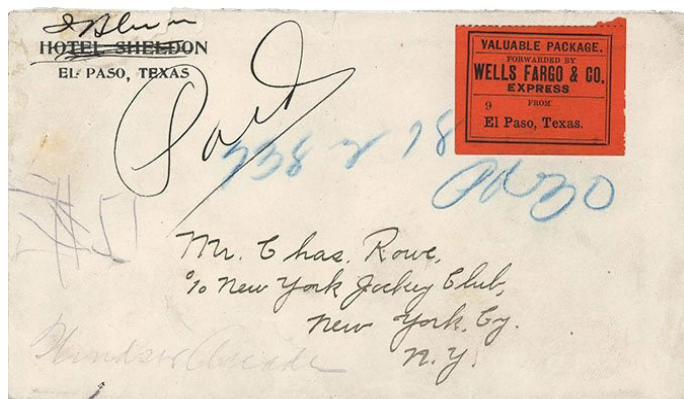
Lot 1007 front



Lot 1007 reverse

Lot 1007: Pacific Express Company, Grandview, Tex., black on orange express label, affixed as flap seal on light buff Pacific Express Company illustrated train corner card cover bearing 2¢ green (#213) canceled by cork, matching "Grand View, Tex. Jul 16, 1888" cds to West Texas; a very scarce Texas express label use. Realized: \$230

The Pacific Express railcar corner-card, often described as a printed frank, was used in the northwest in the early 1880s by the Northern Pacific Railroad. The label uses shown below prove the Pacific Express name and corner-card was used by other railroads in areas not served by the Northern Pacific.

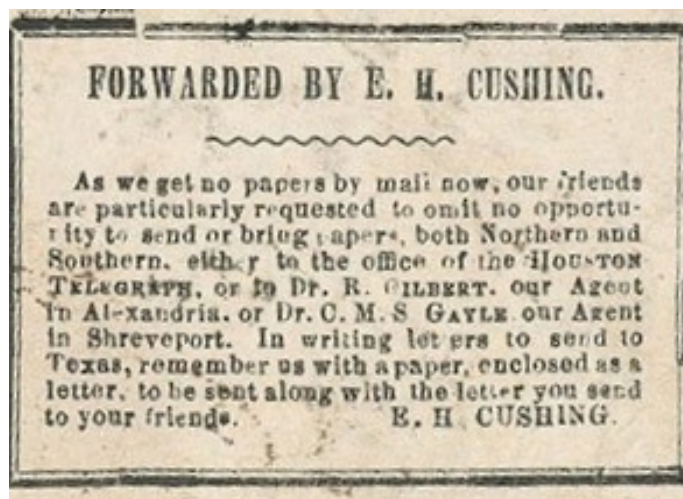
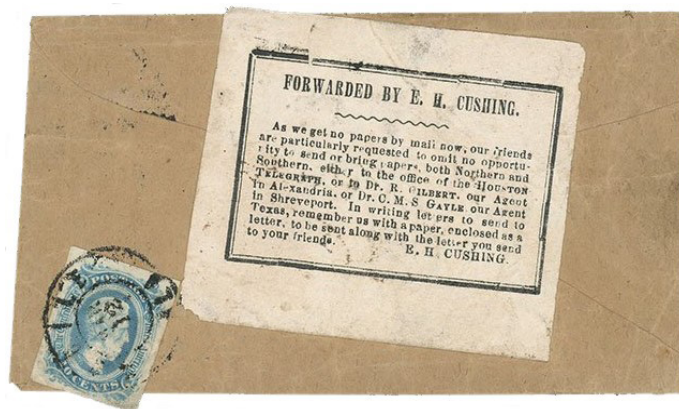


Lot 1023: Wells, Fargo & Co. Express, El Paso, Texas, Valuable Package, black on orange label, affixed on corner card envelope to New York City, endorsed "Paid" and blue crayon docketing ties label, original Feb. 16th 1910 Hotel Sheldon letterhead enclosure indicating \$30 draft sent; a scarce Texas express label use. Realized: \$180

Lot 1222: Illustrated in next column (Civil War) E. H. Cushing Express, black on white newsprint label, Dietz Type II, affixed to reverse of brown homemade cover originating west of the Mississippi River to Averysboro N.C., label tied together with CSA 10¢ blue (11), by "Mobile Ala. Mar 12" cds where Cushing's eastern office was maintained; ex-Knapp, MacBride and Everett. Realized \$8,000

E. H. Cushing, editor of the Houston Daily Telegraph newspaper, commenced his express service after New Orleans fell to the Federals in April 1862 as an effort to improve communications

between Texan regiments in the East and secure safe lines for news transmission. The 500-mile express ran between Houston and Mobile, or Selma, with pony riders and other means of conveyance necessary to cross Federal lines. The labels were typeset at his newspaper and several types are recorded. They were affixed by Cushing's agents on the reverse of the covers to advertise the service.

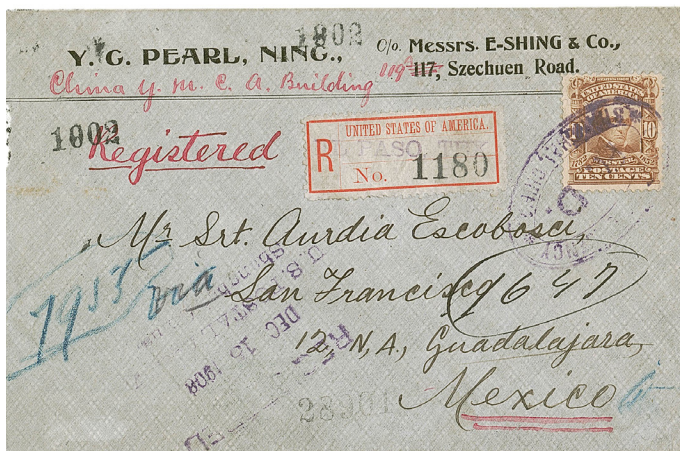


Lot 1222 detail of label

Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries Sale 1251, March 2 & 3, 2022



Lot 1700: Beaumont, Texas, 10c Black on Pink (12X2). One of the finest examples of the fifteen 10 Cent Black on Pink Beaumont Provisionals recorded. Since all recorded examples of the Beaumont provisional stamps are dated in 1864, it is assumed that they were probably issued by Reverend Alexander Hinkle, a Methodist pastor who settled in Beaumont around this time and was appointed postmaster on December 5, 1863. The stamps were typeset and printed from three different settings: one printed on Pink paper (Scott 12X2), and two on Yellow paper (12X1 and 12X3). A setting of four subjects (two by two) has been reconstructed from the Pink singles (there are no recorded multiples). Each subject has a different arrangement of long and short frame pieces. The printings on Yellow paper were made from two entirely different settings: one slightly smaller than the Pink stamps, and the other much taller with the words "Texas" and "Postage" added to the design. Ex Kilbourne. Realized \$18,000



Lot 246

Lot 246: El Paso TEX Exchange Office Registry Label on cover. 10c Pale Red Brown (307) tied by purple "U.S. Postal Agency * Shanghai, China * R.D." double-oval registry handstamp, matching "Registered/Dec. 15, 1908/U.S. Postal Agency/Shanghai, China" four-line datestamp (mixed upper/lower case) on green Y. G. Pearl return address cover to Guadalajara, Mexico, manuscript and handstamped registry numbers, red exchange office registry label with "EL PASO, TEX." handstamp (Scott FX-EP2a), San Francisco and El Paso (Jan. 13, 1909) receiving backstamps, lightly struck Mexican backstamp. The Siegel census indicates that only 5 such labels are recorded. Realized \$4,750

eBay Auctions

eBay Item # 265599051598: Illustrated in next column. Wholesale lot of all Texas Precanceled Coil Line and Gap Pairs. A nice United States pre-cancel lot of all COIL PAIRS and there are just over (240) items in this lot. Includes line pairs, gap pairs, line - gap pairs, etc. Realized \$450 (23 bids).

There were at least another 20 Texas precancel-related lots sold, realizing prices from \$10-\$450. ★





JAMES STEELE HANKS (1809 - 1898) (#6)

Plenitude, Anderson County

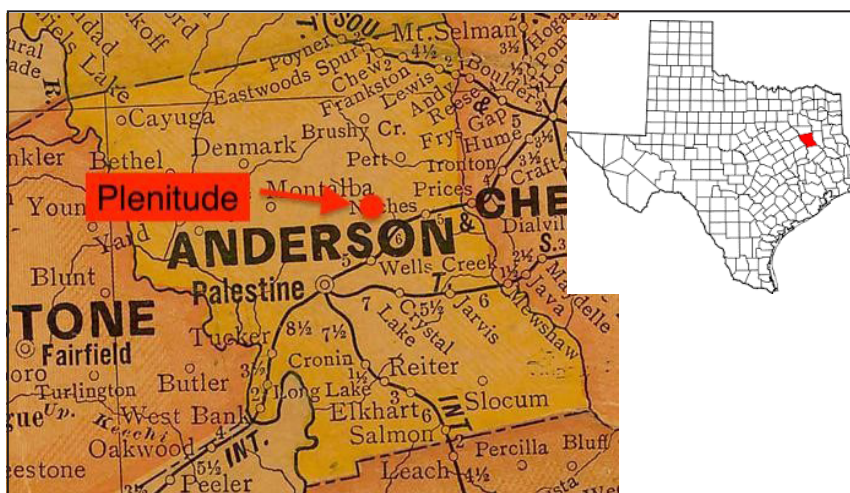
1850-1856



James Steele Hanks was born in 1809, the third of Baptist preacher Thomas R. Hanks' nine children. Unlike his father, James had military ambitions, and he acted on them quite successfully, rising to the rank of colonel in the Tennessee Mounted Infantry. His father relocated to Texas in 1836; eight years later, James at the age of thirty-five, followed his father's footsteps to Anderson County, settling at Mound Prairie, northeast of the county seat of Palestine. Six years later, in 1850, he established the post office of Plenitude there.



James S. Hanks



Plenitude's location in Anderson County and Texas

Hanks had married Isabella McLeod in 1836. They brought five children with them to Texas, and they added two more before Isabella died in 1858. The following year he remarried, at Kaufman, Texas, to Louezer Dial Bell. They had five children. In antebellum Anderson County, one would be hard pressed to support a family on a postmastership, and a rural one at that, especially a large and growing family such as this. So, Hanks turned his hand to an impressive number of other vocations: farmer, merchant, tanner, county surveyor, State Representative (1866-1870), and Justice of the Peace. He likely had a hand as well in the antebellum lumber yard that emerged at the site.

At the time that he established the post office, he owned over 400 acres in the county, and counting! By 1860 he had become the wealthiest man in the county. In 1870 his slaves, which had numbered in the twenties, were gone, but he continued to buy large amounts of county real estate, including almost 14,000 acres of forfeited land at post-war auctions.

In the midst of all this, Hanks rediscovered his military talents. He had opposed secession, and thus he sat out the early months of the Civil War. But in February 1862, at the rather ripe age of fifty-three, he put his new "country" ahead of his old politics, raised at Mound Prairie what turned out to be the largest company of volunteers from the county, and joined the 13th Texas Mounted Cavalry (Burnett's Regiment) with the rank of Captain. He signed on for a one-year stint but he stayed beyond that as Commanding Officer of Company D. However, the war wore on him, and in June of 1863 he submitted a request for resignation. The request, in one VERY long sentence, gives an excellent insight into his state of mind at the time:

Camp Bee, Ark, April the 14th 1863

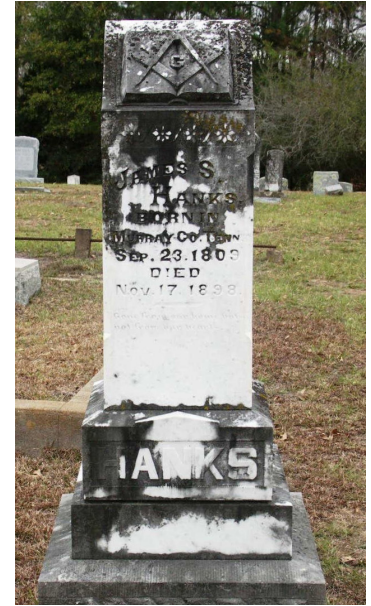
The undersigned would most respectfully state that he entered the service for twelve months when he was nearly fifty three years of age & has been in service nearly fourteen months, that his only son was killed at the Battle of Richmond, Virginia at the age of seventeen years except one [son] about ten years old, that his wife has been in bad health ever since the month of September last & so that she has not been able to look over busi-

ness, that he has between twenty-five and thirty negroes and no overseer that can be procured to look over them & taking his age into consideration & believing he can do more for the benefit of the Southern Confederacy at home than in the service & having three sprightly lieutenants in his company, either of whom would make a good Captain, he would most respectfully ask for his resignation to be received, for all of which he would ever pray...
James S. Hanks, Commanding Company D, 13th Regiment of Texas Cavalry

The request was approved, with one concurring brigadier general noting that Hanks was “too old” and that he was “not suited for the position he now holds.”



James Hanks and home – 1855.



James Hanks' Gravestone, Neches Cemetery



Plentitude, Texas - Manuscript Postmark – 1866. Addressed to Milton, Florida.

So, Hanks came home – to his family and his farm in Anderson County. There he would stay for the remaining years of his life, all thirty-five of them. He died in 1898, at age eighty-nine, at his home in the nearby town of Neches, and there he is buried along with Louezer who, although she had remarried, chose to be interred alongside him.

As it turns out Hanks far outlived the little community for which he inaugurated a post office. Instead of Mound Prairie, he had submitted a post office name which espoused the citizens' dreams of prosperity for their new home. He guided the Plentitude Post Office for its first six years, relinquishing the position to Pinckney Mitchell in June, 1856.

Unlike many other small Texas post offices, Plentitude managed to survive the Civil War years. But its existence from then on was quite sporadic, thanks in part to continued dashed hopes, of a railroad coming to the site. After

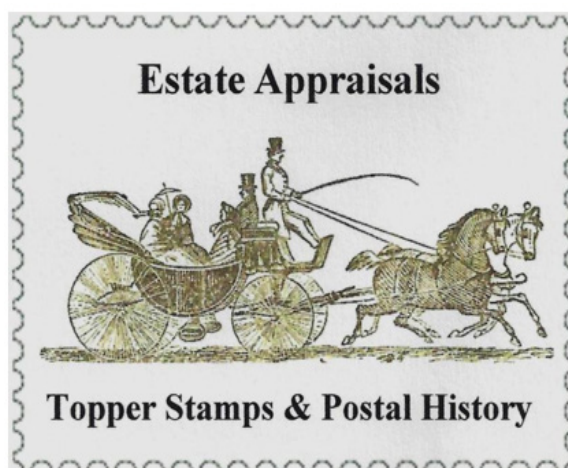
closing in 1868, Plenitude reopened in 1870. It shut down again in 1873, only to resuscitate in 1875, at which point the postmaster-to-be described it as a “decayed village” missed by the railroad. The International & Great Northern RR had laid its rails well to the east where it established a new station, Nechesville. And with that, Plenitude limped along for eight more years, then shut its doors permanently, in 1883. Sixteen years later there was another attempt at a post office in the same locale. It was called Elrod and it lasted for only six months, from July 1899 to January 1900. The village disappeared from maps quickly after that; about the only vestige of its existence today is the mail that the post office produced. 🇺🇸

Additional Resources:

Reid, Thomas R. *Spartan Band: Burnett's 13th Texas Cavalry in The Civil War*. 2005. <https://silo.pub/spartan-band-burnetts-13th-texas-cavalry-in-the-civil-war.html>

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Obituaries

Texas Philately lost two well known and popular stamp dealers in recent months.

Melvin Edmonds (1938-2021)

Melvin Edmonds of Fredericksburg passed away on December 31, 2021. Melvin was a TPA member since 1968 and a Life Member since 1972. As most of you will remember, Melvin was a regular stamp dealer who participated in many Mid-Cities Stamp EXPOs, TSDA Bourses, and Greater Houston Stamp Shows until about four years ago. He was a good friend to collectors and was always helpful. He used to bring a large stock of topical stamps to each show. His friendship and his presence will be missed.

Robert (Bob) Hazelwood (1927-2022)

U.S. Veteran

Robert L. Hazelwood, age 94, of Georgetown, passed away on April 22, 2022. Bob was a professor of physiology at the University of Houston for 35 years. Bob used his knowledge of treatments for diabetes during a sabbatical in Thailand for a year. He then returned to teach in Thailand for several more years. His stamp stock at shows were from many parts of the world, with emphasis on Southeast Asia. Bob had a quiet and sincere demeanor about him, and was always helpful to collectors at our Texas shows.



Bob Hazelwood

Whatever Your Direction

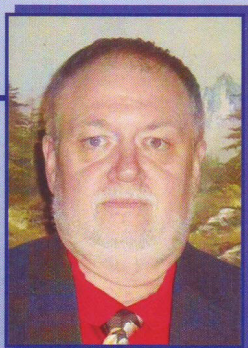
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Chapters in Action

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 (afdcshop56.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. When we do hold meetings, it is always held at the Wineburgh Philatelic Research Library (WPRL) at the University of Texas at Dallas. At the February meeting, **Darcy Richmond** put together a well-researched presentation about Covid in philately and how it changed our world dramatically in many forms. She brought numerous covers on government mailings, mail in ballots, vending stamps (ex: Isle of Man), souvenir sheets and ship commissions. Once again in March, Darcy, took the club through U.S. holidays that she called “Holidates”, as illustrated by actual first day covers. Running from New Year’s Day to New Year’s Eve, she showed some two dozen covers that commemorate holiday dates throughout the calendar year. It made for an informative and enjoyable presentation. – submitted by **Anne Moxley**.

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 host location for the second monthly meeting is no longer available to the club. Club President, **Lisa Nicks**, is searching for a new location. In the meantime, the second meeting is held via Zoom on the third Tuesday of each month. The auctions have been shifted to the first meeting of each month.

Auctions through April garnered \$229.65 for the club, with the April 5 session particularly rewarding (sellers’ take totaling \$345 and club membership increasing by three new members!). Please see the photos at right with (L - R) Lisa Nicks, **Terri Tennison**, **Bert Kramer**, and club VP, **Jason Fay**, at the auction. Club member, **Gregg Philipson** brought the program for the March Zoom meeting, presenting “The Holocaust: A Maritime History,” which covered the story of ocean liners converted to warships during WWII and postal history involving such vessels.

On April 19, members met over Zoom to hear club president, **Marvin Lehr** present on pinholes, spotting them and how those with the tools and steadiness attempt their repair. He notes, however, that a repaired stamp is still a defective stamp, like it was before the repair. April’s issue of club newsletter *Stampede* carried the news of the passing of former member **Salvatore (Sal) Fidaleo** and, as reported in the February



Journal, of ATSC member, **Dr. Eric Shepherd**, president of the San Antonio Philatelic Society. In May's issue, long-time club auction managers, **Lyle Boardman** and **Phil Nordstrom** shared a desire that replacements step forward and fill their very large shoes. They've run the club auctions for a combined total of 40 years and believe it's time for new blood. – submitted by **Lyle Boardman**.

Collectors Club of Dallas – The CCOD meetings are now scheduled for the 3rd or 4th Saturday of the month. Presentations are welcomed by any of the club members on their particular interest or field of expertise. It's an added bonus when material to pass around is included, along with new findings from stamp shows. We can always count on great discussion, as well. Veteran Texas philatelist and postal history researcher, **Bill Halstead** reports the following contribution he made at the club's April 8 meeting, which will be of interest to Civil War-era revenue stamp collectors: he shared his update of the survey of insurance cancels on Civil War-era U.S. revenue stamps. The original survey by Henry Tolman III, last amended in 1995, cited some 572 companies. The update adds 86 companies. Tolman identified 2,030 cancels – the update adds 1,032 new cancels. Tolman never published a census, but he recorded 4,299 stamps in his albums. The survey adds 3,183 stamps that bear known cancels. The updated cancels took 110 pages to display. The census is 210 pages long. – submitted by **Anne Moxley**.

Dallas-Park Cities Philatelic Society (<http://stamps.org/Dallas>) – Meetings are held the second and fourth Wednesday of each month (except December) at 7:30 pm at the Edgemere Retirement Center, 8523 Thackery, Dallas, TX. Membership is open to anyone of good character who is 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. We welcome members of all collecting levels, whether you are starting out or have been collecting for decades. 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. February's second meeting was canceled due anticipated freezing weather (a distant memory now!) but the club met on March 9 for its quarterly auction. April's meetings were highlighted by presentations on April 13 by **Cassandra Galus-Zawojek**, Curator, WPRL, Special Collections, Eugene McDermott Library, University of Texas at Dallas, and on April 27 by **Stan Bartnikowski** on the Poland-Hungary joint first day cover commemorating General Józef Bem. – submitted by **Bill Laupus**.

Heart of Texas Stamp Club – Club meetings presently in hiatus.

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 sessions and has decided to meet via Zoom on the last Monday of each month. On Feb. 21, 20 members and two guests heard club member Jonathan Topper present a topic titled, "One Million Stamps," which focused on the metrics that such an accumulation entails. At the March 7 meeting, member **Bob Cahill** took us on a virtual visit to the National Postal Museum in Washington, D.C. Please see the photo below. The second meeting in March was canceled, owing to expected severe weather. (A good call, as that night witnessed numerous tornadoes touching down in multiple places throughout north and southeast Texas.) The club's quarterly auction was held on April 4, where 25 members and two visitors parted with some \$350 to acquire 26 lots out of 28 offered, again under the persuasive mallet of **Ron Strawser**, assisted by **Jay Stotts**. On April 19, members gathered to struggle through another of Ron's stamp quizzes. On May 2, the club enjoyed a presentation by **Rick Barrett** on well-known 19th century stamp forger Georges Carion. He's found no evidence thus far that Monsieur Carion crossed paths with William B. Hale, a contemporary and stamp "huckster" whose nefarious career is explored in depth in Rick's book, *Buffalo Cinderellas, The Gentleman, the Huckster and the Pan American Exposition*. The club welcomed three visitors that night from the Johnson Space Center Stamp Club – **David Brown**, **Charles Senuta** and **Jerry Speirs**. Seen (L-R) in the photo below, David and Charles joined the HPS. Welcome! As it recently decided, the club met via Zoom the fourth Mondays of March and April. Twelve members met via Zoom on March 28. We enjoyed short presentations by **Steve Stewart**, who sleuthed out the details behind an 1859 80-



cent Sardinia issue. **Rick Barrett** shared photos of his beloved late brother, **Dave**, at a Connecticut stamp show. **John Germann** explained cancellations of the post office aboard the WWII light cruiser *USS Raleigh*. And **Greg Cain** shared an overview of the Queen Elizabeth II 1953 coronation omnibus issues. April's Zoom hosted a general discussion, with FDCs being the focus. John Germann shared some interesting covers and Rick did a short presentation on the USPOD philatelic truck of the late 1930s.

The April-June 2022 issue of the club's newsletter, *The Perforator*, featured an article by club president, **Paula Pedrick** about recent philatelic donations the club has made to local schools through the GHSS Foundation. That organization is the club's corporate entity and, as a charitable exempt organization under the Internal Revenue Code, has a charge to support an educational mission, which these donations demonstrate. Paula invites those interested in receiving philatelic donations for educational purposes to contact the club at info@houstonstampclub.org. Elsewhere, **Ardy Callender** again educated readers with two splendid articles, this time about open mail rates in nineteenth century Great Britain and Spain.

Linn's Stamp News subscribers were recently treated to a special supplement in their weekly mailing - "Most Influential Philatelists and Their Epic Stamp Stories-2022." The 112-page publication lists 76 individuals who've made a substantial contribution to our hobby in the last couple of decades and gives a full-page write-up of each. *The Perforator* editor, Jay Stotts shared with readers that one of these notables is Houston's own **Bob Dumaine**, stamp dealer and well-known duck stamp specialist. Others listed who also have a Texas connection are **Charles Shreve** and **Andrew Titley**. Certainly, honorable mention goes to our very own **Vince King**, for we learn on page 64, in the write-up of well-known philatelic researcher, writer and exhibitor **Ken Lawrence**, that Vince acquired from Mr. Lawrence the 1850s school boy textbook that, with 35 3-cent George Washington stamps pasted on the inside front cover, constitutes what many consider the first stamp album. This stunning piece is a central feature in Vince's award-winning Timbromanie multi-frame exhibit that you might be lucky enough to see at shows later this year. A detailed article about the exhibit appeared in the February 2022 issue of this journal. We express our thanks to all for making ours the wonderful hobby it is today. – submitted by **Greg Cain**.

Longview Stamp Club – the club meets from 7:00 to 8:00 PM, 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 7:00 PM 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 called auction. For directions and other information contact **Bob Osman** at 281-488-3356. – 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 7:30 PM at the Central Station Marketing offices, 12750 S. Pipeline Road, Ste. 1C, Euless. Recent meetings of this branch have held steady at 10 members assembling faithfully once each month. Of particular note was a viewing at the March meeting of “Night Mail” at the March 16 meeting. Hosted by club member **Rick Howell**, the film, a mid-1930s British documentary-style production, is well-known to collectors and traces a typical night run from London to Scotland as the Royal Mail gathers and delivers letters and packages from a steam-powered train traveling at full speed. A similar film, “30 Million Pieces,” was shown the following month, telling the story of how volumes of mail were sorted and transported each night. The EXPO ball is rolling. **Stanley Christmas** announced at the March meeting that the Mid-Cities club has paid the fee to secure the show hall for this Fall’s EXPO show at the Grapevine Convention Center. And at the April meeting, **Peter Elias** announced he had secured well-known philatelic writer, researcher and exhibitor **John Hotchner** to serve as one of three judges at the show. – submitted by **Skip Ely**.

Mid-Cities Stamp Club - Lake Granbury Branch – This branch of the club meets at 7 PM on the fourth Tuesday of every month (except December) at the Bentwater Activities Center, 1800 W. Emerald Bend Court, Granbury. Spring meetings have followed the established format and have included Show and Tell, Where in the World stamp quizzes, and programs. At the April meeting, **Rick Howell** reprised for the Granbury gathering the “Night Mail” film he shared with the Euless bunch the previous month. – submitted by **Eugene Atkinson**.

Mid-Cities Stamp Club - Arlington Branch – This branch of the club meets at 7 PM on the first Wednesday of each month at the Bob Duncan Center, 2800 S. Center Street, Arlington. Twenty-seven members met for both the March and April meetings (those Mid-Cities folks are consistent!), February’s meeting having been canceled due to the weather. EXPO show chair, **Ralph Poore** shared at the March meeting that this year’s show theme will be “veterans.” At the April meeting, club secretary **Skip Ely** announced that club membership had recently increased by one, to 95. **Ben Termini** mentioned that he’d won a recent cartoon caption contest that appears in the John Hotchner column each month. Going to have to check that out in my recent issues of *Linn’s*! – submitted by **Skip Ely**.


Recent issues of the club’s newsletter, *Stamping Around*, shepherded by long-time editor, **Peter Elias**, have included the usual array of interesting articles, mainly centered on travel, history, or both, and always illustrated by relevant stamps from around the world. A couple of new bylines have appeared recently, including **Steven Turechek**, who wrote in the April issue about the “Flying Boxcar,” Fairchild’s C-119 and its predecessor, the C-82 “Packet.” The USPOD tried using the Packet as a flying mailroom, sorting the mail while in the air. So, we see mail handling by train and by plane! In the same issue regular contributor, **Rick Howell** makes a pitch for membership in the American Philatelic Society, which your reporter endorses whole-heartedly. Membership includes a monthly magazine, *The American Philatelist*, that is filled with engaging and well-written articles covering all aspects of philately. Another resource that I have barely scratched is the APS website. The APS staff in Bellefonte, PA (who’d love to see you in person, should you be in the area) is always helpful and encourages members to take advantage of all resources offered to members. Check it out!

EXPO News As noted elsewhere, the show theme of “veterans” (Veterans Day coinciding this year with the first day of the show) and one of the judges (**John Hotchner**) have been chosen. The show committee has met regularly, hammered out the budget and secured volunteers for key assignments. Looks like it’s shaping up to be another fine two days in Grapevine. – submitted by **Skip Ely**.

The San Antonio Philatelic Association <http://www.sastamps.org/> - SAPA meets every Friday evening at 7:30 PM at MacArthur Park Lutheran Church, 2903 Nacogdoches Road, San Antonio, in building #1 (facing the road). March’s meetings were highlighted by a presentation on March 18 by club member, **Steve Mabie** titled “U.S. Possessions.” The March-April 2022 issue of the club newsletter, *The Philatex*, included a detailed article about National Airmail Week of 1938 (May 15-21, 1938), as a follow-on to member **Howard Wallace**’s February presentation on the topic. Judging from the article, Howard’s presentation must have been quite engaging, as NAMW was a truly big deal! See the article in the May 2022 issue of *American Philatelist* on the same topic.

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**. Those attending the March meeting were asked to bring postcards of animals wearing clothes. The April meeting featured fiestas and parades, complementing Fiesta San Antonio, the Alamo City’s annual signature event since 1891, scheduled this year from March 31 through April 10. – 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 (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. **George Dresser** is the club contact; details available from **Greg Cain**. – submitted by **George Dresser**.

South Plains Stamp Club –South Plains Stamp Club in Lubbock TX meets the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. Meetings are held at the Garden and Arts Center, 4215 University Avenue, Lubbock, TX. 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**. 

Membership Report

Greg Cain

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

New Members

5212 Collins, Robert W. - Westlake, OH
5213 Greer, Jeffrey - Dallas, TX

Dropped for Non-Renewal

4285 Foster, Katherine
4772 Infante, Isaac
4788 Jones, Steven
4926 Urish, Jack
4994 Juried, Nicholas
5012 Pry, William
5115 Green, Dan
5151 Paul, John
5184 Feyes, Raymond G.
5195 Wallace, Barry D.
5197 Saez, Jorge
5199 Agrawal, Naresh
5202 Hansen, Derek

Deceased

2924 Edmonds, Melvin

Sponsor

8204 Collectors Club of Dallas

Patron

4407 Neville, Richard
5109 Grote, Naomi A.

Sustaining

4780 Caudle, Virginia
5114 Geren, Tom

Publication Fund - Silver

4407 Neville, Richard
5109 Grote, Naomi A.
5205 Whiting, Chuck

Publication Fund - Silver-Bronze

4780 Caudle, Virginia
5114 Geren, Tom

MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY

Membership as of February 15, 2022	302
New Members	2
Dropped for Non-Renewal	-13
Deceased	-1
Membership as of May 14, 2022	290

Comprised of:

Life Chapters	10
Life Members	72
Regular Chapters/Units	7
Regular Members	<u>201</u>
	290



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Richardson, TX 75080
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June 24 & 25, August 26 & 27

SAN ANTONIO •

Hilton Garden Inn –
Energy Corridor,
12245 Katy Freeway (I-10 & Dairy
Ashford Exit),
(Friday 10-5, Saturday 9-4)
July 8 & 9

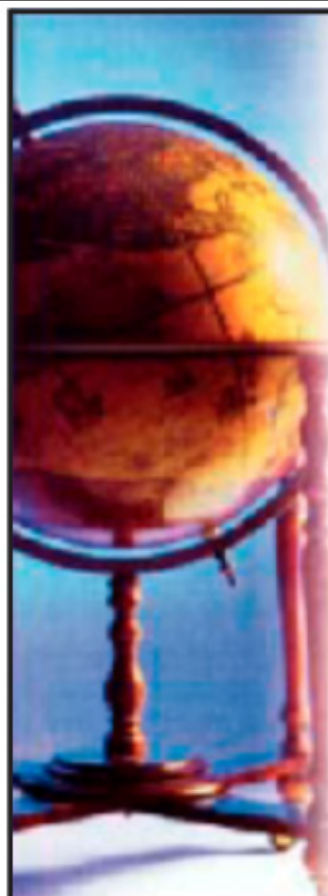
Norris Conference Center,
618 Northwest Freeway,
Loop 410,
(Friday 10-5, Saturday 9-4)
October 14 & 15

For Information, contact:
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214-546-1179

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