

TEXARKANA POSTMARK

*A research project by
Enrico Aidala TM45*

Some time ago, as I was going through the Trainmen Website, I saw on the list of the **Issued Places** that a Texarkana, Texas Postmark was reported to exist on T40. This Postmark is listed as *reported but not verified* according to Crutch Williams. This listing and comments intrigued me and I decided it would be an interesting research project. Here is that listing as found on the website:

Texarkana Texas - T40 - Post Mark - Reported but not verified - I'd love to see!

I contacted Jamie Simmons, Curator of Texarkana Museums System and this is the answer I received to my questions

:

Hello Mr. Aidala,

Unfortunately, we do not have an example of this Confederate note. I had heard about the mark, but have never been able to document it in any way. I will keep your request on file and if we ever receive such an item, I will contact you.

I'm sorry I wasn't able to help, but thank you for contacting us. Please feel free to contact the Archives at anytime for information.

Sincerely,
Jamie Simmons
TMS Curator

I next contacted Teresa Roane, Archivist at the Museum of the Confederacy (MOC) in Richmond, Virginia. This is her response:

Dear Mr. Aidala,

I checked the museum's collection of T40 bills and we do not have one with the Texarkana post mark. I was not able to find out any information.

Sincerely,
Teresa Roane

I next decided to contact the Texas State Historical Association (TSHA). The person who answered my email said they had no information at all related to my questions. He suggested I should contact people who have done fairly extensive research on historical Texas postmarks.

I next searched for experts on Confederate Postal History. My initial contact was with John L. Kimbrough MD Colonel USAF (Retired), www.csastamps.com. He wrote the following to me:

There are no Confederate notes with a legitimate Texarkana, Tex postmark applied during the Confederate period. That would be impossible

as Texarkana did not exist as an established town during the Confederate period. Texarkana was not incorporated as a town until 1880 and did not have its first post office until 1886, well after the Civil War had ended.

John L. Kimbrough

I next decided to research the history of Texarkana and found the following information:

Texarkana, Texas

Texarkana is at the junction of Interstate 30 and U.S. highways 59, 67, 71, and 82 in extreme northeastern Texas on the Texas-Arkansas border. It was named for its location on the state line between Bowie County, Texas, and Miller County, Arkansas, only a short distance above the Louisiana boundary. The three parts of its name honor the three states.

Even before the coming of the white man, the territory around what is now Texarkana was traversed by the Great Southwest Trail which, for hundreds of years, had been the main trunk line of travel between the Indian villages of the Mississippi Valley and of the West and Southwest. On the lands around Texarkana, the Caddo Indians, peaceful and sedentary, tilled their rich fields of maize, beans, pumpkins and melons and maintained six villages on the banks of the Red River.

Although many have contended for the honor, it is not known officially who gave Texarkana its name. One popular version credits a **Colonel Gus Knobel** who, surveying the Iron Mountain Railroad right-of-way from Little Rock to this section, came to the state line, marked the name "**TEX-ARK-ANA**" on a board and nailed it to a tree with the statement, "This is the name of a town which is to be built here." It was believed at the time that the Louisiana boundary was just a few miles to the south (actually it is thirty miles), and Colonel Knobel, in selecting the city's name, derived it from **TEXas, ARKansas, and LouisiANA**.

When the builders of the Cairo and Fulton Railroad crossed Arkansas in the late 1850s and by 1874 pushed their rails beyond the Red River to the border line of Texas, they met there the rail head that had been extended to the state line by the builders of the Texas and Pacific. The road from the south bank of Red River was completed on January 15, 1874, to the state line, where **the city of Texarkana had been established on December 8, 1873, at the site where the two roads would join**. The Texas and Pacific Railway Company laid out the Texas side of the town.

The first business, a combination drug and grocery store operated by George M. Clark, opened on December 8, 1873. In 1876 Texarkana, Texas, was granted a charter under an act of the state legislature. State Line Avenue, the town's main street, was laid out exactly along the dividing line between the two states. **Initially the town had only a single post office, on the Arkansas side of the town.** Those living on the Texas side requested a post office of their own. Postal officials granted the request, and **a post office, known as Texarkana, Texas, operated from 1886 to 1892**, when it was closed.

By 1896 Texarkana had a waterworks, an electric light plant, five miles of streetcar lines, gas works, four daily and weekly newspapers, an ice factory, a

cotton compress, a cotton oil mill, a sewer system, brick schools, two foundries, a machine shop, a hotel, and a population of 14,000. In 1907 Texarkana, Texas, was accorded city status, and granted a new charter. By 1925 the Texas side of the town had a population of 11,480, many of whom worked for one of the railroads or in processing agricultural products.

While commercially one city, Texarkana consists of two separate municipalities, aldermanic in form, with two mayors and two sets of councilmen and city officials.

By 1960 the total population reached 50,006 (30,218 in Texas and 19,788 in Arkansas). The population for the entire metropolitan area in that year was 91,657 (59,971 in Bowie County, Texas, and 31,686 in Miller County, Arkansas).

If Texarkana didn't exist during the Civil War, where did the report of a Texarkana Post Mark come from; and if it wasn't that town, what town could it be that someone reported. My question was perhaps answered when I heard back from the other expert I had contacted. General Frank Crown of the Confederate Stamp Alliance (CSA), www.csalliance.org wrote me the following:

Enrico,

Your message below was forwarded to me for assistance. If I understand your question you are looking for a picture of the Texarkana, Texas postmark. This town did not exist during the Civil War. It was founded after the war. There was a town named Texana, Texas. If this is the town you are interested in I can provide a picture. (*Image at end of document*)
Frank

Conclusions:

I have discovered through my research that it is impossible for a genuine Texarkana Post Mark to have been applied to a T40 or any Confederate document during the Civil War. The town didn't exist until after the War. If one of these postmarks truly exists on an 1862 \$100 it may have been applied post-war as a novelty or souvenir perhaps by a veteran who moved to the Texarkana area. It would then be considered a fantasy, or if you prefer, a Bogus Stamp. The report that a genuine Texarkana Postmark exists on a 730 note is simply incorrect and impossible!

With what I learned from these two CSA experts, and after looking at the image (below) provided by Frank Crown, I have concluded it could be possible that a Texana, Texas Postmark might exist on a Confederate 730 Interest Hundred. The following is a short overview of Texana I found on the internet at Texas Escapes.

TEXANA, TEXAS

One of Texas' oldest ghost towns, the community that was formed here in 1832 was without population by 1884. It had originally been named **Santa Anna**, after you-know-who, but in 1835 as war clouds formed, the community was renamed **Texana**. During the Texas Revolution Texana became a port of entry for American volunteers. Shackelford's company of Alabama Red Rovers bivouacked here before marching to their fate at Goliad/Fannin. The town was abandoned (the first time) as

part of the “Runaway Scrape” when Anglos fled in fear of Santa Anna’s advancing armies.

Texana became the county seat when Jackson County was formed after the Revolution. The Army of the Republic of Texas established Camp Independence near Texana in 1836. The camp was the scene for one of Texas’ most celebrated duels – involving Felix Huston and Albert Sidney Johnston.

The Huston-Johnston Duel

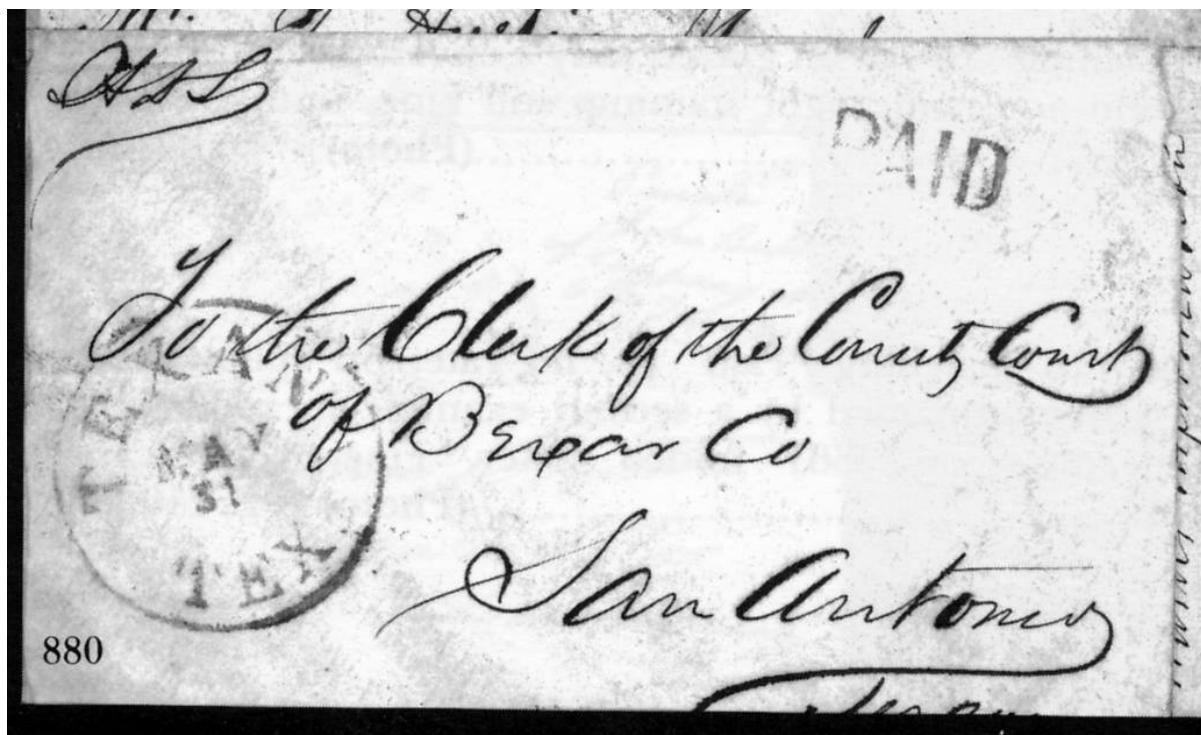
Appointed as Commanding General of the Army, and authorized to take command from Huston, the two men quarreled, resulting in the duel in which Johnston was shot through his hip. He survived to serve as secretary of war for the Republic, and a Colonel in the Mexican War. He later commanded a (Union) Cavalry regiment and resigned to join the Confederacy when the Civil War began. He was appointed to the rank of general by Jefferson Davis.

On April 6, 1862, he was killed while leading his forces at the battle of Shiloh. He was temporarily buried at New Orleans. By special appropriation of the Texas Legislature, in January 1867, his remains were exhumed from a temporary grave in New Orleans and transferred to the State Cemetery at Austin. In 1905 famed sculptress Elisabet Ney carved the recumbent statue which has become something of a centerpiece at the cemetery.

Texana was thriving in the 1880s and was a hub for stage lines. It remained a port for steamships – and it was reported that as many as 20 ships arrived each week.

But the town was hit by a double-whammy in the mid 1880s when it was first bypassed by Count Teleferner’s New York, Texas and Mexican Railroad in 1883, and shortly thereafter, lost an election to Edna for the Jackson County seat of government.

Here is an image of the Postmark on cover, provided by Frank Crown:



*I respectfully suggest that the
Texarkana Postmark
should be delisted from the
Trainmen Issued Place
list on the website.*

Perhaps we should list
Texana Postmark
as a possible alternative

I truly hope you have enjoyed reading my report as much as I enjoyed researching this topic!,

Respectfully submitted by

Enrico TM45

Addendum by Crutch Williams

It is possible there may be a TEXANA stamp on a 730 note. None have ever been recorded that I am aware of, but the stamp does exist on earlier Hoyer & Ludwig notes. Here is an image of that stamp as it exists on a T18. You'll notice this note also has a Transmississippi round red stamp too from the offset on the back of the note.

