

NEW MEXICO TERRITORY

THE SANTA FE MAIL ROBBED

--- On Wednesday night, the 24th, the Western mail was robbed at Lisletown, on the Osage river, ten miles from Jefferson City. The bag containing the New Mexico mail was cut and numbers of letter packages broken open. Next day the mail was found in the Marie River, close by. One Charles S. Gilbert, formerly stage-driver, was arrested on suspicion.

(from the Daily National Intelligencer of November 2, 1855)



Map showing the showing origin of the cover at Santa Fe, end point of the Hall Contract route at Independence point of the mail robbery Lisletown, and post office where recovered mail processed at Jefferson City.



Letter to Mr. James J. Webb at Kent, Connecticut, mailed at Santa Fe on September 25, 1855 with prepaid 10 cent adhesive. The was mail robbed near Lisletown, Missouri while enroute between Independence to St. Louis. Letter opened roughly and mail partially submerged in the Marie River. Later recovered and processed by postmaster in Jefferson City who wrote "Robbed Mail" at top.

Evening Star Washington, D. C. November 2, 1855

The Robbery of the New Mexico Mail

A letter from the Postmaster of Jefferson City, Mo. published in the St. Louis Republic, of October 20, contains further information in reference to the robbery of the Santa Fe mail on the 24h of October between Jefferson City and St. Louis.

The deed was perpetrated by one of the passengers, who styles himself as Charles Leaman Gilbert, and says he is from New York. The mail-bag and a part of its contents were discovered by some Germans on the edge of a creek near Lisle town. where the stage had stopped over night. A knife was also discovered among the letters , which turned out to be the same which Gilbert had borrowed at Lisletown the previous evening. The circumstance led to his detection. He was overtaken and brought back to Jefferson City where after an examination he was committed for trial in default of \$1,000 bail.

The robber made a complete sweep of the most valuable packages. The direction upon the letters was found most illegible. Among them there are many official letters from the Army and other department in New Mexico, the loss of which will be a serious inconvenience to the officers forwarding them.

Racine Advocate November 21, 1855

Robbery of the Santa Fe Mail

A letter from Linn, Osage county, dated the 27th says it is supposed about \$20,000 were taken from the Santa Fe and Independence mails, recently robbed at Maries river. Gilbert to who the robbery has been traced was a stage driver but not on the route where the robbery was committed.

There were some 6,000 in drafts which he did not take, after the robbery he proceeded to Mr. Ormes's and on the 27th a package or a portion of a package of letters was found in the woods.

Letter addressed to Mr. James J. Webb
Kent, Connecticut

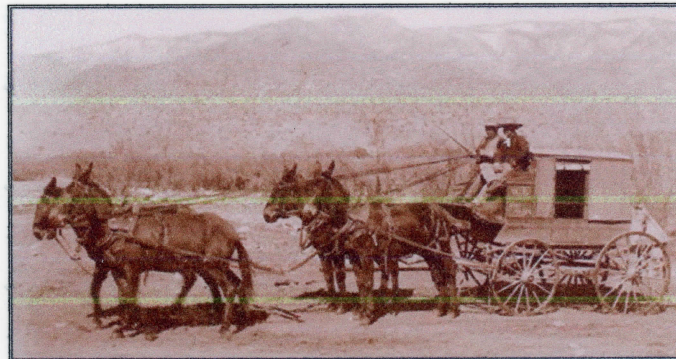
Santa Fe, New Mexico
September 27, 1855

My dear sir;

I embrace a few moments of time this morning to write you according to promise. Santa Fe is very much as you left it twenty days ago, both men and animals being as of old. Work is getting along well with the store and continues to sell a fair shard of good. He has not moved yet but expect to get into the new house by the first of the months. Since you left the workmen have worked as thought they had all time same I which to finish the building and neither coaxing nor persuasion will make them accelerate their speed. I believe they had done nothing at your side of the house, since you left and if it was to be finished by the time you return next summer. You may answer it as a fortunate circumstance that Mr. Tolhurst has gone back to the old palace taking for granted that your house would not be finished this winter.

The election is over and Mr. Gallegos is elected by a clear majority of ninety nine votes. Their was considerable excitement as the returns are coming in as the contest was a close one, several times. The Whigs are a good down in the mouth and Otero talks of contesting. Some of his friends committed the greatest outrage ever perpetrated in this Territory in an election contest.

Yours, Ashurst Hovey Redmen



A Stagecoach on the Road