

Santa Fe

The Building of Fort Thorn

Fort Thorn N M

August 13, 1854

My dear Sister

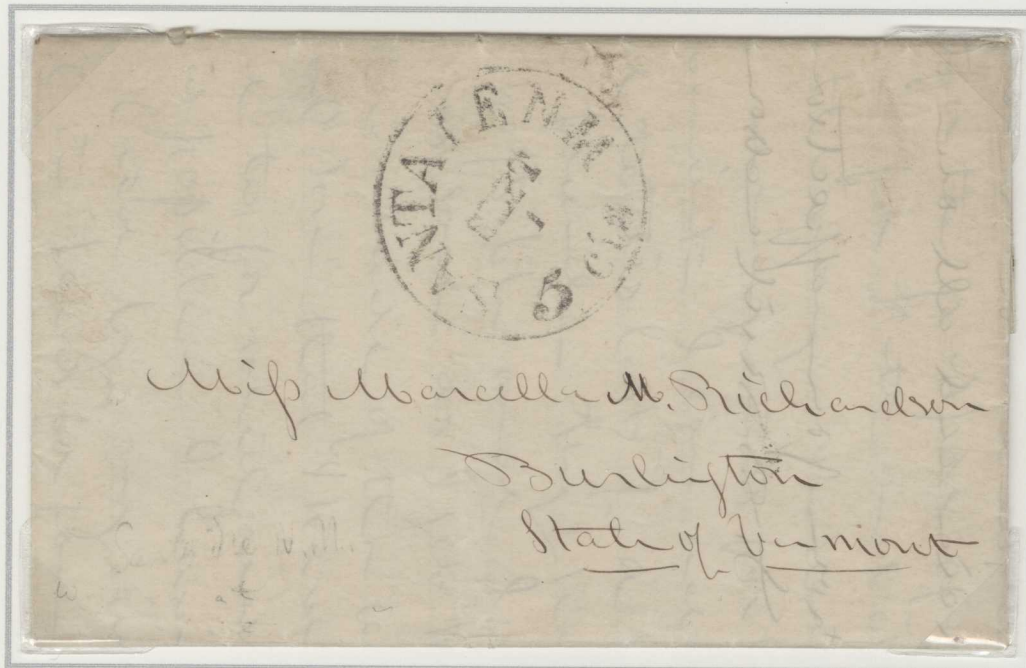
I received your letter some six weeks back but have not written before, on account my expectation of getting a leave of absence. I made application in June which was approved by the commander of the Regt. and forwarded to general command.

Though it can not be rejected on account of the present state of this Dept. -- The troops are mostly all in the field against the Indians. The Indians here have behaved very well, I have not lost an ox or mules or horse from the fort since it was established. Since I am in hopes still of getting away when the officers come out, but don't expect will be before winter - - We are still building the fort, and I may soon have to go on a scout with my Company

I had got all ready to start, had bought four large mules and a wagon at the expense of \$300.00 and also employed a driver to Port Lavaca. However I shall keep the wagon and team and travel by stage. If I get my leave of absence I have a thousand dollars now put away to add to that which you took home, for the purpose of purchasing a place for father and mother. If I cannot get away I can send my pay accounts , which you can get for in N. York.

I have no news to give you. Remember me to father \ mother Susan and Marie and all our relations and friends. From your affectionate brother

J. B. Richardson



September 1, 1854 Santa Fe, New Mexico

To Miss Marcella M. Richardson Burlington, State of Vermont

From Officer J. B. Richardson Dateline August 13, 1854 at Fort Thorn, N. M.

Black circular *Type 4* handstamp including 5 cent rate.

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I shall keep the money on hand and can make arrangements for the purchase as soon as convenient I can add another five hundred to this lot if a suitable place can be found. They had better buy as soon as possible and will pay over the money as soon as I get home which may be in the course of the winter.

I have written to the Genl. that I have business of importance to attend to for which now I wish to get off as soon as possible. I have \$1700 in money and pay laid by. My wagon and team will sell in Texas for four hundred and I have a draft on Mr. Erskine of Seguin, Texas for money loaned him now amounting to \$300.00 He was on the Road to California by this place with 800 beef cattle and his having a letter of introduction to me and to others and getting short of money here I loaned it to him payable by his son in Seguin at sight --- I have a note from Mr. Erskine who is one of the richest men in West Texas. So you can go on and purchase a good place as soon as possible.

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