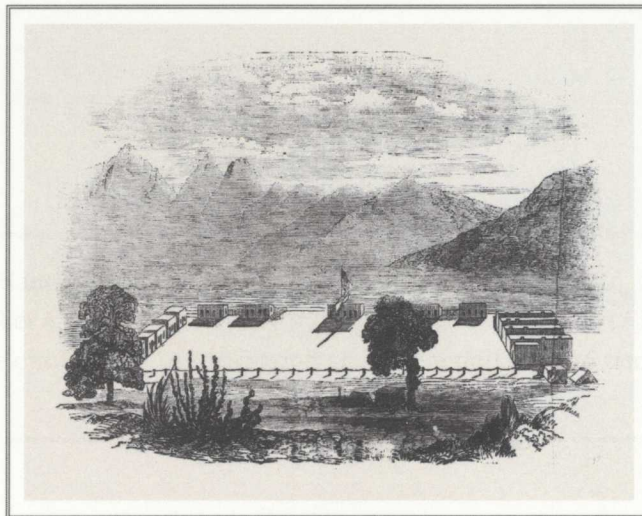


New Mexico Territory

Santa Fe



July 15, 1861 Santa Fe, New Mexico To Henry W. Diman Bristol, Rhode Island
Letter with docket applied July 7, 1861 by Charles H. Alden at Fort Fillmore, N. M.
with black double circle Type 11 handstamp and 3 cent dull red #26 tied by grid cancel.



Fort Fillmore, New Mexico Territory

Fort Fillmore was located along the Rio Grande River not far from the Mexican border, and is about six miles southeast of the town of Mesilla. This small adobe fort was built to control local Apache tribes, and protect the traders and settlers traveling between El Paso and Tucson to California. It was built by Colonel Edwin V. Sumner in September 1851 and named for President Millard Fillmore. By the end of the 1850's the post had declined, but when the Civil War started 1861 their were rumors of a Confederate invasion coming from Texas. This event took place on July 24, 1861. It was at this time Dr. Alden was stationed at the fort and captured by the invading Confederate army led by Lt. Col. John R. Baylor.