

S. J. OSBORNE  
LAWYER  
BRECKENRIDGE, TEXAS

3/12/27

Cap't R. G. Carter,

Washington, D.C.

Dear Cap't Carter:

Have read with much interest your stories of West Texas experiences while in the army and have an idea you at sometime during this time ~~were~~ stationed at Fort Griffin which is located about 25 miles N W of my present home in Breckenridge-- and in this connection I saw a letter in the Dallas News about two years ago from Jacob Howarth, Blackburn, Lancashire, England, in which letter he asked for a Texas almanac stating he had served as a soldier at Ft Griffin from 1871 to 1876 and would like to learn of the development of the country since that time etc.

I wrote to him and told him sometime I would go over to the old Fort and kodak what I could find and send them to him and in reply he urged me to do this, and stated what a pleasure it would be to him to once more after fifty years see some of the scenes etc. In course of time I did this and his reply should such appreciation I made a second trip and sent him more Kodak pictures of what I could find and we have corresponded regularly since, and it has been a very interesting matter to me. I am sending him your account each week and know it is of great interest to him and I expect he will write to you.

He was Sargt Co, F 11th Inf. He sent me a map of the Fort as it was during his service, with the locations of different departments. The Adjt office still remains, that is the outside walls, and I have a good kodak of it. The bakery building is the best preserved of any but I did not get a good picture of it.

I have a few of what I took left and it will be a pleasure for me to send them to you, including the old military road as it approaches the Clear Fork, together with the crossing, and the hole of water just west of it etc, and the sentry post just North of the Adjt office still remains ready to fall down, and the only one that has withstood the ravages of time.

Unless you were stationed there I guess they wouldnt be worth sending but if you spent part of your time there they may be of at least sentimental interest and I will gladly mail what I have to you.

Your articles havent reached Ft Griffin yet, and if I catch it by them as soon as I do will send them anyway.

Jacob Howarth, signed his first letters, Jacob Howarth, alias Howard, late Sergt Co F. 11th Us Inf. I suppose by this he is on the role "Howard" instead of Howarth is reason of this, but do not know the explanation. He was with McKenzie in the Panhandle expedition, and seems to be a man of fair education, and I am sure a splendid gentleman.

My motive in writing this is that perhaps in those stirring days you knew each other or so closely thrown together that it would be such a pleasure to each to again get trace of each other etc.

S. J. OSBORNE  
LAWYER  
BRECKENRIDGE, TEXAS

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I think Mr Howarth is about your age, and speaking from experience of 60 years of age, I know there are not many left who served with you in those days are here to fall in line.

I have had lots of pleasure out of my experience getting what pictures I could of Ft Griffin for this old soldier and in smiling him any story of west Texas during the time he was in the service and I could not resist writing to you .

I am not sure how to address letter to you but am taking chance by sending it in care of the Army and Navy Club.

Mr Howarths address is " Jacob Howarth, Blackburn, Lancashire England, 26 Richmond Terrace" he must be about your age.

In the map he sent me of Fort Griffin in location of troops he has 4th Cavalry listed. and for this reason I have a notion you <sup>was</sup> there at the time etc.

Wishing you success with your story and assuring you again of my interest I am

Yours very truly,

*S. J. Osborne*

Thomas R. Ridgell  
ATTORNEY AT LAW  
CALDWELL BUILDING  
Breckenridge, Texas

3/19/27

Cap't R. G. Carter,

Washington, D. C.

Dear Captain:

I am in receipt of your kind answer to my letter and after dilligent search the inclosed is all I can find in the way of kodaks of Ft Griffin. I had quite a number and sent them to Mr Howarth and the inclosed is all I can find left. I am inclosi ng a ro gh drawn map of the old Fort as it was in your day according to Sergt Howarth, which will bring back to your memory the location of the principal points. I have written to Sergt Howarth about your articles also sending him them each week and am sure he will write to you and am quite certain that at times you were together and now after a half century and more it would be a great thing if you could be brought together again and talk over those stirring days. Segt Howarth was a runaway English boy of good family and enlsited at 19 in New York and sent to Texas and to Ft Griffijn where he served practically ~~41~~ 24 years or more, and was sent to the Dakotas when the Custer Massacre occurred and there his enlist ent expired and he returned to his people in England. As he is growing old his mind naturally runs back to his Ft Griffin days and experiences and in a letter to me he expresses it by saying some of his happiest as well as some of his sadest days were spent at old Ft Griffin. He has mentioned Richardson and Concho, Double Mountain in his letters and I am sure has been at all the old time stations in thispart of Texas. Where you see the Parade ground and officers quarters and where officers quarters are marked there remains only old foundations and old cisterns. All the hill is covered with mesquite as well as the Flat with exception of the parade ground it remains clear of brush of any kind. There is nothing to the town except one small store and filling station which is located just as you come off the hill going North from the Fort. I amgoing back some day and will b e glad to kodak anything it may occur to you will be of interest. If you can locate just where you were camped and mark it for me I will kodak the spot as it is now and include it in my nexy list of pictures. Mr Howarth was very anxious to get the hills or ridge south of the Fort looking towards Ft Concho and I sent him a pretty fair picture of it. You can get a glimpse looking south of the parade ground kodak inclosed. He wrote me over this hill he had seen thousands of buffalo travelling. It is really sad to be at the Old Fort now it is so gloomy a d forlorn not a soul lives or stays on or about the old site, all grown up in mesquite trees , and in a stock pasture. The spring just off the hill north of the Adjt offices where the soldiers got their drinking water, has been dug out and is in the middle of a big tank for stock water. I am looking forward with interest getting your book and will also send a

Thomas B. Ridgell  
ATTORNEY AT LAW  
CALDWELL BUILDING  
Breckenridge, Texas

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copy to Sgt Howarth.

I remember Quanah quite well. When I came to Texas in 1887 I located in Quanah, north of here, and am a pioneer of that place we gave a big 4th of July celebration I think about 1896 and Quanah with 300 of his tribe were invited guests. Quanah made a speech and vehemently denied his father Neeno was killed in the mule creek fight, said it was another chief, and also later gave a Ft Worth paper an interview in which he asked that history be corrected that his father lived many years after the mule creek fight etc. Quanah when he visited us was a well preserved man and a fine looking fellow and apparently a very intelligent Indian.

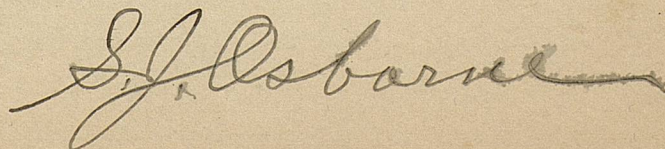
I am sure you recall the fight the Kiowas and Comanches had with the Buffalo hunters at Adobe Walls up on the Canadian it is forcibly fixed in my mind from the fact the two Shidler brothers who were killed there were from my county in Missouri and altho a small boy then I recall people talking about the Shidler boys being killed in Texas by the Indians. I remember many years ago that it was then claimed that the Kiowa medicine man had told them he had the buffalo hunters guns hoodooed and when they fired the bullets would drop at the end of their guns, Quanah was skeptical and held his Comanches in reserve in a hollow while the Kiowas charged and as the medicine man's prophecy proved untrue Quanah did not lose any of his crowd. I presume if this was true that the white blood in Quanah's veins caused him to be skeptical. I do not know that this is true but that was the talk many years ago.

Now Captain be sure and go to that celebration, you should be the honor guest, and the people will see you have a good time. Then run over to Ft Richardson and Griffin, look at the wonderful oil wells, over Shackelford, Stephens, and Throckmorton counties and the wonderful development of western Texas and you will be prouder than ever you did so much <sup>towards</sup> making this country habitable.

It just wont do for you not to visit the west again, so be sure and meet with those people, and get away from the stuffy east and get another whiff of good old western air, and you will feel so enthused you will have only the regret of not having located for life right in west Texas.

With best wishes to you and yours and repeating if there is anything at the old Fort you can recall you would like forme to kodak, you are certainly going to get it I am

Yours very truly,



Breckenridge, Texas, April 21/28

My dear Capt Carter:

Your favor received and I am sending you by this mail some pamphlets with Motor Bus routes which if you will compare with a Texas map I am sure you can place yourself all o k as to your trip to Texas and the old Forts you want to re-visit. There is scarcely a place in Texas but what is covered by a "bus route" or in the near vicinity. I do not know which end of the line you want to commence but presume you will first land in Dallas or Ft Worth, probably Ft Worth. Should you land in Ft Worth or for that matter Dallas you can get Bus to Mineral Wells, change there for Jacksboro line. Or you can go the Rock Island from Ft Worth to Jacksboro changing at Bridgeport for Jacksboro train, but I think I would prefer to go to Mineral Wells on Bus and then take Bus to Jacksboro. The Bus fare is practically the same as R R fare and the line from Ft Worth to Breckenridge, Albany on to Spur has first class coaches, probably the side lines you will have to travel may not be so good. When you get to Jacksboro and have your visit you can come to Breckenridge on Busthen to Albany and to Ft Griffin. I am not so sure right now that there is a line to Ft Griffin but they will see you get to Griffin from Albany. As soon as I hear from you the Log of your route I will write to the Mayor of Jacksboro, Albany etc to extend you courtesies and am sure they will get together some of their old timers and see you are taken to the old fort etc. I expect you will want to drop off at Aspermont, Stonewall Co and go to Double Mountain, this will be on your route to Spur and Double Mountain is plainly visible from the train or stage route and should you want to go over the ground again you can do so from Aspermont. I am sure there is no place in Texas but what you can reach by fairly good over land travel on mostly a comfortable Bus line. You are going to be surprised to see the development of the western country since your day here and it is going to be the trip of your life and I want to contribute what I can to make it that way so as soon as I learn the way you have decided to travel I will be glad to write some one in Jacksboro, Albany and Aspermont to take you in charge, unless you want to travel Incognito.

I had letter from Mr Howarth some time ago telling me of his success getting his pension and was certainly glad this belated small reward of our Government for his services has been recognized. Mr Howarth also sent me a copy of his life story which was published by the Glasgo Times and for which they sent him \$100.00 so the old Sargent is more than happy in his declining years. He wants to visit old Ft Griffin and the scenes of his early soldier experiences, the place where says he spent some of his happiest and sadest days. Old Ft Griffin hasnt much left but the country around it remains about the same but little development mostly in ranches and it has many of the old natural land marks you would again be glad to see, especially Clear Fork and the old military crossing.

Well Capt I am extending this to much I guess But I do want to let you know I am at your service, and I have looked around for A Texas map small one but have none, suppose tho the R R has them otherwise let me know and I will get one for you.

Let me hear from you at convenience and I stand ready to do what I can to make the trip one of great pleasure for you.

Yours very truly,

*J. H. Starnes*

By the way do you remember the town of Throckmorton just North of Griffin well it is getting its first R R which runs from Breckenridge and the first train is set for a few days hence when they are to have a big celebration with Indians and some buffalo. One of Quanha sons will attend and join in the Buffalo killing. Some tame ones however.

S. J. Osborne

ATTORNEY-AT-LAW

Breckenridge, Texas

8/27/28

Capt R. G. Carter,

Washington, D. C.

Dear Capt Carter:

I notice the Bronze Tablet has been put up at Spur commemorating the Indian fights of early dates and specially mentioning your services and I want to express my sympathy on account of your health not permitting your attendance.

I was looking forward to your trip to the old Forts and wanted to contribute my efforts in making the trip in this section as pleasant as was within my power.

I think I wrote to you about being in Jacksboro a short time and meeting an old timer there to whom I told of your intending visit and he was much interested and said he would personally take you in charge and take you to <sup>that</sup> Henry Warrens grave and Ft Belknap, Richardson etc and would see the old timers in Jacksboro met you and was more than anxious for you to make the visit etc.

I have a letter recently from Sergt Jacob Howarth, 42 Regent St, Blackburn, Lancashire, England, who served at Ft Griffin Ft Griffin from 72 to 75 and am sending him the write up of Ft Griffin old time cow boy songs etc that I am mailing you in separate package, which appeared in Yesterday Dallas News.

I am sure the write up in Dallas News of yesterday will be sent to you by that paper or by Mr Jones but for fear in some way it may be overlooked I am sending it to you.

Capt Carter it would like being in a new world for you to visit this country after all the intervening years since you chased the comanches the only thing natural are a few ranches that holds its lands untilled by the man with the hoe, its native grass, mesquite trees, hills etc may look natural to you, and of course the natural lay of the country but the changes have been many since your day.

Some of these days I hope to take a trip to Belnap, Richardson, and some other places and at least take Kodak pictures of what is left and send to you and Sargent Howarth.

I hope this note will find you improved and that your health will yet permit you to revisit the scenes of your young manhood in Western Texas.

Howarth was in big way to make the trip but I think his folks persuaded him not to do it.

With best regards and good wishes believe me to be

Yours very truly,

S. J. Osborne

S. J. Osborne

ATTORNEY-AT-LAW

Breckenridge, Texas

2/26/29

Capt R. G. Carter,

Washington, D. C.

Dear Capt Carter:

Your letter received enquiring the name of the Jacksboro editor who wrote so encouragingly about sending the photos and like yourself I have forgotten his name as I sent the letter to you but I went to the local printing office here and the Newspaper directory gave the "Jacksboro Gazette" as the only paper there and gave J. R. Dennis as editor and to the best of my memory that was the name signed to the letter I sent to you. Of course editors, especially of small town papers change, and he may not now be editor, so a letter to the Jacksboro Gazette, calling attention in full to the incident would either reach him or fall in the hands of some one who would send you the pictures.

I am glad my young lawyer friend at Olney complied with my request to kodak Ft Belknap and send to you. He told me he lived quite a little distance from the Fort but would certainly kodak what he could find and send to you.

I occasionally hear from our old English friend Jacob Howarth. Sgt 11th Inf who served nearly four years at Griffin and in recent letter he inclosed photo of himself and three big stalwart sons. Each had all kinds of military medals having served either in Boer war or the World's war, and the old sergt had his medal from U S as a veteran of Indian wars. Mr. Howarth wrote to me he never passed the American flag without giving the old military salute. I sent him some peaches off the Clear Fork and he wrote me they were the first he had seen in thirty years as they do not have them on the market in his section of England. Cap't there are two graves near the bank of the Clear Fork north of here and must be some 35 or 40 miles S W of Richardson and I have been told that a family settled there in an early day. One Sunday evening while the man was sitting on his porch singing out of a hymn book the Indians slipped up killed him and his wife. They had four children two half grown girls and a young man from Jacksboro was visiting them this young fellow got away and made it to Richardson and gave the alarm the two girls was taken by the Indians, and two small children ran off in the brush and hid for two days until the soldiers got there from Richardson. The girls were recaptured by the soldiers I think about Ft Sill or some Post. This is what is known as the Albert Sydney Johnson survey of land donated to him by the State of Texas and is on the Clear Fork. A young man who told me his father owned the land where the graves are located told me this from tradition and said he could take me to the graves. I have asked a number of old timers about it but so far haven't been able to trace the occurrence. It seems to me he said their names were Williams but am not sure about the name. Can you recall any such incident?

Now Cap't you are going to have those pictures if I have to go there and get them so keep me informed, Yours very truly,

S. J. Osborne