

My dear Mr. Ayres:

As Mrs. Hatcher is about to depart for six weeks in the North and East, she has asked me to reply to your letter contained on the other side of this sheet.

Mrs. Hatcher and I are good friends, close neighbors, and do a great deal of work together. If we do this Old Spanish Trail work for you we will do it together. As a matter of fact, we have been planning for several years to retrace the O.S.T. through Texas and write an historical log of it. We could do this for you, if you cared to wait until late summer or fall. For work that can be done within the next two months, we have two things to offer you.

1. A group, as few or many as you wish, of historical and legendary vignettes to be used as you wish.
2. A group of more or less loosely held together stories giving the steps by which the O.S.T. came into existence. This would include directly or indirectly almost every picturesque character of Spanish Colonial Texas. Our materials would be drawn, for the most part from original sources, which are either wholly or little known.

Enclosed you will find a very crude and hastily typed suggestion for stringing the stories together. I think a book of Texas stories made up after this or some similar plan would prove quite popular and saleable.

I have no way of judging how extensively or expensively you wish to go into this thing. If it is worth your time coming over here to talk over the matter and settle upon the plan of work, I shall be glad to talk with you at anytime.

On the other hand, if it promises to be profitable for me, I shall be willing to drop other work that I am doing for a while and push this through.

Sincerely,

Fannie Ratchford