

July 31, 1935

Judge Earl B. Scott,  
Jourdanton, Texas.

My dear Judge:

Whether your letter bears fruit or not I sure enjoyed it. You have a vivid style of expression....my compliments to you on it.

When the weather is half kind I shall run down that way, but a power of time and money can be spent in such "running around." Let me try to get a clearer lead out of you.

In digging back into such distant years we get "information" and think we have arrived somewhere, then some essential things do not fit in and we know something is wrong. For a long while I have believed (because of what I have been told) that at Hinds, on the San Miguel Creek there was a "rather deep, well-filled pool of water with stone bottom, 400 paces long, 12 paces wide" and there was a (or the) junction place of trails. But Hinds just does not "fit in." On the other hand Franklin, on the San Miguel, does "fit in." Is it possible that pool is at Franklin? The quoted language was written in 1778.

The enclosed map shows how these dynamic Spanish empire-builders traveled in Texas. The junction point below you there I want to clear up.

Another possibility is Esperanza Creek where there was "a pool of good size water all the year," but not very good water. Also written 1778. Conditions may be different at those places today.

At times, perhaps for a long while, convoys from Mexico would meet the convoy from Texas at that point.

The Laredo Trail (not the Presidio del Rio Trail) was the great link in the great trail by which the great Texas operations maintained connections and communications with Saltillo and Mexico City, and by which the padres maintained connections and communications with their colleges at Queretaro and Zacatecas. I have the topographical maps of South Texas. We are pulling out the story from old records, diaries, and writings, and the landmarks that still are on the maps...the old river fords, sections of old trails that still can be identified, a name still on the map the Spaniards fastened there centuries ago.

Conquistadores and padres were doing big things in Texas. Dispatch riders, couriers, convoys, high officials, caravans, great padres, and others traveled back and forth, and all communications could only move that way.

Kindest regards.