

August 5, 1933

Mr. Herbert Davenport,
Colliad, Texas.

Dear Mr. Davenport:

Capt. R. F. Hall gives me your name as a careful historian. As occasion permits I have, for many years, checked and asserted Spanish historical matter. There is much so-called history handed out that isn't history at all. For instance, the "great Spanish camino real" from Presidio del Rio to San Antonio to New Braunfels to Nacogdoches etc., so much written about was not the Spanish trail of Texas. La Bahia was a key-point for that travel. How much Spanish travel there was on this so-called camino real by New Braunfels etc. I do not know; nothing worth while appears in research. That was an American Pioneer road.

Our researches have carried us to Falls City quite clearly. Apparently the trail from there eastward was as the enclosed map indicates. And the great road from San Antonio southward was thru Laredo, not Presidio del Rio.

I have the topographical maps of South Texas and can study and fix points quite nicely by them. The enclosed map is the result of present information. It may be interesting to you. You may be able to add some information. If you feel that on occasions you can help, and topographical maps of your area will help, will send them, or you may have them. Information that I may give for historical study there, and real research information that I can get from there, may lead us to a better understanding of Spanish South Texas.

I feel a bit constrained in writing this letter to a stranger. Mr. A.W. Grant, Managing Editor of the EXPRESS, tells me of Judge J.A. White. I am, however, writing you. I have seen material from out of Colliad, like much material that goes out of San Antonio, that just does not key in with apparent history.

There is no pressure in the matter of reply. We keep adding to the sum total of basic knowledge, from time to time as we can. Some day, perhaps not long now, we hope to get a group of real historians together in the interest a real low-down on the Spanish South Texas history. And some of us hope that out of all this talk about the 1936 Centennial, the true Spanish history and the true Spanish trails may be set forth. We hear of some school-child historical pageants and things like that for a centennial celebration, and hear the question "Colliad should be included but we don't know how," and never hear of Laredo yet that was an historic gateway. There things the highway department can be led to do, and things San Antonio can be led to do, but the whole history of that Spanish era must be dug out. Colliad was the seaport for San Antonio; the only seaport they could work out. This involves more than people realize.

Sincerely,

(President Old Spanish Trail)