

Nov. 11, 1958

Mr. J. Meredith Tatton,
Salt Creek Ranch,
Refugio, Texas.

Dear Mr. Tatton:

I am writing to see if you have certain information, or could put us in contact with some society or individual who does.

For some time I have been engaged in a Civil War era project with a collaborator, Jo Shore. Our especial field has been Gen. James J. Archer, stationed in the Yakima Valley during the Indian War period. He resigned at the outbreak of the war to "fight for Maryland."

I have picked up his trail again where he is commander, and later named Brig. Gen. of the 5th Texas (and fourth I suspect) Volunteers who participated in various battles in Virginia, on the fringe of Maryland, the final one at Harper's Ferry I suspect, Fredericksburg, Manassas etc.

We are anxious to learn more of the organization etc. of the Texas Volunteers (I am searching in the 140 vol. War of Rebellion Records but fear some of this information needed is not included there). And it is possible that men noteworthy in Texas history were associated with the 4th and 5th, first commanded by a Gen. Wigfall (?)

And there is a remote possibility that Archer County, Texas, got its origin as to name. It is moreover possible that other military men were drawn into Confederacy service with Texas groups.

I am especially interested in the Archer County origin and the background of the Texas 4th and 5th Volunteers. It may be that someone you know are sufficiently interested in these matters that we could fill them in with considerable Archer material. Our contemplated work, which is well advanced, may take the form of a sound novel rather than a documented work.

We wouldn't need a lot of material, but sufficient for backgrounding and proper flavor.

Mrs. Maurine Estus provided me with your name and sends you her regards.

If you have some personal project you are interested in that I may encounter material on in this region, other than the Archer, please let me know and my collaborator and I will keep our eyes open.

Sincerely