

# THE PASSING OF COL. GEO. H. GIDDINGS

DIED IN CITY OF MEXICO SATUR-  
DAY LAST.

Was Prominent Among Texas Pioneers and for Years Was Identified With El Paso and San Antonio.

A message was received announcing the death in the City of Mexico Saturday of Col. George H. Giddings, the first operator of the Overland mail route, who has been identified with San Antonio since 1846 (and who was prominent among the pioneers of Texas) and later officer in the Confederate army, says the San Antonio Express.

Col. Giddings was about 80 years of age, and was a native of Susquehanna county, Penn. Overland transportation was one of the greatest problems of the old time, and as early as 1854 Mr. Giddings was vitally interested in its solution, and was carrying the government mail from San Antonio to El Paso.

While he was in Washington, in 1856, he became interested in a proposed mail route between New Orleans and San Francisco. In 1857 the contract for carrying this mail passed into the hands of Cpl. Giddings. In the new hands the contract was carried out with great energy and the first mail service between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans proved a success.

Semi-monthly trips were made in four-horse coaches, the compensation being \$149,000 per year. From New Orleans the mail was brought to Indianola by steamer, and from Indianola, overland by way of San Antonio, El Paso, San Diego, Cal., to San Pedro, Cal., whence it was taken by vessel to San Francisco.

Col. Giddings took part in the constant warfare with the Indians along the mail route, and experienced many losses at their hands.

At the opening of the civil war he joined the Confederate army, taking service under General Bee.

After the war he moved to Washington, D. C., and practiced law. Later he moved back to Texas. Recently he moved to the City of Mexico.

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