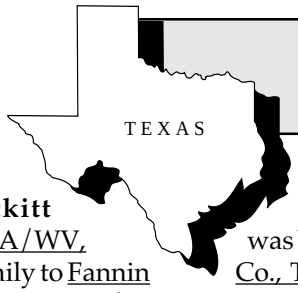

The HILYARD TACKITT Collection

John Hilyard Tackitt (1808-1878), assumed son of **JOHN & SARAH HILYARD TACKITT** of Kanawha Co., VA/WV, was born in VA, then moved to the area around Sangamon Co., IL. In 1844 he moved with his family to Fannin Co., TX to become one of the earliest settlers in the area. The following documents represent some of the many letters/documents we have in this collection. Many of these have been published in past issues of the Journal. Xerox copies of the original documents may be ordered for $2.50 each.

Document 1859.2: This letter, written from Los Angeles Co., CA and dated 11 Apr 1859, was from **Wayne Hilyard Tackitt**. b 7 Sep 1835, IL, to his parents, **John Hilyard & Louisa Richardson Tackitt** of Fannin Co., TX. **Wayne**, unmarried at this date, later married Mrs. **Eady C. Mitchell Hobbs**, d/o **Preston Mitchell**, on 29 Dec 1867 at Dade Co., MO. This couple later moved to Santa Cruz Co., CA. *(The following is a transcription of the original six page letter by Jim W. Tackitt - What would probably be sentences or paragraphs will be separated by a slash "/"; explanations will be enclosed in brackets; locations will be underlined and names will be made **bold**.)*

Monte Val Los Angeles Co., Cal

April 11th 1859

Dear Father & Mother,

I am in better health than I ever was in my life at least my vest lacks about four inches of buttoning around my breast / that is my favorite summer vest / I wear it split from top to bottom in the back. / I have written several letters back home but have not had a single word from home yet so I cannot tell whether you have heard from me or not and consequently I am uneasy. If this ever comes to hand I would like to know. I is better than two months since I first wrote / it ma[y] be possible that the letters have stoped at Sherman [Texas] / Well **Pap** we are the furthest a part that we ever have been since you was up north but it will all come wright in the course of two years more or less / I do not see why **you and mother** can not content your selves and be happy concerning me for the improvement of my health will be worth a great deal to me added too the many good lessons that I will learn in the course of two years, / I am bourding and making my home with **Mr. Skyles** yet he being a partner wth **Mr. Pots** in the mercantile business / I was salesman a while and could get in at small wages but I don't like the business / I cam[e] here to mine for goald in the ground and last saturday the 2nd of this month I and a party of four more went up The St. Gabrel River forty miles and got back last friday being out seven days / we struck a nice prospect about thirty miles from here and took up a claim each of us and left our picks and shuvels up there and returned to home. and in order to hold more ground and take in timber enough to last us two years I chose one man of the three and took in to my party he being a school mate of **Wm. Richardson** in Springfield, ILL and an industrious young man but no yanky / he has perposed to work at his trade and pay his part one third for a hand to help us / we can get a stout laboring hand for $20.00 per month and my partner **Lennin** can make $4.00 per day so the overpluss will go to the institution to keep it up as we are not likely to make any thing clear, over grub sooner than one month so if the ground fails alltogether we will only loose our time / I think