

## Gary C Worrell

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**From:** Gary C Worrell [gcw@igx.net]  
**Sent:** 30 July, 2009 23:23  
**To:** 'Gary C Worrell'  
**Subject:** Postcard  
**Attachments:** Laredo-1892.jpg; LaredoSatelliteImage.jpg; LaredoRailCrossing01a.jpg; LaredoRailCrossing03a.jpg

In January 1840, what is now Laredo, Texas, was the capital of the Republic of the Rio Grande. The Republic was short lived however, it was reacquired by Mexico via military force in November of the same year.

In 1846, during the Mexican-American War, Laredo was occupied by the Texas Rangers. After the war, the town was ceded to the US by treaty. The residents petitioned the US to return Laredo to Mexico, but the petition was rejected. Many of the residents moved across the Rio Grande into Mexican territory to form Nuevo Laredo.

In 1849, Fort McIntosh was created (which was originally called Camp Crawford, but renamed in 1850 to honor Mexican-American War hero James Simmons McIntosh) to protect the Texas frontier. It was abandoned at the beginning of the US Civil War. Already, Laredo was an important border crossing, and the Confederate States used Laredo to export cotton to Mexico. In March of 1864, 72 men repelled 200 Federal Soldiers, three times, in the Battle of Laredo. Federal troops retook the fort in October 1865.

At the end of the Nineteenth Century (see attached 1892 Map, Fort McIntosh is at the bend of the Rio Grande), Fort McIntosh was home to the Buffalo Soldiers, the first peacetime, all black, US Army regiments. Fort McIntosh continued to serve through both World Wars, and was deactivated in 1946.

Currently (see satellite image), the site is home to the Laredo Community College. Many of the fort buildings still exist and have been preserved. Much of the stone wall around the fort can still be seen, and many of the 19<sup>th</sup> century homes in the area are still occupied.

Today, a colleague and myself were treated to a driving tour of the area (green track on the satellite image) by a friend who is a US Customs and Border Protection Officer (also on the now famous Postcard List) who was raised in the vicinity of Fort McIntosh. Our goal was to walk out halfway across the railroad bridge (known locally as the Black Bridge, possibly

because of a skirmish in April 1914, where Mexican Federalist troops destroyed all of the large buildings in Nuevo Laredo, and attempted to destroy the railroad bridge) and stand on the US-Mexico Border above the Rio Grande, but as luck would have it, the bridge was occupied.

Cheers,  
G.



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OF THE  
**LAREDO REAL ESTATE & ABSTRACT CO.**  
W. R. PAGE, PRES.



**COMPARATIVE DISTANCES.**

From DALLAS  
 To Laredo, Texas, via El Paso, 2,000 miles  
 To Laredo, Texas, via El Paso, 2,000 miles  
 To Laredo, Texas, via El Paso, 2,000 miles

From NEW ORLEANS  
 To Laredo, Texas, via El Paso, 1,275 miles  
 To Laredo, Texas, via El Paso, 1,275 miles



**FACTS ABOUT LAREDO.**

Drainage excellent. Ample water power. Healthful climate un-  
 surpassed. Splendid business quarters for men of push and energy.  
 Sites for manufacturing establishments donated by the Board of  
 Trade.

Laredo lands and will give substantial and hearty encouragement  
 to Cotton and Woolen Mills, Iron Works and Machine Shops, Paper  
 Mills, Tanneries, Factories for the manufacture of wagons and car-  
 riages, Printers and all kinds of Woodwork, and all other manufac-  
 tures.

Manufacturing establishments completed from location for ten  
 years.

We have the Raw Material in Abundance

**POPULATION**

1880	2,000
1885	2,500
1890	3,000
1895	4,000
1900	12,000

PERSPECTIVE MAP OF THE CITY OF  
**LAREDO, TEXAS.**  
THE GATEWAY  
TO AND FROM  
**MEXICO.**



**IMPORT AND RESERVE.**

1890	\$ 200,000
1895	\$ 400,000
January 1900	\$ 750,000
January 1901	\$ 800,000



**FACTS ABOUT LAREDO.**

The Laredo coal fields contain the largest veins and the best  
 quality of coal mined in the State of Texas.

Laredo makes the best and cheapest lead in Texas.

Laredo has unexcelled transportation facilities.

Laredo possesses advantages for Ironworks, Manufacturers, Mer-  
 chants, Professional Men, and those who wish to do business in  
 the Southwest corner of Texas.









