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The
**Confederate
Philatelist**

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The President's Prerogative

In the past few years I have bought a lot of Confederate material and handled numerous collections. In so doing, I have found an incredibly frightening trend, which probably has always been the case, but seems particularly alarming to me of late.

I desperately feel the need to address the issue that has been disturbing me. Over the years, I have heard of several “near misses” by heirs of collectors, including several thousand covers from the late George Malpass—a past CSA president and great Confederate student—which were left on the curb for the trash collectors and fortunately rescued by a savvy great-nephew just in the nick of time.

But the most chilling incident with which I was involved was only a year ago when I was called to look at material that had been recovered from trash bins by non-collectors. When initially approached, I thought this was something of little consequence, but quickly changed my tune when I saw scans of select covers worth tens of thousands of dollars each.

The actual story is far more horrifying than I am able to share with you for legal reasons, but the sketchy fact is that what amounted to probably hundreds of thousands of dollars of rare material—not just Confederate—was literally tossed in the garbage by the indifferent and uninformed heirs. These included some great Confederate rarities; I am uncertain exactly what has been lost.

I was appalled. The people recovered this material literally from dumpsters along with the garbage and were intelligent enough to recognize the intrinsic value. They began to sift through the trash on a regular basis, continuing to harvest from this source for months—a veritable mountain of valuable material that literally filled the space of a garage to the ceiling. Who knows what they did not rescue!

Second to this horror, is another kind of travesty which, while not the same, may have similar consequences. What I find disturbing is that research information from decades ago is often not kept with the material. Thus I am “reinventing the wheel” whenever I describe a cover for my stock.

A case in point was the recent purchase of a prisoner-of-war cover which seemed so very familiar, yet I was having trouble finding information about the incarcerated soldier to mailed it. In researching another POW cover with a similar problem, I tripped across an article written about the first cover in *The Confederate Philatelist* in 1980 when I was editor of these pages. Not only was a copy of the article not kept with the cover, none of the information on the prisoner was kept either. The cover only showed the addressee, a civilian, and it was not even easy to determine from which prison it was sent. The rediscovered CP article answered all of my questions.

Why oh why aren't we keeping important information with our precious material?

I personally have large notes of instruction on what to do with my research files, some of which represent decades of work, if I die unexpectedly. I guarantee that I'll be rolling in my grave if that research—let alone actual covers, stamps, or literature—is thrown in the trash when I pass on. I encourage you all to leave very detailed instructions with your heirs and with the material itself. It must be memorialized in your estate in writing with specific letters of instruction. I know of at least one collector who is leaving directives that his material be sold at auction and he has stipulated that the auction house must pass along all research to the buyer as a condition of the auction agreement.

In the case of the late George Malpass, his only daughter was well aware of the value, but when she died, the next tier of heirs was—for the most part—clueless. Fortunately, there was one great-nephew who knew and rescued the material from the trash heap—although he had no idea what it was worth. I rendered him virtually speechless with a six-figure appraisal.

Trish Kaufmann

Patricia A. Kaufmann

Founded in 1948, Matthew Bennett International has established itself as one of the premier auction houses in the world. Newly headquartered in New York, Matthew Bennett holds at least one auction each year featuring Confederate States Provisionals, General Issues, and Postal History. Due to our strong reputation for integrity and results, we have been entrusted with the consignment of several outstanding collections including those of William F. McCarren, Richard A. Corwin, John R. Hill, Jr., Mark Gordon, Dr. Alphonse A. Maffeo, and Bernard F. Losekamp.

Highlights from our recent auctions of Confederate Postal History



1861 Tuscumbia Provisional 3c dull red on buff (6AXU1, formerly 12XU1) handstamp envelope. Ex Storow, Col. Green, Caspary, and Dr. Maffeo.

From the The Dr. Alphonse A. Maffeo Collection, February 2007.



1863 homemade envelope, circular undated "Andersonville Ga." handstamp and matching unframed "Due 10" handstamp. Very Fine and rare usage from this prison.

From the Bernard F. Losekamp Collection, April 2008.



1863 yellow envelope with "New Orleans La./Feb 6 '64" double-ring transit datestamp and "Due 6" circular handstamp, having been sent by ship to New York. Very Fine and rare example of only a handful of mail known from this prison.

From the Bernard F. Losekamp Collection, April 2008.

For more details about our upcoming auctions or consignment information, please contact:



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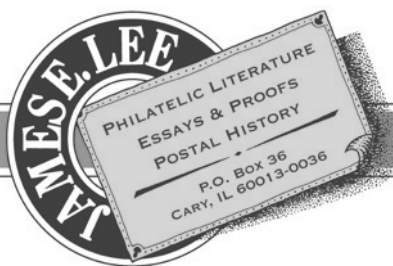
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The Catalog



When he began it all...

[Editor's Note: *In the November 1928 issue of his The Southern Philatelist, August Dietz outlined his plans to publish his specialized catalog. A nice historical context for those among us who are at work on a brand new catalog today. Here in his own words...*]



The Catalog of Confederates for Advanced Collectors

The demand for a Specialized Catalog of the Stamps of the Confederate States of America has been an instant one. Second only in importance and popularity to the postal issues of the United States, these relics of a stirring epoch in our history have never received that consideration due their rank in American Philately.

There is no directory, at the time of this writing, to which the collector of Confederates may turn for assistance and guidance when he leaves the field of the current postage stamp catalogs and seeks the paths that lead to other avenues of his pursuit. It has been deemed sufficient to list the "recognized" Provisionals and General Issues. Beyond this point there has been no vision and, apparently, no understanding—surely no response to the demand.

I intend—in a measure—to meet this need, and to give Philately the first edition of a Confederate Stamp Primer.

Incomplete at first, to be sure; and falling short of its ultimate goal in many ways, this Catalog will, at least, make a start and, I trust, be as useful to collectors of Confederates as was the first catalog of United States stamps to the budding specialists of that field.

During the many years of my collecting activities, and all the more while printing my story of the Confederate stamps in THE SOUTHERN PHILATELIST, this need of a catalog, which would include, in addition to the standard issues now listed, the "Paid's" and other collectible material, has become apparent, and I set about to gather the data which would serve this purpose.

In these labors I have had the unstinted assistance of collectors specializing in this field, and I am assured of their continued gestures of approval. That is to be expected—in fact, constructive criticism is invited.

The arrangement of the Catalog has been given careful consideration, and the form adopted appears simple and practical.

The first installment comprises the Paid's of South Carolina and Mississippi. I will be grateful to the holders of other types, not here shown, if they will submit such material for illustrating and listing in the revision.



The 5¢ De La Rue Plate Proofs

by Col. Leonard H. Hartmann © 2008

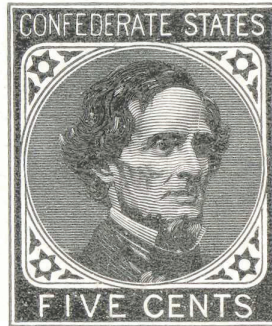


Figure 1. De La Rue die proof in black.

In 1862 De La Rue of London, England supplied the Confederacy with stamps and the printing plates for the 5¢ typographed stamps and the 1¢ that was never issued. In the early 1970's Robson Lowe was involved with De La Rue in selling many things from their archives. This was both good and bad for the hobby and the serious study of the stamps. First it permitted collectors to obtain rare proofs, essays, stamps, etc. but it also hurt the future study as material would be scattered and the context lost thus making further study difficult or impossible. A small number of CSA die proofs came on the market from this source however many important ones were known and in collectors hands before from the estate of the engraver, F. Joubert, Figure 1.

A full sheet of 400 of the 5¢ CSA typographed stamp was found in the De La Rue files, Scott No. 6. This sheet was certified by the Philatelic Foundation on October 18, 1976 as a proof, certificates 57584. The certificates for the full sheet state ".that it is genuine with defects on small portions.." and gives the designation 6P5. We would say 10% of the stamps are defective, mostly tears around the sheet margins but also holes into the sheet and at least two positions with the design cut into. They were first listed in the 1978 edition of Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps, 6P5, a plate proof of the issued stamp stamp.

In conjunction with Robson Lowe, the Weill Brothers of New Orleans marketed this item and the sheet was broken down. At the time Robson Lowe initialed in pencil about 50% of the stamps on the back and also added the plate position, 1-100 in the conventional manner, 1 being the upper left and 100 being the lower right for a pane. The panes were designated A through D for the 5¢; A being the upper left, B the upper right, C the lower left and D the lower right. A full pane of 100 no longer exists and the largest 5¢ multiple known to the author are several blocks of 16 along with pairs, blocks, strips and singles.

When they first came on the market, a number of collectors and dealers had mixed feelings as to exactly what they were and should they have been Scott listed as proofs. At that time one good friend, that I highly respect, thought they found an original plate and had them printed. Many thought the differences between this sheet and the issued stamps were so slight they should not be considered as anything special.

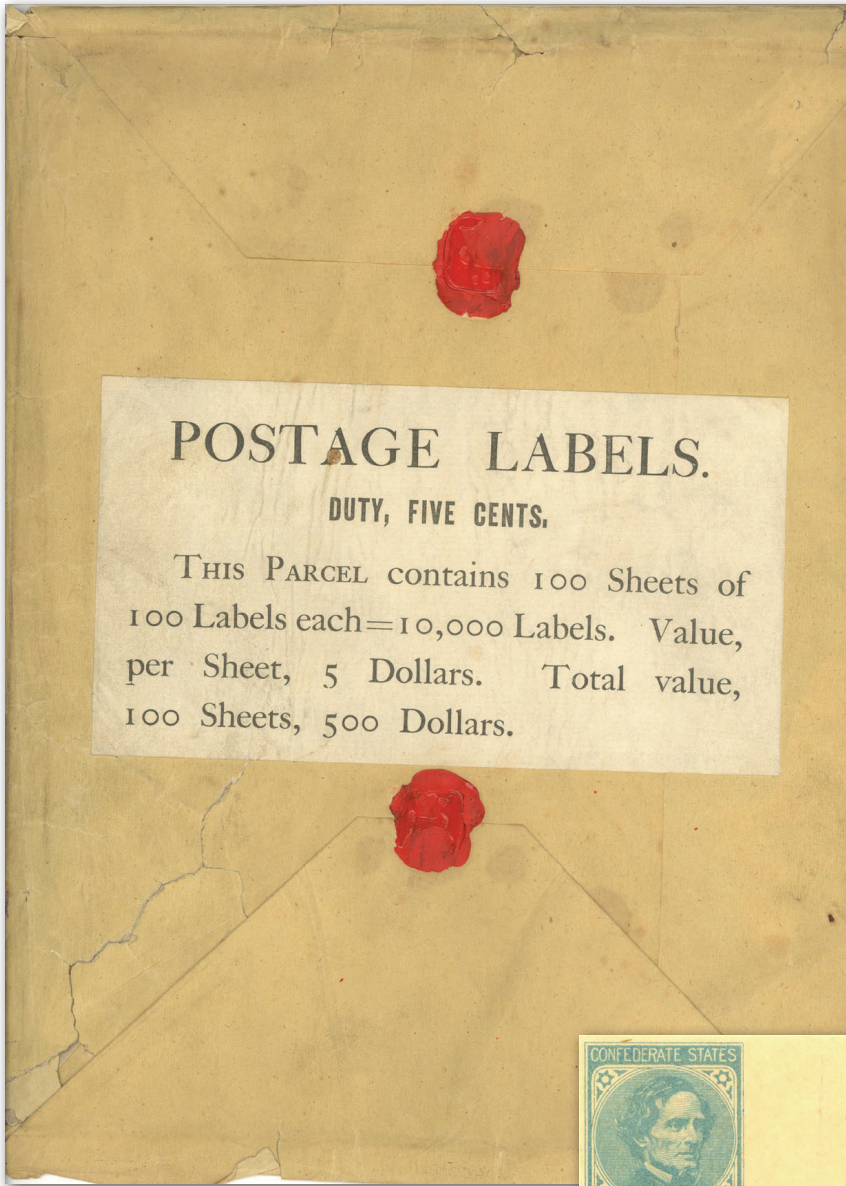


Figure 2. De La Rue shipping envelope for panes of 100.



Figure 3. De La Rue plate proof, cross gutter block, note light yellow background color.

Since 1976 much more has become evident on these stamps and the distinction between the London and Richmond printings is now much clearer. First, no examples are known except from this sheet. The possibility of a modern printings is not realistic, De La Rue did not have the plates. One 5¢ plate exists in the Franklin Institute and the original master die in the British Library, all others are still lost.

The color is only slightly different from the stamps that De La Rue sent to the Confederacy. This could be attributed to the fact that the sheet was not gummed and thus we do not have this interaction with the ink and paper to consider. This may or may not be the reason for the extremely slight difference in color when compared with the issued stamps however color changes attributed to gum and paper are common in philately.

We now know the De La Rue stamps were sent to the Confederacy in panes of 100 and not in full sheets of 40—see the illustration of a package envelope that was use for the shipping which is sized and labeled as to quantity for panes of 100, Figure 2. Some stamps that were once considered De La Rue prints are now considered Richmond printings on London paper. The only gutter multiples that can exist for the 5¢ London stamps must come from the De La Rue proof sheet, a maximum of 36 pairs and one cross gutter block of four, Figure 3. This is confirmed by all other known gutter multiples are from the Richmond printings, either on London or Local paper and not De La Rue printings.

WANTED: More Articles Like This.

We would love to feature more and more monographs about the stamps of the Confederacy, whether they be Postmaster's Provisionals or General Issues. Most of the time herein, postal history predominates. But our readers have asked us, time and again, for articles on our stamps. If you have something you'd like to share, let your editor know: Editor@csalliance.org.

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Figure 4. De La Rue plate proof, top sheet margin gutter. Note light yellow background color in the area extending to just above the stamp images, gutter between upper left and right panes.

Figure 5. De La Rue stamp sent to the CSA. Note clear margins on all sides, upper right corner, right pane.



A recent examination of sheet margin examples of the 5¢ proof has brought out another most interesting peculiarity. The portions of the sheet in contact with the plate show a faint light yellow color, this extends uniformly through the horizontal and vertical gutters between the panes and about one eighth of an inch beyond the printing surface on the left, top and right sides but not the bottom. Figure 4. On the bottom of the sheet the yellow color extends beyond the printing surface by at least one quarter of an inch and probably more.

The author has not seen this light yellow color on any of the stamps sent to the Confederacy by De La Rue, Figure 5, or on any of the Richmond printings, Figure 6. Poor storage or contact with poor paper or the lack of gum does not explain this discoloration.



Figure 6. Richmond Printing on London Paper. Note clear margin on all sides.



Figure 7. De La Rue plate proof, major smudge. Note continuous light background color in bottom margin but break in color on the right, position 99-100, lower right pane.



Figure 8. De La Rue issued stamp, major smudge, position 9 & 10, upper right pane.

The stamps printed by De La Rue in London are all virtually perfect impressions. However, at least one 5¢ stamp from this archived sheet shows a major smudge or inking problem, Lower right pane, position 99, Figure 7. The available photograph of the uncut sheet from the Philatelic Foundation is not clear enough to indicate if there are any minor printing defects but this one, position 99 LR, is quite evident on the photograph and no others are. The author has only seen only a few such defects on the stamps De La Rue shipped to the Confederacy, actually the author only knows of two examples that are of any significance, Figure 8.

We have an interesting item in Scott 6P5, but what is it? Perhaps it is a proof printed for approval, perhaps a sheet that was considered defective and added to the files, perhaps one of the first sheets printed after the steeling of the plate to explain the yellow coloration, perhaps an experiment with fugitive ink, there are other possibilities? The one thing we do know is that they were not the issued stamp. It certainly classifies as a plate proof, but exactly what is still unknown, Scott 6p5 is definitive, but perhaps incomplete.

The Unusual



Ever seen one of these?



When one examines the normal Trans-Mississippi Express Mail use, the first thing one notices is the franking—which is generally any combination of stamps making up the 40-cent half-ounce rate. But what about this example? Discovered by Larry Baum and now in the editor's collection is this single-rate cover that crossed the Mississippi River in May 1864. Originating from Spotsylvania C.H., Va., it was hand-carried to Shreveport, La., and placed into the mails there at the normal 10-cent rate with a Type I steel plate stamp. This form of use could very well be rarer than the normal Trans-Mississippi covers with the fancy frankings. After all, there are something like 125+ of those. How many of this kind of use exist? We'd bet very few.

Have you visited our CSA Official Website lately?



Our Website continues to evolve as a permanent record with information of interest to both new

and long time members. Not only will you find information on upcoming and past conventions and awards, there is an Alliance history section which continues to grow with both information and photos. There are links to research sources and articles, plus a nifty section entitled "Remarkable Covers" which we not only encourage you to visit, but to contribute to. Surf on over for a visit to the site at www.csalliance.org and see what's new on our continually changing website.

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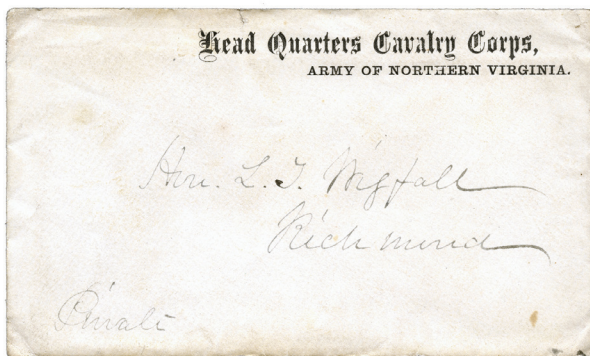
The Cavalry Corps of the Army of Northern Virginia

by Col. Thomas Lera

Army Imprint Dietz Type
II Semi-official Envelope
(courtesy of the Smithsonian
National Postal Museum)

The Cavalry Corps of the Army of Northern Virginia was the only organized Cavalry Corps in the Confederate Army during the Civil War. The rise of the Cavalry Corps can be almost entirely tied to the career and organizational efforts of its first commander, Major General J.E.B. Stuart, and which was formally established on August 17, 1862.

This cover, from the collection of the Smithsonian National Postal Museum, is addressed to the Honorable L. T. Wigfall, Richmond. There is no postage affixed to the cover; however, on the bottom left is the word “Private” indicating it was hand carried.



Louis Trezevant Wigfall (April 21, 1816 – February 18, 1874) was a politician from Texas and a Confederate general. Brigadier General James Simmons, commanding Headquarters of Morris Island wrote Brigadier General Beauregard on April 23, 1861, “I sent Colonel Wigfall with a white flag to inform Major Anderson of Fort Sumter that I observed his flag was down and to inquire whether he would surrender to you. Colonel Wigfall, with great gallantry and his accustomed indifference to danger, accompanied as I have mentioned, proceeded in a boat in the midst of continued fire from our batteries other than at this island. Before he reached Fort Sumter, I distinctly saw the flag of Fort Sumter flying on the northeast corner of the fortress, but very much masked by the gable of the quarters and the smoke and flame. It was too late to recall Colonel Wigfall, and he accomplished his mission. Soon after he reached the fortress a white flag was substituted for that lately put up, and the firing ceased on both sides. The firing of Fort Sumter had continued after the flag had fallen.”

At 2:15 pm, Colonel Wigfall returned and announced that “Major Anderson surrendered unconditionally to Brigadier General Beauregard, of the C.S. Army.” Between April and July 1861, Wigfall was a member of the Texas Delegation to the Montgomery Conference which formed the Provisional Congress of the Confederacy and an aide to President Jefferson Davis. He was commissioned a colonel of the First Texas Infantry on August 28, 1861, and on November 21, Davis nominated him Brigadier General in the Provisional Army, a move later confirmed by the Confederate Congress. Wigfall commanded the Texas Brigade of the Army of Northern Virginia (Hood’s Texas Brigade) until February 1862, when he resigned to take a seat in the Confederate Congress for Texas. After the war, he moved to London, England, and in 1873, he returned and settled in Baltimore, Maryland. In 1874, he died in Galveston, Texas.

1. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louis_Wigfall

2. United States. War Dept. et al. *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies.* / Series 1 - Volume 1 Operations in Charleston Harbor, S.C., p 37 - 39

3. King, Alvy L., *Louis T. Wigfall: Southern Fire-Eater*, Louisiana State University Press, 1970.

4. U.S. Congress, House Biographical Directory of The American Congress 1774-1949, 85th Congress, 2nd Session, H. Doc. 607 (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1950), pp. 759-2057.

Meeting Minutes



Annual Meeting in Charlotte, N.C.

11 AM - Saturday, July 26, 2008

Attendees: President General Patricia A. Kaufmann, Vice President Colonel Van Koppersmith, Treasurer Colonel Robert Frailey, Secretary Colonel Richard Murphy, Immediate Past President General James Monroe, Trustee Colonel Deane Briggs, and 29 additional Generals and Colonels.

Old Business:

1) Moment of Silence: President Kaufmann requested a moment of silence for the following members who passed on since the last Annual Meeting in November 2007: Colonels Erin Gunter, Neill H. Alford, Jr., Robert H. Cunliffe, William T. Lockard, and William A. Fox.

2) Secretary's Report: Col. Rich Murphy reported that membership at the end of June 30, 2008 was 621, a gain of 2 over the November 2007 meeting; 28 new members, 2 reinstated, 14 dropped for non payment of dues, 9 resigned, 5 deceased. Three new Life members. (Report on file)

3) Treasurer's Report: Col. Robert Frailey reviewed the balance sheet for the end of 2007. Assets were \$228,093. At end of June 2008, assets were \$242,820. Costs are up due to the full color CP, (which was expected and deemed acceptable at the November 2007 meeting). (Report on file)

4) Grievance Report: No issues

5) Awards. Haydn Myer and Dietz Awards: General Ron Tate was awarded the Haydn Myer Service Award, and Colonel Warren Sanders and the Late Colonel Erin Gunter were awarded the Dietz awards for their work on the *Post Offices, Postmasters and Postmarks of the Trans-Mississippi Department*.

CP Writer's Award: The CP Writers Award was given to Colonel William S. Parks for his article "Corinth Postmaster Followed CSA Army to Tupelo, Miss."

Promotion to General: James L. D. Monroe was formally promoted to General with the promotion date retroactive to Jan. 5, 2008

6) Membership Report: New member trend is positive.

7) Authentication Service: General Crown reported that since Nov. 2007, 177 patients were reviewed with: 122 genuine, 7 Genuine, but identified as something else, 17 counterfeits/fakes, 2 no opinion, 2 declined and 27 in process. Cash balance on hand is at \$2,255.84, with costs increasing due to insurance, postage etc. (report on file)

8) Editor's Report (Neil): Smooth transition of editorship from Colonel Dick Sine to Colonel Randy Neil. New software and printer are in use. Backlog is happily three to four issues of material. (Report on file)

9) Website Report (Neil): Last minute requests for Web site updates are unmanageable. Colonel Neil will propose a schedule and deadlines for updates.

10) Diamond Anniversary Campaign Endowment: General Monroe reported that pledges are at \$85,285, 56.9 % of the goal. Donations received by 52 members; or 8% of the membership.

11) Publicity: Successful in certain cases, but *Linn's* is still a struggle.

12) Advertising: Annual advertising has increased with the color ads. 2007 income was \$4,531, 2008 will be \$4507.50 (reports on file)

13) CSA Catalog: General Kaufmann reported the project is under budget thus far, but anticipate expenses beginning to pick up as project progresses.

The Trustees have decided to print a companion handbook in December 2008. *Special Mail Routes of the American Civil War: A Guide to Across-the-Lines Postal History* by Steven C. Walske

and Scott R. Trepel, edited by the CSA Catalog editorial board and published by the CSA. This is a separate budget and the money has already been raised. The information will then be distilled to include in the catalog with pricing.

Hopeful to still be available to produce the CSA Catalog by August 2010, but would rather have it accurate than on time. The Special Mail Routes handbook is in no way a hindrance to this goal, rather the coordination of dozens of section editors and their varied styles and technical abilities.

The CSA Catalog is not an update of the 1986 catalog, rather it is a completely new work from the ground up that draws on the research of the various editors supplemented by information in earlier works. No past electronic formats exist, the project is dependent on the contributions of collectors, dealers and auction houses.

The Trustees have decided to contract out the catalog layout to Ms. Merritt Engel, at an approximate cost of \$25,000.

14) Conventions:

2008 Mid-year is November 14-16, 2008, in Charleston (Mt Pleasant) S.C.

2009 Annual is December 2, 2009, in Orlando, Fla. at FLOREX

2009 Mid-year is March 20-22, 2009, in Wilmington, N.C.

**2010 August 12-15- The 75th Anniversary of the CSA, in Richmond, Va.,
in conjunction with the APS Convention.**

2010 Mid-year needs a venue, as Griffin, Georgia, is probably out.

Looking at Vicksburg, Natchez, etc.

2011 April 29-May 1 Annual Meeting at WESTPEX in California.

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2014- Atlanta/Marietta, Ga.

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Respectfully submitted,


Richard Murphy
Secretary

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Exhibiting



Exhibitors Forum

by Col. Randy L. Neil

Was it the popularity of Confederate exhibits or were the exhibit aisles at our CSA annual convention at CHARPEX in Charlotte, N.C., simply more packed than at other shows? There were times when it was hard to move among the exhibits because of the crowds.

Many exhibitors of Confederate material have, at one time or another, competed with exhibits of material of other types of subject matter. Those who have done this—or continue to do it—know that Confederate postal history is quite a different ballgame than the more traditional forms of that genre, such as United States 19th Civil War covers.

Not that long ago—perhaps the early 90s—I saw a judge viewing a large Confederate States of America exhibit of general postal history and overheard him exclaim to a fellow juror, “Wait a minute! How come there are no foreign destinations in this exhibit?” The judge standing next to him replied, “Maybe this fellow just doesn’t go in for covers to foreign countries. I don’t know.”

Over the years—dating as far back as the 1936 Third International Philatelic Exhibition in New York City (TIPEX) when Confederates first began to achieve major recognition in competitive exhibiting, we have received more than a normal specialty’s high awards. In fact, four exhibitors showing entries containing substantial elements of Confederate material have won the American Philatelic Society’s Champion of Champions Award: Cols. Ludwig Simon (1974), Blake Myers (1981), Harvey Warm (1983), and John Birkinbine (1985). So it’s pretty apparent that, when it comes to high-level CSA stamps and covers, most judges know what they are looking at.

Nevertheless, the fact that Confederates don’t show up in the frames at every major and less-than-major stamp show in the country means that, quite simply, most judges don’t encounter our form of material to any great degree. If you’re an exhibitor—or are contemplating becoming one—this is a factor to keep in mind...especially if you’re showing any covers.

The published fountainheads of philatelic exhibiting (*The Manual of Judging Philatelic Exhibits* and *The Philatelic Exhibitors Handbook*, which yours truly had the privilege to write) are pretty basic in describing what a postal history exhibit should be: in a general sense, it is a study of postal rates and routes as they relate to the on-cover uses shown, and in a form that conveys the beginning, middle and end of a logical story. So, for instance, if one is showing U.S. World War II postal history, one might begin with the routing of early wartime censored mail, then show the wide range of wartime rates and routes (surface and airmail), and end with mail going into conquered territory.

But if one is showing, as did John Birkinbine, a comprehensive array of Confederate postal history, from independent state uses and postmaster’s provisionals, to handstamp paid and the general issues on cover, one can almost forget paying that much attention to rates.





Col. Jim Monroe must have been in some kind of postal history heaven. His abiding love for naval philately got a nice boost from the exhibits of members of the Universal Ship Cancellation Society, who were meeting with the CSA at CHARPEX.

CSA exhibitors were fortunate to have a very astute jury at CHARPEX. Led by John Hotchner (left), the panel, including Hal Vogel and Col. Roger Oswald, were well qualified to judge Confederate material. Hotchner is one of the most experienced chief judges in the hobby.



Sure, there are some really weird rates—such as Trans-Mississippi express mail or unusual forms of blockade mail—but they're scant few in comparison with, say, the plethora of just the registered mail uses on the Union side during the war. The essence of Confederate postal history is, of course, the story behind the covers we collect.

When we exhibit our cherished covers we must, of necessity, go down a road that is far less travelled than the postal history of virtually all other countries and eras. Here are some points to keep in mind when preparing to exhibit your Confederate postal history:

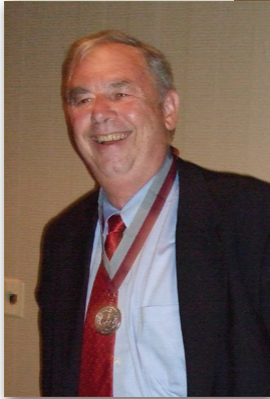
- You're going to have to do a lot more background research than your counterpart who collects other forms of postal history. Your exhibit pages must contain information on who sent your covers and who received them. Who were these people? What did they do? There are raw data sources that can help you. (Often, some dealers will provide this background information for you, by the way.)

- The condition of your covers is always very important. Exhibitors should always strive to find a particular form of use in the best condition that can be found. But adversity is adversity. If you show a Trans-Mississippi use that obviously is water damaged, explain this fact on your exhibit page—making the judge understand that this form of cover rarely looks pristine.

- Since you're not going to be able to show a wide range of rates, concentrate on acquiring representative examples of all possible uses that fall into your category of subject matter. For instance, if you're showing uses of the Lithographed issues, make sure every conceivable form of use is apparent—from railroads and college covers, to patriotics and colors of cancels.

Best of all, we have a good number of experienced exhibitors within our ranks who are always showing their material at our annual affairs. Study these prize winners. Query the owners. Soak up some of their philosophy about exhibiting. You'll be richly rewarded.

More pictures from the Charlotte, N.C., CSA Convention



CSA Show Coordinator Tony Crumbley finally enjoying a moment of relaxation!



Gen. Trish Kaufmann with her husband, Darryl Boyer at the Southern Supper.



Newly-named General Jim Monroe acknowledges his introduction at the Southern Supper.



Vicar Warman represented he and father Phil's Suncoast Stamp Co. on the bourse.

Below, the crowd just before the start of the CSA Annual General Meeting.



Photos on this page by Randy Neil. More photos will appear in the next issue.

Gen. Conrad Bush accepting the Jack Molesworth Memorial Award for his exhibit, "Straightline, Fancy & Uncommon Cancels on Confederate General Issue Stamps."



Pres. Kaufmann shown presenting the Robert A. Siegel Memorial Award to Gen. Ron Tate's father in the latter's absence due to illness.

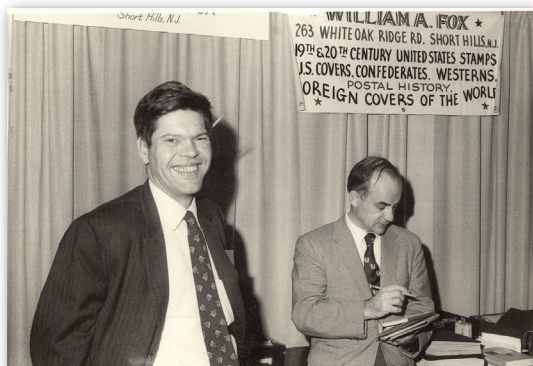


Alex Hall helps with the Southern Supper salad.



The common scene on the CHARPEX bourse—the hunt for covers, covers, and **more covers!**

William A. Fox 1929 - 2008



Bill Fox with Carl Becker at the William A. Fox booth at a New York stamp show around 1970.

I am sad to report the passing of a good friend and a force in philatelic world, Bill Fox, who died June 12, 2008 at his home in Naples, Florida. He is survived by his wife of 22 years, Gisela, and his two sons by a prior marriage.

Bill was born in 1929 in Easton, Pennsylvania. He graduated from William and Mary College in Williamsburg, Virginia where he was the college roommate and best friend of the late William G. Bogg. He caught the philatelic bug early and in the 1950s-1960s, he worked for Robert A. Siegel.

In the early days, he and Bill Bogg were an inseparable duo who traveled together and always had adjoining tables at shows. And Bill Fox always wore a burgundy jacket – always. It was a show trademark for him. We used to tease him that it was going to fall apart. And “Boggsy,” as Bill Fox used to call him, always had on what seemed like the same gray suit. When “Boggsy” died in 1986, Bill brokered the sale of New England Stamp Company to the present owners who still maintain it in Naples.

Bill joined the CSA in 1961 as member No. 1140 and was known not only for Confederates, but as a top dealer and leading auctioneer whose philatelic knowledge spanned the globe. He also handled major properties such as John Boker’s locals and carriers collection, which he marketed privately. For years he lived and worked out of Short Hills, New Jersey.

When he sold his auction business, he retired to split his time between homes in Hilton Head, South Carolina and Naples, Florida. Bill also convinced my late husband and I to buy a lot at Moss Creek Plantation in Hilton Head for our retirement days. I haven’t found retirement yet and the Moss Creek lot is regrettably long ago sold. When we met Gisela for the first time, we were wowed by her culinary skills and I was amazed by her virtual wall of cookbooks such that I now have my own mass of cookbooks and credit that to her as my inspiration.

Bill’s own private collections included a top collection of the U.S. 3¢ 1851 issue sold by Schuyler J. Rumsey at the 2006 Washington International show and, of course, Confederates. Most recently, Bill sold his collection of South Carolina material through Schuyler – a mostly poorly kept secret that we euphemistically called the “Renard” (French for Fox) sale.

Bill wasn’t seen as much on the show circuit in recent years. I last saw him at the CSA convention at the Southern Supper held at the National Postal Museum in 2005. He was upset that his health prevented him from attending the Washington International show in 2006.

Bill’s legacy lives on and he will be greatly missed by those whose lives he touched.

Gen. Patricia A. Kaufmann

Strong buyers of Confederate material.

If you have covers like this for sale, talk to us for a very attractive offer.

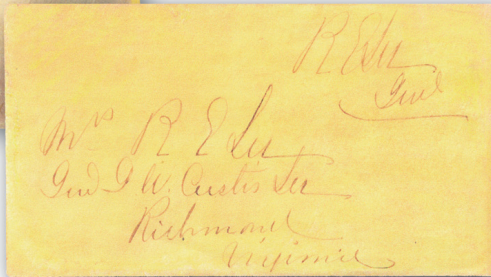


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Discovery: Stories Revealed from Confederate Postal History

by Col. D. Thomas Royster, Jr.

War begins: April 12, 1861

Figure 11. Augusta, GA, USA star die used in the CSA. CDS “Apr. 12” (1861), the day on which Ft. Sumter was bombarded – the war began. Adams Express Company, New York in green ink.

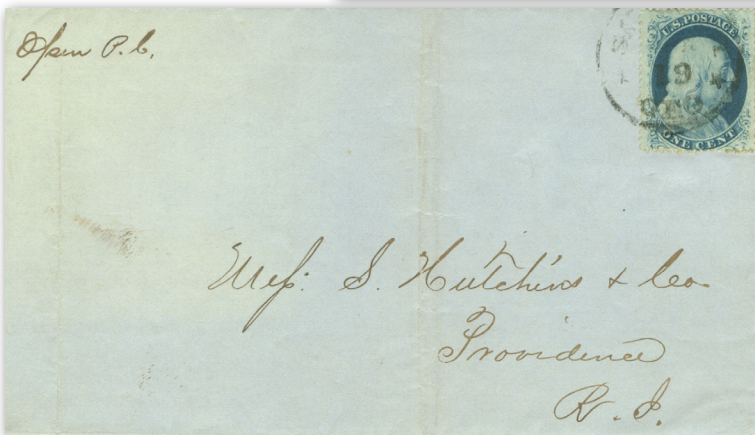


Figure 12. This folded, printed circular was mailed using US 24 tied by a CDS “Savannah Geo Apr 19” (1861) to a firm in Providence, RI. (The Savannah “stars” cancellation.)

In a printed circular (Fig. 12) of the Savannah Republican, dated Friday, April 19, 1861, only a short week after the firing upon Ft. Sumter, the Savannah market report on cotton and certain other crops and lumber/timber was forwarded by Hunter & Gammell.

“Cotton – Since our last report of the cotton market made a week ago, a war has been initiated, which, disturbing all commercial calculations, and producing an uncertainty in regard to the future, that has put a complete check upon operations in our leading staple. The sales of the week only amount to the insignificant sum of 68 bales, and it is utterly useless to attempt quotations, which we therefore omit.” Concerning “Timber – The market is completely upset by the war news. The arrivals have been light, but the demand has been lighter, and prices cannot be named.”



Figure 13. On May 11 1861, Am-brose W. Winston, of Lynchburg, VA, and soon to be commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in E Co, 58th Virginia Infantry, wrote a four-page letter to his uncle William H. Winston at Castle Craig in Campbell County, VA, in which he related preparations for war. He notes that “the motto of the loyal native born Southerns may be ‘War to the death or Lincoln & his cohorts.’” The letter was written from Woodville, AL, and was contained in the Confederate seven-star color patriotic (Dietz F7-16 but unlisted in color) with manuscript Woodville, AL, “Paid 3, May 11/61.”

From Camp Davis near Richmond on May 22, 1861, Hartwell P. Spain, 1st South Carolina Regiment, wrote his sister a four-page letter in bold pencil which was enclosed in an advertising cover—imprinted with the design for American Hotel, By J.L. Carrington & Co, Richmond, VA - with a partial Richmond, VA, CDS, May 23, 1861. The CDS most certainly tied a U.S. stamp which is missing, perhaps the result of anger and frustration on the part of the sister. The envelope also has a period pencil docket on the front: “From Hartwell Spain, wounded at Gaines Mills, died in Richmond”. The reverse of the cover has the following written in ink: “Direct to Richmond, Va., 1st Regt. S.C.V, Capt. W.B.M. We leave in the morning at 5 o’clock for Alexandria – our ? will be forwarded to that place. Good night dearest Sissy. Your Bro. H.P.S.” The following is the significant majority of the letter:

“Camp Davis, near Richmond, May 22d, 1861. My Dearest Sissy. Your affectionate and sympathetic epistle reached me this morning. I thank you dear Sissy for your kindness and affection to me. A loving brother only can truly appreciate such bountiful bestowments. O how it delights and gratifies me to hear from my relatives. I have written you several times from this place – had concluded that some delinquent of “Old Abe’s” had halted them, but I suppose you have rec. all ere this. I rec. a bundle and several letters from home this morning – what will I do when Mother & Father are gone! I feel that I could not survive their death! Well Sissy, I have so much to write about it is impossible for one to begin appropriately – don’t criticize a soldier’s letter I beg you. The camp is all alive and much excited at this time. Orders were sent to the 2d Regt., Col Kershaw’s Com., yesterday evening to the affect, prepare yourselves for marching early on Thursday morning. Our Regt. will go the same time. Tis said we are going in 30 miles of Washington, called Manassas Gap. Our men are in fighting condition. We are willing, yet anxious to strike a blow for our rights and dearest

Coming Soon.

- **CSA Overprints On United States Stamps.** A wonderful article by Col. Justin Poklis that requires plenty of space to explain a little known aspect of early CSA postal history. You’ll love this one!
- **Special Announcement** concerning a brand new book by Stephen Walske.
- **More of Tom Royster’s Stories** Revealed from Confederate Postal History.
- **Followup News** of our Charleston, S.C. Mid-Year Meeting.



Figure 14: Advertising cover to Mrs. John T. Wightman Charlotte, NC, from brother Hartwell P. Spain.

honor. I would plunge a dagger in the breast of a man if he would dare to speak Union in my presence. Hanging is too good for a low contemptable and cowardly submissionist. They are destitute of having patriotism and pride, who preach submission to tyranny and exterminism. How dare a human entertain such sentiments to the glorious Union. Tell Bro. John to hurry up the "Old North State." And Kentucky! Shame, shame forever on her! Assuming a neutral position in such an hour of extreme peril and excitement! I look with disgust and horror upon the action of some of the states who should at once dash the chain of displeasure to affirm – join their sisters and grasp with steady arm the shield, and draw with agility the sleeping sword with determination to conquer or die. I thank God for the enabling spirit, that I am destitute of fear. I long to aim my unceasing rifle at the very life primitive of my antagonist. Do you know Wm. Atkinson? He and I mess and sleep together. He is a noble fellow! I am a member of the Richmond Rifles. D.G. Wailey did not come in with his company. Only a few low characters came from the company with L. Daniel McIntosh. I preferred joining a company where I could associate with respectable young men. About 30 of this company are in So. Ca. College, Capt. Miller commanding. The drum is beating. I must close until after drill. We are subjected to some exercise here, drill four times a day will do us good. I am improving in health. We are encamped near the trotting course, two miles from the heart of the city, a beautiful and pleasant spot. We fare very badly indeed. Some days we have nothing at all palatable, but occasionally some fair hand is extended with delicacies to the suffering soldiers. Bless the Ladies! I desire to see them at home, but I am, thank God, united in an ingenious and glorious cause and I'll go where my country calls. Richmond is crowded with soldiers – still companies are ordered to different points and our time will come soon you may depend. The Republicans dread us. They must know that where we raise our arms we conquer. I wish you could see us. Our uniforms are musty, but the outward appearance of things deceiveth much. I contemplate visiting you when I return. I will perhaps go through Charlotte on my way to South Carolina. I'm sorry Charleston is blockaded. I must confess the Yankees have astonished me this time for I had no idea that they could muster so large a force in the field and extend their impudence and threats to our very doors. No parallel can be found in history to their atrocity. They are infatuated, mad & revengeful. Their all will be soon fluttering in the winds of destruction if they continue their encroachments. We, the 1st S.C.V., have but five more weeks to remain in service. The Regt. will remain as long as there is prospect for fighting. I think we will have a fight soon. Dearest Sissy, I think of you often. Please write frequently. As ever, your dearest Bro., H.P. Spain".

Convention



2008 Annual Convention Report

By Gen. Patricia A. Kaufmann



CSA Generals surround the newest member of their ranks as Gen. Jim Monroe is inducted into the coveted order during the Southern Supper. From left: Generals Tony Crumbley, Trish Kaufmann, Conrad Bush, Jim Monroe, Frank Crown, Roger Oswald, Jerry Palazolo, Rick Calhoun, and John Kimbrough.

(More photos on page 18)

Bruce Roberts accepts his award from President Kaufmann for his "Arkansas Postal History, 1861-65."



That salutation, "Madam President," is now a form of salutation to which I am becoming accustomed. I like it! I even have a "First Gentleman", which surprised many of the unaware at Charlotte. I introduced my husband, Darryl Boyer, at the Southern Supper. But I had to chuckle at the comments such as "I see congratulations are in order". Well, no, we've actually been married for sixteen years, but if I used my legal last name of Boyer, you'd not have a clue who I was. In philatelic circles I shall remain Trish Kaufmann. Darryl spent most of his time in Charlotte happily waterskiing and knee boarding on Lake Norman with North Carolina family.

Superlatives positively define our experience at CHARPEX 2008, primarily due to the efforts of Gen. Tony L. Crumbley and assisting CSA local host, Richard Canupp. I heard many colonels say that the Southern Supper was one of the best in years, with which I totally agree. We did have one "complaint" though, in that there was no peanut soup on the menu—a Williamsburg specialty. Sorry Joe! The fare was an absolutely superb and well executed Southern menu with food served family style.

We are indebted to Col. Scott Trepel and the Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries for providing the open bar before the meal, to Col. Schuyler Rumsey for the wonderful souvenir "computer bags" at the show, and to Gen. John Kimbrough and Col. Phil Warman for sponsoring the CSA hospitality suite.

CSA Exhibit Awards/CHARPEX 2008 Show Awards

As well as the Alliance awards, each of our exhibitors was presented with wonderful gold coin replicas by Charlotte Philatelic Society President Kay Don Kahler at the Southern Supper. Our Alliance exhibit awards were as follows:

- *"Prisoners' Mail from Dixie, an In Depth Look"* – Col. Galen D. Harrison - CSA Trophy for the most comprehensive exhibit of stamps and/or covers. CHARPEX Grand Award, and Gold Medal.
- *"Straightline, Fancy & Uncommon Cancels on Confederate General Issue Stamps"* – Gen. Conrad L. Bush—CSA Jack E. Molesworth Memorial Award for the best exhibit of off-cover Confederate stamps, APS Research Award, and CHARPEX Gold Medal.
- *"Columbus, Georgia in the Confederacy"* – Gen. Francis J. Crown Jr. - CSA William G. Bogg Memorial Award, sponsored by an anonymous donor, for the best exhibit depicting the evolution of Confederate postal history and a CHARPEX Vermeil Medal.
- *"Independent State and Confederate Mail of North Carolina"* - Gen. Tony L. Crumbley - CSA John H. Reagan Award for the best exhibit containing Confederate postmaster provisional stamps and/or envelopes (given in memory of Gen. David Kohn and Col. J.V. Nielsen, Jr. and sponsored by several

Carolina members), APS Medal of Excellence – pre-1900, and CHARPEX Gold Medal.

- “*Confederate States of America - the 5¢ Lithographs*” - Gen. Ronald R. Tate - Robert A. Siegel Award sponsored by Col. Scott Trepel, Postal History Society Award, and CHARPEX Gold Medal.
- “*The 10-cent Steel Plate Issues of the Confederate States of America*” – Col. Randy L. Neil - CSA General’s Award, sponsored by Gen. Sherrell Nunnelley, and CHARPEX Gold Medal.
- “*Arkansas Postal History 1861-1865*” – Col. Bruce Roberts - CSA Raymond and Roger Weill Memorial Award, sponsored by an anonymous donor, and CHARPEX Vermeil Medal.
- “*Crossing the Borders of the Confederacy*” (one frame) – Col. Rex H. Felton - CSA Trustees Award for best one frame exhibit, CHARPEX Grand Award for best one frame exhibit, Gold Medal.

Our thanks to the CSA judges, Generals Roger Oswald and Rick Calhoun. Roger also represented Confederate interests among the CHARPEX panel of judges headed by John Hotchner.

CSA Service Awards:

- **The Haydn Myer Award for Service** was presented to Gen Ronald R. Tate for his long service and assistance with the hospitality suite at annual and mid-year meetings. Ron was unable to attend due to illness, so the award was accepted by his father, Ken Tate, to a standing ovation.

- **The CP Writer’s Award** for the best 2007 article was presented to Col. William S. Parks for his Confederate Philatelist article “Corinth Postmaster Followed CSA Army to Tupelo, Miss.”

- **The August Dietz Award** for research and publishing during the calendar year 2007 was presented to Col. Warren Sanders and the late Col. Erin Gunter for their work on *Confederate Post Offices, Postmasters, and Postmarks of the Trans-Mississippi Department*. As Warren was unable to attend, the award was presented to Gen. Jerry Palazolo who played a large part in getting this fine work to press.

- **Immediate past president, James Monroe was elevated to the honorary rank of “General”** which he accepted with gracious delight, surrounded by all Generals in attendance as is tradition at the Southern Supper with such promotions. Generals in attendance were (by year promoted) Generals Frank Crown, Trish Kaufmann, Jerry Palazolo, Conrad Bush, Tony Crumbley, Rick Calhoun, Roger Oswald and John Kimbrough.

Col. Ed Joyce aced out Gen. Jim Monroe as the member in attendance with the earliest CSA number. Ed has been a continuous member for fifty-four years and Jim for fifty. The newest Alliance member in attendance was Vicar Warman, who joined two years ago and is often seen at trustee dad Phil Warman’s booth at shows. We welcomed Col. Steve Boyd who had never been to an Alliance meeting before.

Auctioneer Schuyler Rumsey brought some delightful goodies from the late Bill Fox collection to tempt us. They will be in his forthcoming winter auction—there will be one in between, you’ll just have to wait. Part of the Jack Molesworth stock will also be in that sale.

The trustees held two meetings during the show and the general membership meeting minutes may be found elsewhere in this issue. The annual meeting was immediately followed by an excellent presentation by CSA Authentication Service Chairman Gen. Jerry Palazolo and Recording Secretary Gen. Frank Crown. Many members were amazed at how much goes into researching “patients” submitted to the CSAAS.

The Harris Conference Center venue was spacious with superb lighting where you could actually see both exhibits and dealer stock. Dealers reported brisk sales and acquisitions. Tony Crumbley truly went above and beyond the call of duty and we are most grateful.

Our next meeting is in beautiful Charleston, SC November 14-16 and, from early feedback, I believe this may be one of our biggest mid-year gatherings ever. Details are elsewhere in this issue and in the past two newsletters. Your hosts will be Gen. Jim Monroe and Cols. Rich Murphy and Larry Baum. Make your plans now. You can’t imagine how much fun we have unless you’ve been to one before. Y’all come!

[Editor’s Note: *I might remark that CHARPEX was made even more delightful for your quarterly journal editor by some fine contributions to our pages that were given to me at the show by various members. One of them, by Col. Deane Briggs, appears in this issue of The Confederate Philatelist. Our conventions can be very productive!*]



Belle Edmondson, Confederate Letter Carrier And Scout...er...Spy

(Continued from the previous issue of *The Confederate Philatelist*.)

by Col. L. Steve Edmondson

Belle's note in the middle of March 1864 is even more informative:

At one o'clock, Mrs. Fackler, Mrs. Kirk & I began to fix my articles for smuggling. We made a balmoral of the Gray cloth for uniforms, pin'd the Hats to the inside of my hoops, tied the boots with a strong list, letting them fall directly in front, the cloth having monopolized the back & the Hats the side. All my [letters], brass buttons, Money &c in my bosom. Left at 2 o'clock to meet Anna at Mr. Barbieri's—started to walk, impossible that, hailed a hack—rather suspicious of it, afraid of small-pox. Weight of contrabands ruled--jumped in with orders for a hurried drive to Cor Main & Vance. Arrived, found Anna not ready, had to wait for her until 5 o'clock, very impatient started at last. Arrived at Pickets, no trouble at all--although I suffered horribly in anticipation of trouble. Arrived at home at dusk, found Mr. Wilson & Harbert, gave them late papers, and all news. Mrs. Harbert here to meet her brother, [brought] Mr. Wilson a letter from Home in Ky. Worn out. 8 yds Gray cloth, 2 Hats, 1 pr Boots, 1 doz Buttons, letters &, 2 cords, 8 tassels.

Questions abound! First, who authorized and organized this courier service? The Wilson and Harbert references, in actuality, were to S.B. Wilson and B.T. Harbert, members of the Memphis Scouts (CSA), itself an organization within Henderson's Scouts (CSA). The first entry in Belle's 1863 diary is for February 9. While there is no specific documentary evidence elsewhere, almost certainly she had attached herself to, or been attached to, Henderson's Scouts by that date if not well before February. One of the most explicit communications to her from Captain Henderson mentions their military chain of command.

Here I am on the front after "Sloshing around" for a week—tolerable hard to leave our good quarters at Panola [Mississippi] but Genl C[halmers] preferred my being near him & as I have to report now to both him & Genl Johnston I shall remain with him for the present. Have a [railroad] hand car every day to Water Valley [Mississippi] & can still serve you & your friends in forwd. letters, & hope I wont have to trouble you so much but I send one now to be sent in soon as possible--& one for you, hope it is a good one.

Her diary abounds with references to meeting, traveling with and partying with Confederate generals, senior in the Confederate military structure in the West. As but one example, she mentions traveling for two weeks with Gen. Price while he was on his way from Richmond to Arkansas.

[Editor's Note: After reading this fine study by Col. Edmondson, I am reminded of an admission that an American Philatelic Society accredited judge made at a judging seminar back in the 1990s: "Unlike other areas of postal history exhibiting, Confederate postal history exhibits must be judged apart from just considerations of postal rates and routes. CSA covers, each of them, tell a story of adversity during our nation's bloodiest war. A CSA collection or exhibit must also be judged on how well the philatelist puts forth these stories. In this case, Col. Edmondson has done so admirably.]

One of the more ambiguous, yet suggestive, entries records, “This is the day of agreement between Capt Ruffin, Rodgers & I.” Capt. Ruffin, an officer of, and most likely in command of, the Provost Guard of the 4th Mississippi Cavalry with headquarters in Canton, MS; the provost troops were in charge of security and issuing passes for civilians to enter and exit a given area. Capt. Rodgers was a cavalry officer in Forrest’s Old Regiment. Again, documentary evidence is lacking but it is entirely feasible that Rodgers was in charge of part of the intelligence operations conducted by Henderson’s Scouts. Why in the world would a single, young southern belle, no pun intended, make such an entry in her diary?!! One wonders what this agreement was!

Another very intriguing entry suggests that the Union army censor in Memphis was reading Belle’s incoming U.S. mail. This probably started sometime in 1863, but by March 6, 1864, Belle, herself, remarked about the problem in her diary, “I have not received a letter for over two weeks and expect old Williams has intercepted them in the Post Office.” Despite the knowledge that she was under intense scrutiny by the occupation forces, Belle continued her work as a courier and spy until June 1864, when she left the Memphis area.

Still, the question remains whether Belle operated only within a military courier service. Of course, Absalom Grimes is well known as the operator of an extensive “petticoat post” which was active in the Memphis area during part of the time that Belle carried mail and smuggled contraband. It is tempting simply to include her as one of Grimes’ operatives – and it is possible that she was. In favor of this hypothesis is that Belle knew (and probably was well acquainted with, perhaps even a friend of) two of Grimes’ known associates, Annie Perdue and Mary Noble. These two ladies are specifically mentioned in Belle’s diary as having been ordered out of Memphis for smuggling.

On the other hand, Grimes memoirs do not mention either the Memphis’ Scouts (a unit within Henderson’s Scouts), who regularly called at Belle’s home so often they undoubtedly were her primary contact with the Southern armies. Most often, Henderson operated under the command of Nathan Bedford Forrest – and, later in the war, he was placed in command of Forrest’s scouts. Grimes was not attached to Forrest. After reading both Belle’s diaries and Grimes’ memoirs, one comes away with the distinct impression that Belle was not part of Grimes’ operation. Certainly neither mentions the other. Consequently, despite the fact that both people carried mail for Missouri and Kentucky military units, that the actual methods used by both persons were very similar, and, at least some of the time, both persons were carrying mail at the same time into and out of Memphis, the most likely conclusion is that they were affiliated with different military organizations and operated independently of each other.

Moreover, while one suspects that Belle was an agent within a strictly military command, her function clearly was not entirely military. Correspondence between men in the field and the folks back home was important to the morale of the Southern armies. Providing postal service to fulfill these needs, especially to areas within Union held states, would have been high on every soldier’s wish list. Letters to Belle from Maj. Price of St. Louis are eloquent testimony to the keen desire these soldiers had for contact with their families in the north. The Confederate Post Office did not fulfill these needs, at least in the West. Belle’s courier services did and, as seen in the best light, her activities were both quasi-military and quasi-civilian.

Still, there must have been limitations on letter length, weight, etc. But, what were they? Was there any charge? If so, no surviving envelope with markings has survived. No routing slips, if such were used, have survived. Belle, of course, accepted no pay. Indeed, except for the entries in Belle’s diary (and Grimes memoirs) very little evidence of Confederate letter courier services in the West exists.

The strong suspicion is that the operation was organized by the Confederate military spy system about which so little is known. One thing is well known. Jefferson Davis, probably until the day he died, urged his fellow countrymen to keep quiet about the wartime activities of the Confederate espionage system and its scouts. Apparently, he felt especially strongly that any participation by Southern women as Confederate scouts should not be discussed publicly. Doubtless, this is one of the reasons so little is known about the details of that branch of service. Regardless, the Confederate President was on good enough terms with Belle Edmondson to present her with an autographed picture of himself, inscribed from her friend and faithful servant! Much more significantly, he specifically mentioned her death in a letter to his wife.

In today's vernacular, Belle Edmondson was connected. She hobnobbed with very senior Confederate generals, she made agreements with southern cavalry and provost guards, she smuggled war materials and vital medical supplies to the rebel armies, and she was a letter carrier, connecting the Confederate soldier in the (southern) trench with his family back on the (northern) farm. No doubt about it, she was a thorn in the Union army's side.

Belle's activities came to a rather abrupt end. She crossed the Union picket lines between her farm and Memphis so often that she became suspect as a spy. Eventually, she was brought to the attention of Gen. Hurlburt, the Union commander in Memphis, who ordered her arrest. She escaped south -- with the assistance of a Union officer (!) who was assigned to duty in Memphis and had regular contacts with the Union army Provost Marshall's office!!!!

April, Wednesday 20, 1864:

Tate [Belle's sister] and I arrived in Memphis quite early. I dined with Mrs. Jones, she went with me to see Capt. Woodward, to know what I must do in regard to an order which I heard was issued for my arrest—he advised me to keep very quiet until he could see the Provost Marshall and learn something in regard to it.

April 21, 1864:

I went round according to appointment, met Capt. Woodward at 11 o'clock. Capt. W. had not seen the Provost Marshall, he went as soon as I left, came round to Mrs. Facklen's after dinner, and brought bad news—I was to be arrested and carried to Alton (Illinois prison) on first boat that passed—for carrying letters through the lines, and smuggling, and aiding the rebellion in every way in my power—



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he sent me word I must not think of attending Jennie Eave's wedding, or go out of doors at all, he would be compelled to arrest me if it came to him officially, but as my father was a Royal Arch Mason, and I a Mason, he would take no steps, if I would be quiet.

Quiet or not, Belle did not leave immediately! She remained at home for over a month and finally left June 6 for "Dixie," eventually ending up at the Waverly Plantation deep in Mississippi. On April 25, while she prepared to leave, she bemoaned her fate: "I am so unhappy about the trouble I have got in—oh! what is to become of me, what is my fate to be—a poor miserable exile." Later, in a rather reflective mood, Belle summed up her life:

Sometimes in life our value is appreciated, and we can claim true, affectionate friends meet with lofty generous souls, whose very beings thrill with instinctive love for the whole human race, but mostly we are not understood until the flowers and shadowy, green grass bloom and fade above us and we lie mute below. Such is my life, how long it must be, no matter.

Until her diary was discovered and published in 1990, Belle Edmondson was forgotten. She would have lain unremembered alongside her parents in Elmwood Cemetery. But, to those of us who appreciate the effort and struggle she and the hundreds of others who toiled in a clandestine postal service, simply to rejoice the hearts of our brave Southern Soldiers, she will be remembered!

1. Galbraith, Loretta and William, eds., *A Lost Heroine of the Confederacy, The Diaries and Letters of Belle Edmondson*, Jackson and London: University Press of Mississippi, 1990. All quotations from the 1863 diary of Belle Edmondson are from the Galbraith publication; the original diary is a privately held document in the Edmondson Family Papers. All quotations from the 1864 diary of Belle Edmondson are from the Galbraith publication; the original 1864 diary is housed in the Southern Historical Collections, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC. Diary citations hereinafter cited to diary date; other references to this work hereinafter cited as Galbraith.

2. Belle Edmondson Diary dated February 27, 1864.

3. *Ibid*, dated January 26, 1864.

4. Letter from Dr. Gratz Moses to Belle Edmondson dated February 10, 1863, Galbraith, p. 33 and footnote 4. Dr. Moses and Belle were engaged to be married during 1863. He canceled the engagement and married another, all to the devastation of Belle.

5. Letter from Dr. Gratz Moses to his Stepmother dated 14 March 14, (1863), Galbraith, p. 36.

6. Letter from Maj. Henry W. Tracy to Belle Edmondson dated March 23, 1863. Galbraith p 37. Belle's diary contains a number of references to her using family slaves to carry contraband into and out of Memphis. See, for example, Belle Edmondson Diary dated January 4, 1864.

7. Letter from Maj. Henry W. Tracy to Belle Edmondson dated March 23, 1863, Galbraith, pp. 38-39.

8. Letter from Georgie Hodgen to Belle Edmondson dated April 19, 1863, Galbraith, pp. 40-41.

9. Letter from Louise Taylor to Belle Edmondson dated June 25, 1863. Galbraith. p. 49.

10. Letter from Capt. Thomas Henderson to Belle Edmondson dated June 29, 1863. Galbraith, p 50. Capt. Henderson commanded Henderson's Scouts and probably was Belle's immediate superior in the Confederate spy network. Indeed the major part of this letter was devoted to counter-espionage activities by Belle, which led to the capture of a Union spy.

11. Letter from Maj. Henry W. Tracy to Belle Edmondson dated July 17, 1863. Galbraith, p. 55. Maj. Tracy, of course, was in a unique position to comment on the use of military couriers to cross the Mississippi River. Although this is nothing but a guess, there is a very good chance that he was one of the officers who set it up! His orders to go to the West were cut just before the fall of Vicksburg and it makes sense that he was sent across the river to facilitate clandestine communication between the two parts of the Confederacy.

12. Letter from Capt. Thomas Henderson to Belle Edmondson dated July 7, 1863. Galbraith, p. 52.

13. Letter from Maj. Thomas H. Price to Belle Edmondson dated September 27, 1863. Galbraith, pp. 64-65.

14. Letter from E.A. Edmondson to Belle Edmondson dated February 20, 1863, Galbraith, pp. 33-34.

15. Letter from Mrs. Melinda Williams to Belle Edmondson dated June 15, (1863)), Galbraith, pp. 45-46. Melinda Williams was the wife of an East Tennessee Congressman who fled north when the Civil War started. She owned land in Mississippi.

16. Letter from Maj. Thomas H. Price to Belle Edmondson dated October 31, 1863. Galbraith, p. 72. Maj. Price wrote from Selma, AL.

17. Op Cit., dated April 20, 1864. This request was received on the day Belle found out that a warrant had been issued for her arrest. While she makes no mention of this coincidence, it seems rather strange to me and the thought crossed my mind that she was being set up by the Union authorities.

18. Letter from Maj. Thomas H. Price to Belle Edmondson dated March 8, 1863. Galbraith, pp 35-36.

19. Belle notes that Annie Perdue, a Memphis businesswoman in 1861, and Mollie (aka Mary) Noble were banished from Memphis for smuggling. Both women also were involved with Absalom Grimes in moving Confederate mail in and out of Memphis during the Federal occupation. Belle Edmondson Diary dated April 11, 1864; Galbraith, footnote 7, p 111; Quaiife, M.M., ed. Absalom Grimes: Confederate Mail Runner, New Haven: Yale University Press, 1926. See also, Belle Edmondson Diary dated April 25, 1864.

20. An Illinois soldier wrote, "One of the pleasant or unpleasant features of provost duty was the arresting of secession women who had become expert at smuggling and carrying rebel mails." Howard, R.L.A., A History of the 124th Regiment, Illinois Volunteers from Aug '62 to Aug '65, Springfield, IL: H.W. Bokker Co., 1880, p. 260. Another wrote, "It is no joke standing picket here [in Memphis], for you don't know what moment something may happen. Besides we have to search all persons and vehicles going from town for contraband articles Some of the old and ugly ladies make a great fuss about being searched but the young and good looking ones are a great deal more civil." Quoted from Galbraith, footnote 21, p. 97. See, Belle Edmondson Diary entries dated March 16 and March 31, 1864.

21. Op. Cit., dated March 16, 1864.

22. Galbraith, footnote 49, p. 27.

23. Letter from Capt. Thomas Henderson to Belle Edmondson dated October 23, 1863. Galbraith, p. 70.

24. Op. Cit., entries dated February 23 through March 9, 1863.

25. Op. Cit. dated November 5, 1863. While it is entirely conjectural, this entry may be connected with an earlier remark to the effect that Belle was having trouble with Henderson's Scouts. See, Belle Edmondson Diary dated September 23, 1863.

26. Op Cit., dated March 6, 1864; Galbraith, footnote 9, p. 92. Williams, among other duties, acted as the U.S. Army censor in Memphis.

27. Few published accounts exist of Confederate letter carriers. Mrs. Angelina Bredell, mother of Capt. Edward Bredell (CSA) was mentioned as a Southern sympathizer who was "actively concerned in both secret correspondence and in carrying on the business of collecting and distributing rebel letters" in St. Louis during March 1863. She was at least known to Belle Edmondson; whether the two were connected in Confederate letter carrier operations is not known. Belle Edmondson diary March 11-28, 1863; Galbraith, footnote 13, pp. 15-16. Note especially Belle's mention of a Mrs. MacLean, "who is a St. Louis'n and will see them all properly mailed and delivered." Although Belle's diary entry on March 28 is a bit ambiguous, it appears she turned over her contraband Southern letters to Mrs. MacLean on board the steamboat, Mary Forsyth, either in Memphis itself or at one of the landings just south of the city. This note also evidences the use of U.S. mails to deliver Southern correspondence. The entry is so matter-of-fact and coupled with the numerous other references to the practice throughout Belle's diary, that it is hard to escape the conclusion that U.S. mails were in regular, routine use by all clandestine Confederate letter carriers. Mrs. MacLean is not further identified in Belle's diary and this author knows no other information about her.

28. Op. Cit., dated April 20, 1864. The day she found out she was to be arrested, she continued with her mail carrier duties.

29. Op. Cit., dated April 21, 1864.

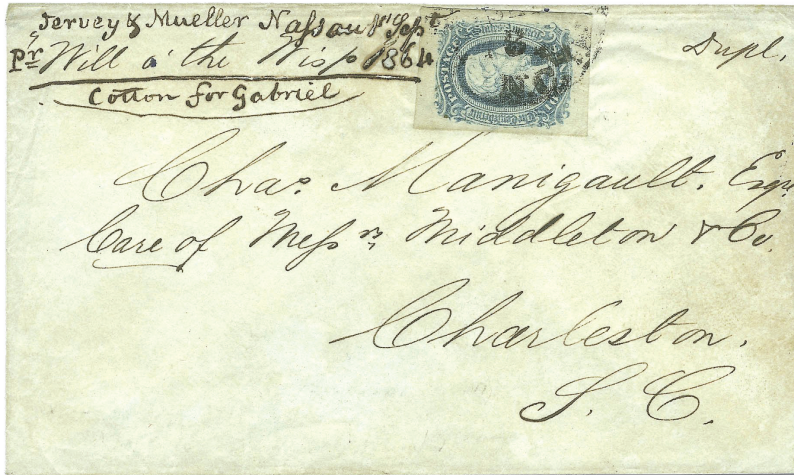
30. Op. Cit., dated April 25, 1864.

31. Op. Cit., dated June 10, 1864.

Aristocrats



Gems of Confederate Philately



A rare use (and in pristine condition) of a CSA stamp (Type I, Archer & Daly print) on blockade-run mail with the name-of-ship endorsement.

Huge margins all around, tied by a “Wilmington N.C. Sep. 6” circular datestamp on an incoming blockade-run cover from Nassau to Charleston S.C. Docketing at top left “*Jervey & Mueller Nassau 1st Sept. pr. ‘Will o’ the Wisp’ cotton for Gabriel*” also ties stamp, minor ink erosion at top.

The *Will o’ the Wisp* arrived in Wilmington on September 5, 1864, after a run from Nassau. The “*Dupl*” notation at upper right suggests that this duplicate mailing was sent to Charleston via Wilmington (presumably the original was sent to Charleston).

(From the September 2004 sale of the Blake Myers collection of Trans-Oceanic Mail to and from the United States at the Robert A. Siegel Galleries. Sale 882.)

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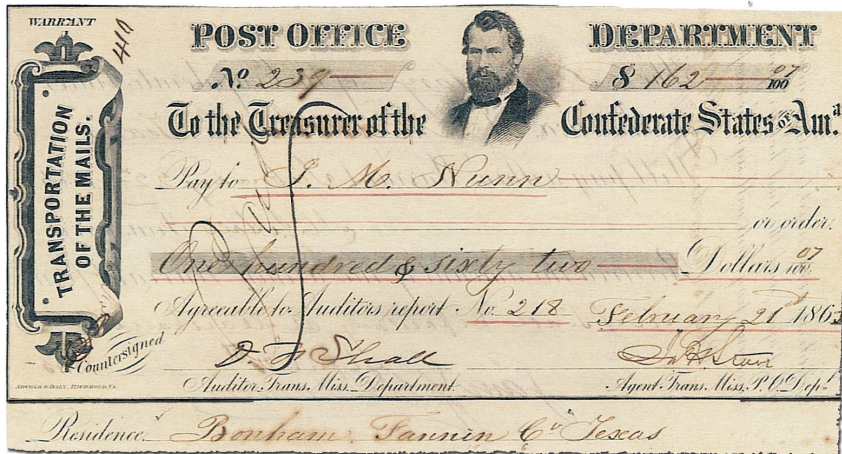
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Soldiers' Due Mail



The Trans-Mississippi Agency

by Gen. Conrad L. Bush



The philatelically famous Dr. James H. Starr shown on this Treasury Warrant; also his signature.

Meet Dr. James H. Starr and note a Treasury Warrant signed by him. The Trans-Mississippi Agency provided the means of keeping an effective mail system operating in Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas. Postmaster General John H. Reagan proposed that the Confederate States of America Congress authorize the appointment of an officer west of the Mississippi. He was to perform, generally, all such duties as may be required of him, in conformity of law, to keep up the postal service.

President Jefferson Davis appointed Dr. Starr as “Trans-Mississippi Agent” effective March 12, 1864. Dr. Starr (1809-1890) had emigrated to Texas in 1837 to reside in Nacogdoches. He was a surgeon in the Army of the Republic of Texas and later became Secretary of Treasury for the Republic. When the war began, he was appointed East Texas Receiver in Sequestration, to take and sell property of enemy aliens. Starr’s salary was set at \$4,000 per annum and he was authorized to employ 10 clerks at \$1,500 annually and was given an allotment of \$500 monthly for his headquarters. Starr selected Marshall, Texas, for his office.

Starr’s authority did not give him the right to “appoint” postmasters; this power reserved for the President and Postmaster General. The PMG directed Starr to employ postmasters or the entire program might have fallen apart.

On orders of PMG Reagan, the Agency would consist of the “Territories west of the Mississippi River,” including the part of Louisiana west of the river. Although not specifically spelled out, the Indian Territories and any other Confederate controlled land west of the Mississippi were to be considered under Starr’s jurisdiction.

Postage stamps were sent from Richmond, contained in three tin cases. These consisted of 1,250,000 10-cent stamps, 400,000 20-cent stamps and 250,000 five-cent stamps. No two-cent stamps were in this shipment.

The Trans-Mississippi Agency continued functioning until the end of hostilities. Confederate forces west of the Mississippi River surrendered formally at Shreveport on May 26, 1865.

(The majority of this article was excerpted from Confederate Post Offices, Postmasters and Postmarks of the Trans-Mississippi Department by Sanders & Gunter, pages 9 & 10.)



Campbellton, Florida— A New Confederate Stampless Listing

by Col. Deane R. Briggs, M.D.



Figure 1. CAMPBELLTON / FLA. JUN 24 cds postmark with manuscript Paid 10 rate on cover to Richmond, Va.

The cover in Figure 1 is a newly discovered Florida Confederate stampless use. It had been in the collection of an early Confederate collector who died in the 1940s and only recently released by the estate. I have been compiling a listing of all known Florida Confederate usages obtained from auction catalogs and sales data dating to the early 1920s, including those in the Collector's Club of New York library which is quite extensive. This cover and eight other Florida usages from Pensacola, Lake City and Quincy in the estate were not on my listing and were probably out of circulation since they were acquired near the turn of the century. The fact that there have been no other Campbellton stampless examples and only two manuscript postmarked adhesive usages thus far recorded makes this an exciting new addition to Florida Confederates.

The postmark is a bold strike of the 32 mm handstamp and has “serif” lettering. The date of usage is not docketed and could be from any year from 1861-1864 since the distance to Richmond was over 500 miles. Campbellton, located in Jackson County, was a pre-war Florida post office, located on a post road connecting Pensacola with Marianna, with T. D. Brantley the postmaster from 1859. He was commissioned a Confederate post master on July 25, 1861, and appears to have served throughout the war. The post office was re-established after the war on February 5, 1866, with Mrs. Josephine Shomaker as the postmistress. All recorded pre-war Campbellton stampless usages have manuscript postmarks and there are no recorded adhesive usage with this cds handstamp postmark.



Figure 2.
Campbellton
Sept 15
manuscript
postmark with
pen cancelled
#2 on cover
to Charleston,
S.C.

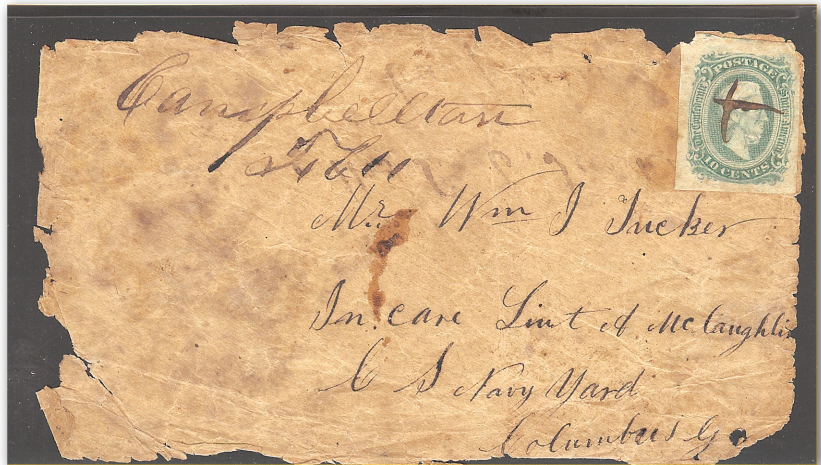


Figure 3.
Campbellton Feb 11
manuscript postmark
with pen cancelled
#11 on turned cover
front to Mr. Wm J.
Tucker, In care Lieut.
A. McLaughlin,
CS Navy Yard,
Columbus, Ga.

Campbellton was serviced by two Confederate mail routes, 6568/1538 and 6569/1539. Route 6568, Marianna to Campbellton, 18 miles, was serviced twice weekly on Tuesdays and Thursdays, with service commencing on June 1, 1861. J.Y. Register of Geneva, Ala was contractor at \$263.28 per annum but apparently abandoned service and the contract was re-let to J. Daniel on November 11, 1861. The route was advertised in 1862 and a contract was awarded Thomas L. Bevis of Beauregard on July 2, 1863 at \$285 per year.

The second route, 6569, serviced Cambellton with Geneva, Ala. 34 miles with once weekly service leaving each Saturday. J. Edge of Uchee Ana was the contractor at \$240 per annum with service commencing on June 1, 1861. The route was relet on June 19, 1863 to B.R. Thompson of Marianna at \$350 per year.(1)

Examples of the known adhesive usage from Campbellton are shown in Figures 2 and 3.

Reference:

1. Jaronski, Stefan T. "The Postal Routes of Confederate Florida, Part 2" *The Confederate Philatelist* 37(2): 69-70 (March-April 1992).

Member Ads



Classified Ads

Classified ads are available only to members of the Confederate Stamp Alliance at 25¢ per word, per insertion. Send all ads to Tom Royster, 1191 Red Bud Lane, Round Rock, TX 78664, by January 1, April 1, July 1, or October 1 for inclusion in the next issue. Make all checks payable to CSA.

CSA STAMPS AND POSTAL HISTORY. Send \$1 in postage or access my Internet Web Site (www.csastamps.com) for a current listing available on a quarterly basis. John L. Kimbrough 10140 Wandering Way, Benbrook, TX 76126; (817) 249-2447.

CS NAVY COVERS WANTED. Help me expand my CS Navy exhibit to two frames. Will pay top dollar. Mail copy or email scan with price. Gen. Jim Monroe, 200 River Landing Dr., Unit B-104, Charleston, SC 29492, e-mail jim40@hometelecom.com

WANTED: CSA ALABAMA SOLDIERS' DUE COVERS and those addressed to Alabama soldiers. Also looking for Cunningham and Ballard names on covers and letters. Roger Ballard, 4716 Lakeview Estates Drive, Northport, AL 35473.

CSA SOUTH CAROLINA COVERS WANTED: Interested in all South Carolina covers - Manuscripts, Handstamps, Stampless and with stamps. Mail copy or e-mail scan with price. Col. Rich Murphy, 1489 Oakhurst Dr., Mt. Pleasant, SC 29466. E-mail: richardmurphy167@gmail.com

CONFEDERATE STAMPS AND POSTAL HISTORY: Retail stock on my Website WWW.WEBUYSTAMPS.COM or send want list. Trish Kaufmann, 10194 N. Old State Road, Lincoln, DE 19960; 302-422-2656

WANTED: Civil War Patriotic Labels—Confederate or Union, on r off cover. Col. Art Groten, P.O. box 30, Fishkill NY 12524.

J.B. DUTTON straight-line handstamped covers wanted. Trish Kaufmann, 10194 N. Old State Road, Lincoln, DE 19960.

WANTED: GEORGIA CONFEDERATE covers from: COAL MOUNTAIN/GEO.; CUMMING/GA.; GRANTVILLE/GA.; STONE MOUNTAIN/GA. Please send photocopy with description. Ted Brooke, 2055 Foster Drive, Cumming, GA 30040. georgiacracker3@yahoo.com

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- 3606 - Alfred S. Lippman, PO Box 2526, Morgan City LA 70381-2526 (by L. Baum)
- 3607 - Lawrence H. Klein, 1328 Dermond Rd., Drexel Hill PA 19026-4904 (by P. Kaufmann)
- 3608 - Mark L. Layman, 348 Blossom View Ct., West Columbia SC 29170 (by S. Rumsey)
- 3609 - Richard A. Champagne, PO Box 600372 Newton MA 02460 (by P. Kaufmann)
- 3610 - Charles E. Kilbourne III, 6985 Forepond Ct., Fort Belvoir VA 22060 (by P. Powell)
- 3611 - Robert Combs, 9 49th Ave., Isle of Palms SC 29451 (by P. Kaufmann)
- 3612 - Raymond "Mike" Bauer, 202 Westgate Circle, Williamsburg VA 23185 (by P. Kaufmann)
- 3613 - Rudy Ferguson, PO Box 107, Slanesville WV 25444 (by F. Crown Jr.)
- 3614 - Ethan Raynor, 1721 West Buck Hill Rd., Burlington NC 27215 (by P. Kaufmann)
- 3615 - Harry L. Albert, Jr., 5300 Birchleak, Raleigh NC 27606 (by J. Kimbrough)

Address Changes:

- 1483 - Dan Warren, 1512 Steuben Road, Gloucester Point, VA 23063
- 2102 - Peter Wiksne, Truseweg 6, 12059 Berlin, Germany
- 2140 - J. Beane, 23 Meadowcrest Dr., Parkersburg, WV 26104-9395
- 3460 - David Ridiman, 5493 Salem Pike, Cynthiana KY 41031-7946

Email Changes:

- 2016 - Robert Karrer, bkarrer@comcast.net
- 3519 - Robert Carswell, robertcarswell@rogers.com

Resigned:

- 2794 - James T. Nelson

Deceased:

- 1140 - William (Bill) A. Fox
- 1482 - Ron R. Tate
- 1555 - Robert Cunliffe
- 1840 - Gerald Martin
- 3328 - William T. Lockard

(Continued on the next page.)

Moved & Seconded

(Continued)

Dropped Jun. 30, 2008 for non-payment of dues:

1907 - T. H. Pearce
 1950 - Seth S. Gross
 2288 - Thomas E. Stanton
 2615 - Robert E. Baker
 2802 - Richard A. Morton Jr.
 2981 - Ralph F. MacDonald, Jr
 3398 - Roberto Lanza
 3449 - Jack Crawford
 3527 - W. Bary VanWinkle
 3537 - Cecil Stanford
 3545 - Robert C. Bales
 3572 - Brian L. Jarvis
 3575 - Kevin James Reiley

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"Where the 'unpleasantness' began."



The Back Page

Randy L. Neil
Editor

Reported elsewhere in this issue are the activities of our annual convention near the end of July at CHARPEX in Charlotte, N.C. I'm sure the photographs and the usual personable reporting on the part of our president convey some of the warmth and festive atmosphere of this event, but I can't help but comment on an element of the Confederate Stamp Alliance that I have rarely encountered at the meetings of other specialty groups. In my esrtwhile philatelic political life, I managed to attend quite a few of these kinds of events.

Like most specialty society meetings, our attendees are divided between two groups: the regulars who tend to show up at practically all of the Alliance's twice-a-year conventions, and newbies who have rarely, if ever, attended...and who, in many cases, are members who have recently joined. Here's where the CSA separates itself from the other specialty organizations.

While positioning myself for lengthy periods at the booths of John Kimbrough and Trish Kaufmann, I did a lot of listening and watching. Time and again, I saw the warm welcome and casual camaraderie of the longtime member embrace the sometimes hesitant demeanor of the new attendee. Within minutes, conversations between the two disparate individuals turned into lively, friendly chats.

Though there is a lot of tradition built into the Confederate Stamp Alliance, the key to our longtime success has been the way we make people feel at home. A brand new member can walk into a CSA convention and immediately feel comfortable. Our quarterly journal not only welcomes, but encourages, the contributions of our new members. Our events, competitions, awards, and member benefits are open to all.

This "sense of belonging" that the Alliance imparts is responsible for what we have become. Throughout our 73-year history, our activities have been marked, sometimes dramatically, by the philatelists among us who have chosen a scholarly route and built their collecting pursuits on the knowledge about Confederate philately that enhances collecting for the rest of us. By encouraging the "newbie" to participate, we generate and nurture the scholarship of the future. Perhaps among today's newbies is another Van Dyk MacBride, Lawrence Shenfield, or Morris Everett.

So if you are a new member—or a member who has rarely, if ever, attended one of our conventions—our "sense of belonging" awaits you at our next events. Will we see you in person at Charleston in November—or Wilmington or Orlando in 2009? I certainly hope so!