

# Census of the Edey “Express” Covers

Compiled by Francis J. Crown, Jr.

## Introduction

***These censuses include only those covers for which an image of the label and postal markings was available. Any cover for which no image was found is not included.***

***Although every effort is made to exclude fake items from the censuses, the inclusion of an item is not a guarantee of authenticity. An authentication service must make that determination.***

***The color images viewed on a computer screen may not be representative of the actual color.***

A census is only as complete as the information available at the time it was compiled. There will always be another item to add to a census. It may not show up this week, or next month, or next year, but at some point, a new item will be discovered to add to the list.

These censuses are different from most censuses compiled in the past because each entry is accompanied by an image of the item, many in color, some in black and white and some only partial. While the image may not be of sufficient resolution or quality to determine a postmark date the features of the item provide the means to tell similar covers apart and to determine if an item is listed or new.

The following explain what is in the census:

**Description and Notes** illustrates the different types of Cushing “Express” envelopes in the census. Additional information may be provided.

**Mini Census** presents in tabular format a basic census. It includes the postmark date, the position of the label, the names of the addressee, town, state, and census number.

**Census** The components of each census are as follows:

**Date:** The date is obtained either by examination of an image or from descriptions in books, periodicals, exhibits or auction catalogs. Dates are given as “Illegible” when the postmark date cannot be read, as “Unknown” if the postmark is unknown, as “No Postmark” if there is no postmark, and as “Unused” if the envelope is not postally used.

**Notes:** Additional information on the envelope that may not be apparent in the illustration.

**Address:** The full address is given *as written* on the cover with line breaks designated by a slash (“/”). In some cases, the address is taken from an auction description. In such cases the address is in brackets. In other cases, the spelling of a name (person or town) is so poor the correct spelling is given in brackets after the incorrectly spelled word.

**Provenance:** Provenances are given if the envelope appeared in and was illustrated in a

named collection sold at auction, in a book, periodical, an exhibit, or website. A table of all named collections and exhibits can be found in the Provenances Section.

**Source:** These are the sources of information about individual covers. Sources are given by an abbreviation. The abbreviation is followed by a certificate number for authentication services; a page number or date and page number, if a book or publication or exhibit; and the date, sale number (if known), and lot number, if an auction. If a bound sale has more than one sale number only, only the first sale is listed. When a public source is not available a private source is used. These are identified as "Private collection." Sources are listed in the following order: authentication services, books, journals, exhibits and auction catalogs. Within each group they are arranged in chronological sequence. Color images are indicated by an asterisk after the source. A table of source abbreviations can be found in the Source Abbreviation Section.

**Census Number (CN):** The number in brackets that follows the last listed source. This number can be useful in identify an individual cover or stamp, particularly for covers with the same date.

**Version Number:** From time-to-time corrections and additions will be made to the census. These are noted by the version number (v) following the date in the lower left corner of each page. The first census is v1.0 Corrections are indicated by an incremented sub number (v1.1). If a new item is added or an old one removed the basic version number is incremented (v2.0).

To aid the user each census is bookmarked in the left panel. Bookmarks are for the major imprint types only.

## Description and Notes

Arthur H. Edey was a private in A Company, 5th Regiment of Texas Volunteers. In February 1862 he was detailed to the Texas Agency or, as it was better known, the Texas Depot in Richmond, Virginia. The depot located at the corner Cary and Virginia streets. was tasked with gathering, maintaining, and issuing various supplies and equipment for the 5th Regiment. This included receiving letters for members of the regiment and forwarding them to their field location.

Contrary to popular belief Edey did not carry letters from the regiment to Texas. Rather he collected letters and then turned them over to civilians or soldiers who were willing to take the letters and mail them when they arrived in Texas. There was no charge for this service.

When do not know when Edey began affixing his label to letters. The earliest recorded letter with a label is docketed June 1862 and has an August 1862 Texas postmark. The last recorded cover with a Edey label is postmarked in October 1862.

In October 1862 Edey was transferred back to the 5th Texas Regiment and was replaced by Sergeant Jefferson Wright who only lasted in the position for about a month. It is assumed the depot continued to handle mail but without labels.



**Type A – lines of text closely spaced**



**Type B – lines of text widely spaced**

### The Edey Labels

In the book *Confederate States of America: The Special Postal Routes*, Lawrence L. Shenfield notes the two types of labels but states the first letter of “FORWARDED” is a “P” in the Type A label (page 75). No example of this was found while compiling this census.

Shenfield also mentions that the latest use was mailed in Texas on 3 November 1862. In this census the latest use has a 24 October 1862 manuscript postmark.

**No distinction is made between the Type A and Type B labels in this census.**

## Mini Census of Edey Express Covers

<b>Pmk Date</b>	<b>Label Location</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Town</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>CN</b>
26 Apr [1862]	Reverse	Capt T T Clay	Independence	TX	002
No Postmark*	Reverse	Mrs Bettie Clay	Independence	TX	001
6 Aug [1862]	Reverse	Mrs Bettie Clay	Independence	TX	008
12 Aug [1862]	Front	Mrs Mary J Bostick	Columbus	TX	003
1- Sep [1862]	Front	Mrs Bettie Clay	Independence	TX	006
20 Sep [1862]	Reverse	Mrs S R Bostick	Columbus	TX	004
22 Sep [1862]	Front	Mrs Bettie Clay	Independence	TX	005
24 Oct [1862]	Front	Miss Bessie L Bryan	Liberty	TX	007

\* The cover has no postmark but is docketed "Recd 22 Aug 1862." From this it is assumed the cover was mailed about June.

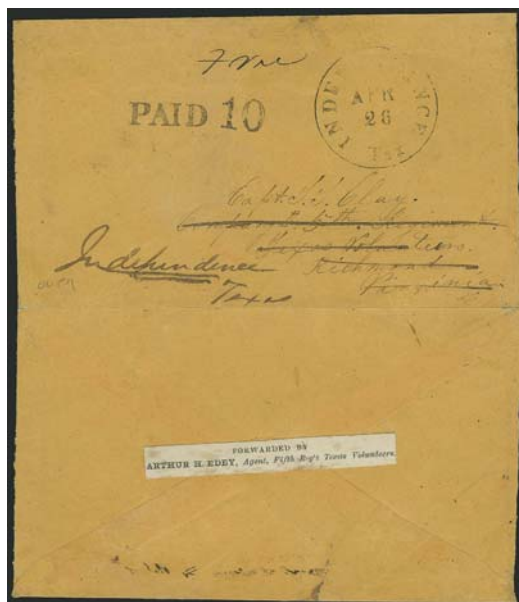
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### Edey label on cover

26 Apr [1862]

**Postmark:** Independence, Texas.  
**Notes:** Docketed "Free" at UC and handstamped "PAID 10" below. Forwarded from Richmond, Va. To Independence, Tx.  
**Address:** Capt. T. T. Clay. / Company I 5th Regiment [LO] / Texas Volunteers [LO] / Richmond [LO] / Virginia [LO] Independence / Texas  
**Provenance:** None recorded.  
**Source:** RAS-10Apr2008(954)-3386. [002]  
**Image Credit:** Robert A Siegel Auctions.



### No Postmark

**Postmark:** Stamps not cancelled.  
**Notes:** Docketed "Recd Aug 22 1862 by Mr Petterson" UC to UR.  
**Address:** Mrs Bettie Clay / Independence / Washington Cty / Texas  
**Provenance:** Brandon.  
**Source:** RAS-20Nov2014(1087)-552\*. [001]  
**Image Credit:** Robert A Siegel Auctions.



6 Aug [1862]

**Postmark:** Washington, Texas.  
**Notes:** Docketed "From Richmond, Va. June 1862." at UL-UC. Small remnant and outline of Edey label on reverse.  
**Address:** Mrs Bettie Clay / Independence / Washington Co. / Texas  
**Provenance:** None recorded.  
**Source:** CSPR-79. [008]  
**Image Credit:** Private collection



12 Aug [1862]

**Postmark:** Alexandria, Louisiana.  
**Notes:** Stamp pen cancelled. Large cut in envelope through postmark.  
**Address:** Mrs Mary J Bostick / Columbus / Texas  
**Provenance:** Lemley, Everett, Pegram.  
**Source:** JWK-22Oct1977(38)-384; RAS-30Oct1993(754)- 453; RAS-18Apr1993(1043)-2189\*. [003]  
**Image Credit:** Robert A Siegel Auctions.



1- Sep [1862]

**Postmark:** Houston, Texas.  
**Notes:** None.  
**Address:** Mrs Bettie Clay / Independence / Washington Cty / Texas  
**Provenance:** None recorded.  
**Source:** STSP-Brown(1943)-18; RAS-9Apr1997(787)-4323\*. [006]  
**Image Credit:** Robert A Siegel Auctions.



20 Sep [1862]

**Postmark:** Hempstead, Texas.  
**Notes:** Docketed "Co. B 5th Regt Texas Volunteers" across left end of envelope.  
**Address:** Mrs S R Bostick / Columbus / Texas  
**Provenance:** None recorded.  
**Source:** RAS-18Apr2013(1043)-2601\*. [004]  
**Image Credit:** Robert A Siegel Auctions.



22 Sep [1862]

**Postmark:** Marshall, Texas.  
**Notes:** Stamps tied by grid.  
**Address:** Mrs Bettie Clay / [Independence] / [Washington County] / Texas  
**Provenance:** None recorded.  
**Source:** CWPAS-04100\*; PF-388097\*. [005]  
**Image Credit:** Philatelic Foundation



24 Oct [1862]

**Postmark:** New Salem, Texas.  
**Notes:** Docketed "Care of / P Bryan Esqr / Cedar Grove" at LL.  
**Address:** Miss Bessie L Bryan / Liberty / Texas  
**Provenance:** A Hall, Walske.  
**Source:** RAS-11Dec1995(772)-3396; RAS-28Oct1997(795)-1406; RAS-27May2010(988)-280\*. [007]  
**Image Credit:** Robert A Siegel Auctions.





## Provenances

Provenances are given for named collections that were sold at auction, described in publications, or were in exhibits.

**A Hall** – [Alexander Hall], *Confederate States Stamps and Covers* (Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, Sale 795, 28 October 1997).

**Brandon** – *The Brandon Collection of Confederate States Stamps and Postal History*, Sale 1087 (Robert A. Siegel Auctions, 20 November 2014).

**Everett** – *The Morris Everett Collection of Confederate States Postal History*, Sale 754 (Robert A. Siegel Auctions, 30 October 1993).

**Lemley** – *The Judge Harry J. Lemley Collection*, Sale 38 (John W. Kaufmann Auctions, 22 October 1977).

**Pegram** – [George L. Pegram] *Confederate States Stamps & Postal History*, Sale 1043 (Robert A. Siegel Auctions, 18 April 2013).

**Walske** – *The Steven C. Walske Collection of Special Mail Routes of the American Civil War*, Sale 988 (Robert A. Siegel Auctions, 27 May 2010).

## Source Abbreviations

Sources are given in abbreviated format in the census. The list below includes the abbreviations used for books, authentication services, journals, auctions, and exhibits.

**CSPR** – *Confederate States of America: The Special Postal Routes* (1961 – Lawrence L. Shenfield – book)

**CWPAS** – Civil War Philatelic Authentication Service

**JWK** – John W. Kaufmann (auctions)

**PF** – Philatelic Foundation (authentication service)

**RAS** – Robert A. Siegel (auctions)

**STSP** – *Stamp Specialist*, (book series)