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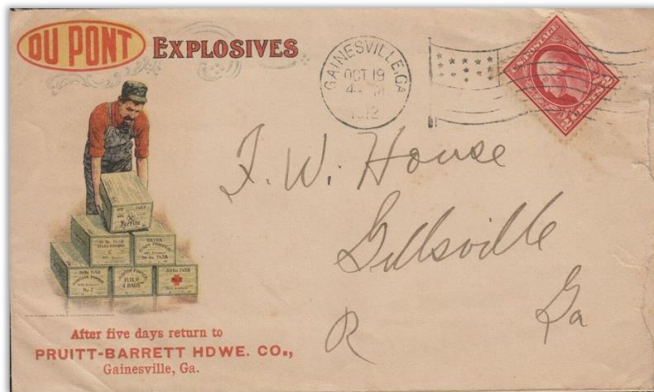
Fall 2023

Whole Number 124



College Temple, Newnan, Georgia

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE



DuPont Explosives Advertising Cover



Echo, Georgia Follow-up



Upper-Right Corner Rule



"I go to illustrate Georgia."

The Georgia Postal History Society is a non-profit, educational organization whose purpose is to cultivate and to promote the study of the postal history of Georgia, to encourage the acquisition and preservation of material relevant and necessary to that study, and to support the publication of such knowledge for the benefit of the public.



American Philatelic Society
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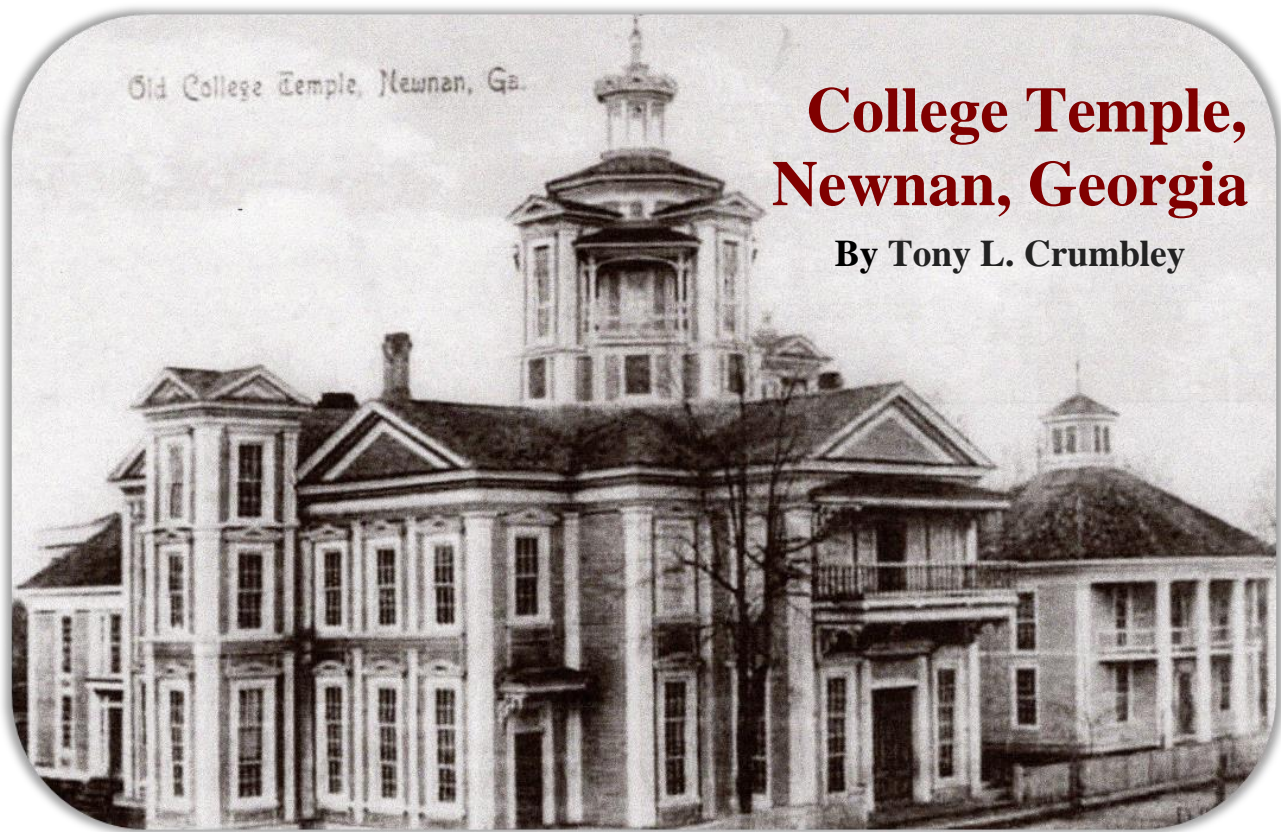
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College Temple, Newnan, Georgia

By Tony L. Crumbley

Image courtesy of *Godey's Magazine*, 1856, Godey Company, 52–53.

Shown in Figure 1 are four covers with advertising for the College Temple, Newnan, Georgia. Each cover was franked with an 1857 issue tied by the NEWNAN Ga. circular datestamp. Each of the covers are addressed to Mrs. H. L. Wyche, Cherry Lake, FL, undoubtedly the mother of a student at the school. The covers are dated 1860.



Figure 1 (partial). 1860 advertising covers for College Temple, Newnan, Georgia.



Figure 1 (cont.). 1860 advertising covers for College Temple, Newnan, Georgia.

For a sharper view of the covers' cachet, Figure 2 is a cropped, enhanced image of one of the covers' advertisements.

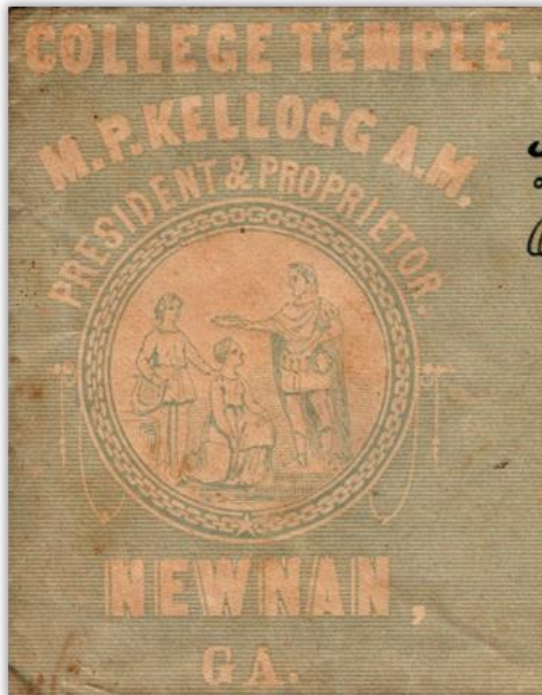


Figure 2. Cropped, enlarged cover cachet.

College Temple was chartered in 1854 by M. P. Kellogg, as President and sole proprietor. Mr. Kellogg built and furnished the school at his own expense. There were three large buildings erected in 1852 with an estimated cost at the time of \$20,000.

The boarding house was a three-story building, 100 feet long. The laboratory building was two stories and measured 40 x 40 feet. This building contained rooms for music, a preparatory department, a philosophical and chemical laboratory, each well supplied with the best equipment.

There were numerous annexes to the main building. The college building was one of the most dramatic buildings in the state. Its chapel could seat 600-700 people.

The goal of the school was to educate young women to prepare them to perform multiple duties in domestic society, and to qualify them for writing in defense of rights, morals, and Christian religion.

After three years of operation, there were over 100 students in attendance. The students were from various states – from Maine to Texas and at one point, over 300 alumni were from Georgia. From 1853 until 1881, the school saw over 3,900 students enrolled.

During the Civil War, the school was repurposed as a hospital for wounded soldiers. The school became co-educational in 1881. In 1888, Mr. Kellogg closed the school. He died in 1889 at the age of sixty-six with forty-four years as an educator.

In 1890, the local citizens raised \$6,000 to purchase the college and establish a first-class female college. Because of legal issues, this never took place.

Newnan was first known as Coweta. The town changed its name in 1828 to Newnan, named for North Carolinian General Daniel Newnan. The Newnan Post Office in Coweta County was established 04/05/1827 and its first postmaster was Joseph H. Shaw. The covers shown in this article were posted by Postmaster William Brewster who served from 1855 until 1865.

Sources

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/college_temple

<http://www.wintersmedia.net/the-history-remembering-college-temple>

<https://about.usps.com/who/profile/history/postmaster-finder/postmasters-by-city.htm>

Editor's Note

The four covers as the subject of this article were originally a blue-green color. Over time, that color faded to appear not as green.

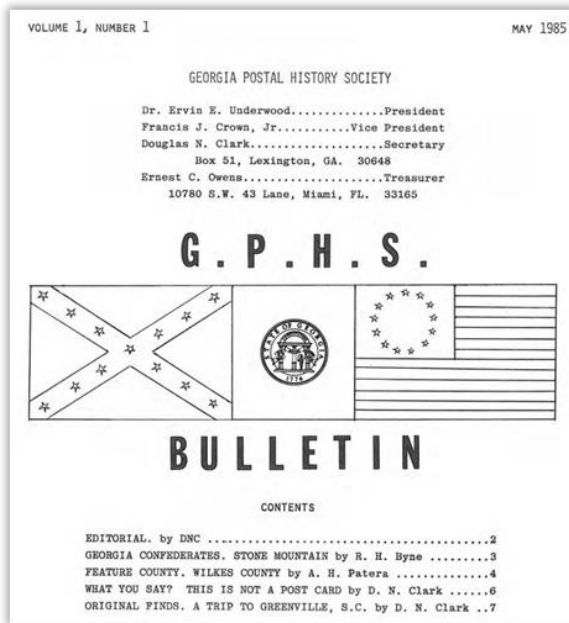
For comparison, the Figure 3 cover is a College Temple cover to Covington, Georgia with a NEWNAN Ga OCT 7 postmark curiously (deliberately?) struck in the center of the cachet's circular image.



Figure 3. College Temple, Newnan, Ga. advertising cover to Covington, Georgia.
(Courtesy of Schuyler J. Rumsey Philatelic Auctions, Sale 82, 2018.)

From the Archives

The Officers of the Georgia Postal History Society announced on February 7, 2022, the availability in a digitized format of all issues of the Society's journal. The *G. P. H. S. Bulletin* was the first journal of the Georgia Postal History Society with the first issue published in May 1985. The first three volumes were titled *G. P. H. S. Bulletin*. The second three volumes were titled *Bulletin*. The first issue of *Georgia Post Roads*, the Society's current journal, was published in September 1991.



The digitized issues of the journal are available on the Georgia Postal History Society's web page at <http://www.sefsc.org/georgia-postal-history-society.html>.



The issues are also available on the American Philatelic Society's library web page at <https://stamps.org/services/library>.

In this issue of *Georgia Post Roads*, a new feature is introduced in the spirit of offering insight into the archived journal issues of the Society. Presented on the following pages, in its original format, is a July 1992 article by Frank Crown titled, "The Rome Stars."

Georgia Post Roads

Volume 2, Number 4

Newsletter of the Georgia Postal History Society

July 1992

The Rome Stars

By Frank Crown

The Rome post office was established on 16 March 1835. However, a post office existed in the area since 25 February 1828 when John Ross was appointed as the first postmaster of Head of Coosa. A year and a half later on 5 July 1829 George M. Lavender was appointed as the second postmaster of Head of Coosa.¹

Rome was established as the new county seat of Floyd county by an Act of the General Assembly in December 1834. The location of Head of Coosa was so close to the new town of Rome

it was natural that the postoffice was moved and renamed Rome in March 1835.² The appointment of the antebellum postmasters of Rome is given in Table 1.

Table 1
Postmaster Appointments³

Head of Coosa (Cherokee Nation)

John Ross	25 Feb 1828
George M. Lavender	5 Jul 1829

Rome (late Head of Coosa - Floyd County)

George M. Lavender	16 Mar 1835
William K. Briers	12 Mar 1836
Nathan Yarborough	27 Dec 1837
Samuel Stewart	22 Jun 1841
Andrew Patterson	29 Jan 1845
C. H. Garrard	19 Jun 1845
E. F. B. Lumpkin	1 Apr 1847
Thomas J. Perry	26 Feb 1849
Atkinson T. Hardin	4 Feb 1857

In the stampless era Rome is known to have used only a single circular postmark. However, its rate markings offer a richer diversity and include what may be two of the most interesting and unusual handstamp rate markings from Georgia - the Rome stars.

Prior to the appearance of the Rome stars all recorded rate markings on Rome covers are manuscript with a single exception. The exception is a small handstamp "5" used on a Nov 1845 cover. Then in June 1846 under postmaster Garrard we have the first recorded example of a Rome star

(Figure 1). This marking is noted by its simple yet very pictorial design. The actual handstamp was probably a locally produced woodcut.



Figure 1

Whether the design was original or not we will never know. However, we can speculate on its origin. A year previous to the first known use of the Rome star Huntsville, Alabama and Aberdeen, Mississippi used a similar design.⁴ Perhaps the postmaster of Rome saw one of these markings and decided to prepare his own rendition of the design. Or, he may have thought of the design himself.

In May 1846 we declared war on Mexico. This was a time of patriotism

as the call for volunteers went out. What better way for the postmaster to display patriotism than with a rate marking featuring a star.

The earliest recorded use of a Rome star is 26 June 1846. This handstamp is well formed and contains a negative "5" in the center of a solid five pointed star. However, the design is unbalanced. Instead of the base of the "5" standing on two points or rays of the star as would be normal it stands on only a single ray. In this respect the design is significantly different from the Huntsville design in which the "5" stands on two rays.

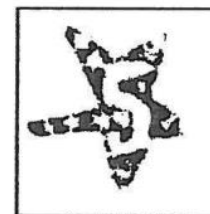


Figure 2

This first type of the Rome star continued in use for over two years. Then in August 1848, during postmaster Lumpkin's tenure we see a dramatic change. The star is no longer well formed. The negative "5" is retained in the center but each of the star rays have been reduced, particularly the left ray. This gives the star a very skewed and crude appearance. Also small negative stars have been placed in the rays of each star (Figure 2). This new design continued in use until at least 13 March 1849, the date of the last recorded example.

(Continued page 3, column 1)

An examination of the two different designs poses an interesting question. The basic design of both is very similar, however they are distinctly different. Were two different handstamps used? Let's look at the evidence.

In Table 2 are listed the recorded usages of the two types of Rome stars.⁵ Note that there is no overlap in the dates of use. The solid star is used up until at least March 1848. After that all uses are of the star with negative stars.

Table 2
Dates of Use for
Recorded Rome Stars⁶

Negative "5" in solid star (Figure 1)	26 Jun 1846
	27 Aug 1846
	6 Jun 1847
	30 Jul 1847
	3 Mar 1847
Negative "5" and stars in star (Figure 2)	28 Aug 1848
	6 Nov 1848
	9 Nov 1848
	13 Mar 1849
	8 Jun 18--

All uses are in black ink.

Next look at the two different markings overlaid on each other (Figure 3). The negative five is almost a perfect match and the rays of the stars overlay without any misalignment. This evidence leads to the conclusion that the handstamp which produced the two types of the Rome star is the same.

It also reinforces the assumption that the handstamp was a woodcut which was easily worked to produce the star with negative stars. As the handstamp was being worked apparently several mistakes were made. This would explain the reduced star rays.



Figure 3

The Rome star handstamp was taken out of use by 1850. Why? Again we can only speculate. A new postmaster, Thomas J. Perry, was appointed in February 1849. Perhaps he did not like the device and got rid of it or maybe it was just lost. In any event by mid 1850 we see the reintroduction of the small handstamp "5" in place of the Rome star.

The author encourages any reader who has a Rome star that is not listed in Table 2 to report it. Any new additions will be reported in a future issue of *Georgia Post Roads*.

Notes

1. *Records of Appointment of Postmasters, 1827-1832 and Registers of Appointments of Postmasters 1832-1865* [Record Group 28] (Washington, DC: National Archives microfilm)
2. George Magruder Battey, Jr., *A History of Rome and Floyd County* (1922, reprint ed., Atlanta, Cherokee Publishing Co., 1969), 33, 35-36.
3. *Records of Postmasters*.
4. Frank Mandel, "U.S. Rating Marks - A Selection of Unusual and

Fancy Handstamped Markings, With Emphasis on the Domestic Uses, Stampless through Banknote Period," *The Congress Book 1985, Fifty-First American Philatelic Congress*, 1985: 59-75.

5. Frank Crown, "Georgia Stampless Cover Census" [unpublished].

6. *Ibid.*

Rouen Revisited

In the September and November 1991 issues of *Georgia Post Roads* there were articles which questioned the straight line postmark listing for this town in the *American Stampless Cover Catalog*. Although no new evidence has surfaced McCary Ballard recently provided a description of one of the covers from the Al Zimmerman auction catalog dated 29 November 1986. This catalog contains both a detailed written description as well as a photograph. Unfortunately the photograph is of only a portion of the cover and the Rouen marking is hardly

visible. The description of the cover as given in the catalog reads as follows:

ROUEN, GEO., Cpl **Brown** Strike **Straight Line Pmk.** at L. Center of F.L. Headed "**Portsmouth [N.H.]/January 23, 1834.**" & Addr. to **Dracut, Mass.,** with "**Dracutt [sic]/Ms./April 25**" Pmk. at U.L., & "**Paid 6**" All in Matching Ms., with "6" & "Feb 14" Under S.L. in Another Ink, Rouen Not Listed in 1831 or 1836 P.O. Directories, Fine, **This is the Listing Example, Probably Unique.**

As mentioned in the November 1991 issue there are two known covers with the Rouen straight line postmark. If anyone has one of these covers or knows the whereabouts of one please contact the editor.

DuPont Explosives Advertising Cover

By Steve Swain

My thanks to Society member Lamar Garrard for offering for my collection the advertising cover that is the subject of this article.

Figure 1 is the address side of an October 1, 1912, advertising cover sent by the Pruitt-Barrett Hardware Company, Gainesville, Georgia, to J.W. House, Gillsville, Georgia. The cover is adorned with a colorful cachet of a man stacking boxes of explosives manufactured by the DuPont company.



Figure 1. Pruitt-Barrett Hardware Company, Gainesville, Georgia, advertising cover.

Figure 2 is the reverse of the cover having an all-over design with text extolling the many uses and characteristics of DuPont explosives, "THE RESULT OF OVER 100 YEARS EXPERIENCE IN POWDER MAKING."



Figure 2. Reverse of Pruitt-Barrett Hardware advertising cover.

In the early 1900s, the merchandise available at the Pruitt-Barrett Hardware Company of Gainesville, Georgia was primarily general hardware and farming related items, not explosives. But apparently Pruitt-Barrett Hardware sold DuPont explosives. The advertising cover was a creation of the DuPont company offered to hardware companies selling their products.

The E.I. DuPont de Nemours Company realized during the first few years of the 1900s that the rapidly developing Northwest/Alaska area with its vast mining and timber producing industries presented a new and potentially valuable market for the explosives products it manufactured. However, distances to this new market area from its traditional East Coast production facilities were too great to keep transportation costs within what could be considered reasonable limits.

This problem could only be overcome by establishing a production facility in the northwest with ready access to both rail and water transportation. After extensive surveys, a site on the shore of the southern end of Puget Sound between Tacoma and Olympia was selected for the construction of a new DuPont plant which would manufacture explosives for the mining, timber and construction industries of the far west.

Construction progress came to a brief halt in October of 1907 due to the money panic, and consequent lack of general faith in the economy felt by the business community in the U.S. at that time. Work resumed in the summer of 1908 (Figure 3) and proceeded rapidly until the plant was completed in September of 1909.

The Pruitt-Barrett Hardware Company enjoyed a profitable existence until it was destroyed by fire (Figure 3) as a result of the April 1936 tornado in Gainesville and surrounding areas. Five people perished in the Pruitt-Barrett building.

The company did not rebuild its facility after the tornado due primarily to the unavailability of construction capital



denied to the company by the Hardware Dealers Mutual Fire Insurance Company, Stevens Point, Wisconsin, with whom Pruitt-Barrett had an in-force fire insurance policy.

In May 1940, Mrs. J.C. Pruitt and others, as the surviving partners of Pruitt-Barrett Hardware Company, brought suit against the Hardware Dealers Mutual Fire Insurance Company to recover on the insurance policy.

(<https://casetext.com/case/pruitt-v-hardware-dealers-mut-fire-ins-co>.)

The defense pleaded a clause in the policy, "If a building or any part thereof fall, except as the result of fire, all insurance by this policy on such building or its contents shall immediately cease."

Figure 3. Pruitt-Barrett Hardware building destroyed during 1936 Gainesville tornado.
(Courtesy of Digital Library of Georgia.)

In essence, the Dealers Mutual Fire Insurance Company claimed that the "fall" of the building was the result of the tornado, not a fire. The insurance company moved for an instructed verdict.

A decision regarding the motion was withheld and the case was submitted to the jury. The jury found for the plaintiff, Mrs. J.C. Pruitt and others. However, even with the insurance settlement funds available, the hardware company was not rebuilt.

Echo, Georgia Follow-up

Society member Bill Baab's collection includes the cover shown in Figure 1 postmarked ECHO GA. AUG 1 1894. This cover was the subject of an article in the Spring 2022 issue of *Georgia Post Roads* written by the Editor.

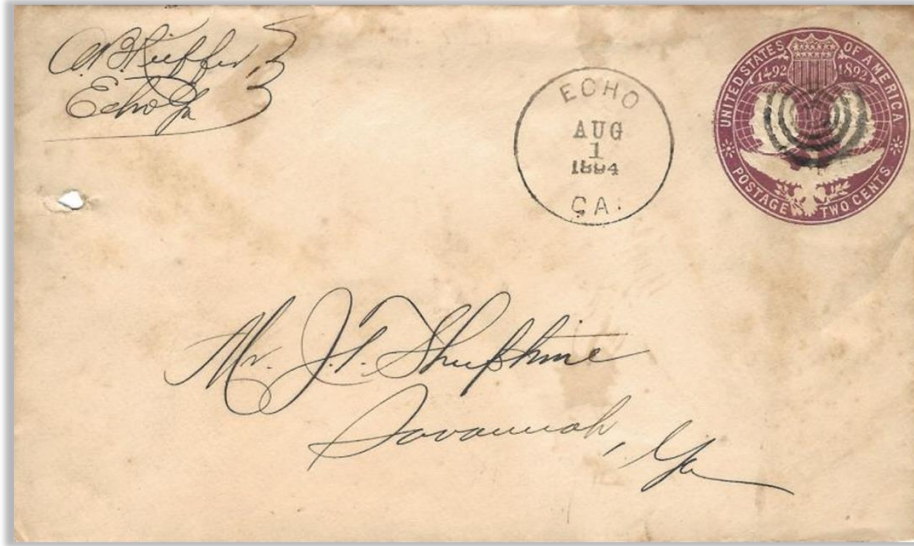


Figure 1. ECHO GA. AUG 1 1894 mailing to Savannah, Georgia.

Relying on an 1895 Georgia post route map (Figure 2), the article offered a confirmation of the existence of an Echo post office in Bulloch County, Georgia.

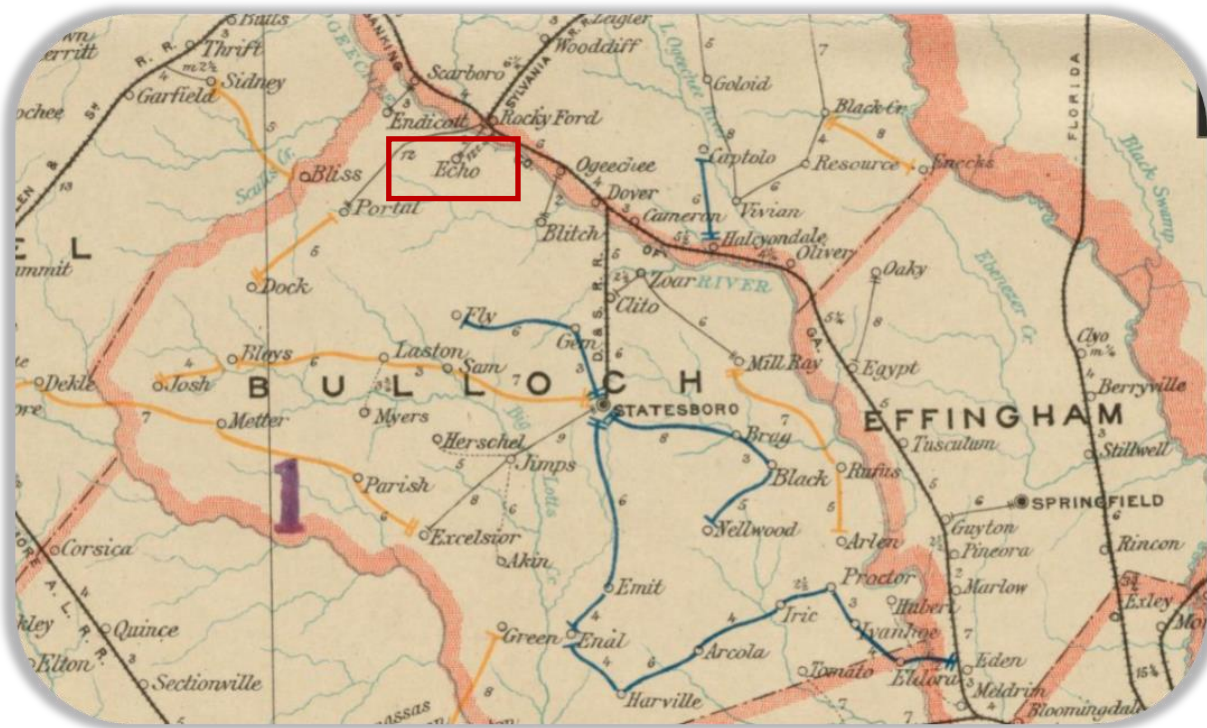


Figure 2. 1895 Georgia post route map.

Additionally, relying on the National Archives Postmaster Appointment Records, the article proposed that Echo's first postmaster was Albert B. Ruffer, commissioned on October 19, 1893 (Figure 3).

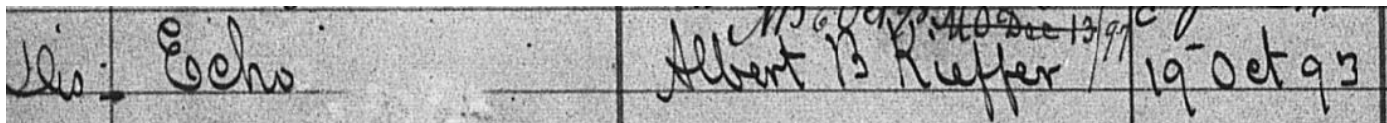


Figure 3. Echo, Georgia postmaster appointment record for Albert B. Ruffer.

Bill subsequently submitted the article to the Post Mark Collectors Club *Bulletin*. Kevin Kindahl, Assistant Curator of the Post Mark Collector Club's museum, offers the following correction regarding Echo's first postmaster and insight as to the existence of a Georgia town named Echo.

The November 15, 1893, US Postal Bulletin (Figure 4) confirms the spelling of the first postmaster's last name as "Kieffer," not "Ruffer."

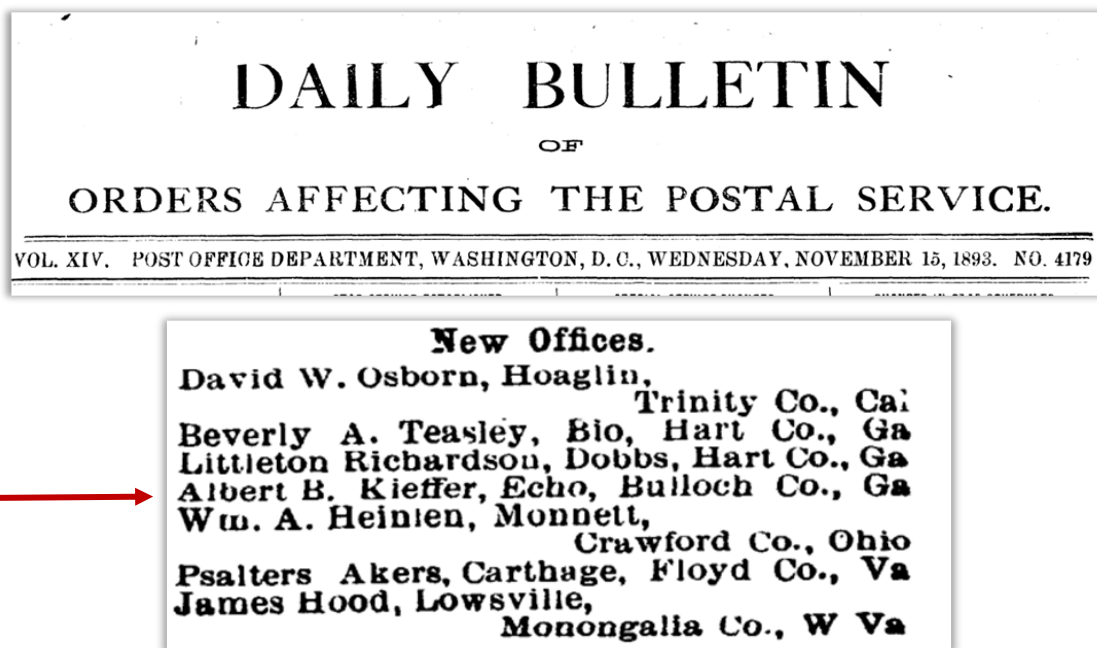


Figure 4. November 15, 1893, US Postal Bulletin entry for Albert B. Kieffer, Echo, Ga.

As to the existence of a town named Echo, that indeed was a primary research topic prompting the original article in *Georgia Post Roads*. Research did reveal confirmation of a town named "Echo," but only that the post road map showed a postal location named Echo.

To that point, Mr. Kindahl suggests that a post office named Echo would not necessarily have meant there was a town of the same name. Instead, "it might have been, for example, at a rural crossroads that wasn't a town at all and didn't have a name. The Post Office Department rules at the time called for short, simple names which were not used elsewhere in the state. 'Echo' is certainly the kind of short, simple name they favored."

The Editor extends his thanks to Mr. Kindahl for his correction, insight, and guidance.

Steve Swain, Editor

Upper-Right Corner Rule

By Larry Stephens

When the first U.S. stamps, Scott #1 and #2, were issued in 1847, there was not an official requirement for the location of a postage stamp on an envelope. However, as has been argued, since most people were right-handed, postage stamps were typically (but not always) placed on the right side of the envelope and usually in the upper corner.

This commonly recognized convention may have been a reflection of a guideline initiated by the British post office in 1840. The instruction was printed on the sheet margin of the “penny black” (Figure 1):



Figure 1. *Place the labels above the address and towards the RIGHT HAND SIDE of the envelope.*

When machines were introduced in the U.S. in the 1890s to process mail, a standard was needed for the placement of postage stamps on the letters. The “rule” defining the Post Office’s standard was that stamp placement was required on the address side of the mail in the upper-right corner of the envelope. That requirement remains today as is confirmed by the U.S. Postal Service in various publications and online sources (Figure 2 example).



Figure 2. USPS.com “Placement of Postage.”

The right-side commonly accepted convention and the eventual upper-right corner rule allows for an entertaining postal history collecting themes related to advertising covers of the 1800s and early 1900s. If a sender using advertising covers is aware of the convention or rule and attempts to honor the requirement, exactly where is the stamp placed on the cover and does that placement overlay, in any way, the advertising images and/or text?

All Over Advertising Covers

In the case of “all over” advertising covers, it could be argued that it would be impossible for a stamp’s placement anywhere on the cover to not overlay some portion of the cover’s artwork and text. This begs the question of whether the companies that designed and printed such envelopes were not aware of the upper-right corner convention and rule or simply were not concerned.

Figure 3’s greenish-yellow tone-on-tone advertising cover for Jas. P. Harrison & Son printers, Atlanta, Georgia, was franked with a one-cent Franklin. The stamp’s “correct” placement partially overlays the company’s name.

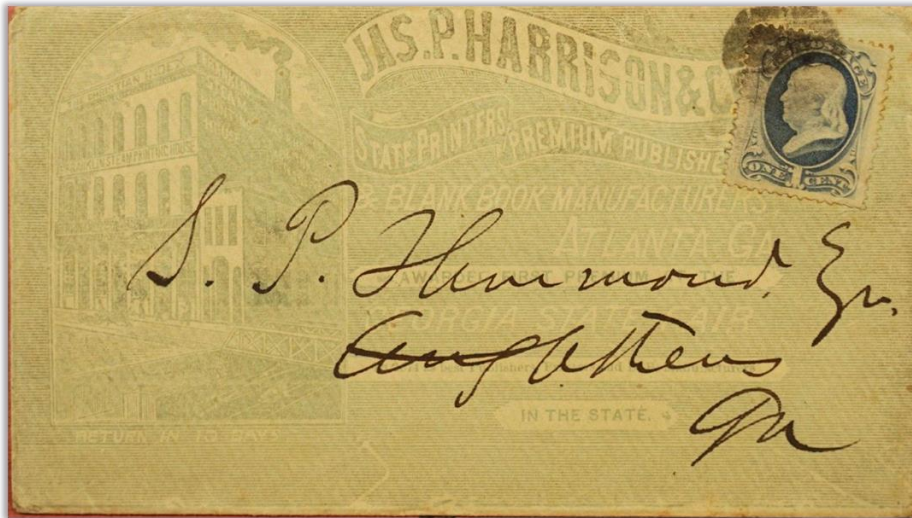


Figure 3. Jas. P. Harrison & Co. printers, Atlanta, Georgia.

Again, due to the nature of an all over advertising cover, the sender of the mailing had no choice to avoid overlaying some portion of the artwork with a stamp if the objective was to honor the upper-right convention.

Products offered by the Emerson, Smith & Co. of Atlanta included various types of saw blades as seen on one of the company’s advertising envelopes in Figure 4.

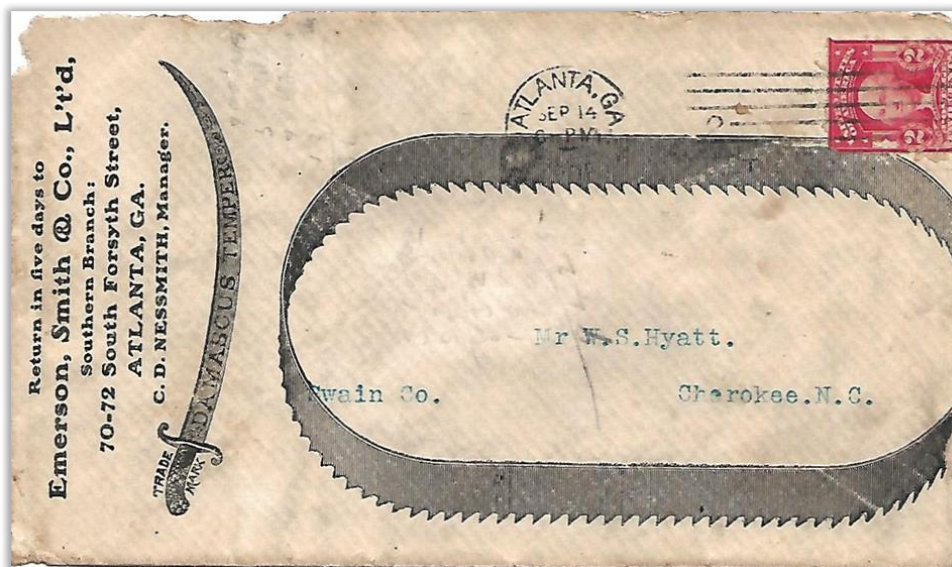


Figure 4. Emerson, Smith & Co., Atlanta.

Note that prior to affixing the two-cent Washington franking the cover, the sender turned the stamp sideways presumably to avoid overlaying the band saw image. Had the stamp not been turned sideways, it is almost certain that the stamp would have overlaid some portion of the band saw image.

However, the stamp's placement on this cover partially overlays the image of the band saw blade anyway. Arguably, if the stamp had been placed somewhat higher in the right-hand corner the overlay would have been avoided.

The all over graphic for the 1893 Cotton States and International Exposition, Atlanta, advertising cover seen in Figure 5 is a photograph of the exposition grounds with text underneath the photograph.

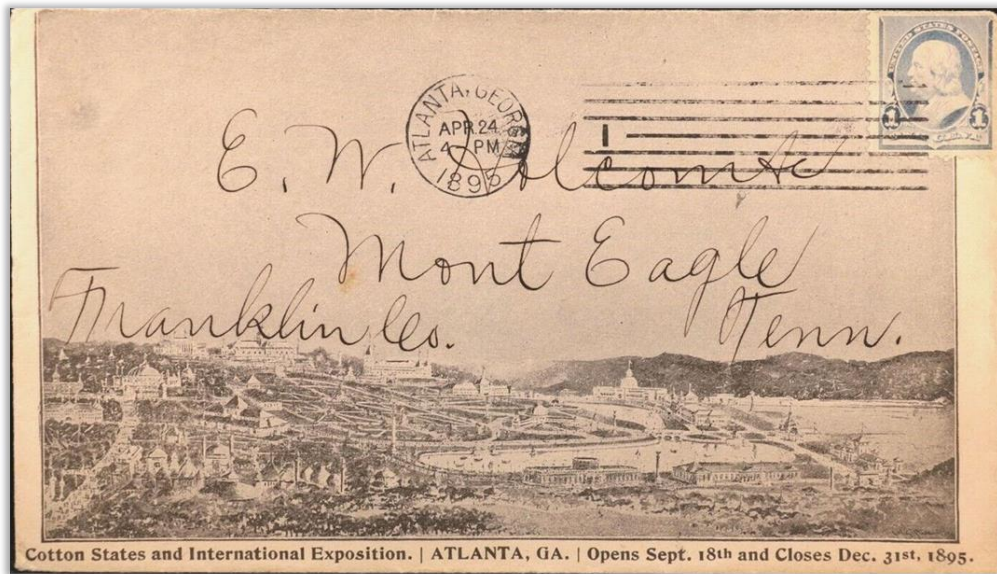


Figure 5. Cotton States and International Exposition, Atlanta, 1893.

Granted, the correct placement of the one-cent Franklin stamp did not overlay anything of importance on the cover's image. But note that the sender, in any event, placed the stamp as far in the upper right corner as possible so as to minimize the overlay of the exposition ground's image.



Top and Left Advertising

As with all over advertising covers, advertising images and text printed on the top and left side of an envelope also seems to support that the printing companies were either not aware of the upper-right corner convention/rule or simply were not concerned.

Figure 6. Hotel Ansley, Atlanta.

A 1915 mailing for Atlanta’s Hotel Ansley, Figure 6, shows the hotel’s logo image on both the left and right side of the advertising banner printed at the top of the cover. The two-cent Washington overlaying the right image of the hotel’s logo was necessary when the sender sought to comply with the upper-right convention.

The artwork for advertising covers created for Atlanta’s The New Kimball hotel indeed seem to allow sufficient space for the correct placement of a stamp that would not overlay any images or text, as seen with the Figure 7 cover franked with a two-cent Washington. However, this “non overlay” quality is only true depending on the stamp that is used.



Figure 7. The New Kimball, Atlanta.

Figure 8. The New Kimball, Atlanta.



The same advertising cover used for a Bangor, Maine mailing, Figure 8, was franked with a two-cent “Founding of Jamestown” commemorative of the 1907 Jamestown Exposition series, a stamp that is somewhat larger than the two-cent Washington definitive. The sender made a valiant effort to place the stamp as far to the upper-right corner of the cover so as to not overlay any of the advertising artwork, but some of the “Kimball” background shading was still overlaid.

Rendering it impossible not to overlay advertising text on a cover when adhering to the upper-right corner stamp placement rule, the printer of envelopes for the M.C. Kiser Company, Atlanta, included large, bold text on the full upper-right portion of the envelope (Figure 9).



Figure 9. M.C. Kiser Co., Atlanta, shoe manufacturer.

“It all depends on the stamp’s placement” may be a fair assessment of the advertising being overlaid on the Figure 10 Winchester rifles cover.

The sender seemed to indeed be aware of the upper-right corner stamp placement rule and was possibly attempting to not overlay any of rifle’s image by “turning” the stamp somewhat sideways.

But the stamp should have been placed higher to completely avoid any overlay of the rifle’s barrel.

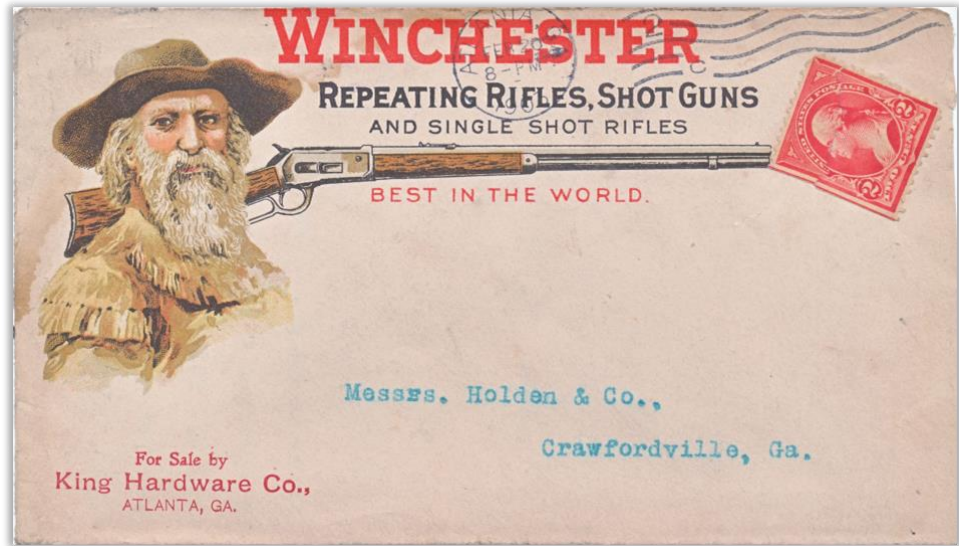


Figure 10. Winchester Repeating Rifles, Shot Guns, and Single Shot Rifles.

Similar to the Cotton States and International Exposition cover shown in Figure 5, the red upper banner artwork used for the King Hardware advertising cover shown in Figure 11 would always result in being overlaid with a stamp. But the artwork doesn’t suffer a meaningful overlay when a stamp is placed in the proper upper-right corner position.



Figure 11. King Hardware Co., Atlanta.

The top artwork on the covers printed for the Burns & Co., Darien, Georgia, Figure 12 (next page), seems to allow for barely enough room for the correct upper-right corner placement of a stamp, but only if two conditions are met.

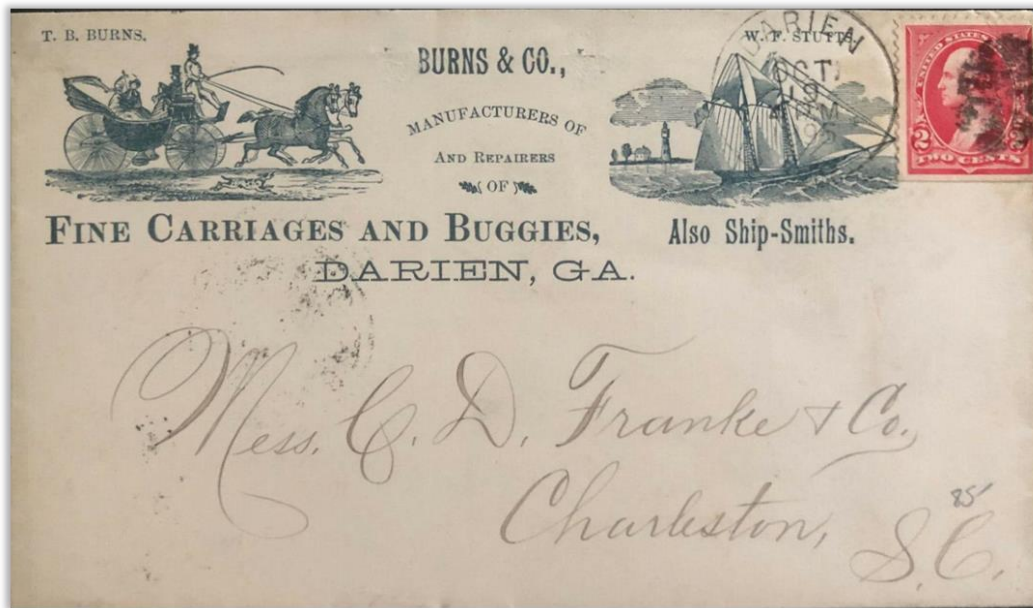


Figure 12. Burns & Co. Fine Carriages and Buggies, Darien, Georgia.

The stamp, as seen with the two-cent Washington franking the Figure 12 cover, must be placed as far as possible to the right of the cover. And the stamp must be a common-size definitive, not a rectangular commemorative. If a rectangular commemorative were used, the stamp would surely overlay a portion of the artwork regardless of how far up or to the right the stamp was affixed.

The printing company's artwork placement on the Figure 13 cover for J.F. & L.J. Miller's Crescent Flour Mills, Augusta, Georgia, fortunately appears to indicate the printer's awareness of the upper-right corner stamp placement rule. The "New Process Flour" framed banner is printed to the far left of the envelope and is of a length that leaves room on the right side for a stamp's (or stamps' in this case) placement.

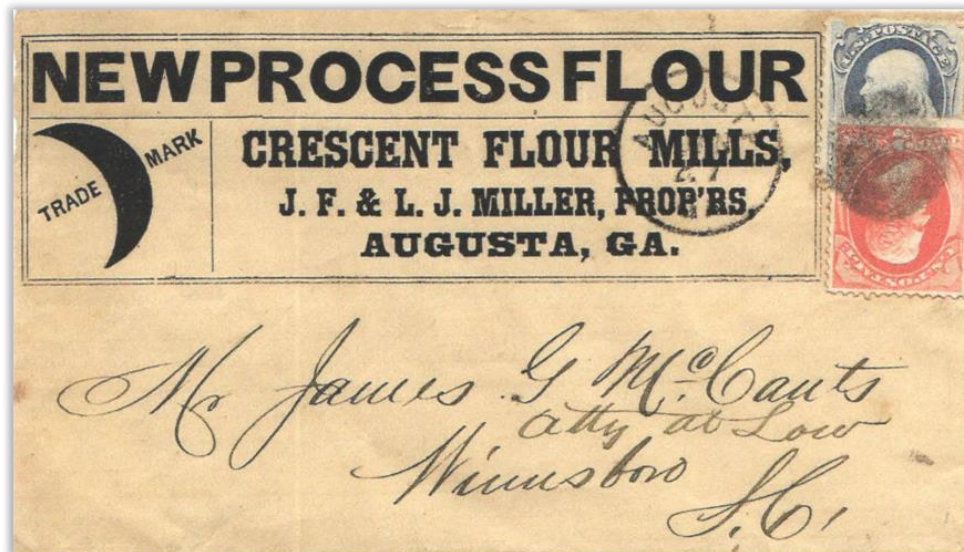


Figure 13. J.F. & L.J. Miller's Crescent Flour Mills, Augusta, Georgia.

With this cover, the same two conditions seem to apply for avoiding advertising overlays as with the Figure 12 cover. The stamp franking the cover must be placed as far as possible to the right of the cover, and the stamp must be a definitive, not a rectangular commemorative. If a rectangular commemorative were to be used, it must be placed in a vertical position, not horizontal.

A caveat regarding stamps used on the Crescent Flour Mills cover is regular issue stamps are needed but they do not have to be the standard, “smaller” versions. As seen on the Figure 13 cover, the one-cent Franklin (Scott 182) and two-cent Jackson (Scott 183) definitives are somewhat larger than the two-cent Washington carmine issue on the Figure 11 cover (most likely from the 1895 issue, Scott 265, 266, or 267). When using the larger stamps, careful placement is needed, as was done by the sender of the Figure 12 cover, to avoid any overlays of the artwork.

Conclusion

The expression “rules are made to be broken” is attributed to General Douglas McArthur who is famous for breaking many rules. His actual quote is: "Rules are mostly made to be broken and are too often for the lazy to hide behind."

But in the case of the upper-right corner postage stamp rule, the abundance of instances where senders of mail made diligent, purposeful attempts to honor the stamp placement rule belies McArthur’s characterization of “lazy” people and offers an intriguing and enjoyable collecting theme.

Welcome New Member

Juan L. Riera of Miami, Florida is a former Professor of History having taught at Texas Tech, Nova-Southeastern University, and the University of Miami. He is a widely published author of postal history and a frequent award winner at philatelic literature competitions.



Juan collects first day covers, postcards, and airmail related to Florida and Cuba. Among Juan’s many philatelic associations, he is the current Vice President of the Florida Postal History Society and Historian for the American Air Mail Society.

Juan’s Doctorate was earned in the fields of History, Archeology, and Museum Studies. He has numerous years of experience working with museums, libraries, and archives.

We welcome Juan L. Riera as a member of the Georgia Postal History Society.

Georgia on Cover: “I Go to Illustrate Georgia.”

These words were said by Francis Bartow on May 21, 1861, at the Savannah railroad station when Barlow was preparing to depart for Virginia as Captain of Savannah’s elite Oglethorpe Light Infantry. It was a response to the criticism he had received from Governor Brown for leaving Georgia.

Francis S. Bartow (September 6, 1816 – July 21, 1861) (Figure 1) was a licensed attorney turned politician who served two terms in the United States House of Representatives and became a political leader of the Confederate States of America. In 1856 he was elected captain of Savannah’s elite Oglethorpe Light Infantry.

The Georgia General Assembly summoned delegates to a Secession Convention in Milledgeville which began January 16, 1861. On May 28, 1861, elections were held to select representatives to the convention, and Bartow emerged as a delegate. At the convention, Bartow stood out as one of the most fervent secessionists. Demanding an immediate withdrawal from the Union, he helped align Georgia among the pro-secessionist states.



On January 19, 1861, delegates voted to secede from the Union by a vote of 208 to 89. Bartow was a delegate in favor of secession, voting to sign Georgia's Ordinance of Secession on that day.

On the second day of the Congress, Bartow became chairman of the Military Committee. He helped select the color and style of the initial Confederate gray uniforms. During a later session, Bartow announced that he would depart for the battlefield, taking his Oglethorpe Light Infantry up to Virginia.

Bartow telegraphed the news to his Georgia troops, arranging a prompt rally. However, his plans were blocked by Governor Brown, who had already decided to concentrate the state's armed forces strictly for the defense of Georgia. Bartow appealed personally to the Confederate President, Jefferson Davis. Davis immediately approved Bartow's plan and designated him the commander of the

new Confederate force, making Bartow's Oglethorpe Light Infantry the first company to officially contribute its services to the Confederacy's national war effort.

An angry Governor Brown countered by publishing an aggressively tough letter in all Georgia newspapers on May 21, 1861. Among other things, he alleged that Bartow was seeking his own glory by assuring a high command and aspiring to a promotion. To him, Bartow was actually deserting the war "to serve the common cause in a more pleasant summer climate."

Nonetheless, Bartow arrived in Savannah on May 21 to assemble his 106 soldiers and to arrange for a train to take them to Virginia's battlefield. A great rally of cheerful citizens congregated at the station, accompanied by the remaining local militia, which fired an artillery salute in Bartow's honor.

Before departing, Bartow pronounced to the crowd his most celebrated phrase: "I go to illustrate Georgia." The Figure 2 patriotic cover postmarked in Savannah to Decatur, Georgia displays Bartow's celebrated phrase in the lower left corner underneath the flag staff.



Figure 2. "I go to illustrate Georgia." (Courtesy Patricia Kaufmann Confederate Stamps and Postal History.)

At the First Battle of Manassas (First Bull Run), Bartow encouraged his troops to follow him toward the enemy by cheering "Boys, follow me!" and waving his cap frantically over his head. Just then, a projectile perforated his chest, fatally lodging in his heart. Some of his soldiers gathered around him, witnessing his last words: "Boys, they have killed me, but never give up the field."

Lying on the ground and wrapped in Col. Lucius Gartrell's arms, Francis Bartow died. He was the first brigade commander of the Confederate States Army to be killed in action during the Civil War.