



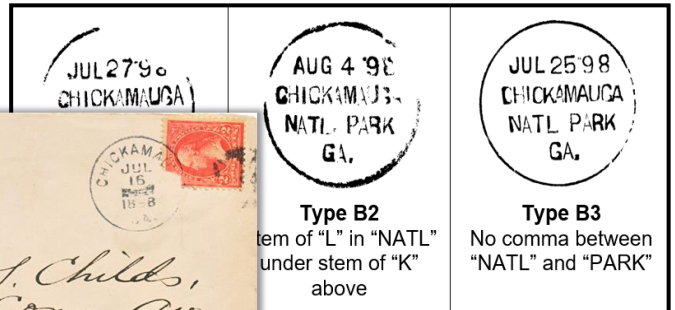
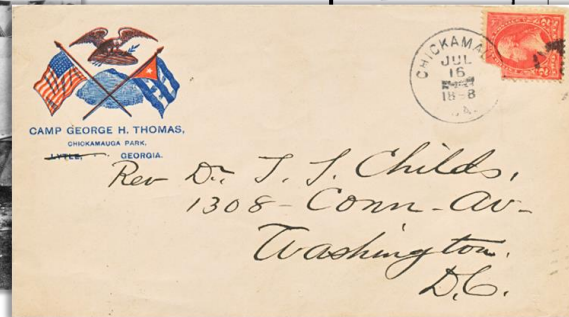
Georgia Post Roads

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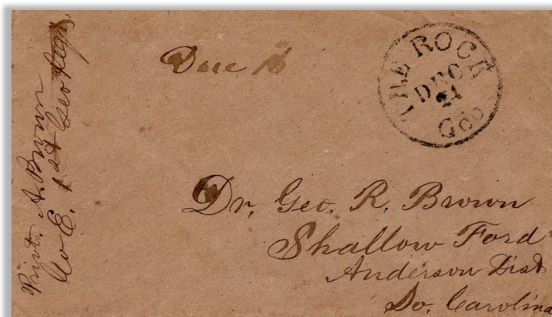
Spring 2022

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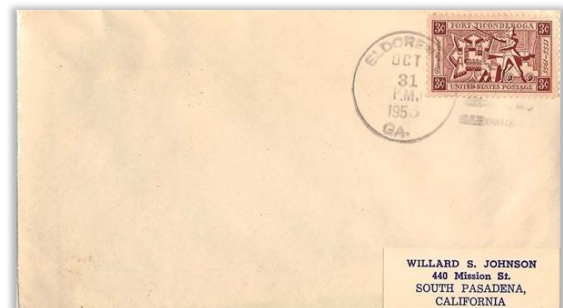


The Camp Thomas Postmarks

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE



The Rock – Georgia's Unusual Town Name



Eldorado, Georgia Named for First Postmaster



Echo, Georgia?



WWI American Flag Machine Cancellation

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 publish and to support the publication of such knowledge for the benefit of the public.



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The Camp Thomas Postmarks

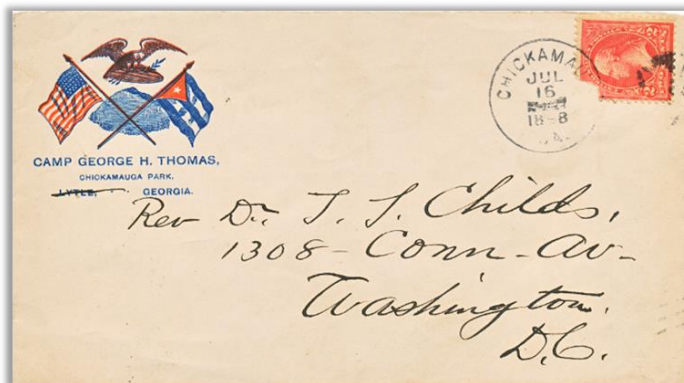
By Francis J. Crown, Jr.



Training camps were established at various locations in the United States as part of the mobilization for the Spanish American War. The largest camp was established at the Chickamauga National Battlefield Park in Northwest Georgia. The camp was named Camp Thomas for Major General George H. Thomas (July 31, 1816 – March 28, 1870). Thomas was a United States Army officer and a Union general during the American Civil War. He was one of the principal commanders in the Western Theater.

A relatively small number of regular troops began arriving at the camp in April, and by mid-May they were shipped off to the war. By the end of the same month, volunteer units began arriving and soon there were 58,000 troops at the camp.

The large number of troops attracted enterprising vendors selling products of all kinds. Of interest to philatelists are the many different patriotic envelopes prepared and sold to soldiers. By early June, soldiers were using these envelopes to send letters to loved ones.



At first, the nearest post office was in the small town of Lytle that was adjacent to the camp. Soon, a camp post office was established with the name Chickamauga National Park, Georgia. Because of the volume of mail, several postmarks were used by both Lytle and Camp Thomas.

Some Camp Thomas patriotic covers were posted in other towns, primarily Chattanooga. Other covers were posted at the small town of Chickamauga, Georgia which was located about two miles south of the Camp (*Figure 1*).

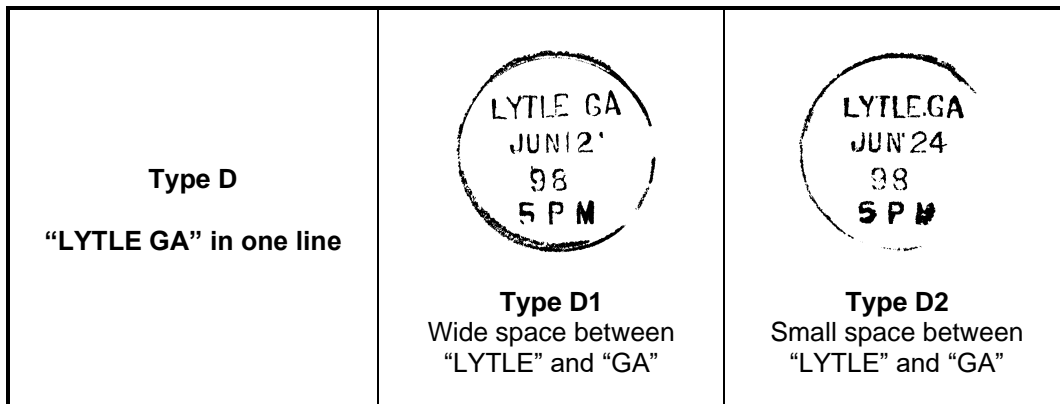
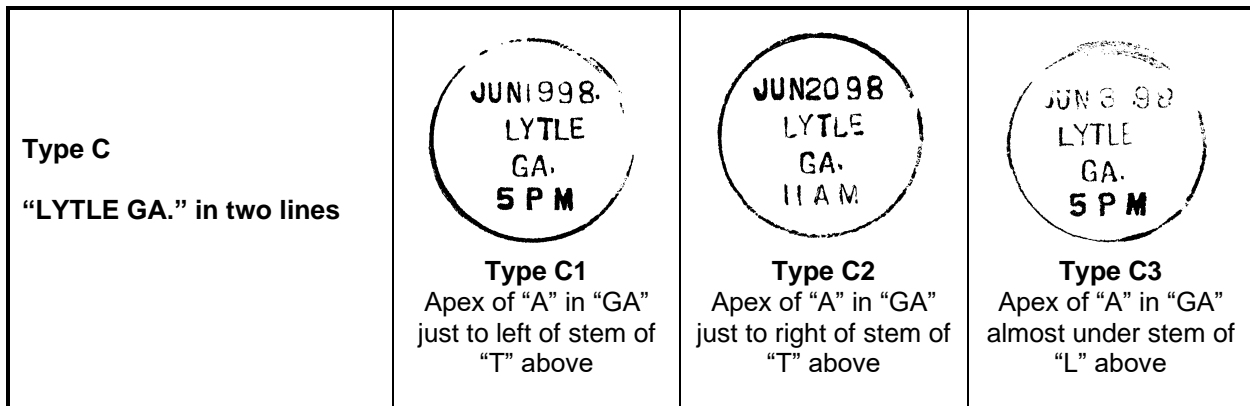
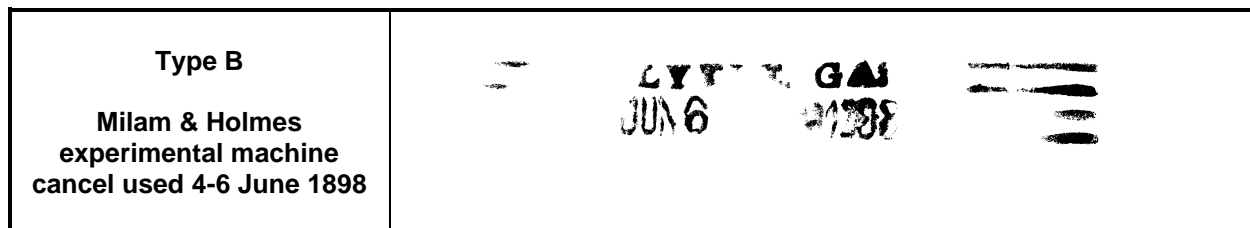
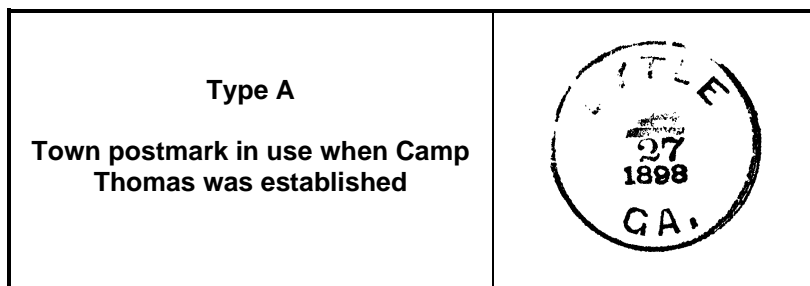
Figure 1. Camp Thomas patriotic cover posted in Chickamauga, Georgia.

The postmarks provided by the Post Office Department were prepared quickly and were not of the standard design and quality. This resulted in some of the type shifting creating different varieties. There was such a rush to get the necessary postal supplies to the camp that an experimental machine cancel manufactured by Milam & Holmes was shipped to Lytle. The machine did not work well, and it was only used for three days.

The two charts that follow illustrate all currently recorded postmarks used at Camp Thomas and Lytle and their varieties.

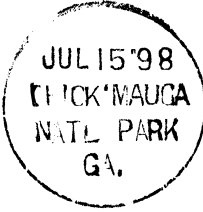

Camp Thomas Postmarks



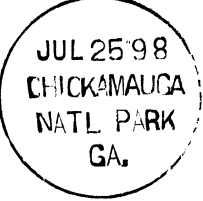
Lytle, Georgia




Camp Thomas Postmarks

Chickamauga National Park


<p>Type A</p> <p>First "A" in "CHICKAMAUGA" replaced by asterisk</p>	 <p>Type A1 Stem of "L" in "NATL" under stem of "K"</p>	 <p>Type A2 Stem of "L" of "NATL" just to right of "K" stem</p>
---	---	---

<p>Type B</p> <p>First "A" in "CHICKAMAUGA" is thin</p>	 <p>Type B1 Stem of "L" in "NATL" to left of stem of "K" above</p>	 <p>Type B2 Stem of "L" in "NATL" under stem of "K" above</p>	 <p>Type B3 No comma between "NATL" and "PARK"</p>
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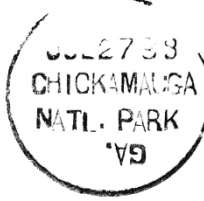
Type C

First "A" in
"CHICKAMAUGA" is
wide



Type D

"CHICKAMAUGA"
misspelled, and Park
abbreviated "PK"



Type E

Same as Type B, but
"GA." inverted

The Rock – Georgia’s Unusual Town Name

By Tony L. Crumbley

When looking at typical town names, it is not difficult to understand where most town names were derived. Towns like Lincolnton, Cooks Store, Black Spring, Fryer’s Ponds, all give us a clue as to why the community chose the name.

The postmark on the *Figure 1* cover begs the question, “Where did that name come from?”

The Rock is an unincorporated community in Upson County, Georgia, eight miles northeast of Thomaston near the center of the state. Today, the post office is zip code 30285; however, the office is scheduled to be closed.

The Rock postmasters in the 1860s were:

Union	20 Sept. 1860	Reuben T. Allen
CSA	11 July 1860	Reuben T. Allen
Union	25 June 1866	John F. Black

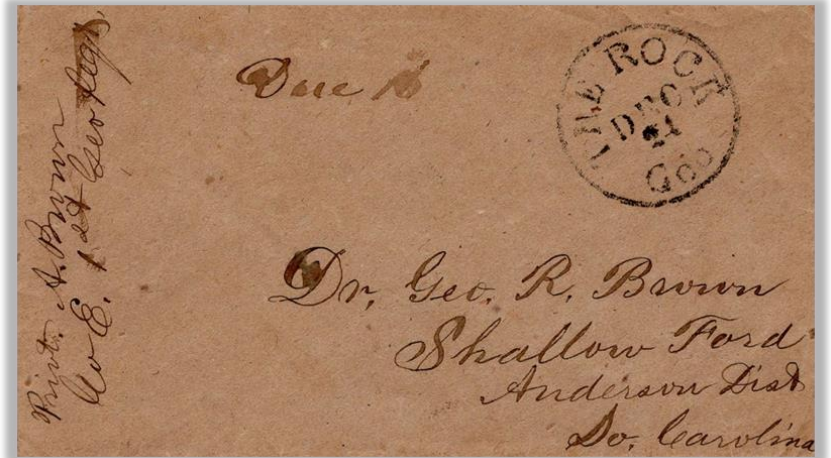


Figure 1. Soldier’s Due 10 posted from The Rock on December 24, circa 1863.



Figure 2. Granite marker for “The Rock” mail drop.

The original rock was dynamited to widen the wagon trail. Today, Georgia Hwy. 36 passes over where the original rock once was located.

The *Figure 3* historical plate affixed to the granite piece reads, “First Post Office at The Rock Stage Coach Route on Old Federal Road 1846.”

The Rock post office was first established in 1853. The community was named for a rock formation near the original town site.

Figure 2 shows a slab of granite sitting on top of the remnant of the larger bolder on which the early stagecoach drivers on the Thomaston-Barnesville highway left their bags of mail and from which the village derived its name.

Before there was a post office, it seems locals would have their mail addressed to “The Rock.” Mail would be left in a carved-out space in the rock.



Figure 3. Historical plate affixed to “The Rock” granite marker.

The Rock has some historical significance. John Bunkley was a close friend of Benjamin Franklin. Together, they traveled to France to borrow money to finance the American Revolution. It was during this time in France that Bunkley met and married his wife, Marchette.

After the war, Bunkley and Franklin turned their attention to setting up a Federal Postal System. They traveled well-established Indian Trails that had become pioneer roads. During these travels, Bunkley fell in love with the Georgia Piedmont region. After he retired, Bunkley came back to Georgia and built a one-room cabin for himself and his wife less than two miles east of The Old Alabama Road that ran from Augusta, Georgia, through Montgomery, Alabama, and on to Santa Fe, New Mexico, (now Hwy. 36).



Bunkley's homestead, built on Creek Indian land, was situated on what is now Piedmont Road. The property later became the home place of Civil War surgeon and physician E.A. Flewellen.

Flewellen, **Figure 4**, began the Civil War as the Surgeon General of the 5th Cavalry Regiment of the Confederate Army. He ended his career as the Surgeon General of the Confederate hospitals.

On January 12, 2013, The Rock post office was converted to a Remotely Managed Post Office under the direction of the Postmaster of the Thomaston Post Office.

Figure 4. E.A. Flewellen.

A Remotely Managed Post Office is a facility that offers part-time window service hours, is staffed by a Postal Service employee at the direction of a postmaster, and reports to an Administrative Post Office.

As mentioned earlier, The Rock post office, **Figure 5**, is scheduled to be closed. If it is closed, The Rock Ranch will take over those duties as a Village Post Office and continue to preserve the zip code and this important history of The Rock, GA.



The Rock Ranch was an initiative of S. Truett Cathy, founder of Chick-fil-A. He purchased 1,500 acres as a working cattle ranch near the old Rock location. The ranch became a foster home for children and later evolved as a family destination and event center. The ranch is named appropriately The Rock Ranch.

Figure 5. Contemporary photograph of The Rock postal facility at 4674 W. Main Street, The Rock, Georgia.

Eldorado, Georgia Named for Its first Postmaster

By Steve Swain

Eldorado is an unincorporated community located in Decatur County in southwest Georgia. The community was named for its first Postmaster, Eldorado Virginia Higgs Brown (1835–1904) (*Figure 1*). Eldorado and her husband, Shadrick Morgan Brown (1826–1914), moved to the area in the 1870s. Eldorado attended the La Grange, Georgia Female College. She was a teacher and taught in both Alabama and Georgia.



When the new railroad came through the Brown plantation, a post office was established. Eldorado decided to apply for the position of Postmaster.

In completing the required government forms, she signed her name "Eldorado Virginia Brown." The notice of her Postmaster appointment came with a statement that the postal officials had discovered the town did not have a name. They selected the name "Eldorado" from the first given name on Brown's application paperwork.

Eldorado held her position for almost ten years until May 5, 1896. Provided by the USPS Postmaster Finder website, below is a listing of the Eldorado Postmasters.

Figure 1. Eldorado Virginia Higgs Brown.

ELDOREDO POST OFFICE DECATUR, GEORGIA

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date Appointed</u>
Mrs. Eldorado V. Brown	Postmaster	08/02/1886
Andrew J. Callahan	Postmaster	05/05/1896
Samuel M. Brown	Postmaster	05/14/1897
Jesse M. Valentine	Postmaster	08/06/1898
Cora Valentine	Postmaster	01/27/1900
Johnie L. Smith	Postmaster	12/30/1918
Mrs. Rosa H. Smith	Acting Postmaster	12/15/1938
Mrs. Rosa H. Smith	Postmaster	03/02/1939

Mrs. Rosa H. Smith's name was changed to Mrs. Rosa H. Dean
by marriage on July 5, 1940.

Mrs. Luta Mae Hatcher	Acting Postmaster	05/01/1943
Victor Hugo Smith	Acting Postmaster	06/22/1943
Victor Hugo Smith	Postmaster	01/05/1944

The Eldorendo post office was discontinued on October 31, 1955, with mail being serviced in Colquitt County. Possibly philatelically inspired, the **Figure 2** cover carries an October 31, 1955, “last day” postmark.

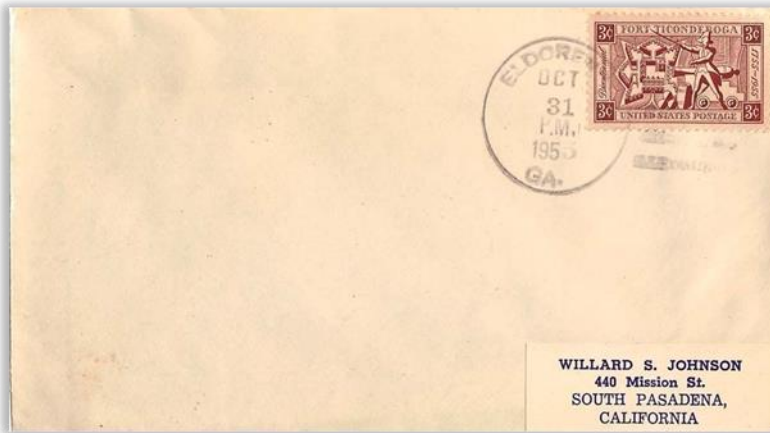
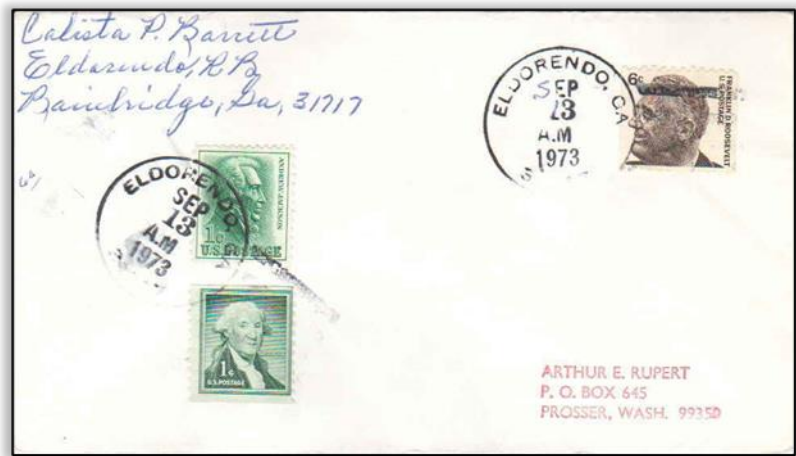


Figure 2. Eldorendo “Last Day” postmark.

Due to Eldorendo being an unincorporated city, it currently has no formally recognized government or City Council or any public utilities system.

Most residents of Eldorendo use the Brinson, Georgia post office, zip code 39825. Some use the Colquitt and Bainbridge post offices, zip codes 39817 and 39837, respectively.

Figure 3. September 13, 1973, Eldorendo postmark.



Eldorendo Virginia Higgs Brown and her husband, Shadrick, are buried in the Eldorendo Baptist Church cemetery (**Figures 4 and 5**).



Figure 4. Eldorendo Baptist Church.



Figure 5. Headstones for Shadrick and Eldorendo Brown.

“Thank You” Contributing Members

The Society thanks the following members for their generous contributions sent with their annual dues. These funds help defray the expenses associated with the promotion of the Society at stamp shows and requests for information about the Society.

Bill Baab	Lamar Garrard
Ted O. Brooke	Donald Garrett
W. Newton Crouch, Jr.	Edwin Jackson
Francis J. Crown, Jr.	Malcolm McRainey, III
Jim Curtis	Michael Perlman
Marvin Fetter	John Seidl
	George Slaton

Echo, Georgia?

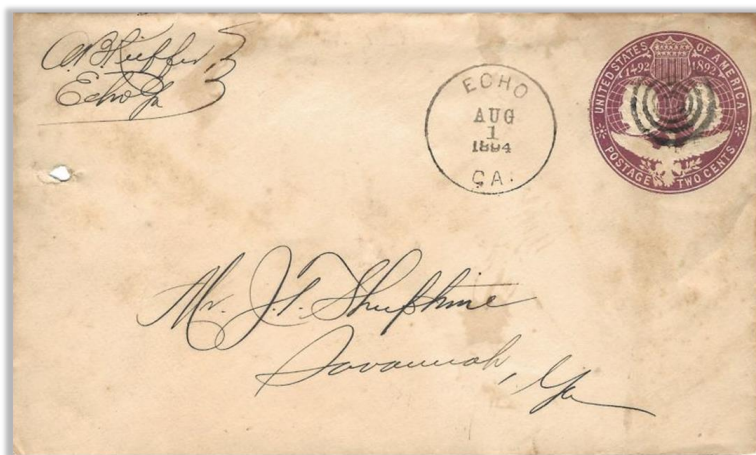


Figure 1. August 1, 1894, ECHO, GA.

Society member Bill Baab recently sent an image of a cover, *Figure 1*, from his collection of postmarks of small Georgia towns. The cover bears an 1894 postmark from Echo, Georgia. Bill said his online research revealed “Echo, Georgia” as associated with a restaurant chain, a rural health innovation center, and a company selling outdoor power equipment, but no mention of a town by that name.

Bill asked for information about Echo, Georgia that could support when and where the town existed.

The cover’s postmark is clearly ECHO GA. As such, it was reasonable to think there had to have been a post office associated with a town by that name. If a post office existed, then there had to have been a postmaster assigned to that facility. As such, to assist in the quest, I accessed the U.S. National Archives, Catalog section, and entered “Echo Georgia Postmasters” in the search field (*Figure 2*).

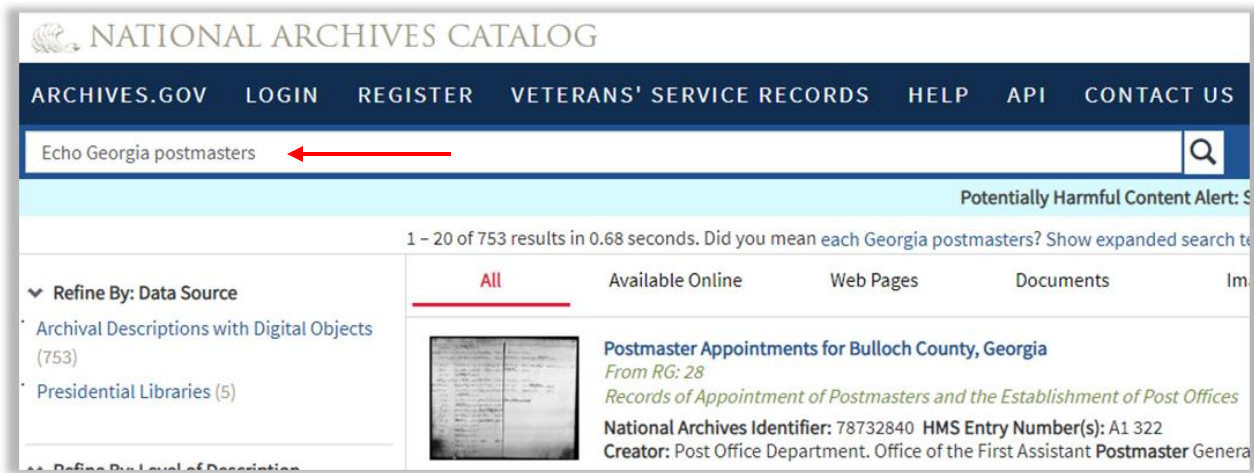


Figure 2. National Archives Catalog.
 (<https://catalog.archives.gov/search?q=Echo%20Georgia%20postmasters.>)

The search returned “Postmaster Appointments for Bulloch County, Georgia.” Opening that document presented the Echo postmaster appointment entry for Albert B. Ruffer, “19 Oct 93 (1893)” (**Figure 3**).

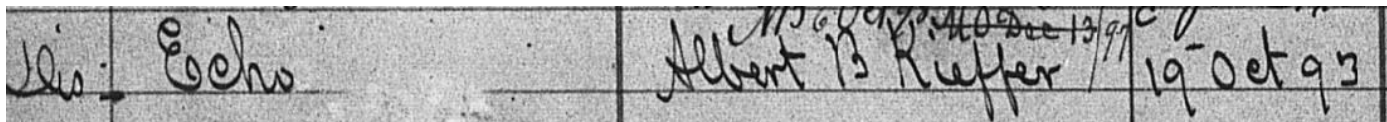


Figure 3. Echo, Georgia postmaster appointment record for Albert B. Ruffer.

With this confirmation of a post office in Echo, Georgia, Bulloch County, I then looked at the “1895 Georgia Post Route Map” (**Figure 4**) for further confirmation of the town of Echo. The map is available on the Norman B. Leventhal Map Center Collection website (<https://collections.leventhalmap.org/search/commonwealth:cj82kk329.>)

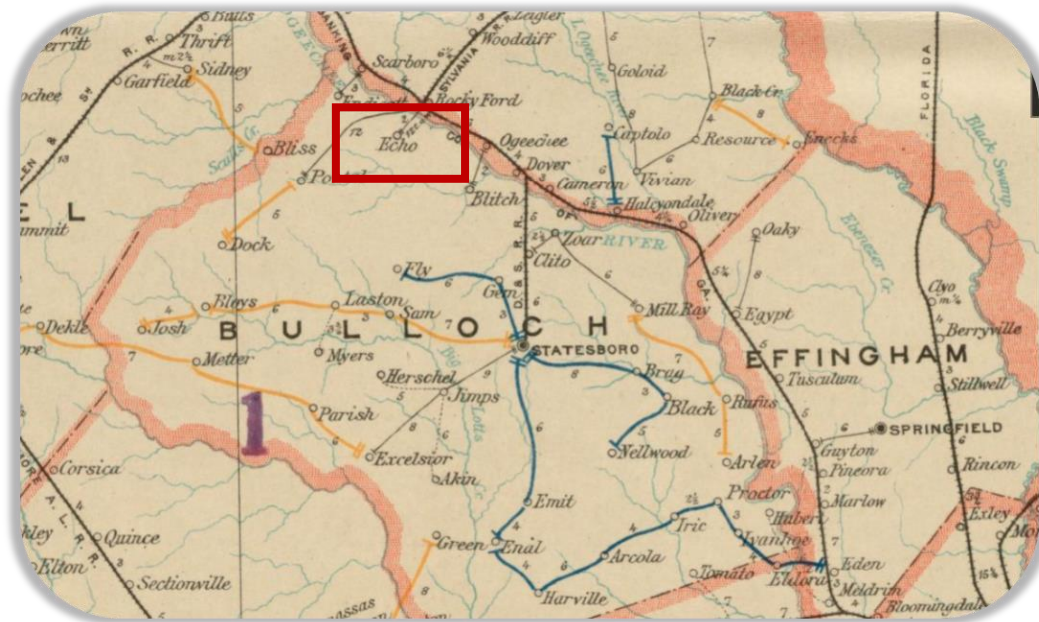
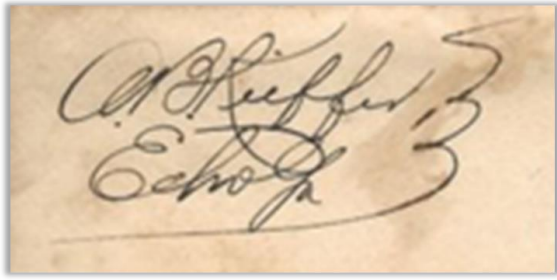


Figure 4. Post route map section of the State of Georgia showing post offices with the intermediate distances and mail routes in operation on December 1, 1895.



As seen in *Figure 4* (highlighted in red) Echo was a town (at least in 1895) located in the north portion of Bulloch County.

The final confirmation in the quest was revealed in the return address of the cover. *Figure 5* (enlarged) shows “A. B. Ruffer Echo, Ga.”, Echo’s postmaster as recorded in the previously seen “Postmaster Appointments for Bulloch County, Georgia.”

Figure 5. Enlarged return address on 1894 cover.

To “echo” Bill’s request, any additional information about the town of Echo, Georgia or its postal history is greatly appreciated.

Steve Swain, Editor

Georgia Postal History Society Recognizes Current Original Members

Editor’s Note:

My thanks to Lamar Garrard for providing the history of our Society’s original membership contained in several 1984 letters written during the formation of the Society.

An interesting section of several of the early issues of the Society’s original publication, the *Bulletin*, is a listing of current members. Several members in those early years remain as Society members today.

But most interesting are the original Society members who are still active members of today’s Society. There were twenty-eight original members for which five are currently active in the Society.

We recognize those members, below, and thank them for their many years of service and support.

Original Members of Georgia Postal History Society November 5, 1984

Douglas N. Clark (Society’s first Secretary)
W. Newton Crouch, Jr.
Francis J. Crown, Jr. (Society’s first Vice President)
Eugene Espy
R. Lamar Garrard

Welcome New Members

The Society welcomes **Victor Wasilov** of Alpharetta, Georgia. Victor is a member of the American Philatelic Society and the USPCS. Worldwide issues are one of Victor's collecting interests and he is anxious to start a Georgia collection.

The **Slusser Library** of the **Postal History Foundation** in Tucson, Arizona is welcomed as a new Society member. The library holds two main collections: the Library Collection and the Archives Collection. The Library Collection's scope is primarily philatelic and includes monographs, auction catalogs, post office publications, and journals and magazines. The Archives Collection's materials are generally related to Arizona philately and postal history.

American Flag Machine Cancellation Type A-38 WWI Georgia Military Bases By James C. Cate

World War I began on July 28, 1914, in Europe. The United States did not enter WWI until April 6, 1917. At the time, the United States had fewer than 300,000 troops including National Guard units. It was necessary for the United States to increase the needed troops by first activating the National Guard units and creating a draft. On this basis, the United States hurriedly constructed 16 military cantonments for the mobilization of the National Guard and 16 cantonments for the draftees.

Initially in 1917, these military camps had contractual obligations with the American Postal Machine Company. Contractual changes to the Universal Stamping Machine Company were made in 1917 which resulted in their cancellations being used at a majority of the U.S. postal facilities. These contractual changes from American to Universal resulted in some very brief usage periods of days and weeks for many of the American Machine Postal Cancellations.

The markings of the American Postal Machine Company are first found from the Boston area in 1884. They adopted the well-known flag killer in 1894. Machines with the flag cancellation were still in use during the WW II era. Since there were so many different machines and towns using them, they have become a popular collecting specialty.



American flag cancellation Type A-14, shown above left, has 13 stars in the flag banner while Type A-38, shown above right, has printed words such as "MILITARY BRANCH" in the flag banner.

Georgia Army bases active in WWI, 1917 – 1918, were:

- Camp Hancock – Augusta, Georgia
- Camp Wheeler – Macon, Georgia
- Fort Oglethorpe – Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia (Catoosa County)

Camp Hancock – Augusta, Georgia (1917 – 1919)



Figure 1. Camp Hancock - Augusta, Georgia, circa 1917.

There was stiff competition among cities throughout the country to be the site of one of the cantonments and Augusta was no exception. In May 1917, city officials and the Board of Commerce formed a committee to work on details to launch a bid for a camp. Final approval for the camp was obtained on July 6, 1917.

The camp was named Camp Hancock in honor of Maj. Gen. Winfield Scott Hancock (1824 – 1886), a U.S. Army veteran of the Mexican-American and Civil wars. The War Department selected the camp for the National Guard's 28th Division, formerly the National Guard of Pennsylvania called the Keystone Division.

The camp eventually evolved into a division sized tent city supplemented by 1,319 temporary buildings. It was located on 1,777 acres of a 13,811-acre tract on the outskirts of Augusta.

In addition to the divisional training site and hospital, a machine gun training center, an ordnance supply school and an officer's training school were established. The camp also was home to units of the Air Service, Coast Artillery, Cavalry, Engineers, Medical Department, Motor Transport Corps, Ordnance and Quartermaster Corps.



Figure 2. American flag machine cancellation, Type A-38, Camp Hancock.

Initially Camp Hancock used an American flag machine cancellation Type A-38, **Figure 2**, from September 7, 1917, to December 8, 1917, changing to a Universal machine cancellation in the process (**Figure 3**).

With the brief period of use, there is not an abundance of reported material.

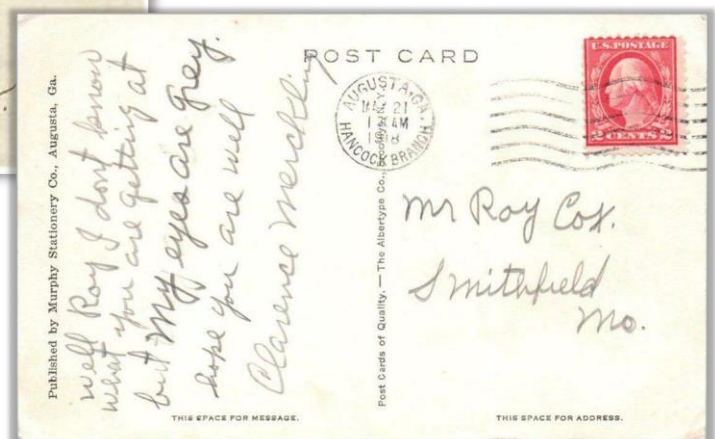


Figure 3. Universal machine cancellation, Camp Hancock.

Camp Wheeler – Macon, Georgia (1917 – 1919)



Figure 4. Camp Wheeler - Macon, Georgia, circa 1917.

The War Department used the site area of Camp Wheeler, **Figure 4**, as a mobilization center from 1917 to 1918. It was established on July 18, 1917, as a temporary training camp for National Guard units to be integrated for service in Army divisions. Camp Wheeler was named in honor of Confederate General Joseph Wheeler (1836 – 1906) who was born in Augusta.

Located on 21,480 acres of land, the camp consisted primarily of tents in a cantonment area for the officers and enlisted men. The troop strength reached a high point of 28,960 in July 1918. The military closed the first Camp Wheeler on April 10, 1919. In 1940, Camp Wheeler was reopened and used as a training camp during WWII until December 1945.



Postal material of Camp Wheeler is exceptionally scarce. The writer has only encountered three items over a period of 30 years.

Figure 5 shows a Type A-38 American flag machine cancel on a September 26, 1917, Camp Wheeler mailing.

Figure 5. American flag machine cancellation, Type A-38, Camp Wheeler.

Editor's Note: *Courtesy of the Library History Buff Blog, Figure 6 is a WWI postcard with a Universal machine cancellation mailed from the Camp Wheeler library.*

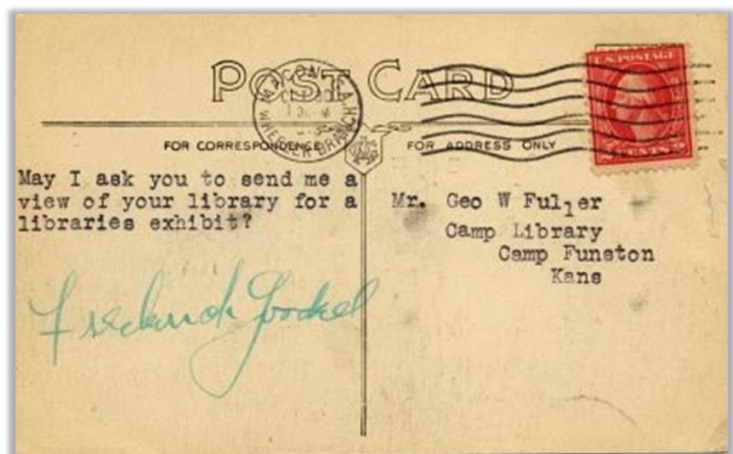


Figure 6. Camp Wheeler WWI mailing with Universal machine cancellation.

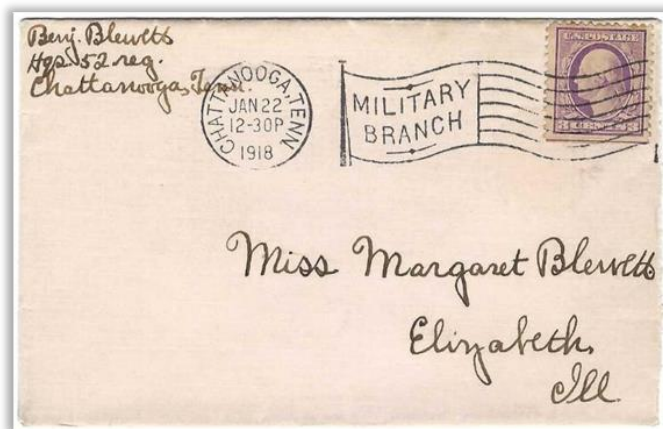
Fort Oglethorpe – Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia (1917 – 1919)



Figure 7. Camp Greenleaf, Georgia, circa 1918. One of three Fort Oglethorpe facilities.

Fort Oglethorpe was named in honor of James Oglethorpe (1696 – 1785), the founder of colonial Georgia. The fort was located just across the Tennessee state line in north Georgia. Fort Oglethorpe was a composite camp facility consisting of three cantonments: Camp Greenleaf, Camp Forrest, and Camp McLean.

Camp Greenleaf was a medical officer training camp created at Chickamauga National Battlefield Park. In only 18 months of operation, it trained 6,640 officers and 31,138 enlisted men for medical service within the U.S. Army. Camp Forrest was a facility to train and mobilize Infantry and Engineer troops for U.S. Army. Camp McLean was a training school for officers. With a barracks capacity of 1,500, its facilities ceased to be used for that purpose at it was turned over to Camp Greenleaf in November 1917 to house motor field units.



Although located in Georgia, Fort Oglethorpe had an official Chattanooga, Tennessee postal cancellation designation that was applied at Fort Oglethorpe. **Figure 8** shows a Fort Oglethorpe American flag machine cancellation Type A-38, reported in use between May 1, 1917, to October 30, 1918.

This cancellation has appeared in the *Scott Specialized Catalogue of U.S. Stamps & Covers* in the Postal Markings and Cancellations examples, World War I Soldiers Letter section, for over 60 years.

Figure 8. Chattanooga, Tennessee “Fort Oglethorpe” Type A-38 cancellation.

Camp Forrest and Camp Greenleaf had the Type A-38 American flag machine cancellation of their own. The **Figure 9** Camp Greenleaf corner card mailing shows such a cancellation.



Figure 9. Camp Greenleaf, August 29, 1918, mailing with Type A-38 cancellation.