

Georgia Post Roads

January 2001

Official Publication of the Georgia Postal History Society

Volume 11, Number 1

Nehi, Inc.



Multicolored corner card of NEHI, Inc. on a Special Delivery cover with a black COLUMBUS / GA. postmark dated 24 June 1933.

The cover illustrated above is a rather ordinary corner card cover from the early 20th century. However, it has a very "Georgian" story to tell.

In 1905 Claude Hatcher, a graduate pharmacist in Columbus began creating soft drinks in the basement of the family's wholesale grocery business. His first product was Chero-Cola. Others drinks that followed included Royal Crown Ginger Ale, Royal Crown Strawberry and Royal Crown Root Beer.

By 1912 sales had grown to the point that the company began to sell syrups and flavor concentrates to franchised bottlers. In 1924 Hatcher overheard a salesman describe a competitor's bottle as knee-high. Thus was

born the famous Nehi brand. This origin is illustrated to the left of the words "NEHI" in the corner card. In 1934 Chero-Cola was reformulated and marketed under the now famous brand of Royal Crown Cola.

During the 1940s famous show business personalities such as Shirley Temple, Bing Crosby and others help promote Nehi brands.

Innovation has been a hallmark of the company which is now know as the Royal Crown Company. In 1962 the company introduced Diet Rite Cola, the first diet cola. In 1964 the company was the first to use the all aluminum beverage can. Today the company that had its beginnings in a basement in Columbus, Ga. manufactures and distributes soft drinks worldwide.

Atlanta Mystery Deepens



Black Atlanta "Confederate" postmark dated "Jul 31" ties a U.S. 3c 1861 issue on a cover addressed to New Hampton, Chickasaw Co., Iowa.

The cover illustrated above deepens the mystery surrounding the fate of the postmark used in Atlanta during the Civil War.

Originally it was thought the postmark fell into the hands of the Federals and was

destroyed on or soon after the capture of Atlanta. This cover casts doubt on that theory as the date of the postmark, "Jul 31," can be no earlier than 1865.

Does anyone have any new theories?

GPHS 2001

The formal organization of the Georgia Postal History Society is now in a provisional status as the terms of the past officers have expired and no new officers have been elected. A nominating committee led by Gary Doster was appointed by Doug Clark. In the near future we should have an election for new officers.

In the meantime I agreed to take on the duties of editor of *Georgia Post Roads* once again. Until such time as someone agrees to step forward and fill the position I will endeavor to get an issue out at least quarterly. In this regard I make a plea for all members of the society to support *Georgia Post Roads* by submitting an article for publication. Articles

can be large or small, handwritten, typewritten or via email. Illustrations can be photos, photocopies, electronic images or send the item to me and I will scan it. The bottom line is I need the help and support of the membership to keep our publication alive and on schedule.

Georgia Postal History Society APS Affiliate 224

Georgia Post Roads is published quarterly by the Georgia Postal History Society.

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Georgia Postal History Society

1 January 2000

Members of the GPHS:

The year 2001 dawns with our society in the awkward situation of being without elected officers. This situation is in the process of being rectified. In the waning hours of the past administration Doug Clark appointed Gary Doster to lead a Nominating Committee. In my last communication with Gary he said he was still looking for someone to run for Vice President and Secretary-Treasurer. If you are inclined to serve the society please contact Gary. You can write him at 1230 Bob Godfrey Road, Athens, GA 30605-5316.

I volunteered to take up the duties of editor of *Georgia Post Roads* once again. Initially I plan to prepare an issue quarterly. You can see by the size of the first issue that my time is limited. I need your help to increase the number and types of articles. During my past editorship *GPR* reflected my personal collecting interests. With your help we can have a publication of greater size and variety.

What is the financial condition of the GPHS? The December bank statement shows more than \$1,700.00 in the bank. For this reason dues were suspended in 2000 and will remain so until a new slate of officers takes up their duties and develops a new fiscal plan for the society.

Communications with the membership was somewhat sporadic in the past year. For that reason the address list that I maintained may not be current for all members. Please take a moment and check the address label on the envelope. If your address has changed please let me know so I can correct it.

In the meantime please provide me your thoughts on the GPHS and what you would like to see in *GPR*. Even better send me something for publication.

Frank Crown
PO Box 98626
Tacoma, WA 98498



Georgia Post Roads

April 2001

Official Publication of the Georgia Postal History Society

Volume 11, Number 2

19th Century Columbus, Georgia

by Jim Doolin



Figure 1. Red COLUMBUS / G.^a postmark dated 13 November 1837 or 1838 on Express Mail cover to Connecticut.

Present day Columbus, Georgia is the second largest town by that name in the United States with a population of approximately 200,000. It is also the second largest city in Georgia. Its Civil War population is reported to have been about 9,500 and in 1900 about 17,000. If you disregard Columbus, Ohio which is a state capitol, seven other Columbus towns are county seats.

For a postal history collector, a town that is a county seat can normally mean a good run of postal history. Reasons for this can be court house correspondence, lawyers and bank correspondence, newspapers and educational institutions and a number of other business establishments. County seats are normally the

largest town in the county. For all the above reasons Columbus, Georgia should be an easy town to collect. With the exception of the Civil War era however, it is very difficult to find markings from this town into the early 20th century.

Since I collect the postal history of all "Columbus" name towns in the United States, I have a comparative basis in some cases that the population of a given town will result in a given number of surviving pieces of postal history barring unusual circumstances. There are several "Columbus" towns in my collection that were similar in size to or smaller than Columbus during the 19th century that seem to have as much or more postal history available.

(continued page 4)

New Officers Elected

Voting for new officers closed on 20 February. The chairman of our Credentials Committee, "Spud" Bridges, has certified the election results and the officers for the 2001-2003 term are:

President – Frank Crown ,
 Vice President – Ed Jackson
 Secretary Treasurer - Mike O'Reilly

President's Message

As your new president I have two immediate goals. First is to review the finances of the society. Second to fill the pages of the GPR with articles about the facets of Georgia postal history that most interest our members.

Elsewhere on this page is the financial report for 2000. The bottom line looks quite healthy. However, it does not tell the whole story. We have not collected dues for over a year and each issue of GPR costs the society about \$1.00 per member per issue for printing and postage.

I have asked your offices for their ideas on a new dues structure that will be realistic for both the members and the society. If you have any ideas I would like to hear from you.

My second goal is to fill the pages of our publication with articles of interest to the majority of our membership. This can only be done by communicating what you would like to the editor. Even better is to provide an article about your favorite cover or stamp.

Georgians on Stamps

Does anyone have an up to date list of Georgians on U.S. stamps? If so please send a copy to the editor.

2000 Financial Report

Expenses during 2000 were very limited. The full financial report is below:

Balance on 1 Jan 2000	\$1,798.09
Printing and postage	89.07
Balance on 31 Dec 2000	\$1,709.02

Peach State Stamp Show

The Peach State Stamp Show for this year will be held in the Atlanta Metro area 28-30 September 2001. The site is the Cobb Civic Center in Marietta.

The show is an American Philatelic Society World Series of Philately show. The grand-award winner will be invited to compete in the 2002 Champion of Champion competition.

A prospectus for the show is available from Pete Gray, 527 San Salvador Drive, North Augusta, SC 29841.

Comment on Nehi Article

Ed Willis wrote to say that one of his best childhood friends, Jim Kamm, was the son of chemist, Rufus Kamm, who developed the formula for Royal Crown Cola.

Georgia Postmasters' Provisionals

Your editor is compiling a census of the Confederate provisionals from Georgia towns. This census is based entirely on copies of provisional covers. If any members have Georgia provisionals they are requested to send a copy to the editor.

 **Post Road Notes**

I see *GPR* as the single most important facet of the Georgia Postal History Society. It is the means of communications that holds our society together. It is what feeds and tweaks the interest of the membership in the postal history of Georgia. It is what makes the society. Without *GPR* or a similar publication we would not have a society.

My appeal for articles in the last issue resulted in a tremendous response. For the first time in memory I have more material to print than there is room for in a single issue! Please keep the articles coming. Everyone has a stamp or cover with a story to tell. Put your story on paper and send it to me. If you need help, I will be glad to work with you.

I am sure many of you have read about the Professional Stamp Experts (PSE) expertizing service. This is the “commerical” service that authenticates and grades stamps. They are the same firm that for an additional fee will seal the stamp in a plastic container (often referred to as a slab) with the authentication certificate.

Recently I bid on a Confederate stamp on eBay that was illustrated with its PSE certificate. Since the description of the stamp did not mention condition nor did the certificate, I wrote the owner. His response was somewhat surprising:

One of these days I’ll learn that PSE certs [*sic*] aren’t worth the paper they’re printed on. I’ve Always wondered about the fact that faults I’ve noted on the worksheets for them sometimes don’t find their way onto the actual certs [*sic*].

Needless to say the stamp had faults and the lot was withdrawn from the auction. Have any of our members had any experience with PSE certificates?

Frank

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What’s Ahead

Coming issues of *GPR* will feature articles on the Atlanta Confederate postmark, the Albany flower cancels, extracts of early postal records and more.

Georgia Postal History Society
 APS Affiliate 224

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Georgia Post Roads

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Columbus, Georgia from page 1

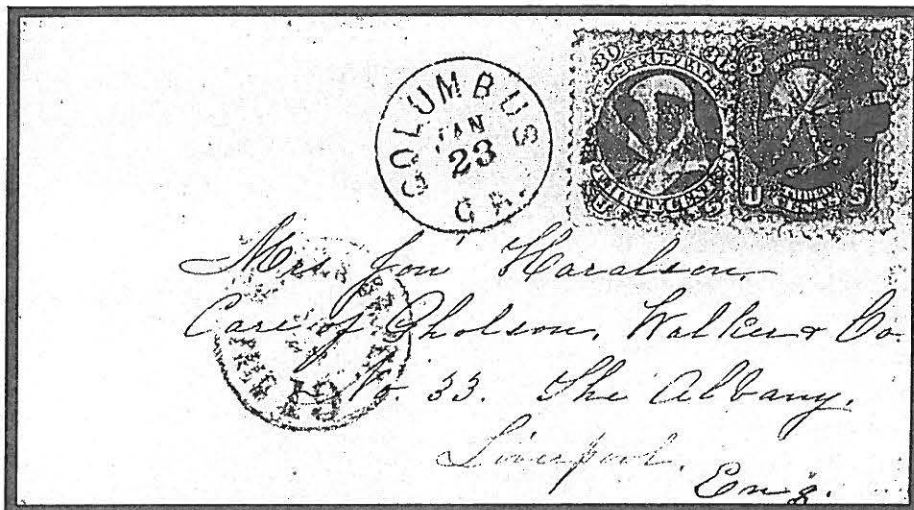


Figure 2. Cover bearing 30c and 3c stamps of the U. S. 1861 issue on a cover postmarked COLUMBUS / GA. Jan 23 (1867) to Liverpool, England.

In the year 2000 I was able to acquire six covers from Columbus, Georgia used in the 19th century. This is the largest number of covers from this town I have ever acquired in a one year period. I do receive a large number of auction catalogs, have a number of dealer contacts and collector friends who help me.

Shown nearby are two of the most exciting acquisitions made last year. The cover in Figure 1 is an express mail folded letter sheet from Columbus with a prepaid rate of 75c to Hartford, CT. The postmark is in red ink with a date of Nov 13th. The year would be 1837 or 1838. The sender was placing an order for merchandise. I learned from Frank Crown that he has recorded about 12 Columbus express covers. Based on the rarity table in his book, *Georgia Stampless Cover Catalog and Handbook*, these covers have a rarity rating of "7."

The cover in Figure 2 is another exciting acquisition of a Columbus item. It is a small cover mailed to Liverpool, England soon after the Civil War. The postage is paid by a 30c and

a 3c stamp of the 1861 issue. The rate at that time for a ½ oz letter to England was 24c. It has a red "New York Br Pkt Paid 19" transit marking with a Liverpool receiving marking on the reverse dated Feb. 10, 1867. The postage affixed overpaid this letter by 9 cents. However, I have seen several covers to Europe in this time period overpaid with the same combination of stamps. This letter was mailed less than two years after the close of the Civil War in which Columbus suffered considerable destruction and the whole postal system had to be reconstructed. Thus, it is easy to understand that postal clerks and the public were not always kept up-to-date with the latest rate changes, which had been in effect in the Northern states for several years.

Trading Post

Wanted Post War 19th century covers from Georgia.
Frank Crown, PO Box 98626, Tacoma, WA 98498

Support the GPHS – write an article on your favorite stamp or cover.

The Challenge of Dating a Cover

by Frank Crown

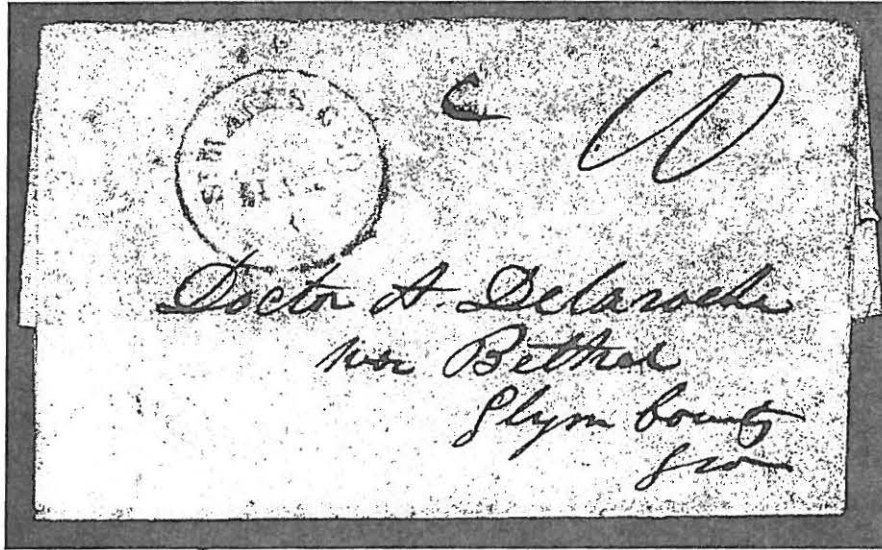


Figure 1. Red S. MARY'S GEO postmark on cover to Bethel, Glynn County, Geo.

Some time ago Scott Ward submitted the cover in Figure 1 for help in determining the date of use. Several people concluded it was a Confederate cover with a manuscript paid marking. However, there were others that questioned this conclusion.

On the surface a Confederate determination is supportable. The Saint Mary's postmark is known to have been used during the Confederate period and the "10" rate is correct for a Confederate letter from Saint Mary's to Bethel after 1 July 1862. The dateline of the letter (Figure 2) bears this out with what looks like a 1863 year date.

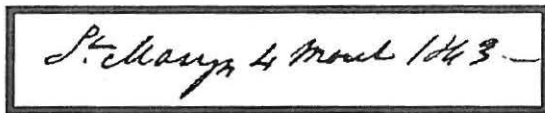


Figure 2. Dateline of letter

However, there are some problems. First is the fact that there is no indication of the postage being paid. The Confederate Post Office required the prepayment of postage and most times this was indicated by a handstamped or manuscript "PAID" marking. The absence of a paid marking cannot be considered proof the cover is not Confederate as some postmasters did not use paid markings, particularly later in the war. However, it is cause to look further.

The next piece of evidence is the letter itself. The first sentence of the letter reads,

"I have succeeded in engaging Pane Stewart to go to Bethel for my corn, & fill up with yours, to be delr. at M Ried & Lloyds' or at Mr. Lloyds for 7 cents per bushel" (Figure 3).

The seven cents per bushel struck me as a very low price for corn during the Confederate period. After checking several references I

(continued page 7)

Some Unusual Stampless Covers

By Ken Hall with Frank Crown

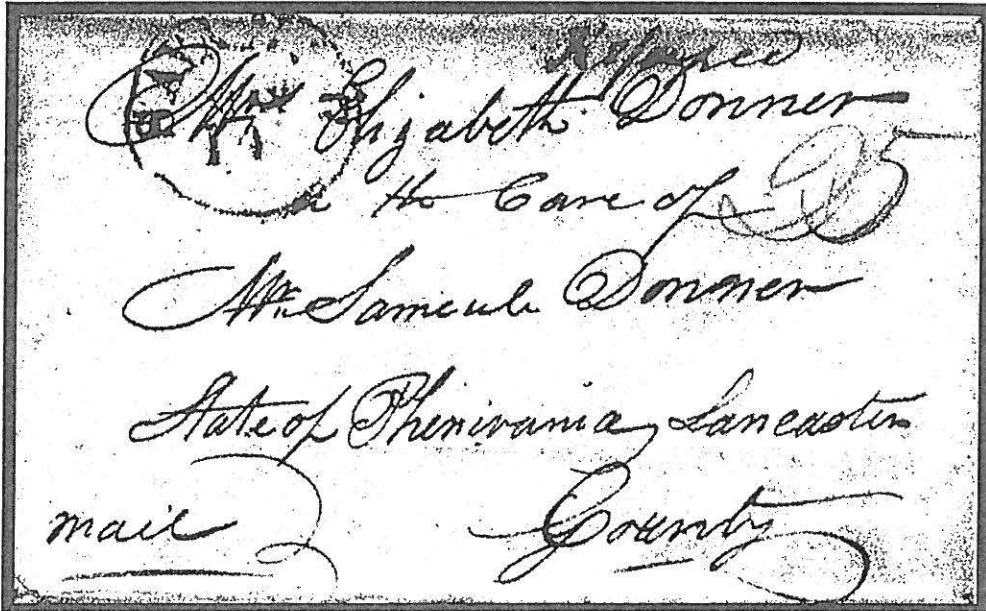


Figure 1. Black SAVAN: G postmark dated 14 May (1822) on cover with manuscript "Refused" marking at top right edge.

Two interesting items from my Georgia covers are illustrated with this article.

The first cover (Figure 1) bears a black Savannah postmark dated 14 May (1822) and a red manuscript "25" rate. The cover is addressed to Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. This would be an ordinary stampless cover except for the somewhat oxidized red manuscript marking above the name of the addressee at the upper right. It might be difficult to read but the word is "Refused."

This is a reference to the refusal of the addressee to pay the postage due to receive the letter. Prior to 1857 many letters were sent unpaid as was this cover. The amount of postage is indicated but no marking to indicate that the postage had been paid. Therefore to receive the letter the addressee was required to pay the postage indicated on the letter

A review of the Post Office Regulations for 1832 has no direct reference to how "refused" mail was handled. However, several entries give us good idea of how the procedure worked. First a person apparently could selectively refuse mail with postage due. In other words it was possible when picking up one's mail to accept and pay the postage due on some letters and refuse others. Refused letters were treated like dead letters and returned to the General Post Office for disposition.

The second cover (Figure 2) bears a blue Milledgeville, Ga. postmark dated 12 Dec. The handstamped rate is also in blue and consists of the circular "5" marking being struck over the octagonal "10" marking. The circular marking over the octagonal marking makes a very unusual visual impression. The way the markings are struck it almost looks like a "15" rate in the octagon and a "0" in the circle.

(see page 7 for Figure 2)

Saint Mary's from page 5

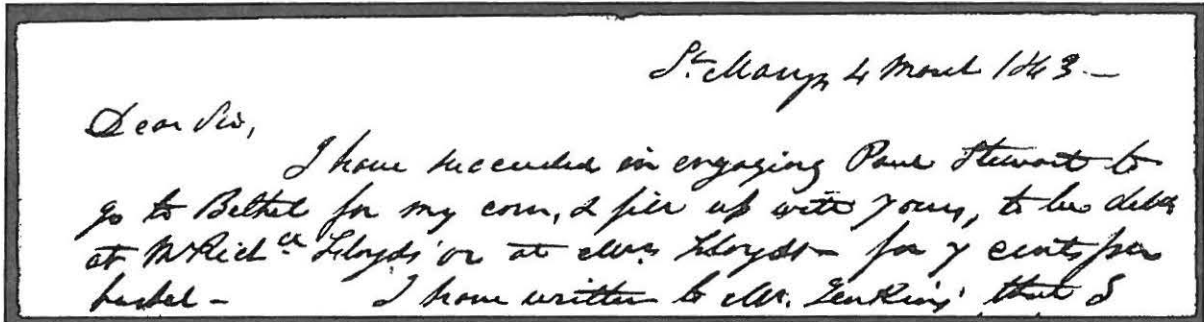


Figure 3. Beginning of letter.

finally found commodity prices in Athens during the first half of 1863. The price of corn ranged from \$1.75 to \$3.00 per bushel. These wartime prices for corn are far above the price of seven cents per bushel mentioned in the letter. This casts considerable doubt on the letter being of Confederate origin so the question became how to resolve the date of the letter (4 March 1863).

A close examination of the date reveals that the year date is not "1863" but "1843."

The third numeral of the year date certainly looks like a six with the small loop at the bottom. However this style is characteristic of how many wrote the numeral "4" during the antebellum period.

This is an interesting cover for the postal historian because on the surface all evidence points to a Confederate usage. It is only when all the evidence is examined in detail that it becomes obvious that it is a stampless cover from 1843.

Unusual Stampless from page 6

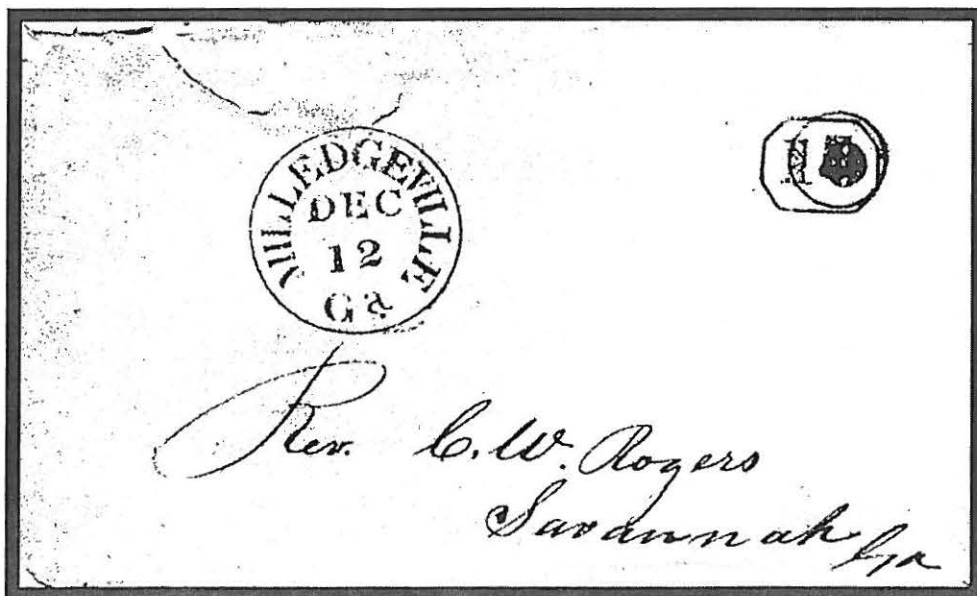
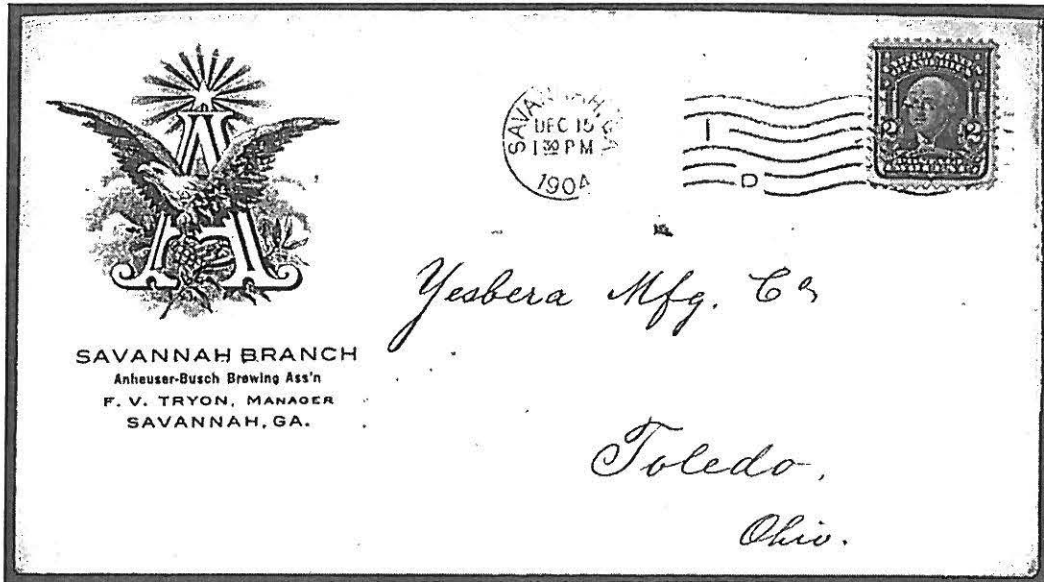
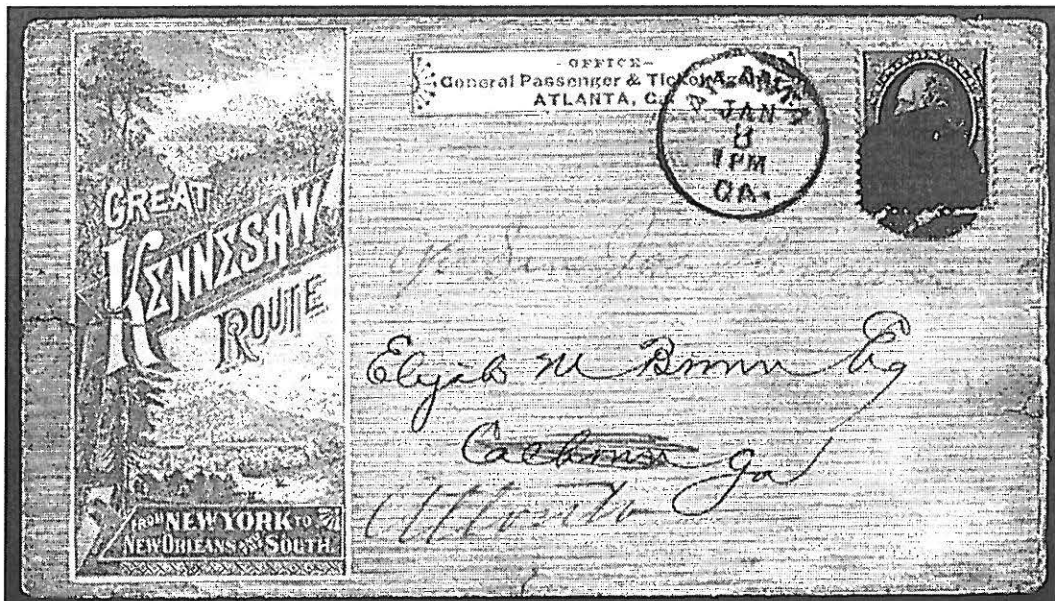


Figure 2. Blue MILLEDGEVILLE / G^a posmark dated 12 Dec with "5" struck over "10."

Cracker Covers



Black 15 Dec 1904 SAVANNAH, GA. postmark on blue and black corner card of Savannah Branch of the Anheuser-Busch Brewing Ass'n.



Black 9 Jan ATLANTA / GA. postmark on overall light green advertising envelope of the General Passenger & Ticket Agent, Atlanta with pictorial advertisement of the Great Kennesaw Route at left.



Georgia Post Roads

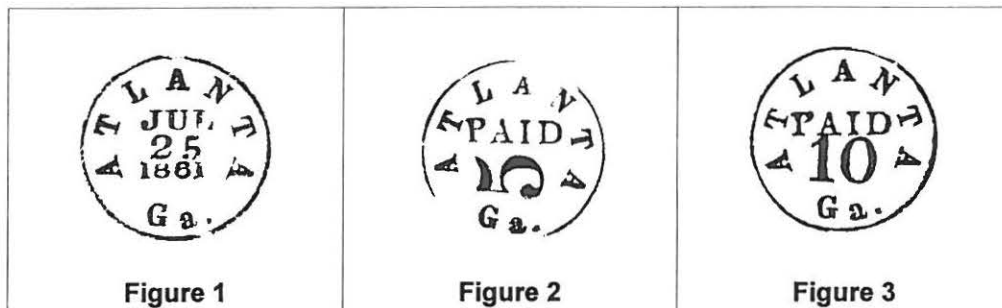
June 2001

Official Publication of the Georgia Postal History Society

Volume 11, Number 3

What Happened to the Confederate Atlanta Postmark?

by Frank Crown



The postmark illustrated in Figure 1 and referred to as the Confederate Atlanta postmark in this article has a very interesting and puzzling history. This postmark was first used about 1858 and is distinguished by a year date. Previous Atlanta postmarks did not bear a year date.

The marking was used continuously as the Atlanta postmark from its introduction until at least the fall of the city to Sherman's forces on 2 September 1864. In the early days of the Confederacy the postmark was also pressed into service as the basis of one of the five cent and ten cent provisional markings (Figure 2 and 3). Sometime in late 1862 the use of the year date was discontinued. Whether this was intentional or accidental from the loss of the date logos is unknown.

Several years ago I speculated that the postmark fell into Union hands during the capture of Atlanta. This was supported by the cover in Figure 4, which shows the Atlanta postmark used to tie a U.S. 3c 1861 issue on a cover postmarked 13 Sep. This stamp was not issued until August 1861 and thus could not have been used while under the Confederate flag. Therefore, I concluded a Union soldier in

Sherman's occupying forces posted the letter.¹ It was assumed the postmark was eventually lost or destroyed when the Union forces burned the city.

This conclusion was later reinforced by two covers bearing copies of Confederate 10c stamps of the 1863 issue and postmarked with manuscript Atlanta postmarks (Figures 5 and 6). These covers are postmarked 10 or 11 January and 11 February respectively. The latter includes a year date, but the last figure in the date is not distinct. The only possible numerals for the last digit are "3", "4" or "5". The figure looks most like an ill formed "5" making the year 1865. This also coincides with the reestablishment of the Confederate Atlanta post office after the Union forces departed on their march to the sea. The use of the manuscript markings reflects the difficulty the Post Office Department had procuring supplies for post offices at this late point in the war. The covers described above and the corresponding historical events made for a strong theory concerning the use and eventual loss of the Atlanta postmark. That was until the cover in Figure 7 was discovered.

(continued on page 4)

President's Message

I am happy to report that your new officers have been hard at work on the agenda I put forth in my last column. The dues are now set at \$10.00 per year and will now be payable on 1 July (see the billing notice enclosed with this issue). The change to July was made to get us away from the rush and demands of the holiday season. Hopefully this change will make it easier for members to pay their dues in a timely manner without our Treasurer having to send out costly reminders.

We are going to experiment with *Georgia Post Roads* by having it printed instead of photocopied, as has been the norm in the past. This is going to be experimental because we want to get a better handle on the costs of this means of production. At the same time we will start mailing the GPR flat instead of folded. Again this will be more expensive but we felt it worth the expense.

In an effort to get articles for *Georgia Post Roads* we will entertain articles on covers from neighboring states. For those that may fear we will lose our "Georgia flavor," I say, fear not. If the number of articles submitted by members of the GPHS is any measure of the response we will get, then *GPR* will certainly retain it's Georgia flavor.

Your officers have decided to make the next issue of *GPR* a special issue. The idea is to print extra copies and distribute these to interested attendees at the Peach State Stamp Show. The society has not done much to recruit new members of late and it is felt this will be a great opportunity. If you have an article or an idea for an article please contact our editor.

Finally, if anyone has an idea on something they would like the society to do please drop me a line so your officers can give it their due consideration.

Peach State Stamp Show

The Peach State Stamp Show for this year will be held in the Atlanta Metro area 28-30 September 2001. The site is the Cobb Civic Center in Marietta.

A prospectus for the show is available from Pete Gray, 527 San Salvador Drive, North Augusta, SC 29841.

Georgians on Stamps

Does anyone have an updated list of Georgians on U.S. stamps? This appeal from the last issue of *GPR* went unanswered. Therefore it is repeated again. If anyone has a list of Georgians on Stamps (U.S. or world-wide) please send a copy to the editor so it can be shared with all members.

As noted in the President's Message we will have a special issue of *GPR* for Peach State. A list of Georgians on stamps will make a very interesting article for this issue.

1859 City Directories

At least two web sites offer digital copies of the 1859 city directories for Atlanta, Augusta, Columbus and Savannah. These digital copies are actually "gif" images of each individual page of the directory. Consequently the user has to open each page individually. While the resolution is satisfactory for viewing on a monitor a printed page is poor but legible.

The value of these directories is in the information they contain about the residents and businesses (including the post offices) in 1859.

For more information check the following web sites:

the_genealogy_shop.tripod.com/index.html, or
www.geocities.com/molly19_55/toolbox.html.



Post Road Notes

The in-box is bare once again. While I enjoy writing stories about Georgia covers available to me I would like to see stories by others as well. Once again if you have a cover write it up and send it to me. Don't let writing style or lack of an illustration stop you. I will be happy to work with you to get what is needed. Or if you are reluctant to take pen to paper send me a copy of your cover or the actual cover and I will work up something.

This issue focuses on two subjects: the Confederate Atlanta postmark and the 1847 issue used from Georgia. The first illustrates what I find so appealing about postal history – the challenge of using historical sources to flesh out the history represented by a cover.

The genesis of the Atlanta postmark article began with the purchase of the cover bearing the Atlanta postmark dated 13 September. Combining the history of the war and the history of the postal marking, as I knew it at the time, I developed a theory to explain its usage. The discovery of the Atlanta cover dated 2 July proved my original theory erroneous. From this came a new theory supported by more evidence in the form of additional covers. This cycle could repeat itself again. But each time we stand to gain a better understanding of what happened to the Confederate Atlanta postmark.

The census of 1847 covers (page 6) highlights how chance plays a significant role in the rarity of covers from various towns. Who would expect Olive Grove, GA to have so many 1847 covers. If it were not for Mr. Swift's business along the Chattahoochee River and Mrs. Swift's saving her husband's letter there would be no 1847 covers from Oliver Grove and there would be fewer covers from several other towns.

Frank

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What's Ahead

The next issue of *Georgia Post Roads* will be a special issue to highlight various aspects of Georgia postal history with a focus on the Atlanta area.

Georgia Postal History Society APS Affiliate 224

Officers of the Society

President – Frank Crown, PO Box 98626,
Tacoma, WA 98498

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What Happened to the Atlanta Postmark from page 1



Figure 4. Black Atlanta postmark dated 13 September (1865) with U. S. 3¢ 1861 stamp by target cancel.

The cover in Figure 7 bears a U.S. 3c 1861 issue postmarked 31 July by the Confederate Atlanta postmark. It is very similar to the cover in Figure 4 except for the date. Since the Union forces were still fighting on the outskirts of Atlanta in July 1864 this cover must have been used in July 1865. We can be fairly certain of this date because by 1866 Atlanta was using a small Union supplied postmark.

This evidence makes it very doubtful the cover in Figure 4 was actually used in September 1864 as previously theorized. More likely the date of use is September 1865.

What happened to the Confederate Atlanta postmark between September 1864 and July 1865? Did the Union forces capture the postmark and then return it after to the city at the end of the war? This is very doubtful. Did the Confederate postmaster take the postmark with him when the town was evacuated? This is possible but why were manuscript postmarks used when the office reopened under Confederate control? These are questions that may never be answered unless more covers from the period are found.

If we assume the postmark was returned to the Atlanta post office by the Confederate

postmaster after Sherman's departure then we can also assume it was in the office when Atlanta surrendered for the last time on 4 May 1865. We can also assume that the office was taken over by the occupying Union forces and used to handle military mail.

The post office officially reopened on 21 July 1865 with the appointment of Thomas G. Simms as postmaster. Simms who was a suspected Union sympathizer at the start of the war apparently maintained his political leanings and thereby secured the appointment as postmaster. The cover in Figure 7 bearing the Confederate postmark dated 31 July was obviously one of the early pieces of mail posted from the reopened office.

When the Confederate Atlanta postmark was replaced with the smaller Union supplied postmarks is not precisely known. It was probably in the fall of 1865. Currently the earliest dated cover bearing one of the small "reconstruction" postmarks is dated in June 1866.

It is certain the full story of the Confederate Atlanta postmark has yet to be told. It would not surprise me if new cover is found which points to flaws in the theory presented in this article. Any reader who may have a cover that can shed more light on Confederate Atlanta postmark is asked to contact the author.

1. Crown, Frank, "Atlanta Occupation Cover?", *Georgia Post Roads*, March 1994, p 5.



Figure 5. Manuscript Atlanta postmark dated 10 or 11 January on cover with 10c 1863 Confederate stamp.

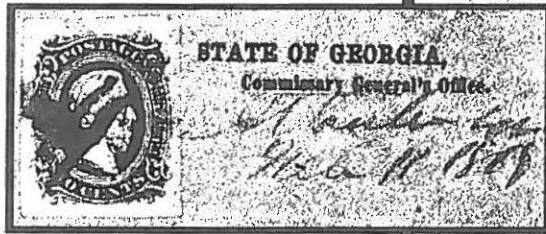
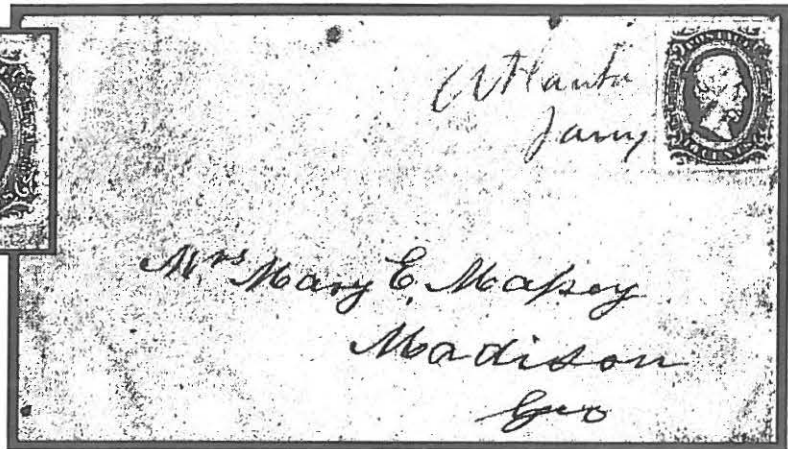


Figure 6. Manuscript Atlanta postmark dated 11 Feb 1865 with pen cancelled 10c 1863 Confederate stamp.

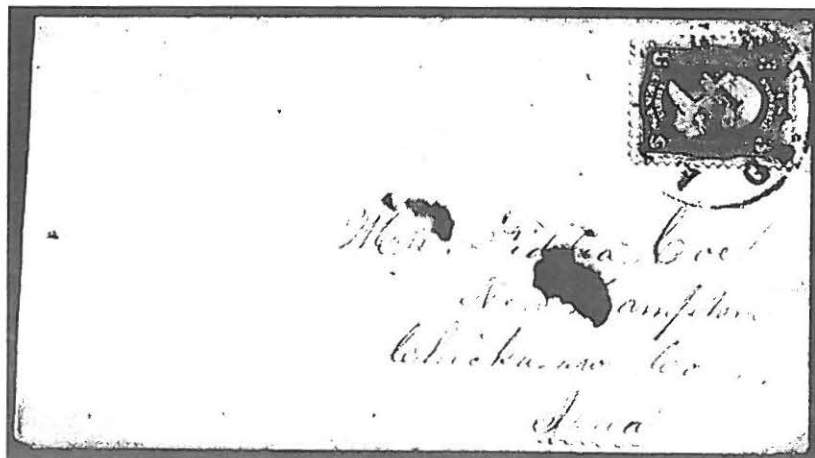
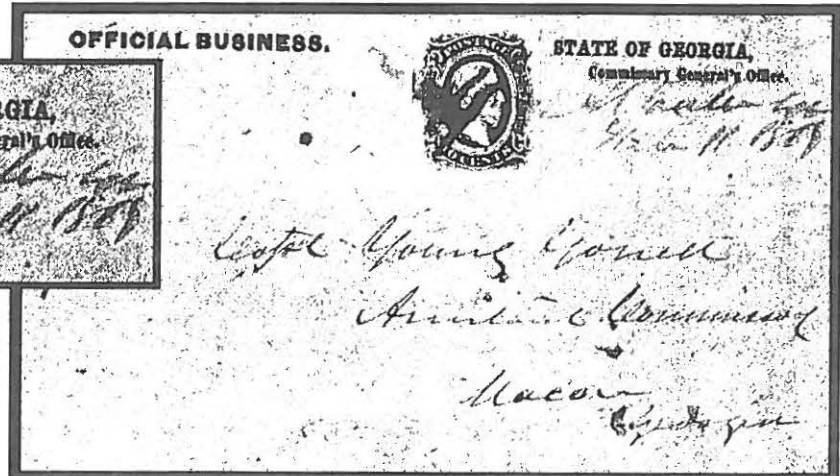


Figure 7. Confederate Atlanta postmark dated 31 July [1865] tying a U.S. 3c 1861 issue.

Soldier's Letter

By Frank Crown

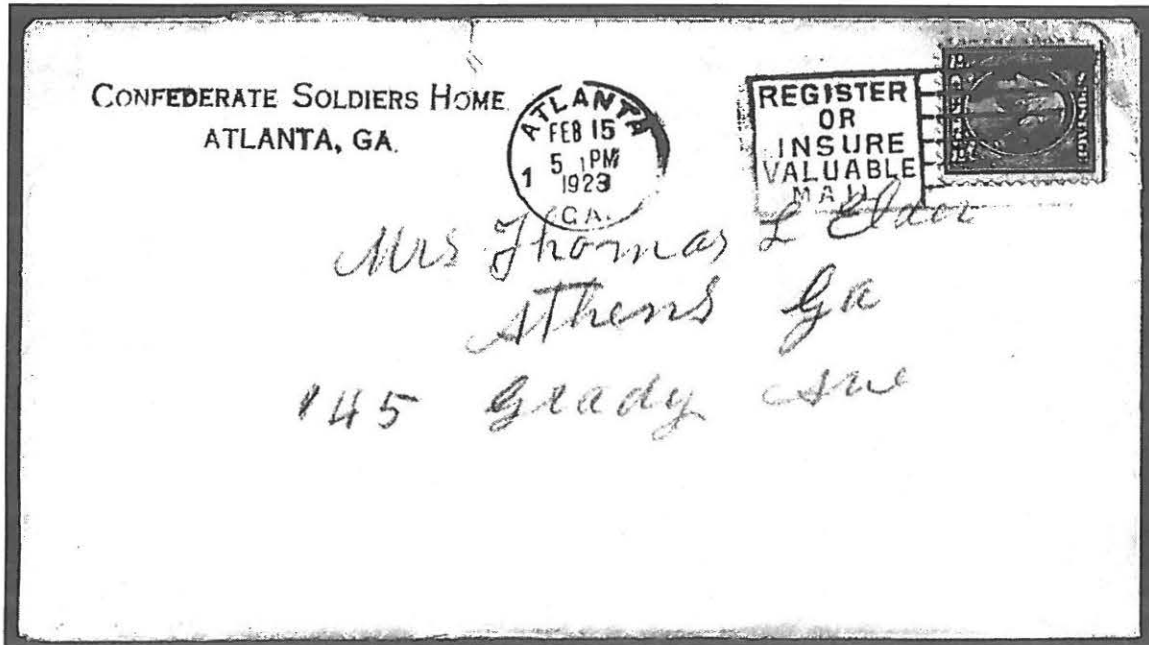


Figure 1. Confederate Soldiers Home corner card cover postmark by black Atlanta, GA postmark dated 15 Feb 1923. Postmark ties 2¢ red Washington stamp.

Soldiers' letters from the Civil War are eagerly sought. While not exceedingly rare they are not common either. However, how many have a soldier's letter from a veteran of the war?

A. B. Strawn a veteran of the Civil War, and who in 1923 was a resident of the Confederate Soldiers Home in Atlanta, mailed the cover in Figure 1. The enclosure is a thank you letter to a member of the UDC in Athens. Strawn thanks her for remembering "the old Soldiers of the South that stood the hardships in the Sixties. . . ." by sending a box of candies. Strawn further writes that he "served 4 years in the army [and] got wounded June 64." He "was in [the] 23rd redgent [sic] Colquits [sic] Brigade, Stonewall Jacksons army."

A check of the *Roster of the Confederate Soldiers of Georgia 1861-1865* reveals that

Abraham B. Strawn enlisted as a private on 31 August 1861 in Company F, 23rd Georgia Volunteer Infantry. He was captured at Chancellorsville on 3 May 1864 and exchanged at City Point, Virginia on 23 May 1863. He was appointed a Corporal in 1863 and was wounded in the eye at Cold Harbor on 1 June 1864 resulting in the loss of his sight. Apparently the loss of sight was in one eye only as he was writing letters in 1923.

County Maps

If you are interested in historic maps of Georgia counties you need to check Ed Jackson's web site:

<http://www.cviog.uga.edu/Projects/gainfo/hist/countymaps/>

1847 Issues Used from Georgia

By Frank Crown

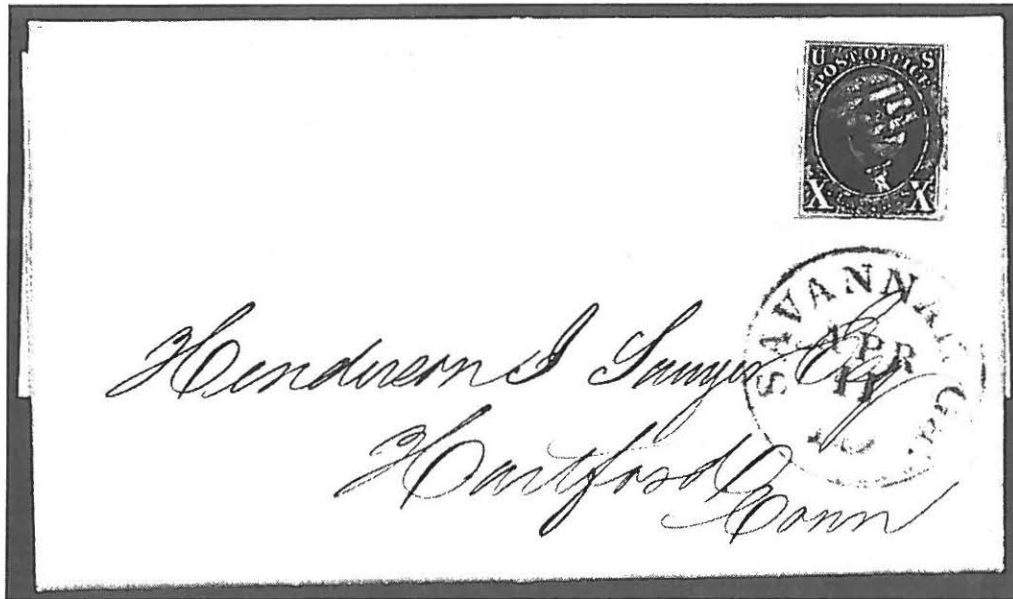


Figure 1. Red grid just ties U.S. #2 on cover with red Savannah 11 Apr (1851) postmark

The long awaited census of the 1847 issues by Thomas J. Alexander is now available. This is an epic work by any standard. Almost 13,000 covers bearing U. S. #1 or #2 stamps are listed in a large 8 ½ x 11 format book containing over 900 pages and weighing in at a hefty seven and one half pounds!

Of particular interest to members of the GPHS is the listing of Georgia covers bearing #1 and #2 stamps. The book lists 95 covers from Georgia – 42 5¢ covers and 53 10¢ covers. The July and September 1994 issues of *Georgia Post Roads* contained a preliminary listing of the 1847 covers from Georgia by Alexander. That list contained 86 covers – 37 5¢ covers and 49 10¢ covers.

It should be no surprise that the city with the most recorded 1847 covers is Savannah (23) followed by Macon (20). Surprisingly Olive Grove (13) is third. This apparent anomaly is due to the fact all covers are from the correspondence of a businessman to his wife.

The next three towns with the most covers recorded are Roswell (11), Augusta (8) and Columbus (6).

Statistically the most interesting fact is that of the recorded covers less than one per cent are from Georgia towns. It is no wonder you hardly ever see an 1847 issue on a cover from Georgia.

This specialized volume is not for everyone, but for anyone with an interest in the first postage stamps issued by the United States this is a must have book. It is available from the U. S. Philatelic Classics Society.

A businessman who just arrived in Savannah posted the cover in figure 1. He gives his impression of the city and the hotel where he stayed - the Pulaski House. While the city was full of interesting sites he found the Pulaski House overpriced even compared to hotels in New York.

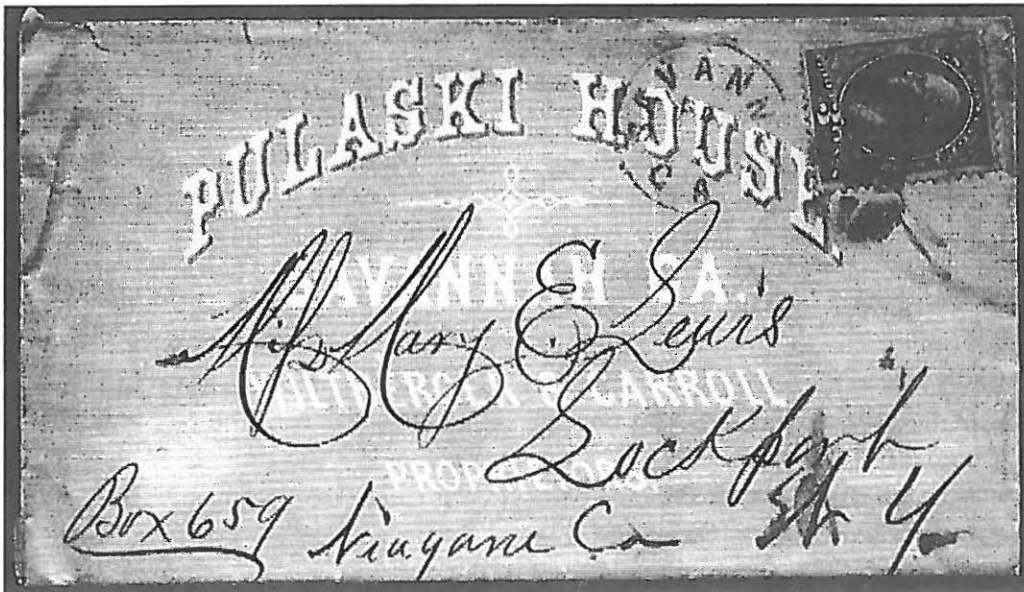
Two corner card covers of the Pulaski House are featured in "Cracker Covers" on the next page.

Cracker Covers

The covers featured below bear corner cards of the Pulaski House, an old hotel in Savannah. This is the hotel use by the writer of the cover on the previous page.



Blue embossed corner card of the Pulaski House on cover with black SAVANNAH Geo / 3 PAID postmark tying a 3c 1851 issue.



Overall gray Pulaski House advertising cover with blue SAVANNAH / GA postmark and fancy killer with negative star.



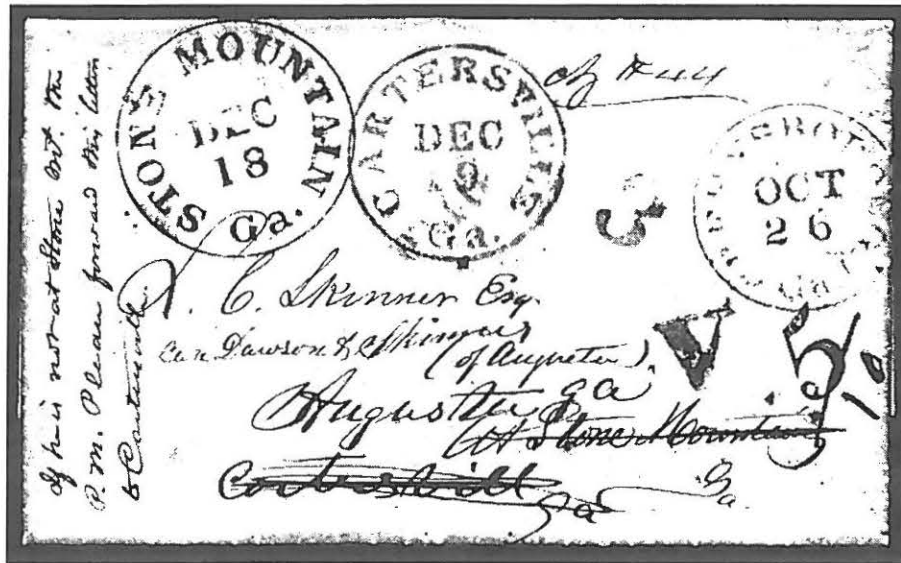
Georgia Post Roads

September 2001

Official Publication of the Georgia Postal History Society

Volume 11, Number 4

Collect Georgia Postal History



A cover that has it all! See the article below for details.

The Peach State Stamp Show is a great opportunity to experience first hand the many facets of stamp collecting. Some visitors may be seasoned collectors while others may be new to the hobby. Regardless, everyone can be in pursuit of something new and exciting. Georgia's postal history is a field that literally has something for everyone.

A good example of what you can find in Georgia postal history is the cover illustrated above. It literally has it all! The folded letter was mailed in Greensboro, Georgia. The postmark and handstamped "3" and "PAID" (inside the lower part of the Cartersville postmark) are all in green ink. The letter was addressed to Cartersville where it was held until December (probably waiting for the return of the addressee). Finally on 9 December it received a red Cartersville postmark and a red handstamped "V" (5) indicating the postage due for forwarding the letter to Stone Mountain.

Again the addressee was not there. However, this time the cover was forwarded in short order being post-marked by a black Stone Mountain postmark and handstamped "5". Note that the postmaster drew a line under the five and added the two due markings for a total of 10 cents due. Needless to say a cover with three postmarks, all in different colors and the use of both arabic and roman numeral rates is extremely rare. However, there are other covers with stories of equal interest.

The field of Georgia postal history ranges from stampless covers from the pre-stamp era prior to July 1847 to modern flight and first day covers. In between there are a wealth of other fields to pursue. This issue of Georgia Post Roads highlights just some of the various categories of Georgia postal history that one may find of interest to collect. Check the special section in this issue for thumbnails of just a few of the many postal history collecting interests.

President's Message

If you picked up this copy of *Georgia Post Roads* at the Peach State Stamp Show the Georgia Postal History Society says **Welcome!** We hope you enjoy what you find within these pages and also extend a warm invitation for you to join our society.

Within these pages is a special section aimed at informing readers about the many fascinating aspects of Georgia postal history. A look at the table of contents on the opposite page will reveal just a few of the many topics that one can pursue.

If you like history there is the stampless period which covers the entire period up to the Civil War. Covers and their content reflect the early settling and development of Georgia. It includes Indian Wars and the first "pony express."

For the Civil War buff there is the Confederate period in which some Georgia postmasters issued their own stamps or envelopes. Others stamped envelopes brought to the office for mailing with a rate marking to indicate the payment of postage.

The period from Reconstruction to the end of the century saw the use of a wide variety of fancy cancels by postmasters throughout the state. For the most part these cancels were hand carved in cork and the subjects range from simple geometric designs, numerals and characters to figures of animals and people.

For the more modern collector there are the many different types of air mail covers. These range from airport dedication covers to first flight covers on the many routes established by the Post Office Department.

Finally, everyone can collect Georgia postal history. There are areas of interest available to those of even modest means. Take a look at what is available from dealers at Peach State. You will be surprised at what you can find to collect in your price range.

Frank

Peach State Stamp Show

Don't forget the Peach State Stamp Show! This year it is being held at the Cobb Civic Center in Marietta. September 28 - 30 are the dates. Be sure to mark it on your calendar.

GPHS Annual Meeting

The Annual meeting of the Georgia Postal History Society will take place at Peach State Stamp Show on Saturday, 29 September. The meeting is scheduled to commence at 11 A.M.

Make plans to attend and meet with your officers and fellow members. Visitors are also welcome.

Secretary-Treasurer Annual Report

I can report that dues collections are coming along well, with 26 of 33 members having paid their dues. Second dues notices to the 7 unpaid members will be mailed in the next few days. During the past year, we lost 2 members, and gained 1 back, and so we want to welcome Mr. Elwyn Doubleday to our ranks and wish him many long years of association with the GPHS.

Financially, we are in good shape. We have \$1,826.03 in our treasury and your officers have worked to ensure that publishing of the GPR will be covered by our annual dues.

Obviously, we need more members to maintain a healthy society. I am sure that every one of us knows at least 1 collector with an interest in Georgia postal history, who is not a member of the GPHS. Make it your goal to recruit just one member for the Society in the next six months. Then, please support the Society by contributing to the journal. I know that Frank welcomes your articles and other input, and I assure you that your contributions will be welcome.

Mike

Post Road Notes

This issue of *Georgia Post Roads* contains a special section on collecting Georgia postal history. It is published in conjunction with Peach State Stamp Show 2001 and its purpose is to acquaint visitors with the many interesting facets of Georgia postal history.

The last issue of *GPR* was printed and mailed flat as an effort to improve the look and appeal of the publication. It was hoped that the effort would be well received by the membership. Unfortunately, there has been no comment from the membership one way or the other.

As I write this column the big news in the philatelic press is the suit brought against seven stamp dealers. These dealers are accused of conspiring to rig bids at major auctions for the past 18 years or so. The accusation is that the dealers not only conspired not to bid against each other but also worked out a scheme by which they received a portion of the savings when a member bought a lot below the maximum they set.

Auctions by their nature are always subject to some sort of influence particularly by specialty collectors. Within the various specialty groups there may be two or three collectors who may agree not to bid against one another on a certain lot. Certainly this may have an effect on the sale price of the lot. However, it is not organized and there is no monetary gain to the participants because of the lower price at which the lot may sell. In fact there is a good chance the lot may be purchased by a third party. Legal experts may consider this "bid rigging." However, it will continue to be part of our hobby as it is part of human nature and the friendship that develops between collectors.

What is really distasteful and a black mark on the hobby is the organized practice of bid rigging for financial gain.

Frank

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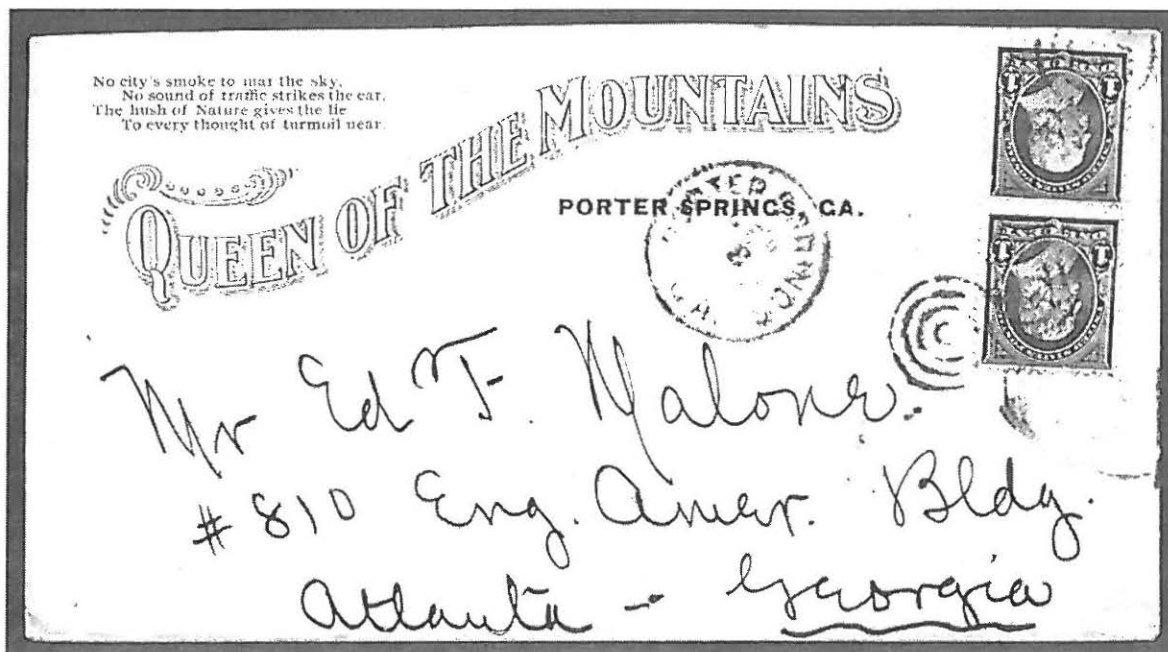
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Nothing has Changed

By Frank Crown



Black 3 Sep (1903) PORTER SPRINGS / GA. postmark with vertical pair of 1c green stamps tied by a black bull's eye cancel. The day of the month, "3", is reversed in the postmark.

The cover illustrated above does not attract attention at first glance. The corner card is plain black and the postmark borders on illegible. However, if one takes a few moments to look closer there is an interesting story, in the four-line poem at the upper left.

The poem reads as follows:

No city's smoke to mar the sky,
 No sound of traffic strikes the ear,
 The hush of Nature gives the lie
 To every thought of turmoil near.

These words and the banner "Queen of the Mountains" have a familiar ring. It's an advertisement to flee the air pollution and traffic of the city for the cleaner and quieter surroundings of the country. We think of this as a modern phenomenon. Surprisingly almost 100 years ago, in an age we consider much more idyllic, noise and pollution were already a concern.

A contemporary book describes Porter Springs as "a post-hamlet and noted summer resort of Lumpkin county." It is situated about eight miles north of Dahlonega. If you look at a map you will find that Porter Springs is on U. S. Highway 19 just inside the Chattahoochee National Forest. It is still removed from the big cities and may yet offer the peace and quiet that was advertised on the corner card cover almost 100 years ago.

Name Changes and More

By Frank Crown

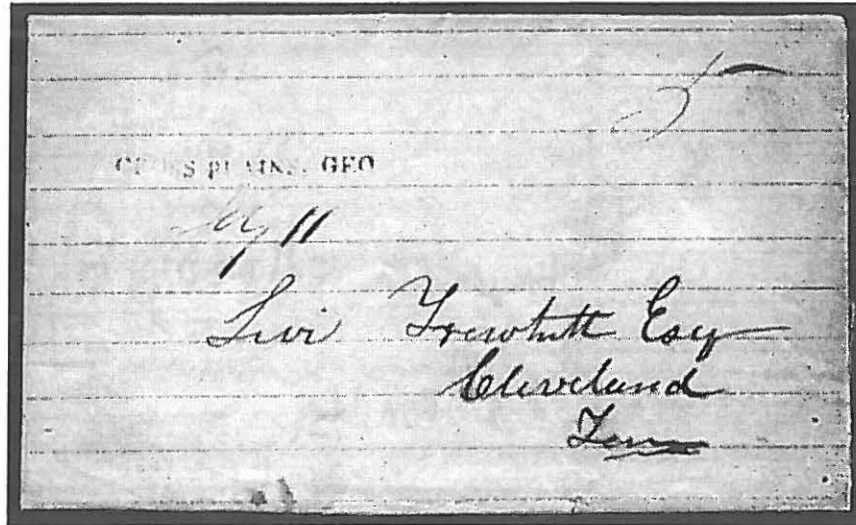


Figure 1. Brown 11 Feb (1847) CROSS PLAINS, GEO straight line postmark on cover to Tennessee.

It is not unusual for the names of post offices to change over time. The two covers accompanying this article illustrate this. Cross Plains was established as a post office in August 1837 (Figure 1). For ten years it remained a small village or hamlet. Then in 1847 a larger town was constructed nearby to be on the Western and Atlantic Railroad line coming up from the new town of Atlanta 100 miles to the south.

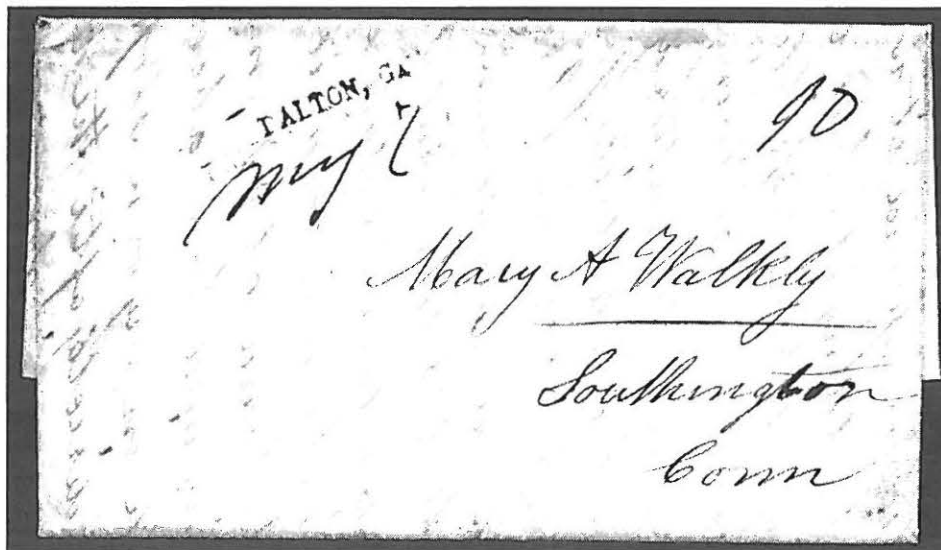


Figure 2. Black 7 May (1847) DALTON, GA postmark on cover to Connecticut.

In March 1847 the post office was moved from Cross Plains to the new town of Dalton. The folded letter in Figure 2 is postmarked less than two months later in May 1847. It is interesting that both the old town and the new town used straight line postmarks. Straight line postmarks are a rarity (Continued on page 7)

More 1869 Covers from Columbus

By Jim Doolin

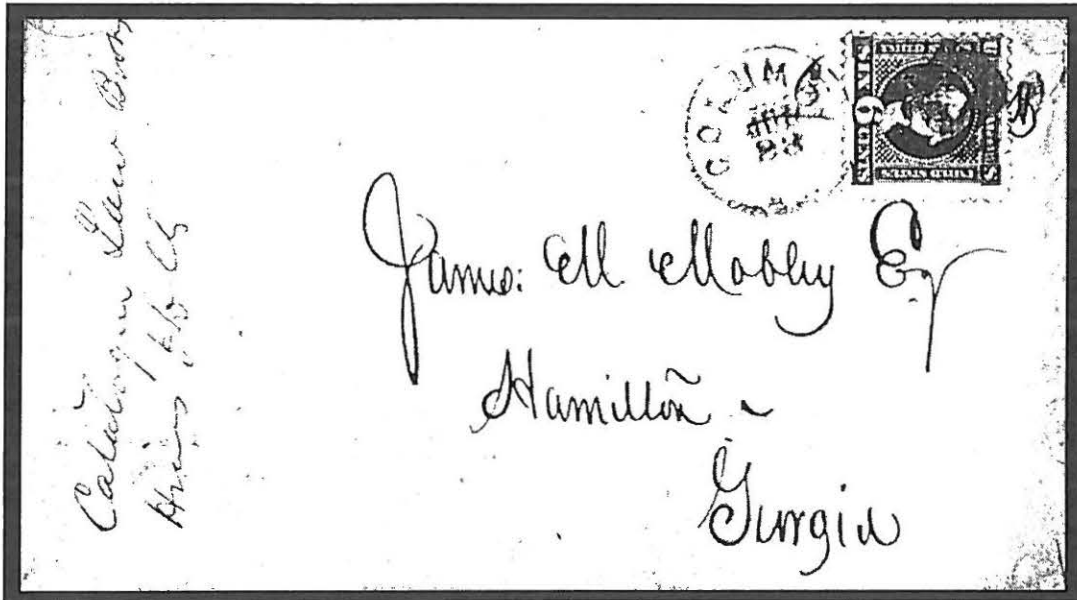


Figure 1. Black 23 Jul COLUMBUS / GA. postmark ties a 6c 1869 stamp on cover to Hamilton, Georgia.

1869 stamps used from Southern towns do not come along very often. During their period of use most of the Southern states were still struggling to get their economy running again. The cover bearing the 6c stamp (Figure 1) shows an early attempt by a few businesses in Columbus, Georgia to advertise (Figure 2). Nine businesses probably paid a small fee to a printer for a small card on the

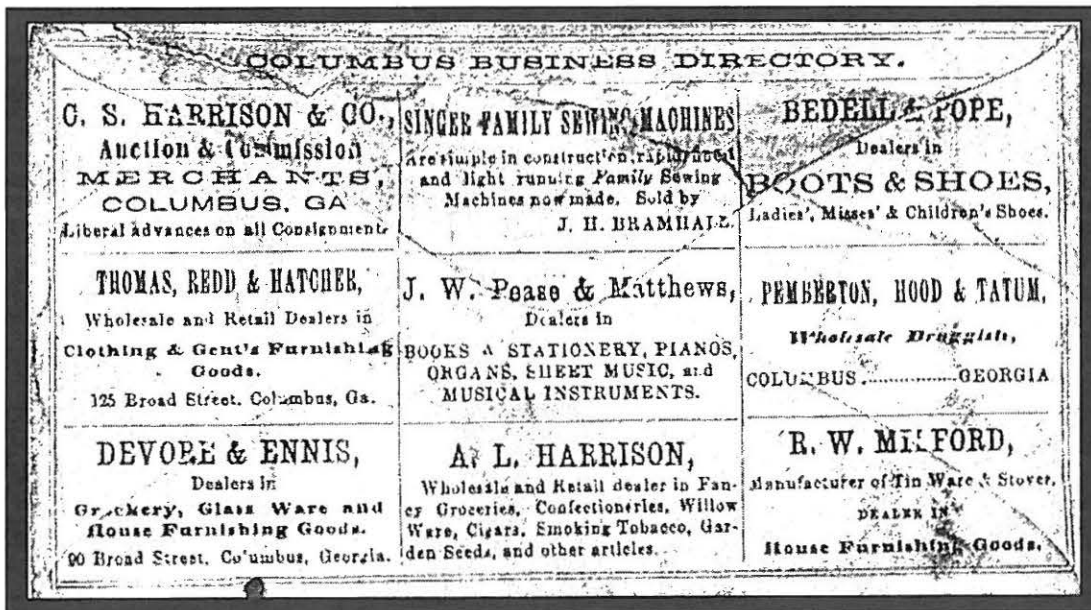


Figure 2. Reverse of cover in Figure 1 showing the multiple business cards.

back of some envelopes. Based on the docketing on the front of the envelope concerning "law books," my guess is that James Mobley was probably an attorney who received a brochure from "J. W. Pease & Matthews" who sold books, stationary, sheet music, pianos and organs. This 6c 1869 cover is a recent acquisition and is now one of two pieces of correspondence I have addressed to James Mobley.

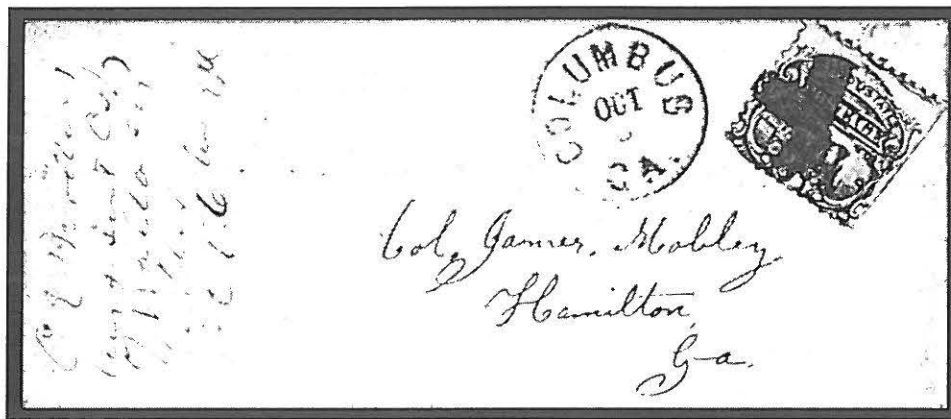


Figure 3. Black 6 Oct COLUMBUS / GA. postmark with fancy "K" killer tying stamp on cover to Hamilton, GA

My second cover to James Mobley is also from Columbus (Figure 3). It bears a 3c stamp of the 1869 series and is tied by an interesting fancy cancel.

Editor's Note: The title "Col." in the address of the cover in Figure 3 refers to James M. Mobley's status as an attorney not a military rank. Mr. Mobley served as a tax collector for the Confederate States during the Civil War.

Name Changes *(continued from page 5)*

from Georgia, particularly by 1847. In this case the use of straight line postmarks is probably due to the fact that while the name of the town changed the postmaster did not. Ainsworth Blunt, originally appointed as the postmaster of Cross Plains in June 1845 became the postmaster of the new town of Dalton when the name was changed. Apparently he liked his straight line postmarks and had one prepared for Dalton when the name of the office was changed.

One of the most interesting things about the folded letter in Figure 2 is its contents. The writer, A. Walkly, gives details about both towns that will not be found in any history of the area. He writes,

Cross Plains is an incorporated city of eight hundred yards on each side. It was incorporated in 1843. They have had three Commissioners and a Marshall to keep good order in it. When I came here there was a log Hotel two stories high, 3 Frame Stores, Two Framed dwelling houses, Mr. White's Brick office, Mr. A. Walkly's log Tin shop a log Jail without any door and five log dwelling houses in the city and one grog shop and you have a good idea of Cross Plains. There was also a log school house which was used as a Church. Also Mr. White is building a new Church . . . They have got it covered and the Bell is up, we can hear it about 3 Miles, so much for Cross Plains.

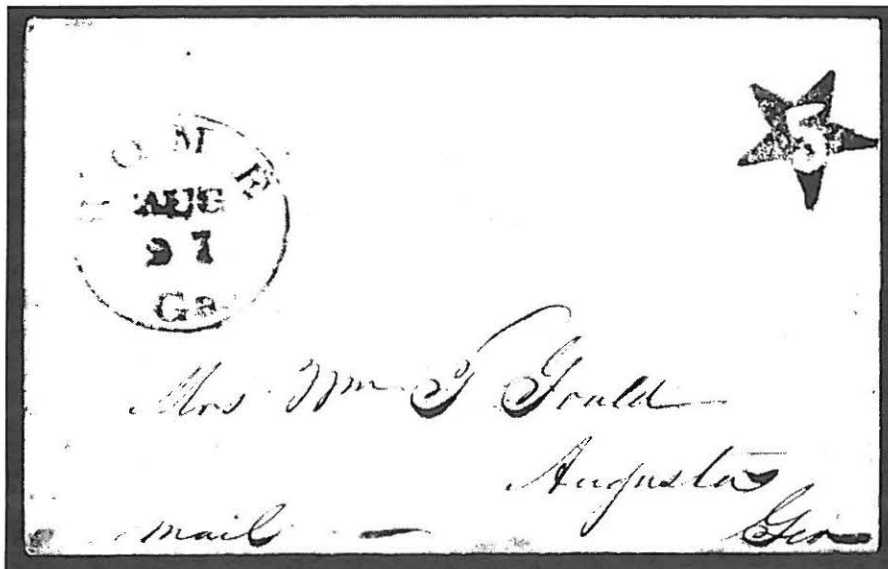
The town of Dalton is about a mile square. There is [*sic*] several buildings go up now and several more are engaged to be put up. There is [*sic*] two Large Brick Store now going up and another commenced.

Mr. White has had all the streets turn-piked up [graded] which will cost about \$10,000 and he paid about \$40,000 for the town. The lots are laid off abut 25 by 100 feet.

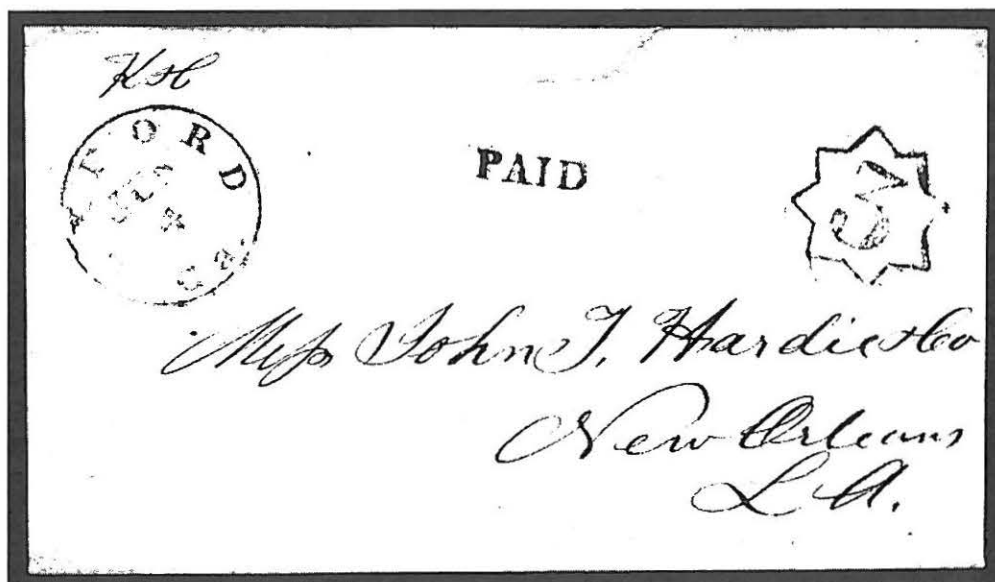
Fancy Rate Markings

Fancy rate markings are found on stampless covers. Stampless covers refer to those covers carried through the mail prior to 1856 which had the amount of postage paid or due indicated by a handstamp or manuscript rate. Due to the unavailability of a continuous supply of stamps after 1856 stampless covers are found from Georgia right up to the Civil War.

Fancy rate markings are just what the name implies. The rate marking is a fancy design. Two examples are shown below.



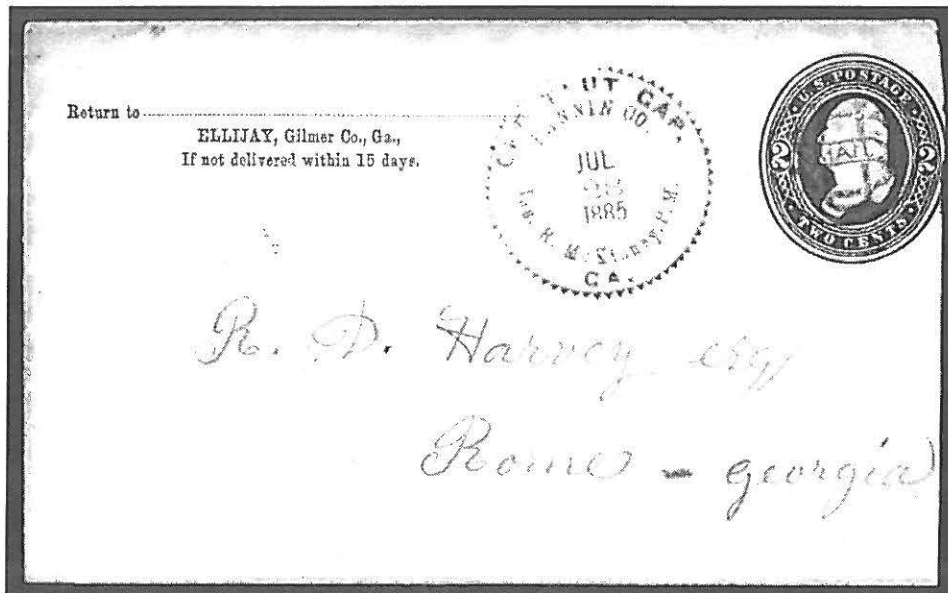
Black 27 Aug (1846) **ROME / Ga.** postmark and negative **5** rate in black star. The absence of a "paid" marking indicates the postage was to be collected from the addressee.



Blue 4 Jun (?) **OXFORD / Ga.** postmark and blue **PAID** and **3** rate in blue eight-pointed star.

Postmaster and County Postmarks

The Post Office Department did not always furnish postmarks to the smaller post offices. Postmasters at these offices often procured their own postmarks, many of which are interesting and unusual. In the late 1880's postmarks which included the postmaster's name, county name or both were used at some of Georgia's smaller post offices. Two examples are shown below.



Black 28 Jul 1885 CHESTNUT GAP, FANNIN CO. / Jas. R. McKluney, P. M. GA. in circle with serrated edge. Note the fancy US MAIL cancel on the embossed stamp.

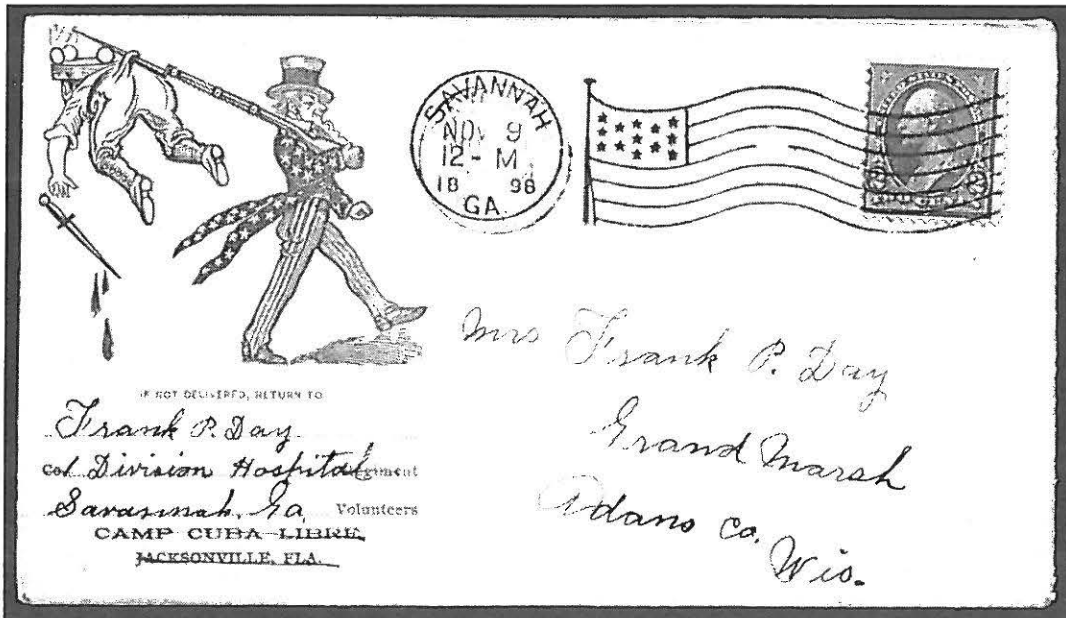


Black 18 Jul 1888 COPELAND, / Dodge Co., Ga double oval postmark. Circular grid ties stamp to cover.

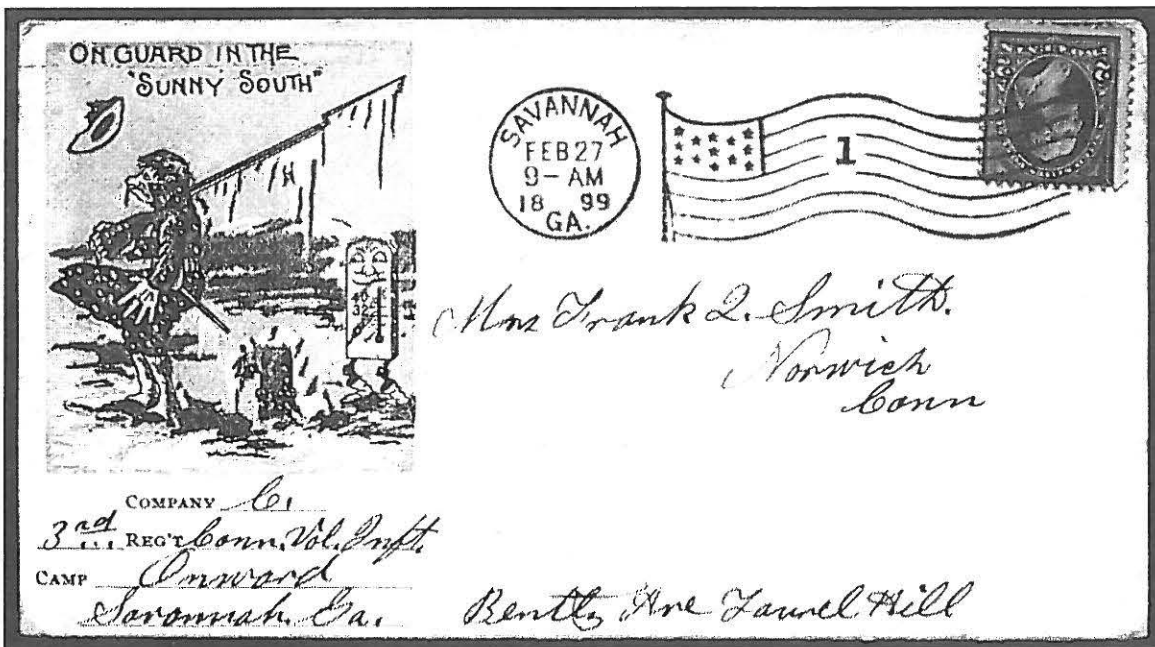
Spanish American War Patriotic Covers

The Spanish American War was a very popular war, which was manifested in many forms of patriotism. One of these was the use of patriotic envelopes. Soldiers could buy or were supplied with patriotic envelopes in many different designs and styles. Some were particular to specific camps.

There were several camps in Georgia. The largest was at Chickamauga (Camp Thomas). Others were at various locations throughout the state. Two examples are shown below.



Black 9 Nov 1898 SAVANNAH / GA. postmark on patriotic cover from a military hospital.

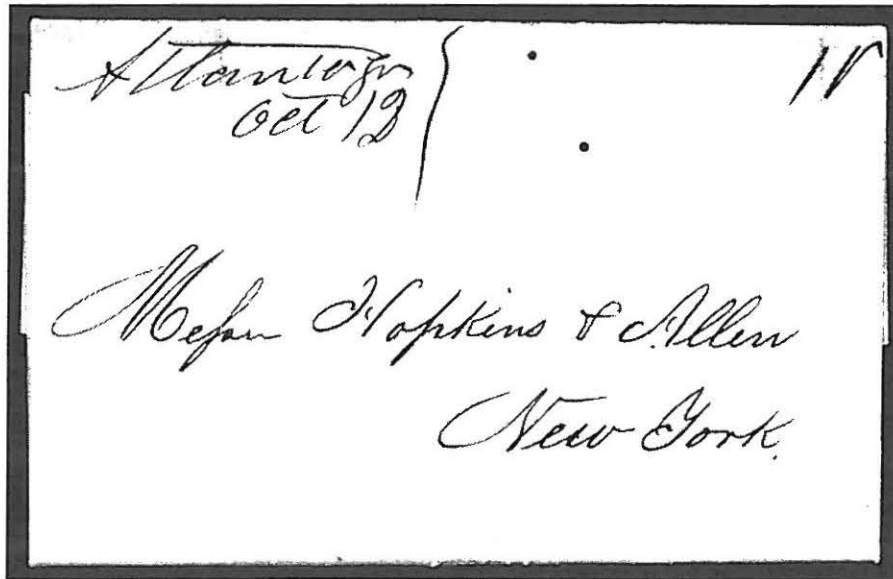


Black 27 Feb 1899 SAVANNAH / GA. postmark on patriotic cover from Camp Onward.

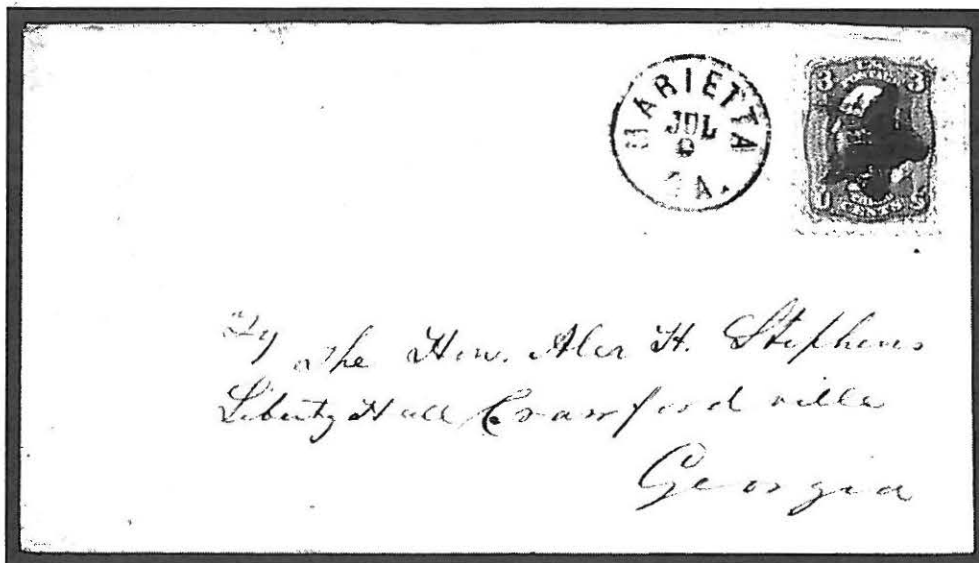
Your Home Town

A good subject for a postal history collection can be the history of your home town as portrayed by covers from the town or area. In the Atlanta area, you can collect covers from one town or a more comprehensive collection of towns in your home county or the metropolitan area.

Two covers from the Atlanta Metro area are shown below.



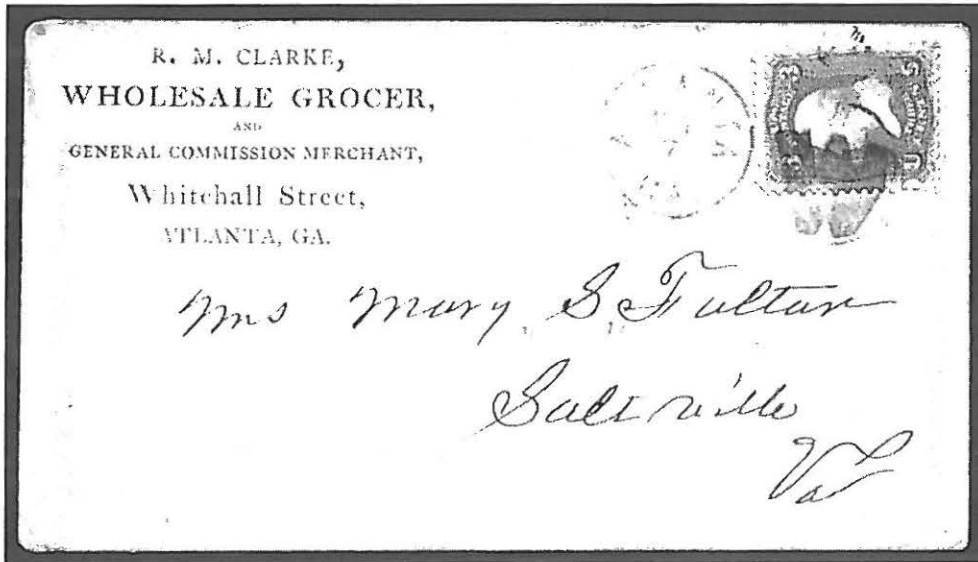
A stampless cover bearing the 12 Oct (1846) manuscript postmark of **Atlanta Ga**. This is the earliest recorded Atlanta postmark - less than a year after the name was changed from Marthasville.



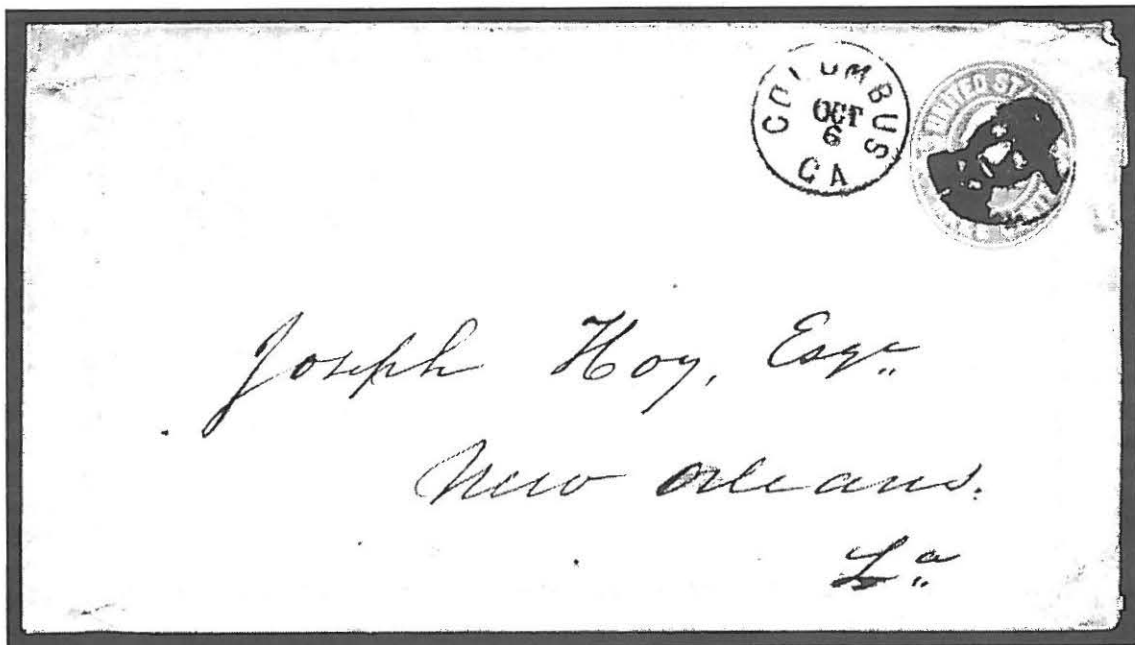
Black 9 Jul (1869) **MARIETTA / GA**. postmark on cover with a black fancy star cancel on the stamp. This cover is addressed to Alexander H. Stephens former Vice President of the Confederate States.

Fancy Cancels

After the Civil War many postmaster began to use what are called fancy cancels to cancel stamps. These were normally made of cork and due to rapid wear were changed frequently. Many of the larger towns in Georgia used such cancels. Fancy cancels from Georgia towns is a field that has not been researched in any detail. Two covers bearing fancy cancels are illustrated below.



Light blue 7 May 18?? ATLANTA / GA. postmark with light blue W fancy cancel tying the stamp on corner card cover.



Black 6 Oct 18?? COLUMBUS / GA postmark and black figure cancelling embossed stamp.

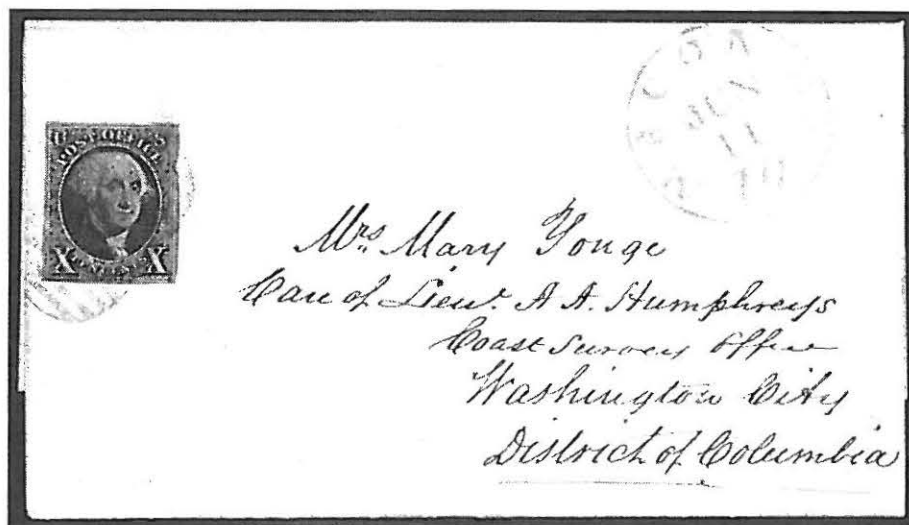
The First U. S. Stamps Used from Georgia

The first U. S. stamps were issued in July 1847. These 5c and 10c stamps were distributed to the larger Georgia towns. Today only 95 covers bearing these early stamps have been recorded from Georgia towns – 42 bearing 5c stamps and 53 bearing 10c stamps.

Covers bearing the 1847 stamps are known from Augusta, Bainbridge, Columbus, Fort Gaines, Gainesville, Knoxville, Macon, Marietta, Milledgeville, Newnan, Olive Grove, Roswell, Savannah, Sparta and Washington. Two examples are shown below.



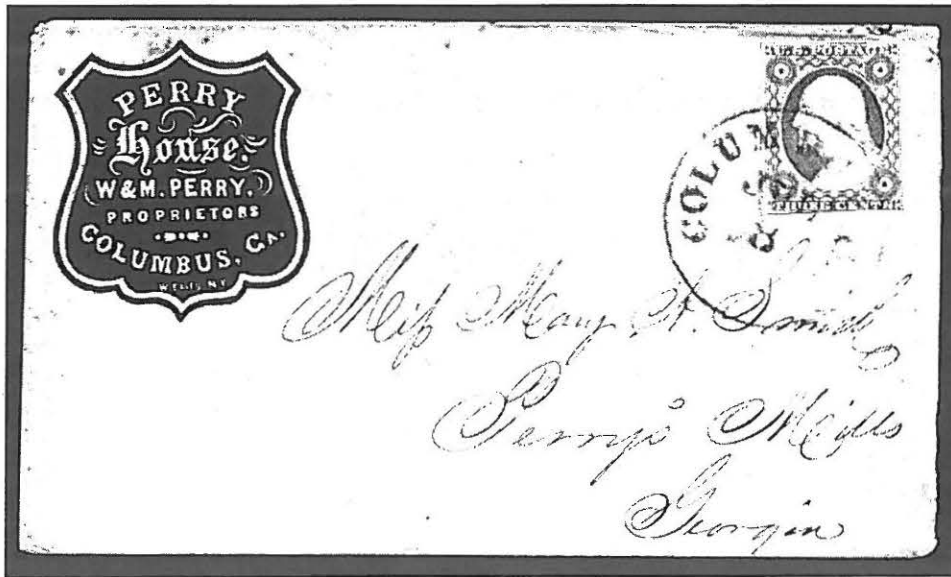
Red 1 March (1850) **MACON Ga.** / 10 postmark on a folded letter bearing a horizontal pair of the 5c stamps tied by a red grid cancel. This one of only one five pairs recorded from Georgia.



Red 11 July (1848) **MACON Ga.** / 10 postmark on a folded letter with a 10c stamp tied by red grid.

Hotel Corner Cards

Corner cards are advertisements of the sender that normally appear in the upper left corner of an envelope. Some are quite ornate and colorful while others are more plain. One of the more popular types to collect are hotel corner cards. Some collectors also include post cards of the hotels. Two covers are illustrated below.



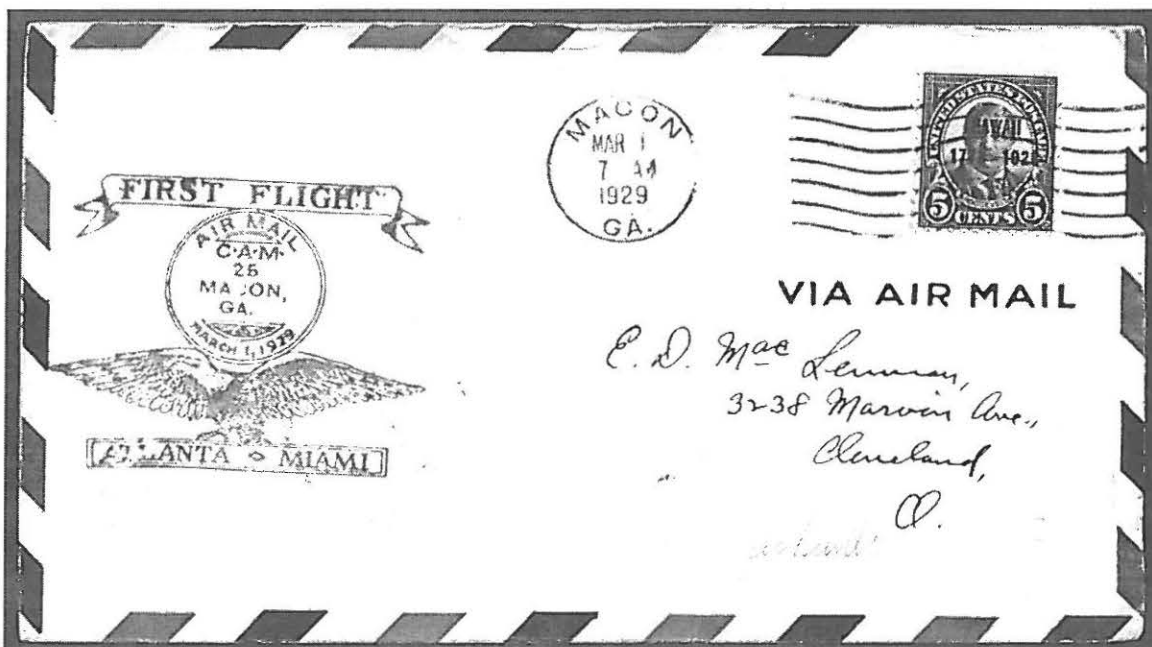
Black 8 Jul (185?) **COLUMBUS GA** postmark ties 3 c stamp on brown corner card cover of the Perry House in Columbus, GA.



Black 18 Mar 1898 **ROME, GA** postmark with killer tying 2c stamp on corner card cover of the Armstrong Hotel in Rome, GA.

Air Mail Covers

During the pioneering days of flight there were many types of special events marked by air mail covers. Most had special cachets, some did not. Some events included first flights, airport dedications and National Air Mail Week in 1938. Two examples are illustrated below.



First flight on Contract Air Mail (CAM) 25 route from Atlanta to Miami. This cover has the special cachet for mail carried from Macon on this flight.



This cover has a special cachet for National Air Mail Week and the third Georgia Air Tour held in 1938.

Confederates from Georgia

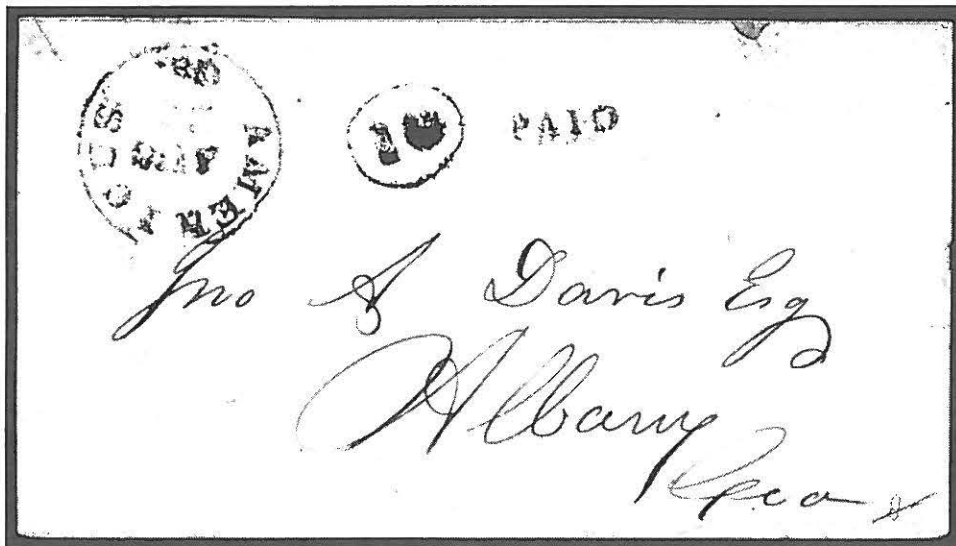
There are three basic types of Confederates to collect from Georgia: Postmasters' Provisionals, Handstamped Pairs and General Issues.

Two Georgia towns issued adhesive provisionals while several others used handstamped provisionals. Most towns used handstamped paid markings. There are 13 different General Issue stamps and they are known from Georgia towns of all sizes.

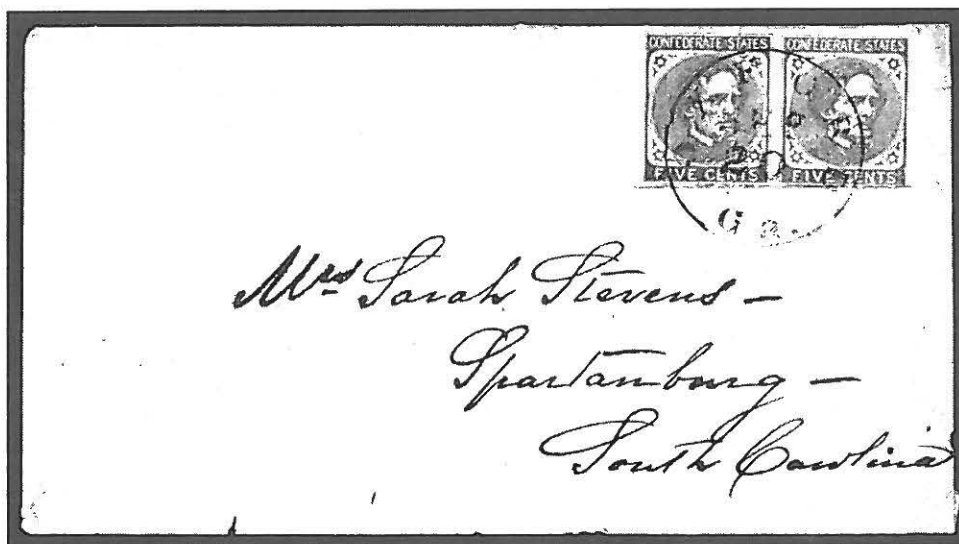
The three basic types of Confederates are illustrated.



5c purple Athens postmasters' provisional.



Black August (1867) AMERICUS / Ga. postmark and black handstamped PAID and 10 in oval on handstamped paid cover.



Black 20 Sep (1862?) OXFORD / Ga. postmark ties pair of the 5c London print General Issue on cover. This stamp was prepared and printed in England and shipped through the blockade to the Confederacy.

Georgia and Georgians on Stamps

Stamps featuring Georgia and Georgians have been issued by many countries around the world. The list below is for U. S. stamps and is not complete. However, it does show that this is a field with collecting potential - first day covers, plate blocks, unusual usages, etc. The list shows the Scott Catalog number and who or what was honored.

- 726 Georgia Bicentennial (James Oglethorpe)
- 875 Dr. Crawford Long - native of Danielsville, first to use ether
- 931 Franklin Roosevelt - features Little White House at Warm Springs
- 974 Juliette Gordon Low - born in Savannah, found of Girl Scouts
- 977 Moina Michael - born in Good Hope, originator of Poppy Day
- 980 Joel Chandler Harris - born in Eatonton, author
- 1170 Walter F. George - born in Preston, U. S. Senator
- 1379 Franklina - tree indigenous only to Georgia
- 1408 Stone Mountain Memorial
- 1446 Sidney Lanier - born in Macon, poet
- 1636 Bicentennial - state flag
- 1771 Martin Luther King, Jr. - native of Atlanta, civil rights leader
- 1853 Richard Russell - born in Windor, U. S. Senator
- 1933 Bobby Jones - born in Atlanta, golfer
- 1962 State bird and flower
- 2016 Jackie Robinson - born in Cairo, baseball player
- 2168 Margaret Mitchell - born in Atlanta, author
- 2339 Statehood
- 2446 Gone with the Wind, movie set in Georgia
- 2562 Oliver Hardy - born in Harlem, comedian
- 2782 National Postal Museum - Milledgeville postmark
- 3094 Riverboats - *Rebecca Everingham* - homeport Columbus



Stone Mountain
(1408)



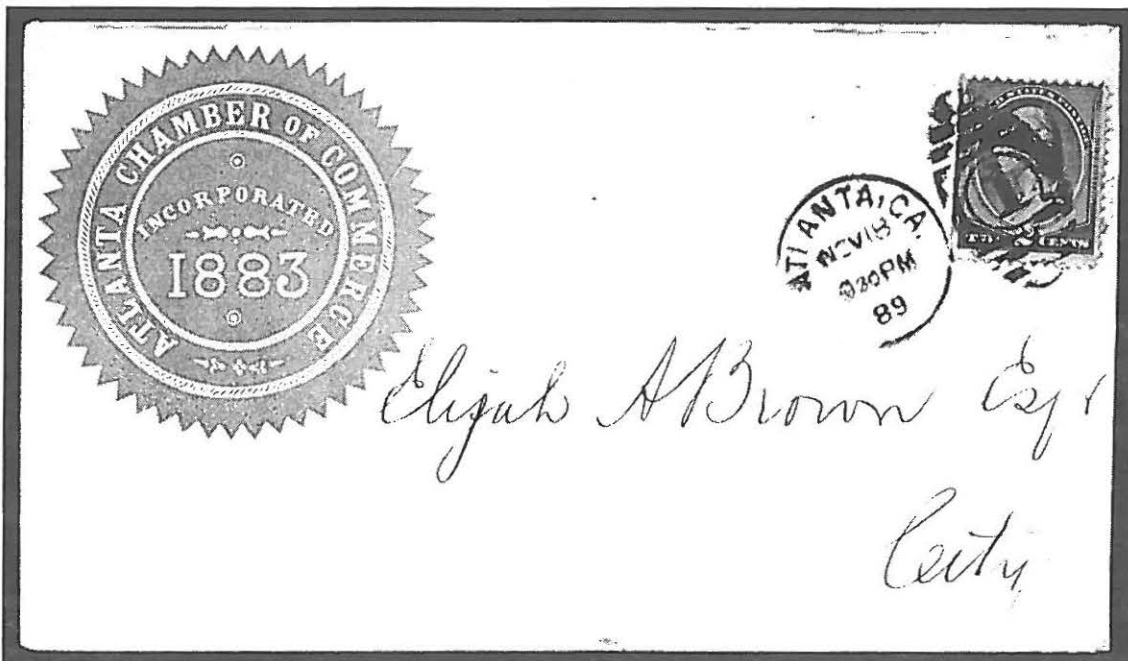
Margaret Mitchell
(2168)



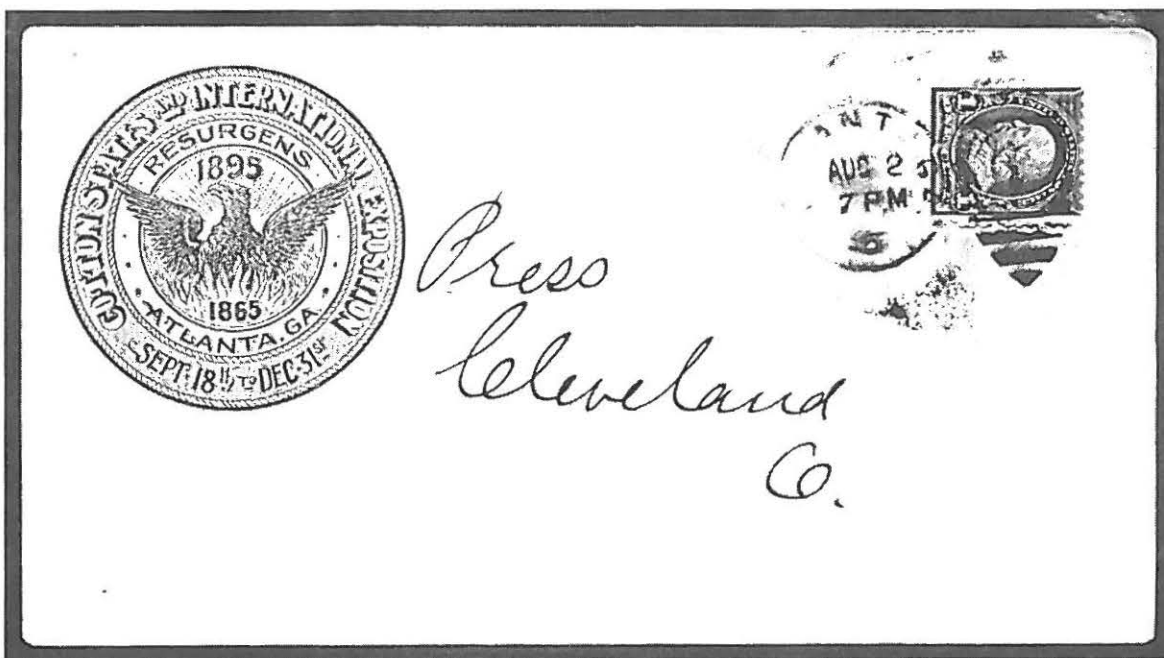
Bobby Jones
(1933)

Cracker Covers

The two featured covers this time are two large corner card covers from Atlanta. Both are postmarked just over 100 years ago.



Red Atlanta Chamber of Commerce corner card cover postmarked by black 18 Nov 1889 ATLANTA, GA. postmark. Note the Chamber was incorporated in 1883.



Black corner card of the Cotton States and International Exposition with black 2 Aug 1895 ATLANTA GA. postmark. The one cent stamp indicates this envelope contained a circular or advertisement.



Georgia Post Roads

December 2001

Official Publication of the Georgia Postal History Society

Volume 11, Number 5

Samuel Griswold - Early Industrialist

By Gary Doster and Frank Crown

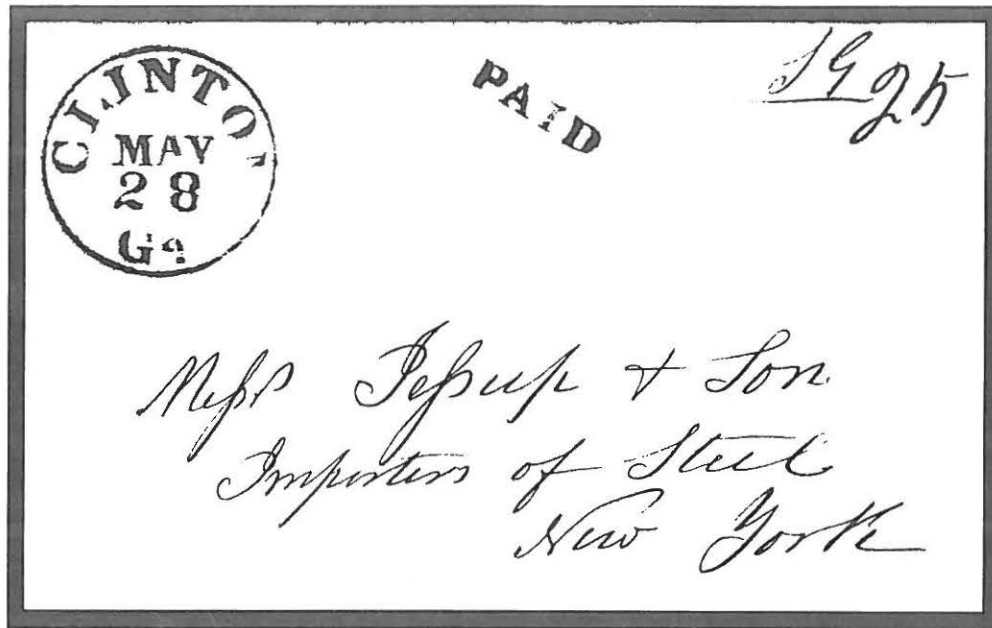


Figure 1. Red 28 May (1844) "Clinton / G^a." postmark and red "PAID" with manuscript "25" on cover to New York.

The cover illustrated above is somewhat of an eye grabber with its bright red postmark and "PAID" marking. However, it is not the outside of this cover that makes it so interesting, it's the contents.

Inside is a short business letter to a steel importing firm in New York. The letter dated 27 May 1844 reads as follows:

Please to inform me whether you still keep a supply of good gin saw cast steel, 9 inch, 21 or 20 gauge. If so what is your price and terms,

Yours Respectively,
Samuel Griswold

The name Samuel Griswold may not be familiar to most, but he was one Georgia's

pioneer industrialists. Griswold was born in Connecticut in 1797. About 1815 he moved to Clinton, Georgia with his family. There he tried his hand at merchandising but soon ran into financial problems.

After moving to Georgia he had observed the possibilities of cotton gins in the South and studied one of the first brought into Jones County. When his mercantile business failed, he rented a black smith shop and was soon producing cotton gins. By the mid 1820s his business was flourishing and he brought outside mechanics into the business. By the 1830s he was the largest manufacturer of cotton gins in the United States and had one of the earliest industrial factories in Georgia. Demand for his *continued on page 6*

President's Message

The last issue of *Georgia Post Roads* focused on the Peach State Stamp Show and attendees who might be persuaded to take an interest in Georgia postal history. We printed 200 copies of this special issue and distributed about 100 copies with an application form at Peach State. Unfortunately our efforts have yet to induce one new member, although our Secretary, Mike O'Reilly, tells me he has had a few inquiries. We still have about 100 copies of the special issue that we can distribute at future shows. If you would like to have some copies to distribute at a local show, get in touch with Mike or myself.

Our efforts were not entirely in vain. On page eight of the 5 November 2001 issue of *Linn's Stamp News* there is a short article entitled, "1847 covers from Georgia." This article is actually about an article in the special issue of *GPR* and the Georgia Postal History Society.

After several years of attempting to increase membership in the GPHS by various means I am beginning to wonder if it can be done. Is Georgia's postal history of interest to only a few collectors? Or is there another reason? I attended two shows since September. The first was Peach State and the second VAPEX at Virginia Beach. Both were well attended. However, when I looked around I saw a lot of graying heads. While not so apparent at Peach State it was very noticeable at VAPEX.

On the positive side we are not ready to give up. Georgia has a fascinating postal history and we need to get others to see the light. At Peach States your officers had a lengthy discussion on our membership problem and new methods we can use to increase our membership. I will be telling you more about this in the coming year.

Wishing you a happy holiday season,

Frank

GPHS News Annual Meeting

The Annual meeting of the Georgia Postal History Society was held on 29 September at the Peach State Stamp Show in Marietta. Due to some confusion about times and locations only four members were in attendance in addition to a visitor from *Linn's Stamp News*.

Your offices had an opportunity to meet and discuss various ideas on how to increase our membership. You will learn more about this in the months to come.

The highlight of the meeting was a slide presentation on Georgia stampless covers. This presentation is available as a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation for anyone who would like to use it. Contact the editor or the Secretary for more information.

Secretary's Report

Unfortunately, I must report the following members are dropped from membership for failing to pay dues:

Peter Martin

Robert Rybolt

Robert Whitehead

Mike

Winners Circle

With some embarrassment I announce the following awards at Peach State Stamp Show. For the first time in about 25 years Frank Crown entered a postal history exhibit in competition. The one-frame exhibit titled, "Camp Thomas, Georgia: Postmarks of the Spanish-American War Period" won four awards: Vermil for one-frame exhibit, Best Georgia Postal History Exhibit, Best of Show - one frame exhibit and APS award for best exhibit of the 19th century.

Post Road Notes

I want to express my thanks to all those who took the time to communicate their kind comments on the last issue. Being the editor of a small publication like GPR is a rather lonely job as I have indicated many times in the past. When I got a literal "flood" of favorable comments on the last issue I was overwhelmed. Again thanks for your support.

Some of you may have noticed there was a problem with the delivery of the last issue. I took the issue to the post office to determine the correct amount of postage for mailing. The clerk told me the postage was 57 cents and that is the amount I affixed to each envelope. After they were mailed another clerk decided some were underpaid by 23 cents and these were returned to Mike to affix the correct postage. As a result some members received their copy of GPR a week or two later than they should have. If you failed to receive your copy of the special issue please advise our Secretary or me and we will send a replacement copy.

Events of September forced the postponement of several large sales of U. S. postal history material. The result is that right before Christmas we have six major sales: The Schuyler Rumsey sale featuring Howell Cobb correspondence, Matthew Bennett featuring U. S. postal history; Shreves Philatelic Galleries featuring Gordon Bleuler's Confederates, Daniel F. Kelleher featuring U. S. postal history, Nutmeg Mail Auctions featuring U. S. postal history, and Robert A. Siegel featuring the Hall Confederates.

Just when you need some extra cash for those special Christmas gifts, there are not one or two, but **six** big sales competing for your Christmas cash!

What can I say? Good luck and have a great holiday season.

Frank



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Report on Oglethorpe County

Douglas and Nancy Clark

As collectors of one small Georgia county, we consider ourselves lucky when we can obtain one good cover per year from Oglethorpe County, the county we left for Yankeeland a year and a half ago. This note is a biennial report and so tells of two recent acquisitions.

The first cover illustrated was obtained from Herb McNeal at Peach State Stamp Show 2000 (Figure 1 on opposite page). It is a very ordinary looking cover with a defective 3 cent Bank Note and manuscript marking of Wolf Skin, Ga. When Herb appeared with this cover, it was not in his "for the Clarks" envelope.

Oglethorpe County is a county with a lot of square miles and not a lot of people. Consequently, it has had a lot of discontinued post offices; many very small. We have a "want list" we circulate among dealers, but we have omitted a few post offices because they are just too small. Wolf Skin, which operated only from 13 February 1872 until 23 July 1877, is one such. We never expected to see its postmark. We are still looking for State Rights (1839-1852), Sycorax (1893-1903) and many others on the list.

Any current resident of Oglethorpe County will know the approximate location of the Wolf Skin post office. The Wolf Skin Road joins Route 78 south of Crawford and winds past the Wolf Skin Fire Department, on the way toward Watkinsville.

The second cover shown was purchased at APS Stamp Show this past August (Figure 2 on opposite page). We made a different purchase from the dealer who had it and had supper with him and his wife, but it took a prompting from McCary Ballard to make us notice this nice Maxeys cover.

The cover dated 5 February and the star die postal stationery fixes the year as 1861. The cover was mailed the day after Georgia joined the Confederacy. There are "first day" (4 February 1861) covers from Georgia, so this is not the earliest Confederate cover from Georgia, but it surely is the earliest Confederate cover from Oglethorpe County. And Maxeys is new to the list of Georgia towns having Confederate usages of U.S. postage. Three Oglethorpe County towns are now on that list: Crawford, Lexington and now Maxeys.

Paid Advertisement

New Book Now Available!

Preliminary Census of Georgia Postmasters' Provisionals

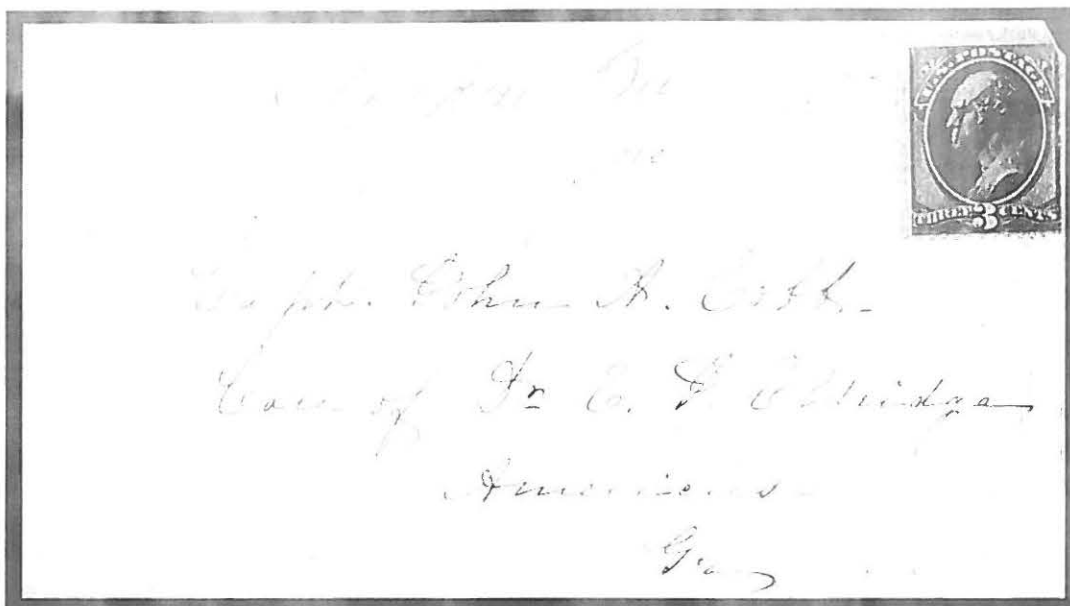
A census of the Postmasters' Provisionals of Georgia is now available. This work is completely new and is not based on any earlier census or survey.

All entries in this new census are taken from illustrations of the provisional covers received from collectors and dealers or found in auction catalogs and books. More than 850 covers are listed in this new census.

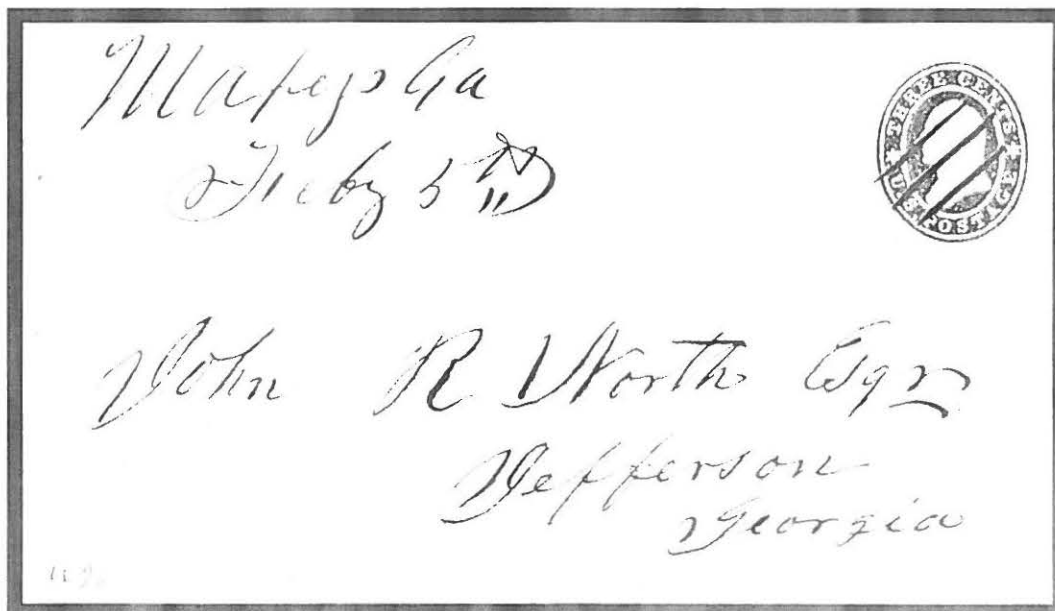
Each provisional stamp or marking is illustrated with images prepared just for this census. In addition, almost every postmark used with a provisional stamp or marking is illustrated along with any control markings.

The book is available at a special price to GPHS members of just \$22.50 postpaid by priority mail. Order from Frank Crown, PO Box 98626, Tacoma, WA 98498.

Oglethorpe County illustrations from page 4



3 cent Bank Note stamp on cover with manuscript Wolfskin (Wolf Skin) postmark dated 5 June. This post office only operated from 13 February 1872 until 23 July 1877.



U. S. 3 cent star die envelope with manuscript Maxeys postmark dated 5 February (1861). This usage is during the period referred to as "after secession" but before the Confederate Post Office Department took charge of the postal system on 1 June 1861.

Griswold *continued from page 1*

cotton gins continued to grow and a branch was established in Rome, Georgia.

In the early 1840s the residents of Clinton refused to allow the railroad to run through their town. Griswold needed access to the railroads to receive raw materials and ship his finished gins. In 1849 he moved his factory and residence to a new site on the Central of Georgia Rail Road about ten miles east of Macon. The new town was named Griswoldville.

By 1860 Griswold was producing more than 1,000 cotton gins a year and was one of the richest men in Georgia. The outbreak of the Civil War changed everything.

When New Orleans fell to the Union forces in early 1862, Arvin W. Gunnison, a former employee of Griswold, was forced to abandon his pistol works in that city. He moved back to Georgia and soon started a partnership with Griswold to produce pistols for the Confederacy. By August of 1862 the new pistol factory was producing five weapons per day. The firm was best know for the "brass-framed Confederate Colt." About 3,600 of these pistols were manufactured by November 1864.

When Sherman's Army advanced from Atlanta to Savannah, Union cavalry captured and destroyed the factory at Griswoldville in a disastrous engagement initiated by Confederate General P. J. Philips. The only building to survive was Griswold's residence. Three years later Griswold died.

Although Griswold's factories did not survive the war and Griswold himself died shortly thereafter his influence did not end. Many of the men he employed and trained went on to become respected industrialists throughout the South.

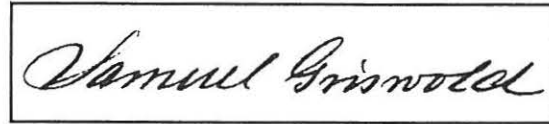


Figure 2. The signature of Samuel Griswold taken "gin saw steel" letter.

Another interesting feature of this cover are the initials "SG" just to the left of the "25" manuscript rate marking at upper right. Compare these initials to the signature of Griswold at Figure 2. The similarity suggests Griswold himself charged the postage to his account at the Clinton post office.

1837 Georgia Gazetteer

For the early Georgia postal historian a reprint of the 1837 edition of *A Gazetteer of the State of Georgia* by Adiel Sherwood is now available. The 1860 edition of the this Gazetteer has long been one of the first references I turn to for information about Georgia on the eve of the Civil War. Now the 1837 edition is available for information on Georgia during the early "frontier" days of the state.

Packed in some 340 pages are several sections of interest to the Georgia postal historian. These include a list of post offices; a

table of counties listing population (1830), county seats and villages; a list of roads and stages; the gazetteer; and biographical sketches of some early Georgians.

Other sections on of interest include railroads, colleges, newspapers. This is rounded out by short history of the state and numerous entries on the geography and geology of the state.

The book is available from Heritage Books for \$29.50 plus postage. The publisher can be reached at 800-398-7709.

Jeff Davis "Pop-Eye" Variety

By Frank Crown

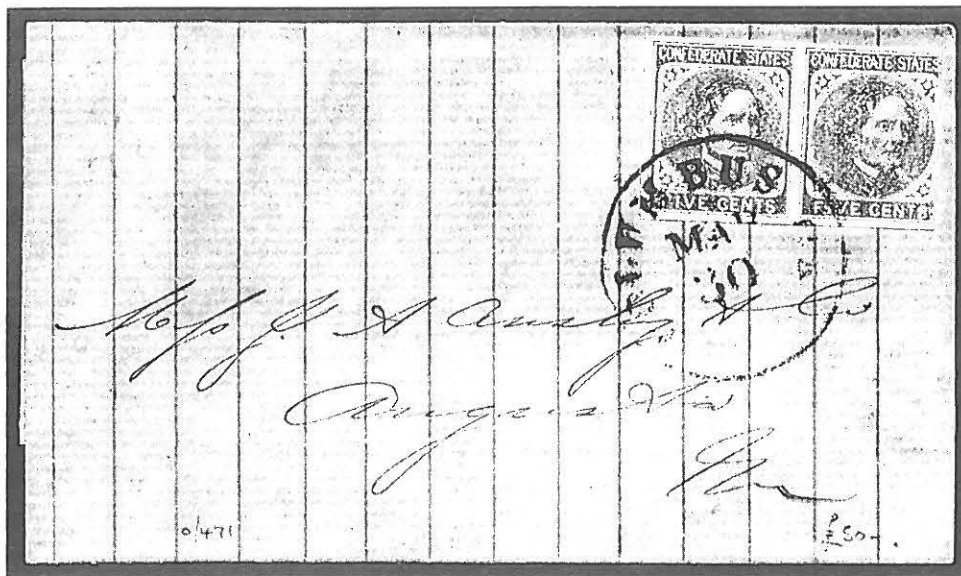


Figure 1. Black "Columbus GA" postmark dated 30 Mar (1863) ties a pair of the 5c Due La Rue "local prints."

The Confederate cover in Figure 1 bears a pair of the 5 cent De La Rue "local prints." The plate for this stamp was produced in England by De La Rue and Co. The first attempt to get the plate and a large supply of stamps to the Confederacy was aboard the blockade runner *Bermuda*. This ship was intercepted and captured by the U. S. Navy. A second plate and supply of stamps was prepared and successfully ran the blockade aboard the *Giraffe* in April 1862.

The stamps printed in England were well executed with fine lines. The coarseness of the stamps on the illustrated cover indicate they were printed locally, thus the term "local print."

The cover bears a 30 March (1863) Columbus, Georgia postmark. This date is nine months after the stamp was first printed in the Confederacy. The cover is a dated folded sheet (actually half a sheet) to a cotton merchant in Augusta.

This stamp is one of the more common Confederate issues. The "local print" is normally seen used as a pair because a rate change on 1 July 1862 eliminated the five cent rate.

This particular pair of the Due La Rue "local print" is unusual because the right stamp is the "pop-eye" variety. The variety is quiet evident in the enlargement at Figure 2.

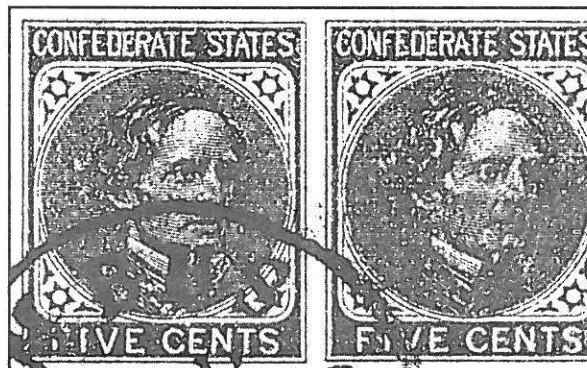
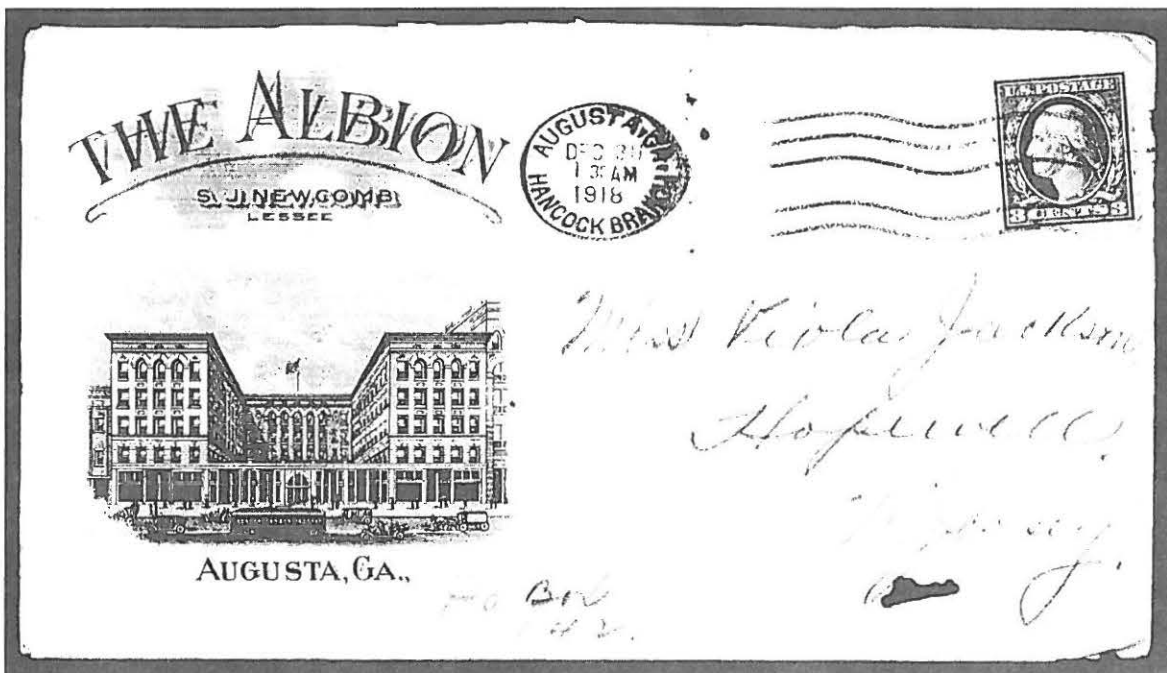


Figure 2. Enlargement showing the "pop-eye" variety in the right stamp.

Cracker Covers



1897 Corner card cover of the "Brown House" in Macon. This hotel was originally built in 1851. It was destroyed by fire in 1878 and rebuilt the same year.



1918 corner card cover of "The Albion" in Augusta. The illustration of the hotel indicates it was not a very old building in 1918.



Georgia Post Roads

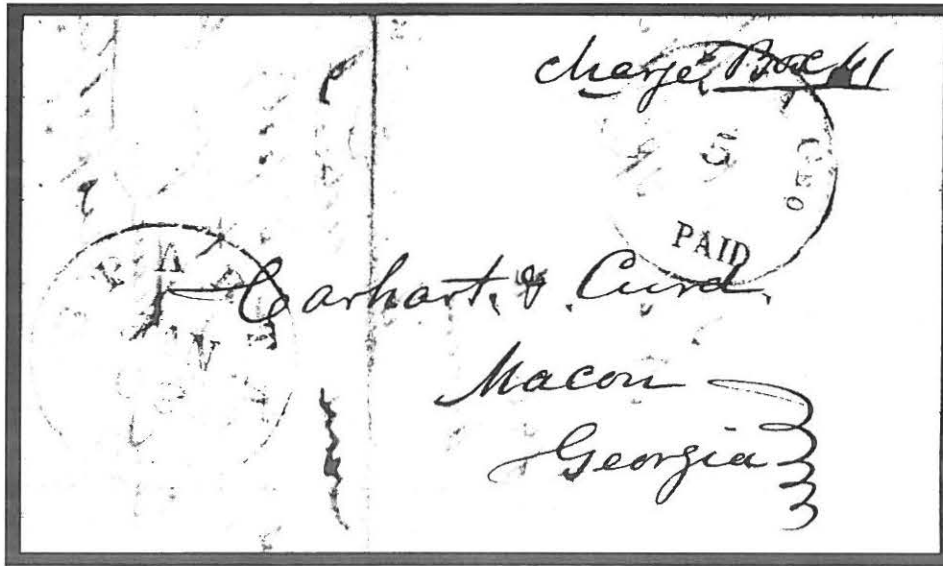
April 2002

Official Publication of the Georgia Postal History Society

Volume 12, Number 1

New Sparta Confederate Provisional Found

By Lowrell Pierce and Frank Crown



Red Sparta postmark dated 30 Jan (1862) on 5c Sparta provisional cover to Macon, Georgia.

Recently a large accumulation of papers, catalogs and other items from the 19th century was purchased in Macon. Most of the letters, which were in mixed condition, went to a philatelic buyer. An initial check of the lot revealed numerous folded letters. Some were from small towns that are unlisted in the *Georgia Stampless Catalog and Handbook*. It was an interesting lot but nothing spectacular.

A second check revealed something entirely different. One cover was marked, "two cancellations, one Paid Geo., other Sparta date, backward, upside down." This cover was also docketed "Jan 1862." This is no ordinary cover. It is a Sparta Confederate Postmaster Provisional (see illustration above).

The postmark and provisional marking are a red or red-orange color. The postmaster or

office clerk mistakenly inserted the day (30) in the postmark mortise upside down. The date of the postmark, 30 January (1862), makes this the latest known use of a Sparta provisional.

The cover is a folded letter datelined, "Granite Hill, Near Sparta, 30 Jan 1862," and signed by "A. J. Lane." Granite Hill cannot be found in any of the standard references. However, Mr. Lane wrote "Charge Box 61" in the upper right corner of the cover indicating he had a box at the Sparta post office. This indicates Granite Hill was close by. Perhaps it was a very small community, a farm or plantation.

This is the seventh 5c Sparta provisional of this type recorded. All are listed in the *Preliminary Census of Georgia Postmasters' Provisionals* published in 2001.

President's Message

In my last message I mentioned that your officers had a lengthy discussion about increasing our membership. This discussion went beyond the normal bounds of where a philatelic society may recruit new members. Ed Jackson's suggestion that we seek members from among genealogists probably has the most merit. As a postal history society much of our study, particularly of 19th century material, is tied to the people of that period. For example, in an effort to date a cover a collector may seek information about an addressee from local history publications or census records. This is the domain of the genealogist. In a similar manner the genealogist may find the content of old covers of great value. This synergism of reinforcing interests between the two groups is what leads your officers to believe that genealogists may be interested in our society.

To attract genealogists we will need articles of interest in *GPR*. Such articles would have to focus on the content of old letters with particular emphasis on letters with genealogical interest. The best source of this type of material is stampless covers. If we want to recruit this way we have to ask ourselves several questions. Do we want to shift the focus of *GPR* to a particular period? Do our members have enough material to help sustain the continuous publication of articles of interest to genealogists? Consider we have opened the door to articles on the postal history of states adjacent to Georgia and have yet to have receive one for publication. What are your thoughts?

In the Secretary/Treasurer column you will find that we have several new members. We can attribute this to old fashion publicity: first with our special issue for Peach State and then with several small but effective reviews of articles in *GPR* that appeared in *Linn's Stamp News*.

Frank

Secretary-Treasurer Report

We wish to welcome the following new members to our ranks:

Bailey, John, D.; 308 Woodbrook Crest,
Canton, GA 30114-7725

email: john.bailey@dobbins.af.mil

Denena, Bernard L. II; 37221 Grove Ave.,
Willoughby, OH 44094-5958

Doubleday Elwyn; PO Box 32, Alton Bay, NH
03810

Hansen, Scott L.; 4506 Madison Ave, Dearborn
Heights, MI 48125-2160

email: shanse13@ford.com

Mirsky, Harvey; PO Box 358, New Hope, PA
18938-0358

email: hmirsky@comcat.com

Williams, Emmett L.; PO Box 2006,
Alpharetta, GA 30023-2006

Please take the initiative to contact our new members and help make them feel welcome in the GPHS. Drop them an email or a note when you get a chance.

Congratulations to Harvey Mirsky, who won a Reserve Grand Award for his 1847 exhibit in the Single-Frame competition at Ameristamp Expo 2002.

As mentioned in the last Secretary's report, these new members are a direct result of publicity in *Linn's*. Please take the initiative to introduce your friends to the GPHS.

We have a good supply of the special Peach State Stamp Show issue that I will be glad to send to prospective members, if you will drop me a note or email with their name and address. Also, I have membership applications available, if needed.

On the financial side we currently have a bank balance of \$1,517.22.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike O'Reilly

Post Road Notes

I made a mistake by getting the last issue of *GPR* out in December instead of waiting until January. As a result there will only be three issues this year: April, July and October. In the future there will also be a January issue.

The events of 11 September continue to plague our hobby. The latest fallout is the irradiation of mail by the Postal Service. The detrimental impacts of this treatment on philatelic mail has been well documented in the philatelic press. However, the problem is not limited to the stamp hobby. Most anything of value that is subject to the electron beam irradiation used by the Postal Service can be damaged.

The Smithsonian Center for Materials Research and Education released a report in November of last year. This report summarized the potential damage due to irradiation as “depolymerization, loss of strength, embrittlement, acidification and discolorations, and a greatly enhanced rate of subsequent aging deterioration.”

The number of items that can suffer the damage detailed above is so great that it would not surprise me if the Postal Service decided to cease all irradiation of the mail. They just are not in a position to alienate the large number of mailers who use the mail to send various collectibles and other items of value.

I was able to attend the APS AmeriStamp Expo held in Riverside, CA in February. At the show I found Georgia covers and bought a few. However, as a general rule Georgia postal history material was very scarce. In years past most any aspect of 19th century Georgia postal history material was available in some quantity at a show. Now if you ask for Georgia stampless covers you may be shown one or two covers or maybe a bundle with one or two covers in it.

Frank

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- Fancy cancels
- Parcel post from Georgia
- RFDs
- Emergency Mail Service

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mcoreilly@att.net

**Georgia Postal History Society
APS Affiliate 224**

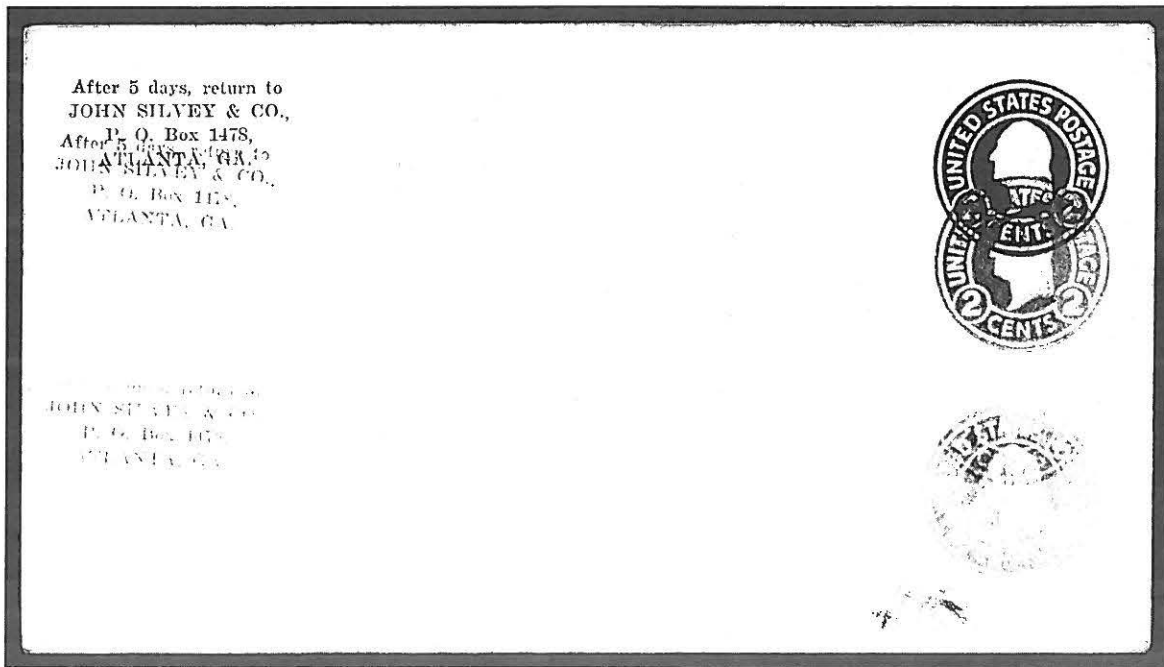
Georgia Post Roads is published quarterly by
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Editor: Frank Crown

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PO Box 98626, Tacoma, WA 98498
fcrown@telisphere.com

An Atlanta Freak

By Frank Crown



Red 2 cent stamped envelope of the 1915 series showing multiple impressions.

I don't collect postal stationery *per se* nor do I profess to be knowledgeable of postal stationery. However, the cover in Figure 1 attracted my attention.

It bears multiple imprints of the red 2 cent 1915 postal stationery issue. What drew my attention was the corner card of the Atlanta firm of John Silvey and Company. Normally freaks such as this envelope are from large Northern cities. To find one from a Georgia town I consider a rare treat.

There are five imprints of the 2 cent die. The top impression is embossed and in the correct position. The impression immediately below and partially over the top imprint is also full and embossed but under inked. The third impression is not embossed and is only partial and visible only in the upper portion of the fourth imprint. The fourth impression is full and embossed but even more under inked than the second imprint. There is a fifth impression to the lower left of the fourth impression that is

more like a smudge of ink and there is no embossed impression.

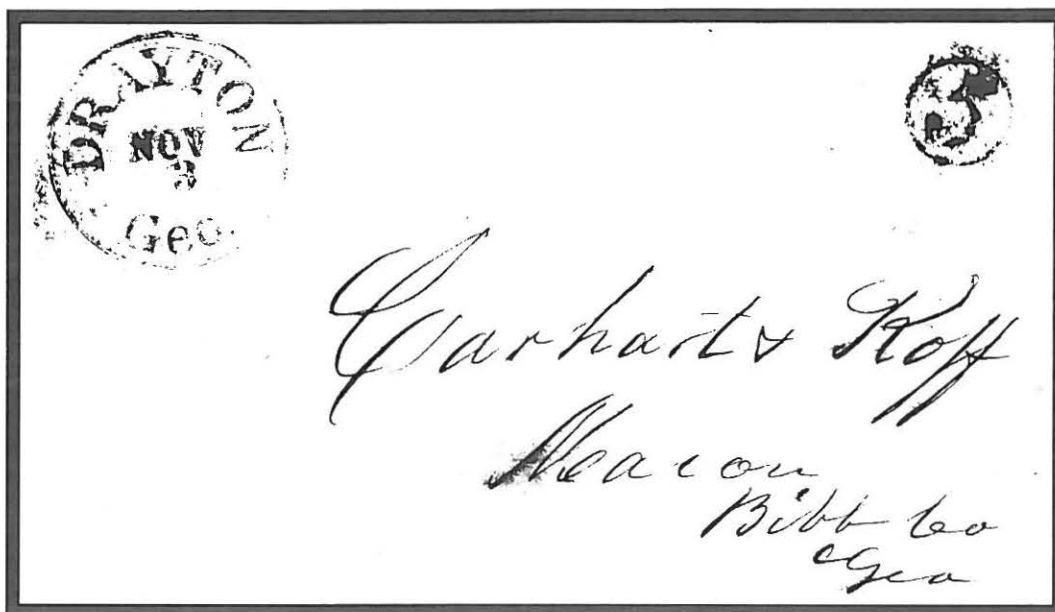
What is intriguing are the multiple imprints of the corner card on the left side of the envelope. The top imprint is full and correctly positioned. Partially overlapping the lower portion of the first imprint is a second imprint that is under inked and slopes down to the right. Finally there is a third under inked imprint just below the center line of the envelope.

How did such a double error occur? Some envelopes produced during this period were produced on presses that both embossed the stamp and printed the return address on a "blank." A blank being a piece of paper that was cut into the shape of an unfolded envelope. After being embossed and printed on the press the blank then went to a folding machine where it was folded into an envelope.

Apparently this cover got stuck in the press and ended up receiving multiple impressions of the stamp and return address.

New Stampless Marking Discovered

By Frank Crown



Black DRAYTON / Geo. postmark dated 3 November (1854) on a cover to Macon. The handstamped "5" marking indicates the cover was sent postage due (5 cents).

A new Georgia stampless cover was recently discovered in a group of old papers sold in the Macon area. The cover bears the handstamped postmark of Drayton, Georgia and a handstamped "5" marking (Figure 1). Both markings are in black ink. The cover has an enclosure dated 1854.

Drayton dates from the mid to the late 1820s and was named after Colonel William Drayton of South Carolina. About 1835 the county seat was moved from Berrien to Drayton. The following year a post office was established in Drayton. In 1839 the county seat was moved back to Berrien. As a result the town never grew to any great extent.

In 1854 Henry J. Davis was the postmaster of Drayton. The previous year the net proceeds of the office amounted to only \$41.00 and by 1855 had increased to only \$53.00.

The newly discovered postmark measures 31 mm in diameter and the "5" marking measures 14 mm in diameter. The postmark is characterized by the serif font and the state

abbreviation being in mixed case letters (Figure 2). Postmarks of this style began to be used in some small Georgia town in the early 1850s.



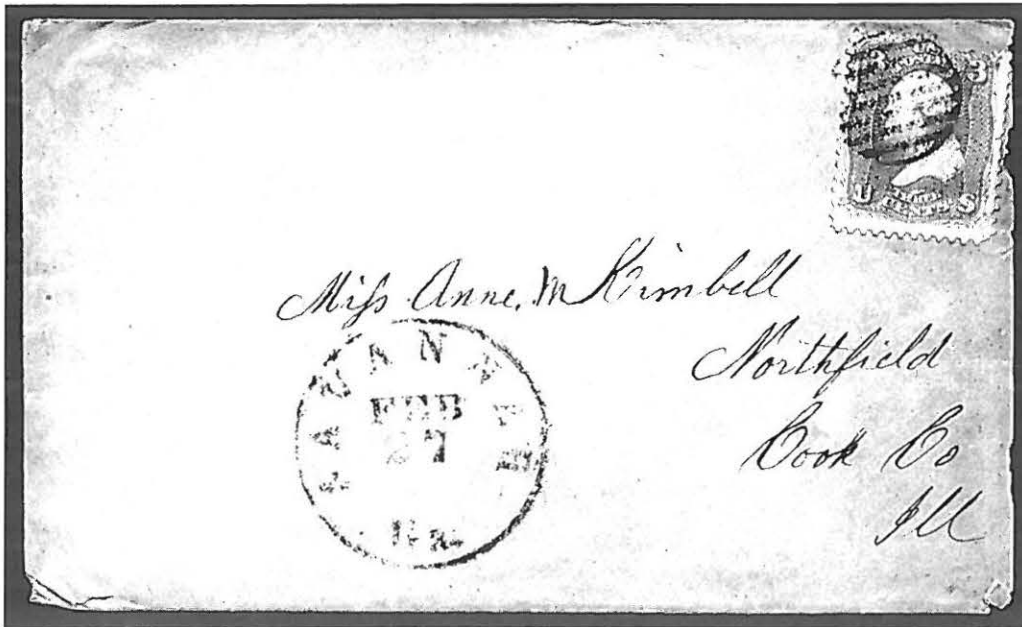
Figure 2

The circled "5" marking appears to be stock marking available to most postmasters of the period.

The ink splatter, in both the postmark and more noticeably in the rate marking, suggest that the ink used was somewhat thin or runny. When the marking was inked and then struck it tended to splatter from the impact with the paper.

Our thanks to Lowrell Pierce for sharing this new find.

What is This?



Black pre-war SAVANNAH / Ga. postmark used with a 3c 1861 stamp tied by a grid.

The cover above may appear ordinary to the casual viewer. However, it is far from ordinary.

First the stamp indicates the cover was used during the post Civil War period. The postmark however, dates from the pre-war period. In itself this is not unusual as we know several Georgia towns continued to use pre-war postmarks in the post-war period. However, Savannah is not one of these towns.

Unlike most Georgia towns Savannah was captured in late 1864 and remained in Union hands until the end of the war. Also, unlike most operations, arrangements to handle the mail were planned well before Sherman began his march on Savannah. In fact, a ship with mail was waiting outside the harbor when the town surrendered to Sherman. The post office was immediately seized and used to sort more than a million pieces of mail addressed to Sherman's soldiers.

In light of the planning that went into the postal arrangements one would expect the basic supplies such as postmarks and auxiliary

markings would have been prepared in advance and shipped to Savannah with the mail. If this were true there would be no need to use a pre-war postmark in the Savannah office to postmark outgoing mail.

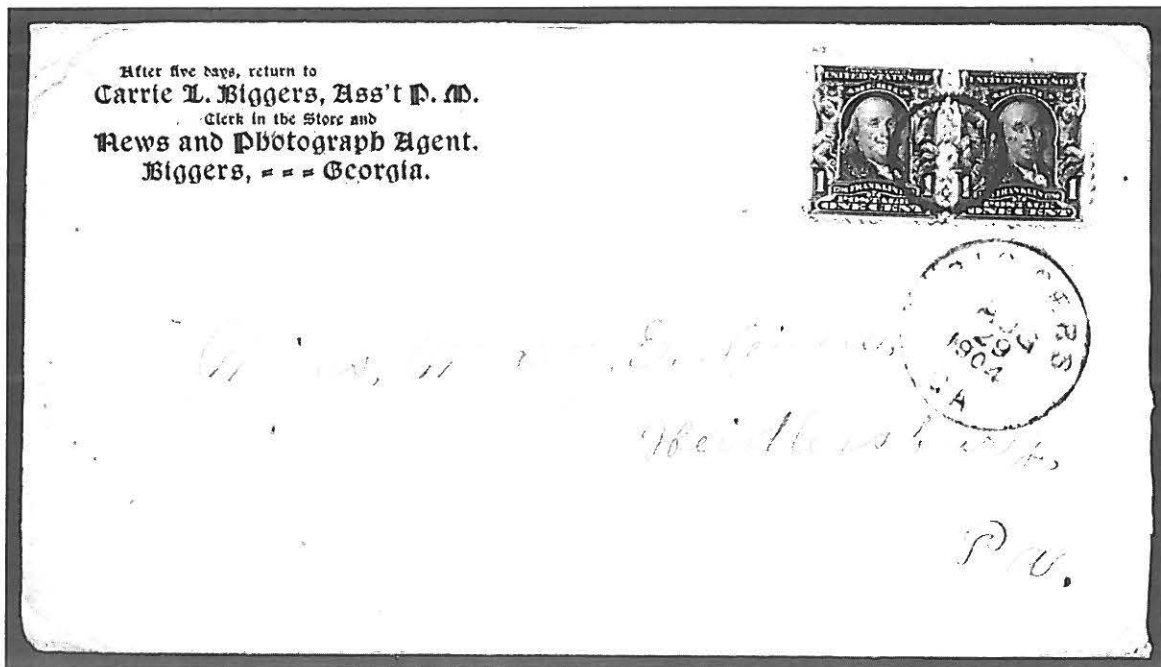
It should be easy to check the dates of the "Reconstruction" postmarks used from Savannah. However, this is difficult because dated covers from this period are very scarce. The earliest dated cover found thus far is dated in 1866.

Another aspect of the cover is the grid which just ties the stamp to the cover. Savannah used a grid during the period 1847 to 1851 to cancel stamps. The grid used during this period and the grid on the cover above appear to be the same. However, grids of this type were a stock item and available to many post offices.

The stamp itself is very faulty. There is a piece torn out of the upper right corner and a 5 mm tear at bottom center.

The editor asks any reader who has a similar use of a pre-war postmark on a post-war Savannah cover to contact him with the details.

Biggers, Georgia



Black 1904 BIGGERS / GA postmark on cover with a pair of green 1 cent Franklins cancelled by a target killer.

The cover illustrated above is unusual for several reasons. First, the postmark is dated 29 August 1904. In 1900 the post hamlet of Biggers was said to have a population of only 24! If you were looking for a cover from a town of this size you would probably never find one. Yet here is one.

The second interesting thing about the cover is the corner card which reads:

After five days, return to
Carrie L. Biggers, Ass't P. M.
Clerk in the Store and
News and Photograph Agent.
Biggers, Georgia.

The key phrase in the corner card is "Ass't P. M." Did this mean assistant postmaster? A check of the records of that time show that Thomas J. Biggers was postmaster at Biggers. Apparently his wife or daughter helped in the postal duties and took on the title assistant

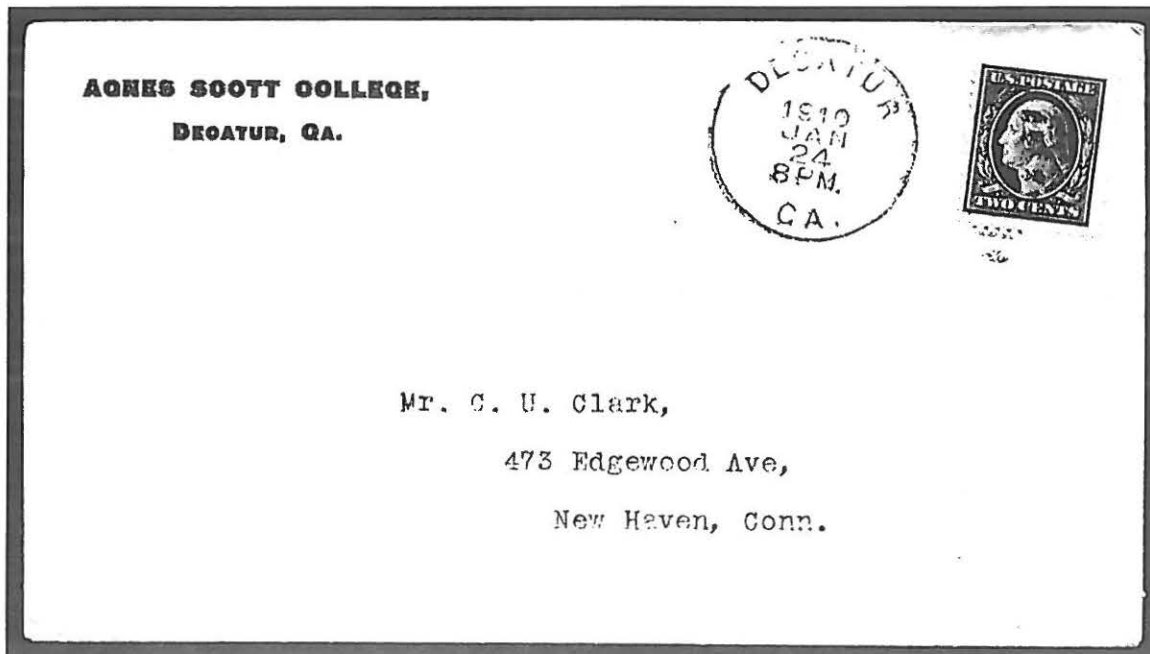
postmaster. We can also assume that the town or hamlet was named after the postmaster or someone in his family.

The various duties of Carrie Biggers as noted on the corner card include working as a clerk in what was probably a general store. The post office was probably in a small area of the store that was used to conduct postal business. There was no full time clerk. Ms. Biggers or her husband conducted post office business as customers required.

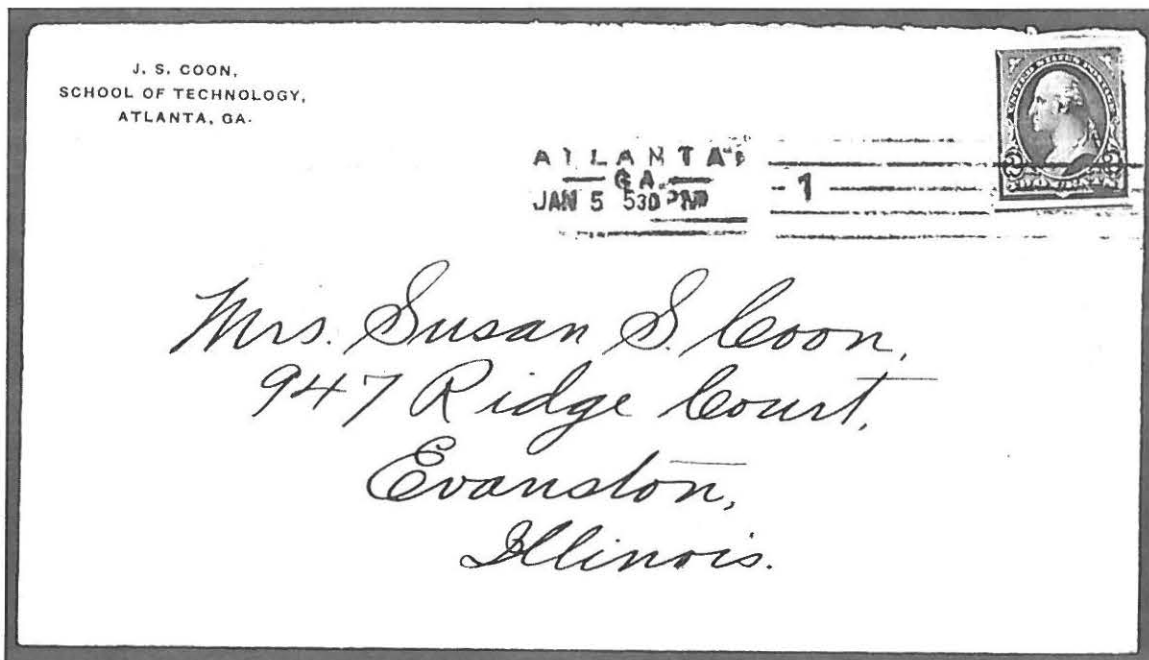
We can see that Carrie Biggers was more than a store clerk and assistant postmaster. She also was an agent for one or more newspapers and doubled as a photographer.

Biggers no longer exists. However, in 1906 it is described as being about midway between Temple and Bremen on the Southern Railroad in Haralson County. This would place it slightly west of the present town of Morgan on the Liberty Church Road.

Cracker Covers



Corner card of Agnes Scott College on a 1910 cover. The college opened in September 1889 as the Decatur Female Seminary with 60 students. In 1891 the name was changed to Agnes Scott Institute in honor of the mother of its most generous benefactor, George W. Scott.



Corner card of the School of Technology postmarked Atlanta. This college, known today as the Georgia Institute of Technology, open in October 1888 with 130 students. J. S. Coons was the first Professor of Mechanical Engineering.



Georgia Post Roads

January 2001

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July 02

12 2

Fancy "III" Marking Discovered

By Lowrell Pierce and Frank Crown

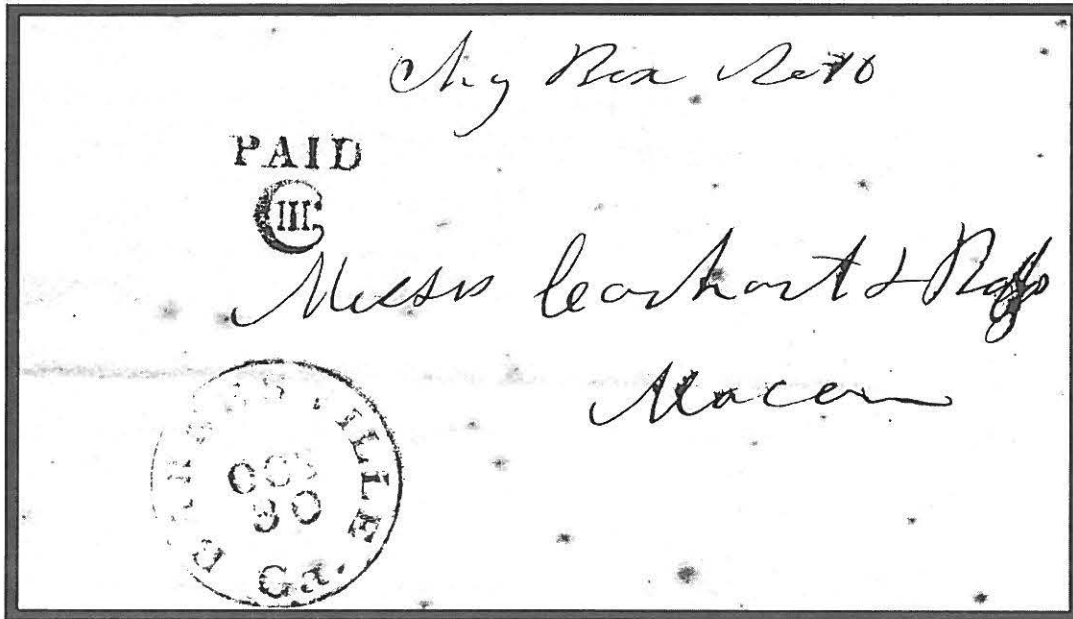


Figure 1. Black fancy PAID III on cover with 30 Oct (1852) BARNESVILLE/ Ga. postmark.

The April issue of *Georgia Post Roads* featured a Sparta postmasters' provisional that was discovered in a recent find of 19th century material. The unusual stampless cover illustrated above was also in the find.

The cover, bearing a Barnesville postmark, features a fancy "III" marking composed of a large "C" that has the Roman numeral "III" inside (Figure 2). The "III" stands for "3" while the "C" represents "cents". This design was copied from reverse of the three cent piece minted in 1851. The coin called a trime or "fish-scale" is pictured in Figure 3.

Although it appears that the "PAID" is part of the marking, available evidence says it is not. This particular "PAID" marking is known used as a separate marking from Barnesville. The manner in which the marking was applied (centered above the "C") makes it appear to be part of the marking.

The cover is dated 30 October 1852 and all markings are in black ink. The "III" marking was probably made in late 1851 or 1852 after the postal rate was changed to 3 cents and the new coin minted. It is said the coin was minted to aid people wanting to buy a three cent stamp.



Figure 2. Fancy PAID III C marking.



Figure 3. Reverse of 3 cent coin of 1851. This coin was also called a trime or fish-scale.

President's Message

It is that time of year - time for the collection of dues. Enclosed with this issue is a your dues notice. Please take the time to renew your membership now before you place the notice in a safe place only to lose track of it later.

Ours is a small society and we do not have a non-profit status with the IRS. Therefore there are no tax write offs for donations. In spite of this I ask each of you to consider a donation over the \$10.00 membership fee. Although we are on solid financial footing, our expenses in publishing the *GPR* four times a year is slowly eroding our balance.

The Peach State Stamp Show will be held before the next issue of *GPR* is mailed to the membership. Let me take this opportunity to encourage you to exhibit Georgia postal history material and attend the show. Last year we had a slide presentation on Georgia stampless covers. This year, if all goes well, we will have a presentation on Confederate material.

Frank

Secretary-Treasurer Report

No new members to report this quarter, which should be a reminder to all members to help recruit new members for the GPHS.

We have a good supply of the special PSSS issue that I will be glad to send to prospective members, if you will drop me a note or email with their name and address. Also, I have membership applications available, if needed.

We currently have a bank balance of 1385.70

Respectfully submitted,

Mike O'Reilly

Reader Feedback

Gary Doster and Ed Jackson wrote with comments on the Sparta provisional article in the last issue of *GPR*.

Gary sent several pages from a book titled *The Houses of Hancock: 1785-1865* by John Rozier. One of the houses mentioned in the book is "Granite Hill." The house was built by Andrew Jackson Lane (the writer of the Sparta provisional letter) in the 1850s. The first floor was constructed of granite blocks 18 inches thick. Two other structures were also constructed of the local granite: the wine cellar and the jail.

Lane was elected Colonel of the 49th Georgia Regiment in March 1862. He served until March 1863 when he resigned because of wounds received at Seven Pines and Mechanicsville.

After the war Lane contracted to build part of the Macon and Augusta Railroad. At this time he got his own rail stop at Granite Hill. He went on to become one of the major rail builders in the South.

Andrew Lane died at Granite Hill on 2 January 1886.

Ed Jackson offered to provide the internet addresses to maps showing the location of towns and post offices mentioned in *GPR*. The internet addresses are quite long so I have broken them into a common, first section and a specific last section. Remember to combine both sections when seeking a map.

Common (first section):

<http://www.cviog.uga.edu/projects/gainfo/>

Granite Hill (second section):

histcountymaps/hancock1915map.htm

To locate Barnesville, the subject of the lead article in this issue of *GPR* use the following:

Barnesville (second section):

histcountymaps/pikehistmaps.htm

Post Road Notes

Recently I obtained a copy of the book *Postal History and Usage of 1907 and Earlier Precancels* by Charles C. Souder. I thought it would contain something about early precancel use in Georgia. Much to my surprise there were no early precancels recorded from Georgia. In fact Georgia is not alone. The book notes that early precancels are not reported from the following states in addition to Georgia: Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Mississippi, Nevada, North Dakota, West Virginia and Wyoming. It makes one wonder why Georgia has no recorded precancels from the early period.. Certainly some of the businesses in Atlanta, Savannah, Augusta or Macon could have used precancels in their mailings.

My next acquisition was a copy of the *Official Precancel Catalog for Georgia*, edited by W. C. Ogden and printed in 1958. This loose-leaf guide shows the earliest precancels from Georgia as being on the 1908 definitive issue. One thing about this catalog is that the numbering system for the stamps is not from the *Scott* Catalog. Unfortunately, the source of the numbers is not mentioned. However, the listings are identified by series or issue year.

The preface to the catalog includes the following words, some of which have a familiar ring:

We present herewith what is known to date about the precancelled stamps of Georgia - the largest state east of the Mississippi, but one of the least collected, precancel-wise. Few of the earlier precancels are found in the hands of collectors and fewer still in dealer's hands.

How many times do we encounter the fact that Georgia postal history is not well collected and documented? Too often. Another examples are RFD cancels which are discussed in an article on page 7.

Frank

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Coming in Future Issues

- Fancy cancels
- More new finds

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Thanks for the Photos

By Lamar Garrard and Frank Crown



Black AUGUSTA / GA postmark dated 2 Sep (1866) on small ladies envelope.

The cover above is an interesting small ladies cover. It is postmarked Augusta in black ink and on the reverse it is docketed "31. Aug. 1866, Augusta." It is addressed to Alexander H. Stephens, the former Vice President of the Confederacy.

As a dated early post-war cover it helps establish the date of use of the Augusta postmark and the duplex killer marking.

Another interesting aspect of the cover is the notation at the upper right. It reads, "Miss Sue Battey,. Augusta, has received photograph & returns thanks for same." This raises an interesting question. Did Stephens provide photographs to admirers who requested them or did he autograph photographs sent to him by admirers?

Who is the Addressee?

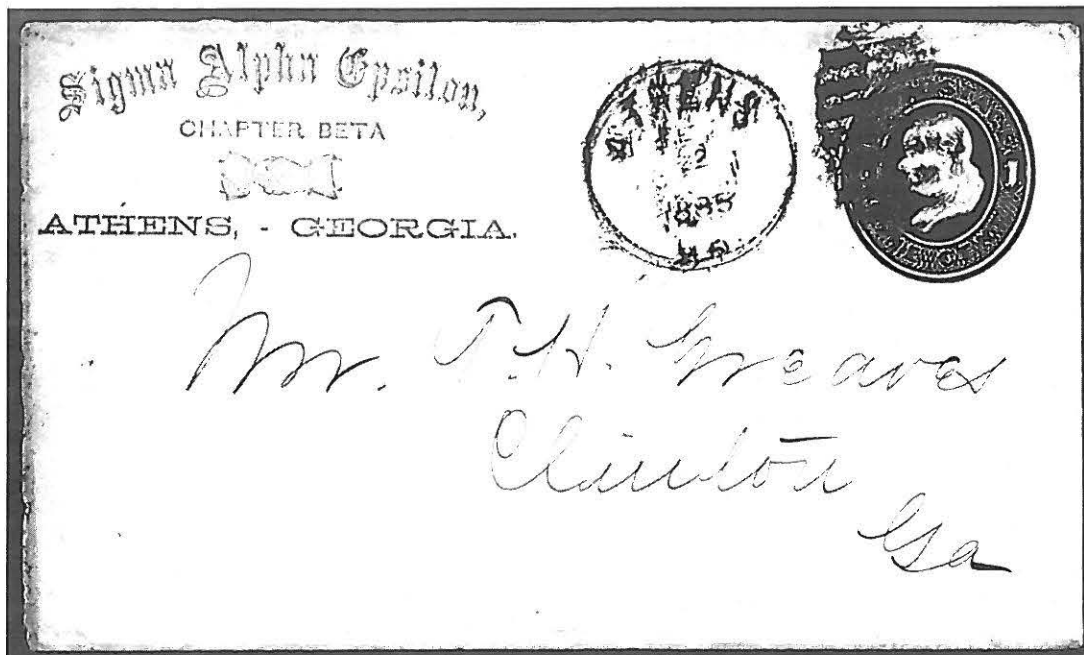


The cover at right was apparently prepared as a mail back envelope. The carmine two cent Washington embossed stamp was issued in 1904 so the cover dates from the early 1900s.

Other than the picture of the rose and the words "Atlanta, Georgia" there is nothing to indicate who the addressee was. If you think you know or have an idea please contact the editor.

A Frat Corner Card Cover

By Frank Crown



Black 22 Feb 1885 ATHENS / GA. postmark on a Sigma Alpha Epsilon Corner Card Cover.

College corner card covers exist for many of the colleges and universities in Georgia. The most common are from the University of Georgia. However, how many collectors have seen a fraternity corner card cover such as the one illustrated above?

The Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity was founded at the University of Alabama in 1856. It grew relatively fast and had 15 chapters at the outbreak of the Civil War. Two of these were at Georgia colleges: Georgia Military Institute and Oglethorpe University. Every member of the chapters at these two schools served in the armed forces of the Confederacy.

By the end of the Civil War only one chapter survived and it died shortly thereafter. The fraternity may well have ceased to exist if it were not for a small group of Georgians.

After the war several members of the fraternity returned to the Georgia Military Institute seeking to resume their education. To

their surprise they found their old college burned to the ground. Rather than give up on their education they decided to attend the University of Georgia. By the end of 1865 they founded the University of Georgia chapter of Sigma Alpha Epsilon. Soon other chapters came back to life and in 1867 the first post-war convention was held in Nashville, Tennessee.

For the next 20 years the fraternity led a very precarious existence with chapters forming and dying with great regularity. Many of those that survived were not really active.

In 1886 the fraternity was revitalized by a new member, Harry Bunting. Under his leadership, and later that of William Collin Levere, Sigma Alpha Epsilon grew into a strong national fraternity that survives to this day.

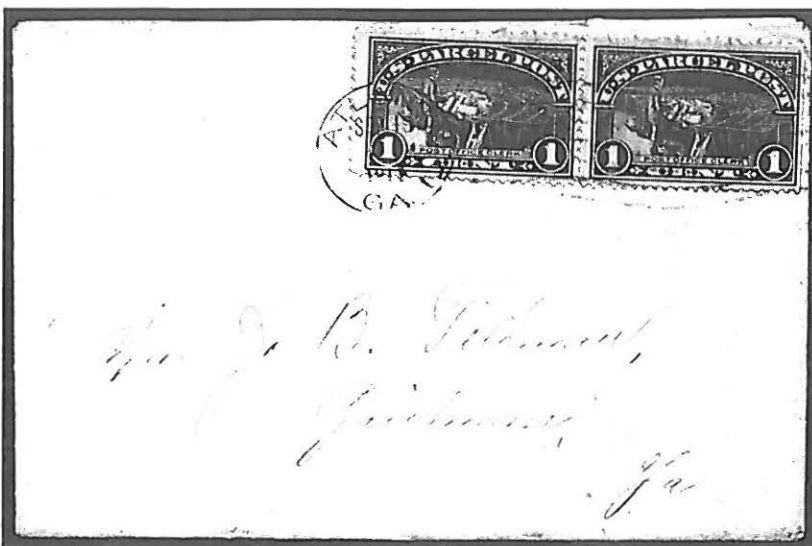
Authors note: *The historical information on Sigma Alpha Epsilon was taken the fraternity's web page.*

Parcel Post from Atlanta

From time to time I dabble in parcel post stamps. There was only one issue of these and they were first distributed in late 1912. The new stamps were required for use on parcel post mail but could be used on other mail.

Today the 12 stamps which make up the parcel post set take up slightly more than one page in the *Scott U. S. Specialized Catalog*. They are not easy to find as they are tucked away behind the special delivery stamps, postage dues, official stamps and newspaper stamps.

In several years of collecting the parcel post stamps on cover I never came across a single cover from a Georgia town with parcel



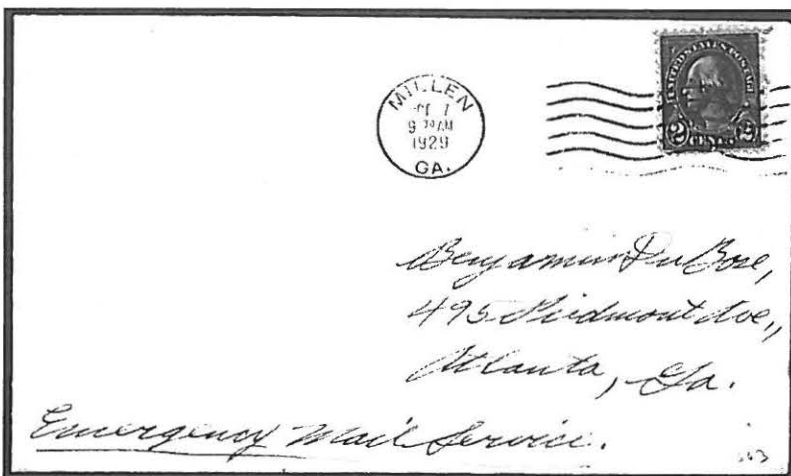
post stamps. Then last fall I found the cover illustrated above. It bears a pair of the one cent parcel post stamps cancelled by an Atlanta 13 Sep 1913 postmark.

Emergency Mail Service?

The cover illustrated to the left is one of two that bear the unusual manuscript endorsement, "Emergency Mail Service." Both this cover and another from Waynesboro, Georgia were postmarked on the same day, 7 October 1929.

Does the endorsement indicate a special mail service? Perhaps, but why did the writer make the endorsement? Normally an endorsement such as this was made by the post office.

Another curious item is the addressee. Benjamin DuBose was a prominent collector and made several discoveries of Georgia Confederate provisionals. Although we do not

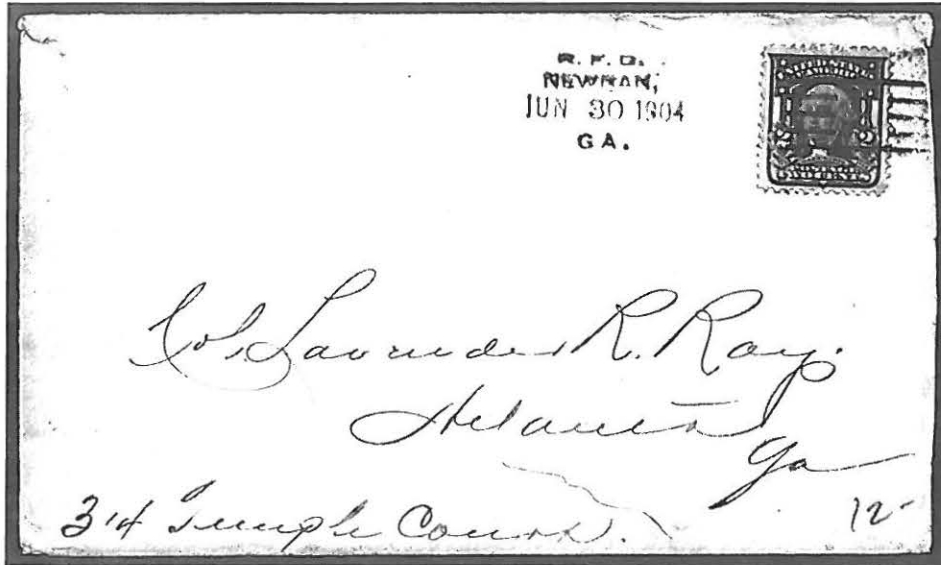


know who mailed the covers the endorsement could have been a philatelic joke.

There is also the possibility that the endorsement was legitimate. Can any readers shed light on the meaning of the endorsement?

RFD Cancels

By Frank Crown



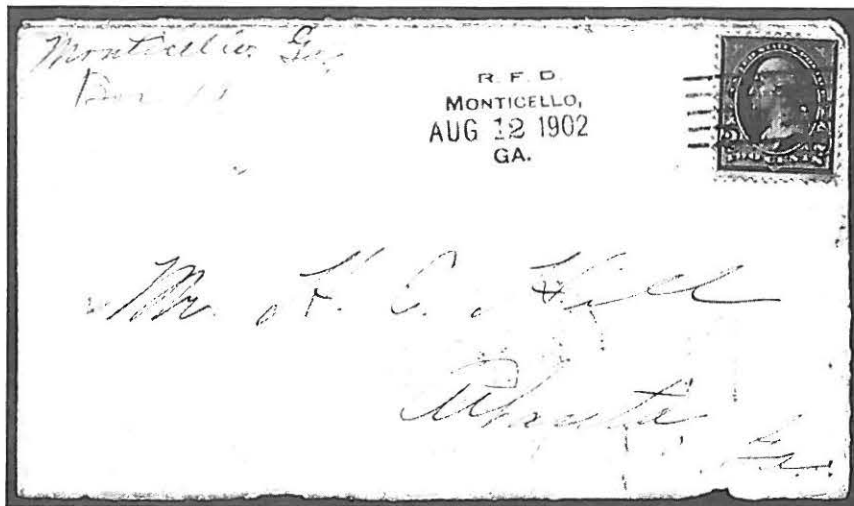
Black "R. F. D. / NEWNAN, / Jun 30 1904 / GA." postmark with five bar killer.

Rural Free Delivery (RFD) cancels are a facet of Georgia postal history that get little attention. There is a catalog of these markings, *Encyclopedia of R. F. D. Cancels*, 2nd edition, by Harold E. Richow. However, so little research has been done on Georgia RFD cancels that new examples are found with some regularity.

Why is there an apparent lack of interest in Georgia RFD cancels? This may be attributed to the general scarcity of the markings and the below average condition of many examples.

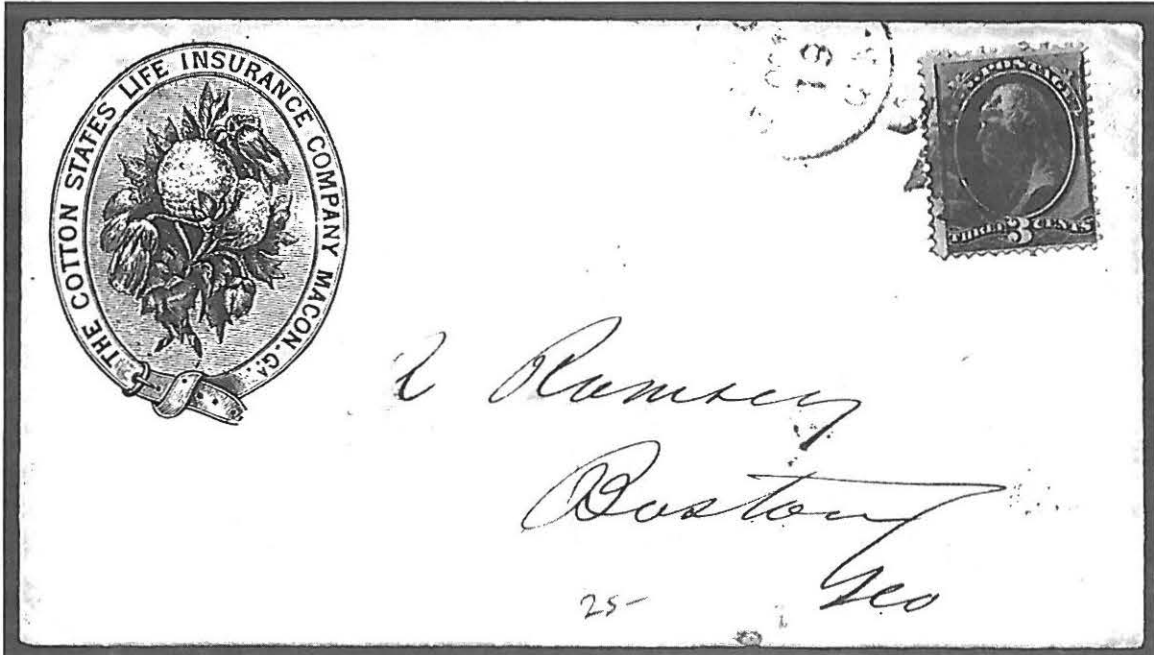
The two examples illustrating this article are exceptions as the strikes are clear and in a strong black color. Many times the impressions of the cancels are in a lighter ink that is not very clear or the condition of the cover or post card is less than desirable.

RFD cancels are not common. So even if the condition is less than you would normally collect don't be deterred from collecting this interesting facet of early 20th century postal history.

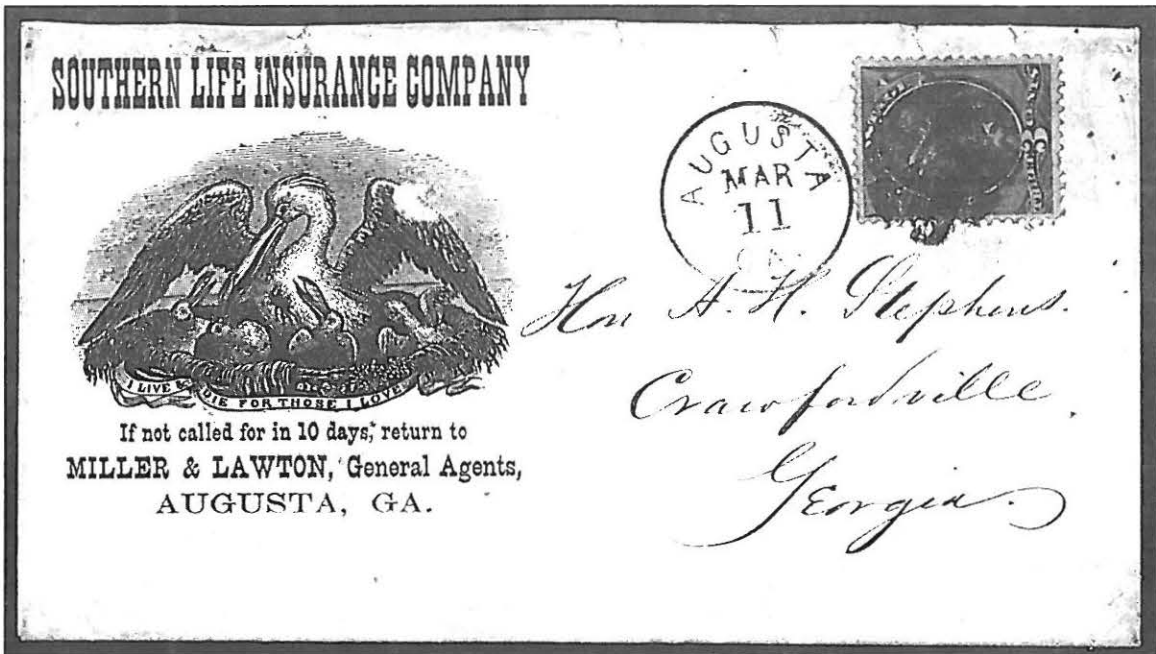


Black "R. F. D. / MONTICELLO, / AUG 12 1902 / GA." postmark with five bar killer.

Cracker Covers



Blue MACON / GA. postmark on corner card cover of the Cotton States Life Insurance Company.



Black AUGUSTA / GA. postmark on corner card cover of the Southern Life Insurance Company.



Georgia Post Roads

Volume 12, Number 3

October 2002

Whole Number 56

Cavet Emptor

By Frank Crown

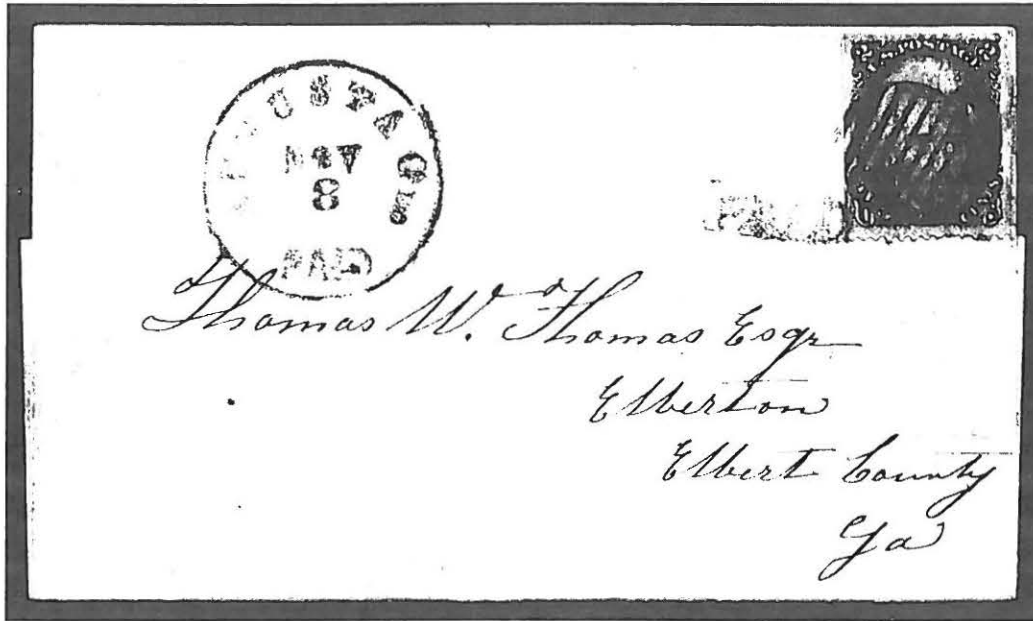


Figure 1. Blue AUGUSTA Geo / PAID postmark dated 8 Nov and blue handstamped "PAID" marking on stampless cover to which a 2c U. S. Blackjack stamp was added.

The postal history of Georgia, just like that of her sister states, is plagued with fake stamps and faked postal history items. While some are dangerous fakes, most will not deceive the careful collector. Some may believe that the art of faking philatelic items is associated with the past. This could not be further from the truth. In the past few weeks I found a faked cover that was prepared in the last twenty years! This article will look a several examples of the fakers art.

The first is illustrated above in Figure 1. This item was in a sale several years ago. It drew my attention because the Augusta postmark and "PAID" marking are prewar markings. While it is not unusual to see antebellum markings used after the Civil War I had never seen this marking from Augusta used

after the war. I bid and won the cover. On receipt I examined it in detail. I was particularly interested in how the "D" of the handstamped "PAID" marking just tied the stamp. The lower left corner of the stamp was not stuck to the cover and by carefully lifting the corner with a pair of tweezers I found a portion of the "D" was under the stamp. The part that tied the stamp had been added as had the portion of the grid that appeared to tie the stamp.

In this case the faker took a prewar stampless cover and carefully added the postwar U. S. 2c stamp. A little work with matching blue ink and the stamp appeared tied by both the grid and the "PAID" marking. Needless to say the cover was returned for a refund from the auction house.

(continued on page 4)

President's Message

The annual meeting of the society was held at Peach State Stamp Show on 28 September. Once again your officers were joined by several members. In fact our membership was better represented than it has been for the last few years. As always the business meeting was short. It was followed by an in depth presentation on the Confederate postmasters' provisionals of Georgia.

At the business meeting several issues were addressed. First it was noted that the society is financially strong. However, the operating costs, primarily to print and mail *GPR* exceeds our current income. Therefore, your officers voted to increase the dues to \$15.00 per year. For current members this will not be apparent until membership renewal next summer.

This was followed by a discussion of methods we can use to maintain and increase our membership. Each year we lose several members through attrition and this year has been no different. There was general agreement that we need to focus our efforts on advertising ourselves through various media. This can be information on the web or articles and notices in the print media. We are also exploring the possibility of preparing a CD on the Georgia provisionals for sale.

Frank

Secretary-Treasurer Report

I can report that dues collections are coming along well, with 32 of 36 members having paid their dues. Second dues notices to the 4 unpaid members have been mailed.

Financially, we are in good shape. We have \$1,555.00 in our treasury with four \$10.00 dues check to be deposited next week for a total of \$1,595.00. Your officers are working to ensure that publishing of the *GPR* will be covered by our annual dues.

I would like to recognize and say thanks to the following members who made cash contributions above the regular dues amount to the Society:

Mr. & Mrs. H. I. Bridges, Jr.
Mr. William Callahan
Mr. Harvey Mirsky
Mr. Mike O'Reilly

No new members to report this quarter, which should be a reminder to all members to help recruit new members for the GPHS.

Mike O'Reilly

Reader Feedback

Lamar Garrard sent the small Democratic Party delegate ballot illustrated below. The last name on the ballot, "Lavender R. Ray," is the same as the addressee on the Newnan RFD cover in the last issue of *GPR*.

Two-Thirds Rule.

FOR DELEGATES TO THE
COWETA COUNTY
DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION,
TO MEET
FIRST TUESDAY in JULY, '82.

~~R. H. Hardaway,~~
F. M. Arnall,
Payson Whatley,
J. A. Kinnard,
A. J. Lyndon,
J. H. Lane,
L. R. Allen,
John Askew,
J. H. Russell,
Lavender R. Ray.

Post Road Notes

For those of you who pay attention to detail you know the issue date, volume and number of the last *GPR* were terribly wrong. The information on the cover of the issue was "January 2001, Vol. 11, No. 1." The correct information is July 2002, Vol. 12, No. 2. Fortunately the date on the inside pages were correct.

If you are one of those who keeps complete runs of philatelic journals this issues includes a insert that identifies each issue of *GPR* and the number of pages.

Most of this issue is an article Georgia postal history fakes. We don't see too many fakes of Georgia material but they exist and we should all be on the lookout for them. The article gives you an idea of what you can expect to find.

The Peach State Stamp Show was kind to your editor. I received material for an article from Nancy Clark. I am always looking for articles. Even if you have nothing more than an idea and a cover contact me. I will work with you to prepare an article of interest for *GPR*.

For the Confederate collector the auction of the Agre Collection by Robert A. Siegel in late September was a gold mine of Georgia handstamped paid. There was also a nice selection of Georgia postmasters' provisionals.

Frank

Winners Circle

Several Members of the GPHS did well at Peach State.

McCary Ballard's collection of *Georgia Confederates* garnered Best of Show, a Gold Medal and the Georgia Postal History Society Award for Best Georgia Postal History Exhibit.

Frank Crown's exhibit of *Antebellum Postmarks of Columbus, Georgia* won a Gold Medal and the Clark Federation Award.

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- A Maine Connection
- More on Biggers
- Fancy cancels
- More new finds

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Cavet Emptor (continued from page 1)



Figure 2. Red COLUMBUS / G^a postmark dated 24 Mar on cover addressed to New York and rated "50" in manuscript. In the upper center is a black handstamped "SHIP" marking.

The second fake cover (figure 2) should fool no one who is familiar with the geography of Georgia and the use of "SHIP" markings. Columbus is in central western Georgia on the Chattahoochee River. Columbus was a river port for shallow draft steamboats plying the river from Appalachicola. Mail carried north on the steam boats were marked "STEAM" or "STEAMBOAT" and postmarked on delivery to the post office in Columbus.

"SHIP" markings were applied to letters carried aboard foreign vessels and non-contract domestic vessels when delivered to post offices at maritime ports of entry. At the same time the mail was postmarked to indicate its acceptance into the regular mail.

Figure 3. Enlarged SHIP Marking



Armed with this information it is easy to determine the marking was added to the cover in Figure 2. First no ocean going vessel would

be able to navigate up the Chattahoochee River to Columbus. Any mail requiring a "SHIP" marking would have had it applied in Appalachicola along with the postmark of that town. If for some reason the letter was not delivered to the post office in Appalachicola but was sent up the river to Columbus it would have received a "STEAM" or "STEAMBOAT" marking instead of ship marking.

In the past ten years I have seen at least two of these faked ship covers. I purchased both for study and to insure they did not make their way into the hands of an unsuspecting buyer.

There is another cover that bears a "STEAMBOAT" marking that is a more dangerous fake. The cover bears a pair of the 5c U. S. #1 postmarked Decatur, Georgia. Decatur is not on a river thus no steam ship captain could deliver any mail to that office. In this case geography ultimately foiled the faker but not before a collector bought the cover. This cover was previously discussed in the March 1996, July 1996 and May 1999 issues of *GPR*.

The Issues of *Georgia Post Roads*

For those of you who maintain a complete run of *GPR* the various methods used to prepare the publication can cause confusion. For example, page numbers are not continuous within a volume, issues are not a consistent number of pages, some issues are loose pages, some issues are stapled and more recently issues are printed and folded.

The chart below shows the volume, issue number and whole number (xx-xx-xx) of each issue of *GPR*. **Note the volume and number are listed as they appear on the issue.** Whole numbers did not appear until the October 2002 issue. The number of pages in each issue are shown in parentheses. Footnotes explain any errors.

The issues from September 1991 to March 1993 were produced on a dot-matrix printer and photocopied. Issues from May 1993 to December 1997 were produced on a laser printer and photocopied. Issues from January 1998 to January 2000 were produced on a laser printer with illustrations pasted in and photocopied. The January and April 2001 issues were produced on a laser printer and photocopied. Starting with the June 2001 issue all issues were produced on a laser printer and offset printed.

Year	January	March	May	July	September	November
1991	No issue	No issue	No issue	No issue	1-1-1 (2)	1-2-2 (2)
1992	2-1-3 (2)	2-2-4 (4)	2-3-5 (4)	2-4-6 (4)	2-5-7 (8)	2-6-8 (6)
1993	3-1-9 (6)	3-1-10 ¹ (6)	3-3-11 (6)	3-4-12 (6)	3-5-13 (4)	3-6-14 ² (4)
1994	4-1-15 (4)	4-2-16 (6)	4-3-17 (6)	4-4-18 (8)	4-5-19 (6)	4-6-20 (6)
1995	5-1-21 (6)	5-2-22 (6)	5-3-23 (6)	5-4-24 (8)	5-5-25 (4)	5-6-26 (6)
1996	6-1-27 (8)	6-2-28 (6)	6-3-29 (8)	6-4-30 (8)	6-5-31 (8)	6-6-32 (8)
1997	7-1-33 (8)	7-2-34 (6)	7-3-35 (8)	7-4-36 (8)	7-5-37 (6)	7-6-38 (8)
1998	8-1-39 (8)	8-2-40 (8)	8-3-41 (7)	8-4-42 (6)	8-5-43 (8)	8-9-44 ³ (8)
1999	9-1-45 ³ (8)	9-2-46 (8)	9-3-47 ⁴ (8)	No issue	No issue	No issue
2000	10-1-48 (14)					
	January	April	June	September	December	
2001	11-1-49 (2)	11-2-50 (8)	11-3-51 (8)	11-4-52 (18)	11-5-53 (8)	
	January	April	July	October		
2002	No issue	12-1-54 (8)	11-1-55 ⁵ (8)	12-3-56 ⁶ (8)		

¹ The number of this issue was incorrectly printed as "1." The correct number is "2."

² In addition to the four pages indicated, this issue also included a two page unnumbered supplement titled, "1816 Georgia Post Offices."

³ The November 1998 / January 1999 issue was a combined issue. The number of the issue for 1998 was incorrectly printed as "9". The correct number is "6."

⁴ The number of this issue was incorrectly printed in the title box as "2." The correct number is "3." The number at the top of the first page is correct.

⁵ The month, volume and number were incorrectly printed as "January 2001," "11," and "1" respectively. The correct identifying information is "July 2002," and "Volume 12, Number 2." The cover article is about a "Fancy III Marking." The inside pages bear the correct date: July 2002.

⁶ In addition to the four pages indicated, this issue also included a one page insert titled, "The Issues of *Georgia Post Roads*."



Figure 4. Black Warrenton Confederate provisional marking on an onion skin cover.

A third faked cover is the Warrenton Confederate provisional illustrated in Figure 4. This cover may fool someone who has not seen a real Warrenton provisional cover. However, those who have will immediately recognize this cover as a fake.

The problem in determining the cover is a fake is the marking itself. If one uses only the *Scott Catalog* they will find that the marking is an exact match, both to form and size. Therefore, the marking must be authentic. Wrong! In this case the faker used the *Scott Catalog* illustration to prepare the fake cover. However, the *Scott Catalog* illustration is oversized (Figure 5). The real provisional marking measures 30 mm in diameter. The fake marking (the *Scott Catalog* illustration) measures 33.5 mm in diameter.

There are two other clues that the cover is a fake. The first clue is the address. At the time of the Civil War there were no street numbers in Milledgeville addresses. The address on this cover is obviously made up.

The second clue is the envelope paper. It is an onion skin paper that even has an onion skin

water mark. I have never seen onion skin paper used from this period and I seriously doubt it was produced at this time.

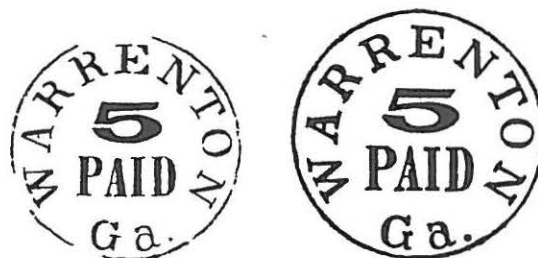


Figure 5. The authentic Confederate Warrenton provisional marking on the left, the fake marking on the right.

This article has highlight only four fake covers. From this you should realize that Georgia postal history material is not immune to fakes. Be careful of your purchases because you can be sure there are other Georgia fakes lurking out there.

In the future I plan another article on Georgia postal history fakes. In the meantime be forewarned. If in doubt about an item inform the auction house or dealer you want to have it authenticated.

Courthouses and Depots

by Ed Jackson

The Courthouse and the Depot: A Narrative Guide to Railroad Expansion and Its Impact on Public Architecture in Georgia 1833-1910 by Wilbur W. Caldwell, 612 pp. with over 300 photographs. Mercer University Press, 2001.

Ordinarily, one would not associate philately with courthouse and depot architecture. But, there can be a connection in the case of Georgia postal history. In the 1830s, two events occurred which would have a dramatic impact on the settlement of Georgia. The first was the Cherokee Trail of Tears, marking the final removal of all Indians from Georgia. The Creeks had preceded the Cherokees in the forced migration westward in the 1820s, so by the 1830s state officials were busy opening up former Indian lands to white settlers.

The other important event in the 1830s affecting Georgia's development was the arrival of the railroad. In 1830, the first passenger rail service was launched in America in Charleston, South Carolina. In 1833, the railroad was extended to Hamburg (today known as North Augusta). In response, the Georgia General Assembly chartered two railroads in December 1833. One, which became known as the Georgia Railroad Company, would be built westward from Augusta. The other, which would become the Central of Georgia Railroad, would be built from Savannah northwestward to Macon. In 1836, the General Assembly authorized a third railroad--the Western & Atlantic--to be built from DeKalb County to Chattanooga and the Tennessee River. The goal of the new system of railroads was to connect much of the interior of Georgia to the port of Savannah and to markets in northern states and to the Mississippi River. With all former Indian lands in Georgia now

open to settlement, the arrival of the railroad hastened the population growth of the state.

Now, the tie to philately. Prior to the railroad, many Georgia towns and villages that served as county seats were located on rivers or trails. When new railroads were built, however, they often bypassed old towns. Along the new rail tracks, train stations and depots were built. In many cases, settlements grew up around depots. Because of the importance of being near the railroad, depot communities frequently eclipsed old county seats in size and importance.

In Georgia, county governments performed many functions on behalf of the state (e.g., courts, elections, marriage licenses, tax collection, etc.)--so it was important to live near the county seat. Thus, county residents often petitioned the legislature to move the county seat to a growing community that began as a railroad station. By the time of the Civil War, Georgia had the most extensive railroad system in the Deep South. Along each rail line, train stations often became communities, which in turn became incorporated towns. This pattern continued in the decades after the war, resulting in the building of numerous depots and new courthouses. Many railroad towns became post offices with their own postmarks, which brings us to Georgia postal history.

The book contains a lot of historical information about the state and its counties but no specific information on Georgia post offices or cancels. However, the information on the railroads, including 33 maps of different railroad routes, alone justifies the purchase of the book by anyone seriously interested in Georgia postal history.

The book sells for \$50.00 at bookstores, but Mercer University Press is currently offering the book online for \$40.00.

Confederate Wallpaper Cover

by Jim Doolin



Figure 1. Confederate wallpaper cover postmarked COLUMBUS GA, 23 Dec.

When the American Civil War started in 1861, shortages of many products in the Confederate States of America became very apparent. One of those items with no inventories was paper in general and envelopes in particular. Letter writers very soon resorted

they were in use throughout the United States as recently as 1855. So the South resorted to folded letter sheets again for many of their letters.

One unusual source of paper for letter writers was the wallpaper in their homes. Wallpaper came in various colors and designs and was generally a heavy grade of paper. Some people made envelopes from it. Figure 1 illustrates a wallpaper cover with the 10c blue Hoyer & Ludwig Type I stamp postmarked Columbus, Georgia on 23 December. The year date is probably 1863. Surviving Confederate wallpaper covers are fairly scarce and eagerly sought by collectors.

The Confederate States of America never issued any coins. To facilitate purchases in small sums, banks and merchants issued script or paper money in coin denominations. Figure 2 is an illustration of a 10c scrip note issued by the Bank of Columbus in January 1862. Such a note would have paid for the stamp on the wallpaper cover.

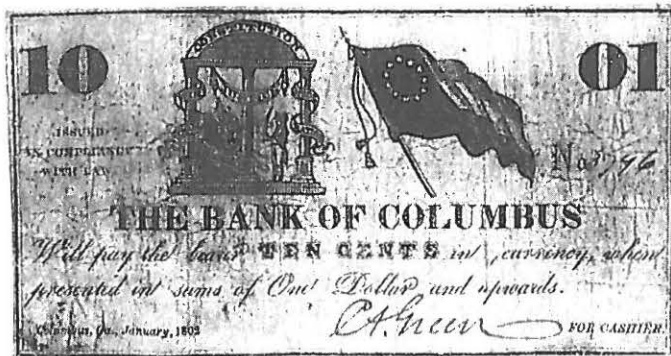
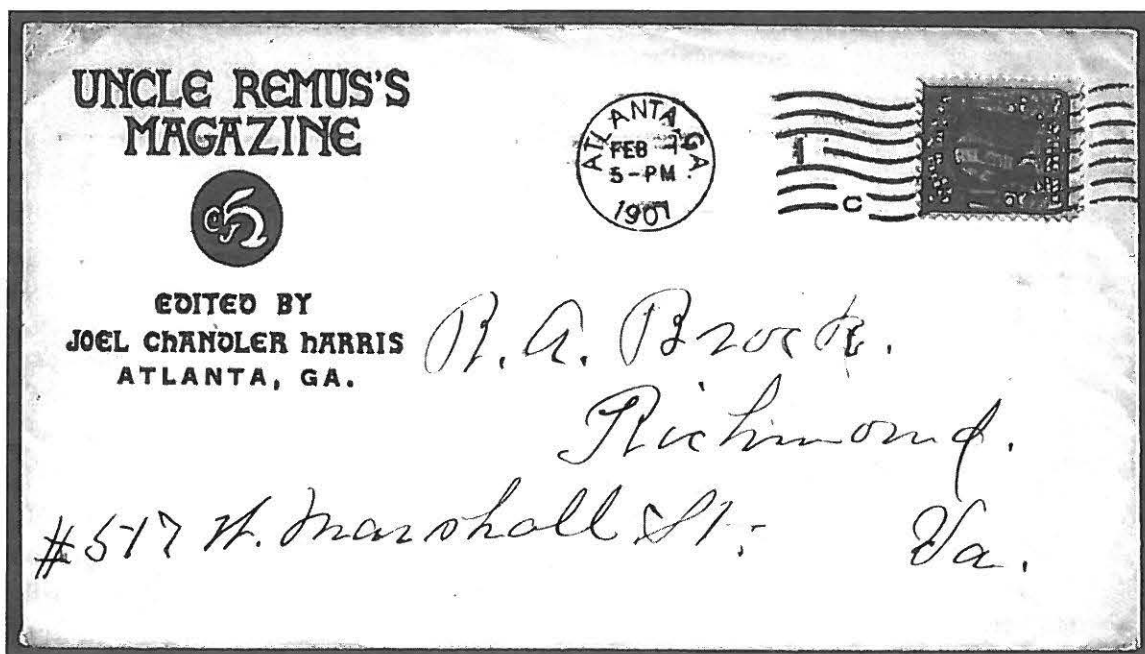
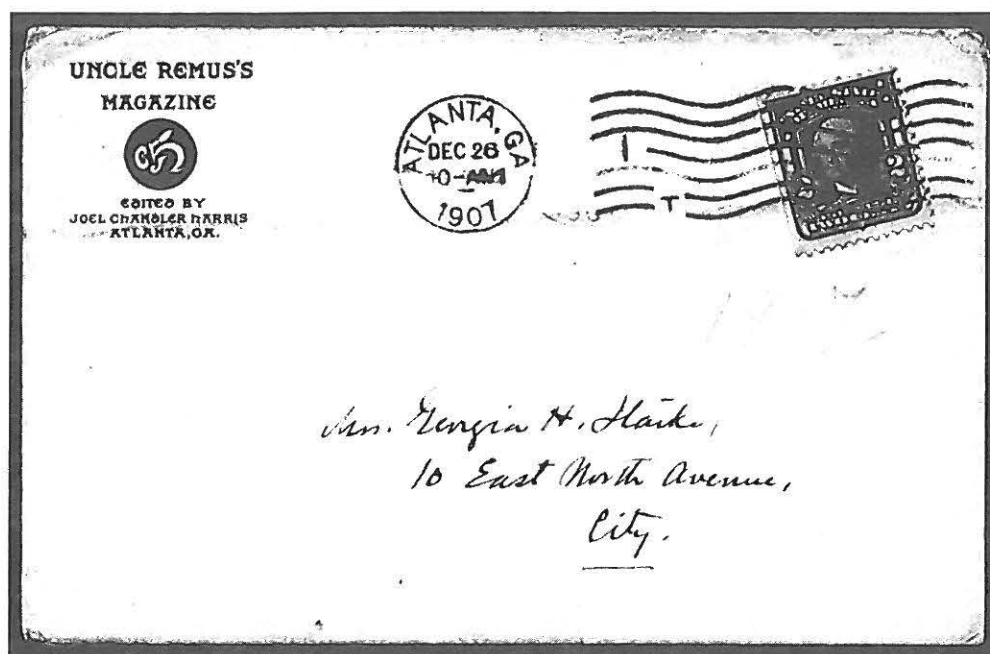


Figure 2. 10c script note of a Columbus bank.

to using any kind of paper to write their letters and in many cases they just folded their letter paper, sealed it and addressed it on the outside. Folded letter sheets were a recent memory as

Cracker Covers



Above are two *Uncle Remus's Magazine* corner card covers bearing 2c carmine Type I stamps of the 1903 issue. Both are postmarked by Atlanta 1907 postmarks. The corner cards are of the same basic design but different sizes. There is also a font change in the last line of the

address. The circular logo features a colorless stylized rabbit on a red background in a small black circle. *Uncle Remus's Magazine* was published from 1907 to 1913.

The address on the top cover is said to be in the hand of Joel Chandler Harris.



Georgia Post Roads

Volume 13, Number 1

January 2003

Whole Number 57

Handstamped Charge Box Marking?

By Frank Crown



Faded red 27 Jan AUGUSTA / Ga. postmark and matching handstamped "PAID" with manuscript "12 1/2" rate on 1844 cover to Milledgeville. Bright red handstamped "PAID" marking of J. C. Winter at lower left.

The cover illustrated above would attract no attention if it were not for the bright red handstamped marking in the lower left. Collectors of stampless covers are familiar with the notation "Charge Box" which is found in various forms on many stampless covers. The notation, followed by a box number, was used to tell the postal clerk to charge the required postage to the account of the box holder indicated. This eliminated the need for the box holder to take his mail to the post office and pay for the required postage. It is quite possible there was a special deposit box for such mail, although I have never seen any documented proof of such.

The marking on this cover (enlarged in Figure 2) appears to be a handstamped version of the manuscript "Charge Box" notation. In

this case the word "Paid" is used instead of "Charge Box." Instead of a box number there is the name "J. C. Winter." This is not unusual because some of the manuscript "Charge Box" markings had initials instead of a box number.

Who was Mr. J. C. Winter and why did he use a handstamped charge box marking? Unfortunately, I found very little information on Winter. In fact the only information is what can be gleaned from the letter. It is signed "John Winter, for Samuel Hale." Did Winter act as secretary for Hale, who was mayor of Augusta from 1827 to 1837?

Figure 2.
Enlarged "PAID"
marking.



President's Message

This begins the final year of the current administration. New elections will be held before the end of the of year which seems a long way off at the moment. However, time has a way of passing extremely fast, particularly if you put things off. It is not my intention to fall into this trap. In the next issue I hope to announce the appointment of a nominating committee. If anyone is interesting in supporting the GPHS by serving on this committee please contact me.

Recently I was contacted by Lyla Owens, the widow of one of our founding members, Ernie Owens. Lyla informed me that she will soon be placing Ernie's Georgia postal history collection with an auction house. Ernie's collection included some very rare and unusual covers, particularly in the stampless area.

Frank

Reader Feedback

On page 4 there is a short article with more information on the interesting town of Biggers that was first highlighted in the April 2002 issue of *GPR*.

Correction

An article entitled "Another Washington, Georgia Provisional Cover," appeared on page 7 of the January 1998 issue of *GPR*. The story was about a new provisional cover. Unlike other Washington provisionals this cover was said to have a pair of 5c Confederate stamps used over the markings. At the time the stamps had not been lifted to examine the markings in detail. Recently the cover was reexamined and the stamps removed. There were no markings under the stamps.

Frank

Secretary-Treasurer Report

Writing this report on Christmas Eve certainly gives me the chance to pause and consider the past year. In spite of all the problems in the world, we should count our blessings and be thankful for the important things in life. Here's hoping that the New Year will find you and your families in good health and looking forward to a prosperous year.

We wish to welcome the following new members to our ranks:

- #50 Crouch, W. Newton Jr.
PO Box 1737, Griffin, GA 30224-0040
(email: crouchwn@mindspring.com)
- #51 Caines, Bonnie
2830 Old Towne Parkway, Duluth, GA
30097-7641
- #52 Palazola, Jerry S.
5010 Raleigh Lagrange, Memphis, TN
38128-8080
(email: palazolo@bellsouth.net)

Please take the initiative to contact our new members and help make them feel welcome in the GPHS. Drop them an email or a note when you get a chance.

The past quarter has also shown a loss of 3 members for non-payment of dues

- #41 Gluckman, Richard J.
- #44 Doubleday, Elwyn
- #47 Denena, Bernard L.

Obviously, we hate to lose any of our members and urge each member to help us recruit new members for the GPHS. Frank and I have membership applications available, if needed.

We currently have a bank balance of \$1,475.57.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike O'Reilly

Post Road Notes

As I type these final words to wrap up this issue of *GPR* another year has come to an end. As I reflect back I can see a definite change in my collecting interests over the past few years. Earlier it was stampless covers. While that interest is still there my real focus in more recent years has been on Spanish-American War covers from Georgia and post-Civil War covers of the 19th century, particularly corner card covers. This ability to shift one's focus to other areas of interest but still remain in the field of postal history is probably one of the main reasons stamp collecting remains so popular.

As the year drew to a close I changed my internet service provider. Therefore, I have a new email address which you can find in one of the boxes at lower right.

One of the things I have noticed over the years is the propensity for a new find to trigger more new finds of the same usage. While the cover from Biggers, Georgia featured in the April issue 2002 *GPR* is a far cry from what one would call a significant find it was soon followed by two other related items as detailed in this issue.

On the back page of this issue is the usual pair of "Cracker Covers." Since the illustrations took up so much space there was no room to elaborate on the covers. Both are from what we today call department stores. Those from Georgia are familiar with Rich's. The top cover is from a period when it was know by the name of the founder, Morris Rich.

The second cover is also from a famous Atlanta department store. The Chamberlin-Johnson-DuBose Company began in 1866. By the turn of the century it was one of the finest retail stores in Atlanta. Then in 1931, it was forced to close it doors, a victim of the depression and, some say, a poor location.

Frank

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- Fancy cancels
- More new finds
- More Caveat Emptor

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**YOUR OFFICERS WISH EVERYONE
A HAPPY AND REWARDING NEW YEAR!**

More on Biggers, Georgia

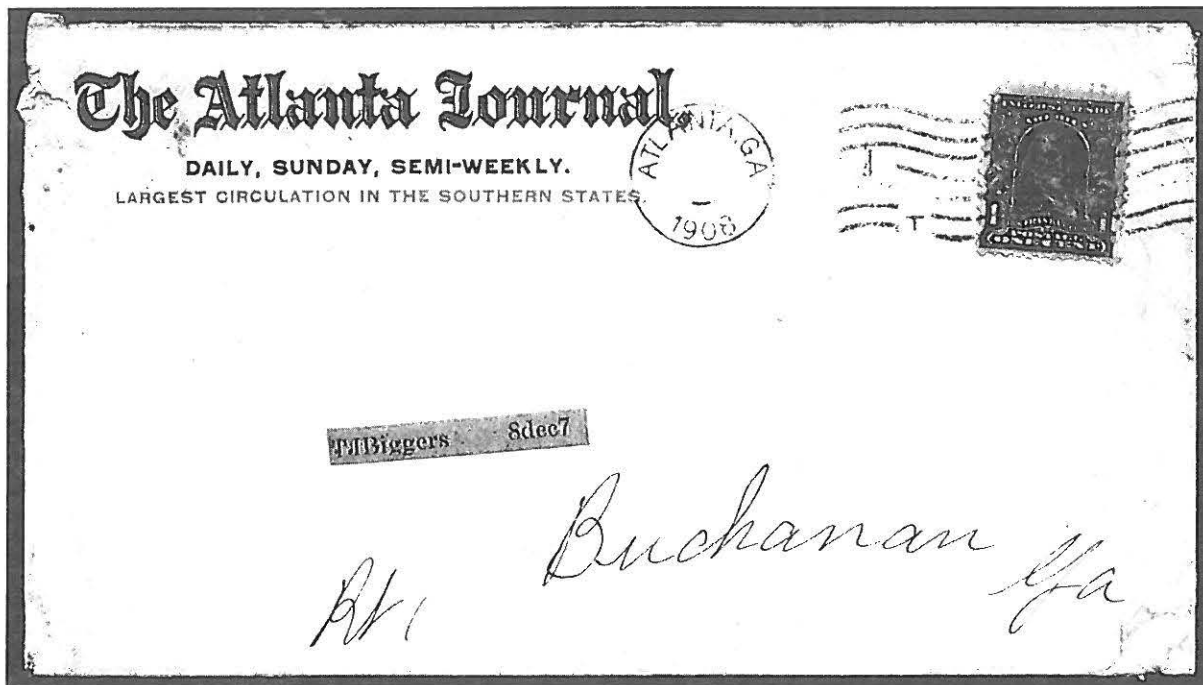
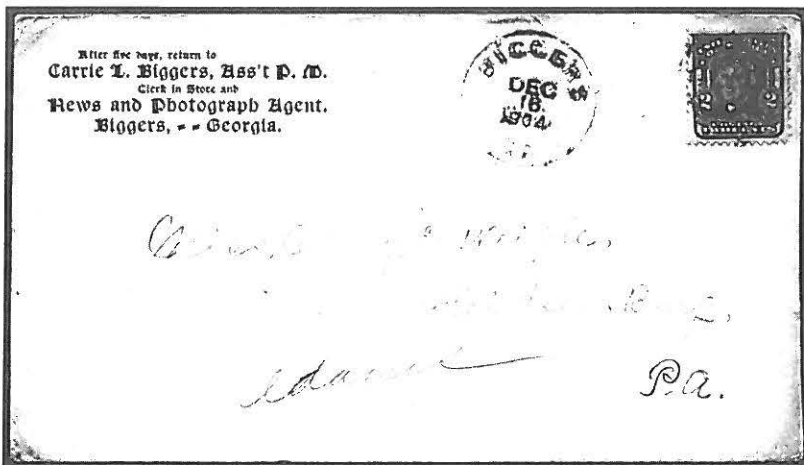


Figure 1. Atlanta 1908 postmark ties 1c green stamp on Atlanta Journal Corner Card Cover.

It is strange how things seems to run in pairs in the collection of postal history. The April 2002 issue of *GPR* included an article on the small town of Biggers, Georgia illustrated by a corner card envelope from that town. Shortly after the article was published a second Biggers cover was found with an almost identical corner card. As this article is written there is yet a third Biggers cover being offered at auction.

The story does not end here! Illustrated above is a cover addressed to T J Biggers, at Rt 1, Buchanan, Georgia. T J. Biggers was the postmaster of Biggers. Even though he operated a fourth class post office, apparently at least some of his mail was delivered by the rural route mail carrier out of Buchanan, the county seat.

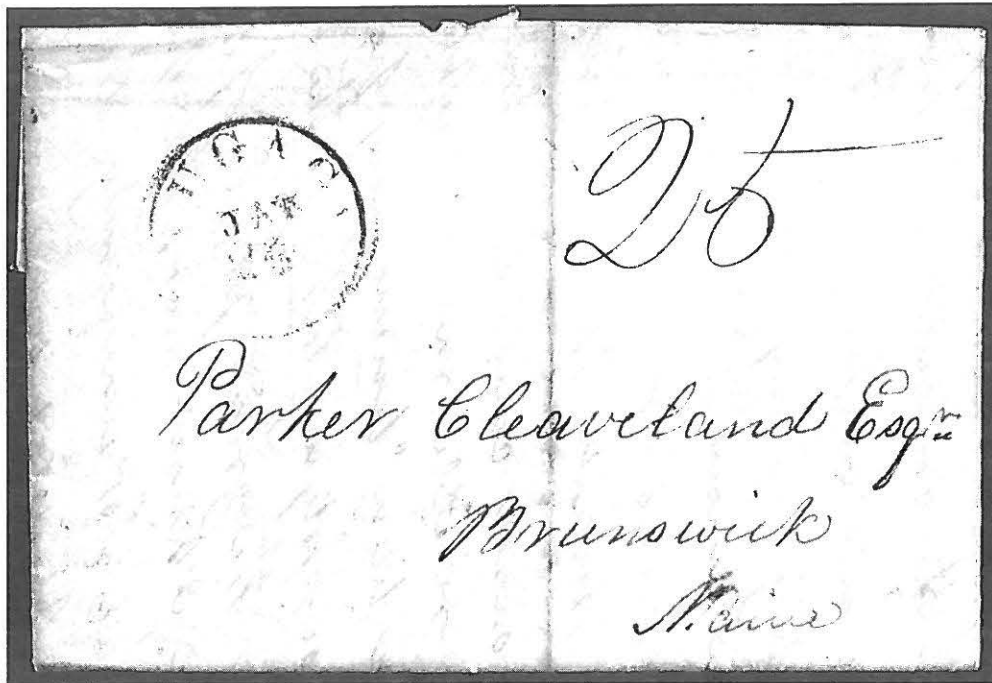
The cover is postmarked 1908 but the address label includes the code "8dec7." This probably represents the date Mr. Biggers' subscription to the *Atlanta Journal* expired and the envelope probably contained a renewal notice or bill.



Biggers cover postmarked 16 December 1904. The only difference between the corner card on this cover and the one illustrated in the April 2002 *GPR* is the number of dashes between Biggers and Georgia.

A Maine Connection

by Nancy Clark



Black AUG^A GA^A postmark dated 24 January (1819) on stampless letter to Brunswick, Maine.

Although Douglas and I collect Oglethorpe County and Georgia railway post office material, it is no secret that my dowry comes primarily from material with a philatelic connection to Maine. The cover illustrated above is an example of my “dowry.”

The stampless cover bears a black 29 mm AUG^A GA^A handstamped postmark dated 24 January (1819). The manuscript “25” indicates the rate and a lack of a paid marking that the postage was to be collected from the addressee.

The letter was written by Dr. James Bates of Augusta to Parker Cleaveland a professor at Bowdoin College. Cleaveland was an early American pioneer in the field of mineralogy. To help obtain information he sought help from friends and colleagues. One of those was Dr. Bates.

Dr. Bates had a poor impression of Georgian’s writing, “the height of information

to be acquired from most persons in this state, goes no farther than how to govern Negroes & plant cotton.” He also noted that “the people of this state have almost uniformly decayed teeth.” He took advantage of the opportunity and prepared false teeth for many of Augusta’s citizens while at the same time “lining his pockets.”

Concerning his efforts to gather information on the geology of the state he remarked that he could have found men, “who have travelled the road [between Savannah and Augusta] twenty times, who would have sworn there was no stone, of any kind, between Savannah & Augusta, on the road, unless it had been carried there by human hands.”

Dr. Bates did report seeing a large quantity of “buhstone” (silicified limestone) at Millhaven, Georgia. He noted the stone ran across part of South Carolina and Georgia.

Looking for a Collecting Niche?

By Frank Crown

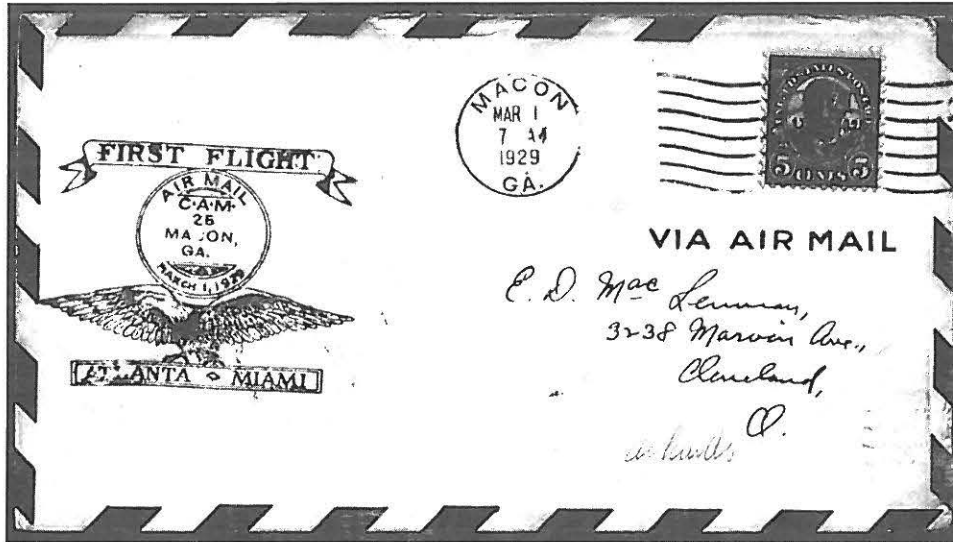


Figure 1. 5c Hawaii overprint commemorative used on a Contract Air Mail (CAM) "first flight" cover from Macon on 1 March 1929.

Many collectors have very specialized interests that make finding new material very difficult. Others have collections so complete it is difficult to find those last few needed items. At this point it is always good to have one or more secondary collecting interests. Collecting U. S. stamps overprinted as commemoratives and postmarked from a Georgia town is a niche area you might consider.

As early as 1926 the Hawaiian Historical Society began making plans to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Captain James Cook's discovery of the Hawaiian Islands. Two designs were suggested to the Postmaster General. The whole idea of a Hawaiian commemorative was rejected because it was not considered of national significance. The Hawaiian delegate in Congress continued the effort but was only able to get the Postmaster General to agree to issue two surcharged stamps.

The 2 cent carmine and 5c blue stamps of the regular issue of 1922-25 were overprinted in black "HAWAII, 1778-1928." These stamps

were placed on sale on 13 August 1928 and were sold only in Hawaii and at the Philatelic Sales Agency in Washington, D.C.. They looked like precancelled stamps and clerks were prone to reject them for postage because they were being used in towns other than the issuing office.

The overprinted Hawaii commemoratives were issued in relatively small quantities: only 5.5 million of the 2c value and 1.5 million of the 5c value. The 5c value on cover is illustrated in Figure 1 and the 2c value in Figure 2.

In early 1928 Congressman Hoffman of New Jersey began a campaign to have a special stamp issued in honor of Molly Pitcher, heroine of the Battle of Monmouth. The Postmaster General was opposed and only at the last minute agreed to overprint a stamp.

The stamp chosen for the overprint was the 2c carmine stamp of the 1922-25 regular issue. It was overprinted in black "MOLLY PITCHER." The stamp was issued on 20

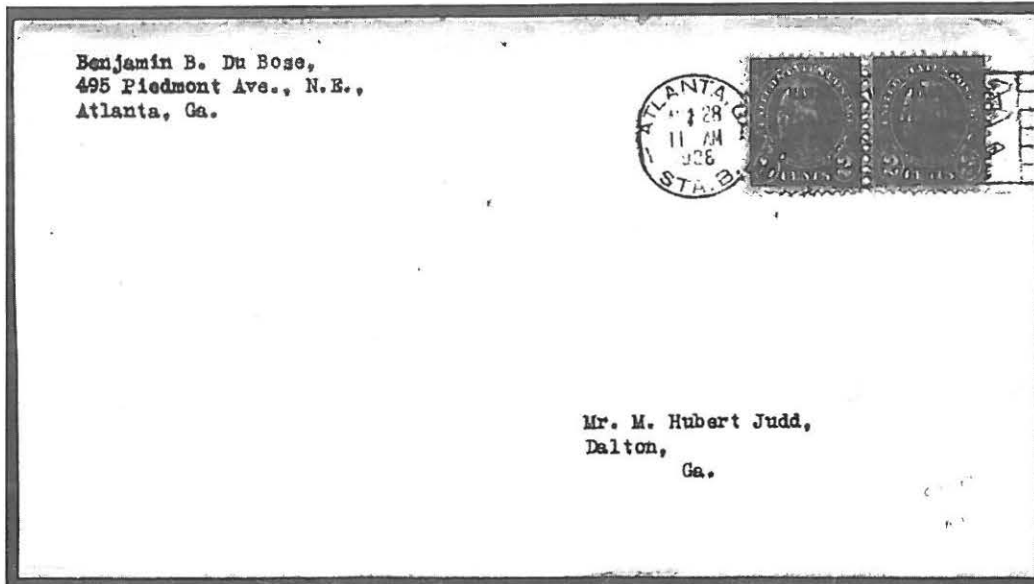


Figure 2. A pair of the 2 cent Hawaii stamps tied by 28 Aug 1926 Atlanta postmark. Although this appears to be a non-philatelic use the sender and addressee were both stamp collectors.

Figure 3. A pair of the 2c Molly Pitcher stamps tied by a 1 April 1930 Atlanta Air Mail Field postmark. Many of the precancelled commerratives were used on philatelic mail such as this "first night flight" cover.



October 1928 in Freehold and Red Bank, New Jersey and in Washington, D. C.

The stamp was issued in a quantity of almost ten million. It was the last overprint the Post Office released as a commemorative.

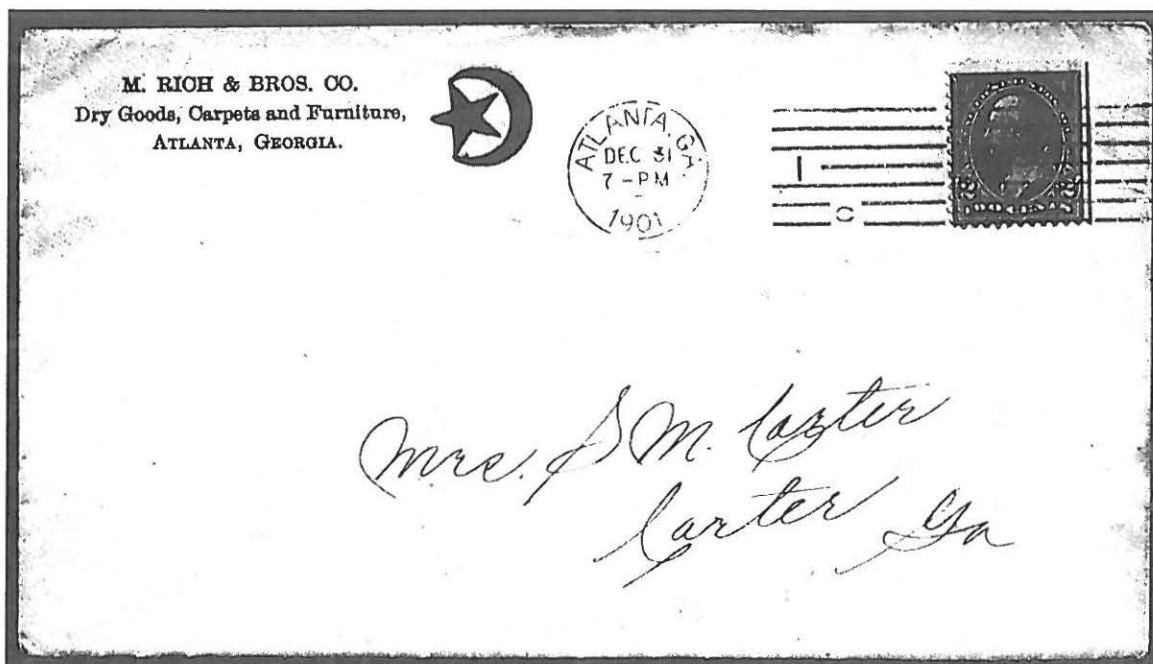
Illustrated in Figure 3 is a cover bearing a pair of the 2 cent carmine Molly Pitcher overprints.

The limited distribution of the Hawaii stamps and the illustrations suggest that most of the them were probably used on philatelic mail. The Molly Pitcher stamps are more plentiful

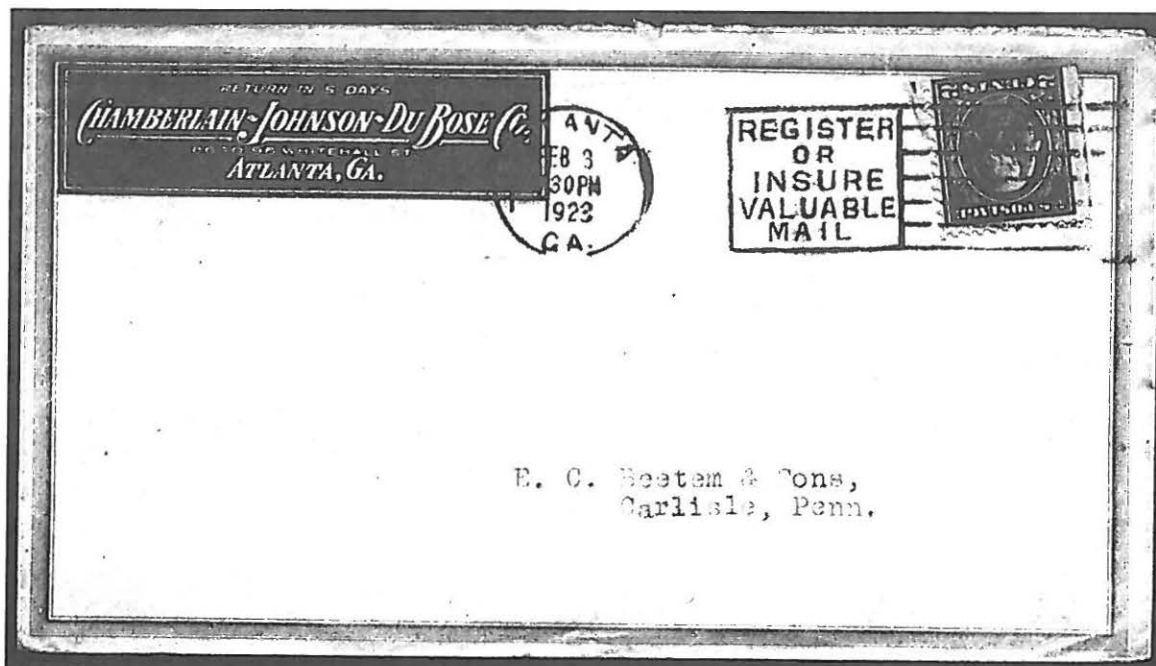
and probably saw wider use. The stamps were frequently used on first flight covers from late 1928 through 1930.

Collecting the Hawaii and Molly Pitcher overprints postmarked from Georgia towns is an interesting challenge for several reasons. First there were relatively few of these commemoratives issued and even fewer used from Georgia towns. Second it offers the challenge of finding non-philatelic usages and usages that were rejected by postal clerks as being invalid precancels.

Cracker Covers



Black ATLANTA 1901 postmark on early Rich's Department Store corner card cover. "M. Rich" (Morris Rich) was the founder. The name was changed to Rich's, Inc. in 1929.



Black ATLANTA 1923 postmark on a corner card cover of the Chamberlain-Johnson-DuRose Company. One of Atlanta's finest department stores at the time.



Georgia Post Roads

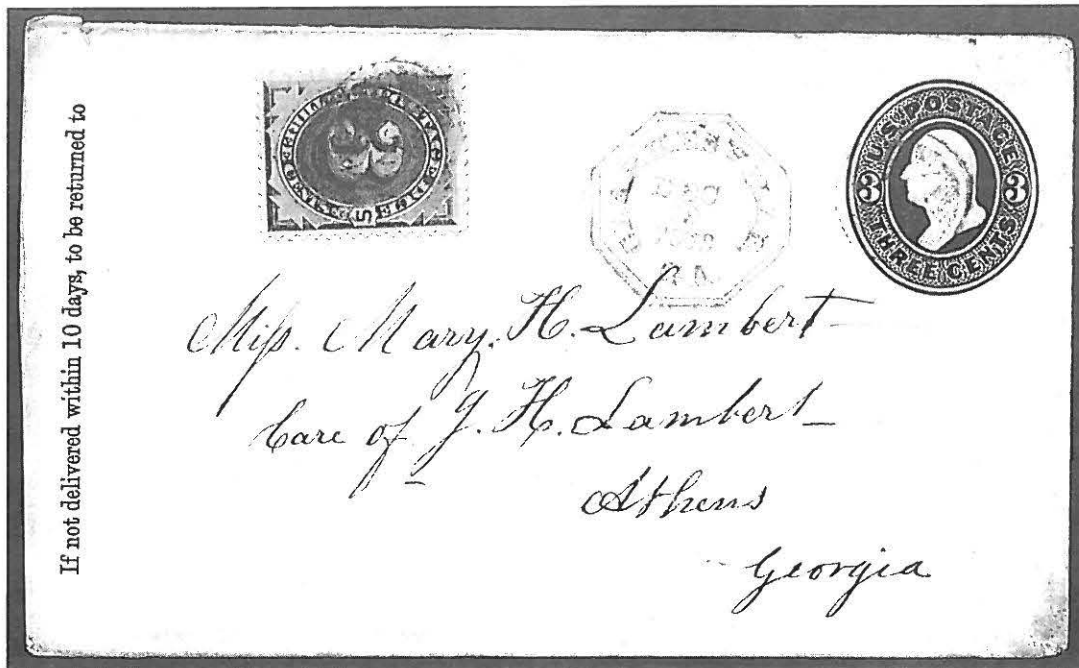
Volume 13, Number 2

April 2003

Whole Number 58

A Postage Due Cover and More

by Frank Crown



Violet CLARKSVILLE, / GA. postmark, dated 19 Dec 1879, on cover with matching circular negative star handstamp cancelling envelop stamp and 3c postage due stamp.

I recently purchased the cover illustrated above because it was a postage due use from Georgia. Postage dues used on cover are not plentiful and to find one from Georgia is a rare treat. A close examination of the cover revealed I got more than just a postage due cover.

It wasn't until 1879 that Congress passed an Act approving the use of postage due stamps. This act effective, 1 July 1879, created a new field of philately. One which even today does not get much attention. In fact, in preparing this article the only thing I could find out about the first series of postage due stamps was that they were issued in 1879.

The cover bears a violet Clarksville non standard octagonal double line border postmark. This alone is enough to make the cover unusual.

Postmarks such as this were purchased by the town postmaster without reimbursement from the Post Office Department. In this case the postmark is dated December 1879 and is a violet color. The date makes this a very early usage since the stamps were not issued until 1 July 1879 or later.

The sender used a 3c green stamped envelope of the 1874-1886 series. It was apparently a double weight letter which resulted in the 3c postage due stamp being affixed. Both the postage due stamp and the envelope stamp are tied by a negative star cancel in a violet ink that matches the postmark. My limited experience with postage due stamps is that it is very rare for a postage due stamp to be tied to a cover by either a postmark or cancelling device.

President's Message

The big news as I prepare this message is the recovery of the Hill Confederates that were stolen from the trunk of Stanley Piller's car several years ago. The Hill collection contained several important Georgia postmasters' provisionals. We are all grateful to those responsible for the apprehension of the thieves and the recovery of the Confederates.

This is the year we elect officers for the next three year term. On this page you will find a notice announcing the appointment of a nominating committee for the election of officers. Please read it and submit any nominations you may have. Ballots will be sent with the next issue of *GPR* and the results of the election announced at our next annual meeting.

I am keeping my comments brief this month to allow more space for items of general interest.

Frank

Nominating Committee

The election of new officers of the Georgia Postal History Society is scheduled for later this year. Gary Doster has been appointed to serve as the Nominating Committee Chairman to present a slate of nominees for office.

Anyone wishing to nominate a member for office should contact Gary with the particulars. Gary's address is: Gary Doster, 1230 Bob Godfrey Road, Athens, GA 30605-5316.

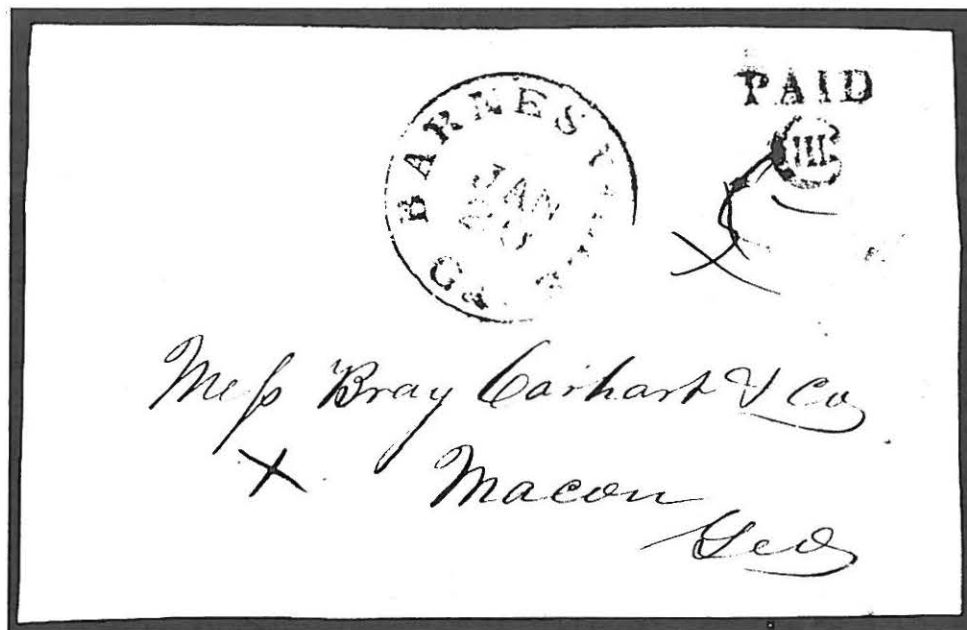
Secretary-Treasurer Report

No new members to report this quarter, which should be a reminder to all members to help recruit new members for the GPHS. I have membership applications available, if needed, so drop me a letter or email.

We currently have a bank balance of \$1,342.27.

Mike O'Reilly

A Second 3c "Fish-scale" Rate Marking



Cover front with black BARNESVILLE / Ga. postmark dated 20 Jan and black 3c "fish-scale" handstamped rate marking.

Post Road Notes

This issue is a first for *Georgia Post Roads*. On the next page is an illustration of a newly discovered Confederate postmasters' provisional from Griffin, Georgia. The discoverer, Conrad Bush, was kind enough to report it to me as I was preparing this issue. As a result *Georgia Post Roads* is the first to report this important discovery.

Speaking of Confederates, I am still hard at work on a census and handbook of Georgia postmaster's provisionals. If you have one or more of these covers I would greatly appreciate a copy.

Some may have noticed that the page numbers in this issue do not start with one. Instead, starting with this volume the page numbers will run consecutively for the entire volume.

Last month I wrote about the propensity of one new find to trigger another find of the same item. The pattern continues. The July 2002 *GPR* cover story was about the discovery of a Barnesville "PAID IIIC" marking. Less than a year later a second example of this 3c "fish-scale" has surfaced. It is illustrated on the opposite page.

I am continually amazed by the almost endless collecting interests that are available to the Georgia postal history collector. The articles in this issue are an excellent example. They include postage dues, stampless markings, overseas usages, fancy cancels and postmarks that span over two hundred years. There is literally something for everyone at every price range. While this is great for the collector it makes it difficult for me as editor. I want to include articles in *GPR* that you are interested in. However, I need your help in two ways. Write and let me know what you would like to see. Or, share your collecting interests by preparing an article for *GPR*.

Frank

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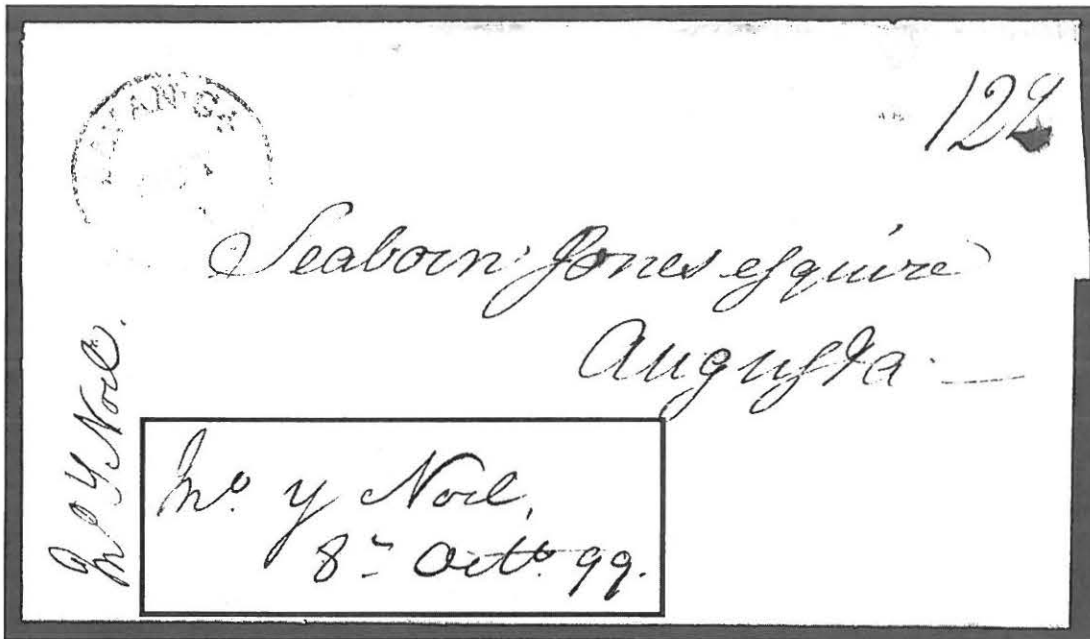
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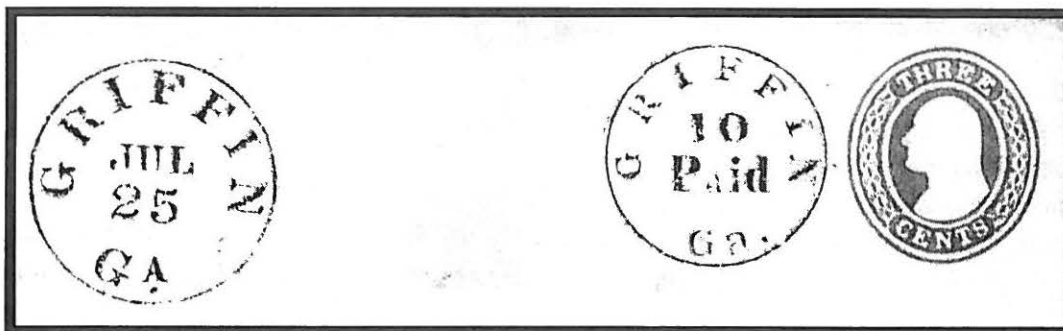
What would you like to see in the pages of *Georgia Post Roads*? Drop the editor a line and let him know.

New Finds and Discoveries



The postmark on this cover is the first circular postmark supplied by the U. S. Post Office Department to the Savannah office. The Post Office Department supplied the postmarks to different offices throughout the country in 1799. Augusta and Savannah were the two Georgia offices to receive the postmarks.

Previously the earliest recorded postmark of this type from Savannah was dated 1800. This cover bears a docket on the inside of 8 October 1799. An illustration of the docket is overlaid on the cover. The name is John. Y. Noel, reputed to be one of the finest lawyers in Savannah at that time.



Conrad Bush discovered the cover illustrated above in a small group he obtained "from a lady in a Georgia nursing home." It is a new Confederate postmasters' provisional from Griffin, Georgia. The five cent Griffin provisional was discovered in the mid 1940s. This 10c provisional is the same as the 5c provisional with the rate changed to "10".

The marking is struck on a U. S. 3c envelope of the 1853-55 series which had the bottom half containing the addressed cut away. The postmark date of 25 July is somewhat outside the range of use of the 5c provisionals which were all used in late May and early June 1862. The use of the marking on the stamped envelope makes a July 1862 use suspect.

A Columbus Cover to Germany

by Doug Clark

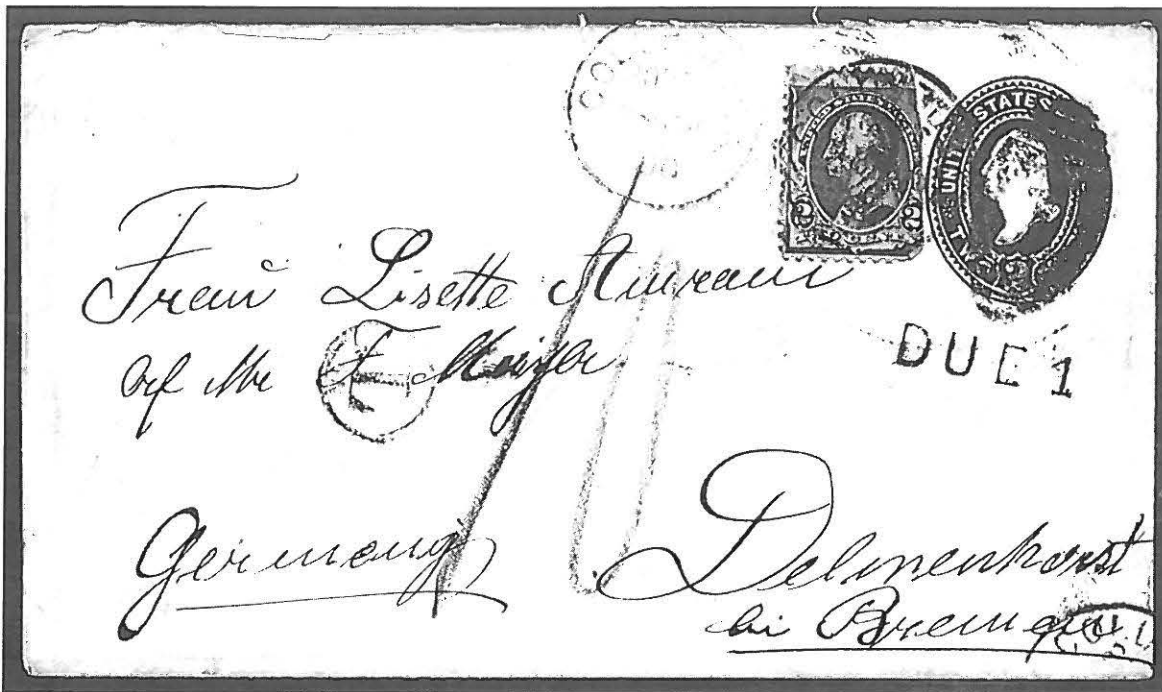


Figure 1 - Faint black COLUMBUS GA. postmarks on underpaid letter to Delmenhorst, Germany.

The various markings on ship and trans-oceanic covers can be very interesting and a challenge to interpret. Doug Clark turns his talents to explaining the various markings on the Columbus cover illustrated above. (*Editor*)

The cover illustrated in figure 1 is a postal stationary two cent green envelope (1887 issue) bearing an additional two cent red stamp of the 1890 series. Both are tied and cancelled by two faint strikes of a **COLUMBUS GA** postmark dated 20 December 1890.

In 1890 the Universal Postal Union (UPU) rate to Germany was five cents. The two cent envelope and two cent stamp underpaid this by one cent. This accounts for the “DUE 1” marking that was probably applied when mailed at Columbus.

The handstamped circled “T” in the second line of the address was the standard UPU due (“to pay”) marking, probably applied in New

York. According to UPU regulations the addressee was charged double the deficiency.

The manuscript (actually a blue crayon) “10” in the center of the cover represents the amount of postage due – 10 Swiss centimes (the standard monetary unit of the UPU), the equivalent of two U. S. cents.

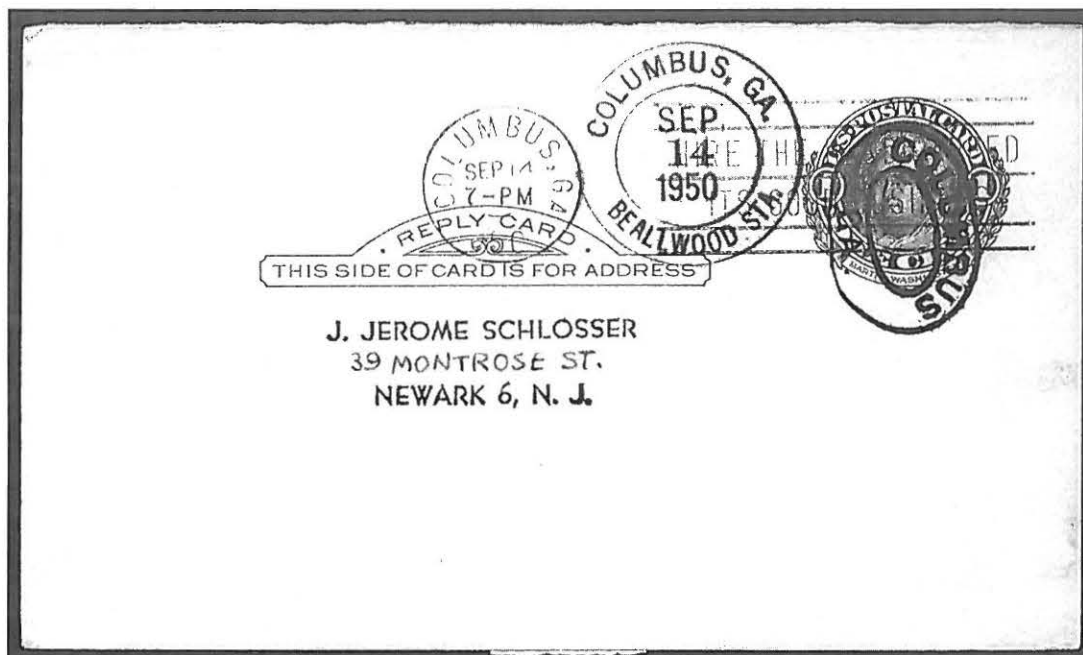
The backstamp, illustrated below, is an incomplete **DELMENHORST** postmark. The “31” is probably the day (31 December) the letter was received at that office. Not bad for a trans-Atlantic cover from Columbus to Germany.



Figure 2 - Black back-stamp of the DELMENHORST post office.

Station and Branch Postmarks

by Frank Crown



Front of postcard bearing a purple Beallwood Station postmark and black oval Columbus postmark. The cover also received the Columbus "Hire the Handicapped" machine cancel.

The variety of topics to collect in modern postal seems almost endless. About a year ago I bought a small lot of Government postcards with Columbus, Georgia branch and station postmarks. I got four cards in all. Two with Beallwood and one each with Baker Village Branch and Wynnton Station postmarks. Quick examination showed these were all philatelic cards and were apparently obtained to get the first day of operation of the stations.

At least some of the superintendents of the stations wanted to please the collectors. For example, the card in Figure 1 was stamped with both the purple station postmark and a black oval postmark. Finally it received the regular black Columbus machine postmark.

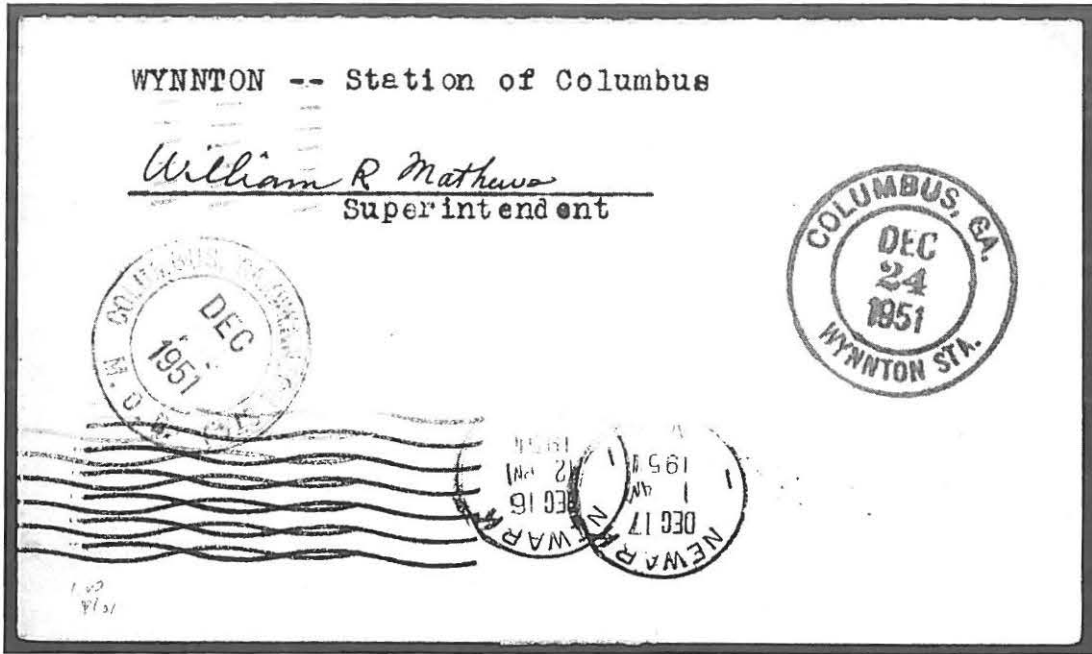
The Superintendent of the Wynnton Station accommodated one collector by postmarking his card with the regular station postmark and the Money Order Branch (M. O. B.) postmark in

purple (Figure 2). The front of the card received only the station postmark.

The Superintendent of the Baker Village Branch was less accommodating. He postmarked the back of the card with just the purple station postmark. The front side was postmarked with the regular black Columbus machine postmark.

An illustration of each of the station postmarks is at Figure 3. Note all are double circle postmarks made of hardened rubber.

The collection of station postmarks should be an interesting and challenging collecting topic. Most mail collected at these stations was probably taken to the main office for processing. That means little of the total volume of mail that passed through these offices actually received the station postmark. A collection of philatelic and regular mail from station offices should be quite interesting.



Reverse of postal card with purple COLUMBUS, GA. / WYNNTON STA. and COLUMBUS, GA. (WYNNTON STA.) / M. O. B. postmarks dated 24 December 1951. Newark, New Jersey postmarks were applied when the reply card was originally mailed to Columbus.



Baker Village Branch



Beallwood Station



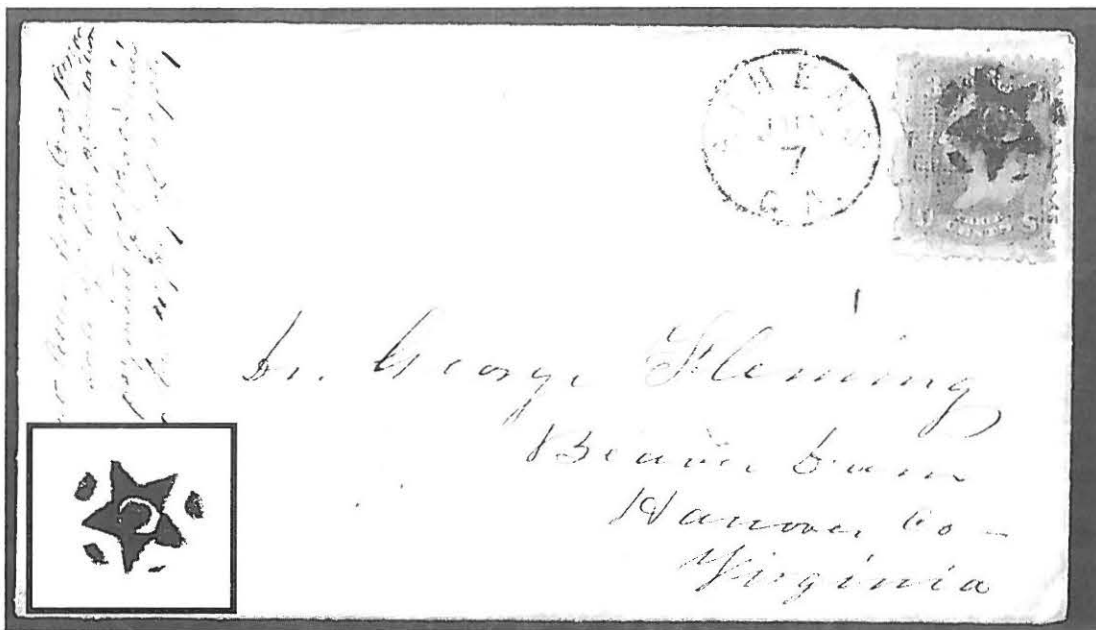
Wynnton Station



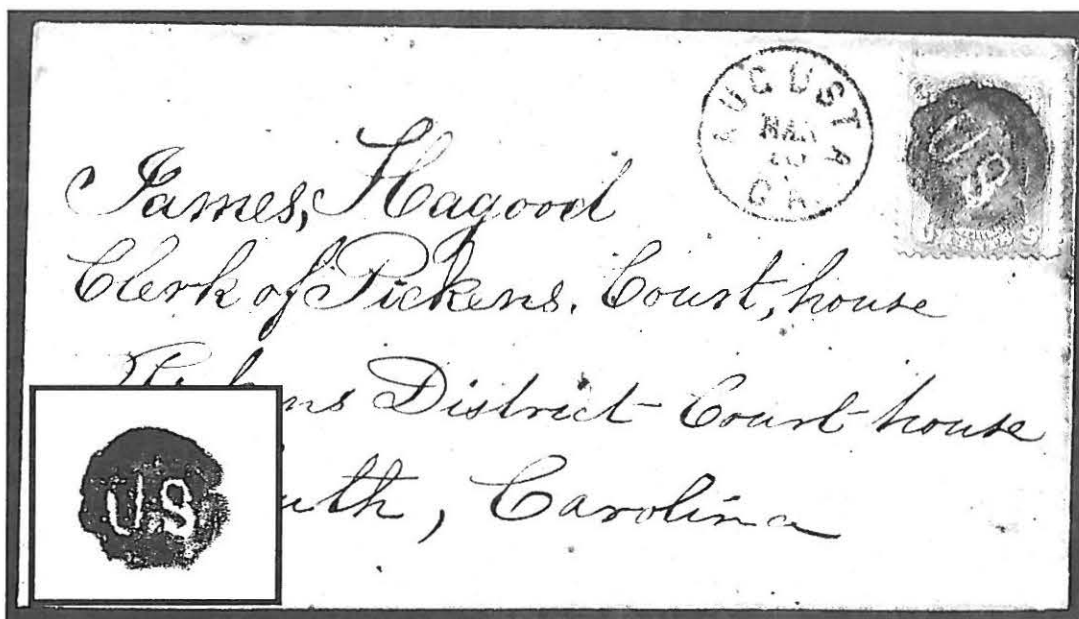
Wynnton Station M. O. B.

Cracker Covers

Early Fancy Cancels



Black ATHENS / GA. postmark dated 7 June and matching fancy star cancel ties 3c 1867 on cover to Virginia



Black AUGUSTA / GA. postmark dated 1- March with matching crude fancy "U S" cancel on 3c 1861 stamp on cover to South Carolina. The cover is made of coarse paper and was probably mailed in 1866.



Georgia Post Roads

Volume 13, Number 3

July 2003

Whole Number 59

Sigma Nu Corner Card

by Frank Crown

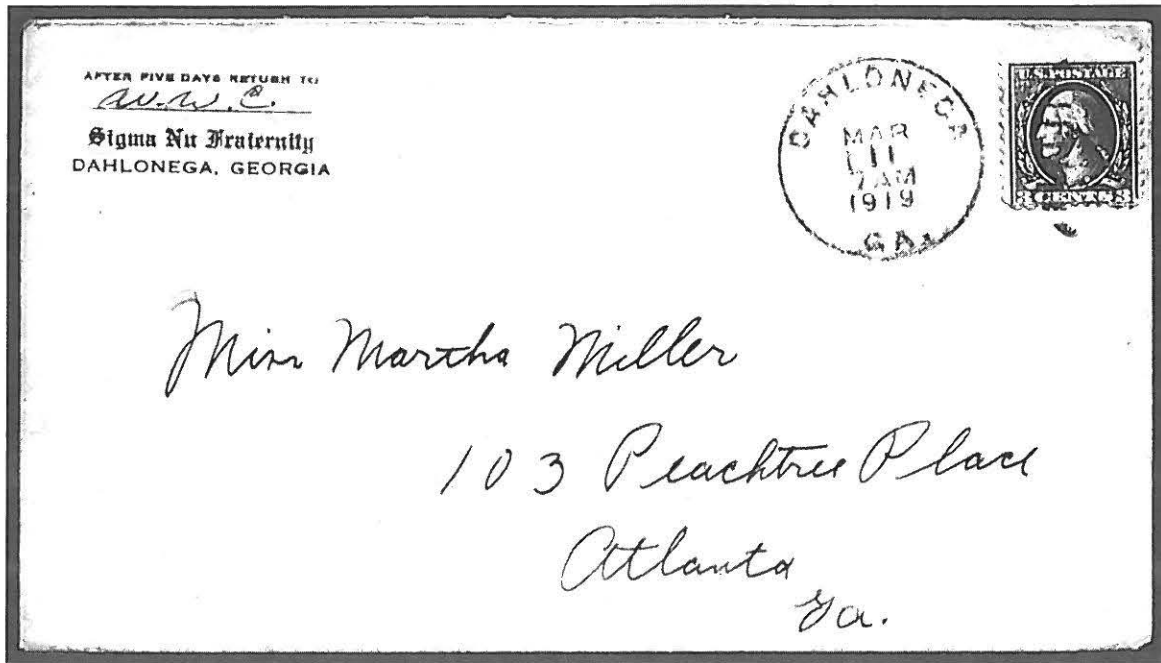


Figure 1. Sigma Nu corner card on cover postmarked DALONEGA / GA., 11 March 1919.

The cover in Figure 1 has the corner card of "Sigma Nu, Dahlonega, Georgia." Although there is no reference to a college, it is obvious from the town name that the college was North Georgia College.

Following the Civil War the Federal Government gave the state of Georgia the abandoned U. S. Mint in Dahlonega for educational purposes. With this facility the North Georgia Agricultural College was founded on 6 January 1873 as a land grant school for agriculture and mechanical arts. That first year the college had an enrollment of 177 students including 70 females. Also in that first year the students requested military training be included in the curriculum. This was the beginning of what would eventually come to be called the Corps of Cadets.

In 1878 North Georgia College graduated Miss Willie Lewis, the first woman graduate of a state supported college in Georgia. In December of the same year the old mint building was destroyed by fire.

By the 1920s the curriculum had evolved into one emphasizing arts and sciences more than agriculture. Therefore, in 1929 the college was renamed North Georgia College. In 1933, during the Great Depression, the school became a junior college. It wasn't until 1946 that it was reestablished as a four-year college. During the 1996-97 school year the Georgia Board of Regents granted the college university status and changed its name to North Georgia College and State University.

The Sigma Nu fraternity was formed at the Virginia Military Institute by three cadets:

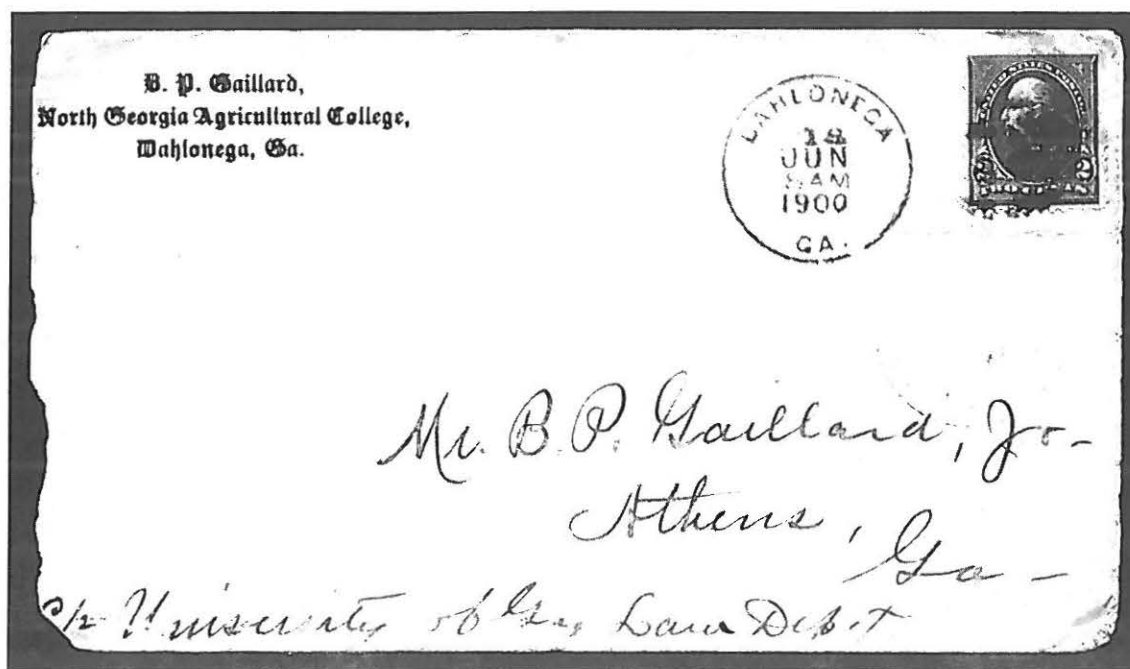


Figure 2. North Georgia Agricultural College corner card on cover with a black DALONEGA / GA. postmark dated 18 June 1900.

James Frank Hopkins, Greenfield Quarles and James McIlvaine Riley. Hopkins and Quarles had seen service in the Confederate army and were against the hazing of freshman as was then allowed at the Institute. In October 1868 Hopkins and Quarles were joined by Riley in forming a brotherhood of a new society called the Legion of Honor with a principal aim of eliminating the hazing. The new society was publicly announced on 1 January 1869. Shortly thereafter it was recognized as the Sigma Nu Fraternity. By the end of the school year the group had fifty-one members.

Sigma Nu established a chapter at North Georgia Agriculture College in 1881. By the end of the year there were 22 members. One of the first to join the new chapter was John Alexander Howard, who had graduated two years earlier. At this time Sigma Nu maintained the Roman numeral designation of Chapters. Howard suggested changing to the Greek letter designation and the North Georgia chapter became Kappa. Howard went on to found the fraternity's magazine, *The Delta*.

The Kappa chapter at North Georgia came to an end in 1933 when the school became a junior college. However, the spirit of Sigma Nu continued. The members of Sigma Nu went underground and became known as REX. The members of REX kept the essence of Sigma Nu at North Georgia College by recruiting candidates and initiating brothers by the Ritual of Sigma Nu.

With the reestablishment of the four-year college in 1946 Sigma Nu once again became an active chapter at North Georgia.

Secretary-Treasurer's Report

There are no new members to report. This should be a reminder to all members to help recruit new members for the GPHS. I have membership applications available, if needed, so drop me a letter or email.

We currently have a bank balance of \$1,238.97

Mike O'Reilly

Post Road Notes

As noted elsewhere this issues contains a ballot, dues notice and survey sheet all in one. I am most interested in the survey sheet. This is your opportunity to say what you want to see in future issues of *GPR*. Please take a few minutes and tell me how to make *GPR* an even better newsletter.

In the mail today I received a copy of the Matthew Bennett auction catalog of the Guido Craveri collection of the U. S. 1847 issue. This sale includes eight usages of the 1847 stamps from Georgia towns. Included is the unique use from Fort Gaines and one of the two usages from Gainesville. There are only about one hundred 1847 covers recorded from Georgia towns so this represents a very significant group for the Georgia specialist.

Presidents Message

Last year your officers made the decision to raise the annual dues to \$15.00. This increase is necessary to keep the costs of printing and mailing *GPR* in line with income. Included with this issue is the first dues notice to reflect the dues increase.

Also included with the dues notice is the ballot for the election of officers. It may appear somewhat awkward that the dues notice which includes your name and the ballot are on the same piece of paper and the ballots are to be mailed to someone running for office. However, we are a small society and it was felt this was the easiest and most cost effective way for all concerned.

The **Peach State Stamp Show** will soon be upon us. This is the premier stamp show in Georgia and members are encourage to attend. For more information contact Pete Gray, 527 San Salvadore Drive, North Augusta, SC 29841 or email donclab@earthlink.net.

Frank

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- More new finds
- Savannah Incoming Ship Mail

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**GPHS ANNUAL MEETING AT PEACH STATE STAMP SHOW
PLAN TO ATTEND!**

Exhibit your Georgia Collection!

A Cover to Ponder

Frank Crown

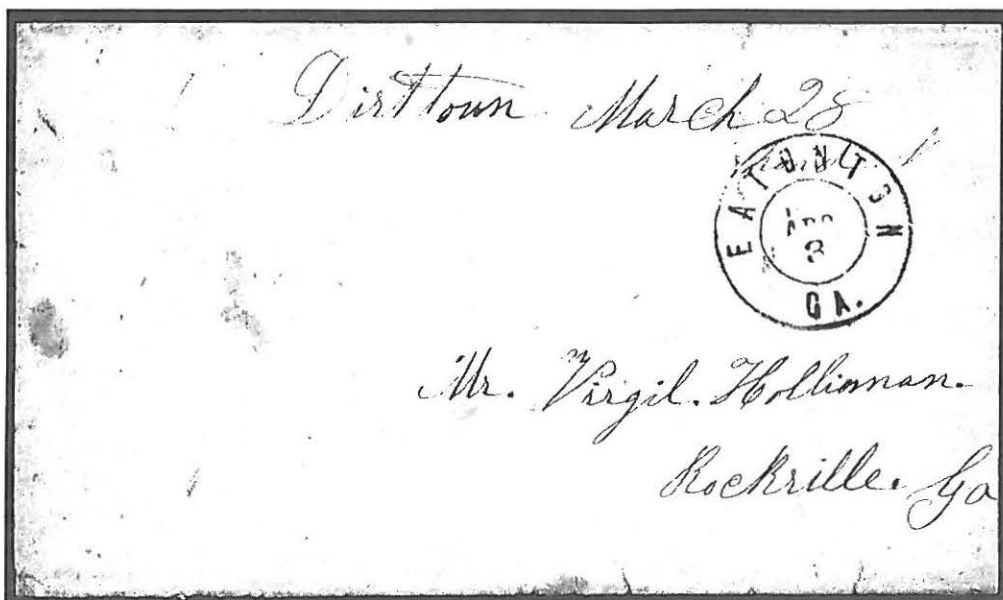


Figure 1. Cover with manuscript Dirttown [Ga.] postmark dated 28 March and black EATONTON / GA. postmark dated 3 April.

The cover in Figure 1 appears to be a nothing more than a manuscript paid cover with a second forwarding postmark. It was offered as a Confederate cover mailed from Dirt Town to Rockville Georgia by way of Eatonton. There is no enclosure or annotation to confirm the Confederate usage.

The cover was obviously mailed at Dirt Town as noted by the manuscript postmark dated 28 March. Just below the "28" of the date is a handstamped Eatonton postmark dated 3 April. This postmark partially covers the manuscript paid marking which is enlarged in Figure 2. There is no doubt about the "paid" but what is the rate? The owner stated it was "paid 5". However, the numeral doesn't look like a "5". It looks more like a "1".

Then there is the matter of the Eatonton postmark. It is not normal for a cover to bear a second postmark unless it was forwarded, misdirected or missent. There is no marking on the cover to indicate this was the case.

The only other information we have is the address, Rockville, Georgia. Rockville was located in Putnam County about 12 miles east of Eatonton.

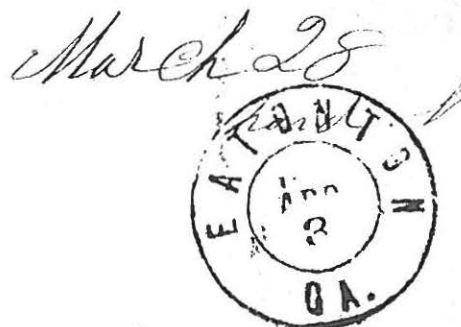


Figure 2. Enlargement of the paid marking.

What are your thoughts on the usage represented by the markings on this cover? Is it Confederate? What is the rate? What is the purpose of the Eatonton postmark? Please send your comments on the cover to the editor.

5c 1847 Issue on Georgia Covers

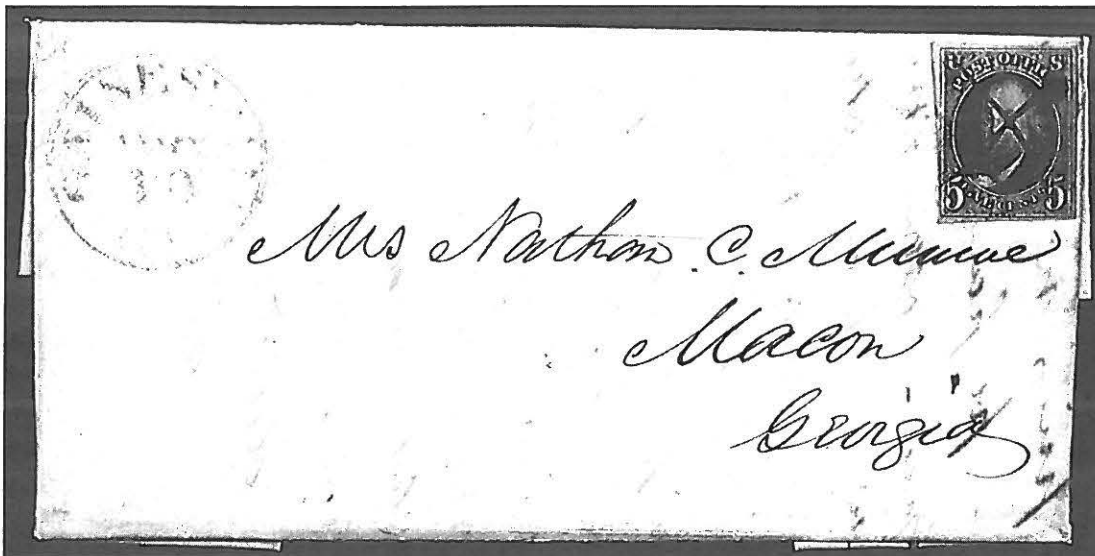


Figure 1. 5c 1847 stamp cancelled by pen cancel on cover with red GAINESVILLE / G.^a postmark dated 10 Aug (18) to Macon, Georgia.

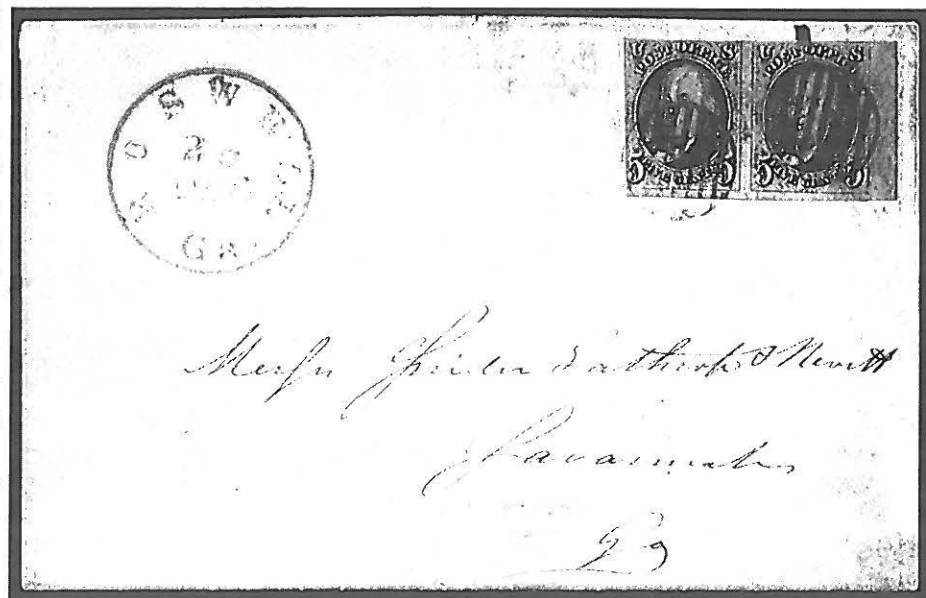
The recent sale of the Guido Craveri Collection of 1847 covers featured eight covers from Georgia towns and one with a Georgia railroad cancel. This was a significant holding considering only 95 usages of 1847 stamps are recorded from Georgia. Two of the covers from this sale are illustrated.

Figure 1 is a cover with a Gainesville postmark and a pen cancelled 5c stamp. Gainesville did not receive any 1847 stamps from the Post Office Department. However, two usages bearing the 5c stamp are recorded. The second usage is a cover front.

Figure 2. Pair of 5c 1847 stamps tied by red grid on cover with red ROSWELL / Ga. postmark dated 28 Dec (18) to Savannah, Georgia.

Figure 2 is a cover with a Roswell postmark. The cover has a sheet margin pair of the 5c stamps tied by a red grid. The 10c postage pays the double weight rate to Savannah.

Roswell received 700 of the 5c stamps from the Post Office Department. Today only three covers with the 5c stamps are recorded from Roswell.



Incoming Ship Mail at Savannah

Frank Crown

As the largest port in Georgia there are many covers from Savannah that illuminate its maritime history. This article presents just a few examples.

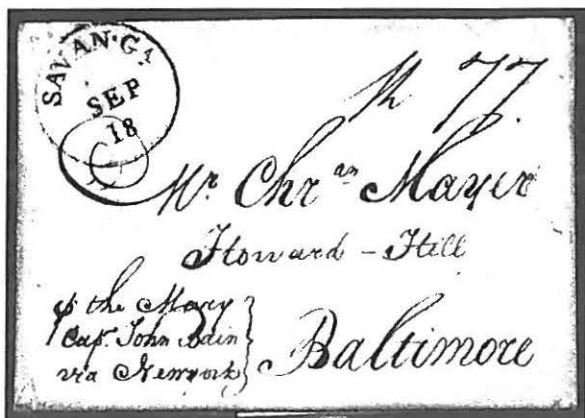


Figure 1. Black SAVAN-GA postmark dated 18 Sep (1801) on cover from Amsterdam rated "Sh 77".

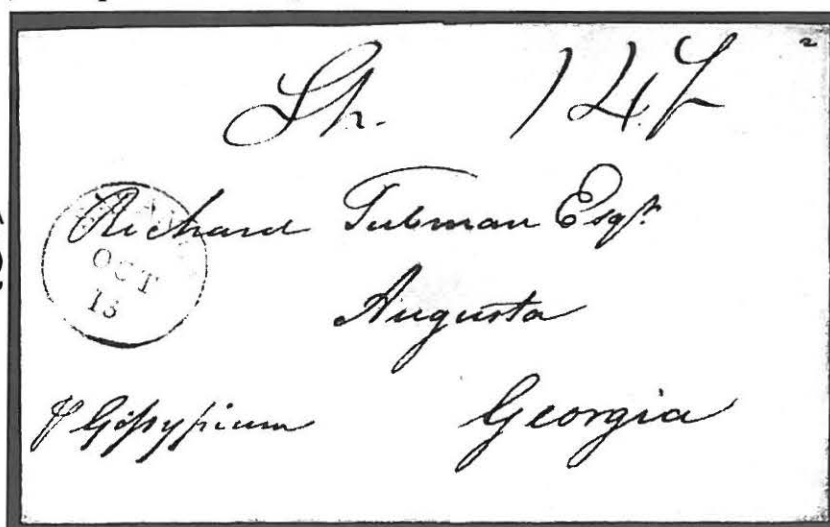
Figure 1 is a very early cover from Amsterdam datelined 16 Jun 1801. The notation in the lower left indicates the writer wanted the letter carried on the ship *Mary*, captained by John Bain with a destination of New York. For some reason, perhaps a storm, the ship carrying the letter made port at Savannah instead of New York. There, as required by law, the captain of

the ship turned over the letters he was carrying for delivery in the United States to the Savannah postmaster. The notation "sh" preceding the rate indicates it was a ship letter. The ship letter rate was 2 cents plus ordinary postage. In this case the letter was rated as three sheets or a triple rate letter. Baltimore being over 400 miles distant the rate was 25 cents per sheet ($2 + 25 \times 3 = 77$). It is hard to image this small folded letter (about 4 x 3 inches) warranted a triple rate. However, the letter indicates there were enclosures.

The cover in Figure 2 is another early ship cover. It has no dated enclosure or notations so it cannot be accurately dated. However, based on the postmark it was probably used between 1800 and 1808. Without the enclosure it is not possible to determine whether this letter was from a foreign country or another U. S. port.

The marking on this cover is "Sh 14 1/2". This included the ship fee (2 cents) plus the rate for a single rate ship letter posted to a destination between 80 and 150 miles distant ($2 + 12 \frac{1}{2} = 14 \frac{1}{2}$). This cover bears a notation at lower left that appears to be "pr Gissypium." This is presumable the name of the ship on which the letter was carried.

Figure 2. Black SAVAN-GA postmark dated 13 Oct (18--) with manuscript "Sh. 14 1/2" marking.



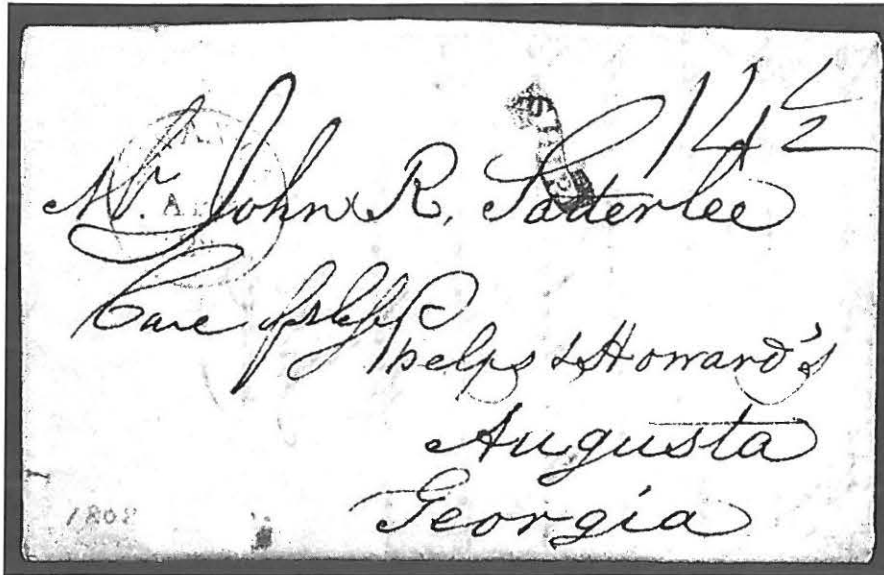


Figure 2. Black SAVAN•G^A postmark dated 29 April (1808) with handstamped "SHIP" in scroll and manuscript "14 1/2" rate.

The cover in Figure 2 is another early ship cover. It bears an ornate black handstamped "SHIP" marking in a scroll. This marking was used for a relatively short period (approximately 1808 to 1813).

The cover is datelined, "N York 10th Apl. 1808." The rate on the cover indicates it was carried aboard a private vessel, one without a mail contract. The postage was the ship fee (2 cents) plus the regular postage to a office between 90 and 150 miles distant ($2 + 12 \frac{1}{2} = 14 \frac{1}{2}$). As with most letters from this period it was sent postage due.

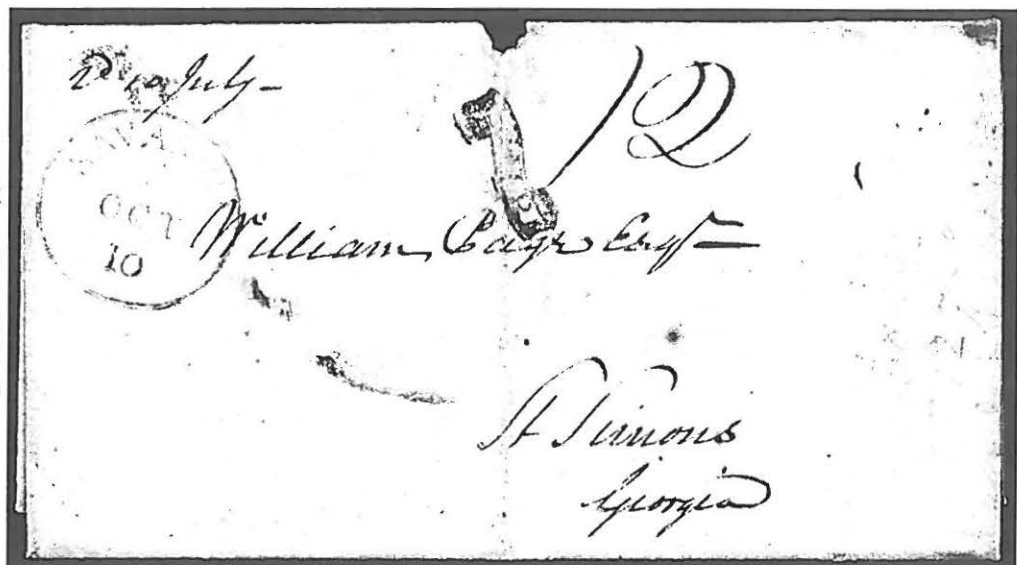
The cover in Figure 2 is also a very early ship cover. It bears a ornate handstamped

"SHIP" marking in a scroll. This marking was used for only a relatively short period (approximately 1808 to 1813). There is no enclosure so it cannot be determined where the cover originated. However, the dated notation on the back of the cover, "Harrison & Co., 10th July 1809" compared to the date of the postmark (10 Oct) indicates the ship was three months in transit before arriving at Savannah.

The rate on this cover is the 2 cents ship letter rate plus the regular postage to a office between 40 and 90 miles distant ($2 + 10 = 12$).

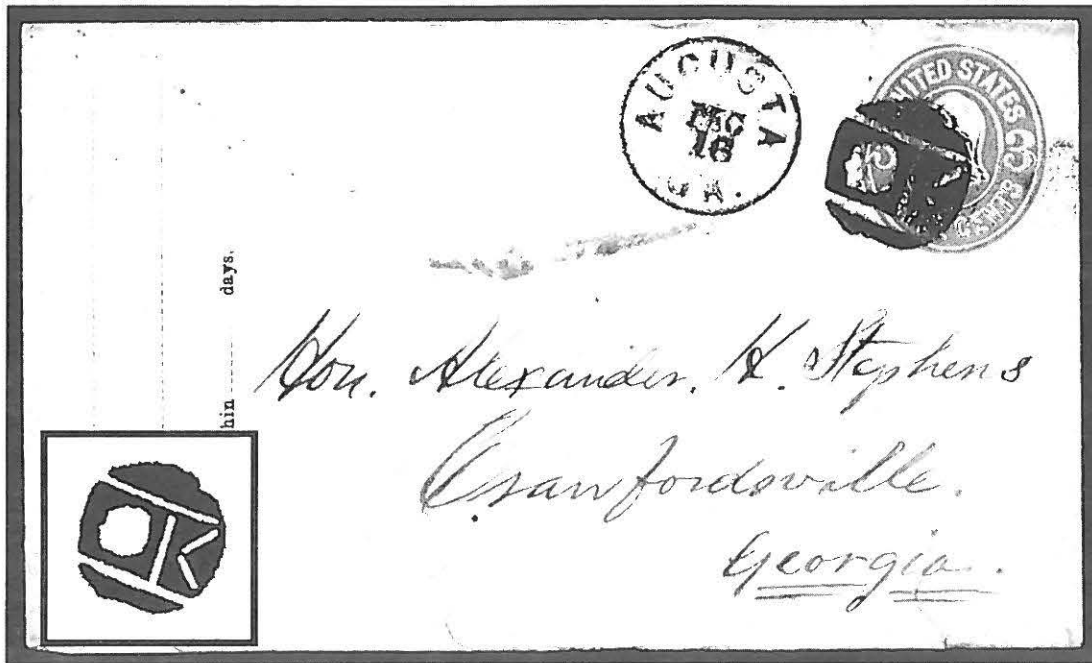
This article will be continued in the next issue.

Figure 2. Black SAVAN•G^A postmark dated 10 Oct (1809) with handstamped "SHIP" in scroll and manuscript "12" rate.

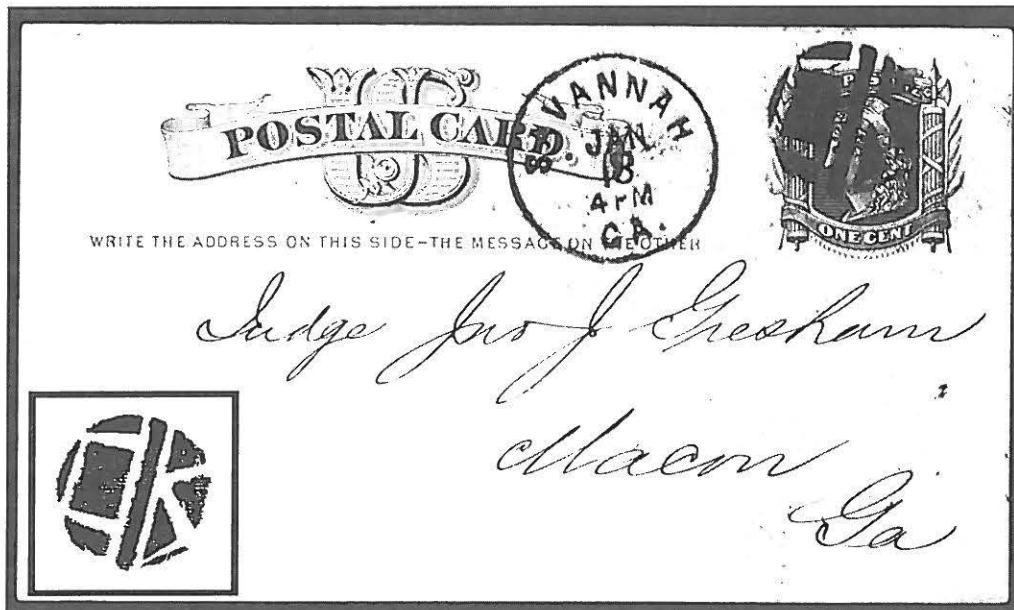


Cracker Covers

"OK" Fancy Cancels



Black AUGUSTA / GA. postmark dated 16 Dec with "OK" cancel.



Black SAVANNAH / GA. postmark dated 18 January with "OK" cancel.



Georgia Post Roads

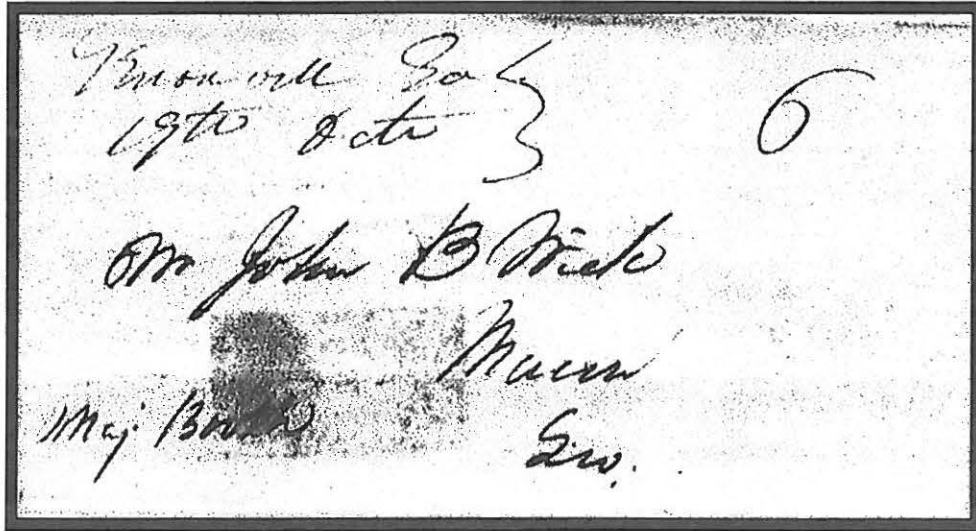
Volume 13, Number 4

October 2003

Whole Number 60

New Early Knoxville Manuscript Postmark

Ken Hall



Brown "Knoxville Ga" manuscript postmark dated "19 Octr"(1826) with matching (due) "6" rate.

My collecting interest is in stampless letters and since I live in Las Vegas, Nevada, most all of my buying is done through the mail. A catalog that I recently received had this description of a cover: "Knoxville, Ga, 1826, F. ms, tape stain, on SFL." I did a little research and made a bid. I also made bids on several other lots and was quite surprised when the only lot I received was the Knoxville letter. The letter is in very good condition. There are no major separations, and only a small piece is missing where sealed, but the content and address are not affected. The tape stains are from scotch tape that was removed.

The marking is a new earliest recorded date for a manuscript Knoxville postmark. It is also of a different style than that listed in the *Georgia Stampless Cover Catalog and Handbook* (Knoxville Ga vs Knoxville Geoa.).

The change in style is attributed to a change in postmasters that occurred in April 1827.

The letter is datelined, "Knoxville, 17th Oct 1826," and is signed by Albert G. Clopton. Albert was born in either New Kent or Henrico County, Virginia in 1802 and died in Macon, Georgia on September 24, 1830. In 1824 he formed a law partnership with Charles McDonald, who would later become the Governor of Georgia [1839-43]. At the time of his death, he was the law partner of Robert S. Lanier. He was also one of the founders of Christ Church, the first congregation in Macon.

Any additional information on Albert Clopton would be greatly appreciated.

Editors Note: Knoxville was designated as the county seat of Crawford County in 1823. The town post office was established in December of the same year.

President's Message

I was very encouraged by the attendance at our meeting in conjunction with Peach State Stamp Show. We had the largest number of attendees I can recall. After a short business meeting and a presentation there was a general discussion among the attendees on various aspects of Georgia postal history. This dialogue was quite stimulating and something I have not witnessed in the past. Hopefully future meetings will have more of this.

For more details on the meeting see the report prepared by Mike O'Reilly.

Frank

Secretary-Treasurer's Report

It is my sad duty to report the passing of Bill Callahan, GPHS # 27. Bill was a long-time stamp and cover dealer, who not only supported the stamp shows in the southeast, but ran his own bourse for a while.

I can report 3 new members to welcome to the membership ranks:

#53 Charles E. Fuller

104 Bob White Circle, Calhoun, GA
30701-5225 (email: f_kay@bellsouth.net)

#54 Albert Aldham

1660 Hemlock Farms, Hawley, PA
18248

#55 Donald F. Garrett

325 Ellicott Drive, Warner Robins, GA
31088-1264

Three members have not paid their dues for this year, and one more letter will be sent out urging them to keep their membership in force. Otherwise, they will be dropped from the membership rolls soon.

We currently have a bank balance of \$1,523.66, with \$75.00 to be deposited this week.

Mike O'Reilly

Peach State Show Report

We had a superb turnout at the recent annual meeting held in conjunction with Peach State Stamp Show. Twelve members attended the annual meeting chaired by our President Frank Crown. After a short business meeting, we had a great slide show on "Integral Rate and Paid Postmarks of Antebellum Savannah", presented by Frank. Members in attendance at the annual meeting were McCary Ballard, Don Garrett, Nonie Green, Ed Jackson, Newton Crouch, Gary Doster, Mike O'Reilly, Frank Crown, Lowrell Peirce, Robert Pou, John Bailey and Doug Clark. Approximately one-third of our membership attended the show and meetings with Frank coming from Washington (state) and Nonie coming from Texas. Personally, I got a chance to meet several members whom I had not met before.

Frank Crown had two exhibits being shown. The first was a two frame exhibit on "Rate and Paid Postmarks of Antebellum Savannah", which received a Vermeil medal. Frank's other exhibit was on "Periodical Corner Cards of Atlanta, 1865-1920", which received a Silver award.

Election Results

Results of the election for officers for the 2004 - 2006 term are as follows:

President

Frank Crown 23

Vice President

Ed Jackson 24

Secretary-Treasurer

Mike O'Reilly 24

It is not too early to begin
preparing an exhibit for the next
Peach State Stamp Show



Post Road Notes

Enclosed with the ballots in the last issue was a survey sheet which asked members to comment on several different topics regarding *Georgia Post Roads*. While not everyone responded enough members did respond to make the survey worthwhile.

The area that received the most responses was that asking what type of articles were preferred. The results, as a percentage of the total number of responses to this question (16), are as follows:

The type of articles preferred in order of preference: stampless (87%); Confederate (81%); specialty articles (75%); late 19th century (31%); 20th century (25%); fancy cancels (5%); Georgia on stamps (5%); airmail (6%); and all the above (6%).

It is good to see the strong interest in stampless covers because that is my strong suit. I was somewhat surprised by the strong interest in Confederates. I must admit that in the past I intentionally avoided Confederate articles because we have several Confederate Stamp Alliance members and I did not want to compete with the *Confederate Philatelist*. I will certainly change my attitude on this. There is also strong interest in late 19th century and 20th century postal history. I am very weak in the latter and would like to receive some articles in this area. In fact articles on any area of Georgia postal history are greatly appreciated.

The other question that received enough responses to be meaningful was the one that addressed our method of printing *GPR*. Surprisingly the 13 members who responded to this question were almost evenly divided: seven for printing and six for photocopying. One member also suggested that we print in color. Based on the responses our officers need reevaluate the method used to print *GPR*.

Frank

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Coming in Future Issues

Confederate
Indian Springs

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Where is your article for
Georgia Post Roads?

Incoming Ship Mail at Savannah (Part II)

Frank Crown

Sometime between 1813 and 1823 a new "SHIP" marking was obtained by the Savannah Post Office. The cover at Figure 1 shows a strike of this plain straight line "SHIP" marking used with the double circle Savannah postmark.

By the late 1820s the plain straight line ship marking was replaced by the more common and familiar italic "SHIP" marking. The cover at Figure 2 illustrates an early use of this marking.



Figure 1. Red double circle SAVANNAH / GEORGIA postmark dated 27 Dec (1823) with straight line "SHIP" and manuscript "27" rate.

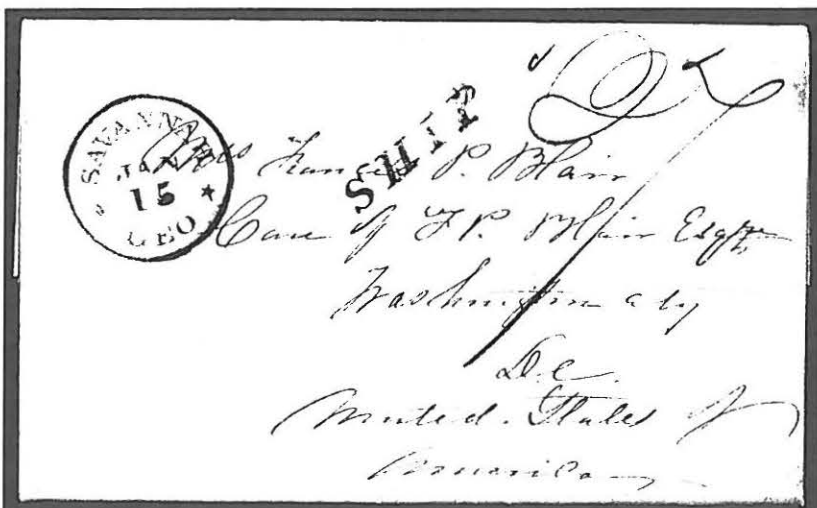
The cover has no enclosure, only the notation, "Horatio Sprague, Oct 9th 1823." The date and name indicates the letter was from Europe.

The manuscript "27" rate represents the 2 cents ship fee plus the regular postage to an office over 400 miles distant ($2 + 25 = 27$).

The cover is datelined Havana, 23 December 1840. Apparently it was some time before it was placed aboard a ship for Savannah as noted by the 15 Jan postmark.

The manuscript "27" rate represents the 2 cents ship fee plus the regular postage to an office over 400 miles distant ($2 + 25 = 27$).

Figure 2. Black SAVANNAH / * GEO* postmark dated 15 Jan (1841) with italic "SHIP" and manuscript "27" rate. The letter was written in Havana and addressed to Washington, D. C.



The cover at Figure 3 is another example of the italic "SHIP" marking. By this time the Savannah post office was using a handstamped marking to indicate the postage.

This cover is a circular from Havana, Cuba dated 26 Jan 1849. The double circle "12" rate represents the 2 cent ship fee plus the postage to an office more than 400 miles distant (2 + 10 = 12).

There is a notation on the cover flap indicating the letter was received in January 1855.

The cover bears the familiar italic "SHIP" marking used by Savannah. It also bears a circled black "6" handstamped marking. A very similar red marking is seen on covers datelined Savannah but addressed to New York. These markings were applied in New York as that is where the covers entered the mail.

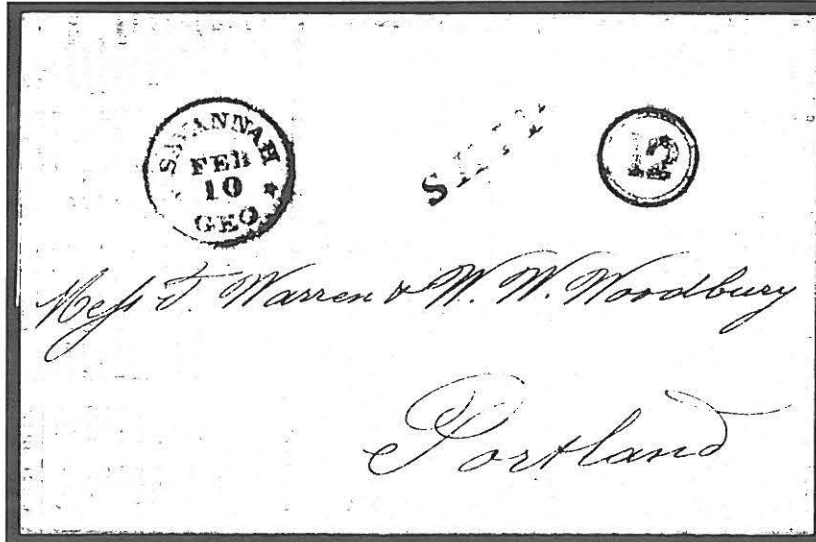
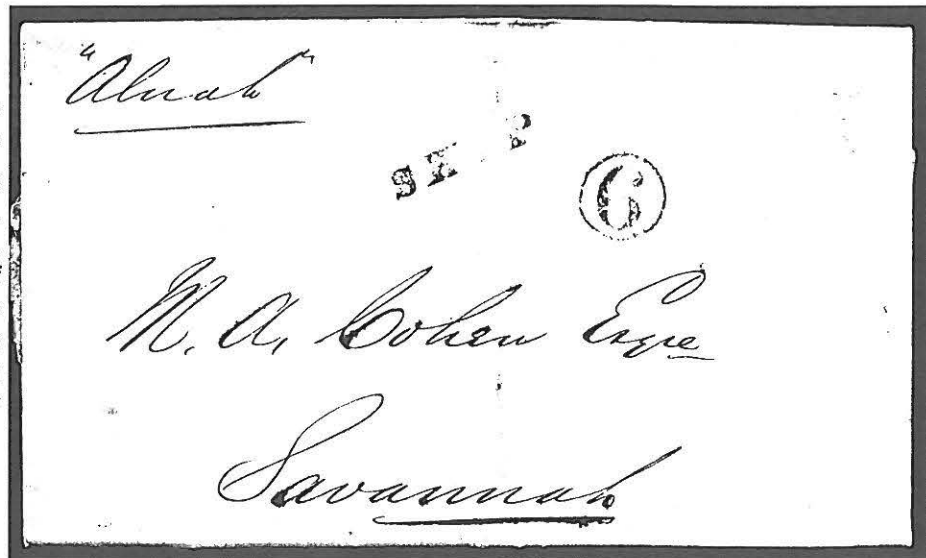


Figure 3. Red SAVANNAH / * GEO * postmark dated 10 Feb (1849) with red italic "SHIP" and "12" in double circular. The letter was a circular datelined Havana, 26 Jan 1849.

The cover at Figure 4 is the one of the most unusual Savannah ship covers. It is an invoice datelined Liverpool (England) 18 Nov 1854 for goods shipped to Bones and Brown of Augusta, Georgia care of M. A. Cohen of Savannah.

We now have an example of a similar "6" marking applied to a cover addressed to Savannah and bearing the distinctive italic Savannah "SHIP" marking. The rate is that for a letter received by ship for delivery at the port.

Black italic "SHIP" marking and circled "6" marking on an invoice from Liverpool, England. The notation at upper left, "Alnah," is the name of the vessel that carried the letter to Savannah. The letter was received in Savannah in January 1855.



A Cover to Ponder

In the last issue (July 2003) readers were asked their opinion on the usage represented by the cover at right. The cover appears to be a nothing more than a manuscript paid cover with a second forwarding postmark.

One member, Gary Doster, provided his opinion about the cover. He wrote:

According to reference material I have at home, Dirt Town existed as a post office in Chattooga County, Georgia, from March 20, 1844, to June 1866, and then again from February 13, 1867 to April 1886. It is almost certain that during its "second life" a U.S. postage stamp would have been attached, so it must have been posted during the post office's first existence.

In the 1850 Georgia census, Virgil Holliman [the addressee] was listed as a 15-year-old in the home of his father David Holliman in Putnam County, Georgia. In the 1860 census Virgil was listed as the 25-year-old overseer on the farm of his uncle Thomas J. Holliman in Wilkinson County, Georgia.

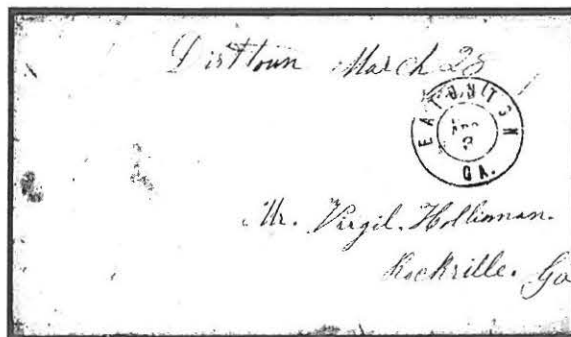
Virgil and his six brothers all served in the Confederate Army. Virgil joined Co. F, 44th Georgia Volunteer Infantry (Putnam Volunteers) on March 4, 1862. He was wounded at Ellison's Mill, Virginia, June 26, 1862 and died July 29, 1862.

Here's what we know:

1. The letter was mailed March 28 to Putnam County
2. In 1860 Virgil was in Wilkinson County
3. The letter was sent before Virgil's death on July 29, 1862
4. If the letter was sent March 28, 1861, or before, it should have carried a U.S. postage stamp

Therefore, the letter must have been mailed **March 28, 1862**. The big hitch to this is that I suppose that the letter could have been mailed March 28 of some year previous to 1862 and not had a postage stamp attached.

Here's what I think: Virgil was in Wilkinson Co. in 1860, and maybe 1861. He probably moved back to Putnam Co. at the time of his enlistment (March 4, 1862) so he could join a local unit comprised of friends and relatives.



Further investigation of records from Putnam and Wilkinson counties might divulge more information on Virgil's whereabouts immediately before and after the 1860 census.

I find it very interesting to note that everything on the cover was written by the same hand. I have no ideas about the postage rate if, in fact, that is what writer was trying to express.

Here are your editor's thoughts. The obvious key to decipher this cover is the rate. However, the rate which appears to be a "1", is not correct for either the U. S. or Confederate period. Therefore, we must look at other aspects of the cover. First is the postmark of origin, Dirt Town. This town was an active post office during both the U. S. and Confederate periods, as pointed out by Gary. The Eatonton double circle postmark is known from the Confederate period but to date has not been recorded from the earlier U. S. period. Based on what we know of the two postmarks and their dates of use the cover most likely originated in the Confederate period.

The destination town, Rockville, Georgia provides further clues about the date and an explanation of the usage. This post office located in Putnam County, was discontinued on 5 Feb 1861 and was not reestablished under the Confederate administration. This fact combined with what we know about the Eatonton postmark leads to the conclusion that this cover was used in the very early Confederate period or more precisely the "after secession period."

It also provides an explanation for the Eatonton postmark on a cover from Dirt Town to Rockville. The letter was probably mailed on 28 March 1861 to Rockville. The Dirt Town postmaster was obviously unaware that the Rockville office had been discontinued and sent the letter forward. Since the Rockville office had been discontinued, the letter ended up in the Eatonton post office (the county seat and largest post office in Putnam County). There it received the distinctive Eatonton double circle postmark.

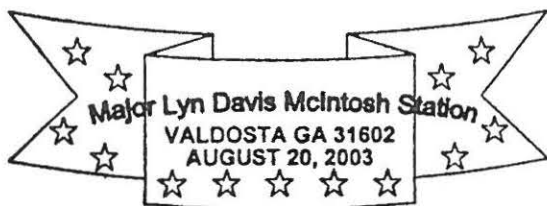
If we accept this explanation of the cover there are still two unanswered question. First, what is the rate on the cover? The above

explanation requires the rate to be "3", but the manuscript rate does not look like a "3". The only other plausible rate is "5" if the cover were from the Confederate period. However, what we know about the date of use precludes Confederate use. Perhaps the "figure" is not a figure at all. Just a mark made by the postmaster. In early 1861 it was not unusual for letters without a stamp to be marked "Paid."

Finally what was the disposition of the cover? Was the Rockville addressee expected to come to Eatonton to pick up his mail? Probably so, as there is nothing to indicate the letter was returned to Dirt Town.

Valdosta Special Cancel

Ed Willis wrote with news about the special cancel illustrated below.



On 20 August 2003 the Valdosta Northside Station Post Office was renamed the Major Lyn Davis McIntosh Station. Major McIntosh, a native of Valdosta, was one of eight Americans killed on 25 April 1980 in the failed attempt to rescue 66 Americans held hostage in Iran.

The effort to rename the post office was initiated by Ed Willis in 2000. The Valdosta City Council approved a resolution to rename the post office in July 2000. Then with the help of Representative Sanford Bishop a resolution was introduced in December 2001. On 18 April 2002 President Bush signed the resolution.

In his note Ed noted that the special cancel received "no notice." For this reason he is requesting the postmaster to extend the use of the cancel beyond the normal period.

Ernie Owens Collection Sold

The Ernie Owens collection of Georgia stampless covers was recently purchased by Frank Crown.

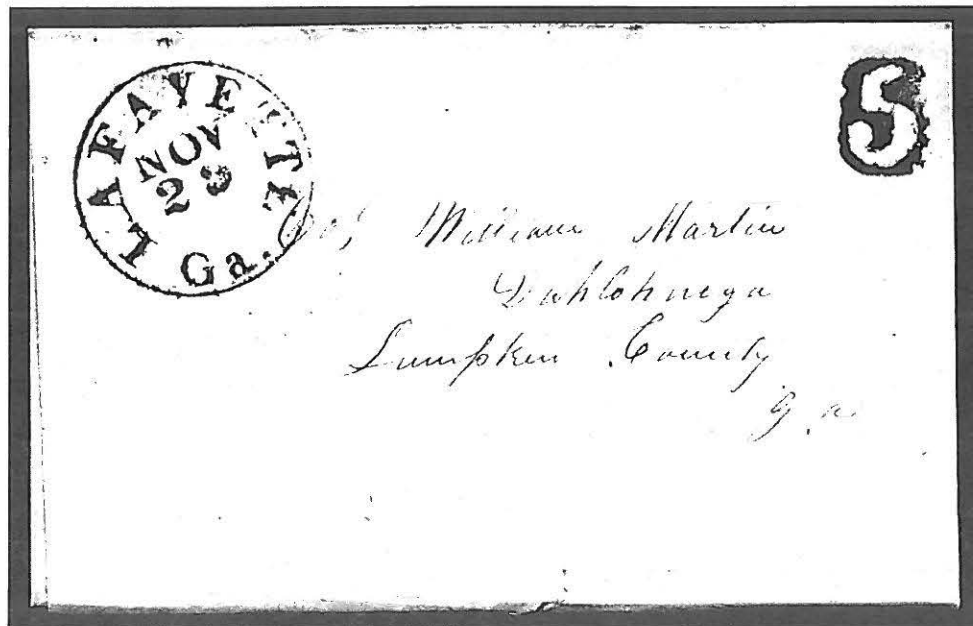
The Owens collection, comprised of more than 1,000 covers, is one of the most comprehensive. It includes many unique and unusual markings from both large and small towns. It also features a large number of manuscript markings from small towns throughout the state.

Ernie began collecting Georgia stampless covers in the early 1950s when there was little interest in stampless covers. Over the years he kept adding to his collection until it his collection was one of the finest.

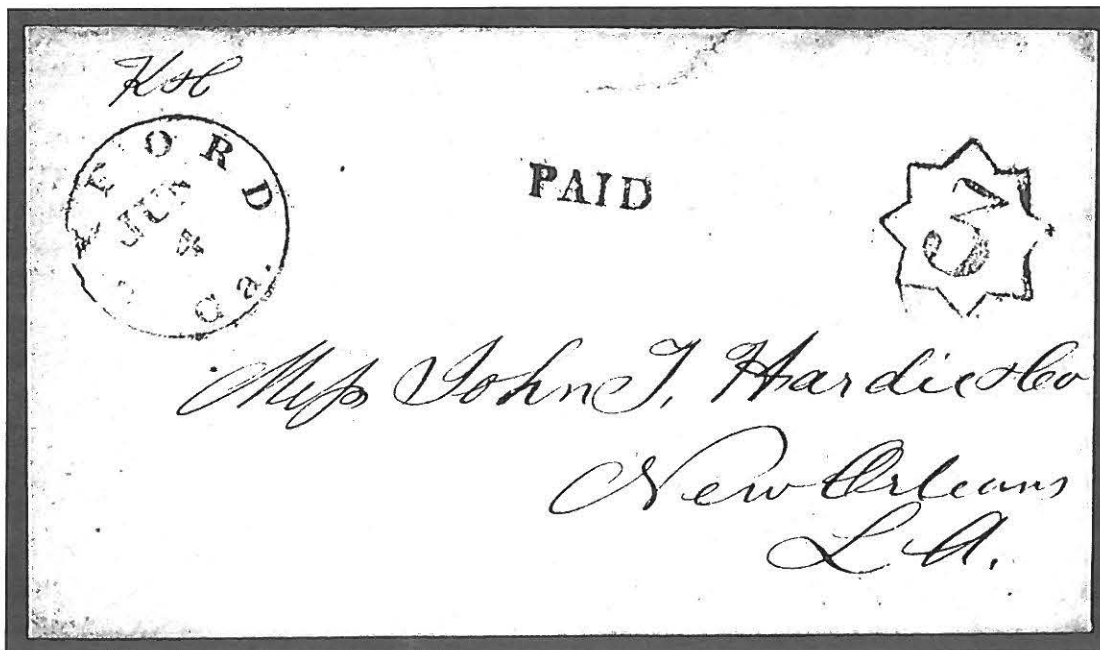
Ernie never exhibited his collection but he was ever ready to show and share information on his covers. This willingness to share his collection and knowledge that made the *Georgia Stampless Cover Catalog and Handbook* possible. Over several years Ernie provided information and copies of many of his covers so that the scarce and unique items he had would be recorded in the catalog.

Frank plans to add some of the items from Ernie's collection to his own and dispose of the rest.

Cracker Covers



Reddish-brown LAFAYETTE / Ga. postmark dated 23 Nov (1848) with matching handstamped negative "5" on cover to Dahlonega.



Blue OXFORD / Ga. postmark dated 4 Jun (185-) with matching handstamped "PAID" and fancy "3" inside eight pointed star on cover to New Orleans.



Georgia Post Roads

Volume 14, Number 1

January 2004

Whole Number 61

Indian Springs

Frank Crown

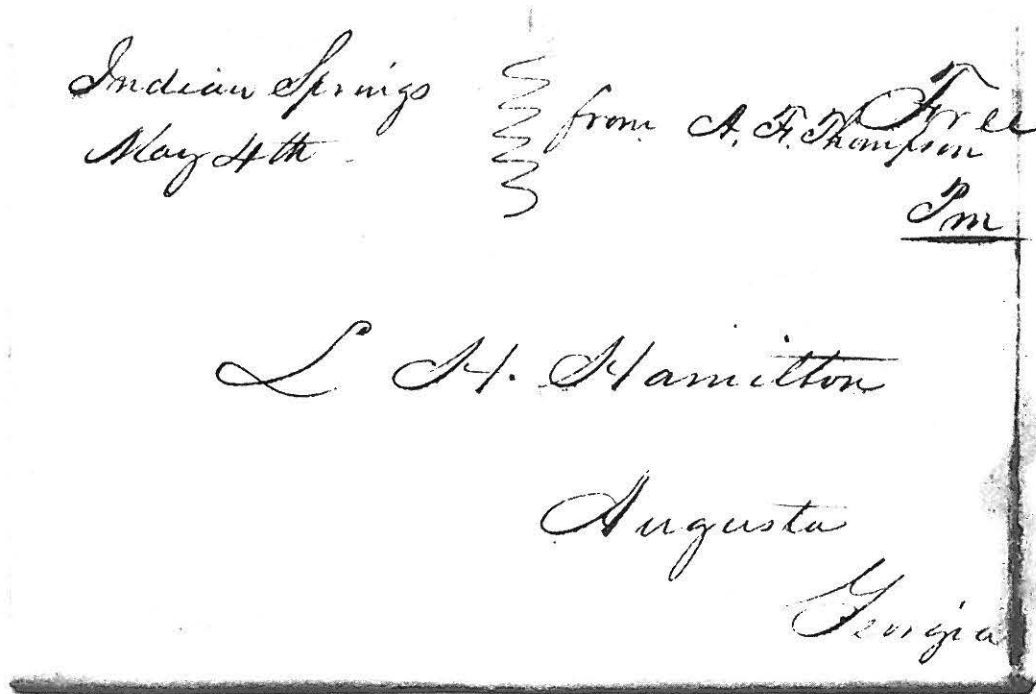


Figure 1. Manuscript Indian Springs postmark on 1835 cover with free frank of postmaster A. F. Thompson.

Indian Springs is located in Butts County just south of the town of Jackson. From the earliest times the Indians frequented the site to partake of the medicinal waters of the mineral spring with a high sulphur content. In 1819 Chief McIntosh built the first hotel in the vicinity. The Indians retained the springs as a reserve under the Treaty of 1821. However, under the terms of the 1825 Treaty of Indian Springs the Creek Indians gave up their last lands in Georgia including Indian Springs reserve.

The state retained ten acres of land immediately around the springs and leased it to individuals for development as a resort. In 1829 a post office was established at the site with Joel Baley the first postmaster.

It did not take long for Indian Springs to be developed. In 1837 Adiel Sherwood wrote, "this is at present the most fashionable watering place in the State. From 600 to 800 are frequently here at a time. There is a large public hotel, capable of accommodating 100 persons, besides 30 or 40 cabins. . . ." In 1849 George White wrote, "The Indian Springs stand high among the fashionable resorts in Georgia." The spring continued to be a resort until the Wigwam Hotel burned in 1921. After that the popularity of the springs waned and eventually the area became a state park.

As a resort there should be many covers from Indian Springs to the folks back home. But such is not the case. (*continued page 4*)

President's Message

As we begin the new year I want to take a few moments to reflect on the health of your society and Georgia postal history. First your society is in good health. Granted we are a small group. However, over the years we have been able to maintain a fairly constant membership - a better track record than many other philatelic societies. We are also blessed with a healthy bank account as noted by our treasurer in the column to the right.

The field of Georgia postal history continues to be one of fascination and discovery. The pages of *GPR* continue to herald new findings. Prices for unusual and rare Georgia stampless covers soared this past year. A Uchee Village stampless cover sold for more than \$500 and a Savannah stampless cover with a "MAIL ROUTE" marking recently sold for over \$1,500! Our challenge is to keep up with this interest by expanding the body of philatelic literature about Georgia postal history.

Frank

Secretary-Treasurer's Report

We have two new members to welcome to our ranks:

- #56 **Steven M. Roth**
1280 21st Street, NW
Suite 209
Washington, DC 20036-2343
- #57 **Dr. John M. Buckner**
6757 Newberry Road
Gainesville, FL 32605

It is regretful that the following are dropped from membership for non-payment of dues.

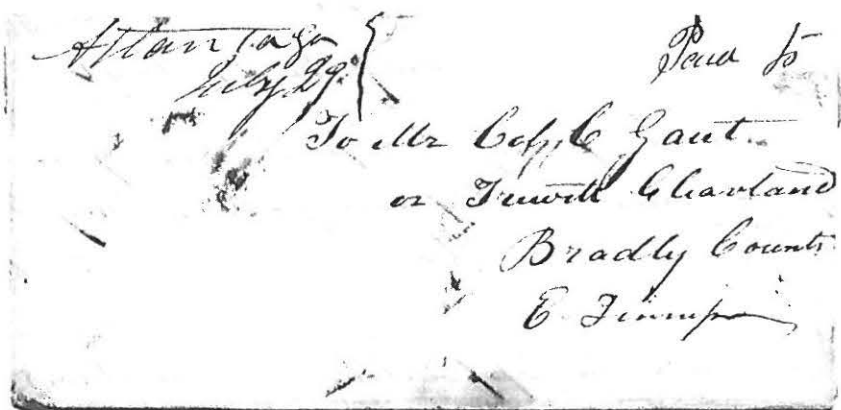
- #39 William S. Connolly
#48 Emmett L. Williams
#51 Bonnie Caines

We end the year with a bank balance of \$1,525.36.

Mike O'Reilly

Earliest Recorded Atlanta Postmark

Recently a new early Atlanta cover came to light. This cover bears a manuscript Atlanta postmark dated 29 July (1846). This is the earliest recorded date for an Atlanta postmark. There is one other recorded manuscript Atlanta postmark. It is dated 12 Oct (1846) and was illustrated in the June 1990 issue of the *GPHS Bulletin*.



Manuscript Atlanta postmark dated 29 July (1846) to Tennessee.

The Atlanta post office had a strange beginning as recorded in the official records. It was established in October 1845 when the name was changed from Marthasville. In December

the name was changed back to Marthasville and then in January 1846 back to Atlanta. George W. Collier was appointed postmaster in January 1846.

Post Road Notes

As noted in the last issue, our members prefer articles on stampless and Confederate postal history above all others. This issue focuses on those preferences.

The front page article is about the postmarks of Indian Springs through the Confederate period. This is one of those towns that is eagerly sought after by more than just Georgia collectors. Its name contains two themes: Indian and Springs. This makes it desirable by these collectors as well. One other factor makes Indian Springs covers difficult to collect: they are scarce. Indian Springs was a popular resort for almost 100 years. We should expect that those who made use of the resort spent at least some time writing their friends and family. Apparently this was not the case. The net proceeds of the office never exceeded \$300.00 and it came close to this amount only once, in 1843. Most years the net proceeds were just over \$100.00. By 1859 they dropped to \$81.50.

One of our newest members, Don Garrett, reported a new postmaster's postmark from Hart County. This is the first double line rectangle postmark reported from Georgia. It is the story of a discovery resulting from looking twice at a junk cover.

One of the respondents to the survey we conducted last summer suggested we print at least part of *GPR* in color. This was discussed with the officers and it was decided that at this time it is still too costly. As the price of color printing continues to drop we will reevaluate this suggestion.

Ken Hall continues to find new usages and marking. This issue features his latest discovery, a new Thomaston postmark. It is the earliest reported postmark from Thomaston and also one of the largest from Georgia, measuring 38 mm across.

Frank

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Confederate post war use
Special postal history insert

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APS Affiliate 224**

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Help your editor by doing one of the following:

- 1) Prepare an article
- 2) Provide a cover or copy of a cover you would like to see written up
- 3) Provide a subject or topic you want to see in *GPR*

Covers from Indian Springs are uncommon. The earliest recorded cover from Indian Springs bears a manuscript postmark and is dated 1835 (Figure 1). Some-time between 1835 and 1845 the distinctive Indian Springs handstamp postmark was introduced. This marking has three key features which set it apart from most other postmarks of the period. First is the sans serif font. Second is the wide spacing between the two words comprising the town name and between the two letters of the state abbreviation. Finally there is a period after the town name (Figure 2).



Figure 2. First handstamped Indian Springs postmark

Another interesting feature of the Indian Springs postmark is the lack of a date logos. All recorded examples have the month and day in manuscript. It is possible that earlier usages may yet be discovered that have date logos.



Figure 3. Red Indian Springs postmark dated 5 August (1845). This is the earliest recorded use of the handstamped Indian Springs postmark

All recorded stampless usages of the Indian Springs postmark are in red. This red period dates from August 1845 through December 1851. No handstamped rate or paid markings are known from the stampless period.

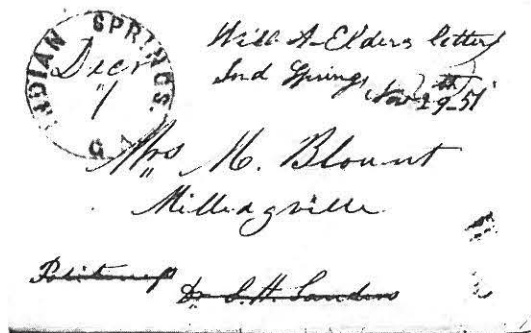


Figure 4. Red Indian Springs postmark dated 1 Dec (1851) on a business letter.

About 1855 the color of ink used at the Indian Springs post office changed from red to green. To date no stampless covers have been found with green ink. This is probably due to the fact the change to green ink was about the time the use of stamps became mandatory.



Figure 5. Two strikes of the Indian Springs postmark in green ink. The manuscript month could be either Feb or Jul.



Figure 6. Green postmark with month logo used on cover with 3c 1857 issue. Cover is addressed to a cadet at the Georgia Military Institute.

The secession of Georgia and the formation of the Confederate States saw no immediate change in the Indian Springs postmark (Figure 7). The color of the ink did change from green to black but this may have occurred prior to 1861.



Figure 7. Black Indian Springs postmark dated 14 Sep (1861) on a Confederate manuscript paid letter to Savannah. (Courtesy McCary Ballard)

Sometime during the Confederate period a new postmark was obtained by the Indian Springs post office (Figure 8). The postmark is obviously of Confederate manufacture and it is just as distinctive as the first Indian Springs postmark. It's features include the separation of the two words of the town name by a "=" sign and a year date.

Also during the early Confederate period a handstamped "PAID / 5" marking was obtained and used by the Indian Springs postmaster.

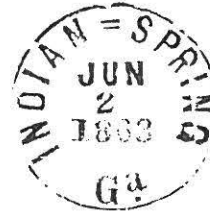


Figure 8. Second (Confederate) Indian Springs handstamped postmark

The cover in Figure 10 shows a use of the Confederate postmark in 1863 on a pair of the De La Rue 5c stamps.



Figure 9. Black Indian Springs postmark dated 2 Jun 1863 ties a pair of 5c De La Rue stamps on a cover to Macon. (Courtesy McCary Ballard)

While not directly part of this story, the cover in Figure 10 graphically illustrates an institution that was essential to the springs as a premier resort in the state. It was the destruction of the Wigwam Hotel by a fire in 1921 that led to the demise of the Indian Springs as a resort.



*Wm. R. G. Stephens
Candler Bldg,
Atlanta, Ga.*

Figure 10. Red and black corner card cover of the Wigwam Hotel at Indian Springs dated 17 Jun 1914.

Oak Bower Postmaster's Postmark

Don Garrett with Frank Crown

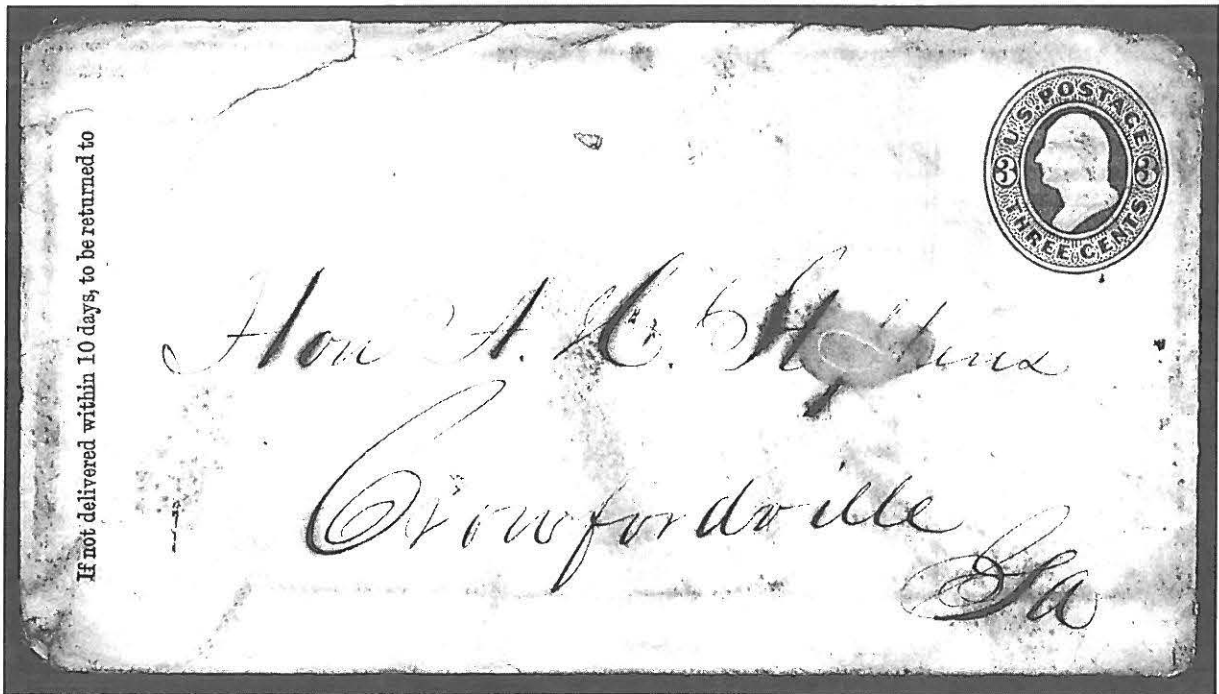


Figure 1. Weak purple double line rectangle postmaster's postmark of Oak Bower dated 12 Sep 1878 on cover to Alexander H. Stephens.

Many times new discoveries are made from what may be called "trash" or "orphan" covers. These covers are in such poor condition most collectors don't even look at them twice. They are quickly cast aside in favor of covers that have some appeal. The cover illustrated in Figure 1 is a "trash" cover that on second look bears a new Georgia postmaster's postmark.

The postmark is a double line rectangle. The only legible words are "HART COUNTY" along the left side and "GEORGIA" at the bottom. From this we know it is a Georgia postmark from a town in Hart County, but nothing more. At the bottom right one can read the letter "M" and it is probably preceded by letter "P." This would make "P. M." for postmaster but it is no help in identifying the town. Neither the town name, which must be across the top or the postmaster's name which must be on the right are visible due to heavy stains and toning in these areas.

In order to identify the town and the postmaster's name we turn to computer technology to "see through" of the stains and toning. The resulting image is at Figure 2.

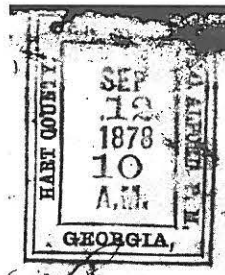


Figure 2. Computer enhanced image of Oak Bower postmark.

This image clearly shows the name "ALFORD" on the right side and what appears to be "OAK" at the upper left. Consulting the *Register of Officers and Agents* for 1879 we find that D. C. Alford was postmaster of the Oak Bower post office in Hart County. This is the first double line rectangle postmaster's postmarks recorded for Georgia.

Thomaston, Georgia
 Previously Unreported Post mark
 by Ken Hall



Black THOMASTON / G^A postmark dated July 2 (1833) on cover to Lumpkin County Georgia.

A short time ago, I received four stampless letters in the mail with a letter asking if I would be interested in any of them. There were two that I was interested in, one from Thomaston, Georgia, the other from Jackson, Mississippi. I made an offer but the seller refused, so I made a counter offer of trading two New Hampshire letters for his Georgia letter. This was acceptable to the seller, so I now had a letter from Thomaston, Georgia.

When I checked the post mark on the letter with the information in the *ASCC*, they didn't agree. The postmark on my letter was 38mm in diameter, the "A" in GA was a capitol, and the letter was dated July 29, 1833. The information in the *ASCC* gave the diameter as 30mm, a small "a", and from 1835-1851.

I contacted Frank Crown and asked for his help. The next day I received his comments with the notation saying "it looks like a previously unreported postmark."

Besides the differences with the postmark, the content was quite interesting. The letter was sent to the Superior Court in Lumpkin County. It is three pages long and lists the questions that were asked pertaining to the case of Thomas Bustin vs. John Price, guardian for William Price. There are statements from the attorney O. C. Gibson and the plaintiff, Thomas Bustin. One question was "State fully and particularly all you know that will go to show that the said William Price was born before the mother of said William Price had been married."

Any information on O. C. Gibson, Thomas Bustin, William Price or John Price would be appreciated.

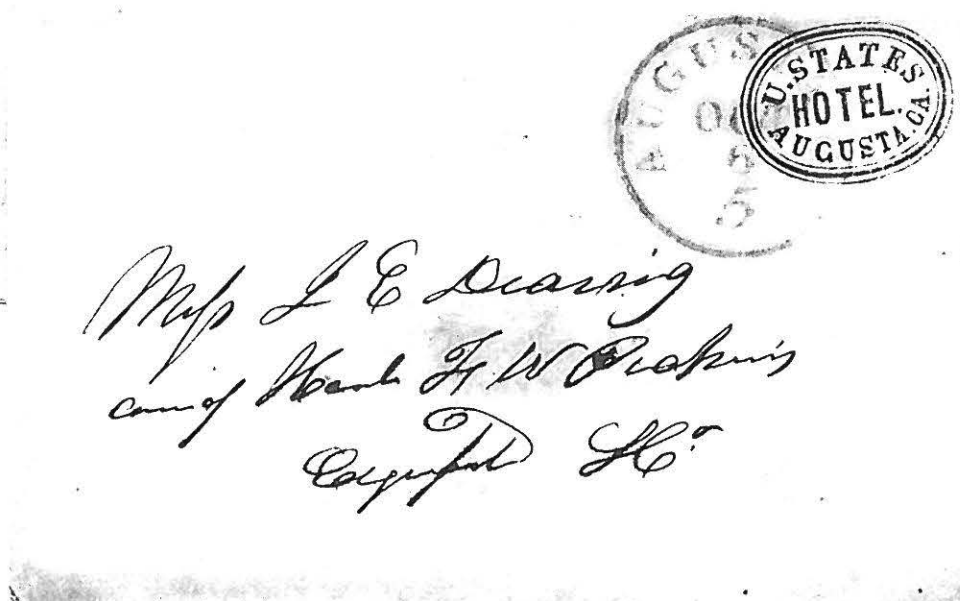
Editor's note: The Thomaston post office was originally established as Upson Court House on 30 August 1825 even though town had already been incorporated as Thomaston. The name of the post office was not officically changed to Thomaston until October 1830.

Cracker Covers

Handstamped Hotel Markings on Stampless Covers

Handstamped hotel markings are known from only three Georgia hotels: the Globe Hotel and U. S. Hotel in Augusta and the Lanier House in Macon. The purpose of these

markings is not clear. They may have been applied as a form of advertising to letters patrons left with the hotel for delivery to the post office.



Folded letter with red Augusta postmark dated 6 Oct (18-) and black handstamp of the U. S. Hotel in Augusta.



Folded letter with red Macon postmark dated 8 Jan (1851) and black handstamp of the Lanier House in Macon.



Georgia Post Roads

Volume 14, Number 2

April 2004

Whole Number 62

Handstamped Paid Marking Used as a Provisional Frank Crown



Figure 1. Black AUGUSTA / GA. double circle postmark dated 10 Jul on cover bearing two different "PAID 10" markings.

Some collectors eagerly seek the postmasters' provisionals prepared by some Confederate postmasters. Normally the provisionals, either adhesive or handstamped markings, are easily identifiable as such. There are a few markings we recognize as handstamped paid markings that are extended provisional status because of the manner in which they were used. An example is a handstamped paid marking that has a general issue stamp used over it. In most cases the fact that a general issue stamp was used over the handstamped marking is taken as evidence that the handstamped marking was applied prior to the intended use of the envelope and thus represents a provisional usage of the marking.

Another example is a general issue stamp used over a handstamped marking from another town. This example certainly indicates the letter had the handstamped marking applied in advance of its use.

These are examples of what I call quasi-provisionals because they gain provisional status only by the manner in which they were used. Normally these markings are considered a provisionals only when unused, used from another town or used under a general issue stamp.

The cover illustrated in Figure 1 is an example of a quasi-provisional. This status is not immediately apparent unless one is very
(continued page 12)

President's Message

As many of you may know, the Georgia Postal History Society has been a member of the Georgia Federation of Stamp Clubs for many years. This is the organization that puts on the Peach State Stamp Show in the early fall each year. After consulting all the member organizations the Georgia Federation of Stamp Clubs recently changed its name to the Southeast Federation of Stamp Clubs (SEFSC). It is now actively recruiting clubs from surrounding states with some success.

This move is considered healthy for two reasons. First it provides a broader base of support. This is absolutely necessary as the number of collectors continues to decline. Second it should provide more interest in and attendance at the annual Peach State Stamp Show.

One of the immediate benefits to the GPHS is the establishment of a SEFSC web site on which the GPHS will have its own page. Mike O'Reilly is currently working out the details with the webmaster. By the time you receive the July issue of GPR the GPHS page should be up and running. Go to <http://stampclubs.com>

Frank

Secretary-Treasurer's Report

We welcome one new member to our ranks this quarter:

#58 George E. Carnahan
3921 Sanders Rd, SW
Marietta, GA 30008-6049

We end the quarter with a bank balance of \$1,382.05.

Mike O'Reilly

The Atlanta Rose Cover

Newt Crouch wrote that in looking through the July 2002 issue of *Georgia Post Roads*, he noticed on page 4 the request for information in the "Who is the Addressee?" article.

Newt stated this was most likely a return envelope for the R. M. Rose Company

of Atlanta which used the rose emblem on their pottery liquor jugs. The Rose Company was a large retail and wholesale liquor dealer from after the Civil War to prohibition. They did a large mail order business with their products delivered all over the South. Their trademark



Rose emblem was surely one of the best known company images of their time, particularly in Atlanta. I would feel certain that anything marked "Rose" or with a rose and addressed to Atlanta would end up at the R. M. Rose Company.

Post Road Notes

When I picked up the January issue of *GPR* from the printer I immediately thought there was something missing on the front page. It had too much white space. Then it struck me that I had omitted the black border around the illustration. This was also true of several illustrations, most noticeable were the illustrations of larger covers that were white in color. Later I checked the photo ready copy from which the issue was printed. On this copy the covers had ample shading or grey so they the page did not appear naked. Sometimes you just can't win. However, to be on the safe side I will try to include borders on all the illustrations in the future.

Elsewhere in this issue is a short article on a cover recently offered on eBay. eBay and other on line sites are excellent sources for postal history covers. In fact the diligent internet searcher can find unusual and rare usages that rarely appear in auctions.

There is a downside to having enticing material so readily available. A ready market draws the unscrupulous. Unfortunately *caveat emptor* is the by word of buying on line. This is not the say that there aren't honest dealers on the internet. There are and we should be grateful. It is the other group that you must be on guard against.

Scrutinize illustrations very carefully. If anything doesn't look right ask the seller about it. Know your postal history. Are the postmarks, markings and rates contemporary with the represented period of use? Read the item description and the terms of sale. Check the shipping charges. Some sellers want more for shipping than you pay for the cover itself. Don't get caught paying express mail charges for a \$2.00 cover.

Frank

Help your editor by doing one of the following:

- 1) Prepare an article
- 2) Provide a cover or copy of a cover you would like to see written up
- 3) Provide a subject or topic you want to see in *GPR*

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fcrown@earthlink.net

The Peach State Stamp Show is scheduled for 24-26 September 2004 at the Cobb County Civic Center. Now is the time to start putting together an exhibit.

Check the Southeast Federation of Stamp Clubs website at <http://stampclubs.com/>

Continued from page 1

familiar with the Georgia handstamped paid markings. The cover appears to have been struck with two different handstamped paid markings. The question is, why? Was this a double weight letter that was detected before it left the Augusta office and struck with a second "PAID 10" marking?

The answer is that the markings are from two different towns! The larger marking is that of Athens, Georgia while the smaller is that of Augusta. The Athens handstamped "PAID 10" marking was applied in advance of use for a customer in Athens. We would never know this except for the fact that the envelope was posted in Augusta. There the Athens paid marking was not recognized. Instead the postal clerk required the mailer to pay the 10 cent postage indicated by the small Augusta handstamped paid marking.

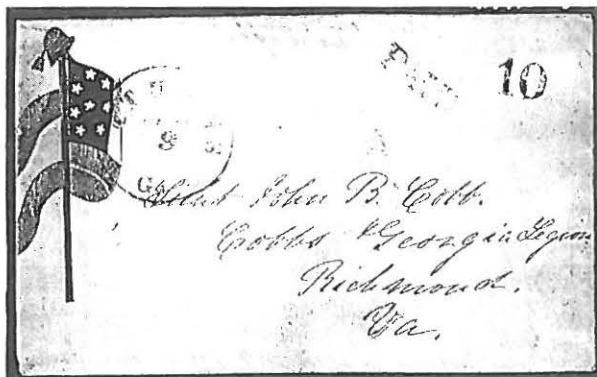


Figure 2. Patriotic cover used from Athens, Georgia with handstamped "PAID 10" marking.

The story of this quasi-provisional does not end with this one example. Figure 2 illustrates a patriotic cover used from Athens with the same large "PAID 10" marking as on the cover in Figure 1. This cover looks in every respect to be a handstamped paid usage. It is only by examining the back of the cover that we find that it is more than meets the eye.

Figure 3 shows the back of the cover to be void of any markings except for what appears to be some faint writing on the envelope flap.

Actually the writing is on the inside of the flap so what we see is the writing in reverse.

In Figure 4 the note is flipped so the first few words of the note, "Andrew had these envelopes stamped & I am obliged to use them or loose the postage," are legible. These words provide contemporary proof that the Athens handstamp paid 10 marking was also used as a provisional marking. This is not to say that every Athens marking of this type is a provisional. Only those markings with corroborating evidence can be elevated to provisional status.

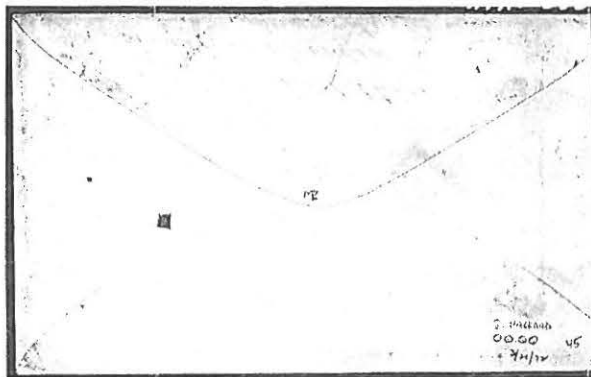


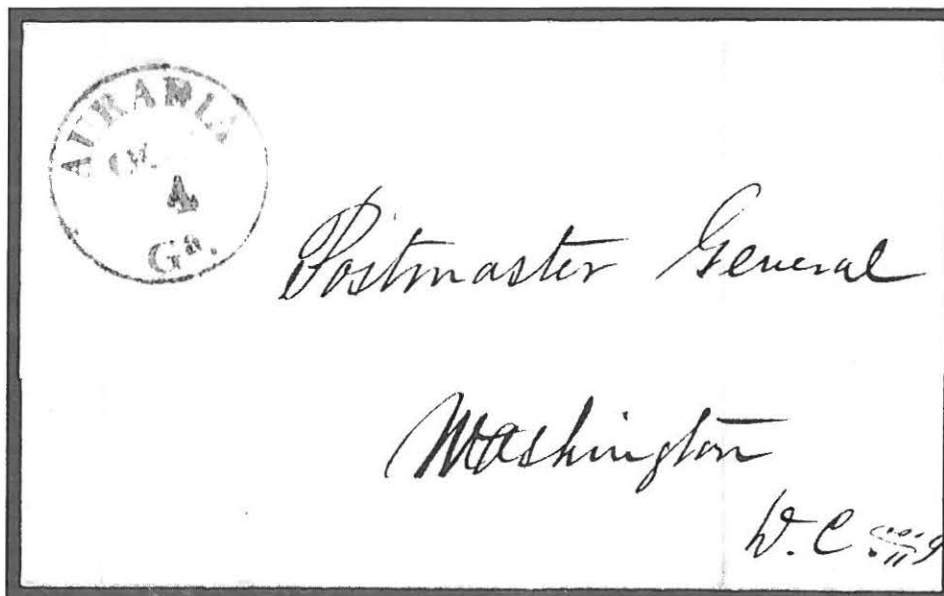
Figure 3. The Reverse side of Athens patriotic cover in Figure 2.



Figure 4. Enhanced portion of envelope flap bearing note, "Andrew had these envelopes stamped & I am obliged to use them or loose the postage." This illustration is in reverse so it can be read.

Looking for something to do? Prepare an article on your favorite cover. If you aren't up to preparing an article contact the *GPR* editor, who will be happy to assist you.

Rarities from the Ernie Owens Collection



Covers from Auraria, Georgia are very sought after. This was the site of the first gold rush in America and the name is a form of the Latin word for gold.

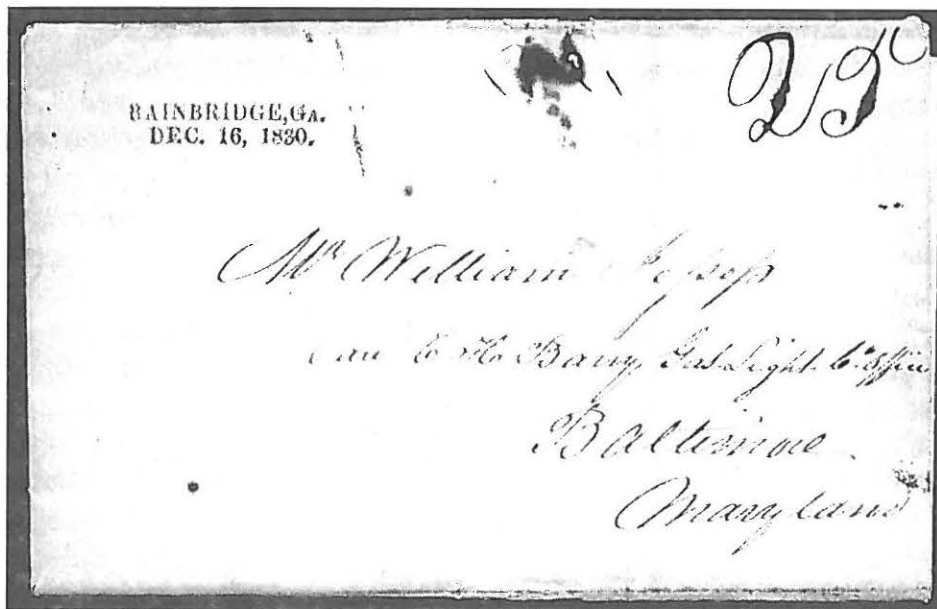
The town was established in 1832 and was the county seat when Lumpkin County was organized. The Auraria post office was established in September 1833.

Only five covers bearing the Auraria postmark are recorded and three of these are institutional holdings. The cover above is the in the best condition of the other two covers, both of which were in the Owens collection. It bears a red postmark dated 4 October (1840).

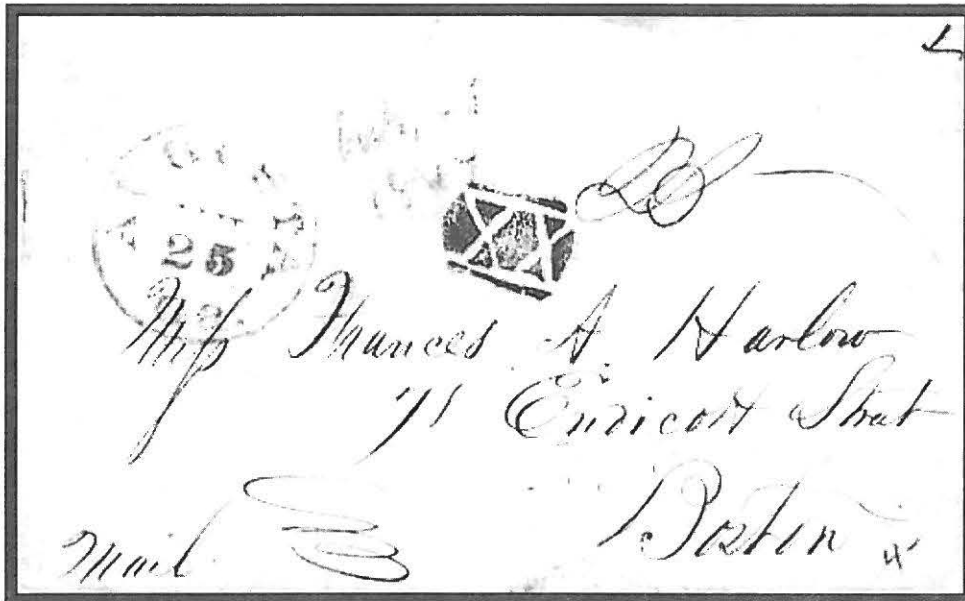
The cover to the right bears a Bainbridge, Georgia straight line postmark with an 1830 year date. The marking is in black ink.

Bainbridge was founded in 1823 and the post office was established in May 1829.

This is the only recorded example of the Bainbridge straight line postmark. By 1833 a circular postmark was in use in Bainbridge and the use of the straight line postmark ceased with the introduction of the circular marking.



Buying on eBay - Caveat Emptor



Red AUGUSTA / Ga. postmark dated 25 Jul on cover rated by a red handstamped "XX" marking an in manuscript "25."

The cover illustrated above was recently offered on eBay. The Augusta cover bears an unusual handstamped double "XX" or 20 for the rate. The title or heading for the lot states, "stampless Augusta Ga XX for 20." The description simply reads, "interesting stampless cover with fancy XX."

Certainly at first glance the "XX" marking looks like an very unusual rate marking that you just have to have. However, take a second look. There is a manuscript rate marking of "25" midway between the center of the cover and the upper right corner. There is also a manuscript numeral "1" in the upper right corner. In addition there is a pencil notation, "July 25, 1844," at upper center. What is the meaning of these markings.

The number "1" at the upper right corner indicates that the letter was only one sheet. The rate of postage for a letter of one sheet carried from Augusta to Boston was 25 cents before July 1845. This is represented by the manuscript "25" rate.

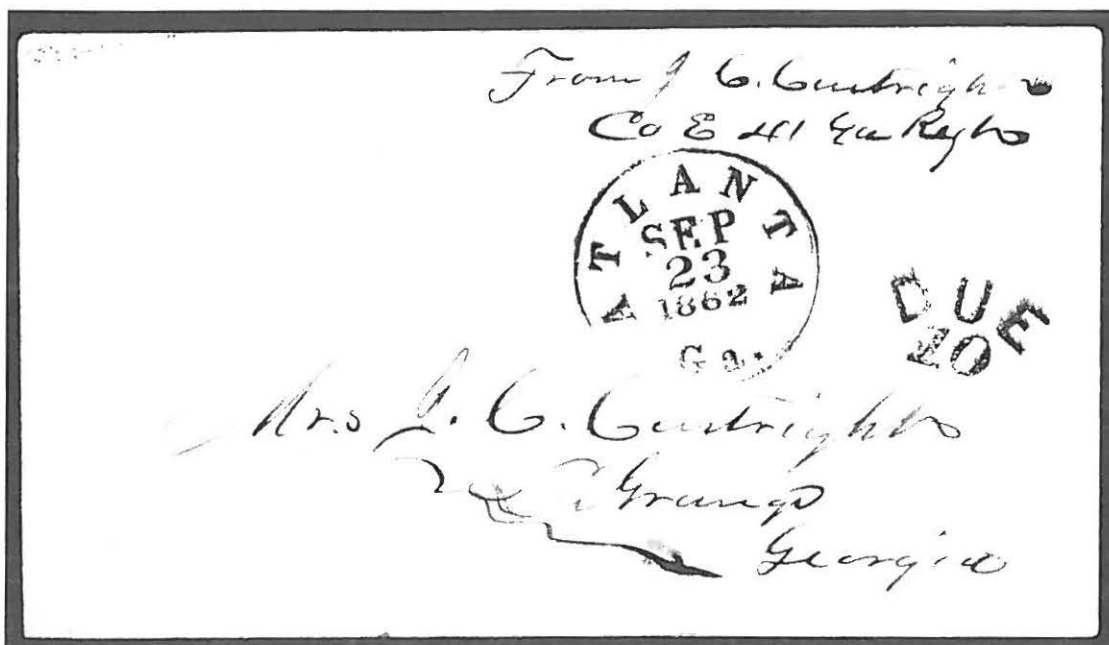
Now we must ask, what is the purpose of the handstamped "XX" marking? It does not

indicate the postage rate for a letter carried from Augusta to Boston prior to July 1845. It could represent a double rate letter posted after July 1845. However, if this were the case then how do you explain the manuscript "25" rate? In my opinion you don't. The handstamped "XX" marking was added to the cover.

eBay has become a ready source of covers and stamps for many collectors. However, as noted by the cover described above you must be very careful. I have seen a fair number of suspicious items and some that were outright fakes. When I brought my suspicions to the attention of the seller they were often ignored, as in this case. Other times the item was quickly removed from sale or the description changed to reflect the true nature of the item.

Some advise. Look at the accompanying scan very carefully. If a marking or blemish catches your eye and you can't determine what it is, email the seller. Those that are reputable will quickly answer your question or provide you a better scan. Do your homework. Don't get suckered by an unusual, but fake marking on a cover.

Atlanta Soldier's Letter
McCary Ballard and Frank Crown



Black ATLANTA / Ga. postmark on September 1862 soldier's letter to LaGrange, Georgia.

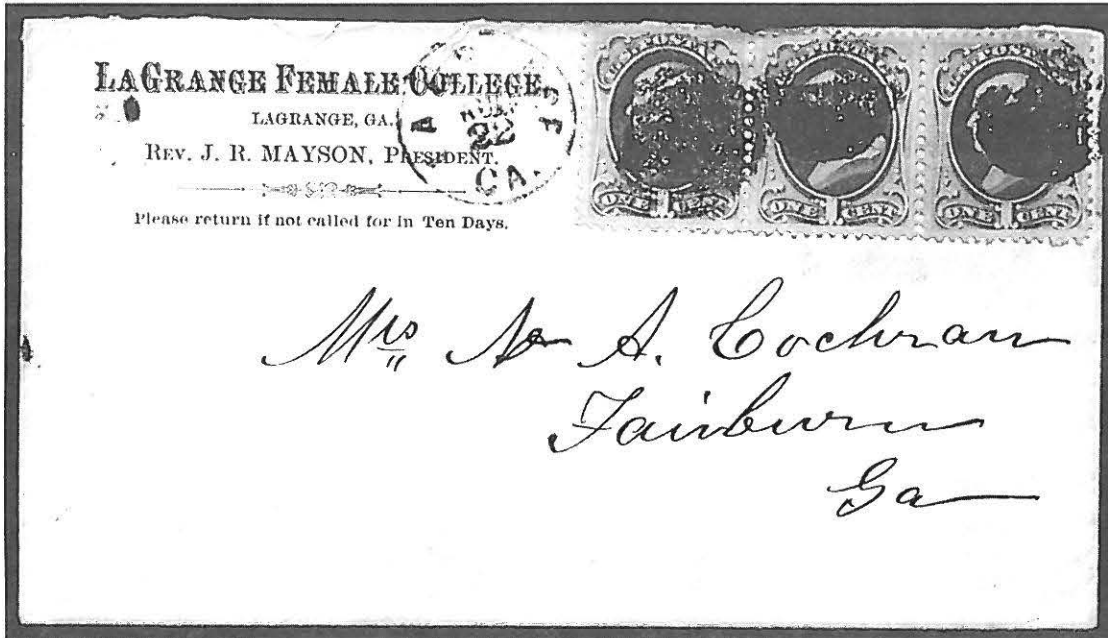
An Act of the Confederacy approved on 29 July 1861 stated that letters and other matter sent by "any officer, musician, or private of the army engaged in the actual service of the Confederate States may be transmitted through the mail to any other place in the Confederate States without the pre-payment of postage, but leaving such postage to be collected upon the delivery of such letters or other matter." The Act continued by stating the conditions under which letters would be accepted for delivery postage due. "The letters and other mail matter so sent shall be endorsed with the name, and shall be on account of the individual sending the same, and shall contain a description of the party who sends the same, by endorsement of his military title, if an officer, or the company and regiment to which he belongs, if a musician or private." Today we refer to letters mailed in accordance with this act "soldier's letters."

The cover illustrated above is an example of a soldier's cover used from Atlanta. The endorsement is that of Captain John "Jack" C. Curtright, commander of Company E, 41st Georgia Infantry Regiment. The letter is addressed to his wife, Mary C. Curtright in LaGrange, Georgia. Note that contrary to the law governing soldier's letters he did not include his title or rank in the endorsement.

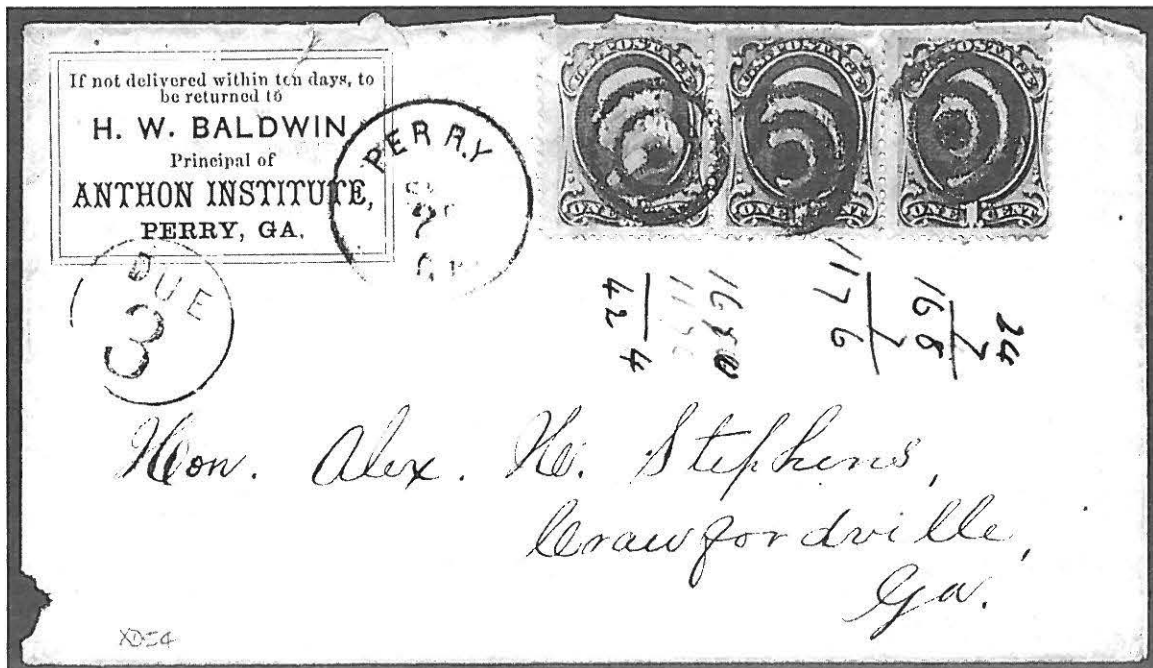
Fifteen days after this letter was post-marked Captain Curtright and the 41st Georgia Regiment were attached to General Maney's Brigade at the Battle of Perryville, Kentucky. In the fierce fighting that resulted in a Confederate victory Captain Curtright was killed.

The "10/DUE" marking used on the cover is not common. In the preparation of this article only one other example was found. Surprisingly it was dated 22 September 1862, one day before the Curtright letter.

Cracker Covers



Black **LAGRANGE / GA.** postmark dated 22 Aug (18??) on corner card cover of the LaGrange Female College. This college was started in 1831. Today it is the LaGrange College and is the oldest private college in Georgia.



Black **PERRY / GA.** postmark dated 25 Sep (1886) on Anthon Institute corner card cover. The Anthon Institute was probably a secondary school. The fact that no information about the school could be found indicates it was in operation a relatively short time.



Georgia Post Roads

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Whole Number 63

Post War Usage of the Confederate 2c Red-Brown?

By Frank Crown and McCary Ballard

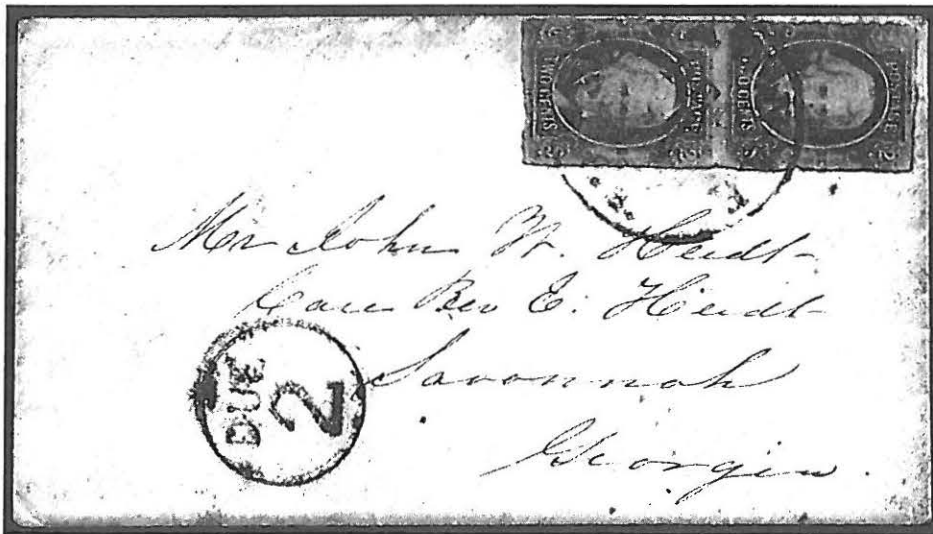


Figure 1. Confederate stamps tied by red SAVANNAH / Ga. postmark dated Dec 8 with DUE / 2 marking on drop letter.

The cover illustrated above begs a thorough investigation for several reasons. The first and most obvious reason is what usage does the cover represent: U. S. or Confederate?

We will begin the examination with a description of the cover. It bears a vertical pair of Confederate 2c red-browns tied by a red Savannah postmark dated 8 December. The "DUE / 2" marking is in blue. The other significant aspects of the cover are the address, Savannah, Georgia and the enclosure datelined "Waynesboro. Nov 28. 1865".

Based on this information it is fairly safe to conclude that the usage is from the U. S. post-war period. If this is true why are the pair of 2c red-browns tied by the Savannah postmark? Is the Savannah postmark fake? This postmark first saw use as early as 1858 when it was used with a year date. It continued to be used in the Confederate period and apparently into the post-war period. This is very unusual as the U. S.

Post Office Department provided new postmarks to the Savannah Post Office in early 1865. However, a post-war usage is not unknown. The April 2002 *GPR* illustrated another example (Figure 2).



Figure 2. Second postwar cover with the SAVANNAH / Ga. 32 mm pre war postmark.

The two usages are quite different. The postmark in Figure 1 is in red and was used almost a year after the city fell to Union forces.

The cover in Figure 2 has a black postmark on a cover with a 3c 1861 issue tied by a black grid.

Other than the color there is nothing about the postmark that would lead one to question it. In fact it shares the same characteristic of other strikes of this postmark from the same period. The two upper extenders of the final letter "H" in the town name appear joined giving the impression that the letter is an "R" (Figure 3). The red color is odd but again not totally unknown in postwar Savannah markings. The conclusion is that the red postmark is genuine.



Figure 3. Postwar Savannah 32 mm postmark

Why the Confederate stamps are on the cover is a mystery. They obviously were not good for postage so why were they affixed? The enclosure gives no clue. The only thing that we can conclude is that the writer thought they might be recognized as valid U. S. postage. If

this was the case what rate were they intended to pay? Had the cover been mailed from Waynesboro the rate would have been three cents. If it was intended as a drop letter (carried to Savannah and placed in the mail there) the rate would have been one cent. We will probably never know the real reason they were affixed.

The blue "Due 2" is easier to explain. In March 1865 the drop letter rate was reduced to one cent at offices, such as Savannah, which did not have free delivery. However, in March 1863, another section of the postal law was changed to charge the recipient of any letter that was unpaid double the rate of postage. Thus the Savannah cover, which had invalid postage affixed, was charged double the drop rate or two cents as indicated by the handstamped marking.

The final peculiarity about this cover is the enclosure. It is headed "Waynesboro. Nov 28. 1865." This date is a week before the cover was postmarked in Savannah. What took so long for the letter to be carried to Savannah? By October 1865 the railroad was open from Waynesboro to Savannah and the trip should have taken no more than a day. Instead the letter was probably carried by someone who was not in a hurry and probably traveled by horse or buggy.

President's Message

A few things to bring to your attention. First the annual dues notice is included with this mailing of *GPR*. Please do your part by remitting your dues right away. If you delay, you may forget. If you forget the society will have to pay the expense of reminder notices.

Don't forget, it is time to put that exhibit together for the Peach State Stamp Show. The show will be held 24-26 September at the Cobb Civic Center in Marietta. This is the same

location the show has been held for the past several years. For more information on the show and to get an exhibit application go to the Southeastern Federation of Stamp Clubs web site.

One of the benefits of being a member of the SFSC is that the Federation hosts web pages for member clubs. As this is being written our Secretary, Mike O'Reilly, is working to finish up the GPHS web page. If all goes well it should be up and running when you receive this issue of *GPR*. You can find it on the web at www.stampclubs.com

Frank

Post Road Notes

One of the feature articles in this issue is about an Express Mail cover offered at a recent auction. I received a copy of the catalog and called the firm expressing my concern that the cover was only a copy. I got a rather cold response that the firm stood behind all its lots. Perhaps this is the common response by auction firms when a lot is questioned. Certainly they cannot pull lots based on calls from anyone who questions a lot. This means the burden is on the purchaser.

Know what you are bidding on. If it is an expensive item examine it or have it examined by a trusted agent before making a bid. If you don't it is *caveat emptor*. Of course all reputable firms will allow the item to be submitted to an expertizing service. However, this takes time and the purchaser must foot the bill for the expertization fee.

Recently two members wrote with questions about bank note period fancy cancels. I suggested articles on these markings to fill an information void. Hopefully one of the future issues of *GPR* will contain one or more articles on this interesting subject.

Secretary - Treasurer Report

The annual dues notice is included with this issue of *GPR*. Please don't set it aside. Pay your dues while it is still fresh in your mind.

No new members this quarter, so PLEASE think about your collecting friends and recommend that they join the GPHS. They don't have to collect Georgia postal history, but might be interested in keeping up with our journal.

We end the quarter with a bank balance of \$1,275.24

We do keep email addresses on file, so if your email address has changed in the last year, please let me know. There is a space on the dues form for email address.

Mike O'Reilly

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Coming in Future Issues

Stampless valentine cover
Special postal history insert

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Washington 2006

Nancy Clark suggested that the GPHS participate in Washington 2006 with a single page exhibit. Your officers agreed this is a great opportunity to showcase Georgia postal history. More on this in the next issue.

Express Mail Cover?

Frank Crown

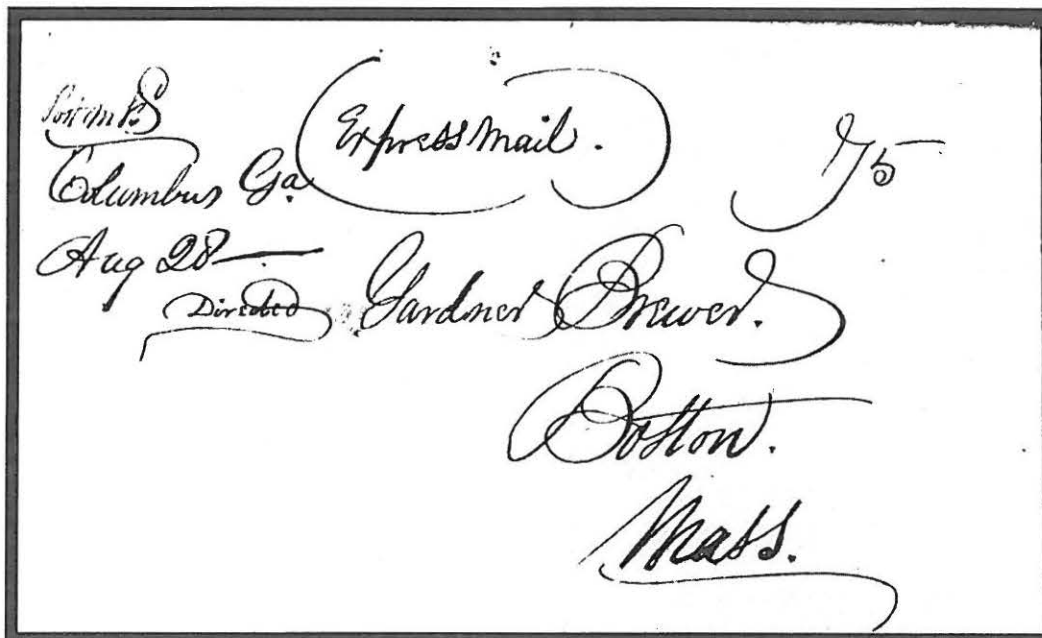


Figure 1. Express Mail cover with manuscript Columbus, Ga. postmark dated Aug 28 (1837).

The cover illustrated above recently appeared in a national mail auction catalog. It bears what appears to be a Columbus, Georgia manuscript postmark dated 28 August. The enclosed letter is dated 1837.

This cover immediately attracted my attention because my speciality is the postal history of Columbus. However, the attraction was not just because it was a Columbus cover. The use of a manuscript marking in 1837 was something I had never seen before. My records show Columbus used a manuscript marking but only for a very brief time early in 1829. All indications were that by mid-1829 all postmarks were rendered with a circular office handstamp. Of course there are always exceptions.

Close examination of the cover reveals some interesting peculiarities. Above the word Columbus at the upper left is what appears to be the notation "Post Mk." We have to ask, what does this mean? Surely the postal clerk did not need to indicate that the line below was the postmark of Columbus. There is a second

notation that is just as curious. It is the word "Directed" to the left of the name "Gardner" in the top line of the address. Why was this necessary? It is implied the letter was directed to the addressee.

At this point I had to ask myself if this was a real cover or a handwritten copy of a cover. I have seen typewritten transcriptions of old letters where the transcriber reproduced the front of the letter much like that in the illustration above. Could this be nothing more than such a copy?

Later I was able to obtain a copy of the actual letter. It describes a trip made by the writer to collect one or more debts on behalf of his client. Strangely there is the notation, "Signed," before the signature, "Grigsby E. Thomas" (Figure 2). There is also what appears to be the notation, "copy" at the bottom left. These two notations served only to increase the suspicion that the cover is nothing more than a transcription of letter, probably used in a legal proceeding.

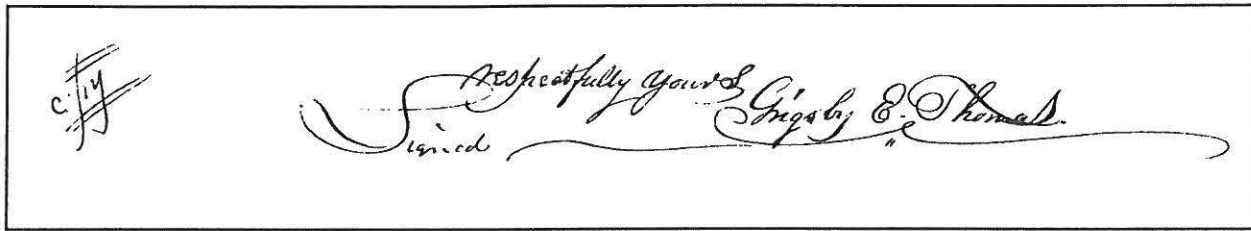


Figure 2. Signature of Grisby E. Thomas from the Express Mail letter.

I looked for additional evidence that could prove whether the cover was actually used or was a transcribed copy of a letter. One of the things I found was the similarity of the handwriting in the supposed postmark and in the dateline of the letter.

For ease of comparison I have separated the town name from the date in the figures below. Figure 3 shows the town name from the postmark and the letter. This figure shows the close similarity in the form of the letter "C" and the squeezed "o" as well the general similarity in all the letters.

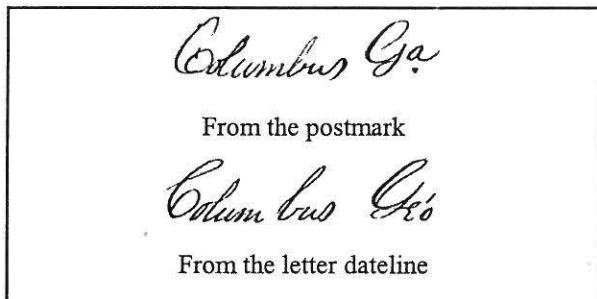


Figure 3. Comparison of the town name on the Express Mail cover and letter.

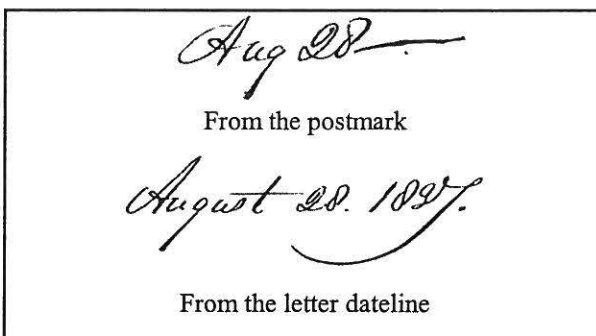


Figure 4. Comparison of the dates on the Express Mail cover and letter.

Figure 4 shows the same general similarity of the handwriting, the somewhat distinctive

number "2" and the unusual formation of the number "8".

The similarities in the handwriting of the supposed postmark and the dateline of the Express Mail letter pose an interesting question. How did the writer of the letter come to apply the manuscript postmark? Was Mr. Thomas the postmaster or a clerk in the Columbus post office? This is highly unlikely. The postmaster from 1828 to 1840 was James Van Ness. The office was a presidential appointment so there was a good chance there was one or more clerks in the office as well. However, Mr. Thomas was an attorney and the previous year (1836) he ended a three year term as the Judge of the Superior Court of the Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit.

At this point it occurred to me that the one sure way of proving whether the cover was authentic or a copy was to find another letter written by Mr. Thomas. I searched my records for another letter to Mr. Brewer in Boston but could find none. I then decided to compare the rate markings on other covers from the same period. I found a photocopy of one with a Columbus circular postmark dated 14 August 1837, 14 days earlier than the Express Mail cover. The rate on this cover was "25". The "2" was not even a close match the "2" in the date on the express cover. The "5" was also completely different than the "5" in the rate.

I continued looking for another August 1837 cover. In the process I stumbled upon the cover in Figure 5. This somewhat soiled cover was the key to determining if the Express Mail cover was authentic or a copy. The enclosed letter is dated 19 September 1838, more than a



Figure 6. Red COLUMBUS / G.^a postmark dated 19 September (1838) on letter written by G. E. Thomas.

year after the Express Mail cover was postmarked. The important thing was that it was written by G. E. Thomas, the supposed writer of the Express Mail cover.

I first compared the town name in the dateline of the Express Mail cover to the

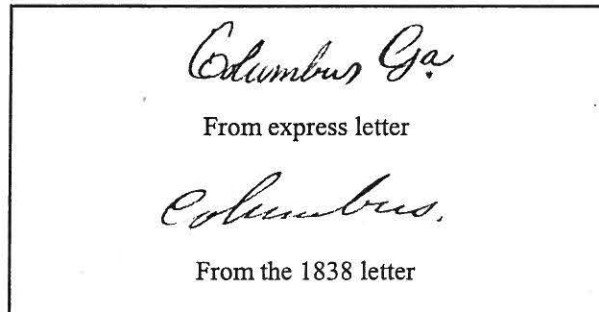


Figure 7. Comparison of the town names from the dateline of the Express Mail cover and September 1838 Thomas letter.

dateline in the newly found cover (Figure 7). It was immediately apparent that they were written by two different hands. The handwriting on the Express Mail cover is in a smooth deliberate hand while that on the 1838 cover is in a more hurried hand.

The final proof was a comparison of the signatures. Figure 8 shows they are very different. It is obvious that the same hand did not write the two letters. We know that Mr. Thomas wrote the September 1838 letter and since the signature on the Express Mail letter does not match it must be a copy.

Subsequently I located a second Columbus cover addressed to L. H. Hamilton in Montgomery, Alabama. It bore the same signature as the 1838 Thomas cover.

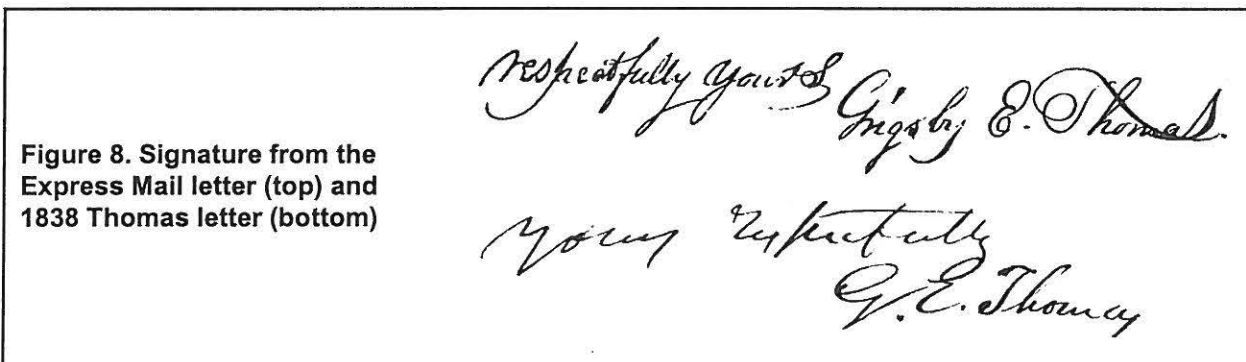
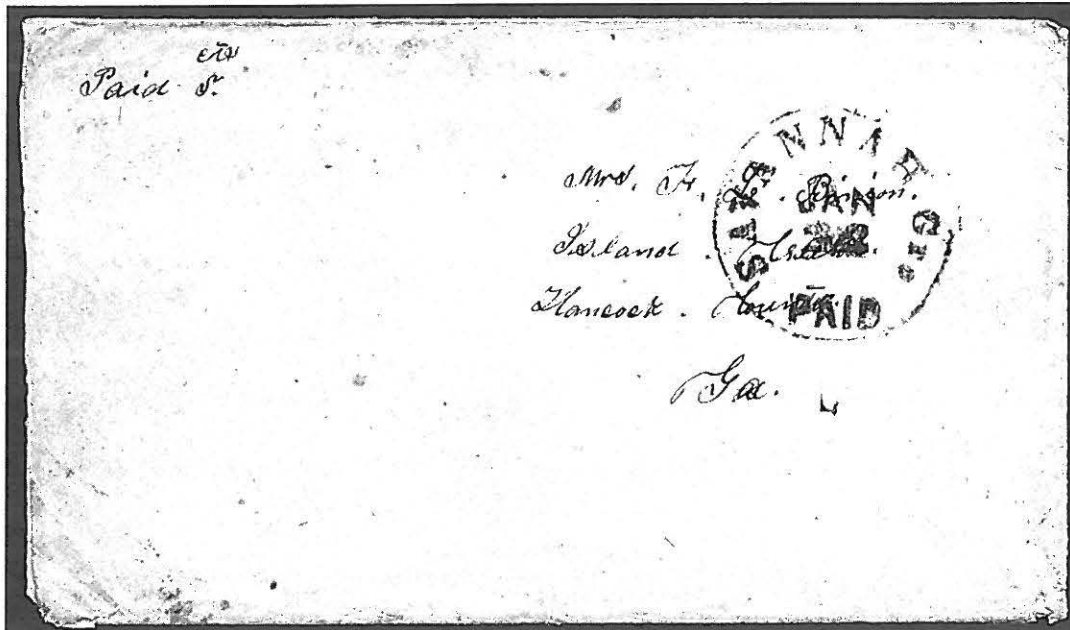


Figure 8. Signature from the Express Mail letter (top) and 1838 Thomas letter (bottom)

Antebellum or Confederate?



Envelope with black SAVANNAH GEO / PAID postmark and manuscript "Paid 5" marking.

The Savannah envelope illustrated above is one to ponder. It bears a manuscript "Paid 5" marking at the upper left. It appears to be in the same handwriting as the address. The address reads: "Mrs. F. L. Binion, House Creek, Hancock County, Ga." The only postal marking is the Savannah "PAID" postmark.

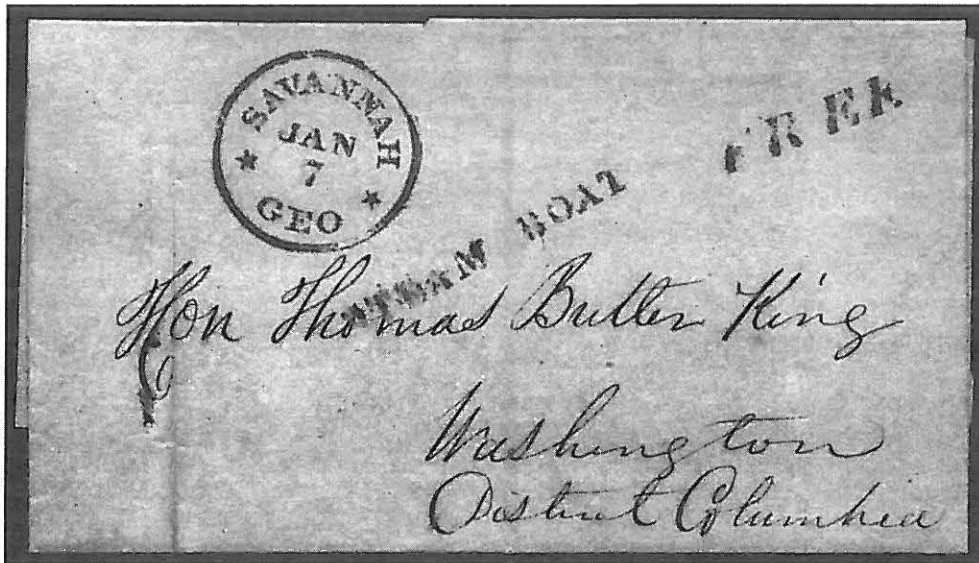
The initial reaction to determining the period of use of the envelope is probably, how? The best way is to start with some basic information. Since it is an envelope it was probably used between the early 1850s and the early 1860s. Until 1851 the rate of postage for a letter mailed from Savannah to House Creek was five cents. Then in March 1851 the rate was changed. The new rate for a single letter was three cents if prepaid and five cents if unpaid. The only applicable rate in the Confederate period was the five cent rate from June 1861 through June 1862. This rate information eliminates the period from March 1851 until 1 June 1861 because there was no prepaid five rate then.

The next thing to consider is the postmark. This is a little more difficult because it requires you either have an in depth knowledge of Savannah postmarks or access to catalog that lists the dates of use of postmarks. The *Georgia Stampless Cover Catalog and Handbook* lists the earliest use of the postmark as December 1853. Does this mean we can exclude the period prior to March 1851? No, because the postmark may have been used earlier.

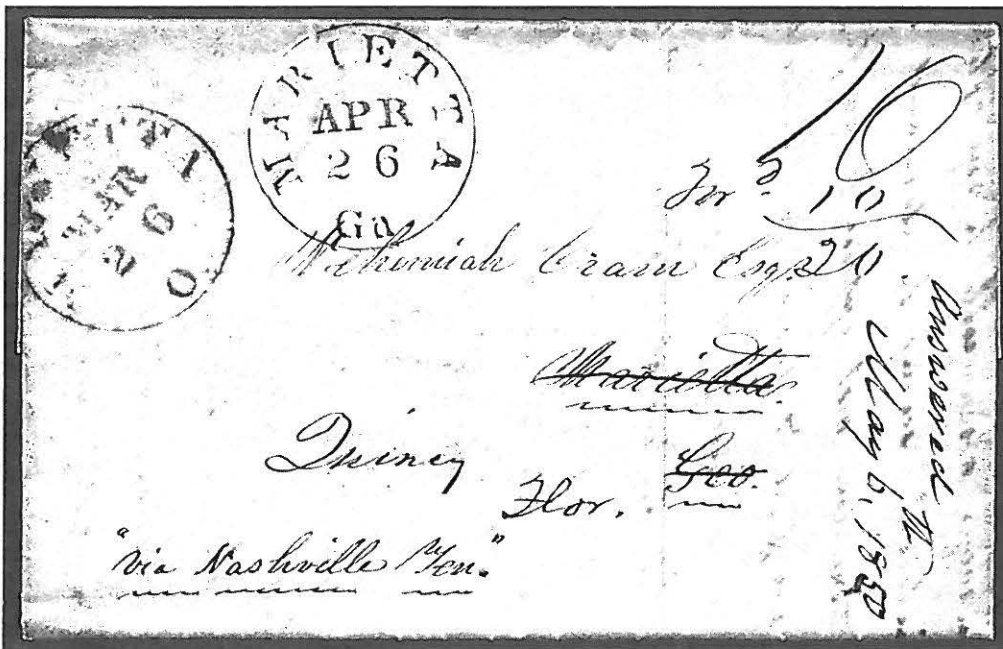
With the rate changes in 1851 Savannah began to use an integral paid postmark with the "PAID" marking attached to the postmark. This was apparently unsatisfactory because this marking drops out of use about the same time as the first recorded use of the Savannah "PAID" postmark used on the envelope above. From this we can conclude this marking was a replacement for the attached "PAID" marking.

That leaves the Confederate period as the most likely period of use of the cover. Based on the change in Confederate rates on 1 July 1862 this cover must be dated 24 January 1862.

Cracker Covers



Red SAVANNAH / * GEO* postmark dated 7 Jan 1877 with matching "STEAM BOAT" and "FREE" markings to Thomas Butler King in Washington, D. C. King was a representative from Georgia: 1839 to 1843 and 1845 to 1850.



Unusual 1850 cover with twin Marietta postmarks. The cover was first postmarked with a red MARIETTA / O. postmark and addressed to Marietta, Georgia. There the cover received a black MARIETTA / Ga. postmark when it was forwarded to Quincy, Florida.



Georgia Post Roads

Volume 14, Number 4

October 2004

Whole Number 64

Griffin Markings of the Fancy Cancel Period

By Frank Crown and Newt Crouch



Large black "G" fancy cancel on Griffin cover postmarked 24 Nov (18-).

The original intent of this article was to illustrate Griffin fancy cancels from the period 1865 to 1900. In the process of preparing the data and illustrations on the fancy cancels it was realized that useful information on the postal history of Griffin was being overlooked. Therefore, the article was expanded to include both Griffin postmarks and fancy cancels.

Many readers may be surprised to learn that in the years after the Civil War, Griffin was a prosperous commercial center. This was reflected in the compensation received by the Griffin postmaster. By September 1867 (the first postwar period for which a record was found) the postmaster's compensation was over \$1,000, making the position a Presidential appointment. It also meant the Griffin Post Office received the most expensive (steel)

postmarking devices from the U. S. Post Office Department.

The postmarks provided in the immediate postwar period were duplex. Attached to the postmark device was a holder for the actual canceller (regulations prohibited stamps from being canceled by the town name marking). The most common medium for preparing the cancel was cork. These cancellers wore out quickly but were easy to fabricate. It for this reason that fancy cancel are as common as they are. It also provided a medium for the postmaster or one of his clerk to try his artistic skills.

A study of a small lot of 16 Griffin covers revealed Griffin had a rich variety of markings. In this group were eight different postmarks (Tables 1 and 2) and fourteen different fancy cancels (Tables 3 and 4). *continued page 28*

GPHS Meeting Report

New members are always welcome in the GPHS, so take a moment to think about one of your collecting friends who might enjoy membership in our group. Send me their name and address and I will send them a membership application and a sample copy of Georgia Post Roads.

They don't have to specialize in Georgia Postal History, just have an interest in the subject.

We had a great meeting in Atlanta on Saturday, September 25, in conjunction with Peach State Stamp Show 2004. Malcolm McRaney, our new member, attended the meeting and signed up on the spot! Frank Walsh of Yesteryear Book Shop in Buckhead attended as a visitor, and hopefully can soon be persuaded to join the GPHS.

President Frank Crown opened the meeting and welcomed members and visitors. We had a good turnout with attendance by Ed Jackson, John Buckner, Don Garrett, Newton Crouch, McCary Ballard, and Doug Davis. I have probably left out some attendees, and I apologize if your name is not listed above. Roy Delafosse was manning his bourse table and was unable to attend. Doug and Nancy Clark were on the show floor as well, with Nancy serving on the show jury this year.

Don Garrett asked about the availability and/or existence of a comprehensive list of Georgia Post Offices. There are several commercially available PO lists available, but none seem to be complete and have gaps that affect their utility. Frank said that he has a comprehensive database of Post Offices, and opening and closing dates that he compiled from the USPOD records. Don, as well as several other members, voiced strong encouragement to get this data in print.

Ed Jackson also mentioned that there is a web site with Georgia Place Names and Maps

available. The link is rather long and takes the next two lines:

<http://www.cviog.uga.edu/projects/gainfo/placenamesindex.htm>

Take a look when you get a chance. It is an excellent and very helpful site.

Mike O'Reilly reported on membership status and our bank balance. Frank noted that our bank balance has remained pretty stable over the past couple of years, so we are doing a good job of sustaining the GPHS with our current dues structure.

Frank made a presentation on "Bold and Fancy Rate Markings of Antebellum Georgia." This was a superb program showing a wonderful array of Georgia stampless covers with fancy rate handstamp markings. Thanks to Ed Jackson for bringing a screen on which to project the program. After showing this program, we had some extra time, so attendees got a special treat by seeing the first slide show presented at Peach State several years ago on Fancy and Unusual Georgia Stampless covers.

Special thanks to Roy Delafosse for donating the Society award for best Georgia Postal History exhibit. The Society certainly appreciates Roy's generosity.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike O'Reilly

Secretary - Treasurer Report

We welcome one new member to our ranks this quarter:

#60 McRaney, Malcolm A. III
2256 Northwest Parkway, Suite A,
Marietta, GA 30067

We end the quarter with a bank balance of 1,646.93.

Mike O'Reilly

Post Road Notes

In the last issue I mentioned that two members contacted me about running articles on fancy cancels. I am happy to report that I have been working with Don Garrett and Newt Crouch on this project. In this issue you see the result: an article on the Griffin fancy cancels. Another article (or two) will follow on the Savannah fancy cancels.

Georgia's fancy cancels, like so many other aspects of Georgia postal history, are not well recorded in existing references. This is not for lack of material as one can see in the Griffin article. The poor representation is probably due more to a lack of serious Georgia collectors of the bank note period when the publications were prepared.

Frank

President's Message

It is my pleasure to report that our annual meeting at Peach State was the best ever. We had the largest number of attendees to include three prospective new members. For a full report see the previous page.

Your Society is healthy financially. Mike O'Reilly, our Secretary-Treasurer, did a superb job collecting dues. At the time of our meeting only two members had yet to pay! This is a far cry from past years when we were still collecting dues into December. Of course much of the credit must also go to those of you who promptly paid their dues.

As we move into another year we have many opportunities to undertake projects to increase the money in our treasury. As I pointed out at the meeting, many of these are being held up for lack of time to complete the projects. In the mean time if you have a question on post offices during the period 1789 to 1870 I will be glad to answer them..

Frank

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Coming in Future Issues

Stampless valentine cover
Savannah fancy cancels

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Editor: Frank Crown

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State Postal History Registry

The Georgia Postal History Society is now listed on the National Postal Museum's State Postal History Registry. Go to the NPM's home page, <http://www.postalmuseum.si.edu/> and click on the orange box which says State Postal History Registry. This will take you to the registry pages for states. Click on Georgia.

continued from page 1

Table 1
Griffin Postmarks 1868 to 1892









			
A	B	C	D
			
E	F	G	H















Table 2
Postmark Characteristics

Postmark ¹	Diameter (mm) ²	Dates of Use	Earliest Stamp Use	Identifying Features
A	23.5	3 Oct 1868	1864 3¢ pink envelope	Smallest postmark; state abbreviation to right of bottom center.
B	26	21 Dec 1869	1864 3¢ pink envelope	Small letters; state abbreviation to left of bottom center
C	26	27 Mar 1871 to 7 Apr 1874	1869 3¢ ultramarine	Large letters; "N" is larger than other letters and larger at bottom than at top
D	26	10 Jan 18--	1870-88 3¢ green	Small letters; state abbreviation to right of bottom center
E	26	17 Mar 18--	1870-88 3¢ green	Small letters; "FF" are close together and extra space between "F" and "I"
F	32	11 Feb 1882	1870-88 3¢ green	Largest year dated postmark
G	27	16 Jun 1883	1870-83 1¢ ultramarine and 2¢ red brown	Year dated postmark similar in style to Types A through E
H	28	25 Mar 1892	1890-93 2¢ carmine	Year dated postmark with hour

¹ All postmarks are black

² Measurements were taken from copies and are approximate

**Table 3
Griffin Fancy Cancels**

	 CIR-01	 CIR-02	
 CIR-03	 GEO-01	 GEO-02	 LTR-01
 MIS-01	 ROS-01	 ROS-02	 SEG-01
 SEG-02	 SEG-03	 SEG-04	 SEG-05

The postmarks in Table 1 are relatively easy to identify from the notes in Table 2. An alternate means that may help in the identification process is the space taken up by the town name. The town name in Postmarks A and B form almost a full semi-circle. In Postmarks C through E the name takes noticeably less than a full semi-circle. Postmark C also has the largest letters of any of the small markings. Postmarks F through H should pose

no problem as they are all distinctively different.

Postmarks A through E are of the small postwar variety (26mm in diameter or less). These were probably all made of steel. Postmark F which is the largest and the first to bear a year date was made of hard rubber. Postmarks G and H were probably made of metal because they include the more familiar hand carved cork cancellers.

Table 4
Fancy Cancel Notes

Cancel Type*	Dates of Use	Used with Postmark	Stamp Used With	Number Recorded
CIR-01	7 Apr 1874	C	1870-71 2¢ green envelope	1
CIR-02	10 Jan 18--	D	1870-88 3¢ green	1
CIR-03	25 Mar 1892	H	1890-93 2¢ carmine	1
GEO-01	27 Mar 1871	C	1870-88 3¢ green	1
GEO-02	11 Feb 1882	F	1870-88 3¢ green	1
LTR-01	24 Nov 18-- 27 Nov 18--	B	1869 3¢ ultramarine 1864 3¢ pink envelope	2
MIS-01	28 Jul 18--	C	1869 3¢ ultramarine	1
ROS-01	21 Dec 1869 20 Dec 18--	B	1869 3¢ ultramarine 1864 3¢ pink envelope	1
ROS-02	17 Mar 18--	E	1870-88 3¢ green	2
SEG-01	3 Oct 1868	A	1864 3¢ pink envelope	1
SEG-02	5 Oct 1871	C	1870-88 3¢ green	1
SEG-03	12 Nov 1872	C	1870-88 3¢ green	1
SEG-04	1 Jul 18--	C	1870-88 3¢ green	1
SEG-05	16 Jun 1883	G	1870-83 1c ultramarine and 2¢ red brown	1

* All markings are black

The fancy cancels are grouped by their general appearance: CIR - circle; GEO - geometric; LTR - letter; MIS - miscellaneous; ROS - rosette; and SEG - segmented. The most plentiful fancy cancels from Griffin are the segmented cancels. No real artistic talent was required to prepared these. The simplest required nothing more than a few knife cuts across the cork. SEG-02 and SEG-03 are examples of these simple cancels.

However, we see the Griffin postmaster or one of his clerks was somewhat more artistic. The letter "G" (LTR-01) and the rosette (ROS-01) attest to this.

All the cancels are cork with the exception of the fancy geometric GEO-02. This marking

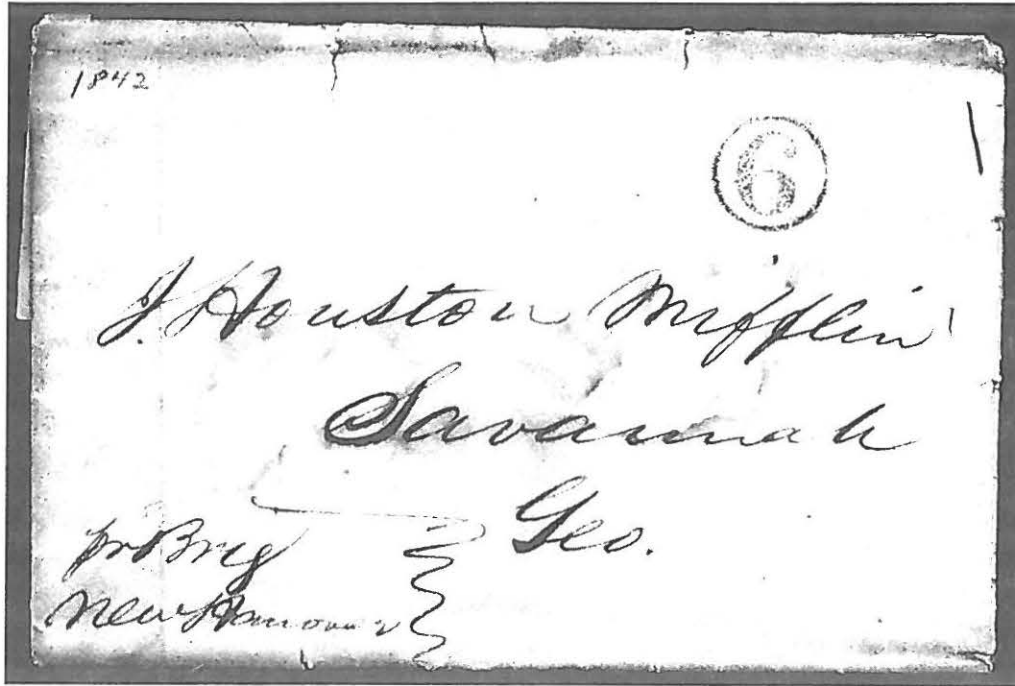
is known as the "wheel of fortune." It was manufactured as a single unit that included a town postmark. The E. P. Hammond Company sold the device to postmasters throughout the country and examples are known from more than 300 different post offices.

One of the 16 covers used in preparing this article also bore a "Due 3" marking. This marking is on the cover illustrated in Figure 1 and is illustrated below as Figure 2. The marking is black and 20 mm in diameter.

Figure 2.
Black "DUE 3"



The Savannah "6" Incoming Ship Rate Frank Crown



February 1842 cover from Philadelphia to Savannah with Savannah "6" rate marking.

The article on incoming ship markings in the October 2003 issue of *GPR* contained an illustration of a newly discovered Savannah "6" ship rate marking (Figure 2). Figure 1 (above) is a second example of this marking that was found in a dealers "bargain box" at Peach State.

The stained cover bears only the black "6" marking which is the same as the marking on

the cover in Figure 2. The content is a printed bill of lading for a package being shipped from Philadelphia to Savannah aboard the brig *New Hanover*.

The "6" marking is illustrated below at approximately actual size. Collectors are advised that sometimes covers originating in Savannah and addressed to New York bear a red "6" marking. This is a New York ship rate marking not a Savannah marking.

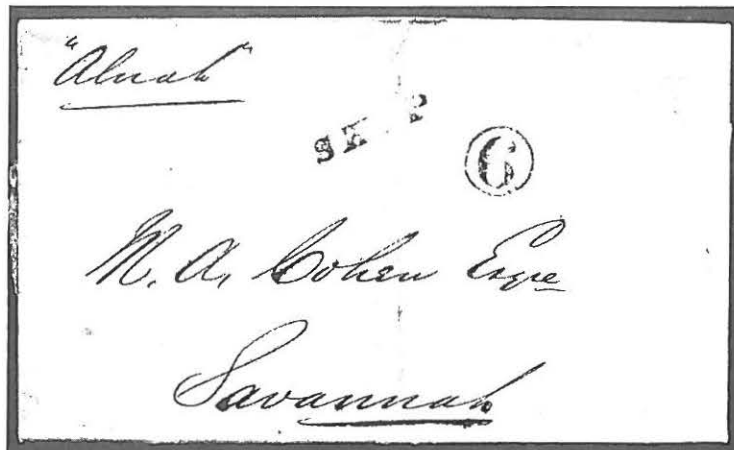
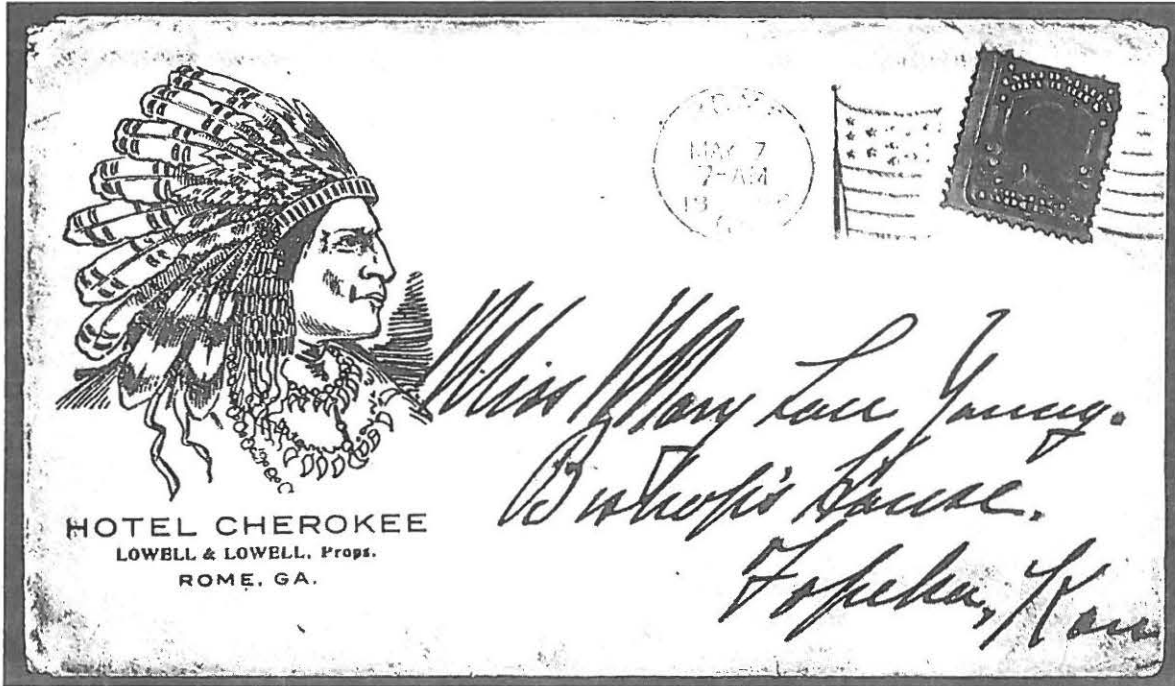


Figure 2 (left). 1855 cover bearing a Savannah "6" rate marking

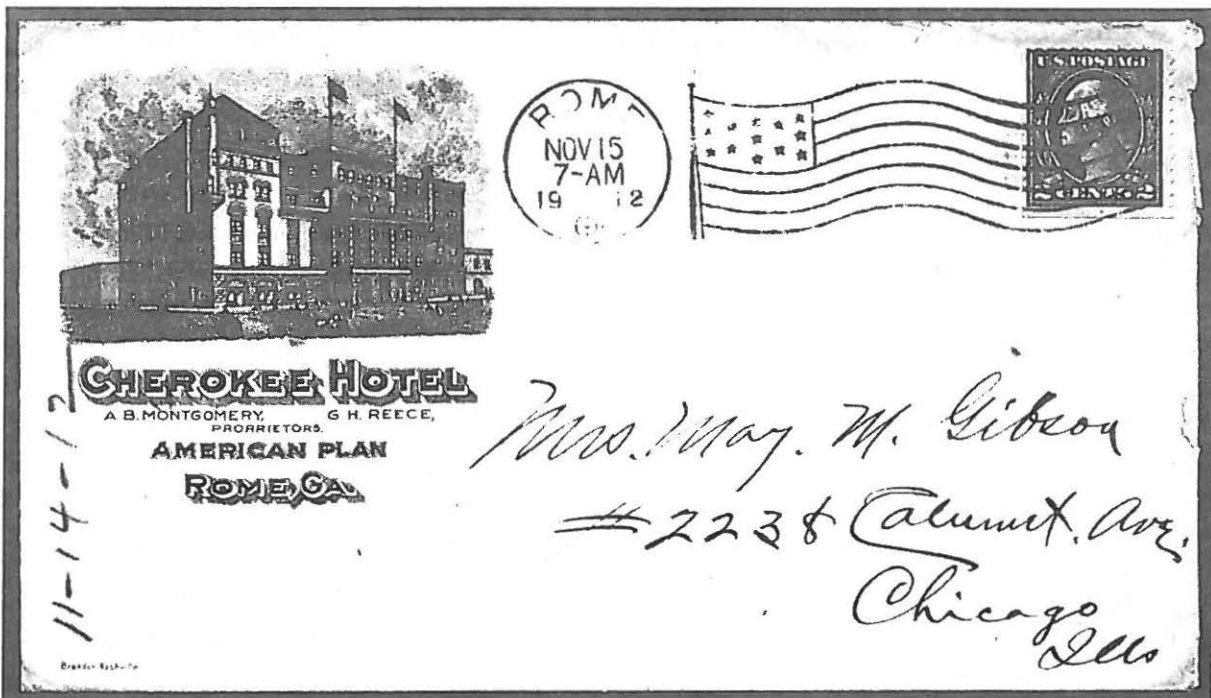
Figure 1 (right). Savannah "6" rate marking.



Cracker Covers



Red "Hotel Cherokee" corner card cover with black Rome flag postmark dated 7 May 1906.



Black "Cherokee Hotel" corner card cover with black Rome flag postmark dated 15 Nov 1912.



Georgia Post Roads

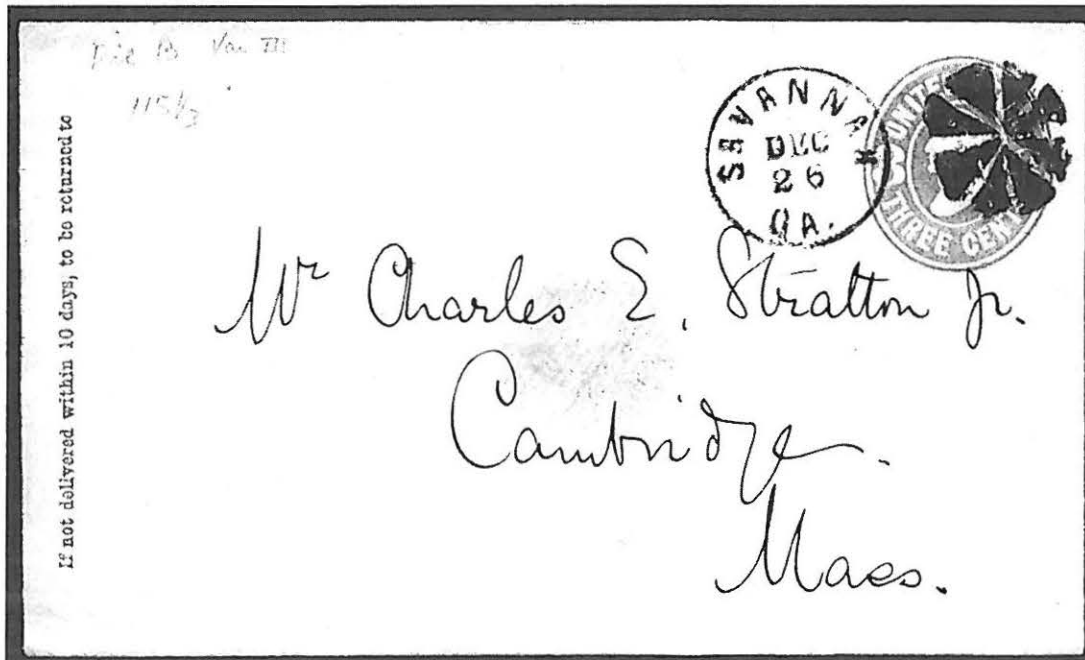
Volume 15, Number 1

January 2005

Whole Number 65

Early Markings of the Savannah Fancy Cancel Period

Frank Crown and Don Garrett



Blue SAVANNAH / GA. postmark dated 26 Dec 18-- with a circular geometric fancy cancel (GEC-10).

Savannah probably has the largest number of fancy cancels of any Georgia town. The number is so large from a selection of about 70 covers that it is going to take two issues to present them.

They are divided into two groups based on the type of postmark used with each fancy cancel. Those with accompanying postmarks that have only the month and day are listed in this issue. Those with postmarks showing the time or year will be presented in a future issue.

The Savannah fancy period began with the surrender of the city to Sherman in December 1865. The first outgoing mail was probably canceled by Army cancels. However, by mid 1865 Savannah had a least one new postmark of the small standard U. S. design.

From the information compiled for this article it appears Savannah received new postmarks in pairs with one exception. Each pair is rather distinct and the differences between the paired postmarks, in most cases, is very minor (Table 1). Table 2 provides a detailed information on the characteristics of the postmarks.

The fancy cancels used during the early period (1865-1873) were very basic (Table 3). The designs being geometrics (GEO); circular geometrics (GEC); radial geometrics (GER); leafs (LEA); letters (LTR); and rosettes (ROS). Notes on the fancy cancel are in Table 4.

Colors of the markings are either black or blue with blue being the predominant color.

Small Ladies Envelopes

Frank Crown and Lamar Garrard

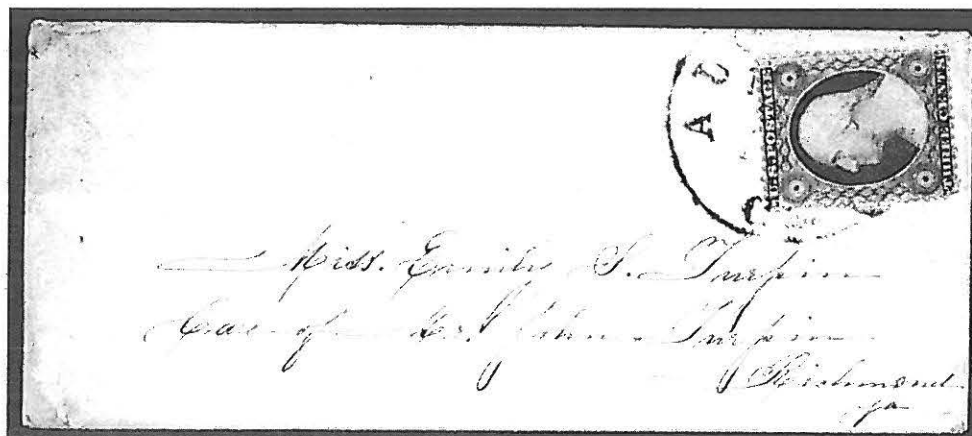


Figure 1. A long narrow envelope typical of many of the early envelopes.

Those who collect the postal history of the 19th and very early 20th century have seen what are commonly called ladies envelopes. Many of the early ladies envelopes have fancy embossed borders, thus the name ladies envelopes.

Several examples of different sized envelopes are illustrated full size so you can appreciate just how small these envelopes were.

The envelope in Figure 1 bears an illegible black Augusta postmark. However from the stamp (3c 1857 issue) we know it was used sometime between 1857 and 1861.



Figure 3. A somewhat larger envelope with a black Augusta postmark dated 18 Dec 1909.



Figure 2. Very small envelope with a black 3 Jan 1904 Augusta & Atlanta R. P. O. postmark tying a 2¢ carmine stamp of the 1902 issue.

The cover in Figure 2 is among the smallest that were “commonly” used in the late 1800s and early 1900s. These were commercially prepared envelopes. This particular example bears the imprint of Richards Stationery, Augusta, Ga. Surprisingly there were some that were even smaller.

By about 1910 most of the small ladies envelopes were of the size of the envelope in Figure 3 or slightly larger. Eventually the small envelopes all but disappeared due to minimum size requirements.

Post Road Notes

This issue continues the fancy cancel theme with another article on fancy cancels. This time it is the early fancy cancels of Savannah. Savannah probably used more fancy cancels than any other city. In the last issue on Griffin fancy cancels two examples of two different Griffin fancy cancels were found in a lot of 16 covers. Not one duplicate marking was found in a lot of some 70 Savannah covers reviewed for this article.

The next issue we will take a break from fancy cancels and feature other aspects of Georgia postal history.

Frank

Secretary - Treasurer Report:

We welcome one new member to our ranks this quarter:

#61 Norman Ritchie email=mnp@ctos.com
 505 6th Street
 Greeley, CO 80631

We end the quarter with a bank balance of \$1,530.44.

Our website is now online, and in fact, was how our new member, Norman Ritchie found us and became a member. Take a look at the website and let us know what you think.

<http://www.stampclubs.com/gphs/index.htm>

Check out the cover of the month. Send me a scan of your favorite cover and we will post it on the web site. GET INVOLVED!!!!

Again, we encourage our membership to talk about the GPHS to their collecting friend, and sponsor them for membership. Tell your friends about our website.

We are about half-way between our annual meetings, so now is the time to get to work on an exhibit for the 2005 show. A one-frame exhibit would be great.

If your email address changes, please let me know. If you aren't sure if I have your current email address, take a minute and send me an email to mcoreilly@att.net. I will reply to your email and make sure our file is updated. Do you have any ideas on how we can use the internet or email more effectively?

Mike

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Coming in Future Issues

Express cover to the Republic of Texas
 More Savannah fancy cancels

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Table 1 - Savannah Postmarks and Characteristics






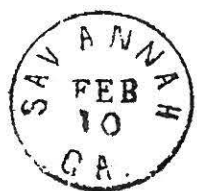


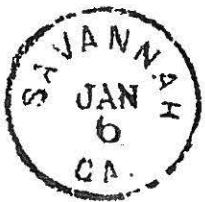
 <p>A</p>	 <p>B</p>	<p>General: These two markings are very similar and available examples are poor.</p> <p>A: Extra space between "G" and "A". "H" is wide. First "N" is not perpendicular to rim.</p> <p>B: Normal space between "G" and "A". "H" is not as wide.</p>
 <p>C</p>	 <p>D</p>	<p>General: Very similar</p> <p>C: Extra space between "G" and "A". All examples show no period after "GA".</p> <p>D: "G" and "A" closely spaced. Period after "GA".</p>
 <p>E</p>	 <p>F</p>	<p>General: Very similar. Common characteristic is the "GA." left of bottom center.</p> <p>E: Extra space between "N" and "N".</p> <p>F: Extra space between "V" and "A".</p>
 <p>G</p>		<p>General: Unique postmark</p> <p>G: Large widely spaced letters.</p>
 <p>H</p>	 <p>I</p>	<p>General: Very similar</p> <p>H: Period after "GA" high. Extra space between "G" and "A". Town name fills slightly less than semi-circle.</p> <p>I: Town name fills slightly more than semi-circle.</p>

Table 2 - Postmark Characteristics

Postmark (Type)	Diameter (mm)	Color	Dates of Use	Earliest Stamp Use
A	23	Black, Blue	20 Jul 1865 to 28 Mar 1867	3c rose
B	24	Blue	3 Nov 1867 to 22 Jan 1867	2c blackjack
C	23.5	Black, Blue	8 Dec 1868	3c rose
D	23	Black	?	3c rose
E	24	Blue	23 Jul 1867 to 7 Nov 1868	3c rose 3c 1864 pink envelope
F	24	Blue	26 Dec 1868 to 12 May 1869	3c rose
G	25.5	Black, Blue	18 Oct 1870	3c 1864 pink envelope
H	25.5	Blue	28 Mar 1873	3c green
I	25	Blue	7 Oct 1873 to 31 Oct 1873	3c green 1c 1873 postcard

Table 3 - Savannah Fancy Cancels (1865 - 1873)







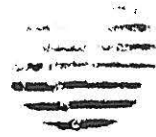

			
GEO-1	GEO-2	GEO-3	GEO-4
			
GEO-5	GEO-6	GEC-1	GEC-2

Table 3 - Savannah Fancy Cancels (continued)


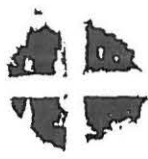






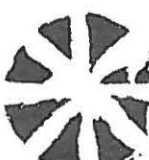











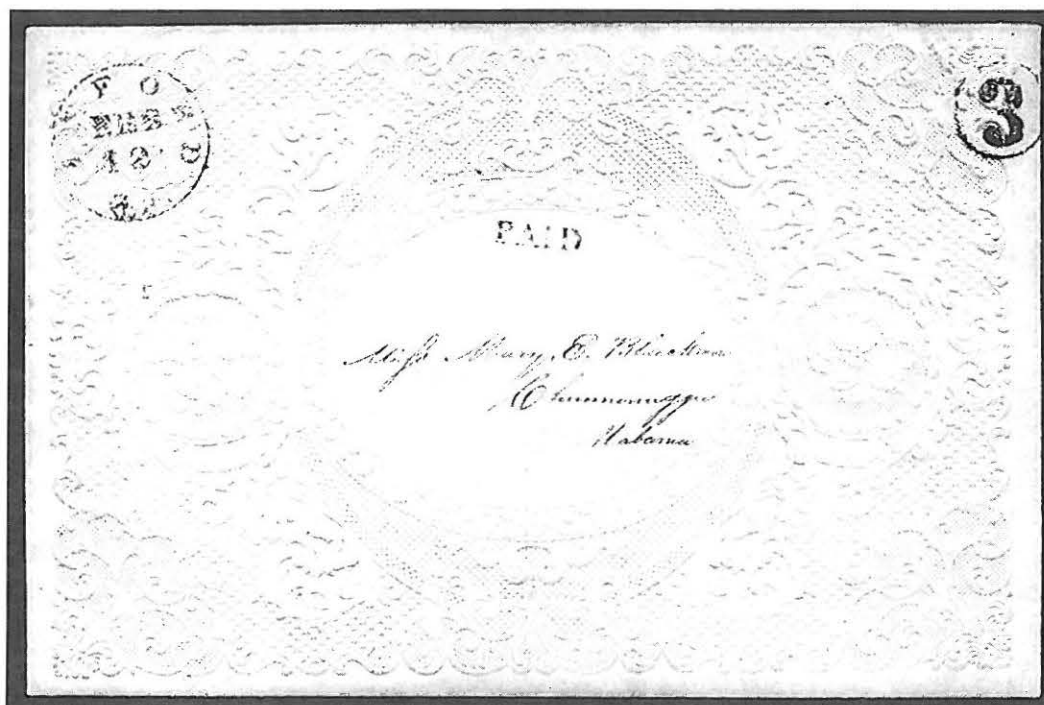
 GEC-3	 GEC-4	 GEC-5	 GEC-6
 GEC-07	 GEC-08	 GEC-09	 GEC-10
 GEC-11	 GEC-12	 GEC-13	 GEC-14
 GER-01	 GER-02	 GER-03	 LEA -01
 LEA-02	 LTR-01	 LTR-02	 ROS-01

Table x - Fancy Cancel Notes

Type	Dates of Use	Pmk	Color	Stamps Used with
GEO-01	4 Feb 18--	H	Blue	3¢ 1870 green envelope
GEO-02	7 Oct 1873	I	Blue	1¢ 1873 postcard
GEO-03	21 Jul 18--	D	Black	3¢ rose
GEO-04	24 Feb 18--	H	Blue	3¢ 1870 green envelope
GEO-05	3 Aug 18--	H	Blue	3¢ green
GEO-06	29 May 18--	G	Blue	3¢ 1870 green envelope
GEC-01	13 Mar 18--	D	Black	3¢ rose
GEC-02	4 Oct 18--	G	Blue	3¢ 1869 ultramarine
GEC-03	10 Feb 18--	F	Blue	3¢ rose w/grill
GEC-04	28 Dec 18--	F	Blue	3¢ rose
GEC-05	23 Jul 1867	E	Blue	3¢ rose
GEC-06	20 Oct 1868	E	Blue	3¢ rose
GEC-07	- Mar 18--	A	Blue	3¢ rose
GEC-08	15 Dec 18--	E	Blue	3¢ rose
GEC-09	19 May 18--	E	Blue	3¢ rose
GEC-10	26 Dec 18--	E	Blue	3¢ 1864 pink envelope
GEC-11	28 Mar 1867	A	Blue	3¢ rose
GEC-12	6 Aug 18--	G	Black	3¢ 1864 pink envelope
GEC-13	31 May 18--	H	Blue	3¢ green
GEC-14	8 Mar 18--	A	Blue	3¢ rose
GER-01	11 Jan 18--	F	Blue	3¢ rose w/grill
GER-02	14 Jan 1869	F	Blue	3¢ rose
GER-03	16 Sep 18--	G	Blue	3¢ 1864 pink envelope
LEA-01	29 Jun 18--	D	Black	3¢ rose
LEA-02	18 Jan 18--	H	Blue	3¢ 1870 green envelope
LTR-01	14 Dec 18--	I	Blue	3¢ green
LTR-02	6 Jan 18--	I	Blue	3¢ green
ROS-01	7 Mar --	G	Blue	1¢ 1869 ultramarine

Cracker Covers



Blue 12 Feb OXFORD / Ga. postmark with handstamped "PAID" and "3" markings on a valentine envelope to Chunenuggee, Alabama.

Valentines from Georgia during the stampless period are very scarce, particularly those that contain the original valentine. Pictured above is a large (188 x 124 mm) valentine envelope from Oxford, Georgia. Note how the postmaster carefully handstamped the cover with the town postmark the rate and the word PAID. The cover bears no year date notation. However, based on the markings and their blue color the usage was probably sometime in the period 1852 to 1855.

The envelope also has the original valentine enclosure (opposite). The floral design in the center was prepared using hand painted paper and cloth cut outs. After placing the design on the card additional artwork was added by painting on the card around the design. The small scroll at the bottom was affixed separately and reads: Oh! let thy heart, Affection own, For one who, Adores Thee.





Georgia Post Roads

Volume 15, Number 2

April 2005

Whole Number 66

Express Mail to the Republic of Texas

by Jim Doolin



Express Mail cover from Columbus, Georgia. The red postmark is very light and the state abbreviation in the marking can be seen inside the black New Orleans Texas agent's handstamp just above "TEXIAN." The red Columbus "PAID" marking is just to the left of the manuscript "75" rate at upper right.

The Express Mail of 1836-1839 by James Milgram, published in 1977 by the Collectors Club of Chicago, gives a detailed account of this short-lived service that was an attempt by the Post Office to speed important mails between New Orleans and New York. The postage charged for this service was triple the normal rate of postage. The normal rate for a single letter sheet going over 400 miles was 25¢. This same letter going by "Express Mail" was charged 75¢. When the service started on 15 November 1836 letters could be sent collect or prepaid. On 1 November 1837 a change was made requiring prepayment of all "Express Mail" letters.

The normal time of delivery for a letter from New York to New Orleans or the reverse

direction at this time was approximately 14 days. The "Express Mail" moved letters over the same route in approximately seven days. One leg of this route was by steamboat between New Orleans and Mobile, Alabama which took one day. The rest of the route was covered by horseback or train.

A few "Express Mail" covers are known used from Columbus, Georgia. Shown above is an "Express Mail" letter that was sent from Columbus, Georgia to the Republic of Texas in January 1838. Columbus used a red 30 mm postmark at this time which was applied to the left corner of the folded letter. A red "PAID" handstamp and manuscript "75" was added at the upper right side. The letter writer endorsed (continued on page 13)

Presidents Message

I am greatly saddened by the announcement that the Bridges were dropped from membership. "Spud" Bridges has been a long time and generous supporter of the Georgia Postal History Society. For those that had an opportunity to work with him he will be remembered for his unselfish generosity and keen interest in Washington County, Georgia.

If you take the time to read the Secretary's Report you will notice that over the past year we have held if not improved our membership level. I attribute much of this to our internet presence as a member of the Southeast Federation of Stamp Clubs. If you have not visited this site I strongly encourage you to do so. At this site we have information about the GPHS and also a "cover of the month." If you have ideas on what we might add to the site please contact myself or our Secretary, Mike O'Reilly. Check the site at the following URL: <http://www.stampclubs.com/gphs/index.htm>

Above I noted the Bridges were dropped from membership. I seriously doubt this was necessary. I suspect "Spud" passed on. However after several unanswered personal letters from the Secretary and myself we had no choice. We would rather note the passing of a member than drop them from membership. I suggest you instruct your spouse or other relation to notify the GPHS and any other philatelic society when that time comes.

We are now halfway into the current term of your officers. It is not too early to think about who you want to lead the GPHS in the coming term.

Mike mentions it is not too early to start on an exhibit for the 2005 show. For those members who have not heard, the Peach State Stamp Show is no more. It is replaced by the Southeast Stamp Show. Same people and same location - just a different name.

Frank

Secretary - Treasurer Report

We welcome one new member to our ranks this quarter:

62 Brooke, Ted
email: georgiacracker3@yahoo.com
2055 Foster Drive
Cumming, GA 30040

We dropped two members for non payment of dues:

11 H. I. Bridges
1737 Green Acres Drive
Vidalia, GA 34074-8531

12 Sara Bridges
1737 Green Acres Drive
Vidalia, GA 34074-8531

Mr. and Mrs. Bridges have been long-time members of the GPHS, but they did not reply to the dues notice last summer, nor did they reply to follow-up letters about their membership. We hate to lose long-standing members, but felt we had no choice but to drop them. If anyone has any news about the Bridges, please contact me at mcoreilly@att.net

We end the quarter with a bank balance of \$1,401.46.

Again, we encourage our membership to talk about the GPHS to their collecting friends and sponsor them for membership. Tell your friends about our website.

We are about half-way between our annual meetings, so now is the time to get to work on an exhibit for the 2005 show. A one-frame exhibit would be great.

Remember to send me your email address updates or USPS address changes to mcoreilly@att.net

Mike

Post Road Notes

This month we are taking a break from the large listing of fancy cancels that appeared in the last two issues. Instead we have contributions from three members: Jim Doolin, Newt Crouch and Don Garrett. My thanks to them.

In this issue there is a short article and illustration of a college corner card cover from Columbus. I know these are eagerly sought by many collectors. What is lacking is a listing of the various college corner card types. I would like to hear from members who would be interested in starting a listing of Georgia college corner cards. If there is sufficient interest they will become a regular feature in *GPR*.

Over the past few years I have seen a change take place in stamp auctions. Catalogs are larger with lots of color with many of the lots illustrated full size. I recall in the not to distant past many illustrations were reduced in size and covers overlapped each other.

The hierarchy of auctions has changed as well. For some time Robert A. Siegel was the premier auction house for sales of U. S. postal history. Now they are challenged by Matthew Bennett. Still back in the pack but coming up strong is Schuyler Rumsey on the west coast. The mid range auction houses are falling out of sight one by one. Gone is Al Zimmerman and Sol Salkind. We also wonder how much longer David G. Phillips will continue his sales.

There appears to be growing trend toward what I refer to as "retail auctions." These are auctions in which the auction house normally owns the material and sets what I consider an artificially high minimum bid. Thus the term "retail auction."

Finally there is eBay, the leader in internet stamp auctions. Most internet sellers are honest but carefully read the descriptions and study the scans. Ask questions if you have suspicions.

Frank

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Coming in Future Issues

More Savannah fancy cancels
College corner card covers
Atlanta fancy cancels

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Georgia Postal History Society APS Affiliate 224

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the Georgia Postal History Society.

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Is your exhibit ready?

The new Southeast Stamp Show is only six months away. Get your exhibit ready now before the warm weather sets in and you are distracted by outdoor activities.

Random Notes on Collecting Fancy Cancels

Frank Crown

I don't profess to be even an average collector of fancy cancels. However, I have been intrigued by them and have studied some at length. What follows is from my limited experience with them.

First and foremost, collecting fancy cancels is not like collecting stamps. While we identify individual fancy cancels, they do not have the same quality as stamps. While one variety of a stamp looks just like another of the same variety (except for plate flaws) the same is not true of fancy cancels. Figure 1 illustrates two strikes of the same marking on the same cover. Where is the similarity?



Figure 1. Two strikes of the same fancy cancel on the same cover.

The only similarity is the small segment that has separated from the larger segment on the left side about the nine o'clock position. However, if the markings were not on the same cover I doubt anyone would consider them the same fancy cancel.

This is a graphic example of what you are likely to encounter if you collect fancy cancels. However, this is probably more of a worst case. Figure 2 shows a series of three strikes, again all on the same cover. This time there is some apparent similarity. Even so, it might be difficult for some to notice.

Don't expect the fancy cancels to always have the same orientation to a postmark. Some of the cork fancy cancels rotated inside their holders changing their orientation in relation to the postmark (Figure 3). In other devices the



Figure 2. Three strikes of the same fancy cancel on the same cover.

holder for the fancy cancel was able to move in a limited arc up or down in relation to the postmark. Thus some strikes of fancy cancels will appear higher in relation to the postmark and others lower.

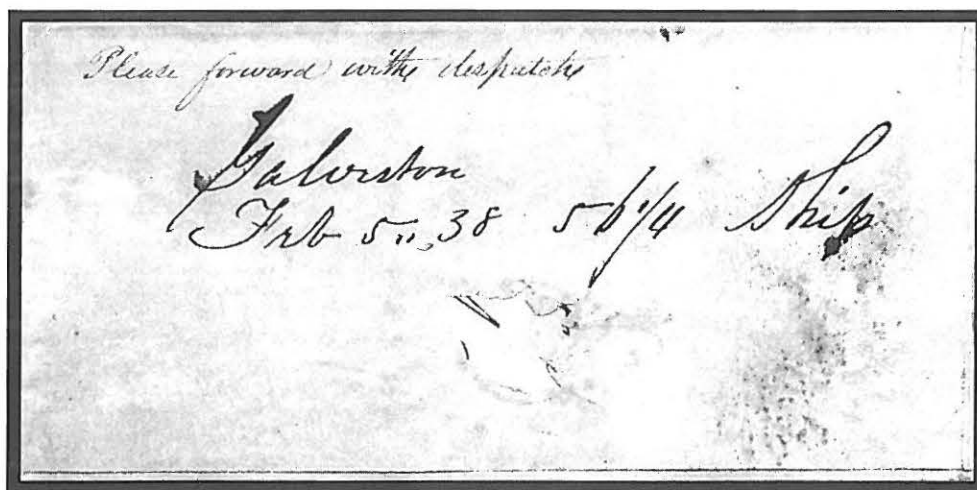


Figure 3. Fancy cancel rotated in relation to postmark. Note position of half petal in each illustration.

Another aspect of fancy cancels is what to name them. If you ever look at a book on fancy cancels you will find all sorts of names - some are easy to understand others are more subjective.

These are only some quick notes on fancy cancels. They are a challenging field for those looking for a new collecting interest.

continued from page 1



Reverse of Express cover showing manuscript Galveston postmark and 56 1/2 rating. The word "Ship" indicated the letter arrived by ship.

the cover "Pd Express Mail 75" in black ink. The date was 19 January 1838. This letter took two days to reach New Orleans.

Sam Ricker, Jr. was the "agent for the Texian post office" in New Orleans. He was responsible for forwarding all incoming mail to and from Texas at New Orleans. Ricker used a large black double oval 50 x 35 mm device for marking all forwarded mail. The wording in the bottom of the oval reads, "Agent of the Texian post office dt [department]." This marking is listed in the *American Stampless Cover Catalog* as used from 1837 to 1840. Ricker placed this letter on the "Steam Packet Columbia" where it received the steam packet marking in red ink which is blurry on this cover. "Steam Packet Columbia" markings are also listed in the *American Stampless Cover Catalog* as used in 1837-1838. The trip to Galveston, Texas which was the port of entry took approximately two days.

Upon receipt in Galveston the local postmaster, who did not have a handstamp device at this time, wrote "Galveston" in manuscript and dated the letter "Feb. 5, 1838." He also rated the letter at "56 1/4." Of this 6 1/4 cents was paid to the ship captain for delivery from New Orleans. Fifty cents was the Republic

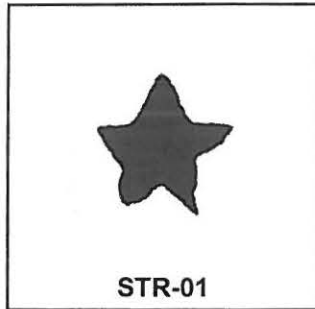
of Texas letter rate for weight and distance to Independence, Texas, a town about 150 miles north of Galveston. Manuscript "Galveston" markings are listed in the *American Stampless Cover Catalog* from 1837-1841. The time difference between the date the letter was mailed, 19 January 1838, and the date the letter was received by the Galveston postmaster, 5 February 1838, can be due to the delay on being put aboard the steam packet *Columbia* in New Orleans. Keep in mind that the express mail leg applied only from Columbus to New Orleans.

This Express Mail letter from Columbus, Georgia may have a unique combination of markings. The content of the letter acknowledged the notification of a death in the family at Independence, Texas.

Editors Note.

New Orleans markings of the agents of the "Texian Post Office Department" are extremely rare from Georgia. This is the first Georgia cover recorded with the Sam Ricker marking. Two Georgia covers with the William Bryan agent marking are recorded. There is a third cover with a manuscript endorsement by the sender "in Care of William Bryan, New Orleans."

Griffin Fancy Cancel Update



A newly found Griffin star fancy cancel on a cover with a Type G postmark dated 1884. (See the October 2004 *GPR* issue for more information on Griffin).

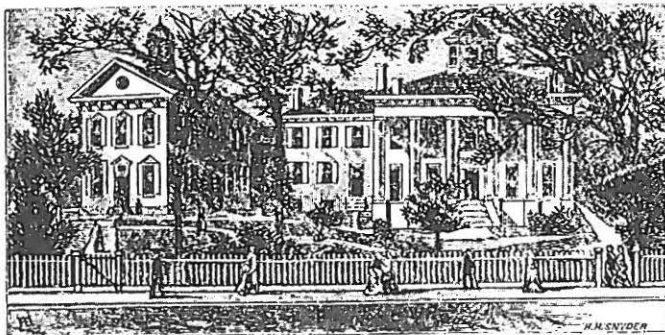


College Corner Cards

Another facet of Georgia postal history that has not received much attention are college corner covers. Covers bearing the imprinted name of a college or an illustration of the college or college logo had their beginning in the late 1840s and early 1850s. Many readers are probably familiar with the embossed corner cards of the University of Georgia, Mercer University and Wesleyan Female College. There are many others, some from colleges that no longer exist.

The corner card featured below is that of the Columbus Female College. The college, located on the southeast corner of Third Avenue and 15th Street, featured a liberal arts program at what we would probably call the junior college level today. The college opened in 1877 and graduated eight students the same year. Although called a female college, a few males also attended.

The college burned in 1884 and was never reconstructed.



Columbus Female College, - - Columbus, Ga.

Black woodcut illustration and typeset inscription of the Columbus Female College, Columbus, Georgia. The cover bears no date marking (courtesy Don Garrett).

Another Valentine Cover



Griffin drop letter valentine. Matching envelope (top) and card (below).

In response to the short article and illustration of an Oxford, Georgia valentine in the last issue of *Georgia Post Roads*, Newt Crouch reported the accompanying Griffin, Georgia valentine.

Unlike the Oxford valentine the Griffin valentine is a drop letter. The only indication that the cover is from Griffin is the "PAID" marking that is consistent with the "PAID" marking used at Griffin and the address. The lack of a postmark on a drop letter is not uncommon.

The enclosed valentine (illustrated at the right) bears no manuscript inscription and the cover bears no date docket. Thus the cover cannot be year dated. However, based on the "PAID" marking the cover probably was used sometime in the late 1840s to the mid 1850s.

The valentine inscription reads:

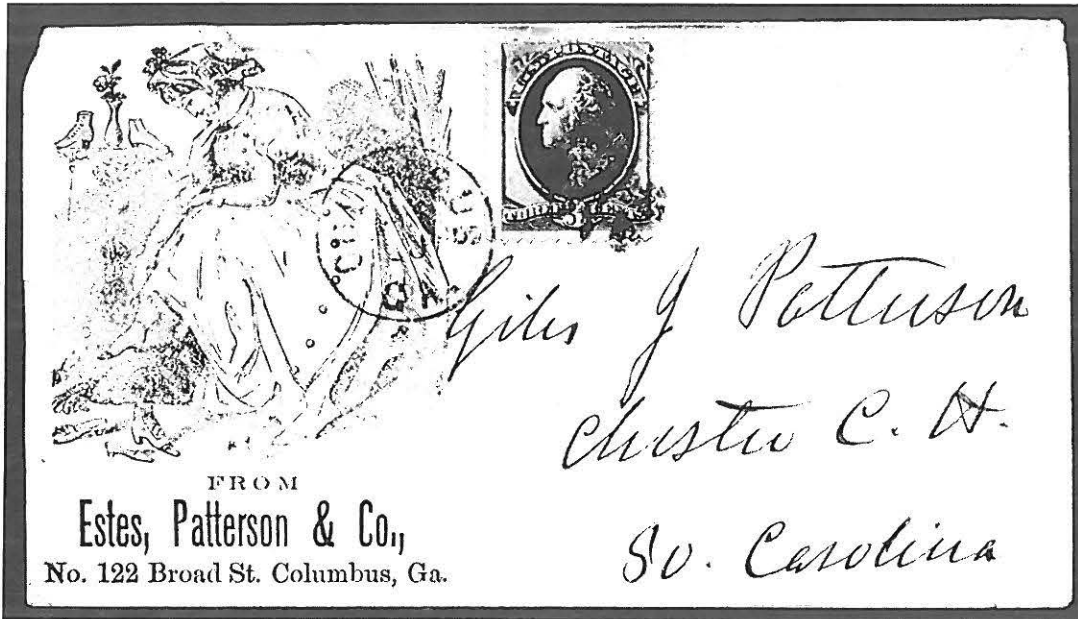
I sigh for the day, the happy day,
That shall link my soul with thine:
Thrice happy blest! I'll then repay
Thy love, my fairest Valentine.

I sigh for the day, the happy day,
That shall link my soul with thine.



Thrice happy blest! I'll then repay
Thy love, my fairest Valentine.

Cracker Covers



An interesting pair of advertising covers from the shoe firm of Estes, Patterson & Co. of Columbus, Georgia. The dates of use are unknown but assumed to be in the 1870s based on the stamps. (Courtesy Don Garrett).



Georgia Post Roads

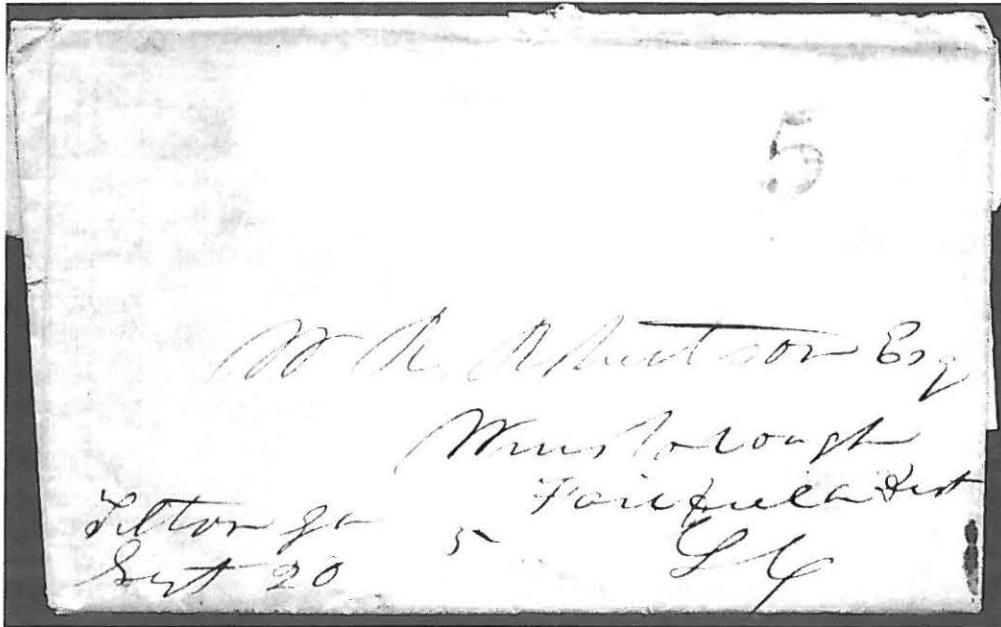
Volume 15, Number 3

July 2005

Whole Number 67

An Unusual Stampless Usage

Frank Crown



Tilton, Georgia manuscript postmark dated 20 September (1854) and black handstamped "5" rate on cover to Winnsborough, South Carolina.

The cover illustrated above caught my eye because it had a manuscript postmark and a handstamped rate marking. The combination of a manuscript postmark and a handstamped rate marking is uncommon. In addition, Tilton was not a town I had recorded as using handstamped rate markings.

After receiving the cover I looked at it in more detail. One of the first things I noticed was the address, Winnsborough, Fairfield District, South Carolina. I had recently studied a cover with a handstamped "5" marking from Winnsborough and this marking appeared to be very similar. A quick check of the Harvey Teal and Robert Stets book *South Carolina Postal History and Illustrated Catalog of Postmarks 1760-1860* revealed I was correct. Of course this particular rate

marking is very common and was used by many towns during the stampless period.

I looked at the cover again and noticed that there was a small manuscript "5" just to the right of the postmark. I hadn't noticed this when I originally decided to purchase the cover.

Now the story behind this cover became clear. The Tilton postmaster applied the manuscript postmark to the lower left corner of the cover. He also indicated that the letter was sent "due 5" by the manuscript "5" to the right of the postmark. When the cover arrived at the Winnsborough post office for delivery the postmaster did not see the small rate marking at the lower left. Therefore he applied his own handstamped "5" marking to indicate the amount of postage due.

Secretary - Treasurer Report

We welcome two new members to our ranks this quarter:

#63 Merwin, Owen T. Jr.
 email: o.merwin@att.net
 1832 Chattahoochee Circle
 Roswell, GA 30075

#64 Bryan, F. Sibley Jr.
 email: fsbryanjr@aol.com
 PO Box 307
 Union Point, GA 30669

We end the quarter with a bank balance of \$1,261.66.

Again, we encourage our membership to talk about the GPHS to their collecting friends, and sponsor them for membership. Tell your friends about our website.

Southeastern Stamp Show will be here before you know it, so PLEASE think about a one or two frame exhibit. Now is the time to get that project in motion. I look forward to seeing each of you at the meeting and renewing old acquaintances.

Remember to send me your email address updates or USPS address changes to mcoreilly@att.net

Mike O'Reilly

Winner's Circle

Congratulations to GPHS member Harvey Mirsky, who recently showed his "The U.S. 1847 Issue -- Proving That Stampless Mail Could be Eliminated" exhibit at the Pacific Explorer World Stamp Expo held in Sydney, Australia in April.

Harvey won a Large Gold for his efforts and was the co-recipient of the special prize for the best Postal History exhibit.

Savannah Fancy Cancels - Part 2

Frank Crown

In the January 2005 issue of *GPR* the Savannah fancy cancels used with month and day postmarks were featured. This issue continues with the fancy cancels used with date and time postmarks.

The fancy cancels are illustrated in Table 1 (beginning on page 21). The numbering sequence continues from the January issue. This is most apparent in the numbering of the letter fancy cancels which now includes the letter in the number, i.e. "LTR-C-01." You will note the number for the letter "N" begins with the suffix "02" instead of "01." This is because there was a letter "N" in the first part of this series and it has been assigned the suffix "01."

The codes include cross (CRS); geometric circle (GEC); geometric (GEO); geometric radial (GER); letter (LTR); number (NUM); and OK (OK).

The most common fancy cancels from this period are variants of the cross. Those illustrated as CRS-01 to CRS-10 are only a small sampling of the many that can be found.

The introduction of the date time postmarks in Savannah coincides with improvements in the technology used to prepare postmarks. These postmarks are extremely difficult to tell apart without the use of transparencies. The postmarks are illustrated in Table 3 (page 22) and described in Table 3 (page 22). Four designs are illustrated but no characteristics are listed to help identify one from another. As noted above the best way to tell one type marking from another is to use transparencies of the markings illustrated.

The fancy cancels illustrated in the two articles are nothing more than a good start. There are many other examples. For those that are interested I will be glad to illustrate additional listings in future issues of *GPR*.

(Continued on page 21)

Post Road Notes

One of my favorite task in preparing each issue of *GPR* is the selection of covers for the "Cracker Covers" page. This month "nuts and fruits" are featured. For the most part the "cracker covers" come from my own collection. I would be glad to feature any "cracker covers" you may have.

In the last issue I suggested that GPR serialize listings of Georgia college covers. Admittedly the short article on this subject did not do justice to the project. I had intended to make a second try in this issue of GPR. However, there was insufficient space so it will have to wait until the next issue. In the meantime I still would like to hear from those who would be interested in this project.

The articles on Savannah fancy cancels took up the better part of two issues of GPR. While they are space hogs they also serve to illustrate that the various aspects of Georgia postal history remain virtually unexplored. They offer fertile ground for research and discovery by the postal historian.

Frank

President's Message

I recently attended two shows, PIPEX in Portland, Oregon and NAPEX in Washington, D. C. I spend many hours looking for covers from the larger towns in Georgia: Atlanta, Savannah, Augusta and Macon. The good news is that Georgia covers, while not common are available. The bad news, if you have very narrow collecting interests like myself, is that you will have to search long and hard.

As our able secretary notes in his column there is no time like the present to put together a one or two page postal history exhibit for the Southeast Stamp Show. As usual the GPHS will sponsor an award for the best Georgia postal history exhibit.

Frank

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College corner card covers
Atlanta fancy cancels
Unusual Confederate usage

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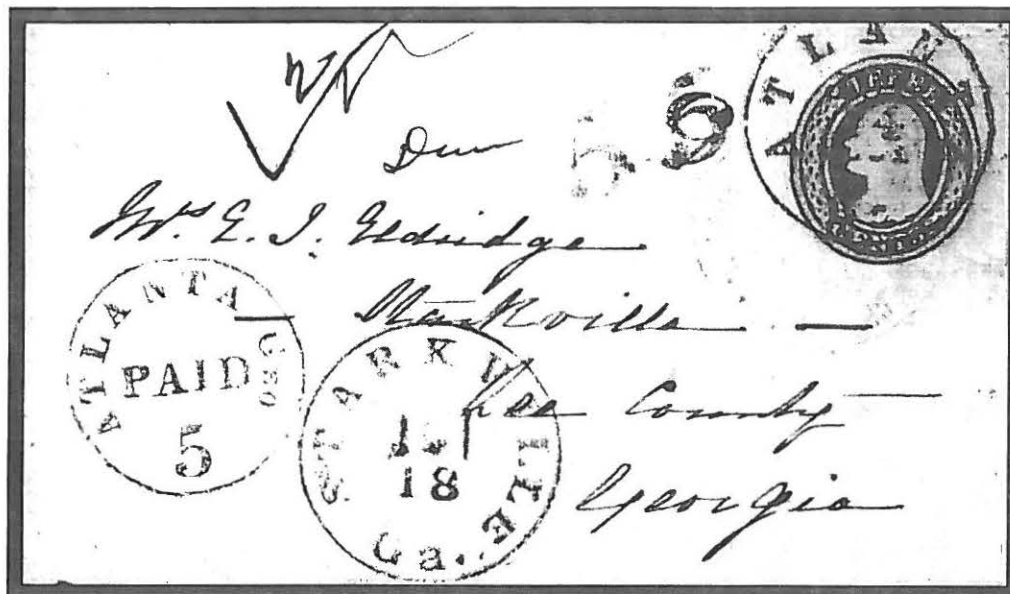
Address all correspondence to Frank Crown,
PO Box 98626, Tacoma, WA 98498
fcrown@earthlink.net

Is your exhibit ready?

Time is getting short. Get your exhibit ready now for the Southeast Stamp Show before it is too late.

Atlanta Provisional Used as a Handstamped Paid Marking

Frank Crown



Atlanta 5c provisional marking used as a handstamped paid marking on a cover carried by Adams Express Company from Philadelphia.

The cover illustrated above is not the first example of an Atlanta postmasters' provisional used as a handstamped paid marking. However, it comes closest to proving such a usage.

The 7 May 2005 David G. Phillips auction description states the cover bears a large faint blue Adams Express Co., Philadelphia, Pa. cancel dated 6 July (1861). This marking is just visible below and to the left of the embossed stamp.

The Philadelphia express company marking, the July 1861 date and the Georgia address show this is a north-to-south across-the-lines cover. The U. S. postage was paid by the 3¢ stamped envelope. However, it may have never been carried in the U. S. mails. Instead the Adams Express cancel and the "2" [bits] (25¢) rate inside the check mark at upper left indicate it was carried by Adams Express from Philadelphia through-the-lines to Atlanta. There it entered the mail as noted by the Atlanta

postmark dated 14 July 1861 and the handstamped "PAID 5" provisional marking.

The most interesting feature of this cover is the use of the provisional marking as a handstamped paid marking. The fact the letter originated in Philadelphia in July 1861 leaves little doubt that the Atlanta markings were applied when the letter entered the Confederate mails at Atlanta.

On arrival in Starkville the postmaster either failed to recognize the Atlanta handstamped marking or the letter was double weight. He stamped the envelope with three strikes of the Starkville "5" marking and added the word "Due." Two of the "5" markings are overlaid as if there was an effort to make only one strike easily read.

This cover is not only an example of the Atlanta provisional being used as a handstamped paid marking but also shows an unusual non-soldier due usage.

continued from page 1

Figure 1 - Savannah Fancy Cancels





















 CRS-01	 CRS-02	 CRS-03	 CRS-04
 CRS-05	 CRS-06	 CRS-07	 CRS-08
 CRS-09	 CRS-10	 GEC-15	 GEC-16
 GEO-01	 GEO-02	 GEO-03	 GEO-04
 GEO-05	 GEO-06	 GEO-07	 GEO-08

Table 1 (Continued)









			
GER-04	LTR-C-01	LTR-H-01	LTR-H-02
			
LTR-N-02	LTR-V-01	NUM-8-01	OK-01

Table 2 - Savannah Date and Time Postmarks





			
M	N	O	P

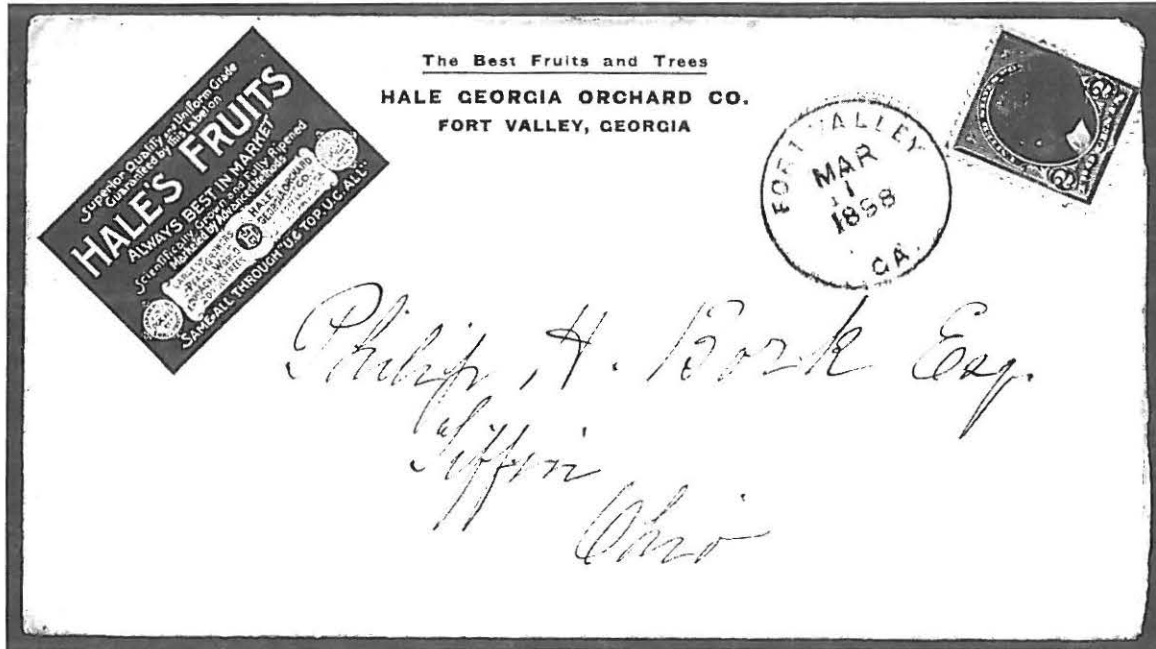
Table 3 - Postmark Characteristics

Postmark (Type)	Diameter (mm)	Color	Dates of Use	Earliest Stamp Use
M	27	Black, Blue	20 Oct 1874 to 28 Feb 1880	3¢ 1870-88 green
N	27	Black	29 Dec 1880 to 31 Oct 1882	3¢ 1874-86 green envelope
O	27	?	10 Sep 1883	3¢ green
P	27	Black	6 May 1884 to 16 Jan 1885	2¢ 1883 red-brown

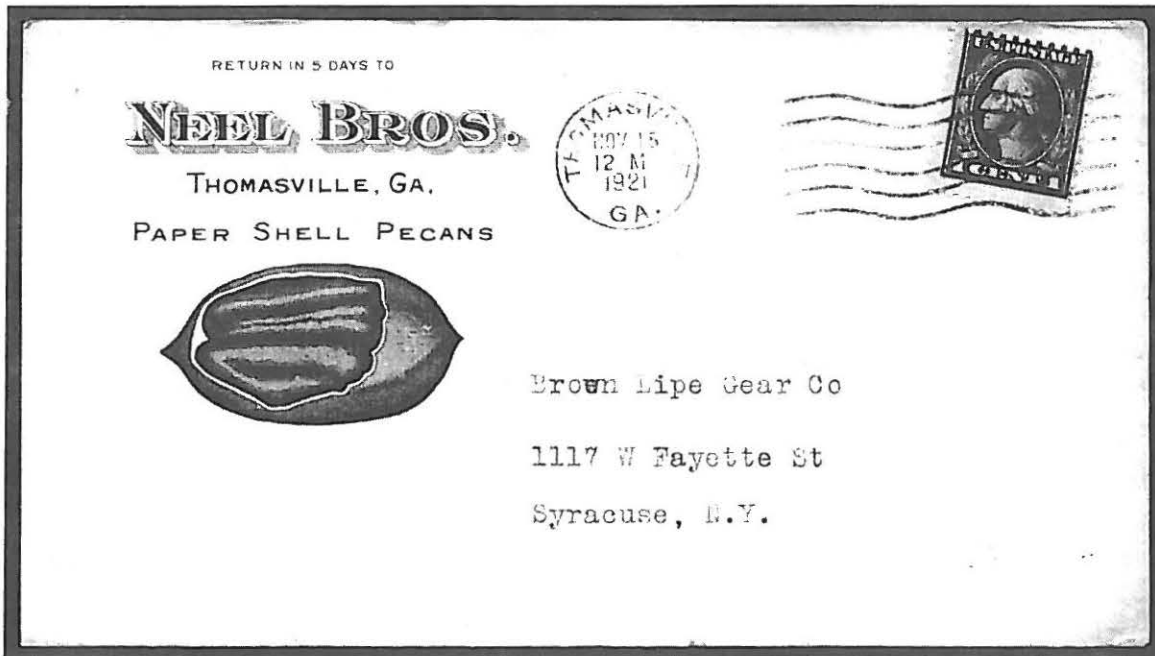
Table 4 - Fancy Cancel Characteristics

Type	Dates of Use	Pmk	Color	Stamps Used with
CRS-01	31 Jul 18--	M	Black	3¢ 1870-88 green
CRS-02	23 Sep 18--	P	Black	2¢ 1883 brown
CRS-03	28 Feb 18--	O	Black	3¢ 1870-88 green
CRS-04	16 Apr 18--	P	Black	2¢ 1883 brown
CRS-05	2 Sep 18--	?	Blue	3¢ 1870-88 green
CRS-06	31 Mar 1877	M	Blue	3¢ 1870-88 green
CRS-07	30 Apr 1879	M	Black	3¢ 1874-86 green envelope
CRS-08	7 Jan 1875	M	Blue	3¢ 1870-88 green
CRS-09	21 Jul 187-	M	Blue	3¢ 1870-88 green
CRS-10	2 Oct 1874	M	Blue	1¢ 1873 brown postcard
GEC-15	21 Feb 1877	?	Blue	3¢ 1870-88 green
GEC-16	13 May 1876	M	Blue	1¢ 1875 postcard
GEO-01	21 Jul 18--	?	Black	3¢ 1870-88 green
GEO-02	3 Dec 1875	M	Black	1¢ 1873 brown postcard
GEO-03	27 Dec 1877	M	Blue	3¢ 1870-88 green
GEO-04	8 Jul 18--	N	Black	3¢ 1874-86 green envelope
GEO-05	31 Dec 1876	M	Blue	3¢ 1870-88 green
GEO-06	12 Mar 1885	P	Black	5¢ 1882 brown
GEO-07	20 Jan 1878	M	Blue	3¢ 1870-88 green
GEO-08	16 Jan 1885	P	Black	2¢ 1883 brown
GER-04	31 Oct 1882	N	Black	3¢ 1874-86 green envelope
LTR-C-01	9 Jul 1875	M	Black	3¢ 1870-88 green
LTR-H-01	16 Nov 1877	M	Blue	1¢ 1875 black postcard
LTR-H-02	30 May 1877	M	Black	3¢ 1874-86 green envelope
LTR-N-02	15 Jun --	M	Blue	3¢ 1870-88 green
LTR-V-01	28 Feb 1880	M	Black	3¢ 1874-86 green envelope
NUM-8-01	13 Apr 1876	M	Black	3¢ 1870-88 green
OK-01	8 Jan 1877	M	Blue	1¢ 1875 black postcard

Cracker Covers



Black FORT VALLEY / GA. postmark dated 11 Mar 1898 on cover with red corner card of Hale's Fruits.



Black THOMASVILLE / GA. postmark dated 15 Nov 1921 on cover with corner card illustration



Georgia Post Roads

Volume 15, Number 4

October 2005

Whole Number 68

Fake Savannah Steamboat Cover

Frank Crown and Newton Crouch

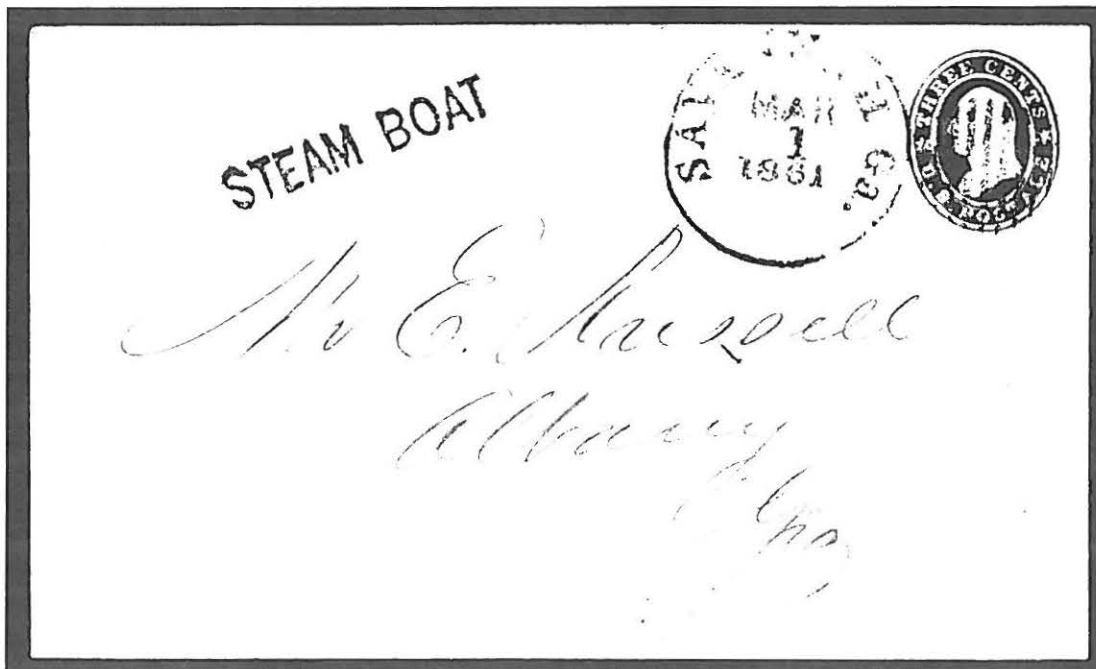


Figure 1. Star die envelope with black Savannah duplex postmark dated 1 Mar 1861 and fake black handstamped "STEAM BOAT" marking.

The cover illustrated above appears to be a very desirable Savannah steamboat cover from the after secession period. Unfortunately, it is not.

There is nothing outwardly alarming about the cover. The postmark is one of two duplex markings that Savannah began using about October 1860. There is also nothing unusual about the cover itself. It is an 1860 star die envelope, many of which are known used in the after secession period. While I have found no information on the addressee I do not believe there is anything wrong with the address.

The problem with this cover is the handstamped "STEAM BOAT" marking. Savannah used a steamboat marking that has

the same characteristics (see the marking on the cover at Figure 2). However, the two markings are not the same.

The marking on the cover at Figure 2 was probably first used about 1857. All recorded usages are in black ink as is the marking on the cover illustrated above.

What is wrong with this marking? First its length is about 1 mm shorter than the authentic marking. Second, the authentic marking has well defined characters; the marking on the cover above does not. To the average observer these differences are not very apparent. However, when an enlargement of an authentic marking is compared to an enlargement of the
continued on page 29

President's Message

There is one year to go in the current officers' terms of office. That means an election by summer. Gary Doster has graciously agreed to head up our nominating committee. If anyone is interested in running for officer please contact Gary. His mailing address and email address are given in the meeting report below.

I thoroughly enjoyed the Southeast Stamp Show as the old Peach State Show is now known. This is one of the few shows I attend that I know I can find some good Georgia postal history material to add to my collection. Too often the dealers at the shows I attend have too little of offer in the way of good Georgia postal history material. I am beginning to wonder if our specialty is relatively rare. I just looked through an auction catalog of advertising covers and found not one cover from Georgia! Where is all the material?

Frank

Annual Meeting Report

We had a great meeting in Marietta on Saturday, September 24, in conjunction with Southeastern Stamp Show 2005. Owen Merwin, one of our recent new members from the Roswell area attended and had several interesting Roswell covers to show.

President Frank Crown presided over the meeting and welcomed members and visitors. We had a good turnout with attendance by Ed Jackson, John Buckner, Don Garrett, Newton and Claire Crouch, Joel Rind, Doug Clark, John Buckner, Gary Doster, Owen Merwin, and Tom Kingsley. I probably left out some attendees, and I apologize if your name is not listed above. Roy Delafosse was manning his bourse table and was unable to attend. Nancy Clark was one of the show judges and could not make the GPHS meeting.

Frank noted that we will need to elect officers next year and announced that Gary Doster has agreed to head up the nominating committee. If you are interested in being a GPHS officer, please contact Gary at 1230 Bob Godfrey Road, Athens, GA 30605-5316 or via email at doster1@bellsouth.net.

Frank also stated that he would like to step down as editor of Georgia Post Roads, as there are a number of Georgia postal history research projects he would like to pursue, including a list of Georgia Post Offices during the CSA period. If you have an interest in this position, please contact Frank or any officer.

Mike O'Reilly reported on the status of our membership and our bank balance. Frank noted that our bank balance has remained pretty stable over the past couple of years, so we are doing a good job of sustaining the GPHS with our current dues structure.

As you know from the pre-meeting publicity, Newton Crouch had a special treat for GPHS members. He has taken on the task of helping to dispose of the John Park correspondence. Park was an attorney in Greenville in Meriwether County. Most of the covers in the correspondence are post-war, but there were some nice Confederate covers as well as many bill heads. Newt gave a short presentation describing the history of the participants, and their place in Georgia history. From Newt's description, he has been putting a lot of work into this material, and it just goes to show that there are still original finds to be made.

Special thanks to Roy Delafosse for donating the Society award for Best Georgia Postal History Exhibit. The Society certainly appreciates Roy's generosity. The award was won by Frank Crown for his exhibit: "Atlanta's Agricultural Economy as Portrayed on Advertising Covers: 1850-1925". Nancy Clark received a special award for her work to bring stamp collecting to young people. Congratulations!!!!

Mike

Post Road Notes

This month "Cracker Covers" takes a break from illustrated covers and highlights two stampless covers. Both covers have markings that are unlisted in both the *Georgia Stampless Cover Catalog and Handbook* and the *American Stampless Cover Catalog*. The first bears a newly discovered bold "10" marking and the second a previously unreported postmark.

I have been editor of Georgia Post Roads since 1993 with a short reprieve from from 1998 to 2000 when Nancy Clarke held the chair. I will continue to be your editor through 2006. At that point I will relinquish the post. Now is the hard part. We need someone to step up to the plate and take over the job. If anyone is interested or can be persuaded to take on the duties please contact me.

As always there is a need for articles from our members. Don't be bashful. Everyone has a special cover to write about.

Frank

Secretary / Treasurer Report

We have dropped two members for non- payment of dues:

- 52 Charles E. Fuller
104 Bob White Circle,
Calhoun, GA 30701-5225
- 58 George Carnahan
921 Sanders Road SW,
Marietta, GA 30008-6049

Repeated attempts via email and regular mail have been made to contact these members to no avail. We sure hate to lose members, and hope that we will yet hear from them.

We end the quarter with a bank balance of \$1,559.78. Thirty-eight members have paid dues for this year, and we have no new members to report.

Mike

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**Officers of the
Georgia Postal History Society**

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New members are always welcome in the GPHS, so take a moment to think about one of your collecting friends who might enjoy membership in our group. Send their name and address to one of the officers listed above. Remember they don't have to specialize in Georgia postal history, just have an interest in Georgia history, or postal history.

A New Augusta Straight Line Postmark

Frank Crown

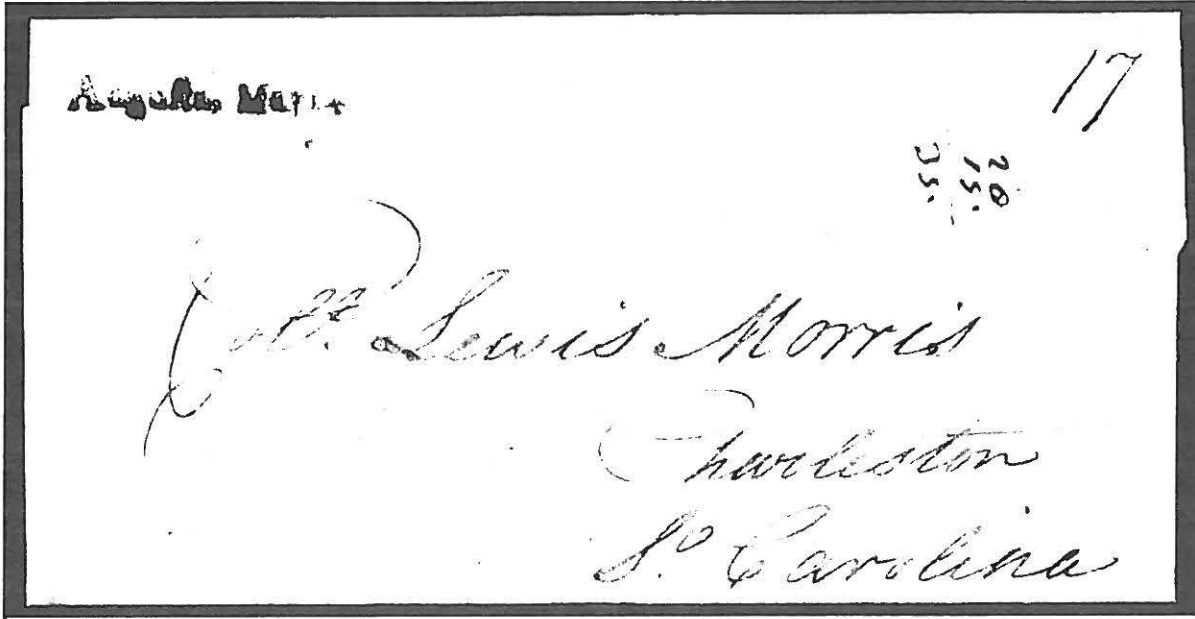


Figure 1. Black straight-line Augusta postmark dated 14 May on a cover dated 1794. The cover was rated [due] "17" for a letter to a post office 200 to 250 miles distant.

Recently a cover bearing a previously unrecorded Augusta straight-line postmark was offered at auction (Figure 1). The cover has no contents but bears a date docket on the reverse showing the date of use to be 1794 (Figure 2).

There is only one listed Augusta straight-line postmark. It is listed in the *American Stampless Cover Catalog* and is described as a red "Aug*" marking with month and day following. It measures 16 x 5 mm and has a date of use of 1799. This is similar to Savannah straight line markings from the same period.

The "Augusta" portion of the postmark on the cover at Figure 1 measures 20 x 5 mm. There are two interesting features of the postmark (Figure 3). First is the use of both upper and lower case letters. Second is the font which uses a character for the letter "s" that appears more like a modern "f." It is not

that uncommon to see this style letter in type faces from the 1700s.

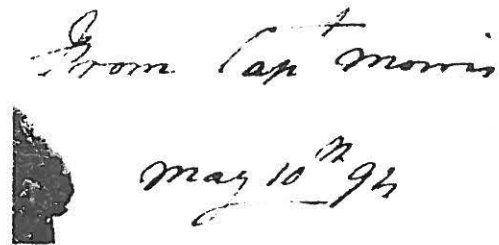


Figure 2. Notation on reverse of cover provides the year of use: 1794. The dark area at lower left is a portion of the wax seal.



Figure 3. Augusta postmark enlarged to show the unusual form of the letter "s" in "Augusta".

Fake cover continued from page 25.

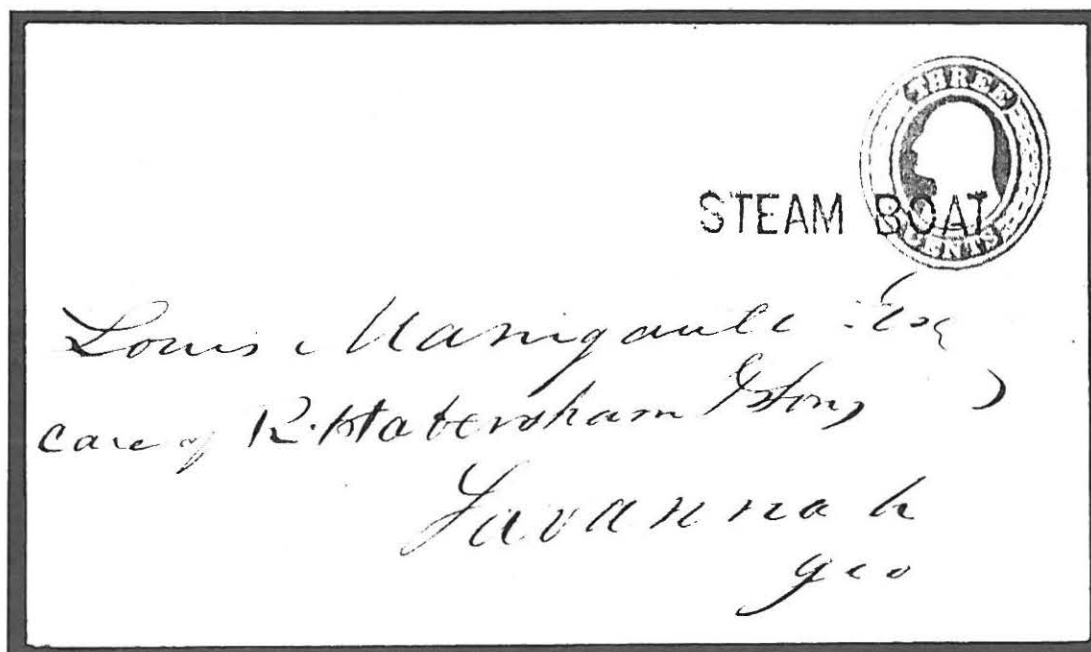


Figure 2. Prewar cover that was carried by steamboat to Savannah where it was placed in the post office and the "STEAM BOAT" marking applied.

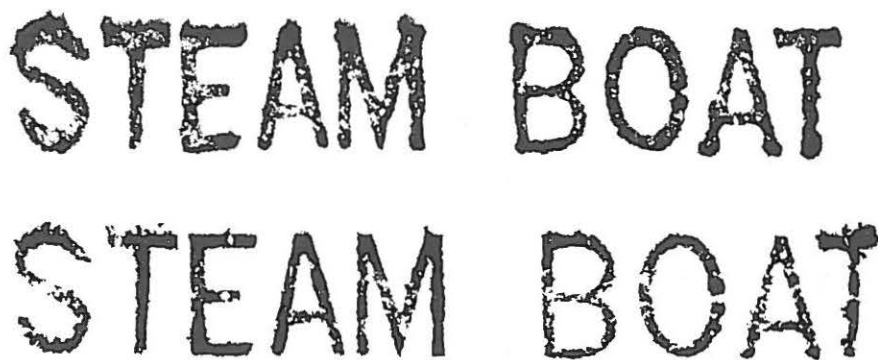


Figure 3. Fake "STEAM BOAT" marking from the cover in Figure 1 at top and the authentic marking from the cover in Figure 2 at bottom. Both markings are enlarged approximately 300%.

marking in Figure 1 the differences are quite noticeable (Figure 3). Most obvious is the difference in length. The fake measures 30 mm from the "T" in "STEAM" to the "T" in "BOAT" while the authentic marking measures 31 mm. The authentic marking also has better definition than the fake. The letters

are consistently thin and they have much smoother lines than the fake. The similarity in the shape of the "S" and the slight left tilt of the letter "O" indicates the fake was probably prepared from a photographic reproduction of an authentic marking.

Bowdon College Bowdon, Carroll County

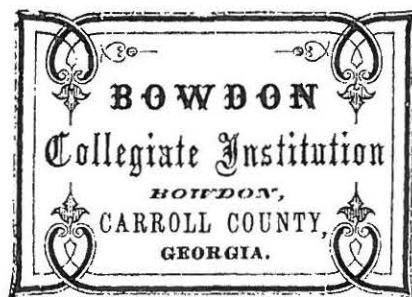
The Bowdon College had its beginning as a primary school established in the new town of Bowdon. By 1856 the school was known as Bowdon Seminary. That same year Charles A. McDaniel was joined by John M. Richardson to run the seminary. Together they conceived the idea converting the seminary into a college. In 1856 they started the Bowdon Collegiate Institution in a two-room log house. In 1857 the college was chartered and the same year the citizens of Bowdon made plans for erecting a larger building that was completed in 1859.

The college admitted both men and women and in the 1858-59 year had 177 students. Shortly after opening the college established a military department for the male students. By the outbreak of the Civil 140 students were cadets with arms provided by the state armory. Almost all the male students

decided to join the Confederate army and elected the President of the college, Charles McDaniel, as their captain. The college closed in July 1861 when the students marched off to become Company B of Cobb's Legion.

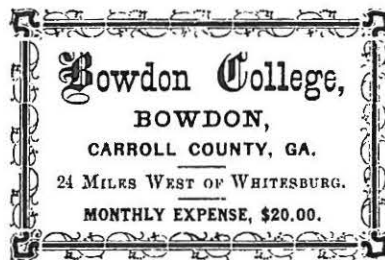
In 1867 the college reopened under the Presidency of John Richardson. However, it was only a reflection of the pre war college. For the next 50 years it struggled to survive finally closing in 1916. It was revived in 1922 as the Bowdon State Normal Industrial College. In 1934 it was forced to lower its rank to that of a junior college and closed for good in 1936. *continued next page*

Reference: James C. Bonner, *Georgia's Last Frontier - The Development of Carroll County*, Athens, Georgia, University of Georgia Press, pp. 52-55, 79, 111-112, 167-168.



BOW-01

Color: Black
Type: Printed (typeset)
Position: UL
Size: 52.5 x 37 mm
Period of use: *circa* 1857

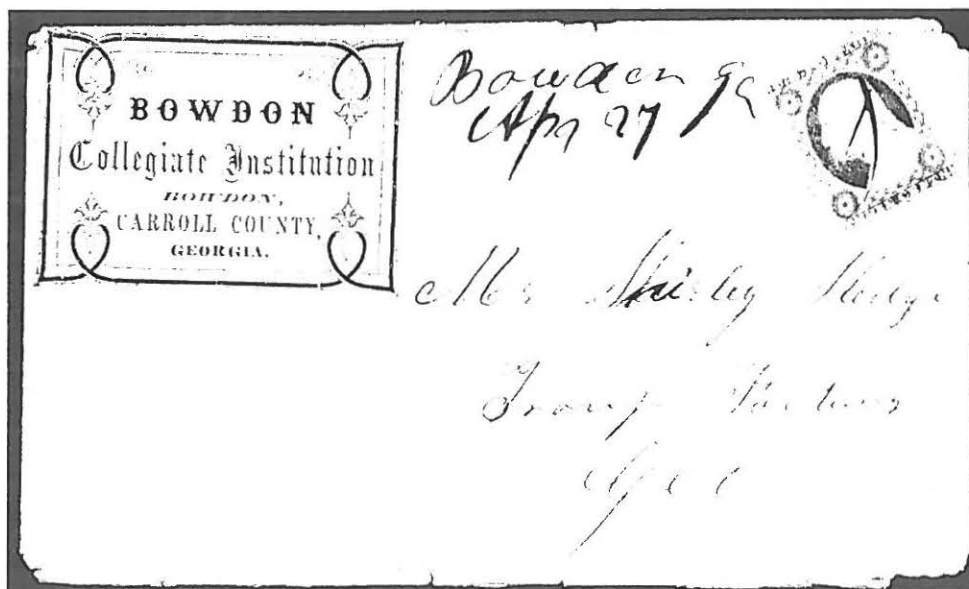


BOW-02

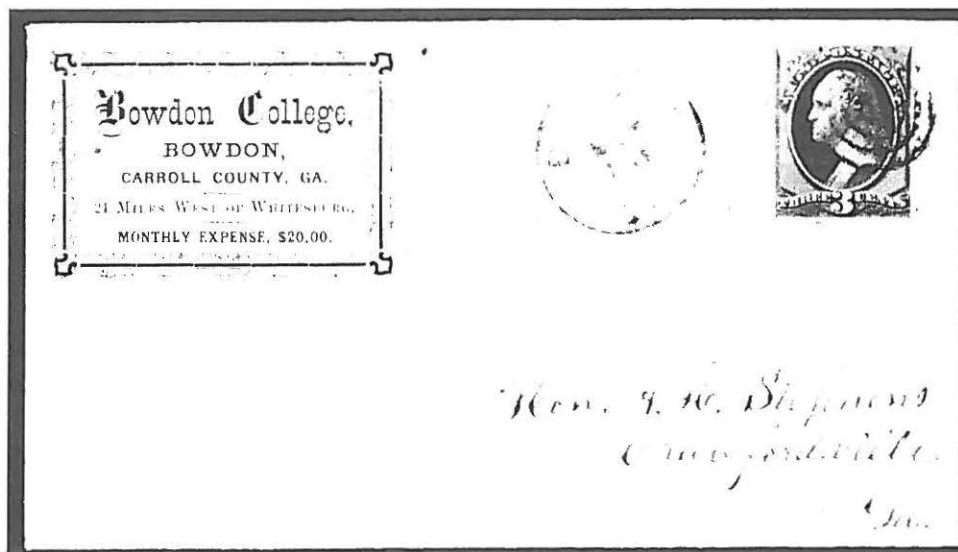
Color: Black
Type: Printed (typeset)
Position: UL
Size: 50 x 32 mm
Period of use: *circa* 1875

The two Bowdon corner card covers illustrated below illustrate antebellum and post-war usages. The antebellum use shows the early name of Bowdon College that was probably only used for a only a few years

prior to the Civil War. Since the college closed at the outbreak of the Civil War it is very unlikely there are any Confederate Bowdon college covers.



U. S. 3c 1857 issue pen cancelled on college card cover with manuscript Bowdon Ga postmark dated 27 Apr. The corner design may be the only design used by the school prior to the Civil War.

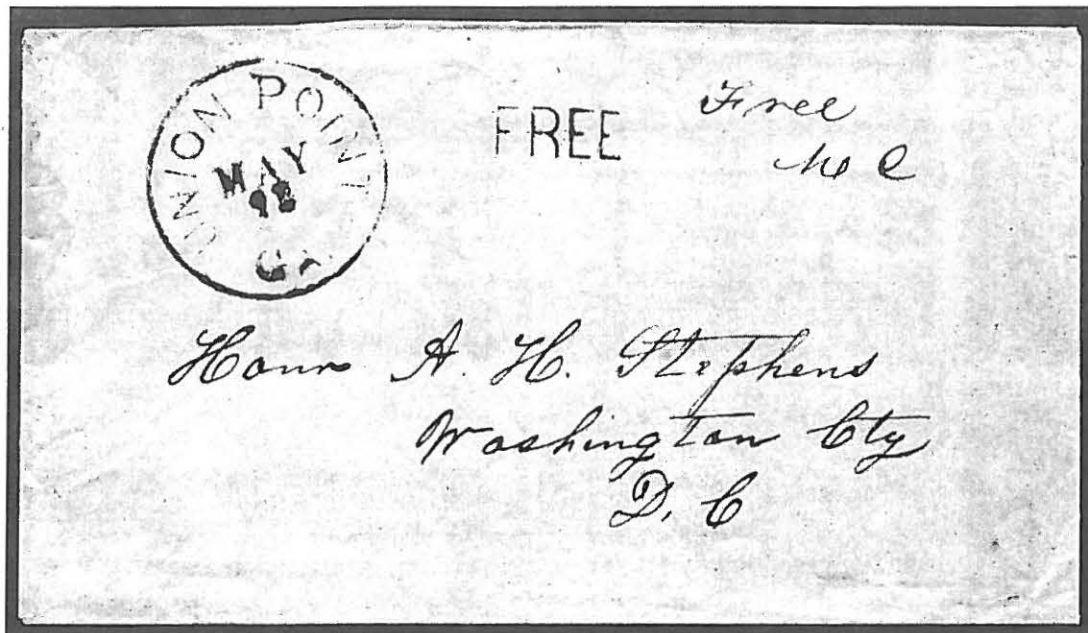


3c green 187x issue tied by black target on Bowdon College corner card cover with BOWDON / GA postmark dated 13 May. The corner card design on this cover may be the first design used after reopening the school in 1867.

Cracker Covers



Red Jan 17 COVINGTON / Ga. postmark and bold 10 on cover to Kentucky. This is a folded letter front and the year date is unknown. It was used between the late 1840s and the early 1850s.



Black May 27 UNION POINT / GA. postmark and FREE marking on an envelope to Alexander H. Stephens when he was a member of Congress. There is no enclosure and there is no endorsement on the back of the cover. The cover was used between the late 1840s and 1858.