

CIVIL WAR SPECIAL MAIL ROUTES



SALE 1238 • WEDNESDAY, JUNE 23, 2021

Robert A. Siegel
AUCTION GALLERIES, INC.

CIVIL WAR SPECIAL MAIL ROUTES

Offered at unreserved auction by order of the owner



SALE 1238

Public attendance by prior approval, subject to COVID-19 rules

Live bidding will be facilitated by telephone or internet

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 23, 2021

Session One—10:30 a.m.—lots 201-267

Session Two—1:30 p.m.—lots 268-420

All lots sold subject to an **18% buyer's premium** and
applicable sales tax or customs duty

Please carefully read the Conditions of Sale before bidding

Presale viewing by appointment only (subject to COVID-19 rules)

Robert A. Siegel

AUCTION GALLERIES, INC.

6 WEST 48TH STREET, 9TH FLOOR, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10036

Phone (212) 753-6421 • Email: stamps@siegelauctions.com

Catalogues, internet bidding, resources, archives and the Siegel Encyclopedia at
siegelauctions.com



Robert A. Siegel

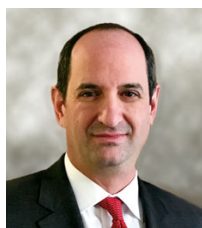
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Information for Bidders

Bidding

The following means are available for placing bids:

- 1) LIMITED PUBLIC ATTENDANCE AT AUCTION : Due to COVID-19 restrictions, attendance will be limited and by prior approval. Live bidding will be facilitated mail, email, phone or internet.
- 2) Live Internet Bidding: Instructions for participating as a Live Internet Bidder are provided on the page opposite.
- 3) Phone Bidding: Bidders can be connected to the sale by phone and bid through a member of staff. Requests for phone bidding are subject to approval (please contact our office at least 24 hours before the sale). A signed Bid Form is required.
- 4) Absentee Bids. All bids received in advance of the sale, either by mail, fax, phone, e-mail or internet, are Absentee Bids, which instruct the auctioneer to bid up to a specific amount on one or more lots in the sale. Absentee Bids sent by phone, fax or email should arrive at least one hour prior to the start of the sale session. Bids entered through Live Internet Bidding will be visible to the auctioneer during the sale. Written bids should be entered legibly on the Bid Form in the sale catalogue. Email and internet bids should be carefully typed and double-checked. All new bidders must provide references. We recommend calling or e-mailing to confirm that Absentee Bids sent by mail, fax or email have been received and entered.

Presale Viewing by Appointment Only

To protect the health of our clients and staff, presale viewing will be arranged by appointment only and with mandatory protective measures. To make an appointment and receive instructions for pre-sale viewing, please contact us at (212) 753-6421 or by email. We reserve the right to refuse, cancel or postpone a request or appointment for medical reasons.

Expert Certification

Individual items offered without a PF or PSE certificate dated within the past five years may be purchased subject to independent certification of genuineness and our description. Please refer to the Conditions of Sale and Grading Terms for policies governing certification.

Shipping and Delivery

Procedures and charges for shipping lots are printed on the back of the Bid Form. Bidders are responsible for all prescribed shipping charges and any applicable sales tax or customs duties.

Price Realized

Prices realized are sent with each invoice. Bidders with email will receive a Bid Results report after the sale. Session results are posted immediately to siegelauctions.com

Live and Absentee Internet Bidding at Siegel

**ALL INTERNET BIDDING IS NOW HANDLED DIRECTLY FROM THE SIEGEL WEBSITE
SALES ARE NO LONGER LISTED ON STAMP AUCTION NETWORK**

REGISTERED BIDDERS MAY LEAVE BIDS IN ADVANCE OF THE SALE
AND BID LIVE DURING THE AUCTION

DOWNLOAD THE SIEGEL APP FROM THE APPLE OR GOOGLE PLAY STORES

This step-by-step guide will instruct you how to register and use the bidding interface.

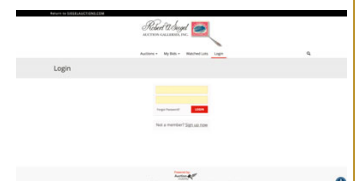
Start by following the simple steps to become a registered internet bidder.

Once you have been approved for bidding, you can leave bids in advance of the sale,
listen to the auction and place bids live with the click of a mouse.

Registering with Siegel Auction Galleries

To bid, you must be registered and approved by Siegel.

To decide what you need to do, choose the description below that best fits you.



I've already registered with Siegel and
have been approved by Siegel for internet bidding

Internet bidding works by allowing registered bidders to observe and place bids, either before the sale or in real-time during the auction.

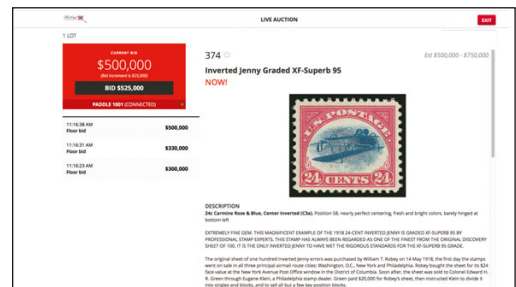
Live Internet Bidding will work with any browser on both PC and Mac operating systems, or with our app..

Before bidding by internet for the first time, we recommend observing an auction in progress. This will help you develop a feel for the sale tempo and bidding interface.

Log in and participate in the auction at bid.siegelauctions.com

When you're logged on as an internet bidder, the bidding interface shows a photo and description of the lot, the current bid (and your bidding status), options for placing competitive bids and buttons with bid increments.

- After you click on a bid amount, the auctioneer is immediately notified of your bid.
- Retracting a bid is not acceptable, so please bid carefully.
- You can track prior realizations from the bidding screen.



I'm a Siegel client, but I'm not registered to bid live
Go to bid.siegelauctions.com and click on **Login** at the top. Then click on the link for **Sign Up Now**. We will match your new signup to your existing account.

I want to become a Siegel client and bid in auctions
Go to bid.siegelauctions.com and click on **Login** at the top. Then click on the link for **Sign Up Now**. You will need to register and provide trade and banking references.

"System Down" or "Lost Connection" events do occasionally happen.

If you have any problems with Live Internet Bidding please call 212-753-6421 for immediate assistance.

Conditions of Sale (please read carefully before bidding)

THE PROPERTY IN THIS CATALOGUE WILL BE OFFERED AT PUBLIC AUCTION BY ROBERT A. SIEGEL AUCTION GALLERIES, INC. ("GALLERIES") ON BEHALF OF VARIOUS CONSIGNORS AND ITSELF OR AFFILIATED COMPANIES. BY BIDDING ON ANY LOT, WHETHER DIRECTLY OR THROUGH A THIRD PARTY, IN PERSON, BY TELEPHONE, FACSIMILE, INTERNET OR BY ANY OTHER MEANS, THE BIDDER ACKNOWLEDGES AND AGREES TO ALL OF THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS OF SALE.

1. The highest bidder acknowledged by the auctioneer shall be the buyer. The term "final bid" means the last bid acknowledged by the auctioneer, which is normally the highest bid offered. **The purchase price payable by the buyer will be the sum of the final bid and a commission of 18% of the final bid ("buyer's premium"), together with any sales tax, use tax or customs duties due on the sale.**

2. The auctioneer has the right to reject any bid, to advance the bidding at his discretion and, in the event of a dispute, to determine the successful bidder, to continue the bidding or to reoffer and resell the lot in dispute. The Galleries' record of the final sale shall be conclusive.

3. All bids are per numbered lot in the catalogue unless otherwise announced by the auctioneer at the time of sale. The right is reserved to group two or more lots, to withdraw any lot or lots from the sale, or to act on behalf of the seller. The Galleries will execute bidding instructions on behalf of clients, but will not be responsible for the failure to execute such bids or for any errors in the execution of such bids.

4. **Lots with numbers followed by the symbol ° are offered subject to a confidential minimum bid ("reserve"), below which the lot will not be sold. The absence of the symbol ° means that the lot is offered without a reserve. If there is no reserve, the auctioneer has sole discretion to establish a minimum opening bid and may refuse an offer of less than half of the published estimate. Any lot that does not reach its reserve or opening bid requested by the auctioneer will be announced as "passed" and excluded from the prices realized lists after the sale. The Galleries may have a direct or indirect ownership interest in any or all lots in the sale resulting from an advance of monies or goods-in-trade or a guarantee of minimum net proceeds made by the Galleries to the seller.**

5. Subject to the exclusions listed in 5(A), the Galleries will accept the return of lots which, subject to the Galleries' sole judgment, have been misidentified or which have obvious faults that were present when the lot was in the Galleries' custody, but not so noted in the lot description. **All disputed lots must be received by the Galleries intact with the original packing material within 5 days of delivery to the buyer but no later than 30 days from the sale date. (5A) EXCLUSIONS:** The following lots may not be returned for any reason, or may not be returned for the reasons stated: (i) lots containing 5 or more items; (ii) lots from buyers who registered for the pre-sale exhibition or received lots by postal viewing, thereby having had the opportunity to inspect them before the sale; (iii) any lot described with "faults," "defects" or a specific fault may not be returned because of any secondary fault; (iv) photographed lots may not be returned because of centering, margins, short/nibbed perforations or other factors shown in the photos; (v) the color of the item does not match the color photo in the sale catalogue or website listing; (vi) the description contains inaccurate information about the quantity known or reported; or (vii) a certification service grades a stamp lower than the grade stated in the description or on an accompanying certificate.

6. Successful bidders, unless they have established credit with the Galleries prior to the sale, must make full payment in cleared funds before the lots will be delivered. Buyers not known to the Galleries must make payment in full within 3 days from the date of sale. **The Galleries retains the right to demand a cash deposit from anyone prior to bidder registration and/or to demand payment at the time the lot is knocked down, for any reason whatsoever.** In the event that any buyer refuses or fails to make payment in cash for any lot at the time it is knocked down to him, the auctioneer reserves the right to reoffer the lot immediately for sale to the highest bidder. **Credit cards (Visa, Mastercard and Discover only) can be accepted as payment, but will be subject to a 3% non-refundable Convenience Fee, which will be added to the total of the entire invoice (including hammer price, buyer's premium, shipping and transit insurance charges and any applicable taxes). The buyer waives the right to dispute all credit card charges.**

7. If the purchase price has not been paid within the time limit specified above, nor lots taken up within 7 days from the date of sale, the lots may be resold by whatever means deemed appropriate by the Galleries, and any loss incurred from resale will be charged to the defaulting buyer, and/or the Galleries may seek any other remedy prescribed by law to enforce payment. **Any account more than 30 days in arrears will be subject to a late payment charge of 1½% per month as long as the account remains in arrears. Any expenses incurred in securing payment from delinquent accounts will be charged to the defaulter.** A fee of \$250.00 will be charged for a check returned for insufficient funds.

8. All lots are sold as genuine. **Any lot accompanied by a certificate issued by The Philatelic Foundation or by Professional Stamp Experts within 5 years of the sale date is sold "as is" and in accordance with the description on the certificate. Such lots may not be returned for any reason, including but not limited to a contrary certificate of opinion or change in grade.** Buyers may request a certificate for a lot containing not more than one item, which does not have a P.F. or P.S.E. certificate (dated as above), provided that the following conditions are met: (i) the purchase price must be paid in full, (ii) if submitted by the buyer, the lot must be submitted to an acceptable expertizing service with a properly executed application form within 21 days of the sale, (iii) a copy of the application form must be given to the Galleries, (iv) the Galleries retains the right to resubmit the item for reconsideration, without time limit or other restrictions, for the purpose of obtaining a satisfactory opinion, (v) lots submitted for certification will be considered cleared 90 days from the date of sale, whether or not a certificate has been issued, unless the Galleries issues written approval of a further extension of return privileges, and (vi) in the event the lot is determined to be misidentified or misdescribed, pursuant to 5 and 5(A) of these Conditions, the Galleries will issue a refund to the buyer for the full purchase price and actual certification fees, but the reimbursement for certificate fees (and related costs) shall not exceed 10% of the hammer price of the lot. **Changes to a grade by the same certification service or a different grade from another certification service are not grounds for returning a lot.**

9. Until paid for in full, all lots remain the property of the Galleries on behalf of the seller.

10. Agents executing bids on behalf of clients may also be held responsible for all purchases made on behalf of clients, unless otherwise arranged prior to the sale.

11. **The buyer assumes all risk for delivery of purchased lots and agrees to pay for prescribed shipping costs. Buyers who receive lots in the U.S. are obligated to pay whatever sales tax or compensating use tax might be due, at any time, and buyers outside the U.S. are responsible for all customs duties.**

12. **The bidder consents that any action or proceeding against it may be commenced and maintained in any court within the State of New York or in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, that the courts of the State of New York and United States District Court for the Southern District of New York shall have jurisdiction with respect to the subject matter hereof and the person of the bidder. The bidder agrees not to assert any defense to any action or proceeding initiated by Galleries based upon improper venue or inconvenient forum. The bidder agrees that any action brought by the bidder shall be commenced and maintained only in a Federal Court in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York or the State Court in the county in which Galleries has its principal place of business in New York. The bidder agrees not to use a public conflict resolution service and not to use any form of social media to publish comments or information about the Galleries and its employees which might harm the Galleries' reputation or business. These Conditions of Sale shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the substantive laws of the State of New York, and shall constitute an agreement that shall be binding on the parties, and their respective heirs, administrators, distributees, successors and assignees.**

SCOTT R. TREPEL, Principal Auctioneer (NYC License No. 795952)
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Revised 9/2018

Grades, Abbreviations and Values Used in Descriptions

Grades and Centering

Our descriptions contain detailed information and observations about each item's condition. We have also assigned grades to stamps and covers, which reflect our subjective assessment. For stamps, the margin width, centering and gum are described and graded according to generally-accepted standards (an approximate correlation to numeric grades is provided at right). Although we believe our grades are accurate, they are not always exactly aligned with third-party grading terms or standards for all issues. **A lot may not be returned because a certification service grades a stamp lower than the grade stated in the description. Information from the P.S.E. Stamp Market Quarterly and P.S.E. Population ReportSM is the most current available, but lots may not be returned due to errors or changes in statistics or data.**

Extremely Fine Gem (90-100): The term “Gem” describes condition that is the finest possible for the issue. This term is equivalent to “Superb” used by grading services.







Extremely Fine (80-90): Exceptionally large/wide margins or near perfect centering.

Very Fine (70-85): Normal-size margins for the issue and well-centered with the design a bit closer to one side. “Very Fine and choice” applies to stamps that have desirable traits such as rich color, sharp impression, freshness or clarity of cancel.

Fine (60-70): Smaller than usual margins or noticeably off center. Pre-1890 issues may have the design touched in places.

Very Good (below 60): Attractive appearance, but margins or perforations cut into the design.

Guide to Gum Condition

Gum Categories:	MINT N.H.	ORIGINAL GUM (O.G.)				NO GUM
	 Mint Never Hinged <i>Free from any disturbance</i>	 Lightly Hinged <i>Faint impression of a removed hinge over a small area</i>	 Hinge Mark or Remnant <i>Prominent hinged spot with part or all of the hinge remaining</i>	 Part o.g. <i>Approximately half or more of the gum intact</i>	 Small part o.g. <i>Approximately less than half of the gum intact</i>	 No gum <i>Only if issued with gum</i>
Catalogue Symbol:	★ ★	★	★	★	★	(★)
PRE-1890 ISSUES	<i>Pre-1890 stamps in these categories trade at a premium over Scott value</i>			Scott Value for “O.G.”		Scott “No Gum” Values thru No. 218
1890-1935 ISSUES	Scott “Never Hinged” Values for Nos. 219-771	Scott Value for “O.G.” (Actual value will be affected by the degree of hinging)		Disturbed Original Gum: Gum showing noticeable effects of humidity, climate or hinging over more than half of the gum. The significance of gum disturbance in valuing a stamp in any of the Original Gum categories depends on the degree of disturbance, the rarity and normal gum condition of the issue and other variables affecting quality. For example, stamps issued in tropical climates are expected to have some gum disturbance due to humidity, and such condition is not considered a negative factor in pricing.		
1935 TO DATE	Scott Value for “Unused”					

Covers

Minor nicks, short edge tears, flap tears and slight reduction at one side are normal conditions for 19th century envelopes. Folded letters should be expected to have at least one file fold. Light cleaning of covers and small mends along the edges are accepted forms of conservation. Unusual covers may have a common stamp with a slight crease or tiny tear. **These flaws exist in virtually all 19th century covers and are not always described. They are not grounds for return.**

Catalogue Values and Estimates

Unless otherwise noted, the currently available *Scott Catalogue* values are quoted in dollars with a decimal point. Other catalogues are often used for foreign countries or specialized areas and are referred to by their common name: *Stanley Gibbons* (SG), *Dietz*, *American Air Mail Catalogue* (AAMC), *Michel*, *Zumstein*, *Facit*, etc. Estimates are indicated with an “E.” and reflect our conservative valuation in dollars. Reserves will never exceed the low end of the estimate range; they will sometimes exceed Scott Catalogue value for stamps in Extremely Fine condition.

Because of certain pricing inconsistencies in the *Scott Catalogue*—for example, blocks that have no gum, the absence of premiums for Mint N.H. items, etc.—we cannot guarantee the accuracy of values quoted for multiples, specialized items and collection lots. We generally try to be conservative, but buyers may not return a lot because of a discrepancy in catalogue value due to Scott pricing inconsistencies.

Symbols and Abbreviations (see chart above for gum symbols)

⊞	Block	E	Essay	pmk.	Postmark	No.	Scott Catalogue Number
⊞	Cover	P	Proof	cds	Circular Datestamp	hs	Handstamp
FC	Fancy Cancel	TC	Trial Color Proof	var.	Variety	ms.	Manuscript

CIVIL WAR SPECIAL MAIL ROUTES

Introduction

SPECIAL MAIL ROUTES WERE USED TO EXCHANGE LETTERS BETWEEN CORRESPONDENTS IN the Confederate States and those across the military lines or frontiers separating the Confederacy from the rest of the world. These routes developed because the Confederacy was almost completely surrounded militarily by the United States, and an important Federal war strategy was to cut off all outside communication and trade with the South, the so-called Anaconda Plan (or General Winfield Scott's Great Snake). Some of the mail routes were officially sanctioned — for example, express and flag-of-truce mail — while others circumvented the Federal prohibition through covert methods — for example, blockade-run and trans-Mississippi express mail.

This collection is organized according to the general categories of Special Routes set forth in the book co-authored by Steven C. Walske and Scott R. Trepel, *Special Mail Routes of the American Civil War*. In addition to the routes that crossed the lines, the collection includes the special express service to U.S. forces in Washington, D.C., at the beginning of the war; the expresses operating entirely within Confederate territory; expresses serving the U.S. forces in occupied Southern territory; and post-war expresses that provided service before Federal mail routes were fully restored. The twelve sections of the collection presented in this sale catalogue are:

- Express Mail for U.S. Forces Protecting Washington, D.C. lots 201-207
- Precursor Express Mail 208-219
- Suspension of United States Postal Routes 220-235
- Express Mail Across the Lines Beginning June 15, 1861 236-267
- Formal Flag-of-Truce Mail Across the Lines 268-304
- Covert Mail 305-315
- Trans-Mississippi Express Mail 316-341
- Blockade-Run Mail..... 342-359
- Trans-Rio Grande Mail 360-363
- Express Mail in Confederate Territory 364-386
- Express Mail in Southern Territory Occupied by U.S. Forces 387-397
- Post-War Expresses..... 398-420

The Civil War began slowly with the secession of South Carolina on December 20, 1860. At the time, most Americans assumed that the conflict would be resolved relatively quickly and peacefully. Virtually no one could project the four-year bloody struggle that ensued.

South Carolina's path out of the Union was quickly followed by Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia and Louisiana. Each of these states acted separately, and their status after secession was as independent states. However, the official stance of the U.S. was that these states were still part of the Union. As such, these independent states continued to use the U.S. postal system for mail within each state and to or from external addresses. Mail sent in the U.S. postal system between these states and the U.S. during their independent state periods should not be considered across-the-lines mail, since there were no impediments to the transmission of the mails prior to the suspension of U.S. postal service in the South.

Throughout this period, the U.S. continued to operate the postal system in the states in insurrection, but many postal routes between the U.S. and the South had to be abandoned due to armed conflict and the threat that the ships, trains or wagons used to transport the mail would be confiscated. The most significant example of this was the closure of the primary north-south postal route, which ran between Washington, D.C., and Richmond, by the U.S. military occupation of Alexandria, Virginia, on May 24, 1861. Mail continued to be exchanged along the other major north-south postal route between Tennessee and Louisville until June 1861. Private express companies also carried small amounts of letter mail between the South and the U.S. during the February to May 1861 period. Their service supplemented the regular post office service and is defined by the term Precursor Express.

Federal postal service in the seceded states was finally suspended on May 31, 1861, four months after the formation of the Confederate government. After this suspension, the regular north-south post office routes were replaced by a complex array of special routes that expanded as the war grew in intensity and duration. Because of the difficulty and danger in getting mail across enemy lines, many of these routes show great ingenuity, and most carried only small amounts of mail.

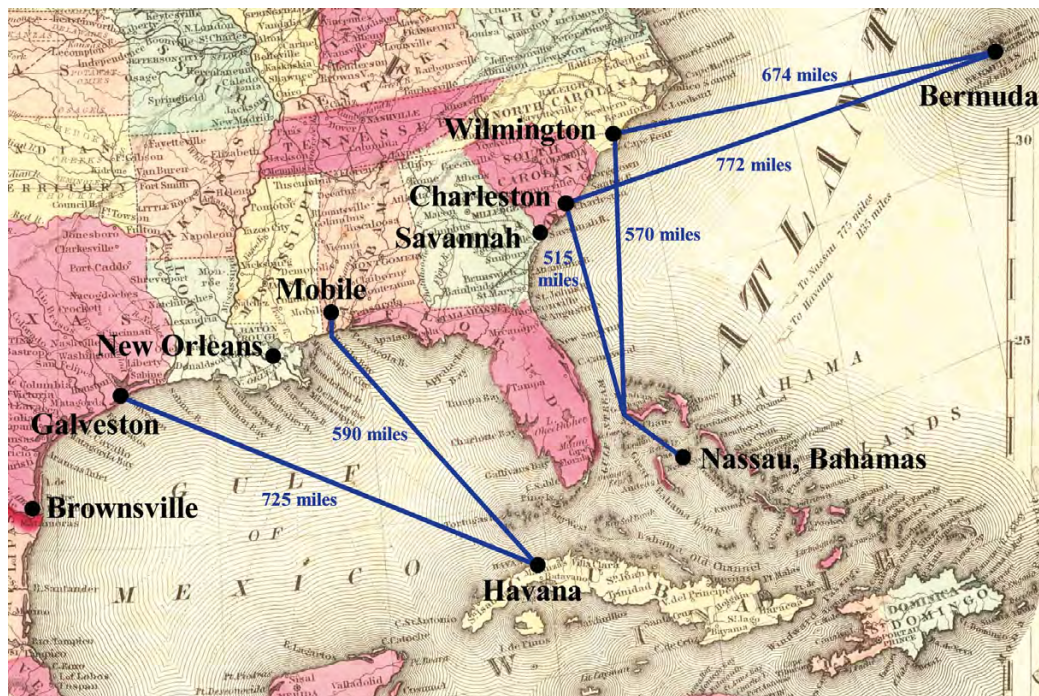
The maps shown opposite provide a useful overview of the major railroad routes throughout the South and the major blockade-running routes between Southern ports and foreign ports.

Map of the Major Confederate Railroad Lines



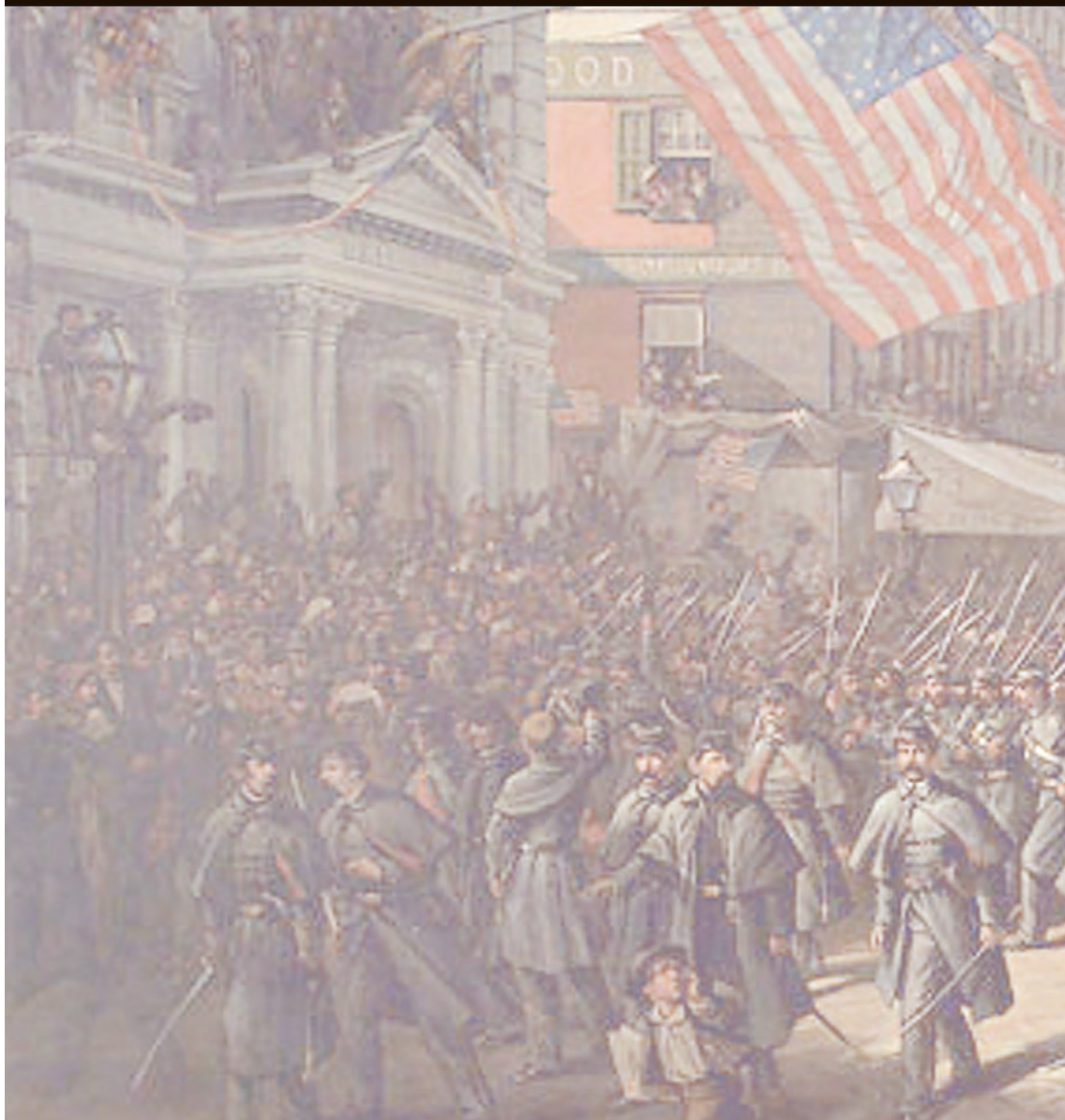
This map depicts the railroad lines connecting major cities in the Confederacy, as well as the U.S. cities of Louisville, Kentucky, and Washington, D.C. The ports located in New Orleans, Mobile, Savannah, Charleston and Wilmington were targeted by U.S. naval blockading forces. Several pro-Confederate cities in Tennessee fell to U.S. forces in 1862, which further disrupted Confederate postal routes. The U.S. capture of Vicksburg in 1863 gave Federal naval forces control of the Mississippi River, creating a line of war between the eastern and western Confederate States.

Map of the Major Confederate Blockade-Running Routes



Thomas Nast's oil painting depicting the 7th Regiment New York State Militia marching down Broadway on April 19, 1861, the day they departed for Washington, D.C.

Photo credit: New York State Military Museum



EXPRESS MAIL FOR UNITED STATES FORCES
PROTECTING WASHINGTON, D.C.



John Hoey, Adams Express Company Agent



201

201 ☒ **3c Rose (65).** Tied by bold crossroads cancel on **multicolored “John Hoey, Adams Express Company, New York”** advertising cover to Victor N.Y., wonderful detailed design of express wagon loaded with packages, three-horse team and teamster carrying whip, in red, green, yellow and brown, Nesbitt & Co. imprint on back, stamp with small part of corner torn off from separation, small inconsequential cover tear at top

VERY FINE AND SPECTACULAR MULTICOLORED ADVERTISING COVER FROM THE NEW YORK OFFICE OF ADAMS EXPRESS, WITH THE NAME OF SUPERINTENDENT JOHN HOEY, WHO RAN THE “FREE FOR THE 7TH REGIMENT” EXPRESS AT THE START OF THE CIVIL WAR.

John Hoey was a 40-year employee of Adams Express Company, and he served as the firm’s president from 1888 until he was forced out in 1891 over charges of corporate misconduct. In 1861 Hoey was the superintendent of the Adams office in New York City.



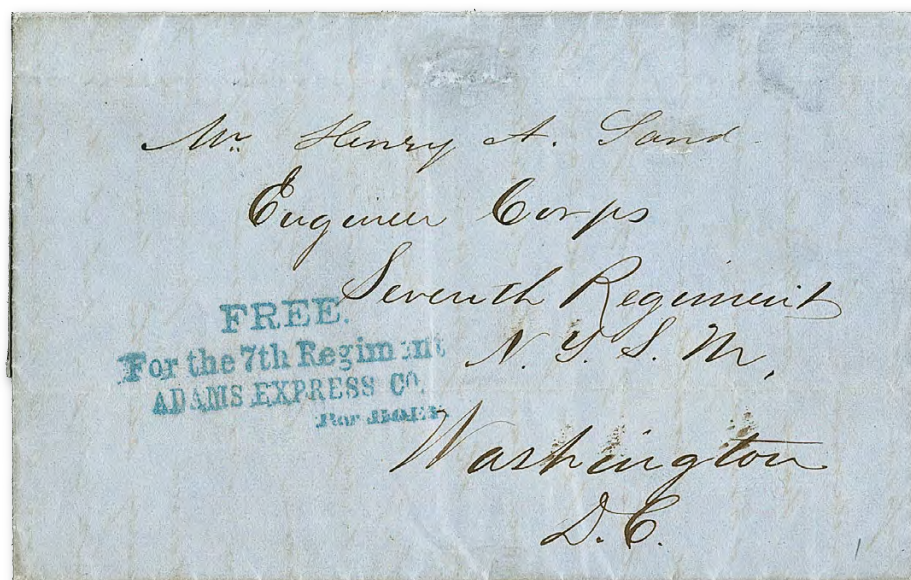
Col. Locke W. Winchester

The colorful advertising cover offered here depicts an express wagon loaded with packages, a three-horse team and a teamster carrying a whip. In large letters set against the light gray background the envelope reads “John Hoey, Adams Express Company, New-York.” Hoey applied the Adams Express “Free for the Regiment” markings in April-May 1861 on mail carried free of charge between New York and regiments guarding Washington D.C. after Lincoln’s call for volunteers to suppress the Southern rebellion. Hoey operated the free express in coordination with Colonel Locke W. Winchester, a veteran of the express business and the quartermaster of the 7th NYSM regiment.

For a detailed history of the Adams Express service to and from Washington D.C. during this time see Scott Trepel’s article “Mail to and from the United States Forces Protecting the Capital in April-June 1861” (*Chronicle* 244, pp. 323-339). This cover is illustrated in that article and on the front cover of *Chronicle* 244.

..... Estimate \$2,000-3,000

Hoey's Free Express Service for the 7th Regiment N.Y.S.M.



202

202 ✉ **FREE./For the 7th Regiment/ADAMS EXPRESS CO./Per HOEY.** Four-line handstamp (with period after "Hoey"), a perfect bold strike in turquoise blue on blue folded letter datelined "Brooklyn, Apr. 26, 1861", to Capt. Henry Sand, Engineer Corps, 7th Regt. N.Y.S.M. at Washington D.C., from his mother, who writes an eloquent 3pp letter (see below for contents)

EXTREMELY FINE STRIKE AND THE EARLIEST RECORDED SOUTHBOUND USE OF THIS RARE EARLY EXPRESS MARKING, WHICH WAS USED ON MAIL CARRIED FREE OF CHARGE BETWEEN NEW YORK AND REGIMENTS GUARDING THE CAPITAL UNDER LINCOLN'S AUTHORITY DURING THE BEGINNING OF THE WAR.

The Adams Express "Free for the 7th Regiment" and "Free for the Regiment" markings were used briefly in April-May 1861 on mail carried free of charge between New York and regiments guarding the capital after Lincoln's call for volunteers to suppress the Southern rebellion. Only six examples of the "For the 7th Regiment" version are recorded (with and without period after "Hoey"). This example, which is the earliest recorded southbound cover, is one of the choicest strikes.

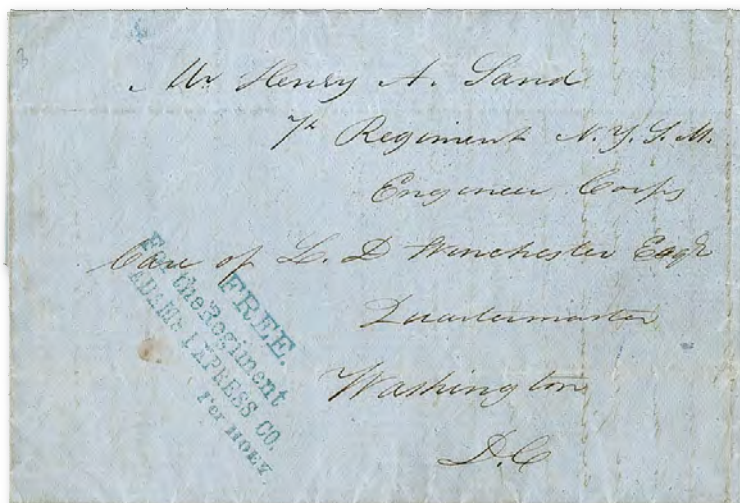


Capt. Henry A. Sand

This letter from Mrs. Sand to her son contains fascinating content. She describes her frustration with the spread of untrue rumors and complains that "Since you left there has been no direct communication to Washington & the people here are furious & have had a meeting on the subject & say they will submit to no temporising on the subject — that the way must be opened through Baltimore to Washington & if the President do not order it — they will assemble an army on their own responsibility & march through." Mrs. Sand also writes about Zouaves: "There are companies of Zouaves — many of them desperate fellows — who are used to fighting — who glory in the idea of punishing the Plug Uglies — they are much better antagonists for such wretches — than the gallant 7th." After some family news, there is mention of European regiments in New York City and a significant comment "Capt. Wilson's Zouaves they say are composed of prize fighters, thieves & all kinds of ruffians. They say one of them remarked that when they left, there would only [be] three rogues left in the city & one of them was Fernando Wood." — Wood was the New York City mayor who advocated the secession of New York City from the Union.

For a detailed history of the Adams Express service to and from Washington D.C. during this time see Scott Trepel's article "Mail to and from the United States Forces Protecting the Capital in April-June 1861" (*Chronicle* 244, pp. 323-339, this cover illustrated on p. 331). Ex Walske..... Estimate \$2,000-3,000

EXPRESS MAIL FOR U.S. FORCES PROTECTING WASHINGTON, D.C.



203



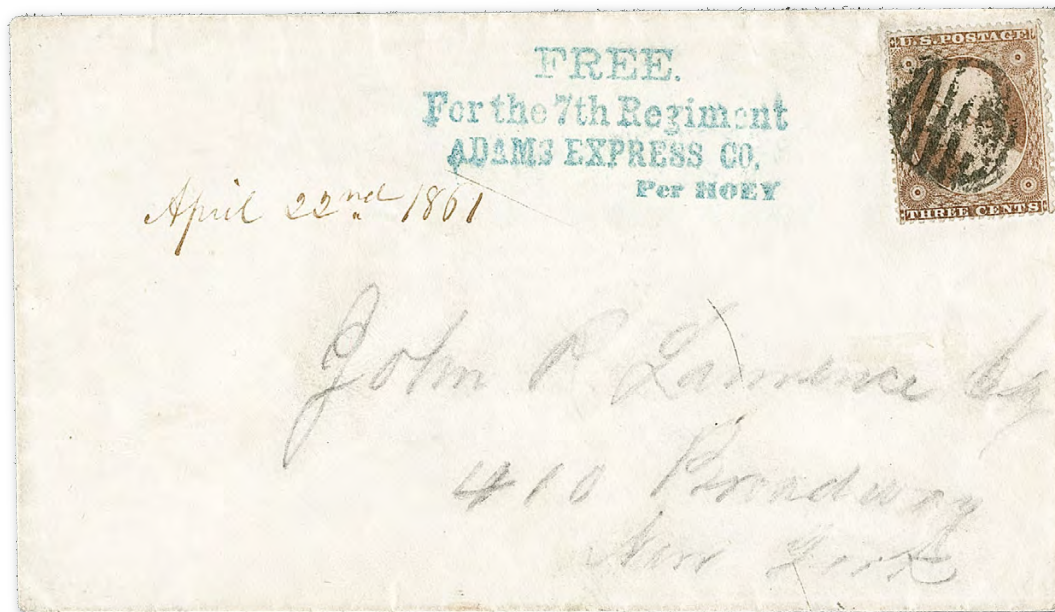
204

- 203 ☒ **FREE./For the Regiment/ADAMS EXPRESS CO./Per HOEY.** Four-line handstamp clearly struck in greenish blue on blue folded letter datelined “*Brooklyn, May 2, 1861*”, addressed to Capt. Henry A. Sand, Engineer Corps, 7th Regt. N.Y.S.M., in care of Col. Winchester, quartermaster at Washington D.C., from Sand’s mother, who states “*Adams Express advertises to take parcels & letters for the Seventh — free of charge.*”, a lengthy and fascinating letter discussing local views on the war
VERY FINE STRIKE OF THE RARE “FREE FOR THE REGIMENT” ADAMS EXPRESS MARKING WITHOUT “7TH” — WHICH WAS USED ON MAIL CARRIED FREE OF CHARGE BETWEEN NEW YORK AND REGIMENTS GUARDING THE CAPITAL UNDER LINCOLN’S AUTHORITY DURING THE BEGINNING OF THE WAR.

The Adams Express “Free for the 7th Regiment” and “Free for the Regiment” markings were used briefly in April-May 1861 on mail carried free of charge between New York and regiments guarding the capital after Lincoln’s call for volunteers to suppress the Southern rebellion. Only eight examples of the “For the Regiment” (without “7”) version are recorded. The two markings were struck from the same device. The earlier strikes (April 1861) contain the “7th” and the later strikes (May 1861) omit the “7th” — likely to account for services to other regiments arriving in the capital.

For a detailed history of the Adams Express service to and from Washington D.C. during this time see Scott Trepel’s article “Mail to and from the United States Forces Protecting the Capital in April-June 1861” (*Chronicle* 244, pp. 323-339, this cover illustrated on p. 332). Ex Walske ...
..... Estimate \$1,500-2,000

- 204 ☒ **Adams Express Company N-Y.** Blue double-circle handstamp on blue folded letter datelined “*New York 27th May 1861*”, to Capt. Henry A. Sand, a member of the 7th Regiment N.Y.S. Volunteers in Washington D.C., interesting contents including “*There was great excitement here on Saturday afternoon by a report from Washington that there was a dreadful battle going on at Alexandria... the whole story was a hoax.*”, letter also mentions **death of Col. Ellsworth**, “*Yesterday, Col. Ellsworth’s funeral took place. His body was placed in the Governor’s room, City Hall, where it was open to all who might wish to see it.*”, other fascinating content, Very Fine, this well-known correspondence provides almost all of the rare Adams Hoey Express covers to troops guarding Washington D.C. during the beginning of the war, this letter contains a rare reference to the martyred Colonel Ellsworth, accompanied by an additional lengthy letter from Sand to his brother datelined “*on board Str. New York off Aquia Creek Va. Tuesday Aug. 5, 1862*” with detailed war content and descriptions of the New York Fire Zouaves (see linked PDF transcription) — Sand would be mortally wounded at the Battle of Antietam only six weeks after writing this letter
.....(Website PDF) Estimate \$1,000-1,500



205

- 205 ✉ **FREE./For the 7th Regiment/ADAMS EXPRESS CO./Per HOEY.** Four-line handstamp (without period after “Hoey”) perfectly struck on cover from the 7th Regiment in Washington D.C. to New York City, addressed in pencil, manuscript “April 22nd, 1861” date, **3c Dull Red, Ty. III (26)** tied along left perfs by grid cancel applied in New York City post office, where dropped off by Adams — cleaned around stamp to lighten gum stains

EXTREMELY FINE. ONE OF ONLY THREE RECORDED NORTHBOUND “FOR THE 7TH REGIMENT” OR “FOR THE REGIMENT” COVERS CARRIED BY ADAMS IN APRIL-MAY 1861. ALSO THE ONLY EXAMPLE OF THIS MARKING WITH A UNITED STATES 3-CENT 1857 STAMP.

Eleven of the 14 recorded covers with the “Free for the 7th Regiment” or “Free for the Regiment” handstamp are southbound covers to Washington D.C. Only three Adams 7th Regiment covers are northbound. The manuscript April 22 date on this cover probably refers to the day the letter was written (the letter is no longer with the cover). The cover most likely originated from a 7th Regiment soldier on board the *Boston* or encamped at Annapolis on the way to Washington D.C. The soldiers arrived in Annapolis Harbor in the morning of April 22, but did not disembark until that evening. The envelope is also addressed in pencil; pencil was typically used on trains or vessels to avoid spilling ink. Once the cover reached the Adams office in New York, the “Free for the 7th Regiment” marking (without period after “Hoey”) was applied, and the letter was delivered to the post office. In 1861 the street address, 410 Broadway, was the location of the Apollo Hotel and various businesses. The addressee, John P. Lawrence, was probably a guest at the hotel, which would explain why the sender did not address it for general delivery at the post office. While U.S. postage was required on all express covers, whether or not they entered the post office, most of the Adams “For the (7th) Regiment” covers have no postage. This is the only recorded example of an Adams “For the (7th) Regiment” cover with a 3c 1857 stamp.

For a detailed history of the Adams Express service to and from Washington D.C. during this time see Scott Trepel’s article “Mail to and from the United States Forces Protecting the Capital in April-June 1861” (*Chronicle* 244, pp. 323-339, this cover illustrated on p. 333). Ex Finney, Simon and Walske. Estimate \$3,000-4,000



206

- 206 ☒ **Adams Express Company N.Y.** Perfectly clear strike of blue double-circle handstamp (Type II with “Company” spelled out) on red and blue **Col. Ellsworth Memorial Patriotic** cover to Exeter N.H., Wells imprint, sent by “*Freeman Conner, June 10, 1861*” (in manuscript at right) and **free franked by Congressman C. H. Van Wyck**, red “New York Jun - 1861 Free” circular datestamp without day, backflap removed

EXTREMELY FINE AND HIGHLY EXHIBITABLE. A SCARCE ELLSWORTH PATRIOTIC DESIGN AND PROBABLY THE ONLY EXTANT EXAMPLE CARRIED BY ADAMS EXPRESS DURING THE “FOR THE REGIMENT” PERIOD AT THE START OF THE CIVIL WAR.

This northbound cover is free franked by U.S. Congressman Charles H. Van Wyck. Contrary to the common pronunciation, *Van Wick*, the name is correctly pronounced *Van Wike*. The congressional practice of franking envelopes for the troops was widespread at the beginning of the war. This is an early Civil War patriotic envelope memorializing Colonel Elmer E. Ellsworth of the 11th NYV — the famous “Fire Zouaves.” On May 24, 1861, Colonel Ellsworth was fatally shot while attempting to remove a Confederate flag flying over an Alexandria, Virginia, hotel. Ellsworth had clerked for Abraham Lincoln in Illinois, campaigned for him and accompanied him to Washington. While not the first casualty, Ellsworth became the first celebrated martyr for the Union cause. The death of President Lincoln’s beloved assistant shocked the nation and inspired the rallying cry “Remember Ellsworth!”

Ex Dr. Robertson. Illustrated in *Chronicle* 244 (p. 335) Estimate \$2,000-3,000

The Leader Newspaper Express



207



Detail of back

- 207 ✉ **Forwarded from Leader Office, 11 Frankfort St., New-York.** Oval handstamp on back of red and blue “Remember Ellsworth!” Patriotic cover to “Capt. Andrew Puntell, Co. K. Ellsworth’s Zouaves, Washington D.C.”, slightly reduced at left, Very Fine and extremely rare, the **only recorded example of mail handled by the New York Leader newspaper**, which was closely affiliated with members of the 11th New York Volunteer Regiment, the first of the so-called “Fire Zouaves”, raised from the city’s fire fighting companies and led by Colonel Elmer E. Ellsworth, it seems likely that *The Leader* used Adams Express to forward mail and newspapers to and from the Fire Zouaves, ex Hahn, illustrated in *Chronicle* 244 (p. 338) Estimate \$1,000-1,500

View of Charleston Harbor and its Defences, drawing in ink, pencil and watercolor, made between 1860 and 1865

Photo credit: Library of Congress



PRECURSOR EXPRESS MAIL



PRECURSOR EXPRESS MAIL

Adams Express Company Southbound Express Mail Prior to June 15, 1861



208

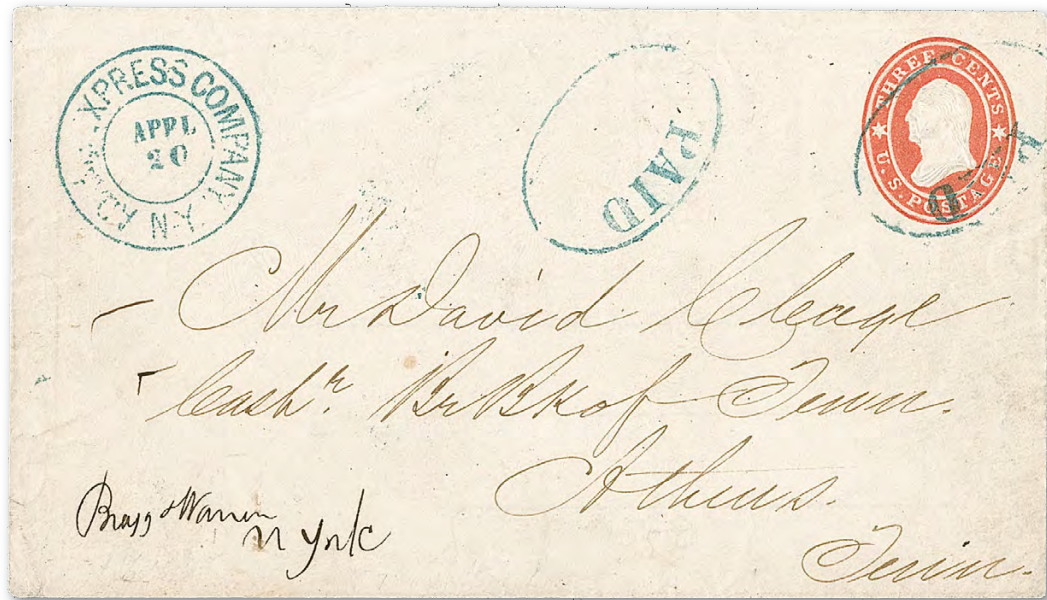
- 208 ☒ **Adams Express Company N.Y., April. 30 (1861).** Clear strike of blue double-circle datestamp cancels 3c Red Star Die entire (U26) addressed to David Cleage at the Bank of Tennessee in Athens Tenn., matching "Paid" in oval handstamp, clear strike of "Adams Express Co. Chattanooga, May 5" oval handstamp

EXTREMELY FINE. A RARE PRECURSOR EXPRESS MAIL COVER SENT BY ADAMS EXPRESS FROM NEW YORK TO TENNESSEE, WHICH ARRIVED IN CHATTANOOGA ON THE DAY BEFORE THE SECESSION REFERENDUM. AN OUTSTANDING EXPRESS USE AND ONE OF THE FEW GENUINE PRIVATE EXPRESS COVERS FROM THE CLEAGE CORRESPONDENCE.

Although the express companies that carried mail through the lines after June 1, 1861, did not begin advertising this service until June 15 (American Letter Express) and June 22 (Adams and Whitesides), Adams had been carrying mail for months prior to June 1 and definitely transported mail across the lines soon after the May 27 suspension order took effect. Curiously, there is no documentation or advertisements of the express mail during this period from January to May 1861.

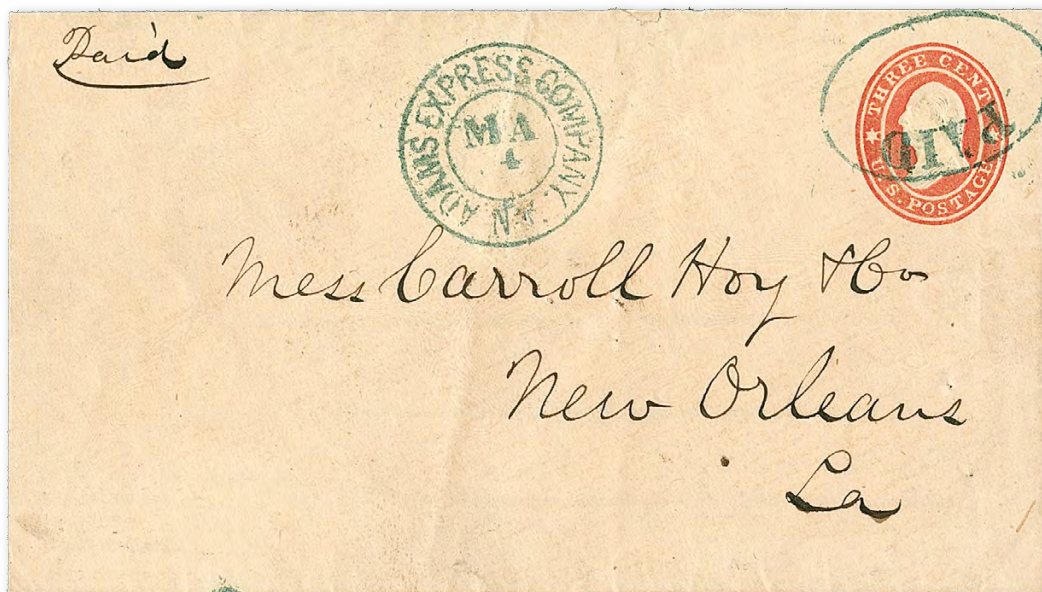
Illustrated in *Special Routes* book (p. 37, census no. S-PRE-5). Ex Kimmel and Boshwit. With 1976 P.F. certificate Estimate \$2,000-3,000

PRECURSOR EXPRESS MAIL



209

- 209 ☒ **Adams Express Co. N.Y. April. 20 (1861).** Bold strike of blue double-circle datestamp with two matching "Paid" in oval handstamps, one cancels 3c Red Star Die entire (U26) to David Cleage in Athens Tenn., fresh and Very Fine precursor private express use, *Special Routes* census no. S-PRE-4, ex Dr. Agre, Raymond Weill & Co. backstamp, with 1993 C.S.A. certificate Estimate \$500-750



210

- 210 ☒ **Adams Express Company N.Y. MA 4 (1861).** Bold strike of greenish blue double-circle datestamp with matching "Paid" in oval on 3c Red on Buff Star Die entire (U27) to Carroll Hoy & Co. New Orleans, usual pinholes for this correspondence and small tear at top, fresh and Extremely Fine precursor private express cover to New Orleans, illustrated in *Special Routes* book (p. 32, census no. S-PRE-7), ex Everett and Walske, signed Ashbrook Estimate \$500-750



211

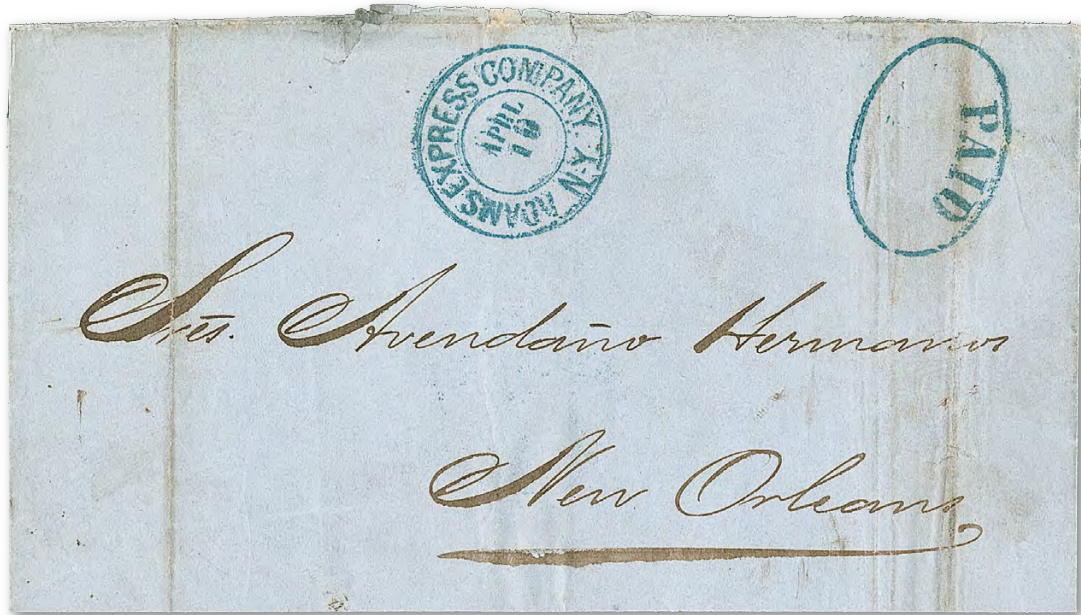
- 211 ☒ **Adams Express Co. N-Y.** Clear strike of blue double-circle handstamp with matching “Paid” in oval on folded letter **from Liverpool, England, to Richmond Va.**, William Gray correspondence, lengthy letter dated May 15, 1861, carried on the Inman Line’s *Etna*, arriving New York on May 27, just as the mail route was closed, May 31 arrival docketing, manuscript “45c” at top left applied by Adams office for combination of transatlantic postage and express fees, “**Paid 2**” handstamp applied by Richmond post office for drop rate, letter contents stained but cover is clean with a pressed file fold

VERY FINE. A REMARKABLE PRECURSOR PRIVATE EXPRESS COVER FROM ENGLAND TO RICHMOND VIRGINIA, CARRIED BY ADAMS EXPRESS COMPANY AND POSTED AS A DROP LETTER.

The letter, written by John R. Gilliat in Liverpool, is an articulate and insightful commentary on the outbreak of the American Civil War, the hope for neutral arbitration by European powers and the potential effects of a Northern blockade on the tobacco and cotton markets. It begins by expressing concern that the disruption of mail routes might prevent correspondence between the parties. As it happened, by the time the letter reached New York on May 27, the railroad connections between Washington D.C. and Richmond had been terminated. Adams Express carried the letter to Richmond via Louisville and Knoxville, and placed it in the post office as a drop letter. There are remnants of a paste-up envelope adhering to the back of the letter, which was almost certainly a 3c U.S. entire required to meet the obligation to pay U.S. postage on express mail. This is one of two recorded examples of an Adams cover with the Confederate drop rate.

Illustrated in *Special Routes* book (p. 32, census no. S-PRE-9). With 2003 P.F. certificate.....
..... Estimate \$2,000-3,000

PRECURSOR EXPRESS MAIL



212

- 212 ☒ **Adams Express Company N-Y. Apr. 19 (1861).** Well-struck blue double-circle datestamp with matching "Paid" in oval on blue folded cover to New Orleans, no contents or indication of origin but the address, the absence of postage and remnants of a paste-up on back (probably a 3c entire) strongly suggest this cover originated from another country, some slight soiling along vertical file folds, minor edgewear, Very Fine and scarce precursor Adams Express use, the U.S. blockade of the South was declared on this date, April 19, 1861, *Special Routes* census no. S-PRE-3, ex Dr. Brandon Estimate \$1,000-1,500



213

- 213 ☒ **1c Blue (63).** Horizontal strip of three, tied by multiple strikes of "New-York Sep. 11, 1862" double-circle datestamp on **Adams Express New York overall tan lithographed advertising cover** to Vernon N.J., elaborate design depicting the New York office with horse-drawn carriage in front, Nesbitt & Co. imprint at bottom, top left stamp with corner crease at left, barely reduced at right not affecting the strip or design, Very Fine Estimate \$300-400

PRECURSOR EXPRESS MAIL

Adams Express Company Northbound Express Mail Prior to June 15, 1861



214

- 214 ☒ **Adams Express Co. New-Orleans 16 Apr. (1861).** Mostly clear circular datestamp used in conjunction with “Adams Express Company, Knoxville Tenn. Apr. 19” oval datestamp on 3c Red on Buff Star Die entire (U27) to Philadelphia street address, sender’s routing “Adams Express” and manuscript “Pd” notation, light horizontal fold at bottom

VERY FINE PRECURSOR PRIVATE EXPRESS COVER WITH A RARE COMBINATION OF ADAMS EXPRESS DATESTAMPS FROM THE NEW ORLEANS AND KNOXVILLE OFFICES.

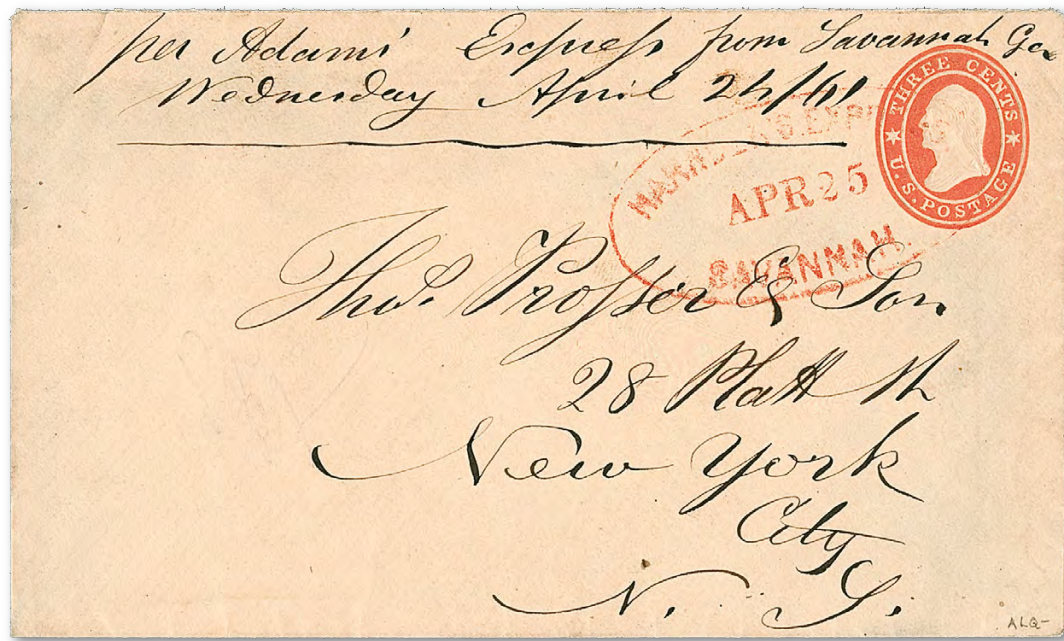
This cover to Philadelphia was datestamped at the Adams New Orleans office on April 16 and at the Knoxville office on April 19. At this date it almost certainly made the entire trip to Philadelphia by rail, first to western Tennessee, then east to Knoxville on the East Tennessee & Virginia Railroad. From Knoxville, it was carried on connecting lines to Philadelphia via Lynchburg and Washington. The Knoxville datestamp and the presence of intermediate transit markings on other covers indicate that Adams’ distributing offices sorted and bagged mail along the way.

Illustrated in *Special Routes* book (p. 30, census no. N-PRE-8). Ex Dr. Morris. With 2003 P.F. certificate..... Estimate \$2,000-3,000

PRECURSOR EXPRESS MAIL



- 215 ☒ **Adams Express Co. New-Orleans May 11 (1861).** Partly clear circular datestamp on 3c Red on Buff Star Die entire (U27) to New York City, carried outside the mails and delivered to street address by New York City carrier department, partly clear red “**New York Paid City Delivery 1 ct.**” circular datestamp over indicia, manuscript “2/” (two bits, or 25c) express charge, Very Fine cover and rare example of precursor private express carriage from Confederate New Orleans and delivery by government carrier service in New York (which was paid for by Adams Express), only three such covers are recorded with the 1c carrier rate datestamp, illustrated in *Special Routes* book (p. 31, census no. N-PRE-16), ex Walske..... Estimate \$750-1,000
- 216 ☒ **Adams Express Co. New-Orleans May 16 (1861).** Mostly bold circular datestamp on 3c Red Star Die entire (U26) to Blooming Grove N.Y., “New-York May 23” circular datestamp and grid cancel, manuscript “2/” (two bits, or 25c) express company charge at top left, light file fold across top, Very Fine, a rare Adams Express precursor use from New Orleans to New York, which entered the U.S. mails for its final leg to Blooming Grove, the 3c entire was apparently accepted for the full postage from New Orleans to New York and then on to its final destination, illustrated in *Special Routes* book (p. 31, census no. N-PRE-18), ex Dr. Skinner..... Estimate \$750-1,000



217

- 217 ☒ **Harnden's Express, Savannah, Apr. 25 (1861).** Mostly clear strike of red oval datestamp on 3c Red on Buff Star Die entire (U27) to Thos. Prosser & Son, New York City, with sender's route instructions "*per Adams' Express from Savannah Ga. Wednesday, April 24/61*" across top, faint pencil "*Pd 2/-*" express charge at left, remnants of adhesive label on back, likely carried on the brig *Samuel Robertson*, which was one of the last vessels to depart for New York

EXTREMELY FINE. THE ONLY RECORDED EXAMPLE OF AN EXPRESS COVER WITH THE HARN-
DEN'S SAVANNAH OVAL HANDSTAMP.

Adams Express Company took over Harnden's Express prior to the war, but the Harnden name was retained in Georgia, because of its reputation and good will. When the threat of war jeopardized Adams's ownership of offices in seceded states, its directors sold its southern operation to Henry B. Plant on June 8, 1861. Plant reorganized the old Adams offices under a new firm, the Southern Express Company. Many believed that Adams still retained ownership beneath the facade of a sale, which was intended to protect their property from the Confederate government. In fact, in 1870 a lawsuit was brought against Adams by stockholders who felt entitled to the assets held by the Southern Express Company. The plaintiffs' claim was rejected, but there continued to be well-founded suspicion that the Southern Express Company was a dummy corporation set up for Adams's continued benefit.

The Harnden name is rarely seen on covers carried in seceded states. The cover offered here bears the only recorded example of Harnden's Savannah office handstamp. It is one of two recorded covers mailed by the same sender to the same addressee on the same day. Both have the sender's route instructions, directing the letter to the care of Adams Express. This cover was routed through Savannah, while the other was routed through Charleston S.C., where the "Adams Express Company Charleston S.C. Apr. 25" oval was applied. At Savannah, the oval with the Harnden name was applied, also on April 25. The sender probably sent duplicate letters by two different routes to ensure delivery during the first two weeks of war.

Illustrated in *Special Routes* book (p. 28, census no. N-PRE-12). Ex White, Shenfield, Simon and Walske..... Estimate \$3,000-4,000

PRECURSOR EXPRESS MAIL



218



219

- 218 ✉ **Adams Express Memphis, Feb. 18 (1861).** Large red oval datestamp on 3c Red Star Die entire (U26) to Carroll Hoy & Co. in New Orleans, manuscript “Express” at bottom left, usual small filing holes as always found on this correspondence, small repair at top left corner, trivial wrinkling

VERY FINE APPEARANCE. A RARE EXAMPLE OF THE ADAMS EXPRESS COMPANY MEMPHIS OFFICE DATESTAMP ON A VERY EARLY PRECURSOR EXPRESS COVER TO NEW ORLEANS.

Shortly after the Confederacy was formed on February 4, 1861, the private freight express companies began carrying mail (the earliest recorded express cover is dated February 7). Soon after June 1, 1861, newspapers published the first advertisements for through-the-lines express service after the Federal government suspended the mails to seceded states. However, we have never seen an ad or bulletin from the January-May 1861 period that advertises express service for letters. The existence of express covers carried outside the mails (for at least part of their journey) is the only evidence of this business. This is one of the earliest Civil War express covers, and it was carried by Adams from Memphis to New Orleans on February 18, 1861. Louisiana joined the Confederacy on February 4, but Tennessee did not secede from the Union until June. We presume this cover originated in or near Memphis and was handed directly to the Adams office in that city. [See also lots 377-378 in this sale].

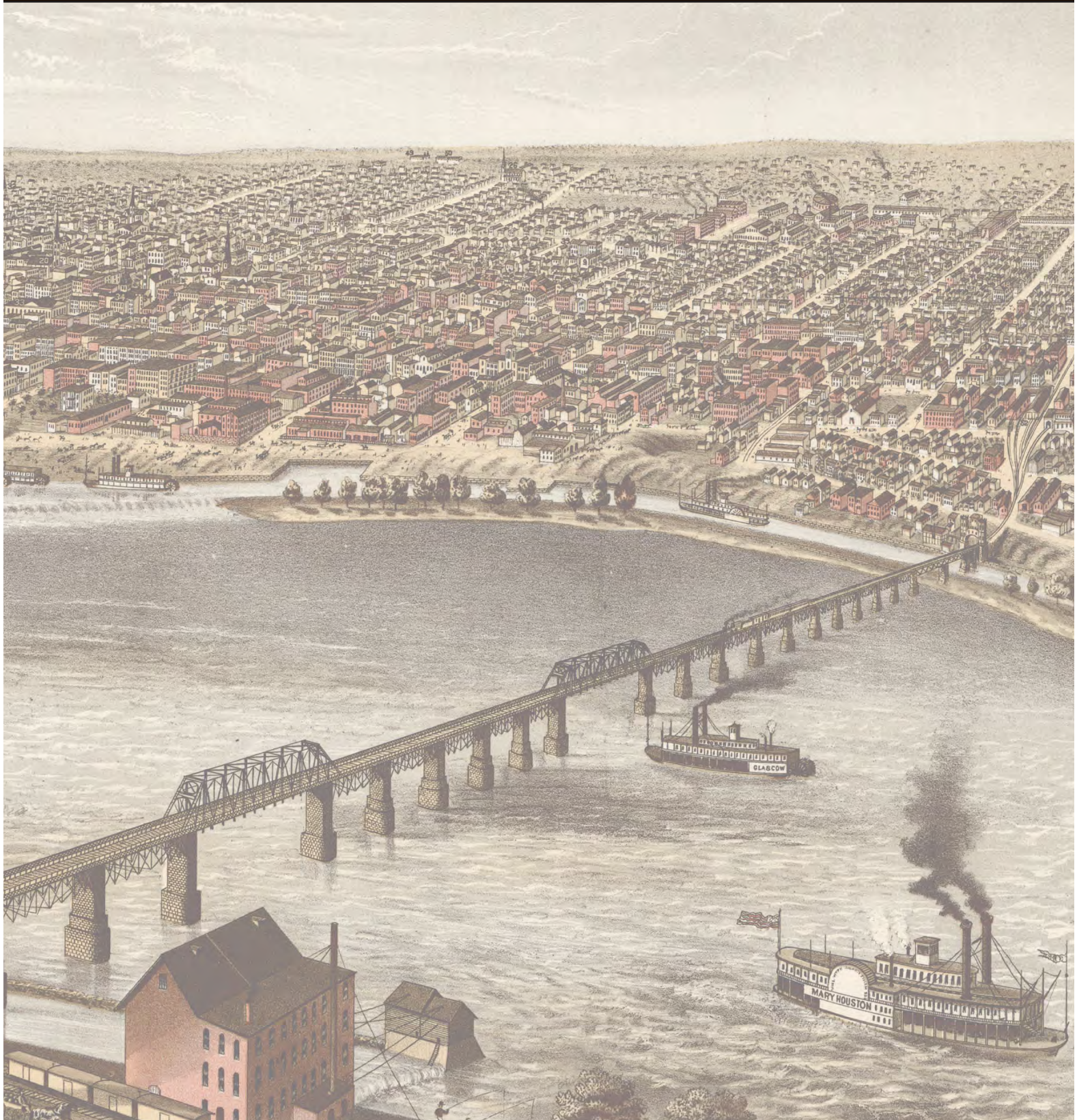
Illustrated in *Special Routes* book (p. 27, census no. C-PRE-1). Ex Knapp, Richey, Emerson, Shenfield, Antrim and Boshwit. With 1974 P.F. certificate..... Estimate \$1,500-2,000

- 219 ✉ **Adams Express Co. Atlanta Ga. May 24 (1861).** Oval datestamp with manuscript “Paid R/- Brooks” express charge notation on 3c Red on Buff Star Die entire (U27) to **Howell Cobb** as President of the Southern Congress in Macon Ga., with instructions to forward to Montgomery Ala., traveled from Atlanta to Macon on the Macon & Western Railroad, if the letter was indeed forwarded it traveled on the South Western and Montgomery & West Point Railroad lines, the “Paid R/- Brooks” express notation was applied by the Adams agent in Atlanta, the “R” is a code, which was used by certain Adams agents to indicate the express fee, corner nick at top right, Fine appearance, a very rare Adams Express Co. Atlanta handstamp, illustrated in *Special Routes* book (p. 33, census no. C-PRE-5), ex Dietz and Walske Estimate \$750-1,000

Bird's eye view of Louisville, Kentucky, 1876, Charles Shober & Co.,
Chicago Lithographing Co.
Photo credit: Library of Congress



SUSPENSION OF UNITED STATES POSTAL ROUTES



SUSPENSION OF UNITED STATES POSTAL ROUTES

Washington, D.C. and Richmond, Virginia, Mail Route



220

- 220 ☒ **New Bern N.C. May 21 (1861).** Bold blue circular datestamp ties **3c Dull Red, Ty. III (26)**, perfectly centered, rich color, on small cover to Mrs. B. S. Hedrick at New York City street address, pencil forwarding address "Washington Patent Office D.C.", "New-York May 27" circular datestamp and "FORWARDED" straightline handstamp, manuscript "3" U.S. forwarding postage due

EXTREMELY FINE. A REMARKABLE COVER, POSTMARKED ON THE FIRST FULL DAY OF NORTH CAROLINA'S 7-DAY INDEPENDENT STATEHOOD AND CARRIED THROUGH RICHMOND ON MAY 23, THE LAST DAY THE MAIL ROUTE BETWEEN RICHMOND AND WASHINGTON D.C. REMAINED OPEN.

Northbound mail from the eastern Confederate States to the U.S. was normally carried via Richmond and Washington D.C. until May 23, 1861. The Federal military occupation of Alexandria, Virginia, closed this route on the evening of May 23, so northbound mail was diverted to the C.S.A. Dead Letter Office at Richmond from May 24 until June 1. The May 21 origin date in New Bern N.C. indicates transit through Richmond on May 23, the last day the route remained open. The addressee was the wife of Benjamin S. Hedrick, who was appointed 1st Assistant Examiner in the U.S. Patent Office on Apr. 10, 1861 (service record accompanies).

Illustrated in *Confederate Philatelist* (Jan.-Feb. 1994, pp. 29-30) and *Special Routes* book (p. 3). Ex Walske..... Estimate \$1,500-2,000

SUSPENSION OF UNITED STATES POSTAL ROUTES



221

221 ☒ **Liverpool MY 18 61.** Clearly struck circular datestamp and "19 Cents" debit handstamp on folded printed market report with letter and additional printed market report enclosure, addressed to D. H. London in Richmond Va., carried on the Cunarder *America*, departing Liverpool on May 11 and arriving in Boston on May 31, "Br. Pkt. Boston 1 Jun. 24" 24-cents due datestamp, diverted to the U.S. Dead Letter Office where "**Dead Letter Office P.O. Dept. No. 1 July 29**" large oval datestamp was applied, blue "Baltimore Md. Jul. 30" circular datestamp on back and "Due 3" in circle handstamp on front for U.S. postage paid upon release to addressee (or his agent), slight age toning along edges

VERY FINE. A RARE TRANSATLANTIC LETTER FROM ENGLAND TO CONFEDERATE VIRGINIA, WHICH WAS DIVERTED TO THE UNITED STATES DEAD LETTER OFFICE AFTER THE WASHINGTON-RICHMOND MAIL ROUTE WAS SUSPENDED. ONLY THREE SUCH COVERS ARE REPORTED.

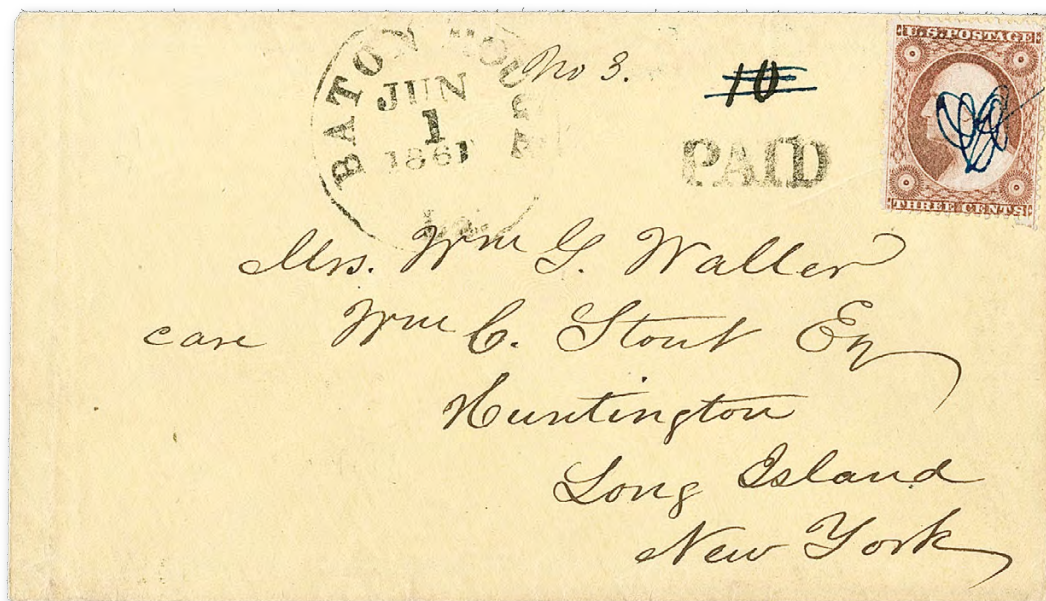
On April 27, 1861, the regular water route to Richmond was suspended by the United States government, leaving only the Orange & Alexandria Railroad open for mail via Richmond. The last route through Virginia was suspended on the evening of May 23. The cover offered here was received in Boston on May 31, then diverted to the U.S. Dead Letter Office and held there until called for on July 29. The 24c transatlantic postage plus an additional 3c was collected from the addressee or his agent when the letter was released.

The addressee, Daniel H. London, was a prominent Richmond merchant and pro-slavery, states' rights advocate, who served as president of the Southern Rights Association of Richmond. This letter and enclosures were sent by the British firm of Eyre Evans & Co.

Ex Dr. Green and Walske Estimate \$1,000-1,500

SUSPENSION OF UNITED STATES POSTAL ROUTES

Memphis, Tennessee, and Louisville, Kentucky, Mail Route



222

- 222 ☒ **Baton Rouge La. Jun. 1, 1861 — First Day of the Confederate States Postal System.** Mostly clear strike of circular datestamp with prominent date, “Paid” handstamp and manuscript “10” **C.S.A. rate**, crossed out in blue manuscript which also cancels and ties **3c Dull Red, Ty. III (26)** on yellow cover to Huntington (Long Island) N.Y., from the Waller correspondence, immaculate condition

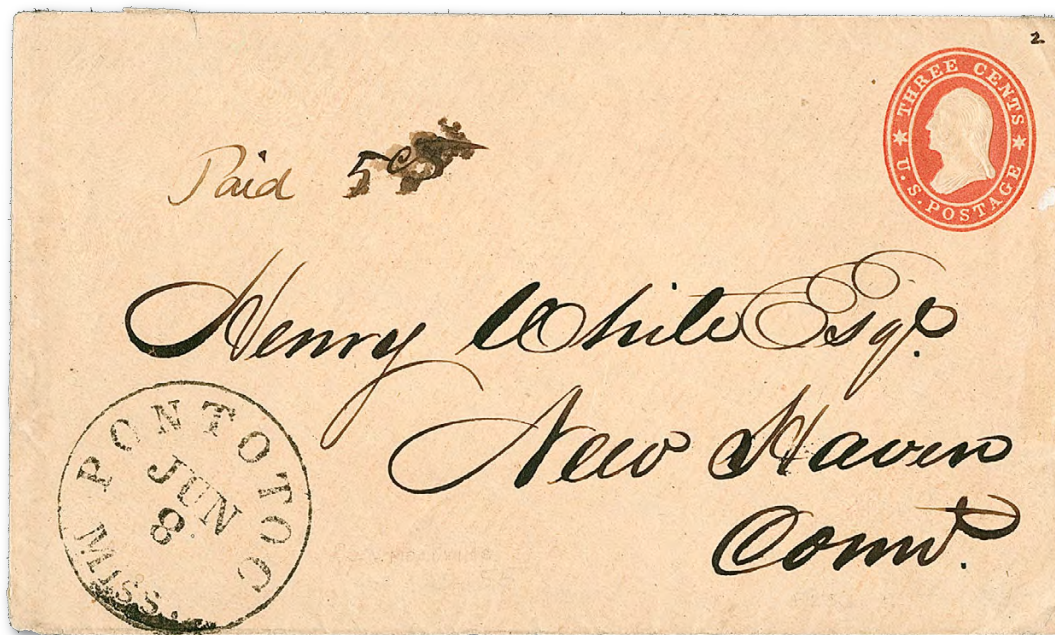
EXTREMELY FINE. AN OUTSTANDING COVER POSTMARKED ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES POSTAL SYSTEM AND ADDRESSED TO THE NORTH, BEARING BOTH CONFEDERATE AND UNITED STATES POSTAGE FOR THE FIRST TIME POSSIBLE.

This cover was mailed from Baton Rouge on June 1, 1861 and reached Memphis on June 3, just three days before the U.S. suspended service at that post office. The 10c C.S.A. postage paid the over-500 miles rate, and the sender affixed the 3c 1857 stamp to pay U.S. postage once the letter crossed the border. This date — June 1, 1861 — is the earliest that postage of both sides could be used together in a mixed franking.


Illustrated in *Special Routes* book (p. 13). Ex Everett, McCarren and Walske
..... Estimate \$3,000-4,000

SUSPENSION OF UNITED STATES POSTAL ROUTES

Nashville, Tennessee, and Louisville, Kentucky, Mail Route



223

- 223  **Pontotoc Miss. Jun. 8 (1861).** Circular datestamp and manuscript “Paid 5 cts” C.S.A. rate on 3c Red on Buff Star Die entire (U27) to Henry White, New Haven Conn., with original enclosures (a letter and bill of exchange), the former datelined Pontotoc, Jun. 7, 1861, from a Stephen Daggett, who instructs his correspondent to “Request your post master to send your reply direct to the Louisville Ky. distributing Post office & it will probably reach me”, Very Fine and early through-the-lines cover from Confederate Mississippi to Connecticut via Louisville; the suspension of Federal mail service to the South was ordered on May 27, 1861, and the Confederate postal system was inaugurated on June 1; during the first week of June there was considerable disruption in mail service, and, with the complete termination of mail between Louisville and Nashville by June 12, post offices were no longer permitted to carry mail across the lines; this cover from Pontotoc, mailed on June 8, was correctly prepaid to Nashville, probably arriving there on June 9-10 — whether it slipped into the Federal mails at Louisville or was carried by an early through-the-lines express, we cannot say — if carried by express, it might have been enclosed in an outer envelope for mailing at Louisville; if sent to Connecticut in the regular

mails, it is possible that Louisville allowed some mail to go through without marking letters unpaid; a clue to the routing may lie in the sender’s instructions to direct a reply to the Louisville distributing office and “it will probably reach me”, Henry White’s reply was in a cover in the Frank J. Engel sale catalogue (H. R. Harmer, May 17, 1976, lot 2700, shown here) — as instructed by Stephen Daggett, Mr. White addressed his envelope “Via Louisville Ky. D.P.O.”, but it was stopped in transit and sent to the Dead Letter Office on July 22 — ex Roser and Gallagher, with 1998 P.F. certificate Estimate \$1,000-1,500

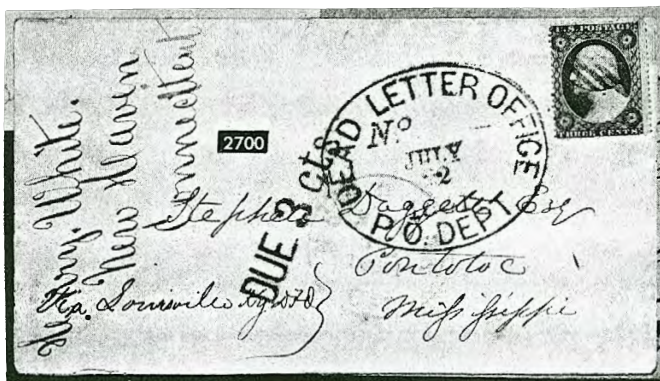


Photo of cover carrying reply from Henry White to Stephen Daggett, which was sent to the Dead Letter Office



SUSPENSION OF UNITED STATES POSTAL ROUTES

New Orleans Postmaster's Provisional and United States Mixed Franking with "SOUTHN. LETTER UNPAID" Marking

- 224 ✉ **New Orleans La., 5c Brown on White (62X3).** First Printing, Positions 39-40 from the bottom right corner of the sheet, full to large margins including huge part of right sheet margin, vertical crease between stamps and slight gum staining, tied by "New Orleans La. (15?) Jun." (1861) circular datestamp, **used with 3c Dull Red, Ty. III (26)**, slightly rounded corner, tied by pencil lines on blue part-printed notice from Octave de Armas, a prominent notary public in New Orleans, dated June 14, 1861, and addressed to James Lester in Eddyville, Kentucky, received at Louisville between June 17 and 25, released on June 25 without Louisville datestamp, full clear strike of "SOUTHN. LETTER UNPAID" two-line handstamp in blue with matching "DUE 3" straightline tying 5c pair, tiny hole in address panel just above the last letter of "Eddyville"

VERY FINE. A MAGNIFICENT "SOUTHN. LETTER UNPAID" COVER FRANKED WITH A COMBINATION OF THE NEW ORLEANS POSTMASTER'S PROVISIONAL — USED WITHIN THE FIRST WEEK OF ISSUE — AND THE UNITED STATES 3-CENT 1857 ISSUE, WHICH WAS REJECTED BY THE LOUISVILLE POST OFFICE. ONLY ONE OTHER SUCH COMBINATION IS RECORDED, AND THIS IS THE FINER OF THE TWO. AN IMPORTANT POSTAL HISTORY ARTIFACT FROM SEVERAL PERSPECTIVES.

This folded notice of Protest was dated June 14, 1861, by the notary public in New Orleans, Octave de Armas, and mailed to James Lester in Eddyville, Kentucky. It was probably postmarked at the New Orleans post office on the following day (June 15), but this type of circular datestamp (with large serif letters) is often difficult to read; in this instance, the day of the month is illegible. By the time this letter reached Nashville on or about June 17, the U.S. mail agent had already been withdrawn from the route between Nashville and Louisville (the last regular mail run was on June 12). On June 15, the Nashville postmaster, W. D. McNish, started to forward mail to Louisville by using the American Letter Express Company, who brought the mails across the lines and deposited them in the Louisville post office. This letter was among the first group of mail forwarded by express under this unusual arrangement.

Starting June 13, the Louisville postmaster, Dr. John J. Speed, decided to hold the northbound mail received from Nashville, rather than divert it to the U.S. Dead Letter Office. Speed sent a request to Washington D.C. for instructions on how to handle the mail that was rapidly accumulating. When this letter arrived in Louisville on June 19, it was held until Postmaster Speed received instructions from the U.S. Post Office Department, which were wired on June 24, advising him to "forward letters from the South for the loyal states as unpaid after removing postage stamps..." Since it was impractical to remove stamps from all of the letters (although apparently that was attempted at first), Postmaster Speed created the "Southn. Letter Unpaid" marking to explain to the addressees that the U.S. stamps applied by the senders were invalid for postage. The first group of mail to be released with the "Southn. Letter Unpaid" marking was actually the mail received at Louisville by private express between June 17 and 25, which included the cover offered here. This group was released on June 25, but none of these letters was postmarked with the Louisville datestamp.

There are 29 "Southn. Letter Unpaid" covers recorded in the *Special Routes* book (No. 25 has been deleted as a fake since publication), only two of which have Postmaster's Provisional stamps (both New Orleans). There is one other New Orleans provisional cover known that was addressed to Louisville, carried by American Letter Express from Nashville, but it bears only the "Due 3" marking and was not marked "Southn. Letter Unpaid" because it was delivered locally in Louisville.

Special Routes census no. SLU-14. Illustrated in National Philatelic Museum *1857 Perforation Centennial* and *Special Routes* (p. 17). Ex Worthington, Caspary, Lightner, Matz, Haas, Ishikawa, Walske and "DK" Collection. With 2010 P.F. certificate Estimate \$50,000-75,000



“SOUTHN. LETTER UNPAID” Marking on United States 3¢ Star Die Entire to France

- 225 ✉ **SOUTHN. LETTER UNPAID.** Blue two-line handstamp with matching “Louisville Ky. Jun. 27” double-circle datestamp on 3c Red on Buff Star Die entire (U27) **to Hautes Pyrennes, France**, “Bayou Chene La. Jun. 8” (1861) origination circular datestamp, “New York 3 Jul. 11” 3c debit datestamp also cancels entire, manuscript “Paid 15” obliterated by blue grid cancels, carried on the Cunarder *Africa*, departing New York on July 7, 1861, and arriving at Queenstown on July 13, red July 16 French double-circle arrival datestamp, bold “8” decimes due handstamp, four transit and receiving backstamps struck between July 16 and July 18.

VERY FINE. AN EXCEPTIONALLY CLEAR STRIKE OF THE “SOUTHN. LETTER UNPAID” HANDSTAMP OF LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY. ONE OF ONLY FIVE RECORDED COVERS WITH THIS MARKING ADDRESSED TO A FOREIGN DESTINATION.

The U.S. May 27, 1861, mail suspension order prohibited Federal post offices from forwarding southbound mail to Southern states in rebellion. However, northbound mail from the South continued to be sent to Louisville, Kentucky. Through June 6, northbound mails were forwarded to Louisville from Memphis or Nashville. From June 7 through 12, only the Nashville office forwarded mail to Louisville, and Louisville continued to forward mail north.

With the resignation of W. D. McNish as Nashville’s Federal postmaster on June 12 and the withdrawal of the U.S. mail agent from this route, Louisville held the mails still being sent north by the discontinued post office at Nashville. On June 24, Dr. John J. Speed, the postmaster at Louisville, was advised to forward letters from the South to the loyal states after *removing* postage. With approximately 5,000 such letters held at this date, Dr. Speed employed a more practical means of invalidating stamps by creating the “Southn. Letter Unpaid” handstamp. There are 29 “Southn. Letter Unpaid” covers recorded in the *Special Routes* book, including five foreign-bound covers, as follows:

- 1 **To Prussia**, Louisville June 27, three 10¢ No. 35, from St. Francisville La., ex Brown, J. D. Baker, Grunin, Ishikawa and Gross, offered in this sale as lot 226
- 2 **To France**, Louisville June 27, 3¢ U27, from Bayou Chene La., ex Wunsch and Myers (Sale 882, lot 2001), **the cover offered here**
- 3 **To France**, Louisville June 27, 3c and 12c Nos. 26 and 36B, from New Orleans, ex Shenfield, Sweet, Judd, Kilbourne and Walske (Sale 1119, lot 564)
- 4 **To France**, no Louisville datestamp, 3c and 12c Nos. 26 and 36B, from New Orleans to France, ex Antrim and Wishnietsky (Sale 1064, lot 23)
- 5 **To England**, Louisville July 11, 24c No. 37, from Petersburg Va., ex Matthies, Dr. Graves and Weill Brothers

Special Routes census no. SLU-5. Ex Wunsch and Myers. Signed Ashbrook. With 2004 P.F. certificate Estimate \$30,000-40,000



SUSPENSION OF UNITED STATES POSTAL ROUTES

The Only Recorded “SOUTH. LETTER UNPAID” Cover to Germany

226 ✉ **10c Green, Type V (35).** Three slightly overlapping singles, uncanceled at originating post office in St. Francisville in the West Feliciana Parish of Louisiana, “St. Francisville La. Jun. 8” (1861) circular datestamp and “10” in circle Confederate rate handstamp on buff cover addressed to Adolf Raphael in **Breslau, Prussia**, received at Louisville post office on or about June 14 and held by postmaster Dr. J. J. Speed pending instructions from U.S. Post Office Department, stamps cancelled by blue “**SOUTH. LETTER/ UNPAID**” **two-line handstamp**, matching blue “Louisville Ky. Jun. 27” double-circle datestamp with grid cancel struck over “10” rate, matching “30” in circle due handstamp for Prussian Closed Mail rate to Germany (based on postage affixed) but routed via Hamburg at New York foreign-mail office, part strike of “N. York Hamb. Pkt. 5 Jun. 29” 5c debit datestamp for 15c Bremen-Hamburg rate — carried from New York on Hamburg-American Line *Bavaria*, departing June 29, 1861, and arriving at Hamburg July 14 — large blue manuscript “6½” and “6½” blue handstamped rates in silbergroschen, Hamburg (July 14) and Breslau (July 15 and 16) backstamps, center 10c stamp has small negligible repair and cover with mended edge at top not affecting stamps or markings, top backflap removed

THE ONLY RECORDED “SOUTH. LETTER UNPAID” COVER TO GERMANY AND ONE OF FIVE ADDRESSED TO COUNTRIES OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES. AN OUTSTANDING ARTIFACT OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR.

The U.S. May 27, 1861, mail suspension order prohibited Federal post offices from forwarding southbound mail to Southern states in rebellion. However, northbound mail from the South continued to be sent to Louisville, Kentucky. Through June 6, northbound mails were forwarded to Louisville from Memphis or Nashville. From June 7 through 12, only the Nashville office forwarded mail to Louisville, and Louisville continued to forward mail north.

With the resignation of W. D. McNish as Nashville’s Federal postmaster on June 12 and the withdrawal of the U.S. mail agent from this route, Louisville held the mails still being sent north by the discontinued post office at Nashville. On June 24, Dr. John J. Speed, the postmaster at Louisville, was advised to forward letters from the South to the loyal states after *removing* postage. With approximately 5,000 such letters held at this date, Dr. Speed employed a more practical means of invalidating stamps by creating the “South. Letter Unpaid” handstamp. There are 29 “South. Letter Unpaid” covers recorded in the *Special Routes* book, including five foreign-bound covers, as follows:

- 1 **To Prussia**, Louisville June 27, three 10c No. 35, from St. Francisville La., ex Brown, J. D. Baker, Grunin, Ishikawa and Gross, **the cover offered here**
- 2 **To France**, Louisville June 27, 3c U27, from Bayou Chene La., ex Wunsch and Myers (Sale 882, lot 2001), the cover offered in this sale as lot 225
- 3 **To France**, Louisville June 27, 3c and 12c Nos. 26 and 36B, from New Orleans, ex Shenfield, Sweet, Judd, Kilbourne and Walske (Sale 1119, lot 564)
- 4 **To France**, no Louisville datestamp, 3c and 12c Nos. 26 and 36B, from New Orleans to France, ex Antrim and Wishnietsky (Sale 1064, lot 23)
- 5 **To England**, Louisville July 11, 24c No. 37, from Petersburg Va., ex Matthies, Dr. Graves and Weill Brothers

This cover was mailed from St. Francisville, Louisiana, on June 8, 1861, and reached Nashville after the regular mail route to Louisville had been terminated. It was brought across the lines by express and placed in the Louisville post office on or about June 14. It was among the thousands of letters from the South that had accumulated while Dr. Speed awaited instructions from Washington. Observing the 30c postage, the Louisville clerk applied a 30c handstamp, which was the Prussian Closed Mail rate for a half-ounce letter. However, the New York foreign-mail office disregarded the 30c marking and postage, and sent it on the Hamburg-American Line steamer for Hamburg. It was rated with a 5c debit marking for the U.S. share of postage, and in Germany the 6¼ silbergroschen markings were applied to indicate the total amount due.

Special Routes census no. SLU-4. Illustrated in Ashbrook *The United States Ten Cent Stamp of 1855-1857*, pp. 79-0, fig. 54; *The United States One Cent Stamp of 1851-1857*, 1938 edition, Vol. 2, pp. 33-34 and fig. 35D; *Bakers’ U.S. Classics*, p. 233; Graham “Postal History and Stamps: A Colorful Combination, 1847-1861,” *The American Philatelist*, April 1978.

Ex Brown, J. David Baker, Grunin, Ishikawa and Gross. With 1993 P.F. certificate.....
..... Estimate \$30,000-40,000

SUSPENSION OF UNITED STATES POSTAL ROUTES

Southbound Mail Diverted to U.S. Dead Letter Office



- 227 ☒ **Dead Letter Office P.O. Dept. No. — July 15, 1861.** Large bold oval datestamp with “DUE 3cts.” straightline, 3c Dull Red, Ty. III (26) tied by “Carlisle Ky. Jun. 10” circular datestamp on cover to Confederate Governor of Texas, Thomas Lubbock, at Houston, sender’s routing “Via Nashville Ten.”, **attempted through-the-lines mailing from Kentucky to Texas**, D.L.O. identifies sender at left “Thos. S. Morgan, Carlisle, Kentucky”, 3c minor corner crease

VERY FINE. AN EXTREMELY RARE NORTHERN DEAD LETTER OFFICE MARKING APPLIED TO SOUTHBOUND MAIL AFTER SUSPENSION OF THE MAILS. ONE OF ONLY A FEW RECORDED WITH THE LARGE OVAL DATESTAMP ON MAIL ORIGINATING IN KENTUCKY.

After Postmaster General Blair’s May 27 order prohibiting mail from the North to disloyal Southern States, the mails between Louisville and Nashville continued until June 12. This cover was sent by Thomas S. Morgan, later a captain in the Confederate army, to the Confederate Governor of Texas, but it was stopped — probably at Louisville — and sent to the Washington D.C. Dead Letter Office. The envelope was opened to identify the sender, then it was returned to him postage due.

Thomas S. Morgan was not related to John Hunt Morgan, the celebrated Confederate raider, but he is mentioned on page 193 of *Rebel Raider* by James A. Ramage (1986, The University Press of Kentucky). Thomas S. Morgan’s sister, Lucy Dorsey, visited him in a prison hospital at Camp Chase one day prior to John Hunt Morgan’s escape. Days later she wrote to her grandfather and used words suggesting a coded message of hope for Morgan’s safe journey home. As the historian Ramage observes, “There is no proof that Lucy aided the escape, but she may have delivered messages or money through her brother, who was not one of the escapees.”..... Estimate \$2,000-3,000

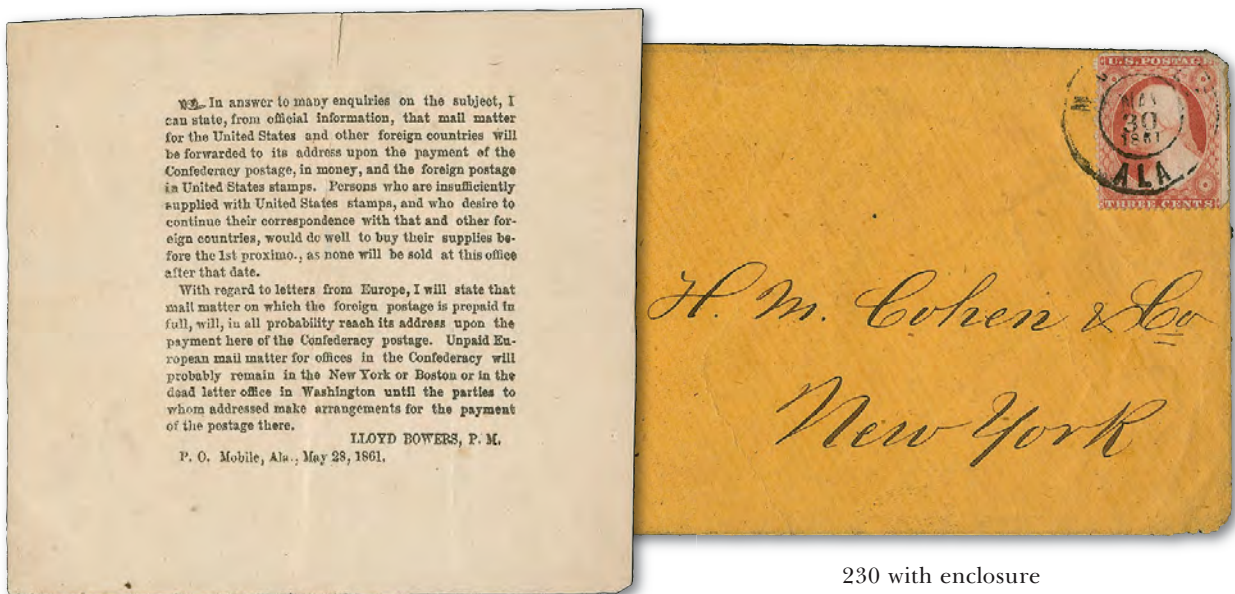
- 228 ☒ **1861 July 11—Suspended Mail Route to Fort Buchanan, Sent to U.S. Dead Letter Office.** “Corning N.Y. Jul. 11, 1861” circular datestamp on cover addressed to Orville G. Irvine in Fort Buchanan “Care of Boyle & Marshall Esq.”, signed and free franked by his father, U.S. Representative William Irvine, “**Dead Letter Office P.O. Dept. No. — Nov. 23, 1861**” oval datestamp (release date) struck on back and “DUE 3cts.” straightline, reduced at left, otherwise Very Fine, Fort Buchanan was burned and abandoned by Union troops in July 1861 — this might have been sent back from San Francisco (the Central Route was open in July 1861) or sent directly to the Dead Letter Office without traveling west—a unique Civil War use, ex Birkinbine Estimate \$1,000-1,500

SUSPENSION OF UNITED STATES POSTAL ROUTES



229

- 229 ☒ **SENT BACK TO ENGLAND/WITHOUT A REASON/FOR NON-DELIVERY.** Red three-line handstamp without frame perfectly struck by the British Post Office on blue legal-size cover to Charleston S.C., "Edinburgh JY 6 '61" origination datestamp, "New-York Am. Pkt. Jul. 24 48" debit datestamp, manuscript "d3" and "6" (crossed out) manuscript rates and "3 Cents" handstamp, London transit backstamp, some minor edge tears and nicks, an Extremely Fine strike of this rare marking, by the time this cover from England reached New York, the mail routes between North and South had been suspended and mail from foreign countries was returned, in England the three-line "Sent Back to England" handstamp was applied to returned letters Estimate \$1,000-1,500



230 with enclosure

- 230 ☒ **Mobile Ala. May 30, 1861.** Double-circle datestamp ties 3c Dull Red, Ty. III (26) on buff cover to New York City, with enclosed printed notice from Lloyd Bowers, the Mobile Postmaster, dated May 28, 1861, regarding prepayment of U.S. and Confederate postage on domestic and foreign letters, states (in part): "...mail matter for the United States and other foreign countries will be forwarded to its address upon payment of the Confederacy postage, in money, and the foreign postage in United States stamps...", a fascinating reference to the U.S. as a "foreign" country, edgewear causing rounded corner in stamp, still Very Fine, the makings of an outstanding exhibition page, ex Dr. Brandon..... Estimate \$750-1,000

SUSPENSION OF UNITED STATES POSTAL ROUTES

Mail Carried in Federal and Confederate Postal Systems



231

- 231 ☒ **“Turner’s Point Texas, June 19th”.** Manuscript postmark on blue folded letter datelined “Kaufman County Texas June 15th 1861” from a young man eager to join the Confederate army to his cousin at Clifton Mills in Breckinridge County in northwestern Kentucky, no indication of C.S.A. rate or prepaid postage, blue “Paducah Ky.” double-circle datestamp struck on three different days — Aug. 29, 30 and Sep. 3, 1861 — matching “Due 3” in oval, one strike crossed out, a second strike at upper right, minor wear along folds expertly reinforced

A REMARKABLE ACROSS-THE-LINES COVER FROM TEXAS, POSTMARKED AT PADUCAH ON THE EVE OF THE CONFEDERATE INVASION OF KENTUCKY AND THREE DAYS PRIOR TO FEDERAL OCCUPATION UNDER ULYSSES S. GRANT.

Kaufman County, Texas, lies just east of Dallas. Four days after the letter’s June 15 dateline, it was postmarked at Turner’s Point, also in Kaufman County. The letter made its way to the Mississippi River, probably by a courier, then it was carried up river to Paducah, Kentucky.

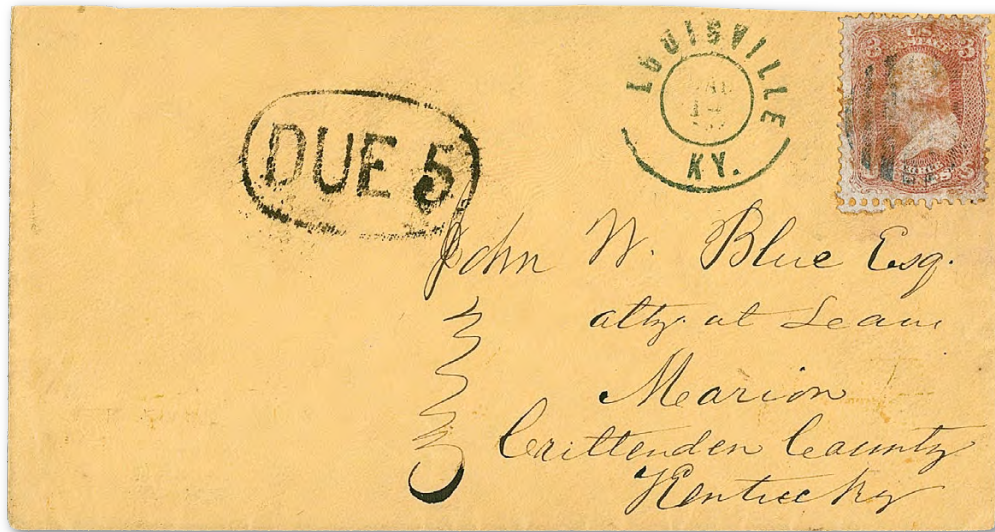
Although Kentucky remained neutral at this time, Paducah had strong pro-Southern elements, and its post office was closed by U.S. authorities on August 30. This letter was postmarked first on August 29, then again on August 30, and finally a third time on September 3, the day Confederate forces moved on Hickman and Columbus, Kentucky, which effectively ended the state’s neutrality policy.

On the morning of September 6, some 4,000 Confederate troops moved from Columbus toward Paducah with the intention of taking this key river port. However, Ulysses S. Grant entered Paducah that morning with a small detachment of troops and proclaimed Federal control. The Confederates were unaware of their own superior strength and turned back from Paducah after hearing of Grant’s occupation. To reassure citizens who were predominantly pro-Southern and deeply suspicious of the Union army’s presence, Grant issued an eloquent proclamation that earned him the people’s confidence and his superiors’ praise.

This cover was carried on the Memphis and Paducah Railroad, linking western Tennessee and western Kentucky. This route was not suspended until August 30. Very little mail was carried on this route, and very few covers survive.

Illustrated in *Special Routes* book (p. 18). Ex Gallagher and Walske..... Estimate \$3,000-4,000

SUSPENSION OF UNITED STATES POSTAL ROUTES



232

- 232 ☒ **3c Rose (65).** Cancelled by blue grid, matching “Louisville Ky. Jan. 18, 1862” double-circle datestamp, bold “**DUE 5**” C.S.A. rate in oval handstamp applied on arrival on buff cover to **Marion Kentucky**, stamp has minor gum stains, slightly reduced at top and small piece of flap missing, otherwise Very Fine, a rare example of mail exchanged between U.S. and Confederate post offices in Kentucky, Marion was in Crittenden County, an area occupied by Nathan Bedford Forrest’s troops — this cover from Louisville traveled through the U.S. mails but was marked “Due 5” for Confederate postage upon receipt at Marion — illustrated in Dietz book, ex Gallagher..... Estimate \$750-1,000

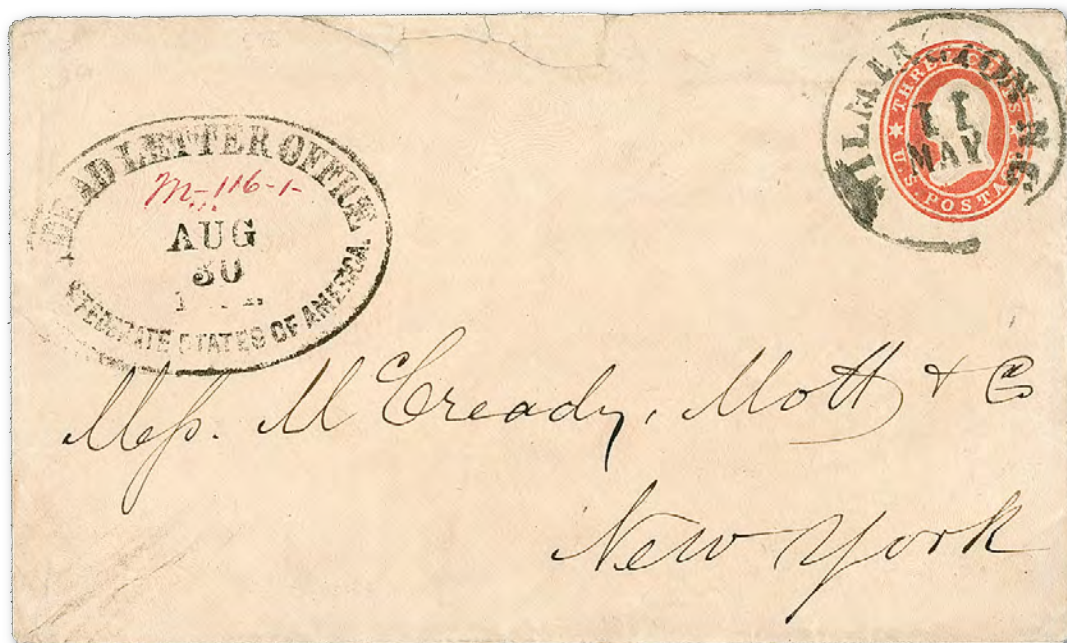


233

- 233 ☒ **Missouri to Confederate Arkansas.** 3c Red Nesbitt entire (U9) to a Dr. Snyder in Camden Ark., clear “Bolivar Mo. Apr. 30” (1861) circular datestamp and additional “**Camden Ark. Jun. 5**” circular datestamp with manuscript “*For. 5 due*” at left, waterstains at right, otherwise Fine, a very rare and unusual combination of U.S. and Confederate rates before and after the start of the Confederate postal system on June 1, 1861, the cover is not redirected to another post office so presumably the forwarding notation indicates that the U.S. 3c postage was not recognized in the Confederacy and that Dr. Snyder’s mail was held pending his return or a new address, ex Felton and Powell Estimate \$500-750

SUSPENSION OF UNITED STATES POSTAL ROUTES

Confederate States Dead Letter Office



234

234 ☒ **Dead Letter Office, Confederate States of America, Aug. 30, 1861.** Clear strike of oval date-stamp with magenta manuscript "M-116-1" record notation on 3c Red on Buff Star Die entire (U27) to New York City, "Wilmington N.C. May 11" (day inverted) circular datestamp clearly struck on embossed stamp, repaired opening tears at top

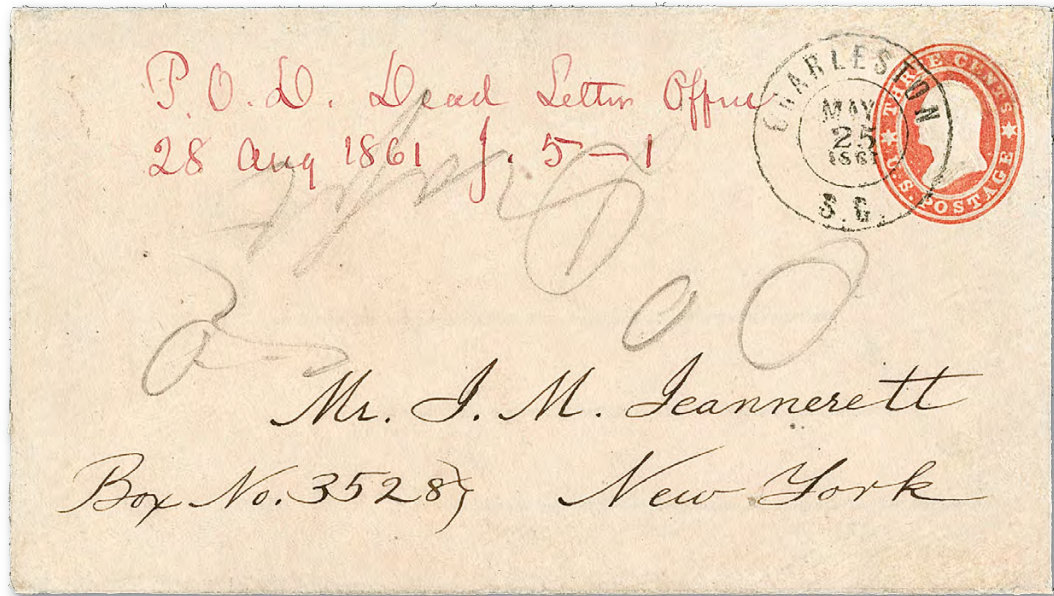
FINE APPEARANCE. A RARE EXAMPLE OF THE CONFEDERATE DEAD LETTER OFFICE HAND-STAMP ON A COVER DIVERTED AFTER THE MAIL ROUTE BETWEEN RICHMOND AND WASHINGTON D.C. WAS TERMINATED.

Northbound mail from the eastern Confederate States to the U.S. was normally carried via Richmond and Washington D.C. until May 23, 1861. The Federal military occupation of Alexandria, Virginia, closed this route on the evening of May 23, so northbound mail was diverted to the C.S.A. Dead Letter Office at Richmond from May 24 until June 1.

Fewer than ten examples of the C.S.A. Dead Letter Office marking (either type) are known. This cover is very unusual, because it originated in North Carolina *before* the state delegates voted for secession on May 20. It was mailed on May 11, well before the route between Richmond and Washington D.C. was closed. As a U.S. Post Office letter, it should not have been diverted to the C.S.A. Dead Letter Office. The Dead Letter Office marking is dated the day of release (August 30). Although earlier D.L.O. dates are recorded, the May 11 origin date is probably the earliest for a cover diverted to the C.S.A. Dead Letter Office.

Ex Judd and Dr. Brandon Estimate \$3,000-4,000

SUSPENSION OF UNITED STATES POSTAL ROUTES



235

- 235 ✉ **"P.O.D. Dead Letter Office, 28 Aug. 1861 J-5-1".** Confederate States Dead Letter Office marking and record number in bright red manuscript, "Charleston S.C. May 25, 1861" double-circle datestamp on 3c Red on Buff Star Die entire (U27) to J. M. Jeannerett in New York City, pencil "P.O. Draft" denoting contents which must have been returned to sender, expertly restored along edges with small part of double-circle datestamp drawn in
- VERY FINE APPEARANCE. AN EXCEEDINGLY RARE CONFEDERATE DEAD LETTER OFFICE COVER WITH THE MANUSCRIPT MARKING, WHICH WAS USED CONCURRENTLY WITH THE HAND-STAMPED OVAL FOR APPROXIMATELY TEN DAYS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE WAR.
- Once the mail routes between the U.S. and C.S.A. were suspended, northbound mail was diverted to the C.S.A. Dead Letter Office. Fewer than ten examples of the C.S.A. Dead Letter Office markings (handstamp or manuscript) are reported, all diverted to the D.L.O. between May 24 and June 1, 1861.
- Illustrated in *Special Routes* book (p. 12). Ex Calhoun Estimate \$2,000-3,000

Nashville, Tennessee. railroad depot, 1864, George N. Barnard, photographer
Photo credit: Library of Congress



EXPRESS MAIL ACROSS THE LINES
BEGINNING JUNE 15, 1861



EXPRESS MAIL ACROSS THE LINES BEGINNING JUNE 15, 1861

Adams Northbound Transitional Across-the-Lines Express Mail



236

- 236 ☒ **Adams Express Co. Vicksburgh, Miss. Jun. 11 (1861).** Red oval datestamp lightly inked but clearly struck on 3c Red on Buff Star Die entire (U27), bold strikes of Vicksburgh “PAID” straightline and “10” in circle handstamps, manuscript “Paid 2/- F. N. Hammett (?) PM” over embossed stamp, addressed to J. Watson Barr in Louisville Ky., Barr was a pro-Union abolitionist who later served as a U.S. Federal judge

VERY FINE. THE ONLY RECORDED EXAMPLE OF THE ADAMS EXPRESS COMPANY VICKSBURG OFFICE DATESTAMP AND A REMARKABLE SOUTH-TO-NORTH EXPRESS COVER WITH AN ENDORSEMENT OF THE VICKSBURG POSTAL CLERK.

Frank N. Hammett is listed in the 1860 Vicksburg city directory as a clerk in the post office. He later served as a sergeant in the Army of Northern Virginia, 48th Mississippi Regiment, Company G, and was among the officers who surrendered at Appomattox Court House in April 1865. This cover appears to be addressed and endorsed entirely in Hammett’s hand, including the “Paid 2/-” (two bits, or 25c) express rate notation. It is not known if Hammett was employed by the Adams Express Company.

This is the only Adams Express Company Vicksburg office cover recorded in the *Special Routes* census (N-PRE-22). Because it pre-dates the first Adams advertisements for across-the-lines service, it is classified as a Precursor period cover. However, the elements present in this cover — the Adams datestamp, C.S.A. and U.S. postage, and use across the lines from Nashville to Louisville — are no different than any of the covers dated onward from June 15. The 25c express charge included 10c C.S.A. postage and the Star Die entire paid the required U.S. postage, but this cover was carried entirely outside the mails.

Illustrated in *Special Routes* book (p. 35). Ex Shenfield, Judd and Dr. Brandon..... Estimate \$2,000-3,000

EXPRESS MAIL ACROSS THE LINES BEGINNING JUNE 15, 1861

Adams Southbound Transitional Across-the-Lines Express Mail



237

- 237 ☒ **From the Adams Express Company Louisville.** Large double-line triple-circle handstamp, mostly clear strike on 3c Red on Buff Star Die entire (U27) to Petersburg Va., full strike of “Adams Express Company Knoxville, Tenn. Jun. 19” (1861) oval datestamp, manuscript “2/-” (two bits, or 25c) express charge, sender’s routing “Tucker & Co., Louisville Ky.”, docketing on back with June 12, 1861 origin date, part of backflap torn away, slight edgewear

VERY FINE. THE EARLIEST RECORDED NORTH-TO-SOUTH ADAMS EXPRESS COVER AFTER SUSPENSION OF ALL GOVERNMENT MAILS. THIS IS ALSO THE FINEST OF THE FEW KNOWN EXAMPLES OF THE ADAMS LARGE TRIPLE-CIRCLE HANDSTAMP.

On June 15 the American Letter Express Co. advertised its through-the-lines service. On June 22 the Adams Express Co. and M. D. Whiteside advertised their competing express services. Examples of express covers carried across the lines by these companies prior to June 15 and 22 are evidence that service pre-dated the advertised commencement dates. This cover was mailed on June 12 and received at Knoxville on June 19, pre-dating the June 22 commencement date advertised by Adams. Obviously, Adams was moving letters between Louisville and Nashville earlier than announced in their North-South express ads.

The Adams messenger carrying this mail presumably traveled by railroad along a route from Louisville to Nashville, then to Knoxville, Bristol, Salem and finally arriving at Petersburg. The 25c express charge included 10c C.S.A. postage and the Star Die entire paid the required U.S. postage, but this cover was carried entirely outside the mails.

Special Routes census no. S-AD-1. Illustrated and described in Shenfield book (p. 19, 24). Ex Finney and Gallagher. With 1998 P.F. certificate Estimate \$2,000-3,000

EXPRESS MAIL ACROSS THE LINES BEGINNING JUNE 15, 1861

Adams Southbound Across-the-Lines Express Mail



238

- 238 ☒ **Adams Express Company, Great Eastern, Western & Southern Express Forwarders, New-York.** Large blue oval handstamp on backflap of 3c Red Star Die entire (U26) southbound to Rev. A. J. Leavenworth in Petersburg Va., blue “Adams Express Co. Nashville Jul. 7” and black “Adams Express Company, Knoxville Tenn. Jul. 8” oval datestamps, manuscript “2/-” (two bits, or 25c) express charge, blue crayon “13” (possibly indicating charges of 10c C.S.A. and 3c U.S. postage), receipt docketing “Prof. J. H. Agnew 1861 July”, bottom flap opened to show New York marking, small sealed tear at upper left

VERY FINE. AN EXTREMELY RARE COMBINATION OF ADAMS EXPRESS OFFICE MARKINGS — NEW YORK TO NASHVILLE TO KNOXVILLE — FOR ACROSS-THE-LINES EXPRESS SERVICE TO PETERSBURG, VIRGINIA.

Only a few covers are recorded with this combination of Adams office markings, which were applied in transit entirely outside the U.S. and Confederate postal systems. Adams also had the option of placing letters into the Nashville post office for delivery by regular Confederate mails.

The Adams Knoxville and New York ovals are extremely rare, and collectors should be aware that a number of clever fakes were created by John A. Fox (these fakes bear the David Cleage address, a known correspondence).

The addressee, Reverend Abner Johnson Leavenworth, was at this time the principal and proprietor of the Leavenworth Academy and Collegiate Seminary for Young Ladies.

Special Routes census no. S-AD-14. Ex Emerson, Brooks, Gallagher and Walske..... Estimate \$3,000-4,000



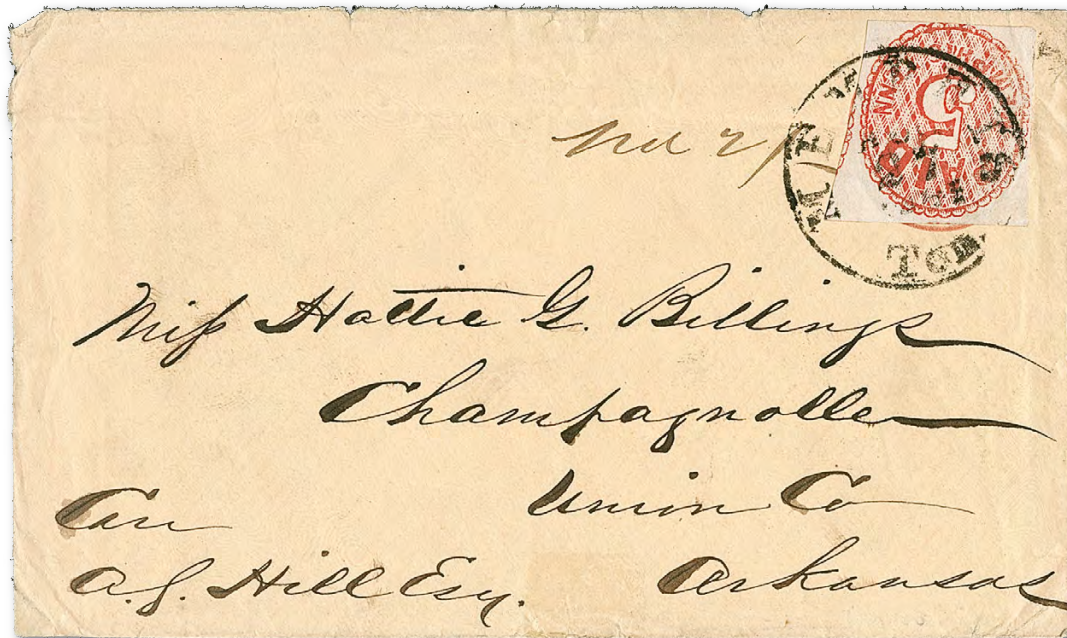
239

- 239 ✉ **Adams Ex. Co. * Louisville, Ky. * Jul. 30, 1861.** Clear strike of circular datestamp on 3c Red Star Die entire (U26) southbound to Mrs. Rebecca F. Worthington in care of Charles Worthington in Corpus Christi, Texas, black "Houston Tex. Aug. 20, 1861" circular datestamp and red "**Houston Tex. Paid 5**" provisional handstamp (40XU1) struck en route where Adams put the letter into the mails, with original letter enclosure dated July 24 from Rebecca Worthington's mother, who writes from "the pretty town of Pittsfield" but instructs her daughter to address letters to 37 Irving Place in New York City, the letter mentions the First Battle of Bull Run and expresses strong anti-war sentiment — the addressee's husband, Charles Worthington, was a Unionist living in Texas during the war

VERY FINE. THIS IS THE ONLY RECORDED ACROSS-THE-LINES EXPRESS COVER WITH THE HOUSTON TEXAS POSTMASTER'S PROVISIONAL HANDSTAMP.

Very few covers are recorded with Confederate provisionals stamps or markings used in conjunction with across-the-lines express service. This group includes the provisionals of Atlanta (handstamp), Houston (handstamp), Lynchburg (press-printed entire), Memphis (adhesive), Mobile (adhesive), Montgomery (handstamp), Nashville (adhesive and handstamp) and New Orleans (adhesive). This is the only recorded express cover with the Houston provisional marking, which was obviously applied en route.

Special Routes census no. S-AD-43 (illustrated on p. 54). Ex Brigham, Castillejos ("Camina"), Guggenheim and Walske Estimate \$5,000-7,500



240

- 240 ☒ **Memphis Tenn., 5c Red (56X2).** Large margins to just in, tied by "Memphis Ten. Aug. 27, 1861" circular datestamp **on 3c Pink on Buff entire (U35)** to Champagnolle Ark., adhesive covers design, **manuscript "Pd 2/-"** (two bits, or 25c) **express rate marking** at left indicating this cover was transmitted by express, some edgewear

FINE. A RARE CIVIL WAR EXPRESS COVER WITH A CONFEDERATE POSTMASTER'S PROVISIONAL ADHESIVE.

There is no indication of this cover's origin, but it is either an intra-Confederacy express use or a late North-to-South across-the-lines express use. In either case it entered the C.S.A. mails at Memphis. Express mail between the U.S. and C.S.A. was banned on August 26, 1861, by order of the U.S. Postmaster General, Montgomery Blair. The August 27 date in Memphis allows for a possible express use a few days earlier. A related cover to the same addressee at Champagnolle was offered in our sale of the Dr. Brandon collection (Sale 1073, lot 292). It is an Adams Southern Express Co. imprint cover with a letter to the same Hattie Billings from the express agent at Memphis, dated Sep. 15, 1861, which states that "communication with the North ceased entirely about one month since..."

Ex Clippert. With 1985 P.F. certificate..... Estimate \$2,000-3,000



241

- 241 ☒ **(Forwarded) by the Adams Express Co. from Bardstown, Ky.** Black on yellow label on back of 3c Red on Buff Star Die entire (U27) to Madison Court House Va., manuscript "2/-" (two bits, or 25c) express charge, pencil "10" C.S.A. rate with "Richmond Va. Jun. 24, 1861" circular datestamp and "Paid 10" in circle handstamp, manuscript docketing, opened for display, part of backflap and label torn away, small tear at upper right

VERY FINE APPEARANCE. THE ONLY RECORDED EXAMPLE OF THE ADAMS BARDSTOWN LABEL ON A THROUGH-THE-LINES EXPRESS COVER.

Accompanied by original letter enclosure, datelined at Bardstown, June 18, 1861, which requests payment to be sent "by mail or by Adams express" with the words "by mail" crossed out. The letter includes an eloquent expression of Kentucky's early position of neutrality: "Kentucky is not at war with you, and we hope never to be, but she will resist agressions, come whence they may. She will not lend her aid to subjugation. She wants peace and the foot that attempts to trample on her will find a thorny path...Govr. wants a Strong Guard & but few thinks he wants to catch Jef Davis."

Special Routes census no. S-AD-2. Ex Peters, Malpass and Gallagher. With 1998 P.F. certificate Estimate \$2,000-3,000

EXPRESS MAIL ACROSS THE LINES BEGINNING JUNE 15, 1861

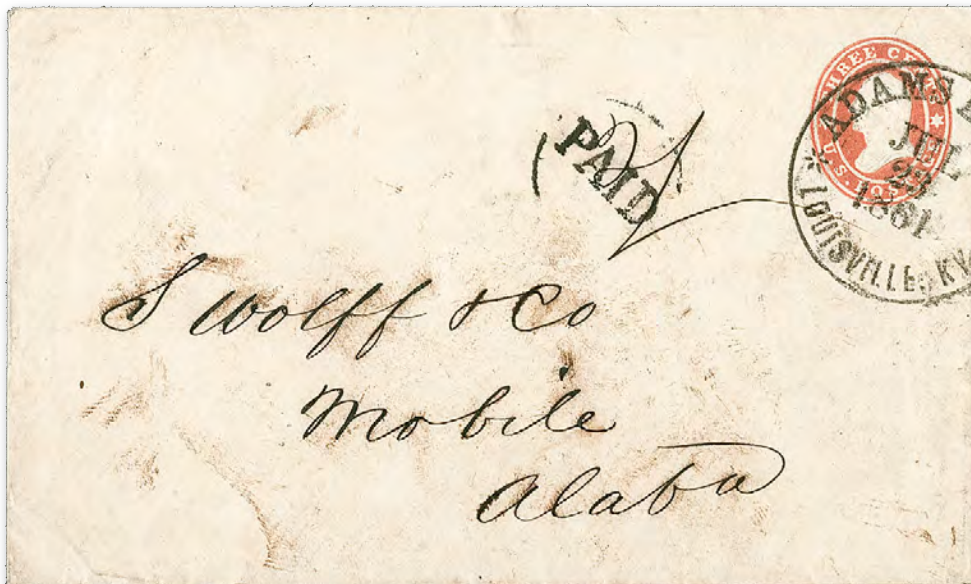


242

- 242 ☒ **Adams Ex. Co. * Louisville, Ky. * Jul. 30, 1861.** Bold strike of circular datestamp on south-bound 3c Red Star Die entire (U26) addressed to Statesville N.C., blue “**Adams Express Co. Augusta Ga. Aug. 3**” oval datestamp, manuscript “Pd 2/sf” express charge (two bits, or 25c), “Paid 10” straightline for C.S.A. postage, slightly reduced at left

FRESH AND VERY FINE. A BEAUTIFUL NORTH-TO-SOUTH THROUGH-THE-LINES EXPRESS COVER WITH THE SCARCE ADAMS AUGUSTA OFFICE OVAL.

Special Routes census no. S-AD-41. Ex Rosenberg Estimate \$1,500-2,000



243

- 243 ☒ **Adams Ex. Co. * Louisville, Ky. * Jul. 23, 1861.** Bold strike on 3c Red Star Die entire (U26) southbound to Mobile Ala., manuscript “2/-” (two bits, or 25c) express fee, “**Paid**” in circle handstamp applied at Mobile, slight toning, Fine and rare, only two southbound covers are recorded with the Mobile “Paid” handstamp (both addressed to Mobile, dated Louisville Jul. 23 and 24), they were apparently carried in the Adams network until they reached Mobile and then put into the post office there (and marked “Paid”), two northbound Adams covers with the Mobile “Paid” are also recorded, *Special Routes* census no. S-AD-30, ex Walske..... Estimate \$500-750

EXPRESS MAIL ACROSS THE LINES BEGINNING JUNE 15, 1861



- 244 ☒ **Adams Ex. Co. * Louisville, Ky. * Jul. 19, 1861.** Double-struck circular datestamp on 3c Red on Buff Star Die entire (U27) to New Orleans street address, partly clear "New Orleans La. Jul. 22, 1861" double-circle datestamp and "due 20" straightline handstamp for double Confederate postage due, skillfully sealed tear into due marking, part of backflap restored and minor cosmetic improvements around edges

VERY FINE APPEARANCE. A RARE ADAMS EXPRESS THROUGH-THE-LINES COVER INTO NEW ORLEANS. THIS IS THE ONLY RECORDED EXAMPLE OF THE NEW ORLEANS "DUE 20".

Special Routes census no. S-AD-26. Ex Knapp, Meroni and Dr. Skinner. Estimate \$2,000-3,000

- 245 ☒ **Adams Express Company N.Y.** Blue double-circle handstamp on 3c Red on Buff Star Die entire (U27) from New York City to Washington N.C., manuscript "35/1" express charge, "Wilmington N.C. 3 Jul." (1861) circular datestamp with "Paid" and "10" C.S.A. rate handstamps, original letter enclosed, datelined New York May 22, 1861, re-dated in red "Retd to RMB&Co. 22 June" indicating it was returned by the U.S.D.L.O. as undeliverable (because the postal route was suspended) and then re-mailed by Adams Express, letter regarding high prices for resin and references to blockade "Schr. Arlington not here yet" and "All goods here will be safe every way", long sealed tear across upper right corner, also some staining, this important postal artifact could easily be restored, it is the **only recorded express cover routed through the port of Wilmington N.C.** (the blockade was not initiated there until July 14), ex Emerson, Brooks, Knapp, Richey, Antrim, Hollowbush, Gallagher and Walske Estimate \$750-1,000

EXPRESS MAIL ACROSS THE LINES BEGINNING JUNE 15, 1861



246

- 246 ☒ **Adams Ex. Co. * Louisville Ky. * Aug. 6, 1861.** Readable strike ties 3c Dull Red, Ty. III (26) on 3c Red on Buff Star Die entire (U27) to Hokel N.C. (also known as Woodville), blue "Nashville Ten. Aug. 8, 1861" circular datestamp with matching "Paid" handstamp, manuscript "4/-" double express rate (four bits, or 50c), manuscript "20" at right for double 10c over-500 miles C.S.A. rate, stamp faulty, cover with some wear, Fine appearance and a rare double-rate across-the-lines express use, *Special Routes* census no. S-AD-50, ex Knapp and Boshwit Estimate \$750-1,000



247

- 247 ☒ **Adams Ex. Co. * Louisville Ky. * Aug. 12, 1861.** Circular datestamp cancels 3c Red on Buff Star Die entire (U27) to Newtown Va., blue "Nashville Ten. Aug. 14, 1861" circular datestamp with matching "Paid" and manuscript "20" rate (double 10c rate over-500 miles), small tear at right, trivial edgewear, Very Fine, only a few across-the-lines express covers are known with the double Confederate rate, *Special Routes* census no. S-AD-61, ex Wiseman and Boshwit, with 1982 P.F. certificate Estimate \$1,000-1,500

EXPRESS MAIL ACROSS THE LINES BEGINNING JUNE 15, 1861



248



249

- 248 ✉ **The Adams Express Co. Boston Aug. 2 (1861).** Clearly struck circular datestamp and “Paid J.W.R.” double-circle with manuscript “25”, the Paid marking applied at Boston to indicate prepayment of 25c express charge on 3c Red Star Die entire (U26) southbound to Turpin & Yarbrough in Richmond Va., “Adams Ex. Co. * Louisville, Ky. Aug. 6, 1861” circular datestamp, blue “Paid” (on front and back), matching “10” C.S.A. rate handstamp applied at Nashville but no Nashville circular datestamp, waterstains, reduced at left and small mended corner at bottom right

FINE. ONE OF THREE ACROSS-THE-LINES EXPRESS COVERS WITH THE ADAMS BOSTON OFFICE DATESTAMP.

The *Special Routes* census lists only three across-the-lines covers from Boston (census nos. S-AD-18, 54 and 66). The addressees, Turpin & Yarbrough, were partners in a tobacco company in Richmond and owned the warehouse that was used as the 2nd Alabama Hospital, located at the southwest corner of 25th and Franklin Streets.

Special Routes census no. S-AD-54. Ex Brandebury, Knapp, Simon and Walske..... Estimate \$2,000-3,000

- 249 ✉ **Adams Express Co. Philadelphia Pa. Aug. 12 (1861).** Well-struck red circular datestamp on 3c Red on Buff Star Die entire (U27) to Col. Daniel Ruggles at Fredericksburg Va., blue “Nashville Ten. Aug. 19, 1861” circular datestamp, matching “Paid” and “10” handstamps for Confederate rate

VERY FINE. ONE OF THE FINEST OF THE SEVEN RECORDED COVERS WITH THE ADAMS EXPRESS COMPANY’S PHILADELPHIA OFFICE MARKING.

The *Special Routes* census records only seven Adams Philadelphia office datestamps on southbound through-the-lines covers. Four of the seven were carried very late in the time period that private express mail was permitted, between August 12-19. This cover and the example offered in our sale of the Dr. Brandon collection (Sale 1087) are the two finest recorded.

Special Routes census no. S-AD-69. Ex Sloane, Ward, Everett and Dr. Morris..... Estimate \$2,000-3,000

EXPRESS MAIL ACROSS THE LINES BEGINNING JUNE 15, 1861

Conjunctive Use of Wells, Fargo & Company and Adams Express Company
for Through-the-Lines Service from California



250

- 250 ☒ **Wells, Fargo & Co. Paid.** Red frank on **10c Green Nesbitt entire (U15)** originating in California and addressed to **Atlanta Ga.**, blue “Paid” in oval handstamp and pencil “*Thro’ Adams Express*” applied by Wells, Fargo & Co. agent, entered C.S.A. mails with blue “Nashville Ten. Aug. 25, 1861” circular datestamp with matching “Paid” and “5” rate handstamps, missing backflap and some edgewear and soiling

VERY FINE APPEARANCE. ONE OF TWO RECORDED WELLS, FARGO & CO. FRANKED ENTIRES TO THE CONFEDERATE STATES WITH CONJUNCTIVE SERVICE WITH ADAMS EXPRESS. AN OUTSTANDING COVER LINKING TRANSCONTINENTAL AND NORTH-SOUTH THROUGH-THE-LINES EXPRESSES.

This was carried by Wells, Fargo & Co. from San Francisco to New York City via Panama. It was then handed over to Adams Express Co. for transit to Louisville and Nashville, where it entered the Confederate mails on August 25, 1861. Fewer than five Wells, Fargo & Co. entires are known used to the Confederacy and this is one of only two showing conjunctive service with Adams Express (see Sale 846, lot 2444 for the other, which realized \$13,500 hammer in our 2002 Rarities sale).

Special Routes census no. S-AD-73. Ex Dr. Roser, Gallagher and Rudy.... Estimate \$7,500-10,000

EXPRESS MAIL ACROSS THE LINES BEGINNING JUNE 15, 1861

Adams Northbound Express Cover to ex-President James Buchanan
with Nashville Vigilance Committee Censor Marking



- 251 ☒ **Adams Ex. Co. * Louisville, Ky. * Aug. 7, 1861.** Clear strike of circular datestamp over red and blue 8-Star Confederate Flag Patriotic design (F8-9) on cover **addressed to ex-President James Buchanan** at Lancaster Pa., 3c Dull Red, Ty. III (26) tied by blue grid cancel, matching "Louisville Ky. Aug. 7, 1861" double-circle datestamp, backflap with **manuscript censor's mark** "Opened by Confederate States Vigilance Committee at Nashville Tenn.", some residue of adhesive and traces of docketing that have been cleaned from lower left corner, under ultraviolet light the docketing notation appears to read "Aug. 3, 1861/General [Briggs?]/12 Aug. Recd.", flap trimmed slightly and opened for display

VERY FINE. A UNIQUE COVER COMBINING A RARE 8-STAR CONFEDERATE FLAG DESIGN WITH ADAMS EXPRESS THROUGH-THE-LINES CARRIAGE AND CENSORSHIP BY CONFEDERATE AUTHORITIES IN NASHVILLE.

The eighth star in this flag design represents the number of Confederate States from May 7 to May 18, 1861, and the F8-9 design is a rarity by itself. This is the only recorded 8-Star Flag cover carried by Adams Express, as well as the only recorded example of this censor marking on an Adams cover.

The traces of docketing indicate an August 3, 1861, origin date, which leaves four days between mailing and arrival in Louisville. The delay was probably due to censorship by the Vigilance Committee in Nashville. In western and central Tennessee the fear of pro-Union activism led to the formation of several local Committees of Safety and Vigilance from 1860 to 1862. They emerged as early as the 1860 election. When the war began, the committees set up a spy system, intercepted mail, inspected luggage, forced the enlistment of men into the Confederate Army, confiscated private property, and lynched Unionists. Even ex-President Buchanan's mail was subjected to censorship.

Special Routes census no. N-AD-57. Ex Freeland, Myers and Rudy. With 2004 P.F. certificate.....
..... Estimate \$10,000-15,000

EXPRESS MAIL ACROSS THE LINES BEGINNING JUNE 15, 1861

Northbound Adams Express Across-the-Lines Cover with
Nashville Postmaster's Provisional and United States 3¢ 1857 Issue



252

- 252 ☒ **Nashville Tenn., 5c Dark Carmine (61X2).** Large margins on two sides, others ample to touching, tied by blue "Adams Express Co. Nashville Aug. 16" oval datestamp on "**The Adams Express Company**" imprinted buff cover to Providence R.I., from the Knowles correspondence, **South-to-North through-the-lines express use**, manuscript "*Paid 2/-*" (two bits, or 25c) express fee applied by Adams Nashville office, **3c Dull Red, Ty. III (26)** affixed at Adams Louisville office (slightly overlapping 5c) and tied by blue "Louisville Ky. Aug. 18" double-circle datestamp and duplex grid cancel, "Adams Ex. Co. * Louisville, Ky. * Aug. 17, 1861" circular datestamp, 5c has slight corner crease and tiny sealed tear

VERY FINE. ONE OF SIX RECORDED COVERS WITH THE 5-CENT NASHVILLE POSTMASTER'S PROVISIONAL USED IN COMBINATION WITH UNITED STATES POSTAGE.

Very few covers are recorded with Confederate provisional stamps or markings used in conjunction with across-the-lines express service. This group includes the provisionals of Atlanta (handstamp), Houston (handstamp), Lynchburg (press-printed entire), Memphis (adhesive), Mobile (adhesive), Montgomery (handstamp), Nashville (adhesive and handstamp) and New Orleans (adhesive).

This South-to-North express cover is one of six recorded with the 5c Nashville adhesive provisional and U.S. stamps used together. Five are listed in the *Special Routes* book — census nos. S-AD-38, N-AD-48, 73 (offered here), 81 and 83. A sixth cover came to light in recent years, which has a "The Southern Express Company" oval handstamp (both the marking and the cover were unknown to the authors at the time the *Special Routes* book was published). In addition to the 5c covers, there are three Nashville 10c provisional combinations carried by Adams (S-AD-44, 45 and 46). Adams was required to pay Confederate postage, but letters never actually entered the mails at Nashville.

Special Routes census no. N-AD-73. Illustrated in Shenfield book. Ex Shenfield, Gallagher and Rudy. With 2004 P.F. certificate..... Estimate \$10,000-15,000

EXPRESS MAIL ACROSS THE LINES BEGINNING JUNE 15, 1861

Northbound Adams Express Across-the-Lines Mail
from a Union Prisoner of War Captured at the First Battle of Bull Run



253

- 253 ☒ **Adams Ex. Co. * Louisville, Ky. * Aug. 7, 1861.** Clear strike of circular datestamp on buff cover **from Private Graves, a Union prisoner at Ligon's Tobacco Warehouse in Richmond Va.** to his mother, Mrs. Julia B. Graves, in Vernon Vt., **3c Dull Red, Ty. III (26)**, straddle-pane margin at left, affixed at origin and tied by "Richmond Va. (date?) 1861" circular datestamp, Richmond "Paid 10" in circle C.S.A. rate handstamp at right, given to Adams Express and carried to Louisville where it entered the U.S. mails, **a second 3c Dull Red, Ty. III (26)** was required and affixed partly over "Paid 10", tied by blue grid cancel with matching "Louisville Ky. Aug. 7, 1861" double-circle datestamp, with original letter enclosure datelined "*Richmond Va. July 24th 1861*", reduced at right, lefthand 3c stamp faulty

A VERY EARLY PRISONER-OF-WAR COVER FROM A UNION SOLDIER CAPTURED AT THE FIRST BATTLE OF BULL RUN AND HELD AT LIGON'S TOBACCO WAREHOUSE IN RICHMOND. ONLY THREE ACROSS-THE-LINES PRIVATE EXPRESS COVERS FROM PRISONERS ARE RECORDED — ALL NORTHBOUND FROM UNION CAPTIVES IN THE CONFEDERATE PRISON AT RICHMOND.

The enclosed letter is written in pencil (as is the address on the cover) and datelined "*Richmond Va. July 24th 1861*". It is a four-page well-written account of Private Graves's capture three days earlier at the First Battle of Bull Run ("*the terrible battle of Manassas*"). Private Graves was captured by Confederate cavalry when he and another soldier were carrying a wounded comrade and fell behind the retreating Union army.

This and two other covers are the earliest examples of mail sent from Ligon's Tobacco Warehouse in Richmond, where Union captives from First Manassas were held by Confederates. The three covers are *Special Routes* census nos. N-AD-53 (Richmond Aug. 3, Louisville Aug. 6, ex Dr. Brandon, Siegel Sale 1087, lot 59); N-AD-55 (letter dated July 24, Richmond date unclear, Louisville Aug. 7, the cover offered here); and N-AD-56 (Richmond Aug. 4, Louisville Aug. 7, Siegel Sale 1151, lot 1844). The July 24 letter in this envelope provides a definite date of origin. The three covers were apparently postmarked on at least two different days at the Richmond post office.

Illustrated and described in detail in Antrim book (p. 112) and Ashbrook's *Special Service* (pp. 250-252). *Special Routes* census no. N-AD-55 (illustrated on p. 64). Ex Chase, Finney, Antrim and Walske Estimate \$3,000-4,000

EXPRESS MAIL ACROSS THE LINES BEGINNING JUNE 15, 1861



254



255

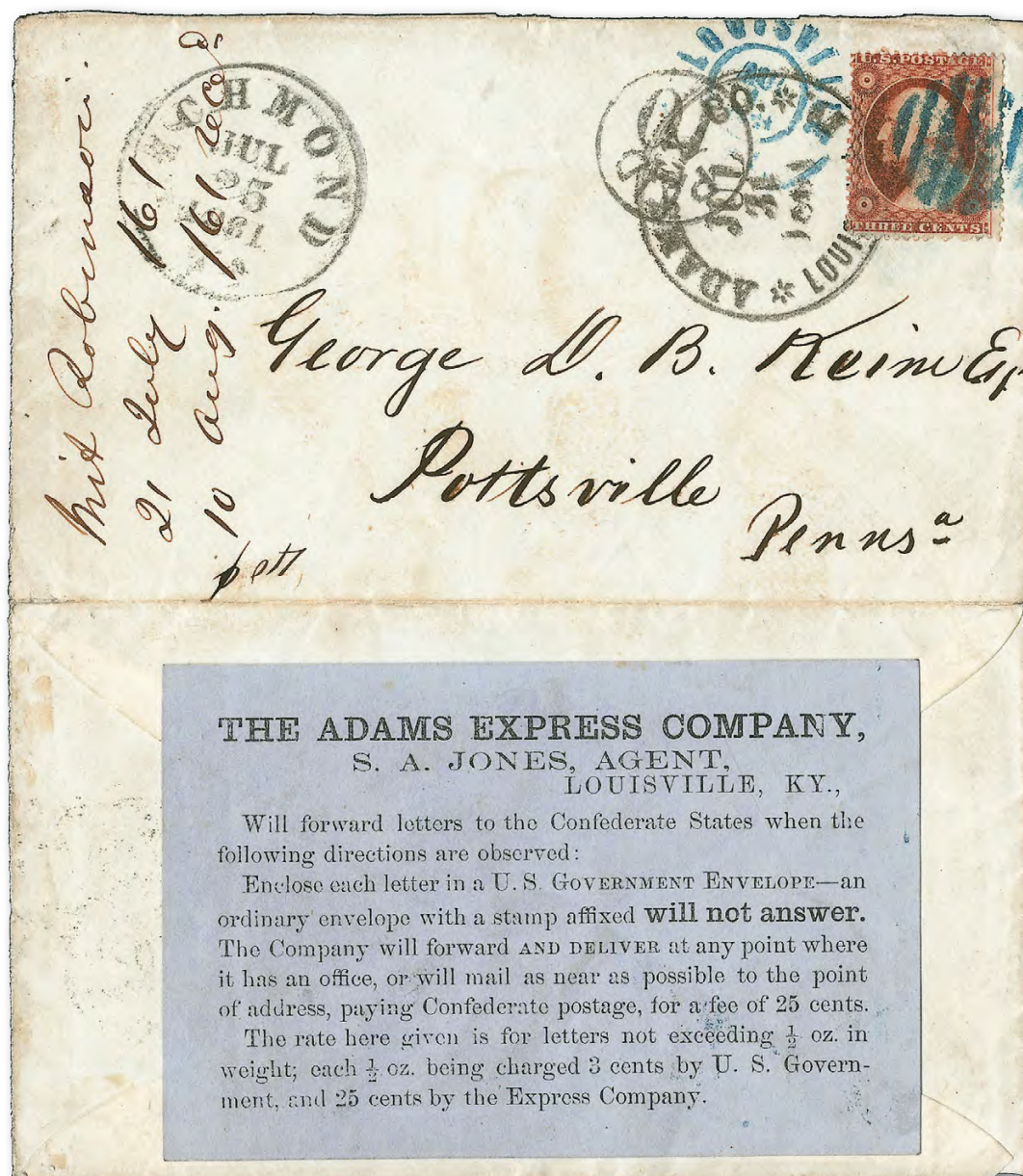
- 254 ☒ **Adams Express Co. Nashville Jul. 8 (1861).** Partly clear strike of blue oval datestamp on 3c Red Star Die entire (U26) northbound to Gilmanston N.H., bold strike of "Adams Ex. Co. * Louisville, Ky. Jul. 10 [01] 1861" circular datestamp, manuscript "2/- C.H.P." express charge (two bits, or 25c) — "C.H.P." are the initials of Charles H. Phelps, the express agent in Augusta, who was later prosecuted in Confederate District Court in Savannah for transporting letters in violation of the law — "PAID 10" straightline handstamp applied at Augusta to indicate C.S.A. postage paid, blue crayon "23" of uncertain meaning, Very Fine, an attractive across-the-lines express cover, *Special Routes* census no. N-AD-13, ex Everett and Walske Estimate \$1,000-1,500

- 255 ☒ **Adams Express Co. Nashville Aug. 8 (1861).** Blue oval datestamp on folded letter datelined "Lynchburg Va. Aug. 5, 1861", to New York City, black "PAID/10" C.S.A. rate handstamp applied at Lynchburg, blue crayon "2/-" express charge (two bits, or 25c), re-stated in manuscript "Paid 2/c", first **3c Dull Red, Ty. III (26)** tied by "Adams Ex. Co. Louisville, Ky." circular datestamp, invalid at Louisville and covered by a **second 3c stamp**, cancelled by blue grid with matching "Louisville Ky. Aug. 10, 1861" double-circle datestamp, letter regarding business affairs but also contains reference to recent battles and Adams Express, minor wear and splits along folds, top stamp with some rough perfs at top

VERY FINE AND EXTREMELY RARE THROUGH-THE-LINES EXPRESS USE FROM LYNCHBURG, VIRGINIA. ONLY THREE COVERS FROM LYNCHBURG ARE RECORDED.

Only two other covers from Lynchburg sent north by Adams Express are recorded in the *Special Routes* census (N-AD-75 and N-PRE-23, Sale 801, lot 72). The "Paid 10" handstamp indicates prepayment of Confederate postage from Lynchburg to Nashville. From there Adams Express carried the letter to Louisville, where it was franked with valid postage and sent in the Federal mails to New York City. The 3c stamp affixed at Lynchburg was not accepted for postage.

Special Routes census no. N-AD-58. Ex Grunin, Gallagher, "Sevenoaks" and Schwartz Estimate \$2,000-3,000



256

- 256 ☒ **Adams Ex. Co. * Louisville, Ky. * Jul. 31, 1861.** Boldly struck circular datestamp on cover to George D. B. Keim in Pottsville Pa., "Richmond Va. Jul. 25, 1861" circular datestamp, Richmond "Paid 10" in circle C.S.A. rate handstamp at right, given to Adams Express and carried to Louisville where it entered the U.S. mails, **3c Dull Red, Ty. III (26)** affixed at Adams office in Louisville (over their datestamp) and tied by blue "Louisville Ky. Aug. 1, 1861" double-circle datestamp and matching blue grid cancel, **Adams Express instruction label on back** in black on blue-gray with rates for sending letters to the Confederate States, affixed at Louisville, receipt docketing "*Mit Robinson, 21 July /61, 10 Aug. /61 recd*", there is a small manuscript "40c" notation upside down at the bottom of the cover, opened on three sides for display

VERY FINE. ONE OF FIVE RECORDED ADAMS EXPRESS COVERS WITH THE INSTRUCTION LABEL FOR MAILING LETTERS TO THE CONFEDERATE STATES. ESPECIALLY DESIRABLE WITH THE 3-CENT 1857 STAMP.

Special Routes census no. N-AD-41. Ex Dr. Brandon Estimate \$2,000-3,000



257

- 257 ☒ **Adams Express Co. Charlotte N.C. Jul. 8 (1861).** Lightly inked strike of red oval datestamp ("Charlotte, N.C." is faint but readable) and bold "Adams Ex. Co. * Louisville, Ky. * Jul. 13, 1861" circular datestamp on **3c Red on Buff Nesbitt entire (U10)** northbound to Commodore Robert F. Stockton in care of railroad manager William H. Gatzmer in Philadelphia, **3c Dull Red, Ty. III (26)**, bright color and choice centering, tied by blue grid cancel with matching "Louisville Ky. Jul. 14, 1861" circular datestamp, blue "Paid" and "10" handstamp for C.S.A. rate (U.S. stamp affixed over "10"), express agent's manuscript "Pd r/S/B" coded rate notation, sealed tear at top left

FINE. THIS IS THE ONLY RECORDED EXAMPLE OF THE ADAMS EXPRESS COMPANY CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA, OFFICE HANDSTAMP AND, FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF A POSTAL STATIONERY COLLECTOR, A RARE ACROSS-THE-LINES EXPRESS USE OF THE NESBITT ENTIRE.

The addressee, Commodore Robert F. Stockton, was a delegate to the unsuccessful Peace Conference of 1861 that attempted to settle the secession crisis; instead the American Civil War began later that year. In 1863 he was appointed to command the New Jersey militia when the Confederate Army invaded Pennsylvania. He died in 1866.

Special Routes census no. N-AD-19 (illustrated on p. 46). Ex Shenfield (and illustrated in his book, p. 22), Simon and Walske. Shenfield note on back "Only example known of Charlotte Adams office. Never saw another 1855 envelope used this way". Accompanied by a 1942 *Stamps* article by Lawrence L. Shenfield announcing the discovery of this cover. Estimate \$2,000-3,000

EXPRESS MAIL ACROSS THE LINES BEGINNING JUNE 15, 1861



258

259



- 258 ☒ **Adams Ex. Co. * Louisville, Ky. * Aug. 14, 1861.** Circular datestamp ties **3c Dull Red, Ty. III (26)** on **censored** folded letter from the Rives correspondence to New York City, blue "Charlottesville Va. Jul. 31, 1861" double-circle datestamp, matching "Paid" and "10" handstamps, 3c cancelled by Adams and treated as **invalid postage**, second 3c applied at Louisville and tied by blue "Louisville Ky. Aug. 15, 1861" double-circle datestamp and grid cancel, right stamp with replaced lower left corner, cover with small edge tears

FINE AND RARE EXAMPLE OF CENSORSHIP BY THE ADAMS EXPRESS AGENT OF CIVILIAN MAIL BETWEEN SOUTHERN AND NORTHERN CORRESPONDENTS.

This interesting pro-Confederate letter opens with comments on reported unreliability of American Letter Express and difficulty sending letters. The writer also describes watching the Battle of First Manassas. The last portion of the letter has been **censored** by being crossed out with squiggles and writing in a different pen (some ink bleed-through to front). The writer's reaction to the censorship in the letter can be found in the sister cover offered in the following lot, including "I do not like the espionage of Adams Express". The opening of mail, for censorship and espionage purposes, was a sore point with the civilian population. This reference to Adams Express opening and censoring mail is a significant contemporary account.

Special Routes census no. N-AD-66. Ex Gallagher. With 2005 C.S.A. certificate Estimate \$2,000-3,000

- 259 ☒ **American Letter Express.** Another folded letter from the Rives correspondence, datelined "Charlottesville Va. Aug. 10, 1861" to New York City, carried through-the-lines to Louisville (this is the inner letter), **3c Rose (65)** tied by blue "Louisville Ky. Aug. 22" double-circle datestamp and grid, the writer refers to the letter offered in the previous lot: "I do not like the espionage of Adams Express — its dunderheaded agt. here undertook to erase certain portions of my last letter to you as contra band. You will therefore please answer me under cover to 'American Letter Express Company' Louisville Ky. enclosing 15c for postage which you will find herewith." minor wear and edge tears

VERY FINE AND RARE THROUGH-THE-LINES EXPRESS COVER BEARING POSTAGE OF THE 1861 ISSUE. THIS WAS POSSIBLE FOR ONLY A FEW DAYS IN LATE AUGUST, 1861. ALSO AN OUTSTANDING CONTEMPORARY ACCOUNT OF FRUSTRATION OVER CENSORSHIP OF CIVILIAN MAIL.

This letter was posted on August 22, four days before the August 26 prohibition of through-the-lines express mail. Through-the-lines express covers bearing 1861 Issue stamps are very rare as there was less than a one-week window from the date of issue to the prohibition. The *Special Routes* census records only three such covers with 1861 Issue stamps.

Special Routes census no. N-AX-12. Ex Knapp, MacBride, Roser and Gallagher Estimate \$1,000-1,500



260

- 260 ☒ **Adams Express Co. Nashville, Jul. 25 (1861).** Mostly clear strike of blue oval datestamp, pencil "Ex B/DH Alva" (Express Business) notation on blue folded letter from James E. Saunders (an aide and personal friend to General Nathan Bedford Forrest) to "The Agent of Adams Express, Louisville, Kentucky", datelined "Nashville July 24/61", the writer is inquiring about the status of "several Liverpool letters...forwarded by Adams Express to Messrs. Fowler & Stanard of Mobile by way of Louisville, and have not yet been received.", the Adams agent in Louisville, S. A. Jones, replied on July 25, "We forwarded a large Liverpool & think there were several letters for the address which you enquire about. Letters are not detained at this point", evidently put inside another envelope and mailed to James E. Saunders in Courtland Ala. as requested

VERY FINE. AN EXTREMELY RARE ADAMS EXPRESS COMPANY COVER CARRIED ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS BETWEEN OFFICES IN NASHVILLE AND LOUISVILLE.

Special Routes census no. N-AD-31. Ex Solomon, Birkinbine and Walske ... Estimate \$1,500-2,000



261

- 261 ✉ **12c Black, Plate 3 (36B).** Tied by blue grid cancel, matching “Louisville Ky. Jul. 12, 1861” double-circle datestamp on folded cover from Puig Brothers in New Orleans to Galloway, Casado & Teller in New York City, clear strike of “Adams Ex. Co. * Louisville, Ky. * Jul. 12, 1861” circular datestamp, minor edgewear and cosmetic improvements to top edge to remove stains from “archival” tape (not affecting stamp)

VERY FINE. ONE OF THREE RECORDED QUADRUPLE-RATE ADAMS EXPRESS COMPANY COVERS WITH THE 12-CENT 1857-60 ISSUE.

The *Special Routes* census lists three across-the-lines express covers with the 12c 1857-60 Issue. Two are quadruple 3c rates with a single 12c stamp (N-AD-17 and N-AD-32). The third is the iconic cover addressed to France with the 12c used with other 1857 Issue values (N-AD-65, ex Grunin, Martin, Schwartz and Gross).

Special Routes census no. N-AD-17. Ex “J&J” and Dr. Brandon. With 1989 P.F. certificate Estimate \$3,000-4,000



262 front and back

EXPRESS MAIL ACROSS THE LINES BEGINNING JUNE 15, 1861

The Only Recorded Across-the-Lines Express Cover to Germany

- 262 ✉ **30c Orange (38).** Cancelled by blue grid with matching “Louisville Ky. Aug. 13, 1861” duplex double-circle datestamp on folded cover **from New Orleans to Bremen, Germany**, well-struck “**Adams Ex. Co. * Louisville, Ky. * Aug. 12, 1861**” circular datestamp on back, blue oval handstamp applied by Pandorf & Co. in New Orleans, sender’s routing instructions “*Per Adams Express Co. to New York, per first steamer via Liverpool or Southampton*” and “*paid in full*”, manuscript “60/1” rate notation at upper left — 25c express fee plus postage, which was apparently calculated at 35c in the Adams New Orleans office — red “New York Am. Pkt. 7 Paid Aug. 17” 7c credit datestamp, red boxed “Aachen Franco” transit handstamp, missing side flaps but all markings are intact

VERY FINE. THE ONLY RECORDED USE OF THE 30-CENT 1860 ISSUE ON A COVER THAT WAS CARRIED ACROSS THE LINES BY EXPRESS AND THE ONLY RECORDED THROUGH-THE-LINES EXPRESS COVER TO GERMANY.

This cover was posted from Confederate New Orleans and is franked to pay the 30c rate via Prussian Closed Mail. It was datestamped August 12 by Adams Express Company in Louisville, ten days prior to demonetization of the old stamps. The 30c stamp was probably applied at the Adams office in Louisville.

The *Special Routes* census records five foreign-bound across-the-lines express covers in the June 15-August 26 period, including three to France, one to Germany and one to Switzerland. This is the only cover to Germany and the only 30c cover among the five recorded.

Special Routes census no. N-AD-61. Ex Grunin and DuPuy. With 2011 P.F. certificate
..... Estimate \$10,000-15,000



EXPRESS MAIL ACROSS THE LINES BEGINNING JUNE 15, 1861

The Only Recorded Across-the-Lines Express Cover to Switzerland

263 ✉ **24c Gray Lilac (37).** Used with **1c Blue, Ty. V (24)** and **10c Green, Ty. V (35)**, tied by blue grid cancels and matching "Louisville Ky. Aug. 20" (1861) double-circle datestamp on blue folded letter datelined "*New Orleans La. 13 August 1861*" **from the Confederate State of Louisiana to St. Gall, Switzerland, by across-the-lines express**, sender's routing "*Per First Steamer*" and pencil "*Prus. Clos. Mail 35*" (probably applied by express office in Louisville) partly covered by stamps, another pencil notation beneath stamps is difficult to read but might be an express notation, lightly struck red New York transit datestamp (Aug. 24) at right and red manuscript "12" credit, red framed "Aachen Franco" transit handstamp of Sep. 7, magenta manuscript rate at lower left for German transit, various transit and receiving backstamps

VERY FINE. A UNIQUE USE OF THIS COLORFUL COMBINATION OF 1857-60 ISSUE STAMPS TO PAY THE 35-CENT PRUSSIAN CLOSED MAIL RATE ON A LETTER TO SWITZERLAND, CARRIED ACROSS THE LINES BY EXPRESS FROM CONFEDERATE NEW ORLEANS TO LOUISVILLE AND THEN BY UNITED STATES MAIL TO SWITZERLAND.

This well-known Civil War period cover originated in Confederate New Orleans on August 13, 1861, and was sent inside an outer cover to Louisville, Kentucky, either by Adams Express Company or American Letter Express Company; noted expert Steven Walske thinks it was probably carried by American Letter Express in an outside envelope. At the Louisville express office, it was marked "*Prus. Clos. Mail 35*" and stamped with 35c postage for the Prussian Closed Mail rate. The express company did not apply a datestamp to cover before putting it into the Louisville post office for transmission by U.S. mail to New York City, the port of departure. From New York it was probably carried on the HAPAG Line's *Bavaria*, departing August 24.

After the suspension of mail service between the U.S. and Confederate States, U.S. stamps affixed to mail originating in the Confederate States were considered contraband and not accepted at the Louisville post office, which required express companies to affix stamps from their own supplies. The demonetization of old U.S. stamps in the North went into effect shortly after this cover was mailed from Louisville. The exchange period in Louisville began August 22 for three days; beginning on August 25, stamps other than the new 1861 Issue would no longer be accepted by the Louisville post office.

The *Special Routes* census records five foreign-bound across-the-lines express covers in the June 15-August 26 period, including three to France, one to Germany and one to Switzerland. This is the only cover to Switzerland and the only one with any of these 1857-60 Issue denominations (1c, 10c or 24c).

Special Routes census no. N-AX-11. Ex Gibson and Dr. Kapiloff. With 2008 P.F. certificate
..... Estimate \$20,000-30,000

American Letter Express Company



264

- 264 ☒ **Am. Letter Exp. Co. Louisville, Ky. Jul. 11, 1861.** Boldly struck dark blue circular datestamp on 3c Red Star Die entire (U26) southbound to Sharon Miss., lightly inked but clear strikes of "Nashville Ten. Jul. 16, 1861" circular datestamp and matching **"Nashville T. Paid 5" provisional handstamp (Scott 61XU1)**

FRESH AND VERY FINE. ONE OF THREE RECORDED EXAMPLES OF THE NASHVILLE CIRCULAR "PAID 5" PROVISIONAL HANDSTAMP ON AN ACROSS-THE-LINES EXPRESS COVER AND THE ONLY COVER WITH ALL MARKINGS ON THE FACE.

Of the 31 recorded North-to-South covers carried by American Letter Express Co. in the *Special Routes* census, only three have the "Nashville T. Paid 5" provisional handstamp. Those put into the mails at Nashville usually have the "Paid" straightline in combination with "5" or "10" rate handstamps.

Special Routes census no. S-AX-12. Ex Ackerman, Knapp, Grant, Meroni, Everett and Walske Estimate \$3,000-4,000

20070
 Winchester
 PAID
 JUL 22 1861
 U.S. ARMY LETTER EXCHANGE
 ASSISTANT SURGEON GROVES
 CARE COMPANY B
 12th Regiment Miss. Volunteers
 Union City
 Tenn

[IMPORTANT.]

To the People of the United States.

...

THE AMERICAN
Letter Express Co.

Transmits Letters and Writing Matter to and from all
points North and South, with the knowledge
and approbation of the Postmaster General.

.....

DIRECTIONS :

(LETTERS GOING SOUTH.)

Enclose and direct each letter to your correspondent in
a U. S. stamped envelope, (a stamp or stamps stuck on a
common envelope will not do,) put that letter in another
envelope, and direct on this outside envelope to

American Letter Express Co.
LOUISVILLE, KY.

Enclosing in the outside envelope when the letter is to go
to any point in the Southern States

Under 500 miles from Nashville, Tenn.,	15 cts.
Over 500 "	20 cts.

Be particular about distances, and make the enclosure to
the Company in money, *stamps will not answer*. This will
prepay all expenses to its destination.

The rates here given are for letters not exceeding half-
ounce in weight: double, triple, &c. letters must have an
additional amount enclosed in proportion to weight.

PRINTED MATTER.

For small newspapers enclose the Company 10 cents.

N. B. All letters accompanied with an insufficient a-
mount to prepay to their destination are liable to be sent
to the dead-letter office.



SALE 1238 • JUNE 23, 2021

J. A. Thompson
June 10. 1864



DUE



W. L. Thompson Esq
Louisville Ky

PRIVATE LETTER MAIL.
Direct each letter to your correspondent as usual, envelope that with 15 cents in money and direct to
B. WHITESIDES,
Franklin, Ky.
Letters exceeding half an ounce or going over 500 miles must have additional amount enclosed.
For single Newspapers enclose 10 cents.

EXPRESS MAIL ACROSS THE LINES BEGINNING JUNE 15, 1861

One of Two Recorded Whitesides Express Covers

267 ☒ **Whitesides Express.** Black on white adhesive label affixed to light yellow cover to Louisville Kentucky, typically blurry but readable “**New Orleans La. 10 Jun.**” (1861) origination circular datestamp, blue crayon “10” C.S.A. rate to Nashville, carried from there by express to Louisville where **3c Dull Red, Ty. III (26)** was cancelled by blue grid, matching “DUE” straight-line with bold manuscript “3” indicating rejection of U.S. stamp from a seceded state, neat manuscript docketing, some brownish glue stains around stamp (“3” smeared as a result)

VERY FINE. ONE OF TWO RECORDED COVERS CARRIED ACROSS THE LINES BY WHITESIDES EXPRESS FROM NASHVILLE TO KENTUCKY, AFTER SUSPENSION OF MAIL SERVICE BETWEEN THE NORTH AND SOUTH. AN IMPORTANT CIVIL WAR POSTAL HISTORY RARITY.

The label reads: “PRIVATE LETTER MAIL. [sic]/ Direct each letter to your correspondent as/ usual, envelope that with 15 cents in money and/ direct to/ B. WHITESIDES,/ Franklin, Ky./ Letters exceeding half an ounce or going over/ 500 miles must have additional amount enclosed./ For single Newspapers enclose 10 cents.” There is a typographic error in the label: the numeral “1” is substituted for “I” of “Mail”. Interestingly, the only other Whitesides label we record (Sale 1105, lot 2568, ex Walske and Bailar) does not contain the typographical error.

An advertisement for express mail service to the seceded states was first published by M. D. Whiteside (without the “s”) on June 22, 1861, in the *Louisville Daily Journal*. M. D. (Marquis de Lafayette) Whiteside was the nephew of Berry Whitesides, whose initial and name with an “s” appear on this label. After the late Scott Gallagher acquired this cover, he visited Franklin, Kentucky, and interviewed descendants of Berry Whitesides, who explained the relationship between M. D. and Berry and confirmed the existence of a contraband and letter express operated by the two during the spring and summer months of 1861.

It is significant that the advertisements under M. D. Whiteside’s name specify lower rates than those printed on this Berry Whitesides label (10c vs. 15c for letters, 5c vs. 10c for newspapers). The Berry Whitesides rates on the label are identical to the American Letter Express rates advertised on June 15, which leads us to speculate that either a) Berry ran his express independent of M. D.’s, at least for a while (thus the difference in name), or b) Berry had labels printed with the higher rates, which were lowered to compete with American Letter Express and Adams Express.

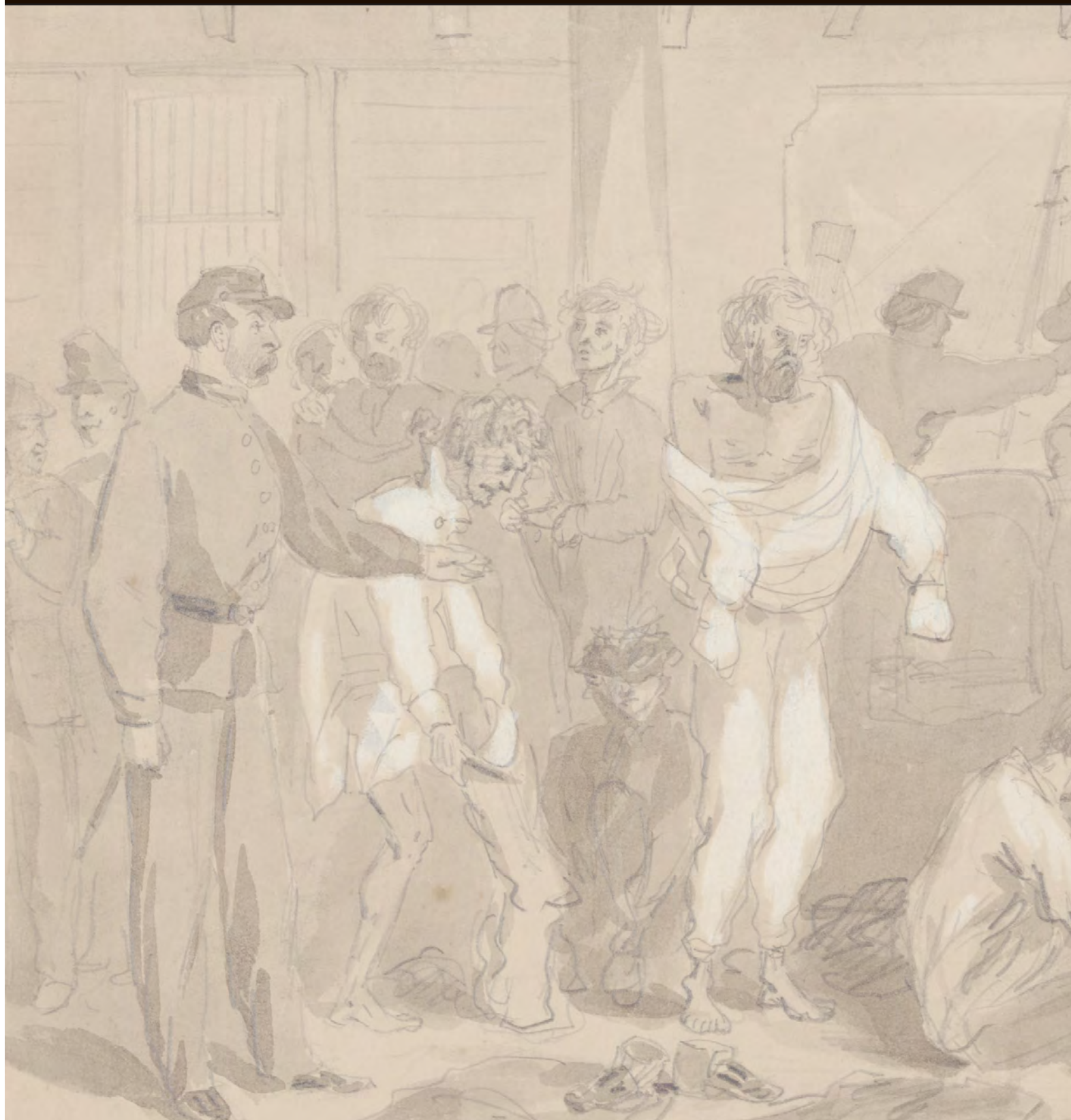
According to Brooks’s *American Letter Express Company*: “Whiteside had his messenger use the Upper Turnpike out of Louisville to Franklin, Ky., where he lived. He travelled from Louisville to Bardstown, Ky., to New Haven, Buffalo, Glasgow, Scottsville, and Franklin, Ky., and thence to Gallatin, and Nashville, Tenn. His main stop was Franklin, since it was only four miles from the State Line. He used a Confederate friend and sympathizer to carry the mail across the border to Tennessee. Sometimes the messenger himself picked out certain letters to deliver personally since he knew they contained United States currency or checks to pay for United States stamps — which certain Southern Postmasters were selling at a discount of 50 per cent. The messenger received 10 per cent for his services. This smuggling commonly was known as the ‘Grapevine.’”

Based on other known express covers, it took approximately four to five days for a letter sent from New Orleans to reach Louisville, which would give this June 10 mailing an arrival date of approximately June 15 (there is no Louisville circular datestamp). It reached Nashville after the last regular mail was carried by the U.S. mail agent and was given to Whitesides by the Nashville postmaster. As evidenced by Precursor express covers, companies were carrying mail across the lines months prior to their advertised commencement dates.

This cover was discovered in a collection by William O. Bilden and has his notes on back. There are no recorded southbound Whitesides Express covers, and they might be impossible to identify if labels were not applied to southbound mail. The two recorded northbound Whitesides Express covers each have the printed label. The other recorded cover was carried by Whitesides to Franklin, Kentucky, and was posted there for mailing to New York with the 3c U.S. postage fully prepaid.

Special Routes census no. N-WE-1 and illustrated on p. 17. Ex Bilden and Gallagher. With 1998 P.F. certificate Estimate \$15,000-20,000

Returned prisoners of war exchanging their rags for new clothing on board Flag of Truce
boat New York, December 1864
Photo credit: Library of Congress



FORMAL FLAG-OF-TRUCE MAIL
ACROSS THE LINES



FORMAL FLAG-OF-TRUCE MAIL ACROSS THE LINES

Norfolk, Virginia, and Fortress Monroe (Old Point Comfort) Exchange Point



268

- 268 ☒ **Washington D.C. to Salem N.C. via Fortress Monroe and Norfolk Va.** Cover without contents but most likely originated in Washington D.C. (based on the similar cover offered in lot 269), from E. S. Zevely (brother of the Third Assistant Postmaster General) to his sister, Sophia J. Butner, in Salem N.C., **3c Rose (65)**, small toned spot at left, tied by blue “**Norfolk Va. Nov. 18, 1861**” **Confederate** circular datestamp, matching bold strike of “**5**” **C.S.A. rate** handstamp, large remnant of buff paper used to hold a United States Half-Dime coin (represented by a replacement coin) with sender’s notation “*Confed()*” (likely indicating the coin was for C.S.A. postage), “Due 5” in circle handstamp for C.S.A. postage, choice condition for such an artifact **VERY FINE. AN OUTSTANDING FLAG-OF-TRUCE COVER THROUGH FORTRESS MONROE AND NORFOLK, VIRGINIA, WITH CONFEDERATE AND UNITED STATES POSTAGE PREPAID AT THE POINT OF MAILING BY COIN AND A 3-CENT 1861 STAMP.**

This southbound flag-of-truce letter was exchanged on the C.S.A. side at Norfolk, before U.S. forces captured the city on May 9, 1862. Flag-of-truce covers via Norfolk are very scarce, and only a few have evidence of Confederate postage paid by coins. This cover is from the same correspondence as the cover offered in lot 269. That cover, sent the following month, had two half-dimes attached and shows no C.S.A. postage due. We have speculated that the later cover was overpaid, but given the 5c due on this very similar cover, it is possible that Confederate postal authorities counted both as overweight (Norfolk is less than 500 miles from Salem N.C.).

Ex Knapp and Antrim..... Estimate \$2,000-3,000

FORMAL FLAG-OF-TRUCE MAIL ACROSS THE LINES



269

- 269 ✉ **Washington D.C. to Salem N.C. via Fortress Monroe and Norfolk Va.** Folded letter datelined "Washington D.C. Dec'r 12, 1861" from E. S. Zevely (brother of the Third Assistant Postmaster General) to his sister, Sophia J. Butner, in Salem N.C., **3c Rose (65)**, straight edge at left and small piece of corner replaced at upper right, tied by blue "Norfolk Va. Dec. 7, 1861" **Confederate** circular datestamp, matching partly clear strike of "Paid 5c" in circle **C.S.A.** rate handstamp, large remnant of buff paper used to hold two United States Half-Dime coins (represented by replacement coins) with sender's notation "10 cts" (possibly overpaid 5c), small manuscript "Exd" **cancel mark** at upper left, letter states "I send this via Fortress Monroe, hoping it will be allowed to pass, with others..." and a postscript "Attaching 3cts to pay Federal postage", water-stain around address

A FINE AND SPECTACULAR FLAG-OF-TRUCE LETTER THROUGH FORTRESS MONROE AND NORFOLK, VIRGINIA, WITH CONFEDERATE AND UNITED STATES POSTAGE PREPAID AT THE POINT OF MAILING BY COINS AND A 3-CENT 1861 STAMP.

This southbound flag-of-truce letter was exchanged on the C.S.A. side at Norfolk, before U.S. forces captured the city on May 9, 1862. Flag-of-truce covers via Norfolk are very scarce, and only a few have evidence of Confederate postage paid by coins. Based on the letter writer's statement and the appearance of the cover, this was apparently part of a group sent from Washington D.C. inside another envelope, and the U.S. 3c 1861 stamp escaped cancellation in the U.S. postal system. When the letter reached Norfolk, the datestamp was applied over the U.S. stamp.

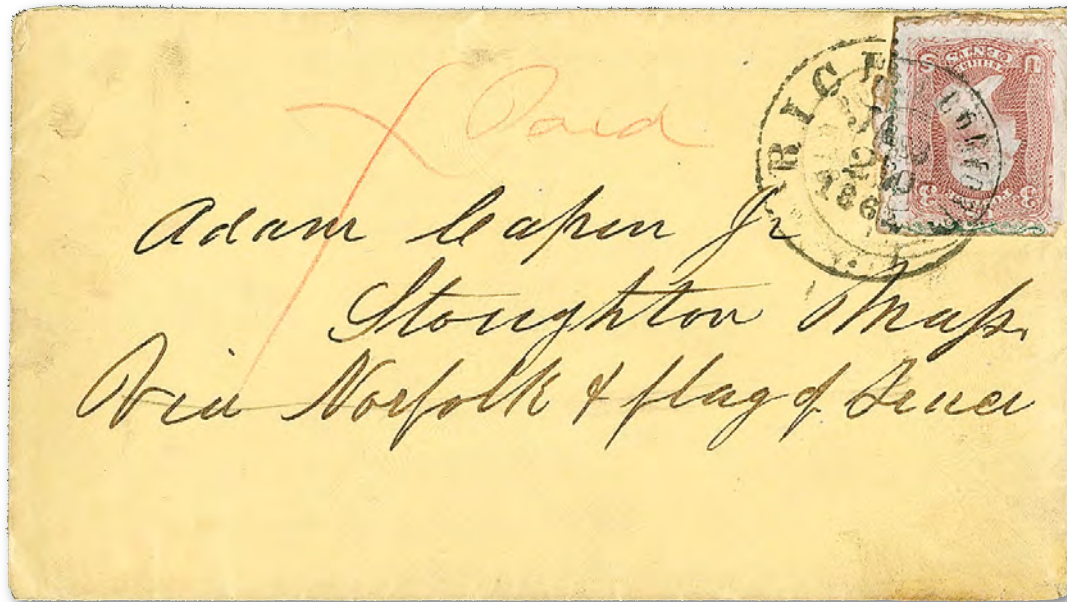
Ex Dr. Brandon. With MacBride note on back. Estimate \$2,000-3,000

FORMAL FLAG-OF-TRUCE MAIL ACROSS THE LINES



- 270 ☒ **Flag-of-Truce via Norfolk Va..** Blue “Norfolk Va. Jan. 10” (1862) Confederate double-circle date-stamp and “Paid 5c” rate in circle handstamp on inner cover to Leesburg Va., manuscript examiner’s initials, sender’s notation “*Postage within*”, outer cover containing U.S. postage from the point of origin would have been discarded at the exchange point, minor edgewear, Very Fine example of flag-of-truce mail exchanged via Fortress Monroe/Old Point Comfort and Norfolk Va. — Norfolk was an early and short-lived exchange point for mail between the North and South, it ceased to serve as an exchange point with the Union occupation beginning May 9, 1862, this cover entered the Confederate mails on the same day as the cover offered in lot 271, in this case the coin was enclosed in the envelope rather than affixed to the back..... Estimate \$400-500
- 271 ☒ **Flag-of-Truce via Norfolk Va.** Blue “Norfolk Va. Jan. 10” (1862) Confederate double-circle date-stamp and “Paid 5c” rate in circle handstamp on inner cover to Charlotte C.H. Va., red manuscript “*Exd S.C.*” examiner’s marking at upper right, **criss-crossed adhesive strips** on back which held a coin that was removed to pay postage, outer cover containing U.S. postage from the point of origin would have been discarded at the exchange point, Very Fine example of flag-of-truce mail exchanged via Fortress Monroe/Old Point Comfort and Norfolk Va. — Norfolk was an early and short-lived exchange point for mail between the North and South, it ceased to serve as an exchange point with the Union occupation beginning May 9, 1862, this cover entered the Confederate mails on the same day as the cover offered in lot 270, in this case the coin was affixed to the back rather than enclosed inside, ex “Summit” Estimate \$400-500
- 272 ☒ **“Via Flag of Truce Norfolk”.** Manuscript endorsement at bottom of buff cover from Willington S.C. to New York City, **civilian flag-of-truce use**, entered C.S.A. mails with “Charleston S.C. Feb. 24, 186-” (1862) circular datestamp and “Paid 5” in circle handstamp, exchanged via Norfolk and Fortress Monroe, **3c Rose (65)** affixed over the “Paid 5” circle and tied by “Old Point Comfort Va. Mar. 14” double-circle datestamp, manuscript docketing at top, accompanied by photocopy of original letter (which is in the South Carolina Historical Society archives) from James Petigru Carson to his mother with interesting content, stamp with small edge nick at right, cover missing bottom flap and slightly reduced at bottom, still Very Fine and scarce civilian flag-of-truce cover with postage of both sides, this was possible for only a short time (between November 1861 and April 1862) Estimate \$500-750

FORMAL FLAG-OF-TRUCE MAIL ACROSS THE LINES



273

- 273 ✉ **5c Green, Stone 1-2 (1).** Tied by "Richmond Va. Jan. 27, 1862" circular datestamp, paying postage to Norfolk Va. on yellow **civilian flag-of-truce cover from Richmond Va. to Stoughton Mass.**, endorsed "*Via Norfolk & Flag of Truce*", **3c Rose (65)** affixed directly over **C.S.A. stamp** and tied by "Old Point Comfort Va. Feb. 10" double-circle datestamp, manuscript "*X Paid*", with original contents, 3c stamp with corner tear, couple backflap tears and some light soiling

AN EXCEEDINGLY RARE MIXED-FRANKING NORTHBOUND CIVILIAN FLAG-OF-TRUCE COVER SENT VIA NORFOLK AND OLD POINT COMFORT. THE FEW MIXED-FRANKING COVERS KNOWN FROM THIS PERIOD REPRESENT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE EXAMPLES OF MIXED UNITED STATES AND CONFEDERATE STATES POSTAGE, WHICH WERE ONLY POSSIBLE FOR A BRIEF PERIOD.

Mixed-franking U.S.-Confederate States covers are rare and highly sought after by collectors. As a mixed franking on a civilian flag-of-truce cover, during the short window that some were allowed to use the Norfolk-Old Point Comfort route, this is an extremely important artifact of postal history. Shortly after this cover was mailed, civilian flag-of-truce mail sent north was diverted to the U.S. Dead Letter Office, per U.S. General Order No. 7. This order followed an announcement in the January 1862 *U.S. Mail & Post Office Assistant* that stated, "The facilities afforded by sending letters to the rebel states under a flag-of-truce are not intended, and cannot be permitted, to cover general correspondence."

Illustrated in *Special Routes* book (p. 90). Ex Walske. With 1993 A.P.S. certificate
..... Estimate \$3,000-4,000

FORMAL FLAG-OF-TRUCE MAIL ACROSS THE LINES

Petersburg, Virginia, and Fortress Monroe (Old Point Comfort) Exchange Point



274 with detail of turned inside

- 274 ☒ **Salisbury Prison, N.C.** Flag-of-truce cover from Massachusetts to James H. Griggs at Salisbury Prison, U.S. and C.S.A. postage prepaid with **3c Rose (65)**, straddle-pane margin, cancelled by grid with matching "Dedham Mass. May 20" (1862) circular datestamp and **5c Blue, Stone 2 (4)**, tied by blue "Petersburg Va. May 28" circular datestamp, docketing at left "*Via Fortress Monroe Care of Gen. Wool*", cover then **turned and used with two 5c Blue, Stone 2 (4)** (one with faults) and sent to Clarksville, Va., "Petersburg Va. Jul. 8" circular datestamp and "**MISSSENT**" straightline, backflap missing and splits from showing cover opened (reinforced with hinges)

AN EXCEPTIONAL MIXED-FRANKING FLAG-OF-TRUCE COVER SENT VIA FORTRESS MONROE AND PETERSBURG, MADE EVEN MORE DESIRABLE BY THE TURNED AND "MISSSENT" USE.

When Federal troops occupied Norfolk on May 9, 1862, the C.S.A. flag-of-truce exchange point was moved up the James River to Aiken's Landing, Virginia, with the U.S. exchange point remaining across the Chesapeake Bay at Fortress Monroe. Aiken's Landing was used by the C.S.A. for only a short time, after which their exchange point was moved to City Point, Virginia. With the July 1862 implementation of the prisoner exchange cartel, prisoner populations were temporarily drastically reduced and flag-of-truce mail exchanges were virtually eliminated. Because of the very short period of time this route was in existence, covers sent via Petersburg are among the rarest of prisoner-of-war mail.

James H. Griggs was born in Dedham and served as a private in the Massachusetts 5th Infantry Regiment from May 1, 1861, to June 24, 1862, during which time he was captured and sent to Salisbury Prison. After exchange in late May 1862, he served with the 33rd Massachusetts Infantry Regiment from August 7, 1862, to March 19, 1863. Finally, he is listed as a commissioned officer in Company I of the 37th Regiment of U.S. Colored Infantry starting in 1864.

Illustrated in *Special Routes* book (p. 68). Ex Seybold and Walske. With 1998 A.P.S. certificate Estimate \$2,000-3,000

FORMAL FLAG-OF-TRUCE MAIL ACROSS THE LINES



275



276

- 275 ☒ **Salisbury Prison, N.C.** Flag-of-truce cover from Chief Engineer Joseph Parry at Salisbury Prison to his wife in Philadelphia Pa., C.S.A. postage paid by **5c Blue, Stone 2 (4)** with two large margins, others cut in and lower left corner slightly clipped, U.S. postage paid by **3c Rose (65)**, both stamps tied by "Salisbury N.C. Jun. 15, 1861 [1862]" circular datestamp (the year date is inverted and in error as usual), censored in pencil by both the U.S. ("Ex") and C.S.A. ("Ex NK"), some edgewear, slightly reduced and small opening nick at right, 3c perfs slightly trimmed as a result

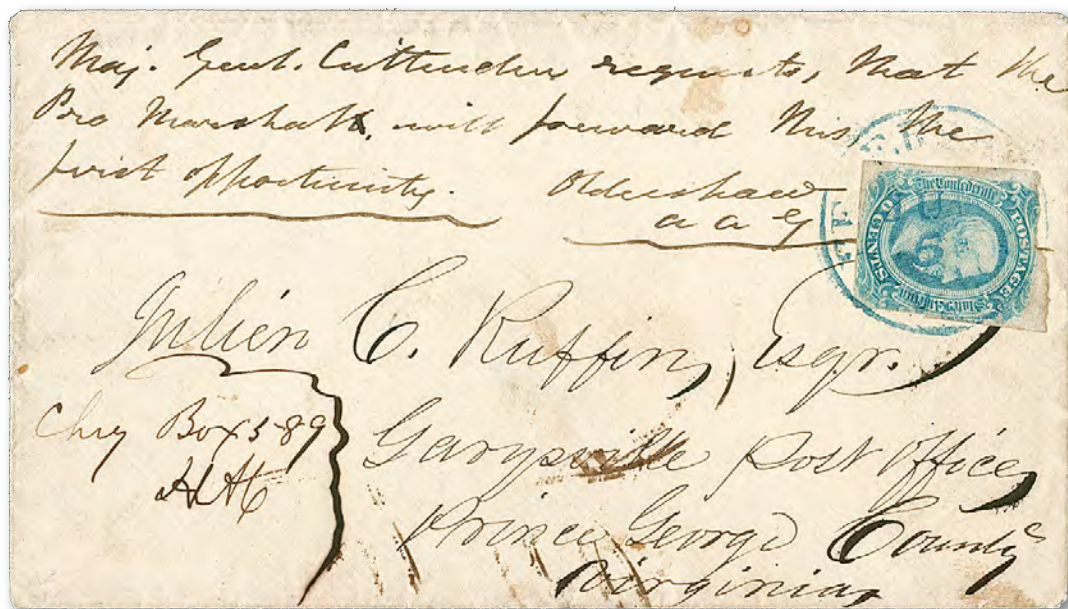
FINE AND RARE. AN OUTSTANDING MIXED-FRANKING PRISONER'S FLAG-OF-TRUCE COVER SENT VIA PETERSBURG AND OLD POINT COMFORT FROM THE PARRY CORRESPONDENCE.

Joseph L. Parry was chief engineer on the U.S. transport steamer *Union* when it ran aground on November 3, 1861, on the North Carolina coast. Parry was held at Salisbury Prison until his exchange in September, 1862. The Parry correspondence to and from the prison was described in two outstanding articles by Lawrence Lohr in the *Confederate Philatelist* in 1995 and 2008.

Illustrated in *Special Routes* book (p. 69). Ex Hollowbush (who was Parry's grand godson), Keeling and Walske..... Estimate \$2,000-3,000

- 276 ☒ **Salisbury Prison, N.C.** Flag-of-truce cover from Dr. Charles Carroll Gray at Salisbury Prison to Geneva N.Y., C.S.A. postage paid by **5c Light Blue, De La Rue (6)**, two large margins, cut in at lower right, corner crease, tied by one of two strikes of "Salisbury N.C. Jun. 22, 1861 [1862]" circular datestamp with usual yeardate error, "Due 3" straightline handstamp for U.S. postage, endorsed "CC Gray US Army, Prisoner of War, Salisbury NC", manuscript "Examined Th H Holmes ADC" censor mark, small backflap tear, Very Fine, a rare P.O.W. use via Petersburg, Dr. Charles Carroll Gray was a U.S. Army medical officer who saw action at the First Battle of Bull Run (Manassas); upon his capture he spent time in Libby Prison in Richmond, Castle Pinckney in Charleston and Salisbury Prison; he was exchanged in July 1862; his fascinating 1861-1862 diary, housed at the University of North Carolina Library, contains detailed descriptions of prisoner medical conditions and social interactions between prisoners and guards; illustrated in *Special Routes* book (p. 63), ex Emerson, Cole and Walske..... Estimate \$1,000-1,500

FORMAL FLAG-OF-TRUCE MAIL ACROSS THE LINES



277 with detail of markings on back (shown reduced)

- 277 ☒ **Petersburg Va.** Flag-of-truce cover addressed to Julien C. Ruffin, a member of the famous Ruffin family, at Garysville Va., franked with **10c Milky Blue, Die B (12a)**, full margins to slightly cut in, beautiful shade from first printing, tied by blue “Petersburg Va. Jul. 5” (1863) circular datestamp, instructions at top in the hand of Capt. P. P. Oldershaw, Assistant Adjutant-General to Major General Thomas L. Crittenden, commander of the 21st Army Corps in the Department of the Cumberland, “Maj. Genl. Crittenden requests that the Pro Marshal will forward this the first opportunity. Oldershaw AAG”, the back is endorsed “Approved, Office Prov Marshal Gen. Dept Cumberland, Wm. L. King Clk.” (U.S. Provost Marshal’s censor marking) and “Examined H.A.C.” (C.S.A. censor marking), the Confederate examiner also wrote “Chg Box 589 HAC” on the front and the post office applied the 10c stamp, small piece out of flap and mucilage smears where sealed after censorship

VERY FINE. AN EXTRAORDINARY NORTH-TO-SOUTH FLAG-OF-TRUCE COVER, WHICH ENTERED THE C.S.A. MAILS AT PETERSBURG FRANKED WITH A GENERAL ISSUE STAMP.

Aiken’s Landing Va. (near Petersburg) was the regular exchange point for flag-of-truce mail from May to September 1862, when U.S. authorities stopped prisoners’ mail exchange. Because Petersburg was the entry post office for flag-of-truce mail for only a few months, covers carried on this route are rare. This civilian flag-of-truce cover with Major General Crittenden’s AAG’s instructions to expedite delivery was carried in July 1863. By this time Union prisons filled up again, and prisoners’ mail increased in volume. However, the exchange point had been moved to City Point Va., near Richmond (the entry point for C.S.A. mail). This North-to-South flag-of-truce cover was handled through the U.S. Provost Marshal’s office and entered the C.S.A. postal system at Petersburg. The use of a Confederate stamp on a North-to-South flag-of-truce cover is unusual. Such covers typically show a due marking for C.S.A. postage.

Ex Walske..... Estimate \$2,000-3,000

FORMAL FLAG-OF-TRUCE MAIL ACROSS THE LINES

Richmond, Virginia, and Fortress Monroe (Old Point Comfort) Exchange Point



278EX

- 278 ☒ **Civilian Flag-of-Truce Cover from Cuba — The Aichel Correspondence.** Two folded letters from a German immigrant, Oskar Aichel, to his wife at home in Anderson C.H., South Carolina

A REMARKABLE PAIR OF LETTERS. THE FIRST TELLS OF THE WRITER'S IMPENDING JOURNEY ON A BLOCKADE RUNNER, WHILE THE SECOND IS AN EXTREMELY RARE FLAG-OF-TRUCE USE FROM CUBA TO SOUTH CAROLINA VIA NEW YORK CITY, FORTRESS MONROE AND RICHMOND, VIRGINIA.

The first folded letter is datelined Wilmington N.C. Oct. 7, 1863, as Aichel is awaiting his departure on board the "*Blockade Runner... Margaretha & Jessie*" to be transported to Nassau and Havana, with **10c Green, Die B (12)** tied by "Wilmington N.C." circular datestamp.

The second folded letter, headed "*Fourth letter*", is datelined "*Habana, 22 Decemb. 1863*" and written in English for the purpose of censoring. Aichel mentions he has been in Havana for one and a half months, describes the difficulty of finding work at reasonable wages and characterizes locals as "*those mis-trusting vicious creoles.*" He closes by wishing his family a Merry Christmas. This letter is endorsed "*By Flag of Truce*" and was enclosed in an outer envelope (discarded at the exchange point), which carried it by steamer to New York City and from there to the exchange point through Old Point Comfort to Fortress Monroe in Virginia. The enclosed letter was censored and marked "**Examined J. Cassels**" (John Cassels, Captain and Provost Marshal), then sent by flag-of-truce boat to Richmond, where **10c Greenish Blue, Die B (12)**, large margins, was tied by "Richmond Va. Jan. 18" (1864) circular datestamp.

Both covers are in Very Fine condition. Letters originating outside the continental United States and carried into the Confederacy under a flag-of-truce are extremely rare — far rarer, in fact, than blockade-run covers into Confederate ports. Two similar covers from the Aichel correspondence — one with a faulty stamp, the other stampless — were offered in our sale of the Kohn collection (Sale 382).

Illustrated in *Special Routes* book (p. 93). Ex Murphy and Walske Estimate \$3,000-4,000

FORMAL FLAG-OF-TRUCE MAIL ACROSS THE LINES



279

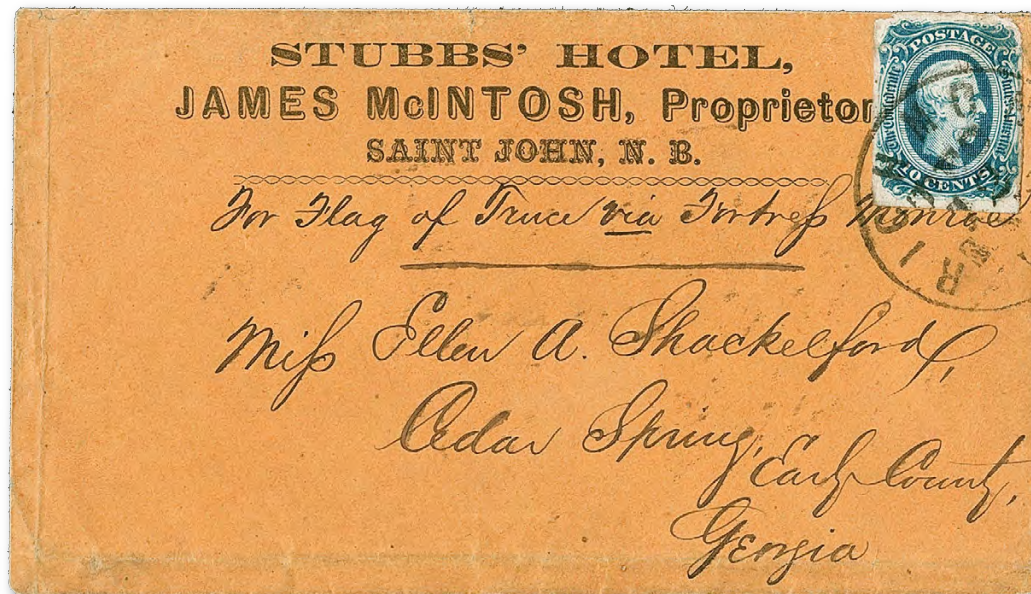
- 279 ☒ **Washington D.C. to Fort Johnson, Charleston Harbor S.C.** Civilian **flag-of-truce** folded letter datelined "Georgetown Aug 17th 1864" to Charleston S.C., **10c Blue, Die A (11)** with large margins pays C.S.A. postage from Richmond to Charleston, cancelled by "Richmond Va. Sep. 5" circular datestamp, advertised in Charleston with "2" handstamp, forwarded to Fort Johnson on James Island (within the mouth of Charleston Harbor) with **2c Brown Red (8)**, three large margins, slightly in at upper left and tiny pinhole, affixed partly overlapping 10c stamp, tied by "Charleston S.C. Sep. 24, 1864" circular datestamp, some minor soiling and stained spots

A FINE AND EXTRAORDINARY FLAG-OF-TRUCE AND INTRA-CITY FORWARDED USE WITH A RARE COMBINATION OF CONFEDERATE GENERAL ISSUES.

The letter is discreetly addressed to "Mr." James C. Reynolds at Charleston. Reynolds was, in fact, a Lieutenant with the 1st S.C. Artillery stationed at Fort Johnson. The sender, who would have known his status, probably used a civilian salutation to evade Federal interception of correspondence with an active Confederate officer, and may have even known where he was stationed but used the less specific Charleston address for the same reason. The letter was mailed under flag-of-truce from Georgetown, Washington D.C. to the Federal exchange point at Fortress Monroe inside another envelope with 3c U.S. postage, which was discarded. At Richmond the 10c C.S.A. stamp was tied by the Richmond circular datestamp and sent in the mails to Charleston. The Charleston post office did not recognize the addressee as a Confederate officer and advertised the letter, applying the "2" handstamp for the advertising fee. Lt. Reynolds likely sent the 2c fee, and, judging from a small pre-use pinhole in the 2c stamp, he probably pinned the stamp to his written directions to the Charleston post office. The "2" handstamp was obliterated with a grid and the 2c stamp was tied by the Charleston circular datestamp — the charge for forwarding postage being only 2c because of the local forwarding. The combination of the 2c Jackson to pay the local forwarding charge with the flag-of-truce routing and the advertised "2" marking on a cover from the North to a C.S.A. officer, disguised as a purely civilian letter, makes this a most extraordinary artifact of Civil War postal history and probably unique.

Discussed by Stanley B. Ashbrook in his *Special Service* (p. 154) and in *Weekly Philatelic Gossip* (Feb and May 1953). Illustrated in *Special Routes* book (p. 92). Ex Grant, Bogg, Keeling and Walske..... Estimate \$3,000-4,000

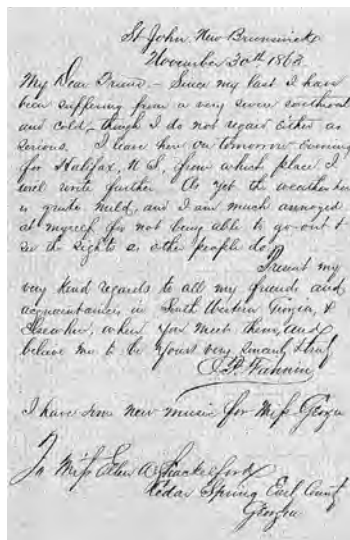
FORMAL FLAG-OF-TRUCE MAIL ACROSS THE LINES



280

280 ✉ **Canada to Georgia via the United States and Flag-of-Truce.** Orange-buff cover with printed “Stubbs’ Hotel, James McIntosh, Proprietor/Saint John, N.B.” corner card, manuscript “*For Flag of Truce via Fortress Monroe*”, envelope was contained in an outer cover which would have had postage and was discarded at the exchange point, exchanged via Fortress Monroe and Richmond and entered the C.S.A. mails with **10c Blue, Die B (12)** tied by “Richmond Va. Dec. 12” (1863) circular datestamp, the original letter (in the University of North Carolina Library, photocopy accompanies and is shown here) is datelined St. John N.B. November 30, 1863, from C.S.A. Navy Lieut. George W. Gift to Ellen A. Shackelford in Cedar Springs Ga. Lieut. Gift used a pseudonym, but his handwriting is proven by other letters in his name, stamp with minor horizontal crease

VERY FINE. AN OUTSTANDING AND RARE FLAG-OF-TRUCE COVER FROM CANADA TO GEORGIA VIA THE U.S. AND FORTRESS MONROE, SENT BY A CONFEDERATE NAVAL OFFICER ON A SECRET MISSION TO RAID THE FEDERAL PRISON AT JOHNSON’S ISLAND.

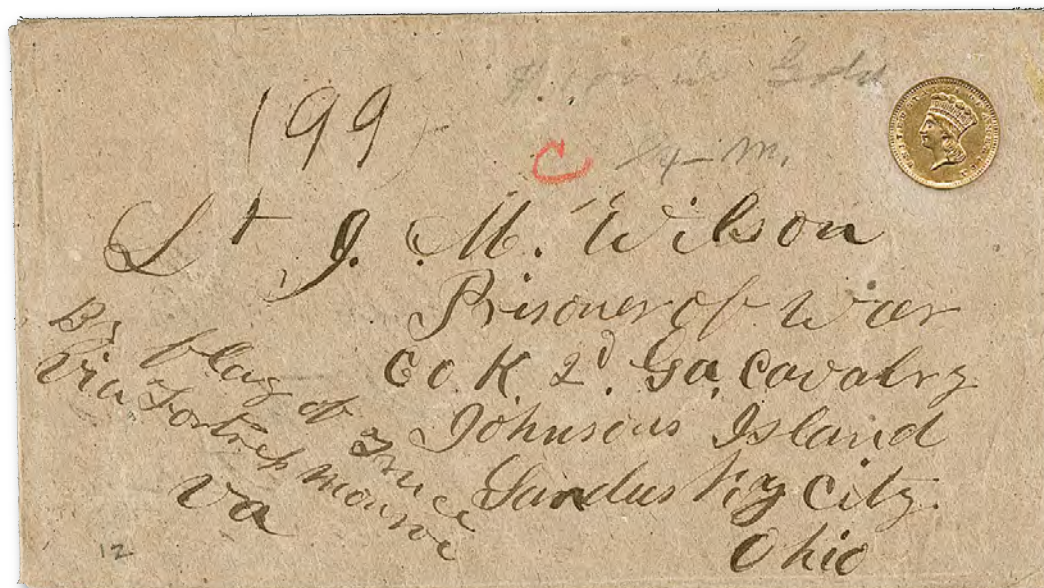


Copy of letter that was originally enclosed in the envelope

Lieut. George W. Gift, who eventually married the addressee, Miss Ellen Shackelford, was one of the officers who accompanied Captain John Wilkinson on a secret mission to Canada in October 1863 for the purpose of raiding the Federal prison at Johnson’s Island, near Sandusky Ohio on Lake Erie. Wilkinson was a well-known Confederate blockade runner, commanding several vessels during the war and later writing a book about his experiences. The mission sailed on October 7 from Wilmington N.C. to Halifax, Nova Scotia, on the blockade runner *Robert E. Lee*, commanded by Wilkinson. The plan collapsed when one of the plotters revealed the mission and Union authorities were alerted. This cover was sent by Lieut. Gift while in Canada on the ill-fated mission. For a fascinating history of the mission see <https://warfarehistorynetwork.com/2018/12/19/intelligence-confederate-spies-used-newspapers-to-communicate>.

Ex Judd Estimate \$4,000-5,000

FORMAL FLAG-OF-TRUCE MAIL ACROSS THE LINES



281 inside and outside

281 ☒ **10c Rose (5).** Bright color, full to large margins all around, tied by bold "Chattanooga Ten. Aug. 5, 1862" circular datestamp on **turned prisoner's cover** addressed to Mrs. Josephine Wilson at Atapulguis Ga., the inside originally contained \$1.00 in gold held by yellow paper and addressed to a prisoner-of-war at Johnson's Island, manuscript "By Flag of Truce via Fortress Monroe", censor markings "\$1.00 in Gold Ex. M", number "199" and red "c" (courier or cash?)

VERY FINE. A FASCINATING AND PROBABLY UNIQUE USE OF THE 10-CENT ROSE LITHOGRAPH ON A TURNED FLAG-OF-TRUCE COVER TO A CONFEDERATE PRISONER HELD AT JOHNSON'S ISLAND.

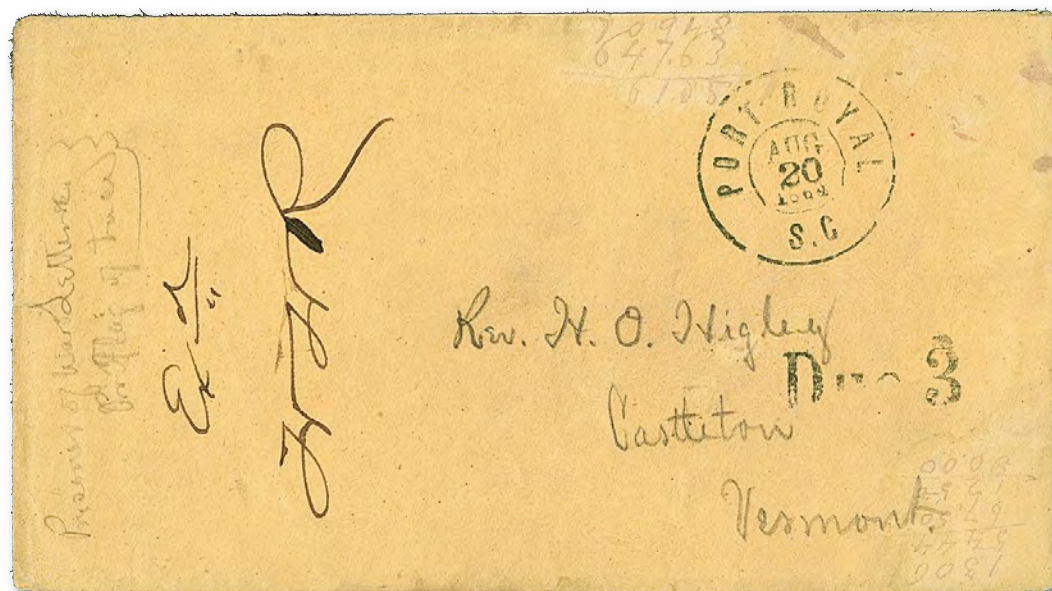
A genuine gold replacement coin accompanies the cover. Signed and with Ashbrook hand-stamp. Ex Walcott, Emerson, Murphy and Boshwit..... Estimate \$3,000-4,000

FORMAL FLAG-OF-TRUCE MAIL ACROSS THE LINES

The “Charleston 600” and “Immortal 600”

On June 13, 1864, U.S. Major General John Foster, in command of the Department of the South at Hilton Head S.C., received a message from C.S.A. Major General Samuel Jones, commander of C.S.A. forces at Charleston, that five generals and 45 field officers had been transferred as prisoners-of-war to Charleston, which was under bombardment of Federal batteries. Foster immediately retaliated by ordering an equal number of prisoners of the same grade to be brought south and exposed to Confederate guns from Charleston. These 50 C.S.A. prisoners were taken from Fort Delaware and delivered to Gen. Foster at Hilton Head. Gen. Jones immediately proposed an exchange.

Shortly after the “50” prisoner incident, 600 more Federal prisoners were brought to Charleston. In retaliation, approximately 600 C.S.A. prisoners were moved on the *Crescent City* to Morris Island near Charleston, arriving on September 7. They were held in open barracks as “human shields” under direct shelling from C.S.A. forces. After the stalemate, the “Immortal 600” C.S.A. prisoners were moved from Morris Island on October 23 and sent to Fort Pulaski, then back to Fort Delaware.



282

- 282 ☒ **Marine Hospital, S.C., “Charleston 600”.** Yellow inner prisoner-of-war cover to Castleton Vt., with original letter datelined “C.S. Military Prison Charleston S.C. August 2, 1864”, prisoner’s endorsement on front, censored with manuscript “Exd. HHR” (Capt. Hugh Hamilton Rogers, Provost Marshal’s Office, Charleston), entered U.S. mails with “Port Royal S.C. Aug. 20, 1864” circular datestamp and “Due 3”

VERY FINE COVER FROM ONE OF THE 600 UNION OFFICERS HELD IN CHARLESTON UNDER FIRE FROM FEDERAL FORCES ON MORRIS ISLAND.

The officer who sent this letter was captured June 29, 1864, during the Wilson-Kautz cavalry raid at Stony Creek Va. His letter states in part “We moved from Macon last week and arrived here yesterday...There are six hundred prisoners here — all officers”. The “Charleston 600” were the U.S. prisoners for whom Union General John Foster retaliated by bringing the Confederate “Immortal 600” to Morris Island. This cover is especially desirable with the prisoner’s letter and reference to the “six hundred.”

Ex Walske..... Estimate \$1,500-2,000

FORMAL FLAG-OF-TRUCE MAIL ACROSS THE LINES



283

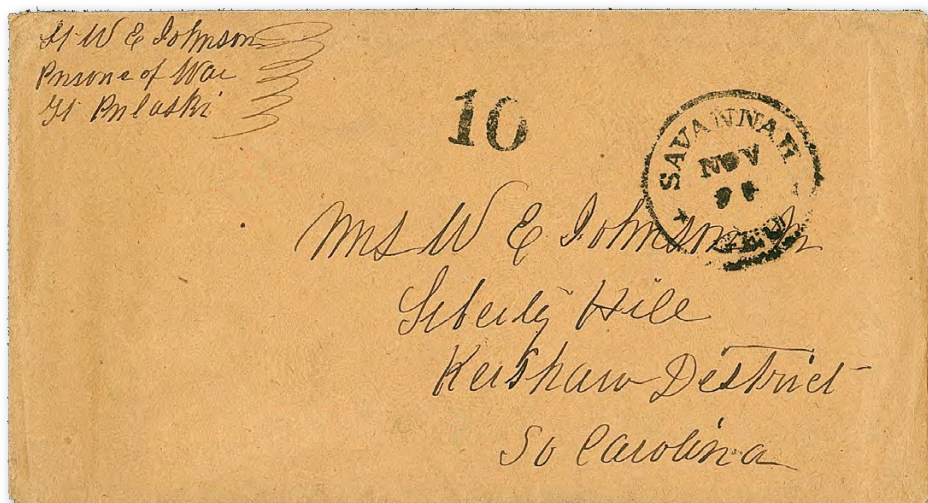
- 283 ☒ **Old Capitol Prison, Fort Pulaski and Andersonville Ga., “Immortal 600”.** Prisoner-of-war cover endorsed “C. D. McCoy, Capt., 25th Va. Infantry, Prisoner of War”, to his wife at the University of Virginia, an **“Immortal 600”** cover prepared prior to the departure of the *Crescent City* for Charleston on Aug. 20, 1864, **“Passed W.P. Wood Supt. Military Prison”** examiner’s circular handstamp from **Old Capitol Prison** struck before departure, manuscript **“Exd HW”** censor’s marking (U.S. Brigadier General Henry W. Wessells), endorsed **“For Flag of Truce Boat via Fortress Monroe”** but not exchanged there, after the Immortal 600 were removed from Morris Island on October 23, 1864 and taken to Fort Pulaski Ga., the cover was mailed via **Camp Sumter and the C.S.A. Post Office at Andersonville Ga.**, with **10c Blue, Die B (12)** tied by faint strike of Andersonville Ga. dateless double-circle handstamp, scuff at top right where coin to pay Confederate postage was removed

VERY FINE. AN EXCEPTIONAL PRISONER-OF-WAR COVER WITH A RARE COMBINATION OF ELEMENTS, INCLUDING AN “IMMORTAL 600” PRISONER, AN OLD CAPITOL PRISON UNION CENSOR MARKING AND PASSAGE THROUGH THE NOTORIOUS ANDERSONVILLE PRISON TO ENTER THE CONFEDERATE MAILS.

In August 1864, approximately 600 Confederate prisoners were moved on the *Crescent City* to Morris Island near Charleston by Federal forces, arriving on the island on September 7. They were held in open barracks as “human shields” under direct shelling from Confederate forces in retaliation for Union prisoners being held in Charleston under shelling from U.S. forces, a continuation and escalation of the prior “50” prisoner and “Charleston 600” incidents. This cover was prepared and censored prior to the departure of the *Crescent City*, but it was not put into the mails until the prisoners had been transferred to Fort Pulaski Ga. It was delivered to Camp Sumter and mailed at Andersonville Ga. for transmission to Virginia.

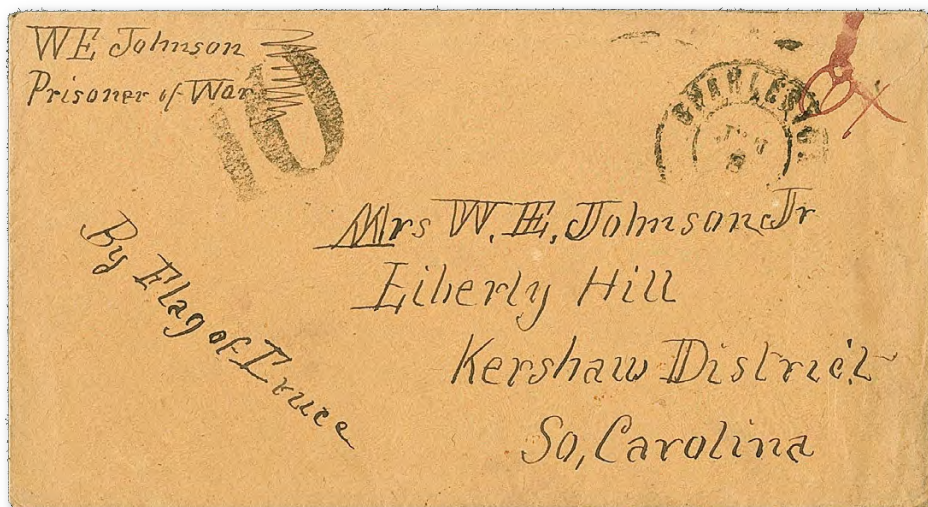
Ex “Summit”. With 2006 P.F. certificate..... Estimate \$4,000-5,000

FORMAL FLAG-OF-TRUCE MAIL ACROSS THE LINES



284

- 284 ☒ **Fort Pulaski, Ga., "Immortal 600"**. Buff inner prisoner-of-war cover to Liberty Hill S.C., endorsed "M. W. E. Johnson, Prisoner of War, Fort Pulaski", with photocopy of original letter datelined "Fort Pulaski Sunday morning Nov 20th 1864", "Savannah Geo. Nov. 20" with star circular datestamp and "10" due handstamp, unsealed for censoring, routed via Port Royal and then back to Savannah to enter C.S.A. mails, fresh and Very Fine use, in late October 1864 the "Immortal 600" prisoners from Morris Island, who had been exposed to mortar fire from their own Confederate batteries, were moved to Fort Pulaski at the mouth of the Savannah River, conditions were not much better there as they were forced to subsist on a near starvation diet, ex Kohn and Walske..... Estimate \$750-1,000



285

- 285 ☒ **Fort Pulaski, Ga., "Immortal 600"**. Buff inner prisoner-of-war cover to Liberty Hill S.C., endorsed "W. E. Johnson, Prisoner of War" and "By Flag of Truce", with photocopy of original letter datelined "Fort Pulaski Geo Dec 28th 1864", red manuscript "Ex" censor mark, "Charleston SC Jan. 8" (1865) double-circle datestamp and large "10" C.S.A. due handstamp, unsealed for censoring, routed via Port Royal and Charleston, small inconsequential tear at right, Very Fine, this cover is from the same prisoner as the prior lot, in late October 1864, the "Immortal 600" prisoners from Morris Island, who had been exposed to mortar fire from their own Confederate batteries in Charleston, were moved to Fort Pulaski at the mouth of the Savannah River, conditions were not much better there as they were forced to subsist on a near starvation diet, illustrated and discussed in an article by Brian Green and Patricia Kaufmann in the 1971 American Philatelic Congress book, ex Kohn and Walske..... Estimate \$750-1,000



286

- 286 ☒ **Fort Delaware, Delaware City.** Orange-buff prisoner-of-war cover to **St. John, New Brunswick**, endorsed at left "*T. J. Prichett*", cover unsealed for censor, "**Prisoner's Letter, Fort Delaware, Del. Examined**" censor's oval handstamp (Ty. I, known Apr.-Oct. 1864), **four singles of 3c Rose (65)**, one with natural straight edge, overpay 10c rate to British North America by 2c, stamps tied by "Delaware City Del. Oct. 10" (1864) duplex datestamp and target cancels, red "U States" cross-border handstamp and "St. John N.B. OC 14, 1864" receiving backstamp, with original letter from Capt. T. J. Prichett of the 64th Ga. Volunteers, regarding a request for money

FRESH AND EXTREMELY FINE. A SPECTACULAR PRISONER-OF-WAR COVER TO NEW BRUNSWICK, BRITISH NORTH AMERICA — ONE OF ONLY THREE RECORDED.

Thomas J. Prichett was commissioned as an officer in Company B, Georgia 64th Infantry Regiment, on April 8, 1863. His letter is addressed to R. R. Bearden, who was employed by the British firm of S. Isaac Campbell & Co., which supplied vast amounts of materials to the C.S.A. during the war. They also operated some of the most enterprising blockade-runners during the war, delivering loads of supplies to the C.S.A. and returning to Europe with cotton. Only a handful of prisoners' covers are known addressed beyond the United States — this is certainly among the most spectacular.

Illustrated in Antrim (p. 53) and Shenfield (p. 36). Ex Shenfield, Antrim, Simon and Walske Estimate \$4,000-5,000

FORMAL FLAG-OF-TRUCE MAIL ACROSS THE LINES



287

- 287 ✉ **Andersonville Ga. (Camp Sumter).** Cover to Dedham Mass. with original letter datelined "Confederate Prison Anderson Ga. March 6. 1864", endorsed "(via flag of truce)", with "Exd J.C.S." censor mark at top, C.S.A. postage paid by **10c Blue, Die B (12)**, manuscript cancel "Mar 9" and tied by provisional "**Andersonville Ga.**" circular handstamp with second strike to the right of the stamp, entered U.S. mails with "Old Point Comfort Va. Mar. 24" double-circle datestamp, "Due 6" circular handstamp for unpaid letter, bottom of stamp torn but complete

VERY FINE APPEARANCE. A BEAUTIFUL AND RARE FLAG-OF-TRUCE COVER FROM A PRISONER AT ANDERSONVILLE SENT VIA RICHMOND AND OLD POINT COMFORT.

The Andersonville prison, officially known as Camp Sumter, was the largest Confederate military prison during the Civil War and the most dreaded by Union soldiers. On March 27, 1864, Captain Henry Wirz assumed command of the stockade. By the end of the war, 12,913 of the approximately 45,000 Union prisoners held there had died, mostly from starvation and disease. After the war, Wirz was charged with conspiracy and murder by Federal authorities. His trial was held in the Capitol building in Washington and presided over by Union General Lew Wallace. A number of former prisoners testified on conditions at Andersonville, many accusing Wirz of specific acts of cruelty (some of these accounts were later called into question by historians as exaggerated or false). The court also heard from Confederate officers and considered official correspondence from captured Confederate records. Wirz presented evidence that he pleaded to Confederate authorities to obtain more food and maintained that he tried to improve the conditions for the prisoners. Wirz was found guilty of murder and sentenced to death. On November 10, 1865, he was hanged in Washington at the site of the current Supreme Court building — the only Confederate official to be tried, convicted and executed for war crimes during the Civil War.

Harrison lists two examiner markings from Andersonville in addition to "Exd. H.W." of Henry Wirz. The "J.C.S." marking is listed as used in February 1865 by an unknown censor. This cover shows that the officer who used those initials was censoring letters at least eleven months prior to February 1865.

Illustrated in *Special Routes* book (p. 238). Ex Walske Estimate \$3,000-4,000

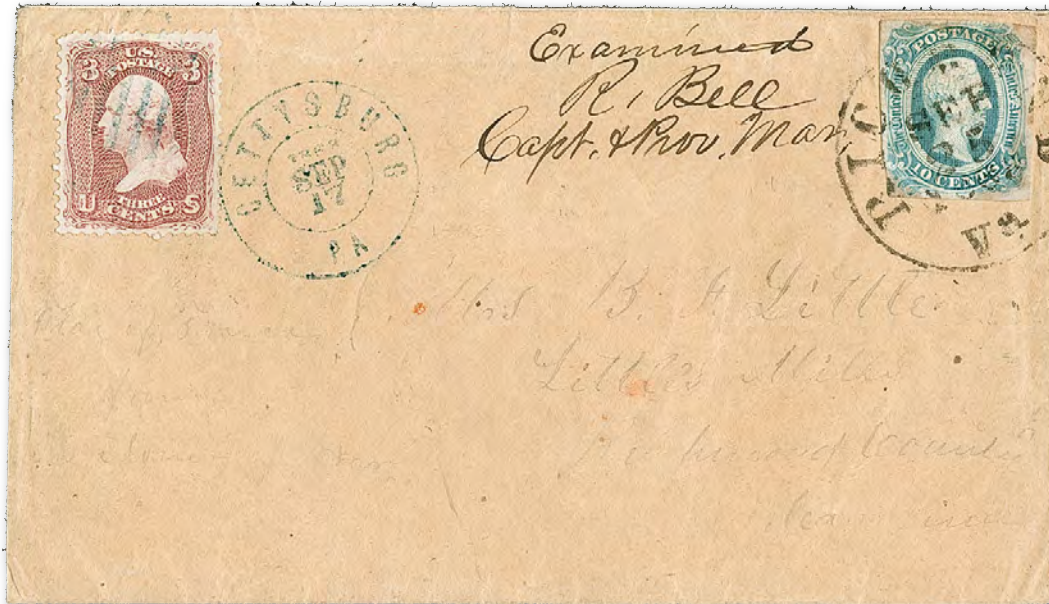
FORMAL FLAG-OF-TRUCE MAIL ACROSS THE LINES



Capt. B. F. Little

The Captain Benjamin F. Little Correspondence

Benjamin Franklin Little was appointed captain in Company E, North Carolina 52nd Infantry Regiment, on April 28, 1862, and promoted to full lieutenant-colonel on July 3, 1863, the last day of the Battle of Gettysburg. During Pickett's Charge, Lt. Col. Little was severely wounded while leading his men and captured on the battlefield; his wound eventually led to amputation of an arm. After spending time at the Letterman Hospital at Gettysburg, he was transported on September 28 to West's Building Hospital in Baltimore, then to Ft. McHenry Prison on October 22, 1863. Records show he was mustered out on August 30, 1864, at Gettysburg.



288

- 288 ☒ **Letterman General Hospital, Gettysburg Pa..** Buff prisoner-of-war cover from Lt. Col. Benjamin F. Little to his wife in Little's Mills N.C., endorsed "Flag of Truce from Prisoner of War" at lower left, manuscript "Examined, R. Bell Capt. & Prov. Mar." censor's mark, U.S. postage paid by **3c Rose (65)**, tied by blue grid cancel, matching "Gettysburg Pa. 1863 Sep. 17" double-circle datestamp also just ties the stamp, C.S.A. postage paid by **10c Blue, Die B (12)**, margins close, minor gum toning, tied by "Richmond Va. Sep. 25, 1863" circular datestamp

VERY FINE AND RARE MIXED-FRANKING COVER FROM THE PRISON HOSPITAL ESTABLISHED NEAR THE GETTYSBURG BATTLEFIELD AND SENT VIA FLAG-OF-TRUCE TO RICHMOND.

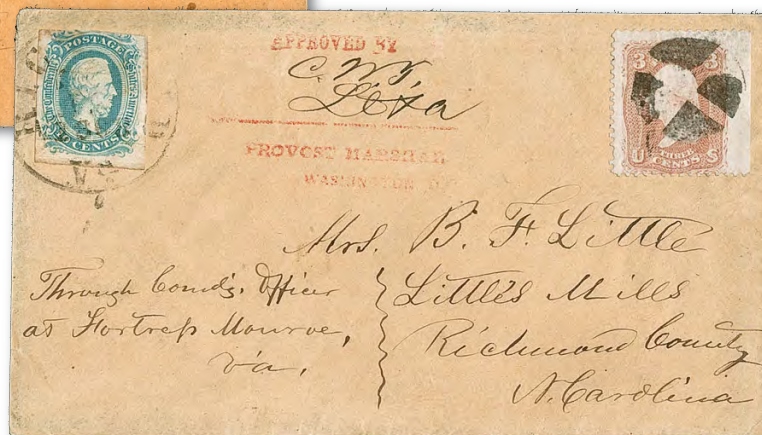
In the aftermath of the bloody battle of Gettysburg, approximately 22,000 soldiers of both armies required medical treatment, including thousands of wounded Confederate soldiers left behind as Lee began his retreat. Treatment of the wounded at Gettysburg was the responsibility of the Army of the Potomac. Dr. Jonathan Letterman, Medical Director for George G. Meade's Army issued orders on July 5, 1863, to establish a general hospital in the Gettysburg area and provide transportation and supplies to the site for treatment of the wounded. In his honor, the temporary hospital was named after him. The site chosen for the vast hospital camp was on the George Wolf Farm, roughly one and one-half miles east of Gettysburg on the York Pike. The hospital was ready by mid-July and staffed with a small army of surgeons, nurses, cooks, quartermaster and supply clerks while a detachment of infantry was detailed as camp guards to look after stores and hospitalized Confederate prisoners. Treated with equal care by the Union surgeons and nurses, the Confederate soldiers were later transported to northern prison camps before parole. Less than 100 patients remained at Camp Letterman by November 10 and it was officially closed a few weeks later. (from the *National Park Service Gettysburg* website at <http://www.nps.gov/archive/gett/getttour/sidebar/letterman.htm>).

Illustrated in *Special Routes* book (p. 235). Ex Walske Estimate \$3,000-4,000

FORMAL FLAG-OF-TRUCE MAIL ACROSS THE LINES



289



290

- 289 ☒ **West's Building Hospital, Baltimore Md.** Buff prisoner-of-war cover from Lt. Col. Benjamin F. Little to his wife in Little's Mills N.C., endorsed "*Flag of Truce — Prisoner of War.*", with prisoner's endorsement on back, U.S. postage paid by **3c Rose (65)**, C.S.A. postage paid by **pair of 5c Blue, Local (7)**, all stamps tied by blue target cancels, matching "Baltimore Md. Sep. 30 '63" double-circle datestamp (second strike at left edge) and clear "Richmond Va. Oct. 5, 1863" circular datestamp also ties 5c pair, which has minor soiling and edge nicks

VERY FINE. A GORGEOUS AND RARE MIXED-FRANKING PRISONER-OF-WAR COVER FROM WEST'S BUILDING HOSPITAL IN BALTIMORE IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE BATTLE OF GETTYSBURG.

West's Building Hospital and Fort McHenry were used sparingly after the July 1863 Gettysburg campaign. Fort McHenry was principally used for prisoners in transit to other prisons, and West's Hospital cared for up to 250 wounded prisoners. Covers from either are scarce, with West's slightly rarer than Ft. McHenry. Only manuscript examined markings are known from these prisons, and they appear on only some of the mail. The principal identifying characteristic of southbound mail is a Baltimore postmark and entry into the C.S.A. mails at Richmond. Distinguishing between the Fort McHenry and West's Hospital can sometimes be done by examined markings, or in the case of this cover, by prisoners' service records.

Ex Walske..... Estimate \$2,000-3,000

- 290 ☒ **Fort McHenry Prison, Baltimore Md., Old Capitol Prison, Washington D.C.** Buff prisoner-of-war cover from Lt. Col. Benjamin F. Little to his wife in Little's Mills N.C., originated at Ft. McHenry Prison, endorsed "*Through bond's officer at Fortress Monroe, Va.*", censored in transit at **Old Capitol Prison in Washington D.C.** by Lt. Charles W. Thompson with red "Approved by *C.W.T. Lt. & A* Provost Marshal, Washington D.C." examiner's handstamp (Ty. V) with the name in manuscript, endorsed on back "*from B. F. Little, Capt. Co. E. 52nd Regt. N.C. Infy*", mixed franking with U.S. postage paid by **3c Rose (65)**, cancelled by quartered cork, C.S.A. postage paid by **10c Blue, Die A (11)**, three large margins to touched at top, pre-use crease, tied by "Richmond Va. Nov. 19, 1863" circular datestamp

VERY FINE AND RARE MIXED-FRANKING PRISONER-OF-WAR COVER FROM FORT McHENRY AND CENSORED AT OLD CAPITOL PRISON IN WASHINGTON D.C.

The red Provost Marshal markings are usually found on covers with either U.S. or Confederate postage, but normally not both.

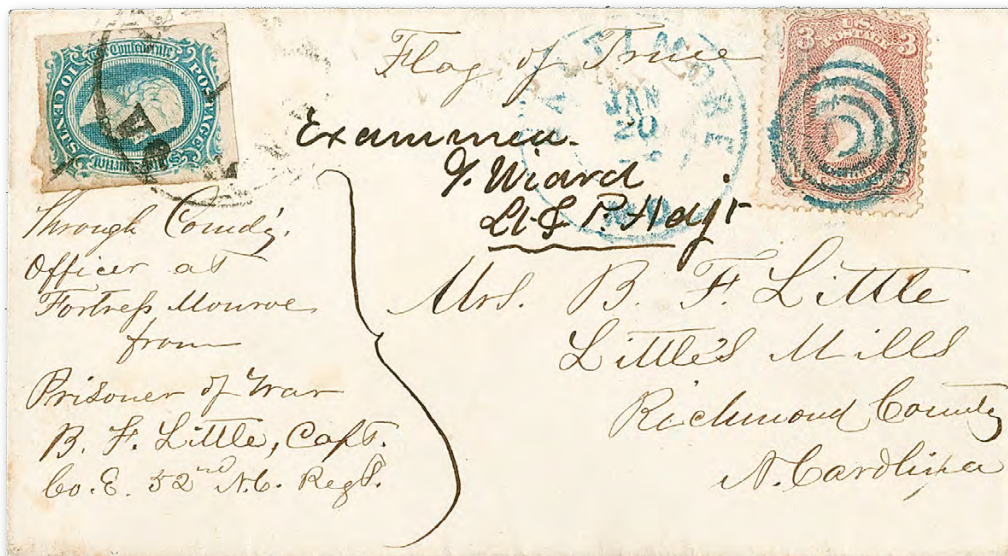
Illustrated in Antrim (p. 175). Ex Dr. Green and Walske..... Estimate \$1,500-2,000

FORMAL FLAG-OF-TRUCE MAIL ACROSS THE LINES



291

- 291 ☒ **Fort McHenry Prison, Baltimore Md.** Prisoner-of-war cover from Lt. Col. Benjamin F. Little to his wife in Little's Mills N.C., endorsed "Via Flag of Truce" and "Through Comd'g Officer at Fortress Monroe", with prisoner's endorsement below, manuscript "Ex Geo haul Ast Pa?" examiner's marking, mixed franking with U.S. postage paid by **3c Rose (65)**, tied by blue target cancel with matching "Baltimore Md. Dec. 21 '63" double-circle datestamp, C.S.A. postage paid by **10c Blue, Die A (11)**, slightly cut in from placement at top of cover, tied by "Richmond Va. Jan. 1" (1864) circular datestamp, cover with small edge tears, Very Fine mixed-franking flag-of-truce cover from Ft. McHenry, ex Walske Estimate \$1,000-1,500



292

- 292 ☒ **Fort McHenry Prison, Baltimore Md.** Prisoner-of-war cover from Lt. Col. Benjamin F. Little to his wife in Little's Mills N.C., mixed franking with **3c Rose (65)**, cancelled by blue target cancel with matching "Baltimore Md. Jan. 20, 1864" double-circle datestamp, endorsed "Through Comdg. Officer at Fortress Monroe from Prisoner of War B. F. Little Capt. Co. E 52nd N.C. Regt.," also "Flag of Truce" at top, censored "Examined F. Wiard Lt. & P Adjt.," C.S.A. postage paid by **10c Blue, Die A (11)**, large margins, tied by partly clear strike of Richmond Va. circular datestamp, Very Fine mixed-franking flag-of-truce cover from Ft. McHenry, ex Wishnietsky, with 2014 P.F. certificate..... Estimate \$1,000-1,500

FORMAL FLAG-OF-TRUCE MAIL ACROSS THE LINES



293

- 293 ☒ **Point Lookout, Md.** Buff prisoner-of-war cover to Milboro Springs Va., endorsed “*Via Fortress Monroe Flag of Truce Boat*”, “Prisoner’s Letter Examined.” octagonal censor’s handstamp (Ty. IIa), mixed franking with U.S. postage paid by **3c Rose (65)**, cancelled by target and matching “Point Lookout Md. Aug. 5 ‘64” circular datestamp which ties **pair 5c Blue, Local (7)**, also tied by overlapping “Richmond Va. Aug. 12” circular datestamp

EXTREMELY FINE. AN UNUSUALLY FRESH AND CHOICE POINT LOOKOUT MIXED-FRANKING FLAG-OF-TRUCE COVER EXCHANGED THROUGH OLD POINT COMFORT AND RICHMOND.

Illustrated in Antrim (p. 77). Ex Walske and “Clovis” Estimate \$1,500-2,000



294

- 294 ☒ **Point Lookout, Md.** Small incoming cover to prisoner-of-war from “*Co. H, 14th Regt. Va. Cavalry*” at Point Lookout, C.S.A. postage paid by **10c Blue, Die A (11)**, large margins, gum toning, tied by blue/ultramarine “Farmville Va.” circular datestamp, U.S. postage paid by **3c Rose (65)**, tied by bold quartered cork cancel with “Old Point Comfort Va. Feb. 23” double-circle datestamp, manuscript “LFP” censor’s marking applied at Point Lookout, Extremely Fine, a beautiful mixed-franking flag-of-truce cover to Point Lookout routed via Richmond and Old Point Comfort, ex Dr. Green and Walske Estimate \$1,000-1,500

FORMAL FLAG-OF-TRUCE MAIL ACROSS THE LINES

Pocotaligo and Port Royal, South Carolina, Exchange Point



295

- 295 ☒ **Camp Davidson, Savannah Ga.** Prisoner-of-war cover to Fall River Wis., endorsed “Sent by Capt M.C. Hobart, Prisoner of War, Savannah Ga.” and “Via Flag of Truce”, manuscript “Ex JH aag” (known Aug. 1864), mixed franking with C.S.A. postage paid by **10c Blue, Die B (12)**, tied by Savannah circular datestamp, used with **3c Rose (65)**, tied by target cancel and “Port Royal S.C. Sep. 5 ‘64” double-circle datestamp where it entered the U.S. mails, mended tear through cover and 10c stamp, some light staining at bottom

VERY FINE APPEARING AND RARE FLAG-OF-TRUCE COVER FROM CAMP DAVIDSON, SENT VIA POCOTALIGO AND PORT ROYAL. APPROXIMATELY SIX ARE KNOWN.

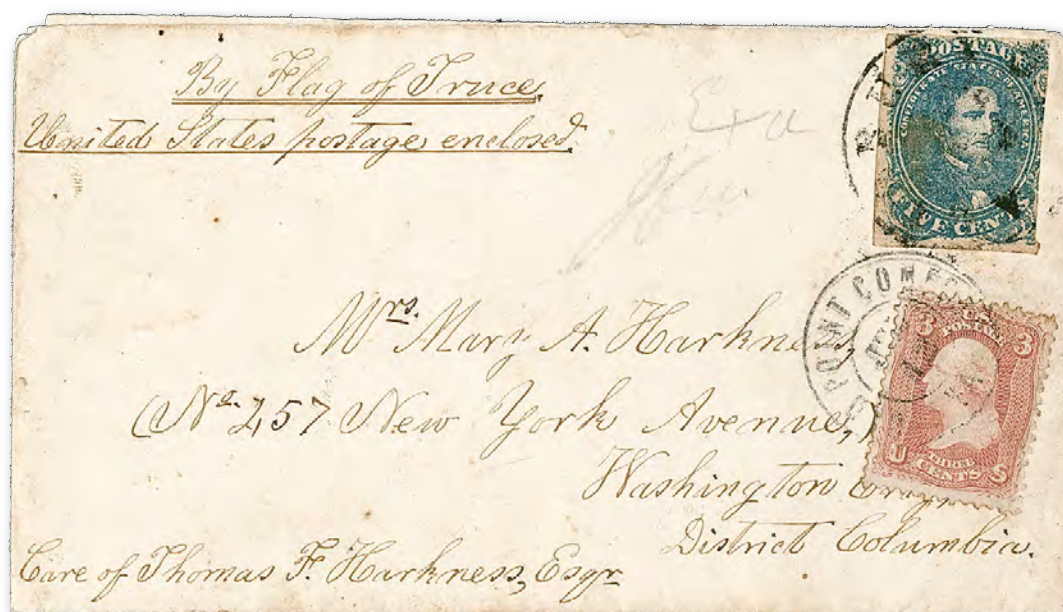
Martin C. Hobart was 25 years of age when he enlisted in Company B, Wisconsin 7th Infantry Regiment (part of the famous “Iron Brigade”) in 1861. Promoted to full colonel by the end of the war, he survived the war and prison and was mustered out on July 3, 1865. Camp Davidson, named for its first commander, was created from the old U.S. Marine Hospital to house Union commissioned officers in August 1864. Conditions were considered among the best of C.S.A. prisons, with shade and decent rations (Harrison p. 32). When the camp was liberated by Gen. Sherman in December 1864 after only five months of operation, it held 800 prisoners.

From July 1864 until February 1865, Union P.O.W. mail from Charleston, Savannah and Florence prisons was carried from Pocotaligo S.C. (on the Charleston & Savannah R.R. line) to Union-held Port Royal, S.C. Flag-of-truce mail via South Carolina is considerably rarer than flag-of-truce mail via Virginia. Most surviving covers are inner envelopes, but a few mixed-franking covers like this one are known. The route was closed by the Federal capture of Pocotaligo on January 14, 1865.


Illustrated in *Special Routes* book (p. 77). Ex Antrim and Walske..... Estimate \$2,000-3,000

FORMAL FLAG-OF-TRUCE MAIL ACROSS THE LINES

Other Flag-of-Truce Exchange Points



296

- 296  **5c Blue, Stone 2 (4).** Ample margins to slightly in, tied by Salisbury N.C. circular datestamp with unclear date on 1862 **civilian flag-of-truce** cover to Mrs. Mary Harkness in Washington D.C., neat manuscript "By Flag of Truce, United States postage enclosed" and "Care of Thomas F. Harkness, Esq", entered U.S. mails with **3c Rose (65)** tied by "Old Point Comfort Jul. 12" double-circle datestamp, pencil "Exd JFW?" censor's marking, back panel with "If this is not permitted to pass the 'Lines', I desire it to be forwarded to Box No. 50, Salisbury, North Carolina", slight soiling including on left part of 5c stamp, 3c stamp with small internal crease

VERY FINE MIXED-FRANKING CIVILIAN FLAG-OF-TRUCE COVER FROM SALISBURY N.C. TO WASHINGTON D.C. IN JUNE-JULY 1862. A RARE USE AFTER NEARLY ALL OF THIS MAIL WAS ELIMINATED WITH THE FALL OF NORFOLK.

Up until the fall of Norfolk on May 9, 1862, civilian flag-of-truce mail could be sent in an outer envelope with C.S.A. postage paid to the point of exchange (Norfolk and Fortress Monroe). The outer envelope was normally discarded at the exchange point and the inner envelope, addressed to the North, was postmarked at Old Point Comfort. In this case, the sender's note makes it clear that he enclosed the U.S. 3c stamp in the cover for application and cancellation at Old Point Comfort — eliminating the need for separate outer and inner covers. This is a rare use in June-July 1862, as by this point nearly all civilian flag-of-truce mail was discontinued (until restarting in June 1863). The Salisbury datestamp is unclear but it must be a pre-July 1, 1862, use or the cover would have been paid 10c.

The "Care of Thomas F. Harkness, Esq" notation also appears on a "Southn. Letter Unpaid" cover from Salisbury N.C. to Washington D.C. Thomas F. Harkness was appointed as a letter carrier in Washington D.C. on August 30, 1849 (*Chronicle* 120, p. 243). He is responsible for the "H" cancellations on a 3c 1851 first day cover and on a number of U.S. Eagle Carrier covers from the early 1850s.

Ex Kilbourne Estimate \$2,000-3,000

FORMAL FLAG-OF-TRUCE MAIL ACROSS THE LINES



297

- 297 ✉ **10c Blue, Paterson (2).** Large margins all around, used with **3c Rose (65)** and tied by Knoxville Tenn. **Union-occupation** double-circle datestamp with unclear date (ca. 1863-64), both stamps also tied by target cancels on small cover addressed to Carter's Depot Tenn. with pencil "62d Tenn Regt", manuscript "Per Flag of Truce" and "Via Fortress Monroe" (in different hands), also "Care of Col. Crawford", exchanged via Fortress Monroe and City Point-Richmond, 10c stamp tied by "Richmond Va. Sep. 11" circular datestamp, some soiling and small stain at lower left

VERY FINE APPEARANCE. A BEAUTIFUL AND EXTREMELY RARE MIXED FRANKING CIVILIAN FLAG-OF-TRUCE COVER WITH THE 10-CENT PATERSON LITHOGRAPH AND U.S. 3-CENT 1861 ISSUE.

This is a fascinating use, both originating in and ending in Tennessee. It was sent from Union-controlled Knoxville to Fortress Monroe and Richmond, in order to reach Confederate East Tennessee. The distance between Knoxville and Carter's Depot (present-day Watauga, Tenn.) is a mere 125 miles, though this cover traveled much farther than that. Civilian flag-of-truce mail resumed in June 1863 with the exchange points Fortress Monroe-Old Point Comfort and City Point-Richmond.

The use of the Confederate 10c Blue Lithograph on any mixed-franking flag-of-truce cover with U.S. postage is extremely rare. Only one prisoner-of-war use is recorded (ex Walske, Siegel Sale 988, lot 190). This is the only civilian flag-of-truce use we have encountered with this combination.

Ex Kilbourne. With 1967 P.F. certificate issued to Charles Kilbourne (after private acquisition from an original find) Estimate \$2,000-3,000

FORMAL FLAG-OF-TRUCE MAIL ACROSS THE LINES



298 front and back

- 298 ✉ **Mobile Ala. to New Orleans by Flag-of-Truce.** Small cover addressed to Miss Zoe Campbell on "Bourbon street bet. Conti & Bienville Streets, New Orleans La.", instructions "Be kind enough so as to forward it", back of cover with manuscript "Appd. JCDenis Pro. MI" censor's marking applied by Mobile Provost Marshal Jules C. Denis, exchanged by flag-of-truce and endorsed by Union censor "Approved MMD Hd. Qrs. Defences N.O", "Due 3" straightline handstamp for U.S. postage, pencil receipt docketing "16 Octobre 1863 Vendredi", lightly soiled

VERY FINE. THIS IS THE ONLY RECORDED COVER CARRIED BY FLAG-OF-TRUCE FROM THE CONFEDERACY INTO FEDERAL-OCCUPIED NEW ORLEANS.

Mail from the Confederate States to residents of New Orleans was generally discouraged. This is the first and only recorded example of such mail that was exchanged via the flag-of-truce route between Mobile and New Orleans. It was censored on both sides — by Mobile Provost Marshal Jules C. Denis at Mobile and a Union censor at New Orleans.

The papers of Zoe Jane Campbell can be found at the Manuscript Department of the William R. Perkins Library, Duke University: "871: Zoe Jane Campbell Papers, 1855-1898. 152 items. New Orleans, La. Principally family letters to Zoe Jane Campbell during the Civil War concerning Confederate Army matters such as troop movements, immorality among the soldiers, complaints against officers, soldiers' pay, and health conditions. There is considerable information on the U.S. military prisons at Elmira, New York, and at Belleville, Louisiana. Also included is material on social life and customs in New York and Washington, D.C., and on the internal disorders in northern Mexico in the late 1850's."

Ex Walske..... Estimate \$1,000-1,500

FORMAL FLAG-OF-TRUCE MAIL ACROSS THE LINES



299

- 299 ☒ **District of East Tennessee Provost Marshal.** Inner envelope with original letter datelined "Loudon Tennessee Apr 30th 1864", sent from U.S.-controlled Loudon (near Knoxville) to C.S.A.-controlled Kingsport Tenn., censored with **embossed "Provost Marshal General of East Tennessee" seal** and manuscript "Ex LA Gratz Maj & aaag", C.S.A. postage paid by **10c Blue, Die A (11)**, uncanceled, the exchange point was Knoxville where Maj. Gratz was located, stamp with small edge faults from placement, light soiling and backflap partially split and reinforced

VERY FINE AND EXTREMELY RARE EXAMPLE OF THE EAST TENNESSEE PROVOST MARSHAL EMBOSSED SEAL. FEWER THAN FIVE EXAMPLES ARE KNOWN.

Provost marshals were military officers charged with the duties of making searches, seizures, and arrests, the custody of deserters and of prisoners of war, and the issuance of passes. Their duties also included the examination of letters to or from potentially disloyal persons. Two types of provost marshals were appointed during the Civil War. Each military district had a provost marshal whose duties were focused on maintaining order within the geographic confines of that district. In addition, each army had a provost marshal whose duties were more military in nature, such as taking temporary charge of captured prisoners and maintaining order in the army.

Virtually all examination of mail was performed by the district provost marshals. Both the U.S and C.S.A. district provost marshal organizations examined across-the-lines mail. In that context, they were responsible for P.O.W. mail, civilian flag-of-truce mail, blockade-run mail, and smuggled mail. A number of different manuscript provost marshal markings appear on through-the-lines covers as well as Union handstamped markings. The only district to use the rare embossed marking is the District of East Tennessee.

Illustrated in Harrison (p. 246) and *Special Routes* book (p. 98). Ex Walske Estimate \$2,000-3,000

FORMAL FLAG-OF-TRUCE MAIL ACROSS THE LINES

Humorous “Faux” Flag-of-Truce Censor Marking
Applied by a Member of Alf Johnson’s Texas “Spy Company,”



300

- 300 ✉ **10c Blue, Paterson (2).** Large even margins, tied by bold “**Little Rock Ark. Jun. 16**” double-circle datestamp on orange-buff cover to McKinney Tex., manuscript “*Approved Sebe Hatler Maj. Gen. Commanding one Sorel Horse*”, cover tear affects address and censor marking, otherwise Very Fine, Sebron Hatler was a member of Alf Johnson’s Texas “Spy Company,” a group of guerilla fighters who attacked U.S. forces around Little Rock beginning in May 1862, his notation on this cover to his wife is a sarcastic joke (there was never a “Major General Hatler”), ex Boshwit..... Estimate \$1,000-1,500

FORMAL FLAG-OF-TRUCE MAIL ACROSS THE LINES

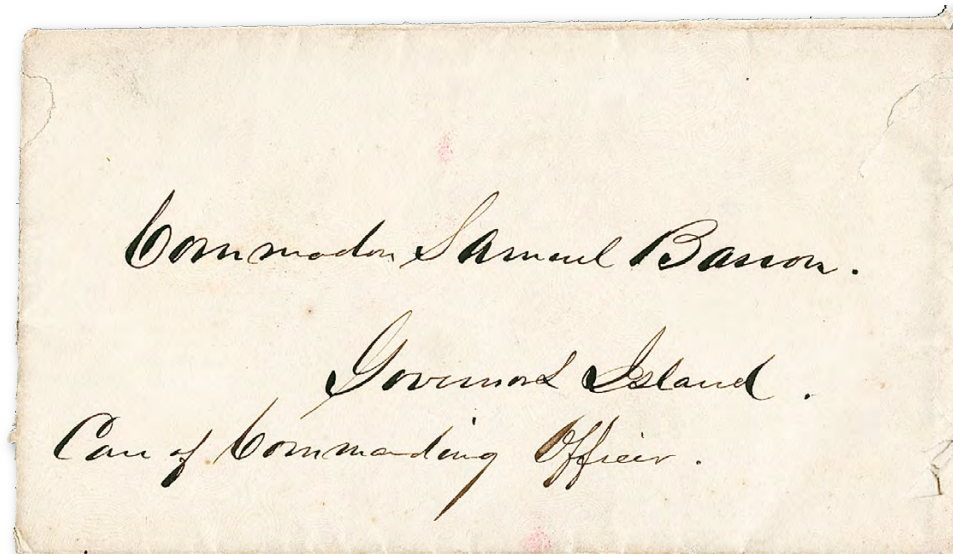


Comm. Samuel Barron

Mail to C.S.A. Commodore Samuel Barron in Federal Prison

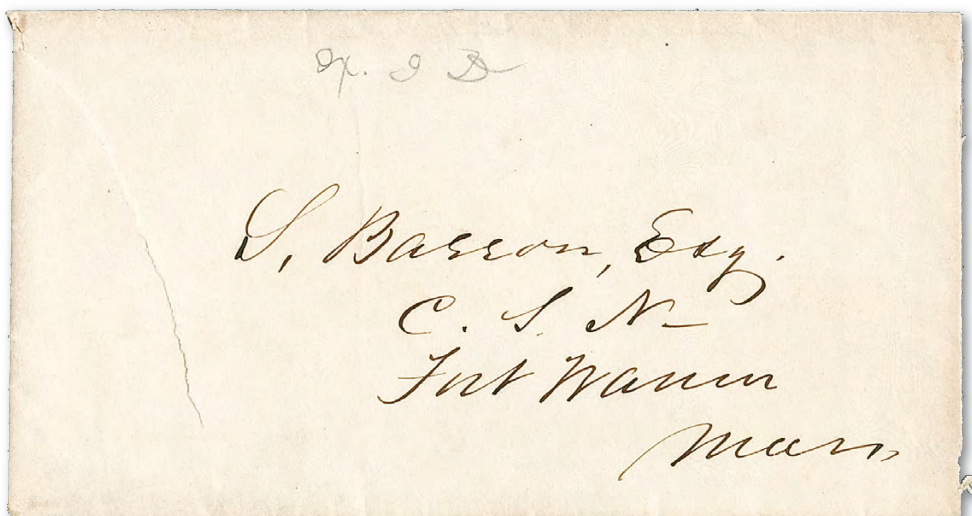
Commodore Samuel Barron left his powerful position as Chief of the Bureau of Detail in the U.S. Navy to become a C.S.A. Navy commander and chief of the Office of Orders and Details. He commanded the defense of both the forts Hatteras and Clark against U.S. Flag Officer Silas H. Stringham during the Battle of Hatteras Inlet in August 1861. Barron was captured following the surrender of the two fortresses and released in a prisoner exchange eleven months later, and served most of the rest of the war in France overseeing the building of blockade-running ships for the Confederacy.

301



- 301 ☒ “Commodore Samuel Barron, Governor’s Island, Care of Commanding Officer”. Address on cover to Barron as **prisoner of war**, no postal markings, some slight edgewear, Very Fine Estimate \$500-750

302



- 302 ☒ “S. Barron Esq. C.S.N. Fort Warren Mass.” Address on cover to Barron as **prisoner of war**, manuscript “Ex. J.D.” examiner’s mark, cover tear at left, Very Fine appearance Estimate \$500-750

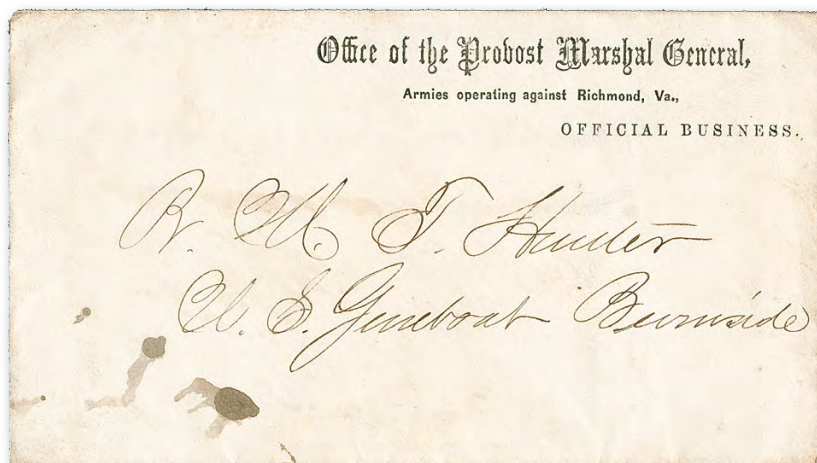
FORMAL FLAG-OF-TRUCE MAIL ACROSS THE LINES



Robert M. T. Hunter

Mail to C.S.A. Senator Robert M. T. Hunter in Federal Prison

Robert M. T. Hunter was a Confederate Senator (whose portrait is on a \$10 Confederate bill) and was one of three members of the Confederacy who met with Lincoln and Seward at the Hampton Roads Peace Conference on February 3, 1865. He was arrested by Federal forces later in 1865 and imprisoned without trial at Fort Pulaski until 1866.



303

- 303 ✉ **Office of the Provost Marshal General, Armies Operating Against Richmond, Va., Official Business.** Imprint on cover addressed to **Robert M. T. Hunter, a Confederate Senator, evidently as a prisoner on board the U.S. Gunboat Burnside**, no other markings, Very Fine, a rare imprint and an even rarer use, the *General Burnside* was built in 1862 and sold to the War Department in 1863, she became flagship of the upper Tennessee River Fleet where she patrolled the river to Whitesburg, Decatur, and Chattanooga, this letter was likely sent to Hunter as a prisoner on his way to Fort Pulaski..... Estimate \$750-1,000



304EX

- 304 ✉ **Robert M. T. Hunter.** 13 covers addressed to former Confederate Senator Hunter as a prisoner at Fort Pulaski Ga., including nine with 3c Rose (65), one with "Steamboat" handstamp, one adversity cover made from an illustrated envelope, several defective but still a worthwhile group.....(Photo Ex) Estimate \$750-1,000

Feeding the poor in New Orleans during Federal occupation, *Harper's Weekly*,
June-August 1862

Photo credit: <https://31massinf.wordpress.com>



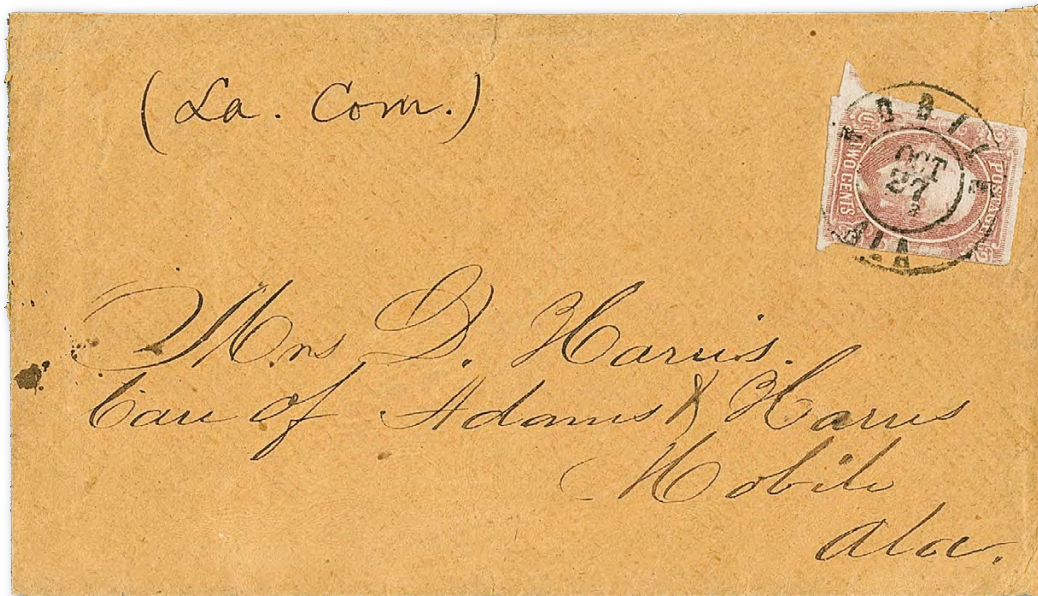
COVERT MAIL ROUTES



COVERT MAIL ROUTES

Louisiana Relief Committee—New Orleans and Mobile

On May 31, 1863, a group of expatriate New Orleans citizens in Mobile, Alabama, organized a committee to alleviate the suffering of poor citizens who remained in U.S.-occupied New Orleans. With the tacit concurrence of Federal authorities in New Orleans, the Louisiana Relief Committee at Mobile arranged to provide much-needed food and clothing and helped citizens leave New Orleans for the Confederate States. These trips between Mobile and New Orleans via Pascagoula ran along the Mississippi Sound and carried mail, which was not sanctioned by the Federal postal authorities. Jules C. Denis, C.S.A. provost marshal at Mobile, examined the southbound letters. These trips were also used to transmit flag-of-truce mail to and from Confederate prisoners being held in New Orleans.



305

- 305 ✉ **2c Brown Red (8).** Large margins to just in at right, tied by bold "Mobile Ala. Oct. 27" double-circle datestamp on orange-buff cover **originating in New Orleans** and addressed to Mobile Ala., manuscript "*(La. Com.)*" **applied by agent for Louisiana Relief Committee**, part of top flap missing but "*Appd JCD PM*" (Mobile Provost Marshal Jules C. Denis) examiner's notation is intact in light ink, small tear at top

VERY FINE. A CHOICE AND RARE LOUISIANA RELIEF COMMITTEE COVER WITH THE 2-CENT RED JACK PAYING DROP-LETTER POSTAGE.

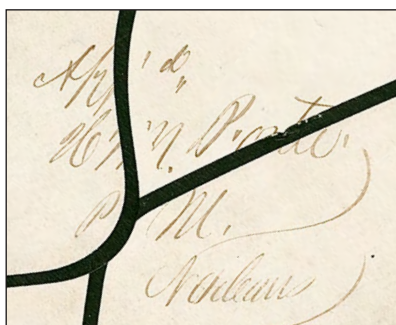
In this case, the letter was addressed in care of a local Mobile firm, and it was put into the mails as a drop letter.

Illustrated in *Special Routes* book (p. 171). Ex Everett. With 2003 P.F. certificate
..... Estimate \$3,000-4,000

COVERT MAIL ROUTES



306



Detail of back

306 ✉ **5c Blue, Stone 2 (4).** Horizontal pair, used with **pair and single 1c Blue (63)**, all stamps left uncanceled on small cover with mourning border on flaps (for death of James Henry Caldwell) to Edward H. Caldwell at Mobile Ala., reverse with "**Appd. H.M. Porter, P.M. N Orleans**" censor mark applied by Major H. M. Porter, Assistant Union Provost Marshal of New Orleans, 1c stamps with straight edge and small perf flaws at top from placement near edge of cover

VERY FINE. A UNIQUE MIXED-FRANKING COVER FROM NEW ORLEANS TO MOBILE, CARRIED EITHER BY THE LOUISIANA RELIEF COMMITTEE OR BY FLAG-OF-TRUCE.

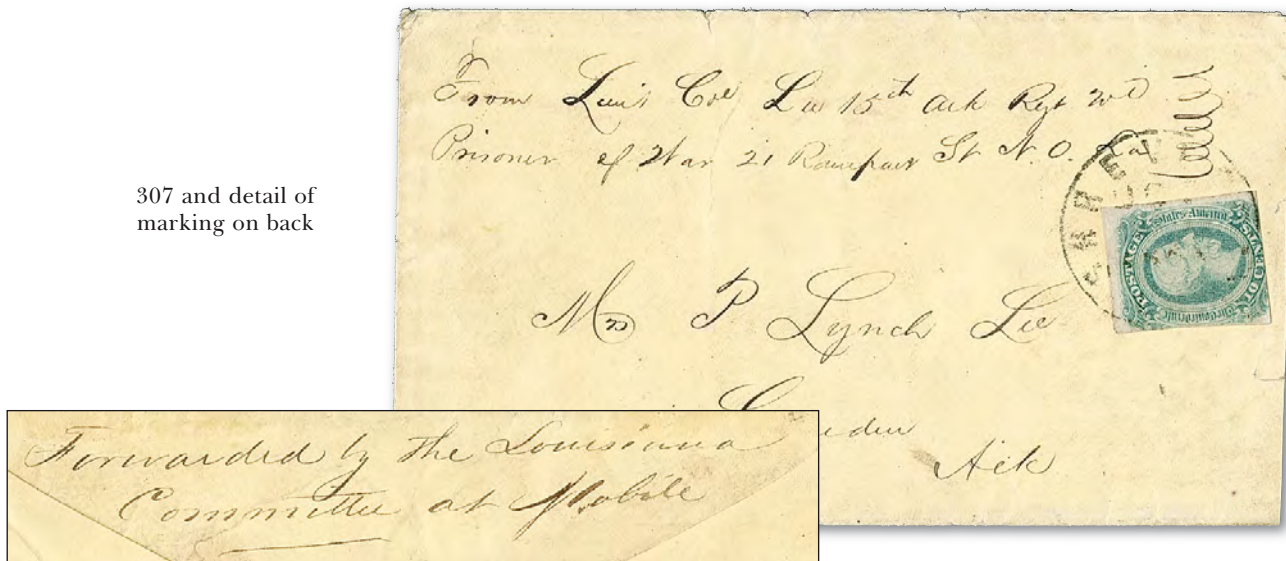
This cover can be dated to September 1863, based on the death of James Henry Caldwell, who was the father of the recipient, Edward H. Caldwell. This was the period that the Louisiana Relief Committee was in operation and carrying mail from New Orleans to Mobile, although this cover does not have the typical endorsement of such letters. The recipient's father, James H. Caldwell, was known as the "Father of Gas and Light" in New Orleans, and Edward was president of the Mobile Gas Light and Coke Company in Mobile.


Another cover definitely carried by the Louisiana Relief Committee is also addressed to Edward Caldwell (Sale 1043, lot 2603). This dual franking, which might have been applied simultaneously or in succession, was sufficient to pay either U.S. or C.S.A. postage, or both. However, after censoring by the U.S. Provost Marshal, it was evidently delivered to Edward Caldwell without the involvement of either government's post offices.

Ex Corwin. With 2002 P.F. certificate stating "genuine" but declining opinion as to what the cover "represents" (the censor marking and biographical information explain the usage) Estimate \$4,000-5,000

COVERT MAIL ROUTES

307 and detail of marking on back



- 307  **10c Greenish Blue, Die B (12c).** Two large margins, cut in at bottom and touched at left, tied by “Shreveport La. Oct. (date?) 1863” circular datestamp on yellow cover **carried by the Louisiana Relief Committee from a Confederate prisoner in New Orleans, then by C.S.A. Trans-Mississippi mail to Camden, Arkansas, west of the Mississippi**, sender’s endorsement “From Lieut. Col. Lee, 15th Ark. Regt., Prisoner of War, 21 Rampart St. N.O. La.” and addressed to his wife, Mrs. Paul Lynch Lee, at Camden, back of cover with manuscript “**Forwarded by the Louisiana Committee at Mobile**” and manuscript “**Appd. J C Denis PMG**” censor marking applied by Mobile Provost Marshal Jules C. Denis, slightly reduced and tiny edge tear at right

VERY FINE. AN IMPORTANT POSTAL ARTIFACT OF THE CIVIL WAR, BEING THE ONLY RECORDED COVER CARRIED BY THE LOUISIANA RELIEF COMMITTEE OUT OF NEW ORLEANS AND THEN TO A DESTINATION WEST OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER.

This remarkable cover combines three extraordinary aspects of postal communication during the Civil War. To start, it is an extremely rare example of mail clearly identifiable as originating from a Confederate prisoner held at 21 Rampart Street prison in New Orleans. Second, it was carried from New Orleans to Mobile on a Louisiana Relief Committee trip. Third, it was carried west across the Mississippi River, which was controlled by Federal naval forces, and entered the C.S.A. postal system at Shreveport, Louisiana.

The sender, C.S.A. Lt. Col. Paul Lynch Lee, was a member of the 15th Arkansas Regiment. He enlisted on Oct. 22, 1861, at his home town of Camden, Arkansas and was promoted to Colonel one year later. Col. Lee was captured on Feb. 6, 1862, at Fort Henry, Tennessee, and sent to the U.S. military prison at Alton, Illinois, then to Columbus, Ohio, on Feb. 28, 1862. He was transferred to Fort Warren, Massachusetts, on April 8, 1862, then to Fortress Monroe, Virginia, on July 31, 1862, where he was exchanged. The Port Hudson Hospital Ledger dated May 27, 1863, lists Col. Lee with a wound in his leg. While hospitalized, Col. Lee struck a private with his crutches and was charged with conduct unbecoming an officer. We do not know the outcome of the incident, but Col. Lee returned to battle and was captured again on July 9, 1863, at Port Hudson, Louisiana. He and 403 other C.S.A. officers were sent to New Orleans. Col. Lee was imprisoned at the Customs House in New Orleans from July 16 to Sep. 16, 1863. On Sep. 17 he was moved to 21 Rampart Street, where he stayed until early October. Col. Lee was transferred to Fort Columbus in New York Harbor, then to Johnson’s Island, Point Lookout and Fort Delaware. He was released on June 13, 1865.

After this cover reached the Louisiana Relief Committee in Mobile, it was stamped and bundled with letters bound for points west of the Mississippi, then sent to the eastern terminus of the government trans-Mississippi mails at Meridien, Mississippi. Once the courier carried the mail across the river, the letters were unbundled and postmarked at the western terminus at Shreveport, Louisiana, and from there this cover traveled by rail to Camden, Arkansas.

Illustrated in *Special Routes* book (p. 79). Ex Kohlhepp (see his article on this cover in *Confederate Philatelist*, Sep.-Oct. 1980, No. 197), Birkinbine and Walske. With 1976 P.F. certificate..... Estimate \$4,000-5,000

COVERT MAIL ROUTES

New Orleans



- 308 ☒ **Smuggled Mail from Federal-Occupied New Orleans.** Oatmeal cover addressed to “Emile H. Reynes, care Capt. Gustave LeGardeur, Orleans Guards Battery, Charleston S.C.”, with sender’s directive “Office Prov. Mar. Genl Demopolis, Ala.” and “Charge box 71”, “Demopolis Ala. Jun. 4” (ca. 1863) circular datestamp and manuscript “Paid 10”

VERY FINE. AN EXTREMELY RARE COVER FROM THE WELL-KNOWN REYNES CORRESPONDENCE — SENT BY COVERT MEANS FROM FEDERAL-OCCUPIED NEW ORLEANS.

The sender of this cover used covert means to carry mail from Federal-occupied New Orleans to the Confederate Provost Marshal at Demopolis, where the letter entered the mails and 10c postage was charged to a box account. The best-known examples of covert mail from New Orleans are the Louisiana Relief Committee covers. This is an excellent example of additional means residents of New Orleans found to communicate with other parts of the Confederacy.

Ex Dr. Skinner and Dr. Brandon. Estimate \$1,500-2,000

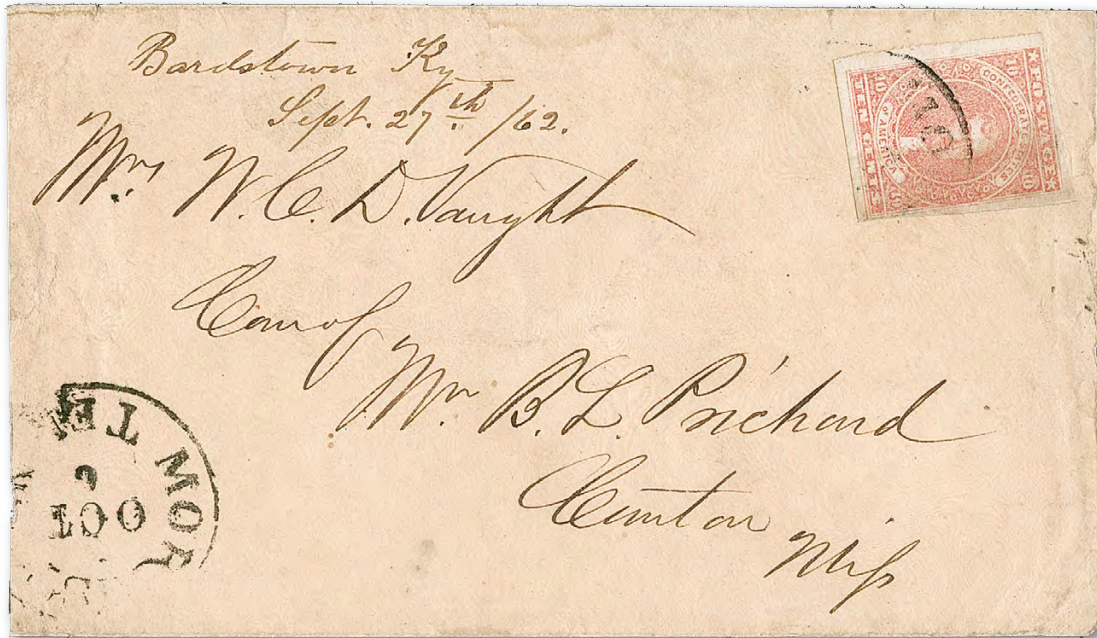
- 309 ☒ **Smuggled Mail from Federal-Occupied New Orleans.** 3c Rose (65) with wide straddle-pane margin, tied by brush stroke, bold “Summit Miss.” dateless circle handstamp on small cover to Berzelia Ga., manuscript “from Orleans” and “due 10c”, additional manuscript “Pd WEL”, receipt docketing “Recd 4 Feb/64”

VERY FINE. AN EXTREMELY RARE COVER SMUGGLED OUT OF FEDERAL-OCCUPIED NEW ORLEANS AND PLACED INTO THE CONFEDERATE MAILS AT SUMMIT, MISSISSIPPI.

The manuscript “from Orleans” notation applied at the Summit post offices indicates that the postmaster was aware of the letter’s origin and familiar with the practice of smuggling mail out of New Orleans where Confederate sympathizers were under the governance of the U.S. military. Because of its location on the New Orleans, Jackson and Great Northern Railroad, the town of Summit, Mississippi, was an exchange point for through-the-lines mail to and from the western Confederacy. The U.S. stamp was affixed in New Orleans, but it served no purpose in the Confederate mail system. Estimate \$1,500-2,000

COVERT MAIL ROUTES

Kentucky



310

- 310 ☒ **10c Rose (5).** Mostly large margins, clear at lower right, faint gum toning and pre-use crease, tied by light strike of "Morristown Ten. Oct. 6" (1862) circular datestamp, repeated at lower left, manuscript "*Bardstown Ky Sept. 27th /62*" **Confederate occupation postmark** at upper left of cover to Canton, Mississippi.

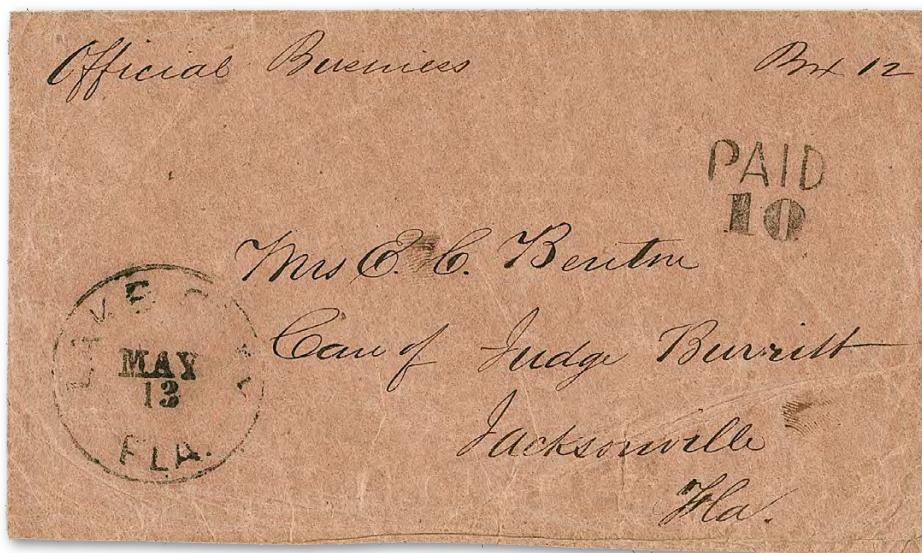
VERY FINE AND EXTREMELY RARE COVERT MAIL COVER, SENT FROM BARDSTOWN, KENTUCKY, DURING THE BRIEF OCCUPATION BY CONFEDERATE FORCES UNDER GENERAL BRAGG (SEPTEMBER 23 THROUGH OCTOBER 3, 1862) AND CARRIED BY PRIVATE COURIER TO THE MORRISTOWN, TENNESSEE, POST OFFICE WHERE IT ENTERED THE CONFEDERATE MAILS.

Generals Braxton Bragg and Edmund Kirby Smith led the 1862 Confederate invasion of Kentucky that began in August. Bragg's forces withdrew to Bardstown, Kentucky, and occupied the city from September 23 through October 3. This cover originated at a field post office in Bardstown and was carried by a private courier to Morristown, Tennessee, where it was placed into the regular mails for Canton, Mississippi. The use of a 10c Rose Lithograph on a cover originating in Kentucky adds to its great rarity.

Ex Gallagher. With 1998 P.F. certificate Estimate \$3,000-4,000

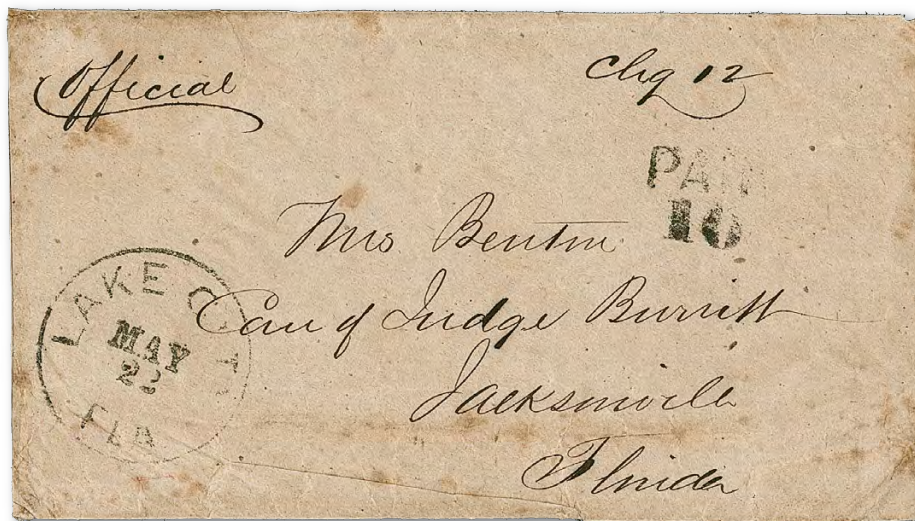
COVERT MAIL ROUTES

Florida



311

- 311 ☒ **Lake City Fla. May 13 (1863).** Circular datestamp and “Paid 10” handstamp on oatmeal cover to Mrs. E. C. Benton in **Federal-occupied Jacksonville**, manuscript “Official Business” and charge box notation, original enclosure datelined “Head Quarters Dist. E. Fla., Lake City May 13th 1863”, letter grants permission for Mrs. Benton “to go into enemy lines via Fernandina,” signed by Adjutant General Wilkinson Call (later a U.S. Senator), cover with minor wrinkling, Very Fine and rare **covert across-the-lines cover** from Confederate to Federal-occupied Florida, a fantastic use and companion to the cover offered in the following lot, illustrated in *Florida Postal History During the Civil War* (p. 120), ex Dr. Briggs Estimate \$750-1,000

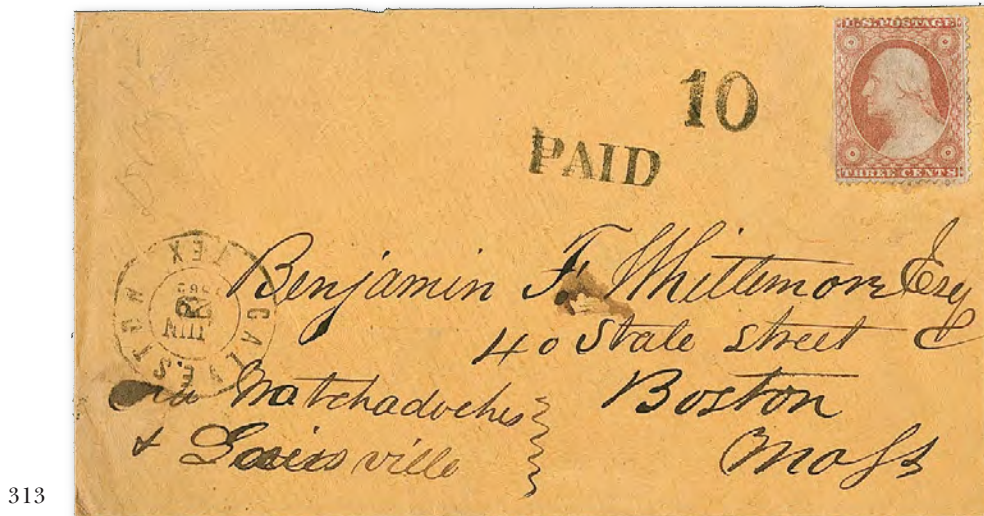


312

- 312 ☒ **Lake City Fla. May 22 (1863).** Circular datestamp and “Paid 10” handstamp on cover to Mrs. E.C. Benton in **Federal-occupied Jacksonville**, manuscript “Official” and charge box notation, original enclosure datelined “Head Quarters Dist. E. Fla., Lake City May 20th 1863”, letter is a follow up to the letter offered in the previous lot and grants permission for Mrs. Benton “to pass to the enemy lines via Fernandina where my facility will be offered you by our officers & a flag of truce sent with you,” signed by Adjutant General Wilkinson Call (later a U.S. Senator), cover with minor wrinkling and scattered toned spots, still Very Fine and rare **covert across-the-lines cover** from Confederate to Federal-occupied Florida, the companion to the cover offered in the previous lot, illustrated in *Florida Postal History During the Civil War* (p. 121), ex Dr. Briggs Estimate \$750-1,000

COVERT MAIL ROUTES

Texas and Arizona



313

- 313 ☒ **Galveston Tex. Jun. 29, 1862.** Double-circle datestamp with “Paid” and “10” C.S.A. rate hand-stamps on buff cover **to Boston Mass.**, sender’s route instructions “Via Natchadoches & Louisville”, Natchitoches La. was near Fort Jessup Ark. and from there the letter could have been carried across Tennessee, except for the Union occupation of Nashville at this time — probably carried covertly by express to Boston via Louisville — pencil docketing “Draft” indicates arrival, Very Fine and unusual 1862 cover from Texas to the North, ex Gallagher, with 1998 P.F. certificate stating genuine usage of the stamp “which did not serve any postal duty”..... Estimate \$1,000-1,500

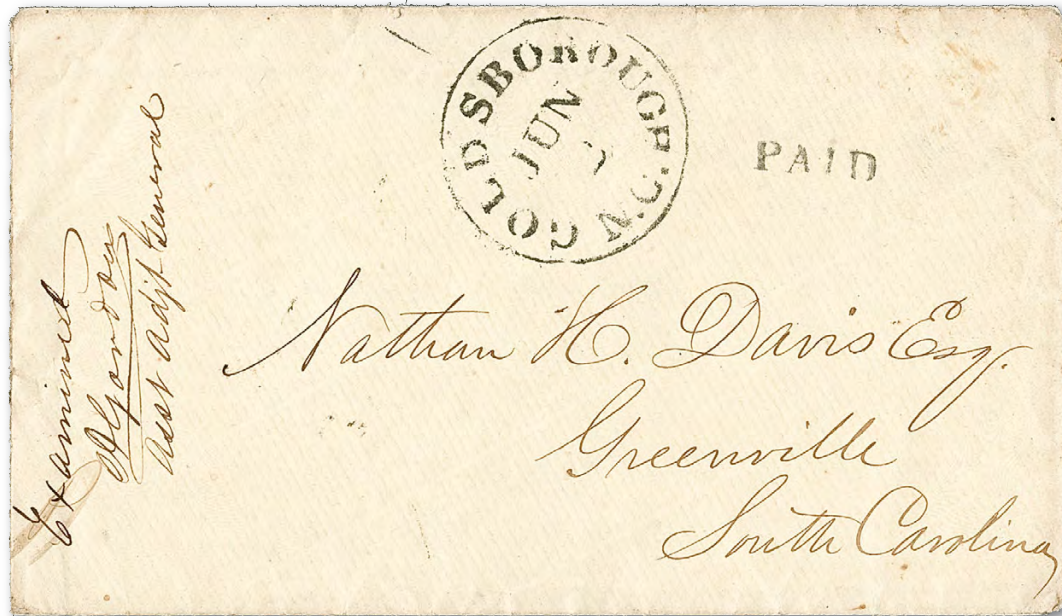


314

- 314 ☒ **3c Dull Red, Ty. III (26)** tied by “San Francisco Cal. Jun. 5” (1861) circular datestamp on cover to Raphael Pumpelly at the Santa Rita Mining Co. in Tubac, red docketing, probably carried on the steamer *Panama*, sailed south to Mazatlan on June 6, taken by stage from San Diego to Tucson, then by Lathrop’s Buckboard Mail to Tubac, Very Fine and rare use **to seceded Arizona Territory**, the four covers offered in Siegel Sale 1189 (lots 1075-1078) are addressed to Raphael Pumpelly, a geologist, engineer, author and later a professor at Harvard, who was associated with the Salero Mining Company, headquartered in Tubac from 1858 to 1861, Pumpelly was recruited to improve the company’s performance, but constant attacks by Apache Indians eventually led to the company’s demise, as well as the death of one of its principals, Horace C. Grosvenor, ex Birkinbine..... Estimate \$750-1,000

COVERT MAIL ROUTES

California



315

- 315 ☒ **Goldsborough N.C.** Inner civilian flag-of-truce cover to Greenville S.C., with original letter datelined "*San Francisco April 18th 1862*", sent to the care of U.S. military governor of North Carolina Edward Stanly, who hand-carried it to Union-controlled New Bern, letter states "*I avail myself of the kindness of your old friend Edward Stanly...*", manuscript "*Examined Asst. Adj. General*" **examiner's marking**, entered C.S.A. mails with "Goldsborough N.C. Jun. 2" circular datestamp and "Paid" straightline handstamp, Very Fine, a rare flag-of-truce letter originating in California and sent through New Bern and Goldsborough N.C., civilian mail sent by exchange points other than those in southeastern Virginia is very scarce, illustrated in *Special Routes* book (p. 94), ex Walske Estimate \$750-1,000

Bombardment and capture of Island Number Ten on the Mississippi River, April 7, 1862,
Currier & Ives, New York, circa 1862
Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons



TRANS-MISSISSIPPI EXPRESS MAIL



TRANS-MISSISSIPPI EXPRESS MAIL

J. M. Barksdale's Arkansas Express



- 316 ☒ **J. M. Barksdale's Arkansas Express.** Blue manuscript “Paid \$1.00” express rate with matching endorsement “Soldier’s Letter, A. E. Spence, Co. ‘B’ 1st Ark. Regt.” on cover to Arkadelphia Ark., “Washington Ark. Dec. 2” circular datestamp and “10” due handstamp, minor soiling and slightly reduced at left where opened roughly

VERY FINE APPEARANCE. THIS IS ONE OF ONLY FOUR RECORDED COVERS CARRIED BY ONE OF THE ARKANSAS EXPRESSES ACROSS THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER.

This cover was incorrectly described by us as an E. W. Black’s Express cover in Sale 810 (lot 2412). This and a similar cover (ex Walske, Sale 988, lot 282) were reattributed to J. M. Barksdale after 2006. The sender, Capt. Alexander E. Spence, served in Company B (Clark County Volunteers), 1st Arkansas Infantry. Spence was promoted to captain on January 20, 1863. The expressman, J. M. Barksdale, enlisted on Aug. 4, 1861, at Crane Creek, Missouri, and served in Company H, 2nd Arkansas Mounted Rifles. He was wounded on Mar. 7, 1862, at Elk Horn, Arkansas, and discharged on Dec. 17, 1862.

The Barksdale Express began operating no later than the summer of 1863 and was still carrying mail in late 1864. Barksdale carried mail from Arkansas soldiers in Reynolds’ Arkansas Brigade to Washington, Arkansas, where they were posted in the Confederate mail. The express charge for a letter to Arkansas (westbound) was \$1.00, as noted on the cover offered here. Mail from Arkansas to the soldiers (eastbound) was apparently carried free. Estimate \$1,500-2,000

- 317 ☒ **Spence Correspondence.** Two folded covers and one buff envelope from the Spence correspondence to Arkadelphia, each cover properly endorsed, two sent by A. E. Spence, Captain in Co. B, 1st Ark. Regt., one with “Little Rock Ark.” double-circle datestamp and manuscript “Due 5”, other with manuscript “Due 10” and sender’s instructions: “If the Federals have possession of Arkadelphia P.M. will please forward this to Dr. B. P. Jeff Washington Ark who will please forward this to the person addressed if he knows his whereabouts & much oblige. A. E. Spence”, third cover endorsed by T. F. Spence, McIntosh Regt., with pencil “Pleasant Hill Ark. Mar. /62” postmark and “Due 5”, minor edge faults, Very Fine and rare group of Confederate Arkansas uses, from the same correspondence as the Barksdale’s Express cover offered in the previous lot (Photo Ex/Website PDF) Estimate \$500-750

TRANS-MISSISSIPPI EXPRESS MAIL

E. H. Cushing's Express

Edward Hopkins Cushing, publisher of the *Houston Daily Telegraph*, commenced his express service after New Orleans fell to Federal forces in April 1862. In an effort to improve communications between Texas regiments in the East and their relations at home, as well as secure safe lines for news transmission, Cushing established routes with pony riders and other means of conveyance necessary to cross the Federal lines. Cushing's agents affixed labels to envelopes carried by express, usually on the backs. These were intended to inform patrons and advertise the service. Approximately 20 examples (of all varieties) are believed to exist.



318 front



318 back

- 318 ✉ **E. H. Cushing Express.** Black on blue newsprint label, C.S.A. Catalog Type A (without date) and *Special Routes* book Ty. I, affixed to back of cover **originating in Texas (probably Austin)**, addressed to E. L. Stickney, care of Dr. J. C. Stickney, Medical Purveyor, Okolona Miss. and **forwarded** to Chattanooga Tenn., horizontal pair of **5c Green, Stone 1-2 (1)**, ample to large margins, tied by matching manuscript strokes, faint strike of "Liberty Miss." circular datestamp where it entered the mails, also "Okolona Miss. Aug. 13" forwarding datestamp with manuscript "Due 10", label has some slight toning from adhesive, opened on three sides for display, slight edgewear affects 5c stamps which have small toned spots

VERY FINE EXAMPLE OF THE RAREST TYPE OF THE CUSHING'S TRANS-MISSISSIPPI EXPRESS LABELS. THIS IS THE ONLY RECORDED EXAMPLE USED ON FORWARDED MAIL.

Approximately 20 examples of all varieties of Cushing labels are believed to exist. This type is much rarer than the larger labels.

This label the illustration in the C.S.A. Catalog and the *Special Routes* book. Ex Powell. With 1976 C.S.A. certificate..... Estimate \$10,000-15,000

TRANS-MISSISSIPPI EXPRESS MAIL



319 front and back

319 ☒ **E. H. Cushing Express.** Black on white newsprint label, C.S.A. Catalog Type B (without date) and *Special Routes* book Ty. II, affixed to back of buff cover **originating in Texas** and addressed to H. M. Alford in Richmond Va., **vertical pair of 5c Blue, Local (7)**, ample margins to just touching, tied by "Jackson Miss. Nov. 3" (ca. 1862-63) circular datestamp, label torn slightly at lower right, cover opened on three sides for display

VERY FINE. AN UNUSUALLY CLEAN AND CHOICE EXAMPLE OF THE RARE CUSHING TRANS-MISSISSIPPI EXPRESS TYPE II LABEL.

The addressee, H. M. Alford, was a private in the 6th Texas Regiment, Company G, "Travis Rifles." The only time this regiment was near Richmond was in May 1863 during the C.S.A.'s defense of the capital against U.S. forces and the bloody Battle of Chancellorsville.

Ex Dr. Green. With 2000 P.F. certificate Estimate \$3,000-4,000

TRANS-MISSISSIPPI EXPRESS MAIL



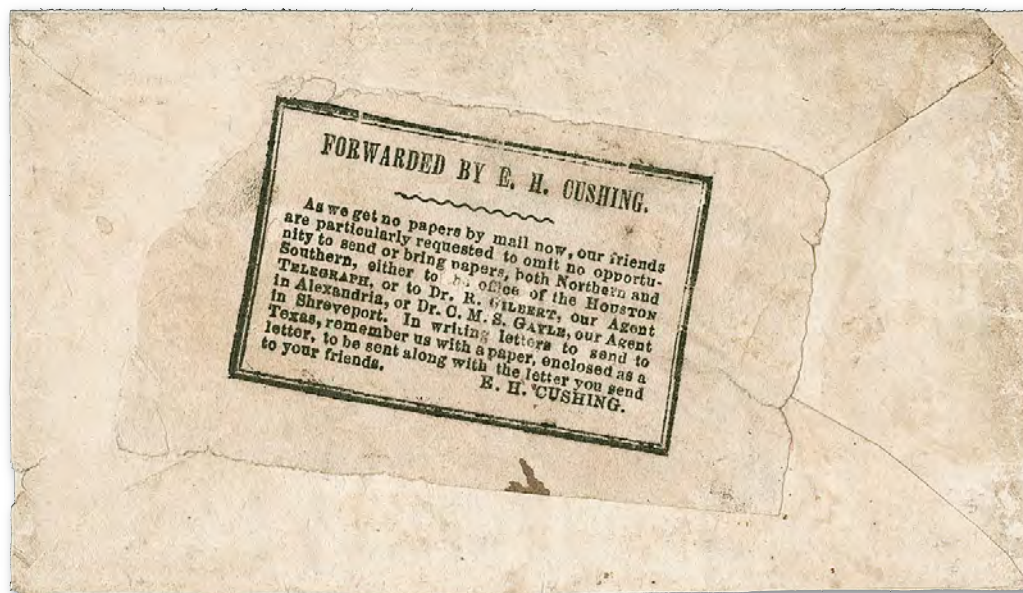
320 front and back

320 ✉ **E. H. Cushing Express.** Black on white newsprint label, C.S.A. Catalog Type B (without date) and *Special Routes* book Ty. II, affixed to back of cover **originating west of the Mississippi River** and addressed to Gainestown Ala., **horizontal pair of 5c Blue, Local (7)**, large margins, affixed over corner card and tied by indistinct "Jackson Miss." (ca. 1862-63) circular datestamp, label is in excellent condition with one small inconsequential hole, cover has replaced side flap and repaired lower left corner

AN ATTRACTIVE AND VERY CHOICE EXAMPLE OF THE RARE CUSHING TRANS-MISSISSIPPI EXPRESS TYPE II LABEL.

Ex Finney, Castillejos ("Camina"), Seacrest and Dr. Agre. With 2000 P.S.E. certificate.....
..... Estimate \$2,000-3,000

TRANS-MISSISSIPPI EXPRESS MAIL



321 front and back

- 321 ☒ **E. H. Cushing Express.** Black on white newsprint label, C.S.A. Catalog Type B (without date) and *Special Routes* book Ty. II, affixed to back of cover **originating west of the Mississippi River (likely in Texas)** and addressed to Cooksville Miss., **two horizontal pairs of 5c Blue, Local (7)**, ample to large margins, cancelled by matching manuscript strokes, label has small scuffs at center but is intact and in good condition, cover opened on three sides for display, slight wear and small mend at corner

VERY FINE EXAMPLE OF THE RARE CUSHING TRANS-MISSISSIPPI EXPRESS TYPE II LABEL.

Ex Frazier and Walske..... Estimate \$2,000-3,000

TRANS-MISSISSIPPI EXPRESS MAIL

Arthur H. Edey's Express



322

322 ☒ **Arthur H. Edey's Express.** Black on white newsprint label **"FORWARDED BY/ARTHUR H. EDEY, Agent, Fifth Reg't Texas Volunteers."** affixed to upper right corner of oatmeal cover originating from Captain Tacitus T. Clay, 5th Texas Regiment, Robertson's Brigade, Hood's Division, Longstreet's Corps, Army of Northern Virginia, to his wife, Betty Clay, at Independence Texas, probably mailed just prior to the Battle of Antietam (Sep. 17, 1862) and carried by Edey to Marshall Texas where it entered the mails with **pair 5c Blue, Local (7)**, tied by bold grids with "Marshall Tex. Sep. 22" (1862) double-circle datestamp which **ties the Edey label**, right stamp pre-use crease, cover opened a bit roughly at right and with minor toning

ONE OF EIGHT RECORDED COVERS WITH THE EDEY LABEL, OF WHICH HALF ARE AFFIXED TO THE BACKS. THIS IS THE ONLY EXAMPLE OF AN EDEY LABEL TIED ON A COVER. EDEY'S EXPRESS OPERATED BRIEFLY FROM JUNE UNTIL LATE OCTOBER 1862.

1863.

ARTHUR H. EDEY & CO.

(Formerly of HOFFMAN, ISLAND & EDEY.)

GENERAL

Commission Merchants,

STRAND,

(Hendley's Buildings,) **GALVESTON, TEXAS**

RESPECTFULLY solicit consignments of Texas Produce, and orders for Plantation Supplies. Have excellent arrangements in New Orleans, enabling us to purchase Western and other Merchandise at the lowest figures for a commission.

Will make advances on consignments for our friends **P. F. EDEY, New Orleans, and HOFFMAN & CO., New York.**

Refer with pleasure and confidence to **B. A. SHARPESB, and W. J. HUTCHINS, Houston, Texas.**

ARTHUR H. EDEY & CO.,

July 22 d4w6m Hendley's Buildings, Galveston

Advertisement by Arthur H. Edey & Co.

Arthur H. Edey enlisted as a Private in Co. A, 5th Regiment, Texas Infantry, on July 19, 1861, at Houston. He was detailed as agent for the regiment in Richmond on Feb. 7, 1862, and in that capacity provided mail service between members of the regiment serving east of the Mississippi and their correspondents back home. Edey was wounded and captured at Gettysburg on July 2, 1863, and sent to Fort Wood, New York Harbor. He was paroled on April 15, 1865.

Our records contain eight examples of Edey's label, including a few heavily stained or defective covers. This cover was sent by Tacitus T. Clay, who was promoted to captain in the 5th Texas Regiment in October 1861 and served as acting lieutenant-colonel and colonel at various times during 1863 and 1864. Clay was wounded at Gaines' Mill, the Wilderness, and Darbytown Road — as a result of his injuries at Darbytown, Clay's leg was amputated.

Ex Corwin. With 2002 P.F. certificate.... Estimate \$10,000-15,000

TRANS-MISSISSIPPI EXPRESS MAIL

Trans-Mississippi Courier Mail

See also lot 307



323

- 323 ☒ **10c Greenish Blue, Die A (11c).** Three margins, in at bottom, creased, tied by “Nacogdoches Tex. Jan. 28” (1864) circular datestamp on cover originating in Jasper County, Georgia, and addressed to A. R. Hockersmith in Union-held Benton, Arkansas, carried westward across the Mississippi River by a Confederate courier (manuscript “Sent by H. M. Henley” on backflap), entered Confederate mails at Nacogdoches and sent to Camden Ark. where exchanged under **flag-of-truce**, manuscript “Ex & appd. Maj. W. Percy, Comdg Post” examiner’s endorsement applied on arrival at Benton, with original letter dated Nov. 29, 1863, minor stain spots and folds in cover

FINE. AN EXTREMELY RARE — POSSIBLY UNIQUE — TRANS-MISSISSIPPI COVER FROM GEORGIA TO ARKANSAS VIA TEXAS. AFTER CROSSING THE MISSISSIPPI, THIS COVER WAS EXCHANGED BY FLAG-OF-TRUCE, EXAMINED BY A UNION OFFICER AND DELIVERED TO THE ADDRESSEE IN BENTON, ARKANSAS.

The writer of this letter is Captain Alfred C. Hockersmith, Company F, 1st (Colquitt’s) Regiment, Arkansas Infantry. He writes to his uncle, Alfred H. Hockersmith in U.S.-occupied Benton, Arkansas, and describes his company’s part in the Battle of Chickamauga, taking a ball through the eye, other casualties, amputations and mention of Gen. Bragg fighting and retreating to Dalton.

Ex Clippert and Walske..... Estimate \$3,000-4,000

TRANS-MISSISSIPPI EXPRESS MAIL



- 324 ☒ **10c Blue, Die B (12).** Large margins except clipped into design at bottom right, tied by "Shreveport La. Jul. 16, 1864" double-circle datestamp on folded letter from T. Lacy, a soldier with the 3rd Texas Cavalry (Hood's Brigade) "To Home Folks" at San Cosina Tex., datelined "In Camp, Marietta, Georgia, June 21st, 1864" and tiny manuscript "Paid \$1.00" next to stamp indicates **Trans-Mississippi courier fee**, letter written in pencil but very readable and fascinating, includes description of casualties, prediction that "Johnson is anxious for Sherman to make the attack & I think will force him to do it yet", remorse over Gen. Polk's death (killed June 14), long commentary on Grant's campaign, "Grant seems to be preparing for another attempt at an 'on to Richmond'", and the consequences of losing Richmond, mention of cousins who "were prisoners at Fort Pillow when Forrest attacked the place. The enemy forced them to carry ammunition to their men in the ditches. Ben was killed & Crocket wounded"; the writer even includes a colorful remark about a relative made Provost Marshal — "Not much to do & a plenty of nice Ladies to pass off the time with. He can't afford to take a 'ride' there, but will wait until he can get back to his native state.", minor toning, Fine and very rare use, Trans-Mississippi courier covers rarely show the express charge or contain such a lengthy war letter, ex Keeling and Walske Estimate \$750-1,000
- 325 ☒ **10c Blue, Die A (11).** Massive margins to full at right, tied by "Shreveport La. Feb. 18" double-circle datestamp on **Trans-Mississippi courier** cover to New Salem Tex., manuscript "Soldiers letter 19th La." and "Favor of Mr. Aills", missing part of backflap, Very Fine and scarce use of the 10c Engraved, while this does not have contents identifying the origin or a manuscript indication of Trans-Mississippi carriage, it very likely originated in the East, was carried across the river and entered the C.S.A. mails at Shreveport for delivery to Texas, during brief research on this we located a Thomas P. Aills, who, served in the 14th Texas Infantry in General Walker's Division, Trans- Mississippi Department (*Reminiscences of the Boys in Gray, 1861-1865*), there was also a George W. Aills in he 19th Louisiana Infantry Estimate \$400-500
- 326 ☒ **10c Greenish Blue, Die A (11c).** Horizontal pair, mostly large margins, tied by partly readable Shreveport La. double-circle datestamp on **Trans-Mississippi courier** folded letter datelined "Richmond Va., Oct. 13, 1863", to Fairland Tex., interesting contents with **directions for getting mail across the river** by Capt. F. J. Lynch who "swims across with his mule," edges toned and some splitting or nicks along folds, otherwise Fine, ex Clippert Estimate \$500-750

TRANS-MISSISSIPPI EXPRESS MAIL

Confederate Post Office 50¢ Trans-Mississippi “Preferred Mail” Rate



327

327

5c Blue, Local (7). Contiguous “C” shaped strip of seven and horizontal strip of three, large margins to slightly in, small faults, tied by multiple strikes of brownish-black “**Black Hawk Miss.**” dateless circle handstamp on **westbound Trans-Mississippi 50c “Preferred Mail”** rate cover front only to Miss Mary E. Compton in Chappel Hill, Washington County, Texas, back-flaps have been masterfully added to restore this front to envelope form, pressed crease (affecting two stamps), repaired tear in cover (does not affect the stamps)

A REMARKABLE FRANKING PAYING THE 50-CENT “PREFERRED MAIL” RATE THAT WAS ANNOUNCED IN APRIL 1863 AND SUPERSEDED BY THE 40-CENT TRANS-MISSISSIPPI EXPRESS MAIL RATE ONE MONTH LATER.

On April 16, 1863, Congress authorized a “preferred” mail service to be established by the Post Office Department to maintain communication across the Mississippi River, and to provide for “more speedy transmission of letters and dispatches.” The rate in the statute was set at 50c per half ounce, and preferential handling was to be given to such mails. Although Jaronski found records of at least eight mail carrying trips undertaken by C.S.A. military officers in 1863, only five surviving “Preferred Mail” rate covers are known, all westbound.

Black Hawk, Mississippi, lies about 90 miles north of Brandon, where mail accumulated for westbound express runs across the Mississippi River. Very few examples of Confederate mail postmarked at Black Hawk are known (this and a larger dateless circle are recorded). Based on the use of the 5c Local (Richmond) print, it seems likely that this was used in early 1863, prior to the October 1863 “Express” period (for which the 40c rate was intended). Of the five “Preferred Mail” covers recorded, this cover, although undated, is considered to be the earliest.

Illustrated in Krieger book (no. E50) and *Special Routes* (p. 103). Ex Everett, Birkinbine and Walske..... Estimate \$5,000-7,500

TRANS-MISSISSIPPI EXPRESS MAIL

Trans-Mississippi Government Express—40¢ Rate



328

- 328 ☒ **20c Green, Horizontal Half Used as 10c (13d).** Bottom half used with **full 20c Green (13) and 10c Blue, Die A (11)**, each with clear to full margins, 10c small corner crease, the 20c bisect and single are tied together by “Alexandria La. Oct. 17” (1864) circular datestamp, rim of datestamp used to lightly cancel 10c stamp on buff **eastbound Trans-Mississippi Express** cover to Mrs. C. M. Dent at Livingston Ala., entered the mails at Alexandria, then carried east across the Mississippi River and on to Alabama, backflap removed

VERY FINE. THIS IS THE ONLY RECORDED FULL COVER WITH A 20-CENT BISECT USED TO PAY PART OF THE 40-CENT TRANS-MISSISSIPPI EXPRESS RATE. ONE OF THE GREATEST GENERAL ISSUE COVERS EXTANT.

On May 1, 1863, the C.S.A. Congress once again considered the question of the Trans-Mississippi mails. It authorized the C.S.A. Postmaster General to establish an “Express Mail” along post routes and at rates to be designated by him. Under this authority, the PMG Reagan established an express mail rate of 40c per half ounce, and hired a contractor to carry the express mails twice weekly on October 20, 1863. An August 1, 1863, C.S.A. Post Office advertisement placed in newspapers on the western side of the river gave directions for the routing of Trans-Mississippi mails. All eastbound communications were to be addressed to their proper destination, care of the postmasters at Shreveport, Louisiana, or Camden, Arkansas. The mails were to be forwarded by carriers designated by the Post Office Special Agents.

A letter written by August Dietz (quoted previously but no longer with the cover) presents a scenario that this cover was brought to the post office with the 10c stamp affixed by the sender in the upper right corner. When the decision was made to use the more reliable Trans-Mississippi Express service, the additional postage was applied by the postal clerk, using a 20c stamp and half of another to make up the 40c rate. The C.S.A. Post Office Department had difficulty keeping offices west of the Mississippi supplied with stamps, which explains the disproportionately greater use of 20c bisects in that region. Another cover (front) from this correspondence, bearing a strip of 10c postmarked at Alexandria on February 10, 1865, is listed in the Krieger census (No. W18).

Illustrated in Krieger book (No. W15) and *Special Routes* (p. 109). Ex Myerson and Walske. With 1973 and 2006 P.F. certificates Estimate \$10,000-15,000

TRANS-MISSISSIPPI EXPRESS MAIL



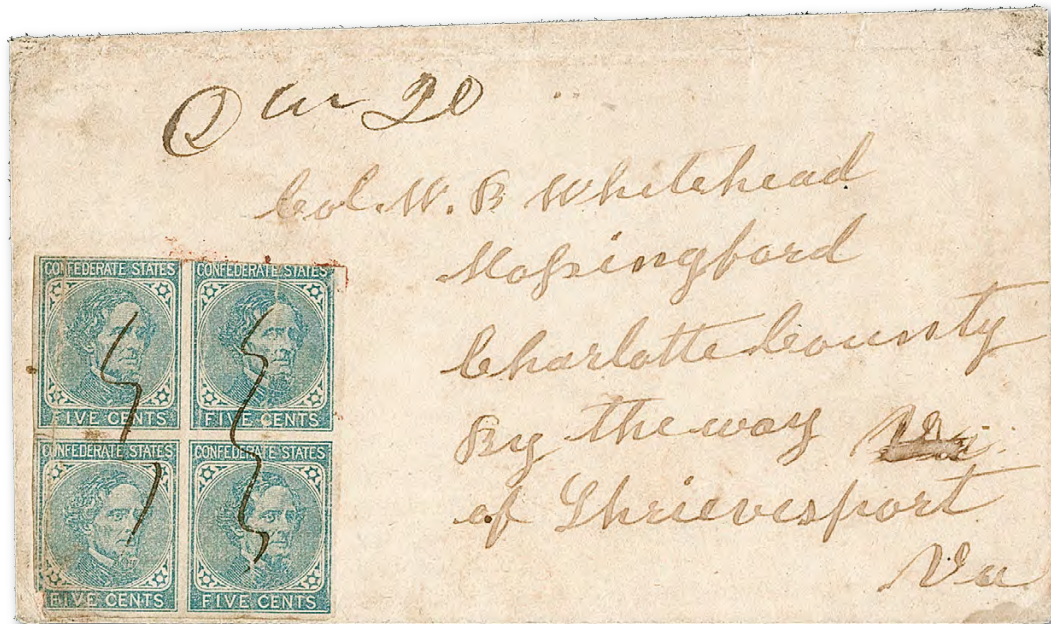
- 329 ☒ **5c Blue, Local (7).** Eight stamps comprising strip of three, two pairs and single, margins to slightly in, rich color, uncanceled and affixed to back of **eastbound Trans-Mississippi Express** cover with comprehensive address for routing: "Capt. J. A. Formwalt, Comds. Co. In 6th, 10th, and 15th Texas Regiments, Smith's Brigade, Cleburn's Division, Hardee's Corps, Johnson's Army" and routing "Via Shreveport La.", confirmation of 40c prepayment "Postage on opposite side", opened for display, minor wear

VERY FINE. A MOST UNUSUAL COVER FROM THE FORMWALT CORRESPONDENCE, FRANKED FOR THE GOVERNMENT TRANS-MISSISSIPPI EXPRESS BUT CARRIED BY ANDERSON'S PRIVATE EXPRESS.

The letter from Mrs. Formwalt that was contained in this cover (which no longer accompanies) is datelined at Lonely Cottage, Texas, on March 31, 1864, and states that she is sending this letter and \$1.00 to Mr. Anderson, who is waiting at Fairfield, Texas, for letters to take east.

At the start of the Civil War, Maj. Formwalt enlisted as a private in Capt. William Shannon's company and was soon promoted to captain in command of his own company in Col. Nelson's 10th Regiment Texas Infantry. Maj. Formwalt was captured on January 11, 1862, at Arkansas Post, and imprisoned at Columbus, Ohio, for five months. After he was exchanged he joined the Army of the Tennessee. At the battle of Franklin, Tennessee, in November 1864, Formwalt, as a senior captain, was wounded while leading his regiment in the charge. Shortly after he was promoted to the rank of major.

Illustrated in Krieger book (No. W7) and shown on the back cover of that publication. Ex Corwin and Walske. Accompanying 1974 C.S.A. certificate notes "Probably carried privately rather than by C.S.A. postal system". Estimate \$1,500-2,000



330

- 330 ✉ **5c Blue, Local (7).** Block of four, ample margins to slightly in, pre-use creases, slight stains and small faults, manuscript cancels, **paying 20c of 40c Trans-Mississippi Express rate** with manuscript **"Due 20"** on eastbound cover to "Col. W. B. Whitehead, Mossingford, Charlotte County, By the way of Shrievsport, Va.", slightly toned

FINE APPEARANCE. AN EXTRAORDINARILY RARE FRANKING FOR THE 40-CENT TRANS-MISSISSIPPI EXPRESS RATE, COMBINING A BLOCK OF THE 5-CENT RICHMOND PRINT WITH A "DUE 20" MARKING.

The use of the 5c Local (Richmond) print from west of the Mississippi points to an 1863 mailing. Unlisted in Krieger. Ex MacBride and Walske..... Estimate \$1,000-1,500



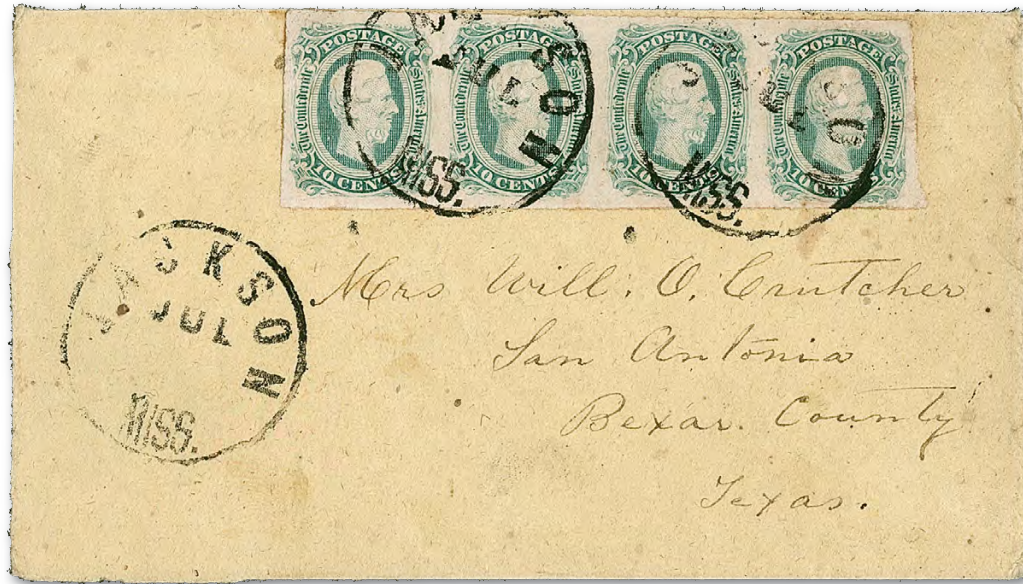
331

- 331 ☒ **10c Blue, Die A (11).** Block of four, large margins all around, each cancelled by two neat parallel penstrokes on blue-ruled homemade cover carried by **eastbound Trans-Mississippi Express** to Fayetteville N.C., sender's directive "*Via Alexandria*", **red** "Alexandria La. Jan. 31" (1864) circular datestamp applied in transit, cover is an **adversity use** constructed from part of an 1862 letter

EXTREMELY FINE. ONE OF THE FEW COVERS IN EXISTENCE WITH THE 40-CENT TRANS-MISSISSIPPI EXPRESS RATE PAID BY A BLOCK OF STAMPS. AN OUTSTANDING SHOWPIECE AND ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL TRANS-MISSISSIPPI COVERS EXTANT.

Illustrated in Krieger (p. 23, No. W5). Krieger also illustrates two other covers from this correspondence — both adversity uses (wallpaper). Illustrated in *Confederate Philatelist* (Vol. 64, no. 4, p. 43). Ex Knapp, Clippert and Kilbourne. With 1989 P.F. certificate..... Estimate \$7,500-10,000

TRANS-MISSISSIPPI EXPRESS MAIL



332

- 332 ☒ **10c Greenish Blue, Die B (12c).** Horizontal strip of four, large even margins, tied by "Jackson Miss. Jul. —" circular datestamp boldly struck three times on yellow 1864 **westbound Trans-Mississippi Express** cover to San Antonio Tex., right stamp with small hole and small surface scrape, part of side flap missing

EXTREMELY FINE. ONLY A FEW TRANS-MISSISSIPPI EXPRESS COVERS ARE RECORDED WITH THE JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, POSTMARK. THIS IS ONE OF THE CHOICEST TRANS-MISSISSIPPI EXPRESS COVERS EXTANT.

The Krieger census (and *Confederate Philatelist* Nov.-Dec. 1986 update) list only three covers postmarked at Jackson Miss. — one West-to-East and two East-to-West. In the case of the West-to-East cover, it was carried across the river and deposited at the Jackson post office. The condition of this strip and cover is superior to the other two.

Ex Dr. Green. With 2000 P.F. certificate Estimate \$3,000-4,000



333

- 333 ☒ **10c Deep Blue, Die A, Keatinge & Ball (11 var).** Two vertical pairs, originally forming a block of four, huge margins all around, intense dark shade and proof-like impression, tied by "Newnan Ga. Dec. 27" (1864) circular datestamp on **westbound Trans-Mississippi Express** oatmeal cover to Noland's River Tex., soldier's endorsement "From J. H. Hart, Co. J, 18th Tex. Cav." and routed "Per Express Mail Via Meridian, Mississippi", pencil "2" at upper right, very slightly reduced at right

EXTREMELY FINE. ONE OF THE FINEST TRANS-MISSISSIPPI EXPRESS COVERS EXTANT. ONLY A FEW ARE KNOWN WITH THE DISTINCTIVE 10-CENT KEATINGE & BALL PRINTING.

The majority of 40c Trans-Mississippi Express covers have stamps with faults or margins cutting into part of the design, and the covers are usually stained and faulty. The condition of the stamps and overall quality of this cover are extraordinary.

Ex Simon and Walske. With 1997 P.F. certificate..... Estimate \$3,000-4,000

TRANS-MISSISSIPPI EXPRESS MAIL

The Milling Correspondence

James S. Milling was a physician and planter in Fairfield District S.C. In 1859, Milling moved his slaves to a plantation in Bossier Parish, Louisiana, where he spent the Civil War years while his wife (also his cousin), Mary W. Milling, and their children remained with her family near Camden S.C. The Milling letters are available at the Library of the University of North Carolina, and some can be found on the internet at www.docsouth.unc.edu.



334



335

- 334 ☒ **10c Greenish Blue, Die B (12c).** Horizontal strip of four, ample margins, carefully cut to shape at corners, tied by "Camden S.C. Mar. 7" (1864) circular datestamp on **turned westbound Trans-Mississippi Express** cover to Dr. James S. Milling at Collinsburgh La., from his wife with directive "Per express mail via Brandon Miss.", inside used first to Camden, "Collinsburgh La. Sep. 9" circular datestamp and manuscript "Paid 10", blue "Columbia S.C. Sep. 22" circular datestamp and matching "Missent" straightline, one side flap removed, small opening nick at right

VERY FINE. AN EXTREMELY UNUSUAL TURNED USE COMBINING THE REGULAR 10-CENT RATE, A MISSENT AUXILLIARY HANDSTAMP AND THE 40-CENT TRANS-MISSISSIPPI EXPRESS RATE.

Four Trans-Mississippi Express covers from the Milling correspondence are listed in the Krieger census — Nos. E18, E19 (the cover offered here), E36 and E60 (offered in lot 335).

Ex Birkinbine and Walske. With 1975 C.S.A. certificate..... Estimate \$2,000-3,000

- 335 ☒ **20c Green (13).** Horizontal pair, large margins all around, tied by "Jackson Creek Feby 1" (South Carolina) pencil manuscript postmark on buff **westbound Trans-Mississippi Express** cover to Dr. James S. Milling in Collinsburgh La., from his wife Mary near Camden, peculiar notations at left appear to be in the same hand as address, some minor cleaning and skillful cosmetic edge improvements along bottom edge and top right corner of cover (not affecting stamps)

EXTREMELY FINE APPEARANCE. A REMARKABLY CHOICE PAIR OF THE 20-CENT GENERAL ISSUE PAYING THE 40-CENT GOVERNMENT TRANS-MISSISSIPPI EXPRESS RATE ON A WESTBOUND COVER FROM THE MILLING CORRESPONDENCE.

Other Trans-Mississippi Express covers from the Milling correspondence are listed in the Krieger census as Nos. E18, E19 (offered in lot 334) and E36. This is illustrated as No. E60, and the Krieger entry mentioned an 8-page letter enclosure that is no longer with this cover.

Ex Birkinbine and Walske. With 1982 P.F. certificate (showing cover before it was cleaned and treated) Estimate \$3,000-4,000

TRANS-MISSISSIPPI EXPRESS MAIL

336



337

- 336 ☒ **10c Milky Blue, Die A (11a).** Vertical strip of three and single, large margins to ample at right center of strip, each with neat manuscript "X" cancel, manuscript "Clinton La. Jan 25/84" postmark and "Express Mail" endorsement in the same hand on oatmeal **westbound Trans-Mississippi Express** cover to Shreveport La.

EXTREMELY FINE. THIS IS THE ONLY RECORDED INTRA-STATE COVER CARRIED BY TRANS-MISSISSIPPI EXPRESS.

Clinton, Louisiana, is located east of the Mississippi River, and Shreveport lies west of the Mississippi. The Krieger census and our own records of Trans-Mississippi Express covers do not contain any other example of mail carried entirely within the boundaries of one state.

Signed MacBride. With 2002 C.S.A. certificate Estimate \$2,000-3,000

- 337 ☒ **10c Blue, Die A (11).** Horizontal strip of four, mostly large margins except at bottom left where touching, tied by four clear strikes of **Army of Northern Virginia 10-Bar unframed grid** cancel on **westbound Trans-Mississippi Express** cover to Miss Eliza Davis in Sumpter Tex., minor edgewear and light soiling

VERY FINE. ONE OF FIVE RECORDED TRANS-MISSISSIPPI EXPRESS COVERS WITH ARMY FIELD OFFICE MARKINGS AND THE ONLY ONE OF THESE ORIGINATING WITH THE ARMY OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA.

Four of the five covers recorded by Krieger with army field cancellations come from the Army of the Tennessee. Only this cover has the grids used by the Army of Northern Virginia in the field. Three other covers have targets or grids of uncertain origin.

Listed in Krieger as No. E53. Ex Haas, Murphy and Walske. With 1983 P.F. certificate Estimate \$2,000-3,000

TRANS-MISSISSIPPI EXPRESS MAIL



338

- 338 ✉ **20c Green (13).** Horizontal pair, rich color, large margins almost all around, just barely touched at lower left, neatly tied by "Charleston S.C. Nov. 22" double-circle datestamp (ca. 1864) on small **westbound Trans-Mississippi Express** cover to Kingston La. in De Soto Parish, sender's routing "*via Shreveport*"

EXTREMELY FINE. AMONG THE TWO OR THREE FINEST COVERS WITH THE 20-CENT ENGRAVED STAMP USED TO PAY THE 40-CENT TRANS-MISSISSIPPI EXPRESS RATE. PHENOMENAL QUALITY FOR THIS TYPE OF USE.

No more than 20 covers with a pair of the 20c Green paying the 40c Trans-Mississippi Express rate are known (see *The Trans-Mississippi Mails After the Fall of Vicksburg*, Richard Krieger). Of these, only five or six are in reasonably clean and sound condition, and most are heavily stained and damaged. This cover is indisputedly one of the two or three finest of its kind.

Listed in Krieger as E59 (page 56). Ex Dr. Green and Kramer. With 2015 P.F. certificate.....
..... Estimate \$4,000-5,000

TRANS-MISSISSIPPI EXPRESS MAIL



339



340

- 339 ☒ **20c Green (13).** Horizontal pair, slightly irregular but mostly large margins except just touching at right, right stamp with pre-use vertical crease ending in a tear, tied by small “Shreveport La. Jul. 6, 1864” double-circle datestamp on **westbound Trans-Mississippi Express** buff cover to Sumpter, Tex., manuscript docketing at top “J.B. Sexton MC” and “politeness of Col Sexton” below, cover with trivial edge tears including one sealed at top

VERY FINE APPEARANCE. AN EXTREMELY RARE EAST-TO-WEST TRANS-MISSISSIPPI EXPRESS COVER, BEARING A PAIR OF THE 20-CENT GENERAL ISSUE.

No more than 20 covers with a pair of the 20c Green paying the 40c Trans-Mississippi Express rate are known. A majority of the known covers are heavily stained and damaged. It is believed that this particular cover was hand-carried from Richmond to Shreveport where it was placed in the mails, possibly by Franklin Sexton. Sexton was a wealthy Texas planter and lawyer who represented Texas 4th District in the Confederate Congress.

Illustrated in Krieger book (No. E27). With 1982 C.S.A. certificate..... Estimate \$2,000-3,000

- 340 ☒ **20c Green (13).** Horizontal pair, full to large margins except just touching at top of right stamp, tied by well-struck “Georgetown S.C. Nov. 3” circular datestamp on **westbound Trans-Mississippi Express** cover to “Col. Ben Austin, PA CS — Genl. E.K. Smith, Shreveport La., via Meridian Miss.”, stamps additionally tied by Meridian Miss. dateless circular handstamp, manuscript “ppd. 40 cents” at bottom left, cover skillfully restored to remove staining

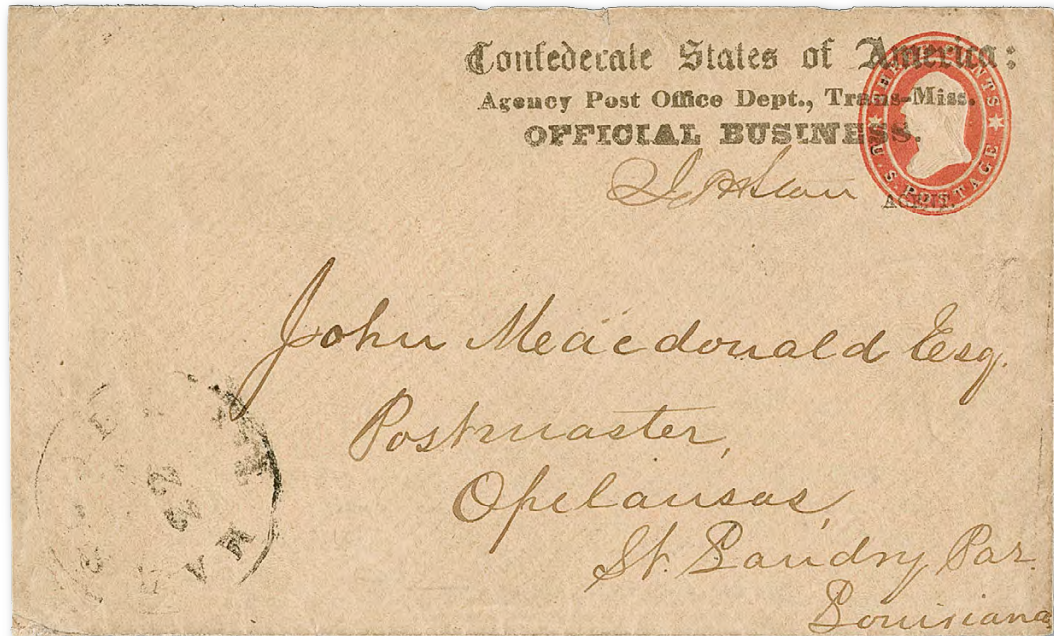
VERY FINE APPEARANCE. AN EXTREMELY RARE EAST-TO-WEST TRANS-MISSISSIPPI EXPRESS COVER, BEARING A PAIR OF THE 20-CENT GENERAL ISSUE TIED BY THE MERIDIAN TERMINUS OFFICE DATESTAMP.

No more than 20 covers with a pair of the 20c Green paying the 40c Trans-Mississippi Express rate are known.

Illustrated in Krieger book (No. E35). Ex Shenfield, Corwin and Felton. Accompanied by biographical information about Col. Ben Austin. Estimate \$2,000-3,000

TRANS-MISSISSIPPI EXPRESS MAIL

Trans-Mississippi Agency, Post Office Department



341

- 341 ☒ **Agency Post Office Dept., Trans-Miss., Official Business.** Signed J. H. Starr on 3c Red on Buff Star Die entire (U27) to "John Macdonald Esq. Postmaster, Opelousas St. Landry Par. Louisiana", "Marshall Tex ? 22" circular datestamp

VERY FINE. A CHOICE EXAMPLE OF THE SCARCE TRANS-MISSISSIPPI POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT IMPRINT.

After the loss of New Orleans, Confederate Postmaster General Reagan began worrying about the Trans-Mississippi mails. On May 24, 1862, he notified his special postal agents about the impending interruption of the Trans-Mississippi mail service and stated that "It is necessary, in anticipation of such a contingency, for this Department to adopt measures to secure the transmission of the mails by any available modes and routes." He then gave instructions in the letter on how to "secure the transmission of the mails." The Confederate Congress endorsed his approach on October 6, 1862, by authorizing the appointment of special Trans-Mississippi post office agents, in an effort "to superintend and secure the certain and speedy transportation of the mails across the Mississippi River." J. H. Starr was appointed the Agent for the Trans-Mississippi Department effective March 12, 1864.

Ex Dietz (illustrated on p. 294 of his book), Judd and Walske..... Estimate \$1,000-1,500

"Scott's great snake. Entered according to Act of Congress in the year 1861,"
map published by J. B. Elliott
Photo credit: Library of Congress

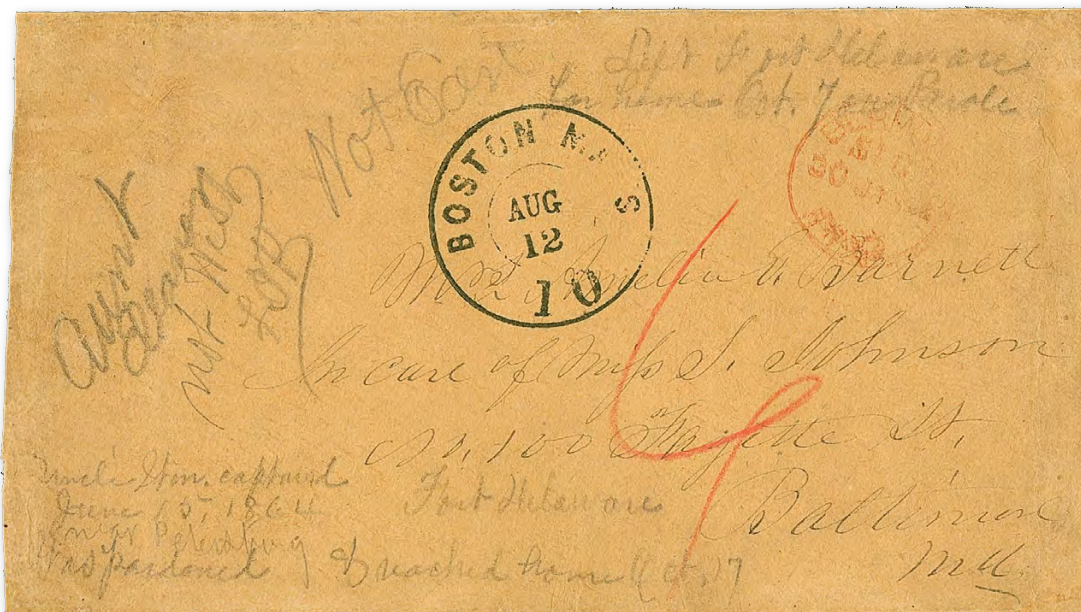


BLOCKADE-RUN MAIL

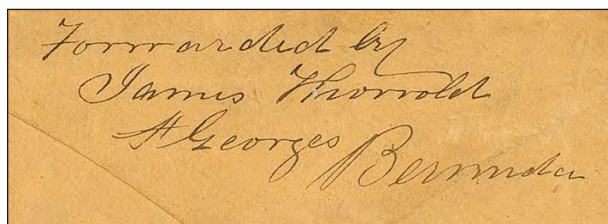


BLOCKADE-RUN MAIL

**Outbound from Virginia to Maryland via Wilmington, St. Georges (Bermuda),
Halifax (Nova Scotia) and Boston**



342 with detail of
Bermuda forwarder
marking on back



- 342 ☒ **Petersburg Va. to Baltimore Md. via Wilmington N.C., St. Georges (Bermuda), Halifax (Nova Scotia) and Boston.** Buff cover addressed to “Mrs. Amelia E. Barnett, in care of Miss S. Johnson, No. 100 Fayette Str., Baltimore Md”, letter does not accompany but correspondence is from Petersburg Va. (an Aug. 4, 1864, letter from the correspondence accompanies), manuscript notation on back **“Forwarded by James Thorrold, St. Georges, Bermuda”** (Thorrold was agent for Albion Trading Co. Ltd., which owned four blockade-runners), carried on the blockade-runner *North Heath* from Wilmington N.C., arriving St. Georges July 29, 1864, and departing for Halifax August 5, light but identifiable strike of red **“Bermuda Paid St. G 30 JY”** circular datestamp and red crayon “4” (pence) rate applied before sailing to Halifax, from there possibly carried by British bark *Halifax*, which arrived at Boston on August 11, bold “Boston Mass 10 Aug. 12” 10c ship fee double-circle datestamp, upon arrival in Baltimore the carrier wrote in pencil “Not West FOP” and “Not East” (division of Fayette Street), slightly reduced at left

VERY FINE. AN EXTREMELY RARE BLOCKADE-RUN COVER FROM SOUTH TO NORTH SENT VIA THE BERMUDA POST OFFICE. ONLY A SMALL QUANTITY OF BLOCKADE MAIL WAS ACTUALLY ROUTED THROUGH THE BERMUDA POST OFFICE.

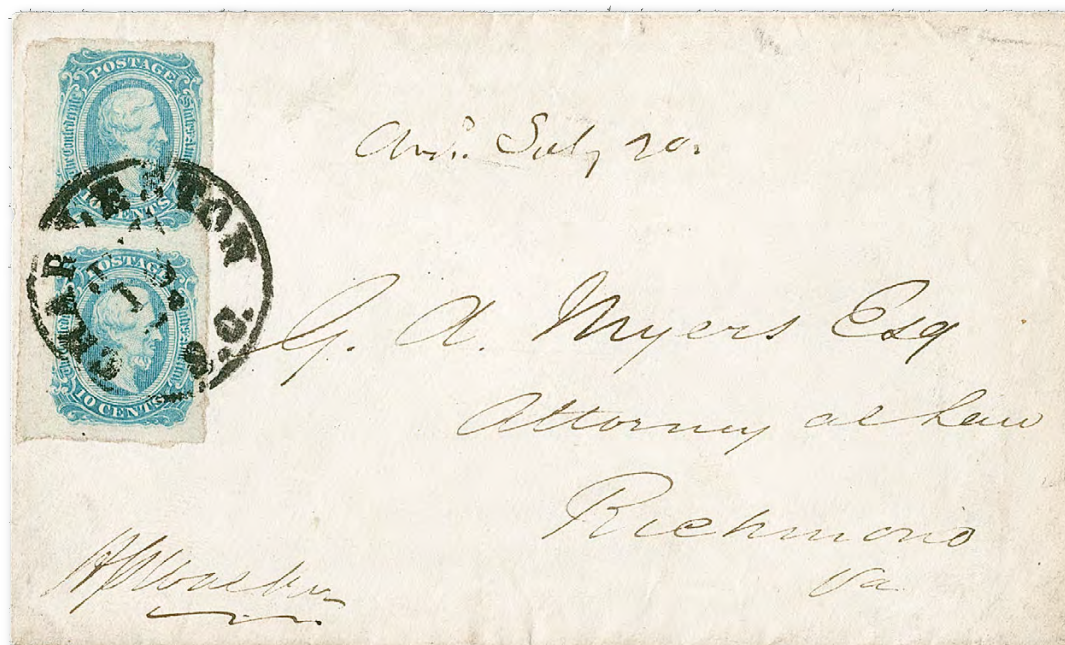
Despite the high level of activity at Bermuda as a blockade-running port, only a small amount of mail actually transited through a Bermuda post office. The *Special Routes* census records only 13 covers with a Bermuda transit postmark.

In pencil on this cover, Amelia Barnett’s child wrote, “Uncle Wm. captured June 15, 1864, near Petersburg, was pardoned & reached home Oct. 17”, “Fort Delaware”, “Aunt Eleanor”, and “Left Fort Delaware for home Oct. 7, on Parole.” Captain William Wheary was in command of William Hood’s 3rd Battalion (known as Hood’s Operatives). He was captured on June 15, 1864, outside of Petersburg.

Special Routes census no. BO-Ber-10. Ex Tucker and Ludington Estimate \$4,000-5,000

BLOCKADE-RUN MAIL

Inbound from Bermuda and Signed by C.S.A. Major Norman S. Walker



343

- 343 ✉ **10c Milky Blue, Die B (12a).** Vertical pair, massive margins all around including **sheet margin** at left, vivid color, tied by bold "Charleston S.C. Jul. 16, 186(4)" circular datestamp on **incoming blockade-run cover** from Bermuda, addressed to Gustavus A. Myers in Richmond Va., endorsed at bottom "**N Walker**" by C.S.A. Bermuda agent Major Norman S. Walker

EXTREMELY FINE GEM PAIR OF THE 10-CENT ENGRAVED ISSUE ON A PRISTINE INCOMING BLOCKADE-RUN COVER ENDORSED BY BERMUDA AGENT MAJOR NORMAN S. WALKER.

Major Norman S. Walker was the senior Confederate agent in Bermuda from February 1863 until June 27, 1864. The yellow fever epidemic caused him and his family to leave the island; his wife and children for England, and Major Walker to the Confederate States on government business. After an abandoned effort to establish Halifax as a principal port for blockade-running, Major Walker and his family traveled to Bermuda and eventually returned to England (source: Rev. William Parkes, "Per Walker: Major Norman S. Walker and Bermuda Blockade Mail", *Confederate Philatelist*, May-June 1982 and Jul.-Aug. 1982, Nos. 207-208).

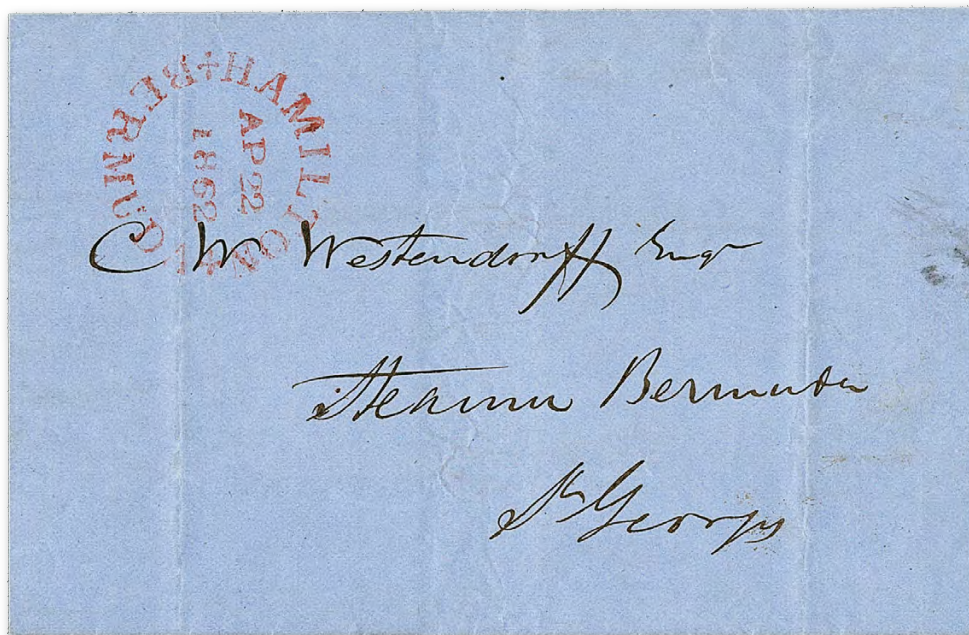
Special Routes census no. BI-Ch-58 Estimate \$2,000-3,000



Major Norman S. Walker

BLOCKADE-RUN MAIL

Addressed to Captain Westendorff of *Bermuda* on Last Voyage as a Blockade-Runner



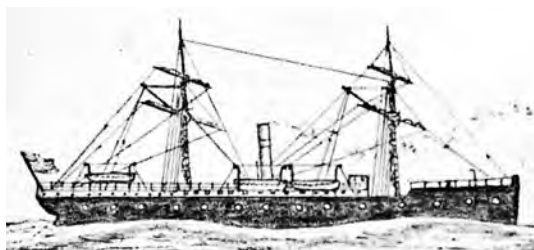
344

- 344 ☒ **Capture of the Blockade-Runner *Bermuda*.** Blue folded cover addressed to Captain "C.W. Westendorff Esq., Steamer *Bermuda*, St. Georges," bold strike of red "Hamilton Bermuda AP 22 1862" circular datestamp, light file folds pass through datestamp

VERY FINE AND HISTORIC COVER MAILED FROM HAMILTON, BERMUDA, TO THE BLOCKADE-RUNNER *BERMUDA* AT ST. GEORGES, POSTMARKED ON THE DAY THE SHIP LEFT ON ITS ILL-FATED VOYAGE TO NASSAU, BAHAMAS.

The S.S. *Bermuda*, a 716-ton single-screw steamer owned by Fraser, Trenholm & Co., was the first vessel to run the Federal blockade on her initial voyage from England to Savannah in August-September 1861 under the command of Eugene L. Tessier. C. William Westendorff assumed command and was captain in February 1862 when the *Bermuda* left England with a load of cargo that included a large supply of C.S.A. 5c stamps printed by De La Rue, along with printing plates and materials. The U.S. government learned of this shipment and ordered the blockading fleet to capture the *Bermuda*. After sailing from St. Georges on April 22, 1862, bound for Nassau, the *Bermuda* was captured on April 27 by the U.S.S. *Mercedita*. The vessel and its cargo were brought to Philadelphia as prize, but the owners sued to recover. The United States Supreme Court decided in favor of the captors on the basis that a vessel flying a neutral flag and sailing between neutral ports could still be captured if the cargo it carried was contraband ultimately destined for a belligerent's port.

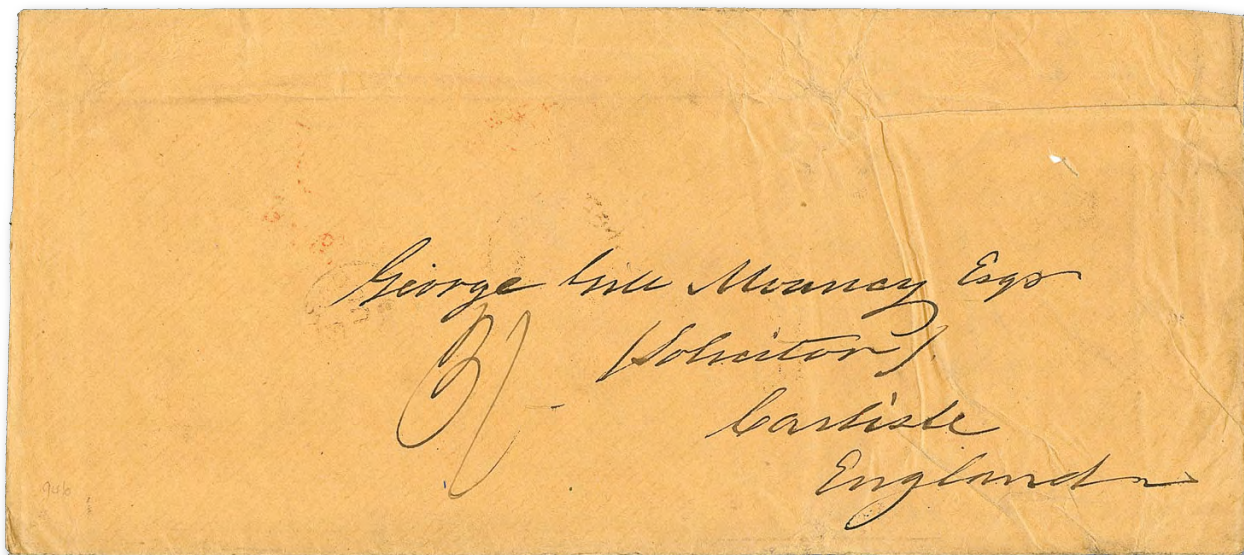
Ex T. Charlton Henry and Ludington. Accompanied by exhibit pages with information about the *Bermuda* and a manifest. Also accompanied by report of Supreme Court case..... Estimate \$2,000-3,000



S.S. *Bermuda*, later renamed *General Meade*

BLOCKADE-RUN MAIL

Early Blockade-Run Cover Outbound from Mobile, Alabama, to England via Cuba



345

with detail of transit backstamps,
including Havana May 7, 1862

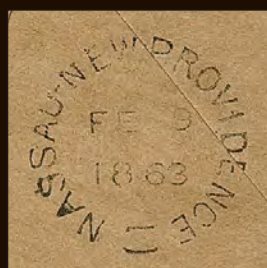
- 345 ✉ **Vicksburg Miss. to England via Mobile, Havana and the Bahamas.** Orange-buff legal-size **blockade-run cover** with original letter datelined "*Vicksburg Miss., Confederate States of America, February 14th 1862*", addressed to **Carlisle, England**, carried on a blockade-runner from Mobile Ala. to Cuba, backstamped "**Havana MY 7 1862 A**", then carried on the RMSP *Trent* to St. Thomas, arriving May 13; on the RMSP *La Plata* to Southampton, arriving June 1, London and Carlisle backstamps (June 2), manuscript "3/-" shillings due (packet rate plus non-payment fine), minor wrinkling

VERY FINE. A RARE BLOCKADE-RUN COVER FROM MOBILE, ALABAMA, TO HAVANA (CUBA), THE BAHAMAS AND LONDON. THIS IS THE ONLY RECORDED BLOCKADE-RUN COVER POSTMARKED AT HAVANA.

The enclosed letter from Vicksburg is from A. M. Smedes to George Gill Mouncey. Mr. Smedes states he is sending the letter to Mr. Muir to be read and forwarded to Mr. Mouncey. Very little blockade-run mail went through the port of Mobile Alabama, and all of it was carried to or from Havana. The Havana post office normally did not apply markings to mail bound for New York. This was carried by Royal Mail Steamship Company packet service to England and received the Havana postmark — the only recorded example of outbound blockade-run mail postmarked at Havana Estimate \$3,000-4,000



346



Detail of backstamp

Outbound Blockade-Run Cover from Kings Ferry, Florida, to Nassau, Bahamas

- 346 ✉ **10c Dark Blue, Hoyer & Ludwig (2b).** Huge margins to just in at bottom, small corner crease and small insignificant tear at top, tied by “**Kings Ferry Fla. Jan. 27**” (1863) double-line circular datestamp (Collins device) on oatmeal cover addressed to “*Mr. John F. Lows, Bahama Pilot, on board of Steamer Herald, Care of John Fraser Esq., Charleston S.C.*”, upon arrival in Charleston the *Antonica* (the new name for the *Herald* as of September 1862) had already sailed to Savannah before returning to Nassau, Fraser placed the cover aboard the **blockade-runner *Calypso***, which departed Charleston on February 5 and arrived at Nassau February 9, backstamped with “Nassau New Providence FE 9, 1863” circular datestamp and with clear strike of “**BAHAMAS/SHIP LETTER**” two-line handstamp, blue crayon “4” (pence) ship rate marking, addressee could not be found so marked “*Unclaimed*” in red crayon, pencil “759” likely indicates the cover entered the dead letter office at Nassau, slight irregular opening at bottom

VERY FINE. A SPECTACULAR BLOCKADE-RUN COVER ORIGINATING IN FLORIDA, MAILED TO CHARLESTON WITH THE 10-CENT DARK BLUE LITHOGRAPH AND THEN FORWARDED TO THE BAHAMAS ON A BLOCKADE-RUNNER, WHERE IT RECEIVED THE EXTREMELY RARE “BAHAMAS/SHIP LETTER” HANDSTAMP. A WONDERFUL COMBINATION OF RARE ELEMENTS AND ONE OF THE PREMIER BLOCKADE-RUN COVERS OF THE CIVIL WAR.

This cover combines numerous extremely rare elements. It is one of two recorded outgoing blockade-run covers from Florida (Walske census). It is one of fewer than five blockade-run covers with an outgoing Confederate postmark. The King’s Ferry datestamp from a Collins device with double-line circle is rare in its own right, with only five known (Dr. Briggs census). The 10c Jefferson Lithograph stamp is one of two recorded used on a blockade cover. The address to the pilot of the blockade-runner *Antonica* and carriage on a different blockade-runner in the *Calypso* add historical interest. Finally, the “BAHAMAS/SHIP LETTER” handstamp is extremely rare on a blockade-run cover, with only two other examples recorded (one in the Walske collection and one offered in the following lot).

Special Routes census no. BO-Nas-15. Discussed in *Linn’s Stamp News* (Nov. 17, 2003) when the cover was discovered in the Bahamas and sold on eBay. Illustrated in Steven Walske’s *Chronicle* article about the blockade-runner *Antonica* (No. 262, p. 143). Illustrated in *Florida Postal History During the Civil War* (p. 112). With 2003 P.F. certificate. Estimate \$15,000-20,000

BLOCKADE-RUN MAIL

Outbound Blockade-Run Cover with Nassau "BAHAMAS/SHIP LETTER" Handstamp



347

- 347 ☒ **5c Blue, Local (7).** Vertical pair, full to huge margins including top sheet margin, top stamp light pre-use creases, uncanceled at origin on oatmeal **blockade-run cover** addressed to "A.M. Jackson Esq. of Petersburg Va C.S., Nassau N.P.", carried on the blockade-runner *Pet* from Wilmington N.C. on May 21, 1863, upon arrival at Nassau backstamped "Bahamas MY 25, 1863 B" and "BAHAMAS/SHIP LETTER" two-line handstamp, blue crayon "4" (pence) ship letter fee, addressee was not initially found so small red "ADVERTISED" straightline struck at left

VERY FINE. AN EXTREMELY RARE OUTBOUND BLOCKADE-RUN COVER TO NASSAU WITH THE "BAHAMAS/SHIP LETTER" TWO-LINE HANDSTAMP. ONE OF ONLY THREE RECORDED WITH THIS MARKING.

This cover comes from the same Bahamas find as the cover offered in the previous lot and also features a combination of rare elements, including Confederate postage on a blockade-run cover and the "BAHAMAS/SHIP LETTER" two-line handstamp, of which three are recorded on blockade covers.

Special Routes census no. BO-Nas-25. Referenced in *Linn's Stamp News* when the cover was discovered in the Bahamas and sold on eBay (Nov. 17, 2003). With 2003 P.F. certificate as "genuine" but incorrectly stating "sent to Petersburg Va. via Nassau." The cover originated in the C.S.A. and the sender simply addressed the cover to an individual of Petersburg Va. at Nassau. The cover was advertised at Nassau for the recipient and likely never went to Petersburg Estimate \$4,000-5,000

Outbound Blockade-Run Cover to Canada with "Paid at Bahamas" Crown-Circle



348

- 348 ✉ **McDonough Ga. to Montreal, Canada, via Nassau, Bahamas, and New York.** Tissue-paper cover to Montreal, Canada, addressed in care of Messrs. DeRossett & Brinn, Wilmington N.C. (agents for Aetna insurance company), 10c Blue, Die A (11), irregular margins to in, tied by "McDonough Ga. Nov. 17" (1864) circular datestamp, carried on the blockade-runner *Banshee II* from Wilmington to Nassau, arriving November 20, "Bahamas NO 29 1864 C" backstamp and red "Paid at Bahamas" Crown-Circle handstamp with red crayon "4" pence prepaid rate, carried to New York and entered U.S. mails with "New York Ship Letter 6 1864 Dec. 15" datestamp with integral 6c ship fee, corner of cover and part of bottom flap missing

FINE. A UNIQUE OUTBOUND BLOCKADE-RUN COVER FROM THE CONFEDERATE STATES TO CANADA VIA NASSAU AND NEW YORK, WITH THE "PAID AT BAHAMAS" CROWN-CIRCLE.

This cover is a remarkable and unique postal history artifact. It is addressed to Canada, a rare destination for Confederate mail of any kind. The forwarding agents in Wilmington used a blockade-runner to send the letter (no longer present) and cover to the Bahamas, but instead of enclosing them in another envelope, the forwarders used the original mailing envelope with a Confederate stamp postmarked at McDonough, Georgia. At Nassau the cover was prepaid 4 pence and handstamped with the "Paid at Bahamas" Crown-Circle, a marking recorded on only three blockade-run covers. Again, the same envelope was used to send the letter from Nassau to New York City. On arrival at the New York post office, the 6c debit datestamp was applied next to the "Paid at Bahamas" and 10c C.S.A. stamp. Think of the postal clerk who applied a U.S.-rated marking to an envelope bearing a Confederate stamp picturing Jefferson Davis, which was clearly a piece of mail that violated the ban on correspondence with the Confederate States. It is possible that the clerk or someone else realized this was illegal mail and sent it to the Dead Letter Office, because there is neither a U.S. marking indicating prepaid 10c postage to Canada nor Canadian markings indicating receipt. A red manuscript notation on back was probably applied at the Dead Letter Office.

Special Routes census no. BO-Nas-91..... Estimate \$5,000-7,500

BLOCKADE-RUN MAIL

Outbound Blockade-Run Mail via Halifax, Nova Scotia



349

- 349 ☒ **Richmond Va. to London, England, via Wilmington and Halifax, Nova Scotia.** Original letter datelined "Richmond July 25th 64" from Susan P. Quarles to her brother, the poet John R. Thompson, in London, England, sent to Wilmington for an outbound blockade-run, but the yellow fever outbreak in Bermuda paralyzed blockade-running through that port, diverted to Halifax N.S. where it entered the British mail with partly struck Sep. 13 circular datestamp on back, clear strike of "4" pence due handstamp struck in error and corrected to "1/" shilling British Packet rate on arrival in London, slightly age toned and minor splits along edges

VERY FINE. THERE ARE ONLY FIVE RECORDED EXAMPLES OF BLOCKADE-RUN MAIL DIVERTED TO HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, DURING THE YELLOW FEVER EPIDEMIC IN BERMUDA.

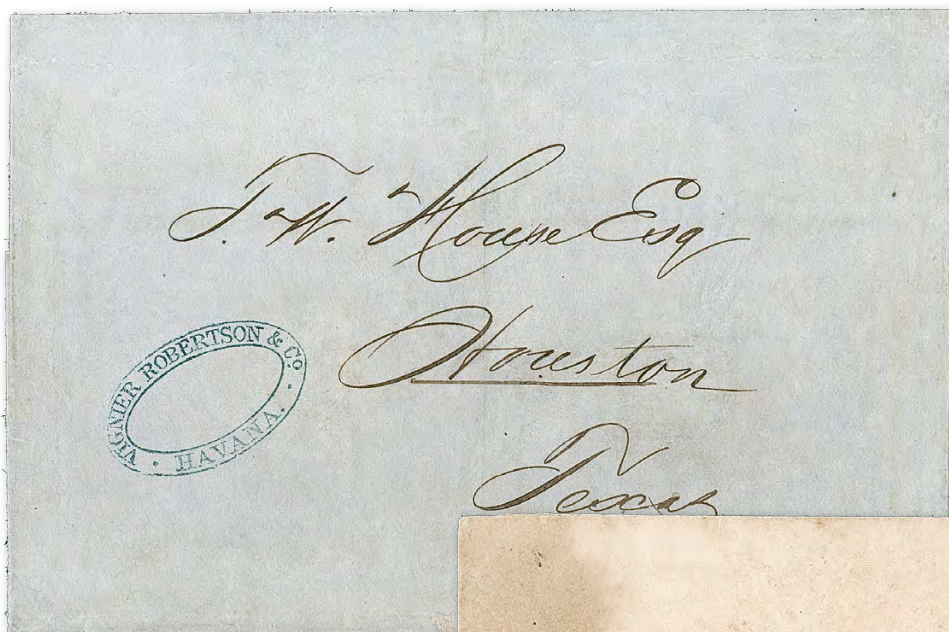
The addressee, John Reuben Thompson (1823-73), was a publisher and poet of some renown. In 1860 he left the *Southern Literary Messenger* and for a short time served as editor of the *Southern Field and Fireside* in Augusta, Georgia. During the Civil War, Thompson spent several years in London and contributed articles to various journals. After the war he served as literary editor of William Cullen Bryant's *New York Evening Post*. His sister, Susan P. Quarles, wrote this letter.

This was carried on the *Annie*, departing Wilmington on September 6, 1864, arriving Halifax September 13. The captain of the *Annie* dropped it into mail in Halifax, picked up his ship fee, and the letter was rated "4" pence due (London later corrected rate to 1sh). The journey continued on the Cunarder *Europa*, departing Halifax on September 16 and arriving Liverpool September 26. The *Annie* was owned by Alexander Collie & Co. and active from February to November 1864, with 13 for 14 in successful trips. She ran aground and was captured coming out of Wilmington on November 1, 1864.

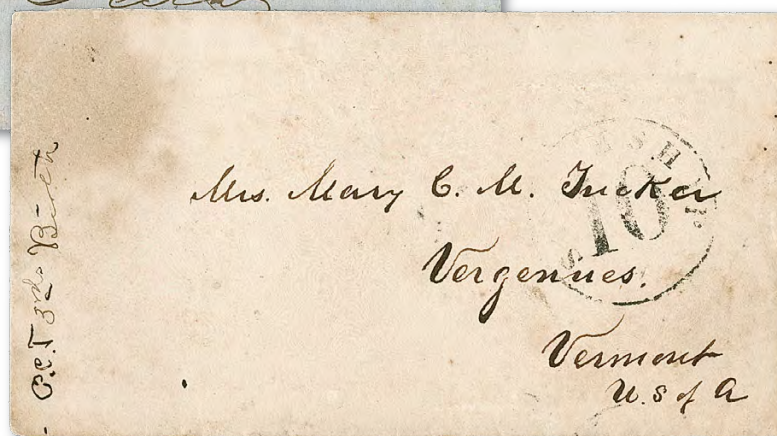
Ex Walske. See Walske's article "Tales of the Civil War Blockade: Disruption from a Deadly Virus" for a detailed discussion of the yellow fever impact on blockade mail (*Chronicle* 267, pp. 269-277). With 1977 C.S.A. certificate Estimate \$3,000-4,000

BLOCKADE-RUN MAIL

Blockade-Run Mail via Havana, Cuba



350



351

- 350 ☒ **Vera Cruz, Mexico, to Houston Tex. via Havana and Galveston.** Blue folded letter datelined “*Va. Cruz Decbr. 1st 1864*” and endorsed internally “*Pr. RMStr via Havana*”, “**Vignier Robertson & Co. Havana**” forwarder’s blue double-oval handstamp clearly struck, receipt docketing, skillfully treated with “ston” in address restored, cleaned and some minor reinforcements

FINE APPEARANCE. AN EXTREMELY RARE BLOCKADE-RUN COVER FROM MEXICO TO CONFEDERATE TEXAS VIA HAVANA AND GALVESTON.

This cover was carried on RMSP *Solent*, departing Vera Cruz December 2, 1864, and arriving at Havana December 6; then probably on blockade-runner *Triton* from Havana to Galveston. The *Triton* was active August 1863 to January 1865, 2 for 2 trips.

Special Routes census no. BI-Gv-5. Ex Walske..... Estimate \$2,000-3,000

- 351 ☒ **Galveston Tex. to Vermont via Havana.** Wallpaper cover with original letter datelined “*G- May 13th, 1864*” from Philip C. Tucker Jr. in Galveston to his mother and brother in Vergennes Vt. (some biographical information on Tucker can be found on the internet in connection with his Masonic membership), most likely carried by the *Susanna* from Galveston to Havana, then by non-contract steamer to New York, partly clear “*Steamship 10*” in circle handstamp applied at New York, Oct. 3 receipt docketing, faint stains, Fine; the blockade-runner *Susanna* was originally built and operated as the *Mail*, which was captured in October 1863, condemned and sold to private interests, who returned her to blockade-running under the name *Susanna*; active only in the Gulf from April to November 1864, 11 for 12 in successful trips; captured by the U.S.S. *Metacomet* on November 27, 1864, coming out of Galveston; only four covers are recorded that ran the blockade from Galveston, *Special Routes* census no. BO-Hav-12, ex Walske..... Estimate \$1,000-1,500

BLOCKADE-RUN MAIL

Outbound Blockade-Run Mail to Europe



352 detail of back

- 352 ☒ **Charleston S.C. to Liverpool, England, via Wilmington and Nassau, Bahamas.** Small cover addressed to Mrs. C. L. Burckmyer, in care of Fraser Trenholm & Co. in Liverpool, England, **cancel marking on back "B. Duncan ADC"** applied by Col. B. Duncan at Wilmington (Provost Marshal until Sep. 12, 1863), entered British mails with red "Nassau Paid OC 24 63" circular datestamp, prepaid 1sh with red crayon "11" credit and blue crayon "1" (1p retained by Bahamas P.O.), Liverpool Nov. 14 receiving backstamp

EXTREMELY FINE AND RARE CENSORED OUTBOUND BLOCKADE-RUN COVER TO ENGLAND.

The letter that was contained in this envelope (number 17, which no longer accompanies) is datelined "Charleston 23 Sep. 1863" from Cornelius L. Burckmyer. Carried on blockade-runner *General Beauregard*, dep. Wilmington Sep. 30, 1863, arr. Nassau Oct. 4; held by agent until next New York steamer departure; carried on Cunarder *Corsica*, dep. Nassau Oct. 26, arr. New York Oct. 31; then Cunarder *Scotia*, dep. New York Nov. 4, arr. Queenstown Nov. 13; forwarded to France by Fraser Trenholm & Co. outside of mails and received at Tours Nov. 18 (according to correspondence history). The *General Beauregard* was purchased in Oct. 1862 by Fraser Trenholm & Co.; active Feb. to Dec. 1863, 16 for 17 in successful trips; Captain Louis Coxetter was a famed Confederate privateer and blockade-runner; chased ashore and destroyed by U.S.S. *Howquah* at Wilmington on Dec. 11, 1863.

Special Order 156 requiring censorship of blockade-run mail took effect Aug. 11, 1863, at Charleston and Sep. 1, 1863, at Wilmington.

Illustrated in *Special Routes* book (p. 121, census no. BO-Nas-45). Ex Birkinbine and Walske Estimate \$1,500-2,000

- 353 ☒ **Wilmington N.C. to Heidelberg, Germany via Nassau, Bahamas.** Outbound blockade-run cover from Wilmington N.C. to **Henry Watson in Heidelberg, Germany, "Nassau Paid SP 14 63"** circular datestamp, transit datestamps applied at London (Oct. 19), Calais (Oct. 19), Paris (Oct. 20) and Heidelberg (Oct. 21), red "PD" handstamp, red crayon "1/4" British postage, blue crayon "1" (1p retained by Bahamas P.O.), detailed receipt docketing on back stating "via Nassau, London, Calais, Paris & Strasburg. Rec'd at Heidelberg Oct. 21, 1863", slightly reduced at lower right where opened

VERY FINE. A COLORFUL AND RARE PREPAID BLOCKADE-RUN COVER TO GERMANY.

This was carried on the blockade-runner *Margaret & Jessie* from Wilmington on September 10, 1863, arriving Nassau September 14; by Cunard Branch line from Nassau to New York City; and on the Cunarder *China*, departing October 7, arriving Liverpool October 16.

Special Routes census no. BO-Nas-38..... Estimate \$1,500-2,000

BLOCKADE-RUN MAIL

Forwarding Agents' Markings on Blockade-Run Mail



- 354 ✉ **Forwarded by Saunders & Son, Nassau.** Red double-line oval handstamp clearly struck on **inbound blockade-run** folded letter from Liverpool, England, to Richmond Va., letter from John K. Gilliat & Co. datelined “*Liverpool 13th February 1863*” and addressed to William Gray in Richmond Va., “*Charleston S.C. Mar. 16, 1863*” circular datestamp and “*STEAM-SHIP*” in oval handstamp, pencil “*12*” rate for ship fee plus 10c postage to Richmond, contents relate to tobacco shipments per steamer *Pleiades*, toning on backflap
- VERY FINE AND SCARCE BLOCKADE-RUN COVER FROM LIVERPOOL TO RICHMOND WITH THE SAUNDERS & SON NASSAU FORWARDER'S HANDSTAMP.
- This was carried from Nassau on the blockade-runner *Gertrude*, which was active from February 1863 to April 1864. She was 2 for 3 in successful trips and was captured by U.S.S. *Vanderbilt* (flagship of the Flying Squadron) on April 16, 1863, near the Bahamas.
- Special Routes* census no. BI-Ch-24. Ex Kilbourne. With 1979 C.S.A. certificate Estimate \$1,500-2,000
- 355 ✉ **Forwarded by Henry Adderley & Co. Nassau. N.P. Bahamas.** Blue oval handstamp on cover to Charleston S.C., docketed “*From J.F. & Co.*” (John Fraser & Co.) in **Liverpool, England**, carried from Liverpool on Cunarder *Persia* on July 5, 1862, arriving New York July 16; then by Cunard branch line to Nassau where Adderley oval was applied, carried on blockade-runner *Leopard* (Fraser Trenholm & Co.) from Nassau on July 31, arriving Charleston with Aug. 3 double-circle datestamp and bold “*6*” cents due for in-port ship fee, minor toning and wrinkling
- FINE AND SCARCE INCOMING BLOCKADE-RUN COVER THROUGH CHARLESTON WITH A CHOICE STRIKE OF THE ADDERLEY NASSAU HANDSTAMP.
- John Fraser & Co. was the London affiliate of Fraser Trenholm & Co., while Henry Adderley & Co. was their Nassau agent. This cover nicely ties together all three entities. The *Leopard* made eight successful trips for Fraser Trenholm before she ran aground and was burned while trying to enter Charleston on April 12, 1863.
- Illustrated in *Special Routes* book (p. 122, census no. BI-Ch-5). Ex Walske Estimate \$1,500-2,000

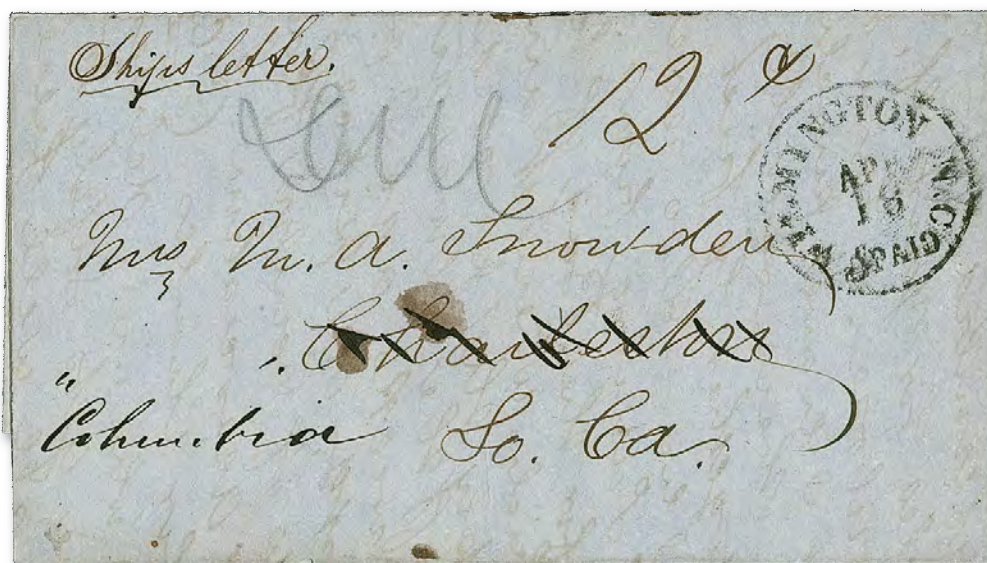
BLOCKADE-RUN MAIL

Inbound Blockade-Run Mail from Europe



356

- 356 ☒ **Paris, France, to Charlotte C.H. Va. via Halifax, Nova Scotia, and Bermuda.** “Wilmington N.C. Feb. 19” (1864) circular datestamp with manuscript “12” (10c plus 2c) and pencil “Due” on small **inbound blockade-run cover addressed in the hand of Commodore Samuel Barron**, writing from Paris to his family in Charlotte C.H. Va. (letter no longer accompanies), envelope style is typical of French stationery, carried by Cunarder *Arabia* from Liverpool on January 23, 1864, arriving Halifax February 4; then by branch line *Alpha* on February 5 to St. Georges, Bermuda, arriving February 10; then from Bermuda by the blockade-runner *Advance*, departing February 13 and arriving Wilmington on February 18, opening tears along top and reduced at right, still Fine and desirable incoming blockade-run cover, ex Walske, *Special Routes* census no. BI-Wm-60 Estimate \$1,000-1,500



357

- 357 ☒ **Wilmington N.C. 5 Paid Apr. 18.** Pre-war circular datestamp with modified integral rate (not applicable) on gray **incoming blockade-run** folded letter datelined “Liverpool, 13 Feb., 1864”, from James M. Calder to Mrs. M. A. Snowden at Charleston S.C., redirected to Columbia S.C., marked in manuscript “Ships Letter” (rare) and manuscript “12c” due, pencil “Due”, interesting letter from a supplier of goods (through blockade), mentions shipment of cloth for Relief Association “per Zouave”, Very Fine and unusual “Ship Letter” designation on blockade-run cover, likely carried on the blockade-runner *Will of the Wisp* from Nassau, arriving Wilmington April 14, 1864, *Special Routes* census no. BI-Wm-74 Estimate \$1,000-1,500

BLOCKADE-RUN MAIL



- 358 ✉ **10c Blue, Die A (11).** Tied by “Wilmington N.C. 5 Paid Oct. 22” circular datestamp (modified pre-war “3 Paid” integral rate) on **incoming blockade-run** oatmeal cover to Johnson’s P.O. S.C., clear strike of Wilmington “SHIP” handstamp, manuscript “12” due marking changed to “02” for 2c ship’s fee in recognition of prepayment with 10c Confederate stamp, some slight ink erosion and small piece out of “0” in manuscript marking

VERY FINE. A BEAUTIFUL AND RARE INBOUND BLOCKADE-RUN COVER. VERY FEW ARE KNOWN WITH A CONFEDERATE STAMP PREPAYING THE INTERNAL RATE.

This was carried from Nassau on the blockade-runner *Pet*, arriving at Wilmington on October 21, 1863.

Special Routes census no. BI-Wm-32. Ex Myers. With 1975 C.S.A. certificate Estimate \$3,000-4,000

- 359 ✉ **20c Green (13).** Large margins, tied by “Wilmington N.C. Oct. 25” circular datestamp and paying C.S.A. forwarding postage on folded letter **from London to Augusta Ga. via Nassau and Wilmington N.C.**, datelined London Sep. 23, 1864, sent under cover to Martin & Co. at Nassau (instructions in letter), carried from Liverpool by the Cunarder *China*, arriving New York October 5; then by Cunard branch line to Nassau; departed on October 20 aboard the blockade runner *Lucy*, arriving Wilmington October 24, **manuscript “6” for in-port ship rate** applied on arrival at Wilmington, stamp covers all but the top of the prior “6” marking, cleaned to removed stains

FINE APPEARANCE. AN EXTREMELY RARE INCOMING BLOCKADE-RUN COVER FRANKED WITH THE CONFEDERATE STATES 20-CENT GENERAL ISSUE FOR DOUBLE-WEIGHT FORWARDING POSTAGE TO AUGUSTA.

This letter is addressed care of Major Benjamin Franklin Ficklin, who helped start the Pony Express and was in charge of war supply for the Confederacy (and who also purchased Thomas Jefferson’s Monticello in 1864 before it was confiscated at the end of the war). Ficklin presumably paid the 6c in-port ship rate, then addressed the letter to Augusta and applied the 20c stamp for double-rate postage. This is **one of only two blockade-run covers with a 20c General Issue stamp** listed in the *Special Routes* census (both forwarded uses, this no. BI-WM-96).

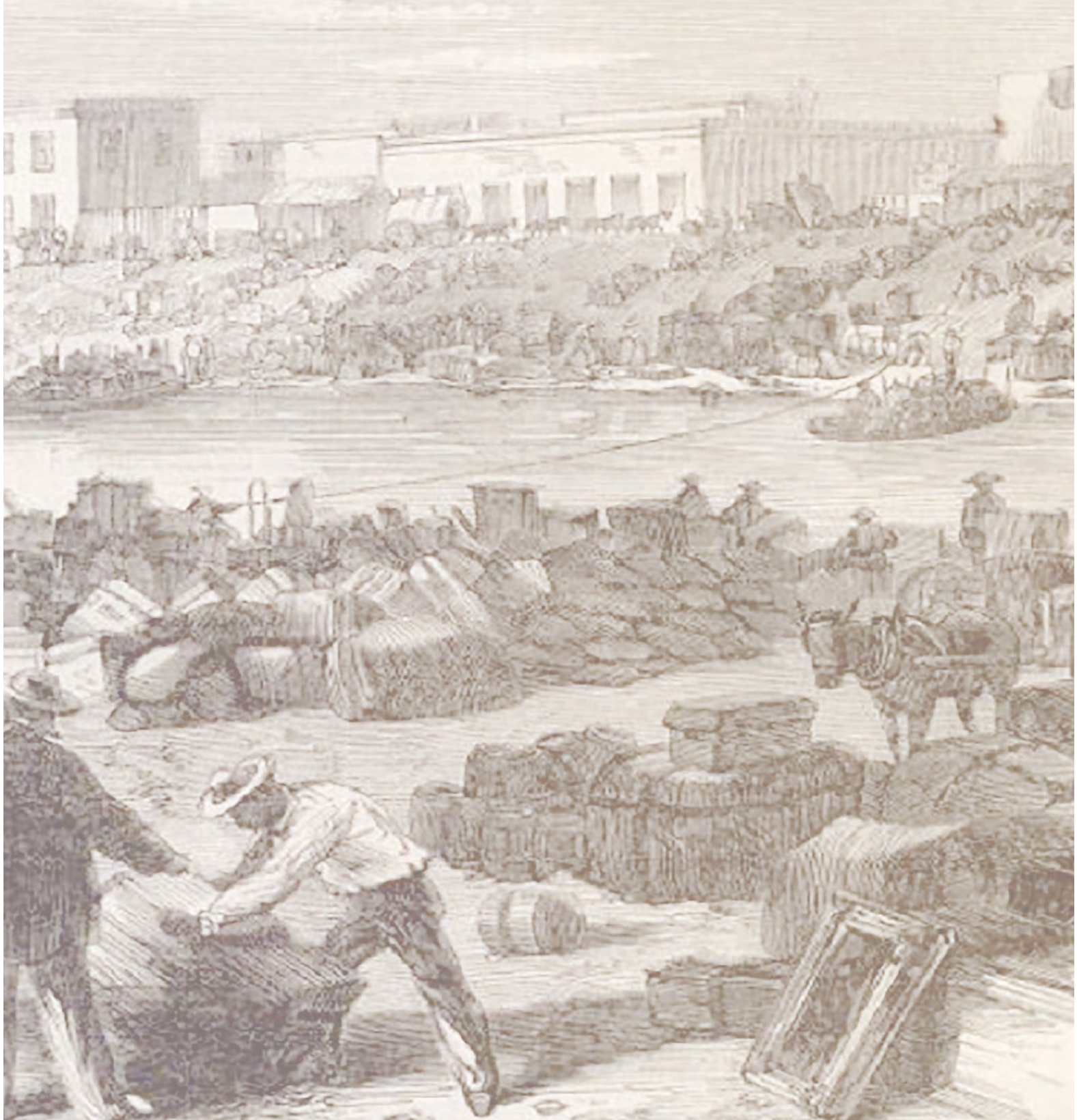
Illustrated in Shenfield book on p. 57. Ex Everett and Walske. Estimate \$3,000-4,000

Scene of wartime trade at the mouth of the Rio Grande, *Harper's Weekly*, 1864

Photo credit: <https://www.militaryheritage.com>



TRANS-RIO GRANDE MAIL



Antonio Costa's Express



360

- 360 ☒ **Liverpool to New Orleans via Tampico, Matamoros and Brownsville.** August 16, 1861 folded letter (with duplicate of August 9 letter) from Baring Brothers in **Liverpool, England**, to Gillis & Ferguson in New Orleans, inside of letter routed "*pr Asia*", "**J. & J. Prom & Co. * Tampico ***" forwarder's greenish-blue oval handstamp, **pair of 10c Dark Blue, Hoyer & Ludwig (2b)**, huge margins to just in at top left, left stamp light corner crease, tied by "**Brownsville Tex. Feb. 24**" (1862) rimless circular datestamp, receipt docketing including "*Baring Brothers*" and "*Rec'd March 14, 1862*"

VERY FINE AND EXTREMELY RARE EXAMPLE OF TRANSATLANTIC MAIL CARRIED FROM ENGLAND TO NEW ORLEANS VIA TAMPICO AND BROWNSVILLE DURING THE PERIOD WHEN COSTA'S EXPRESS WAS IN OPERATION.

On October 15, 1861, Antonio Costa announced a post office-endorsed foreign-mail private express service out of New Orleans. In his circular, he stated, "The undersigned, now suffering in common with others, the inconvenience of blockade and non-intercourse with foreign countries; has, by the advice and approval of J. L. Riddell, Post Master at New Orleans, taken all needful measures to establish at his own expense, a monthly mail between New Orleans and the Mexican port of Tampico, to connect with the regular British Mail steamers touching at that port." J. L. Riddell also added a postscript stating that, "Letters intended for this Mail, may be enclosed along with the money required per tariff above, and the outer envelope addressed to Costa's Foreign Mail, care of Postmaster, New Orleans." The tariff indicated was \$1.00 to Europe, including C.S.A. postage.

The cover offered here was very likely carried by Costa's Express for some portion of the route. The unusually lengthy delay between the August 16, 1861, origin date in London and February 24, 1862, postmark date at Brownsville is explained by the special circumstances affecting transit. The Cunarder *Asia*, referenced in the letter, departed Queenstown on August 18 and arrived in New York on August 29. Although the sender probably intended for the New York forwarding agent to send it by Adam's Express, the express routes had been closed down only a few days earlier on August 26. Facing this new circumstance, the forwarder probably decided that the best course of action was to send the letter to Havana, where it could be forwarded to Tampico. We can reasonably speculate that the New York forwarder held this letter (and another known with identical routing and dates—Sale 988, lot 368) until he became aware of Costa's Express, which started advertising in New Orleans on October 15 (news would have reached New York later). There appears to have been another delay incurred somewhere en route to Brownsville. The trip from New York to Tampico via Havana took about 14 days, and from Tampico to Brownsville another 16 days. The Brownsville February 24 postmark date indicates a departure from Tampico on February 8. The letter could have been held by the forwarder at Tampico during the Siege of Matamoros (October-December 1861), then given to Costa to safely carry to Brownsville, where it entered the C.S.A. mails. The receipt docketing date of March 14 coincides with the arrival date on a cover carried by Costa's Express, illustrated on page 166 of the *Special Routes* book. Estimate \$5,000-7,500

TRANS-RIO GRANDE MAIL



- 361 ✉ **5c Blue, Local (7).** Horizontal pair, large margins to in, scissors-cut at lower left, tied by “**Eagle Pass Tex. Apr. 20**” (1863) circular datestamp on gray folded letter **from Monterey, Mexico to San Antonio via Eagle Pass**, letter datelined at Monterey, merchant’s blue oval handstamp on cover provides appealing visual confirmation of origin, forwarding notation to San Antonio, some slight splitting along folds

VERY FINE. A RARE COVER CARRIED ACROSS THE BORDER FROM MEXICO TO EAGLE PASS, WHERE IT ENTERED THE CONFEDERATE MAILS TO SAN ANTONIO.

Brach-Shonfeld & Co. was a prominent commercial firm involved in the cross-border trade between Mexico and the Confederate States. The addressee, Dr. W. G. Kingsbury, was a director on the board of the San Antonio Mutual Aid Society.

With 2019 P.F. certificate Estimate \$1,500-2,000

- 362 ✉ **5c Blue, Local (7).** Horizontal strip of four, mostly large to huge margins, ample at bottom left, tied by two lightly inked strikes of “**Eagle Pass Tex. Jun. (?)**” (1864) circular datestamp on blue folded letter **from Matamoros to New Braunfels Tex. via Eagle Pass**, datelined “*Matamoros den 27 Mai 1864*”, from Groos Biersch & Co. with their blue oval handstamp on flap, addressed to A. Forcke (druggist), strip has faint gum toning

VERY FINE. AN EXCEEDINGLY RARE DOUBLE-RATE CONFEDERATE GENERAL ISSUE FRANKING ON A COVER CARRIED ACROSS THE RIO GRANDE AND PUT INTO THE MAILS AT EAGLE PASS DURING THE FEDERAL OCCUPATION OF BROWNSVILLE.

Brownsville was occupied by U.S. forces from November 7, 1863, to July 20, 1864. During this time, mail between Mexico and the C.S.A. was carried across the border further up the Rio Grande between Piedras Negras and Eagle Pass.

Johann August Forcke, a German immigrant, arrived in Texas in 1845 and was a practicing pharmacist in New Braunfels for 50 years.

Ex Brooks and Walske. With 1984 P.F. certificate..... Estimate \$2,000-3,000

EL MALAMOROS
JUNIO 10



Mrs. Lulu G. Stack

FRANCO Washington

Texas

TRANS-RIO GRANDE MAIL

Trans-Rio Grande Mail via Port Lavaca, Texas

- 363 ✉ **Matamoros, Mexico, to Washington, Texas, via Port Lavaca and Concrete, Texas. 10c Blue, Die B (12)** with large to huge margins, tied by bold strike of “Concrete Tex. Jul. 2” (1864) circular datestamp on yellow cover to Washington Texas, clear “**H. MATAMOROS/JUNIO 10**” boxed datestamp with “FRANCO” straightline handstamp indicating prepayment of Mexican postage, narrow piece of top flap missing

EXTREMELY FINE. A SUPERB AND EXTREMELY RARE BLOCKADE-RUN COVER FROM MATAMOROS, MEXICO, TO WASHINGTON, TEXAS, VIA PORT LAVACA AND CONCRETE, TEXAS. THIS IS ONE OF ONLY TWO RECORDED INCOMING BLOCKADE COVERS VIA PORT LAVACA.

Port Lavaca in Matagorda Bay was first blockaded in 1862-63 and then occupied by the U.S. from December 1863 until June 1864. Its remote location meant that blockade runners only connected with Mexico, and very few covers are known. The Walske census lists only two, the other example stampless and postmarked at Victoria, Texas. Mail via Port Lavaca entered the Confederate mails farther inland in Texas, at Victoria or in the case of this cover, Concrete. Surviving covers were sent under cover to a forwarder in Texas, so they carry no ship markings or 2c ship fee assessments (*Special Routes* p. 139). A cover from the same correspondence as this, with similar markings (but the stamp is defective), was in the Castillejos collection (“Camina”, Siegel Sale 757, lot 976). The ex-Castillejos cover sailed on the *Alice* from Havana and was routed through Matamoros, Galveston and Houston, before going on to Washington, Texas.

Special Routes census no. BI-PL-2 (listed as July 1 in error). Ex Grant and Wishnietsky. With 2014 P.F. certificate..... Estimate \$20,000-30,000

Richmond, Virginia, ruins of the Southern Express Office (Carey Street), April-June 1865

Photo credit: Library of Congress



EXPRESS MAIL IN CONFEDERATE TERRITORY





Col. Tennent Lomax

Alabama—The Lomax Correspondence

The only intra-CSA Southern Express Company covers known from Alabama are addressed to Colonel Tennent Lomax, a Confederate officer who was killed at the Battle of Seven Pines on June 1, 1862. Colonel Lomax, a resident of Montgomery, led the 3rd Alabama Regiment during the war. His regiment was detailed to defend the naval yard at Norfolk Va., which was held by Confederate forces until May 1862. While in Norfolk, Colonel Lomax received letters and express mail from his wife.



364

- 364 ☒ **Montgomery Ala., 10c Blue entire (59XU4).** Perfect strike of provisional handstamp in intense dark shade, blue “**Montgomery Alabama Southern Express**” in circle handstamp, lighter blue “**Southern Express Co. Montgomery Ala. Oct. 25**” (1861) double-circle datestamp on cover to Col. Tennent Lomax, 3rd Regt. Ala. Volunteers, at Norfolk Va., top left corner slightly nicked from opening, few faint toned spots

VERY FINE. THE ONLY RECORDED EXAMPLE OF THE 10-CENT MONTGOMERY POSTMASTER'S PROVISIONAL USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE RARE SOUTHERN EXPRESS COMPANY HANDSTAMPS.

Although handstamped with the Montgomery provisional, this cover was not datestamped by the post office and appears to have been carried exclusively by the Southern Express Company (prepayment of Confederate postage was a requirement on all express mail in any case). It was probably given directly to the Southern Express Company for delivery to Colonel Lomax's regiment at Norfolk, Virginia. The circumstances of mailing are mentioned in the letter written by Mrs. Lomax to her husband. At the close of her letter, she is rushing to meet the departure of the “cars”. In a postscript she writes: “*Well Honey I hurried my letter to death to send by Mr. Faulkner and then he did not go. I will send you a box by Phill Sayre...*” The letter also describes whipping a female slave who appeared to be running away.

Ex Brown and Hall. Illustrated in *Special Routes* book (p. 192, census no. SOU-1).....
..... Estimate \$3,000-4,000

EXPRESS MAIL IN CONFEDERATE TERRITORY



365

- 365 ✉ **10c Dark Blue, Hoyer & Ludwig (2b).** Ample to large margins, deep shade and proof-like impression, tied by perfectly struck “Montgomery Ala. Dec. 17, 1861” circular datestamp on cover to Col. Tennent Lomax, 3rd Regt. Ala. Volunteers, at Norfolk Va., bold blue **“Southern Express Co. Montgomery Ala. Dec. 18”** double-circle datestamp and matching **“Montgomery Alabama Southern Express”** in circle, faint stain touches stamp

EXTREMELY FINE. CONSIDERED TO BE THE FINEST OF THE FEW KNOWN COVERS BEARING THE “MONTGOMERY ALABAMA SOUTHERN EXPRESS” HANDSTAMP — ONLY TWO ARE RECORDED WITH THE 10-CENT GENERAL ISSUE.

This cover was carried by the Southern Express Company to Colonel Lomax’s regiment in proximity to Norfolk, Virginia. We record five Southern Express Company covers from Montgomery — all from the Lomax correspondence — including four with the distinctive “Montgomery Alabama Southern Express” circle, which is unlike any other marking used by express companies throughout the Confederacy. Two have 10c Hoyer & Ludwig stamps: the Dec. 18 cover offered here and the Dec. 22 cover from our Kilbourne sale (Sale 1186, lot 851). The presence of post office markings on these covers, including datestamps dated the day before the Southern Express datestamp, indicates that the Southern Express agent made arrangements with the post office to carry mail after it had been properly prepaid and post-marked.

Illustrated in *Special Routes* book (p. 192, census no. SOU-4). Ex Lamborn, Dukeshire, Birkinbine and Walske. With 2000 P.F. certificate..... Estimate \$7,500-10,000

EXPRESS MAIL IN CONFEDERATE TERRITORY



366

- 366 ☒ **5c Olive Green, Stone A-B (1c).** Horizontal pair, large margins, tied by faint black Montgomery circular handstamp and by blue “**Montgomery Ala. Paid 2**” **2c Postmaster’s Provisional handstamp (59XU7A)**, matching “**Southern Express Co. Montgomery Ala. Nov. 29**” (1861) double-circle datestamp on cover to Col. Tennent Lomax, 3rd Regt. Ala. Volunteers, at Norfolk Va., some faint stains still visible after cleaning

VERY FINE. THE ONLY RECORDED USE OF THE MONTGOMERY 2-CENT PROVISIONAL HANDSTAMP ON AN EXPRESS COVER — AN OUTSTANDING RARITY FROM THE LOMAX CORRESPONDENCE.

Only one demonstrably provisional use of the Montgomery Ala. blue “Paid 2c” handstamp (entire) is recorded, and it is not an express cover (Siegel Sale 860, lot 533). The strike on this cover is from the same device, but was used to tie the adhesive stamps. This is the only example of that handstamp struck on an express cover.

Illustrated in *Special Routes* book (p. 193, census no. SOU-2). Ex Shenfield and Walske. With 2000 P.S.E. certificate..... Estimate \$3,000-4,000

EXPRESS MAIL IN CONFEDERATE TERRITORY

Georgia



367

- 367 ☒ **5c Light Green, Stone 1-2 (1a).** Three large margins, touched at top, bright shade, uncanceled, used on small cover to Savannah Ga. with **green** "Southern Express Co. Macon Ga. Mar. 6" (1862) double-circle datestamp with date changed to "7", manuscript "\$20.00 Paid R/W" express notation indicating money contents, pencil docketing, backflap removed, still Very Fine, this green marking used by the Macon office is extremely rare, the *Special Routes* census records only five examples (this no. SOU-25), ex Hall Estimate \$1,000-1,500



368

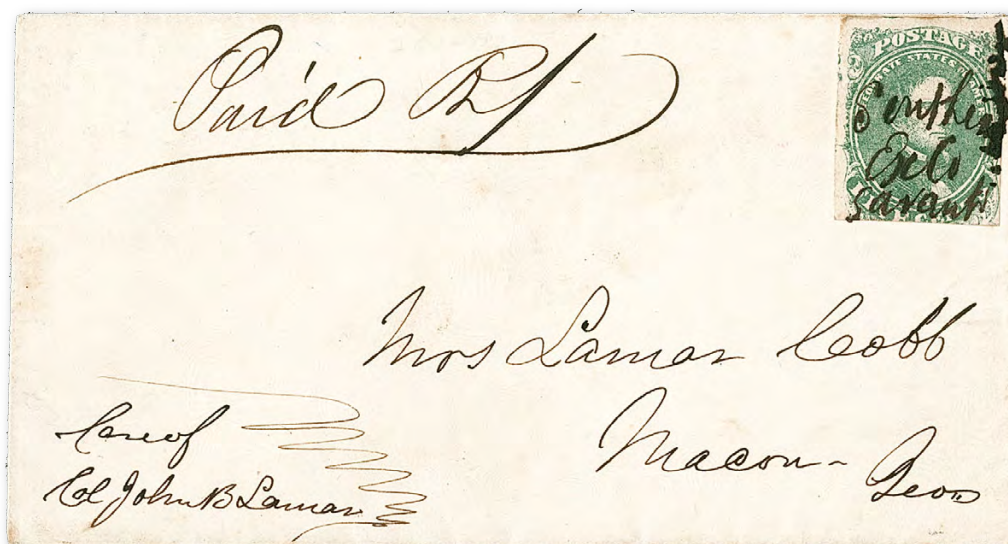
- 368 ☒ **5c Green, Stone 1-2 (1).** Large margins at top and bottom, manuscript cancel, bold strike of red "Southern Express Co. Savannah Ga. Apr. 20" (1862) double-circle datestamp on blue folded letter datelined "Camp Altahama April 17 the 1862" (on the Altahama River near Fort Pulaski Ga.), addressed to Hogansville Ga., pencil "Paid R/- from #5", stamp edges with toning and small nicks, horizontal pre-use crease, Very Fine appearance and a scarce use, letter includes writer's expectation of being mustered out of service in a week, then being told that the Confederate Conscription Act, which had passed the day before this letter was written, required that all state volunteer troops be turned over to Confederate authorities for three years, ex Hughes Estimate \$750-1,000

EXPRESS MAIL IN CONFEDERATE TERRITORY



369

- 369 ☒ **5c Dark Green, Stone 1-2 (1b).** Margins to touched, deep intense shade, tied by red “Southern Express Co. Savannah Ga. Mar. 24” (1862) double-circle datestamp on cover to Macon Ga., large manuscript “Pd R/-” express rate notation, very minor gum toning along two edges of stamp, Very Fine, ex Brown and Tate, with 1976 P.F. certificate Estimate \$1,000-1,500



370

- 370 ☒ **5c Green, Stone 1-2 (1).** Margins to in, tied by bold manuscript “Southern Express Co. Savannah” with “Paid R/-” at top on small cover to Macon Ga., manuscript “Care of Col John B Lamas”, Very Fine and unusual Southern Express Co. use, Special Routes census no. SOU-41.... Estimate \$750-1,000

EXPRESS MAIL IN CONFEDERATE TERRITORY



371

- 371 ☒ **5c Blue, Stone 2 (4).** Two singles, each with clear to large margins, tied together by blue crayon, matching but lighter “Pd-CHP” manuscript endorsement by **Southern Express Augusta Ga. agent Charles H. Phelps** on oatmeal cover to Vicksburg Miss., Extremely Fine, a beautiful cover, a cover with similar Phelps initials is pictured in the *Special Routes* book (p. 185), ex Felton Estimate \$750-1,000



372

- 372 ☒ **Southern Express Co. Savannah Ga. Nov. 9 (1862).** Red double-circle datestamp with day in manuscript and matching “Paid D/-” express rate (code letter “D” — other covers from Savannah use the code letter “R”) and “\$30” contents notation on **gray and white wallpaper cover** to Athens Ga., a bit worn as usual, still Fine, wallpaper covers are rarely seen with express markings, ex Hahn, illustrated in *Special Routes* book (p. 199, census no. SOU-39) Estimate \$500-750

EXPRESS MAIL IN CONFEDERATE TERRITORY

Louisiana



373

- 373 ✉ **Adams Express Co., New Orleans La., Jul. 2 (1861).** Well-struck **green** oval datestamp with day inverted on **turned adversity** cover made from a printed form to Augusta Ga., with part of blue Adams Augusta office oval struck on same side, inside bears **10c Blue, Die A (11)** tied by “Greenville S.C. Aug. 30” circular datestamp to Macon Ga., clearly struck “**ADVERTISED**” handstamp, opened for display

VERY FINE AND EXTREMELY RARE. THIS IS THE ONLY RECORDED EXAMPLE OF THE ADAMS EXPRESS NEW ORLEANS OVAL HANDSTAMP, MADE EVEN MORE DESIRABLE BY THE USE OF GREEN INK AND SUBSEQUENT TURNED USE WITH A 10-CENT ENGRAVED STAMP INSIDE.

The Adams office in New Orleans used a circular handstamp early in the war. This is the only recorded example of the Adams New Orleans oval, used in this instance as a datestamp on a company receipt or bill of lading in 1861 — then turned, made into an envelope and mailed in 1863 or 1864.

Illustrated in *Special Routes* book (p. 190, census no. SOU-44). From our 2008 Rarities sale. With 2008 P.F. certificate Estimate \$2,000-3,000

EXPRESS MAIL IN CONFEDERATE TERRITORY



374

- 374 ☒ **New Orleans La., 5c Red Brown on Bluish (62X4).** Enormous margins all around, deep rich color on strongly blued paper, tied by “**Southern Express Co. New Orleans Oct. 27**” (1861) double-circle datestamp on buff cover to Memphis Tenn., City Hotel embossed oval corner card, manuscript “*Important, Paid 2/-*” express charge (two bits, or 25c), blue pencil express notation, with original enclosure from a merchant in New Orleans on business, opened a bit irregularly along top

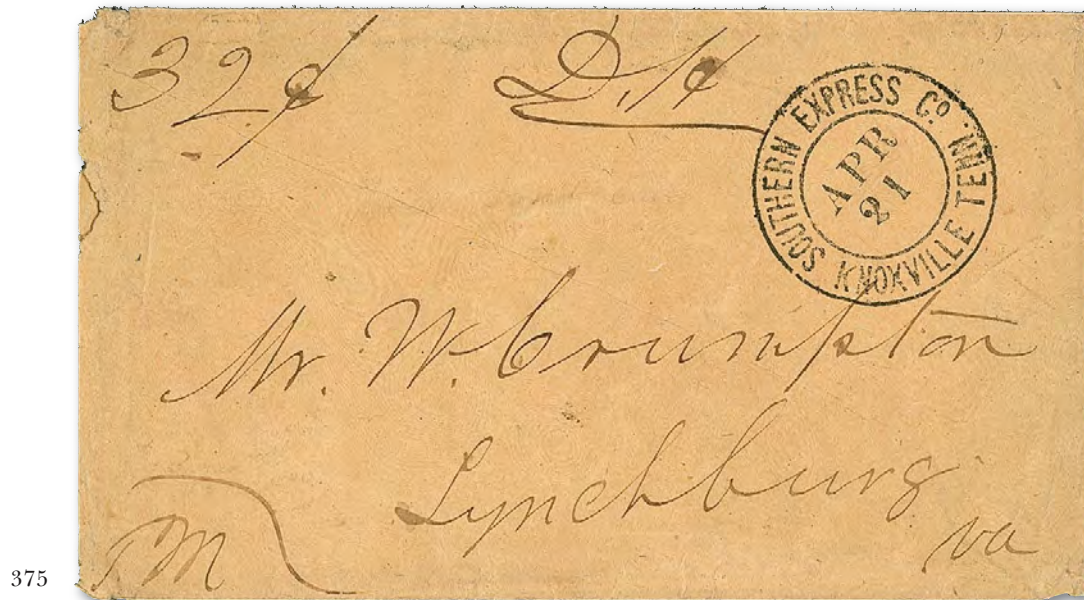
EXTREMELY FINE. A VERY RARE USE OF THE NEW ORLEANS POSTMASTER'S PROVISIONAL ON A SOUTHERN EXPRESS COMPANY COVER.

Due to the disruption of rail lines and mail service, and the absence of a Confederate registration system, merchants turned to expresses for urgent or valuable letters. However, examples of Postmasters' Provisionals used to pay the required postage on express letters are rare.

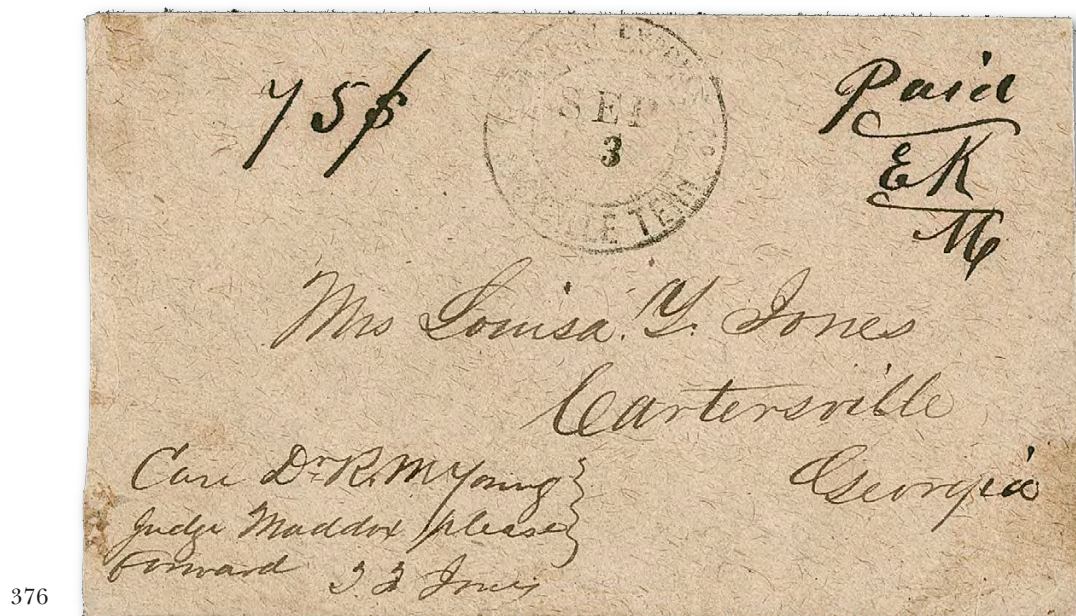
Ex Emerson, Hall and Dr. Brandon. Illustrated in *Special Routes* book (p. 190, Census SOU-45)
 Estimate \$4,000-5,000

EXPRESS MAIL IN CONFEDERATE TERRITORY

Tennessee

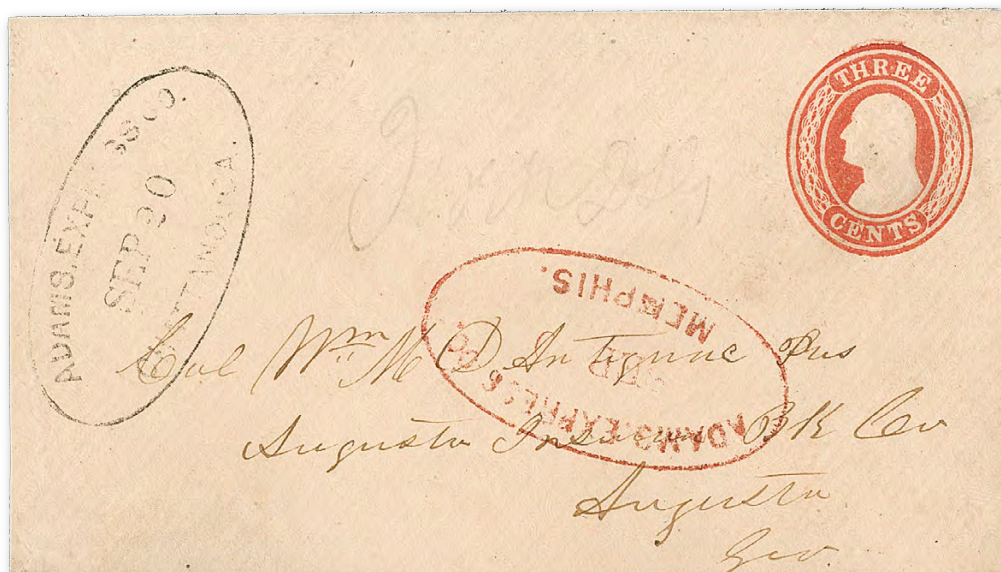


- 375 ☒ **Southern Express Co. Knoxville Tenn. Apr. 21.** Bold double-circle datestamp on ca. 1862 buff cover to Lynchburg Va., manuscript "32c" express charge, "D.H." ("Dead Head" or free) and "TM" at bottom left for initials of T. Murrah, Knoxville agent, red Southern Express Co. wax seal, slight edgewear, still Very Fine, only five examples of the Knoxville datestamp are recorded in the *Special Routes* census (this no. SOU-52), ex Hahn Estimate \$750-1,000



- 376 ☒ **Southern Express Co. Knoxville Tenn. Sep. 3.** Double-circle datestamp on ca. 1862 oatmeal cover to Cartersville Ga., manuscript "75\$" refers to money enclosed, matching "Paid/EK/M" express rate notation ("M" could be the initial of T. Murrah, Knoxville agent), sender's forwarding notation at lower left, five neat wax seals on back, Very Fine and rare, only five examples of the Knoxville datestamp are recorded in the *Special Routes* census (this no. SOU-54), ex Hall and Felton Estimate \$500-750

EXPRESS MAIL IN CONFEDERATE TERRITORY



377

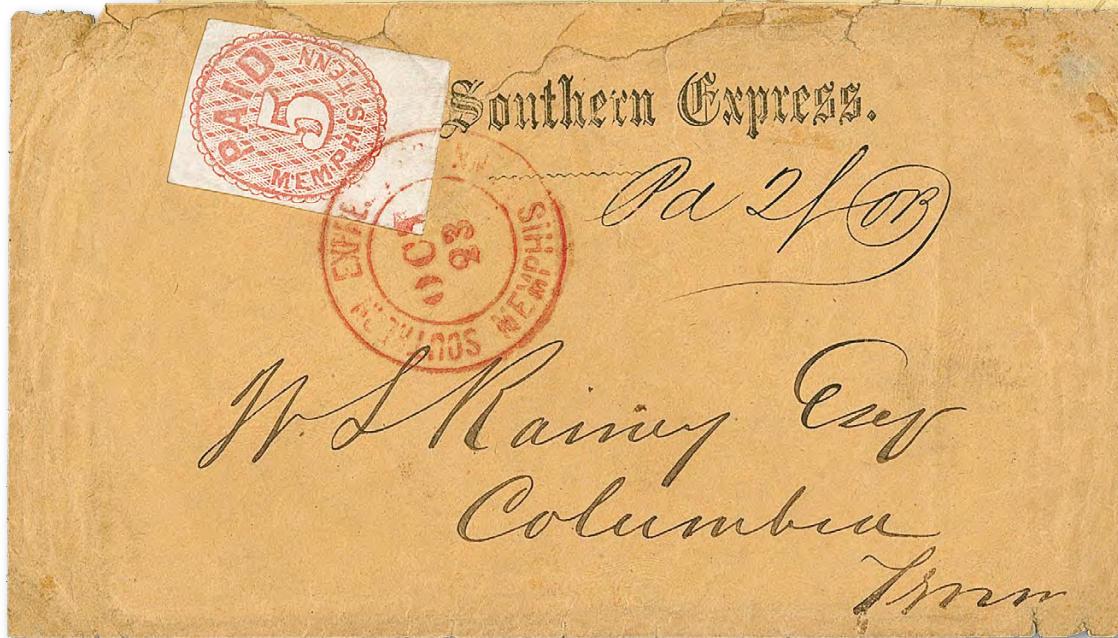
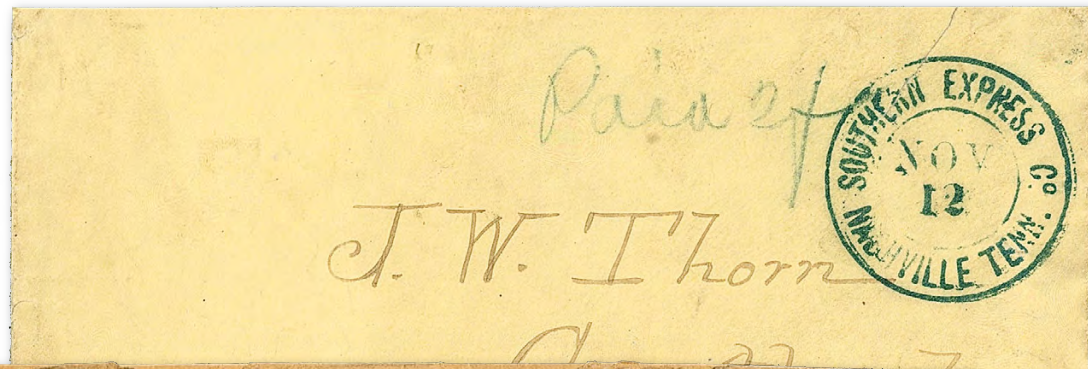
- 377 ☒ **Adams Express Co. Memphis Sep. 20 (1861).** Oval datestamp struck at origin with “Adams, Express Co. Chattanooga Sep. 20” red oval datestamp stuck in transit on 3c Red on Buff Nesbitt entire (U10) to Col. William M. D’Antignac, President of the Augusta Insurance and Banking Co., Augusta Ga., pencil “Free DH” express notation meaning “Dead Head” or free, tiny bit reduced at left, Very Fine, the Adams devices were used into September and October 1861 before the Southern Express handstamps became widely available, William D’Antignac died in mid-September 1861, the use of the term “Col.” also points to 1861 — this was probably sent from the Adams Memphis office on express business, *Special Routes* census no. SOU-55, from our 1988 Rarities sale, with 1986 P.F. certificate Estimate \$1,000-1,500



378

- 378 ☒ **Adams Express Co. Memphis, Jun. 20 (1861).** Mostly clear strike of red oval datestamp on legal-size buff cover to Governor Isham G. Harris in Nashville Tenn. with purplish-black Jefferson Davis Medallion, 7-Star Flags and 10-Star Sunburst Patriotic design (JD-1B), “DH” express notation meaning “Dead Head” or free, cover refolded at right to fit on an album page, minor staining spots at left, Very Fine appearance and a likely unique use of the rare Adams Express Memphis datestamp on a Patriotic cover, Tennessee seceded on June 8, 1861, 12 days before this cover was sent, it likely originated in Memphis and was handed directly to the Adams office in that city, ex Kilbourne Estimate \$1,000-1,500

380



379

- 379 ☒ **Memphis Tenn., 5c Red (56X2).** Huge margins to barely touched including **sheet margin** at bottom, tied by red “Southern Express Co., Memphis, Oct. 23” (1861) double-circle datestamp on “Adams Southern Express” imprint buff cover to Columbia Tenn., manuscript “Paid 2/- OB” (25c express fee and initials of Michael J. O’Brien, an express manager and clerk in the Memphis office), opened a bit roughly at top where restored in places, stamp with light creases VERY FINE APPEARANCE. AN EXTREMELY RARE EXAMPLE OF A CONFEDERATE POSTMASTER’S PROVISIONAL USED OUTSIDE OF THE REGULAR CONFEDERATE MAILS. ONLY THREE 5-CENT MEMPHIS EXPRESS COVERS ARE RECORDED.

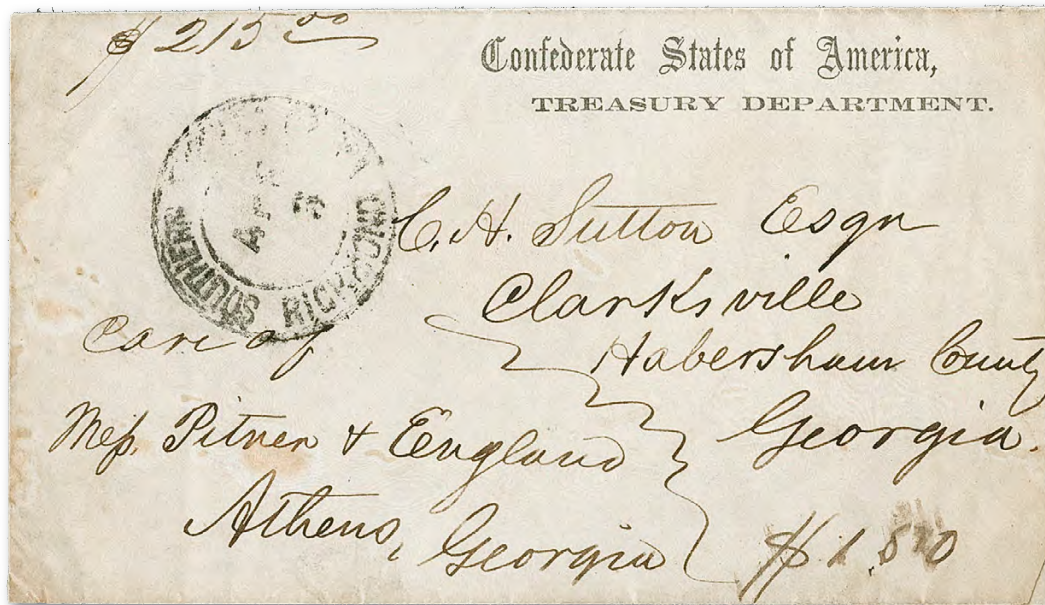
The cover was entrusted to the Southern Express Co.’s Memphis office for delivery to Columbia Tenn., which lies east of Memphis. It traveled northeast to Nashville, then south to Columbia, accompanied by a Southern Express Co. agent along connecting railroad lines. Independent expresses were often used to carry valuable mail. Express covers involving Confederate postage of any kind are scarce, and those with Postmasters’ Provisionals are very rare. The *Special Routes* census records only three with the Memphis Provisional (this census no. SOU-56).

Ex Pope and Boshwit Estimate \$2,000-3,000

- 380 ☒ **Southern Express Co. Nashville Tenn. Nov. 12 (1861).** Bold strike of blue circular datestamp on buff cover to Courtland Ala., blue crayon “Paid 2/-” (two bits, or 25c) express charge, back-flap missing and unobtrusive sealed tear into the marking, Fine and attractive, the **only recorded example of the Nashville office datestamp** recorded in the *Special Routes* census of C.S.A. internal private express covers (census no. SOU-61), ex Gallagher and Rudy Estimate \$750-1,000

EXPRESS MAIL IN CONFEDERATE TERRITORY

Virginia



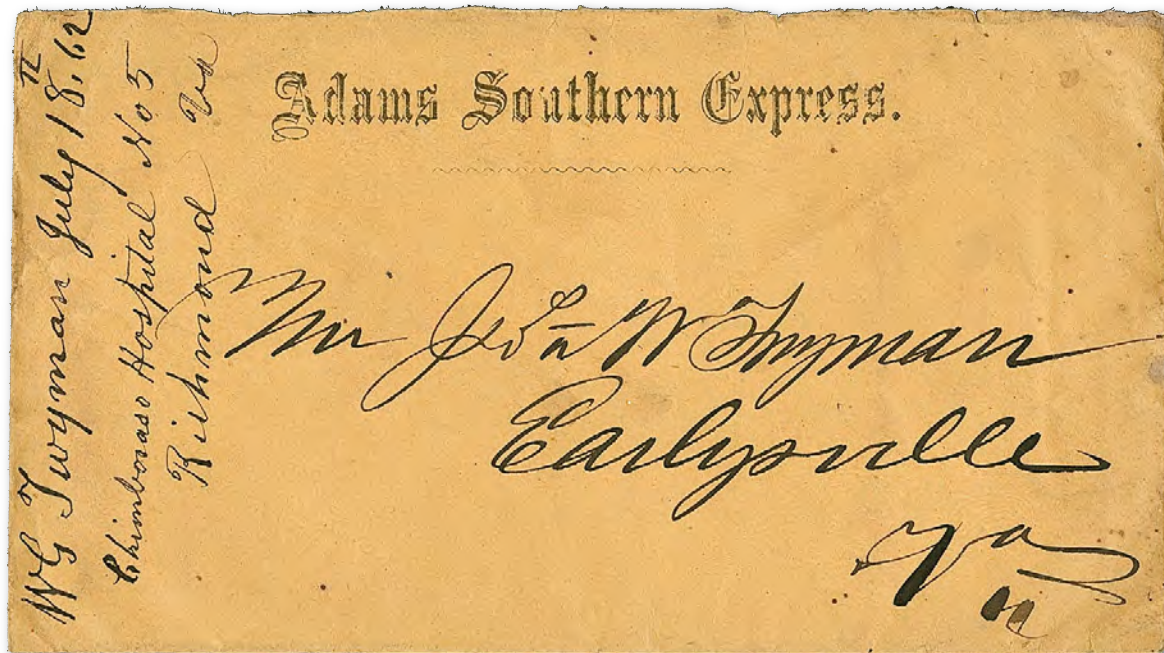
381

- 381 ☒ **Southern Express Co. Richmond Va. Apr. 3.** Mostly clear strike of double-circle datestamp (ca. 1862) on “Confederate States of America Treasury Department” imprint entire to C.H. Sutton in Clarksville Ga., care of Pitner & England, manuscript “\$215.00” money contents noted at top and “1.50” express charge, some inconsequential age spotting and small corner repair, still Very Fine, an extremely rare use of an official imprint entire with a Southern Express marking, this is reported to be the only known Southern Express example with the Treasury Department imprint, *Special Routes* census no. SOU-68, ex Antrim and Felton..... Estimate \$1,000-1,500



382

- 382 ☒ **Southern Express Co. Richmond Va. Jun. 14 (1862).** Double-circle datestamp on buff cover to Adam's Station Ga. on “South Western Rail Road”, manuscript “Paid 8/-” (8 bits, or \$1.00), “\$100” refers to contents, red wax seals, minor toning and slightly reduced at left, still Very Fine, a choice example of a Southern Express Co. money letter with interesting railroad tie-in, from the Eldridge correspondence (addressee's husband was with 16th Ga. Volunteers stationed near Richmond), *Special Routes* census no. SOU-70, signed Brian Green..... Estimate \$500-750



383EX

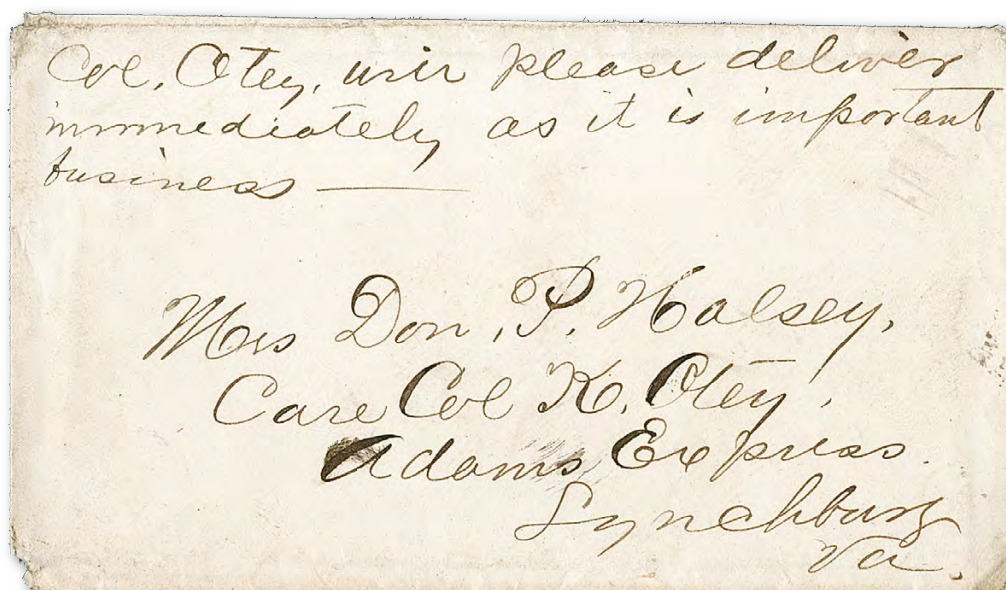
- 383 ☒ **Adams Southern Express.** Nine covers, including six with Adams imprint (two in red, four in black), one with Office Virginia Central Railroad imprint, docketing indicates all from Sgt. Walker G. Twyman, one dated July 18, 1862 from “*Chimborazo Hospital No. 5*” at Richmond Va. to Earlsville Va., some edgewear and the two non-imprint covers with faults, overall Fine-Very Fine, Sgt. Twyman’s father was W. R. Twyman, who was the express agent in Richmond and supplied his son the envelopes(Photo Ex) Estimate \$1,000-1,500



384

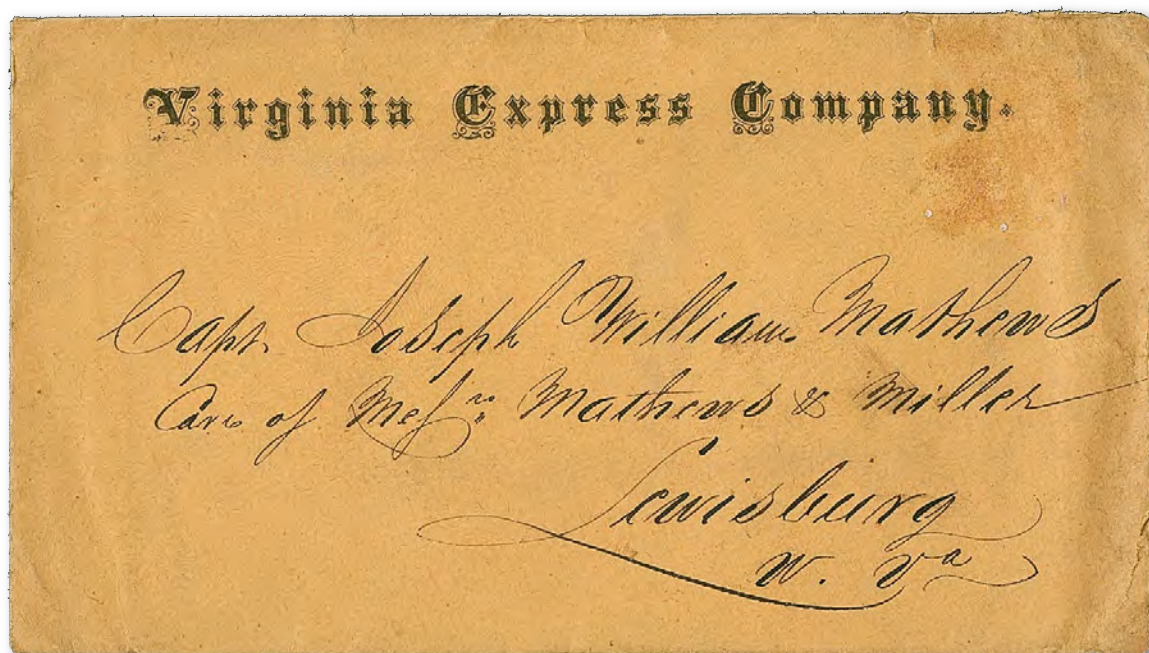
- 384 ☒ **Express Business.** Imprint on oatmeal cover with printed “So. Express Co.” address to James P. Hawkins at Staunton Va., manuscript “*Vital Importance*”, slightly reduced at top, Very Fine, Hawkins was the Southern Express Company agent who kept diaries and a detailed account of the evacuation of Richmond in April 1865 Estimate \$300-400

EXPRESS MAIL IN CONFEDERATE TERRITORY



385

- 385 ☒ **"Mrs. Don. P. Halsey, Care Col. K. Otey, Adams Express, Lynchburg Va."** Address on cover with manuscript "Col. Otey sir please deliver immediately as it is important business", Very Fine, both Major Don P. Halsey and Colonel Kirkwood Otey fought at Gettysburg..... Estimate \$200-300



386

- 386 ☒ **Virginia Express Company.** Imprint at top of orange-buff cover to Lewisburg West Va., missing part of top flap, Very Fine and rare Estimate \$400-500

Petersburg, Virginia, the first Federal wagon train entering the town, June 1864-April 1865,
John Reekie, photographer
Photo credit: Library of Congress



EXPRESS MAIL IN SOUTHERN TERRITORY
OCCUPIED BY UNITED STATES FORCES



Adams Express Burnside Expedition to New Bern, North Carolina



387



388

- 387 ☒ **Adams Express Co., Burnside Expedition.** Imprint and four-horse team pulling wagon illustration in purple, 3c Rose (65) tied by "New Bern N.C. May 26, 1862" double-circle datestamp on cover to Bradford N.H., Nesbitt imprint on flap, Very Fine, the Burnside Expedition was a series of engagements fought along the North Carolina coast between February and June 1862, the expedition was part of General Scott's Anaconda Plan, aimed at closing blockade-running ports, the campaign was carried out primarily by New England troops under Brig. Gen. Burnside and assisted by the North Atlantic Blockading Squadron, Adams Express had special envelopes printed by George Nesbitt, ex Risvold, with 2010 P.F. certificate..... Estimate \$750-1,000
- 388 ☒ **Adams Express Co., Newbern, N.C.** Imprint and four-horse team pulling wagon illustration on orange-buff cover to "Elbridge Howe, Co. I, 24th Regt. Mass. Vol. Steamer Guide", Nesbitt imprint on flap, original letter from sister datelined at North Brookfield (Mass.) Jan. 11 (1863), slightly reduced at right and minor edge wear, still Very Fine express cover to Union soldier in occupied Southern territory, the April 10, 1863 *New York Times* lists the Adams steamship *Fahkee* sailing to New Bern Estimate \$400-500

EXPRESS MAIL IN SOUTHERN TERRITORY OCCUPIED BY U.S. FORCES

Adams Express—Memphis, Tennessee



389 with one of two enclosures

- 389 ☒ **Adams Express Co. Memphis Feb. 26 (1863).** Oval datestamp ties **2c Express, Blue, Imperforate (R9a)**, large margins to in at left, on buff cover from Lester B. Waid on board the **U.S. Gunboat *Baron de Kalb* on the Mississippi River**, addressed to Meadvile Pa., manuscript "Enclosed \$20.00", "Exp 2/-" (25c) and "1.35" express charge, two original lettersheets (one written both sides), including one with **Patriotic Eagle and Flag design** in red and blue and one noting the serial number of the \$20.00 Treasury note enclosed, red express wax seals on back, cover edge nicked at lower left



U.S. Gunboat *Baron de Kalb*

VERY FINE APPEARANCE. A RARE EXAMPLE OF UNION MILITARY PERSONNEL MAIL CARRIED NORTH FROM OCCUPIED TERRITORY BY ADAMS EXPRESS, WITH A U.S. REVENUE STAMP PAYING THE TAX ON THE EXPRESS FEE.

The 2c Express stamp underpaid the 5c tax for an express charge exceeding \$1.00. This is a scarce early matching use of the Express stamp, which is more commonly found on express receipts rather than envelopes. The 2c express tax was replaced by a 2c *ad valorem* tax on express receipts.

This cover was the subject of an article by Scott Trepel ("An Adams Express Company Usage From Federal Forces on the Mississippi," *Chronicle* 158)Estimate \$1,000-1,500

EXPRESS MAIL IN SOUTHERN TERRITORY OCCUPIED BY U.S. FORCES

Adams Express—Kentucky and Louisiana



390

- 390 ☒ **Forwarded by the Adams Express Co. from Paducah, Ky.** Black on yellow label on cover to East Clarendon Vt., pencil "Pd 4/-" and "Pd 12/- thro" express rates, manuscript "2 oz." weight notation, red wax seals, accompanied by Adams receipt from same correspondent dated Jan. 29, 1862, a bit worn and minor edge faults, still Fine and scarce, ex Hahn Estimate \$500-750



391

- 391 ☒ **Forwarded by Adams Express Co. from Baton Rouge, La.** Black on yellow label on 3c Pink entire (U34) to Providence R.I., manuscript "4/- Paid" (four bits, or 50c), with original letter from T. N. Colwell, datelined at Baton Rouge on Aug. 30, 1863, interesting contents including reference to General Banks being an "upright honest man", description of cotton seizures in New Orleans and "all the Negroes have quit work and the Government is feeding a great portion of them...their business is stealing," label has minor corner creases, Very Fine, Baton Rouge was occupied during the war beginning in May 1862, and this is a desirable wartime express use, the Adams Baton Rouge label is very rare Estimate \$750-1,000

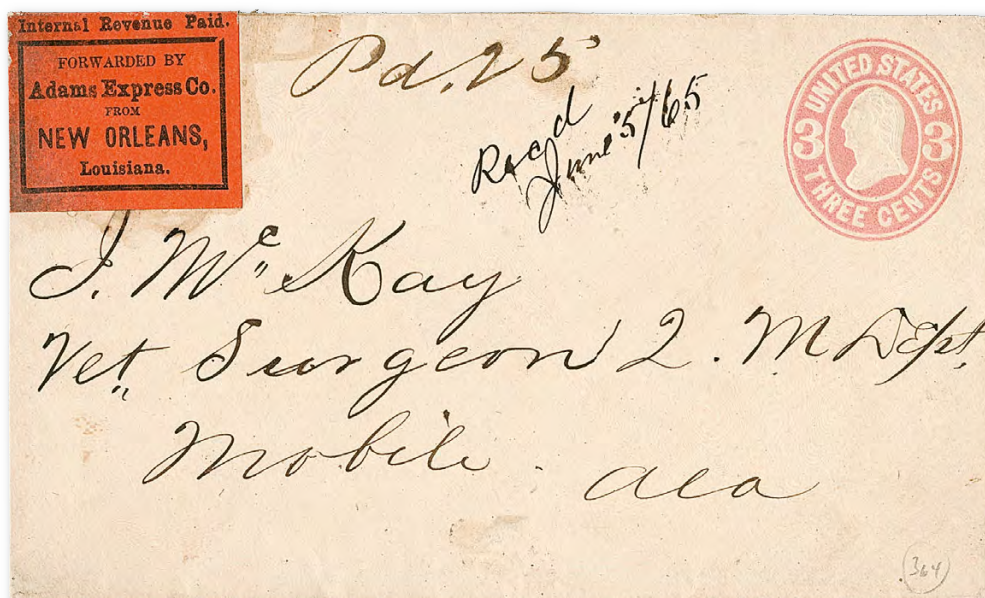
EXPRESS MAIL IN SOUTHERN TERRITORY OCCUPIED BY U.S. FORCES

Adams Express, New Orleans—Internal Revenue Paid Labels



392

- 392 ☒ **Internal Revenue Paid. Forwarded by Adams Express Co. from New Orleans, Louisiana.** Orange label affixed with mucilage to bottom left of cover from C. Babbidge, a chaplain with the 26th Massachusetts Regiment to Groton Mass., “\$150” money notation and “Frt & Ins. 2.75 Paid” express charge, March 4, 1862 original enclosure accompanies, red wax express seals on back, cover tear at right and reduced at right, still Very Fine and scarce, the Adams New Orleans office is the only one known to include “Internal Revenue Paid” in the label..... Estimate \$400-500

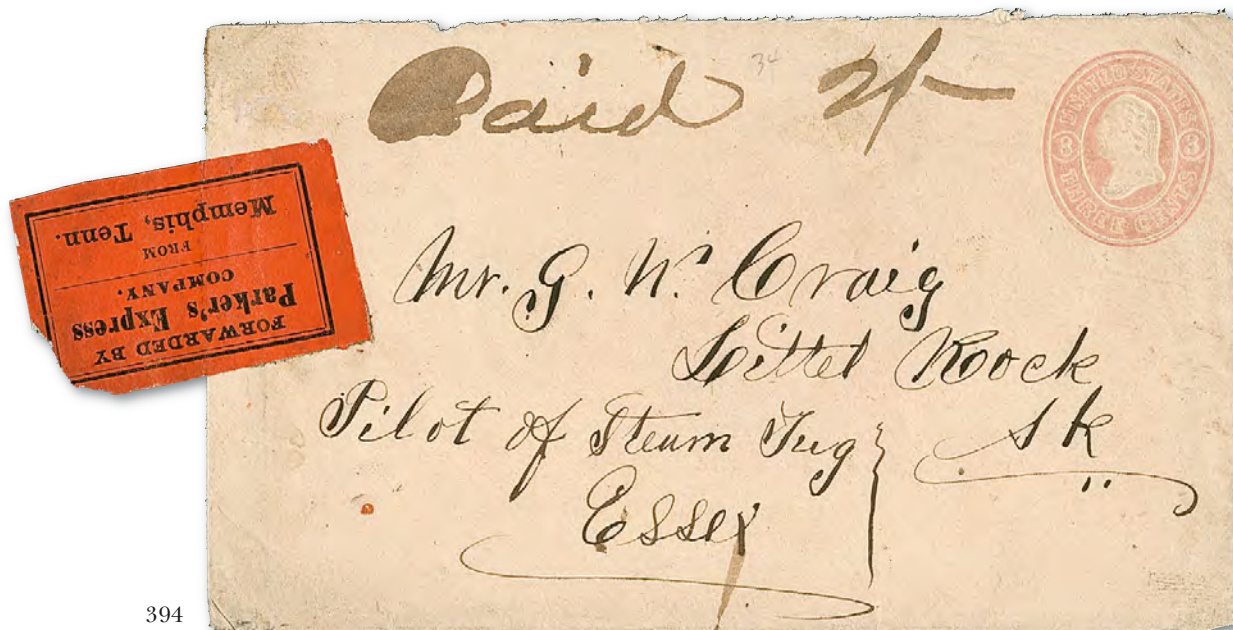


393

- 393 ☒ **Internal Revenue Paid. Forwarded by Adams Express Co. from New Orleans, Louisiana.** Orange label affixed to upper left corner of 3c Pink (U58) entire to Mobile Ala., **Southern Express Company Aug. 10, 1869 black on red “Three Gatherings” label** for unclaimed letters affixed to back, manuscript “Paid 25” express notation and “Rec’d June 5/1865” at top, slightly reduced at left, appears Very Fine, the Adams New Orleans office is the only one known to include “Internal Revenue Paid” in the label, ex Judd, Dr. Skinner and Hahn..... Estimate \$400-500

EXPRESS MAIL IN SOUTHERN TERRITORY OCCUPIED BY U.S. FORCES

Parker's Express



394

- 394 ☒ **Forwarded by Parker's Express Company From Memphis Tenn.** Orange label on 3c Pink on Buff entire to **Little Rock Ark.**, endorsed "*Pilot of the Steam Tug Essex*", manuscript "*Paid 2/-*", (two bits, or 25c) some wear, label affixed over edge and opened for display (faults), Fine and scarce express use, probably sent during early post-war period (possibly during Federal Occupation of Memphis and Little Rock), Parker's Express had an office on Markham Street in Little Rock and served U.S. forces in the area, the firm was later sold to Adams Express, with 1975 P.F. certificate Estimate \$400-500



395

- 395 ☒ **Parker's Express Co. "P X Co Jan 28 '64"**. Manuscript cancels on each of two **3c Rose (65)**, manuscript "*Pd 2/-*" (two bits, or 25c) express charge on cover to Sutler of 3rd Missouri Cavalry at Searcy Ark., remnants of express label on back, both stamps creased and scissors-trimmed before use, upper left corner of cover clipped, otherwise Fine, a most unusual use and certainly very rare, ex Gallagher Estimate \$300-400

EXPRESS MAIL IN SOUTHERN TERRITORY OCCUPIED BY U.S. FORCES



396

- 396 ☒ **Forwarded by Parker's Express Company. From Baton Rouge, La.** Orange label on front of buff cover to Memphis Tenn., Parker's red printed corner card at top and red manuscript "Parkers Ex Aug 12 x 30c" express charge, back with large orange "Southern Express Co. O.H." unclaimed label — so-called "Three Gatherings" label, in which undelivered express letters were assembled and advertised after the war — original letter enclosure datelined at Baton Rouge on August 8, 1865 (letter split), cover with some edge wear, still Very Fine Estimate \$500-750

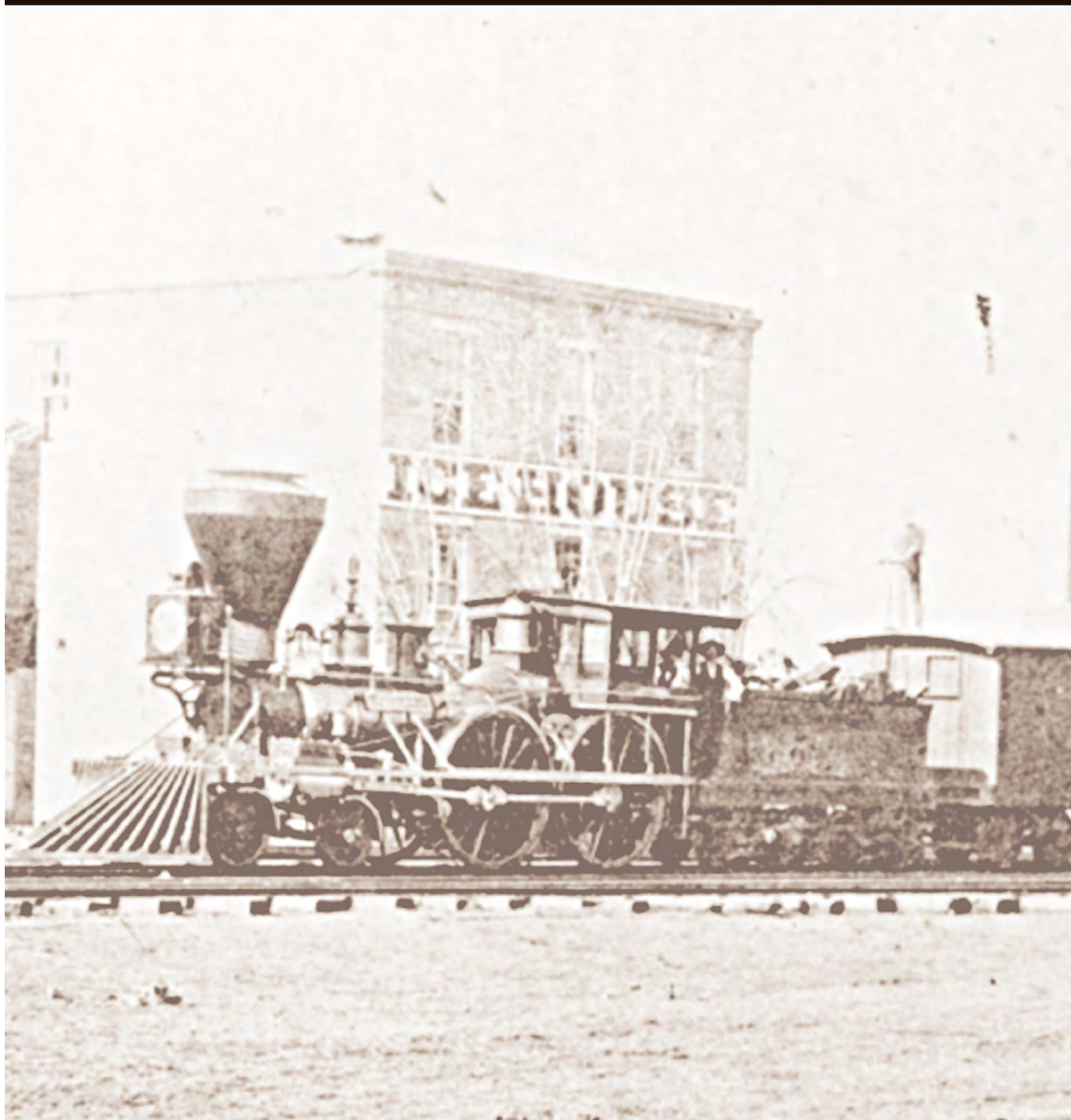


397EX

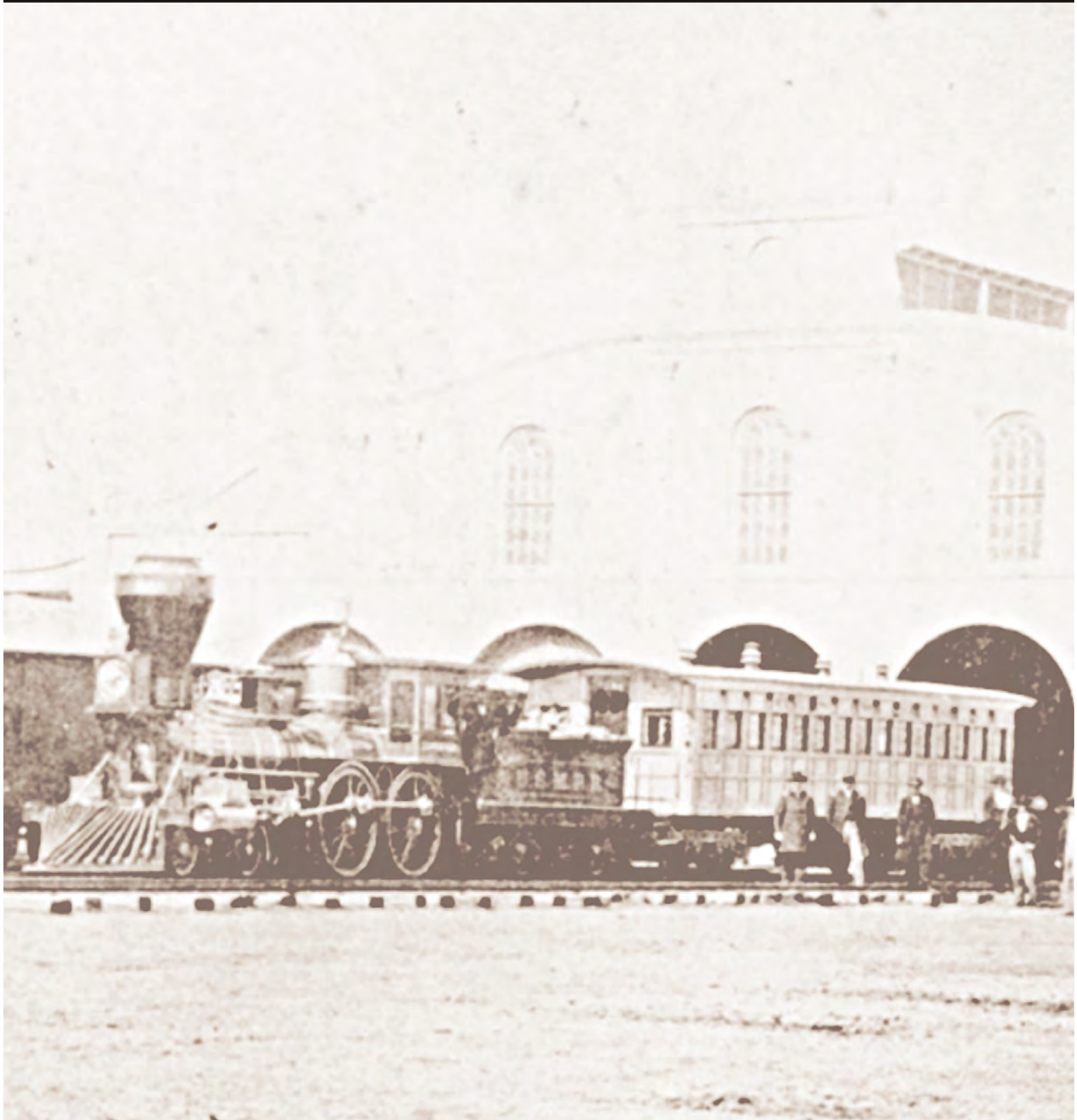
- 397 ☒ **Southern Express Co. "Three Gatherings".** 10 covers, nine with large red "Unclaimed" labels on backs, one with "Forwarded by Adams Express Co. from New Orleans, Louisiana" black on orange label on front, several are 3c Pink entires and one franked with 3c Rose (65), mixed condition with faults to be expected as usual for these post-war express covers, in the wake of the war much of the government mail service was disrupted or not in operation in the South and the gap was filled by private express companies, by 1869 a large amount of unclaimed mail had accumulated in the Southern Express Company offices, the covers were ordered sent to Memphis in three collections in April, June and August, these "Three Gatherings" covers were labeled as they arrived, 60 years later the ones that could never be delivered were discovered in an old basement.....(Photo Ex/Website PDF) Estimate \$500-750

Trains at the Algiers Terminal of the New Orleans, Opelousas and Great Western Railroad in 1865—Baldwin's Express carried mail on this railroad line

Photo credit: <https://nolahistoryguy.com>



POST-WAR EXPRESSES



POST-WAR EXPRESSES

Suspended Mail Service to Former Confederate States



398

- 398 ☒ **MAILS SUSPENDED.** Straightline between two bars, bold strike on front and corresponding “Nashville Ten. Jun. 28, 1865” double-circle datestamp on back of yellow cover to Gainesville Ala. from a **prisoner-of-war at Johnsons Island**, prisoners’ endorsement “*Per Flag of Truce via Vicksburg Miss. W. E. Pearson Asst Surg*”, “Prisoner’s Letter, Johnsons Island O., Examined J. Berry” examiner’s oval handstamp perfectly struck, **3c Rose (65)** tied by blue “Sandusky O. May. 12 ‘65” double-circle datestamp and target, tiny tear at left and faint waterstain at right

VERY FINE. AN EXTREMELY RARE POST-APPOMATTOX COVER FROM A CONFEDERATE PRISONER TO WEST-CENTRAL ALABAMA, WHERE MAIL SERVICE WAS NOT YET FUNCTIONING IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE CIVIL WAR.

This cover from William E. Pearson (Assistant Surgeon in the Co. F, 1st Regt., Tennessee Infantry.), a prisoner at Johnsons Island, was intended to go to Vicksburg and from there by flag-of-truce to Clinton or Jackson, Mississippi. However, by May 1865, the C.S.A. postal system had collapsed, and this cover was either stopped at or returned to Nashville. It was marked “MAILS SUSPENDED”, then presumably returned to the sender in another envelope. This cover is rare in two respects: first, the flag-of-truce exchange point at Vicksburg is very unusual, and, second, the “MAILS SUSPENDED” marking is rarely seen on prisoners’ mail.

Illustrated in *Special Routes* book (p. 11). Ex Walske..... Estimate \$2,000-3,000

POST-WAR EXPRESSES



400

399

- 399 ☒ **ILLEGAL STAMP.** Bold strike of straightline handstamp ties long-demonetized **3c Dull Red, Ty. III (26)** on circa 1866 cover **from Vera Cruz, Mexico**, to Rutson Maury (of the famed Maury family) in New York City, directive "*Politeness of Col. Geo. H. Sweet*", stamp also tied by "New Orleans La. Dec. 28" circular datestamp, a different style of New Orleans datestamp struck on back, manuscript "**Ship 6**", notation "*Mexico*" on back, receipt docketing "*Mrs. Genl. Stevens, Vera Cruz 15 Decr. Recd. 16 Jany.*", indicates Vera Cruz, Mexico origin, opened for display, top flap reattached

VERY FINE. A REMARKABLE USE OF THE EXTREMELY RARE "ILLEGAL STAMP" MARKING APPLIED AT NEW ORLEANS. THIS COVER ORIGINATED FROM EX-CONFEDERATE GENERAL WALTER H. STEVENS' WIFE IN VERA CRUZ AFTER THE WAR.

Based on the docketing, this undoubtedly originated from the wife of Confederate General Walter H. Stevens. After the Civil War, Stevens went to Mexico, where he was superintendent and engineer for the Mexican Imperial Railroad, a railroad line planned by Emperor Maximilian I of Mexico to run between Vera Cruz and Mexico City. Stevens died of yellow fever at Vera Cruz on November 12, 1867. This was mailed either in December 1866, before he died, or in 1867, shortly after his death. The notation "*Politeness of Col. Geo. H. Sweet*" refers to Colonel George Henry Sweet, the former Confederate officer who commanded Camp Ford prison camp in Texas and toured Mexico in 1866 after the war.

Ex Haas and Dr. Brandon. With 1971 P.F. certificate Estimate \$2,000-3,000

- 400 ☒ **CANNOT BE FORWARDED.** Mostly clear framed straightline handstamp struck in New Orleans on orange-buff cover to Bellville Tex., **3c Rose (65)**, tear at right, cancelled by target with "Tunkhannock Pa. Jul. 8" circular datestamp, "New Orleans La. Aug. 1" double-circle datestamp on back, pencil "*due 25c*" indicating express fee was paid for delivery to Texas, Very Fine and extremely rare post-war use before Federal mail service was fully restored, ex Walske..... Estimate \$1,000-1,500

POST-WAR EXPRESSES

Baldwin's South Louisiana Express

The 82-mile New Orleans, Opelousas & Great Western Railroad line between New Orleans (Algiers) and Brashear La. was under U.S. military control from July 1, 1862, until February 1, 1866. Its operation, with a steamboat connection between Berwick Bay and Galveston Tex., was essential to mail service. The U.S. mail contract with Baldwin as agent was awarded to the NOO&GW on May 26, 1866, at \$100 per mile per year. The "Baldwin's South La. Express MR 8154" circle is found on covers carried on the NOO&GW line between January and May 1866. The Algiers-Brashear mail route contract number was 8154.



- 401 ☒ **Baldwin's South Louisiana Express, Brashear City, La.** Corner card on buff cover to New Orleans, 3c Rose (65) overpaying 2c drop letter rate, pen cancel and tied by target, matching "New Orleans La. Apr. 21 '65" double-circle datestamp, light soiling, Fine, ex Dr. Skinner Estimate \$400-500
- 402 ☒ **Baldwin's South La. Express MR 8154.** Circular handstamp ties 3c Rose (65), on buff cover to Brashear La., manuscript "May 1st 1866 l.y.s.", slight edge wear, still Very Fine..... Estimate \$300-400
- 403 ☒ **Baldwin's South La. Express MR 8154.** Blue circular handstamp ties 3c Rose (65), with "New Orleans La. ? 3 '66" double-circle datestamp on cover to Rochester N.Y., from Henry Gardner, a U.S. Army recruitment officer in Brashear La., with original contents asking "why are the mails so irregular?", reduced at left, Very Fine Estimate \$400-500

POST-WAR EXPRESSES

Chandler's News Express

J. B. Chandler of New Orleans established Chandler's News Express, which carried mail between Liberty and Centreville, Mississippi. In 1866 Chandler filed a claim with the U.S. government, seeking payment for carrying mail for 11 months, but the claim was denied since he operated without U.S.P.O.D. authority.



404

- 404 ☒ **Chandler's News Express.** Clearly struck oval handstamp with manuscript "5c" rate on yellow cover to Liberty Miss., **3c Rose (65)** cancelled by target, mathematical notations on back, reduced at right, stamp lifted and moved slightly to left and with couple small margin flaws, Fine cover and an extremely rare express marking, ex Walske..... Estimate \$500-750



405

- 405 ☒ **Chandler's News Express.** Boldly struck oval handstamp with pen "10" rate on cover to Liberty Miss., **3c Rose (65)** tied by target cancel and "New Orleans La. ? 7 '66" double-circle datestamp, opened a bit roughly at right and with edge toning, stamp with diagonal crease, otherwise Very Fine and extremely rare express marking, ex H. B. Phillips and Dale-Lichtenstein Estimate \$500-750

POST-WAR EXPRESSES

Commercial Express Company

The Commercial Express Company operated from July 1864 to February 1866, with routes between New York and New Orleans, and between New Orleans, Texas and Mexico. The most comprehensive article on the Commercial Express was published by Larry Ballantyne in *The Penny Post* (Oct. 2009). The Ballantyne census lists 13 covers.



406

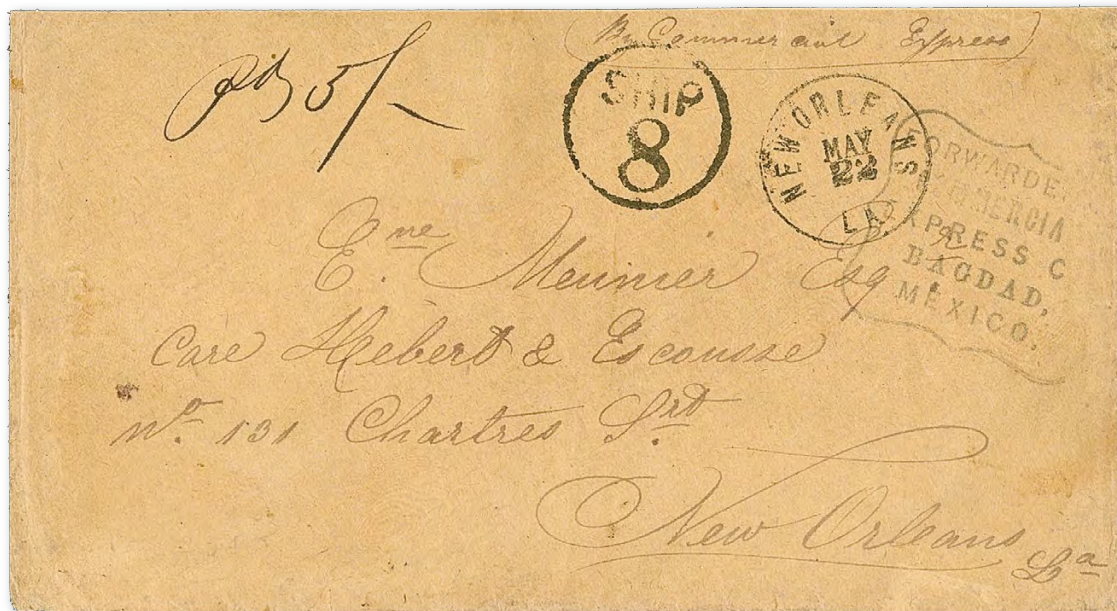


407

- 406 ☒ **Forwarded by Commercial Express Co.** Black on deep red label affixed with mucilage at left of yellow cover to Gloucester Va., manuscript "Pd. 2/ H" (two bits, or 25c) express fee at top left, "New Orleans La. Nov. 2, 1865" double-circle datestamp, Fine and very rare post-war express use which entered the U.S. mails without postage, the Ballantyne census lists 13 covers (this cover illustrated on p. 60), ex Robson Lowe and Dr. Skinner Estimate \$750-1,000
- 407 ☒ **10c Yellow Green (68).** Bright color, tied by target cancel, "New Orleans La. May 18, 1865" double-circle datestamp on folded cover **to Matamoros, Mexico**, endorsed "pr. Commercial Express" and with "**Commercial Express Co. Paid May 18**" double-circle datestamp, neat "Franco" in oval backstamp indicating Mexican postage paid, docketing indicates letter was written on May 18 by E.J. Forstall in New Orleans and received on May 31, light file folds do not affect stamp
- VERY FINE AND RARE COMMERCIAL EXPRESS COVER FROM NEW ORLEANS TO MATAMORAS, MEXICO, SENT A FEW DAYS BEFORE CONFEDERATE FORCES WEST OF THE MISSISSIPPI SURRENDERED.
- Confederate forces west of the Mississippi River surrendered on May 26, 1865, ending the war in Louisiana, just a few days after this was sent. The Ballantyne census lists 13 covers (this cover illustrated on p. 55).
- With 2008 P.F. certificate Estimate \$2,000-3,000

POST-WAR EXPRESSES

Texas to New Orleans via Brownsville and Bagdad (Mexico)



408

- 408 ☒ **Forwarded by Commercial Express Co. Bagdad, Mexico.** Ornately framed handstamp on buff cover **carried from Texas to Bagdad (Mexico) via Brownsville, then by Commercial Express Co. to New Orleans**, addressed to Ene. Meunier, in care of Hebert & Escousse and sender's routing "*By Commercial Express*", manuscript "*Pd 5/-*" express rate (five bits, or 62½c), "New Orleans La. May 22" (1865) circular datestamp and bold "Ship 8" in circle handstamp for double ship rate

VERY FINE. ONE OF TWO RECORDED COVERS CARRIED BY THE COMMERCIAL EXPRESS COMPANY FROM THEIR OFFICE IN BAGDAD, MEXICO.

Confederate forces west of the Mississippi River surrendered on May 26, 1865, ending the war in Louisiana, just a few days after this was received in New Orleans. The Commercial Express Company carried it out of Texas to Bagdad, Mexico, via Brownsville and on to New Orleans, where it entered the mails as a ship letter. The Ballantyne census lists 13 covers, of which two were handled by the Bagdad office and have similar markings (this cover illustrated on p. 57).

Ex Meroni and Walske Estimate \$2,000-3,000

POST-WAR EXPRESSES

Pioneer Express Company

The second largest C.S.A. express company was the Pioneer Express Company, which operated along the Mobile & Ohio Railroad and connecting lines. The headquarters was in Mobile, and a corner card from 1865 shows the address as 48 North Royal Street, located near the railroad yard on the waterfront. After the war Adams Express opened its Mobile office just a few doors away at 36 North Royal.



409

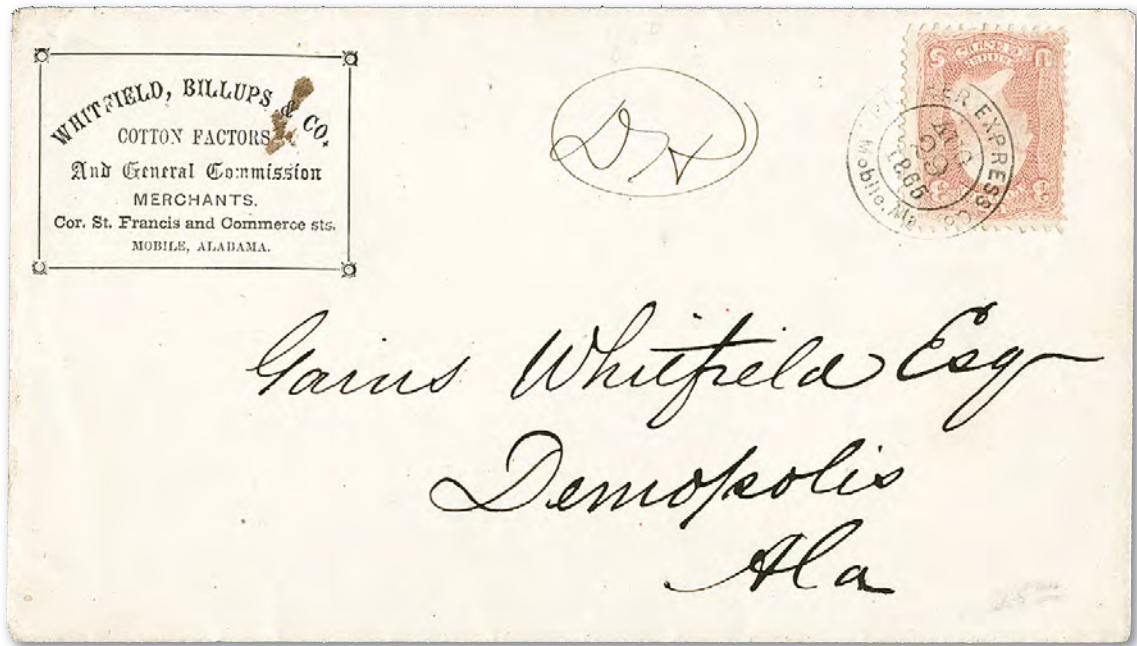
- 409 ☒ **Pioneer Express Co. Selma Ala.** Bold woodcut circular handstamp (without month) ties **3c Rose (65)** on folded letter datelined “Selma Ala. July 27th/65” and addressed to New York City “*pr Express*”, sent via New Orleans with a second 3c 1861 affixed over “Paid 35” express charge and tied by “New Orleans La. Aug. 1 ‘65” double-circle datestamp and target, left stamp with small edge hole, lifted and hinged in place

EXTREMELY FINE. ONE OF THREE RECORDED EXAMPLES OF THE PIONEER EXPRESS COMPANY’S SELMA OFFICE HANDSTAMP.

Only three examples of the Selma office woodcut handstamp are recorded — all post-war uses. One of the three has a “July” date in the handstamp. This cover was sent during the early post-war period when many mail routes were not operational. Pioneer Express carried the letter from Selma to New Orleans, and from there it entered the government mails. A second 3c stamp was affixed and cancelled at New Orleans.

Ex Knapp, MacBride, Muzzy and Gallagher. With 2002 P.F. certificate.... Estimate \$3,000-4,000

POST-WAR EXPRESSES



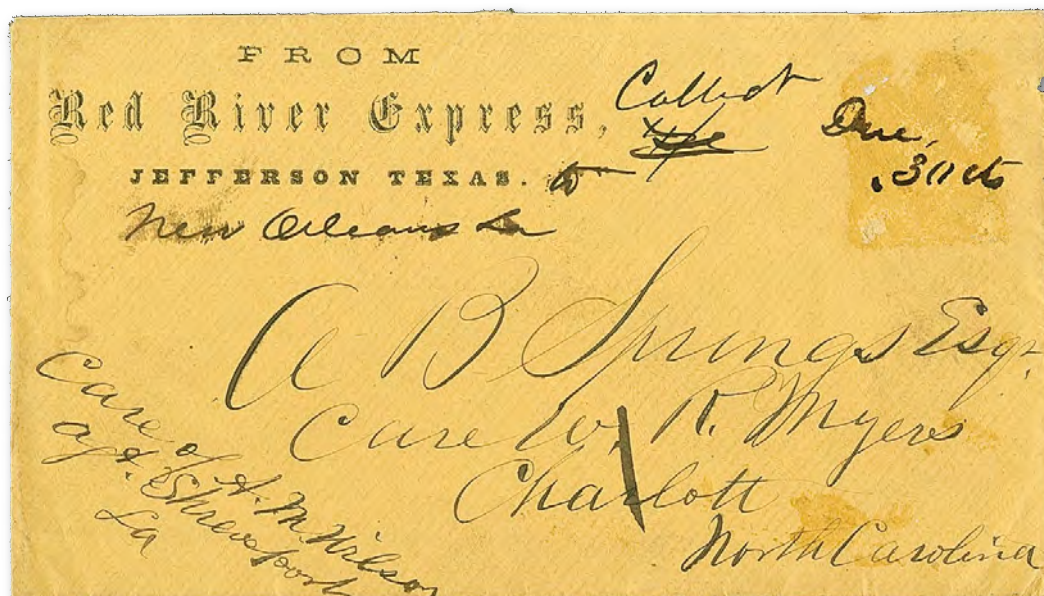
410

- 410 ✉ **Pioneer Express Co. Mobile, Ala. Aug. 29, 1865.** Clear strike of double-circle datestamp ties **3c Rose (65)** on Whitfield, Billups & Co. Cotton Factors merchant's corner card cover to Demopolis Ala., sent by Luke J. Whitfield, the company controller to his family, manuscript "DH" notation indicates no express fee charged, Extremely Fine, a choice example of post-war express use, Pioneer Express operated over the Mobile & Ohio Railroad and connecting lines during and after the war, ex Emerson and Hall Estimate \$500-750

POST-WAR EXPRESSES

Red River Express

The Red River Express was started in August 1865 by C. J. MacLellan, a New Orleans merchant with offices at 54 Canal Street. The first announcements advertised service to Shreveport, Alexandria, Grand Ecore and Baton Rouge. Service to Jefferson Texas was announced in November 1865. Texas newspapers were acknowledging the receipt of newspapers by Red River Express as late as June 30, 1866.



411

- 411 ☒ **From Red River Express, Jefferson Texas.** Three-line fancy imprint on buff cover to Charlotte N.C. "Care of A. M. Wilson Agt. Shreveport La.", presumably it was Wilson who added "to New Orleans La." to imprint and crossed out original "Collect 4/c" express charge (four bits, or 50c), either a stamp or possibly a mounted coin was removed from top right, the "4/c" crossed out in same hand and "Due .30 cts" added over gummed spot, sent in care of W. R. Myers with pencil docketing on back "William R. Myers 1865" but no further dating, small part of backflap remains from opening

VERY FINE. THE ONLY RECORDED RED RIVER EXPRESS IMPRINT COVER, CARRIED DOWN THE RED RIVER FROM SHREVEPORT TO NEW ORLEANS AND FROM THERE OUT OF THE MAILS TO CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA.


This remarkable cover is the only recorded example of the Red River Express imprint. With the 1865 year-docketing only, it is impossible to determine when the cover was sent, though it seems likely that it was in late 1865 given the November announcement of service to Texas. The "Due 30 cts." applied after the removal of a stamp or coin represents a 20c reduction in the original "Collect 4/-" charge (50c), though we are not certain how that 20c value was represented/collected. We speculated when this was last sold in 1998 that that the 20c might have been represented by a 20c Green Confederate stamp (there were no U.S. 20c stamps in existence), but that would not be possible if this is in fact a late 1865 use. Whatever the explanation for the change in rate and removal this is a very rare and desirable express use to Texas.

Ex Gallagher. With 1998 P.F. certificate Estimate \$4,000-5,000

POST-WAR EXPRESSES



412 front and back

- 412  **Forwarded by Red River Express.** Clear strike of red oval handstamp on 3c Pink entire (U59) originating in Texas and addressed to A. B. Springs, care of W. R. Myers in Charlotte N.C., entered mails with “New Orleans La. Dec. 4 ‘65” double-circle datestamp and target, back-stamped with large ribbon marker of A. Stewart & Co. of New Orleans (commission merchants, forwarders, and “Also Agents for the Red River Express”), lightly cleaned

VERY FINE. THIS IS THE ONLY RECORDED EXAMPLE OF THE RED RIVER EXPRESS OVAL HANDSTAMP, SENT FROM TEXAS TO CHARLOTTE NORTH CAROLINA VIA NEW ORLEANS.

We record only this example of the Red River Express oval, and the imprint cover offered in the previous lot.

Ex Brugh Estimate \$3,000-4,000

POST-WAR EXPRESSES

Southern Express Company



413

- 413 ☒ **2c Black (73).** Tied by 5-bar grid cancel and "New York City Jun. 28" circular datestamp on manila cover to city street address, clear strike of blue "Southern Express Co., Augusta Ga." double-circle handstamp with manuscript "Paid 2/-" (two bits, or 25c express fee), tiny bit of ink erosion in manuscript fee notation, minor toning not mentioned on accompanying certificate

VERY FINE. A RARE AND POSSIBLY UNIQUE EXAMPLE OF A BLACK JACK STAMP USED ON A POST-WAR SOUTHERN EXPRESS COMPANY COVER FROM SOMEWHERE IN THE SOUTH TO NEW YORK CITY.

The Black Jack paid the local 2c rate for delivery in New York City, which is where this cover entered the mails. The origin is unknown, but the Southern Express Company carried mail for a period after the war, when regular postal routes in the South were still disrupted.

Ex Dr. Rorke and Faust. With 1979 P.F. certificate Estimate \$1,500-2,000



414

- 414 ☒ **Southern Express Co., Augusta Ga.** Blue double-circle handstamp with manuscript "Paid 2/" (two bits, or 25c) on cover to Mrs. Howell Cobb at either Macon or Athens Ga., additional manuscript "Paid 25/100", uncanceled 3c Rose (65) as required by postal regulations, slightly oxidized, Very Fine post-war express use, with 1977 C.S.A. certificate..... Estimate \$200-300

POST-WAR EXPRESSES

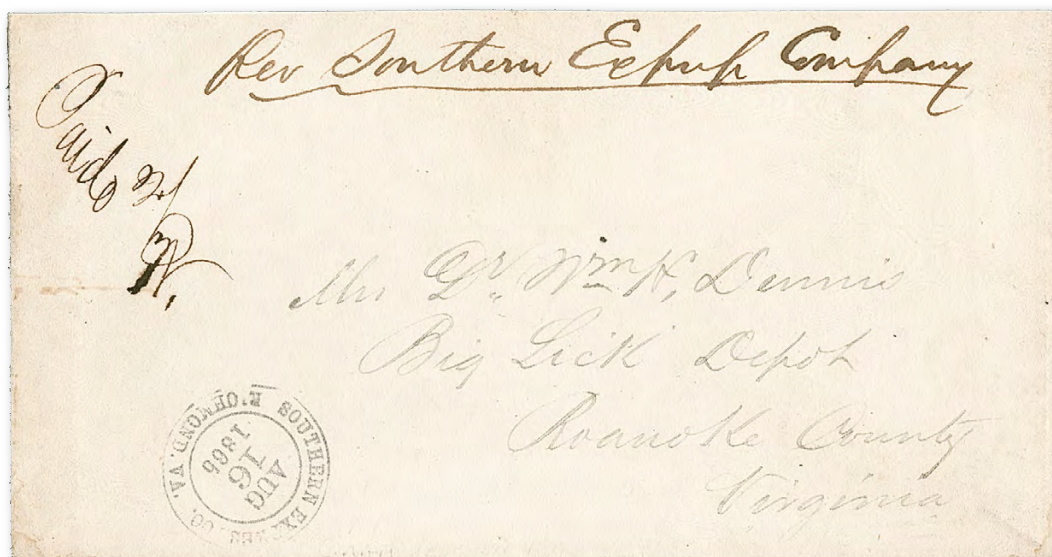


- 415 ☒ **Southern Express Co. Columbus Geo. Jul. 29.** Double-circle datestamp struck over "Southern Express Company" imprint on 3c Pink on Buff entire to New York City, entered mails with light strike of "Chattanooga Ten. Aug. 2" circular datestamp with grid duplex, slight oxidation of indicia, mounting remnants on back, Very Fine post-war express use to the North Estimate \$400-500
- 416 ☒ **Southern Express Lynchburg, Va. Nov. 10, 1865.** Clear strike of blue oval handstamp on 3c Pink on Buff entire (U59) to Staunton Va., manuscript "Per Southern Express Paid" at top, Very Fine and scarce, with 1973 P.F. certificate Estimate \$400-500
- 417 ☒ **Adams Express Co. Mobile, Ala. Bold strike of oval handstamp on 3c Pink entire to Washington D.C., Oct. 31, 1865** docketing at left, minor edgewear, Very Fine, a choice post-war express use, ex Hall..... Estimate \$300-400



418

- 418 ☒ **The Texas (Southern) Express Company.** Imprint with “Texas” crossed out and “Southern” written above, blue “Southern Ex. Co. New Orleans La. Jul. 6, 1866” double-circle datestamp partly struck, with manuscript “NO July 6” and “Pd 2/-” (two bits, or 25c) express charge on 3c Pink entire to Tuscumbia Ala., Very Fine, the Southern Express Company, which operated within the C.S.A. during the war, continued to provide mail-carrying services in 1865 and 1866, while Adams had previously operated in U.S.-occupied territory, they apparently turned those routes over to the Southern Express Company after the war Estimate \$750-1,000



419

- 419 ☒ **Southern Express Co. Richmond Va. Aug. 16, 1865.** Clear strike of double-circle datestamp with manuscript “Paid 2/- W” (two bits, or 25c) express charge on cover to Big Lick Va., endorsed “Per Southern Express Company”, slightly reduced at top, Extremely Fine, ex Gallagher and Hahn Estimate \$500-750

POST-WAR EXPRESSES



420

- 420 ☒ **Southern Ex. Co. New Orleans, La. Jun. 7, 1866.** Clear strike of blue double-circle datestamp on 10c Green entire (U40) to former U.S. and C.S.A. Congressman **John Perkins in Cordova, Mexico**, U.S. postage prepaid as required by law but did not enter mails until it reached Mexico, "2" reales handstamped due marking, receipt docketing, slightly reduced at top, small repaired nick at top right, still Fine, this is the only 10c entire we have seen sent to Mexico by the Southern Express Company, similar covers from New Orleans to Mexico were carried earlier by the Commercial Express (see lot 407) and usually have stamps, John Perkins served in the U.S. Congress from 1853-55 and the Confederate Congress from 1862-65, he briefly worked as a colonization agent for the Mexican government after the war Estimate \$750-1,000

End of Sale—Thank You

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Sale 1238

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June 23, 2021

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STAMP FIRM PHONE

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\$1,000-3,000	\$100	\$140,000-500,000	\$10,000
\$3,000-7,000	\$250	\$500,000-\$1m	\$25,000
\$7,000-20,000	\$500	Above \$1m	Discretionary