

SPECIAL POSTAL ROUTES ACROSS THE LINES DURING THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR

Background: Postal communications between the United States of America (USA) and the Confederate States of America (CSA) continued after southern states started seceding in December 1860, and lasted until the end of the war in June 1865. Special postal routes across the lines developed because the CSA was effectively surrounded by the USA, and a Federal war strategy was to cut off all outside communications with the CSA.

Accordingly, when the regular North-South Post Office routes were suspended by the USA in mid-1861, they were replaced by a complex array of special postal routes that expanded as the war grew in intensity and duration. These routes were used for mail between the warring parties, for mail between parts of the CSA separated by Federal military activities, and for mail between the Confederacy and other countries. 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. They fall into the following seven categories:

- 1) ***Post Office Routes*** used during a transitional period from December 1860 until August 1861, as the Federal government was suspending the regular pre-war Post Office routes in the seceded States.
- 2) ***Express Routes*** employed by private express companies in the June through August 1861 period.
- 3) ***Flag-of-Truce Routes*** maintained from September 1861 until the end of the war by both governments for the benefit of prisoners of war and a few civilians, as well as for military or diplomatic exchanges.
- 4) ***Smuggler Routes*** employed by private enterprises, such as the Louisiana Relief Committee, and by the small number of individuals who managed to cross the lines with mail.
- 5) ***Trans-Mississippi Routes*** used by both private and official Confederate trans-Mississippi expresses after Union control of the Mississippi River in 1862 cut the Confederacy into two parts.
- 6) ***Blockade-Runner Routes*** between the Confederacy and neutral West Indies ports, used by Confederate steamships from May 1862 until June 1865 to evade the Federal blockade of the Southern coastline.
- 7) ***Trans-Rio Grande Routes*** between Texas and Mexico used to circumvent the Federal blockade.

Scope and Study: This exhibit displays a comprehensive survey of mail from each of the seven categories listed above. Items that successfully crossed the lines as well as those which were diverted in the line-crossing attempt are shown and analyzed. Considerable original research is reflected in the presentation of the confused early part of the war, and in the categorization of blockade run mail.

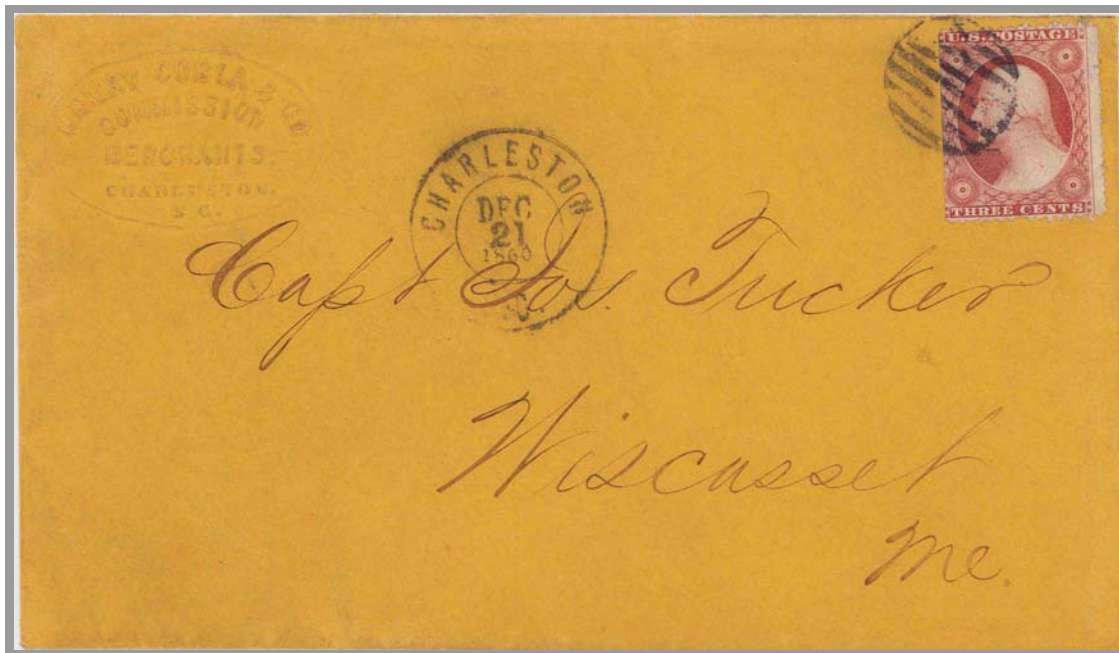
Organization: The exhibit is organized in the order listed above. The type of mail is identified at the top of each page, while the route and relevant time period are described in the upper left. Highlights of the page are described in the upper right, and more detailed descriptions and analyses are contained in the body of each page.

Northbound Post Office Mail

Richmond, Virginia-to-Washington, D.C.: December 1860-May 1861

Independent State

On the evening of December 20, 1860 at Charleston, South Carolina became the first State to secede from the Union. Even so, the U.S. continued to operate the postal system in the newly independent state.



Prepaid 3¢ U.S. postage in Charleston, South Carolina on December 21, 1860
Carried by U.S. postal agents via Richmond, Virginia and Washington, D.C. to Maine

First full day of the Confederate period

Northbound Post Office Mail

Richmond, Virginia-to-Washington, D.C.: February-May 1861

CSA Use of U.S. Postal System

Six independent southern States joined to form the Confederate States of America (CSA) at Montgomery, Alabama on February 4, 1861. The U.S. continued to operate the new country's postal system for four months.



Prepaid 3¢ U.S. postage in Montgomery, Alabama on February 4, 1861
Carried on U.S. postal routes via Richmond and Washington, D.C. to Massachusetts
CSA used U.S. postal system until June 1, 1861 start of CSA postal system

First day of the Confederate States of America

Southbound Post Office Mail

Washington, D.C.-to-Richmond, Virginia: April-May 1861

Through Mail

On April 27, 1861, the regular water route to Richmond was suspended by the United States, leaving only the Orange & Alexandria Rail Road open for mail via Richmond. **This last route through Virginia was suspended on May 23.**



Posted unpaid in London May 4, 1861; carried by Cunard steamer to Boston on May 15
Routed May 17 via Washington, D.C. and Alexandria, Virginia to Richmond, Virginia
Arrived May 18 or 19 in Richmond; unclear how U.S. collected the 24 cents due

One of the latest letters to successfully reach the Confederacy on this route

Southbound Post Office Mail

Washington, D.C.-to-Richmond, Virginia: April-May 1861

Diverted to Dead Letter Office

Starting May 24, 1861, all mail on this route was diverted to the respective Dead Letter Offices (DLO). All such mail was postmarked upon its release from each DLO with special United States or Confederate datestamps.



Posted unpaid in Liverpool May 11, 1861 and carried to New York on May 22
Diverted May 24 at Washington, D.C. to U.S. DLO; released on July 29 to Baltimore

The earliest letter to be diverted by the United States on this route

Southbound Post Office Mail

Washington, D.C.-to-Richmond, Virginia: April-May 1861

Diverted Mail



May 28, 1861 carrier usage from New York to Virginia - diverted to U.S. Dead Letter Office
Returned to sender (address marked at left) on June 4 with three cents return postage due



Sent March 25, 1861 from Melbourne, Australia to Richmond via New York on May 28
Diverted at New York and returned to sender with **English returned mail marking**

Northbound Post Office Mail

Richmond, Virginia-to-Washington, D.C.: April-May 1861

Through Mail

On May 24, 1861 Federal troops closed the last mail route between Washington, D.C. and Richmond. Starting May 24, mail on this route was diverted to the respective Dead Letter Offices.



Prepaid 3¢ U.S. postage in Newbern, North Carolina on May 21, 1861

Passed through Richmond May 23 en-route to New York - **last day this route was open**

Forwarded to Washington, D.C. on May 27 - 3 cents forwarding postage due

North Carolina Independent State period was May 20-27, 1861

Northbound Post Office Mail

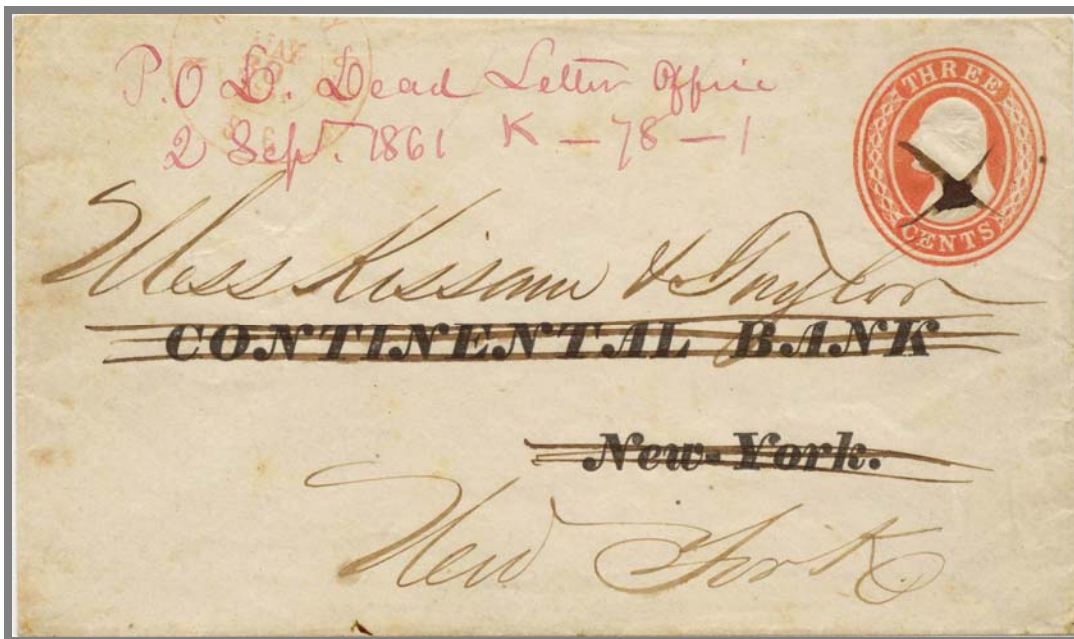
Richmond, Virginia-to-Washington, D.C.: April-May 1861

Confederate Dead Letter Office



Sent May 22, 1861 from Athens, Georgia to Baltimore; diverted May 24 at Richmond to DLO

Marking used on mail transiting through Richmond from May 23 to June 1, 1861



Sent May 31, 1861 from Newberry C.H., SC to New York; diverted June 1 at Richmond to DLO

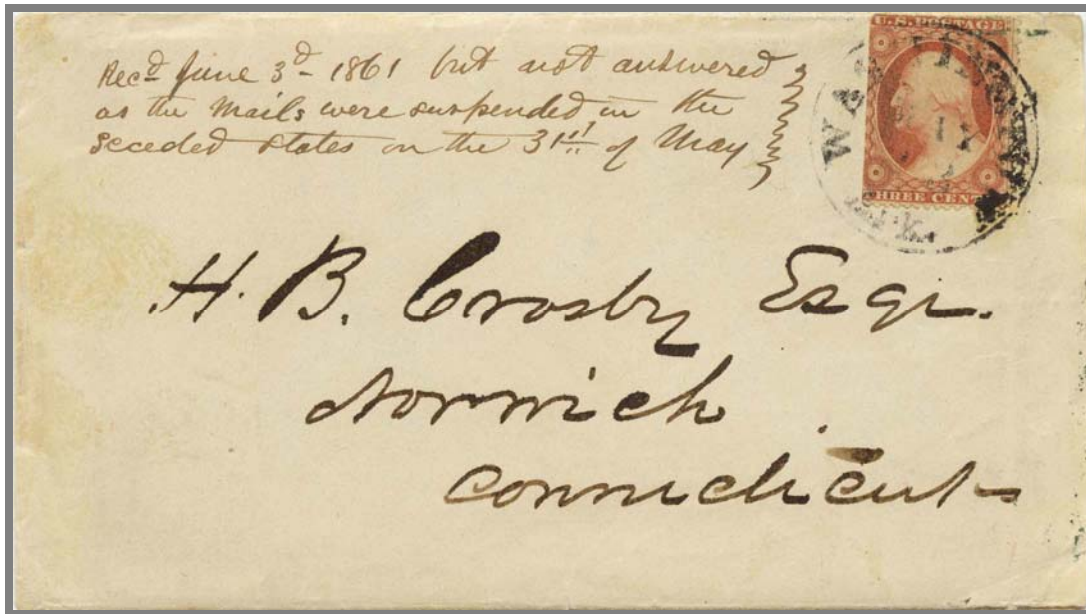
Fewer than 10 letters known with handstamp or manuscript C.S.A. DLO markings

Northbound Post Office Mail

Memphis, Ten.-to-Louisville, Ky.: May-June 1861

May 27 U.S. Postal Suspension Notice

On May 27, 1861, the U.S. Post Office issued an order suspending Federal postal service in the seceded States, effective May 31, but did not prohibit communications with the South. Tennessee, still in the Union, was not yet covered by this order.



Sent May 23 from Arkansas via Memphis, Tennessee on May 27 and via Louisville on May 29

Arrived in Norwich, Connecticut three days after effective date of postal suspension

Fully prepaid with 3¢ U.S. postage, since U.S. was still operating Confederate routes in May

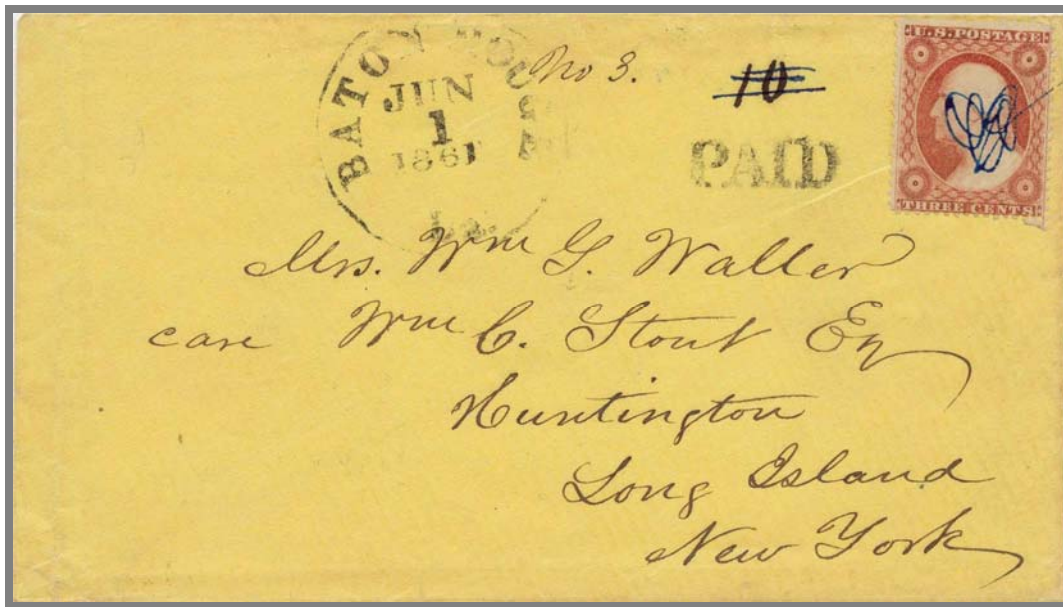
Recipient's docket indicates that reply is impossible due to suspension of mails

Northbound Post Office Mail

Memphis, Tennessee-to-Louisville, Kentucky: May-June 1861

Through Mail

The only connecting routes between North and South outside of Virginia were via Tennessee. Tennessee's pro-secession vote was not received in the North until June 12, so these routes were used well into June 1861, except for through Memphis, which was suspended on June 6.



Sent June 1, 1861 from Baton Rouge to New York - prepaid 10¢ CSA postage to Memphis
Routed via Memphis on June 3, just three days before U.S. suspended that post office
Sender also added U.S. 3c stamp for postage from Memphis to Huntington, NY
CSA postal system started June 1, 1861; 10 cents rate for distance over 500 miles

First day of Confederate postal system

Southbound Post Office Mail

Louisville, Kentucky-to-Memphis, Tennessee: May-June 1861

New Orleans 'due 10'



Prepaid 3¢ June 4, 1861 in Nashville (still in the Union) - sent via Memphis; 10 cents due in New Orleans
CSA due mail permitted for mail originating outside of the Confederacy



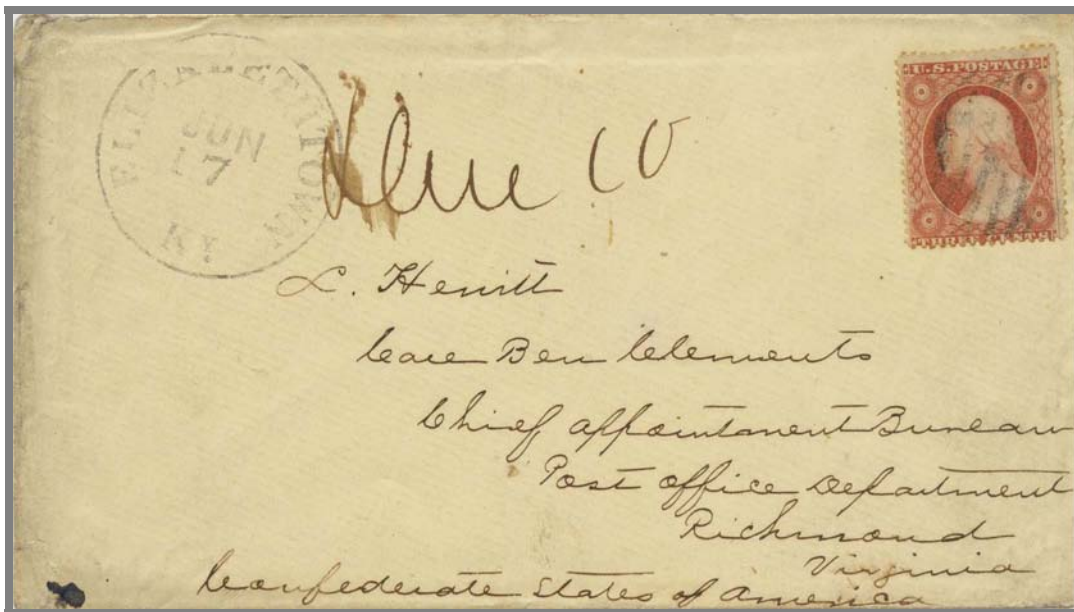
Sent May 17, 1861 from France via Boston on June 1 to New Orleans; **10¢ CSA postage due**
Passed through Memphis post office on June 6, the day it was suspended by U.S. for disloyalty

Southbound Post Office Mail

Louisville, Kentucky-to-Nashville, Ten.: June 1861

Latest Southbound Through Mail

On June 7, 1861, the U.S. Post Office issued an order discontinuing all postal communications with the seceded States. **After this date, all southbound mails were diverted to the U. S. Dead Letter Office.**



Sent June 7, 1861 from Elizabethtown, Kentucky to Richmond; **10¢ CSA postage due on arrival**

Routed via Nashville, Tennessee; after Memphis' suspension, this was the only open route

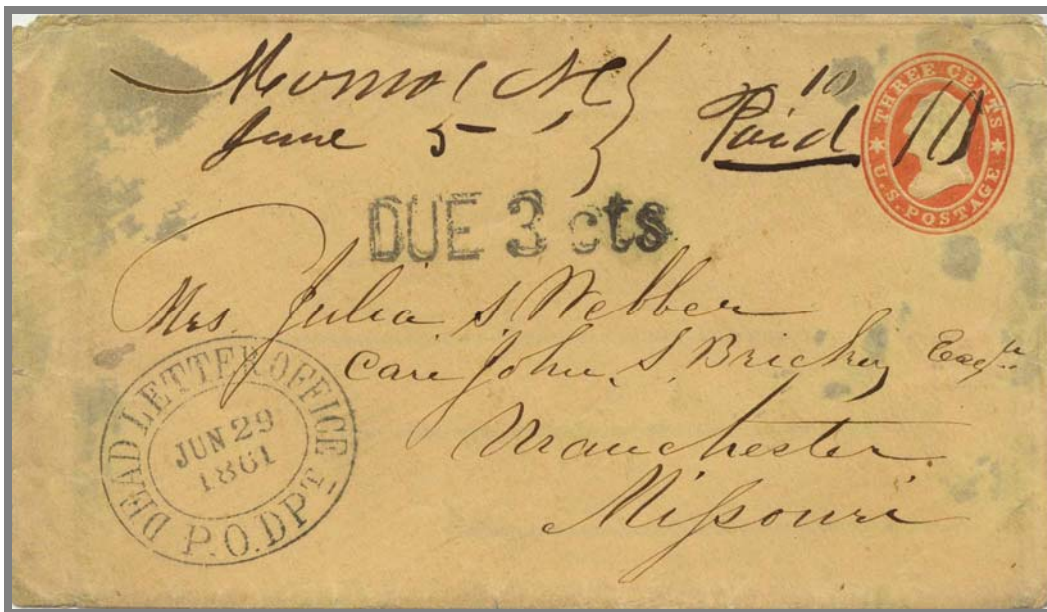
Last possible day for southbound mail

Northbound Post Office Mail

Nashville, Tennessee-to-Louisville, Kentucky: June 1861

Northbound Through Mail

On June 12, 1861, the U.S. suspended the Nashville post office, closing the last major northbound route. Nashville still forwarded northbound mails, although they were stopped at Louisville starting June 13.



Sent June 5, 1861 from Monroe, North Carolina to Missouri; prepaid 10¢ CSA and 3¢ USA postage

Routed via Nashville - **reached Louisville on June 11 and backstamped June 13 in St Louis**

Diverted by St Louis post office to U.S. DLO; released to addressee on June 29 with 3 cents due

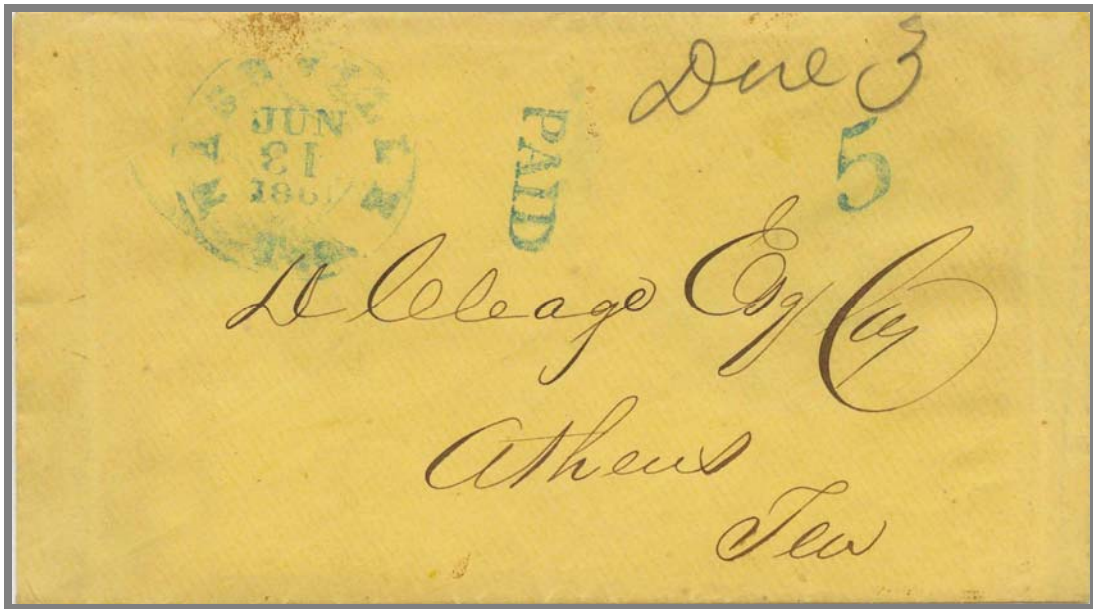
Passed through Louisville two days before that route was closed

Northbound Post Office Mail

Nashville, Ten.-to-Chattanooga, Ten.: June 1861

U.S. Closure of Nashville Post Office

On June 12, 1861, the Nashville, Tennessee post office closed its U.S. postal accounts after receiving the U.S. suspension notice. Starting June 13, it began operating under the Confederate postal system.



Sent June 13, 1861 from Nashville to eastern Tennessee - **prepaid 5 cents Confederate postage**

Eastern Tennessee was still loyal to the U.S. - 3¢ Federal postage assessed at Chattanooga

Very unusual **through-the-lines mail within Tennessee** showing postage of both sides

First day of Nashville's Confederate postal period

Northbound Post Office Mail

Memphis, Ten.-to-Paducah, Kentucky: June-August 1861

Late Through Mail via Kentucky



Sent June 11 from Virginia to St Joseph, Missouri - forwarded to St Louis June 27 - 10¢ CSA postage paid
Late mail via open secondary mail route to pro-Confederate Paducah, Kentucky



Sent June 19, 1861 from Texas to Kentucky - Paducah post office suspended August 30-September 3
U.S. mail route on Paducah and Memphis R.R. was not suspended until August 30, 1861

Northbound Post Office Mail

Nashville, Tennessee-to-Louisville, Kentucky: June-July 1861

'Southn Letter Unpaid'



Sent May 31, 1861 from Milford, Texas to Kentucky - **postmarked June 30 at Louisville**
No Confederate postage was needed, since CSA postal system did not start until June 1, 1861



Sent June 28, 1861 from North Carolina to Indiana - prepaid 10¢ CSA and 3¢ U.S. postage
Reached Louisville about July 4 - **postmarked and forwarded July 6** - assessed 3¢ unpaid letter fee

Fewer than 50 SLU covers are known - July Louisville datestamps are least common

Northbound Post Office Mail

Nashville, Ten.-to-Louisville, Kentucky: June-July 1861

'Southern Letter Unpaid' to France

On June 24, Louisville received instructions to forward the accumulated mails from Nashville as unpaid. This gave rise to the well-known 'Southn Letter Unpaid' marking used from June 26 until July 12, 1861.



Sent June 10, 1861 from New Orleans to France - prepaid 10 cents Confederate postage

15 cents U.S. postage applied in New Orleans disregarded at Louisville - marked unpaid

Received at Louisville about June 15 - postmarked upon June 27 forwarding to N.Y.

Processed at New York as unpaid letter - 8 décimes (15 cents) due in France

Only five 'Southn Letter Unpaid' covers known to foreign destinations

Northbound Post Office Mail

Nashville, Tennessee-to-Louisville, Kentucky: June-July 1861

New Orleans Provisionals



Sent June 22 from New Orleans to Indiana - prepaid 10 cents with two 5¢ provisional stamps
U.S. 3 cents postage disregarded in Louisville on June 25 - forwarded with 3 cents due

Only two mixed frankings known on 'Southn Letter Unpaid' mail



Sent June 15 from New Orleans to Kentucky - prepaid with 5¢ provisional pair and U.S. 3¢ stamp
Mail received at Louisville June 17-25 released on June 25 without Louisville datestamps

Southbound Diverted Post Office Mail

Washington, D.C.-to-Richmond, Virginia: 1861-65

Returned Foreign Mail

Some foreign correspondents were unaware that mail service to the South had been suspended. After a delay, their mail was returned, instead of being held by the U.S. Dead Letter Office.



Sent September 30, 1862 from London to Louisiana - carried by American packet to New York
Diverted to DLO from New York, and returned to England with English returned mail marking
Not received back by sender until June 1863 - held in Dead Letter Office for eight months

‘Sent Back to England’ markings are not often seen on this type of mail

Southbound Diverted Post Office Mail

Washington, D.C.-to-Richmond, Virginia: 1861-65

Foreign Mail



Sent May 10, 1864 from England to Virginia - carried by American packet to New York on May 22

'Mails Suspended' marking unusual on foreign mail



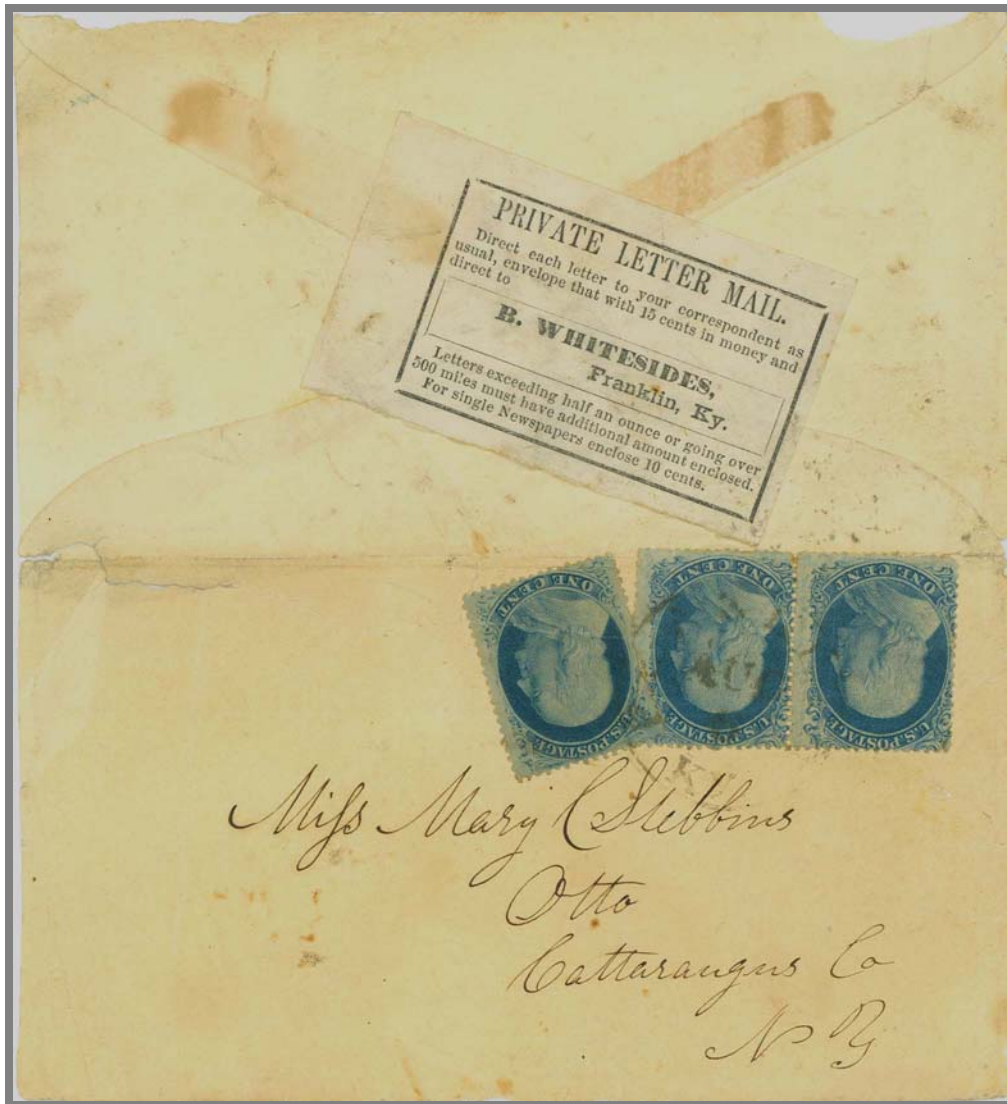
Sent March 1, 1865 from Nassau, Bahamas to South Carolina per British packet to New York
February 17, 1865 fall of Charleston had closed Nassau's last blockade-running connection

Northbound Private Express Company Mail

Nashville, TN-to-Franklin, KY: June-August 1861

Whitesides Express

From June 22 until August 26, 1861, Whitesides operated an express mail service between Franklin, Kentucky and Nashville, Tennessee.



Sent inside another envelope with CSA postage paid to Nashville - also enclosed 12¢ express fee plus 3¢
Carried by express from Nashville to Franklin - mailed August 6 at Franklin with 3¢ U.S. postage to Otto, NY

Label on back gave instructions for return mail - only two Whitesides Express letters are known

Northbound Private Express Company Mail

Nashville, Tennessee-to-Louisville, Kentucky: June-August 1861

American Letter Express

On June 15, 1861, the American Letter Express Company began a service between Nashville and Louisville. It was suspended on August 26, 1861 by a Federal decree prohibiting all communications with the South.



Sent August 6, 1861 under cover from Baton Rouge to Nashville for forwarding by Express to Louisville

Posted August 15, 1861 in Louisville - prepaid 30 cents double-weight rate to France via New York

Label asks for 1 franc 60 centimes reimbursement of 30 cents postage paid

One of two known labels and only known letter to a foreign destination by this Express

Southbound Private Express Company Mail

Louisville, Kentucky-to-Nashville, Tennessee: June-August 1861

Louisville Express Markings



Sent under cover to Louisville for forwarding July 22, 1861 by American Letter Express to Nashville
Five cents CSA postage paid in Nashville - additional 10 cents due for forwarding to Virginia



Sent under cover from somewhere in the North to Louisville for forwarding on July 15, 1861
Five cents CSA postage indicated by provisional Nashville 'PAID 5' handstamp

Southbound Private Express Company Mail

Louisville, Kentucky-to-Nashville, Tennessee: June-August 1861

Express Markings



Sent under cover in August 1861 to Louisville for forwarding by American Letter Express to Nashville
Only known American Letter Express 'Jenkins & McGill' Nashville marking



Sent under cover from somewhere in the North to Louisville for forwarding in August 1861
American Letter Express '307 Green' Louisville marking replaced datestamp in August

Northbound Private Express Company Mail

Nashville, Tennessee-to-Louisville, Kentucky: June-August 1861

Adams Express

On June 22, 1861, the Adams Express Company began a service between Nashville and Louisville. It was suspended on August 26, 1861 by a Federal decree prohibiting all communications with the South.

THE ADAMS EXPRESS COMPANY,
S. A. JONES, AGENT,
LOUISVILLE, KY.,

Will forward letters to the Confederate States when the following directions are observed:

Enclose each letter in a U. S. GOVERNMENT ENVELOPE—an ordinary envelope with a stamp affixed **will not answer.** The Company will forward AND DELIVER at any point where it has an office, or will mail as near as possible to the point of address, paying Confederate postage, for a fee of 25 cents.

The rate here given is for letters not exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. in weight; each $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. being charged 3 cents by U. S. Government, and 25 cents by the Express Company.



Carried from Atlanta via Nashville by Adams - **Atlanta provisional 'PAID 5' paid CSA postage**

Posted August 3, 1861 in Louisville - Adams paid 3 cents U.S. postage to New Hampshire

'2/-' 25¢ Express fee paid - Broadside pasted to the reverse gave instructions for express mail

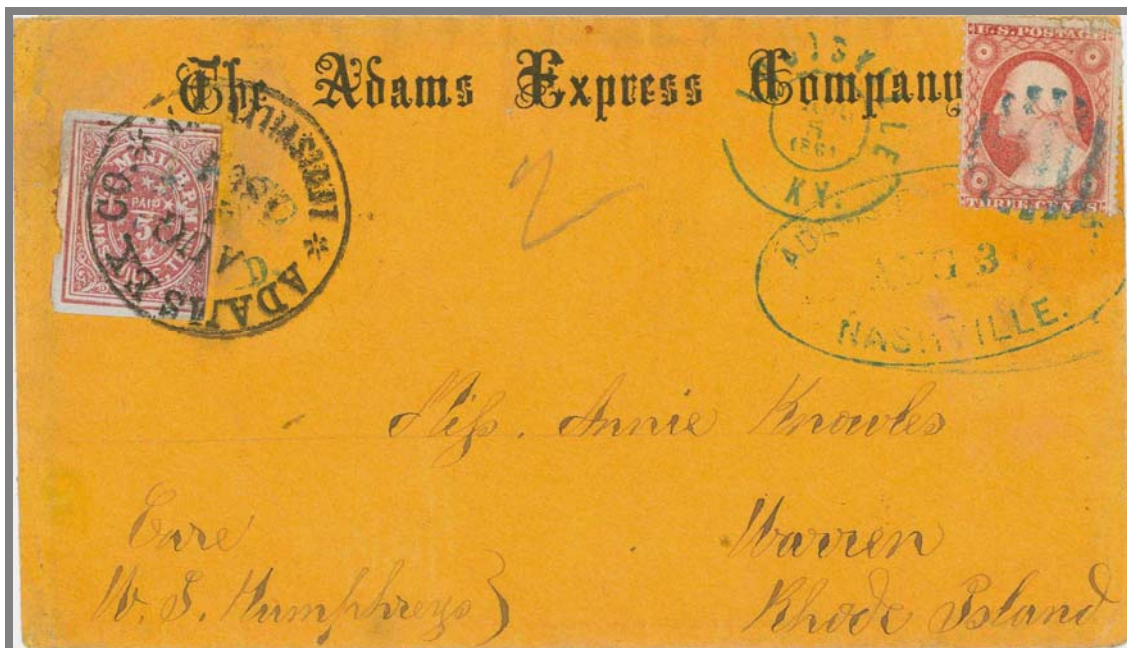
Northbound Private Express Company Mail

Nashville, Ten.-to-Louisville, Ky.: June-August 1861

CSA Postmaster Provisionals



Carried from Montgomery via Nashville by Adams Express - **CSA postage per 'PAID 10 WELSH'**
Adams took letter to Montgomery P.O. July 10 to pay postage - never handled by CSA postal system
'28/1' denotes 28¢ single-rate express rate: 15¢ express fee, 10¢ CSA postage and 3¢ U.S. postage



Sent August 3, 1861 from Nashville to Rhode Island - **5¢ Nashville provisional pays CSA postage**
'2' bits (25¢) express charges paid - unusual to see both Nashville and Louisville Adams Express markings

Northbound Private Express Company Mail

Nashville, Tennessee-to-Louisville, Kentucky: June-August 1861

CSA Express Markings



Carried from Augusta, Georgia via Nashville - '2/-' (25¢) paid: Augusta 'PAID 10' plus 15¢ express fee
Posted July 10, 1861 in Louisville - **fewer than 10 Nashville Adams Express markings known**



Carried by Adams Express July 8 from Charlotte, North Carolina to Louisville - blue Charlotte 'PAID 10'
Adams added 3¢ stamp since 3¢ entire was not recognized - **only known Charlotte Adams Express mark**

Southbound Private Express Company Mail

Louisville, KY-to-Nashville, TN: June-August 1861

Nashville 10¢ Provisional

Until early August, Adams carried the mail within their system to their office nearest to the point of address. After that, they used the CSA postal system for deliveries beyond Nashville.



Sent inside another envelope from New York to Louisville on July 30, 1861

Carried by Adams Express all the way from Louisville to Virginia via Nashville

Per CSA postal regulations, Nashville Adams Express office added 10¢ CSA postage

Red manuscript '2' (two bits) indicates that the 25¢ express was paid

Only six covers known with 10¢ Nashville postmaster provisional stamps

Southbound Private Express Company Mail

Louisville, Kentucky-to-Nashville, Tennessee: June-August 1861

Adams Express Company

Adams Express often carried a letter from origin to destination, but still had to pay the U.S. postage. The CSA postage was not assessed at Nashville until August.



Carried out of the mails by Adams Express from New York to Petersburg, Virginia in July 1861

Received Adams Express office markings at New York, Nashville and Knoxville

U.S. postage paid by 3 cents entire - no CSA postage paid - 25 cents express charges paid

Southbound Private Express Company Mail

New York-to-the-South: June-August 1861

Unusual Confederate Entry Points



Carried from New York via Louisville by Adams Express - double-weight U.S. franking
Posted August 3, 1861 in **Grand Junction, Tennessee** - after this, all mail posted at Nashville



May 22, 1861 letter returned to New York June 22 - re-mailed via Adams Express with 35 cents express fee
Sent by steamer direct to **Wilmington, North Carolina** on July 3 - blockade not initiated there until July 14

Southbound Private Express Company Mail

Louisville, KY-to-Nashville, TN: June-August 1861

CSA Postmaster Provisionals



Dated New York July 24, 1861 and sent under cover to Louisville on July 30
Carried by Adams to Houston via Nashville - CSA postage paid there by **'PAID 5' provisional**

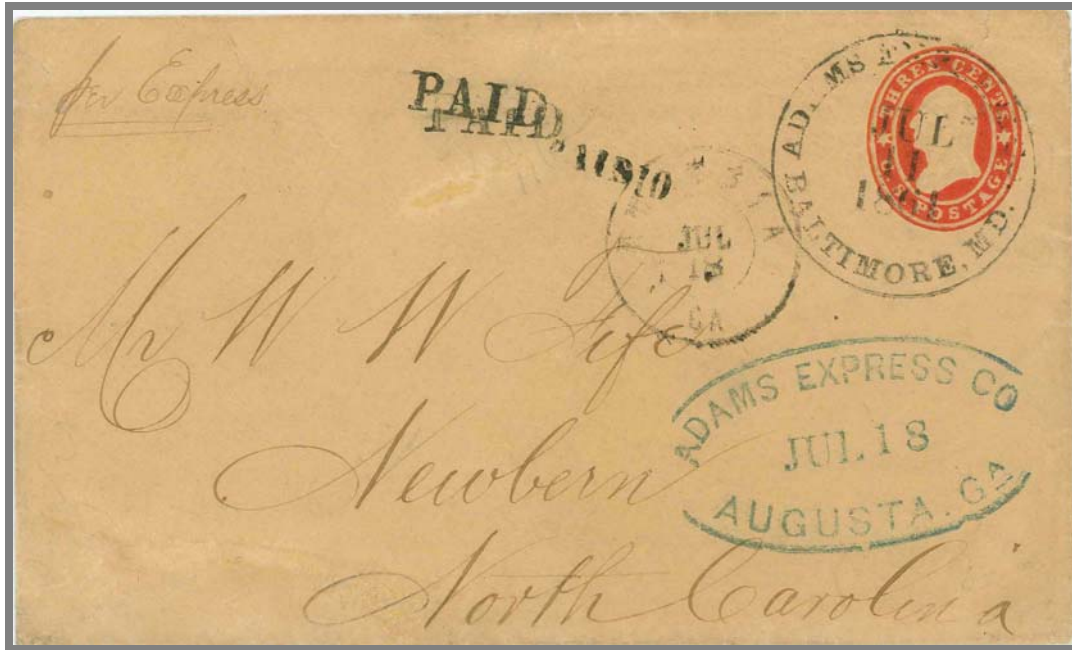


Carried from **Boston** on July 6, 1861 via Louisville by Adams Express - 25 cents express charge
Posted July 13 in Memphis - **5 cents Memphis provisional stamp over U.S. 3 cents entire**

Southbound Private Express Company Mail

Louisville, KY-to-Nashville, TN: June-August 1861

Unusual Adams Northern Offices



Carried by Adams Express from **Baltimore** on July 11 via Louisville and Nashville to Augusta
Received July 18 at Adams Augusta, Georgia office, and posted 'PAID 10' to North Carolina



Carried by Adams Express from **Philadelphia** on August 3, 1861 via Louisville to Nashville
Posted 'PAID 10' in Nashville on August 8 - received August 14 in Norfolk, Virginia

Northbound Private Express Company Mail

Nashville, Ten.-to-Louisville, Kentucky: July-August 1861

Early Union Prisoner's Mail

The first Civil War prisoners-of-war (POWs) began arriving at camps in late July 1861. Until flag-of-truce exchanges began in September 1861, they were forced to make their own arrangements to send mail.



Written July 24, 1861 at Ligon's Warehouse prison in Richmond, 3 days after capture at Bull Run
Carried by Adams Express from Richmond to Louisville - 10¢ CSA postage paid in Richmond
U.S. 3 cents stamp applied in Richmond ignored - Adams added another in Louisville on August 7

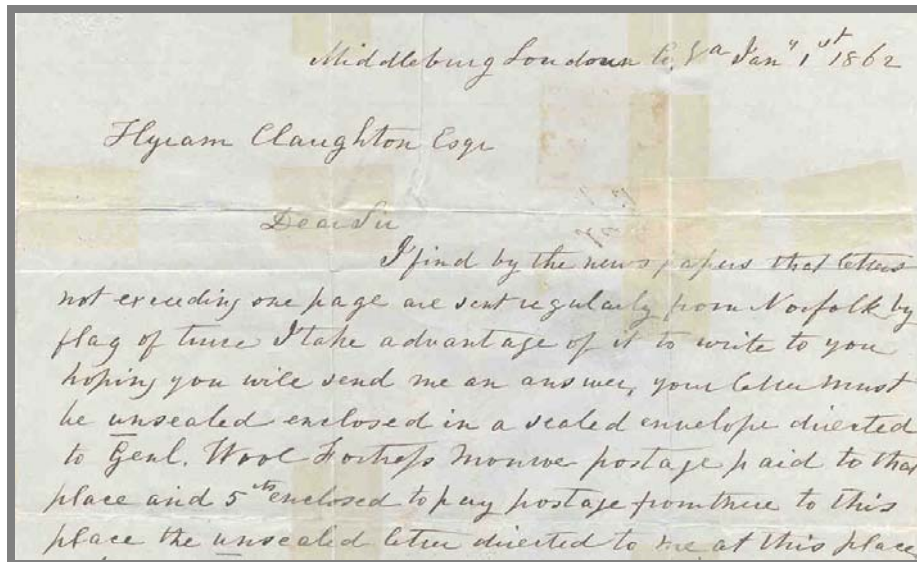
Earliest known POW letter

Northbound Flag-of-Truce Mail

Norfolk, Va.-to-Old Point Comfort, Va.: September 1861-April 1862

Civilian Mail

The flag-of truce boat between Confederate Norfolk, Virginia and Union Old Point Comfort, Virginia began carrying mail in September 1861. After September 20, military censors examined all mail.



Inner letter sent January 1, 1862 from Confederate Virginia to Union-occupied Virginia
Outer letter with 5 cents Confederate postage to Norfolk, Virginia was discarded at exchange point
Attached Union 3¢ silver coin paid for U.S. 3 cents stamp at Old Point Comfort - **Examined "T.P."**

Letter describes flag-of-truce guidelines for return mail

Northbound Flag-of-Truce Mail

Norfolk, Va.-to-Old Point Comfort, Va.: September 1861-April 1862

Early POW Mail



Inner letter sent December 4, 1861 from Ligon's Warehouse prison in Richmond - routed via Norfolk
Free frank by fellow prisoner, **Member of Congress Alfred Ely** captured at Bull Run
Flag-of-Truce boat ran to Union-occupied Old Point Comfort, Virginia



Inner letter sent December 1861 to **POW at Boston's Fort Warren** - examined per 'X'
Commodore Baron, CSA Navy, was captured August 29, 1861 at Fort Hatteras, North Carolina

Northbound Flag-of-Truce Mail

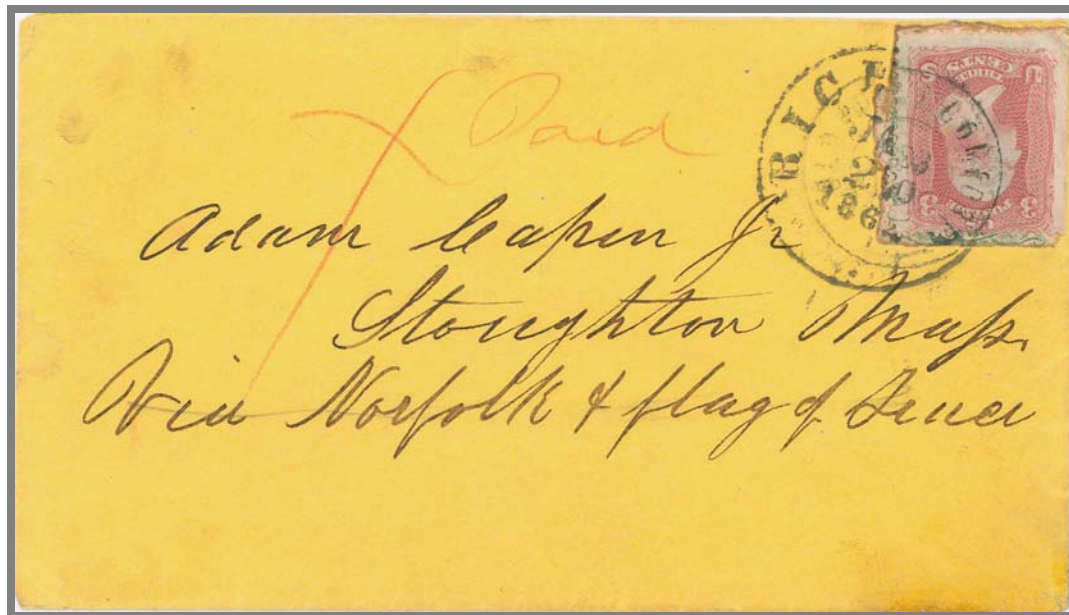
Norfolk, Va.-to-Old Point Comfort, Va.: September 1861-April 1862

CSA Civilian Mail Service



Posted January 31, 1862 in New Orleans - franked 10¢ CSA postage to Norfolk with CSA #2

Rejected by USA and diverted to Dead Letter Office - released March 6 with 6¢ due



Posted January 27, 1862 in Richmond - franked 5¢ CSA postage to Norfolk with CSA #1

Examined by USA and sent onward with US 1861 **3¢ stamp placed over CSA stamp**

Posted February 10 at Old Point Comfort, VA post office

Southbound Flag-of-Truce Mail

Old Point Comfort, Va.-to-Norfolk, Va.: September 1861-April 1862

Norfolk Postmarks



Inner civilian letter sent December 1861 from New York City - routed via Old Point Comfort
5 cents coin (replaced) attached to letter paid CSA postage from Norfolk to Camden - 'PAID 5c'
Flag-of-Truce boat ran to Norfolk until just before its May 10, 1862 capture



September 24, 1861 carrier usage from New York to POW in Richmond - 5¢ CSA postage due
October 9, 1861 is earliest known Norfolk transit on flag-of-truce mail

Northbound Flag-of-Truce Mail

Petersburg, Virginia-to-Old Point Comfort, Va.: May-July 1862

Early Mail From Union POWs



Sent June 15, 1862 from Salisbury, North Carolina prison - 5¢ CSA postage to Petersburg
Union POW also added 3 cents stamp for U.S. postage - **early example of mixed franking**

Flag-of-truce mail went via Petersburg for only three months



Sent June 22, 1862 from Salisbury, North Carolina - examined at prison - 3¢ U.S. postage due

Southbound Flag-of-Truce Mail

Old Point Comfort, Va.-to-Petersburg, Va.: May-July 1862

Early POW Mail



Sent May 20 to Union POW at Salisbury, North Carolina prison - 3¢ U.S. postage to Old Point Comfort
Five cents CSA postage postmarked May 28, 1862 at Petersburg - **early example of mixed franking**

Southbound mail entered Confederate mail system at Petersburg, Virginia



Sent April 30, 1862 from CSA POW at Camp Douglas - backstamped **Petersburg May 22** and assessed 5¢ due

Northbound Flag-of-Truce Mail

Richmond, Va.-to-Old Point Comfort, Va.: August 1862-April 1865

Andersonville Prison



Sent via Old Point Comfort August 25, 1864 to Maine - 5¢ underpays CSA postage to Richmond
Wallpaper cover postmarked dateless Andersonville Georgia - 6¢ unpaid letter rate due on arrival

'Exd HW CSA' - Henry Wirz, prison commandant



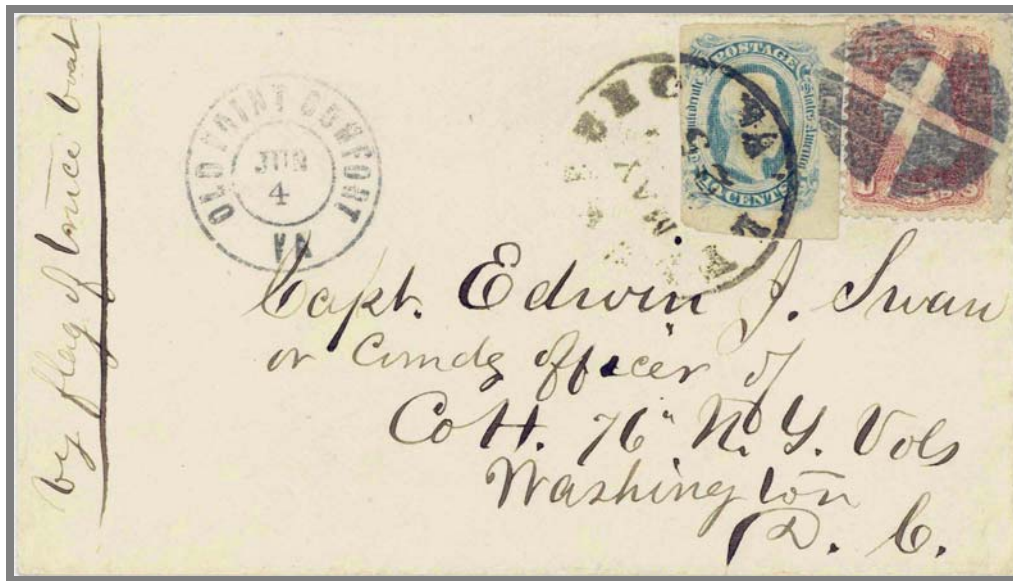
Mixed franking postmarked August 1864 at Andersonville, Georgia and Old Point Comfort, Virginia

Confederate prison operated from February 1864 to May 1865 - fewer than 40 covers known

Northbound Flag-of-Truce Mail

Richmond, Va.-to-Old Point Comfort, Va.: August 1862-April 1865

Confederate Prisons



Mixed franking from Lynchburg, Virginia prison May 25, 1864 via Old Point Comfort June 4
Lynchburg prison used mainly as a transit prison for POWs en-route to Richmond or Danville

Only two covers known from each of these prisons



Mixed franking from Atlanta, Georgia prison December 10, 1864 via Old Point Comfort December 19

Northbound Flag-of-Truce Mail

Richmond, Va.-to-Old Point Comfort, Va.: August 1862-April 1865

Mail to Federal Prisons



Sent from Virginia February 7, 1865 to Confederate POW at Johnson's Island, Ohio via Old Point Comfort
Johnson's Island Union censor mark on the reverse - mixed franking paid full postage



Mixed franking from Staunton Virginia November 18, 1863 to Confederate POW at Fort McHenry, Maryland
Demonetized U.S. stamp disregarded at Old Point Comfort - 6 cents unpaid letter fee due

Northbound Flag-of-Truce Mail

Richmond, VA-to-Old Point Comfort, VA: August 1862-April 1865

Civilian Mail



October 26, 1863 request for through-the-lines pass from Wilmington, NC provost marshal Secretary of War did not accept unpaid mail, so **endorsed by 3rd Asst. Postmaster General**



Mixed franking from Forkland Alabama to Kentucky via Old Point Comfort on October 20, 1864
From February 1863 until February 1864 OPC used bull's-eye killer - cork killer after that

Southbound Flag-of-Truce Mail

Old Point Comfort, Va.-to-Richmond, Va.: August 1862-April 1865

Confederate POW Mail

From August 1862 until the end of the war, Confederate POW mail from Northern prisons was carried under flag-of-truce from Old Point Comfort, Virginia to the CSA War Department at Richmond, Virginia.



Sent June 24, 1864 from Johnson's Island prison near Sandusky, Ohio to North Carolina
Entered Confederate postal system July 27 at Richmond - 10 cents postage prepaid by CSA #2
Union censor mark 'Ex DSA' from Johnson's Island - 10 cents CSA forwarding fee due

Only known POW mixed franking with CSA #2 10 cents stamp

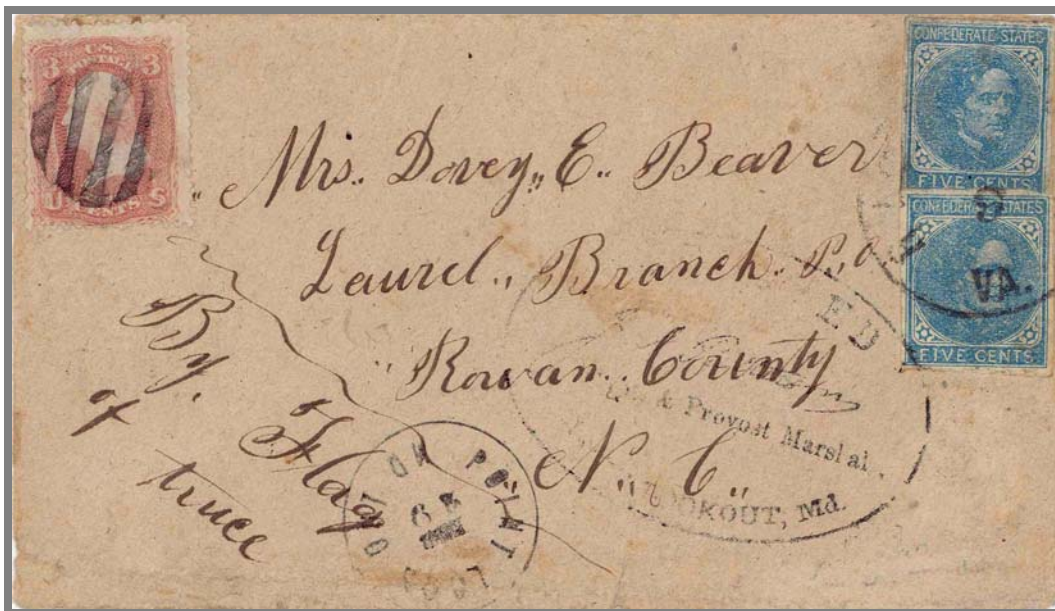
Southbound Flag-of-Truce Mail

Old Point Comfort, Va.-to-Richmond, Va.: August 1862-April 1865

Union Prisons



Mixed franking from David's Island prison August 3, 1863 to North Carolina via Richmond August 25
New York prison hospital used July-October, 1863 for CSA POWs wounded at Gettysburg

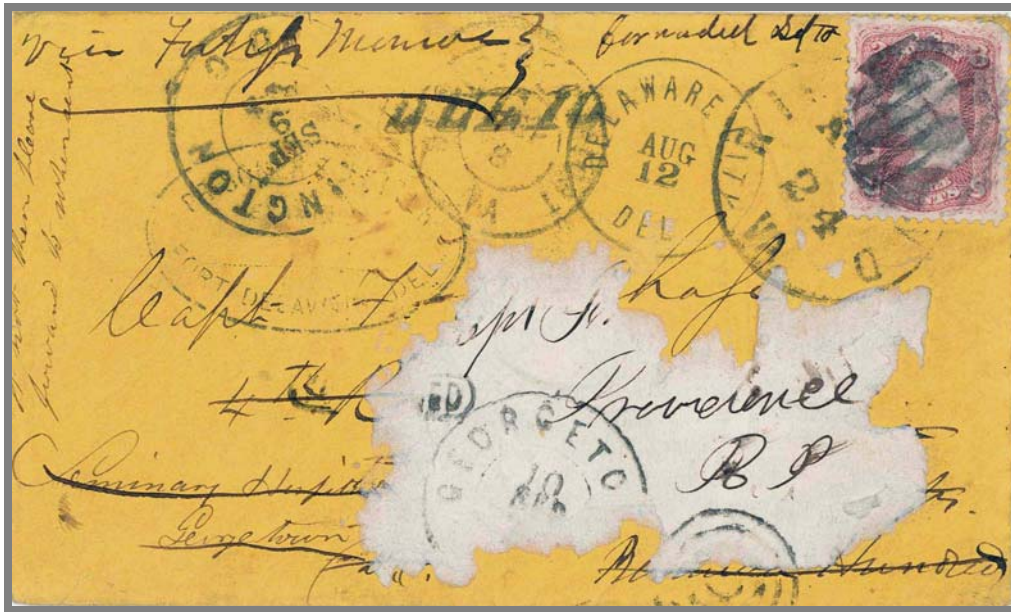


Mixed franking from CSA POW at Point Lookout, Maryland prison March 29, 1864 via Richmond April 9
Censored at Point Lookout by J.N. Patterson, Provost Marshal - **known from 10/63 to 4/64**

Southbound Flag-of-Truce Mail

Old Point Comfort, Va.-to-Richmond, Va.: August 1862-April 1865

Crossed the Lines Twice



Sent from Fort Delaware prison August 12, 1864 to captured Union POW in Virginia via Richmond August 24
POW had been exchanged, so returned to North via Old Point Comfort September 8 - forwarded



Sent from Point Lookout, Maryland prison August 2, 1864 to Union-occupied North Carolina
Via Richmond August 17 with CSA 'DUE 10' - flag-of truce from Goldsboro, NC to New Bern

Southbound Flag-of-Truce Mail

Old Point Comfort, Va.-to-Richmond, Va.: August 1862-April 1865

Civilian Mail



Inner letter sent August 17, 1864 from Georgetown, D.C. to Charleston, SC via Richmond September 5

Prepaid CSA 10¢ postage - forwarded Sept. 24 in Charleston harbor with 2¢ stamp for local postage



Inner envelope from Norfolk to Richmond February 11, 1864 - **unusual CSA 10 cents franking**

Censored by Union provost marshal at Norfolk, Virginia

Southbound Flag-of-Truce Mail

Old Point Comfort, Va.-to-Richmond, Va.: August 1862-April 1865

Civilian Mail



Inner letter sent **from Havana, Cuba** December 22, 1863 via Fortress Monroe and Richmond January 18
Examined by Union provost marshal at Fortress Monroe, next to Old Point Comfort - 10¢ CSA postage

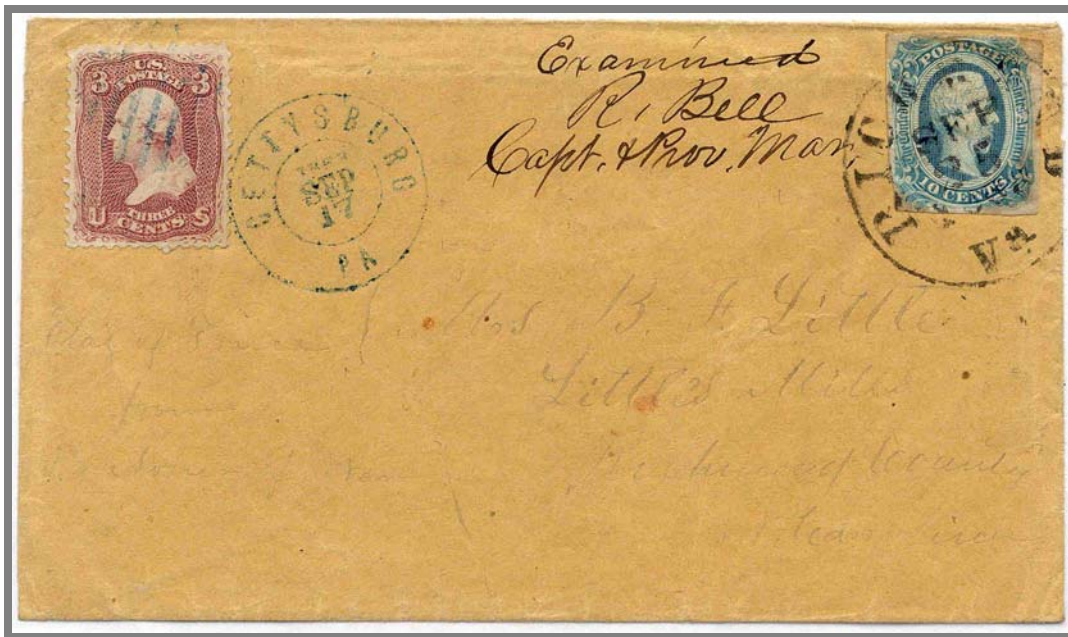


Mixed franking from Norfolk, Virginia via Richmond September 16, 1864 to North Carolina
Censored by Union provost marshal at Norfolk

Southbound Flag-of-Truce Mail

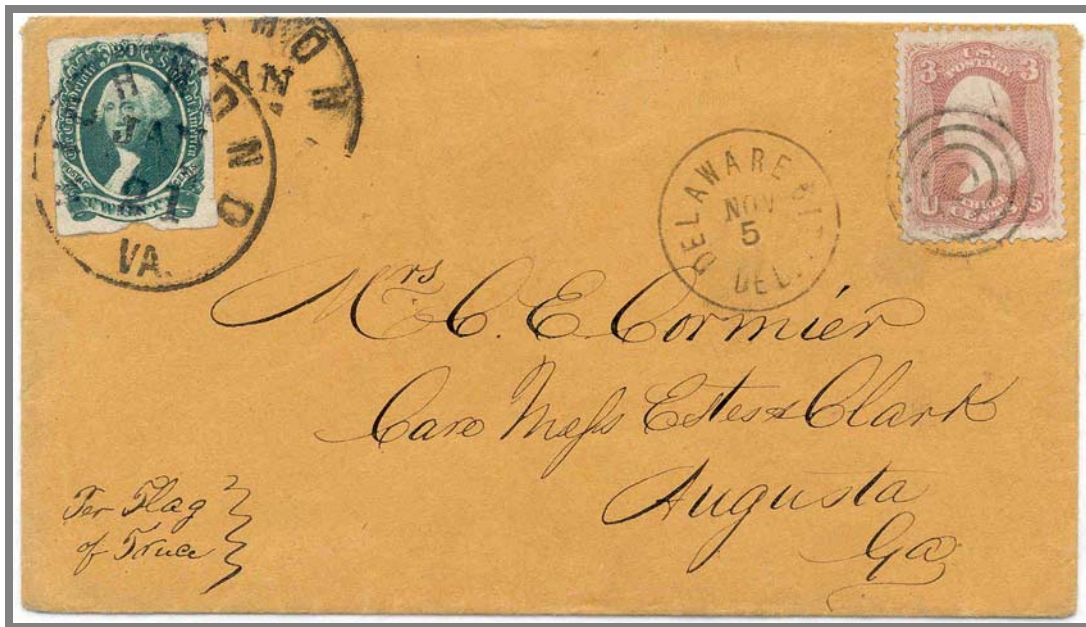
Old Point Comfort, Va.-to-Richmond, Va.: August 1862-April 1865

Union Prisons



Mixed franking from wounded CSA POW at **Gettysburg, Pa.** September 17, 1863 via Richmond Sept. 25

Battlefield prison hospital used only from July to October, 1863



Mixed franking from CSA POW at Fort Delaware prison November 5, 1864 via Richmond January 21, 1865

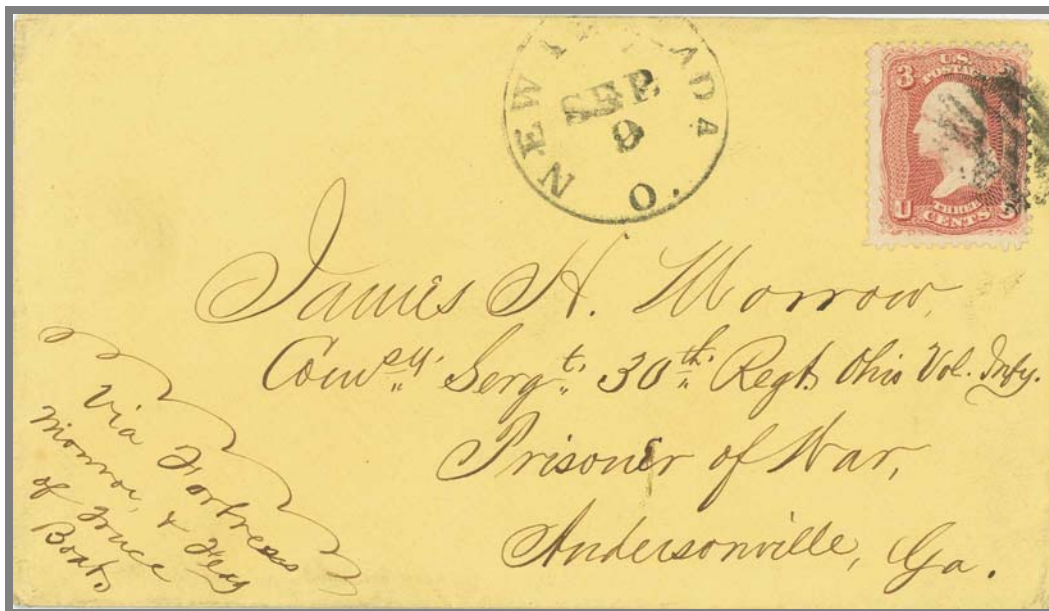
20 cents CSA stamp overpays postage - one of three known on POW mail

Southbound Flag-of-Truce Mail

Old Point Comfort, Va.-to-Richmond, Va.: August 1862-April 1865

Mail to Union POWs

Mail from the North to Union POWs in Confederate prisons was carried via Old Point Comfort to the CSA War Department at Richmond. It was examined there and sent outside the CSA postal system to the prisons via military courier.



Sent September 9, 1864 from New Philadelphia, Ohio to Union POW at **Andersonville, Georgia prison**

Prepaid 3 cents U.S. postage to Old Point Comfort, Virginia - no CSA postage paid

Mail forwarded from Richmond War Department to Georgia through military channels

No Confederate postal marks appear on this type of mail

Northbound Flag-of-Truce Mail

Pocotaligo, SC-to-Port Royal, SC: July 1864-February 1865

Union POW Mail

From July 1864 until February 1865, Union POW mail from Charleston, Savannah and Florence prisons was carried from Pocotaligo, South Carolina (on the Charleston & Savannah R.R. line) to Union-held Port Royal, South Carolina.



Sent August 27, 1864 from Camp Davidson prison in Savannah, Georgia to Wisconsin
CSA and U.S. postage prepaid - postmarked at Savannah and sent via Port Royal on September 5

Camp operated August-December 1864 - six covers known

Southbound Flag-of-Truce Mail

Port Royal, SC-to-Pocotaligo, SC: July 1864-February 1865

CSA POWs in Union Prisons



Sent November 15, 1864 from Fort Delaware prison to South Carolina **via Charleston** Jan. 7
Prepaid 3 cents U.S. postage to Fortress Monroe - 2 cents local CSA postage due in Charleston
Mail to South Carolina sent from Fortress Monroe to Port Royal for local Flag-of-Truce



September 24, 1864 mixed franking from Elmira, New York prison to South Carolina via Charleston
Mail taken from Pocotaligo to Charleston to enter CSA postal system

Southbound Flag-of-Truce Mail

Port Royal, SC-to-Pocotaligo, SC: July 1864-February 1865

Morris Island '600'



Inner letter sent September 27, 1864 from Confederate POW on Morris Island in Charleston harbor
Routed from Port Royal via Charleston October 4 to South Carolina - 10¢ CSA postage due
Morris Island '600' held there six weeks to prevent Confederate bombardment



Inner letter sent November 20, 1864 from CSA POW at Fort Pulaski prison near Savannah, Georgia
Routed via Port Royal back to Savannah to enter CSA mails - 10 cents CSA postage due

Northbound Flag-of-Truce Mail

Galveston, Texas-to-New Orleans, La.: May 1862-June 1865

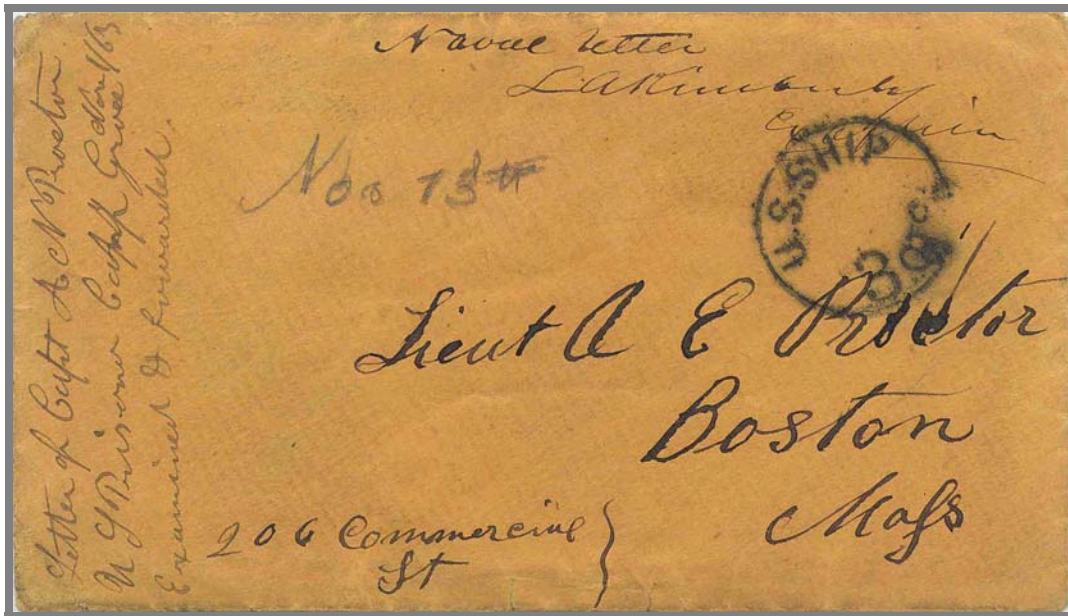
Texas Confederate Prisons



Interior letter sent from Houston, Texas prison to Rhode Island via New Orleans February 6, 1864

Examined by Houston provost marshal general W. Hyllested - 6¢ U.S. unpaid letter fee due

Flag-of-truce boat ran from Galveston to the Federal fleet at New Orleans



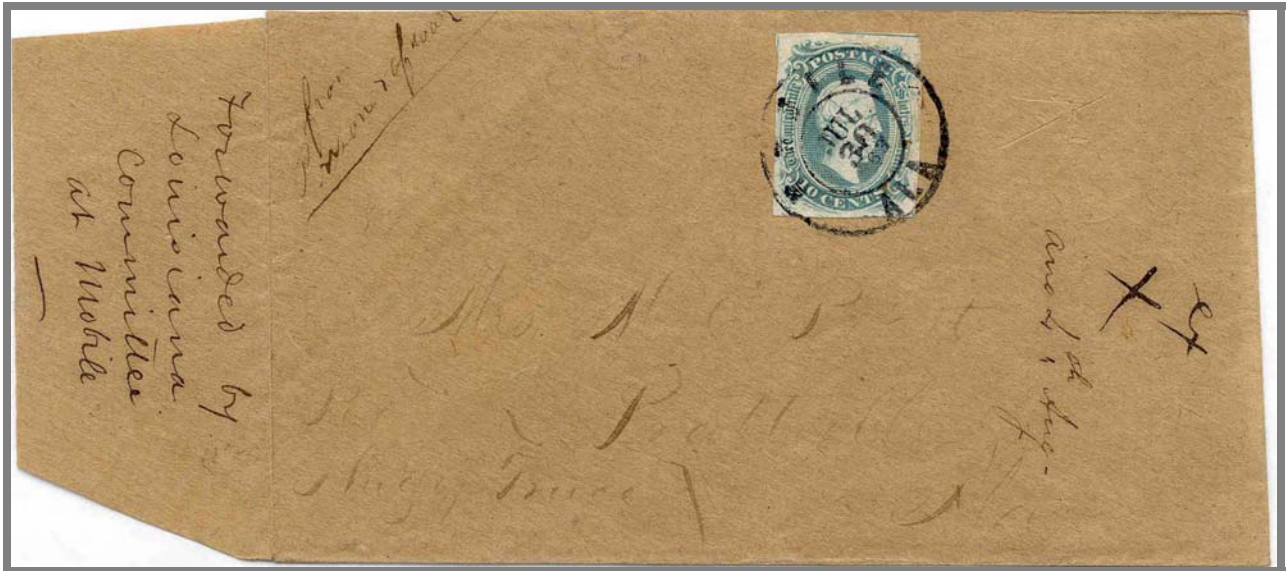
Inner letter sent November 1, 1863 from Camp Groce, Texas prison to Boston - 3¢ soldier's rate due
Endorsed 'Naval Letter' on U.S.S. *Pensacola* off New Orleans- carried north on naval dispatch steamer

Southbound Flag-of-Truce Mail

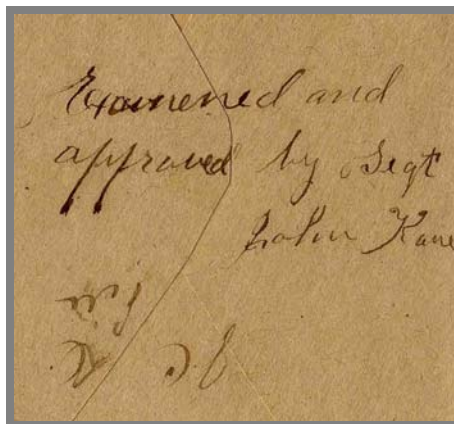
New Orleans, La.-to-Mobile, Alabama: May 1862-August 1864

10¢ Frameline Stamp

Mail was exchanged via flag-of-truce boat between Union-held New Orleans, Louisiana and Mobile, Alabama. John C. Denis ('J.C.D.'), provost marshal at Mobile, examined all incoming and outgoing mail.



Sent from New Orleans' Rampart Street prison to Alabama via Mobile on July 30, 1863 - no U.S. postage paid
Louisiana Relief Committee at Mobile added 10¢ Frameline stamp for CSA postage to Prattville



Photocopy of reverse - examined marks from Union censor, John Kane, and Confederate censor, John Denis

Northbound Flag-of-Truce Mail

Mobile, Alabama-to-New Orleans, Louisiana: May 1862-August 1864

Civilian Mail

The Federal authorities at New Orleans discouraged communication with the Confederacy, so not much mail traveled by this route. This is the **only known civilian flag-of-truce letter to New Orleans.**



Sent October 1863 from Mobile to New Orleans - 3¢ U.S. postage due
Censored at New Orleans Federal Head Quarters Defenses by 'MMD'



Photocopy of reverse shows examined mark from the Confederate censor at Mobile, John Denis

Southbound Flag-of-Truce Mail

Vicksburg-to-Jackson, Mississippi: August 1863-May 1865

Late Western Mail

Western flag-of-truce mail was exchanged between Union-occupied Vicksburg, Mississippi and Confederate Jackson, Mississippi. This route was principally used for POWs of both sides held in western prisons.



Inner letter sent via Jackson, Mississippi in April 1865 - 10¢ CSA postage prepaid
Examined at Vicksburg by 'J.B. Weeks, Lt. And A.D.C.'

Not much mail traveled by this route

Northbound Flag-of-Truce Mail

Jackson, Miss.-to-Vicksburg, Miss.: August 1863-May 1865

POW Mail



Inner letter sent from the South to a Confederate POW at Johnson's Island, Ohio
Passed through Vicksburg October 12, 1864 - examined there and at Johnson's Island prison



Inner letter sent February 11, 1865 from Union POW at Camp Morgan prison in Cahaba, Alabama
6¢ unpaid letter fee assessed at Vicksburg in February 1865 - CSA examiner's marking on the reverse

Northbound Flag-of-Truce Mail

Fayette, MS-to-Natchez, MS: December 1864

Mississippi River Mail

Federal gunboats patrolled the length of the Mississippi River in 1864, and occasionally accepted flag-of-truce mail from the Confederate mainland. Such mail was forwarded north along the river by Union supply ships.



December 1864 letter from Confederate Mississippi to Confederate POW at Fort Delaware prison

Transferred under flag-of-truce via Union-held Natchez, Mississippi to U.S.S. *Chillicothe*
Censored on board - carried up the river by U.S.S. *Pierce* to Cairo, Illinois on December 31
Never entered the Confederate postal system - only postage paid was 3 cents to the U.S.

Local Flag-of-Truce

Southbound Flag-of-Truce Mail

New Berne, NC-to-Goldsborough, NC: April 1862-March 1865

Civilian Mail



Inner letter from Union soldier at Norfolk, Virginia posted January 9, 1865 at Kinston, North Carolina
CSA exchange point at Kinston when not threatened by Federals - closer to New Bern than Goldsboro

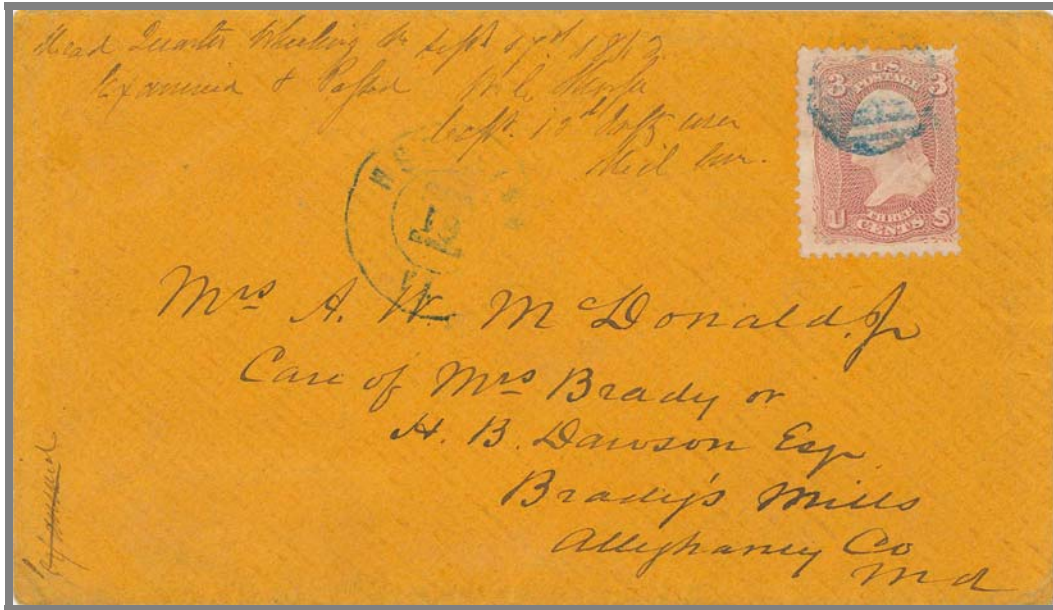


Inner letter sent **from San Francisco to South Carolina** via Goldsborough, NC on June 3, 1862
Hand-carried to Union-held New Bern by new U.S. military governor of North Carolina, Edward Stanly

Northbound Flag-of-Truce Mail

Within West Virginia: June 1861-September 1862

Civilian Mail



Inner letter from Confederate Colonel posted September 18, 1862 at Wheeling, (West) Virginia
Examined at Union headquarters at Wheeling - 3 cents U.S. postage paid to Maryland



Inner letter posted March 26, 1862 at Union-held Parkersburg, (West) Virginia
CSA and Union examiner markings on front - 3 cents U.S. postage paid to New York

Southbound Flag-of-Truce Mail

Within Tennessee: October 1863-April 1865

Unusual Embossed Marking

Provost marshals were appointed to maintain order within their military districts. One of their duties was the censorship of mail, particularly in districts under military occupation.



April 30, 1864 inner letter from Union-occupied Loudon (near Knoxville) to CSA-held Tennessee
Censored by the Federal Provost Marshal of East Tennessee at Knoxville - unknown exchange point
CSA manuscript examined marking - 10 cents CSA postage not cancelled

Only two examples of this Provost Marshal marking are known

Southbound Flag-of-Truce Mail

Blockading Squadron-to-Mobile, Alabama: June 1861-August 1864

Diplomatic Pouch

Foreign governments maintained consular offices in a few Southern cities. Diplomatic protocol required the U.S. to transmit closed pouches to these offices.



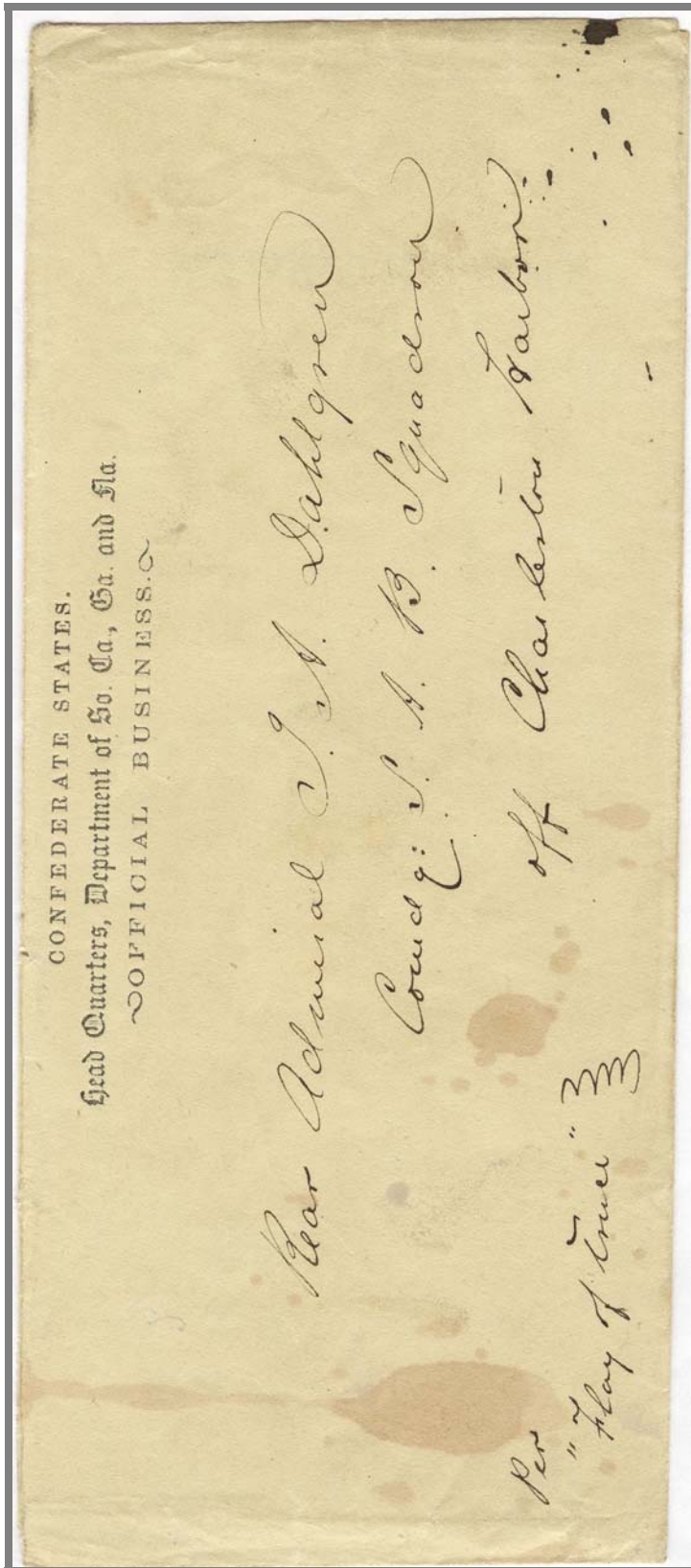
Sent July 12, 1861 from Brussels, Belgium to Alabama via Washington, D.C. in diplomatic pouch
Pouch carried through blockade to Belgian consul at Mobile by U.S. Navy - photocopy of reverse shown

Mailed August 12 by Belgian consul with Mobile 5¢ provisional stamp

Northbound Flag-of-Truce Mail

Pocotaligo, SC-to-Port Royal, SC: June 1861-February 1865

Military Dispatch



Military opponents used flags-of-truce to communicate with each other. This October 13, 1864 communication is from CSA Lieutenant General Hardee, commanding Charleston's defenses, to Rear Admiral Dahlgren, commanding the Union's South Atlantic Blockading Squadron off Charleston. It was not handled by either side's postal system.

Southbound Smuggled Mail

Baltimore, Maryland-to-Richmond, Va.: September 1861-April 1865

Via Chesapeake Bay

Mail was smuggled from Southern-sympathizing Baltimore, Maryland down Chesapeake Bay to Richmond, Virginia. The mail came ashore in Virginia north of the Federal blockade and was taken overland from there.



Sent under cover on July 15, 1862 from London, England to Baltimore, Maryland via New York City
Smuggled July 31 from Baltimore to Richmond - forwarded September 30 to Danville, Virginia
Carried outside of Confederate mails to Richmond - forwarded with CSA #2 10¢ Patterson

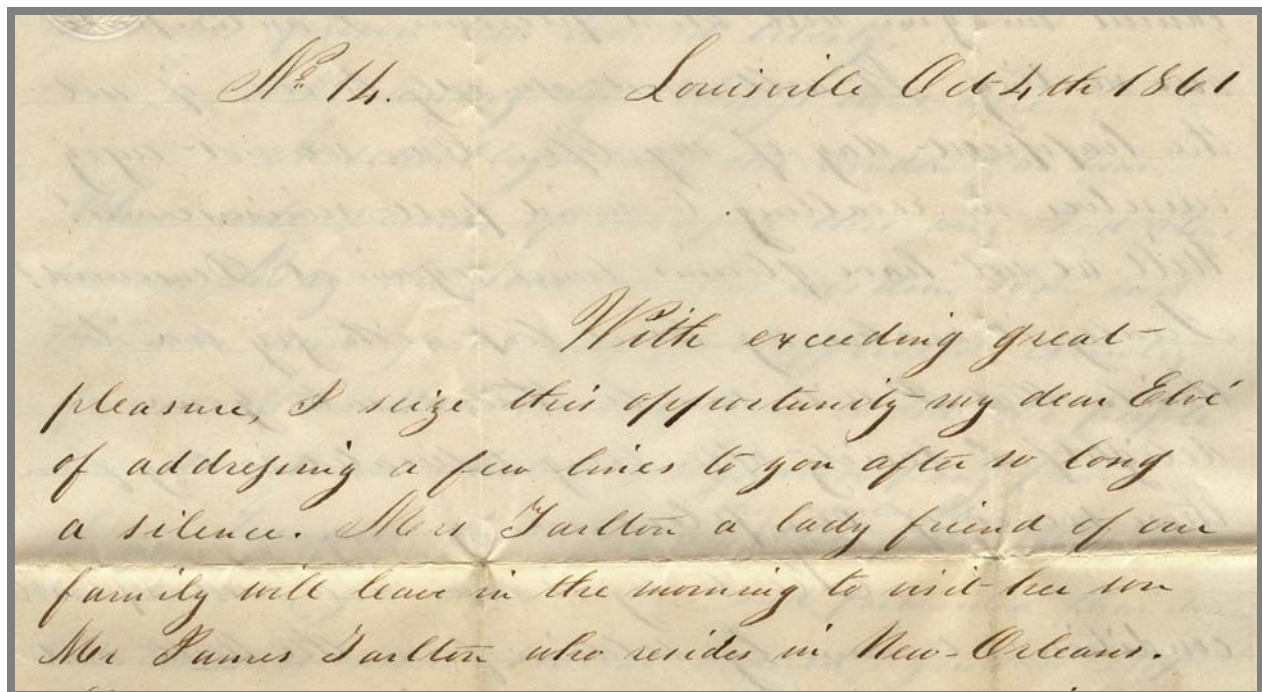
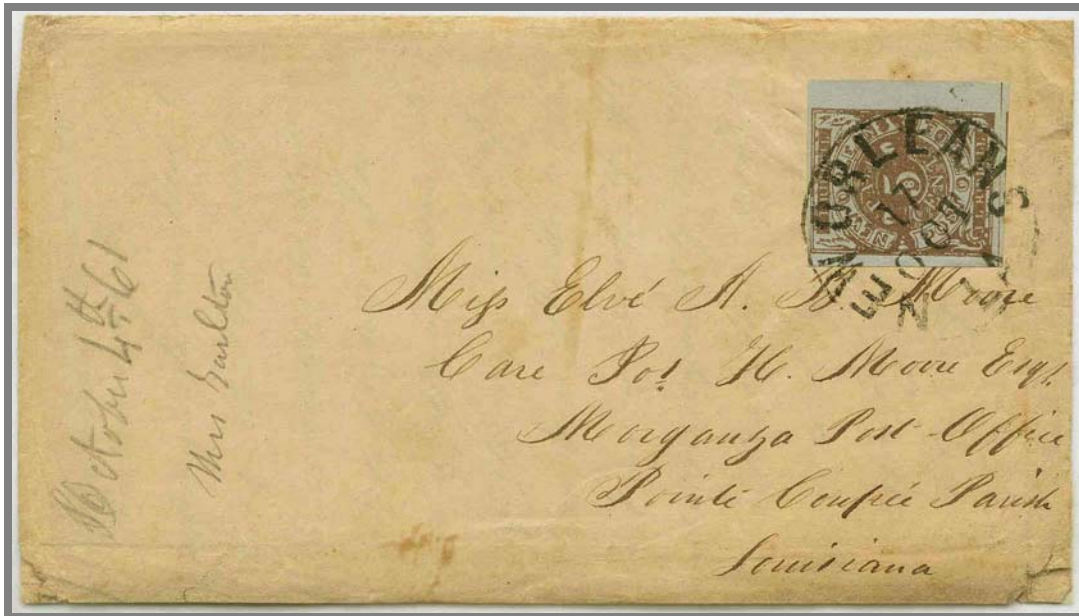
Not much mail known by this route

Southbound Smuggled Mail

Louisville, KY-to-New Orleans, LA: October 1861

Civilian Line Crosser

Very few people received permits to cross the lines, and were not authorized to carry any correspondence. **Only a few line crosser letters are known.**



Hand-carried October 4 from Louisville to New Orleans by a woman authorized to visit her son
Mailed October 17, 1861 in New Orleans with **5¢ New Orleans postmaster provisional stamp**

Northbound Smuggled Mail

New Orleans, LA-to-Ship Island, MS: September 1861-April 1862

Via Lake Ponchartrain

Mail was smuggled from Confederate New Orleans across Lake Ponchartrain and the Mississippi Sound to Union-held Ship Island, Mississippi. The mail entered the Federal mail system at Ship Island.



Dated New Orleans April 17, 1862, and smuggled to Ship Island, Mississippi on May 12
New Orleans fell on April 26, so blockade runner routes were closed by Federal attacking fleet
15¢ U.S. postage to France prepaid at Ship Island - letter carried to New York by Union supply vessel

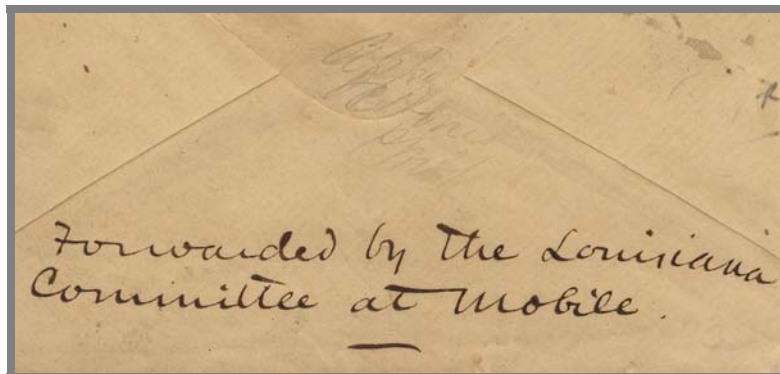
Not much mail known by this route

Southbound Smuggled Mail

New Orleans, La.-to-Mobile, Alabama: June 1863-July 1864

Louisiana Relief Committee

The Louisiana Relief Committee was formed in Mobile to aid refugees from Union-occupied New Orleans, and to handle mail smuggled between New Orleans and the Confederacy.



November 1863 letter smuggled out of New Orleans, Louisiana to Richmond, Virginia via Mobile
Mailed Nov. 10 in Mobile by Louisiana Relief Committee - 'Appd JC Denis PM' on photocopy of reverse
10 cents postage to Richmond paid with two CSA #4 5¢ stamps provided by the Relief Committee

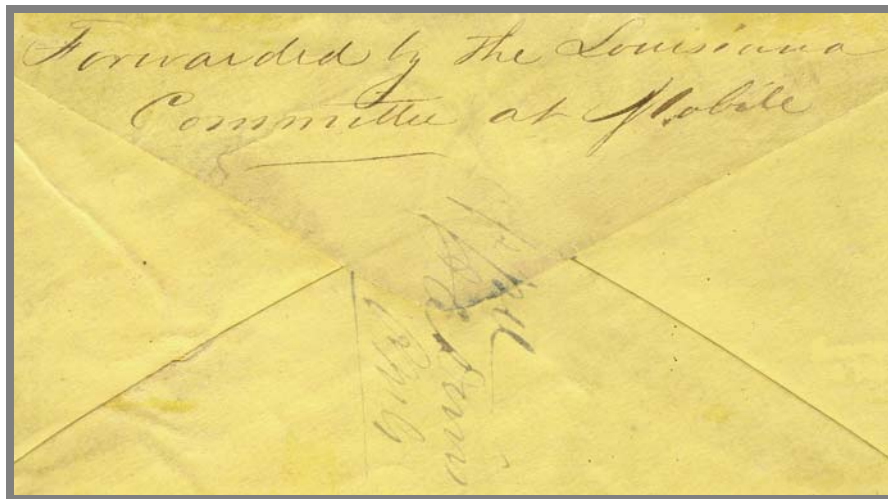
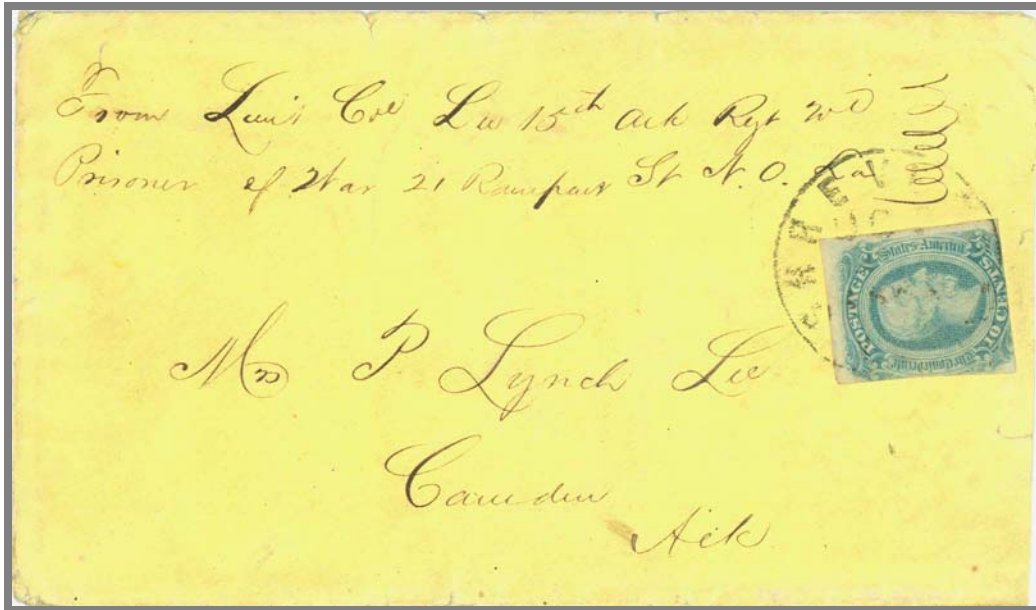
Louisiana Relief Committee mail censored at Mobile by J. C. Denis, CSA Provost Marshal

Southbound Smuggled Mail

New Orleans, La.-to-Mobile, Alabama: June 1863-July 1864

Trans-Mississippi Mail

The Louisiana Relief Committee forwarded letters from New Orleans to the Confederacy. This included franking the letters and arranging for necessary transportation to distant destinations.



September 1863 letter to Arkansas from Confederate POW at 21 Rampart Street prison in New Orleans Smuggled to Louisiana Relief Committee at Mobile - 'Appd JC Denis PM' shown on photocopy of reverse
Forwarded privately across the Mississippi and mailed December 2, 1863 at Shreveport, Louisiana

Only known Louisiana Relief Committee letter going west of the Mississippi River

Southbound Smuggled Mail

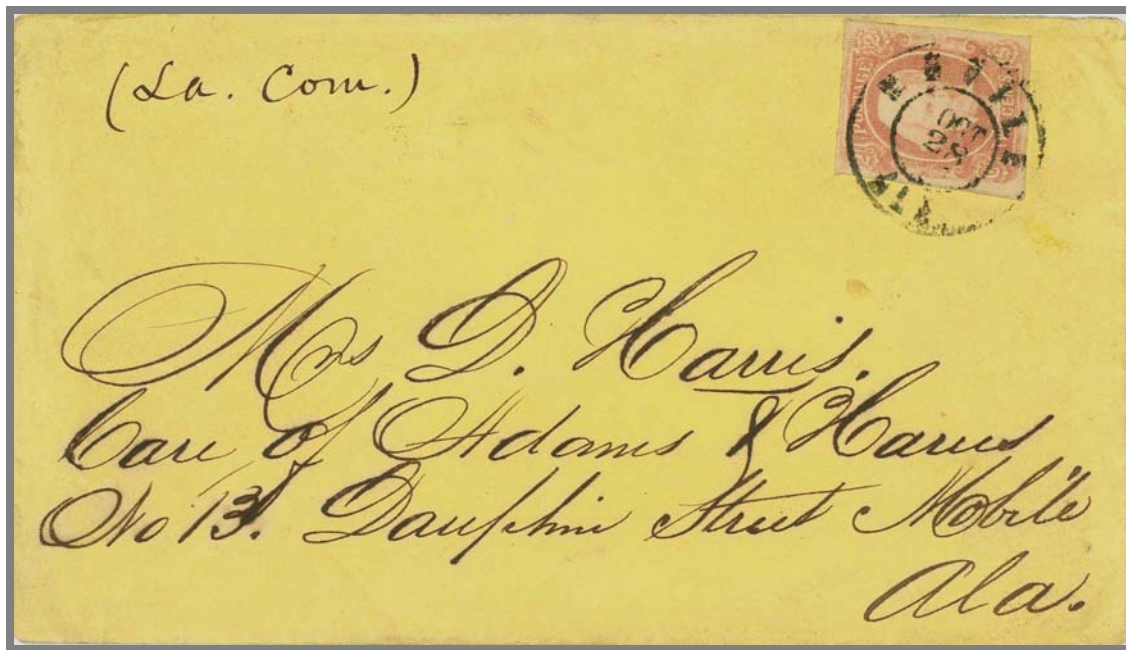
New Orleans, La.-to-Mobile, Alabama: June 1863-July 1864

La. Relief Committee Frankings



Photo of reverse

Letter smuggled out of New Orleans to Selma via Mobile August 30, 1863 - franked by Relief Committee



Letter smuggled out of New Orleans to Mobile on October 28, 1863 - censored 'J Denis PM'

Louisiana Relief Committee franked letter 2¢ for local delivery

Eastbound Trans-Mississippi River Mail

Shreveport, La.-to-Meridian, Miss.: June 1863-July 1864

Louisiana Relief Committee

The Louisiana Relief Committee at Mobile, Alabama arranged to privately transport mail across the Mississippi River from Shreveport, Louisiana via Meridian, Mississippi to Mobile.



Docketed June 24, 1864 from Arcadia, Louisiana (near Shreveport) to the Naval Hospital at Mobile, Alabama
Privately transported from Shreveport to Mobile - then prepaid 10¢ and forwarded July 22 by the Committee
Forwarded to the Navy Yard at Gunboat Landing on the Tombigbee River in Alabama

Only known eastbound Trans-Mississippi Louisiana Relief Committee letter

Westbound Trans-Mississippi River Mail

Meridian, Mississippi-to-Shreveport, Louisiana: June-October 1862

Edey's Express

By June 1862, the Mississippi River was under the effective control of Federal gunboats. The consequent unreliable transport of regular Confederate trans-Mississippi mails fostered a number of more effective private expresses.



Docketed August 13, 1862 from the Army of Northern Virginia and entrusted to Arthur Edey
Hand-carried from Virginia to Texas via Meridian, Mississippi and Shreveport, Louisiana
Franked 10¢ CSA postage and mailed September 10 in Houston by Edey's Express

Edey was the mail agent for the 5th Texas Regiment June-October 1862

Eastbound Trans-Mississippi River Mail

Shreveport, Louisiana-to-Jackson, Miss.: April 1862-September 1864

Cushing's Express

In April 1862, Houston-based Cushing began a private trans-Mississippi express between Shreveport and Jackson. It was discontinued by CSA Post Office order in September 1864.



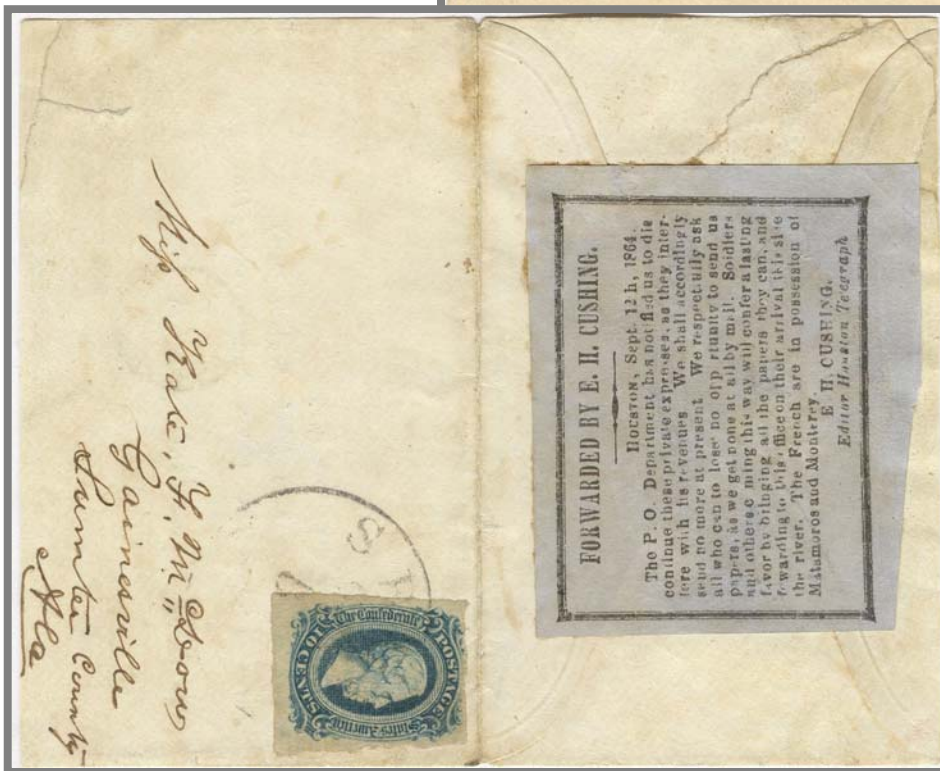
Docketed October 7, 1863 from Texas to Virginia - sent under cover to Cushing at Houston, Texas
Carried by courier from Texas via Shreveport to Jackson, Mississippi - mailed November 8 at Jackson

E.H. Cushing advertising label (Dietz type II) applied to reverse in Houston

Eastbound Trans-Mississippi River Mail

Shreveport, La.-to-Jackson, Miss.: April 1862-September 1864

Cushing's Express Labels



Top cover: Under cover from Texas to Jackson, Mississippi in June 1863 - **type I Cushing label**

Bottom cover: Under cover from Texas via Jackson to Selma, Alabama November 5, 1864 - **type III label**

Westbound Trans-Mississippi River Mail

Jackson, Miss.-to-Shreveport, La.: April 1862-September 1864

Cushing's Express



From Army of Northern Virginia via Jackson to Shreveport on May 22, 1863 - soldier's 'DUE 10' Westbound Cushing Express letters mailed across the Mississippi River at "Western River" offices



Hand-carried from Virginia across Mississippi River to Shreveport on May 19, 1863 - prepaid 10¢ to Texas

Fewer westbound Cushing Express letters have been identified than eastbound

Westbound Trans-Mississippi River Mail

Brookhaven, Mississippi-to-Shreveport, Louisiana: April 1863

Government Preferred Mail

On April 16, 1863, the Confederate Congress authorized “a preferred mail across the Mississippi River” to be operated by the Post Office at 50¢ per letter. It was superceded on May 1, 1863 by the 40¢ express mail service.



Franked 50¢ preferred rate at Black Hawk, Mississippi in April 1863 - sorted at nearby Grenada
Carried across the Mississippi River from Brookhaven by mail agent Major Henry Springer
Reached Shreveport on May 4 and forwarded in regular CSA mails from Shreveport to Texas

One of four letters known with 50¢ preferred rate

Westbound Trans-Mississippi River Mail

Meridian, Miss.-to-Shreveport, La.: October 1863-April 1865

Government Express Mail

On May 1, 1863, the Confederate Congress authorized an express mail across the Mississippi River to be operated by the Post Office at 40¢ per letter. It operated from October 1863 until the end of the war.



Sent October 30, 1863 from Shelby Springs, Alabama to Arkansas - prepaid 40¢ express rate
Meridian was eastern distributing post office for express mail - pouches delivered to courier at Brandon

One of two covers known with Meridian, Mississippi transit marking

Earliest known government express mail letter

Westbound Trans-Mississippi River Mail

Meridian, Miss.-to-Shreveport, Louisiana: October 1863-April 1865

Late Usages



Sent November 19, 1864 from Richmond to Shreveport - franked 40¢ trans-Mississippi rate
Forwarded privately back across Mississippi to Mobile, Alabama - no additional postage



Sent from Mobile, Alabama during March 27-April 12, 1865 siege - dateless datestamp used then
Franked 40¢ with Keatinge & Ball printing - **latest known government express mail usage**

Westbound Trans-Mississippi River Mail

Meridian, Miss.-to-Shreveport, Louisiana: October 1863-April 1865

Military Usages



Sent June 6, 1864 from Marietta, Georgia to Fairfield, Texas - franked 40¢ trans-Mississippi rate
From 7th Texas Regiment in the Army of Tennessee during its retreat to Atlanta from Chattanooga

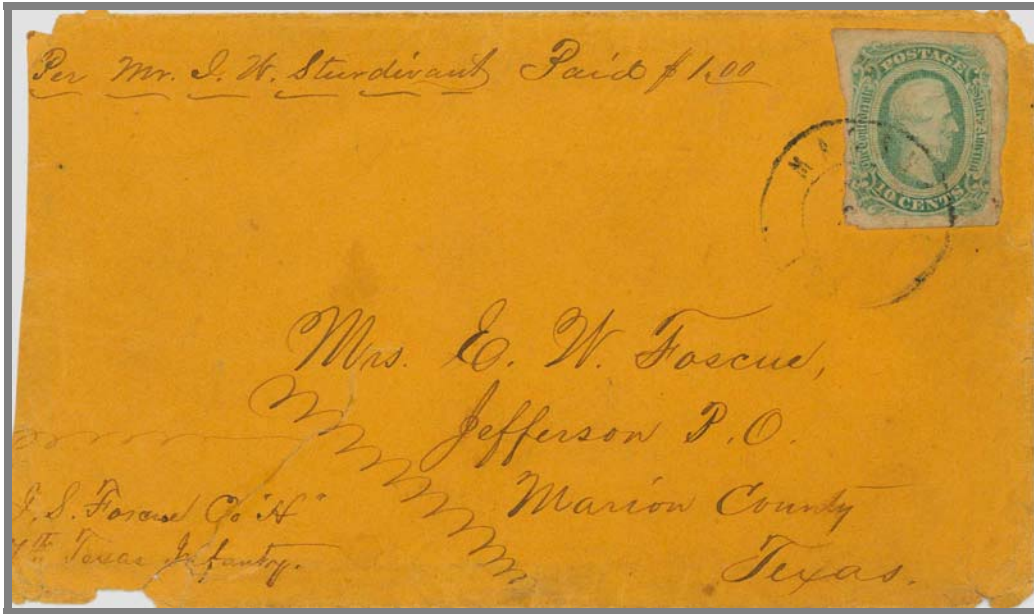


Sent July 3, 1864 from Richmond to Shreveport - franked 10¢ regular CSA postal rate
Trans-Mississippi mail required full 40¢ prepayment - allowed through with **'Due 30' for soldier's letter**

Westbound Trans-Mississippi River Mail

Jackson, Miss.-to-Shreveport, La.: April 1862-March 1865

Private Military Expresses



Carried from army at Dalton, Georgia by J.W. Sturdivant - mailed February 2, 1864 at Marshall, Texas



Carried from army at Lookout Mountain, Tennessee by Black - mailed at Washington, Ark. October 21, 1863

Expresses carried letters from Army of Tennessee western regiments for \$1.00 fee

Eastbound Trans-Mississippi River Mail

Shreveport, La.-to-Meridian, Miss.: November 1863-March 1865

Government Express Mail



Sent December 6, 1863 from Henderson, Texas to Virginia - franked 40¢ trans-Mississippi express rate
Eastbound letters show routing endorsements via Alexandria or Shreveport, Louisiana



Sent March 9, 1865 from Parkersville, Texas to Jackson, Mississippi - **wallpaper adversity envelope**
Latest known eastbound government trans-Mississippi express usage

Only one fourth of all government express mail originated west of the Mississippi

Eastbound Trans-Mississippi River Mail

Alexandria, La.-to-Meridian, Miss.: November 1863-March 1865

Alexandria Transit Marks



Postmarked in transit at Alexandria October 17, 1864 - **20¢ bisect** used to supplement insufficient 10¢ paid



Postmarked March 12, 1865 in transit at Alexandria - franked 40¢ trans-Mississippi rate

Incoming Blockade Run Mail

Nassau, Bahamas-to-Wilmington, NC: July 1862-January 1865

British Franking

Inbound blockade run mail was sent inside an outer envelope to an agent in the West Indies, who would discard the outer envelope and forward the inner envelope to the CSA via blockade-runner.



Sent September 25, 1863 from Liverpool to Augusta via Nassau forwarder Sawyer & Menendez
British 1-shilling stamp paid the West Indies packet rate - 1 pence credit to Nassau, Bahamas
Carried by Cunard Line via N.Y. to Nassau - *Fannie* arrived Wilmington October 23 from Nassau
12 cents due in Wilmington - 2 cents ship fee plus 10 cents CSA inland postage

Only known example of one envelope being used for both inner and outer envelopes

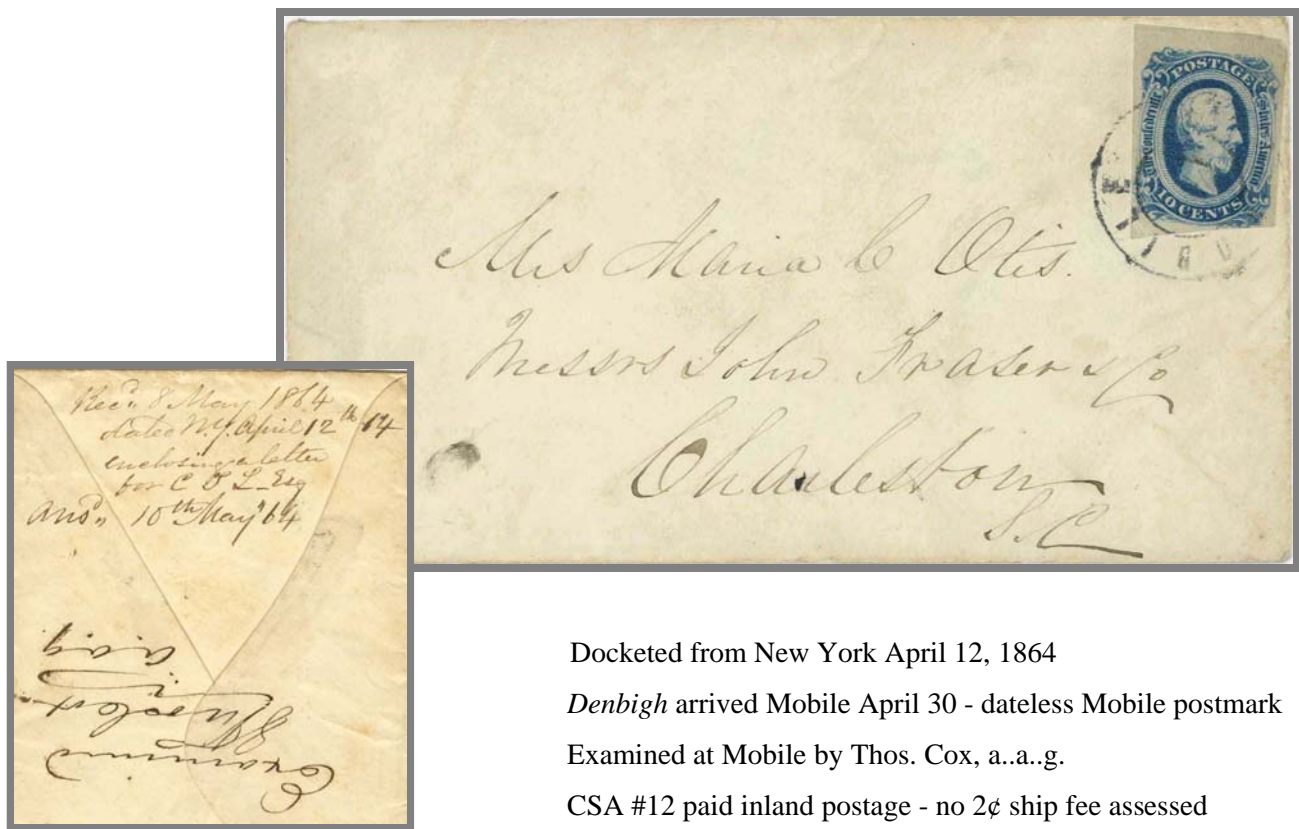
Incoming Blockade Run Mail

Via Mobile, Alabama: September 1861-August 5, 1864

Blockade Runners From Havana



Alabama arrived Mobile August 15, 1863 - ms. 12¢ due marking overwritten 'Paid' before forwarding



Docketed from New York April 12, 1864

Denbigh arrived Mobile April 30 - dateless Mobile postmark

Examined at Mobile by Thos. Cox, a.a.g.

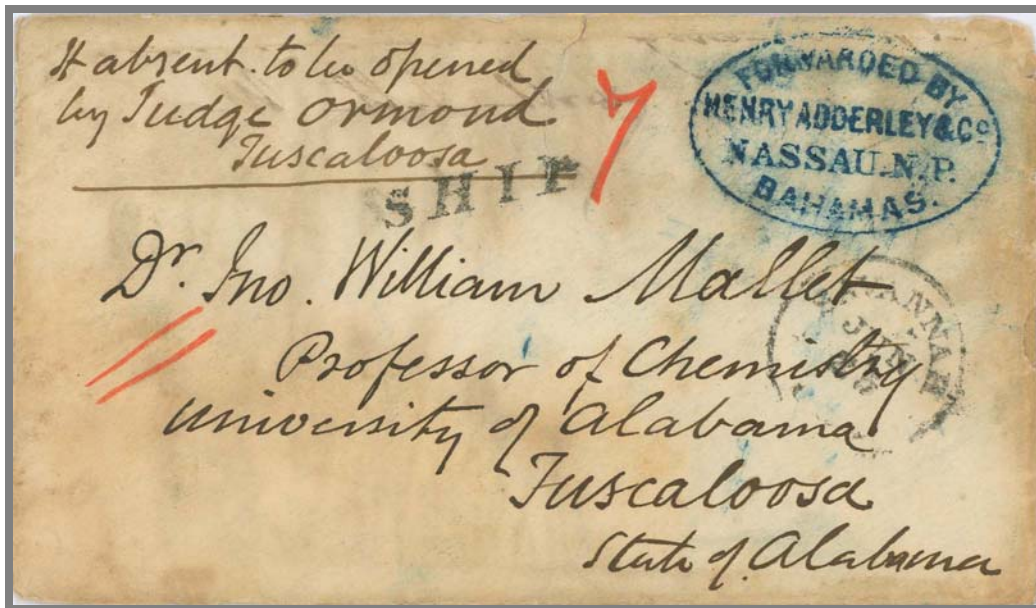
CSA #12 paid inland postage - no 2¢ ship fee assessed

Incoming Blockade Run Mail

Nassau, Bahamas-to-Savannah, Georgia: May-July 1862

Savannah 'SHIP' mark

The April 11, 1862 Union capture of Fort Pulaski in Savannah harbor severely limited Savannah as a blockade-running port. After July 1862, blockade-runners used nearby Charleston, South Carolina instead.



Dated London May 7, 1862 - sent under cover to **forwarding agent Henry Adderley & Co.** in Nassau
Blockade-runner *Kate* left Nassau, Bahamas June 21 and arrived June 25 - 7¢ due (5¢ inland plus 2¢ ship fee)
Only known 7¢ due on blockade-run mail - inland rate increased to 10¢ in July 1862- *ex-Dietz, Shenfield*

Only known blockade-run letter with Savannah arrival markings

Incoming Blockade Run Mail

Havana, Cuba-to-New Orleans, LA: September, 1861-April 1862

St. Vincent Franking

Prior to the capture of New Orleans by Federal naval forces on April 26, 1862, blockade runners connected with Havana, Cuba via the Mississippi River or by way of Atchafalaya Bay and Brashear City.



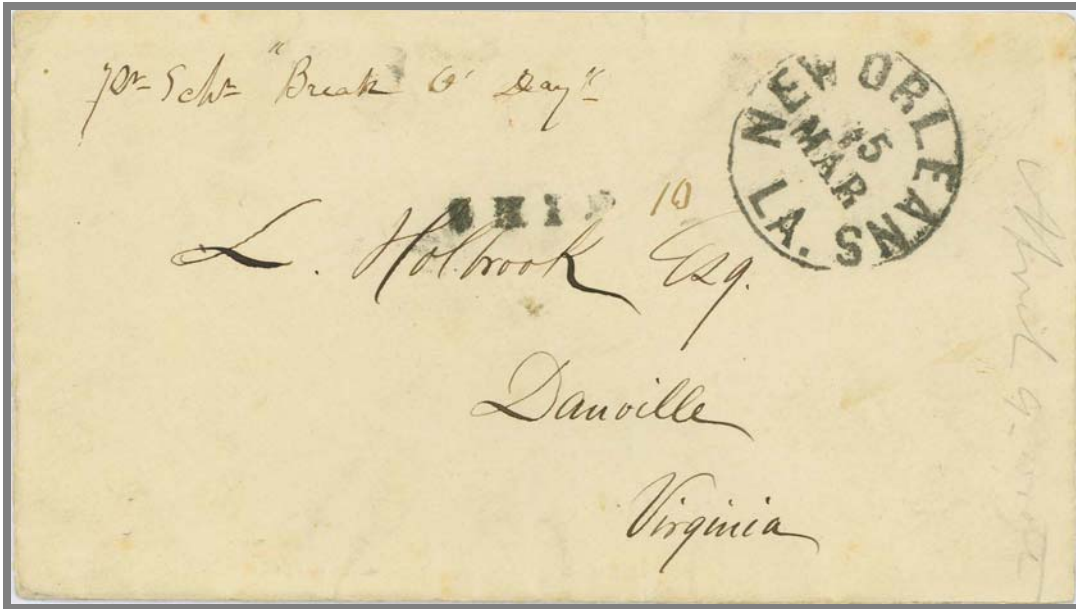
Posted on June 8, 1861 in St. Vincent - prepaid 1 shilling 3d for British packet via St. Thomas
RMSP steamers *Teviot* to St. Thomas and *Clyde* to Havana on June 22 - 4d credit to St. Thomas
Blockade-runner arrived September 5 - 12¢ CSA postage due - marked 'STEAM' to explain 2¢ ship fee

Fewer than ten incoming blockade-run letters via New Orleans are known

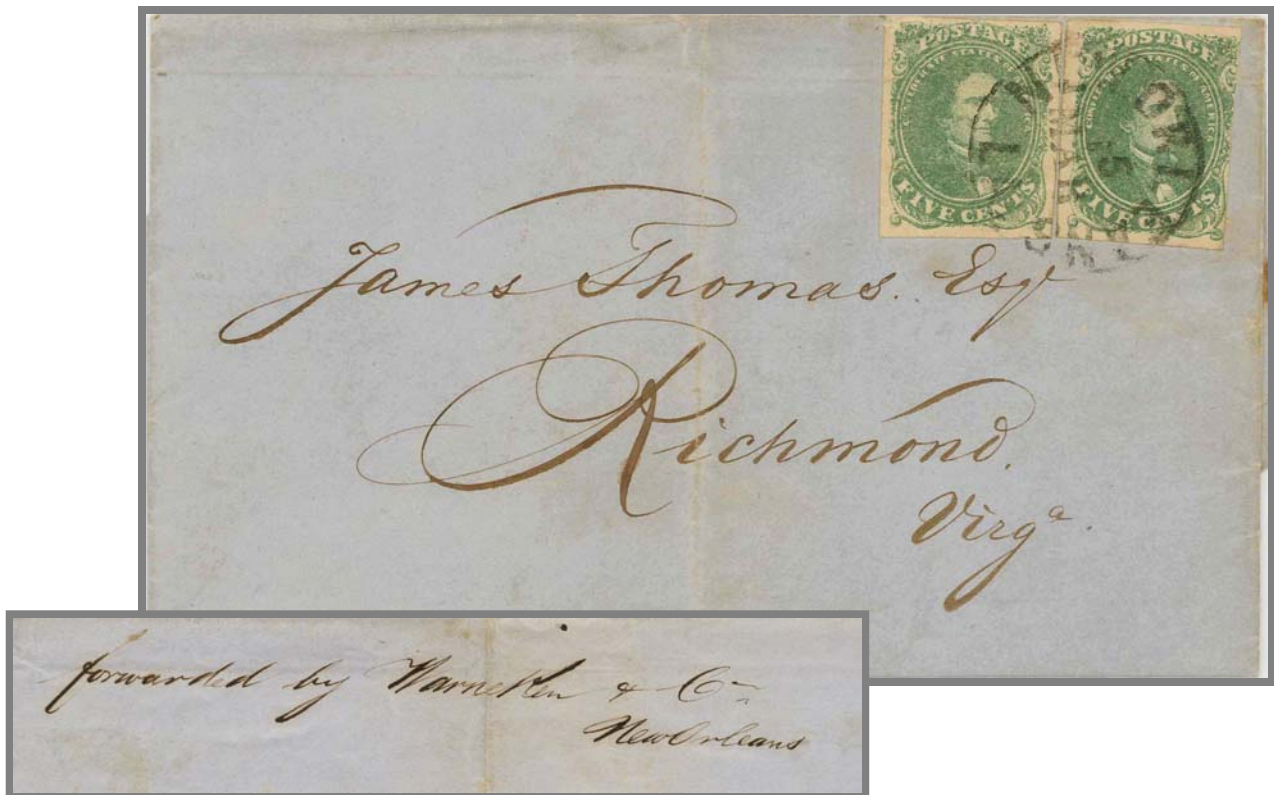
Incoming Blockade Run Mail

Via New Orleans, La.: September 1861-April 26, 1862

Schooner "Break O' Day" From Havana



Dated Havana February 8, 1862 - **rare straight-line SHIP mark** - 10 cents due (no 2¢ ship fee)



Dated Rotterdam, Holland December 29, 1861 - New Orleans **forwarder Warneken & Co.** paid postage

Incoming Blockade Run Mail

Via Wilmington, NC: July 1862-January 1865

Partially Prepaid Mail



Fannie arrived October 22, 1863 from Nassau - 10¢ prepaid and 2¢ ship fee collect per 'Due 2'

Only known example of CSA #9 'TEN' 10¢ stamp used on blockade mail



Endorsed to *Flora* - arrived October 8, 1863 from Bermuda - 10¢ prepaid and 2¢ ship fee collect per '2'

Only known example of CSA #10 'Frame line' 10¢ stamp used on Atlantic Coast blockade mail

Incoming Blockade Run Mail

Via Wilmington, NC: July 21, 1861-January 15, 1865

Blockade Runner Endorsements



Endorsed to Advance - arrived August 2, 1864 from Bermuda - **ship postage fully prepaid** by CSA #12 pair
Endorsement and franking applied by Major Norman S. Walker, CSA agent in Bermuda

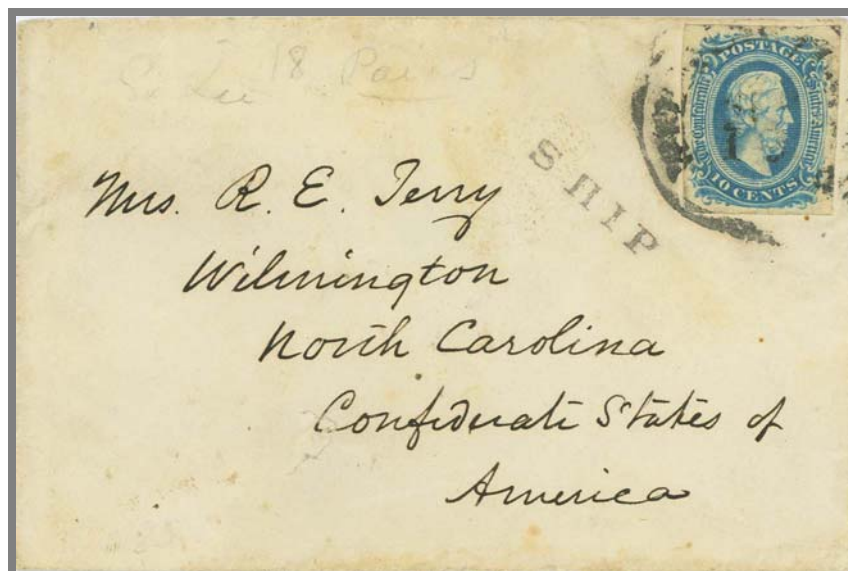


Lucy arrived March 15, 1864 from Nassau - mail held 13 days in yellow fever quarantine
Ship postage fully prepaid by CSA #11b (no 2¢ ship fee) - ms."Fow'd by C.C. Hudson" on reverse

Incoming Blockade Run Mail

Via Wilmington, NC: July 1862-January 1865

Six Cents In-Port Postage



General Beauregard arrived September 19, 1863 from Nassau
CSA #11 10¢ stamp fully prepaid 6¢ in-port ship postage in Wilmington



Dated London September 23, 1864 - *Lucy* arrived in Wilmington on October 24 from Nassau
6¢ in-port postage due (under stamp) - forwarded next day with CSA #13 20¢ for double-weight rate

Fewer than five covers known with Wilmington six cents rate

Incoming Blockade Run Mail

Via Wilmington, NC July 21, 1861-January 15, 1865

Confederate Naval Letters



August 15, 1863 letter from naval officer in U.K. - assigned to **commerce raider C.S.S. Rappahannock**
Margaret & Jessie arrived September 24 from Nassau - 12c due in C.S.A. (10c plus 2c ship fee)



From **Commodore Samuel Barron in Paris** - Margaret & Jessie arrived September 24, 1863 from Nassau
Letter forwarded from North Carolina to Virginia with additional 10c postage due

Incoming Blockade Run Mail

Via Wilmington, NC: July 21, 1861-January 15, 1865

Forwarder Markings



Forwarded by Saunders & Son Nassau N.P. - Alice arrived September 12, 1863 from Nassau

12¢ due in Confederacy (10¢ inland plus 2¢ ship fee)



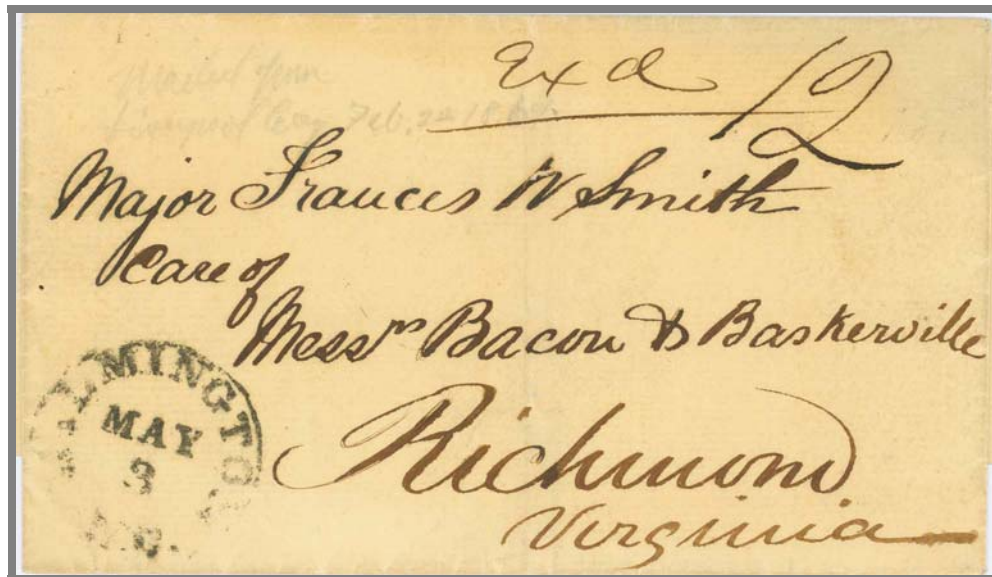
Three forwarders: Adot Spalding of Havana, Sawyer & Menendez of Nassau and Saunders & Son of Nassau

Britannia arrived March 15, 1863 from Nassau - only known blockade letter with three forwarder markings

Incoming Blockade Run Mail

Via Wilmington, NC: July 21, 1861-January 15, 1865

Censor's Examined Markings



Docketed Liverpool Feb. 22 1864 - *Helen II* arrived May 2 from Bermuda - 'Exd' censor mark
Provost guard required inspection of all incoming letters - very few marked as examined



Robert E. Lee arrived September 10, 1863 from Bermuda - 12¢ due (under stamp)
Censored 'B. Duncan' (provost marshal ADC) on reverse - 10¢ stamp used for forwarding postage
Letter sent to the care of W.C. Bee & Co. in Charleston, an operator of blockade running ships

Incoming Blockade Run Mail

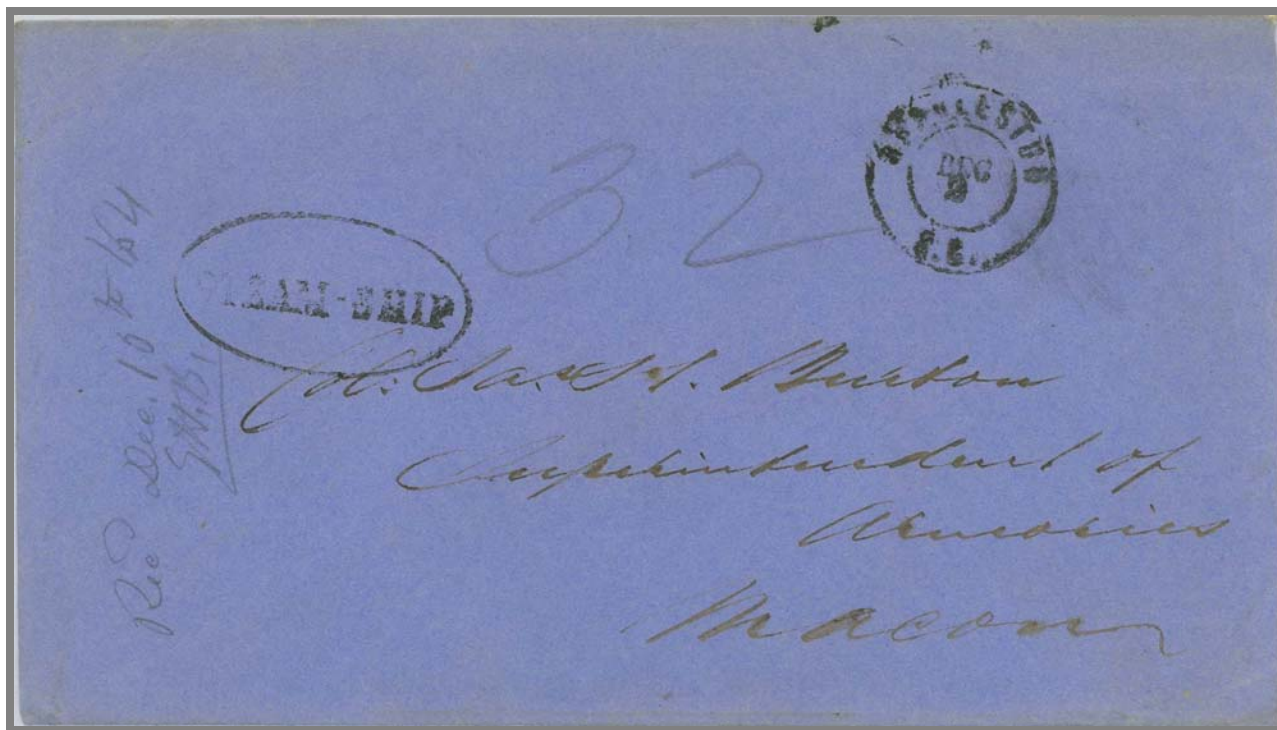
Via Charleston, SC: May 1862-February 17, 1865

Year-less Charleston Datestamp



Arrived in Charleston July 30, 1864 - **rare dateless Charleston datestamp only used after June 1864**

Forwarded to Savannah with CSA #12 10¢ stamp - *ex-Antrim, Emerson, Hill, Shenfield*



Datelined Liverpool 28 Oct 1864 from Fraser Trenholm & Co. - *Kate Gregg* arrived December 1 from Nassau

To Colonel James Burton, superintendent of CSA armories - triple-weight (30¢ + 2¢ ship fee) postage due

Incoming Blockade Run Mail

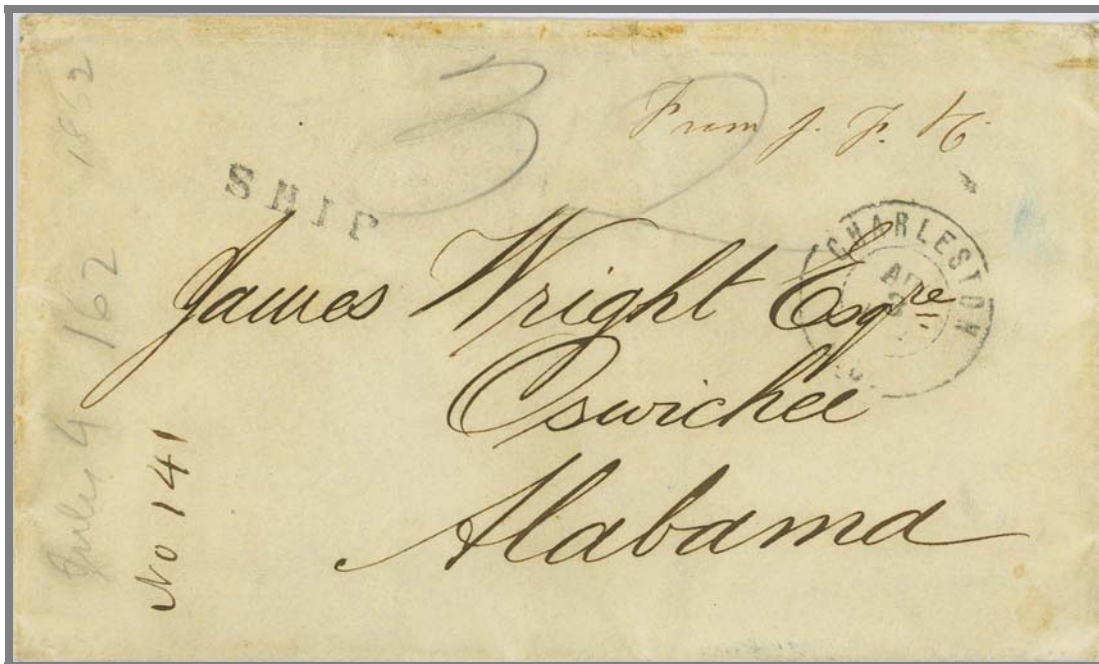
Via Charleston, SC: May 1862-February 17, 1865

Charleston SHIP Markings



Dated Liverpool December 10, 1862 - **endorsed to S.S. Princess Royal (captured on this trip)**

Mail was saved and carried to Charleston - double-weight (20¢ inland + 2¢ ship fee) postage due



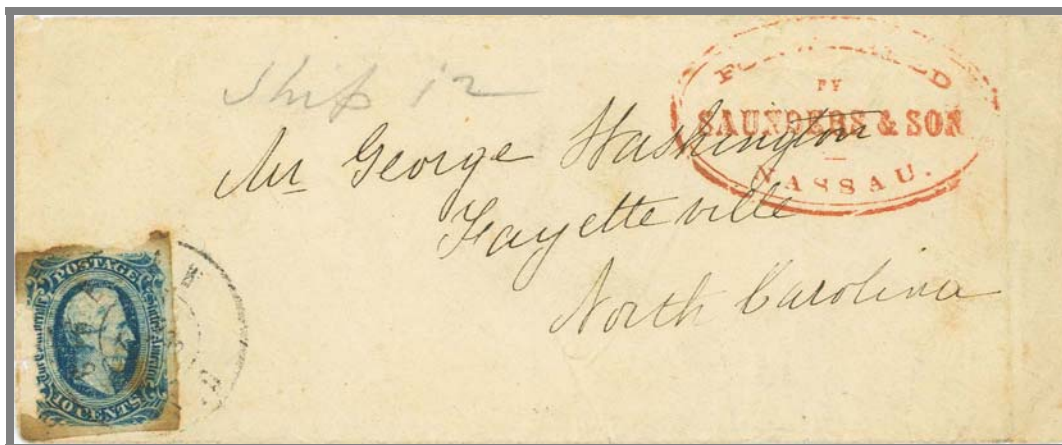
From Liverpool July 4, 1862 - *Leopard* from Nassau - **1 of 3 known Charleston straight-line SHIP marks**

Triple-weight (30¢ + 2¢ ship fee) postage due - endorsed from J. Fraser & Co. (blockade runner owner)

Incoming Blockade Run Mail

Via Charleston, SC: May 1862-February 17, 1865

Unusual Usages



From England January 1865 - forwarded February 12 from Nassau on *Chicora* by Saunders & Son
Last inbound trip arrived February 16 - Charleston evacuated February 17, so mail taken to Cheraw
Double-weight (20¢ + 2¢ ship fee) postage assessed in Cheraw, SC on February 28



Endorsed to Fox, which arrived August 8, 1864 from Nassau - 6¢ in-port ship postage due
Envelope turned and re-used from Charleston to Columbia, SC on August 17 with CSA #12

Incoming Blockade Run Mail

Via Charleston, SC: May 1862-February 1865

Forwarded From England

Inbound blockade run mail was sent inside an outer envelope to a West Indies agent, who would discard the outer envelope and forward the inner envelope to the CSA via blockade-runner. The inner envelope entered the CSA postal system at the port.



Prepaid 1d in London on October 26, 1864 for Reading - forwarded to Fraser Trenholm in Liverpool
Addressee had returned to Charleston, so the letter was sent under cover to Nassau, Bahamas via NY
Nassau forwarder Adderley & Co. placed letter on *Julia* for Charleston - 6¢ in-port ship fee collected
Letter forwarded one more time within South Carolina with additional 10 cents due - *ex-Everett*

Frankings and postal markings from both the English and CSA postal systems

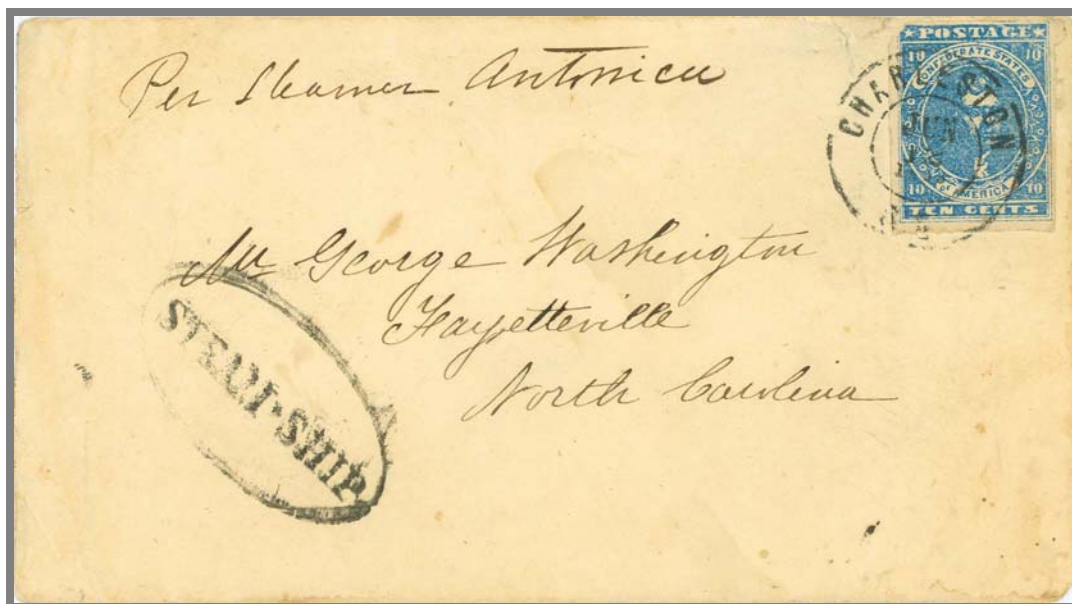
Incoming Blockade Run Mail

Via Charleston, SC: May 1862-February 1865

Blockade Runner Endorsements



Forwarded by Beach Root & Co. of Liverpool on August 2, 1864 via New York to Nassau
Endorsed to Gen. Whiting by Nassau forwarder - arrived September 26 - 12¢ due



Docketed (England) April 24, 1863 - **endorsed to the Antonica**, which arrived June 11 from Nassau
Rare use of CSA #2 10¢ Patterson to prepay 12¢ ship charges - no 2¢ ship fee assessed

Incoming Blockade Run Mail

Matamoros, Mexico-to- Galveston, Texas: November 1863-July 1864

From Mexico

Blockade-run mail was sent to Galveston from Havana, Cuba and, during the 11/63-7/64 Federal occupation of Brownsville, from Mexico. Mail was processed at nearby Houston, Texas.



Mexican postage prepaid in Matamoros on June 4 1864 per 'FRANCO' - 10¢ stamp prepaid CSA postage
Trans-Rio Grande route via Brownsville closed, so sent via ship to Galveston - arrived in Houston on June 26

Confederate stamp tied by Matamoros postmark - applied in Mexico

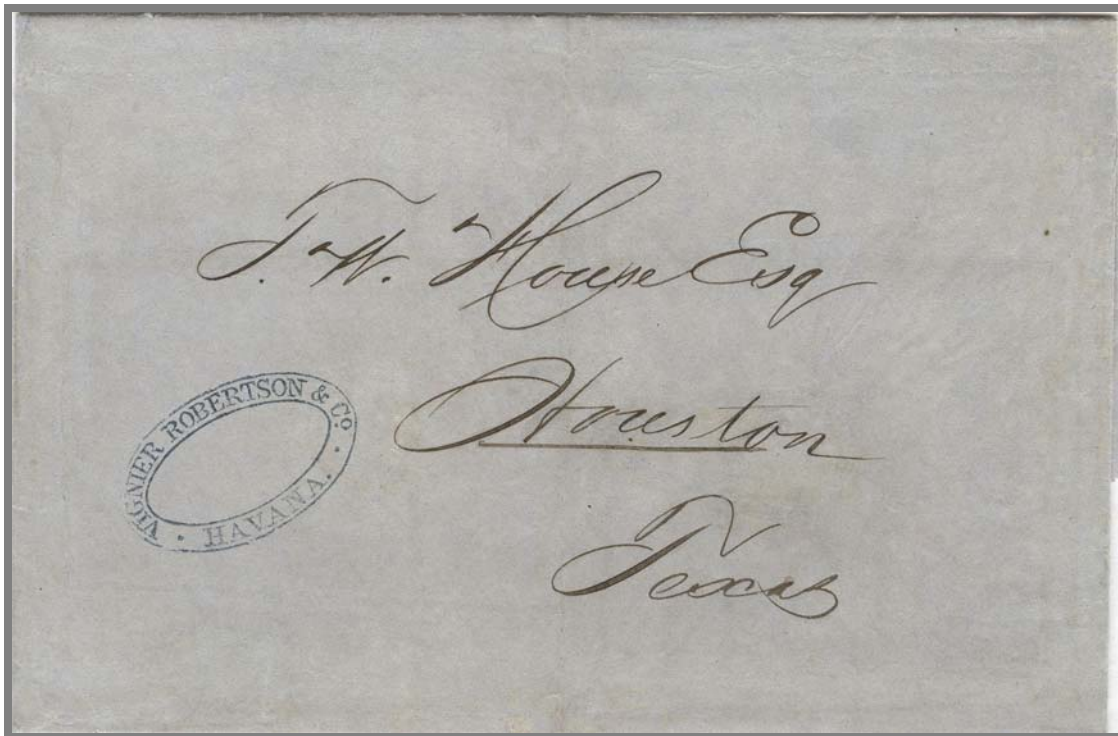
Incoming Blockade Run Mail

Via Galveston, Texas: November 1863-June 2, 1865

Havana Forwarder Vignier Robertson



1864 letter forwarded from Havana with **25¢ express fee** - forwarded April 10 from Houston with CSA #11

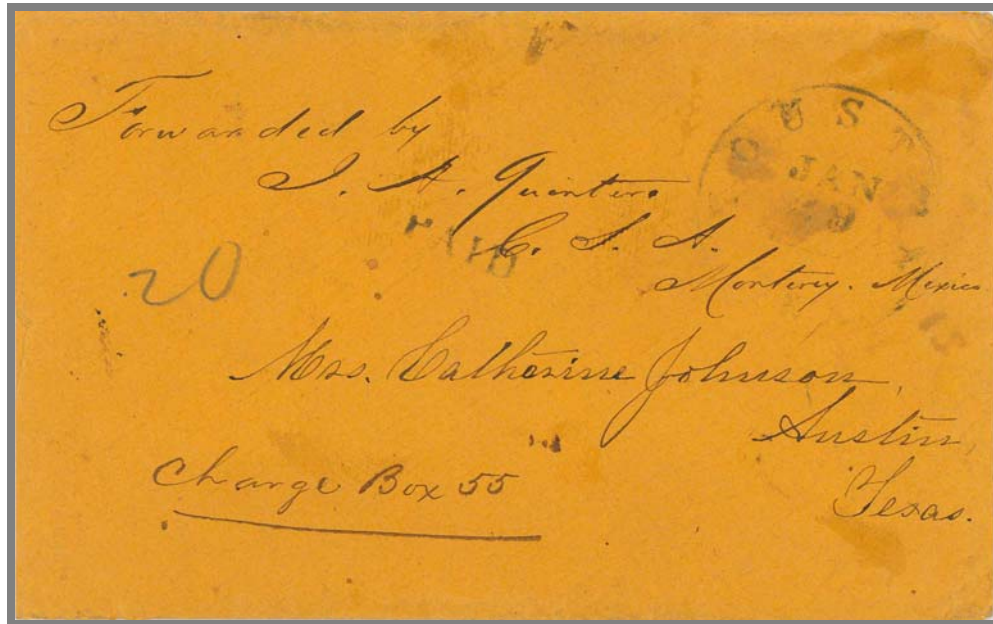


Dated Vera Cruz, Mexico Dec. 1, 1864 - endorsed to **Royal Mail steamer from Vera Cruz to Havana**

Incoming Blockade Run Mail

Via Galveston, Texas: November 1863-June 2, 1865

Forwarded by CSA Agent in Monterey

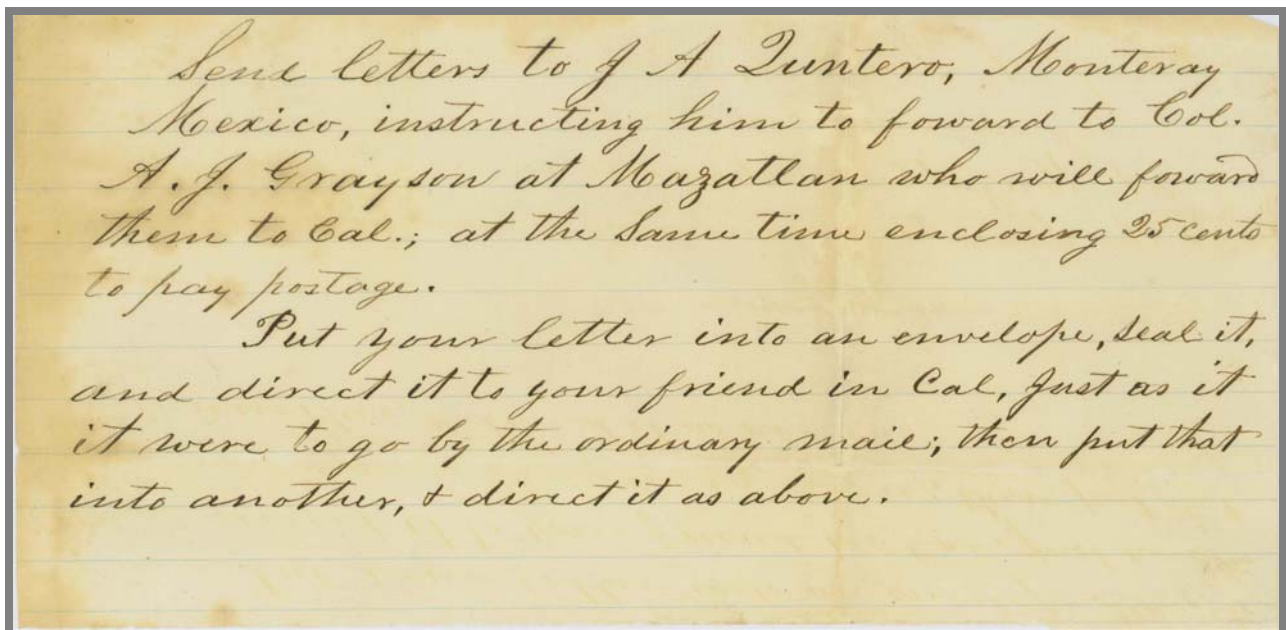


Dated Santa Clara, California Sept. 27 1863 - forwarded via Mazatlan to Monterey, Mexico

Forwarded by CSA agent Jose Quintero to Matamoros - Brownsville route closed due to Federal occupation

Letter sent via blockade-run ship from Matamoros to Galveston - prepaid 20¢ in Houston on January 29, 1864

Way bill below was enclosed for return letter instructions



Incoming Blockade Run Mail

Via Port Lavaca, TX: February 1862-May 1865

Coastal Blockade Runner from Matamoros

The southwest Texas barrier islands created a series of shallow bays ideal for blockade running. From Mexico, a ship could safely sail along the Texas coast to Matagorda Bay and Port Lavaca.



Datelined Mulhouse (France) 2 July 1863 - sent under cover to forwarder A.M. Erhard in Matamoros, Mexico

Blockade-run ship entered through Matagorda Bay to Port Lavaca - posted prepaid in nearby Victoria

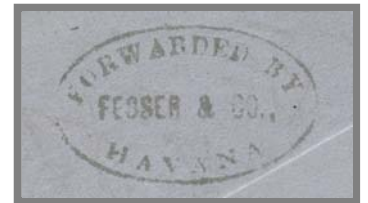
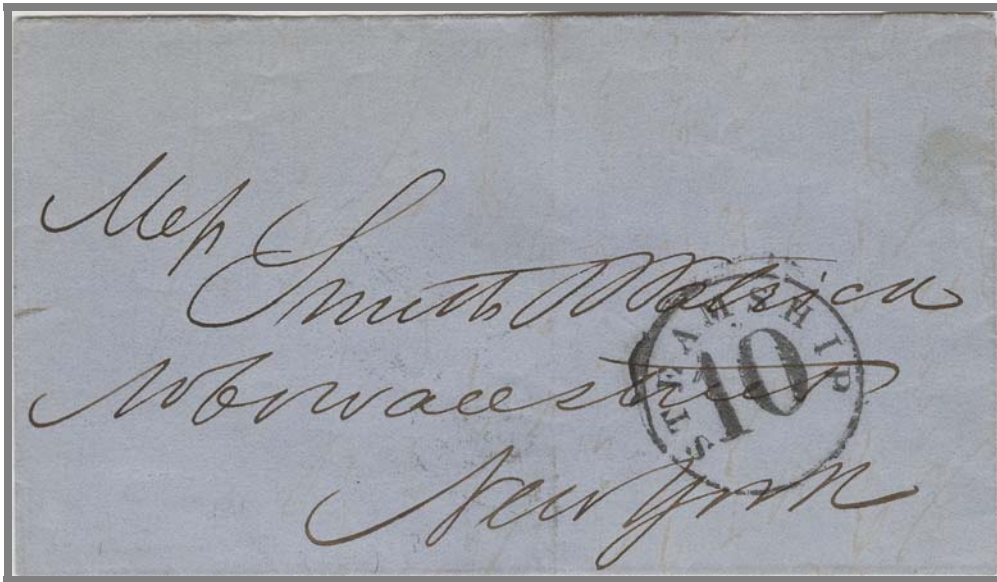


Only known blockade letter through Victoria, Texas

Outgoing Blockade Run Mail

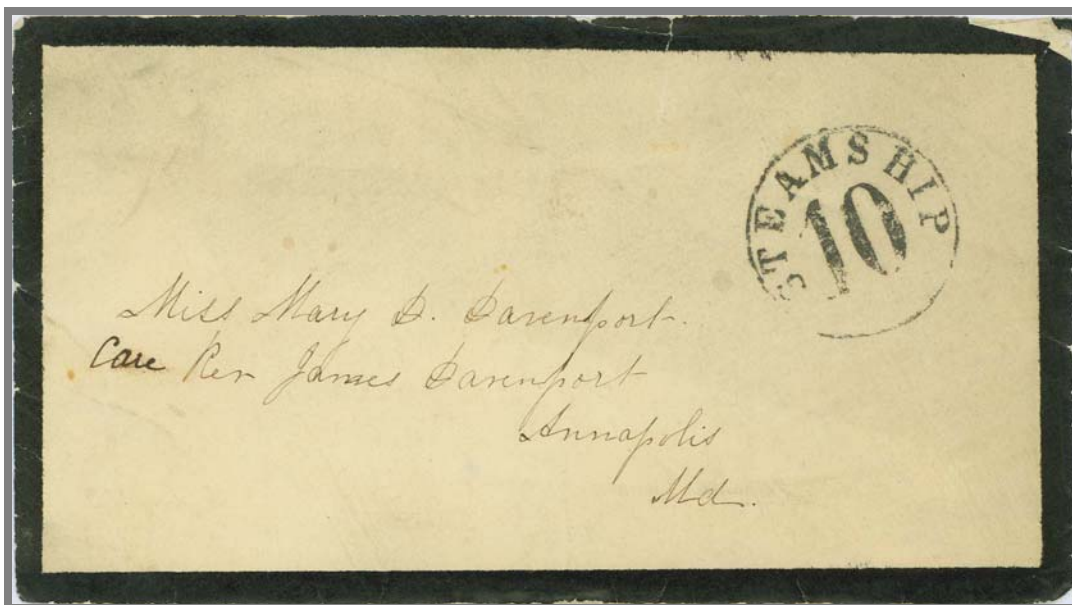
Via Mobile, Alabama: September 1861-August 5, 1864

Through Havana, Cuba



Dated Mobile Oct 23/61 - carried by blockade-run ship to Havana, Cuba

Forwarded by Fesser & Co. Havana to New York - letter carried to NY by non-contract steamer



Dated Charleston April 30, 1864 - carried overland to blockade runner at Mobile

Denbigh left May 7, and arrived May 10 in Havana - letter carried to NY by non-contract steamer

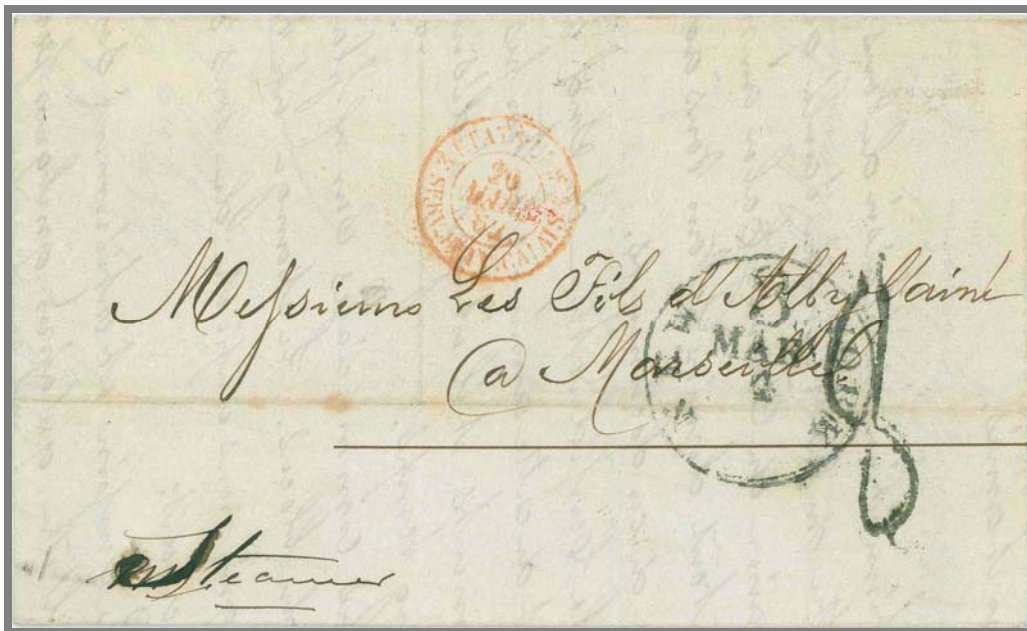
Outgoing Blockade Run Mail

New Orleans, LA-to-Havana, Cuba: September, 1861-April 1862

8-Month Blockade Period



Dated *New Orleans Nov 14 1861* - carried by blockade runner to Havana - RMS packet to St Thomas
Carried under cover by November 29 RMS Packet to **London forwarder**, who posted letter with 1d postage



Dated *New Orleans 15 Février 1862* - blockade runner *Florida* arrived at Havana on February 23
Sent from Havana to New York for March 5 Cunard steamship to England - arrived in France on March 20

Fewer than ten New Orleans outgoing blockade-run letters known

Outgoing Blockade Run Mail

Wilmington, NC-to-Nassau, Bahamas: July 1862-January 1865

Blockade Runner Endorsement

Outbound blockade-run mail typically shows no Confederate postal markings, since it was usually sent inside another envelope to an agent in the departure port.



Posted August 20, 1864 in Raleigh, North Carolina - 10¢ inland postage paid to Wilmington
Wilmington forwarder followed endorsement at lower left of envelope, and re-addressed letter to Nassau
Endorsed ship *Lilian* left August 24 for Bermuda, so did not carry this letter - captured on that trip
Letter carried instead by *Will of the Wisp*, which left August 23, and arrived August 27 in Nassau, Bahamas
Treated as ship letter in Nassau, with 4 pence due - later advertised and unclaimed

Shows both Confederate and West Indies postal markings

Outgoing Blockade Run Mail

Wilmington, NC-to-Nassau, Bahamas: July 1862-January 1865

Bahamas Frankings



Sent under cover from Charleston, SC to Wilmington - *Lucy* left May 1, 1864 and arrived Nassau May 7
Overpaid 4d rate to the USA and posted in Nassau on May 8 - **only 6d stamp known on blockade mail**



Sent under cover from Charleston, SC to Wilmington - *Pet* left Dec. 10, 1863 and arrived in Nassau Dec. 14
Franked 4d postage to the USA and posted in Nassau on Dec. 15 - 5¢ British packet fee assessed in NY

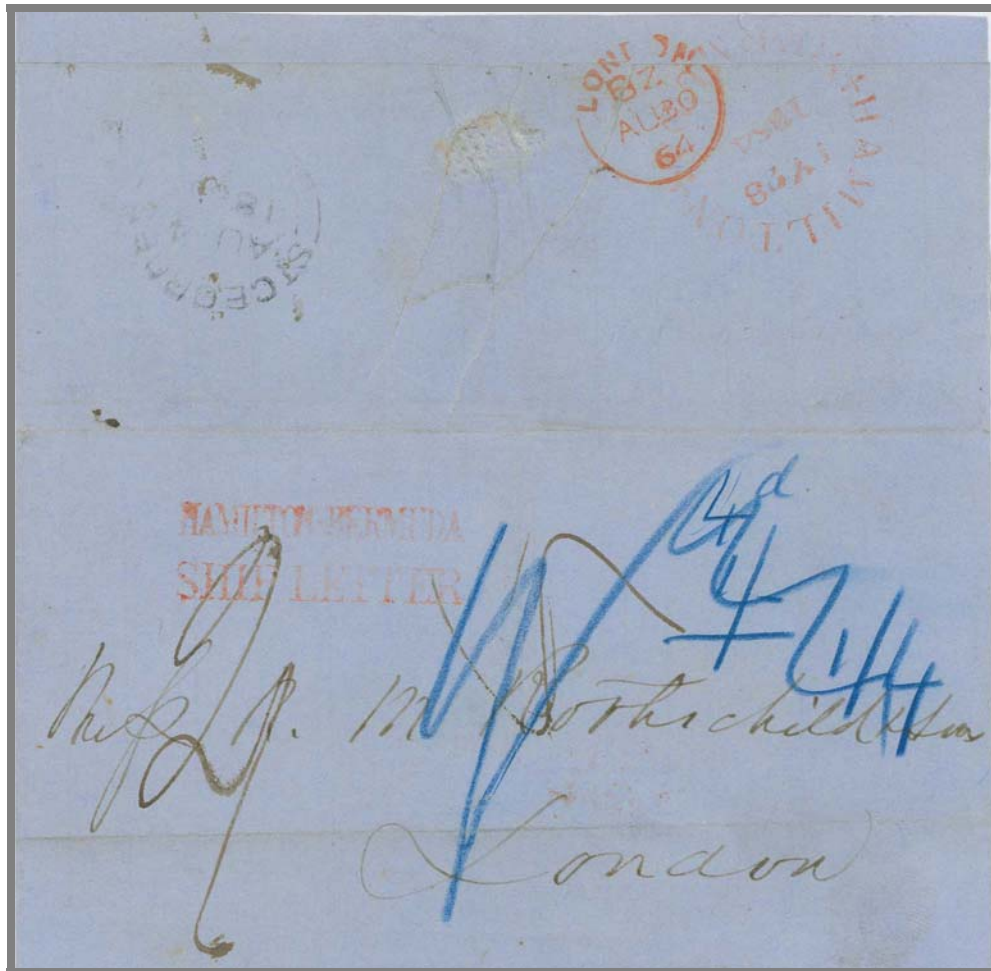
Fewer than ten blockade-run letters known with Bahamas frankings

Outgoing Blockade Run Mail

Wilmington, NC-to-Bermuda: July 1862-January 1865

Hamilton Bermuda Postmarks

Not much blockade-run mail was processed by the Bermuda Post Office so it had trouble rating the mail. It generally tried collecting 4d incoming ship letter postage, but was typically corrected by the GPO in London.



Docketed Petersburg, Virginia 19 July 1864 - *City of Petersburg* left Wilmington July 23, 1864

Arrived in Hamilton, Bermuda on July 26 and marked **HAMILTON-BERMUDA SHIP LETTER** (type S2)

Mis-rated 1 shilling 4d due on July 28 in Hamilton and 1 shilling due on August 4 in St George's, Bermuda

Carried by Cunard Line to Liverpool via Halifax - 1 shilling packet postage plus 1 shilling unpaid penalty due

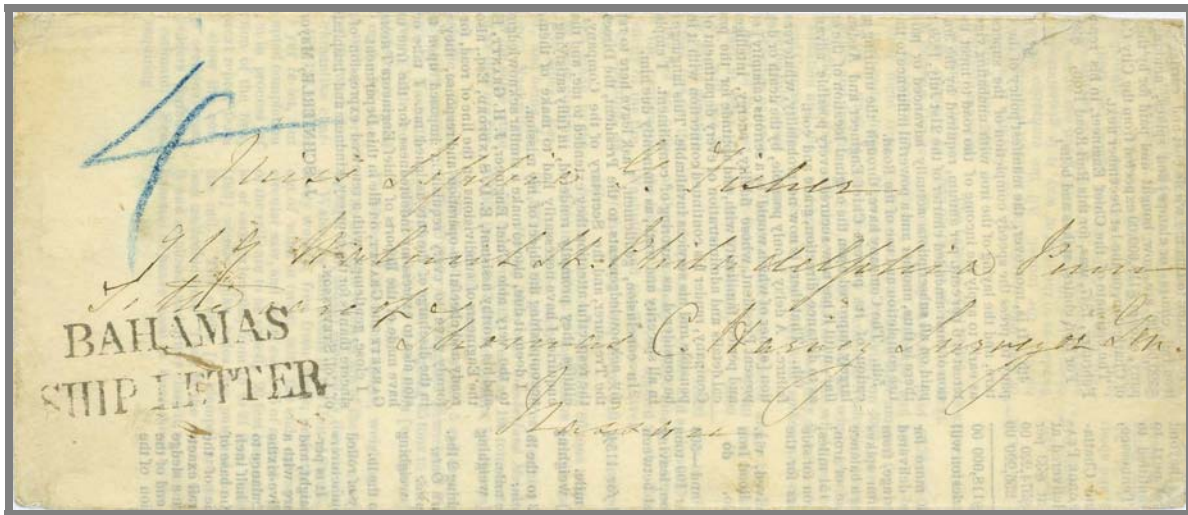
Only known example of Type S2 SHIP LETTER mark on blockade mail

Outgoing Blockade Run Mail

Wilmington, NC-to-Nassau, Bahamas: July 1862-January 1865

Ship Marking

On August 11, 1863, Confederate General Beauregard issued Special Orders No. 156, requiring the examination of all incoming and outgoing blockade-run letters.



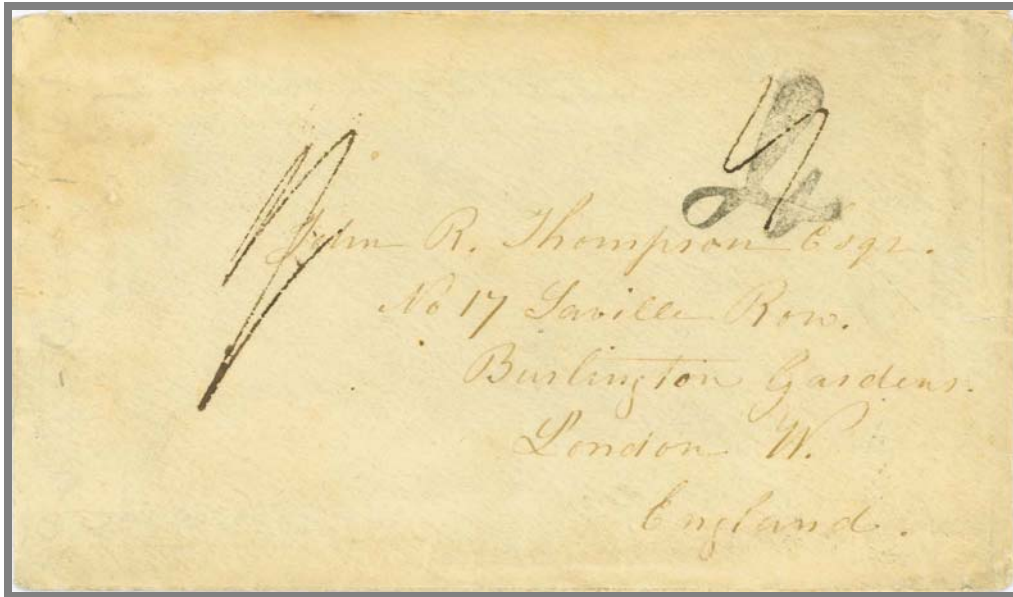
Sent care of the Surveyor General in Nassau - *Fannie* arrived Nassau October 15, 1863 - 4d ship fee due
Only example known of BAHAMAS SHIP LETTER on blockade mail - 'B Duncan' censor's marking



Outgoing Blockade Run Mail

Wilmington, NC-to-Halifax, Nova Scotia: July-September 1864

Direct Ship to Halifax



Inner letter from Richmond July 25, 1864 - Annie from Wilmington September 6 to Halifax September 12



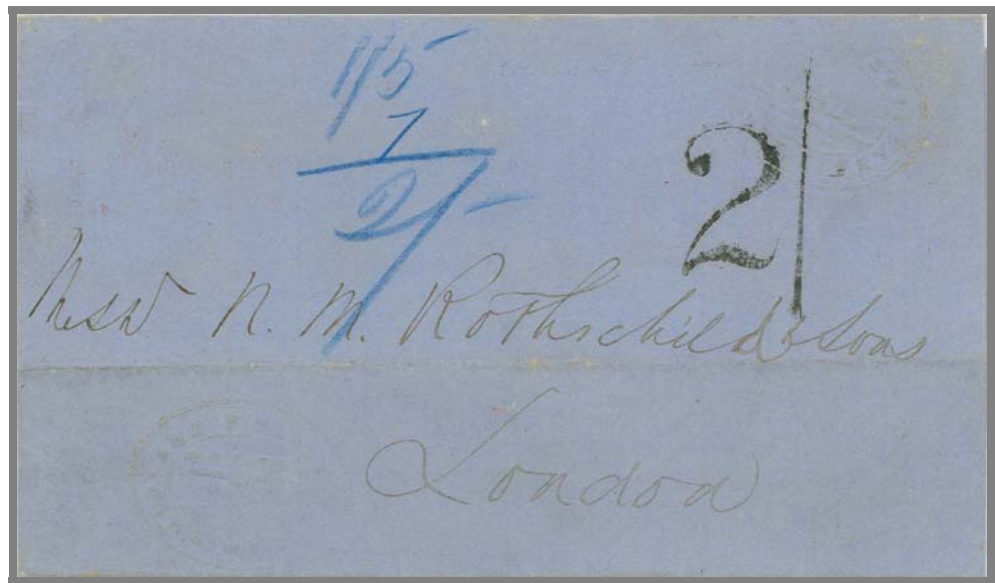
Carried on *Helen* which arrived September 20, 1864 in Halifax
Sent on Cunard steamer via London and France to Germany
Censored at Wilmington by 'H C Strong aag'

Yellow fever in Bermuda during 1864 caused some ships to take longer direct route to Halifax

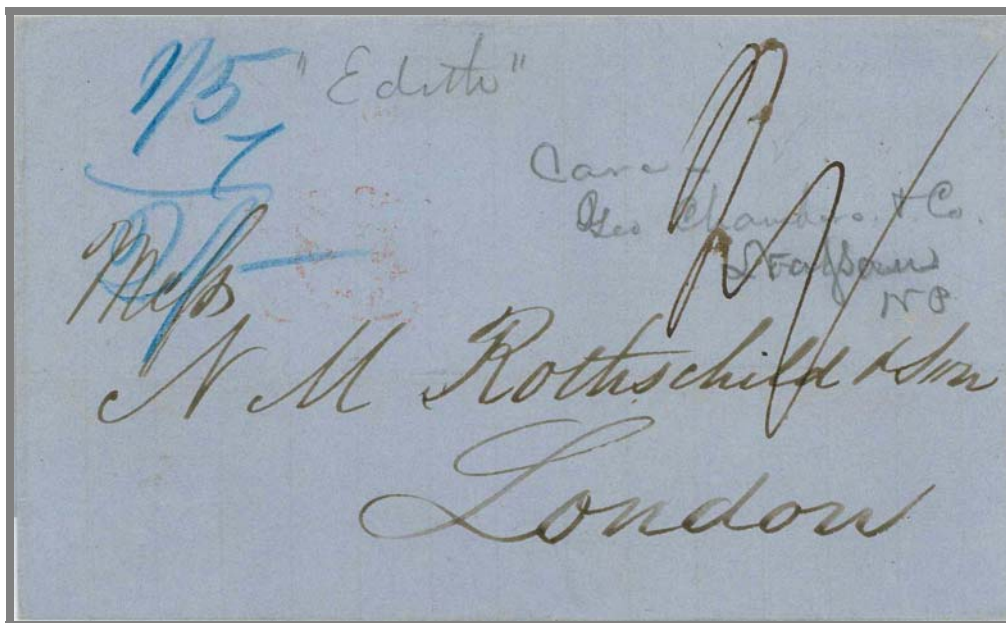
Outgoing Blockade Run Mail

Via Wilmington, NC: July 1862-January 15, 1865

Blockade Runner Endorsements



Docketed Petersburg, Virginia 3 November 1864 - *Agnes E. Fry* arrived in Nassau on December 9
Embossed 'STEAMSHIP AGNES E. FRY' is only known blockade runner marking - ex-Ludington



Docketed Petersburg, Virginia 23 May 1864 - **endorsed to *Edith***, which arrived in Nassau on June 7
Forwarded by Geo. Chambers & Co. on RMSP packet to England via St. Thomas - *ex-Ludington*

Outgoing Blockade Run Mail

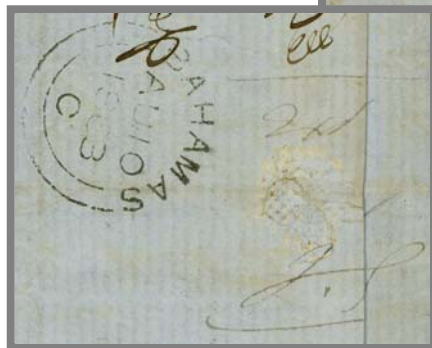
Charleston, SC-to-Bahamas: May 1862-February 1865

Censor's Examined Markings



Dated in Charleston June 20, 1863 - *Antonica* arrived Nassau June 26 - prepaid 1 shilling

Photocopy of reverse on right - censored by 'Wm. F Vance a.g. 1st Mil Dist S.C.'



Dated in Petersburg, Virginia 30 July 1863 - *Antonica* arrived in Nassau on August 9 - 2 shilling 2p due

Censored per 'Exd J.S.' marking on reverse - sent to England via St Thomas on RMSP steamer

Outgoing Blockade Run Mail

Charleston, SC-to-Bermuda: May 1862-February 1865

Bermuda Transit Postmark

Most outbound mail traveled to the Bahamas and typically received Nassau transit marks. Much less mail went via Bermuda, and only a fraction of that received transit marks.



Dated March 17, 1863 - **from George Trenholm** to C. K. Prioleau of Fraser Trenholm & Co.

Endorsed 'Capt Cox' (Louis Coxetter) - employed by Fraser Trenholm to captain their blockade-runners

General Beauregard left Charleston March 20 and arrived at St George's, Bermuda on March 24

Carried on H.M.S. *Orlando* which left Bermuda March 31 and arrived at Portsmouth England on April 16

1 shilling due (6d packet postage plus 6d unpaid letter penalty) in England - *ex-Ludington*

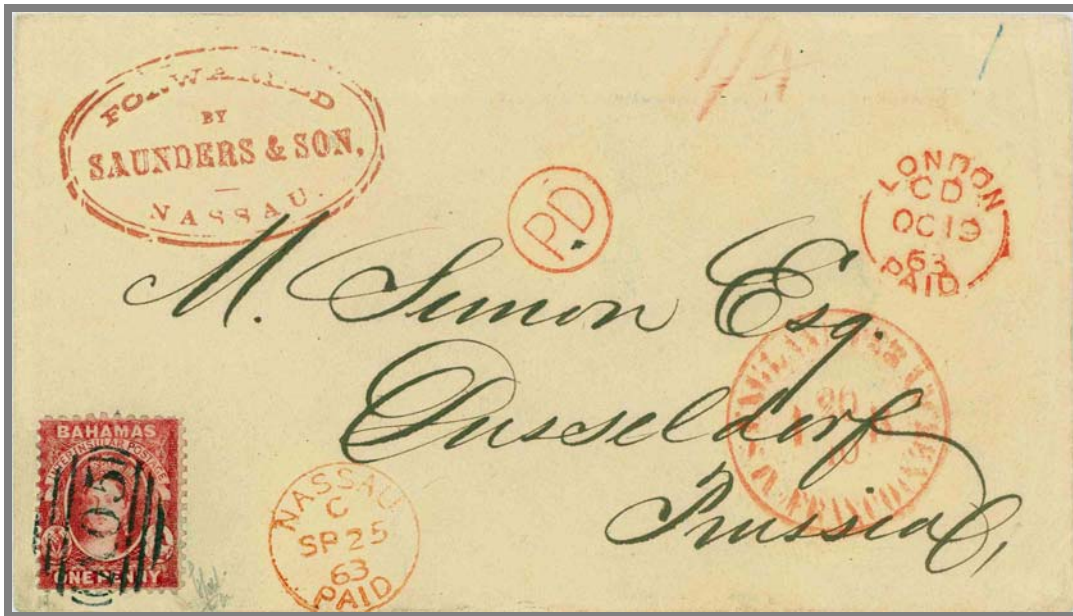
Fewer than 15 letters with Bermuda transit marks known

Outgoing Blockade Run Mail

Galveston, Texas-to-Nassau, Bahamas: January 1863-June 1865

Bahamas Franking

The Bahamas Post Office retained 1 penny of the 1-shilling packet postage to England. The balance was credited to London's G.P.O. in red crayon.



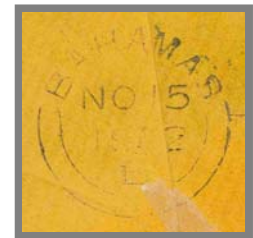
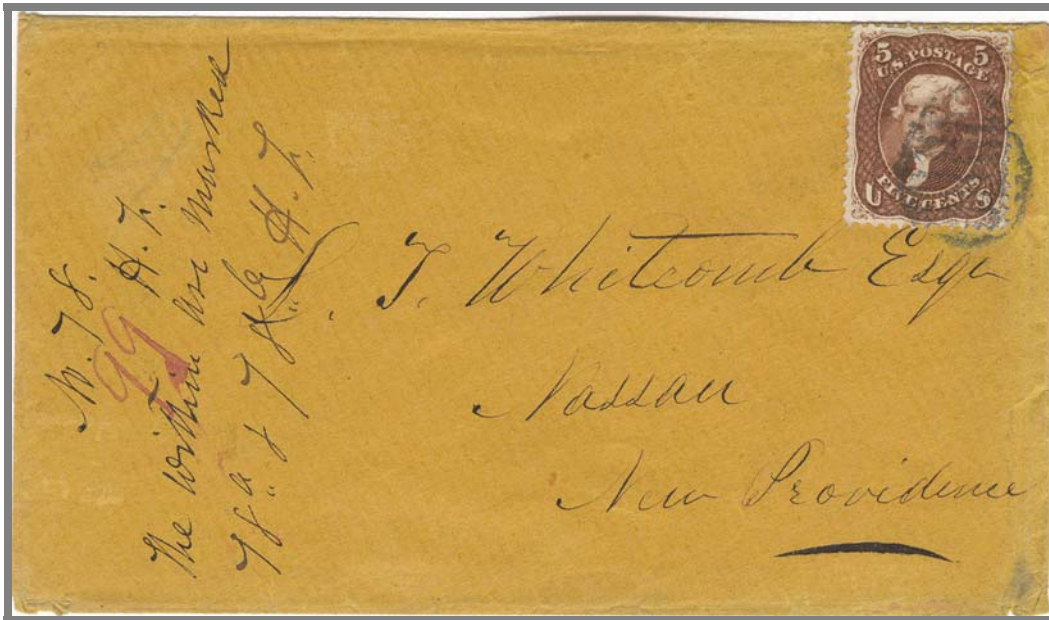
Docketed Galveston September 11, 1863 - carried by blockade-runner directly to Nassau
Nassau forwarder Saunders & Son prepaid 1 shilling 5 pence rate to Germany on September 25
Bahamas Post Office applied 1862 1d carmine-lake to reflect their share of total postage
Letter then carried by Cunard Line to Germany via New York and London - arrived October 20

Only known use of 1d Bahamas stamp on blockade-run mail

Inbound Prize Court Mail

Captured Blockade Run Mail

Philadelphia Prize Court Evidence



Posted in Baltimore and received at Nassau November 15, 1862 - found on captured blockade runner Sloop *William E. Chester* captured November 20, 1862 near Pensacola Bay by U.S.S. *Montgomery*
Used as evidence in Philadelphia Prize Court per manuscript notations on front of letter



Posted August 14, 1862 in New York and sent to the care of Saunders & Son in Nassau
Captured en-route to Charleston - marked '84' and evidence 'No. 17'

Inbound Prize Court Mail

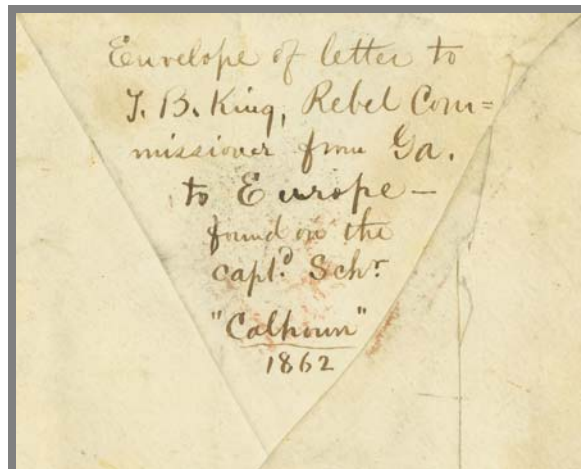
Captured Blockade Run Mail

Privateer C.S.S. "Calhoun"

The capturer's crew shared the proceeds from the sale of captured blockade-runners, but evidence of CSA origin had to be submitted to the Prize Court.



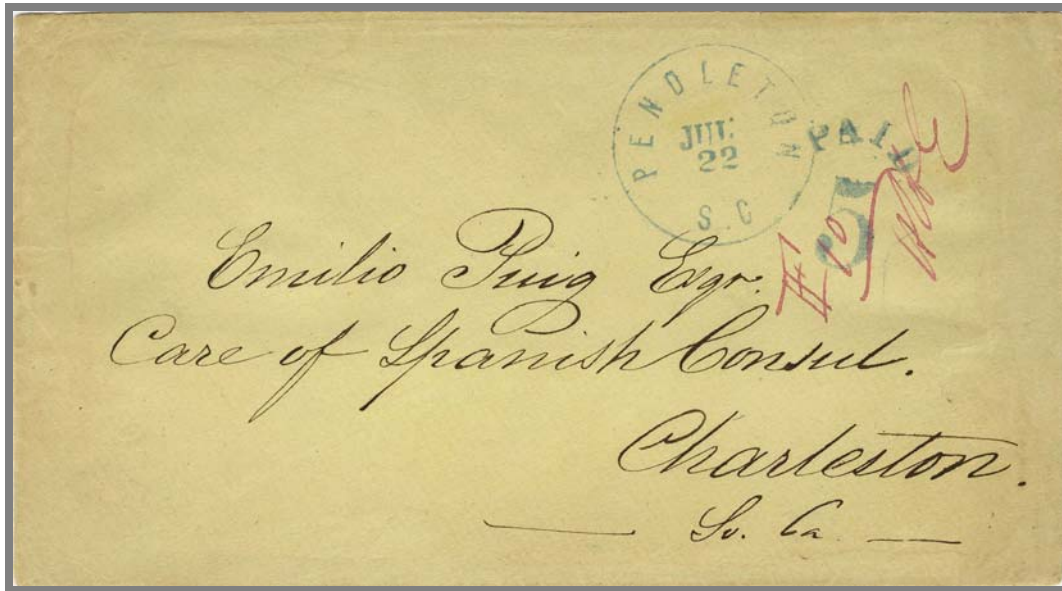
T. Butler King's private papers captured on C.S.S. *Calhoun* as it tried to run the blockade from Havana, Cuba
Calhoun captured January 23, 1862 by U.S.S. *Samuel Rotan* in the South-west Pass en-route to New Orleans
King escaped capture, but his personal belongings used as evidence in the Philadelphia Prize Court



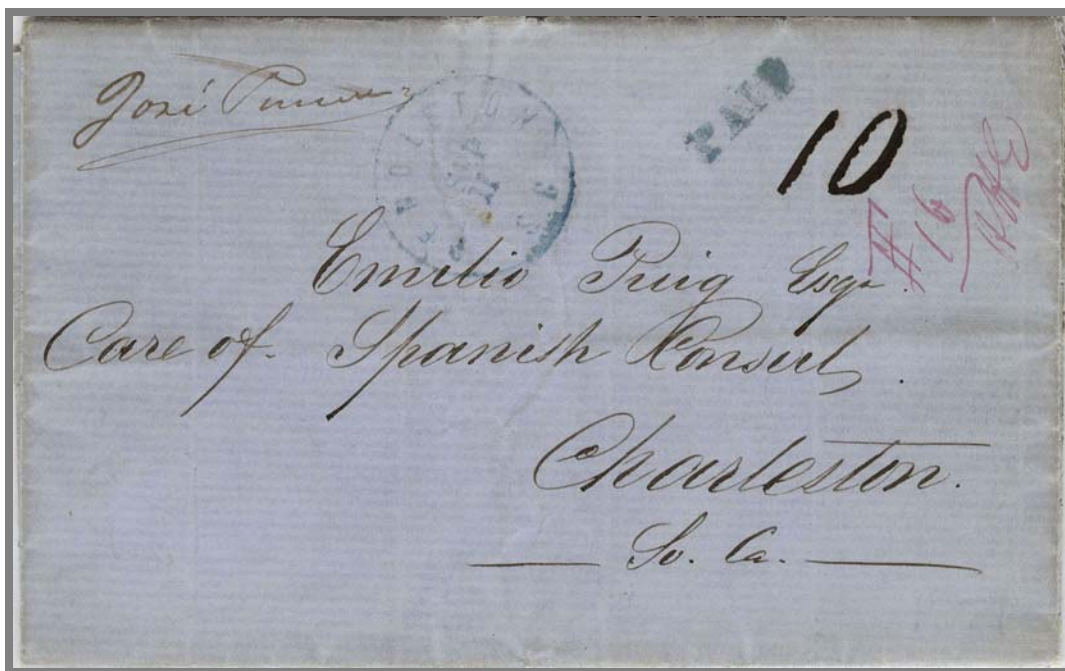
Outbound Prize Court Mail

Captured Blockade Run Mail

Prize Court Evidence



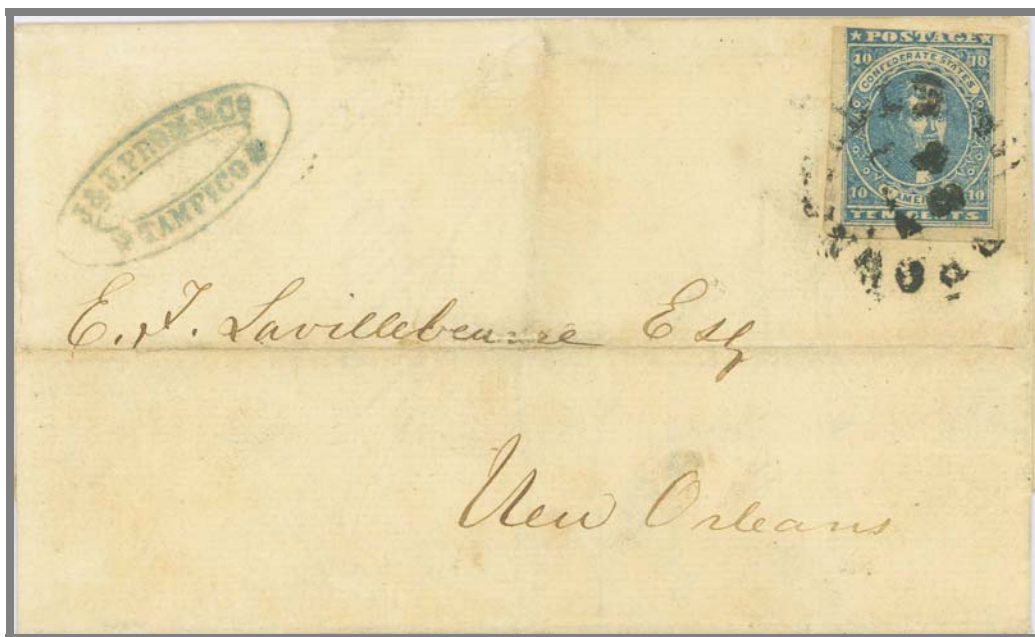
Both letters sent in 1861 from Pendleton, SC to the care of the Spanish consul at Charleston
Each contained a letter from the south to be carried through the blockade on *Senora de Regla* by Emilio Puig
Senora de Regla captured en-route from Charleston to Havana - confiscated subject to Prize Court decision
Red 'E10 HHE' is prize court evidence docket - Henry H. Elliot was New York Prize Court commissioner



Incoming Trans-Rio Grande Mail

Matamoros, Mexico-to-Brownsville, Texas: October 1861-April 1862

Costa's Express



Dated London August 16, 1861 - forwarded from Tampico to Brownsville Feb. 24, 1862 via Matamoros
Arrived New Orleans March 15 - **Costa operated express between Tampico and New Orleans** - *ex-Skinner*



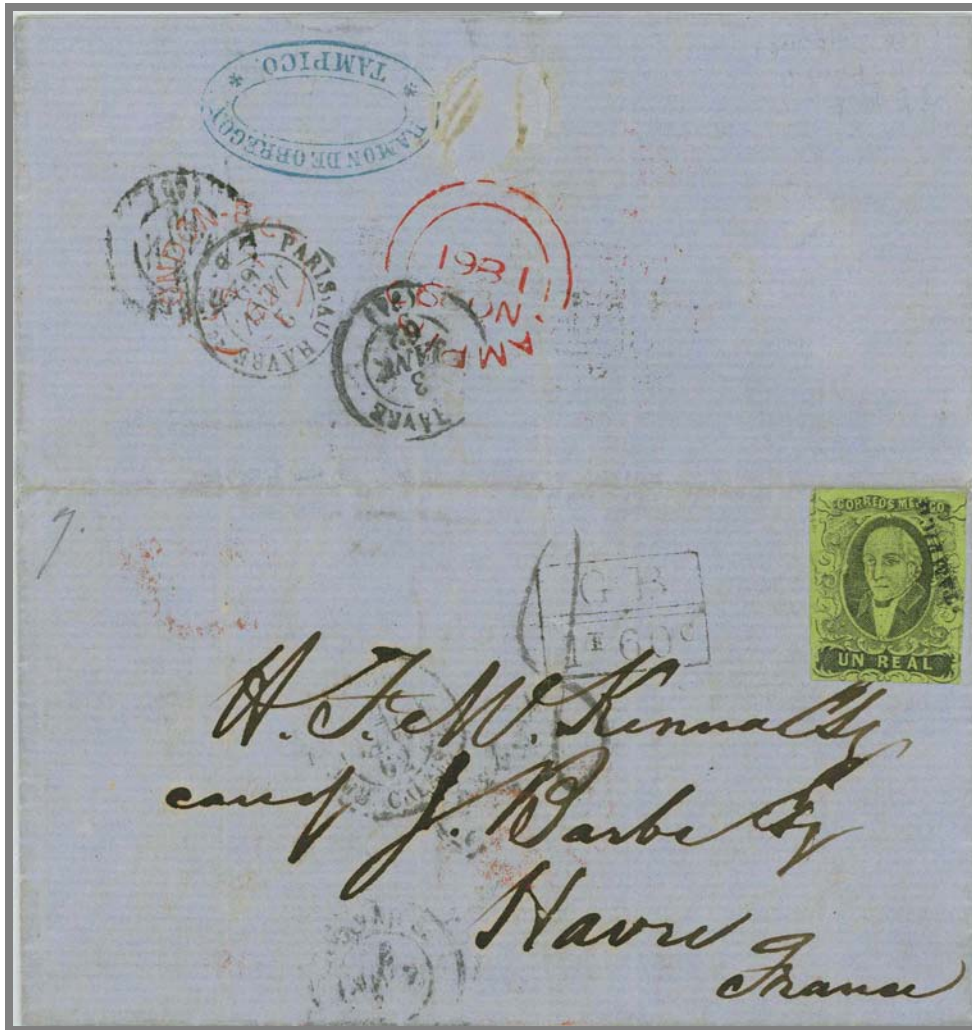
Docketed Monterey, Mexico January 7, 1862 - forwarded by Costa via Brownsville on January 13
Arrived New Orleans January 31- **fewer than 5 Costa express letters known** - *ex-Skinner, MacBride*

Outgoing Trans-Rio Grande Mail

New Orleans, La.-to-Tampico, Mexico: October 1861-April 1862

Costa's Foreign Mail Express

On October 10, 1861, Antonio Costa began his Post Office-endorsed Express from New Orleans overland through Texas to Tampico. Mail connected there with British Royal Mail Steam Packets to St. Thomas and beyond.



Dated New Orleans September 17, 1861 - Costa charged \$1 fee to Europe, including CSA postage

Carried in Costa's first mail from New Orleans - handled at Tampico by forwarder Ramon de Obregon

Posted unpaid on November 29 at Tampico British Agency - 1 real local Mexican postage paid

Carried by RMSP packets via St. Thomas to England on January 1, 1862 - 8 décimes due in France

Only known outbound Costa Express letter

Incoming Trans-Rio Grande Mail

Matamoros, Mexico-to-Brownsville, Texas: September 1862-November 1863

Unusual Usages



Dated **Mulhouse (France)** September 6, 1862 - sent under cover to forwarder in Matamoros
Forwarded across Rio Grande and posted prepaid in Brownsville on December 29 - *ex-Emerson*

Brownsville crossing used until Federal occupation on November 6, 1863

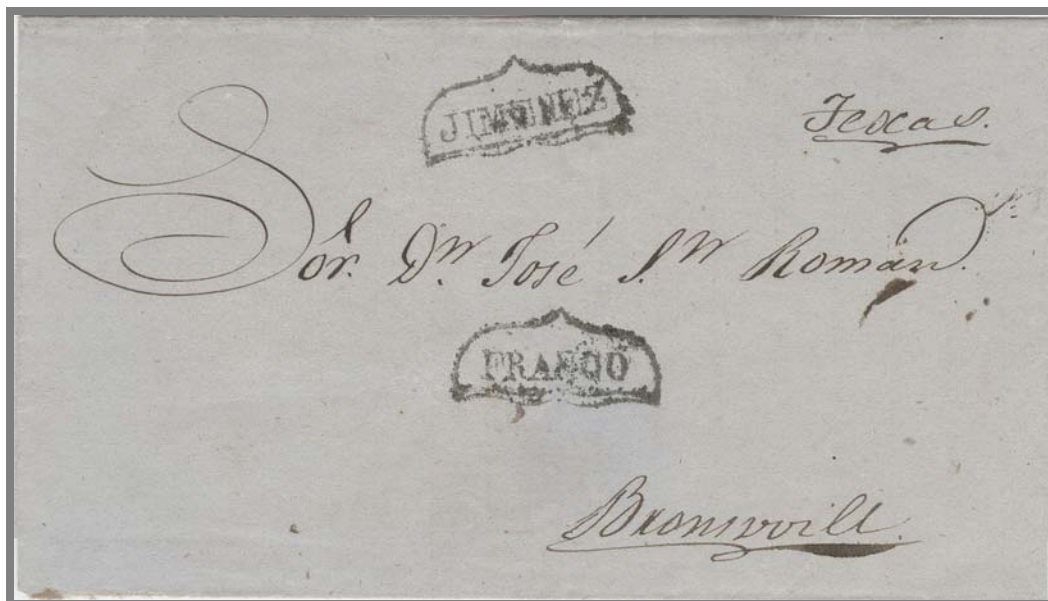


Dated **Matamoros, Mexico** September 28, 1862 - carried across the Rio Grande to Brownsville
Posted prepaid on September 29 - **franked with #2b 10¢ dark blue, Hoyer & Ludwig**

Incoming Trans-Rio Grande Mail

Matamoros, Mexico-to-Brownsville, Texas: September 1862-November 1863

Mail From Mexico



Posted June 15, 1863 in Jiménez, Mexico - Mexican postage prepaid to Matamoros per 'Franco' marking
Forwarded privately to blockade-run merchant José San Roman in Brownsville - *ex-Birkinbine*

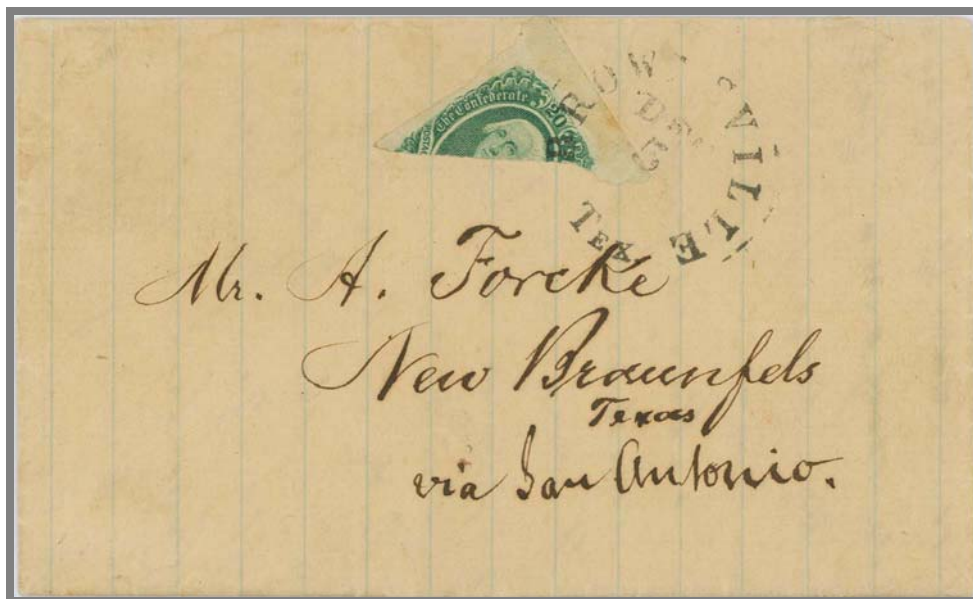


Posted Monterey August 6, 1863 - 8 reales stamp paid 1¼ oz rate over 16 leagues to Matamoros - *ex-Mazepa*
Brownsville-based José San Roman made forwarding arrangements with Matamoros post office

Incoming Trans-Rio Grande Mail

Matamoros, Mexico-to-Brownsville, Texas: July 1864-May 1865

Matched Bisect Covers



Dated Matamoros Dec. 2, 1864 - posted in Brownsville on December 5 with **bisect of #13 20¢ stamp**

Matamoros crossing re-opened after July 20, 1864 Confederate re-capture of Brownsville



Dated Matamoros November 29, 1864 - carried across the Rio Grande through Brownsville

Posted in San Antonio, Texas on December 16 with **matching half of 20¢ bisect stamp**

Incoming Trans-Rio Grande Mail

Piedras Negras, Mexico-to-Eagle Pass, Texas: January 1863-May 1865

F. Groos Forwarder



Dated Monterey, Mexico June 21, 1863 - sent under cover to forwarder F. Groos & Co. in Piedras Negras
Forwarded across the Rio Grande and posted prepaid with pair of CSA #7 in Eagle Pass on June 30

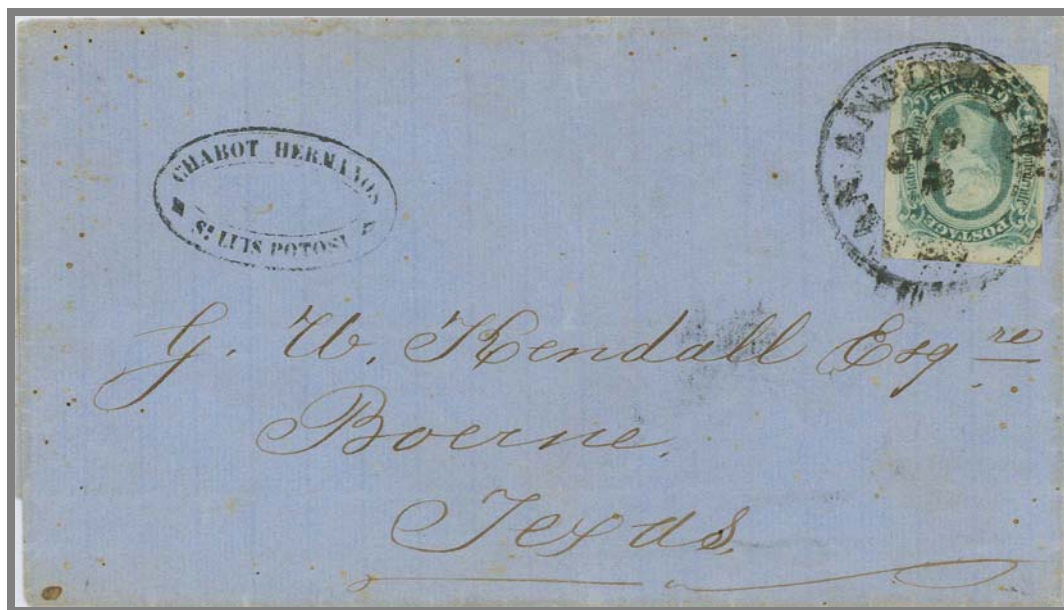


Sent September 20, 1863 from Monterrey, Mexico to F. Groos & Co. in Piedras Negras - prepaid 2 reales
Forwarded across the Rio Grande and posted prepaid with pair of CSA #6 in Eagle Pass on September 30

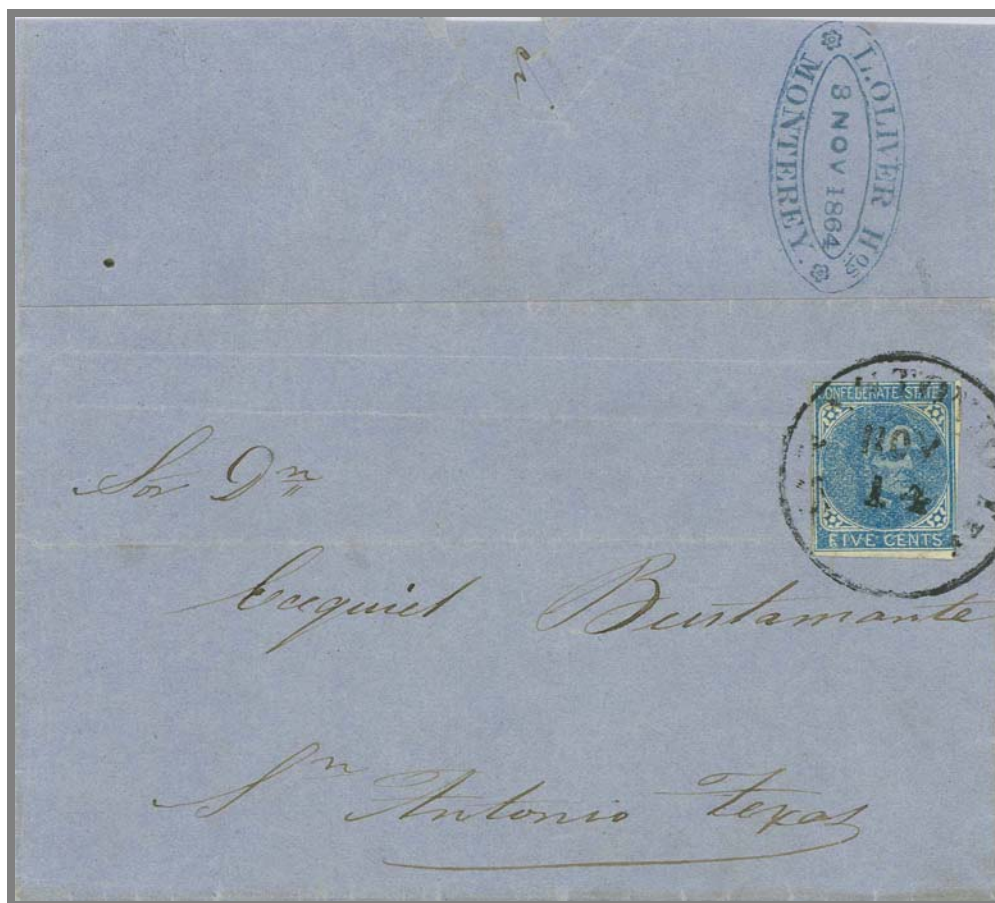
Incoming Trans-Rio Grande Mail

Nuevo Laredo, Mexico-to-Laredo, Texas: July 1864-May 1865

Mexican Mail via Monterrey



Sent from San Luis Potosi via Monterrey and Laredo - postmarked July 4, 1864 in San Antonio, Texas

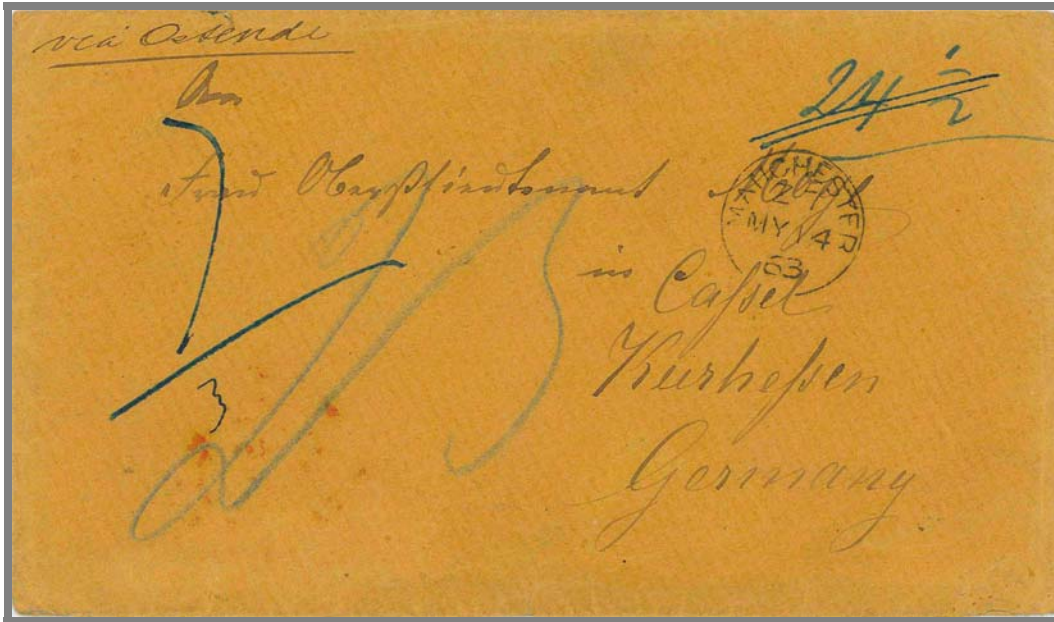


Dated Parras October 23, 1864 - forwarded from Monterrey - posted Nov. 14 as **local letter** in San Antonio

Outgoing Trans-Rio Grande Mail

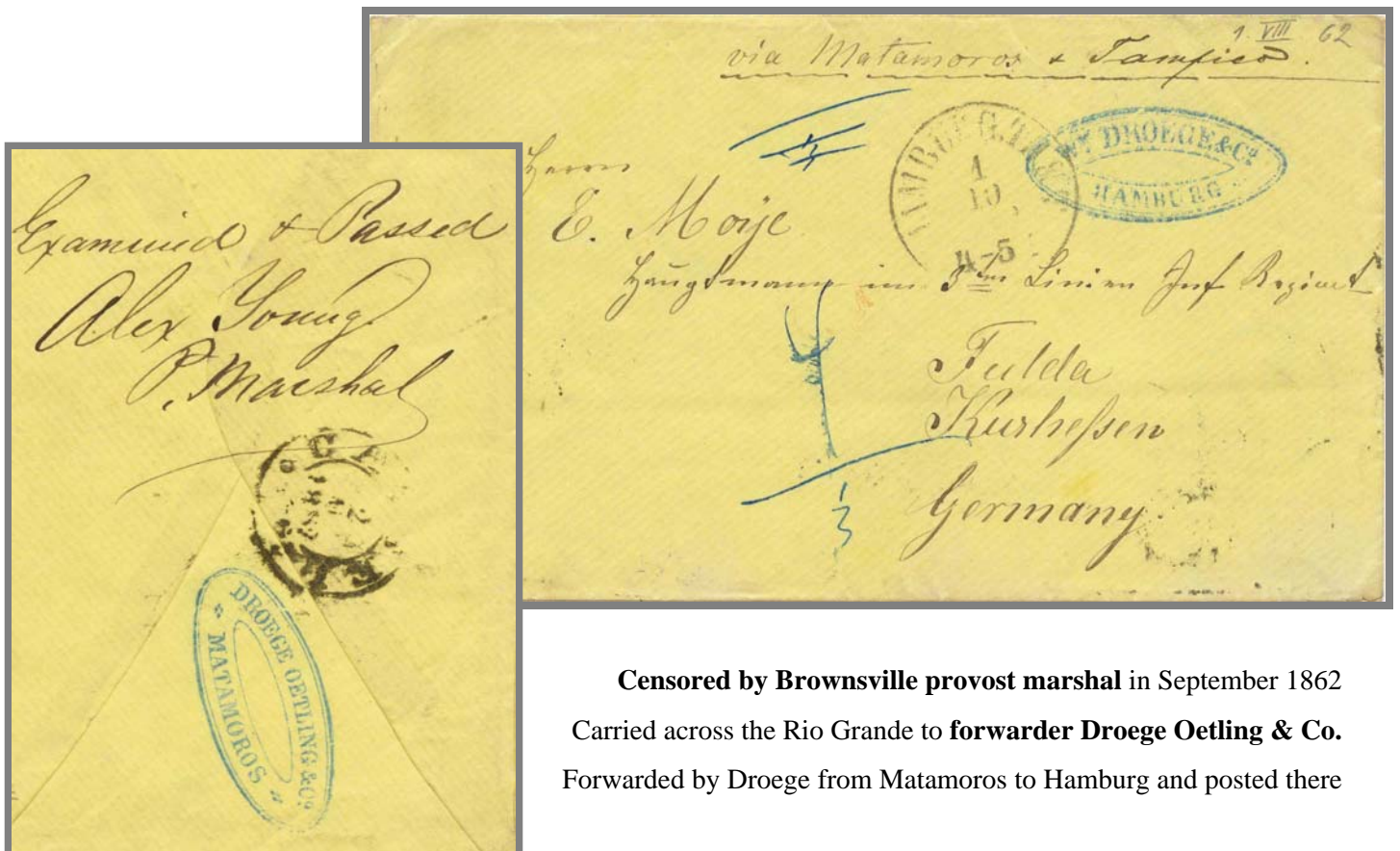
Brownsville, TX-to-Matamoros, Mexico: September 1862-November 1863

To Germany



Dateline Brownsville March 13 1863 - carried across Rio Grande to **forwarder Droege Oetling & Co.**

Forwarded under cover from Matamoros, Mexico to Germany via Manchester, England - *ex-Beals*



Censored by Brownsville provost marshal in September 1862
Carried across the Rio Grande to **forwarder Droege Oetling & Co.**
Forwarded by Droege from Matamoros to Hamburg and posted there

Outgoing Trans-Rio Grande Mail

Brownsville, Texas-to-Matamoros, Mexico: July 1864-May 1865

Commercial Express Co.

Toward the end of the war, the Confederate postal system began to collapse, particularly in Texas. The Commercial Express Co. of Bagdad, Mexico and New Orleans charged \$1.25 for the safe delivery of mail.



Sent under cover from Texas to Matamoros' Gulf port at Bagdad, Mexico via Brownsville Commercial Express Co. forwarded letter by ship from Bagdad to New Orleans, Louisiana
8 cents double-weight ship rate due in Union-held New Orleans on May 22, 1865

Late mail out of the Confederacy

End of the Confederacy

Marshall, Texas-to-Shreveport, Louisiana: June 1865

Late Mixed Franking

On June 7, 1865, Dr. Starr closed the last Trans-Mississippi Post Office at Marshall, Texas. The day before, General Herron, USA, had occupied nearby Shreveport, Louisiana.



Sent June 7, 1865 from Marshall, Texas to Union-occupied Shreveport, Louisiana
CSA postage prepaid with Keatinge & Ball 10¢ stamp - 3¢ U.S. postage also prepaid at Marshall

Last day of the Confederate postal system

End of the Confederacy

Louisville, Kentucky-to-Nashville, Tennessee: June 1865

Suspended Southern Postal System



Sent May 12, 1865 from POW at Sandusky, Ohio - postmarked June 28 at Nashville, Tennessee
CSA postal system collapsed in June 1865 - mails into southern States suspended



Sent May 26, 1865 from CSA POW at Sandusky, Ohio to Alabama - prepaid 3¢ U.S. postage
Stopped at Nashville on June 28 - Union examiner's mark from Johnson's Island prison

Mail service in the CSA suspended until gradually re-established by the United States