

Confederate Collectanea



Figure 1: Cartersville, Georgia, (five-cent) red handstamped provisional entire (CSA Scott 126XU1) with 'Due 3' applied in pencil, as the Confederate rated postage was not recognized in Tennessee in early June when Tennessee was still under U.S. postal control.

A Cartersville, Georgia, Provisional 'Across the Lines' Use

By Patricia A. Kaufmann

When collections that were formed decades ago start appearing on the market, there are invariably delightful surprises for our generation of collectors. One such cover, which showed up recently in the large provisional section of the Plantation collection, is shown in Figure 1.

If I handled a Cartersville, Georgia, handstamped provisional entire (CSA Scott 126XU1, CSA Catalog CAR-GA-E01) before acquiring this cover, I don't remember it or it certainly was not recently.

Nothing but a black and white tracing of the provisional marking is shown in the CSA catalog¹ and in the *2016 Scott Specialized Catalogue*.²

A recent scan was not available to the editors until now. Nor are any Cartersville provisionals listed in the Crown Provisional Surveys.³

The last sighting of this cover was in the sale

of the Richard P. Gravely Jr. collection by Steve Ivy Philatelic Auctions on October 1, 1982.

The subject Cartersville, Georgia, (5-cent) red provisional entire has a matching red town cancel. While the date is clearly June, the day is not discernable. It is addressed to Mrs. Louisa J. Rowland, Athens, Ten[nessee].

Louisa Jane Rowland (1831-1907) was the last of the children of Judge Charles Fleming Keith, one of the most distinguished settlers of McMinn County, Tennessee. Early in life, she married Col. Joel Thomas Rowland of Georgia (1827-1856).

Cartersville was first known as Birmingham to its original English settlers, but changed its name to Cartersville in 1846.⁴

It was incorporated as Cartersville in 1854, named for Col. Farish Carter of Milledgeville, Georgia. It was designated the seat of Bartow

County in 1867, following the destruction of Cassville by Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman during his "March to the Sea." Cartersville is situated 42 miles northwest of downtown Atlanta and 76 miles southeast of Chattanooga, Tennessee.⁵

Scott and CSA catalog values for the Cartersville provisional were based on the last recorded auction values; this provisional has not been offered in decades.

Thus far, the catalogs have not had a chance to catch up with the recent selling price, but will undoubtedly do so.

Only two provisionals are recorded from Cartersville, Georgia,⁶ and this is the only one with a penciled "Due 3."

The 1983 P.F. certificate, #0114795 (Figure 2), was issued when this was an unlisted new find. The P.F. certificate was issued to New England Stamp Company, at that time owned by the late William G. Bogg.

The Philatelic Foundation did not speculate on the meaning of the penciled "Due 3." The situation in Tennessee was not well studied by Confederate students at that time, although it was certainly not unknown.

In early June 1861, when Tennessee was still in the Union, three cents postage would be due for what is essentially an "across the lines" use. Georgia was in the Confederacy, while Tennessee was not. The Confederate postage of five cents, paid by the Cartersville provisional, was not recognized by the Union post office in Tennessee.

The Tennessee legislature passed an Ordinance of Secession on May 6, 1861. But that ordinance required that the question thereafter be submitted to a popular referendum. That did not happen until June 8, 1861.

Tennessee entered the Confederate States of America on July 2, 1861. All actions related to secession, other than the mandated referendum, were superfluous and had no legal effect.

After the United States suspended mail service at Memphis, the only available route from the United States into the Confederacy was via Nashville.

The last through-day for the route via Nashville was June 7, after which date all southbound mail was diverted to the U.S. Dead Letter Office, per the June 7 U.S. Postal Discontinuance Notice.

The cover arrived at Athens, Tennessee,

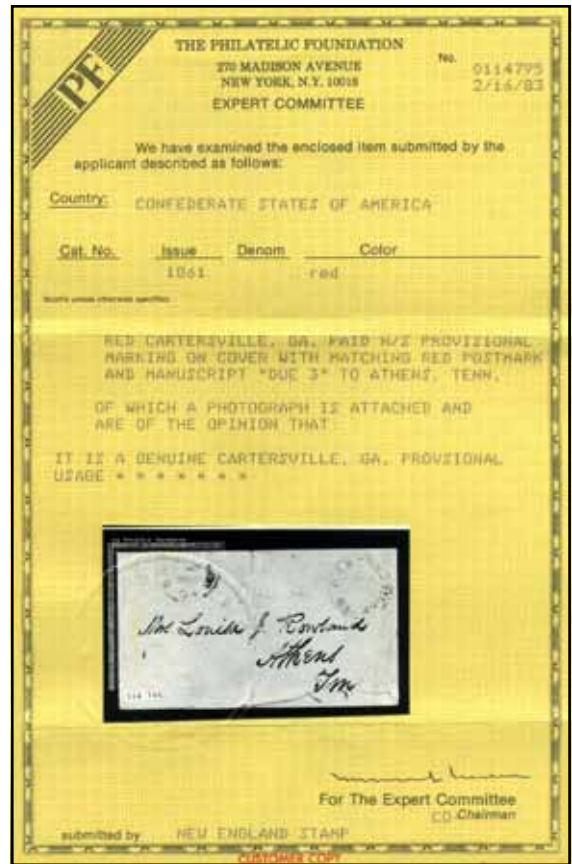


Figure 2: 1983 PF certificate #0114795, issued to New England Stamp Company, when this provisional was a new find.

during the period of time that the U.S. Post Office began suspending mail operations in Tennessee, but prior to the Confederacy assuming postal operations in the state.

This was a very confusing time in Tennessee; some local postmasters recognized Confederate postage and others did not.

The CSA Authentication Service issued certificate #06031 to this cover on December 14, 2015, opining that it is "genuine as described. The penciled "DUE 3" marking is the postage due on arrival at Athens, Tennessee, which still operated as a U.S. post office."

Both Confederate and U.S. postal fees were paid on the subject cover. While there are a number of similar uses recognized by serious Confederate students, they are not well known to the general collector.

For the postal historian, it is a tangible example of the divided loyalties and postal allegiances in Tennessee at that pivotal time.

Endnotes

- 1 Patricia A. Kaufmann, Francis J. Crown, Jr., Jerry S. Palazolo, *Confederate States of American Catalog and Handbook of Stamps and Postal History*, Confederate Stamp Alliance, 2012.
- 2 Donna Houseman, *2016 Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps & Covers*, Sidney, Ohio: Amos Media, 2015.
- 3 Francis J. Crown Jr., editor, *Surveys of the Confederate Postmasters' Provisionals*, Lawrence, Mass.: Quarterman Publications, 1982.
- 4 "Cartersville, Georgia, U.S.A., Roadside Georgia," <http://roadsidegeorgia.com/city/cartersville.html>. Accessed July 4, 2016.
- 5 "Cartersville, Georgia," Wikipedia. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cartersville,_Georgia. Accessed July 4, 2016.
- 6 Francis J. Crown Jr., *Preliminary Census of Georgia Postmasters' Provisionals*, 2001.
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