

# Texas During the Confederate Period

## How Mail Was Handled 1861-1865



By January 1861 the citizens of Texas had become accustomed to more than 15 years in the United States (US) postal system, with its stability, consistency and ease of use. There were over 750 operating post offices in the state, stamps were plentiful and patrons could even purchase pre-stamped embossed envelopes. While not immediate, that began to change on 1 February 1861. Despite the initial patriotic euphoria of secession, by 1 June 1861 the US had severed postal relations with the Confederate States of America (CSA) and the postal matters in Texas began to slowly deteriorate. Postmasters and citizens had to adapt to hardship and an ever-changing system ...“to get the mail through.”

This exhibit presents four different categories and displays the many ways mail was handled in Trans-Mississippi Confederate Texas...by post offices, postmasters, postal patrons, soldiers and government officials.

**US Postal System** – Shown are examples of how postal patrons, Texas post offices and postmasters co-existed with the US postal system between 1 February and 31 May 1861. A “first day cover” mailed on the day the Texas Secession Convention voted to secede from the Union, a cover mailed on the day Texas joined the CSA and a “last day” of US postal relations with a **SOUTH. LETTER UNPAID** marking are displayed. Included are uses of the 3c Nesbitt, Star Die stamped envelopes and covers franked with US 3c adhesives.

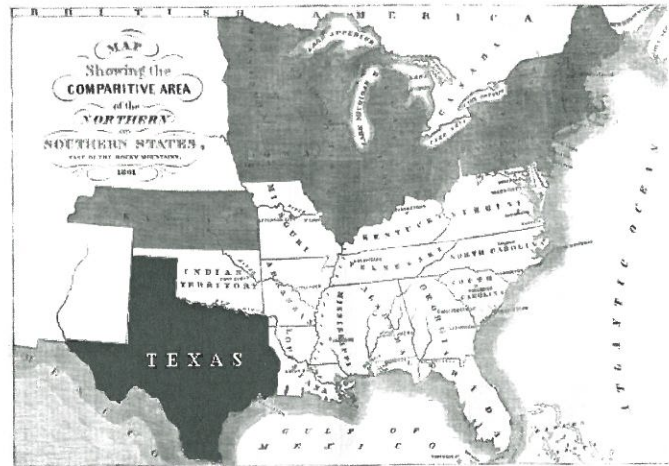
**CSA Postal System** – Confederate postage stamps were not available when the US severed postal relations with the Southern states. It was a complicated time and postmasters became very creative, from necessity, in dealing with the evolving situation. Examples of invalid US adhesives used in Texas and mail sent through the US system after the severance of relations are shown. Types of Texas postmarks, provisional adhesives and handstamps used during this early period are all displayed. Eventually CSA-produced adhesive stamps arrived in Texas and examples of the issues and their uses are also shown.

**1863-1865 Dealing with Adversity** – Between 1862 and 1863 the mood of Texas citizens transformed from optimism to one of increasing anxiety. From patriotic envelopes to adversity covers and special circuitous mail routes...the impact on the postal patron was extreme. Shown are examples of that change through various forms of adversity, wallpaper, turned and reused covers. Examples of special mail routes are displayed highlighted by Government Express, Blockade-Run, Trans-Rio Grande and Flag-of-Truce covers.

**Military, Government and Departmental Uses** – Shown are examples of how government and military personnel...both officers and soldiers...handled their correspondence during the course of the conflict.

On **February 1, 1861**, the Texas Secession Convention voted 166 – 8 to secede from the Union.

The convention was convened January 28<sup>th</sup> in Austin despite several delaying tactics from sitting Governor Sam Houston, a staunch Unionist. The drafted ordinance called for a public referendum vote to decide the issue which was scheduled for February 23<sup>rd</sup>. The United States postal system was serving Texas at the time.



## February 1, 1861 – Texas Secession Convention votes to Secede from the Union



Fort Quitman, TX to Johnston, RI

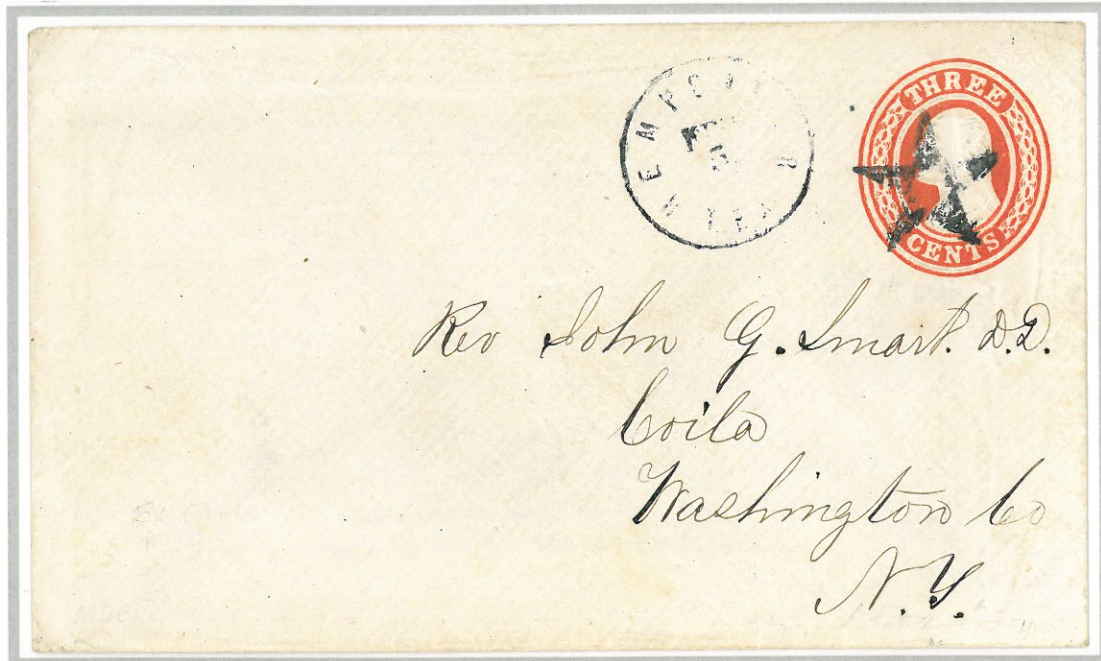
February 1, (1861)

Double letter rate paid in US postage by 3c 1857 issue on 'star die' entire from soldier stationed in western Texas. Letter traveled overland to Sherman TX then via St. Louis to destination.

Sender writes: "...that Texas was going out [of the Union] on the 28<sup>th</sup> of the month [January]."



Texas and the other seceded states continued to use the stable US postal system, uninterrupted, for handling the mails during this uncertain transitional period.



Hempstead, TX to Coila, NY

February 5, (1861)

Single letter rate paid in US postage by Nesbitt stamped envelope canceled by hollow-star killer.

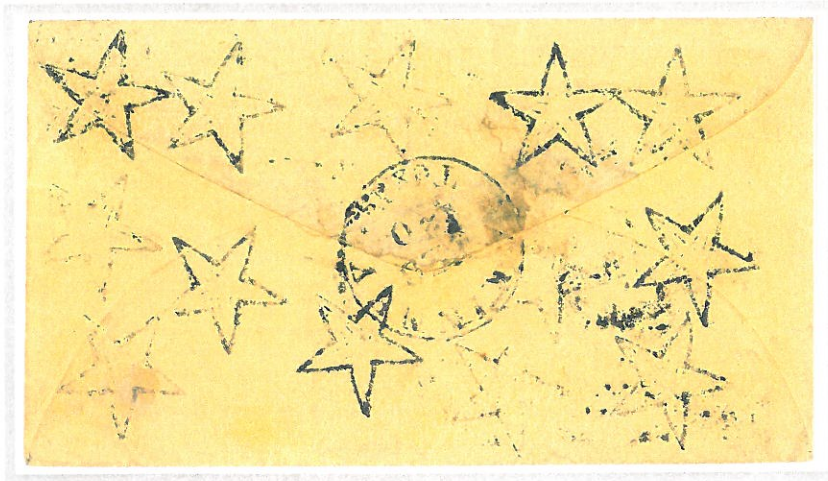
Sender writes: "I suppose you have seen by the papers eve this that Texas has seceded from the Union and is once more an '**Independent Republic**'."



Military Institute, KY to Port Caddo, TX

February 7, (1861)

In-bound letter addressed to the "**Republic of Texas**".



Postmaster B.F. Engle's patriotic fervor created the 'first Texas patriotic' envelope with multiple strikes of the star killer on reverse.

**McKinney "Star Patriotic"**  
*Texas Confederate Icon*



McKinney, TX to Russelville, TN

February 20, (1861)

Single letter rate paid in US postage by 'star die' entire canceled by beveled star killer.



## Overseas from 'Independent' Texas



## San Antonio, TX to Fulda, Germany

**February 28, (1861)**

Foreign destination from 'independent' Texas traveled from San Antonio to Galveston then by ship to New York via Bremen Packet to Germany.

### March 2, 1861 – Texas Ordinance of Secession Effective



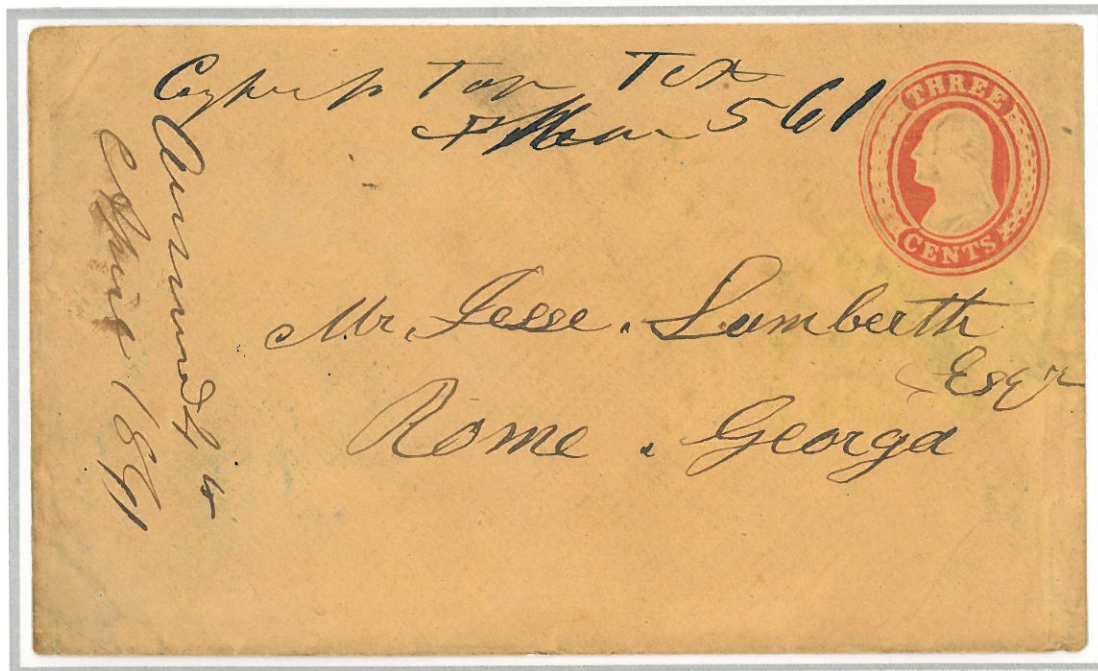
Centreville, TX, to Spartanburgh CH, SC

**March 2, (1861)**

Single letter rate paid by 3c 1857 issue on cover to Spartanburgh C.H. SC.



March 5, 1861 – Texas Accepts Invitation to Join the Confederate States of America



Cypress Top, TX to Rome, GA

March 5, (18)61

3c Nesbitt stamped envelope paid the US letter rate to Georgia on the day Texas joined the Confederate States of America by state ordinance. On March 2, 1861 the Congress of the CSA approved admission of Texas to the Confederacy. On March 5, 1861, "at Austin City", the representatives of Texas accepted the invitation to join the CSA.



Lancaster, TX to Paris, TX

March 10, (1861)

Existing US "PAID" handstamp used by Confederate Texas postmaster on cover with no rate indicated.



March 11, 1861 – Earliest recorded Texas Railroad Cover

*Texas Confederate Icon*



GH&H RR Texas to Orange CH, VA

March 11, (18)61

US double letter rate paid by 3c 1857 issue on cover endorsed **GH&HRR Texas Confederate States of A.** The Galveston, Houston and Henderson Railroad had recently completed the line between Galveston and Houston and was a vital supply line during the Confederate period.



Houston, TX to DeSoto Parish, LA  
Mansfield, LA to Kingston, LA

March 9, 1861  
March 18, (1861)

US letter rate paid by 3c 1857 issue in Confederate Texas then forwarded by a Confederate Louisiana postmaster "Due PM 3c".



Bonham, TX to Gainesville, TX  
Gainesville, TX to Denton, TX

April 18, 1861  
undated

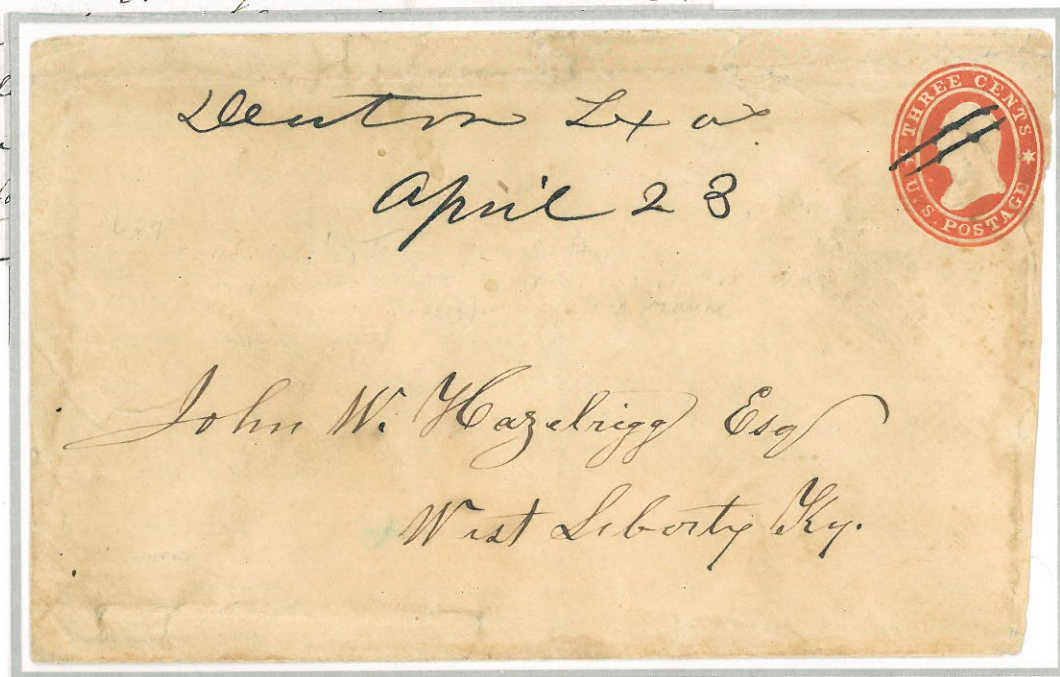
3c Nesbitt stamped envelope paid the US letter rate in Confederate Texas to Gainesville where the cover was forwarded 35 miles south to Denton "Due 3ct".



By April of 1861, the Overland Mail Route through Texas had closed and other mail routes between North and South were being abandoned due to armed conflict. Finally on May 27, 1861 a US Post Office order suspended all mail service in the seceded states effective May 31.

*The Government has changed the Overland Mail route to California. Altogether, it will be run North of Texas... I am very sorry that we lose this convenience. Our mail facilities are now worth but little."*

... "The Government has changed the Overland Mail Route to California, so as to run North of Texas... I am very sorry that we lose this convenience. Our mail facilities are now worth but little."



**Denton, TX to West Liberty, KY**

**April 23, (1861)**

US letter rate paid by 3c 'star die' entire via a north Texas remnant of the Overland Mail route still under US contract. Writer discusses the mail service from Texas.



**Houston, TX to Middlebury, CT**

**May 29, 1861**

US letter rate paid by 3c 1857 issue from Confederate Texas to Connecticut. Recipient endorsed "Last Letter before the War opened" at lower left.

After suspension of postal relations with the South, northbound Texas mail, routed via Memphis or Nashville, was forwarded and held in Louisville, KY. US postage used from the South was regarded as contraband and was refused as prepayment.

## May 31, 1861 – the Last Day of US Postal Service in Confederate Texas



Milford, TX to Bloomfield, KY

May 31, (1861)

Postage prepaid by 3c 1857 issue in Milford, Texas while still technically a US post office. Routed to Louisville, KY via Memphis where it was held. Released to final destination on June 20, 1861 by "SOUTHN. LETTER UNPAID" and "DUE 3" handstamps.

The only reported SOUTHN. LETTER UNPAID cover from Texas held privately.



## Confederate Postal System

Created by Proclamation  
...not all had received the word

By proclamation of CSA Postmaster General John H. Reagan, on June 1, 1861 all existing postmasters, contractors and special route agents engaged in the transmission and delivery of mails within the limits of the CSA were instructed to assume control of the postal service therein. However the inadvertent use of the US postal system and its postage continued for a time.



Lattington, TX to Caldwell, TX

June 3, 1861

Prepaid by the 1c 1857 issue, the postmaster at Lattington permitted the use of US adhesive stamps 3 days after the creation of the Confederate postal system.



Galveston, TX to Prussia

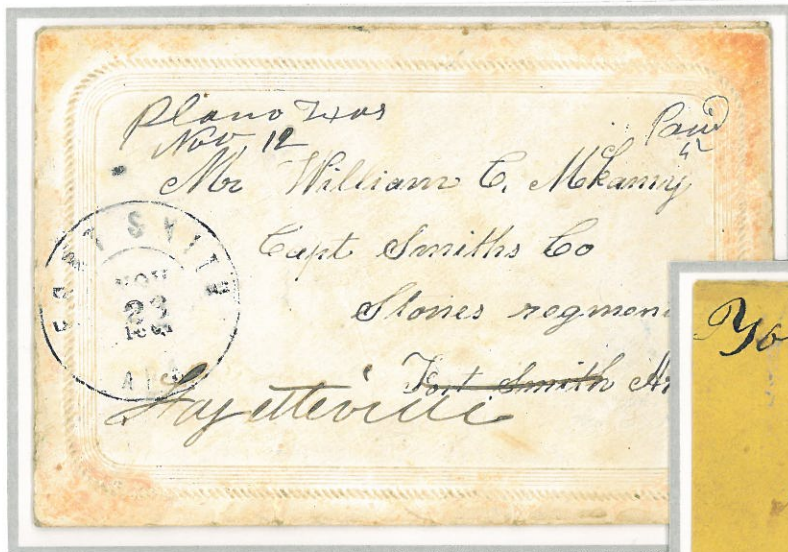
June 9, 1861

Folded letter datelined "Galveston June 9<sup>th</sup> (18)61" is transported out of Galveston either under separate cover or by ship captain and reached New York City where it was placed into the US postal system well after June 1<sup>st</sup>. As a final irony the US was credited 23c for a letter mailed from Confederate Texas.



While "ownership" of the system and some regulations were changed, Texas postal employees generally continued the same practices as before the war.

Smaller towns continued to endorse mail using manuscript town and rate markings.



Plano, TX to Ft. Smith, AR Nov 12, 1861  
Ft. Smith, AR to Fayetteville, AR Nov 23, 1861



Young's Settlement, TX to Austin, TX June 19, (1863)



Mosquito Prairie, TX to Mifflin, TN March 17, 1862



In most cases, larger towns continued to use existing town and rate handstamps.



Anderson, Texas used an existing pre-war circular date stamp and "PAID" handstamps in combination with manuscript and handstamped rate values.





Jefferson, Texas used an existing pre-war circular date stamp and "PAID" handstamp in combination with a variety of manuscript and handstamped rate values.



Confederate postal regulations initially established the single letter rate at five cents for letters traveling up to 500 miles...a distance which applied to most intrastate mail. Due to the initial and frequent unavailability of postal adhesives, Texas postmasters relied heavily on handstamps to mark and rate mail.



Palestine, TX to Paris, TX

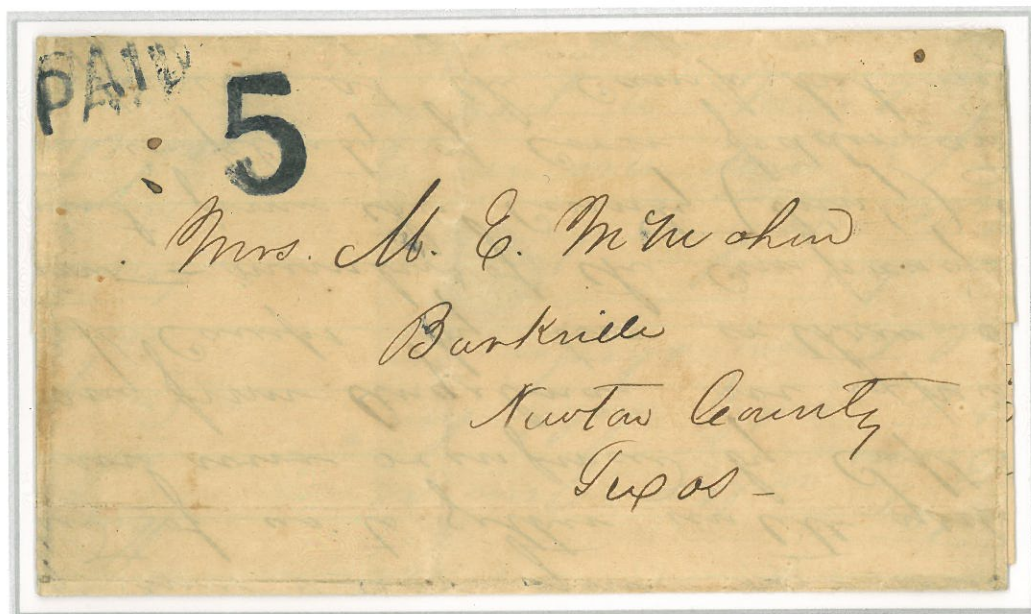
(June) 2, (1861)

Endorsement on verso and original enclosure verify postmaster failed to change cds month from May to June. Mailed on the second day of the CSA postal system.



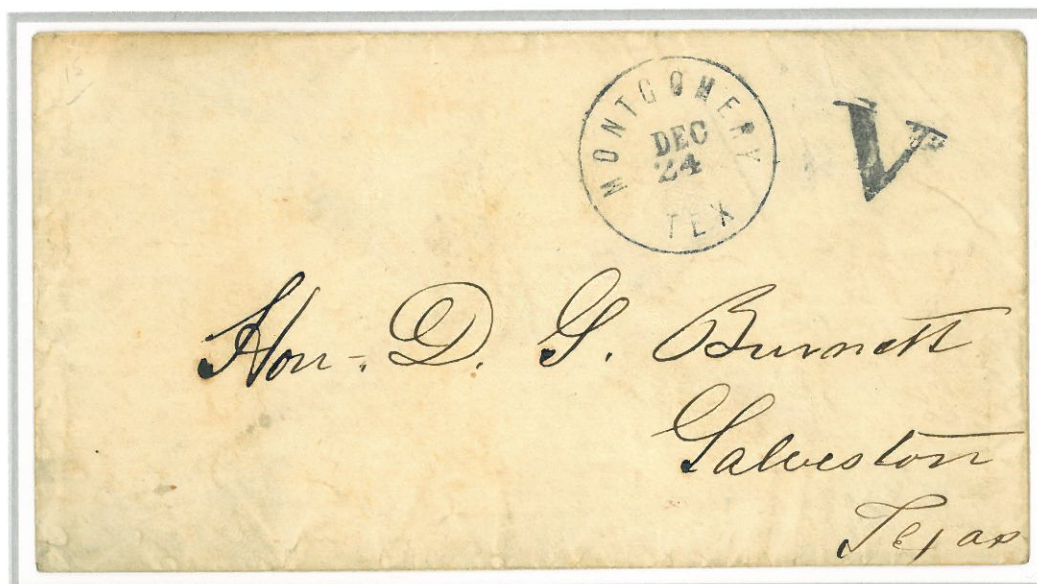
Austin, TX to Bethel, TX

August 31, 1861



Sumpter, TX to Burk(e)ville, TX

(March 13, 1862)



Montgomery, TX to Galveston, TX

December 24, (1861)

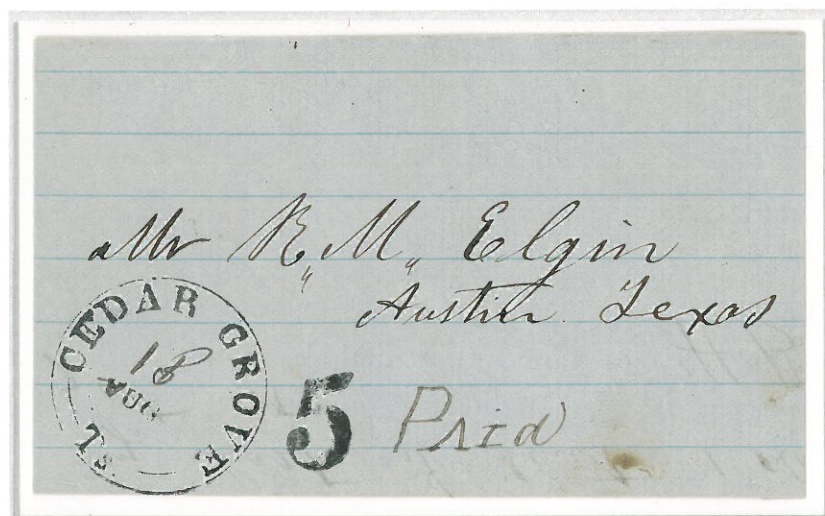
With very few exceptions, all CSA mail had to be prepaid. However, on occasion a postmaster would neglect to mark a letter with a PAID marking. This 1861 letter to Galveston was 'rated' but not marked 'PAID'.





Jasper, TX to Sequin, TX

May 19, 18(62)



Cedar Grove, TX to Austin, TX

August 18, 1862

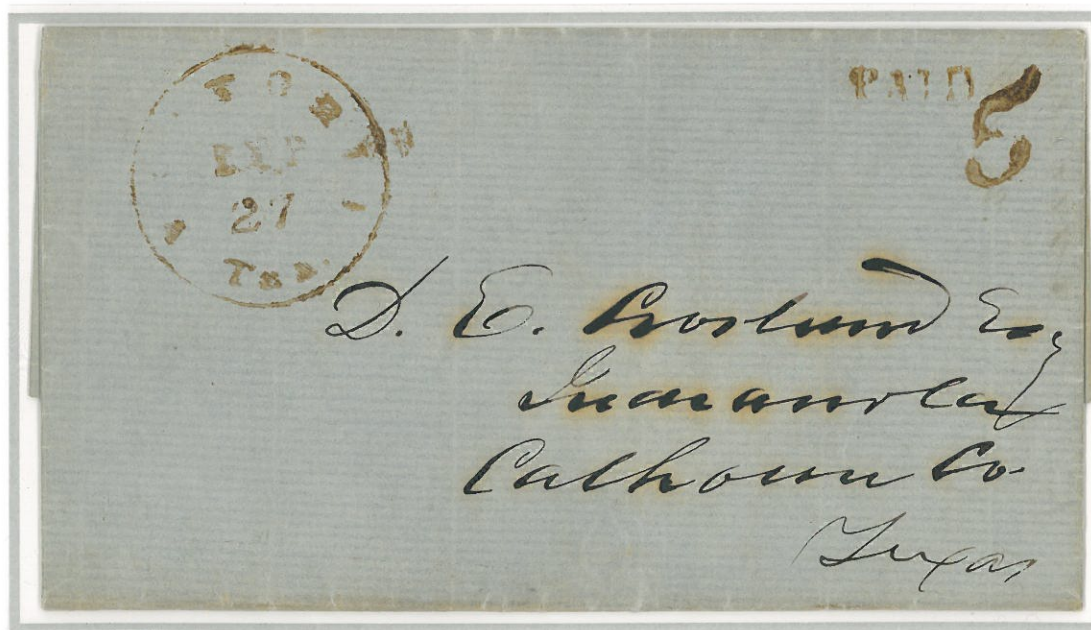


Chapel Hill, TX to Williamston, NC

June 26, (1861)

Underpaid for the over 500 mile journey to North Carolina from Confederate Texas.

Endorsed "Due 5" by postmaster at destination.



Victoria, TX to Indianola, TX

Sept 27, (1861)



On occasion, a cover would be marked "PAID" with no specific rate endorsed or noted.



Round Top, TX to Hempstead, TX

Sept 28, (186?)

Elongated octagon frame "PAID" handstamp at upper right with no rate endorsed.



Millican, TX to Hempstead, TX

undated

Millican rimless circle "PAID" handstamp not dated or rated.



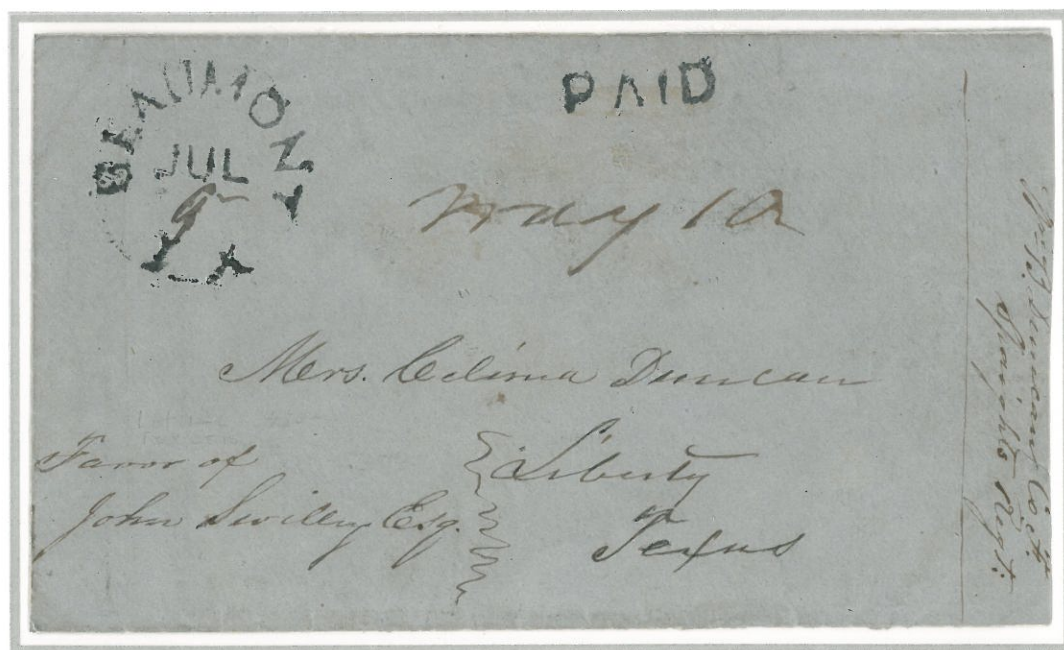


Kaufman, TX to Bonham, TX  
Oct 23, 186(?)

"PAID" and manuscript "2"  
prepaid the **unsealed**  
circular rate.

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Way letters were those received by the contract mail carrier "on the way" between post offices. Letters were required to be deposited into the next post office the carrier reached. The CSA had no regulation concerning the handling of way letters and the practice was a carry-over from the old US system.



the Texas field to Liberty, TX via Beaumont, TX

July 9, 186(?)

Received from soldier in the field by mail carrier en route to Beaumont where it was placed in the mails. Endorsed "WAY 10" and marked "PAID" at the Beaumont post office.

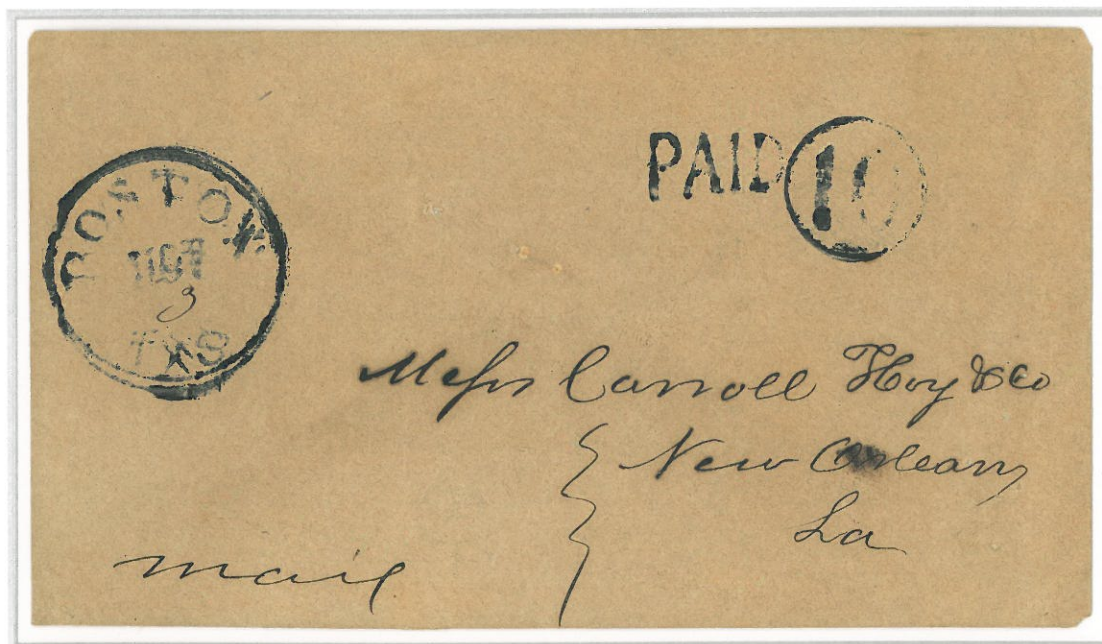


Effective July 1, 1862 the single letter rate was increased to ten cents.  
This became "the workhorse rate" of the Confederate Texas mails until the end of the war.



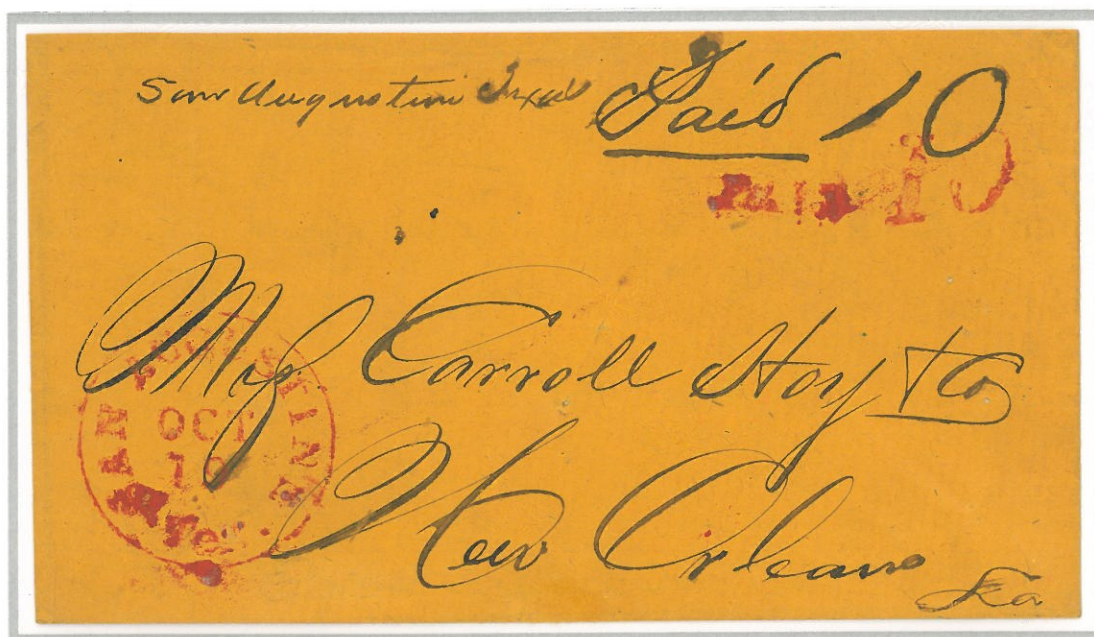
Bastrop, TX to Houston, TX

October 20, (1863)



Boston, TX to New Orleans, LA

November 3, (1861)



San Augustine, TX to New Orleans, LA

October 19, (1861)

Unusual use with town and rate markings both **endorsed and struck by handstamp** mailed to New Orleans before the Union occupation in April 1862.



Clarksville, TX to Jefferson, TX

(May 2, 1863)





Paris, TX to Unionville, TX

April 23, (1864)



Velasco, TX to Clarksville TX

June 4, (1867)

"PAID 10" in circle marked at upper right of cover in an area which contained extraneous doodling.



## Confederate Postal System

## Provisional Handstamps ...to create Provisional Envelopes

Prior to the receipt of general issue CSA adhesives, several Texas postmasters produced 'rated' envelopes in advance of use. These were sold to the postal patron 'over-the-counter'. In some cases, new marking devices were created to produce these envelopes...in other cases, existing devices were modified.

**Galveston, TX  
To Richmond, TX  
1861**

Provisional "PAID"  
marking used in  
conjunction with the  
"5" rate stamp to create  
provisional envelope.



**Galveston, TX to Yorkville, SC  
June 6, 18(61)**

Provisional "PAID" marking  
used in conjunction with the "5"  
rate stamp to create envelope.  
Underpaid to South Carolina.

**Galveston, TX to Anderson, TX  
May 8, (186?)**

Worn provisional "PAID" marking  
used as a handstamped "PAID" in  
conjunction with the "10" rate on  
folded adversary cover. A use later in  
the war and not prepared in advance.



Galveston provisional handstamps were used to create provisional envelopes and to frank mail as handstamped paid.





E

Galveston, TX to New Orleans, LA

??? 31, 1861

Provisional "PAID" marking created from a pre-war Galveston circular date stamp with "5" and "PAID" added to reflect rate. This handstamp was used to prepare envelopes in advance for over-the-counter sales to postal patrons.  
**The only reported use of this provisional handstamp.**



E

Galveston, TX to Columbia TX

November ??, (186?)

Provisional "PAID" marking created from a pre-war Galveston integral '1 PAID' circular date stamp by elimination of the numeral '1'. This handstamp was then used in conjunction with a "10" rate stamp to prepare envelopes in advance for over-the-counter sales to postal patrons.





Austin, TX to San Augustine, TX

August 17, 1862

Provisional "PAID 10" marking created from a pre-war double-circle datestamp with rate added to date section. This device was used to prepare envelopes in advance of sale.

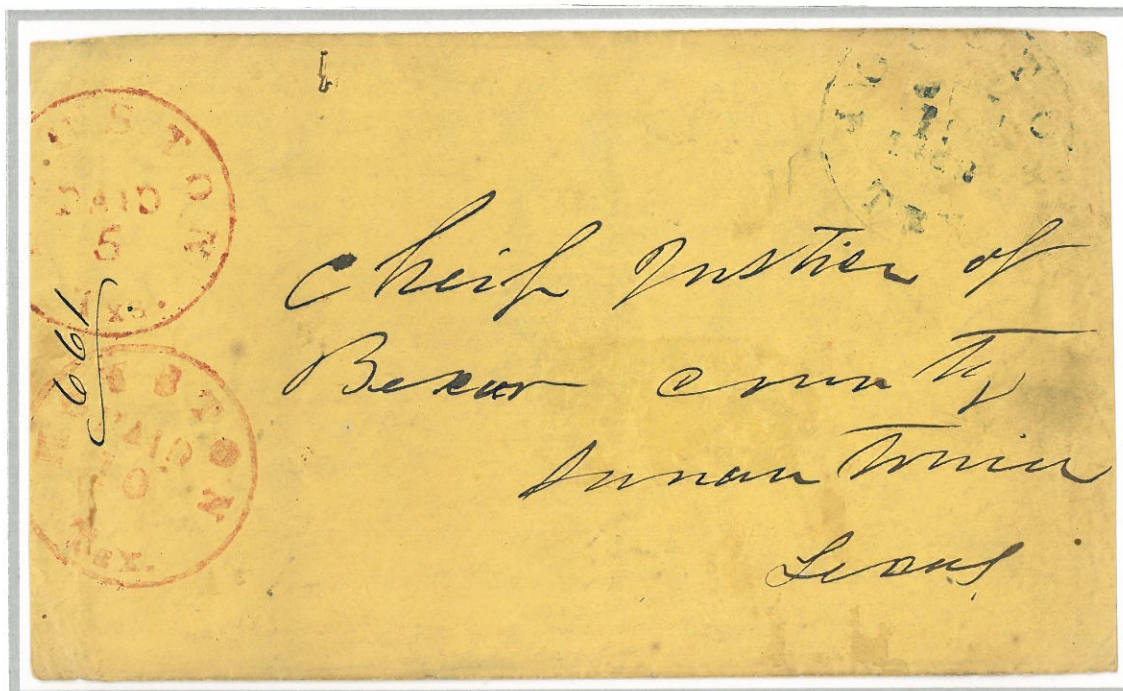


San Antonio, TX to Dallas, TX

November 10, 1861

Provisional "PAID" marking created from a pre-war circular date stamp and "10" rate stamp used to frank district court mail to Dallas in north Texas. **One of only three reported examples of this mark.**





Houston, TX to San Antonio, TX

October 19, 1862

Provisional "PAID 5" marking created from a pre-war "Txs." circular date stamp used to prepare envelope, re-rated with provisional "PAID 10" by postal employee after the July 1, 1862 single letter rate increase.



Huntsville, TX to Columbia TX

August 17, 186(?)

Provisional marking created from pre-war circular date stamp and "PAID 10" handstamp used by the Huntsville postmaster to prepare envelopes for sale to postal patrons.

Fewer than three examples of the Huntsville marking are reported to exist.

Shortly after June 1, 1861, postmasters in some cities east of the Mississippi River began producing "provisional" adhesive stamps to facilitate normal postal business until general issue CSA postage stamps became available. However in Texas, the production of these adhesives seemed to be more erratic and in many cases was in response to late-war general issue stamp shortages.



Beaumont, TX to San Augustine, TX

April 9, 1864

Beaumont 10c provisional on yellow paper prepaid the single letter rate on **turned cover** originally sent from San Augustine to Sabine Pass.

Only five examples of this adhesive are recorded...all on cover...this being the earliest recorded example.



It is not known when Texas post offices first received Confederate general issue postage stamps. Based on a personal survey of over 200 Texas covers, it probably happened in the fourth quarter of 1861. Confederate issued stamps used on cover prior to March 1862 are scarce.



Rusk, TX to Little Rock, AR

December 3, (1861)

Endorsed "Answd Dec 16/61" on reverse.



Bastrop, TX to Hollendale, TX

February 24, (1862)



Decatur, TX to Cleveland, E(ast) TN

April 5, (18)62

5c green pair paid the over 500 mile rate to Tennessee.



Nacogdoches, TX to Washington, TX

May 26, 1862





Linden, TX to Jefferson, TX

June 6, (1862)

Mailed a few weeks before the suspension of the five cent single letter rate on July 1, 1862.



Richmond, TX to 'near' Chapel Hill, TX

November 29, (1862)

Letter mailed after the July 1, 1862 single letter rate was increased to ten cents and endorsed "Due 5<sup>c</sup>".





Sutherland Springs, TX to Waskey's Mills, VA

September 27, (1862)

Hoyer & Ludwig lithograph printing of 1861 showing imprint.



Houston, TX to Seguin, TX

February 26, 1863

J.T. Paterson & Co. lithograph printing of 1862 on cover  
from soldier in Company D, 4<sup>th</sup> Texas Volunteers.



Stamped address band enclosing *The Tri-Weekly Telegraph* of Houston



Houston, TX

August 26, 1863

The 1862 2c green adhesive was issued for prepayment of drop letters, circulars and newspapers. Individually mailed newspapers weighing up to three ounces could be posted for two cents.

The only recorded example of a 2c green adhesive used on an address band with original newspaper.

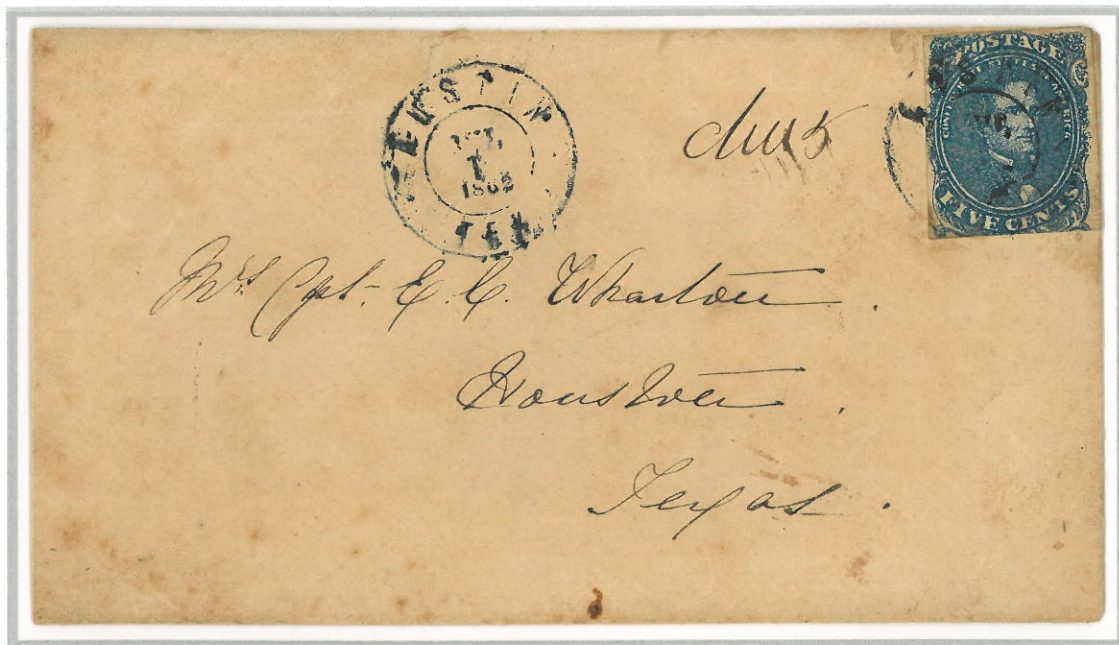




Jefferson, TX to Rusk, TX

June 18, (1862)

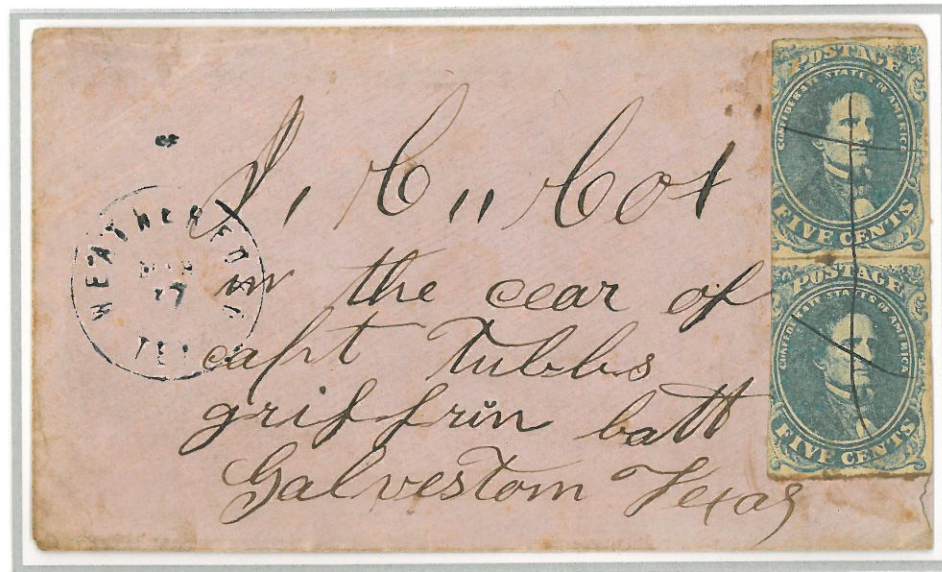
An early Texas use of this adhesive.



Austin, TX to Houston, TX

July 1, 1862

First day of the ten cent single letter rate, underpaid and endorsed "due 5".



Weatherford, TX to Galveston, TX

March 17, (186?)

Two single adhesives prepay the ten cent single letter rate.



Marshall, TX to Little Rock, AR

September 10, (1863)

Horizontal pair prepaid the ten cent single letter rate to a soldier in Arkansas.



The typographed issue of 1862 reached Texas shortly before the July 1, 1862 single letter rate was increased. As a result, most Texas correspondence was posted with 'pairs' of this adhesive.



Eagle Pass, TX to San Antonio, TX

May 19, (186?)



Port Lavaca, TX to Seguin, TX

March 20, 186(?)

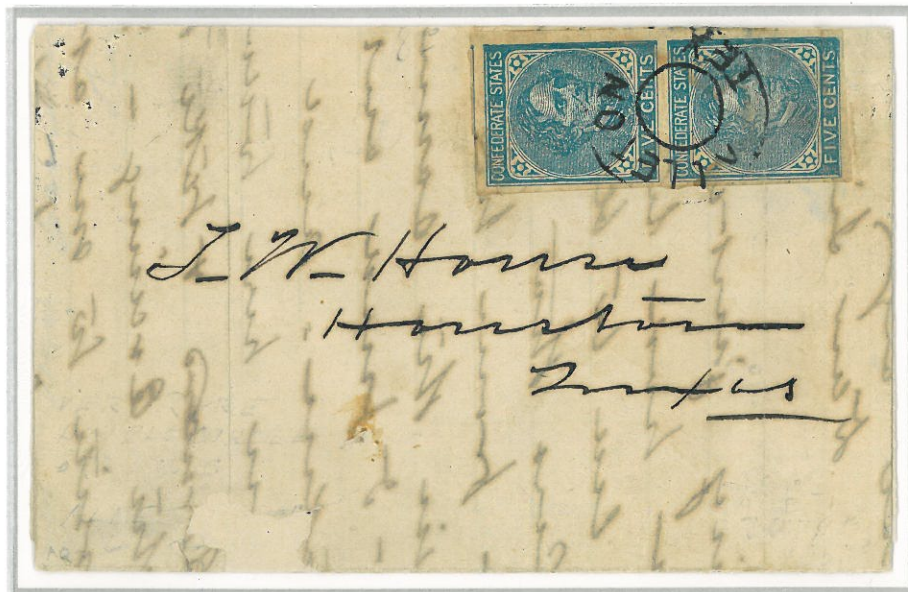
E



Panna Maria, TX to San Antonio, TX

July 13, (18)63

Stamps lifted to show "Leland's Rancho" corner card.



Alleton, TX to Houston, TX

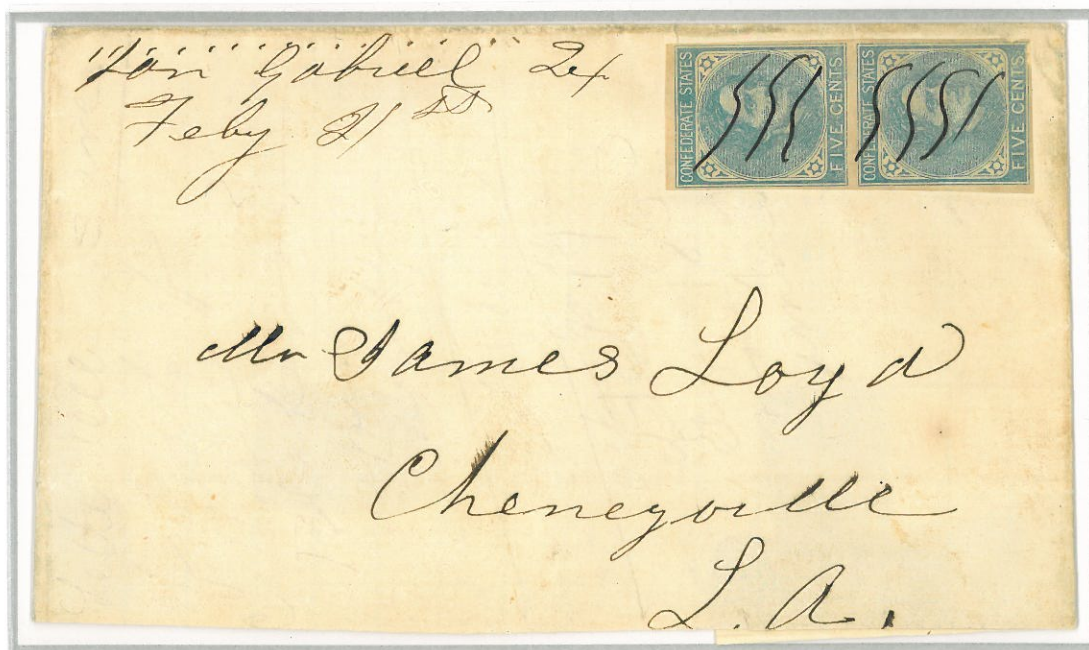
(November 12, 1863)





Beaver, TX to Collinsburgh, LA

July 13, (1863)



San Gabriel, TX to Cheneyville, LA

February 21, (1863)



POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

JOHN H. REAGAN,

Postmaster General of the Confederate States of America,

Carthage, TX to Woods, TX  
October 8, 1864  
Prepaid with 10c blue adhesive

Waxahachie, TX to Bonham, TX  
July 1, (186?)  
Prepaid and endorsed "(Express)".

TO ALL WHO SHALL SEE THESE PRESENTS, G

Whereas, On the 12 day of July 1861, Joseph H. M

Waxahachie in the County of Ellis, State of



Galveston, TX to  
General in the field  
September 27, (1864)  
Addressed and prepaid  
to Maj. Gen. Wharton  
"In the Field", Arkansas  
and redirected to  
Shreveport, Louisiana.

John H. Reagan

POSTMASTER GENERAL.

San Antonio, TX to Bastrop, TX  
May 12, (186?)  
Prepaid and addressed to a Texas Cadet  
at the Bastrop Military Institute.

Waxahachie, Texas Postmaster Commission Certificate signed by John H. Reagan, CSA Postmaster General dated July 12, 1861

The only Confederate Texas Certificate reported to exist





Anderson, TX to Galveston, TX

November 28, (186?)



Tyler, TX to Plantersville, TX

January 18, (186?)

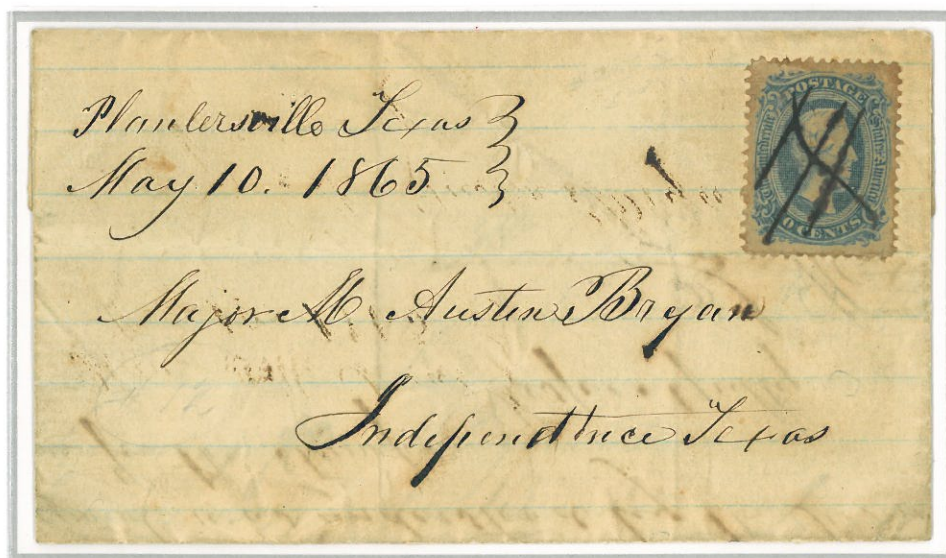


Mailed to brothers Moses Austin Bryan and Guy Morrison Bryan,  
...cousins of Stephen F. Austin, father of Texas...  
the only two recorded examples of the officially perforated stamps used from Texas.



Navasota, TX to Shreveport, LA

not dated



Plantersville, TX to Independence, TX

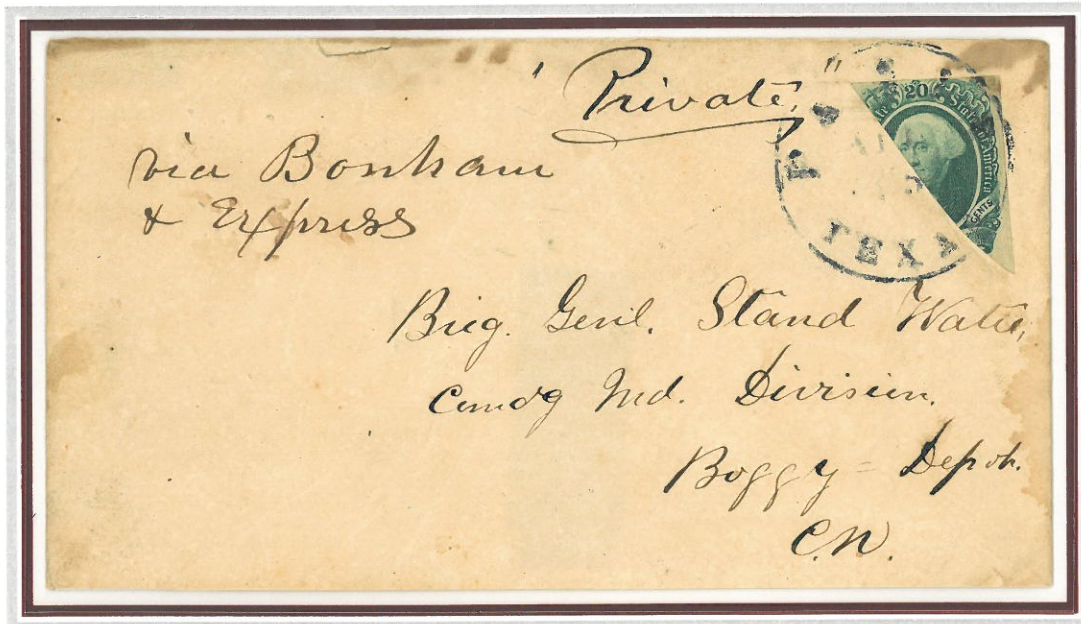
May 10, 1865

In his folded letter, the Plantersville, TX postmaster, J.M. Baker, states...  
*"I thank you for the stamps".*



Generally Texas postal patrons bisected this stamp to pay the single letter rate.

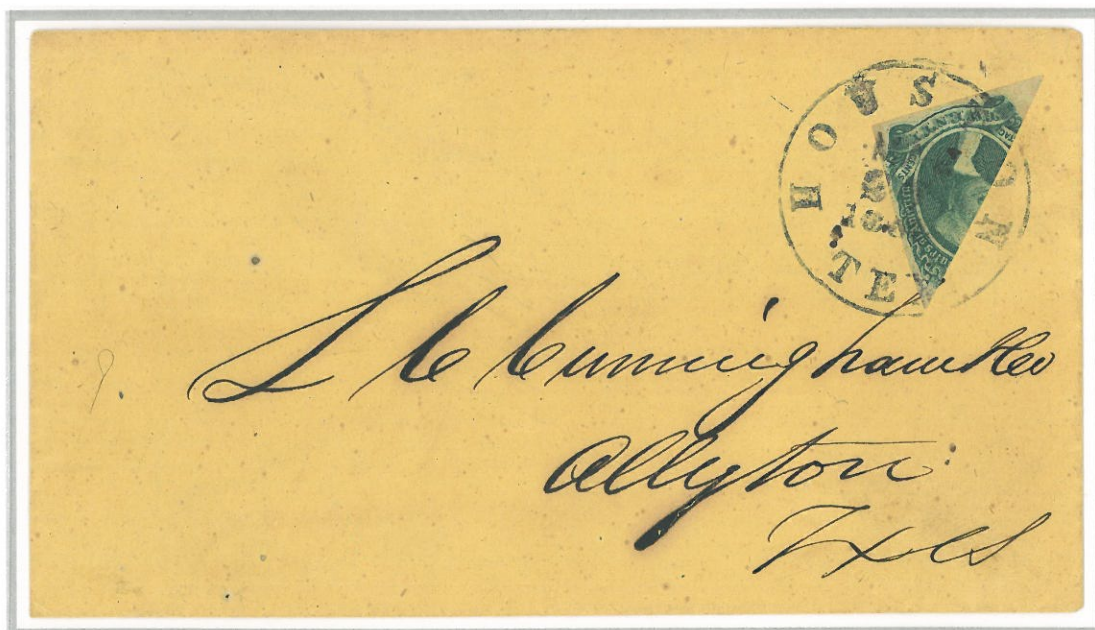
CSA General Stand Watie 20c Bisect  
Confederate Texas Icon



Paris, TX to Boggy Depot, Cherokee Nation

April 15, (186?)

Addressed to CSA Brigadier General Stand Watie, Commanding Indian Division and principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation. Endorsed "via Bonham & Express".



Houston, TX to All(e)yton, TX

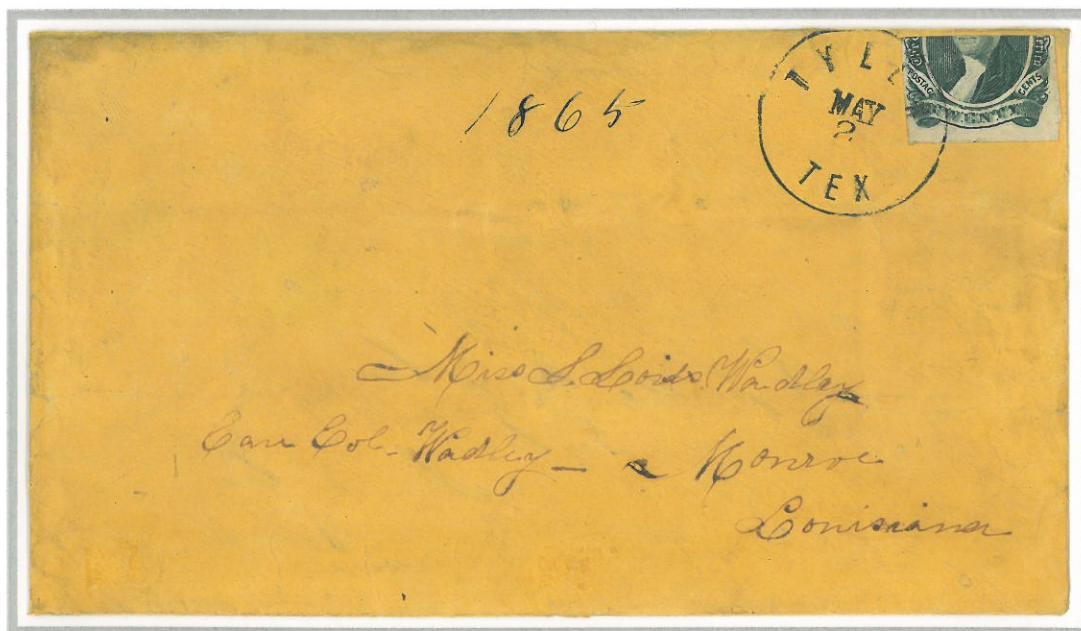
Ma(?) 2(?), 186(?)





Austin, TX to Weatherford, TX

April 25, 1865



Tyler, TX to Monroe, LA

May 2, 1865

Horizontally bisecting the 20c green issue was not the normal practice of postal patrons.





San Augustine, TX to La Grange, TX

June 18, 1863

1861 5c green and 1862 5c blue lithograph issues used in combination.

Endorsed on reverse "Will some friend keep this letter moving on towards LaGrange and oblige."



Tyler, TX to Corsicana, TX

November 5, 1862

Unusual combination of the  
1862 5c blue lithograph and typograph issues used in combination.



There was no extra rate of postage charged for the forwarding of first-class mail, when transmitted from the office of address to a different office. This 'forwarded' practice had its roots in the 1857 US postal regulation and was continued by the CSA.



Up-rated in Austin to satisfy the 500 mile letter rate. Cover forwarded by endorsement and hand-illustrated 'pointing finger'.

Austin, TX to Petersburg, VA  
Petersburg, VA to Charlotte, NC

June 15, 1861  
July 14, (1861)

Mailed from east of the Mississippi River, this cover was forwarded from its original destination of Galveston, TX to Richmond, VA. An unusual usage that crossed the Mississippi River twice.



Macon, GA to Galveston, TX  
Galveston, TX to Richmond, VA

August 13, (1861)  
September 1, (1861)





Folded letter mailed from east Texas to Dallas before the letter rate was increased in 1862. Forwarded by endorsement to Arkansas.

Rusk, TX to Dallas, TX  
Dallas, TX to Ft. Smith, AR

July 9, (1861)  
July 16, (1861)

Prepaid by general issue stamps in Austin, Texas and forwarded from original destination by the addition of adhesives in Matagorda, Texas. Matagorda canceled stamps lifted to show original franking.



Austin, TX to Matagorda, TX  
Matagorda, TX to Independence, TX

December 30, 1862  
January 10, (1863)



Missent letters were not affected by rate as they were the fault of the post office and in-turn, were forwarded at no additional charge.



Probably posted before Union forces took control of the Mississippi River in the summer of 1863, this letter was inadvertently sent to San Antonio where the local postmaster applied the "MISSENT" marking and forwarded to Orizaba.

Goodman, MS to Orizaba, TX  
San Antonio TX to Orizaba, TX

January ?, (186?)  
January 28, (186?)

Prepaid at Brownsville and eventually received in Austin where the local postmaster applied the "MISSENT" marking and processed the letter forward to Alabama. It is not known if the "rec'd Aug 5/64" endorsement pertains to the receipt of the letter; however, with the fall of Vicksburg and the disruption of the west to east mails, it is possible that the letter did not reach its destination until that date.



Brownsville, TX to Austin, TX  
Austin, TX to Montgomery, AL

January 20, (1863)  
?? ?? (1863)



Despite the initial patriotic fervor of many Texans and the cautious optimism of others, the general mood of the citizenry slowly turned more anxious as martial law was declared in April 1862. Paper and supply shortages, the requirement that citizens obtain a special 'pass' to travel from county to county and less-than-dependable mail routes created havoc among postal patrons and officials alike.

**Camp Scene with Flag and Standing Soldier Patriotic Cover**  
*Texas Confederate Icon*



Galveston, TX to Brownsville, TX

August 10, (186?)

1862 5c blue typographed issue on printed **Camp Scene with Flag and Standing Soldier** patriotic cover mailed to Brownsville illustrates a Texan's early patriotic feelings.

Fewer than three examples of this patriotic envelope are known used.

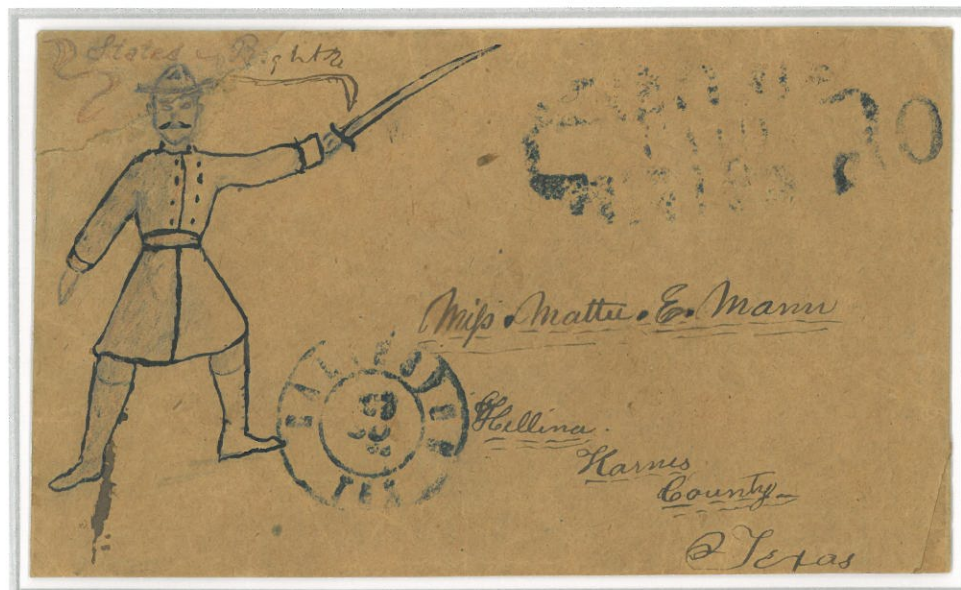




Springfield, TX to Eutaw, TX

August ?, (186?)

Single letter rate paid with 1862 5c blue lithographed issue on General P.G.T. Beauregard patriotic cover.



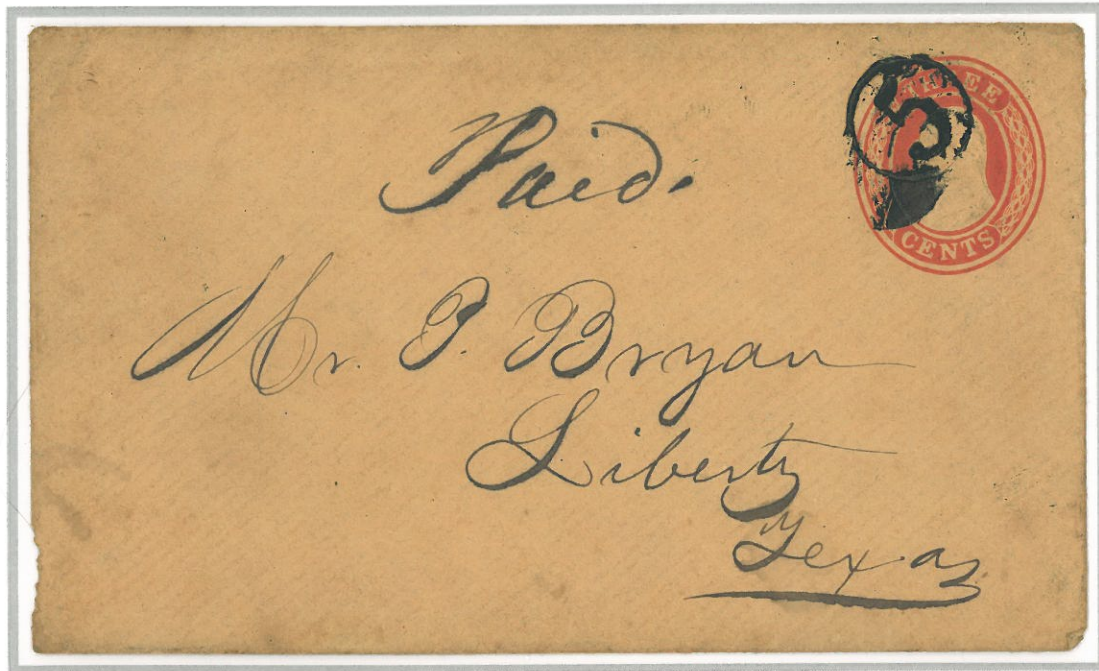
Galveston, TX to Helena, TX

(October) 30, (1863)

Hand-drawn "States Rights" patriotic cover showing CSA soldier and drawn sword.



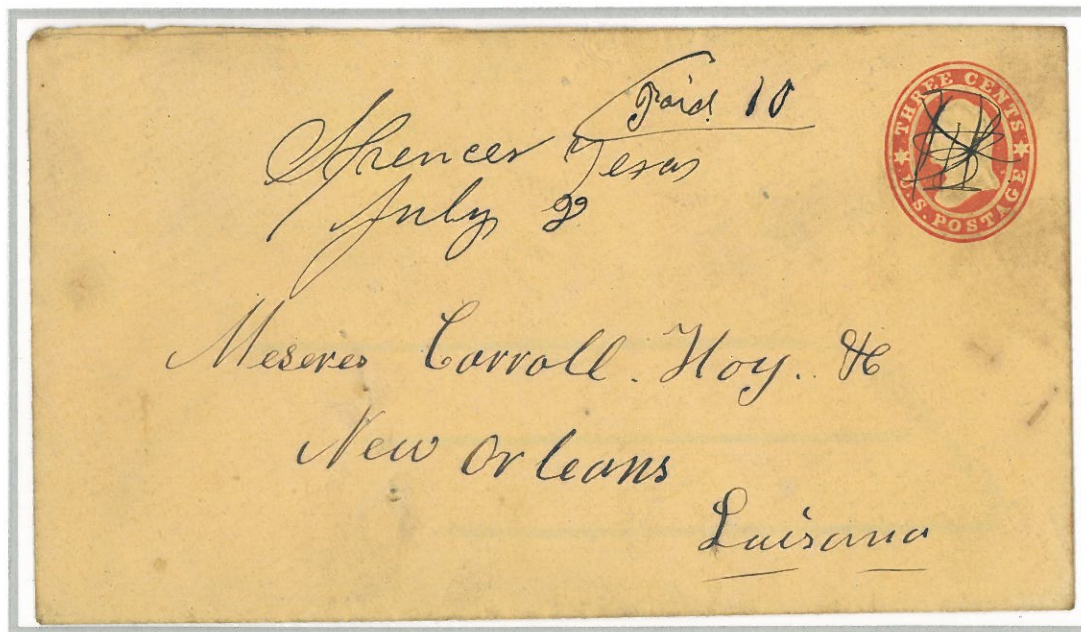
As a result of the virtual isolation of the Southern States and the lack of local paper mills, postal patrons devised various methods to deal with paper shortages. These homespun manufacturing practices provided Texas citizens the ability to handle their correspondence and mail when no envelopes were available.



Liberty, TX to Liberty, TX

(186?)

Invalid US 3c 1850 Nesbitt issue struck with "5" in circle from Liberty, TX to satisfy the CSA single letter rate.



Spencer, TX to New Orleans, LA

July 2, (1861)

Invalid US 3c 1860 'star die' rated with "Paid 10" endorsement by the local postmaster to pay the over 500 mile single letter rate to New Orleans before Union occupation in April 1862.





Anderson, TX to San Antonio, TX

December 13, (1862)

1862 5c blue typographed issue prepaid the CSA letter rate on invalid US 3c 1860 'star die' envelope.  
Stamps lifted to show 'star die' indicium.



Kickapoo, TX to Woods, TX

May 22, 1864

1863 10c blue general issue prepaid the CSA letter rate on invalid US 3c 1860 'star die' envelope.  
Stamp lifted to show 'star die' indicium.





Originally mailed in Confederate Texas with valid US 3c 'star die' entire before the secession of postal relations with the US. Turned by postal patron and reused six month later.



Hollandale, TX to Prairie Plains, TX  
Prairie Plains, TX to

March 9, 1861  
September 6, 1861



Marshall, TX to Marshall, TX  
Marshall, TX to Little Rock, AR

undated local drop  
Nov 4, (186?)

1862 5c blue lithographed issue paid the letter rate on turned cover originally posted locally in Marshall prior to the establishment of the Confederate postal system.





Cypress Top, TX to Nacogdoches, TX  
Nacogdoches, TX to Rusk, TX

Dec 12, 1862  
May 11, 1863

Shortpaid cover from southeast Texas was turned and reused with 1862 5c blue typographed pair to properly prepay the letter rate.



Nacogdoches, TX to Homer, LA  
Homer, LA to Lafayette, MS

?? (186?)  
February 28, 1865

1862 5c blue lithographed adhesive used on cover outbound from Texas to Louisiana turned and mailed east across the Mississippi River via the 40c Trans-Mississippi rate.



Cover originally franked with the Galveston provisional handstamp and "10" then turned and mailed back to Galveston a few months later.

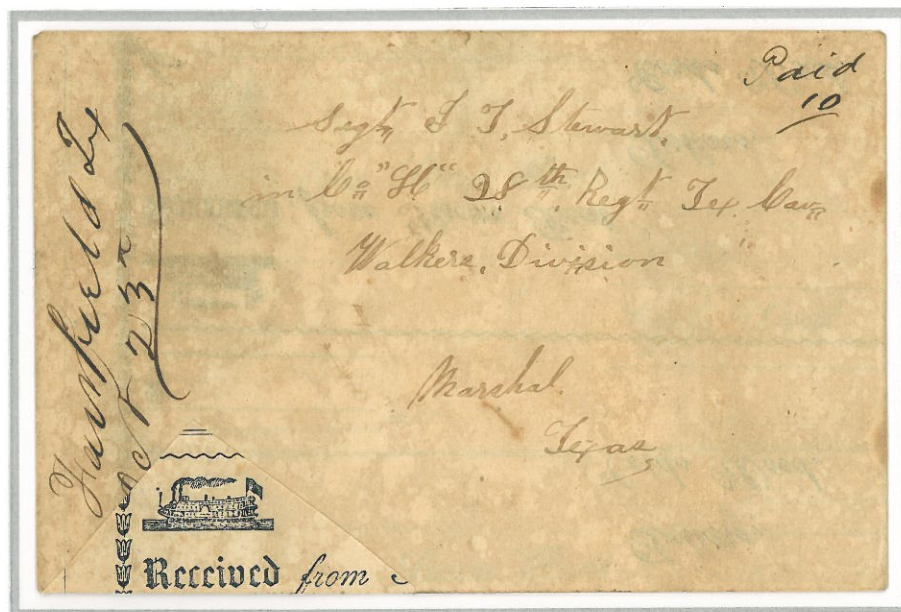


Galveston, TX to Anderson, TX  
Anderson, TX to Galveston, TX

October 26, 1863  
February 16, 1864

1863 10c blue pair paid the double weight letter rate on the return journey to Galveston.





Fairfield, TX to Marshall, TX

October 23, (186?)

"Paid 10" prepaid the single letter rate on cover made from **printed Steam Boat receipt form** addressed to Sergeant J.T. Stewart, Co. "H" 28th Regiment Texas Calvary, Walker's Division.

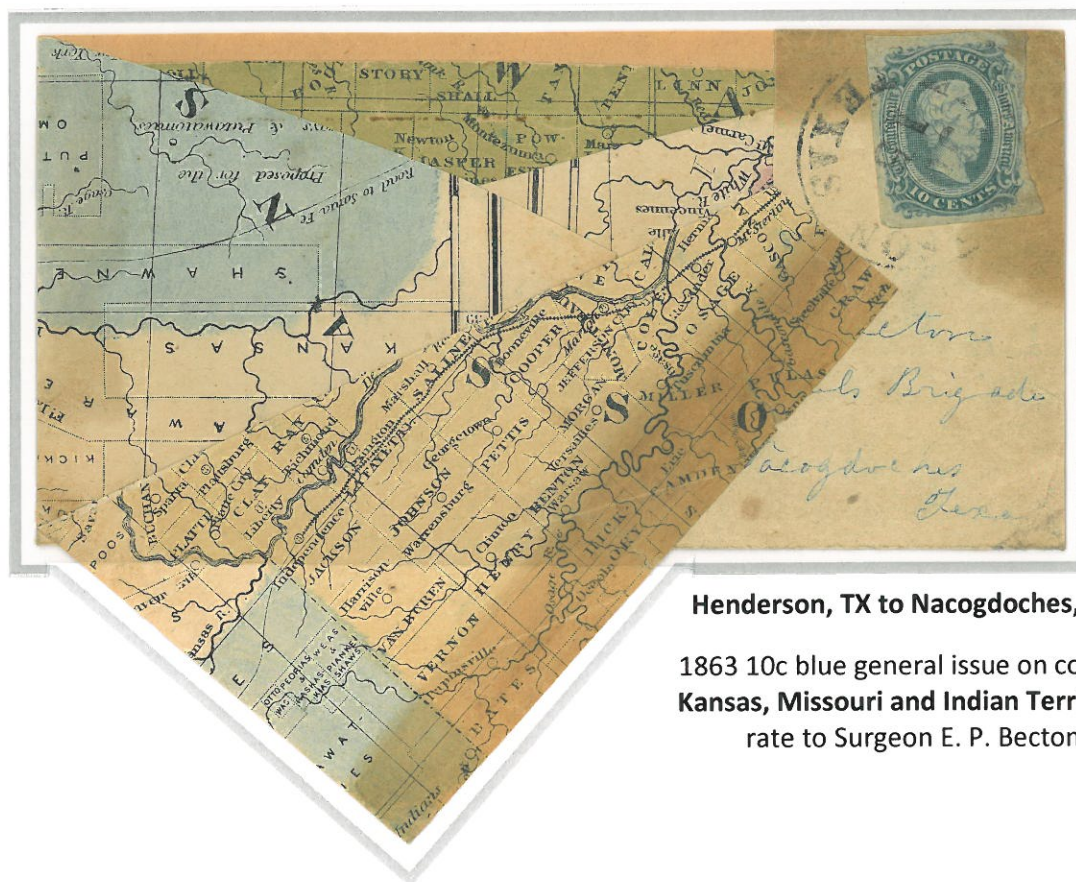


Marshall, TX to Houston, TX

May 18, 1863

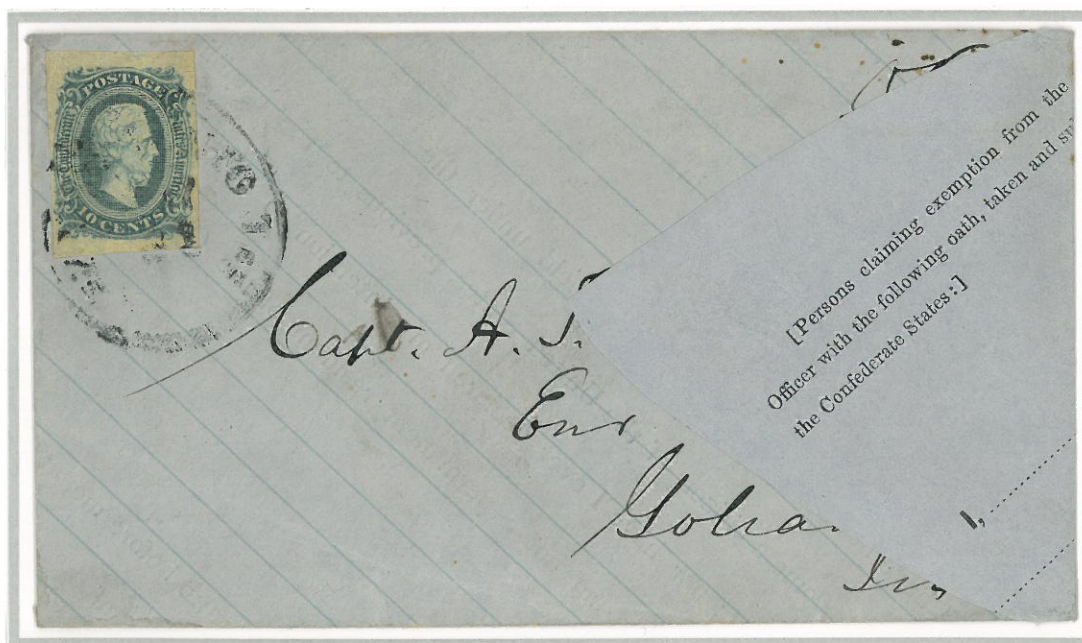
MARSHALL TEX double-circle datestamp ties 1862 5c blue typographed pair on cover made from **Pratt, Woodford & Co. printed Galveston ship receipt form.**





Henderson, TX to Nacogdoches, TX July 15 (186?)

1863 10c blue general issue on cover made from full color Kansas, Missouri and Indian Territory map paid the letter rate to Surgeon E. P. Becton of Waul's Brigade.



San Antonio, TX to Goliad, TX

May 31, (186?)

SAN ANTONIO TEX cds ties 10c blue on cover made on printed Confederate States conscript form.





Galveston, TX to Anderson, TX

May ?? (186?)

Galveston provisional "PAID" handstamp and "10" franked cover made from printed Port of Galveston freight receipt.



Harrisburgh, TX to Anderson, TX

July 28 (186?)

1862 5c blue typographed issue paid the single letter rate on cover made from printed Agricultural Implement and Machinery advertising circular.





Mansfield, LA to Fairfield, TX  
 Fairfield, TX to Shreveport, LA  
 Butler, TX to Fairfield, TX

April 30, (186?)  
 undated  
 August 18, (186?)

Homemade cover made from a **circus broadside** containing illustrations of a circus performer and a revolver originally mailed from a Texas soldier in the Mansfield, Louisiana and processed through Shreveport due "10". Cover then turned and mailed prepaid back to Sergeant Stewart in the Louisiana theatre. It appears somewhere along its journey the cover was once again used by the soldier...this time at Butler, TX where it was placed in the mails, endorsed "Due", and sent on to Fairfield. An unusual 'twice turned' cover.





E

Bonham, TX to Lane, Collin County, TX

October 4, (186?)

1862 5c blue typographed pair provided prepayment of the letter rate on cover made from grey-blue and green wallpaper.



Jasper, TX to Burkeville, TX

April 2, (186?)

"DUE 10" on soldier's letter made from multi-grey toned wallpaper.  
Required soldier's endorsement at far left.





Little Rock, AR to Bonner's Ferry TX

January 29, (18)63

Soldier's due letter endorsed by A.A. Cameron, Ochiltree's Regiment, Texas Infantry bearing "RUSK TEXAS. Feb 13" cds as receiver and transit marking on cover made from **multi-grey toned wallpaper**.



Plano, TX to Natchitoches, LA

June 24, (186?)

Plano Tex town endorsement and pen-canceled 1862 5c blue typographed adhesives on homemade cover made from **pastel blue and white geometric design wallpaper**.



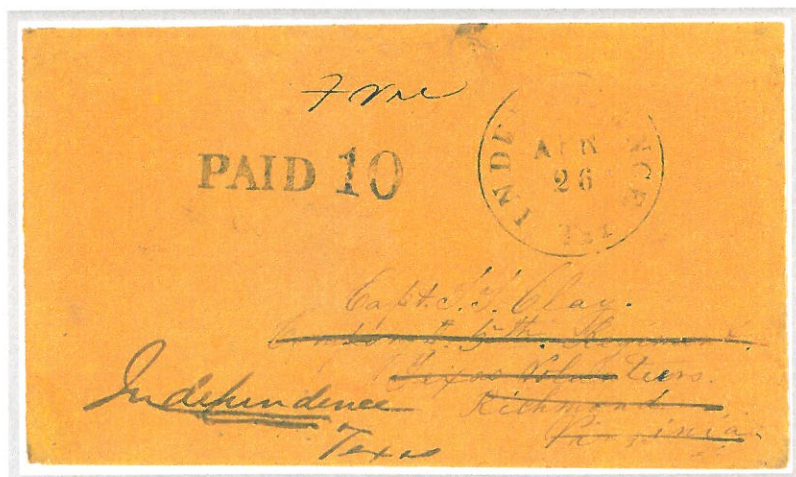


The 5<sup>th</sup> Texas Regiment of Hood's Division had been incorporated into the Army of Northern VA and detailed Arthur H. Edey to carry mail from the regiment to its families back in Texas. A typeset label was attached to some of these letters.

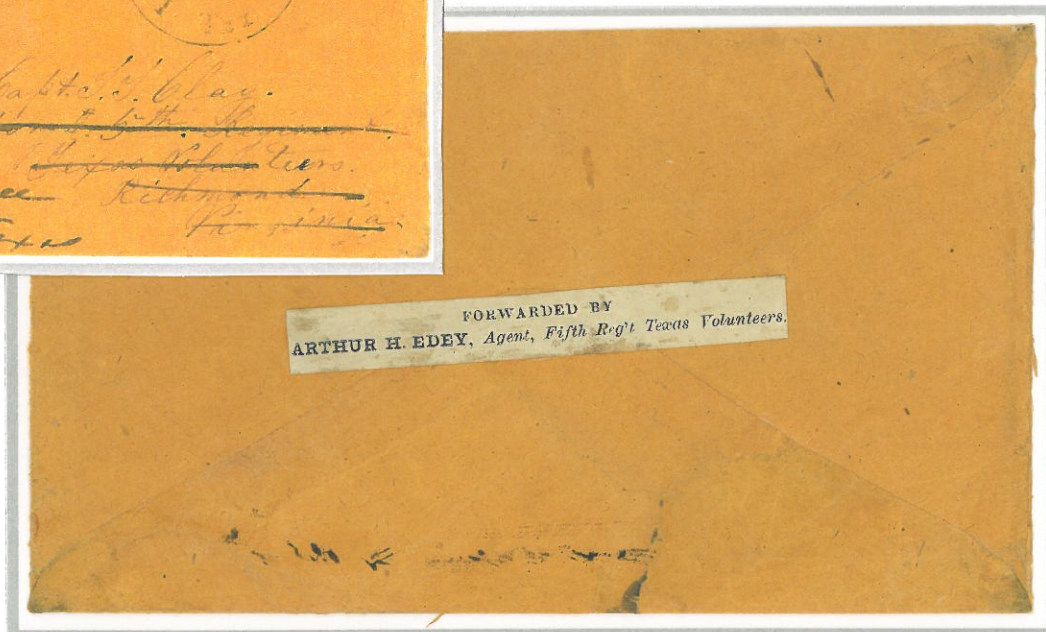
Letter sent from the eastern theatre to Bettie Clay of Independence, Texas via **Arthur H. Edey's express** service. Small remnant and outline of Edey label on verso.

from Richmond VA to Washington, TX via Edeys' Express  
Washington, TX to Independence, TX

June 1862  
August 6, 1862



Cover originally posted and prepaid in Texas to Capt. Clay of the 5<sup>th</sup> Texas Volunteer Reg't. in Virginia. Letter forwarded back to Texas via Arthur H. Edey's express and placed in the Texas mails where it was endorsed "Free".



Independence, TX to Richmond, VA  
Richmond, VA to Independence, TX via Edey's Express

June 1862  
August 6, 1862



On May 1, 1863, as a result of impending Union control of the Mississippi River, the Confederate Congress authorized the Postmaster General to establish special Express Mail routes crossing the river. Eastbound mail out of Texas was to be directed care of the postmaster at Shreveport, Louisiana. The rate was 40c for each single letter of half an ounce or less; however, this service was not compulsory.



Sherman, TX to Demopolis, AL  
Demopolis, AL to Jefferson, AL

January 18, (186?)

1863 20c green general issue prepays the 40c Trans-Mississippi express rate on homemade wallpaper cover to Demopolis, Alabama where it was forwarded by endorsement "Ford due 10".



Period southern newspapers confirm that the mouth of the Mississippi River, at New Orleans, had been blockaded by Federal Naval forces in May 1861. This action disrupted and effectively ended ship bound mail service into the city. In Texas, alternate routes were taken to avoid this naval action.



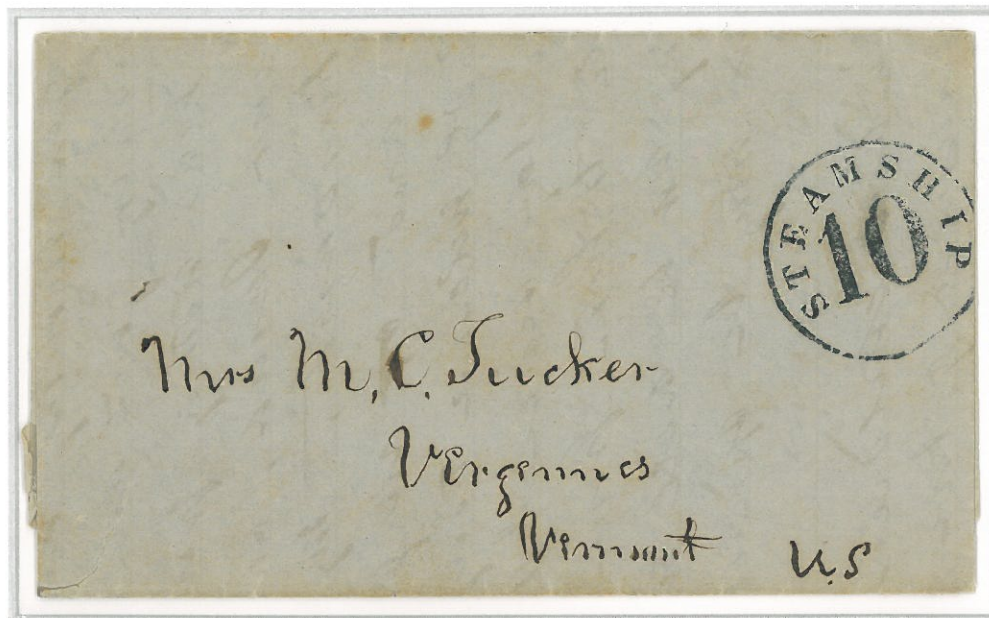
Matamoras, Mexico to New Orleans, LA via Corpus Christi, TX

September 6, (1861)

Folded letter datelined Matamoras privately carried across the Rio Grande River and placed in Confederate Texas mails at Brownsville on September 9<sup>th</sup> where it was prepaid to New Orleans. Prior to 1862, there was considerable Confederate cargo traffic inside the south Texas barrier islands by shallow draft vessels. These boats also carried mail. Routed "via Corpus" Christi during this period, it was then sent overland to the tightly blockaded city of New Orleans.



Galveston was effectively blockaded by July 1861 and normal outbound ship mail service was disrupted. Federal troops occupied the island for a short time, from October 1862 to January 1863, before Confederate Texas troops retook the city. Despite their reversal, the Federal blockade remained in place throughout the war.



Galveston, TX to Vergennes, VT via Havana

February 1864

Folded letter datelined "Galveston Feby. 16, 1864" carried on unidentified blockade runner from Galveston to Havana, then by non-contract steamer to New York. "STEAMSHIP 10" due handstamp applied at New York.

Fewer than five covers are recorded that ran the blockade from Galveston.



Texas maintained the Confederacy's only international border with a neutral country. It was separated from Mexico by the Rio Grande River across which mail was exchanged throughout the war. Brownsville, across the river from Matamoros, was the most significant crossing point.

**via Brownsville, TX**  
Folded letter datelined  
"Matamoros 2 Febrero  
1865" carried across the  
Rio Grande and placed in  
the Confederate Texas  
mails at Brownsville for  
delivery to San Antonio.



Matamoros, Mexico to San Antonio, TX

February 4, 1865



Monterrey, Mexico to San Antonio, TX

September 30, (1863)

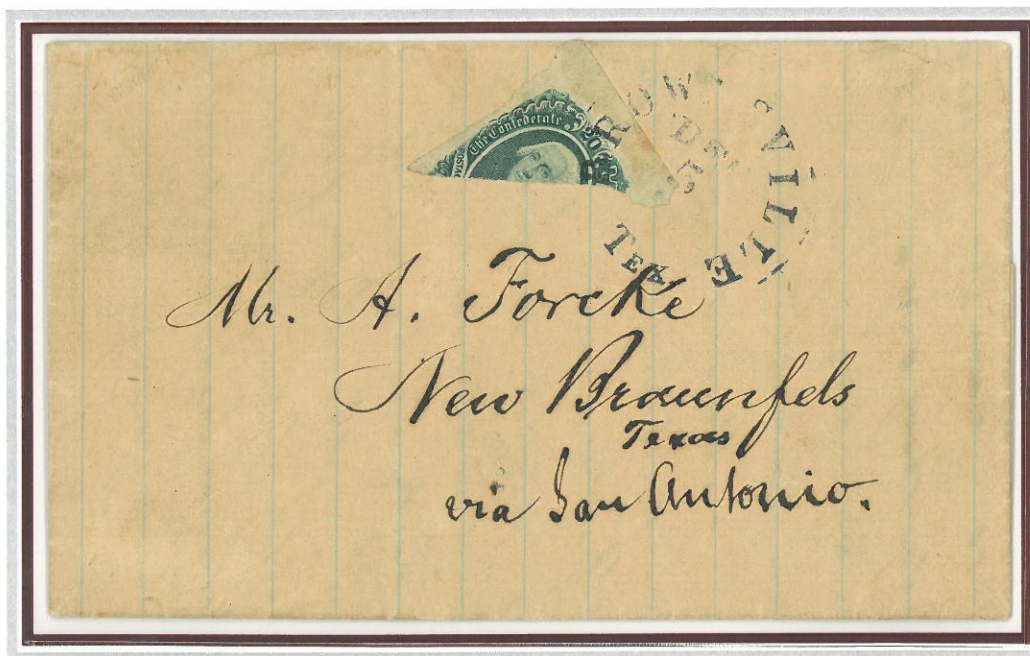
**via Piedras Negras –  
Eagle Pass, TX**  
Folded letter datelined  
"Monterrey/Septiembre 20"  
and posted in Mexico in care  
of R. Groos & Co. in Piedras  
Negras. Forwarded across  
the river and placed in the  
Confederate Texas mails at  
Eagle Pass.

Fewer than five covers are recorded with both Mexican and Confederate postal markings.



Matching Pair of 20c Bisepts

The only pair of covers bearing matching halves of the same 1863 20c issue extant.



E

Matamoros, Mexico to New Braunfels, TX

December 5, (1864)

Folded letter above was carried across the Rio Grande at Brownsville where it was placed into the Confederate Texas mails. The folded letter below was carried further up river, crossed between Nuevo Laredo and Laredo and entered the mails at San Antonio.



E

Matamoros, Mexico to New Braunfels, TX

December 16, (1864)

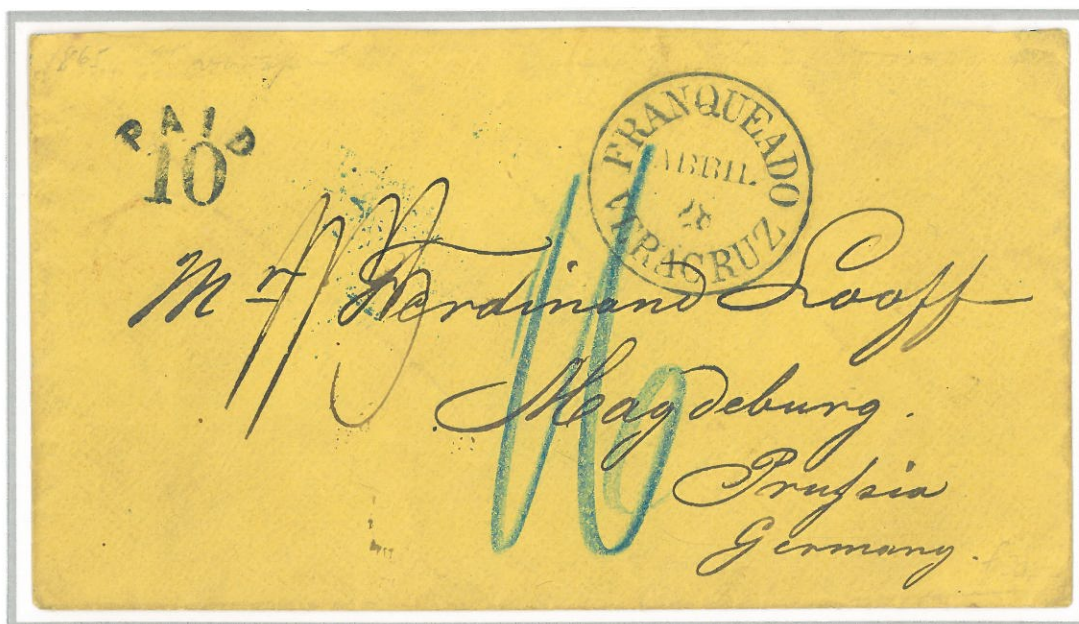




Ft. Brown, TX to Fulda, Germany

ca August 1862

Censored at Brownsville by "Examined & Passed, Alex. Young, P. Marshal" Provost Marshal marking and carried across the river to Droege Oetling & Co. in Matamoros for forwarding under cover to Germany.



San Antonio, TX to Magdeburg, Germany via Vera Cruz

March 1865

Prepaid by San Antonio "PAID 10" with enclosure datelined "San Antonio March 20 / 1865". Cover probably crossed the Rio Grande at Eagle Pass and traveled overland to Vera Cruz where it was mailed to Germany.



Flag-of-truce routes were established by North and South, in part, to facilitate the exchange of mail to and from P.O.W.'s. Union defeats at Galveston, Sabine Pass, Mansfield and Pleasant Hill were responsible for a sizeable P.O.W. population in Texas. Most were housed at the Houston Prison, Camp Groce or Camp Ford. In Texas, P.O.W. mail was handled from Houston and Camp Groce via Galveston and Camp Ford via Shreveport.



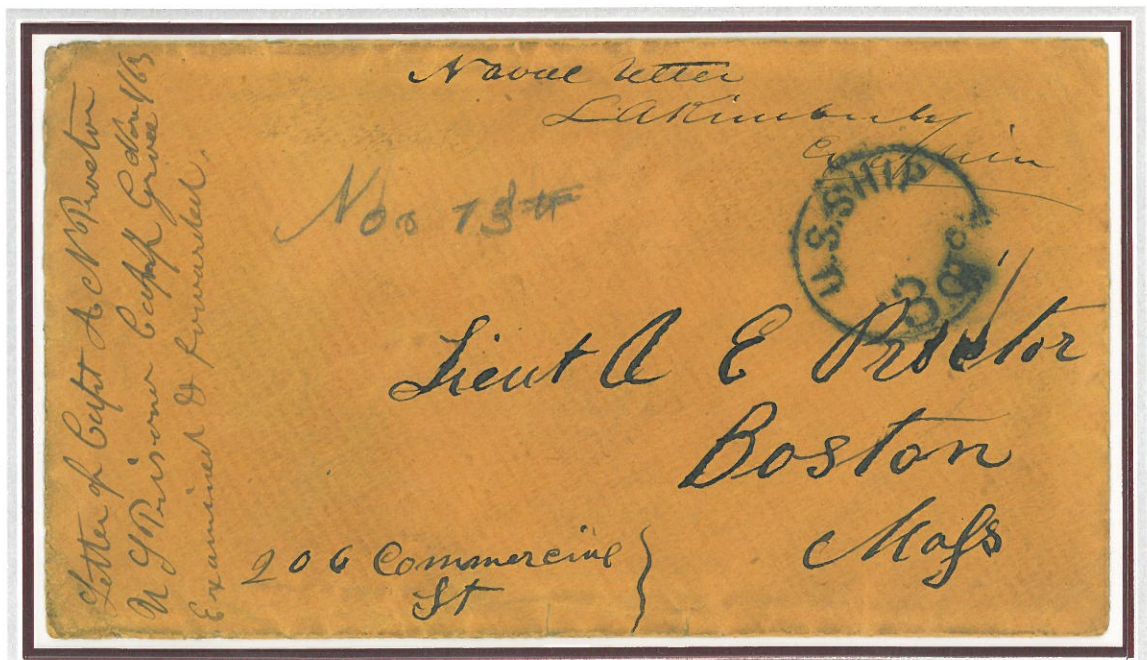
Union prisoner-of-war cover "From M.L. Burney, Federal Prisoner of Late US Str. Clinton", Texas Provost Marshal Examiner mark on reverse, **exchanged by flag-of-truce** with the western Gulf Blockading Squadron and entered the Federal mails in occupied New Orleans where it was forwarded "DUE 6".

Houston Prison, Houston, TX to Warwick, RI

ca January 1864

One of only three covers known to exist from this P.O.W. camp.

Union prisoner-of-war cover "Letter of Capt. A.N. Proctor...", censored by **Camp Groce** Commandant on reverse and Houston Provost Marshal, **exchanged by flag-of-truce** with the western Gulf Blockading Squadron and entered the Federal mails in occupied New Orleans



Camp Groce, near Hempstead, TX to Boston, MA

November 1, 1863

Fewer than five covers are known to exist from this P.O.W. camp.



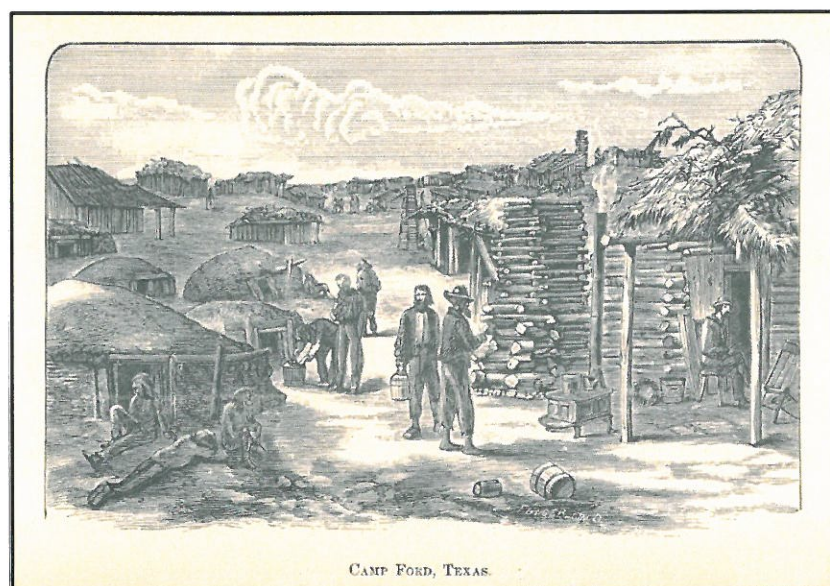


Camp Ford, near Tyler, TX to Oskaloosa, IA

(ca January, 1865)

Union prisoner-of-war cover endorsed "Flag of Truce", censored on reverse by Major Ignatius Szymanski, Agent of Exchange for prisoners in the Trans-Mississippi Dept. Carried 100 miles east to Shreveport and exchanged near Red River Landing in Louisiana where it entered Federal mails in New Orleans.

One of five covers known to exist from this P.O.W. camp.



CAMP FORD, TEXAS.



CSA postal regulations provided that any soldier engaged in military service could send mail without the prepayment of postage, or 'DUE'. To do so, the sender was required to endorse his name, rank and unit on the envelope. However, mailing letters collect was an option and as will be shown here, many soldiers actually prepaid postage in Texas.



Fort Clark, TX to Marshall, TX

February 28, (1862)

Prepaid and mailed from the Fort Clark post office in a garrison that had been established by the US Army in 1852 and occupied by Confederate Texas forces in the spring of 1861. It was the base for the Second Texas Mounted Rifles, served as a supply depot and hospital for Confederate troops.



Camp Frio, Uvalde, TX to Helena, TX

March 30, (1862)

Camp Frio  
March 30, 1862

1.

Cover prepaid and mailed from nearby Uvalde which served as the camp post office. Camp Frio was located on the military road between San Antonio and El Paso and served as a frontier outpost for Texas soldiers during the war.



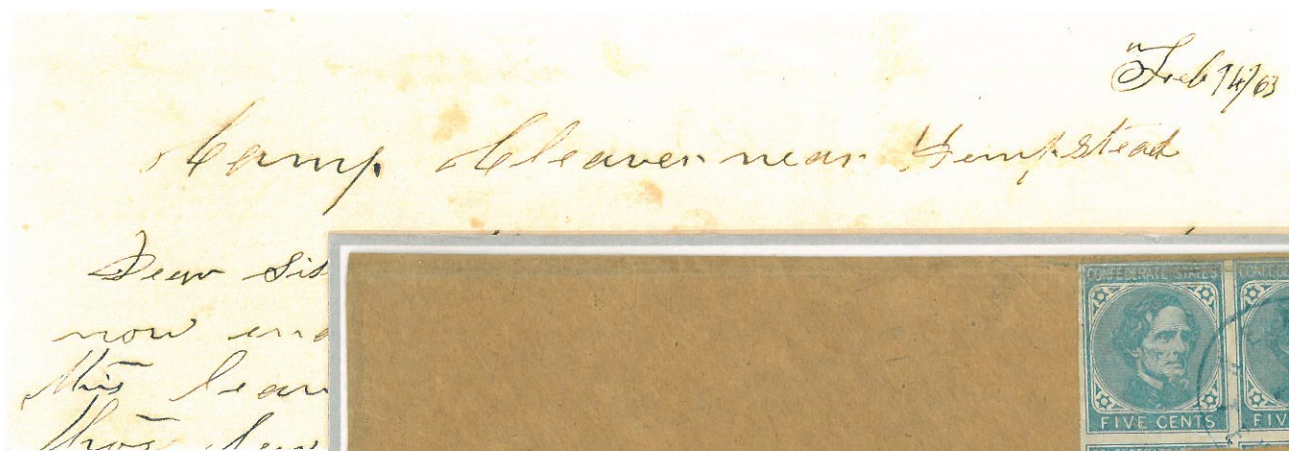


*Camp Young  
County Texas  
June the 9 1862*

Soldier's letter endorsed "Camp Yong" prepaid with 1862 5c blue lithographed adhesive just prior to the single letter rate increase. Hempstead, TX was the rail terminus of the Houston and Texas Central RR when the war started. It served as a Confederate supply and manufacturing center, was the site of a Confederate hospital and three military camps.

Camp Young, Hempstead, TX to Covington Hill, TX

June 9, (1862)



Soldier's letter endorsed "Camp Cleaver" mailed by cover prepaid with 1862 5c blue typographed pair to satisfy the single letter rate. Camp Cleaver was also located near the railhead at Hempstead.



Camp Cleaver, Hempstead, TX to San Antonio, TX

February 16, (1863)

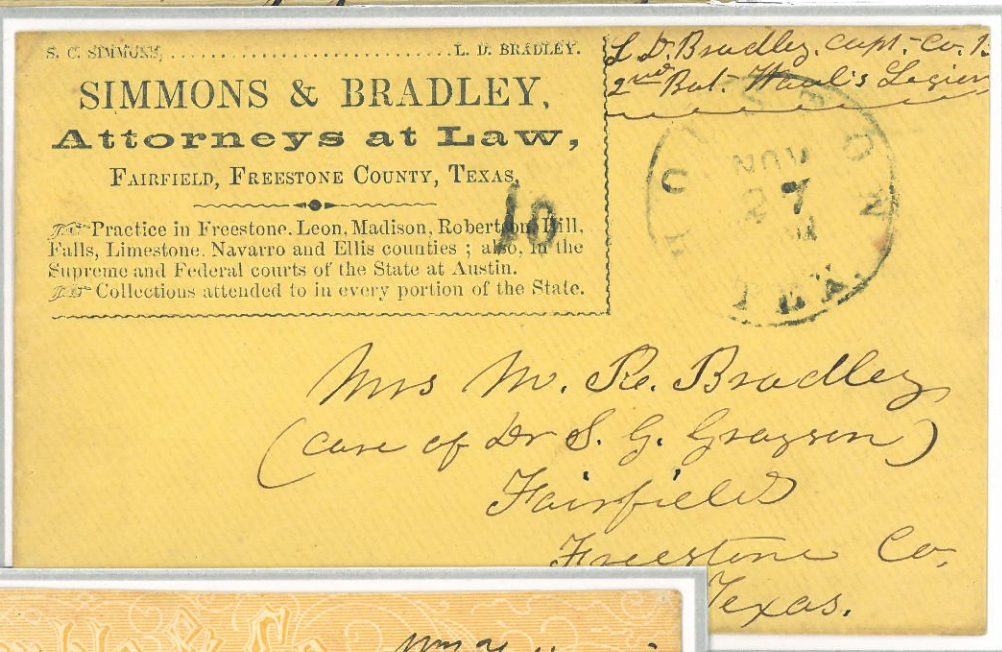


Texas soldiers carried and received advertising envelopes from home to use as stationery.



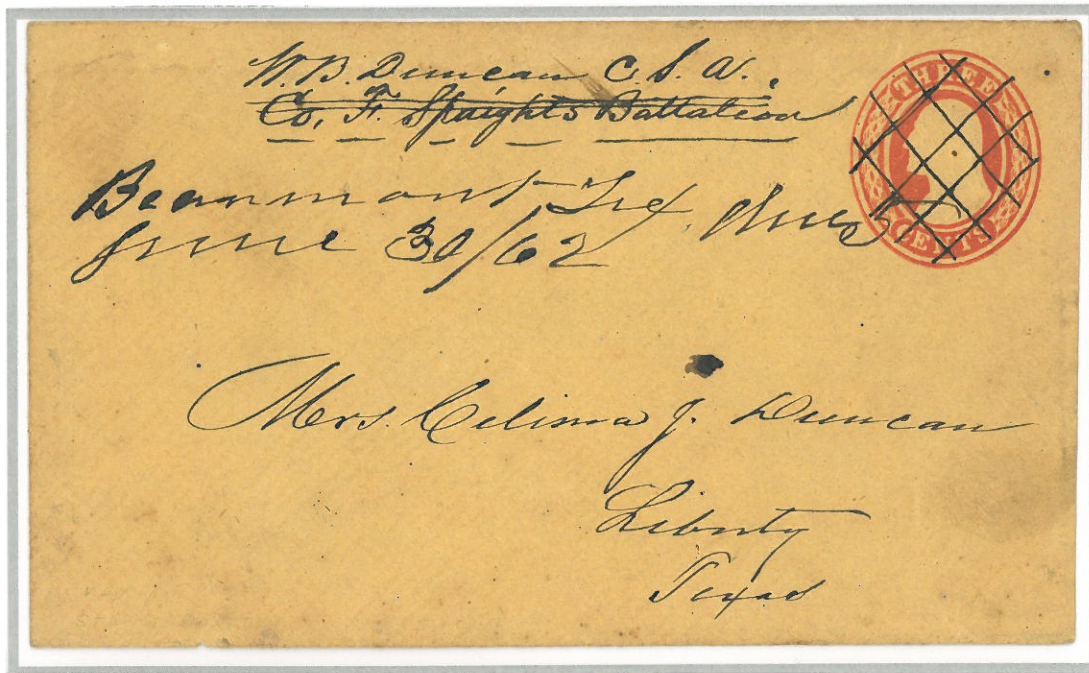
Galveston, TX to Round Top, TX  
January ??, (186?)  
Handstamped "10" (due) on Texas Land Agency all-over illustrated advertising cover. Soldier's endorsement from Sgt. C. Michaels, Major Williams Light Artillery.

Houston, TX to Fairfield, TX  
November 27, (186?)  
Handstamped "10" (due) on cover with Simmons & Bradley printed corner card. Soldier's endorsement from Capt. L.D. Bradley, Co. B., 2<sup>nd</sup> Bat., Waul's Legion. Capt. Bradley used his own firm's advertising envelopes during the war.



Brenham, TX to Liberty, TX  
April 18, 1862  
Handstamped "10" (due) on Peel, Dumble & Co., Commission Merchant, all-over illustrated advertising cover. Endorsement from Wm. F. Hardin, Waul's Legion, C.S.A.

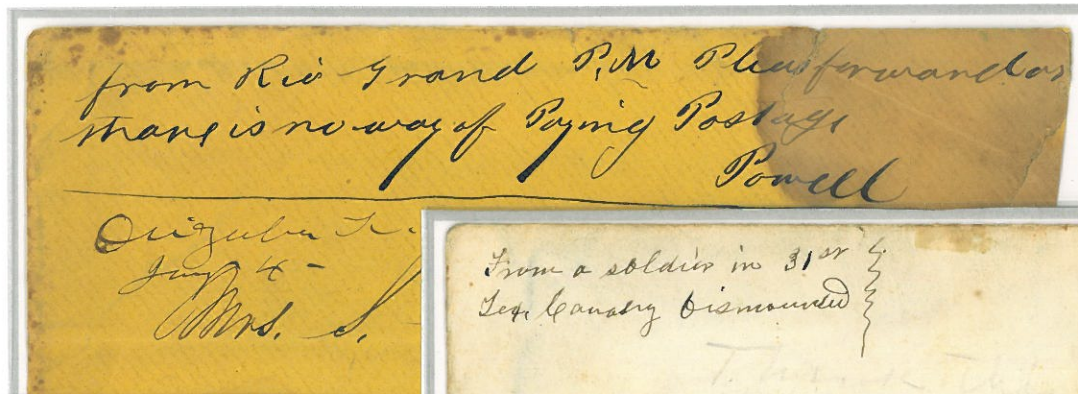




Beaumont, TX to Liberty, TX

June 30, (18)62

Soldier's due cover made from invalid US Nesbitt postal stationery and mailed "due 5".



A soldier in the field  
to Dallas, TX  
1864



At times, the handling of soldiers mail on the Texas frontier could be difficult. The cover above emanates from near the Rio Grande River in southwest Texas and is endorsed "from Rio Grand PM Please forward as there is no way of paying postage". Letter was routed to Orizaba, TX where it was placed in the mails and endorsed "Paid". The cover at right, from the same sender, was

endorsed "Favor of Capt. W.T.G. Weaver" and apparently carried outside the mails for a time before being placed in the Texas mails somewhere along its journey where it was endorsed "Paid" with no town marking.



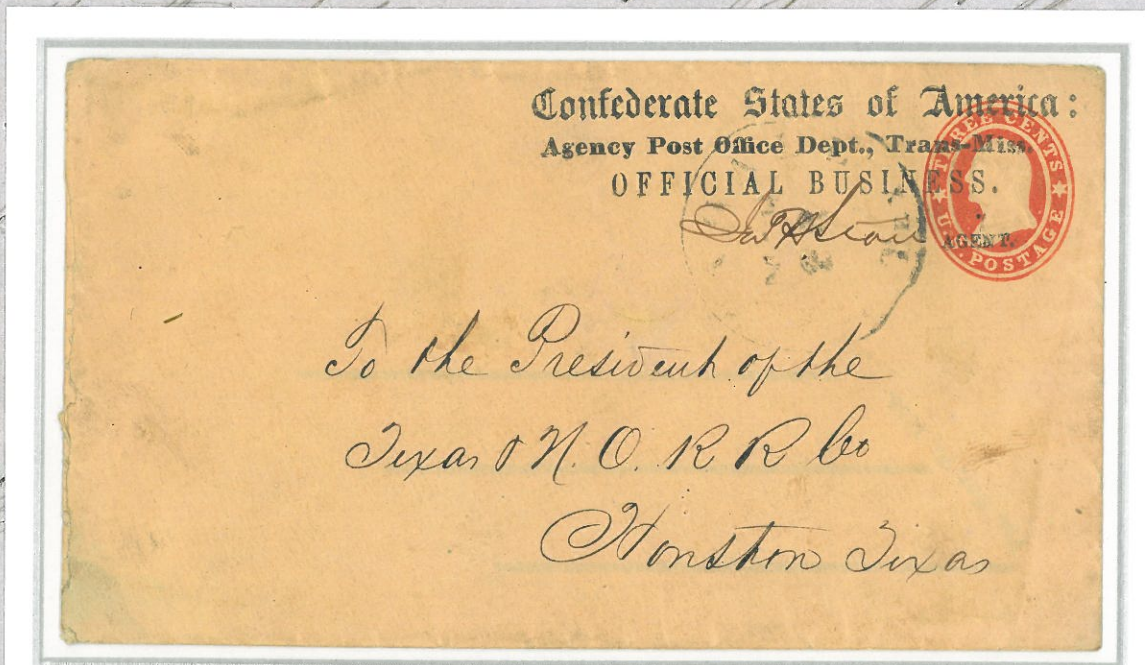
CSA Postage Act of March 15, 1861 abolished the general franking privilege for officials. However, it did provide that the Postmaster General and various other Post Office Department officials could send mail free by endorsing "Official Business" over their signatures.

Confederate States of America,  
AGENCY POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, TRANS-MISSISSIPPI,

Marshall, Texas, January 21<sup>st</sup> 1865

Sir:

I am in receipt of your reports to



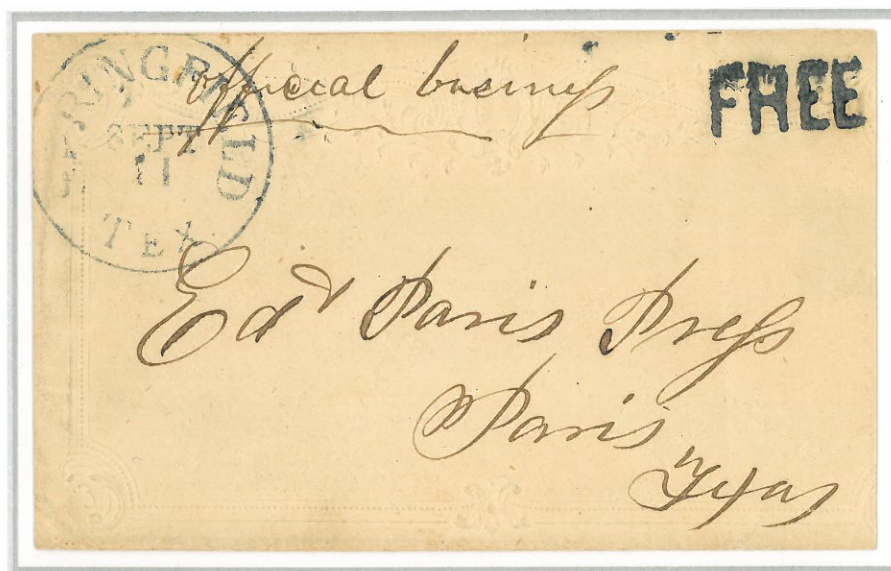
Marshall, TX to Houston, TX

?? (186?)

Endorsed and used for official business by Dr. James H. Starr, Agent for the Trans-Mississippi Department in Marshall, Texas, these envelopes were imprinted locally by Dr. Starr and were the only CSA Post Office official envelopes used in Texas.



Local postmasters did retain the franking privilege when conducting the 'business of the Post Office Department'. The regulation required that this 'official mail' be marked with the words "Post Office Business" over the signature of the postmaster. In practice, postmasters frequently did not fully comply with this requirement.



**Springfield, TX to Paris, TX**

**September 11, (1861)**

Letter to the Editor of the Paris Press under cover endorsed "Official Business" and stamped "FREE" from Springfield, Texas Postmaster R. Long. Memo discussed post office business concerning the forwarding of newspapers which was a legitimate use of the CSA free-frank, albeit incorrectly endorsed.



Imprinted envelopes and stationery were often used by a variety of CSA departments, bureaus and branches of government. Although the words "Official Business" or "O.B." were endorsed or imprinted on this stationery, this mail did not carry the free-frank privilege and required prepayment unless carried outside the mails by military courier.

Head Quarters, Dist. Texas, New Mexico & Arizona,

Galveston Texas July 16<sup>th</sup> 1863

ORDERS, }  
191 }

O.B.  
Capt. M. Edwards,  
Judge Advocate  
Galveston.

on Galveston Island

July 16, 1863

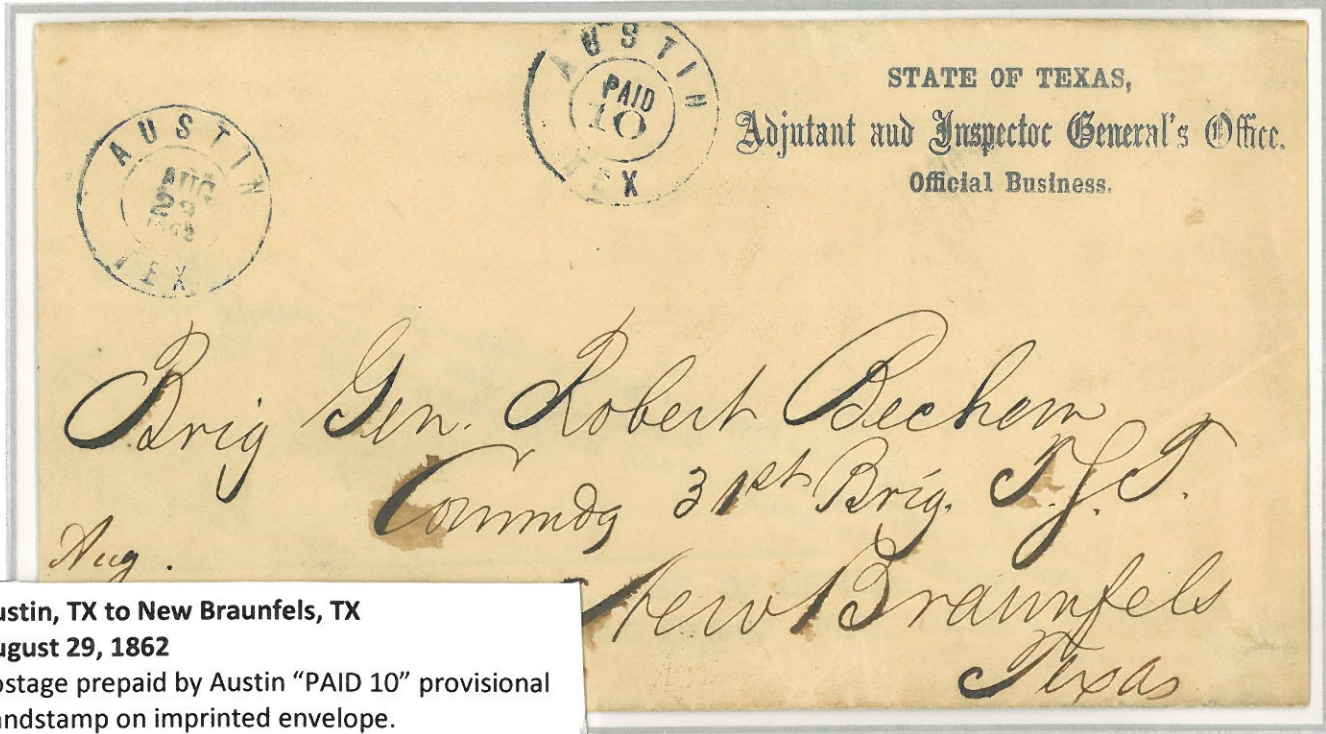
By Command of  
Major Genl Magruder  
Oscar M. Watkins  
Maj. & Capt. Adj. Genl  
in Menad  
idant & Judge Advocate  
Houston, Texas

Military order from Major General John B. Magruder datelined "Galveston Texas" on "Head Quarters, Dist. Texas, New Mexico & Arizona" imprinted stationery. Mailed under cover endorsed O.B. and carried outside of the mails.

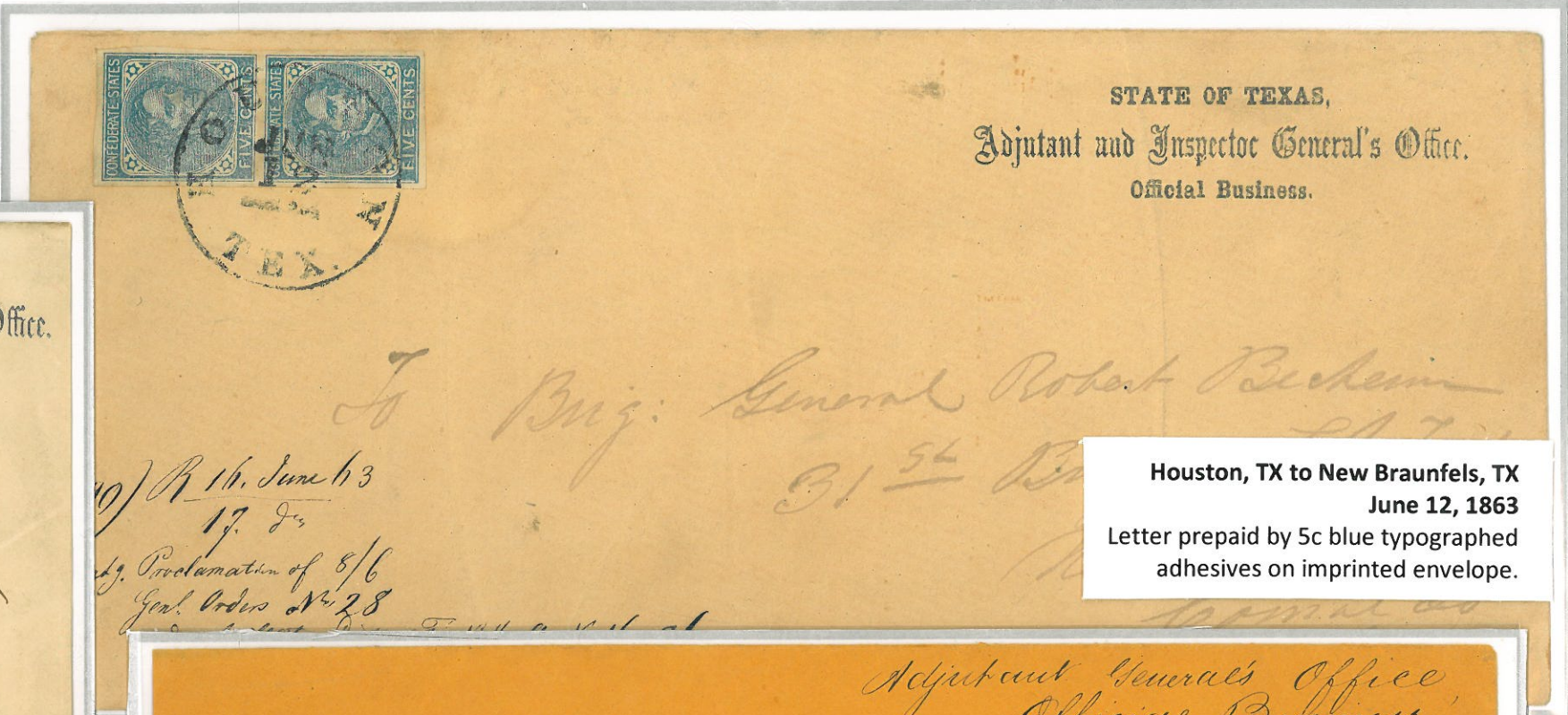


Prepayment of Official Business Mail  
State of Texas  
Adjutant and Inspector General's Office

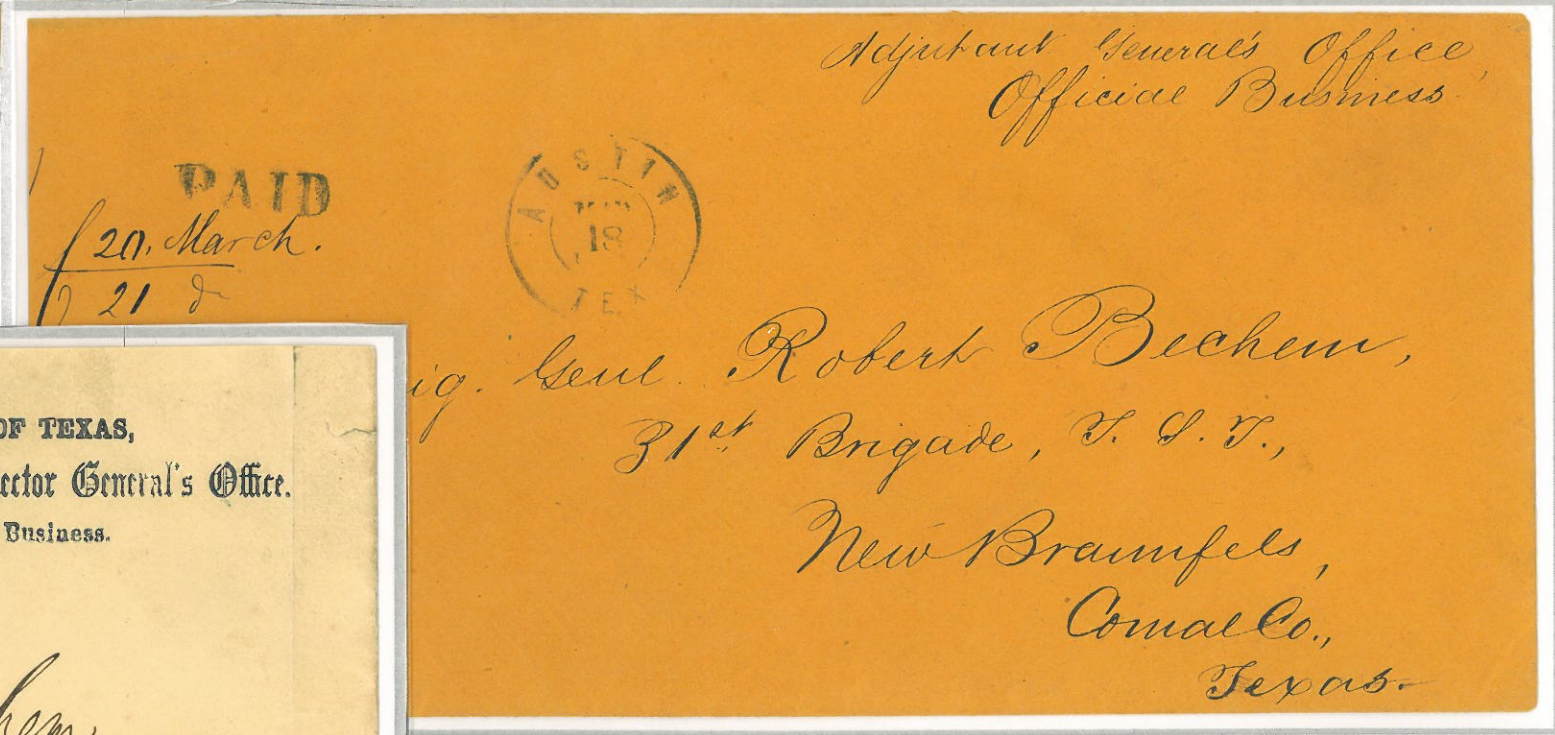
E



Austin, TX to New Braunfels, TX  
August 29, 1862  
Postage prepaid by Austin "PAID 10" provisional handstamp on imprinted envelope.



Houston, TX to New Braunfels, TX  
June 12, 1863  
Letter prepaid by 5c blue typographed adhesives on imprinted envelope.



Austin, TX to New Braunfels, TX  
March 18, (186?)  
"PAID" handstamp used to designate prepayment of postage on envelope endorsed "Adjutant General's Office, Official Business".



Austin, TX to New Braunfels, TX  
September 30, 1862  
Double weight letter prepaid by 5c blue lithographed adhesives on imprinted envelope.



Dr. James H. Starr, Agent for the Trans-Mississippi Department corresponded with US General Herron on May 25, 1865 concerning the impending surrender of his Department and expressed his hope that the return of normal conditions could be accomplished with the *"usages of Christian nations and the dictates of humanity."* He also prepared a plan of action to prevent a complete breakdown of the mails in the Texas region.

## Latest use of a Confederate Stamp on Cover



E

Marshall, TX to Shreveport, LA

June 7, 1865

Mailed on the day US General Herron and occupation forces arrived in Shreveport aboard the Steamer Ida May. Confederate Texas postage prepaid by 10c blue adhesive in addition to 3c US postage.

Dr. Starr also addressed another letter to the postmasters under his supervision on May 23, 1865 saying: *"I have to request that special care [be taken] of the public property in your charge pertaining to the post-office Department, that it pass safely into the hands of the authorities who are to succeed us. It is hoped that much of the present mail transportation will continue..."*

A few days later he called his clerks together for a final meeting, gave them a ten-dollar gold coin to divide and went home to Nacogdoches. For Dr. Starr and the mail service in Texas...the war was over.