

## **David Ian Cordon Bermuda Blockade-Run Covers**

David is a Bermudan who comes by his love of Bermuda stamps and postal history honestly, as he was born and raised there, although his education included numerous years in England as a boy as well as Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. His career was in the insurance industry. In his last role at Zurich Insurance, he was the Chief Underwriting Officer in Bermuda, from which he recently retired. He lives in Bermuda with his current partner, Julie Lunn, and their Rhodesian Ridgeback, Charlie.

David started collecting stamps when he was 8 years old and met a number of the great collectors of Bermuda. In his youth, he was invited to Sir Henry Tucker's house in about 1976-77 to view his collection. After this, it was always his goal to have one of the best Bermuda collections. He has certainly met that goal.

He sold his first Bermuda collection when he got married in 1989, and then for a while collected Turks Island and briefly France, US and Great Britain. He restarted his Bermuda collection in 2004 and his first exhibit was Boer War, which was awarded a gold medal and research prize in New York in 2009 and a Large Vermeil at the 2012 International in Romania. He eventually sold that collection to be able to focus and improve his Queen Victoria material.

David Cordon has shown the following exhibits:

Queen Victoria – as a five frame exhibit which was awarded Gold Medals in the United States, the Mail Coach award at Stampex 2018, a Large Gold at Stockholm 2019 (as part of the Royal Philatelic Society anniversary) and a Large Gold at London 2022, as well as Best in Show at Newcastle Australia as part of the RPS team.

Docks – as a one frame exhibit in the U.S. and also at the 2016 New York international, where it was awarded a Large Vermeil with 88 points.

King George V high values – shown in a number of U.S. shows with 93 FIP points a number of times, at New York 2016 International (Large Vermeil, 88 points), London Stampex (93 points), and then Best in Show at San Diego 2022 (93 points). A copy of his complete display is available on the Bermuda Collectors Society website at [bermudacollectorsociety.com](http://bermudacollectorsociety.com)

## **CORDON BERMUDA BLOCKADE-RUN COVERS**

Covers are presented on the following pages, mostly one to a page, with detailed (mostly auction) descriptions and provenance. Images of both front and back are shown.

David Cordon's blockade-run (or related) Bermuda comprises ten scarce covers, including some particularly rare pieces of Bermuda postal history such as the only recorded Major Norman S. Walker (Confederate agent) forwarder handstamp and one of only two R.S. Musson & Co. oval forwarding handstamps. These are truly exceptional showpieces.

**These Bermuda gems are offered as a one lot, a rare opportunity at \$30,000.**

**DC-1 Bermuda to Ocala via Charleston** - no marks on reverse Siegel sale 1153 20170509, Briggs lot 2173 Est. 1,500-2,000 Sold 1,300 (USD 1,500 including commission) Ex McNeal.

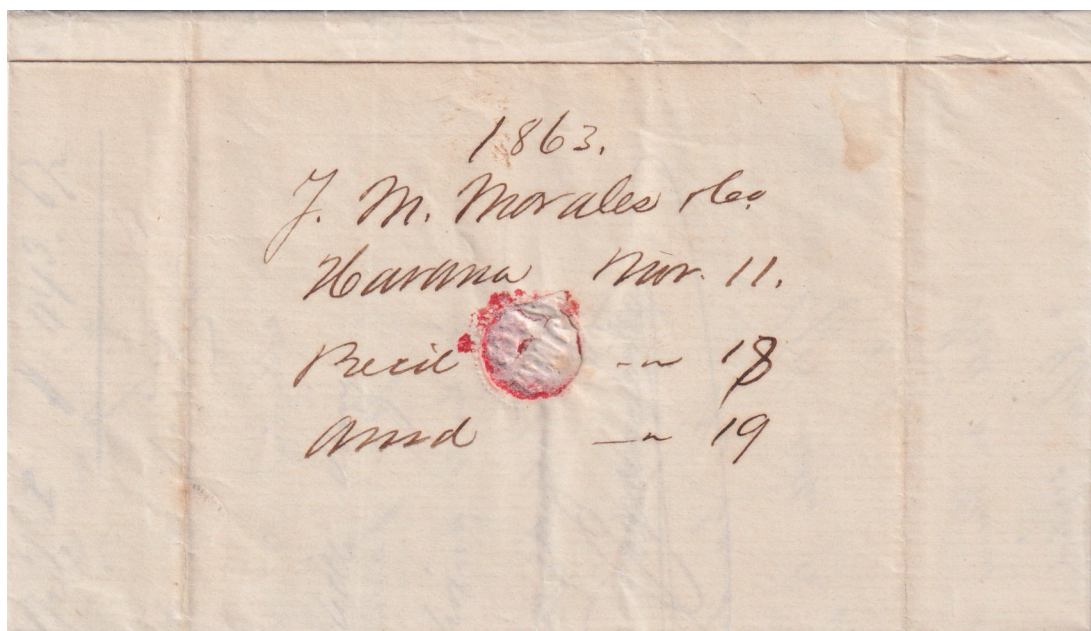
**Bermuda to Ocala Fla. via Charleston S.C.** "Charleston S.C. Feb. 2" (1863) circular datestamp and "STEAM-SHIP" oval handstamp on **inbound blockade-run cover to "Niel Ferguson Esq., Ocala, Madison County East Florida, Southern Confederacy"**, pencil "12" rate (10c plus 2c ship fee), manuscript "S.S. Princess Royal" name-of-ship designation and carried on that ship from Bermuda, age worn and soiled, small repair at right, otherwise Fine and **extremely rare Florida-addressed incoming blockade-run cover, only three inbound covers are recorded out of more than 200 total**, Walske-Trepel *Special Routes* Census No. BI-Ch-18, ex McNeal.





**DC-2 Roanoke - Havana to NY via Bermuda** ex Ludington Spink June 1999 lot 226 sold GBP575 (including commission = \$930 at 1.62), ex Freeland.

1863 (28 June) from Cardenas (Cuba) "p Roanoke" to Bristol R.I. showing "STEAMSHIP.10" h.s. and 1863 (11 Nov) double rate entire letter from Havana "per Roanoke" to New York with "STEAMSHIP/20" h.s.; an unusual pair accompanied by an 1864 print of the *Roanoke* burning off St Georges. On a subsequent voyage the "*Roanoke*" was captured by a group of Confederates who brought her to Bermuda, though they stayed outside St. George's Harbour for fear of being recaptured and she was later set on fire outside territorial waters.



Letter on next page



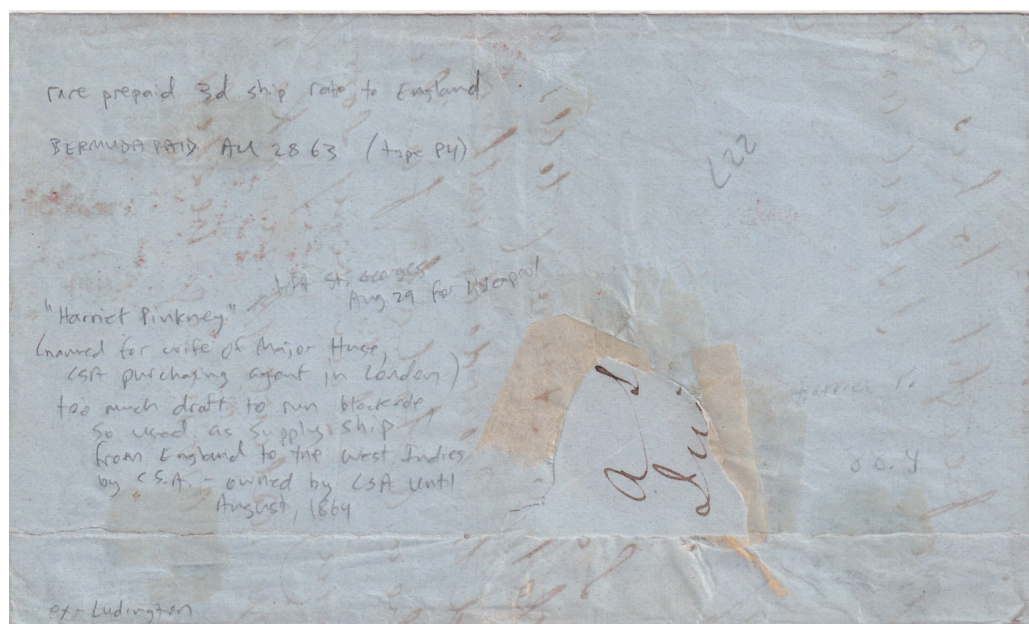
DC-2 Letter

J. R. Rando  
 Havana 11<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1863.  
 Messrs. Loomis & Co.  
 New York.  
 Dear Sirs,  
 We had this pleasure last of  
 the 4<sup>th</sup> Inst. as per enclosed Rep Copy. Please also  
 find herewith 3<sup>rd</sup> of our Remittance of \$183.07<sup>80</sup>  
 attached to in our said letter.  
 Your favor of 4<sup>th</sup> Inst. is duly to hand & its  
 contents have our attention. — We shall do our  
 utmost to your credit, as usual with the 5 Mills  
 you enclose, on arrival of the "St. Paul".  
 We hand you herewith a copy of Messrs. J. R. Rando  
 & Co's letter to you of 16<sup>th</sup> Oct. — Please inform us  
 whether we are to destroy or to return to you your  
 bill on them dated 14<sup>th</sup> Sept. No. 3024 for \$320.<sup>75</sup>  
 & 4<sup>th</sup> inst. copy. —  
 We have collected for your 4<sup>th</sup> C's  
 Bill on J. Calvert \$143.17<sup>1/2</sup>  
 " " M. Sanchez y Morales \$154.40  
 less 4<sup>th</sup> inst. interest @ 10% " 5.1  
 Bill on J. Barahona \$149.30  
 " " " 158.  
 Carry over \$450.47<sup>1/2</sup>  
 Prep Copy  
 3 Mills (1<sup>st</sup> inst  
 1<sup>st</sup> inst  
 2<sup>nd</sup> inst)  
 Letter



**DC-3 Bermuda to London via Confederate supply ship** - ex Spink 6/1999 Ludington lot 227 GBP550 (USD 1025 incl comm); Siegel 5/2017 Walske lot 2490 USD 1,250 (including commission). Not a blockade-run cover, but a Confederate use out of Bermuda, and blockade related.

Bermuda to London via Confederate Supply Ship. Folded letter (last of three pages, front and back of cover complete) addressed to London, red "Bermuda AU 28 63" circular datestamp and endorsed "pr. Harriet Pinckney", departed St. George's Aug. 29 for Liverpool, red "Ship-Letter London SP 14 63" and "London Paid SP 14 63" circular datestamps, Very Fine and scarce pre-paid 3p ship letter to England, the *Harriet Pinckney* was Confederate owned and named for the wife of Major House, C.S.A. purchasing agent in London, it was intended as a blockade runner but **had too much draft and so was employed as a supply ship between England and the West Indies**, making only three trips before being sold, ex Ludington.



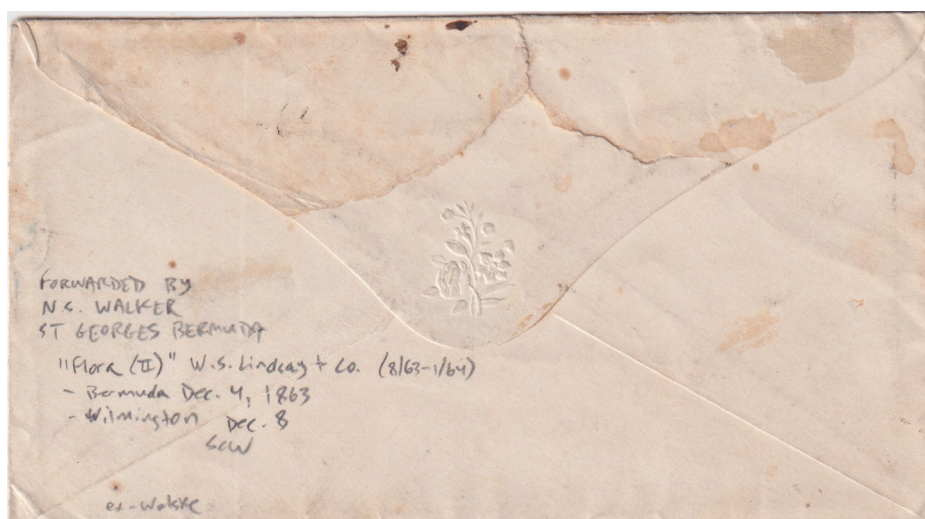


**DC-4 Bermuda to Wilmington** 5/2017 Siegel Walske lot 2468 \$8,500 (USD 10,000 incl. commission) **The only recorded example of the Norman S. Walker Bermuda handstamp!**

**Bermuda to Charlotte N.C. via Wilmington N.C.** Incoming blockade-run cover addressed to Charlotte N.C., "**Forwarded by N. S. Walker St. Georges Bermuda**" oval handstamp at top, endorsed "*P Flora*" and carried by that blockade runner on Dec. 4, 1863, arriving Wilmington Dec. 8, "Wilmington N.C. Dec. 9" circular datestamp and manuscript "12" cents due for 10c rate to Charlotte plus 2c ship fee, minor bit of soiling and backflap tears

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

There are some covers mistakenly recorded as having manuscript notations from Bermuda containing Major Walker's name. They are from H.P. (Henry Pinckney) Walker, the Acting British Consul in Charleston, S.C., and have nothing to do with Bermuda or Norman Walker.



**DC- 5 Bermuda to Wetumpka** Spink 19990622 Ludington. Lot 230 est 400 - 500 sold 1,400; May 2017 Siegel Walske lot 2469, \$2,100 (USD 2,500 including commission)

**Hamilton, Bermuda to Wetumpka Ala. via Wilmington N.C.** Cover with original letter datelined at Hamilton on Jan. 17 and Jan. 21, 1864, manuscript "*DeRosset Brown & Co.*" and endorsed "*pr Dee*", carried on that blockade runner which departed Jan. 31, **ran aground, caught fire and was destroyed by the U.S.S. Cambridge** north of Fort Fisher N.C. on Feb. 6, the mail bags were saved and taken to Wilmington, "Wilmington N.C. 5 Paid Feb 8" circular datestamp with altered "3", manuscript "12" cents due in Alabama, small erosion hole at top.

VERY FINE INCOMING BLOCKADE-RUN COVER CARRIED ON THE LAST TRIP OF THE ILL-FATED *DEE* FROM BERMUDA.

The story of the destruction of the *Dee* is told in the 1864 *Annual Reports of the Navy Department*: "Upon the 6th instant the *Cambridge* discovered a steamer ashore and on fire about one mile south of Masonboro' inlet, which proved to be the blockade running steamer *Dee*, from Bermuda to Wilmington. Finding it impossible to extinguish the flames or to get her off, Commander Spicer, of the *Cambridge* abandoned the attempt, and still further destroyed her by firing into her. Seven of her crew were captured, and are now held as prisoners on the *Cambridge*. From these prisoners I learn that the *Dee* was commanded by G. H. Bier, formerly a lieutenant in the United States naval service. She was loaded with lead, coffee, and bacon, all of which, with the vessel, was completely destroyed..." (except apparently, the mail)

Cabot Lull was born October 15, 1835 in Norwich, Connecticut. He came to Wetumpka, Alabama in 1852 and became a businessman. During the Civil War, **Lull was active as a blockade runner, operating from Great Britain to Bermuda.** He returned to his business after the war. Following Reconstruction, he was elected mayor of Wetumpka several times. In 1892, as a candidate of the Democratic ticket, Lull was elected to the position of Probate Judge of Elmore County. He was defeated for reelection in 1898. Lull married Sallie Graham Foster in 1858; they had seven children. Active in church and Masonic affairs, he died in 1924, just short of his ninetieth birthday.

Images shown on the next page

DC-5





**DC-6 Bermuda to Petesburg via Wilmington. The second of only two covers forwarded by Norman S. Walker from Bermuda.** The letter was from Georgiana Freeman Walker (Confederate agent Norman Walker's wife) whose monogram is on the back flap. Written up for the 3Q 2024 *Civil War Philatelist* by Patricia A. Kaufmann.

Incoming blockade-run use with a Wilmington NC May 29 1864 circular datestamp with a manuscript 12(c) ship rate applied on a cover addressed to "Mrs. C.C. Clay Jr., Petersburg, Virginia, Care of Dr. Thomas Withers" with the penciled endorsement of (Major Norman S.) Walker up the left side.

The blue monogram on the back of the cover, G.F.W., is that of Georgiana Freeman *Gholson* Walker (1833-1904), Norman Walker's wife. The cover verso also bears the large magenta double-oval handstamp of the Rebel Archives.

Based in Bermuda, Major Norman Stewart Walker, Sr. (1830-1913) was the senior Confederate military agent responsible for coordinating the delivery of armament and supplies to the South and cotton to England from February 1863 until June 27, 1864.

Steven Walske researched the journey of this cover, formerly in his collection, and determined it was carried on the blockade-runner *Lynx*. It departed St. Georges, Bermuda, May 24, 1864, arriving in Wilmington, N.C., May 28.

Virginia Caroline Tunstall was married to Clement Claiborne Clay, Jr., a U.S. senator before the war and a Confederate senator during the war. Virginia and Georgiana were friends.



Back of cover shown on next page

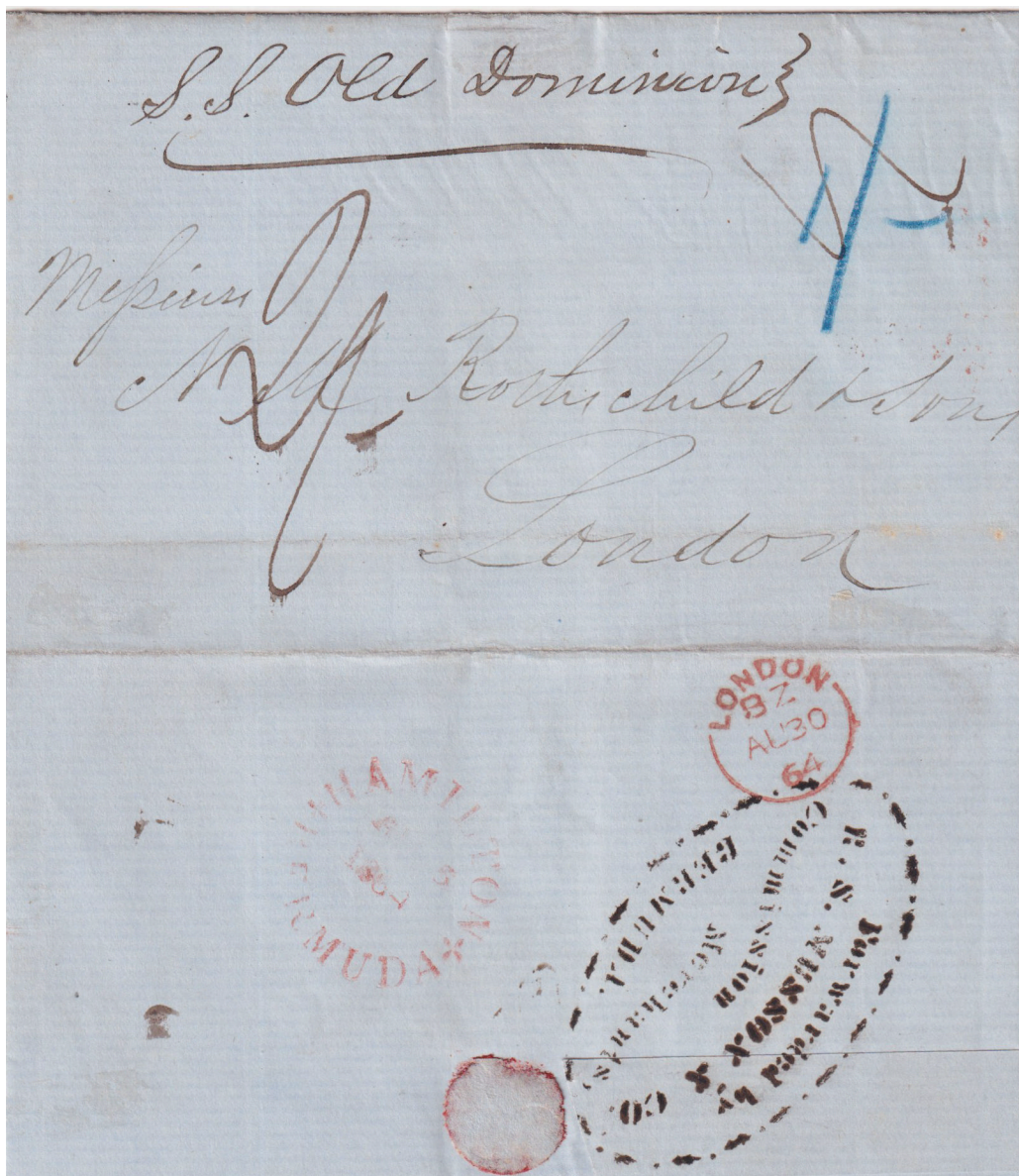
DC-6 Verso



**DC-7 Petersburg to London via Wilmington and Bermuda** VSC sale 23, Hamilton lot 2040  
Est. 5,000 Sold 8,500; 5/2017 Siegel Walske lot 2472 \$9,000 (USD 10,600 incl. commission)

The only recorded example of the **R.S. Musson Bermuda handstamp** listed in the **Walske census** – an extraordinary strike!

**Petersburg Va. to London via Wilmington N.C. and Hamilton, Bermuda.** Blue folded cover docketed Petersburg Jul. 16, 1864, addressed to Rothschild & Sons in London, endorsed "*S.S. Old Dominion*" and carried on that blockade runner from Wilmington on Jul. 23, arriving at Hamilton Jul. 26, bold "**Forwarded by R.S. Musson & Co. Commission Merchants, Bermuda**" oval stencil-style handstamp on back, posted unpaid with blue crayon "1/-" shilling due, red "Hamilton Bermuda AU 5" circular datestamp on back, transferred to St. George's to catch the Cunarder *Alpha* for Halifax, departing Aug. 5 and arriving Aug. 9, then by Cunarder *Africa* on Aug. 19, arriving Liverpool Aug. 29, red London Aug. 30 arrival backstamp, re-rated "2/-" shillings due, adding 1 shilling for unpaid letter, partly refolded, clip of flap containing small portion of the stencil marking re-attached for complete display, Ex Ludington (cover VII).





**DC-8 Bermuda to Wilmington** CSA cert 01120 issued to Bill Bogg on Sep 5, 1980, states cover is from Bermuda through Wilmington N.C., Lull correspondence.

**Hamilton, Bermuda to Wetumpka Ala. via Wilmington N.C.** Straightline SHIP with ms. "12" to Mrs. S(allie) G(raham) Lull in Wetumpka, Ala., from her husband. WILMINGTON NC OCT 12 circular datestamp at left. Sent Care Houghton, Allen & Co., Wetumpka.

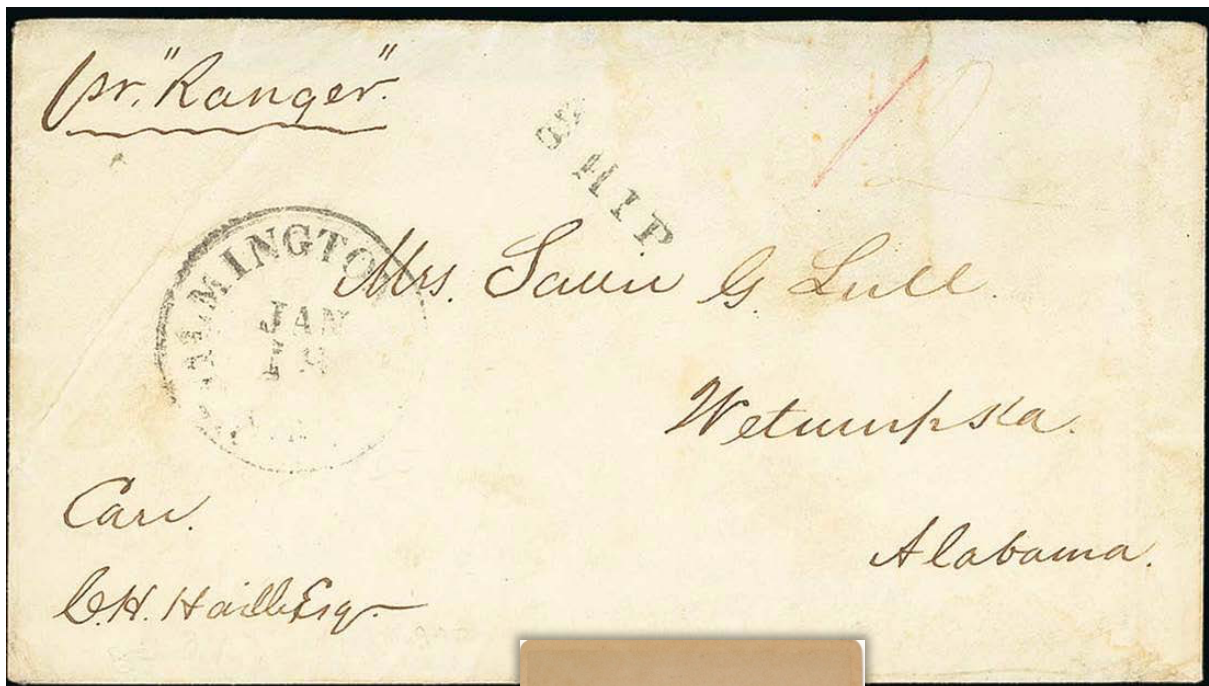
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**DC-9 Hamilton, Bermuda to Wetumpka Ala. via Wilmington N.C. SP Pitts II 24/10/2017**

1863 (Dec.) envelope from Bermuda "pr Ranger" to Wetumpka, Alabama, marked "Care C.H. Haille Esq." and showing manuscript "12" (2c. ship fee + 10c. Confederate postage), "SHIP" handstamp alongside Wilmington datestamp (18.1); flap missing though clean and attractive. A rare Alabama addressee and again rare in being one of just eleven blockade runner covers originating in Bermuda.

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CDV of **Sallie Graham Foster Lull** in later years. The Bermuda covers are to her from her husband, Cabot Lull, while he was running blockade runners out of Bermuda during the American Civil War.





**D-10 Cuba to London via Bermuda** 6/1999 Spink Ludington lot 238 GBP 950 (USD 1,750 including commission). While not a Confederate blockade cover, it is related in that it evaded the blockade from Havana to Bermuda from where it was forwarded to England.

E P5 St G per steamer *Plantagenet* direct to GB [having evaded the blockade from Havana], 8/13, rated "1/-," ex-Ludington, Freeland.

In early 1863, Hamilton, Ireland Island, and Mangrove Bay were issued with a red PAID cds. St. Georges received a similar stamp in mid-1864. These acted as paid stamps until Bermuda's first adhesives were issued on September 9, 1865. The handstamps remained in use as datestamps until the early 1870s, in black except for the early months of 1865 when the red paid was used in error.

