

# THE MEMPHIS DUE MARKINGS

Francis J. Crown, Jr.

Due markings are not a popular area of interest for many collectors. To most they are mundane markings that just show the postage due on a letter. But if you look beyond the obvious, some markings were used for other purposes. This article illustrates various uses of the Memphis due markings, some unusual and some scarce.

To understand how the Memphis due markings were used, it is best to review some of the factors that contributed to the uses.

## Memphis: A Communications Hub

Memphis was a major western transportation hub. Its position on the Mississippi River connected it with New Orleans and points between, as well as points north of the city. River transportation was complemented by a network of railroads: The Mississippi and Tennessee, the Mississippi Central, and the New Orleans, Jackson and Great Northern provided connections south through Mississippi to New Orleans. The Memphis and Charleston provided a direct line east to Chattanooga, Tenn. From Chattanooga the East Tennessee and Georgia and the Western and Atlantic provided connections to Atlanta and points south. The East Tennessee and Georgia; East Tennessee and Virginia; and Virginia and Tennessee provided rail service from Chattanooga to Lynchburg, Va., and other points in that state.<sup>1</sup> The rail network was augmented by a number of stage lines that provided service to the interior of Tennessee and surrounding states.

## Memphis: A Distribution Office

Distribution offices were important nodes in the distribution of mail. Before the Civil War there were 17 distribution offices in the states that would form the Confederacy (Table 1). As a rule, distribution offices were responsible for the delivery of mail to towns within an approximate 100-mile radius of the office.<sup>2</sup>

**Table 1. Southern Distribution Offices as of July 1, 1859, as extracted from the 1862 *List of Post Offices in the United States*.**

State	Towns	State	Towns	State	Towns
Ala.	Montgomery	La.	Alexandria	Texas	Galveston
Ark.	Little Rock		New Orleans	Va.	Kanawha C.H.
	Napoleon	N.C.	Raleigh		Norfolk
Ga.	Augusta	S.C.	Charleston		Richmond
	Columbus	Tenn.	Nashville		Wheeling
	Savannah		Memphis		

The Memphis and surrounding distribution offices are shown on the map in Figure 1.

It is difficult to find information on distribution offices after the Confederacy took over the mail service on June 1, 1861. What information is available is scattered in the Confederate records of the "Contract Office Letters-Sent Books," in the Library of Congress. From these records we know the Memphis Distribution Office served the areas listed in Table 2.<sup>3</sup>

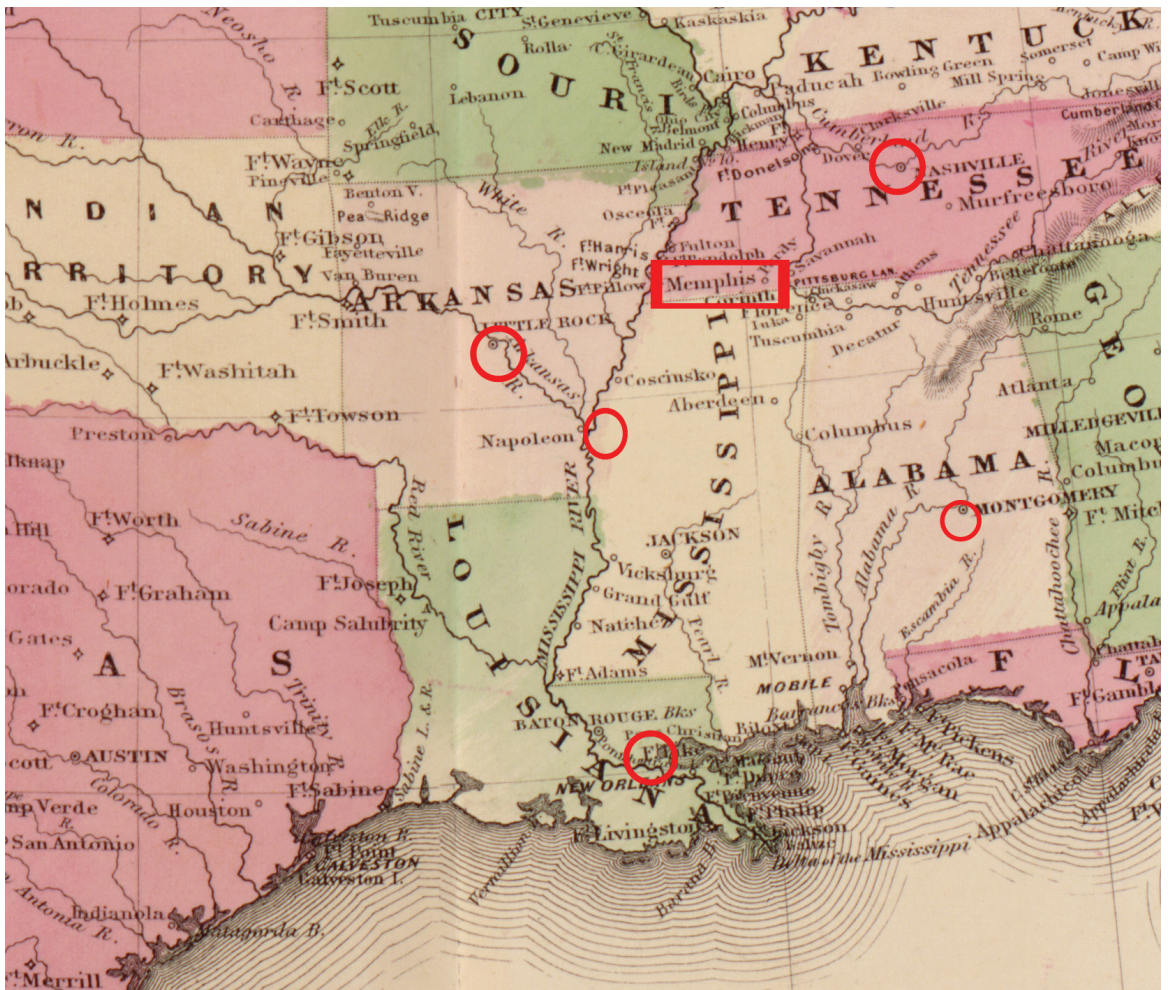


Figure 1. The Memphis and surrounding distribution offices are based on the list in Table 1. Memphis is in a red rectangle and the surrounding offices in red circles.

## James F. Taff

Confederate/United States

Germany & Areas

Unused Civil War Patriotics

French, British &

Italian Colonies

Price lists available, wantlists encouraged

P. O. Box 19549

Sacramento, CA 95819

916-709-0412

Jt9955rex@gmail.com



**Your Frameline superstore!**

**If you want the best, contact Jim Taff**

**Table 2. Areas Served by the Memphis Distribution Office – As of December 1861\***

State	General Service Area	Counties Serviced	Towns Direct
Alabama	Northern Alabama (direct)	No specifics	--
Arkansas		Crittenden, Mississippi, Poinsett, Green, Randolph, Lawrence, Jackson, Independence, Fulton, Izard, White, St. Frances, Monroe, Phillips	--
Mississippi	Entire state	No specifics	Holly Springs, Oxford, Grenada, Coffeerville, Canton, Jackson, Vicksburg, Carrollton, Columbus, Aberdeen, Mason, Okolona, Corinth, Iuka
Tennessee	Western Tennessee	No specifics	Jackson, Bolivar, Trenton, Brownsville, Paris, Somerville, Dresden, LaGrange
Texas	Northern Texas	No specifics	--

\* *Memphis also served as a distribution office for mail to and from Bowling Green and Columbus, Ky., while troops were in those areas.*

Distribution offices provided the framework for speedy mail delivery. Instead of a letter going from one post office to another to reach its destination, the distribution offices provided a more efficient and faster way to move the mail. For example, a letter mailed in Richmond, Va., destined for Memphis, Tenn., would be wrapped in a bundle or package with other mail destined for Memphis and the surrounding area. This package would be marked with the name of the distribution post office (Memphis) and the letters “D.P.O.” (Distribution Post Office). From Richmond, the package would go to the next distribution office in the direction of Memphis. Since the package was marked for the Memphis D.P.O., it would not be opened as it moved from one distribution office to the next until it reached the destination distribution office. At Memphis, the package would be opened, and the letters delivered to their destinations, either in Memphis or in the area served by the distribution office.<sup>4</sup>

As seen in Table 2, the area served by the Memphis distribution office included some towns indicated as “direct.” Distribution to towns indicated as direct operated like mail directed to distribution offices. Letters for the individual towns were made up in packages with the town name on the outside. These were then included in the packages to the appropriate distribution office. At the distribution office, the packages directed to specific towns were not opened but sent direct to the town.

### **Identifying Soldier and Civilian Mail**

The postage on soldiers’ mail was different from civilian mail in one important way. Soldiers could send letters postage due after July 29, 1861, if they properly endorsed the envelope with their name and unit. Civilian mail required the prepayment of postage. This difference is important in understanding the different uses of the Memphis due markings.

There are two ways to identify soldiers' mail. The primary method is to look for a soldier's endorsement on the letter. If there is an endorsement, it is a soldier's letter and in almost every instance there is a due marking on the cover. Due covers without an endorsement are problematic. However, since only soldiers could send letters due, in a perfect world any due letter without an endorsement is assumed to be a soldier's letter. There are a few instances where civilian letters may have been sent postage due, but this was later in the war when some towns experienced a shortage of stamps.

Some Memphis mail with due markings can be identified as civilian by the mix of postage, a provisional or postage stamp with a due marking. Such uses resulted from mailers failing to realize how far a destination post office was from Memphis or did not realize a letter was overweight. Such letters were left in the post office collection box. When these letters were processed, the clerk had no choice but to mark them with the appropriate postage due. The same thing could happen when a soldier mailed a letter paid by a postage stamp. However, for the purposes of this article all mixed uses with a postage stamp or provisional and a due marking are considered civilian letters.

### Reaffirmation of Rates

Reaffirmation is probably a new term to many collectors. When used in this article it refers to the practice of a town restating or reaffirming a rate that was applied to a cover at time of mailing in a different city. This was not a customary practice, and few towns are known to have done this. One town that did reaffirm rates was Memphis, but it was not done to all mail.

### The Memphis "DUE / 2" Marking

The "DUE / 2" marking is different from the "5" and "10" due markings and may have been procured separately from the other two. At first glance, the two recorded examples of the "DUE / 2" marking appear to be made by haphazardly installing a "DUE" and a "2" marking in a device. Close examination reveals two possibilities (Figure 2). Either the two markings were in a device in which the "2" was not firmly fixed, or the markings were applied separately. Note the apparent constant alignment of the "DUE" at an angle while the "2" moves up and down and side to side. If two separate markings were used it would help explain the solo use of the "DUE" marking on one cover.

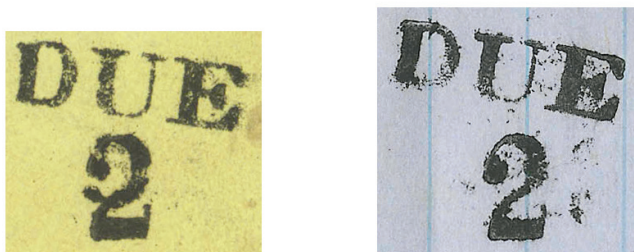


Figure 2. The Memphis "DUE / 2" Marking.

### Uses of the "DUE / 2" Marking

The two recorded uses of the Memphis "DUE / 2" were found applied to indicate the postage due on drop letters mailed in April 1862. The first is a soldier's folded letter from S.R. Shelton, of Co. L, 154th Regiment of Tennessee Volunteers, posted at Memphis as a drop letter. At the time the letter was written, the 154th Regiment was in the Army of Mississippi in the vicinity of Shiloh. The letter was probably hand carried by a member of the unit to Memphis, where it was mailed (Figure 3).

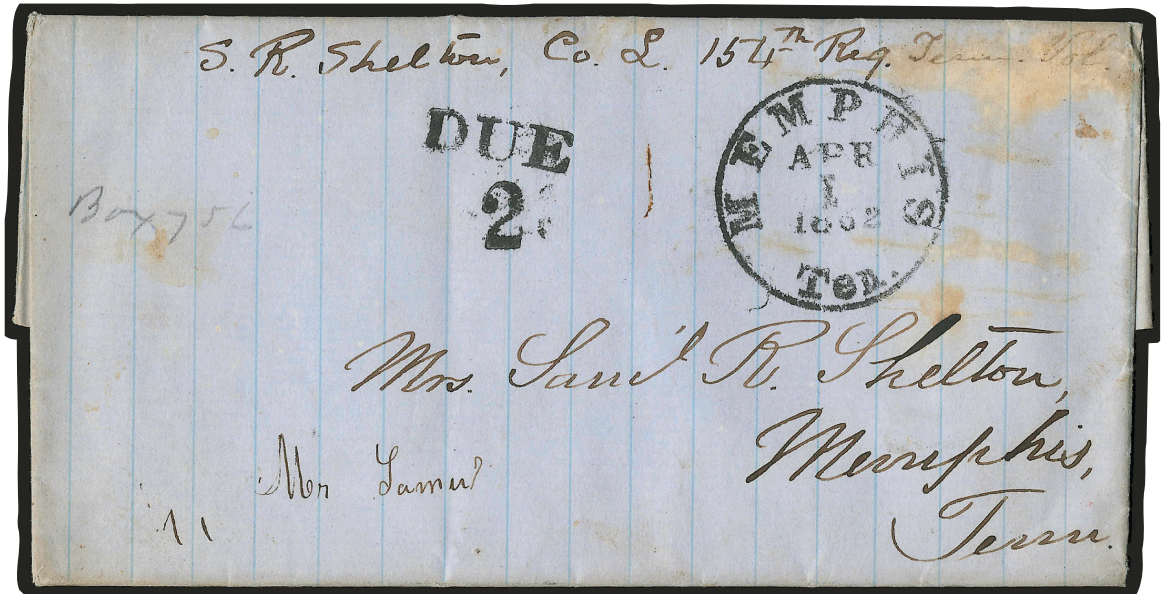


Figure 3. Soldier's drop letter mailed at Memphis April 1, 1862. Courtesy Robert A Siegel Auction Galleries, Sale 940.

The second is a drop letter mailed at Memphis on April 14, 1862, with postage indicated by the "DUE / 2" marking (Figure 4). This letter has no soldier's endorsement, but it may have been hand carried to Memphis from a unit that had been engaged at Shiloh. Another less-likely possibility is that it may have been dropped in a mail collection box by a citizen of Memphis and, rather than attempt to return the letter to the sender, it was marked "DUE / 2."

A third "DUE / 2" cover addressed to the same Shelton address as the cover shown in Figure 3 is in private hands. No illustration of this cover was available.



Figure 4. Drop letter mailed at Memphis on 14 April 1862. Courtesy Robert A Siegel Auction Galleries, Sale 940.

## The Memphis “DUE / 5” and “DUE / 10” Markings

The “DUE / 5” and “DUE / 10” markings (Figure 5) were prepared as integral handstamps as the distance between the “DUE” and the value is constant, as is the alignment of values below the “DUE.” The earliest-recorded use of one of the due markings is early August 1861, so the devices were probably prepared in late July.

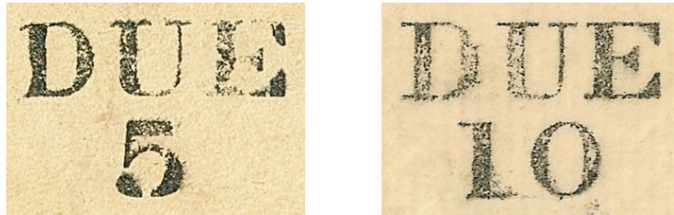


Figure 5. Memphis “DUE / 5” and “DUE / 10” Markings.

### Different Uses of the Memphis “DUE / 5” and “DUE / 10” Due Markings

The Civil War Philatelic Society website has a census of more than 100 covers with Memphis due markings. Examination of the different covers reveals these markings served at least four purposes:

- Those applied at time of mailing to indicate postage due.
- Those applied to correct the postage paid or indicated.
- Those applied at town of receipt as a reaffirmation of postage due.
- Those applied *enroute* to reaffirm the amount of postage due.

### “5” and “10” Due Marking Applied at Time of Mailing to Indicate Postage Due

A due marking applied at the office of origin to indicate the postage due from the recipient of the letter is the most common use. Almost all such uses are found on soldiers’ letters. An example is illustrated in Figure 6. It is a soldier’s letter from Pvt. A.V. Conner, Co. F, 11th Mississippi Regiment, which entered the mail at Memphis on Nov. 14, 1861. It was marked with the Memphis “DUE / 5” marking to indicate the postage due from the recipient, Mrs. R. Conner at Macon, Miss.

The cover is a common-looking due cover, but with a hidden history. Pvt. Conner’s unit, the 11th Mississippi Regiment, was in winter quarters at Leesburg, Va., with the Army of Northern Virginia when the letter was written. How did the letter get from Virginia to Memphis? There is no marking on the cover to indicate it entered the mail before arriving in Memphis. Someone from Pvt. Conner’s unit probably hand carried the letter and others from members of the company or regiment to Memphis, where they were posted.<sup>5</sup>

Keep up to date with what’s happening:

**[civilwarphilatelicsociety.org](http://civilwarphilatelicsociety.org)**

Our online resources are timely, helpful, interesting and informative.

Don’t forget to spend some time with our archives!



Figure 6. Soldier's letter to Macon, Miss., entered the mail at Memphis on Nov. 14, 1862. Courtesy Robert A Siegel Auction Galleries, sale 1016.

Another soldier's letter mailed at Memphis is shown in Figure 7. This letter, from 1st Lt. A.M. O'Neal, was mailed at Memphis on March 18, 1862. At this time the 1st Confederate Battalion was with Rust's Brigade in western Virginia. Like the Figure 6 cover, it was probably hand carried by a soldier on leave to Memphis, where it was mailed.<sup>6</sup>



Figure 7. Soldier's letter to Florence, Ala., entered the mail at Memphis on March 18, 1862. Courtesy Jerry Palazolo.

There are a few covers with a Memphis due marking but no soldiers' endorsement. These covers were probably soldiers' letters that got into the mail without the required endorsement. The example shown in Figure 8 is a cover from Bowling Green, Ky., without the soldier's endorsement or a rate. It was rated "DUE / 10" at Memphis to pay the rate from Bowling Green to Old Town Landing, Phillips County, Ark. The distance is less than 500 miles, so the rate was for the weight.

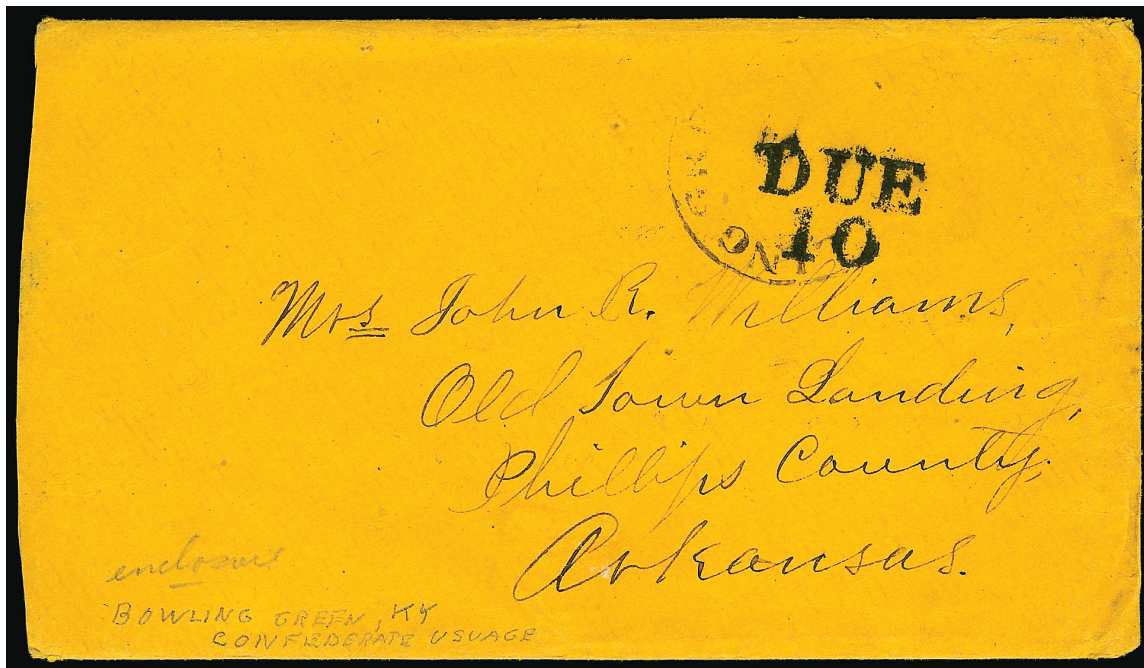


Figure 8. Letter to Old Town Landing, Ark., mailed from Bowling Green, Ky., without a rate. Rated "DUE / 10" at Memphis. Courtesy Robert A Siegel Auction Galleries, Sale 870.

### Due Marking Applied to Correct the Postage Paid or Indicated

The letter shown in Figure 9 illustrates the use of a due marking to correct the insufficient postage applied by the mailer. Mailers were either unfamiliar with the two-tiered rate system or had no idea of the distance to far towns. The situation was exacerbated by the number of letters to soldiers who were several states away and more than 500 miles from their homes. In this case, the distance to Athens, Ga., was more than 500 miles and required 10¢ postage. The short postage was caught at the Memphis post office and the "DUE / 5" marking was added.



**Please...**  
**Make it a Point**  
**When Purchasing**  
**Stamps and Covers**  
**to Support Our Advertisers**  
**They support our hobby and our journal!**



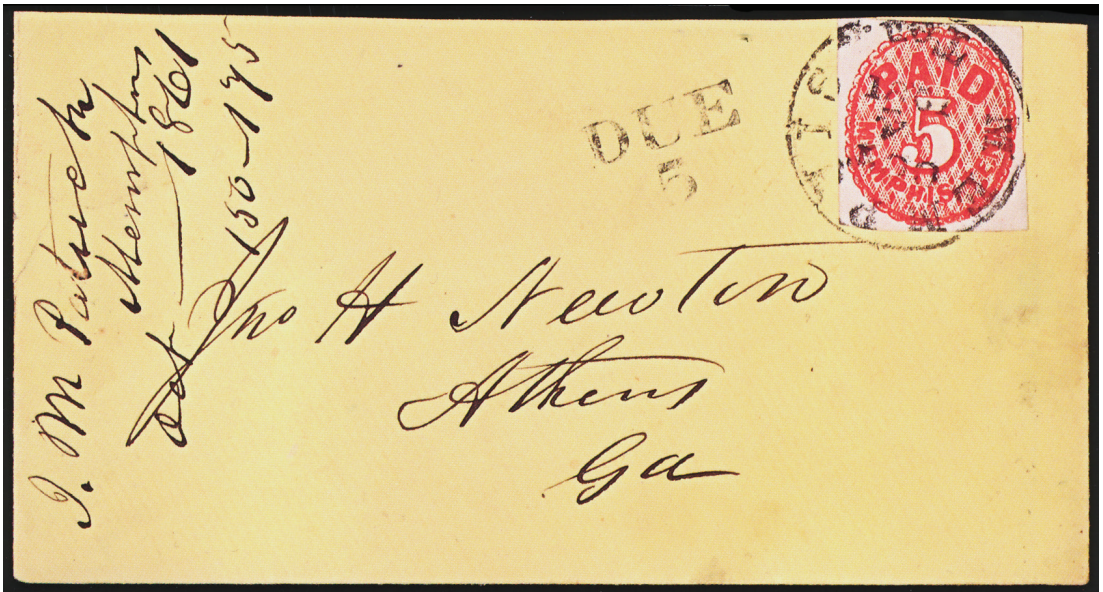


Figure 9. A civilian letter to Athens, Ga., mailed at Memphis on Oct. 16, 1861, with postage paid by a 5¢ Memphis provisional. "DUE / 5" added for a letter going more than 500 miles. Courtesy Robert A Siegel Auction Galleries, sale 815.

Another example of using a due marking to correct the postage is shown in Figure 10. In this case, the letter was downrated. At Bowling Green, Ky., the cover was marked in manuscript "Due 10" at upper right (The "0" of "10" is under the "E" of the "DUE"). At Memphis, the rate was corrected because the destination, the Center post office in Attala County, Mississippi, was less than 500 miles. The correction was made by applying the "DUE / 5" marking over the manuscript "Due 10" marking at upper right.



Figure 10. Soldier's letter to Center Post Office, Mississippi, mailed at Bowling Green on Oct. 24 [1861], with postage indicated by manuscript "Due 10" marking. Rate corrected for letter traveling less than 500 miles by the Memphis "DUE / 5" marking over the manuscript "Due 10" marking. Courtesy Robert A Siegel Auction Galleries. Sale 1257.

## Due Marking Applied at Town of Receipt as a Reaffirmation of Postage Due

The post office of origin had the responsibility to examine outgoing letters for the correct postage. Any letters deficient in postage were to be marked with the amount of postage due. Letters directed to Memphis were also stamped with that town's due marking as a reaffirmation of the postage due and as a reminder to the clerk who delivered the letter to the recipient.

The cover shown in Figure 11 pictures a letter mailed by a soldier at Columbus, Ky., to Memphis in January [1862]. The cover was properly marked "Due / 5" in manuscript at Columbus. On arrival in Memphis, the rate was reaffirmed by the "DUE / 5" marking.



Figure 11. Soldier's letter to Memphis, Tenn., mailed at Columbus, Ky., in January 1862 with postage indicated by manuscript "Due / 5" marking. Rate reaffirmed by the Memphis "DUE / 5" marking. Courtesy Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, Sale 1063.

The cover shown in Figure 12 is a letter from the Headquarters Army of Mississippi that entered the mail at Jackson, Tenn., in March [1862] with the postage properly indicated by the manuscript "Due 5" marking. On arrival in Memphis the rate was reaffirmed by the "DUE / 5" marking.

## CALL FOR PAPERS: SECOND QUARTER 2024

Share your hobby enjoyment and knowledge with your fellow members.

Submissions should be directed to the CWP Article Coordinator,  
Frank Crown at [fcrownjr@gmail.com](mailto:fcrownjr@gmail.com)

Questions? Contact the editor at [wystamps@gmail.com](mailto:wystamps@gmail.com)

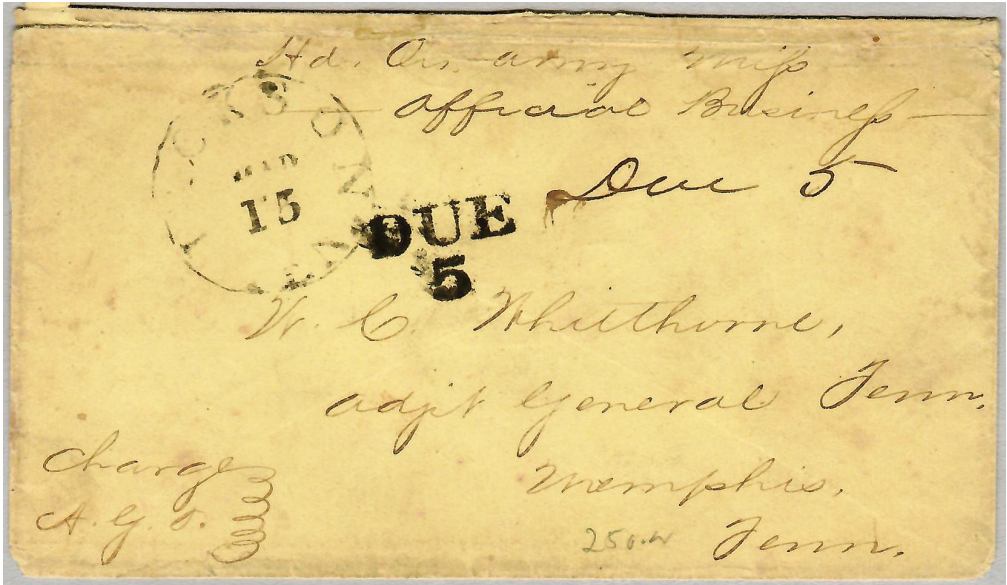


Figure 12. Letter to Memphis, Tenn., mailed at Jackson, Tenn., on March 15 [1862], with postage indicated by manuscript "Due 5" marking. Rate reaffirmed by Memphis "DUE / 5" at destination. Courtesy Stefan Jaronski.

### Due Marking Applied *Enroute* to Reaffirm the Postage Due

The practice of reaffirming the postage due enroute appears to have been unique to Memphis. This has resulted in some confusion among collectors who may see a cover from a Virginia town directed to western Tennessee, Mississippi or Arkansas with a strange due marking: a due marking that is not that of either the origin or destination town.

Why were soldier's letters with the postage due properly indicated marked again with the Memphis "DUE / 5" or "DUE / 10" marking? In 1985, Stefan Jaronski noted the similarity of the Memphis "DUE / 5" marking to a cover mailed at Iuka, Miss. (Figure 13). He suggested "mail passing through Memphis may have received handstamped markings to emphasize the due nature of the letters."<sup>7</sup>



Figure 13. Soldier's letter to Crawfordville, Miss., mailed at Iuka, Miss. on March 30 [1862], with postage indicated by manuscript "Due 5." Rate reaffirmed at Memphis by "DUE / 5" marking. Courtesy Stefan Jaronski.



Figure 14. Soldier's letter to New Madrid, [Missouri] on Gen. Beauregard patriotic cover, mailed at Humbolt, Tenn., on March 11, 1862, with rate indicated by manuscript "Due 5" marking. Rate reaffirmed at Memphis by "DUE / 5" marking. Courtesy Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, Sale 940.

Sometimes it appears the reaffirmation was done on covers on which the postage due may have been missed. An example is shown in Figure 14. The small "Due 5" marking in the upper-right corner could easily be missed, as it is surrounded by the soldier's endorsement. The reaffirmation of the rate by the Memphis "DUE / 5" makes it clear postage is to be collected.

Other times the postage due marking was plainly visible and yet the Memphis "DUE / 5" was used to reaffirm the postage due. Most of the time the reaffirmation was deliberate, as the marking was applied over the existing marking. It is as if whoever was reaffirming the rate did not want the two different due markings to be additive. An example is shown in Figure 15.

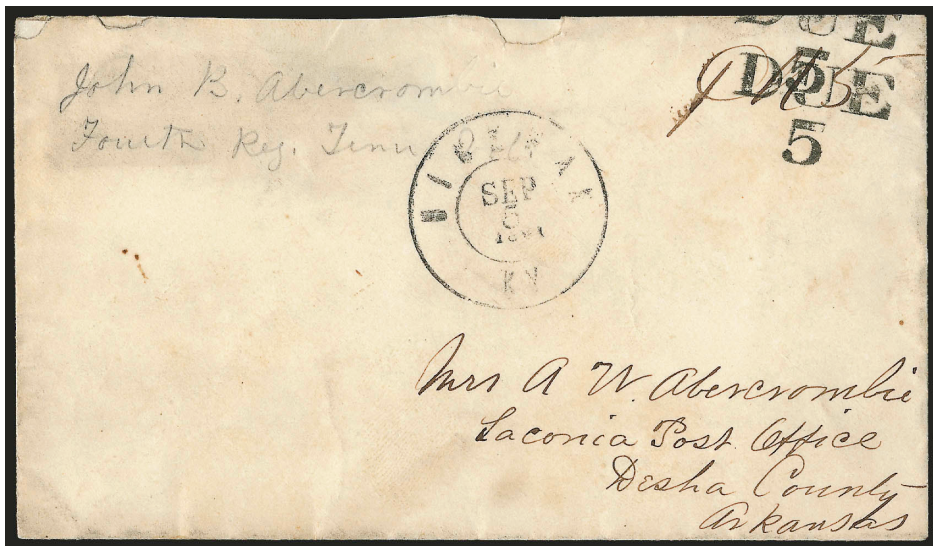


Figure 15. Soldier's letter to Laconia, Ark., mailed at Hickman, Ky., on Sept. 5, 1861, with a clear manuscript "DU [Due] 5" marking. Rate reaffirmed at Memphis by "DUE / 5" marking. Courtesy Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, Sale 981.

Other times the postage due was handstamped on a cover and at Memphis the rate was still reaffirmed. An example is found in Figure 16. The cover has the Bowling Green circled “10” marking handstamped at upper right. A value marking without an accompanying “Paid” or “Due” marking was universally considered due. Yet the postage due was reaffirmed at Memphis.

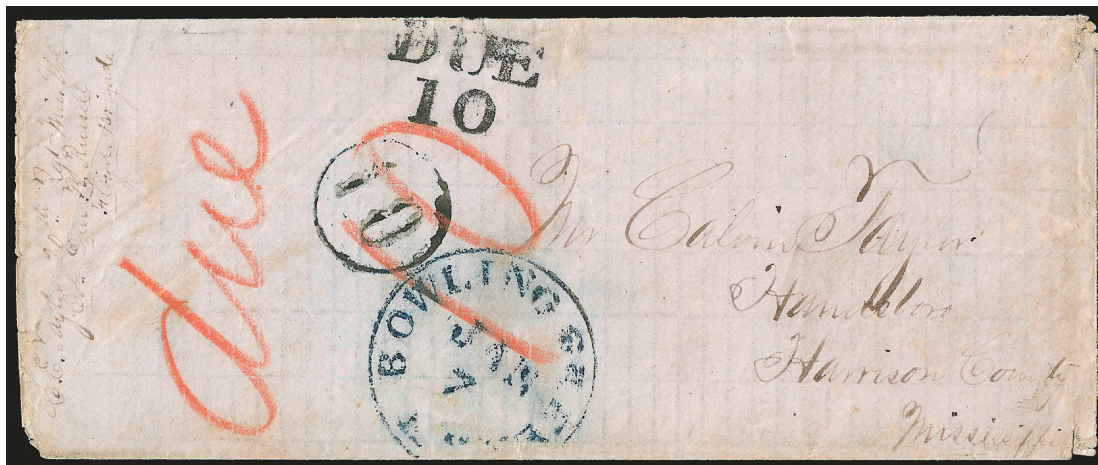


Figure 16. Soldier’s letter to Handsboro, Miss., mailed at Bowling Green, Ky., on Jan. 7, 1862, with postage due indicted by the circled “10.” Rate reaffirmed at Memphis by “DUE / 10” marking. Courtesy Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, Sale 933.

### The Memphis [Due] “20” Marking

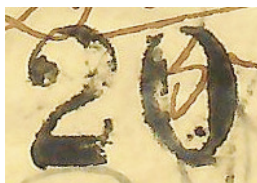


Figure 17. The “20” Marking.

The “2” in the “20” marking shown in Figure 17 looks much like the “2” in the Memphis “DUE / 2” (Figure 18). It may have been made by haphazardly inserting a “2” and an “0” in a device, or it may be the result of two strikes of the two different markings. No other Confederate “20” marking was found that has the same characteristics of this marking. These factors give credence to the “20” being a Memphis marking.

The single-recorded example of this marking is on a cover with an indistinct Columbus, Ky., postmark at upper right (Figure 18). A manuscript “Due / 5” is partially under the “20.” The “20” was apparently carefully applied to take advantage of the “Due” applied at Columbus. The “20” uprates the original “Due / 5” rate by 15¢, indicating the letter was uprated for both distance and weight.

**When purchasing items...**  
 Please tell advertisers you saw their ad in  
***The Civil War Philatelist!***



Figure 18. Soldier's letter to Montgomery, Ala., mailed at Columbus, Ky., with postage due indicated by manuscript "Due / 5." Uprated at Memphis by "20" marking. Courtesy Stefan Jaronski.

### The Memphis Unrated "DUE" Marking

The Memphis "DUE" marking (Figure 19) was prepared at the same time as the "DUE / 5" and "DUE / 10" markings or was taken from one of these markings.

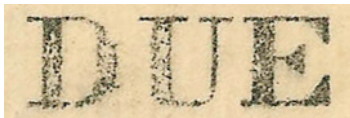


Figure 19. Memphis "DUE."

Only two examples of solo uses of the Memphis "DUE" marking are recorded. One cover shows only the "DUE" portion of what would otherwise be a Memphis due marking with a rate (Figure 20). In this case the letter was underpaid for the distance and should have been uprated to "DUE / 5." Although the "DUE / 5" marking was probably used, another envelope was slightly over the bottom of the Camden cover, resulting in the incomplete "DUE" without the rate.

Keep up to date with what's happening:

**[www.civilwarphilatelicsociety.org](http://www.civilwarphilatelicsociety.org)**

Our online resources are timely, helpful, interesting and informative.

Don't forget to spend some time with our extensive archives!

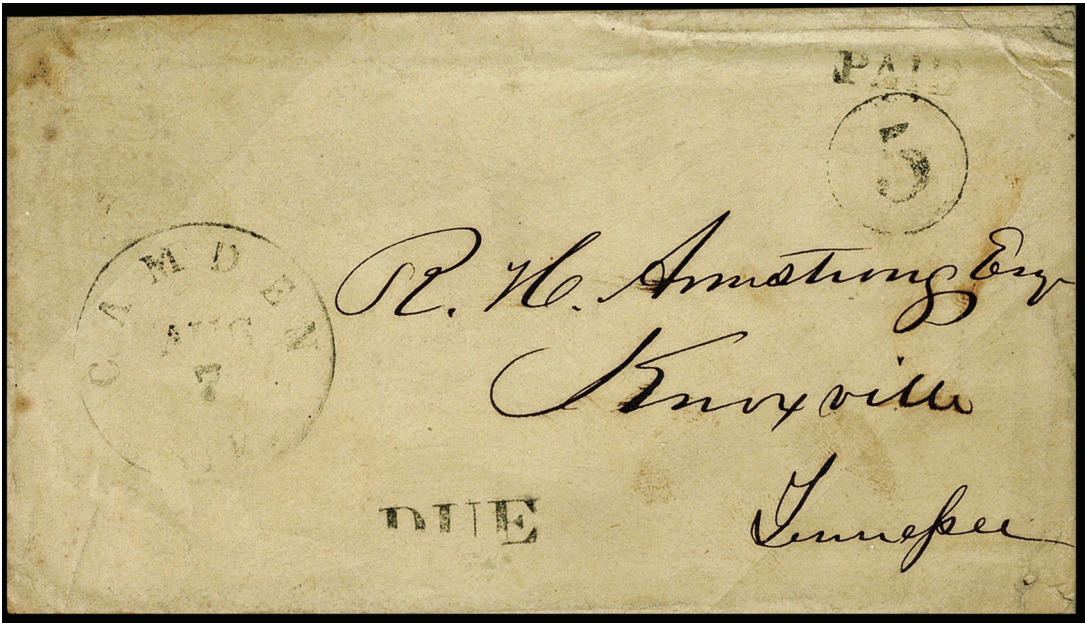


Figure 20. Letter to Knoxville, Tenn., mailed at Camden, Ark., on Aug. 7 [1861], with insufficient postage paid by handstamped "PAID" and "5" markings. Cover is underpaid for distance and uprated by Memphis incomplete "DUE / 5" marking. Courtesy Jerry Palazolo.

The second use of the solo "DUE" is on a cover with a manuscript rate (Figure 21). The manuscript "10" (due) rate was applied at Memphis or somewhere else and the "DUE" marking was applied to reaffirm the rate. The large "DUE" was applied at the destination office, Somerville, Ala. The letter was overweight, as the distance to Somerville was less than 500 miles.

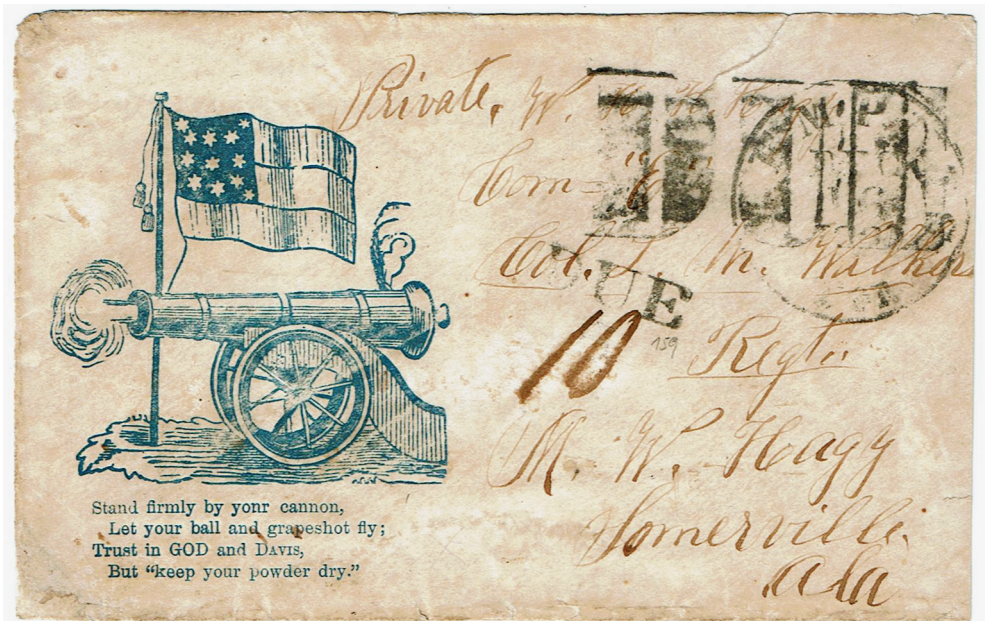


Figure 21. Soldier's letter to Somerville, Ala., mailed at Memphis on Dec. 16, 1861, with postage indicated by the Memphis "DUE" over the manuscript "10." Giant "DUE" added at Somerville, Ala. Courtesy Robert A Siegel Auction Galleries, Sale 472.

## Why Were the Rates on Some Letters Reaffirmed at Memphis and Others Not

The available evidence appears to show the reaffirmation was done randomly. Letters from Bowling Green and Columbus, Ky., make up the largest number of reaffirmed rates. Yet there are examples of letters from these towns that would have passed through Memphis without having the rate reaffirmed. Why?

There is a simple explanation for Memphis due markings on some letters and not on others. Memphis' role as a distribution office is the key. Mail came into the Memphis post office in bundles or packages tied with twine. Some of the packages were directed to the Memphis distribution office and others to distribution offices beyond Memphis. Those directed to distribution offices beyond Memphis were not opened, but forwarded. When packages for Memphis were opened, they were examined for correct postage as part of making up the necessary post bills. It was at this time that the reaffirmation "DUE / 5" and "DUE / 10" rates were applied to the letters. Since only mail packages directed to the Memphis distribution office were opened and others not, this would explain the apparent randomness of the reaffirmation rates on letters that passed through Memphis.

Proof of this theory requires the examination of a large sample of covers from Bowling Green and Columbus without reaffirmation rates to determine if they passed through the Memphis distribution office destined for other distribution offices. Such a detailed examination is beyond the scope of this article. However, two examples of letters that would have passed through Memphis without having the rate reaffirmed are illustrated here.

The cover shown in Figure 22 was probably in a package directed to the New Orleans distribution office, which would have included Point Coupee, La., in its delivery area. The package was not opened in Memphis, thus explaining why the "Due / 10" rate was not reaffirmed at Memphis.



Figure 22. Soldier's letter to Point Coupee, La., mailed at Columbus, Ky., in October 1861, with postage indicated by manuscript "Due / 10" rate. Courtesy Robert A Siegel Auction Galleries, Sale 1255.

Another example is the cover pictured in Figure 23. This cover from Bowling Green, Ky., was in a package of letters that should have been directed to the Galveston, Texas, distribution office, which would have included Bastrop in its delivery area. The package probably came through Memphis, but would not have been opened, thus no reaffirmation of the due rate.





Figure 23. Soldier's letter to Bastrop, Texas, mailed at Bowling Green, Ky., on Nov. 13, 1861, with postage indicated by manuscript "Due 10" marking. Courtesy Robert A Siegel Auction Galleries, Sale 907.

### Placement of Reaffirmation Due markings.

An examination of more than 100 covers with Memphis due markings reveals that at least two clerks added the reaffirmation markings. One carefully placed the reaffirmation marking over the original marking, probably to eliminate the possibility of the receiving postmaster adding the two due rates together. The second clerk paid no attention to existing markings and applied the reaffirmation rate randomly.

### Note

There are always exceptions to the rule. The reaffirmation of rates at Memphis was not a requirement. It was done at the direction of the postmaster, chief mail clerk or on the initiative of a mail clerk. Whoever applied the markings could certainly miss some letters or apply the incorrect due marking to others. At the same time, those who made up the packages of mail at other distribution offices could certainly put letters in the wrong package due to a lack of knowledge about the location of smaller towns in relation to distribution offices.

### Use of the "DUE / 10" Marking after the Fall of Memphis

The Confederate defeats at Shiloh and Island Number 10 in early April 1862, the Confederate retreat after the battle of Plum Point Bend in early May and the abandonment of Corinth, Miss., in late May left Memphis in an untenable position. As a result, Confederate forces withdrew from Memphis and surrounding areas. At the same time, river boats began to move south to safer areas. The Confederate River Defense Fleet, which was protecting New Orleans, was divided in view of the threat to the Mississippi River north of Memphis. Eight boats were sent north up the Mississippi to secure the northern approaches on the river. These boats were commercial steamboats refitted with cotton armor, limited armament and reinforced bows for use as rams. All were captained by their civilian masters. At Memphis, they found themselves short on fuel, as a Union fleet of gunboats and rams made its way south toward Memphis.

At first light on June 6, 1862, the two fleets met just above Memphis. The Union fleet, composed of the Western Gunboat Flotilla (five ironclad gunboats) and the ad-hoc United States Ram Fleet (four rams), faced off with the Confederate River Defense Fleet. The ensuing battle resulted in a quick Union victory. It was hardly over when a small party from the Union Navy landed at Memphis and raised the United States flag over the post office. That afternoon Union forces took control of city without a formal surrender<sup>8</sup>

The Memphis postmaster, Matthew C. Gallaway, was also part owner and editor of the *Avalanche*, a newspaper he started in 1858 (Figure 24). Gallaway's main interest was the newspaper, and he was known for his extreme secessionist views, which filled the editorial pages of the *Avalanche*. In April 1862, Gallaway sold his interest in the *Avalanche*, but continued as postmaster.<sup>9</sup>

It is speculated that the day before the surrender of Memphis, Gallaway left Memphis for Grenada, Miss., with a box-car loaded with equipment and supplies from the post office. Gallaway was in Grenada in early July when he wrote a letter to Governor Harris at Chattanooga (Figure 25). It is quite possible that the "DUE / 10" marking was with the equipment and supplies evacuated from Memphis and eventually made its way into other hands. At some point, Gallaway joined Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest's command as a lieutenant and aide. Although there is no official record of his commission as a lieutenant, Gallaway considered himself a lieutenant, as that is how he signed his parole and the rank he gave in his application for amnesty after the war.<sup>10</sup>



Figure 24. Postmaster Gallaway. Reprinted from *The Postmaster's Provisionals of Memphis, Tennessee*, by Thomas H. Pratt.

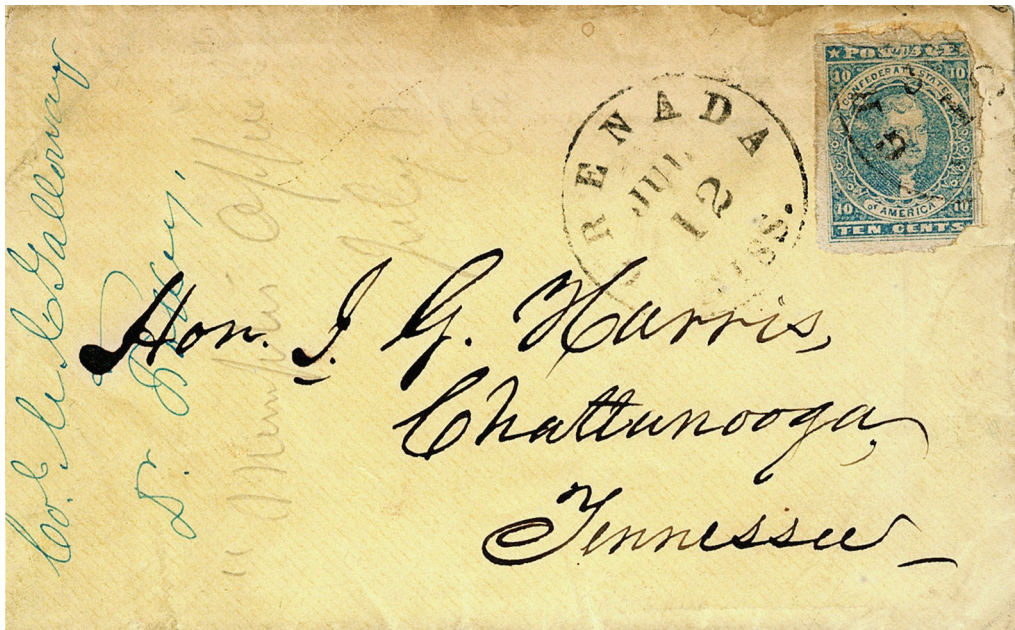


Figure 25. Cover addressed to Governor Harris in Chattanooga, Tenn., mailed from Grenada, Miss., with docketing showing it was from Postmaster M.C. Gallaway. Courtesy Jerry Palazolo.

## Comparison of the “DUE / 10” Markings

A close comparison of the “DUE / 10” marking used at Memphis prior to June 6, 1862, with the same markings used after June 6, 1862, show only minor differences (Figure 26). These may be the result of wear or how the marking was struck on a cover and even the contents of the cover. It is possible it was a stock marking. This is unlikely, as no other example of the marking is known from a Confederate town. It is also possible it was a newly made marking. For these reasons, no conclusion is made on the origin of the marking used after June 6, 1862.



Figure 26. Examples of “DUE / 10” markings used before June 1862 and after that date.

## Uses of the “DUE / 10” Marking after the Fall of Memphis

Use of the “DUE / 10” marking should have ceased after the fall of Memphis, but did it? There are examples of the marking used a year or more after the fall of Memphis. In 1994, Stefan Jaronski noted that two 1864 uses of the “DUE / 10” marking were on Army of Tennessee covers (Figure 27), but stated the origin of the markings was uncertain.<sup>11</sup> Jaronski’s observations led to a theory that the “DUE / 10” marking had somehow found its way to the Army of Tennessee, where it was placed into service.

## **The *Civil War Philatelist* is your journal...**

We welcome letters to the editor ...  
... as well as articles of any length,  
geared toward **all** phases, specialities  
and collecting levels  
of Civil War philately.

**Please, let us hear from you!**





Figure 27. An Army of Tennessee cover to Savannah with a Savannah "10" (due) marking and the "DUE / 10" marking. Courtesy Stefan Jaronski.

Over the years, additional covers bearing the "DUE / 10" marking were found that bore Georgia postmarks, or were addressed to Georgia towns. Based on this information, a new theory was advanced that Atlanta was the source of the marking (Figure 28).

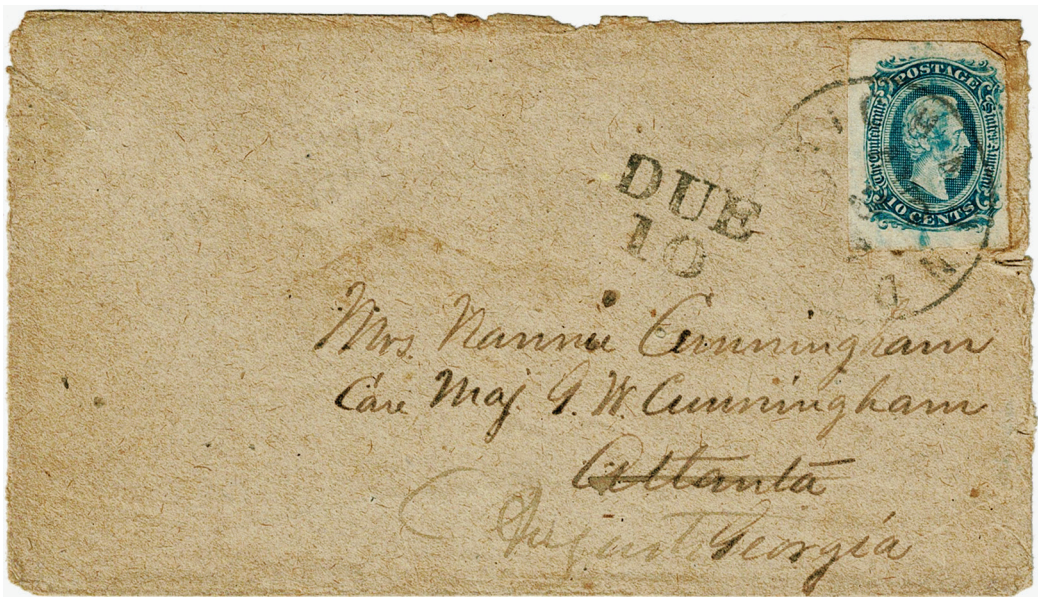


Figure 28. Cover to Atlanta, Ga., with 10¢ engraved stamp tied by Richmond Aug. 2 postmark. The "DUE / 10" added to forward the cover from Atlanta to Augusta, Ga. Courtesy Stefan Jaronski.

There is third group of covers for which no theory has been advanced. These are scarce covers, but with the “DUE / 10” marking added. Among these is a blockade cover docketed 1863 (Figure 29). The cover came into the port of Wilmington, N.C., and, as was required, it was turned over to the postmaster. At the post office it was marked “SHIP” and “2,” and the 10¢ stamp affixed and canceled. Where was the “DUE / 10” marking applied? It is not a Wilmington marking. Was it applied at Atlanta (the destination) because the letter was determined to be overweight? Possibly, but Atlanta already had a “Due 10” marking that does not resemble the “DUE / 10” marking on the cover. There is nothing about the cover that indicates it was ever in the military mail and it was clearly outside the operational area of the Army of Tennessee in October 1863.



Figure 29. Inbound blockade cover to Atlanta, Ga., which entered the port of Wilmington, N.C., in October [1863]. Courtesy Schuyler Rumsey Auctions, Sale 34.

Another cover is a prisoner of war cover from Johnson’s Island prison near Sandusky, Ohio, to Georgia, shown in Figure 30. It was mailed in May 1864, was exchanged at City Point, and entered the mail at Richmond on June 2, as noted by the postmark and straight-line “DUE 10” marking for a soldier’s letter. The letter was forwarded from Cartersville (the original destination) to Penfield, Ga., by the manuscript “forwarded Due 10” marking. Was the “DUE / 10” applied at Cartersville or Penfield? Probably not, as neither had such a due marking.



## **The Civil War Philatelist** **is your journal...**

We welcome letters to the editor  
and articles of any length  
geared toward **all** phases and levels of Civil  
War philately.  
**Please, let us hear from you!**

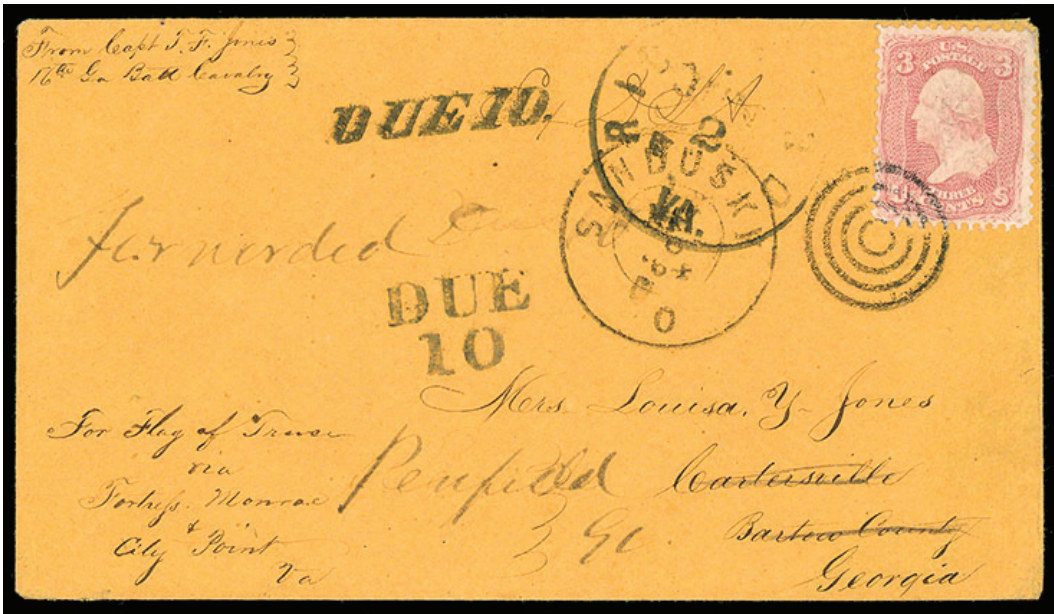


Figure 30. Prisoner of war cover to Cartersville, Ga., from Johnson's Island, Sandusky, Ohio, postmarked May 6, 1864. Forwarded to Penfield, Ga., by manuscript "forwarded Due 10" and "DUE / 10" markings. Courtesy Schuyler Rumsey Auctions, Sale 103.

A third cover is a soldier-to-soldier letter sent by a guard at the Andersonville prison to a soldier in the Army of Tennessee in 1864 or early 1865, shown in Figure 31. The cover is marked in manuscript "Due / 10," but also has the "DUE / 10" marking at upper right. Why was the cover handstamped "DUE / 10" when it was already marked due? Further, there is no recorded "DUE / 10" marking used at Andersonville. Was the "DUE / 10" marking applied by the Army of Tennessee?



Figure 31. Soldier-to-soldier cover to Stuarts Division, Army of Tennessee, mailed at Andersonville, Ga., in 1864 or early 1865, with postage indicated by manuscript "Due / 10" and "DUE / 10" markings. Courtesy Robert A Siegel Auction Galleries, Sale 822.

All theories explaining the use of the “DUE / 10” marking after June 6, 1862, defy logic when all covers are examined together. Ten of the 12 covers bear some indication of postage (due marking or stamp) in addition to the “DUE / 10” marking. Two of the covers have no visible indication of postage other than the “DUE / 10” marking. However, it does have a soldier’s endorsement, indicating it was sent due. Some may represent legitimate uses. Others may be the work of a knowledgeable collector who found the “DUE / 10” marking after the war and handstamped several different covers with the marking. This would explain its use on several different types of scarce and unusual covers. The application of the “DUE / 10” marking to these covers is somewhat like the small fake “10” marking applied to some covers from La Grange, Ga., addressed to a Miss Yerby.<sup>12</sup>

## Conclusions

Prior to June 6, 1862, uses of the Memphis due markings fall into four categories:

- Those applied at time of mailing to indicate postage due.
- Those applied to correct the postage paid or indicated.
- Those applied at town of receipt as a reaffirmation of postage due.
- Those applied *enroute* to reaffirm the amount of postage due.

Examination of more than 100 covers with the “DUE” markings indicate they were applied only to mail originating at Memphis or directed to and processed at the Memphis Distribution Office.

The letters in the packages directed to the Memphis distribution office were examined at the direction of the postmaster, a head clerk or even on the initiative of an individual clerk. Letters were checked for the correct postage and due letters had the rate reaffirmed. Why this examination was done is unknown, and the practice was not required by postal regulations. However, it is clear that at least two different clerks stamped the mail with the due markings. One clerk took pains to apply the due marking over the existing marking, thus eliminating the chance that the receiving office would consider the multiple due markings as additive. The second clerk applied the due markings randomly.

# SEEKING

Confederate and Southern States  
Postal History as well as a few  
Select Customers for such.

## Carolina Coin & Stamp, Inc.

Tony L. Crumbley  
P.O. Box 681447, Charlotte, NC 28216  
704.395.1191  
tcrumbley2@bellsouth.net



## Acknowledgements

My sincere appreciation goes to Jerry Palazolo and Stefan Jaronski for their help in making this article possible. I'm particularly thankful to Palazolo for copies of source material on Memphis, insights on the role of postmaster Gallaway, numerous images and insightful comments on the draft article. My gratitude goes to Jaronski for source material on distribution offices, thoughts on Atlanta as a source of the "DUE / 10" marking after the fall of Memphis, numerous images and comments on the draft article.

## Endnotes

1. Black, Robert C., III, *The Railroads of the Confederacy* (Chapel Hill, N.C., University of North Carolina Press, 1998), pp. xxiii-xxv.
2. U.S. Post Office Department, *Postal Laws and Regulations of the Post Office Department* (1859), Section 41 of Regulations.
3. Confederate Post Office Department, "Contract Office Letters-Sent Books in Confederate States of America, Picket Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington D.C.," volume 31:523 and 32:110 (Dec. 10, 1881) ; 32:168 (Dec. 23, 1861).
4. U.S. Post Office Department, *Postal Laws and Regulations of the Post Office Department* (1859), Sections 41-47 of Regulations.
5. Hawks, Steve A., "The Civil War in the East: 11th Mississippi Infantry Regiment," (<https://civilwarintheeast.com/confederate-regiments/mississippi/11th-mississippi-infantry-regiment/>), accessed Aug. 28, 2023.
6. Hawks, Steve A., "The Civil War in the East: 1st Confederate Battalion," (<https://civilwarintheeast.com/confederate-regiments/1st-confederate-battalion/>) and Wikipedia, "Albert Rust," [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Albert\\_Rust](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Albert_Rust), accessed Aug. 28, 2023.
7. Jaronski, Stefan T., "My Dear Wife ... A Soldier's Letter." *Confederate Philatelist* 30:2 (March-April 1985), page 50.
8. Young, Judge J.P., ed., *Standard History of Memphis, Tennessee*, (Knoxville, Tenn., H.W. Crew & Co., 1912), pp. 347-351.
9. Vedder O.F., *History of the City of Memphis* (Syracuse, N.Y., D. Mason & Co., 1888), pp. 133 and 218.
10. U.S., *Compiled Service Records of Confederate General and Staff Officers, and Nonregimental Enlisted Men, 1861-1865* ([www.fold3.com/image/68322327/gallaway-matthew-c-page-1-us-civil-war-service-records-cmsr-confederate-officers-1861-1865](http://www.fold3.com/image/68322327/gallaway-matthew-c-page-1-us-civil-war-service-records-cmsr-confederate-officers-1861-1865)) accessed Sept. 17, 2023, and *Amnesty Papers* ([www.fold3.com/image/20483901/gallaway-m-c-page-5-us-Confederate-amnesty-papers-1865-1867](http://www.fold3.com/image/20483901/gallaway-m-c-page-5-us-Confederate-amnesty-papers-1865-1867)), accessed Sept. 17, 2023.
11. Jaronski, Stefan T., "Confederate Army Field Post Offices During The War Between the States: Part 4." *Confederate Philatelist* 39:3 (May-June 1994), pp. 96-99.
12. Kaufmann, Patricia A., Francis J. Crown, Jr. and Jerry S. Palazolo, eds., *Confederate States of America: Catalog and Handbook of Stamps and Postal History* (Confederate Stamp Alliance, 2012), page 82.

Keep up to date with what's happening:

**[www.civilwarphilatelicsociety.org](http://www.civilwarphilatelicsociety.org)**

Our online resources are timely, helpful, interesting and informative.

Don't forget to spend some time with our extensive archives!