



Figure 1.

NEW CSA PROVISIONALS FROM BEAUFORT, S. C.

Harvey S. Teal

A few months ago I acquired from an original find 117 Confederate covers from the Witherspoon Family of S. C. Among the covers was a Beaufort, S. C. cover dated October 30, 1861 with a hand stamp "PAID 5". This marking has been known in Confederate philately since the early days of collecting.

By November 16, 1861 the Lieutenant had moved to a camp 20 miles north near Pocotaligo, S. C. On that date he wrote a letter to his wife and mailed it in this cover postmarked Pocotaligo, S. C., with the known Beaufort, S. C. "PAID 5" stricken out and a "Due 5" added. The Pocotaligo, S. C. postmaster did not give credit for the Beaufort "PAID 5" (Figure 1).

In his letter he wrote, "There is no mail on the Savannah [Rail] road on Sundays and hence I can't forward you another letter until Monday." On Monday November 17, 1861, he wrote his wife another letter and it was hand delivered in another cover with another known Beaufort, S. C. "PAID 5" handstamp with no post office marking. Later someone added in pencil "November 17, 1861", the date of the letter (Figure 2).

Lieutenant Witherspoon had to have acquired these two Beaufort, S. C. stamped "Paid 5" covers while in Beaufort in order to use them two weeks later from another location.

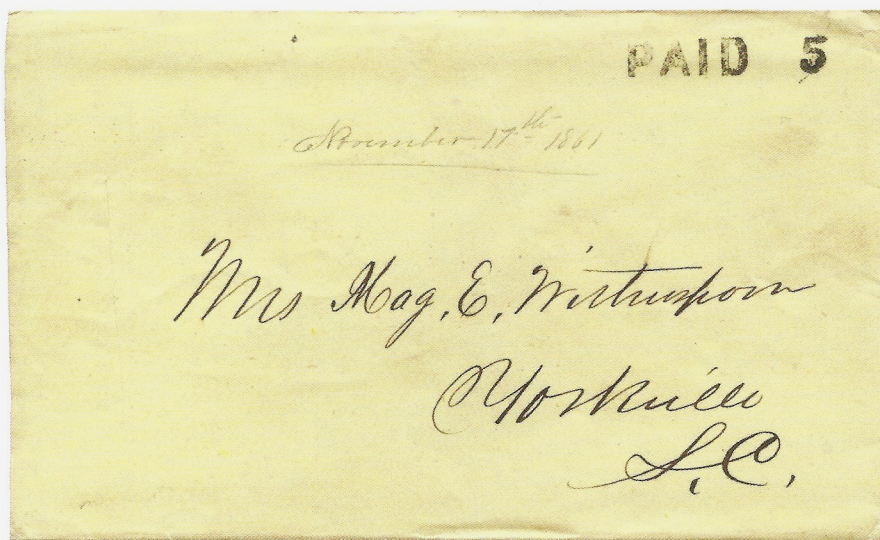


Figure 2.

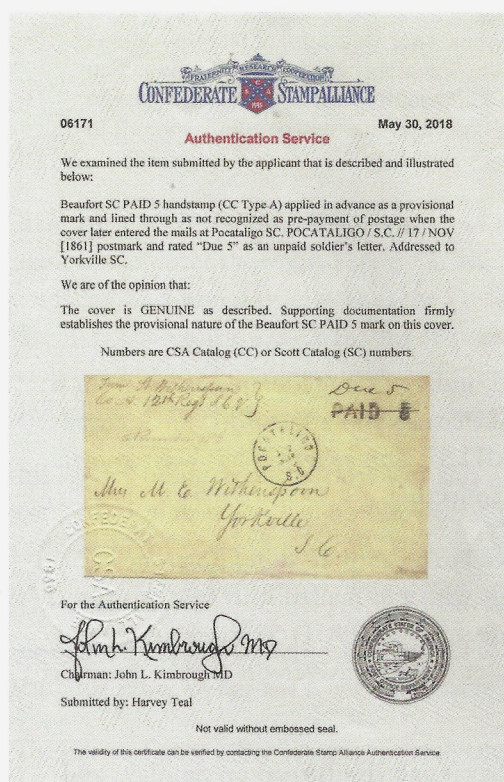


Figure 3.

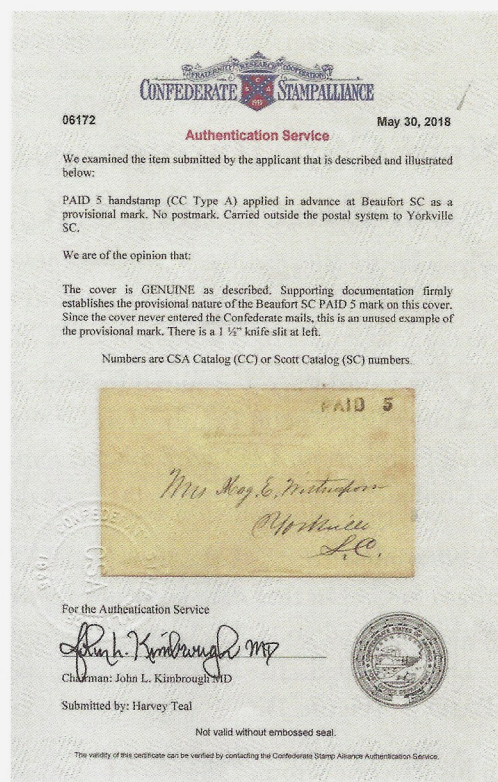


Figure 4.

The CSA has awarded these covers certificates of genuineness number 06171 (Figure 3) and number 06172 (Figure 4).

Harvey S. Teal may be contacted at harveysteal@gmail.com.