

MANUSCRIPT RAILROAD ROUTE AGENT POSTMARKS AND A NEW LISTING

Harvey S. Teal

When publishing the *Confederate States of America Catalog and Handbook of Stamps and Postal History* in 2012, the Confederate Stamp Alliance authors did not include manuscript route agent markings in their chapter, "Confederate Railroad Markings." No reason was given for this exclusion, just a simple statement "...manuscript railroad markings and printed and hand stamped corner cards are not included."

[Editors' Note: When the CSA catalog was being prepared, only one railroad route agent marking was brought to the attention of the editors. That marking was questionable. Consequently, no railroad route agents markings were included.]

It was understandable to exclude listing non-postal RR business covers and RR cornercards from the 2012 CSA catalog. However, I do not understand why manuscript RR route agent markings were not included, since there are so few of them.

Charles L. Towle listed, in the February 1985 *Chronicle* 125, publication of the U.S. Philatelic Classics Society, a manuscript route agent marking G.H. & H.R.R. of Texas. He stated this was "the first example of a [Confederate] route agent marking your editor has been able to examine and record." The cover was dated March 11/61. On page 77 of Towle's book, *U. S. Route and Station Agent Postmarks*, published in 1986, he illustrates this cover.

On plate 20 of this book he also lists a manuscript route agent postmark of the Cheraw & Darlington Railroad that he dates 1861-65 (See Figure 1). From 1861-65, I found only three route

PLATE 20

C & D RR 10 2 1/2

341-B-1

Figure 1. The listing on Plate 20 in C.L. Towle's book, *U. S. Route and Station Agent Postmarks*, showing a manuscript route agent postmark of the Cheraw & Darlington Railroad.

Figure 2. Please see the accompanying text for a description of this cover.



agents listed for the Cheraw & Darlington Railroad in the Pickett Papers in the Library of Congress, Jas. F. Drake, Peter L. McIntyre and a Mr. Yates. One of these agents had to have created this marking that Towle listed.

Recently, I have come into possession of a second cover with a manuscript route agent marking from this railroad (Figure 2). Note the handwriting is different from that in Plate 20 (Figure 1), indicating a different route agent postmarked this new cover.

It is postmarked in blue ink "C & D RR 15 Aug 1864." If you look closely, you will see some blue ink strokes canceling the No. 11 Confederate stamp. This was a "Way" cover given to Confederate route agent Peter L. McIntyre, who dropped it into the mail at the first post office he reached after receiving the cover. When the cover arrived at Augusta, Ga., it was forwarded to Berzelia, Ga., without a forwarding fee charged.

Berzelia was a short distance west of Augusta, Ga. Had the cover traveled much farther west it may have encountered Sherman's Army.

The Cheraw & Darlington Railroad ran from Cheraw to Florence, was 40 miles long and was completed in 1855. In Florence it connected with the Wilmington and Manchester Railroad and the North Eastern Railroad to Charleston.

SOURCES

Pickett Papers. Library of Congress.

2012 *Confederate States of America Catalog and Handbook of Stamps and Postal History*.

Charles H. Towle, *U. S. Route Agent and Station Agent Postmarks*, (Mobile Post Office Society) Tucson, Ariz.: 1986.

The U.S. Classics Society, *Chronicle* 125, February 1985, Vol 30, No. 1, pp. 56-57.

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

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John L. Kimbrough, MD
CSAAS Chairman
10140 Wandering Way
Benbrook, TX 76126
jlkcsa@aol.com

