

# Confederate Stamp Alliance Authentication Service

Tye River Warehouse, Virginia

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**Figure 1 – Tye River Warehouse, Virginia, cover re-rated “5” over “PAID 3” and dated 15 FEB.**

The Tye River Warehouse, Virginia, cover in Figure 1 was in a recent Confederate States auction identified as a Confederate cover and was sold on extension for certification. When the cover arrived at the CSAAS for examination, the first thing that was noted was that the “5” over “PAID 3” marking is listed and illustrated as a Confederate use as Type A on Page 237 in the new Confederate catalog. However, it is marked in the catalog with an asterisk, which means it is an unsupported listing as no one had seen or examined the cover in many years. But is it really a Confederate cover?

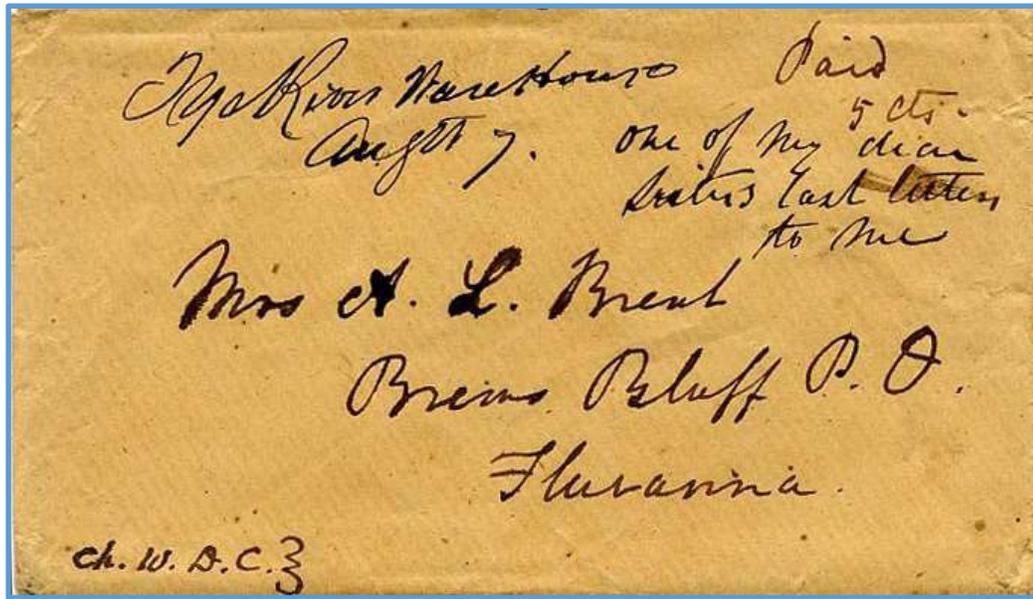
Tye River Warehouse, Virginia, is currently a small unincorporated community in Nelson County. The word “Warehouse” in the name refers to a tobacco industry warehouse. The Tye River Warehouse, Virginia, post office was established in the early 1820’s and was closed in the very early 1900’s. The history of the cover is that it was once part of the David Kohn collection, a major Confederate collection of the mid-20th century with the David Kohn handstamp mark on the reverse. The cover was sold in the Siegel Kohn Collection Sale in 1970. In that sale, the cover was described as “very scarce” and “claimed to be unique.” That was the last anyone ever saw of the cover until now. David Kohn and the other major collectors of that period certainly believed that the cover was genuine Confederate. It was never previously submitted for authentication. The cover has been known for decades. August Dietz listed the mark in his 1945 catalog and carried it over to his 1959 catalog. It found its way into the 1986 catalog and was carried forward to the new Confederate catalog as an unsupported legacy listing. It is obvious that this cover was used as the basis for the original Dietz listing in 1945.

Some things just did not sit right with this cover, so the CSAAS embarked on some additional research.

1) Look at the date and the “5” mark. In order for the Confederate 5c rate to be correct, the date must be February 1862 as the 5c rate was eliminated on July 1, 1862. But why a “PAID 3” mark applied that late into the Confederate period as there was no Confederate 3c rate? Could it have just been a mistake on the postmaster’s part using an old marking device by accident and then correcting his mistake?

2) No member of the CSAAS, including a major Virginia specialist, could remember seeing a Tye River Warehouse, Virginia, postmark of this type on a cover documented from the Confederate period. Confederate Tye River Warehouse covers are not commonly seen, but a search through the archives and collections produced only manuscript Confederate Tye River Warehouse covers such as the one shown in Figure 2. In fact, the new CSA catalog lists only manuscript postal

markings for the Confederate period and does not list a circle date stamp which proves that the editors did not see or know about the subject cover at the time the catalog was put together.



**Figure 2 - “Tye River Warehouse (Virginia) August 7 Paid 5cts” all in manuscript from the Confederate period.**

The cover in Figure 3 shows the same Tye River Warehouse, Virginia, postmark as is on the subject cover and is clearly dated in 1856. The example in Figure 4 is a Tye River Warehouse, Virginia, cover from 1857 with all the postal markings in manuscript. From these examples, and other examples not illustrated, it is apparent that at some time between the two covers in Figures 3 & 4, this Tye River Warehouse, Virginia, postmark was either lost, damaged, or for some other reason removed from service and not used in the late 1850's and not used in the Confederate period. The “5” over “PAID 3” postal marking can be explained by the USA postal rates. On July 1, 1851, the rate for a ½ ounce letter less than 3,000 miles became 3c with pre-payment of postage. Letters could still be sent unpaid, but the postage due for an unpaid letter was 5c. Mandatory pre-payment of postage did not take effect until April 1, 1855.



**Figure 3 – Tye River Warehouse, Virginia, postmark on forwarded cover clearly dated in 1856.**

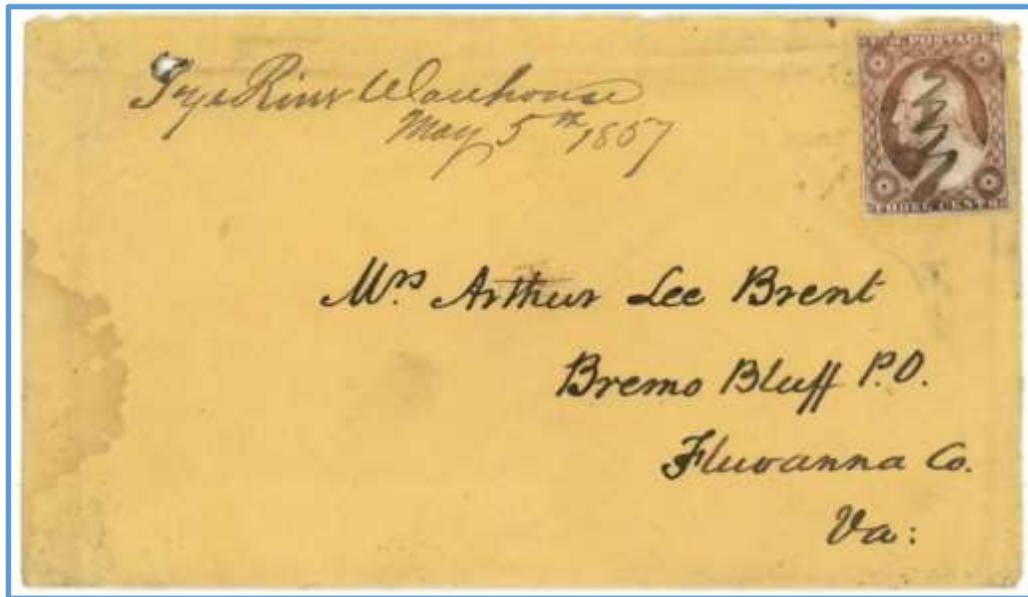


Figure 4 – Tye River Warehouse (Virginia) manuscript postal markings on cover clearly dated in 1857.

From the research and the examples, the only possible conclusion is that the subject cover is not Confederate but comes from the early 1850's prior to April 1, 1855, and was sent unpaid and re-rated 5c due. Consequently, Certificate 06109 was issued (Figure 5) with the following opinion: *“This otherwise genuine cover is NOT CONFEDERATE. The postal use is USA pre-war from the early to mid 1850's. The cover was incorrectly rated “PAID 3” cents and re-rated to a (Due) “5” cents for a cover sent unpaid.”*

This article gives a little insight into how thoroughly the CSAAS members research difficult covers and arrive at a consensus opinion. The other thing to take away from this presentation is that covers may not always be what they seem to be at first glance but often require additional and more detailed research. Also, older catalog listings may not always be correct especially when carried over as unsupported legacy listings. As a result of this research, the legacy listing in the new Confederate catalog for the “5” over “PAID 3” Tye River Warehouse, Virginia, postal mark will be deleted in future catalog addenda and editions.

Thanks to Patricia A. Kaufmann for reviewing the article and supplying the illustration of the Confederate Tye River Warehouse, Virginia, cover in Figure 2. Thanks to Gene Lightfoot for supplying documentation and illustrations from his personal collection on the pre-war Tye River Warehouse, Virginia, covers.

Figure 5 – CSAAS Certificate 06109

