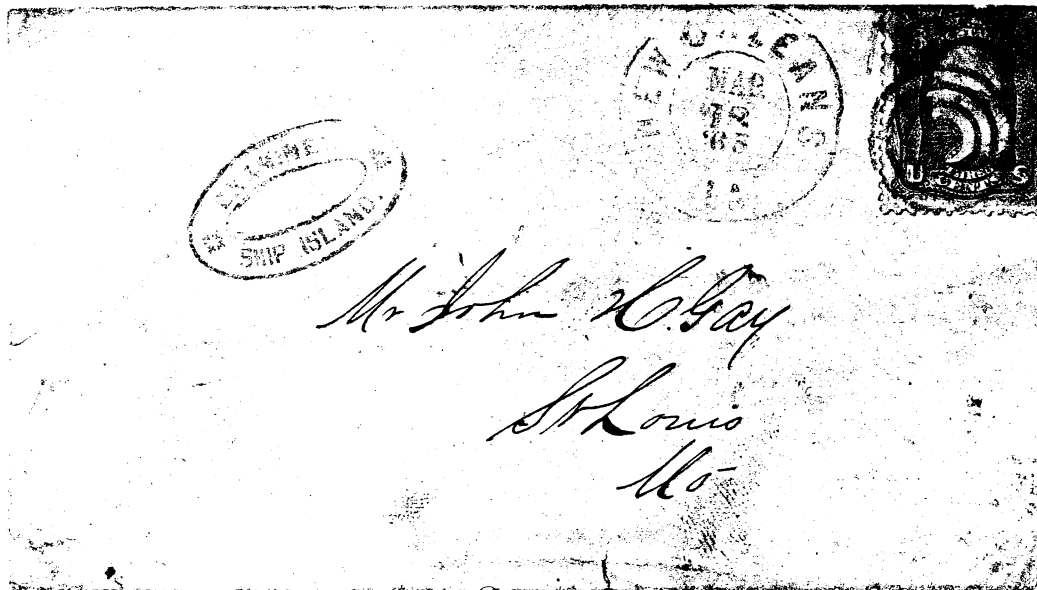


CIVIL WAR POW MAIL:
TO, FROM, AND BETWEEN NORTHERN PRISONS

THOMAS F. ALLEN

AS RECEIVED BY
THE EXHIBITION PHOTOCOPY COMMITTEE
OF THE
U.S. PHILATELIC CLASSICS SOCIETY, INC.

18 SEPTEMBER 1992



Ship Island, Mississippi: March 18, 1865

Island, 12 miles south of Biloxi, Mississippi, in Gulf of Mexico,
used as staging area in 1862 for Union forces taking New Orleans.

Island remained in Union hands and became
a prisoner of war camp in October 1864.
One of two reported with "Examined" handstamp.

Civil War POW Mail: To, From and Between Northern Prisons

War generates prisoners. Prisoners need and want mail, both to and from them. Prisons need and want to censor prisoner mail. Nations at war, and their postal systems, need procedures to process mail crossing battle lines.

Those human and institutional needs of the Civil War resulted in flag of truce (or across the lines) mail and censorship.

The exhibit's focus is:

First, illustrations of the basic postal rates;

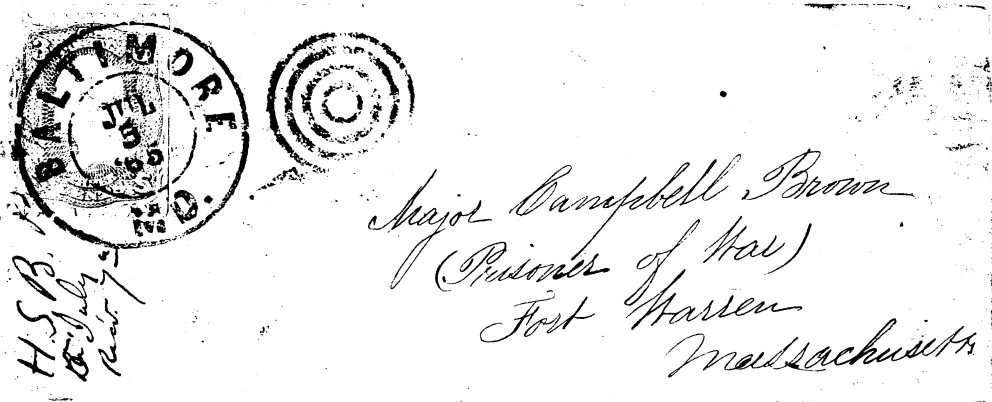
Second, across the lines mail from the Union to the Confederacy,
principally via Fort Monroe in Virginia; and

Third, the evolution of censorship by Union prisons.

Johnson's Island, a Union prison in Lake Erie near Sandusky, Ohio, was an early prison, one of the larger prisons and primarily for commissioned officers. The volume and variety of mail to and from Johnson's Island were significant. Examples from Johnson's Island are used to illustrate a number of usages.

Usage dates are based upon the exhibitor's survey of articles and auction catalogs. The survey data establish probable, not conclusive, dates. Typing of examiner markings and Richmond, Virginia, townmarks is based upon Earl Antrim, Civil War Prisons and Their Covers, and Peter W.W. Powell, Confederate States of America Markings and Postal History of Richmond, Virginia.

Union 3c Rate



Backstamp: Received

To Fort Warren, Boston Harbor: 1865
 No examiner marking
 Baltimore rebel sympathizer confined since October 1861
 Mail from Boston via steamer "State of Maine"

Union postal rates:

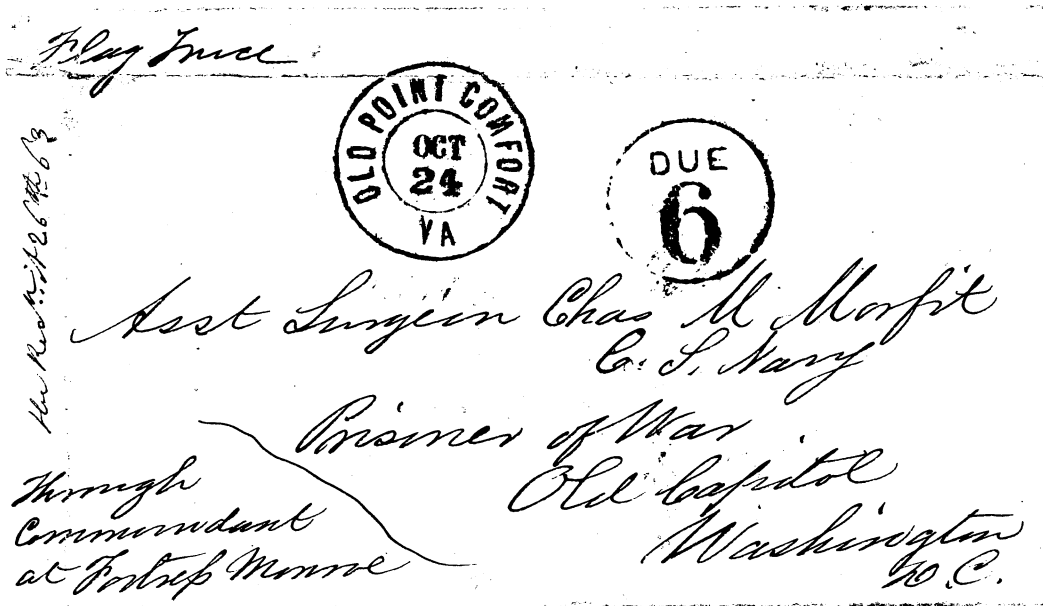
- 3c Single rate
- Due 3 Forwarding
- Due 3 Soldier letter certified by officer or prisoner letter endorsed with name and unit
- Due 6 Unpaid penalty rate



From Camp Chase, Columbus, Ohio: June 20, 1862
 Double rate: Three letters - wife and 2 daughters
 Columbus 32.5 mm townmark with "prison bars" cancel
 Manuscript examiner marking: Colonel Granville Moody
 The "Fighting Parson", 74th Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry

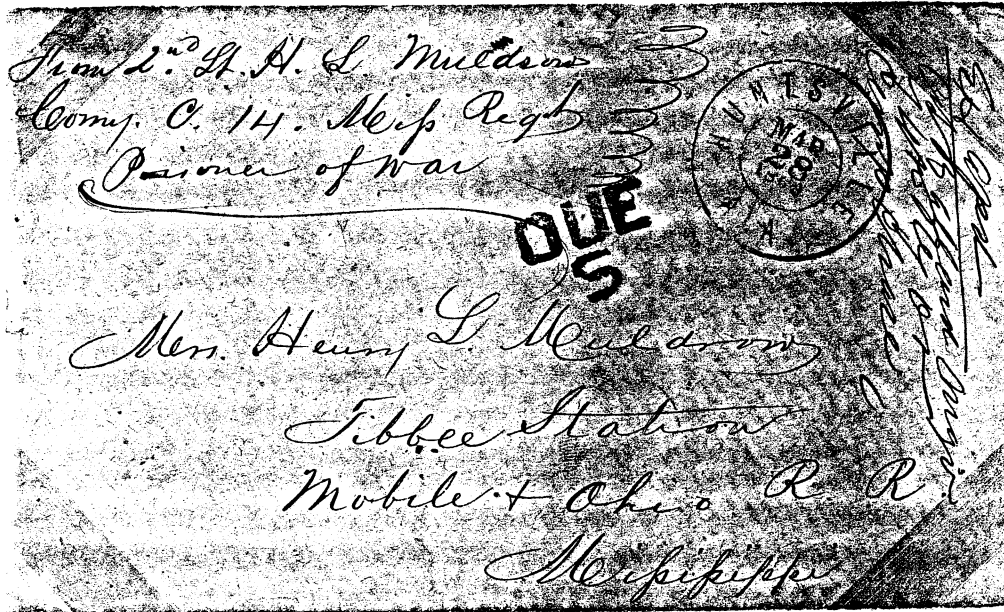
Letter to younger daughter: "I have bought you such a nice little ring and brooch pin made by the prisoners here and when I come home I will bring it with me."

Union Due 6
Across the Lines
South to North
Possible Inner Envelope



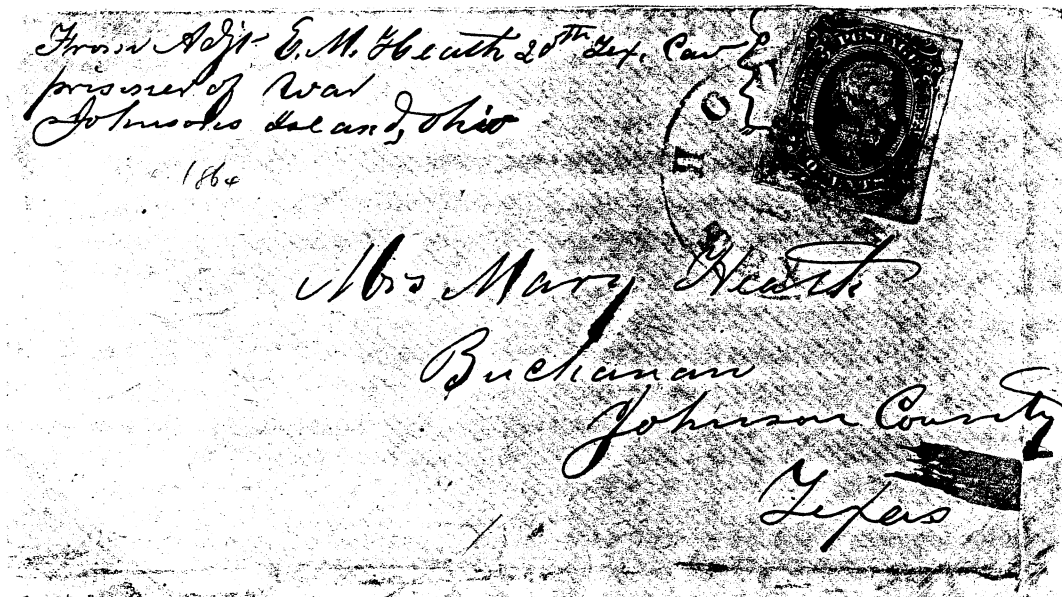
From Confederacy to prisoner at Old Capitol Prison
Old Point Comfort: October 24, 1863
Unpaid Union postage: Penalty rate: Due 6
On reverse, pencil forwarder "Rec'd Oct 26th 1863,
Forwarded - Love to Ret. C.M. Morfit"
On front, notation "Rec'd Rich N. 26 63"
No contents. Origin unknown: Possibly sent to C.S. Navy
Department for forwarding or possibly from Richmond.

Confederacy Rates: 5 and 10
 Across the Lines
 Handcarried



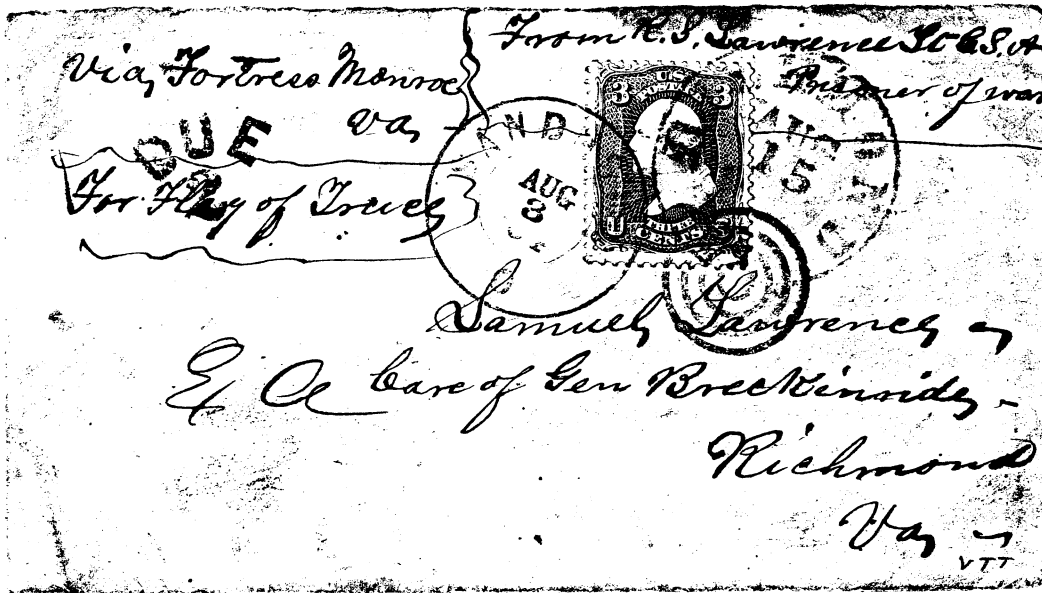
Huntsville, Alabama: March 28, 1862: Due 5
 Manuscript: Examined Alexander S. Ballard
 Carried through the lines from Camp Chase to Huntsville by released prisoner

		<u>Confederacy postal rates:</u>
<u>Until</u>	<u>Effective</u>	
<u>July 1, 1862</u>	<u>July 1, 1862</u>	
5c		Single rate up to 500 miles
10c		Single rate over 500 miles
	10c	Single rate regardless of distance
Due 5 or 10	Due 10	Soldier letter certified by officer
Due 5 or 10	Due 10	Prisoner letter endorsed with name and unit
2c	2c	Drop rate

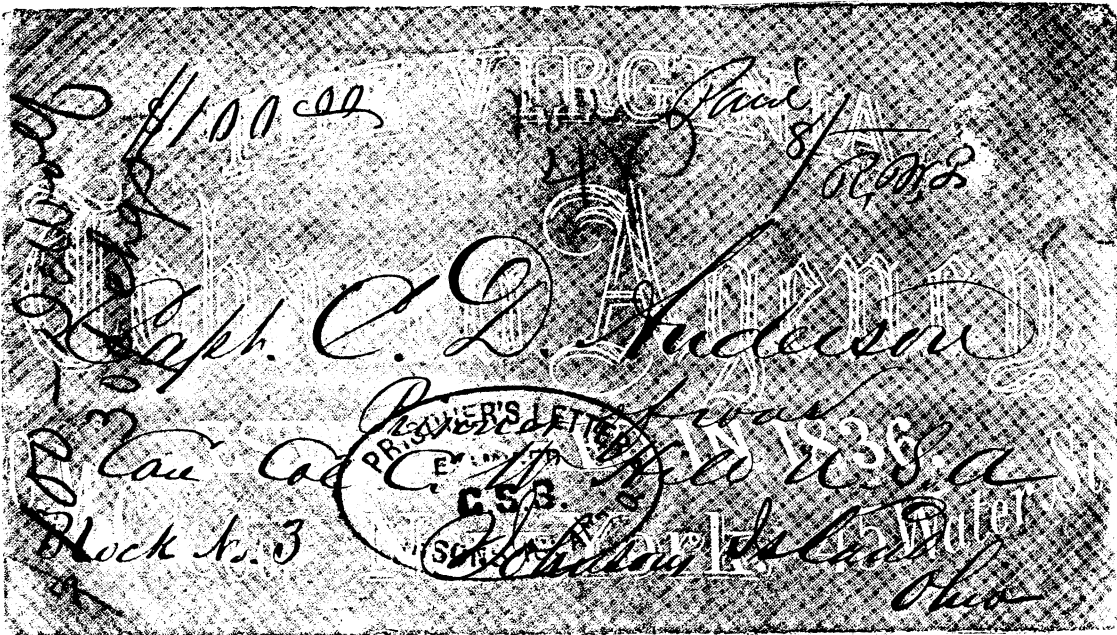


1864: Houston townmark
 No examiner marking
 Probably carried from Johnson's Island to Houston, Texas, by
 prisoner exchanged at Galveston, Texas, or off Brownsville, Texas
 Possible Keatinge & Ball Type II 10c

Confederacy Rate: 2
Across the Lines
Johnson's Island



From Johnson's Island, Lake Erie, near Sandusky, Ohio: August 3, 1864
Manuscript: Ex A: Probably De Alva S. Alexander
To the Confederacy and exchanged via Fort Monroe at
City Point, Virginia, on the James River, near Richmond, Virginia.
Richmond, Virginia, August 15: Due 2
Drop letter rate
Endorsed with prisoner's name and unit



To Johnson's Island: 1865
(Captain Anderson was captured in April 1865)
Handstamp: GSB: George S. Brown
Virginia Tobacco Agency advertising cover
Carried by Adams Express Company of Richmond through the lines
(seals on reverse) and delivered by private firms outside the mail.
Contained \$100.00 and 4 pages.
Paid 8 bits (\$2.00) is express fee.
30c is local agent fee.

**Across the Lines
Procedure
Inner Envelope**

GENERAL ORDERS. }

No. 7. }

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, January 29, 1862.

By direction of the Secretary of War, private letters received by officers of the Army for transmittal through the lines of the United States troops to persons living in the enemy's country, will not hereafter be forwarded, but will be sent to the Dead Letter Office, in the city of Washington. Exception to this rule is made in favor of letters addressed to officers and men detained as prisoners by the insurgents.

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL McCLELLAN :

L. THOMAS,
Adjutant General.

OFFICIAL :

Mail through the lines was generally prohibited; an exception was for mail to or from prisoners.

The principal exchange point was City Point, Virginia, on the James River, near Richmond, Virginia, and Fort Monroe (commonly known as Fortress Monroe), Old Point Comfort, Virginia. Mail through City Point from North to South is postmarked Richmond, Virginia. Mail from South to North is postmarked Old Point Comfort, Virginia.

The following rules were to apply:

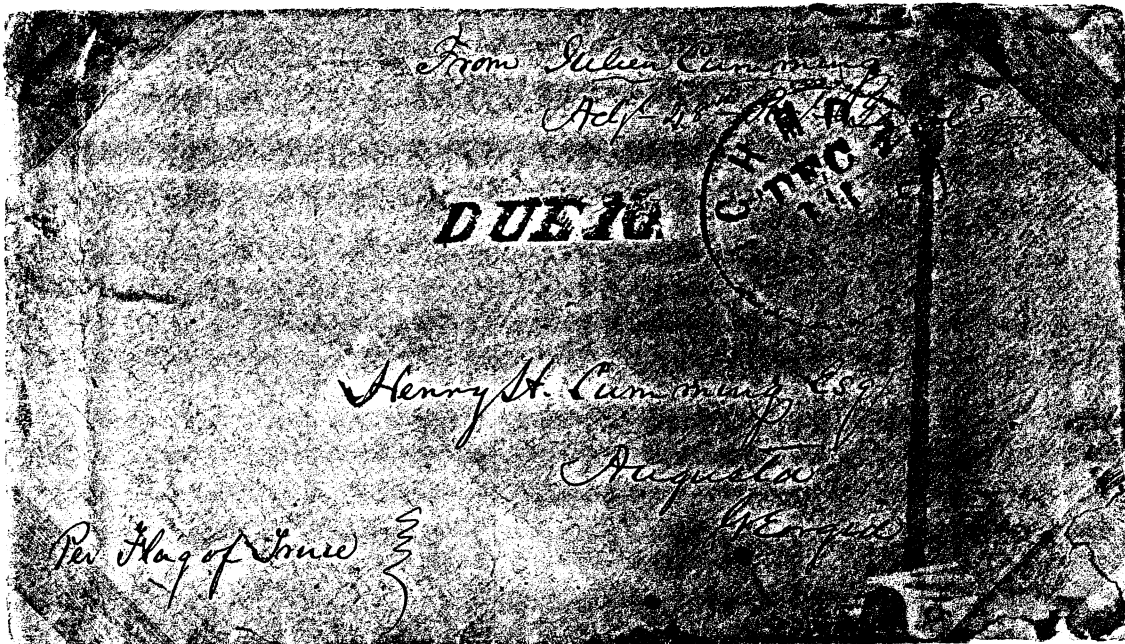
Letters were to be one page and to discuss only domestic or personal affairs. Envelopes (the "inner" envelopes) were to be unsealed and postage to the recipient prepaid. Both the Union and the Confederacy, however, permitted their soldiers, if properly endorsing the envelope, to send mail unpaid, without penalty, within their territory.

The unsealed letter was to be sent in an "outer" envelope to the exchange point. At the exchange point the "outer" envelope was discarded and the "inner" envelope turned over to the other side for delivery.

Presumably examiner markings appeared on the outer, not the inner, envelope.

Union prisons did not enforce the two envelope rule. Examples of mail from Union prisons violating the two envelope rule are more common than examples observing that rule.

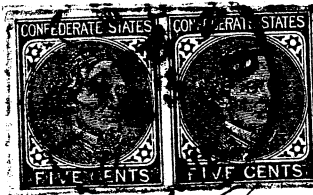
Across the Lines
Inner Envelope
Due 10



From Johnson's Island prisoner
1863
Richmond Type 6 townmark: Due 10
Endorsement of name and unit
Captured at Gettysburg
Outer envelope discarded.

Prisoner letters may have been sent to Fort Monroe in batches
in one outer envelope rather than individually in outer envelopes.

W. Green A.D.C.
"Daniel's Brigade"
Prisoners of war.

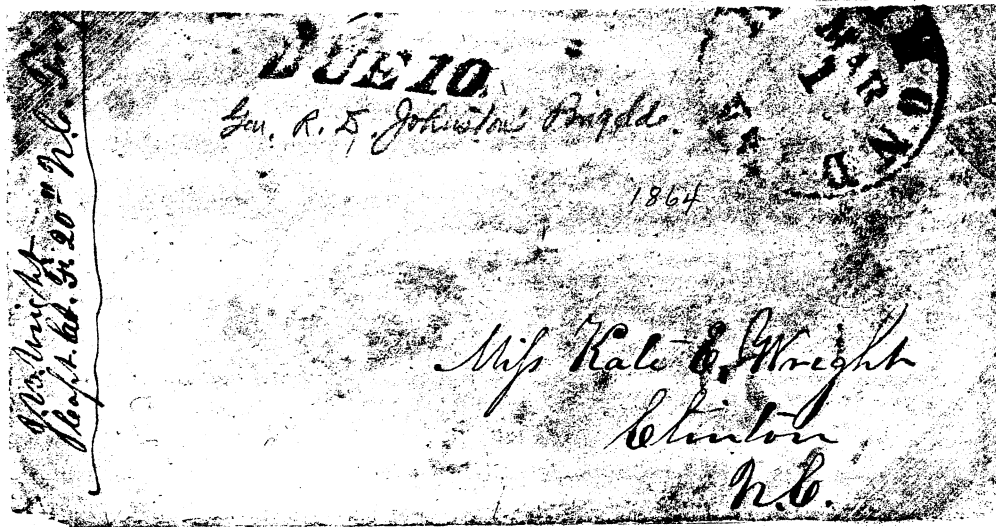


Mrs. Wharton Green.
(Care of Dr. S. G. Wood.)
Henderson.
North Carolina.

From Johnson's Island prisoner: February 23, 1864
Pair of 1864 Local Printing 5c to pay 10c rate
Richmond Type 6 townmark

"This is about as good a prison as we are likely to find,
independently of the inconvenience of removal in mid winter."

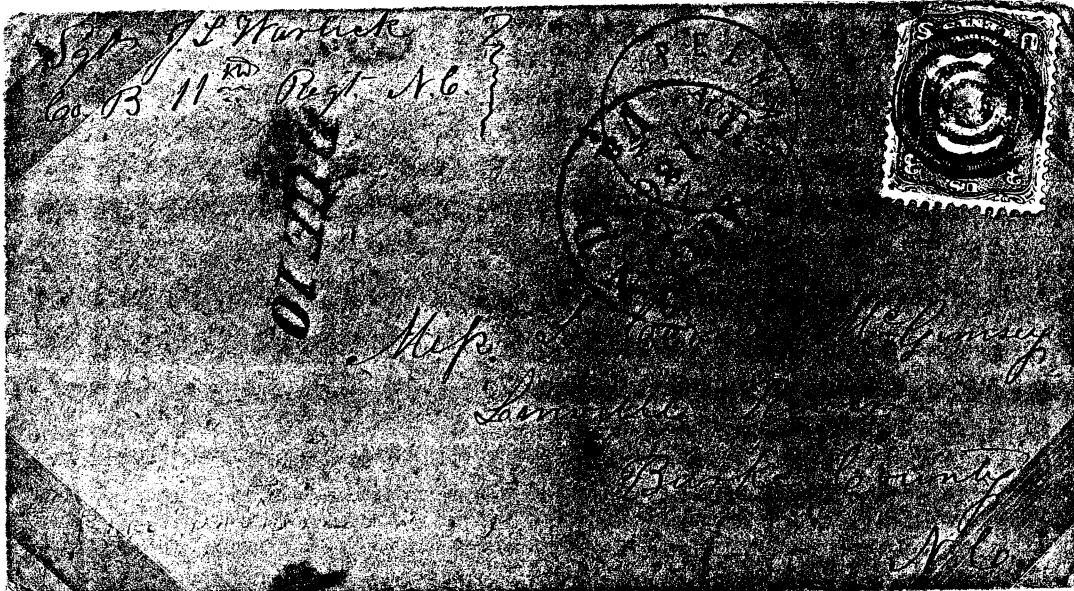
Across the Lines
Inner Envelope
Due 10



From Johnson's Island prisoner
Richmond Type 5 townmark: March 1, 1864
Letter dated January 29, 1864
Outer envelope discarded.

hopes of exchange upon, short of the war. We have been blessed with some
exceedingly pleasant weather recently. I often think of you all and
pray that God will hasten the time of our deliverance from this place.
I really cannot see why I cannot hear from you. Kate, if you get this, write
often and observe the following rules. 1st write but one page. 2^d write nothing but private
affairs. 3^d direct in care of Judge Ould Commissioner of Exchange via Richmond to
Citty Point. Give my love to sister and family and all inquiring friends
especially you know who. Beginning at Mother & Grand May, &c. &c. I must
say that I have fared much better as a prisoner than I really expected
and sincerely hope that I may not fair any worse. I have not heard
from Billy Peterson since I've been a prisoner. Oh how I would like to
get to Dixie that sweet old land again. I hope God will help us
and our country. Hoping that I will hear from you soon I remain as ever
P.S. do not seal my letters } Your true and affectionate brother
W. Wright
Gen. R. S. Johnston's Brigade
Capt. Co. Ft. 20th N.C. Regt. of War.

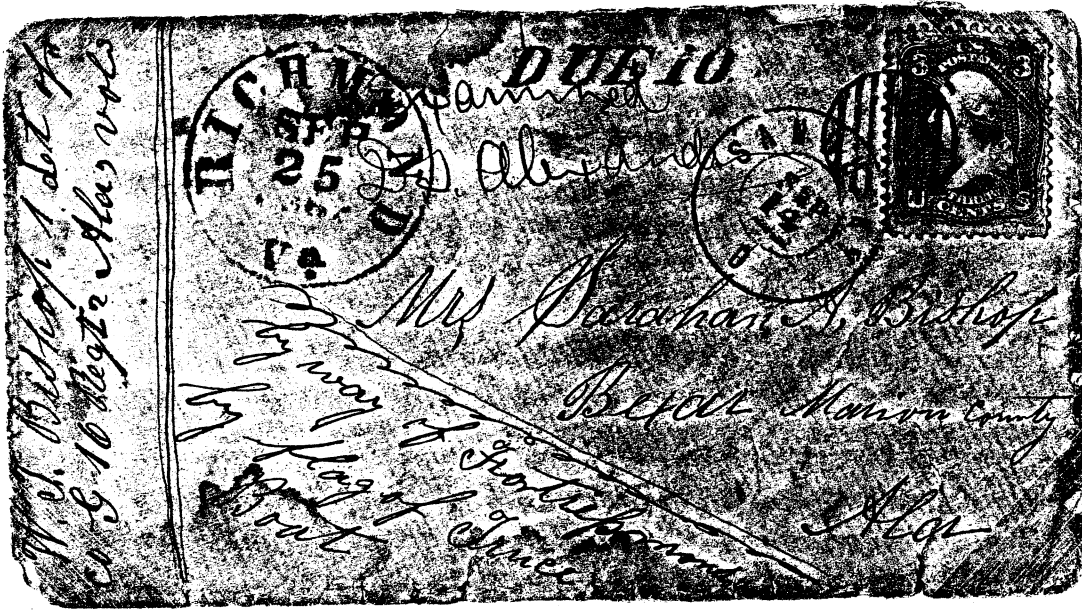
Across the Lines
Davis Island
Due 10



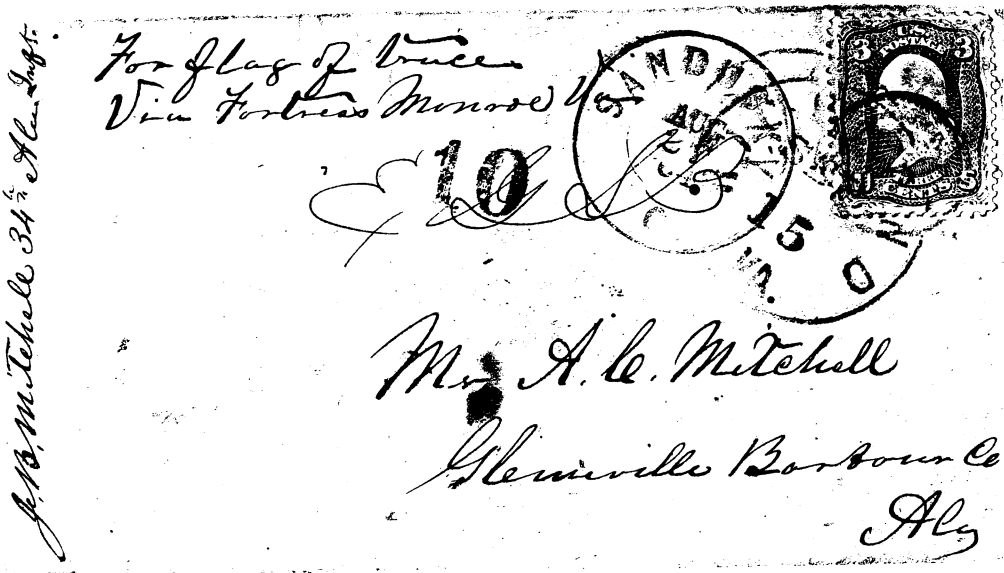
From Davis Island: August 6, 1863
Pelham, New York townmark
Richmond Type 5d townmark: August 25, 1863: Due 10

Davis Island, in Long Island Sound near Pelham, New York,
was used as a prison for only four months in 1863.
Antrim reported 3 covers from prison.

Flag of Truce mail rules requiring both an outer and inner envelope were not enforced by Union prisons on mail from Southern prisoners to the Confederacy. The covers have either stamps for both the Union and Confederacy or due markings for the Confederacy postal rate.



From Johnson's Island: September 14, 1863
Manuscript examiner marking: DSA: De Alva S. Alexander
Blue Sandusky 25 mm double circle townmark and separate grid cancel
Richmond Type 5d townmark



August 27, 1864
Manuscript examiner marking: GSB: George S. Brown
Sandusky 28 mm duplex
Richmond Type 6p townmark
Free standing "10" used by Richmond only September - October 1864.

Across the Lines
Gettysburg



From Gettysburg, Pennsylvania: October 5, 1863
Letter datelined "Genl Hospital Near Gettysburg Pa Oct 3rd, 1863"
Manuscript: Ex RWB: Robert W. Bell
Examined Lt. La(?) John(?) Capt. & P(rovo)st Marshall
Richmond Type 5d townmark: October 20, 1863
Pair of Local Print 5c to pay Confederate postage

"My health is good. My fractured arm is improving (healing fast). I will be able to leave this place soon. I hope I will be paroled or exchanged soon."

Following Battle of Gettysburg in 1863 wounded prisoners were held at a temporary hospital. Antrim reported 4 covers, all from Little correspondence. Auction catalogs have included:

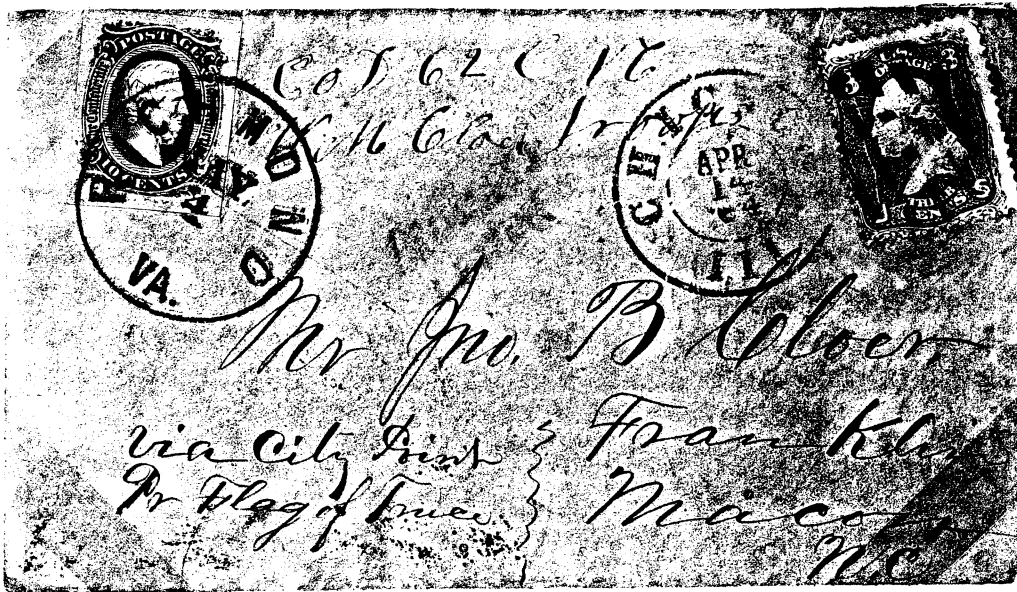
- 2 Hamilton
- 2 Little
- 1 Kirkman (Camp Letterman)
- 3 Martin
- $\frac{1}{9}$ Meyers

Across the Lines
Inner Envelope
Chester, Pennsylvania

1st Lt. Ch. W. Moore, Co. G, 7th Va. Regt. -
DUE 10
Examined & Approved
Ebn. Swift
Mrs Ellen P. Moore
Rapidan Station
Cape Fear City
Va

From hospital at Chester, Pennsylvania: August 25, 1863
Moore was captured at Gettysburg on July 3, 1863
Manuscript: Examined & Approved Ebn. Swift
Richmond Type 5d townmark: August 25, 1863: Due 10

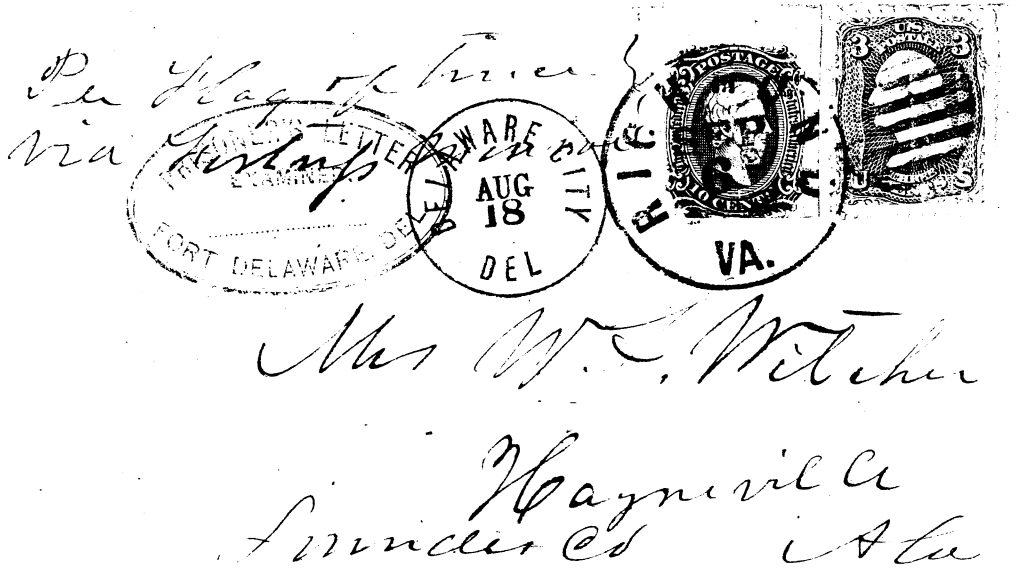
Across the Lines
Camp Douglas



CAMP DOUGLAS
EXAMINED.
PRISONER'S LETTER.

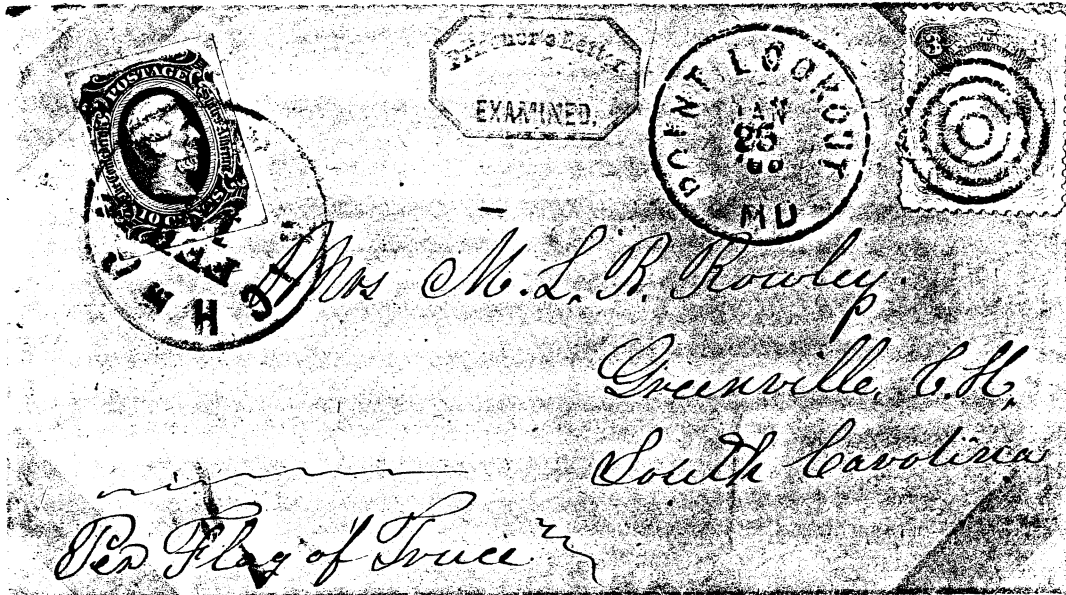
From Camp Douglas: April 14, 1864
Richmond Type 6m townmark: May 4
Archer & Daley Type I 10c
Handstamp Examined on reverse

Across the Lines
Fort Delaware



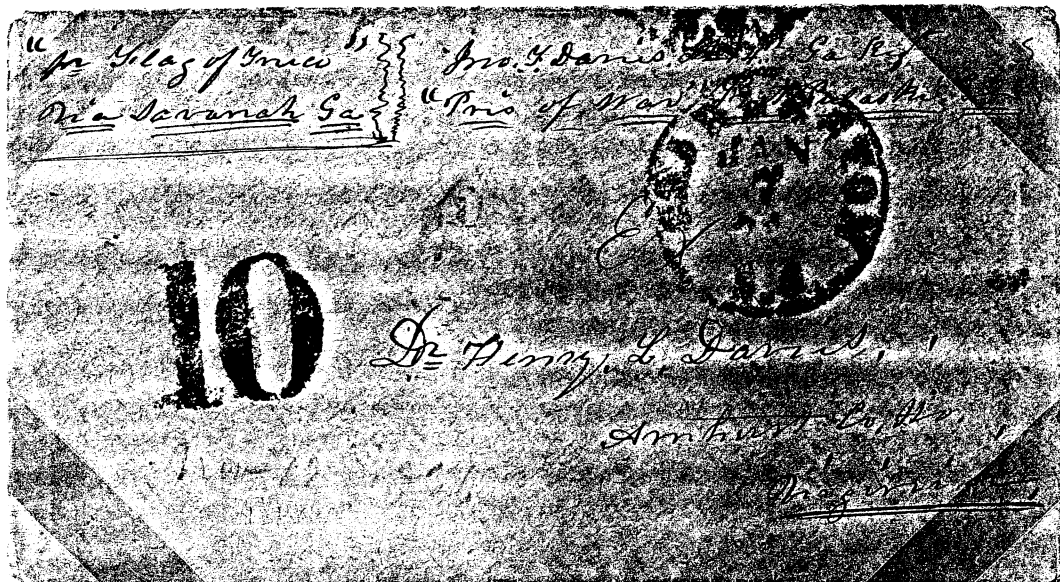
From Fort Delaware: Probably August 18, 1864
25.5 mm townmark
Handstamp: Prisoner's Letter Examined
Richmond Type 6m townmark: September 6
Archer & Daley Type I 10c

Across the Lines
Point Lookout



From Point Lookout: January 25, 1865
Richmond Type 6 townmark: February 15
Handstamp Examined
Archer & Daley Type II 10c

Across the Lines
Not Handled By Union Postal Service
Local Exchange
Fort Pulaski



From Fort Pulaski, Georgia: January 7, 1865

Manuscript: Ex

Charleston, South Carolina: Due 10

By flag of truce boat

Savannah, Georgia, fell to the Union December 21, 1864.

Fort Pulaski held by Union after April 11, 1862.

Jno. (John) F. Davis, Lieutenant, 14th Georgia Regiment, one of the Morris Island 600

Morris Island off Charleston, South Carolina, was held by the Union. From Morris Island the Union bombarded Charleston and the Confederacy holding Charleston reciprocated.

Captured Union military were held as prisoners in Charleston and, therefore, endangered by the bombardment. Confederate authorities refused to remove their prisoners.

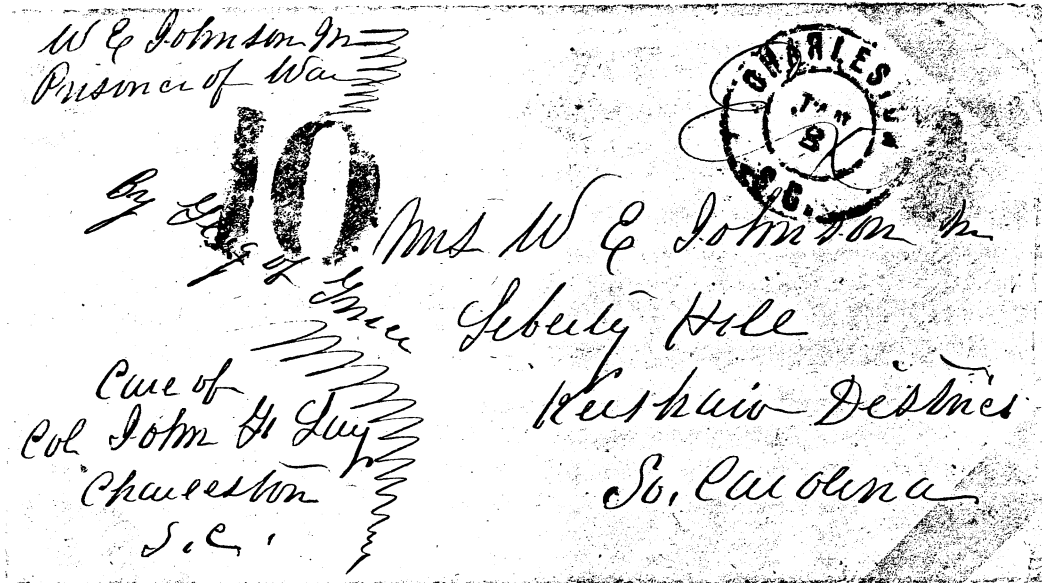
The Union, in August 1864, moved 600 Confederate officers from Fort Delaware to Morris Island, arriving September 7, 1864. The result was a stalemate. The Confederates removed their prisoners and on October 23, 1864, the Union removed the 600 to Fort Pulaski.

Most remained at Fort Pulaski. Some 200 were later relocated to Hilton Head.

In March 1865 all were returned to Fort Delaware.

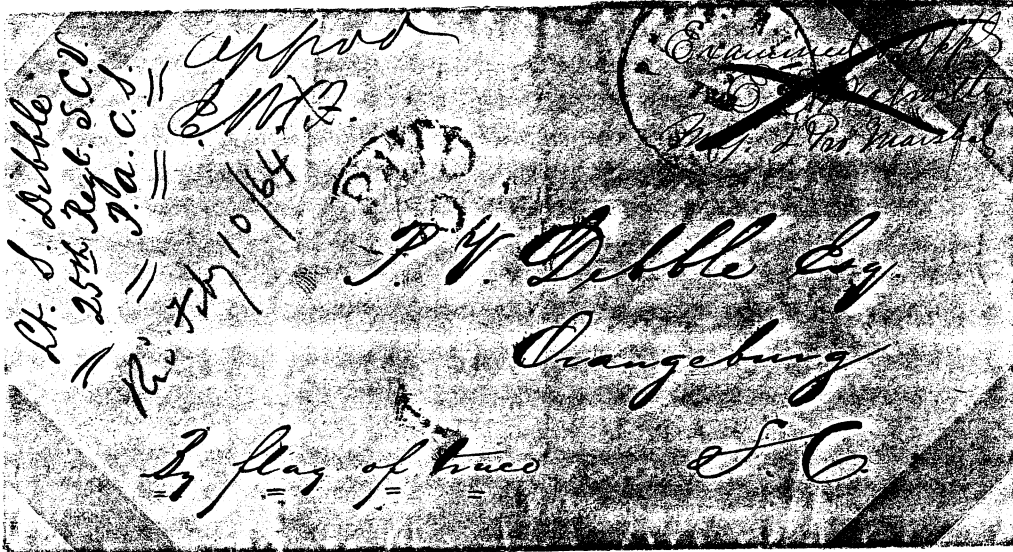
See Van Dyk MacBride's articles in The American Philatelist, May 1946, June 1948 and October 1950.

Across the Lines
Not Handled By Union Postal Service
Local Exchange
Fort Pulaski



From Fort Pulaski: January 8, 1865
Manuscript: Ex
Charleston, South Carolina: Due 10
W.E. Johnson, Jr., Lieutenant, 7th South Carolina Cavalry, one of the Morris Island 600

Across the Lines
Not Handled By Union Postal Service
Local Exchange
Hilton Head



From Prisoner at Union-held Hilton Head, South Carolina
Pocotalgio, South Carolina: Paid 10

Letter datelined "Hilton Head, SC Oct 2 1863"

Docketed "Rec'd Feby 10/64"

Manuscript examiner markings: Appvd EWF
Examined & App'd
E.L. Walrath
Maj. & Prov. Marshal

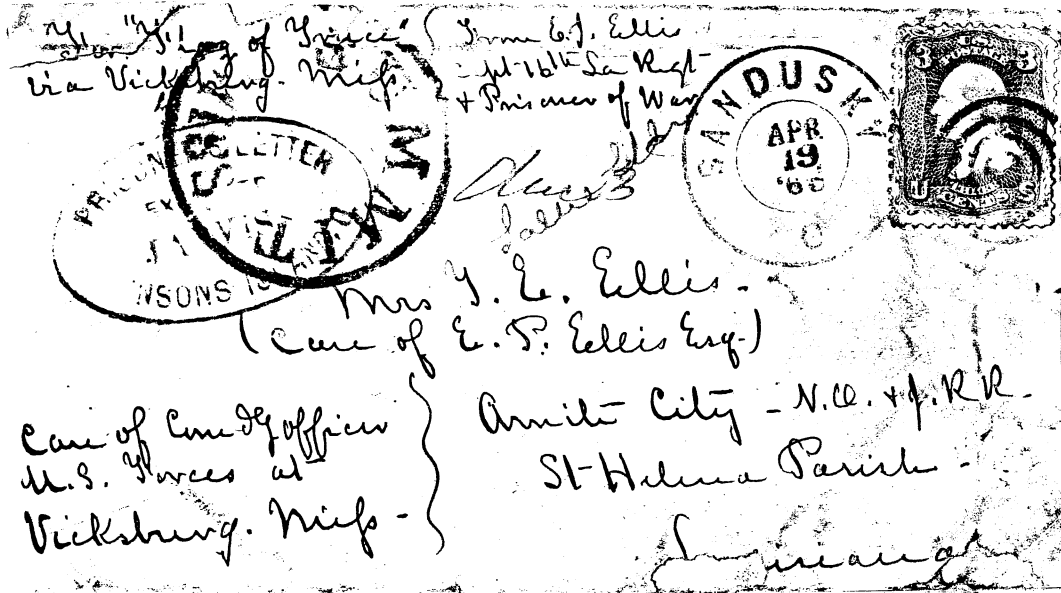
Presumably taken by flag of truce to the Confederate lines.
Pocotalgio, Jasper County, South Carolina, is inland
from Port Royal Sound along the Broad River.

Lieutenant Samuel Dibble, an advance scout, was captured
June 8, 1863, on Long Island near Secessionville.

Hilton Head is known to be again used as a prison July 1864 to March 1865.

"...we leave for New York tomorrow...I continue well, and am getting along
without any special inconveniences, further than the tediousness of captivity."

Changing Lines
No Confederacy Postal Service



From Johnson's Island to Louisiana: April 19, 1865
Handstamp examiner marking: Jarvis: Morris Jarvis
Blue Sandusky 28 mm duplex

Directed via Vicksburg, Mississippi, the letter never entered the Confederacy postal system.

Note: Summit, Mississippi, townmark and manuscript "due 3"

Summit, a small town in Pike County, is northeast of Saint Helena Parish.

Apparently the letter was held at Vicksburg or Natchez, Mississippi.

Remained, due 3, at Summit probably during post-war federal occupation.

No Examiner Markings
To Camp Chase
Handcarried

Columbia Tenn. Apr. 2. 1862
Capt. G. W. Gordon

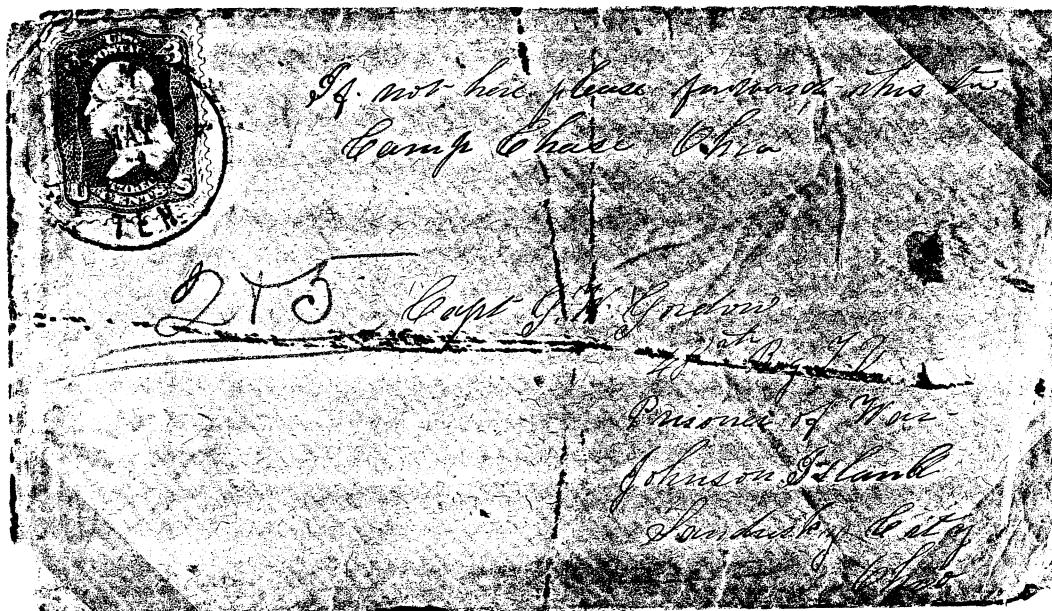
I wrote you last week by
mail sending you \$2000 but not knowing
that you have or would receive it. I now
send you \$1000 by Rev. Mr. Hendricks

Capt. G. W. Gordon
Prisoner of War Camp Chase
Columbus Ohio
Favor Rev. Mr. Hendricks

will do it The Federal Army have
pretty well passed us and I suppose the
mails will soon come to us so we
can communicate with you more
freely. Yours Truly A. B. Fitchcomb

To Camp Chase, Columbus, Ohio: Handcarried April 2, 1862
Presumably examined but no markings
To Captain (later Brigadier General) George Washington Gordon

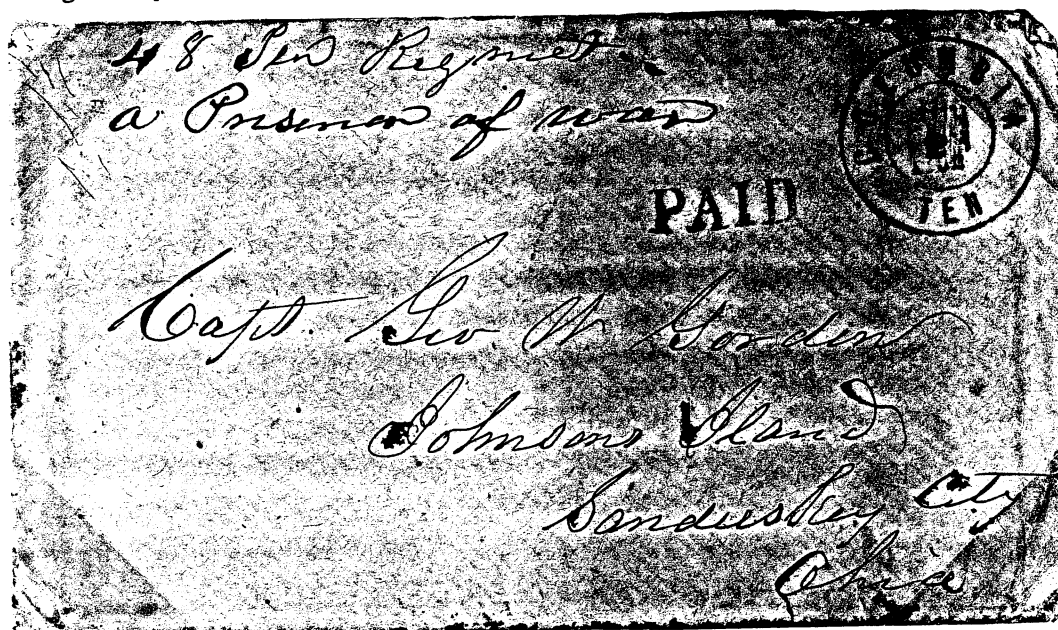
No Examiner Markings
To Johnson's Island



To Johnson's Island: Columbia, Tennessee: May 9, 1862
Captain Gordon was transferred from Camp Chase

Constructed on a leased island in Lake Erie near Sandusky, Ohio, Johnson's Island was used primarily as a prison for Confederate officers. First prisoners arrived April 1862; last prisoner left in September 1865.

Mail to early prisoners was undoubtedly examined but April - June 1862 covers generally do not indicate censorship.



June 23, 1862: PAID
Columbia, Tennessee, after April 1862, was a federal occupation post office for benefit principally of Union troops.

No Examiner Markings
To Johnson's Island
To Former Congressman

Free
C. L. Vallandigham
m. c.
Hon. W. T. Avery,
(Prisoner of War)
Johnson's Island,
Ohio.

To Lieutenant Colonel William T. Avery, Johnson's Island, Sandusky, Ohio: April 29, 1862
Former Tennessee Representative
From Representative Clement L. Vallandigham (Democrat, Ohio) offering aid
Vallandigham, a Copperhead, was banished in 1863 to the Confederacy, but
returned in time to become the 1864 Democratic Vice-Presidential candidate.

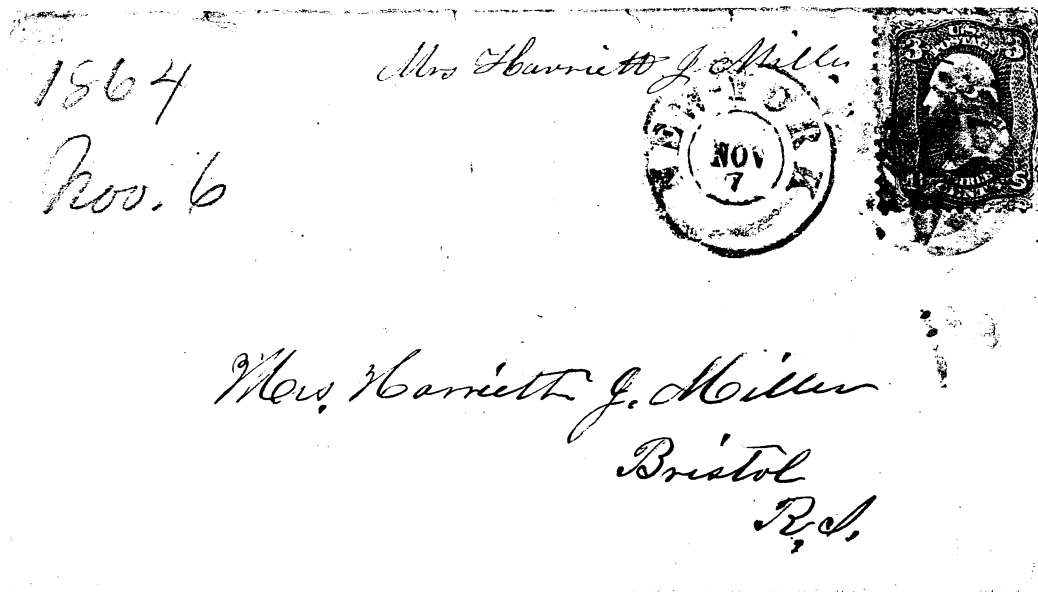
"If I can do anything for you in the matter of exchange,
I will do it...I will see Mr. Stanton, Sec. of War."

Denton
Schuyler Colfax
MAY 16
INDIANA
Hon. W. T. Avery
Prisoner of War
Sandusky Ohio

To Lieutenant Colonel Avery: May 16, 1862
From Representative Schuyler Colfax (Republican, Indiana), later Grant's Vice President

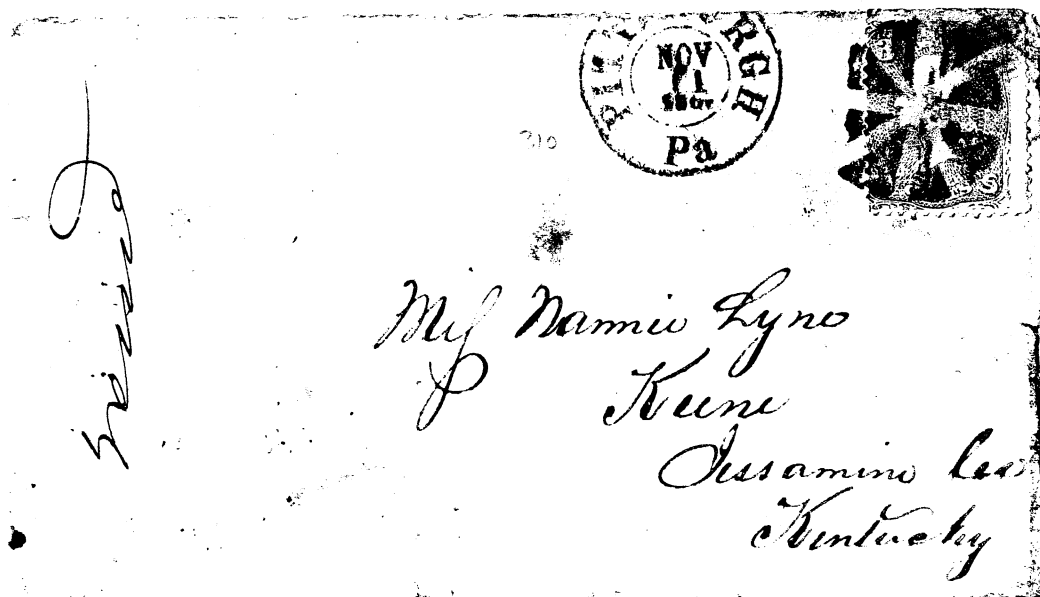
"I could not myself send a sealed letter across the lines & certainly not for
another nor could I feel justified in breaking a seal. Hence I must return it."

No Examiner Markings
Governor's Island, New York
Examiner Markings
Allegheny City Penitentiary



From Governor's Island, New York Harbor
Letter datelined November 6, 1864

Prisons did not always indicate censorship.



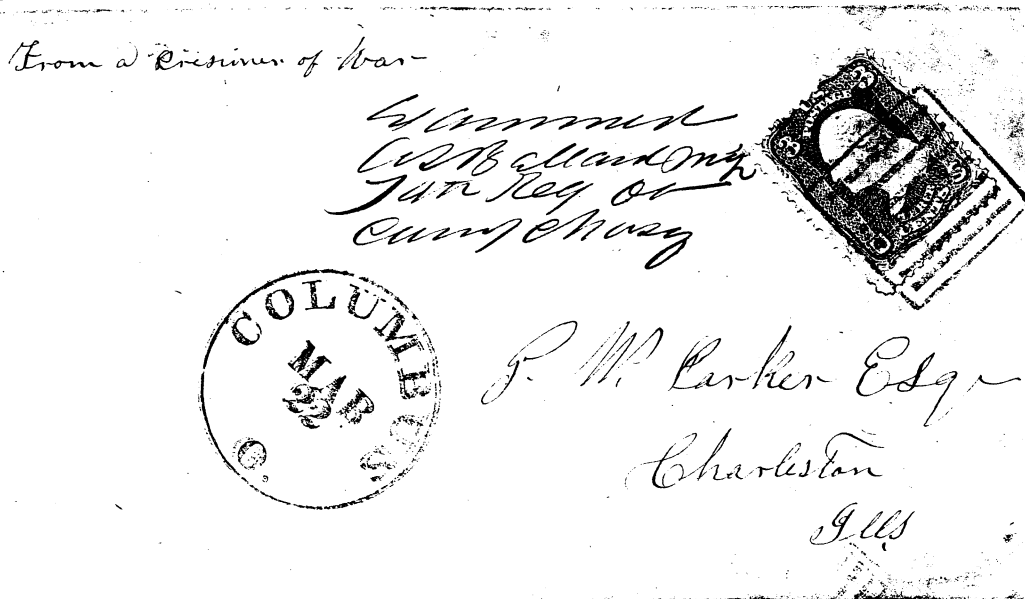
From Allegheny City Penitentiary
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania: November 11, 1863

Manuscript: Examined

Lieutenant Van J. Sellers, Company A, 2nd Regiment, Kentucky Cavalry, correspondence
Morgan Raider captured in July 1863

Others of Morgan Raiders held at Ohio Penitentiary in Columbus and later Fort Delaware

Examiner Markings
Camp Chase



Camp Chase, Columbus, Ohio: March 22, 1862
 Columbus 31 mm townmark with "prison bars" cancel
 Examined Major Alexander S. Ballard
 74th Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry
 First prisoners arrived July 1861.

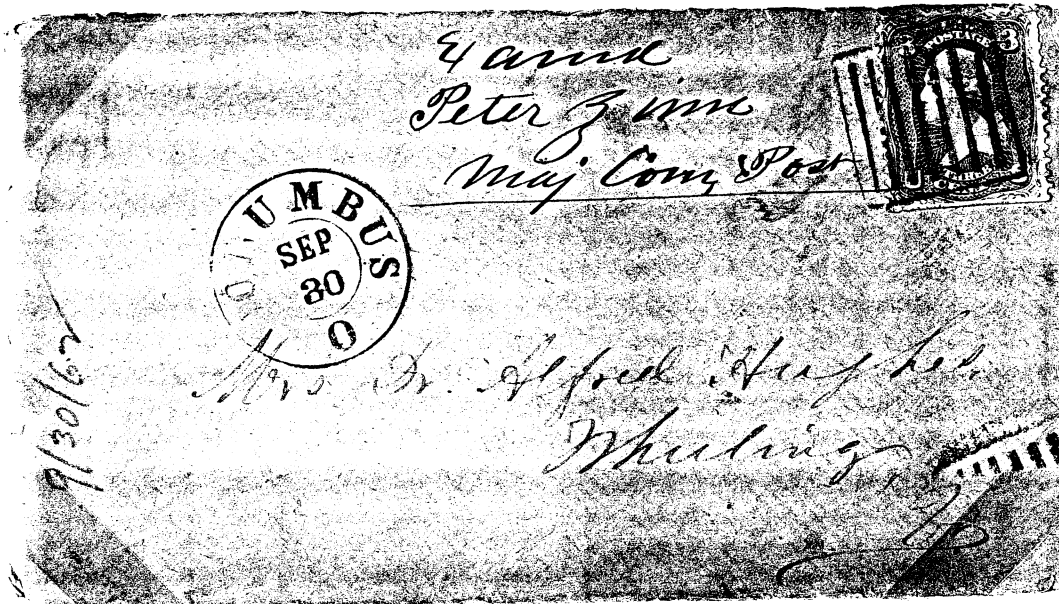
Year dating Camp Chase covers is difficult without enclosures or military records. The only cancel prior to the double circle duplex was the 7-bar grid, or "prison bars". Review of literature and auction catalogs suggests:

<u>Townmark</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Examiner</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Early</u>	<u>Late</u>
Circle	31	Ballard	Manuscript		March 1862
Circle	32.5	Moody	Manuscript		June 1862
Double Circle	25	Kibber	Manuscript	March 1862	April 1862
Double Circle	25	Allison	Manuscript	July 1862	August 1862
Double Circle	25	Zinn	Manuscript	September 1862	October 1862
Double Circle	25	Webber	Manuscript		December 1862
Double Circle Duplex	25	Poten	Manuscript	November 1863	January 1864
Double Circle Duplex	25	Poten	Circle 1a	February 1864	
Double Circle Duplex	25	Lieut. Col.	Circle 1b	May 1864	
Double Circle Duplex	25	N/A	Circle 1c	August 1864	Continuous



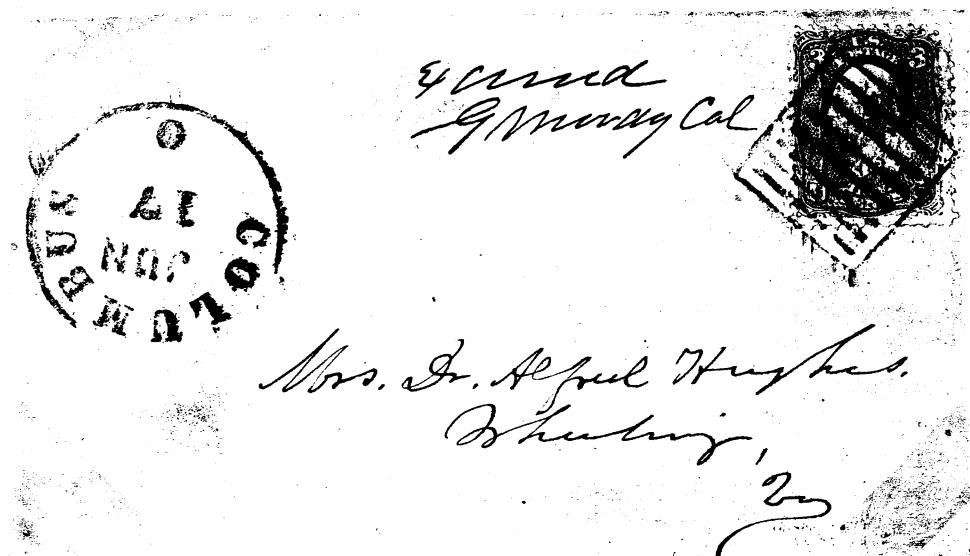
March 29
 Examined Major Alexander S. Ballard

Examiner Markings
Camp Chase



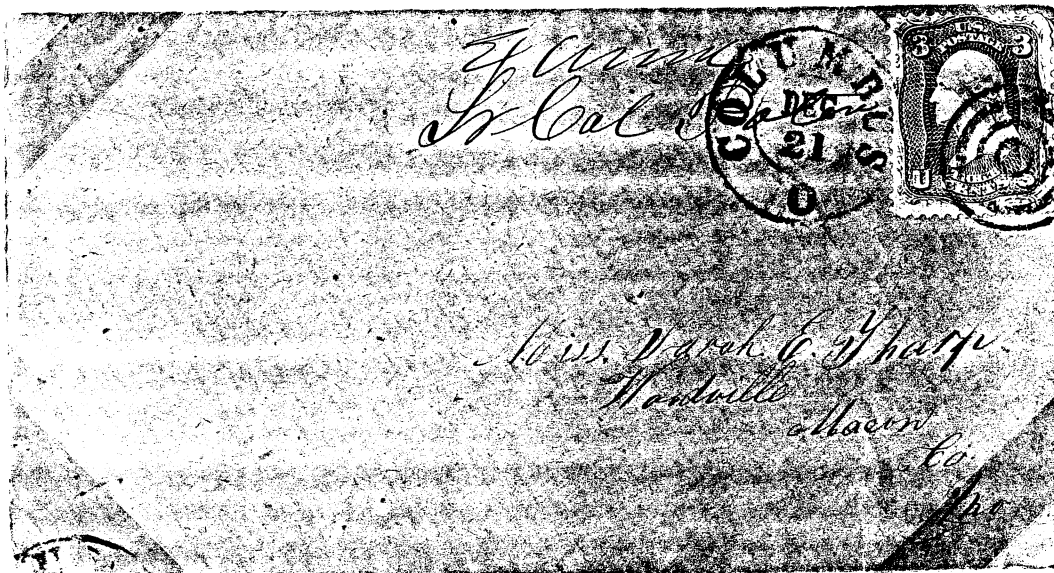
Camp Chase: September 30, 1862
Columbus double circle 25 mm townmark
Examined Peter Zinn

Doctor Alfred Hughes, a civilian imprisoned early in the war, was paroled in 1863 to Richmond, Virginia, to effect the exchange for himself of Samuel A. Pancost, a civilian held by the Confederacy.



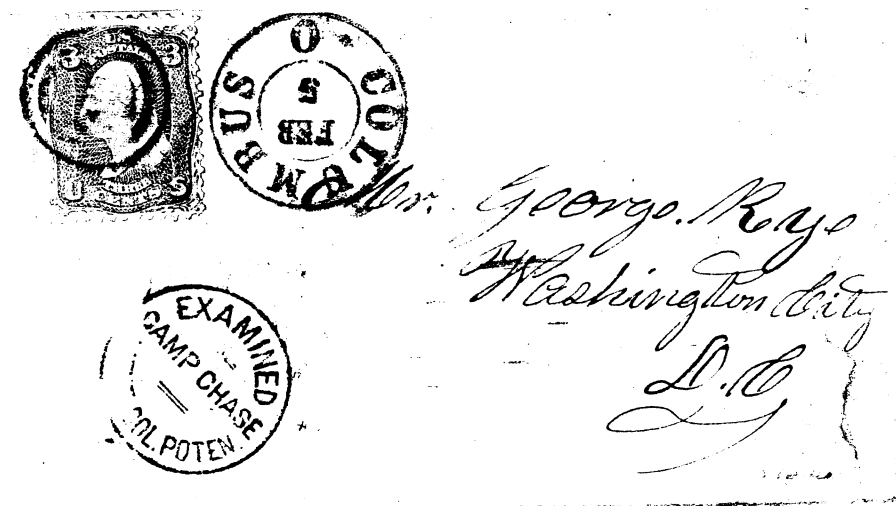
June 17, 1862
Columbus 32.5 mm townmark
Examined Colonel Granville Moody

Examiner Markings
Camp Chase



Camp Chase: Probably December 21, 1863
Examined Lieutenant Colonel August H. Poten,
7th Regiment, Invalid Corps (later Veteran Reserve Corps)

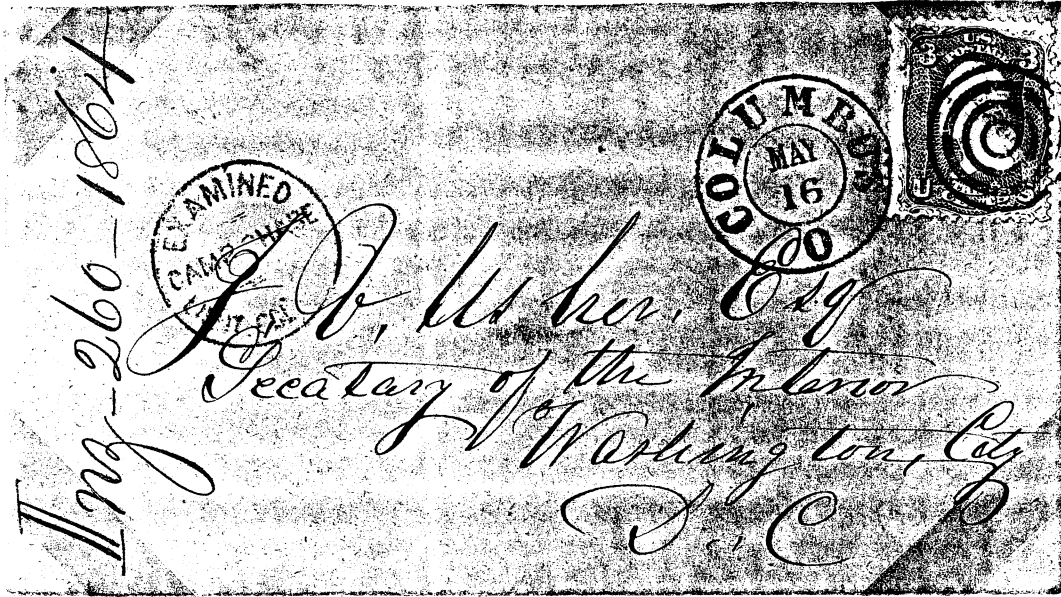
In command of division for prisoners of war October 1863
Removed by May 1864 - suggestion of neglect of duty re shooting of prisoners
His removal led to alteration of circle handstamp.



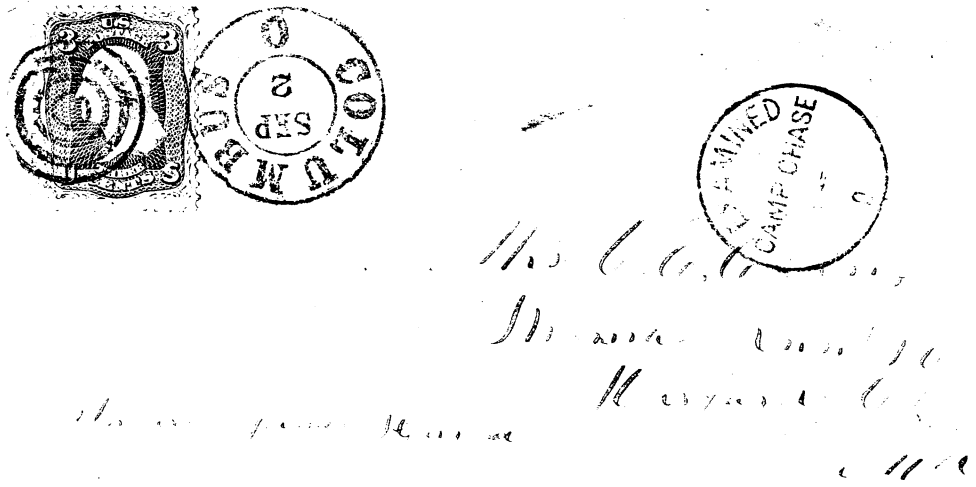
February 5, 1864
Type 1a Handstamp: "Examined/Lieut. Col. Poten"

"I was captured at Woodstock for I had left the Army and went thear [sic]. I wish to take the Oath of Allegiance and live in the U.S. until the Rebellion is put down."

Examiner Markings
Camp Chase

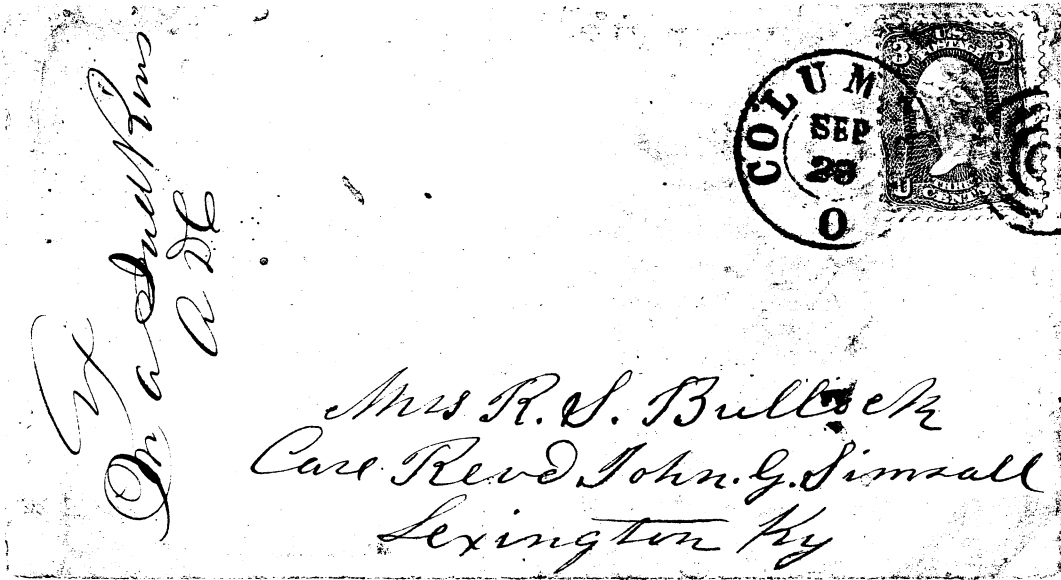


Camp Chase: May 16, 1864
Type 1b Handstamp: "Examined/Lieut. Col."
Name removed from handstamp.



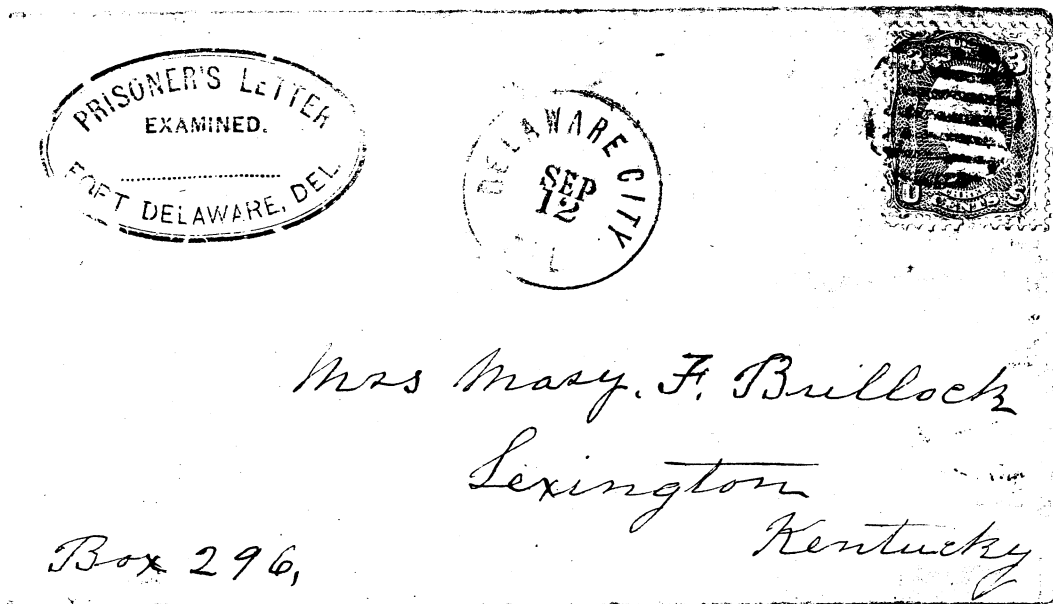
September 2, 1864
Type 1c Handstamp: "Examined/O"
Additional letters removed from existing handstamp.

Examiner Markings
Ohio Penitentiary



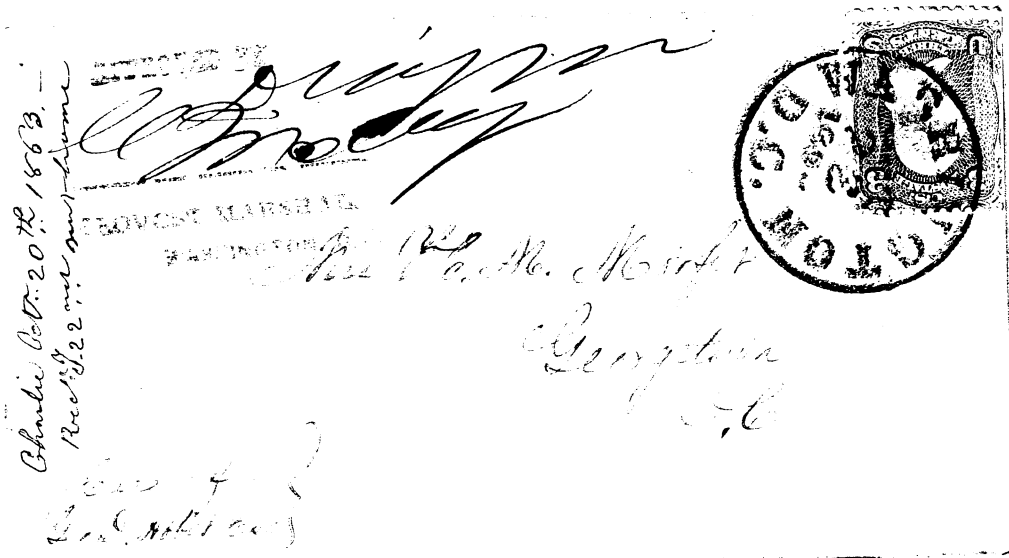
Ohio State Penitentiary, Columbus, Ohio: September 29, 1863
Letter from Major Robert S. Bullock, one of Morgan's Raiders, to his wife, Mary F.
Examined Lieutenant William A. Judkins, A(ide-)D(e-)C(amp) to
Brigadier General John S. Mason, commander of Union troops in Columbus.

Ohio Penitentiary covers can be identified by the following manuscript examiner markings:
Lieutenant George S. Lester, ADC
Captain Robert Lamb, ADC
Lieutenant William A. Judkins, ADC
Nathaniel Merion, Warden (often only initials NM used)



Fort Delaware: September 12, 1864
Major Bullock and other Morgan Raiders were transferred in March 1864
after General John Hunt Morgan's escape from Ohio Penitentiary.

Examiner Markings
Washington Provost Marshal

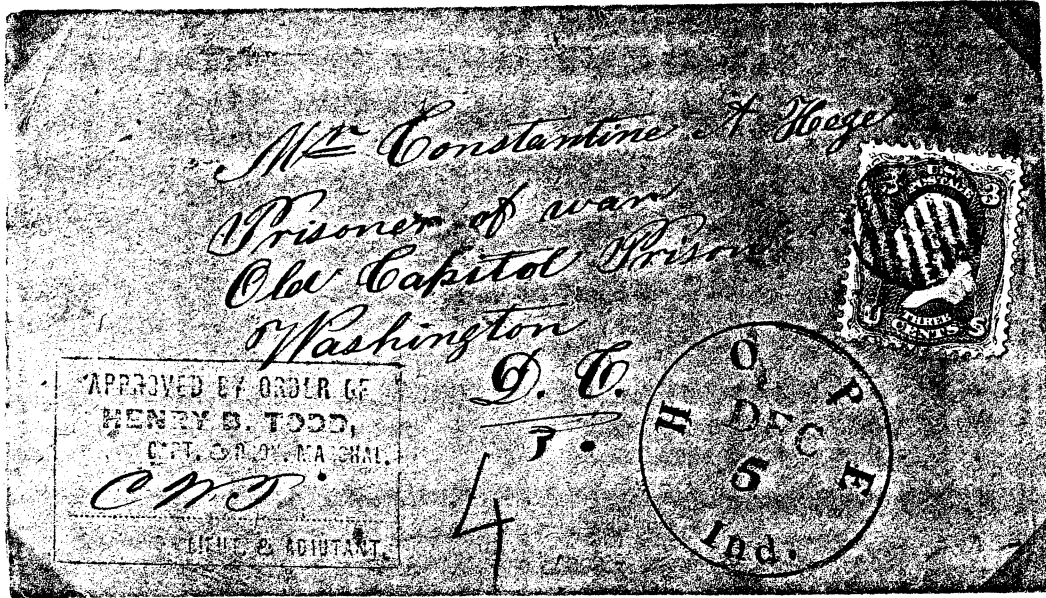


From Washington, D.C.: October 22, 1863
Provost Marshal handstamp
Signature unidentified

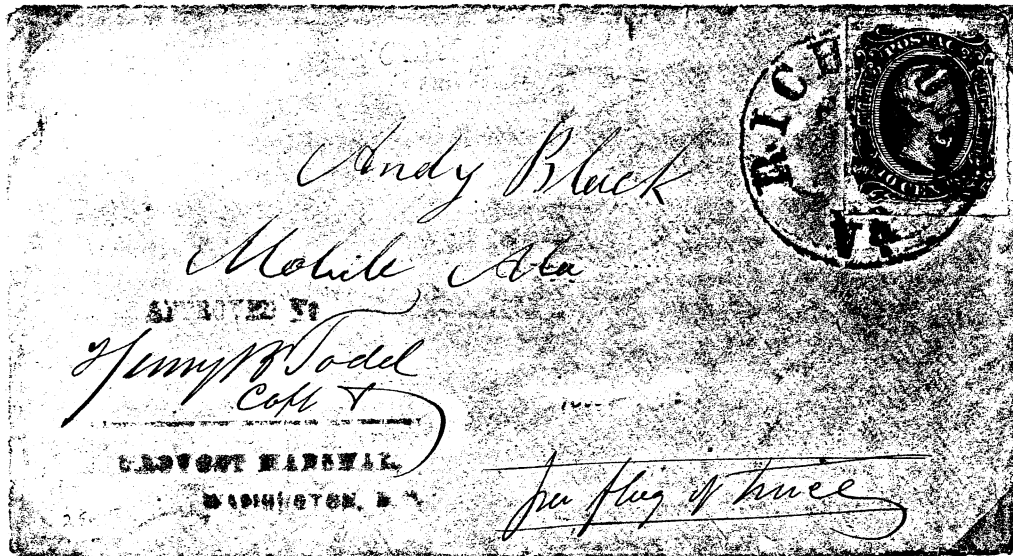
Provost Marshal

Duties were similar to that of a Chief of Police.
Prisoners were turned over to the Provost Marshal and by him transferred to special guards who delivered them to prisons.
Provost marshal also assumed right to arrest citizens and confine them without trial.
Whether prisoners were confined in a separate building or in Forrest Hall prison is not known.

Examiner Markings
Washington Provost Marshal
Old Capitol Prison



To prisoner at Old Capitol Prison, Washington, D.C.
December 5, 1863

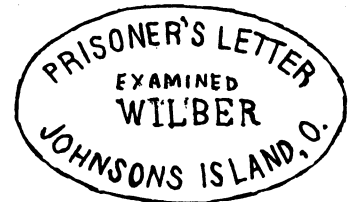


Inner Envelope
From Washington, D.C.: February 1864(?)
Henry C. Todd was commander of Washington prisons from March 1863 to February 1864.
Richmond Type 5 townmark
Archer & Daley Type II 10c

Examiner Markings
Old Capitol Prison



Origin unknown
Illegible townmark
Stamp missing (?)

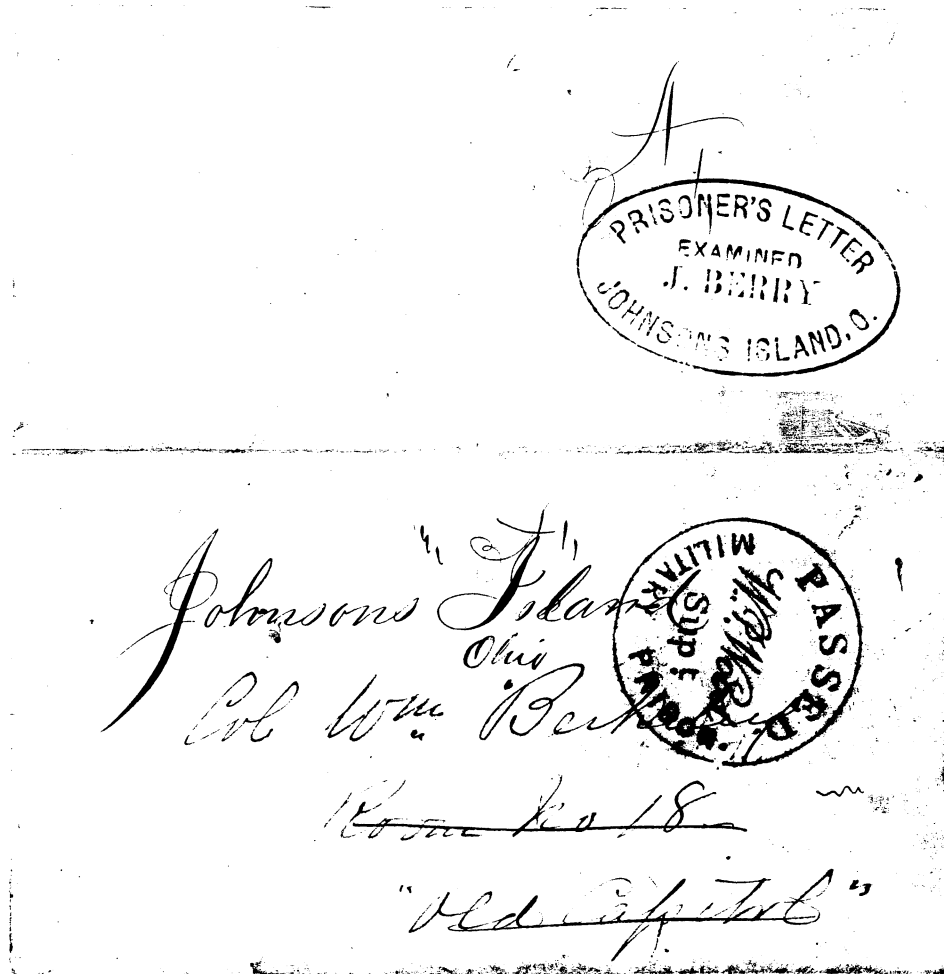


Wilber

Adversity cover made from F.D. Fanning & Co., Charleston, South Carolina, shipping receipt
To prisoner thought to be at Old Capitol Prison
Forwarded to Johnson's Island; reforwarded to Fort Delaware
Handstamp: Old Capitol Prison
Johnson's Island (reverse)

Old Capitol Prison was the first Union prison to hold Confederate prisoners but was largely used for civilians, captured suspected spies, political prisoners, etc. Prisoners began arriving in July 1861. Covers to and from Old Capitol are known with Washington Provost Marshal and Supt. Military Prison handstamps. The circular handstamp with the name Wood was used as early as November 1862. The handstamp with the name Neest is reported in August 1865.

Multiple Examiners
Prison To Prison
Old Capitol
Johnson's Island

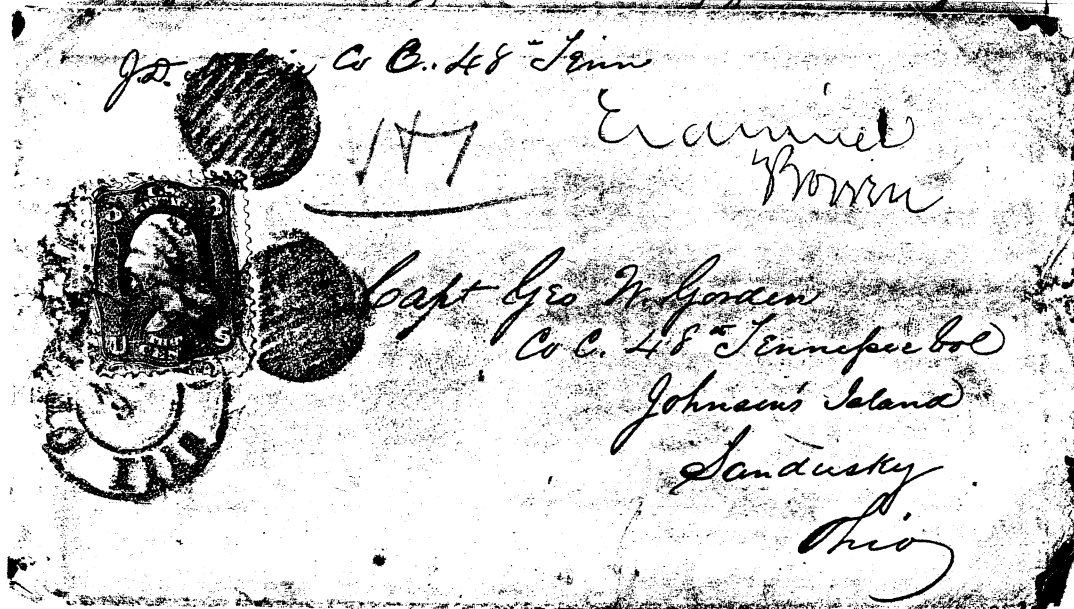


To prisoner at Old Capitol Prison: May 1865
Forwarded following transfer of prisoner to Johnson's Island
Old Capitol W.P. Wood circular examiner handstamp
Johnson's Island handstamp: J. Berry: Joseph C. Berry

Examiner Markings
Prison To Prison
Camp Douglas
To Johnson's Island

Camp Douglas,
Chicago, Ills May 6th 1862.
Dear Captain

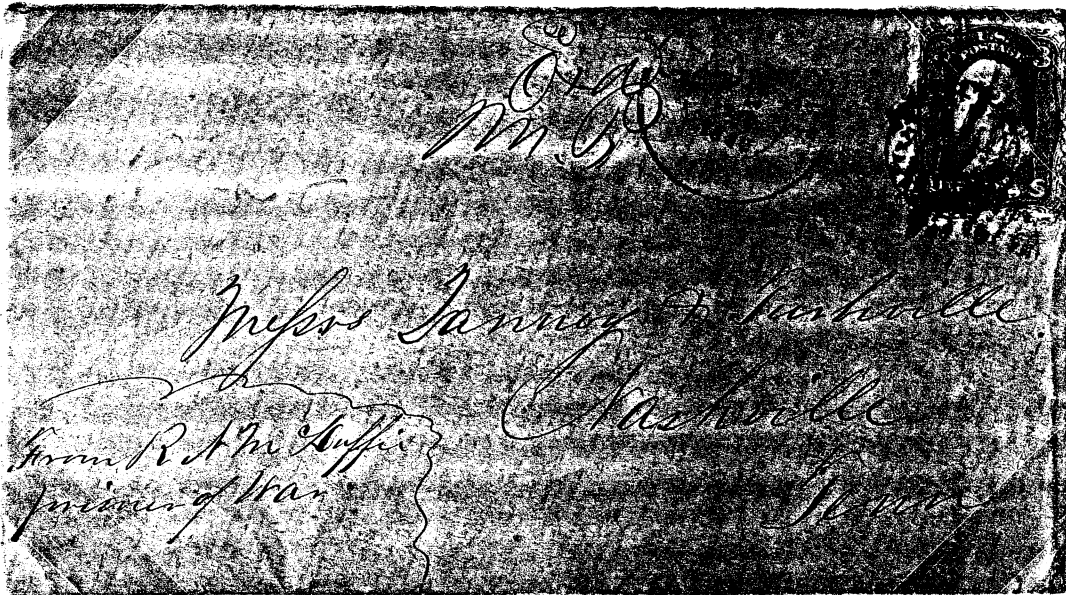
I sit down today
to write you a few lines - (a duty which I
have too long deferred) that you may know
how the members of your company are faring
during their confinement as prisoners of war.
I have indeed sorrowful news to communicate
two more of our little band have been called
away from our midst and we now mourn
the loss of six of men since we came to this
camp. Welch, Hodge, James Atkin, Henry Atkin,
George Armstrong and Tommy Johnston. God



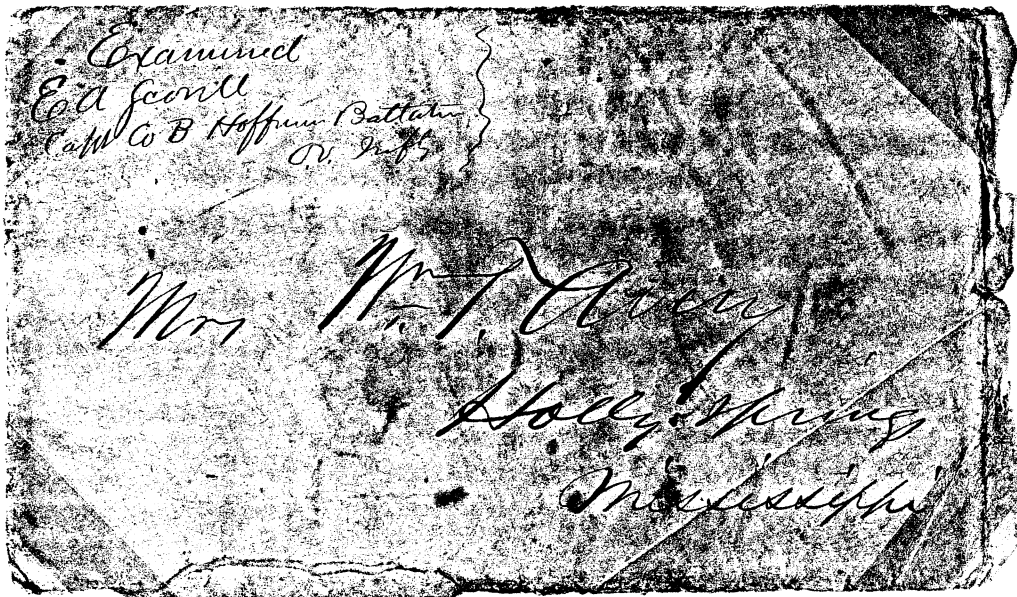
To Johnson's Island from Camp Douglas: May 8, 1862
Camp Douglas manuscript examiner marking
Sergeant held at Camp Douglas tells his Captain, held
at Johnson's Island, the status of his former troops.

Principally commissioned officers were held at Johnson's Island.
All other ranks were held at Camp Douglas.

Examiner Markings
Johnson's Island

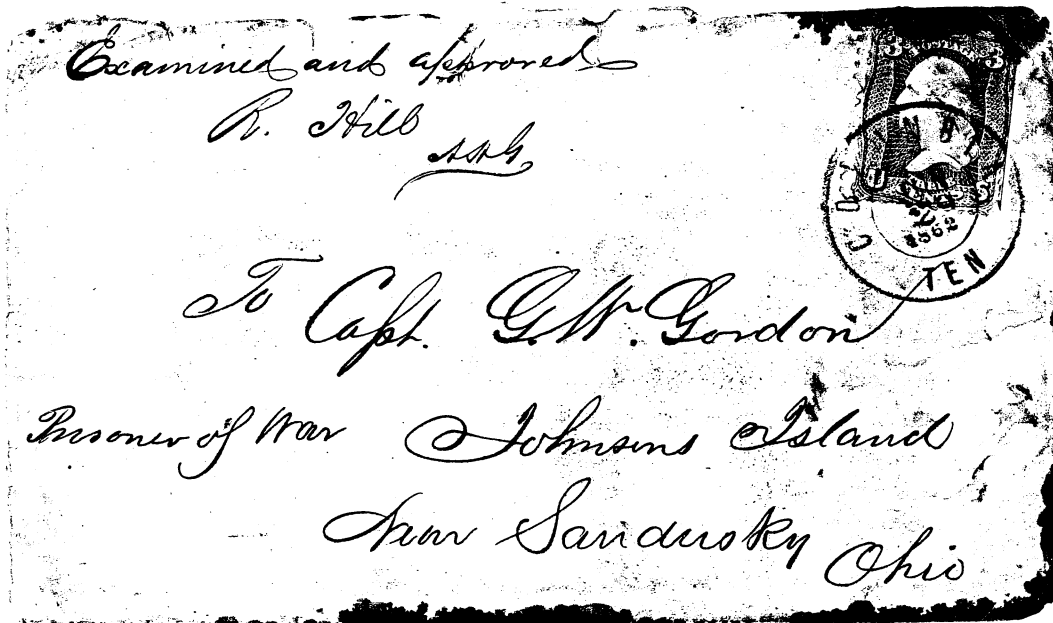


Johnson's Island: May 23, 1862
Examined by Major W(illiam S.)P(ierson), first commander of prison guard force
Hoffman's Battalion Companies A-B, organized 1861 and
transferred 1864 to 128th Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry.



1862
Examined by Captain Edward A. Scovill
Handcarried or enclosed in other mail
From William T. Avery, former Tennessee Congressman, to his wife
Captured April 7, 1862; at Camp Chase April 13;
paroled to Columbus; transferred to Johnson's Island April 24;
paroled for exchange August 27 and exchanged October 11, 1862

**Examiner Markings
To Johnson's Island**



From Columbia, Tennessee: June 29, 1862

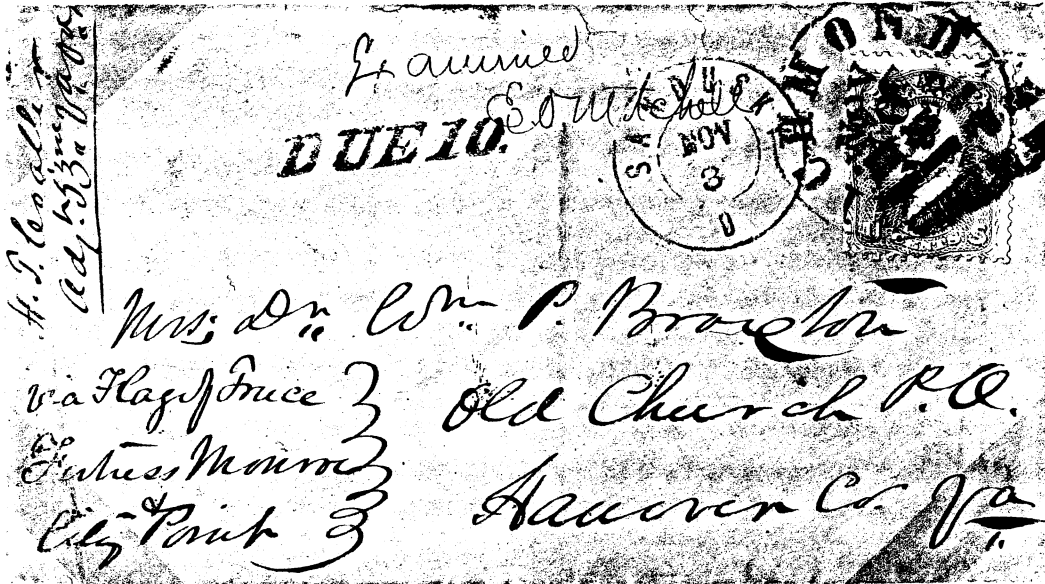
Manuscript examiner: R. Hill

AAG (Acting Adjutant General)

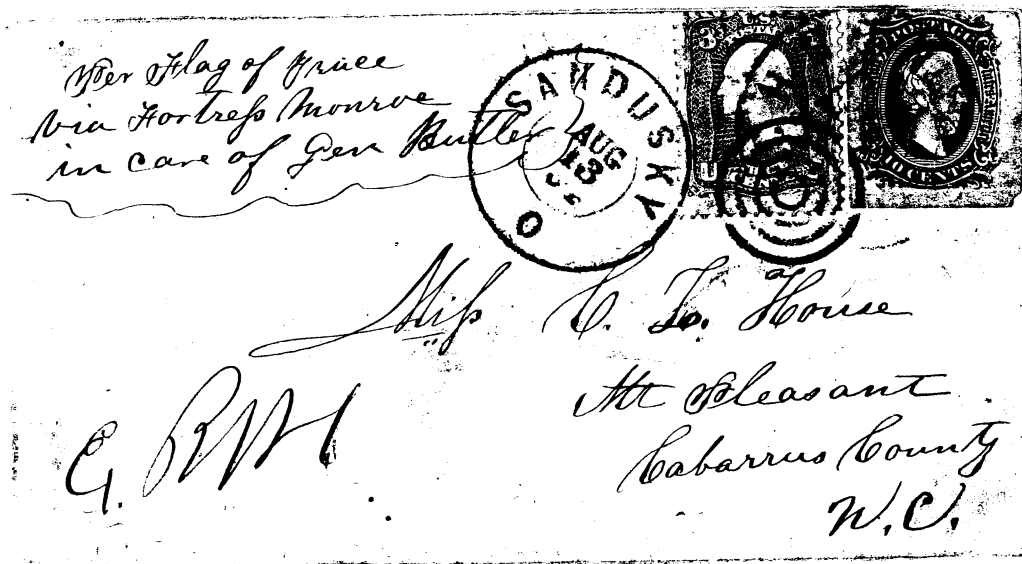
No R. Hill listed in 128th Regiment O.V.I. roster.

Possible Tennessee occupation examiner.

Examiner Markings
Johnson's Island

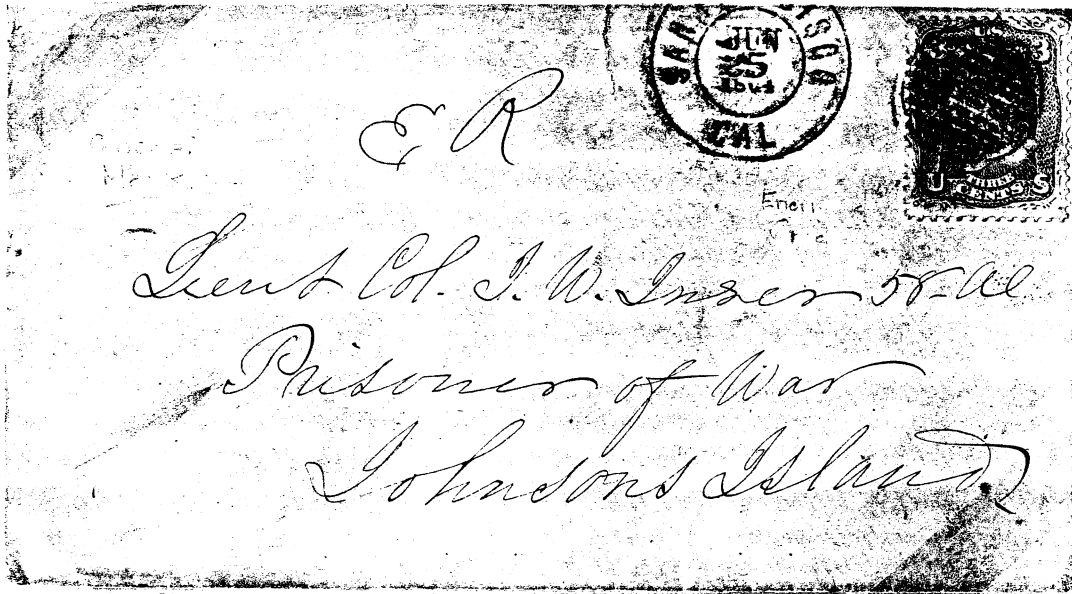


From Johnson's Island: November 3, 1863: Due 10
Blue Sandusky, Ohio 25 mm townmark
Richmond Type 5d townmark
Manuscript examiner: E.O. Mitchell



From Johnson's Island: August 13, 1864
Manuscript examiner marking
Richmond, Virginia, August 24
Archer & Daley Type I 10c

Examiner Markings
Johnson's Island

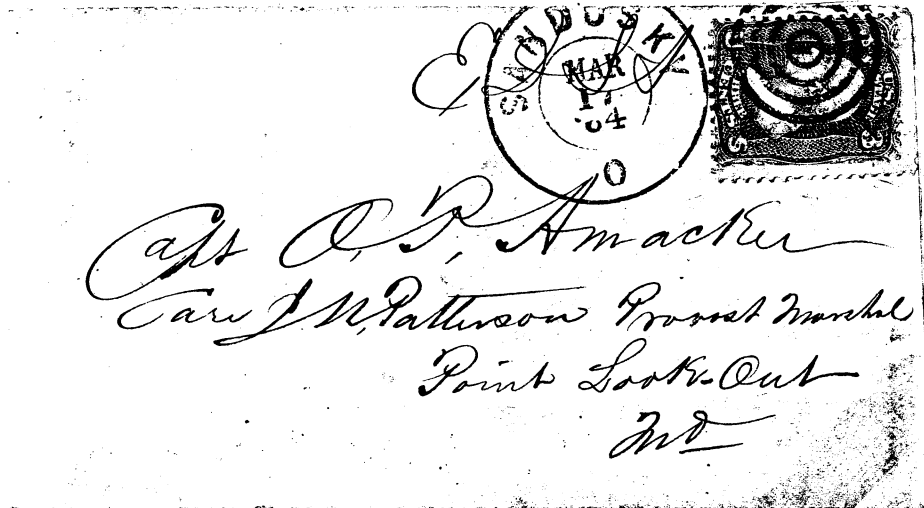


From San Francisco, California: June 25, 1864
Manuscript: Ex R



From Midway, Kentucky: August 1
Manuscript: Ex C

Examiner Markings
Johnson's Island
To Point Lookout



From Johnson's Island to Point Lookout: March 17, 1864

Manuscript: DSA: De Alva S. Alexander

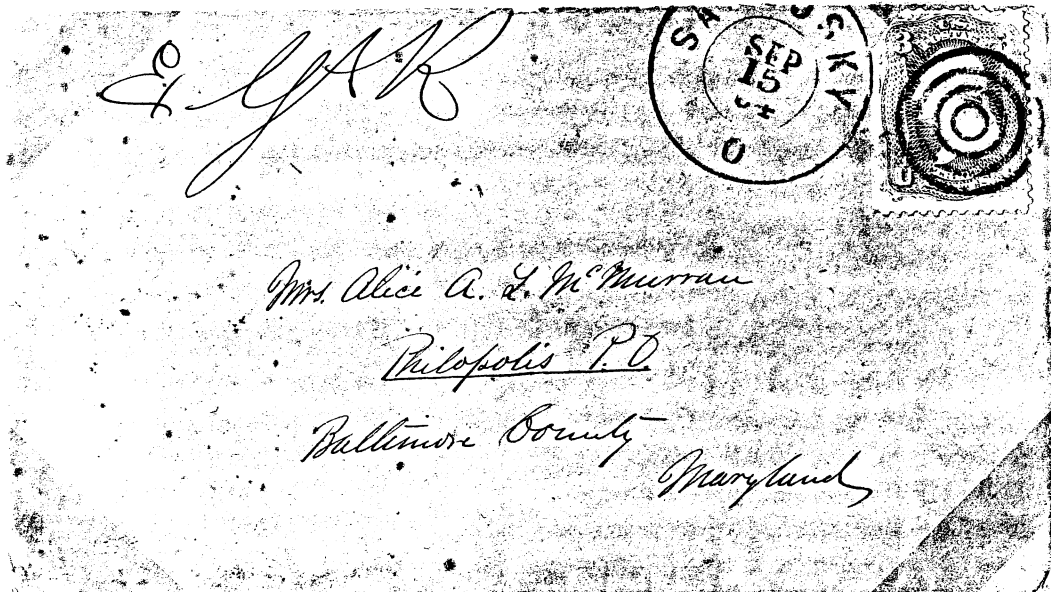
One of the most common manuscript markings, beginning October 1863

Also seen as DS Alexander and probably A

A private in Company C Hoffman's Battalion, later Company C 128th Regiment O.V.I.

Period of service: May 7, 1862, to June 5, 1865

No handstamp reported.

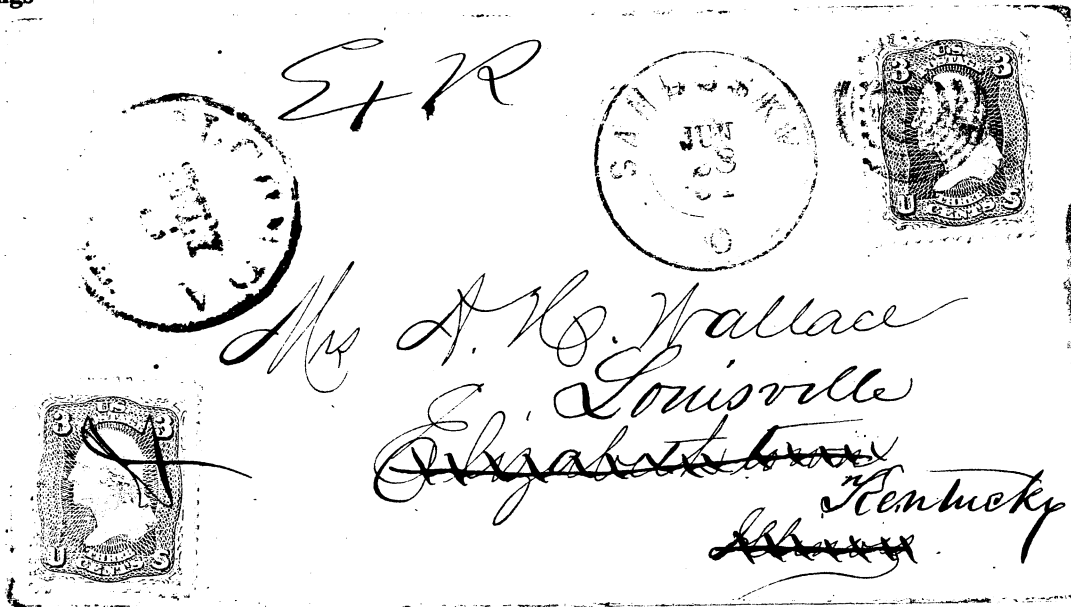


September 15, 1864

Manuscript: GAR: Gerald A. Ressay

Handstamp reported.

**Examiner Markings
Johnson's Island**



From Johnson's Island: June 28, 1864: Manuscript examiner marking: Ex R
 To Elizabethtown, Illinois, and forwarded to Louisville, Kentucky
 Addressee could leave funds at post office to pay for forwarding.
 Agent or family of addressee could direct remailing and pay postage.

The Johnson's Island guard force was the Hoffman's Battalion which, in January 1864, was transferred to the 128th Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry. Beginning apparently in October 1864 Johnson's Island examiners used an oval handstamp with replaceable logos for names or initials. All oval handstamp markings that have been identified were used by enlisted men. Table is based upon exhibitor's survey:

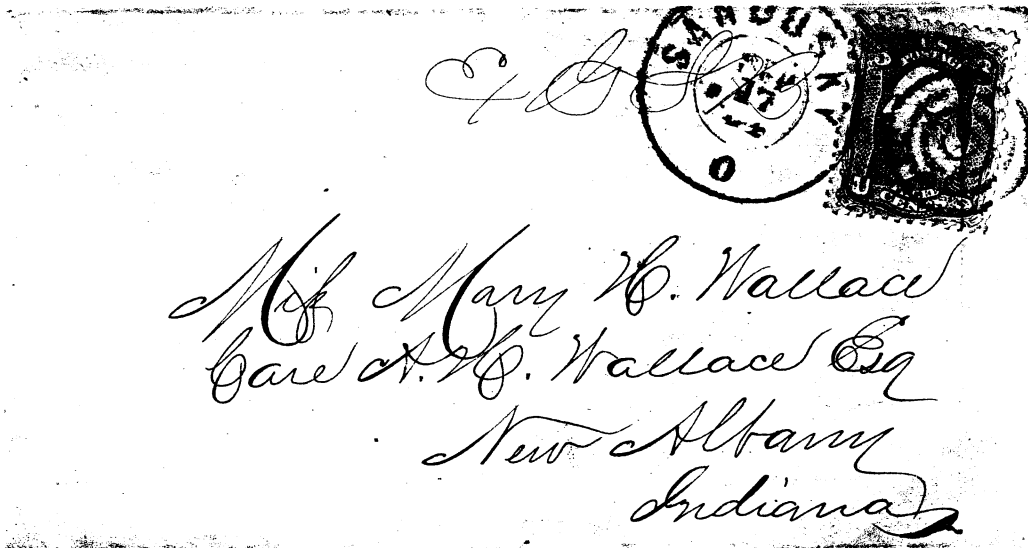
	Imprint	Early	Late	Number	Name	Rank	Service Period	
#x*	J Berry		May 1865	1	Joseph C. Berry	Private	Dec 23 1863	Jul 13 1865
#x*	GSB	Nov 5 1864	Jun 14 1865	33	George S. Brown	Corporal	Aug 25 1863	Jun 20 1865
#x*	TOC	Nov 5 1864	Jan 31 1865	11	Theodore O. Castle	Private	Dec 22 1863	Jul 13 1865
#x*	D Crist	1865		3	Dow Christ	Private	Aug 22 1864	Jul 13 1865
#	CD	Feb 3 1865	Feb 6 1865	2	Inversion of DC			
#	DC	Jan 25 1865	Mar 1865	5	Dow Christ	Private		
#x*	J Coder	Feb 8 1865	Jun 15 1865	12	John Coder	Private	Aug 24 1864	Jul 13 1865
#x*	JC	Feb 10 1865	Feb 15 1865	8	John Coder [?]			
#	Jarvis	Apr 19 1865		1	Morris Jarvis	Private	Mar 10 1863	Jul 13 1865
x*	J Jordan	Apr 3 1865	Apr 14 1865	5	Unable to locate			
	JJ	Mar 22 1865		2	Same as J. Jordan [?]			
x*	BFM		Apr 26 1865	4	Benjamin F. Miller	Private	Oct 29 1863	Jul 6 1865
x*	GFM			1	Misread BFM [?]			
x*	GAR	N/A		2	Gerald A. Ressap	Private	Dec 9 1863	Jul 13 1865
x*	FWR	Oct 1864	Dec 1864	9	Frank W. Rittman	Private	Sep 10 1862	Jun 8 1865
#x*	CHR	Nov 19 1864	May 18 1865	11	Chauncy H. Roberts	Private	Aug 22 1864	Jun 9 1865
#	OFW	1864		1	Oscar F. White [?]	Private	Oct 14 1862	Jul 13 1865
	OFM	Nov 1864		2	Inversion of OFW			
#	Wilber		May 3 1865	2	Unable to identify			
#	JHW		Jun 16 1865	3	Wilber(?)			
	GFY	Mar 11 1865		1	George F. Young [?]	Private	Dec 8 1863	Jul 13 1865
*	GEY	Mar 11 1865		4	Misread GFY [?]			
#	PEM	May 6 1865	May 29 1865	2	Unable to identify			
#	PME	May 1865		1	Inversion of PEM			
#x*	CS	Feb 15 1865		4	Unable to identify			
x*	CY	N/A		1	Unable to identify			
#	FY	Mar 1 1865		2	Unable to identify			

Exhibited

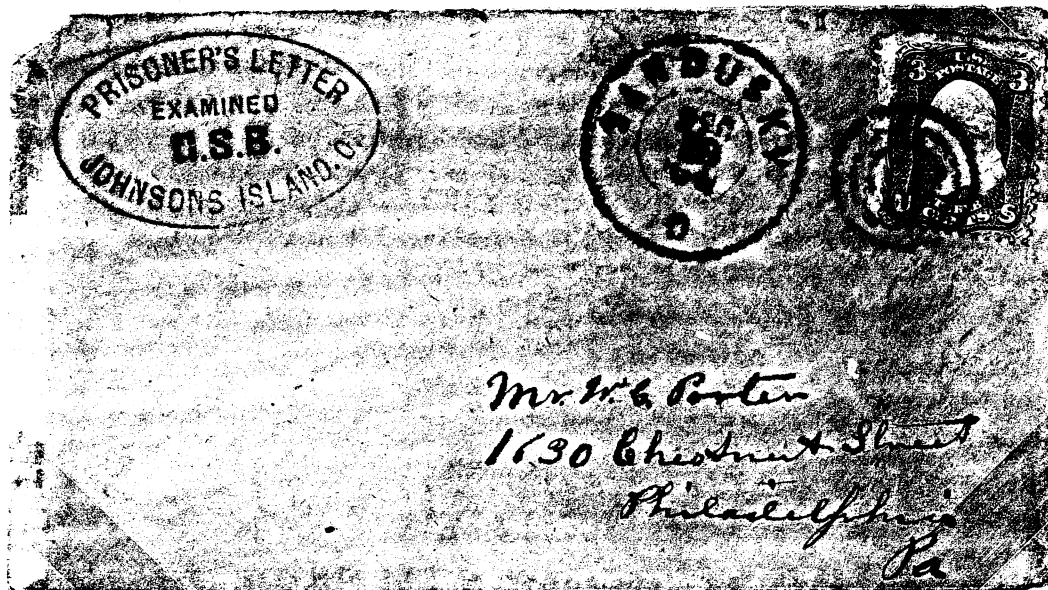
x Listed by Raymond M. Wilkinson, "Depot Prisoners of War: Johnson's Island, Ohio," The American Philatelist (March 1954)

* Listed in Antrim

Examiner Markings
Johnson's Island

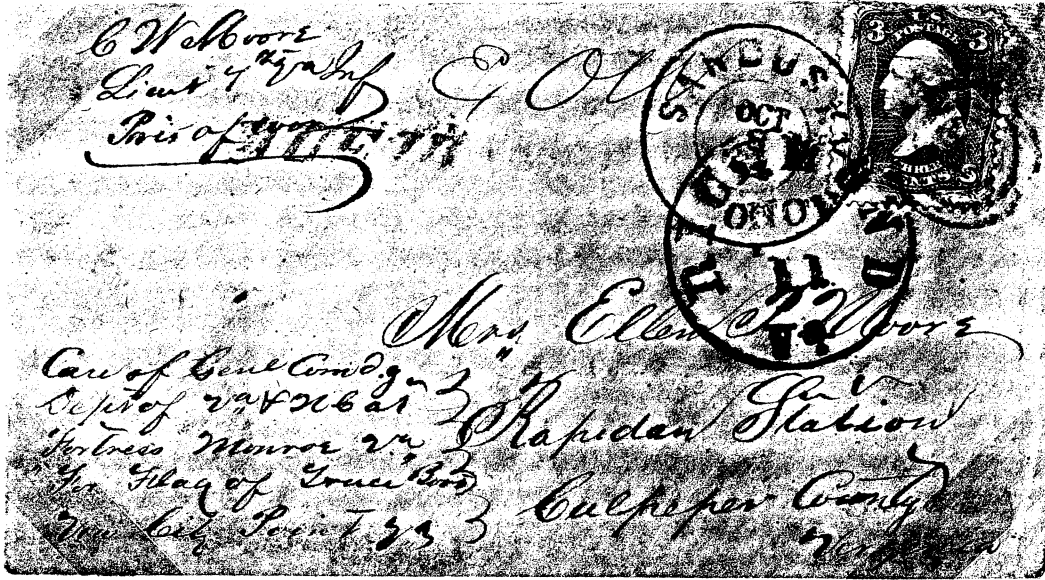


September 17, 1864
Manuscript: Ex GSB: George S. Brown

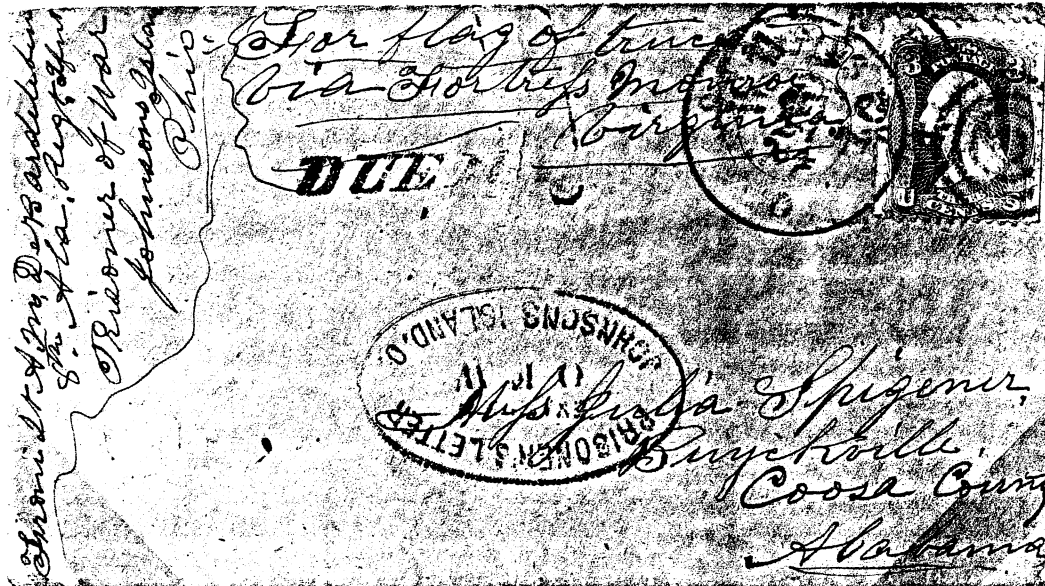


December 18, 1864

Examiner Markings
Johnson's Island

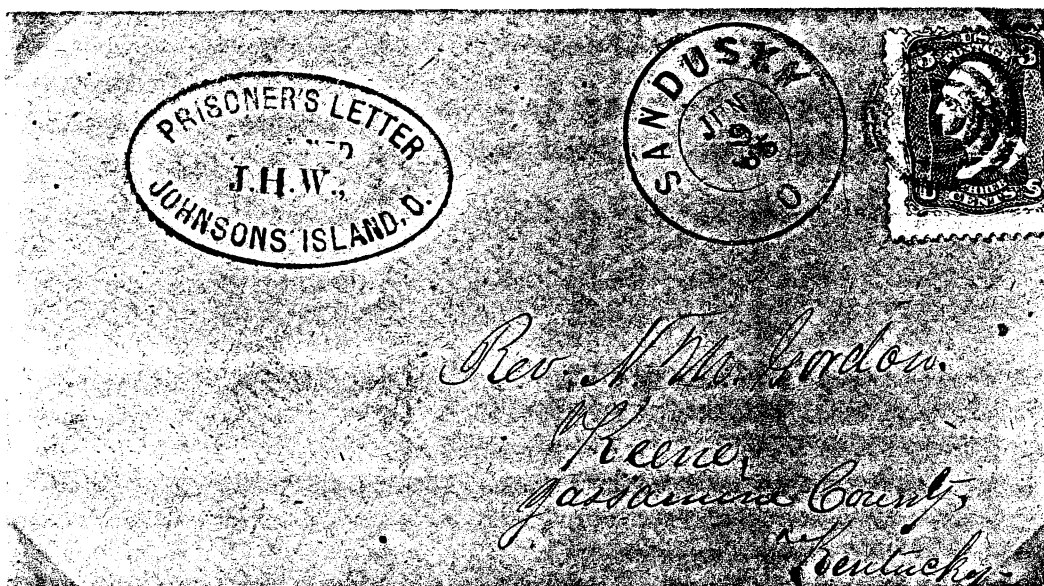


October 8, 1864
Richmond Type 5h townmark: Due 10
Manuscript: OW: Probably Oscar F. White



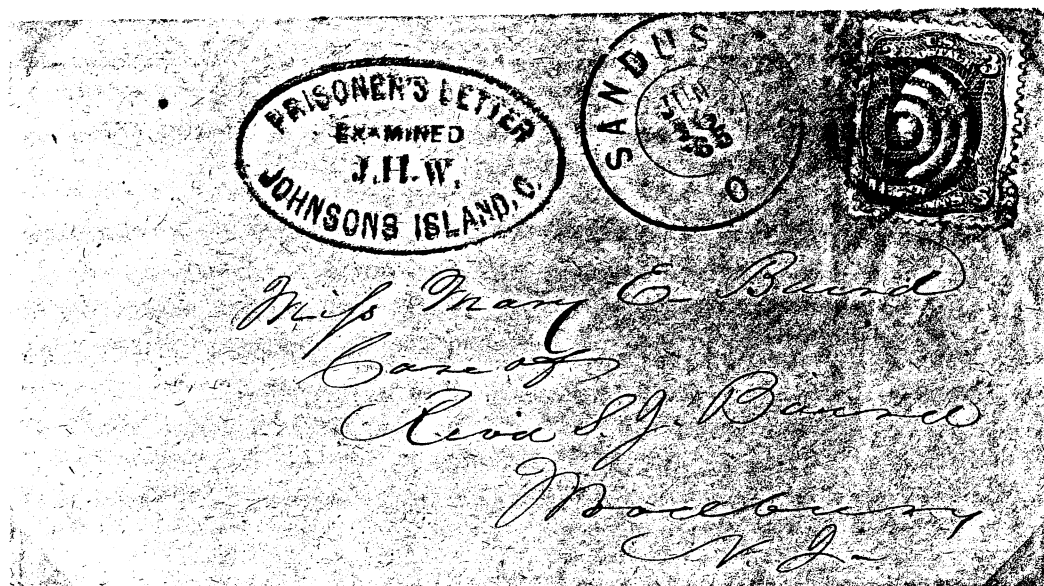
1864: OFW: Due 10

Examiner Markings
Johnson's Island



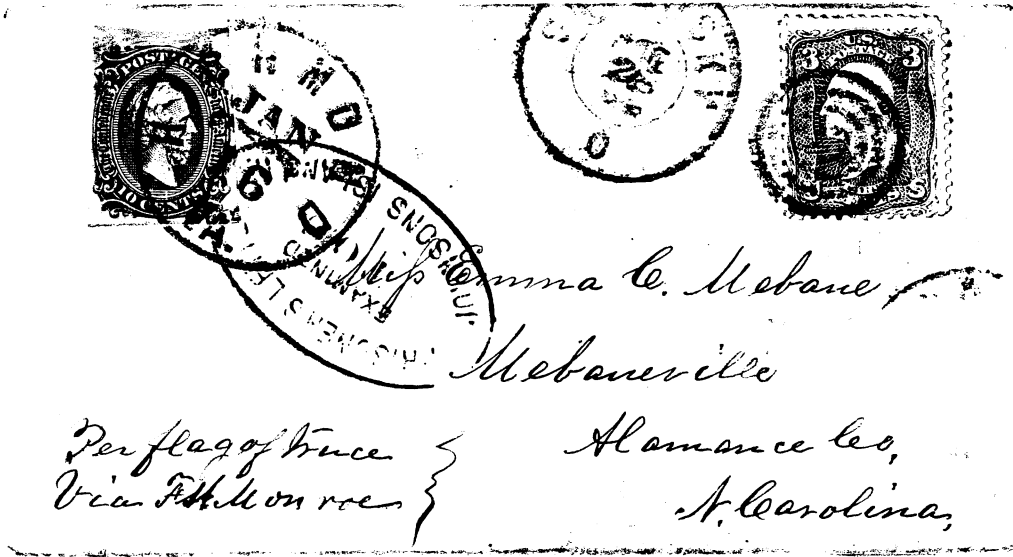
1865: JHW

Probably Wilber: Full name and rank unknown
Variations in lettering in two examples suggest one
handstamp instrument with slots for insertion of varying initials.



1865: JHW

Across the Lines
 Examiner Markings
 Johnson's Island



December 28, 1864

Handstamp: TOC: Theodore O. Castle
 Richmond Type 6q townmark: January 16
 Archer & Daley Type I 10c

In addition to Fortress Monroe, the coast of Texas, Vicksburg, Mississippi (until July 1863), and Savannah, Georgia (until December 1864), were formal flag of truce exchange points. The authorities, not the prisoner, determined the routing of mail. Events of the Civil War also determined the availability of, and need for, flag of truce exchanges.



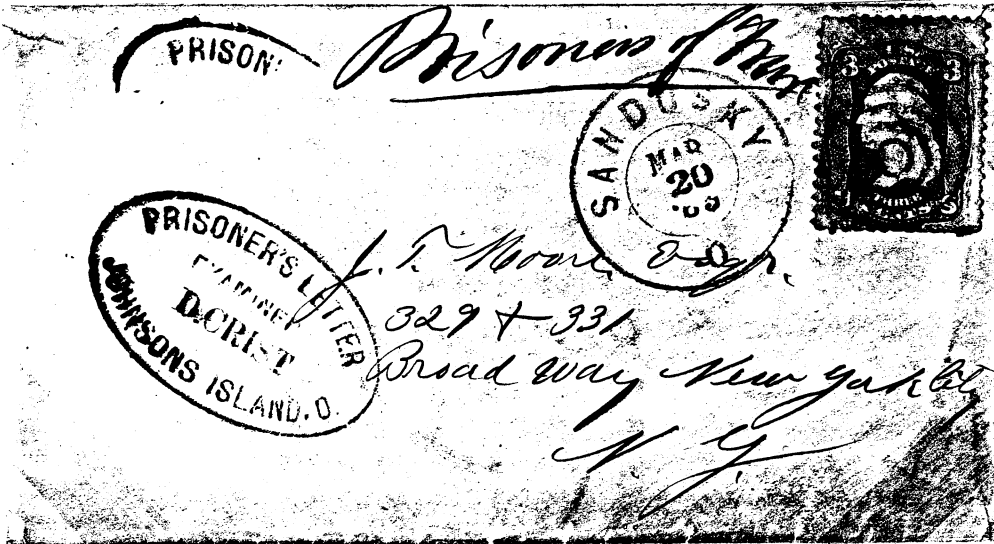
From Johnson's Island to Texas: November 23, 1864

Handstamp: T.O.C.

Richmond Type 6p townmark: January 10, 1865: Due 10

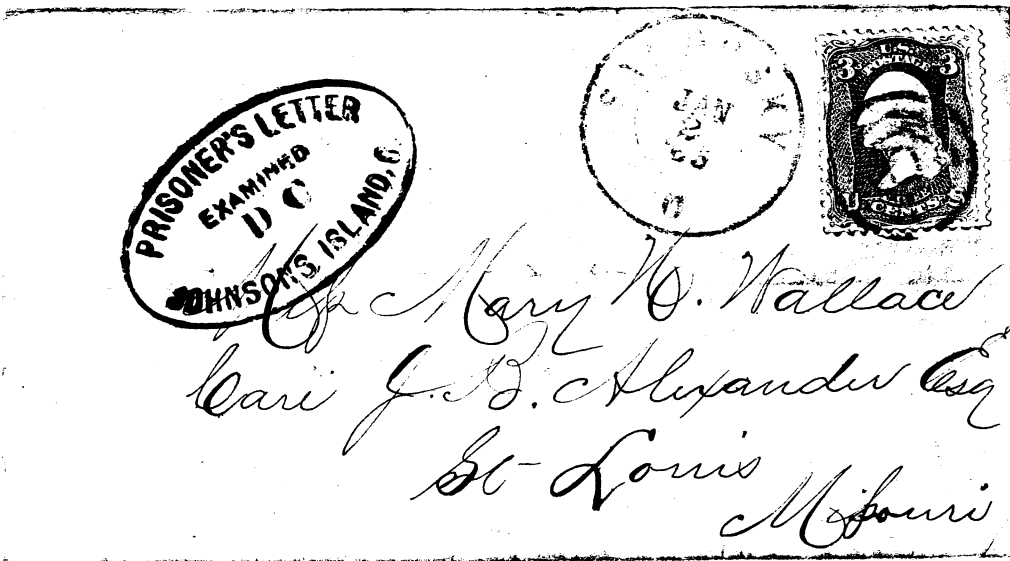
Lieutenant Reuben A. Higgason, the prisoner, had directed his letter "via Flag of Truce to Galveston, Tex."

Examiner Markings
Johnson's Island



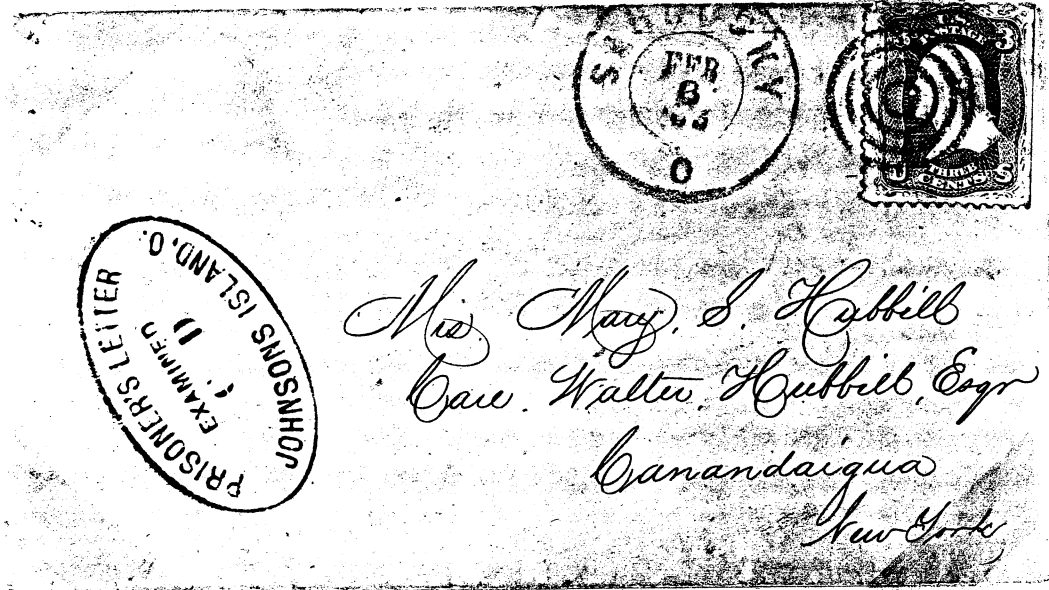
March 20, 1865
Handstamp: D. Crist: Dow Christ
128th Regiment lists spelling as Christ

Poor strikes of the 5 in 1865 Sandusky townmarks have resulted
in some auction catalogs using 1863 rather than 1865 dates.
No clear 1863 strike for handstamp oval known to exhibitor.

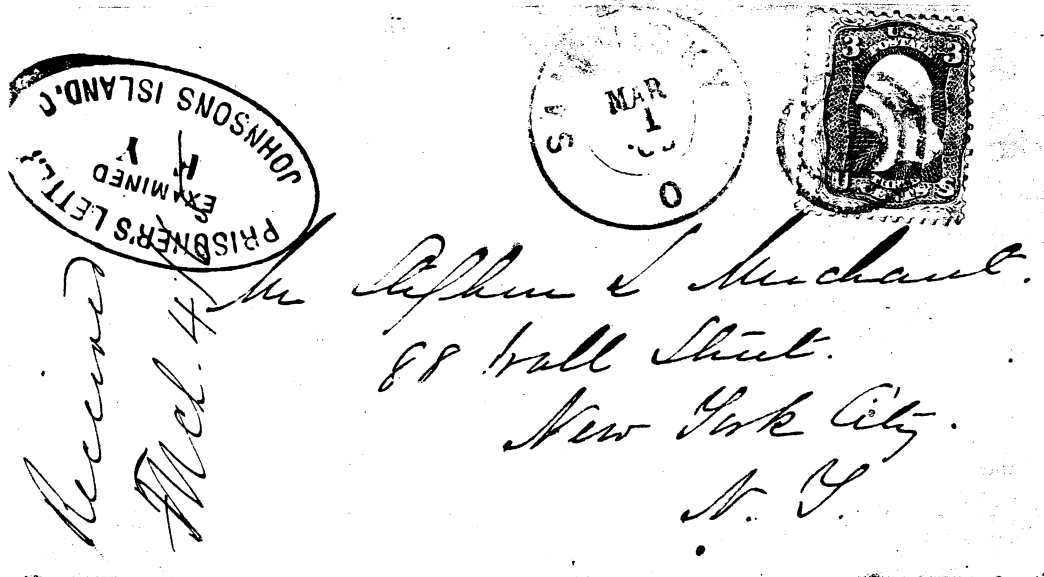


January 2, 1865
Handstamp: DC
The handstamp had apparently a slot
for insertion of initials or name.
DC are probably the initials of Dow Christ.

Examiner Markings
Johnson's Island

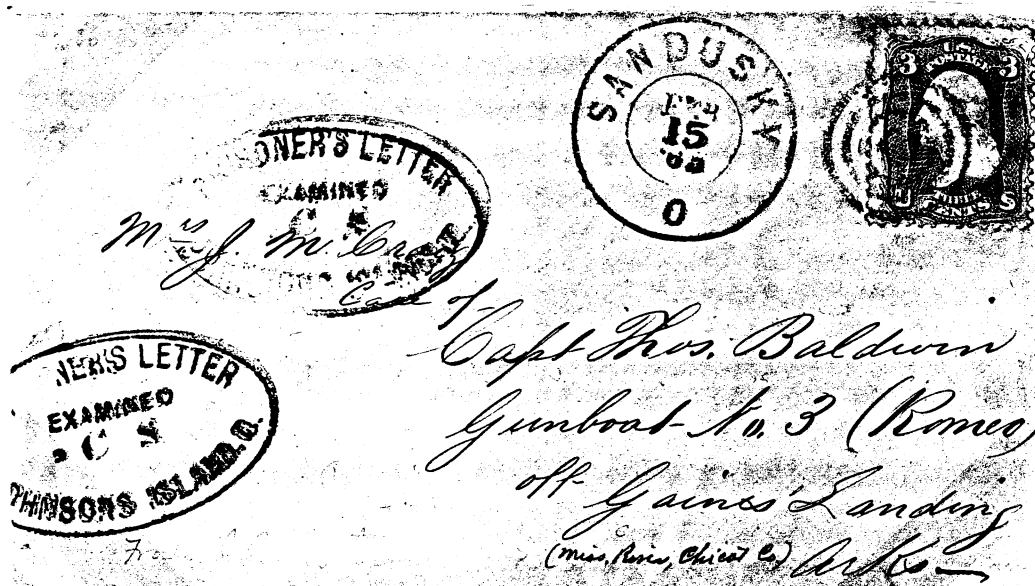


Johnson's Island: CD: February 6, 1865
Possible inversion of "DC", believed to be initials of Dow Christ



FY: March 1, 1865

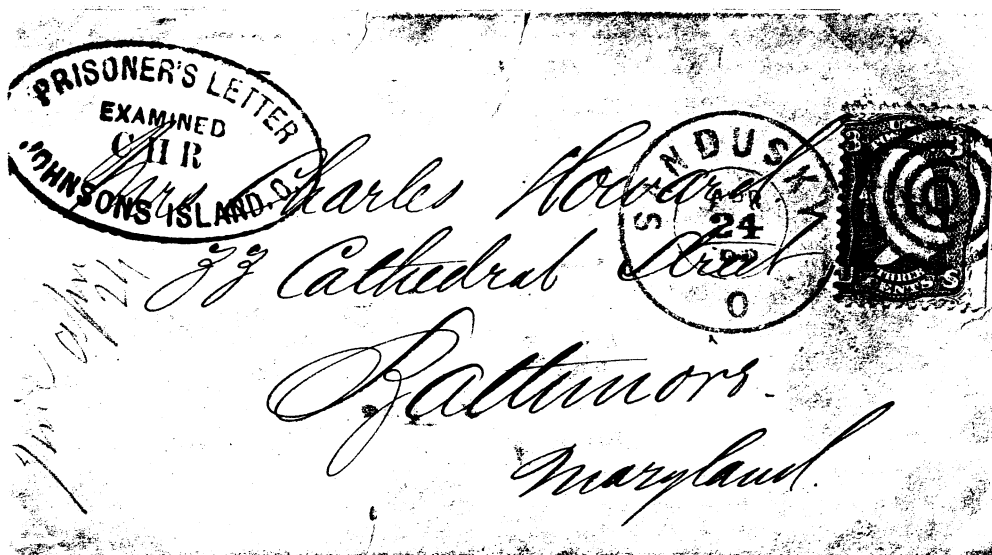
Examiner Markings
Johnson's Island



February 15, 1865

Handstamp: CS

To prisoner's wife, in care of Union gunboat
captain probably stationed near her home
U.S.S. Romeo was a tin-clad.

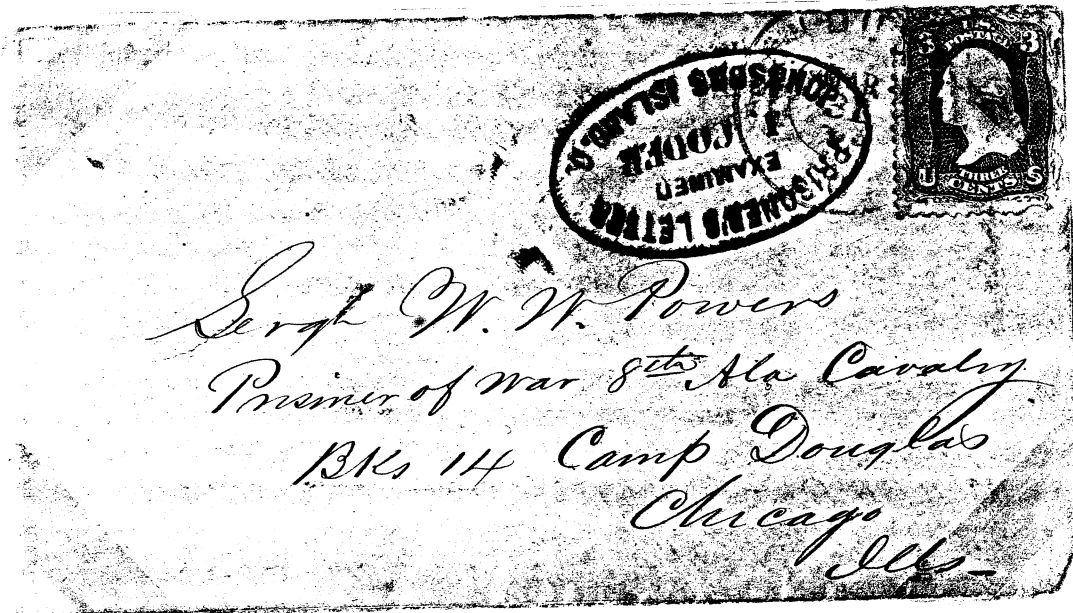


April 24, 1865

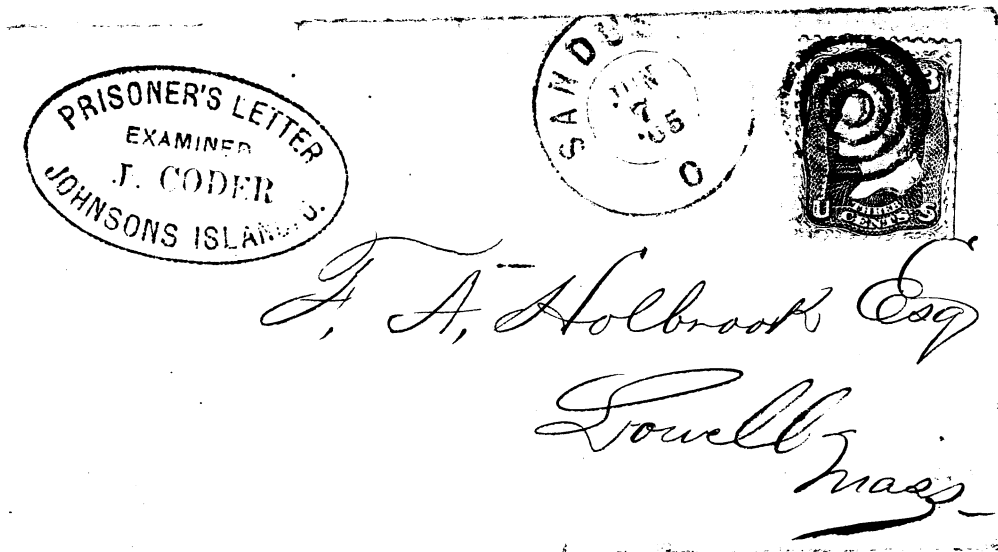
Blue Sandusky 28.5 mm duplex

Handstamp: CHR: Chauncey H. Roberts

Examiner Markings
Johnson's Island
To Camp Douglas

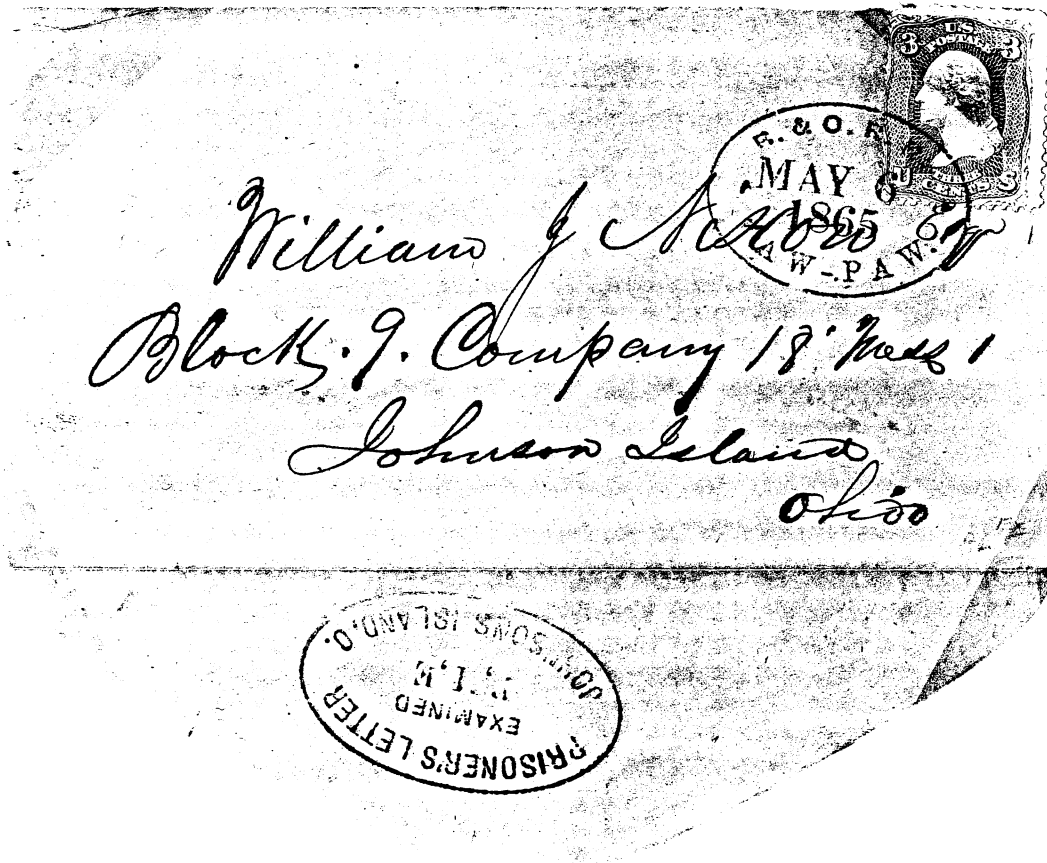


To Camp Douglas from Johnson's Island: March 16, 1865
Handstamp: J. Coder: John Coder



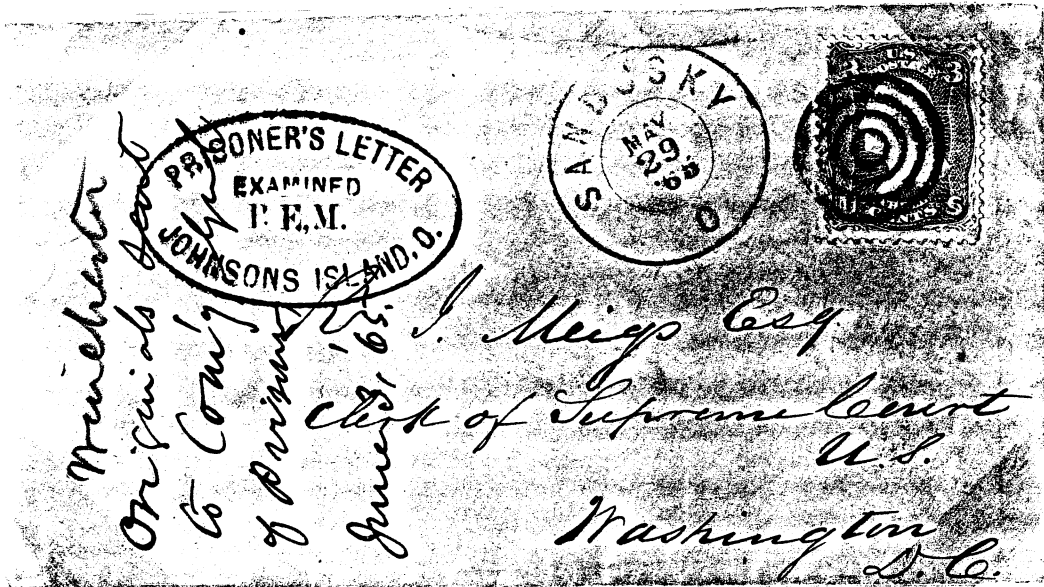
June 7, 1865

Examiner Markings
Johnson's Island
Railroad



To Johnson's Island: PME (possible inversion of PEM): May 6, 1865
Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Paw-Paw, West Virginia, station
B&O RR station agent, appointed postmaster, using railroad ticket-dater as townmark.
Postmasters of small offices were required to provide their own cancellation devices.
To William J. Nixon, captured February 23, 1864, and
freed June 14, 1865, after taking oath of allegiance.
After General Robert E. Lee's surrender.

Examiner Markings
Johnson's Island
War's End

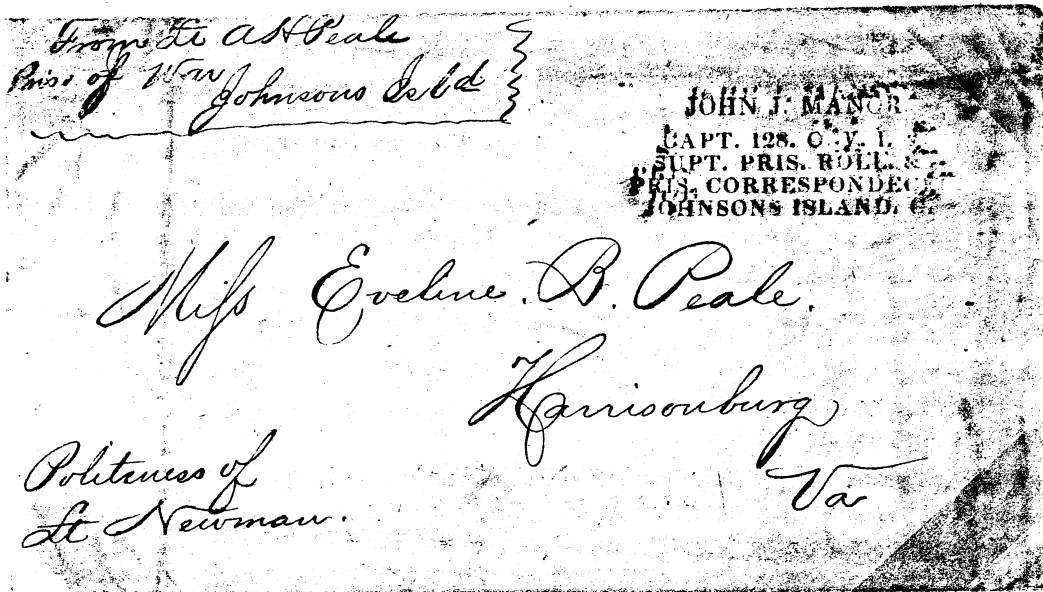


From Johnson's Island: May 29, 1865
Blue Sandusky 28.5 mm duplex townmark
Handstamp: P.E.M.

After General Robert E. Lee's surrender and Jefferson Davis' capture
Contents missing but probably petition for amnesty or release
On July 20, 1865, almost all prisoners were ordered released.

Meigs was clerk of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia,
not the United States Supreme Court.

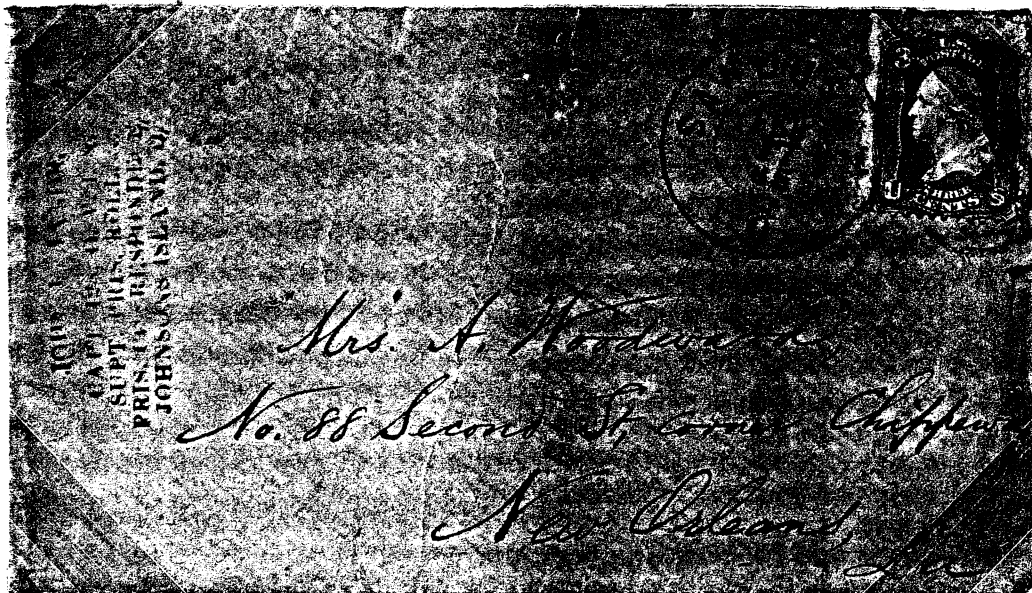
Examiner Markings
Johnson's Island



JOHN J. MANOR
CAPT. 128. O.V.I. &
SUPT. PRIS. ROLL. &
PRIS. CORRESPONDECE
JOHNSON'S ISLAND, O.

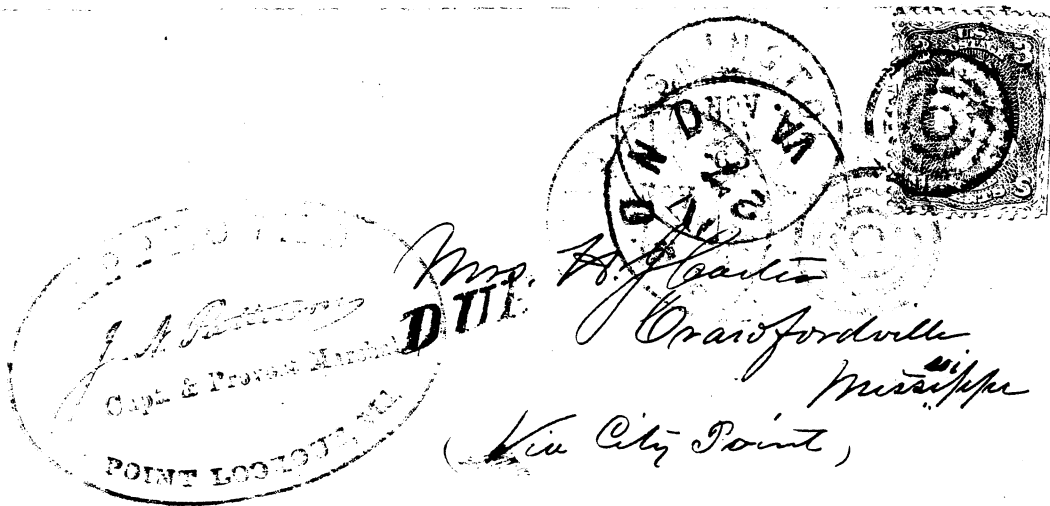
Letter dated February 24, 1865
Carried outside the mail by prisoner being exchanged.

A second, and much scarcer, five-line Johnson's Island handstamp was used by John J. Manor in 1865, apparently only in censoring mail sent by, or carried by, prisoners being exchanged.



February 17, 1865
"I leave here at a moment's warning for exchange and expect to be in Dixie in less than two weeks."
"I am in bad health at present, indeed sent off on the account, ..."

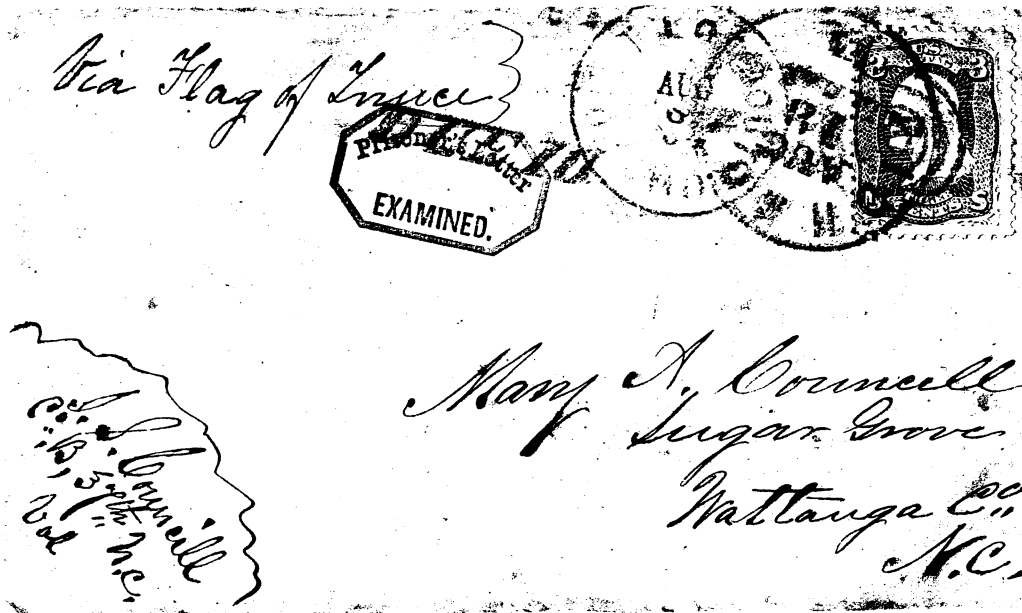
**Examiner Markings
Point Lookout**



From Point Lookout, Maryland: November 10, 1863
 Washington, D.C., townmark
 Richmond Type 6p townmark: November 27: Due 10
 Handstamp: Approved J.N. Patterson, Capt. & Provost Marshal

"...first opportunity to write you during 4 months imprisonment at Camp Chase O. Fort Delaware and here. Krimball has kindly sent me money and clothing."

Point Lookout, the largest Union prison, was established in 1862 after the Battle of Gettysburg. The post office was Washington, D.C., until early 1864. Two types of examiner's markings are known: Provost Marshal oval and small 8-sided rectangle. The small marking is known with and without date.



August 6, 1864
 Letter dated July 22, 1864
 Richmond Type 6l townmark: August 18
 Handstamp: Prisoner Letter Examined

Examiner Markings
Point Lookout

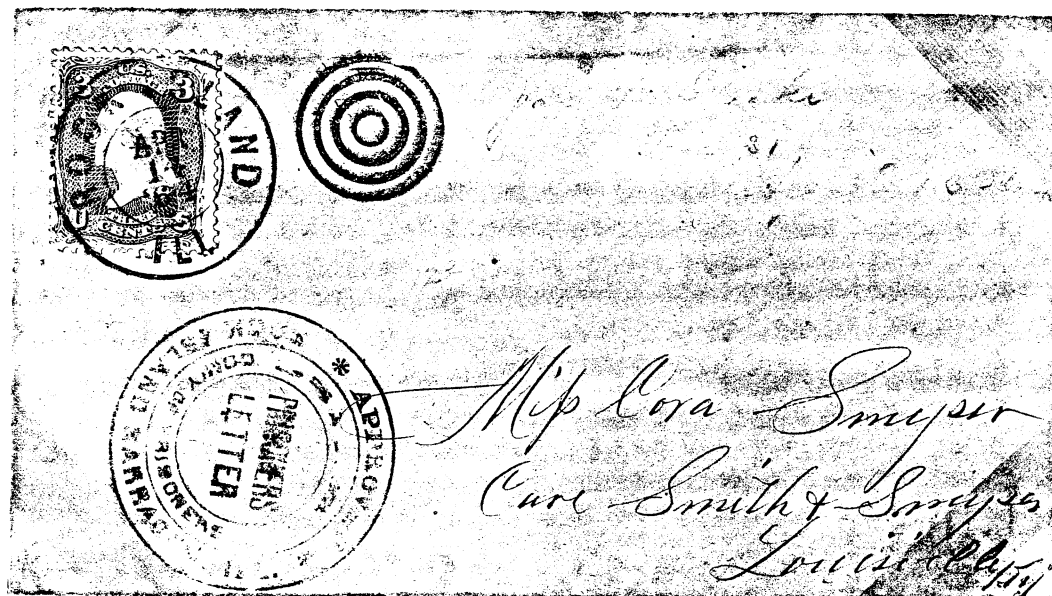


From Point Lookout: August 4, 1864
 Handstamp: Prisoner Letter Examined
 Richmond townmark
 Pair of Local Print 5c

Dates of usage appear to be:

	<u>Early</u>	<u>Late</u>
Patterson oval	October 1863	May 1864
Prisoner's Letter Examined	August 1864	April 1865

Examiner Markings
Rock Island Barracks



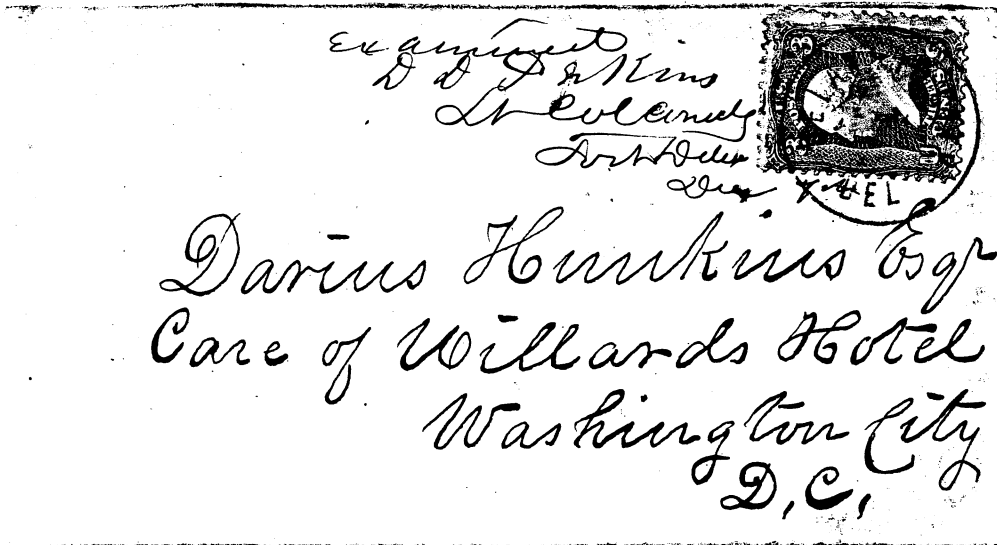
Rock Island Barracks: April 14, 1864

Rock Island Barracks is an island in the Mississippi River between Rock Island, Illinois, and Davenport, Iowa. Prisoners first arrived December 1863.

The multi-ring circular handstamp was used from February to August 1864.

An oval handstamp was used beginning in May 1864.

**Examiner Markings
Fort Delaware**



Fort Delaware, Delaware City, Delaware: Probably February 3, 1863

25.5 mm blue townmark

Manuscript examiner marking: D.D. Perkins

(Year dated 1862 covers reported)

Delaware City used two townmarks.

Dates of usage appear to be:

	<u>Early</u>	<u>Late</u>
25.5 mm circle	December 7, 1862	September 28, 1864
23 mm duplex	October 1, 1864	May 9, 1865

Fort Delaware used only one examiner handstamp, beginning apparently in April 1864.

A number of covers have appeared in auction catalogs without examiner markings, beginning apparently in November 1864.



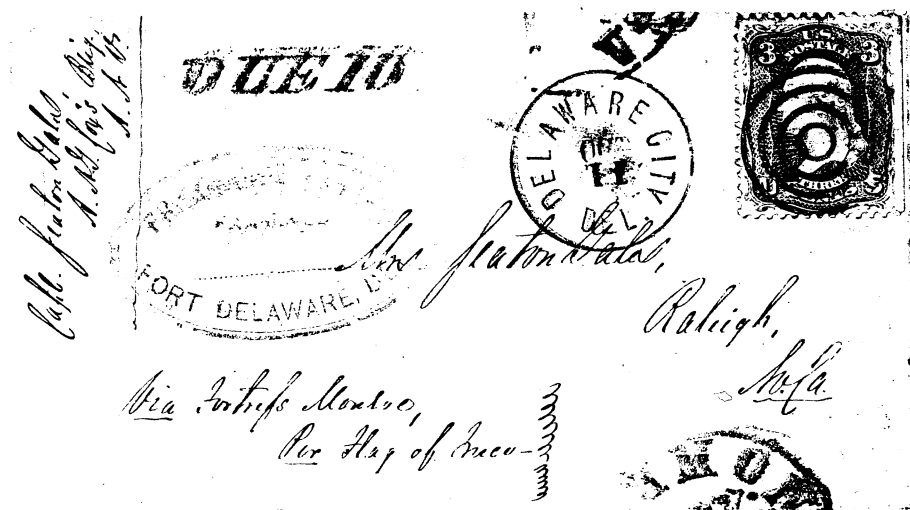
From Fort Delaware: Probably October 25, 1864

23 mm duplex townmark

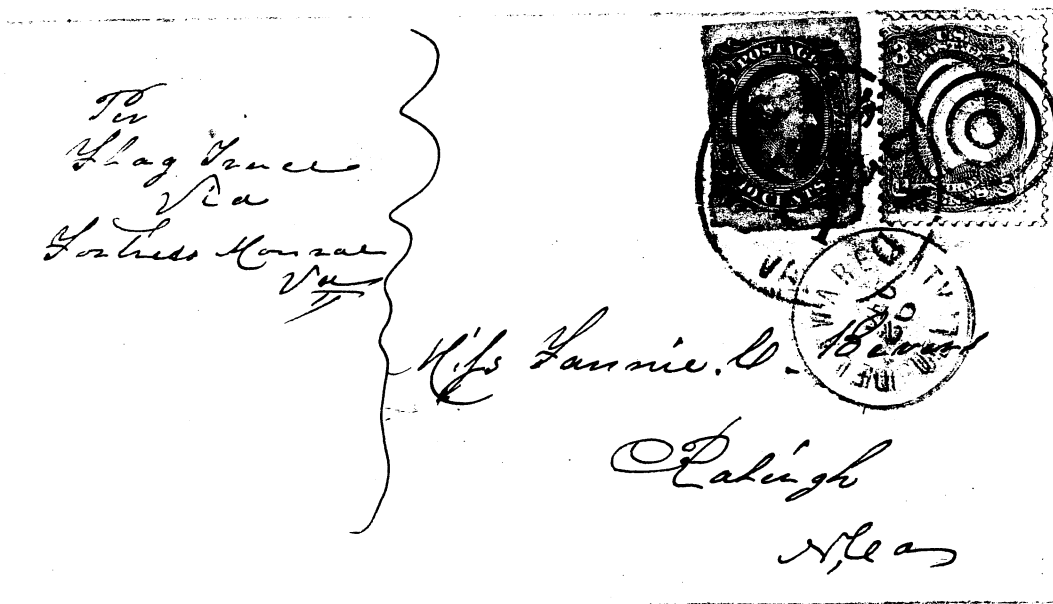
Oval handstamp

Forwarded at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to Allegheny, Pennsylvania: Due 3

Examiner Markings
Fort Delaware



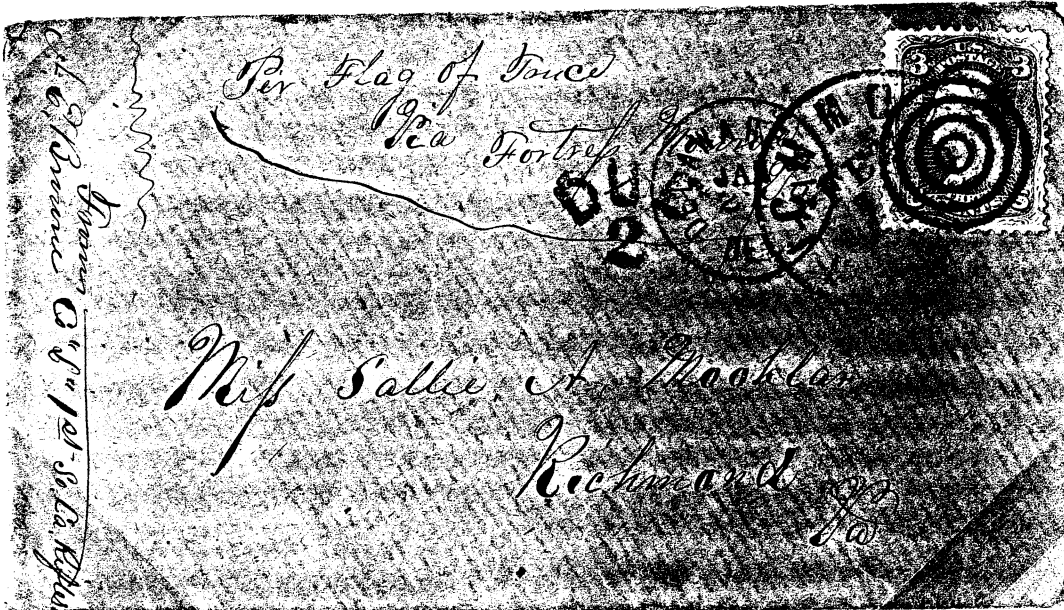
Delaware City 23 mm duplex townmark: Probably October 11, 1864: Due 10
Richmond, Virginia: Due 10



Delaware City 23 mm duplex: Probably December 26, 1864
No examiner marking; cover without enclosure but certified as "from a N.C. soldier who was a P-O-W"
Richmond Type 6p townmark: January 21 [1865]
Possible Keatinge & Ball Type II 10c

Note effort by Delaware City postal clerk to avoid cancellation of Confederate stamp.

Fort Delaware
Due 2



From Fort Delaware: Probably January 27, 1865
23 mm duplex townmark
No examiner marking; endorsed with name and unit of prisoner
Richmond Type 6p townmark: February 11: Due 2
Drop letter rate



COMMODORE A. H. FOOTE, U. S. N.
Commanding Gun Boats at Ft. Henry and Ft. Donelson's capture.

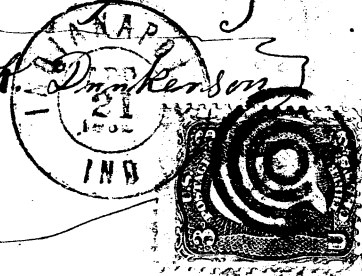
In surrendering Fort Henry, the Rebel Gen. Tilgham, said, "I am glad to surrender to so gallant an officer." To which Commodore Foote replied, "You do perfectly right, Sir, in surrendering, but you should have blown my boats out of the water before I would have surrendered to you."

Camp, Morton
Indianapolis Ind
April 21. 1862
Mr John S. Brown



Onward to Victory

Mr John S. Brown
Ashleysburg, Ky
In care of R. A. Drakerson
Ellettsville
Ind

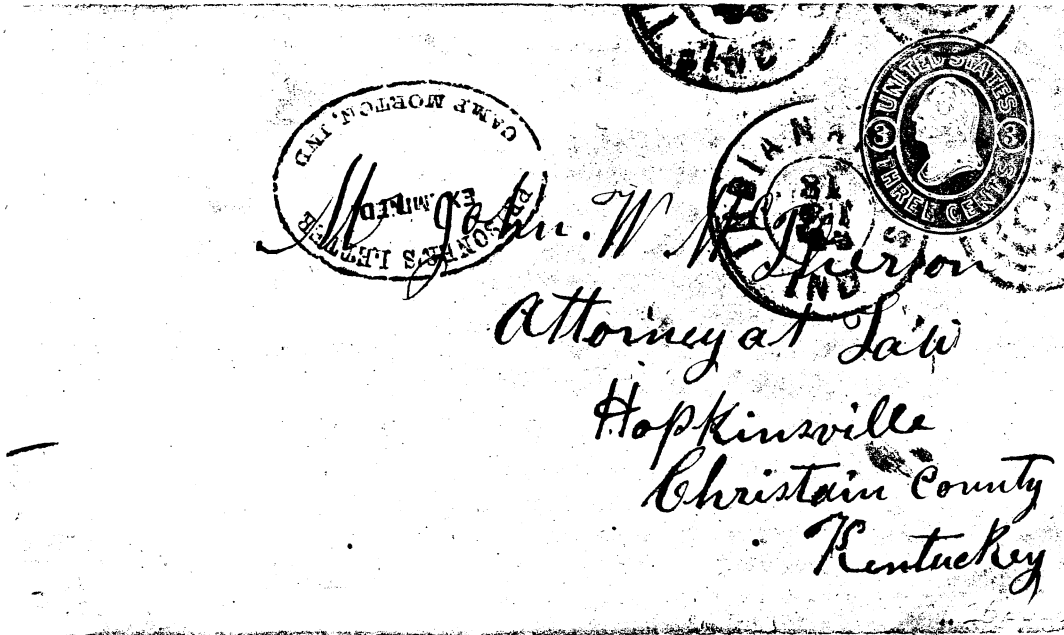


Camp Morton, Indianapolis, Indiana: April 21, 1862
At left: "Inspected A. Evans"

Union patriotic and non-matching lettersheet
Prisoner captured at Fort Donelson

"We are all here that was in the fight except those that was kild [sic] and wounded. Them boys that come home was not in the fight atal... I don't want you to be uneasy about me. I receive the five dollars. When R. Jooch [?] come I have got six dollars yet & more clothes than I have any use for."

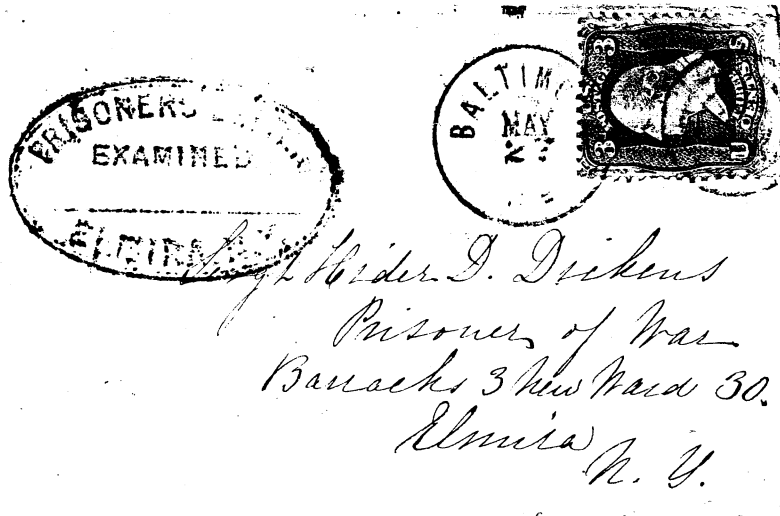
Examiner Markings
Camp Morton



Camp Morton: October 31, 1864
Handstamp examiner marking

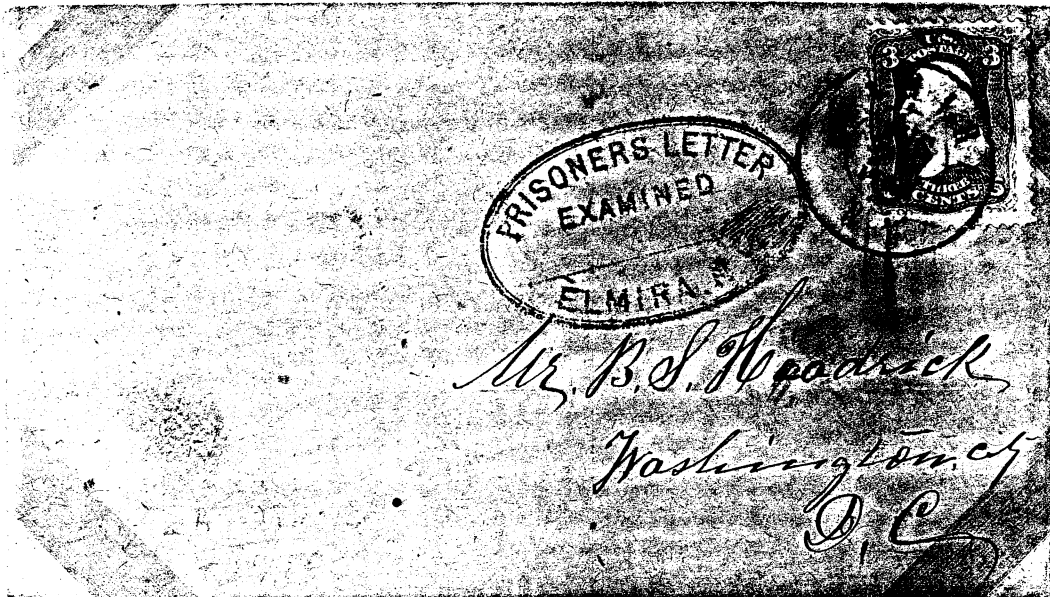
Camp Morton, Indianapolis, Indiana, was used as a prison
but was used more as a distributing point for prisoners.

Examiner Markings
Elmira



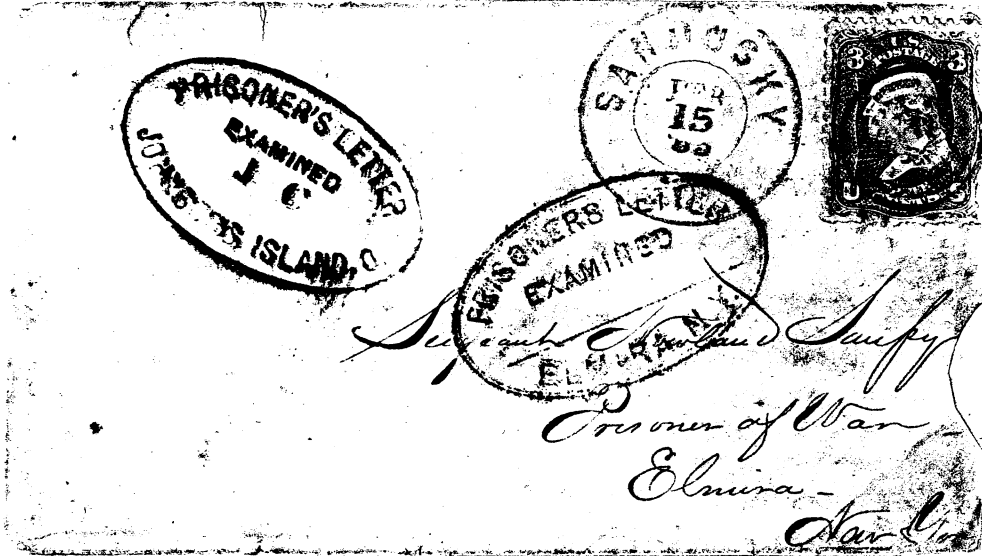
Elmira, New York: Circa 1865
From Baltimore, Maryland, to prisoner

Elmira was a Military Depot. Barracks 3 became a prison in July 1864.
Only one handstamp was used.



August 29, 1865
From prisoner

Multiple Examiners
Prison To Prison
Johnson's Island
Elmira



From prisoner held at Johnson's Island to prisoner at Elmira: February 15, 1865
Johnson's Island oval handstamp: JC: Probably John Coder
Elmira oval handstamp