



Figure 1: A 10-cent black Talbotton, Georgia, handstamped postmasters' provisional entire that was revalued to 15 cents due to the weight of a will.

## A Talbotton, Georgia, 10-Cent Confederate Provisional Entire Revalued to 15 Cents

By Patricia A. Kaufmann

When the Confederacy took control of the mail system on June 1, 1861, there were no Confederate postage stamps available. To meet the demand for this convenience, some postmasters prepared substitutes in the form of stamps, printed envelopes and handstamped envelopes.

Today these are referred to as Postmasters' Provisionals. The difference between the handstamped provisional envelopes and the handstamped and manuscript rate markings used by the vast majority of postmasters was that all provisionals were prepared in advance of use.<sup>1</sup>

Many postmasters who prepared these provisionals incorporated a security feature or control in their markings. These controls include a second dated or undated postmark, different colored markings, special markings, or even the postmaster's initials.

The postmasters' provisional shown in Figure 1 is a 10-cent black Talbotton, Georgia, handstamped provisional entire that was revalued to 15 cents due to the weight of a will.

It is an unlisted variety of CSA Catalog TAL-GA-E03 (A Scott 94XU2 variety, unlisted as of 2013). There is a clear strike of the Talbotton GA/PAID provisional marking with a 10-cent rate at center, as well as a Talbotton circular date stamp at right with Mar[ch] 24 [1862] written at the center. To the right is a manuscript "15" which revalues the original 10-cent rate.<sup>2</sup>

The Talbotton, Georgia, provisionals were prepared by handstamping envelopes with an undated prewar integral "PAID" office postmark. Separately "5" or "10" rate markings were applied in the center of the postmark. There is a recorded 15-cent rate, CSA Catalog TAL-GA-E04, with handstamped 10 and 5 rates, but it is unlisted as a revalued rate.

This legal-sized cover is addressed to, "Dr. John D. Owen/Quito/Talbot Co/Ga." with contents docketing across the face, "Recorded Will Book B page 99 & 200 & 111 14 January 1863 (signed) Munson Berthune Ordy." Also, back and front, is docketing indicating that the contents were the will of John D. Owen.

### **Dr. John Daniel Owen**

**Dec. 20, 1819 – Dec. 14, 1862**

Dr. John D. Owen was the son of Daniel Grant Owen Sr. (a lawyer) and Sarah Willis – early settlers of the area and owners of The Elms at Pleasant Hill.

Owen's wife was Martha Bryan Fanning (1830-1854) of Wilkes County, Ga. They are buried on private land in Owen Cemetery, Woodland, Talbot County, Georgia (Figure 2 shows a tomb rubbing for Dr. Owen).<sup>3</sup>

Dr. Owen was a respected physician of the antebellum era. The Owen Plantation consisted of several combined large pieces of property.

The 1850 census shows he possessed \$5,500 of real estate in 1850 when 29 years old, as well as 17 slaves. His wife, Martha, was 20 years old and her brother, John T. Fanning (23 years old), who lived in the household, was overseer and farmed.

By 1860, the census showed that Dr. Owen owned \$10,000 of real estate and had a personal estate of \$28,924.<sup>4</sup>

Dr. Owen was also in the Georgia House of Representatives from 1855-56, representing Talbot County.

The last will and testament of Dr. Owen, dated April 2, 1862, bears the signatures of friends and neighbors of Flint Hill: John A. Hunt, William D. Bransford, Thomas J. Hunt and John Bonner.

John Hunt lived at Quito Plantation, Flint Hill. Quito was named for the capital of Ecuador. The terrain between the Georgia mountains may have suggested to someone the fertile and pleasant basin in that South American country. John A. Hunt was appointed postmaster at Quito on April 21, 1848, and served until the post office was discontinued Jan. 5, 1867.<sup>5</sup>

Quito was a place for voting and tax gathering. Inferior Court Justices presided there periodically, holding court in the upper story of Hunt's store.

Talbot County, Ga., was created by Legislative Act on Dec. 14, 1827, from Muscogee and Troup Counties. It was named for Governor Matthew Talbot.

Talbotton, the county seat, is also named for him.



**Figure 2: A rubbing from the tombstone of Dr. John D. Owen.**

Talbotton was settled by a class of people who were superior in many respects to the average residents and the town became widely known as an educational center long before the war, as well as for handling large quantities of cotton.<sup>6</sup>

### **Endnotes**

<sup>1</sup> Patricia A. Kaufmann, Francis J. Crown Jr. and Jerry S. Palazolo. *Confederate States of America Catalog and Handbook of Stamps and Postal History* (Confederate Stamp Alliance, 2012)

<sup>2</sup> Confederate Stamp Alliance Authentication Service Certificate 04305

<sup>3</sup> Dr. John Daniel Owen, Find A Grave <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=43207036> accessed September 2013.

<sup>4</sup> Davidson, William H., *A Rockaway in Talbot, Travels in an Old Georgia County*, 1990. pp. 116-31.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid*, p. 128.

<sup>6</sup> Talbot County, Georgia History, Georgia Genealogy Trails. <http://genealogytrails.com/geoltalbot/history.htm> accessed September 2013.

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