



# The Civil War Post

Patricia A. Kaufmann

## An Unlisted Confederate Arkansas Use

The outer folded letter shown in Figure 1 bears a penciled manuscript postmark that reads “Pleasant Hill Ark. Mar/62,” with a matching penciled “Due 5.”

The Confederate Congressional Act of July 29, 1861, permitted any officer, musician or private of the army, engaged in the actual service of the Confederate States, to send all types of mailable matter without prepayment of postage. The postage was to be collected from the recipient upon delivery.

The letter is endorsed (as mandated) by “T.F. Spence, McIntosh Regt., C.S.A.” It is an unlisted Arkansas use during the Civil War. It is not listed in the *CSA Catalog*<sup>1</sup> nor in Bruce Roberts’ online Arkansas postal history census.

Pleasant Hill is listed in the 1862 U.S. Post Office register<sup>2</sup> in Franklin County, Ark. Today, there is a Pleasant Hill listed as an unincorporated community in Garland County, seven miles west-southwest of Hot Springs, but it is not the same one as in Franklin County. Figure 2 shows an 1889 map of Franklin County, which was carved out of Crawford County.

During the Civil War, Arkansas was a Confederate state, although it had initially voted to remain in the Union. As with several other states, when President Abraham Lincoln called for troops from every Union state to put down the rebellion after the capture of Fort Sumter in April 1861, Arkansas chose to secede.

Alexander E. Spence (1837-64) was 22 years old when he enlisted in the unit that later became Company B, 1st Arkansas Infantry, Army of Tennessee, Confederate States Army. His first combat was at the Battle of Shiloh. Alex sustained a serious thigh wound at Shiloh, returned home to recover, and eventually rejoined his unit. He fought in most of the major engagements of the Army of Tennessee, and rose to the rank of Captain before being killed at the Battle of Franklin, Tenn. Originally buried on the battlefield, his family later exhumed Alex’s body and buried him next to his brother, Tom.

Thomas F. Spence (1835-62) was a popular young sheriff before enlisting and mustering in Company E, 2nd Arkansas Mounted Rifles as a first sergeant. Tom fought in Arkansas, Missouri and Kentucky

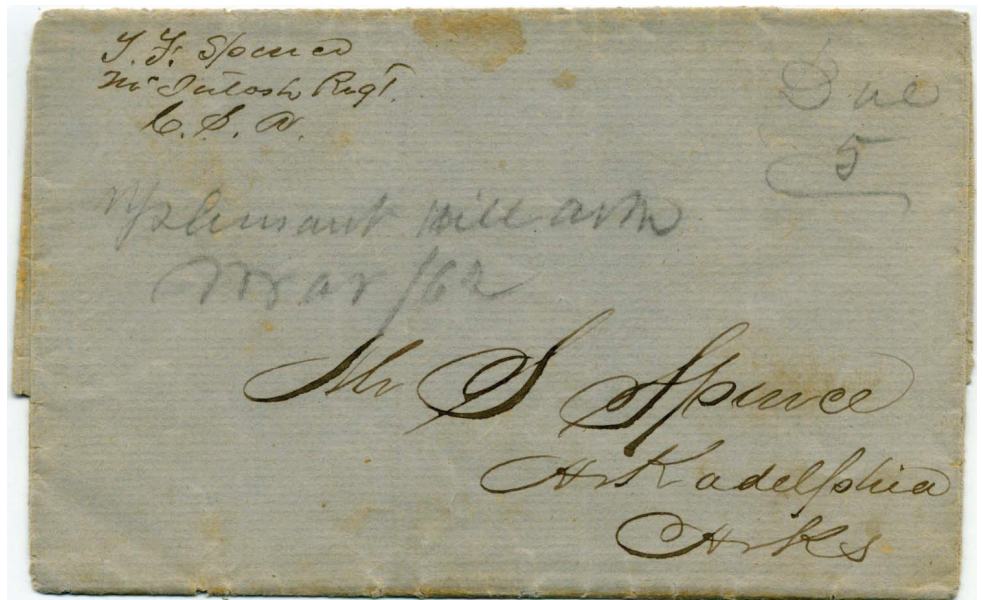


Figure 1 (above). Unlisted Confederate Arkansas use with a pencil manuscript postmark of “Pleasant Hill Ark. Mar/62” and matching “Due 5” for the postage.

Figure 2 (right). 1889 map of Franklin County, showing the location of Pleasant Hill (see arrow).



before being killed Dec. 31, 1862, at the Battle of Stones River in Murfreesboro, Tenn.


The Spence brothers' father, Solomon, owned a popular hotel in Arkadelphia, Ark. The family was a wealthy one that owned land and slaves. The Spence brothers' letters are today housed in the Arkansas Old State House Museum. Editor Mark Christ gathered their letters together to tell their story in *Getting Used to Being Shot At: The Spence Family Letters*, fittingly concluding with a final letter from Alex's grieving fiancé.<sup>3</sup>

**Endnotes**

1. Patricia A. Kaufmann, Francis J. Crown Jr., Jerry S. Palazolo, *Confederate States of America Catalog and Handbook of Stamps and Postal History*, Confederate Stamp Alliance, 2012.
2. Theron Wierenga, *List of Post Offices in the United States, 1862, Including Various Postal Laws and Instructions of 1861, 1863, 1864, and 1865*, Holland, Mich., 1981 reprint
3. Mark K. Christ, editor, *Getting Used to Being Shot At: The Spence Family Letters*, The University of Arkansas Press, Fayetteville, Ark., 2002.

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Patricia A. (Trish) Kaufmann was first introduced to Confederate postal history in 1965. She became actively involved in organized philately in 1969, became a dealer in 1973 and today specializes solely in Confederate stamps and postal history. She enjoys hearing from readers and may be reached at [trishkauf@comcast.net](mailto:trishkauf@comcast.net).



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