



The Civil War Post

Patricia A. Kaufmann

Wake Up and Smell the Coffee – Dangerous Slave Discontent Rare Use of the Charleston Provisional Entire from Outside the City

The woodcut press-printed provisional entire shown in Figure 1 was prepared by the postmaster in Charleston, S.C. (Scott 16XU1, CSA Catalog¹ CHA-SC-E01- Type Bb), but used in Walterborough, S.C., on Sept. 19 [1861]. These 5¢ blue provisionals were printed by Evans & Cogswell Co. of Charleston on envelopes of various colors; they were first offered for sale Aug. 15, 1861.

The envelope was canceled by a “WALTERBOROUGH / S.C.” circular datestamp with matching “PAID” and “5” handstamps. It is addressed to Dr. M.E. Carrere, Charleston S.C.

Postmasters’ provisionals were intended for use only at the issuing post office. The “PAID 5” marking on this entire can be interpreted either as indicating the Walterborough postmaster accepted the prepaid envelope, or – more likely – that he did not recognize it and collected postage at the time of mailing. Only two such stationery uses are recorded, and this is the only one used to Charleston. The other use was from Adams Run to Aiken, S.C.

The subject provisional entire formerly graced the award-winning exhibit of Richard (Rick) L. Calhoun, titled *Charleston, S.C. – The*

First Year of Secession. It was also illustrated in his comprehensive book on the Charleston provisionals.²

Evans & Cogswell, Confederate Government Printers and Lithographers

According to the Charleston Museum, the four-story commercial building that became Evans & Cogswell was originally founded by James C. Walker in 1821 as a stationery and bookbinding business. It became a publishing company as well when Walker added Benjamin F. Evans as a partner in 1852. Walker & Evans Co. then joined with Harvey Cogswell in 1855 and purchased 3 Broad Street in 1856. Walker, Evans & Cogswell Co. remained at that location until 1982 when the building was sold and renovated as office condominiums.

Erected in 1953, a historical plaque, shown in Figure 2, memorializes the spot on the side of the building on East Bay Street at Broad Street,



Figure 1 (above). One of only two recorded uses of this provisional entire used from another town, contrary to procedure.

Figure 1a (left). Close-up of press-printed Charleston postmaster’s provisional.

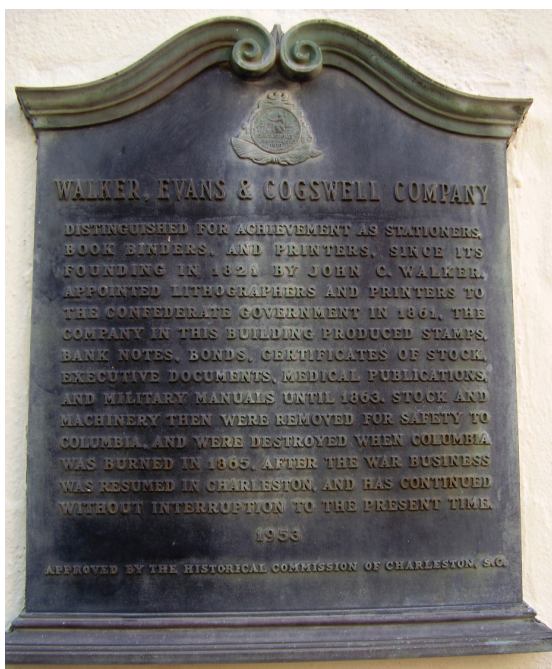


Figure 2. Historical marker for Walker, Evans & Cogswell Co., printers to the Confederate Government.

Charleston. The company business records are today housed at the South Carolina Historical Society.

During the Civil War, the business was temporarily relocated to Columbia, S.C., in 1863 and took the name Evans & Cogswell, Confederate Government Printers and Lithographers. After 1864, the company printed most of the bonds and currency in the Confederate Treasury. The printing facilities in Columbia were destroyed when the city burned in 1865. After the war, C. Irvine Walker joined the firm and, in 1887, the business was incorporated under the name Walker, Evans & Cogswell Co.

“...a false security & trust are placed on the attachment of slaves to their owners”

The enclosed original two-page letter, shown in Figures 3 and 4, is headed “Round 6, Sept 13th '61” and is articulately penned in neat script. It is addressed to “Dr. Doctor.” The writer says he visited the sheriff to see if he could get a time extension to pay his taxes, at which time he found that Dr. Carrere had already paid them. He is much indebted to the good doctor, etc. He gratefully encloses a money draft for Dr. Carrere.

But, more interestingly, he gives us an enlightening glimpse into dangerous slave rumblings in his part of the country, and undoubtedly across the South.

R.H. Jones writes, in part:

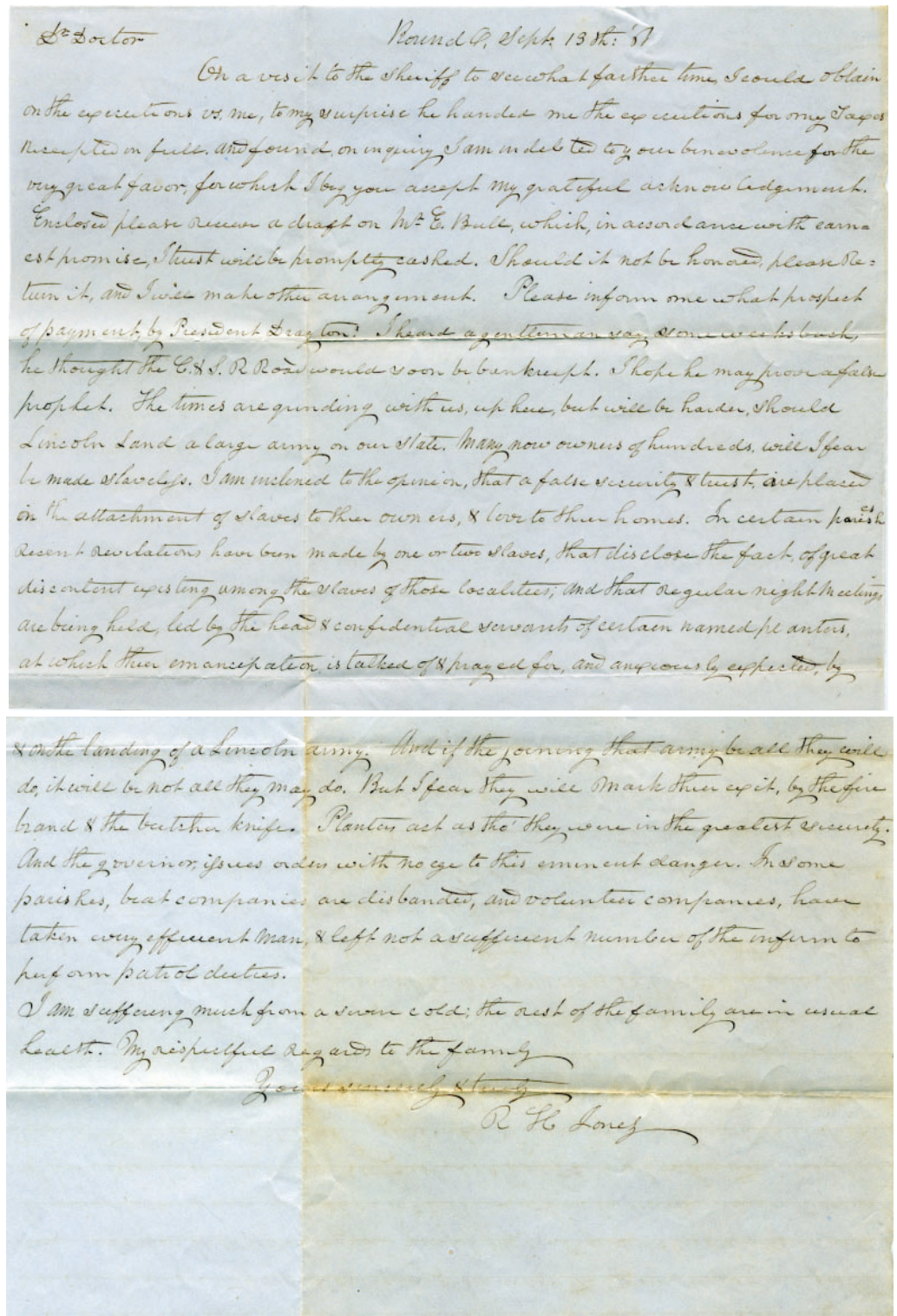
“The times are grinding with us up here, but will be harder, should Lincoln land a large army on our state. Many now owners of hundreds, will I fear be made slaveless. I am inclined to the opinion, that a false security & trust are placed on the attachment of slaves to their owners & love to their homes. In certain parishes, recent revelations have been made by one or two slaves, that disclose the fact of great discontent existing among

Figure 3 (top). Page 1 of letter to Dr. Maynard E. Carrere with disturbing revelations regarding the slave population in his area.

Figure 4 (right). Page 2 of letter to Dr. Carrere, signed by R.H. Jones.

the slaves of those localities, and that regular night meetings are being held, led by the head & confidential servants of certain named planters at which their emancipation is talked of & prayed for, and anxiously expected by & on the landing of a Lincoln army. And if the joining that army be all they will do, it will be not all they may do. But I fear they will mark their exit, by the fire brand & butcher knife. Planters acts as tho' they were in the greatest security. And the governor issues orders with no eye to this eminent danger. In some parishes, beat companies are disbanded, and volunteer companies, have taken every efficient man & left not a sufficient number of the infirm to perform patrol duties.”

The letter is signed by R.H. Jones.



Francis Wilkinson Pickens, shown in Figure 5 around 1860, was a political Democrat and governor of South Carolina when the state seceded from the Union and during the crisis at Fort Sumter. He was in office Dec. 14, 1860-Dec. 17, 1862.

Dr. Maynard E. Carrere (1813-79), was a volunteer at the Confederate hospital in Charleston. He was educated at Charleston Classical Seminary in Charleston and received his M.D. degree in 1837 from University of Pennsylvania. He practiced medicine in Charleston from 1840-74. He invented and published details on a number of medical and surgical appliances. Dr. Carrere died of chronic enteritis (inflammation of the small intestine) while at sea off Charleston.³

The related letter content is a perfect illustration of the imperative “wake up and smell the coffee.” It essentially defines the referenced planters as complacent fools and effectually opines the governor is similarly oblivious to reality. ☒

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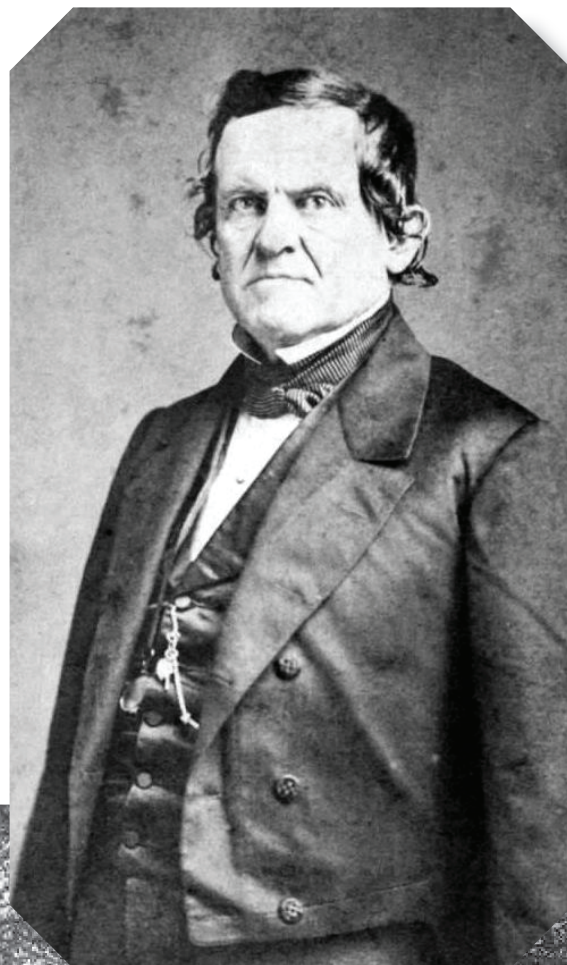
Patricia (Trish) Kaufmann was first introduced to Confederate philately in 1965, became active in organized philately in 1969 and became a full-time dealer in 1973. Trish enjoys hearing from readers and may be reached at [trishkauf@comcast.net](mailto:trishkauf@comcast.net).

**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 ([www.csalliance.org](http://www.csalliance.org)), 2012.

2. Richard L. Calhoun, *Charleston, South Carolina and the Confederate Postmaster Provisionals*, Henrico, Va., Alpha Graphics, 2012, page 49.

3. F.T. Hambrecht, F.T. & J.L. Koste, *Biographical register of physicians who served the Confederacy in a medical capacity*, unpublished database, Aug. 17, 2013..



**Figure 5 (top right).**  
Francis Wilkinson Pickens, governor of South Carolina during historic secession.

**Figure 6 (right).** Cabins where slaves were raised for market – the Hermitage, Savannah, Ga.