Confederate Collectanea

Figure 1: A prisoner of war cover addressed to Corinth, Mississippi, with "Exd & appd/Kibbee" at top center, an uncanceled sheet margin CSA 1, and a manuscript directive at lower left, 'Urbanity of Mrs. Clark.'

Confederate Mail Runner and Spy Lottie Moon Clark and a New Look at the Undelivered Camp Chase Letters

By Patricia A. Kaufmann

Part of the story of Charlotte (Lottie) Moon Clark and her escapades was told to the philatelic world decades ago.

I relay it here to a largely new audience along with newly researched information regarding the undelivered Camp Chase mail to be entrusted to her for conveyance across the lines for posting.

Due to that in-depth research, some of the conclusions I draw differ from those of past postal history students.

Nearly 40 years ago, in the November 1978[1] issue of the *Chronicle of the U.S. Philatelic Classics Society*, Scott Gallagher illustrated a prisoner of war cover from Camp Chase in Columbus, Ohio, in his "Cover Corner" column as the "Problem Cover" for that issue, a feature still popular today. The cover was similar to the one shown in Figure 1.

Gallagher had bargained with postal history luminary Richard B. Graham to use it as a problem cover in lieu of using it in Graham's own section of the *Chronicle*. Gallagher noted that several USPCS members owned similar covers and that each bore either an uncanceled United States or uncanceled Confederate stamp. All the covers originated from Camp Chase. Each cover also mentioned Mrs. Clark.

Gallagher asked readers who she was, whether the stamp on the illustrated cover belonged and why there were no postal markings. Undoubtedly by mutual arrangement, Graham answered at length in the next issue in his own column, "The 1861-69 Period."[2]

Cynthia Charlotte 'Lottie' Moon Clark (1829-1895)

Figure 2b: Lottie Moon Clark in later years.

Charlotte (Lottie) Moon (Figures 2a, 2b) was born in Danville, Virginia, on August 10, 1829. She was the first daughter born to Dr. Robert S. Moon and Cynthia Ann Sullivan.

Lottie was said to be independent and strong willed. As a child, she excelled at riding, shooting, and acting. The Moons were an affluent family who owned a sprawling cotton plantation in Albemarle County, Virginia. Lottie had two sisters and three brothers, all of whom later fought in the Confederate Army.

Lottie's father was a firm believer in the teaching of Thomas Jefferson, also from Albemarle County. He believed in the emancipation of slaves by their owners. He took his own slaves to Ohio and then to Indiana and freed them, giving security for their future good behavior.[3]

After rejecting 2nd Lt. Ambrose E. Burnside (1824-1881)—later a Union general (Figure 3; From him is derived the term "sideburns" due to his luxurious side whiskers.)—at the altar on June 21, 1848, Lottie married James Clark on January 30, 1849. He was a young attorney who was soon to become a judge.

The Clarks, avowed Copperheads,[4] lived in Jones Station, Ohio, and their home was both a supply base and a respite for Confederate soldiers and spies.[5]

Virginia 'Ginny' Bethel Moon (1844-1925)

When Dr. Moon passed away in 1856, Lottie's mother moved the family to Shelby County, Tennessee.[6] Her mother and 18-year-old sister, Virginia Bethel Moon (Figure 4)—known as Ginny (variously seen as Ginny or Ginnie) to friends and family—became nurses in Memphis in order to support the Confederate war effort. They dressed the wounds of injured soldiers returning from battle.

Bandages were in short supply in Confederate-held regions, so Ginny started moving over the battle lines into Union-held areas to collect supplies.

CHARLOTTE MOON, CONFEDERATE spy, newspaper correspondent, lecturer, and author, born August 10, 1829, in Danville, Virginia. Lived in Oxford from 1834 to 1849 when she was married to James Clark.

Figure 2a: Lottie Moon Clark circa 1860.

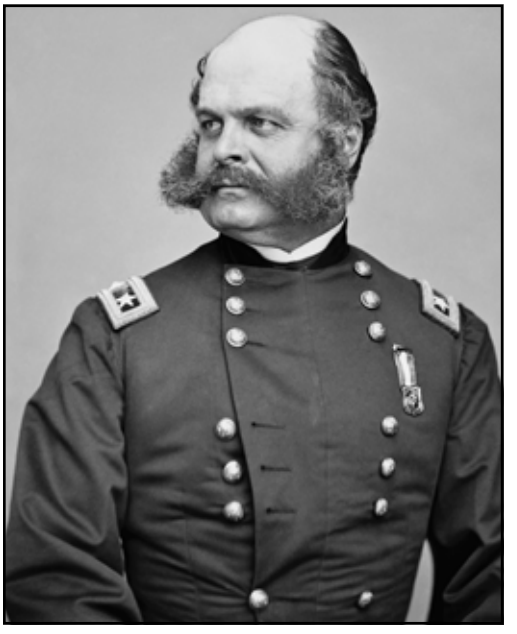

Figure 3: Union Gen. Ambrose Burnside was spurned at the altar by Lottie Moon Clark.

This was done under the guise that she was meeting a boyfriend.

Over time, the Confederates came to trust Ginny and she was able to start taking information across the battle lines to relay to Confederate agents. The Union did not notice her regular trips at first because they knew she had family in Ohio and simply thought she was visiting them. But they knew that women were being used as spies.

Ginny explained her eventual capture in her memoir:

"There was a slit in my skirt and in my petticoat I had a Colt revolver. I put my hand in and took it out, backed to the door and leveled it at him across the washstand. If you make a move to touch me, I'll kill you, so help me God!"

Her tactics did no good, but she pulled the message she carried from her bosom, "dipped it in the water pitcher and in three lumps swallowed it."

In the provost marshal's office, Union officers searched Ginny's trunks. Inside one of them, they found a very heavy quilt. They ripped it open and found a haul including 50 letters to Southerners, 40 bottles of morphine, seven pounds of opium, and a supply of camphor—all badly needed in the Confederate Army.[7]

Ginny was arrested and kept captive until Lottie's former beau, Gen. Burnside, stepped in and arranged for Ginny's release into her mother's custody. They stayed in Cincinnati for three weeks until Union officials transferred her to Fort Monroe, Virginia, where she was imprisoned for several months.

Eventually, she was paroled to Jones Station, Ohio, and lived with her older sister, Lottie, and her brother-in-law.[8]

Ginny had earlier studied at Oxford Female College in Ohio. This was until 1861 when she requested that she be allowed to leave college at the outbreak of war to be with her mother.

The story goes that the college declined to let Ginny leave so she took a gun, went out into the school yard and shot out all the stars of the Union flag flying there. That stunt persuaded the college to grant her wish.[9]

Lottie's Purported Exploits and Capture

There is a long record of the espionage exploits of both Moon sisters during the war. Fifteen years older than Ginny, Lottie was generally described simply as an "interesting" girl.

Figure 4: Ginny Moon, younger sister to Lottie.

Her impossibly round face was not improved by a coiffure that drew her straight hair severely down on the back of her neck. Ophia D. Smith,[10] an Ohio authority on the Moons, said that Lottie had "an 'Ariel' face…illuminated by the glow of a scintillating mind." Her husband called her, with marked enthusiasm, "the damnedest, smartest, woman in the world."[11]

It was said that Lottie was engaged to 12 different young men at the same time. Her sister Ginny bested her with 16 fiancées. It is impossible to know whether this is fact or fiction, but it certainly adds to the lore surrounding the captivating and audacious Moon sisters. Visions of a seated Scarlett O'Hara surrounded by eager suitors at the barbecue at Tara leap to mind.

In October 1862, Lottie attended a meeting of espionage agents in Toronto, Canada, for the gathering of information. Lottie then returned to the United States. Meaning to get to the Confederacy, she presented herself in Washington, D.C., at the Office of the United States Secretary of War, Edwin M. Stanton. (Figure 5)

The story goes that Lottie told Stanton that she was an English noblewoman who had come all the way from Britain to take baths in the warm waters of Virginia. She despaired of getting to the other side of the front lines to treat her ailing joints, which allegedly crippled her.

Stanton was persuaded by "Lady Hull" (or Hall). With compassion, he told Lottie that President Abraham Lincoln (Figure 6) himself was going the next day to inspect the troops in the front lines just to the east of Richmond. She could ride in the personal carriage of the

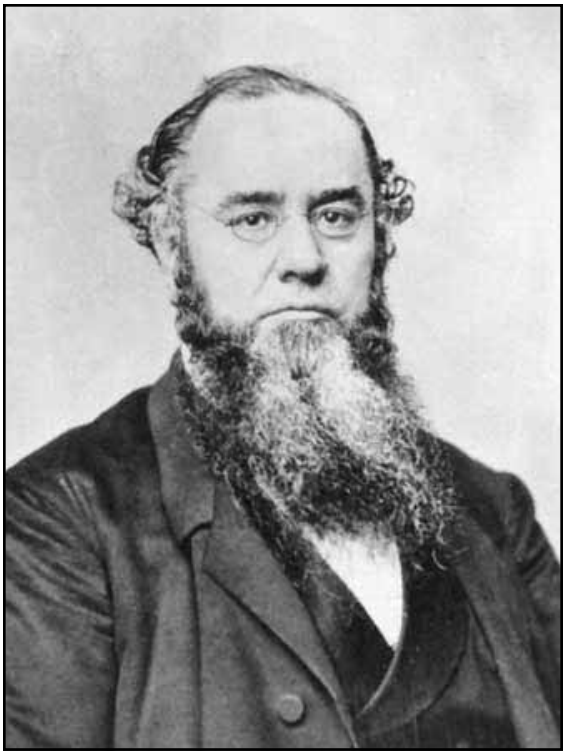

Figure 5: U.S. Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton.

president with them to Virginia. He even gave her a note to assure safe passage through the lines and on to the warm springs of Virginia for treatment.

The next day, Lottie Moon Clark was seated next to Lincoln and across from her sat the secretary of war. As the carriage rumbled on through the hills of Northern Virginia, Lady Hull, "exhausted" from her long trip, fell asleep—or so it seemed.

As she dozed off, with audible sounds of slumber, the president and the secretary of war began to become increasingly less discreet in their comments about what needed to be done in the war in the next few weeks. Before long, they were divulging confidential information—and there was Lottie—absorbing it all as she feigned slumber.

They arrived at the front lines and Lottie, with the provided note, passed unchecked to see President Jefferson Davis himself (Figure 7). She delivered to the South important information, which for months thereafter cost the North dearly in terms of actions that were anticipated by Confederate troops before they occurred.

Stanton and Lincoln agreed that they'd been

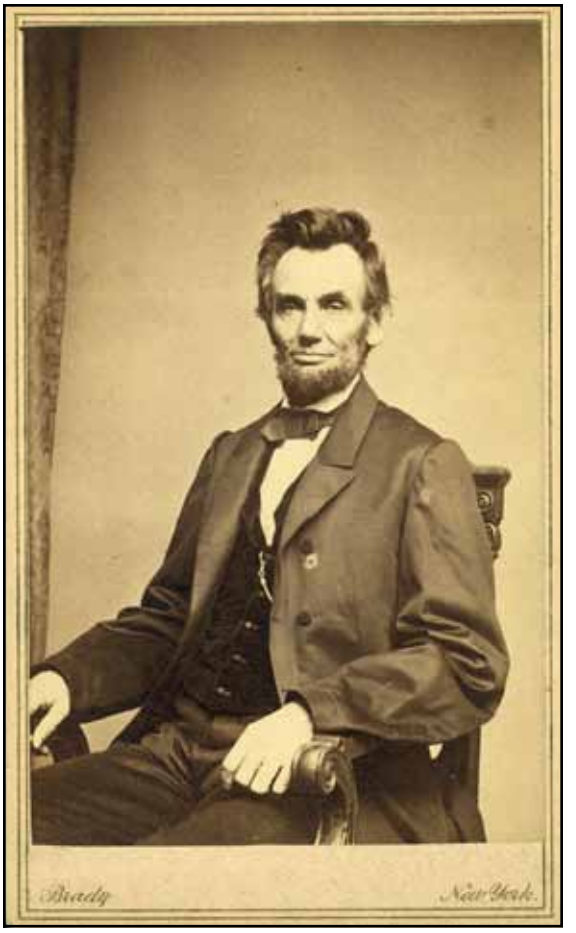

Figure 6: U.S. President Abraham Lincoln.

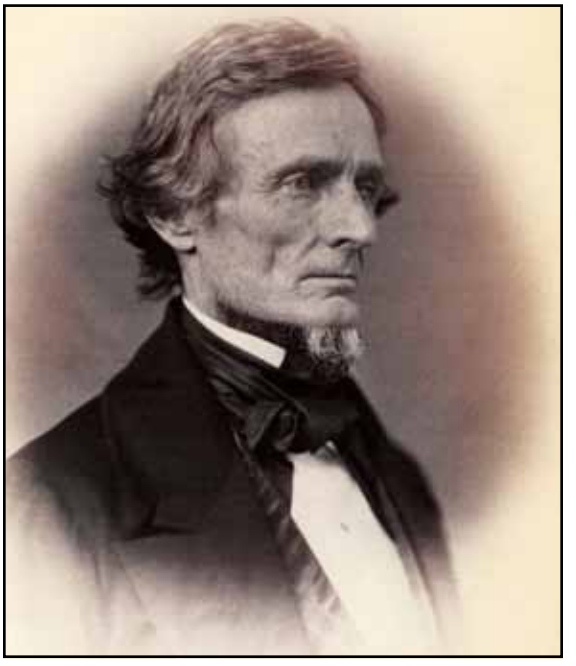

Figure 7: Confederate States President Jefferson Davis.

duped—that Lady Hull had been a Confederate agent. They came to discover that she was actually Lottie Moon Clark and Secretary Stanton himself put a price of $10,000 on her head, dead or alive.

Lottie was regularly engaged in espionage against the North. Disguised as an Irish scrubwoman, she made her way to Cincinnati hoping to cross the river into Kentucky. She was on the way to Lexington, she said, to visit her son, who had been injured in combat. A young private, standing first watch, said he did not have authority to let her through. She asked who did, and he said, "The General." She demanded to be taken to him.

Imagine her dismay, when introduced, to find that the general was none other than Ambrose Burnside, the fiancé Lottie had left at the altar years before. He was by then in command of the defense of southern Ohio, southeastern Indiana, and northern Kentucky.

Lottie's Irish dialect evaporated as she tried to tell the general why she needed a pass to see her wounded son in the hospital. After several false starts, Gen. Burnside recognized her. Despite her initial protestations, she was compelled to concede her identity.

Burnside could have had her shot or hanged, but he agreed instead to place her under house arrest at the Burnet House in Cincinnati if she would forgo any further espionage service for the South in the remainder of the war.

The Burnet House was a 340-room luxury hotel, considered one of the finest in the world when it opened in 1850.[12] She agreed, thus returning to Ohio and later to the South. After the war, she moved to New York with her husband.[13]

Lottie Moon House

The Lottie Moon House still stands on the corner of University and High Streets in Oxford, Ohio, as shown in Figure 8. It was completed in 1831 and the Moon family moved into it in 1839.

Dr. Moon offered the house to Lottie upon the announcement of her engagement to Jim Clark. Dr. Clark and his family continued to live in the house until his death in 1856. As the house is across from Miami University, Dr. John Hall, president of Miami University from 1855 to 1866, moved into the house after Dr. Clark's death. Nonetheless, it is known by the name of its most celebrated resident, Lottie Moon.

Figure 8: The Lottie Moon House in present day Oxford, Ohio.

Camp Chase

Camp Chase (Figure 9) shifted from a training camp for Union Army recruits to a prisoner of war camp early in the war. The facility was named after Salmon P. Chase, treasury secretary under President Abraham Lincoln. Chase was a former governor of Ohio.

The first inmates at Camp Chase were chiefly political and military prisoners from Kentucky and Western Virginia, allegedly loyal to the Confederacy. Union victories at Fort Donaldson, Tennessee, on February 16, 1862, and at Mississippi River Island No. 10, on April 8, 1862, brought an influx of new prisoners.

All of the officers taken at these battles were moved to Camp Chase, except for generals and field officers, who were sent to Fort Warren in Boston Harbor.

The establishment of the Confederate stockade on Johnson's Island on Lake Erie led to the transfer of most of the officers to the new prison. Subsequently, enlisted men and noncommissioned officers made up the bulk of the Confederate soldiers confined at Camp Chase. By 1865, Camp Chase housed more than 9,400 men, the peak of the prison population.[14]

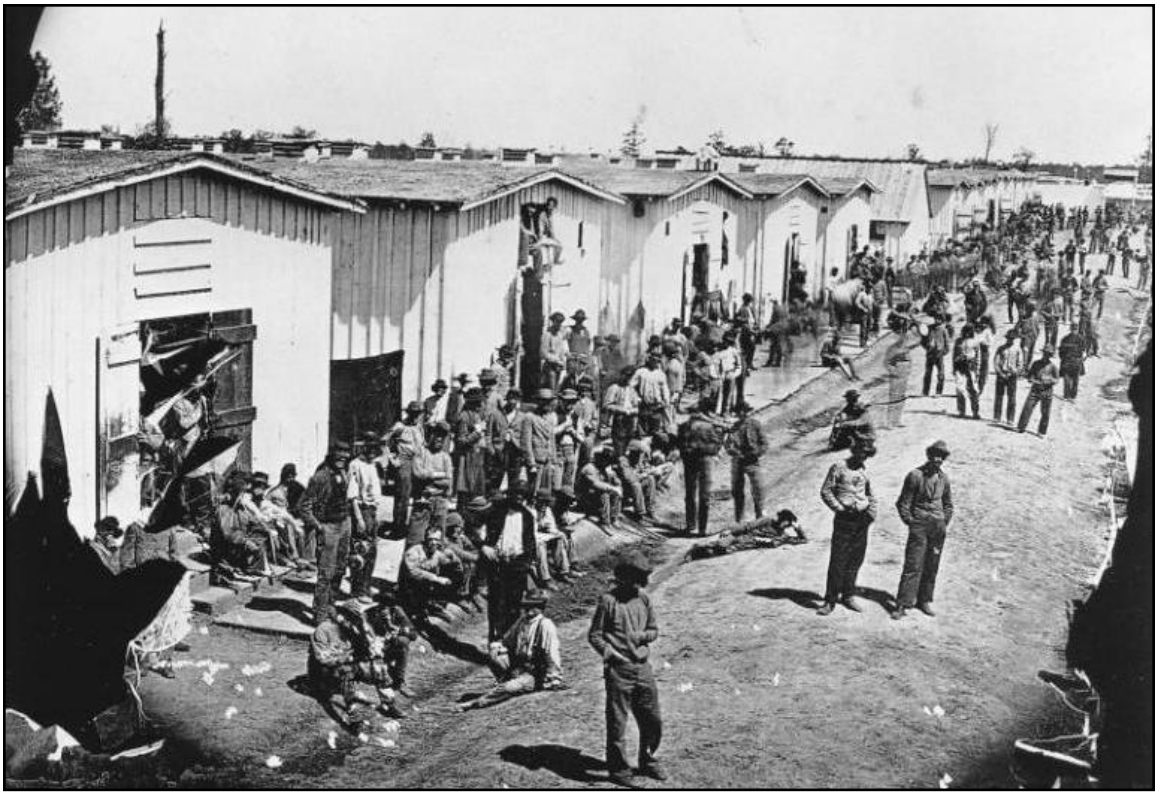

Figure 9: Camp Chase during the war. ***(Library of Congress)***

During late 1864, Camp Chase was ravaged by disease. A smallpox epidemic resulted in many deaths. Prior to the establishment of the cemetery at Camp Chase, the Confederate dead were interred in the city cemetery of Columbus. Their remains were reinterred in the prison cemetery after its opening.

By the mid-1890s, efforts began to mark the graves of the Confederate dead within Camp Chase Confederate Cemetery. Led by William H. Knauss, a wounded Union veteran, this movement succeeded in bringing together both Union and Confederate veterans organizations to pay tribute to those interred in the cemetery. In 1904, Congress allocated funds for the maintenance of Camp Chase Confederate Cemetery (Figure 10).

William H. Knauss was a veteran of the 2nd New Jersey Infantry who had been left for dead on the frozen Fredericksburg battlefield in December 1862. Ironically, it was Knauss who years later would make it a life-passion to aid in preserving the memory of those who nearly killed him.[15] Knauss never rose above the rank of private during his military service, but was given the honorary rank of colonel.[16]

Figure 10: The Camp Chase cemetery.

Under Knauss' leadership, the Camp Chase Memorial Association was founded in 1899 to solicit funds for decorating graves and erecting a monument to the soldiers buried at the cemetery. The monument, dedicated in 1902, consists of a stone arch surmounted by a zinc sculpture of a Confederate soldier at parade rest. The arch's keystone is inscribed simply "AMERICANS"[17] (Figure 11a).

Officially, there are an estimated 2,168 remains in 2,122 gravesites in Camp Chase

Figure 11a: The Camp Chase monument, honoring simply 'Americans,' with a statue of a Confederate soldier at the top of the arch.

Confederate Cemetery. However, this does not match the inscription on the boulder monument (Figure 11b), on which is noted 2,260.

The Camp Chase site, including the Confederate cemetery, was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973.[18]

The Intercepted Camp Chase Letters

The story of the Camp Chase letters was revealed by a Union veteran in *The Story of Camp Chase*, Chapter XIII entitled, "After Forty-Two Years" with a summary of the chapter beneath the title, "The Intercepted Letters Found in the Ohio State House by State Librarian Galbreath—Some of the Letters Photographed—Some Letters from Down South—List of Letters not used in the Volume—History of Mrs. Clark, by her son, Frank P. Clark."

In a letter sent to William H. Knauss, when he was putting his book about Camp Chase together in 1904, C.B. Galbreath, the Ohio state librarian, revealed the amazing story so important to postal historians today. He wrote to Knauss that:

> *When the material of the library was classified and rearranged, these letters were discovered in a place where they had evidently lain unmolested for years in dust and obscurity. Upon examination, most of them were found to have been written by Confederate prisoners at Camp Chase. They were transferred to our manuscript department where they will be permanently preserved. I do not know how the letters originally came into the possession of the library.*

Figure 11b: The Camp Chase Cemetery boulder.

The main body of the chapter quoted the contents of more than 50 of the letters, and seven of them were illustrated. No covers were illustrated, but the addressees of all the letters where this could be determined are noted.

In addition, the existence of about 120 more letters was mentioned, listing the names of the writers and addressees. A number of the missives refer to the letters being intended to go south with Mrs. Clark, although at least one confuses the name as Mrs. Moon.

Knauss made an effort to trace Mrs. Clark and found Ginny Moon still alive, of excellent memory and willing to recount her memories. Ginny, in turn, referred Knauss to Lottie's son, the Rev. Frank Pinckney Clark of Front Royal, Virginia.

Frank Clark, recounted:

> *After the fall of Fort Donelson my mother heard that one of her brothers was at Camp Chase…My mother undertook to inform the relatives of some of the prisoners of their health, condition, needs, etc., and both wrote herself and carried some of their letters to friends in Kentucky. This brought about a sudden catastrophe for two clergymen who were at our house when my mother returned home from one of these trips to Kentucky, where she was given letters to one of General [John Hunt] Morgan's brothers, and where she came near being caught and arrested by one Colonel Metcalf. These ministers wrote*

home to their wives how Mrs. Clark had evaded every attempt to stop her and made her way into the forbidden neighborhood of the Morgans. Unfortunately, these ministers were arrested in Cincinnati and searched.

The same night a telegram from Mr. John Bond, of Cincinnati, warned my mother, and she left on the midnight Northern express for Niagara, taking me with her. We crossed the suspension bridge only a short time before a telegram to arrest my mother arrived on the New York side.

This will probably account for the package of letters being delayed so many years in Columbus. If they were written while my mother was getting ready for that Kentucky trip, and kept for her return to Columbus, she never heard anything of them, for soon afterwards she returned to Ohio to make final arrangements to go South. She was threatened with arrest by General Rosecrans; but General Burnside, then in Cincinnati, arrested my mother, aunt and grandmother, and after detaining them a short time, sent them South. I understand that General Burnside, who was an old friend, took them thus under his protection to save them from prison.

My mother remained in the South until after the war was over, when my father settled in New York to practice law and my mother began a literary career, which brought increased luster upon her name both in this county and abroad. In the autumn of 1895, she left this life for the greater, at my home, the rectory of St. George's Protestant Episcopal Church, West Philadelphia, Pa.

How the letters got into the hands of collectors is not known, nor how many are in private hands vs. historical institutions. I will refer to them all as "letters" even though they are a combination of letters and covers.

I have personally seen only a half-dozen or so letters over five decades. This would suggest that there are only a relatively small number of such items in private hands. I suspect some are in hands of those who do not recognize their place in history. To the casual collector or non-postal historian, the importance and meaning of the manuscript directive citing Mrs. Clark on such a cover is likely overlooked.

In 1904, in Ohio, there were 170 letters accounted for from the box in the lumber storage room in the Ohio State House. Not all of the letters were those taken by Mrs. Clark, although the bulk of them were. Most envelopes had letters, although some had letters removed.

In researching this article, I found that, as of 1997, there were 112 of the Camp Chase letters in the Virginia Historical Society.[19]

I realized that they had to be from the original 170 Ohio-held group, as evidenced by the following note that states:

"N.B. This collection is printed in part in *The Story of Camp Chase* (Nashville, Tennessee, Publishing House of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, 1906), pp. 140–183, by William H. Knauss. For the extracts of letters, cf. *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies* (Washington, Government Printing Office, 1899), Series II, Vol. V, pp.139–141, by the U.S. War Department."

After following this large portion of Camp Chase letters from Ohio to Virginia, I found the balance of the story back in Ohio.

The following excerpt is from the Ohio Division of the United Daughters of the Confederacy. The story has been somewhat abbreviated in order to alleviate repetition of the basics. This narration tracks most of the letters from Ohio in 1904 to their donation to the Virginia Historical Society in 1948.

The collection also includes extracts of letters written by prisoners of war; the extracts were made by D.B. Tiffany, the prison postmaster.[20]

"THE LETTERS THAT NEVER CAME" dated 1929 (From the Confederate Veteran Magazine*, Volume 37, page 206)*

About twenty years ago, from the dim recesses of a dark closet in the State House at Columbus, Ohio, there was brought to light a dusty bag which contained a number of letters written by Confederate prisoners held at Camp Chase during the War between the States…In some of the letters is mentioned a "Mrs. Smith" (Really Mrs. Clark) who had been getting letters through the lines to Richmond.

The letters were turned over to the Ohio State Library and were carefully indexed. The State Librarian, C.B. Galbraith, called the attention of the late Col. W.H. Knauss to the letters.

So many years had elapsed even since they had been found, and the possibility

of getting the letters to those who might rightfully lay claim to them had never occurred to anybody until the president of the Ohio Division, Mrs. Albert Sidney Porter, said, 'Why not?' and straightway set to work upon the problem. We have been nearly two years at work upon it, valiant, intrepid little Mrs. Porter encouraging and abetting her committee, and, after many delays, of expediency, etc. ***We now have the letters in our hands!***

Words fail to express the gratitude of the Ohio Division toward Captain John M. Maynard, Clerk of the House of Representatives of Ohio. It was he who told us the proper procedure, who obtained the enthusiastic endorsement of the three G.A.R. men serving in the legislature, a gracious and most helpful touch, and it was through him that 'Joint Resolution No. 10' was presented through the proper channels and voted on at once, instead of being side-tracked in a committee! It was all most impressive, and so very exciting as the long rolls of names were called, first in the House then the Senate, and the 'ayes,' one after another, kept coming in, and then, finally, we knew the letters were ours!

Mrs. Porter has been tabulating a list of the letters to be published in the VETERAN and all Southern newspapers, so that it may reach as many as possible who might be interested. There are about one hundred and ninety letters, and if just one may reach the family of the loved one for whom it was intended, or, if the 'love and kisses' may be delivered to the son or the grandson of that little boy who never received them, how we shall all fairly glow with happiness and how amply we shall feel rewarded! The letters of those whose families cannot be reached after a reasonable time, will be placed in the Confederate Museum at Richmond, Virginia.

In 1948 the son of Mrs. Albert Sidney Porter (Mr. Phillip Porter) would donate the letters to the Virginia Historical Society where they remain to his day.[21]

Camp Chase was surprisingly accommodating. Northerners were appalled when privileges for Confederate prisoners included leaves of absence to nearby Columbus and slaves were obligingly imprisoned with their masters to continue rendering services to them. Consequently, the Camp Chase correspondence contains letters from Confederates praising their captors. Letters indicate that their rations were about the same as their captors and that their accommodations were unexpectedly comfortable.[22]

Upon discovering that none of her relations were incarcerated at Camp Chase, Lottie Clark remained at the prison to improve the Southerners' condition. According to the Virginia Historical Society, she also volunteered to serve as courier by taking prisoners' mail to Richmond, Virginia, and allowing Confederate authorities to distribute it from the capital to the captives' native states. It initially seemed unlikely to me that this would have been allowed by Union officials as a way to handle the mail but if they trusted the well-respected charismatic Mrs. Clark, perhaps this was not a stretch.

The infamous Camp Chase letters were not delivered to Richmond until received as a gift from Philip W. Porter of Cleveland, Ohio, in 1948.[23] Some of the subject envelopes have Confederate postage affixed and some have U.S. postage attached. In all cases, they are uncanceled because, according to her son, Frank, they never made it to Lottie to be delivered across the lines. All letters were dated in 1862.

The envelopes all have manuscript directives of various sorts indicating courtesy delivery via Lottie, such as, "Urbanity of Mrs. Clark," "Politeness of Mrs. Clark," "Per Mrs. Clark," "Favor of," or the like. There was no attempt to evade censorship; some have examined markings and some do not.

A selection of these Camp Chase covers is illustrated in Figure 1 and Figures 12 through 16. This is in no way a census. Numerous other covers were illustrated by Dick Graham in his 1979 column in the *Chronicle*.

A full-blown article could easily be written about every cover, as prisoners' mail most always has a story to tell. Although much more information is available to the diligent inquirer, I have chosen to illustrate these covers with minimal descriptions. They all bear manuscript directive notations citing Mrs. Clark.

Shown at the beginning of this article, Figure 1 bears an uncanceled CSA 1 and manuscript examined markings by Kibbee. It is addressed to George Cox in Corinth, Mississippi. It was sent from Maj. George Cox Jr. (1838-1912) who was the assistant quartermaster to the 26th

Figure 12: Camp Chase POW cover with uncanceled CSA 1 and manuscript "Ex. & Appd Kibbee" censor marking on cover to Chapel Hill, N.C., with "Politeness of Mrs. Clark" directive at lower left.

Mississippi Infantry. He was captured at Fort Donelson on February 15, 1862, and sent to Camp Chase on March 2, 1862. He left Camp Chase, as did many others, in August 1862 and was exchanged at Vicksburg in September 1862.

CSA member Gary Smith kindly provided me with the information about Cox, for which I sincerely thank him.

Figure 12 is very similar to Figure 1 in that it also has the manuscript "Ex. & Appd Kibbee" examiner's marking known at Camp Chase in April 1862, per page 180 of Galen Harrison's book about Civil War prison mail. This example is only a cover front. At one time it was owned by the late Scott Gallagher, a resident of Cincinnati, Ohio.

Of additional interest is the fact that there is a removed stamp under the five-cent green Jefferson Davis stamp—visible at the lower left—likely a U.S. three-cent rose, Scott 65. It could be speculated that, after censoring and realization that this was to be delivered directly to the South without passing through the U.S. mails, a Confederate stamp was put on in place of the U.S. postage.

The sender of the Figure 12 cover was Hiram Lewter, originally from North Carolina, who moved to Mississippi in 1860. He enlisted as a second lieutenant in Company D, 26th Mississippi Infantry, Capt. D.L. Gallaher's Company, Reynold's Regiment. He was also captured at Fort Donelson, sent to Camp Chase and exchanged in September 1862. He was returned to service.

On a report dated August 4, 1864, Lewter was listed as wounded at the Battle of the Wilderness May 5, 1864, and died May 14, 1864, from "Vulnus Sclopeticum" (aka gunshot wound) at the general hospital in Staunton, Virginia.

He was on the roster of 26th Mississippi Regiment of Infantry Volunteers, Jos. R. Davis' Brigade, H. Heth's Division, A.P. Hill's Corps, Army of Northern Virginia. Lewter was listed as a merchant with residence in Jacinto, Mississippi. Records state, "After the death of Capt. Gallaher, Lt. Lewter assumed com(man) d of the Co(mpany), & fell while gallantly cheering his men on to victory."

With Figures 13a and b, we move to U.S. franked envelopes. This one, again, bears the familiar manuscript censor marking, "Ex. & Appd Kibbee." It is addressed to Mattie McCampbell, his wife, in Bridgeport, Alabama. The cover is endorsed by W.D. McCampbell, who served in Company E, Alabama 55th Infantry. At lower left, below the prisoner's endorsement, is "Politeness of Mrs. Clark."

McCampbell was captured at the Battle of Shiloh. This cover contains the original letter in

Figure 13a: Camp Chase POW cover with uncanceled U.S. three-cent rose and manuscript, 'Ex. & Appd Kibbee' censor marking on cover to Alabama, with 'Politeness of Mrs. Clark' directive at lower left.

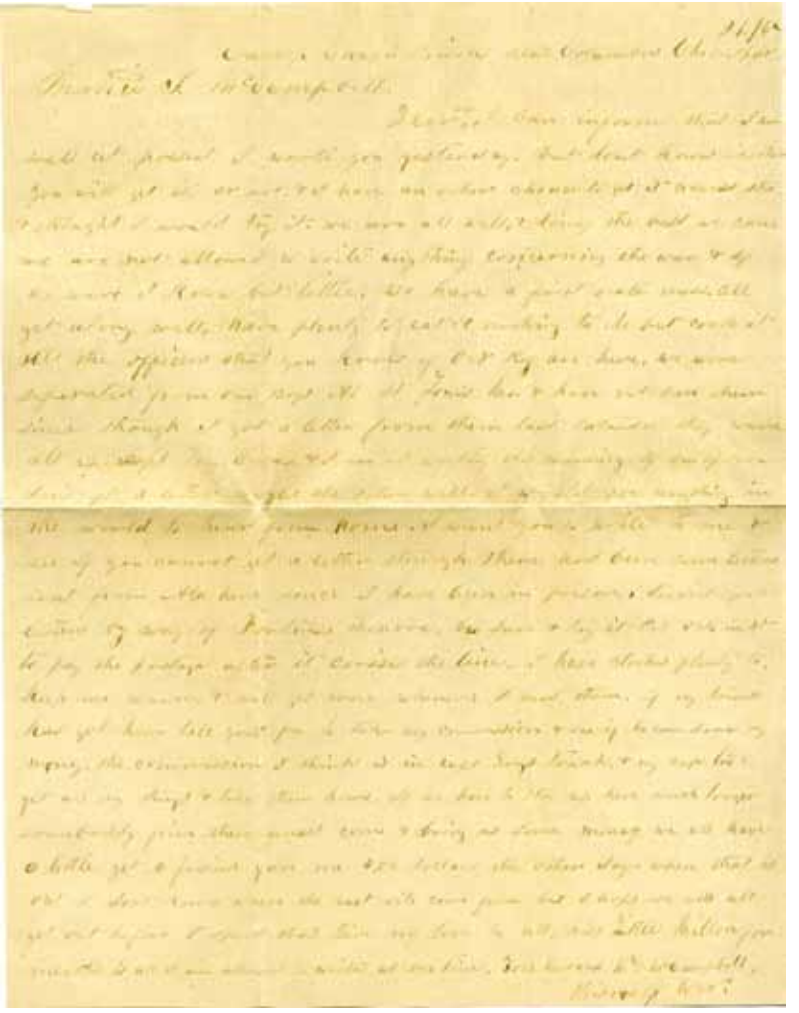

Figure 13b: The letter enclosed in the cover in Figure 13a. It was sent home by W.D. McCampbell of the Alabama 55th Infantry to his wife.

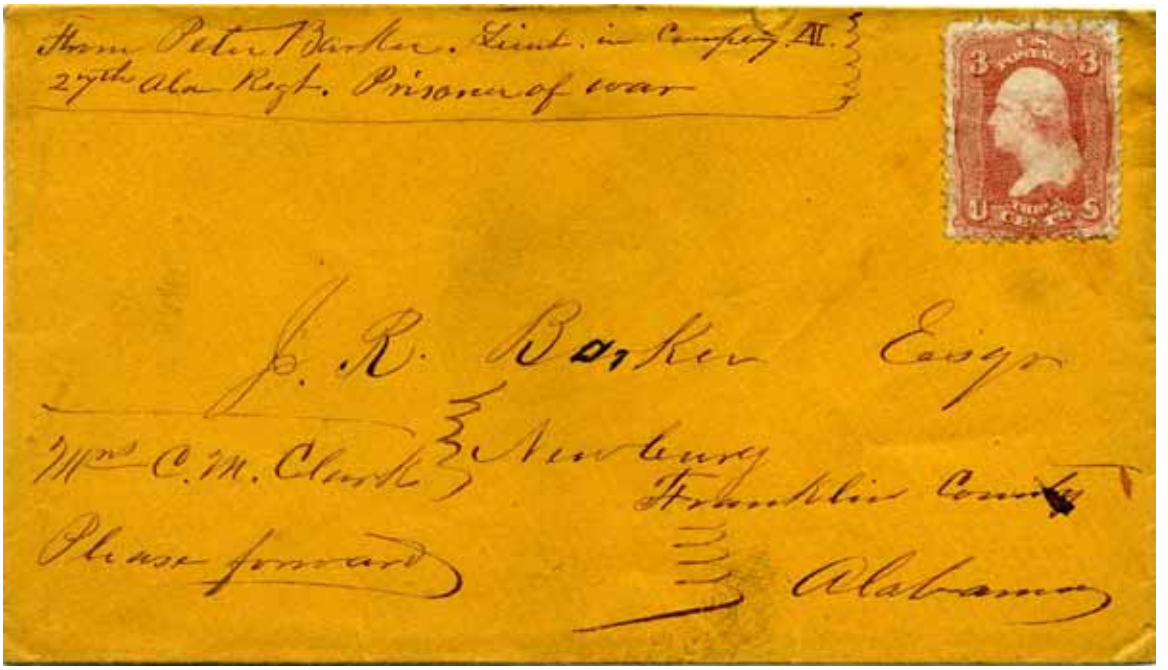

Figure 14: Camp Chase POW cover sent to to the prisoner's brother in Alabama with an uncanceled U.S. three-cent rose, no censor markings, and with, 'Mrs. C.M. Clark/Please forward" at lower left.

which, among other things, he asks her to direct her letters via Fortress Monroe and to affix the proper amount of postage—five-cents, the Confederate postal rate until it was changed to the universal 10-cent rate on July 1, 1862.

The envelope shown in Figure 14 bears an uncanceled U.S. three-cent rose and no censor markings. The manuscript directive, "Mrs. C. M. Clark (Charlotte Moon Clark)/Please forward" is seen at lower left.

The cover is addressed to J.R. Barker in Newburg, Alabama, with the soldier endorsement at top, "From Peter Barker, Lieut. in Company A, 27th Ala. Regt. Prisoner of War."

Lt. Barker was captured at Fort Donelson and exchanged with most of his comrades in September 1862.

One of Barker's Camp Chase letters is transcribed and appears on a website entitled "Camp Chase Letters" with many others from this lot.[24] It is shown twice and indicates "letters"—plural—but is the same text. Barker's letter to his brother mentions the smallpox epidemic and vaccinations against it by his captors. He was afflicted with a case of the "mups" (mumps). He states in his letters that he is in Prison No. 8, Mess 38.

The website indicates that the letters have been provided by Evelyn Rard and George Purvis with e-mail addresses and invitations to any descendant to receive a scan of the originals at no charge. It also solicits information about these men or their descendants. More letters are transcribed by the Ohio Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans and are available online.[25]

Lt. Col. Mark S. Miller of the 11th Arkansas Infantry is the sender of the cover in Figure 15. The cover is franked with a U.S. three-cent rose and is addressed to Mrs. Maria Miller in Benton, Arkansas; it is noted as, "Politeness of Mrs. Clark."

Miller was captured at the Battle of Island No. 10 on the Mississippi River on April 15, 1862. He was a regimental officer from the time of regimental formation in July 1861. Arkansas postal historian Bruce Roberts says that he has seen fewer than five prisoner of war covers into Arkansas.[26]

The final cover, shown in Figure 16a bears an uncanceled U.S. three-cent rose and has no censor markings. The manuscript directive, "Per Mrs. Clark" appears at lower left.

It is addressed to, "A.W. Ledbetter, Richmond, Virginia/To the care of Capt. James. L. Sheffield of the 9th Regiment of Alabama Volunteers." It is endorsed by, "Lieutenant G.C. Ledbetter a Prisoner of War."

A copy of the enclosed letter is shown in Figure 16b. He tells his son that he has been a prisoner since February 16 (1862) among 800-

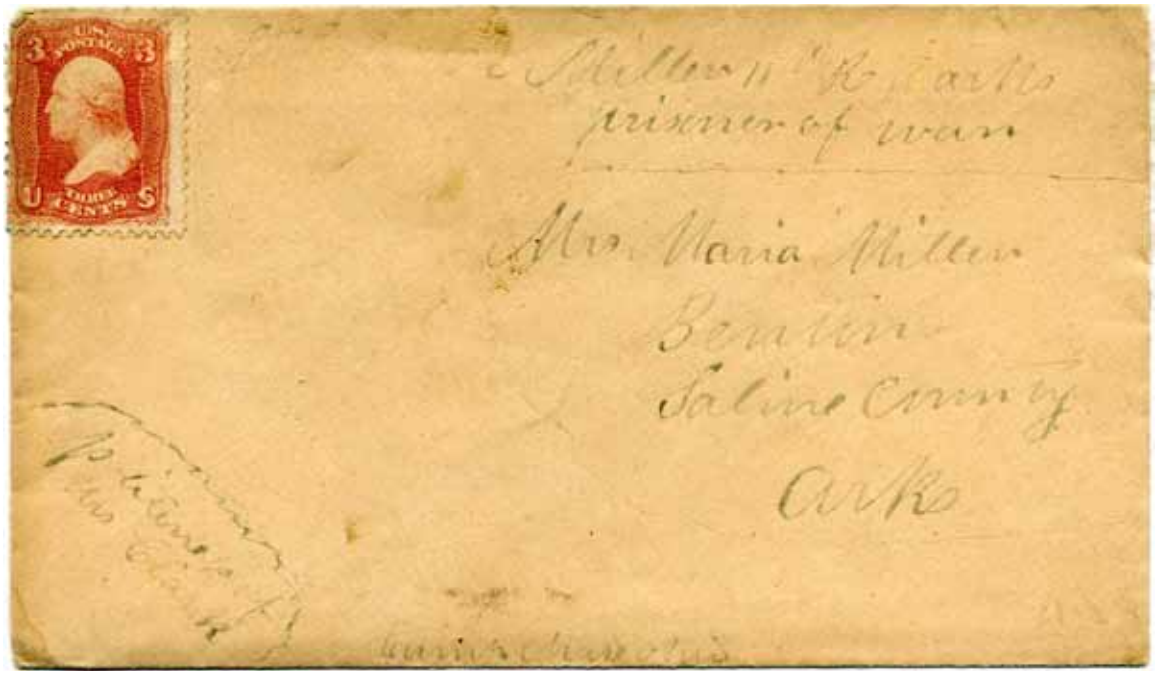

Figure 15: A Camp Chase POW cover from Lt. Col. Mark S. Miller to Arkansas with an uncanceled U.S. three-cent rose, no censor markings, and a "Politeness of Mrs. Clark' notation.

1,000 men captured at Fort Donelson and that he is patiently waiting to be exchanged. He says he traveled from Fort Donelson to Cairo to St. Louis and then to Camp Chase, near Columbus.

Gardner C. Ledbetter led Company H of the 49th Alabama Infantry, which subsequently became the 50th Regiment of Alabama Infantry and was, in 1865, consolidated with the 22nd, 25th and 39th regiments to form the 22nd Regiment of Alabama Infantry.

Ledbetter is listed in military records as a captain on general index cards (sparse and very general information). On a regimental history website, he is said to have died in the service.[27] This would suggest that he died of disease rather than being killed in action, but I could find no corroborating facts.

The Moon Sisters, Postwar

Ginny: After the war, Ginny was a familiar figure in Memphis. Devoting her life to work with the poor and sick, she was a heroine during the yellow fever epidemic in the early 1870s. She later moved to California to pursue interests in aviation and acting. Ginny had a brief career as a screen actress and appeared in several movies. She settled in Greenwich Village, New York, where she died September 11, 1925.[28]

Lottie: Lottie became a novelist and a newspaper correspondent, covering stories all over the world. In 1870, the *New York World* sent Lottie to Paris as a special correspondent. Upon her return, she lectured widely and wrote two bestselling novels. She also worked as a translator of French novels.[29] Her *nom de plume* was Charles M. Clay.

Lottie was a descendant of the Clays on her mother's side and obviously of the Moons on her father's side, as well as of Thomas Digges, one of the first colonial governors of Virginia.[30]

Lottie's younger cousin—also called Lottie Moon—is often confused with our Lottie. The cousin's name was Charlotte "Lottie" Digges Moon (1840-1912). She was a Southern Baptist missionary to China who spent nearly 40 years living and working there. She spoke more than a half-dozen languages.

Her older sister, Orianna Moon, became a physician and improbably served as a Confederate doctor during the war.[31] Clearly, the Moon cousins had the same independent spirit, intelligence, and curiosity as sisters Ginny and Lottie.

Sister Act: The Moon sisters were women born before their time. They rebelled against the male dominance of the era, yet did not hesitate to use their feminine charms or genuinely yearn after young men. Both had suitors by the score.

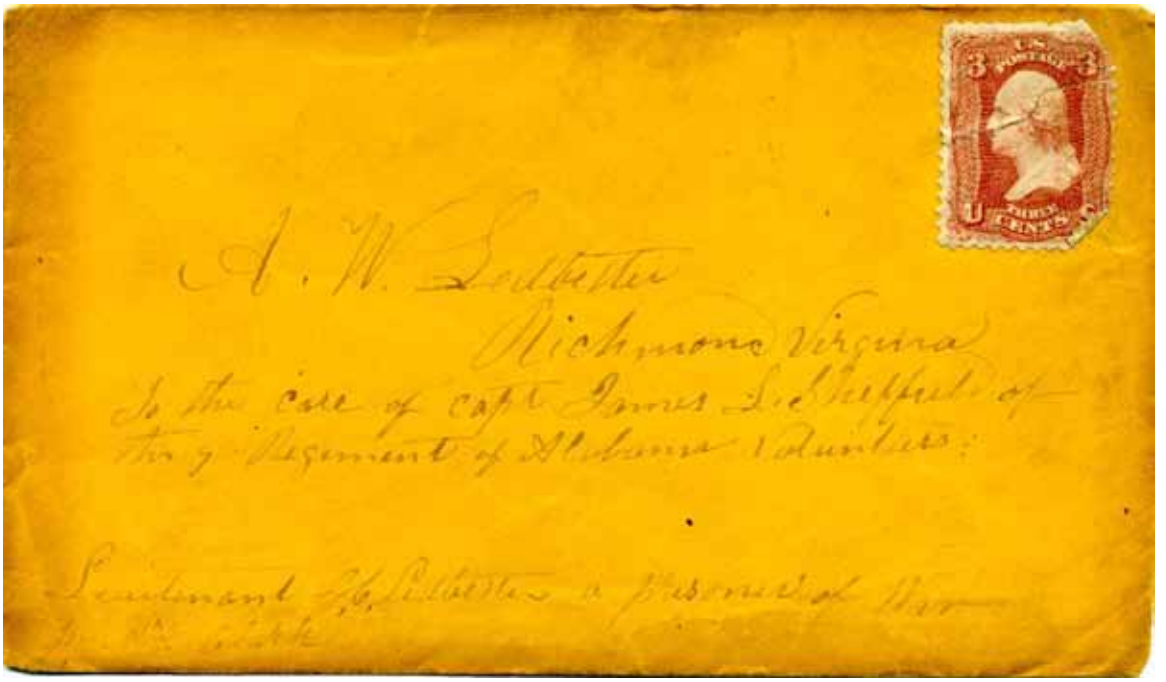

Figure 16a: Camp Chase POW cover from Lt. Gardner C. Ledbetter, commander of Company H, 49th Alabama Infantry, sent to Alabama with an uncanceled U.S. three-cent rose and no censor markings.

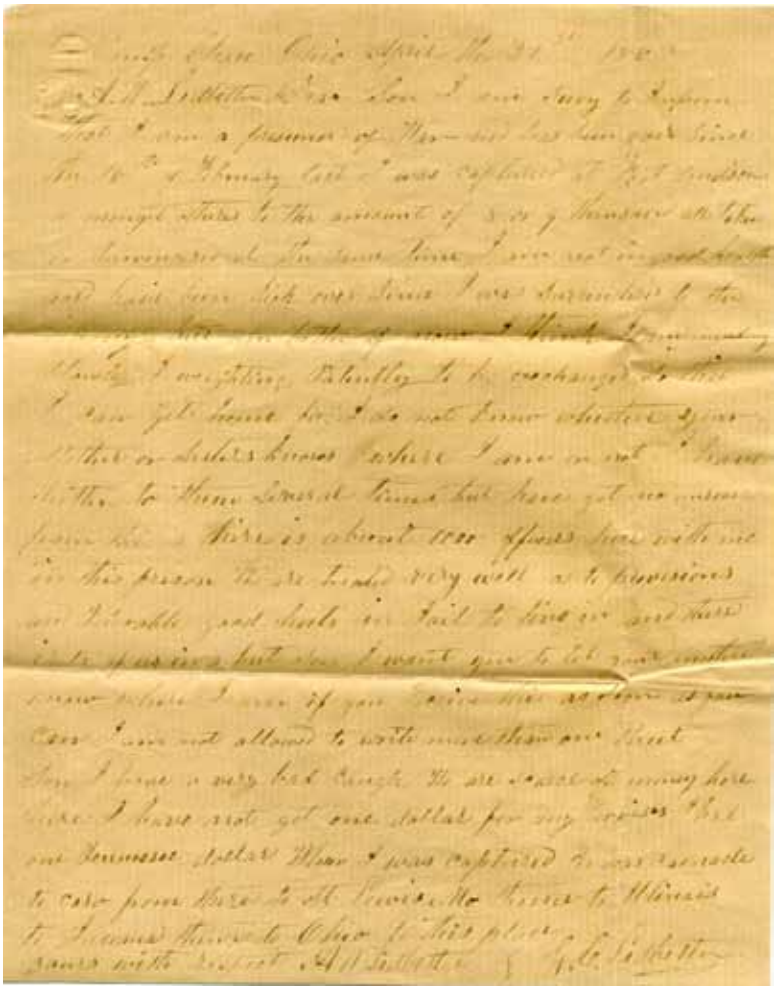

Figure 16b: The letter enclosed in the cover in Figure 15a from Lt. G.C. Ledbetter to his son.

Both of them stunned their contemporaries by talking about women's rights, attacking fashionable affectation and calling their neighbors genteel frauds. They toted guns, read science, heavy biography and Darwin. They both possessed great originality of character and did not hesitate to boldly act, even at their own peril.

Final Thoughts

Philatelic sources have generally referred to the Camp Chase letters as intercepted smuggled mail. It has been suggested by the Virginia Historical Society that Mrs. Lottie Moon Clark initially had permission to convey the covers South to expedite their delivery—until her ulterior motive (transmission of Union intelligence to the South) was revealed.

The fact that prisoners freely indicate that their letters are to be carried to Richmond by Mrs. Clark[32] and that there was no attempt to hide these missives from censors, would lend credence to that assertion.

I am aware of at least one other instance in which federal officials allowed the "official smuggling" of mail across the lines (J.B. Dutton). That is certain from Civil War correspondence in the National Archives and Records Administration—a story yet to be told in full (a Kaufmann monograph in the works). Either way, there is clear evidence that mail was also secreted across the lines by both Moon sisters.

Some believe that the subject Camp Chase letters were confiscated when she was captured. Another explanation, as suggested by her son years after her death, is that she never saw this particular batch of correspondence and that it was hidden away undelivered, at an unknown location. Where were they until discovered at the Ohio State House in 1904?

In 1948, there were 112 letters donated to the Virginia Historical Society from this cache. They are the presumed remainders from the Ohio State House discovery after Mrs. Porter's attempt to reunite the mail with addressees or possibly senders.

From there, as we know, covers—and sometimes letters—find their way to the open market via indifferent descendants. This may account for the relatively few number of Camp Chase covers with Mrs. Clark manuscript directives.

As with most research projects, I found a wealth of conflicting information. Some information even came from first-hand accounts of both Lottie and her son, Frank. There are scholars who suggest that Lottie exaggerated her exploits because her movements were logistically impossible and that she created a fictionalized account based on Ginny's capture.

But the stories of the sisters' exploits and the intercepted Camp Chase letters make for the kind of fascinating postal history that keeps us enthralled with this area of collecting.

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(Patricia A. Kaufmann has collected, researched and written about Confederates for 50 years; she has been a dealer since 1973, specializing in Confederate stamps and postal history. E-mail: trishkauf@comcast.net*)*