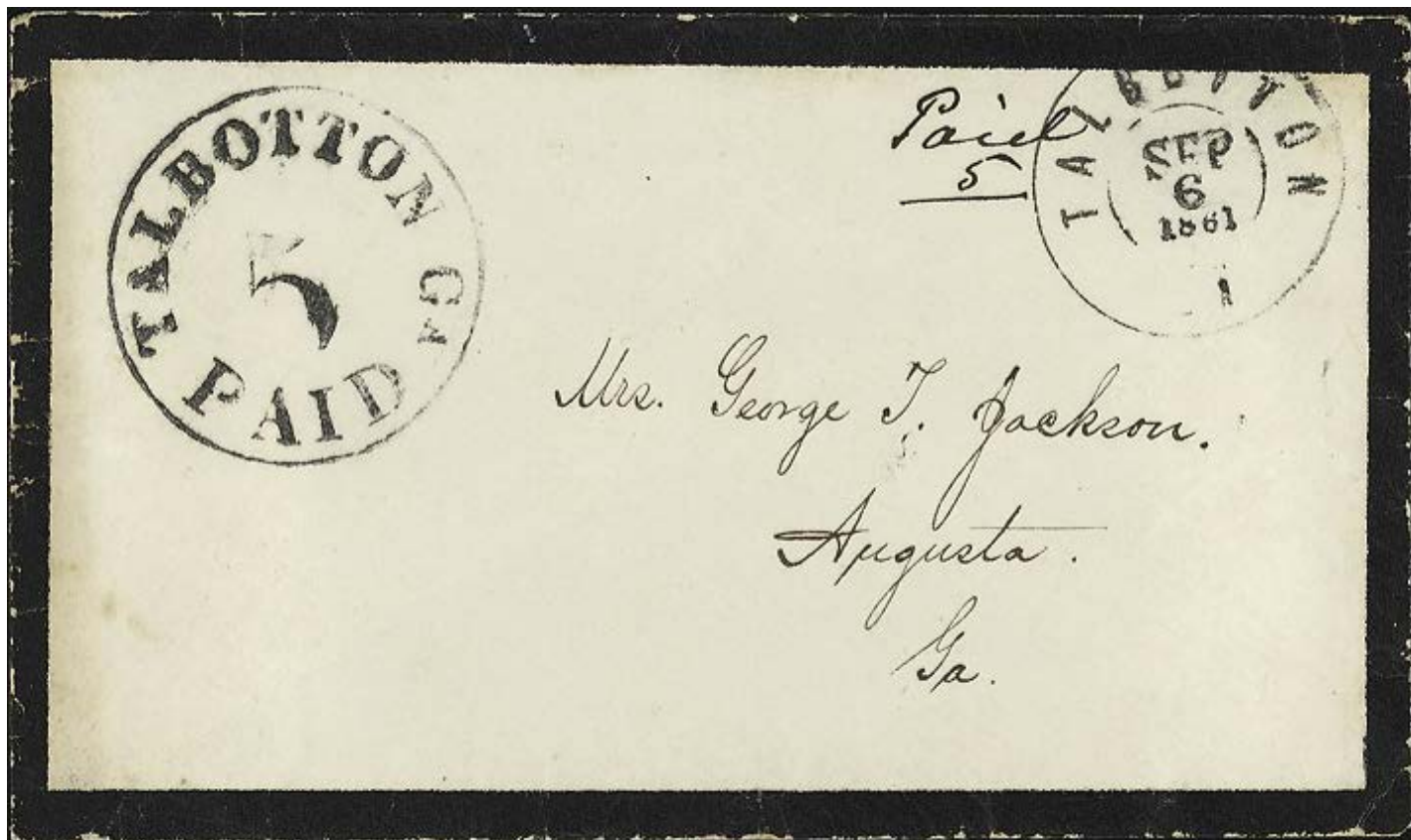


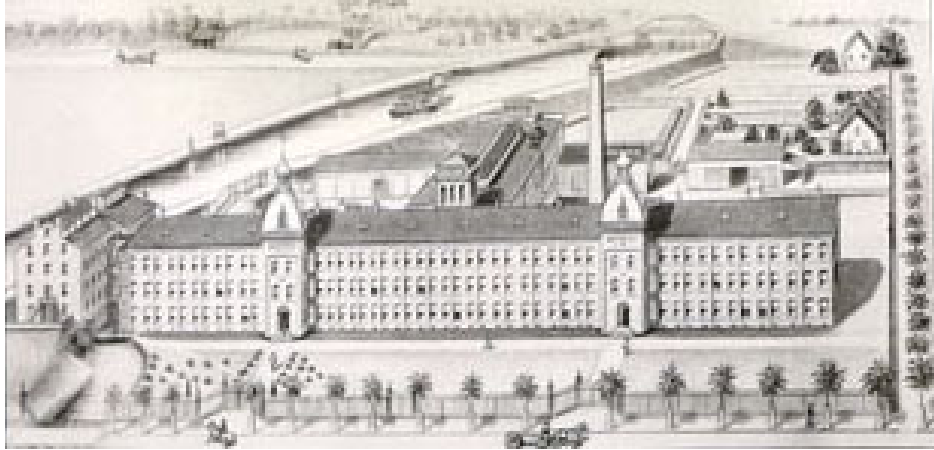
## The Talbotton [Georgia] Confederate Provisionals (Dave Savadge)

During the period between 1 June 1861 (the start of the Confederate postal service) and 16 October 1861 (when the first Confederate government stamps were issued) individual town postmasters had to improvise. Such was the case in Talbotton, Georgia where the postmaster sold provisional pre-paid postage hand stamp markings on envelopes provided by patrons. Three varieties of the Talbotton provisionals are known, of which two have been recorded on mourning covers.



6 September 1861: Talbotton to Augusta, Georgia  
Lot 146 from Robert A Siegel sale #815 (1999).

Five cent Talbotton provisional [Scott Confederate 94XU1] paying the under 500 mile rate in effect prior to 1 July 1862. Addressed to Mrs George T Jackson (nee Catherine Mixer), the wife of Confederate Major George Jackson, who commanded Company B of the 1<sup>st</sup> Georgia Regiment. Before and after the war, George Jackson was a prominent Augusta industrialist and businessman. He owned a mill in Augusta, a section of which is still standing today.



Pre-war sketch of Jackson's Mill, Augusta.



Photo of remaining portion of Jackson's Mill.

A second five-cent cover from the Jackson correspondence:



17 September 1861: Talbotton to Augusta, Georgia  
Author's collection.

The numerical rate value was not integral with the rest of the marking. Creating the Talbotton provisionals took two steps – first the circular part with the town name and PAID, then followed with a separate impression of the rate in the center.

Even after Confederate postage stamps had been issued, postmaster's provisionals continued to be infrequently used. The postage on this next cover may have been purchased prior to the availability of adhesive stamps, or perhaps the Talbotton post office was temporarily out of stamps during June 1862.



16 June 1862: Talbotton to Richmond, Virginia  
Lot 2695 from Schuyler Rumsey sale #34 (2009).

Ten cent Talbotton provisional [Scott Confederate 94XU2] paying the over 500 mile rate in effect prior to 1 July 1862. Addressed to Alexander Stephens, the Confederate Vice President.