

# South Carolina – Outside the Union

From and To

Camden

Kershaw District



CSA # 5 (4 margin but close at the bottom) tied by a partial strike of a 26mm red CAMDEN SC CDS dated MAR 22 (1862). Stamp is also pen canceled as the red postmark matches the color of the stamp, with a second complete strike of the postmark at the left (MAR 22). The stamp was applied over a CAMDEN SC Handstamp "Paid 10" (Dietz Type IIB, CSA Catalog Type C) in black that was apparently applied earlier as a provisional mark and then never postally used. The CSA Catalog states; Type CAM-SC-E03 a "The E03 markings were also used as stampless markings. They are considered provisionals only when unused, under a postally used general issue, or mailed from another town."

The stamp was lifted some time ago and hinged just to the left in order to display the Handstamp markings underneath. Trans-Mississippi address to Dr James S. Milling, Collinsburgh, Boissier Parish, La. James S. Milling was a physician and planter in Fairfield Dist SC. In 1859, Milling moved his slaves to a plantation in Bossier Parish, La, where he spent the civil war years while his wife (also a cousin) Mary W. Milling and their children remained with her family near Camden SC. A copy of his letter is attached. The whole correspondence resides in the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, NC. The letter is filled with home front war news from South Carolina in early 1862. The March 20<sup>th</sup> (1862) date of the letter confirms a very early usage of the CSA # 5. Ex-Bleuler

No 1177

March 20th [1862]

My dear Husband,

Yours of the 25th of Feb was received a few days ago. It is ever a great pleasure to receive letters from you, but the idea of your entering the service of the war produced painful anxious feelings. Perhaps I am not patriotic enough to be willing to give you up--I do not think your constitution could stand the hardships and exposure of a camp life--You must let your overseer go and you can attend to your business--Should the necessity oblige you to enlist I would rather you were here in your native state than join a company out there unless I was there also--Pa has had a severe attack of Typhoid fever--he is better now though not able to be out of bed yet--If he does not take a relapse I think he will recover now although he is very much reduced and it will take some time for him to regain his strength--There are a great many cases of the same fever on the plantation now, and has been for some time back--one death last Sunday night--a girl of twelve or thirteen years of age called Nelly--daughter of Patrick and Candace. Pa will be very backward with his crop in consequence of so much sickness and rainy weather--

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I do not know what are to become of us--it appears the Yankees will have complete possession of South Carolina before long--The people of Columbia and Charleston are very much afraid of those cities being shelled--John Nelson met with a gentleman on the other side of the river who owned a large plantation and 400 Negroes down on the coast, and of that number but one remained with him--We heard a vessel had entered Charleston loaded with arms--Harry Cantey was taken prisoner at Ft Donelson and is now in Chicago--his trunk was brought home to his mother, and his servant who was sick died shortly after reaching home--Mrs Cantey said she did not think she would have nerve sufficient to bear all that would be brought upon by her that "old Sinner Abe Lincoln"--Pa has not sold any of his cotton yet but says he will be obliged to sell in order to try and get something for the negroes to eat--he does not intend to sell all but only a small portion at the time. His factors wrote to him that since our reverses in the west there was no demand for cotton--but they are not at all accommodating--They wrote that there was neither bacon nor molasses for sale in Charleston--What do you have to pay for Molasses? I thought you would be able to get them cheap out there and could feed the Negroes on them almost altogether--Molasses is selling at from 90 cts to \$1 per gallon in Camden--bacon at 30cts--

Pa has just had brought home a piece of cloth of fifty yards--he is having another piece wove--It is slow work, but with your two wheels you can have some after awhile if you will keep them going pretty steadily--Perhaps you may be rid of that trouble after awhile as some of those large slaveholders on the coast are already--What does Nancy call her baby?

Our little ones are all well except colds--When I had finished reading your letter, Minnie said, "What did father say about my letter?" The baby grows and continues to behave himself very well--The children often speak of you and ask "When is father coming back again?" Pa is at a loss to know what he will do for provisions for the Negroes--he says he does not know what they will eat besides bread--Times are very gloomy now--

We cannot know what is before us, except that the independence of the Confederate States will have to be achieved by themselves alone and expect nothing from foreign nations. No good news for us now--I do not care to read the papers. Good bye.

Your affectionate Wife

Mary W Milling

# 1177