

# Confederate Stamp Alliance

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## The Confederate Philatelist

de la Rue and the March Toward  
Producing Confederate Stamps



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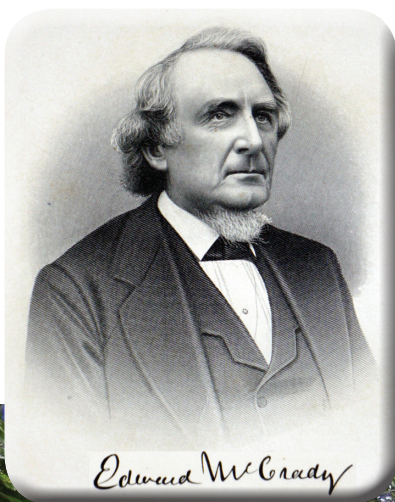
# MCCRADY FAMILY CIVIL WAR CORRESPONDENCE

Phil Eschbach

At the time of the War Between the States, the McCrady family was a prominent one in Charleston, S.C. Family members were highly educated and cosmopolitan participants of the intellectual aristocracy of the city, having lived there since before the American Revolution. Edward McCrady, Sr. (1802-92), U.S. Attorney for South Carolina, was the son of Princeton-educated John McCrady (1775-1803). Edward had earlier resisted nullification and was not in favor of seceding but, ultimately, he supported the Southern cause, even signing the *Declaration of Secession*. He was too old to fight as a soldier for the Confederacy. But his sons, John (1831-81), Edward, Jr. (1833-1903), Thomas (1843-82) and Louis (1851-1910), were all patriotically involved and devoted in their military service. Extensive correspondence exists, written during the war, between these men and their families, along with many covers, some of which are illustrated along with this article.

The elder McCrady (eventually the oldest living graduate of Yale) remained mostly in Charleston during the war and corresponded with his sons while they were away in the army. He was heavily involved in the Episcopal Church in South Carolina, serving on the vestry of St. Philip's and St. Michael's churches in Charleston. His family had a "retreat"

Edward McCrady Sr. (left), Edward McCrady home (below), built ca. 1840.







Edward McCrady Jr.

in Manchester in the Sand Hills, northwest of Charleston in Sumter County, which was used when the heat or war threatened. Edward's wife, Louisa, was in ill health and spent much of her time residing there, where it was higher and drier. They had 15 children, of which only eight survived childhood.

The oldest of these sons, John McCrady, studied biology at Harvard, but at the time of the war, he was teaching mathematics at the College of Charleston. He temporarily abandoned this field to become a military engineer for the duration of the war. He first worked on the defenses of Charleston, but then was transferred to be the chief engineer for the defense of Savannah.



For the remainder of the struggle, he valiantly managed to prevent the town being taken from the sea, despite seven assaults by the Yankee navy, which

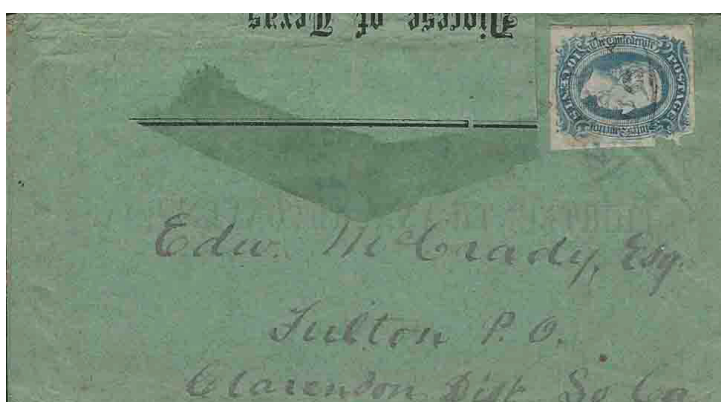
John McCrady (right), John McCrady home (below).







included the largest naval shells ever fired by the U.S. Navy during the war. He constructed a ring of defenses around the city by fortifying Fort McAllister at the mouth of the Ogeechee River. The fort that McCrady constructed in 1861, at Genesis Point, was built on the plantation and named after Lt. Col. Joseph McAllister. This played an important role in the defense of Savannah during the blockade.



Top: Wm L'Engle to Edward McCrady Sr. (with enclosure), Jacksonville, Fla., June 18, 1861.

Above: CSA No. 11 on 1862 Diocese of Texas cover to Fulton, S.C. ex-Holleman, Murphy

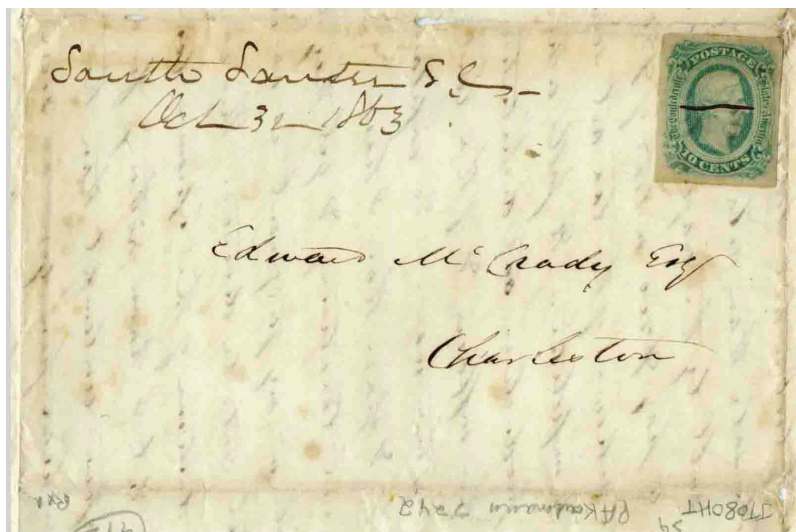
Below: Manuscript South Santee, S.C., Oct. 30, 1863, to Edward Sr., with enclosure.

Toward the end of the war, John was involved with the means and methods of enabling the Confederate troops to retreat northwards through North Carolina.

After the war, John tried raising and harvesting oysters in the Ashley River as a business, but it failed due to shipping problems.

He went back to teaching mathematics at the College of Charleston, but became increasingly interested in biology and was offered (and accepted) the position as head of the Biology Department at Harvard in 1873. However, he found life

very unhappy as a former Confederate officer living in Boston and resigned his teaching position at Harvard, having been offered a similar job at Johns Hopkins. But he decided against going to Johns Hopkins when he was offered the chance to go to the University of the South to start a Biology Department. In 1876, he moved his family to the campus at Sewanee, Tenn., where he died in 1886.



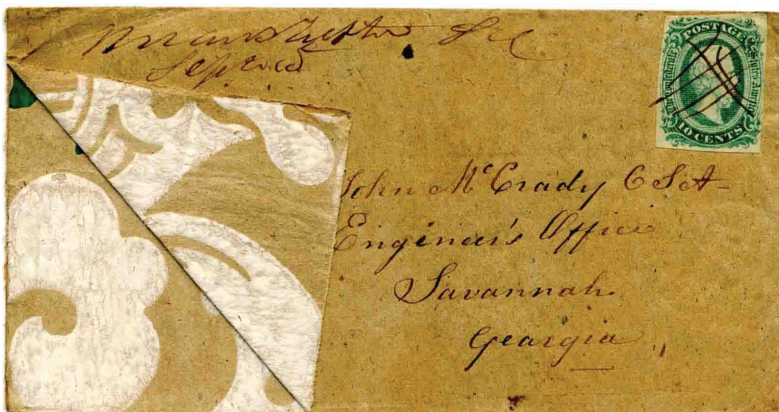
The younger Edward McCrady, Jr. had been active in the South Carolina Militia and was named major in 1854. He was educated at the College of Charleston and joined his father's law practice in 1855.

When the war broke out, he helped form the company called the Meagher Guards, and became its captain. He traveled to Montgomery, then Richmond, to enlist his company, which was the first company in the Confederacy to enlist for the entire war, under the condition that it arm itself. The company proceeded to Richmond and was ordered to the front to fight in the First Battle of Manassas, but was unable to get there in time to participate.

On Dec. 14, 1861, Edward was promoted to major and, on June 27, to Lt. Col. He became ill with malaria in June of 1862 in the swamps of the Chickahominy and spent time in Richmond in the hospital recovering. He was finally able to join the fight at Cold Harbor and Cedar Run.

On Aug. 28, 1862, he and his younger brother, Lt. Thomas McCrady, were severely wounded at the Second Battle of Manassas. Nevertheless, they both struggled on with their injuries, despite doctor's orders to stay away from the battlefield.

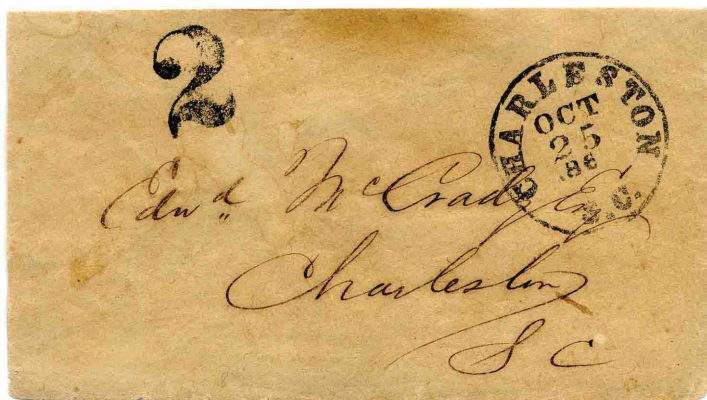
Edward fought at Fredericksburg, but was again injured on Jan. 27, 1863, by a falling tree that broke his collar bone, dislocated his shoulder and fractured his skull. He lay unconscious for days and it was thought he might die. Edward recovered, but was declared unfit for field duty and, despite his desire to go back to his troops, was assigned to the command of Camp Lay in Madison, Fla., which was a camp of instruction for new troops for the army. It is said that this post was an



Above: Manuscript-canceled No. 11c, Sept. 5 - manuscript Manchester, S.C., on adversity cover addressed to John McCrady in Savannah. ex-Kaufmann

Below: Oct. 25 Charleston stampless. ex-Antrim, Kaufmann

Bottom: Pair of No. 7-L on turned cover canceled Nov. 30, with manuscript-canceled No. 12, addressed to John. ex-Karrer, Kaufmann



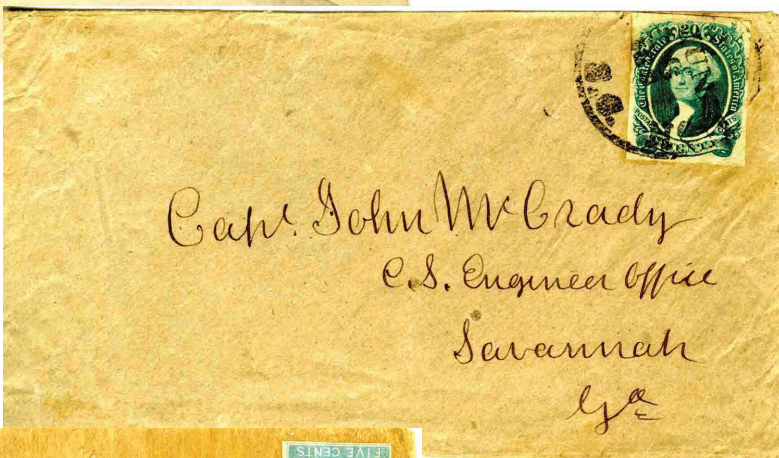




Above: CSA No.12a on June 22 Charleston cover, turned, franked with additional No. 12a and mailed from Savannah on June 30 to A.H. Dunkin, care of John McCrady. ex Kaufmann

Right: Single CSA No.13 on small cover from Edward Sr., to son, John.

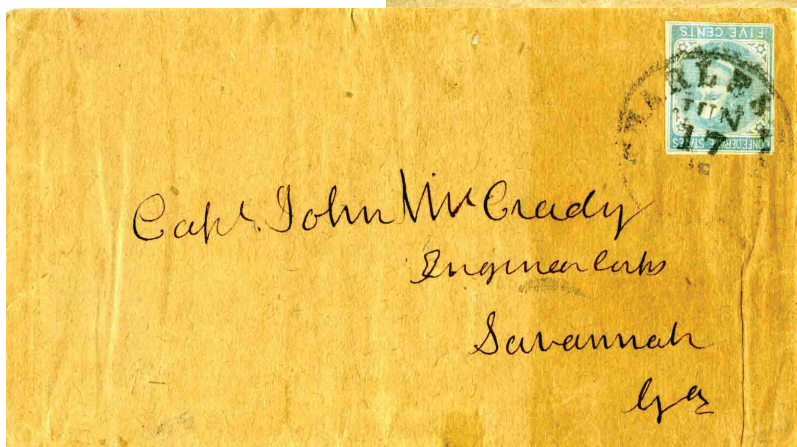
Below: Single No.6 on June 17 small cover from Edward Sr., to son, John. ex-Kaufmann



early experiment in training blacks for military service.

Edward was finally discharged with the rank of colonel near the end of the war, after which he rejoined his father in the law firm of McCrady and Sons in Charleston. He remained active in the state service and rose to be general of the South Carolina Militia. As a lawyer he argued and won several cases before the United States Supreme Court. He also wrote the definitive history of South Carolina up to the war.

The next younger brother, Lt. Thomas McCrady, was only 18 when the war broke out. He immediately signed



up and fought till he was too severely wounded to be allowed active service. He died at the early age of 38 in 1882.

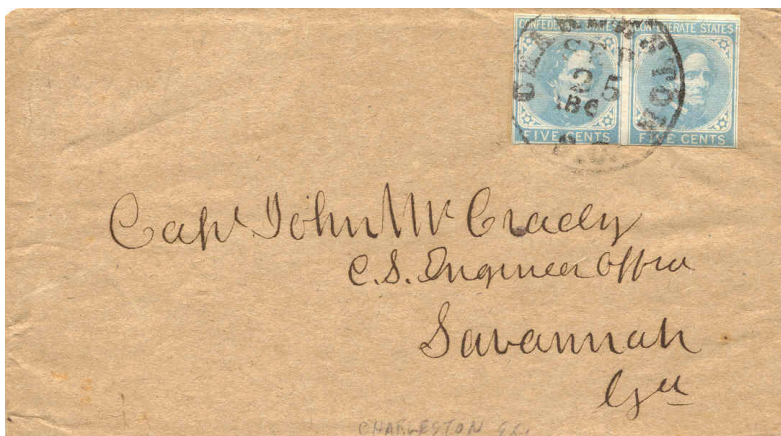
Louis, the youngest, at the age of 14, enlisted only in early 1865. As a non-commissioned officer, he was on his way to the front when he met the

retreating forces. During the war, all the brothers corresponded with each other and their father, the elder Edward McCrady, as well as other family members and military officials. Many family descendants still reside in Charleston and Sewanee, Tenn.

Accompanying this feature on previous and following pages is a gallery of some of the covers from the extensive McCrady correspondence, showing a broad range of uses, markings and frankings.

Above right: Pair of CSA No. 6, Charleston Sept. 25, Edward Sr. to son John. ex-Murphy

Right: Stampless "PAID 10" Jan. 8 Charleston cover from Edward Sr. to his wife at in Manchester, S.C., "retreat" home.



## RECORDING NEW CSA FINDS

New Confederate finds are still being documented for future editions of the *CSA Catalog*. In addition to new, unlisted finds, I am seeking quality images to replace old black and white tracings or poor-quality images that were used in earlier catalogs. It is important that new images be quality 300 dpi .tif or .jpg files if they are to be used in future editions.

For questions or to send your digital images and information:

Trish Kaufmann  
trishkauf@comcast.net

If you are not a computer user, please send color photocopies to me

10194 N Old State Rd  
Lincoln DE 19960







Right: Socked-on-the-nose Oct. 22 CSA No. 12c on cover made from ledger paper, addressed from Edward Sr. to his wife in Manchester.

ex-Kaufmann

Right: CSA No. 2-P on cover from Thomas McCrady to brother John. Cover was postmarked in Statesboro, Ga.

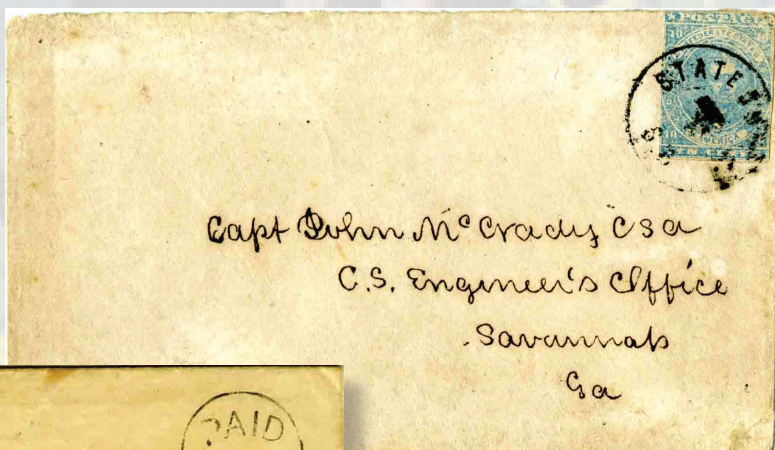
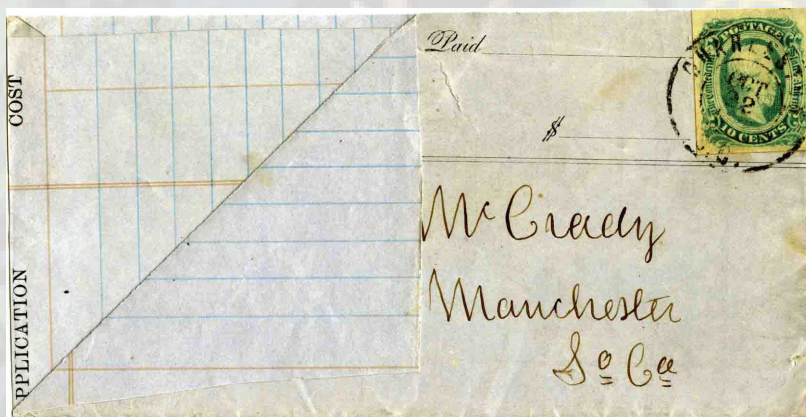
ex Kaufmann

Below: John McCrady wrote to his brother Edward Jr., in care of Edward Sr. The "PAID 5" cover was postmarked Aug. 27 from Georgetown, S.C.

ex Kaufmann

Bottom: Pair of CSA No. 7-R on letter from Edward Jr. to Edward Sr. Envelope made from a printed form.

ex-Kaufmann







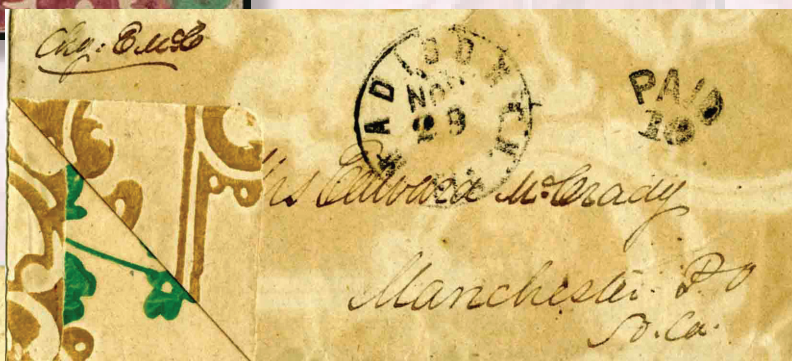
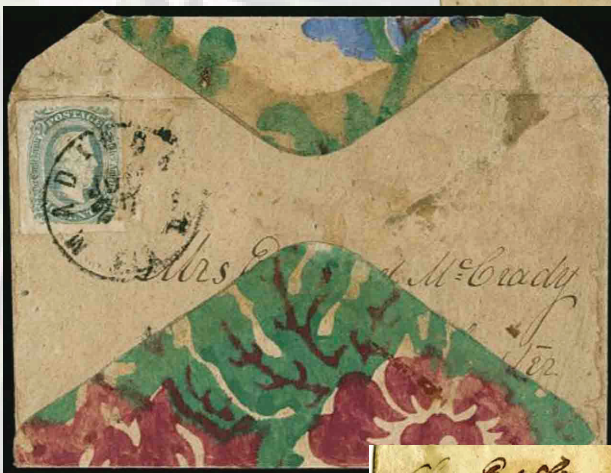
Left: Wallpaper cover from Edward Jr. to his father, mailed from Madison Court House, Fla. (stamp removed).  
ex-Briggs



Above: April 25, 1864, "PAID 10" wallpaper cover from Madison C.H., Fla., from Edward Jr. to his mother at the Manchester retreat.

Left: June 20, 1864, wallpaper cover franked with CSA No. 11, also from Madison C.H., Fla., from Edward Jr. to his mother at Manchester.

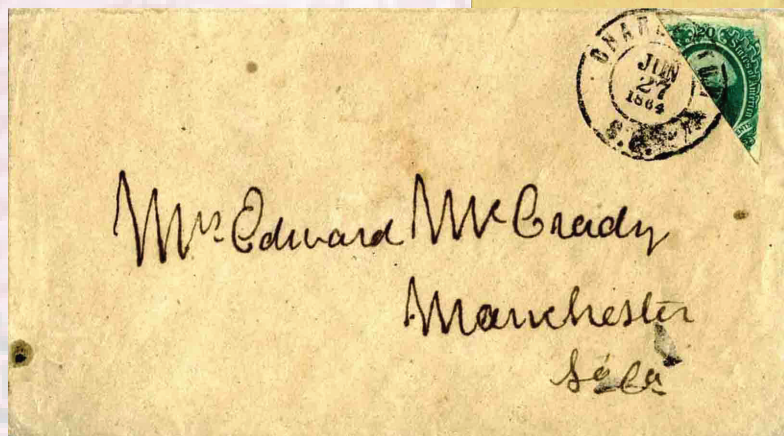
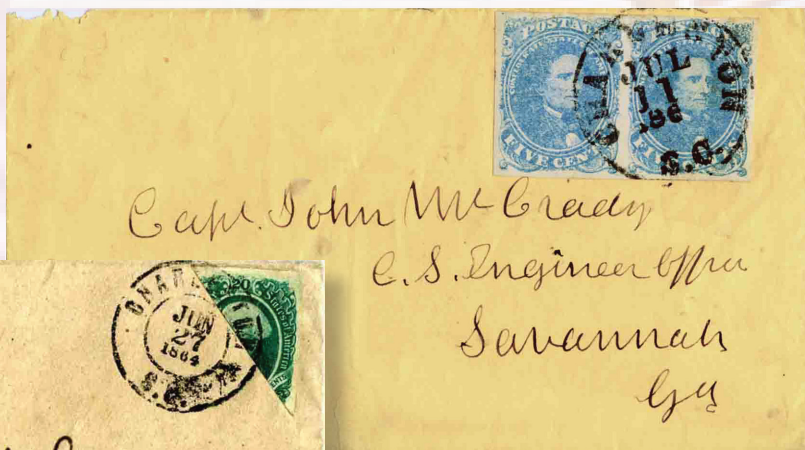
Below: Another Madison C.H., Fla., wallpaper cover from Edward Jr. to his mother. This one is dated Nov. 29.



Left: CSA No. 13 bottom bisect cover from Edward Jr. to son John in Savannah (1864).



Right: Pair of CSA No. 4 on cover from Edward Sr. to son John, dated July 11, 1864.



Above: CSA No. 13 top bisect on cover from Edward Sr. to his wife at Manchester. Cover is postmarked July 27, 1864.

Right Dec. 12, 1861, "PAID 5" cover from "Capt. J. McCrady" to his father, from Georgetown, S.C.



Below and below right: Two covers from Thomas to his brother Edward. Both are marked "PAID 10" and both are from Virginia, dated July 10 and Oct. 5, 1862.

