A Country Divided:
Effects of the American Civil War on the Mails

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May 2024

Civil War Philatelic Society, Inc.

The pages have been numbered at the bottom for ease of reference

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EXHIBIT FOCUS AND STRUCTURE: This exhibit tells the story of the American Civil War and its effects on the mails. It is arranged by the sections listed in the table shown at right. A colored block in blue ■ and/or gray ■ at the upper left of the first page in each chapter serves to identify Union and/or Confederate representation in each chapter:

- Bold sub-headers at upper left on each page indicate the postal system involved, year, and geographic location or direction traveled of the items displayed.
- Bold sub-headers at upper right identify category of mail or type of item.
- *Boldface, italicized* statements describe important items, including the degree of rarity, supported by census data if available or based on the exhibitor's experience. Especially rare items are highlighted in a red box.

■	**The Politics of 1860**
■	**Union and Secession**
■	**Commerce & Trade**
■	**Disruption of Mails**
■	**Across the Line**
■	**The US 1861 Issues**
■	**CSA Provisional Postage**
■	**CSA Post Office Issues**
■	**In Search of Addressees**
■	**Patriotic Fervor**
■	**Wartime Adversity**
■	**Wartime Economy**
■	**CSA Government**
■	**Southern Waterways**
■	**Southern Railroads**
■	**Special Routes**
■	**Prisoner of War Mail**
■	**Civilian Flag of Truce**
■	**The War's End**

EFFECTS ON POSTAL SYSTEM: In 1860 the mails were the essential means of communication, augmented by the telegraph system, and were so important that the Postmaster General was a presidential cabinet member. With the secession of Southern states and formation of the new Confederate government, the postal system that once served an entire continent was divided into two separate entities:

- The Civil War's effects on the mails were felt on both sides of the conflict, but they were more severe in the South.
- Correspondence between the North and South was banned along with trade. The CSA postal system was inaugurated on 1 June 1861. Approximately 1,200 Southern postmasters who had previously sworn oaths to the US government resigned. Many were reappointed as CSA postmasters, while others were replaced. Railroads, stagecoaches and vessels that once carried the US mails now did so for the CSA.
- Southerners accustomed since 1851 to paying 3¢ for a letter—usually with an engraved, perforated stamp—now paid 5¢ or 10¢ a letter. US postage rates remained unchanged, but the 1857 issue was demonetized and replaced with a new 1861 series to prevent the South from selling existing inventory to finance War efforts.
- The CSA's failure to provide stamps for months forced post offices to revert to handstamps and other provisional means of paying postage, and the stamps eventually furnished were crudely printed and lacked perforations. Shortages of paper and other materials forced Southerners to find creative ways to improvise, such as making envelopes from wallpaper and other materials, or reusing previously-mailed envelopes.
- The Federal coastal blockade and eventual conquest of the Mississippi River forced Southern correspondents to use blockade runners and special couriers to carry letters. The mails followed the soldiers, and prisoners of war sent and received letters that were exchanged under flags of truce at designated locations.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND: The secession of states that started with South Carolina in 1860 was viewed by the Lincoln administration as a lawless act of insurrection, and the United States never recognized the legitimacy of the Confederate States. The war spanned four years, commencing with the bombardment of Fort Sumter in April 1861 and concluding with the capture of Confederate president Jefferson Davis and the surrender of the major CSA armies in the spring of 1865. Approximately 625,000 soldiers on both sides, 2% of the entire population, died for their causes. The war was indirectly responsible for the assassination of one president, Abraham Lincoln, and the election of another, Ulysses S. Grant. The social, economic and political effects of slavery and emancipation reverberate to this day, approximately 160 years later.

Every item has at least one certificate from The Philatelic Foundation or Civil War Philatelic Society

The Antebellum Period in American history, generally spanning the period from the end of the War of 1812 to the commencement of the Civil War in 1861, was characterized by the rise of abolition and the gradual polarization of the country between abolitionists and supporters of slavery. Growing belief in Manifest Destiny - the idea that America was destined to expand its civilization, culture and superior morality from coast to coast - increasingly divided the Northern and Southern states over the rights of slave owners and the issue of extending slavery to the new western states. In this context, the presidential election of 1860 served as the catalyst for the outbreak of the Civil War by splintering the Democratic Party into Northern and Southern factions and fostering the creation of a new Constitutional Union Party. The unified Republican Party, dominant in the North, won the election for Abraham Lincoln with only 40% of the popular vote and almost no support from the South. Voter turnout was 81.2%, the highest in American history to date.

US 1860-1861—North   **1860 Campaign Envelopes**

Campaign envelopes were used to promote each party's candidates. The production and use of pro-Lincoln envelopes was limited to the North.
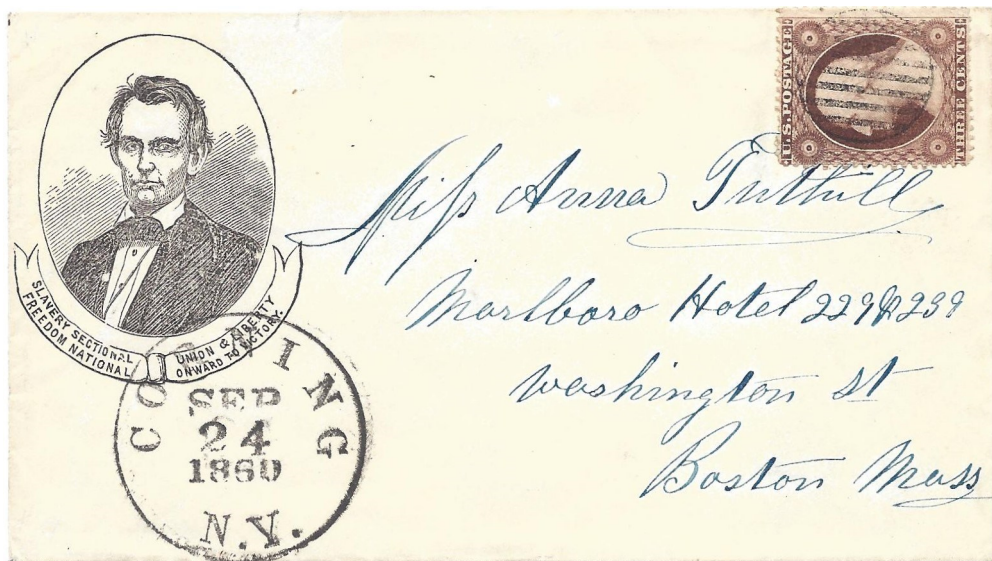
Republican Party platform slogans in ribbons below portrait; US 3¢ 1857, 24 September 1860.

Beardless Lincoln three-quarter portrait facing right, with red and blue crossed waving flags and slogan "The UNION, it *must* and *shall be* preserved"; US 3¢1857, 1 November 1860.
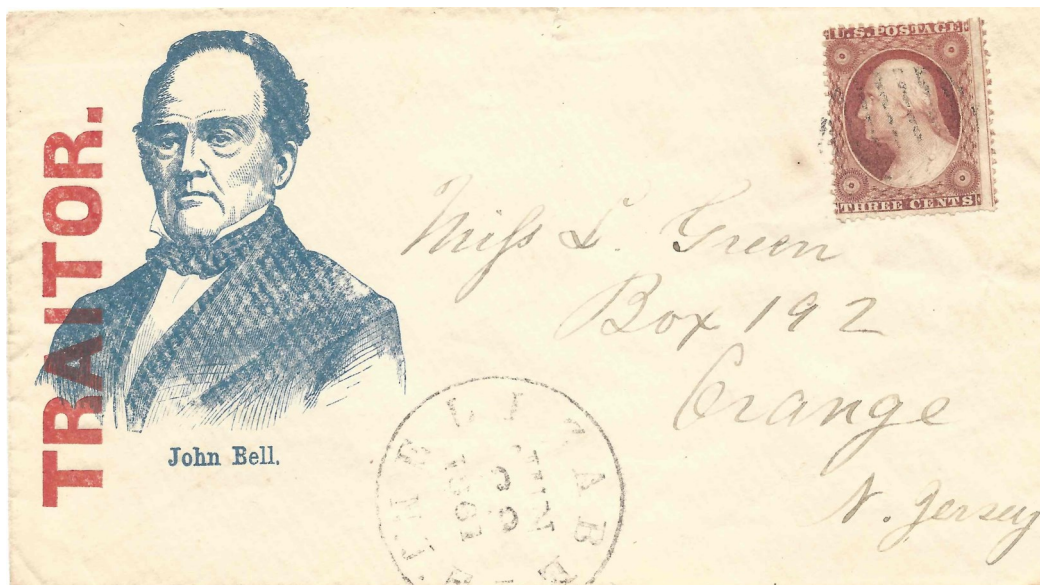
Former Whigs and Know Nothings founded the Constitutional Union Party to preserve the Union by taking a neutral stance on slavery, nominating John Bell and Edward Everett.

Bell campaign cover overprinted "TRAITOR." in red, reflecting the mixed sentiments in both the North and South of his slavery-neutral position; US 3¢ 1857, 29 June 1861.

Vice President John C. Breckinridge of Kentucky and Joseph Lane were nominated by the Southern, pro-slavery, Democratic Party.   The Northern Democratic candidate was Stephen A. Douglas.

Breckinridge portrait and "Equality of State Rights" campaign label tied by 5-bar grid in frame along with US 3¢ 1857 on cover from Montgomery AL; 17 October 1860.   This label is rare and likely unique tied on cover.

Following the election of 1860, the national focus shifted to whether the South would accept the outcome. Almost immediately, secessionists gained momentum and pushed states toward disunion and on 20 December, only a month and half after the election, South Carolina passed its Ordinance of Secession and formally left the Union. Five other southern states followed and on 4 February 1861 they formed the Confederate States at the convention held in Montgomery AL. This insurrection, as Lincoln's administration described it, led to the Confederate bombardment of Union-held Fort Sumter in Charleston harbor on 12 April 1861. Public sentiment for and against Union and Secession exploded in the aftermath of the surrender of Fort Sumter, and by summer the guns of war were heard around the world.

US 1861   **South Carolina's Secession**

US 3¢ 1857 on 3¢ red star die entire, paying double rate, Charleston SC to Upton MA, mailed on **20 December 1860, the date of South Carolina's secession and the beginning of the Civil War.**

US 1¢ 1857 type IV, strip of three, from Charleston SC to Greenville SC, 18 January 1861, on wholesale grocer's cameo corner card cover.

South Carolina was the first state to secede from the Union. The top cover was mailed on 20 **December 1860, the date of secession,** and the bottom cover was mailed approximately three weeks after secession and two weeks before the formation of the provisional Confederate government at Montgomery, demonstrating that many things—including operation of the Post Office—initially remained unchanged despite the winds of war.

US 1861   **Montgomery Convention and the Siege of Fort Sumter**

On 4 February 1861, six seceded states - South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Florida, and Louisiana - met in Montgomery AL to select leaders and establish a provisional Confederate government. The convention sat in Montgomery until 20 May 1861, when it adjourned to Richmond VA, where it completed a permanent constitution and held its first and only presidential election in November 1861. The Union government rejected the claims of secession and considered the Confederacy illegally founded. The War began with the Confederate attack on Fort Sumter on 12 April 1861.

US 3¢ 1857, Charleston SC to Lafayette LA, mailed on **4 February 1861, the date the provisional Confederate government was formed in Montgomery AL** by the six seceded states and sent from the state that seceded first.
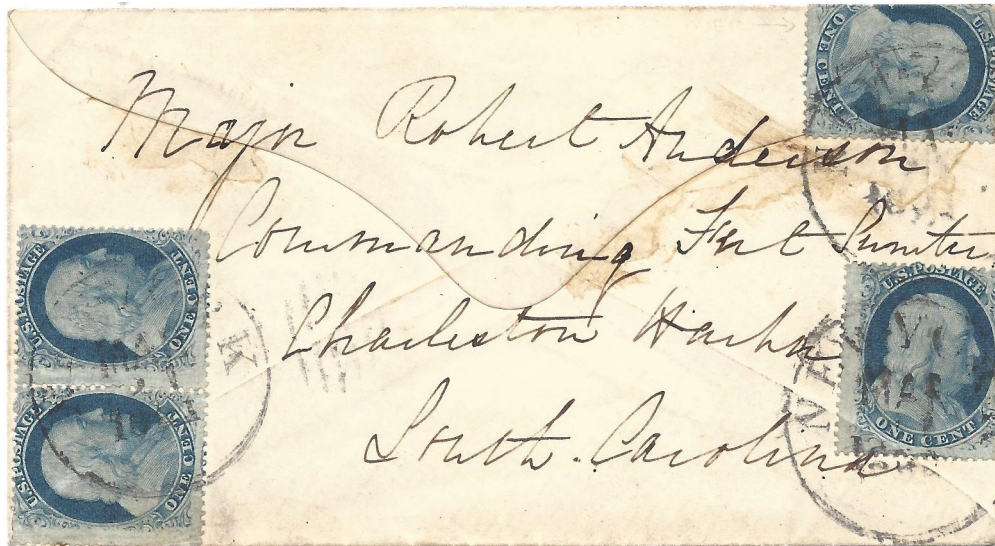
29 March 1861 from Lieutenant General Winfield Scott in New York City **to "Major Robert Anderson, Commanding Fort Sumter, Charleston Harbor, South Carolina,"** **approximately two weeks before the siege of Fort Sumter**; the US 1¢ 1857 stamps and address were placed over the flaps to prevent opening without detection.

The letter from General Scott that this envelope carried to Major Anderson is now in the Library of Congress. General Scott reprimanded Major Anderson for making comments about conditions at Fort Sumter: "I have heard of your declaration to Col. Lamon, indicating a desperate purpose. I forbid it as your commander, it being against your duty both as a soldier & Christian."

On 11 April 1861, General Beauregard sent representatives demanding the surrender of the fort, and on 12 April the Confederate shelling of the fort began, continuing for 34 hours before Major Anderson agreed to evacuate.
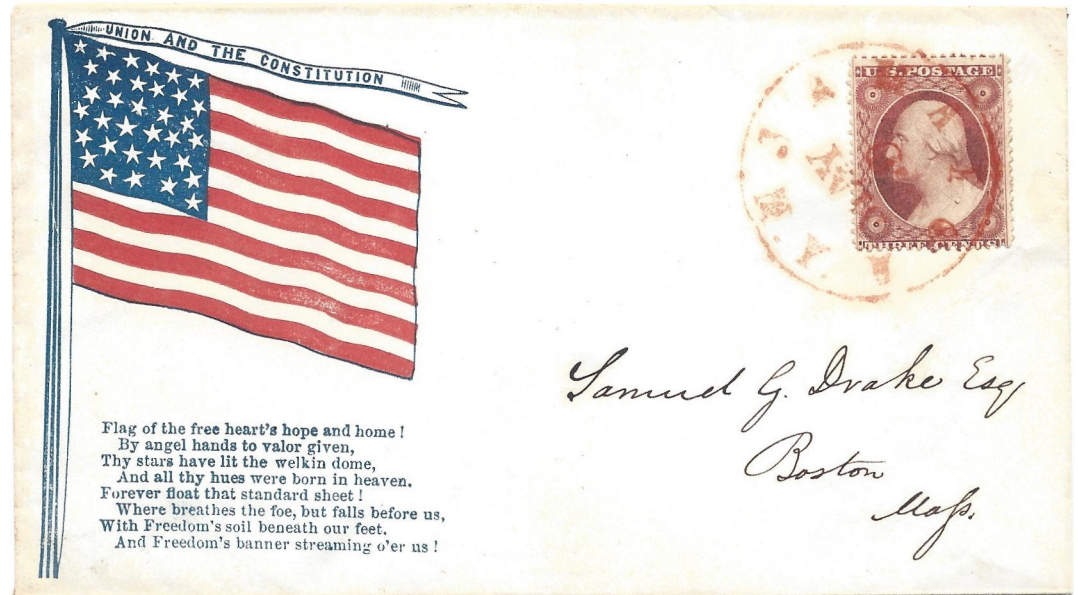
US 1861—North   **Early Pro-Union Envelopes**

By the early months of 1861 the first envelopes printed with patriotic flags and slogans began to appear. Following the surrender of Fort Sumter and Lincoln's call for troops, Northern use of patriotic stationery exploded. At the same time, Southerners in the newly-formed CSA and sympathizers in states still part of the Union began using envelopes with their own pro-Confederate designs. This section displays examples from this early period of the war, all franked with US 1857 stamps prior to their demonetization.

34-star red and blue flag with "Freedom's Soil" patriotic poem—used with US 3¢ 1857 in May 1861 and typical of the earliest designs.
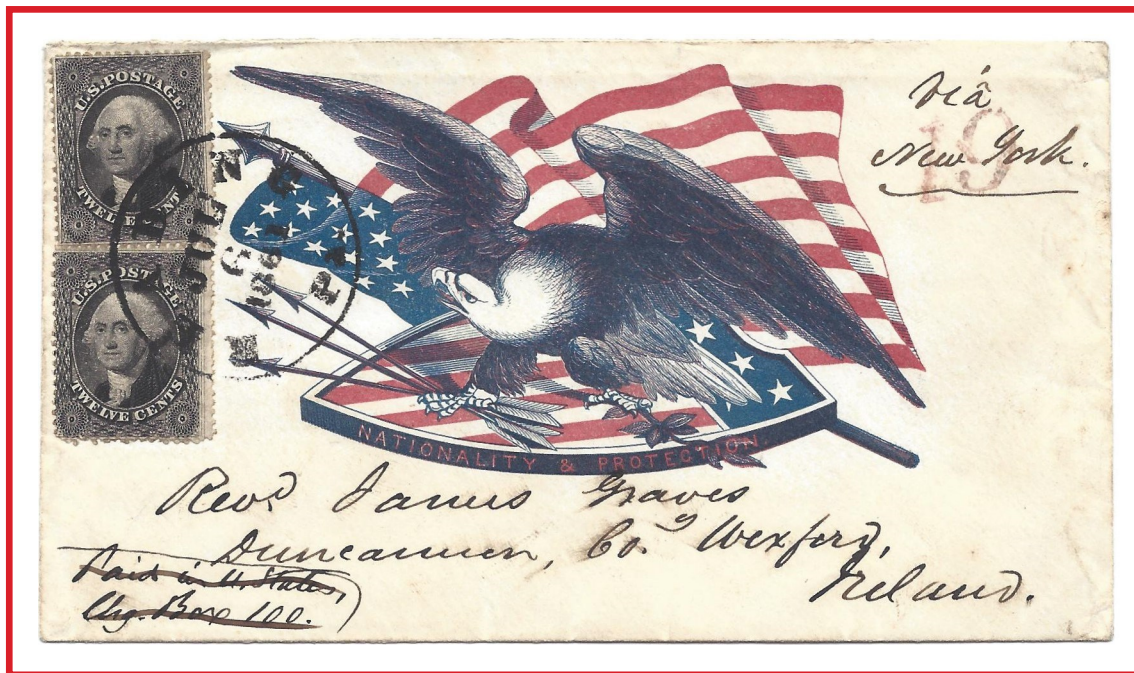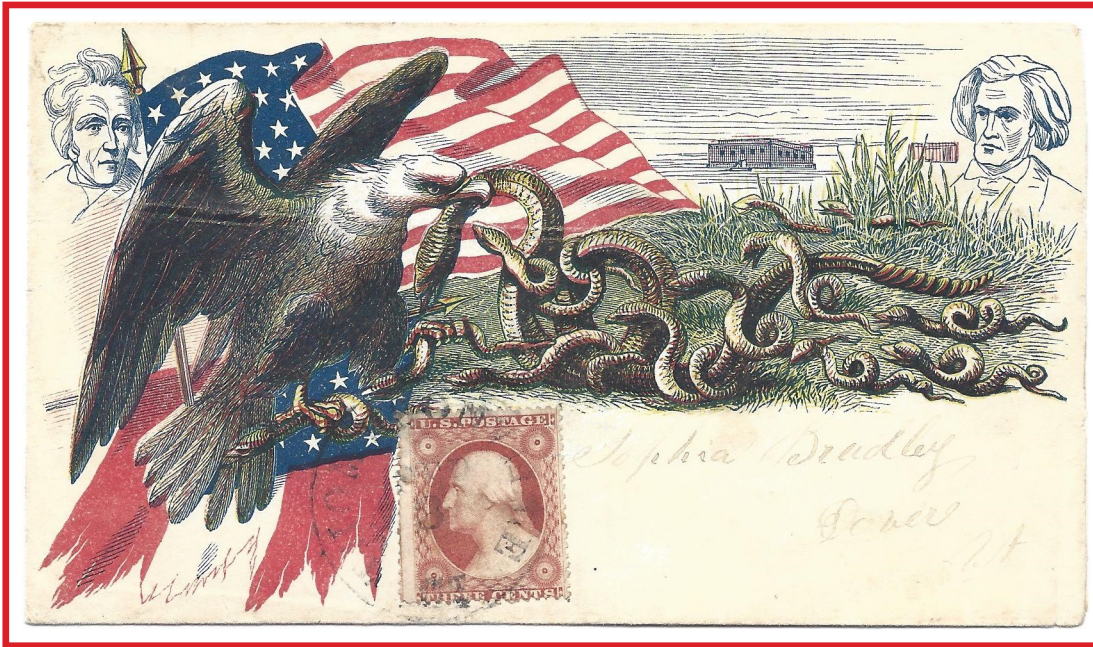
This multicolor design depicting an Eagle, Shield and Flag in support of "Nationality and Protection" originated in Reading, PA, 6 July 1861, and was sent to Ireland. The 24¢ postage paid by two copies US 12¢ Black 1857, arranged as a vertical pair, lower stamp has double frameline at right. Red numeral "19" credit handstamp and receiving backstamp.

US 1861—North   Early Pro-Union Envelopes

An early and spectacular multicolor design depicting the Union eagle destroying the eleven secession snakes (one for each state) and the CSA flag in tatters at lower left; portraits of Andrew Jackson and John C. Calhoun in the corners; Harback & Sons imprint; used with US 3¢ 1857, 3 September 1861 in Vermont.

Text on back reads: The destruction of the Snake of South Carolina, Nullification and Secession, and all her progeny by the National Bird. To portray the ultimate overthrow of the evil power, which strikes at the life of the National Government, is the object of this cut.

Elephant with US flag stepping on the "hungry rat" of secession—published by Murphy & Sons in NYC; used with US 1¢ 1857 stamps, 29 August 1861.
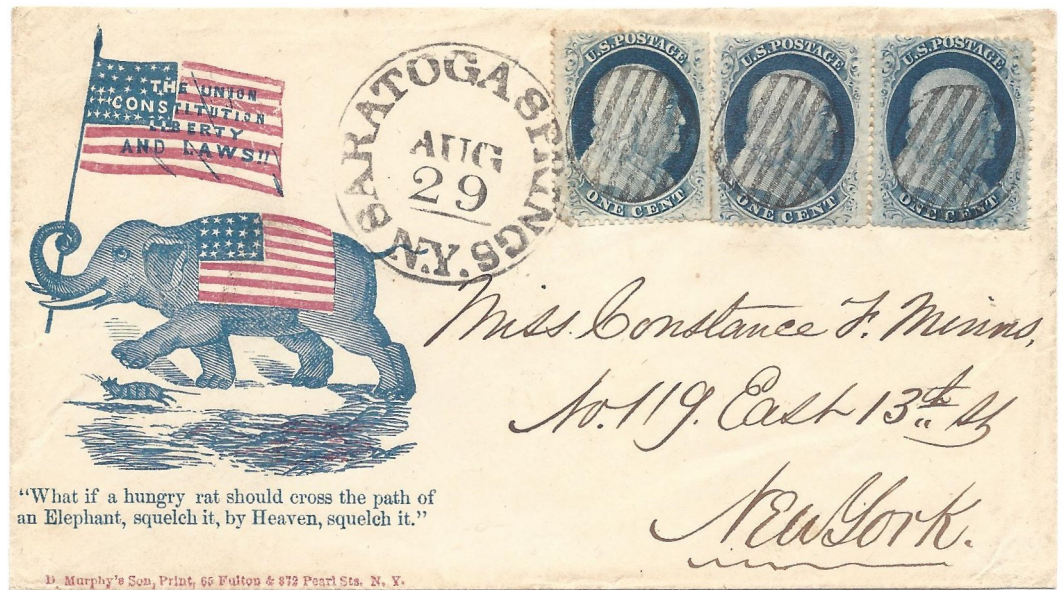
Although the origin of the Republican elephant is attributed to a Thomas Nast cartoon published in 1874, this extremely rare Civil War patriotic shows a US elephant crushing the "hungry rat" of secession.
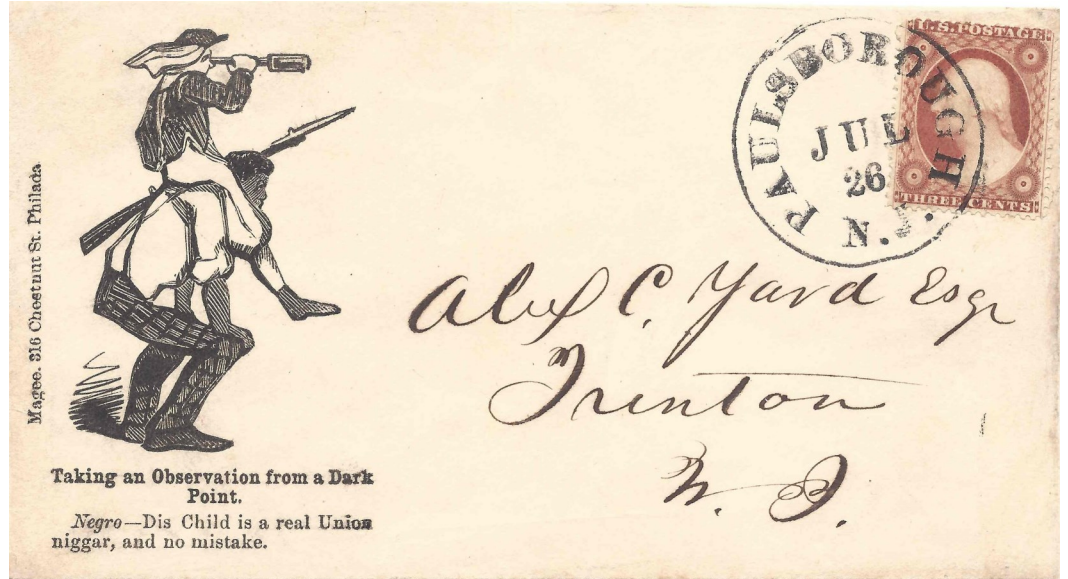
US 1861—North

Early Anti-Secessionist Cartoons

Caricature depicting a Union soldier looking through an eyeglass from the back of a freed slave with "Taking an Observation …," — used 26 July 1861 with 3¢ 1857 from Paulsborough N.J. to Trenton.

Design unlisted in both Bischel and Walcott and possibly unique

Taking an Observation from a Dark Point.

Negro—Dis Child is a real Union niggar, and no mistake.

"Coming events cast their shadows before"

Very unusual cartoon depicting CSA soldiers with shadows showing them hanged; US 3¢ 1857, 28 July 1861.
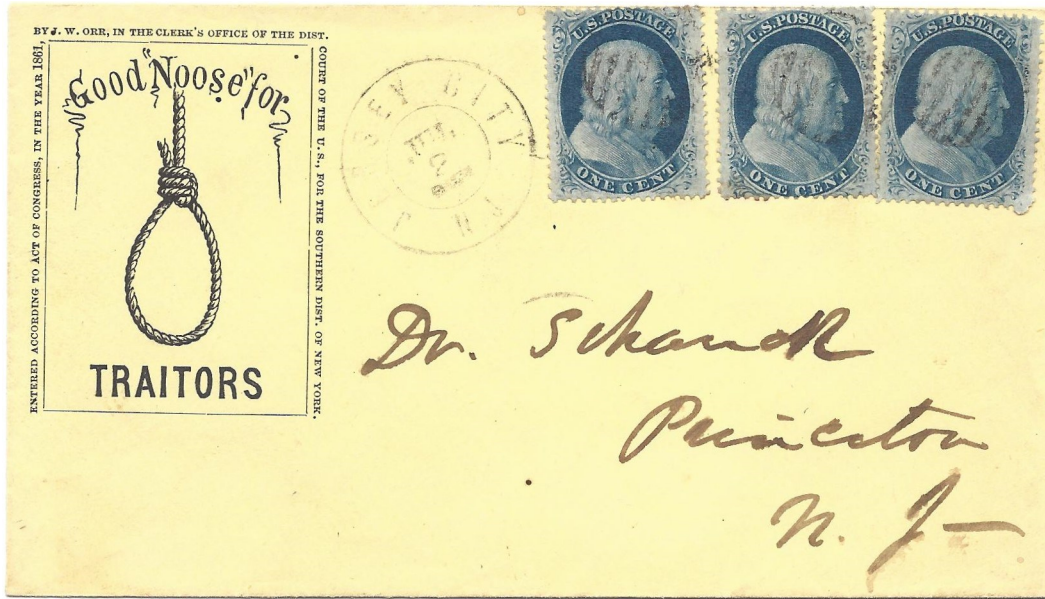
Early cartoon showing a freed slave walking away from "Massa Davis" hanged from a tree—used 30 June 1861 with US 3¢ 1857 from Baltimore, where there were many pro-secessionists.

Judas vile betrayed his Master,
I betrayed *fair* Liberty.
We meet the same end of *high* Treason,
And dangle from the same *high* Tree.

Massa Davis, what a figure,
You will cut upon dat swing.
I'd sooner be the poorest Nigger,
Den the whitest *"Cotton King."*

Early cartoon depicting "Good Noose for Traitors," used from Jersey City NJ with US 1¢ 1857 stamps, 2 July 1861.

Cartoon depicting Jefferson Davis being carried off by an American Eagle with freed slaves below; used from Boston MA with US 3¢ 1857, 8 July 1861.


Hand-colored Berlin & Jones cartoon depicting Northern Uncle Sam reaching out with an American flag in an attempt to save the South, which has fallen into alligator-infested "secession" waters; used from New York with US 3¢ 1857.

US 1861—South   **Early Pro-Confederate Envelopes**

On 9 February 1861, Jefferson Davis and Alexander H. Stephens were elected Provisional President and Vice President, respectively, of the CSA. On 11 March 1861 a permanent Constitution was adopted, and the only CSA presidential election ever held took place on 6 November 1861, with the candidates running unopposed.
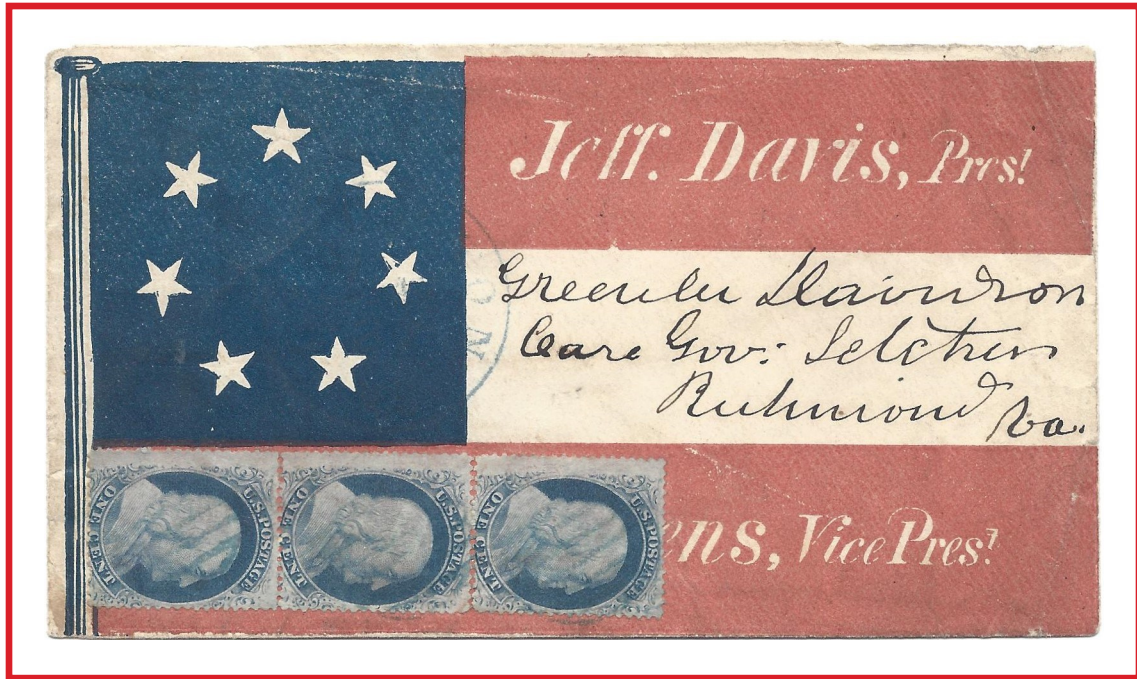
7-Star Confederate Flag design with names of Jefferson Davis and Alexander H. Stephens as President and Vice President under the provisional constitution of February 1861; sent from Lexington VA on 26 May 1861 to Richmond VA; US 1¢ 1857 type IV, strip of three, within the US postal system that still operated in the South.
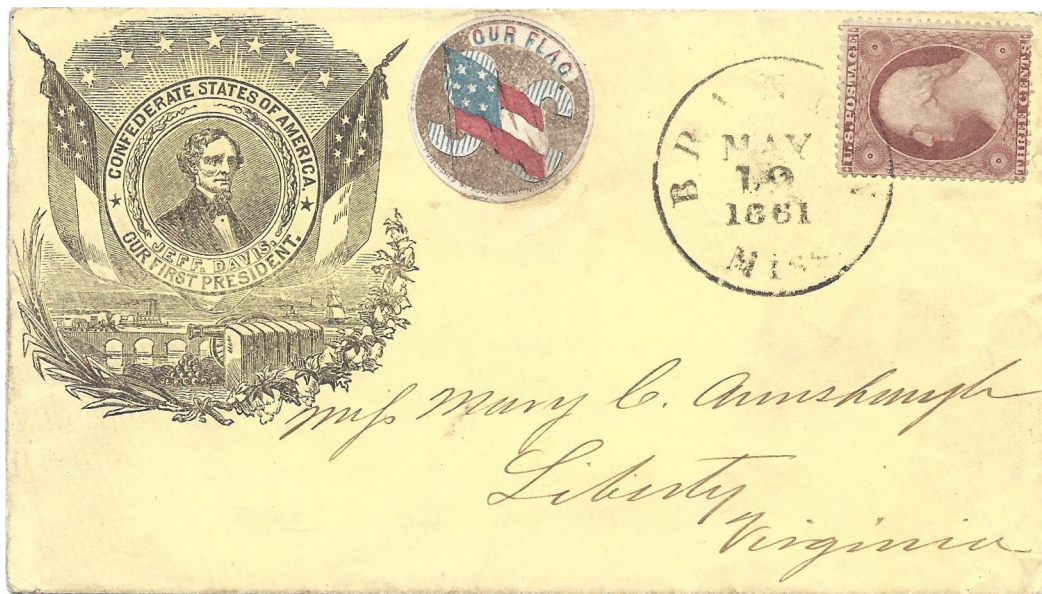

Black Jefferson Davis Medallion, 7-Star Flags and Sunburst Patriotic design and "Our Flag SC" Patriotic label; sent from Brandon MI on 19 May 1861 with US 3¢ 1857 to Liberty VA. The "SC" in the label stands for "Southern Congress."

The covers below show use of US stamps in the CSA after formation of the CSA on 4 February 1861 and prior to the commencement date of the CSA postal system on 1 June 1861. The 7-Star flag was the official Confederate flag from March 4, 1861 until the admission of Virginia on May 7, 1861.
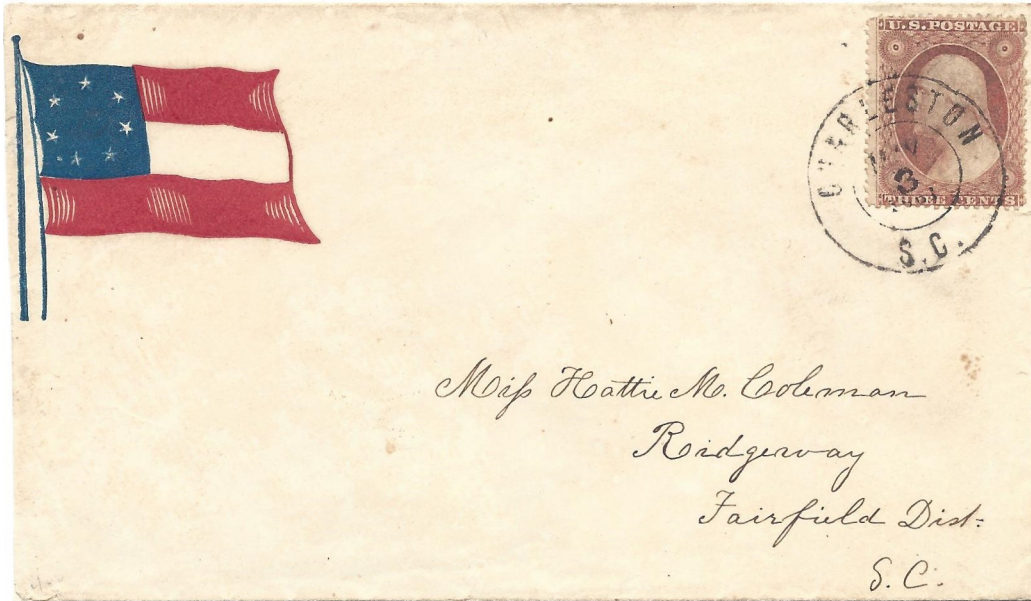
7-Star CSA Flag design printed in Charleston SC. Sent from Charleston to Ridgeway SC on 3 May 1861 with US 3¢ 1857—the siege of Fort Sumter and its surrender occurred a few weeks before this cover was mailed.

7-Star Confederate Flag design. Sent from Dalton GA to Tuscumbia AL in May 1861 with US 3¢ 1857.

US 1861—South   **Early Pro-Confederate Envelopes**

The covers below show use of US stamps in the CSA after formation of the CSA on 4 February 1861 and prior to the commencement date of the CSA postal system on 1 June 1861. The top cover, which depicts the South Carolina state flag, emphasizes the Southern view of state rights over Union control.

Rare South Carolina Palmetto State flag design; sent from Charleston SC on 18 April 1861 with US 3¢ 1857 to Chester C.H. SC.

7-Star CSA Flag and "Steamer Vicksburg, R. Holmes, Master" steamboat corner card design. Sent from Vicksburg MI to Zanesville OH on 11 April 1861, the day before the attack on Fort Sumter, with US 3¢ 1857, single and pair.

Unique Confederate Patriotic steamboat advertising cover

The South's agrarian economy relied on slave labor, the exportation of cotton and the importation of manufactured goods. The North's coastal blockade and eventual control over inland waterways strangled the South's import-export economy, and the gradual degradation of the South's railroad system from military attacks and disrepair severely impeded commerce and trade within the CSA. These circumstances led to food and material shortages, hoarding and speculation, the government's inability to generate revenue, hyper-inflation and the loss of credit in the financial markets. Conversely, the Union had an adequate food supply, an extensive rail network that enabled the rapid movement of men, weapons and goods, and a vastly superior manufacturing base that enabled it to supply its soldiers with adequate supplies. This section displays covers that reflect Southern commercial activity and use of the Northern postal system at the beginning of the War, prior to suspension of postal service to the seceded Southern states and the demonetization of the US 1857 stamps.

US 1861—South   **Charleston SC Advertising Envelopes**

Corner card of Smith & Porter, a machinist and engineering firm, to another engineering firm in New York City, US 3¢ 1857, 11 January 1861.

Charleston Hotel advertising cover with name of proprietor, Daniel Mixer, who died from cholera months after 7 January 1861 mailing date; US 3¢ 1857.

Both covers mailed from Charleston during South Carolina's independent statehood period after secession on 20 December 1860 and before formation of the CSA on 4 February 1861.
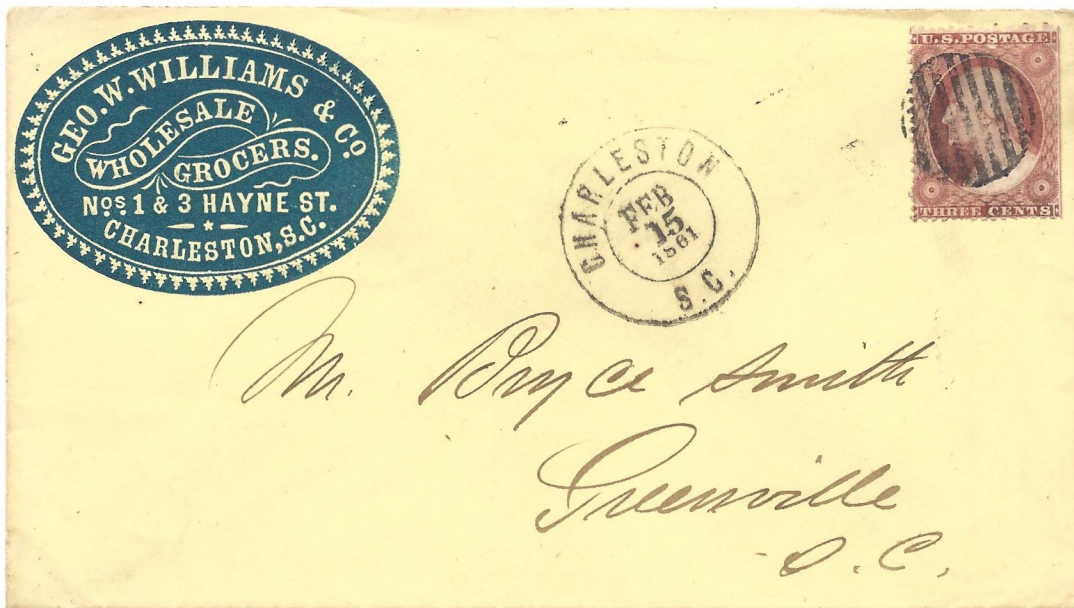
High-quality printed envelopes with cameo designs made from woodcuts were used throughout the South prior to the war, but since they were produced almost entirely in the North, these envelopes became increasingly scarce after 1861.

McCarter & Dawson, publishers, booksellers and stationers

George W. Williams & Co., wholesale grocers

Both covers mailed with US 3¢ 1857 from Charleston on the same day, 15 February 1861, after South Carolina joined the CSA on 4 February 1861 and before the CSA postal system began operation on 1 June 1861.

US 1861—South   Transatlantic Mail from CSA to Europe

Even after commencement of hostilities and Lincoln's blockade of coastal ports in the seceded states in April 1861, mail addressed to foreign countries continued to flow from the South through the US postal system via northern ports where regular transatlantic sailings departed. Regular transatlantic mails from the South ceased on 1 June 1861.

15¢ rate to France

Later in 1861, both of the Havre Line's ships, the *Fulton* and *Arago,* were commissioned as Civil War transport ships by the Union and did not return to mail service until late in 1865.

Sent from New Orleans on 28, January 1861, after Louisiana seceded from the Union but prior to joining the CSA, to Bordeaux, France, arriving on 17 February, —carried on Havre Line's *Arago* from NYC —red "New York, Paid 3, Feb 2" credit datestamp, ultramarine Havre transit and French receiving backstamps.

30¢ rate to Italy via French Mail

Sent from New Orleans on 5 March 1861, after Louisiana joined the CSA, to Palermo, Italy, arriving on 3 April, shortly after the unification of Italy—carried on Galway Line's *Adriatic* from NYC to Queenstown— red "27" credit crossed out and rated "47" due.

The covers presented here represent a very rare use from Louisiana during its brief independent state period (top) and after admission to the Confederacy (bottom). Louisiana had the second shortest period of independence, seceding from the Union on 26 January and being admitted to the CSA on 4 February 1861.

The surrender of Fort Sumter led to Lincoln's call for troops on 15 April 1861 and a naval blockade of Southern ports. Mail routes to and from Washington DC were disrupted by riots in Baltimore in April, and the US Post Office Department closed the Washington-Richmond route in late May. After the Louisville-Nashville route was closed in early June, mail between the North and South was carried by private express companies until they were banned from carrying mail in August 1861. Flag-of-truce mail exchanges and covert routes were used thereafter.

**US 1861—North from Capital**   **Adams Free Regimental Express**
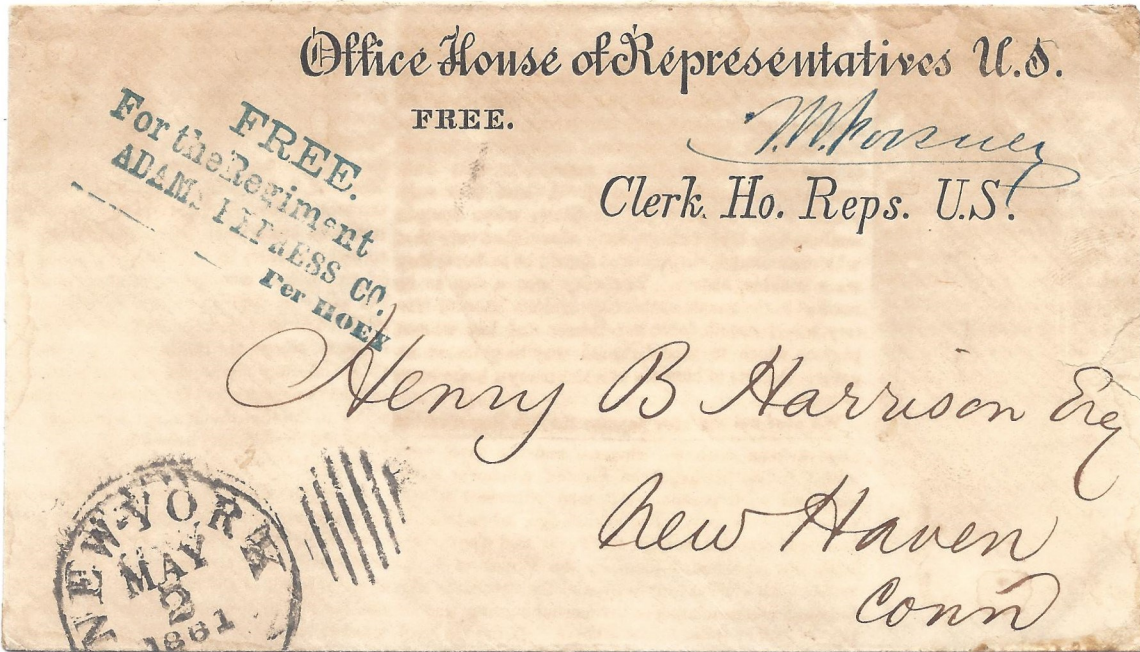
Northbound Route

Blue "FREE./For the Regiment/ADAMS EXPRESS CO./Per HOEY" four-line handstamp applied at the company's New York City office; entered US mails with 2 May 1861 datestamp and sent to New Haven CT— no postage charged on the House of Representatives Free envelope.

Southbound Route

Greenish blue "FREE./For the Regiment/ADAMS EXPRESS CO./Per HOEY" four-line handstamp to member of New York State Militia 7th regiment, on 3¢ red star die entire. This example is unusual because it is one of the few showing the use of a 3¢ stamped envelope, a requirement according to the published notices and postal laws, but apparently often ignored.
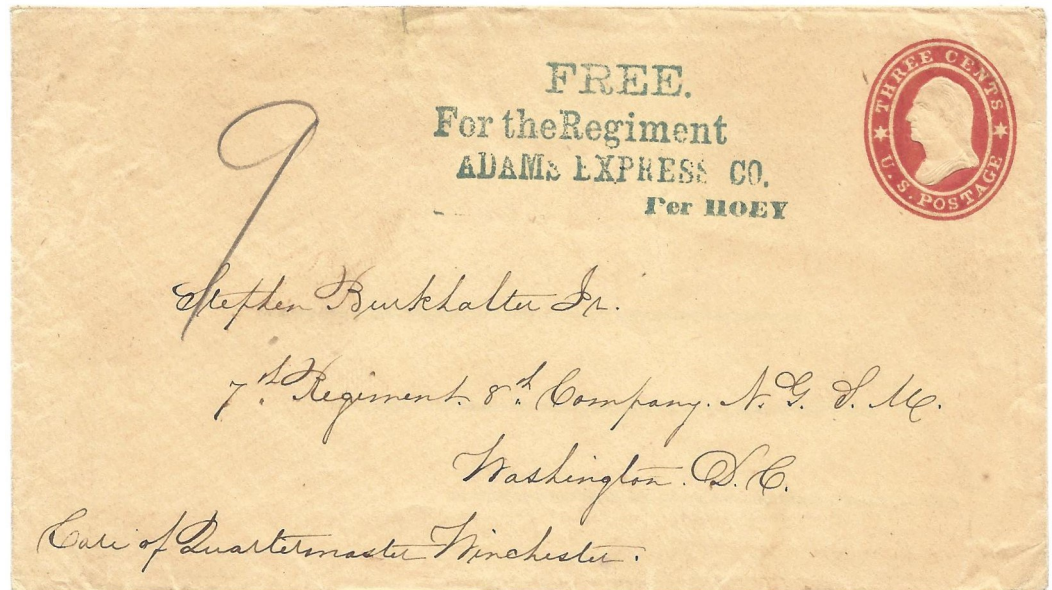
After Virginia's vote to secede on 17 April, the North's capital in Washington DC was exposed to CSA invasion from the South. US troops sent to defend the capital were attacked on 18-19 April by pro-secession mobs in Baltimore. No post office mail was carried to or from Washington from 20 April until the evening of 25 April. When the lines were restored and the capital was secured on 25 April, Adams Express started carrying mail and packages free of charge for the 7th Regiment NYSM and others defending the capital, with John Hoey as the company's agent in New York City and Col. Locke W. Winchester, quartermaster-general for the 7th Regiment NYSM, as supervisor in Washington DC.

US 1861—South to North, North to South   **Private Expresses Before 15 June 1861**

As early as February 1861, the express companies started carrying more letter mail, apparently at the request of patrons who were concerned about the security of government mails (delays, tampering, intelligence gathering, etc.). Express service prior to 15 June 1861 is classified as *Precursor Express Mail,* as it precedes the advertised across-the-lines service after closure of the Louisville-Nashville mail route. Covers traveled both North and Southbound.

Southbound: New York to Athens TN, 30 April 1861 via Chattanooga TN with matching "PAID" in oval handstamp.

"Adams. Express Co./ Chattanooga/May 5" oval handstamp applied upon arrival the day before the secession referendum.

Northbound: New Orleans LA to Blooming Grove NY, 16 May 1861, entering US mails at New York City on May 23 for final leg to destination.

Manuscript "2/" (two bits, or 25c) express company charge at top left. The 3¢ entire was apparently accepted as full postage from New Orleans to New York and then to Blooming Grove.

Both 3¢ stamped envelopes carried by Adams Express across-the-lines, the top cover Southbound and the bottom cover Northbound. Adams had been carrying mail for months prior to the official commencement of the Confederate postal operations on 1 June 1861 and the May 27 suspension of Union mails in the seceded Southern states. However, there is no documentation or advertisements of the express mail during the precursor period from January to May 1861.

CSA 1861—South   **Inauguration of Confederate Postal System**

The CSA postal system officially commenced operation on 1 June 1861, at which point all post offices were required to collect CSA postage on mail and remit receipts to the CSA Post Office Department. Covers show CSA rates of 5¢ for distance up to 500 miles and 10¢ over 500 miles.

Pensacola FL, 1 June 1861, with "Paid" and "5" cents CSA rate to Belmont AL.

Pensacola FL, 1 June 1861, with "Paid" and "5" cents CSA rate crossed out and re-rated "10" to Norfolk VA.

The above covers illustrate both the 5¢ and 10¢ rates used on the **first day of CSA postal service**, with both originating in the same Florida city.

Bottom cover the only recorded example with the re-rating to 10¢

Evergreen LA, **1 June 1861**, balloon-style circular date stamp in red with matching straightline "PAID" handstamp to New Orleans on red and blue 10-star Confederate Patriotic design.

US/CSA 1861—North and South   Demonetization of US Stamps - Union Rejection

The termination of US mails in the South and the start of the CSA's own postal system left both sides with the need to replace postage stamps used before the war. The US acted quickly by printing and distributing the new 1861 series and demonetizing all of the previous issues. Post offices in three major cities - Harrisburg, PA; Chicago, IL; Philadelphia, PA - used handstamped markings to indicate "Old Stamps Not Recognized."

Harrisburg PA datestamp with "OLD STAMPS NOT RECOGNIZED" and "DUE 3" handstamps.

US 3¢ 1857 stamp was no longer valid for postage.

US 3¢ 1857 dull red tied by blue "Chicago Ill. Oct 22" double-circle datestamp and grid duplex cancel on orange buff corner card cover to Detroit MI, matching "OLD STAMPS/Not Recognized" two-line handstamp and "Held for Postage" oval, and US 3¢ rose 1861 tied by blue "Chicago Ill. Oct 23" double-circle datestamp with duplexed grid.

This letter was received by the Chicago postmaster on 22 October 1861, at which time it received the handstamp "Old Stamps/Not Recognized" and "Held for Postage" markings to indicate rejection of the demonetized 1857 stamp.

The postmaster then advertised the cover as being held for postage and marked it with a recording number that corresponded to his advertised notices. The sender returned to the post office the next day, paid the postage via the 3¢ 1861, and the letter entered the mails.

One of four recorded examples of the Chicago "OLD STAMPS/Not Recognized" handstamp and one of only two with the 1861 issue used in combination with the demonetized 1857 issue

US/CSA 1861—North and South   **Demonetization of US Stamps - Union Rejection**

Similar to the Harrisburg and Chicago examples presented on the prior page, Philadelphia also used an "Old Stamps Not Recognized" handstamp to indicate demonetization of old stamps no longer valid for postage.

3¢ red US star die buff entire to Fort Pickens Fla. bearing US 1¢ 1857, type II, cancelled by "OLD STAMPS / NOT RECOGNIZED" two-line handstamp with "Due 3" straightline handstamp, 16 August 1861.

The exchange period for postal stationery in Philadelphia was August 8-14, 1861, and prior postal stationery issues were no longer accepted for postage afterwards.

The earliest recorded use of the Philadelphia "OLD STAMPS / NOT RECOGNIZED" handstamp

The demonetization of the 1857 stamps did not apply when old stamps were used to prepay the 1¢ carrier fee, as shown by the cover presented below.


Red and blue Union patriotic envelope, Philadelphia 9 September 1861 to Howard PA with US 3¢ 1861 (new stamp) and US 1¢ 1857, type I (old stamp), paying the carrier fee.

US/CSA 1861—North and South   **Demonetization of US Stamps - CSA Rejection**

The CSA did not develop special handstamp markings like the Union to indicate "Old Stamps Not Recognized" following demonetization of the 1857 issue, but the newly formed postal system took similar action to disallow the use of old US stamps in the South.
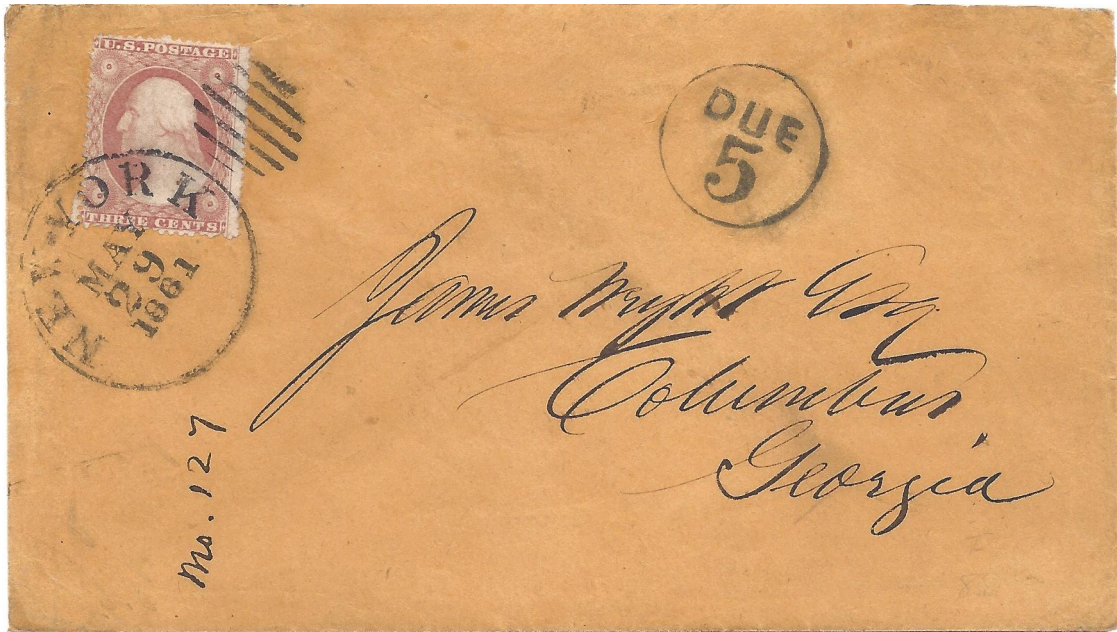
New York 29 May 1861 with US 3¢ 1857 stamp rejected by Columbus post office and marked "DUE 5" in circle for CSA postage under 500 miles.

This cover is especially important because Nashville was still part of the Union when mailed, but New Orleans (destination) had its own postal system so it was treated as an unpaid letter upon arrival and marked Due 10.

Nashville 4 June 1861 (still in Union as of this date) with US 3¢ 1857 stamp rejected by New Orleans post office and marked "due 10" for CSA postage over 500 miles owed by addressee.

There are fewer than ten known southbound across-the-lines covers with CSA postage due

US/CSA 1861—South

US and CSA Dead Letter Offices

On 27 May 1861, the Union Post Office Department ordered the suspension of all mail service in the seceded states, effective May 31, and <u>southbound</u> letters to suspended southern post offices were to be forwarded to the US Dead Letter Office (DLO) in Washington DC. At the DLO, the diverted mail was opened to ascertain the sender's address, which was written on the face. The diverted letters were then postmarked before being returned to the sender and marked for return postage due.

US Dead Letter Office

New York NY to Memphis TN, 5 June 1861 cds ties US 3¢ 1857, with "Dead Letter Office/ P.O. Dpt./Jul 6/1861" double-oval and "DUE 3 cts" straightline handstamps applied at the DLO in Washington.

Until 23 May 1861, mail between the United States to eastern CSA states was normally carried on the Washington DC/Richmond route. The Federal occupation of Alexandria VA closed this route on May 24, and from this time until June 1, <u>northbound</u> letters - including both intra-CSA and attempted across-the-lines mail - were diverted to the CSA DLO in Richmond. Upon the June 1 commencement of the CSA postal system, Richmond began to forward mail from the eastern CSA to the US via the Nashville-Louisville across-the-lines route instead of diverting it to the CSA DLO. The very short period during which mail was diverted to the CSA DLO makes these covers rare.

CSA Dead Letter Office

Jacksonville FL 23 February (1861) cds ties US 3¢ 1857 on folded letter to Hampton VA , forwarded to Richmond with manuscript *"forwd"* and blue "Hampton Va. Mar. 1" cds. When unclaimed in Richmond, it was struck with the "ADVERTISED" oval handstamp and "Richmond Va. Mar. 8, 1861" cds , and then sent to the CSA DLO and marked in magenta manuscript *"P.O. Dept. Dead Letter Office, 19 Aug. 1861 H, 52-1".*

One of approximately 10 known Confederate Dead Letter Office covers according to the Special Routes book. This is a Confederate use of U.S. postage from Florida, sent to Virginia before the state seceded on April 17, and is the only known example from Florida

CSA/US 1861—South to North   Diverted to US Dead Letter Office

Adams Express Company began advertising its across-the-line service on 22 June 1861, but they had been carrying mail for months prior to that announcement. After the US Post Office Department declared the termination of government mail service in seceded states, US postage on letters from the South was considered invalid contraband. Adams Express appears to have overcome the problem by applying (or re-applying) US stamps at Louisville. However, the procedure was not fully implemented in mid-June, as the cover shown here demonstrates.

Nashville 15 June 1861 blue datestamp with "PAID" and "5" CSA rate on US 3¢ Star Die envelope addressed to Warner NH; black "ADAMS EXPRESS CO./NASHVILLE/JUN 15"oval datestamp and manuscript "Paid 2/-" (two bits, or 25¢) express charge; the Star Die envelope was considered invalid, diverted to US Dead Letter Office and released 16 July with oval datestamp and "DUE 3 cts" marking for US postage.

The only example of a Civil War express cover diverted to the United States Dead Letter Office, according to the Special Routes book

One of the two letters enclosed in this cover states: "So much information is sent to our enemies by private letters to friends, falling into the hands of treacherous agents & postmasters, that our government has resolved to stop mails between here."

CSA/US 1861—South to North   **"Southern Letter Unpaid" Mail**

Approximately four months after the formation of the CSA, on 27 May 1861, the US Post Office Department suspended postal service in the seceded Southern states. However, the government mails from seceded states continued to be carried north via Nashville and Louisville after the commencement of the CSA postal system on 1 June 1861. Since US postage applied by CSA postmasters was considered contraband, the Louisville postmaster (Dr. John J. Speed) was instructed to "remove" the stamps and mark the letters unpaid. As a practical solution to invalidate postage on the approximate 5,000 accumulated letters, Dr. Speed employed the "SOUTHN. LETTER UNPAID" handstamp, usually in combination with the "DUE 3" handstamp and a Louisville datestamp. The *Special Routes* book records 29 known covers.

New Orleans 10 June (1861) datestamp and blue crayon "10" for prepaid CSA postage; manuscript "15" (cents) applied in US and "8" decimes due handstamp applied in France; US 3¢ 1857 and US 12¢ 1860 tied by a combination of handstamps; blue "SOUTHN. LETTER UNPAID" handstamp applied at Louisville.

Unlike the domestic cover below, no "DUE" marking was applied because the US-France treaty permitted unpaid letters to travel through the US mails with no postage due until arrival in France.

One of two recorded "Southern Letter Unpaid" covers bearing the US 12¢ 1860 issue and one of only five to a foreign destination

Charleston 11 June 1861 datestamp and "PAID 10" CSA rate handstamp on US 3¢ Star Die envelope to New York City; blue "SOUTHN. LETTER UNPAID" and "DUE 3" handstamps applied at Louisville.


One of only two recorded "Southern Letter Unpaid" covers from Charleston

After the government mail routes were closed in early June 1861, the transportation of mails across the lines between the CSA and the US was facilitated exclusively by private express companies. Louisville and Nashville served as the primary conduit for express mail, and the largest operator by far was the Adams Express Company, followed by the American Letter Express Company and Whiteside's Express. A ban on all commercial exchange, including express mail, was proclaimed by President Lincoln, effective 26 August 1861.

CSA/US 1861—South to North   **Adams Express Company–Atlanta**
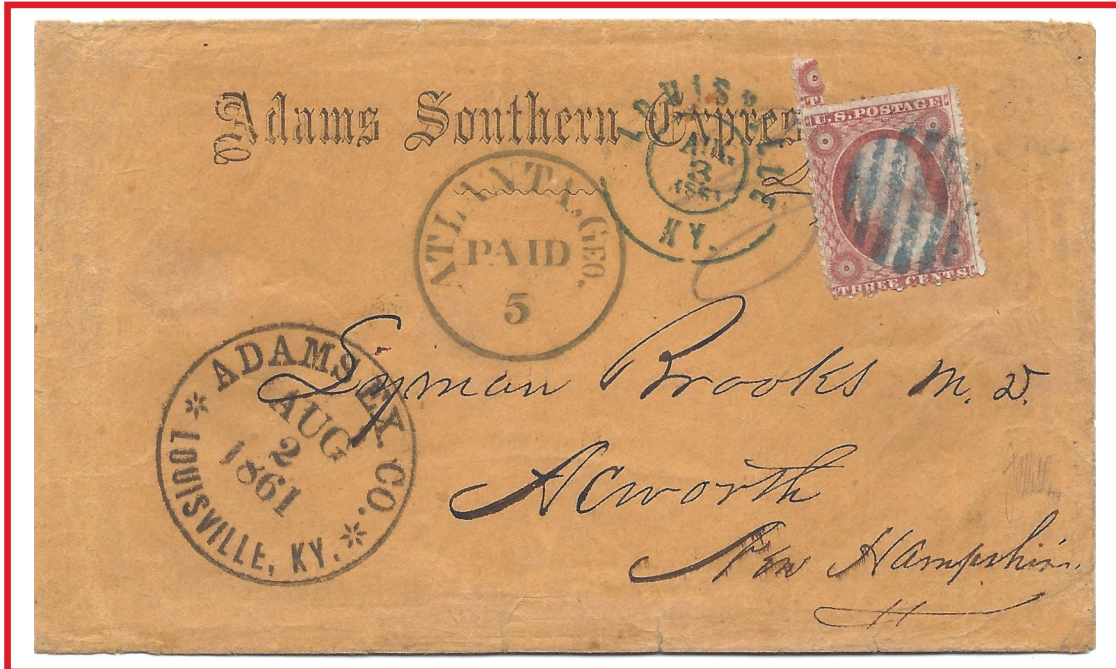
"Adams Southern Express" printed envelope with Atlanta postmaster's provisional handstamp for 5¢ CSA postage to Nashville; carried to Nashville and across the lines to Louisville by Adams Express with Louisville 2 August 1861 datestamp; US 3¢ stamp applied by Adams at Louisville and entered US mails to Acworth NH on 3 August with blue Louisville datestamp and grid.

One of two recorded express covers with the Atlanta postmaster's provisional

Adams Express attached labels to the back of northbound letters to provide instructions for mailing letters from the North to the South. Label removed from back of cover prior to acquisition to illustrate.

Southbound letters were to be sent to Adams' Louisville office in a US government envelope; the express charge of 25¢ included CSA postage.

Northbound letters from the CSA were mailed to Nashville, carried by express to Louisville where the Adams agent applied US postage and mailed them.

CSA/US 1861—South to North   **Adams Express–Louisville and Nashville**

Originated in Lynchburg VA with "Paid 10" for CSA rate to Nashville and US 3¢1857 stamp at upper right; carried by Adams Express to Nashville and across the lines to Louisville with 18 August 1861 datestamp; "Paid 2/ 6/C" express charge (two bits, or 25¢), original 3¢ stamp cancelled by Adams and another 3¢ stamp affixed on top and cancelled by Louisville post office with 20 August datestamp and grid.

Three across-the-lines express covers originating in Lynchburg
are recorded in Special Routes
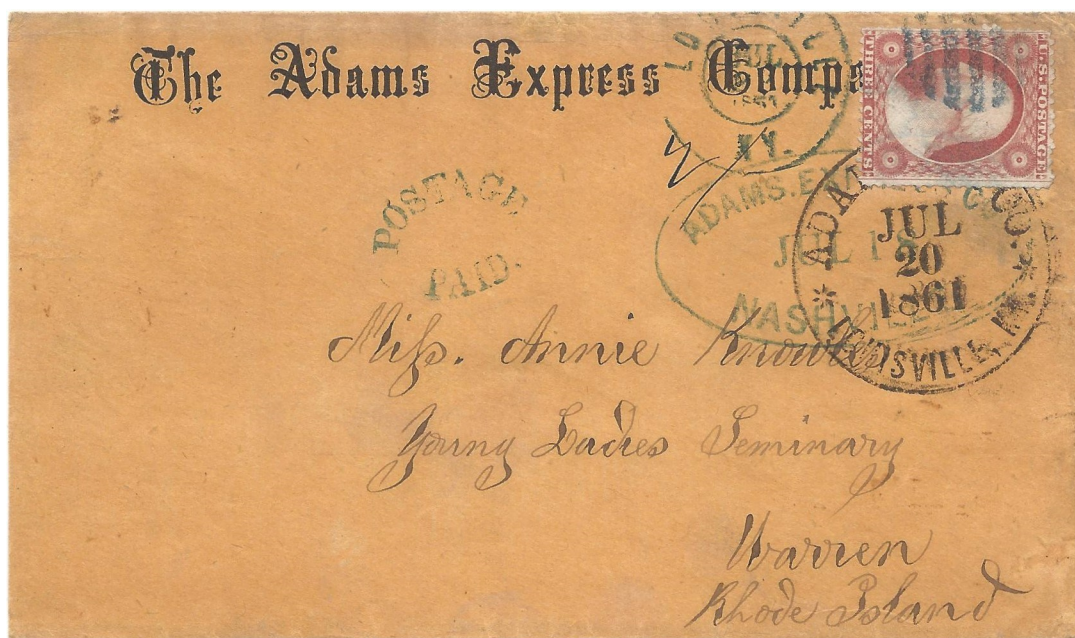
"The Adams Express Company" imprint envelope to Young Ladies Seminary at Warren VT with Adams Express Co. Nashville 18 July 1861 blue oval datestamp and "Postage Paid" handstamp (5¢ CSA rate); manuscript "2/" express charge (two bits, or 25¢); Adams Louisville 20 July datestamp partly covered by US 3¢ 1857 stamp affixed by Adams and cancelled by Louisville 22 July datestamp and grid.

The "Postage Paid" handstamp was used exclusively at Nashville CSA post office.

CSA/US 1861—South to North   **Whitesides Express**

M.D. Whiteside (no "s") and his uncle, Berry Whitesides, operated a contraband letter express during the Spring and Summer of 1861. According to Brooks's *American Letter Express Company*: "Whiteside had his messenger use the Upper Turnpike out of Louisville to Franklin, Ky., where he lived. He travelled from Louisville to Bardstown, Ky., to New Haven, Buffalo, Glasgow, Scottsville, and Franklin, Ky., and thence to Gallatin, and Nashville, Tenn. His main stop was Franklin, since it was only four miles from the State Line. He used a Confederate friend and sympathizer to carry the mail across the border to Tennessee. The messenger received 10 percent for his services... This smuggling commonly was known as the 'Grapevine.'" Whiteside later expanded his operation to smuggle slaves, arms, ammunition, lead, copper and other items relevant to war efforts.
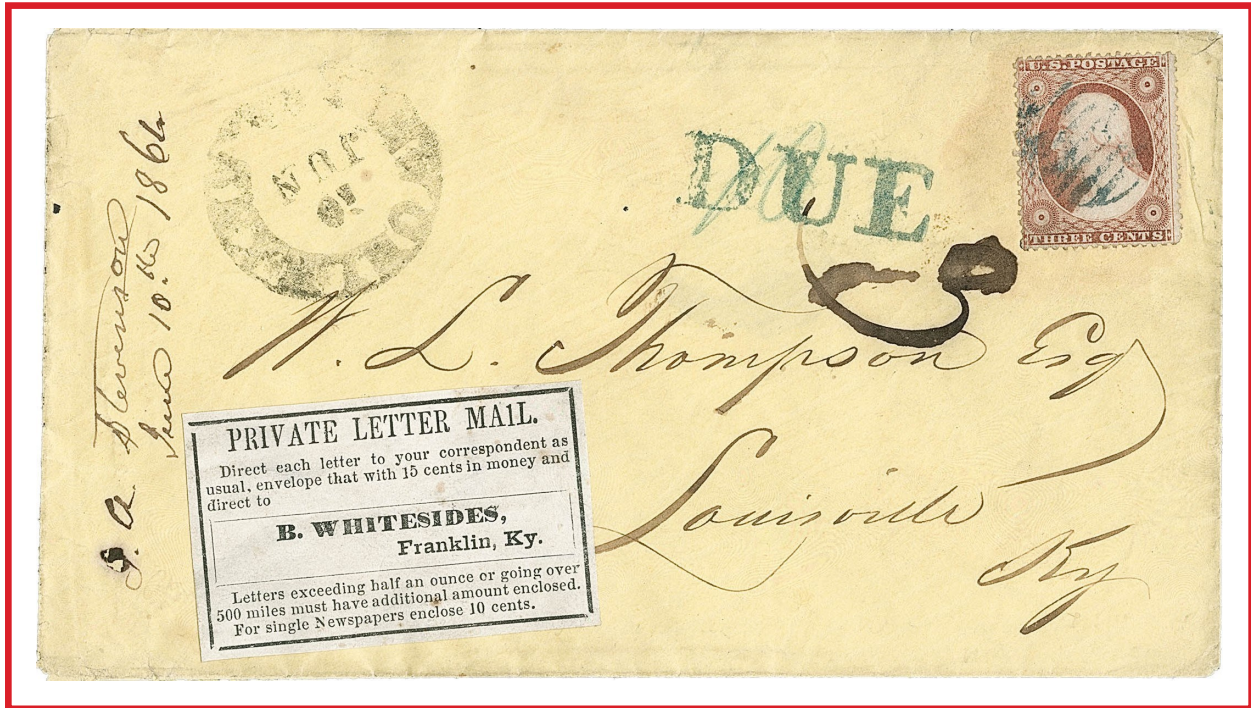
Originated in New Orleans LA with "New Orleans La./10 Jun"(1861) circular datestamp, blue crayon "10" for Confederate postage to Nashville, and then carried from there by Whitesides to Louisville KY where 3¢ dull red 1857 was cancelled and the blue straightline "DUE" and manuscript 3 were added to indicate rejection of the US

One of two recorded covers carried across the lines by Whitesides Express from Nashville to Kentucky. No Southbound covers are known from Whitesides

The label reads: "**PRIVATE LETTER MA1L.** / Direct each letter to your correspondent as usual, envelope that with 15 cents in money and direct to/ **B. WHITESIDES,**/ Franklin, Ky./ Letters exceeding half an ounce or going over 500 miles must have additional amount enclosed. For single Newspapers enclose 10 cents."

An advertisement for express mail service to the seceded states was first published by M. D. Whiteside on 22 June 1861, in the *Louisville Daily Journal*. The advertisements specify lower rates than those printed on this label (10c vs. 15c for letters, 5c vs. 10c for newspapers). The rates on the label are identical to the American Letter Express rates advertised on June 15, which indicates that Whitesides may have lowered its rates to more effectively compete with American Letter Express and Adams Express.

US/CSA 1861—North to South   Adams Express–New York City and Philadelphia

Adams Express used its transportation network to carry mail across the line from the North to its offices in the CSA, in this case from New York City to Augusta GA as indicated by the blue oval Adams Express Co Augusta GA Jul 16 handstamp and the blue Adams New York office backstamp (at left).

US postage paid by 3¢ Star Die envelope, entering CSA mails in Augusta GA with Augusta 16 July double-circle datestamp and handstamp "PAID 10" CSA rate (for over 500 miles) to Fayetteville NC.

Adams Philadelphia 12 August 1861 red datestamp on US 3¢ Star Die envelope to Richmond; entered CSA mails with Nashville 13 August datestamp, "PAID" and "10" CSA rate.

Adams Baltimore 1 July 1861 datestamp on US 3¢ Star Die envelope to Greensboro NC; Adams Augusta GA blue oval 7 July datestamp; entered CSA mails with Augusta 8 July datestamp and "PAID 10" handstamp for CSA rate; notation "Censored" at left indicates letter was opened and read at Baltimore.

Adams was required to pay Confederate postage, but letters never actually entered the mails at the Nashville post office. Instead, the blue **"POSTAGE/ PAID"** marking was applied by Adams at its office in Nashville to indicate prepayment.

One of six recorded covers with the 5¢ Nashville provisional used in conjunction with US postage

This cover illustrates carriage by Adams from North to South via Louisville KY and Nashville TN to Cleveland TN. US postage paid by 3¢ Star Die envelope, cancelled by Adams Express Co. Louisville 27 July (date inverted) 1861 black datestamp. CSA rate for under 500 miles paid by 5¢ Nashville provisional, added by Adams upon receipt, cancelled by Adams Express Co. Nashville Aug 2 oval datestamp with matching "Postage/Paid" rimless handstamp. Small manuscript "2" indicates express charge (two bits, or 25¢).

US/CSA 1861—North to South   **American Letter Express Company**

The American Letter Express Company was chartered in April 1861 by two former letter carriers, William McGill and Thomas Jenkins, in anticipation of the termination of government mail service between the North and South. The company was given responsibility to carry the residual government mails from Nashville to Louisville after 12 June 1861, and their first advertisement of express service (southbound) appeared on 15 June in the *Louisville Daily Journal*. The earliest advertisement of northbound service by American appeared in the 29 June *Nashville Union and American*. For a southbound letter American charged 10¢ for its services plus 5¢ or 10¢ CSA postage, depending on distance. For a northbound letter, the charge was 15¢, which included 3¢ US postage (the sender was responsible for paying 5¢ or 10¢ CSA postage to the Nashville office).
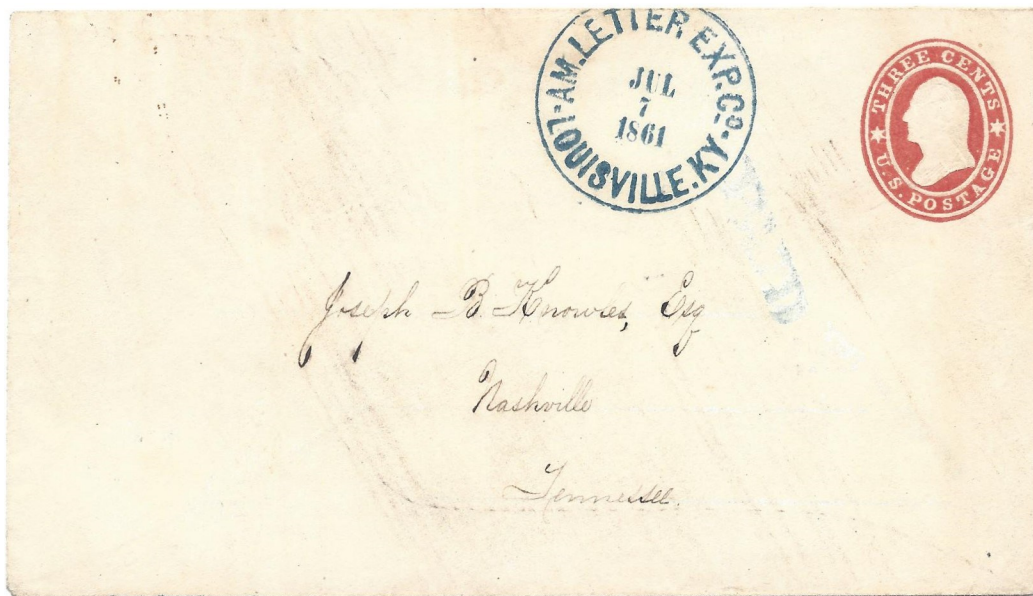

US 3¢ Star Die envelope mailed to American Letter Express in Louisville inside another US 3¢ envelope; datestamped 7 July 1861 and carried across the lines to Nashville where it entered the post office as a drop letter; the blue "Paid" hand-stamp is a Nashville CSA postal marking.

American Letter Express attached instructions to the backs of some express letters.

<u>Left</u>: photocopy of northbound instructions from the Confederacy.

<u>Right</u>: photocopy of southbound instructions from the Union.
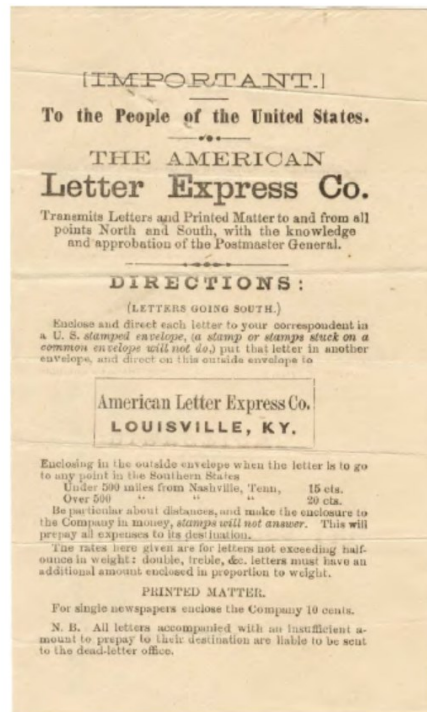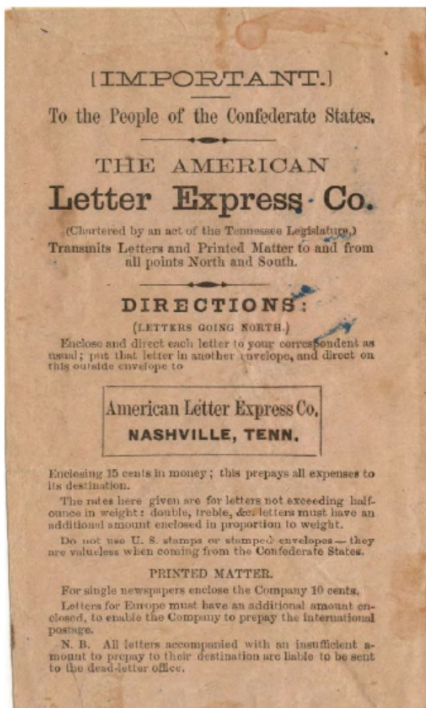
US 1861—Attempted North to South **Termination of Mail Across the Lines**

President Lincoln proclaimed on 16 August 1861 that all commercial intercourse between the residents of loyal states and "insurgents" in the South shall be unlawful. Postmaster General Montgomery Blair subsequently announced on 26 August that the ban applied to mail correspondence. The express companies immediately stopped accepting southbound mail, and the last northbound mail carried by American Letter Express from Nashville on 28 August was seized by a US marshal upon its arrival in Louisville on 30 August. For the duration of the war, across-the-lines mail was facilitated only through flag-of-truce exchanges, blockade runners, covert routes and unsanctioned means.

Philadelphia 22 November 1861 with US 3¢ 1861 to Glasgow KY after suspension of US mail service; hand-stamped "MAILS SUSPENDED" and sent to US Dead Letter Office in Washington DC; released 24 December 1861 and mailed inside DLO envelope, 3¢ postage due from sender in manuscript.

Glasgow lies about 33 miles east of Bowling Green, which became the state's Confederate seat of government after Kentucky's declared neutrality was broken in September 1861; this cover was mailed before the state was admitted to the CSA on 10 December 1861, but US mail routes in the region had already been terminated.

To prevent the fraudulent use of the large quantity of stamps held by postmasters in the seceded states and sale to those in the North to finance Confederate war efforts, the US Postmaster General ordered a new series of stamps. To ease in recognition, unlike the 1857 series that expressed values solely in letters, the 1861 series used both letters and prominent numerals. The contract was awarded to the National Bank Note Company of New York, and the initial series included 1¢, 3¢, 5¢, 10¢, 12¢, 24¢, 30¢ and 90¢ denominations, which were first delivered on 16 August 1861. Due to inability to deliver new stamps to all geographies simultaneously, demonetization and applicable exchange periods were phased in via three regions and completed by 1 January 1862.

US 1861—North   **New Stamps**

US 1¢ Blue and 3¢ Rose strip of 3 paying the 10-cent domestic transcontinental rate from San Francisco, CA to Farmington Falls, ME, tied by cog wheel cancels with numeral "10" handstamp, 15 August 1862.

US 5¢ Buff and 10¢ Green paying 15-cent rate from Boston to Lavardac, France, tied by red grid cancels and red boxed "PD" handstamp.

US 24¢ Steel Blue used with 3¢ Rose Pink and 12¢ Black paying 39-cent rate to Melbourne, Australia by British mail via Marseilles, tied by large Boston "Paid" grid cancels, endorsed "Persia via Marseilles", red "Boston Br. Pkt. Paid Oct. 8" and receiving backstamps, red crayon "34" credit.

3-color franking bearing the scarce Steel Blue and Rose Pink 24¢ and 3¢ color variations

US 12¢ Black and 30¢ Orange paying two times the 21-cent rate to Bergamo, Italy, tied by San Francisco cogwheel cancels, with red "P.D." in box and red Calais transit markings, "San Francisco, Cal/Feb 18, 1862" double-circle datestamp.

US 30¢ Orange used with 3¢ Rose and 24¢ Grayish Lilac from Boston to Shanghai, China, tied by large Boston "PAID" in grid cancels with red "52" credit handstamp, red "London MR 23 1863" transit datestamp, and "1d" local credit.
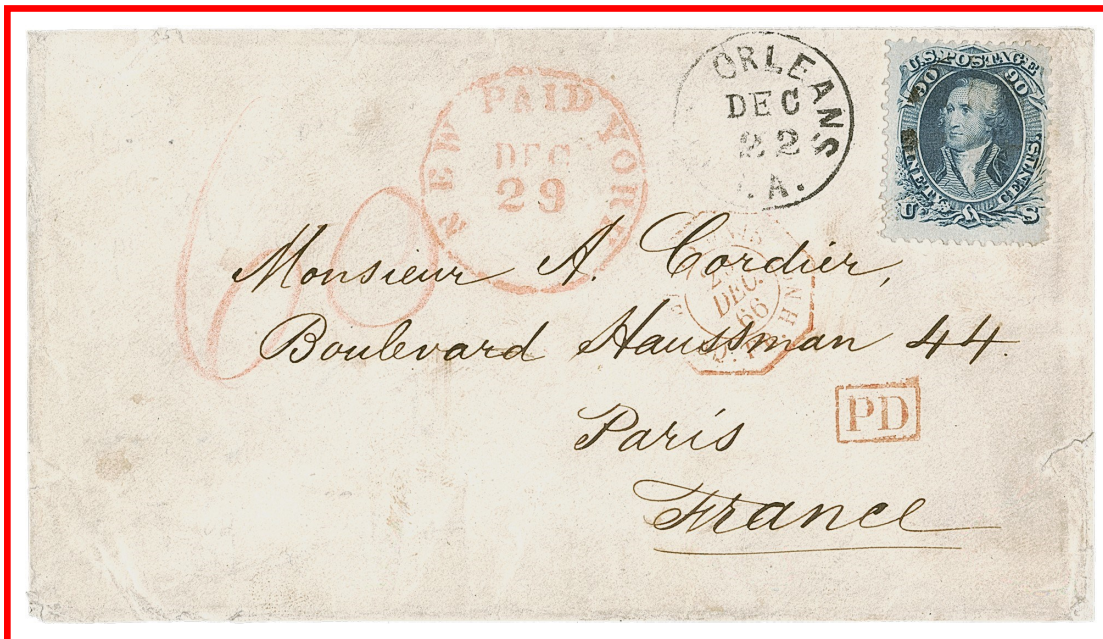
Carried on Ligne H steamer *St. Laurent* and franked in New Orleans at 6 times the 15¢ treaty rate to France. It was found in New York to weigh only 5 times, with France credited 60¢ for five times the 12¢ rate by French Packet Direct. The additional postage was retained by the U.S.

US 90¢ Blue paying six times the 15¢ treaty rate from New Orleans, LA, via New York to Paris, France, with "New Orleans La. Dec. 22" (1866) circular datestamp, red "New York Paid Dec. 29" circular datestamp, and red crayon *"60"* credit.

Fewer than fifteen 90-cent 1861 covers to France are known

The CSA was not prepared to provide postage stamps when it began mail service on 1 June 1861. The first CSA General Issue was not ready until October 1861, and, throughout the war, shortages and disruptions along distribution routes hampered the CSA's ability to keep post offices supplied with stamps. To meet the need to prepay or collect postage, postmasters used provisional means of marking letters, including handstamped and written rate markings, locally-produced adhesive stamps and printed envelopes, and markings applied to envelopes in advance of use.

CSA 1861-1863—South   **Reversion to Stampless "Paid" and "Due" Markings**
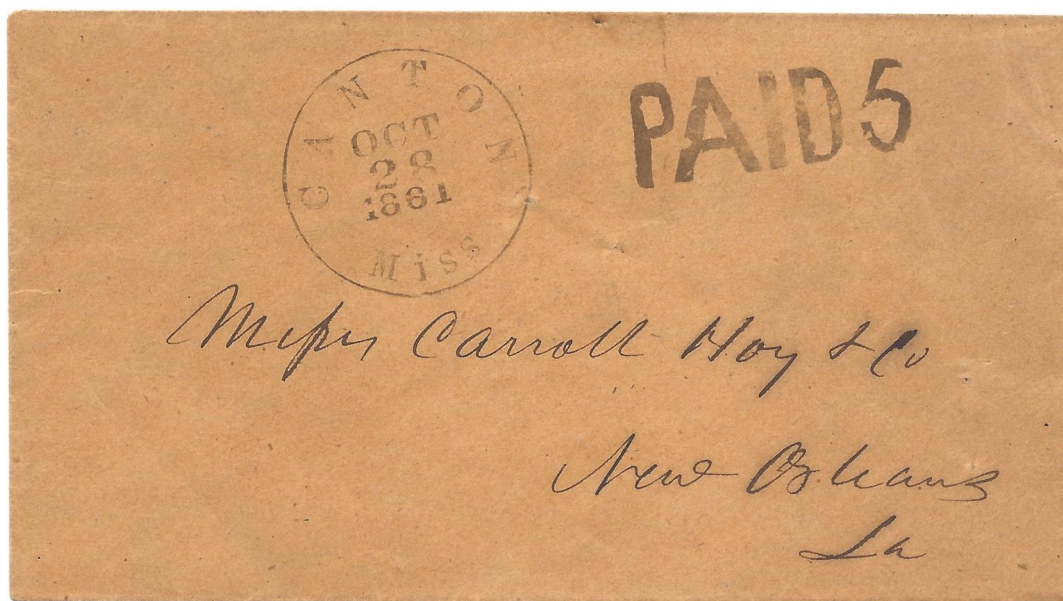
Canton MS, wood-cut "PAID 5" handstamp, 28 October 1861.
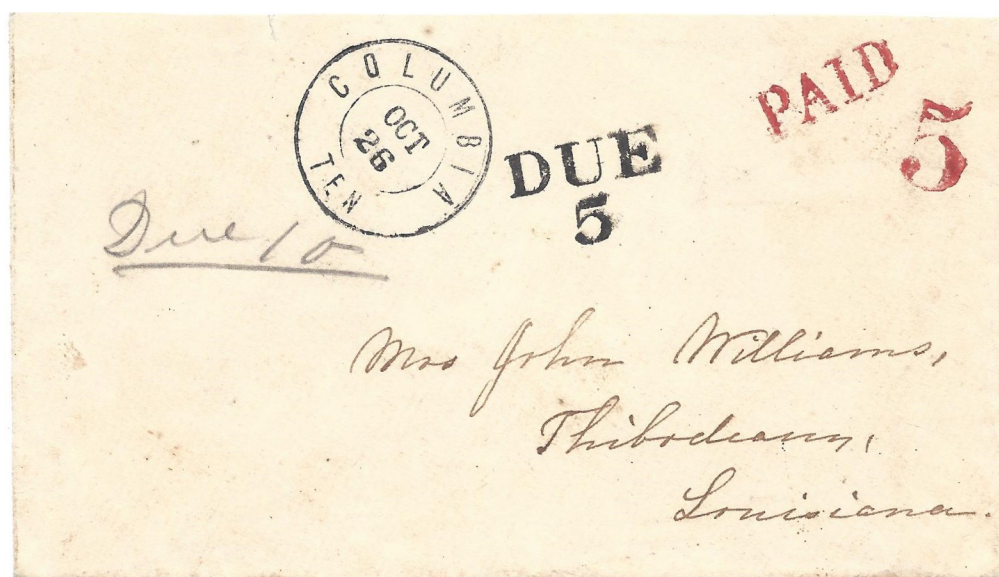
Columbia TN, 26 October 1861, with red "PAID 5" and Memphis "DUE 5"
for 10¢ over-500 miles rate; pencil "Due 10" suggests 5¢ prepayment ignored.

The difference between a "provisional" handstamped cover—meaning one that was sold in advance of mailing—and a handstamped marking applied at the point of mailing can be difficult to discern. Each of the covers below was rerated, indicating that the first marking was applied in advance of mailing.

10¢ downrated to 5¢

Jackson MS (Christopher R. Dickson, PM) 16 June 1861 with "PAID/10/CENTS" in circle overstruck by "PAID/5/CENTS" in circle—downrated from 10¢ to 5¢ for distance under 500 miles—how did the sender get credit for 5¢ difference?
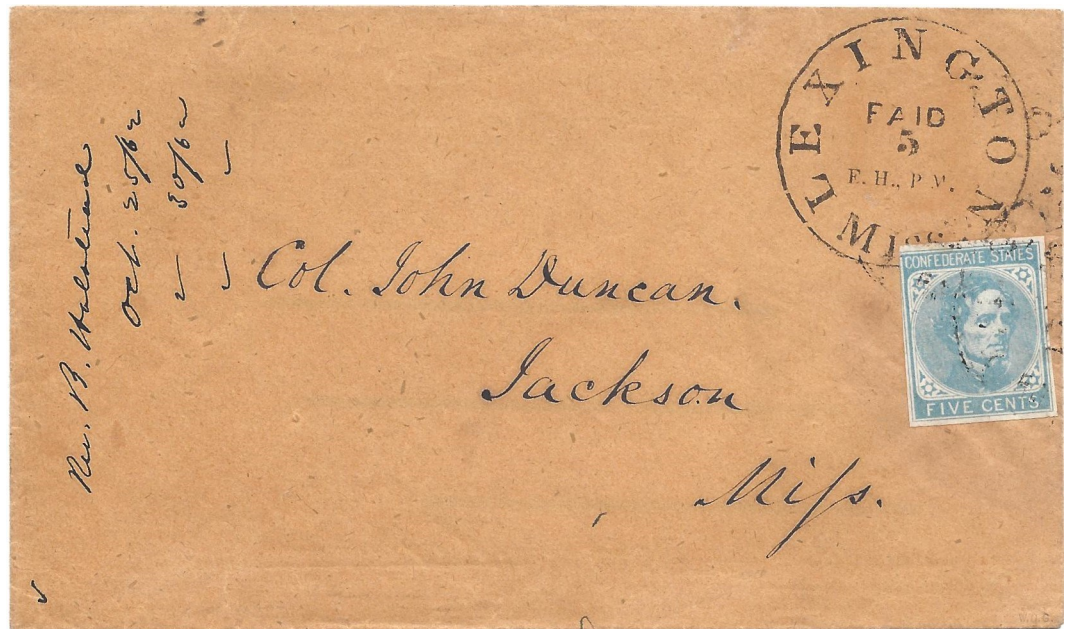
5¢ Uprated to 10¢ with stamp

"LEXINGTON/MISS./PAID/5/"E.H.P.M." (initials of Erastus Haskins, PM) on envelope mailed in October 1862 to Jackson MS; the CSA rate was changed to 10¢ for all distances, so the 5¢ De La Rue stamp was applied to uprate the envelope; in this case there is no question that the handstamped envelope was sold for 5¢ in advance of mailing.
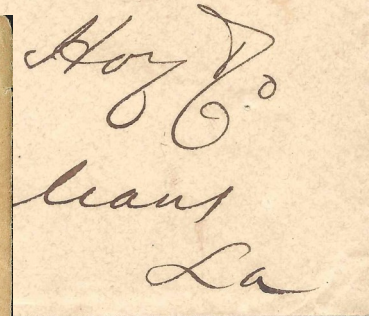
CSA 1861-1862—South   **Provisional Handstamps with Names/Initials and Control Markings**

The post office or postmaster names and initials in these handstamped rate markings are indicative of envelopes prepared in advance of use.

Canton MS "PAID 5" in Star with "P" for PM William Priestly.

"POST OFFICE/ SALEM, N.C./ O. A. KEEHLN, P.M." in circle with "PAID 5" applied separately.

The presence of a control marking, such as a town circle without date or ornamental handstamp, is evidence that a handstamped "Paid" envelope was sold in advance of use.

Control mark on back

Greenville CH SC 17 August 1861 with "Paid 10" provisional handstamp, rated 10¢ for weight (distance well under 500 miles).

During the antebellum period, Southerners grew accustomed to using high-quality engraved stamps with perforations. The Civil War immediately changed all of that. If adhesive stamps were available, they were crudely printed and lacked perforations. Postmasters employed a variety of printing methods to create adhesive stamps, including woodcuts, stereotypes (and possibly electrotypes), typeset forms, handstamped markings, and, in a few places, lithography.

Athens GA 5¢ Purple with name of Postmaster Thomas Crawford, tête-bêche pair created by work-and-turn printing method, used 2 December 1861 on cover to CSA officer at Manassas Junction, more than 500 miles distance from Athens.

One of three recorded Athens provisional tête-bêche pairs on cover

Athens GA (Thomas Crawford, PM), 5¢ Red Type II recut on 28 March 1862 cover to Macon GA.

One of seven recorded full covers with the Athens 5¢ Red

Electrotyping and stereotyping are different processes used to achieve the same effect: a printing plate comprising subjects exactly matching the original master engraving or typeset form. Electrotyping, invented during the first half of the 19th century, uses electricity and a chemical solution to create a plate from the master die. Stereotyping uses a mold from which the subjects or plate are cast. The chemical process of electrotyping produces a more accurate facsimile of the original. It seems likely that most printers in the South used the stereotype process, not electrotyping, based on the stamps' appearances.
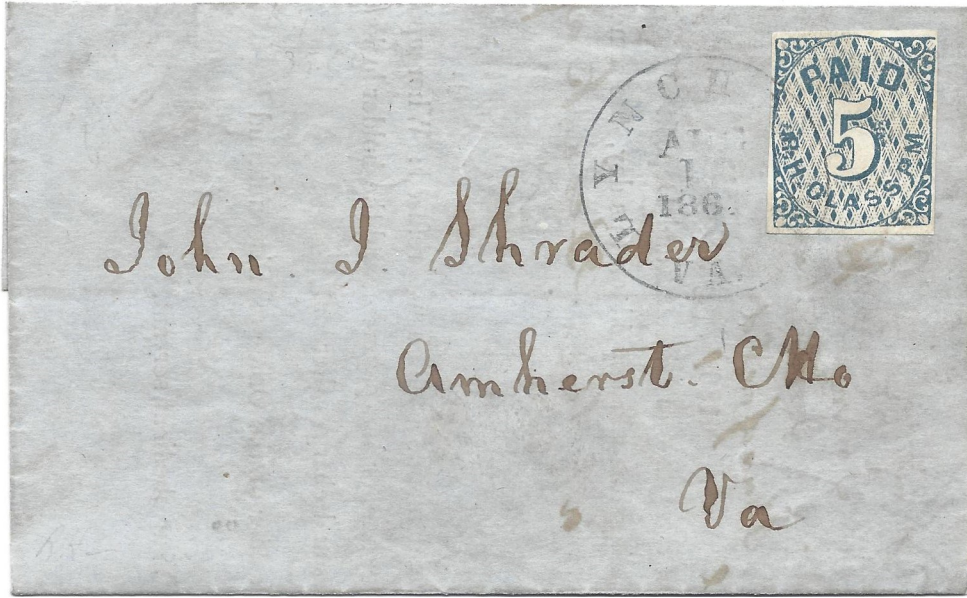
Lynchburg VA 5¢ Blue with name of postmaster, Maj. Robert H. Glass, 13 August 1861 to Amherst VA—some consider this an electrotype print.

Memphis TN (Matthew C. Gallaway, PM) 5¢ Red pair, Positions 22/32, paying 10¢ rate to Lynchburg VA, 21 December 1861.

New Orleans postmaster, J. L. Riddell, prepared provisional stamps in June 1861 and advertised them for sale on 12 June. The 2¢ Red stamps were printed without the marginal inscription "Usable exclusively in the New Orleans Post Office," which appears on the 5¢ and subsequent 2¢ Blue printings. The accepted theory is that the 2¢ Red stamps were printed first, before Riddell added the imprint, and were withheld from use until January 1862 when the supply of 2¢ Blue stamps was exhausted.
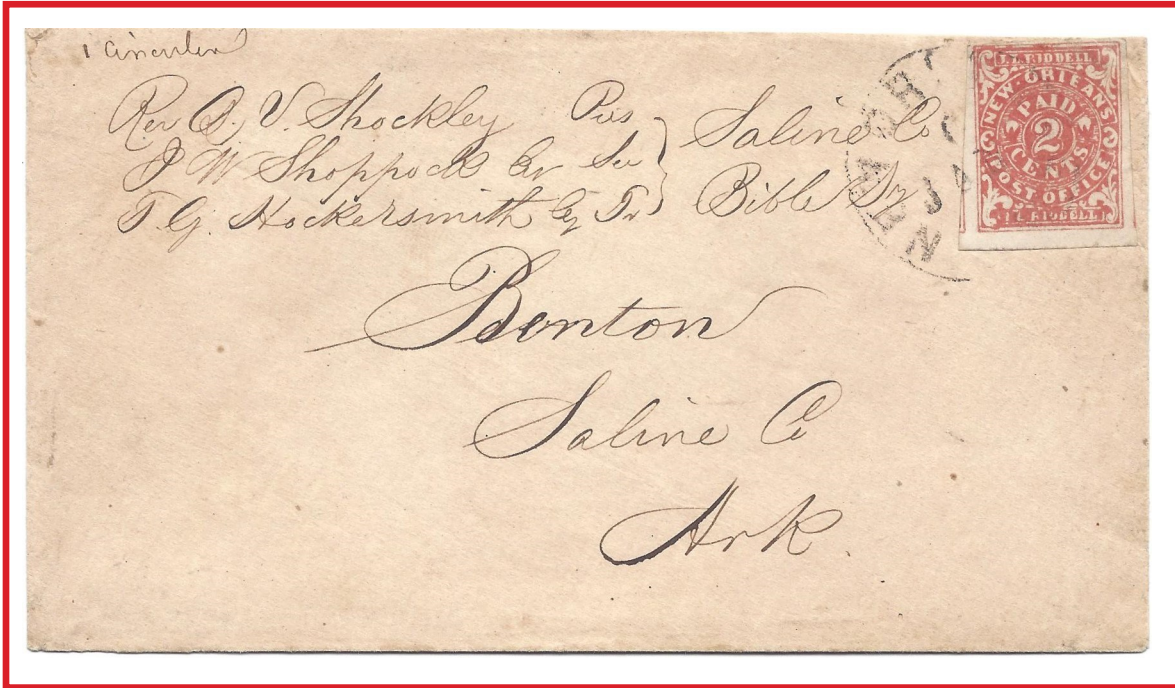
New Orleans 2¢ Red, Position 37, used on 6 January 1862 circular rate cover to Benton AK; manuscript "1 circular" at top left with the names of three members of the Saline County Bible Society.

One of ten recorded New Orleans 2¢ Red provisionals on cover
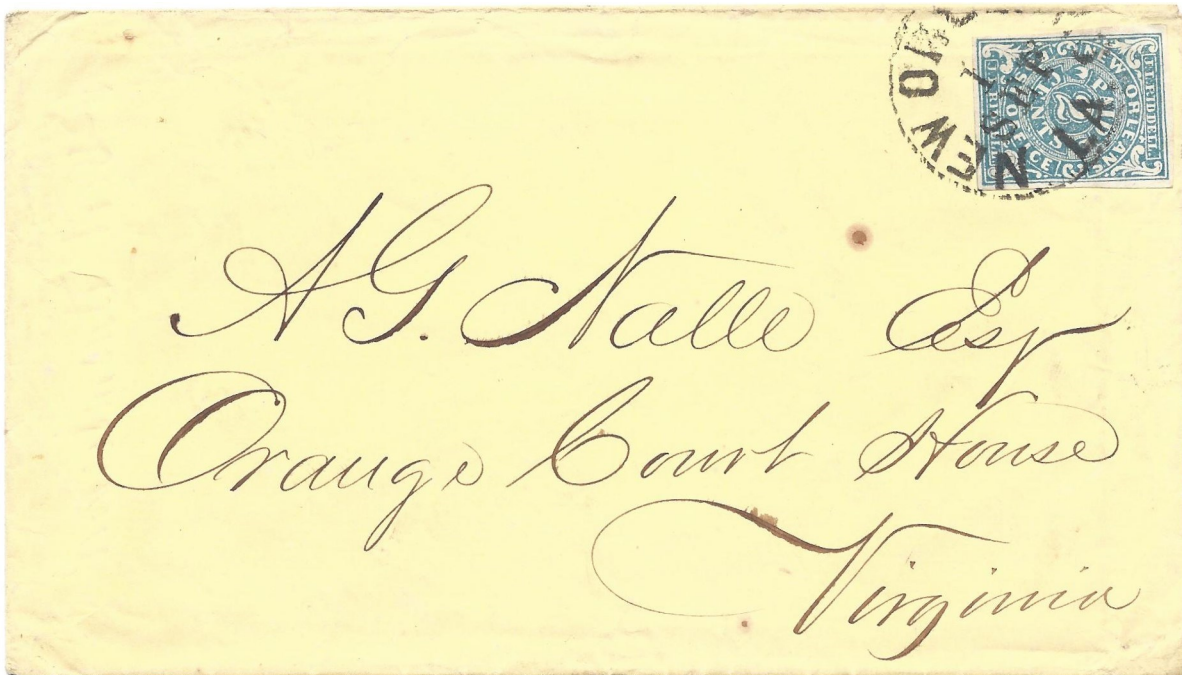
New Orleans 2¢ Blue used on 1 September 1861 cover to Orange Court House VA.

New Orleans 2¢ Blue (three) used with 5¢ Red Brown on Bluish, overpaying 10¢ rate by 1¢ on 1 October 1861 cover to Orange Court House VA, a distance over 500 miles.

The only recorded cover with both denominations of the New Orleans postmaster's provisional issue and the only recorded provisional adhesive combination with a 2¢ stamp

New Orleans 5¢ Red Brown on Bluish, two pairs (one with part of imprint), 23 October 1861 cover to Manchester SC, double 10¢ rate for distance over 500 miles and weight over half-ounce.

Knoxville TN 5¢ Brick Red with name of Postmaster Charles W. Charlton tied by "KNOXVILLE/Ten./PAID/5" circular provisional handstamp (listed as Scott 47XU5), 29 November 1861 to Kingston TN.

One of three recorded examples of Knoxville adhesive tied by "PAID 5" handstamp

Nashville TN 5¢ Brick Red provisional with name of Postmaster William D. McNish, vertical pair paying 10¢ rate for distance over 500 miles, 21 July 1861 to Newbern NC; this pair comes from "shuffled" stereotype positions—Position 2 (white flaw below M of "P.M.") above Position 1 (break in lower right frameline and white flaw in I of "McNish") rather than to the right of Position 1 as in the ex-Caspary block.

Lithography—from the Greek words for "stone" and "to write"—is a printing method originally based on the principle that oil and water do not mix. Printing stamps from a lithographic stone—usually a well-polished slab of limestone—starts with design subjects transferred from a matrix and intermediate transfer groups. The designs on the printing stone's surface accept ink, while the other areas reject ink. When paper is pressed against the stone's surface, a printed design results. Later forms of lithography employed different elements, but the fundamentals remain the same. Lithography, used by only a few CSA postmasters to create provisional stamps, was used to print the first CSA General Issues.

Charleston SC (Alfred Huger, PM) 5¢ Blue provisional on 14 August 1861 "'Head Quarters'/Commissary General's Department" imprint cover addressed to Hon. W. G. De Saussure, Secretary Treasurer of South Carolina, Columbia SC.
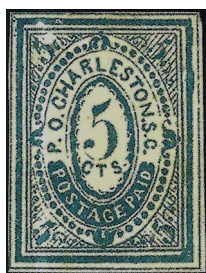

Image at 125%

The Charleston adhesive was lithographed in blue on white wove paper by Evans & Cogswell Company of Charleston. The central design is similar to that of the 5¢ typographed entires, presented elsewhere in this exhibit.

The provisional stamp was placed on sale 4 September 1861 and withdrawn 6 December upon arrival of the first official stamps from the CSA post office. The provisional stamp was temporarily placed on sale again in mid-June 1862 due to a shortage of regular stamps.

Based on stamps examined and taking into consideration the spacing between adjacent stamps, Richard L. Calhoun's theory is that the 5¢ lithographic stone comprised 90 positions made from six repetitions of the 15-subject transfer group.

CSA 1861—South   **Lithographed Adhesives—Mobile**

The Mobile AL 2¢ and 5¢ postmaster's provisionals (Lloyd Bowers, PM) are among the few pictorial stamps issued in the CSA. The stamps depict images of the South and were printed from lithographic stones. Van Koppersmith's study and analysis of multiples of the Mobile 5¢ establishes beyond doubt that the stone was five horizontal rows in height (*Confederate Philatelist* April-June 2010).

Mobile 5¢ Blue plate variety with line thru

Agrarian and nautical images of the South

Mobile 5¢ Blue strip of three on 9 August 1861 cover with Walker, Mead & Co.'s belt-shaped corner card, addressed to Mrs. John J. Walker, Choctaw Agency, Oktibbeha County, Mississippi, triple 5¢ rate for distance under 500 miles (1 to 1½ ounce letter). CSA covers with 15¢ postage are very rare, because the triple 5¢ rate for distances under 500 miles (1 to 1½ ounce letter) was only in effect for 13 months, from 1 June 1861 to 30 June 1862 (on 1 July the distance provision was eliminated and the rate became a uniform 10¢).

The only intact strip of three on cover

CSA 1861—South   Typeset Adhesives—Baton Rouge/Uniontown

The close association between postmasters and local newspapers and job printers naturally led to a number of provisional issues that were printed on small printing presses, using loose type arranged in small forms. The use of rules and ornamental font pieces for borders is typical of typeset provisional stamps.

The Baton Rouge stamps were printed by George A. Pike, publisher of the local newspaper *Comet and Gazette*, from a typeset form of ten subjects, arranged in two horizontal rows of five. The setting was changed for each denomination, and two kinds of borders were used. Along with the Greenville AL and Lenoir NC provisionals, the 5¢ is one of three CSA stamps printed in two colors. They are the first government-issued, bi-colored adhesive stamps to appear anywhere in the Western Hemisphere.
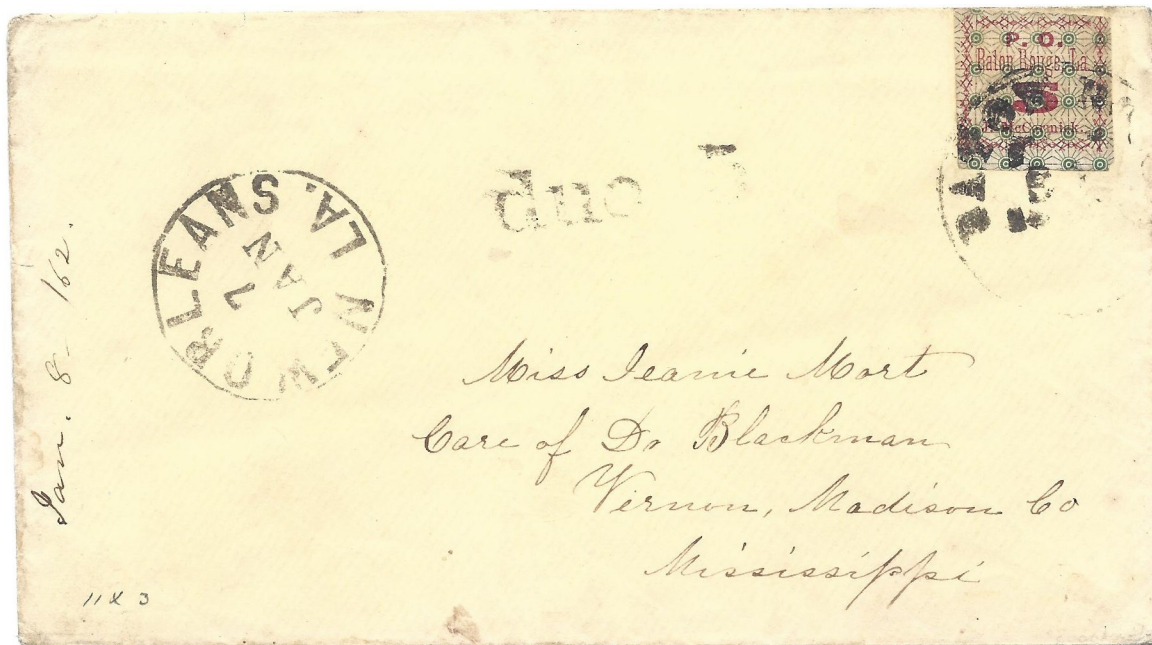
Baton Rouge 5¢ with Carmine Crisscross Border on 31 December 1861 cover to Vernon MS with New Orleans 7 January 1862 datestamp and "due 5" handstamp for weight over half-ounce limit (under 500 miles).

One of eleven recorded covers with the 5¢ Crisscross Border and the only one with a handstamped "Due" marking

Uniontown 5¢ Green on Gray Blue (Position 1) used on (22?) September 1861 cover to Montgomery AL. Uniontown AL postmaster Parham N. Booker issued three denominations of adhesive provisionals— 2¢, 5¢ and 10¢—printed from typeset forms of 4 (2 x 2), probably at the offices of *The Weekly Herald*.
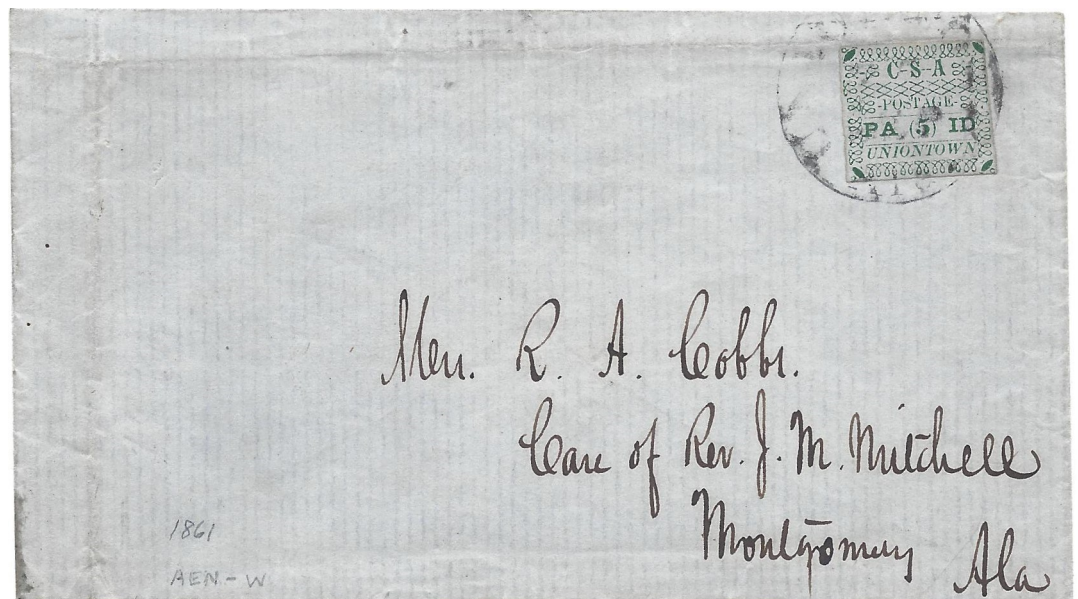
One of thirteen recorded covers with the Uniontown 5¢ on Gray Blue paper

The 5¢ and 10¢ Marion VA provisional stamps were issued by Postmaster J.H. Francis in 1861. The design was typeset, with the stamps printed on heavy white wove and bluish laid paper. Only the frame and inscriptions were printed. The rates were handstamped at center as needed.

Marion VA 5¢ Black on white paper, tied by "Marion Va./Jun 7" (1861) circular datestamp on blue cover to Rural Retreat VA.

One of three recorded 5¢ Marion VA covers in private hands

Marion VA 10¢ Black on bluish paper, tied by "Marion Va./Nov 18" (1861) circular datestamp on cover to Scottsburg VA.

One of six recorded 10¢ Marion VA covers and the only known example of the 10¢ stamp printed on bluish paper

Fredericksburg VA Postmaster Thom issued adhesive stamps in September 1861 in two denominations—5¢ Blue and 10¢ Red—each printed from a typeset form of 20 (5 by 4) on thin pelure paper. The stamps were printed by Robert B. Alexander at the offices of the *Democratic Recorder and Recorder Job Office.*
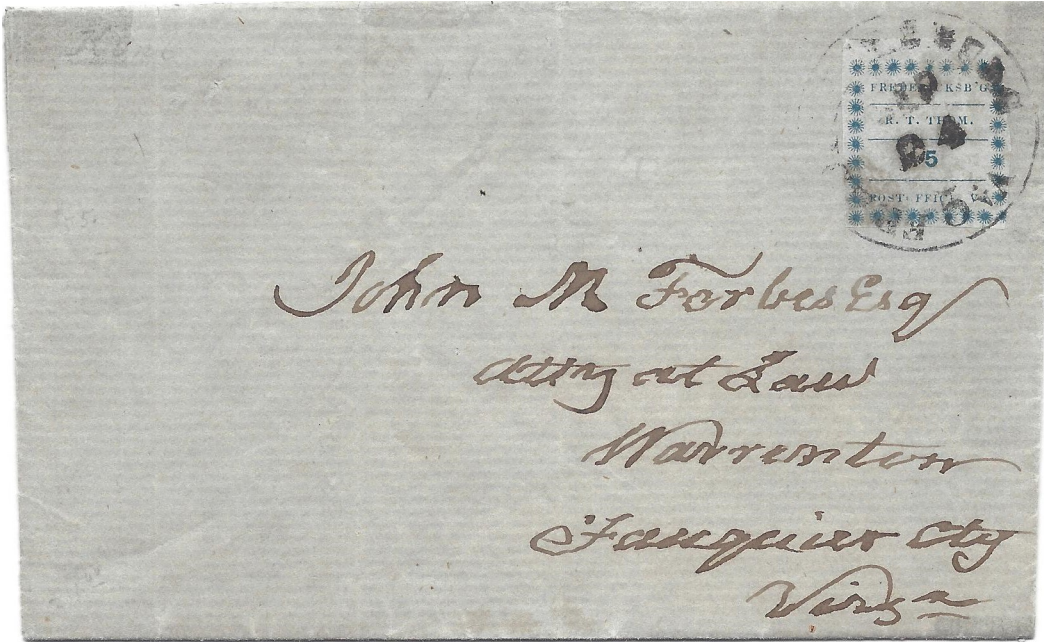
Fredericksburg 5¢ Blue (Position 2) with name of Postmaster Reuben T. Thom used on 24 September 1861 letter to Warrenton VA written by Postmaster Thom regarding a letter he wrote to Jefferson Davis.

Only recorded Fredericksburg provisional used on a letter from the issuing postmaster

Similarity between the Pittsylvania C.H. and Danville VA provisional indicates that both were printed at the offices of the Danville-based *Democratic Appeal* newspaper.

Pittsylvania Court House VA 5¢ Dull Red on wove paper used 5 November 1861 on folded letter to Williamsburg VA.

One of only seven known covers, of which only three are available to collectors with a rectangularly cut adhesive

In addition to the adhesives presented on prior pages, Confederate postmasters in a very small number of towns prepared adhesive stamps using unique approaches outside of traditional printing methods. The postmaster in Emory VA prepared adhesive stamps by applying handstamp markings to the selvage of the US 1¢ 1857 stamp and the postmaster in Greenwood Depot VA prepared a provisional stamp that was made from laid letter paper to which he applied his manuscript "Ten Cents."

The Emory 5¢ provisional stamp was produced by the local postmaster by applying handstamp "PAID" and numeral "5" in circle markings to the selvage of the US 1¢ 1857 stamp. The "5" is below the "PAID" in the Type I Emory and reversed in the Type II. The only similar occurrence in U.S. stamp production was the Philadelphia Carrier stamps, which used the selvage of the U.S. 1851 1¢ issue.

Emory VA "PAID" and "5" in circle handstamp in Blue used on envelope, 1 July 1861 to Castle-Craig VA.

There are nine recorded Emory provisional stamps on cover and this is one of six Type I examples

The Greenwood Depot VA 10¢ provisional stamp was produced by the local postmaster, J. Bruce, by adding a manuscript "Ten Cents" and his name as well as a handstamp "PAID" to laid letter paper. All known examples are from the same correspondence and are addressed to Rev. Paul Whitehead, Macfarlands P.O., Lunenburg Co., Va.

Greenwood Depot VA 10¢ Black on grey blue laid paper, used 21 September 1861 to Macfarlands P.O. VA.

There are five recorded Greenwood Depot provisional stamps on cover available to collectors. A sixth example resides in the Tapling Collection in the British Museum

**CSA 1861—South**   **Press-Printed Envelopes–Lynchburg/Charleston**

Confederate postmasters usually applied a handstamped marking to indicate prepaid postage, but eleven post offices prepared press-printed provisional envelopes: Austin MS, Charleston SC, Danville VA, Fincastle VA, Franklin NC, Kingston GA, Knoxville TN, Lynchburg VA, Madison CH FL, Memphis TN, and Salisbury NC. Some were printed from typeset or stereotype plates; others were crudely printed from a hand-held typesetter's stick.

Typeset using stock numeral and "PAID"

Lynchburg VA (Maj. Robert H. Glass, PM) 5¢ Black on Amber envelope used 5 June 1861 to Richmond; very early CSA provisional use.
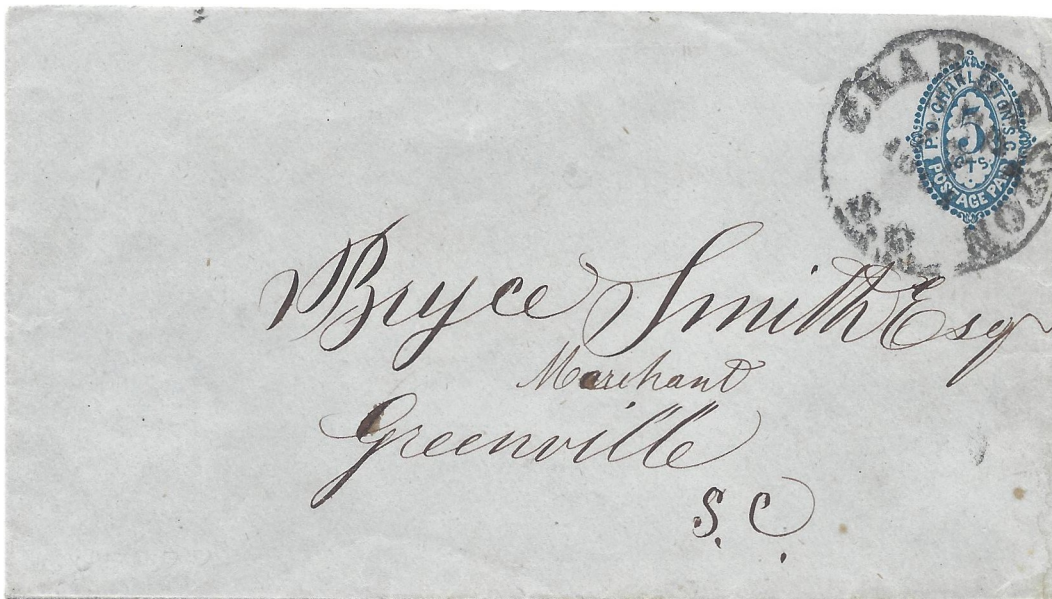
Typographed from woodcut

*One of twelve recorded on blue paper*

Charleston SC (Alfred Huger, PM) 5¢ Blue on Blue envelope used 17 September 1861 to Greenville SC.

After receiving bids from several printers, the CSA Post Office Department awarded the postage stamp contract to a Confederate firm, Hoyer & Ludwig, located in Richmond. The first stamps issued were the lithographed 5¢ Green, depicting Jefferson Davis (a living person), and 10¢ Blue, depicting Thomas Jefferson. These were followed by additional lithographed stamps (including a 2¢ denomination and new colors) printed by Hoyer & Ludwig and J. T. Paterson & Co. (Augusta GA), the engraved issues (including a 20¢ denomination) printed by Archer & Daly (Richmond) and Keatinge & Ball (Columbia SC), typographed issues (including an unissued 1¢ denomination) printed by Thomas De La Rue & Co. (London) and locally in Richmond.
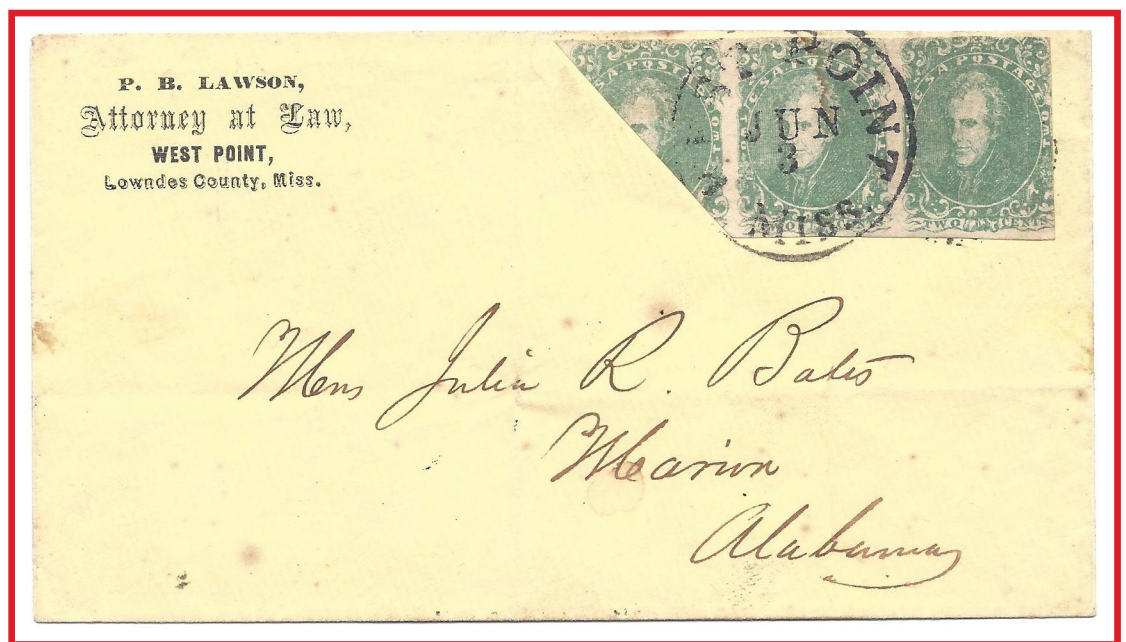
CSA 1862—South   **5¢ Rate Under 500 Miles Before July 1, 1862**
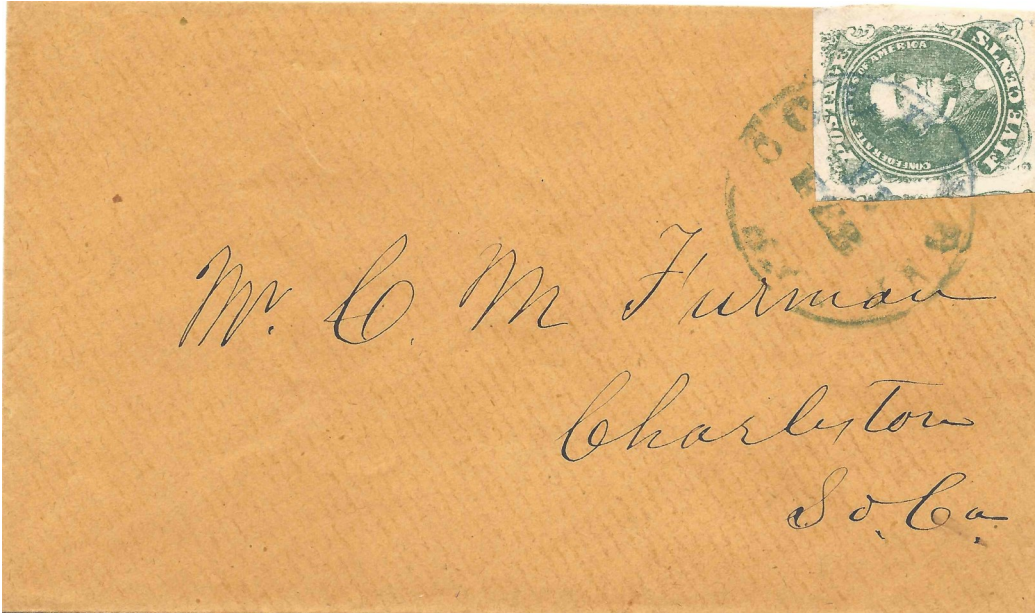
5¢ Green Lithograph, Columbia to Charleston SC, 11 February 1862, paying 5¢ under-500 miles rate.

Two 2¢ Jackson Lithograph stamps plus bisect paying 5¢ rate on corner card cover, from West Point MS to Marion AL, 3 June 1862.

The only recorded bisect of the 2¢ Green Lithograph or of any 2¢ Confederate issue

CSA 1862—South   10¢ Rate for Distance Over 500 Miles
                                                    Before July 1, 1862

10¢ Dark Blue Hoyer & Ludwig Lithograph used 24 April 1862 from Montgomery AL to Col. Tennant Lomax at Norfolk VA, more than 500 miles away; this was mailed only weeks before the Union occupation of Norfolk began.

10¢ Rose Lithograph "ZEN" variety used 9 June 1862 from Richmond to Charleston SC, a distance over 500 miles, then forwarded to Camden SC (under 500 miles)— **10¢ and 5¢ over- and under-500 miles rates on one cover.**

CSA 1862—South

Double and Triple Rate Uses
Before July 1, 1862

Three 5¢ Green Lithographs, Stone 2, positions 30, 35, and 27, paying three times the 5¢ pre-July 1, 1862 rate for under 500 miles, New Orleans LA to Laurel Hill LA, 19 March 1862. The 5¢ rate was in effect for only 8.5 months while General issue stamps were available, from mid-October 1861 to June 30, 1862.

10¢ Rose Lithograph and pair 5¢ Blue Lithograph, Stone 2, used in combination to pay two times the 10¢ pre-July 1, 1862 rate for over 500 miles, Society Hill SC to Black Jack LA, 16 May 1862.

The only known combination of the 5¢ Blue and 10¢ Rose Lithographs used in a non-forwarding manner

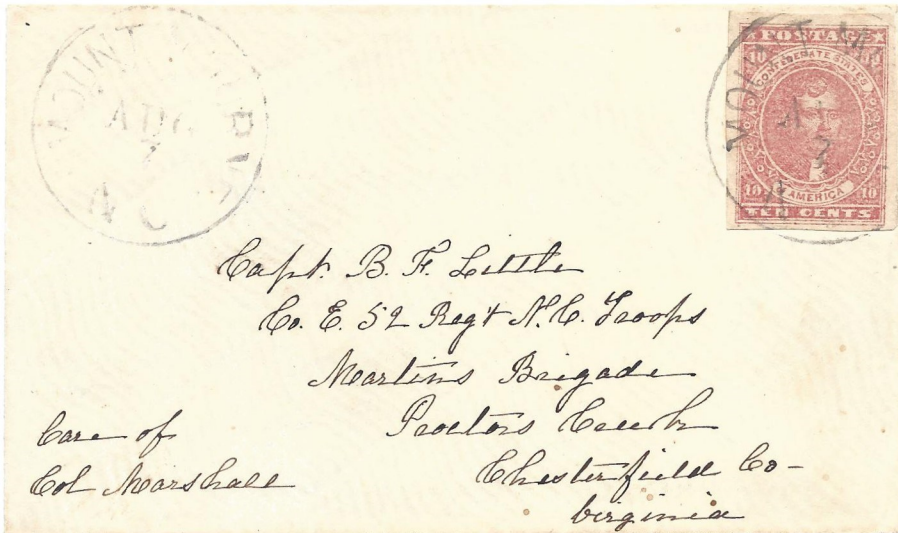CSA 1862—South   10¢ Rate for Any Distance —Starting July 1, 1862

5¢ Blue Lithograph, Danville VA to Clinton AL, handstamped "Due 5" making up the 10¢ rate, which would have applied even if mailed before 1 July 1862 based on distance.

5¢ Green and 5¢ Blue Lithograph combination, Tupelo MS to Mebaneville NC, 1 July 1862.

This cover presents both the original 5¢ shade and its replacement, which was intended to address confusion with the 2¢ Lithograph, which was also printed in green.

While 10¢ uses are common, the above two covers were used 1 July 1862, **the day the CSA rate changed to 10¢ for all distances.**

10¢ Rose Lithograph showing "FEN CENTS" flaw, used from Mount Mourne NC to Proctor's Creek VA (approximately 230 miles away), 7 August 1862; 10¢ rate for any distance—before 1 July this would have been rated 5¢.

CSA 1862—South   **Color Changes**

In a round of bad decision-making, the CSA Post Office Department first chose to print the 2¢ Jackson stamp in green, the same color used for the 5¢ Lithograph, an invitation to confusion. They then chose to print the 5¢ stamps in blue, the prevailing color of the 10¢ Jefferson. This necessitated changing the 10¢ to another color, and their choice of rose proved problematic as the color was poorly suited for lithography.

10¢ *Rose* Lithograph Richmond to Danville VA, 22 July 1862.

The example presented here is the intended shade.

10¢ *Deep Rose* Lithograph, Richmond VA to Surry County VA, 21 January 1863.

10¢ *Carmine* Lithograph, Montevallo AL to Columbiana AL, 7 July 1862.

The Carmine shade is the scarcest of the color variations.

2¢ Jackson Lithograph strip of five, the **first and second stamps at left show wide gutter between the panes**; paying 10¢ rate from Holly Springs MS to Minden LA, sent by Lieut. John J. Carter (Minden Rangers, served under General Nathan Bedford Forrest) to his wife, 31 December 1862.

The 2¢ lithographic printing stone of 200 was laid down from four transfer groups of 50 subjects each, arranged in two panes of 100 with a vertical gutter between the panes; multiples showing the gutter are very rare.

One of two recorded covers with a strip of five of the 2¢ Lithograph showing the interpane gutter

2¢ Jackson Lithograph vertical strip of five paying 10¢ rate from Knoxville TN to Jonesboro TN, 9 July 1862. Vertical strips are much rarer than their horizontal counterparts.

One of two recorded covers with a vertical strip of five of the 2¢ Lithograph

Only one 20¢ CSA stamp was issued, and because demand was limited and supplies of 10¢ ran short, some CSA post offices allowed the use of bisected stamps. **Bisected uses of the 20¢ Washington engraved are scarce.**

Bottom right diagonal half of 20¢ Washington used from Augusta GA to Charlotte NC, 6 October (ca. 1864).

Upper left diagonal half of 20¢ Washington used from Selma to Shelby Springs AL, 30 November (ca. 1864).

CSA postal laws required prepayment of postage with a few exceptions: soldiers' mail, congressional letters, state officials' letters and dealers in newspapers and periodicals. **The cover shown here is an unusual example of mail that was held at the post office until postage was paid.**

Mailed from Tuscaloosa AL to Jackson MS on 9 April (ca 1864) with pair of 5¢Richmond Typograph paying 10¢ rate, but determined to be over the half-ounce weight limit; "DUE 10" handstamp applied at Tuscaloosa and "CHARGE BOX" in shield handstamp applied at Jackson—postage was charged to a post office box account.

CSA 1862-1864—South   **Under– and Over-payment of the 5¢ and 10¢ Rate**

Three 2¢ Jackson Lithograph stamps <u>overpaying</u> 5¢ rate by 1¢, from Columbia to Abbeville SC, 25 June 1862; the 5¢ rate ended on 30 June.

Three 2¢ Jackson Lithograph stamps and 5¢ De La Rue Typograph <u>overpaying</u> the 10¢ rate by 1¢, on turned cover with inside bearing pair of 5¢ Light Blue, De La Rue.

Two 2¢ Jackson Lithograph stamps and 5¢ De La Rue Typograph <u>underpaying</u> 10¢ rate by 1¢, from Columbia SC to Athens GA, 3 October 1862.

Pair of 10¢ Frameline paying double 10¢ rate from Sumter to Darlington SC, 3 July 1863.

Two **10¢ Frameline** (Positions 89 and 81) affixed on **obsolete US 3¢ Star Die envelope** (adversity use), Mobile AL 31 August 1863 datestamp.

20¢ Washington paying double 10¢ rate from Columbia to Charleston SC on printed 1862 South Carolina House of Representatives bill to abolish the State Executive Council, mailed 26 September 1863.

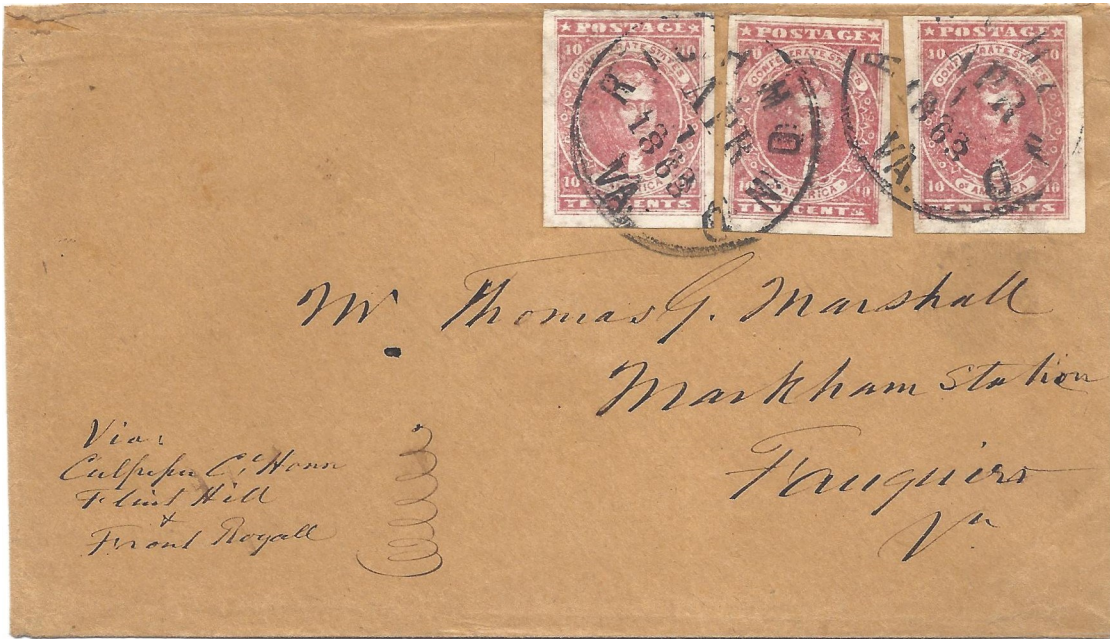10¢ "TEN" vertical pair paying double 10¢ rate from Richmond to Coolwell VA.

Pair of 5¢ Green Lithographs, Stone 1, used in combination with 10¢ Rose Lithograph, Mobile AL to Thorne Hill AL, 23 July 1862.

The only known combination of the 5¢ Green and 10¢ Rose Lithographs used in a non-forwarding manner

10¢ Deep Rose (color variation) Lithograph paying three times the 10¢ rate from Richmond VA to Markham Station VA, with detailed routing instructions at bottom left, 1 April 1863.

The only known example of the scarce Deep Rose color variety paying three times the 10¢ rate

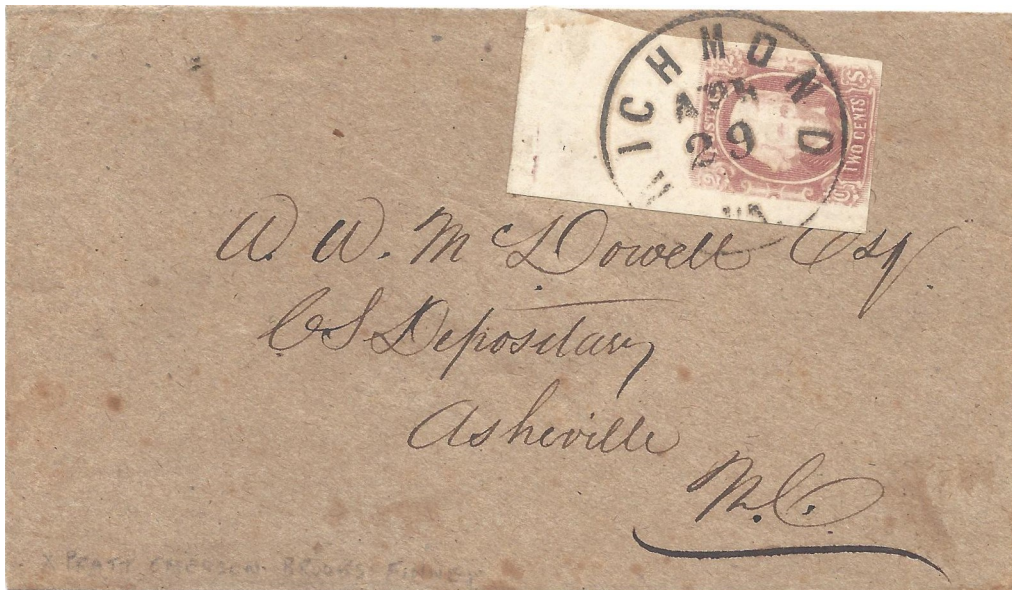5¢ De La Rue Typograph block of six paying triple 10¢ rate from Atlanta to Cuthbert GA, 30 August 1862.

2¢ Jackson Lithograph by Hoyer & Ludwig, paying circular rate, Athens to Franklin GA, 7 September 1862.

Circular for Adams Southern Express Co. with "Adams" crossed out after division of company into northern and southern entities.

2¢ Jackson Engraved by Archer & Daly, upper left corner margin example, paying circular rate, Richmond 29 April 1863 (early use) to C.S. Depository in Asheville NC.

Pair of 2¢ Jackson Lithograph on Evangelical Tract Society corner card cover, used from Petersburg VA; sender's notation "2 Papers" confirming double 2¢ circular rate; with original printed enclosure advertising Christian publications for the army and navy, including an endorsement by Robert E. Lee, dated 22 July 1863.

One of only two known pairs of the 2¢ Lithograph on a double circular-rate cover

The 2¢ rate for drop letters applied to letters left at the post office that were not transmitted to another post office. The covers below are addressed to the place where they were postmarked, but show different postage amounts paid by stamps. The upper cover was carried across the lines by flag of truce and posted at Richmond as a drop letter for pick-up at the post office. The lower cover was postmarked at Savannah, the destination, but it was prepaid at the unknown origin point for the full regular 10¢ rate.
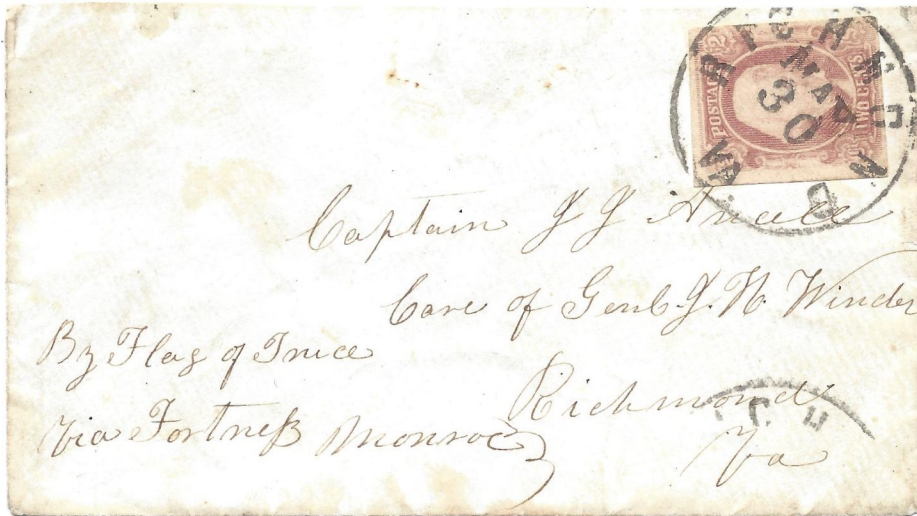
2¢ Jackson Engraved on inner envelope carried from US to CSA by flag of truce, addressed in care of General Winder in Richmond, posted there as a drop letter 30 May (ca. 1864).

Addressed to Savannah and also postmarked at Savannah 25 May (ca 1864), which would require a 2¢ drop-letter rate; however, the stamps pay 10¢ regular postage (1¢ overpayment), which indicates it originated from a place other than Savannah.

CSA covers are sometimes described as "overpaid drop rate" uses, but they are probably correctly prepaid and were privately carried to the destination city or a place close to it; the combination of 2¢ Jackson Engraved and 5¢ Davis De La Rue Typograph issues is very unusual.

Fancy cancels were not commonly used by Confederate postmasters. Due to the scarcity of resources, including both materials and time, most postmasters simply used the postmark itself to cancel the stamp. Unusual cancellations typically represent leftover devices from the pre-War period or were specially designed for use on military field mail.

The above 5¢ Davis Typograph covers show unusual markings used to postmark letters and cancel stamps, including the non-standard Savannah datestamp with stars (top) and one of the few fancy cancellations used in the CSA, the Tuscaloosa AL eight-point star.

10¢ Davis Die A, cancelled by "PAID 10C" and Masonic Links Fancy Woodcut
Numeral in Circle marking, Patterson, NC 4 September.

Cancellations and postmarks in colors other than black are uncommon, with green ink being among the scarcest.

Pair 5¢ Davis Typograph, cancelled by "Monticello, Ga. APR 4" circular
datestamp in deep green ink.

The appearance of many inks has changed over time. Further, certain inks may appear to be a different color due to the paper on which they are applied. Blue ink, for example, may appear green when struck on a yellow or orange cover. The example here is true green.

Postmasters were required to mark outgoing mail with the name of the post office at which the letter was received. Not all post offices had the necessary devices at the start of the War, and straightline handstamps were easiest to manufacture because they could be made from printer's type or carved into a block of hard grained wood. According to the *Confederate States of America Catalog and Handbook*, only 15 post offices used straightline handstamps during the War. The Jackson MS post office was one of the few to use straightline handstamps to postmark mail, and examples are scarce.

10¢ Davis Die B cancelled by small straightline "Jackson" handstamp.

The small "JACKSON MISS." straightline is much scarcer than the large version on the cover below.
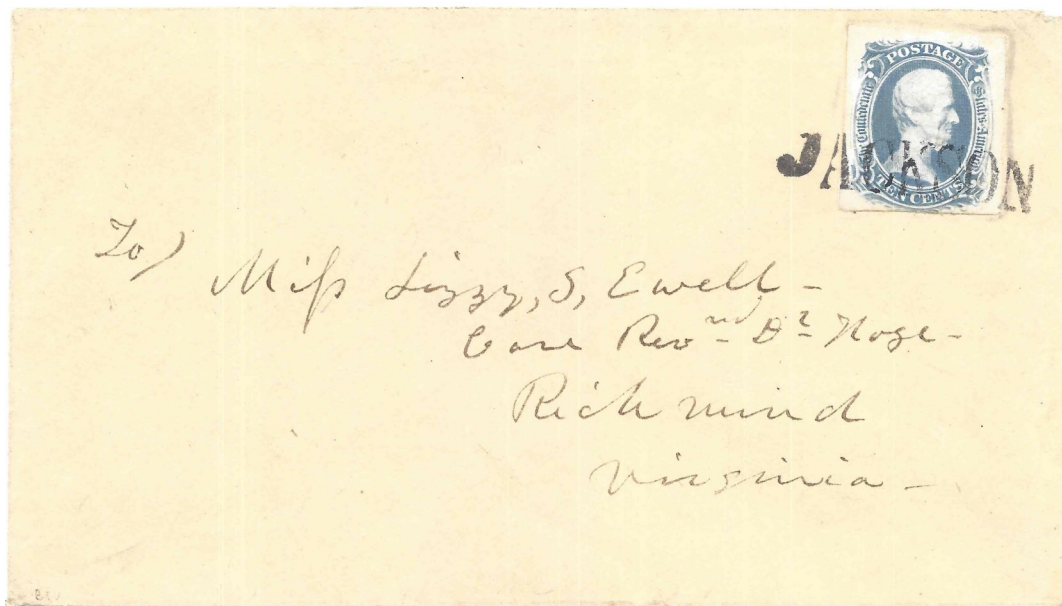

10¢ Davis "TEN" cancelled by the large straightline "Jackson" handstamp. While the large handstamp is more common than the small version at top, this is the **only recorded example of the Jackson straightline cancel on a "TEN".**

CSA 1863—South

Army of Northern Virginia

Army of Tennessee

Prior to 1863, the CSA military used civilian post offices exclusively to process mail to and from troops in the field. Beginning in August 1863, the CSA Post Office Department established official post offices for the Army of Northern Virginia and the Army of Tennessee (another for the Army of the Valley is believed to have operated in 1864). Markings applied by official military post offices include grids, targets, "Due" and rate handstamps, so-called "roving" town markings carried from place to place and the "ARMY/OF/TENN" handstamp.
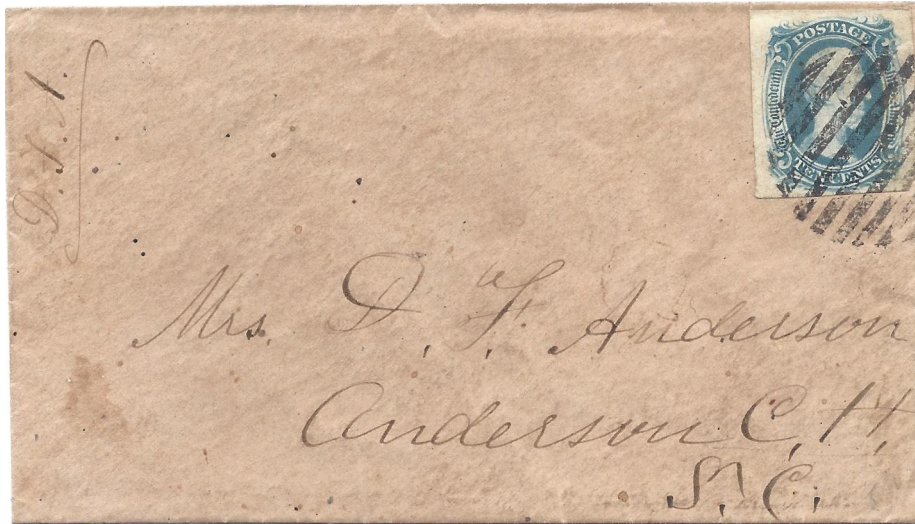
Army of Northern Virginia military post office large 9-bar grid tying 10¢ "TEN" Engraved on cover to Anderson Court House SC.

Rare use of 10¢ "TEN" on cover from Army of Northern Virginia
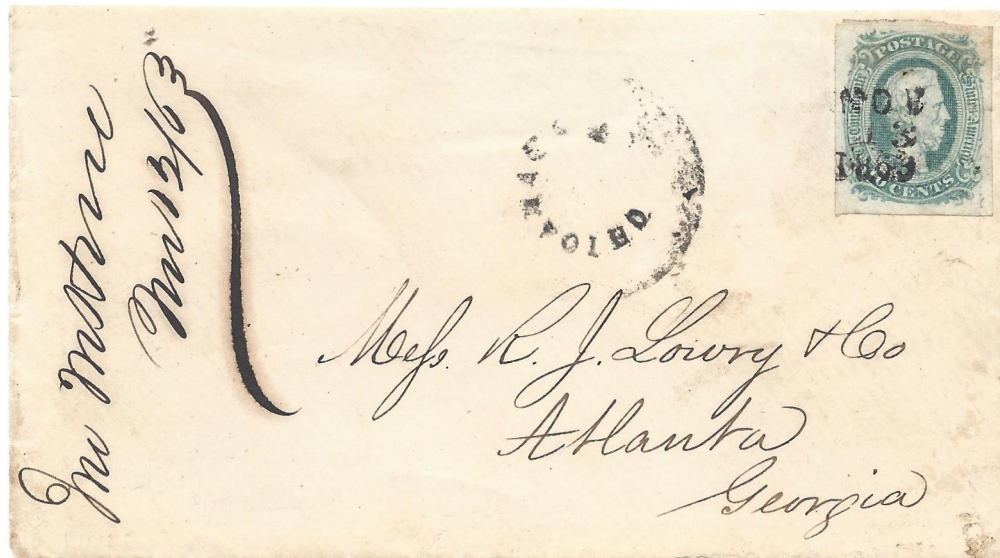
"CHICAMAUGA" rimless semi-circle handstamp with "NOV/13/1863" datestamp on cover to Atlanta GA with 10¢ Die A; this marking was used by the postmaster H. T. Phillips on civilian and military mail from Chickamauga station, located in northwestern Georgia near Chattanooga in southeastern Tennessee; recorded with dates from 25 October to 22 November 1863.

In mid-1863 the Archer & Daly 10¢ Engraved issues (both types) were perforated and distributed by the CSA government in Richmond, using a machine imported from London that created 12.5-gauge perforations. Between 500 and 1,000 sheets (50,000 to 100,000 stamps) were perforated and issued—the earliest recorded date of use is 13 July 1863 (the latest is 10 May 1865). Distribution of the officially-perforated stamps was primarily to areas of troop concentrations in Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi. Because of the necessity of defending internal railway lines, most uses are affiliated with post offices located on the CSA railway system.

Block is presented to illustrate perforations

10¢ Die A perforated, block of four, grid cancels possibly from an army field office device, but also similar to the grid used at Brookhaven MS where perforated stamps are known to have originated.

The only known used block of four
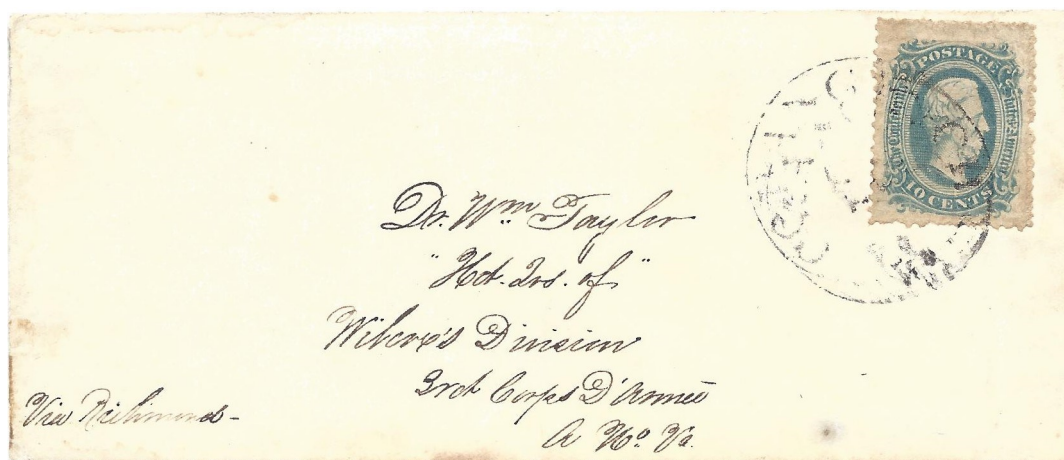
10¢ Die A perforated, used from Orange Court House VA, addressed to "Dr. Wm. Taylor, Head Qrs. of Wilcox's Division, 3rd Corps D'Armee, A.N.V. via Richmond."

Orange Court House was the winter quarters of the Army of Northern Virginia from Fall 1863 to Spring 1864; it was located on the Orange & Alexandria Railroad.

CSA 1862 and 1865—South   **Perforations Applied by Local Postmasters**

The 5¢ Green Lithograph was rouletted, gauge 20, in Baton Rouge LA and used during the period 24 February to 24 November 1862. Early uses occurred prior to 8 May when the City fell to occupying Union forces and late uses occurred after 21 August when the City was again occupied by Confederate forces. There are no recorded uses during the gap period.

5¢ Green Lithograph with roulette perforations, used on a cover addressed to Richmond VA. This example dates from the first Confederate occupation period, prior to evacuation on 8 May 7 1862 when the City fell to Union forces.

One of five known unsevered pairs of the 5¢ Baton Rouge stamp on cover

The postmaster in Oxford NC applied roulette perforations to his supply of stamps in 1864 and 1865. All of the recorded covers with the 20¢ roulette are dated 11 and 12 April 1865. Based on the use of the high-denomination stamps at this late date, including covers with box-charge notations, the late W. Wilson Hulme II theorized that the Oxford postmaster, anticipating the end of the war (Lee surrendered on 9 April), decided to use up his supply of stamps, applied stamps to mail for which postage was charged to PO box accounts, and indiscriminately used the 20¢ stamps on 10¢ rate letters because it would not matter when (not if) the CSA government collapsed.

20¢ Washington with roulette perforations applied by Oxford NC postmaster, used on a cover addressed to a lieutenant in Clingman's Brigade, Wake's Division, Johnston's Army in Virginia, 12 April 1865— three days after Lee's surrender at Appomattox Court House.

One of less than 10 known examples of the 20¢ Oxford roulette stamp on cover. All are dated either 11 or 12 April 1865.

CSA 1862 and 1865—South   **Confederate Express Mail**

The Confederate Act of 15 March 1861 authorized private express companies to carry mailable matter if applicable CSA postage was paid. Because some express companies failed to pay such postage, an Act of 19 April 1862 revoked the policy and reinstated the provisions of the US Postage Laws and Regulations of 1859, under which letters could be carried only if contained in government postal entires. This effectively prohibited express companies from privately carrying the mails because the Confederate post office did not provide the necessary pre-paid postal stationery. While private carriage was effectively illegal, the practice did not cease completely.

<u>Carried Legally</u>

Carried by the Southern Express Company from Montgomery AL to Norfolk VA; 10¢ Dark Blue Hoyer & Ludwig Lithograph, with blue "Southern Express Co. Montgomery Ala. Dec. 22" (1861) double-circle datestamp and matching "Montgomery Alabama Southern Express" in circle.
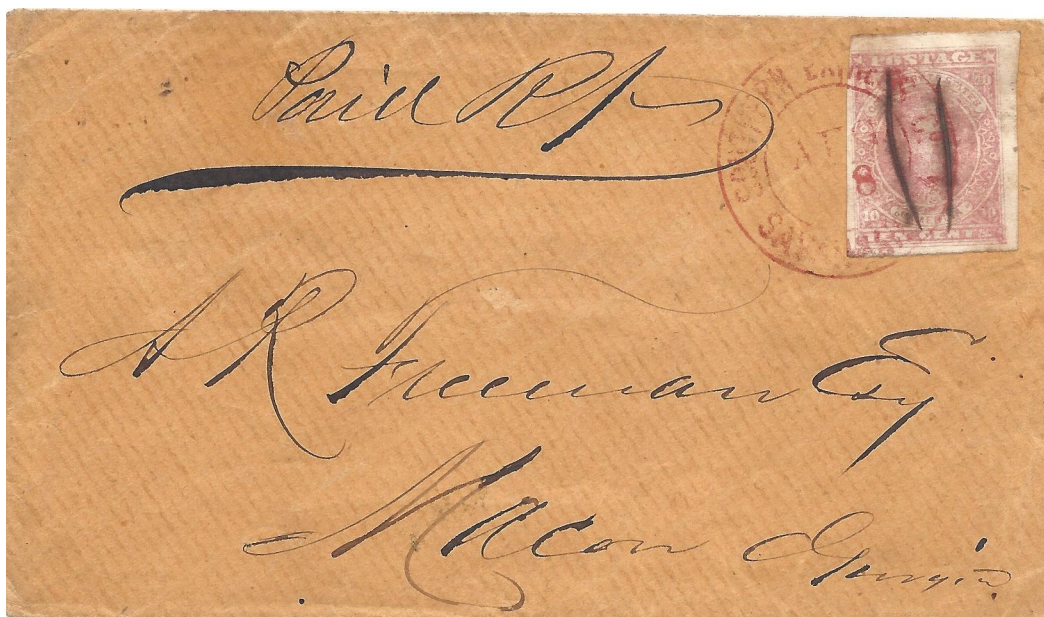

One of two recorded covers bearing the "Montgomery Alabama Southern Express" handstamp and the 10¢ Blue Lithograph

<u>Carried Illegally</u>

Carried by the Southern Express Company from Savannah to Macon GA; 10¢ Rose Lithograph, with red "Southern Express Co. Savannah Ga. Aug _8" double-circle datestamp and manuscript *"Pd R/-"* express rate notation.

The earliest known use of the 10¢ Rose is 10 March 1862, thereby proving that this cover was posted after the Act of April 1862 made private carriage illegal.

One of two recorded Southern Express Company covers bearing the 10¢ Rose

The movement of Southern citizens and military personnel during the war resulted in instances of mail forwarded from one address to another. An additional prepaid postage rate was required on mail marked "forwarded." Postage could be prepaid with adhesive stamps or in cash (or box charge account) and indicated with handstamped "Paid" markings.

CSA 1861 and 1863—South   **Unusual Forwarding Uses**

Winnsborough SC 5 December 1861 with handstamped "Paid 5" rate to Charleston, forwarded to Columbia with 5¢ provisional stamp paying additional 5¢ rate on 7 December 1861.

One of six recorded examples of the Charleston provisional used as forwarding postage, according to Richard L. Calhoun.

This above cover was forwarded the day that the CSA General Issue went on sale at the Charleston post office. Postmaster Alfred Huger announced on 9 December that the "local stamps already sold will be recognized, but no more will be issued." The addressee, Wilmot Gibbes DeSaussure, served as the Secretary of the South Carolina Treasury and as a Representative to the State Assembly; he was appointed Brigadier General of State Militia in 1861and led the 4th Brigade throughout the Civil War; in 1862 he was elected State Adjutant General and Inspector General of Militia.

Richmond VA drop letter for local delivery 30 July (ca. 1863), then forwarded to "near" Gordonsville VA.

2¢ Jackson Engraved pays drop rate and 10¢ Davis Die A pays forwarding postage.

Mobile AL to Montgomery AL, 27 May 1863, then forwarded to Auburn AL, 29 May; 10¢ Frameline pays initial postage and 5¢ Davis Local underpays forwarding fee, marked "Due 5" in crayon.

Tazewell TN to Mobile AL, 3 June (ca. 1863), then forwarded to Montgomery AL; horizontal pair 5¢ Davis Local pays initial postage and 10¢ Frameline pays forwarding fee.

The two covers presented here represent rare uses of the 10¢ Frameline, the scarcest of all Confederate General issues, as initial (top) or forwarding postage (bottom). There are less than five known

Norfolk VA to Elizabeth City NC, then to Edenton NC, November 1861.

5¢ Green Lithograph and "Paid 5" pay separate rates for distance under 500 miles.

Athens to Macon GA, then back to Athens, distance under 500 miles, May 1862.

10¢ rate for weight over half-ounce (5¢ Green Lithograph pair) and 5¢ rate for half-ounce (5¢ Blue Lithograph).

An unusual change in weight class for same letter.

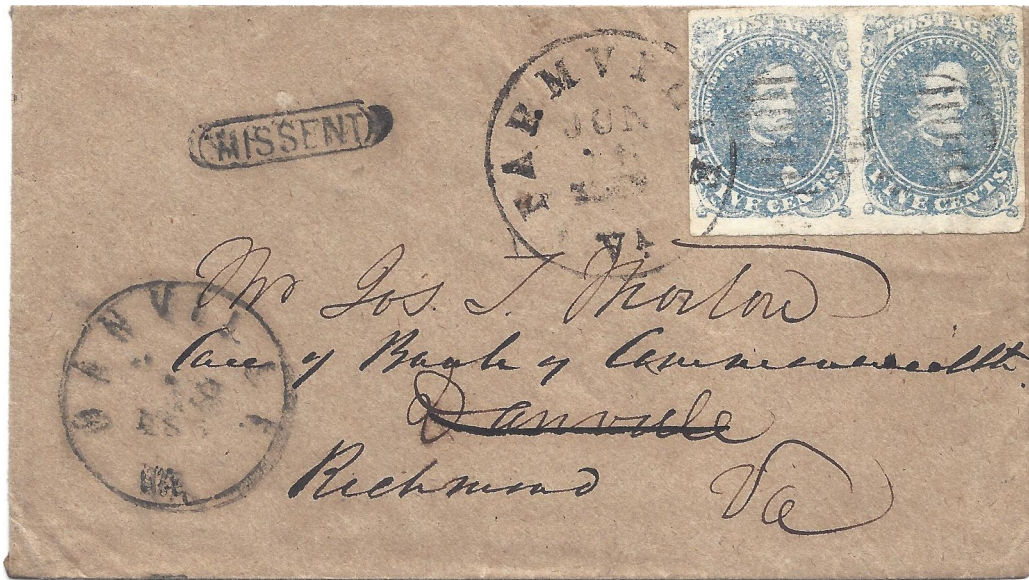Augusta to Savannah and back to Augusta, January 1863.

10¢ Blue Paterson Lithograph and pair 5¢ Richmond Typograph pay 10¢ rates.

Farmville to Danville VA 16 June 1862 with pair of 5¢ Blue Lithograph paying 10¢ rate for weight over half-ounce and distance less than 500 miles; forwarded to Richmond with Danville datestamp and "MISSENT" handstamp; it is not clear why this letter was treated as missent mail without additional postage paid for forwarding.

Richmond to Sangerville VA 19 December 1861 with 5¢ Green Lithograph paying 5¢ rate for distance less than 500 miles; blue Petersburg datestamp and "MIS-SENT" handstamp indicate letter was sent south from Richmond instead of north to Sangerville, stopped at Petersburg and returned north.

During the course of the war, an estimated 15,000 different pro-Union patriotic envelope designs were published in the North. Some were simple flag designs; others were cartoons or multicolored depictions, including uniformed soldiers, camp scenes, famous officers and battle engagements. In contrast, less than 200 Confederate designs are known, with the majority being simple flag designs. The examples of Union and Confederate patriotics shown in this section reflect the contrasting circumstances of the warring parties: the abundance of material in the North and the worsening shortages in the South—factors that influenced the quantity and quality of patriotic stationery.

US 1862-1864—North   **Abraham Lincoln**

Beardless Lincoln portrait published during 1860 campaign converted into a Civil War patriotic design by adding a beard and overprinting the envelope with a pro-Union crossed-flags design and slogan (see *Politics of 1860* section for original design); used from Lewisburg PA, 29 May 1862.
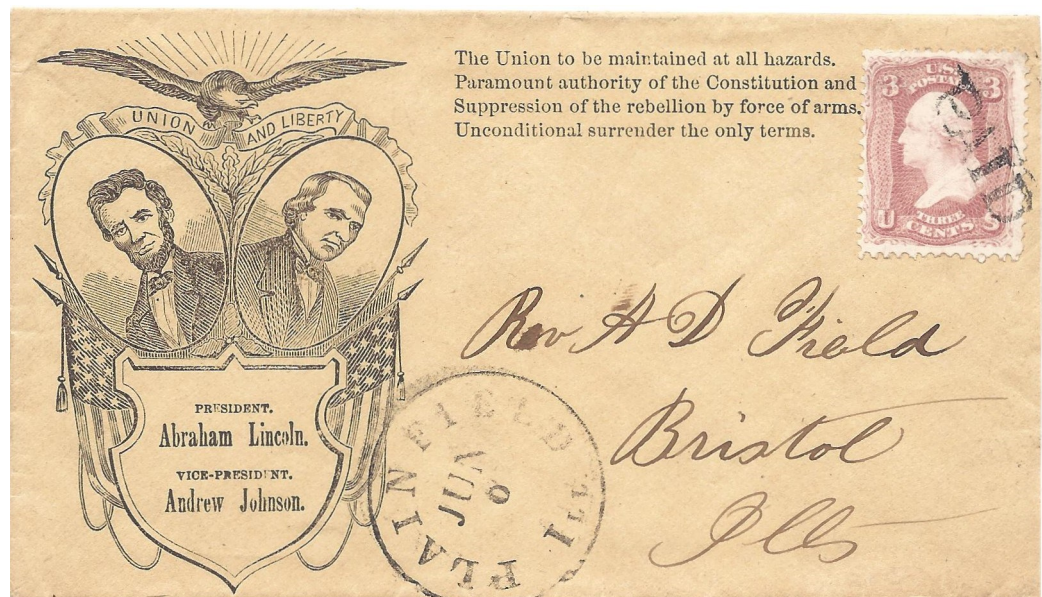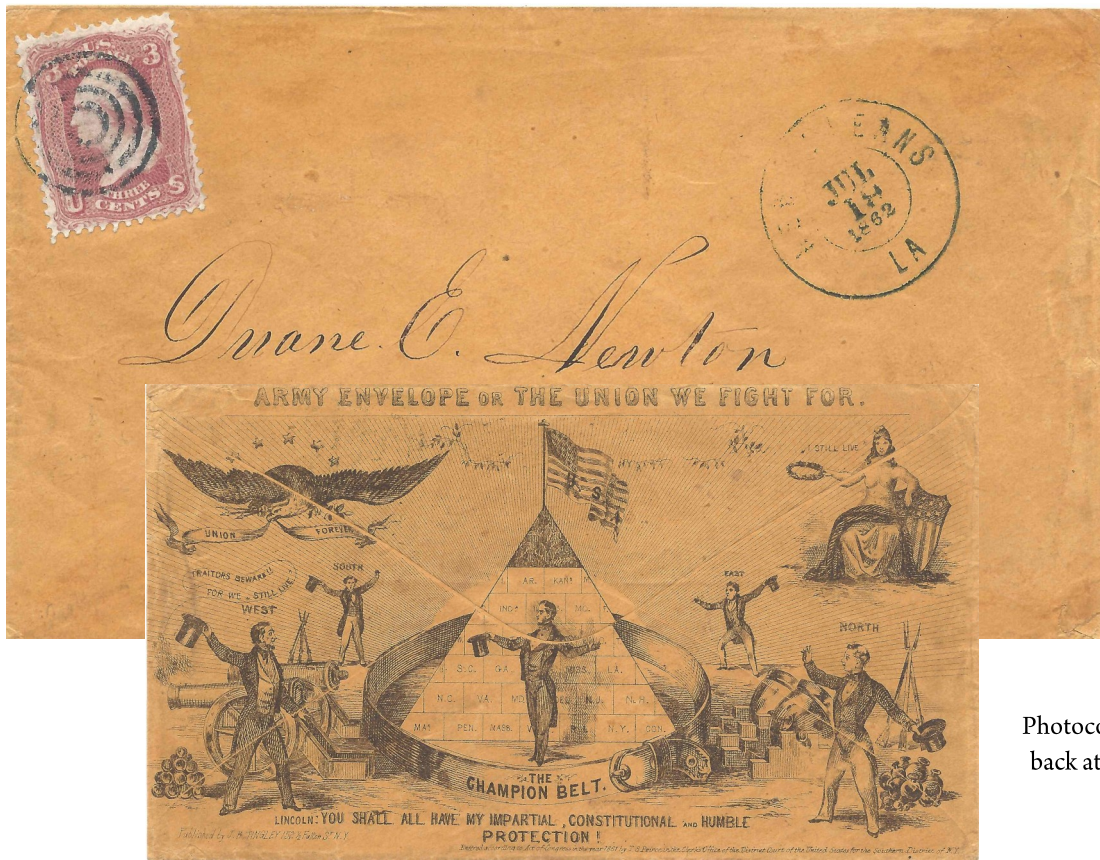

1864 campaign envelope with portraits of Lincoln and Johnson, used from Plainfield IL, 6 June (ca. 1864).

Photocopy of back at 75%

"Army Envelope or the Union We Fight For" patriotic cover depicting the "Championship Belt" and images of national unity, one of the series of Lincoln-Davis Prize Fight envelopes published by J. H. Tinsley of New York City; used from New Orleans during US occupation 24 July 1862.

"Our Army & Navy" patriotic cover illustrating General Butler and Commodore Stringham, to Wells River VT, with US 3¢ 1861 tied by red "Saint Johnsbury VT" double-circle datestamp and target cancels.
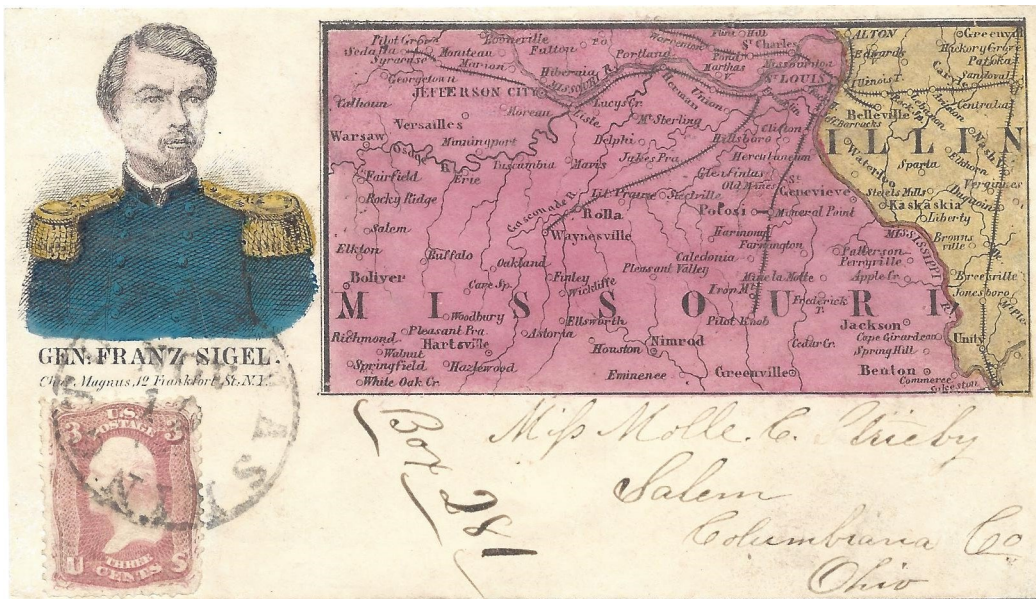
US 1862–North   **Magnus Military Patriotics**

Hand-painted Magnus camp scene depicting soldiers in front of tree <u>before</u> making camp; used from Frederick MD with US 3¢ 1861, 1 October 1862.

Similar hand-painted Magnus camp scene depicting soldiers in front of tree and tent, <u>after</u> making camp; used from Washington DC with US 3¢ 1861, 12 September 1862 .

Hand-painted Magnus patriotic depicting General Sigel and map, very scarce design**;** used from Washington DC, with US 3¢ 1861, 10 November (ca. 1862).

President Lincoln actively sought the support of anti-slavery, pro-Union immigrants. Sigel, born in Germany and a retired army officer that was influential in the Missouri immigrant community. Lincoln appointed him colonel in the 3rd Missouri Infantry on 4 May 1861 and, following success on the field, he was promoted to Major General.

US 1862–North   **Magnus "Rose of Washington"**
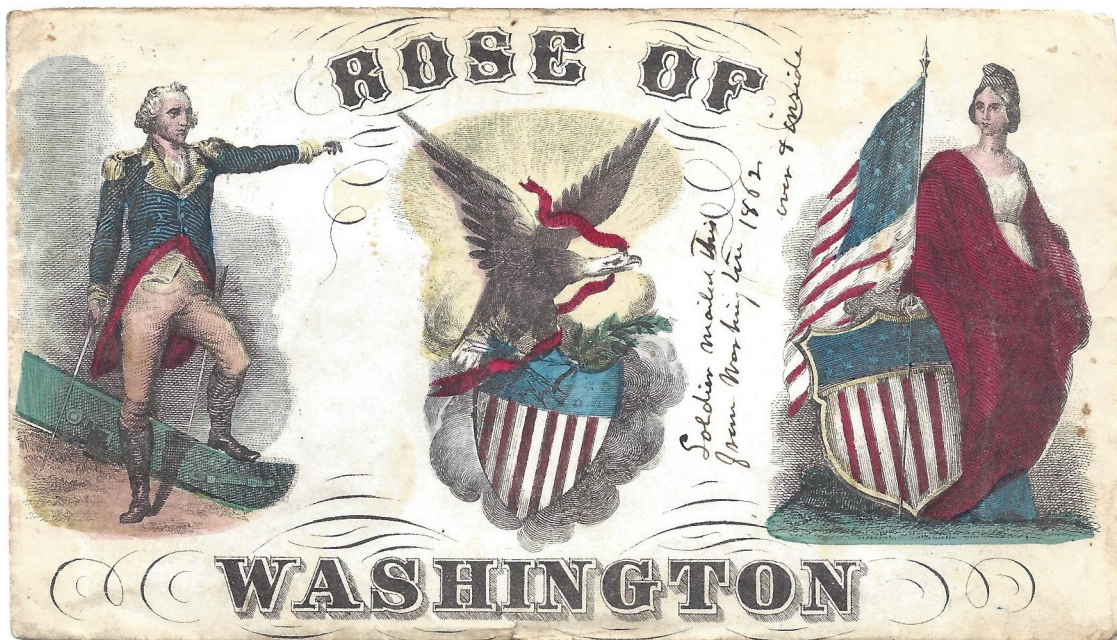
Above: Photocopy of
back at 60%

Left: Original multi-
panel foldout enclosure

Charles Magnus, the most skillful and prolific of all Union patriotic stationery publishers, employed women to apply watercolors to his multicolored designs—this "Rose of Washington" design depicts George Washington and Liberty on the envelope, and the enclosure is a multi-panel foldout with red roses and numerous views of Washington DC—3¢ 1861 and address on back.

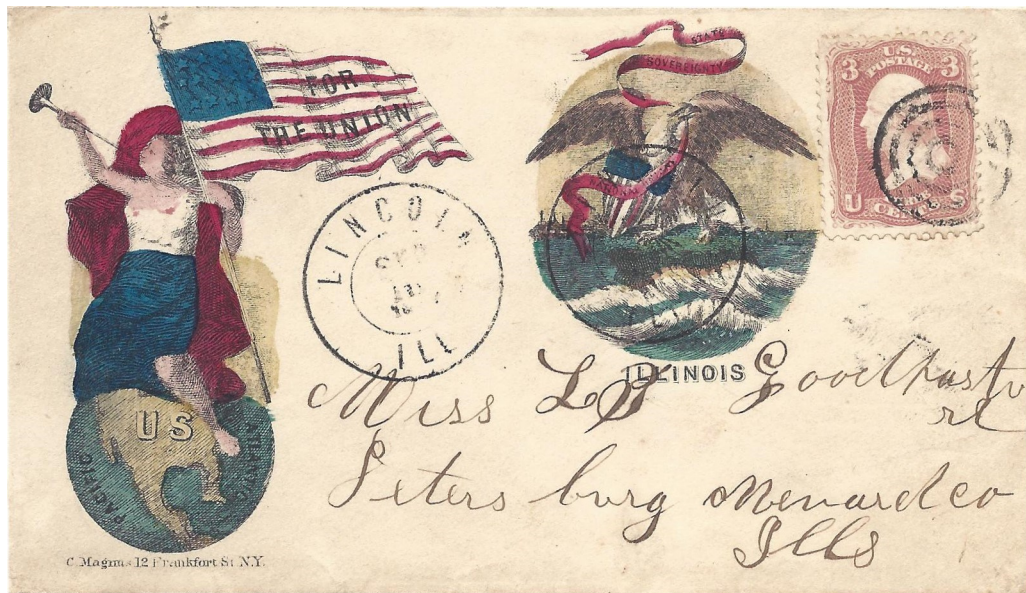US 1862–North   Magnus States and Cities

Hand-painted, two-panel Magnus patriotic depicting City of Hartford with naval design; used from Washington DC with US 3¢ 1861.

Hand-painted, two-panel Magnus patriotic depicting Illinois and woman holding "For the Union" flag over the US; used from Lincoln IL with US 3¢ 1861, September (ca. 1862).

Similar hand-painted, two-panel Magnus patriotic depicting Connecticut and two women with flag and scales; used from Williamsport MA with US 3¢ 1861, 11 March (ca. 1862).
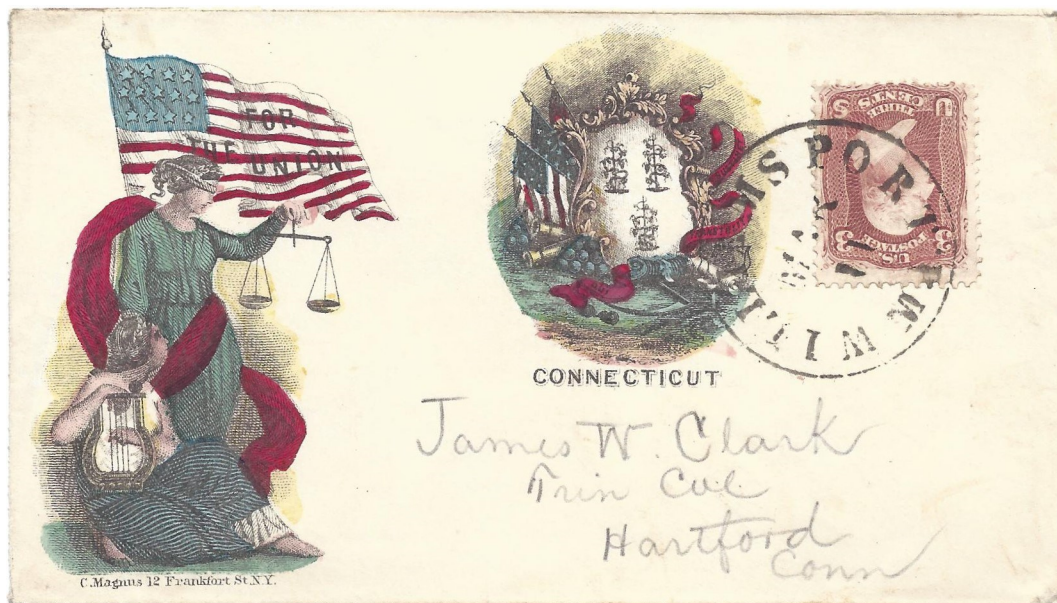
US 1862-1863—North   **The Angell Correspondence**

The Angell correspondence is the largest group of Civil War patriotic covers to destinations outside the US. Dr. Henry C. Angell was an optometrist who travelled throughout Europe during the Civil War. Letters sent to him from Boston were enclosed in a variety of patriotic envelopes. Dr. Angell was an art collector, and there is evidence he was also a stamp collector in later years.

Allegorical Liberty, eagle and flag design published by Charles Magnus.

Three different 1861 Issue stamps used to prepay 28¢ rate to Austria by Prussian Closed Mail, sent from Boston 1 July 1862, Aachen transit 15 July.

"Union" and flag design published by John L. Magee, proprietor of "Magee's Cheap Stationery Store and Envelope Manufactory," 316 Chestnut St., PA.

12¢ 1861 and 2¢ Black Jack stamps used to prepay 28¢ rate to Austria by Prussian Closed Mail, sent from Boston 23 December 1863, Aachen transit 6 January.

CSA 1861—South   Confederate Patriotics – Postmaster's Provisionals

Patriotic envelopes were used in the Confederacy for the duration of the war, but the quantity and quality of products were significantly inferior to the North. Flags were the most popular designs, and they started with the original seven stars, representing each seceded state, and increased to thirteen stars. Designs incorporating pro-Southern verses were also popular, as were those depicting early Confederate heroes, such as President Davis and General Beauregard. However, generals who rose to prominence in the second half of the war — Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson — were not depicted due to paper and ink shortages caused by the Union blockade of Southern ports.

10-Star Confederate Flag and Cannon design on 2 September 1861 cover to Philomath GA with two Memphis (Matthew C. Gallaway, PM) 5¢ Red provisional stamps paying rate for distance over 500 miles.

Approximately twelve patriotic covers are known with the Memphis provisional

11-Star Confederate Flag design on 27 September 1861 cover to McMinnville TN, with 5¢ Nashville Postmaster's Provisional paying pre-July 1, 1862 rate for under 500 miles.

Double rarity — the 11-star flag is one of the rarest of all Confederate patriotic designs, and there are only three recorded uses of the Nashville provisional on a patriotic cover

10-Star Confederate Flag design on 18 June 1861 cover to Port Gibson MS, New Orleans 5¢ brown on white provisional stamp paying pre-July 1, 1862 rate for under 500 miles.

This cover was posted aboard a steamboat and then transported to Grand Gulf MS, where it entered the mails and received its postmark.

8-Star Confederate Flag design on 26 June 1861 cover to Charleston SC, horizontal pair 5¢ Ocher New Orleans Postmaster's Provisional paying pre-July 1, 1862 rate for over 500 miles.

The covers presented above represent two of less than 10 known patriotics bearing the 5¢ New Orleans provisional. The bottom example, bearing a pair in the scarce Ocher shade, is especially rare

Red and blue Hand-Held 8-Star Confederate Flag with 10¢ "TEN" used from Mobile AL to Long Meadows VA, 23 May 1863.

One of less than five known multi-colored patriotic covers bearing the "TEN" engraved stamp

Red and blue 8-Star Confederate Flag with 10¢ Frameline used from Mobile AL to Greensboro AL, June 1863.

The 10¢ frameline is the scarcest of all CSA general issue stamps and this example on a multi-colored patriotic envelope is unique

Red and blue Hand-Held 11-Star Confederate Flag and slogan "Fast Colors...
warranted not to run" with 5¢ Green Lithograph used from Atlanta to Decatur
GA, 22 January 1862.

Red and blue 11-Star Confederate Flag design with 10¢ Light Milky Blue, Stone Y,
Lithograph used from Fort Gibson MS to Jackson MS, 29 December 1862 with receipt
docketing.

Standing soldier and 11-star Confederate flag design, circa 1863, from Gainseville AL to Eutaw AL, with 10¢ Frameline.

The Frameline stamp is extremely rare on a patriotic cover and the example presented here is unique
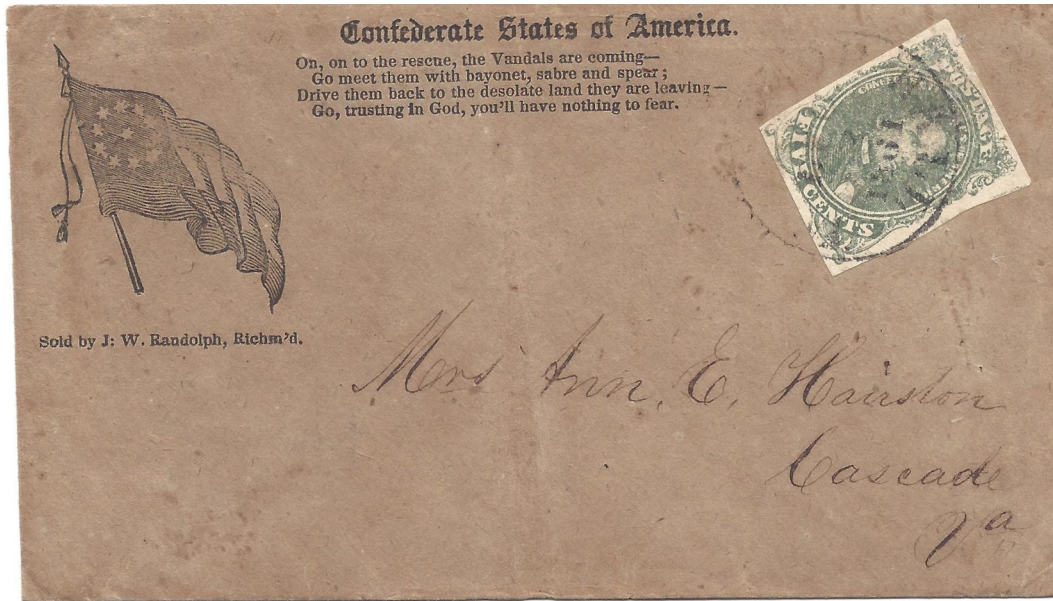
13-Star Confederate Battle Flag with C. H. Nobles & Co. (Pensacola FL) imprint; pair of 5¢ Richmond Typograph used from Mobile to Shelby Springs AL, 17 December (ca. 1863).

One of four known examples of this Confederate Battle Flag design

11-Star Confederate Flag and Verse design with J. W. Randolph (Richmond) imprint, with 5¢ Green Lithograph used from Tudor Hall to Cascade VA, 3 December 1861.

Romantic image of Mounted Dragoon, Sword, Verse and "Forti et Fideli nil Difficile" Slogan (Nothing is difficult to the brave and faithful), "To arms! To arms!" verses at top and "Remember Sumpter, Bethel & Manassas"; used from Tudor Hall to Lynchburg VA, 3 March 1862 with 5¢ Green Lithograph.
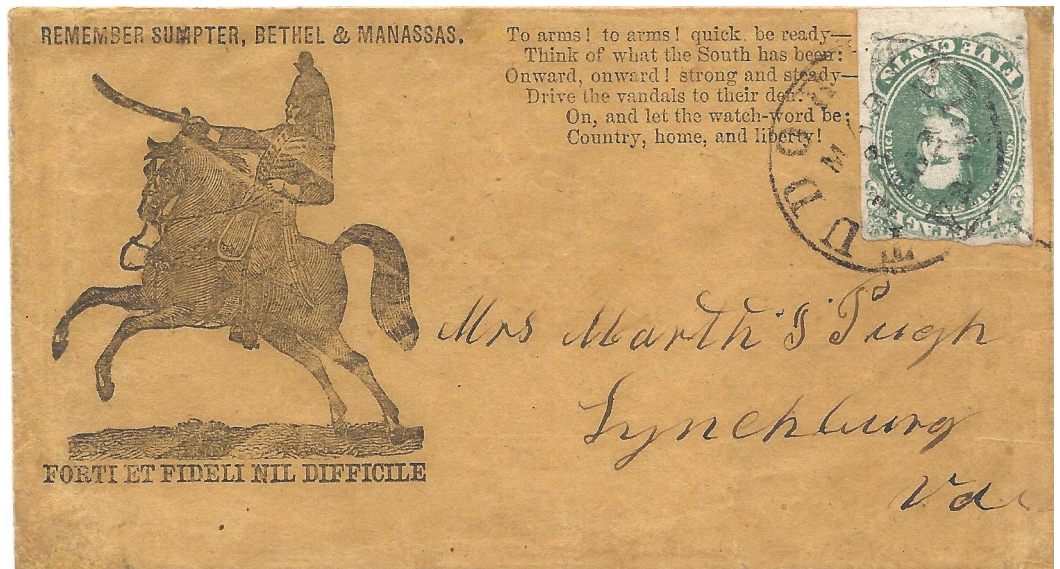
Two Continental Soldiers and Verse design, with 10¢ Blue Lithograph used from Goldsborough NC to Griffin GA, 23 October (ca. 1863).

Propaganda has been a major factor in virtually all wars, and its effective use can be a major influence in victory versus defeat. The war resulted in the outpouring of patriotic sympathy and political expression on both sides, but loyalties were not necessarily aligned with geography. The envelopes below represent use of Union- or CSA-themed propaganda covers by the opposite side that were presumably intended as a challenge to the prevailing sentiment.


Confederate Patriotic cover depicting two crossed 11-Star flags, the Confederate Shield and the Virginia State Seal; presumably used by a CSA sympathizer living in Lancaster PA, 3¢ 1861 pays US postage, 18 September 1861 from Lancaster to Boston MA.

The only known Union use of this CSA patriotic cover

Lancaster PA is near Maryland, a "border" state that voted to remain in the Union but avoid hostilities with the South based on its large population of Confederate sympathizers.

1860 campaign envelope for John Bell and Edward Everett; 5¢ Green Lithograph pays CSA postage, 15 January 1862 from Atlanta to Griffin GA.

One of two recorded Bell-Everett campaign covers with CSA General Issues
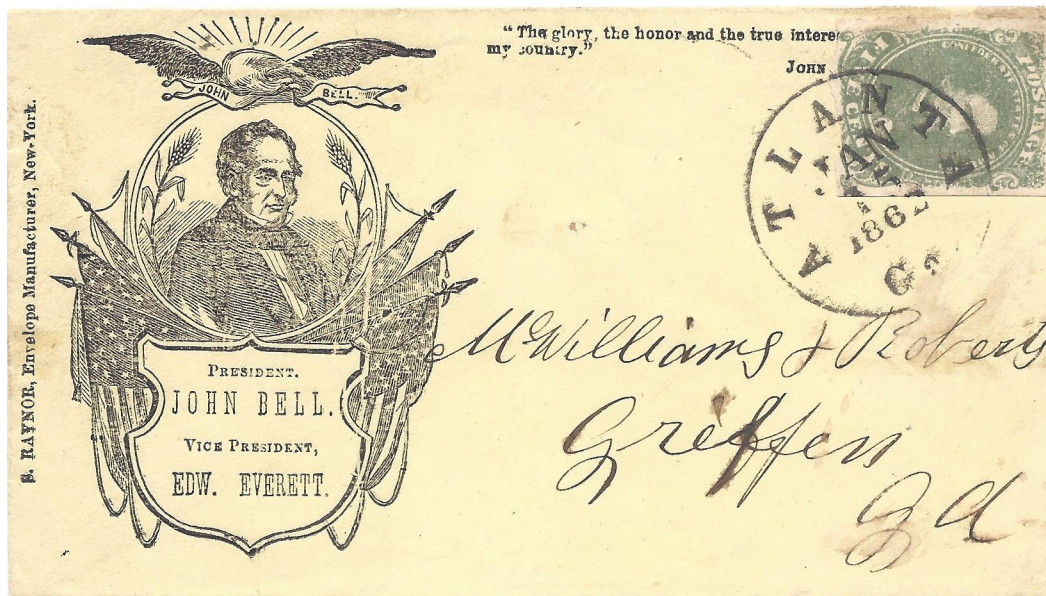
The Confederate use of this envelope was presumably a political statement against secession and in support of Bell, a Tennessee politician who ran for president against Lincoln in 1860 as the candidate for the Constitutional Union Party, which took a neutral stance on slavery and supported preservation of the Union. Bell argued during the campaign that secession was unnecessary because the Constitution protected slavery. His view on secession, which he later reversed after the Battle of Fort Sumter, led Southern newspapers to label him an abolitionist.

The Civil War caused shortages of basic supplies among the soldiers and civilian population, and the blockade of CSA ports and waterways made shortages of manufactured goods much worse in the South. Stationery and envelopes of good quality were among the staples in short supply, and Southern letter writers had to resort to a wide variety of products and methods to fill the void. Known to collectors as *adversity* covers, this broad category includes envelopes made from paper used for other purposes (printed forms, wallpaper, etc.) and re-used or modified envelopes.

US 1862—US Troops in South

Letter fashioned from a cardboard shirt collar, written by a Union soldier writing from Old Point Comfort VA to Philadelphia with three US 1¢ 1861.

Letter written in pencil and datelined "Head Quarters 2nd Regt. P.R.V.C., Banks James River, July 4, 1862", reports "We have fought five battles & won five victories... Genl. McCall is a prisoner, Genl. Reynolds ditto and wounded, Adj. Genl. Biddle and Simmons and a host of other officers killed."

Confederate imprint cover with "*Confederate*" crossed out and changed to "*United*" and "*of Va.*" added after "*Department of State,*" used from Old Point Comfort VA to Syracuse NY, with US 3¢ 1861.

Soldiers in the field resorted to using a variety of paper products to send letters home, but Union soldiers were usually well-supplied—these adversity uses from the South to Northern destinations are extremely unusual.
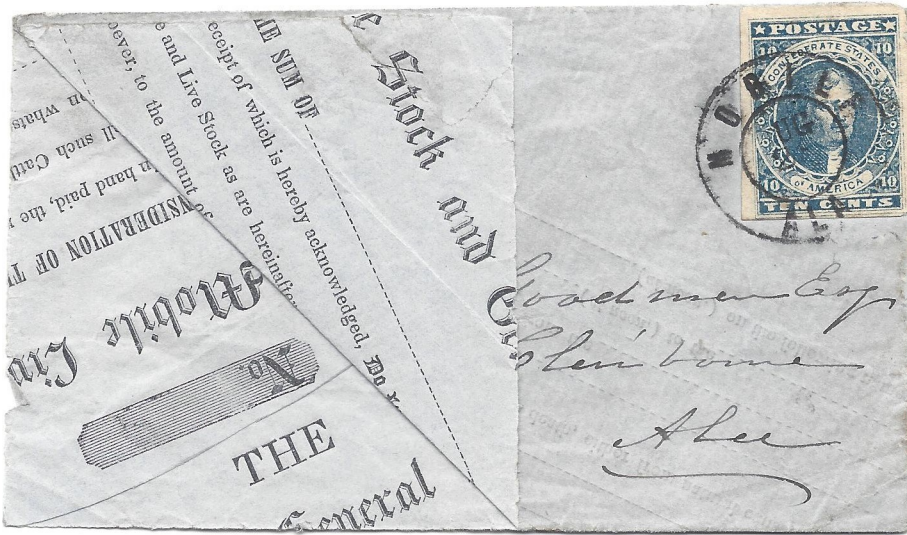
Envelope made from printed insurance form with 10¢ Hoyer & Ludwig Lithograph used from Mobile to Claiborne AL, 29 August (ca. 1862).

Envelope made from unusual paper printed in gold and white with "No." suggesting a form, but possibly wallpaper, used with 10¢ Rose Lithograph from Charleston SC to Dalton GA, 5 November 1862.
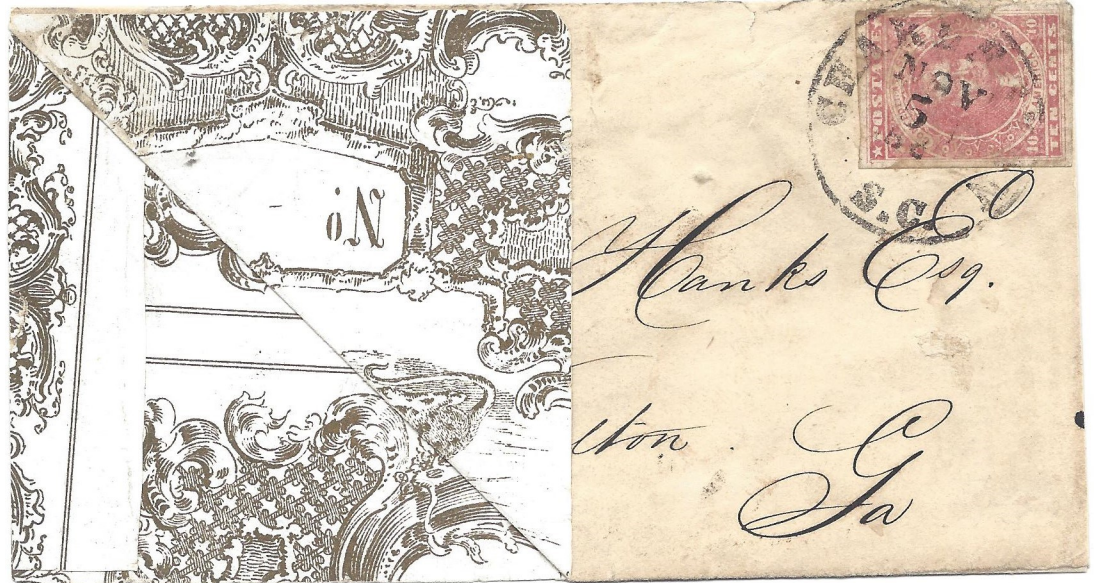
Very few adversity covers are known with the 10¢ Rose Lithograph

Envelope made from blue Chatham County court form with 2¢ Jackson Lithograph, strip of 3 and two singles, paying 10¢ rate from Savannah GA to Clarksville GA.

The Warren census records six adversity covers with the 2¢ Jackson Lithograph paying the 10¢ rate. This is the only example originating in Georgia

CSA 1861-1863—South

Use of Wallpaper

Envelope made from wallpaper with 5¢ Green Lithograph used from Wilmington NC to Davidson College in Mecklenburg County NC, 4 April 1861.

Examples of the first General Issue on wallpaper covers are rare because these adversity uses did not become widespread until late 1862, long after the 5¢ Green was superseded by the 5¢ Blue

Envelope made from wallpaper with **10¢ Stone Y Lithograph** used from Rock Wall TX to Shreveport LA, 2 July (ca 1863).

Very few wallpaper covers are known from Texas or with the 10¢ Jefferson

Envelope made from wallpaper with two 5¢ Richmond Typograph used from Georgetown to Camden SC, 2 February (ca. 1863).

Envelope made from wallpaper with 10¢ Frameline used from Mobile AL to Marianna FL, 19 September 1863.

One of two known examples of the 10¢ Frameline on wallpaper cover

20¢ Washington tied by red Blacks & Whites VA 24 May (ca. 1864) datestamp on wallpaper envelope to Sturgeonville VA; double 10¢ rate.

Combined rarity—20¢ Washington on wallpaper cover with red postmark

Envelope made from wallpaper with 10¢ Die B used from Fayetteville to Kinston NC, 1 October 1863, forwarded to Hillsboro NC with manuscript due 10¢.

Envelope made from wallpaper with 10¢ Die A used from Wilmington to Clemmonsville NC, 26 October (ca. 1863), with altered "5 PAID' from "3 PAID" datestamp.
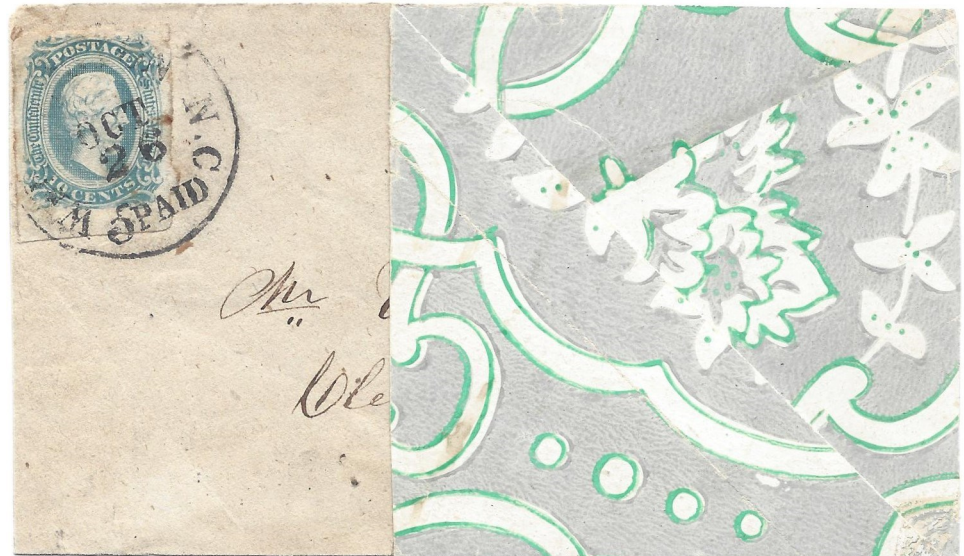
Envelope made from floral wallpaper with 2¢ Jackson Engraved, used locally in Fayetteville NC, 9 April 1863. The year date in this cancel is likely incorrect - most likely 1864.

One of less than five known wallpaper covers with the 2¢ Jackson Engraved

Envelope used twice with 5¢ Green Lithograph, Stone A-B, paying pre-July 1, 1862 rate for under 500 miles both times, first from Big Lick VA to Richmond VA, 25 January 1862 and then turned and sent from Richmond VA to Blacks & Whites VA, 3 February 1862.

Early adversity uses with the 5c Green Lithograph, the first adhesive issued by the Confederacy, are rare. This is the only known example with two copies paying the under 500-mile pre-July 1, 1862 rate

Envelope made from blue lined notepaper and re-used; posted at Mobile AL both times, first 21 August 1863 with pair of 5¢ De La Rue Typograph pair, evidently originating from somewhere else and posted as a drop letter; used a second time 9 September 1863 with 10¢ Rose Lithograph, addressed to Artesia MS.

A double adversity use—envelope made from notepaper and used twice

CSA 1863-1864—South   Use of Previously-Mailed Envelope

Envelope used twice - **both times with 10¢ Frameline, the scarcest of Confederate general issues** - first from Milledgeville GA to Col. John G. Park at Indian Springs GA and then turned and sent from Indian Springs to Milledgeville GA, ca 1863.

The only known example of a turned cover bearing two copies of the 10¢ Frameline from different origins

Envelope used twice with 20¢ Washington paying double rate for weight over half-ounce both times, first from Petersburg VA, December 1864 and then turned and to Richmond VA.

The only known example of a turned use with both sides bearing the 20¢ Green and one with Red postmark

2¢ circular and 10¢ regular rates

Envelope used twice, first with 2¢ Jackson Engraved paying circular rate from Richmond to Staunton VA, 31 December 1863; second use from Staunton to Lewisburg West VA with 10¢ Die A, 18 January 1864.

The South's economy was heavily dependent on slave labor and agricultural products, and it relied on grocers and commission merchants who brokered and stored goods for farmers. For this reason the vast majority of Confederate corner card and advertising envelopes are from businesses that provided wholesale and retail grocery products, warehouse facilities and commission-based merchandising. The North continued its import-export business and had a solid manufacturing base, but the Lincoln administration's monetary policies led to bullion hoarding and currency inflation.

CSA 1861—South   **Memphis TN and New Orleans LA**
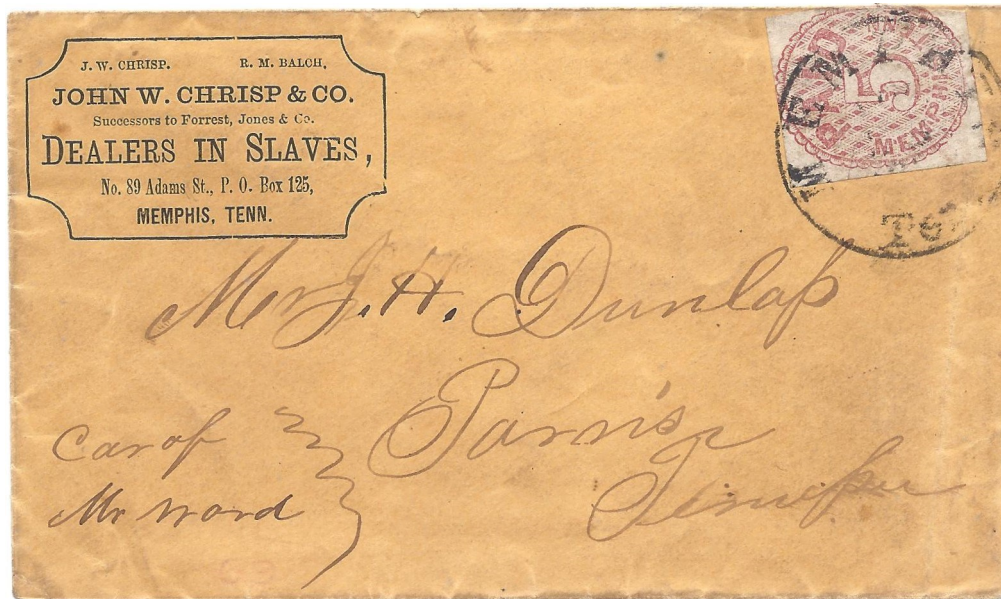
"John W. Chrisp & Co., successors to Forrest, Jones & Co., Dealers in Slaves, Memphis Tenn." advertising corner card cover. The Forrest mentioned in the advertisement is Nathan Bedford Forrest, the Confederate general and founder of the Ku Klux Klan.

While the slave trade was an integral component of the Southern economy, it was rarely mentioned in advertising envelopes and this cover is the only known example

Memphis TN 5¢ Red postmaster provisional to Paris TN, Memphis circular datestamp to cancel and tie the stamp.

Wright & Allen/Cotton Factors all-over advertising cover in light grey with printer's imprint on the verso.

One of two recorded examples of the 5¢ bluish paper New Orleans provisional on an advertising cover according to Philatelic Foundation records

New Orleans LA 5¢ Red Brown on bluish paper postmaster provisional (position 6) to Lexington MS, tied by straightline "PAID" handstamp with matching New Orleans/LA/5 Sep (1861) circular datestamp.

Macon 5¢ provisional (ruled border), used 2 June (1861), the second day of CSA postal system.

One of four recorded advertising covers bearing the first Macon provisional

Macon 5¢ provisional (floral border), unusual use of "MACON GEO" datestamp to cancel and tie the stamp, 19 August (1861).

One of two recorded advertising covers bearing the second Macon provisional

A matched pair of covers with Greer & Lake (grocers) lithographed advertising designs, which depict barrels and boxes of grocery goods; both sent to Oglethorpe GA with different 5¢ typeset provisional stamps issued by Dr. Edward L. Strohecker and/or Washington Poe, the postmasters of Macon.

5¢ Green Lithograph used from Atlanta to Griffin GA, 1 February 1862.

Salmons & Simmons (staple and fancy goods) cameo design.
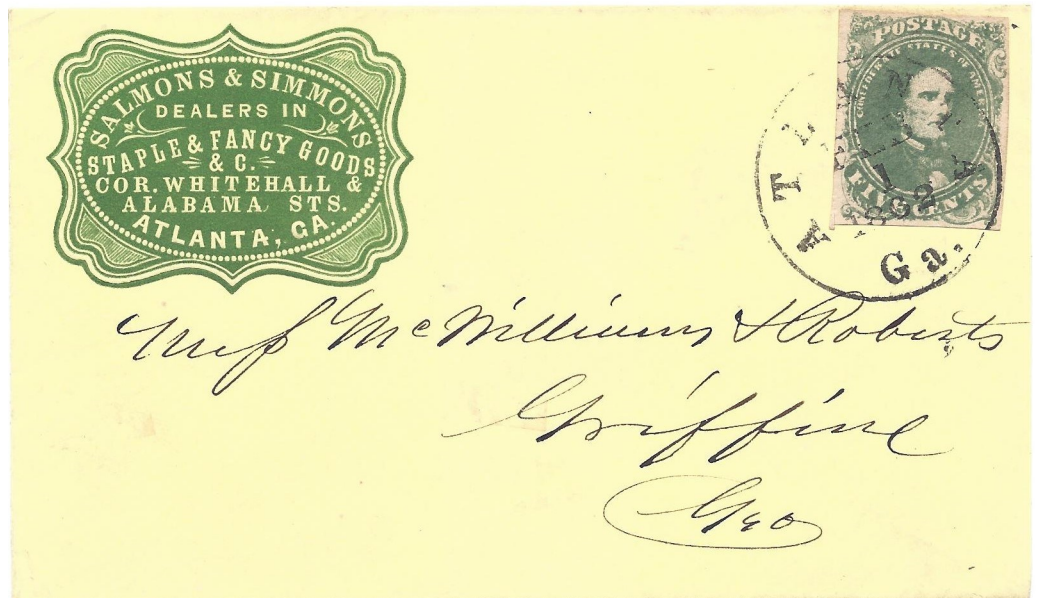
8 December 1861 with 5¢ Green Lithograph paying rate under 500 miles.

19 June 1863 with 10¢ Davis Die A paying 10¢ rate.

A matched pair of covers with Harvey, Armistead & Williams (wholesale grocers and commission merchants) lithographed advertising designs; both sent from Richmond to other places in Virginia.

27 May 1863 with 10¢ Frameline on illustrated overall lithographed hardware and cutlery dealer advertising cover to Camden AL.

Rare use of the 10¢ Frameline, the scarcest of Confederate general issues, on an all-over advertising cover

US 1862-1863–North   **The North's Gross Domestic Product**

Based purely on industrial capacity and natural resources, the North was destined to win the war against the South and its agrarian, cotton-dependent economy. Estimates of relative Gross Domestic Product for the North and South are difficult to calculate, but some analysts claim that the North had a 4:1 superiority. Below are two examples of wartime cameo corner cards that served to advertise the varied and numerous products and services produced and offered in the North.

French, Richards & Co., Philadelphia, 3 September 1863, manufacturers and wholesale dealers in paint, drugs and glass.

The Knickerbocker Ice Company, Philadelphia, 25 March 1862 with 1¢ and 3¢ 1861 paying postage and carrier fee; ice was one of the country's largest exports during the 19th century.

US 1861-1864–North (West)   **California and Nevada Mineral Wealth**

President Lincoln was careful to maintain strong ties with the state of California and territory of Nevada to ensure that their vast mineral wealth remained in the Union's domain (Nevada became the 36th state to join the Union in October 1864). To avoid Confederate interference with the mails, the overland mail route was moved from the Southern Butterfield Route to the Central Route in 1861.

Transcontinental Pony Express ran from 3 April 1860 to October 1861.

Eastbound transcontinental Pony Express (Central Route) from San Francisco, 31 August 1861, to New York via St. Joseph MO (19 September); $1 Red Pony stamp pays rate effective 1 July 1861; printed frank pays 25¢ express fee; 10¢ Star Die entire for US postage.

Congress created Nevada Territory on 2 March 1862 following the gold and silver strikes that brought an influx of miners and settlers.

The Pony Express was reinstated in August 1862 and ran until 1865 between Virginia City, Nevada Territory and Placerville, Sacramento and San Francisco, CA.

Westbound "Virginia City" Pony Express from Virginia City, Nevada Territory, to Sacramento CA, 6 May (ca. 1863); printed frank pays 10¢ Wells Fargo & Co. express fee; 3¢ Pink entire of 1861 pays US letter rate; 25¢ Blue Pony stamp with sheet margin at right pays Pony Express surcharge rate effective February 1863.

US 1862-1863–North   **Charitable Fundraising and Soldier Relief**

Wartime Sanitary Fairs were held by charitable organizations in the North to raise money for the relief of Union soldiers. In addition to fundraising events, the groups ran hospitals and refreshment saloons that provided medical care and warm meals to soldiers returning from the battlefield.

On 13 June 1861, President Lincoln gave the Sanitary Commission semi-official status. Its purpose was to support sick and wounded soldiers. However, funds were not provided to carry on the work, so Sanitary Commission fairs were organized as fundraisers and to enlist volunteers. The Great Central Fair, held in Philadelphia from 7 to 28 June 1864, was the largest and best-organized. The Philadelphia fair was the only one attended by President Lincoln.

Two copies 2¢ black overpaying the 3¢ letter rate tied by target cancel and "Phila. Pa. Jun. 24, 1864" circular datestamp, used with **Great Central Fair, Philadelphia, 10c Blue adhesive** tied by "Great Central Fair June 17, 1864" circular datestamp on magenta cover to Boston, MA and accompanied by original letter, which is a 5-stanza love poem.

One of three recorded covers bearing the 10¢ Philadelphia Sanitary Fair and regular US postage, and the only recorded use of the 10¢ stamp with the 2¢ Black Jack issue
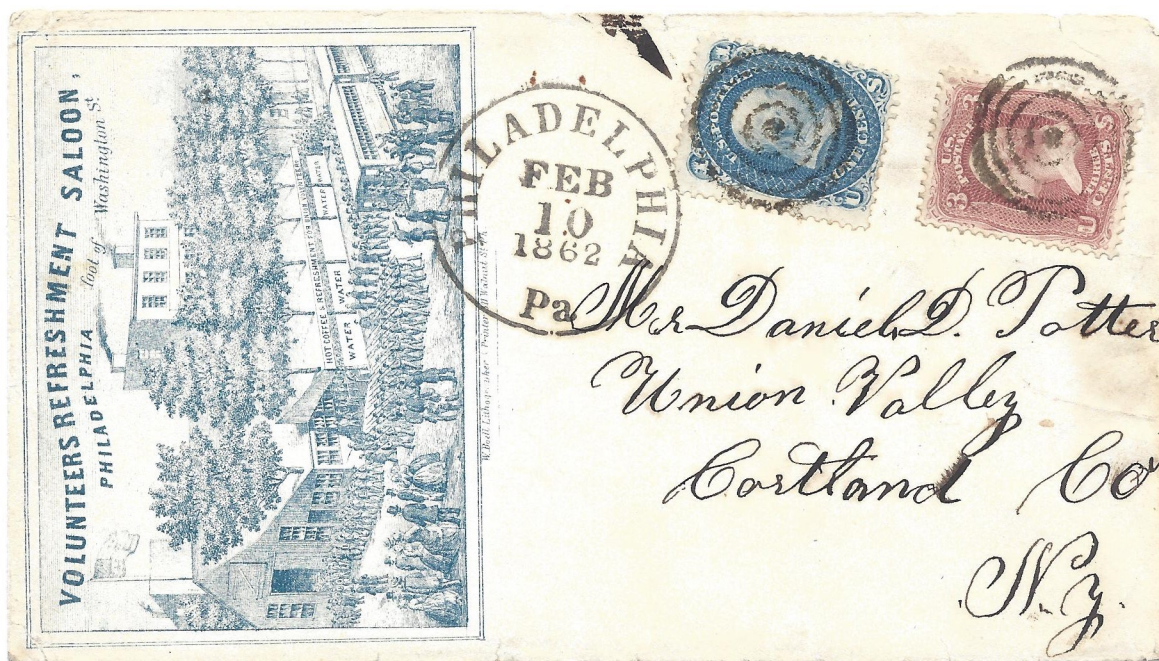

Union Volunteer Refreshment Saloon and Hospital of Philadelphia, open from 17 May 1861 to 28 August 1865; illustrated envelope printed by W. Boell of Philadelphia depicts the building, marching soldiers, civilians and railway cars; used 10 February 1862 with 1¢ and 3¢ 1861 paying postage plus carrier fee; original letter from a soldier in the hospital.

The CSA abolished the franking privilege that existed in the US prior to the war. Instead, the privilege to send official mail free of charge was authorized for the Post Office Department and later extended to the Agency for the Trans-Mississippi Department. Official mail sent by other departments and agencies required postage, but many of the CSA and state officials prepared imprint envelopes to carry letters—these are known as "semi-official imprints."

CSA 1862-1863—South   **CSA Government Imprints**
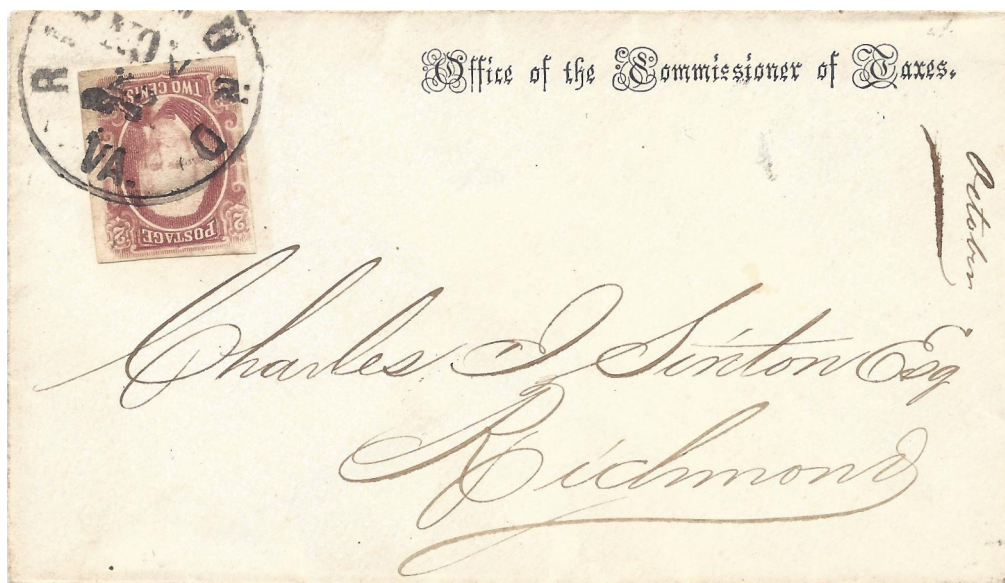
2¢ Jackson Engraved on "Office of the Commissioner of Taxes" (Treasury Department) imprint envelope paying drop letter rate in Richmond, the Confederate capital.
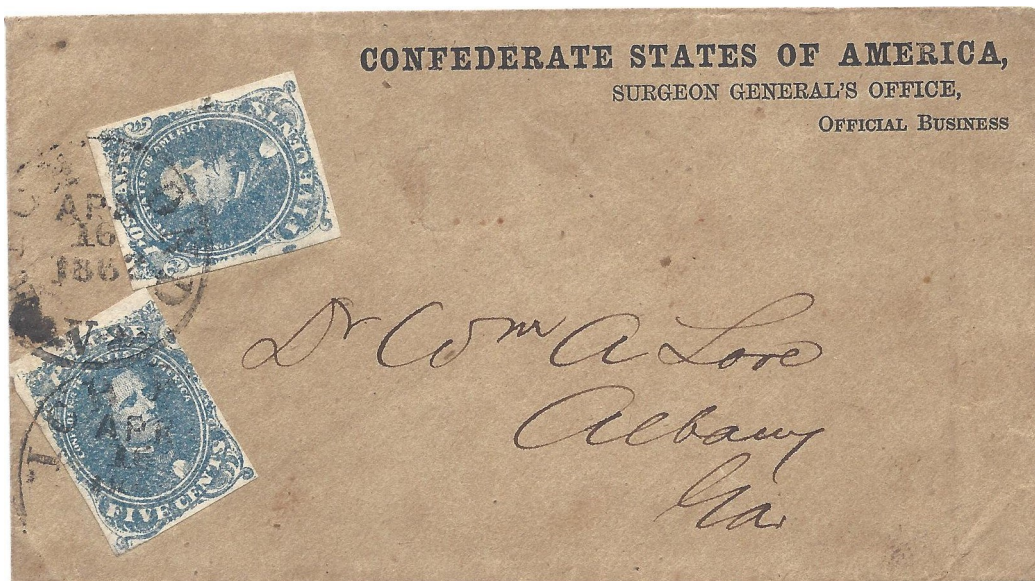
Two copies 5¢ Blue Lithograph on "Confederate States of America/Surgeon General's Office, Official Business" imprint envelope from Richmond VA to Albany GA, 16 April 1862.

2¢ Jackson Engraved, strip of 5, on "Headquarters Reserve, N.C., Official Business" imprint envelope from Raleigh NC to Weldon NC.

Two copies Nashville postmaster's provisional 5¢ Violet Brown paying 10¢ rate for weight over half-ounce and distance under 500 miles tied on all-over "State of Tennessee, Executive Department, Nashville, Agriculture/Commerce" imprint envelope, 21 September 1861.

Very few examples of official imprint covers are known with postmasters' provisional stamps

CSA 1863-1864—South   **Post Office Department**

The CSA Post Office Department was allowed to send official mail free of postage. Special imprinted envelopes (some on old US entires) were prepared for the different departments, and a signature was required on each envelope mailed. Shown below is an example from the "Post Office Department/Chief of the Contract Bureau."

Finance
Bureau
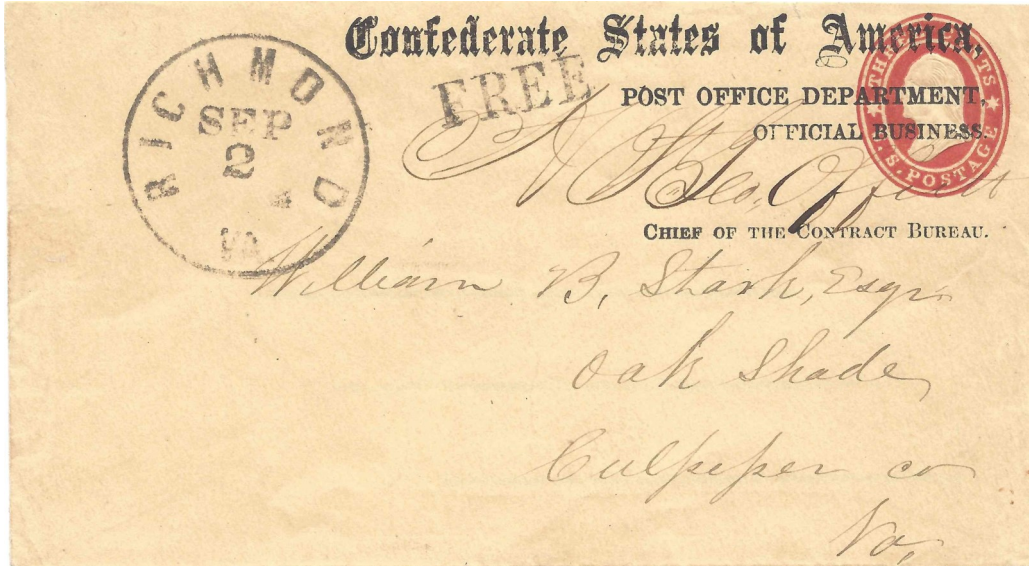
The official mail privilege was extended to the Agency of the Trans-Mississippi Department in May 1864 and imprint envelopes were prepared at that time. They were signed by Jas. H. Starr and are very scarce due to the short period and circumstances of use—the example below was used from Marshall TX, October 1864.

Trans-
Mississippi
Department
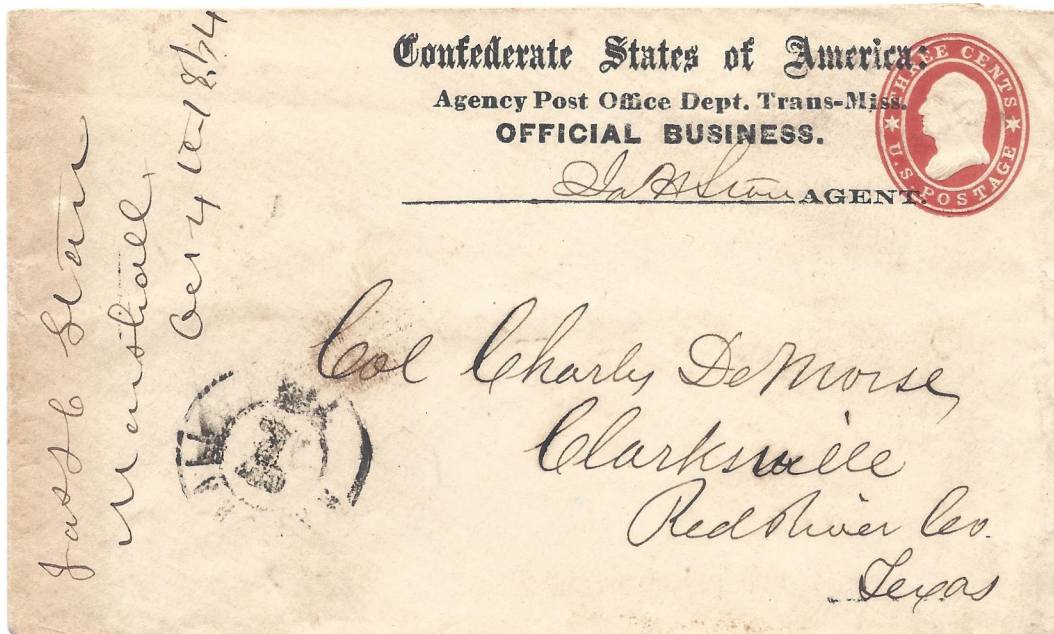
The South's inland waterways provided an important means of transportation for passengers, freight and mail prior to and during the first year of the war. After US forces captured New Orleans in 1862 and Vicksburg in 1863, navigation on the Mississippi River was controlled by US Navy gunboats, but other waterways remained open. The CSA postal laws 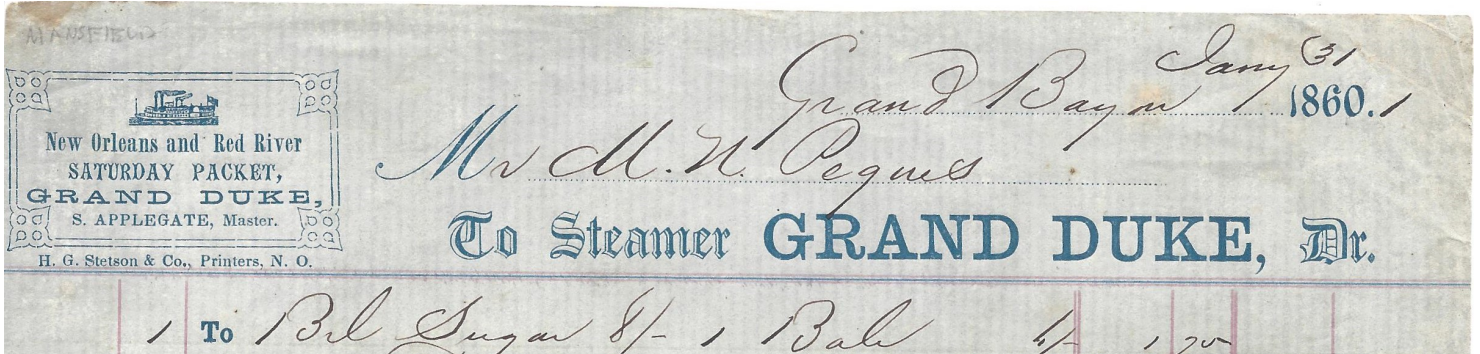governing waterway mail followed 1859 US laws. The classification of vessels (contract vs. non-contract), whether letters were prepaid or unpaid, and the destination (port of entry or beyond) determined the rates and markings, but confusion resulted in misapplied markings and rates (in New Orleans, for example).

US 1861—South   **US Route Agent in CSA**

"STEAMER GRAND DUKE" route agent's name-of-boat 30 April 1861 datestamp on US 3¢ Star Die envelope to Montgomery AL, used after the formation of the CSA on 4 February 1861 and before the start of the CSA postal system on 1 June 1861; carried by steamboat on Red River, entered New Orleans post office 1 May and sent by regular mail to Montgomery; shown with cover are two pre-war documents related to *Grand Duke*.
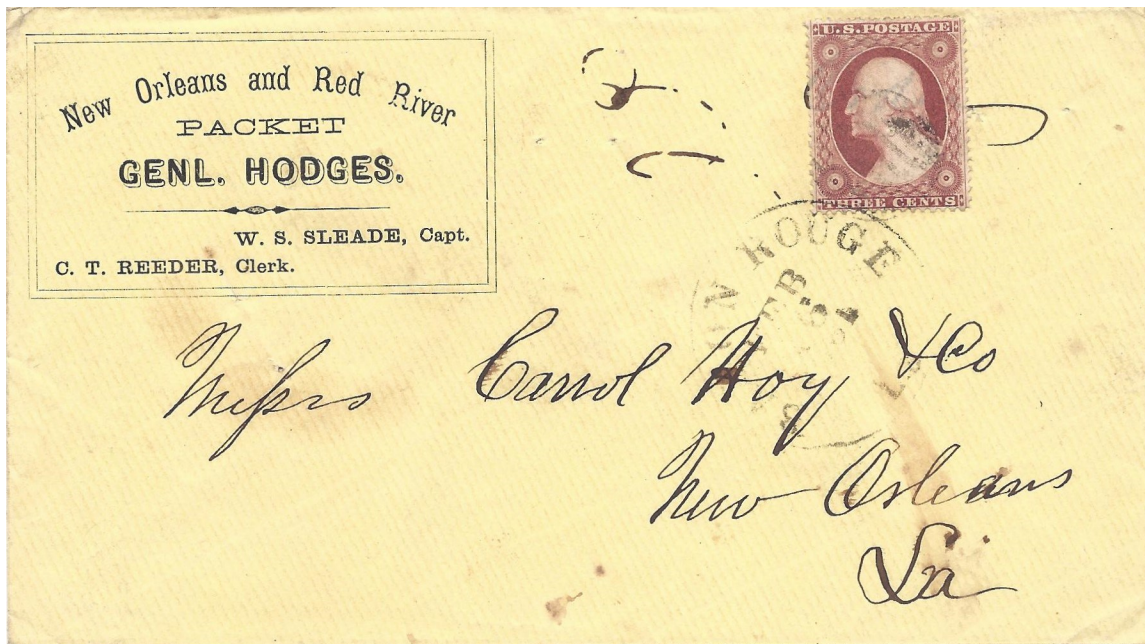
New Orleans and Red River Packet, General Hodges corner card, entered post office at Baton Rouge LA 16 February 1861 with US 3¢ 1857, carried to New Orleans by Mississippi River steamboat.
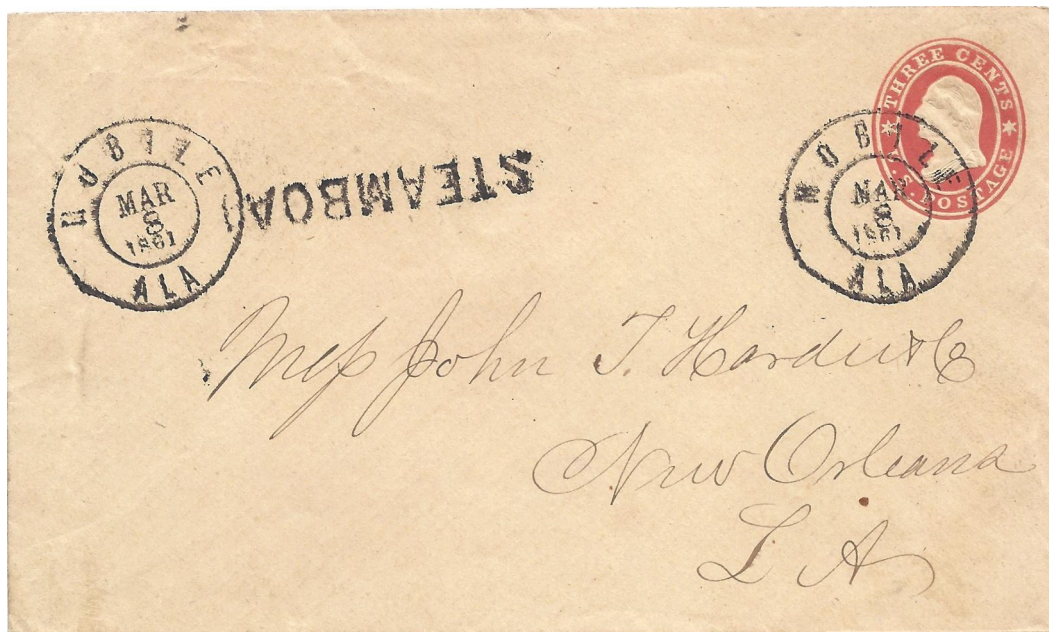
US 3¢ Star Die envelope entered mails at Mobile AL 8 March 1861 where "STEAMBOAT" handstamp was applied, this marking was used to indicate that the letter was received from a non-contract vessel and the captain had received his 2¢ per letter fee; sent from Mobile to New Orleans by regular mail.

Both covers show use of US stamps in the CSA after formation of the CSA government on 4 February 1861 and prior to the commencement date of the CSA postal system on 1 June 1861.
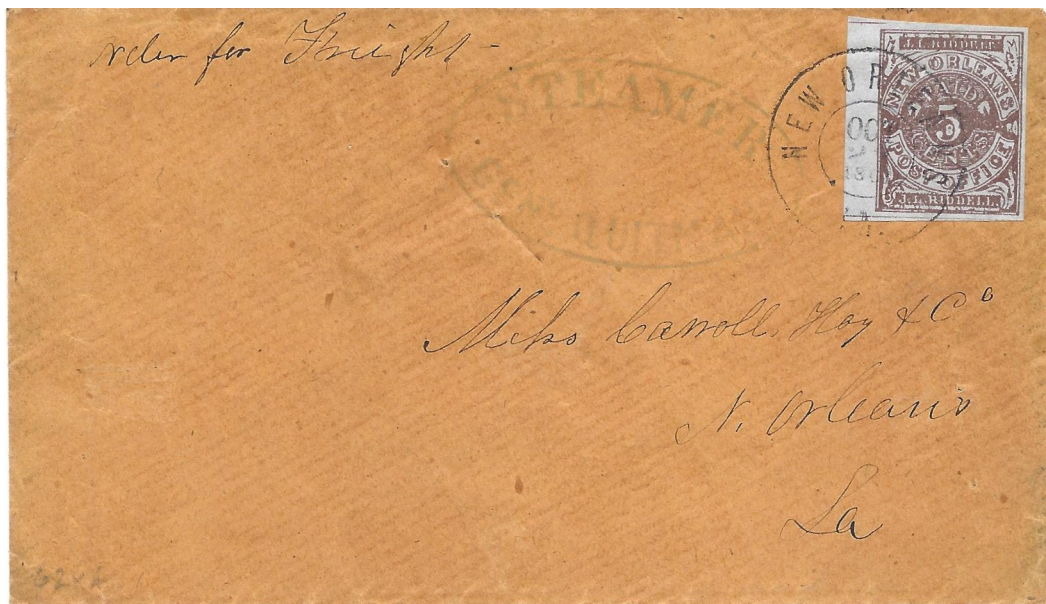
Rare use of name-of-boat marking with a postmaster's provisional stamp

"STEAMER GENL. QUITMAN" name-of-boat handstamp in ultramarine applied by purser or crew member on cover to New Orleans, carried on the Mississippi River (possibly from Natchez or Vicksburg), entered CSA mails at New Orleans with 5¢ Red Brown on Bluish postmaster's provisional already affixed, cancelled on arrival 23 October 1861, prepaid so no postage or ship captain's fee charged to addressee.

New Orleans to Livonia LA with 5¢ Yellow Brown on Off-White Third Printing cancelled "PD. 5CTS/N.O.P.O.", straightline "J. L. RIDDELL, P.M." and 7 December 1861 double-circle datestamp associated with river mail; probably carried north on Mississippi River to Baton Rouge and then by land to Livonia

One of two recorded covers with 5¢ Third Printing cancelled by river-mail markings

In 1860, there were 22,000 miles of railroad lines in the North and 9,500 miles in the South. In November 1861 the CSA tried to persuade 91 railroads to carry mail at reduced contract rates, but the railroads resisted, and only 15 companies complied. CSA mail was carried on trains in one of three ways: 1) locked through-bags between terminal offices; 2) local or way-mail bags received and delivered along the route; and 3) loose letters given to route agents aboard the trains. Only loose letters handled by route agents received CSA railroad markings. Many lines were destroyed during the war, by both sides. Certain lines were taken over by US forces and operated under military authority, as the post-war Baldwin's Express cover shown below illustrates.

CSA/US 1861-1866—South   **CSA and US Route Agent Markings**

Richmond & Petersburg R.R. shield-shaped cameo corner card cover with 10¢ Die A, tied by "Richmond Va. Nov. 29" circular datestamp from Richmond to Meridian Miss.
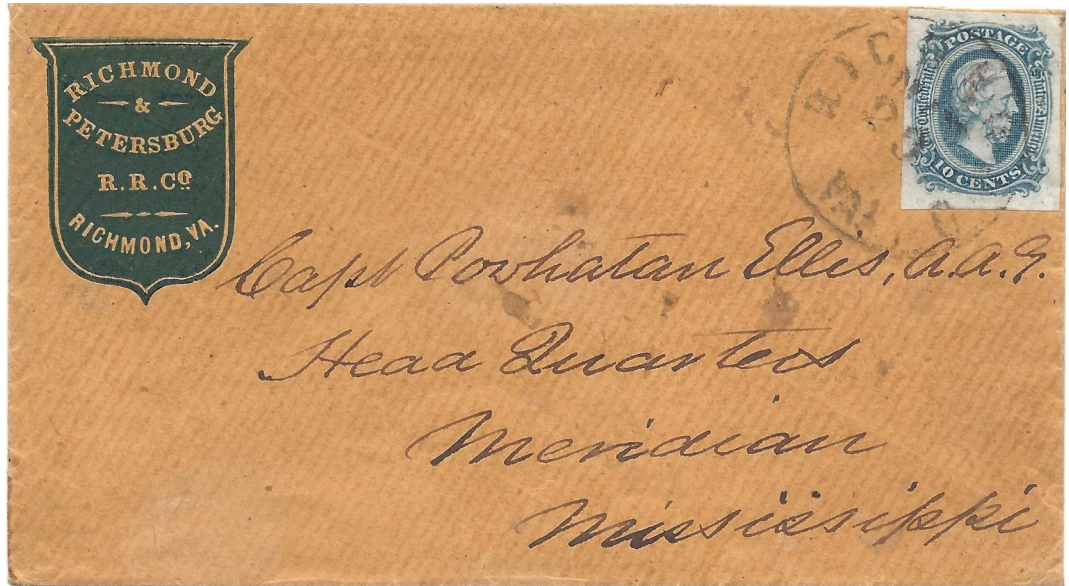
US Military Telegraph imprint cover to New Orleans, carried on NOO & GWRR by Baldwin's Express as the route agent, circa 1866, US 3¢ 1861 cancelled on arrival.

The New Orleans, Opelousas & Great Western Railroad line was under US military control from 1 July 1862 to 1 February 1866; the "BALDWIN'S SOUTH LA. EXPRESS/M.R./8154" circle was used from January through May 1866 (the route contract number was 8154).

The blanket term *Special Routes* applies to a variety of means used by correspondents to send mail across the lines of war to reach its destination, including private express companies, government-operated courier/express mail, blockade runners, covert and clandestine routes, and formal flag-of-truce exchanges. Some of the routes were used by correspondents in the North and South, and those are displayed in other sections of this exhibit. The routes used exclusively by Southern correspondents to bypass the US blockade or occupying forces are represented in this section.

## CSA 1861-1862—South   Costa's International Express

Antonio Costa conducted a foreign mail service out of New Orleans that was endorsed by the CSA postal authorities. Outbound mail was routed across Texas to Mexico where it was forwarded to Tampico, a city and port on the Panuco River about 10 kilometers inland from the Gulf of Mexico, for placement aboard ship. Inbound mail was directed through Tampico to the postmaster in Matamoros, a Mexican town on the southern border of the Rio Grande that became a center for the rebel states commerce and trade due to its proximity to Texas, for forwarding to New Orleans and entry into the CSA postal system. There are no recorded markings for Costa's Express.

Rotterdam, Holland to Richmond, carried by British steamer to Tampico and then to Brownsville TX where franked with two 5¢ Green Lithographs and then to New Orleans where it entered the CSA mails with 15 March (1862) datestamp, inner letter datelined 27 Dec 1861.

This letter is accompanied by a one-page circular (copy 25% scale) from Costa that includes sub-text from New Orleans Postmaster J. L. Riddell, dated 15 October 1861, which announces the service and provides instructions for its use: *"Foreign Mail from New Orleans, via Tampico, Connecting with the British Mail Steamers"*... *"The undersigned, now suffering in common with others, the inconvenience of blockade and non-intercourse with foreign countries; has, by the advice and approval of J. L. Riddell, Post Master at New Orleans, taken all needful measures to establish at his own expense, a monthly mail between New Orleans and the Mexican port of Tampico..."*

The only recorded Costa's Express cover incoming from Europe
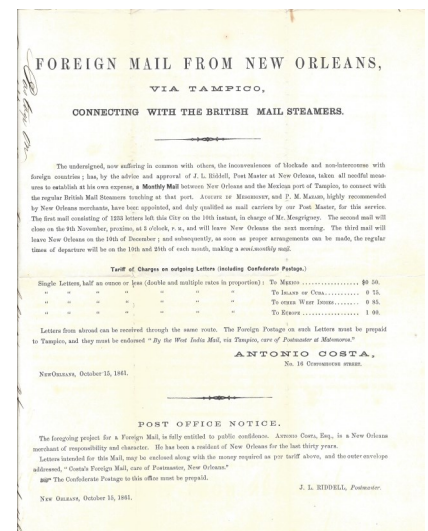
CSA 1863—South   **Louisiana Relief Committee**

The Louisiana Relief Committee was formed on 31 May 1863 by a group of expatriate New Orleans citizens in Mobile AL to alleviate the suffering of poor citizens who remained in US-occupied New Orleans. With the tacit concurrence of US authorities, they arranged shipments of food and clothing to New Orleans and helped citizens leave the city for the CSA. The trips between Mobile and New Orleans via Pascagoula ran along the Mississippi Sound and carried letters that were not sanctioned by the US authorities.
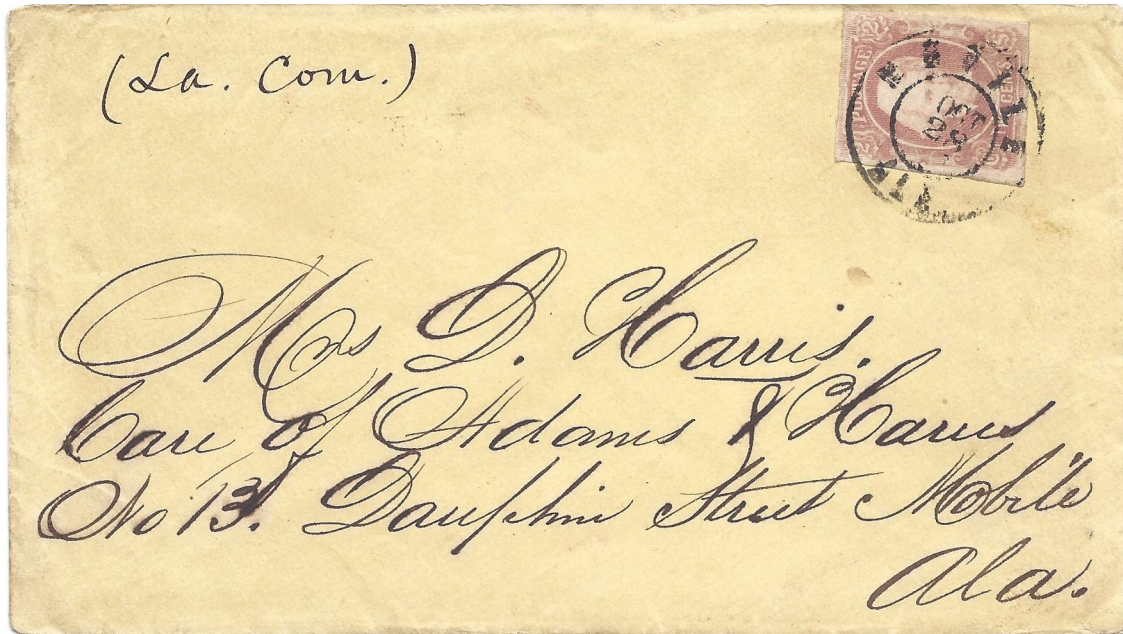
Carried from US-occupied New Orleans by Louisiana Relief Committee courier, manuscript "(La. Com.)" applied by agent for the committee, pencil "Appd JCDenis PMG" censor marking applied on back by Mobile Provost Marshal Jules C. Denis, entered CSA mails for local delivery in Mobile with 2¢ Jackson Engraved cancelled on 28 October 1863.

CSA—South   **Trans–Rio Grande/Eagle Pass, Texas**
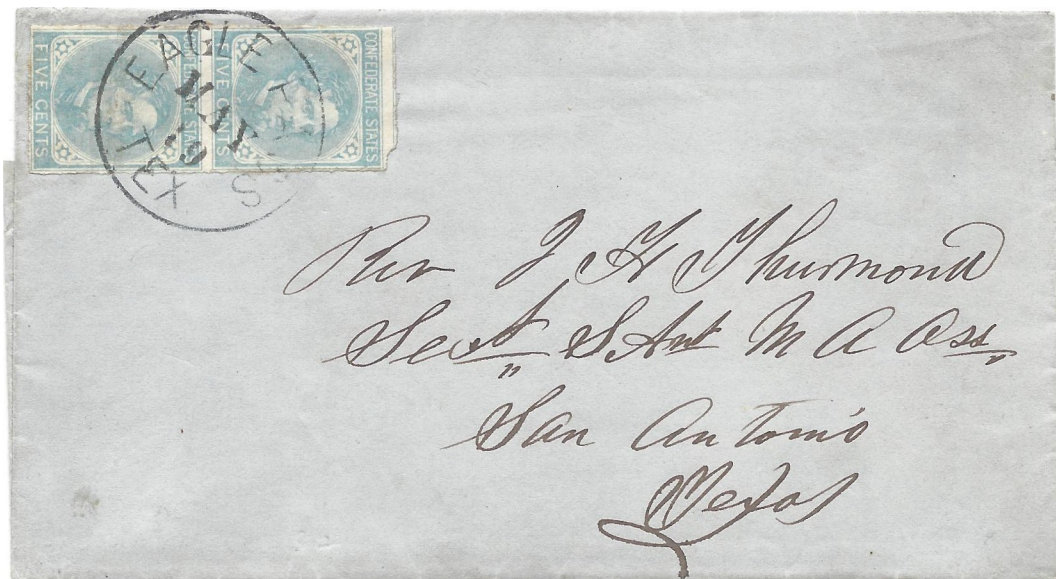
5¢ De La Rue Typograph pair, tied by Eagle Pass Tex. May 19 cds.

Carried from Mexico across the Rio Grande to San Antonio in Confederate Texas via the Eagle Pass post office, which operated as the drop point for mail originating in Mexico to the CSA.

The first step in the Union's Mississippi River strategy was the capture of New Orleans on 26 April 1862. US Navy gunboats then ranged up the river, capturing Baton Rouge, Natchez, and arriving off Vicksburg on 18 May 1862. Memphis fell on 6 June, opening up the upper Mississippi to US gunboats. The resulting US naval presence along the Mississippi disrupted CSA Trans-Mississippi postal service.

On 16 April 1863, the CSA authorized PMG Reagan to establish a "Preferred" mail route to facilitate communications and "more speedy transmission of letters and dispatches" across the Mississippi River. The rate for this service was initially set at 50¢. The "Preferred" service was advertised, but no written evidence has been found documenting its formal implementation. However, there are several westbound covers bearing 50¢ in postage with Trans-Mississippi notations.

On 1 May 1863, a "Trans-Mississippi Express Mail" service was established, with the CSA authorizing PMG Reagan to establish post routes and rates to be designated by him. The rate was established at 40¢ per half-ounce and a contractor was hired to carry the express mails twice weekly, starting 20 October 1863. Letters were directed to terminal post office locations on either side of the river, and Post Office Special Agents at those locations determined which courier would carry the mail across the river.

Westbound from Marion VA to Marshall TX, 21 May 1864, with 10¢ Davis Die A horizontal pair and strip of three paying the 50¢ "Preferred" mail Trans-Mississippi rate and sender's directive "C.S. via Meridian Miss".

One of less than five known Trans-Mississippi express covers paid at the 50¢ "Preferred" mail rate

The addressee, William W. Heartsill, was one of the first Confederate soldiers to enlist, joining W. P. Lane's Texas Rangers. In 1862 his Texas unit moved into Arkansas as a cavalry unit and was soon overwhelmed by a Union force. Heartsill was taken prisoner and transported to a Federal prison camp. In April 1863, he and other members of Lane's Rangers were exchanged for Federal prisoners and recirculated into the Confederate army. After the war, Heartsill sold groceries and saddles in Marshall, Texas.

It took several months to establish the routes and arrange the necessary services, and Trans-Mississippi Express mail is recorded as early as October 1863 and late as April 1865.

Westbound from Petersburg VA to Shreveport AL, 26 October 1863, with strip of four 10¢ Die A; Collegiate Seminary for Young Ladies embossed corner card; sender's directive "Via Meridian Miss".

The earliest recorded Trans-Mississippi Express 40¢ rate cover and one of two recorded college covers sent by Trans-Mississippi Express

Eastbound from an unknown place west of the Mississippi, addressed to Greenville CH SC, 40¢ rate paid with two 5¢ Blue Lithograph and pair and single 10¢ Die B —cancelled at Shreveport LA, 29 August 1864.

The only Trans-Mississippi Express cover known with the 5¢ Blue Lithograph or a mixed-issue combination

CSA 1863—South   **Blockade-Run Mail**

On 19 April 1861 President Lincoln proclaimed the blockade of the South, encompassing over 3,500 miles of coastline. To stop goods and mail from leaving or entering the CSA, the US naval forces focused on major ports; by mid-1862 the majority were effectively closed. Most surviving blockade-run covers are to or from Europe via the West Indies, sent on vessels through Charleston SC and Wilmington NC and connecting with Nassau, Bermuda and occasionally Halifax, Nova Scotia. Blockade runners also operated on a more limited basis out of Mobile, Savannah, New Orleans and ports in Texas.

Inbound from Bermuda and carried on the blockade-runner *Alice*, which left St. George's, Bermuda on 17 October 1863 and arrived in Wilmington around 22 October where it entered the mails to Atlanta GA, 10¢ Die B cancelled 24 October, "SHIP" handstamp and "2" cents captain's fee due; additional "DUE/10" handstamp for weight over half-ounce.

Carried on blockade-runner *Lucy*, departing Wilmington 1 May 1864, arriving Nassau 7 May; then Cunarder *Corsica*, departing Nassau 9 May and arriving New York 13 May.

The letter that was contained in this envelope is datelined "In Camp" on Jan. 12, 1864, from Edward L. Wells, a private in the Charleston Light Dragoons, Co. J., 4th SC Cavalry.

The only recorded example of the Bahamas 6-pence Lilac used on a blockade-run cover

Outbound from Charleston SC to New York City via Wilmington NC and Nassau Bahamas, entered the British Mails with Bahamas 6p Lilac (overpaying the 4p rate from the Bahamas), 8 May 1864 cds on back with "5" in circle handstamp applied in NY for postage due on British packet mail.

Letters to and from prisoners of war represent perhaps the most significant human element of the Civil War mails. US and CSA flag of truce exchanges facilitated POW correspondence and the return of released POWs. Exchanges of POW mail were permitted from September 1861 to September 1862 and from July 1863 to June 1865—during the interim, flag of truce mail exchanges were suspended. Old Point Comfort (Fortress Monroe) was the principal exchange point in Virginia on the US side; on the other side in Virginia the CSA first used Norfolk, then Petersburg, and finally Richmond after exchanges resumed in July 1863. During the second period there were six primary exchange points: Richmond–OPC, Pocotaligo–Port Royal, Jackson–Vicksburg, Mobile–New Orleans, Shreveport–New Orleans, and between Galveston and US Blockading Squadron ships.

CSA/US 1861—Northbound   **CSA Prison Camps**

Prior to establishment of the formal flag of truce mail exchanges in September 1861, early prisoners used Adams Express to privately carry mail across the lines.

Sent by Union soldier captured at the First Battle of Bull Run and held at **Ligon's Tobacco Warehouse**, Richmond, to Vernon VT, with "PAID 10" in circle for CSA postage and matching "Richmond Va. Aug. 4, 1861" cds, US 3¢ 1857 tied by Adams Ex. Co. * Louisville, Ky. * Aug. 7, 1861 cds and additional US 3¢ 1857 tied by a blue grid with matching Louisville 7 Aug. 1861 cds.

One of three recorded across-the-lines express prisoner of war covers
according to the Special Routes book

**CSA/US 1862—Northbound**   **CSA Prison Camps**

Following the establishment of flag of truce exchanges, northbound letters from US POWs in CSA prison camps were usually (but not always) enclosed in an inner envelope that was placed inside another envelope and mailed with CSA postage to the flag of truce exchange point. The inner envelope was either stamped with US postage or marked due and placed into the mails and the outer envelope was destroyed.
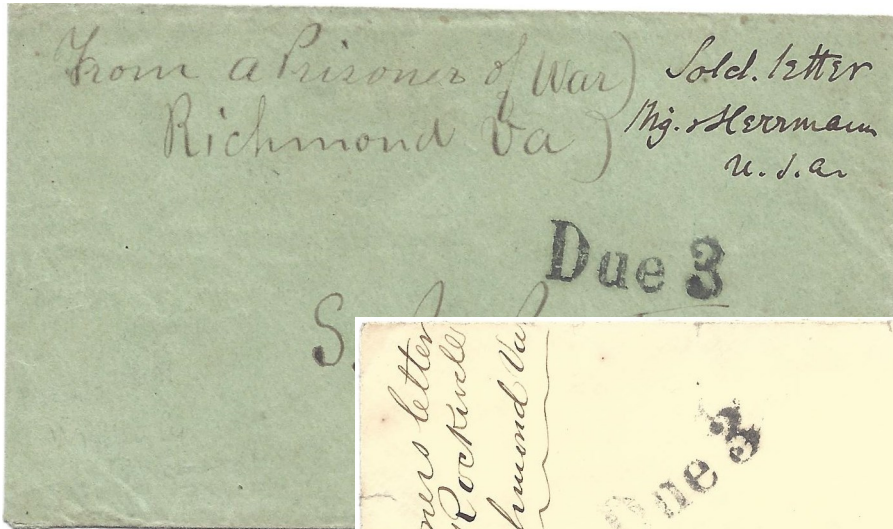
Inner envelope from Lt. Union POW held at **Ligon's Tobacco Warehouse**, incorrectly handstamped "Due 3" for unpaid soldier's letter despite POW's rank as an officer, which required 6¢.

Inner envelope sent from Union POW held at **Libby Prison**, Richmond, carried by flag of truce to Old Point Comfort where it entered mails with 9 March 1862 date-stamp and "Due 3", original letter is enclosed.
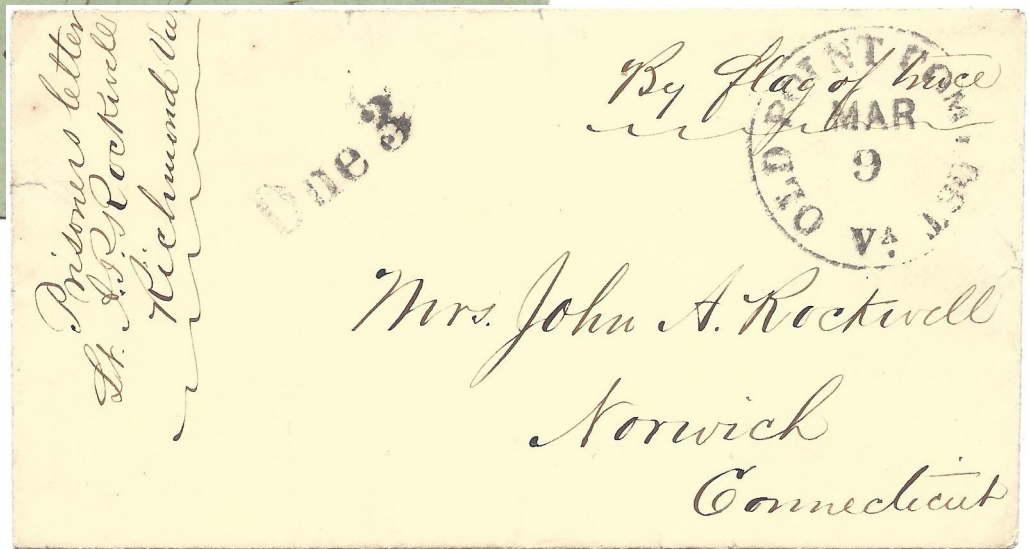
Sent from Union officer held as POW at Salisbury prison in North Carolina, pencil "ExNK" censor's mark, **10¢ Rose Lithograph** cancelled at Salisbury 31 July ("1861" error date-should be 1862), carried by flag of truce and entered US mails at Washington D.C. 10 August, "Due 3" for US postage to Gray ME; original letter from Major D. M. Dill, datelined "Salisbury N.C. July 30, 1862."

Three 10¢ Rose Lithograph POW covers are recorded; this flag of truce routing during the first exchange period through Washington DC is unusual

Sent by a Union officer held as a POW at **Camp Oglethorpe** in Georgia and exchanged by flag of truce to Port Royal SC, endorsed by Capt. James H. Pierce, Co. C, 118th Regt., NY Vol. Infantry, and censored "H.J.H. aag" (assistant adjutant general), 10¢ Die A cancelled at Savannah GA 28 August 1864; Port Royal 5 September datestamp and "Due 3" for unpaid US postage to Bloomingdale NY; Camp Oglethorpe was built in 1864 on the Old Fair Grounds as a stockade for captured officers; about 28 covers are recorded by Harrison.

Sent by Union officer held as POW at **Camp Sorghum**, Columbia SC, endorsed "Henry W. Cross Lieut 59th Mass Inf'y Vols., Prisoner of War Columbia, S.C.", censor's manuscript "Exd J. C. Martin, Capt Comdg"; carried by flag of truce to Old Point Comfort, 10¢ Die B corner position left uncancelled by CSA post office, cancelled by Old Point Comfort 16 December 1864 datestamp and "Due 6" for US postage to Newburyport MA; Harrison reports about 20 covers from Camp Sorghum.

CSA/US 1864—Northbound   **The Infamous Andersonville Prison**

Sent from Union POW held at Camp Sumter in Georgia, better known as Andersonville, censored by **Camp Commandant Capt. Henry Wirz** ("Exd. H.W. In Extremis"), adversity use of wallpaper envelope to Lewiston ME, single 5¢ De La Rue Typograph underpays the 10¢ CSA rate, cancelled by 'ANDERSONVILLE GA." dateless woodcut circle, carried by flag of truce to Old Point Comfort, entered US mails with 25 August (1864) datestamp and "Due 6" for US postage.

The only wallpaper envelope signed by Andersonville prison commander
Henry Wirz—approximately 32 covers from this CSA prison are recorded
by Galen Harrison and only some of those are signed by Wirz
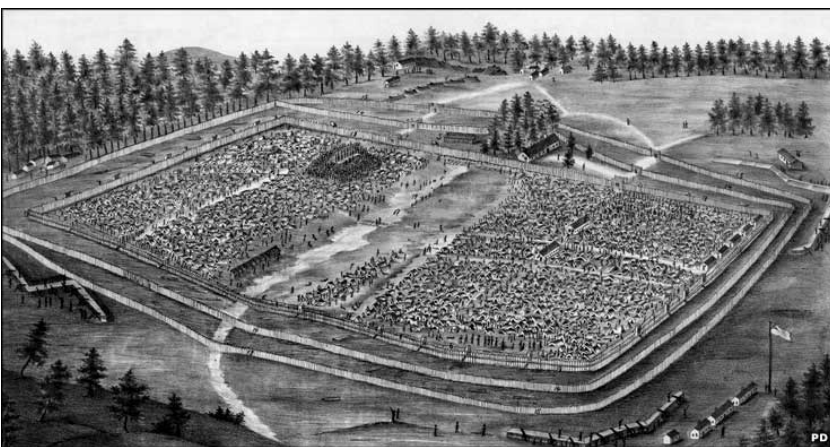
Andersonville, officially Camp Sumter, was the largest and most notorious CSA military prison. On 27 March 1864 Captain Henry Wirz assumed command of the stockade. By the end of the war, 12,913 of the approximately 45,000 Union POWs held there had died, mostly from starvation and disease. After the war, Wirz was charged with conspiracy and murder by US authorities. His trial was held in the Capitol building in Washington. A number of former prisoners testified on conditions at Andersonville, many accusing Wirz of specific acts of cruelty (some of these accounts were later called into question by historians as exaggerated or false). The court also heard from CSA officers and considered official correspondence from captured records. Wirz presented evidence that he pleaded to CSA authorities to obtain more food and maintained that he tried to improve the conditions for the prisoners. Wirz was found guilty of murder and sentenced to death. On 10 November 1865 he was hanged at the site of the current Supreme Court building, becoming one of very few Confederate officials to be tried, convicted and executed for war crimes.

Sent from Union POW held at **Richland Jail**, Columbia SC to Bedford PA, censor marking "Exd R. D. Senn Capt Post Gd", carried by flag of truce to Old Point Comfort, 10¢ Die A left uncancelled by CSA post office, US 3¢ 1861 and CSA 10¢ Die A cancelled at Old Point Comfort 25 August 1864.

Sent from Union POW held at **Richland Jail**, Columbia SC, patriotic envelope with 9th Corps, 4th Division design (Magee imprint) addressed to Warsaw NY, censor's marking "Exd R D Senn Capt Post Gd", carried by flag of truce to Old Point Comfort in care of Col. H. T. Oulde (Commissioner of Exchange), CSA postage paid on outer envelope, US 3¢ 1861 cancelled 25 August 1864, examiner's marking on bright yellow cover to Warsaw N.Y.; with letter datelined "In Prison, Columbia S.C. August 12th 1864" from Lt. William H. Mix to his mother.
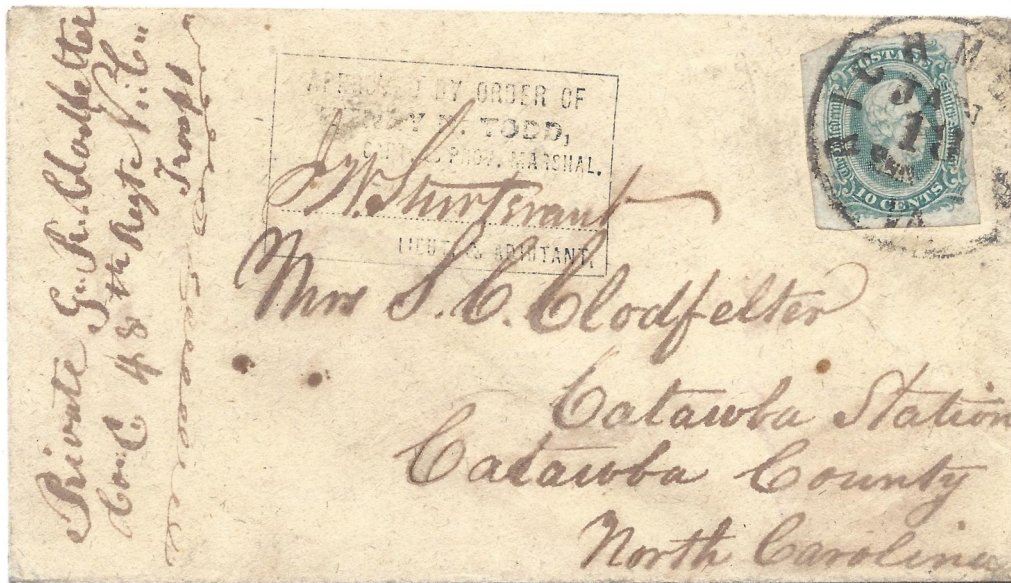
POWs in CSA prison camps rarely possessed or used patriotic stationery

US/CSA 1861—Southbound   **First Union Prison-Old Capitol**

Following the Battle of Manassas in July 1861, Old Capital prison in Washington DC became the first in the North to hold Confederate POWs. Harrison records 94 covers known.

Inner envelope from Confederate POW held at **Old Capitol Prison** in Washington DC, addressed to Catawba Station NC, manuscript POW endorsement with 4-line boxed handstamp censor marking "Approved by Order of/Henry B. Todd/ Capt. & Prov. Marshal/J.W. Sturtevant/Lieut. & Adjutant," CSA letter rate paid by 10¢ Die A cancelled on 10 January (1864) upon entry into the CSA mails at Richmond.

US/CSA 1865—Southbound   **POW Mail with CSA Drop Letter Rate**

One of four or five known POW covers with 2¢ Jackson Engraved
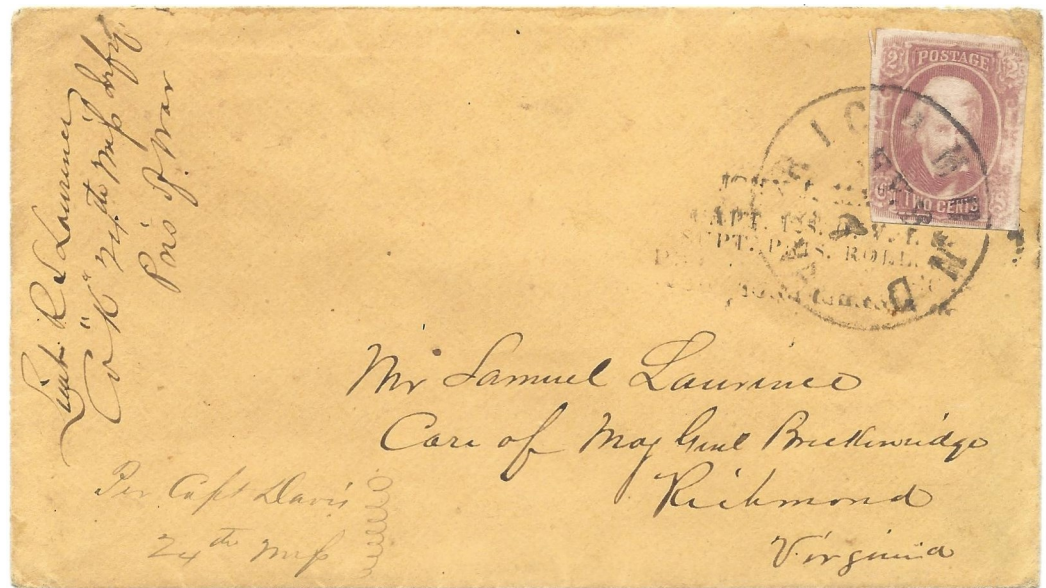
Inner envelope from Confederate POW held at **Johnson's Island** in Sandusky OH and addressed to Richmond, care of General Breckinridge, manuscript POW endorsement with "John J. Manor/Capt. 128 O.V.I.&./Supt. Pris. ROLL..&/Pris. Correspondence./Johnsons Island. O." censor's handstamp, drop letter rate paid by 2¢ Jackson Engraved cancelled on arrival 7 February (1865).

US/CSA 1863—Southbound   **The Battle of Gettysburg**

Benjamin F. Little was appointed captain in Co. E, NC 52nd Infantry Regt., on 28 April 1862 and promoted to full lieutenant-colonel on 3 July 1863, the last day of the Battle of Gettysburg. During Pickett's Charge, Lt. Col. Little was severely wounded while leading his men and captured on the battlefield. Lt. Col. Little's military records confirm that after spending time at the Letterman General Hospital at Gettysburg, he was transported to West's Building Hospital and eventually to Ft. McHenry, both in Baltimore MD prior to being exchanged at Point Lookout.

Letterman General Hospital. US 3¢ 1861 cancelled at Gettysburg PA, 24 July 1863, entering the CSA mails at Richmond VA, 4 August 1863 with CSA 10¢ Die A for postage to Little's Mills NC. Harrison reports 20 known covers.

West's Hospital Building. US 3¢ 1861 cancelled at Baltimore MD, 5 October 1863, entering the CSA mails at Richmond VA, 20 October with CSA 10¢ Die A for postage to Little's Mills NC. Harrison reports 20 known covers.

Ft. McHenry. US 3¢ 1861 cancelled at Baltimore MD, 10 December 1863, entering the CSA mails at Richmond VA, 18 December with CSA 10¢ Die A for postage to Little's Mills NC. Harrison reports 29 known covers.

US/CSA 1864—Southbound   **Confederate "Immortal 600" Prisoners**

In June 1864 US and CSA generals in Charleston SC each placed 50 captured enemy in areas under bombardment; the tit-for-tat engagement ended in the exchange of the POWs. Shortly after the "50" prisoner incident, 600 more Union prisoners were brought to Charleston. In retaliation, approximately 600 CSA prisoners were moved from Fort Delaware on the vessel Crescent City to Morris Island near Charleston, arriving on 7 September. They were held in open barracks as human shields under direct shelling from CSA forces. After the stalemate, the "Immortal 600" CSA prisoners were moved from Morris Island on October 23 and sent to Fort Pulaski, then back to Fort Delaware.
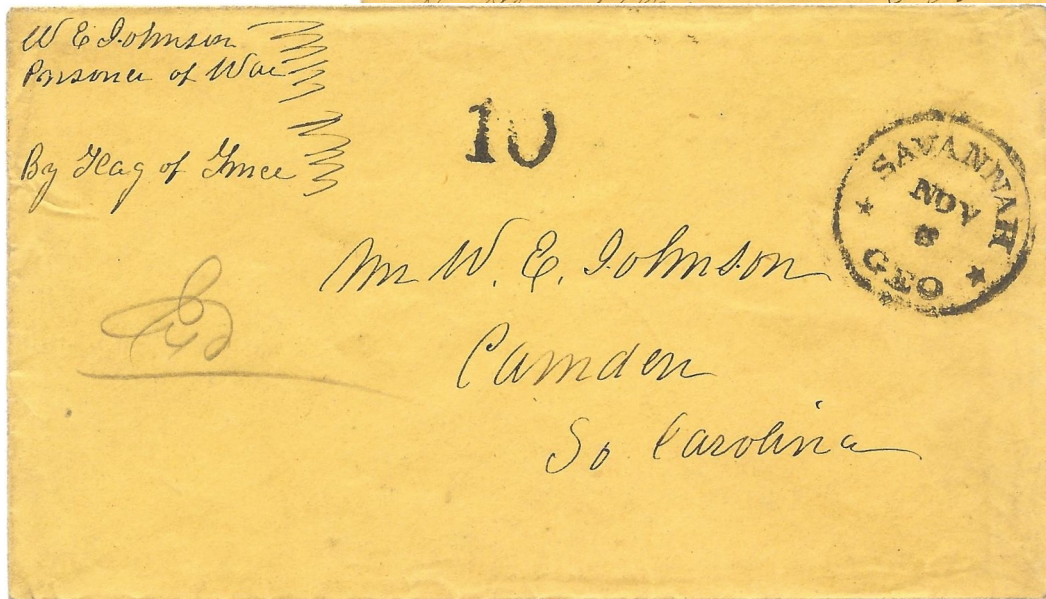
From Lt. W. E. Johnson, a CSA prisoner and one of the "Immortal 600" held by US forces; 21 October 1864 from **Morris Island**;
 6 November 1864 from **Fort Pulaski.**

Censored by John Cassels, Captain and Provost Marshal of **Fortress Monroe**, then sent by flag of truce to Richmond, where 10¢ Die A cancelled 5 August 1864; the Confederate prisoner, Lt. G. H. Keiser, was sent shortly after to Morris Island and became one of the "Immortal 600".

US/CSA 1863-1864—Southbound   **US Prison—Camp Hoffman**

Unique to the Southbound covers from Union prisons are handstamp censor and examiner markings applied by prison staff and district provost marshals who inspected the mail prior to it entering the postal system, and there were 11 prisons that used such handstamps at various times.

Presented bellow are covers bearing Type I and Type II censor's markings from **Camp Hoffman**, which was established at Point Lookout MD shortly after the Battle of Gettysburg and was built to hold 10,000 prisoners. Approximately 50,000 prisons were confined during its operation and about 3,500 died. Harrison reports 196 known covers.

Sent by Confederate POW to Shady Grove VA, oval examiner's handstamp "Approved Point Lookout, MD/J.A. Patterson/Capt. Provost Marshall", flag of truce via Old Point Comfort with US 3¢ 1861 and CSA 10¢ Die B entering the CSA mails at Richmond where both stamps cancelled.

This type I censor's handstamp was in use from early October 1863 to late April 1864.

Sent by Confederate POW to Greenville C.H. SC, octagonal examiner's handstamp "Prisoner's Letter/Examined", with US 3¢ 1861 and CSA 10¢ Die A entering the CSA mails at Richmond, both stamps cancelled at Point Lookout 8 December 1864 and CSA stamp additionally cancelled at Richmond with indistinct cds where it entered the CSA mails.


This type IIa censor's handstamp (without date) was in use from July 1864 to March 1865.

US/CSA 1864-1865—Southbound   **US Prison—Fort Delaware**

Fort Delaware was located on an island on the Delaware River near Delaware City. It held prisoners from July 1861 until January 1866, at its peak housing over 12,000. During October 1863, the mortality rate reached 12.5%, which contrasts with the highest monthly rate at Andersonville, the most infamous of Southern prisons, of only 9%.
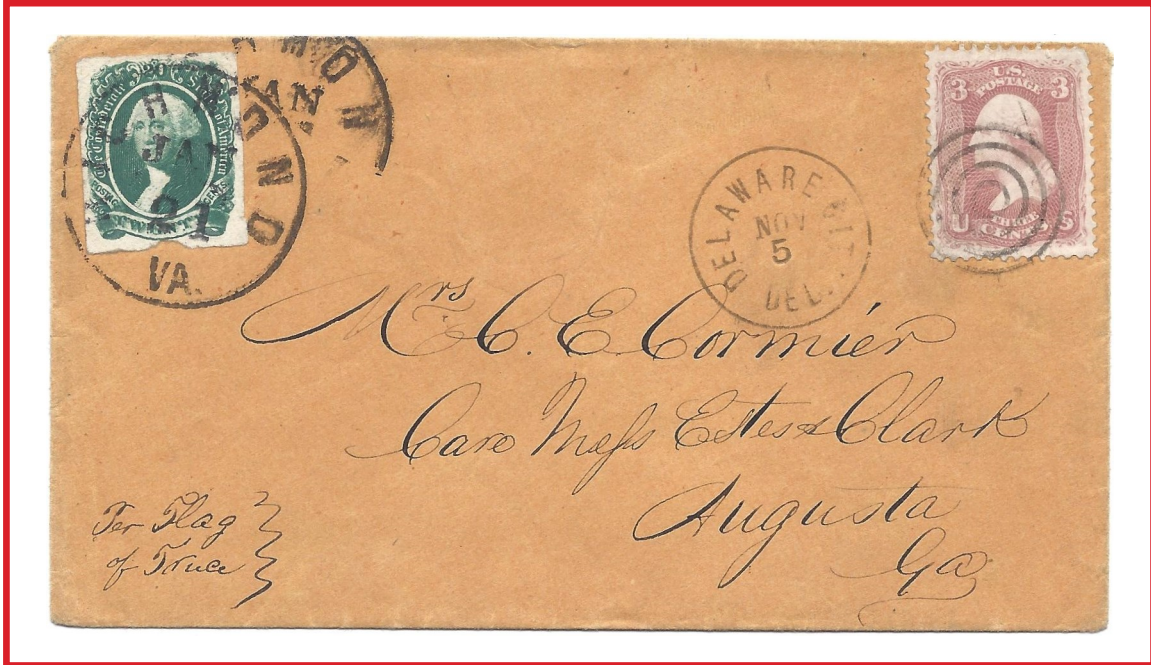
Sent from a Confederate POW at **Fort Delaware** to Augusta GA via Richmond-Old Point Comfort flag of truce route; US 3¢ 1861 cancelled at Delaware City 5 November 1864; entered CSA mails with **20¢ Washington** cancelled 21 January 1865, single US rate but double CSA rate.

One of three recorded POW covers with the 20¢ Washington

Sent by Confederate POW held at **Fort Delaware** to Hillsville VA, censor's oval handstamp, flag of truce via Richmond-Old Point Comfort; US 3¢ 1861 cancelled at Delaware City 30 July (1864), CSA 5¢ Richmond Typograph also cancelled by grid at Delaware City, then by Richmond 17 August datestamp.

US/CSA 1864—Southbound   **US Prison—Johnson's Island**

Johnson's Island was a 40-acre site on an island on Lake Erie. Throughout the conflict, more than 15,000 rebel prisoners were confined and, despite Winter temperatures approaching 30 below zero, Johnson's Island had the lowest death rate of any major prison in the North or South—less than 2%. Harrison reports 364 known covers, the most of all Civil War prisons.

The two covers presented below were sent by the same Confederate POW to Big Spring Depot VA via flag of truce from Old Point Comfort, entering the CSA mails at Richmond VA.

US 3¢ 1861 cancelled at Sandusky OH and CSA 10¢ Die B cancelled 5 March, with handstamp censor's oval "Prisoner's Letter/Johnson's Island, O./Examined JC".

US 3¢ 1861 and CSA 10¢ Frameline cancelled 23 December 1863 and 19 January 1864 at Sandusky OH and Richmond VA, respectively, with manuscript "Ex. DSA" censor's mark (DeAlva S. Alexander, 128th Ohio Volunteers).

One of two known POW covers with the CSA 10¢ Frameline and the only known example used in conjunction with a Union adhesive according to the Antrim book

US/CSA 1863-1864—Southbound   US Prisons–Other

Sent from a Confederate POW captured at Gettysburg and held at **David's Island**, DeCamp General Hospital, Pelham NY, to Little Yadkin NC, US 3¢ 1861 cancelled at Pelham 4 August 1863, sent by flag of truce from Old Point Comfort to Richmond where CSA 10¢ Die A cancelled 25 August; with original letter datelined "David's Island NY Aug the 4th 1863," from R. H. Bennett who was captured on the first day of the battle—"I was wounded in the leg the 1st day of July at Gettysburg Penn. I reached this place the 25th. I am able to get about on crutches"—David's Island was open only four months to hold prisoners captured at Gettysburg. Harrison reports 10 known covers.

Sent from a Confederate POW held at **Elmira Prison** in upstate New York to Fork Union VA, oval examiner's handstamp "Prisoner's Letter Examined Elmira N.Y.", flag of truce via Old Point Comfort with US 3¢ 1861 and CSA **20¢ Washington**, both stamps cancelled with 21 October 1864 Elmira double-circle datestamp Richmond VA cds, where it entered the CSA mails. The censor's handstamp was in use from 26 July 1864 to 6 June 1865. Galen Harrison reports 93 known covers.

One of three recorded POW covers with the 20¢ Washington

US and CSA flag of truce exchanges were intended for released prisoners and POW mail, not for civilian correspondence. However, a small amount of civilian mail was exchanged by flag of truce, and covers fall into three periods defined by route: November 1861-April 1862 via Norfolk and Old Point Comfort (Fortress Monroe); May 1862-June 1863 limited mail exchange usually via Old Point Comfort; and June 1863-March 1865 via Richmond and Old Point Comfort.

CSA/US 1863-1864—Southbound/Northbound   **Richmond-Old Point Comfort**

Inner envelope exchanged between Old Point Comfort (Fortress Monroe) and Richmond, then put into the Richmond post office 11 February (1864) as an overpaid drop letter with two 5¢ Blue Lithograph, "Approved/Chas. M. Weelden [sic]/Lt. Col. & Provost Marshal/District Va." censor handstamp.

Rare use of CSA and US stamps on the same flag of truce cover sent from Durham's NC 6 November (ca. 1863) to general hospital in Baltimore via Richmond-Old Point Comfort, 18 November; US 3¢ 1861 and CSA 10¢ Die A, the US stamp was probably affixed at Old Point Comfort in exchange for a US coin.

With Union forces surrounding but not yet occupying the City of Richmond, the CSA postal system discontinued operations on 31 March 1865. On 2 April, Gen. Robert E. Lee and his forces evacuated Petersburg and Richmond, and the next morning the mayor requested that Union forces occupy the capital city to "preserve order and protect women and children and property." Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia fled towards the village of Appomattox Court House, but were met by Grant and surrendered on 9 April. President Lincoln was shot five days later and died the following day, and Jefferson Davis was captured on 10 May by Union troops and imprisoned at Fortress Monroe.

US/CSA — 1865   **Last Day of CSA Post Office**

Sent by Confederate POW to Mebaneville NC, censor's oval handstamp, US 3¢ 1861 cancelled at Sandusky 22 March 1865, and entered CSA mails at Richmond with CSA 10¢ Die A cancelled 31 March 1865.

This unique through-the-lines POW cover entered the CSA mails via Fortress Monroe in Richmond on **the last day the Confederate post office operated.**

CSA 1865—South   **General Lee's Surrender**


Southern Express Company Telegraph Department letterhead datelined "Charlotte N.C. Apr. 11, 1865," two days after General Robert E. Lee surrendered to General Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox.

Letter indicates confusion regarding the status of the Confederacy and states: "We hear conflicting rumors that the Yankees are moving on Salisbury. We have no news of Gen. Lee or Johnson. The rail and telegraph lines are cut to Greensboro."

US 1865—North   The Assassination of President Lincoln

Five days after the General Lee's surrender at Appomattox Court House, President Lincoln was shot by John Wilkes Booth, a Confederate sympathizer, while attending a play at Ford's Theater in Washington DC on 14 April 1865. The President died the following day, spawning outpourings of grief throughout the world and commencing a national period of mourning that preceded the period of Reconstruction.
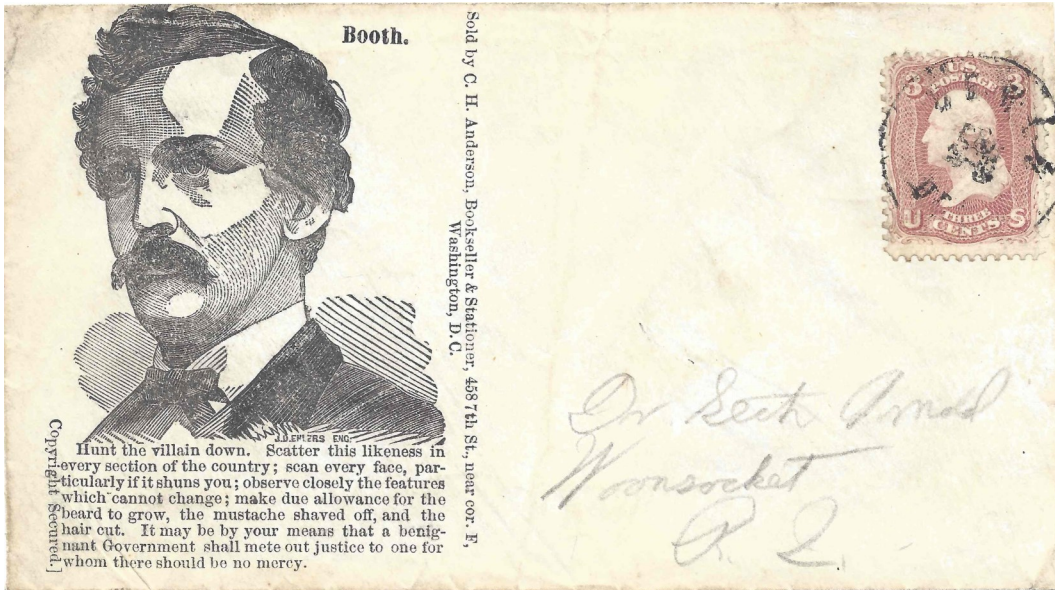
Envelope depicting Lincoln's assassin, John Wilkes Booth, with caption imploring the public to "Hunt the villain down,… for whom there should be no mercy," used from Lewis DE to Woonsocket RI, with US 3¢ 1861.

One of two known examples

Lincoln chose Andrew Johnson, the only sitting senator from a Confederate state who did not resign his seat upon learning of his state's secession, as his running mate in the election of November 1864. Johnson ascended to the presidency upon Lincoln's death, only 42 days after the inauguration on 4 March 1865, and a train carried Lincoln's body on a circuitous path home for burial in Springfield IL. Mary Todd Lincoln and her sons left Washington DC for Chicago, where they resided until leaving for Europe in 1868.

Free frank mourning cover sent by President Johnson to Ohio Secretary of State Smith, with "Washington D.C./Free/Apr 28 '65" postmark, **two weeks after Lincoln's assassination.**


Free frank mourning cover sent by Mary Todd Lincoln, addressed and signed in her hand to the wife of James W. White, a prominent jurist and newspaperman, who was a close friend of Mrs. Lincoln, with "Chicago, Ill/Jun 29" postmark, **two and a half months after the President's death.**

Following the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia on 9 April 1865, Jefferson Davis and a cadre of trusted advisors fled Richmond and established a temporary center of government in Danville, VA. With the Union army in close pursuit - largely due to the assertion that Davis was involved in the assassination of President Lincoln and the $100,000 reward promised for his capture – he fled further south and held a final meeting of his cabinet on 4 May before the members dispersed. On 10 May 1865, Davis was captured by Union troops and transported to Fortress Monroe, VA, thus marking the unofficial end of the War and collapse of the Confederacy.
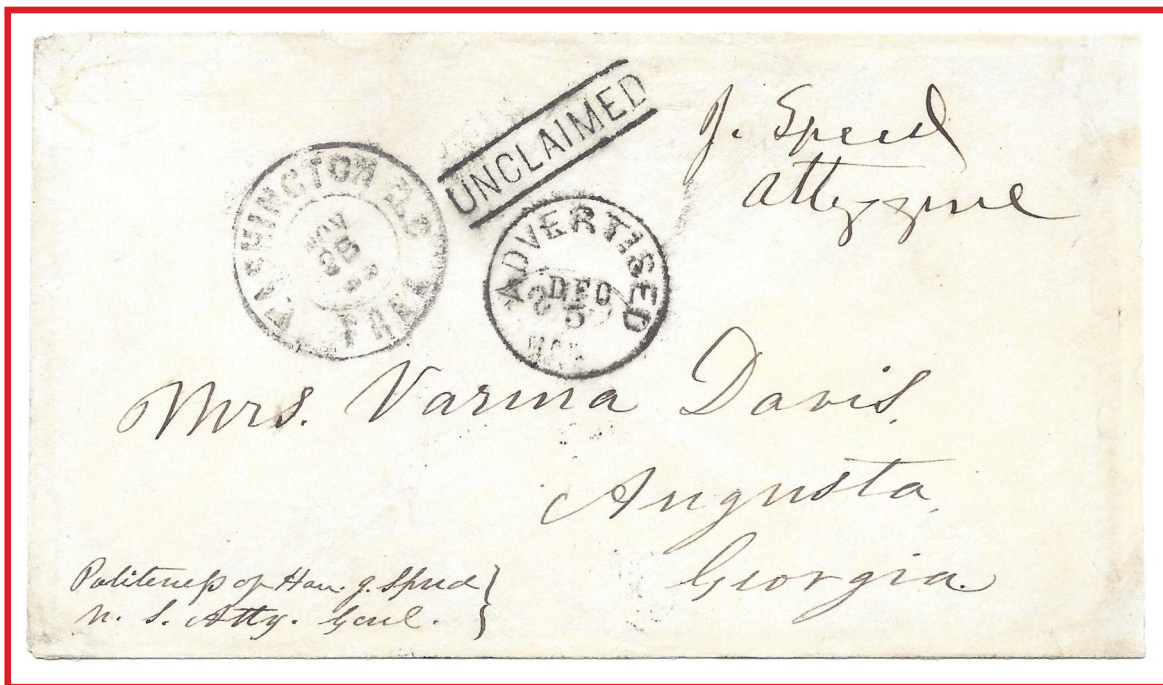
Sent by Jefferson Davis to his wife while a POW at Fortress Monroe and marked "Politeness of Hon J. Speed US Atty Genl." Speed's signature served as both a censor's mark and free frank; letter entering the mails with 25 November 1865 Washington DC datestamp, subsequently marked "Advertised Dec. 5" and "UNCLAIMED," although eventually received by Ms. Davis and backstamped January 5 at Augusta. Davis was indicted for treason though never tried, and eventually released on bail in May 1867 and pardoned by President Johnson on 25 December 1868.

One of three known postally used covers sent by the ex-president as a prisoner of war

* * * * * * *

The capture and imprisonment of Jefferson Davis marked the collapse of the Confederacy. The War was over, and along with 625,000 soldiers and countless civilian deaths from disease and other causes, President Lincoln was arguably the last casualty of the conflict.

As the Nation entered a period of Reconstruction and tremendous political conflict, the mail systems that had functioned independently for four years were merged again under Federal authority.