Census of Mount Lebanon, Louisiana Postmasters' Provisionals

Compiled by Francis J. Crown, Jr.

This census is divided into several different sections.

Section 1 – Notes on the provisionals

Section 2 – What's included

Section 3 – Mini-census of covers

Section 4 – Full census

Section 5 – Image Acknowledgements

Section 6 – Provenances included in the census

Section 7 – Source abbreviations

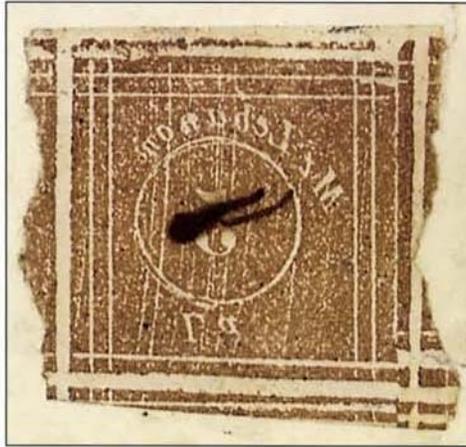Two different censuses are included: a mini-census and a full census.

The mini-census includes in tabular format a list of the basic information on the different types of provisionals. This includes the postmark date; the addressee name, town, and state; and a census number.

The full census is much more detailed including a detailed description of each provisional, the full address, provenance, source of information, an illustration, and a census number.

The census number (CN) is in the last column of the mini census and is the number in brackets following the last listed source in the full census.

From time to time corrections and additions are made to the census. These are noted by the version number (v) following the date in the lower left corner of each page. The first census is v1. Corrections are indicated by a sub number (v1.1). It a new item is added or an old one removed the basic version number is incremented (v2).

Section 1 – Notes on the Mount Lebanon, Louisiana, Provisionals

Enlargement of Mount Lebanon provisional

The Confederate postmaster during the war was W. F. Wells, who was also publisher of the *Louisiana Baptist.* The office of the *Louisiana Baptist* had a print shop, and this is where the Mount Lebanon provisionals are believed to have been printed. However, one must ask, if the postmaster had a print shop at his disposal why did he prepare such a crude stamp when it would have been quicker and produced a better product to have the stamp typeset?

It is believed the stamp was prepared by first incising lines in the form of a square on an old woodcut or piece of suitable wood. A circle was then inscribed in the center of the square. The lettering was done by punching each letter in the wood using printing type. In a similar manner the "5" was added. This produced a woodcut with the lettering reading correctly. However, when printed the stamp was a reverse or mirror image of the desired design.

It is assumed only one cut was prepared so the stamps had to be printed multiple times on a sheet or piece of paper. This is quite evident in the illustration above where overlapping images of the stamp are seen. Only one example of the Mount Lebanon provisional is recorded.

It is believed the Mount Lebanon provisionals were in use only a very short time in June 1861. For more information see: Dabney, L. Bryan, "The Mt. Lebanon Provisional," *Southern Philatelist* 5, No. 7 (May 1929):109-110 and August Dietz, "The Golden Calf of Philately," *American Philatelic Congress Book*, 13 (1947):40.

There is only one recorded example of the Mount Lebanon provisional and it is on cover.

Count of Mount Lebanon provisionals

Provisional	CSA Cat No	Scott Cat No	Covers
5c red brown	MOU-LA-A01	60X1	1

Section 2 – What's Included

Mini Census (covers only)

Information on the various provisional types is presented in tabular format showing the postmark date; addressee name, town, and state; and the census number.

Full Census

Each different provisional type begins with a description of the type, followed by the 2012 CSA catalog number and Scott Catalogue number (in parenthesis). When there is no catalog number for the item, the basic CSA Catalog number is followed by an "x," "y," or "z."

Items are listed in the following order:

Adhesives – unused, used, and covers.

Entires – covers (postally used followed by unused)

Each item is assigned a census number (CN). This number can be useful in identify an individual cover or stamp, particularly for covers with the same date.

Each item is identified as follows:

Description: A description of the cover and its markings. This may include details from the source or sources that are not apparent in the image.

Address: The full address is given as written on the cover with line breaks designated by a slash ("/").

Provenance: Provenances are given if the cover appeared in and was illustrated in a named collection sold at auction, in a book, periodical, or in an exhibit. A table of named collections and exhibits is included at Section 6 Provenances are arranged in chronological order.

Source: Sources of information on the cover. Color images are indicated by an asterisk after the source.

Sources are given by an abbreviation. A table of abbreviations is included at Section 7. The abbreviation is followed by a certificate number, if an authentication service; a page number or date and page number, if a book or publication; and the date, sale number, and lot number, if an auction.

Sources are listed in the following order: authentication services, books, journals, exhibits and auction catalogs. Within each group they are arranged in chronological sequence.

Color images are indicated by an asterisk after the source.

Census Number (CN): The number in brackets that follows the last listed source.

To aid the user the census is bookmarked on the left panel.

Section 3 – Mini-Census of Mount Lebanon, Louisiana, Provisionals
(covers only)

5c red brown * MOU-LA-A01 (60X1)**

Pmk Date	Pmk Posn	Prov Posn	Addressee	Town	State	CN
No Postmark		UL	Mr D Riply	New Orleans	LA	001

Full Census of Mount Lebanon, Louisiana, Provisionals

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Mount Lebanon, Louisiana *** 5c red brown on white - Cover *** MOU-LA-A01 (60X1)

No Postmark

Description:	Adhesive provisional canceled by black pen marking. Adjacent stamps show on all sides. Corner card of C. G. Thurmond, Mt. Lebanon, La. White strip added on left edge to improve appearance of ragged edge.
Address:	Mr D. Riply [sic] / care / Adol. Hamilton Esq / New Orleans / La
Provenance:	Ferrary, Caspary, Kilbourne, Gross.
Source:	DFA-14Jun1922(4)-50; HRH-5Mar1956-287; RAS-28Sep1999(815)-93*; SPK-19Nov2009-31*. [001]

Section 5 – Image Acknowledgements

Images used in the census are from various sources. The source for individual images is listed by census number in the table below. For other than authentication services and auction houses the Source Abbreviation is included to aid in identifying the source.

Census Number	Source
001	Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries

Section 6 – Provenances

Provenances are given for named collections that were sold at auction, described in publications, or were in exhibits. Below is a list of the provenances included in this census.

Caspary – [Alfred H. Caspary] *The Postmasters' Provisionals of the Confederate States of America* Sale 3 (H. R. Harmer (NY) Auctions, 5 March 1956).

Ferrary – [Philipp La Renotiere von Ferrary], (*Die Ferrary-Auktionen*, Joachim Erhardt, Stuttgart, Germany, 1987: Sales 3 (5 April 1922), 4 (14 June 1922), 7 (13June 1923), 13 (23 June 1925), and 14 (24 November 1925).

Gross – *The William H. Gross Collection Confederate States of America* (Spink Shreves Auctions, 19 Nov 2009).

Kilbourne – [Charles E. and Lucy Kilbourne] T*he Kilbourne Collection of Confederate Postmasters' Provisionals* Sale 815 (Robert A. Siegel Auctions, 28 September 1999).

Section 7 – Source Abbreviations

Sources are given in abbreviated format in the census. The table below lists the abbreviations used for books, authentication services, journals, auctions, and exhibits.

DFA – *Die Ferrary-Auktionen* (auctions of the Philipp von Ferrary Collection - book)
HRH – H. R. Harmer, New York (auctions)
RAS – Robert A. Siegel (auctions)
SPK – Spink Shreves (auctions)