

# **The Allure of Confederate Postal History**

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

# THE ALLURE OF CONFEDERATE POSTAL HISTORY

The War Between the States created a new field of collecting within the world of philately. The short-lived postal system of the Confederate States of America existed from 1861-1865. Within this time frame; Confederate postal history oddities, rarities, and new discoveries hidden under a stamp or within an envelope are all waiting to be found, researched, collected, and shared.



This one frame exhibit will show how the War helped shape some of the Confederate postal history that exists today. The purpose of this exhibit is to bring awareness and spark interest in this field of philately. This exhibit is just a small part of the Allure of Confederate Postal History.





# CONFEDERATE POSTMASTERS' PROVISIONAL COVERS

When the Confederacy took control of the mail system on 1 June 1861, there were no stamps available. To meet the demand for this convenience, some postmasters prepared substitutes in the form of stamps, printed envelopes, and handstamped envelopes. Today these are commonly referred to as Postmasters' Provisionals. ~ *Confederate States of America, Catalog and Handbook of stamps and Postal History*, page 248.

The 5¢ typographed entires were printed by Evans & Cogswell Company of Charleston on envelopes of various colors and placed on sale 15 August 1861. ~ *Confederate States of America, Catalog and Handbook of stamps and Postal History*, page 258.



The Charleston, SC adhesive stamp was lithographed in blue on white wove paper by Evans & Cogswell Company of Charleston and placed on sale 4 September 1861. In April-June of 1862 these provisional stamps were reintroduced during a shortage of availability of the General Issues. Only 6 on cover examples are recorded. ~ *Charleston, South Carolina and the Confederate Postmaster Provisionals*, page 83.

CSA 16XU2 entire postmarked CHARLESTON S.C., NOV 25, 1861 sent to Jacksonville Fla.



CSA 16X1 on cover postmarked CHARLESTON, S.C., JUNE 19, 1862 and sent to Pleasant Lane, SC. This cover is 1 of the 6 examples recorded used in the shortage period from April-June of 1862.

## CONFEDERATE POSTMASTERS' PROVISIONAL/ADVERSITY COVERS

The difference between the handstamped provisional envelopes and the handstamped and manuscript rate markings used by the vast majority of postmasters was that all provisionals were prepared in an advance of use. The existence of a postally unused example or use under a postally used General Issue is normally considered *prima facie* evidence that the marking was applied in advance. ~ *Confederate States of America, Catalog and Handbook of stamps and Postal History*, page 248.



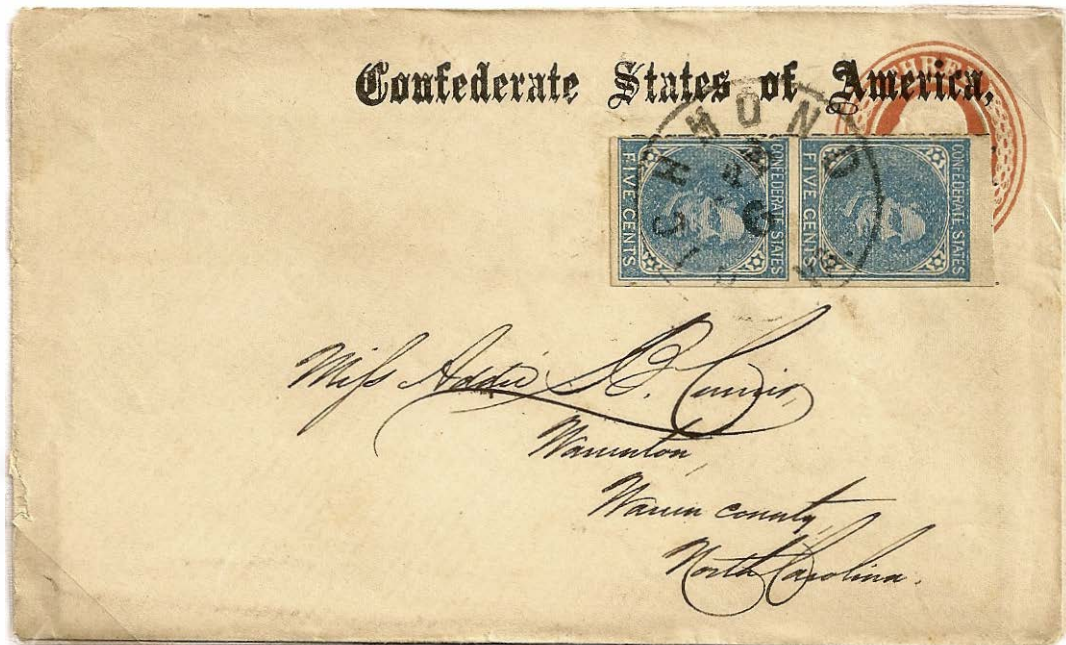
6XU5b stampless ATLANTA, GEO. PAID 5 handstamped provisional under General Issue CSA #1 with one cover postmarked ATLANTA, Ga. JAN 12, 1862 and the other cover postmarked ATLANTA, GA. MAR 30, 1862; both sent to Washington, Georgia. One cover has the stamp lifted to show the initial stampless handstamped provisional underneath.

These new discoveries are good examples of adversity usage of handstamped Provisional covers. The 5¢ stamp paid the postage to have this cover sent in the mails not the ATLANTA, GEO., PAID 5 handstamped provisional. The *SURVEYS OF THE CONFEDERATE POSTMASTERS' PROVISIONALS*, page 689, shows a total of 4 recorded for this type.



## CONFEDERATE OFFICIAL/IMPRINTED COVERS

After the outbreak of the war, the CSA postal authorities had a variety of official envelopes prepared by overprinting; "Confederate States of America/POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT/OFFICIAL BUSINESS" followed by an open space for the signature and then the printed rank or office of the authorized official on US Nesbitt envelopes. CSA post office officials can send mail free of postage when endorsed "Official Business" over their signatures. ~*The New Dietz Confederate States Catalog and Handbook*, page 171.



US U10 Nesbitt envelope overprinted, "Confederate States of America/Post Office Department/Official Business/Chief of the Appointment Bureau" partially covered by a pair of CSA #7's postmarked RICHMOND Va. to Warrenton, North Carolina. This cover was used for personal use so the free frank privilege was not valid. Prepaid postage was applied.

Imprinted envelopes were intended to convey government business only and were not meant to be used for private correspondence. However, this rule was often disregarded and many imprinted envelopes were used to convey private messages. Regular prepaid postage had to be paid as these imprinted envelopes had no free frank privileges. ~*The New Dietz Confederate States Catalog and Handbook*, page 177.



US #94 on postwar, "CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA/WAR DEPARTMENT/ENGINEER BUREAU" imprinted envelope postmarked SALEM, N.C. and locally used as a convenience since paper was still scarce. Ironically after the war, these were still used to convey private messages.

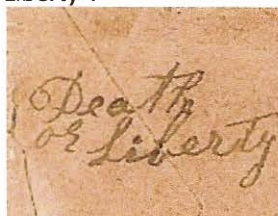
## CONFEDERATE PATRIOTIC COVERS

The War Between the States created emotions of the greatest intensity in both the South and the North, and production of envelopes to express these feelings of patriotism were created. Some Confederate patriotic envelopes were made in the North, especially the earlier ones such as those with 7 Star Flags. ~ The New Dietz Confederate States Catalog and Handbook, page 219.



Confederate States use of US #26 stamp on 7 Star Confederate Flag Patriotic cover postmarked CHARLESTON SC, MAY 12, 1861 to Glenn Springs, So Ca.

Docketing on verso of cover reads, "Death or Liberty".



Hand-drawn patriotic covers made by soldiers were works of art. These feelings of patriotism can be felt long after the War Between the States had ended.



CSA #12 on hand-drawn Confederate Battle Flag Patriotic cover postmarked by MOBILE, ALA cds sent to Buickville, Ala.



## CAPTURED US/CSA ADVERSITY PATRIOTIC COVERS



Captured US patriotic cover postmarked RED CLAY, Ga., JAN 18, (1863) with "DUE 10" in manuscript sent to Deals Mills, NC from CSA soldier W.A. Roberts S8<sup>th</sup> NC, Company E, Palmer's Regt.



Ritchies & Dunnivant printed numerous printings for the Confederate States of America and the Southern Cause. One such printing was the "Confederate States of America, Post Office Department, Instructions to Post Master, Richmond, VA, 1861".

CSA #1 postmarked WILMINGTON, NC, FEB 13, on a Confederate 11 Star Flag and Verse Patriotic/Adversity cover sent to Pleasant Exchange NC. The Confederate Patriotic cover was fashioned from an illustrated canal boat shipping document printed by the well-known Virginia printers Ritchies & Dunnivant.

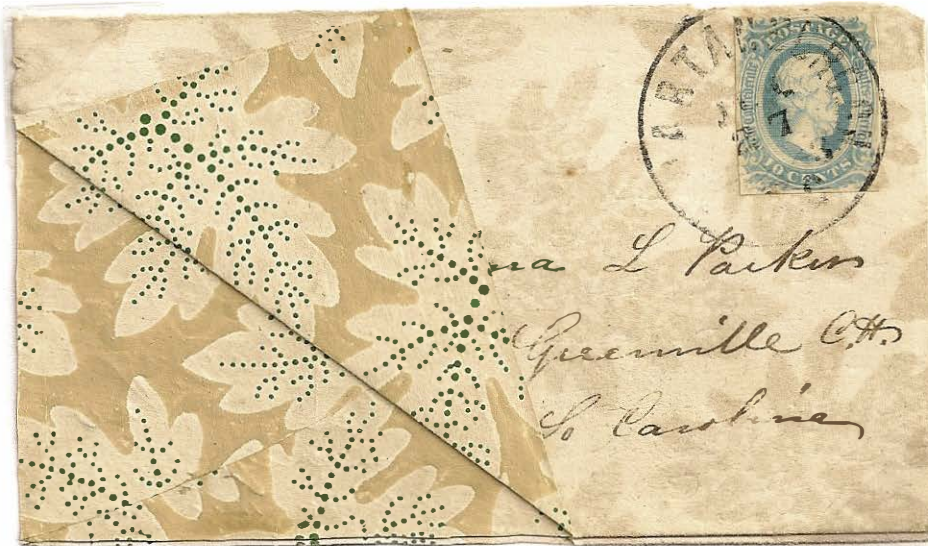


## CONFEDERATE ADVERSITY COVERS

Soon after the outbreak of war, a shortage of paper for all purposes including the printing of postage stamps and the making of envelopes became evident. The various methods devised to solve this shortage, including homemade and "turned" covers, created a category generally termed "adversity covers". These are commonly collected for their curiosity value and human interest appeal; many comprise captivating documents of the stress placed on human life by the conflict and the indomitable ingenuity of mankind. Late in the war, regular envelopes became a luxury and any suitable substitute was utilized. Actual wallpaper; generally cut from unused rolls, was widely used and many wallpaper covers are quite colorful and ornate. ~ *The New Dietz Confederate States Catalog and Handbook*, page 259.



CSA #11 on cover fashioned from a bank document with blue COLUMBIA, S.C. postmark to Yorkville, SC.

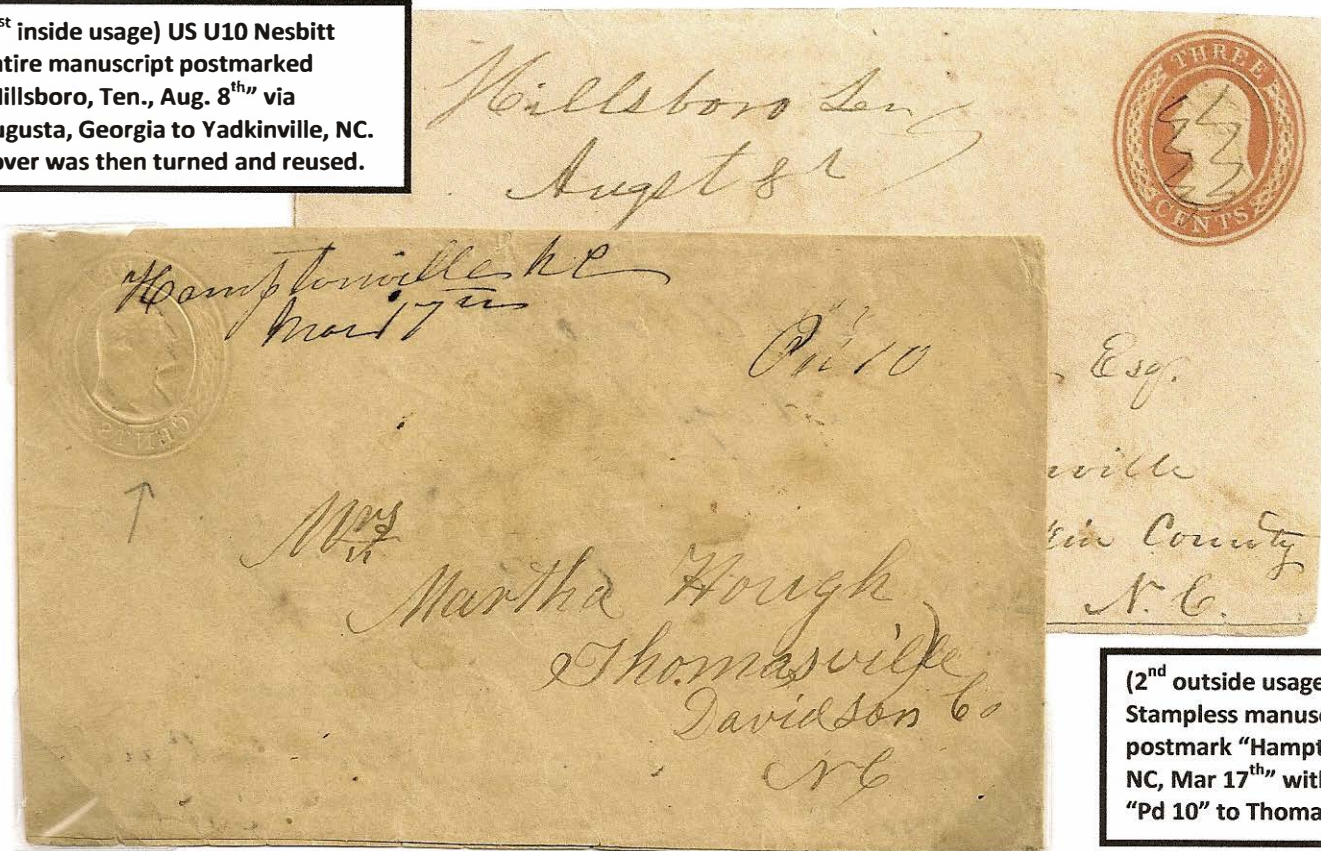


CSA #11 on cover fashioned from ornate leaf wallpaper, postmarked SPARTANBURG C.H. S.C., to Greenville Courthouse, SC.



## CONFEDERATE TURNED COVERS

(1<sup>st</sup> inside usage) US U10 Nesbitt  
entire manuscript postmarked  
"Hillsboro, Ten., Aug. 8<sup>th</sup>" via  
Augusta, Georgia to Yadkinville, NC.  
Cover was then turned and reused.



(2<sup>nd</sup> outside usage)  
Stampless manuscript  
postmark "Hamptonville,  
NC, Mar 17<sup>th</sup>" with matching  
"Pd 10" to Thomasville, NC.

(1<sup>st</sup> inside usage) CSA #3 on 2¢ local drop rate  
cover postmarked CHARLESTON, S.C., FEB 11,  
addressed to Charleston, SC. Cover was then  
turned and reused.

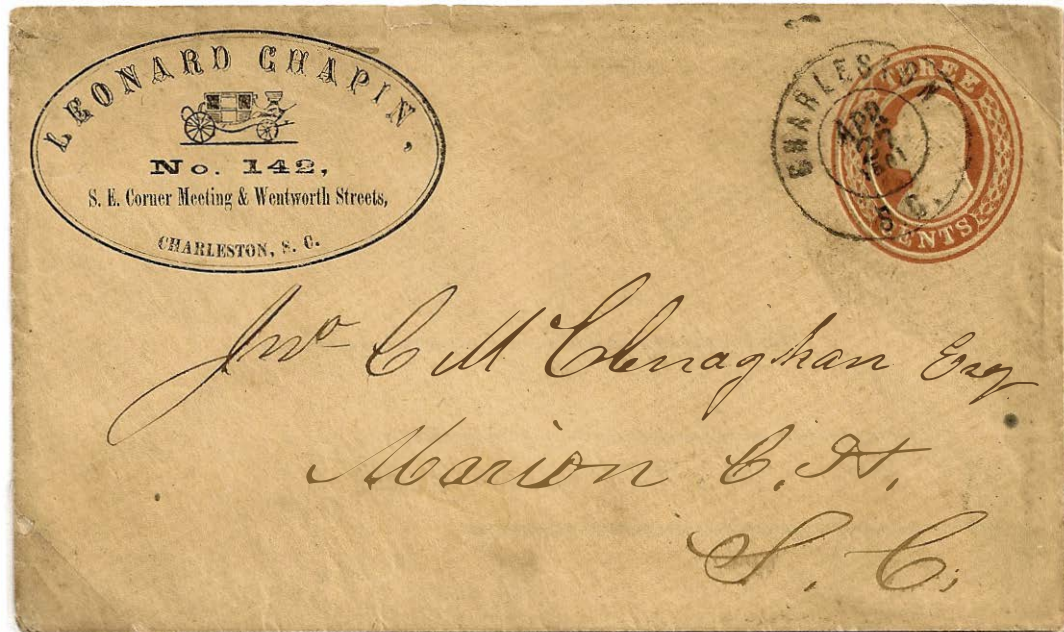


(2<sup>nd</sup> outside usage) CSA #7  
pair on cover postmarked  
CHARLESTON S.C., FEB 18,  
1863 sent to Darlington, SC.



## CONFEDERATE ADVERTISING COVERS

Leonard Chapin enlisted in the 5<sup>th</sup> South Carolina Cavalry Regiment, Company B known as the Dixie Rangers in 1861. Later, Leonard was part of the 17th Battalion of the 6th South Carolina Cavalry and served until October 1864 when he was wounded.



Confederate States use of US U10 entire with Leonard Chapin carriage manufacturer's illustrated corner card postmarked CHARLESTON S.C., APR 27, 1861 sent to Marion Court House SC.

In 1852, Geo. W. Williams & Company was established as a wholesale grocery house in Charleston, SC.

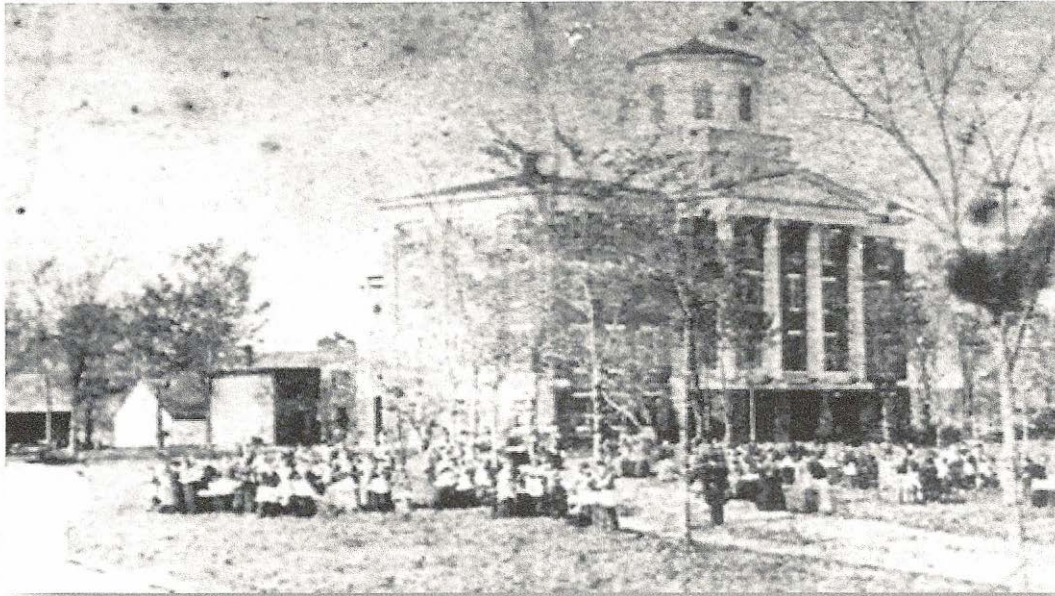
George was appointed by the SC State Legislature during the War Between the States to procure food for the soldiers' families and the poor of Charleston.



Stampless CHARLESTON S.C., OCT 29, 1861 handstamp with matching PAID 5 in circle on Geo. W. Williams & Co., wholesale grocer's, green embossed cameo cover to Greensboro, NC.



# CONFEDERATE COLLEGE COVER



Wesleyan Female College in Murfreesboro, NC was founded and constructed between 1852 and 1855 by the Virginia Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church to give the “fair daughters [of Virginia and North Carolina] advantages equal to any in the land.” During the War Between the States, classes were suspended and school facilities were used as stables and barracks by Confederate cavalry. After the war, the college reopened in 1865.



**CSA #7 pair on Wesleyan Female College cover with blue PETERSBURG, VA postmark sent to Lynchburg, VA.**



## CONFEDERATE FORWARDED COVER



Alexander Hamilton Stephens served as Vice President of the Confederate States from 1861 to 1865. In July 1863, Alexander was sent on a peace mission to Washington, DC to see President Lincoln. The peace mission failed as the tide of the War had changed in favor of the United States. Alexander returns home to Crawfordville, GA.

Docketing on verso of cover reads, "... S. Lawson, Charleston, SC July 10<sup>th</sup> 1863. Appeals to Mr. Stephens to hear the sentence of her son commuted who is accused of counterfeiting."

*S. Lawson  
Charleston S.C.  
July 10th 1863.  
Appeals to Mr.  
Stephens to hear  
the sentence of  
her son commuted  
who is  
accused of  
counterfeiting*



CSA #11 on cover postmarked CHARLESTON SC, JUL 10, 1863 to Richmond, VA. Alexander was not at Richmond, VA. The cover was handstamped FORWARDED 10 and postmarked RICHMOND VA, JUL 15, 1863 and sent to Alexander Stephens at Crawfordville, Geo.



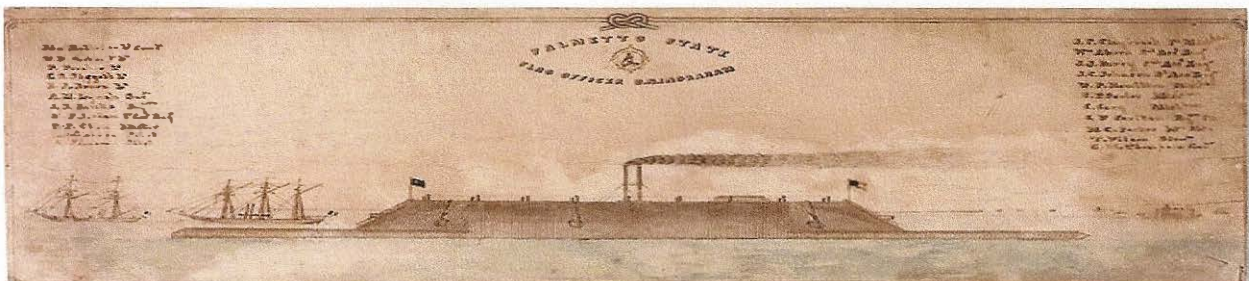
# CONFEDERATE NAVAL COVER



Augustine Thomas Smythe served on the CSS Palmetto State as part of the Confederate Signal Corps. Augustine was posted in the steeple of St. Michael's Episcopal Church over looking Charleston, SC.



Two CSA #11's affixed on top of one another as the cover was used twice, manuscript cancelled & postmarked, "Manchester S.C., Oct. 19/Nov. 7" and sent to "Mr. Augustine T. Smythe, C.S. Palmetto State, Charleston, S.C."



The Palmetto State was an ironclad ram built in January 1862 and joined in the defense of Charleston, during Admiral Samuel Du Pont's unsuccessful attack on the harbor forts, 1-7 April 1863. Palmetto State was burned by the Confederates upon the evacuation of Charleston, SC on 18 February 1865.

## CONFEDERATE BISECT COVERS

Some of the 20¢ stamps were bisected by the postmasters in a number of cities and the halves used for 10¢ stamps, when supplies of the regular 10¢ value were exhausted or their requisitions for 10¢ stamps were delayed by the war. ~ The New Dietz Confederate States Catalog and Handbook, page 142.



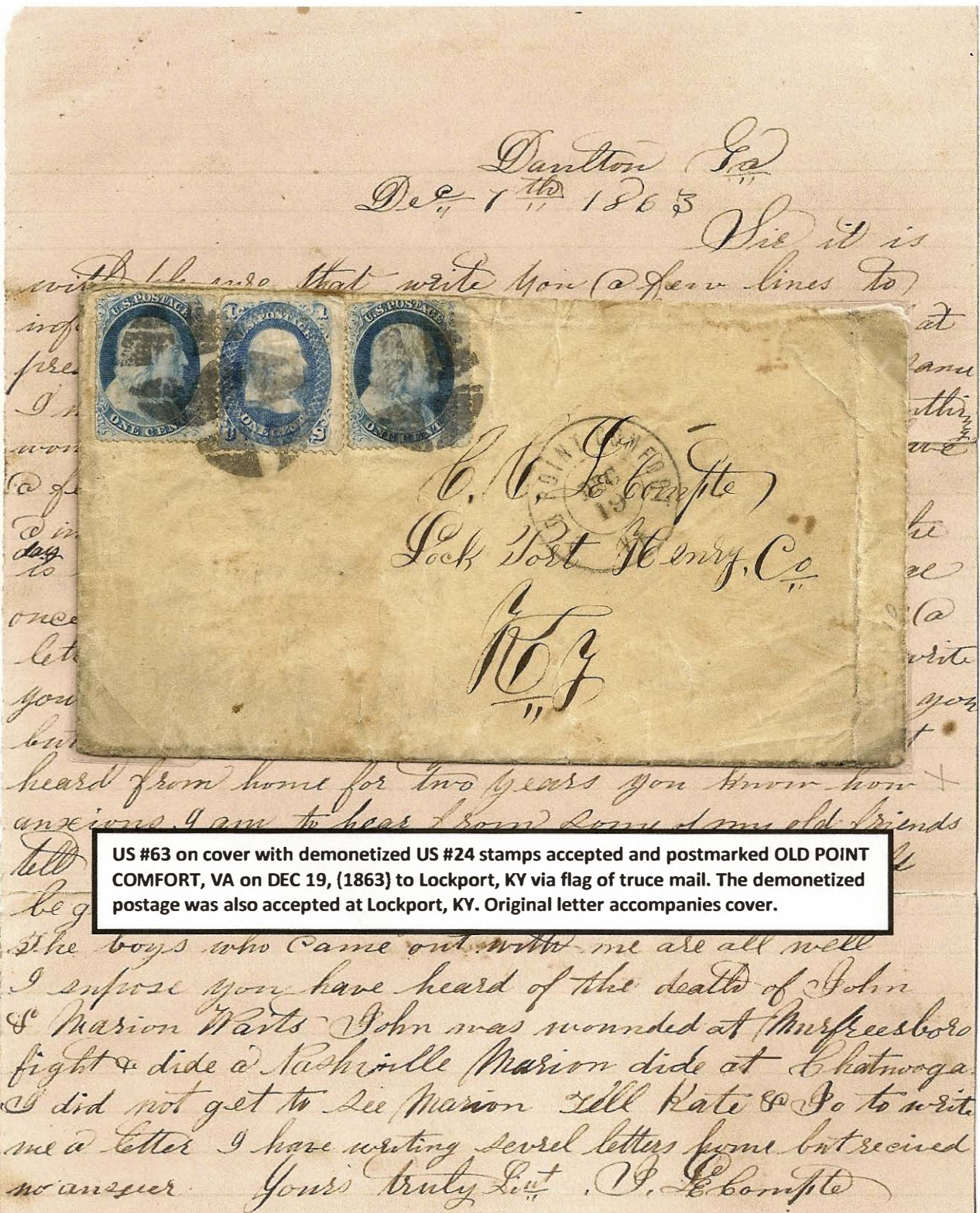
CSA #13 diagonal bisect on cover postmarked CHARLESTON, S.C., JUN 27, 1864 to Manchester, SC.



CSA #7 pair and #13 diagonal bisects on cover mailed on two different dates, both postmarked from CHARLESTON, S.C. to Aiken, SC. Portions of one 20¢ bisect is torn away.



## CONFEDERATE FLAG OF TRUCE COVER



US #63 on cover with demonetized US #24 stamps accepted and postmarked OLD POINT COMFORT, VA on DEC 19, (1863) to Lockport, KY via flag of truce mail. The demonetized postage was also accepted at Lockport, KY. Original letter accompanies cover.

The letter was written by Lt. Joseph LeCompte, Louise's Brigade, 4<sup>th</sup> KY Regiment, Company D; datelined, "Dalton, Ga., Dec 7<sup>th</sup>, 1863". Joseph mentions in his letter to write to him "by flag of truce" as he had written several letters home with no answer.



# CONFEDERATE FLAG OF TRUCE/PRISONER'S MAIL



Major Henry V. Colt of the 104<sup>th</sup> NY Volunteers served as the direct camp commander under Col. Seth Eastman and Col. Benjamin Tracy. His brother was the famous Samuel Colt, inventor of the revolving breech pistol.

Elmira Prison camp operated by the United States government during the War Between the States was in use from 6 July 1864, until 11 July 1865, and was dubbed "Hellmira" by its inmates. During those 12 months, 2,970 of the 12,100 prisoners would die from a combination of malnutrition, continued exposure to harsh winter weather, and disease from the poor sanitary conditions on Foster's Pond combined with a lack of medical care.

CSA #12 on cover postmarked by red PETERSBURG, Va. sent to Mr. John M L Harrington, Harrington, NC. Cover is docketed on obverse side, "Answered Sept 28, '64".



The cover was then readdressed on verso to L M Dougald, Prisoner's Camp, Elmira, NY, Ward No. 43, Care of Maj. Colt and postmarked HARRINGTON, NC, JAN 3, (1865). This cover most likely was sent under separate cover from there to Richmond, VA by Flag of Truce via Old Point Comfort, VA. Both CSA & US postage was paid by the NC postmaster, John Mc L Harrington, who neglected to note the payment on the cover.



## CONFEDERATE POSTWAR COVERS

The War Between the States has come to an end. The Federal Reconstruction Period to restore ex-Confederate States back into the Union has begun. As in the beginning, as so in the end; many of the ex-Confederate post offices had no stamps available to sell.

US #65 stamp placed over attempted use of invalid CSA #12KB for postage and manuscript postmarked "Saddles Creek, Sept 19 So Ca" on cover to Miss Fields, Colored, Charleston SC. Upon arrival, an "ADVERTISED SEP 25" handstamp was applied on cover.



The cover was then advertised in the *Charleston Courier* under "List of Letters Remaining in Post Office" on Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>, 1865. Miss Fields' letter was not called for and a "CHARLESTON S.C. Oct 25" postmark was stamped on verso and "Unclaimed" straight-line struck on the obverse side.

Manuscript "Paid 3 Cents, Fayetteville, N.C., Sept. 22, 1865", postmark on adversity cover fashioned from an Exchange stock document to Lt. Col. C.W. Broadfoot, Care of Revd. T.G. Haughton, Salisbury N.C., Direct Via Raleigh. Lt. Col. Broadfoot was in the 1<sup>st</sup> & 43<sup>rd</sup> NC infantry.

