

**Provisional Issues of North Carolina Confederate Mail
1861 – 1865**

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

Provisional Issues of North Carolina Confederate Mail 1861 – 1865

On May 20, 1861, North Carolina began a period of history that the likes of which have never been seen before or since. Throughout these roughest periods of time, one aspect of human needs were met; the written communications by government and private mails continued.

When the Confederate post office began operation on June 1, 1861, it was ill prepared to provide stamps to postmasters. The department authorized postmasters to revert back to the use of stampless markings to indicate the payment of postage. When the need arose for the prepayment of postage, 150 Confederate postmasters produced provisional stamps and covers to service this need. To date, 19 North Carolina cities have been identified as having 29 different varieties of provisional. This exhibit contains 18 of these cities and 26 of the known varieties. On occasion, even after Confederate stamps were issued, postmasters would run out of their supply of stamps and revert back to issuing provisional stamps and covers.

This exhibit deals with the three types of provisionals issued in the Confederacy:

- Adhesive postage stamps – Printed or hand stamped on paper for separate attachment to envelopes. Three North Carolina towns issued such.
- Press printed envelopes – Produced in quantity and provided by the printer to the postmaster. Three North Carolina towns issued such.
- Hand stamp provisional envelopes – Prepared in advance of use; in most cases sold by the postmaster and carried home for later use. Fifteen North Carolina towns issued such.

Provided in the following frames are 30 examples of North Carolina provisionals covering all three types of known markings. Information known about the marking, the statistics of the issues, quantities known of specific items, as well as significant past ownership is included. By philatelic standards, all Confederate provisionals are scarce. The most common North Carolina provisional is Raleigh with less than 200 known. Many are unique with only one example recorded. Several examples shown here are the only known.

A few exceptional items that should be noted for special attention are:

Page 3 – Charlotte, the discovery copies and only examples known; page 3 – Gaston, Dietz discovery copy and only known example; page 6 – Greensboro, only known CSA provisional revalued to a due; page 7 – Lenoir, one of only two known examples used on college covers; page 10 – newly discovered Mount Pleasant provisional; page 14 – the only recorded press printed Salisbury provisional; page 16 – Wilksboro, Dietz discovery copy and only known example.

The condition of Confederate covers is always a problem to collectors. In fact, they reflect the condition of the time. A number of the covers on display have had varying degrees of professional restoration in order to save them from further decay, but none affect either marks or stamps.



Charlotte, NC, October 12, 1861

5 cent, Blue Type IIA Paid

Prepared in advance handstamp paid carried outside the mails.



Charlotte, NC, 1861

Wilmington, NC May 26, 1861

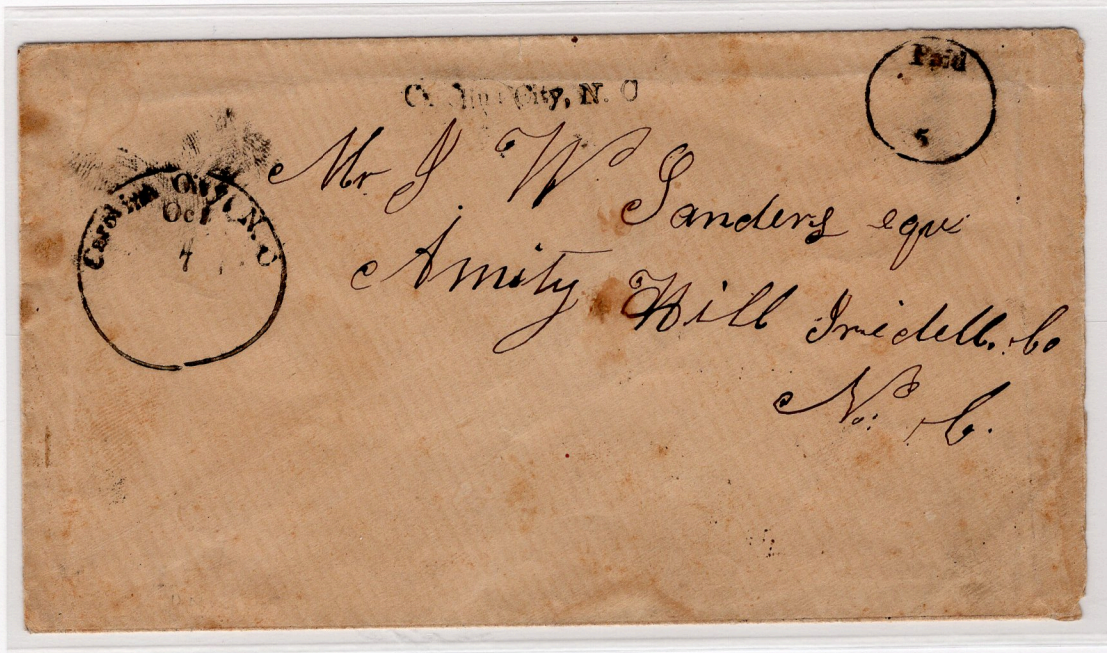
5 cent, Blue Type IIA Paid; Black Type A, Due 5;

5 cent, Blue Archer & Daly

Mecklenburg County
2 Recorded Provisionals

CSA Cert.

Postmaster: Francis Ross



Carolina City, NC, October 7, (1861)

5 cent, Black, 31 x 2 mm S/L Carolina City, NC Type A control mark with
17 mm circle Paid 5 handstamped provisional. Typeset and brass rule stock
Black, 27 mm Type 1 CDS



Gaston, NC, November 26, 1861

5 cent, Black, 30 mm Gaston control, Paid/5 handstamped provisional.
Black, 30.5 mm Type 1 CDS

Carolina City: Carteret County
2 Known both October 7, (1861)
Ex: Gallagher
Gaston: Northampton County
1 Known
Ex: Thomas Martin

PF Cert.

CSA Cert.

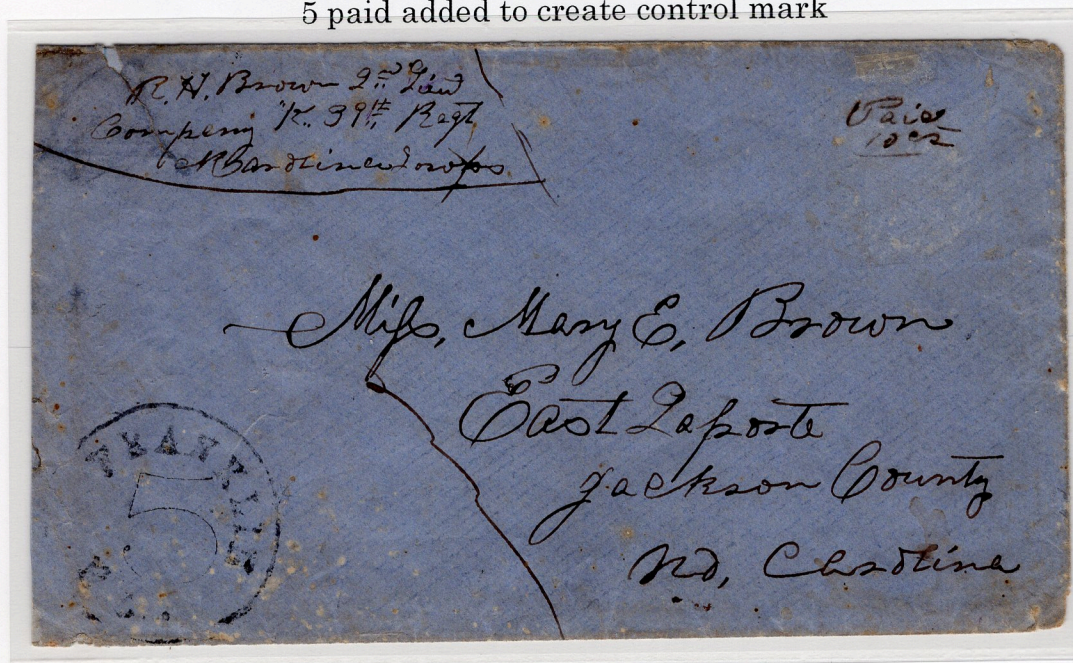
Postmaster: Joseph R. Franklin

Postmaster: John Pugh



Chapel Hill, NC,
November 5, (1861)

Chapel Hill, NC, August 27, (1862), Revalued
5 cent black, 5 inserted within Chapel Hill CDS
5 paid added to create control mark



Franklin, NC, ca. 1862

Large woodcut "5" inside 31 mm town mark
Ms. Paid 10 indicates later use of provisional

Chapel Hill: Orange County
6 Known
Franklin: Macon County
1 Known Ex: Agree, Brandon

CSA cert.

CSA cert.

Postmaster: I.B. McDade

Postmaster: Leon F. Siler



Greensborough, NC, November 10, (1863)

10 cent, red, 30.5 mm Greensborough control, Paid/10

Red, 32.5 mm Type 5a

Turned: **Columbia, SC, October 27, (1863)**

Type II Archer & Daly



Greensborough, NC, December 3, 1864

10 cent, red Greensborough control, Paid/10

Red, 32.5 mm Type 5a CDS

Prisoner of War cover

Through: **Old Point Comfort, VA, January 16, 1875**

U.S. 3 cent stamp replaced

Blue crayon B file marking by U.S. Rebel archives

Guilford County
26 Recorded Provisionals
2 Known Turned
1 Known Prison Usage

Postmaster: B.G. Graham

PF Cert.



Greensborough, NC, March 14, (1863)
 10 cent, red Greensborough control, Type A Paid 10
 Blue, 32.5 mm Type 5a CDS



Greensborough, NC, (1864)
 10 cent, red revalued due, Greensborough control,
 Type Aa Due 10 Over Paid/10
 Soldiers were allowed to send letters postage due.

Guilford County
 1 Known Blue CDS
 1 Known Revalued Rate

PF Cert.
 PF Cert.

Postmaster: B.G. Graham



Harrington, NC, February 13, (1863)
 10 cent, black, 29 mm, PAID/10, black CDS.
Fayetteville, NC, July 9, (1866)
 2 cent, US 1861 issue.

Apparent use of unused prepaid Confederate envelope after war end.



Fayetteville, NC, February 22, (1866)
 10 cent, black, 23 mm post war CDS, CSA PAID/10. 3 cent US 1861 issue used over
 unused prepaid Type III Confederate handstamp .

Harrington: Harnett County
 1 Known
 Fayetteville: Cumberland County
 1 Known

Postmaster: William Harrington

Postmaster: James G. Cook



Hillsboro, NC, December 29

Paid 10 cent, dateless double circle control mark in greenish blue with a date stamp double circle in blue.



Lenoir, NC, September 21 (1861)

5 cent blue, Type 1 adhesive, ruled line paper. 25 mm blue, Type 2 CDS.

This provisional was hand engraved on pear wood by G.W.F. Harper, son of Postmaster Harper. The stamp was press printed on white wove cross-ruled paper. About 500 stamps were printed and sold.

Hillsboro: Orange County
1 Known
Ex: Gallagher, Stanley
Lenoir: Caldwell County
2 Known College Covers
Ex: Hart, Weill

PSE Cert.

Postmaster: C.E. Parish

PF Cert.

Postmaster: James Harper



Lenoir, NC

5 cent, woodcut handstamp struck on 30 x 29 piece of cover.
Struck from the same wooden die that printed the stamps.



Paper from which Lenoir Provisional was printed and
samples of handstamp markings.

Lenoir: Caldwell County
Cut square
1 Known
Ex: Caspary, Stanley

PF Cert.

Postmaster: James Harper



Lenoir, NC, September 18, (1861)
5 cent, blue, 30 mm Type C control mark
Blue, 25.5 mm Type 2 CDS

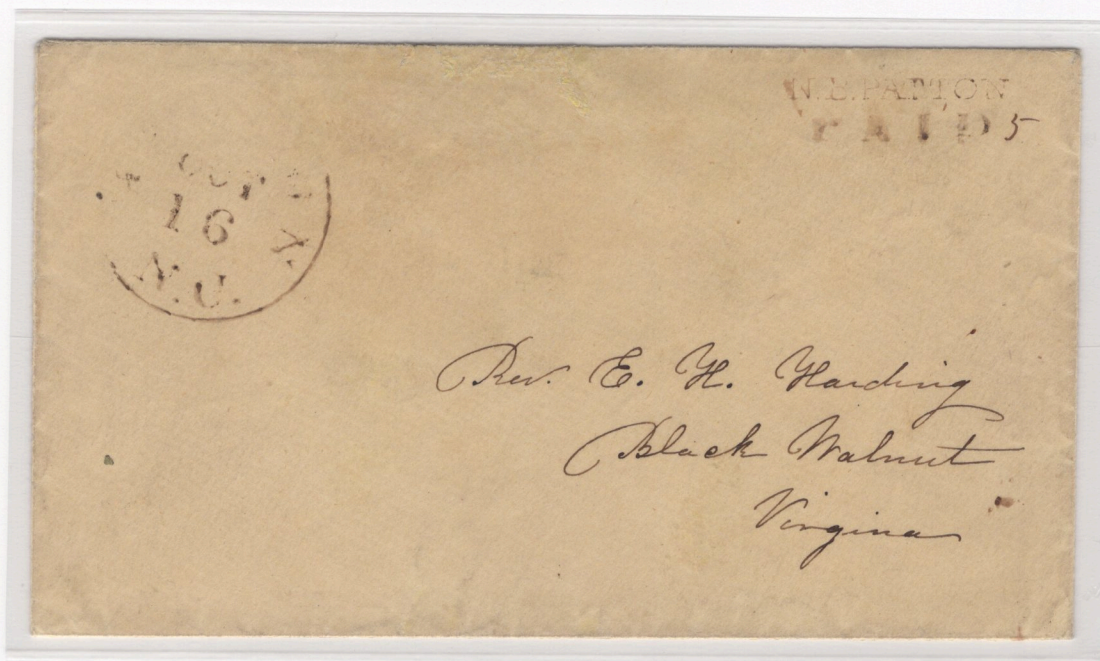


Lenoir, NC, (1861)
5 cent, blue-black, 30 mm Type C control mark
Black, 25.5 mm Type 2 CDS

Lenoir: Caldwell County
Blue: 2 Known
Ex: Weatherly, Agre
Black: 1 Known

CSA cert.

Postmaster: James Harper



Milton, NC, October 16, (1861)

5 cent, Black, 29 mm x 2 ½ mm, N.B. Patton control mark, handstamp paid
Ms 5, Black, 31.5 mm Type 10 CDS



Mount Pleasant, NC, January 1, 1866

10 cent, Blue 32 ½ mm control handstamp, unused provisional posted from
Concord, NC after the war before the Mount Pleasant post office re-opened.

Milton: Caswell County

CSA Cert.

Postmaster: Noel B. Patton

2 Known

Ex: Dietz

Mount Pleasant: Cabarrus County

CSA Cert.

Postmaster: Alexander Foil

1 Known



Raleigh, NC, October 20, (1861)

5 cent, red 28 mm rimless Raleigh, NC control

Blue 26 mm DC, CDS



Raleigh, NC, June 2, 1861

5 cent, blue 28 mm rimless Raleigh, NC control

Blue 26 mm DC, CDS. Second day of Confederate rate.

Earliest known Raleigh provisional use.

Blue provisional used only until June 4, 1861.

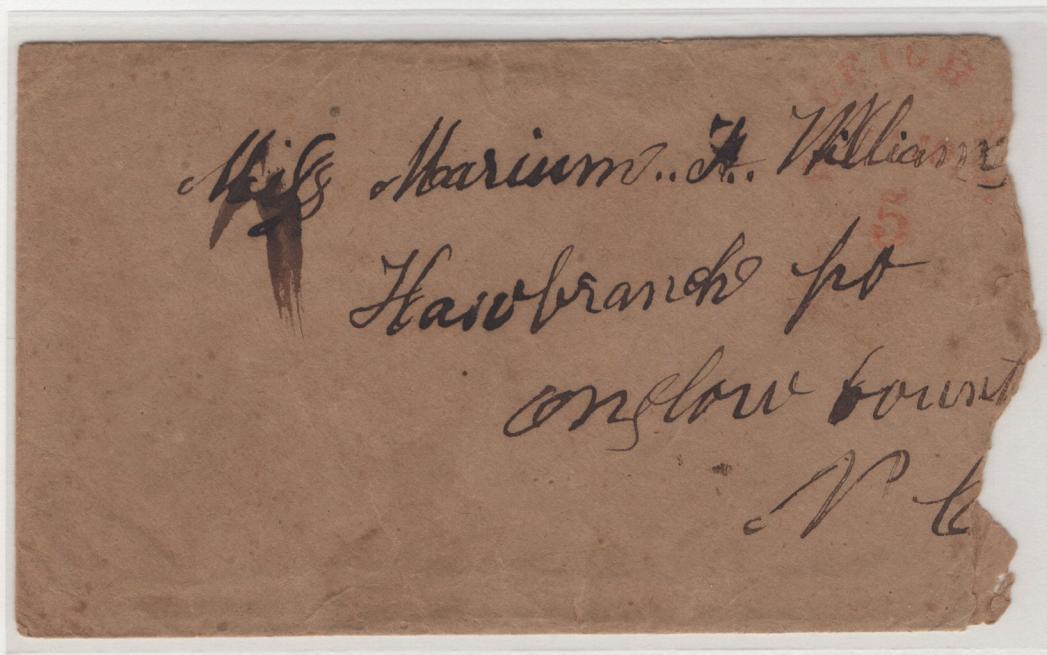
Raleigh: Wake County
Red: 200+ Known
Ex: Stroupe
Blue: 4 Known
Ex: Kilbourne

Postmaster: George T. Cooke



Raleigh, NC, June 29, 1861

5 cent, red, "paid 5", 28 mm rimless Raleigh, NC
control mark, blue 32 mm CDS, large CDS used only one day on provisionals



Raleigh, NC

5 cent, red, "paid 5" 28 mm rimless Raleigh, NC
provisional control marking used without CDS

Raleigh: Wake County
Large CDS: 3 known

Postmaster: George T. Cooke



Raleigh, NC, October 21, 1861
5 cent, red, 28 mm control mark, blue, Ty 12
26 mm DC, CDS. Folded letter.



Louisburgh, NC, September 18, ca. 1863
Paid 10 Ms, 33 mm CDS forward
Raleigh, NC, Paid 5 provisional type handstamp

Raleigh: Wake County

Postmaster: George T. Cooke



Salem, NC, September 23, (1862)

5 cent, Black, 32 mm Type 2b CDS, Type Aa provisional plus a Type A
PAID 5 to pay the ten cent rate



Salem, NC, October 7, (1862)

10 cent, Black, Ms 10 rate within brass control mark

The control marks on all Salem provisionals were press printed with a brass die. Rates were later added with a handstamp or in manuscript.

The July 1, 1862 single letter rate change from 5 cents to 10 cents created the need for this new rate.

Salem: Forsyth County
Type Aa: 3 Known
Paid 10: 2 Known

Postmaster: O.A. Keehln



Salem, NC, December 4, (1861)

5 cent, Black, Type B handstamp PAID 5 control mark
Black, 32 mm Type 2b CDS



Salem, NC, May 6, (1862)

5 cent, Black Ms Paid 5 Type A within brass handstamp control mark

Forsyth County
Type B: 6 Known
Type A: 19 Known

Postmaster: Orestes A. Keehln

CSA Cert.



Salem, NC, August 12, 1861

10 cent, Black, 32 mm Type 2b CDS, Type A PAID 5 provisional control mark
revalued with 5 cent 1861 lithograph and 5 cent 1862 London print



Salem, NC, August 20, 1862

10 cent, Black, 32 mm Type 2b CDS, Type Ab PAID 5 provisional control
mark revalued with pair of 5 cent London print

Salem: Forsyth County
Revalued: 4 Known
Ex: B. Green, Stroupe

Postmaster: O.A. Keehln



Salem, NC Provisional Reprints

Postmaster O.A. Keehen's son produced 300 copies of Provisional like envelopes after the war to meet demand of post war collectors

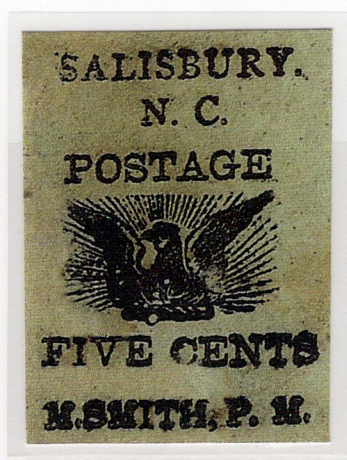
Salem: Forsyth County

Postmaster: O.A. Keehen



Salisbury, NC, September 1, 1861

5 cent paid, press printed design produced by Postmaster Moses A. Smith
Black, 32.5 mm Type 2 CDS



Reconstructed Design of Provisional

Rowan County
1 Known
Ex: Ferrary, Emerson, Caspary, Lilly, Solomon, Brandon

Postmaster: M.A. Smith



Statesville, NC, March 24, (1862)

Black, 30 mm Type 2 CDS, Type A control mark

Statesville, NC, August 6, (1863)

5 cent green Hoyer & Ludwig and 5 cent blue
London print used over provisional

Statesville, NC, Way (1863)

5 cent, black, paid 5 Type A revalued manuscript 10

This provisional envelope was given to the post rider on his way south from Statesville to Davidson. He marked the cover way and revalued the 5 cent rate to reflect additional postage paid.

Iredell County
23 Known Provisionals
1 Known Way

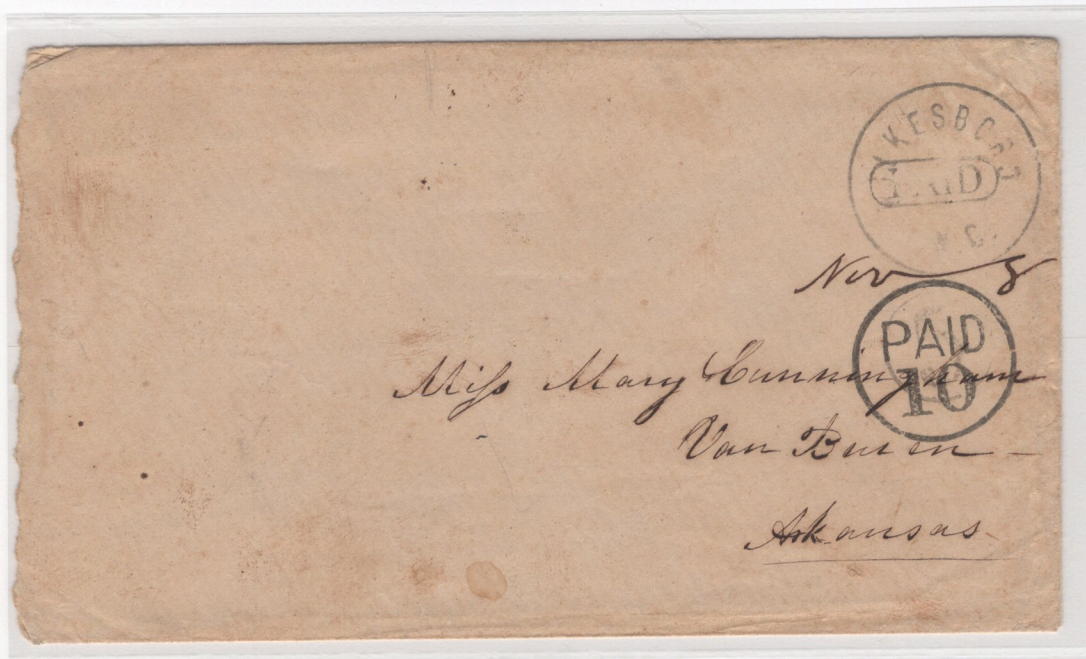
Postmaster: Robert F. Simonton



Statesville, NC, June 30, (1863)

5 cent, Black, Type Ab paid 5 revalued handstamp 10

On July 1, 1862, the postage rate for less than 500 miles was increased from 5 cents to 10 cents



Wilkesboro, NC, November 8, (1861)

10 cent Black, revalued 14 mm circle 5 overstruck by 21 mm circle Paid/10

The paid was struck within an undated Wilkesboro CDS as the control mark for a 5 cent rate cover. The cover was posted November 8 to Arkansas, a distance over 500 miles, thus the need for the 10 cent rate.

Statesville: Iredell County
2 Known Revalued
Wilkesboro: Wilkes County
1 Known
Ex: Dietz

Postmaster: Robert F. Simonton

CSA Cert.

Postmaster: Calvin J. Cowles