

Arkansas Under Two Flags
A Postal History of Conflict Union and Confederate 1861-1865

Rodney Kelley

*A study of Union and Confederate stamps and covers
and how they relate to the Civil War history of Arkansas*

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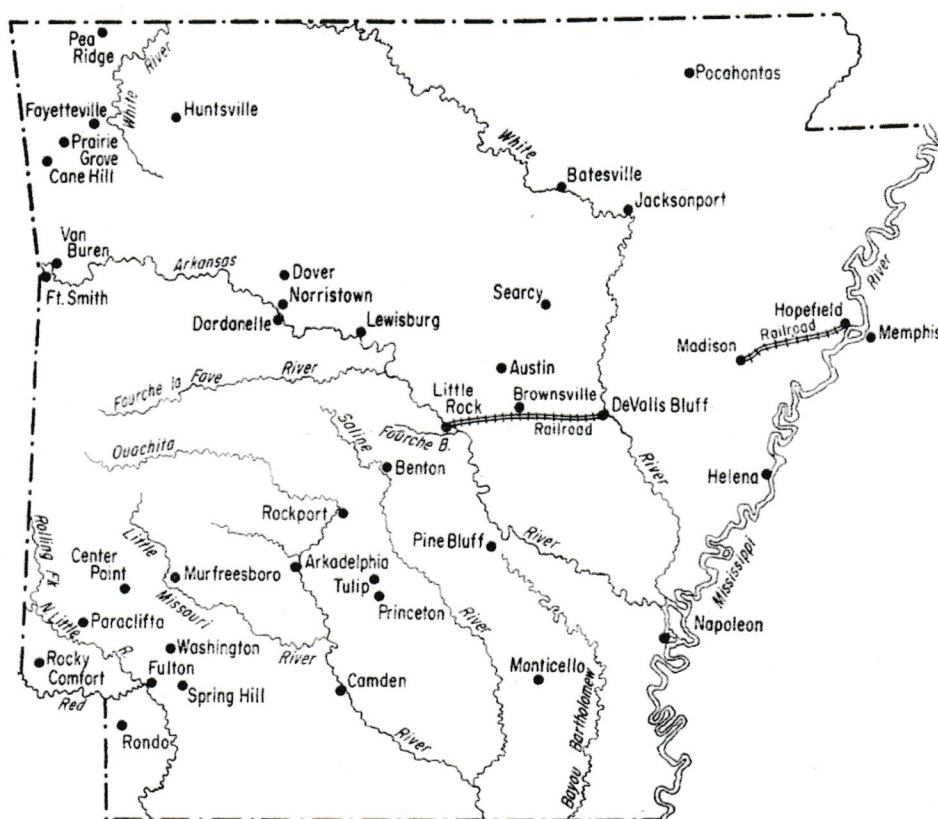
Civil War Philatelic Society, Inc.

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



ARKANSAS UNDER TWO FLAGS: A POSTAL HISTORY OF CONFLICT UNION AND CONFEDERATE 1861-1865

This exhibit is a study of Union and Confederate stamps and covers and how they relate to the Civil War history of Arkansas.



Many of the post offices in the exhibit are shown above.

Exhibit Plan: Key items are highlighted with a grey or blue box around the cover.

Confederate

Manuscript covers.

Advertising cover.

Patriotic covers.

Soldier dues.

CSA postage stamped mail.

Union

Arkansas advertising covers sent North.

Mail from Arkansas postmarked at Memphis.

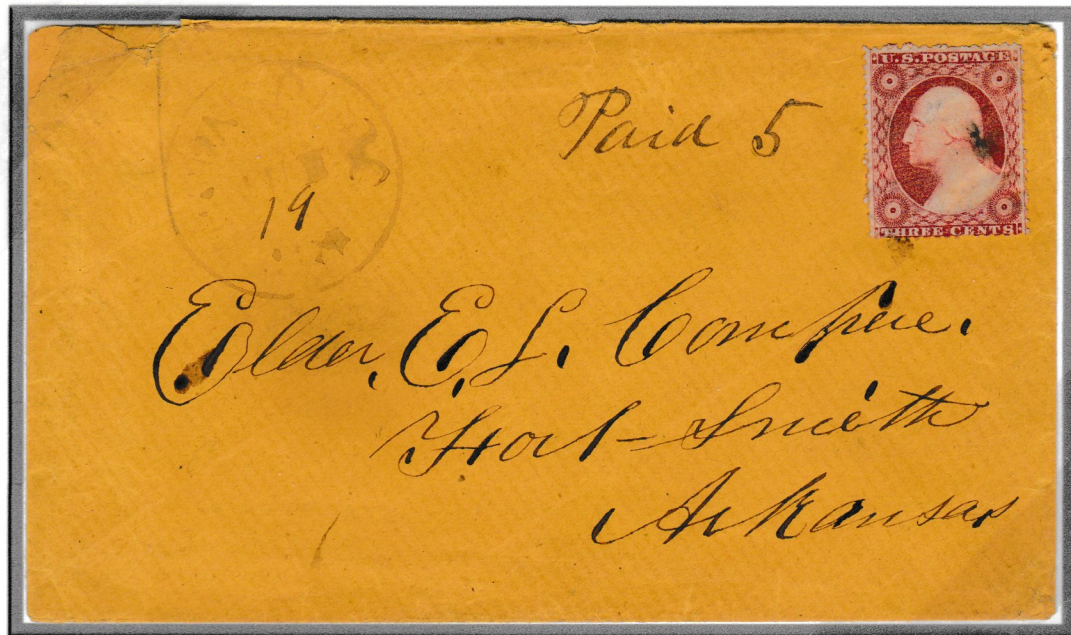
Mail to and from Helena.

Mail to and from Little Rock.

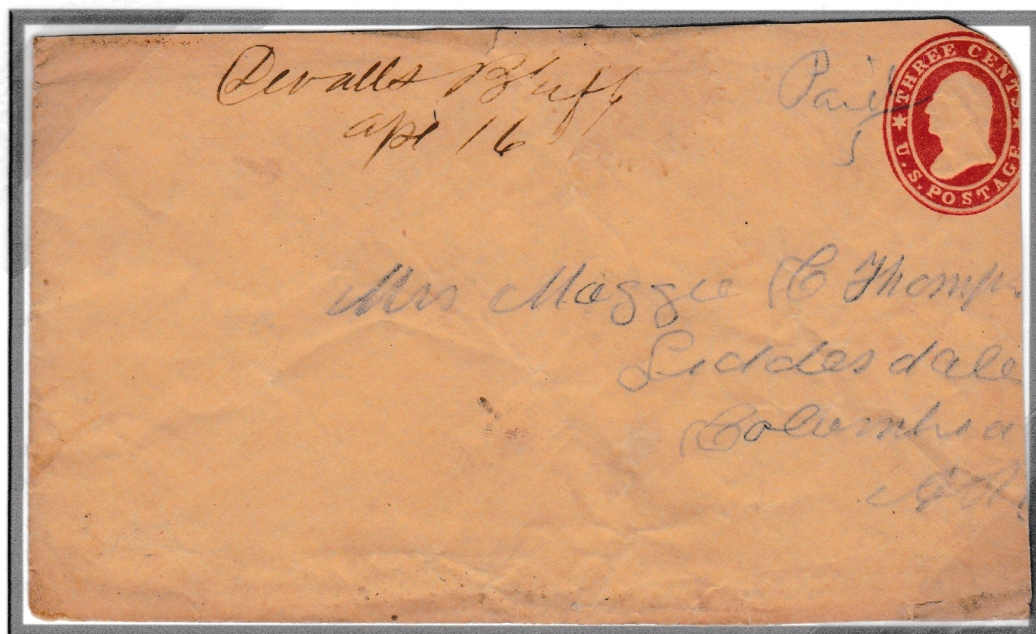
Ft. Smith straight-line cancel.

Arkansas Confederate Postal History

Arkansas seceded from the Union on May 6, 1861 and was admitted to the Confederacy on May 18, 1861.

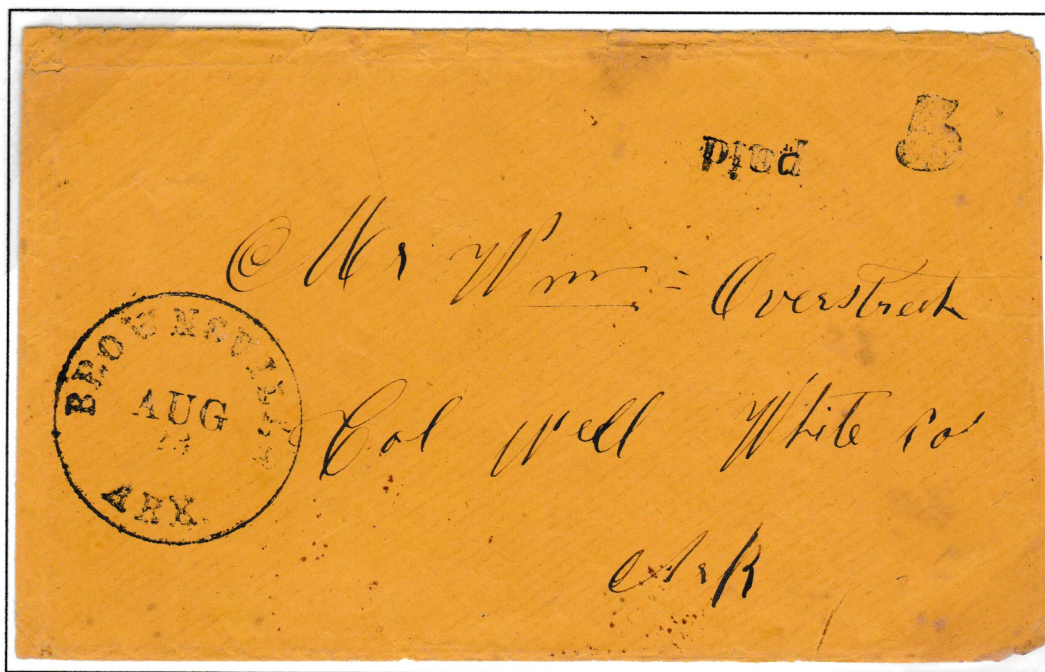


Confederate cover addressed to Elder E. L. Compere from Boonsboro, Arkansas, June 19, 1861. The United States stamp was not recognized, and postage of five cents was paid in money. Elder Compere would later become a Chaplain in the Confederate Army assigned to the Cherokee Mounted Rifles.

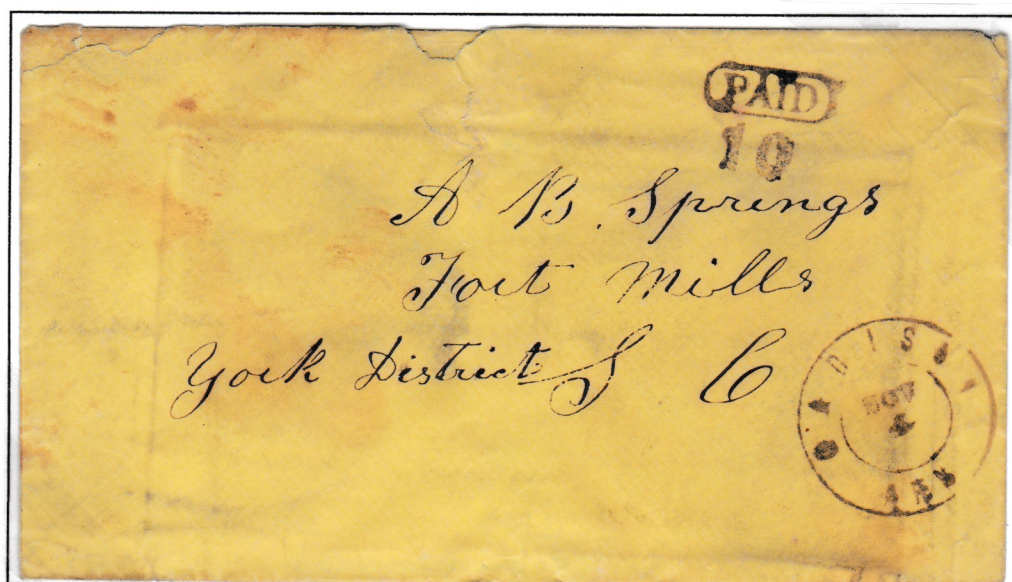


Confederate cover addressed to Mrs. Maggie C. Thompson from DeVall's Bluff, Arkansas, April 16, 1862. The United States three cent star die was not recognized and postage of 5 cents was paid in money.

Arkansas Confederate Postal History



Confederate cover addressed to Mr. William Overstreet from Brownsville, Arkansas, August 23, 1861. Only known hand stamped paid 5 cent cover from this location.

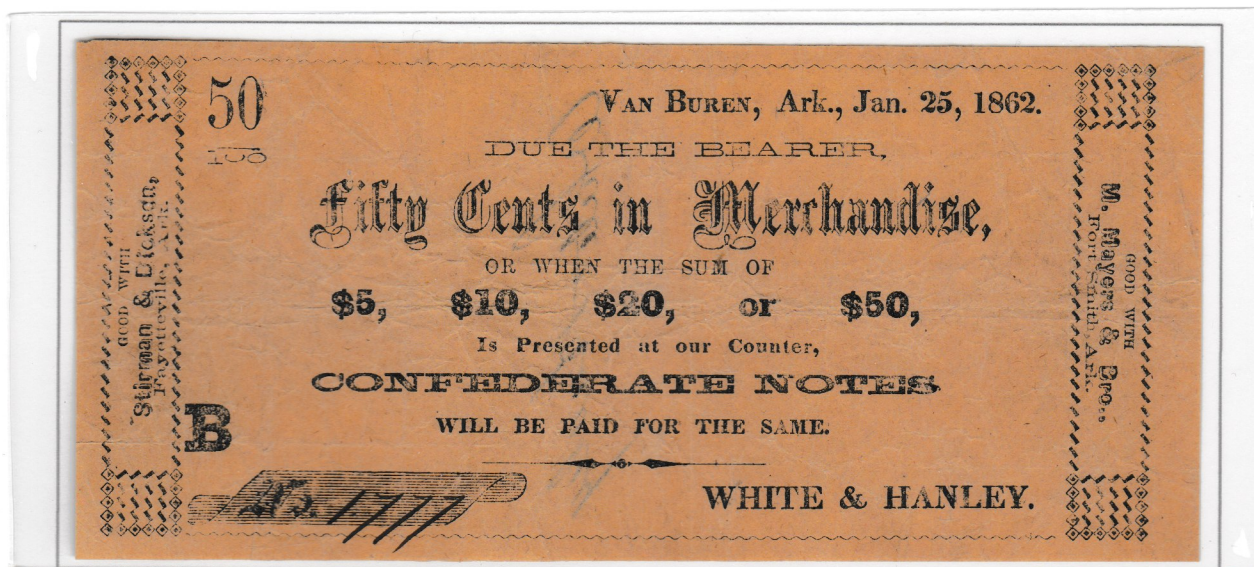


Confederate cover addressed to A. B. Springs from Madison, Arkansas, November 4, 1861. One of only two known 10 cent paid hand stamps from this location.

Arkansas Confederate Postal History



Confederate advertising cameo cover sent to General Geo. Rust from Van Buren, Arkansas, August 13, 1861. Only seven Confederate advertising covers are known from Arkansas. This cover is listed in the 2012 Edition *Confederate States of America Catalog and Handbook of Stamps and Postal History*.



Rare Confederate scrip issued by the above company dated January 25, 1862. It was also redeemable at Fayetteville and Fort Smith, Arkansas.

Arkansas Confederate Postal History

Below are 2 of 15 known Confederate Patriotic covers mailed from Arkansas.

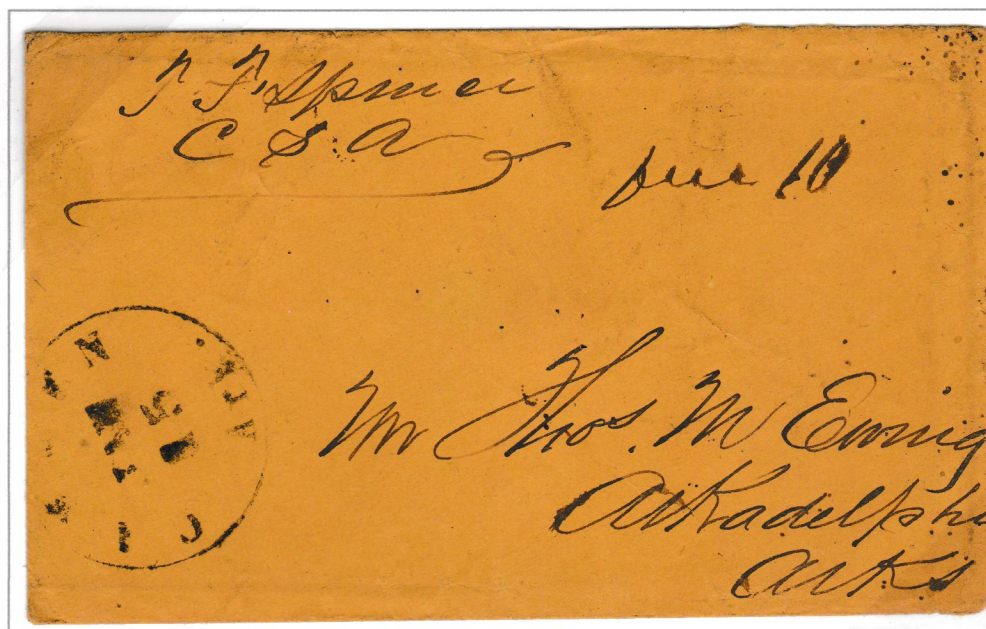


Jefferson Davis Medallion Patriotic Paid 5 Cover. Mailed from Dover, to Fayetteville, Arkansas, September 25, 1861.



Helena, Arkansas Paid 5 Handstamp, July 21, 1861 to Hillsboro, Arkansas on Ten Star Flag Patriotic Cover.

Arkansas Confederate Postal History



Soldiers mail endorsed by Captain Thomas F. Spence, Company E, 2nd Arkansas Mounted Rifles to Mr. Thomas Ewing at Arkadelphia, Arkansas. This letter was posted in Camden, Arkansas January 15, 1863, two weeks after he was killed in action at the Battle of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, December 31, 1862.



Soldiers mail endorsed by M. H. Royston, Wharton's Cavalry to Independence, Washington County, Texas. This letter was posted in Washington, Arkansas, December 2, 1863. M. H. Royston was Adjutant of the 8th Texas Cavalry. This regiment was part of was part of General Wharton's Brigade.

Arkansas Confederate Postal History

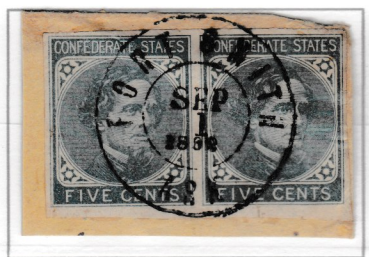


5 Cent Green 1 Confederate cover sent to B. F. Howard Esquire, Howard Landing, Conway County, Arkansas, from New Orleans, LA.



5 Cent Blue 4 Confederate cover sent to Mrs. Mary E. Wells, Hickory Grove, Clark County, Arkansas from Little Rock, Arkansas, Postmarked July 12, 1862.

Arkansas Confederate Postal History



CSA 6 5 Cent Blue London
Printing with a Sept. 1, 1862
postmark from Ft. Smith, Ark.



CSA 7 5 Cent Blue Local Printing
Block of Four tied by strike of Little
Rock, Ark, double circle date stamp to
Pine Bluff Ark.

Arkansas Confederate Postal History



Very rare Arkansas use of the "Ten" issue, tied by "Camden Ark. Aug 1" circular date stamp.



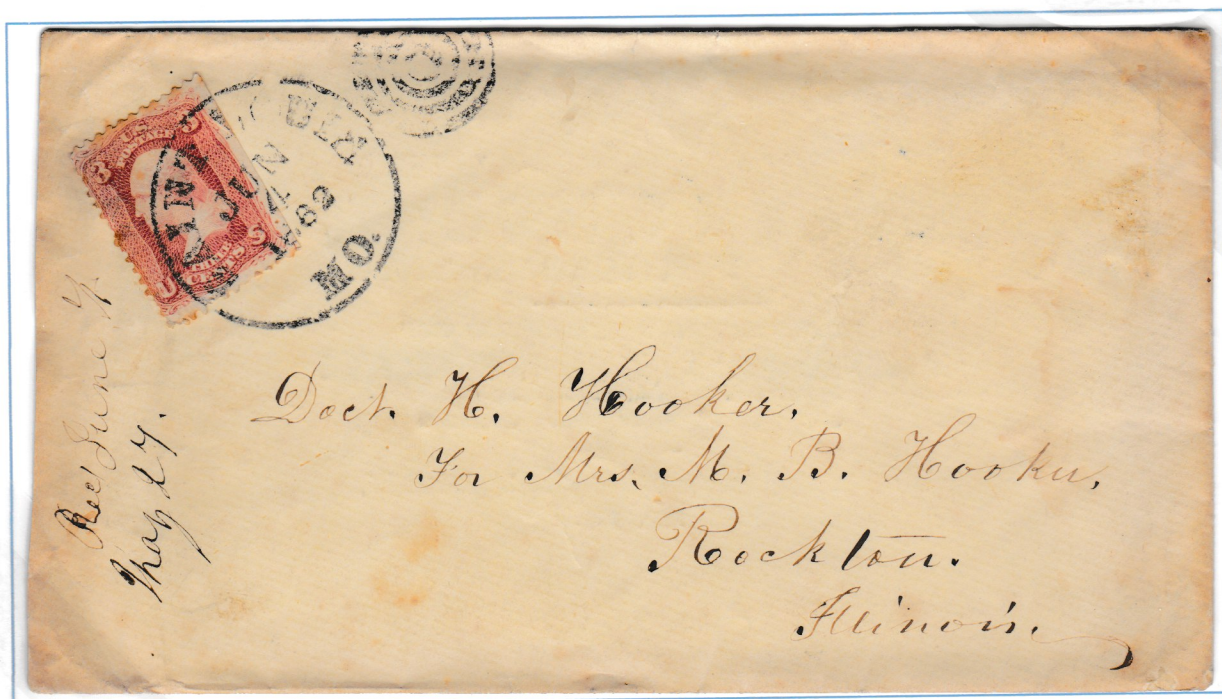
CSA 11-AD Type 1 tied by strike of "Washington Ark. Feb 21" circular date stamp mailed to Sam F. Mosley, Esqr., Jefferson, Texas.



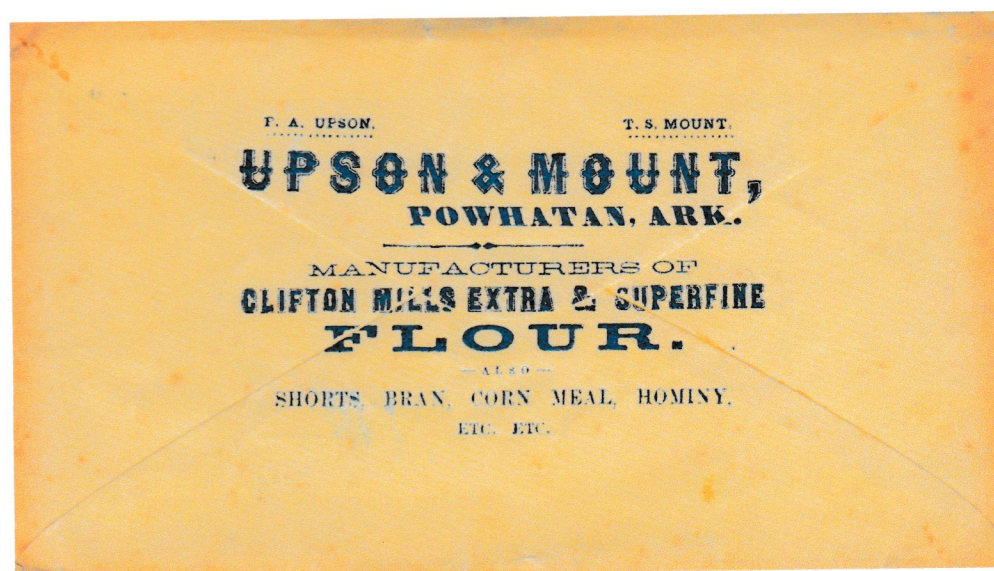
CSA 12-ADe Type 2 green with "MAGNOLIA ARK OCT 8" cancel on block of four. P.F. Certificate.

Arkansas Union Postal History

After the Battle of Pea Ridge and the transfer of most of the Confederate troops from Arkansas to east of the Mississippi, General Curtis's Union Army followed the White River to Batesville which he occupied with the intention of capturing Little Rock.



A doctor from General Curtis's Union Army helped to preserve this rare advertising cover. During the occupation of Batesville General Curtis sent out foraging parties to all of the Arkansas counties north of Batesville. Powhatan was located northeast of Batesville in Lawrence County. This letter was mailed with a stamp, transported to St. Louis, Missouri where it was postmarked, mailed and received in Rockton, Illinois.



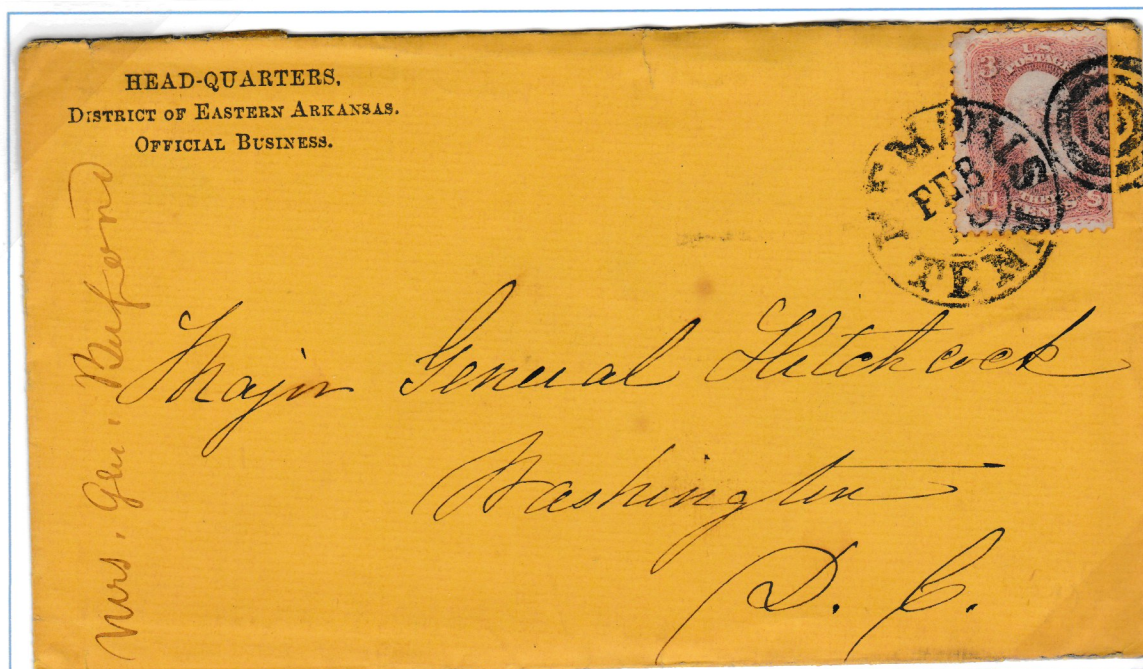
Scan of the reverse of the above cover advertising the mill of Upson and Mount, Powhatan, Arkansas.

Arkansas Union Postal History

In late June, 1862, Curtis's Union Army left Batesville and headed down the White River hoping to hook up with a Federal fleet of gunboats and steamers. Confederate forces managed to harass and slow Curtis's army just enough that he missed his rendezvous with the fleet. Without supplies he abandoned plans to capture Little Rock, he headed east and occupied Helena on the Mississippi River.



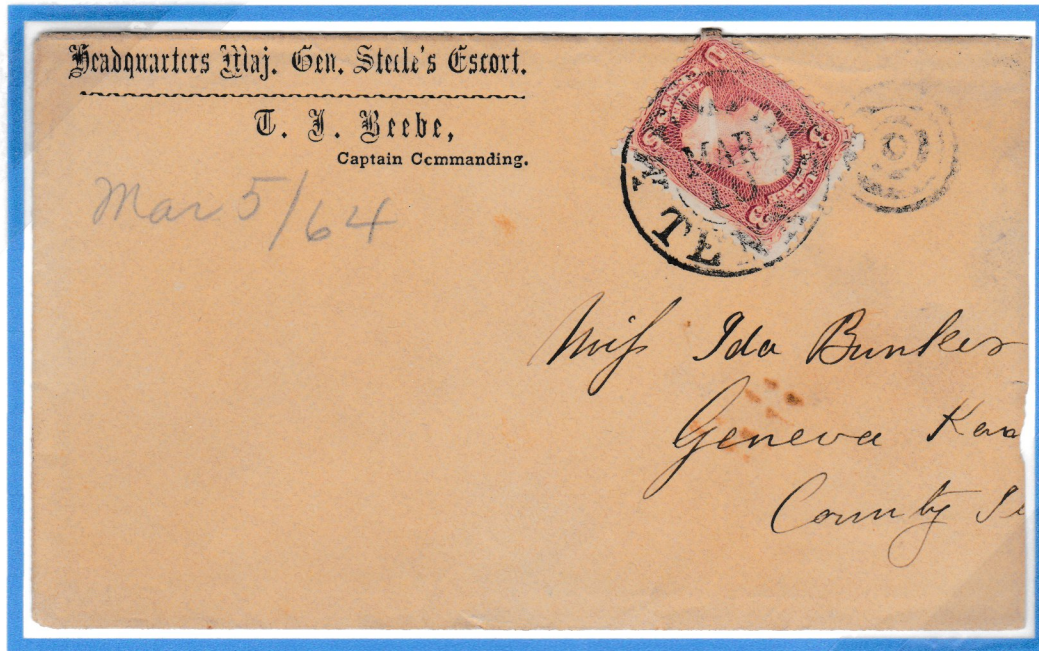
Rare Helena advertising cover used by a Union soldier to send a letter home. Entered the mail at Cairo, Illinois, September 22, 1862.



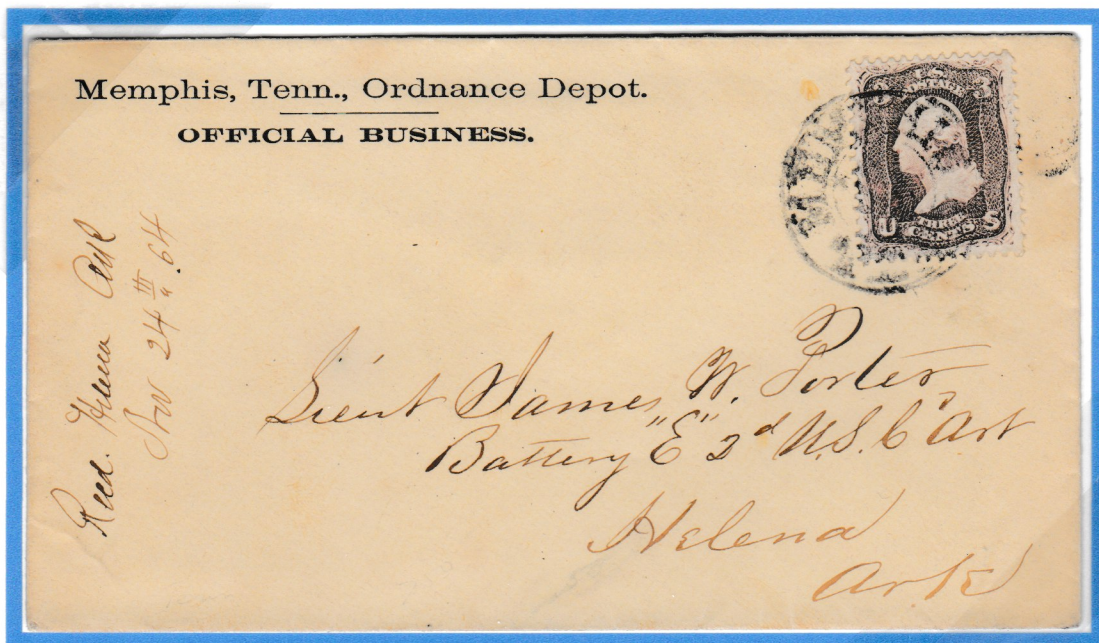
Scarce corner card addressed to Major General Hancock who was Commissioner for the Exchange of Prisoners. Note the letter came from Mrs. Gen. Buford. Brigadier General Napoleon Bonaparte Buford commanded the District of Eastern Arkansas. He was the Brother of Major General John Buford of Gettysburg fame.

Arkansas Union Postal History

On July 27, 1863, Major General Frederick Steele was placed in command of the Army of Arkansas. His army successfully captured Confederate held Little Rock in September 1863.

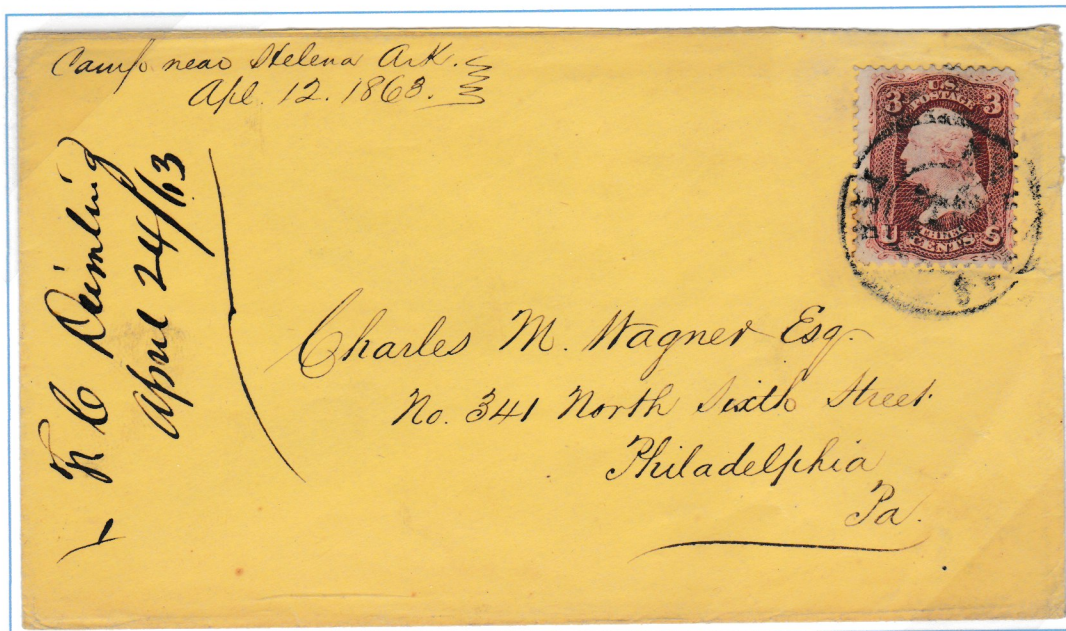


Rare corner card for the Headquarters Maj. Gen. Steele's Escort, T. J. Beebe, Captain Commanding. A member of Co. H, 15th Illinois Cavalry. Mailed at Memphis March 10, 1864.



Rare corner card from the Memphis Ordnance Depot to Lieut. James W. Porter, Battery "E" 2nd Regiment, U S Colored Light Artillery, Helena, Ark. Received November 24th, 1864. The Confederates tried to take Helena on July 4, 1863, hoping to relieve pressure on Vicksburg, but failed after an initial breach of the defenses.

Arkansas Union Postal History



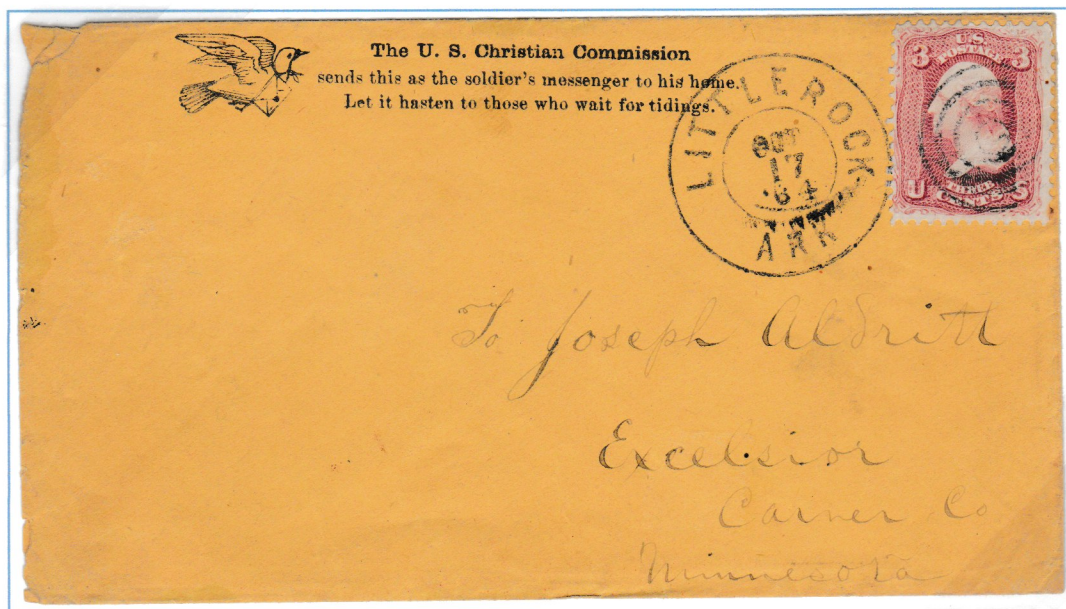
Cover sent from a camp near Helena on April 12, 1863, mailed at Memphis to Philadelphia.



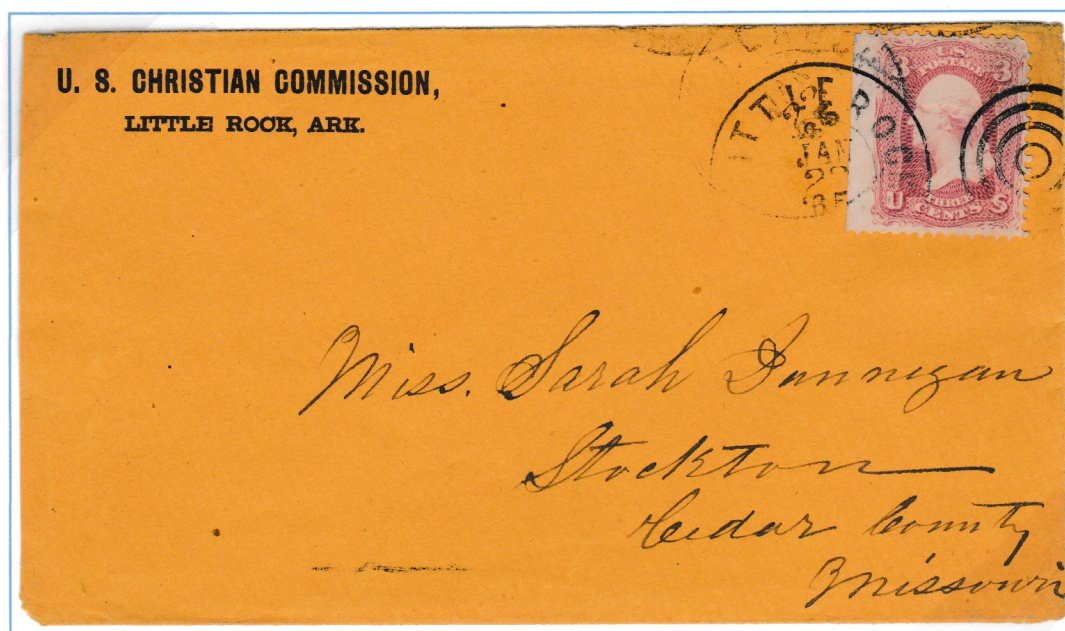
On September 1, 1863, Union forces under Gen. James Blunt seized Ft. Smith. It remained in Union control for the duration of the war. When mail resumed a straightline cancel was used, which is quite scarce.

Arkansas Union Postal History

The United States Christian Commission was created to promote the spiritual welfare of the officers and enlisted men of the United States Army and Navy. They provided religious tracts and publications as well as envelopes and sheets of writing paper.

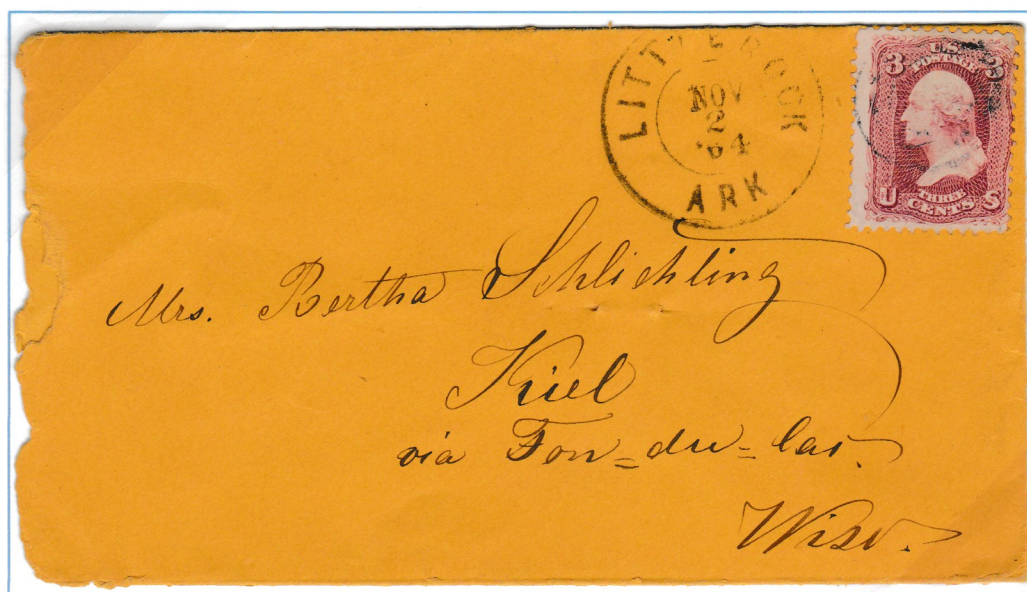


U. S. Christian Commission corner card with a Little Rock, Ark postmark mailed to Excelsior, Minnesota.

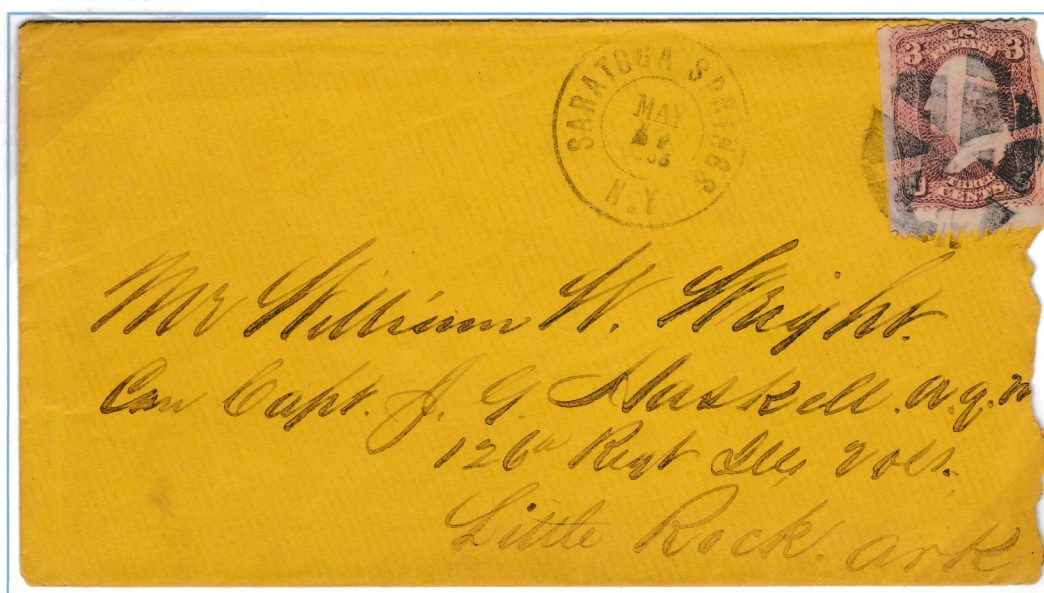


Scarce Little Rock U.S. Christian Commission corner card mailed to Stockton, Missouri. This cover was used as an illustration in the Kantor book on *Sanitary Fairs*.

Arkansas Union Postal History



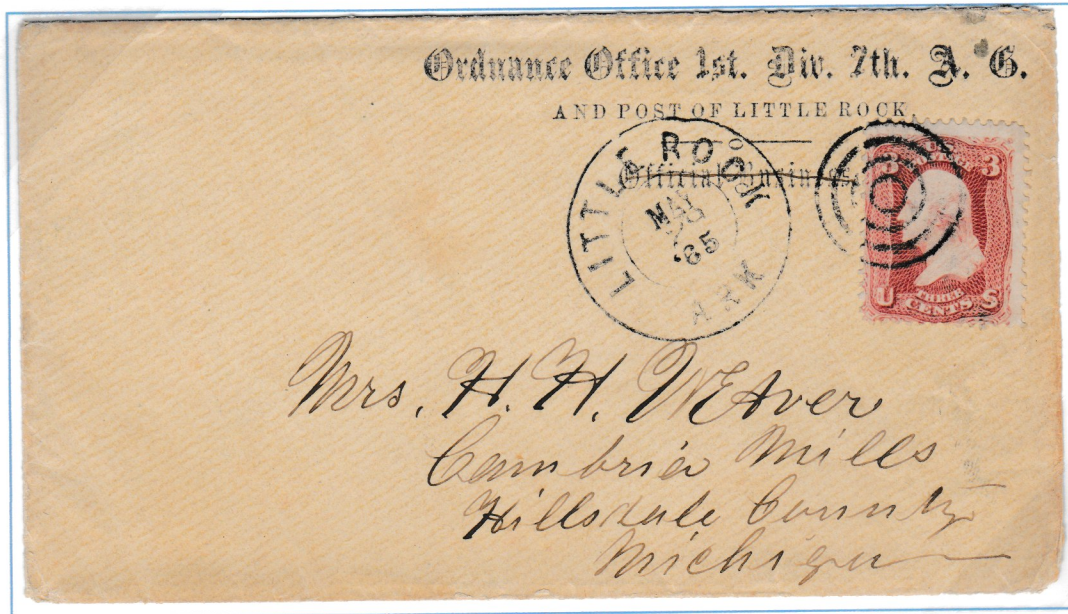
Letter mailed from Little Rock, November 2, 1864, to Kiel via Fond du Lac, Wisconsin



Incoming letter from Saratoga Springs, New York, to Mr. William Wright care of Capt. J. G. Haskell, aqm 126th Regt. Illinois Vols. Little Rock.

Arkansas Union Postal History

After Gen. Steele's ill fated Camden expedition in which he was forced to retreat back to Little Rock. There was never another Union threat to south Arkansas. Confederate forces freely roamed rural Arkansas, while the Union forces stayed in their fortifications at Fort Smith, Pine Bluff, Helena, and Little Rock.



Very scarce corner card of the Ordnance Office 1st. Div. 7 A. C. The 7th Army Corps was formed from a consolidation of the troops in the Department of Arkansas.



This cover illustrates the "Forty Rounds" Badge of the Fifteenth Army Corps. In the latter part of June the 2nd Division of the 15th Corps was ordered to Little Rock to serve as a part of the Army of Occupation.