

Huntsville, Alabama, Confederate Postal History

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

Huntsville, Alabama Confederate Postal History

This exhibit presents Huntsville, Alabama Confederate Postal History during the Civil War.

Most Huntsville Confederate covers are found postmarked in 1861 or early 1862, and show either a handstamp paid or due marking. Huntsville was a strategic military target due to the presence of the Memphis and Charleston Railroad maintenance shops. Huntsville was captured by Union troops on 11 April 1862, and changed hands repeatedly during the remainder of the war.

Huntsville covers with Confederate postage stamps are scarcer than handstamp paid covers. Huntsville used only one circle date stamp to postmark throughout the war, so by the end of the war, it can be difficult to read the postmark month, day and year.



The exhibit shows i) Confederate usage of US postage between 4 February and 1 June 1861, followed by ii) handstamp paid, iii) handstamp due, and iv) Confederate postage stamps.

Key dates relative to mail handling by the US Post Office and the Confederate Post Office is provided in the following table:

Key Dates		
11 January 1861	Alabama seceded from the Union	24 days as independent state
4 February 1861	Alabama admitted to the Confederacy	4 months and 20 days
1 June 1861	Confederate Postal Service started	

Handstamp paid and dues type designations are taken from the ***Confederate States of America Catalog and Handbook of Stamps and Postal History (2012)***. The catalog records five 5¢ handstamp paid markings; six 10¢ handstamp paid markings, and 3 handstamp due markings...

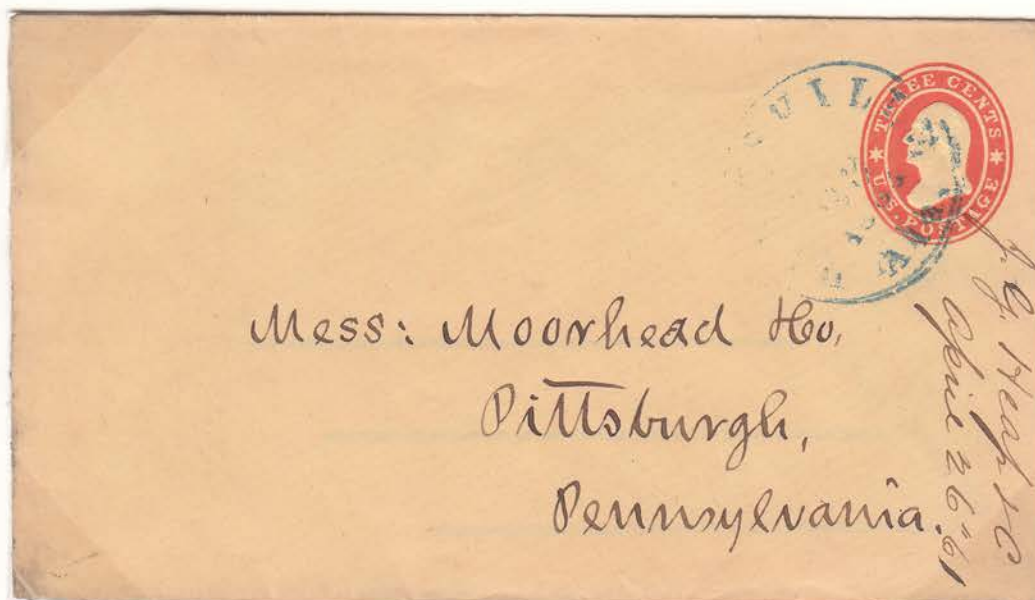
Confederate Usage of US Stamps



12 February 1861 HUNTSVILLE to Athens, Alabama

3¢ US domestic letter rate

Luke Pryor's family descendants live and work on the same farm as in 1861



23 April 1861 HUNTSVILLE to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

3¢ US domestic letter rate / "Star Die" postal stationary

Huntsville 5¢ Handstamp Paid



CSA
Catalog
Type A
*Only
recorded
copy*

27 March 1862 HUNTSVILLE to Jackson, Tennessee
5¢ CSA domestic letter rate up to 500 miles



CSA
Catalog
Type B

30 October 1861 HUNTSVILLE to Montgomery, Alabama

Huntsville 5¢ Handstamp Paid



CSA
Catalog
Type B

5 December 1861 HUNTSVILLE to Memphis, Tennessee
5¢ CSA domestic letter rate up to 500 miles



CSA
Catalog
Type C

18 August 1861 HUNTSVILLE to Turkeytown, Alabama

Huntsville 5¢ Handstamp Paid



CSA
Catalog
Type C

25 August 1861 HUNTSVILLE to Chepultepec, Alabama
5¢ CSA domestic letter rate up to 500 miles



CSA
Catalog
Type C

19 September 1861 HUNTSVILLE to Turkeytown, Alabama

Huntsville 5¢ Handstamp Paid



CSA
Catalog
Type E

5 June 1861 HUNTSVILLE to Jonesboro, Tennessee

5¢ CSA domestic letter rate up to 500 miles

Addressed to Mrs. S. M. Van Wyck, wife of Dr. Samuel M. Van Wyck.

Dr. Wyck was the Regimental Surgeon serving under General Nathan Bedford Forrest.

Dr. Van Wyck was killed in action on 30 November 1861 while riding next to General Forrest on a reconnaissance and foraging mission to the Ohio River

Huntsville 10¢ Handstamp Paids



CSA
Catalog
Type F

27 October 1861 HUNTSVILLE to Fredericksburg, Virginia
10¢ CSA domestic letter rate over 500 miles'
Two recorded usages of the "PAID 10" used to revalue a "PAID 5"



CSA
Catalog
Type F

5 December 1861 HUNTSVILLE to Middleway, Virginia

Huntsville 10¢ Handstamp Paid



CSA
Catalog
Type G

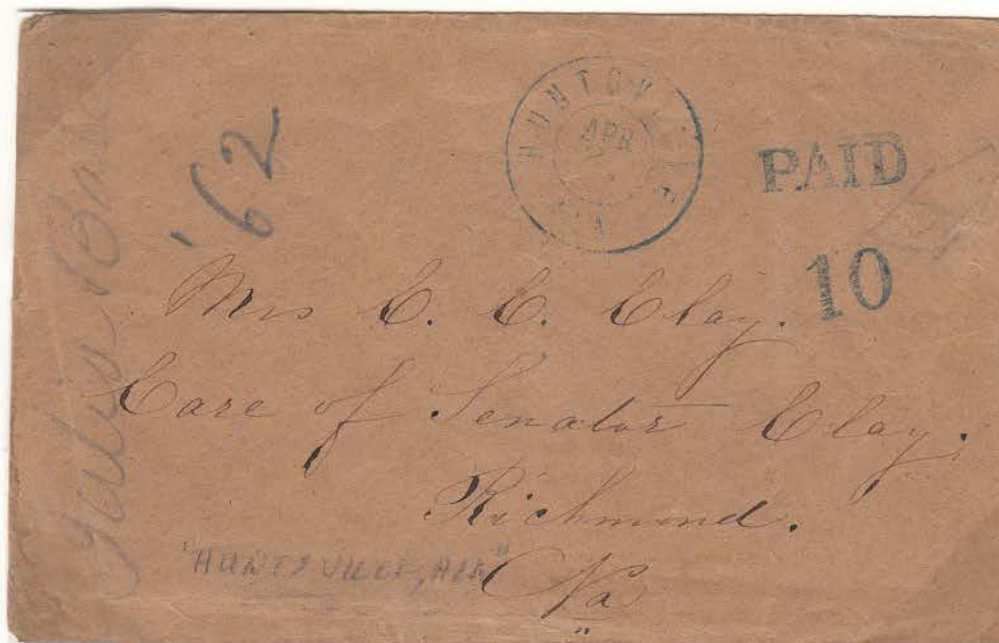
14 August 1861 HUNTSVILLE to Manassas Junction, Virginia
10¢ CSA domestic letter rate over 500 miles'



CSA
Catalog
Type H

4 June 1861 HUNTSVILLE to Harpers Ferry, Virginia

Huntsville 10¢ Handstamp Paid



CSA
Catalog
Type H

2 April 1862 HUNTSVILLE to Richmond, Virginia
10¢ CSA domestic letter rate over 500 miles
Union soldiers captured Huntsville on 11 April 1862



CSA
Catalog
Type K
Two
copies
recorded

13 July 1861 HUNTSVILLE to Amherst Court House, Virginia

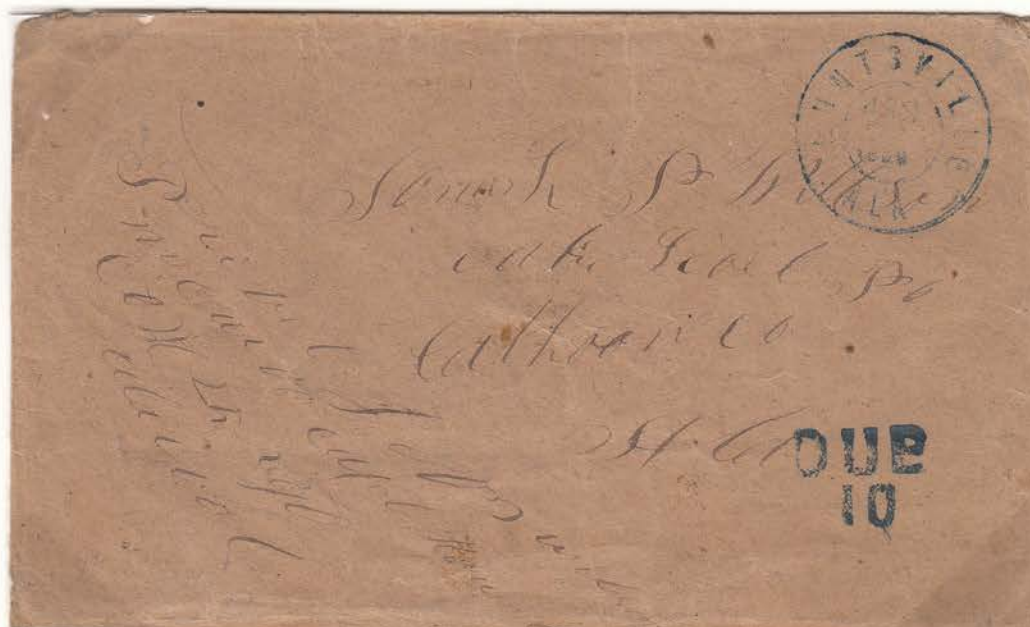
Huntsville 5¢ / 10¢ Handstamp Dues



CSA
Catalog
Type L
Two
copies
recorded

29 October 1861 HUNTSVILLE to Dudleyville, Alabama

Only Huntsville Confederate postal marking recorded used with red ink



CSA
Catalog
Type N
Two
copies
recorded

? September 1862 HUNTSVILLE to Oak Level, Alabama

Huntsville 5¢ / 10¢ Handstamp Dues



CSA
Catalog
Type M

28 March 1862 Camp Chase, Ohio to HUNTSVILLE to Tibbee Station, Mississippi



CSA
Catalog
Type N
Two
copies
recorded

28 March 1862 Camp Chase, Ohio to HUNTSVILLE to Cedar Grove, North Carolina

Both envelopes carried letters from POWs imprisoned at Camp Chase, Ohio

A third Camp Chase, Ohio POW cover is recorded postmarked in Huntsville on 28 March 1862

Confederate Lithographs



20 February 1862 HUNTSVILLE to Courtland, Alabama
5¢ CSA domestic letter rate up to 500 miles



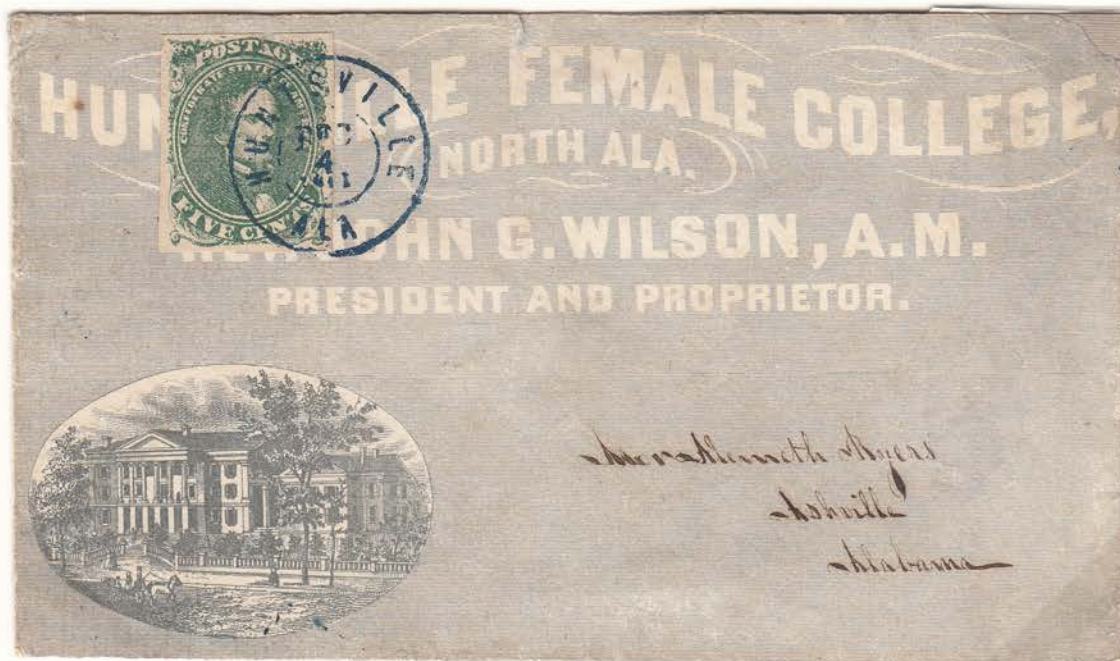
27 February 1862 HUNTSVILLE to New Orleans, Louisiana
Double 5¢ CSA domestic letter rate up to 500 miles
From the Carroll Hoy correspondence

Huntsville Female College



CSA
Catalog
Type F

2 October 1861 HUNTSVILLE to Jefferson, Texas
10¢ CSA domestic letter rate over 500 miles'



4 December 1861 HUNTSVILLE to Ashville, Alabama
The Huntsville Female College was organized in 1851 and operated until 4 January 1895, when it was destroyed by fire

Confederate Lithographs



20 November 1861 HUNTSVILLE to Cascade, Virginia

Hoyer & Ludwig printing



4 (?) 1862 HUNTSVILLE to Lynchburg, Virginia

J. T. Patterson printing

Confederate Typographs



24 February 1867 HUNTSVILLE to Columbia, Tennessee



HUNTSVILLE to Richmond, Virginia

Richmond printing on local paper

Confederate Typographs



6 June 1863 HUNTSVILLE to Atlanta, Georgia
Only recorded Huntsville Confederate manuscript postmark



HUNTSVILLE – New Providence, Alabama