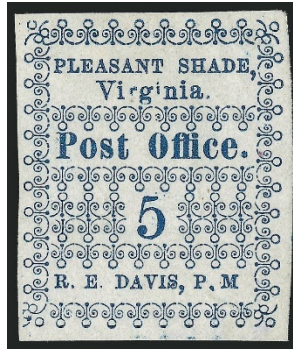


Census of Pleasant Shade, Virginia, Postmaster's Provisionals

Compiled by Francis J. Crown, Jr.

Description



PLE-VA-A01

The Pleasant Shade Provisional

The Pleasant Shade provisional is similar to that of Petersburg, Virginia. They were printed from the same settings as the Petersburg provisional. To make the Pleasant Shade provisionals the printer made several changes to the settings used for the Petersburg stamp. The town name was changed at the top and "Virginia" was changed from all capitals to upper-and lower-case letters. The ornaments on both sides of "Virginia" were also removed and the name of the postmaster was changed at the bottom. Several other minor alterations were made.

The form for printing the Pleasant Shade provisionals consisted of five settings or positions. The printer was A. F. Crutchfield & Co., of Petersburg. This firm also published the *Petersburg Daily Express*.

For more information on the plating see Reference in **Notes**,

NOTE: The inclusion of an item in this census is not a guarantee of authenticity.

Count of Pleasant Shade provisionals

| Provisional | CSA Cat No | Scott Cat No | Unused | Used | Covers | Total |
|-------------------------------|-------------|--------------|--------|------|--------|-------|
| 5c blue on white | PLE-VA-A01 | 67X1 | 11 | 2 | 3 | 16 |
| 5c blue on white pair | PLE-VA-A01a | 67X1 | 2 | | 2 | 4 |
| 5c blue on white block of six | PLE-VA-A01b | 67X1 | 6 | | | 6 |

Notes

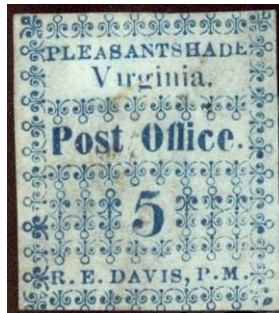
Brief History

The Pleasant Shade provisional was first chronicled in the 20 March 1870 edition of the *American Journal of Philately* (page 33). The article notes that the stamp was first described in a paper read by Mr. [Charles] Watson before the New York Philatelic Society in June 1868. The minutes of the meeting do not mention the Pleasant Shade provisional, only that Watson read a paper on the Confederate postal service. The Pleasant Shade provisional was first cataloged in the 19th edition of John W. Scotts' *Descriptive Price List of Used and Unused Postage Stamps*, in May 1870.

Fakes



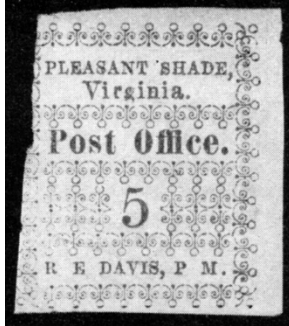
The fake above is identified by the letters in the postmaster's name at the bottom being both out of alignment and high. This fake is attributed to Petrie.



The *Postage Stamp Reporter* for October 1872 (page 5) contained an ad by Arthur H. Wheeler of Lowell, Massachusetts. The ad illustrated and stated facsimiles of the Pleasant Shade stamp were now available. The identifying characteristics of this fake are the town name spelled as one word and the final "E" being slightly raised above the base line of the other letters. Two examples of this "facsimile" are illustrated at above. The left example is in the correct blue color and the example at right is printed in red.

Other fakes exist.

Trimmed Singles



Before Caspary Sale



After Caspary Sale

It is difficult to properly identify specific unused stamps as sometimes they are trimmed, and other times cut from blocks. A good example is seen in the illustrations above showing how the appearance of CN-010 changed due to trimming.

Distribution of Pleasant Shade provisionals by type and position

| Type | Positions | | | | | | Total Stamps |
|---------------------------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|--------------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | Unk | |
| Unused | | | | | | | |
| single | | | 1 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 11 |
| pair | 2 | | | | | | 2 |
| bock of six | | 2 | 2 | 2 | | | 6 |
| Used | | | | | | | |
| single | | | | 2 | | | 2 |
| Covers | | | | | | | |
| single | 1 | | 2 | | | | 3 |
| pair | | | | 1 | 1 | | 2 |
| Totals by Position | 3 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 7 | 1 | 26 |

Reference

Richard L. Calhoun, *The Confederate Postmaster Provisionals of Virginia* (Henrico, VA: Virginia Postal History Society, 2011): 98-106.

Mini Census of Pleasant Shade, Virginia Provisional Covers

5c blue on white -- PLE-VA-A01 (67X1)

| Pmk Date | Pmk Posn | Prov Posn | Addressee | Town | State | CN |
|---------------|----------|-----------|---------------------|-----------------|-------|-----|
| 22 Dec [1861] | UR | UR | Miss Rose Casler | Staunton | VA | 004 |
| 14 Apr [1862] | UC-UR | UR | Mr Alexander Donnan | Petersburg | VA | 001 |
| 21 May [1862] | UL | UL | Miss Ellen B Smith | Christiansville | VA | 002 |

5c blue on white pair -- PLE-VA-A01a (67X1)

| Pmk Date | Pmk Posn | Prov Posn | Addressee | Town | State | CN |
|---------------|----------|-----------|---------------------|------------|-------|-----|
| 24 Nov [1861] | CR | UR | Messrs A & J Donnan | Petersburg | VA | 003 |

Full Census of Pleasant Shade, Virginia, Provisionals

Compiled by Francis J. Crown, Jr.

5c blue on white, unused -- PLE-VA-A01 (67X1)

Unused

Description: Stamp from position 3.
Address: NA
Provenance: Lilly.
Source: PF-442485*; RAS-27Apr1967(317)-355; RAS-13Dec2000(1002)-4120*. [009]
Image Credit: Robert A Siegel Auctions.



Unused

Description: Stamp from position 4.
Address: NA
Provenance: None.
Source: PF-3412. [015]
Image Credit: Philatelic Foundation.



Unused

Description: Stamp from position 4.
Address: NA
Provenance: Caspary.
Source: PF-6697; HRH-5Mar1956-420. [016]
Image Credit: H R Harmer Auctions.



Unused

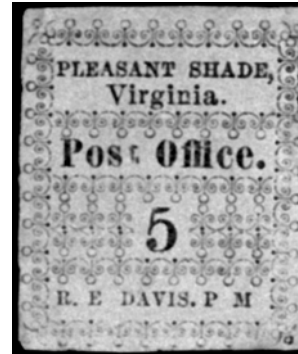
Description: Stamp from position 4. In 1991 the CWPAS rendered a less than unanimous opinion that the stamp was a fake. However, the stamp correctly plates to position 4.

Address: NA

Provenance: None.

Source: CWPAS-02276. [017]

Image Credit: Civil War Philatelic Authentication Service .



Unused

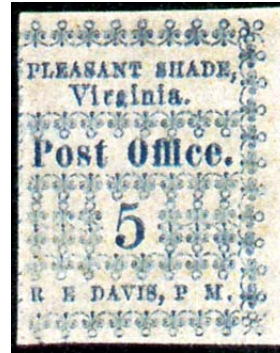
Description: Stamp from position 5. The stamp has been significantly trimmed. See "Description and Notes" for additional information.

Address: NA

Provenance: Caspary.

Source: CWPAS-03075*; SCOC-Dec1933(1:2)-48; HRH-5Mar1956-421. [010]

Image Credit: Civil War Philatelic Authentication Service .



Unused

Description: Stamp from position 5.

Address: NA

Provenance: Ferrary, Brandon.

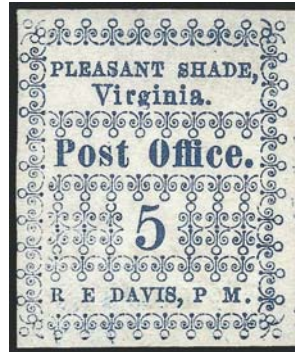
Source: DFA-14Jun 1922(4)-78; RAS-24Apr1982(596)-68; RAS-24Jun2014(1073)-327*. [012]

Image Credit: Robert A Siegel Auctions.



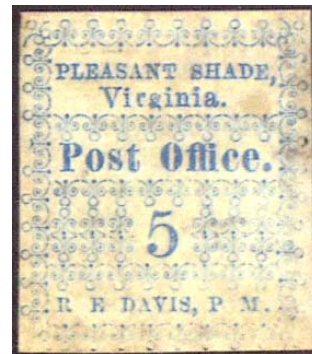
Unused

Description: Stamp from position 5.
Address: NA
Provenance: Ferrary, Hind, Brooks.
Source: DFA-14Jun 1922(4)-78; PK-20Nov1933(1)-1566;
LS-24Apr1943(123)-133; RAS-24Jun2015(1104)-
2271*. [013]
Image Credit: Robert A Siegel Auctions.



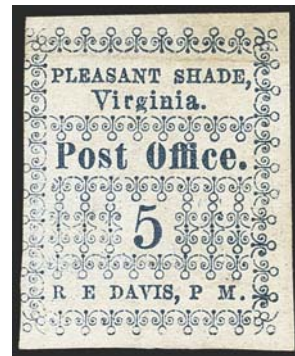
Unused

Description: Stamp from position 5.
Address: NA
Provenance: None.
Source: PF-296179*; RAS-23Apr1996(775)-1807*. [011]
Image Credit: Philatelic Foundation.



Unused

Description: Stamp from position 5. Horizontal crease below top border ornaments.
Address: NA
Provenance: Hind.
Source: CWPAS-02493; PF-168553*; PK-20Nov1933(1)-
1565; RAS-23Jun1965(288)-575; RAS-
22Jun2016(1132)-3198*. [014]
Image Credit: Robert A Siegel Auctions.



Unused

Description: This stamp was determined to be counterfeit by the PF some years ago. However, it correctly plates to position 5 and has no characteristics of a fake.

Address: NA

Provenance: None.

Source: PF-117692; RAS -12Sep1956(193)-843. [018]

Image Credit: Philatelic Foundation.



Unused

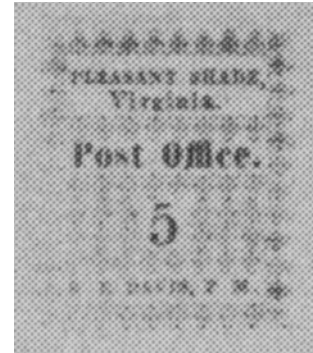
Description: Poor image as copied from source. Too little resolution to determine position.

Address: NA

Provenance: Tapling.

Source: APCB-1960-125. [019]

Image Credit: American Philatelic Congress Book.



5c blue on white, used -- PLE-VA-A01 (67X1)

23 Apr [1862]

Description: Blue "PLEASANT SHADE / VA" postmark ties provisional on piece. Stamps from position 4.

Address: NA

Provenance: Caspary, Weatherly, Erivan.

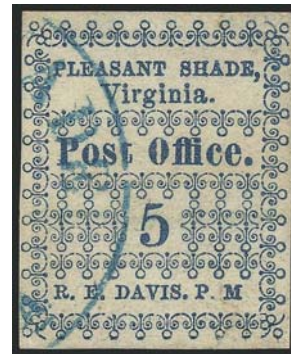
Source: PF-566259*; PPH-150*; HRH-5Mar1956-424; RAS-20Oct1972(420)-560; HRH-10Dec2019(3030)-77*. [005]

Image Credit: Philatelic Foundation.



No Date

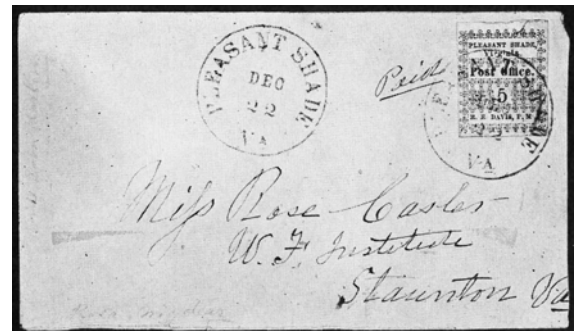
Description: Blue "PLEASANT SHADE / VA" postmark cancels provisional. Stamp from position 4.
Address: NA
Provenance: Weill Brothers, Sharrer.
Source: PF-342781*; CHR-13Oct1989-1299; RAS-27Apr1999(810)-1981*; RAS-10Dec2012(1035)-82*. [008]
Image Credit: Robert A Siegel Auctions.



5c blue on white, covers -- PLE-VA-A01 (67X1)

22 Dec [1861]

Description: "PLEASANT SHADE / VA" postmark ties provisional UR. Postmark also struck at UC. Manuscript "Paid" to left of stamp. Stamp from position 3.
Address: Miss Rose Casler / W. F. Institute / Staunton Va.
Provenance: Tapling.
Source: APCB-1960-125; CONP-May1977(22:3)-70. [004]
Image Credit: Confederate Philatelist (journal).



14 Apr [1862]

Description: Blue "PLEASANT SHADE / VA" postmark ties provisional UR. Docketed "Answered 15/62" at UL-UC. Stamp from position 1.
Address: Mr Alexander Donnan / Petersburg / Virginia
Provenance: Caspary, Gross, DK.
Source: PF-488885*; HRH-5Mar1956-426; SPK-19Nov2009-38*; RAS-28Mar2012(1022)-1114*. [001]
Image Credit: Robert A Siegel Auctions.



21 May [1862]

- Description:** Blue "PLEASANT SHADE / VA" postmark ties provisional UL. Cover slightly reduced at left. Stamp from position 3.
- Address:** Miss Ellen B. Smith / Christiansville P. O. / Mecklenburg County / Virginia
- Provenance:** Caspary, Muzzy, Erivan, Jaretsky.
- Source:** PPH-151*; CWPSX-Jaretsky(Apr2021)-38*; HRH-5Mar1956-425; HRH-21Apr1967(1764)-2071. [002]
- Image Credit:** Postmasters' Provisionals: United States and Confederate States (book).



5c blue on white, pair, unused -- PLE-VA-A01a (67X1)

Unused

- Description:** Both stamps from position 1.
- Address:** NA
- Provenance:** Caspary, Kirkman.
- Source:** PF-136873; HRH-5Mar1956-422; HRH-1Mar1962(1423)-958; HRH-22Jul1976(2352)-1278; SPB-16Apr1979(S-32)-1062. [007]
- Image Credit:** H R Harmer Auctions.



5c blue on white, pair, cover -- PLE-VA-A01a (67X1)

24 Nov [1861]

- Description:** Blue "PLEASANT SHADE / VA" postmark ties provisionals UR. Stamps from positions 4, 5.
- Address:** Messrs A & J M Donnan / Petersburg / Va.
- Provenance:** Hind, Caspary, Weill Brothers, Erivan.
- Source:** PK-20Nov1933(1)-1567; HRH-5Mar1956-427, CHR-13Oct1989-1298*; HRH-26Jan2022(3055-6)-118 Erivan.. [003]
- Image Credit:** H R Harmer Auctions.



5c blue on white, block of six, unused -- PLE-VA-A01b (67X1)

Unused

- Description:** Stamps from positions 2,3,4 / 2,3,4
Address: NA
Provenance: Caspary, Lilly, Erivan.
Source: PPH-150*; HRH-5Mar1956-423; RAS-27Apr1967(317)-356. [006]
Image Credit: Postmasters' Provisionals: United States and Confederate States (book).

