

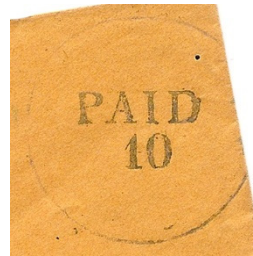
Census of Lexington, Virginia, Postmaster's Provisionals

Compiled by Francis J. Crown, Jr.

Description



LEX-VA-E01



LEX-VA-E02

The Lexington Provisionals

The Lexington provisionals were prepared by handstamping envelopes with a town postmark that was specially prepared to render “PAID / 5” and “PAID / 10” markings. These same markings were used on stampless cover so the markings are only considered provisionals when postally unused, under a postally used general issue, or mailed from another town. See **Notes** for more information.

The CSA Catalog lists both markings in blue. However, the only recorded example of the “PAID / 10” marking is in black.

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

Count of the Lexington provisionals

Provisional	CSA Cat No	Scott Cat No	Covers
5c blue	LEX-VA-E01	135XU1	3
10c black	LEX-VA-E02	135XU2	1

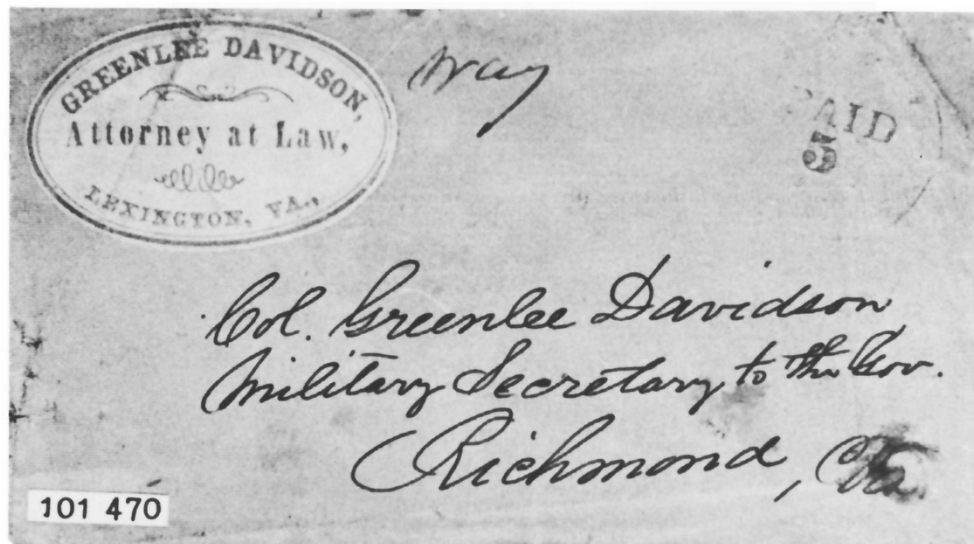
Notes

History

Lexington stampless covers have been known for some time, but until the 1980s were never considered provisionals. In 1984 a theory was advanced that there was a difference between Lexington stampless markings and provisional markings (Powell and Kaufmann – References). The basic tenet was that to be a provisional the office canceller had to be struck within 3/4 of an inch of the partial circle of the “PAID / 5” or “PAID / 10” marking. Although this theory was accepted initially, now only Lexington stampless covers without postmarks are considered provisionals.

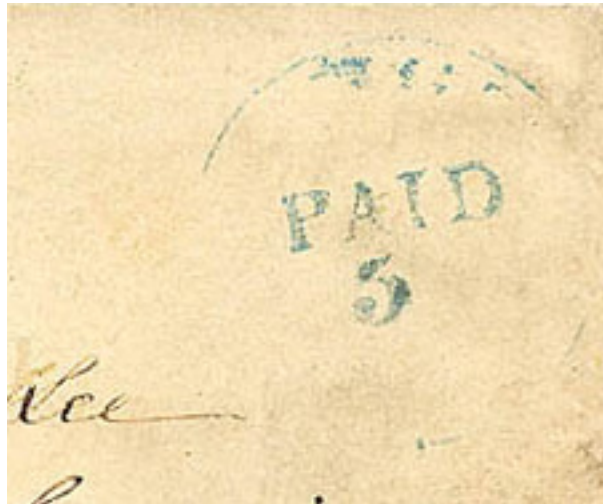
Provisional or Not?

The cover below appears to meet the criteria for a provisional use as it is not postmarked. However, there is a “Way” marking at upper center. This indicates the cover was picked up between towns by the mail carrier and dropped off at the first post office he reached. Was this office Lexington? Was the “PAID / 5” marking already on the cover (provisional) or was it added to indicate the payment of postage (stampless use)? Why no postmark as the letter had entered the mail system as evidenced by the “Way” marking. This cover is included in the census.



Specially Prepared Markings

The marking below shows evidence of the town name inside the rim at top. This indicates the postmaster either used a type that was higher than the rest of the postmark or placed something under the type, so the paid marking was all that made an impression on the envelope. The partial rim resulted from the marking being struck at a slight angle, so part of the rim struck the envelope.



References

Powell, Peter W. W., "Lexington, Va. Provisionals And Handstamped Pairs," *Confederate Philatelist* 29:1 (January-February 1984): 5-10.

Kaufmann, Patricia A., ed., "Correction," *Confederate Philatelist* 29:2 (March-April 1984): 50.

Mini Census of Lexington, Virginia, Provisionals

<u>Pmk Date</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>PmkPos</u>	<u>PrvPos</u>	<u>CN</u>
5c black -- LEX-VA-E01 (135XU1)				
No Postmark	Capt Rock bridge Artillery / Rev W. J. Pendleton D. D. Care of Gen Johnson / Winchester / Virginia		UR	002
No Postmark	Col. Greenlee Davidson /Military Secretary to the Gov. / Richmond, / Va.		UR	004
No Postmark	Mrs. J. D. Davidson / Care Mason Matthews / Lewisburg / Greenbrier Co / Va.		UR	001
10c black -- LEX-VA-E012 (135XU2)				
No Postmark	Col. Jno. Miller / Warm Springs / Bath County / Va		UR	003

Full Census of Lexington, Virginia, Provisionals

Compiled by Francis J. Crown, Jr.

5c black -- LEX-VA-E01 (135XU1)

No Postmark

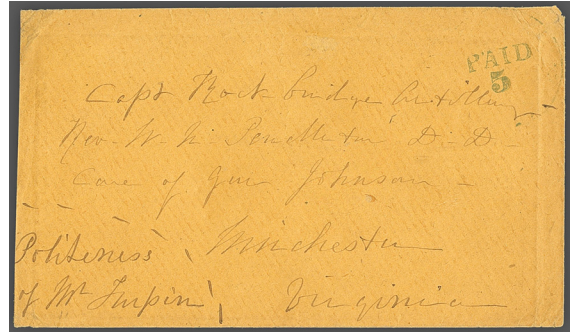
Description: Provisional marking UR. Docketed "Politeness / of Mr Turpin" at LL.

Address: Capt Rock bridge Artillery / Rev W. J. Pendleton
D. D. Care of Gen Johnson / Winchester /
Virginia

Provenance: None recorded.

Source: OPIN(2)-163; RAS-22Jun2016(1132)-3132*.
[002]

Image Credit: Robert A Siegel Auctions.



No Postmark

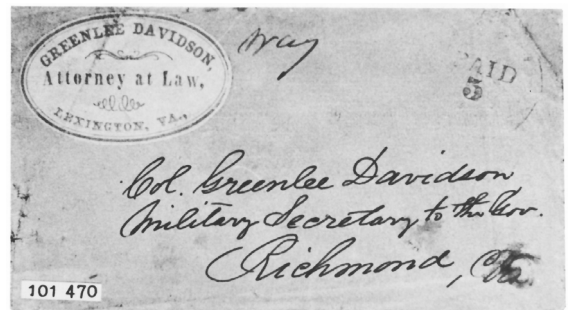
Description: Provisional marking UR. Corner card of Greenlee Davidson at UL. Problematic use - see "Notes."

Address: Col. Greenlee Davidson /Military Secretary to
the Gov. / Richmond, / Va.

Provenance: None recorded.

Source: OPIN(2)-165. [004]

Image Credit: Opinions II: Philatelic Expertizing - An Inside View
(1984 book by Pope).



No Postmark

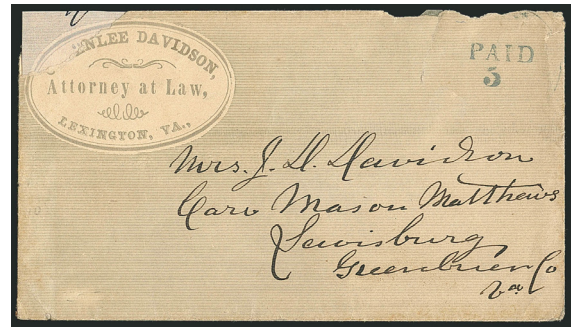
Description: Provisional marking UR. Corner card envelope of Greenlee Davidson at UL.

Address: Mrs. J. D. Davidson / Care Mason Matthews / Lewisburg / Greenbrier Co / Va.

Provenance: None recorded.

Source: RAS-17Dec2015(1117)-4495*. [001]

Image Credit: Robert A Siegel Auctions.



10c black -- LEX-VA-E012 (135XU2)

No Postmark

Description: Provisional marking UR.

Address: Col. Jno. Miller / Warm Springs / Bath County / Va

Provenance: None recorded.

Source: CWPAS- 01724. [003]

Image Credit: Civil War Philatelic Authentication Service.

