

Census of Liberty, Virginia, Postmaster's Provisionals

Compiled by Francis J. Crown, Jr.

Description



The Liberty Provisional

The Liberty provisionals were typeset and printed on laid paper. The printing form was made up of at least three settings (See **Notes**).

The provisional stamps were used in both Liberty (now Beford) and Salem, Virginia.

For more information on the Liberty provisional see "References" in the **Notes**.

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

Count of the 5-cent Liberty provisionals

Provisional	CSA Cat No	Scott Cat No	Covers
5c black	LIB-VA-A01	74X1	2
5c black mailed from another town	LIB-VA-A91a		1

Notes

Curious Aspects of the Liberty Provisional

First and most obvious is the provisional stamps are used from two different towns: Liberty and Salem, Virginia. How could this happen when provisionals were only valid for postage at the town where they were issued. It was not as if the town were adjacent. They are about 40 miles apart. Did the two postmasters agree to use the same stamp? We will never know.

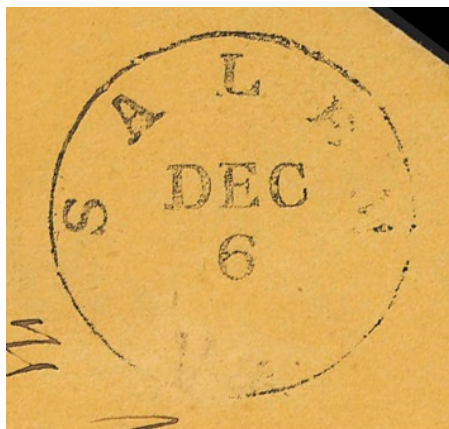
Look at the placement of the provisional stamps on the three recorded covers. They are all in the upper right corner with the stamp design tilted down on the right side. It is as if all the stamps were placed on the envelopes by the same person. This is doubtful as each envelope is addressed in a different hand.

The Liberty provisional is not tied or canceled on any of the three recorded covers. While the postmaster of some towns did not cancel provisionals, almost all did.

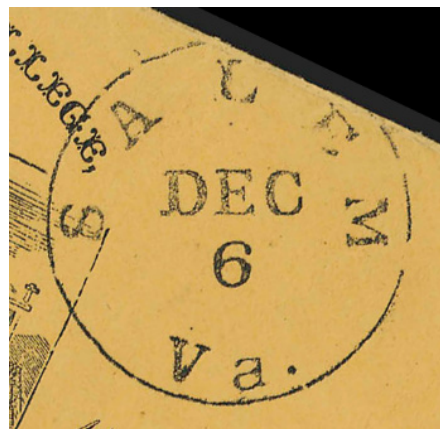
Initially the Liberty provisional was listed as Salem, Virginia. It was only after two examples from Liberty, Virginia were found that the listing was changed to Liberty.

Altered Postmark?

The images below show the postmark on the Salem provisional cover (left) and another Salem postmark of the same date (right). Note the area of the state abbreviation on the left postmark is slightly lighter as if the area was gone over with an eraser. Also, the vertex of the "V" appears to touch the rim of the postmark. The image on the right shows the "V" does not touch the rim. While the postmark was not materially altered, it does beg the question what was done to the postmark and why?



Postmark on provisional cover



Another postmark of same date

Three Different Settings

At least three different settings were used in preparing the Liberty provisionals. The characteristic of each setting is described below.



The “D” of “PAID” is below the baseline



“PAID” is well executed



“P” of “PAID” is slightly raised

References

Crown, Francis J. Jr., “Confederate Potpourri,” *Confederate Philatelist* 24:3 (May 1979): 91.

Dietz, August, ed., “*Liberty* – Not Salem, Va. Local,” *Stamp and Cover Collecting* 1:4 (February 1934): 127-128.

Dietz, August, ed., “Salem or/and Liberty?” *Stamp and Cover Collecting* 1:5 (March 1934): 168.

Howe, Jas. Lewis, “The Salem, Va., Confederate Local,” *American Philatelist* 47:4 (January 1934): 240-241).

MacBride, Van Dyk, “Also Used at Salem: Confederate Provisional of Liberty, Va.” *Scott’s Monthly Journal* 35:8 (January 1955): 189-191.

McAllister, H., ed., “Confederate Locals,” *Quaker City Philatelist* 2:6 (June 1887): 79.

Mini Census of Liberty, Virginia, Provisionals

<u>Pmk Date</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>PmkPos</u>	<u>PrvPos</u>	<u>CN</u>
5c black on white laid paper -- LIB-VA-A01 (74X1)				
7 Jul [1861]	Mrs. M. A. McPheeters / Raleigh / No. Ca.	UC-UL	UR	001
10 Jul [1861]	Mrs. Dr. Saml. Meredith, / Fincastle, Botetourt Co. / Virginia.	UC	UR	002
5c black on white laid paper mailed from another town -- LIB-VA-A01a				
6 Dec [1861]	Jno. F. Bangh. Esqr. / Cashr. / Lynchburg / Va	UC	UR-CR	003

Full Census of Liberty, Virginia, Provisionals

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5c black on white laid paper -- LIB-VA-A01 (74X1)

7 Jul [1861]

Description: Black "Liberty / Va." postmark UC-UL, adhesive provisional UR.

Address: Mrs. M. A. McPheeters / Raleigh / No. Ca.

Provenance: Brandon, Kilbourne.

Source: PF-521913*; RAS-24Jun2014(1073)-278*; RAS-28Sep1999(815)-55*. [001]

Image Credit: Robert A Siegel Auctions.



10 Jul [1861]

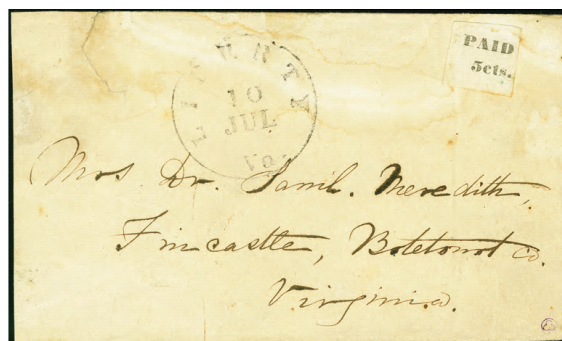
Description: Black "Liberty / Va." postmark UC, adhesive provisional UR.

Address: Mrs. Dr. Saml. Meredith, / Fincastle, Botetourt Co. / Virginia.

Provenance: Ferrary, Hind, Muzzy, Erivan.

Source: PF-585850*; GIL-98 14Jun1922(98-4)-89; PKA-20Nov1933(1)-1583(170); HRH-21Apr1967(1764)-2042; HRH-24Jun2022(3060-7)-116*. [002]

Image Credit: H R Harmer Auctions.



5c black on white laid paper mailed from another town -- LIB-VA-A01a

6 Dec [1861]

Description: Black "Salem / Va." postmark UC, adhesive provisional UR-CR. Manuscript "Paid 5" above provisional.

Address: Jno. F. Bangh. Esqr. / Cashr. / Lynchburg / Va

Provenance: Caspary, Lilly, Kilbourne, Erivan.

Source: PF-567397*; HRH-5Mar1956(989-3)-450; RAS-27Apr1967(317)-365; RAS-28Sep1999(815)-143*; HRH-7Aug2020(3035)-93*. [003]

Image Credit: Robert A Siegel Auctions.

