



## MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

### *Civil War Philatelist*

One of American philately's oldest and most respected journals, this quarterly publication is mailed to all members. Its pages contain research studies, new discoveries and more, offering a wide array of topics by both established students and new authors. A searchable/browsable version of past issues is available on the website.

[www.CivilWarPhilatelicSociety.org](http://www.CivilWarPhilatelicSociety.org)

The professionally-maintained society website has a dedicated team continually adding a wide range of information from basics appealing to those new to collecting Civil War postal material, to in-depth topics for the more knowledgeable student. There are treatises on a wide range of topics, important monographs, state and town postal histories, detailed censuses, periodical archives, exhibits, society event news, and far more.

### *Annual Convention*

The society holds its annual conventions at various World Series of Philately national stamp shows around the country. This is the major annual gathering of members. It features impressive exhibits, as well as opportunities to buy from specialized dealers and listen to a variety of respected speakers on select Civil War topics. There is a special dinner on Friday evenings at which society awards are given. They comprise awards for research, writing, service, and exhibiting. This is as well as the usual show awards given by the hosting event. Occasional smaller mid-year meetings take place across the country as well.

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The CIVIL WAR PHILATELIC SOCIETY is a group of hundreds of collectors of Civil War stamps, covers, and postal history. Its members' interests cover all possible phases of the stamps and postal history of the War Between the States, both North and South.

The purpose of the Civil War Philatelic Society is to further the study of the stamps and postal history of the Civil War. The original name of the Society was the Confederate Stamp Alliance and the logo of the Alliance stated its purpose in three words: "fraternity," "research," and "cooperation" across the top. Below this were the words "non-sectional" and "non-political" to indicate the non-biased nature of the Alliance. These words are still true and they sum up the purpose of the Society. It is a society of collectors and students working together to collect and study the stamps and postal history of the Civil War, without the bias of politics or sectionalism.

You're invited to review the information contained here and consider joining the Civil War Philatelic Society. The rewards of membership extend beyond the valuable benefits offered by the Society and will certainly enrich your collection and your knowledge.

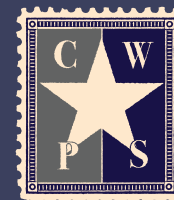


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*A special invitation to  
join the fascinating world  
of Civil War philately*



*Civil War*  
PHILATELIC SOCIETY

ESTABLISHED 1935  
RESEARCH, EDUCATION & FELLOWSHIP

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## About Civil War Philately – A Postal System Divided

In 1860, the mails were the essential means of communication. The effects of the American Civil War were felt on both sides of conflict, although more severely in the South. Correspondence between North and South was banned, as was trade. The blockade, although somewhat porous, was an important economic policy that successfully prevented Confederate access to weapons and goods.

Mail was exchanged under flags of truce at designated locations. The agricultural South felt the impact of being cut off from the dependable Northern and European sources of paper goods, which caused make-shift “adversity uses,” such as envelopes fashioned from spare rolls of colorful wallpaper, flyleaves of books, marine charts, or any paper product with enough blank space on which to write an address. Envelopes were turned inside-out and used twice or more; U.S. stamped envelopes were seized and overprinted by the Confederate government for their use. Larger denomination stamps were illegally bisected to create the more common postage rate.

The Confederacy’s inability to provide stamps in the first few months of operations caused post offices to revert to handstamps and other provisional means of showing postage was paid, creating some of American philately’s rarest provisional stamps and uses.

South Carolina seceded on December 20, 1860. From then until June 1, 1861, when the Confederate Post Office took control of its own affairs, the U.S. Post Office Department continued to operate within the Southern States by agreement with the new Confederate government, established in early February 1861. Amazingly, this cooperation continued despite the first shots at Fort Sumter which began the war on April 12, 1861. The postage rates and stamps used in the South were still U.S. 3¢ issues and monies were paid to the U.S. Post Office Department by new Confederate postmasters.



In the North, Sanitary Fairs were held to raise funds on behalf of the United States Sanitary Commission, which rendered aid dealing with the health and comfort of the Union troops. These civilian-organized bazaars and expositions issued stamps. While not valid for U.S. postage, they were prepared for, sold and used at the fair post offices.

In August 1862, the federal government began taxing a variety of goods, services and legal dealings to help pay for the war effort. These varied tax stamps are also extremely collectible.

Patriotic fervor was strong on both sides and the colorful patriotic envelopes of both North and South are among the favorite categories of Civil War postal history.

The U.S. “Black-Jack” and the Confederate “Red-Jack” were issued during the war within months of each other. They bear the same portrait of President Andrew Jackson – a hero to both belligerents.

Postal history helps provide a greater understanding about historical events. We seek to illuminate through philatelic research; study leads to insight.

### Civil War Philatelic Society Background

Under the banner of “Fraternity, Research, and Cooperation,” the Confederate Stamp Alliance was established in 1935, proclaiming itself non-sectional and non-political. But only half the story was being told.

November 2020, 85 years later, the membership resoundingly voted to rename the Alliance the Civil War Philatelic Society and to broaden its scope – such a logical and exciting realignment. Our emphasis is still on Research, Education, and Fellowship. Arguably, our most important mission is education. To this end, award-winning publications are regularly produced by the society. They are available via the society website.

The research and study of the intricacies of a divided postal system facilitates an understanding of how the two postal systems unified correspondents and promoted communications across enemy lines.

## MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

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### Civil War Philatelic Authentication Service

As an important benefit to the collector, the society sponsors an authentication service for examining Confederate stamps and covers, rendering certificates of authenticity that are recognized by all major auction houses. Currently, U.S. Civil War material is not accepted, although this will likely occur sometime in the future.



### Mentor Program

Ever had a question regarding a Civil War philatelic item and wish you knew someone who could give you an answer? The CWPS recognizes this need and has established a “Mentor Program” whereby you can call or email a very knowledgeable Confederate philatelist and fellow CWPS member with your question.

### Camaraderie

Perhaps the greatest benefit of membership is the camaraderie and lifelong friendships built among members.

### Apply Today

Apply online at [www.civilwarphilatelicsociety.org/the-society/join/signup](http://www.civilwarphilatelicsociety.org/the-society/join/signup) or by mail to Civil War Philatelic Society, 10419 Woeste Road, Alexandria KY 41001-7983.

If you have additional questions, please email [secretary@civilwarphilatelicsociety.org](mailto:secretary@civilwarphilatelicsociety.org).

