

Census of Pittsylvania C. H., Virginia, Postmasters' Provisionals

Compiled by Francis J. Crown, Jr.

Description



The Pittsylvania C. H. adhesive provisional

The Pittsylvania C. H. provisionals were printed from the same settings used to print the Danville, Virginia, provisionals. The printer, William C. Coleman merely replaced his name in the settings with the name of the Pittsylvania postmaster, J. P. Johnson. Coleman was a resident of Danville, the postmaster and owner of the Danville *Democratic Appeal*. The number of subjects in a sheet is unknown.

The Pittsylvania C. H. provisional is found on two different types of paper: wove and laid. There is also a variety in which the space between the “T” and “S” of “CENTS” is wider on some stamps (see **Notes**).

To maintain the integrity of the census numbering system CN-005 is not used. See **Notes** for information on the deletion of this item from the census.

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

Count of Pittsylvania C. H. provisionals

Provisional	CSA Cat No	Scott Cat No	Unused	Used	Covers	Total
5c red on wove	PIT-VA-A01	66X1			7	7
5c red on wove with gap	PIT-VA-A01a	66X1	1	2	1	4
5c red on laid	PIT-VA-A02	66X2			3	3

Notes

Brief History

The Pittsylvania C. H. Provisional was first chronicled in the 1 February 1875 edition of the English publication, the *Philatelist* (page 31). It stated that in August of 1875 Mr E. W. Kohn of Richmond, Virginia, found the provisional on cover while searching for other provisionals.

Spacing between the “T” and “S” of “CENTS.”

The spacing variety is problematic. The three illustrations below show various distances between the “T” and “S” of “CENTS.” In this census only stamps exhibiting an abnormal gap as in the right illustration are listed as having a “gap.”



Normal spacing
CN-006



Slightly wider spacing (gap)
CN-011



Wide spacing (gap)
CN-014

Count of the various shapes of the Pittsylvania C. H. provisionals

The Pittsylvania provisionals were cut from a sheet, some to the shape of the design and others in a rectangle around the design. The table below shows the number of recorded shapes by type.

Provisional	CSA Cat No	Scott Cat No	Cut to Shape	Cut Rectangular	Total
5c red on wove	PIT-VA-A01	66X1	4	3	7
5c red on wove with gap	PIT-VA-A01a	66X1	2	2	4
5c red on laid	PIT-VA-A02	66X2	2	1	3

Laid Paper

All stamps on laid paper are on covers. Thus, it can be difficult to determine if the paper is laid, or if laid lines are from the cover.

Problematic Use



The above illustration shows the stamp and postmark on the cover below. Only small portions of the postmark are visible on the stamp at top and bottom. The postmark rim does not cross the stamp. The letter “l” at the bottom appears taller than the other letters of the postmark. There is no evidence of a postmark date, which should appear at least partially on the stamp. At center left there appears to be part of a marking that is hidden under the stamp. These observations beg the question whether the stamp originated on this cover. The cover is included in the census.

The Civil War Authentication Service examined this cover in 1987 (Certificate 01687). At that time, the focus of attention was whether the stamp was on laid paper. Although the cover received a “Genuine in all respects” certificate there was uncertainty about the laid lines. The cover is a folded letter sheet with laid lines. The notes by one examiner state the laid lines of the letter sheet and the laid lines of the stamp “match perfectly.” It could not be determined if the laid lines seen on the stamp face were an offset from the letter sheet or not.



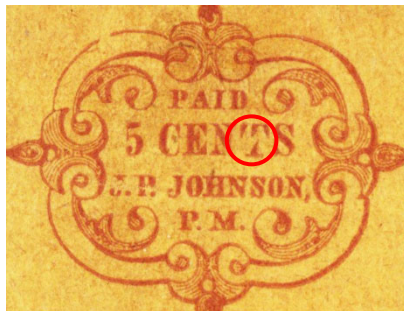
Fakes

There are dangerous fakes of the Pittsylvania C. H. adhesive. Two are illustrated below.



The “P” of “P. M.” is slightly to the right of the “J” of “JOHNSON.” On the authentic the “P” is immediately below the “J.”

The bottom of the second “O” in “JOHNSON” is broken.



The most obvious characteristic of this fake is the broken “T” in “CENTS.”



Fake stamp and cover from the Ferrary sale. The stamp on this cover is the same as that illustrated at top. Courtesy of the Civil War Philatelic Society Freeland Collection.

References

Dietz, August, "Confederate Column: A Stamp Story and Its Sequel ", *Stamps* 34:2 (11 Jan 1941): 51-52

Mini Census of Pittsylvania C. H., VA, Provisional Covers

<u>Pmk Date</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>PmkPos</u>	<u>PrvPos</u>	<u>CN</u>
5c red on white, covers -- PIT-VA-A01 (66X1)				
25 Sep [1861]	To / Miss Julia Green / Danville / Virginia	UR	UR	001*
27 Sep [1861]	Lt. R. W. Martin / "Chatham Grays" / Williamsburg / Va	UR	UR	002*
-- Oct [1861]	Mr / Abram / Fackler / Williamsburg / Va	UR	UR	013
4 Nov [1861]	Mr. Wm Hunt / Leatherwood / Va.	UR	UR	003*
5 Nov [1861]	Mr Abram. Fackler / Williamsburg / Va	UR	UR	004*
20 Jan [1862]	Miss Sue W. Henry / Staunton / Va.	UR	UR	007*
22 Jan [1862]	Mr. John D Payne / Bachelors Hall Pittsya. Va.	UR	UR	008*
5c red on white, gap between "T" and "S," covers -- PIT-VA-A01a (66X1)				
5 Oct [1861]	Mess Clark & Holt / Lynchburg / Va	UR	UR	009
5c red on white laid paper, covers -- PIT-VA-A02 (66X2)				
9 Oct [1861]	Secretary of the Commonwealth of Va / Richmond City Va.	UR	UR	012*
20 Dec [1861]	Wm T. Law Esq / Danville	UR	UR	011*
No Date	George Rives Esqr / Carters Bridge / Albemarle / Va	UR	UR	005*

* Indicates a color image

Last Name Index of Pittsylvania C. H., VA, Provisional Covers

<u>Pmk Date</u>	<u>PrvTyp</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>CN</u>
5 Oct [1861]	A01dc	Clark & Holt	Mess Clark & Holt / Lynchburg / Va	009
-- Oct [1861]	A01c	Fackler	Mr / Abram / Fackler / Williamsburg / Va	013
5 Nov [1861]	A01c	Fackler	Mr Abram. Fackler / Williamsburg / Va	004*
25 Sep [1861]	A01c	Green	To / Miss Julia Green / Danville / Virginia	001*
20 Jan [1862]	A01c	Henry	Miss Sue W. Henry / Staunton / Va.	007*
4 Nov [1861]	A01c	Hunt	Mr. Wm Hunt / Leatherwood / Va.	003*
20 Dec [1861]	A02c	Law	Wm T. Law Esq / Danville	011*
27 Sep [1861]	A01c	Martin	Lt. R. W. Martin / "Chatham Grays" / Williamsburg / Va	002*
22 Jan [1862]	A01c	Payne	Mr. John D Payne / Bachelors Hall Pittsya. Va.	008*
No Date	A02c	Rives	George Rives Esqr / Carters Bridge / Albemarle / Va	005*
9 Oct [1861]	A02c	Secretary	Secretary of the Commonwealth of Va / Richmond City Va.	012*

* Indicates a color image

Full Census of Pittsylvania C. H., VA, Provisionals

Compiled by Francis J. Crown, Jr.

5c red on white, covers -- PIT-VA-A01 (66X1)

25 Sep [1861

Description: Black "PITTSYLVANIA C. H. / Va." postmark ties provisional UR. Provisional cut as rectangle. Backflap removed.

Address: To / Miss Julia Green / Danville / Virginia

Provenance: Hind, Moody, Hall, DK.

Source: PF-380078; PKA-20Nov1933(1)-1564; HRH-27Nov1950(621)-95; RAS-17Dec2001(840)-127*; RAS-28Mar2012(1022)-1112*; RAS-9Sep2020(1225)-129*. [001]

Image Credit: Robert A Siegel Auctions.



27 Sep [1861]

Description: Black "PITTSYLVANIA C. H. / Va." postmark ties provisional UR. Provisional cut as rectangle.

Address: Lt. R. W. Martin / "Chatham Grays" / Williamsburg / Va

Provenance: Caspary, Kilbourne, Gross, Doma.

Source: PF-483006*; HRH-5Mar1956-418; RAS-28 Sep1999(815)-135*; SPK-19Nov2009-36*; RFS-27Nov2018-8028*. [002]

Image Credit: Philatelic Foundation.



-- Oct [1861]

Description: Black "PITTSYLVANIA C. H. / Va." postmark ties provisional UR. Provisional cut as rectangle on folded letter. Damaged copy. Docketed "To / The care of Capt Coles" LL-LC.

Address: Mr / Abram / Fackler / Williamsburg / Va

Provenance: None.

Source: STAM-11Jan1941(34:2)-51. [013]

Image Credit: Stamps (New York) (journal).



4 Nov [1861]

Description: Black "PITTSYLVANIA C. H. / Va." postmark ties provisional UR. Provisional cut to shape.

Address: Mr. Wm Hunt / Leatherwood / Va.

Provenance: Brooks, Klep, Solomon, Haas.

Source: CWPAS-01645*; SS-Black Book(1945)-37; WBB-27Mar1956(156)-33; JWK-14Nov1981(78)-85*; RCF-22Feb1986(27)-139*; JWK-9Dec1987-301*. [003]

Image Credit: Civil War Philatelic Authentication Service .



5 Nov [1861]

Description: Black "PITTSYLVANIA C. H. / Va." postmark ties provisional UR. Provisional cut as rectangle on folded letter.

Address: Mr Abram. Fackler / Williamsburg / Va

Provenance: Caspary, Muzzy, Erivan, Ryderband.

Source: PF-559670*; CWPSX-Ryderband(Jan2020)-40*; HRH-5Mar1956-417; HRH-21Apr1967(1764)-2070; HRH-22Jun2019-66*. [004]

Image Credit: H R Harmer Auctions.



20 Jan [1862]

Description: Black "PITTSYLVANIA C. H. / Va." postmark ties provisional UR. Provisional cut to shape. Ferrary trefoil LR.

Address: Miss Sue W. Henry / Staunton / Va.

Provenance: Ferrary.

Source: Private*; CWPAS-1460*; GIL-14Jun1922(4)-77. [007]

Image Credit: Private.



22 Jan [1862]

Description: Black "PITTSYLVANIA C. H. / Va." postmark ties provisional UR. Provisional cut to shape on blue lined folded letter.

Address: Mr. John D Payne / Bachelors Hall Pittsya. Va.

Provenance: Hessel, Brandon, Jaretsky.

Source: CWPAS-05934*; CWPSX-Jaretsky(Apr2021)-37*; HRH-21Oct1975-286; RAS-24Jun2014(1073)-326. [008]

Image Credit: Civil War Philatelic Authentication Service .



5c red on white, gap between "T" and "S," unused -- PIT-VA-A01a (66X1)

Unused

Description: Unused provisional cut square.

Address: NA

Provenance: Caspary, Erivan.

Source: CWPAS-06429*; HRH-5Mar1956-415; HRH-21Jun2023()-133*. [014]

Image Credit: Civil War Philatelic Authentication Service .



5c red on white, gap between "T" and "S," used -- PIT-VA-A01a (66X1)

6 Nov [1861]

Description: Black "PITTSYLVANIA C. H. / Va." postmark ties provisional to piece. Provisional cut to shape.

Address: NA

Provenance: Caspary.

Source: CWPAS-01508*; HRH-5Mar1956-416; RAS-20Apr1985(645)-416*; RAS-22Jun2016(1132)-3197*. [010]

Image Credit: Robert A Siegel Auctions.



22 Nov [1861]

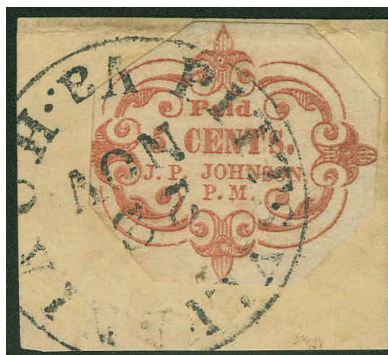
Description: Black "PITTSYLVANIA C. H. / Va." postmark ties provisional to piece. Provisional cut to shape.

Address: NA

Provenance: Caspary.

Source: PF-442482*; HRH-5Mar1956-416; RAS-23Apr1983(618)-376; RAS-24Jun2015(1104)-2270*. [006]

Image Credit: Philatelic Foundation.



5c red on white, gap between "T" and "S," covers -- PIT-VA-A01a (66X1)

5 Oct [1861]

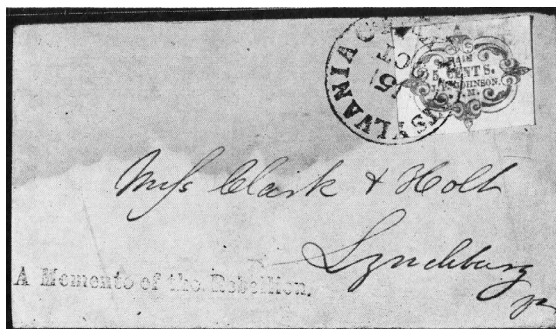
Description: Black "PITTSYLVANIA C. H. / Va." postmark ties Provisional UR. Provisional cut as rectangle. Handstamped "A Memento of the Rebellion" at LL-LC.

Address: Mess Clark & Holt / Lynchburg / Va

Provenance: Tapling.

Source: APCB-1960(26)-125; CONP-May1977(22:3)-69. [009]

Image Credit: Confederate Philatelist (journal).



5c red on white laid paper, covers -- PIT-VA-A02 (66X2)

9 Oct [1861]

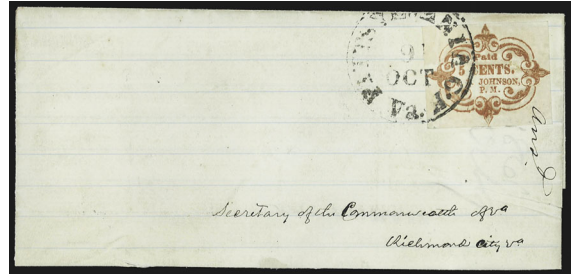
Description: Black "PITTSYLVANIA C. H. / Va." postmark ties Provisional UR. Provisional cut as rectangle on blue lined folded letter.

Address: Secretary of the Commonwealth of Va /
Richmond City Va.

Provenance: Lilly, Kilbourne, Gross.

Source: PF-483002*; HRH-5Mar1956-419; RAS-
27Apr1967(317)-354; RAS-28Sep1999(815)-
136*; SPK-19Nov2009-37*. [012]

Image Credit: Robert A Siegel Auctions.



20 Dec [1861]

Description: Black "PITTSYLVANIA C. H. / Va." postmark ties Provisional UR. Provisional cut to shape.

Address: Wm T. Law Esq / Danville

Provenance: Beverly Hills, Dr. Green, DK.

Source: PF-503943*; CS-25May1951(101)-84; JWK-
20Feb1986-55; RAS-12Apr2000(822)-110*; RAS-
28Mar2012(1022)-1113*. [011]

Image Credit: Philatelic Foundation.



No Date

Description: Black "PITTSYLVANIA C. H. / Va." postmark appears to tie Provisional UR. Provisional cut to shape on folded letter. Use of the provisional on this cover is problematic - see "Notes."

Address: George Rives Esqr / Carters Bridge / Albemarle / Va

Provenance: Isleham.

Source: CWPAS-01687*; RAS-27Feb1964(267)-137*; RAS-25May1986(662)-1382*; JWK-9Dec1987(134)-302*. [005]

Image Credit: Civil War Philatelic Authentication Service .

