

Census of Texas Independent State Covers

Compiled by Jerry Wells

Covers posted after a state seceded from the United States (U.S.) and before being officially admitted to the Confederate States of America (C.S.A.) are commonly referred to as Independent State covers. One of the interesting aspects is that U.S. stamps continued to be used in these Independent States until June 1, 1861, when the Confederate States Post Office Department took control of mail in the seceded states. Tennessee is the only state that seceded after the demonetization of U.S. stamps in the seceded states.

The 2012 *Confederate States of America Catalog and Handbook of Stamps and Postal History* (C.S.A. Catalog) list the Texas secession date as March 2, 1861, and the date of admission to the C.S.A. as March 5, 1861. Determining these dates is not straightforward and have been debated for many years. The purpose of this article is not to review or challenge the dates but to provide a census of Texas Independent State covers based on the brief period (March 2-4, 1861).

Mini Census of Known Texas Independent State Covers

<u>Pmk Date</u>	<u>Postmark</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>CN</u>
2 Mar 1861	Centreville, TX	Spartanburg C.H., SC	001
2 Mar 1861	Clinton, TX	Gonzales, TX	002
4 Mar 1861	Chapel Hill, TX	La Grange, TX	003
4 Mar 1861	Decatur, TX	Denton, TX	004
4 Mar 1861	Elysian Fields, TX	Eagle Falls, NC	005
4 Mar 1861	Fort Davis, TX	Johnston, Rhode Island	006
4 Mar 1861	Richmond, TX	New Orleans, Louisiana	007

Full Census of Known Texas Independent State Covers

Compiled by Jerry Wells

2 Mar 1861

Description: Red "CENTREVILLE / TEX"
postmark

Address: Spartanburg C.H., SC

Source: Bennett 284 2005 lot 1722

Image Credit: M. Bennett Int., LLC (001)



2 Mar 1861

Description: Black "CLINTON / TEX."
postmark

Address: Gonzales, Texas

Source: PhilaMercury cover #2830

Image Credit: Richard Frajola
PhilaMercury (002)



3 Mar 1861

Description: Bastrop, TX with 1857 3-cent stamp

Address: unknown

Source: Kaplan 1987 Census (not in 2012 C.S.A. Handbook)
(any information appreciated)

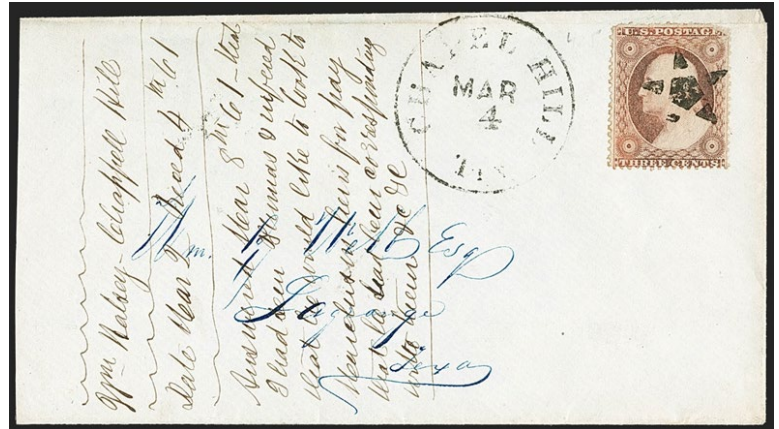
Image Credit: no image available

Description: Black “CHAPEL HILL / TEX”
postmark

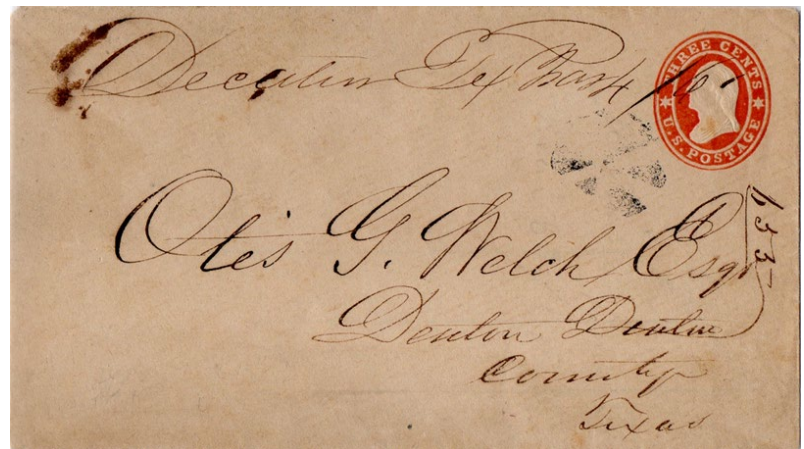
Address: La Grange, TX

Source: RAS 1186 2018 lot 481
RAS 280 1965 lot 481

Image Credit: Robert A. Siegel Auctions
(003)



Description: Black ms “Decatur Tex”
pm
Address: Denton, TX
Source: RAS 717 1989 lot 4160
RAS 396 1971 lot 1366
RAS 280 1965 lot 484
Image Credit: Robert A. Siegel Auctions
(004)

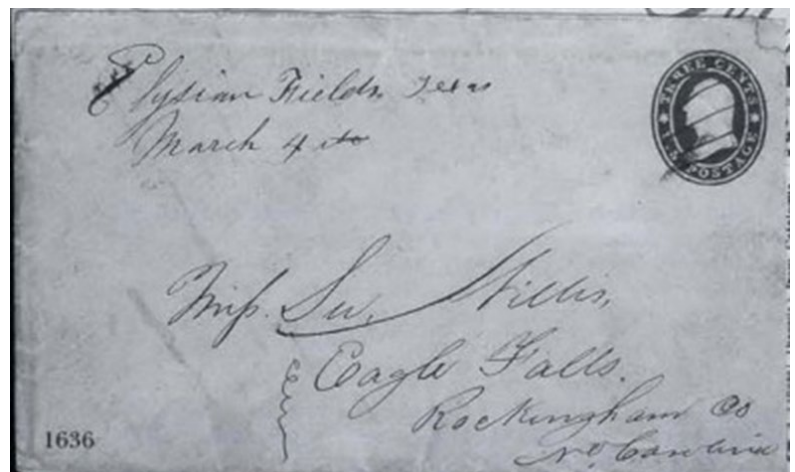


Description: ms “Elysian Fields, Texas”
postmark

Address: Eagle Falls, North Carolina

Source: RAS 810 1999 lot 1636
RAS 363 1969 lot 1242

Image Credit: Robert A. Siegel Auctions
(005)



4 Mar 1861

Description: Black "FORT DAVIS / TEXAS" postmark

Address: Johnston, Rhode Island

Source: RAS 875 2004 lot 205

Image Credit: Robert A. Siegel Auctions (006)



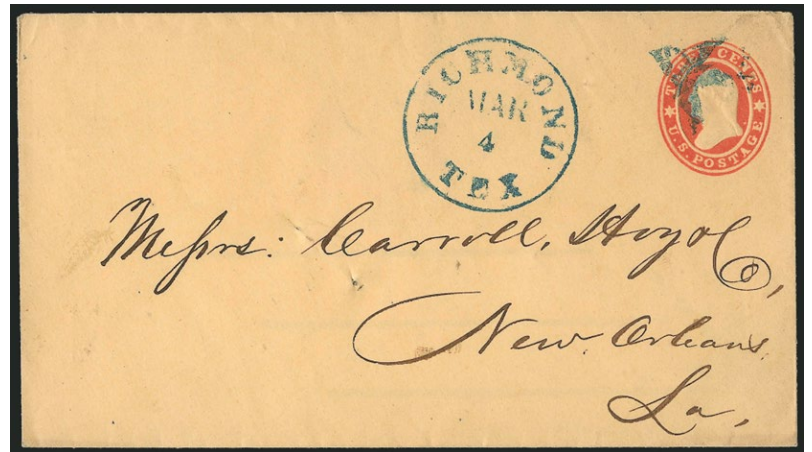
4 Mar 1861

Description: Blue "RICHMOND/ TEX" postmark

Address: New Orleans, LA

Source: RAS 1104 2015 lot 2024
RAS 511 1977 lot 432

Image Credit: Robert A. Siegel Auctions (007)



There are two more that are likely Texas Independent State covers:

Bagdad, TX, unknown date, U.S. 1857 3-cent stamp to unknown place, listed in C.S.A. Catalog, no image available

Paris, TX, unknown date, U.S. 1857 3-cent stamp to unknown place, listed in C.S.A. Catalog, no image available

NOTE: The following three covers are listed in the C.S.A. Catalog as Texas Independent State covers dated March 5, 1861, and should be categorized as First Day Confederate State Use of US Postage covers:

5 Mar 1861

Description: Black "AUSTIN / TEX"
postmark

Address: New Orleans, LA

Source: RAS 1372 2026 lot
2146

RUM 37 2010 lot 1376

Image Credit: Robert A. Siegel
Auctions



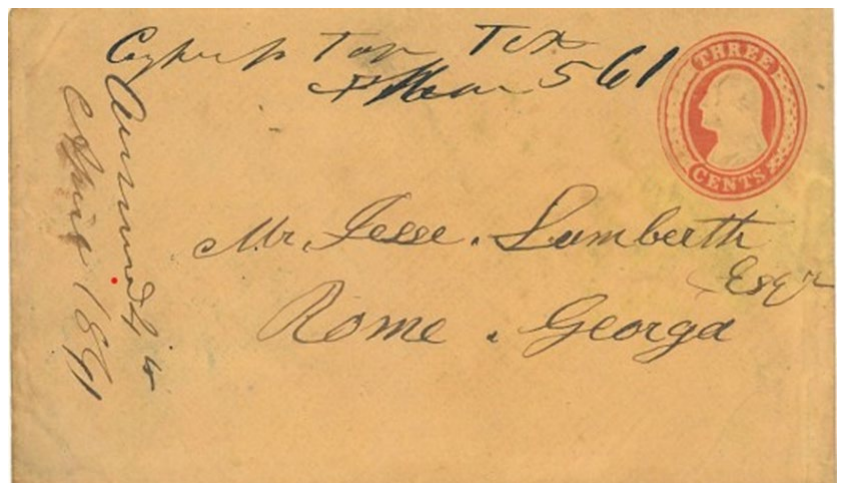
5 Mar 1861

Description: ms "Cypress Top Tex"
postmark

Address: Rome, GA

Source: RAS 933 2007 lot 887
RAS 795 1977 lot 31

Image Credit: Robert A. Siegel Auctions



5 Mar 1861

Description: Black "JEFFERSON / TEX"
postmark

Address: Griffin, GA

Source: Trish Kaufmann website
Cover # 21814

Image Credit: Trish Kaufmann

