

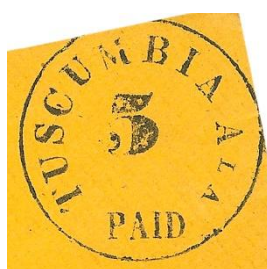
Census of Tuscumbia, Alabama, Postmaster's Provisionals

Compiled by Francis J. Crown, Jr.

Markings



A-TUS-AL-E01



TUS-AL-E02



TUS-AL-E03

The Tuscumbia Provisional Markings

The Tuscumbia provisionals were prepared by taking an old "PAID" postmark and replacing the date logos with a rate.

Apparently, the Tuscumbia postmaster ran out of stamps in late March 1861 and could not get anymore from the Post Office Department in Washington, DC. He prepared the "3" marking as a substitute for stamps. This marking was struck in red, and the color carried over into June when the rate was changed to "5." It was not until late July that the first markings were recorded in black.

CN-012 has been removed from the census. See "Notes."

Description and Count

Provisional	CSA Cat No	Scott Cat No	Covers
After Secession			
3c red	A-TUS-AL-E01	6AUX1	2
3c red under a postally used US stamp	A-TUS-AL-E01x		2
Confederate			
5c red	TUS-AL-E01	84XU2	1
5c black	TUS-AL-E02	84XU1	17
5c color unknown	TUS-AL-E02x		1
10c black	TUS-AL-E03	84XU3	1

Notes for the Collector

Tuscumbia Folded Letter Provisionals

Below are images of two folded letters bearing the Tuscumbia 5c provisional marking. The first (addressed to New Orleans) was examined by the Civil War Philatelic Authentication Service in the fall of 2020 (certificate 06289). It was determined opined to be an example of the Tuscumbia provisional marking used as a stampless marking. The reason was the top of the provisional marking was not on the reverse of the cover, meaning the provisional marking was applied after the letter sheet was folded. Further there was no skip or jerk in the handwriting where the pen crossed the folds in the letter. This indicated the letter was written before it was folded. These two facts resulted in the conclusion the provisional marking was applied as a stampless marking. This cover is not included in the census.



Courtesy Robert A. Siegel Auctions

The cover immediately below is another folded letter. Again, the pen of the writer did not skip or jerk when crossing the folds in the letter. This cover has not been examined by an authentication service so there is no conclusion as to its status. It is included in the census (CN-020).



Courtesy private collection

Fake?



The illegible postmark on the cover above may be authentic, but the provisional marking may be fake. Note the closeness of the letters in the marking to the rim. On the genuine marking (see illustration below) the letters are not as close to the rim. Also, the "5" does not appear to have a ball which is quite distinct on the genuine. There is no explanation for the "BY CARRIER" handstamp.



Full Census Tuscumbia, Alabama, Stampless Covers

Tuscumbia, Alabama -- After Secession -- 3c red -- A-TUS-AL-E01 (6AUX1)

30 Apr [1861]

Postmark: Black "TUSCUMBIA / ALA."

Notes: None.

Address: Messrs Carroll Hoy & Co / New Orleans / La.

Provenance: Caspary, Maffeo

References: MB-20Feb2007(314)-96; HA-1Sep2007-96

Cert: PF-191812*

Image: Philatelic Foundation [016]



Illegible Postmark

Postmark: Black "TUSCUMBIA / ALA."

Notes: None.

Address: Mr. C. H. Howland / St. Louis / Mo

Provenance: Przybyl

References: RAS-17Dec2019(1215)-2557*; RAS-9Nov2021(1244)-520*

Cert: PF-272508*

Image: Robert A Siegel Auctions [003]



Tuscumbia, Alabama -- After Secession -- 3c red under a postally used US stamp -- A-TUS-AL-E01x

6 May [1861]

Postmark: Black "TUSCUMBIA / ALA."

Notes: Stamp moved to show provisional.

Address: Miss Mary. M. Keller / Knoxville / Tenn.

Provenance: Gross

References: RAS-28Sep2021(1241)-1423*; RAS-26Mar2026(1373)-3178*

Cert: PF-278773*

Image: Robert A Siegel Auctions [001]



Tuscumbia, Alabama -- After Secession -- 3c red under a postally used US stamp -- A-TUS-AL-E01x

20 May [1861]

Postmark: Black "TUSCUMBIA / ALA."

Notes: Stamp moved to show provisional.

Address: Messrs Carroll Hoy & Co / New Orleans / La.

Provenance: Caspary, Kilbourne

References: HRH-15Nov1955(967)-153; RAS-9Sep2020(1225)-57*

Cert: PF-216485*

Image: Robert A Siegel Auctions [002]



Tuscumbia, Alabama -- 5c red -- TUS-AL-E01 (84XU2)

12 Jun [1861]

Postmark: Black "TUSCUMBIA / ALA."

Notes: None.

Address: Mrs C M Burtwell / Florence / Ala

Provenance: Hill

References: Private*; CSX-Hill(Aug1996)-36

Cert: None

Image: Private Collection [014]



Tuscumbia, Alabama -- 5c black -- TUS-AL-E02 (84XU1)

28 Jul [1861]

Postmark: Black "TUSCUMBIA / ALA."

Notes: None.

Address: Miss Mary. M. Keller. / Louisville. / Tenn.

Provenance: None recorded

References: Private*; HA-12Dec2009-31429*

Cert: None

Image: Private Collection [021]



Tuscumbia, Alabama -- 5c black -- TUS-AL-E02 (84XU1)

14 Sep [1861]

Postmark: Black "TUSCUMBIA / ALA."

Notes: None.

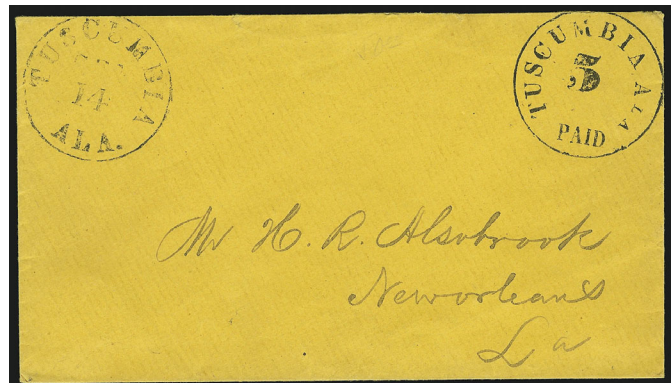
Address: Mr H. R. Alsobrook / Neworleans [sic] / La

Provenance: Hall

References: RAS-17Dec2001(840)-133*; SR-11Dec2019(90)-318*

Cert: PF-381283*

Image: Robert A Siegel Auctions [004]



17 Sep [1861]

Postmark: Black "TUSCUMBIA / ALA."

Notes: Postmark and provisional marking strengthened in pencil. Seven-star patriotic envelope (CSA F7-5A) with corner card of Franklin House.

Address: Mrs. Geo A Tuthill / Care of / Geo A Tuthill & Co / Mobile / Ala.

Provenance: Brandon

References: RAS-24Jun2014(1073)-345*

Cert: None

Image: Robert A Siegel Auctions [005]



1 Oct [1861]

Postmark: Black "TUSCUMBIA / ALA."

Notes: There is a second lighter postmark dated 30 Sep under the 1 Oct postmark.

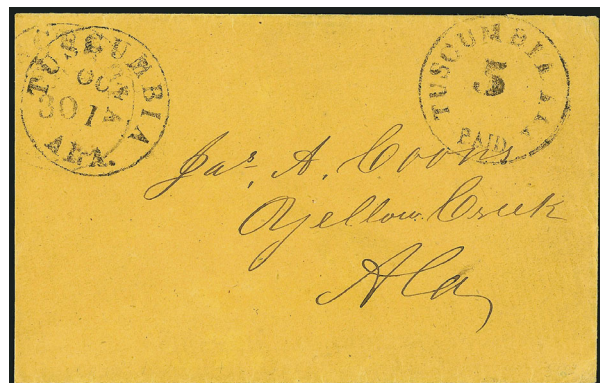
Address: Jas. A. Coons / Yellow Creek / Ala

Provenance: Carnahan, Wishnietsky

References: SPB-9Mar1978-2111; RAS-26Feb2014(1064)-108*

Cert: None

Image: Robert A Siegel Auctions [006]



Tuscumbia, Alabama -- 5c black -- TUS-AL-E02 (84XU1)

1 Oct [1861]

Postmark: Black "TUSCUMBIA / ALA."

Notes: None.

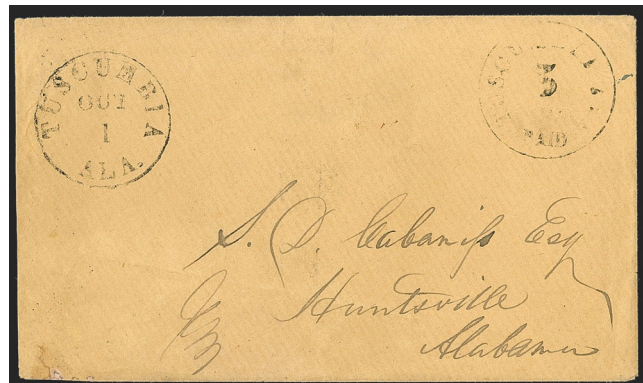
Address: S. D. Cabaniss Esq / Huntsville / Alabama

Provenance: None recorded

References: CWPAS-03292; RAS-15Dec2020(1230)-1508*

Cert: CWPAS-03292

Image: Robert A Siegel Auctions [023]



29 Oct 1861

Postmark: Black "TUSCUMBIA / ALA."

Notes: Docketed "Jno M Powers / PM" through postmark. There is a second postmark dated 28 Oct under the 29 Oct postmark. Year date "1862" may have been added.

Address: Mrs "A. R. C." / Pleasant Hill / Alabama

Provenance: Ferrary, Hind, Telep, Walker

References: JWK-1Dec1987-50; RAS-9Jun2022(1257)-2589*

Cert: CWPAS-2626*

Image: Robert A Siegel Auctions [017]



29 Oct [1861]

Postmark: "TUSCUMBIA / ALA."

Notes: None.

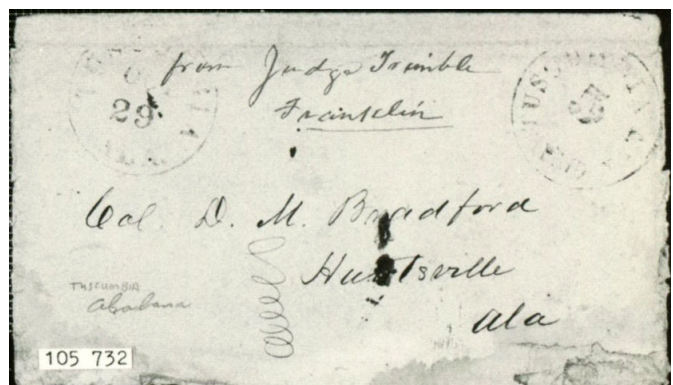
Address: Col. D. M. Bradford / Huntsville / Ala

Provenance: None recorded

References: RGK-16Dec1981-787

Cert: PF-105732

Image: Philatelic Foundation [018]



Tuscumbia, Alabama -- 5c black -- TUS-AL-E02 (84XU1)

10 Nov [1861]

Postmark: Black "TUSCUMBIA / ALA."

Notes: None.

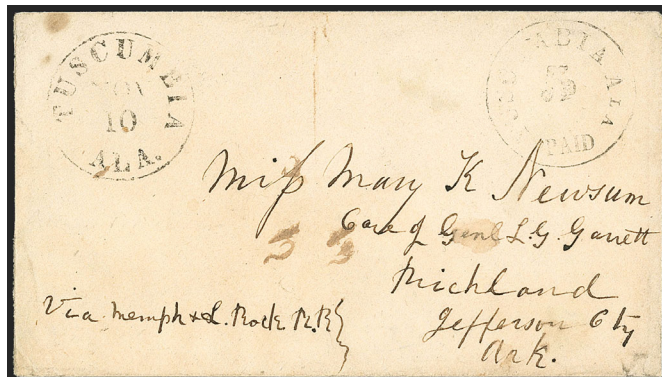
Address: Miss Mary K Newsum / Care of Genl L. G.
Ganett / Richland / Jefferson Cty / Ark.

Provenance: Brooks

References: LSA-24Apr1943(123)-158; RAS-
9May2017(1155)-3016*

Cert: None

Image: Robert A Siegel Auctions [007]



22 Nov [1861]

Postmark: Black "TUSCUMBIA / ALA."

Notes: None.

Address: Miss Mary K Newsum / Richland / Ark

Provenance: Felton

References: RAS-9Dec2008(966)-2619*; RAS-
15Nov2011(1016)-643*

Cert: None

Image: Robert A Siegel Auctions [008]



28 Nov [1861]

Postmark: Black "TUSCUMBIA / ALA."

Notes: None.

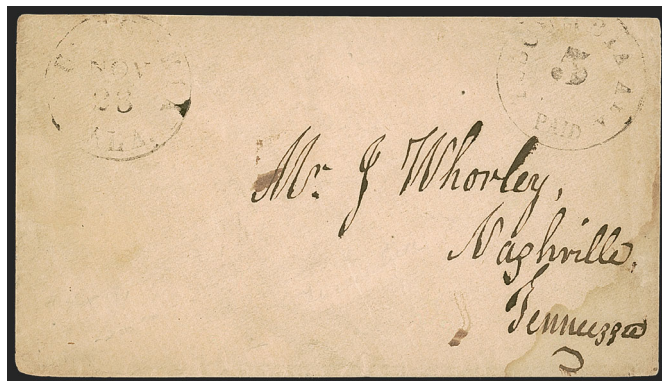
Address: Mr. J Whorley, / Nashville. / Tennessee

Provenance: Walcott

References: RAS-5Nov2025(1364)-1142*; RAS-
26Mar2026(1373)-1142

Cert: None

Image: Robert A Siegel Auctions [022]



Tuscumbia, Alabama -- 5c black -- TUS-AL-E02 (84XU1)

1 Dec [1861]

Postmark: Black "TUSCUMBIA / ALA."

Notes: None.

Address: Miss. E. V. Smith / Military Springs / Ala

Provenance: Warren

References: HA-12Dec2009-31430; SR-27Apr2013(53)-4301*

Cert: None

Image: Schuyler Rumsey Auctions [019]



7 Dec [1861]

Postmark: Black "TUSCUMBIA / ALA."

Notes: None.

Address: Mr Henry R Alsobrook / New Orleans / La

Provenance: None recorded

References: RAS-22Jun2016(1132)-3220*

Cert: None

Image: Robert A Siegel Auctions [009]



10 Dec [1861]

Postmark: "TUSCUMBIA / ALA."

Notes: None.

Address: Col L. B. Thornton. / Augusta. / Ga.

Provenance: Agre

References: RAS-25Sep2002(850)-5796*

Cert: None

Image: Robert A Siegel Auctions [010]



Tuscumbia, Alabama -- 5c black -- TUS-AL-E02 (84XU1)

23 Dec [1861]

Postmark: Black "TUSCUMBIA / ALA."

Notes: None.

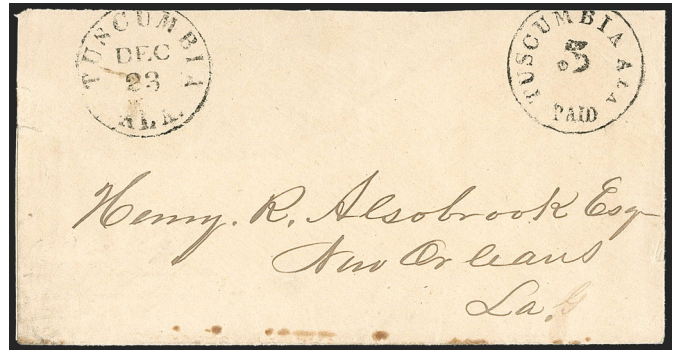
Address: Henry. R. Alsobrook Esq / New Orleans / La.

Provenance: Ferrary, Hind, Caspary, Meroni, Kilbourne

References: HRH-5Mar1956(989)-466; SPB-13Oct1989-1317; RAS-24Oct2018(1190)-1333*

Cert: None

Image: Robert A Siegel Auctions [011]



-- Jan [1862]

Postmark: Black "TUSCUMBIA / ALA."

Notes: Folded letter with contents.

Address: Gov. J. G. Shorter / Montgomery / Ala.

Provenance: None recorded

References: Private*

Cert: None

Image: Private Collection [020]



5 -- [186-]

Postmark: "TUSCUMBIA / ALA."

Notes: Partial image of full cover.

Address: J. A. Coons / Yellow [Creek, Ala.]

Provenance: None recorded

References: VIPH-Jun/Jul1901(4:10)-96

Cert: None

Image: Virginia Philatelist (journal) [024]



Tuscumbia, Alabama -- 5c black -- TUS-AL-E02 (84XU1)

No Postmark

Postmark:

Notes: Docketed "Paid 25c" and "Please deliver immediately." Cover carried outside the mails by private express company.

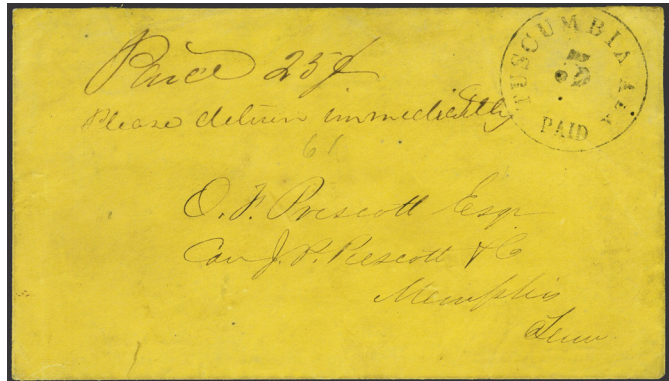
Address: O. F. Prescott Esqr / Care J. P. Prescott & Co / Memphis / Tenn

Provenance: Hill, Erivan

References: HRH-30Apr2024(3070)-226*

Cert: CWPAS-02070; PF-275125*

Image: H R Harmer Auctions [015]



Tuscumbia, Alabama -- 5c color unknown -- TUS-AL-E02x

20 Nov [1861]

Postmark: "TUSCUMBIA / ALA."

Notes: Partial image of full cover.

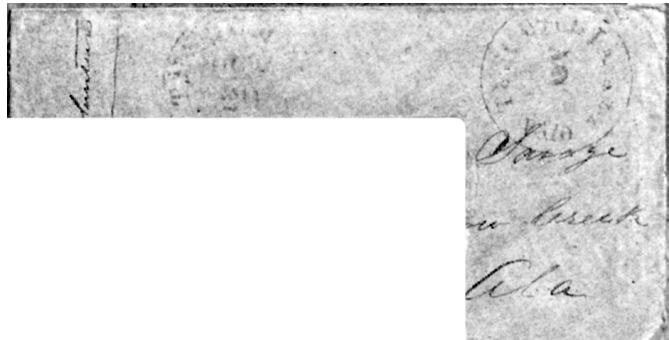
Address: --- Savage / ---[w] Creek / Ala

Provenance: None recorded

References: VIPH-Jun/Jul1901(4:10)-96

Cert: None

Image: Virginia Philatelist (journal) [012]



Tuscumbia, Alabama -- 10c black -- TUS-AL-E03 (84XU3)

13 Sep [186-]

Postmark: Black "TUSCUMBIA / ALA."

Notes: None.

Address: Mrs. A. F. Hopkins / Alabama Hospital / Richmond / Va

Provenance: Walcott, Haub

References: HRH-30Apr2024(3070)-227*; RAS-26Mar2026(1373)-3364*

Cert: None

Image: Robert A Siegel Auctions [013]

