

**United States Mail Service in the South after Secession –
the 3¢ Single-Letter Rate**

Jerry Wells

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The pages have been numbered at the bottom for ease of reference

United States Mail Service in the South after Secession - the 3¢ Single-Letter Rate

Purpose and Scope: A study of U.S. postal operations in the seceded states, beginning with the day each state seceded and ending when the U.S. ceased postal operations on May 31, 1861. Each of the eleven states went through the process of:

- seceding to becoming an Independent State and
- joining the Confederacy to become a Confederate State.

The covers shown here are divided into those usage categories:

- U.S. stamps used in independent states (ISU) and
- U.S. stamps used in Confederate States (CSU).

Only letters mailed at the U.S. 3-cent single-letter rate are included.

The special case of Tennessee seceding after May 31 is also addressed.

U.S. 1857 3-cent stamp

Charleston, SC

double circle date stamp
postmark with grid cancel
Dec. 20, 1860

**South Carolina Day of
Secession (first state to
secede)**

**8 Secession Day covers
known, 5 from Charleston**



**UNION
IS
DISSOLVED!**

Outline

1. Most Commonly Used Stamps (late-1860 to mid-1861)
2. Covers from each of the 11 states that seceded
 - a. Independent State Covers - in order of state secession
 - b. Confederate State Covers – in order of admission to CSA (prior to suspension of U.S. mail service on June 1, 1861)

Covers sent between north and south are shown throughout the exhibit to illustrate continued mail service across the lines, even after the two sides were at war.

All covers were sent at the U.S. 3-cent single letter rate.



U.S. 1860 3-cent stamped envelope

Richmond, AR
Circular date stamp
postmark
Mar. 29, 1861

Sent from Arkansas
before secession to
the "Republic of
Georgia" after
Georgia joined the
C.S.A.

U.S. Stamps and Postal Stationary Available for the U.S. Single-Letter Rate

Three U.S. stamps or stamped envelopes were used to pay the 3-cent single-letter rate on about 95% of surviving covers from the seceded states*.

None were valid for use in the seceded states after May 31, 1861 and would be demonetized in the U.S. over the following months.

Less common means of paying the 3-cent rate are also shown in this exhibit.

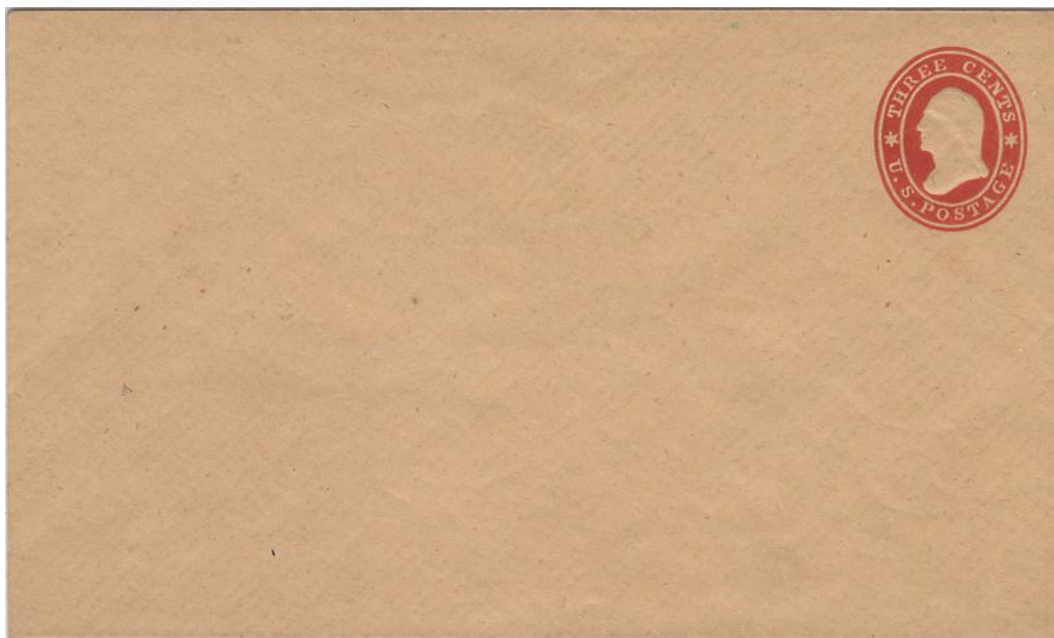
1.



U.S. 1857 3-cent stamp

Used from 1857 to 1861. It replaced the imperforate 1851 3-cent stamp with the same design. It was used to pay the 3-cent single-letter rate on domestic mail (up to 1/2 ounce for delivery less than 3,000 miles). It was used on approximately half of the known post-secession covers up to June 1, 1861*.

2.



U.S. 1860 3-cent stamped envelope

Introduced in the fall of 1860, often referred to as the “star die”, it was also popular with postal customers. It was used for over 1/3 of the single-letter rate mail from this period. It was sold in two varieties; a red embossed stamp on white or buff paper.

- Unpublished census compiled by author, listing over 2,500 ISU and CSU covers sent at the single-letter rate in the seceded states.

**U.S. Stamps and Postal Stationary Available
for the U.S. Single-Letter Rate**

3.



U.S. 1854 3-cent stamped envelope

The USPOD had switched to the star die envelopes in the fall of 1860. The 1854 stamped envelopes were still in circulation and valid for postage. They are found on approximately 7 to 8% of the surviving single-letter rate covers used in the seceded states up to May 31, 1861*. They are sometimes referred to as “Nesbitts” in this exhibit, after the manufacturer.

* Unpublished census compiled by author, listing over 2,500 covers sent at the single-letter rate in the seceded states between Dec. 20, 1860 and May 31, 1861.

Dec. 20, 1860

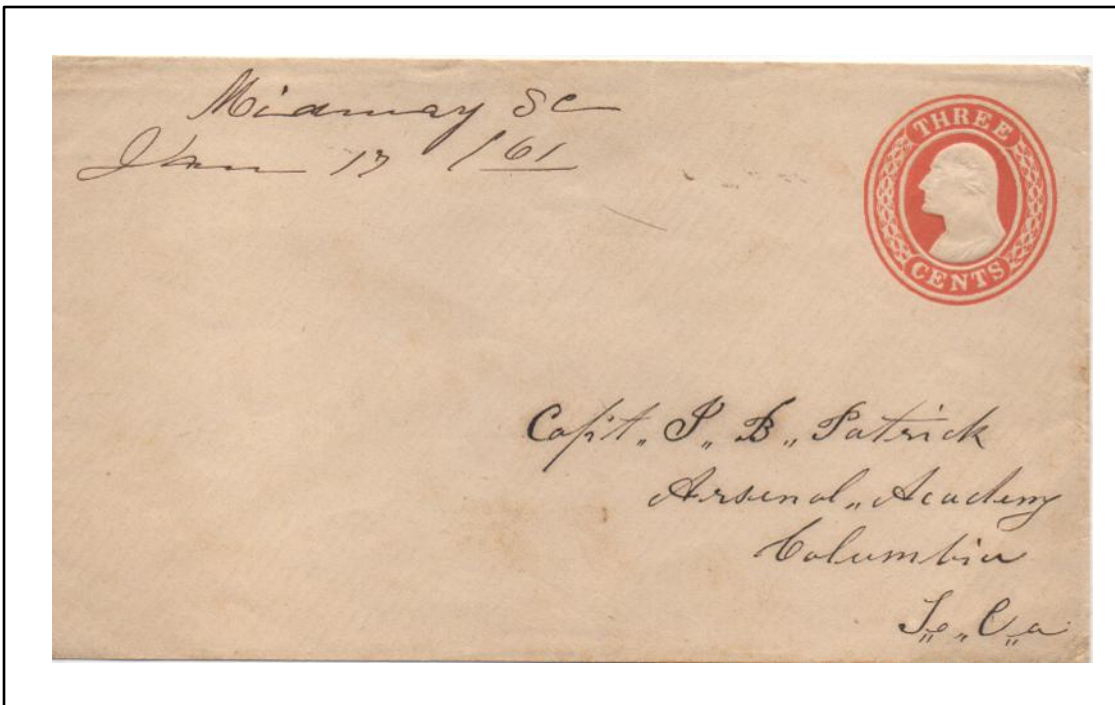
South Carolina Secedes

Independent from Dec. 20, 1860 – Feb. 3, 1861

U.S. 1857 3-cent stamp

Spartanburg, SC double
circle date stamp
postmark with grid cancel
Jan. 7, 1861

Embossed cover



U.S. 1854 3-cent
stamped
envelope

Midway, SC
manuscript
postmark, no
cancel
Jan. 17, (18)61

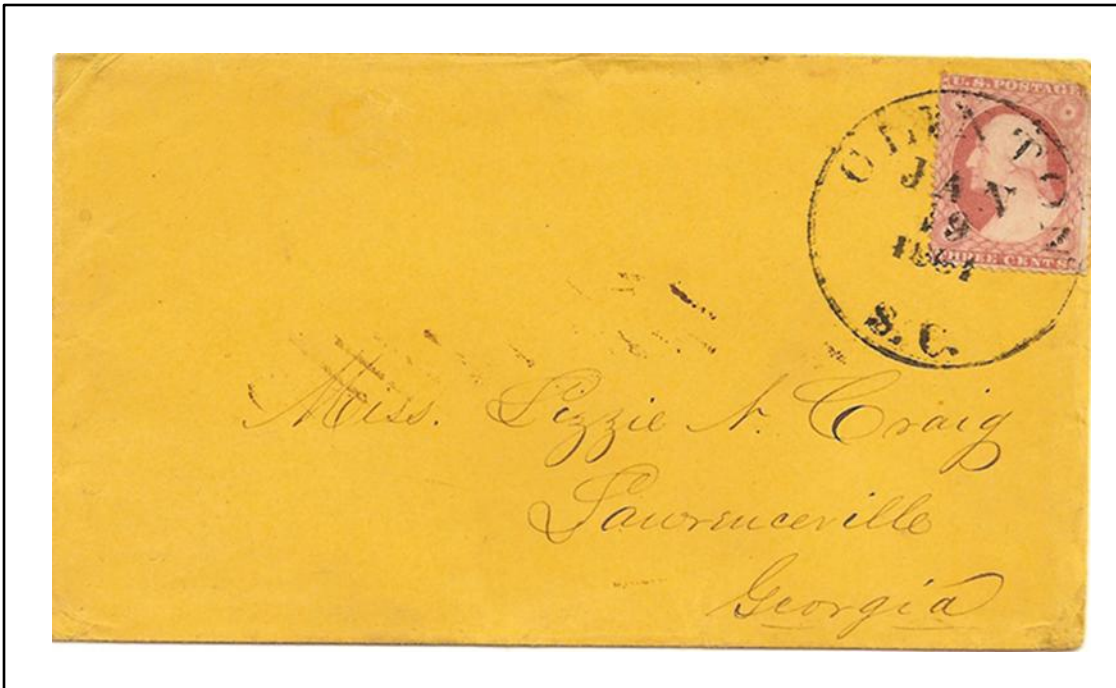
South Carolina

Independent from Dec. 20, 1860 – Feb. 3, 1861

U.S. 1860 3-cent
stamped envelope

Cheraw, SC
double circle date
stamp postmark with
grid cancel
Jan. 18, (1861)

(year confirmed by use
of U.S. 1860 stamped
envelope (star die). It
was released in the fall
of 1860 and no longer
valid for postage after
May 31, 1861).



U.S. 1857 3-cent
stamp

Clinton, SC
circular date
stamp postmark
Jan. 19, 1861

To
Lawrenceville,
GA on the day
GA seceded

Jan. 9, 1861

Mississippi Secedes

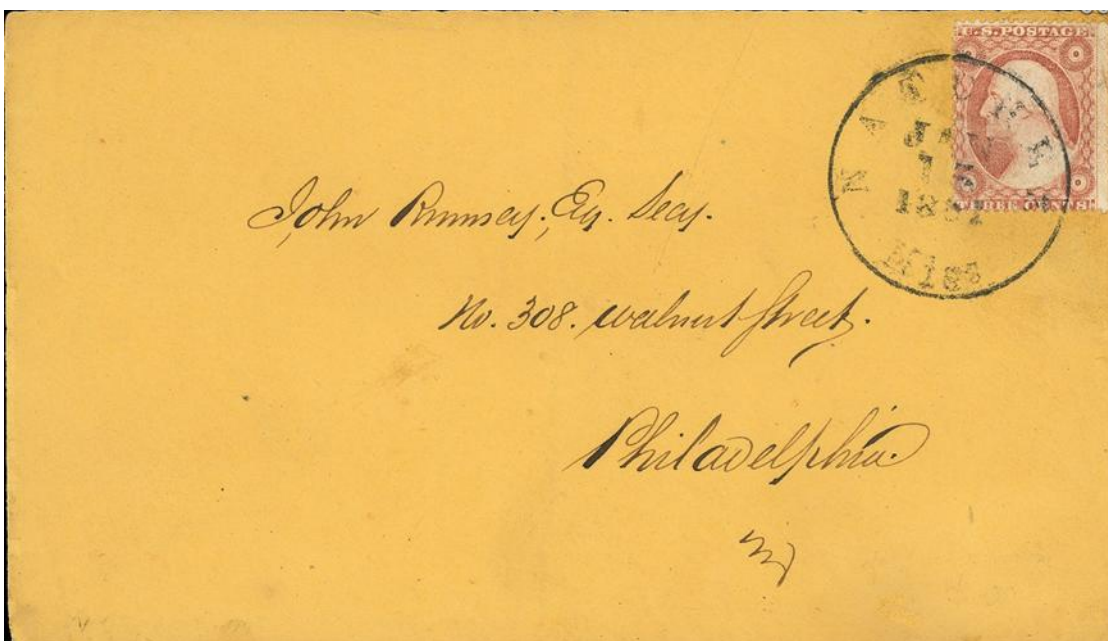
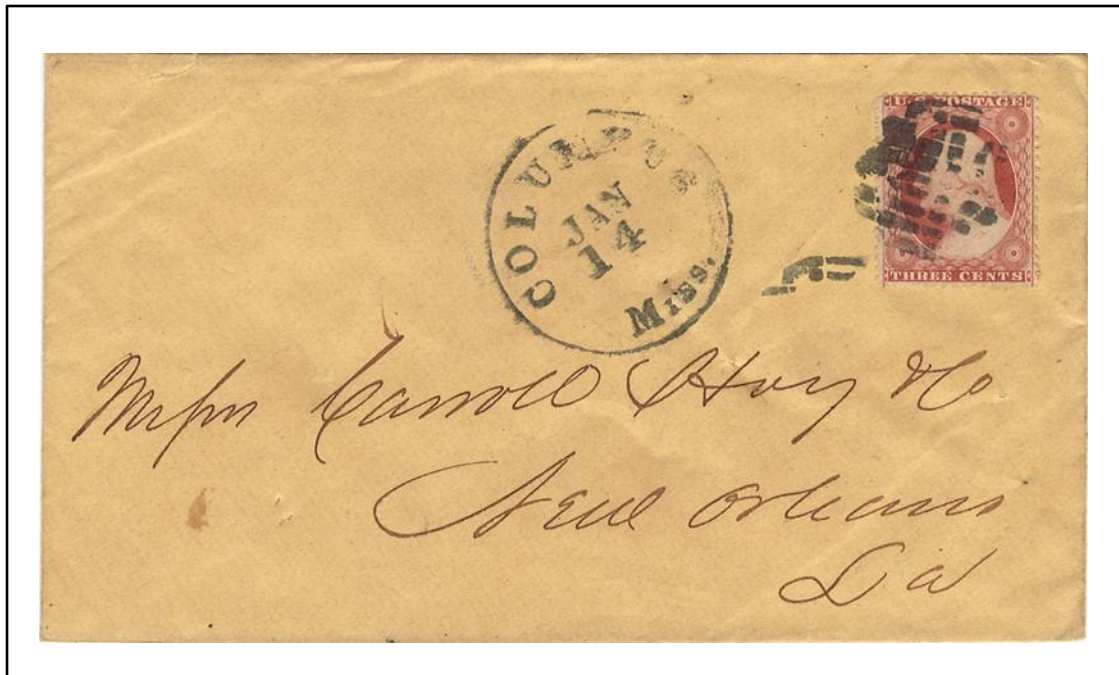
Independent from Jan. 9, 1861 – Feb. 3, 1861

U.S. 1857 3-cent stamp

Columbus, MS
circular date stamp
postmark and cork
cancel

Jan. 14, (1861)

(the segmented cork
cancel was only used in
1861)



U.S. 1857 3-cent
stamp

Natchez, MS
circular date
stamp postmark
Jan. 15, 1861

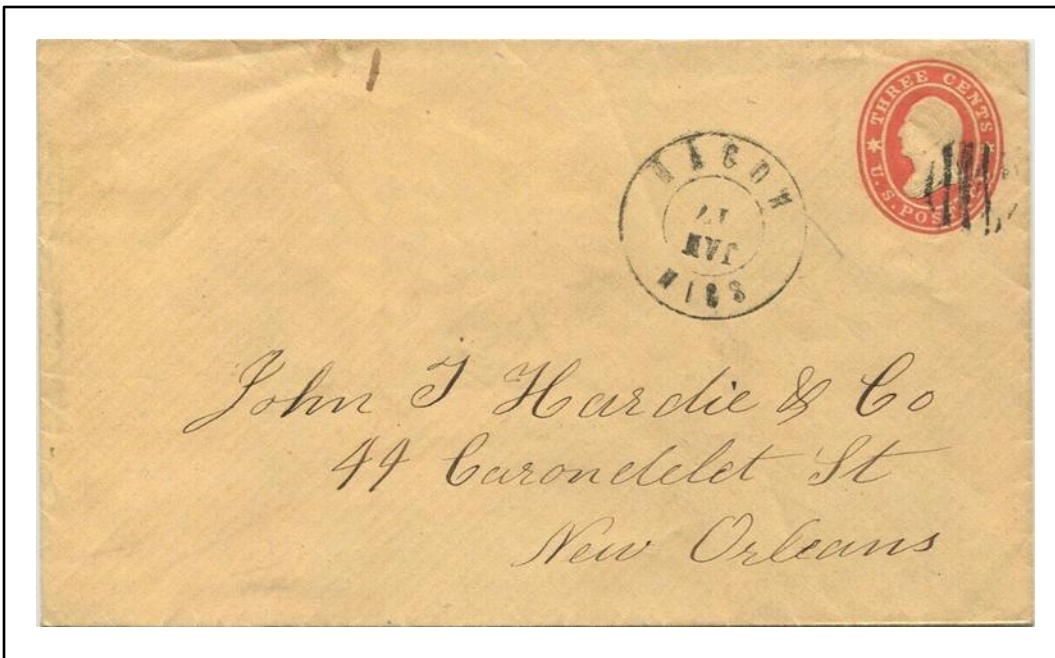
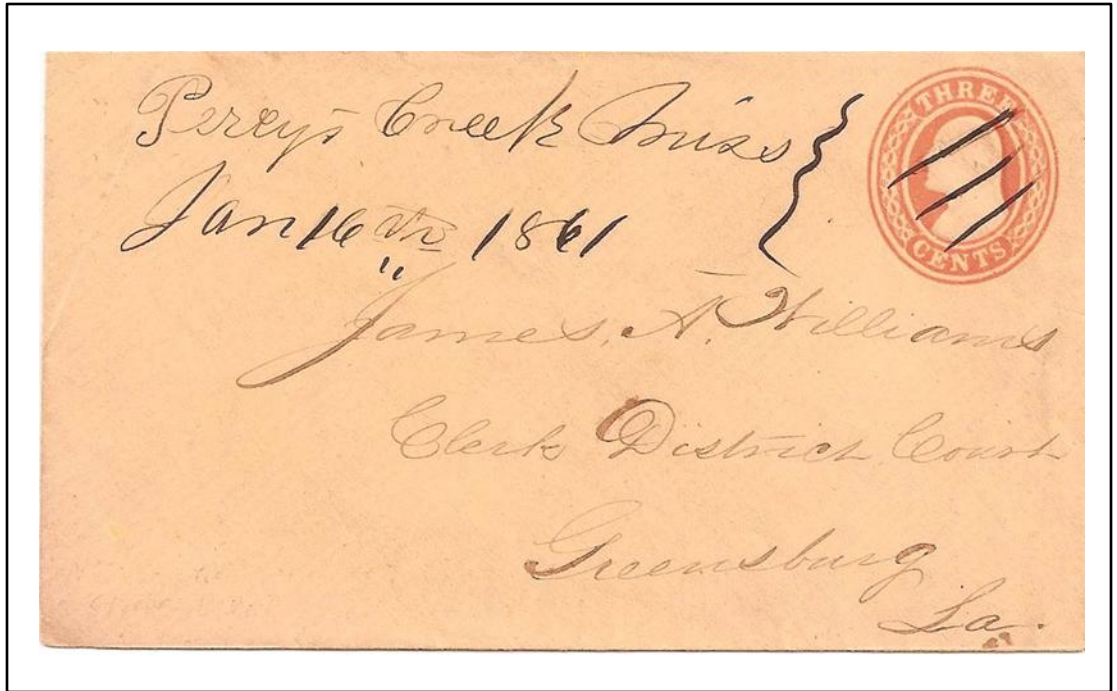
South to North
after Secession

Mississippi

Independent from Jan. 9, 1861 – Feb. 3, 1861

U.S. 1854 3-cent
stamped envelope

Percy's Creek, MS
manuscript postmark
and pen cancel
Jan. 16, 1861



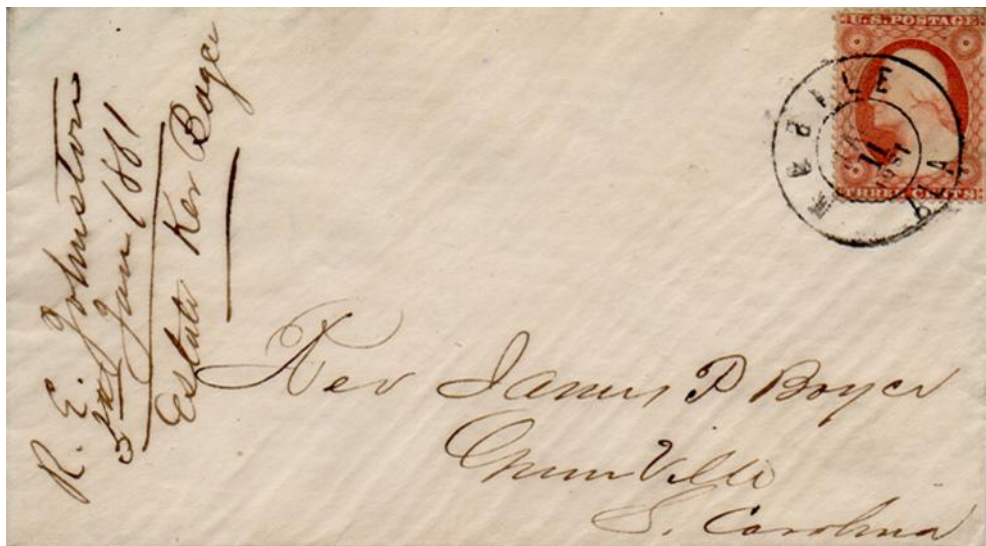
U.S. 1860 3-cent stamped
envelope

Macon, MS
double circle postmark
and grid cancel
Jan. 17, (1861)
(inverted date)

Jan. 11, 1861

Alabama Secedes

Independent from Jan. 11, 1861 – Feb. 3, 1861



U.S. 1857 3-cent stamp

Mobile, AL
double-circle
date stamp postmark
Jan. 11, 1861

**Postmarked on Day of
Secession, two
reported in an early
census but the other
from Montgomery is
unverified.**



U.S. 1860 3-cent
stamped envelope

Montevallo, AL
circular date stamp
postmark
Jan. 22, (1861)

Jan. 11, 1861

Florida Secedes

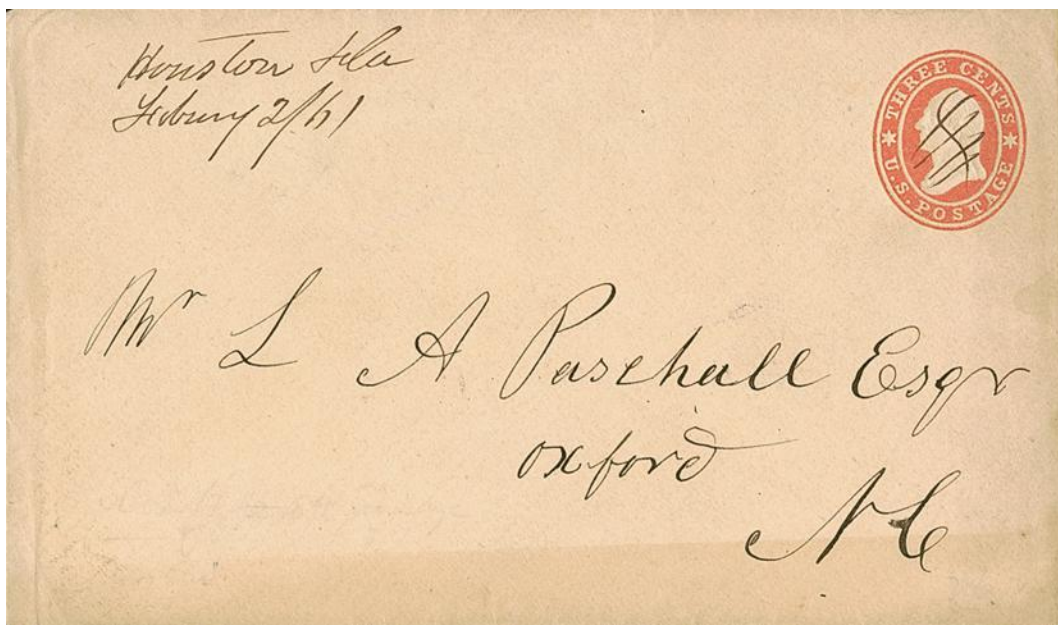
Independent from Jan. 11, 1861 – Feb. 3, 1861

U.S. 1857 3-cent stamp

Saint Augustine, FL
circular date stamp
postmark with grid
cancel

Jan. 29, (1861)
(year in dateline of
folded letter)

no FL first day ISU
covers are known



U.S. 1860 3-cent
stamped envelope

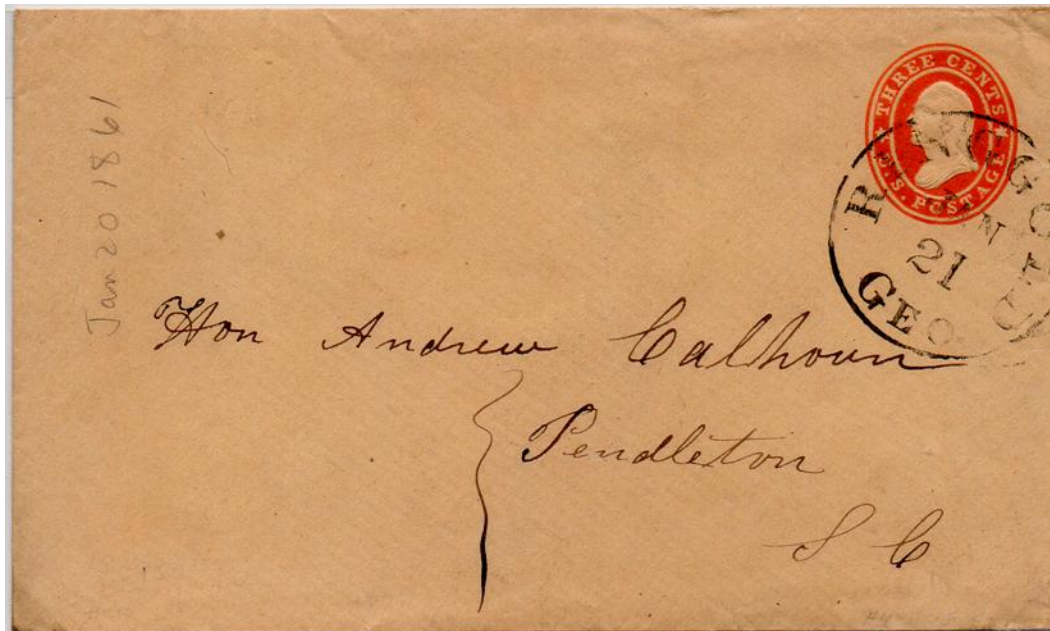
Houston, FL
Manuscript postmark
and cancel
Feb. 2, (18)61

**Only known FL
Independent State
Use on a star die**

Jan. 19, 1861

Georgia Secedes

Independent from Jan. 19, 1861 – Feb. 3, 1861



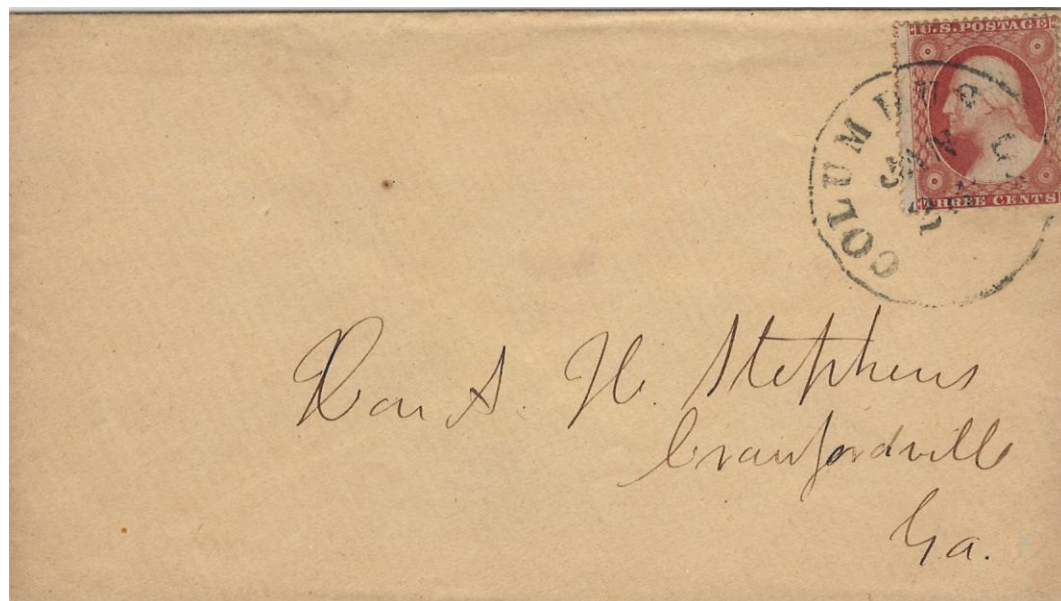
U.S. 1860 3-cent
stamped envelope

Ringgold, GA
circular date
stamp postmark
Jan. 21, (1861)

U.S. 1857 3-cent
stamp

Columbus, GA
circular date
stamp postmark
Jan. 28, (1861)
(1861 docket on
back)

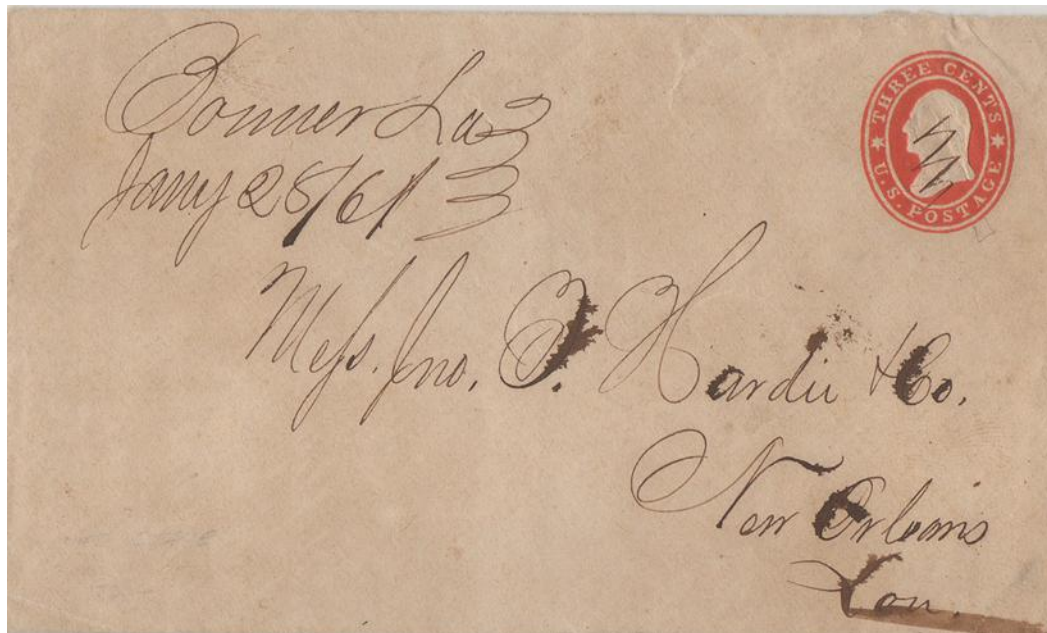
to Hon. Alexander
H. Stephens, C.S.A.
Vice-President



Jan. 26, 1861

Louisiana Secedes

Independent from Jan. 26, 1861 – Feb. 3, 1861



U.S. 1860 3-cent
stamped envelope

Bonner, LA
manuscript postmark
and cancel
Jan. 28, 1861

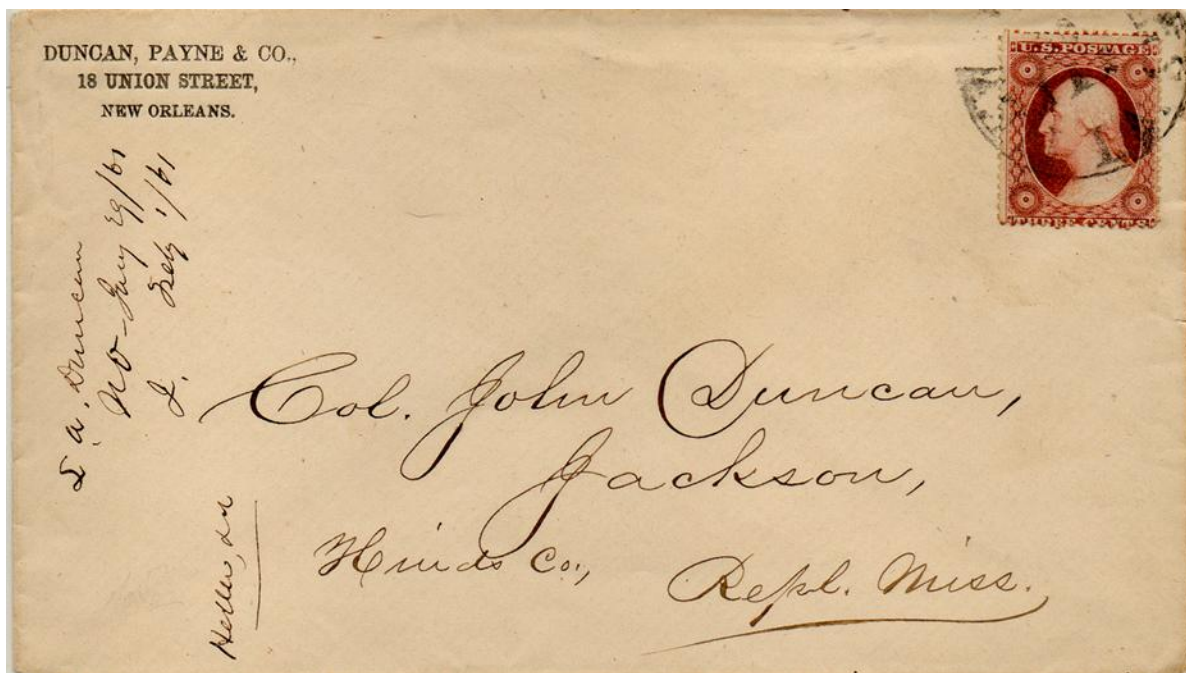
U.S. 1857 3-
cent stamp

New Orleans,
LA circular
date stamp
postmark
Jan. 30, (1861)
(year from
docketing)

**Rep(ub)l(ic)
Miss(issipi)**

**Advertising
Corner Card**

**5 LA
Independent
State covers
with 1857
stamp
recorded**



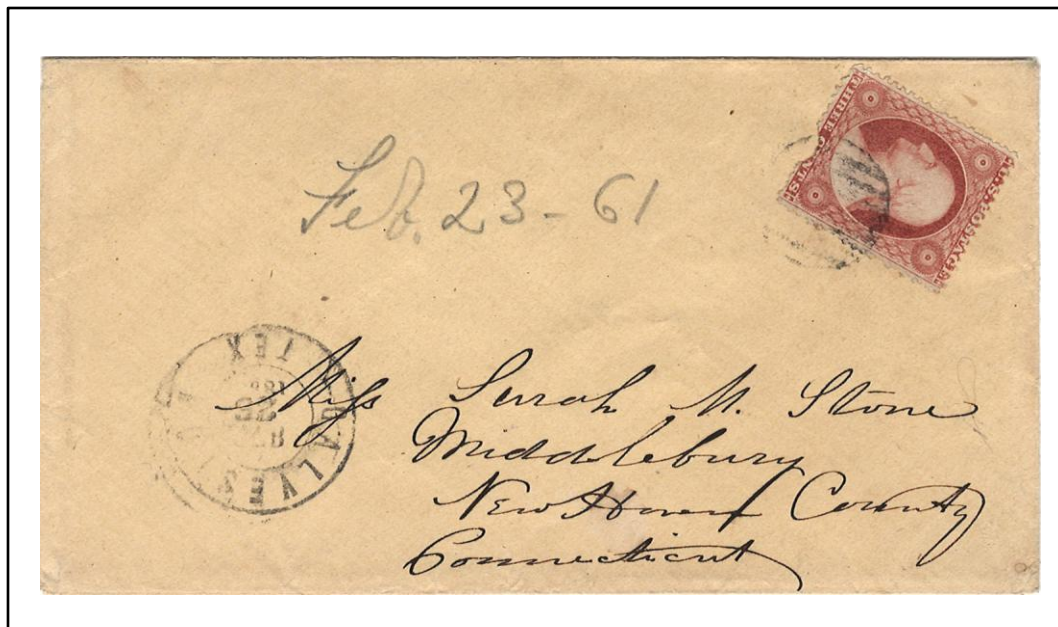
Mar. 2, 1861

Texas Secedes

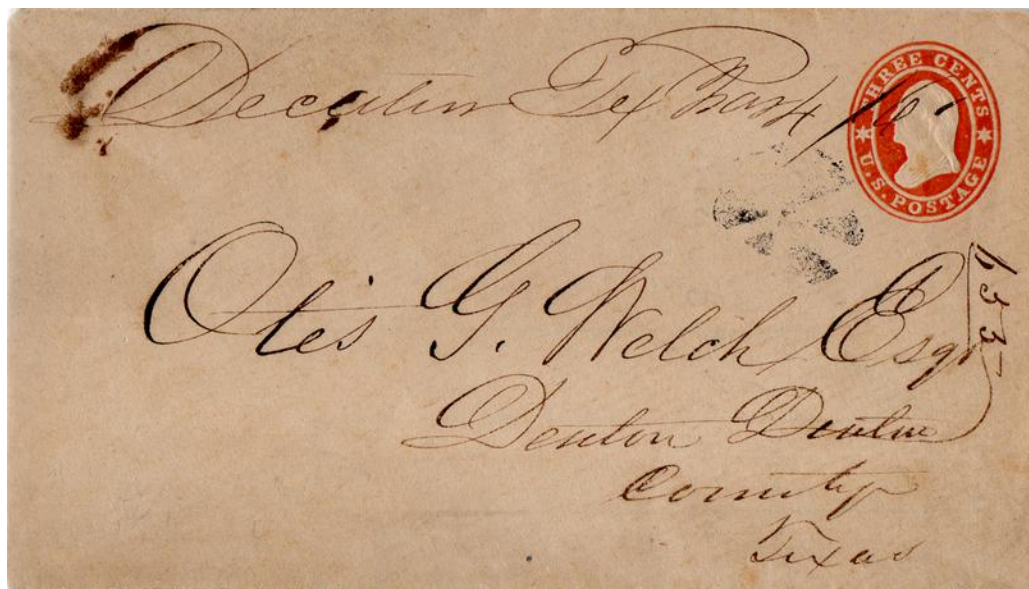
Independent from Mar. 2, 1861 – Mar. 4, 1861

U.S. 1857 3-cent
stamp

Galveston, TX
double circle
postmark with grid
cancel
Feb. 25, 1861



Texas is a special case. Legislators passed an Ordinance of Secession in favor of secession on February 1, but secession required approval by public referendum. It was approved and the official secession date was March 2, 1861. For decades collectors considered Feb. 1 the secession date. The cover above is now considered by many to be a Texas “transition to Independent State” cover and the one below a true Texas Independent State cover.



U.S. 1860 3-cent stamped
envelope

Decatur, TX
Manuscript postmark with
cork wedge cancel
Mar. 4, (18)61

**Abraham Lincoln
Inauguration Date**

**1 of 9 known Texas
Independent State
Covers**

Apr. 17, 1861

Virginia Secedes

Independent from Apr. 17, 1861 - May 6, 1861

U.S. 1860 3-cent
stamped envelope

Dublin, VA
circular date stamp
postmark with pen
cancel
Apr. 18, (1861)

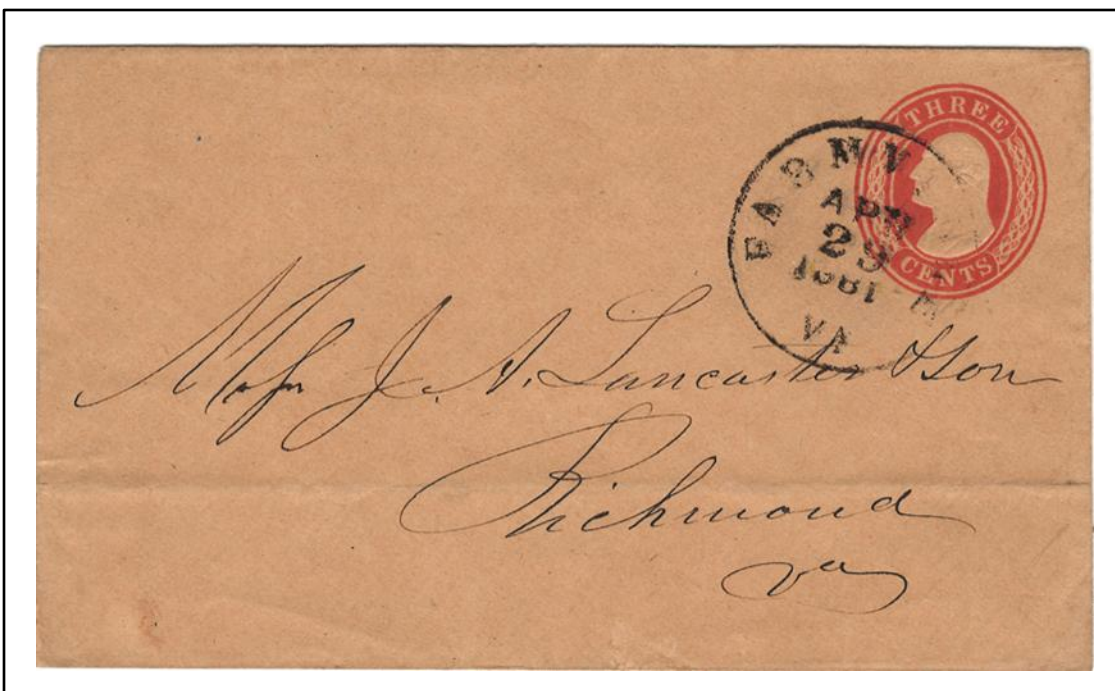
One day after
secession



U.S. 1854 3-cent
stamped envelope

Farmville, VA circular
date stamp postmark
Apr. 29, 1861

1 of 5 known Nesbitt
covers used in
Independent VA



Apr. 17, 1861

Virginia Secedes

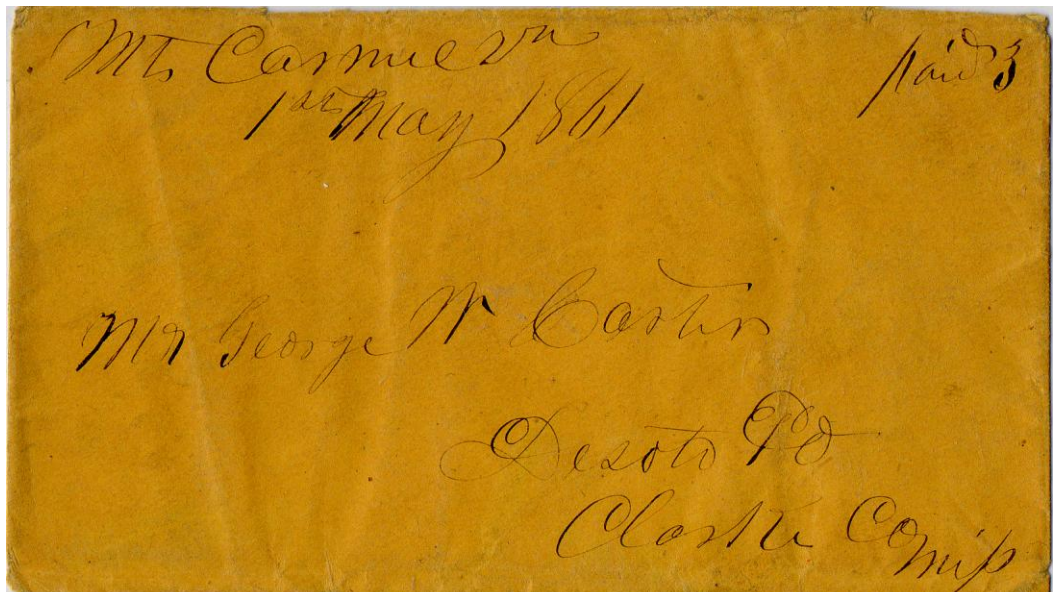
Independent from Apr. 17, 1861 – May 6, 1861



U.S. 1857 3-cent stamp

Richmond, VA
circular date stamp
postmark
May 1, 1861

“Confederate States” in
address



U.S. Manuscript “Paid 3”

Mount Carmel, VA
manuscript postmark
May 1, 1861

May 6, 1861

Arkansas Secedes

Independent from May 6, 1861 – May 17, 1861

U.S. 1860 3-cent stamped envelope

Searcy, AR

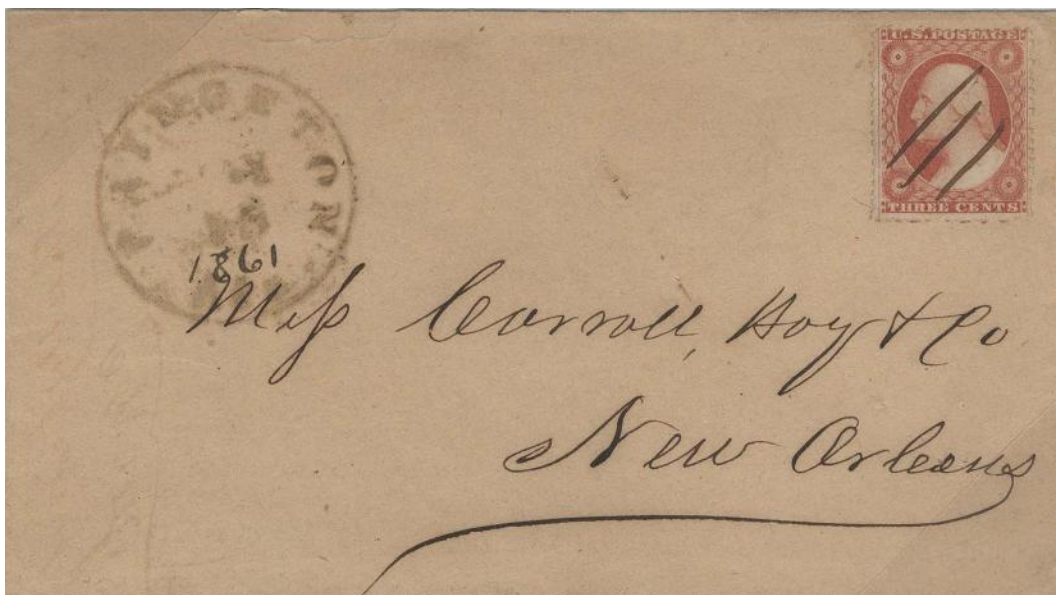
circular date stamp postmark
May 6, (1861)

**First Day Independent State
Use (1 of 5 known first day,
3 with star die)**

**"Confederate States" in
address**



Only 19 surviving covers mailed from Arkansas during the Independent State period are known.

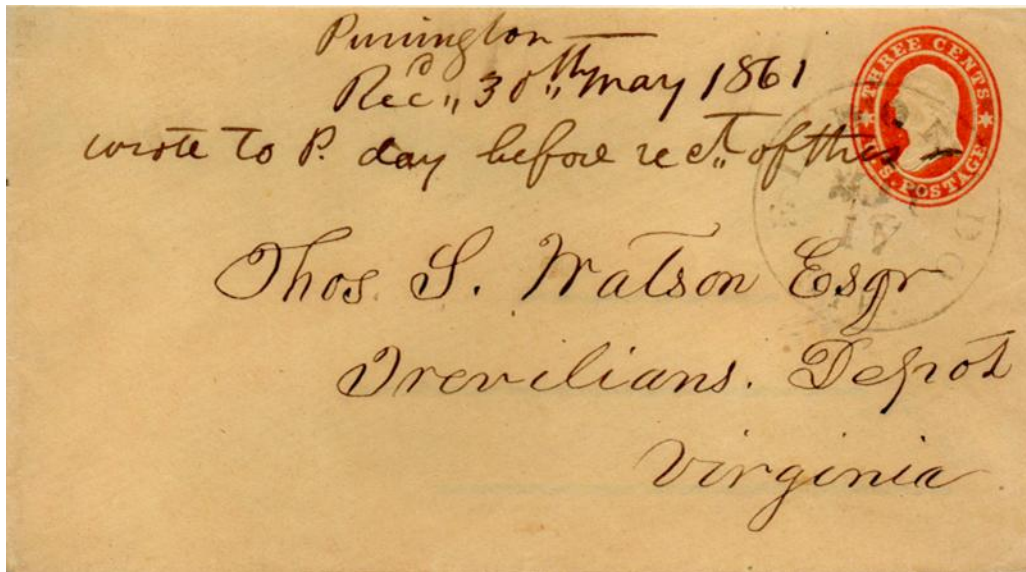


U.S. 1857 3-cent stamp

Princeton, AR
circular date stamp
postmark with pen
cancel
May 15, 1861

Arkansas

Independent from May 6, 1861 – May 17, 1861



U.S. 1860 3-cent
stamped envelope

El Dorado, AR
circular date stamp
postmark
May 17, (1861)

Possibly the only
known First Day
C.S.A. Use

The cover above, postmarked El Dorado, Arkansas includes the date May 17, 1861, the day before Arkansas joined the CSA. An auction catalog from 1968 shows the same cover with an “18” written in pencil over the “17” in the postmark (see below). At some point the “18” was erased, revealing the “17”. One possibility is it arrived on the 17th but did not leave the post office until the 18th? Regulations required the postmark to indicate the date the letter departed the post office. Another possibility is that the postmaster realized the date slug had not been updated from the day before and corrected the date to the 18th.

Photo from 1968
auction catalog



May 20, 1861

North Carolina Secedes

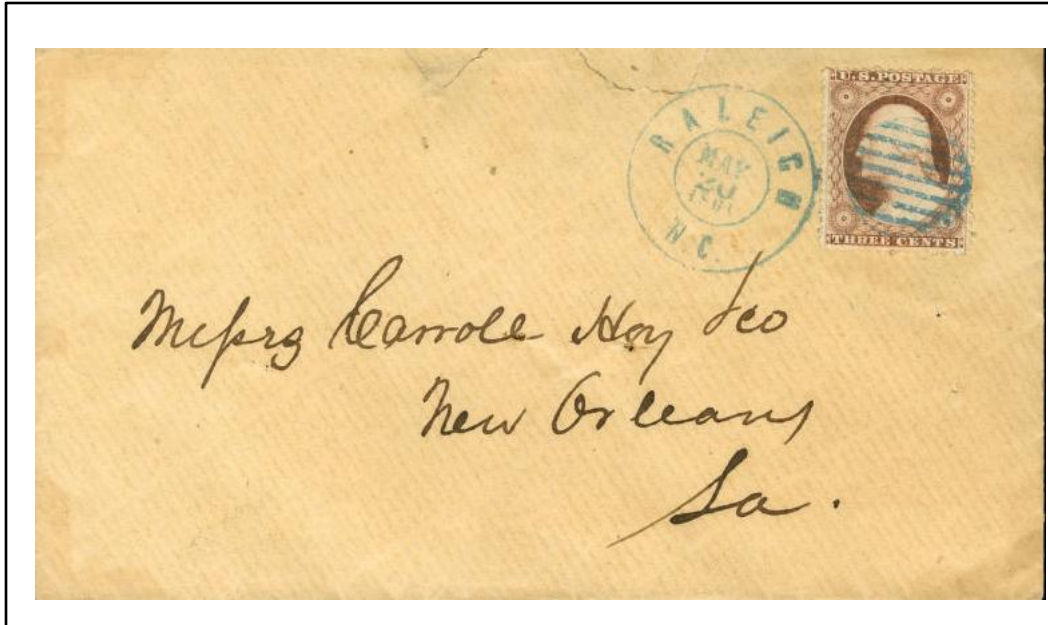
Independent from May 20, 1861 – May 26, 1861

U.S. 1857 3-cent stamp

Raleigh, NC
Double circle date stamp
postmark with grid cancel
May 20, 1861

Postmarked Day of NC
Secession

5 NC First Day
Independent State covers
known. This is the only
one with an 1857 3-cent
stamp.



U.S. 1860 3-cent
stamped envelope

Williamston, NC
circular date stamp
postmark
May 21, (1861)

9 NC Independent
State covers on star
die known

North Carolina

Independent from May 20, 1861 – May 26, 1861



U.S. 1854 3-cent
stamped envelope
May 21, 1861

Between North &
South

To Independent
Elizabeth City, NC

3 Nesbitt covers
known from
Independent NC
(None from
Confederate NC)

The cover above was mailed May 21, from Baltimore, Maryland to Elizabeth City, North Carolina. **It was carried on one of the last trains to carry mail over the Richmond to Washington mail route.** US troops occupied Alexandria, Virginia very early on May 24, turning back the train from Washington before it reached the city. The suspension of mail between north and south was set for June 1, but May 23 was the last day that the mail train passed between Washington, DC and Richmond, Virginia. The only remaining mail route from north to south went through Louisville, Kentucky.



May 6, 1861

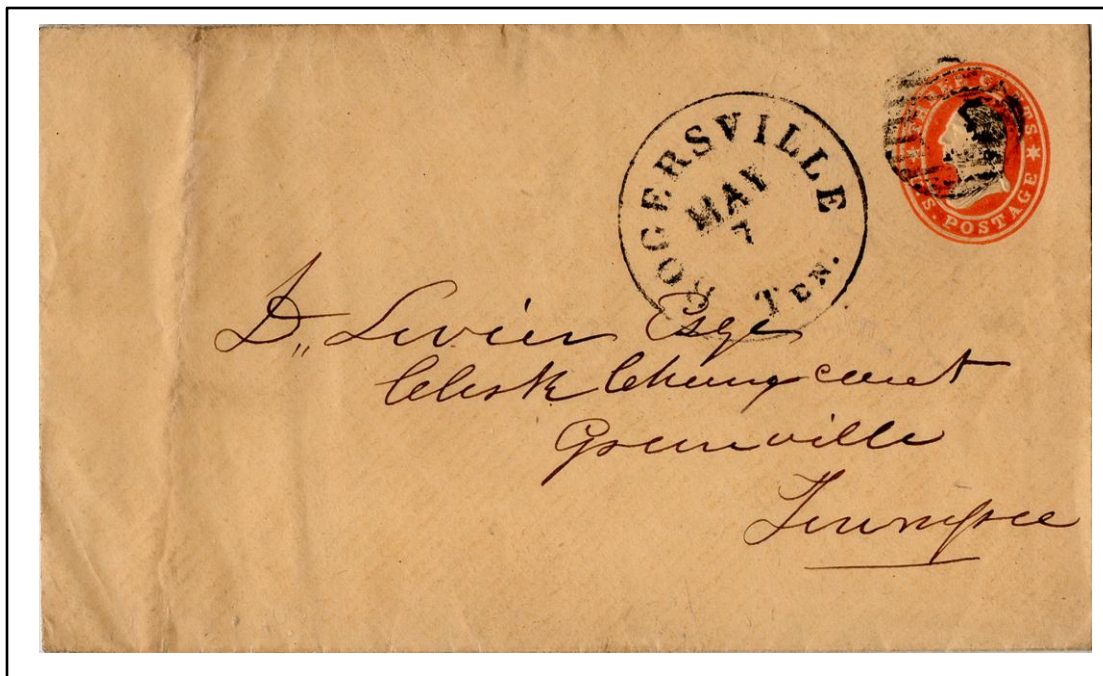
Tennessee Delegates Vote to Secede

"Transition to Independent State" May 6, 1861 – Jun 7, 1861

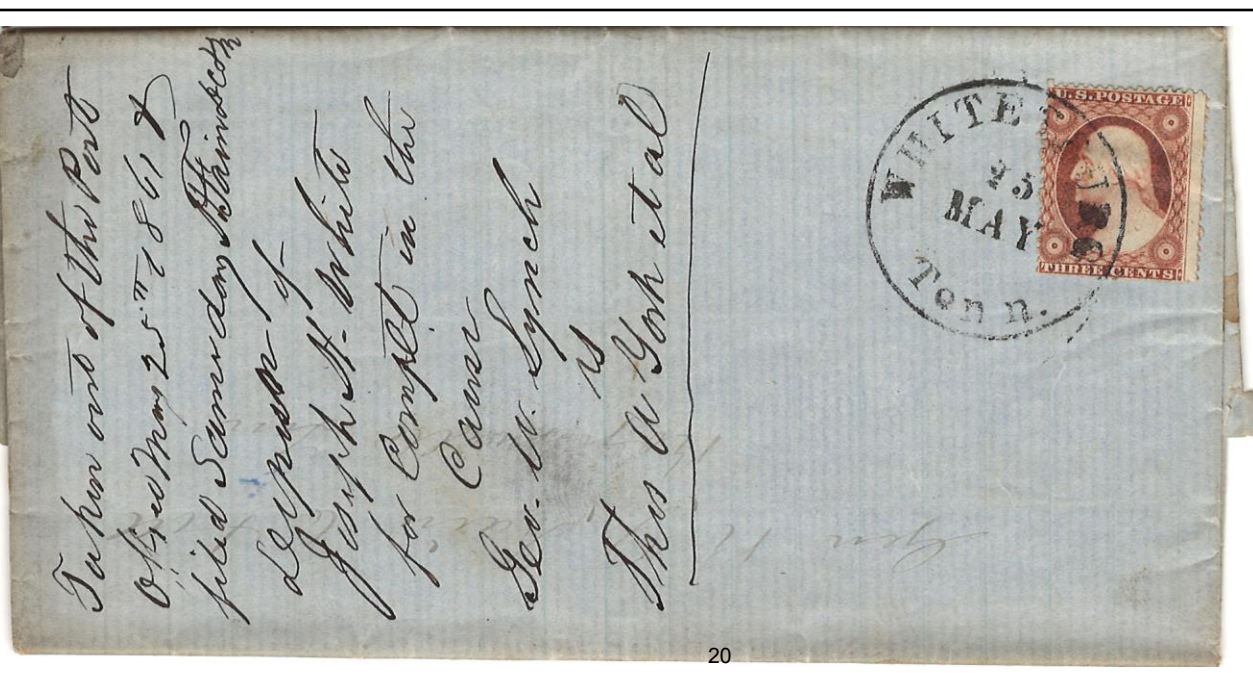
U.S. 1860 3-cent
stamped envelope

Rogersville, TN
circular date stamp
postmark with grid
cancel
May 7, (1861)

Tennessee
Transition Period to
Independent State



Tennessee state delegates voted to secede on May 6, 1861, but the ordinance required approval by public referendum. The referendum was approved on June 8. Tennessee thus became an Independent State on June 8, after U.S. stamps were no longer valid in the seceded states. Tennessee was admitted to the CSA on July 2, 1861.



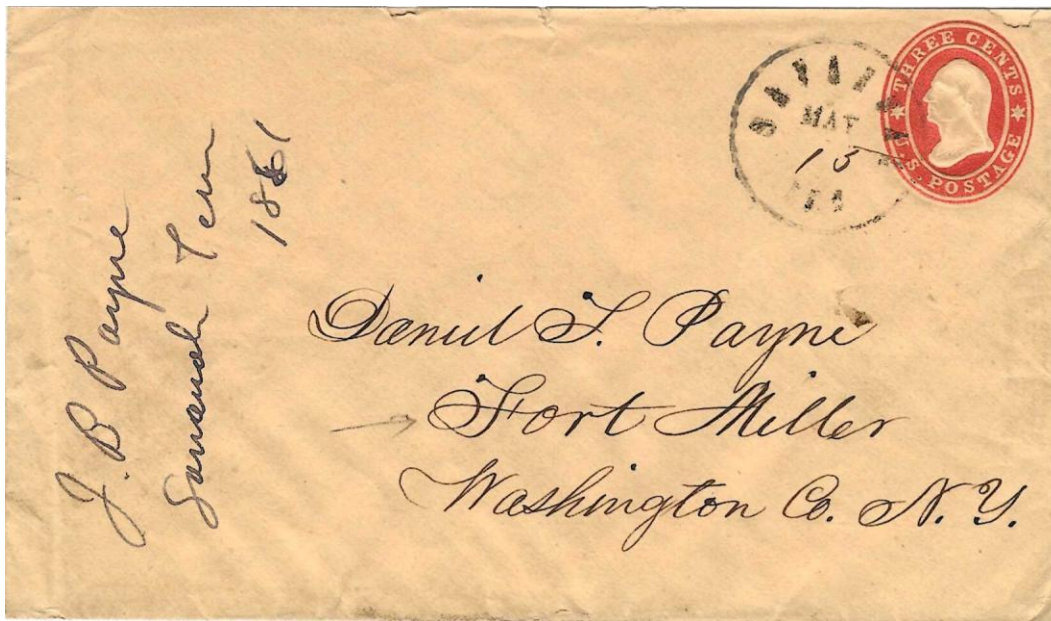
U.S. 1857
3-cent stamp

Whitesburg, TN
circular date
stamp
postmark
May 25, (1861)
(year from
docketing and
dateline of
folded letter)

Tennessee
Transition
Period to
Independent
State

Tennessee

“Transition to Independent State” May 6, 1861 – Jun 7, 1861



U.S. 1860 3-cent
stamped envelope

Savannah, TN
circular date
stamp postmark
May 15, (1861)

Tennessee
Transition Period

Across the Lines

Jun. 8, 1861

Tennessee Secedes

Independent from Jun. 8, 1861 – Jul. 1, 1861



U.S. 1857 3-cent stamp

Wartrace Nashville and
Chattanooga Railroad, TN
oval date stamp postmark
June 10, 1861

TN Independent State

C.S.A. Railroad Cover

U.S. Postage Used after
secession and after June 1

On June 10, the USPOD suspended mail service in middle and western Tennessee*. Eastern Tennessee was exempt for about a week due to Union loyalty. It is not clear why the Confederate postmaster at Ebenezer, Mississippi overlooked the lack of Confederate postage.

*Palazolo, Jerry. (2025) *Conflicted Postage Rates in Tennessee During June 1861*. The Chronicle, No. 2085, Vol. 77, No. 1. pp. 97-103.

Feb. 4, 1861

South Carolina Joins the Confederacy as a Charter Member

Confederate with U.S. stamps Feb. 4, 1861 – May 31, 1861

U.S. 1857 3-cent stamp

Charleston, SC
circular date stamp
postmark with grid cancel
Feb. 5, 1861

Postmarked on the day after the CSA was formed and SC became a CSA State



U.S. 1860 3-cent stamped envelope

Society Hill, SC
circular date stamp
postmark with grid cancel
April 12, (1861)

Mailed from SC the Day Confederate Forces Commenced Firing on Fort Sumter in Charleston, SC harbor.

CIVIL WAR COMMENCED.
FORT SUMTER ATTACKED.



South Carolina

Confederate with U.S. stamps Feb. 4, 1861 – May 31, 1861

U.S. 1857 3-cent
stamp

Charleston, SC
circular date
stamp postmark
Apr. 16, 1861

**Blind Embossed
Corner Card of
Hayden &
Whilden
of Charleston**



U.S. 1860 3-cent
stamped envelope

Charleston, SC
double circle
postmark
Apr. 20, 1861

Across the Lines
after war began

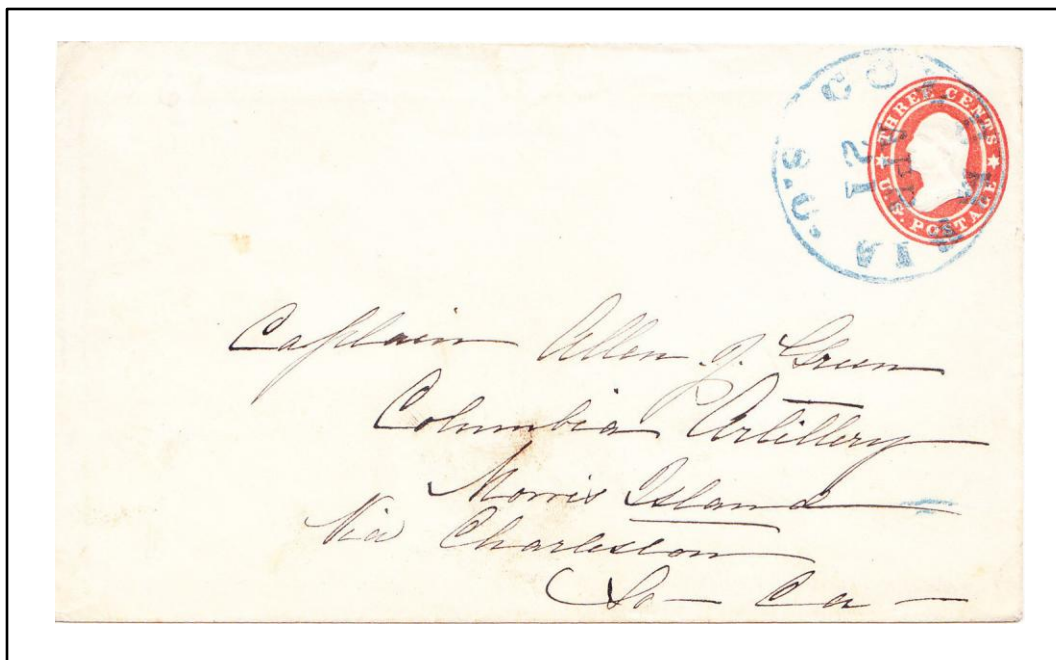
South Carolina

Confederate with U.S. stamps Feb. 4, 1861 – May 31, 1861

U.S. 1860 3-cent
stamped envelope

Charleston, SC
circular date stamp
postmark
Apr. 21, 1861

Across the Lines,
from Morris Island,
SC 8 days after firing
on Fort Sumner



U.S. 1854 3-cent
stamped envelope

Charleston, SC
double circle
postmark
Apr. 27, 1861

Commercial
Corner Card

South Carolina

Confederate with U.S. stamps Feb. 4, 1861 – May 31, 1861



U.S. 1857 3-cent stamp

Charleston, SC
double circle date
stamp postmark
May 9, 1861

To Fernandina, FL

**by Atlantic Ocean
Route During U.S.
Blockade of C.S.A.
Ports**

U.S. President Lincoln ordered a blockade of southern ports after the bombardment of Fort Sumner. Technically, the steamship that delivered the cover above from Charleston to Fernandina (U.S. Postal Route 6501) ran the US blockade. Realistically, the blockade was not effective at this early date.



U.S. 1857 3-cent
stamp

Charleston, SC
circular date
stamp postmark
May 12, 1861

**C.S.A. 7-Star
Patriotic Cover
(stars represent
SC,MS,AL,
FL,GA,LA&TX)**

Feb. 4, 1861

Mississippi Joins the Confederacy

Confederate with U.S. stamps Feb. 4, 1861 – May 31, 1861



U.S. 1857 3-cent stamp

Marblehead, MA
circular date stamp
postmark and grid
cancel

Feb. 4, (1861)
(year in docketing)

**From Massachusetts
to Mississippi, sent
on the day the C.S.A.
was formed and
Mississippi became
a Confederate state**

U.S. 1860 3-cent
stamped envelope

Vicksburg, MS
double circle date
stamp postmark with
grid cancel
April 2, (1861)



Mississippi

Confederate with U.S. stamps Feb. 4, 1861 – May 31, 1861



3 U.S. 1857 1-cent stamps

Jackson, MS
circular date stamp
postmark
Apr. 11, (1861)
(year from docketing
on cover and address)

U.S. 1857 3-cent stamp

Natchez, MS
circular date stamp
postmark
May 2, 1861



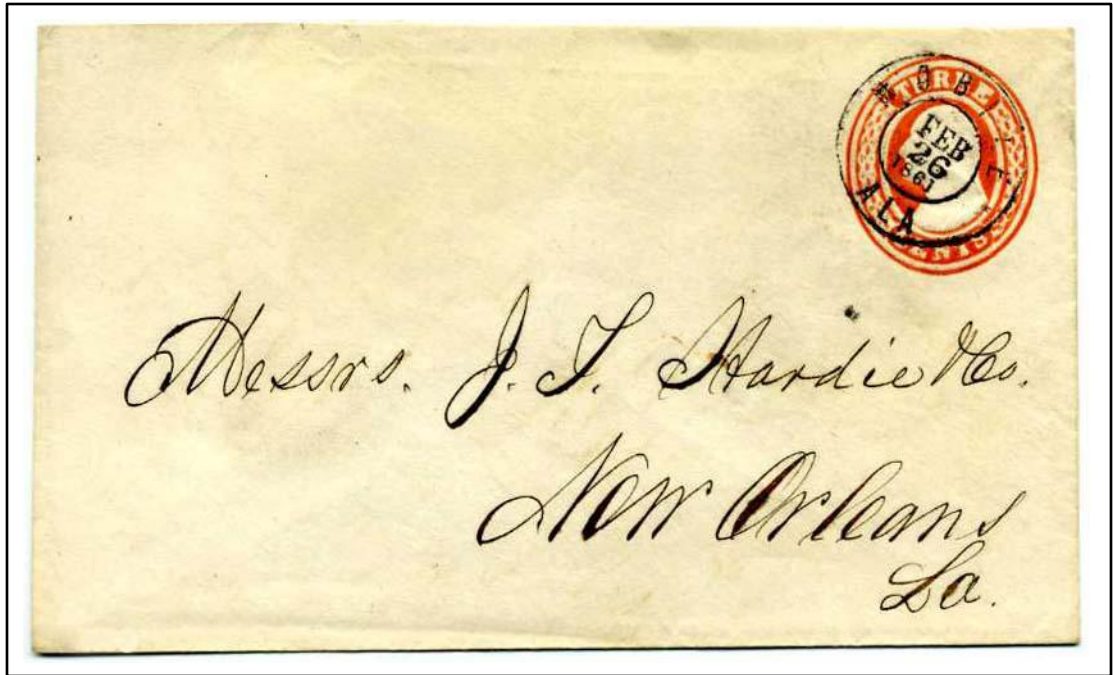
Feb. 4, 1861

Alabama Joins the Confederacy

Confederate with U.S. stamps Feb. 4, 1861 – May 31, 1861

U.S. 1854 3-cent
stamped envelope

Mobile, AL
double circle postmark
Feb. 26, 1861



U.S. 1857 3-cent stamp

Montgomery, AL
circular date stamp
postmark
Mar. 3, 1861

Across the Lines

Alabama

Confederate with U.S. stamps Feb. 4, 1861 – May 31, 1861



U.S. 1860 3-cent
stamped
envelope

Athens, AL
circular date
stamp postmark
with light pen
cancel
Mar. 6, (1861)

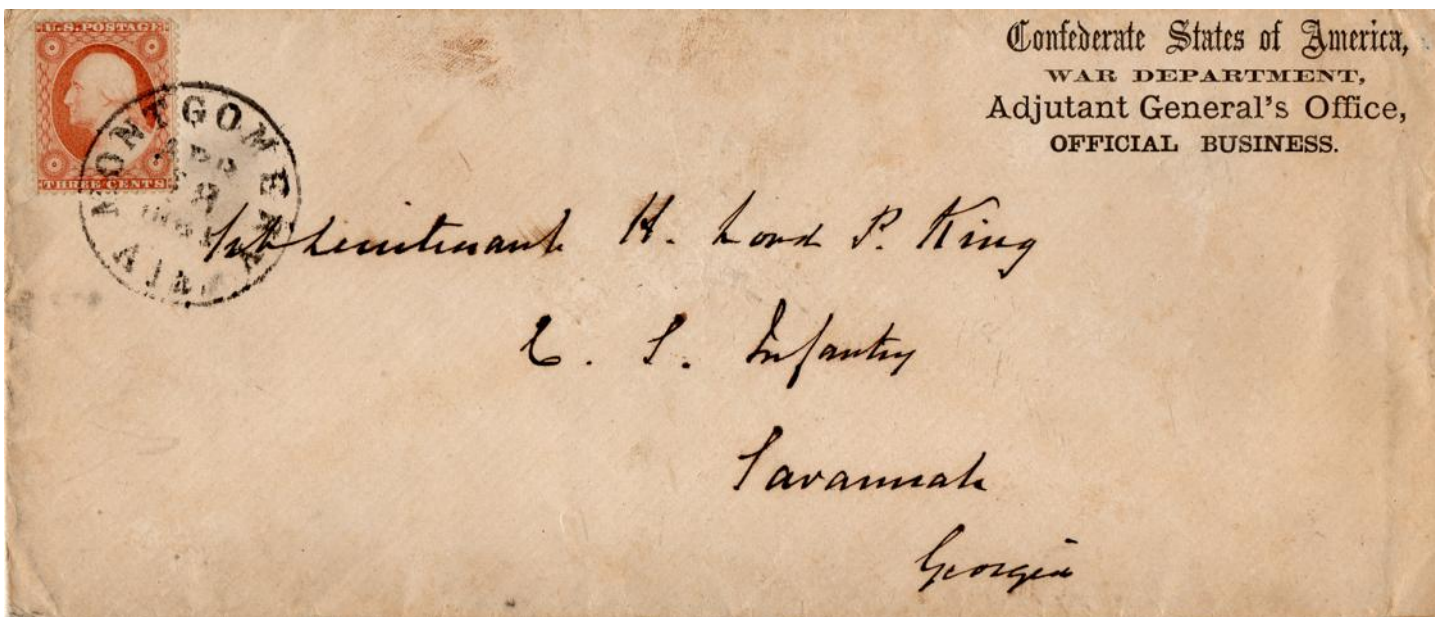


U.S. 1857 3-cent
stamp

Montgomery, AL
circular date stamp
postmark
Mar. 19, 1861

Alabama

Confederate with U.S. stamps Feb. 4, 1861 – May 31, 1861

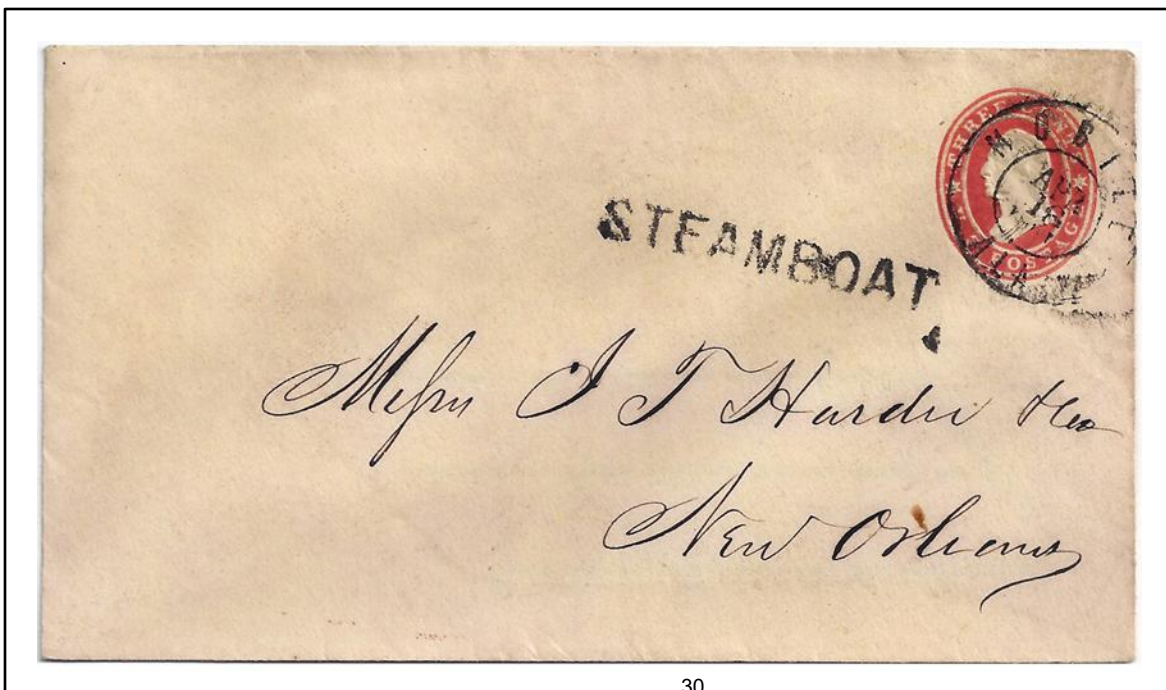


(above) U.S. 1857 3-cent stamp

Montgomery, AL
circular date stamp postmark
Apr. 18, 1861

Semi-Official imprint cover

The cover above is from the C.S.A. War Department to an officer in the Confederate Army, delivered by the U.S. Post Office Department mail service after the war began.



U.S. 1860 3-cent
stamped
envelope

Mobile, AL
double circle
postmark
Apr. 18, 1861

Confederate
State

Steamboat mail

Feb. 4, 1861

Florida Joins the Confederacy

Confederate with U.S. stamps Feb. 4, 1861 – May 31, 1861



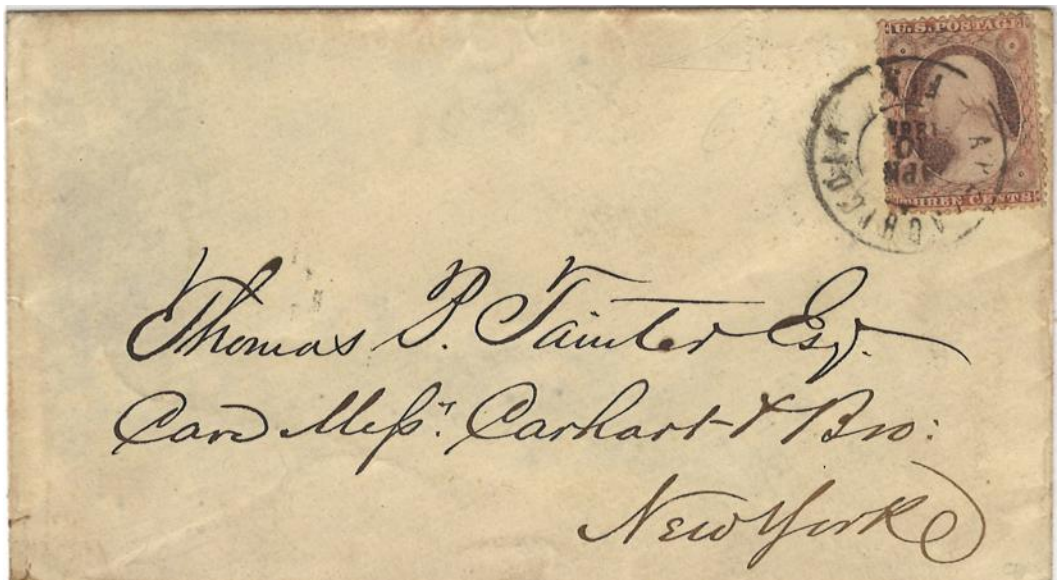
U.S. 1860 3-cent
stamped envelope

Marianna, FL
circular date stamp
postmark
Feb. 22, (1861)

U.S. 1857 3-cent
stamp

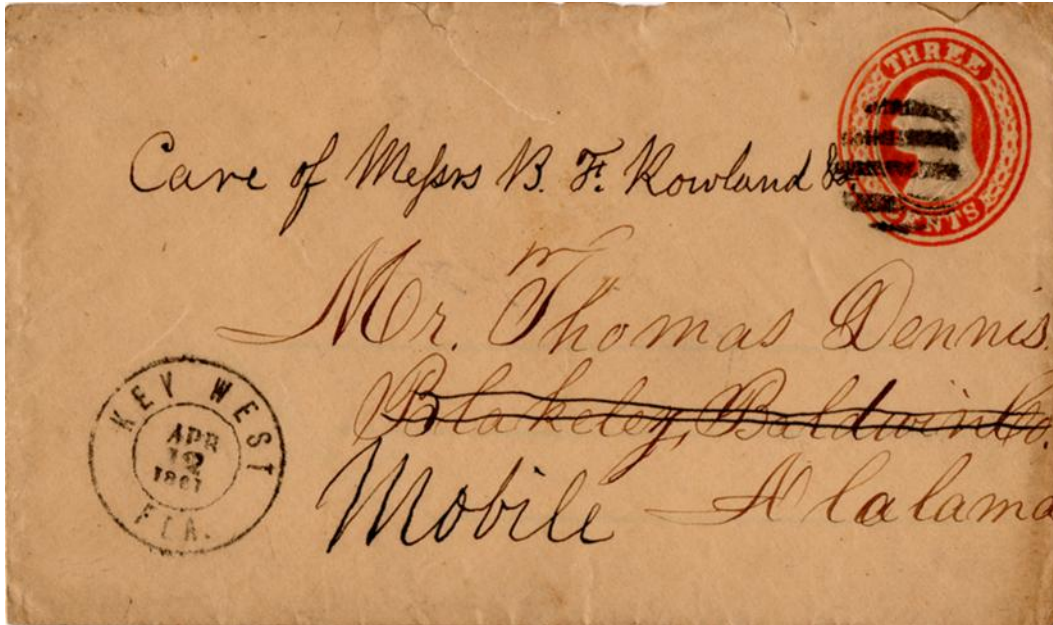
Apalachicola, FL
double circle
postmark
Apr. 10, 1861

Across the Lines



Florida

Confederate with U.S. stamps Feb. 4, 1861 – May 31, 1861



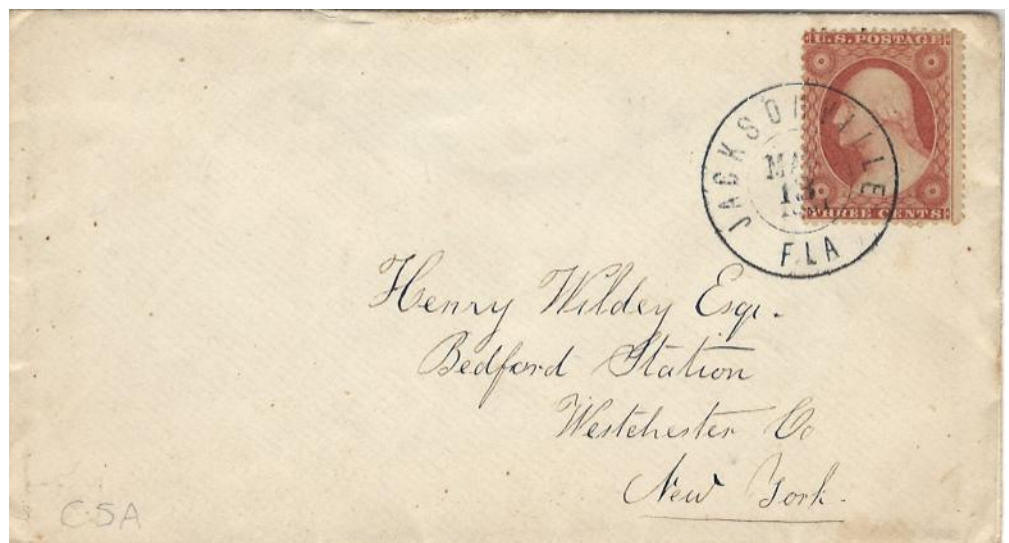
U.S. 1854 3-cent stamped envelope

Key West, FL (under U.S. Control)
double circle date stamp postmark
Apr. 12, 1861

From Key West, FL on the First Day of the Civil War

Only 5 U.S. 1854 Nesbitts used in CSA FL recorded, none known used in FL while an Independent State

Key West Florida was never under C.S.A. control.



U.S. 1857 3-cent stamp

Jacksonville, FL
double circle date stamp postmark
May 13, 1861

Across the Lines

Feb. 4, 1861

Georgia Joins the Confederacy

Confederate with U.S. stamps Feb. 4, 1861 – May 31, 1861



U.S. 1860 3-cent
stamped envelope

Thomasville, GA
circular date stamp
postmark with grid
cancel
Feb. 7, (1861)

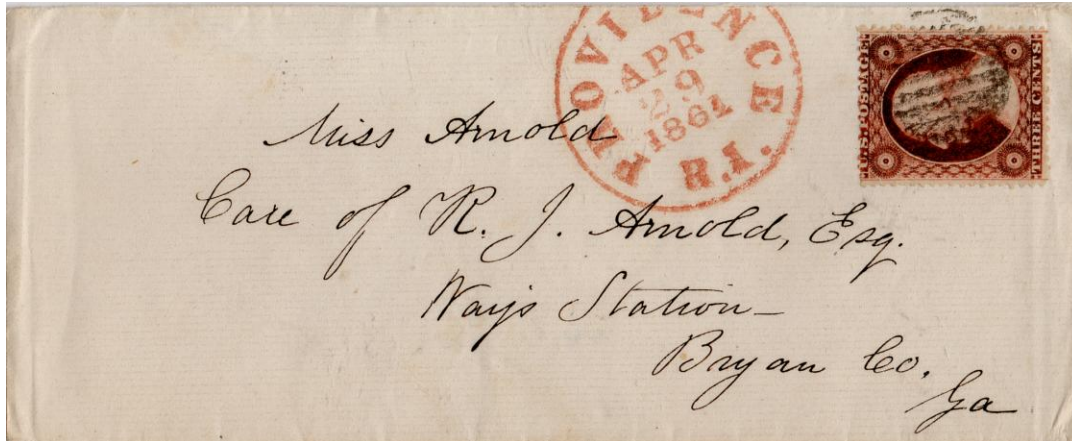


U.S. 1854 3-cent
stamped envelope

Dalton, GA
circular date stamp
with grid postmark
Apr. 29, 1861

Georgia

Confederate with U.S. stamps Feb. 4, 1861 – May 31, 1861



U.S. 1857 3-cent stamp

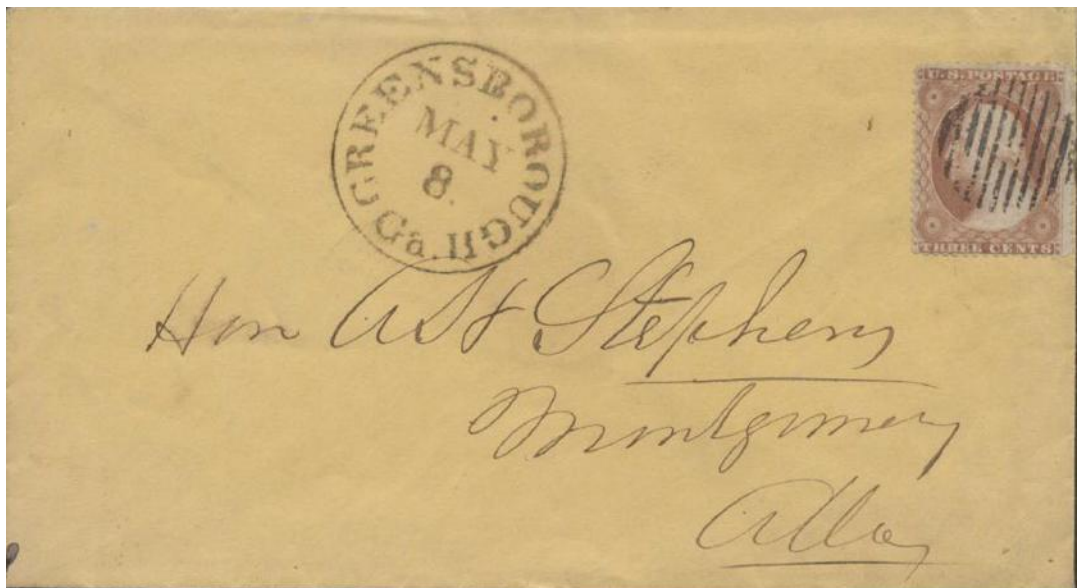
Providence, RI
circular date stamp
with grid postmark
Apr. 29, 1861

Across the Lines

U.S. 1857 3-cent stamp

Greensborough, GA
circular date stamp
postmark and grid
cancel
May 8, (1861)

to Alexander H.
Stephens, C.S.A.
Vice-President at the
C.S.A. capital



Feb. 4, 1861

Louisiana Joins the Confederacy

Confederate with U.S. stamps Feb. 4, 1861 – May 31, 1861

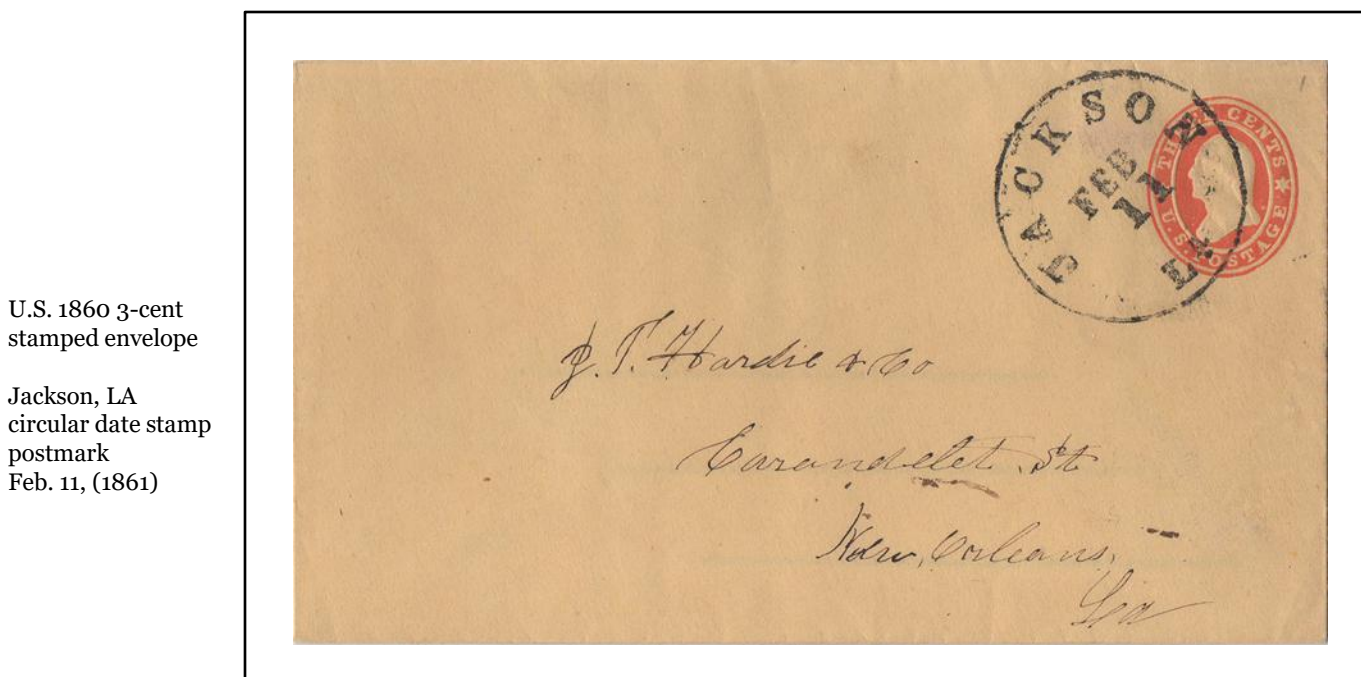


U.S. 1857 3-cent stamp

Baton Rouge, LA
circular date stamp
postmark with grid cancel
on folded letter

Feb. 4, 1861

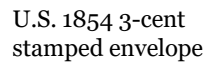
**Postmarked on the
day the C.S.A. was
formed and
Mississippi became a
Confederate state**



U.S. 1860 3-cent
stamped envelope

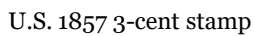
Jackson, LA
circular date stamp
postmark
Feb. 11, (1861)

Confederate with U.S. stamps Feb. 4, 1861 – May 31, 1861



New Orleans, LA
circular date stamp
postmark
Feb. 26, (1861)

Named Steamboat Mail
"B.L. Hodge"
Red River Packet



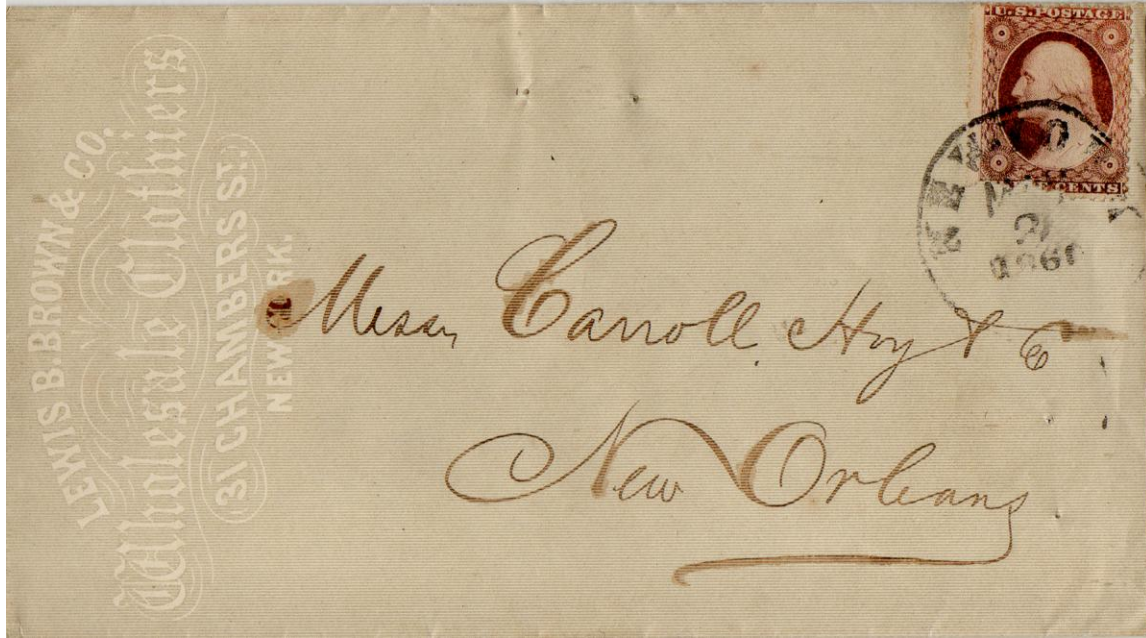
New Orleans, LA
circular date stamp
postmark
Mar. 13, (1861)

Folded Letter, year in dateline

Across the Lines

Louisiana

Confederate with U.S. stamps Feb. 4, 1861 – May 31, 1861



Between North & South

U.S. 1857 3-cent stamp

New York, NY circular date stamp postmark May 3, 1861

Across the Lines NY commercial imprint



U.S. 1854 3-cent stamped envelope

Shreveport, LA double circle date stamp postmark with target cancel May 11, 1861

Mar. 5, 1861

Texas Joins the Confederacy

Confederate with U.S. stamps Mar. 5, 1861 – May 31, 1861

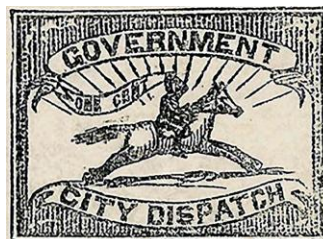
U.S. 1857 3-cent
stamp

Austin, TX double
circle postmark
Mar. 5, 1861

**The Day Texas
Joined the C.S.A.**



Mail was generally only delivered from one post office to another during the period covered. Some larger towns offered delivery service to or from street addresses or local collection points for a fee. The cover above has a Baltimore semi-official carriers stamp for local pick up and delivery to the Baltimore Post Office.

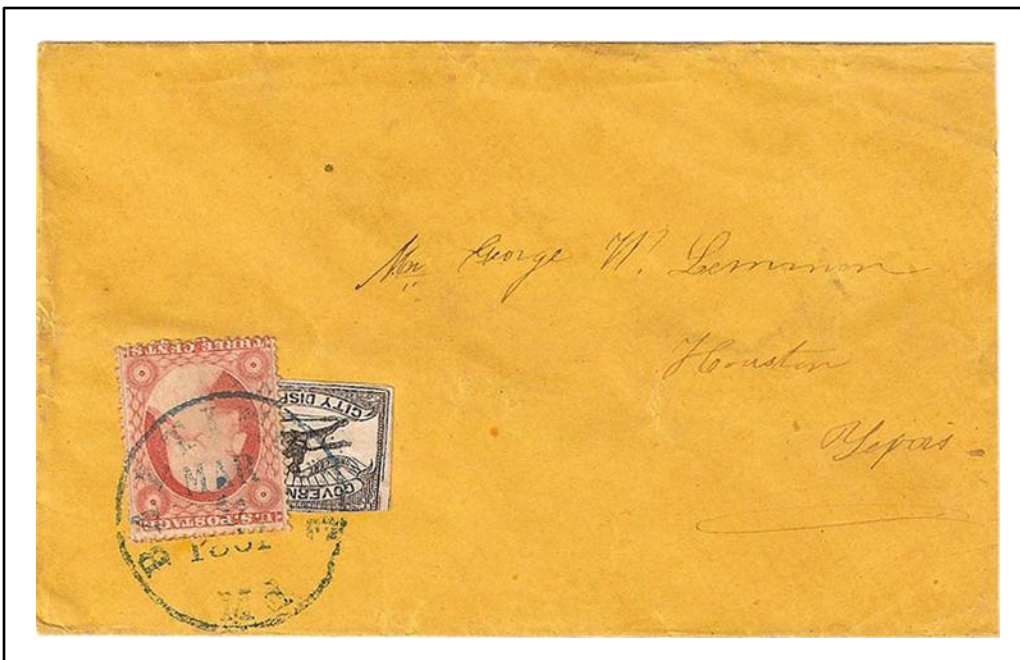


U.S. 3-cent single letter
rate with **Baltimore
1-cent carriers
stamp** (for local
delivery to the Baltimore
Post Office)

US 1857 3-cent stamp

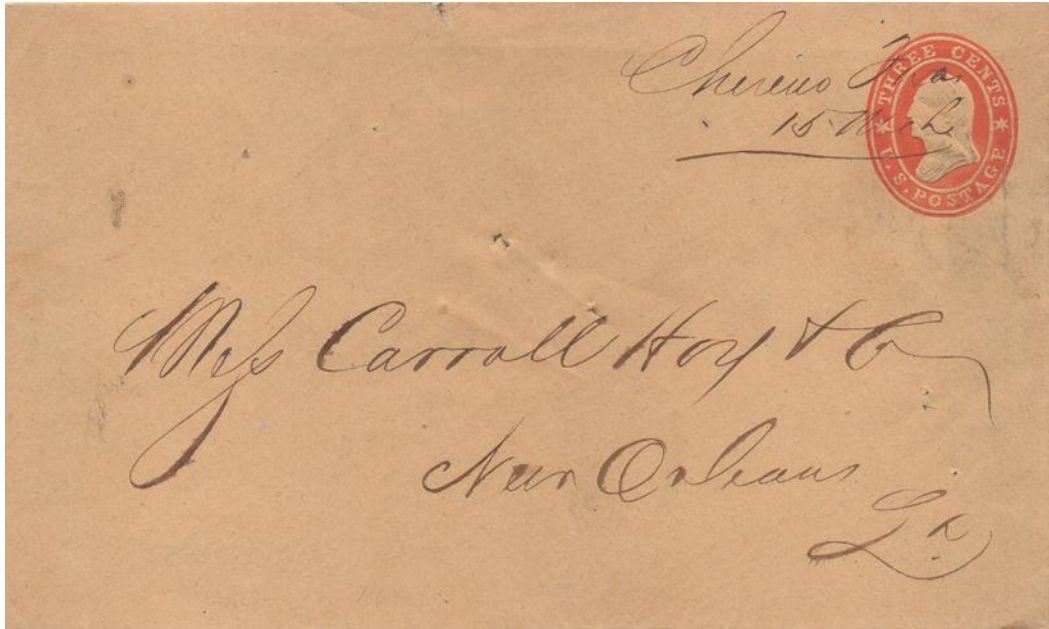
Baltimore, MD
circular date stamp
postmark
Mar. 9, 1861

Across the Lines
(Baltimore to Houston)



Texas

Confederate with U.S. stamps Mar. 5, 1861 – May 31, 1861



U.S. 1860 3-cent
stamped envelope

Cherino, TX
Manuscript postmark
Mar. 15, (1861)



U.S. 1854 3-cent
stamped envelope

Herringtons, TX
Manuscript postmark
Mar. 16, 1861

Texas

Confederate with U.S. stamps Mar. 5, 1861 – May 31, 1861



U.S. 1854 3-cent
stamped envelope

Port Lavaca, TX
circular date stamp
postmark with grid
cancel
Apr. 13, 1861

US 1857 3-cent
stamp

Saint Louis, MO
circular date stamp
postmark
May 12, 1861

Across the Lines



May 7, 1861

Virginia Joins the Confederacy

Confederate with U.S. stamps May 7, 1861 – May 31, 1861

U.S. 1860 3-cent
stamped envelope

Alexandria, VA double
circle postmark
with manuscript "Way"
May 12, 1861

Way Cover – one of four
known used during the
CSA use of U.S. postage
period*.



Way covers were picked up by the mail carrier "along the way", between post offices.



U.S. 1860 3-cent
stamped envelope

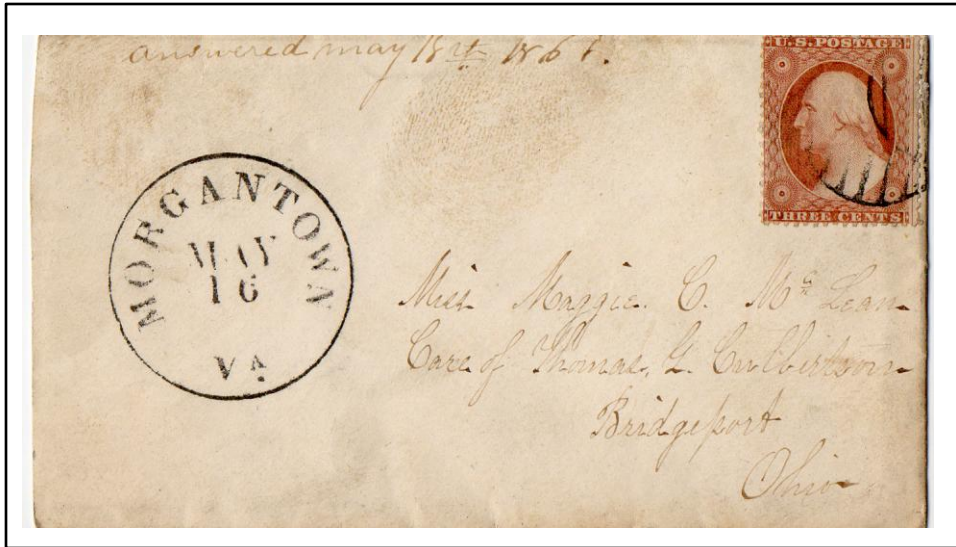
Christiansburg, VA
circular date stamp
postmark with
manuscript date and
grid cancel
May 14, 1861

**Green postmark
and cancel**

*Kaufmann, Patricia A (2019). *Confederate Way Mail.* , 644 pp. 38-44. (Alexandria, VA to University of Virginia)

Virginia

Confederate with U.S. stamps May 7, 1861 – May 31, 1861

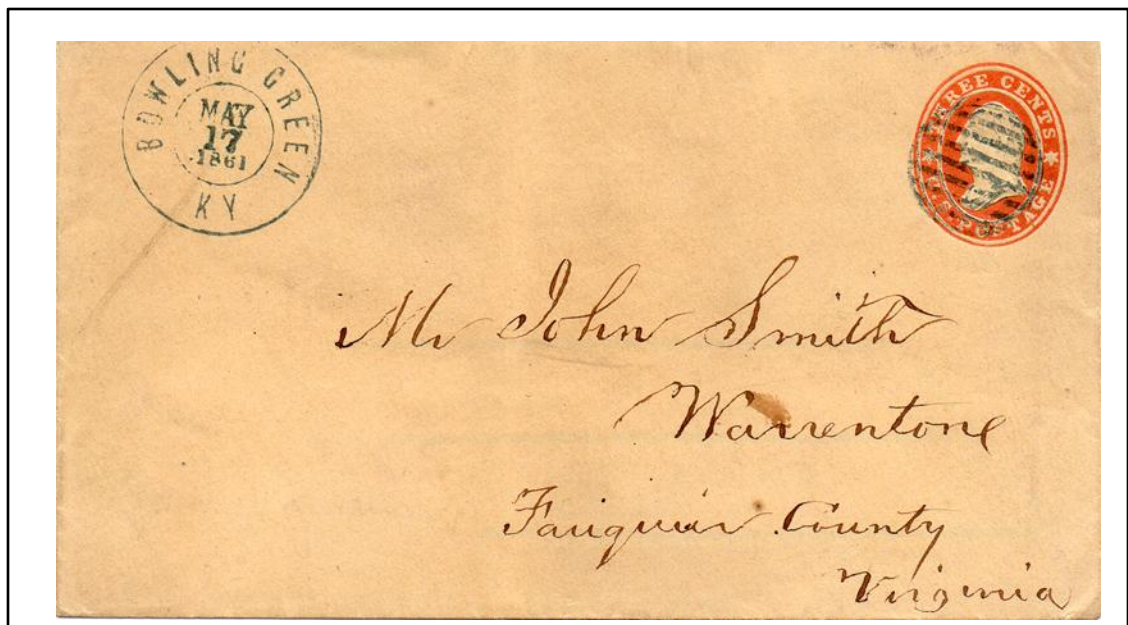


U.S. 1857 3-cent stamp

Morgantown, VA
circular date stamp
postmark and grid cancel
May 16, (1861)
(year in docketing)

Morgantown is in what is
now West Virginia

Western Virginia opposed secession from the U.S. Several of the early battles of the Civil War were over control of this part of Virginia.



Between North and
South

U.S. 1860 3-cent
stamped envelope

Bowling Green, KY
double circle date
stamp postmark
with grid cancel
May 17, 1861

Across the Lines

On May 16, 1861 Kentucky's governor said he would not send troops to fight the South and declared neutrality. It did not last.

Virginia

Confederate with U.S. stamps May 7, 1861 – May 31, 1861



U.S. 1857 3-cent
stamp

Gainesville, VA
circular date stamp
postmark with grid
cancel
May 30, (1861)
(year from
docketing)

**US 1860 1-cent
stamped envelope
with 2 U.S. 1857 1-
cent stamps**

Lexington, VA
circular date stamp
postmark with grid
cancels
May 31, 1861

**Last Day of USPOD
Operations in
Seceded States**

**Only known
combination used
in a seceded state**



May 18, 1861

Arkansas Joins the Confederacy

Confederate with U.S. stamps May 18, 1861 – May 31, 1861



U.S. 1857 3-cent stamp

Marion, OH
circular date stamp
postmark with “Paid 3”
cancel
May 14, (1861)
La Fayette, IN circular
date stamp postmark
May 17, 1861

**Missent to Lafayette,
IN and forwarded on
May 17 to Fayetteville,
AR, a CSA state by
arrival.**

Only thirteen covers with U.S. postage have been recorded used in Confederate Arkansas; seven Star dies, five 3-cent stamps, one Nesbitt and one hand-stamped PAID.

U.S. 1860 3-cent
stamped envelope

Little Rock, AR
Double circle date
stamp postmark
with target cancel
May 24, (1861)

Across the Lines



Arkansas

Confederate with U.S. stamps May 7, 1861 – May 31, 1861

U.S. 1860 3-cent
stamped envelope

Hot Springs, AR
circular date stamp
postmark
May 28, (1861)

7 AR star die covers are
known used in CSA AR
(from 6 Post Offices)



U.S. 1854 3-cent
stamped envelope

Pine Bluff, AR
double circle postmark
May 31, 1861

**Last day for U.S.
Postage in Seceded
States**

**Only known 1854
Nesbitt envelope
used in AR after
secession**



May 27, 1861

North Carolina Joins the Confederacy

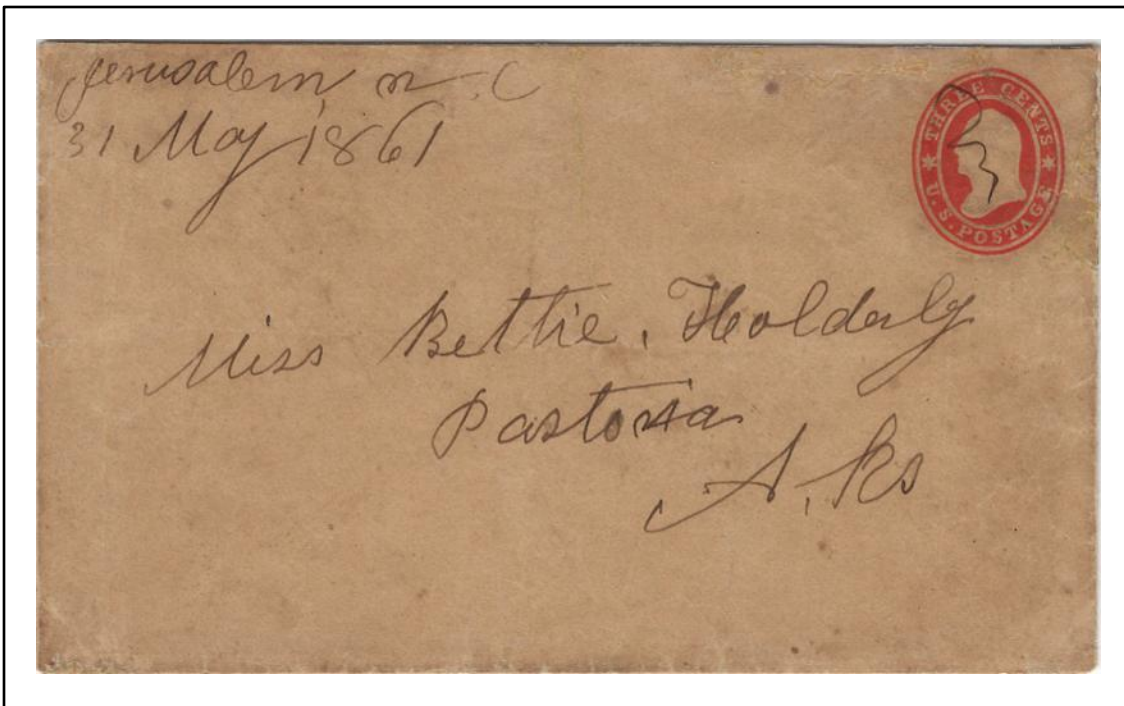
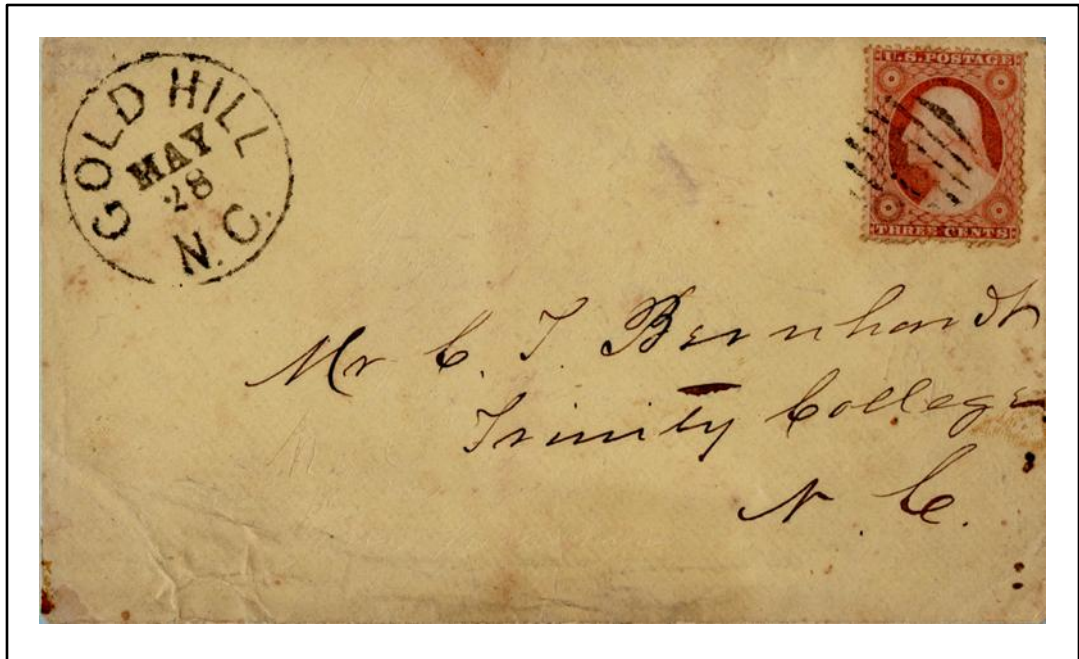
Confederate with U.S. stamps May 27, 1861 – May 31, 1861

U.S. 1857 3-cent stamp

Gold Hill, NC
circular date stamp
postmark with grid
cancel
May 28, (1861)

10 NC CSU covers with
a U.S. 1857 stamp are
known (from 7 NC post
offices)

(year determined from
student records at
Trinity College, now
Duke University)



U.S. 1860 3-cent
stamped envelope

Jerusalem, NC
manuscript
postmark with pen
cancel

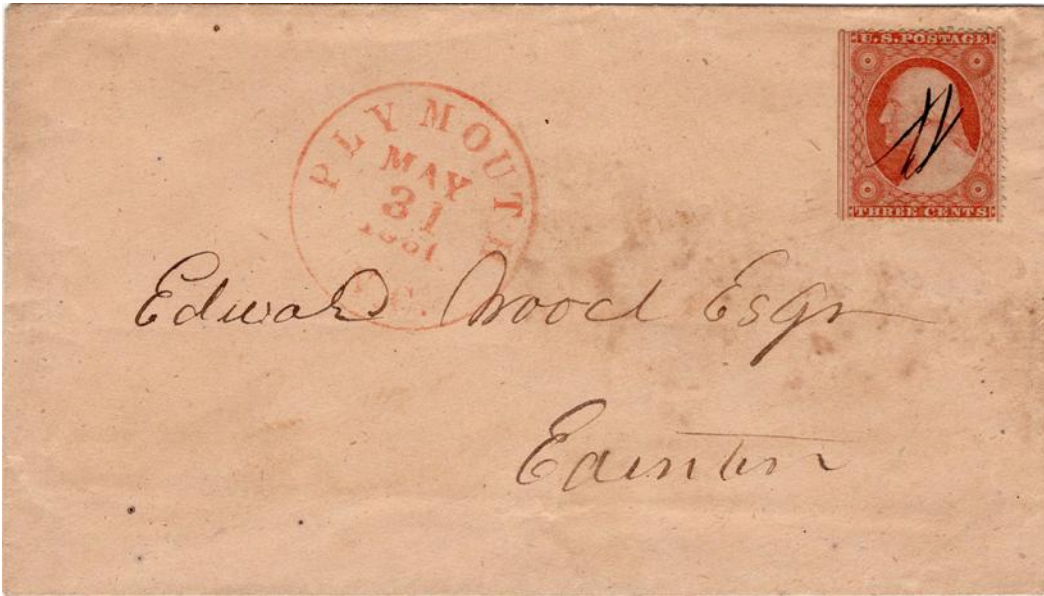
May 31, 1861

**Last Day of
USPOD Mail
Service in
Seceded States**

9 NC Last Day
CSU covers known
from 7 post offices

North Carolina

Confederate with U.S. stamps May 27, 1861 – May 31, 1861



U.S. 1857 3-cent
stamp

Plymouth, NC
circular date stamp
postmark with pen
cancel

May 31, 1861

to Edenton, NC

**Last Day of U.S.
Postal Service in
the Seceded
States**

U.S. 1857 3-cent
stamp

Raleigh, NC
double circle date
stamp postmark
May 31, 1861

to Patterson, NC

**Last Day of U.S.
Postal Service in
the Seceded
States**



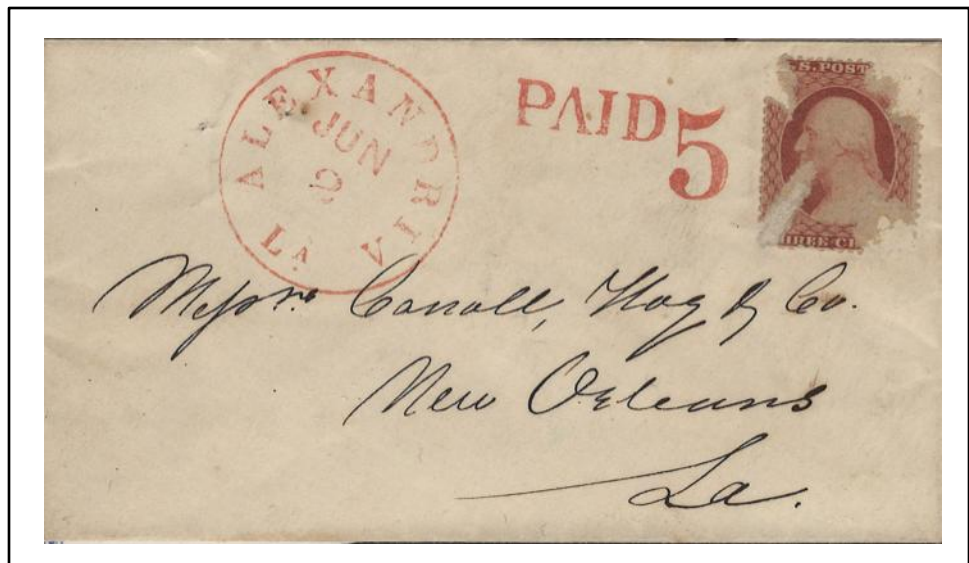
Jun. 1, 1861

The Confederacy Takes Control of Postal Operations

U.S. 1857 3-cent stamp
(removal attempted)
C.S.A. Paid 5

Alexandria, LA
circular date stamp
postmark
June 2, 1861

Confederate Louisiana
After suspension of
USPOD mail service



U.S. stamps were no longer valid in the seceded states beginning June 1, 1861. The Confederate Postmaster at Alexandria, Louisiana attempted to remove the U.S. 3-cent stamp on this cover. The PAID 5 handstamps indicate that the new C.S.A. rate, 5-cents, was paid in cash.