

The Knapsack

Raleigh Civil War Round Table
The same rain falls on both friend and foe.

May 11, 2020
 Our 231st Meeting



Volume 20
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<http://www.raleighcwrt.org>

May 11th Event Cancelled Due to the Novel Coronavirus Pandemic

Our upcoming meeting, scheduled for May 11, 2020, has been cancelled due to the continuing novel coronavirus pandemic. The event was to have featured Freddie Kiger's presentation on [Antietam/Sharpsburg](#). Hopefully, we will be able to reschedule his presentation for a later date.

The June 8th presentation by Hampton Newsome on [The Fight for the Old North State: The Civil War in NC, January-May 1864](#) is currently in limbo. As soon as we have definitive information concerning the June meeting, you will be notified three different ways: by an update on the Raleigh CWRT's website (<http://www.raleighcwrt.org>), by an announcement in the monthly Knapsack newsletter, and by email.

Please continue to follow the medical and governmental guidelines of social distancing.

Current Status of the Coronavirus Pandemic

As of a month ago, 03-31-2020, there were over 184,343 reported cases and 3,796 reported deaths in the U.S. caused by the novel coronavirus. Those figures, as of 05-03-2020, have increased to 1,134,673 reported cases and 66,430 reported deaths, respectively. Notice the "reported" qualifier. There are indications that these totals may be undervalued by up to 60% due to unaccounted for asymptomatic cases, the percent of test kits found to be unreliable, and the limited percent of the population to have been tested.

Compared to the current world-wide reported totals of 3,462,682 cases and 244,320 deaths, the U.S. has 33% of all reported cases and 27% of all reported deaths. The number of new cases reported daily in New York City, the U.S.'s hardest hit metropolitan area, has begun to trend lower, indicating that social distancing is working. This has led some states, e.g., Georgia, to begin relaxing the rules of social distancing as of 04-27-2020. It remains to be seen whether this decision was premature.

Cost of Household Staples in 1864 vs. 2019

In 1864, at the height of Union costs during the Civil War, the following shows the average cost for dietary staples:

Item	1864 Cost (\$)	Equivalent Cost In 2019 (\$) Due to Inflation	Actual 2019 Cost (\$)	Unit
Bacon	0.20	5.87	5.47	per lb
Beef	0.30	8.80	3.81	per lb
Ham	0.28	8.21	4.07	per lb
Mutton	0.20	5.87	3.31	per lb
Lard	0.25	7.33	11.99	per lb
Prunes	0.25	7.33	4.00	per lb
Dried apples	0.20	5.87	8.29	per lb
Eggs	0.50	14.67	1.54	per doz
Milk	0.40	11.73	3.45	per gal
Rice	0.12	3.52	0.71	per lb
Molasses	0.70	20.53	6.49	per gal
White potatoes	1.60	46.93	10.00	per barrel
Cheese	0.30	8.80	5.36	per lb
Butter	0.50	14.67	3.76	per lb
Coffee	0.50	14.67	13.00	per lb
Sugar	0.35	10.27	0.62	per lb
Anthracite coal	11.00	322.63	150.00	per ton
Soft coal	12.50	366.63	36.00	per ton
Thread	0.20	5.87	10.00	per spool
Cotton sheeting	0.57	16.72	10.00	per yard
Brussels carpet	3.50	102.66	30.00	per yard
Shoes	2.25	65.99	75.00	per pair

KEY:	 	1864 Cost is Slightly Lower
	 	2019 Cost is Significantly Lower

History of Postage Stamps Issued During the American Civil War

By Bob Graesser, Editor

Part 1 of 5: Colonial Beginning of Postal Service

What did Aristotle (384 BC-322 BC), Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519), Galileo Galilei (1564-1642), and Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790) have in common? They were all polymaths, i.e., persons with a wide range of knowledge spanning a number of diverse subjects. Each was able to integrate their disparate knowledge and bring it to bear on solving complex problems.

Benjamin Franklin, for example, was a leading writer, printer, publisher, political philosopher, politician, Freemason, scientist, inventor, humorist, civic activist, statesman, diplomat, and postmaster.

Regarding that last-mentioned position, Franklin was appointed postmaster of Philadelphia in 1737 at the age of 31. In 1753, he and Colonel William Hunter of Virginia were appointed Postmasters General of the Colonies. It was Franklin who then established new regulations, putting into practice mail delivery by carriers instead of hav-



The seated statue of Benjamin Franklin sat in front of the Philadelphia Post Office from 1899 until 1939 when it was relocated to the University of Pennsylvania's Philadelphia campus upon the demolition of the Post Office building. The inscription on its plaque quotes President George Washington's eulogy of Franklin:

**BENJAMIN FRANKLIN
1706-1790
VENERATED
FOR BENEVOLENCE
ADMIRER FOR TALENTS
ESTEEMED FOR PATRIOTISM
BELOVED FOR
PHILANTHROPY
WASHINGTON**

ing potential mail recipients come to a centralized post office to inquire after any mail they may have had waiting for them.

Franklin announced in 1755 a change in the practice of sending mail from Philadelphia to Boston once every two weeks during the winter season. Henceforth, the mail between the two cities would go out once a week the year round. This meant that winter round trips of correspondence were halved to three weeks instead of six weeks. Likewise, in 1774, round trip delivery of mail between Philadelphia and Baltimore was reduced to five days.

By 1774, Franklin had been Postmaster General for twenty-one years. During that time he had transformed the Colonial post from a losing investment into a source of revenue for the British Royal government. It was at this time, with relations between the colonies and Britain strained to the breaking point, that Franklin was dismissed from his position.

A year later, in 1775, the Revolution was on and the Second Continental Congress, meeting in Philadelphia, unanimously appointed Franklin as Postmaster General. Just a year later, in 1776, Franklin became diplomatic Commissioner to France and relocated across the Atlantic, thus ending his services in postal affairs.

Part 2 of 5: Invention of the Adhesive Postage Stamp

Prior to the invention of the adhesive postage stamp, letters and packages were paid for in cash. To complete the transaction, the postal clerk or postmaster would then indicate "Paid" on the item, writing in pen and ink or using various hand-stamping devices.



It is generally agreed that the idea of the pre-purchased adhesive postage stamp that we are familiar with today was first put forth by Rowland Hill, an English teacher, inventor and postal reformer. He is rightly referred to as the Father of the Postage Stamp. His proposal was submitted in a letter to the then Chancellor of the Exchequer, Thomas Spring-Rice, on January 4, 1837. The letter included the statement "...by using a bit of paper just large enough to bear the stamp, and covered at the back with a glutinous wash...". After some revisions, a booklet codifying his proposal was published and made available to the general public on February 22, 1837.

The first issued adhesive postage stamp in the world began with Great Britain's Penny Post, designed by Rowland Hill, himself. On May 6, 1840, the British Penny Black stamp was released. The Penny Black contained the engraved profile of Queen Victoria's head, which remained on all British



stamps for the next 60 years until her death on January 22, 1901.

The most recent sale of a Penny Black Stamp occurred in 2011 for \$560,000, valued at \$716,986 in 2020 based on inflation.

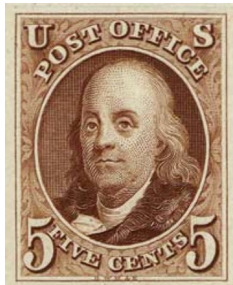
Although the official release date of the Penny Black was May 6, 1840, several cities jumped the gun and released their stock on May 2. Only two of these early issues exist and one of them is alleged to have sold for \$5 million in 2010, earning the title "second most valuable stamp in the world!"



The Penny Black Stamp was only used for one year because the red cancellation mark was hard to spot on its black background. As a result of this, in 1841 the stamp was reprinted as a red stamp so that the black cancellation marks were easier to see and harder to remove.

Part 3 of 5: Initial U.S. Adhesive Postage Stamps

It took seven years for the United States to follow Great Britain's lead. In 1847, the U.S. issued its first two adhesive postage stamps. In honor of Benjamin Franklin's role in establishing many advances in the Colonial mail service, it is his portrait that appears on the very first U.S. stamp, a red brown 5¢ denomination. The other stamp issued in 1847 was a black 10¢ denomination bearing George Washington's visage in honor of his role as military leader of the American Revolution and his two terms as the first U.S. President. Both of these stamps were imperforate, meaning that single stamps had to be cut, not torn, from a sheet of stamps.



US #1
1847
Benjamin Franklin
5¢ Red Brown



US #2
1847
George Washington
10¢ Black

While the Franklin stamp (US #1) uses the Arabic numeral "5", note the Washington stamp (US #2) uses the Roman numeral "X" to indicate "10". This was probably done out of space considerations. The stamp numbering system, e.g., "US #1", was developed for a stamp catalogue first published in 1868 by John Walter Scott, an early stamp dealer in New York and owner of Scott Publishing Company. The "Scott" stamp numbering system is still in use as the primary numbering system among stamp collectors in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico.

Part 4 of 5:

U.S. Postage Stamps Issued During the American Civil War (1861-1865)

In late 1860 and early 1861, eleven Southern states left the Union and formed the Confederate States of America. This was in response to the election of Abraham Lincoln, whom the South believed would abolish slavery.

Initially, a number of Federal properties (military installations, post offices, and customs houses), including Fort Sumter in South Carolina's Charleston harbor and Fort Pickens at the mouth of Florida's Pensacola Bay, remained in Union hands. One-by-one, the commanders of the other Federal outposts were convinced to relinquish their posts to Southern forces. Finally, only Fort Sumter and Fort Pickens held out.

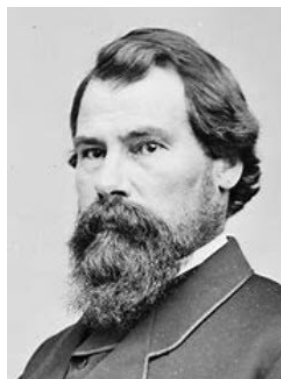
Fort Sumter was commanded by Major Robert Anderson. His garrison totaled only 85 men; even so, this represented 10 percent of the entire U.S. Army strength east of the Mississippi River! On the other hand, although the fort's construction was still incomplete and had only a few operational cannons for defense, its walls were anywhere from 8 to 12 feet thick, making it the most formidable defensive position in the Western Hemisphere!

As for Fort Pickens, its location put it out of range of Confederate cannon and it remained in Union hands throughout the war.

On January 9, 1861, several months before Abraham Lincoln was to take office as the 16th President, lame duck President James Buchanan attempted to resupply Fort Sumter with troops and supplies. Trying not to provoke the Confederates surrounding Charleston Harbor, a Union civilian merchant ship, the *Star of the West*, attempted to enter the harbor. The South retaliated with cannon fire, driving off the supply ship undamaged.

The newly constituted Confederacy, concerned that the Federal Government would use the postal system to spread anti-Southern propaganda, established its own Post Office Department in February 1861, two months before the start of the war.

Lincoln took his oath of office on March 4th. Two days later, Jefferson Davis appointed former U.S. Congressman John Henninger Reagan as Confederate Postmaster General.



Reagan immediately sent job offers to southern men and men of southern leanings in the Federal Post Office Department in Washington, DC, and was successful in recruiting many of them. In returning to the South, they brought along their expertise, as well as postal reports, forms, postal maps, and other supplies. (Continued on page 4, col. B.)

Montgomery Blair & Blair House

Montgomery Blair (1813-1883) was a native of Kentucky. His father, Francis Preston Blair, Sr., was editor and publisher of the *Washington Globe* newspaper, a prominent figure in the Democratic Party, and an influential advisor to President Andrew Jackson.

Graduating from West Point, Montgomery Blair then studied law and set up a practice in St. Louis, MO. In 1852, he moved his practice to Maryland where he practiced law mainly before the U.S. Supreme Court. In fact, it was he who represented Dred Scott before the Supreme Court in Scott's bid for freedom in 1857.



As an abolitionist, Blair became involved in politics and was a founding member of the Republican Party. He was very active in Abraham Lincoln's 1860 campaign. Consequently, Lincoln invited him to join his cabinet as Postmaster General. Blair served in this role from March 5, 1861 to September 24, 1864.

While Postmaster General, Blair instituted a uniform rate of postage and free delivery in cities. He also began the sale of money orders by post offices and established the use of railway mail cars. Finally, he organized the First International Postal Conference, held in Paris, France. A bit of trivia: he was the great-grandfather of actor Montgomery Clift.

Blair House, the oldest of four structures that comprise the President's Guest House is located a block from the White House. Built in 1824, it was acquired by Montgomery Blair's father in 1836. As Postmaster General, Montgomery Blair resided in the Blair House. Two events of significance during the Civil War occurred in Blair House. On April 18, 1861, less than a week following the firing on Fort Sumter, it was here that Blair relayed to Robert E. Lee Lincoln's offer to make Lee the commander of all U.S. forces. Later in 1861, it was at a conference here that a decision was made to name Admiral David Farragut as commander of the subsequently successful assault on New Orleans.

In 1939, Blair House became the first building to acquire a federally recognized landmark designation. In 1943, it was sold to the U.S. government. This move was prompted by First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt who, after a stay in the White House by Winston Churchill, found his casual familiarity to be off-putting. From then on, the Blair House has served as the President's



Blair House, circa 1919

Finally, while Harry Truman was President, the White House was being remodeled so he and his family



Blair House, circa 2006

spent much of his presidency residing at Blair House. It was here, on Nov. 1, 1950, that two Puerto Rican nationalists unsuccessfully attempted to assassinate Truman. Both men were stopped before gaining entry to the house. One of the attackers mortally wounded White House Police officer Leslie Coffelt, who killed the attacker in return fire. Secret Service agents wounded the second attacker. President Truman was upstairs in the house and not harmed.

By April, Major Anderson and his garrison were critically low on food. Knowing that Lincoln had sent another supply ship with food and medical necessities but no troops, the South forced the issue by demanding Anderson's surrender on April 11th. He refused, but indicated that he would give up the Fort voluntarily when the garrison ran out of food on April 15th.

Meanwhile, Confederate President Jefferson Davis, deciding that the legitimacy of the Confederacy was at stake, ordered General P.G.T. Beauregard to resist any efforts to resupply Fort Sumter. Having given Major Anderson a final ultimatum, which was refused, Beauregard ordered his troops to attack.



Cannon fire erupted on the Fort at 4:30 am on April 12, 1861, thus triggering the beginning of the Civil War.



On April 13, 1861, the day after the firing on Fort Sumter, Confederate Postmaster General Reagan ordered local postmasters to return their U.S. stamps to Washington D.C. (although it is unlikely that many did so).

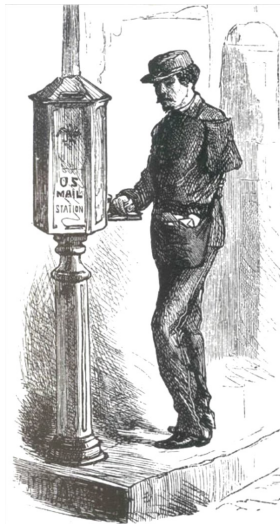
Less than two months after the attack on Fort Sumter, the United States discontinued postal services to the South on June 1, 1861. However, numerous stamps worth more than \$200,000 (\$5.9 million in 2020 terms) were still in the hands of postmasters of seceding states. Fearing that these stamps would be sent to the North and sold (thus providing much-needed currency for the Confederate states), the United States Postmaster General, Montgomery Blair, first sent a proclamation to all Southern postmasters, requesting that any existing stock be returned to Washington. When this order was largely ignored, he had the U.S. Post Office issue newly designed stamps to U.S. postmasters and had the old ones demonetized, i.e., rendered without value, both North and South.

The new 1861 stamps were sent to post offices throughout the North in mid-August, along with an announcement in local newspapers that, for a period of six days, unused stamps of the old design could be freely exchanged for the newly designed ones. The postmasters were instructed that, after that, the old stamps were no longer to be accepted as postage. However, the time limit was stretched in some cases to accommodate customers. For instance, in New York City, customers were given about six weeks to exchange their postage stamps.

While the designs and colors of the new issues differed from the old ones, the U.S. Postal Service wanted to be certain there would be no confusion between the two. They felt a change that could be easily recognized was necessary, and so the 1861 issues have the values expressed in Arabic numerals instead of letters.

As an exercise in economics, let's compare postage costs in 1861 vs. 2020. In 1861, the cost of mailing a half-ounce letter up to 3,000 miles by the U.S. Post Office Department was 3¢ (88¢ in 2020 dollars). On June 1, 1861, the Confederate Post Office began charging 5¢ (\$1.47 in 2011 dollars) for mailing half-ounce letters up to 500 miles. In 2020, the First Class letter (1 oz.) rate for postage purchased at the Postal Service is 55¢. So, adjusting for inflation, and comparing on an ounce-to-ounce basis, today's cost to mail a one ounce letter is about 69% cheaper [1 - (55 / (2 x 88))] than in 1861. Despite the fact that the two rates, 1861 vs. 2020, are within an order of magnitude of each other, today's mail arrives at its destination in a fraction of the time.

In the North, postal carriers walked about 22 miles per day, seven days per week, and were paid an average annual wage of \$670 (\$19,651 in 2020 terms). In the South, postal workers worked three times per week and were paid an average annual wage of \$720 per year (\$21,118 in 2020 terms).



As the Union began rolling out the newly-designed postage stamps in mid-August 1861, it also banned the exchange of mail between citizens of the North and South. Despite this, mail continued to move back and forth. For example, smugglers often carried mail illegally across the lines. Prisoner-of-war mail was exchanged between North and South at designated points under a flag-of-truce. Citizens also sent letters via the flag-of-truce system, although like prisoners' mail, their letters were read by censors and rejected or confiscated if the contents were deemed a security risk.

Having set the stage, let us now turn our attention to the actual postage stamps issued by both the Union and the Confederacy during the Civil War.

U.S. Series of 1861-62—Second Designs

The U.S. series of 1861-62 contains the oldest U.S. stamps still valid for postage, if uncanceled. This is true for all subsequent U.S. stamps as well. The Series of 1861-62 consists of redesigns of earlier stamps that were now considered to be demonetized. As in the case of the 1847 series, the stamp honoring Franklin came first, followed by one honoring Washington:



US #63
Series 1861-62 (1861)
Benjamin Franklin
1¢ Blue



US #64
Series 1861-62 (1861)
George Washington
3¢ Pink

The 1¢ Franklin stamp of 1861 (US #63) was issued to meet the need for drop letters, newspapers, circulars, etc., and to pay the carrier's fee. A drop letter is one where the sender and the recipient share the same local Post Office.

The 3¢ Washington stamp (US #64) covered the domestic First-Class letter rate. This stamp was the most frequently used of the U.S. Series of 1861-62. Like many other denominations, this stamp had variations based on color.

An identical-looking 3¢ Washington stamp (US #65) is shown below. It was given a different identification number because its color is in a different family, i.e., rose. This 3¢ rose stamp was the true workhorse of the Civil War, with 1.8 billion stamps being printed.



US #65
Series 1861-62 (1861)
George Washington
3¢ Rose



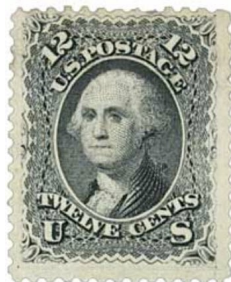
US #67
Series 1861-62 (1861)
Thomas Jefferson
5¢ Buff

During the Civil War, there was an overall increase in volume of mail as soldiers and their families communicated with each other. Whereas the normal 1861 first class postal rate was 3¢, the 1861 5¢ Jefferson stamp (US #67), while also covering the 3¢ first class rate cost, also had a 2¢ registration fee built in. The registration fee provided the sender proof of mailing via a mailing receipt. Today, the equivalent term is called “certified”. What may be confusing is that today we also have the term “registered”, which includes the features of “certified” but also provides end-to-end security in locked containers.

The next two stamps in the series honored George Washington again but, instead of a bust’s profile view, were each a 3/4 view based on the familiar Gilbert Stuart painting whose image also appears on today’s \$1 bill:



US #68
Series 1861-62 (1861)
George Washington
10¢ Rose



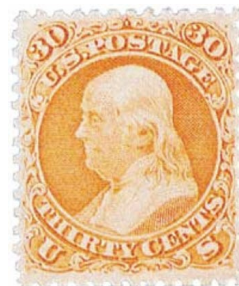
US #69
Series 1861-62 (1861)
George Washington
12¢ Buff

The 10¢ Washington stamp (US #68) satisfied the domestic first class letter rate for letters sent more than 3,000 miles. On May 1, 1861, the rate was 3¢ if the letter’s destination was east of the Rocky Mountains and 10¢ if it crossed them, regardless of the distance.

The 12¢ Washington stamp (US #69) was primarily for territorial use to Hawaii. It paid four times the domestic rate and was commonly used in combination with other stamps to pay a higher rate.



US #70
Series 1861-62 (1861)
George Washington
24¢ Grayish Lilac



US #71
Series 1861-62 (1861)
Benjamin Franklin
30¢ Orange

The 24¢ Washington stamp (US #70) was used to pay the treaty rate for mail bound to England. The 30¢ Franklin stamp (US #71) was used to pay the double-letter rate to France and Germany.



US #72
Series 1861-62 (1861)
George Washington
90¢ Blue

The 90¢ Washington stamp (US #72) is very rare, with only 62 known to still be in existence. This stamp was used to pay the cost of multiple rates of sending letters to China, for instance. Only one used 1861 90¢ stamp used domestically within the U.S. is known to exist.

U.S. Series of 1861-66

In July 1863, Postmaster General Blair rolled out a number of improvements: U.S. postage rates were simplified, distance-based letter rates were eliminated, and all letters were given the same lowest rate.

That same month, free home delivery of mail was introduced in the nation’s 49 largest cities. This practice gradually extended to all U.S. cities and towns over the next decade. People living in rural areas, however, would have to wait for the passage of the Rural Free Delivery Act in 1896.

As part of the July overhaul, Congress established a prepaid rate of 2¢ for drop letters. This accommodated people living in small towns without free delivery. A sender drops off the letter at the local post office, pre-paying for the 2¢ stamp. This method required that the recipient use the same local post office and check in to take delivery of the letter there.

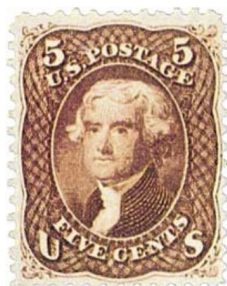
Normally, a first class letter in 1863 would cost 3¢. The penny reduction represents the time saved in having the recipient pick up the letter rather than having it delivered to their door. The new 2¢ stamp that was introduced at this time (US #73) pictured Andrew Jackson,

our 7th President. Because the stamp was black, it was nicknamed “Black Jack” and is one of the most popular U.S. issues. The design is unusual in that a full face portrait takes up all but a small portion of the stamp. Because of this, collectors also refer to this stamp as “Big Head.” Interestingly, as we shall see on page 8, the 1863 Confederate 2¢ stamp (CSA #3) not only features Andrew Jackson, but also uses the portrait taken from the same painting.

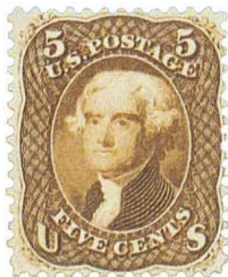


US #73
Series 1861-66 (1863)
Andrew Jackson
2¢ Black

The 2¢ Jackson was also used for a new third-class rate for newspapers, periodicals and a wide variety of other mail matters.

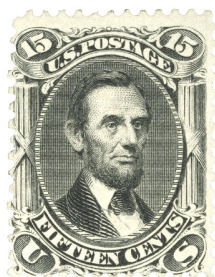


US #75
Series 1861-66 (1862)
Thomas Jefferson
5¢ Red Brown



US #76
Series 1861-66 (1863)
Thomas Jefferson
5¢ Brown

The two 5¢ Jefferson stamps shown above (US #75, US #76) were most often used in multiples or in combination with other stamps on mail to foreign destinations. Alone, these stamps were used on mailed sent India, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, the Bahamas, Holland, and Spain. There was no domestic 5¢ rate.



US #77
Series 1861-66 (1866)
Abraham Lincoln
15¢ Black

The above 15¢ stamp (US #77) was issued one year after Lincoln’s assassination to honor his memory, thus becoming the U.S.’s first memorial/commemorative

stamp. It was used to pay the postal rate to France and Germany.



US #78
Series 1861-66 (1863)
George Washington
24¢ Lilac (Gray)

The above 24¢ Washington stamp (US #78), like its 1862 counterpart (US #70), was used to pay the treaty rate for mail bound to England. Its color is a darker lilac than that of US #70.

Part 5 of 5: Confederate Postage Stamps Issued During the American Civil War (1861-1865)

The Confederate Post Office was established on February 21, 1861. John Henninger Reagan was named Confederate Postmaster General on March 6, 1861. (Coincidentally, he was also fated to die on March 6th exactly 44 years later in 1905.) Reagan had been a U.S. Representative from Texas prior to the Civil War. He was one of only three members of Jefferson Davis’s original war cabinet to serve throughout the entire war, the other two being Vice President Alexander H. Stephens and Secretary of the Navy Stephen Mallory.

Like his counterpart, Union Postmaster General Montgomery Blair, Reagan was an able administrator. He presided over the only Confederate cabinet department that was described as having functioned well during the war, actually making a profit.

During the first seven weeks of the Civil War, the US Post Office still delivered mail from the seceded states. But on June 1, 1861, the U.S. declared all of its stamps invalid, so the South was forced to supply its own stamps. Compounding this problem, the South didn’t have proper printing facilities.

How was the lack of postage handled in the Confederacy during the nearly five month period from June 1, when existing U.S. stamps were no longer accepted, until mid-October when Confederate stamps were first issued? Three methods were employed by Southern postmasters: the use of “appropriated” United States postal stationery, the issuance of interim “provisional” stamps of their own devising, and hand-stamping a letter “Paid” upon receipt of the cash equivalent for a given delivery rate.

The Confederate Post Office contracted with five different printers to produce postage stamps: Archer & Daly of Richmond, VA; Hoyer & Ludwig of Richmond, VA;

J. T. Paterson & Co. of Augusta, GA; Thomas de la Rue & Co., Ltd., of London, England; and Keating & Ball of Columbia, SC. Among them, these firms employed all three methods of printing commonly in use at that time: stone lithography, line engraving, and typography.

Stone lithography is a time-consuming process involving a hand press and the use of a grease-based medium on a stone surface. When ink is applied, the natural reaction between grease and water creates the printing pattern. This is a fairly primitive and slow way to produce stamps: only 200-480 sheets of stamps could be printed each day. However, this method was immediately available when the Confederacy came into being. That's why stone lithography was initially used for the first five Confederate postage stamp issues.

Line engraving (known as the "intaglio" method) involves carving (etching) into a plate of a hard substance such as copper or zinc. Afterward ink is rubbed into the carved areas and away from the flat surface. Moistened paper is placed over the plate and both are run through the rollers of a press. The pressure exerted by the press on the paper pushes it into the engraved lines and prints the image made by those lines. In this method of printing, the engraved lines print in the color of the applied ink.

Typography, or "letterpress" as it is called today, is the reverse of engraving. Rather than having recessed areas trap the ink and deposit it on paper, only the raised areas of the design are inked.

As mentioned, the first Confederate postage stamps were issued on Oct. 16, 1861. During the course of the Civil War, the Confederacy issued a total of 14 postage stamps of 9 distinct types, almost all of which were imperforate, meaning single stamps had to be cut, not torn, from the rest of the sheet.

Since the Confederacy shared a common history with the Union, it is entirely understandable that it revered many of the same early U.S. patriots: George Washington as the father of his country, Thomas Jefferson as the author of the document breaking away from the mother country, and Andrew Jackson as it was his supporters who formed the Democratic party.

These three were depicted on five of the fourteen stamps issued. To no surprise, Confederate stamps also honored the first President of the Confederacy, Jefferson Davis, whose countenance appears on eight out of the fourteen stamps issued!



CSA #1
Lithography (1861)
Jefferson Davis
5¢ Green

The Jefferson Davis 5¢ Green (CSA #1) was created for prepaying the single letter rate. It was the first stamp issued by the Confederacy and is the only U.S. stamp to feature a sitting American President (or any living person)! Davis posed for a special photograph which was then used as the template to create the stamp. Issued in October 1861, it was lithographed by Hoyer & Ludwig and printed in several shades from light green to olive green in sheets of 200 imperforate stamps.



CSA #2
Lithography (1861)
Thomas Jefferson
10¢ Blue



CSA #3
Lithography (1862)
Andrew Jackson
2¢ Green

The 10¢ Thomas Jefferson stamp (CSA #2) was created for payment of double-weight letters. It was lithographed by two companies, Hoyer & Ludwig, and J.T. Paterson & Co. The Hoyer stamps were first issued in November 1861 while the Paterson stamps followed in July 1862. Both companies printed sheets of 200 stamps in blue ink.

The 2¢ Andrew Jackson stamp (CSA #3) was created for use with drop letters and circulars. Strips of five were sometimes used to pay the 10¢ letter rate, which increased from 5¢ on July 1, 1862. It was lithographed by Hoyer & Ludwig and first issued in March 1862. The color ranged from yellow green to dark green in sheets of 200 stamps.



CSA #4
Lithography (1862)
Jefferson Davis
5¢ Blue

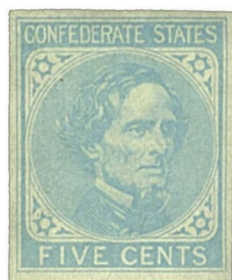


CSA #5
Lithography (1862)
Thomas Jefferson
10¢ Rose

Because the Andrew Jackson 2¢ denomination issued in 1862 was green, the green 1861 Jefferson Davis 5¢ (CSA #4) stamp was changed to blue in its 1862 incarnation to avoid confusion. It was lithographed by Hoyer & Ludwig, using a new stone. The color ranged from light milky-blue to dark blue in sheets of 200 stamps.

Likewise, having changed the 5¢ Jefferson Davis stamp to blue in 1862, the 10¢ Thomas Jefferson stamp (CSA #5) was changed from blue to rose in 1862, again to avoid confusion. It was lithographed by Hoyer & Lud-

wig, using one of the stones previously used for the 10¢ stamp from the 1861 issue. The color ranged from pale rose to carmine rose, supposedly printed in sheets of 200 stamps.



CSA #6
 Typography (1862)
 Jefferson Davis
 5¢ Blue

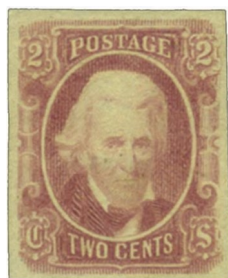


CSA #7
 Typography (1862)
 Jefferson Davis
 5¢ Blue

In 1862, a 5¢ Jefferson Davis stamp was typographed by Thomas De LaRue & Co. of London, England, under contract to the Confederacy. This produced a stamp of much higher quality compared to the lithography method. The stamps were printed in a uniform light blue in sheets of 400 stamps. A large number of sheets were printed and sent to the Confederacy, along with the steel plates used in the printing process. In attempting to run the Union blockade, the ship was captured and its contraband contents were destroyed.

Undeterred, Thomas De LaRue & Co. made a new set of electrotype steel plates. Again, a large number of additional sheets of the 5¢ stamp were printed. The new plates, the sheets of stamps, a printing press, and high quality ink and paper were put on a new blockade runner. This time, the shipment from London arrived safely in Richmond. The earliest date of use of this stamp issue (CSA #6) was April 16, 1862.

In Richmond, Archer & Daly took over the plates, printing press, paper and ink and continued the typographical printing of the blue 5¢ Jefferson Davis issue. This batch is designated CSA #7. Unlike the stamps produced in London, the new stamps were of lesser quality. The impressions were coarse and the color varied widely from light blue to very deep blue. The stamp was first issued on July 25, 1862, shortly after the rate increase for mailing a letter on July 1, 1862. Thus, this stamp was often used in pairs to pay the new 10¢ letter rate.



CSA #8
 Line engraving (1863)
 Andrew Jackson
 2¢ Brown Red

In 1863, Archer & Daly modified the 2¢ Andrew Jackson "Black Jack" design to produce a new 2¢ stamp colored

brown red and nicknamed "Red Jack" (CSA #8). This was done by line engraving on steel and then transferring this design to a steel die. This was the first line engraved stamp issued by the Confederacy. Line engraving ("intaglio") would be employed in creating the plates for all subsequent Confederate stamps. The "Red Jack" stamp was issued in May 1863 to prepay the drop letter and circular rate. Strips of five were used to prepay the 10¢ letter rate.



CSA #9
 Line engraving (1863)
 Jefferson Davis
 10¢ Blue



CSA #10
 Line engraving (1863)
 Jefferson Davis
 10¢ Blue

In early 1863, Archer & Daly were contracted to print four 10¢ stamp issues using the intaglio method in response to the new 10¢ letter rate established in mid-1862. The first issue was the 10¢ Jefferson Davis stamp (CSA #9), created using a copper plate. The denomination was spelled out as "TEN". The stamps came in two shades: milky-blue and a dull grayish blue. They were produced in sheets of 200 stamps, with their earliest recorded usage being April 23, 1863.

The second 10¢ Jefferson Davis stamp (CSA #10) differs from CSA #9 in that the denomination is expressed in Arabic numerals, i.e., "10". In addition, a rectangular frame-line has been added. This is the only Confederate stamp with such a frame-line. It is the rarest and, thus, most valuable of all Confederate general issue stamps, both in used and unused condition. Not only that, but copies of this stamp showing complete frame-lines on all four sides are extremely rare. Sheets of 100 stamps were printed from a copper plate. The stamp came in two shades: light milky-blue and dark blue. Their earliest recorded usage is also April 23, 1863.



CSA #11-AD
 Line-engraving, Die A (1863)
 Jefferson Davis
 10¢ Blue



CSA #12-AD
 Line-engraving, Die B (1863)
 Jefferson Davis
 10¢ Blue

The third and fourth 10¢ Jefferson Davis stamp issues were produced by two different firms: Archer & Daly (AD) in 1863 and, when their contract was not renewed, Keating & Ball (KB) in 1864.

In April 1863, Archer & Daly produced a third 10¢ Jefferson Davis stamp in blue (CSA #11-AD). The steel plate used for its printing had also been used for CSA #10 and is referred to as "Die A". Die A had two panes per plate and each pane produced 100 stamps.

The fourth 10¢ Jefferson Davis stamp in blue (CSA #12-AD) used a new steel plate for its printing ("Die B"). Like Die A, Die B had two panes per plate and each pane produced 100 stamps. CSA #12 was initially printed by Archer & Day with its first release occurring in May 1863.



CSA #11-KB
Line-engraving, Die A (1864)
Jefferson Davis
10¢ Blue



CSA #12-KB
Line-engraving, Die B (1864)
Jefferson Davis
10¢ Blue

In 1864, as mentioned, Archer & Daly lost their printing contract. There are two competing theories as to why: 1) a simple contract dispute, or 2) a move to safety since Richmond was being threatened by Union forces during Grant's Overland Campaign. In any event, the plates for the 10¢ blue CSA #11 and CSA#12 (Die A and Die B) were shipped to the firm of Keating & Ball in Columbia, South Carolina. This firm continued to print the stamps until February 17, 1865, when Sherman's army captured Columbia. These stamps (CSA #11-KB and CSA #12-KB) have the same primary catalog number as those printed by Archer & Daly, but they are identified by their poorer print quality.



CSA #13
Line engraving (1863)
George Washington
20¢ Green

In June 1863, a sixth stamp from yet another engraving was prepared by Archer & Daly using the intaglio method. This was the 20¢ green George Washington stamp (CSA #13). Due to color variations from one batch of ink to the next, the color ranged from green to yellow green to bluish green. The Confederacy printed 20¢ Washington stamps to be used primarily as currency since the lowest denomination of CSA currency was a 50¢ fractional note and the Confederacy had no coins of its own to speak of (*refer to the side bar on page 11*).

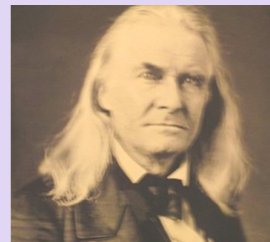
The stamps were printed in sheets of 200 consisting of two panes of 100 stamps each. The earliest recorded date of use was June 1, 1863. The stamp was also used in its normal postage role to pay the 20¢ overweight double-letter rate. Pairs of the stamp paid the 40¢ Trans-Mississippi rate. In some cases, the stamp was physically bisected. The two halves could then be used to pay the 10¢ letter rate for two separate letters.



CSA #14
Line engraving (1862)
John C. Calhoun
1¢ Orange

The orange 1862 1¢ stamp (CSA #14) features John C. Calhoun of South Carolina, who was vice-president under both John Quincy Adams and Andrew Jackson. An advocate of slavery, Calhoun argued that each state was self-governing. The purpose of this stamp was to satisfy the planned 1¢ drop letter rate. As such, it was printed in quantity and delivered to the Confederate government. Unfortunately, by this time the cost of fighting the Civil War had forced the actual drop letter rate to rise to 2¢. The entire supply of 400,000 stamps were never used and were set aside, only to be discovered after the war ended.

Did You Know?



Edmund Ruffin (1794 – 1865) was a wealthy Virginia planter and slaveholder. He is noted for his pioneering work in methods to preserve and improve soil productivity, recommending crop rotation and soil amendments to restore soils exhausted from decades of growing nothing but tobacco. As a young man, he studied bogs and swamps to learn how to correct soil acidity. For his work, he is known as "the father of soil science."

Ruffin also was an entomologist and published an early life history account on the *Angoumois* grain moth, an important global pest to this day on grain (rice, wheat, corn, millet, and sorghum).

He was a staunch advocate of states' rights and slavery, arguing for secession years before the Civil War. He fired one of the first shots at Fort Sumter and one of the last at the First Battle of Bull Run. Shortly after the end of the war, Ruffin committed suicide, stating in a note that he would rather die than live with the "malignant & vile Yankee race."

Confederate Coin Production

By Bob Graesser, Editor

When the Civil War began, the U.S. Mint had five locations. In the North, the main mint was in Philadelphia, PA with a branch mint in San Francisco, CA. Three branch mints were in the South: Charlotte, NC; Dahlonega, GA; and New Orleans, LA.

The NC and GA mint sites were strictly limited to minting gold coins, having each been set up after gold rushes took place in their states.

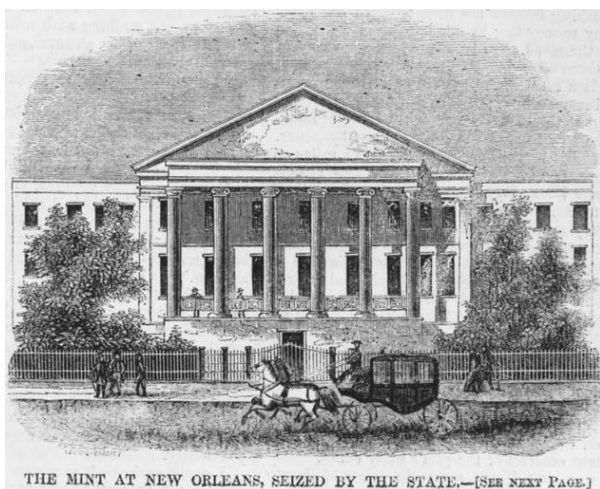
North Carolina having had the first U.S. gold rush, the Charlotte Mint, which began operations in 1837, was the first U.S. branch mint. Georgia began operating the second U.S. branch mint in 1838 after a gold rush began there. When GA and NC seceded in 1861, they each took over their respective mint and continued to mint U.S. gold coins until their bullion stock was depleted in Oct. 1861. They never reopened after that.

After Louisiana seceded, New Orleans, the largest of the three Southern mints, continued to mint silver half dollars using the original U.S. obverse and reverse dies. This is the only mint to have struck the same coin under three different governments: the U.S., the state of Louisiana, and the Confederacy.

New Orleans also minted gold coins. The U.S. minted 5,000 \$20 gold double eagle coins in Jan. 1861. A small number of additional such coins were minted by the state of Louisiana and by the Confederacy after that but used the U.S. dies until the gold bullion stock was depleted.

A total of 2,532,633 U.S. silver half-dollar coins dated 1861 and having the "O" mint mark were struck in New Orleans:

- 330,000 by the U.S. from Jan. 1 to Jan. 26 (the day Louisiana seceded from the Union)
- 1,240,000 by the state of Louisiana between Jan. 31, the date it took over the Mint, and March 21, on which date Louisiana ratified the Confederate Constitution



- 962,633 by the Confederacy from April 1 until later that month when the supply of bullion ran out.

The obverse and reverse of an 1861 U.S. silver half dollar appears below:



Notice the New Orleans "O" mint mark circled in red on the reverse. Thanks to a number of studies of certain die characteristics, it

is now possible to know with near certainty which silver half dollars from New Orleans in 1861 were produced under Confederate authority.

The staff of the New Orleans Mint remained on duty until May 31. After that, the Mint was used for quartering Confederate troops, until it was captured along with the rest of the city on April 29, 1862.

Sometime between April 1 and April 30, 1861 (when mint operations was discontinued), a decision was made to stop minting U.S. silver half dollars and start minting a Confederate version. Four test coins were struck (and are still accounted for). Shown below is one of these:

It was decided that the obverse (front) die could remain (seated Lady Liberty). A new reverse (back) die was created, substituting the phrase "Confederate States of America" in place of "United States of America" and including the



Confederate shield in place of the bald eagle.

Completing the symbolic imagery on the reverse side, the Confederate shield has seven stars, representing the seven southern-most tier of states that adopted the Confederate Constitution on March 11, 1861 (South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas). The shield is surrounded by cotton to its left and sugarcane to its right. A Phrygian cap, which symbolizes freedom and the pursuit of liberty as first displayed in ancient Rome and then during the French Revolution, is depicted directly above the shield.

Large scale production of the Confederate silver half dollar was never put into motion, one reason being that all the bullion stock had been used on the U.S. version.

Finally, in 1861, a CSA Army official contacted a Philadelphia jeweler to engrave a Confederate cent. The job went to Robert Lovett, Jr., a die-cutter with extensive experience. Using the head of Minerva on the obverse, and a wreath of Southern agricultural products on the reverse, Lovett struck 12 coins in copper-nickel. Then, fearing arrest for aiding the enemy, he hid the coins in his basement until long after the war was over. **So, 4 silver half dollars and 12 pennies represent the sum total of Confederate coins produced during the Civil War.**

News of the RCWRT



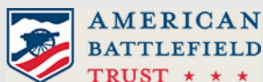
Upcoming 2020 RCWRT Meetings

(Note: The holding of monthly RCWRT meetings beyond May 2020 is subject to the state of the coronavirus pandemic at that time.)

Date	Speaker	Topic
May 11, 2020	Freddie Kiger	Antietam/Sharpsburg (CANCELLED)
June 8, 2020	Hampton Newsome	The Fight for the Old North State: The Civil War in NC, January-May 1864
July 13, 2020	Chris Grimes	Civil War Medicine
Aug. 10, 2020	TBD	TBD
Sept, 14, 2020	Sandy Barnard	An Aide to Custer: The Civil War Letters of Lt. Edward G. Granger

Did You Know?

Although the image of Robert E. Lee never appeared on any Confederate bill or coin it has appeared on at least two U.S. coins: the 1925 Stone Mountain commemorative half dollar and the 1937 Battle of Antietam half dollar. Also on the Stone Mountain half dollar next to Lee is Stonewall Jackson. Stonewall also appears on a Confederate \$500 banknote, making him one of only three people whose image has appeared on both Confederate and U.S. money. The other two are Andrew Jackson and George Washington. Jackson appears on the U.S. \$20 bill and the Confederate \$1,000 banknote. Washington appears on the U.S. \$1 bill and the Confederate \$50 and \$100 banknotes.



The American Battlefield Trust doesn't just acquire historic land. It also seeks to restore these battlefields to their wartime condition. Civil War battlefields at three locations are in need of your support toward restoration. The goal is to raise \$153,000. The battlefields include Cedar Creek, South Mountain, and First Deep Bottom, just outside Richmond. For more information, go to <https://www.battlefields.org/give/save-battlefields/help-restore-battlefields>.

The Raleigh Civil War Round Table was formed on March 12, 2001 and is a 501(c)(3) "tax exempt organization."

We meet on the second Monday of most months at 6:30 pm, at the N.C. Museum of History (located at 5 Edenton Street, across from the State Capitol). The programs begin at 7:00 p.m. Check the RCWRT website (<http://www.raleighcwrt.org>) for program dates and timing.

Annual membership dues are \$30 (individual and family) and \$10 for teachers. Student membership is free. Half-year memberships are available March through May for \$20. Dues should be submitted to Griff Bartlett, Treasurer, 908 Kinsdale Drive, Raleigh, NC 27615-1117 by **September 15** each year.



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Paying Memberships / Total Members: 140 / 222

New members: None

Donated Civil War-Related Books On Sale

A collection of 456 Civil War-related books from the library of our late member Jim Brenner was generously donated in 2019 to the Raleigh CWRT and is up for sale. The proceeds will be used to seed a new pool for funding future educational and preservation activities related to NC and the Civil War.

Dr. Ted Kunstling is currently curating the collection. Each book can be found listed on the Raleigh CWRT's website under the front page link [Civil War Book Collection Sale](http://raleighcwrt.squarespace.com/civil-war-book-collection-sale/) (<http://raleighcwrt.squarespace.com/civil-war-book-collection-sale/>).

Prices are \$5 per hardcover book and \$2 per paperback book. Buy three books and get a fourth free regardless of type. Contact Ted at trkunstling@aol.com or (919) 787-5282 to place your order.