

United States Post Office Department Operations in the Seceded States Dec. 20, 1860 to May 31, 1861

Background: On December 20, 1860 South Carolina became the first state to secede from the United States (US). The crisis was largely due to sectional differences over slavery and its expansion into the territories. Five additional southern states would secede by the end of January, 1861, resulting in six self-proclaimed independent states. On February 4, 1861 they joined to form the Confederate States of America (CSA). Five additional southern states seceded in the following months, each becoming independent states before being admitted to the CSA.

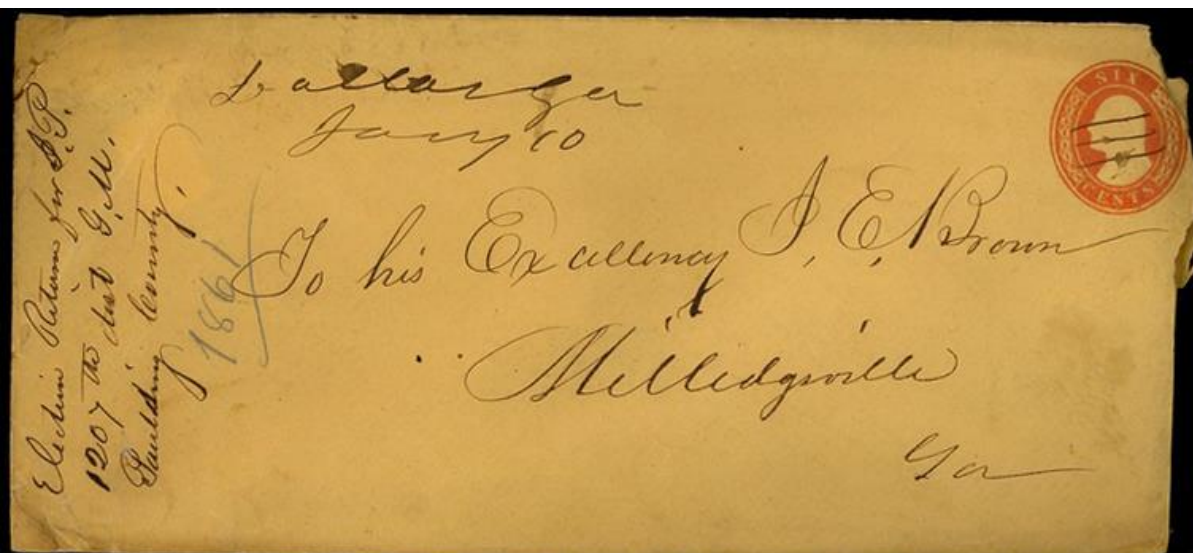
The US Post Office Department (USPOD) continued to provide mail service in the seceded states until June 1, 1861. Tennessee was the only state to secede and join the CSA after this date.

Purpose: Illustrate the use of US stamps and stamped envelopes within the seceded southern states up to last day of USPOD service (May 31, 1861).

Plan: Illustrate mail delivered by the USPOD in:

- 1) the 6 states that seceded prior to formation of the CSA on Feb. 4, 1861,
- 2) the same 6 states after they become Confederate States and
- 3) the 4 additional states that seceded after the formation of the CSA and before the termination of USPOD service on June 1, 1861.

Beginning on the next page, covers will be shown chronologically for each state in order of secession, concluding with a cover postmarked on the last day the USPOD operated in the CSA.



US double letter rate

US 1853 6 cent stamped envelope

Dallas, GA manuscript postmark and cancel.
Jan. 10, (1861)

(cover image reduced 15%)

Cover sent from Dallas, Georgia on Jan. 10, 1861 to Georgia Governor Brown at the state capital, Milledgeville. Docketing indicates it contained results for Paulding County of a special election held on January 2nd selecting delegates for the state secession convention. Georgia would secede 9 days later.

U.S. Post Office Department
Operations in Independent States
Prior to Formation of the CSA

South Carolina

Seceded Dec. 20, 1860

US single letter rate

US 1857 3 cent stamp

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



SC Ind. State



South Carolina would stand alone for 20 days (December 20, 1860 thru January 8, 1861) after breaking from the Union. The U.S. Post Office Department continued to operate in the state, as the US refused to recognize secession. South Carolina legislators, however considered the state to be an independent state or republic. It would become a Confederate state on February 4, 1861, the day the CSA was formed. The covers above and below were sent from and to post offices (Spartanburg and Pendleton, respectively) in the independent state of South Carolina.

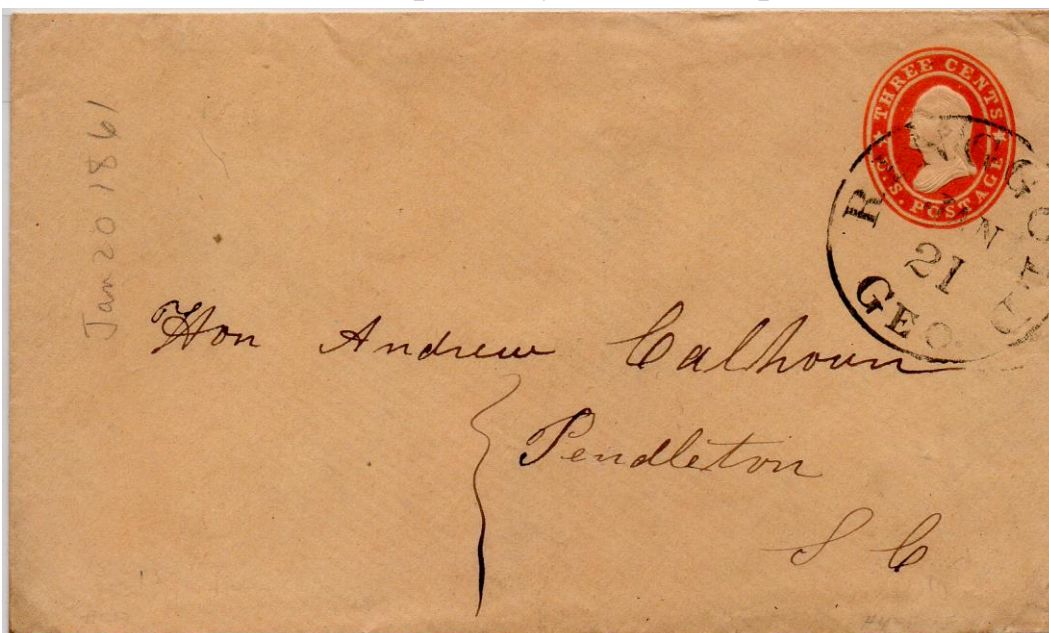
US single letter rate

US 1860 3 cent stamped
envelope (first available in
the fall of 1860 and not
legal for use in the
seceded states after May
31, 1861, verifying 1861
usage)

Ringgold, GA circular date
stamp, Jan. 21, (1861)
to Pendleton, SC



to SC Ind. State



• *Secession and admission dates used in this exhibit are from Kaufmann, et al., (2012) *Confederate States of America, Catalog and Handbook of Stamps and Postal History*, Confederate Stamp Alliance, Inc., p. 4.

U.S. Post Office Department
Operations in Independent States
Prior to Formation of the CSA

Mississippi

Seceded Jan. 9, 1861

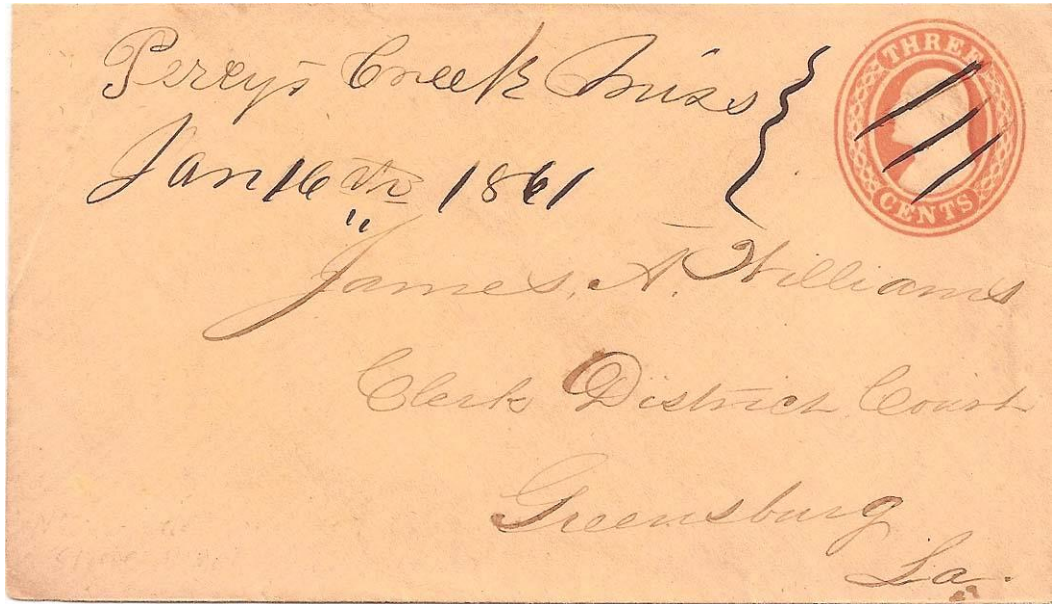
US single letter rate

US 1853 3 cent stamped
envelope

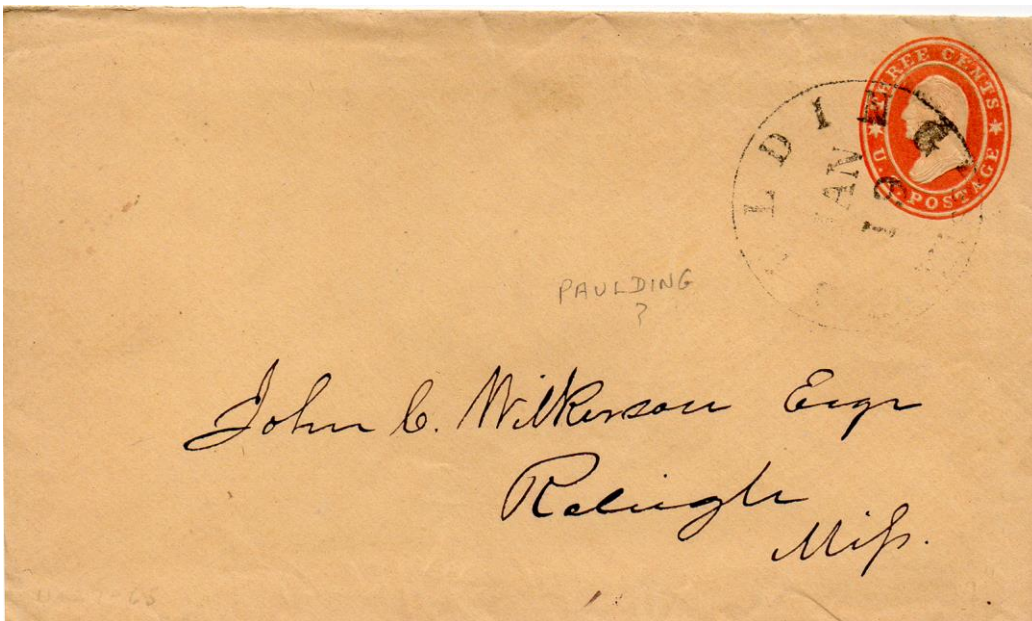
Percy's Creek, MS
manuscript postmark with
pen cancel,
Jan. 16, 1861



MS Ind. State



Mississippi was the second state to secede. These covers, delivered by the USPOD were sent from post offices in Percy's Creek, Mississippi (above) and to Raleigh, Mississippi (below) while Mississippi was an independent state.



US single letter rate

US 1860 3 cent stamped
envelope

Paulding, MS circular date
stamp,
Jan. 19 (1861)
to Raleigh, Mississippi



to MS Ind. State

U.S. Post Office Department
Operations in Independent States
Prior to Formation of the CSA

Alabama

Seceded Jan. 11, 1861

US single letter rate

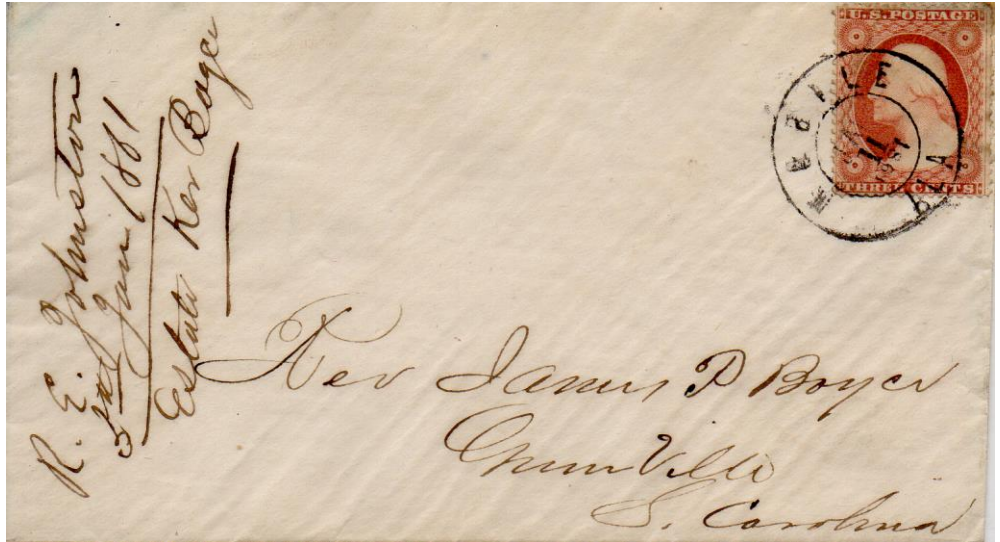
US 1857 3 cent stamp

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

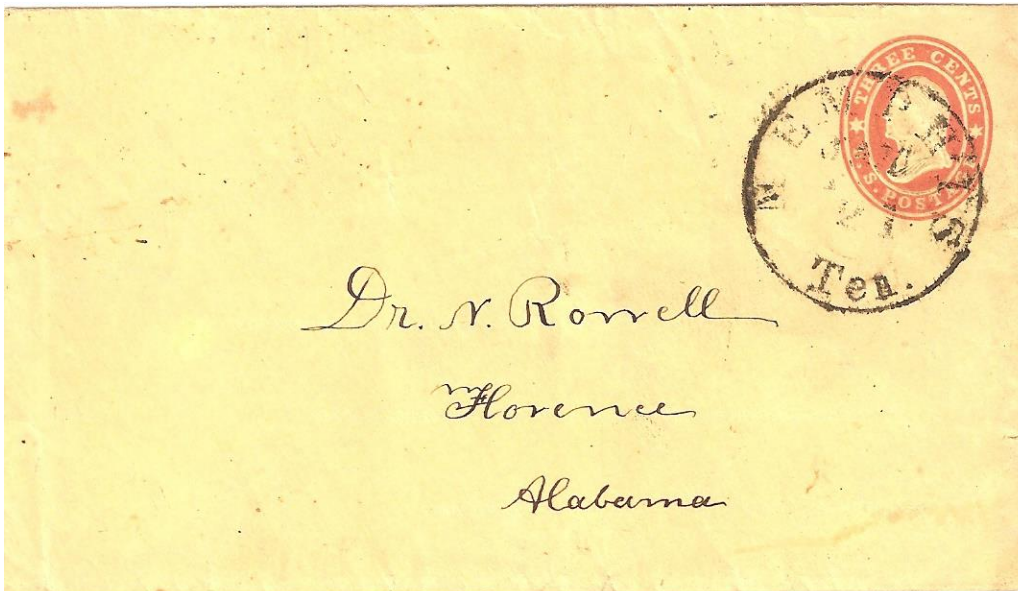
**Alabama Independent
State, First Day of Use**



AL Ind. State



The cover above was sent from the U.S. Post Office in Mobile, Alabama to the U.S. Post Office in Greenville, South Carolina on the day Alabama seceded. It travelled from one independent state to another. The cover below was sent from Memphis, Tennessee (still a U.S. state) to Florence, Alabama (while an independent state).



US single letter rate

US 1860 3 cent stamped
envelope

Memphis, Tennessee
circular date stamp, Jan.
21, (1861)
to Florence, AL



to AL Ind. State

U.S. Post Office Department
Operations in Independent States
Prior to Formation of the CSA

Florida

Seceded Jan. 11, 1861



US single letter rate

US 1857 3 cent stamp

Saint Augustine, FL
circular date stamp, Jan.
29, (1861) with grid cancel

Folded letter datelined
1861



Florida Ind. State

The cover above was sent from Saint Augustine, Florida to Tallahassee, Florida on January 29, 1861 while Florida was an independent state.

U.S. Post Office Department
Operations in Independent States
Prior to Formation of the CSA

Georgia

Seceded Jan. 19, 1861

US single letter rate

US 1860 3 cent
stamped envelope

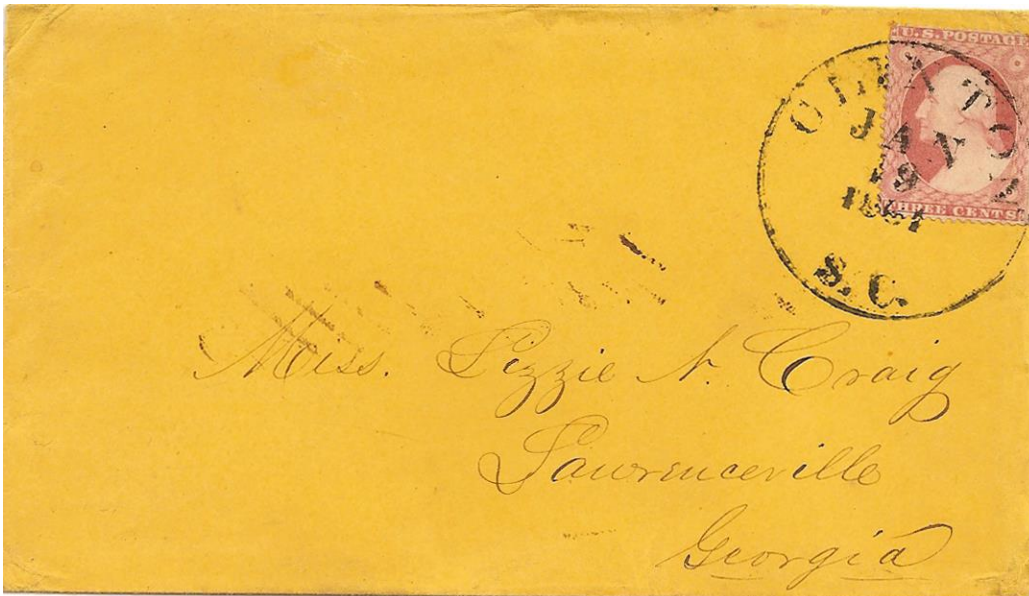
Savannah, GA
circular date stamp,
Feb. 1, 1861



GA Ind. State



Georgia was the fifth state to secede. The cover above was sent from Savannah, Georgia to Macon, Georgia. The cover below was sent from Clinton, South Carolina to Lawrenceville, Georgia. Both were mailed during Georgia's independent state period.



US single letter rate

US 1857 3 cent stamp

Clinton, SC circular
date stamp,
Jan. 19, 1861
to Lawrenceville, GA



to GA Ind. State

U.S. Post Office Department
Operations in Independent States
Prior to Formation of the CSA

Louisiana

Seceded Jan. 26, 1861

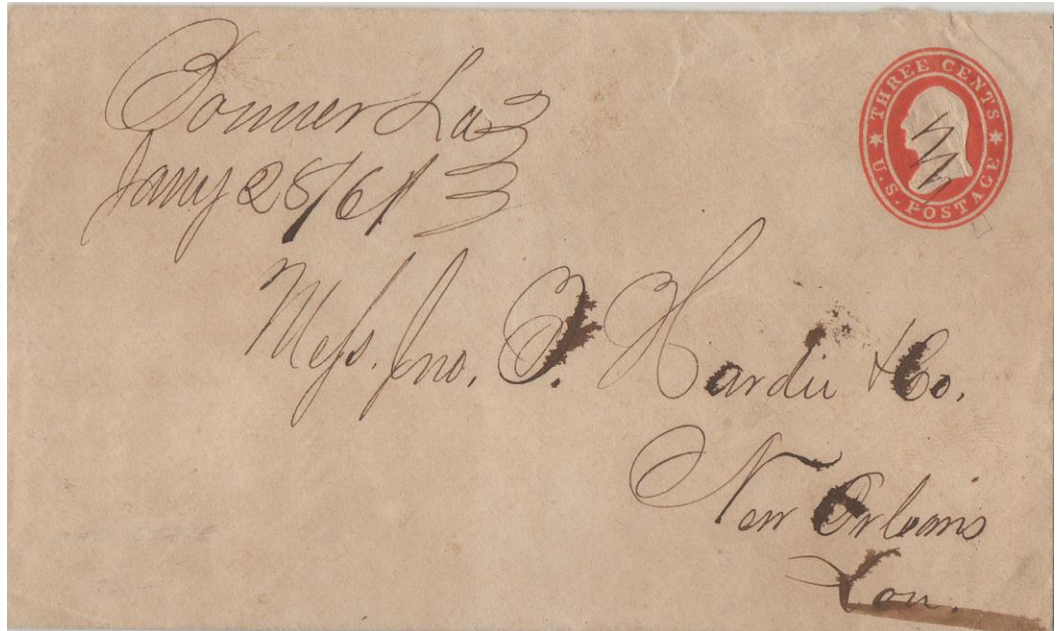
US single letter rate

US 1860 3 cent
stamped envelope

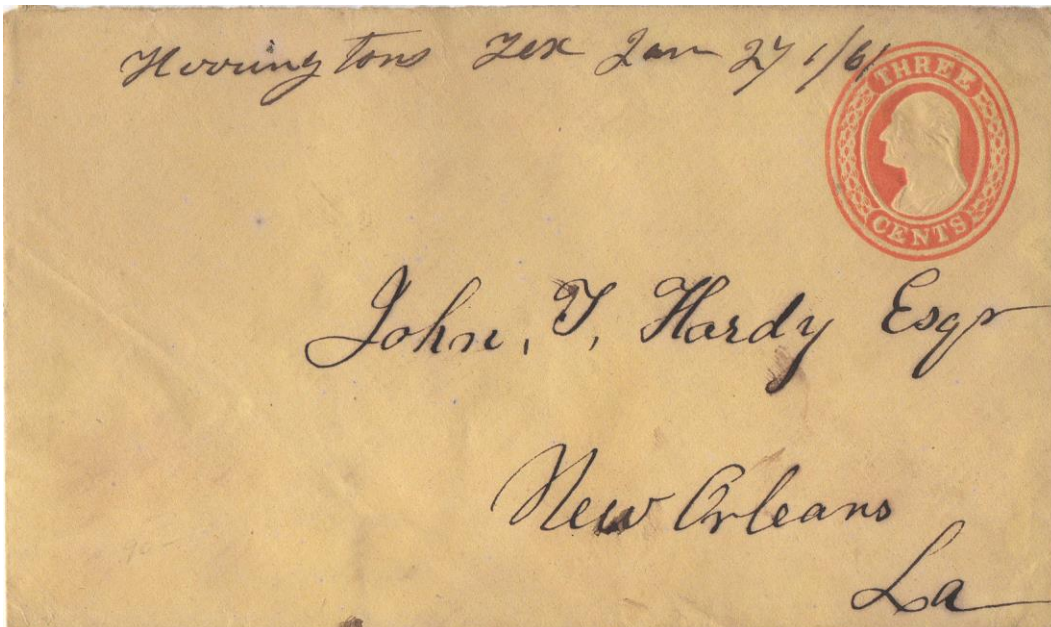
Bonner, LA manuscript
postmark and pen
cancel, Jan. 28, 1861



LA Ind. State



These covers were sent from Bonner, Louisiana (above) and Herrington's, Texas (below) to New Orleans, Louisiana during Louisiana's brief nine day independent state period. Texas was still a US state at the time but would convene a secession convention the day after the cover below was postmarked.



US single letter rate

US 1853 3 cent
stamped envelope

Herrington's, TX
manuscript postmark,
Jan. 27, 1861
to New Orleans. LA



to LA Ind. State

U.S. Post Office Department
Operations in the Seceded States
After Formation of the CSA

CSA Formed
Feb. 4, 1861

On February 4, 1861 delegates from the 6 seceded independent states (South Carolina, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia and Louisiana) convened in Montgomery, Alabama and voted to join and form the CSA.

The cover below was sent from the U.S. Post Office in Marblehead, Massachusetts (US State) to the US Post Office in Natchez, Mississippi (CSA State) on the day the CSA was formed.



US single letter rate

US 1857 3 cent stamp

Marblehead, MA
circular date stamp and
grid cancel,
Feb. 4, (1861)
(year indicated in
docketing)



to CSA MS

Despite the actions taken by the authorities of the six southern states, the U.S. Post Office Department continued to service mail delivery into and from the seceded states. The U.S. government did not recognize the legitimacy of the new government, believing that the rebellion would not last. The CSA leadership consented to the arrangement, not yet having the means to provide mail service.

U.S. Post Office Department
Operations in the Seceded States After
the Formation of the CSA

USPOD Service in the
Newly Formed CSA

South Carolina and Georgia

US single letter rate

US 1857 3 cent
stamp

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

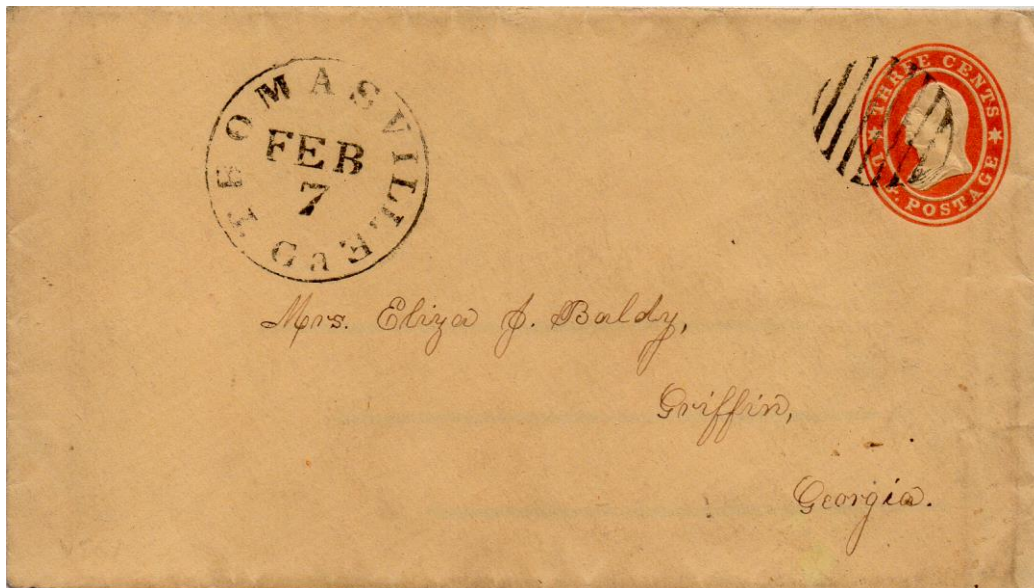


CSA SC



Letters delivered by the USPOD in the 6 states of the newly formed CSA are shown on this and the following 2 pages.

Above is a cover sent from Charleston, South Carolina to White Hall, South Carolina a day after the CSA was formed. The cover below was sent from Thomasville, Georgia to Griffin, Georgia.



US single letter rate

US 1860 3 cent
stamped envelope

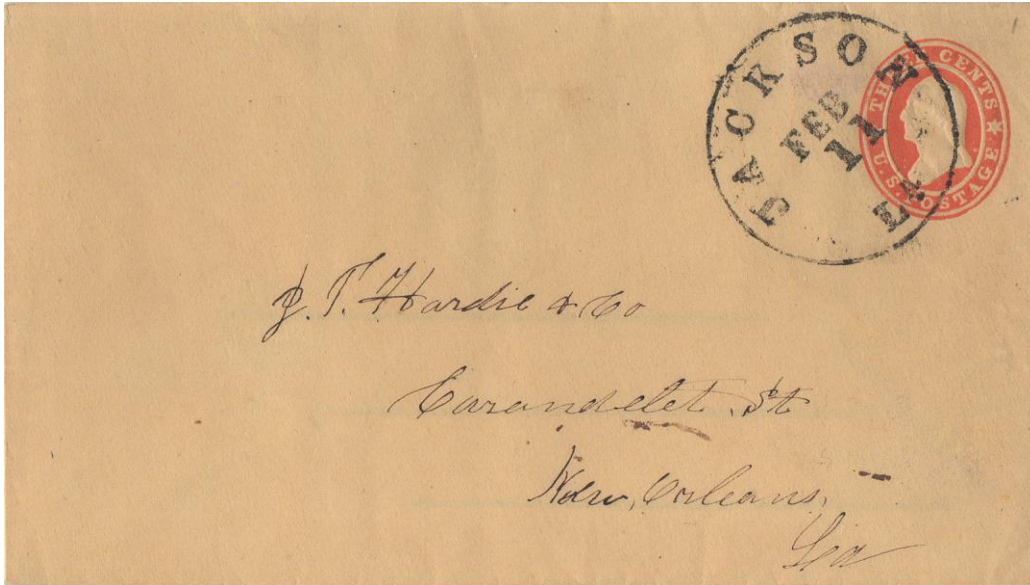
Thomasville, GA
circular date stamp
with grid cancel,
Feb. 7, (1861)



CSA GA

U.S. Post Office Department
Operations in the Seceded States After
the Formation of the CSA

USPOD Service in the
Newly Formed CSA
Louisiana and Florida



US single letter rate

US 1860 3 cent
stamped envelope

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



CSA LA

The cover above was sent from Jackson to New Orleans within the Confederate State of Louisiana by the USPOD. The cover below was sent from Marianna in the Confederate State of Florida to Osceola in the US state of Arkansas.

US single letter rate

US 1860 3 cent
stamped envelope

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



CSA FL



U.S. Post Office Department
Operations in the Seceded States After
the Formation of the CSA

USPOD Service in the
Newly Formed CSA
Alabama and Mississippi



US single letter rate

US 1853 3 cent
stamped envelope

Mobile, AL double
circle date stamp,
Feb. 26, (1861)



CSA FL

The covers above and below were sent from Confederate Alabama and Confederate Mississippi to the US post office in New Orleans, Louisiana. All three states were Confederate states at the time.

US single letter rate

US 1860 3 cent
stamped envelope

Vicksburg, MS
double circle date
stamp with grid
cancel,
Apr. 2, (1861)



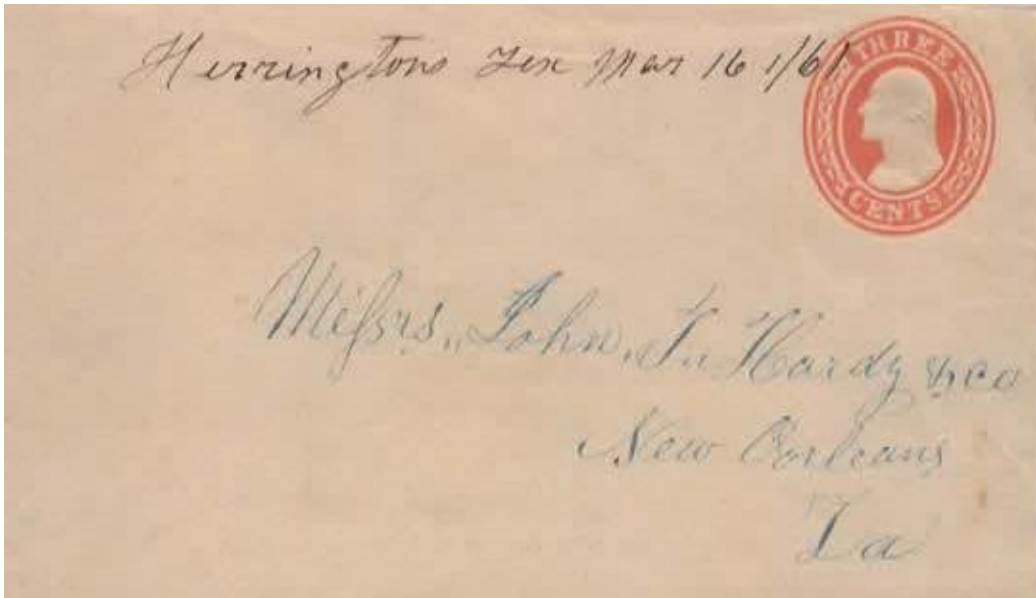
CSA MS



U.S. Post Office Department
Operations in the Seceded States
After the Formation of the CSA

Texas

Seceded Mar. 2, 1861
Joined the CSA Mar. 5, 1861



US single letter rate

US 183 3 cent
stamped envelope

Herringtons, TX
manuscript
postmark, Mar 16,
1861



CSA TX

Texas was the first state to officially secede after the formation of the CSA. It was an independent state for three days before being admitted to the CSA on March 5, 1861. The covers shown here entered the mail at the Herrington's and Palestine, Texas U.S. post offices after Texas joined the CSA.

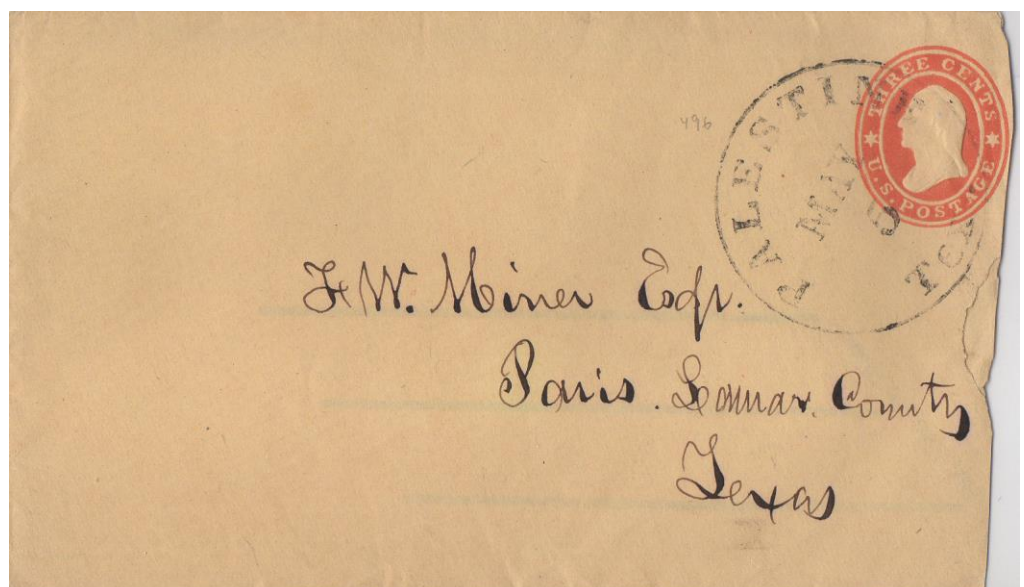
US single letter rate

US 1860 3 cent
stamped envelope

Palestine, TX
Circular date stamp,
May 5, (1861)



CSA TX



U.S. Post Office Department
 Operations in the Seceded States
 After the Formation of the CSA

Virginia

Seceded April 17, 1861
 Joined CSA May 7, 1861

US single letter rate

US 1860 3 cent stamped envelope

Dublin, VA circular date stamp, Apr. 18, (1861)



VA Ind. State



US single letter rate

US 1857 3 cent stamp

Gainesville, VA circular date stamp, May 30, 1861



CSA VA



Virginia seceded 5 days after Confederate troops fired on Fort Sumner. These covers were mailed during the Virginia independent state and CSA period.

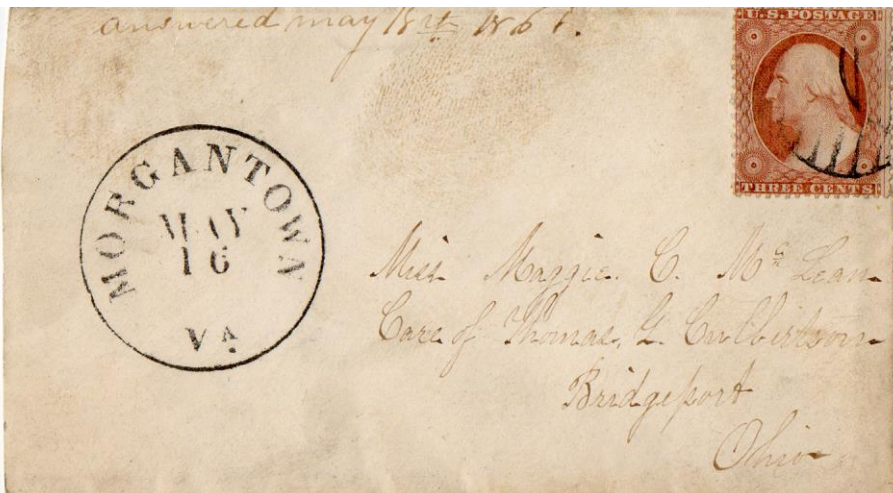
US single letter rate

US 1857 3 cent stamp

Morgantown, VA circular date stamp, May 16, (1861), year indicated in docketing at top)



"CSA VA"

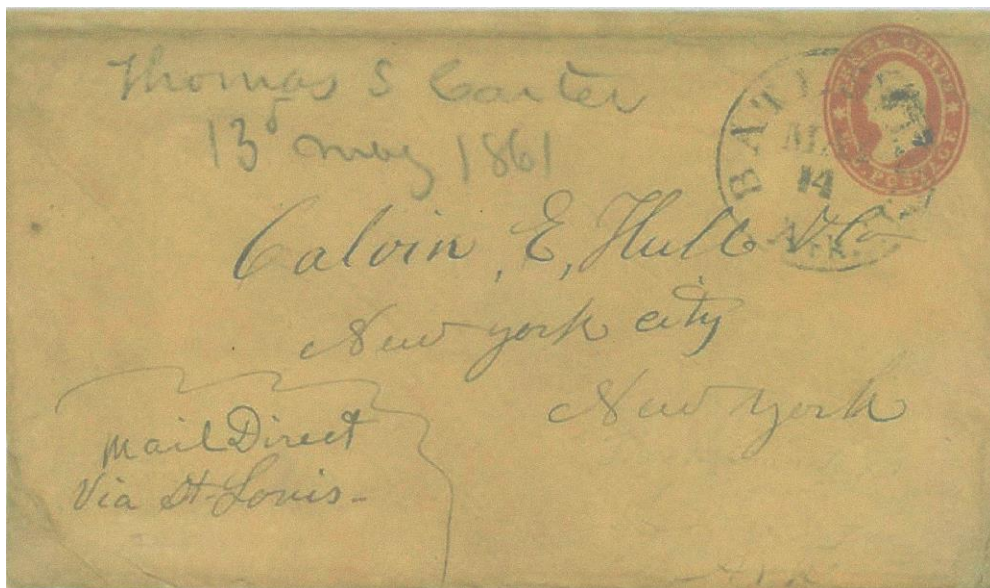


Morgantown is in western Virginia. The region would break from Virginia over secession and became the US state of West Virginia in 1863.

U.S. Post Office Department
Operations in the Seceded States
After the Formation of the CSA

Arkansas

Seceded May 6, 1861
Joined CSA May 18, 1861



US single letter rate

US 1860 3 cent
stamped envelope

Batesville, AR circular
date stamp to New
York, May 14, 1861



AR Ind. State

Arkansas was the second state to secede from the US following the bombardment of Fort Sumner in Charleston Harbor, South Carolina. The cover above was sent from Batesville, Arkansas to New York City, New York while Arkansas was an independent state. The cover below was sent from Atlanta, Arkansas to New Orleans, Louisiana after Arkansas was admitted to the CSA. Note "S.F." changed to "S.C." in the address, possibly short-hand for Southern Federation corrected to Southern Confederacy. Both were delivered by the USPOD over a month after the American Civil War began.

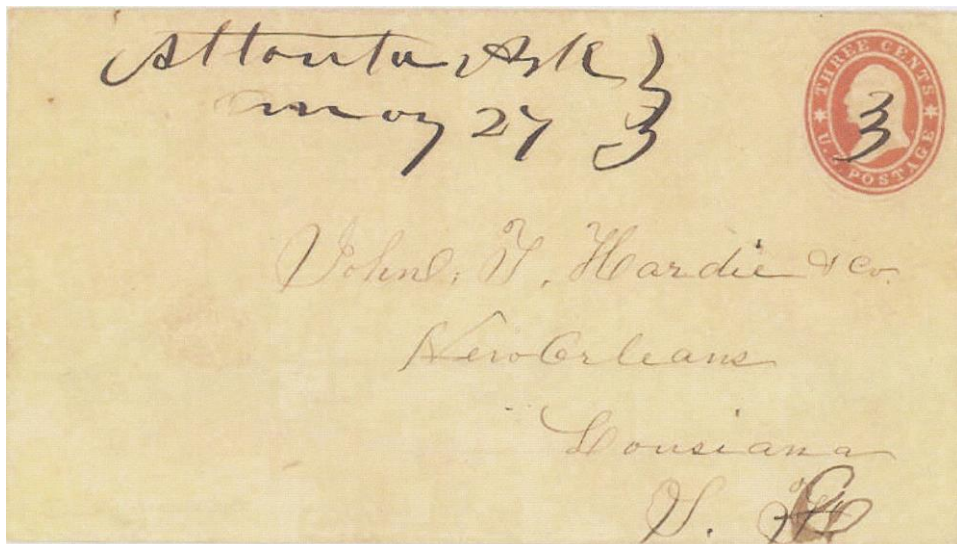
US single letter rate

US 1860 3 cent
stamped envelope

Atlanta, AR
manuscript postmark
and cancel
May 29, 1861



CSA AR



The covers on this page are not owned by the presenter. They are shown with the permission of the owner.

U.S. Post Office Department
Operations in the Seceded States
After the Formation of the CSA

North Carolina

Seceded May 20, 1861
Joined CSA May 27, 1861

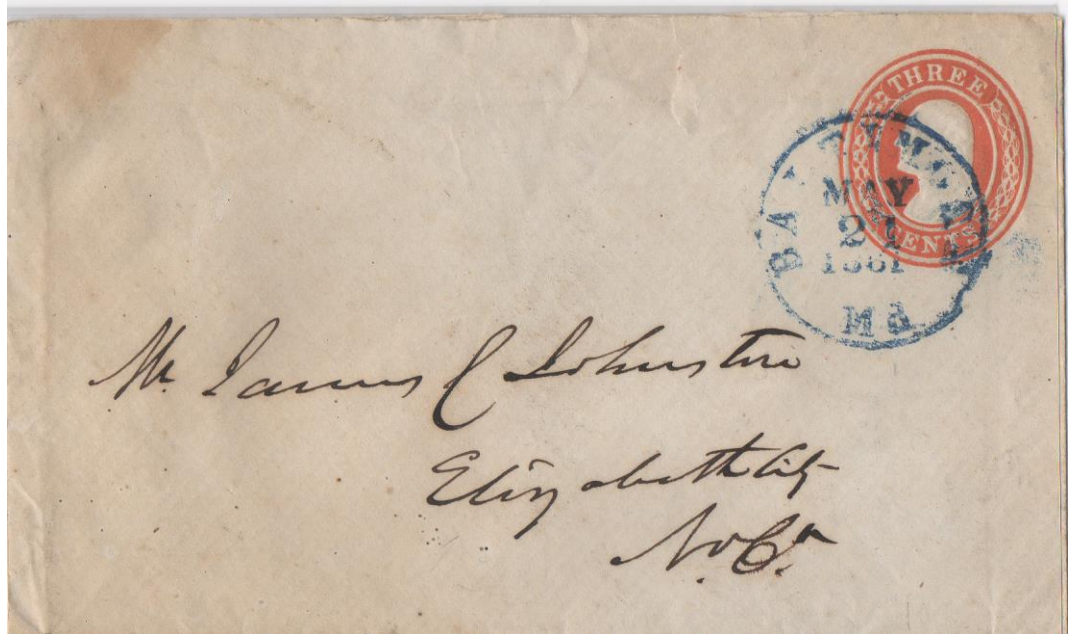
US single letter rate

US 1857 3 cent
stamped envelope

Baltimore, MD circular
date stamp to Elizabeth
City, NC, May 21, 1861



to NC Ind. State



The cover above was sent from Baltimore, Maryland to Elizabeth City, North Carolina May 21, 1861, the day after North Carolina seceded, while North Carolina was an independent state. This letter was one of the last to be delivered between north and south by the Washington, D.C. to Richmond, Virginia route.

North Carolina was admitted to the CSA on May 17, 1861. The cover below was sent from Confederate Raleigh, North Carolina to Patterson, North Carolina on May, 31, 1861 the last day of USPOD operations in the CSA.



US single letter rate

US 1860 3 cent
stamped envelope

Norfolk, VA double
circle date stamp,
May 22, 1861



CSA NC

U.S. Post Office Department
Operations in the Seceded States
After the Formation of the CSA

Last Day of US Mail Service
in the Seceded States and
Status of Tennessee

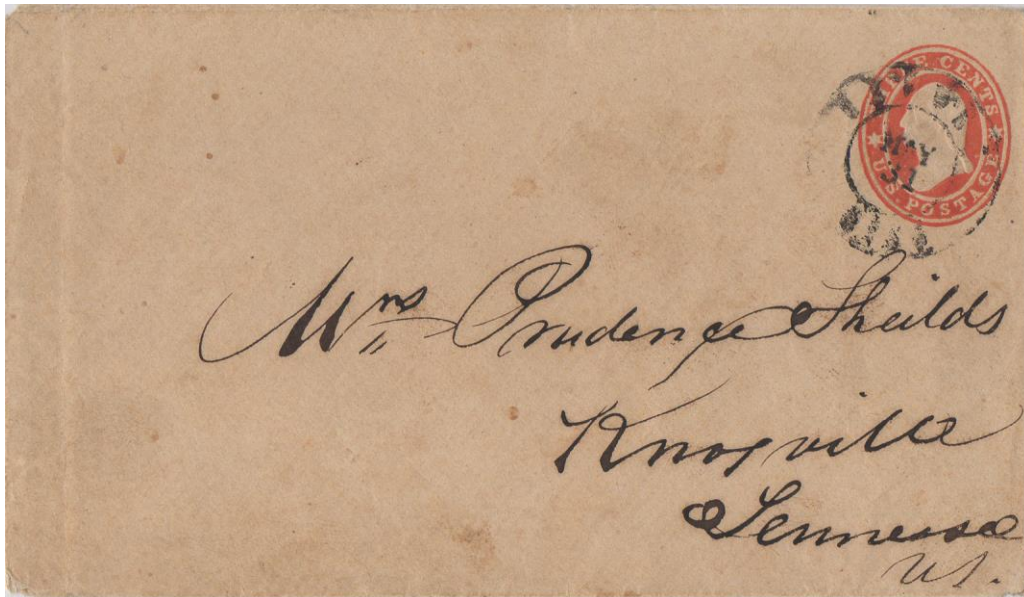
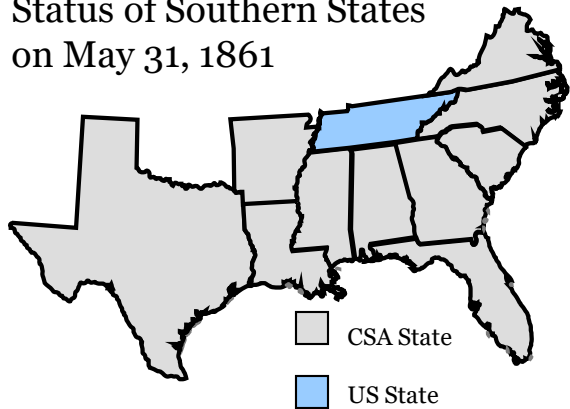
May 31, 1861 was the last day the USPOD provided mail service in the CSA.

Tennessee was the only CSA state that had not yet seceded and joined the CSA by that date.

Tennessee seceded on June 8, 1861 and was admitted to the CSA on July 2, 1861.

On June 1, 1861 the CSAPOD assumed responsibility for mail service in the CSA.

Status of Southern States
on May 31, 1861



US single letter rate

US 1860 3 cent stamped envelope

Oxford, MS double circle date stamp, May 31, (1861)

Last Day of US Postal Service in the Seceded States



CSA MS

Cover sent from the U.S. Post Office in Oxford, Mississippi (CSA State) on the last day of USPOD operations in the CSA and delivered to the U.S. Post Office in Knoxville, Tennessee, still a US State as noted in the address.