

Building Confederate Unity: *The Important Role of Flag Covers*

Patriotic envelopes promoted Confederate flag designs throughout the seceded states. Each new star visually represented the rebellion's rapid spread and helped rally Southerners to the new nation.

This two-frame Illustrated Mail division exhibit tells the story of how patriotic flag envelopes built national pride by disseminating the image the Confederate States of America's new national flag across the breakaway states and beyond. In the process, the envelopes were instrumental in unifying residents in the otherwise disparate and independent-minded Southern states to rally their support for the new nation.



This envelope was mailed on April 14, 1861, from Memphis, Tennessee, to a lawyer living in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Because this cover was mailed before the war began, postage was paid using two 3-cent 1857 issue U.S. stamps.

The cover is a full depiction of the 1st flag of the Confederacy.

February 1861 – Adopting a flag and establishing a postal system were top priorities for Southern delegates meeting to form their own independent government – the Confederate States of America. A flag would serve as a powerful patriotic symbol for the new nation. And a post office department would bestow legitimacy on the fledgling country. Mail provided an essential and vital communication link for citizens throughout the breakaway states.

March 4, 1861 – Confederate delegates rushed to adopt their new national flag by the same day that Abraham Lincoln would be sworn in as president of the United States. Lincoln's election had triggered the rebellion of the Southern states and his inauguration united them in opposition. The Confederate flag, known as the "Stars and Bars," presented a tangible symbol of the South's sovereignty. Printers rushed to reproduce the flag's design on envelopes that were snapped up by eager Southerners, who then mailed their flag covers far and wide.

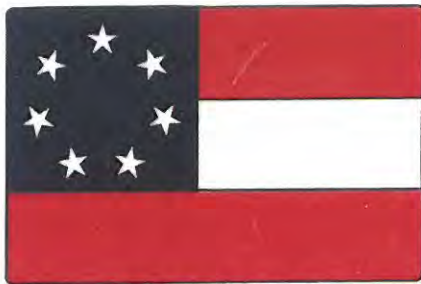
May-December 1861 – As more states seceded from the Union to join the insurgency, printers hastily added new stars to existing flag designs, giving a sense of urgent momentum to the rebellion's spread and helping unify Southerners behind their new nation. In this way, patriotic envelopes and the postal system joined together to build solidarity throughout the breakaway states. The new flag soon supplanted existing state and regional symbols, helping President Jefferson Davis forge a new identity for the Confederate States of America.

Exhibit Plan:

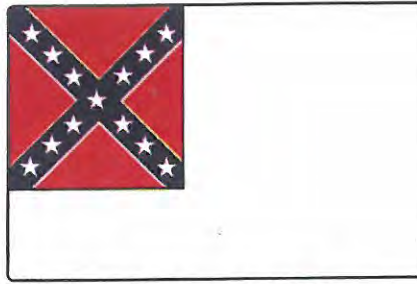
7-star flag covers
8-star flag covers
9-star flag covers
10-star flag covers

11-star flag covers
12-star flag covers**
13-star flag covers**

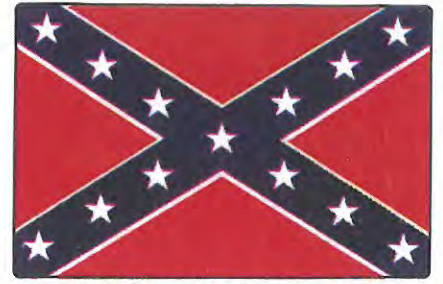
** While secessionist factions in Missouri and Kentucky voted to secede from the Union, these states remained under federal control throughout the Civil War.



1ST STARS & BARS



2ND CONFEDERATE



CONFEDERATE BATTLE

Most Confederate flag covers depict the 1st flag of the Confederate States of America, known as the “Stars and Bars.” These envelopes were produced at the start of the war, when paper was plentiful and patriotic fervor ran strong. There is no strict order of their use. **The number of stars in a flag design often is not consistent with the date the cover entered the mail.** Nor is it strictly tied to the number of states claimed by the Confederacy at any particular time. The number of stars in the flag was more symbolic than literal. Printers produced envelopes when they had paper and ink. Soldiers and civilians used the handiest envelopes available when they wanted to mail their letters.

In fact, by the time the 2nd national flag was adopted in May 1863, paper was too precious to print many envelopes. The shortage of paper exhausted the supply of patriotic envelopes – indeed most envelopes – in the South so that patriotic covers mailed in 1863 are extremely rare.

Confederate symbols have become increasingly controversial in modern times, particularly the battle flag, which was incorporated into the Confederacy’s 2nd National Flag design. However, this educational stamp exhibit focuses solely on the depiction of Confederate flags printed on envelopes carried through the mails 150+ years ago as symbols of Southern national pride representative of their historic era.

Many Different Forms of Legitimate Postage

A dizzying array of postal markings and stamps were applied to letters mailed during the Confederate period. Their legitimacy depends on the date a letter was mailed and the regulations in effect at that time.

Even as Southern states declared their independence from the United States, the U.S. Post Office continued to deliver the mail and all postmasters were still officers of the federal government. This odd circumstance continued for four months after seven states formed the Confederate government in February 1861. U.S. distribution of mail within and outside the Confederate states officially ceased on May 31, 1861.

However, on June 1, when the Confederate government took over the mails, it had no postage stamps to offer. So, local postmasters had to improvise. Some simply wrote “Paid” on letters or modified a canceling device to show postage payment. **Soldiers were allowed to mail letters as postage due by writing their names and unit number with payment to be made by the letter’s recipient.**

Soldier’s Letter Home

- Confederate soldiers could mail letters for free, with postage paid by the recipient. These soldier letters are properly marked “Due” with the appropriate amount of postage, either 5 or 10 cents, depending on distance.
- This cover is signed (across the top) by Lt. W. J. Suttle, Company F, 11th Regiment, Alabama volunteers, Col. Syd Moore, commanding.
- The single circle postmark shows it entered the mails in Bristoe Station, Virginia, on September 6 (1861).
- Envelope addressed to the soldier’s father, the Honorable J. W. Suttle in Centreville, Alabama.





The first 7 states to form the Confederate States of America

	Date of Secession	Date Admitted to the Confederacy	Days as an Independent State
1) South Carolina	December 20, 1860	February 4, 1861	46 days
2) Mississippi	January 9, 1861	February 4, 1861	26 days
3) Florida	January 10, 1861	February 4, 1861	25 days
4) Alabama	January 11, 1861	February 4, 1861	24 days
5) Georgia	January 19, 1861	February 4, 1861	16 days
6) Louisiana	January 26, 1861	February 4, 1861	9 days
7) Texas	February 1, 1861	March 6, 1861	33 days

A Sample Stamp Featuring the Confederate States Flag



April 2, 1861 – The Confederate Post Office placed advertisements in major newspapers, North and South, calling for stamp designs. Hoyer & Ludwig, a printing firm in Richmond, Virginia, submitted samples of a 10-cent lithographed stamp featuring the newly adopted 7-star national flag printed in blue and black. Hoyer & Ludwig's flag essays were rejected by the Postmaster General because they were not engraved on steel plate.

Various technical problems delayed delivery of official Confederate postage stamps until October 1861. By then, Hoyer & Ludwig was the only firm able to fill the order – with lithographed stamps of a different design.

7-Star Flag Patriotic Cover to England



PF certificate

- **One of only two Confederate patriotic envelopes recorded to a foreign destination.**
- Depicted is the 1st national flag of the Confederacy – the “Stars and Bars” – adopted on March 4, 1861.
- Envelope mailed from Augusta, Georgia, on March 26, 1861 – the earliest mailing date in this exhibit. [This was before the start of hostilities, during the 3½ month period when the U.S. Post Office still carried mail throughout the South and beyond – from the February 4 formation of the Confederate States of America until May 31, when U.S. mail delivery officially ceased.]
- It traveled to New York City, where it received the “New York Br Packet 5” postmark upon arrival on April 2.
- From New York, the cover likely went by rail to Boston because it had arrived in New York on a Sunday and there were no Atlantic sailings that day.
- In Boston on April 3, the envelope was placed on the Cunard British packet *Canada* to Queenstown, Ireland, with postage due 24 cents. [At this time, prepayment of transatlantic mail was not mandatory. Payment was collected by British postal authorities and a portion was remitted to the U.S.]
- The *Canada* arrived in Queenstown on April 15. The black squiggle in the middle of the cover is actually “1/” – the British 1 shilling marking to show postage due to pay the British transatlantic rate between England and the U.S. At the time, 1 shilling equaled approximately 25 U.S. cents.
- The envelope, addressed to Mr. R. Hutchinson Esq., Liverpool, England, bears a Liverpool postmark of April 16, 1861 (“16 AP 61”) – the date of its arrival in that city.
- This cover front was discovered by British stamp dealer Stephen Taylor in 2003. Three years later, Taylor discovered a second Confederate patriotic cover front from the same correspondence. These are the only two trans-Atlantic CSA patriotic covers known. [They were originally mailed to England from Georgia within six days of each other.]

7-star flags are the most common Confederate patriotic covers with 32 different designs recorded

7-Star Flag Covers



Kentucky to Pittsburgh

This envelope is the only reported use of a Confederate patriotic cover to travel from Kentucky to a northern state. It was put aboard the steamship *Renton* in Memphis, Tennessee, and went to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, passing through Louisville, Kentucky, where the cover was cancelled before moving northward. Original letter with the cover is dated April 12, 1861 – the day shots were fired on Fort Sumter.

- Stamp is a U.S. 1957-61 issue 3-cent dull red, valid at the time for regular mail delivered throughout the United States.
- Louisville, Kentucky, blue double-circle date stamp, dated April 14, 1861.
- Matching blue grid cancels stamp.
- Senders notation across the envelope reads: “In Care of Mr. James Collins for Steam Boat Renton from Memphis to Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pa.”

Proud Rebel in divided Kentucky

Mailed six days after the bombardment of Fort Sumter, this cover illustrates the split sentiments in Kentucky. The Southern supporter added “Ky” for Kentucky to the cover’s Confederate flag. Southern sympathizers voted to join the Confederacy, which considered Kentucky its 13th state. However, Kentucky never actually left the Union.



CSA certificate

- Stamp is a U.S. 1957-61 issue 3-cent dull red.
- Paducah, Kentucky, black double-circle date stamp dated April 18, 1861.
- Matching black grid with hollow center cancels stamp.

7-Star Flag Covers



Virginia as an Independent State

Virginia seceded from the United States on April 17, 1861. It was accepted into the Confederacy on May 7. The 20 days in between is known as the "independent statehood period," when Virginia belonged to neither country.

- Stamp is a U.S. 1957-61 issue 3-cent dull red, valid at the time for regular mail delivered throughout the United States.
- Richmond, Virginia, black circular date stamp cancelled the stamp on April 22, 1861, during Virginia's independent statehood period.

Pre-War Alabama

Alabama seceded from the United States on January 11, 1861, and was one of the first seven states to join the Confederacy on February 4. However, the U.S. Post Office continued to deliver mail throughout the South until May 31. Covers mailed during this unusual 3½-month period are known as "pre-war" usages.



- Stamp is a U.S. 1957-61 issue 3-cent dull red.
- Huntsville, Alabama, blue single-circle postmark, dated April 28, 1861.
- Matching blue grid cancels the stamp.

7-Star Flag Covers



St. Louis Confederate

Southern sentiment is evident in this cover mailed from St. Louis to central Pennsylvania. Missouri was divided, with a faction voting in October 1861 to join the Confederacy as its 12th state. Throughout the Civil War, however, Missouri remained firmly under Union.

- All-over flag cover of the 1st National Flag with 10 stars in the blue field with the names of Jefferson Davis, the Confederate President, and Alexander H. Stephens, the Vice President printed in the red stripes. This is a very early use of this flag cover design.
- Stamp is a U.S. 1957-61 issue 3-cent dull red, valid at the time for regular mail delivered throughout the United States.
- St. Louis, Missouri, black single-circle date stamp, dated April 22, 1861.
- Matching black grid and second date stamp cancel the stamp.

Independent Virginia

Virginia seceded from the United States on April 17, 1861, and was accepted into the Confederacy on May 7. The 20-day period between both dates is known as the “independent statehood period.”



- Winchester, Virginia, black double-circle date stamp, dated May 4, 1861, during Virginia’s independent statehood period.
- Handstamp black “Paid 3” shows postage paid at U.S. postage rate then in effect.

7-Star Flag Covers



South Carolina Pre-War Use

One month after South Carolina forces fired on Union troops at Fort Sumter on April 12, 1861, the U.S. Post Office continued to handle mail in the state. This odd circumstance would continue until May 31. This cover illustrates this unusual situation.

Brian Green certificate

- Stamp is a U.S. 1957-61 issue 3-cent dull red, valid for regular mail delivered throughout the South until May 31, 1861.
- Charleston, South Carolina, black double-circle postmark, dated May 13, 1861, cancels the stamp.

Independent Arkansas

Arkansas seceded from the United States on May 6, 1861, and joined the Confederacy on May 18. The 12 days between those dates are known as its "independent statehood period."

This envelope is one of two Confederate patriotic covers known to have gone through the U.S. mails during the state's independent period.



- Stamp is a U.S. 1957-61 issue 3-cent dull red, valid for regular mail delivered throughout the South until May 31, 1861.
- Washington, Arkansas, black single circle postmark, dated May 14, 1861.
- Envelope carried a letter of protest to the editor of the New York Observer newspaper.

7-Star Flag Covers



When Tennessee Was Independent

This envelope was mailed during Tennessee's 24-day independent statehood period (June 8 to July 2, 1861). Because the state had not yet joined the Confederacy, Tennessee residents were permitted to use U.S. postage after the May 31 postal cutoff date. In the original letter accompanying this cover, the writer discusses "going to town to vote Tennessee out of the Union."

- Stamp is a U.S. 1957-61 issue 3-cent dull red, valid at the time for mail from then-independent Tennessee.
- Knoxville, Tennessee, black double-circle postmark, dated June 11, 1861.
- Sender has added "C.S.A." to the white bar of the flag design, showing his Confederate sentiments.

Mississippi Medallion

A Jefferson Davis Medallion cover with a poem lauding the Confederacy's Stars and Bars:

"Advance the flag in Dixie!

*Hurrah! Hurrah!
For Dixie's land
we'll take our stand!
And live and die for
Dixie"*



APS certificate

- Corinth, Mississippi, black balloon postmark, dated June 25 (1861).
- Matching black oval "Paid 5" handstamp to show postal fee received. [Mailed after U.S. postage was no longer valid in the South, but before the Confederacy could supply its own postage.]

7-Star Flag Covers

Sending a Statement from Mississippi



- Known as a Jefferson Davis Medallion design, this patriotic has a portrait of Davis, "Our First President," flanked by two 7-star 1st national flags and seven stars in the top firmament representing the first states to join the Confederacy. Along the bottom, the South is depicted by a cotton bales and blossoms, a riverboat, and a train crossing a bridge as iconic symbols.
- Stamp is a U.S. 1957-61 issue 3-cent dull red, valid at the time for all mail delivery. The sender has shown his anti-Union sentiments by placing the stamp upside down.
- Vicksburg, Mississippi, black double-circle postmark, dated May 27 (1861) – just four days before U.S. postage would no longer be valid in the Confederate states.

Virginian: Let Us Alone "In Toto"

Mailed four days after Virginia had formally joined the Confederacy, the sender of this envelope added his emphatic endorsement of the design's printed messages of "Southern Rights" and "Let Us Alone" by writing "In Toto" along the bottom red bar of the flag imprint.



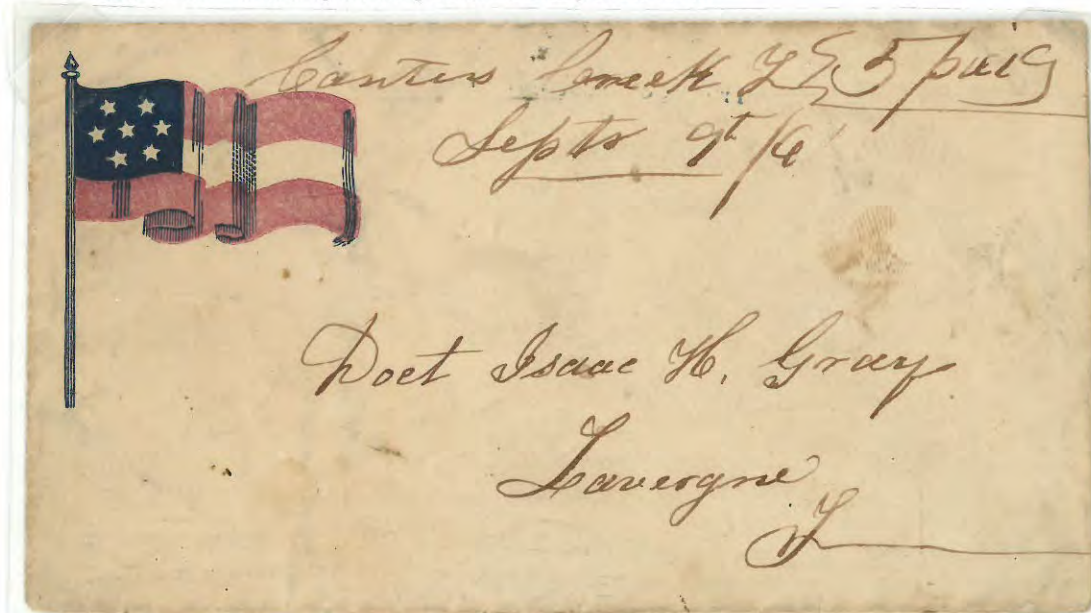
- Stamp is a U.S. 1957-61 issue 3-cent dull red, valid at the time for all mail delivery in the South and beyond.
- Culpeper Courthouse, Virginia, black single-circle postmark, dated May 11, 1861.

7-Star Flag Covers

Spartanburg Postmaster's Provisional Patriotic



- Stamp used is a Spartanburg Postmaster's Provisional, issued only in that South Carolina city for mail originating from there in summer and fall 1861, before official Confederate postage was available. Postmaster John A. Lee created his provisional stamps by applying the numeral "5" for the 5 cent mailing rate inside a Spartanburg, S.C., double-circle date stamp on a sheet of paper.
- **This cover is the only recorded use of a Spartanburg, S.C., postmaster's provisional stamp on a Confederate patriotic cover.**
- Spartanburg, South Carolina, black double-circle postmark, dated September 16, 1861.
- A black "PAID" handstamp ties the provisional stamp to the cover.



CSA certificate

- Handwritten cancellation from Carter's Creek, Tennessee, dated "Sept 9th/61" (September 9, 1861).
- "5 paid" written in upper right corner to show that postage had been paid at a time when no official Confederate stamps were available.

7-Star Flag Covers

Southern Sympathizer in a Border State



- Stamp is a U.S. 1957-61 issue 1-cent blue, valid for regular mail delivered throughout the country.
- Baltimore, Maryland, "Paid" blue balloon postmark, date unclear.
- Maryland was a "border state" – on the northern side of the Mason-Dixon Line that defined the Confederacy. There were many Southern sympathizers in Maryland with some even fighting for the Confederate Army.
- Baltimore was a particular hotbed of Southern sentiment. On April 19, 1861, as the first Northern regiment passed through the city enroute to reinforce Washington, D.C., it was attacked by a pro-Confederate mob. At least 13 died and dozens were wounded in the Baltimore riot.

A Rebel Cover From the Land of Lincoln

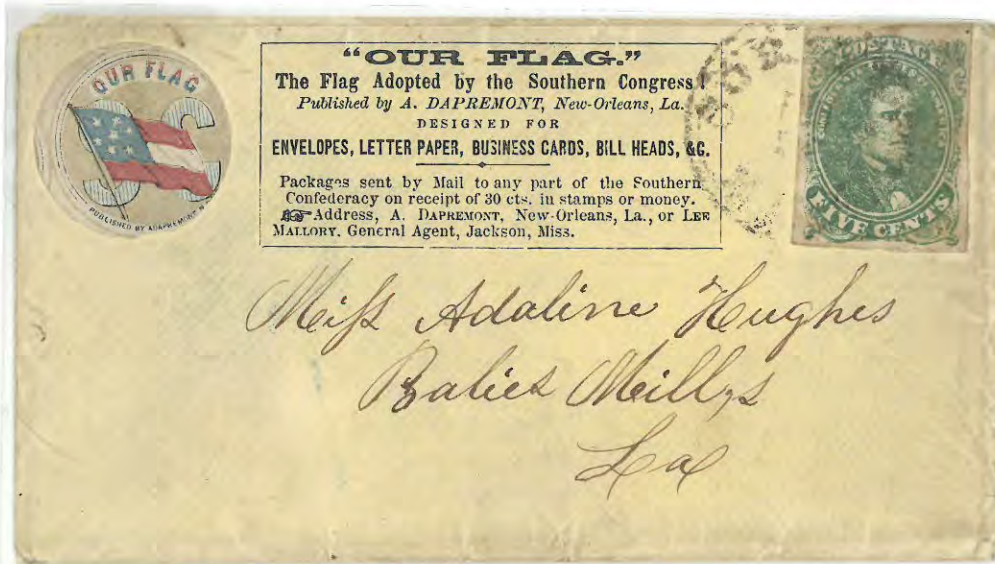


CSA certificate

- Stamp is a U.S. 1957-61 issue 3-cent dull red, valid for regular mail delivered throughout the country.
- Carbondale, Illinois, black single circle postmark, date unclear. Illinois, the state where U.S. President Abraham Lincoln was born, was firmly in the Union. Scare use of a Confederate patriotic mailed from a Northern state to another Northern state (Michigan).

7-Star Flag Covers

A Special Sticker Commemorating "Our Flag"



Alexander Dapremont, a bookseller in New Orleans, Louisiana, published a sticker celebrating the 1st national flag of the Confederacy, as "adopted by the Southern Congress." The stickers were advertised in newspapers throughout the South, in early April 1861 and sold for about two years. Design of the "Our Flag" sticker is credited to Lee Mallory, a well-known Southern artist also listed as a sales agent for the stickers.

- Advertising cover for "Our Flag" stickers, sold in packages of 25 stickers "cut and ready for use – the same as a postage stamp."
- Stamp is a CSA 1st issue 5-cent green lithograph stamp, printed by Hoyer & Ludwig of Richmond, Virginia. The stamp was first used on October 16, 1861.
- Corinth, Mississippi, black single-circle postmark, dated February 15 (1862) ties stamp to cover.



- Cover with the "Our Flag" sticker placed in upper left corner.
- Charleston, South Carolina, black single-circle postmark, dated May ? Period docketing along the left side shows receipt of the cover in May 1864.
- Stamp is a CSA 1863 issue 10-cent blue engraved stamp, printed by Keatinge & Ball of Columbia, South Carolina.

8-Star Flag Covers



May 1861 – When Virginia was admitted into the Confederacy on May 7, 1861, Southern printers rushed to add an eighth star in the blue field of their “Stars and Bars” flag envelopes. Many printers simply added an eighth star to an existing flag design, but some came up with completely new flag designs. Although 19 different 8-star flag designs are recorded, few have survived, so they still rank among the scarcest of the Confederate patriotic flag envelopes.



A Georgia Soldier Writes Home

- Soldier's letter sent postage due after being endorsed by Benjamin Mill, a private in Cobb's Legion, formed in Georgia in the summer of 1861. Cobb's Legion included infantry, cavalry and artillery companies in a single military unit.
- New 8-star flag design not seen in known covers recorded with 7 stars.
- Handstamped “Due 10” to show that 10 cents was collectable upon delivery, as per postal regulations for soldier's mail.
- Single rim postmark of Richmond, Virginia, dated September 13, 1861.



Letter from Rodney, Mississippi

- Flag envelope with 8th star clearly added to the lower right corner of a modified 7-star flag cover.
- “Paid 5” handstamp in upper right corner shows postage had been paid.
- Single circle datestamp from Rodney, Mississippi, dated in November (1861).
- Imprint of the printer, “George Ellis, opposite Post-office.”

9-Star Flag Covers

May 1861 – The **rarest of all patriotic designs**, 9-star flag envelopes celebrate Arkansas' admission into the Confederacy on May 18, 1861, becoming the 9th state to join the rebellion. Because North Carolina joined just nine days later (May 27), few 9-star covers were printed. As a result, only four different 9-star flag designs are known to exist today and fewer than two dozen covers have been reported.



“Come down on Friday of this week”



PF certificate

- Separately handstamped “Paid” and “5” to show postage had been paid.
- Single circle cancel from Eufaula, Alabama, dated October 2 (1861).
- Original letter dated October 2 accompanying the envelope is from Lewis L. Cato, before his election to the Confederate Senate, where he would represent Barbour County, Alabama, from 1862 to 1865. The letter invites a friend and his family to visit Cato in Eufaula that coming weekend.

A Letter to Georgia

- 9-star cover similar to envelope above.
- Separately handstamped “Paid” and “5” to show postage had been paid.
- Single circle cancel from Bladon Springs, Alabama, dated November 27 (1861).



7-Star Flag Covers

Charleston, S.C., Postmaster's Provisional



- Stamp used is a Charleston Postmaster's Provisional, issued only in that South Carolina city for mail originating from there in Fall 1861, before official Confederate postage was available. Postmaster Alfred Huger had lithographed adhesive provisional stamps produced in September. The local stamps were withdrawn when Confederate general issue stamps became available in December 1861.
- **This cover is one of two Charleston Postmaster's Provisional stamps recorded on a Confederate patriotic cover.**
- Charleston, South Carolina, black single-rim postmark, dated November 11, 1861, ties the provisional stamp to the cover.

Late Use in Arkansas

This cover exemplifies that people often used whatever envelope was at hand. The handwritten cancellation date of May 1862 shows that a 7-star flag cover was used a full year after only seven states had joined the Confederacy. By May 1862, the CSA actually claimed 13 states, yet 13-star flag envelopes were not widely available.



- Handwritten cancellation from Napoleon, Arkansas, dated May 13, 1862.
- "Paid 5" written in under the manuscript cancel to show postage had been paid.



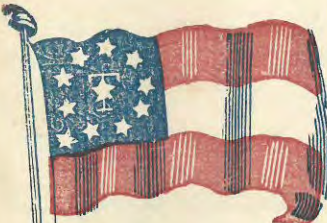
10-Star Flag Covers

May 1861 – North Carolina's vote on May 20, 1861, to leave the Union sent printers scrambling to add a 10th star to their Confederate flag envelopes. The state was admitted into the Confederacy just 7 days later, on May 27 – the shortest period between secession and joining the rebellion. There are 21 different 10-star flag designs known.



Ode to the Confederate Stars and Bars: "The Southerner's Banner"

- All-over flag cover of the 1st National Flag with 10 stars in the blue field with the names of Jefferson Davis, the Confederate President, and Alexander H. Stephens, the Vice President printed in the red stripes.
- The envelope is dated May 31 (1861) and was mailed from Corinth, Mississippi. This was the last day U.S. postage was permitted for use in the Confederate states at the U.S. mailing rate of 3 cents.
- The cover is marked "PAID" to show the postage had been prepaid. Probably, the Corinth postmaster purposely left the rate off of the cover since it would be delivered after the Confederacy's postage rate of 5 cents had taken effect the following day – June 1, 1861.
- The accompanying patriotic songsheet is original to the cover. The song, *The Southerner's Banner*, by August Hitzfeld of Memphis, Tennessee, is an ode to the national flag of the Confederacy.
- The songsheet features an 11-star flag, with a "T" for Tennessee, which voted to secede on May 6, but did not actually join the Confederacy until July 2. This provides evidence that Southern printers did not wait for states to officially join the Confederacy through the formal legislative process. They added stars to their flag covers as soon as possible after states voted to secede from the Union to illustrate the growing momentum of the rebellion.
- On the inside page of the songsheet is a handwritten letter signed by T.H. Dees, Corinth, Miss., and dated May 31, 1861. Writing to his father, Dees writes: "they are about 6,000 volunteers here ... the soldiers are getting sick fast ... we have plenty to eat ... we have no uniforms yet ... send your letters to Capt. A.S. Lee."



**THE
Southerner's Banner.**

—
BY AUG. HITZFELD, MEMPHIS.
—

All ye sons of the South who are ready to fight
For those rights which unstinted from your sires have descended,
Rise up in your might, stand firm for that boon
Which your fathers before you so nobly defended:
And if war must be waged by a tyrant enraged,
Don't rest, like true Southrons, till each vandal is caged,
And the Southerner's banner, forever shall wave
O'er our own sunny South, the land of the brave.

The fame of our arms, of our laws the mild sway,
Had justly ennobled our nation in story,
When the dark gloom of faction obscured our young day
And enveloped the sun of American glory:
But the traitors be told, who their country have sold,
And have bartered their God for his image in gold,
That the Southerner's banner forever shall wave
O'er our own sunny South, the home of the brave.

Let the North her huge limbs bathe recumbent in blood,
Black Republican vandals threaten us with destruction;
Let them load their big gun, for our boys it's just fun
To pay up the scamps for our negroes' abduction.
If war be their game, we will take a good aim
And make the whole army of hirelings run.
And the Southerner's banner forever shall wave
O'er the Southerner's home and the hireling's grave.

The hearth of his home every freeman doth love;
Let Goths and let Vandals beware of invasion,
Let them know that we have our guns on our bluff
Especially planted for the coming occasion.
And with patriots' pride to our rights we're allied,
No foe can subdue us, no faction divide
But the Southerner's banner forever shall wave
O'er the patriot's home and the hireling's grave.

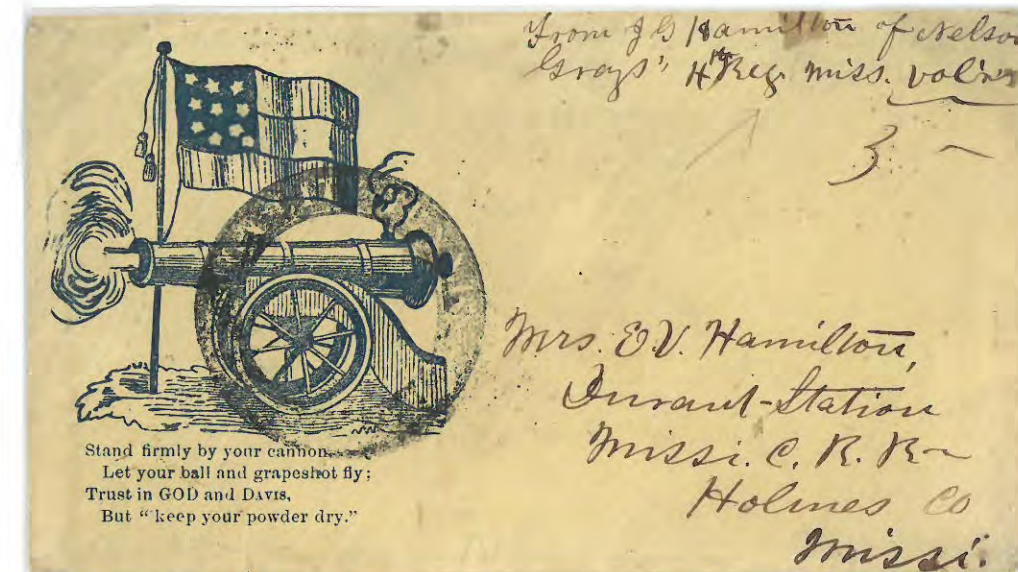
Our mountains are crowned with Imperial oak
Whose roots like our liberty ages have nourished:
Yet long ere the South submits to a yoke
Not a tree shall be left on the field where it flourished.
Should invasion impend, every grove will descend
From the hill tops they shaded, our homes to defend.
And the Southerner's banner forever shall wave
O'er the Southerner's home and the hireling's grave.

Let our patriots destroy Faction's pestilent worm,
Lest our liberties' growth should be checked by corrosion;
Let dark clouds lower around us, we heed not the storm,
Our realms fear no shock from a cannon's explosion;
Foes assail us in vain, though their fleets bridge the main;
Our rights as true Southrons with our lives we'll maintain.
And the Southerner's banner forever shall wave
O'er patriot's home and o'er a hireling's grave.

When the tempest of war overshadows our land,
Its bolts shall ne'er rend freedom's temple asunder,
For unmoved at its portal Jeff Davis will stand
And repulse with his brave band the assault of its thunder.
His sword from its sleep of its scabbard will leap
And cut with its edge tyrants' strong arm asunder.
And the Southerner's banner in triumph shall wave
O'er true patriot's home and o'er tyranny's grave.

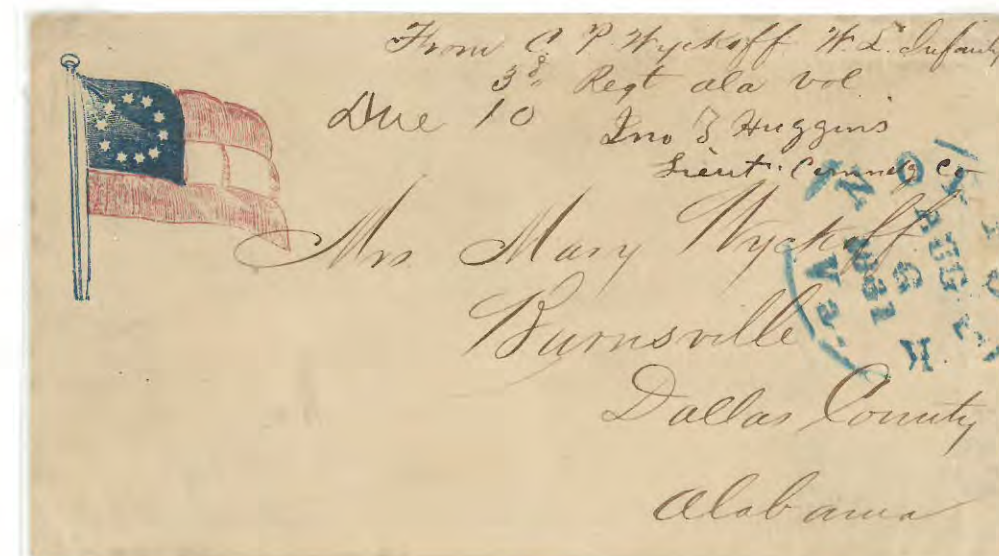
Let fame to the world sound our liberty's voice,
No threats from Abe Lincoln Southern alliance sever;
We will have our own Congress make laws to our choice,
And flourish till liberty owns us forever.
So let's join heart and hand like Linnus's band,
And swear by the Gods our home to defend.
And the Southerner's banner in triumph shall wave
O'er the patriot's home and the hireling's grave.

R. C. HITE, Job Printer, No. 43 Jefferson street, Memphis, Tenn., the only authorized Printer.



Thundering Cannon and a 10-star Flag

- Envelope postmarked by the distinctive negative circle handstamp of Union City, Tennessee.
- A manuscript "5 -" shows postage had been paid at the time of mailing.
- The soldier who sent the cover endorsed it in the upper right corner: J.G. Hamilton of Nelson's Grays, 4th Regiment, Mississippi Volunteers.
- Drawing features the 1st National Flag with 10 stars in the field.
- The patriotic verse under the firing cannon and urges Southerners to "Trust in God and [President Jefferson] Davis, but 'keep your powder dry.'"



A Soldier's Letter Home to Mom in Alabama

- Depicted is the 1st National Flag with 10 stars arrayed in a circle in the blue field.
- The cover has been endorsed by the soldier, C.P. Wyckoff of the W. Light Infantry, 3rd Regiment, Alabama volunteers, and is addressed to his mother, Mrs. Mary Wyckoff of Burnsville, Alabama.
- Manuscript note "Due 10" meant mom would have to pay the postage upon delivery for this soldier endorsed letter.
- Norfolk, Virginia, blue single circle postmark, dated August 6, 1861.

10-Star Flag Covers

Ladies Covers

Southern Women often mailed letters to each other in smaller envelopes, known as "Ladies Covers." This envelope was produced by a printer in Atlanta, Georgia, and depicts a **flag with 10 stars** to commemorate North Carolina joining its Southern sisters.



- Envelope postmarked in Griffin, Georgia, on August 7 (1861).
- Handstamped "Paid" and "5" shows postage was paid in the period before stamps were issued by the Confederate Post Office.

Unique Atlanta Medical College Flag Patriotic

- Envelope with the same 10-star flag design as the ladies cover inside an oval frame reading: Atlanta Medical College, Atlanta, Georgia.
- Atlanta postmaster's provisional handstamp showing that 10 cents postage had been paid.
- Matching black Atlanta postmark dated August 27, 1861.
- Addressed to [Vice President] Alexander H. Stevens in Richmond, Virginia – capital of the Confederacy.
- Atlanta Medical College was chartered by the Georgia State Assembly in 1854. The school became Emory University School of Medicine in 1915.



The only recorded example of this patriotic cover



11-Star Flag Covers

May-July 1861 – Southern printers began adding an 11th star to their patriotic flag envelopes soon after Tennessee’s legislature voted for secession on May 6, 1861. Tennesseans agreed to split from the Union in a June 8 referendum. The state actually was admitted to the Confederacy on July 2. There are 29 different styles of 11-star flag envelopes known, making them the second-most common after 7-star flag covers.



Scratching Stars Into the CSA Flag

This envelope illustrates the mad scramble by cover publishers trying to keep pace with the sudden swell of the Confederacy – with four states rushing to join the rebellion in May alone.

While Tennessee did not officially join until July, the May 6 vote by the legislature was enough for this cover’s printer. Four stars were hastily scratched into the corners and center of an existing 7-star flag design. This cover was posted just seven days after the secession vote.

- Stamp is a U.S. 1957-61 issue 3-cent dull red, valid at the time for mail delivery in the South and beyond. Black grid cancels the stamp.
- Starksville, Georgia, black balloon single circle postmark, dated May 13 (1861).

“T” for Tennessee: the 11th Rebel State

- Flag design features a “T” and star in the center of a circle of 10 stars from adapted earlier Stars and Bars design to represent Tennessee.
- Distinctive Union City, Tennessee, large negative circle handstamp.
- Date of July 20 (1861) has been handwritten in blue ink, showing mailing 18 days after Tennessee’s admission into the Confederacy.



11-Star Flag Covers



A Macon Provisional on Cover

- Stamp used is a Macon Postmaster's Provisional, issued only in that Georgia city for mail originating from there in summer 1861, before Confederate postage was available.
- The floral border 5-cent adhesive stamp is 1 of 3 different varieties printed and sold by Macon Postmaster Edward L. Shrohecker. This cover is 1 of 3 floral provisionals recorded on a patriotic.
- The 5-cent stamp was insufficient to cover the 10-cent rate from Macon to Richmond, Virginia, so the envelope was assessed "Due 5 cts" at delivery.
- Macon black single circle postmark, dated August 16 (1861).
- Col. Francis S. Bartow was a prominent Georgian killed at 1st Manassas – the war's first major battle.



A New Orleans Provisional

- Stamp used is a New Orleans Postmaster's Provisional, issued only in that Louisiana city for mail originating there in summer 1861, before Confederate postage was available.
- This 5-cent stamp is one of five different versions stereotyped from a woodcut and is red-brown in color, printed on bluish paper, with Postmaster John L. Riddell's name printed. The stamp is cancelled by a "Paid" handstamp.
- New Orleans black single circle postmark, dated September 6 (1861).
- One of 8 known patriotic covers with a New Orleans provisional stamp.
- Distinctive Confederate flag design unique to New Orleans bookseller J.K. Sutterfly, whose store was located under the St. Charles Hotel. This 11-star design was modified from Sutterfly's 10-star flag.



Leon Rifles of Florida

- 11 stars forming the shape of an upright Christian cross on the Confederate flag is a unique design feature of this envelope not found on any other Southern patriotic cover design. Confederate regimental designs are rare, especially from a Florida.
- "Leon Rifles" was the nickname given to the 1st Florida Infantry Regiment organized in April 1861.
- Warrington, Florida, single circle black postmark, dated October 20 (1861). [Warrington was a military base next to Pensacola.]
- Handstamp "Paid" and separate "5" showing the 5 cents postage had been paid to the recipient in Thomasville, Georgia.

Medallion Patriotic

- Stamp used is a Memphis Postmaster's Provisional, issued only in that Tennessee city for mail originating from there. The 5-cent red adhesive stamp was printed in summer 1861 by Memphis Postmaster M. C. Galloway after the Confederate government was delayed in producing stamps at the start of the Civil War.
- Date cancelled is September 1861.
- 11-star Jefferson Davis Medallion patriotic design modified from the earlier 7-star version.



Greetings from Florida

- Traditional 11-star Stars and Bars design with the stars fitting into a circle pattern.
- Postage is a 5-cent green lithographed 1st issue Confederate stamp. [First recorded use was October 16, 1861.]
- Pensacola, Florida black single circle postmark, dated November 9 (1861).

Home and Country



This "Home and Country" cover is one of four known unused examples of this elaborate pictorial design. Only two covers are recorded as having gone through the mail and surviving to this time.

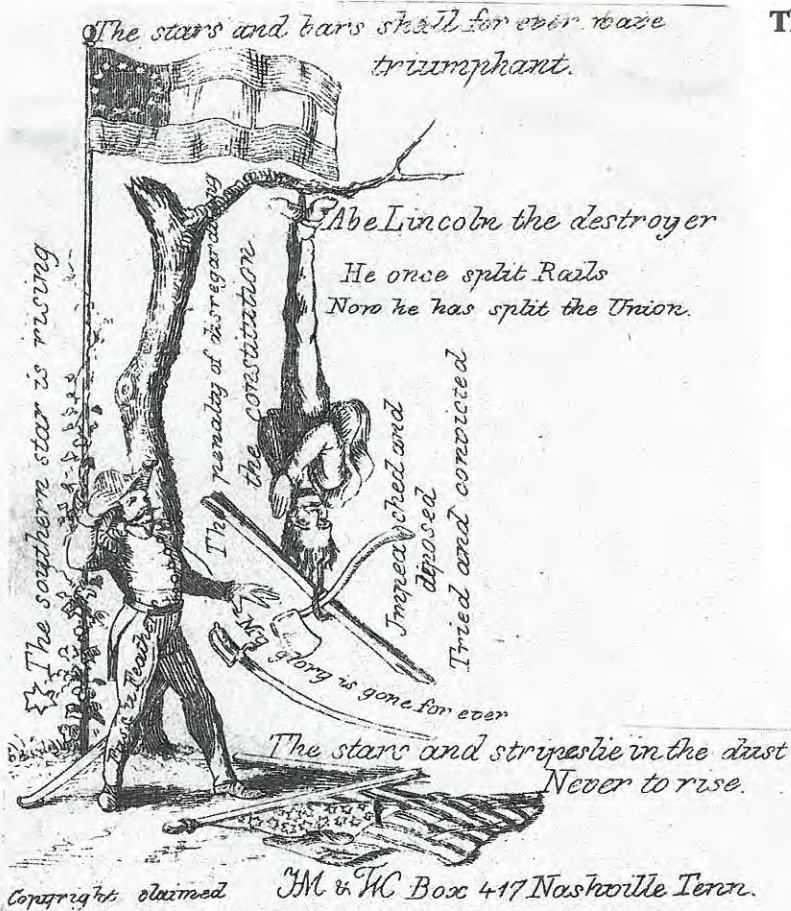
- Top panel shows a Confederate soldier with bayonet marching to defend "Our Homes" with his wife and children protected by the 11-star 1st National flag. A full cornucopia of produce represents the South's bounty.
- Bottom panel shows who the soldier is providing "Protection" from: Abe Lincoln (in top hat), who is pointing the way northward for an escaping slave. A weight represents the South's heavy tax burden.



Mr. Kate S. Chapman
 Falladaega.
 Ala.

The only known privately-carried cover of this type

The Notorious "Hanging Lincoln"



- The most vitriolic of all Confederate patriotic cover designs. This cartoon shows U.S. President Abraham Lincoln ("the destroyer") hanging upside down from a tree limb with his symbolic axe and fence rail tied around his neck. To the left of the upside down Lincoln is the caption: "The penalty of disregarding the constitution." To the right is: "Impeached and deposed. Tried and convicted."
- Above Lincoln flies an 11-star Confederate flag with the messages: "The southern star is rising" and "The stars and bars shall for ever wave triumphant."
- Standing beside Lincoln is Gen. Winfield Scott, head of the Union Army who is labeled "Fuss 'n' Feathers," dropping his sword and exclaiming: "My glory is gone for ever."
- On the ground is the American flag, captioned: "The stars and stripes lie in the dust. Never to rise."
- A note along the bottom identifies the printer as HM & WC of Nashville, Tennessee, with the notation of "copyright claimed."
- A total 12 genuine "Hanging Lincoln" covers are recorded.
- This is the only known privately-carried envelope not delivered by the Confederate postal system.



The Crescent Flag Design

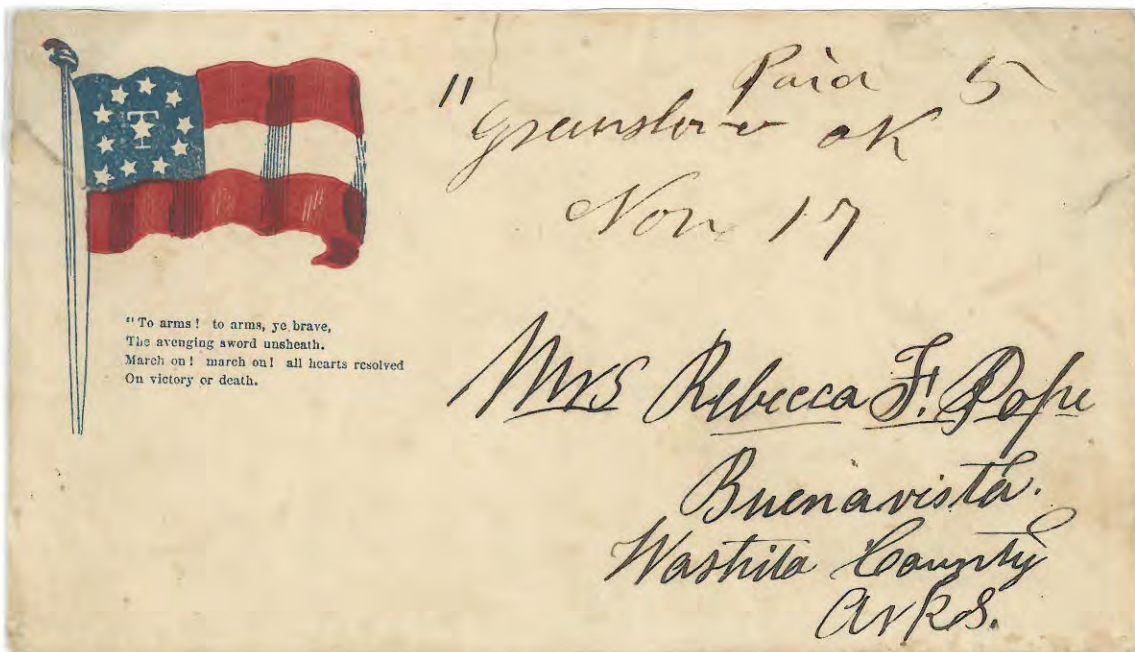
- To create 11 stars for the growing Confederacy, the printer added a crescent of four small stars to an existing 7-star Stars and Bars flag.
- Winnsborough, South Carolina, single rim postmark, dated November 22 (1861).
- Postage is shown as prepaid by a "Paid 5" handstamp.
- Another example of a "ladies cover."

Letter from Kentucky

- Columbus, Kentucky, single circle date stamp, dated December 1861.
- The handstamp "Paid" and manuscript "10" shows proper Confederate postage was paid to New Orleans.
- Control of Kentucky was hotly contested, particularly at the start of the Civil War, with many pockets of Southern sympathizers. Confederate covers from Kentucky are scarce.
- 11-star Jefferson Davis Medallion patriotic design modified from the earlier 7-star version.



Now round this gallant leader
 Our iron phalanx forms,
 We throw like Ocean's barrier rocks
 Our bosoms to the storms.



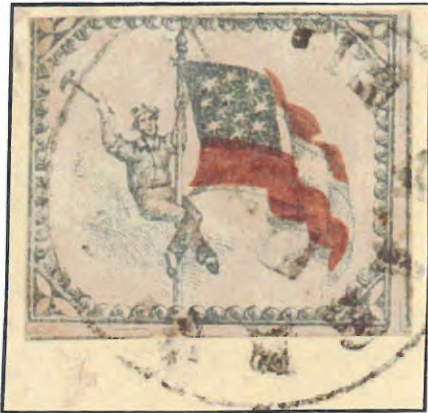
Tennessee "T" in Arkansas

- Greensboro, Arkansas, noted by handwritten cancellation across top of this envelope by the postmaster.
- Dated November 17 (1861).
- Postmaster also wrote "Paid 5" to show that the required 5 cents Confederate postage had been paid.

"To arms! to arms, ye brave,
 The avenging sword unsheath,
 March on! march on! all hearts resolved
 On victory or death.

11-Star Flag Covers

Sailor Climbing the Flagpole



- This patriotic sticker shows a sailor climbing a ship's mast with a hammer to secure an 11-star flag to the mast pole within an ornate blue frame. [The sticker is rarely tied by a postmark.]
- Pair of 1861 5-cent green lithographed 1st issue Confederate stamps to pay the 10-cent postage for delivery more than 500 miles from origination.
- Warrington, Florida, black single rim postmark (a military address next to Pensacola), dated December 16 (1861).



- Berwick City, Louisiana, black double-circle postmark, dated November 29 (1861).
- Manuscript "Paid 5" in upper right corner.

11-Star Flag Covers



11-Star Georgia Ladies Cover

- Envelope with the same waving flag design as the 10-star flags on the page above. Note that the printer has added an 11th star to the upper right corner of the blue field. This cover is also considered a “ladies cover.”
- Postage is an 1861 5-cent green lithographed 1st issue Confederate stamp.
- La Grange, Georgia, black circular date stamp, but the date is obscured.

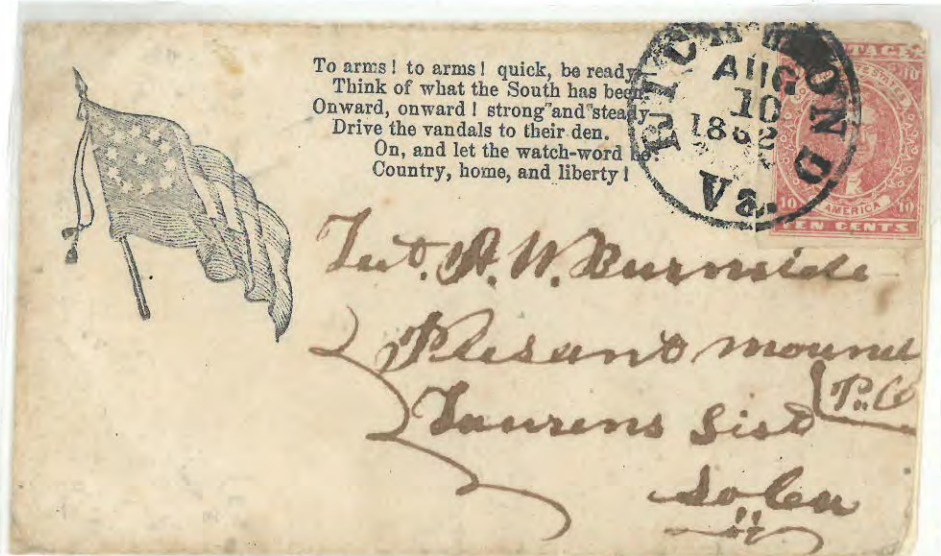


Louisiana Cannon Shot

- 11-star flag waving over firing cannon. Imprint of J.K. Sutterley, “bookseller under St. Charles Hotel,” New Orleans.
- Tangipahoa, Louisiana, black small circle postmark, dated September 9 (1861).
- Matching black “Paid” oval handstamp with a manuscript “5” postal rate noted.

Natchitoches, La.

- 11-star flag design produced by New Orleans bookseller J. K. Sutterley with no imprint (see similar patriotic cover with a New Orleans Postmaster's Provisional stamp).
- Stamp is a 1861 5-cent green lithographed 1st issue Confederate.
- Natchitoches, Louisiana, black double-circle postmark, dated June 15, 1862. Second cancel strike over the face of the stamp.
- This is a rebacked cover front.



“To arms! Drive the vandals to their dens”

- Many patriotic flag covers were printed in black and white, like this cover – especially after the first year of war, when inks, dyes and paper were in short supply.
- Stamp is a 1862 10 cent rose lithograph, produced by Hoyer & Ludwig of Richmond, Virginia.
- Richmond, Virginia, black single circle postmark, dated August 10, 1862 – after the regular Confederate mailing rate had increased to 10 cents.

Kinston, N.C.

- Traditional Stars and Bars flag design, with 11 stars in a circle in the blue field.
- Stamps are a pair of 1862 issue 5-cent blue typographed stamps produced by Thomas De La Rue & Co., Ltd., of London. Two stamps were needed to meet the 10-cent per letter postal regulations of the time.
- Kinston, North Carolina, black single rim postmark, dated August 13 (1862).

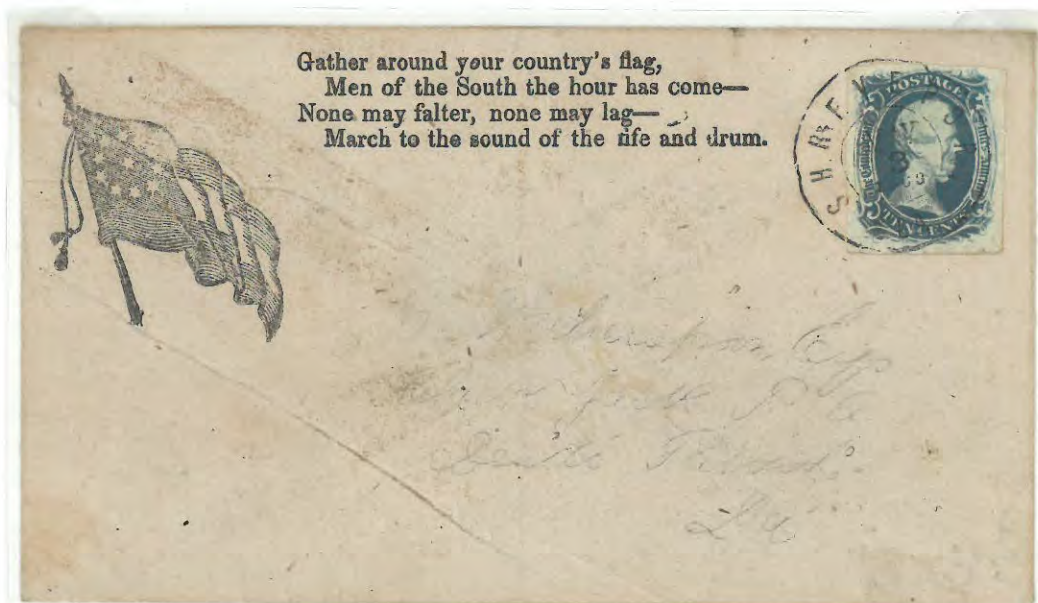


11-Star Flag Covers



Rome, Georgia's Light Guards, 8th Regiment

- A circle of 11 stars on the 1st National flag waves above an Army tent on a Confederate regimental cover design.
- Atlanta printer T.S. Reynolds produced a number of patriotic designs of Army tents. This cover was printed for the Rome Light Guards, 8th Regiment, Georgia Volunteers.
- Richmond, Virginia, black single-circle postmark, dated August 12, 1862.
- The envelope is marked postage "Due 10." Soldier J.D. Jones of Company A endorsed the envelope at the lower left corner to mail it free, with postage paid by the recipient in Rome, Georgia.



"Gather around your country's flag"

- Black and white 11-star flag design as became more common later in the war.
- Stamp is a 1863 10-cent blue engraved Confederate issue, produced by Archer & Daly of Richmond, Virginia, first issued in April 1863.
- Shreveport, Louisiana, black double-circle postmark, dated May 3, 1863, ties the stamp to the cover.



12-Star Flag Covers

November 1861 – A handful of Southern printers produced 12-star flag envelopes representing Missouri’s admission into the Confederacy. By this time, paper and ink were both in short supply. *Even though Missouri counted as a member of the Confederacy, the state remained under federal control for most of the Civil War and its political interests were actively represented in the U.S. Congress. Only six different types of 12-star covers are known to exist.*

M for Missouri

- ‘M’ at the center of the circle of stars in tribute to Missouri.
- Letter from a soldier in the Natchez Rifles regiment back home to Mississippi.
- Marked “Due 10,” payable at delivery, as permitted for mail from soldiers.
- Poem pays tribute to the 1st National Flag of the Confederacy as the “Flag of the South ... Emblem of dread to tyrant holds, Of freedom on the seas!”



CSA certificate



West Virginia postmaster for Jeff Davis

- Manuscript cancellation (upper left) from Traveller’s Repose, Virginia (now West Virginia), on the Staunton-Parkersburg Turnpike.
- Handwritten “Paid 10” (upper right corner) showing postage had been paid to Augusta, Georgia.
- Dated September 10 (1861), three weeks before the nearby Battle of Greenbrier River.
- The postmaster also wrote “Jeff Davis” in the flag’s white stripe, showing his Southern sentiment.

12-Star Flag Covers

The Flag and Davis

- Stamp used is a Memphis Postmaster's Provisional, issued only in that Tennessee city for mail originating from there. The 5-cent red adhesive stamp was printed in summer 1861 by Memphis Postmaster M. C. Galloway after the Confederate government was delayed in producing stamps at the start of the Civil War.
- The verse celebrates the 1st Confederate flag (with 12 stars) and President Jefferson Davis: "No foe shall conquer Dixie!"
- Circular date stamp shows the envelope was mailed from Memphis, but the date is unclear.



The London Printing

- This cover bears a Richmond, Virginia, postmark with an unclear mailing date.
- Stamp is a 1862 5-cent blue typographed stamp produced by De La Rue Co. of London under contract to the Confederate government, which had difficulty making its own high-quality postage stamps. These stamps are also known as "the London Printing," marked by their high quality, compared to similar stamps later printed in the Confederacy.
- Depicted is the 1st National Flag with 11 stars in the outer circle plus a single star in the middle.

Raleigh Local

- The blue date stamp (center) show mailing date as August 3, 1861.
- Handstamp marking in red "Paid 5" Raleigh, North Carolina, postmaster's provisional (upper right corner). [Confederate postage was not yet available.]
- Flag design is the same as Ladies cover above.





13-Star Flag Covers

December 1861 – A 13th star was added to the 1st national flag to mark the succession vote by Confederate sympathizers in Kentucky. Some Southern printers produced envelopes showing the Army’s battle flag and depicted the new 2nd national flag. *While Kentucky was admitted to the Confederacy, the state never formally left the Union and was represented in the U.S. Congress throughout the Civil War. There are eight different 13-star flag designs recorded.*



“Our New Flag”

This cover introduces the 2nd national flag of the Confederate States, which incorporated a St. Andrew’s cross in its left corner on a field of white. The St. Andrew’s cross already had been adopted by many Confederate Army regiments as their battle flag and was a popular national symbol. The poem refers to the new flag as “the Cross of the South.”

Also known as the “Stainless Banner,” one of the flag’s first official uses was to drape the coffin of Gen. Thomas J. “Stonewall” Jackson after his death from “friendly fire” on May 10, 1863.

CSA certificate

- Postage was paid by a vertical pair of 1862 CSA 5-cent blue typographed stamps.
- Double circle cancellation of Charleston, South Carolina, dated November 4, 1862.



“My Country’s Freedom, Victory or Death”

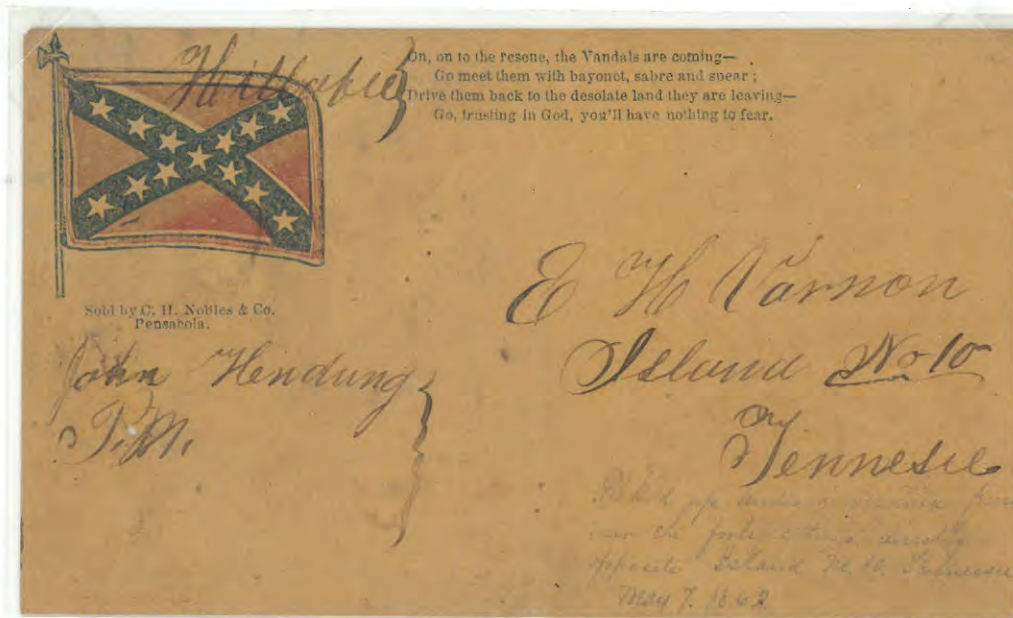
CSA certificate

- Envelope bears the image of a Confederate Army officer holding a 13-star flag and brandishing a sword.
- Below the image are the words “My Country’s Freedom.” Right of the flag reads “Victory or Death.”
- A pair of 1861 CSA 5-cent green lithographed stamps. The right stamp is the “white shirt” variety.
- Manuscript cancellation of Sulphur Springs, Mississippi, dated September 9th, 1862.

13-Star Flag Covers

2nd National Flag

- Soldier's letter sent postage due after endorsement by Lt. D. B. Edwards at top of the envelope. Edwards identified his unit as the 44th Alabama, Company 'A,' in the white field of the 2nd National flag of the Confederacy, adopted in May 1863.
- Handstamped postage "Due 10" was collectable upon delivery, according to postal regulations for soldier's mail.
- Single rim postmark of Culpeper Courthouse, Virginia, dated June 15 (1863).



The Confederate Battle Flag

- Manuscript postmark of Hillabee (Alabama) at top left.
- Postal endorsement of John Hendung, Postmaster in Hillabee, written below the battle flag rendering.
- Mailed to E.W. Varnon on Island No. 10, Tennessee (a rebel fort in the Mississippi River).
- Notation on the envelope says that it was "picked up under a Virginia fence near the fortifications directly opposite Island No. 10, Tennessee, May 7, 1862."
- The Confederate garrison on Island No. 10 surrendered to Union troops on April 7, 1862.

1st National Flag Adapted with 13 Stars to honor Kentucky

- Envelope marked as "Due 5" cents, with endorsement by the soldier, Oliver Perkins of the Anacoco Rangers.
- Single rim postmark of Carrollton, Louisiana (outside of New Orleans at the time – now part of the city).
- The letter that accompanied the cover was dated December 23, 1861.

