

The Madison Florida 1861 Postmaster's Provisionals

Patricia A. Kaufmann

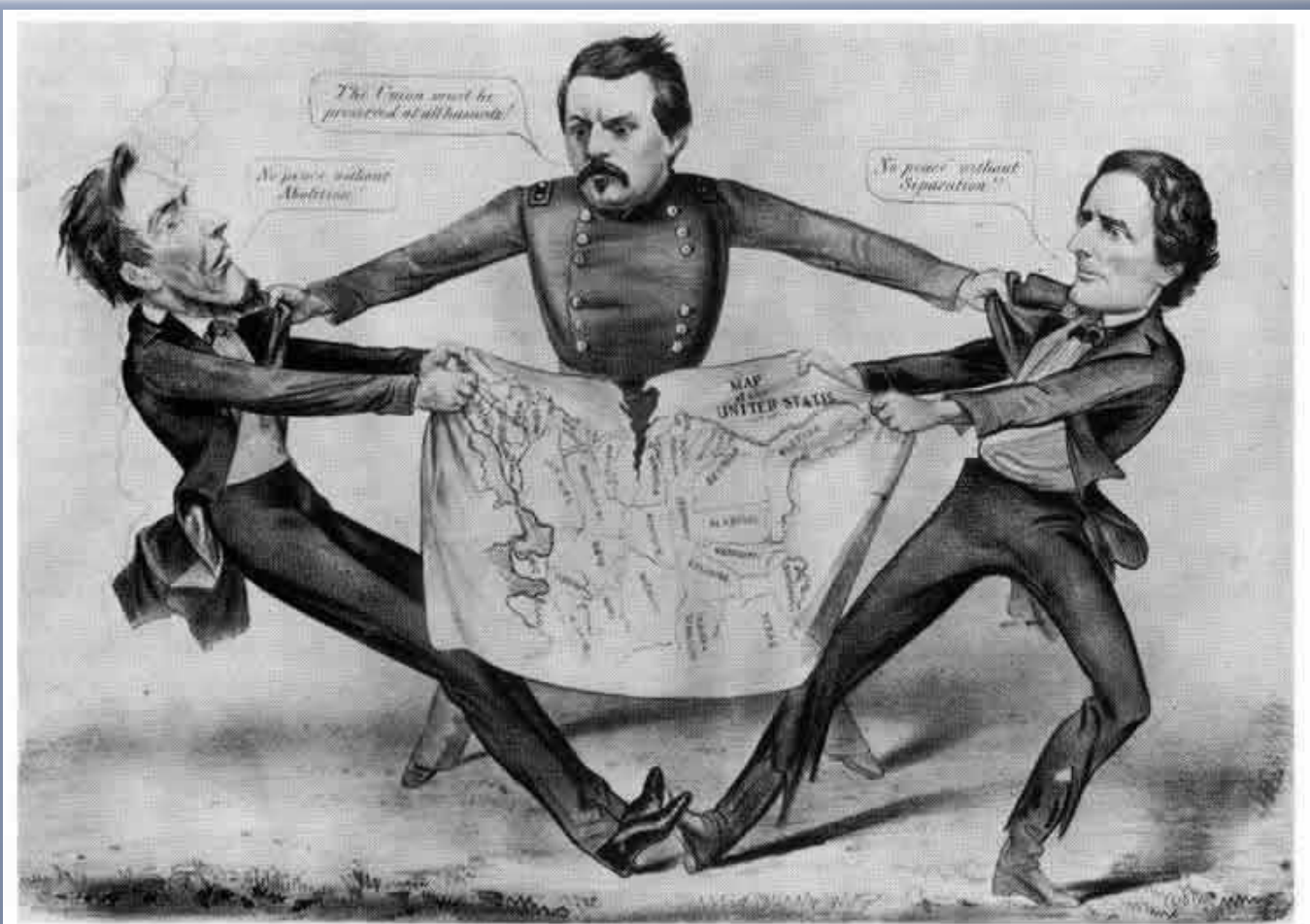


What is a postmasters' provisional?

- Stamps created and sold by some town postmasters as a **temporary measure**, presumably **only for local use**. Thus they are sometimes also referred to as “locals.”
- When I began my research on the 3¢ Madison provisionals, the only cataloged locals issued were Confederate stamps properly rated 2¢, 5¢ and 10¢ (not counting rerated or combination-rated handstamped varieties).
- My published research suggested there should be another type of provisional listed in catalogs – partly US and partly Confederate.

Secession

- South Carolina seceded December 20, 1860.
- Mississippi seceded January 9, 1861.
- Florida seceded January 11, 1861.
- Confederate States of America began to be formed February 4, 1861. But not in a solitary day.



"The Union must be preserved at all hazards!" cries "General Mac" as Lincoln and Davis threaten to tear the map of the United States asunder.

US/CSA Rates

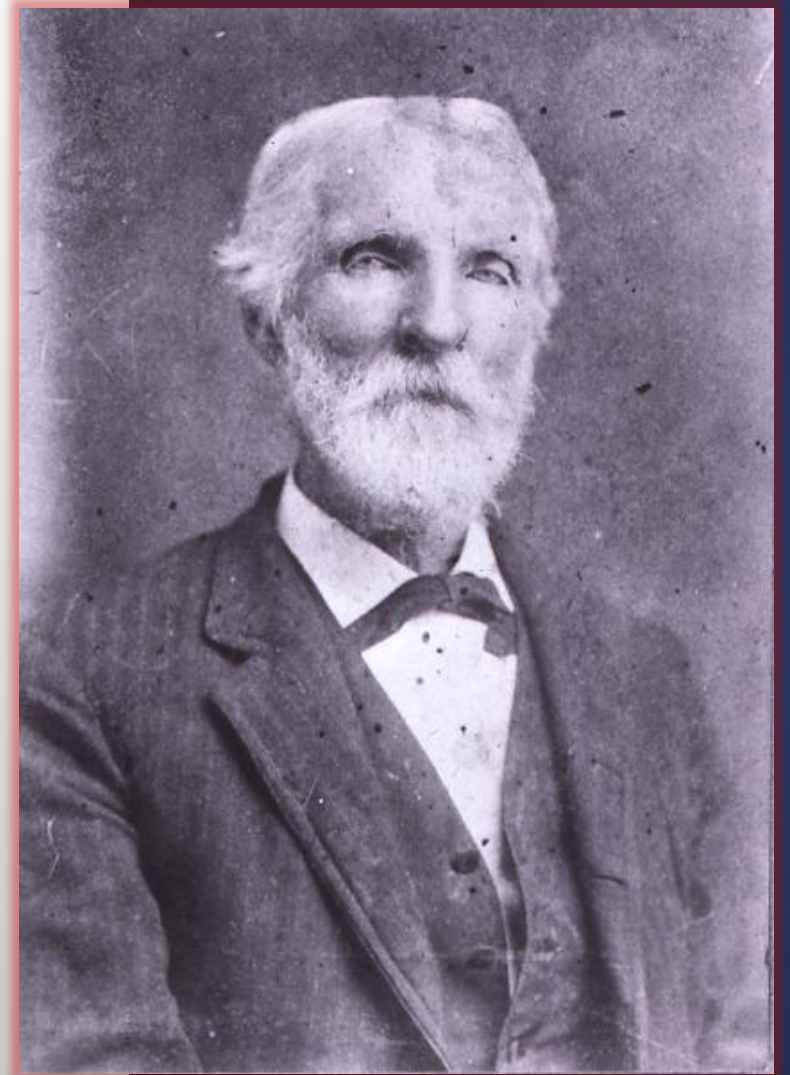
- February 9, 1861, the Confederate Provisional Congress adopted an act to continue in force laws of the US until such laws could be changed.
- By default, this established the postal rates in the Confederacy the same as in the US.
- The act prescribing new CSA postage rates was passed and received presidential approval February 23, but did not go in effect until June 1, 1861.



First Day Cover in the Confederate States postal system bearing the old US 3¢ 1857 adhesive which was not accepted. The new Confederate 5¢ rate was shown as paid by a handstamp. Confederate general issue stamps were not available until October, 1861.

Southern States Still Accountable to the United States Post Office Department

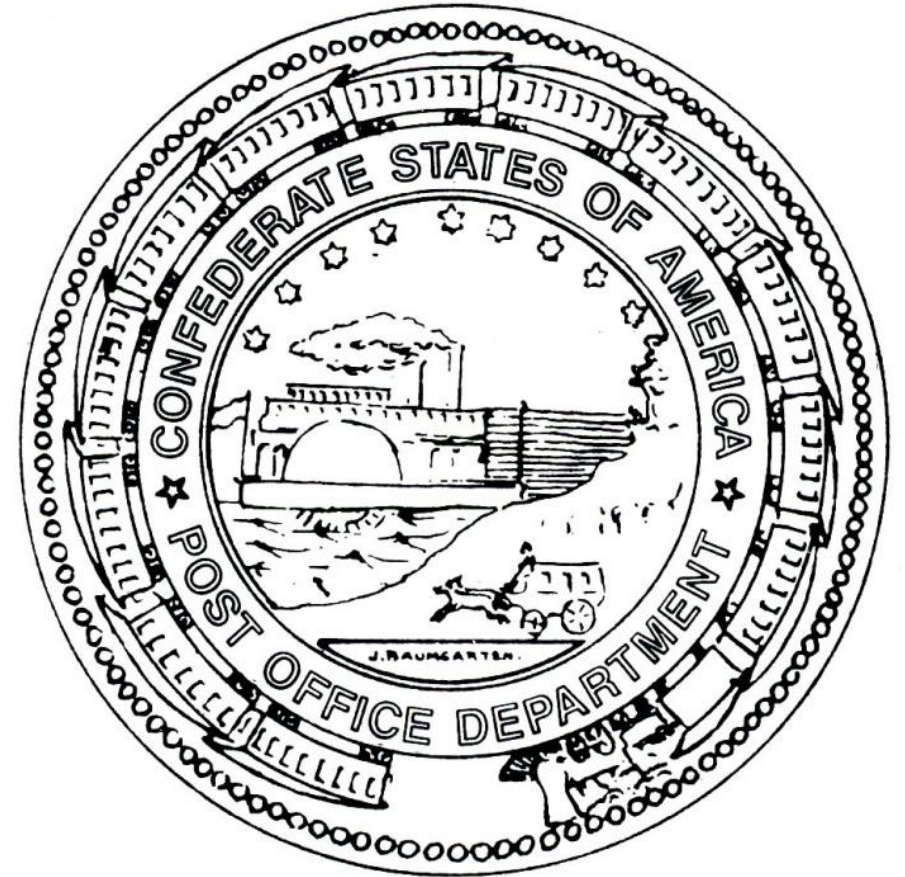
- On January 26, 1861, U.S. Postmaster General Montgomery Blair sent a letter to Madison Postmaster Samuel J. B. Perry (as well as other Southern postmasters) demanding a confirming oath before shipping additional supplies.
- Until June 1, Southern postmasters were still under oath to the USPOD.



Samuel James Bradley Perry – Madison PM

Civil Cooperation

- Confederate POD established February 21, 1861
- CSAPMG John H. Reagan appointed March 6, 1861
- USPOD continued to provide postal service in the seceded states with US postage rates still in effect.
- PMG Reagan advised Southern postmasters it was in the interests of all that they continue their duties and render all monies to the US until the CSAPOD could assume control over their own affairs on June 1.

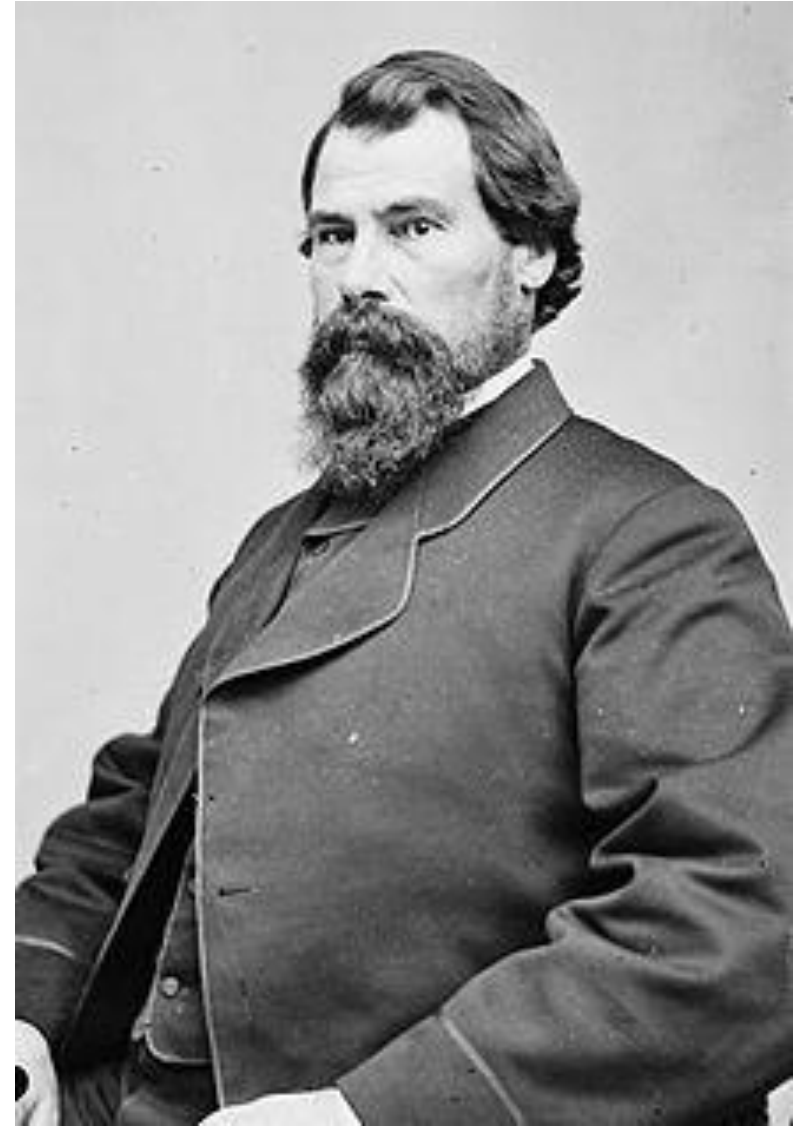


Stage Set for Provisionals

In a letter written by Reagan in 1898 in reply to postal inquiries, he explained the CSAPOD's official position relative to postmasters' provisional stamps:

“I stated in the report referred to that it was necessary ‘to leave it to postmasters and persons paying postage to arrange between themselves the manner in which these notes may be used.’ Under this condition occurred the issuance of local stamps and stamped envelopes by quite a number of Confederate postmasters.”

Confederate Postmaster General John Henninger Reagan



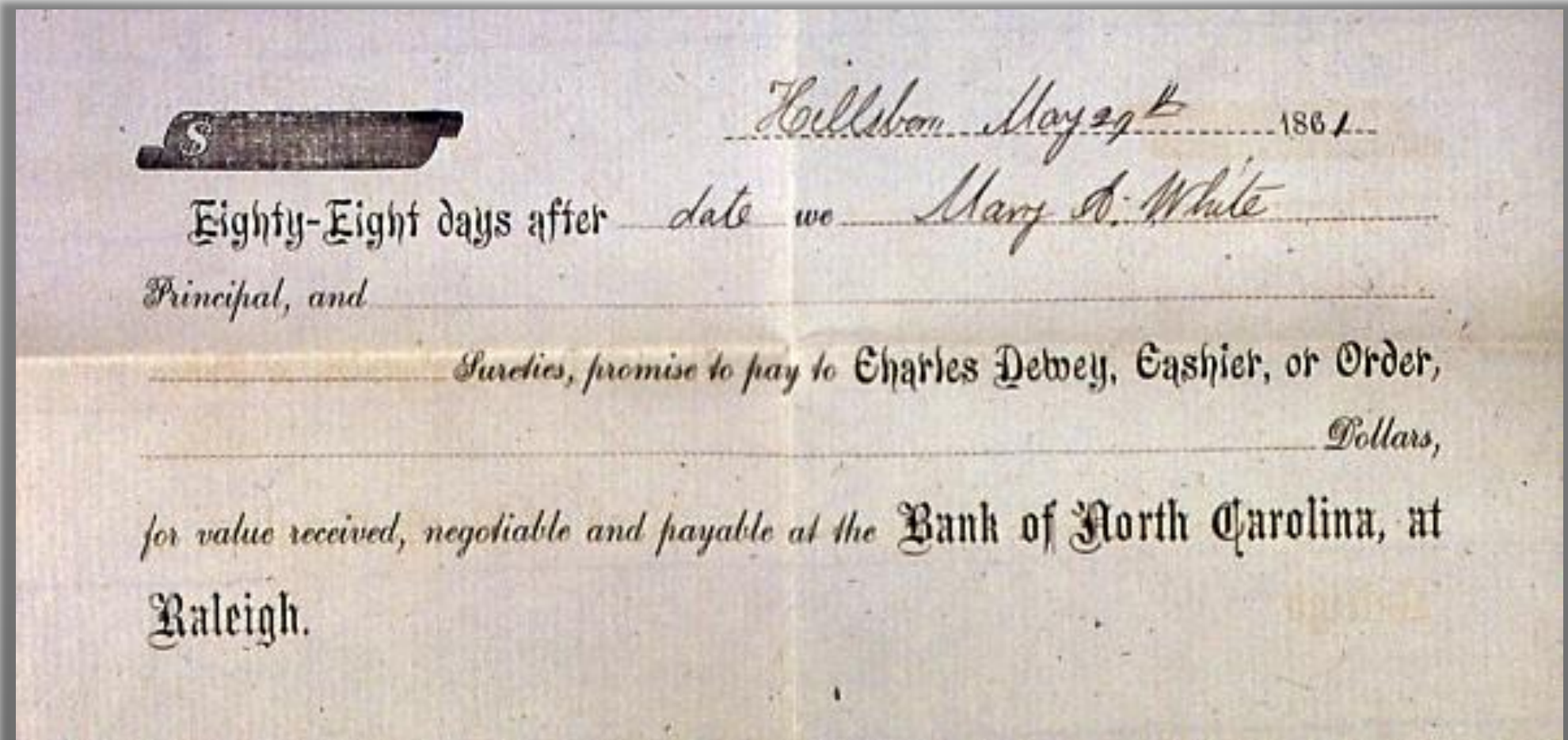
Fast Forward to Spring 1984

A spectacular original correspondence was offered to Kaufmann Auctions in 1984 which included an intriguing cover with a Hillsboro, N.C., provisional dated May 27, 1861 – the day North Carolina was admitted to the Confederacy.

No rate noted on the crude stamp; the 3¢ US denomination is understood.



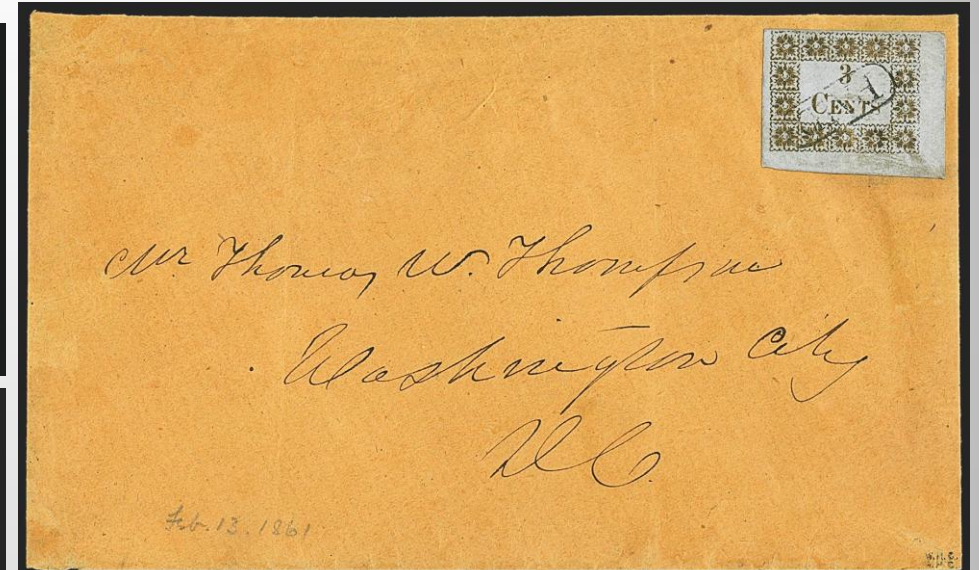
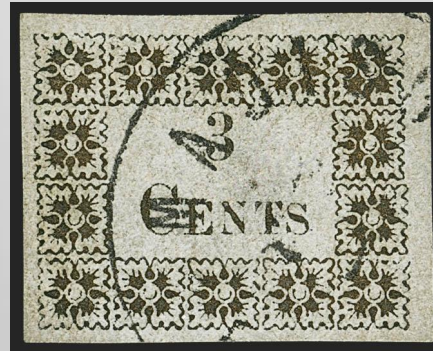
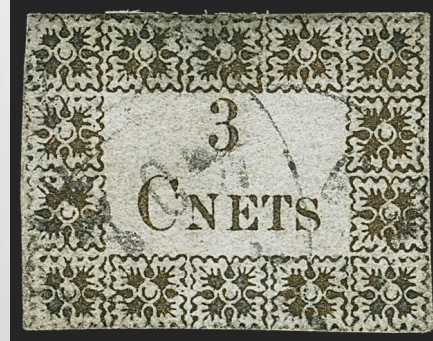
Original Enclosure with Hillsboro Cover



So what does
Hillsboro, N.C.
have to do with
the Madison
Florida
provisionals?

PROVIDENCE!

One week later, more
3¢ 1861 stamps
appeared...



These 3¢ stamps were the Madison PMPs

Five of the seven recorded Madison provisionals were offered to Kaufmann Auctions as one unit. They came with fabulous provenance and substantial background information, but also with the taint of having been de-listed from the Scott Catalogue.

There was much work to be done to rehabilitate them.

3¢ Madison with “Paid in Money” manuscript cancel



Madison Provisional Census

7 recorded

1. 3¢ Madison used with town cancel
2. Second example with town cancel, thought to have been owned by Weill brothers. Current owner unknown. Poor photocopy at PF.
3. 3¢ Madison canceled with a manuscript (P)aid in (Money), unique.

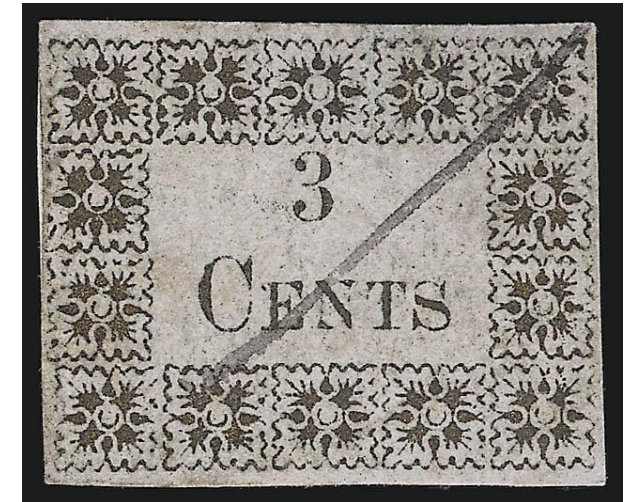


Madison Provisional Census

7 recorded

4. 3¢ Madison "CNETS" error, canceled town postmark, unique.
5. 3¢ Madison with slash pen cancel, unique.

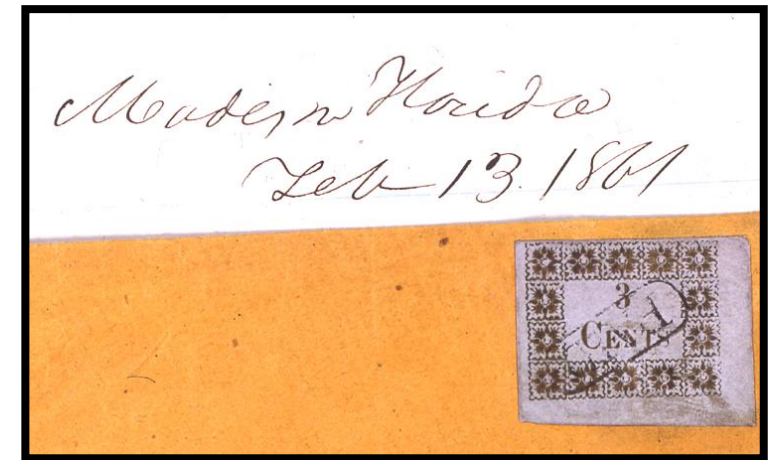
Stolen from Stanley Piller's dealer stock at the 2000 show in Sarasota. The FBI recovered it; sold in the D.K. Collection 2012, Siegel Auctions



Madison Provisional Census

7 recorded

6. 3¢ Madison canceled by oblong PAID cancel on cover with a clipping from the original letter headed "Madison Florida Feb 13 1861." The only recorded 3¢ Madison used on cover.
7. 5¢ black Madison press-printed entire used with Madison, Flo. Sep 2, (1861) town postmark; the only recorded Confederate-rated use.



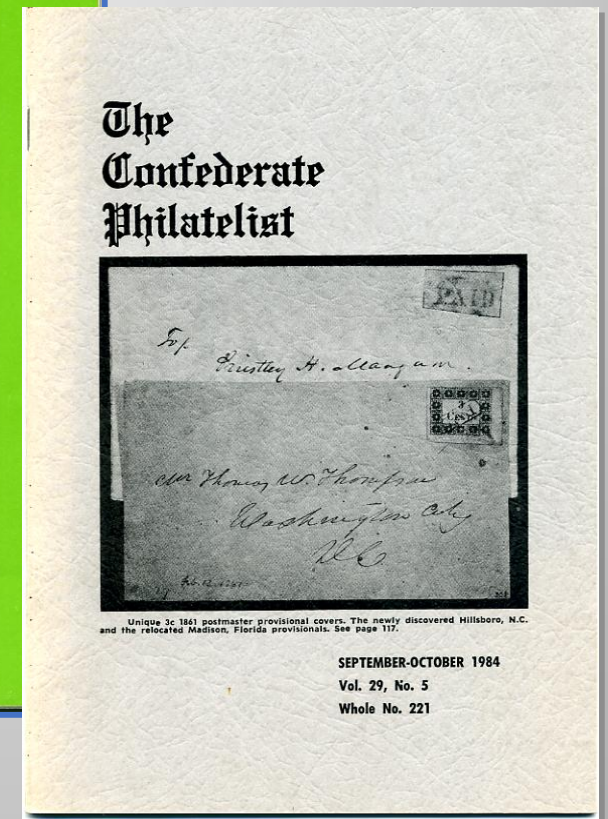
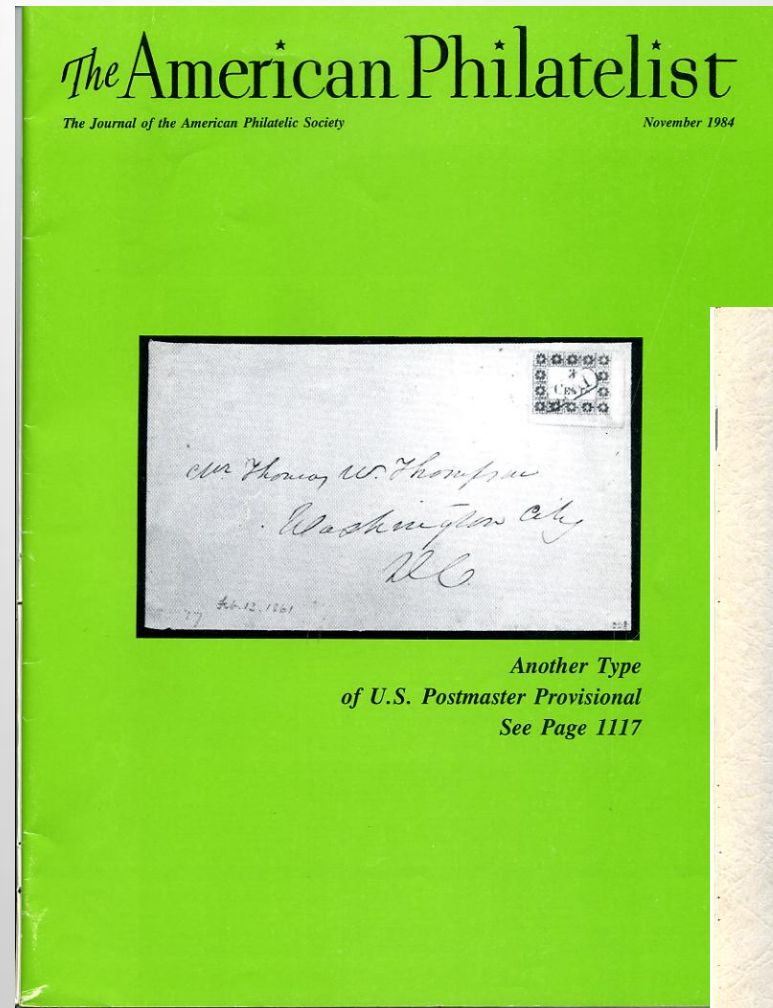
Cover is digitally cropped



Published Research Fall 1984

I wrote an article entitled
**“U.S. 3¢ 1861 Postmaster
Provisionals Used in the
Confederacy,”** which ran
concurrently in the *American
Philatelist* and the
Confederate Philatelist.

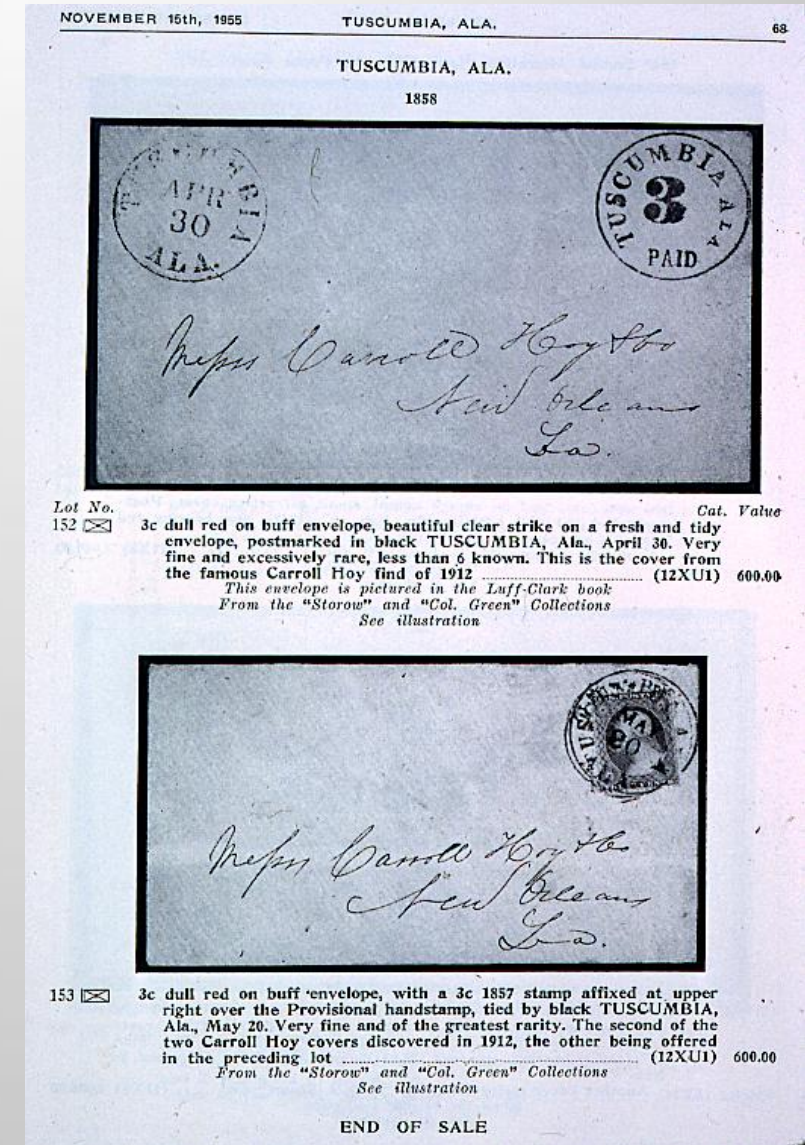
I proposed a new catalog
category, the 3¢ 1861
postmasters’ provisionals.



Were there other 3¢ provisionals? Yes!

- Tuscumbia, Alabama, was listed incorrectly for near a century in the US section of *Scott Catalogue* as #12XU1, issued in 1858.
- Yet every other US provisional is either a 5¢ or 10¢ value and issued in 1845 or 1846.
- There are recorded Tuscumbia 5¢-rated Confederate provisionals, which logically placed the 3¢-rated provisionals in that era.
- Most of the few known Tuscumbia 3¢ provisionals were from the Carroll, Hoy & Co. correspondence. Buchanan, Carroll & Co. became Carroll, Hoy & Co. in mid-1858.

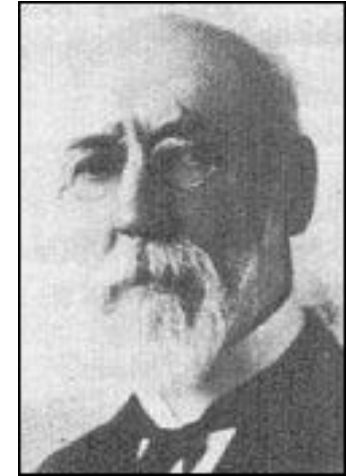
At right is an H.R. Harmer catalog page from the Caspary collection in which they sold two Tuscumbia PMPs.



“CNETS” Error the First Madison Discovered - 1872

J.W. Scott, the founder of the *Scott Catalogue* (1868) and called the Father of American Philately in his lifetime, discovered the first of the Madison provisionals (the "CNETS" error) announcing in print in 1872 that **“the Madison was the first issued, best authenticated, and scarcest Confederate provisional.”**

Provenance: John Walter **Scott**, James W. **Paul**, Jr., Judge Frederick A. **Philbrick**, Count Philipp von **Ferrary**, William Lewis **Moody** III, Henry G. and Raymond W. **Lapham**, John and Patricia **Kaufmann**, Dr. Deane R. **Briggs**, Hon. J. William **Middendorf** II, John **Crossman**.



Madison Provisional Delisted

- Listed in Scott Catalogue only through 1896.
- Not known why de-listed, although John Luff may be the cause. In print, Luff called them “nothing but labels.”
- Scott died in 1919. Scott Publishing Co. records before 1880 were destroyed in a fire years ago.



Madison 5¢ Press-Printed Entire - discovered 1895

The only recorded Confederate-rated 5¢ Madison press-printed entire was discovered in 1895 by C. H. Mekeel, founder of *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News*.

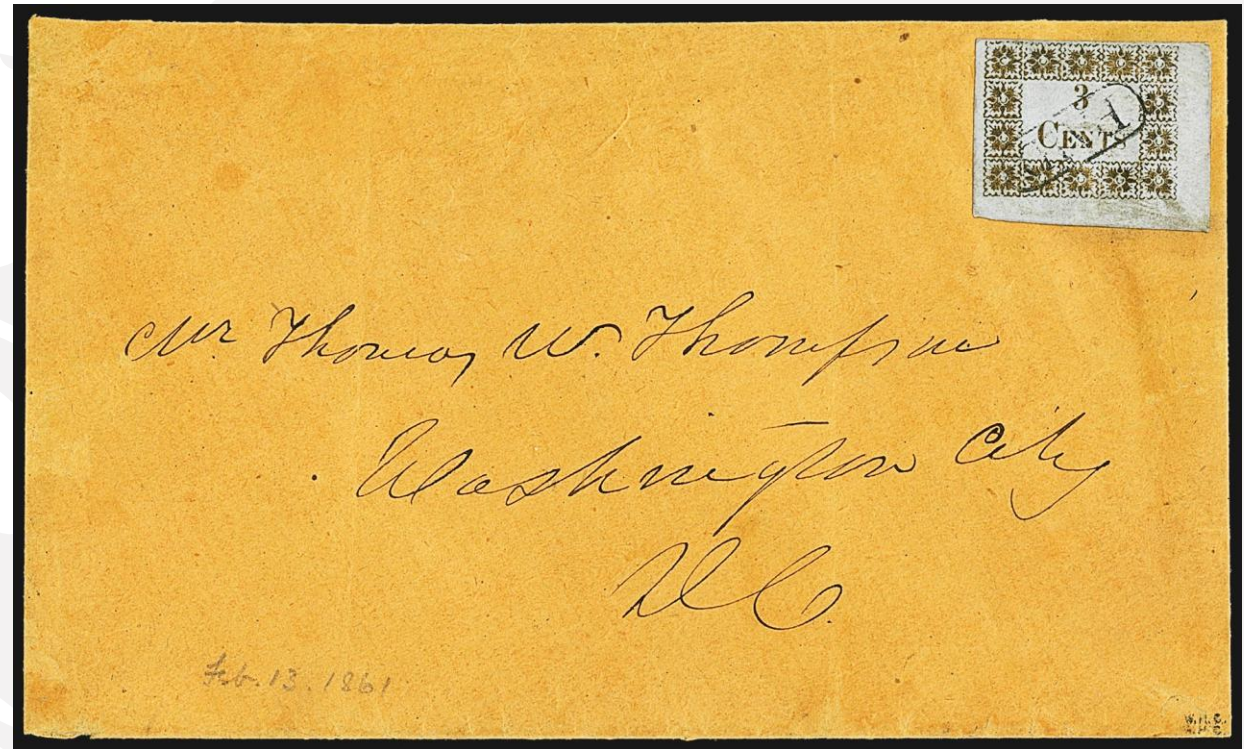
Provenance: Mekeel, Ferrary, Moody, Lapham, Kaufmann, Briggs, Dr. Daniel M. Knowles.

C.H. Mekeel



Only 3¢ Madison Known on Cover - Discovered 1895

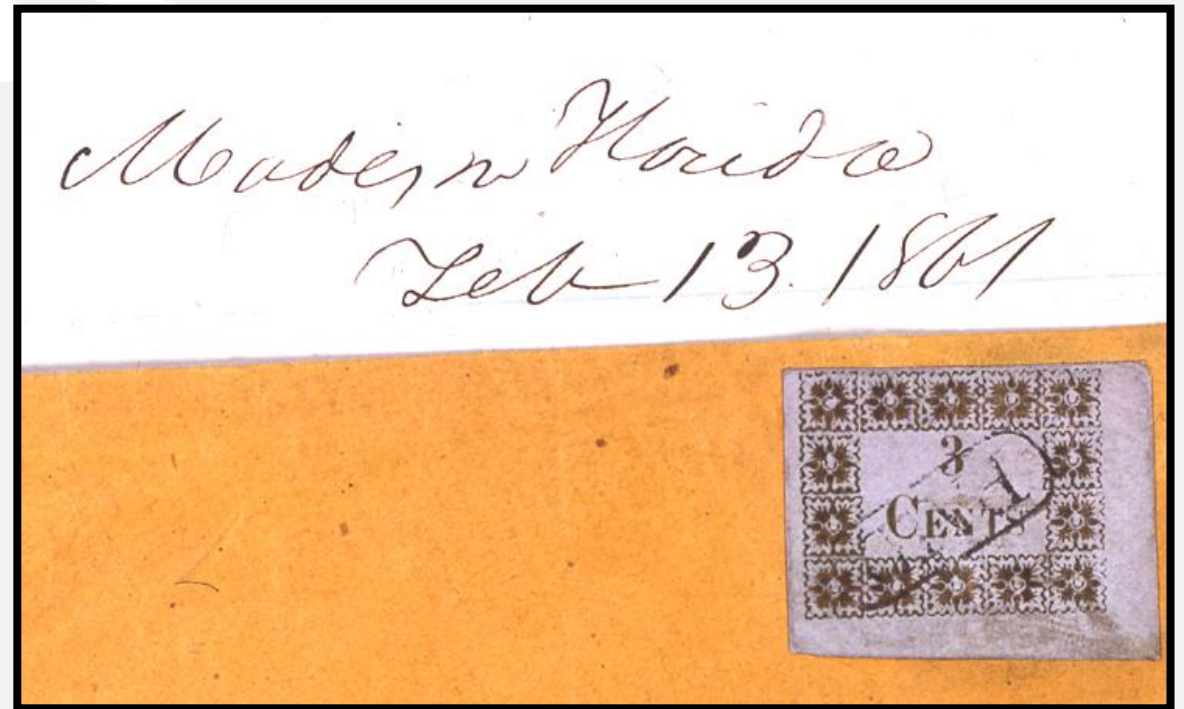
Discovered in 1895 by Dr. Gaius M. Brumbaugh of Washington, D.C., who described it in an August 1896 letter to New York stamp dealer R. F. Albrecht to whom he sold it.



Only 3¢ Madison Known on Cover

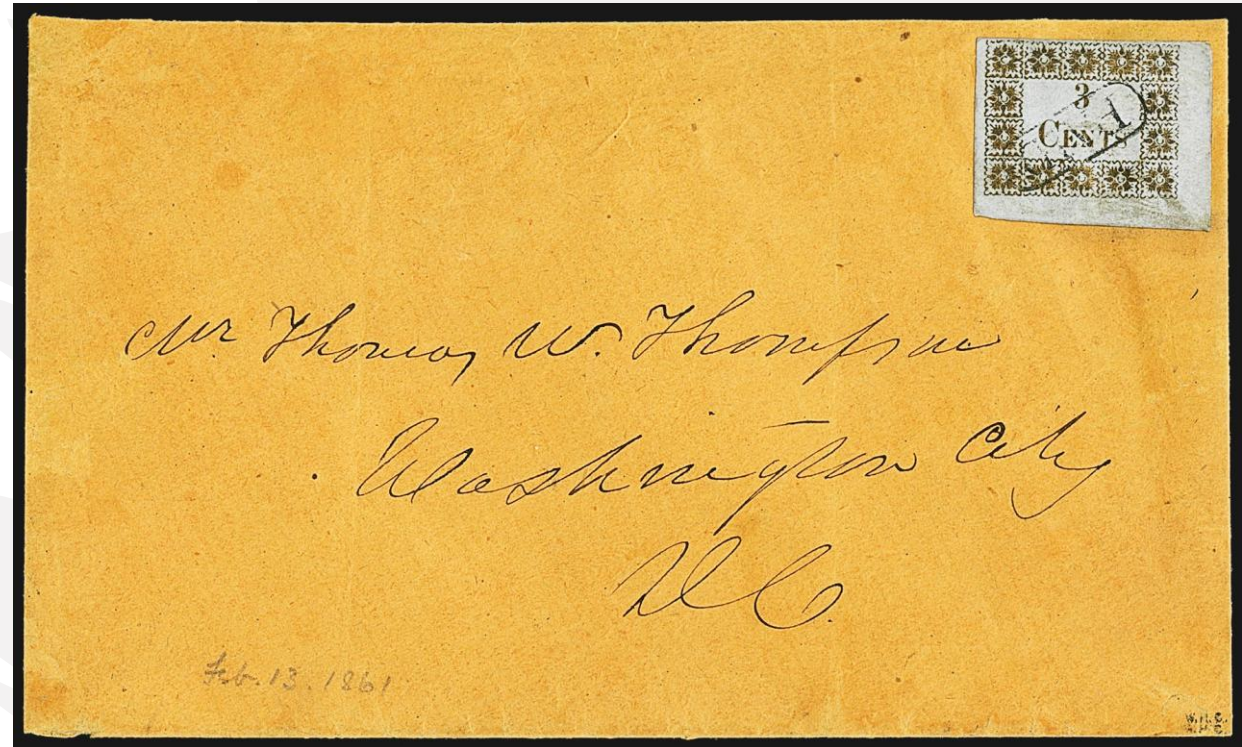
Dr. Brumbaugh bought it from a patient, cut off the dateline to establish the date of use, and returned the remaining portion to his patient to protect family privacy.

Provenance: Brumbaugh, Sir William Avery, Henry Joseph Duveen, Arthur Hind, Alfred H. Caspary, Kaufmann, William H. Gross, Briggs, Middendorf, Knowles.



Only 3¢ Madison Known on Cover

- The death certificate of Mrs. Thomas W. Thompson (Fannie) showed her physician as Dr. Brumbaugh.
- Stamp was canceled with an oblong PAID cancel and is not tied – always troublesome to authenticators.



Madison 3¢ Provisional Production

The March 1872 *American Journal of Philately* published a detailed letter from former Postmaster Perry to J. W. Scott in response to his inquiry after discovering the CNETS error: “... before the ink became dry, [we] sprinkled **yellow bronze** on it, which gave the stars and border the **appearance of gold.**”

**SEXY
STAMP**



Madison 3¢ Provisional Production

“Ordinary (blue wove) foolscap paper was used. All the fractional currency in circulation disappeared about that time, and it was difficult to make change; indeed almost impossible to conduct the post-office, having no United States postage stamps, as my supply was exhausted soon after the assemblage of the Confederate Congress...” Postmaster Samuel J. Perry



Madison 3¢ Provisional Production

” ...and believing my allegiance due to the Confederacy, I was loath to apply for stamps to the United States and determined to mail letters *paid in money only.*”

Postmaster Samuel J. Perry



Madison 3¢ Provisional Production

- The stamps were printed at the local newspaper office of the *Southern Messenger*.
- Postmaster Perry's eldest son, William L. Perry, was the editor and publisher of that paper, as well as a Confederate postal clerk with a salary of \$1,200 per year.





Madison 3¢ Provisional Production

- The two stamps at left are obvious counterfeits produced by S. Allan Taylor in different colors and values. Genuine stamp at right.
- The genuine stamp design is 21mm wide X 17mm high. Fourteen boxed ornamental stars comprise the frame surrounding the value.
- The center of each star contains a semi-circle. The semi-circles do not all face the same way, which would make them easy to plate were there enough of them to do so.

Letter to USPMG
from Madison
PM, March 1861

Letter from Madison
Postmaster Perry to
USPMG 8th March
1861 justifying why he
made his own postage
stamps and that he
has and will remit all
monies to USPOD.

Perry states he made
both **3¢** and **1¢** values.

Letter in National Archives

Madison 46 Pl...
8th March 1861
Postmaster Genl.
Sir,
I find under the head of "Paid in Money" in the two York Herald within a few days - The amount of money deposited with the Postmaster at Madison has been a letter has been dropped in the box of this office with a stamp of each for 3 cents affixed to it - I know the letter has been paid for ^{therefore} and in writing it - the word paid is stamped immediately before the check the amount is placed under the of "Paid in Money" in the way accompanying the same in my instance the matter is for convenience of conducting the affair of the Post Office at Madison without the most important of interfering upon the people or amount, this is a simple statement of facts connected with the whole matter - I feel surrounded that I have violated no law, and have the kindness to acknowledge the receipt of this letter
Very Respectfully
Yours Sent
S. Perry Postmaster Pa.

Back to Square One – 1985 More Research Needed

- The Philatelic Foundation declined opinions on all of the Madison provisionals.
- The Hillsboro, NC, 3¢ provisional was issued certificate #139969 as genuine with the wording as submitted.
- The Foundation did not condemn the Madison provisionals; they merely required more proof.

PF THE PHILATELIC FOUNDATION
270 MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016
EXPERT COMMITTEE

No. 0139966
3/07/85

We have examined the enclosed item submitted by the applicant described as follows:

Country: UNITED STATES OF AMERICA


Cat. No.	Issue	Denom	Color
----	1861	3¢	bronze on bluish

Scott's unless otherwise specified.

MADISON, FLORIDA POSTMASTER PROVISIONAL USED
IN THE CONFEDERACY, WITH MADISON FEB 21(1861)
TOWN CANCEL

OF WHICH A PHOTOGRAPH IS ATTACHED AND
ARE OF THE OPINION THAT:

DECLINE OPINION * * * * *



submitted by JOHN W. KAUFMANN, INC.

For The Expert Committee
Chairman

Why did the PF decline an opinion?

- The Philatelic Foundation had no record of other examples of the canceling devices used on the Madisons, not the oblong "PAID" on the cover, nor the rare small Madison "FLO" circular datestamp.
- Some felt the papers I found at NARA written by the Madison postmaster might have been "planted" by the disreputable Dr. James Petrie in the 1800s to help authenticate the provisionals. I felt that was a stretch!



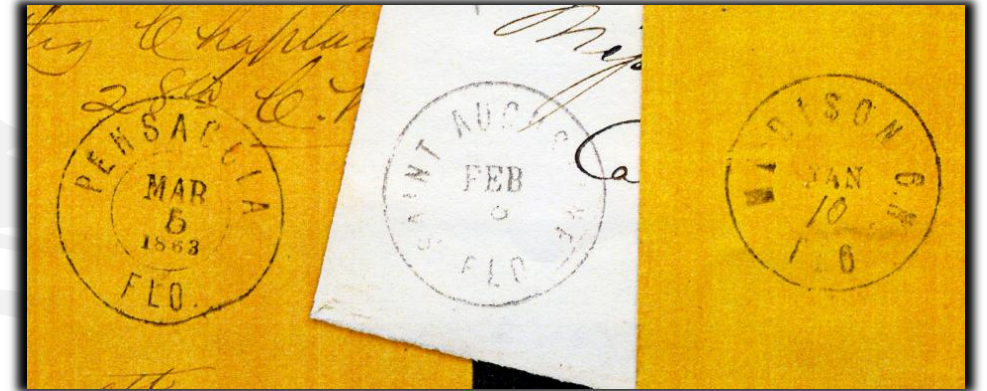
Cancel Corroboration – Oblong PAID

- I mounted a massive search of private collections and dealer stocks for the various markings used on the Madison stamps. Morris Everett had listed two Madison oblong PAIDs from the Borland correspondence in his extensive Confederate stampless cover files.
- This was a perfect match for the oblong PAID used to cancel the 3¢ Madison used on cover.
- As a bonus, I later found the cover was addressed in Postmaster Perry's handwriting.



Cancel Corroboration for “FLO”

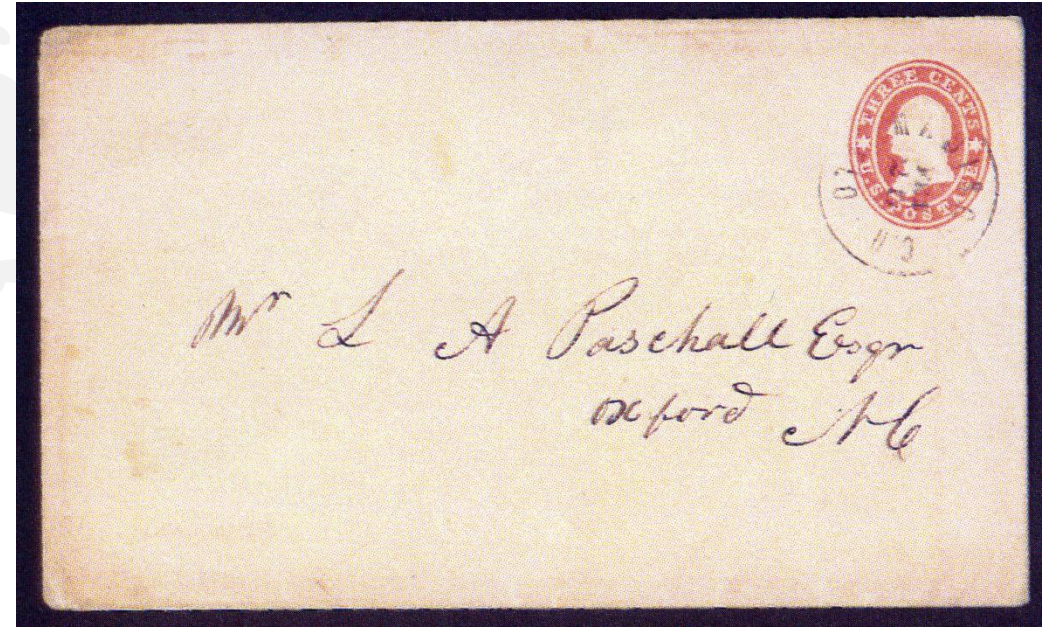
- It had been suggested by the PF that cancellations other than “FLA” weren’t used in Florida during the Civil War.
- At top right are “FLO” cancellations which I found from Florida Civil War era Pensacola and Saint Augustine, as well as Madison C.H. and other towns.
- Comparison of the “FLO” cancels on the 5¢ press-printed provisional entire to an example on a Confederate stampless cover is a perfect match.



Cancel Corroboration “FLO” clincher

This 3¢ star-die entire canceled with the Feb 20 [1861] MADISON C.H. / FLO CDS is incontrovertible proof that the “FLO” postmark was used in the early 1861 postmaster provisional period.

The late Bill Bogg, a serious Florida collector and a prominent Confederate dealer, pointed me to this clinching cover, which he told me came from the collection of the late Henry Spelman.



The US Star-Die envelopes were not issued until August 1860 and were not valid in the Confederacy in 1862, thus narrowing down the only possible year of use to 1861.

Madison Confederate Postmarks Timeline

Clockwise from upper left:

- Small “FLO” used during 1861 - early 1862
- Large “FLO” used early in 1862 on an 1862-dated folded letter as well as the oblong “PAID” cancel used during 1861 and 1862
- Larger most common “FLA” used during 1863 and 1864
- Interim manuscript postmark used during 1862 and 1863

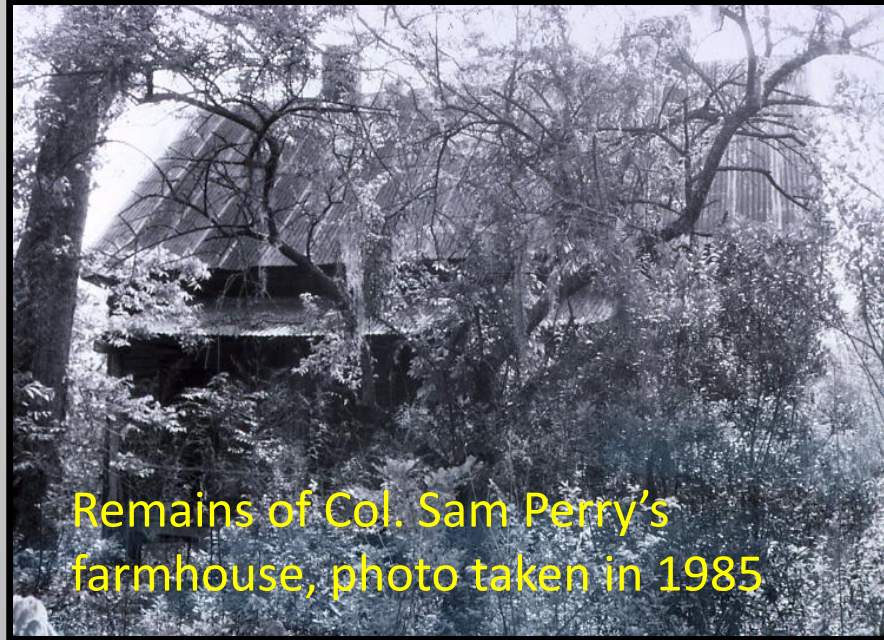


April 8, 1985 – Red-letter Research Day

- Library of Congress reading room in the **Madison Building** – a good omen! →
- Florida State University in Tallahassee – *Madison Recorder* 1865-1908
- University of Florida in Gainesville – *Madison Recorder* also on file
- P. K. Younge Library – *Southern Messenger*, copies from 1858, 1866, 1867 →
- Spoke to Beth Sims – Madison County historian who led me to →
- James H. Perry (Buddy) of Palatka, Florida who was surprised to find out his great-great-grandfather, Samuel James Bradley Perry, had been postmaster during the Civil War.
- Buddy's wife, Mary Jo Perry, was then the conference chairman for the Florida State Genealogical Society, and a wealth of knowledge on Florida pioneers.
- A few weeks later we had dinner at the Perry home in Palatka and exchanged invaluable research on "Col. Sam." They provided copies of original documents in Samuel Perry's hand.
- Col. Sam's eldest son, William, who printed the Madison provisionals, was the editor and publisher of the *Southern Messenger*.
- *Post Script* - May 2006 – While researching a completely different subject at the Library of Congress, I found William Perry was also appointed a Confederate postal clerk.



A Visit to Madison – Spring 1985



Remains of Col. Sam Perry's
farmhouse, photo taken in 1985



Oakland Cemetery, 1985



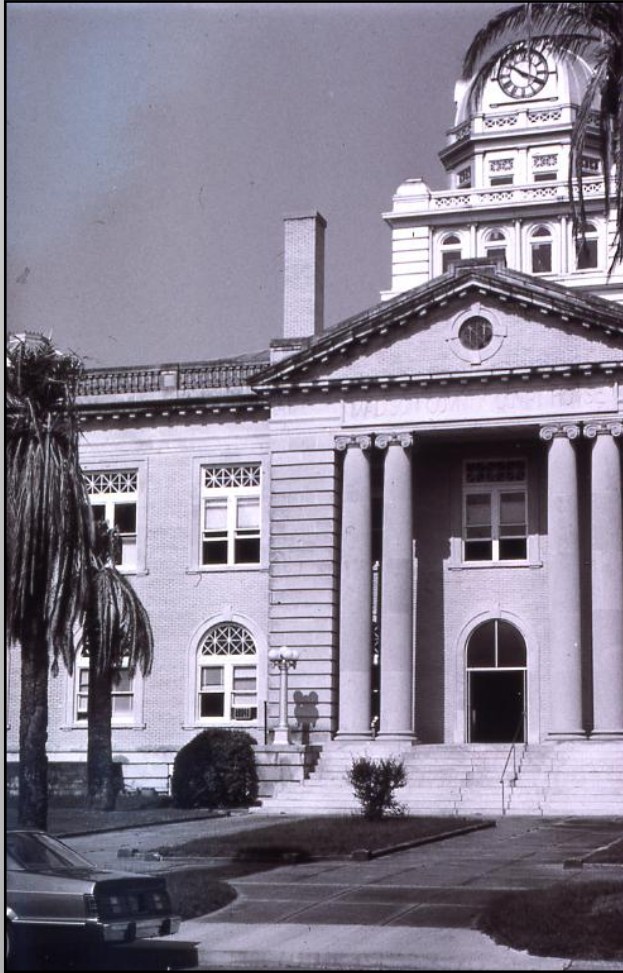
Gravestone of
Samuel James
Bradley Perry



Madison County
is in northern
Florida near the
border of Georgia
between
Tallahassee and
Jacksonville.

Samuel J. B. Perry (1810-1898)
was a territorial judge, a tax
collector, deputy surveyor general,
superintendent of schools and
Confederate postmaster.

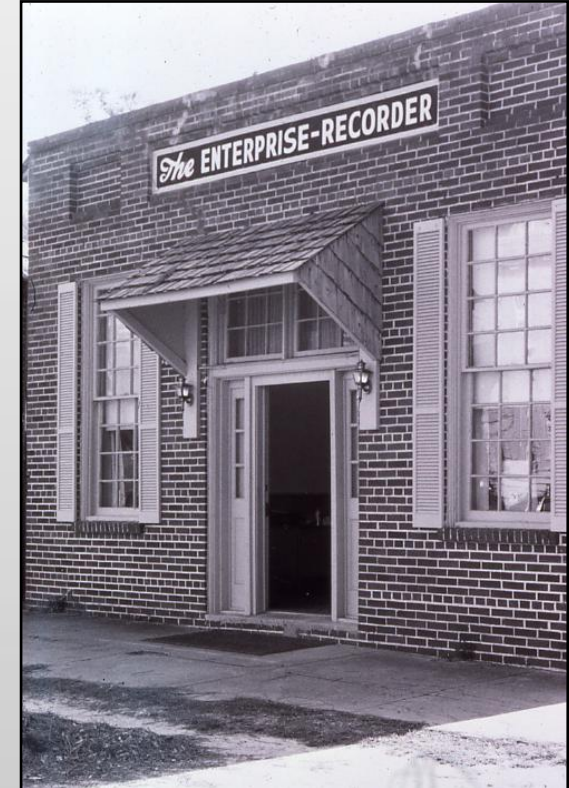
A Visit to Madison – Spring 1985



Madison Post Office



Madison Courthouse



Office of the
Enterprise-Recorder

Handwriting Analyses

Professional handwriting expert Marie Bernard examined copies of six items:

- provisional with manuscript cancel
- letter on file at NARA from Madison postmaster to USPMG March 8, 1861
- letter from Perry to Dr. Petrie in 1880
- a few covers with manuscript cancels and addresses in Perry's hand that came from an original find made by the late Joe Holleman.

In a multi-page analysis, Bernard returned the opinion that there was no doubt all submissions were written by Madison Confederate Postmaster Samuel J. Perry.



Item 3, the writing "paid in" stems also from the pen of Mr. Perry.

At the left side I picked the word found from his letter to compare the n of in and the d of found from the 1861 with Item 3.

We see the same oval closed head of the right-slanted of the found of the 1861 letter as we see in the legible id in on the stamp. Both letter forms belong to Mr. Perry.

The almost tilting to the right d of Madison, also of 1861 letter, has the same right slant as the d on the stamp. Also the d of dishonesty carries the same shape as the d on the stamp.

The typical enforced, blotted i-downstroke of the stamp appears in all found i's of the letter.

The n in knowledge appears on the stamp with the roundness of the ductus. We also see the kindness, acknowledge of the letter.

There is no doubt that Mr. Perry

Special Meeting at the Philatelic Foundation

- May 1987: I sent the PF a 1" thick report with 18 pages of explanatory footnoted text and 33 separate multi-page exhibits in support.
- March 1988: We were invited to attend a special meeting of the PF with open dialog.
- Confederate 5¢ press-printed cover opinion: "It is a genuine pre-printed Confederate Postmaster Provisional entire used from Madison C. H., Florida."
- Opinion on 3¢ PMPs as genuine BUT with unusual wording, *i.e.*, "It is a genuine printed adhesive used as indicia of prepayment of postage at Madison, Florida, but not authorized by the U.S. Post Office."

PF THE PHILATELIC FOUNDATION
270 MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016
EXPERT COMMITTEE

No. 0189962
3/15/88

We have examined the enclosed item submitted by the applicant described as follows:

Country: UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Cat. No.	Issue	Denom	Color
	1861	3¢	bronze


Scott's unless otherwise specified.

USED
WITH MADISON FLORIDA CANCELLATION.

OF WHICH A PHOTOGRAPH IS ATTACHED AND
ARE OF THE OPINION THAT:

IT IS A GENUINE PRINTED ADHESIVE USED AS INDICIA
OF PREPAYMENT OF POSTAGE AT MADISON FLORIDA BUT
NOT AUTHORIZED BY THE U.S. POST OFFICE. * * * * *

* * * * *



A 36718

For The Expert Committee
VICE Chairman

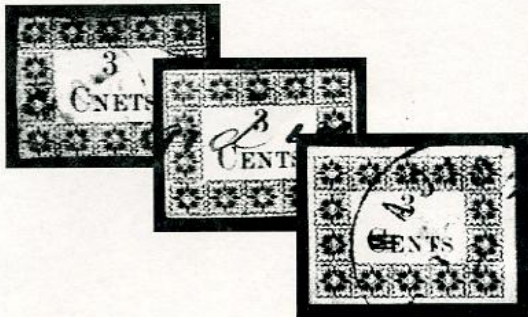
submitted by JOHN W. KAUFMANN, INC.

Square Two Public Reaction

- Michael Laurence, in his editor's column in *Linn's Stamp News*:
In my dictionary, this is precisely the definition of a provisional stamp... This strikes me as the sort of scholarship that in earlier ages would have been devoted to determine how many angels could dance on the head of a pin. In my view, a provisional is a provisional... It is too bad that the Foundation refused to drop the other shoe, to declare that these are genuine U.S. postmaster provisional stamps.
- Square Two. At least the Madison provisionals were declared “genuine,” but I hadn’t crossed home plate yet. I was still determined to forge ahead to procure them their rightful place in postal history.
- Confederate Stamp Alliance Authentication Committee was reluctant to render an opinion, because I had originally written them up as “U.S.” rather than Confederate.
- Five months after the Madisons received the “good indicia” certificates, my personal world fell apart with the sudden death of my husband, John Kaufmann, from a cerebral aneurysm. The topic went on my mental back burner.

The Confederate Philatelist

January-February 2000
Vol. 45 No. 1, Whole No. 314



Who says Confederate postal history has nothing new to discover?
Witness the recent recognition of the Madison C. H., Florida 3¢ postmaster provisionals, featured in this issue.

Inside This Issue

The 3¢ Madison Provisionals
Message from Our New CSA President
Report from the Athens Rendezvous

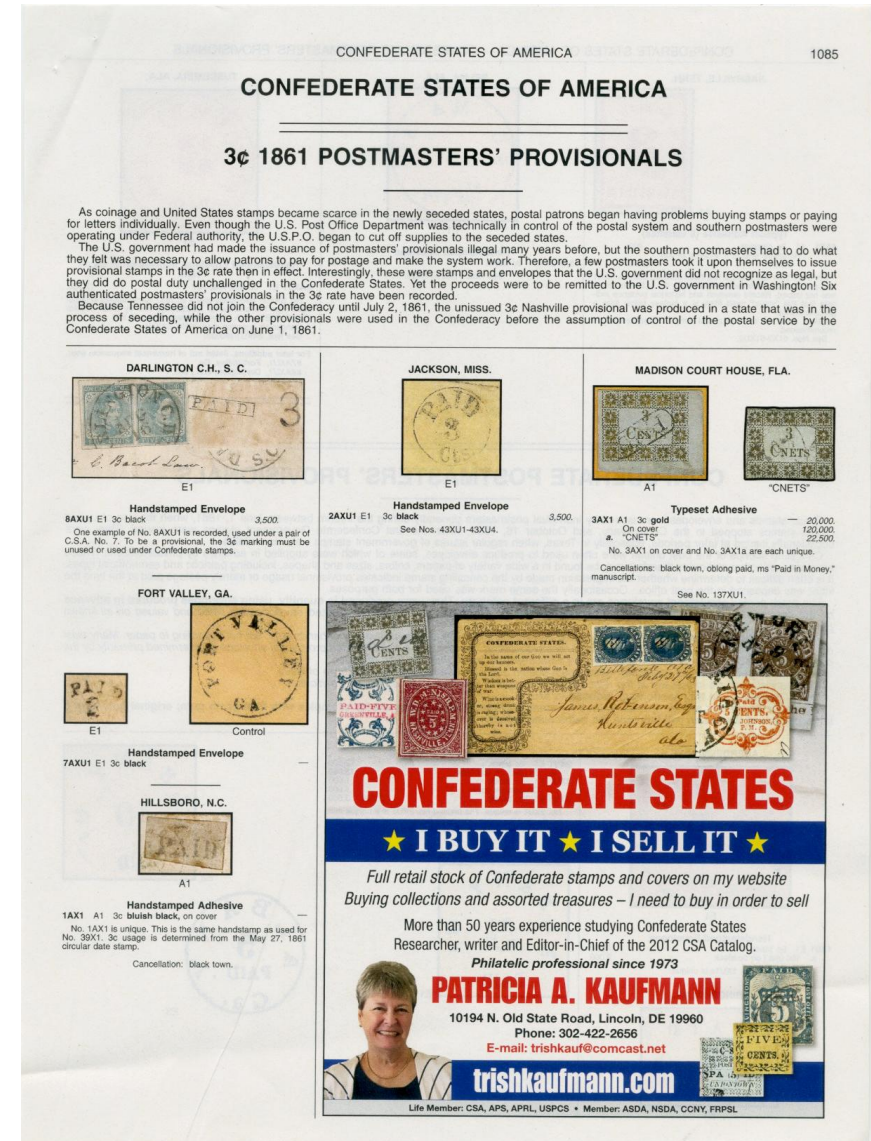
The Final Journey

- 1996: I was asked to join the CSA Authentication Committee. I had the opportunity to discuss my theories concerning the Madison provisionals.
- The CSAAC agreed to accept the challenge.
- **CSA certificates #02903, 02904, 02906** dated December 30, 1996, declaring them **“3¢ Madison, Florida, post-secession postmaster provisionals”**
- I was asked to join the **CSA Postmaster Provisional Revision Committee** working with the editors of the *Scott Catalogue* to revise their listings.
- January-February 2000, the *American Philatelist* and the *Confederate Philatelist* once again released a joint article on the subject entitled: **“The Madison, Florida, Postmaster Provisionals: Anatomy of a Postal History Research Project”**

Ultimate Success

- In 2000, Scott Catalogue added an entirely new section preceding the Confederate States of America Postmasters' Provisional section:
3¢ 1861 Postmasters' Provisionals.
- In 2012, they were also listed in the CSA Catalog. No surprise since I was editor-in-chief.

First page of 2021 Scott
Specialized 3¢ 1861 section



> 20 Years After Success

- Still a keen Kaufmann interest.
- 1Q 2020 issue of the *Confederate Philatelist*, I wrote an 18-page article entitled “Dialogue on Censuses and Provenance – Case Illustration: Madison, Florida.”
- In great detail, I traced the provenance of all recorded Madison provisionals and their evolving history as new information continues to appear.



Not the End

- There are now **8 different towns** represented in the **3¢ 1861 provisional section** as collectors become aware of what to look for. Most listings are handstamped provisionals.
- Only the 3¢ Hillsboro and 3¢ Madison provisionals are adhesives.
- This does not include the 3¢ Nashville, never issued, and now thought to be an early fantasy.
- **New discoveries are still being made and long-held beliefs are challenged. Postal history is ever evolving.**

