

Provisional Issues of North Carolina Confederate Mail 1861 – 1865

On May 20, 1861 North Carolina began a period of history that the likes of which have never been seen before or since. Throughout these roughest periods of time, one aspect of human needs were met; the written communications by government and private mails continued.

When the Confederate post office began operation on June 1, 1861, it was ill prepared to provide stamps to postmasters. The department authorized postmasters to revert back to the use of stampless markings to indicate the payment of postage. When the need arose for the prepayment of postage, 149 Confederate postmasters produced provisional stamps and covers to service this need. To date, 17 North Carolina cities have been identified as having 28 different varieties of provisional. On occasion, even after Confederate stamps were issued, postmasters would run out of their supply of stamps and revert back to issuing provisional stamps and covers.

This exhibit will deal with the three types of provisionals issued in the Confederacy:

- Adhesive postage stamps – Printed or hand stamped on paper for separate attachment to envelopes. Three North Carolina towns issued such.
- Press printed envelopes – Produced in quantity and provided by the printer to the postmaster. Three North Carolina towns issued such.
- Hand stamp provisional envelopes – Prepared in advance of use; in most cases sold by the postmaster and carried home for later use. Fourteen North Carolina towns issued such.

Provided in the following frames are 34 examples of North Carolina provisionals covering all three types of known markings. Information known about the marking, the statistics of the issues, quantities known of specific items, as well as significant past ownership is included. By philatelic standards, all Confederate provisional are scarce. The most common North Carolina provisional is Raleigh with less than 200 known. Many are unique with only one example recorded. Several examples shown here are the only known.

A few exceptional items that should be noted for special attention are:

Page 3 – Charlotte, the discovery copies and only examples known; page 4 – Gaston, Dietz discovery copy and only known example; page 6 – Greensboro, only known CSA provisional revalued to a due; page 7 – Lenoir, one of only two known examples used on college covers; page 11 – the only recorded press printed Salisbury provisional; page 16 – Wilksboro, Dietz discovery copy and only known example.

The condition of Confederate covers is always a problem to collectors. In fact, they reflect the condition of the time. A number of the covers on display have had varying degrees of professional restoration in order to save them from further decay, but none affect either marks or stamps.



Charlotte, NC, October 12, 1861

5 cent, Blue Type IIA Paid

Prepared in advance handstamp paid carried outside the mails.



Charlotte, NC, 1861

Wilmington, NC May 26, 1861

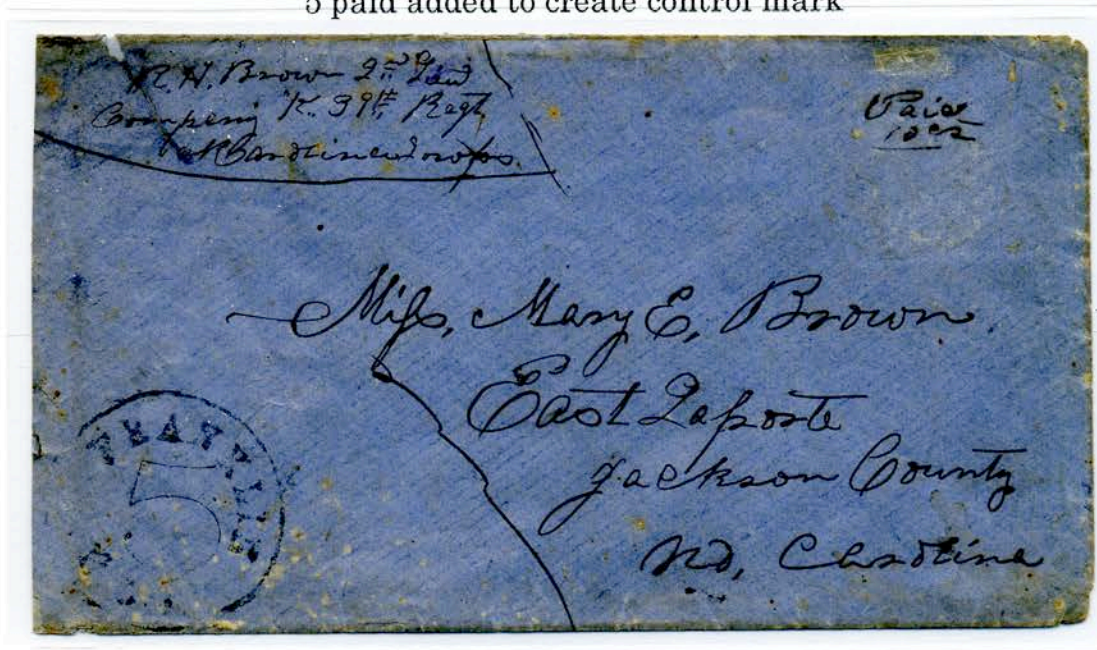
5 cent, Blue Type IIA Paid; Black Type A, Due 5;

5 cent, Blue Archer & Daly



Chapel Hill, NC,
November 5, (1861)

Chapel Hill, NC, August 27, (1862), Revalued
5 cent black, 5 inserted within Chapel Hill CDS
5 paid added to create control mark



Franklin, NC, ca. 1862

Large woodcut "5" inside 31 mm town mark
Ms. Paid 10 indicates later use of provisional

Chapel Hill: Orange County
6 Known
Franklin: Macon County
1 Known Ex: Agree, Brandon

CSA cert.
CSA cert.

Postmaster: I.B. McDade
Postmaster: Leon F. Siler



Greensborough, NC, March 14, (1863)
10 cent, red Greensboro control, "Paid/10." Blue 32 mm CDS.



Greensborough, NC, (1864)
10 cent, red revalued due, Greensboro control, "Due 10" Over "Paid/10."
Soldiers were allowed to send letters postage due.

Guilford County
1 Known Blue CDS
1 Known Revalued Rate

PF Cert.
PF Cert.

Postmaster: B. G. Graham



Greensborough, NC, November 10, (1863)

10 cent red, 31 mm Greensboro control, "Paid/10." Red 32 mm CDS.

Turned: **Columbia, SC, October 27, (1863)**

Type II Archer & Daly



Greensborough, NC, December 3, 1864

10 cent, red Greensboro control, "Paid/10." Red CDS.

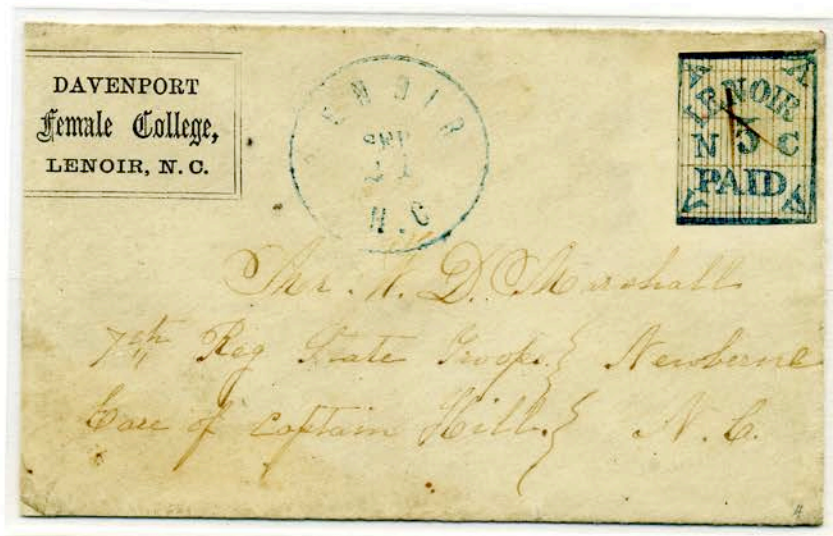
Prisoner of War cover.

Through: **Old Point Comfort, VA, January 16, 1865**, U.S. 3 cent stamp replaced. Blue crayon "B" file marking by U.S. rebel archives.

Guilford County
26 Recorded Provisionals
2 Known Turned
1 Known Prison Usage

Postmaster: B. G. Graham

PF Cert.



Lenoir, NC, September 21 (1861)

5 cent blue, Type 1 adhesive, ruled line paper. 25 mm blue CDS.

This provisional was hand engraved on pear wood by G. W. F. Harper, son of Postmaster Harper. The stamp was press printed on white wove cross-ruled paper. About 500 stamps were printed and sold.



Paper from which Lenoir Provisional was printed and samples of handstamp markings.

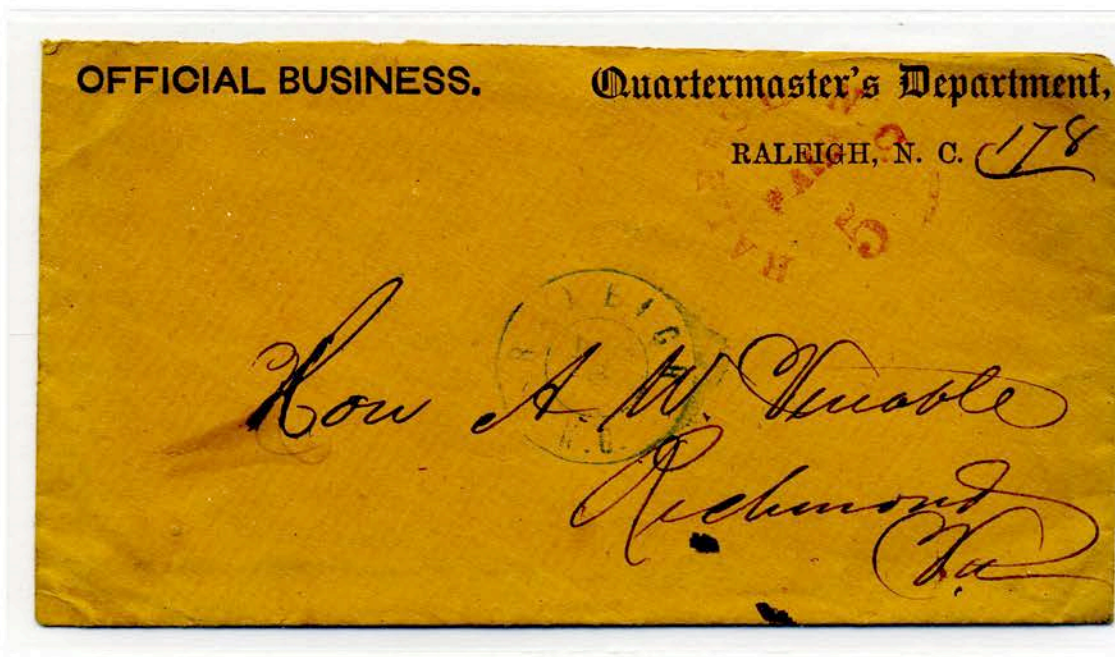
Caldwell County
27 Known Examples
2 Known College Cover
Ex: Hart, Weill

PF Cert.

Postmaster: James Harper



Milton, NC, October 16 (1861)
 5 cent, black, 29 mm x 2 ½ mm, "N.B. Patton"
 control mark handstamp "paid" ms "5," 30 mm CDS



Raleigh, NC, December 6 (1861)
 5 cent, blue, 28 mm rimless control mark
 Blue, 26 mm DC, CDS, semi official Quartermaster's Department

Milton: Caswell County
 2 Known
 Ex: Dietz
 Raleigh: Wake County
 1 Known

CSA Cert.

Postmaster: Noel B. Patton

Postmaster: George T. Cooke



Raleigh, NC, October 20, (1861)

5 cent, red 28 mm rimless Raleigh, NC control

Blue 26 mm DC, CDS



Raleigh, NC, June 2, 1861

5 cent, blue 28 mm rimless Raleigh, NC control

Blue 26 mm DC, CDS. Second day of Confederate rate.

Earliest known Raleigh provisional use.

Blue provisional used only until June 4, 1861.

Raleigh: Wake County
Red: 200+ Known
Ex: Stroupe
Blue: 4 Known
Ex: Kilbourne

Postmaster: George T. Cooke



Raleigh, NC, June 29, 1861

5 cent, red, "paid 5", 28 mm rimless Raleigh, NC
control mark, blue 32 mm CDS, large CDS used only one day on provisionals



Raleigh, NC

5 cent, red, "paid 5" 28 mm rimless Raleigh, NC
provisional control marking used without CDS

Raleigh: Wake County
Large CDS: 3 known

Postmaster: George T. Cooke



Salem, NC, December 4 (1861)

5 cent, black Type Ia handstamp "PAID 5" control mark, 32 mm CDS



Salem, NC, May 6 (1862)

5 cent, black ms "Paid 5" within brass handstamp control mark

Forsyth County
Type 1a: 6 Known
Ms 5: 19 Known

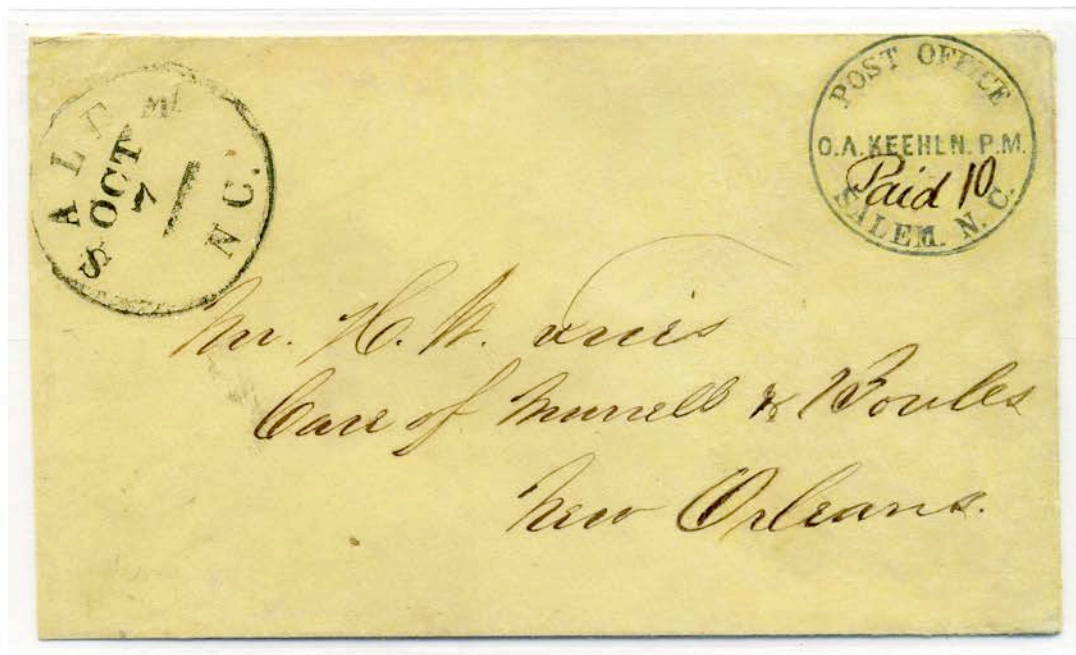
Postmaster: Orestes A. Keehln

CSA Cert.



Salem, N.C., September 23, (1862)

5 cent, black, 32 mm CDS, Type II provisional Type IA Plus
PAID 5 to pay the ten cent rate.



Salem, NC, October 7 (1862)

10 cent black, ms "10" rate within brass control mark

The control marks on all Salem provisionals were press printed with a brass die.

Rates were later added with a handstamp or in manuscript.

The July 1, 1862 single letter rate change from 5 cent to 10 cent created the need for this new rate.

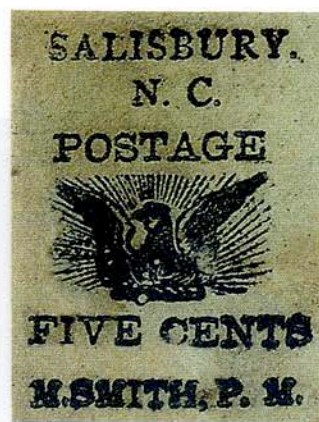
Salem: Forsyth County
Ty 1A: 3 Known
Paid 10: 2 Known

Postmaster: O. A. Keehin



Salisbury, NC, September 1, 1861

5 cent paid, press printed design produced by Postmaster Moses A. Smith



Reconstructed Design of Provisional

Rowan County

1 Known

Ex: Ferrary, Emerson, Caspary, Lilly, Solomon, Brandon

Postmaster: M.A. Smith



Statesville, NC, March 24, (1862)

Statesville, NC, August 6, (1863)

5 cent green Hoyer & Ludwig and 5 cent blue
London print used over provisional

Statesville, NC, "Way" (1863)

5 cent, black, "paid 5" revalued manuscript "10"

This provisional envelope was given to the post rider on his way south from Statesville to Davidson. He marked the cover "way" and revalued the 5 cent rate to reflect additional postage paid.

Iredell County
23 Known Provisionals
1 Known Way

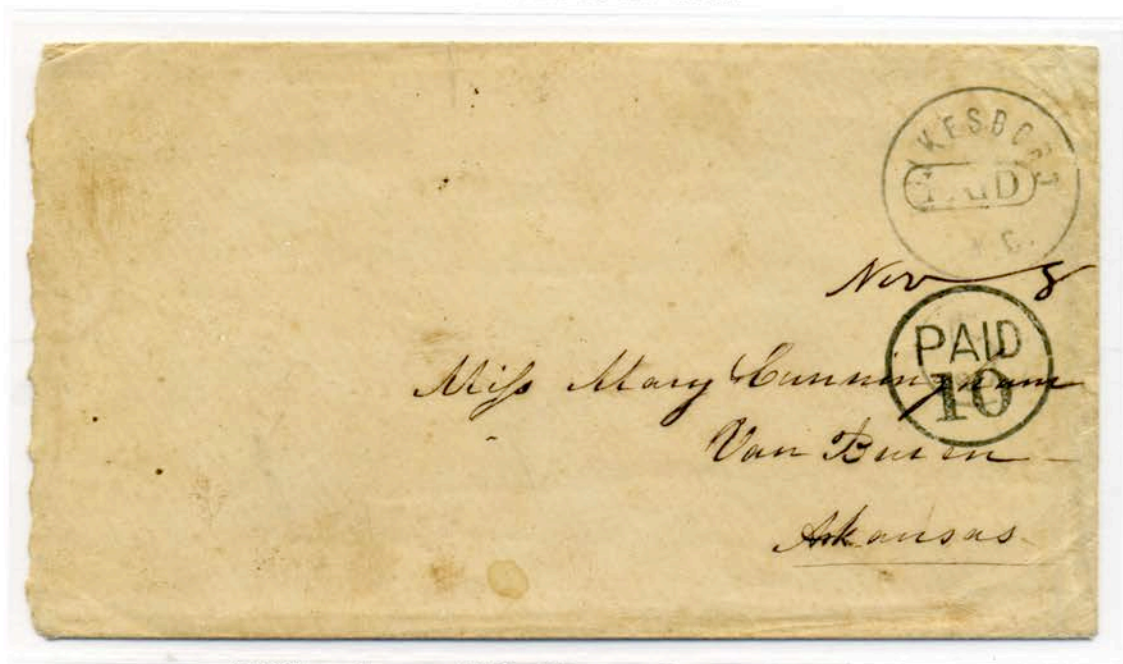
Postmaster: Robert F. Simonton



Statesville, NC, June 30 (1863)

5 cent, black, "paid 5" revalued handstamp "10"

On July 1, 1862 the postage rate for less than 500 miles was increased from 5 cent to 10 cent



Wilkesboro, NC, November 8 (1861)

10 cent black, revalued. 14 mm circle "5" overstruck by 21 mm circle "Paid/10"
The paid was struck within an undated Wilkesboro CDS as the control mark for a 5 cent rate cover. The cover was posted November 8 to Arkansas, a distance over 500 miles, thus the need for the 10 cent rate.

Statesville: Iredell County
2 Known Revalued
Wilkesboro: Wilkes County
1 Known
Ex: Dietz

CSA Cert.

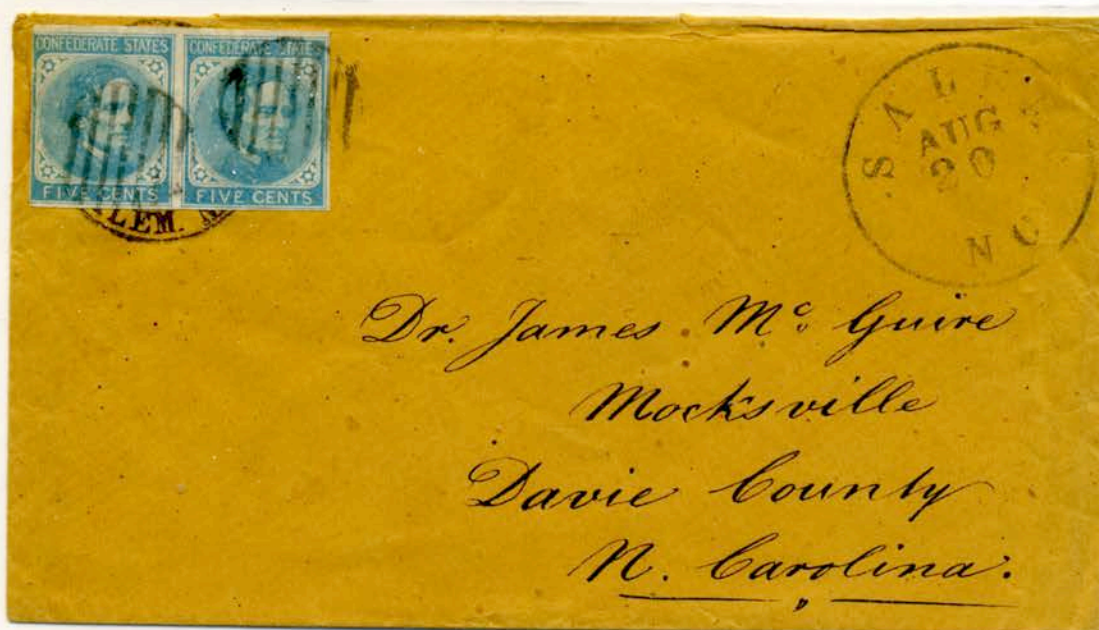
Postmaster: Robert F. Simonton

Postmaster: Calvin J. Cowles



Salem, NC, August 12, 1861

10 cent, black 32 mm CDS, Type I PAID 5 provisional control mark revalued
with 5 cent 1861 lithograph and 5 cent 1862 London print



Salem, NC, August 20, 1862

10 cent, black 32 mm CDS, Type I PAID 5 provisional control mark
revalued with pair of 5 cent London print

Salem: Forsyth County
Revalued 4 Known
Ex: B. Green, Stroupe

Postmaster; O.A. Keehln



Lenoir, NC September 18 (1861)

5 cent, blue, type II 30- mm control mark, blue 25 mm CDS



Lenoir, NC, (1861)

5 cent, blue, type II 30 mm control mark, black 25 mm CDS

Lenoir: Caldwell County
Blue: 2 Known
Ex: Weatherly, Agre
Black: 1 Known

CSA cert.

Postmaster: James Harper