

WARTIME ADVERSITY

The Civil War caused shortages of basic supplies among the soldiers and civilian population, and the blockade of CSA ports and waterways made shortages of manufactured goods much worse in the South. Stationery and envelopes of good quality were among the staples in short supply, and Southern letter writers had to resort to a wide variety of products and methods to fill the void. Known to collectors as *adversity covers*, this broad category includes envelopes made from paper used for other purposes (printed forms, wallpaper, etc.) and re-used or modified envelopes.

US 1862—US Troops in South



Letter fashioned from a cardboard shirt collar, written by a Union soldier writing from Old Point Comfort VA to Philadelphia with three US 1¢ 1861.

Letter written in pencil and datelined "Head Quarters 2nd Regt. P.R.V.C., Banks James River, July 4, 1862", reports "We have fought five battles & won five victories... Genl. McCall is a prisoner, Genl. Reynolds ditto and wounded, Adj. Genl. Biddle and Simmons and a host of other officers killed."



Confederate imprint cover with "Confederate" crossed out and changed to "United" and "of Va." added after "Department of State," used from Old Point Comfort VA to Syracuse NY, with US 3¢ 1861.

Soldiers in the field resorted to using a variety of paper products to send letters home, but Union soldiers were usually well-supplied—these adversity uses from the South to Northern destinations are extremely unusual.

WARTIME ADVERSITY

CSA 1862-1863—South

Use of Printed Form



Envelope made from printed insurance form with 10¢ Hoyer & Ludwig Lithograph used from Mobile to Claiborne AL, 29 August (ca. 1862).

Envelope made from unusual paper printed in gold and white with "No." suggesting a form, but possibly wallpaper, used with 10¢ Rose Lithograph from Charleston SC to Dalton GA, 5 November 1862.



Very few adversity covers are known with the 10¢ Rose Lithograph



Envelope made from printed fire insurance form with 2¢ Jackson Lithograph cancelled at Petersburg VA, drop letter to Captain Martin's Battery, ca. 1863.

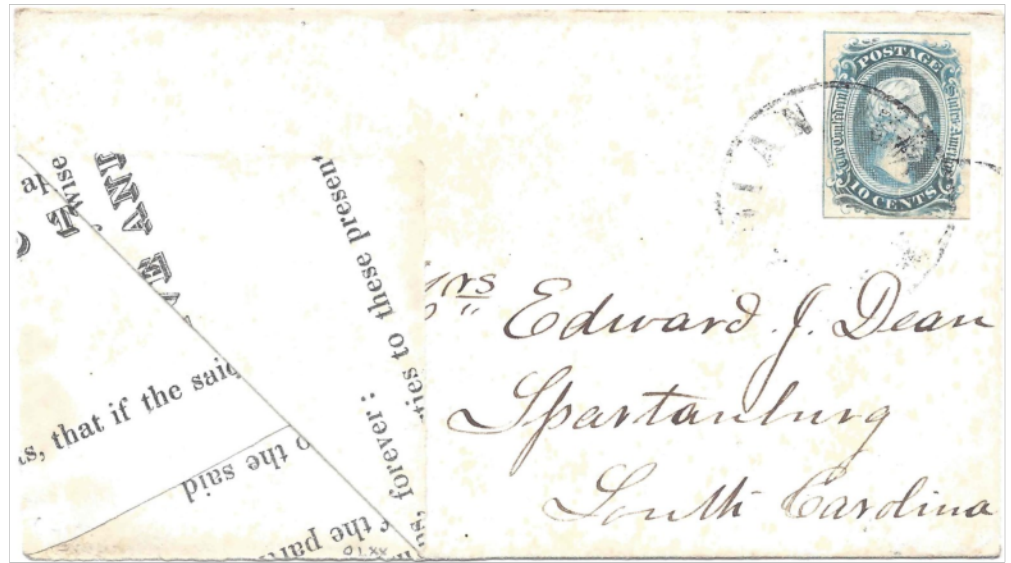
Very few adversity covers are known with the 2¢ Jackson Lithograph

WARTIME ADVERSITY

CSA 1863-1864—South

Use of Printed Form

Envelope made from a legal form with 10¢ Frameline used from Meriden MS, ca. 1863.



Very few adversity covers are known with the 10¢ Frameline



Envelope made from printed receipt with top left corner margin pair 5¢ Richmond Typograph used from Mobile AL.

Envelope made from railroad bill of lading in red and blue with 10¢ Die A used from Atlanta GA to Gainsville Junction AL, 1 Apr. (ca. 1864).



WARTIME ADVERSITY

CSA 1861-1863—South

Use of Wallpaper

Envelope made from wallpaper with 5¢ Green Lithograph used from Wilmington NC to Davidson College in Mecklenburg County NC, 4 April 1861.

Examples of the first General Issue on wallpaper covers are rare because these adversity uses did not become widespread until late 1862, long after the 5¢ Green was superseded by the 5¢ Blue



Envelope made from wallpaper with 10¢ Stone Y Lithograph used from Rock Wall TX to Shreveport LA, 2 July (ca 1863).

Very few wallpaper covers are known from Texas or with the 10¢ Jefferson

Envelope made from wallpaper with two 5¢ Richmond Typograph used from Georgetown to Camden SC, 2 February (ca. 1863).





Envelope made from wallpaper with 10¢ Frameline used from Mobile AL to Marianna FL, 19 September 1863.

One of two known examples of the 10¢ Frameline on wallpaper cover



20¢ Washington tied by red Blacks & Whites VA 24 May (ca. 1864) datestamp on wallpaper envelope to Sturgeonville VA; double 10¢ rate.

Combined rarity—20¢ Washington on wallpaper cover with red postmark

WARTIME ADVERSITY

CSA 1863-1864—South

Use of Wallpaper



Envelope made from wallpaper with 10¢ Die B used from Fayetteville to Kinston NC, 1 October 1863, forwarded to Hillsboro NC with manuscript due 10¢.

Envelope made from wallpaper with 10¢ Die A used from Wilmington to Clemmonsville NC, 26 October (ca. 1863), with altered "5 PAID" from "3 PAID" datestamp.



Envelope made from floral wallpaper with 2¢ Jackson Engraved, used locally in Fayetteville NC, 9 April 1863. The year date in this cancel is likely incorrect - most likely 1864.

One of less than five known wallpaper covers with the 2¢ Jackson Engraved

WARTIME ADVERSITY

CSA 1863—South

Use of Previously Mailed Envelope



Envelope used twice with 5¢ Green Lithograph, Stone A-B, paying pre-July 1, 1862 rate for under 500 miles both times, first from Big Lick VA to Richmond VA, 25 January 1862 and then turned and sent from Richmond VA to Blacks & Whites VA, 3 February 1862.

Early adversity uses with the 5c Green Lithograph, the first adhesive issued by the Confederacy, are rare. This is the only known example with two copies paying the under 500-mile pre-July 1, 1862 rate



Envelope made from blue lined notepaper and re-used; posted at Mobile AL both times, first 21 August 1863 with pair of 5¢ De La Rue Typograph pair, evidently originating from somewhere else and posted as a drop letter; used a second time 9 September 1863 with 10¢ Rose Lithograph, addressed to Artesia MS.

A double adversity use—envelope made from notepaper and used twice

WARTIME ADVERSITY

CSA 1863-1864—South

Use of Previously-Mailed Envelope



Envelope used twice - both times with 10¢ Frameline, the scarcest of Confederate general issues - first from Milledgeville GA to Col. John G. Park at Indian Springs GA and then turned and sent from Indian Springs to Milledgeville GA, ca 1863.

The only known example of a turned cover bearing two copies of the 10¢ Frameline from different origins

Envelope used twice with 20¢ Washington paying double rate for weight over half-ounce both times, first from Petersburg VA, December 1864 and then turned and to Richmond VA.

The only known example of a turned use with both sides bearing the 20¢ Green and one with Red postmark



2¢ circular and 10¢ regular rates

Envelope used twice, first with 2¢ Jackson Engraved paying circular rate from Richmond to Staunton VA, 31 December 1863; second use from Staunton to Lewisburg West VA with 10¢ Die A, 18 January 1864.

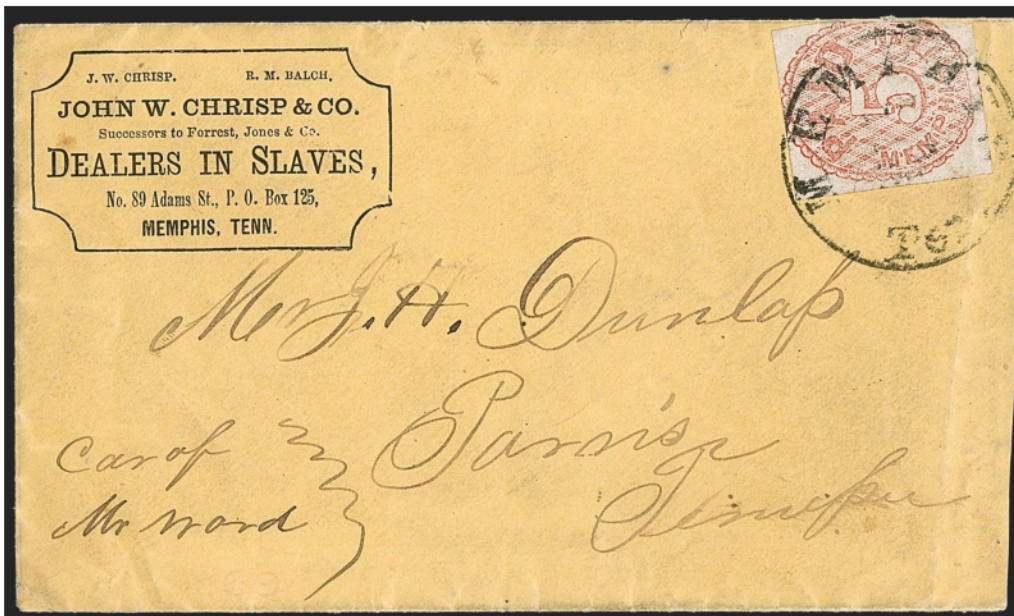


WARTIME ECONOMY

The South's economy was heavily dependent on slave labor and agricultural products, and it relied on grocers and commission merchants who brokered and stored goods for farmers. For this reason the vast majority of Confederate corner card envelopes are from businesses that provided wholesale and retail grocery products, warehouse facilities and commission-based merchandising. The North continued its import-export business and had a solid manufacturing base, but the Lincoln administration's monetary policies led to bullion hoarding and currency inflation.

CSA 1861—South

Memphis TN and Atlanta GA



"John W. Chrisp & Co., successors to Forrest, Jones & Co., Dealers in Slaves, Memphis Tenn." advertising corner card cover. The Forrest mentioned in the advertisement is Nathan Bedford Forrest, the Confederate general and founder of the Ku Klux Klan.

While the slave trade was an integral component of the Southern economy, it was rarely mentioned in advertising envelopes and this cover is the only known example

Memphis TN 5¢ Red postmaster provisional to Paris TN, Memphis circular datestamp to cancel and tie the stamp.

S. T. Biggers (grocer) cameo design from a pre-war woodcut executed by W. Eaves of New York City; illustrations of flour bag, sugar barrel, tea crate and wine bottles.

Only five or six Atlanta provisionals on advertising covers are recorded



Atlanta postmaster's provisional handstamp (Thomas C. Howard, PM) with 15 November 1861 datestamp, to Trion Factorys GA.

WARTIME ECONOMY

CSA 1861-1862—South

Macon and Atlanta GA

Macon 5¢ provisional (ruled border), used 2 June (1861), the second day of CSA postal system.

One of four recorded advertising covers bearing the first Macon provisional



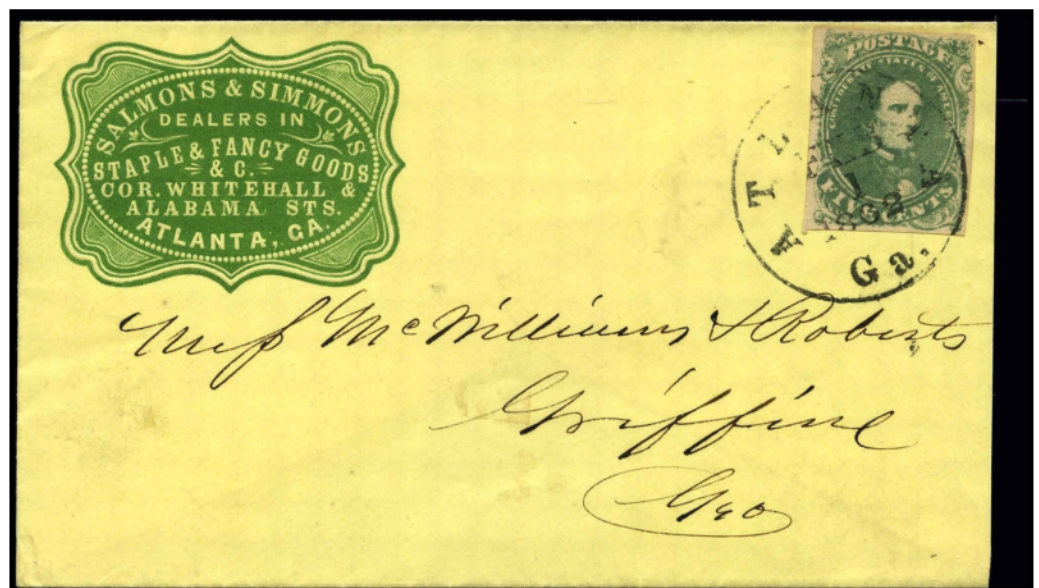
Macon 5¢ provisional (floral border), unusual use of "MACON GEO" datestamp to cancel and tie the stamp, 19 August (1861).

One of two recorded advertising covers bearing the second Macon provisional

A matched pair of covers with Greer & Lake (grocers) lithographed advertising designs, which depict barrels and boxes of grocery goods; both sent to Oglethorpe GA with different 5¢ typeset provisional stamps issued by Dr. Edward L. Strohecker and/or Washington Poe, the postmasters of Macon.

5¢ Green Lithograph used from Atlanta to Griffin GA, 1 February 1862.

Salmons & Simmons (staple and fancy goods) cameo design.



WARTIME ECONOMY

CSA 1861-1863—South

Richmond VA and Mobile AL

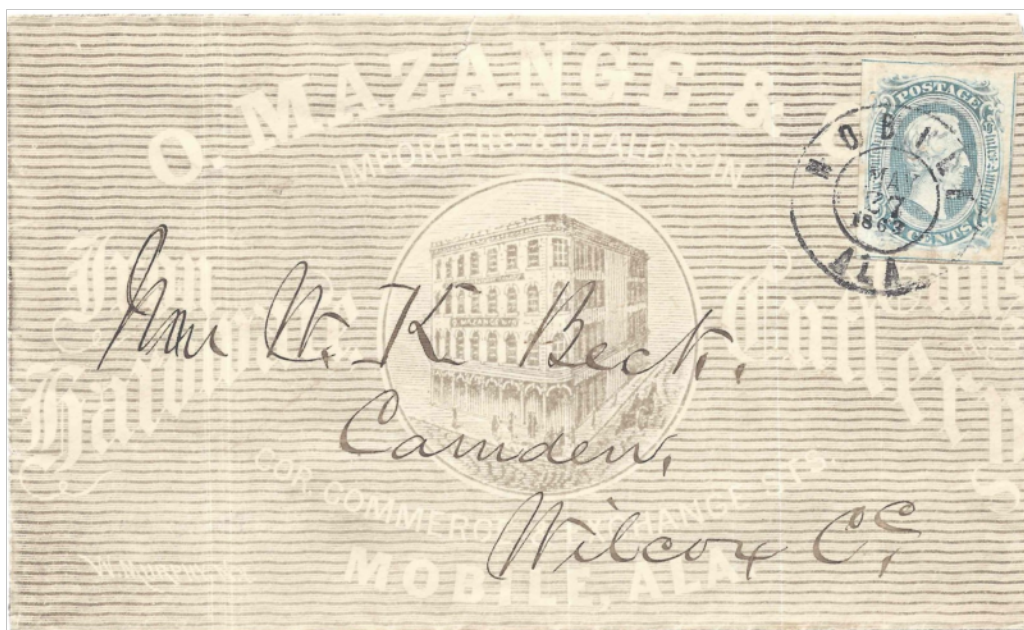


8 December
1861 with 5¢
Green
Lithograph
paying rate
under 500 miles.



19 June 1863 with
10¢ Davis Die A
paying 10¢ rate.

A matched pair of covers with Harvey, Armistead & Williams (wholesale grocers and commission merchants) lithographed advertising designs; both sent from Richmond to other places in Virginia.



27 May 1863 with 10¢
Frameline on illustrated
overall lithographed
hardware and cutlery
dealer advertising cover
to Camden AL.

Rare use of the 10¢ Frameline the scarcest of off Confederate general issues, on an all-over advertising cover

WARTIME ECONOMY

US 1862-1863–North

The North's Gross Domestic Product

Based purely on industrial capacity and natural resources, the North was destined to win the war against the South and its agrarian, cotton-dependent economy. Estimates of relative Gross Domestic Product for the North and South are difficult to calculate, but some analysts claim that the North had a 4:1 superiority. Below are two examples of wartime cameo corner cards that served to advertise the varied and numerous products and services produced and offered in the North.



French, Richards & Co., Philadelphia, 3 September 1863, manufacturers and wholesale dealers in paint, drugs and glass.



The Knickerbocker Ice Company, Philadelphia, 25 March 1862 with 1¢ and 3¢ 1861 paying postage and carrier fee; ice was one of the country's largest exports during the 19th century.

WARTIME ECONOMY

US 1861-1864—North (West)

California and Nevada Mineral Wealth

President Lincoln was careful to maintain strong ties with the state of California and territory of Nevada to ensure that their vast mineral wealth remained in the Union's domain (Nevada became the 36th state to join the Union in October 1864). To avoid Confederate interference with the mails, the overland mail route was moved from the Southern Butterfield Route to the Central Route in 1861.



Transcontinental Pony Express ran from 3 April 1860 to October 1861.

Pony Express (Central Route) from San Francisco, 31 August 1861, to New York via St. Joseph MO (19 September); \$1 Red Pony stamp pays rate effective 1 July 1861; printed frank pays 25¢ express fee; 10¢ Star Die entire for US postage.

Virginia City Pony Express ran from 1862 to 1865 between Nevada and San Francisco.



Westbound Wells Fargo & Co. Pony Express from Virginia City, Nevada Territory, to San Francisco, then by Bamber & Co. Express to Warm Springs CA; 25¢ Red pays Pony Express surcharge rate.

WARTIME ECONOMY

US 1862-1863–North

Charitable Fundraising and Soldier Relief

Wartime Sanitary Fairs were held by charitable organizations in the North to raise money for the relief of Union soldiers. In addition to fundraising events, the groups ran hospitals and refreshment saloons that provided medical care and warm meals to soldiers returning from the battlefield.



On 13 June 1861, President Lincoln gave the Sanitary Commission semi-official status. Its purpose was to support sick and wounded soldiers. However, funds were not provided to carry on the work, so Sanitary Commission fairs were organized as fundraisers and to enlist volunteers. The Great Central Fair, held in Philadelphia from 7 to 28 June 1864, was the largest and best-organized. The Philadelphia fair was the only one attended by President Lincoln.

Two copies 2¢ black overpaying the 3¢ letter rate tied by target cancel and "Phila. Pa. Jun. 24, 1864" circular datestamp, used with **Great Central Fair, Philadelphia, 10c Blue adhesive** tied by "Great Central Fair June 17, 1864" circular datestamp on magenta cover to Boston, MA and accompanied by original letter, which is a 5-stanza love poem.

One of three recorded covers bearing the 10¢ Philadelphia Sanitary Fair and regular US postage, and the only recorded use of the 10¢ stamp with the 2¢ Black Jack issue



Union Volunteer Refreshment Saloon and Hospital of Philadelphia, open from 17 May 1861 to 28 August 1865; illustrated envelope printed by W. Boell of Philadelphia depicts the building, marching soldiers, civilians and railway cars; used 10 February 1862 with 1¢ and 3¢ 1861 paying postage plus carrier fee; original letter from a soldier in the hospital.

WAR IN THE SOUTHWEST

Present day New Mexico and Arizona, both of which were territories that wouldn't become states for approximately 50 years after the War, played an important and often overlooked role in the conflict. Arizona provided a Confederate gateway to California, and control would have denied the Union an important source of gold needed to finance the War as well as the ports needed to blockade several hundred miles of Pacific coastline. These geographies were the scene of several important battles in the Trans-Mississippi theatre following the 16 March 1861 vote by delegates in Arizona, which at the time was part of New Mexico Territory, to secede from the Union and join the Confederacy.

US 1861

New Mexico Territory



Alamos Mexico to Fort Buchanan in New Mexico Territory to Sacramento CA, 23 March 1861, US 3¢ 1857 tied by "Fort Buchanan N.M. Mar. 23" (1861) cds and black "FRANCO*EN ALAMOS" framed handstamp, proving that the adhesive was affixed when postmarked and fully prepaid in Mexico, with matching "3" reales rate handstamp for Mexican postage.

William Rountree traveled from California to Mexico to prospect for silver in 1861. He sent this cover to his wife in Sacramento. It traveled from Alamos to Fort Buchanan by Stage, to Tubac by Military Express, then by Lathrop's Buckboard Mail to Tucson, then to San Francisco by Butterfield Overland Mail and finally to Sacramento by river steamboat. The cover was sent through Fort Buchanan one week after the 16 March 1861 vote by Arizona delegates to secede from the Union.

***One of three known "FRANCO*EN ALAMOS" and
3¢ 1857 covers from Mexico through Fort Buchanan
and the only one struck in black***

WAR IN THE SOUTHWEST

CSA/US 1862—Southwest

Arizona Territory

Confederate and Union Soldier's Mail

Confederate soldier's letter, "MESILLA N.M. JAN. 20" (1862) datestamp with "Due 10c" on turned cover to Homer TX from William Jones, Co. K, 1st Regt., Sibley's Brigade, used first with Nacogdoches TX 14 January datestamp (probably 1863) and 5¢ Typograph pair.

Ten examples known of the Mesilla NM (Arizona) CSA occupation marking



In July 1861 Lt. Col. John Baylor raised the CSA flag at Fort Bliss, later occupying Fort Fillmore and the town of Mesilla. On 1 August 1861 following the Confederate victory at the First Battle of Mesilla, he issued a proclamation establishing the CSA Territory of Arizona, naming Mesilla as its capital. In January 1862, the CSA Congress passed a bill establishing the Territory of Arizona, and President Davis issued his proclamation shortly thereafter. During the period in which the CSA Territory of Arizona was formed, Brigadier General Henry Sibley raised three regiments, designated the Army of New Mexico, comprising the 4th, 5th and 7th Texas regiments; the 4th was known unofficially as the 1st Regiment of Sibley's Brigade, to which the sender of this letter, William Jones, belonged.



Union soldier's letter carried by Vedette Mail from Fort Barrett to Fort Yuma and San Diego, then by US mail to San Francisco and New York, 4 May 1862, with manuscript soldier's endorsement "Soldiers Letter, Chas. W. Smith, Capt. Co. B, 2nd Infy. Cal Vols" and "10" due handstamp applied at San Diego.

In April 1862, Brigadier General James H. Carleton ordered the establishment of a regular express to carry soldiers' mail in areas occupied by Union forces. The bravest and most skilled cavalry riders, called Vedettes, and the finest horses were selected to ride relays along the old Butterfield Overland Mail route.

This letter was written on 4 May 1862 from a Union officer with the California Volunteers and mentions prisoners captured at the Battle of Picacho Pass, which was fought about 60 miles from Tucson on 15 April 1862 and resulted in the Union army's temporary retreat westward to the Pima Villages, where they established a supply depot and started construction on Fort Barrett in a remote area along the Gila River.