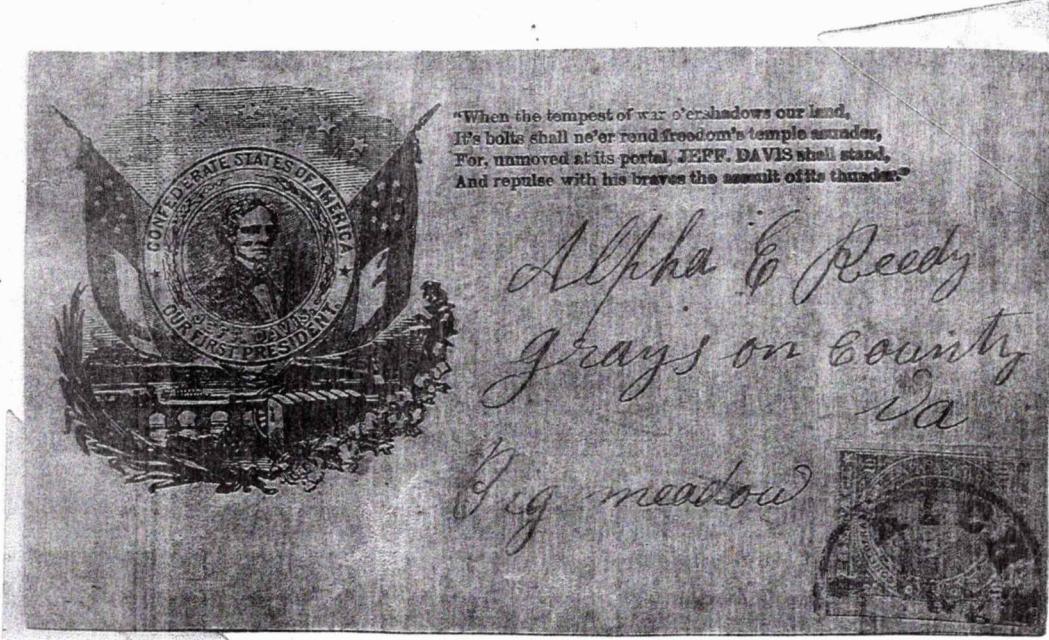


CONFEDERATE POSTAL SERVICE



Jefferson Davis Medallion Cover. 10 cent Thomas Jefferson number 2

HISTORY: From January 1, 1861 until May 31, 1861 the U.S. Postal Service delivered mail to the seceded states.

On June 1, 1861 the Confederate Postal Service was established. Rates were five cents up to 500 miles, ten cents beyond that, and two cents for drop letters and newspapers. The Confederate government did not make stamps available until late October, 1861.

Until stamps became available southern postmasters either wrote "paid" or stamped "paid" on the envelopes. Or some postmasters made their own stamps. These are known as Postmaster Provisionals. Several of these are very rare, as in the case of the Mount Lebanon, Louisiana provisional with only one known.

On July 1, 1862 the five cent rate was dropped and the ten cent rate was established for any distance. The two cent rate for drop mail and newspapers wasn't changed. Pairs of five cent stamps are common to make the ten cent rate until the supply of the five cent stamps, number 1, 4, 6, 7, were used.