HISTORY OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES POST OFFICE (4)
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(The American Journal of Philately, Vol. 4, October 20th, 1871)

ALABAMA.

This State has an area of 50,722 square miles, and is situated between 35° N. latitude, and between 85° and 88° 10′ W. longitude. It is bounded on the North by the State of Tennessee, on the East by the States of Georgia and Florida; on the South by Florida and the Gulf of Mexico, and on the West by the State of Mississippi. The State is divided into two Districts and fifty-two Counties. The principal cities are Mobile (the largest), Montgomery (the Capital), Tuscaloosa (the former Capital), Wetumpka, Huntsville, Marion, Talladega, Florence, Athens, and Jacksonville. All of these have a population ranging from 10,000 to 60,000. The population of the State in 1855 was 841,704, of whom 464,456 were white, 374,782 slaves, and 2,466 free colored. In 1859, there were 711 post-offices in the State.

Alabama is a word of Indian origin, signifying “here we rest.” It originally formed part of Georgia, but in 1798, the county, now included in the States of Alabama and Mississippi, was organised as a Territory, called Mississippi. In 1817, the western portion was admitted into the union as the State of Mississippi, while the eastern part remained as the territory of Alabama till 1819, when it was admitted as a State, having at that time 127,901 inhabitants, of whom 41,879 were slaves.

On the 11th January, 1861, Alabama passed an ordinance of secession in secret session, 61 members voting Yea, Nays 39. A proposition to submit the ordinance to the people, was lost, Yeas 47, Nays 53. The Confederate constitution, was ratified on the 13th of March, Yeas 87, Nays 6.

GREENVILLE.

Is the county seat of Butler County, and is situated on the Mobile and Great Northern Railway, forty-five mile(s) from Montgomery. It has a population of 7,000. Alexander McKellar was United States Postmaster at the breaking out of the war, but I am unable to find out if he retained his position as postmaster when the State seceded. In 1856 the office returned a net revenue to the department of $350.14.

The stamp or stamps issued by the postmaster of this town are among the scarcest of the provisionals. Only one specimen is positively known to be in existence; this was kindly lent us by the owner, R.C. Davis, Esq., of Philadelphia, for our artist to copy. The excellent engraving here given, makes description unnecessary, excepting to state that it is printed on heavy glazed paper. A correspondent in Baltimore informs us that he has the five, and also a ten cent with blue letters, and red frame printed on same kind of paper; but as he would not sell either, and declined to lend them for examination, I cannot add the ten to my list. Having only seen one copy, I am, of course, unable to note any varieties; but as the lettering appears to have been printed in by hand, should suppose they once existed.
Having been unsuccessful in my efforts, to communicate with the gentleman who issued this unique stamp, I am unable to give any further particulars.

LIVINGSTON.

Is the county seat of Sumter County, and is situated on the Selma and Meridan Railroad, about eighty miles west of Selma. It has a population of about 1,800. Robert F. Houston was Postmaster, at the breaking out of the war. In 1856 it returned a net revenue to the department of $372.92.

Of equal rarity with the last described, is the beautiful original of the accompanying engraving, which, by the way, does not do it justice; the stamp being a very fine lithograph, and is one of the handsomest issued in the confederacy. Only two specimens are known to be in existence, and it is doubtful if here is any variation in the type, as the stamp shows itself to be the work of a master hand.

For the reason given last, I am unable to give any particulars in regard to its issue. Unfortunately, this will too often be found the case in the present papers.

MOBILE.

Is the county seat of Mobile County, and is the largest city in Alabama, having a population of 60,000. It is situated on the Mobile River, near its entrance into the Bay. The city has a large commerce, and next to New Orleans, is the largest cotton mart in the United States. Lloyd Bowers was Postmaster at the commencement of the war. In 1856 the post office returned a net revenue to the department of $13,541.13.

The stamps here represented were among the earliest of the provisionals, to be known to collectors, but although I have no positive information on the subject I should not assign them an earlier date than July 1861, that being the earliest date I found on any of the blue ones, and of these I have seen fifty. The two cent ones are of the first degree of rarity.

Have never discovered any varieties of these stamps, except slight difference in shade in the five cent one. From the workmanship, should think it probable they were the work of the same artist as the Livingston.