PHILATELY IN THE CIVIL WAR

The Civil War was fought to keep the southern way of life and a booming economy going. Indeed it was a "Lost Cause," but it is a good way to see how post offices work and keep the economy moving. There are many philatelic objects from the Civil War period from both sides of the "Dixie Line."

The Civil War started December 20, 1860, when South Carolina seceded from the Union. Former Union Secretary of War Jefferson Davis was elected president. On March 6, John H. Reagan was asked and then gently prodded into becoming the new postmaster general. He sent out a command to post offices to continue using U.S.postage until a new contract could be made. Permission was given allowing post offices to use provisional stamps which were only good at the post office issuing it.

RIGHT: Postmaster J.L. Riddell New Orleans provisional CSA 62X2 issued June 1, 1861.
LEFT: Samuel C. Upham better known as "Honest Upham" was a toymaker, merchant from Philadelphia who, when the civil war broke out, started making gag jokes of Confederate president Jefferson Davis, but found success with forging Confederate money, titles and deeds, as well as stamps. In 1862 he created his most well-known forgery, a 5 cent New Orleans provisional with a hand waving in the bottom left-hand corner. Since his forgeries undermined the value of real confederate currency, he was allowed to continue making his fakes.

Patriotic Covers were made to sway public opinions.
LEFT: Confederate cover.
MIDDLE: Union cover by Reagles &c, series. "The Loyal States".
RIGHT: Union cover "I'll Crow While I Live"

Sanitary Fair postage SC#WV11-13 The United States Sanitary commission was formed by Rev. Henry W. Bellows at the request of the Women's Central Association for Relief. Postage was used to send mail from poor soldiers to their loved ones by way of someone attending the fair.