

Figure 1: This ten-cent Jefferson Davis (CSA Scott 12a) franks a cover with a manuscript cancel from “HS College” (Hampden-Sydney College). Intriguingly, a wax seal ties the stamp to the cover.

## Wax Seal Ties Confederate Stamp to Hampden-Sydney College Cover

By Patricia A. Kaufmann

The Figure 1 Confederate ten-cent Jefferson Davis milky blue Type II engraved left sheet margin stamp (CSA Scott 12a) has gum stains and is manuscript canceled “HS College Va/Nov 10/64” on a cover addressed to “Miss Wood, Farmington, Charlottesville, Virginia.” Hampden-Sydney College is situated a little more than seventy miles from Farmington.

What is most unusual about the cover is that the stamp is tied on the front of the cover with a wax seal bearing what seems to be the “all seeing eye” in the center. The text in the seal partially reads “...WATCH OER YOU...”

Perhaps the wax seal was used to help affix the stamp, thus creating what Confederate collectors call an “adversity use,” as perhaps the gum wasn’t doing the job, which was not uncommon for the gum on Confederate engraved issues. There is a fair amount of gum staining on the stamp.

Or perhaps it was just decorative, although one is more likely to see wax used to seal the back flaps. A former owner speculated that the wax might have been struck with a fraternity signet ring.

### Estate of Farmington

According to the Farmington Country Club website, the estate of Farmington was patented in 1735, and was first built upon at some period prior to 1780.

At the time of the American Revolution, the Commonwealth of Virginia confiscated the property from owner Francis Jerdone, a Tory, because of his politics. Jerdone was able to regain the estate, then sold it to George Divers in 1785.

Under Divers’ ownership in 1803, Thomas Jefferson drew plans for an addition to the house, an octagonal addition with two rooms. It is a spectacular structure



Figure 2: The Hampden-Sydney College coat of arms.

immediately recognizable as Jefferson's handiwork, with a decided likeness to Jefferson's nearby home of Monticello.

Warner Wood (1825-1902) bought Farmington in 1860. The addressee on the cover, "Miss Wood," was likely Lucilla Wood, Warner's only daughter. Farmington was originally about 3,500 acres, said to have an unbroken view of the Blue Ridge Mountains for more than a hundred miles.

In the spring of 1927, local businessmen joined together to develop a country club and residential community that would do justice to the historic atmosphere of Albemarle County. The Warner Wood estate granted an option for the property of Farmington, an estate of nearly a thousand acres. Today, it is a stunning private club with first class facilities.

### Hampden-Sydney College

Hampden-Sydney College (H-SC) has been in continuous operation since November 10, 1775. Established before the American Revolution, it is the tenth oldest college in the United States and the oldest of the country's few remaining private colleges that specializes in educating and developing young men. The institution's coat of arms is shown in Figure 2.

The first advertisement for the college (Figure 3), promising that classes would begin November 10, 1775, appeared in Williamsburg's *Virginia Gazette*.

Among the first trustees of Hampden-Sydney College were Patrick Henry and James Madison.

William Henry Harrison, Hampden-Sydney class of 1791, was president of the United States for just thirty-one days from March 4, 1841, until his death on April 4, 1841. He had the shortest presidency in United States history. His 1835 portrait by James Reid Lambin is shown in Figure 4.

The ninth president of the United States, Harrison was the first president to die in office. His cause of death is in dispute by various authorities even today. The two most prevalent theories on his cause of death are enteric fever (typhoid fever), or pneumonia caused

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By order of the committee,  
JOHN FENDELTON, Junior, Clk.  
It is expected that such members of the House of Burgesses as are convenient will meet at the Capitol in Williamsburg, on Thursday the 10th of October, in order to adjourn to some future day.

**An ACADEMY.**  
PRINCE EDWARD, Sept. 1, 1775.

BY the generous Exertions of several Gentlemen in this and some of the neighbouring Counties, very large Contributions have lately been made for erecting and supporting a public ACADEMY near the Courthouse in this County. Their Zeal for the Interests of Learning and Virtue has met with such Success, that they were enabled to let the Buildings in March last to several Undertakers, who are proceeding in their Work with the greatest Expedition. A very valuable Library of the best Writers, both ancient and modern, on most Parts of Science and polite Literature, is already procured; with Part of an Apparatus to facilitate the Studies of the Mathematicks and Natural Philosophy, which we expect in a short Time to render complete.—The Academy will certainly be opened on the 10th of next November: It is to be distinguished by the Name of HAMPDEN-SYDNEY, and will be subject to the Visitation of twelve Gentlemen of Character and Influence in their respective Counties; the immediate acting Members being chiefly of the Church of England. The Number of Visitors and Trustees will probably be increased as soon as the Distractions of the Times shall so far cease as to enable its Patrons to enlarge its Foundations.—The Students will all board and study under the same Roof, provided for by a common Steward, except such as choose to take their Boarding in the Country. The Rates, at the utmost, will not exceed 10l. Currency per Annum to the Steward, and 4l. Tuition Money; 20s. of this being always paid at Entrance.

The System of Education will resemble that which is adopted in the College of *New Jersey*, save, that a more particular Attention shall be paid to the Cultivation of the *English Language* than is usually done in Places of public Education. Three Masters and Professors are ready to enter in *November*, and as many more may be easily procured as the increased Number of Students may at any Time hereafter require. And our Prospects at present are so extremely flattering that it is probable we shall be obliged to procure two Professors more before the Expiration of the Year. The Public may rest assured that the Whole shall be conducted on the most *catholic Plan*. Parents, of every Denomination, may be at full Liberty to require their Children to attend on any Mode of Worship which either Custom or Conscience has rendered most agreeable to them. For our Fidelity, in every Respect, we are cheerfully willing to pledge our Reputation to the Public; which may be the more relied on, because our whole Success depends upon their favourable Opinion. Our Character and Interest, therefore, being both at Stake, furnish a strong Security for our avoiding all Party Intigations; for our Care to form good men, and good Citizens, on the common and universal Principles of Morality, distinguished from the narrow Tenets which form the Complexion of any Sect; and for our Assiduity in the whole Circle of Education.

SAMUEL S. SMITH.  
P. S. The principal Building of the Academy not being yet completed, those Gentlemen who desire their Children to enter immediately will be obliged to take Lodgings for them in the Neighbourhood, during the Winter Season; which may be done in Houses sufficiently convenient, on very reasonable Terms.

WAS left at the Subscriber's, in *Fredericksburg*, in 1773, a very large STILL-TUB and WORM, marked I H, N<sup>o</sup> 1. The Owner is desired to take it away, and pay all Charges. JACOB WHITLER.

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Figure 3: The first advertisement for the college, promising that classes would begin November 10, 1775, appeared in Williamsburg's *Virginia Gazette*.

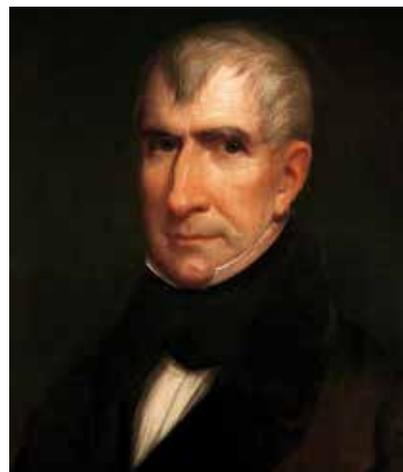


Figure 4: William Henry Harrison, Hampden-Sydney class of 1791, was president of the United States for just 31 days.

by cold weather during an overly long speech on Inauguration Day.

To illustrate this article, I first looked in the CSA catalog for an image of an advertising cover showing Hampden-Sydney College.

Given its long history, I was surprised to find that there were none. I contacted Larry Baum, who collects Southern advertising covers. His advertising design file includes about 4,000 images, of which approximately 3,200 are Confederate. He verified that he records no wartime designs from Hampden-Sydney College. He had but one example from any era, a postwar use that is shown in Figure 5.

The all-over design is very pale so I increased the digital contrast so that readers might have a chance of better seeing the design for the cover.

It is franked with a three-cent 1869 issue tied by a target cancel and postmarked with a circular datestamp of Hampden-Sydney College. The text reads "Union Theological Seminary, Hampden-Sydney, Va." The Presbyterian seminary was founded as a theological adjunct to Hampden-Sydney College.

Shown in Figure 6 is Venable Hall, the 1830 building on the Hampden-Sydney College campus that was the original home of the Union Theological Seminary.

The photo was taken by Charles Ricard Rees, one of the largest photographers in Richmond. Rees established a studio there in 1851; he had another studio in nearby Petersburg.

In 1898, the seminary moved to its current location in Richmond, Virginia. In 2010, it was renamed Union Presbyterian Seminary.

Venable hall, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, now serves as a dormitory for Hampden-Sydney College.

### Endnotes

- 1 Club History, Farmington Country Club, <https://www.farmingtoncc.com/web/pages/club-history/> (Accessed July 18, 2022).
- 2 Jane McHugh and Philip A. Mackowiak, "What

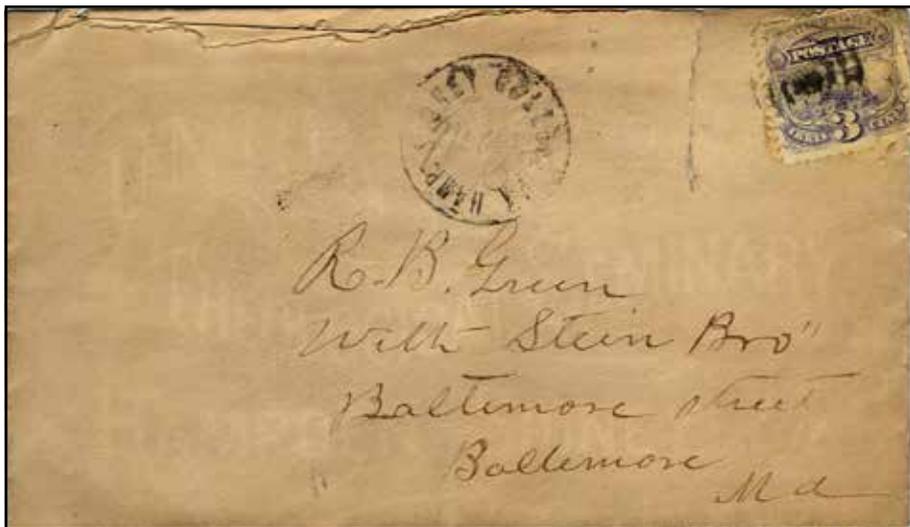


Figure 5: A three-cent 1869 issue tied by a target cancel and postmarked with a Hampden-Sydney College circular datestamp on the only recorded advertising cover from the institution.



Figure 6: A cabinet card photograph of Union Theological Seminary by photographer C.R. Rees, circa 1890.

Really Killed William Henry Harrison?" *The New York Times*, March 3, 2014.

- 3 Patricia A. Kaufmann, Francis J. Crown Jr., and Jerry S. Palazolo, *Confederate States of America Catalog and Handbook of Stamps and Postal History* (Sumter, S.C.: Confederate Stamp Alliance, 2012).

(Patricia (Trish) Kaufmann, Lincoln, Delaware, has been a collector for more than fifty years. She is a fulltime dealer specializing solely in Confederate States postal history. She may be contacted by e-mail at: [trishkauf@comcast.net](mailto:trishkauf@comcast.net))

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