



# The Civil War Post

Patricia A. Kaufmann

## “Jeff Davis and his picuine stamp” – Battlefield Souvenir

I’ve previously written in these pages about battlefield souvenirs. I’ve also written about patriotic stickers. The two topics collide as shown in Figure 1, a letter from a young Massachusetts farmer turned soldier.

Daniel E. Morrison, Jr., signed the four-page letter, which is addressed to his sister. At the bottom of the last page is a Confederate 5¢ blue lithographed issue (Scott CSA 4) with the note “here is old Jeff himself and his picuine stamp.”

“Picuine,” as used in Morrison’s description, is misspelled and should be “picayune,” a small-value coin, especially a 5¢ piece. By extension, the word can mean “trivial” or “of little value.” This term was common in New Orleans during the period and is known today mostly because of the New Orleans newspaper, the *Times-Picayune*, published since 1837.

To the right of the stamp is the “Our Flag,” sticker (CSA Catalog type ST-1)<sup>1</sup> with another note, “And this 7 stars and

stripes is what he is a fighting for. C.S. cannot always live.” Both items are shown enlarged and inset on Morrison’s letter.

Morrison’s letter is headed “New Orleans July 4th 1862, 31 reg. Co. F, M.V.” (Figure 2).

Daniel was a 20-year-old farmer from New Salem, Mass., when he enlisted on Nov. 21, 1861, and mustered into Company F of the 31st Massachusetts Infantry, Army and Department of the Gulf. He later served in the Connecticut 91st Infantry and Connecticut 74th Infantry with promotions to sergeant and 2nd lieutenant with each change of regiment.

When he wrote this letter, Morrison was part of General Benjamin Butler’s New Orleans Expedition after the city was

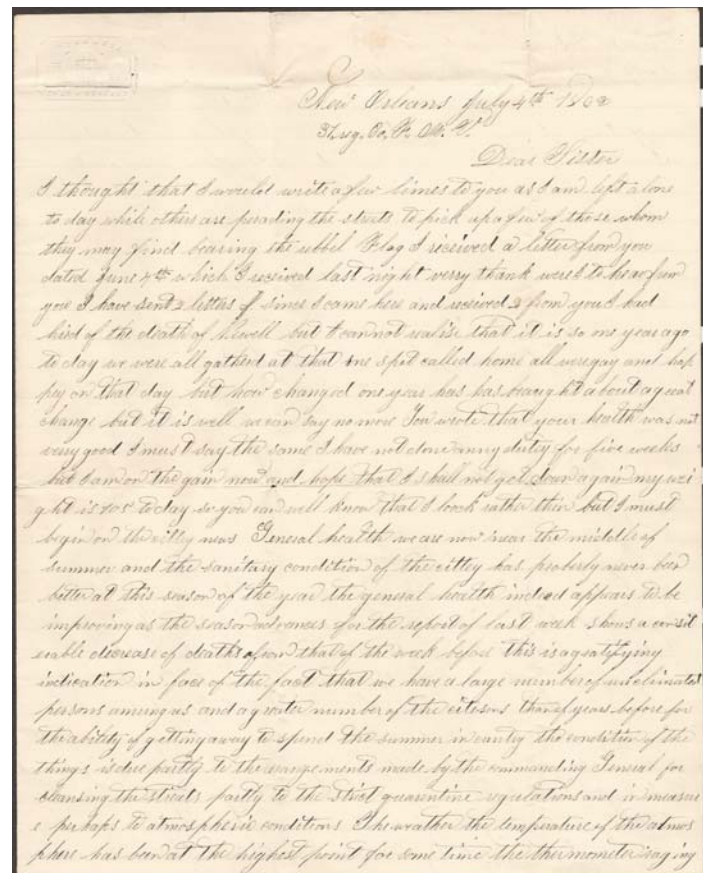
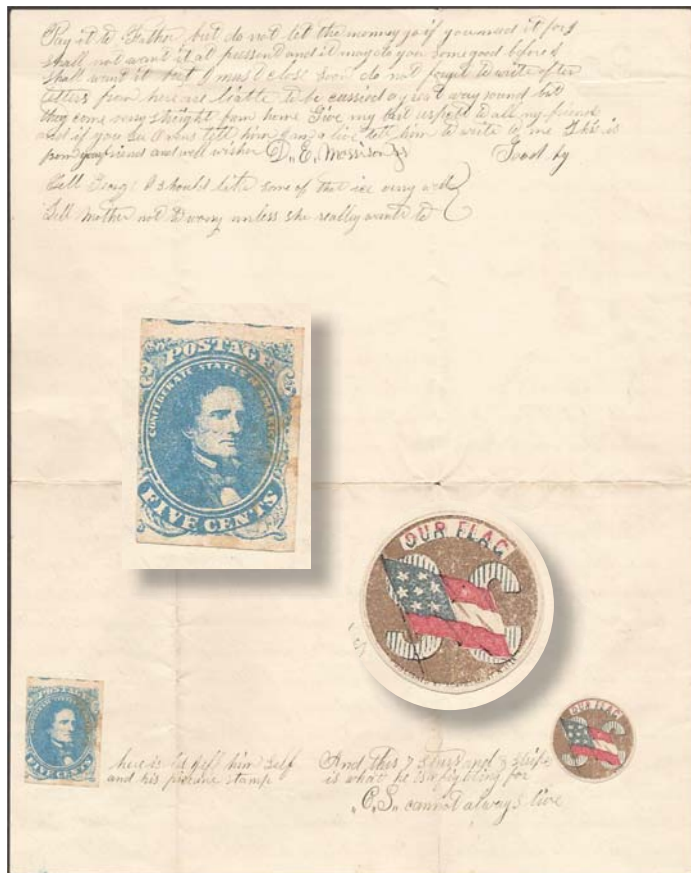


Figure 1 (above left). Last page of a four-page letter from Daniel E. Morrison, Jr., to his sister. At the bottom of the last page is a Confederate 5¢ stamp and a patriotic sticker with his pithy captions (enlarged and inset).

Figure 2 (above right). First page of Morrison’s letter, while serving in the 31st Massachusetts Regiment in Union-occupied New Orleans.



Figure 3. *Capture of New Orleans by Union Flag Officer David G. Farragut*, painting by Julian Oliver Davidson.

captured by Union forces April 15-May 1, 1862. The capture of the largest Confederate city was a major turning point in the war and of importance due to its heavy international commerce.

Per the 1860 U.S. census, New Orleans had a population of 168,675 inhabitants. Charleston, S.C., ranked a distant second, with 40,522 inhabitants, and Richmond, Va., boasted the third largest population in the South with 37,910.

By contrast, the eight major cities in the North during the same period all boasted six-digit populations, topped by New York City, with 813,669 residents in 1860.

In his letter, with spelling that leaves room for improvement and virtually non-existent punctuation, Morrison relates in part:

*I am left alone today while others are perading the streets to pick up a few of those whom they may find bearing the rebel Flag...Law & order since the arrival of the US troops and the organization of the new police there has been a reduction in the record of crime and marked improvement in the morals of the disorderly portions of the community maney of the leading T[h]ugs have been swept away some sent to the efforts some hung and some have rid the cittey of theyer presence the decided stand taken by General Butler in regard to these pests*

*of cociety has made him hosts of friends among the law abiding citysens while a few of the poorer class are left to circe him but they howl at a safe distance New Orleans is in a very hopeful condition We have now in the cittey 5 regt 4 baterys and old rebellion seems to feel a dread when we first came here we were obliged to go in squads if we went over the and had to go armed now one person can wander all over the cittey in safety But this cittey is a poor degraded cittey the sabboth is thrown a die intirely by most of its people all kind of business seems more lively on that holy day than of the 6 days allotted to them for leihbor rum shops fill every corner of each squair you may well judge the morals of a people who live intirely or it seems so on the spirtis of h--l...*

Union Flag Officer David G. Farragut's sloop of war, the USS *Hartford*, is shown in Figure 3 at the center of a painting by Julian Oliver Davidson (1853-94). She also served in the Battle of Mobile Bay. Allowed to deteriorate, the *Hartford* sank in her berth Nov. 20, 1956, in the Norfolk Navy Yard, while awaiting restoration.<sup>2</sup>

Figure 4 shows a postally used cover advertising the "Our Flag" sticker. On every sticker, around the bottom rim, is printed "Published by A. Dapremont, New Orleans, La." In a

large box at the top center of the envelope, is advertised:

### “OUR FLAG.”

#### The Flag Adopted by the Southern Congress!

Published by A. DAPREMONT, New-Orleans, La.

DESIGNED FOR

ENVELOPES, LETTER PAPER, BUSINESS CARDS, BILL HEADS &c.

Packages sent by Mail to any part of the Southern Confederacy on receipt of 30 cts. in stamps or money.

Address, A. DAPREMONT, New-Orleans, La., or LEE MALLORY, General Agent, Jackson, Miss.

The announcement of the newly discovered largest recorded multiple of this sticker was the subject of this column in March 2015.<sup>3</sup>

From the advertisement on the cover, it is evident that Alexander Dapremont, a New Orleans bookseller, was offering shipping services as well as selling his patriotic stickers, one of which is affixed to the left of the ad. Notice that the sticker is not tied. Only the 5¢ green lithograph (Scott CSA 1) is tied by a Corinth, Miss., circular datestamp.

It is clear from the advertising on this cover that SC stands for Southern Congress. It is often misidentified as Southern Confederacy or South Carolina, but clearly that is not what Dapremont meant.

This cover enhanced the collections of the late Hubert C.

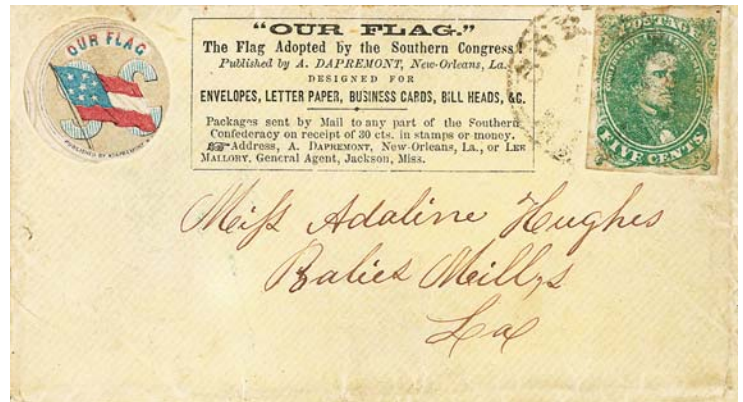


Figure 4. Cover advertising the “Our Flag.” sticker, published by A. Dapremont, New Orleans, La. Courtesy Schuyler J. Rumsey Philatelic Auction Galleries.

Skinner (a New Orleans collector), Arthur H. Groten (patriotic label collections) and the late Richard S. Warren (collector of anything and everything uncommon).

If you have an unusual philatelic Civil War souvenir that you'd like to share with the readership, I'd be glad to hear from you by email at [trishkauf@comcast.net](mailto:trishkauf@comcast.net) or write Patricia A. Kaufmann, 10194 N Old State Rd, Lincoln DE 19960-3644. ☒

#### Endnotes

Patricia A. Kaufmann, Francis J. Crown, Jr. and Jerry S. Palazolo, *Confederate States of America Catalog and Handbook of Stamps and Postal History, Confederate Stamp Alliance, 2012, Page 442.*

USS Hartford (1858), [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Capture\\_of\\_New\\_Orleans](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Capture_of_New_Orleans), accessed April 28, 2019.

Patricia A. Kaufmann, “Largest Recorded Confederate Patriotic Stocker– Dapremont and Mallory,” *American Stamp Dealer and Collector, March 2015, pp. 49-54.*

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