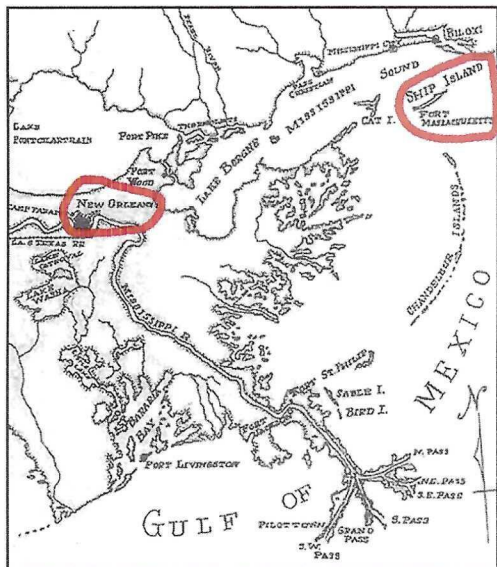


Ship Island Postal Markings: 1861 – 1865



Purpose: This Ship Island exhibit presents a comprehensive study of postal markings, rates, and uses between 1861 and 1865.

Background: Colonel Edward F. Jones landed on Ship Island December 2, 1861 as a prelude to the campaign to capture and occupy New Orleans. General Butler arrived March 20, 1862 with his brother-in-law John Parker, who had been appointed Ship Island postmaster by the U.S.P.O.D. February 7, 1862. He was confirmed February 11, and took office upon his arrival on the island.

Postmaster Parker set up the Ship Island Field Post Office in an Army tent. He used a manuscript **SHIP ISLAND MISS.** postmark March 20 – 26, 1862, and because several clerks assisted Parker, different signatures are seen on manuscript postmarks. Between March 27 and April 30, Parker placed two new devices into service: a newspaper letterpress type used in the straight-line **SHIP ISLAND/MISS.** handstamp, and a Balloon 32mm Circle Date Stamp (CDS) **SHIP ISLAND MISS.**

When Federal forces landed in New Orleans May 1, 1862, General Butler appointed Parker Acting Postmaster which effectively made him postmaster of two post offices. He ordered Parker to report to the reoccupied Federal Custom House February 19, 1863 where he was appointed as New Orleans Postmaster until March 20, 1865.

Straight-line Handstamp
April 7, [1862].

Red and Blue Shield & Stars
Patriotic Cover with *April 7*
manuscript date.

**Only known example with
a complete straight-line
handstamp cancelling
the 3¢ Scott #65.**



Organization:

Important items are framed in RED

Page 1: Title

2: E. F. Jones, Colonel, Mass 26th Handstamp

3 – 4: Manuscript Postmark: Phase 1

5 – 7: Straight-line Handstamp

8 – 10: Soldier Letters Certified by Field Officers, Chaplains, and Surgeons

10 – 11: Manuscript Postmark Used in New Orleans: Phase 2

12 – 14: Large Balloon CDS: Phases 1, 2 & 3

15: Letters from Home

16: Ship Island Prisoner of War Camp Handstamps