

Tallahassee Stamp and Cover Club, January 1999. Gregg Phifer

Stamps with a Civil War Flavor

George Washington and Abraham Lincoln appear on our postage stamps more often than anyone else. Both were presidents at critical periods, Washington after securing our independence and Lincoln while preserving the Union when eleven southern states rebelled and created the Confederate States of America.

Three Lincoln commemorative stamps have special relevance to our topic.

(1) In 1940 on the 75th anniversary of the 13th amendment a 3c stamp pictures Lincoln standing with a slave kneeling beside him. (2) A 1949 3c stamp notes the 85th anniversary of Lincoln's Gettysburg address and quotes his of, by, and for the people conclusion. (3) A 1958 4c stamp notes the sesquicentennial of the Lincoln-Douglas debates. The three other sesquicentennial stamps picture Lincoln on 1,3, and 4-cent stamps. Lincoln also appears on definitive issues in 1869, 1870, 1873, 1890, 1894, 1902, 1922, 1938, 1954, 1960, 1965 + A special act of Congress ordered the 1909 2 cent commemorative on the 100th anniversary of Lincoln's birth.

Union officers U.S. Grant and James Garfield appear on 19th and 20th century stamps. Both served as presidents in addition to military duty during the Civil War. General Sherman appears on definitive issues of 1890 and 1894. The \$1 stamp of 1902 features Admiral Farragut.

The 1936 Army-Navy series holds particular interest for its balance. Sherman, Grant, and Sheridan appear on the 3 cent Army stamp, with Admirals Farragut and Porter on the Navy 3 cent stamp. Confederate Generals Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson appear on the 4 cent stamp. The Confederacy had no admirals to parallel the Union admirals and neither the Monitor nor the Merrimac make an appearance .

Andrew Johnson, the first president to be impeached, appears with the entire series of presidents up to 1938. That is his only notice on U.S. stamps.

A 1948 commemorative recognizes Clara Barton, a nurse during the Civil War, as the Founder of the American Red Cross. She served as its first President.

Robert E. Lee appears in the Army-Navy series, on the 30-cent 1954 definitive, and with George Washington on the 1949 stamp honoring the two-hundredth anniversary of Washington University. Lee served as President of that university following the Civil War and addition of his name made today's Washington and Lee U.

In 1949 a red stamp commemorates the Final Encampment of the GAR, Grand Army of the Republic (Union). An almost identical stamp in 1951, this one printed in gray, commemorates the Final Reunion of United Confederate Veterans.

A Centennial series recalls critical CW events: 1961, firing on Fort Sumter. 1962, Battle of Shiloh. 1963, Gettysburg. 1964, the Wilderness. 1965, Appomattox. This 1865-1965 stamp pictures a soldier on a blue and gray background standing beside three stacked muskets and quotes Lincoln, "With Malice Toward None."