

Time Line of Important Dates

- January 28, 1861.** Convention to consider secession meets in Austin
- February 1, 1861.** Ordinance of Secession adopted at convention, to be voted on in a statewide referendum on February 23
- February 23, 1861.** Secession approved in statewide referendum, to become effective March 2, 1861, as stated in the ordinance
- March 5, 1861.** Convention meets again, accepts invitation from the Confederate Congress to join the Confederacy
- April 12, 1861.** First shots of war fired at Fort Sumter
- April 19, 1861.** Union blockade of Confederate ports declared
- May 31, 1861.** Last day of United States Post Office operations in Confederate states; the U.S. postage rate is 3 cents per letter up to 3,000 miles, and stamps are readily available
- July 1, 1861.** Confederate Post Office Department takes control of postal system in the Confederate states; postage rates set at 5 cents for letters under 500 miles, 10 cents for letters over 500 miles; no postage stamps available for sale anywhere in the South
- Late June 1861.** Gonzales postmaster begins using advertising labels as stamps
- October 16, 1861.** Stamps from Confederate Post Office finally ready for use
- July 1, 1862.** Confederate postage rate changed to 10 cents for all letters
- April 9, 1865.** Surrender of Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia at Appomattox, Virginia
- May 26, 1865.** Surrender of troops west of the Mississippi River
- June 2, 1865.** Union troops arrive in Galveston
- June 19, 1865.** Union general Granger arrives in Galveston and officially declares slavery dead
- 1870.** Dealer John W. Scott writes first article listing known Confederate locals; none from Texas are listed

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- 1873.** Discovery of Goliad stamps, including one with “GOILAD” error, reported by London stamp journal
- 1874.** Discovery of Helena stamp reported by another London journal
- 1893.** Victoria stamps reported by American publication
- 1895.** Beaumont stamps first reported by American journal
- 1898.** Gonzales stamps first reported
- 1900.** Independence “cut and paste” stamps discovered
- 1929.** First mention of the Hallettsville stamp in August Dietz’s book *The Postal Service of the Confederate States of America*
- 1935.** Discovery of Port Lavaca stamp
- 1939.** Discovery of the Austin stamps first mentioned
- 1956.** Plum Creek stamp first seen in auction catalog
- 1988.** Last known discovery of Goliad stamp
- 2000.** Plum Creek stamp officially recognized as genuine in *Scott Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps & Covers*
- 2008.** Two Victoria stamps thought to be fakes discovered to be genuine

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