

PROSPECTUS OF THE

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THIS JOURNAL, published twice a week, is one of the largest papers in the country. It is printed on fine white and heavy paper, contains in large and clear type, more news matter in the form of articles, reports, and special communications, than any other paper published in the United States.

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CIRCULAR

The undersigned has now ready for the press a volume of the result of the investigations of many years, entitled "Short Treatise on the History of the United States from the Revolution to the Present Time."

OFFICIAL

THE STAMP ACT

ONE OF THE TAX LAWS OF THE U. STATES.

Acknowledgement of deeds, Exempt Affidavit, (in suit or legal proceedings), Exempt Agreement or Appointment, for each sheet or piece of paper, on which the name is written, 5cts.

Assignment or Transfers of mortgage, lease or policy of insurance, the same duty as on the original instrument of patent right, 5cts.

Bills, Checks, Drafts or Orders, &c., at sight, or on demand, 2cts.

Bills of Exchange: Inland drafts or orders, payable otherwise than at sight or on demand, and any promissory note whatever, payable on demand or at a time designated, except bank notes issued for circulation, and checks made and intended to be, and which shall be, forthwith presented for payment, for a sum not exceeding \$100, 5cts.

For every additional \$100 or fractional part thereof, 5cts.

Bills of Lading vessels for the ports of the United States or British North America, On receipt of goods on foreign ports, 50cts.

Bills of Sale of any vessel or thereof, when the contents do not exceed \$500, 50cts.

Exceeding \$500 and not exceeding \$1,000, 1.00.

Exceeding one thousand dollars, for each five hundred dollars fractional part thereof, 50cts.

Writ or other process issued from justices courts, or other courts of inferior jurisdiction, to a court of record, 50cts.

Warrants of distress, when the amount of rent claimed does not exceed 100 dollars, 25cts.

When the amount exceeds 100 dollars, 50cts.

Insurance, Marine, Inland and Fire, Where the consideration paid for the insurance, in cash, premium notes, or both, does not exceed 10 dollars, 10cts.

Exceeding ten dollars, and not exceeding fifty, 50cts.

Insurance, Life, when the amount insured does not exceed 1000 dols, 25cts.

Exceeding 1000 and not exceeding 5000 dollars, 50cts.

Exceeding 5000 dollars, \$1.00.

Lease or lease of lands or tenements where the rents does not exceed 300 per annum, 50cts.

Exceeding 300 dols, for each additional 200 dols, or fractional part thereof, in excess of 300 dols, 50cts.

Perpetual, subject to stamp duty as a "conveyance," 50cts.

Clause of guaranty of payment of rent incorporated or indorsed, five cents additional.

Measures Return, if for quantity not exceeding 1,000 bushels, 10cts.

Exceeding 1,000 bushels, 25cts.

Mortgage, trust deed, bill of sales, or personal bond for the payment of money exceeding 100 and not exceeding 500 dols, 50cts.

Exceeding 500 dols, for every additional 500, or fractional part thereof, in excess of 500, 50cts.

Pawner's Checks, 5cts.

Passage Ticket from the United States to any foreign port, costing not more than 35 dols, 50cts.

Costing more than 35, and not exceeding 50, 1.00.

For every additional fifty or fractional part thereof, in excess of 50 dols, 1.00.

GENERAL REMARKS. Revenue Stamps may be used indiscriminately upon any of the matters or things enumerated in schedule B, except proprietary and playing card stamps, for which a special use has been provided.

Postage stamps cannot be used in payment of the duty chargeable on instruments it is the duty of the maker of an instrument to affix and cancel the stamp thereon.

If he neglects to do so, the party for whom it is made, may stamp it before it is used; and if used after the 30th of July, 1864, and used without a stamp, it cannot afterwards be effectually stamped.

Any failure upon the part of the maker of an instrument to appropriately stamp it, renders him liable to a penalty of two hundred dollars.

Suits are commenced in many States by other process than writ, viz: summons, warrants, publication, petition, &c. in which case these, as the original process, severally require stamps.

Writs of seira facias are subject to stamp duty as original processes.

The jurat of an affidavit, taken before a Justice of the Peace, Notary Public, or other officer duly authorized to take affidavits, is held to be a certificate, and subject to a stamp duty of five cents, except when taken in suits or legal proceedings.

Certificates of loan in which there shall appear any printed or written evidence of an amount of money to be paid on demand at any time designated, are subject to stamp duty as Promissory Notes.

The assignment of a mortgage is subject to the same duty as that imposed upon the original instrument; that is to say for every sum of five hundred dollars, or any fractional part thereof, of the amount secured by the mortgage, at time of its assignment there must be affixed a stamp or stamps, denoting a duty of five cents.

When two or more persons join in the execution of an instrument, the stamps to which this instrument is liable under the law, may be affixed and cancelled by one of the parties.

In conveyances of real estate, the law provides that the stamp affixed must answer to the value of the estate on interest conveyed.

No stamp is required on any warrant of attorney accompanying a bond or note, when such bond or note has affixed thereon the stamp or stamps denoting the duty required, and whenever any bond or note is secured by mortgage, but one stamp duty is required on such papers, such stamp duty being the highest rates required for such instruments, or either of them.

In such a case a note or memorandum of the value or denomination of the stamp affixed should be made upon the margin or in the acknowledgement of the instrument which is not stamped.

PENSION AGENCY.

The Government having resumed the execution of the pension laws by establishing Pension Agencies in the Southern States, we call the attention of those interested to an act of Congress authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to drop from the pension rolls the names of pensioners in these States and to the circular of the Commissioner of Pensions, giving the forms and instructions, in accordance with which application may be made for restoration to the rolls by those who still claim the benefit of the pension laws.

The Pension Agency for the State of North Carolina has been established at Raleigh and any information or assistance facilitating the claims of pensioners, may be obtained from the agency by application to Dr. J. W. Page, Pension Agent, Raleigh.

PENSIONERS IN STATES HERETOFORE IN INSURRECTION.

In resuming the executing of the pension laws in the several States heretofore in insurrection, the Secretary of the Interior directs that attention be called to the following provisions of an act of Congress:

"AN Act authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to strike from the pension rolls the names of such persons as have taken up arms against the government, or who have in any manner encouraged the rebels.

"Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Interior be, and is hereby authorized and directed to strike from the pension rolls the names of all such persons as have or may hereafter take up arms against the government of the United States, or who have in any manner encouraged the rebels, or manifested a sympathy with their cause.

"Approved, February 4, 1862."

In accordance with the provisions of this act, the names of all pensioners who have resided within the insurrectionary States during the rebellion, and whose pensions were payable at any one of the following places viz: Richmond and Norfolk Va.; Fayetteville and Morganton, N. C.; Charleston, S. C.; Nashville, Knoxville, Jonesboro and Jackson, Tenn.; Jackson, Miss.; New Orleans, La.; Savannah, Ga.; Jacksonville, Tallahassee and Pensacola, Fla.; Huntsville, Tuscaloosa and Mobile, Ala., and Little Rock and Port Gibson, Ark.; are hereby dropped from the pension rolls.

Persons heretofore receiving pensions at the above named agencies, who still claim the benefits of the pension laws, must make application for restoration to the rolls, with the requisite evidence, in accordance with the forms and instructions published herewith.

JOSEPH H. BARRETT, Commissioner of Pensions.

June 10, 1865.

Form of application for restoration to the pension rolls by persons whose names have been dropped under the act of Feb. 4, 1862.

STATE OF _____ } ss. County of _____ }

On this _____ day of _____, A. D., one thousand eight hundred and _____, personally appeared before me, [Judge, clerk, or deputy clerk] of the _____ court in said State and county, the same being a court of record, _____ A. B., aged _____ years, a resident of _____, in the State of _____, who, being duly sworn according to law, declares that he [or she] is the identical _____ A. B. _____ who was a pensioner on the roll of the agency at _____, and whose pension certificate is herewith returned; that he [or she] has resided since first day of January, A. D., 1861, as follows: [her name the place or places at which the applicant has resided:] that during this period, his [or her] means of subsistence have been (here name the employment or other means by which a livelihood has been gained;) and that he has not borne arms against the government of the United States, or [or she] has not in any manner encouraged the rebels, or manifested a sympathy with their cause; and that he (or she) was last paid his (or her) pension on the _____ day of _____, A. D., 18____.

This application is made for the purpose of securing a restoration of his (or her) name to the pension rolls, and of obtaining a pension certificate, such as he [or she] may be entitled to under existing laws, reference being made to the evidence heretofore filed in the Pension Office to substantiate his (or her) original claim.

Also personally appeared _____ and _____, residents of (county, city or town,) persons whom I certify to be respectable and entitled to credit, and who, being by me duly sworn, says that they were present and _____ sign his [or her] name [or make his mark] to the foregoing declaration; and they further swear that they have every reason to believe, from the appearance of the applicant and their acquaintance with him, [or her] that he [or she] is the identical person he [or she] represents himself [or herself] to be; and they further swear that they have no interest in the prosecution of this claim.

(Signatures of witnesses.) Sworn to and subscribed before me, this _____ day of _____, A. D., 186____, and I hereby certify that I have no interest, direct or indirect, in the prosecution of this claim. (Signature of judge or other officer.)

INSTRUCTIONS. If the declarant, or any witness, signs by mark, the officer must certify that the contents of the paper were known to the affiant before signing.

In every case the declaration or affidavit must either be signed by the affiant's own hand or else by mark (X) Signing by any other hand, when the party is able to write, or without a mark when the party is unable to write is wholly inadmissible.

The allegations made in the applicant's declaration must be sustained by the testimony of two credible and disinterested witnesses, to be certified as such by the officer before whom the testimony is taken.

The applicant must also take and subscribe the oath prescribed in the recent amnesty proclamation of the President of the United States, filling such an oath with the application for a new pension certificate, in the following terms:

"I, _____, do solemnly swear (or affirm) in the presence of Almighty God, that I will henceforth faithfully support, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States and the union of the States thereunder; that I will, in like manner, abide by and faithfully all laws and proclamations which have been made during the existing rebellion with reference to the emancipation of slaves: So help me God."

If the applicant be an invalid pensioner he must be examined by an army surgeon, or by a surgeon duly appointed by this office, as to the continuance of his disability. If a widow she must prove, by two credible witnesses, her continued widowhood. If the guardian of a minor child, newly appointed, he must file evidence of his appointment as such.

Attention is especially directed to the following particulars in which previous legislation and official practice have been modified under the provisions of the foregoing act:

1. BIENNIAL EXAMINATIONS.—The biennial examinations of invalid pensioners, required by the act of March 3, 1859, will hereafter be made by one surgeon only, if he is regularly appointed, or hold a surgeon's commission in the army. In no case will an examination by unappointed civil surgeons be accepted, unless it is satisfactorily shown by the affidavit of one or more disinterested and credible witnesses, giving the reasons for such assertion, that at an examination by a commissioned or duly appointed surgeon is impracticable. On such proof, the certificate of two unappointed civil surgeons will be accepted in the same manner as heretofore. Fees paid to unappointed examining surgeons will be paid directly by Pension Agents, under prescribed regulations, and not by the pensioner, (to be afterwards refunded,) as under the act of 1862.

2. DECLARATIONS.—All declarations of claimants residing within twenty-five miles of any court of record must, without exception, be made before such court, or before some officer thereof having custody of its seal. For the convenience of persons residing more than twenty-five miles distant from any court of record, officers qualified by law to administer oaths may be designated by the Commissioner of Pensions, before whom such declarations may be executed.

3. INCREASED PENSIONS IN CERTAIN CASES.—A pension of twenty-five dollars per month is granted to those having lost both hands, or both eyes in the military service of the United States, in the line of duty, and twenty dollars per month to those who, under the same conditions, shall have lost both feet, if such parties were entitled to a lower rate of pension under the act of 1862. This higher pension will date only from the 4th of July, 1864, in the case of pensioners already enrolled, or of applicants of discharged prior to that date.

4. COMMENCEMENT OF PENSIONS WHEN APPLICANTS ARE DELAYED MORE THAN THREE YEARS.—In all cases in which the application is filed more than three years after the discharge or the decease of the person on whose account the claim is made, the pension, if allowed, will commence at the date of filing the last paper in support of such claim. Claims filed before July 4, 1864, must be prosecuted to a final issue within three years from that date, and those filed subsequently to July 4, 1864, must be prosecuted to a final issue within five years from the date of filing, or they will thereafter be rejected, in the absence of satisfactory evidence from the War Department to support such claim.

5. WIDOW'S PENSION NOT RENEWABLE AFTER REMARRIAGE.—The remarriage of a widow terminates all claims to a pension from the date of such remarriage, although she may again become a widow.

6. SPECIAL EXAMINATION OF PENSIONERS.—Special examination of pensioners will be ordered at such times as the interests of the Government may seem to require; and such examinations, subject to an appeal to a board of three appointed surgeons, will take precedence of all previous examinations.

7. PENSIONS TO UNENLISTED MEN, OR TO THEIR DEPENDENTS, IN CERTAIN CASES.—Persons disabled by wounds in battle while temporarily serving with any regularly organized military or naval force of the United States, since March 14, 1862, but not regularly enlisted, and the widows, dependent mothers or sisters, or minor children under sixteen years of age, of those who, serving in like manner, have been, or may be killed, are entitled, on satisfactory proof, to the benefits of the act of July 14, 1862, on the conditions therein prescribed.

Proof of service, in cases arising under the ninth section of the act of July 4, 1864, must be furnished by a commissioned officer under or with whom such unenlisted person served, showing the nature, period and circumstances of such service. Proof as to the disability or death of a person so serving must be shown in the same manner, when practicable, or by the affidavits of two non-commissioned officers or privates in the same commission, with evidence that proof by a commissioned officer is impracticable. If the officer furnishing such evidence is not at the time in the service, his certificate must be duly sworn to and his signature authenticated.

8. COMMENCEMENT OF WIDOW'S PENSIONS IN CERTAIN CASES.—When an applicant entitled to an invalid pension dies during the pendency of his claim leaving a widow or dependent relative entitled to receive a pension by reason of his service and death, such pension will commence from the date at which the invalid pension would have commenced if admitted while the claimant was living.

9. EVIDENCE OF MUSTER-IN.—In accordance with the eleventh section of the act of July 4, 1864, evidence of the muster-in of the soldier will not be required in any case, but there must be positive record evidence, of service except in such cases as are embraced within the provisions of the ninth section applies only to enlisted soldiers. Evidence of muster in the case of commissioned officers is still required.

10. FEES ON CLAIM AGENTS.—Claim agents are prohibited, under severe penalty, from receiving more than ten dollars in all for their services in prosecuting any pension claim, or from receiving any part of such fee in advance, or any per centage of any claim, or of any portion thereof, for pension or bounty.

11. PROOF OF MARRIAGE OF COLORED SOLDIER'S WIDOWS.—To establish the marriage of the alleged widow of any colored soldier, evidence of habitual recognition of the marriage relation between the parties for two years next preceding the soldier's enlistment, must be furnished by the affidavits of at least two credible witnesses; provided, however, if such parties resided in any State in which their marriage may have been legally solemnized, the usual evidence shall be required. The widow or children, however, claiming the benefits of this provision, must be free persons.

12. FORMS.—The forms heretofore published for applications under the act of July 12, 1862, may be used, with slight and obvious modifications, by applicants for the special benefits of this supplementary act.

JOSEPH H. BARRETT, Commissioner of Pensions.

August 1, 1866.

THE POSTAGE LAW.

For the convenience of our readers, many of whom are unacquainted as to the present postal rates, we extract and prepare the following from the existing regulations as published in the United States Mail:

LETTER POSTAGE.—PREPAYMENT. The law requires the postage on all letters to be prepaid by stamp for stamped envelopes—payment in money being prohibited. All drop letters must also be prepaid. The only letters on which payment is not demanded, are those addressed to the President, or Vice-President or members of Congress, and letters on official business to the chiefs of the Executive Departments of the Government, the heads of bureaus, and chief clerks, and others invested with the franking privilege.

RATES. The rates of letter postage is three cents per half-ounce, throughout the United States; and three cents for each additional half ounce or fraction thereof. The ten cent Pacific rate is abolished.

The rate of postage on drop letters is two cents per half-ounce or fraction thereof, at all offices where free delivery by carrier is established. Where such free delivery is not established, the rate is one cent.

NEWSPAPER POSTAGE. The following is the postage on newspapers, when sent from the office of publication, to regular subscribers: Daily papers to subscribers when prepaid quarterly or yearly in advance, either at the mailing office or office of delivery, per quarter, (three months), 35 cts. Six times per week, per quarter, 30 cts. For Tri-Weekly, 15 cts. For Semi-Weekly, 10 cts. For Weekly, 5 cts.

Weekly Newspapers (one copy only) sent by the publisher to actual subscribers within the county where printed and published, free.

QUARTERLY PAYMENTS. Quarterly postage cannot be paid for less than three months. If a subscription begins at any other time than the commencement of an official quarter, the postage received by the Post Master, must still be entered in his account for that quarter. Subscribers for short terms, exceeding the months, say four or five months, can pay quarterly postage for the actual term of their subscriptions—that is, for one quarter and a third, one quarter and two thirds, &c. They also require that at least one quarter's postage shall be prepaid, and not more than one year's postage. Any term between one quarter and one year can therefore be prepaid at proportionate rates. Subscribers can pay the postage for a fraction of a quarter, at the same rates for a whole quarter, by including the fraction with the next whole quarter, and paying for both at the same time.

INDIVIDUALS TO SUBSCRIBERS. Publishers of Newspapers and Periodicals may send to each other from their respective offices of publication, free of postage one copy of each publication, and may also send to each actual subscriber, included in their publications, bills and receipts for the same, free of postage. They may also state on their respective publications, the date when the subscription expires, to be written or printed.

SMALL PAPERS. Religious, Educational and Agricultural Newspapers of small size, issued less frequently than once a week, may be sent in packages to one address at the rate of one cent for each package not exceeding four ounces in weight, and an additional charge of one cent is made for each additional four ounces or fraction thereof, the postage to be paid quarterly or yearly, in advance.

NEWS DEALERS. News dealers may send newspapers and periodicals to regular subscribers at the quarterly rates, in the same manner as publishers, and may also receive them from publishers at subscribers rates. In both cases the postage to be prepaid, either at the mailing or delivery office.

POSTAGE ON TRANSMITTED MATTER.—BOOKS AND CHARTERS. Books, not over 4 ounces in weight, to one address, 3 cents; over 4 ounces, and not over 8 ounces, 5 cents; over 8 ounces, and not over 12 ounces, 10 cents; over 12 ounces, and not over 16 ounces, 15 cents.

Circulars, not exceeding three in number, to one address, 2 cents; over three, and not over six, 4 cents; over six, and not over nine, 6 cents; over 9 and not exceeding twelve, 8 cents.

MISCELLANEOUS. On miscellaneous matter embracing all pamphlets, occasional publications, transient newspapers, handbills and posters, book manuscripts and proofsheets, whether corrected or not, maps and prints, engravings, sheet music, blanks, flexible patterns, samples and simple cards, photographic paper, letter envelopes, postal envelopes or wrappers, cards, paper, 3 1/2 inch or ornamental, photographic reproductions of different typesets, cuttings, bulbs, roots, and seeds, the postage to be prepaid by stamps, is on one package to one address not over 4 ounces in weight, 2 cents; over 4 ounces, and not over 8 ounces, 4 cents; over 8 ounces, and not over 12 ounces, 6 cents; over 12 ounces, and not over 16 ounces, 8 cents.

HOW TO BE WRAPPED. All mail matter not sent at letter rates of postage, embracing books, book manuscripts, proof sheets, and other printed matter, and all other mail matter, except seeds, must be so wrapped or enveloped with open sides or ends as to enable the postmaster to examine the package without destroying the wrapper; otherwise such packages must be rated with letter postage. No communication, whether in writing or in print, can be sent with any seeds, roots, cuttings or seeds, maps, engravings or other matter not printed, except upon the separate matter at the established rates.

CLERKS. Where packages of newspapers or periodicals are received at any post office, the names of the subscribers and the names of the clubs of subscribers to which they belong, with the postage for a quarter in advance shall be handed to the postmaster, he shall deliver the same to their respective carriers. But this does not apply to weekly newspapers, which circulate free in the county where printed and published.

PRE-PAYMENT OF TRANSMITTED MATTER. All transient matter must be prepaid by stamps. But if it comes to the office of delivery without prepayment, or short paid, the unpaid postage must be collected on delivery at double the postal rate.

Great neglect exists in the strict quarterly prepayment of postage on printed matter sent to regular subscribers. No such paper should be delivered unless it is either prepaid at the mailing office, or the delivery office, for at least a quarter. If not so prepaid, postmasters must stamp the postage on each copy as on transient matter. If they fail they will be charged with the full postage due, and in clear cases removed from office for neglect.

WRITING ON NEWSPAPERS. To inclose or conceal a letter, or other thing except bills and receipts for subscriptions, is to write or print anything, after its publication upon any newspaper, pamphlet, magazine, or other printed matter, is filled and subjected to such printed matter, and the entire package of which it is a part, to letter postage.

Any word or communication, whether by printing, marks or signs upon the cover or wrapper of a newspaper, pamphlet, magazine, or other than the name and address of the persons to whom it is to be sent, and the date when subscription expires, subject the package to letter postage.

RESTAURANT.—THESE SUBSCRIBERS. Now take pleasure in informing their old customers, and the public generally, that their Beer is now still kept up, and

THE FINEST LIQUORS. That can be procured in the United States is kept by them. THE BEER IS SUPPLIED SALOON, will be daily supplied with fresh orders, and neither pain nor expense will be spared to make it a first class Saloon. HALL & SNIDER, Salisbury, N. C., March 20, 1866.