

Canada/British No. America (BNA)--Union and Confederate Postal Correspondence during the US Civil War (1861-1865)



Ron Majors
Chester Co. Historical Society
West Chester, PA
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Canada's First Cents (Decimal) Issue 1859-1868



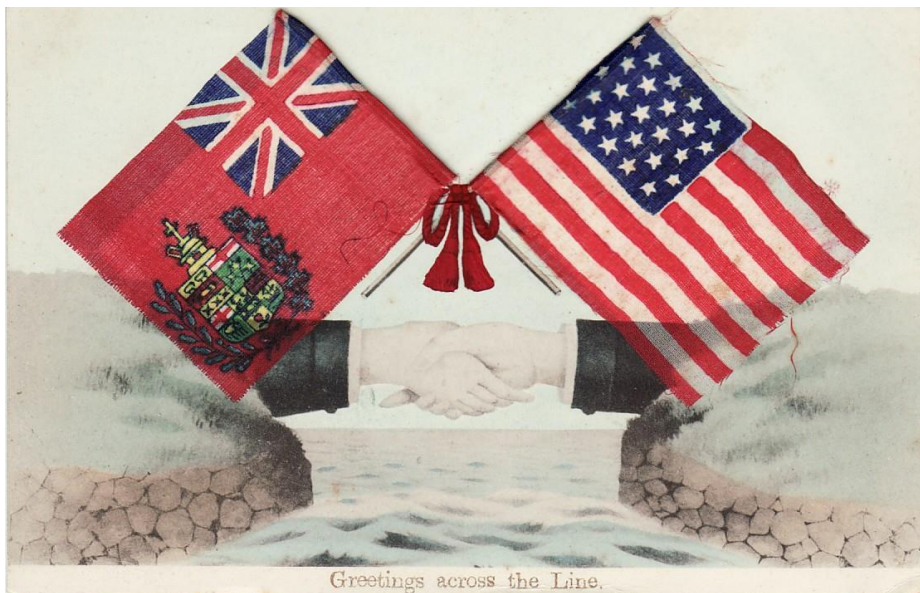
Chronological Events Surrounding Canada's Civil War Involvement

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
July, 1833	Britain abolishes slavery throughout British Empire
Oct. 16-18, 1859	John Brown's raid on Harper's Ferry
Dec. 20, 1860	First state (SC) secedes from Union
Feb. 4, 1861	Confederacy formed
April 12, 1861	Confederates fire on Ft. Sumter
April 19, 1861	Pres. Lincoln proclaims Naval blockade of Southern Coast
May 30, 1861	Postal services between U.S. & seceding states ends
1861	Britain (Canada) declares officially neutrality
Sept. 22, 1862	Emancipation Proclamation
April 9, 1865	Lee surrenders to Grant

Direct Canadian Manpower in U.S. Civil War*

- Over 51,000 Canadians fought in War
- 50,000 in 250 Union regiments
- 1500 in 50 Confederate regiments
- 4 Brigadier Generals
- 29 Congressional Medal of Honors

* Mark Vinet, *Canada and the American Civil War*, 2001



1909 Vintage Postcard

Civil War Patriotic Envelopes

- Over 7000 designs
- 200 companies
- Union patriotics dominated
 - Bischel collection: 5814 Union to 176 Confederate
- Catalogs:
 - Walcott collection (1934)
 - Weiss Union patriotics (1995)
 - Bischel auction (2000)

Typical Themes of Civil War Patriotic Envelopes

1. Portraits (Washington, Franklin, Jeff Davis)
2. Campaign (Politicians, Lincoln, Fremont)
3. Military (e.g. Scott, McCellan, Grant, Ellsworth)
4. Battleships, battle- & camp-scenes, forts
5. Caricatures (dogs, elephants, lions, frogs)
6. Soldiers (Farewell, Regiments)
7. States (seals, regiments)
8. Males (standing soldiers, mounted, holding flag, sabres)
9. Females (with flags, eagles, scythes, facing left & rt.)
10. Eagles (with shields, flags, globes, etc.)
11. Shields and flags
12. Liberty bells
13. Globes
14. Flags and Cannons
15. Sanitary Fairs
16. Express Companies

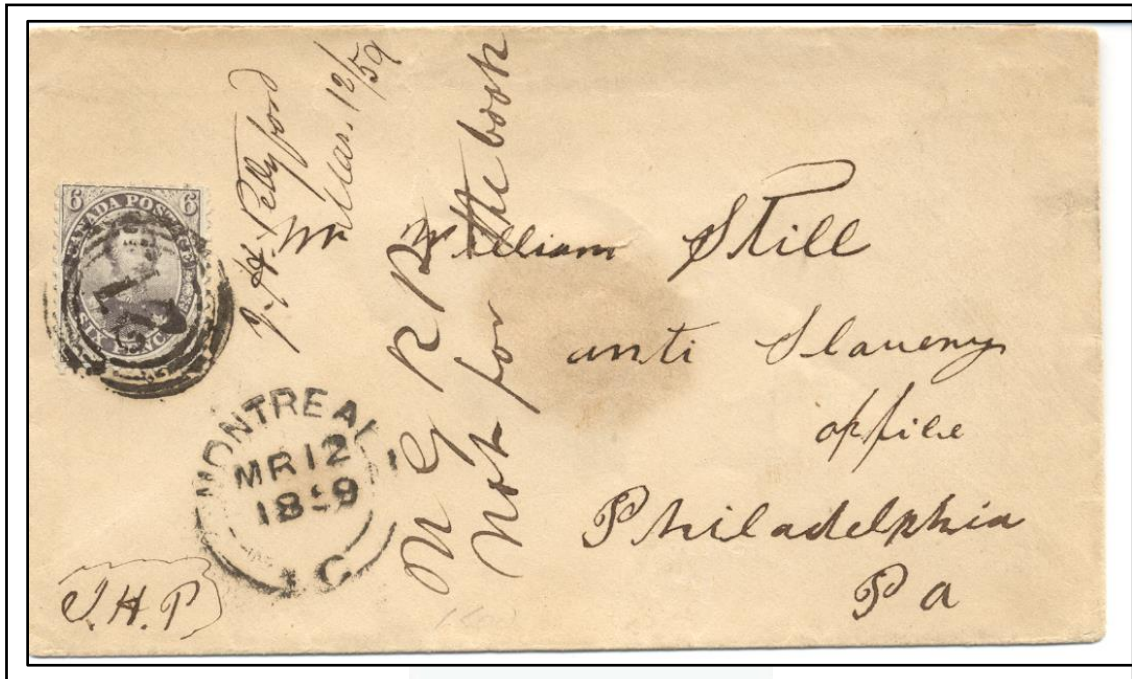
Almost all with slogans or verses

The Issue of Slavery



Slavery was probably the number one cause of the Civil War. The depiction of slavery was a common theme of Union Patriotics as it served to reinforce the issue of abolition. This cover shows a slave and his master with a with a warning "I wouldn't putt down dat flag, Massa...". This single, pre-paid domestic ½ oz letter rate (5c, Sc.#15) was mailed from Prescott, CW (4-ring numeral "35") to Burritt's Rapids, CW (arrival backstamp 16 October 1861). **Ex-Jarrett, Ex-Richardson, Ex-Bischel.**

Anti-Slavery Sentiment in Canada



Many in Canada leaned towards abolition. The Anti-Slavery Society was quite strong, especially in Canada West. Letter franked with perforated 6p stamp (tied with 4-ring numeral "21") sent from Montreal to Philadelphia to Abolitionist William Still of the Anti-Slavery Society; Mr. Still was widely known as the "Father of the Underground Railroad". He was free-born to Afro-American slaves who escaped slavery in Maryland. He was a "conductor" on the East Coast underground RR branch and personally helped over 800 slaves in the time prior to the Civil War, hiding many of them in the basement of his own house. His notebooks were a most accurate account of the many escaped slaves who eventually made their way to Canada after passage of the Fugitive Slave Act.

Underground Railroad



The Northern support for the Underground Railroad was another driving force in the beginning of the Civil War. Runaway Southern slaves were sheltered by abolitionists and sympathizers in the North in an elaborate network of safe havens. Each of the Underground RR lines was run by a conductor. After the Fugitive Slave Act, which, by law, required Northerners to return slaves to their owner or turn them over to slave catchers, many of the slaves continued their journey to Canada. This rather scruffy cover shows the design of Union flag (facing left) backed by clouds and the sun with "Protect It" slogan (Walcott-unlisted); significance of this cover is that the point of origin Ravenna, CW was the end of one of the main **Underground Railroad** routes from the US; Ravenna at that time had a significant black population; cover franked with 10c Consort and posted on September 2, 1864 to **Galena, IL** with Toronto and Clarksburg, CW transits on reverse; the **Old Galena Trail in Illinois was one of the main stopover points on the Underground Railroad** in the Midwest of the US; thus this letter could have been from an escaped slave who carried it to Ravenna and mailed it back to one of his/her protectors.

The Underground Railroad “Lines” to Canada

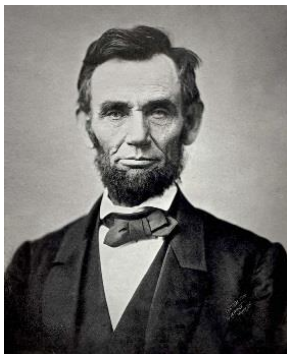


England's Need for King Cotton



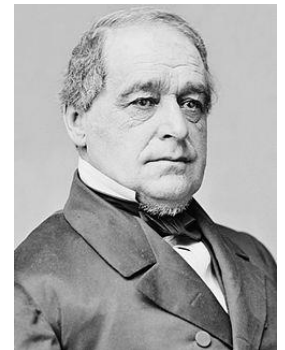
The need for Southern cotton to feed their textile mills was one of the main reasons why Britain never supported the Union (remained "neutral"). Cotton reinforced the need for slavery. Slaves were needed to pick the cotton crop. The blockade just about stopped all exports of cotton and reduced the supply of money that the Confederates needed to fund the war effort. Britain and Canada did give support for the blockade runners much to the dismay of Lincoln and the military.

Election of Lincoln: Embossed Lincoln-Hamlin Campaign Cover



Abraham
Lincoln

The 1860 election of Republicans Abraham Lincoln and Hannibal Hamlin was a driver for the succession of seven Southern States before inauguration. In the election, Lincoln received no electoral votes from the South. His views on slavery and its expansion were well known. This campaign cover with front embossing with wavy two line slogans "Slavery sectional, Union and Liberty" and "Freedom National, Onward to Victory" and flap embossed "Hon. Abraham Lincoln of Ill. for President, Hon. Hannibal Hamlin of ME. for V. Pres." (Walcott-unlisted*); mailed from Springville, CW on January 14, 1861 to Shawnee Mound, Indiana (IN).



Hannibal
Hamlin

John Brown Cover



Mr. Brown had held a convention in Chatham, Canada West where he presented his plan to adopt a provisional constitution for the U.S. His convention had attracted a number of Canadian supporters plus fugitive slaves living in Canada. His plan was to capture the U.S. arsenal at Harper's Ferry, VA with his followers in hope of attracting slaves in the area to join his revolution and establish a new "free" state and to expand throughout the South. He was defeated on October 18, tried for treason, found guilty and hung on Dec. 2, 1859. Though this letter was sent "in haste" it was actually mailed one week after his death.

(courtesy of Dr. Jim Watt, Ontario)

The Killing of Col. Elmer E. Ellsworth



Col. Ellsworth



Col. Ellsworth, a personal friend of Mr. Lincoln, was the first officer killed in the Civil War. He was shot on May 21, 1861 by a Confederate sympathizer while taking down a Confederate flag in Alexandria, Virginia. He quickly became a Union hero and "Remember Ellsworth" became a rallying point for Northerners. The top "Remember Ellsworth" patriotic cover depicts him with sabre in hand surrounded by the Union flag he was putting up. He is standing of Confederate flag (Walcott-418); Whitby, CW CDS in blue posted April 3, 1862 to Mrs. Hudson in care of Mr. Christian in Utica, NY; postage paid with two 5c Beavers tied with blue 7-ring circular cancels. The bottom stampless cover shows him with gun and flag in hand with "To Richmond" theme (Walcott 2011 variety). It was mailed from Hamilton to NY in 1862. ex-Richardson and Brigham.

Outline of Postal Correspondence to/from Canada/BNA-U.S.

- Two special posted letters to Canada
 - Independent State Period
 - Use of Union Postal System After Formation of the Confederacy
- Canada to border/divided states
- Canada to Union during Civil War
- BNA to Union during Civil War
- Union to Canada during Civil War
- Union to BNA during Civil War
- Canada/BNA to South during Civil War
- South to Canada during Civil War
- Special Correspondence Connected to Civil War
- Post-Civil War

Dates of Secession and Admission to Confederacy

State	Ordinance of Succession Passed	Admitted to Confederacy
Alabama	Jan. 11, 1861	Feb. 4, 1861
Arkansas	May 6, 1861	May 18, 1861
Florida	Jan. 10, 1861	Feb. 4, 1861
Georgia (1)	Jan. 19, 1861	Feb. 4, 1861
Kentucky	*	Dec. 9, 1861
Louisiana	Jan. 26, 1861	Feb. 4, 1861
Mississippi	Jan. 9, 1861	Feb. 4, 1861
Missouri	*	Nov. 28, 1861
No. Carolina	May 20, 1861	May 27, 1861
So. Carolina	Dec. 20, 1860	Feb. 4, 1861
Tennessee (2)	Feb. 1, 1861	May 6, 1861
Texas (3)	Feb. 1, 1861	Mar. 6, 1861
Virginia (4)	April 17, 1861	May 7 1861

1. Legislative vote Jan. 18, effective Jan. 19
2. Legislative vote May 6, popular vote June 8
3. Legislative vote, Feb. 1, pop. Vote Feb. 23, effective Mar. 2
4. Legislative vote, Apr. 17, pop. Vote May 23

* Never formally seceded from Union

Mail posted between Ordinance of Succession Passed and Admitted to Confederacy is termed “**Independent State Usage**”

Letter Sent from So. Carolina to Canada West during Independent State Period

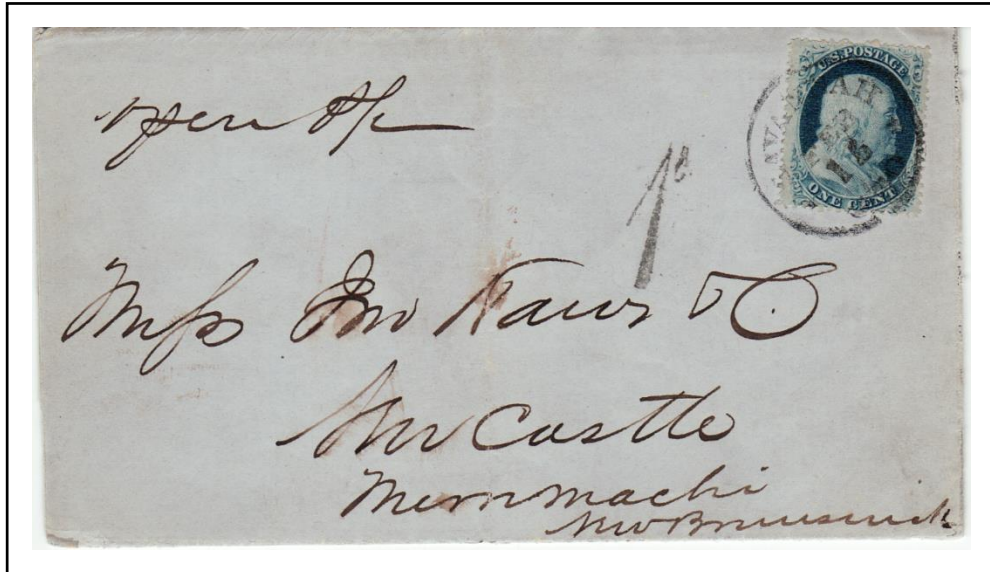


Reduced
back of
cover

The Independent State Period was the time between a Southern State seceding from the Union and the formation of the Confederacy. During this confusing period, the Union Postal System was still handling Southern mail. South Carolina was the first state to secede (Dec. 20, 1860) and its use of the Federal post continued for 5 months. On May 26, 1861, US Postmaster General Blair issued an order to suspend postal services to the Southern States. This cover franked with a 10c green Scott #35 straddle pane copy tied by blue Columbia, S.C. Jan 26 1861 sent to Iona P.O. , Canada West (now Ontario) with ms pencil contents docking at lower left "Jany 24/61, two straightline PAID markings and UC (Upper Canada) transit backstamps. **Rare Independent State Use to Canada. Ex-Cantey and Felton.**



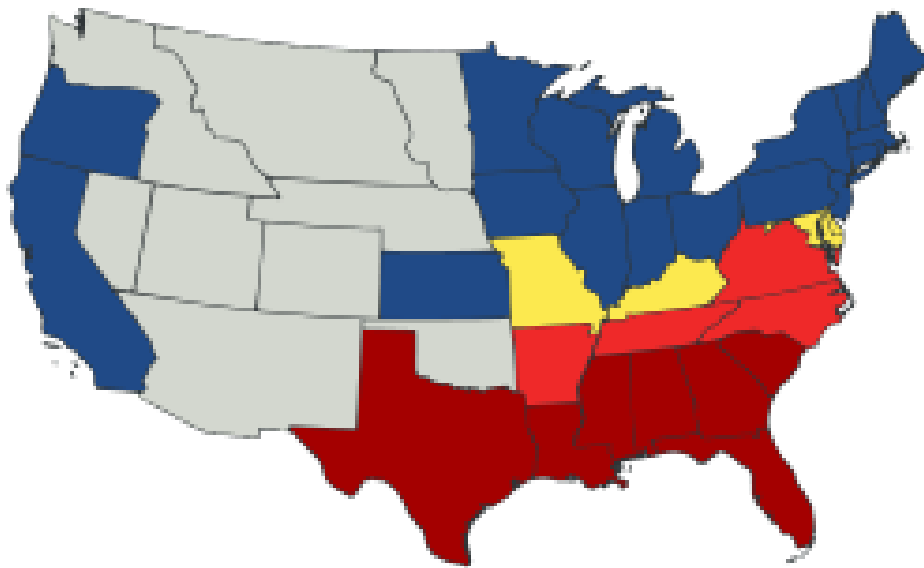
Prices Current Sent from Georgia to New Brunswick After Formation of the Confederacy (Use of Union Postal System)








The Confederacy was formed on Feb. 4, 1861 and 6 states (AL, FL, GA, LA, MS, SC) joined at that time. Later 7 more states were admitted to the Confederacy (AR, KY, MO, NC, TN, TX, and VA) although KY and MO never seceded from the Union (border states). These states had a split allegiance throughout the war. This Feb. 15, 1861 folded prices current (2 printed pages) franked with a tied US 1c Franklin (Scott #24) from Savannah, Georgia has an endorsement on top in ms "Open P/C" (Open Prices Current). Addressed to Mssrs. Jno. Haws & Co., New Castle, Miramichi, New Brunswick with "1d" Canadian postage due handstamp; backstamped Newcastle Feb 28, 1861. Haws was a leading ship builder. This circular was sent during the second week of the Confederacy and is a rare Confederate use of U.S. postal system to BNA. Ex-Cipolla and Felton.



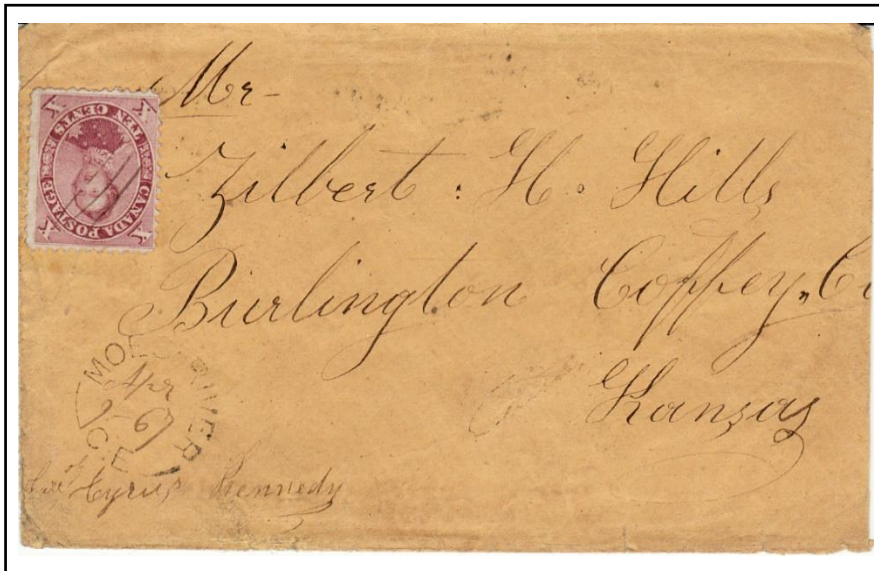
Status of the United States 1861



-  States that seceded before April 15, 1861
-  States that seceded after April 15, 1861
-  Union states that permitted slavery
-  Union states that banned slavery
-  Territories

Letters Sent from Canada to Divided/Border States during the Civil War Period

Kansas



Although the Kansas Territory was admitted to the Union as a slave free State (Jan. 29, 1861) during the Civil War, just prior to the War, it was a battleground between slave owners and slavery expansionists (Border Ruffians) and abolitionists (Free Staters) led by John Brown. The cry "Bleeding Kansas" refers to these struggles and several people were killed in the fighting that took place. Brown's efforts paid off and Kansas did not become a slave state nor join the Confederacy. Letter sent from Moes River, C.E. to Burlington, Kansas (KS).

Missouri



Missouri entered the Union as a slave state (1861) but had dual allegiances; the State supplied troops to both the Union and the Confederacy, had separate governments and had its star on both flags! This letter was posted in Hamilton, C.W. and sent to Farmington, MO. Stamps tied with duplexes.

3. Letters Sent from Canada to Divided/Border States during the Civil War Period

Kentucky



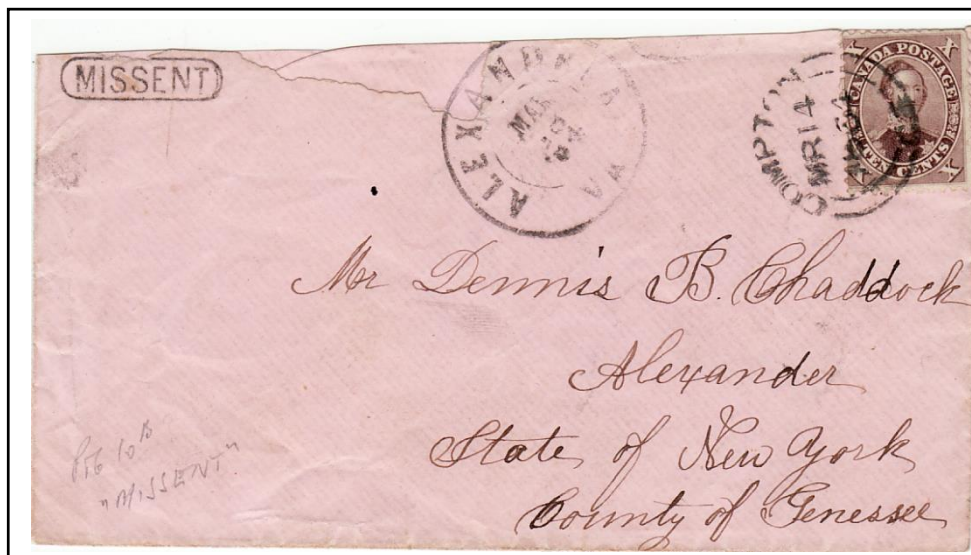
Left: this cover was short paid since the rate from Canada to the US was 10c per ½ oz.; rated 10c due and no credit given for 6c worth of stamps. Sent from Toronto to Henderson, KY in April, 1865. Below: proper 10c payment to Keene, KY from Drummondville, U.C. SP 4 1861.

Kentucky

Kentucky was another border state where mixed allegiances were prevalent; in order to keep Kentucky in the Union, Lincoln allowed it to remain a slave state. Many neighbors fought against each other in the War.



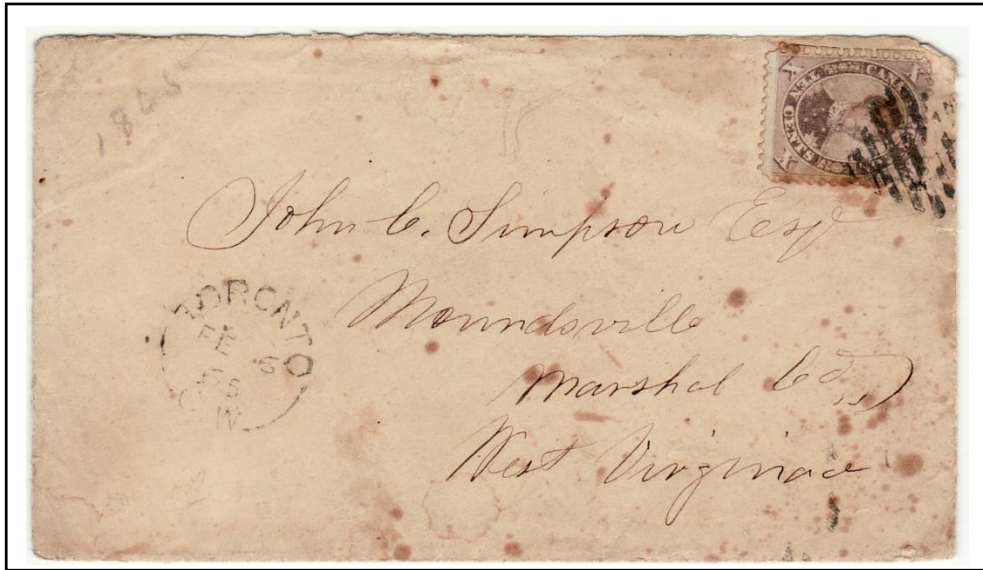
Virginia



This cover was mistakenly sent to Alexandria, VA instead of Alexander, NY. At that time, Alexandria was an occupied Union city so that the letter remained within the Union postal system; a MISSENT in oval handstamp as well as Alexandria, VA receiver [Mar 18 (18) 64]

3. Letters Sent from Canada to Divided/Border States during the Civil War Period

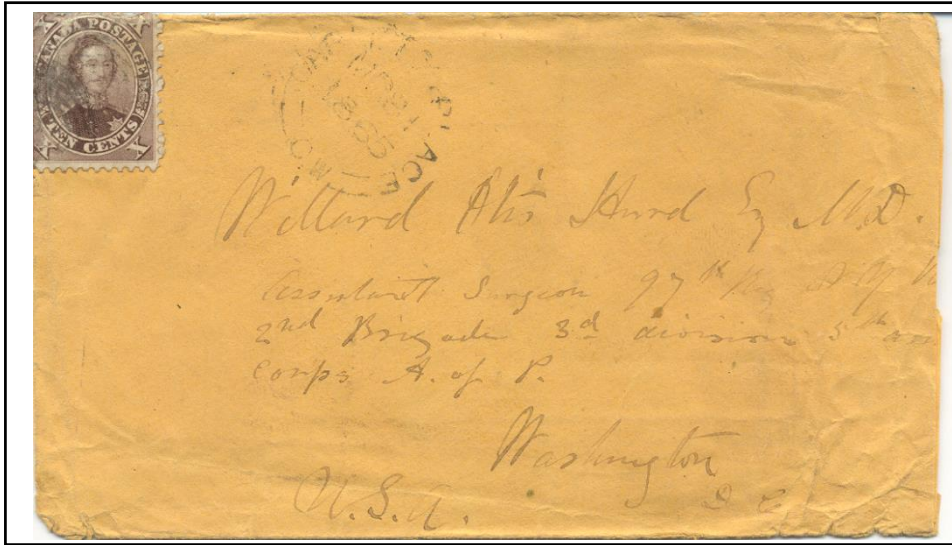
West
Virginia



West Virginia was granted statehood in the middle of the Civil War (June 20, 1863) after separating from Virginia; in the vote of secession, all of the delegates from Western VA voted against it. Eventually, the Wheeling Convention generated enough interest to form a new government; there were still many Confederate sympathizers in WV and they fought for the Confederacy while a larger number fought for the Union forces. This top cover was sent from Toronto to Moundsville, WV on Feb 6 1865. An interesting letter is contained and talks about how the Southerners have sought refuge in Canada and abuse the hospitality of the country. Talks about some Southern criminals who have been extradited to the US. There are 3 reported franked decimal covers sent to WV so quite rare.

Letters between Canada/BNA and the Union During the Civil War (1861-1865)

Letter to Canadian Doctor Serving in Union Army



Dr. Willard Otis Hurd was born in New Hampshire but practiced medicine in Carlton Place, C.W.. His skills as a surgeon were needed so he enlisted on the 83rd NY Regiment and was appointed Asst. Surgeon; later he was transferred to the 97th NY Regt. This cover was mailed from Carlton Place to Washington, DC on March 31, 1865. Two transit backstamps; after the war he married and settled in New Hampshire where he continued his practice.

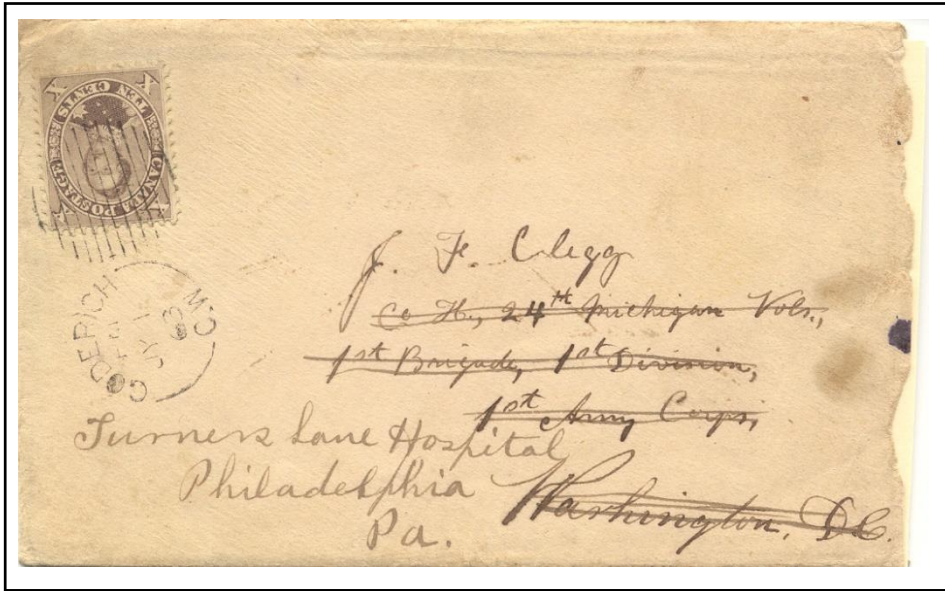
Letter to Officer of the New Hampshire Volunteers in Washington



Letter sent from Bothwell, U.C. on MY 22 1865 to Major Thomas L. Livermore of the 5th New Hampshire Volunteers. The original address was crossed out and forwarded to the 18th New Hampshire Volunteers to where he had been transferred and promoted to Colonel; after the Civil War, Col. Livermore wrote the definitive publication entitled *History of the Eighteenth New Hampshire Volunteers, 1864-1865*, in addition, he also authored one of the top statistical studies on the entire conflict.

Letters between Canada/BNA and the Union During the Civil War (1861-1865)

Letter to Soldier in Washington; forwarded to Philadelphia Hospital



Letter sent on July 1 1863 from Goderich, C.W. to James F. Clegg, a private in Company H of 24th Michigan Volunteers, to Washington. Address crossed out and forwarded to Turners Lane Hospital in Philadelphia; this small hospital (275 beds) was a specialized hospital doing research on neurological disorders; the 24th Michigan had just fought in Chancellorsville battle (Apr. 30-May1, 1863) & was fighting in Gettysburg (July 1-3 1863) when letter posted. Pvt. Clegg was wounded in one of these battles & was sent to Philadelphia for treatment. He was mustered out also as a private so survived his wounds.

Cover to Admiral John A. Dahlgren, Union Navy, from Minister of Parliament



Cover endorsed by MP (signature in m/s on LL); RED Legislative Assembly Shield (Jarrett type 1518); The CDS Quebec PAID in Red is Jarrett Type 555). In Canada Legislative Assy. Shield would suffice for free postage but not to U.S; Admiral Dahlgren was a leader in Navy operations in Civil War & developed some new armaments (Dahlgren Gun); founder of U.S. Navy's Ordnance Department; he also commanded Navy Yards; South Atlantic Blockading Squadron at the rank of Rear Admiral, and helped William Tecumseh Sherman secure Savannah, Georgia; back of cover written note "asking for Dahlgren for a favor to save somebody's life",

US Civil War Patriotic Covers used in Canada and Sent Cross Border



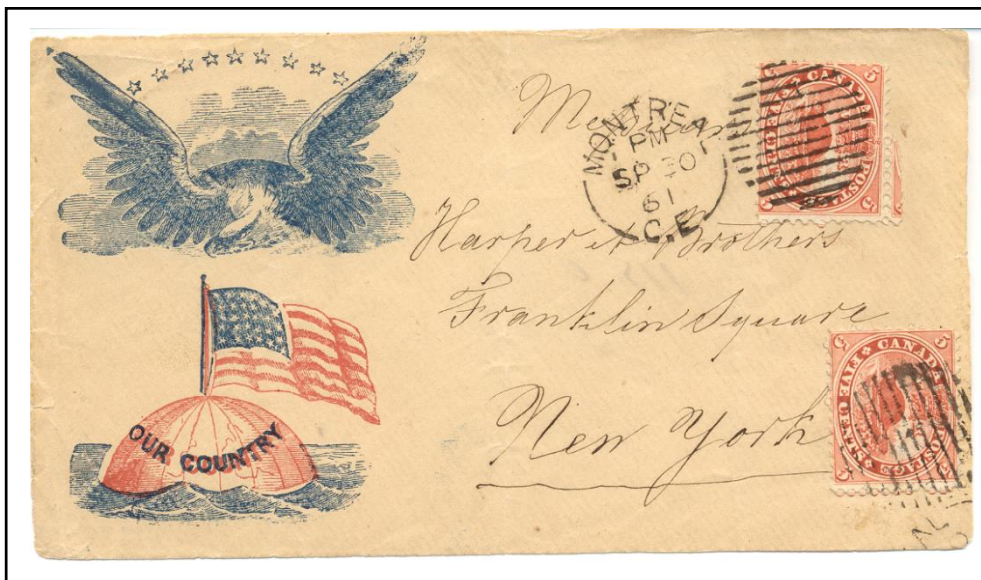
A registered patriotic cover depicting Our Lady of Victory holding a flag riding an eagle with banner (W-2170); franked with 10c Consort (Scott 17a); rate was 10c for ½ ounce regular unregistered letters from Canada to the US (except California and Oregon); straightline REGISTERED in black indicates that the 5c registration fee was paid in cash, common at the time; red "Canada PAID 10c" tying stamp; lithographed by Union Stationary, New York; cover from Ma (indistinguishable), UC to New York mailed on April 10, 1862, two RPO and one indistinguishable city transit backstamps.



US Civil War Patriotic Covers used in Canada and Sent Cross Border



American Eagle, Shield, and Liberty or Death Motto and Border of Stars stampless patriotic cover sent from Petrolia, C.W. 4 OC 1861 to Port Huron, Michigan. PAID 10. Sarnia and G.W.R.West transit handstamps on back. Early use of patriotic in Canada. Ex-Brigham.



Eagle and Globe on patriotic cover front (W-2725var) from Montreal, CE to New York City posted on September 30, 1861; 10c cross-border rate paid with two 5c Beavers (Scott #15) both tied by Montreal duplex cancellations.

Letters between Canada/BNA and the Union During the Civil War (1861-1865)

US Civil War Patriotic Covers used in Canada and Sent Cross Border



Flags were a common design but this one shows the stars arranged in a short-lived star configuration (Great Star Flag) with a slogan "THE UNION: IT MUST BE PRESERVED" (W-2886 var); a 10c Consort (Sc.#17b) franks cover sent from Toronto, CW (tied with grid cancel) to Blackstone, MA in March 3, 1862.



US corner card with upper banner having Phillip's 64 and design with eagle/crossed flags/swords/bayonets with Latin expression "Non Nobis Sed Patria" (Not for ourselves but for our country) in banner below; cover mailed from Lennoxville, CE to Whitinsville, MA on August 11, 1864; Paid "Circle 10" applied by Postmaster in Massachusetts. **Ex-Brigham.**

Letters between Canada/BNA and the Union During the Civil War (1861-1865)

US Civil War Patriotic Covers used in Canada and Sent Cross Border



Flag design (facing right) with a circular star design (W-3015) on stampless cover with PAID handstamp in blue and manuscript "10"; cover sent from Morven, CW with double ring CDS in blue with date (February 13, '64) in manuscript (small Post Office) to Mayfield Corner, NY



35-star Union flag design with threatening slogan "If any one attempts to haul down the American Flag, shoot him on the spot", "10" in manuscript & CANADA-10-CENTS handstamp indicates postage prepaid on stampless cover from No. Stanbridge, LC to Saratoga Springs, NY (posted January 13, 1863).

Letters between Canada/BNA and the Union During the Civil War (1861-1865)

US Civil War Patriotic Covers used in Canada and Sent Cross Border



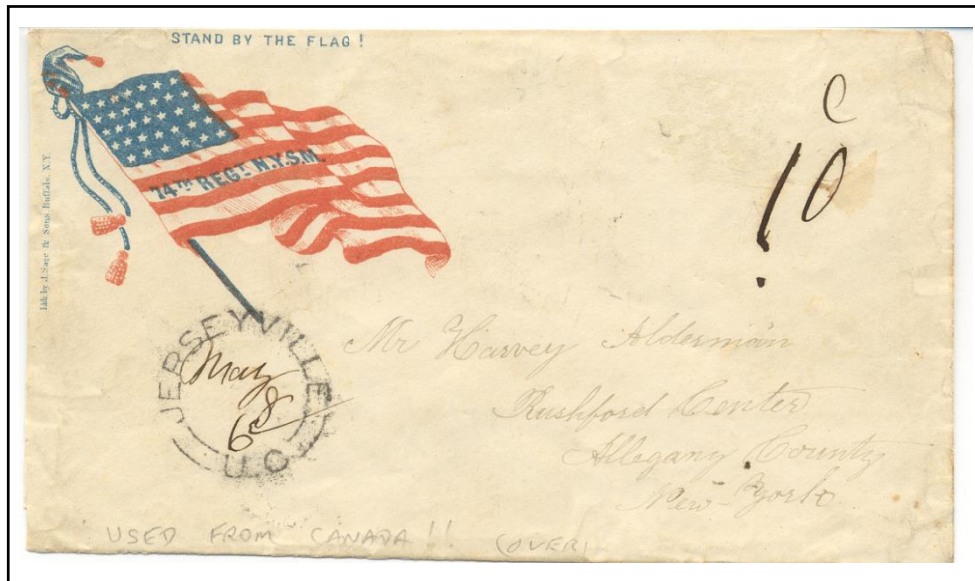
Lovely caricature of 2 children sleeping with Union Flag blanket, God watching over them with soldiers from Union & Confederacy fighting above them; slogans "God watches over them", "As it is", and "As it will be" (W-unlisted); cover mailed NOV 8 '61 postage paid with two Beavers tied together with Toronto grid cancels and just barely to cover; mailed to Mr. Christian in Utica, NY.



Patriotic depicting flying eagle holding 34-star flag in its beak (W-2624); postage pre-paid—handstamp Boggs Type 48b "PAID 6d" in red, normally used in pence period; letter mailed in Whitby, CW on September 8, 1862 sent to Mr. Hudson in Utica (related to Mrs. Hudson in previous cover to Utica); **Ex-Siverts.**

Letters between Canada/BNA and the Union During the Civil War (1861-1865)

US Civil War Patriotic Covers used in Canada and Sent Cross Border



Military **regimental patriotic covers** were available; here a flag design with 14th Regt. N.Y.S.M (Regiment New York State Militia) printed parallel to the stripes and slogan "Stand by the Flag) above (W-unlisted); stampless cover posted in Jerseyville, UC on May 8, 1862 (m/s "10") and sent to Rushford, NY, lithographed by J. Sage & Sons, Buffalo, NY.



Stampless patriotic depicts an eagle and flag on a rock with "Constitution and the Laws" written across and "The War for the Union" in top center (W-2620 var), Lithographed by Thistle & Co. Stationers, Nassau St., NY; Blueville, CW CDS with manuscript date of December 18, 1862 sent to LeRoy, NY; "Paid 10" in m/s, transit back stamps Morrisbank, UC and Seaforth, CW, **Ex-Steinhart**.

Letters between Canada/BNA and the Union During the Civil War (1861-1865)

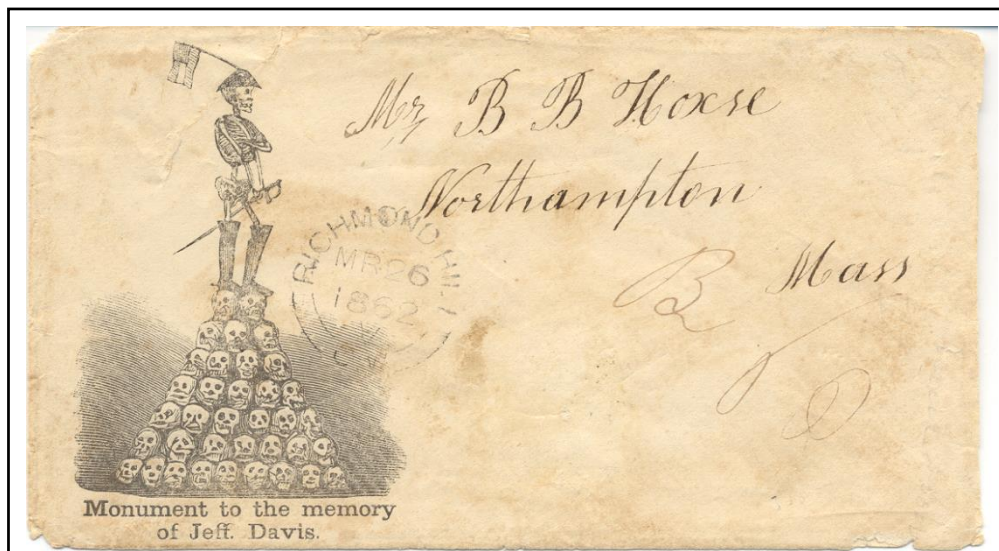


US Civil War Patriotic Covers used in Canada and Sent Cross Border



Stampless patriotic cover featuring Standing Columbia with flag and inscription "Columbia guards our star-gemmed flag" (W-2350); cover mailed from Ruthven, CW on October 12, 1865 (albino CDS) to Shullsburg, WI with "Paid 10" in manuscript.

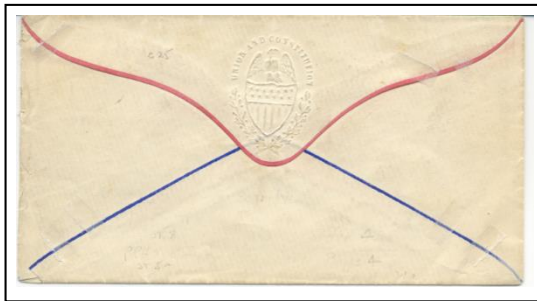
Rare Satirical Cover of Jefferson Davis, Confederate President



Satirical and very rare "Monument to the memory of Jeff. Davis" (President of the Confederacy) stampless cover showing skull pyramid with skeleton at top wearing Confederate uniform holding a sword and with Confederate flag protruding from hat (W-unlisted); mailed from Richmond Hill, CW on March 26, 1862 to Northampton, MA, "10" lightly in manuscript for postage. **Ex-Bischel.**

Letters between Canada/BNA and the Union During the Civil War (1861-1865)

US Civil War Patriotic Covers used in Canada and Sent Cross Border



Both covers have
this patriotic
design on back
(reduced in size)

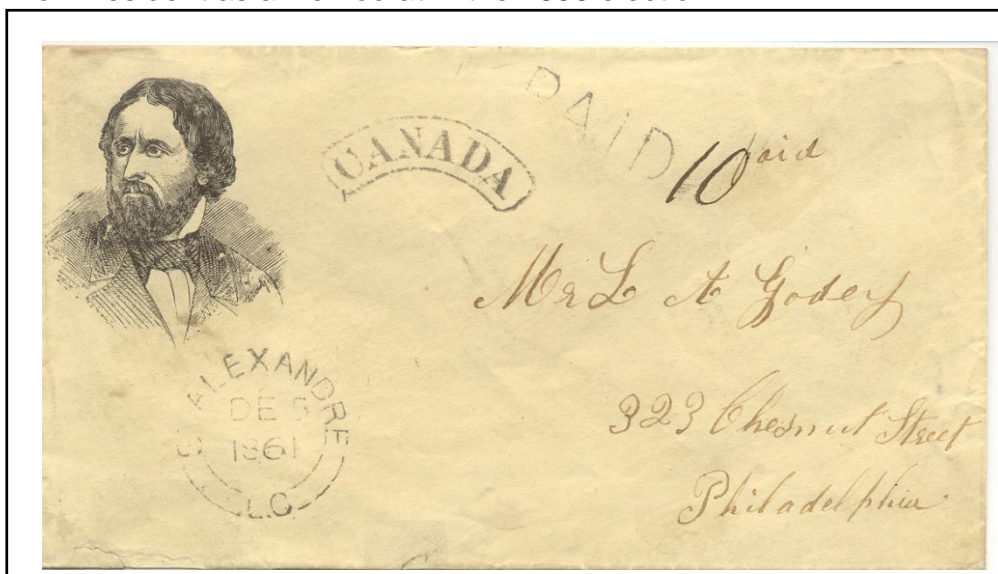


Two patriotics both with patriotic design on back: red & blue border with embossed eagle and shield (W-unlisted); both used from Toronto, CW to Chicago but one franked with 10c Consort (Sc.#17a) tied with Toronto obliterator cancel (Boggs Type e) and the other with two 5c Beavers (Sc.#15) tied with Toronto Scarifying Obliterator (Boggs Type f).

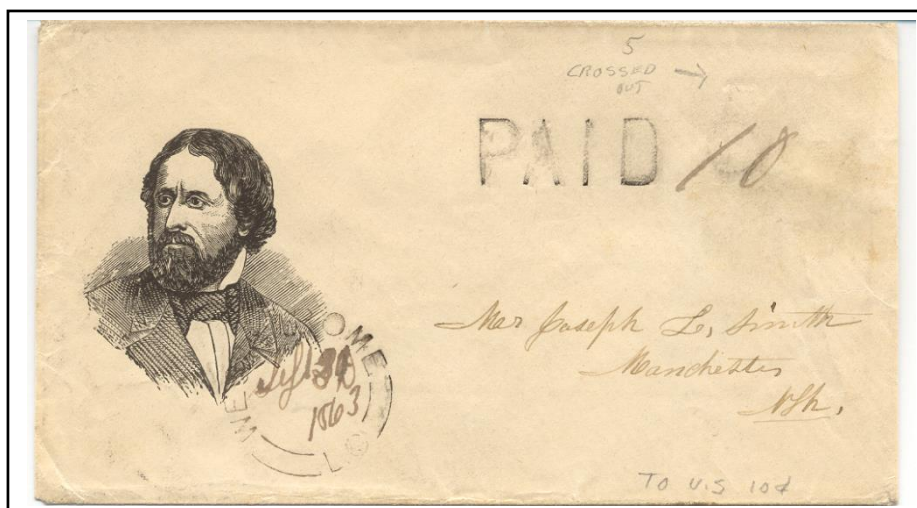
Letters between Canada/BNA and the Union During the Civil War (1861-1865)

US Civil War Patriotic Covers used in Canada and Sent Cross Border

Campaign covers are considered as patriotic covers since politics were interwoven with the patriotic fervor of the day. J.C. Fremont was a presidential candidate for the Radical Democracy Party nomination in 1864 but withdrew before the election. He also ran for President as a Democrat in the 1856 election.



US campaign cover showing Republican John C. Fremont (W-540var); handstamp PAID "10" in manuscript, small manuscript "paid", "CANADA" in arc exchange office marking; cover mailed from St. Alexandre, LC on December 5, 1861 to Philadelphia, PA, **ex-Steinhart..**



Smaller Fremont campaign cover (W-540); handstamp PAID "10" in manuscript; PAID "5" crossed out; sent from West Brome, LC on September 30, 1863 to Manchester, NH; two transit backstamps

Letters between Canada/BNA and the Union During the Civil War (1861-1865)

US Civil War Patriotic Covers used in Canada and Sent Cross Border

US Consulate Covers



Illustrated US Consulate General, British No. American Provinces, Montreal cover with Eagle and Shield Design in UL corner (W-unlisted); mailed from Montreal, CE on January 25, 1862 to Gallipolis, OH; one of three documented covers of this design; two 5c Beavers tied with Montreal duplex; non-removable ink spot on lower right.



Same consulate illustrated cover design sent from Montreal on July 26 1864 to Washington, D.C.. U.S. Dept. of Interior receiver on front July 29 1864. Ed Richardson considered these Consulate covers as patriotic in design. **Ex-Brigham**



Letters between Canada/BNA and the Union During the Civil War (1861-1865)

US Civil War Patriotic Covers Sent from BNA to the United States

There are only five documented US Civil War
Patriotic Covers from British No. America (Nova
Scotia and New Brunswick only) to U.S.
All are shown here.

From Nova Scotia



“Our Country” red imprint below red and blue seated Columbia with flag and eagle on cover (W-2270var) franked with tied 10c vermillion Queen Victoria (Sc. #10) and indistinct CDS on bottom right sent to East Harwich, MA; red circled “PAID 10”; two readable transit double circle back stamps: Pictou, NS AU 5, 1861 and Amherst NS AU 7, 1861; cover repaired on lower left.

Letters between Canada/BNA and the Union During the Civil War (1861-1865)

US Civil War Patriotic Covers Sent from BNA to the United States

From Nova Scotia



Red, white and blue design depicting young soldier with flag and four line verse below with reference to slavery; Fisher, Rochester imprint (W-1869var); manuscript cancel on 10c Vermillion Queen Victoria ; red circled "PAID 10"; origin unknown cover sent to Kendall Mills, NY; three transit back stamps: Port Mulgrave, NS JU 17 '62; Antigonish, NS JU 18, 1862; and Amherst, NS JU 20, 1862; **Ex-Richardson**, featured in Ref. 1, page 73..



Patriotic design depicts soldier with rifle with bayonet standing next to a flag in a camp setting with the US Capitol building in the background (W-2108var); red circled "PAID 10" and "ADVERTISED"; 10c vermilion Queen Victoria stamp tied with oval cancellation; origin unknown cover was sent to Hartford, CT; two back transit stamps, one for Truro, NS SP 1, 1862 and the other Amherst SP 5, 1862., **Ex-Richardson**, shown in Ref. 1, page 72, cover repaired at bottom left.

Letters between Canada/BNA and the Union During the Civil War (1861-1865)

US Civil War Patriotic Covers Sent from BNA to the United States

From New Brunswick



Stampless patriotic showing soldier holding sabre and flag (W-2020); undated rimless circle CDS "W.O. Lower Cloverdale, NB PAID" and matching "PAID/10/CENTS" in circle; covered posted to New York, NY; backstamps with "P.O. Salisbury, NB FE 1, 1865" and "Saint John, NB FE 1 1865" transits; **Ex-Steinhart.**



Patriotic design has eagle, shield, two different style Union flags, standing soldier with sword, at base dates of April 19, 1775 (First battle of Revolutionary War) and April 19, 1861 (First skirmish between Union and Confederate troops in Baltimore); stampless cover from unknown origin mailed to Brunswick, ME; red circular "PAID/10/CENTS" NB handstamp; back stamps "St. Stephen, NB SP 27, 1861" and "St. George, NB SP 26, (1861)".

Letters between Canada/BNA and the Union During the Civil War (1861-1865)



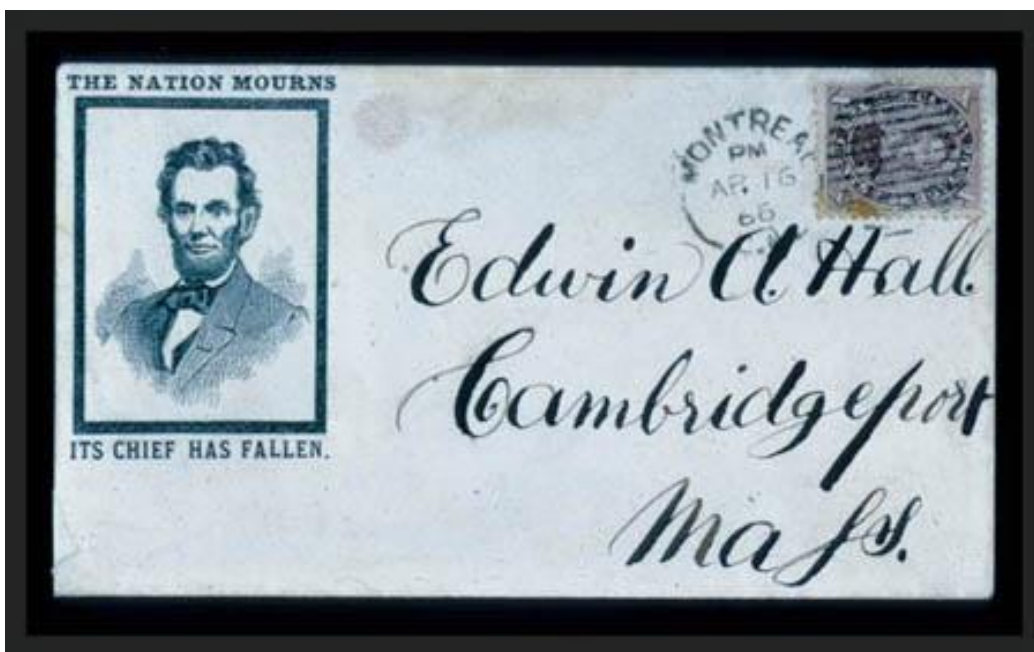
Letters from Draft Dodgers in Canada to home folks

Over 15,000 young men mostly from the Northern States, left for Canada after they were drafted or in order to avoid the draft. Most were able to get jobs in Canada and Canada had no laws that these deserters had to be returned or extradited to the US. The deserters wrote letters to loved ones and some of these letters survive. The following covers are such letters. Many of them longed to be back home but knew that they could be arrested or subject to the draft. A very small number of deserters (127) from the North or South were actually executed. Desertion was treated somewhat differently in those days in that a soldier might leave his regiment to go home and harvest crops and then return to his unit when finished.



These two letters written in 1864 towards the end of War are from the same young man, residing in Brantford, C.W., and doing farm work to earn a living. In his letters he talks about other skedaddlers (the Civil War term for deserters) that he has met in Canada. He talks about missing Allegany Co. and his friends but knows that he is still subject to the draft if he returns. His plight was common enough that a music piece was written.

Lincoln Mourning Cover



CANADA, 10c Red Lilac (17). Nicely centered, Rich color, Tied by grid & "Montreal, Ap. 16, '66" part rimless circle on Lincoln Mourning Cover, Black-bordered portrait, with appropriate wording. Tiny mend extreme L. B., Fresh & Handsome, An Extremely choice & rare Lincoln cover E. \$500-750

Price realized \$1,700 Siegel 1974-03-27, 1974 Rarities of the World
In 2011 Spink Shreves sold for \$17,500 including buyer's fee

US Civil War Patriotic Covers Sent from the United States to Canada and BNA (1861-1865)



Patriotic covers to Canada are arranged first according to the destination:

- a. Sent to pre-Confederation Canada (CW, CE, and UC)
- b. Sent to BNA (Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick)

and then by subject (e.g. flags, military heroes, standing soldiers, etc.). Special highlights will be called out in the cover caption. Patriotic covers sent to Canada are found more often than those used in Canada but are still considered to be scarce.

To Canada Flags and Eagles



Multicolored Patriotic with slogan "Onward to Victory" depicting Lady of Victory holding a 35-star flag riding an eagle (W-2170); sent from Fulton, IL on Feb 24, 1862 (although not all US CDS identified the date of posting) to Strathburn, CW; Scott #68 pays the 10c rate to Canada during the Civil War period; a faint U States PAID handstamp in red shows that the postage was paid; two Canadian transit backstamps.

Flag and eagle design (W-2545) sent from Huron City, MI CDS (an exchange office) tied by Sc.#68a on July 9 to Limehouse, CW; although not depicted on the front, the cover was mailed in 1863 as evidenced by 3 transit handstamps on the reverse: an RPO (JY 15, '63) along with London, UC (JY 15) and Sarnia (JY 14) CDS, a straight line "U.States 6d" (Boggs A Type 1) applied in the US shows evidence of postage payment, although handstamp dates back to pence era.



US Civil War Patriotic Covers Sent from the United States to Canada and BNA (1861-1865)

To Canada

Flags (continued)



Single flag design (W-3022var) mailed from Rolling Prairie, IN to Jordan, CW on May 28 (1861); stampless manuscript “Unpaid 10”, along with “DETROIT Mich 10” handstamp indicating that postage was paid there; stampless covers were as common in the US during the Civil War period as they were in Canada; 2 RPO and Hamilton “MY 31, 1861” transit handstamps and Jordan, C.W. receiver.



Stampless flag design with verse beneath (W-3050var) sent from unknown IL city on JU 1 to Mapleton, CW; “10 cts” in manuscript indicating payment as does “U.S. STATES 10” exchange office arc in blue (Boggs Type VIIIa, Detroit); two Elgin Co. transit handstamps

US Civil War Patriotic Covers Sent from the United States to Canada and BNA (1861-1865)

To Canada

Flags (continued)



Red, white and blue flag design with accompanying verse "If Any One Attempts to Haul Down the American Flag, Shoot Him on the Spot" John A. Dix; cover was mailed from Buffalo, NY on May 27, 1861 to Hamilton, CW; 10c rate paid with strip of three 3c Washington dull red (Sc.#26) and one Franklin blue (Sc.#24) tied together with grid cancel; backstamps include G.W.R. East RPO and Hamilton receiver both dated MY 28, '61.



Single Union flag design facing left; flag has ingrain gold "sparkles"; has slogan "Always Loyal" underneath flag (W-unlisted); sent from Niles, MI on Oct. 29, 1862 (Sc.#68 tied with circular grid cancel) to Chatham, UC; one transit backstamp Windsor and Chatham receiver backstamp.

US Civil War Patriotic Covers Sent from the United States to Canada and BNA (1861-1865)

To Canada

Flags (continued)



Stampless cover with Blue flag design and verse "Then conquer we must....."; mailed from Detroit JUL 27 (1861) to Ontario, CW (Township Saltfleet); "Due 10" in manuscript; RPO and Hamilton transit handstamps, **Ex-Steinhart**.

Standing Soldier with Flag Design



Stampless cover with standing drummer with flag (W-2068) sent from West Point, IA to Addison, CW on Oct 9 (1863); "U. STATES 10 PAID" in red (Boggs C. Circular Type IXb used at Port Huron, MI), RPO "OC 12 '63" and Yorkville "OC 13, 1863" transit stamps and Addison receiver "OC 13", **Ex-Steinhart**.

US Civil War Patriotic Covers Sent from the United States to Canada and BNA
(1861-1865)



To Canada

Standing Soldier with Flag



Standing soldier with sword holding flag (W-2023) mailed from Boston with red CDS "MY 3 (1861)" to Prescott, CW; franked with Washington 10c (Sc.#35 with natural straight edge); red "U.States" straight line cancel (Boggs Type 1); Prescott double ring receiver "MY 4 1861" on front.



Patriotic design depicts soldier with rifle with bayonet standing next to a flag in a camp setting with the US Capitol building in the background (W-2108var); posted in Buffalo, NY on JUL 30, 1861 to Fonthill, CW; franked with 10c Washington (Sc.#35); Port Colbourne, CW and Fonthill, CW both on JUL 30, 1861—same day delivery!

US Civil War Patriotic Covers Sent from the United States to Canada and BNA (1861-1865)



To Canada

Army Officers

Ellsworth Homemade Patriotic



Handmade patriotic paste up showing Elmer E. Ellsworth, first Union officer killed in Civil War, pictured in his Fire Zouaves uniform with "Assassinated May 24th" at bottom; small pasted label "Slavery is a complication of every species of iniquity; the *greatest* practical evil that ever afflicted the human race"—Wm. Pitt; letter mailed from North Wayne, ME to Bedford, CE, NOV (1861); straight line "U.States" exchange marking (Boggs Type 1); back transit handstamps Island Pond, VT (Nov 19), Montreal, CE (NO 20 '61), Bedford, CE (NO 21 '61).

4c. US Civil War Patriotic Covers Sent from the United States to Canada and BNA (1861-1865)

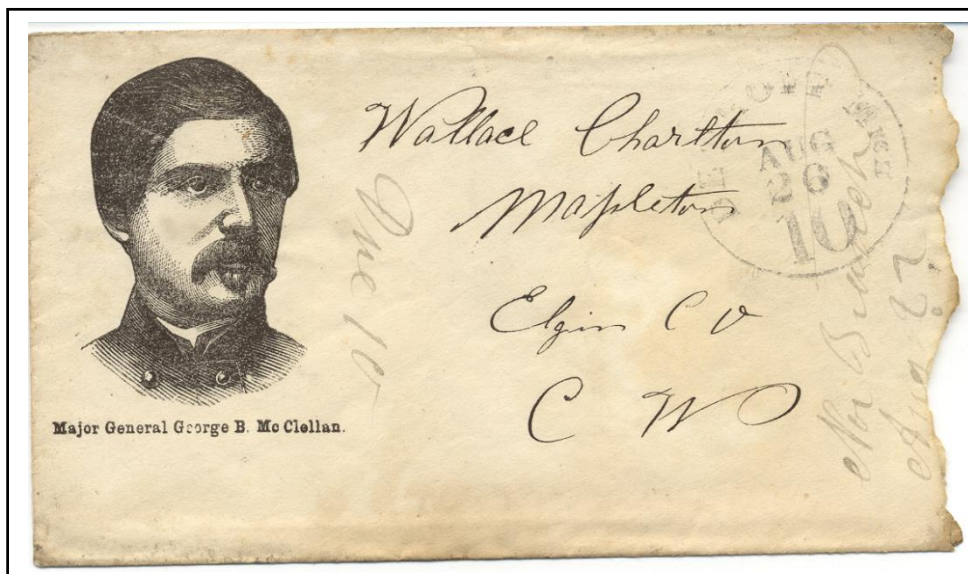
To Canada

General McCellan



Small blue star with portrait and surrounded by red ribbon with slogan "The Star of Liberty" (W-323) sent from Bay City, MI on Apr 11 (1863) to Demorestville, CW (Sophiasburgh Township); franked with 10c Washington (Sc.#68); backstamped with RPO and Demorestville, CW receiver

General McCellan



Stampless portrait design (W-308var) from Detroit, MI posted on AUG 26 (1862) with "10" in circular cancel indicating payment to Mapleton, CW; on reverse transit handstamps London, St. Thomas, and Orwell.

US Civil War Patriotic Covers Sent from the United States to Canada and BNA (1861-1865)



To Canada
General McClellan



An embossed cover depicting Gen McClellan carrying a waving Union flag with inscription below picture "Commander of the Federal Forces on the Potomac"; mailed from Renselaer Falls, NY on APR 10 (1865) to Aylmer, CW; franked with 10c yellow green Sc.#68, red "U.S. 10cts PAID" exchange marking (Boggs C Oval Type IXa-I used in 1865); back stamped London, UC "AP 12 1865" transit and Alymer, UC "AP 12 1865" receiver.

Shield Design

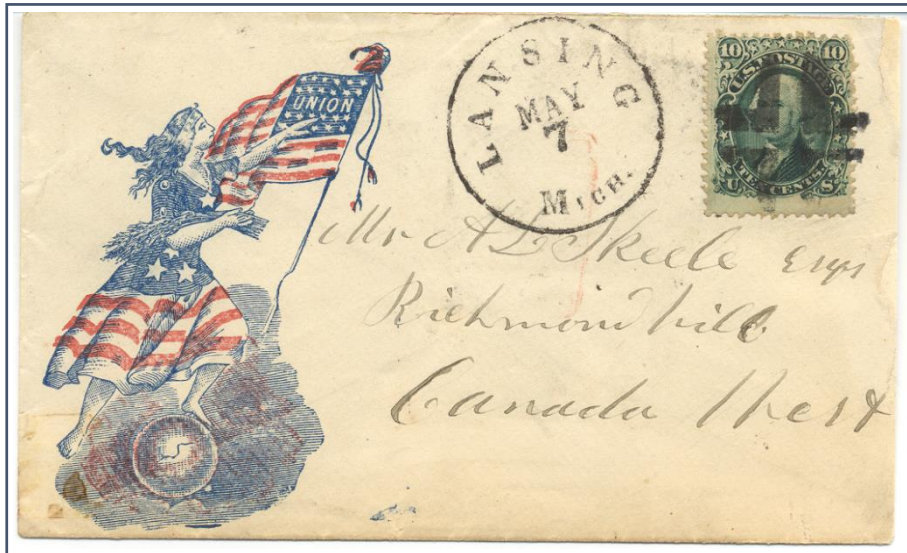


Small shield with slogan "God Speed the Right" (W-2651) from Illinois town "Mo__n" dated SP 18 (1862) to Mapleton, CW; red "U.STATES/10/PAID" exchange marking (Boggs Circular Type IXb); unique mixed shades of 5c Jefferson (Sc.#67b olive yellow and Sc.#75 red brown) to pay 10c rate tied to cover by overlapping grids; back handstamp Orwell UC "SP 22, 1862" transit.

**US Civil War Patriotic Covers Sent from the United States to Canada and BNA
(1861-1865)**

To Canada

Standing Lady Liberty



Liberty and Union flag multicolored patriotic with cracked globe beneath (W-2321); sent from Lansing, MI to Richmond Hill, CW on May 7 (1863); double split ring Richmond Hill receiver May 9, 1863; franked with 10c Washington (Sc.#68) tied with fancy cancel.



Standing Lady Liberty with flag dress holding flag (W-2261); sent from Florid (Putnam City), IL to Richview, CW; stamp cancelled with manuscript and tied with red exchange marking "U. STATES/10/PAID" (Boggs Circular Type IXb used in Port Huron, MI exchange office); Paris RPO, SP 11 '61.

US Civil War Patriotic Covers Sent from the United States to Canada and BNA (1861-1865)

To Canada

Standing Lady Liberty (continued)

W-2267,
Washington, DC
To Welland, CW
June 13, 1862



W-2148var,
"Unpaid 10" in
manuscript; blue arc-
exchange handstamp
(Boggs IIa, Buffalo),
Ontario b/s MR 4 '62.

W-2338var, "Due 10
cts" in manuscript, from
Delavan, IL, AU 7 (1861)
to Ontario, CW; blue
arc-exchange
handstamp (Boggs IIa,
Buffalo), RPO
backstamp "G.W.R. East
AU 21, '61".



US Civil War Patriotic Covers Sent from the United States to Canada and BNA
(1861-1865)

To Canada

From Kansas



Dual patriotic themes: waving flag with verse below "The star-spangled banner..." and man strangling "secessionist" snake with slogan "Or any other man" and "That's What's the matter" (W-unlisted); cover with natural paper fold mailed from Wyandotte, KS territory to Amherstburg, CW on NOV 27 (1865); Sc.#68 tied with grid cancel; two backstamps: blue Amherstburg, "DE 2 1865" receiver and Windsor, UC "DE 2 1865" transit; **Ex-Vincent G. Greene**



Standing soldier with sabre holding Union flag standing on Confederate flag on ground (W-2096var); cover from same correspondence mailed from Wyandotte, KS dated NOV 13 (1865) to Amherstburg, UC; Sc.#68 with grid cancel; Amherstburg, UC double circle receiver in blue on reverse; **Ex-Vincent G. Greene**

US Civil War Patriotic Covers Sent from the United States to Canada and BNA (1861-1865)

To Canada

Flag and Smoking Cannon Design



Stampless cover with design with “Death to Traitors” slogan below (W-2761var); note “X” drawn over Union flag; mailed from Brea, OH to Port Whitby, CW on MY 27; “Paid 10c” in manuscript; backstamp receiver in blue Whitby, CW, “May 28”; manuscript on back “Letter from William to Mother”.



Cover with design with “Our Compromise” slogan below (W-2784var); posted in Buffalo, NY on JU 11 1861 to Wyoming, CW; Sc.#35 tied with Buffalo CDS and grid cancel; backstamps: London, U.C. “JU 11 ’61”, GWR West Sarnia Branch RPO “JU 12 ’61” transits and Wyoming, CW “JU 12 ’61” receiver.

US Civil War Patriotic Covers Sent from the United States to Canada and BNA (1861-1865)

To Canada

Flags, Ships, Eagles Plus



Flags, Cannons and Cannon Balls and 3-Mast Sailing Ship with slogan "Our Army and Navy Forever!" and "Three Cheers for the Red, White and Blue!" (W-634); sent from New Berlin, NY to Smith Falls, CW on APR 6 (1863); franked with Sc.#68 10c Washington (natural straight edge) with "PAID" in black on face; backstamps include Smith Falls, AP 10, '1863 receiver.



Black and white patriotic with flags, drums, trumpets, eagle, bugles (partially covered by stamps) and slogan "No terms except an unconditional and immediate surrender can be accepted"—Gen. Grant; cover sent from Michigan to Banesford, Northumberland Co., CW on JAN 16 (1863); franked with three 3c Washington stamps (Sc.#065) and one 1c Franklin (Sc.#063) paying 10c rate cross border; red "U.STATES/10/PAID" (Boggs Circular Type Ixb, Port Huron, MI, 1853)

US Civil War Patriotic Covers Sent from the United States to Canada and BNA (1861-1865)

To BNA

Nova Scotia



Standing soldier with sabre holding Union flag (W-2023); much forwarded cover from Boston to (original destination unreadable and crossed out) Cornwallis, NS, then Berwick, NS; underpaid with 3c Washington (Sc.#26) tied with Boston CDS dated JUL 31 (1861); unfortunately letter was "HELD FOR POSTAGE" in faint tiny red double arc handstamp (Type PM-SM 1 from "U.S. Cancellations 1845-1869" by H. Skinner and A. Enore), finally 10c postage was paid as evidenced by "BOSTON AUG 1, 1861 (inverted date) 10 cts" which tied stamp; double split-ring "Sandy Cove AU 10 1861" arrival handstamp on front; backstamps Halifax, 5 AUG, Kentville 14 AUG, and Berwick 15 AUG



Eagle carrying Union flag with torn Confederate flag/broken flagstaff, sailing ship in background; "Doom of the Traitors Flag" slogan (W-2544); unknown origin sent to Mainadieu, **Cape Breton**, NS; franked with three 3c Washington dull red (Sc.#26) and one Franklin blue (Sc.#24) with 4-ring circular cancels; oval in red "U.S. 10 cts PAID" handstamp (Boggs Type IX-II 1862); backstamps: St. John, NB "FE 8 1864"; Amherst, NS "8 FE 1864"; Antigonish, NS "FE 13, 1864"; Sydney, CB "FE 13, 1864".

4c. US Civil War Patriotic Covers Sent from the United States to Canada and BNA (1861-1865)

To BNA

Nova Scotia



Lady Liberty holding flag & sword, posted JUL 15, 1861 from Hall River, Mass. To Pictou, NS; "Stand, the ground's your own, my braves! Will ye give it up to Slaves" (W-2328)

Prince Edward Island (PEI)



Cover to Charlottetown, PEI from Washington, D.C. posted on Apr 20 1862; franked with four tied copies of 3c Washington (Sc.#65) which represented a 2c overpayment; likely that the sender didn't have a 1c stamp; man on horse with sabre, (W-1922 variety); PEI receiver on back dated May 2 1862.

US Civil War Patriotic Covers Sent from the United States to Canada and BNA
(1861-1865)

To BNA
New Brunswick



Standing soldier holding sabre and flag with one foot on Confederate flag; slogan "Our Union and our Laws; maintain we must!" (W-2095); mailed from Haverhill, MA on JUN10 (1861) to St. John, NB via Portland; franked with 10c Washington Sc.#35 tied with circular double ring cancel; receiver on back St. Johns, NB, "JU 13 1861"



Design seated Liberty and State Seal with proclamation "Loyal to the Union, State of Massachusetts" (W-1663); underpaid with 3c Washington (Sc.#63); handstamp "10" in black indicates postage due; sent from Lowell, MA on NOV 26, 1861 to St. John, NB; receiver on back dated "NO 30 1861"

Soldier's Letters Sent from the United States to Canada (1860-1868)

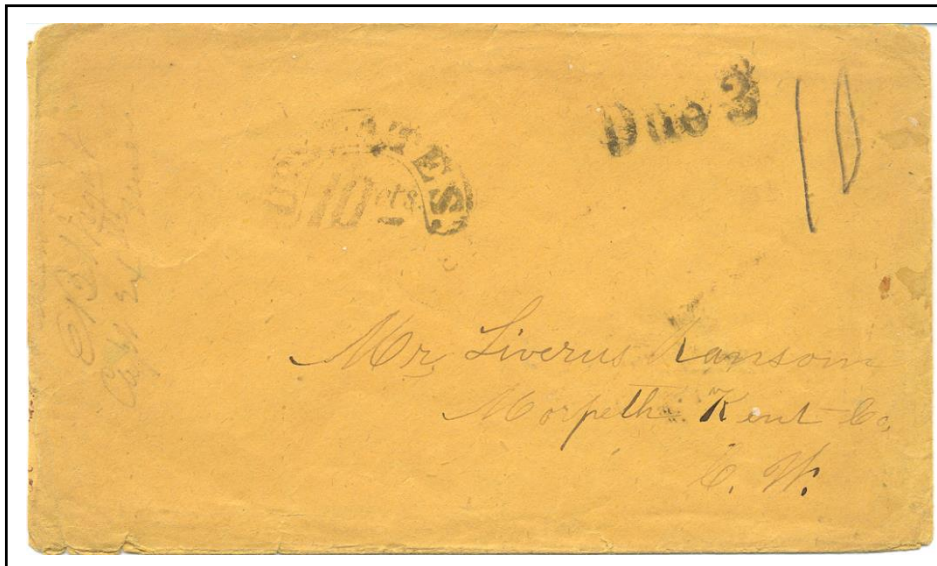
Soldier's Letters

From 1861, letters by soldiers in service of the US could be transmitted without pre-payment of postage to be paid by the party receiving the letter. Pre-payment of postage on ordinary mail had been compulsory from 1 April 1855. To qualify for a soldier's letter privilege, the letter had to be endorsed by a Commanding Officer.

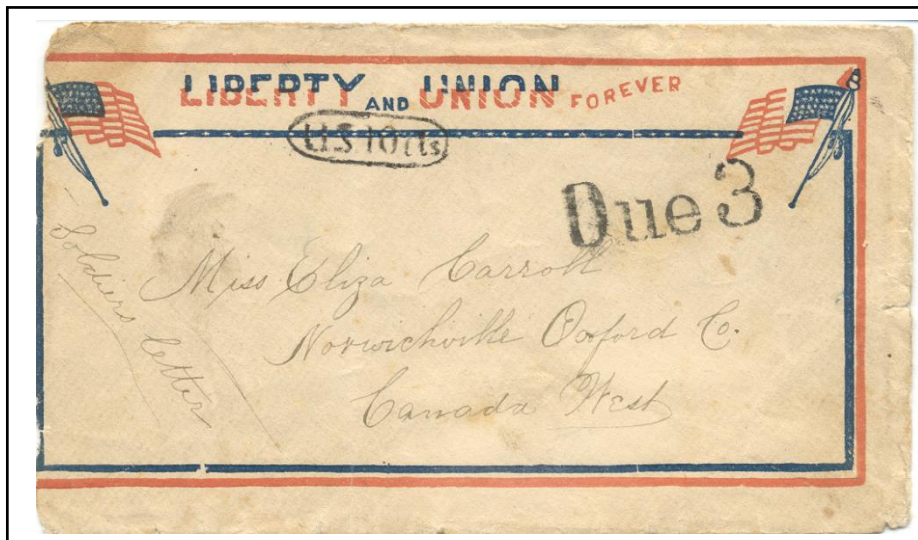


Soldier's letter with two dogs one named "Scott" (bigger) and "Jeff" (smaller) with set of bones named "Washington" with statements "Why don't you take it" and "Yours for distinguished consideration, Uncle Sam"; manuscript "Soldiers Letter"; countersigned by Lt. Edwards in charge; mailed from Portsmouth, Grove, RI NOV 15 (1862) to Welland, CW; same postmarks as above; backstamp in red indistinguishable town, U.C. 1862.

Soldier's Letters Sent from the United States to Canada (1861-1865)



Soldier's Letter sent to Morpeth, U.C. Although there is no indication of the mailing location or the date, the letter arrived in Morpeth on JU 18 1863; also a Chatham, U.C. transit on back in black; properly endorsed by Capt. E.B. Wight of the Army of the Potomac, 24th Michigan Volunteers (famous Iron Brigade). The 24th Michigan was in Virginia enroute to Gettysburg for the showdown; the rate to Canada was 10cents during this time period but the "Due 3" handstamp indicated that it was posted by a soldier in the service of the Union Army.



United States soldier's letter dual flags "Liberty and Union Forever" (unknown place of origin) to Norwich, CW April, 1865; in manuscript "Soldiers Letter"; "Due 3" was the handstamp applied for internal mail; oval "US 10 cts" ("UNPAID" Boggs straight line Type VIIb, Lewiston, 1864) was the through rate from the US to Canada; backstamps double split-ring Hamilton UC AP 10 1865, Woodstock, UC AP 11 1865 transits and Norwich, UC AP 11 1865 receiver.

Letters from Soldiers Sent from the United States to Canada (1861-1865)

Soldier from 19th Regiment Illinois Volunteer Militia, Camp Long



USA 26 tied to 1861 military cover from Chicago to Quebec, Canada; Quebec backstamp JY 17/61; from Camp Long (1 of 8 around Chicago); Illinois Volunteer Militia, 19th Regiment; mustered on June 17/1861 for outfitting and basic training as infantry regiment. Short paid 10c; traveled overland to Canada. Blue U.S. Exchange Office U.STATES arc "10" (Boggs Type lia.Buffalo) for 10c due.



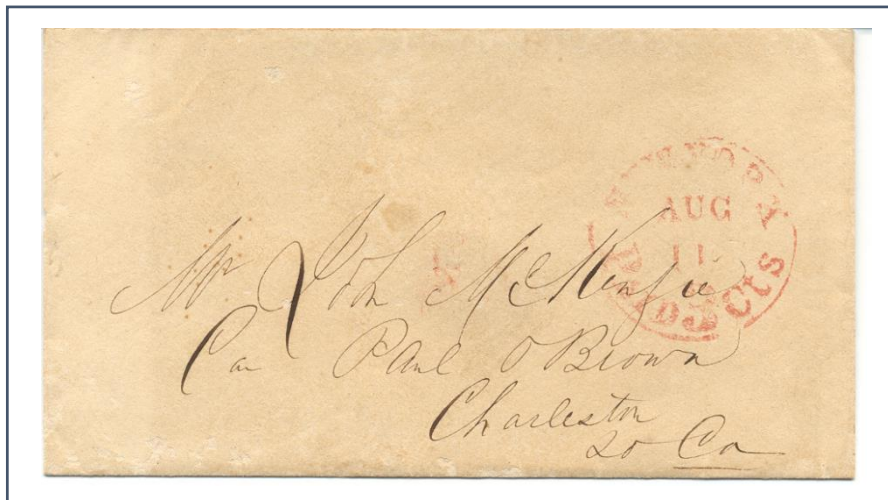
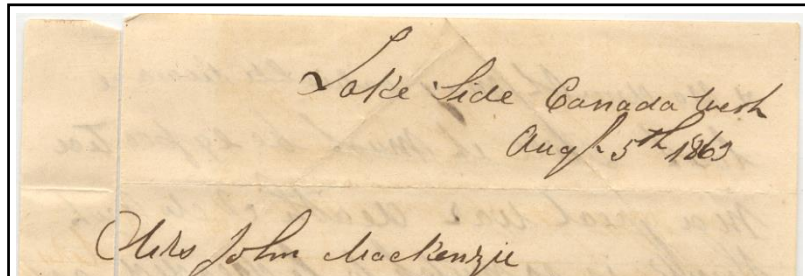
Letter send by Canadian soldier (Fred Peterson) at Camp Clara, VA, postmarked Alexandria, VA, dated Feb 1 1862, smudged handstamp Due 10, sent to brother Henry Peterson, Surgeon Dentist, Bowmanville, C.W., Bowmanville receiver on reverse FE _4, serving in 27th Regt, Camp Clara, VA, talks about Gen. McCellan inspecting camp, Ft.. McHenry capture, twig from General HQ, sold gun, sending money home.



Letters between Canada and **Southern States** during Civil War (1861-1865)

This portion will demonstrate the various ways in which mail could be exchanged between the Southern States and Canada during the postal suspension and blockade.

Hand-Carried Letter, Canada→NY to South Carolina



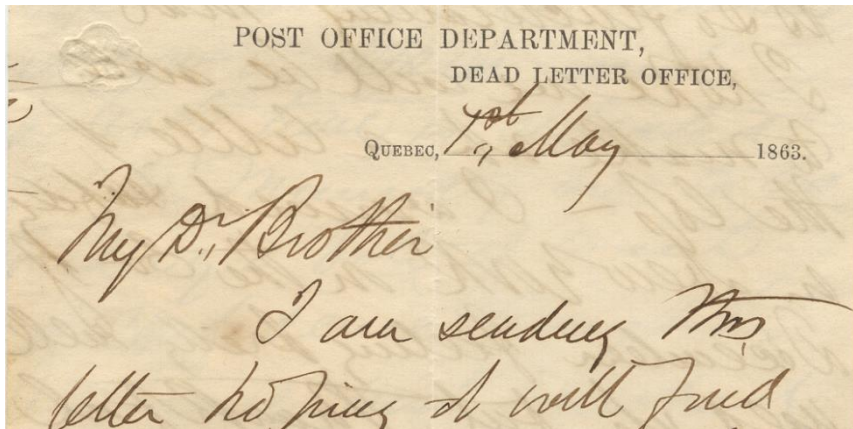
This unfranked envelope with original content letter datelined "Lake Side Canada West, August 5, 1863 to Charleston, South Carolina showing "NY PAID 3 cts AUG 11" CDS in red, privately carried to New York, paid for and placed in the post, sent to either Bryantown or Charlotte Hill P.O. in Maryland where Confederate mail carriers would take it across the river to Richmond via Port Royal and onwards.

Contents refers to "horrors of war" and "difficulty in sending private letters to the South", **ex-Robertson**

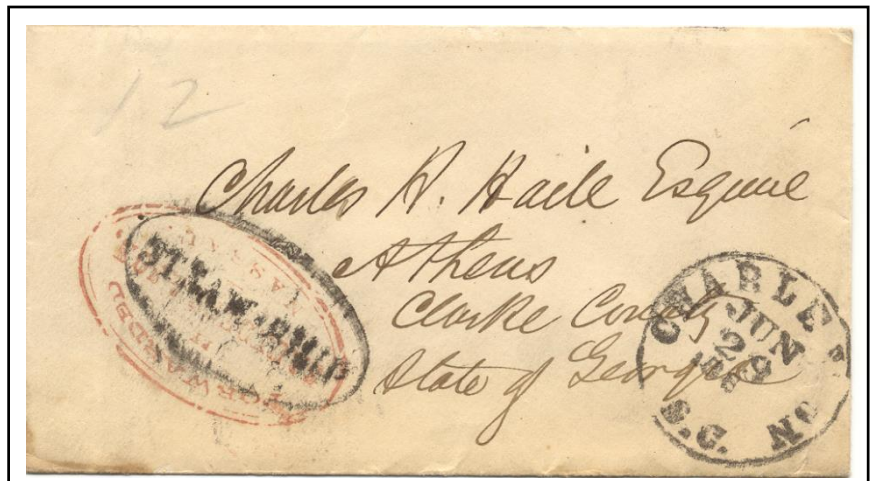
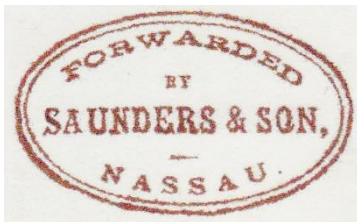


Letters between Canada and Southern States during Civil War (1861-1865)

Canada to Georgia, Blockade Mail via Nassau



(excerpt of original letter)



This letter originated at the Post Office Dead Letter Office in Quebec on 1st May, 1863. Apparently a private letter to a brother in Athens, Georgia. At this point of the War, the Union held a tight blockade on all Southern Ports; thus letters were carried in and out via blockade runners, usually operating out of Nassau, Bahamas and Bermuda. This letter was likely sent to New York to the Forwarding Agent Saunders and Son, Nassau. It would have been entrusted to a "runner" bound for Charleston, SC where it arrived on June 29, 1863. It was treated as a STEAMSHIP letter and rated 12 cents due, which included a ship's gratuity of 2 cents (**ex-Gordon G. Bleuler, Collection of Confederate States and Civil War Postal History**)

Until recently, it was the only reported blockade cover from Canada to the Confederacy during the Civil War (Bill Longley, 2008)

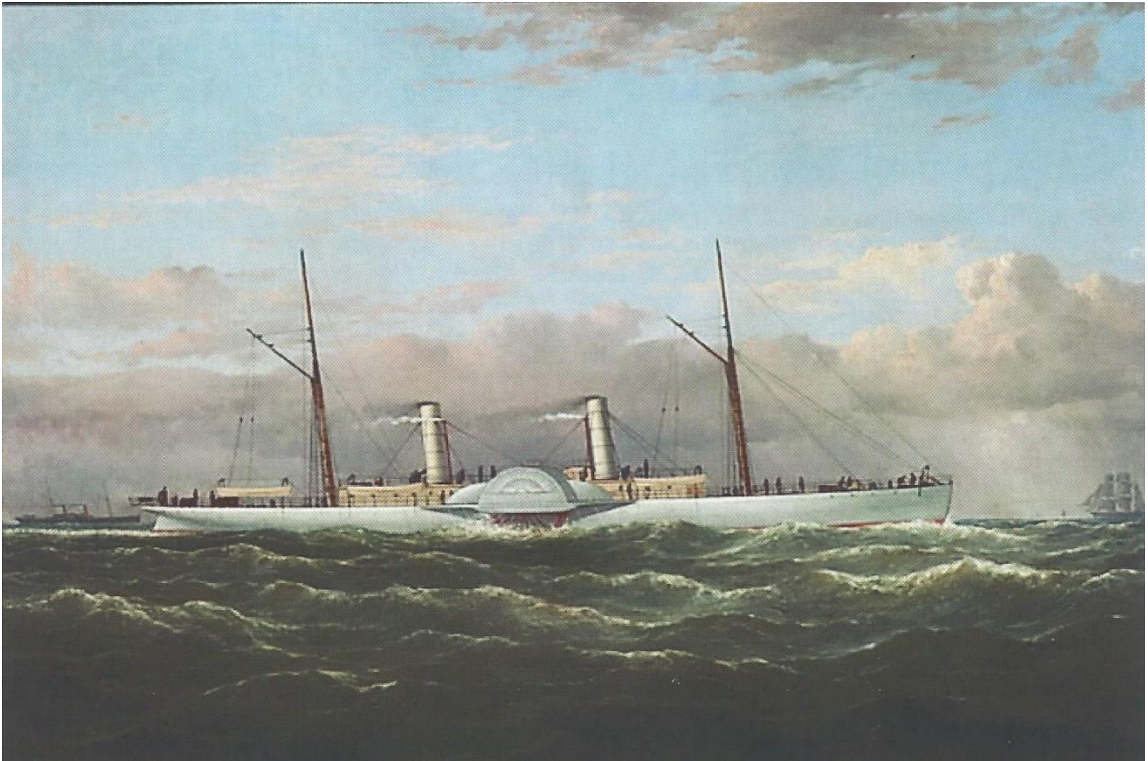
**Letters between Canada and Southern States during Civil War
(1861-1865)**

Blockade Cover from Halifax to Governor of Georgia, 1864



Incoming to Milledgeville Ga. via Halifax and Wilmington N.C. Undated (late 1864) cover addressed to Georgia Governor Joseph E. Brown at Milledgeville Ga., endorsed "*per st. Col Lamb*" and carried on that blockade runner from Halifax on Nov. 23, 1864, arriving Wilmington N.C. Nov. 29, manuscript "12" cents due for 10c to Georgia plus 2c ship fee, pencil docketing across the front.

The Confederate Blockade Runner *CSS Colonel Lamb* at Sea, 1864 (painting by Samuel Walters)



The blockade runner *CSS Colonel Lamb* was built in Liverpool in 1864 by Jones, Quiggen & Company, and then transferred to the Confederacy in Nassau mid-1864. The Company was known to have produced several Confederate commissions. The *Col Lamb* was a large and very strong iron and steel paddle-wheeler, rightly called the "finest and fastest steamer in the trade" by one observer in Britain. The *Colonel Lamb* survived the Civil War and was eventually sold to the Brazilian Government as a transport ship. Given the date of the oil, Walters executed the painting while the *Lamb* was in service for the Confederate Navy.

Letters between Canada and Southern States during Civil War (1861-1865)

Mail from Canada to Union-Occupied Southern Cities

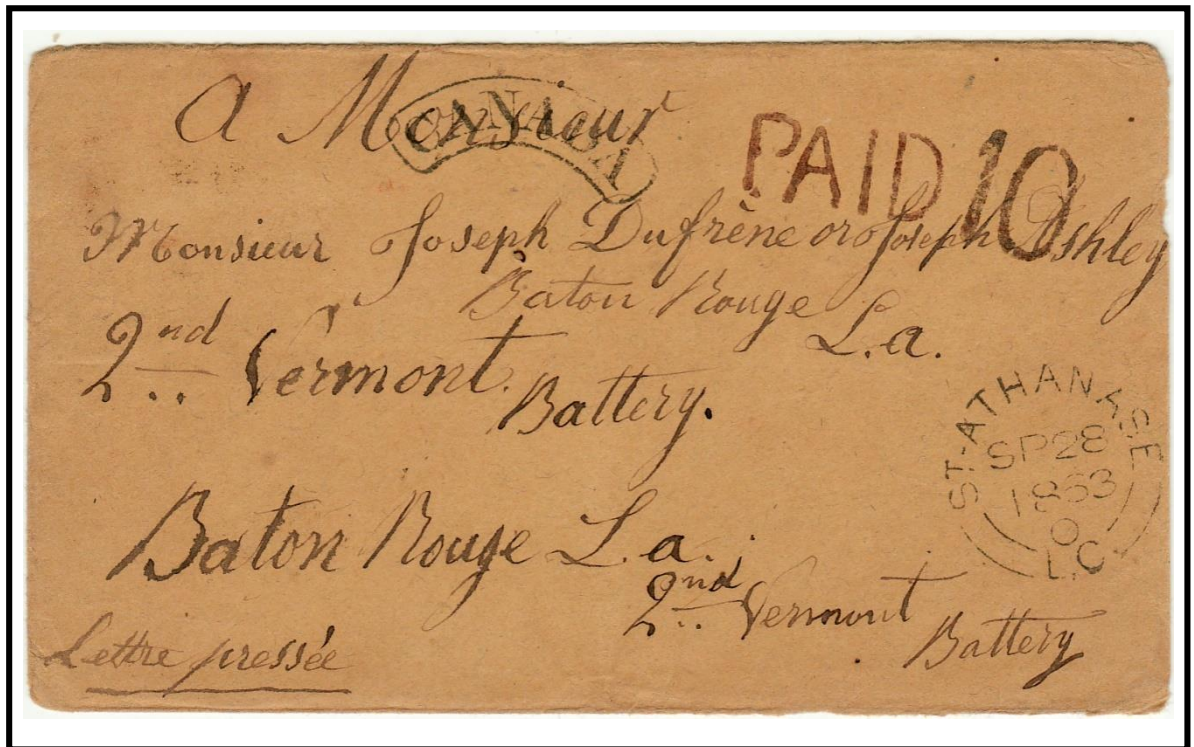
New Orleans



Letter, at the 10c rate for ½ oz. or less to the U.S., sent from Cobourg, C.W. to New Orleans posted on May 7, 1863 after the city had been recaptured by the Union and was occupied with Union troops and thus the Union post system was used.

Letters between Canada and Southern States during Civil War
(1861-1865)

Mail from Canada to Union-Occupied Southern Cities



Reduced

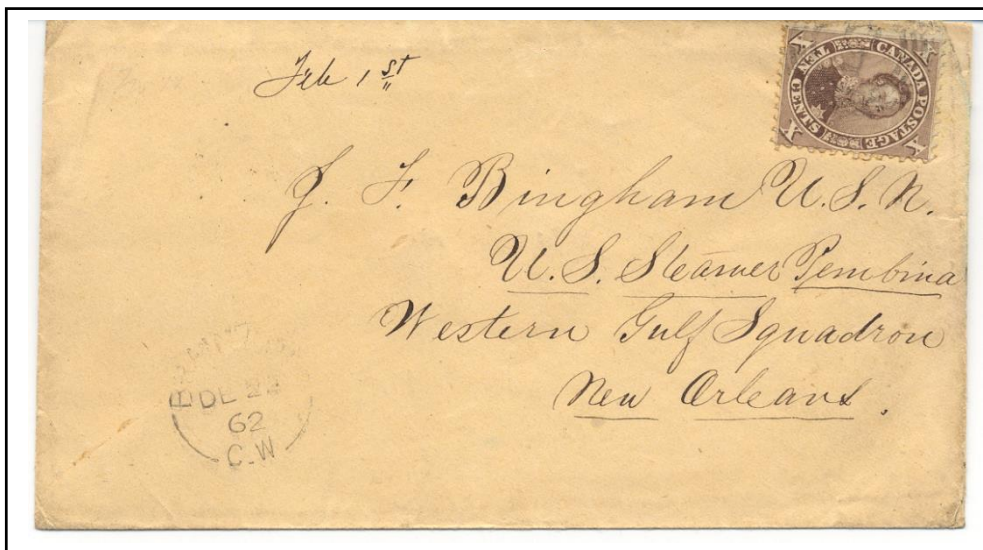


St. Johns, C.E. (Sep.23, 63, backstamped CDS) to Baton Rouge, LA via Cairo, orange buff cover with St. Athanase, L.C. transit stamp (SP 28, 1863. Red "PAID 10" rating handstamp, framed arc "CANADA". Addressed to Joseph Dufrene of the 2nd Vermont Battery, reverse with "Received at Cairo, Ill., Oct. 3, 1863 transit backstamp. This cross border cover was sent during the final days of the "Received at Cairo" backstamp. The 2nd Vermont Lt. Artillery Battery was at Port Hudson, Aug.1863-1865 but had been to Baton Rouge in May 1863. It was at the siege and surrender of Port Hudson July 9 (after Vicksburg fell July 4th).This cover from Canada was to a French Canadian who had joined the Vermont battery to fight slavery.

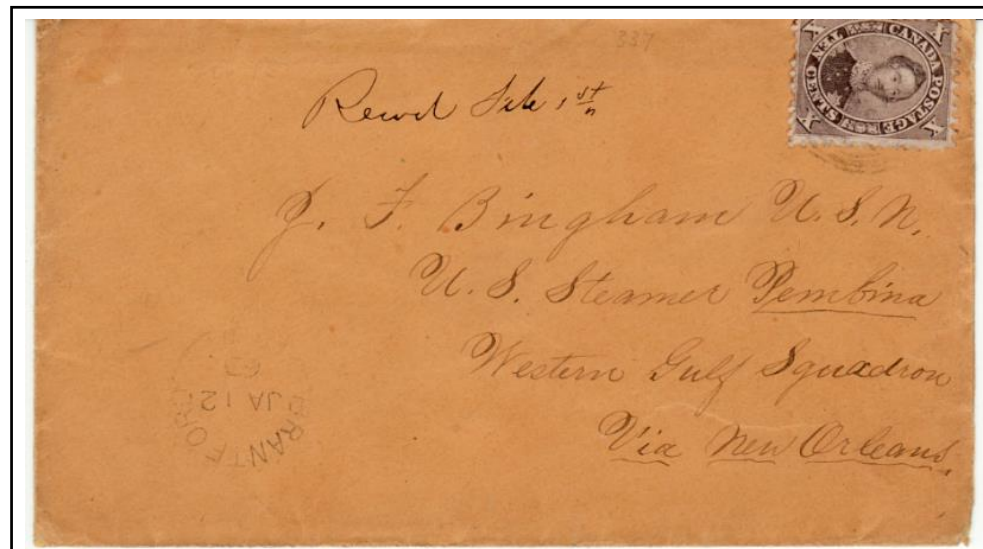
Letters between Canada and Southern States during Civil War (1861-1865)

Mail from Canada to Union-Occupied Southern Cities

Letters to a Sailor on Blockade Gunboat USS Pembina



Posted:
Dec. 22, 1862
Received:
Feb. 1, 1863



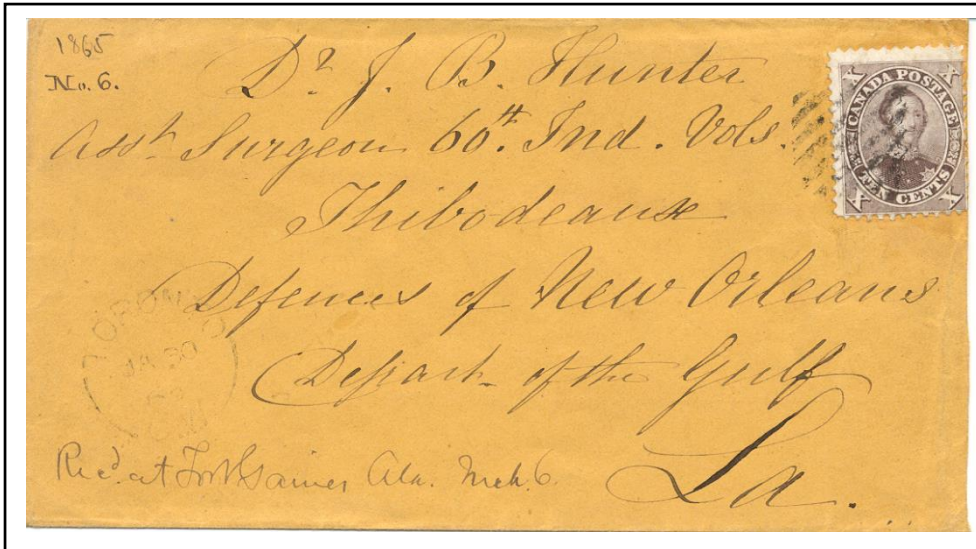
Posted:
Jan. 12, 1863
Received:
Feb. 1, 1863

Canadian-born sailor J.F. Bingham joined the Union Navy & was assigned to the Unadilla-class gunboat *USS Pembina*; the *Pembina* was first assigned to the South Atlantic Squadron patrolling Florida, So. Carolina, and Georgia waters; later she was assigned to the West Gulf Squadron. New Orleans was captured on May 1, 1862 so mail could be received there by a Union military post office. These two letters one posted in December the other in January from Brampton, C.W. but both were received on Feb. 1, 1863 when the *Pembina* called upon the port of New Orleans; The *Pembina* captured three blockade running ships during its duration as a Navy warship; Bingham was an engineer on the *Pembina*; he is buried in Coningsby, ON.

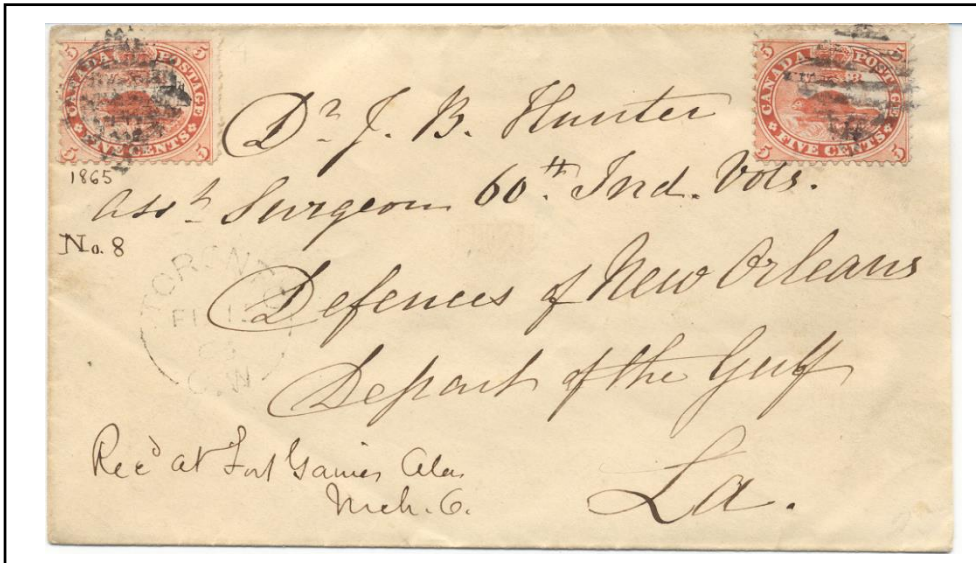
Letters between Canada and Southern States during Civil War (1861-1865)

Mail from Canada to Union-Occupied Southern Cities

Covers to Surgeon of 60th Indiana Volunteers as he Traveled with his Troops



Posted:
Jan. 30, 1862
Received:
Mar. 6, 1862



Posted:
Feb. 15, 1862
Received:
Mar. 6, 1862

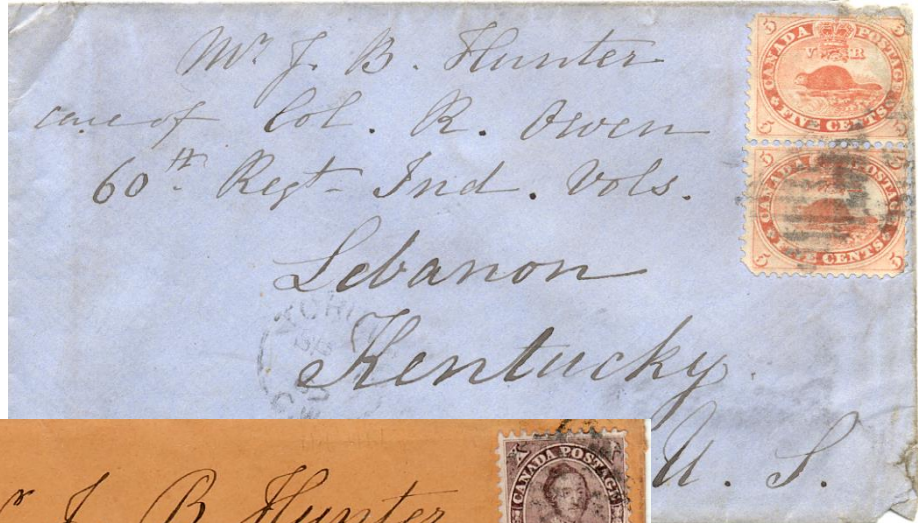
Dr. James Bradbridge Hunter (Dr. J.B. Hunter, born 1838) was an assistant surgeon in the 60th Indiana Volunteers and as might be expected, he moved around with his unit as the Union Army moved throughout the South. Over the years, I have been able to obtain envelopes from different mailing addresses all sent to Dr. Hunter. The two covers shown (mailed in Toronto) were sent to him while he was stationed in New Orleans; posted at different dates, Dr. Hunter had left New Orleans and had moved to Ft. Gaines, Alabama where the forwarded letters were both received on Mar. 6, 1862. Additional covers to Dr. Hunter are on the following page.

5. Letters between Canada and Southern States during Civil War (1861-1865)

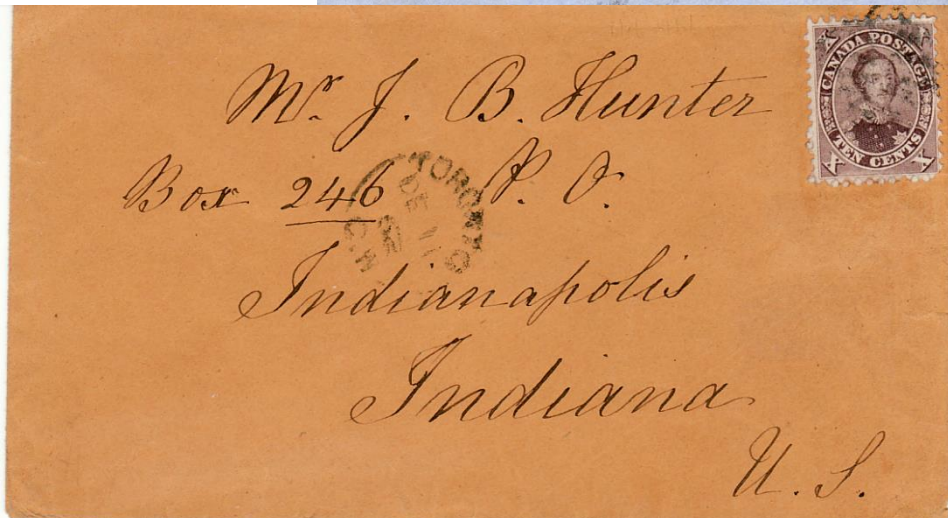
5e. Mail from Canada to Union-Occupied Southern Cities

Additional Covers following travels of Surgeon Hunter of 60th Indiana Volunteers

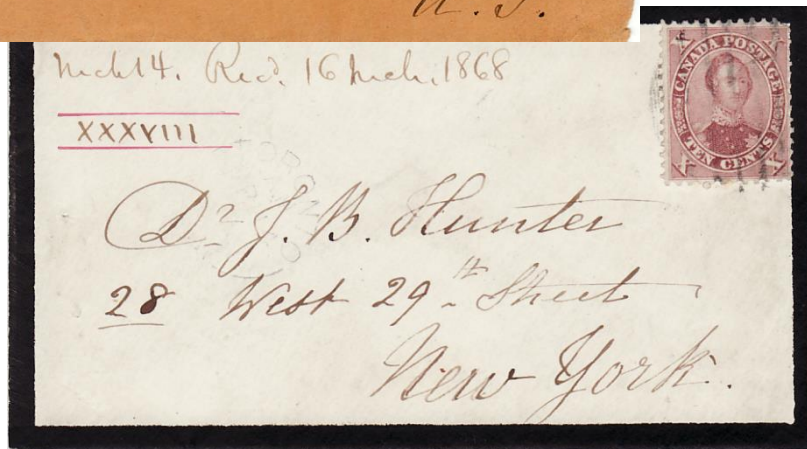
Posted:
Sept. 1, 1862



Posted:
Dec. 11, 1862



Posted:
Mar. 14, 1868



Two additional covers sent from Toronto to Dr. Hunter later in 1862 while the war was still going on: Kentucky (not a Confederate state but remained neutral slave state) & Indiana. The second letter may have been sent to Dr. Hunter after he was mustered out of the Volunteer unit. The third mourning cover was sent many years later to New York where Dr. Hunter settled after the Civil War. (Ref. Indiana History MSS, Lilly Library, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana)

Letters between Canada and Southern States during Civil War (1861-1865)

Mail from Canada to Union-Occupied Southern Cities

Letter to Doctor Serving in Army of Cumberland in Tennessee



Dr. J.G. Sinclair was another doctor located in Clarksville, TN a letter sent to him in Clarksville in 1865 was undeliverable and an advertisement [boxed ADVERTISED] was placed in the local paper a usual occurrence for an undeliverable letter at the time; nobody claimed the letter [oval boxed: UNCLAIMED] and there was no return address the envelope was probably sent to the local Dead Letter Office; stamp also tied by U.S. cancel

This letter was also sent to Dr. Sinclair but this time he was found to have relocated to Kentucky. Because the letter was forwarded, the recipient was charge 3c due, the regular letter rate for an envelope less than an ounce; stamp tied by U.S. cancel; Clarksville, Tenn CDS dated Feb 13 (18)66 after the war ended.



This cover sent from Alexandria, CW dated June 11 1866 showed Dr. Sinclair was now established in Bowling Green, KY after the war ended.

Letters between Canada and Southern States during Civil War (1861-1865)

Mail from Canada to Union-Occupied Southern Cities

Tennessee



Nesbitt cover (10c rate to U.S.) sent to Lt. F.D. Callsen, c/o Brig. General Ross, Bolivar, Tenn.; Leonard Fulton Ross led volunteers at Siege of Corinth a fierce battle fought in Corinth, MS, April 29 to May 30, 1862. 17th Illinois Regiment. Franking cancels with light "36" postmark, SP/8/62. Preston c.d.s. lower left; receiving c.d.s. dated SP 12 on back (remarkable that it took only 4 days from Canada to Tennessee in 1862 while today such a letter may take much longer).

Tennessee

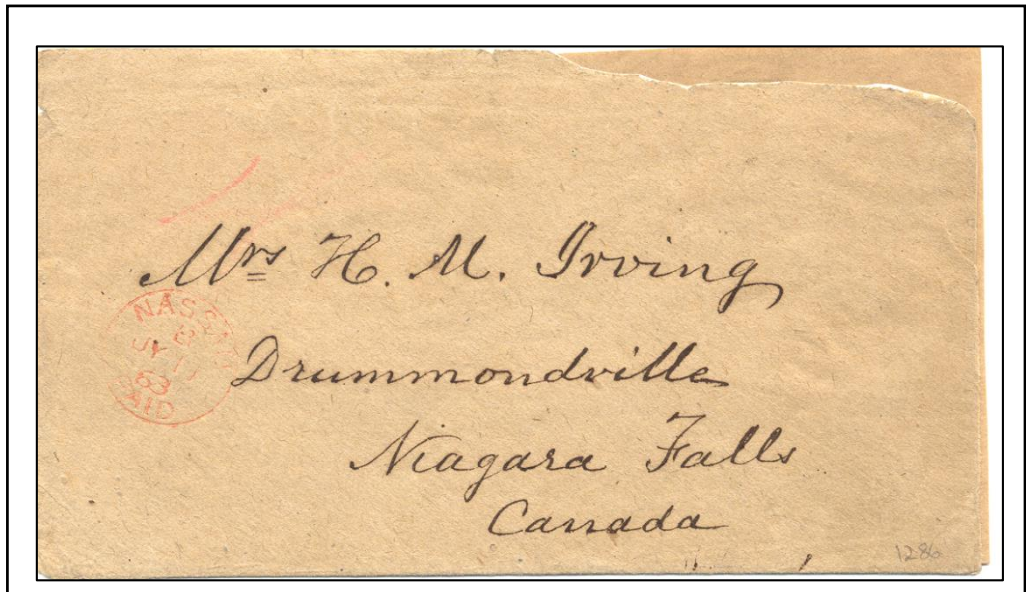


Buff colored envelope from Marie de Monnoir, L.C. to Charles B. Lamborn, Lt. Col. Anderson Cavalry, Army of the Cumberland, Tenn., PAID in red with 10cts in manuscript, also paid in m/s, mailed on AU 4 (18)63. Lamborn was key officer in unit.

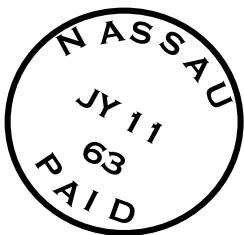
Letters between Canada and Southern States during Civil War (1861-1865)



Blockade Mail from South Carolina **to Canada** via Nassau



Cover written to Mrs. Irving in Niagara Falls by her daughter in Cordesville, SC on June 20th, 1863; clear red "NASSAU PAID 11 JY 63" CDS on front and on back transits for Montreal (SP 16, 63); RPO and Drummondville (SP 18, 63); intact two page letter with interesting contents on the skill of blockade runners and about the situation in the South at the time, **ex-Robertson**.

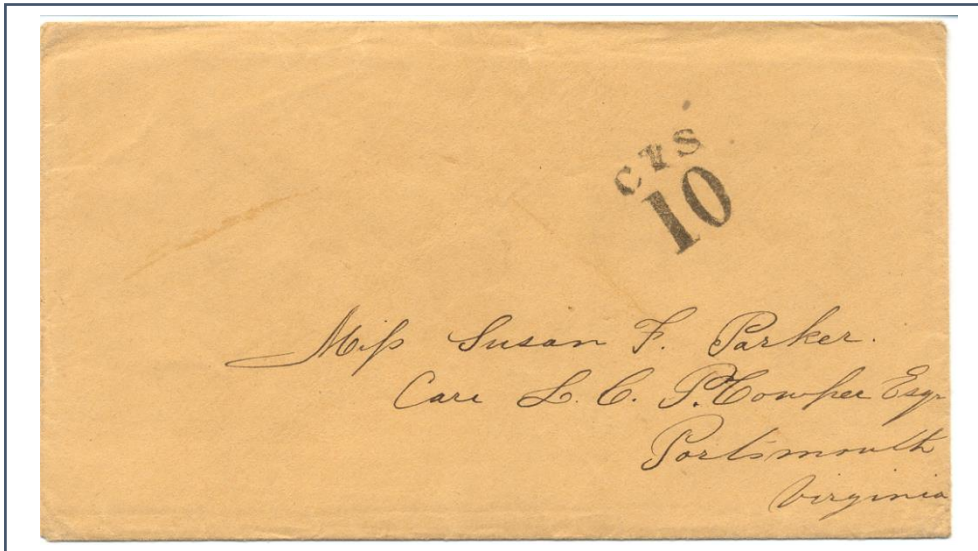


Similar mourning cover as above but internal letter dated Oct 19th, '62, but with clear **albino** strike of "NASSAU PAID 11 JY, 63" on face (reconstructed at left), on back manuscript "Approved/by command/Brig. Ripley/B.H. Read/Adj."; letter refers to "Flag of Truce" offer from friend to carry letter; letter appears to have been written months before mailing via blockade runner; **ex-Robertson**

Letters between Canada and Southern States during Civil War (1861-1865)



Blockade Mail From North Carolina to Virginia via Halifax



Blowup of back cancel



Back of cover
(reduced)

Envelope contains a 4 page original letter dated July 22, 1864, Camp Price, NC from a soldier to his sister in Portsmouth, VA , which was occupied by Union forces at the time; during the summer of 1864, a yellow fever epidemic swept Bermuda and for several months, a number of blockade runners moved their operations to Halifax, NS. So this particular cover came through Halifax rather than Bermuda or the Bahamas on its way to Virginia; the clear "Halifax Nova Scotia AU 29, 1864" double ring CDS on the back of the envelope validates this occurrence; there are only 5 recorded surviving examples of blockade covers to any destination passing through Halifax in the summer of 1864 making this cover a special item (REF: Greg Marquis, "The Ports of Halifax and St. John and the American Civil War", The Northern Mariner Vol.III, 1-19 (1998). **Ex-Robertson.**

Letters between Canada and Southern States during Civil War (1861-1865)

Blockade Cover to St. John, New Brunswick Via Nassau and New York



United States 1861 3c Rose, used on envelope from the Confederacy via Nassau to New Brunswick, Canada and endorsed "Via New York", cancelled at Nassau by "A05" barred oval with, on reverse, matching neat "Bahamas" double arc date stamp on February 13, 1865, the stamp being additionally tied by large "postage not paid" notation in red crayon, nevertheless with no other charges being shown; interesting example of the scarce Blockade-run mail which shows an infrequently used cancel in transit in Bahamas; 1994 P.F. certificate.

Letters between Canada and Southern States during Civil War (1861-1865)



POW Letter to Canada Sent Under Flag of Truce



Prisoner mail that was carried by Flag-of-Truce had to be put into an unsealed envelope with address and postage for delivery on the other side, then placed in an outer cover for delivery to the exchange point where the outer envelope would be destroyed and the inner envelope containing the prisoner's letter was inspected. The letter would then be placed in and sealed in the stamped addressed envelope and hand-stamped indicating that the item had been inspected. Mail exchange between the divided states was only allowed to cross the lines at specified exchange points. Mail which was going from the South to the North (and Canada) passed through Old Point Comfort, Virginia.

The cover depicted here is the inner envelope originating in the CSA and addressed to Mrs. Lathrop in Montreal. The outer envelope paying CSA postage was discarded at the exchange point; a U.S. silver half dime originally affixed to this cover to pay the U.S. postage, a 3c Rose (US. Scott #65) affixed over the half-dime paste-up and then removed (traces of stamp remain), no U.S. postmarks, endorsed "via Flag of Truce" and pencil "Exd.W (?)" censor notation, "10" due handstamp as the 3c stamp did not pay the rate to Canada, Montreal JA 14, 1864 receiving backstamp, reported to be unique; Flag of Truce covers beyond U.S. are extremely rare (**ex-Steven C. Walske Collection of Civil War Special Routes**)

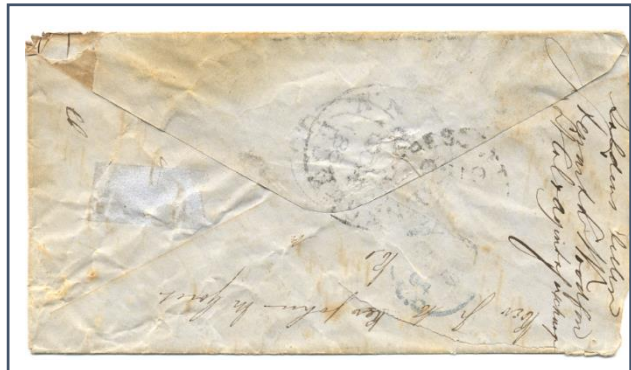
Letters between Canada and Southern States during Civil War (1861-1865)



POW Letter to Canada Sent as Soldiers Letter



Roper Hospital in 1865



Back of cover reduced

This cover was sent on Oct. 6, 1864 by Capt. George C. Gordon, born in Canada and a famous Prisoner of War (POW) who escaped 3 times from Confederate prisons, to Alexander Steele in Picton, C.W.. It was sent from the Roper Hospital prison, Charleston, SC and entered the US mail at Port Royal, SC, at the time under Union control; it crossed the border at Ogdensburgh, NY to Prescott, C.W. (rec'd Oct. 19, 1864), "10" due for Canadian postage; examination manuscript markings on front "Ex a 4"; markings on back include "Soldiers Letter" countersigned by Stewart L. Woodford, Lt. Col., Agent of Exchange) and proper Canadian transit marks.

Confederate Stamp Alliance Certificate #4379. One of 4 known Confederate POW covers sent to Canada (Personal communication: Galen D. Harrison, Civil War POW author, 2003)

Letters between Canada and Southern States during Civil War (1861-1865)

Soldier's Letter to Canada from Occupied Southern City (Vicksburg, MS)



Back of cover (reduced)

This cover was sent from Vicksburg, MI on June 27, 1864 after the famous Siege where the Union army defeated the Confederates and gained control of the Mississippi River; the letter was sent by a Canadian soldier of the 72nd Regiment Illinois Infantry who were on guard duty to his parents in Goderich, C.W.; there are three circled (Due 10) struck in the U.S. and one in Canada indicating the 10c rate to Canada at the time; "Due 3" crossed out with cancel since 3c was only for U.S. destinations; soldier's letter countersigned by Lt. Col. James Stockton; transit backstamp London, U.C., JY 9, 1864, receiving backstamp Goderich, U.C. JUL 11, 1864 and RPO marking GWR East, JY 9, 64

Letters between Canada and Southern States during Civil War (1861-1865)

5e. Letter to Canada Sent Underpaid From Occupied Southern City



Reduced back of cover showing
London, C.W. receiver,
Dated June 6, 1863

Envelope originated in Yorkville, SC on Jun 2 (1863) and has a pair of Scott U.S. #65; it was addressed to London, C.W. and has a receiving handstamp dated "JU 6, 63 only 4 days later; although Yorkville, SC was the sending address apparently the cover went via Union-occupied Port Royal, SC and, even though it was short paid by 4c (10c was the postage to Canada for ½ oz. letter at the time), it made it through the postal systems in record time with no indication of postage due.

Letters between Canada and Southern States during Civil War (1861-1865)

Letter to Canada Sent from Occupied Southern City (New Orleans)



U.S. cover sent at 10c rate (1/2 oz. or less) from New Orleans, LA to Quebec posted August 13, 1864; franked with Scott US #68; sent "Per Steamer via New York"; back receiver dated Quebec, U.C. August 25, 1864; New Orleans was occupied by Union troops at the time so it was a part of the Union postal system.



Cover also sent on June 7 1864 from Union-occupied New Orleans but apparently was overweight and 10c Washington stamp (Sc.#68) was not cancelled nor was credit given. Handstamp indicating double weight postage due of 20c applied in New Orleans and perhaps a second upon arrival in Canada West. Stamp was damaged somewhere along the way.

Other Forms of Communication during the Civil War

Since there was no radio, TV, iPhones, newspapers and magazines were the main source of news; the *Toronto Globe* carried daily stories about the Civil War.



Other Forms of Communication during the Civil War



Sometimes newspapers from cities near the border were carried over and posted; this is a copy of the *Pontiac Pioneer* (Michigan) would give a different slant to the news compared to Canadian newspapers.



Am. A. A. Dorrin,
msr.
Montreal



PONTIAC PIONEER
GENERAL ADVERTISER.
Thursday, April 21, 1865.

OTTAWA NAVIGATION.
 Notwithstanding its length, we cannot resist the temptation of publishing in our sheet, to the exclusion of other matters, the very interesting editorial in the *Ottawa Union* of the 23rd ult., on "The Ottawa Navigation." By this article, our readers will see the superior advantages the Ottawa Canal, if made as to lockage in the proportions given in the above named periodical, would have in all respects over the Lakes and St. Lawrence River and Canal navigation, or over the Lakes, Erie Canal and Hudson River Navigation. The article sets in the office

sils—capacity, 120 tons. The Ottawa is proposed to have 71 locks, each 250 x 50, with 12 feet of water on sils—capacity, 1000 tons.
 It is evident, then, that the Ottawa, as proposed, has four times the capacity of the Welland, two and one-half times of the St. Lawrence, and over eight times that of the Erie Canal.
 Moreover the Welland has its maximum depth of water on its sils, which it is possible to give it for the *grain* traffic, because Lake St. Clair, between Lake Erie and Huron is inaccessible to vessels drawing over 9 feet of water, and therefore it limits the

statement of the *act* required should be placed before the public at once; and, with a proper design for the construction of these works, no difficulty could be experienced in arriving at the utmost dollar it should cost.
 The Grand Trunk Railway has cost [according to the Railway Inspector's report for 1861], with equipment, \$55,690,039 for a length of 1068 miles. Its utmost freight capacity is, during 312 working days, 1,597,600 tons, and that involves the despatch of a freight train every *half hour* of the day and night. How far this is practicable can be easily understood, but, in

to be hung for setting fire to
 in, but that was only a joke
 oing it. I had been drink-
 there with a friend, and to
 I emptied a bottle of phos-
 or. We knew it wouldn't
 od for we had tried it be-
 time concluded to give the
 There was no friendliness
 sitting fire to my four
 the streets all night, and
 shage Hotel early next
 I met there that morning
 it. My friend and I had
 we sat in the office

IN O. 14.

Crossed Flag Illustrated Covers Depicting Friendly US and Canadian Relations

Used in United States



Crossed US and Canadian flags with slogans "*May the Bonds of friendship Never Be Broken*" and "*Cemented by years of friendly intercourse and a common interest*" in brown imprint below design; franked with tied 3c Washington (Sc. #65) along with Watertown Sep 8 1861 CDS to Fall River, Mass. (W-unlisted, Bischel 5648).



Red and blue design crossed UNITED US and Canadian flags with slogans "*God Save the Queen*" and "*Vive L' Amerique*", Hayes cover franked with 3c rose (Sc. #65) tied by blue Hancock, MD addressed to Philadelphia (W-2860).

Buildup of British Forces in BNA During US Civil War



Directly related to the US Civil War and from a fear of the invasion of Canada/BNA by American forces, British Transports packed with troops and war materials were rushed to Canada (the ports of Halifax, Saint John and Rimouski); 5,000 British troops swarmed Halifax, the old defence works of the port were recast and, by 1865, some 60,000 Nova Scotians had been trained for the militia. Both of these soldier's letters were sent during the Civil War time period and thus were probably written by stationed soldiers in these military camps. The special soldier's letter rate was 2c for mail to anywhere in the British empire but had to be endorsed by Commanding Officer.

Halifax, Nova Scotia



Cover franked with a pair of Nova Scotia Sc.#8 and mailed from Halifax to Dublin, Ireland on Feb. 20 1862; it was received in Dublin Mar 5 1862; letter written by private John Wilson of the 2/17 Regiment. The letter was countersigned by Lt. Col. Hardy.

St. John, New Brunswick

Cover franked with a pair of New Brunswick Sc.#6a; reduced at left; tied by two strikes of oval grids, backstamps with St. John, NB Jan 5, 1863 and Halifax receiver JA 7. 1863; endorsed by Corporal and countersigned by Commanding Officer at bottom left.



Buildup of British Forces in BNA During US Civil War

Royal Navy

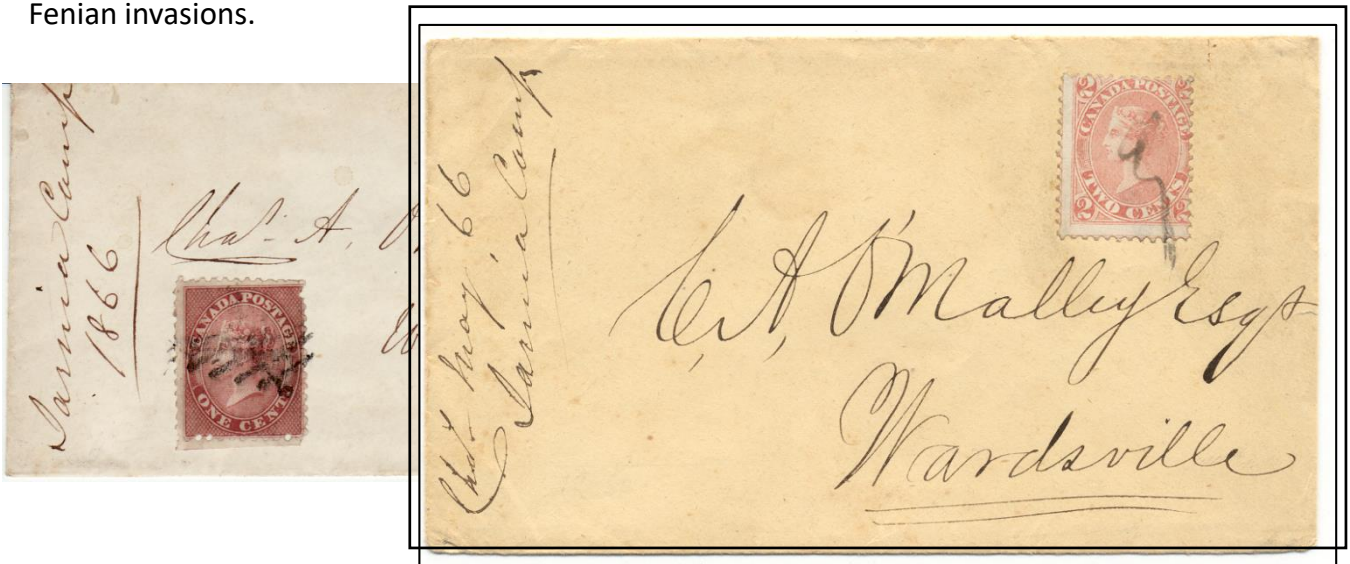


Sailor's Letter from Halifax, NS CANADA. 1861 to Bath, England. 'A94' S.S. Arabia (Cunard). Partly clear ('94' distinct) strike of numeral in oval ties Great Britain 1 p. red on small cover with blue-trimmed scalloped flaps to Bath, England, concessionary rate with endorsement 'From James Young, Yeoman of Signals, H.M.S. Mersey, Halifax, Nova Scotia, 1861, (signed) Commanding Officer', Bath backstamp (Nov. 11, 1861). Very Fine, a significant and very rare Atlantic mail boat usage - this was the S.S. Arabia's 58th. Return transatlantic crossing, and this cover confirms that the Arabia had been allocated 'A94' as well as 'A92' and 'A98' numerals (three different mail clerks served on this ship).

Post-Civil War Letters Sent within Canada Involving Canadian Militia During Time of Fenian Invasion (1865-1868)

Just after the end of the Civil War, there was a movement within the Northern soldiers of Irish descent (Fenian Brotherhood) to invade Canada. These seasoned soldiers were well trained and well armed (Union soldiers were permitted to keep their arms after the war). Although the American government was not directly involved, the Fenians were basically ignored. In fact, a number of Americans including high government officials were angry at the British for supplying the Confederate Navy with ships, for blockade running support, for harboring Confederate operatives and still believing in *The Manifest Destiny*. It all came to a head when the Fenians planned an attack on Campobello Island in New Brunswick (April, 1866) but a strong show of British forces discouraged them. Later, the attacks at Ridgeway and Ft. Eire (both on June 2, 1866) were more successful against untrained Canadian militia. A number of Fenians and Canadians were killed in the skirmishes that followed. After the US government got involved, the movement floundered. It is thought that the Fenian invasion accelerated Confederation.

The Canadian covers shown here are from the timeframe of the planning and execution of the Fenian invasions.



Two above letters to Capt. O'Malley from the Sarnia camp in 1866. The left cover was sent at the 1c unsealed circular rate while the soldier's rate cover with a 2c Victoria had an enclosure dated May 7, 1866 just 3 weeks before the invasion of Ft. Eire.

This letter posted on JU 12 1866 sent to a Sergeant in a Military Hospital in St. Catharines just after the Battle of Ridgeway of the Fenian invasion; St. Catharines was a base for the Canadian militia. Perhaps this soldier was wounded in the battle.

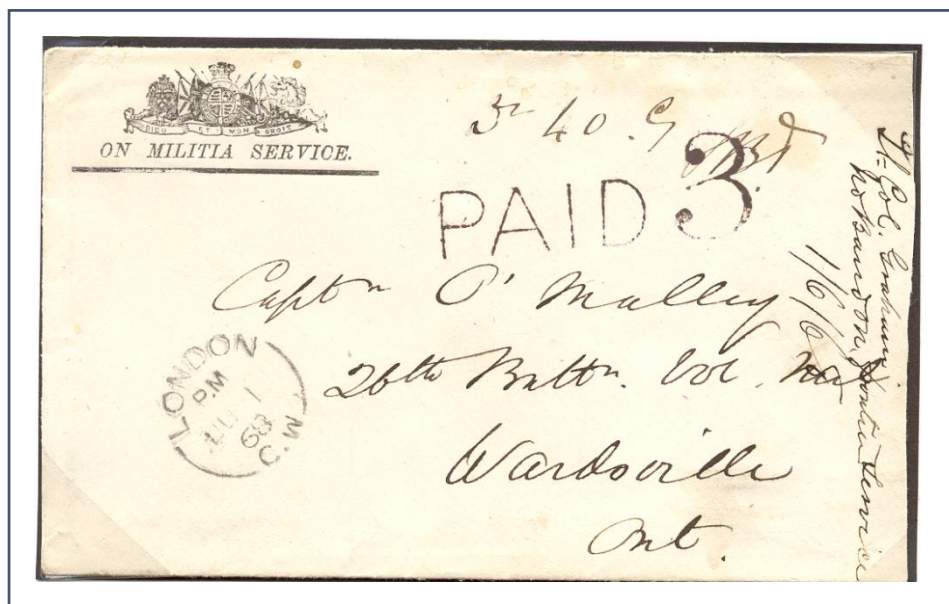


Post-Civil War Letters Sent within Canada Involving Canadian Militia During Time of Fenian Invasion (1865-1868)

Less successful Fenian Brotherhood attacks along the Canadian border continued up until 1870 especially along the Quebec-Vermont frontier but these proved fruitless.

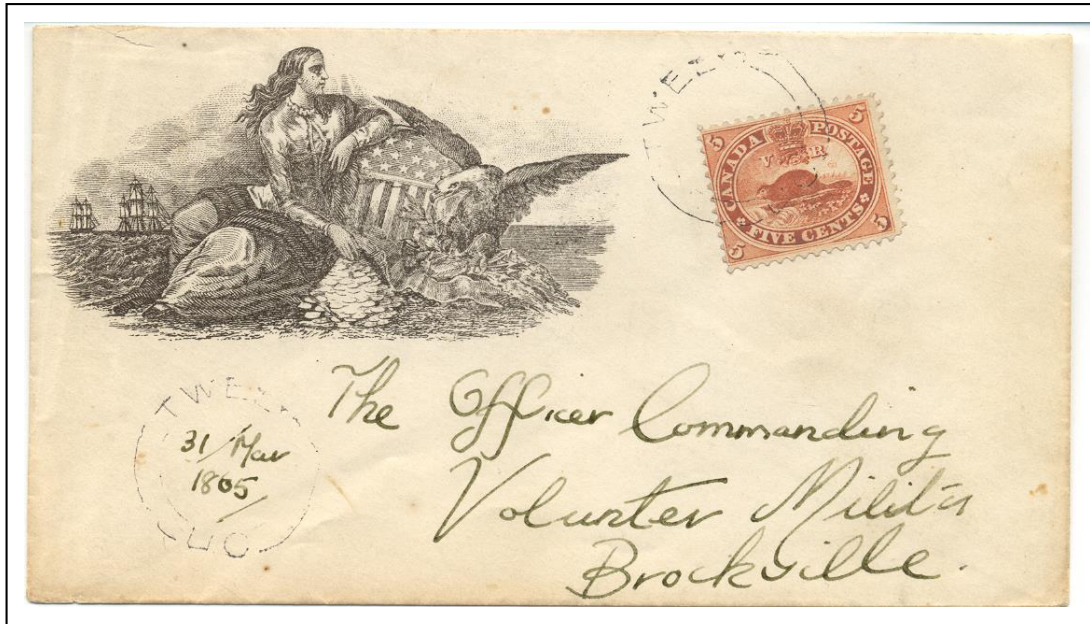


On Militia Service military letter sent from Prescott, C.E. on SP 13 (18)66 to The Officer Commanding, Volunteer Militia, Almonte Infantry Company, Almonte, C.W.; endorsed by Colonel at the Brockville Barracks on Sept 12, 1866.



On Militia Service stampless military letter to Capt. O'Malley, 26th Battalion Volunteer Militia endorsed by Lt. Col. Graham Nr. Brandon on Frontier Service; posted June 1, 1868 just into the Large Queen period.

Civil War Letters Sent within Canada Involving Canadian Militia During Time of Fenian Invasions (1865-1868)



U.S.Civil war patriotic cover with Illustration showing sitting maiden with coins, flag, and eagle with sailing ships on the sea in the background (W-unlisted); 5c Beaver tied with Tweed, UC double ring CDS dated with manuscript March 31, 1865 just a month before the Civil War began to tone down; a military cover to a Volunteer Militia Officer a year before the Fenian raid on Ridgeway, CW.



An 1865 Railway Cover ornately lettered "Brockville and Ottawa Railway" franked with 5c Beaver paying domestic rate for a letter weighing less than ½ oz. Sent from Brockville, C.W. to Ottawa; JU 16 (18)65 Ottawa receiver; addressed to Col. Coffin, Ordnance Lands Agent.