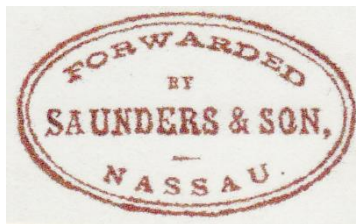
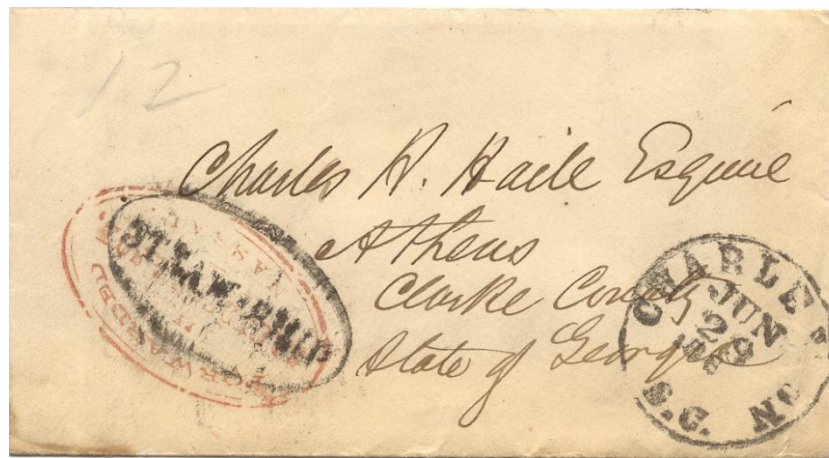


Canada/British No. America (BNA)--Confederate Postal Correspondence during the US Civil War (1861-1865)



**Ron Majors' Presentation
The Philatelic Gathering
Oct. 21, 2023**

Canada's First Cents (Decimal) Issue 1859-1868



→ U.S. Civil War 1861-1865 ←

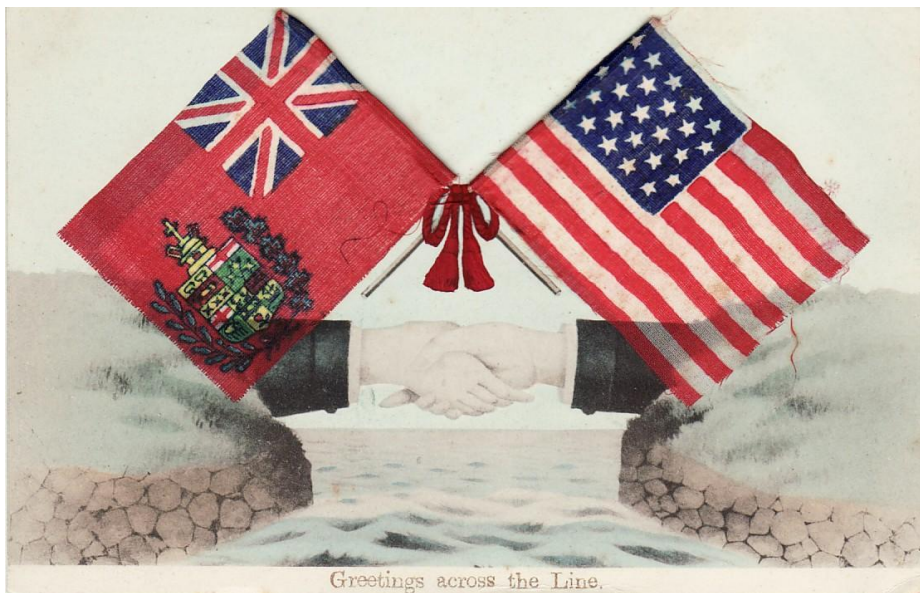
Chronological Events Influencing Canada's Civil War Involvement

<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 Coasts
May 31, 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

Postal Routes from/to Confederacy & Canada/BNA*

1. Secession Period-Union Mail System Still In Use Until May 31, 1861
2. Smuggler or Hand-carried enterprises
3. Blockade Runner Routes between Confederacy and West Indies ports, mainly Nassau, Bahamas & Hamilton, Bermuda
4. Flag of Truce Routes
5. Blockade Runner Routes through Halifax Nova Scotia, summer of 1864 only.
6. Prisoner of War via Union-controlled Post Office
7. Route via Scotland to West Indies (not covered by Walske)
8. Express Routes-I have not found any covers with Confederate Express mail handstamps or labels to/from Canada during Civil War
9. Other Routes cited by Walske such as Trans-Rio Grande and Trans-Mississippi Routes weren't used for Canadian mail

* Adapted from Steven C. Walske Collection of Special Mail Routes of American Civil War, Siegel Auctions, May 27, 2010

Examples of routes 1-7 from Canada/BNA and Confederacy are shown in my presentation.



Dates of Secession and Admission to Confederacy

State	Ordinance of Secession 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 Secession Passed and Admitted to Confederacy is termed “**Independent State Usage**”

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



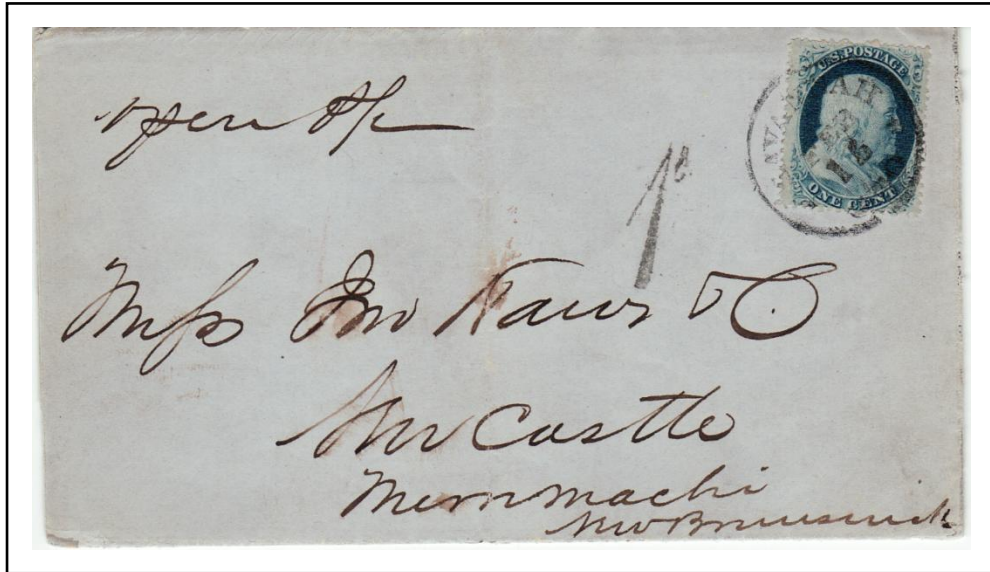
Reduced
back of
cover

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 31 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.

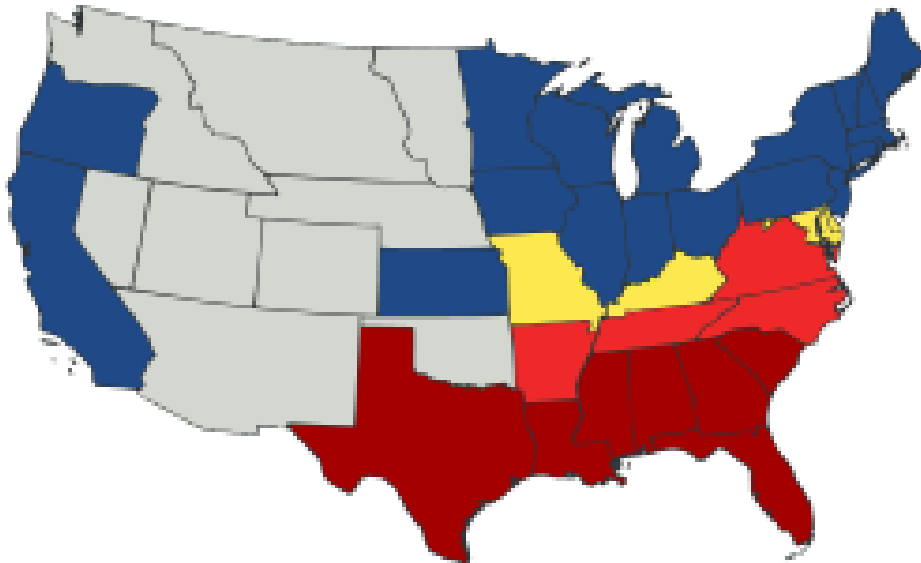
Ex-Cantey and Felton.


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

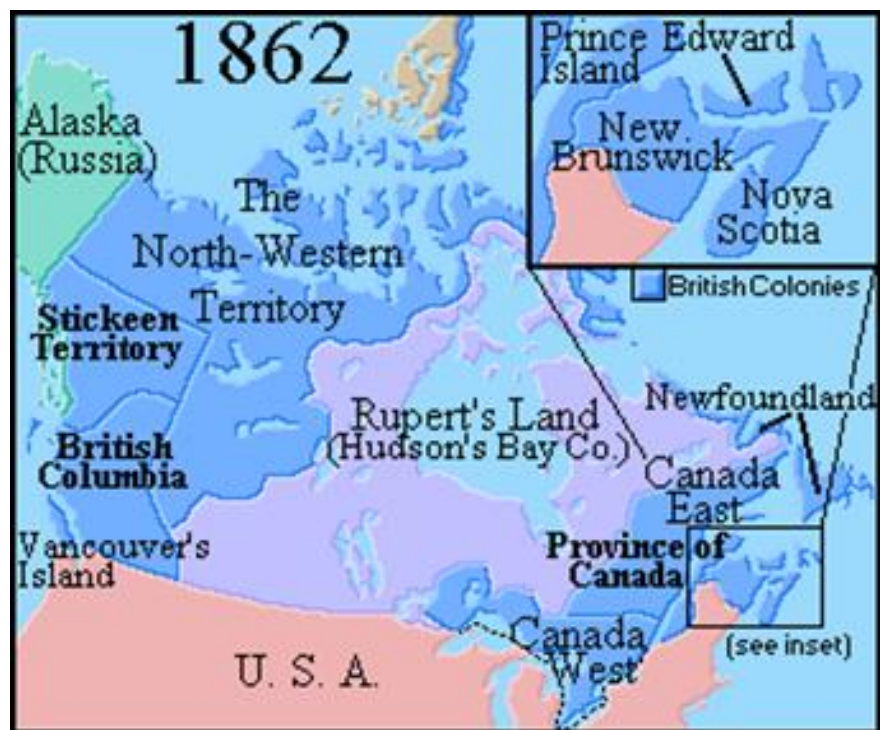
 Union states that permitted slavery

 Union states that banned slavery

 Territories

Canada

Pre-Confederation Geography

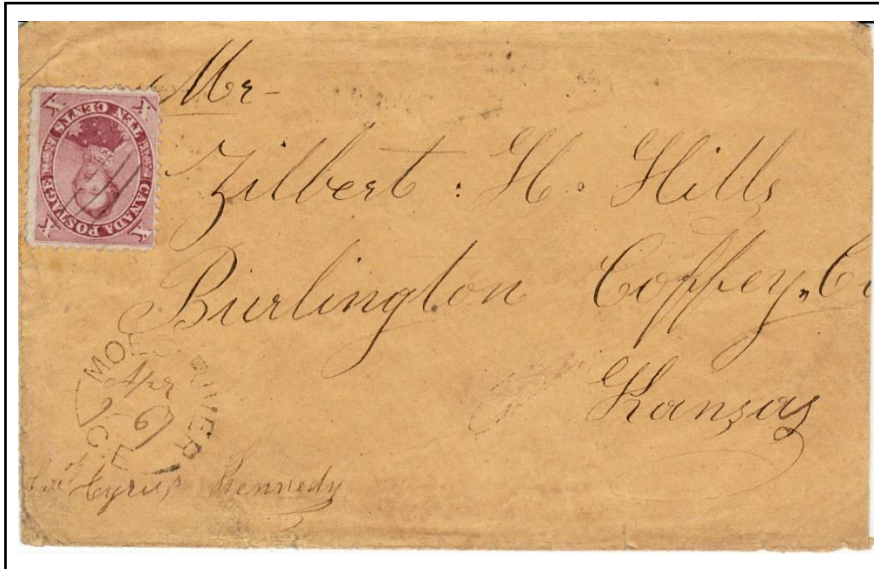


Outline of Postal Correspondence to/from Canada/BNA-U.S.

- **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**
- ~~• Post-Civil War~~

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



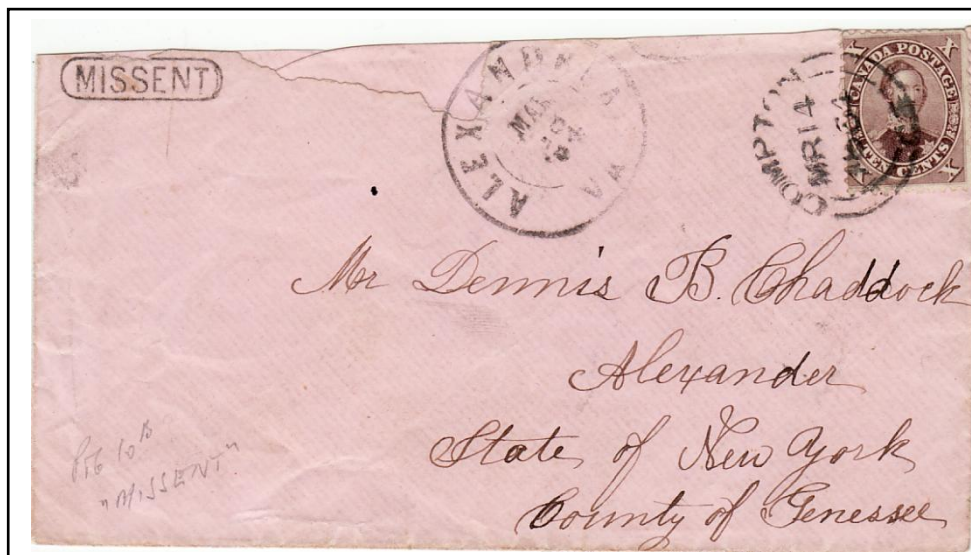
Left: this cover was short paid since the rate from Canada to the US was 10c per ½ oz.; rated 10c due and no credit given for 6c worth of stamps. Sent from Toronto to Henderson, KY in April, 1865. Below: proper 10c payment to Keene, KY from Drummondville, U.C. SP 4 1861.

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.

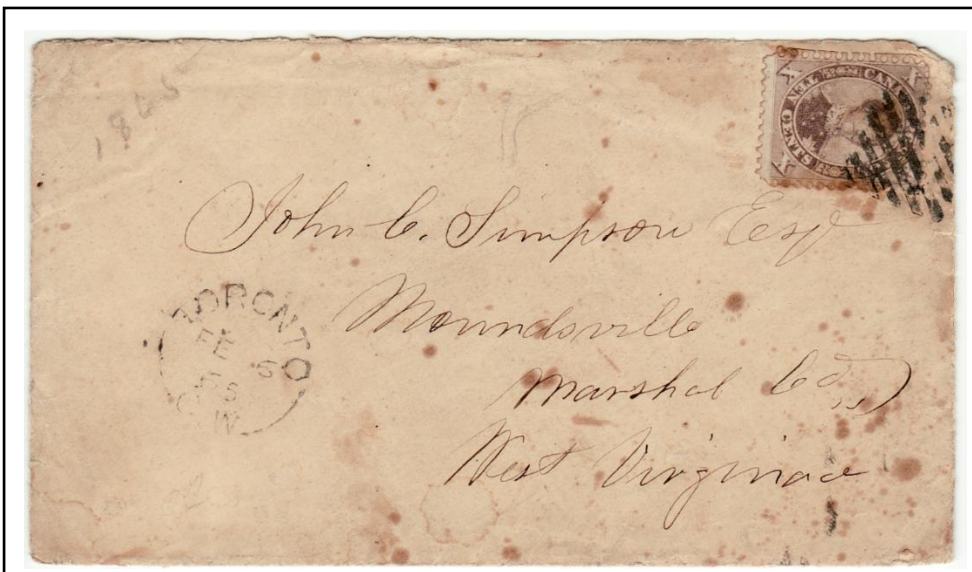
Virginia



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.

Cross Border Mail During CW (1861-1865)

Military Mail Canada/BNA to Union

Over 15,000 young men, mostly from Northern States, left for Canada after they were drafted or in order to avoid draft. Most were able to get jobs in Canada and Canada had no laws for extradition to US. Many letters were written to loved ones. Following 4 covers are examples. Deserters longed to be back home but knew they could be arrested or subject to draft. 217 Northern deserters were executed. However, desertion was sometimes treated differently in those days. A soldier might leave his regiment to go home to harvest crops and then return to his unit when finished.

Letters from Draft Dodgers in Canada to Home Folks



All three letters are franked with 10c worth of stamps paying single letter rate to U.S. Two letters (top and bottom above) written in 1864 from same young man, residing in Brantford, C.W., and doing farm work to earn a living. In his letters 9 (to NY) he talks about other **skedaddlers** (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 draft if he returns. Middle letter (at left to PA) also contains a letter from deserter who expresses similar sentiments.

Mother is the Battle Over?

**CAN I COME HOME
FROM CANADA?**

OR

THE B. J's LAMENT.

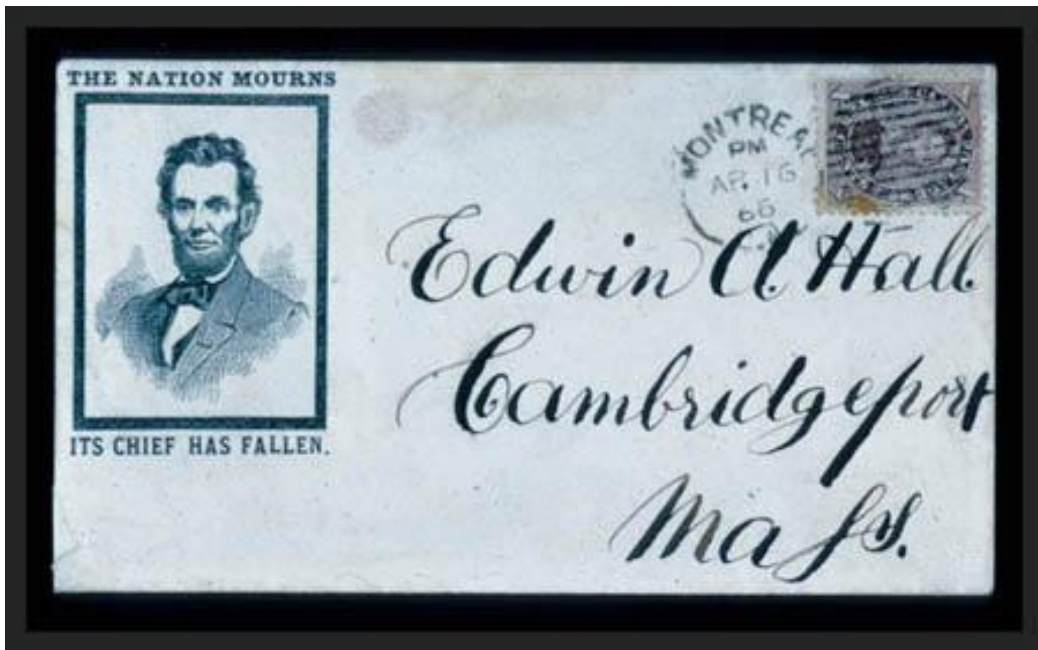
Words and Music by S. W. Turner.

— (3) —

DETROIT:

Published by J. Henry Whittemore, 179 Jefferson Ave.

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

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

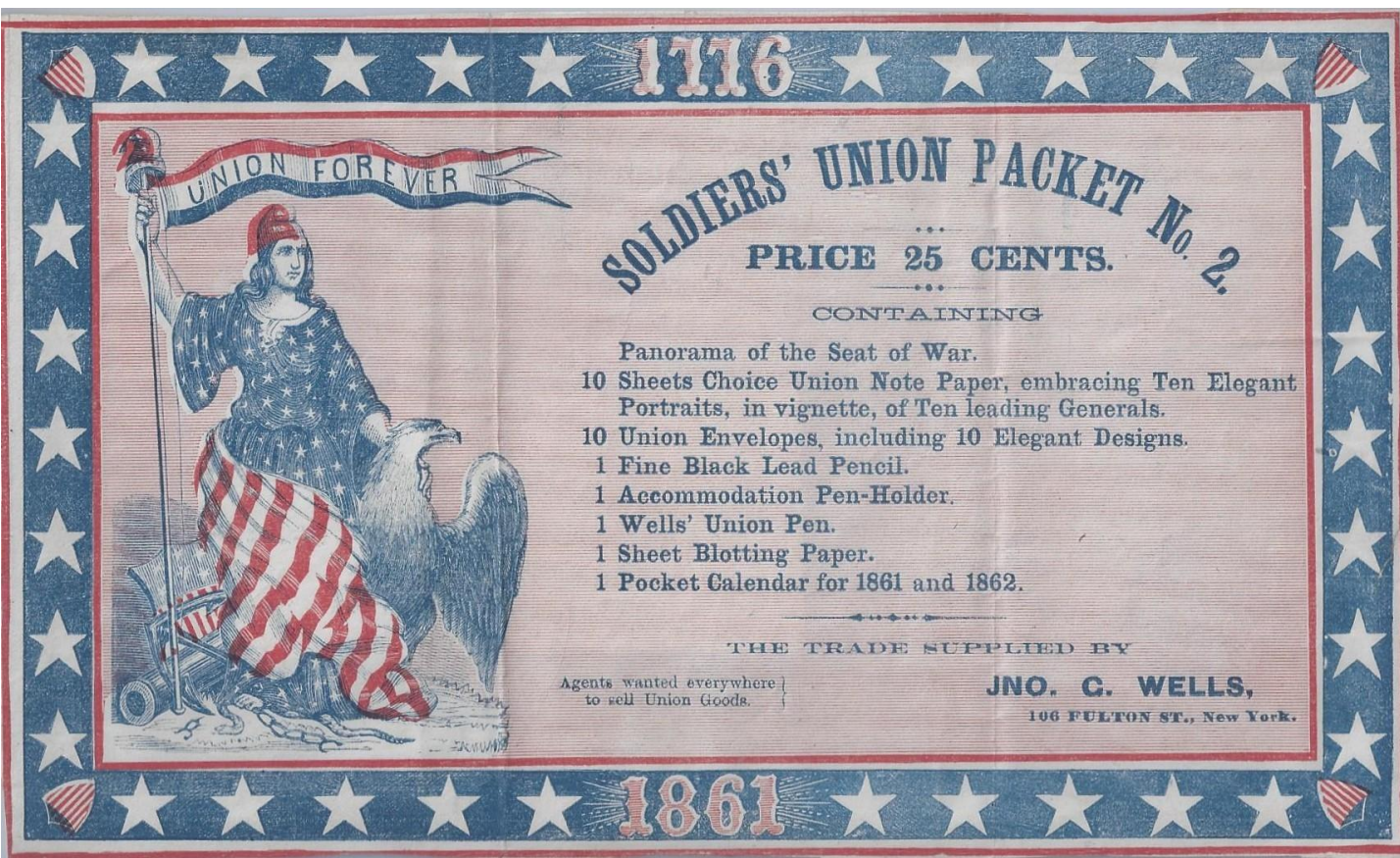
Soldier's Letters

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.

Box Top from Soldier's Writing "Kit"



From earliest days of CW, designs appeared on envelopes publicly sold that expressed sentiments of patriotism and/or negative caricatures-like opinions of enemy, or some other related subject. This type of postal expression had never been used to any extent prior to CW. Patriotic themes on envelopes were used sparingly prior to 1861 usually in connection with political campaigns but limited in scope & intent.

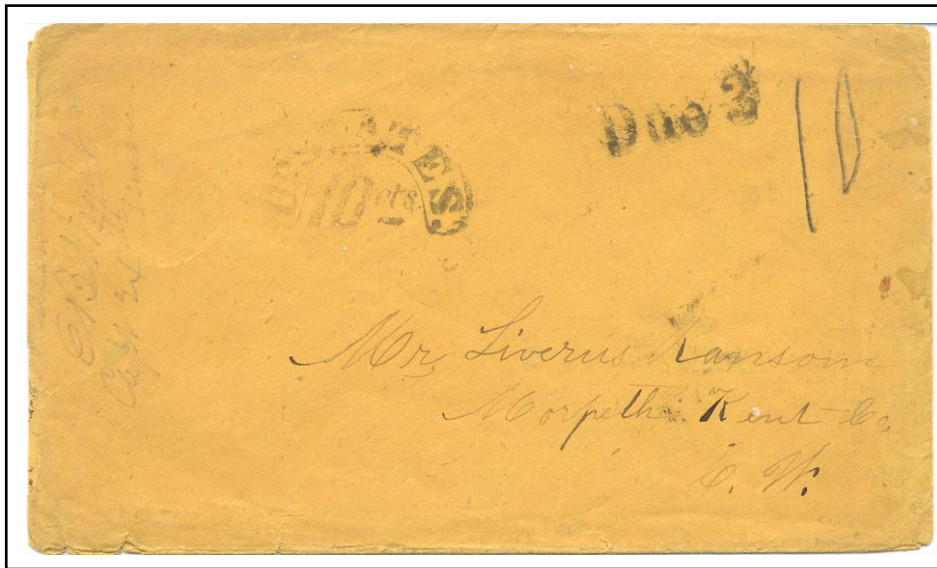
Users of patriotic-theme envelopes could, depending on design one chose to mail, express a wide variety of sentiments that appealed to average citizens during this turbulent period. Practice spread widely & quickly, creating demand. Many publishers entered into growing field. At least 200 companies, mostly based in North.

- Over 7500 different designs were reported (Bischel Sale, Nutmeg Stamp Auctions, June, 2000). Patriotics became a "hot" collecting area, even during CW. A few patriotic envelopes were carried across border and used in Canada & sent domestically, cross border and to overseas destinations. These are quite scarce.
- There are **no reported Confederate patriotics to/from Canada during CW** (ref. private communications with Confederate experts: Trish Kauffman, Brian Green and John L. Kimbrough)

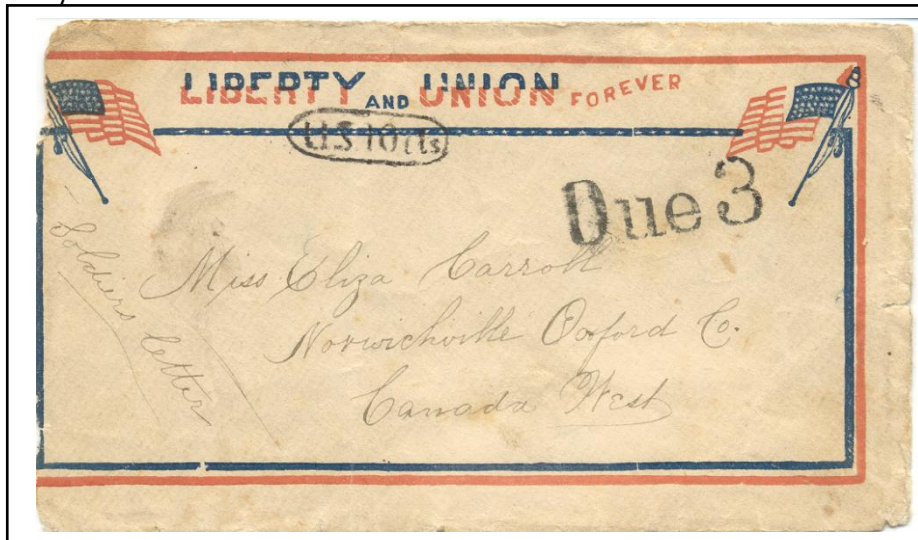
Field Post Offices During U.S. Civil War



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



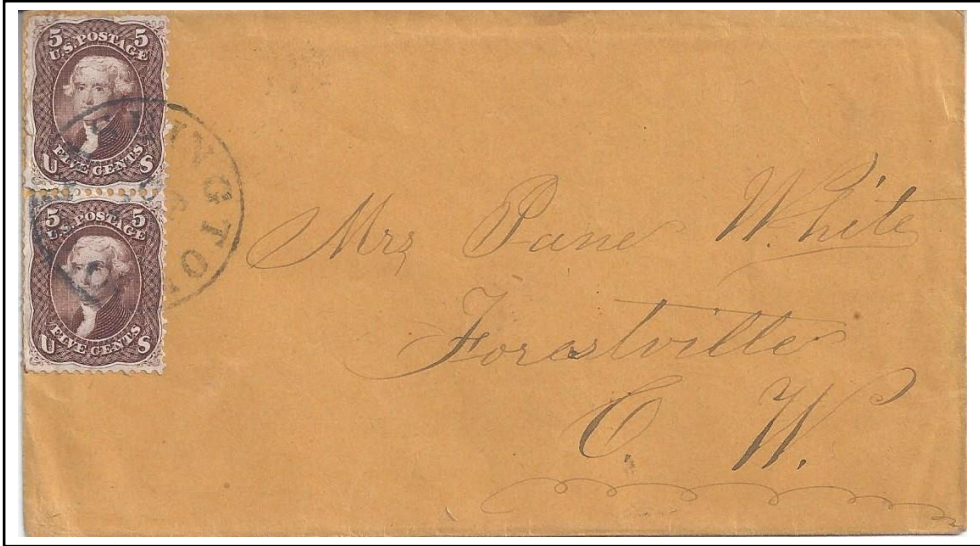
Soldier's Letter sent to Morpeth, U.C. Although there is no indication of the mailing location or the date, the letter arrived in Morpeth on JU 18 1863; also a Chatham, U.C. transit on back in black; properly endorsed by Capt. E.B. Wight of the Army of the Potomac, 24th Michigan Volunteers (famous Iron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

Cross Border Mail During CW (1861-1865)
Military Mail South to Canada/BNA

Camp Near Culpeper, VA



Pair 5c Brown Jeffersons tied "Washington D.C. Oct. 1?" CDS; enclosed letter datelined "Camp Near Culpeper Va. Oct. 8th 1863", Army of Potomac soldier to mother, transit and receiving backstamps.

Culpeper was a focal point of war due to location between Washington and Richmond, permanent Union occupation in late 1863, shortly after this letter was sent.

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

Soldier from Camp Clara Virginia



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.

Military 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

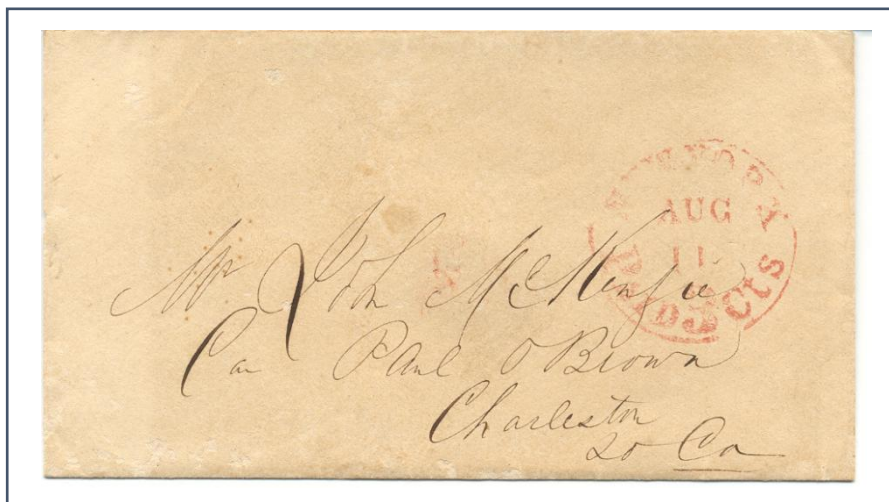
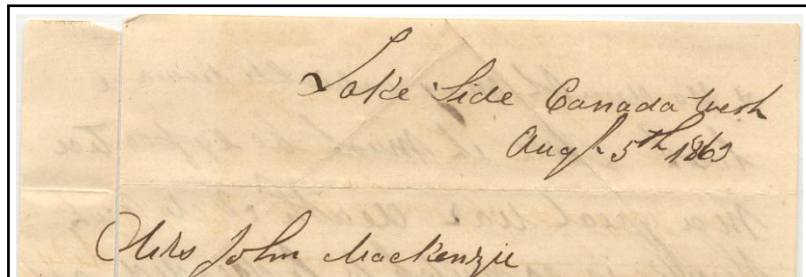
This cover was sent on Oct. 6, 1864 by Capt. George C. Gordon, born in Canada and a famous Prisoner of War (POW) who escaped 3 times from Confederate prisons, to Alexander Steele in Picton, C.W.. It was sent from the Roper Hospital prison, Charleston, SC and entered the US mail at Port Royal, SC, at 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)

Civilian Letters from Canada to **Southern States** during Civil War (1861-1865)

This portion of talk will further 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

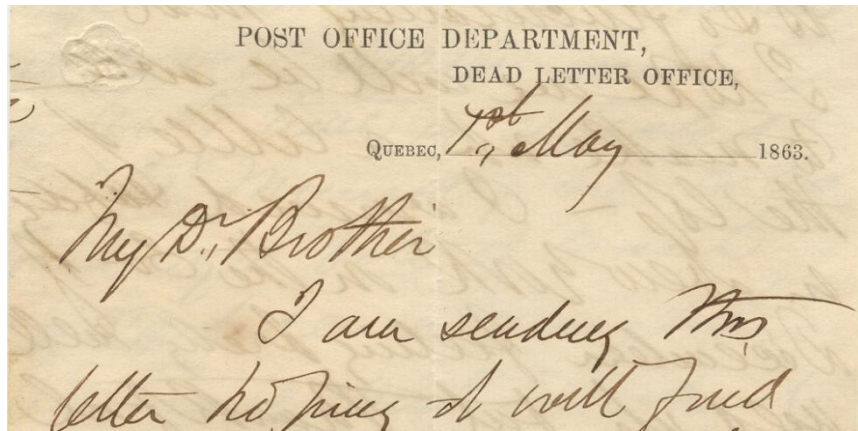


This unfranked envelope with original content letter datelined "Lake Side Canada West, August 5, 1863 to Charleston, South Carolina showing "NY PAID 3 cts AUG 11" CDS in red, privately carried to New York, paid for and placed in the post, sent to either Bryantown or Charlotte Hill P.O. in Maryland where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

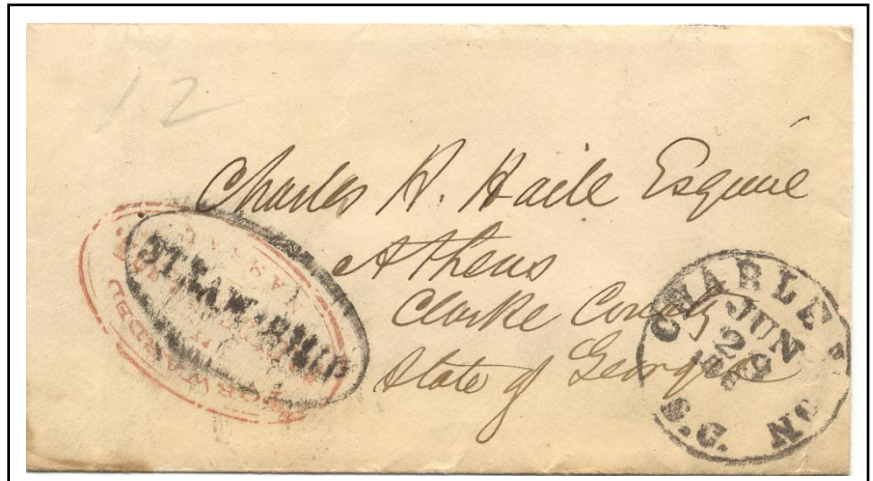
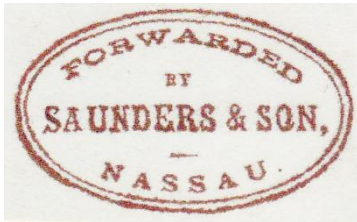
Contents refers to "horrors of war" and "difficulty in sending private letters to the South", **ex-Robertson**

Civilian Letters from Canada to Southern States during Civil War (1861-1865)

Canada to Georgia, Blockade Mail via Nassau



(excerpt of original letter)

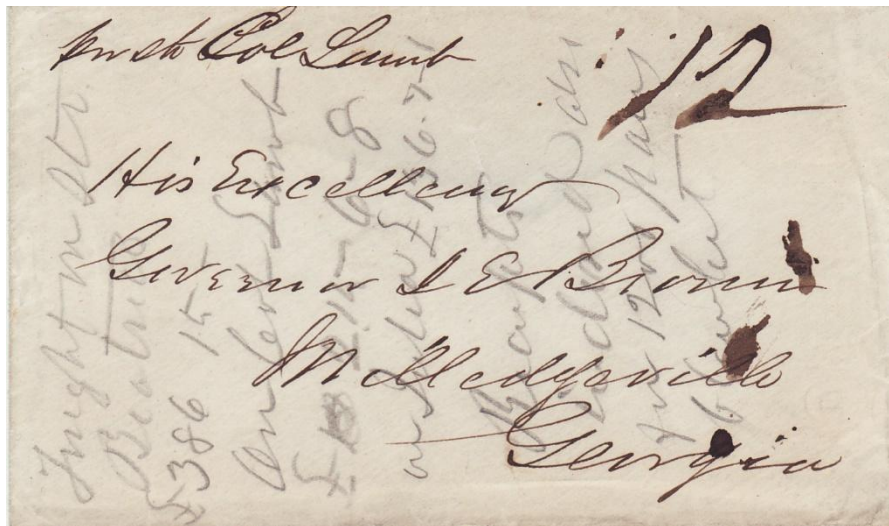


This letter originated at the Post Office Dead Letter Office in Quebec on 1st May, 1863. A private letter to a brother in Athens, Georgia. At this point of the War, the Union held a tight blockade on all Southern Ports; thus letters were carried in and out via blockade runners, usually operating out 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**)

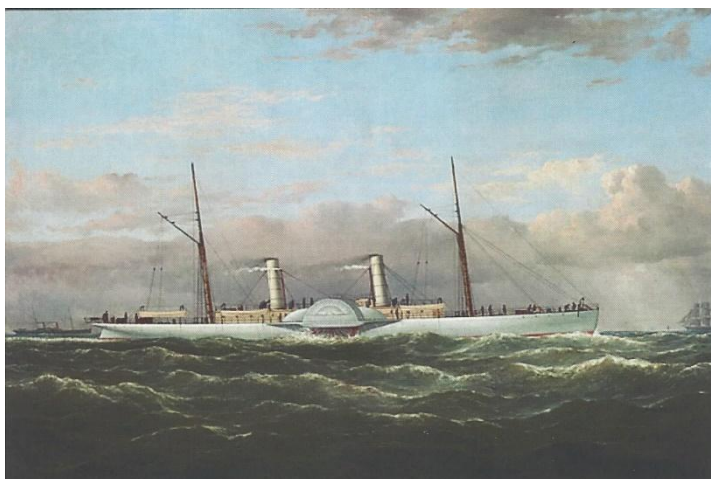
Until recently, it was the only reported blockade cover from Canada to the Confederacy during the Civil War (Bill Longley, 2008)

Civilian Letters from Canada to Southern States during Civil War (1861-1865)

Blockade Cover from Halifax to Governor of Georgia, 1864



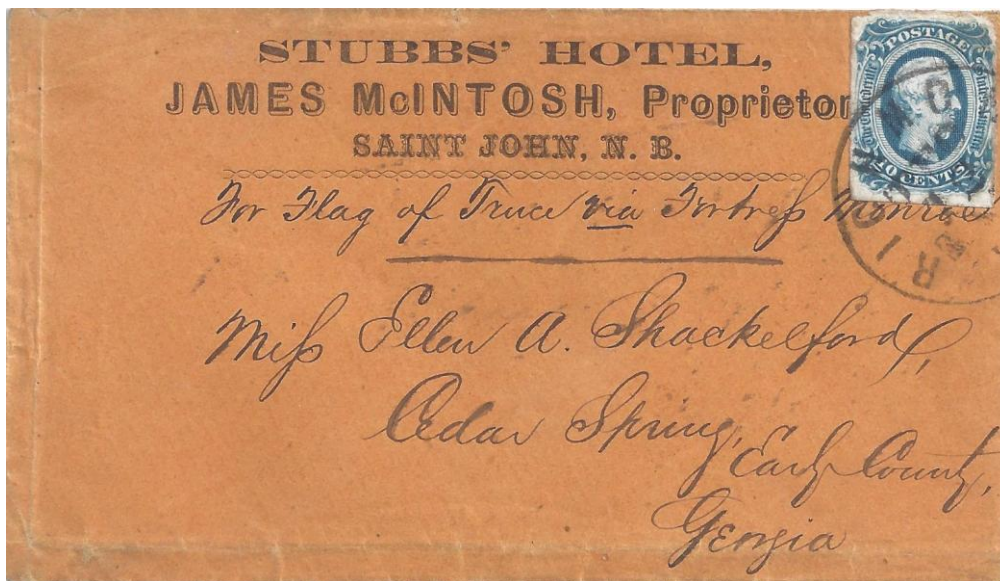
**The Confederate Blockade Runner CSS Colonel
Lamb at Sea, 1864 (painting by Samuel Walters)**



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.

Civilian/Military Letter from BNA to Southern States during Civil War (1861-1865)

Flag-of-Truce Cover from New Brunswick to Georgia



Flag-of-Truce mail was special way for mail to cross border, but a difficult process; original addressed envelope placed inside of franked 2nd envelope which was also posted to final Confederate destination, but it actually went through exchange point office. Inner envelope either required Confederate stamp or the equivalent in coin glued to envelope to pay correct postage. Outside envelope was discarded at exchange office & contents examined to make sure that no secret messages or other war material was enclosed. The inner envelope, after clearing & franking, was placed in Confederate mail system and delivered to addressee.

Here, Confederate franked inside letter was sent by Confederate Navy Lieut. Gift to future wife in Georgia. Gift was a pseudonym since Officer Gift was on a secret mission along with other Confederate officers to raid Federal Prison at Johnson's Island near Sandusky Ohio on Lake Erie. The mission failed. Exchange point of letter was Fortress Monroe and Richmond, VA where stamp was cancelled with a Richmond CDS Dec 12 1863. An original letter (I have a copy) resides at Univ. North Carolina, Special Collections Library.

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

New Orleans Bound Letter from Ship- Wrecked Vessel (*North Briton*) in Gulf of St. Lawrence near Labrador

(only known cover recovered from wreck)



Reduced back of cover

1861, NORTH BRITON: Prepaid envelope from "QUEBEC NO 1 1861" with straight-line "6d Paid 7½Cy" to New Orleans, sent via Liverpool to beat the Civil War blockade, departed from Quebec but wrecked on the Mingan Islands in Labrador during a storm on 5th November with total loss but no casualties. Put on the following steamship "Anglo Saxon" and arrived in Liverpool 23rd November. Transferred to "Africa", the only known cover from this wreck.

Owner: Montreal Ocean Steamship Co. ("Allan Line").

Voyage: Quebec→Liverpool

Wrecked: Mingan Islands, Gulf of St. Lawrence. Struck rocks off Parroquet Island in a storm; ship was total loss. Casualties: 0

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

Mail from Canada to Union-Occupied Southern Cities

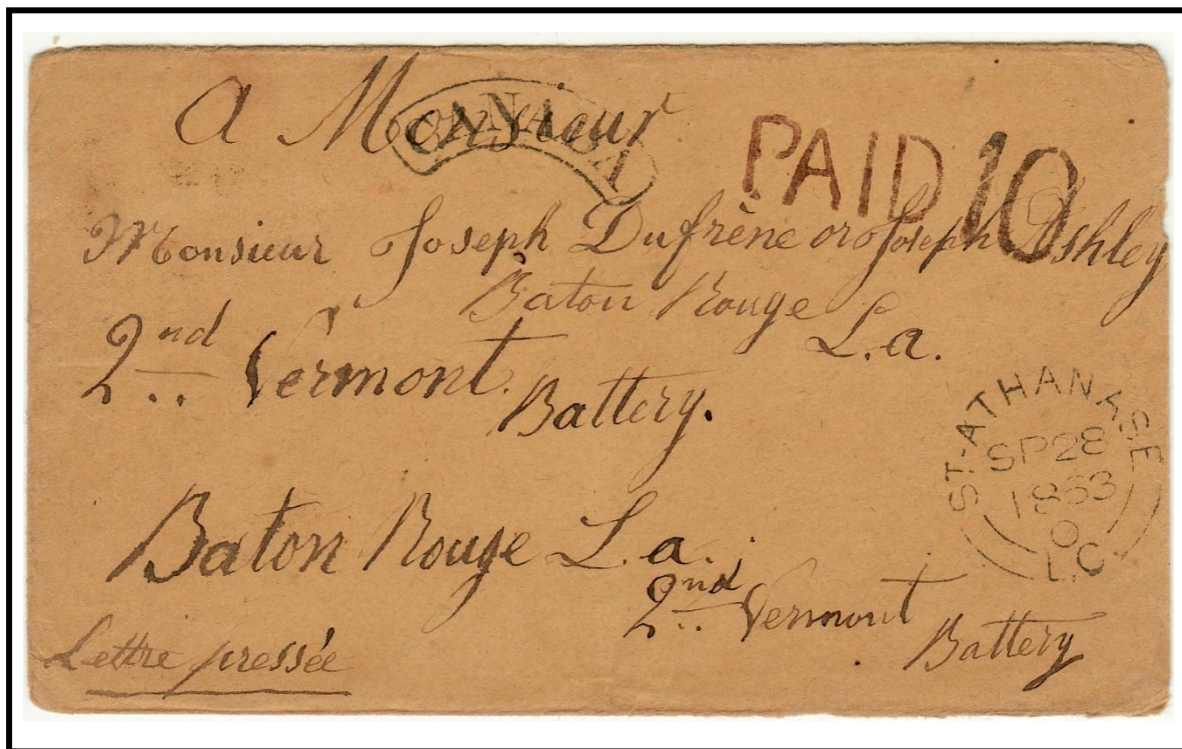
New Orleans



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.

Military Letters from Canada to Southern States during Civil War (1861-1865)

Mail from Canada to Union-Occupied Southern Cities



Reduced

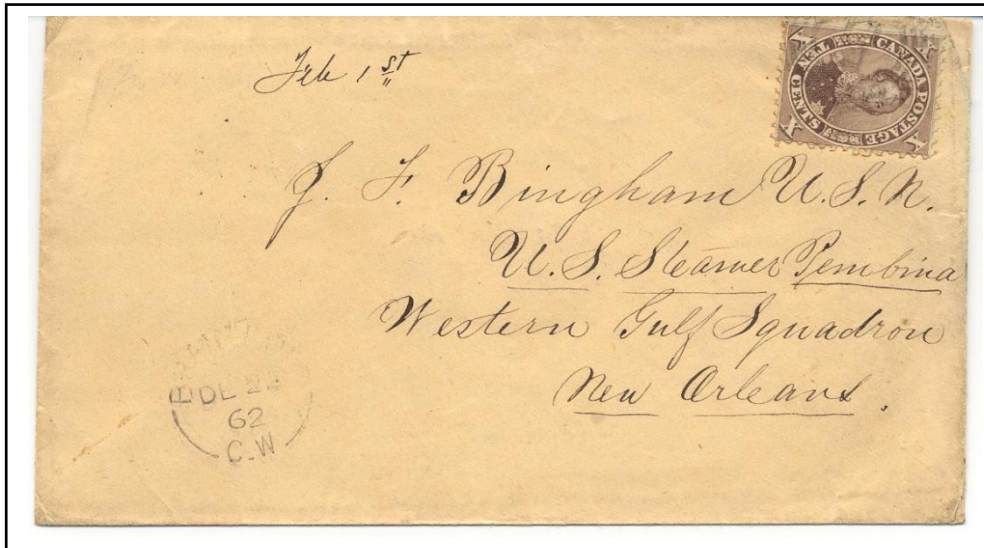


St. Johns, C.E. (Sep.23, 63, backstamped CDS) to Baton Rouge, LA via Cairo, orange buff cover with St. Athanase, L.C. transit stamp (SP 28, 1863. Red "PAID 10" rating handstamp, framed arc "CANADA". Addressed to Joseph Dufrene of the 2nd Vermont Battery, reverse with "Received at Cairo, Ill., Oct. 3, 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 against slavery.

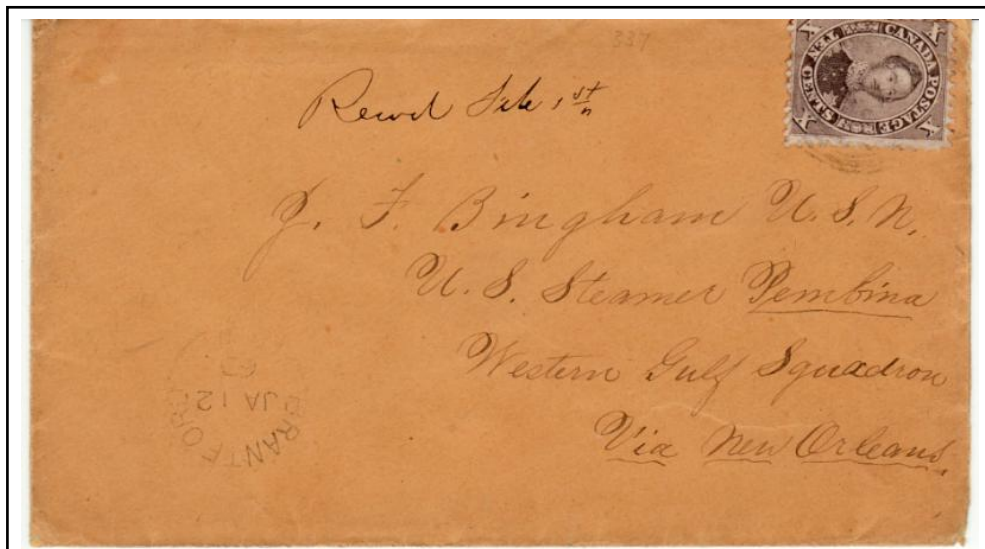
Military Letters from Canada to Southern States during Civil War (1861-1865)

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



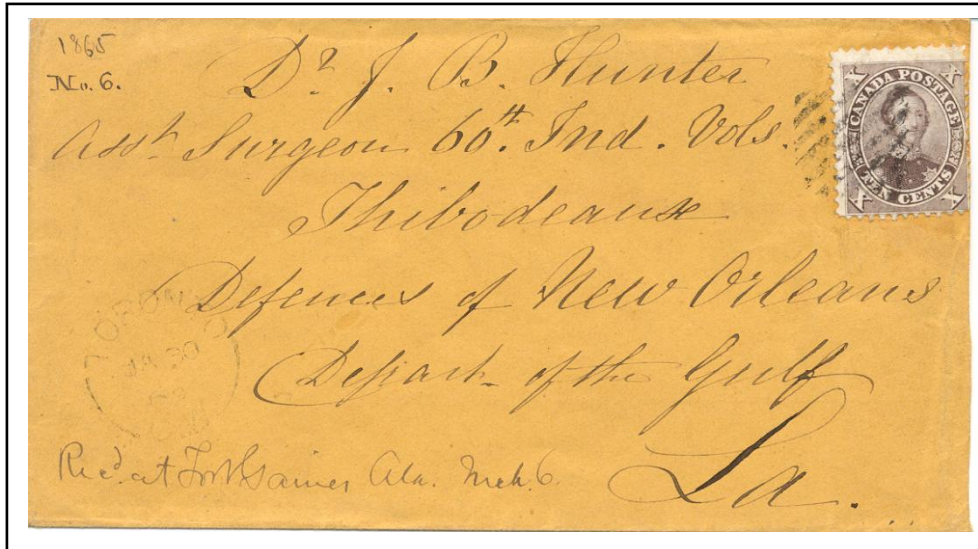
Posted:
Jan. 12, 1863
Received:
Feb. 1, 1863

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 April 25, 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.

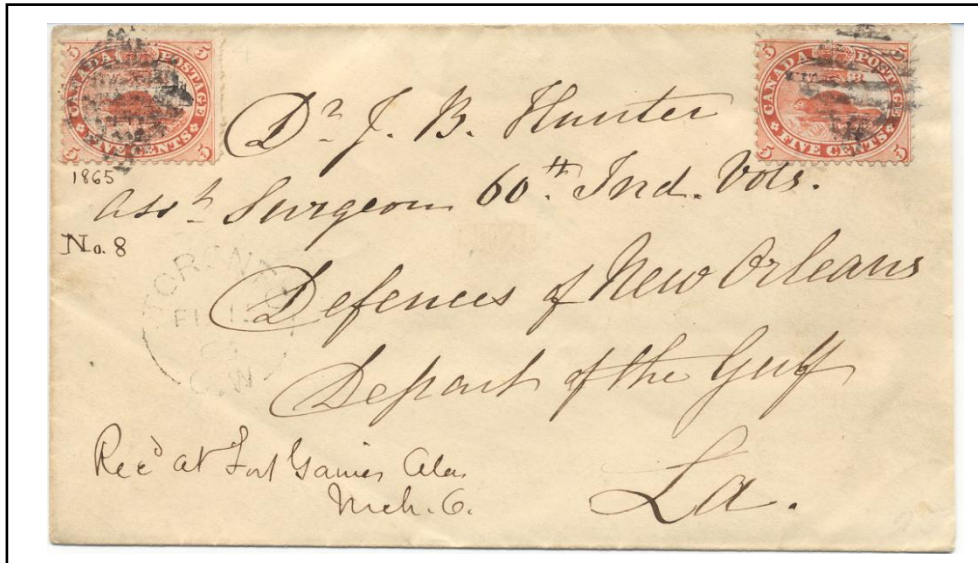
Military Letters from Canada to Southern States during Civil War (1861-1865)

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

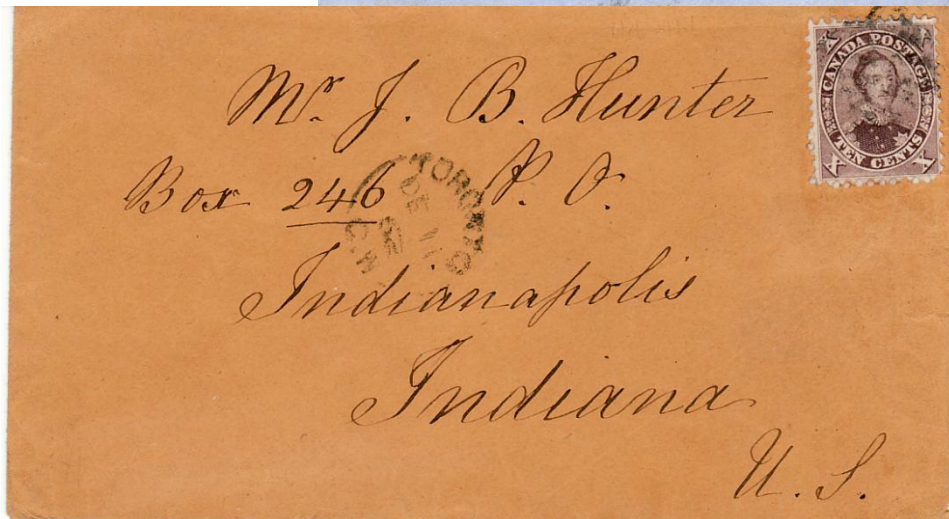
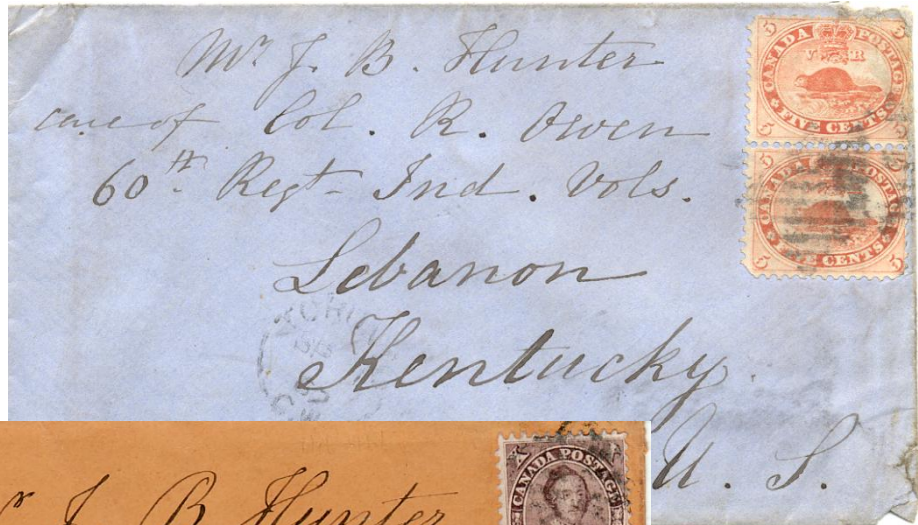
Dr. James Bradbridge Hunter (Dr. J.B. Hunter, born 1838) was an assistant surgeon in the 60th Indiana Volunteers and as might be expected, he moved around with his unit as the Union Army moved throughout the South. Over the years, I have been able to obtain envelopes from different mailing addresses 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.

Military Letters from Canada to Southern States during Civil War (1861-1865)

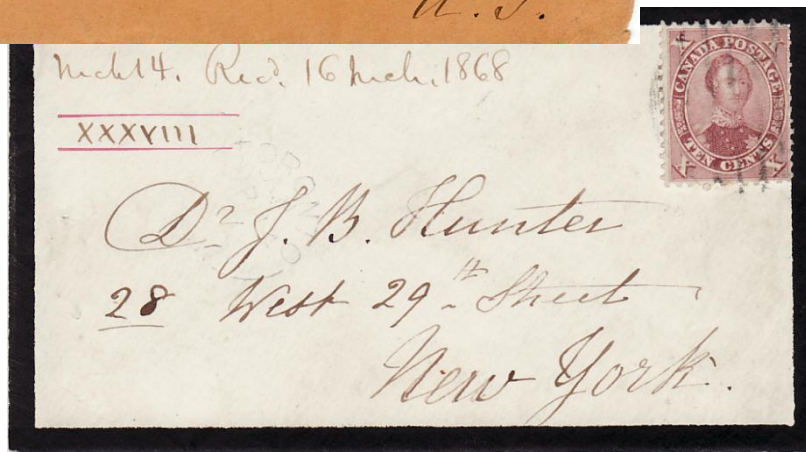
5e. Mail from Canada to Union-Occupied Southern Cities

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)

Military Letters from Canada to 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 charged 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.

Military Letters from Canada to Southern States during Civil War (1861-1865)

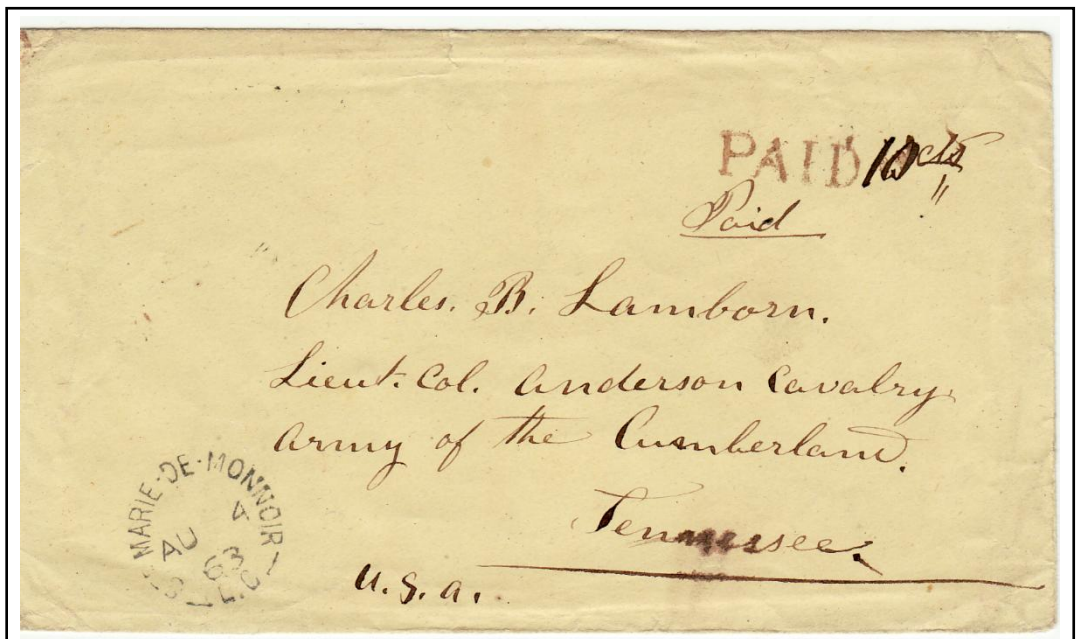
Mail from Canada to Union-Occupied Southern Cities

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 Calvary, 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.

Military Letters to Canada from 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

Military Letters to Canada from Southern States during Civil War (1861-1865)

Prisoner-of-War Cover from Ft. Delaware to St. John, New Brunswick



Four Washington 3¢ stamps overpaid postage to New Brunswick by 2¢. Tied
by Delaware City, Del., Oct 10 '64 duplex datestamp.

Endorsed at left "T. J. Prichett", cover unsealed for censor, "Prisoner's Letter, Fort Delaware, Del. Examined" censor's oval handstamp (Ty. I, known Apr.-Oct. 1864), four singles of 3c Rose (65), one with natural straight edge, overpay 10c rate to British North America by 2c, stamps tied by "Delaware City Del. Oct. 10" (1864) duplex datestamp and target cancels, red "U States" cross-border handstamp and "St. John N.B. OC 14, 1864" receiving backstamp, with original letter from Capt. T. J. Prichett of the 64th Ga. Volunteers, regarding a request for money.

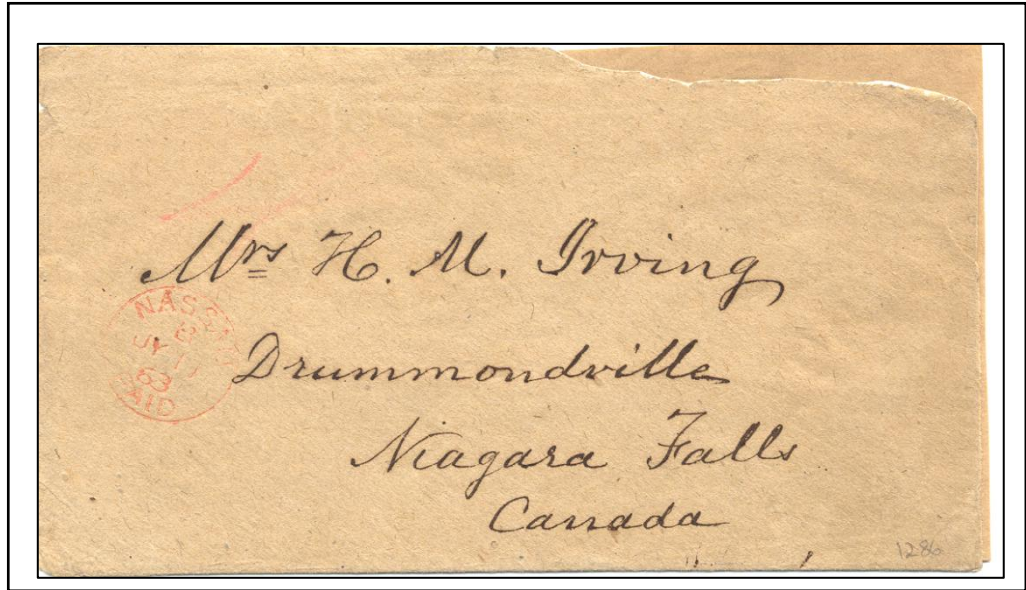
ONE OF ONLY 3 P.O.W. covers to BNA.

Thomas J. Prichett was commissioned as an officer in Company B, Georgia 64th Infantry Regiment, on April 8, 1863. His letter is addressed to R. R. Bearden, who was employed by the British firm of S. Isaac Campbell & Co., which supplied vast amounts of materials to the C.S.A. during the war. They also operated some of the most enterprising blockade-runners during the war, delivering loads of supplies to the C.S.A. and returning to Europe with cotton. Only a handful of prisoners' covers are known addressed beyond the United States -- this is certainly among the most spectacular.

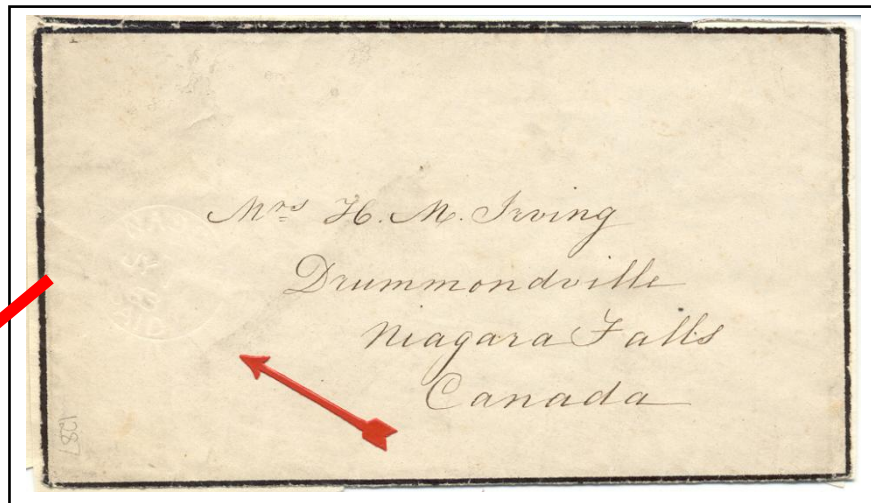
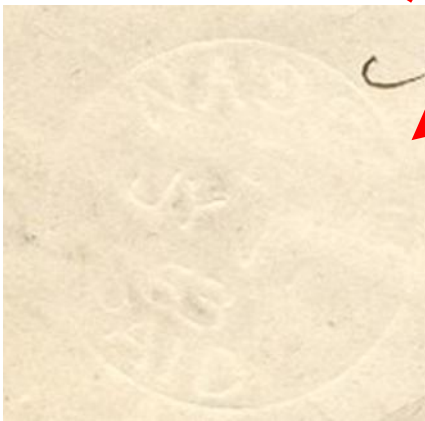
Illustrated in Antrim (p. 53) and Shenfield (p. 36). Ex Shenfield, Antrim, Simon and Walske

Civilian Letters to Canada from Southern States during Civil War (1861-1865)

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



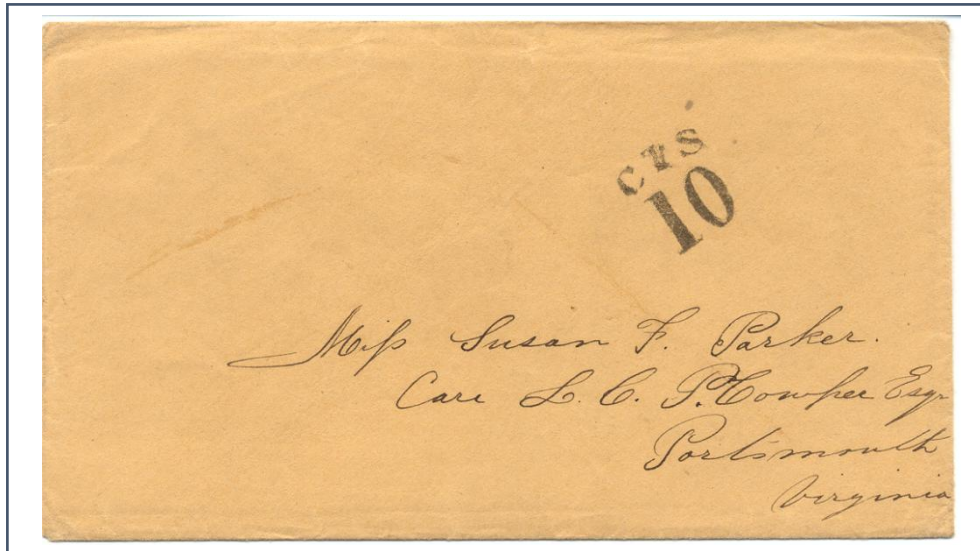
Cover written to Mrs. Irving in Niagara Falls by her daughter in Cordesville, SC on June 20th, 1863; clear red "NASSAU PAID 11 JY 63" CDS on front and on back transits for Montreal (SP 16, 63); RPO and Drummondville (SP 18, 63); intact two-page letter with interesting contents on the skill of blockade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

Civilian Letters to Canada from 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.**

Civilian Letters to Canada from 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.

Flag of Truce Letters to Canada from 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**)

Civilian Letters to Canada from Southern States during Civil War (1861-1865)

Letter to Canada Sent Short Paid From Occupied Southern City

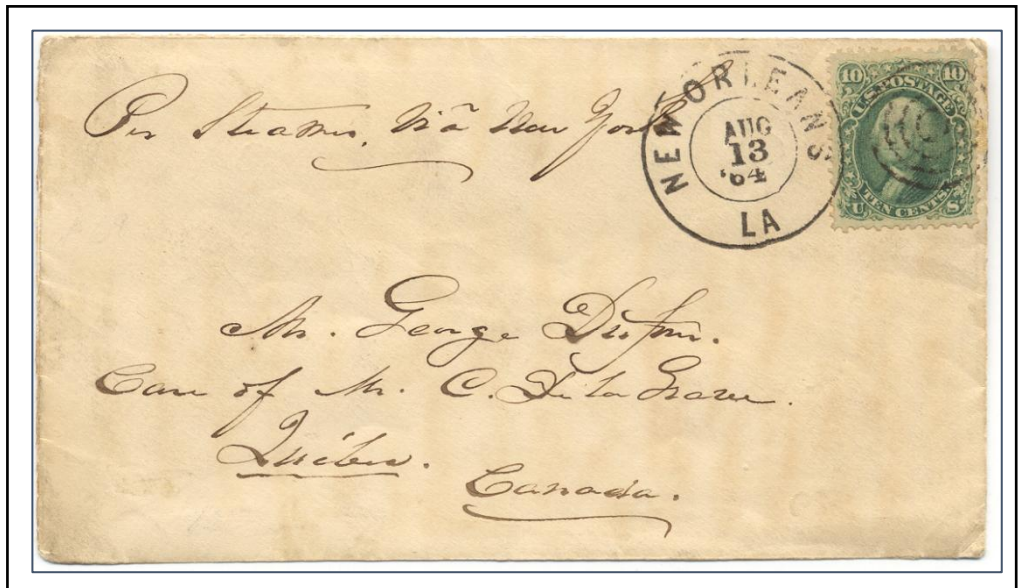


Reduced back of cover showing
London, C.W. receiver,
Dated June 6, 1863

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.

Civilian Letters to Canada from 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.

To Canada from Occupied South

Per Steamer, via New York

NEW ORLEANS
LA
AUG 13
'64

10
U.S. POSTAGE
5

Mr. George Diefen.
Care of Mr. C. H. Brown.
Wichita. Canada.

Miss Louisa Hunter
14 Beaton St.
Toronto
Canada West

Mr Dan Mc Caully
Grand River wharve north side
British America
C. D.
Prince Edwards

Civilian Letters from Confederate States to Canada/BNA) During Civil War

Blockade Mail Georgia to Montreal via Wilmington, Nassau & NY



✉ McDonough Ga. to Montreal, Canada, via Nassau, Bahamas, and New York. Tissue-paper cover to Montreal, Canada, addressed in care of Messrs. DeRossett & Brinn, Wilmington N.C. (agents for Aetna insurance company), 10c Blue, Die A (11), irregular margins to in, tied by "McDonough Ga. Nov. 17" (1864) circular datestamp, carried on the blockade-runner Banshee II from Wilmington to Nassau, arriving November 20, "Bahamas NO 29 1864 C" backstamp and red "Paid at Bahamas" Crown-Circle handstamp with red crayon "4" pence prepaid rate, carried to New York and entered U.S. mails with "New York Ship Letter 6 1864 Dec. 15" datestamp with integral 6c ship fee, corner of cover and part of bottom flap missing

FINE. A UNIQUE OUTBOUND BLOCKADE-RUN COVER FROM THE CONFEDERATE STATES TO CANADA VIA NASSAU AND NEW YORK, WITH THE "PAID AT BAHAMAS" CROWN-CIRCLE.

This cover is a remarkable and unique. It is addressed to Canada, a rare destination for Confederate mail of any kind. The forwarding agents in Wilmington used a blockade-runner to send letter (no longer present) and cover to Bahamas, but instead of enclosing them in another envelope, forwarders used original mailing envelope with a Confederate stamp postmarked at McDonough, Georgia. At Nassau, cover was prepaid 4 pence and handstamped with the "Paid at Bahamas" Crown-Circle, a marking recorded on only three blockade-run covers. Again, same envelope was used to send letter from Nassau to New York City. On arrival at the New York post office, the 6c debit datestamp was applied next to the "Paid at Bahamas" and 10c C.S.A. stamp. Think of the postal clerk who applied a U.S.-rated marking to an envelope bearing a Confederate stamp picturing Jefferson Davis, which was clearly a piece of mail that violated the ban on correspondence with the Confederate States. It is possible that the clerk or someone else realized this was illegal mail and sent it to the Dead Letter Office, because there is neither a U.S. marking indicating prepaid 10c postage to Canada nor Canadian markings indicating receipt. A red manuscript notation on back was probably applied at the Dead Letter Office.

Epilogue

CW proved to be major disruptor in postal and parcel services, mainly for Confederacy and especially for foreign mail to and from Confederacy. Many foreign countries didn't recognize Confederacy and wouldn't forward letters within their country. Confederacy, with most of its ports blockaded, mail, needed supplies and armaments were difficult to obtain. Blockade runner ships partially filled some need but as War progressed, Union Navy became more skilled in learning blockade runners ways. Towards end of CW, high-speed steamships, built in U.K., could outrun many U.S. Navy ships but these still had limited success. For Southerners, sending mail by Flag of Truce proved to be slow since all letters had to be opened and read by a censor before proceeding into different mail system.

Once War ended, Union Troops would continue to occupy parts of South during Reconstruction. Even in 1868, President Grant kept soldiers in South, mainly to protect freed Afro-Americans from persecution from organizations, like KKK. **The Confederate Postal System eventually was re-absorbed into U.S. Postal System and business returned to "normal" but it took several years. For example, by November, 1865 only 241 of 8902 post offices were back under Federal control. By November, 1866, however, 3234 (36%) had rejoined the USPS (ref. Publication 100, USPS, An American History 1775-2006, The Confederate P.O. Dept.).**

A positive outcome to strengthen Canada was that CW helped to move most Provinces towards Confederation, which occurred in 1867.

Manifest Destiny would have to wait!

