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# Cross Border Use of U.S. Civil War Patriotic Covers



**Ron Majors' Presentation  
BNAPEX 2019**

*Philatelic Specialists Society of Canada seminar*  
**August 30, 2019**

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



# 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 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



# Prelude to War

## The Issue of Slavery

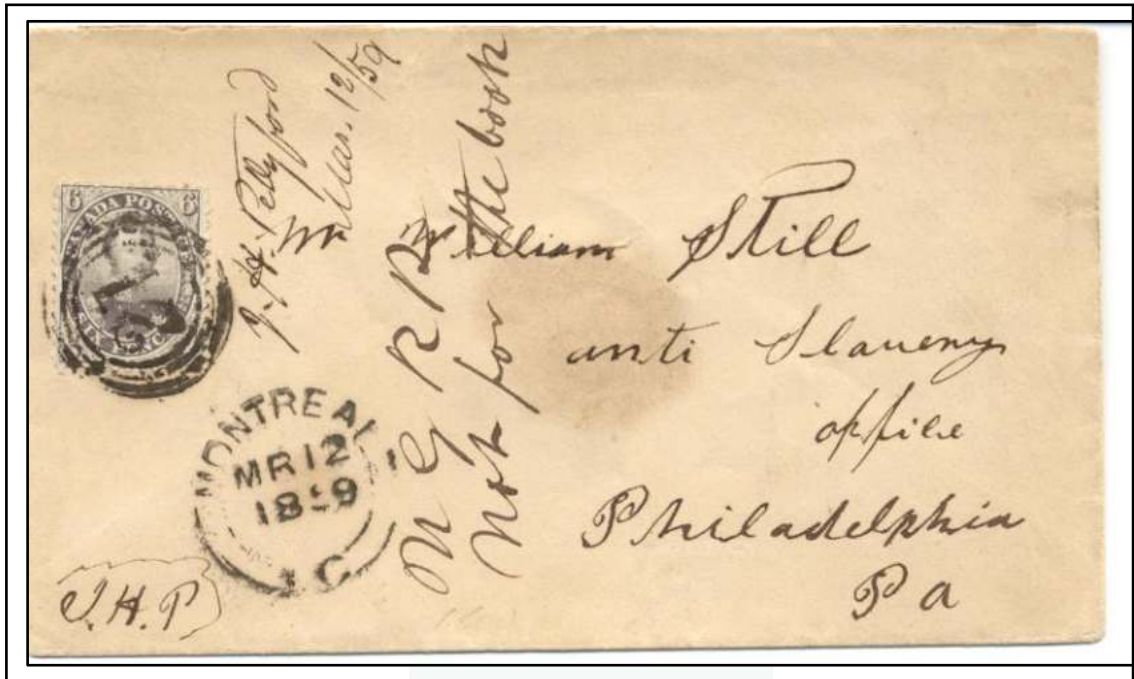


Slavery was probably number one cause of Civil War (CW). Depiction of slavery was a common theme of Union Patriotics as it served to reinforce issue of abolition. This cover shows a slave and his master with a with a warning "I wouldn't putt down dat flag, Massa...". This single, pre-paid domestic ½ 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.**

# Prelude to War

## Anti-Slavery Sentiment in Canada



Many in Canada leaned towards abolition. 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 many escaped slaves who eventually made their way to Canada after passage of the Fugitive Slave Act.

# Prelude to War

## The Underground Railroad “Lines” to Canada





# Prelude to War

## Underground Railroad



The Northern support for Underground Railroad (RR) was another driving force in beginning of CW. Runaway Southern slaves were sheltered by abolitionists and sympathizers in North in an elaborate network of safe havens. Each underground RR line was run by a conductor. After Fugitive Slave Act, which, by law, required Northerners to return slaves to their owner or turn them over to slave catchers, many 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 main stopover points on the Underground Railroad** in Midwest of 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.

# Prelude to War

## England's Need for King Cotton



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

# Prelude to War

## Election of Lincoln

### Embossed Lincoln-Hamlin Campaign Cover

Embossed cover posted in Springville, CW on January 14, 1861 to Shawnee Mound, Indiana (IN). Two 5¢ Beaver stamps pays ½ oz or less postage to U.S.

Below: enlarged embossed slogan from front of cover



Abraham Lincoln

Before inauguration, 1860 election of Republicans Abraham Lincoln and Hannibal Hamlin was a driver for succession of seven Southern States. Lincoln received no electoral votes from South. His views on slavery and its expansion were well known. Campaign cover with front embossing with wavy two-line slogans "Slavery sectional, Union and Liberty" and "Freedom National, Onward to Victory" and back flap embossed "**Hon. Abraham Lincoln of Ill. for President, Hon. Hannibal Hamlin of ME. for V. Pres.**"



Hannibal Hamlin



# Prelude to War

## John Brown Abolitionist



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)**



# Prelude to War

## The Killing of Col. Elmer E. Ellsworth



Col. Ellsworth



Col. Ellsworth, a personal friend of Mr. Lincoln, was first officer killed in 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.**

# 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
<b>Georgia (1)</b>	<b>Jan. 19, 1861</b>	<b>Feb. 4, 1861</b>
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
<b>So. Carolina</b>	<b>Dec. 20, 1860</b>	<b>Feb. 4, 1861</b>
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 time between a Southern State seceding from Union and formation of Confederacy. During this confusing period, Union Postal System was still handling Southern mail. South Carolina was the first state to secede (Dec. 20, 1860) and its use of 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 straight line 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 Confederacy

## (Use of Union Postal System)



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 (AR, KY, MO, NC, TN, TX, and VA) although KY and MO never seceded from Union (border states). These states had a split allegiance throughout 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 second week of Confederacy and is a **rare Confederate use of U.S. postal system to BNA.**



# Status of the United States 1861



States that seceded before April 15, 1861

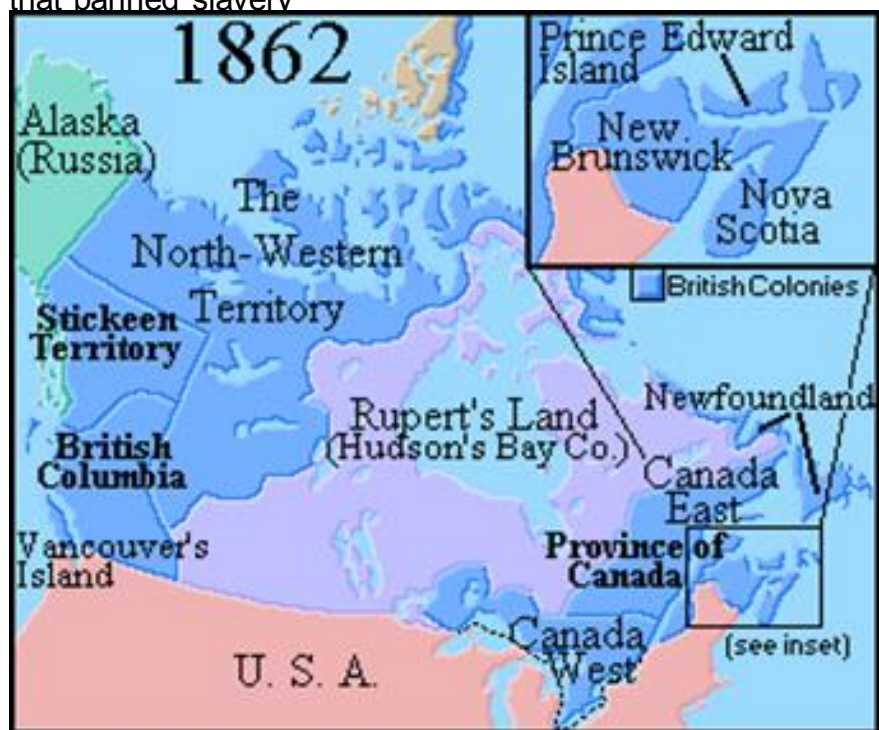
States that seceded after April 15, 1861

Union states that permitted slavery

Union states that banned slavery

Territories

## Pre-Confederation Geography



# 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); straight line REGISTERED in black indicates that 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.

# COLLECT CANADA COVERS



by Edward A. Richardson

Annotated and edited by Horace W. Harrison

# Civil War Patriotic Envelopes

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

## Typical Themes of Civil War Patriotic Envelopes

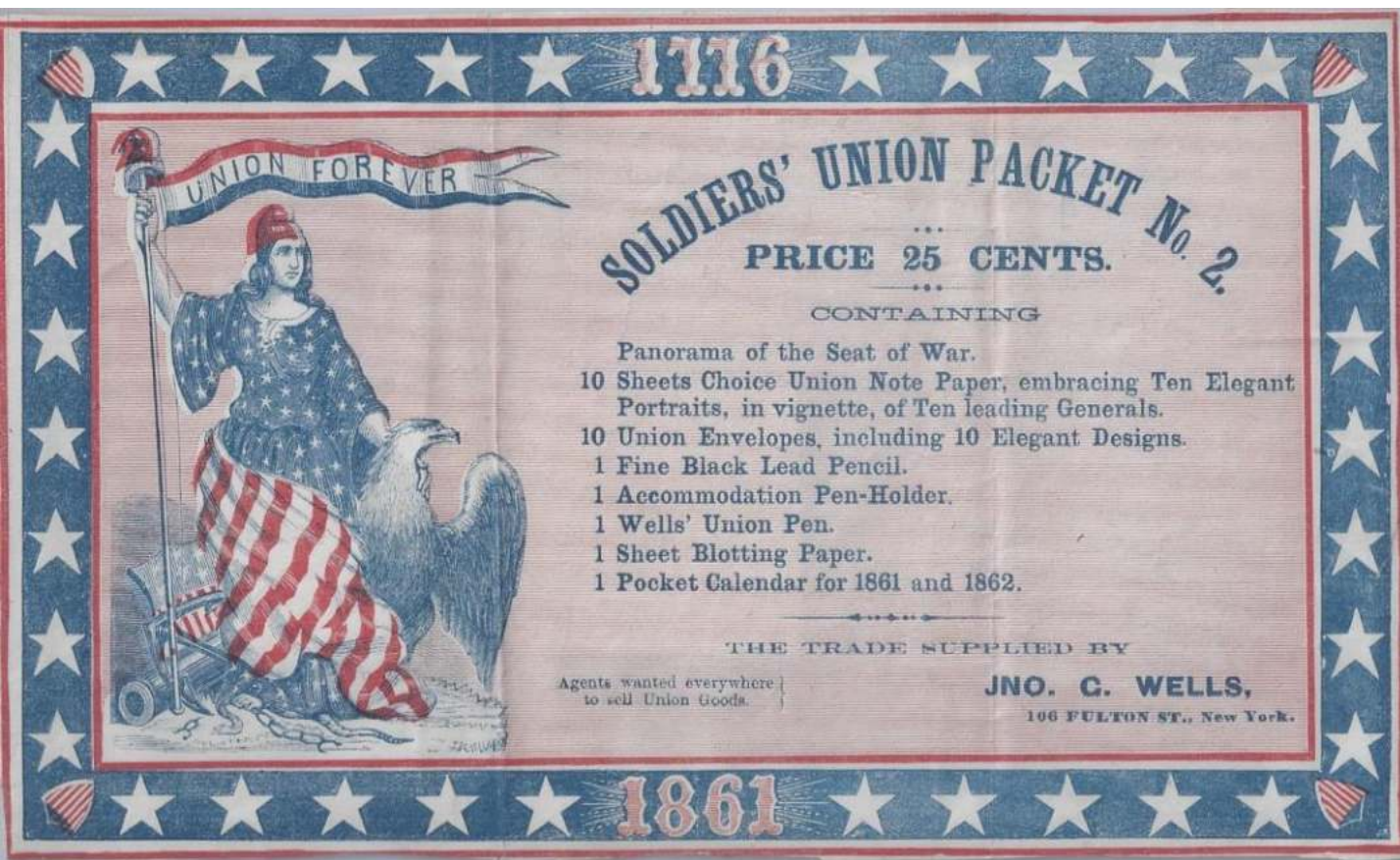
1. Portraits (Washington, Franklin, Jeff Davis)
2. Campaign (Politicians, Lincoln, Fremont)
3. Military (e.g. Scott, McCellan, Grant, Ellsworth)
4. Battleships, battle- & camp-scenes, forts
5. Caricatures (dogs, elephants, lions, frogs)
6. Soldiers (Farewell, Regiments)
7. States (seals, regiments)
8. 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

**Unfortunately, there are  
NO Confederate  
Patriotic Covers used to  
or from Canada/BNA**

**Almost all with slogans or verses**



# Ready-Made Soldiers Civil War Patriotic Letter Kit Cover



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

### 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 Union During 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/BNM and Union During 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 Union During 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 14<sup>th</sup> 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 Union During 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.

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

## Patriotic Covers Canada to Union States

### Satirical Cover of Jefferson Davis, Confederate President



Richmond Hill, CW on March 26, 1862 to Northampton, MA; **very faint "10" in black manuscript at lower right near bottom**, thus recipient pays postage; only copy of this cachet known (Bischel collection).

Satirical "Monument to the memory of Jeff. Davis" showing skull pyramid with skeleton at top wearing Confederate uniform holding a sword and with Confederate flag protruding from hat; Ex-Bischel.

### Battle Scene Union Calvary Chasing Confederates



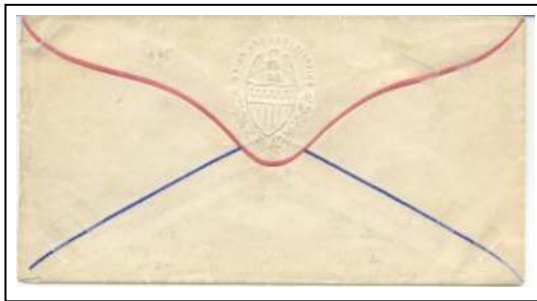
From Gosfield, CW to Put-in-Bay, OH; faint PAID handstamp followed by "10" in manuscript for postage of less than ½ oz weight.

Battle scene patriotic cachet with Union calvary chasing "rebs" with battle flags, cannons, horses, swords, etc. depicted. Letter sent to Solomon Melvin Coles, an Afro-American educator and minister one of first black graduates of Yale Divinity school. Put-in-Bay is located on a tiny island in Lake Erie.



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

## Patriotic Covers Canada to Union States

### Theme: Fremont Campaign Covers

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



Handstamp **PAID**, manuscript "10", small manuscript "paid", "**CANADA**" in arc exchange office marking; from St. Alexandre, LC on December 5, 1861. ex-Steinhart.

West Brome, CE October 6. 1863 to Manchester, NH; rated manuscript '**10**' prepaying 10¢ postage to US for ½ oz and under.



Smaller Fremont campaign cover; handstamp "**PAID 10**" in manuscript; PAID "5" crossed out; from West Brome, LC on September 30, 1863 to Manchester, NH; two transit backstamps.

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

## US Consulate Covers

### Patriotic Covers Canada to Union States

US Consulate General, British No. American Province covers were considered as patriotic covers in book *Collecting Canada Covers* (E.A. Richardson, American Philatelic Society, 1978)



Two 5c Beavers pays letter rate to US.; tied with Montreal duplex; posted January 25, 1862 to Gallipolis, OH.

Illustrated US Consulate General, British No. American Provinces, Montreal cover with Eagle and Shield Design in UL corner; one of three documented covers of this design;; non-removable ink spot on lower right.

Manuscript "10" in black means sent unpaid with postage collected from recipient. Montreal, CE on July 26 1864 to Washington, D.C.. U.S. Dept. of Interior receiver dated July 29 1864.

Ex-Brigham



Rated "10" (cents) in manuscript to be collected upon receipt; Montreal 29 OC 1863 to Vermont,



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

### US Civil War Patriotic Covers Sent from BNA to 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 Union During Civil War (1861-1865)

### US Civil War Patriotic Covers Sent from BNA to 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 vermillion 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 Union During Civil War (1861-1865)

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

#### From New Brunswick

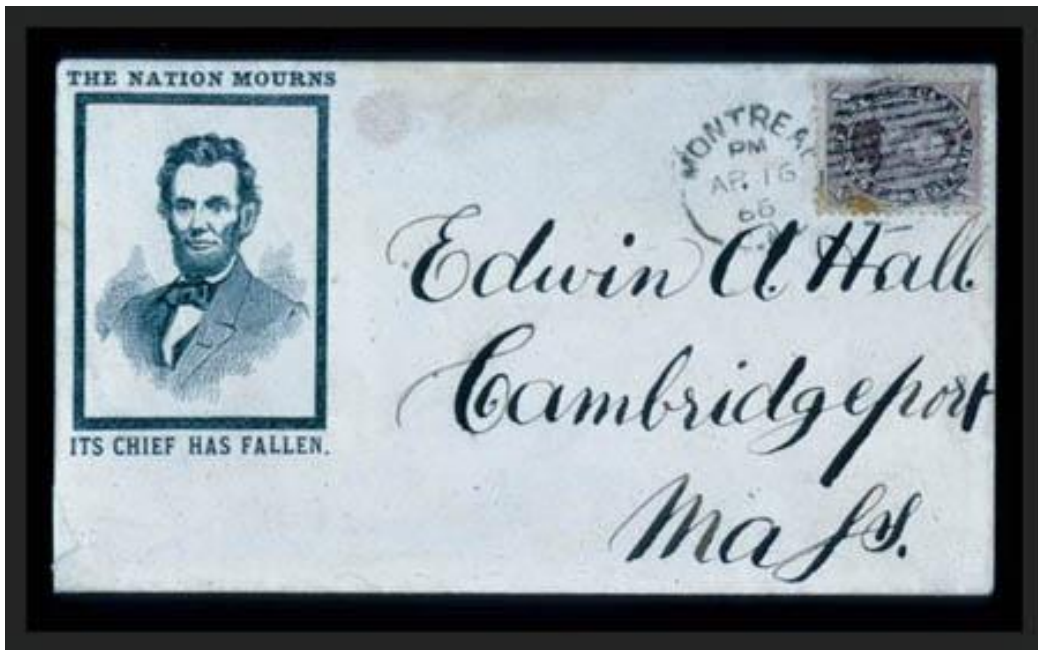


Stampless patriotic showing soldier holding sabre and flag (W-2020); undated rimless circle CDS "W.O. Lower Cloverdale, NB PAID" and matching "PAID/10/CENTS" in circle; covered posted to New York, NY; backstamps with "P.O. Salisbury, NB FE 1, 1865" and "Saint John, NB FE 1 1865" transits; **Ex-Steinhart.**



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)".

# 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 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 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.STATES 10” exchange office arc in blue (Boggs Type VIIIa, Detroit); two Elgin Co. transit handstamps

## US Civil War Patriotic Covers Sent from 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 ingrained 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 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.S. 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 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!



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

## Patriotic Covers Union to Canada

### Theme: Various Designs

#### Ellsworth Homemade Patriotic

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).

Handmade patriotic paste up showing Elmer E. Ellsworth, pictured in Fire Zouaves uniform with "Assassinated May 24<sup>th</sup>" at bottom; small label "Slavery is a complication of every species of iniquity; the greatest practical evil that ever afflicted the human race"—Wm. Pitt;



#### Lincoln Design



Lincoln designs were very much in favor. This design has not been reported in Bischel or Walcott catalogs. Cover sent from Cicero, IL to Newton-Brook [red receiver on reverse data AP 16 (18)64].; P.O. one-year old; partial oval "USTATES 10" on front of cover indicates 10¢ prepaid for ½ oz or less to Canada.

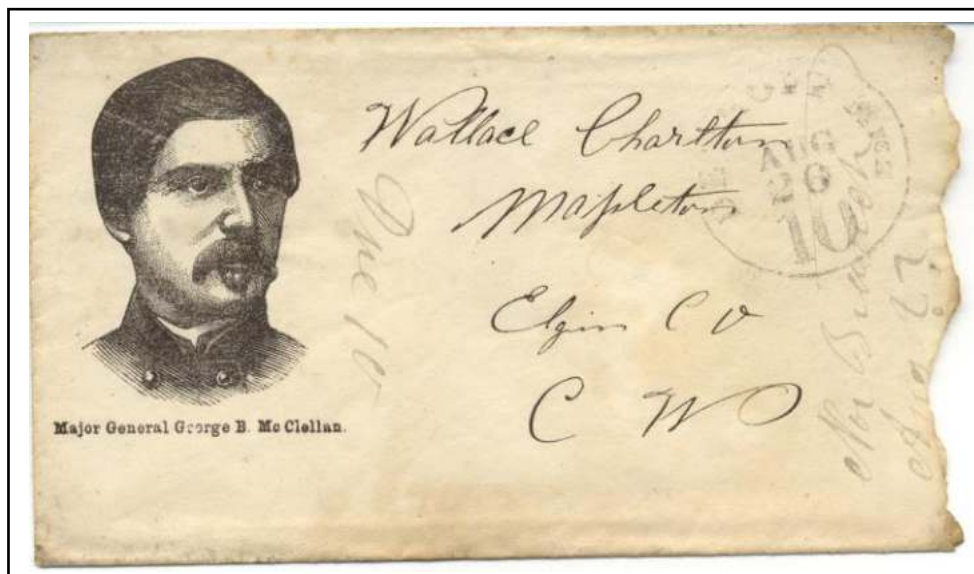
**US Civil War Patriotic Covers Sent from United States to Canada and BNA  
(1861-1865)**

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 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.



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

Patriotic Covers Union to Canada

Theme: Standing Lady Liberty



To Richmond Hill, CW May 7 (1863); double split ring Richmond Hill receiver on reverse dated May 9, 1863; 10c Washington pays letter rate.

Lady Liberty and Union flag multicolored patriotic with cracked globe beneath her feet.

Florid (Putnam City), IL to Richview, CW; stamp 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.



Montpelier, VT to St. Cesaire, "Distrite de Montreal" Quebec, Canada, postmarked Oct 16, 1861. Montpelier CDS with handstamped (due) "10", St. Johns exchange office CDS next day, illegible Canadian backstamp.

# US Civil War Patriotic Covers Sent from 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 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 "successionist" 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 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 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 Banford, 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)

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

Patriotic Covers Union to Canada

Theme: Patriotic Design on Reverse



Buffalo, NY to Hamilton, postmarked Dec. 20, 1861; 10¢ Washington pays single letter rate to Canada. on back receiving mark "Hamilton U.C. Dec 21, 1861".

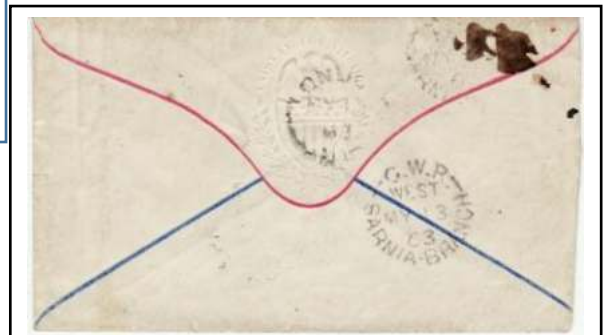
Patriotic design on back, red/blue border and embossed Union emblem, pmk Dec 20, 1861 and on back receiving mark "Hamilton U.C. Dec 21, 1861".

Reduced reverse of above cover (25% reduction)



Pair of 10¢ Washingtons pays double letter rate KY to CW; Posted in May 1863; patriotic design same as top cover.; two transit backstamps.

Reduced reverse of above cover (25% reduction)

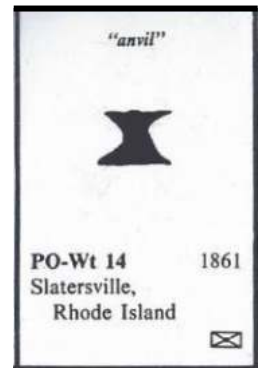




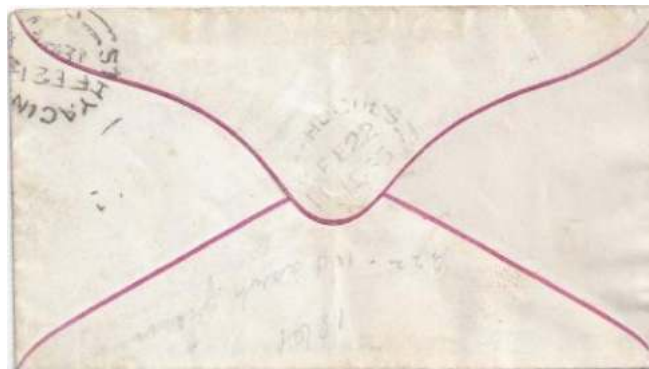
# Letters between Canada/BNA and Union During Civil War (1861-1865)

Patriotic Covers Union to Canada

Theme: Patriotic Design Front and Back



Fancy Cancel  
Anvil



Reverse side with red borders (reduced by 25%)

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

To  
BNA  
Nov 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".

## US Civil War Patriotic Covers Sent from 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 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 United States to Canada (1860-1868)

### Soldier's Letters

From 1861, letters by soldiers in service of US could be transmitted without pre-payment of postage to be paid by 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. To Canada, postage was still 10 cents.

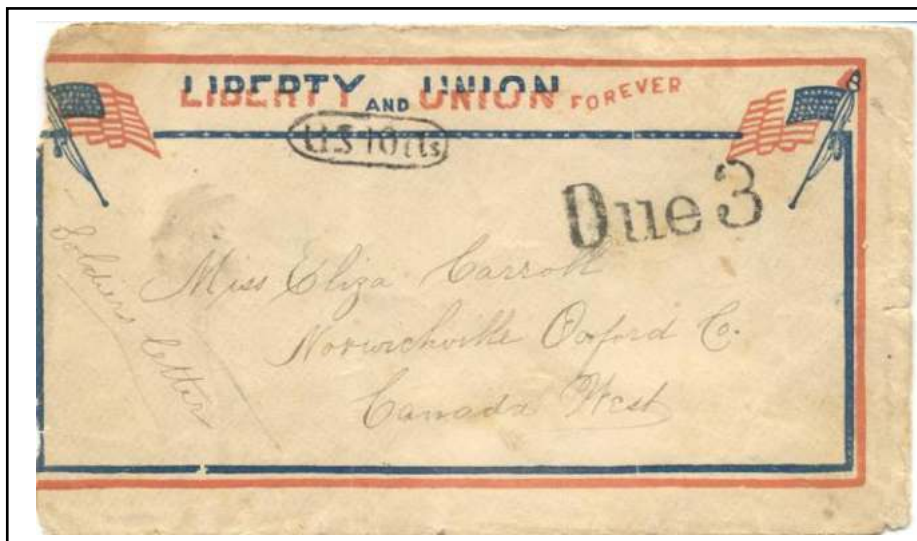


Soldier's letter with two dogs one named "Scott" (bigger) and "Jeff" (smaller) with set of bones named "Washington" with statements "Why don't you take it" and "Yours for distinguished consideration, Uncle Sam"; manuscript "Soldiers Letter"; countersigned by Lt. Edwards in charge; mailed from Portsmouth, 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 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, 24<sup>th</sup> Michigan Volunteers (famous Iron Brigade). The 24<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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, 19<sup>th</sup> 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 27<sup>th</sup> 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/BNA and Union During Civil War (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 3 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?

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**CAN I COME HOME  
FROM CANADA?**

OR

**THE B. J's LAMENT.**

Words and Music by J. W. Turner.

— ( 3 ) —

DETROIT:

Published by J. Henry Whittemore, 179 Jefferson Ave.



## Mixed Patriotics Domestically Used in US

### Crossed Flag Covers Depicting Friendly US and Canadian Relations

Crossed US and Canadian flags with friendship slogans below; franked with tied 3¢ Washington along with Watertown Sep 8 1861 CDS to Fall River, Mass..



Red and blue design crossed UNITED US and Canadian flags with slogans "God Save the Queen" and "Vive L' Amerique", Hayes cover franked with 3¢ rose tied by blue Hancock, MD addressed to Philadelphia.

**Canadian first patriotic cachet (Firby) used in U.S.**

### Shows level of patriotic sentiment among 3 countries.

Albert Edward, Prince of Wales, son of Queen Victoria, later King Edward VII, historic visit to BNA, Canada, and US in 1860. British royalty had never made official visit to Canada, He visited 16 Canadian/BNA cities & 14 American cities including Richmond and Mt. Vernon, VA. Visit showed US, Mother Country and Canada relations were fairly civilized prior to CW. Cachet was designed for visit. However, Prince refused to visit a Southern Plantation much to dismay of Southerners who were about to succeed from US.



**Cover believed to be unique** (Charles Firby, private communication, 2008)

## 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!**

