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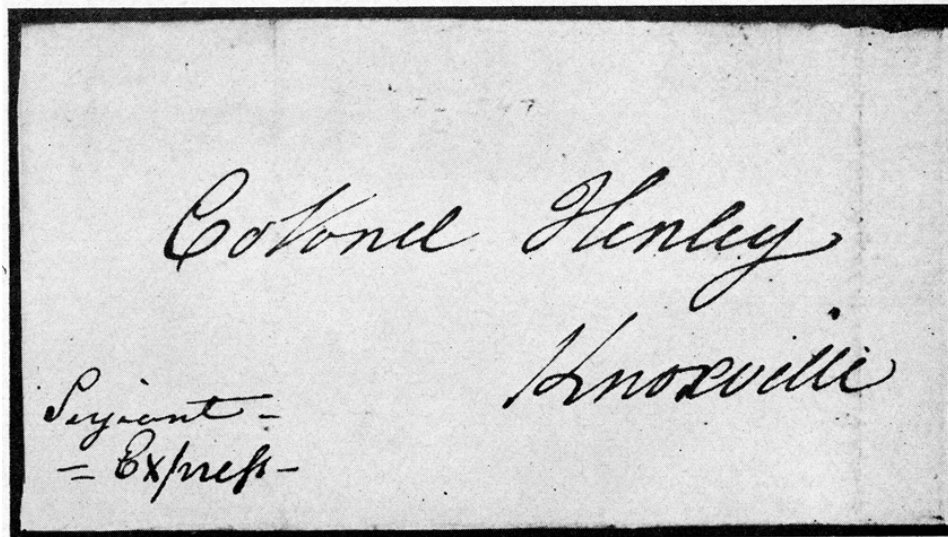
Postal History Place:

From the Stamp Specialist Gray Book, 1943, Pt. 2

A Sheaf of War Covers

**From the Collection of The Reverend William H. Tower
Vice-President of the War Cover Club**

While the new France was suffering its birthpangs and was reaching out over the Continent in a series of wars, the young Republic across the sea was having difficulties of its own in consolidating its position as an independent nation and in populating its inland territory. While that territory reached from the Great Lakes to the Gulf—excepting Florida—and from the Atlantic to the Mississippi, its inhabited section included only the strip along the coast, and its attempts to populate its inland reaches were met by the violent opposition of the Indians, who resented the advance of the Whites into the territory they occupied. We show on one of our pages a cover addressed to “Colonel Henley” who was in charge of the hostilities against the Cherokee Indians in Tennessee in 1797. This cover, sent “Express” from South West Point, states in its letter, “My commanding officer says Let the pack horses rest until further orders. I have reported according to the old style of public business.” In



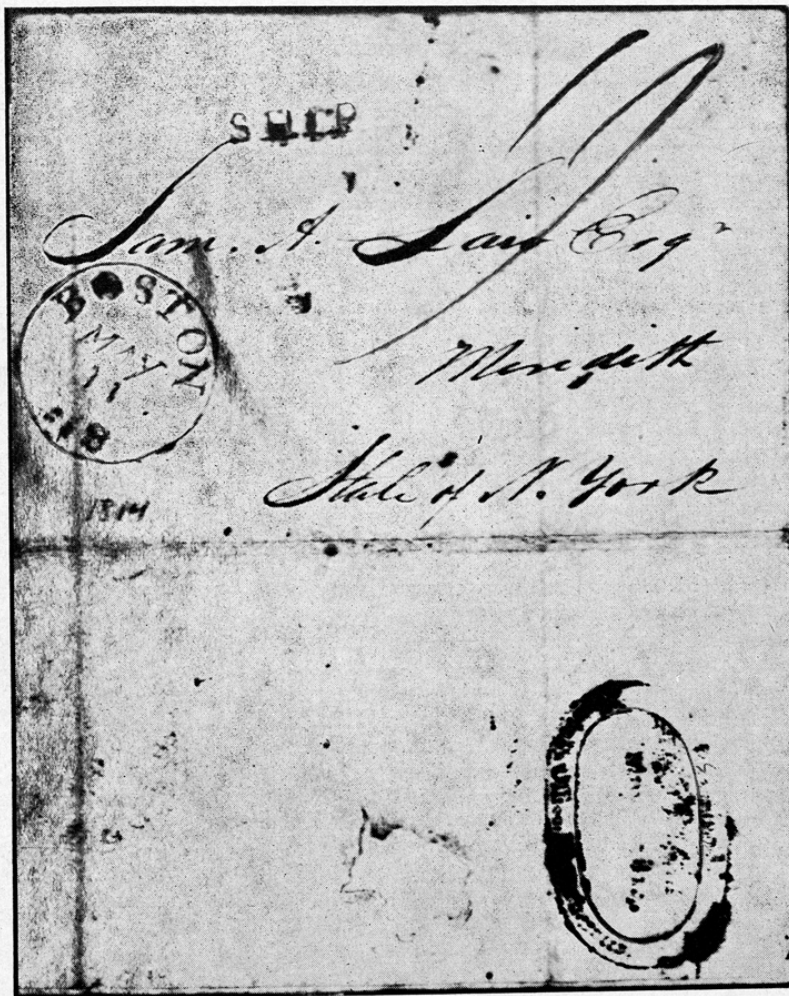
Hostilities against the Cherokee Indians in Tennessee, in 1797. The letter tells Col. Henley, "My commanding officer says—Let the pack horses rest."

checking up on this cover, we wrote to Washington and received confirmation regarding these operations. Another page indicates that, even while fighting the Indians, our Country was having more serious difficulties, as we read its heading, “The Seed of 1812.” The cover here shown carried a business letter from Baltimore to a merchant in Virginia expressing regret at the writer’s inability to quote prices; “Our trade stands in the same precarious position as formerly. Both French and English continue to take our vessels.” As we all know, it was such seizures and the conscription of our seamen that brought on the War of 1812. The cover that follows on the same page, dated June 24th,

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As noted in part 1, from time to time the author refers to covers whose images were not included in the article. In addition, it was difficult to find similar images to those pictured or referred to in the text. JFD.

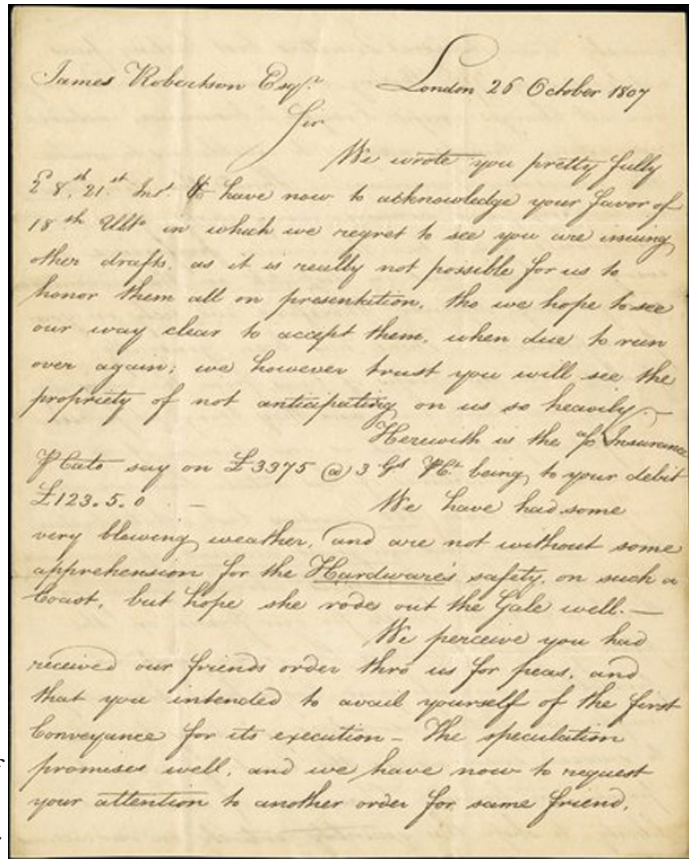
speaks of the action of Congress, six days before, in declaring "the United States and their Territories in a State of War with the United Kingdoms of Great Britain and Ireland and their dependencies."¹ The writer refers to this as, "a dreadful calamity, and the united strength and support of the people are necessary to carry us through the conflict." The cover on the following page was received at Boston from Copenhagen a year later. The United States and England were at actual war, while England was also engaged in operations on the Continent. Conditions were bad all around and the writer of the letter speaks of the small prospects for peace and the great difficulty in carrying on business; "Times are a thousands times worse than last year and, I fear, little chance of their getting better." The cover shows the handstamp, "SHIP," and another marking that makes it of very special interest.



Said to be the "Earliest Censor Mark known." A cover from Copenhagen to Boston during the War of 1812. The writer comments on the small prospects for peace and the difficulty in carrying of business. "Times are a thousand times worse than last year and, I fear, little chance of their getting better."

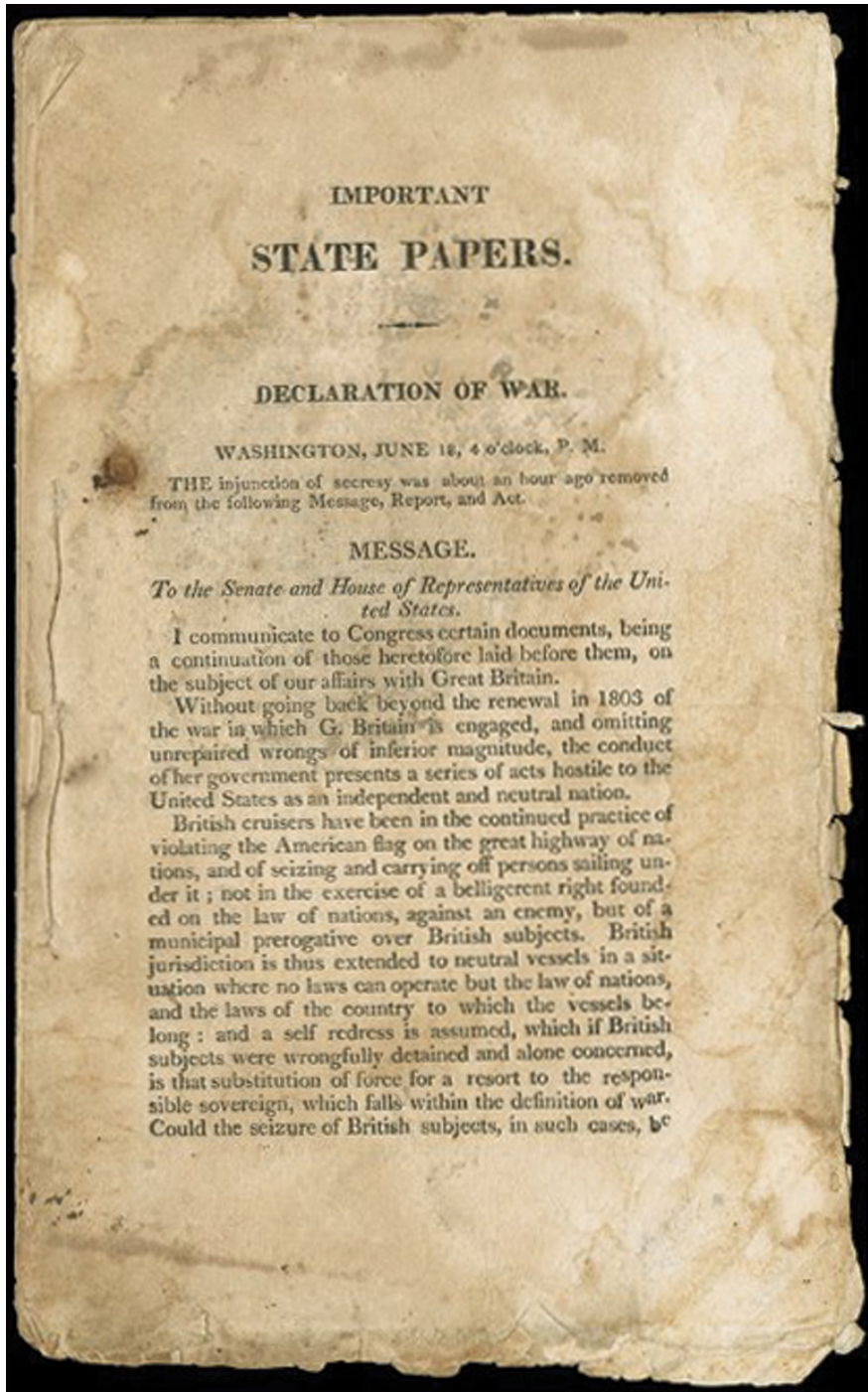
¹ See next three pages.

From the Floyd Risvold American Expansion & Journey West Collection:
 [The 1808 Embargo] One of six letters from Thomas Mullett & Co., a London firm, to James Robertson in New York, October 1807-January 1808. Each with integral address leaf bearing manuscript "6" port of entry ship rate. Letters of October 26, 1807 date...



begins with an offer for Robertson to send 500 quarters of peas...Insurance is getting expensive "especially on vessels from the U.S. to France & Holland .. and report says that France is UNFRIENDLY to your country." On Nov. 10, they advise him that insurance will stay high and credit will be tight until "a Treaty between our respective Nations can ever fully restore that confidence which has been so terribly shaken." By December 3, the British had issued their infamous Orders in Council announcing that they would treat neutral ships headed to French-controlled ports (without stopping in England) as hostile. Mullet & Co cautions that though: "we, with you would hope that war may not take place but our doubts on that head are so strong that we would most earnestly press it upon you to suspend all your European business. The last letter, from January 5, 1808, encloses a copy of Napoleon's decree regarding neutral commerce, similarly banning trade that stopped at English ports. The United States retaliated to the British Acts with its own Non-Intercourse Act, which was ineffective. Eventually Napoleon relented somewhat, but before the English could repeal the Orders in Council in June 1812, the United States had declared war.

See also, next two pages for the Declaration of War.



Declaration of War. James Madison. Washington, 1812, 24 pages. Printed as "Important State Papers,"...and an interesting British broadside issuing the "Proclamation" by George Stracey Smith, commander in chief of New Brunswick, stating that: "Whereas .. the United States of America...has declared War against the United Kingdom.....to order and direct all His Majesty's Subjects, under my Government, to abstain



BY HIS HONOR
 GEORGE STRACEY SMYTH, Esquire,
 PRESIDENT of His MAJESTY'S Council
 and Commander in Chief of the Pro-
 (L. S.) vince of New-Brunswick, Major-Gen.
 in His Majesty's service, &c. &c. &c.
 G. S. SMYTH.

A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS the Government of the United States of America, by an Act of Congress on the 18th day of JUNE last, has declared WAR against the United Kingdom of Great-Britain and Ireland—And Whereas every species of predatory warfare carried on against defenceless Inhabitants, living on the shores, and on those parts of the Territories of the United States, contiguous to this Province, will greatly distress Individuals, without answering any good purpose. I have therefore thought proper, by and with the advice of His MAJESTY'S Council, to order and direct all His MAJESTY'S Subjects, under my Government, to abstain from molesting the Inhabitants living on the shores, and on those parts of the Territories of the United States, contiguous to this Province, and on no account to molest the goods or unarmed Coasting or Fishing Vessels belonging to the defenceless Inhabitants upon the Frontiers, so long as they shall abstain on their parts from any acts of hostility and molestation towards the Inhabitants of this Province, and of the Province of Nova-Scotia, who are in a similar situation. It is therefore my wish and desire, that the Subjects of the United States, living on the Frontiers, may pursue in peace their usual and accustomed trade and occupations, without molestation, so long as they shall act in a similar way towards the Frontier Inhabitants of this Province and of the Province of Nova-Scotia.

And I do hereby order and command all His MAJESTY'S Subjects, within my jurisdiction to govern themselves accordingly, until further orders.

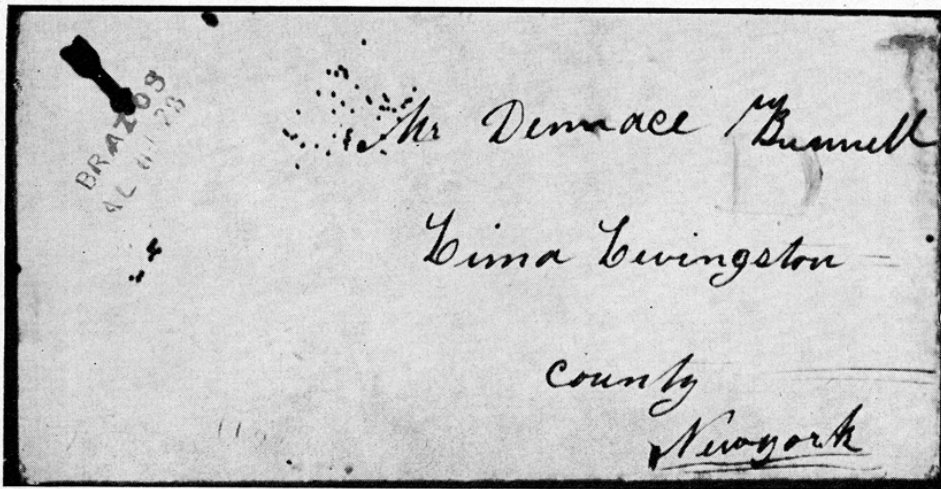
Given under my Hand and Seal at Fredericton, the tenth day of July, in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Twelve, and in the fifty-second Year of His Majesty's Reign.

By His HONOR'S COMMAND,
 JON. ODELL.

from molesting the Inhabitants...and on no account to molest the goods or unarmed Coasting or Fishing Vessels belonging to the defenceless Inhabitants upon the Frontiers, so long as they shall abstain on their parts from any such acts of hostility and molestation towards the Inhabitants of this Province, and of the Province of Nova-Scotia.”

A large black double oval with the words, "Examined May (?) 1814." War Cover experts say that this is the earliest Censor Mark that they have ever seen. The cover following this is dated October 20, 1814, and was sent from the U. S. Schooner *Carolina*, and postmarked, "New Orleans." The letter begins, "With inexpressible grief I have to communicate to you the death of my valued friend, Mr. Kind. Lieut. Crawley, him, and myself and 9 men went down the river in pursuit of some of La Fite's gang who were smuggling goods into the City. We had got sight of a boat and were in chase of her. King had fired two muskets at her, and when in the act of taking up the third it unfortunately went off and its contents went through his body.—I brought him aboard and went off for a surgeon but it was of no avail. He died at ten o'clock, two hours after he was shot. He was buried yesterday afternoon (Sunday) with the honors of war. His funeral was attended by all the officers on the station.—He and I have been messmates ever since he came aboard the Schooner, and living as you know like two brothers. I have really lost a dear friend in him. Such a one, I am afraid, I shall not meet with soon." While not a letter, the item on the following page deals with the carrying of military mail in this same period. It is a receipted bill for \$30 for the services of David Harmon as "Express Rider" bearing "Despatches" for General Harrison between Detroit and Cincinnati during the War, a part of which was fought on the Great Lakes. Again, in 1837, there was possibility of war with Britain following upon a French uprising in Canada which is now an almost forgotten incident. Canada had originally been French territory, and even today has a strong element of French population in its eastern section. In the early part of the nineteenth century, Louis Joseph Papineau was the recognized leader of the French-Canadian party which was offering increasing opposition to the Government because of alleged grievances. In 1837 preparations were being made for a general stampede at Montreal. Papineau's house was sacked and a fight took place between the "constitutionals" and the "sons of liberty," followed by further hostilities and many casualties. Papineau, accused of high treason, was declared a rebel and a price put upon his head. He sought refuge in the United States, whose reception of him was not pleasing to the loyal Canadians. The cover that we have from this period, written to a friend in Scotland, speaks of the agitation as having about subsided "unless we should become involved in war with the United States, and of this we have some painful apprehensions. A number of the affected have gone over to the States. There has been the most flagrant violations of neutrality on the part of the United States. What the result will be, that is for the British Government to decide." This cover, which went by way of New York, is postmarked "Victoria March 4, 1838, New York March 11," and is inscribed as having been received on April 14. It is also stamped with the "1/2 d" stagecoach mark. Following the annexation of Texas in 1845, at the request of its citizens, and the desire of the Mexican war party for war rather than a peaceful settlement of the questions at issue, the United States declared war against Mexico in May of 1848. Our first page on this war shows a cover of October 27 of that year postmarked, "Jefferson Barracks, Mo." and carrying a letter telling of the movement of troops going into the war. It also refers to the taking of Mon-

teray by General Taylor after three days of hard fighting. On the same page is a cover of January 16, 1847, with manuscript "Matamoras" and handstamped, "P.T.Isabel," in which the writer seeks to make clear to his pacifist friend the rights and causes of war between nations. The following page shows a cover, postmarked, Brazos, August 28 (1848), telling something of the conditions and activities: "I for the first time in my life," says the writer, "take my pen in hand to let you know that I am well at present—I am now a soldier in the service of the United States, far from home and in a foreign land where I can't hear anything but the howling of wolves and bears and talk of war and parties of our men killed—Sixty miles from this place there were 23 Texas Rangers killed as we was on the road. Capt. Read started to avenge the death of these companions. The Captain and his men said that they will kill ten for one. A few days ago there was two Mexicans whipped for stealing Capt. Read's pistols. They got 50 on the backs and was told that if they was seen within six miles of Camarge that they would give them 50 more. A mother at home in Circleville writes, "I have not heard from John since the capture of Vera Cruz. A few days previous he was on his way to that place. From thence he was ordered to New York to get recruits for Mexico. Should he arrive at that place safe, I hope to have the pleasure of seeing him, can I be so blessed after so many unfortunate men have fallen! Oh, what heart-rending scenes have been witnessed at those battles! Oh this unfortunate war! Who can be reconciled to it!" The war came to an end and peace established with the conclusion of the Treaty, February 2, 1848.



A Mexican War soldier writes, "I am now a soldier in the service of the United States, far from home and in a foreign land where I can't hear anything but the howling of wolves and bears and talk of war and parties of our men killed—Sixty miles from this place there were 25 Texas Rangers killed as we was on the road."

The saddest page in United States history has to do with the War between the States, in which the North opposed the South, brother fought against brother, and the sad great-hearted man in the White House fervently prayed: "that this mighty scourge of war may speedily pass away." Four long years

From the Risvold Collection: Letter by Lieut. Israel B. Richardson from Ft. Jesup, Louisiana, to his father in Vermont, July 2, 1845: "We are getting ready for a March - orders have...arrived for the troops to enter



Texas, as soon as the results of the Texan convention is known, which meets on the fourth...Their Congress has already decided unanimously that annexation shall pass...General Taylor's instructions are...to proceed...In three weeks at most, we shall be upon the Rio del Norte. Capt. Stockton's fleet mounting 160 guns in all, is also awaiting orders at Galveston...". As expected, the Texas congress approved annexation. General Taylor landed near Corpus Christi on July 25. In December, the United States approved the annexation, and the following March, Taylor moved south of the Nueces, provoking the war that would win all of Texas, California, and the southwest for the United States.

Broadside: "A Few More VOLUNTEERS Wanted for the MEXICAN WAR!", printed at the Eagle and Advocate Office, Philadelphia offering 160 acres, a \$12 bounty, and pay of \$10 per month. Posted by Capt. Pemberton Waddell. One can sign up for the length of the war or five years, at the Armory - The Oregon House, or some other places, including over Sutton's Bowling Saloon!

My dear
R. E. Lee

My dear General
The letter that arrived from Santa Anna on the 1st
last: brought me your letter of the 7th inst. I am very glad to hear
that you are forced to your taking care of Phil & in charge of Fort Abraham.
Though separated from our families & your friends, you are brought close
to another, & the advantages that Phil offers for educating your children
will compensate for many of the pleasures of the Valley of the Rio. I soon
think that Mr. Smith is entitled to recognition for the life of the foot of
the mountain with little more than his duty
what Pittsburg has lost. I
myself, & as often as I write I feel
sincerely. I have no doubt in the
I should have not got discouraged
prospect of terminating the war
the American South. The details of
of, but from what I have gathered
acceptable to our Country & South
long hopes of a peace being settled by
at the same taken by some of the
I will send to Congress the full
copy to the Secy that they may
the hope that the plan of settle
may be adopted. I believe if
asked by the President for a
should be terminated by their
power operating in the Country to
it may be pretty much crushed.

I can regret them more than I do. They have conducted a bright Campaign.
Having very friendly feelings for those of the particular host, the discussion of
the two that formerly joined two of them caused me great pain. I should not
the beginning that if it could have been avoided. As far as I am personally
concerned, I would have been willing to have again landed at Vera Cruz, &
you through all the labors that brought us here. It could not be helped.
The mischief is done & we must take the consequences. It is a matter in which
neither party has anything to gain & the Army much to lose. The affair I doubt
you will have to before the Court. There we must leave it, but I expect it
will be found, that if one party has been guilty of harshness, or oppression as
you have it, the other has been guilty of insubordination. The Army, thus of
two parties seem to be making a great question as to the origin of the war. It
seems to me too late now to consider it. It may have been produced by the acts
of one party or the other, or brought on by the fiery passions of the hour.
What is the difference?
It looks like diplomatic propriety to decide. It is certain we are the more
generous in a regular war, have whipped our opponents in all parts of their
Country, & under very circumstances, in a manner that women might be asha-
m'd of. The laws of war entitle us to dictate the terms of peace, & to insist
upon such indemnity, as will compensate us for losses sustained, through their
prolonged obstinacy & ignorance. Rather than yield this right I would agree
to fight them 10 years. In making the instrument, I am willing to be generous, &
would even wish to be so generous to a crushed foe. But the principle of
receiving the right I would never relinquish. If it should be determined to
withdraw behind a line, which seems to be a favorite plan with him, the
best that we can take, as far as I can judge from my limited knowledge, the
country would be the Province to be domestic the Sierra Madre, than the range
of the Sierra Madre to the Pacific. This gives us a good front, a perfect line, and
forms a support. Every paper to hold on the Eastern frontier, & along the Western
the population is so scattered, that it would be difficult to organize any formidable army.

From the Risvold Collection: 4-page autograph letter signed "R.E. Lee" as a U.S. Army captain, Mexico City, March 3, 1848...discussing...the treaty of peace: "From what I

gather of its main features, I hope it may prove acceptable. I had strong hopes of its being ratified by the American Congress...The power of the military is pretty much crushed. Santa Anna at their head, knows that as long as we hold the country, there will be no chance of his resuming power. He therefore boasts loudly of fighting to the last & dying for his country, but will be very glad of others making peace, & when we have evacuated the country, will make capital of his resistance, to upset the Govt: & assume his lost position as president....The laws of war entitle us to dictate the terms of peace & to insist upon such indemnity as will compensate us for losses sustained....Rather than yield this right I could agree to fight them 10 years. In rating the indemnity I am willing to be generous, & would even wish to be magnanimous to a crushed foe."

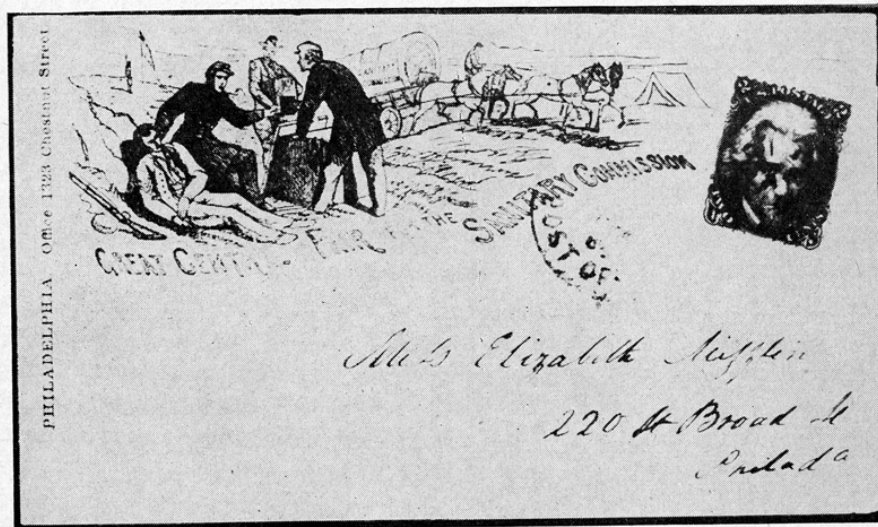
The saddest page in United States history has to do with the War between the States, in which the North opposed the South, brother fought against brother, and the sad great-hearted man in the White House fervently prayed: "that this mighty scourge of war may speedily pass away." Four long years did it continue, and its history has been written upon thousands of pages. The philatelist has done his inadequate bit to preserve its record, and covers beyond number and in wellnigh countless variety are to be found in its collections. Out of our few tens of such covers we may pick but a scant few from those that stand out in interest. Because the great war leader was a family connection, it is with special interest that we make a beginning with a cover of February 20, 1861, depicting on its face the "Rail-splitter" at work before his log cabin, and with his portrait as a corner card above the militant eagle keeping guard over his country's flag on either side. The date of the cover is the same as that on which South Carolina seceded from the Union, and but two weeks after the Southern Confederacy was formed. Lincoln's portrait appears again on the



A "Civil War" cover, February 21, 1861. The Confederacy was formed February 4, 1861, and Jefferson Davis was elected its President, February 9. The cover shows Lincoln, the northern President elect, as one of the people chopping fence rails before his log cabin.

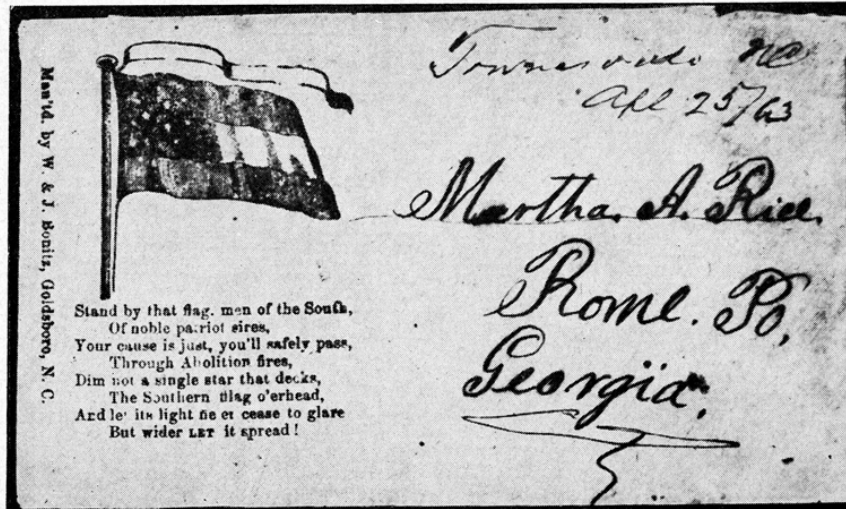
two covers on the following page; on one of them alone in a somewhat ornate frame, on the other together with the members of his War Cabinet who are all arranged in a large oval over the envelope. The war was begun with high hopes on either side, and turning the page we see a Magnus cover picturing a mounted officer leading his men on "From Washington to Richmond," a cover that was decidedly premature as it is dated November 26, 1862, while it was not till late in 1865 that the Northern army at length reached that city. Other covers portray a "Desperate hand to hand encounter over a Battery," an exultant soldier standing beside his fallen enemy, and his right hand holding his sword, at the breach of one of the cannon of the "Captured Battery." A very early cover from occupied territory depicts a winged angel in star-spangled garb bearing a long pennant with the words, "THE UNION NOW HENCE-FORTH & FOREVER AMEN." It is postmarked, Corinth, July 7, 1862, and the letter was written by a northern soldier on the Line to his "beloved sister" at home. He voices the pleasure it would have been to him to have been with her to celebrate the "Fourth," but adds that he will never celebrate another

“Fourth” till victory has come. He also tells of the harsh treatment given to the men of the Army of the North by the “Poor Whites” whom they were feeding. Such early covers from seditious territory are of no little historic interest, and are seldom found. We then see, one after another, a number of covers whose chief motif is the Stars and Stripes in colors; some from Prisoners of War, that have gone through the lines under “Flag of Truce”; and others bringing to mind the “Angels of Mercy” who ministered to the wounded and the dying, one of them showing a woman in patriotic garb pouring out a cup of water for an unseen mortality; another is the Christian Commission, whose ambulance drawn by four horses is driving up as Doctors minister to one in extremis. It is almost too sad to show covers with their caricatures, but feeling



The Sanitary Commission was appointed by the U. S. Government to promote the health, comfort, and efficiency of its armed forces during the Civil War. It is pictured as at work on the field. Great fairs were held to raise funds for its work.

ran high and hot so we show one with what might be Dickens' Fat Boy asking, “Mr. Davis! About Harper's Ferry! Do you want to be left alone?”, and below it one entitled, “Jeff's March on Washington,” in which a woebegone figure is being prodded from behind by a Zouave and his bayonet. The South had its patriotic covers, also, and a turn of the page brings us to one showing the flag of the Confederacy, while below it the flag again appears, on another cover, with a verse starting off, “Stand by that flag men of the South, of noble patriot sires; Your cause is just, you'll safely pass Through Abolition fires.” A cover with its corner turned back shows that it is made from wall-paper, evidencing the price paid in deprivation for the continuing of the war. After this we may pause in silent tribute to one in whose death the South as well as the North suffered its most tragic loss, the Immortal Lincoln whose memory “Belongs to the centuries.” The grief of the nation is touchingly shown in two handmade mourning covers whose borders were blackened with ink by the pen of a grieving soldier in the army.



A good example of a Southern Patriotic sent from South Carolina to Georgia in 1863. Scarcity of paper and ink caused such covers to be very scarce.



Great Central Fair for the Sanitary Commission, Philadelphia cover, similar to that on page 30, this one used to Frankfort, Pa. with 1¢ blue (Sc. 63) tied by two strikes of "Philadelphia, Pa/Mar 18, '64" datestamp, flap

unsealed for circular rate.

A late usage of "The Union Now Henceforth & For Ever Amen!" patriotic design mentioned on page 29, this one used with a 6¢ Columbian (Sc. 235) tied by a "World's Fair Station. Oct. 12, 1893" machine cancel on a cover to Chicago



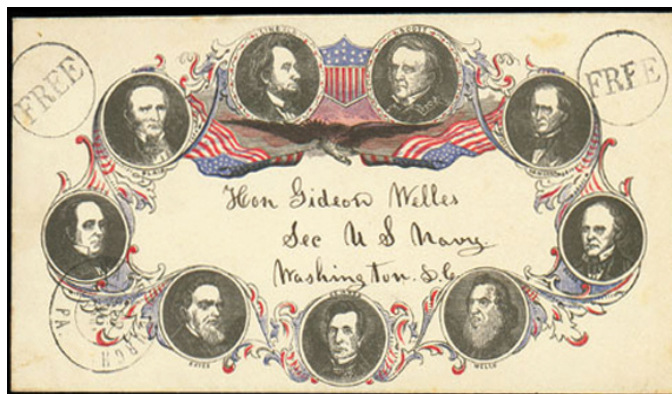


Ex-Risvold: Beardless Lincoln Rail Splitter, Lincoln & Hamlin Campaign allover design cover to Contoocookville, N.H. with 3¢ dull red (Sc. 26) tied by grid, with matching indistinct Ohio date-stamp.

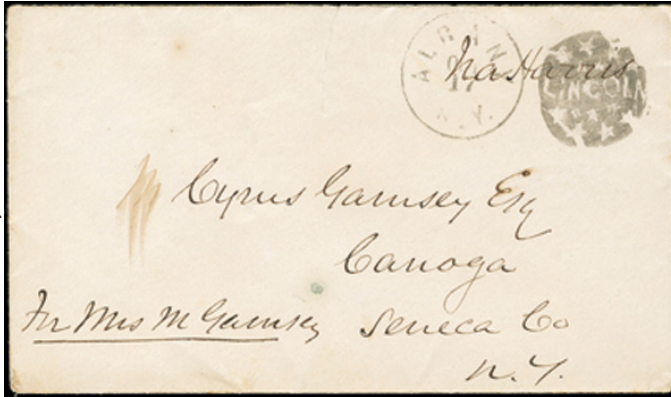
Lincoln Patriotic cover to Jacksonville Ill. with 3¢ rose (Sc. 65) tied by blue grid and matching "Chicago Ill. Jul. 5, 1864" double-circle datestamp, also with blue oval "West Branch P.O." handstamp.



Lincoln and His Cabinet red, white & blue design, posted with "Harrisburgh, Pa. Sep 16" c.d.s. and two strikes of a circled "FREE" handstamp, cover addressed to "Gideon Welles, Sec U. S. Navy, Washington, D.C.", who was a member of Lincoln's staff and is pictured in the design (bearded, bottom right)



Ex-Risvold: Lincoln mourning fancy cancel, stars negative design and matching "Albany, N.Y./ Oct 17" date-stamp over free frank of Senator Ira Harris, addressed to Canoga, N.Y. This negative cancel in black was created by the



Albany, N.Y. post office following the assassination of Lincoln. So far it is only known used in 1865 after Lincoln's death.



Ex-Risvold: Magnus "Movement of the Army from Washington to Richmond" all-over multicolored battle scene design cover to Oswago, Pa., addressed and franked on reverse with 3¢ rose (Sc. 65) tied by "Washington, D.C./Sep 28, 1862" datestamp

Confederate POW in Union Prison, Camp Douglas, Ill., with manuscript "Examined R. Adams, Jr., GMJ" examiners endorsement on Union eagle and flag patriotic cover used to New York, N.Y., bearing 3¢ rose (Sc. 65) tied by blue grid

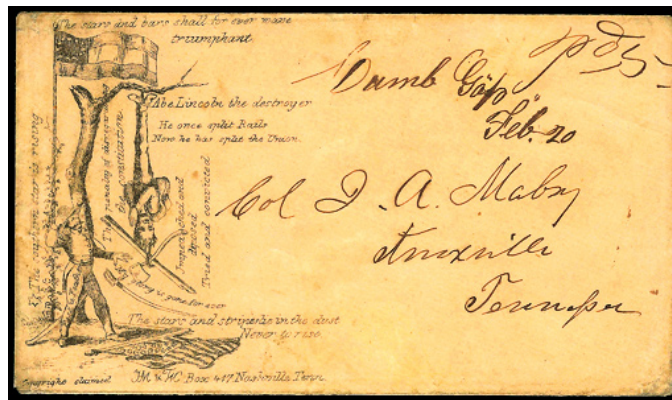


duplexed with "Chicago Ills Apr 8" c.d.s. This 1863 prisoner mentions "I should think that those men of Northern (birth) who have been forced by circumstances...into the Southern Army, ought to have a way provided by which they can...be free from this imprisonment".



Cover to Boston with multicolored Jeff Davis Going and Returning from War cartoon, shows Davis returning as a jackass when turned upside down. Cover with 3¢ rose (Sc. 65) tied by target “Phila. Pa. Aug. 23” circular datestamp.

A “Hanging Lincoln” caricature cover, one of only 12 known. The caption reads “Abe Lincoln the destroyer. He once split Rails. Now he has split the Union.” Sent from Cumberland Gap, Tenn., to Knoxville, Tenn. Feb. 20, 1862.



Red and blue Davis-Stephens 7-Star Confederate Flag Patriotic cover to Rebersburg Pa., with St. Louis Mo. Apr. 22, 1861 circular datestamps, one ties 3¢ dull red Type III (Sc. 26), just nine days after Fort Sumter surrendered.

We now turn back in time to the French, whose Revolutionary activities resulted shortly in her declaring war against Holland and England, and then entering upon other conflicts that did not end with the Revolution. This was in 1793 when England sent an army to fight on the Continent in defense of her Allies, the Dutch. The two covers that we have on this page came from Aylesbury, England, from his father and mother, to a Capt. Lee of the 16th Regiment Q. L. D., of His Britanic Majesty, fighting in Flanders alongside the Dutch. Following these are covers of the Crimean War of 1853-1856 in which the English, for the first time in two centuries, fought with the French as their allies in helping the Turks against the aggressions of Russia. Sebastopol and Balaclava are outstanding names from this conflict, and from both of these places we have covers. The first of these is from a French soldier in camp before Sebastopol who is writing to his cousin at home in France telling him about the frequent raids and severe bombardments by the enemy. On its upper right corner is the military postmark of the Army of the East, and on its reverse the receiving mark of Paris. Following this are two covers addressed to "Mr. T. I. Bines, Assistant Storekeeper, Commissariat Department, Balaclava, or elsewhere." It was at Balaclava that the famous "Charge of the Light Brigade" took place, a charge of which the French general said, "It is magnificent, but it is not war," and which has also been referred to as an "Example of Valorous Stupidity." At the same time that England was thus engaged against the Russians, she was having her troubles in India where there had already been several native mutinies. The Great Indian Mutiny, beginning in 1857, was brought on by what, to us, would seem a small matter, that of the new greased cartridges made necessary by the new type of rifle, but the use of which, to the native mind, involved their utter defilement. Even English specialists regard Indian Mutiny covers as very scarce and hard to get. The two shown on our page come from the two centers of Delhi and Lucknow. The first of them is

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