



continued from page  
 Artillery.<sup>1</sup> One of George W. Cushing's  
 sons probably sent the envelope. Both  
 survived the war. The envelope has a  
 comic illustration of a Confederate  
 guerilla who is willing to take the oath  
 of allegiance.

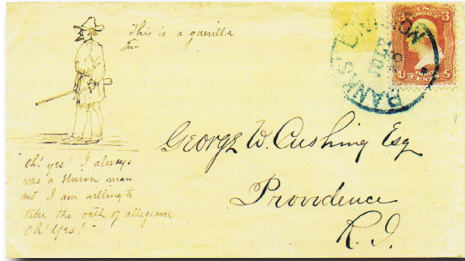


Figure 1: envelope from Banks Division  
 to Providence, RI, with drawing of a Con-  
 federate guerilla

Photograph courtesy of James W. Milgram,  
 Federal Civil War Postal Historian

Mr. Pardon Hopkins of Noose Neck,  
 RI, received an envelope postmarked at  
 Camp Nelson, KY, on December  
 (Figure 2). A Pardon Hopkins and his  
 apparent sons Charles W. and William  
 Hopkins are in West Greenwich (about  
 two miles west of Nooseneck) in the  
 Union

US census.<sup>1</sup> Charles W. and William  
 P. Hopkins were musicians with the  
 Rhode Island Infantry, and this regiment  
 was in Kentucky in December.<sup>1</sup> One  
 of Pardon Hopkins' sons probably sent  
 the envelope. Both survived the war.

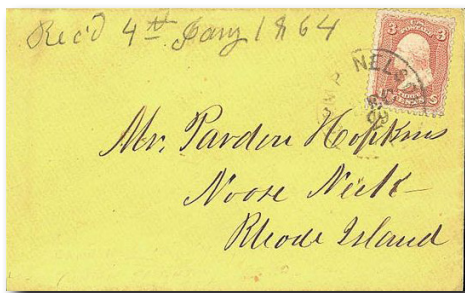


Figure 2: envelope from Camp Nelson,  
 Kentucky to Noose Neck, RI

Photograph courtesy of Schuyler Rumsey  
 Philatelic Auctions, Sale # Lot 3877

Benjamin Champlin of Wickford, RI,  
 received a Soldier's Letter postmarked  
 in Washington, DC, on October  
 (Figure 3). The envelope was signed by  
 G.W. Tew Major 4th Reg R.I.V. [Regiment  
 Rhode Island Volunteers], and he may  
 have sent the envelope or, more likely,  
 endorsed it because the envelope was  
 sent without a stamp, postage due.

Thomas Smith, Benjamin Champlin's  
 nephew, served as a private in the  
 Rhode Island, and he may have sent  
 the envelope.<sup>1</sup> Benjamin Champlin and  
 Thomas Smith are in North Kingstown  
 (adjacent to Wickford), and George W.  
 Tew is in Newport, in the US cen-  
 sus.<sup>1</sup> The 4th Rhode Island Infantry de-  
 parted from Providence for Washington,  
 DC, on October 1.<sup>1</sup> George W. Tew  
 and Thomas Smith survived the war.  
 The envelope has an illustration of Win-  
 eld Scott, Commander in Chief of the  
 Union Army until November 1862, and  
 The War for the Union.



Figure 3: envelope from Washington,  
 DC, to Wickford, RI, with illustration of  
 General Winfield Scott and The War for  
 the

Photograph courtesy of Rachel Peirce

This article shows how postal history  
 documents our ancestors' wartime ex-  
 perience. Other Rhode Island envelopes  
 and postcards illustrate our ancestors'  
 work, family correspondence, travel,  
 political and social interests, where they  
 lived before migrating to the US, and  
 may have their photograph on a real  
 photo postcard.

Please contact the author if you would  
 like to add an envelope or postcard  
 photograph with sender and recipient  
 information to the philatelic genealogy  
 website and database, Philgen.org

### Notes

- Figures 1 and 3 are from Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries (<http://www.siegelauctions.com/>; accessed 20 December 2011); and Figure 5 is from Schuyler Rumsey Philatelic Auctions (<http://www.rumseyauctions.com/>; accessed 20 December 2011). Figures 2 and 6 are from Rachel Peirce Report, Figure 4 is from James W. Milgram, *Federal Civil War Postal History* (Forest, IL: Northbrook Publishing Company, Inc., 2007).
- 1860 US census, Kent County, RI, population (pop.) schedule, Warwick, Apponaug post office, p. 187 (penned), dwelling 1199, family 1434, William C. Barney; digital image, Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com>; accessed 20 December 2011); citing National Archives and Records Administration microim-publication (NARA) series M653, roll 1203.
- Historical Data Systems (HDS), compiler, *US Civil War Soldiers, Records and Profiles* (USCWSRP) database, Ancestry.com, entry for Miller L.R. Barney.
- Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, Power Search, enter 988 as Sale # and 233 as Lot #.
- 1870 US census, Kent County, RI, pop. schedule, Warwick, Apponaug post office, p. 212 (penned), dwelling 1738, family 1677, Miller L.R. Barney; digital image, Ancestry.com; citing NARA series M593, roll 1471.
- Email from Rachel Peirce to the author, 12 December 2011.
- 1850 US census, Washington County, RI, pop. schedule, North Kingstown, p. 311 (stamped, verso), dwelling 218, family 256, Wm.

- ris Smith; digital image, Ancestry.com; citing NARA series M432, roll 847.
- HDS, USCWSRP, Ancestry.com, entry for William M. Smith, served Rhode Island: National Park Service (NPS), Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System (CWSSS) (<http://www.itd.nps.gov/cwss/>; accessed 20 December 2011). Regiments, 1st Rhode Island Light Artillery, Battery F.
- 1870 US census, Washington County, RI, pop. schedule, North Kingstown, Wickford post office, p. 58 (penned), dwelling 414, family 463, Harris Smith; digital image, Ancestry.com; citing NARA series M593, roll 1473.
- 1860 US census, Providence County, RI, pop. schedule, Cumberland, Woonsocket post office, p. 82 (penned), dwelling 448, family 592, Joseph H. Gladding; digital image, Ancestry.com; citing NARA series M653, roll 1205.
- NPS, CWSSS, Soldiers, Daniel P. Gladding, served Rhode Island: and Regiments, 4th Rhode Island Infantry.
- 1870 US census, Providence County, RI, pop. schedule, Woonsocket, p. 171 (penned), dwelling 782, family 1269, Joseph H. Gladding; digital image, Ancestry.com; citing NARA series M593, roll 1474.
- Milgram, *Federal Civil War Postal History*, Banks Division Postmarks, 245-249. This postmark was in use only in 1862.
- 1860 US census, Providence County, RI, pop. schedule, Providence, ward 1, p. 7 (penned), dwelling 32, family 40, George W. Cushing; digital image, Ancestry.com; citing NARA series M653, roll 1209.
- Genealogy of the Cushing Family 2010 family tree, owner: wrcushing49, sources shown include US censuses and Find A Grave database, Ancestry.com, see Story with Samuel Tobey Cushing; HDS, USCWSRP, Ancestry.com, entry for Henry Cooke Cushing, served Rhode Island.
- 1870 US census, Travis County, TX, pop. schedule, Austin, p. 54 (penned), dwelling 366, family 423, Sam I.T. Cushing; digital image, Ancestry.com; citing NARA series M593, roll 1606; 1890 US census, Newport County, RI, veterans schedule, Fort Adams, Enumeration District (ED) Fort Adams, p. 1, dwelling 17, family 17, Harry C. Cushing; digital image, Ancestry.com; citing NARA series M123, roll 92.
- 1860 US census, Kent County, RI, pop. schedule, West Greenwich, p. 30 (penned), dwelling 246, family 273, Pardon Hopkins; digital image, Ancestry.com; citing NARA series M653, roll 1203.
- NPS, CWSSS, Soldiers, Charles W. Hopkins and Wm. P. Hopkins, served Rhode Island: and Regiments, 7th Rhode Island Infantry.
- 1890 US census, Providence County, RI, veterans schedule, Providence, ED 75, p. 2, dwelling 247, family 134, Chas. W. Hopkins; digital image, Ancestry.com; citing NARA series M123, roll 92; 1890 US census, Essex County, MA, veterans schedule, Lawrence, ED 213, p. 1, dwelling 36, family 55, William P. Hopkins; digital image, Ancestry.com; citing NARA series M123, roll 15.
- Milgram, *Federal Civil War Postal History*.
- Email from Rachel Peirce to the author, 12 December 2011.
- 1860 US census, Washington County, RI, pop. schedule, North Kingstown, p. 66 (penned), dwelling 463, family 526, Benjamin Champlin, and p. 38 (penned), dwelling 270, family 324, Benjamin Smith; digital images, Ancestry.com; citing NARA series M653, roll 1211; 1860 US census, Newport County, RI, pop. schedule, Newport, p. 12 (penned), dwelling 60, family 70, George W. Tew; digital image, Ancestry.com; citing NARA series M653, roll 1204.
- NPS, CWSSS, Regiments, 4th Rhode Island Infantry.
- 1890 US census, Washington County, RI, veterans schedule, North Kingstown, ED 202, p. 3, dwelling 281, family 305, Thomas A. Smith; digital image, Ancestry.com; citing NARA series M123, roll 92; HDS, USCWSRP, Ancestry.com, entry for George Washington Tew, served Rhode Island.
- For examples of other types of information available from postal history, please visit <http://philgen.org>, and search the database by family or city name, or click on an article reprint listed in the Main Menu.

Acknowledgments  
 The author thanks the following for  
 the use of photographs: Robert A. Siegel  
 Auction Galleries; Rachel Peirce; James  
 W. Milgram, M.D.; and Schuyler Rumsey  
 Philatelic Auctions. Also thanks to the  
 genealogists who posted family trees at  
 Ancestry.com and responded to email  
 and message board queries; and to Lisa  
 Birsinger for database and website sup-  
 port.

### Biosketch

James R. (Jim) Miller is a genealogist  
 and postal historian and is the founder  
 of Philgen.org Jim's article on 19th  
 century political envelopes in Rhode  
 Island appeared in the March  
 RIGS Reporter. He lives in Caroga Lake, NY, and  
 Haguenuau (Alsace), France, and can be  
 contacted at [jim@philgen.org](mailto:jim@philgen.org).