

## Civil War Envelopes of Connecticut

by James R. Miller

Envelopes sent during the Civil War are vivid evidence of our ancestors' military service. Old envelopes in postal history collections are a largely untapped source of genealogical information. This paper presents six envelopes sent to or from Connecticut with basic genealogical details on the senders and recipients. Three envelopes are from philatelic auction catalogs and two are from a book on Civil War postal history from which *Philgen.org* has permission to use photographs; the author purchased one envelope from a postal history vendor.<sup>[1]</sup> All locations are in Connecticut except as noted. As with any source of genealogical information, envelopes must be studied in combination with other sources before reaching a conclusion.

Mrs. Hiram Eddy of West Winstead [*sic*] received an envelope postmarked in Richmond, Virginia, and Louisville, Kentucky, on 6 August 1861 (Figure 1). "Libby Prison Richmond Va" is written vertically on the right. Fannie (apparently Mrs. Hiram) Eddy is in North Canaan (fifteen miles northwest of Winstead) in the 1860 census, with Hiram Eddy shown as a Congregational minister.<sup>[2]</sup> Hiram Eddy enlisted as a chaplain with the 2nd Connecticut Infantry on 15 July 1861. His regiment fought at the Battle of Bull Run on 21 July 1861, where he was separated from the regiment and captured on 26 July 1861.<sup>[3]</sup> The regiment's enlistment ended after ninety days on 7 August 1861, but Hiram Eddy remained a prisoner until July 1862.<sup>[4]</sup> He survived the war and lived until 1893; his wife Frances (Adam) Eddy lived until 1910; both are buried in North Canaan with Hiram Eddy's war service noted on his gravestone.<sup>[5]</sup> Regular mail delivery between the U.S. and the Confederate States of America ended in June 1861; this envelope was carried by the Adams Express Company, which continued their service until 26 August 1861.<sup>[6]</sup> Typescript transcriptions of Hiram Eddy's Civil War diary and letters are at the Connecticut Historical Society.<sup>[7]</sup>



Figure 1. 1861 envelope from Richmond, Va. to West Winstead via Louisville, Ky. (Photograph courtesy of Schuyler Rumsey Philatelic Auctions, Sale 29, Lot 3894).

Louisa Ingham of New Haven received an envelope postmarked 23 May 1862 in New Orleans, Louisiana (Figure 2). "From the 13th Conn Vol[unteer]s" is written vertically on the right. Louisa (apparently Mrs. George) Ingham is in New Haven in the 1860 census followed by George W. Ingham, who appears

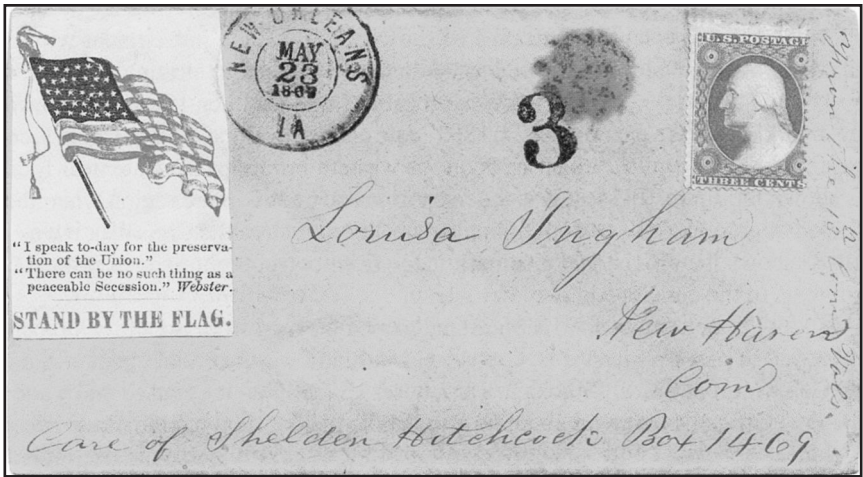


Figure 2. 1862 envelope from New Orleans, La. to New Haven, with paste-on label showing a U.S. flag, a Daniel Webster quotation, and “Stand by the Flag.” (Photograph courtesy of James W. Milgram, M.D., *Federal Civil War Postal History*, p. 263.)

with his apparent wife and son, Sarah and Frederic Ingham.<sup>[8]</sup> George and Louisa Ingham and their apparent son George are in Orange in the 1850 census.<sup>[9]</sup> George W. Ingham enlisted as a private in the 13th Connecticut Infantry on 2 October 1861. This regiment occupied New Orleans on 1 May 1862, and remained nearby until October 1862.<sup>[10]</sup> George W. suffered a severe abdominal wound on 14 April 1863 at the Battle of Irish Bend in southern Louisiana.<sup>[11]</sup> He survived his wound, but is shown in an online family tree as dying on 26 November 1864.<sup>[12]</sup> Sarah and Fred Ingham, George W. Ingham’s apparent wife and son, are in Cheshire without George in the 1870 and 1880 censuses, shown as mother and son, and Sarah as a widow, in 1880.<sup>[13]</sup> George W. Ingham appears on an 1879 roll of honor in Cheshire, and Sarah Ingham filed for a widow’s pension in 1890.<sup>[14]</sup> A cut-out label with a U.S. flag, a Daniel Webster quotation on preserving the Union, and “Stand by the Flag” is pasted on the envelope. The envelope was sent “Care of Sheldon Hitchcock.” He is shown in an 1862 New Haven directory as a boot maker at 255 Congress Avenue, and George Ingham, Louisa’s apparent husband, is shown as a shoemaker at 352 Congress Avenue.<sup>[15]</sup> This envelope was probably sent by a son to his mother.

Miss Leila F. Blodgett of Hartford received a “Prisoner of War Letter” from “John B. Clapp, Adjutant, 16th Ct” postmarked in Old Point Comfort, Virginia, on 18 July [1864] (Figure 3). “June 5<sup>th</sup> [18]64” is written vertically on the left. Leila F. Blodgett is in Hartford in the 1860 census, the apparent daughter of

Roswell Blodgett.<sup>[16]</sup> John B. Clapp of Wethersfield enlisted as a sergeant with the 16th Connecticut Infantry on 21 July 1862, and was promoted to adjutant on 9 January 1863.<sup>[17]</sup> Clapp was taken prisoner; this envelope was sent from Camp Oglethorpe in Macon, Georgia, a Confederate prison for Union officers.<sup>[18]</sup> Clapp survived the war and married Leila F. Blodgett on 17 September 1867.<sup>[19]</sup> He is shown in an 1867 Hartford directory as working for R. F. Blodgett and Company. John B. and Leila F. Clapp are in Hartford in the 1870 U.S. census.<sup>[20]</sup> Leila (Blodgett) Clapp lived until 1893 and John B. Clapp until 1899; both are buried in Hartford with John Beadle Clapp's war service noted on his gravestone.<sup>[21]</sup> This envelope was sent by a soldier to his future wife. The envelope was sent without a stamp and is marked "Due 6 [cents postage]." "Via Flag of Truce" is written in the lower left; the envelope probably passed through the Union-Confederate exchange point near Old Point Comfort, Virginia.<sup>[22]</sup> "Ex WSS," written in the upper left, indicates the letter was examined by a Confederate censor.

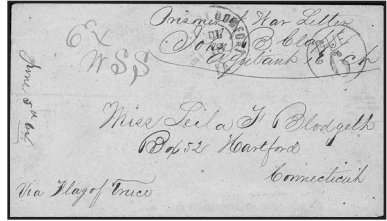


Figure 3. 1864 "Prisoner of War Letter" from Camp Oglethorpe, Macon, Ga. to Hartford. (Photograph courtesy of Schuyler Rumsey Philatelic Auctions, Sale 32, Lot 1335).

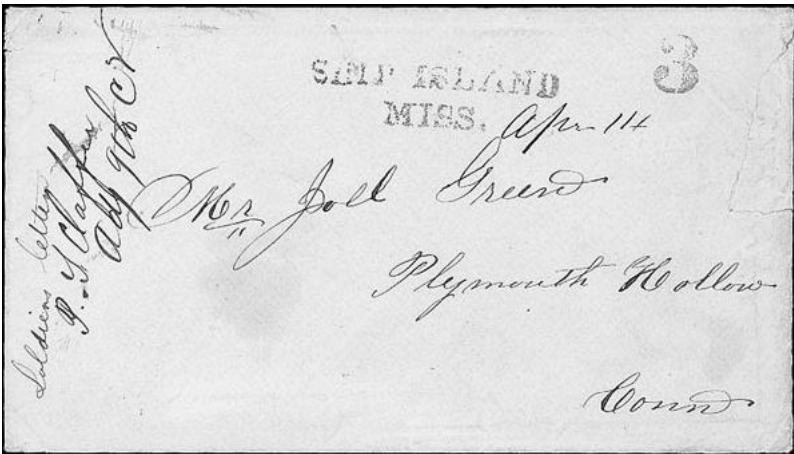


Figure 4. 1862 envelope from Ship Island, Miss. to Plymouth Hollow. (Photograph courtesy of Schuyler Rumsey Philatelic Auctions, Sale 47, Lot. 1638).

Joel Green of Plymouth Hollow received an envelope postmarked “Ship Island, Miss[issippi], Apr. 14 [1862]” (Figure 4). Joel and John B. Green, apparently father and son, are in Plymouth in the 1860 census.<sup>[23]</sup> “Soldiers letter, P. T. Claffee, Adj[utant] 9<sup>th</sup> C[onnecticut] V[olunteers]” is written vertically on the left. John B. Green enlisted as a corporal in the 9th Connecticut Infantry on 10 January 1861.<sup>[24]</sup> The 9th Connecticut left Boston, Massachusetts on 25 November 1861 and arrived at Ship Island on 3 December 1861.<sup>[25]</sup> The regiment fought in Mississipi in April 1862 and occupied New Orleans on 1 May 1862.<sup>[26]</sup> Green died from chronic diarrhea on 16 or 17 August 1862 and was buried at Monument Cemetery in New Orleans.<sup>[27]</sup> This envelope was probably sent by a son to his father. Patrick T. Claffee, who signed the envelope, enlisted as sergeant major with the 9th Connecticut on 9 September 1861 and was promoted to 1st lieutenant on 18 May 1862.<sup>[28]</sup> He died in service on 5 October 1862; his wife Mary T. Claffee filed for a widow’s pension on 17 November 1862.<sup>[29]</sup>

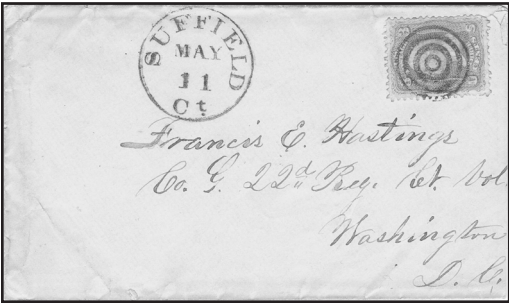


Figure 5. 1863 envelope from Suffield to a 22<sup>nd</sup> Connecticut Infantry soldier in Washington, D.C. (Photograph from the author’s collection).

An envelope postmarked in Suffield on 11 May [1863] was sent to Francis E. Hastings of “Co[mpany] G 22d Reg[iment] C[onnecticu]t Vol[unteers]” (Figure 5). Francis E. Hastings is in Suffield in the 1850 and 1860 censuses, the apparent son of Samuel and Eliza Hastings.<sup>[30]</sup> Francis E. Hastings enlisted in

Company G, 22nd Connecticut Infantry on 25 August 1862; his regiment was in Washington,

D.C. in April 1863 and coastal Virginia in May 1864.<sup>[31]</sup> Francis Hastings survived the war and was mustered out of service with his regiment on 7 July 1863.<sup>[32]</sup> He married about 1868, lived until 1926, and is buried in Suffield.<sup>[33]</sup> A member of Francis Hasting’s family may have sent this envelope.

An envelope postmarked in New Canaan on 10 July [1865] was sent to Arza Raymond of “Co[mpany] H 17th Reg[imen]t C[onnecticut] V[olunteers]” in St. Augustine, Florida, and then “Forwarded” to New Canaan. (Figure 6) Arza Raymond is in New Canaan in the 1850 census; he enlisted in the 17th Connecticut Infantry on 7 August 1862 as a private.<sup>[34]</sup> The regiment fought at Chancellorsville and Gettysburg and then went to South Carolina in August 1863.<sup>[35]</sup> The regiment moved to Jacksonville, Florida, in February 1865, and was in St. Augustine in April-June 1865.<sup>[36]</sup> Arza Raymond was discharged on 19 July 1865 in Hilton

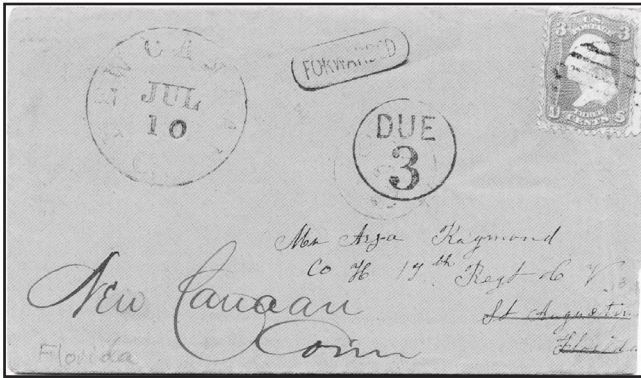


Figure 6. 1865 envelope from New Canaan to a 17th Connecticut Infantry soldier in St. Augustine, Fla. and returned to New Canaan. (Photograph courtesy of James. W. Milgram, M.D., *Federal Civil War Postal History*, p. 140.

Head, South Carolina.<sup>[37]</sup> He is in New Canaan, apparently married, in the 1870 census.<sup>[38]</sup> Arza Raymond lived until 4 July 1926.<sup>[39]</sup> A member of Arza Raymond's family may have sent this envelope.

Millions of old envelopes and postcards await discovery by genealogists. This article shows how old envelopes document our ancestors' Civil War service. Other envelopes and postcards illustrate where our ancestors lived before coming to the United States, where family members lived in the United States, social and political interests, work, travel and everyday life.<sup>[40]</sup> Anyone may add a photograph of an envelope or postcard with its owner's permission to *Philgen.org* by contacting the author. Photographs and data posted for each item will be credited to the person and/or their genealogical, historical, or philatelic association.

### Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> Figures 1, 3 and 4 are from Schuyler Rumsey Philatelic Auctions (<http://www.rumseyauctions.com>. "Auctions," scroll to catalog sale number, click "View Catalog," scroll to range of lot numbers, click on appropriate range). Figures 2 and 6 are from James W. Milgram, M.D., *Federal Civil War Postal History* (Lake Forest, Ill.: Northbrook Publishing Company, 2007), 263, 140. The author bought Figure 5 for \$15 from Jim Forte Postal History (<http://www.postalhistory.com/>). The author has no financial interest in this auction house, this vendor, or the book.

<sup>2</sup> 1860 U.S. Census, North Canaan, Litchfield Co., Conn., MF M653-82, p. 918 (FHLF 803082, image 337).

- <sup>3</sup> “U.S. Civil War Soldier Records and Profiles” (USCWSRP); database, Ancestry.com; entry for Hiram Eddy, served Conn.; National Park Service (NPS), Civil War Soldiers and Sailors Database (CWSSD) (<http://www.nps.gov/civilwar/soldiers-and-sailors-database.htm>), “Regiments,” 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment, Conn. Infantry; Schuyler Rumsey, sale 29, lot 3894.
- <sup>4</sup> NPS, CWSSD, Regiments, 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment, Conn. Infantry; Schuyler Rumsey, sale 29, lot 3894.
- <sup>5</sup> Find-A-Grave, database (<http://www.findagrave.com/>), Hiram D. Eddy, Litchfield Co., Conn., memorial # 34671696; Francis C. Eddy, Litchfield Co., Conn., memorial # 34671695.
- <sup>6</sup> Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries (<http://www.siegelauctions.com/>), “Past Sales,” “Sale Listings,” “Select Sale: Sale 988,” “View the Catalogue as a PDF File,” 7-8.
- <sup>7</sup> Connecticut Historical Society (<http://www.chs.org/>), “Research,” “Civil War Manuscript Project,” entry for Hiram Eddy, MS 78637.
- <sup>8</sup> 1860 U.S. Census, New Haven, ward 3, New Haven Co., Conn., MF M653-86, pp. 466-467 (FHLF 803086, images 474-475).
- <sup>9</sup> 1850 U.S. Census, Orange, New Haven Co., Conn., MF M432-46, p. 417A.
- <sup>10</sup> USCWSRP, Ancestry.com, entry for George W. Ingham, served Conn.; NPS, CWSSD, Regiments, 13th Regiment, Conn. Infantry.
- <sup>11</sup> Homer B. Sprague, *History of the 13th Infantry Regiment of Connecticut Volunteers* (Hartford, Conn.: Case, Lockwood & Co., 1867), 311-312.
- <sup>12</sup> USCWSRP, Ancestry.com, entry for George W. Ingham, served Conn.; “Snyder Family Tree – NE Pennsylvania,” owner: ksdirk, Ancestry.com, sources shown are U.S. censuses, online Civil War databases and family trees.
- <sup>13</sup> 1870 U.S. Census, Cheshire, New Haven Co., Conn., MF M593-111, p. 68B (FHLF 545610, image 143; 1880 U.S. Census, Cheshire, New Haven Co., Conn., MF T9-103, pp. 336C-D, ED 50 (FHLF 1254103, images 675-676).
- <sup>14</sup> “Memorial Exercises of the Citizens of Prospect and Cheshire on Decoration Day, May 30th, 1879” digital image, Connecticut State Library (<http://cslib.cdmhost.com/cdm/singleitem/collection/p4005coll11/id/63/rec/14>); “U.S., Civil War Pension Index: General Index to Pension Files, 1861-1934”; database and digital image, Ancestry.com; entry for George W. Ingham, served Conn., citing NARA T288-236.
- <sup>15</sup> *Benham’s New Haven Directory and Annual Advertiser, 1862-63* (New Haven, Conn.: J. H. Benham, 1862), 173, Sheldon Hitchcock; 185, George Ingham.
- <sup>16</sup> 1860 U.S. Census, Hartford, district 1, Hartford Co., Conn., M653-78, p. 800 (FHLF 803078, image 281).
- <sup>17</sup> “American Civil War Soldiers” (ACWS); database, Ancestry.com; entry for John Clapp, served Conn..
- <sup>18</sup> USCWSRP, Ancestry.com, entry for John B. Clapp, served Conn.; Schuyler Rumsey, sale 32, lot 1335; NPS, “History E-Library,” “Camp Oglethorpe,”

([http://www.nps.gov/history/history/online\\_books/civil\\_war\\_series/5/sec7.htm#1](http://www.nps.gov/history/history/online_books/civil_war_series/5/sec7.htm#1)).

- <sup>19</sup> “U.S., Sons of the American Revolution Membership Applications, 1889-1970”; digital image, Ancestry.com; entry for John Beadle and Leila Blodgett Clapp, citing Vol. 240, SAR membership number 47944.
- <sup>20</sup> Elihu Geer, comp., *Geer’s Hartford City Directory for 1867-68* (Hartford, Conn.: Hartford Steam Printing Company, 1867), 87; 1870 U.S. Census, Hartford, ward 2, Hartford Co., Conn., MF M593-100, p. 488A (FHLF 545599, image 349).
- <sup>21</sup> “Connecticut, Deaths and Burials Index, 1650-1934”; database, Ancestry.com; entry for Leila F. Clapp, burial place: Conn.; Find A Grave, John Beadle Clapp, Hartford Co., Conn., memorial # 25769866.
- <sup>22</sup> Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, “Past Sales,” “Sale Listings,” “Select Sale: Sale 988,” “View the Catalogue as a PDF File,” 7-8, 89-90.
- <sup>23</sup> 1860 U.S. Census, Plymouth, Litchfield Co., Conn., MF M653-81, p. 419 (FHLF 803081, image 434).
- <sup>24</sup> USCWSRP, Ancestry.com, entry for John B. Green, served Conn..
- <sup>25</sup> NPS, CWSSD, Regiments, 9th Regiment, Conn. Infantry.
- <sup>26</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>27</sup> “U.S., Registers of Deaths of Volunteers, 1861-1865”; digital image, Ancestry.com; entry for J. B. Green, 9th Conn. Infantry, shows 17 August 1862 as date of death; “U.S., Burial Registers, Military Posts and National Cemeteries, 1862-1960”; digital image, Ancestry.com; entry for John Green, buried Louisiana, shows 16 August 1862 as date of death.
- <sup>28</sup> ACWS, Ancestry.com, Patrick Claffee, served Conn..
- <sup>29</sup> Ibid.; “U.S., Civil War Pension Index: General Index to Pension Files, 1861-1934,” digital image, Ancestry.com, entry for Patrick T. Claffee, citing NARA T288-82.
- <sup>30</sup> 1850 U.S. Census, Suffield, Hartford Co., Conn., MF M432-39, p. 97B; 1860 U.S. Census, Suffield, Hartford Co., Conn., MF M653-79, p. 613 (FHLF 803079, image 228).
- <sup>31</sup> USCWSRP, Ancestry.com, entry for Francis E. Hastings, served Conn.; NPS, CWSSD, Regiments, 22nd Regiment, Conn. Infantry.
- <sup>32</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>33</sup> 1900 U.S. Census, Suffield, Hartford Co., Conn., MF T623-139, p. 10B, ED 223 (FHLF 1240139); Find-A-Grave, Francis E. Hastings, Hartford Co., Conn., memorial # 10067225, war service apparently shown on gravestone.
- <sup>34</sup> 1850 U.S. Census, New Canaan, Fairfield Co., Conn., MF M432-38, p. 358B; ACWS, Ancestry.com, Arza Raymond, served Conn.
- <sup>35</sup> NPS, CWSSD, Regiments, 17th Regiment, Conn. Infantry.
- <sup>36</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>37</sup> ACWS, Ancestry.com, Arza Raymond, served Conn.

<sup>38</sup> 1870 U.S. Census, New Canaan, Fairfield Co., Conn., MF M593-98, p. 675B (FHLF 545597, image 126).

<sup>39</sup> “Connecticut, Deaths and Burials Index, 1650-1934”; database, Ancestry.com; entry for Arza Raymond, died Conn.

<sup>40</sup> Other types of genealogical information available from old envelopes and postcards can be seen at <http://philgen.org>. In the Main Menu, click on “Search Database” to search for a surname or city or state, or click on an article title listed in the Main Menu to see a copy of the article.

### **Acknowledgements**

The author thanks Schuyler Philatelic Auctions and James W. Milgram, M.D. for the use of photographs; the genealogists who posted family trees at Ancestry.com; and Elisabeth Birsinger-Miller for database and website support.

### **About the Author**

James R. “Jim” Miller is a genealogist and the founder of Philgen.org. His earlier article on Connecticut envelopes and postcards appeared in Connecticut Genealogy News, volume 4, no. 4 (Winter 2011). Jim lives in Caroga Lake, New York and Haguenau (Alsace), France, and can be contacted at [jim@philgen.org](mailto:jim@philgen.org).