The American Civil War involved **British North America in various ways**

Stamp connections can be found to British North Americans who served with honor and distinction on both sides in the Civil War.

Between 30,000 and 50,000 Canadian men - and at least one woman, Sarah Emma Edmonds (also known as Frank Thompson, 1841-98, born in New Brunswick) - served with the United States Army during the Civil War.

Another 10,000 may have served with the Confederacy.

Four of the Union soldiers became generals and 29 others were awarded the



Medal of Honor. As far as I know, none of them has been commemorated on a U.S. stamp.

One of the four generals was John Mc-Neil (1813-91), born in Halifax, Nova Scotia. At the time of his death, he was superintendent of the U.S. Post Office, St. Louis Branch.

Another general, Jacob Dolson Cox Jr. (1828-1900), was born in Montreal while his father was supervising construction of the roof of Notre Dame Cathedral, which is pictured on the \$1 stamp (Scott 687) shown in Figure 1.

Historians cite John Brown's 1859 raid on the federal arsenal at Harpers Ferry, Va., as a factor contributing to the start of



Figure 2. A 32¢ Josiah Henson (1789-1883), Preacher stamp (Scott 997).

the Civil War. Before the raid, on May 8, 1858, in Chatham, Canada West, Brown convened a constitutional convention for a proposed republic to be established by free slaves in the Appalachian Mountains. At the time, one-third of Chatham's citizens were fugitive slaves.

During the convention, Brown met with Please turn to page 38

Figue 1.

A Canadian

\$1 High-rise

Tower, Notre

Dame Cathe-

dral, Montreal

and Olympic

Games Emblem stamp (Scott

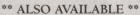
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Harriet Tubman and tried to convince her and the other participants that the Underground Railway for smuggling escaped slaves to freedom should end in Kansas rather than Canada and should be called the "Subterranean Pass Way." The 32¢ Josiah Henson (1789-1883), Preacher stamp (Scott 997) shown in Figure 2 depicts escaped slaves heading for freedom in the background.



Figure 3. A 43¢ Royal York Hotel, Toronto, Ontario, stamp (Scott 1469).

Confederate agents were posted to many places in Canada, including Toronto in Canada West and Montreal in Canada East. Their Toronto headquarters was at the Queen's Hotel, from the lobby of which Col. Jacob Thompson ran his spy ring. That hotel stood on land where the Royal York Hotel, seen on the 43¢ stamp (Scott 1469) shown in Figure 3, now stands.

In Montreal, the St. Lawrence Hall Hotel served as their headquarters.

An 1854 cover bearing the hotel's corner card is shown in Figure 4.

Actor and presidential assassin John Wilkes Booth stayed in room 150 at the St. Lawrence Hall for several days starting on Oct. 18, 1864. The purpose of his visit was to ship his theatrical wardrobe to the Confederacy and to confer with Confederate agents about the details of a plan to capture President Abraham Lincoln. A Canadian-born Union officer, Edward Paul Doherty (1840-97), formed and led the detach-



Figure 4. An 1854 cover bearing the corner card of the St. Lawrence Hall Hotel, in Montreal, Canada East, shown courtesy of the Brigham Collection.

ment of soldiers that trapped and killed Booth after the Lincoln assassination.

William Winer Cooke (1846-76), a lieutenant colonel during the Civil War, became regimental adjutant under Lt. Col. George A. Custer and died at the Battle of the Little Big Horn.

Pvt. Jerry Cronan (1833-64) is the only Canadian Confederate soldier buried in Arlington National Cemetery. He was buried there

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just a short time before it became a Union Army cemetery.

Dr. Solomon Secord (1834-1910) was one of many Canadian doctors to enlist in the war. Although he was an outspoken abolitionist whose views almost got him lynched, he was living in Georgia at the start of the war and served in the Confederate States Army. He was captured at the Battle of Gettysburg but escaped and returned to his regiment. He left the service and moved back to Canada in

1864. He was the great-nephew of Laura Secord, the Canadian heroine of the War of 1812 commemorated on the 42¢ stamp (Scott 1434) shown in Figure 5.

Some volunteers came from wealthy and prominent families such as Frederick Howe (1840-?). His father,



Figure 5. A 42¢ Laura Secord, Patriot stamp (Scott 1434).

Joseph (1804-73), a wealthy newspaperman and Nova Scotian politician is seen on the 8¢ stamp (Scott 616) shown in Figure 6.

As far as I know, the only British North American who participated in the Civil War as a serving member of the forces and who is featured on a stamp is Calixa Lavallee (1842-91). One of the com-



Figure 6. An 8¢ Joseph Howe stamp (Scott 616).

posers of Canada's national anthem, *O Canada*, he is seen on the 17¢ stamp (Scott 858) shown in Figure 7.

Lavallee was born in Vercheres, Canada East, and moved to Rhode Island in 1857. He enlisted as a musician in the 4th Rhode Island Infantry Regiment. In 1862, he was a lieutenant and Musician 1st Class and the regiment's principal cornetist. He was wounded at the battle



Figure 7. A 17¢ Composers Lavallee, Routhier and Weir stamp (Scott 858).

of Antietam and given a medical discharge. He never returned to live in Canada but pursued a music career in the United States. In 1880, the lieutenant-governor of Quebec, Dr. Theodore Robitaille (1834-97, in office 1879-84), commissioned him to set to music a patriotic poem by Sir Adolphe-Basile Routhier (1839-1920). The result was *O Canada*.

The American Civil War was a decisive moment in the founding of Canada. It led to concerns for the security and independence of the British North American colonies and eventually to the creation of the Dominion of Canada in 1867.

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341-51/C13 LH 55.00	1047 NH	3.20	1203 NH	6.40	C13 LH	1.40	C238-41 NH	1.50
351 NH 40.00	1048 NH	6.50	1204 NH	1.70	C14-15 NH	1.10	C242 NH	1.45
356-73 LH 54.00	1050-51 NH	4.35	1205-6 NH	3.65	C16-38 used	14.50	C242a NH	2.25
374 NH 2.15	1052-53 NH	2.80	1207 NH	2.10	C40-4 LH	7.75	C243 NH	1.60
392 LH 13.00	1056-7 NH	13.90	1208 NH	1.20	C45-8 NH	3.35	C250a NH	1.45
394-05 NH 18.00	1058 NH	3.50	1209 NH	3.20	C49-61 LH	46.00	C253 NH	2.60
420-4 LH 2.15	1059 NH	1.90	1210 NH	1.75	C49-61 used	18.75	C297a NH	3.60
426-33 H 5.00 553-57 NH 4.25	1060-63 NH	82.00	1211-4 NH	4.25	C60 LH	7.75	C336-40 NH	12.80
558-9/C331 NH 4.60	1064 NH	2.70	1215 NH	3.50	C61 H	29.00	C349-53 NH	3.10
574-6/C333-4 NH 4.20	1110 NH	2.75	1216 NH	8.25	C61 used	15.00	C359-63 NH	4.80
600-4 NH 3.15	1112 NH	11.00	1217 NH	1.00	C62-4 LH	2.10	C367-69 NH	2.40
605-9 NH 2.00	1113 NH	2.90	1218 NH	4.50	C65 H	.75	C370-71 NH	2.00
634-7/C465-7 NH 5.35	1125 NH	2.60	1224 NH	5.40	C76-7 NH	.35	C372-6 NH	10.25
641-43 NH 1.65	1137-8 NH	2.40	1225-8 NH	8.30	C78-81 NH	19.00	C387-9 NH	6.30
709-11 NH	1145 NH	2.25	1229 NH	6.40	C81a NH	32.00	C413 NH	1.25
824 NH 3.15	1152 NH	10.25	1230-32 NH	7.00	C78-81 NH w/ovpt.	14.50	C420-2 NH	1.00
832 NH 1.60	1156 NH	8.65	1233 NH	2.90	C81a NH w/ovpt	11.25	C426 NH	1.80
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970 NH 1.00	1170 NH	3.20	1240 NH	1.70	C131-40 NH	6.40	C503-5 NH	2.00
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