

# A Country Divided: Effects of the American Civil War on the Mails

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Using his exhibit of the same name, the presenter will tell the story of the Civil War and its effects on the mails.

The story describes the plight of northern Yankees and southern Rebels as they communicated by mail, beginning with the election of 1860 and concluding with the collapse of the Confederate government in 1865. The story explains the chronology, geography and correspondents' reliance on extraordinary measures to maintain channels of communication during the war. It illustrates the impact of the conflict on the postal system including the termination of Union mails in the South, the establishment of a new system by the Confederacy, and the movement of the mails both within the North and South and across-the-lines.