

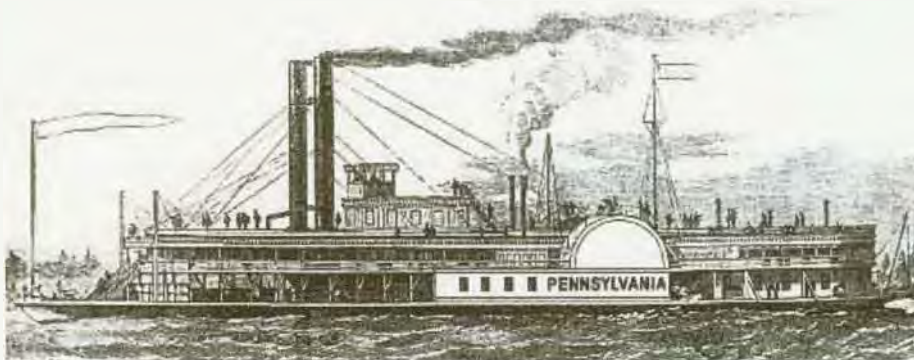
# Mississippi River Forts and Towns

The exhibit will illustrate the growth of postal service from small towns and forts from early most southern area of the Mississippi River where it empties into the Gulf of Mexico to 2,300 miles north to the headwaters of the river in central Minnesota. The Mississippi River provided a border for nine states and territories. The area acquired in the Louisiana Purchase in 1804 added Arkansas and Missouri as well as large unorganized lands that contributed to Western expansion.

The earliest settlements were established at New Orleans and St. Louis during the French colonial period from 1718 to 1762. The territory then transferred by special treaty to Spain, and again in 1801 when France had defeated Spain regaining the territory. During this period both nations contributed to development of New Orleans destined to be the leading seaport on the Gulf of Mexico. St. Louis in the District of Louisiana was a second trading center 675 miles north on the west bank of Mississippi River.



In 1803 President Jefferson had the opportunity to purchase the entire area from France, including the lands north and west of the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains. These areas were explored after the purchase was completed by Lewis and Clark in 1804-1806. The northern area by Zebulon Pike in 1806. In the deep south Fort Adams and Natchez in the Mississippi Territory were the earliest post offices in 1798.



Steamboat Pennsylvania

# Mississippi River ~ Forts and Towns

Louisiana  
Territory

Territory of Louisiana 1805 - 1812

Louisiana Statehood May 1, 1812



13 November 1806 New Orleans to Baltimore datelined 7 November from Mr. Renly to Dr. Schwarz rounddate stamp with manuscript 25 cent rate



3 December 1821 Baton Rouge to Washington letter from Capt Stephen W. Kearny 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry to Col. James Gadsden Adjutant General Office, franked "On Service Free" Captain complains about two officers requesting transfers.

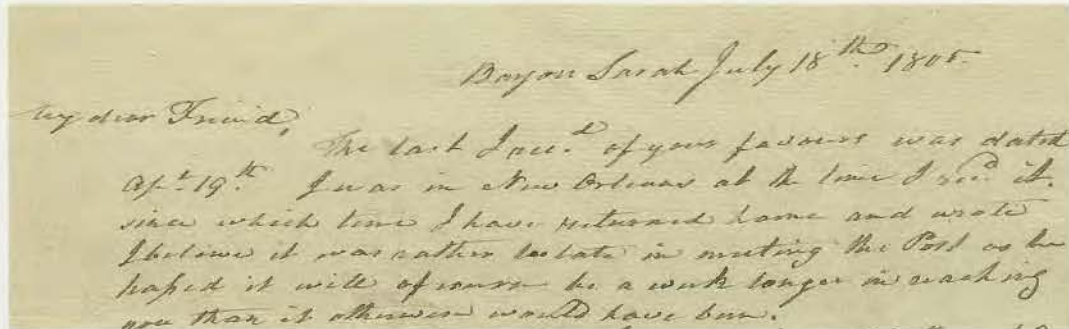


# Mississippi River ~ Forts and Towns

Mississippi  
Territory

Mississippi Territory 1799 – 1817

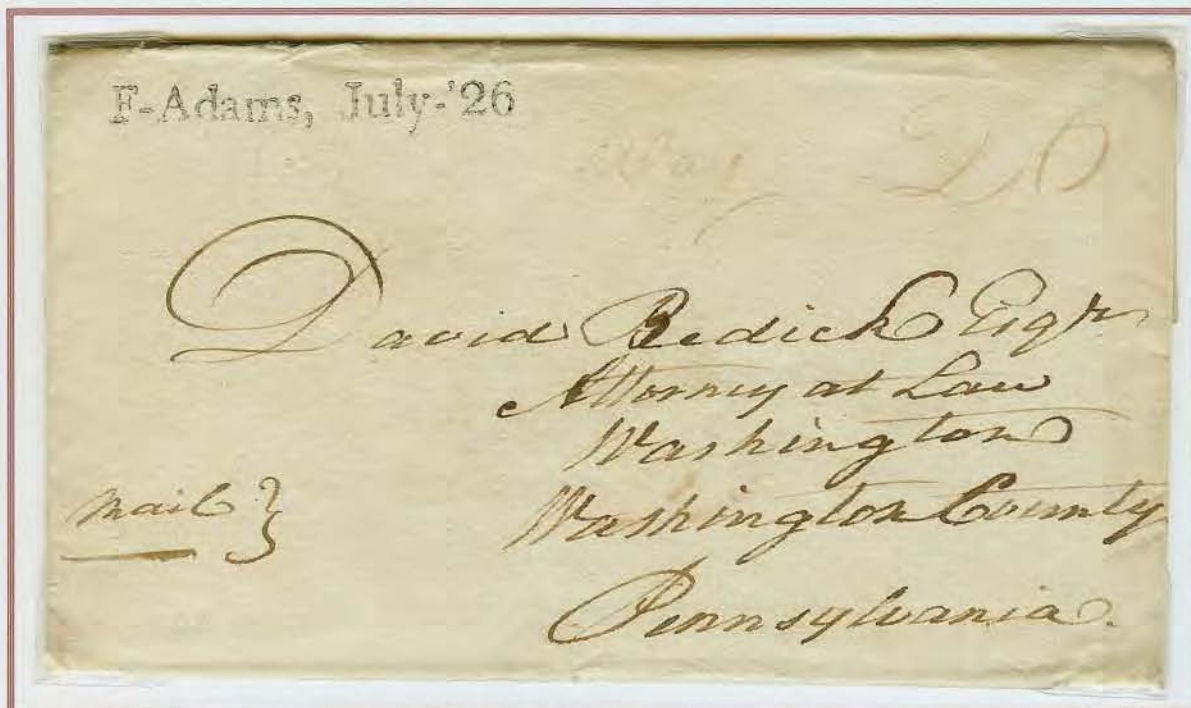
Mississippi Statehood December 10, 1817



My dear Friend,  
Bayou Sarah July 18<sup>th</sup> 1805  
The last I rec'd of your favors was dated  
Apr 19<sup>th</sup> I was in New Orleans at the time I rec'd it,  
since which time I have returned home and wrote  
I believe it was rather late in meeting the Post as I  
hoped it will be of course be a week longer in reaching  
you than it otherwise would have been.

Bayou Sarah (Spanish West Florida) July 18, 1805

*"My dear Friend The last I rec'd of your favors was dated Apr 19<sup>th</sup>. I was in New Orleans at that time I recd it, since which time I have returned home and wrote I believe it was rather to late in meeting the Post as I hoped it will be of course as week longer in reaching you that it otherwise would have been."*



F-Adams, July-'26  
Way 26  
David Redick Esq  
Attorney at Law  
Washington  
Washington County  
Pennsylvania  
mail }

26 July 1805 Fort Adams to Washington, Pennsylvania letter datelined Bayou Sarah, Spanish West Florida with straightline cancel entered the US mails as a "Way cover with "Way 26 " due rate. Letter to David Redick, Esq. attorney for David Bradford. ex - Meroni

David Bradford was one of the leaders of the Whiskey Rebellion in western Pennsylvania in 1793. He escaped on barge headed down the Ohio River, and in time settled in Louisiana where he spent time at Bayou Sarah in time becoming a prosperous planter in western Mississippi at the current inside 'Elbow' of Louisiana

# Mississippi River ~ Forts and Towns

Mississippi  
Territory

Mississippi Territory 1799 - 1817

Mississippi Statehood December 10, 1817

Dear Brother  
Mississippi, Territory, Addams, County, Second  
Creek District June 8th 1808  
With a Trembling Hand I once more address

Mississippi Territory, Addams County, Second Creek District ~ June 8, 1808

NATCHEZ 17 June 25  
Jedidiah Smith Esq  
Blandford  
State of Massachusetts

17 June 1808 Natchez to Blandford, Massachusetts letter to Jedidiah Smith, Esq. from his brother Israel. Straightline postmark with pen 25 cent rate.

Mississippi Territory, Addams County, Second Creek District ~ June 8, 1808

***“Dear Brother: With a Trembling Hand I once more address you. It hath been long any more than a year since I have heard from you. I ponder and say it is your fault. I am afraid something is happened we have kept up a correspondence for many years. Why should we least know it is a pleasure for me to open one of your old letters and read from your own hands how much more would it be to have new one.***

***It is almost seven moth on so that ever since last May I say that we have had a well day in our house., I Trust in God that it is in our fare way to get well once more. I wind up with saying our brothers and sister are all well only so far as I relate My Family all joins with me in that full affection that joins Brother and Brother together and am your brother Until Death.”***

***Israel Smith.***

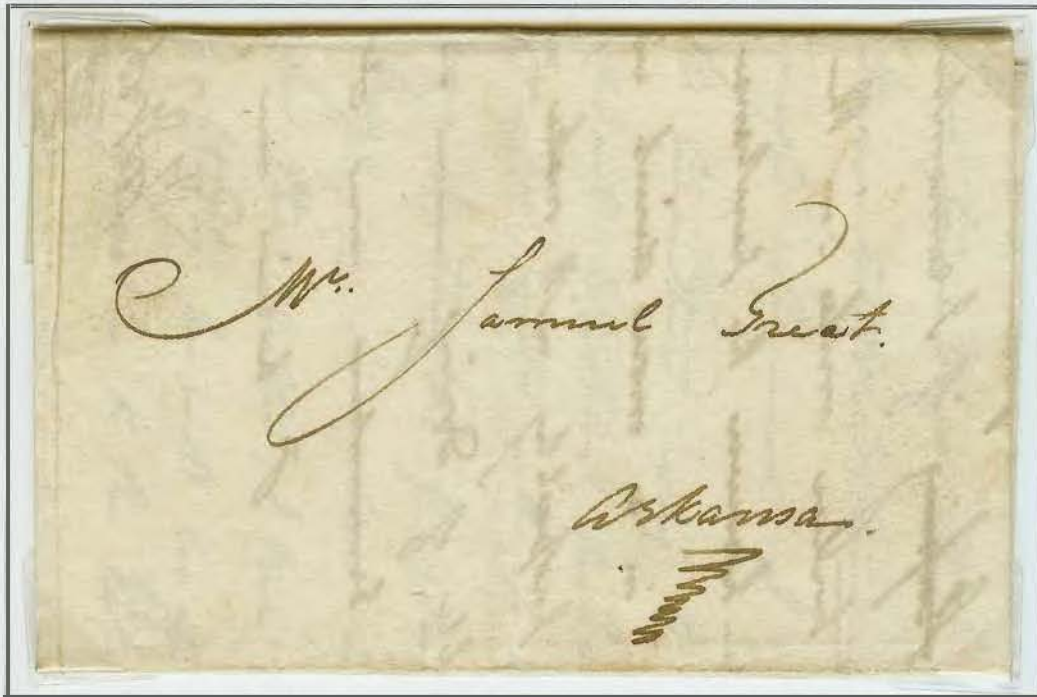


# Mississippi River ~ Forts and Towns

Arkansas  
Territory

Arkansas as Territory of Louisiana 1805 - 1811

Arkansas Territory 1819 - 1836



23 December 1809 datelined Washington City from John Treat to his brother Samuel recently appointed Indian Agent at Chickasaw Bluffs by General William Clark.



29 April 1828 letter to Hon. Isaac Case at Bangor, Maine from his brother located in the Arkansas Territory. Mentions going north to the lead mines in Missouri.

# Mississippi River ~ Forts and Towns

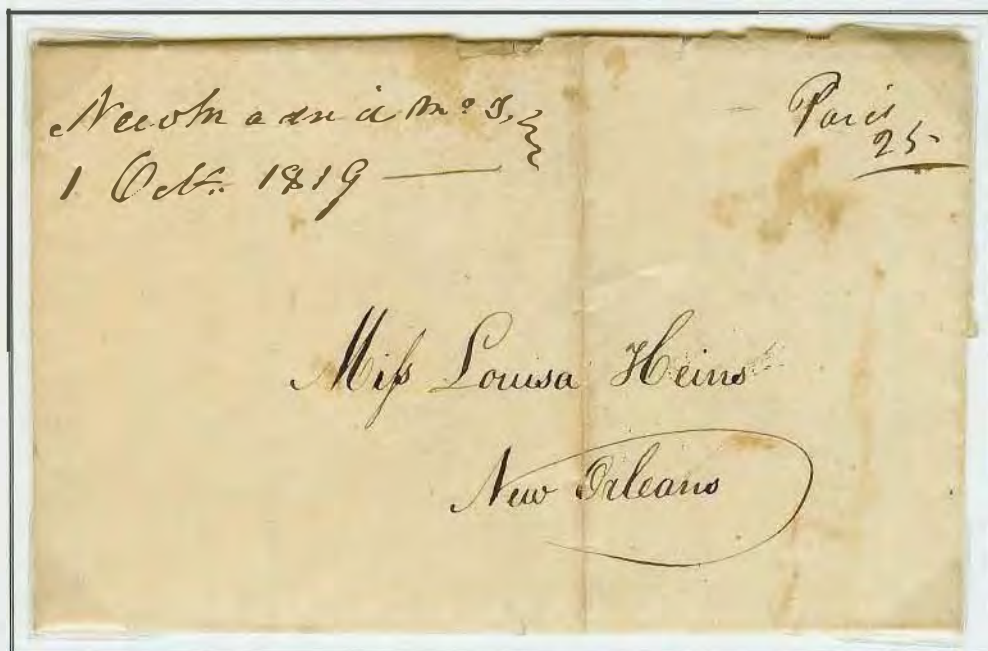
Missouri Territory  
of Louisiana

Spanish Period 1762 – 1804

Territory of Louisiana Territory 1805 – 1812



20 January 1806 Cape Girardeau to Pittsburg from Joseph M. McFerron Jr. to Joseph M. McFerron with "Free" frank by Postmaster Joseph McFerron



1 October 1819 New Madrid to New Orleans from Caleb Cox to Miss Louisa Heins with pen Paid 25 cent rate. In 1811 the area experienced the largest earthquake recorded in the United States causing great geologic damage..



# Mississippi River ~ Forts and Towns

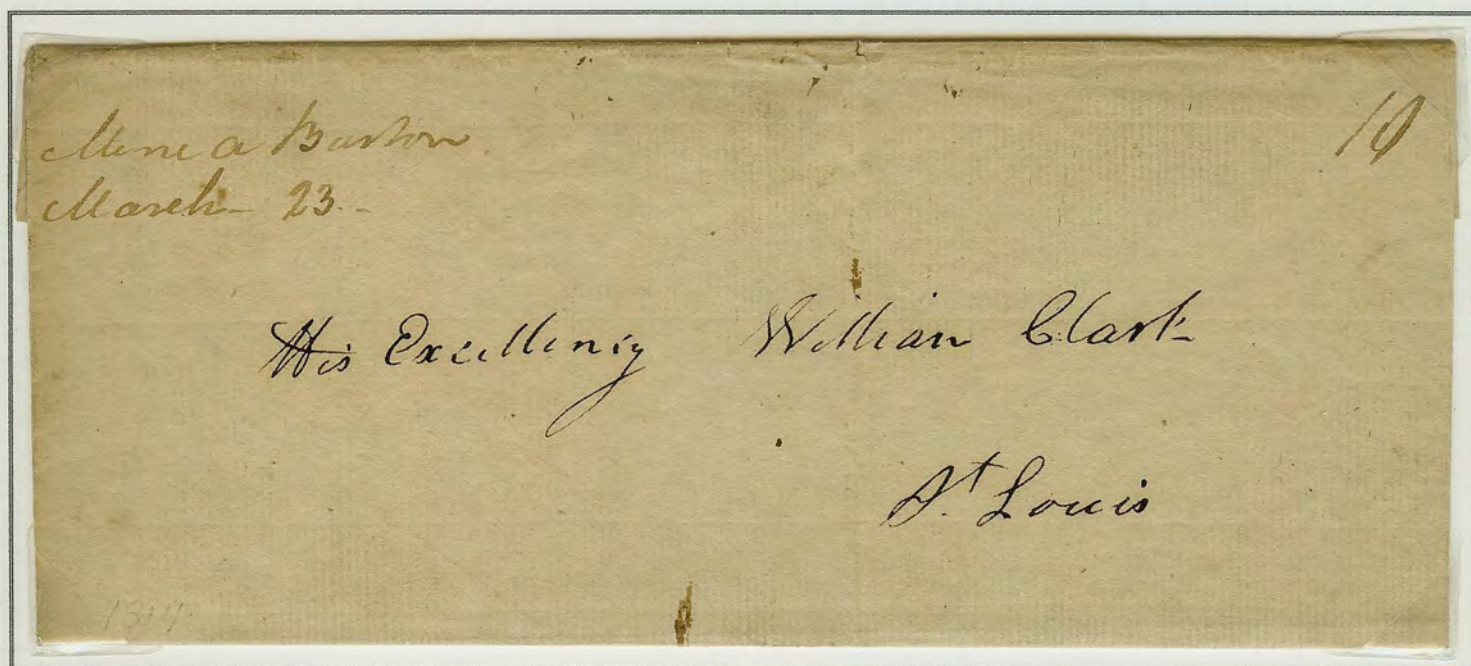
Missouri  
Territory

Spanish Period 1762 – 1804

Territory of Louisiana Territory 1805 – 1812



1 February 1819 St. Louis to Watertown, Massachusetts letter to Mrs. Sara Gay with Type 2 Italic red straightline postmark and 25 cent rate. One of three known



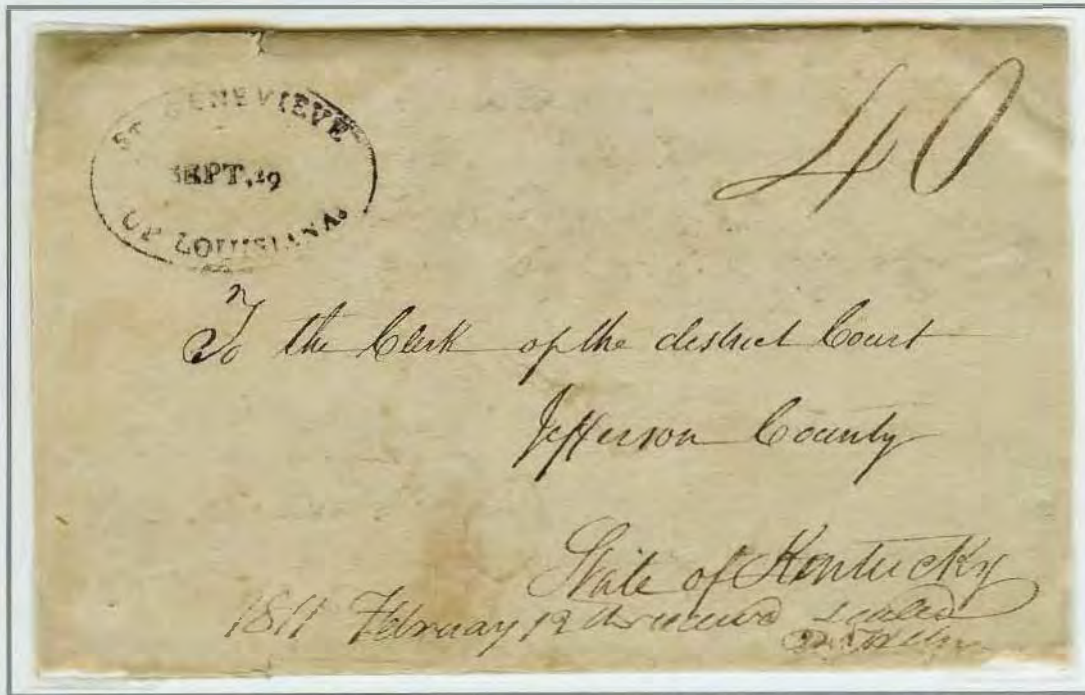
23 March 1814 Mine a Barton to St. Louis to His Excellency William Clark with 10 cent rate. Note Rec'd 26 March 1814. Listed cover in ASCC catalog, only known cover from this post office.

# Mississippi River ~ Forts and Towns

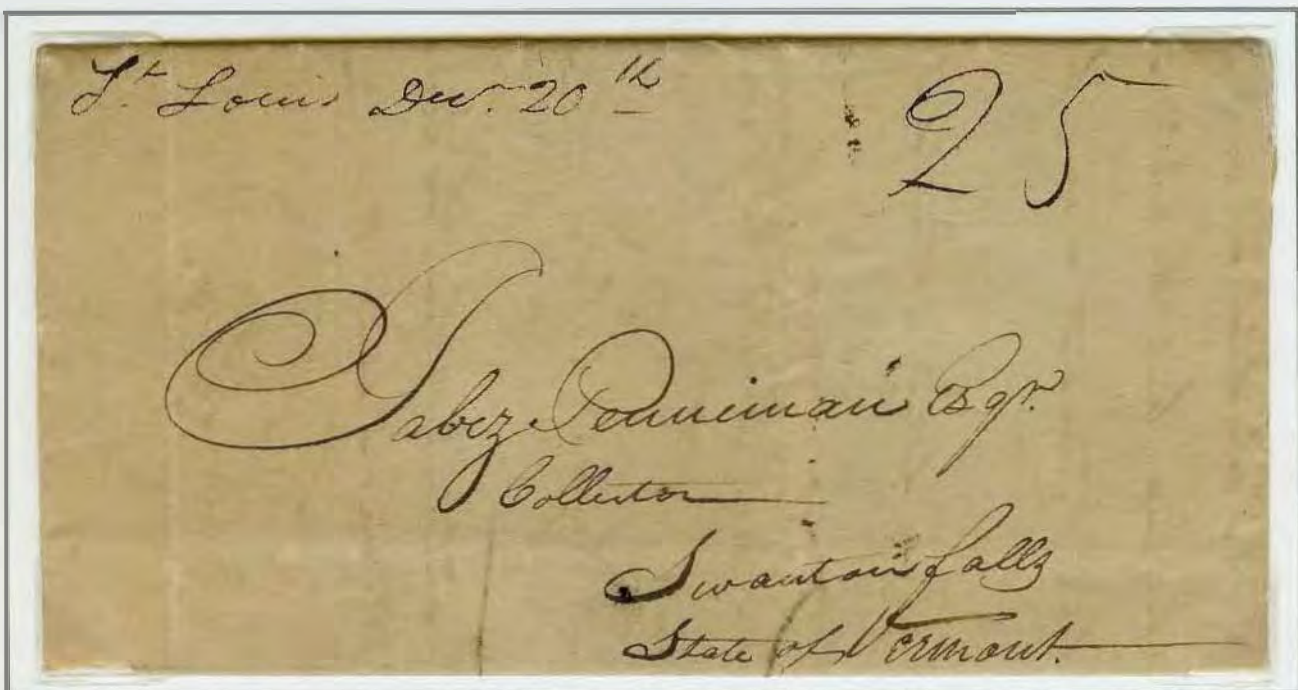
# Missouri Territory of Louisiana

Spanish Period 1762 – 1804

Territory of Louisiana Territory 1805 – 1812



19 September 1810 St. Genevieve Up Louisiana to Jefferson County Kentucky to Clerk of the Court from Thomas Oliver Justice of the Peace. Deposition from Samuel Lewellen with pen 40 cent rate. Note Rec'd 12 February 1811 after a 145 day journey



20 December 1810 St. Louis to Swanton Falls Vermont from E. Allen army officer recently stationed at datelined at Fort Belle Fountain to Jabez Penniman with 25 cent rate. "Allen tells of a very hard 27 day journey down the Mississippi to arrive at this most disappointing place.



Southwest Territory 1790 - 1796

Tennessee Statehood June 1, 1796



5 September 1836 Memphis to George W. Candee, New Haven Connecticut from A. M. Latham with blue rounddate stamp and pen 25 cent rate. Letter tells of bank transfers that have been delayed as well as business difficulties in the area.



7 August 1840 Randolph to Rev. J. Dixon Carder New York from Rev. Edward Reed with red rounddate stamp and pen 50 cent rate, received 22, August.

# Mississippi River ~ Forts and Towns

Kentucky  
Statehood

Kentucky Statehood June 1, 1796

The Commonwealth of Kentucky has a small area of land as the western border on the Mississippi River. Kentucky is one of four U. S. States organized as a commonwealth along with Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and Virginia. Originally part of Virginia and in 1792 Kentucky became the 15<sup>th</sup> state to join the Union. Nicknamed the "Bluegrass State" because of its fertile soil, and famous the Mammoth Cave National Park with its 400 miles of tunnels.

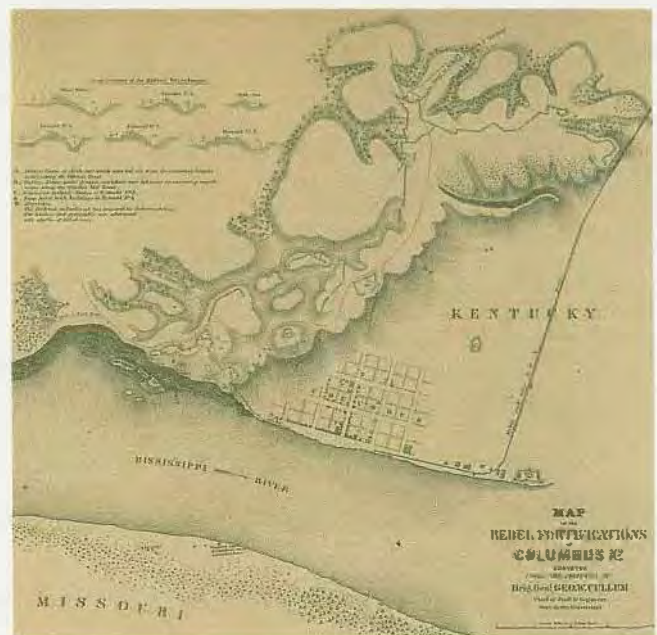


December 1861 Columbus, Kentucky to Mrs. William D. Gale at Satartia, Mississippi with black round datestamp with manuscript 5 cent rate and boxed Paid handstamp

Columbus is one of the oldest towns in western Kentucky located on the Mississippi River and part of the Jackson Purchase area.

During the Civil War in 1861 General Polk ordered a fort built on a high bluff overlooking the river to control traffic. He referred to this as the "Gibraltar of the West", Confederate Army planned to stop Union advance south.

The view from the bluff would reveal oncoming Union forces miles away. One of the major efforts to stop Union river traffic involved putting a large anchor chain across the river. This would help protect the important cities of Memphis and Vicksburg.



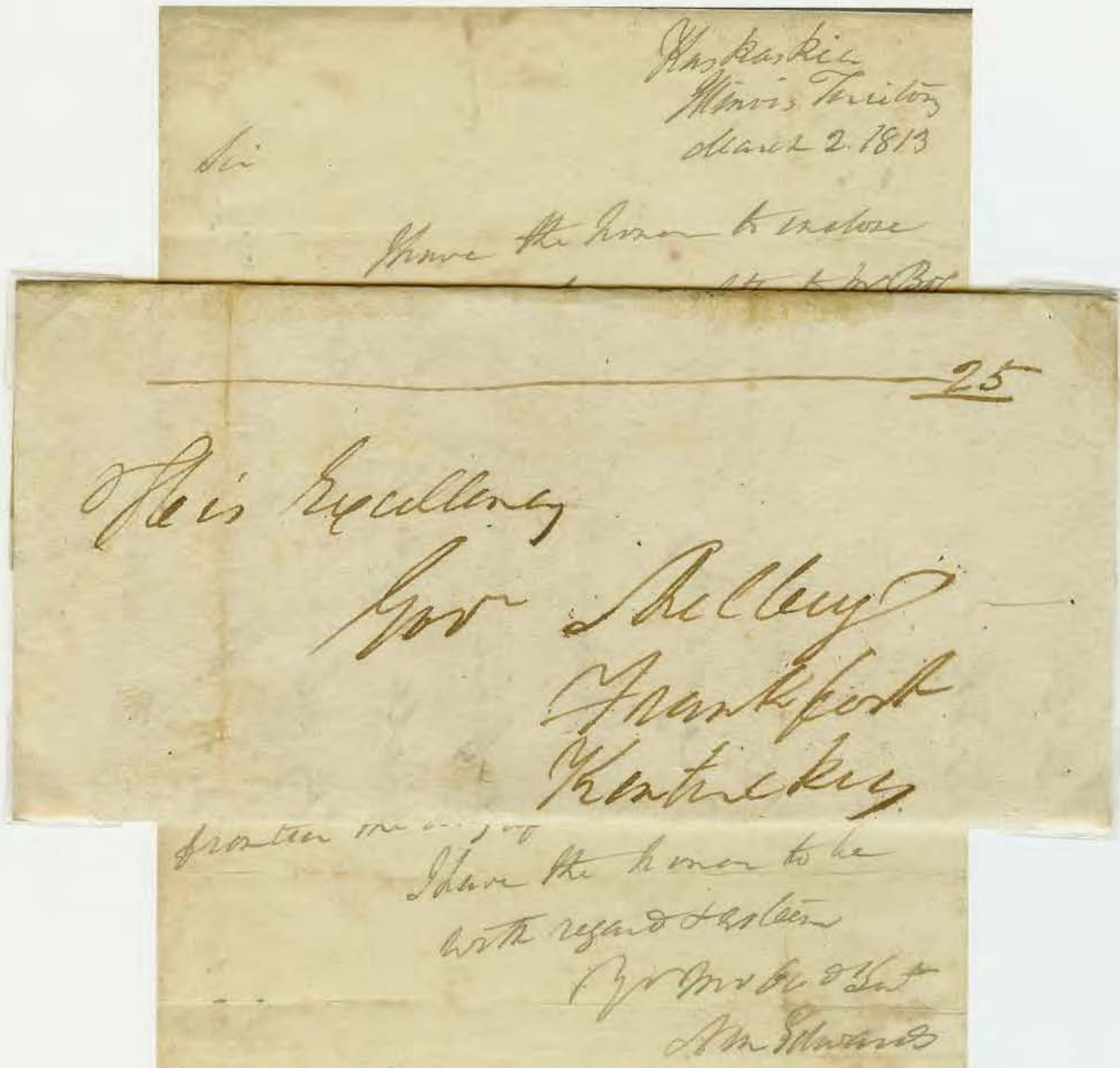


# Mississippi River ~ Forts and Towns

Illinois  
Territory

Indiana Territory 1800 - 1809

Illinois Territory 1809 - 1818



2 March 1813 Kaskaskia to Frankfort, Kentucky from Illinois Governor  
Ninian Edwards to Governor Isaac Shelley at Frankfort Kentucky

The Territory of Illinois was an organized incorporated territory of the United States that existed from March 2, 1809 to December 2, 1818. The southern portion of the territory was admitted to the Union as a state with the capitol a former French village of Kaskaskia. Ninian Edwards was the first Governor serving from 1809 to 1818.

*Sir: I have the honor to enclose an extract from a letter to Mr. Blovine which will show that the Indians are in motion to attack us. I have rec'd another letter of similar import. It had clearly foreseen this want and am tolerably well prepared (considering every thing) to disappoint these savages. I have raised and armed service five companies of mounted volunteers, and shall myself set out for the frontier the day after tomorrow.*

*I have the honor to be with regards & esteem*

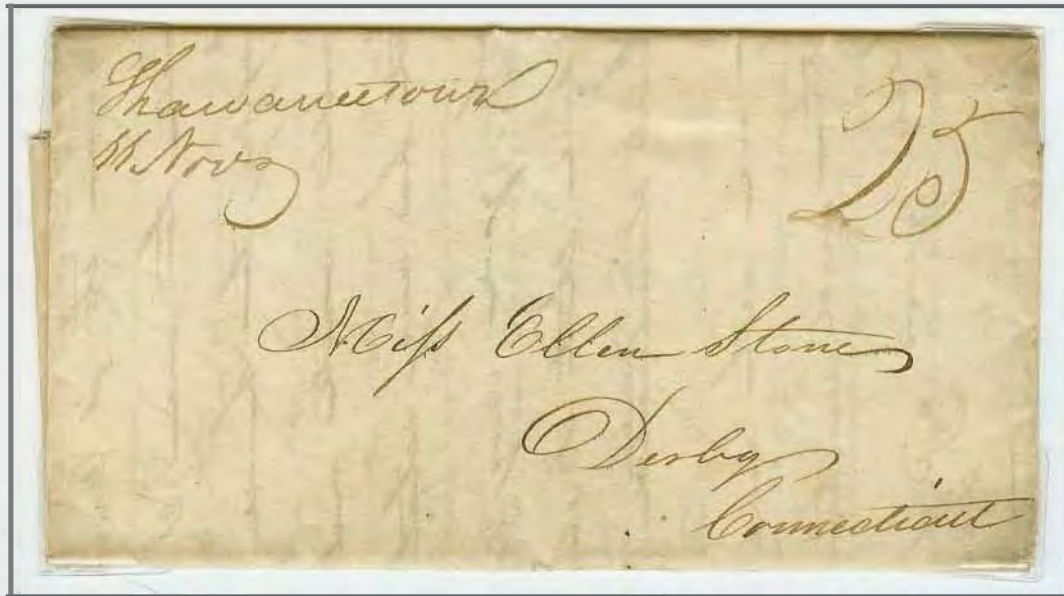
Your Most Obt Servant  
Ninian Edwards

# Mississippi River ~ Forts and Towns

Illinois  
Territory

Indiana Territory 1800 - 1809

Illinois Territory 1809 - 1818



11 November 1818 Shawneetown to Derby, Connecticut letter to Miss Ellen Stone from P. Lewis, with manuscript cancel and 25 cent rate. Postmark dated just one month before Illinois was voted statehood. Peter Lewis was appointed Captain of the 6<sup>th</sup> Regiment by Governor Ninian Edwards. Ex - Meroni



4 August 1811 Kaskaskia to Pittsburg letter to Joseph McFerron from his son John McFerron with brown manuscript cancel and 25 cent rate. John tells of dreadful floods, and disease along the river. His father Joseph McFerron was postmaster at St. Louis.



# Mississippi River ~ Forts and Towns

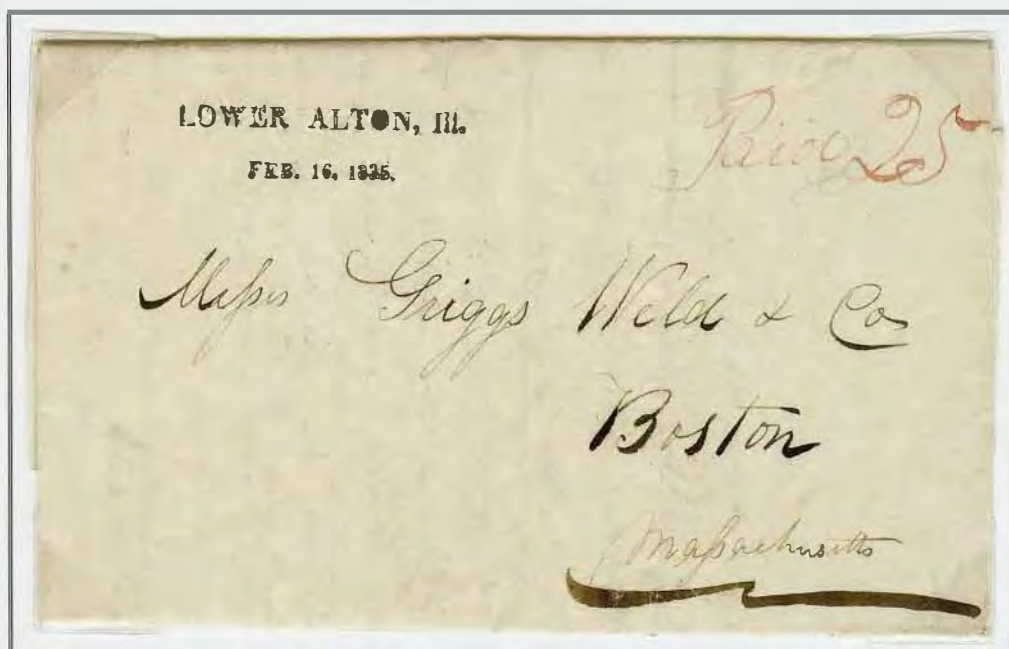
Illinois  
Statehood

Illinois Territory 1809 - 1818

Illinois Statehood December 3, 1818



5 June 1850 Galena Illinois to Lewiston, Pennsylvania letter from A. C. Hale from A. Warren, Jr. with red datestamp and Paid 10 sent via Steamer Enterprise.



16 February 1835 Lower Alton, Illinois to Boston letter from Simon Ryder to Griggs Weld & Co., with black straightline cancel and magenta Paid 25 cent rate. Listed as one of the three type of covers in the ASCC catalog.

# Mississippi River ~ Forts and Towns

Wisconsin  
Iowa Territory

Michigan Territory 1834 - 1836

Wisconsin Territory 1836 - 1838

Iowa Territory 1838 - 1846

On June 9, 1849, Maj. William Williams visited Davenport and provided a brief description in his journal. The town is well situated on the Iowa side of the Mississippi River on flat of land, rising from the River for a mile west with bluffs that rise to considerable height. This is a charming location with good buildings scattered along wide streets with trees on each side. The population is about 1,200 are developing a fine town.

Davenport gives the appearance of a more ancient settlement. It is the county seat of Scott County, and has four doctors, seven churches, and climate place free of cholera. Business consists of eight good stores, two large steam flour mills that are producing 620 barrels per week, one saw mill. four doctors, one hotel, and two saloons.



4 October 1837 Davenport, W. T. letter to Robert T. Lytle, Esq. Surveyor General of the U. S. from William Burt, with pen 50 cent rate "In Camp" Wisconsin Territory. William pleads for payment of draft for \$17.00 sent several weeks ago.



City of Davenport



# Mississippi River ~ Forts and Towns

Michigan  
Iowa Territory

Michigan Territory 1834 - 1836

Wisconsin Territory 1836 - 1838

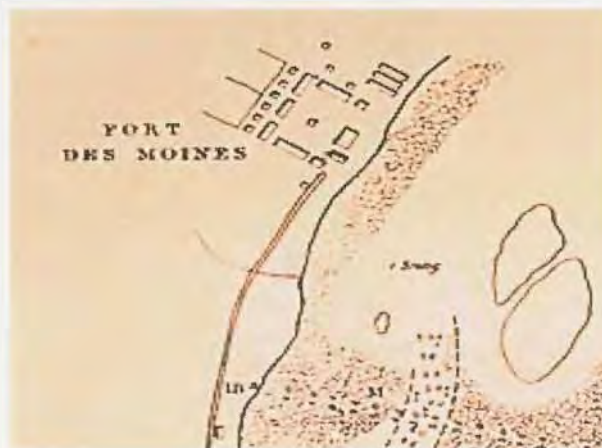
Iowa Territory 1838 - 1846

The Fort Des Moines military post was located on the west side of the Mississippi River at the north end of twelve miles of rapids near the junction of the Des Moines river. The end of the Black Hawk War in 1832 opened a large area for settlement, which was later transferred to the Iowa Territory in 1838.

The frontier was expanding after the war and Lieut. George Crossman was assigned to build a fort in 1834. The location was selected to include a steamboat landing for incoming supplies. Lieut. Crossman was assisted a short time later when Lt. Col. Stephen W. Kearny with a 150 men of the 1<sup>st</sup> Dragoons. The fort was build without a stockade as the Indians were peaceful during this time.



12 June 1836 Fort Des Moines to Washington, D. C., letter to Col. Geo. W. Jones, House of Representatives, from C. A. Carter, Postmaster. Col. Jones represented Michigan Territory in Congress, manuscript postmark with "Free" frank. ex - Jarrett



Location of Fort Des Moines above the rapids ~ 1834

# Mississippi River ~ Forts and Towns

Iowa  
Territory

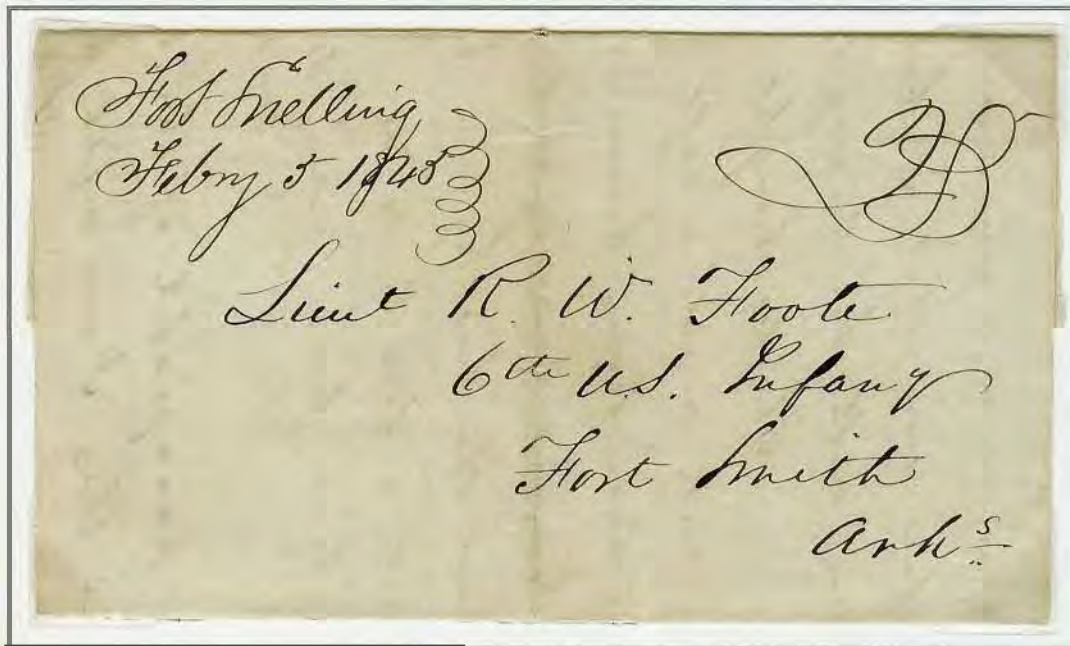
Michigan Territory 1834 - 1836

Wisconsin Territory 1836 - 1838

Iowa Territory 1838 - 1846

Fort Snelling, originally known as Fort Saint Anthony was a military fortification located at the confluence of the Minnesota and Mississippi Rivers in the Unorganized Territory. The area was first explored 1805 by Zebulon Pike where he acquired 100,000 acres of land leading to development of settlements in 1810.

Colonel Josiah Snelling commander of the 5th Infantry Regiment began construction of Fort Saint Anthony in 1820 the project taking five years. The Regiment took up many projects including farming and cutting supplies of firewood for the cold winters. The fort was completed in 1825, and renamed Fort Snelling in honor of its Colonel, who was the architect. Located on the top of the bluff at the river junction of the two rivers.



1845 Fort Snelling to Fort Smith, Arkansas letter from Emily Plummer to her cousin Lient. R. W. Foote, manuscript 25 cent rate, Recd March. 10, 1845



Fort Snelling ~ Iowa Territory