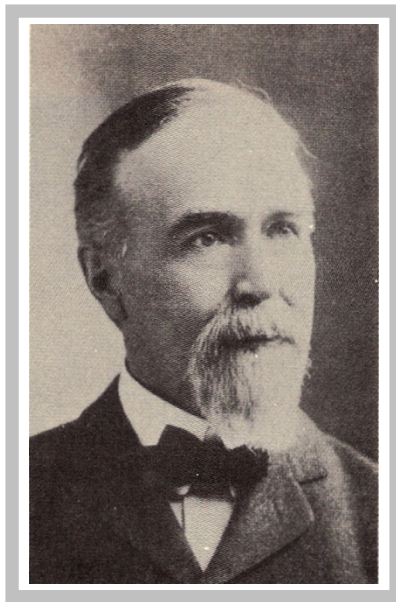


John "Jack" T. Gilmer



Monroe Salisbury



Mathewson T. Patrick

**Gilmer, Salisbury & Patrick – first owners of the Cheyenne & Black Hills Stage & Express Co.**

Frank D. Yates and Captain M. H. Brown (F. D. Yates & Co.) began what was initially called the Pioneer Stage Line from Cheyenne to Custer City by way of Red Cloud and Spotted Tail Agencies and Red Canyon. That company made three trips (February 3, February 7, and February 10, 1876) before being purchased on February 12, 1876, by H. E. "Stuttering" Brown, on behalf of Gilmer, Salisbury, and Patrick. Luke Voorhees acted as Superintendent of the Cheyenne and Black Hills Stage Company's Express (C&BHSCE) for the new owners from February, 1876, until May, 1883.

**The first stage bound for Deadwood supposedly left Cheyenne June 24, 1876; however, the documented first arrival into Deadwood was not until September 25, 1876.** Initially, mail was carried to and from the Black Hills free of charge by the C&BHSCE, as indicated by several newspaper articles and advertisements, dating from August 12, 1876, through October 21, 1876. Free mail carriage ended on or before November 2, 1876, when the *Cheyenne Weekly Leader* wrote "The Black Hills stage company carries letters from Cheyenne to Deadwood for ten cents each. Stamped envelopes can be obtained at the stage office." **The C&BHSCE probably carried express letter mail (printed franks) predominantly from November, 1876 through May, 1877...and may have continued to do so until as late as December, 1880.**

The C&BHSCE acquired the interests of James Stephenson in the Western Stage Line on April 10, 1877, thus expanding their routes to include one from Sidney, Nebraska to the Black Hills. The earliest joint "Cheyenne and Sidney" advertisement dates to May 12, 1877.

Col. Mathewson T. Patrick left the company on October 1, 1878, forming a new stage partnership with his brother over different routes than those served by the C&BHSCE. By March of 1879, things were beginning to wind down for the company, with destocking of the Cheyenne line, and carriage of mail to the Black Hills in a buckboard.

Gilmer and Salisbury sold their interest in the company to Russell Thorp on May 15, 1883, with Luke Voorhees staying on perhaps a few days longer to settle open accounts. Less than two weeks later, on May 29, 1883, the final advertisement for the "Cheyenne & Black Hills Stage Company" was printed in the *Cheyenne Daily Leader*. The stage and freighting operation continued thereafter, but was in decline. The last stage out of Cheyenne, bound for the Black Hills, departed the morning of February 19, 1887, as reported by the *Cheyenne Daily Tribune*.

Office of **Gilmer & Salisbury,**  
**STAGE LINE,**

*S. Lake to Uintah July 28 1869*

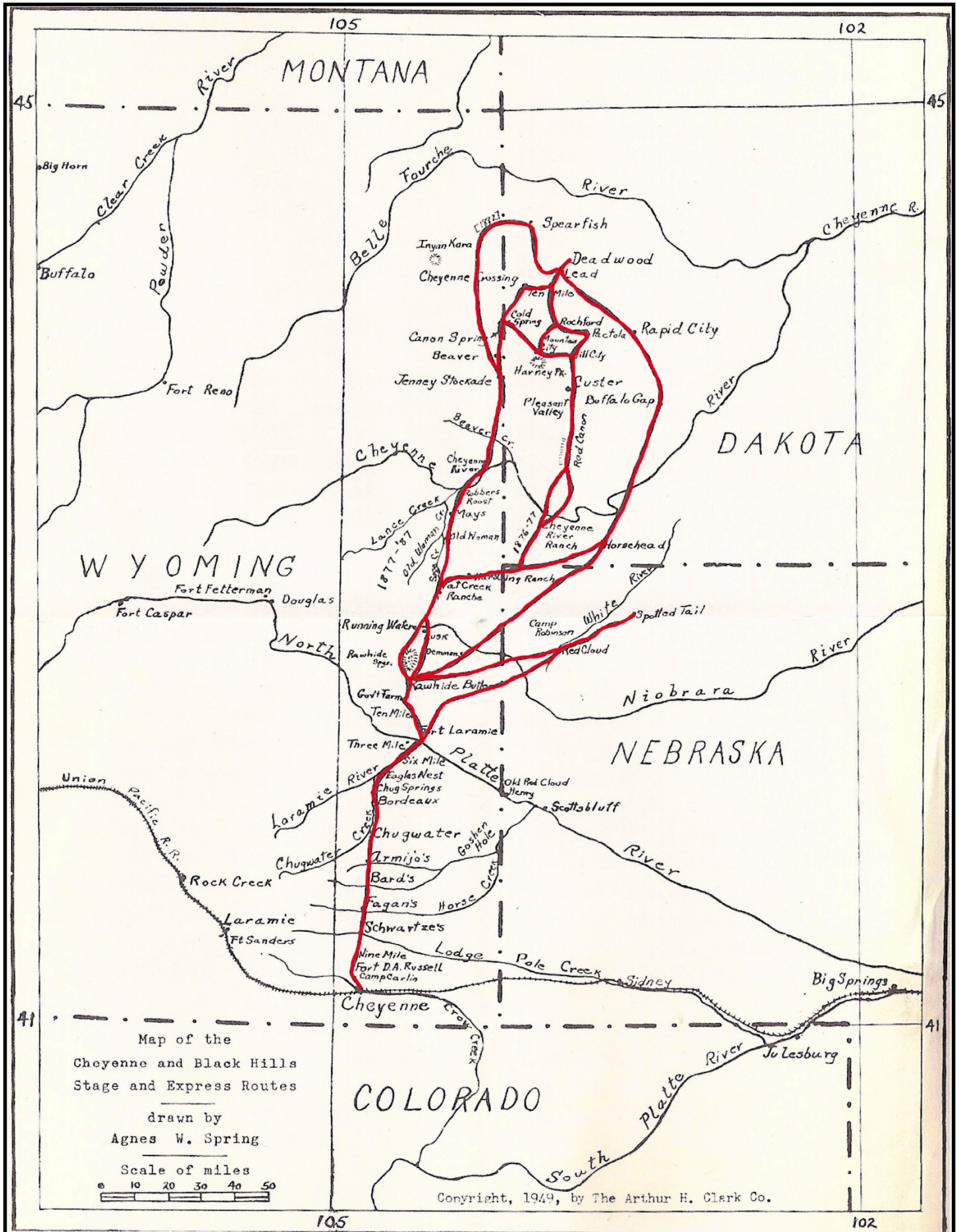
*Received of Gen. G. M. Dodge One hundred  
and Ninety Dollars in full for 2 coaches from  
Uintah to S. Lake and return*

*Gilmer & Salisbury*

*C. F. Smith Apt.*

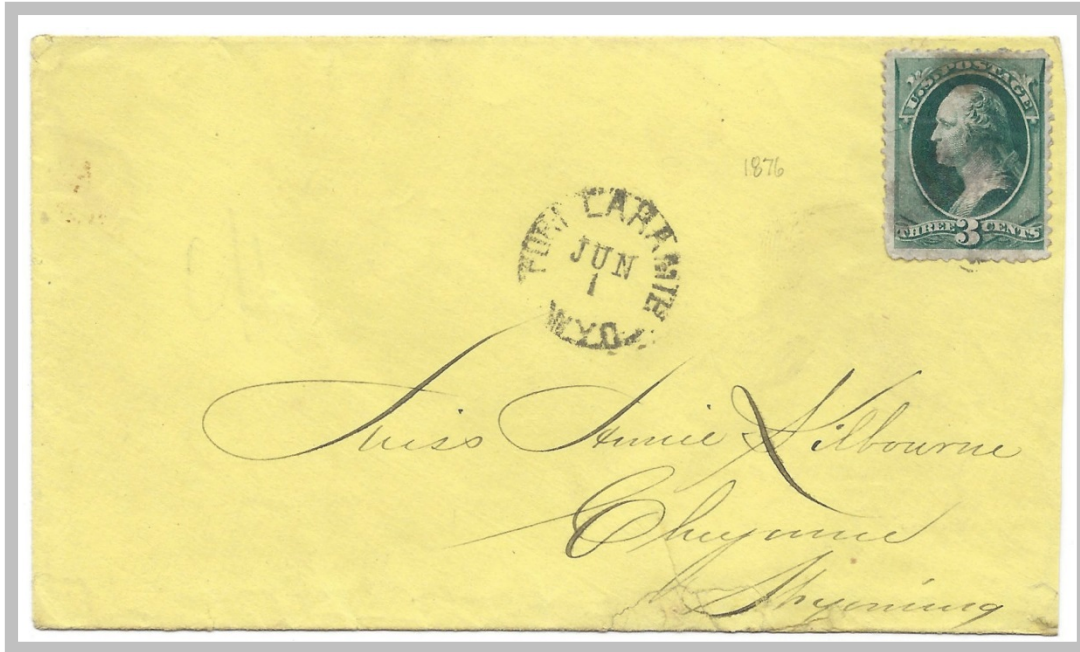
Receipt from the **Gilmer & Salisbury Stage Line** dated July 28, 1869 for \$190 payment "for 2 coaches from Uintah to S. Lake and return"; seven years later Gilmer and Salisbury would join with Mathewson Patrick to form the Cheyenne & Black Hills Stage and Express Company



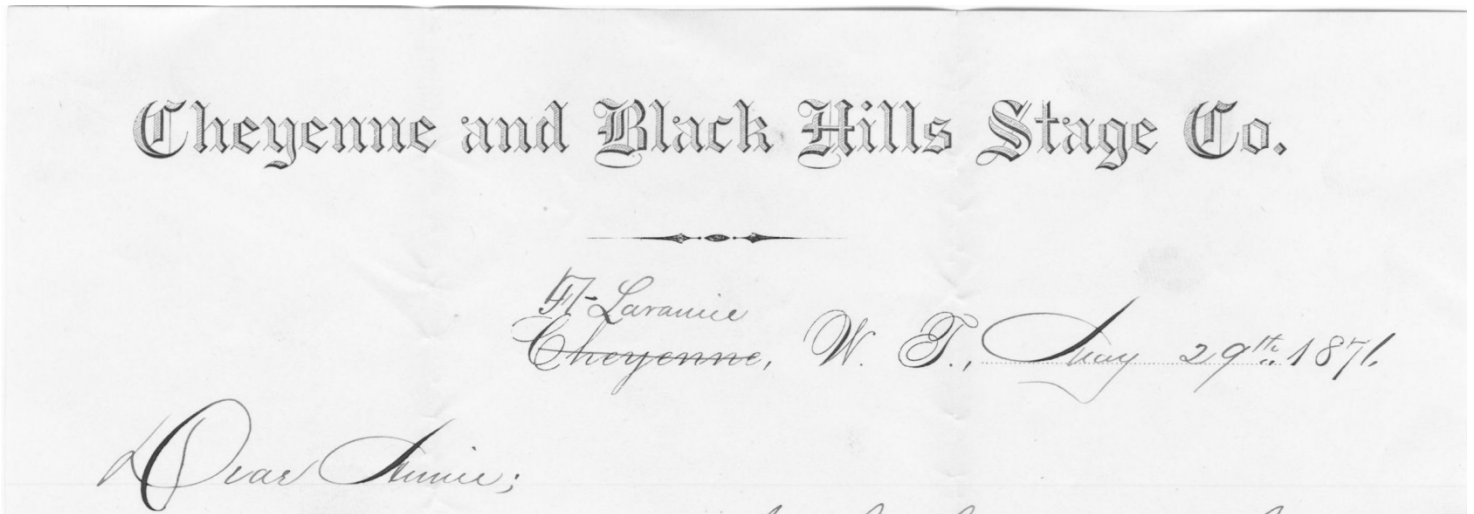


Map showing various routes of the Cheyenne & Black Hills Stage through the years





Postmarked **Fort Laramie Jun 1** (1876) and carried by the Cheyenne & Black Hills Stage & Express Company as part of their contract to carry the US Mail to Cheyenne, Wyoming. Dateline of the May 29, 1876 letter written by A. J. Parshall to his future wife reproduced below (original now in the American Heritage Center, University of Wyoming).







Likely carried by the Cheyenne & Black Hills Stage & Express Company from the Black Hills (enclosed letter datelined **Crook City, D.T. Dec 13, 1876**) to Fort Laramie where it entered the mails with their Dec 29 (1876) postmark for delivery to Sloan Station, Iowa. A known correspondence out of the Black Hills, with many routed via Sidney and carried by Clarke’s Centennial Express.

The first advertisement for the “Cheyenne and Black Hills Stage Co.” appeared in the April 11, 1876, *Cheyenne Daily Leader*, also listing the new management of Gilmer, Salisbury, and Patrick...as well as Superintendent Voorhees.

**CHEYENNE**  
And  
**BLACK HILLS**



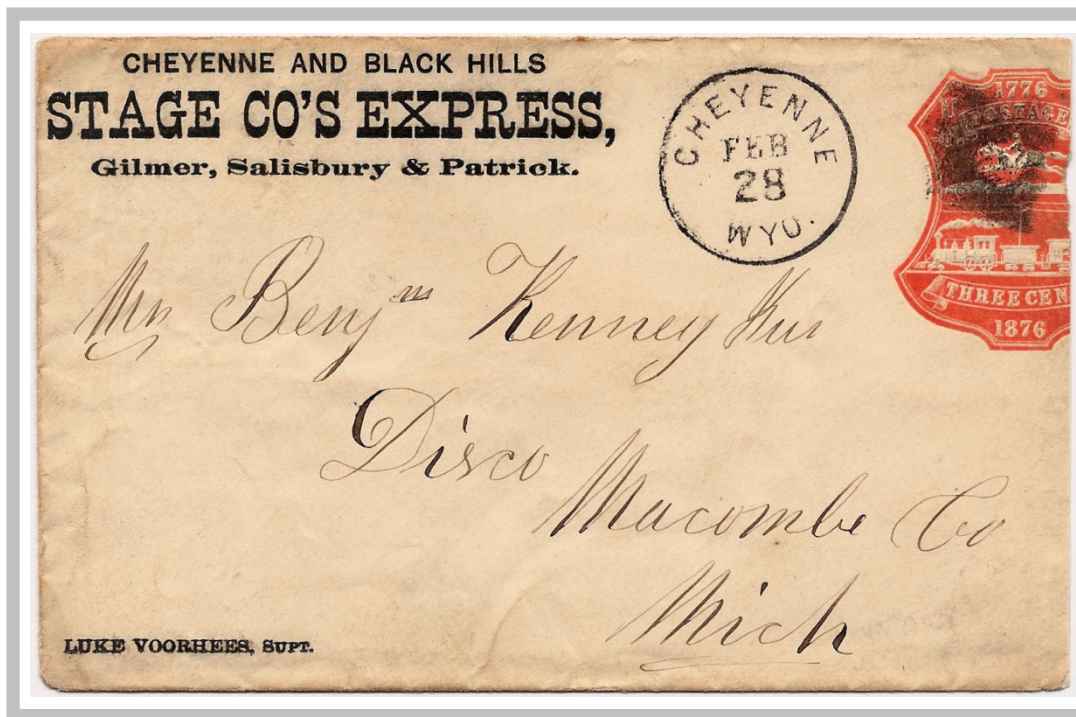
**STAGE CO.**

Stages leave our Office every other Day at present. We are ready to put on Daily Coaches at any time the travel demands it. We are running Six-horse Stages through to

**CUSTER CITY,**

Taking every pains to make Passengers as Comfortable and Time as fleet as possible.

**J. T. GILMER, M. L. PATRICK,  
M. SALISBURY, L. VOORHEES.**  
(all-5m)

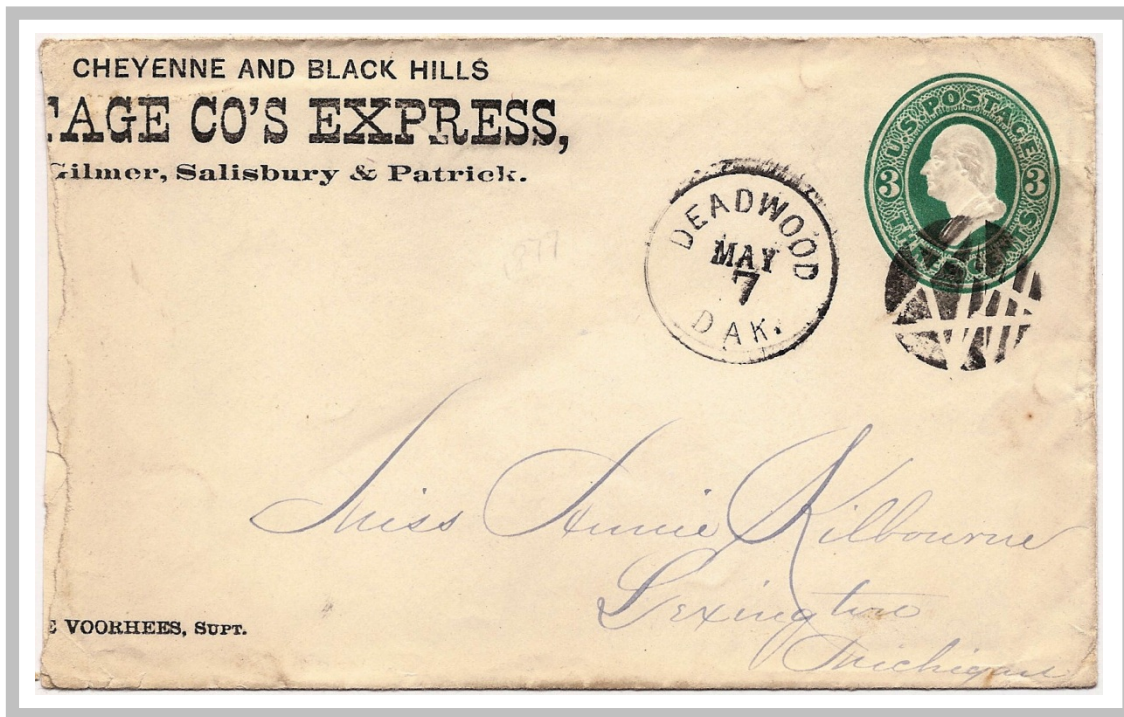


By Cheyenne and Black Hills Stage Co's Express in their **Type 1** printed frank envelope from the Black Hills to Cheyenne, Wyoming where it entered the mails with their Feb 28 (likely 1877) postmark for delivery to Disco, Michigan.

The Black Hills stage company carries letters from Cheyenne to Deadwood for ten cents each. Stamped envelopes can be obtained at the stage office.

Article from the November 2, 1876, *Cheyenne Weekly Leader* announcing that "Stamped envelopes" (printed franks) "can be obtained at the stage office" and carriage to Deadwood "for ten cents each."

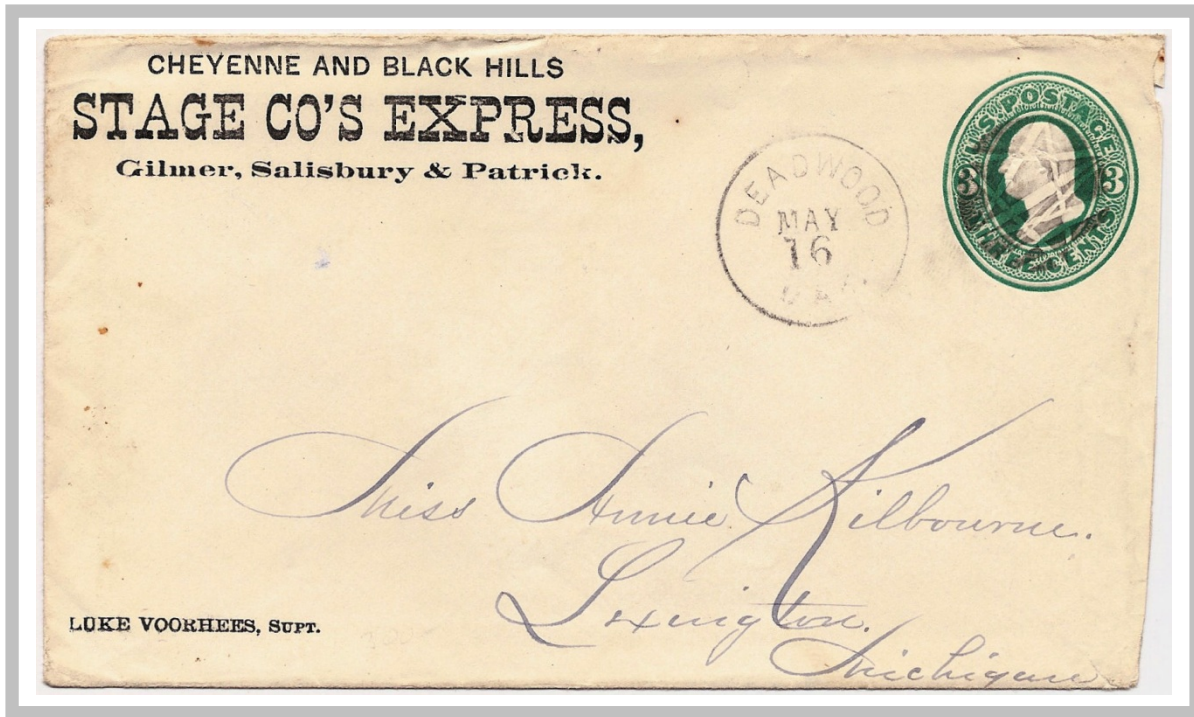




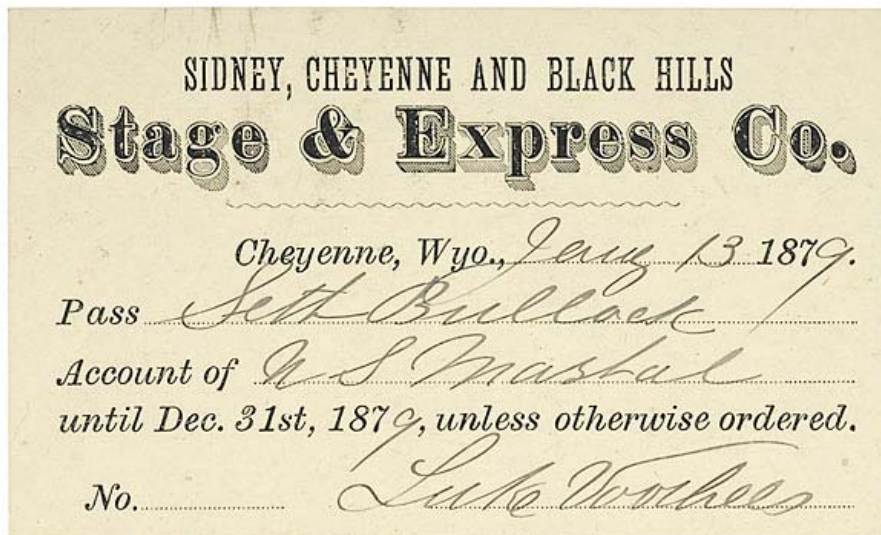
By Cheyenne and Black Hills Stage Co's Express in their **Type 1** printed frank envelope from somewhere in the Black Hills to Deadwood, Dakota where it entered the mails with their May 7 (likely 1877) postmark for delivery to Lexington, Michigan.



Advertisement from the March 1, 1879, Deadwood newspaper *The Western Enterprise* noting "Express Envelopes for Sale."



By Cheyenne and Black Hills Stage Co's Express in their **Type 1** printed frank envelope from somewhere in the Black Hills to Deadwood, Dakota where it entered the mails with their May 16 (likely 1877) postmark for delivery to Lexington, Michigan.



Copy of a pass for the "Sidney, Cheyenne, and Black Hills Stage & Express Co." to one Seth Bullock (marshal of Deadwood). Note that by this time the Sidney Route was also incorporated, as Clarke's Centennial Express had folded sometime in 1878





By Cheyenne and Black Hills Stage Co's Express in their **Type 2c** printed frank envelope from the Black Hills to Cheyenne, Wyoming where it entered the mails with their Feb 19 (likely 1877) postmark for delivery to Lexington, Michigan.



The "Deadwood Stage" (as the Cheyenne and Black Hills was called) en route through the Black Hills



Postmarked “**Rochford, Dak. Nov 5**” (circa 1880) for delivery to Custer City. The “Gilmer, Salisbury & Co.’s Black Hills Express, Sidney, Neb.” corner card may be just that...a corner card, or could be a very simple printed frank (Type 3). E. E. Corbin was superintendent of the Sidney portion of the company’s operation with Luke Voorhees over the Cheyenne route.

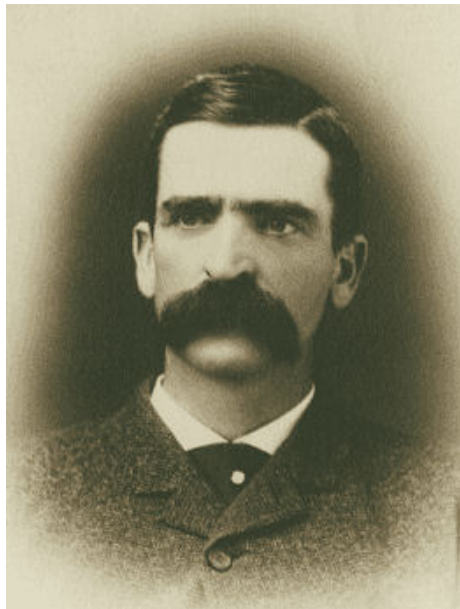
The Bass Gang held up the Deadwood stage four times in a period of two months in 1877. Sam Bass (at left) died in Round Rock, Texas on July 27, 1878 (on his 27<sup>th</sup> birthday) from a gunshot wound suffered at the hands of the Texas Rangers.







By **Cheyenne & Black Hills Stage Company's Express** in their **Unlisted Type** printed frank envelope from Cheyenne City to Seth Bullock, who was sheriff at Deadwood, Dakota. Apparently dropped into the mails at **Cheyenne City, Wyo. Jan 13** (likely 1879) and then turned over to the C&BH Stage Express.



**Seth Bullock** arrived to Deadwood, Dakota in August, 1876 where he and Sol Star opened a hardware store to serve the miners. He was shortly thereafter named the first sheriff of Deadwood and, in 1884, became Deputy U.S. Marshal in western Dakota Territory. He remained in the Black Hills area until his death Sep 23, 1919 and is buried in Mt. Moriah Cemetery in Deadwood.



Carried by Cheyenne & Black Hills Stage and Express Company from the Cheyenne River (Dakota Territory) to Hat Creek Station (Wyoming Territory) where it entered the mails with their **Hat Creek 9-19-77** manuscript postmark.

Enclosed letter datelined **Cheyenne River [Station] Sep 15<sup>th</sup> 1877** in which William Scott (who was abandoning his mining venture in the Black Hills) writes to his wife in Maryland: *"I left Deadwood Sunday and we are laying over at a point where the road agents have been the worst...we watch our stock all night...I am taking all the stock [cattle and horses] with me to Colorado. There is nine of us in the party...I will hand this to a stage driver I hope it reaches you...William"*



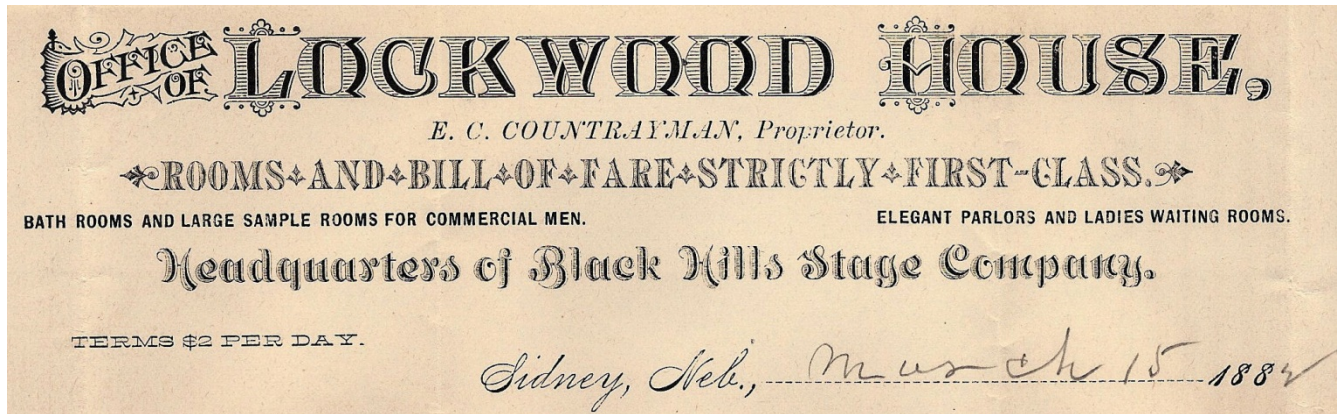
HAT CREEK STATION ON SAGE CREEK

A reproduction of an original water color by William H. Jackson for the Russell Thorp collection; now in Denver public library, Western collection.





Advertising cover for the Lockwood House (hotel), Sidney, Nebraska, “Office of Black Hills Stage Line”. Indistinct Sidney, Nebraska postmark March, 1882 for delivery by post office to Rochester, New York. The Sidney Route had been incorporated into the Cheyenne and Black Hills Stage Line by this time.



Dear Bro & Sister,

I just arrived from *my trip from the Hills 6 days in the heaviest storm I have seen for many a day was lost 2 nites in a heavy wind & snow thanks I am fine feel not much like a big sun flower, will go down to Denver then back to Cheyenne then to S Lake am to fatigued to give you any more at this time. Love to all*

Your Bro,

R.P. Wheelock



# OFFICE OF LOCKWOOD HOUSE,

E. C. COUNTRYMAN, Proprietor.

ROOMS AND BILL OF FARE STRICTLY FIRST-CLASS.

BATH ROOMS AND LARGE SAMPLE ROOMS FOR COMMERCIAL MEN.

ELEGANT PARLORS AND LADIES WAITING ROOMS.

Headquarters of Black Hills Stage Company.

TERMS \$2 PER DAY.

Sidney, Neb., March 15 1884

Dear Bro & Sister

I just arrived here from my trip from the Hills 6 days in the heaviest storm I have seen for many a day was lost 12 miles in a heavy wind & snow thanks I am thankful not mitch like a big sun flower will go down to evening then back to Cheyenne then to St. Luke am too fatigued to give you any more at this time. Love to all

Yours Bro  
R P Wheelock



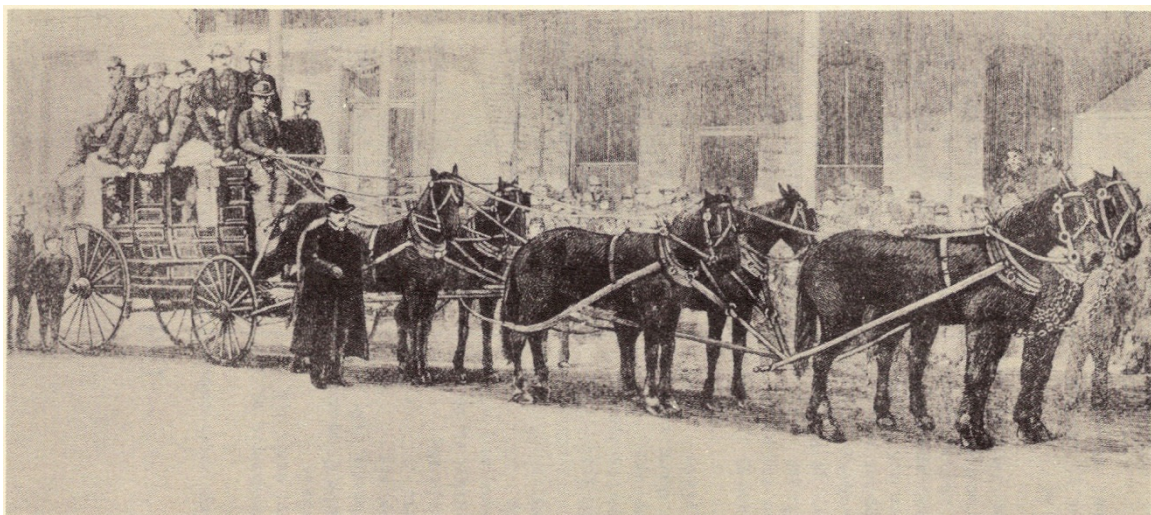
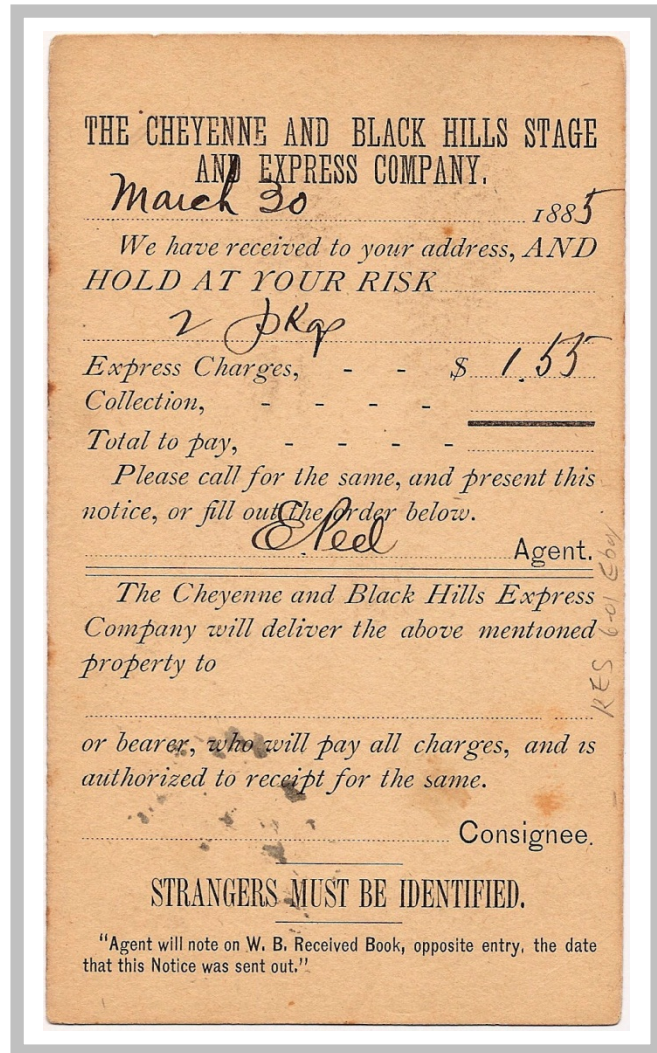


*Chugwater, Wyoming Feb 2, 1884* to Great Neck, New York.

**Chug - Water Ranch,**  
**John Phillips, Prop'r.**  
*Situated on the Mail and Stage Route  
from Cheyenne to Fort Laramie and  
the Black Hills.*  
**52 MILES FROM CHEYENNE CITY.**  
**Best of Board and Good and Comfortable Rooms**  
**THE BAR SUPPLIED WITH THE CHOICEST  
WINES, LIQUORS AND CIGARS.**  
**A Good Barn Connected to the stanch  
and Stalls for 50 head of Horses.**  
Mar22-dawtf

Continuing north on the line from Cheyenne to Fort Laramie was the Chug-Water Ranch, as advertised in the August 12, 1876, issue of the *Cheyenne Weekly Leader*.

Cheyenne and Black Hills Stage and Express Company postcard (March 30, 1885) addressed to Capt Coolidge in Fort Laramie informing him of express goods to be picked up at their offices. The company ceased operations less than two years after this card was mailed (Feb, 1887).



THE LAST COACH OUT  
Departure from Cheyenne of the last trip by stagecoach.  
From a contemporary woodcut.