

MERCHANTS' EXCHANGE, SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

Researching Western Postal History



Richard Frajola
WESTPEX
April 2014

A Research Recipe

- Define the subject, scope and goals
- Gather and review the previous philatelic literature
- Start a timeline of the pertinent history
 - Search online newspaper sources
 - Check google books for non philatelic information
- Find pertinent maps and images if an article is anticipated
- Construct a “critical” census of known covers
- Differentiate and organize the various markings and uses
- Reconstruct a postal history
- Publish on the web or in print

California Penny Post Company

- Subject: The history of the California Penny Post Company.
- Scope: To include all phases of operations and the individuals involved.
- Goals
 - Gain a better understanding of the subject
 - Construct a one frame exhibit
 - Publish online
 - Maintain an active online, annotated census

Start a Timeline – Newspaper Searches

- Find digital newspapers
- Internet Postal Resources Page: <http://www.rfrajola.com/ipr.htm>
- Using California Digital Newspaper Collection

The screenshot shows a web browser window titled "Search — California Digital Newspaper Collection - Mozilla Firefox". The address bar displays a complex URL: cdnc.ucr.edu/cgi-bin/cdnc?a=q&hs=1&r=1&results=1&bxq=California+Penny+Post&btbf=tdN&ssnp=td&fo=20&daddq=01&dafmq=01&dafyq=1854&daddq=31&dafmq=12&dafyq=1855. The browser's toolbar includes "competitively".

The website header features the "CDNC California Digital Newspaper Collection" logo on the left, the text "A Freely Accessible Repository of Digitized California Newspapers from 1846 to the Present" in the center, and the "Veridian digital library software" logo on the right. A navigation menu below the header includes links for Home, Search, Titles, Dates, Tags, Help, About, and Log in.

The main content area is titled "California Digital Newspaper Collection > Search". It contains a search form with the following elements:

- Search limited to:** Clear all
- Date:** 01 January 1854 - 31 December 1855
- Search within:** Full text
- Search summaries:** Text
- Results per page:** 20
- From:** 01 January 1854
- To:** 31 December 1855
- In:** A dropdown menu with "All publications" selected. Other options include Amador Ledger, Antelope Valley Political Observer, Beach and Bay Press, and Black Voice News.
- Search button:** Search
- Clear search button:** Clear search
- Help button:** Help
- Search history button:** Search history

Below the search form, the "Search Results" section displays the message: "Your search for 'California Penny Post' found 0 results."

The footer of the page contains the copyright notice: "© 2006 2013 Digital Library Consulting. All rights reserved." and the text "Powered by Veridian".

Newspaper Searching

- Refining the search results

The screenshot displays the California Digital Newspaper Collection (CDNVC) search interface in a Mozilla Firefox browser. The page title is "Search — California Digital Newspaper Collection - Mozilla Firefox". The browser's address bar shows the URL: cdnc.ucr.edu/cgi-bin/cdnvc?ql=&results=1&puq=DAC&a=01-01-1854-31-12-1855-&n=20-1-byDA-bt-tbvt-Penny+Post. The CDNVC logo is visible, along with the text "A Freely Accessible Repository of Digitized California Newspapers from 1846 to the Present". The search results are displayed in a table with columns for Publication, Date, and Title. The search criteria are: "Penny Post", Search within: Full text, Search summaries: Text, Results per page: 20. The search results show 132 results, with the first 20 displayed. The results include:

- THE PENNY POST SYSTEM. [ARTICLE]**
Daily Alta California 5 April 1855
THE **PENNY POST** SYSTEM.
- Post Office Box Rents. [ARTICLE]**
Daily Alta California 10 April 1855
... f having n " little more- light disseminated" respecting the **"Penny Post** System." Before long, I hope to be able ...
- Page 2 Advertisements Column 2 [ADVERTISEMENT]**
Daily Alta California 25 June 1855
... : Office, geS 73 153 Montgomery meet, cor. of Merchant. ■ THE **PENNY-POST** COMPANY HAS NOW COMPLETED ARRANGE- ments for the
- Page 1 Advertisements Column 4 [ADVERTISEMENT]**
Daily Alta California 25 June 1855
... K CENT" 1 Letters arj tra ned to be care of the **"PENNY POST,"** and transmitted through the mail" from any f ...
- Page 1 Advertisements Column 7 [ADVERTISEMENT]**

The interface also includes a "Refine search" section on the left, with filters for Publication (Daily Alta California (132)), Category (ADVERTISEMENT (122), ARTICLE (10)), Decade (1850-1859 (132)), and Word count (01 - 1000 (16), >= 1001 (116)).

Newspaper Searching

- Building a clip file of search results

Daily Alta California 25 June 1855 — California Digital Newspaper Collection - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

PhilaMercury - Permanent Census of... PhilaMercury - Permanent Census of... CPPNewspaperCips.pdf Daily Alta California 25 June 1855 ... Internet Philatelic Resources

cdnc.ucr.edu/cgi-bin/cdnc?ac=d5d+DAC18550625.2.27.2&rspos=3&e=01-01-1854-31-12-1855--en--20-DAC-1-byDA-td-bdN-Penny+Post+-----# competitively

CDNC California Digital Newspaper Collection

powered by Veridian digital library software

A Freely Accessible Repository of Digitized California Newspapers from 1846 to the Present

Home Search Titles Dates Tags Help About Log in

California Digital Newspaper Collection > Daily Alta California > 25 June 1855

Daily Alta California, Volume 6, Number 158, 25 June 1855

Issue Article

Text

Correct this text

Site Department. [C] m Unotri sif Farcim~Ai adjomud ~Ji~y~ in~clinf ~f tht Kuari will be hell this (Mortlay) 38aaQpvnrtm~n, ut H o'clock, in theolom of the Hoard. " ~a~ of Delegates, City Hall. Every member is requested to be present • By order, [2s M. D. Boruck, Secretary. " < a jh. A Special [T]icrina; eaf Columbian [t]i~ ~Va~ Engine Co. No. 11 "ll be held this (Monday) XJ~ ~T~ evening, Juce 28th, at 8 o'clock. " 1 ~ By order, [YV] Alik, Dictok, Foreman, Regular Dispatch Lino. < FOR 110-VOLITU, [5]sk The fast sailing A 1 Clipper Barque " 2aal FRANCES PALMER, Capt JOHN RATV, Will be dispatched for the above port, sailing punctually, On MONDAY, July 3d, 1855. As the next regular packet of the lino, For FREIGHT or PASSAGE, having superior Stateroom and Cabin Accommodations, fitted expressly for the comfort and convenience of passengers and families. Apply to G. B. POST & V C O., [ja]VU Cunningham [l] Block, Front street, PICTORIAL WIDE WEST! THE JULY NUMBER OK THIS PUBLICATION WILL BE ISSUED OH TUBSDAY, JINK 90th. Aur.ong the leading Ulu tratuus will be found Engravings representing — A MEXICAN FRASST DAY, INDIANS ATTACKING A PACO TRAIN IN THE MOUS TAINS; A CALIFORNIA HORSE RACE; A BULL AND BEAR FIGHT; and a variety of other interesting SCENES IN CALIFORNIA LIFE. A larcn number of COMIC

Comments (0)

Tags (0)

Wide West Office,
153 Montgomery street, cor. of Merchant.

je25.2

THE PENNY POST COMPANY

HAS NOW COMPLETED ARRANGEMENTS for the transmission of letters between **SAN FRANCISCO, SACRAMENTO, STOCKTON AND MARYSVILLE.**

And for the prompt delivery of the same in each of these cities at the **REDUCED RATE OF FIVE CENTS!**

Letters addressed to the care of the "PENNY POST," and transmitted through the mails from any post office, will be delivered every morning by 7 o'clock. Before long, the Penny Post Company hope to be able to make the same arrangements at most of the principal towns and cities through the State.

Letters enclosed in our **TWO CENT Envelope**, and deposited in any of our Letter Boxes, will be delivered at the Post Office in season for the mails. City Delivery, **FIVE CENTS**, if prepaid; **TEN CENTS**, if not prepaid. No connection with any Express Co.

Letters will be sent, for the present, in charge of a Special Messenger.

The Penny Post Company will commence operations on **MONDAY, June 25th.**

Office temporarily in brick building 136 Pine street, near Kearny street.

\$10,000 OR \$12,000 WANTED. For 3 years, at 1 per cent per month. Security: coarse water property, 20 feet square, filled in foundation carefully piled, and laid with heavy timber. The whole lot covered with a substantial brick building. Shou d \$10,000 be needed, larger sum it will be given. Title is disputable, City and State. Taxes paid. Please address **YORK, at this office.** je25.6*

CAUTION—The public are hereby cautioned against trusting my wife **MARGARET FEIGLEY** on my account, as I shall pay no debt of her contracting after this date. As she has left me and each himself without notice, and is

25 lbs Albany's Family Beef;
25 lbs Chicago Meas Beef;
25 cases Preston & Merrill's Yeast Powders;
25 lbs Soda Crackers;
WM. T. COLEMAN & CO.,
Corner California and Front streets.

je25

200 BOXES EXTRA FINE POUCH-ONG TEA;
250 boxes Oolong Tea;
250 packages Y. H. and Imperial, 6 lb boxes;
250 boxes G. P. Imp. and Y. H., 1 lb cetties;
100 cases Soughton Bitters;
250 .. Peppor Sauce;
250 .. True Lemon Syrup;
250 .. "Lewis" do;
25 .. Walnut Catnip;
For sale by
WM. T. COLEMAN & CO.,
Corner Front and California streets.

je25

250 CASES STETSON & PIERCE'S OYSTERS;
25 cases Kenett's Oysters;
150 .. Thomas' do;
25 .. Lobsters, 1 and 2 lb cans;
15 .. Clams;
50 .. Kenett's Roast Chicken;
50 Turkey, 1 lb cans;
87 .. Assorted Jellies, 1 lb cans;
50 Saleratus, 1 lb papers;
87 .. Butter Plugs;
5 .. Roast Hutton and Veal;
For sale by
W. T. COLEMAN & CO.,
Corner Front and California streets.

je25

100 HARDGROVE'S TWIN BROS.'S TOBACCO;
100 Hardgrove's Elephant Tobacco;
120 do Golden Gate do;
120 do Peach do;
125 & Thomas & Sells' Grand do.

Sanborn all powers that were entrusted to me in the premises.
JOHN K. STINSON,
Late Agent of Adams & Co., New York.
San Francisco, June 21, 1855.

SPECIAL NOTICE—The undersigned having been appointed Agent for the settlement of all demands due the firm of **ADAMS & CO.** of New York, and also to take charge of certain unsubs'd business in the State of California, hereby gives notice to all parties interested, that he has full and sole power to settle and discharge all demands due said firm for Freight, Collections, Rents, &c., &c.
J. D. SANBORN,
Office at J. Hawes & Co's, Sacramento st. cor. San Francisco, June 23, 1855. je25.3

A RESPECTABLE MERCHANT SAVED FROM DECEYED MANHOOD, IMBECILITY AND LUNACY BY DR. WEBBER'S CORDIAL.

ON THIS 30th DAY OF OCTOBER, 1854, I, J. F. Horton, of San Jose, do hereby certify that my brother James has been for six years months declining in health, before which time he had two or three attacks of chills, fever and ague. Many said that he was in decline, he had become so emaciated and weak in his limbs and body; appetite he had none; he could sleep but little at night, and from painful forebodings he seemed to feel, myself and sister were fearful of his recovery. Drs. Farley and H. athletic said that nothing but a change of climate could help him, together with the aid of a sea voyage. (I would here state that no thing but a wish to help my fellow-creatures would induce me to publish this.) At Oronono I was persuaded by a friend to try Dr. Webber's Cordial. I can only say that he has used up to this time three bottles, and is almost a strong healthy young man; his appetite is good; his sleep is healthy and refreshing; in fact, he is all but in full health.

Reader, if you are suffering from any nervous disease, any weakness of the limbs, mind or body, neuralgia, tic doloureux, depletion of the liquids constituting life and strength, try this; if you have any dyspepsia, indigestion, flatulency, torpor of the natural functions, debility, weakness, &c., you

EYE-GLASSES, OPERA GLASSES, &c., at the manufacture

N.B.—OPEN at 10 A.M.; C

TO L
FROM \$20.00
Improved by back limits where the security is unque three to four years, at VRL this office.

PAGE, HA
Certificates of De

mt5lp 158.8

STATE AND COU
QUARTER COMMEN
is hereby given to persons un ty of San Francisco, that the quarter commencing Janu mediane settlement is require pecuniary from \$25 to \$50.

Office, No. 11 City Hall.

ADVANCES made on other produce shipped to

THE LATEST Australian

© 2006-2013 Digital Library Consulting. All rights reserved

Powered by Veridian

Newspaper Searching

- Building a clip file of Newspaper results



[Home](#) > [Newspaper Archives](#) > [Search Results](#) > Result 1 of 99 [Next Result >](#)

► This item refers to Penny; Post; Company.

Page: [2]

Advertisement

[List all pages in this issue.](#)

Advertisement

Date: Monday, June 25, 1855 **Paper:** Daily Placer Times and Transcript (San Francisco, CA) **Volume:** VI **Issue:** 1617 **Page:** 2
This entire product and/or portions thereof are copyrighted by NewsBank and/or the American Antiquarian Society, 2004.

HIGHLIGHTS: Penny; Post; Company

<p>(Tide Permitting.) San Francisco, June 25, 1855. CHAS. MINTURN, Agent. PENNY POST COMPANY.</p> <p>LETTERS enclosed in the FIVE-CENT ENVELOPES of the PENNY POST CO., will be transmitted (for the present in charge of a special Messenger) between San Francisco, Sacramento, Marysville and Stockton, and delivered in each of those cities without further charge.</p> <p>LETTERS FOR THE POST OFFICE enclosed in the TWO-CENT ENVELOPES will be delivered in season for the Mails.</p> <p>Letters for San Francisco, addressed to the care of the "PENNY POST CO.," and deposited in ANY Post Office, will be delivered promptly every morning.</p> <p>No Connection with any Express Company.</p> <p>RATES OF PENNY POSTAGE. FIVE CENTS, if Pre-paid.....TEN CENTS, if not Pre-paid. City Delivery at same rates.</p> <p>OFFICE, temporarily in the Brick Building, 136 Pine street, near Kearny street. jun25</p> <p>NOTICE.—Whereas, W. B. DINSMORE, E. S.</p>	<p>the same at public auction, for the total amount of the Taxes, together with the costs and damages that may have accrued thereon. E. BATTURS, City Tax Collector. Office, City Hall—Office hours, from 10 to 3 o'clock. jun7</p> <p>STATE AND COUNTY LICENSES. Quarter commencing June 1st, 1855.</p> <p>Notice is hereby given to persons transacting business in the County of San Francisco, that the State and County LICENSE for the Quarter commencing June 1st, 1855, is now due, and immediate settlement is requested, or they will be subject to a penalty of from \$25, to \$200.</p> <p>GEO. W. GREEN, County Treasurer. Office—No. 11, City Hall. jun2-2m2p</p> <p>CITY LICENSES. Being payable Quarterly in advance, fell due on the 1st day of January, 1855.</p> <p>All persons failing to take out the same shall subject themselves to a penalty of ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS, together with an addition of ten per cent over and above the amount of</p> <p>EL LIBAN EL LIBAN LA PATRI EL CIERR EL CIERR LA ESME FLOR DE EL CINTO LA FAMA LA CONFL LA MINA LA CANDI ORAMA Y EL TULIP JANNY LI GARCIA... LA SYLVA my18-1m 28 EL COMMI EL COMMI EL COMMI EL COMMI</p>
---	---

Google Book Searching

- Building a clip file of book results (this from 1917)

CALIFORNIA PENNY POST COMPANY.

This company was incorporated at Sacramento, **California**, on June 25th, **1855**, by Henry L. Goodwin, Francis B. Folger and Frederick Schetter. Its object was to enter the field as independent letter carriers. There were no government carriers at this time in the cities and mining camps of **California**, although they had been authorized under Acts of Congress of 1851 and 1854.

The company had boxes erected and placed at corners throughout the principal cities; carriers collected mail and delivered locally and to the **post** office, and also received letters at the **post** office for delivery. Two-thirds of all the mail matter in and out of the state was at this time carried by the express companies.

Offices were established at San Francisco (#135 **California** Street), Sacramento, Stockton, Marysville, Benicia, Petaluma, Placerville, Fiddletown, Sonora, Shasta, &c., &c.

Stamps were prepared, as were envelopes, and distributed throughout the State at their face value. Newspaper wrappers were also prepared and sent to, at least, two papers, the New York Tribune, and the Journal of Commerce. These envelopes first bore the words "Care of the **Penny Post** Company". After July 4, **1855**, it was changed to "To the Agent of the **Penny Post** Company", and later to "To the **Penny Post** Company for ——".

Digitized by Google

Henry L. Goodwin was the agent, superintendent, and general manager of the company.

If the matter was to go through the mails the usual United States stamps were attached.

About July 4, **1855**, the Company and Mr. Charles L. Weller, Postmaster at San Francisco, disagreed as to the law relating to the transmission of such letters, &c., and a long and expensive litigation followed. The newspapers in the company's wrappers came in in lots of twenty to thirty thousand. Mr. Goodwin finally came East and secured a congressional investigation, reported in full under date of March 7, 1859, but suppressed after printing. The testimony taken now makes most interesting reading.

Google Book Searching

- Magazines

296 HUTCHINGS' CALIFORNIA MAGAZINE.

patched over their route of destination. The same process is adopted in the making up of all the mails to every portion of the Union; and all this is done with the view of securing dispatch, and avoiding unnecessary labor and consequent delay.

Register of Departure of the Mails for the Atlantic States, via Panama, &c.; names of the Steamers, date of sailing, and number of bags of mail matter:

NAME OF STEAMER.	DATE OF DEPARTURE.	NO. BAGS MAIL MATTER.	NAME OF STEAMER.	DATE OF DEPARTURE.	NO. BAGS MAIL MATTER.
John L. Stephens,	Sept. 1, 1854,	108	John L. Stephens,	May 21, 1856,	129
Panama,	Sept. 16, "	89	Golden Age,	June 5, "	149
Sonora,	Sept. 30, "	101	Sonora,	June 20, "	150
Golden Gate,	Oct. 16, "	116	John L. Stephens,	July 5, "	142
John L. Stephens,	Nov. 1, "	100	Golden Age,	July 21, "	147
Golden Age,	Nov. 16, "	114	Sonora,	Aug. 5, "	121
Sonora,	Dec. 1, "	91	John L. Stephens,	Aug. 20, "	141
John L. Stephens,	Dec. 16, "	93	Golden Age,	Sept. 5, "	140
Golden Age,	Jan. 1, 1855,	107	Sonora,	Sept. 20, "	114
Sonora,	Jan. 16, "	98	Golden Gate,	Oct. 6, "	129
John L. Stephens,	Feb. 1, "	108	Golden Age,	Oct. 20, "	113
Golden Age,	Feb. 16, "	99	Sonora,	Nov. 5, "	115
Golden Gate,	March 1, "	102	John L. Stephens,	Nov. 20, "	122
Sonora,	March 16, "	85	Golden Gate,	Dec. 5, "	99
John L. Stephens,	March 31, "	95	Sonora,	Dec. 20, "	112
Golden Age,	April 17, "	103	John L. Stephens,	Jan. 5, 1857,	120
Golden Gate,	May 1, "	89	Golden Gate,	Jan. 20, "	96
Sonora,	May 16, "	89	Sonora,	Feb. 5, "	121
John L. Stephens,	June 1, "	100	John L. Stephens,	Feb. 20, "	119
Golden Gate,	June 16, "	102	Golden Age,	March 5, "	103
Sonora,	June 30, "	92	Golden Gate,	March 20, "	119
John L. Stephens,	July 16, "	97	Golden Gate,	March 23, "	6
Golden Age,	Aug. 1, "	95	John L. Stephens,	April 6, "	115
Golden Gate,	Aug. 18, "	94	Golden Age,	April 20, "	102
Oregon,	Sept. 5, "	93	Golden Gate,	May 5, "	122
Sonora,	Sept. 20, "	96	John L. Stephens,	June 1, "	116
John L. Stephens,	Oct. 5, "	82	Sonora,	May 20, "	104
Golden Age,	Oct. 20, "	95	Golden Age,	June 20, "	96
Sonora,	Nov. 5, "	93	Sonora,	July 4, "	109
John L. Stephens,	Nov. 20, "	96	John L. Stephens,	July 20, "	108
Golden Age,	Dec. 5, "	101	Golden Age,	Aug. 5, "	121
Sonora,	Dec. 20, "	113	Sonora,	Aug. 20, "	102
Golden Gate,	Jan. 5, 1856,	89	California,	Sept. 5, "	112
John L. Stephens,	Jan. 21, "	125	John L. Stephens,	Sept. 21, "	109
Golden Age,	Feb. 5, "	101	Golden Gate,	Oct. 5, "	91
Sonora,	Feb. 20, "	106	Golden Age,	Oct. 11, "	23
Golden Gate,	March 5, "	95	Sonora,	Oct. 20, "	96
John L. Stephens,	March 20, "	107	Golden Gate,	Nov. 5, "	125
Golden Age,	April 5, "	126	John L. Stephens,	Nov. 20, "	110
Sonora,	April 21, "	116	Golden Age,	Dec. 5, "	110
Golden Gate,	May 5, "	92	Golden Gate,	Dec. 21, "	94

RATES OF FOREIGN POSTAGE ON LETTERS.
(PER 4 OUNCES.)

SOUTH PACIFIC.—Ecuador, Bolivia, and Chili, 34 cents; Peru, 22; Panama, 20 cents; and Mexico, 10 cents. Spain, 78 cents; West Indies (not British), Cuba excepted, 44 cents; Cuba, 20 cents; West Indies (British), 20 cents. Payment required for all the above.

Great Britain, 29 cents; Canada and Provinces, 15 cents; France, 15 cents per

From Hutching's California Magazine Jan 1858



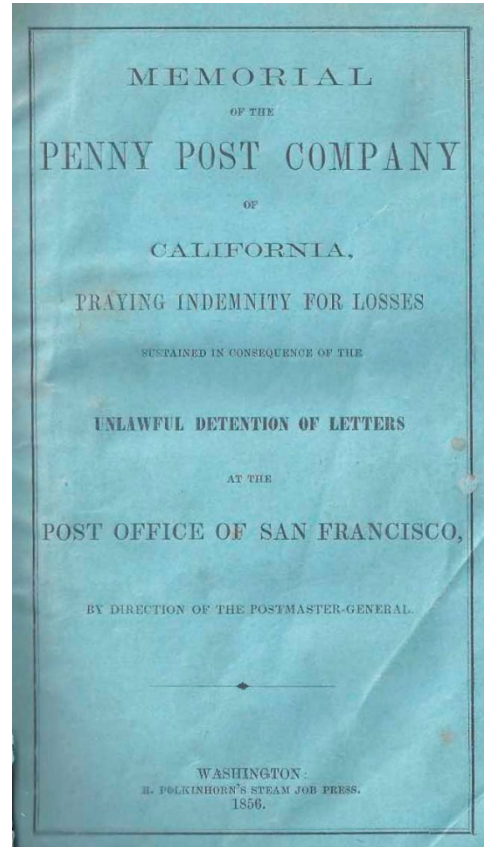
Philatelic Literature Search

- Ask fellow collectors
- Ask APRL
- Other Philatelic Museums

General Literature Search

- Search for city and state government libraries
- Search for city directories in local museums and online

Original Source Materials



A book dealer search pays off

Original Source Materials

David O. Shattuck 81

Copy of the notes taken by the Hon D. O. Shattuck presiding Judge, in the suit brought in the Superior Court of the City of San Francisco by the Penny Post Co. against Charles L. Weller, the Post Master at San Francisco

The Penny Post Co.) July 9th 1856
Charles L. Weller, P^{te}.) ~~July~~

Certificate of Corporation of the Penny Post Co. put in evidence -

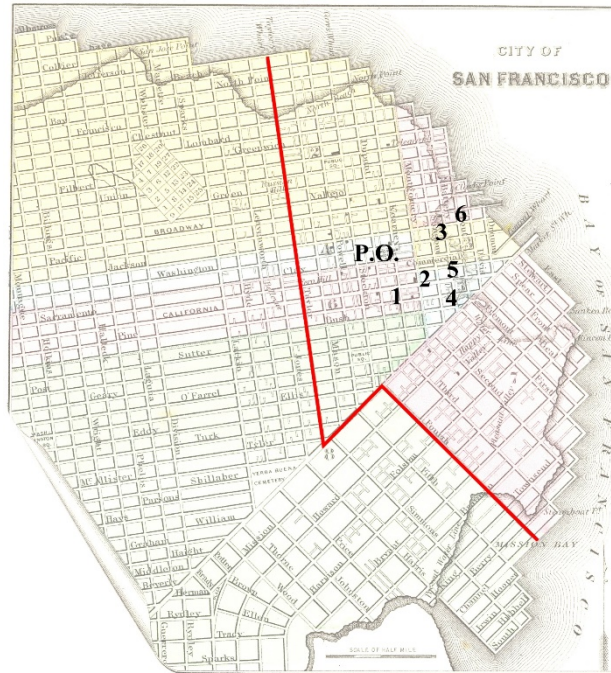
A motion was first made in this case by the dft. for a continuance on the ground that, Folger one of the Corporators was a witness by whom he could prove that no Corporation had been formed, and certain facts were set forth in an affidavit filed; whereupon the plaintiff objected to the testimony as incompetent, but upon the Court ruling a continuance, unless the affidavit was admitted in evidence, he admitted the ~~evidence~~ affidavit to be read, saving his exceptions to the competency &c -

Hermann Scheller, Sworn for P^{ts}.

I was in the p^{ts} employ from June 1855, when they started to some time in July last. The P^{ts} had

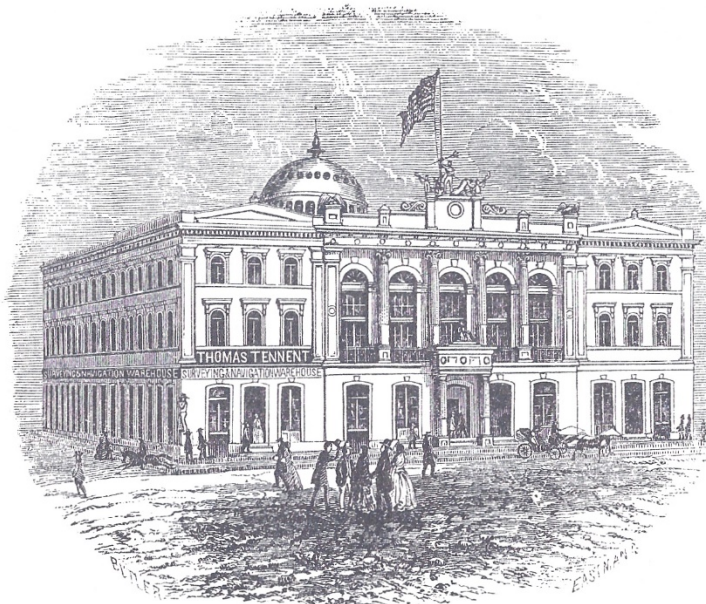
A library search (American Antiquarian Society)

Map Searching



Colton 1856 map of San Francisco
(<http://www.davidrumsey.com/maps3540.html>)
with overlay of Penny Post Office boxes locations.

Image Search



MERCHANTS' EXCHANGE. SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.




This found using Google image search.

The Census Database

2	<u>Origin Postmark</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Franking</u>	<u>Destination</u>	<u>Addressee</u>	<u>Notes</u>	<u>Image#</u>	<u>Scott #</u>	<u>RF Type</u>	<u>image #</u>
3	San Francisco	08/23/1855	4 x 3c (CIRCULAR)	Mt. Ophir	Postmaster	SFC Held For Postage bkst	101	#LU1 T1 Paid 2		PP41
4	San Francisco	08/30/1855	3c	Marysville	Masse, T	Detained For Postage bkst	102	#LU1 T1 Paid 2		PP33
5	SFC WFC + Paid	10/06/1855	3c (moved)	Sacramento	Tiffany, Wm	"answ Oct 6" docket	103	#LU1 T1 Paid 2		PP24
6	Gloucester, MA	02/02/1856	10c green	San Francisco	Haskell, Leo		104	#LU1 T1 Paid 2		PP11
7	SFC PP	09/01/1855	1c blue (DNO)	Sacramento	Moody, John		105	#LU1 T1 Paid 2		PX1
8	SFC PP	09/01/1855	3c (DNO)	Sacramento	Moody, John	stamp ms precan 2/21/1855	106	#LU1 T1 Paid 2		PX2
9	Stockton	07/10/1855	3c entire	San Francisco	Tandler	EKU	107	#LU3a T1 Paid 5		PP8
10	Marysville	07/16/1855	3c entire	San Francisco	Tandler		108	T1 Paid 5		PP31
11	Benicia	08/23/1855	3c entire	San Francisco	Chapman & Folger	imprint of offices	109	#LU3 T1 Paid 5		G873
12	Sacramento PP (blue)		3c entire	San Francisco	Hinckley, C		110	#LU3a T1 Paid 5		PP12
13	Sacramento PP (blue)		3c entire	San Francisco	Tandler	fake PP?	111	#LU3a T1 Paid 5		PP43
14	Sacramento PP (blue)		3c entire	San Francisco	Tandler		112	T1 Paid 5		SACPP10
15	Benicia	10/08/1855	3c entire	San Francisco	Warren		113	#LU4 T1 Paid 7, E		PX3
16	Knight's Ferry	07/27/1855	3c	San Francisco	Agent Penny Post	To Agent, imprint of offices	201	#LU13A T2 Paid 5, S		PP15
17	New York	09/20/1855	10c green, Swarts	San Francisco	Agent Penny Post		202	#LU13A T2 Paid 7, S		Ppswarts
18	Honolulu	03/05/1856	HI 5c, US 3c	San Francisco	Noble & Haskel imprint		203	T2 Paid 7, S		HIPP
19	San Francisco	08/11/1855	1c blue	San Francisco	Chamb. Congress	Pres. Chamber, note on back	204	#LU14 T2 Paid 7, S		PP18
20	San Francisco	08/12/1855	1c blue	San Francisco	Wadsworth, Congress	Sec Chamber	205	#LU14 T2 Paid 7, S		PP1c
21	Stockton	08/27/1855	3c	San Francisco	Agent PP imprint		206	T2, Paid 5		PP121
22	Stockton + Stockton PP	11/19/1855	3c	San Francisco	Agent Penny Post	Marysville printed city	207	T2 Paid 7, S		PP1
23	Stockton	02/27/1856	3c	San Francisco	Collins	all over imprint	208	#LU14 T2 Paid 7, S		PP34
24	Marysville	05/06/1856	3c	San Francisco	Agent Penny Post	printed address	209	#LU14 T2 Paid 7, S		PP38
25	San Jose	05/06/1856	???? Check date	San Francisco	Morgan Hathaway		210	T2, Paid 7, E		
26	San Jose	09/17/1855	3c entire	San Francisco	Hathaway, M.	list of 5 offices at left	210	#LU15 T2 Paid 7, E		PP17
27	San Jose	09/18/1855	3c entire	San Francisco	Hathaway, M.	text of offices to left, Due 6 cts	211	#LU15 T2 Paid 7, E		PP39
28	Sacramento	04/04/1856	3c entire	San Francisco	Whiting	fake?	212	T2, Paid 7, E		535
29	Sacramento	04/04/1856	3c entire	San Francisco	Lewis, J.R.	imprint at left	213	LU15 T2, Paid 7, E		884

Database file with image numbers

The Image Census

Census in Excel sheet format		XLS file
Imprinted & Franked Covers of the Penny Post Company		
Type 1 - "Care of the Penny Post Co." <i>A. Paid 2 - To The Post Office</i> <i>B. Paid 5 - From the Post Office</i> <i>C. Paid 7 - To and from the Post Office</i> <i>D. Paid 5 - City Delivery - (not reported used)</i>		Census Page 1
Type 2 - "Agent of the Penny Post Co" <i>A. Paid 5</i> <i>B. Paid 7</i> <i>C. Paid 7 (on 3c postal stationery)</i>		Census Page 2
Type 3 - triple lined box + "To the Penny Post Co" <i>A. Paid 5 on non-government cover</i> <i>B. Paid 5 on 3c postal stationery</i> <i>C. Paid 7 on non-government cover</i> <i>D. Paid 7 on 3c postal stationery</i> <i>E. Collect Penny-Postage on non-government cover</i> <i>F. Paid 5 Ocean Penny Postage</i>		Census Page 3
Type 4 - ornamented box + "To the Penny Post Co" <i>A. Paid 7 on 3c postal stationery</i> <i>B. Collect Penny-Postage 10 on 3c postal stationery</i>		Census Page 4
Type 5 - embossed oval + "To the Penny Post Co" <i>Paid 7 on 3c postal stationery</i>		Census Page 5
Type 6 - City Delivery <i>Paid 5 on non-government cover</i>		Census Page 6
Adhesives of the Penny Post Company		
Type A - genuine adhesive		Census Page 7
Type B - remote possibility genuine adhesive		

From database file to critical image census

The Image Census

“stamp lifted and moved”




“stamp did not originate”



“stamp did not originate”









Type 1A - Paid 2, To the Post Office




The type 1 stamps were issued June 29, 1855. The two-cent stamp was intended to be used for mail deposited in one of the Penny Post street boxes in San Francisco. For the two-cent fee, the Penny Post Company collected the envelope from the street box and deposited it at the post office for onward transmission by mail. The sender was supposed to add the adhesive stamp for government postage but instructions were evidently unclear.

Text at left reads: "LETTERS and other MAIL MATTER deposited in any Post Office, will be DELIVERED IN SAN FRANCISCO, SACRAMENTO, STOCKTON, or BARRYVILLE, immediately on the arrival of the mails, if addressed to the care of the 'PENNY POST CO.'"


(click on image for larger size)

	#101, Aug 25, 1866, San Francisco to postmaster at St. Omer, variant with additional 'CIRCULAR' imprint at top right of cover, four copies of 3c adhesive as per court testimony relating to similar uses, 'need for postage' backstamp, manuscript correction lining out 'to the care of (Penny Post)'. Filed Oct 17 1869 court evidence notation at left partially missing in image as overlapped in casting illustration
	#102, Aug 30 1866, San Francisco to Travis House in Marysville, 2c type 1 printed frank, 3c adhesive tied by San Francisco postmark, 'Paid' handwritten, 'DETAINED FOR POSTAGE' backstamp, 'San Francisco Aug 30 3 Paid' backstamp, manuscript stamp supplied by Penny Post and cover sent onward by mail. Filed Oct 17 1869 court evidence notation
	#103, Oct 8, 1866, manuscript docket on cover addressed to William Tiffany in San Francisco, presumably a Sacramento or Stockton origin, Wells Fargo blue 'Paid' and oval 'San Francisco' handwritten, uncanceled 3c adhesive, manuscript correction lining out 'to the care of (Penny Post) indicating a pure Wells Fargo use
	#104, Feb 2, 1868 Gloucester, Massachusetts origin postmark used to Jonathan Haskell in San Francisco, 10c green with manuscript cancel, envelope had been previously sent East for return use.
	#105, Penny Post San Francisco handstamp on cover from San Francisco to John Moody at Sacramento, manuscript correction lining out 'to the care of (Penny Post)' - probably indicating a pure out of the mails use from origin to Sacramento
	#106, Penny Post San Francisco handstamp on cover from San Francisco to John Moody at Sacramento, manuscript correction lining out 'to the care of (Penny Post)' - probably indicating a pure out of the mails use from origin to Sacramento, stamp did not originate (loses a manuscript date cancel of Feb 21, 1866)

Type 1B - Paid 5 From the Post Office



#107, Jul 10, 1866 Stockton cover to Tender in San Francisco



The Image Census - Handstamps

	
	<p>#801, Aug 20, 1855 (docket), on folded entire addressed to Morgan, Hathaway, San Francisco, "per Northern Light" to San Francisco, oval "Nicaragua Line / In Advance / of the Mail" handstamp, Penny Post Co San Francisco delivery handstamp, 10c rate paid with uncanceled adhesives</p>
	<p>#802, Aug 29, 1855, 3c entire with Penny Post Stockton handstamp and pencil "Paid," entered mails with Stockton postmark, addressed to H. L. Goodwin with final addressee being Luigi Bisagno</p>
	<p>#803, Sep 20, 1855 San Francisco postmark, and Penny Post San Francisco handstamp on cover to Mrs. Sarah Haskell in Fitchburg, Mass., via Panama steamer</p>

census page

The Image Census

PhilaMercury - Permanent Census of United States stamps and cover images - Mozilla Firefox

PhilaMercury - Permanent Census of United States stamps and cover images - Mozilla Firefox

www.philamercury.com/browse.php?tp=0&sc=0&oc=1&os=6&ot=8&dc=1&ds=6&dt=8&sys=1855&ye=0&fs=0&user=frajola&ob=newest

home sales articles exhibits projects books services contact

FRAJOLA
PhilaMercury

Total Covers (20584)

PhilaMercury Homepage
Browse Covers
Search Covers
Message Board

Account Management

Account: frajola
Last Login: 3 Mar 2014

Edit Account
Change Password

My Covers

Add a Cover
Log Out

Administration





Manage Users
Statistics

Browse frajola's Covers

Cover Type: -- All --
Stamp Category: -- All --
Origin: UNITED STATES State: California
Town:
Destination: Country: UNITED STATES State: California
Town:
Year: 1855 - Specific Year
For Sale: ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Either
Username: frajola [Filter Results](#) [Reset Filters](#)

Order By: Newest Records First

Count: 14

Cover #21438 Updated Jan 12, 14 by frajola View Details Edit this cover	Cover Type: USA domestic with stamp(s) Postmark: 1855-04-15 Origin: Feather River, California, USA Destination: Bidwells Bar, California, USA Description: W. E. Singer & Co's Feather River Express, connecting with Wells, Fargo & Co., sharply struck blue oval handstamp on 3c red Nesbitt enti...	
Cover #21099 Updated Sep 23, 13 by frajola View Details Edit this cover	Cover Type: USA domestic with stamp(s) Postmark: 1855 Origin: San Francisco, California, USA Destination: Sacramento, California, USA Description: 5c California Penny Post adhesive (#34L4) used on cover to Sacramento, 3c dull red (#11) tied by their "Penny-Post San Francisco" handstamp, the...	
Cover #21009 Updated Aug 23, 13 by frajola View Details Edit this cover	Cover Type: USA domestic stampless Postmark: 1855-04-25 Origin: Downieville, California, USA Destination: San Francisco, California, USA Description: Langton's Pioneer Express Downieville, large circular handstamp, "Apr 25" datestamp and double oval "Paid" handstamp on green "Long Tom" illus...	
Cover #20083	Cover Type: USA domestic with stamp(s)	

Alternate census file (from: <http://www.philamercury.com/>)

The California Penny Post Company was established by Henry L. Goodwin in San Francisco on June 25, 1855. Although the latest advertisement found appeared in the October 4, 1855 issue of *Prices Current & Shipping List*, it seems that the company continued to deliver mail from the post office through May 1856. During their short period of operation the company issued a series of printed envelopes as well as a 5¢ adhesive stamp.

The menu of services and rates charged is shown in the rate schedule shown. Goodwin set up letter boxes that could serve as receptacles for the deposit of mail in four of the major California towns (San Francisco, Sacramento, Stockton and Marysville). For the delivery of mail from the post office to street addresses, Goodwin hired messengers.

RATES OF PENNY POSTAGE

IF PRE-PAID BY STAMPS.

For Conveying a Letter to the Post Office,	- - -	2 cts.
" Delivering a Letter from the Post Office,	- - -	5 cts.
" Conveying a Letter to the P. O. in one city and delivering the same in another,	- - -	7 cts.
Transmitting by Express letters received after the Mails are closed,	- - -	7 cts.
City Delivery west of Taylor and Fourth streets, west of	- - -	10 cts.

San Francisco City Delivery commences from the Office, 136 California street,
at 8 A. M. P. M. and hallicans 4 PM.

California Penny Post rate schedule

Following a physical altercation on July 20, 1855 at the San Francisco post office, Goodwin sued Weller. This was the first in an extended series of legal cases. On August 17, 1855 the post office department published a written statement that they agreed with Weller's interpretation of regulations regarding the delivery of mail. It seems however, that the department may not have been adequately informed in the matter, at least that is what Goodwin claimed. The legal cases in California wound down by the end of 1855 but Goodwin's complaint to the U.S. Congress was not resolved until 1860. From postal history evidence it appears that the company provided from the post office delivery service for mail received by them in San Francisco through May 1856.

The Penny Post Company issued franked envelopes in five major design types. Four of the major types were imprinted with multiple denominations and all exist with variants in the printed text. All of these envelopes are rare with a total of 120 genuine used examples known.

The text summary page

The Exhibit



Type A adhesive stamp (issued June 1855)

PAID 5 "From the Post Office" 5 known genuine (1 inter California)



Type 1 franks "Care of the Penny Post Co." (issued June 29, 1855)

PAID 2 "To the Post Office" plain envelope 6 known
 PAID 5 "From the Post Office" 3¢ entire 6 known
 PAID 7 "To and from the Post Office" plain envelope 1 known
 PAID 5 "City Delivery" plain envelope 1 known (unused only)



Type 2 franks "Agent of the Penny Post Co." (issued July 10, 1855)

PAID 5 plain envelope 3 known
 PAID 7 plain envelope 6 known
 PAID 7 3¢ entire 4 known



Type 3 franks (issued July 11, 1855)

PAID 5 plain envelope 7 known
 PAID 5 3¢ entire 3 known (2 are altered)
 PAID 7 plain envelope 9 known
 PAID 7 3¢ entire 16 known (3 are blue)
 Collect Penny Postage plain envelope 7 known
 Ocean Penny Postage PAID 5 plain envelope 7 known



Type 4 franks (issued after July 11, 1855)

PAID 7 3¢ entire 16 known
 Collect Penny Postage 10 3¢ entire 1 known



Type 5 franks (issued after July 11, 1855)

PAID 7 3¢ entire 11 known



Type 6 "City Delivery" franks

City Delivery, Penny Postage Paid plain envelope 1 known
 City Delivery, Penny Postage Paid 5 plain envelope 1 known

The type summary page

The Exhibit

California Penny Post Co. PAID 5 adhesive

The 5¢ adhesive was used primarily on ocean mail and five of the six reported genuine uscs were used in this fashion. For the fee of five cents, letters would be turned over to special messenger and carried, via Nicaragua, to New York City and placed in the US mails there.



5¢ adhesive

THE PENNY POST COMPANY

OFFICES:

SAN FRANCISCO—133 California street, one door below Montgomery.

SACRAMENTO—Next door to the Post Office.

STOCKTON—1st Post Office Building.

MARYSVILLE—At Messrs. Force & Co.'s.

**THE PENNY POST COMPANY TRANS-
MITS LETTERS, PAPERS, and other Mailable mat-
ter, Daguerreotypes, Small Parcels, etc. between SAN
FRANCISCO, SACRAMENTO and MARYSVILLE and
between SAN FRANCISCO and STOCKTON, at the
rate of FIVE CENTS, if pre-paid, and TEN CENTS if
not pre-paid, for each single letter weighing not more than
half an ounce.**

Letters for Sacramento, if wanted before 9 o'clock should
not be deposited in the Post Office, but will be transmitted
from our offices outside the mails.

This Penny Post advertisement in July 2, 1855 issue
of the *Daily Alta California* lists the rate for letters
between San Francisco and Sacramento at five cents
if prepaid and states: *Letters for Sacramento, if wanted
before 9 o'clock should not be deposited in the Post Office, but
will be transmitted from our offices outside the mails.*



circa July 1855 San Francisco to Sacramento, 5¢ adhesive for prepaid service with delivery and 3¢ U.S. adhesive
"PENNY POST" CO. SAN FRANCISCO" handstamp, Company carriage to Sacramento and delivered there

only reported example of their adhesive used on intra-California mail

ex Robson Lowe and Grunin

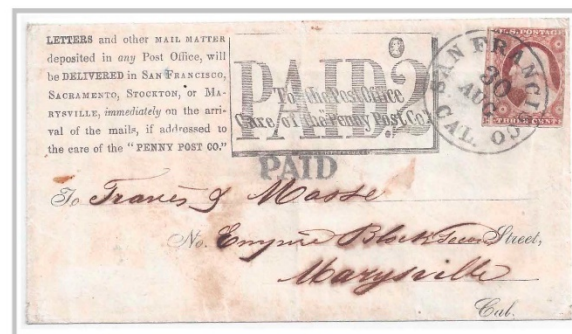
The Exhibit

California Penny Post Co. Type 1 frank, PAID 2



type 1 frank

The type I, paid 2¢ franks, inscribed "To The Post Office," were issued June 29, 1855. The two cent frank was intended to be used for mail deposited in one of the Penny Post street boxes in San Francisco. For the two cents fee, the Penny Post Company collected the envelope from the street box and deposited it at the post office for onward transmission by mail. The sender was supposed to add the adhesive stamp for government postage.



30 August 1855 San Francisco to Marysville, Paid 2c type 1 printed frank, 3¢ adhesive
"DETAINED FOR POSTAGE" backstamp, stamp supplied by Penny Post and cover sent onward by mail
six reported examples of this frank, this the only one used as intended



The day following, I think, a letter was detained for want of full postage. It was in one of our envelopes. Three cents more would have paid (full postage.) It was (subsequently) received in Marysville, and I sent to Marysville and obtained the envelope, (and sent it to the Postmaster General.) Have frequently seen the Penny Post Co.'s envelopes advertised. Every letter we mailed (our selves) was with the intention of having it forwarded.

Above excerpt from "Memorial of the Penny Post Company ..." being sworn testimony given by H.L. Goodwin on Dec 15, 1855 regarding this cover. The "Filed Oct 17" on reverse is his court filing endorsement.

Goodwin presented this cover in his case against the San Francisco postmaster for "Unlawful Detention of Letters" as evidence that postmaster Weller detained this letter for postage instead of forwarding the letter as postage due.

The day following, I think, a letter was detained for want of full postage. It was in one of our envelopes. Three cents more would have paid (full postage.) It was (subsequently) received in Marysville, and I sent to Marysville and obtained the envelope, (and sent it to the Postmaster General.) Have frequently seen the Penny Post Co.'s envelopes advertised. Every letter we mailed (our selves) was with the intention of having it forwarded.