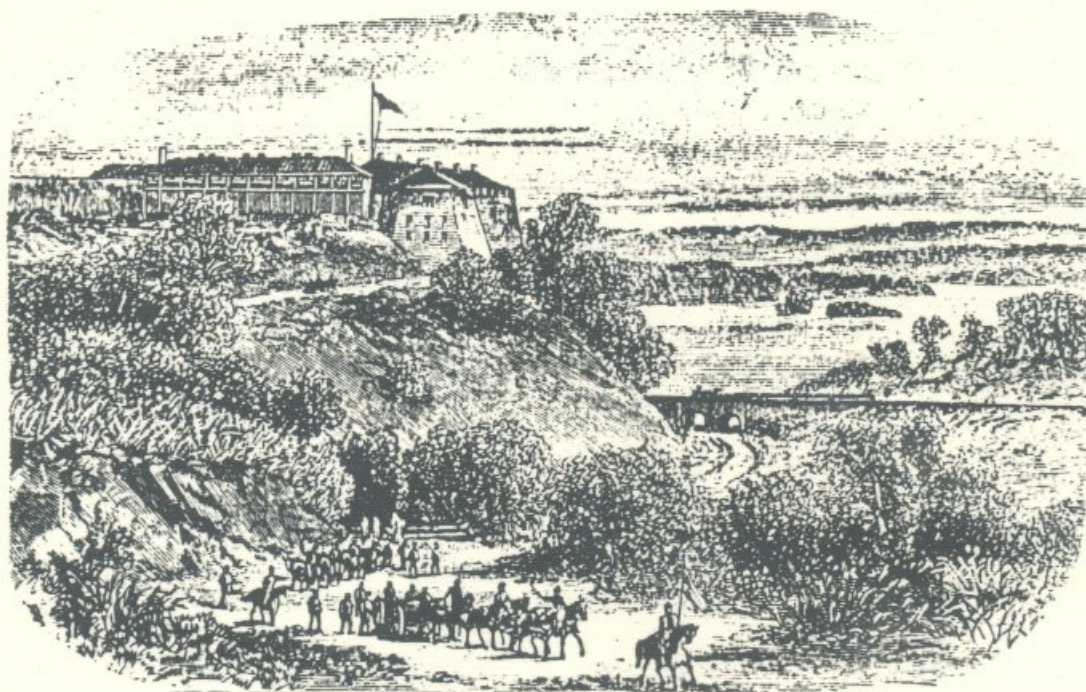


The Minnesota Territory



FORT SNELLING.

Fort Snelling

On August 24, 1819 Colonel Henry Leavenworth arrived at the confluence of the Mississippi and Minnesota rivers to begin an historic occupation. This strategic geographical site had first been marked for military occupation by Lt. Zebulon M. Pike in 1805 and a treaty with the Sioux had been concluded for its cession to the United States.

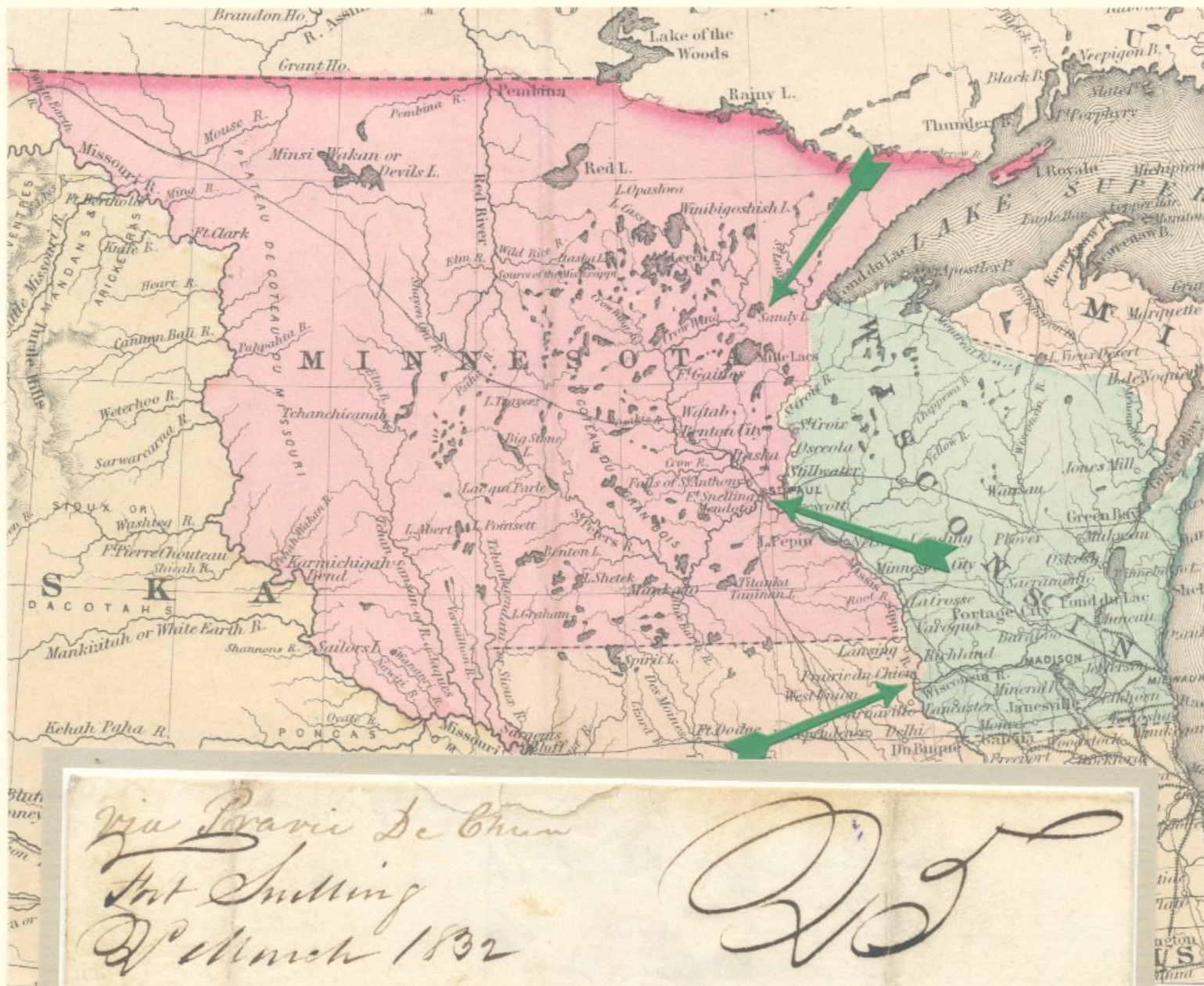
Leavenworth was replaced by Colonel Josiah Snelling in August of 1820 and on September 10th the cornerstone was laid for Fort St. Anthony at the extreme point of land formed by the confluence of the two rivers. This imposing location gave the fort the appearance of having been carved out of the native limestone upon which it stood. Its name was changed by military orders on January 7, 1825 to Fort Snelling in honor of its builder and commander Josiah Snelling.

In the early years of the fort, mail communication was by the expresses of the fur traders and the military. Otherwise more or less by accidental opportunity in the form of an individual "just going that way." The river was the great natural highway to Prairie du Chien and civilization. In the summer the mail was carried by boats and in the winter by foot along the frozen river trails. A system was arranged whereby the mail carrier from Fort Snelling and the one from Prairie du Chien set out about the same time, meeting at Wabasha's Village, where the mail was exchanged and the couriers returned to their own posts.

On May 9, 1828, the first Post Office, in what is now the State of Minnesota, was established at Fort Snelling with the post sutler, Elias T. Laugham, as postmaster. It continued to operate as a post office to June of 1918.

From 1819-21 Fort Snelling was in Missouri Territory; from 1821-34 in unorganized territory; 1834-36 in Michigan Territory; 1836-38 Wisconsin Territory; 1838-46 Iowa Territory; 1846-49 unorganized territory; 1849-58 Minnesota Territory and to the present time in the State of Minnesota.

The Minnesota Territory



Via Prairie du Chien
 Fort Snelling
 2^d March 1832

W. H. S.

Henry H. Sibley Esq

Mehelmintinae

Single Sheet Michigan Territory

Fort Snelling
 2^d March 1832

UNORGANIZED TERRITORY

FORT SNELLING This is the earliest recorded postmark of what is now the State of Minnesota. The letter was written from the American Fur Company post at Sandy Lake in February of 1832 (see the top arrow on map.) It was carried outside the mails to Fort Snelling (middle arrow), where it was post-marked "2d March 1832" and thence to its destination "Via Prairie du Chien" (bottom arrow).

Fort Snelling

Rec^d June 14th 1829

Genl

B^t Majr Kearny being the senior
Majr in the army in the Infy. & J. Barker
the senior 1st Lt in the 1st Regt of Infy. we may
look for the latter's promotion daily, in ~~which~~
which event, may I ask the appt. which
he now holds of ap^t Comy. of Subsistence
for my young friend J. Croft. Should
you think proper to comply with my
request I have no hesitation in saying
that J. C. will perform all the duties
appertaining to the situation, to the satisfac^{tion}
of all concerned and you will also
confer on me a particular obligation
by giving the appt. as ^{appt} for

Very Respectfully

Your Friend

J. St. Armand

J. Taylor, Lt Col
U. S. Army

Genl George Gibson

Comy. Genl. U. S. Army

Washington City

The Minnesota Territory



Prairie du Chien Mich. On Service
To, July 3 —
Z. Taylor Lt. Col
of U.S. Army
Genl. George Gibson
Comy. Genl. U.S. Army
Washington City
1829

FORT SNELLING Autographed letter signed by Zachary Taylor, while commanding at Fort Snelling, June 14, 1829. Taylor franked the letter and it was carried by a military express to Prairie du Chien, Michigan Territory. Here the Postmaster postmarked the letter and rated it 25¢. It should have gone FREE as it was on official business. The Fort Snelling Post Office was in operation at the time and Taylor's frank constitutes the earliest marking from that office. Taylor was the only U.S. President to ever hold a job in what is now Minnesota. At the time of this letter Fort Snelling was in unorganized territory and did not become part of the Michigan Territory until June 28, 1834.

Lufty & Danforth, Philada & New York

Post Office Department



DRAFT No. 337

\$ 200

Pay to the order of *Mrs. C. M. Thompson*

Martin O. Walker

Geo. Thompson

W. F. Shieps

Auditor for the Post Office Department

Mrs. C. M. Thompson

Postmaster General

Rec'd by *Harriet Kemmis Fairbank*

TRANSPORTATION OF THE MAILS



100

1855

Aug 21 1855

Fort Snelling

31st Decr. 1828.

Coly

I have the honor to enclose herewith a return of Ordnance and Ordnance Stores at this place as well as an abstract of those expended by me during the three last quarters of 1828.

When I relieved Major Cook in May last, a large portion of the Ordnance Stores on hand was considered by him injured or requiring repairs, in consequence of which, I declined making a return of them until the end of the 4th quarter of 1828 under the expectation that an inspecting officer would visit the post; and decide on such ^{particulars} disposition to be made of the balance, as he might think most conducive to the public interest; but as no officer of the above description was here during the last year, I have thought it best not to defer longer making the return.

As it was not in my power

to make so critical an examination as might be required of the above stores, there may be some articles reported good that may require repairs and others damaged, that may be fit for service; they are all however in a perfect state of preservation and ready for the inspection of an officer authorized to decide on their several qualities.

Major Vose only furnished me with an inventory of the Ordnance stores and states that he had never made a return of them.

With much respect
I remain Your
ob. Serv.

To
Col. Geo. W. B. Rufford.

In Ordnance duty
Washington City

G. J. C.

J. Taylor, Col
15th Regt. U. S. Infy
Carey

We the Chiefs, Warriors, Heads of Families and Individuals of Wabashaw's
 Band of the Sioux Tribe or Nation of Indians, residing on the Mississippi
 River, above Prairie du Chien do acknowledge to have received in Specie of
 Lieut: J. B. W. Stockton Aps: Dr. M. N. S. A. the sums affixed to our respective
 names, the same being in full for our respective proportions of the Annuities
 due to the said Nation for the year Eighteen hundred and thirty five for which
 we have signed our Triplicate Receipts.

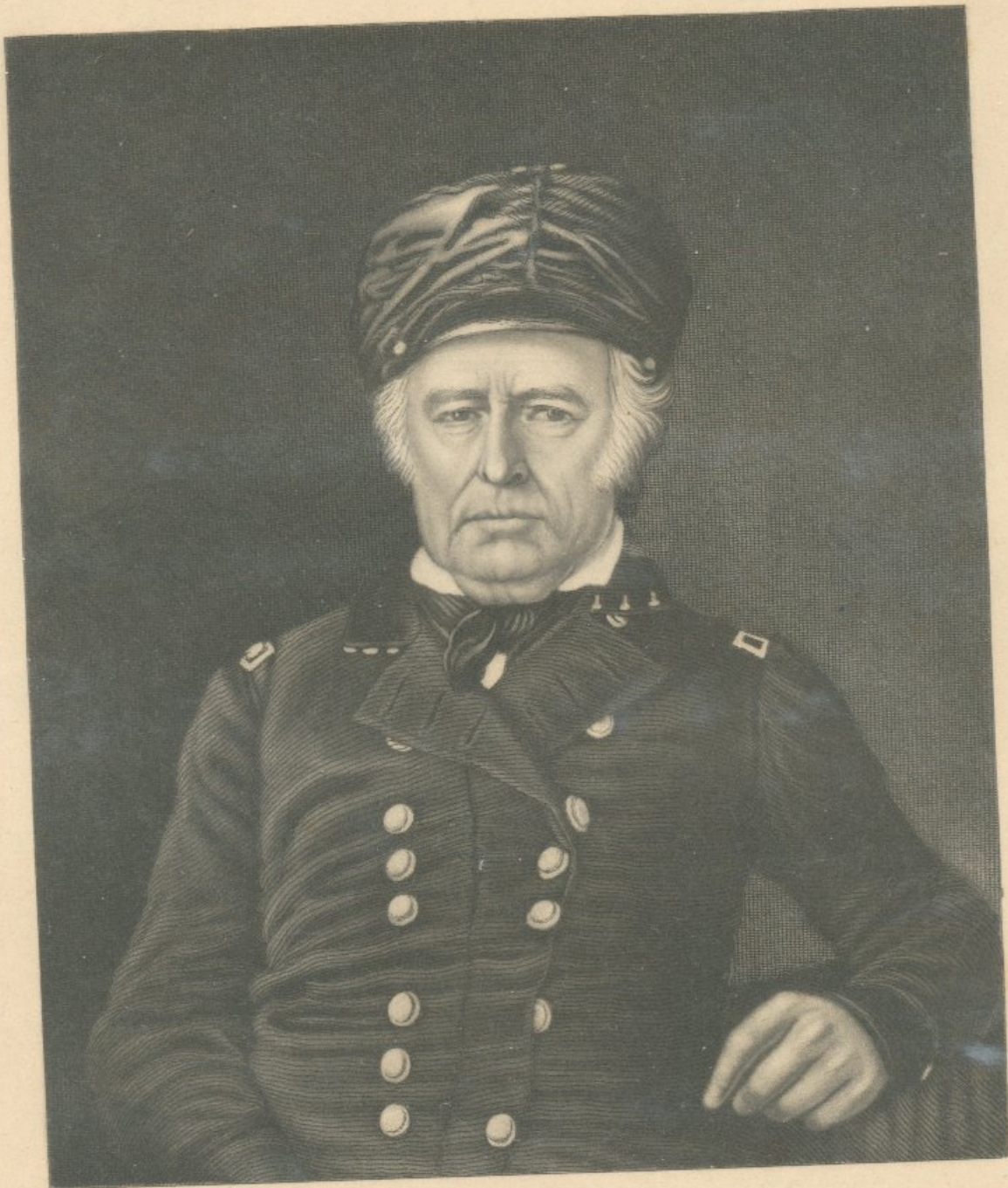
Heads of Families & Individuals	Signatures	Number in each Family	Distribution		Amount	
			Shares	\$ cts	Dolls	Cts
1 Wabashaw	his t. Mark		9	50	9	50
2 Badgog	his t. Mark		9	50	9	50
3 Lark	his t. Mark		9	50	9	50
4 Thunder	his t. Mark		9	50	9	50
5 He dira for it	his t. Mark		9	50	9	50
6 Cha-tome-my	his t. Mark		8	50	8	50
7 Au-cham-na hoo	his t. Mark		8	50	8	50
8 Au action qui parait pas	his t. Mark		8	50	8	50
9 Pont de caur	his t. Mark		8	50	8	50
10 Long-ga-wah-no-ton	his t. Mark		8	50	8	50
11 Le pain rouge	his t. Mark		8	50	8	50
12 Brandois a clair	his t. Mark		8	50	8	50

8 50
8 50
8 50

8 50
8 50
8 50

his + March
his + March
his + March

13 Serrage plants
14 Fort Walker
15 Ope-wake-wanka
16



GEN. ZAC. TAYLOR.

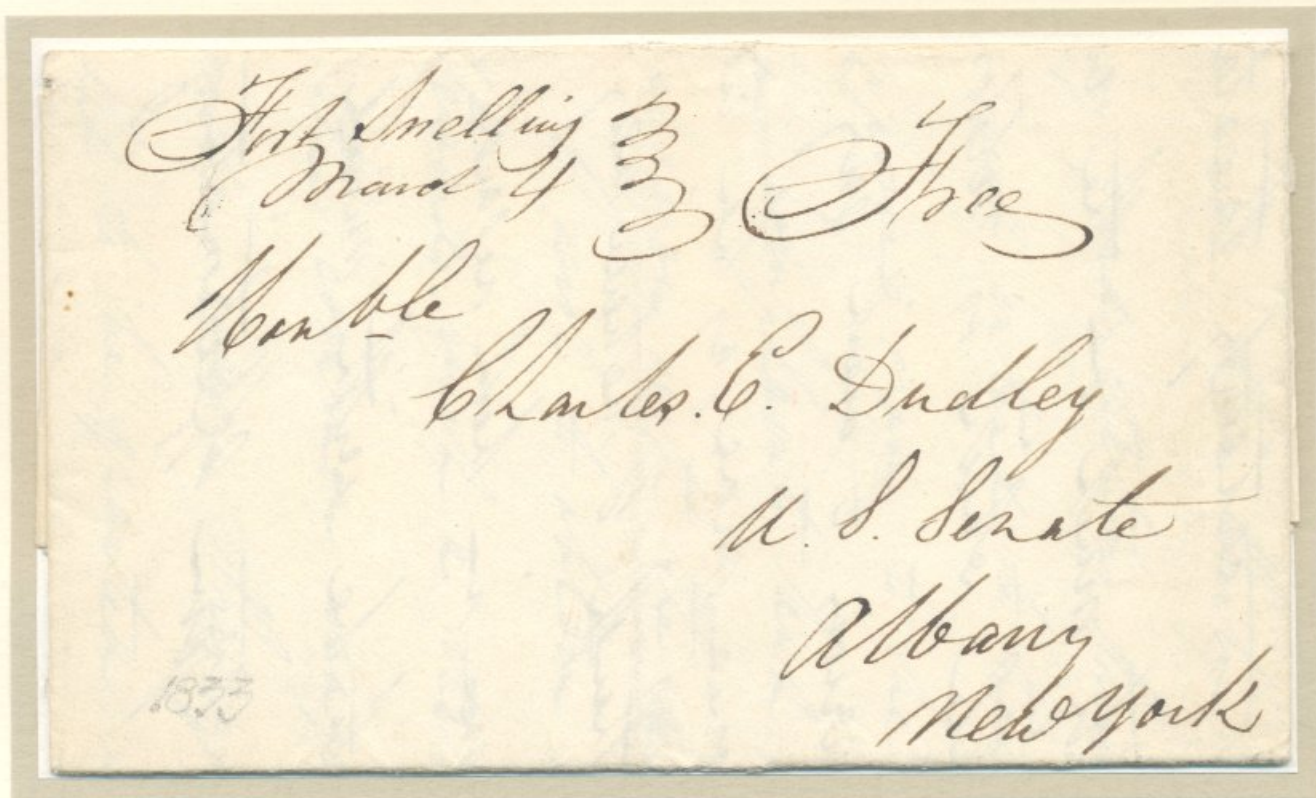
Philadelphia. H. Ulman. 194 Market St.

#311 00

Warriedo Over

The Minnesota Territory

Fort Snelling 3
March 4 3 Free



UNORGANIZED TERRITORY

FORT SNELLING. Folded letter written from Fort Snelling on March 1, 1833 by Robert C. Wood, the Army post surgeon. Wood later became the son-in-law of Col. Zachary Taylor and served under Taylor during the Mexican War. Postmarked at "Fort Snelling March 4" and rated *FREE* as it was addressed to a New York Senator. This was the residual period between the Missouri territory and the Michigan territory.

LT. COL. ZACHARY TAYLOR
COMMANDING
FORT SNELLING

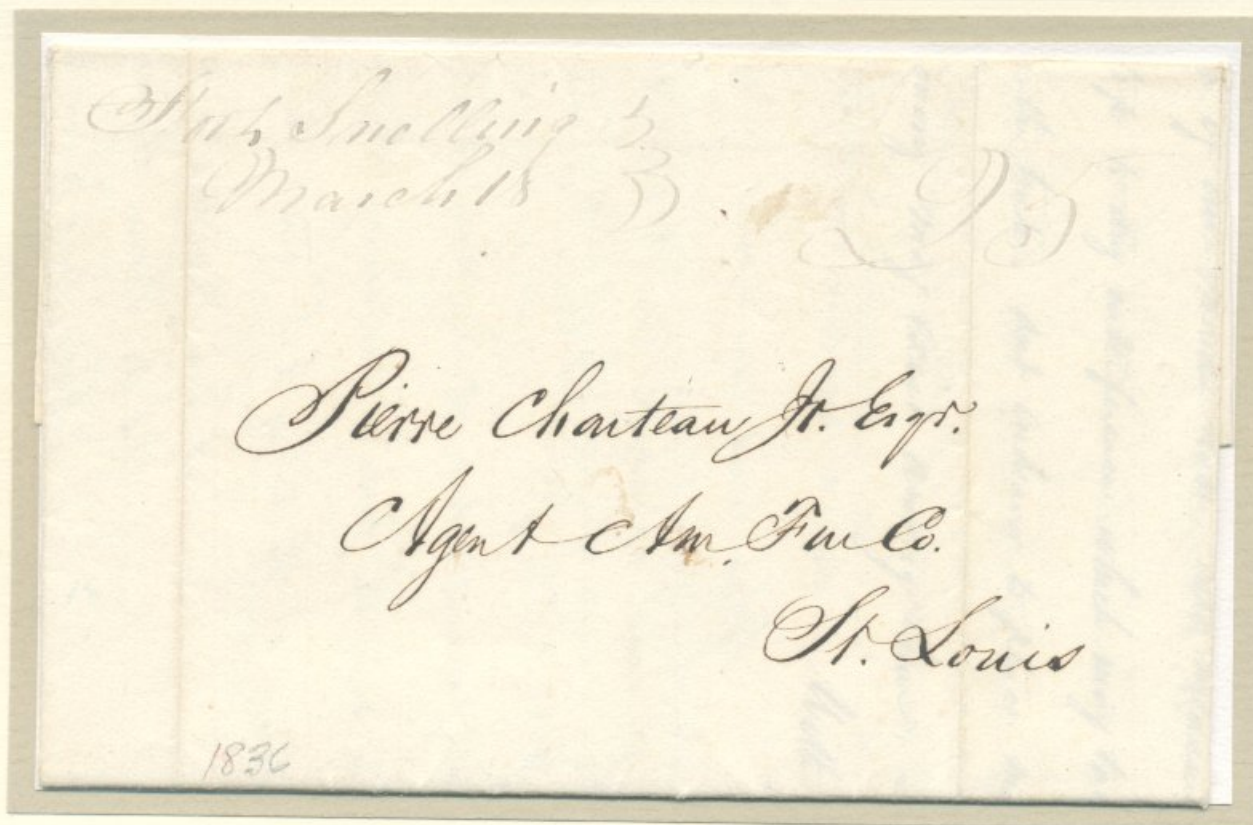


FRANKED
"ON SERVICE / U. S. ARMY"
JUNE 14, 1829

The Minnesota Territory



*Fort Snelling 18
March 18 36*



MICHIGAN TERRITORY

FORT SNELLING Letter written by H.H. Sibley, the agent of the American Fur Company, to the agent at St. Louis. He reports that he has obtained the sutlership, through Col. Stambaugh, at the fort. It will be operated for the Western Outfit of the A.F.C. under the "style of Stambaugh & Sibley". The object of the arrangement was to weaken the opposition in the Indian trade. Interesting to see an officer of the fort sharing in the profit of such an arrangement. Letter is postmarked at Fort Snelling March 18, 1836. It was carried to a halfway point between Snelling and Prairie du Chien where the mails were exchanged. See sketch above.



FORT SNELLING, IOWA TERRITORY. The cover above was postmarked at "Fort Snelling 12th Oct 1841". It was missent to NEW MILFORD, Ct where it was received on "NOV 12", as per postmark, and and forwarded to Washington, Ct. Perhaps the most beautiful of all Fort Snelling manuscript postmarks.



DRAWN AFTER HAYDEN

For the Proprietor: HEERMANN & MEYER

FORT SNELLING

(MINNESOTA)

The Minnesota Territory

*St. Peters
Jan 31 1843*

25



ST. PETERS A trading post of the American Fur Company located on the St. Peter River (now Minnesota River) directly across from Fort Snelling. Not to be confused with Saint Peter which is located up the river near the site of Traverse des Sioux. (See SAINT PETER in this exhibit.)

The name ST. PETERS was changed to MENDOTA and a Post Office was established under this name in 1854.

The cover shown above bears what appears to be a postmark and is rated 25 cents. It is addressed to a missionary at Lac qui Parle on the western boundary of present day Minnesota. (See Lac qui Parle in this exhibit.) This was probably a private or semi-official operation as it does not appear in official registers of Post Offices. At the date of the letter, January 31, 1843, St. Peters was in the Iowa Territory and what is now Dakota County.

Fortsullivan, Jan 15th 1841

Sir

We the undersigned officers at this Post having interested ourselves in behalf of Master John H. Gear who is an applicant for an appointment as Midshipman in the Navy of the U. States, would very respectfully call on you (as the Delegate to Congress from this Territory) to aid him in the promotion of his views, and interests, and at the same time would assure you that any cooperation of yours in furtherance of the wishes or claims of this young gentleman, will be gratefully appreciated both by him, and his friends.

His qualifications for the position to which he aspires are set forth in the application to the Hon Sec^y of Navy which is herewith enclosed, and to which we beg leave to refer you. Our friend Mr F. Steele who is the bearer of this will give you further information in the case.

Very Respec^{ly}

Your Obedt. Servts.

J. Thompson Col
Major 2nd Infy.

Geo. F. Turner. Surgeon. U.S.A.

Wm Chapman 1st Lt. 3rd Infy.

Henry Little 2nd Lt. 5th Infy.

H. Whiting 2nd Lieut. 5th Infy.

Thomas Jordan 1st Lt. 5th Infy.

Hon. H. Dodge }
M. C. J. Terry }



Published by Currier & Ives

SCENERY OF THE UPPER MISSISSIPPI
An Indian Village

152 No.

Township 87 North Range 27 West
State of Iowa Aug 3rd 1849

Caleb C. Booth Sur Gen. Sir

I write to you a few lines having an opportunity
to send it to Racoon fork Postoffice I take
this chance of informing you of matters & things out
here I had good luck in getting to my work
I commenced Friday July 27th to Sunday & have got
76 Miles run last night Aug 2^d just started to west
out on my way down to the 1st correction line to run
up my 2 Ranges but. So. what do I hear I saw
last evening Mrs. Marsh & she informed me that
a party of Indians had taken all of Mr Marshes
horses & some provisions & his best Blankets & the
Indians told them if they refused them something
to eat they would kill all of them & Mr Marsh
let them have what they wanted & that night they
come back & stole all of his horses so Mr Marsh has
had to come in to the settlement & get 2 yoke of oxen
and go on with his correction line. they are a band of
pilfering stealing Indians belonging to the Sioux
which the Settlers say that their Chief has no control
over all armed with guns knives & Pistols the
very same that robbed the Geologist some time
since they have robbed the Frontier Settlers 2 or 3 times
& they request me to let the government know how they are

~~Jan~~

In Camp T. 89 N. R. 31 W. Sec 33.
August 1st 1849.

Hon. Caleb H. Booth

Sir

I have run the 2nd correction up to this point I reached here on 26th of July I have had very good Luck up to the above date I have run 42 miles of my Township lines and 64 miles of the correction. And now the painful part of my letter commences I crossed the middle or main fork of Des Moines about 2 miles below Sigurd Fork and ran along in Stone throw of Iowa Territory on a bend of Sigurd Fork in T. 89 N. R. 29 W. On the South Side of Section 34. of R. 30 W. on the correction I was met by a band of Iowa Warriors consisting of 11. armed to the teeth with guns Horse pistols Tomahawks Arrows &c. &c. a more complete armed set of Indians I never saw They rushed on us unawares but appeared only anxious to Shake hands But it appears their real intention was to see if we were armed after examining us they then left us I told my men to keep on with the teams and I kept on with my line I ran on about 1/2 a mile farther

Special requisition.

For one Garrison flag, for the post of Fort Snelling -
to be sent to the "Commanding Officer" at that post.

Am: Major Gen's office,
Washington City March 28. 1826
Wm. H. Johnson
Quartermaster General.

Washington City, March 28, 1856
General's Office

79

Mar 20/56

475
3073

Major General's Office

W. J. May Jr

PAID

Charge.



Colonel Henry Stanton
Assistant Major General, U.S. Army
Philadelphia, Pa.

Genl J. D. Deapel
with Special Legation
for West Suckling -

Major's Office
Mar 28/56

2 No 519

M. G.

\$900

Maj A D Stewart

Pay Master U A
St Louis

Fort Snelling Dec 3rd 1839

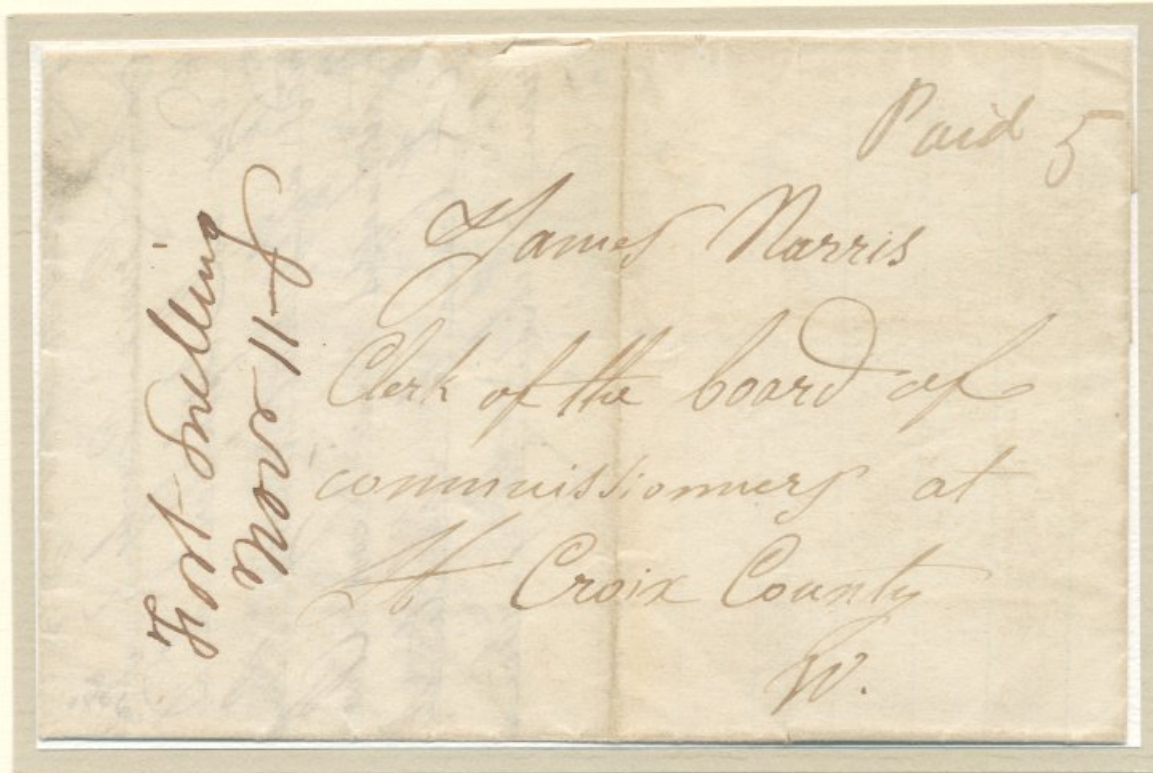
Li: At sight please pay
A W Kittson or order the sum of nine hundred
dollars value Rec^d. with ^{or} without advice from

Yours most respectfully
G H Dillon

Agent for B F Baker

Putter at Fort Snelling





A Ravoux Cat. p.

RAVOUX, AUGUSTIN, R. C. priest, b. at Langeac, in Auvergne, France, Jan. 11, 1815; d. in St. Paul, Jan. 17, 1906. He came to the United States in 1838; was ordained priest in 1840; visited the Sioux in 1841-2 at Traverse des Sioux and Lac qui Parle; returned to Dubuque the next year, and printed a catechism and other religious books in the Sioux language. In 1844, Father Galtier having removed to Keokuk, the entire work of the Catholic church in this region was committed to the care of Father Ravoux, until 1851, when Bishop Cretin arrived in St. Paul.



FORT SNELLING, IOWA TERRITORY, June 1845 and November 1846
Both folded letters written by Father Ravoux. The 1845.
letter also contained two marriage licenses. Thus the 20¢
postage rate - 5¢ X 4.

The Minnesota Territory

Dear Sir

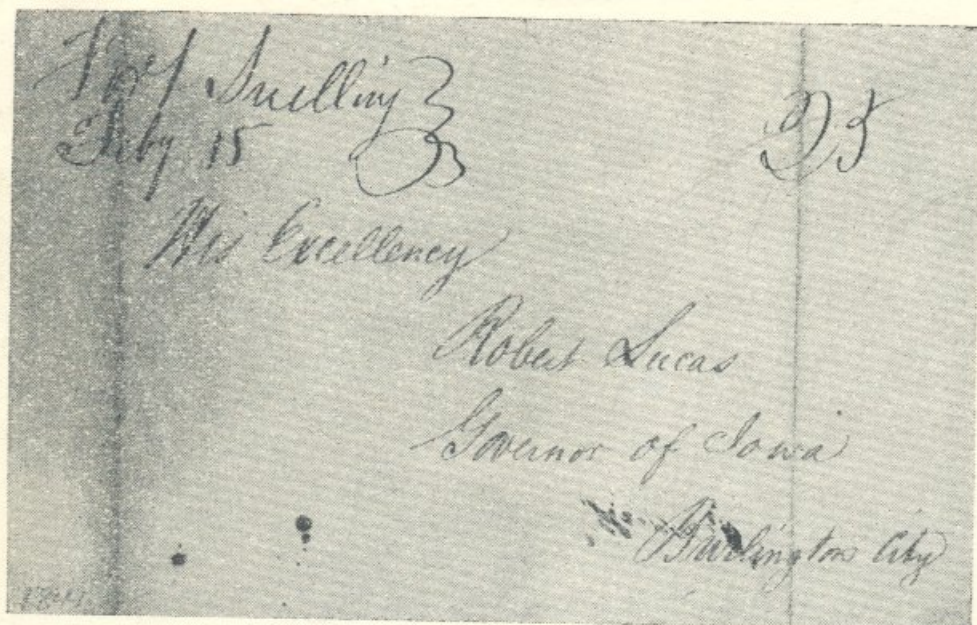
Fort St. Anthony Feb 20th 1822.

Your letter of the 4th inst by St. Scott was received on the 12th. If I had any prepossessions I assure you they were much in favour of St. S, and so far as I have seen I do not believe I shall be disappointed, the poor fellow has been very ill since his arrival but is now a little better, twice we thought him dying. St. Lagnel is I believe a valuable acquisition to the regiment. By referring to your letters of last autumn I find you are mistaken in supposing that you requested me to direct Mr. Faribault to reveal his treuil; the expression is in yours of Nov. (day omitted) 1821, the following words. "Do not let Faribault make more than that conducted by Scott Campbell, and please to direct Campbell to be vigilant in finding out any irregularities in the selling of whiskey &c." at that time I did not know



FORT ST. ANTHONY This was the first name of Fort Snelling and this letter is the earliest recorded communication from this fort in a private collection. It is written and signed by its builder Josiah Snelling on February 20, 1822, about one year after the site was selected and building begun, and before it was completed. Snelling writes to the Indian agent who is on a visit to Prairie du Chien. He reports to Talliaferro on the problems with the fur traders and on "irregularities in (the) trade such as selling whiskey". The letter was carried to the "Prairie" by a Mr. Tuttle. Missouri had become a state by 1821 and Fort St. Anthony was in unorganized territory at the time.

a trading house, he told me that it was merely a place of deposit for peltries which he had put up for the accommodation of the Indians in that neighbourhood as they were unwilling to bring them so far as his house, that he had carried a few articles there, but that Montreuil was not allowed to trade & only remained to take care of the peltries. his story being plausible I said



The stampless letter pictured at the left and printed below was written by HENRY HASTINGS SIBLEY, who was: born Detroit 20 February, 1811, died St. Paul 18 February, 1891; educated at local academy supplemented by two years tutoring in the classics and two years of law study; in June 1828 became clerk in the sutler's store at Fort Brady at Sault St. Marie; in spring 1829 entered employ of American Fur Co. as clerk at Mackinac, and during winters of 1832-33 and 1833-34 was at Cleveland, Ohio, purchasing supplies of flour, corn, pork, tobacco, and other produce for the company; in summer of 1834 Hercules L. Dousman and Jos. Rolette, veteran fur traders in the northwest invited him to join as partner in operating one outfit of the American Fur Co. and to assume exclusive management of the Sioux trade from Lake Pepin to the Canadian border and west to the Rocky Mountain divide; arrived at Mendota 28 October 1835; built "the first private residence in all of Minnesota and Dakota" "a substantial and commodious stone dwelling" where he entertained many explorers, travelers, missionaries, and other visitors, including the first territorial governor of Minnesota; was appointed justice of the peace and commissioned in 1840 Captain in Iowa Territorial Militia by Robert Lucas first governor of Iowa Territory; married Sarah Jane Steele, (sister of his 1st Lt. Franklin Steele,) on 2 May 1843; chosen territorial delegate to Congress in 1849; elected first Governor of Minnesota in 1858; commanded the troops in the Sioux War and brought it to a successful end in 1863; in later years served in the Minnesota legislature, was president of a gas company, a bank, the board of regents of the University of Minnesota, and the Minnesota Historical Society.

Postmarked: Fort Snelling [Iowa Territory] Feby. 15 [1841] 25 [c] (rate) and recd at Burlington March 22^d, 1841. (35 days enroute).

His Excellency Robert Lucas
Governor of Iowa Territory

River St. Peters, Feb. 13, 1841

Sir,

A company of volunteer "Mounted Men" was formed here last summer, and at a meeting for the Election of Officers I was chosen Captain, Franklin Steele 1st Lieut., Norman W. Kittson 2^d Lieut., and William Henry Forbes 3^d Lieut. The commissions were duly received of myself, & the 1st & 2^d Lieuts, but that of Mr. Forbes was not sent. I pray of your Excellency that the latter may be sent without delay, in order that steps may be taken completely to organize the Company, in readiness for service if they should be called. The law allows to a volunteer uniform company of Mounted Men, carbines, pistols, & sabres. Will your Excellency please inform me whether they will be furnished in the spring.

A grave question which involves the jurisdiction of the civil authorities over the portion of country in the vicinity of Fort Snelling, claimed as a military reserve, will probably sooner or later arise, and be tested before a competent tribunal. I respectfully ask for the opinion of your Excellency upon this point. By a reference to Lieut. Pike's treaty with the Sioux in 1805, the latter ceded a tract nine miles square, from below the mouth of the St. Peters and to include the Falls of St. Anthony, for military purposes. It is now assumed by some of our military men, that the land above specified does not belong to the United States, but that the Government has the right of perpetual occupancy "for military purposes" only. But if your Excellency will turn to Gov's Clark & Cass' treaty of 1830 with the Sioux, Sacs & Foxes etc. etc., you will perceive that the Sioux ratified the grant of land made in Pike's treaty, and that it is placed in juxta-position with the grants at Prairie du Chien, Green Bay, over which there has never been attempted to be exercised, exclusive military jurisdiction. The War Department, (influenced probably by the representations of Major Plympton formerly Commandant here), has decided that those who claim to be citizens of Iowa, and to be entitled to the protection of its laws, are but tenants at will of the buildings which they have erected, some of us having expended large sums in erecting suitable buildings for the prosecution of the fur trade, under the sanction of the Govt. being hitherto licensed traders. The organic law of Iowa, expressly provides that all lands to which the Indian claim has been extinguished shall form a component part of the Territory, and as a matter of course, be under its government. Acting upon this view of the subject, your Excellency, most properly as I conceive, proceeded to appoint magistrates here. As one & the only one now exercising the powers of a Justice of the Peace, I have not hesitated to discharge the duties of my office without any reference to military claim of jurisdiction. But as I do not wish to act blindly in this matter, and as the question is daily more or less mooted, I will thank your Excellency to address me on this subject, that we may be strengthened in our determination to assert the rights of the Territory which we conceive, to be in this case undoubted, or if we have taken an incorrect view of the matter, that we may be prepared to abandon our property whenever it may suit the caprice or despotic feeling of United States Military officers to drive us from our homes. With a fervent hope that your excellency will as soon as practicable give a solution to this vexed question,

I remain with respect

Your Excellency's obt. servant
Henry H. Sibley

P. S. It may be proper for me to say to your Excellency, that there is no disposition on the part of the commandant now here to disturb us, but still I cannot but consider it as of much importance that we should have your Excellency's views on the subject referred to, in case of an attempt to dispute the right of the civil authorities to enforce the laws of the Territory, on the tract before specified.

H. H. Sibley

The Minnesota Territory

Fort Snelling 3
July 15 3
His Excellency
Robert Lucas
Governor of Iowa
Burlington City
1841

FORT SNELLING Iowa territory 1845-1846.

Fort Snelling
Dec 26
Alseis Dailly Esq.
Wabash av. on
Foot of Lake Pepin
I. I.
1843

Gen G. W. Jones

Galena, Aug. 20. '49

Dear Genl - No Dragoons
at Ft Snelling - all gone to Red River - I
will try + get them at Jefferson Barracks.

R. S. Murphy

Sub Agent, for Sioux Indians.

(Faint handwritten text, possibly a note or address, mostly illegible due to fading.)

Head Qrs. 3rd Mil. Dept.

St. Louis Mo. Sept. 5 - 1844

Sir,

Your communication to Colonel Davenport of the 29th ult. enclosing a copy of one to you of same date from Mr. Bruce (Indian Agent) & of one from Mr. Riggs (a missionary) of the 26th ult., have been received, & submitted to the Colonel commanding the Department, who instructs me to

The following two letters give a dramatic view of a military expedition into the Indian country to obtain possession of the murderers of a white man (also see Mary Clark's letter, Oct. 13, 1844, Fig. 232.)

Head Qrs. 3rd Mil. Dept.
St. Louis Mo. Sept. 5, 1844.

Sir: Your communication to Colonel Davenport [William] of the 29th ult. enclosing a copy of one to you of same date from Mr. Bruce [Amos J., Indian Agent] & of one from Mr. Riggs [Rev. Stephen R., a missionary] of the 26th ult. have been received & submitted to the Colonel commanding the Department, who instructs me to direct that you will take from your command at Fort Snelling, as many Infantry, as when united with Capt. Sumner's [Edwin Vose] Company of Dragoons, you may deem sufficient to attain the object in view; and march into the Sissiton Country & there demand the surrender to you of the man or men concerned in murdering the white man, north of the St. Peters [river] alluded to in your communication & that of Mr. Bruce & Mr. Riggs; which murderer or murderers you will turn over to the nearest civil authority, having jurisdiction of the case. Should they not be surrendered, you will take hostages from the Chiefs or Principle men of that band, whom you will conduct to Fort Snelling & detain there, until the murderers are given up, or until you receive further instructions on the subject.

I enclose a copy of a letter I have this day addressed to Col. Davenport, to send you some Mackinaw Boats & of one to Major Dearborn [Greenleaf], to order Capt. Sumner's company of Dragoons, to "Traverse des Sioux", which company is hereby placed under your directions, & which you will order back to Fort Atkinson [Iowa Territory] as soon as you can dispense with its service.

Corn should be sent from your post to "Traverse des Sioux" without delay, for the Dragoon horses, to keep them in condition to perform the service required of them.

H.S. Turner
Cpt 1 Drag. A.A.A. Genl.

Lieut. Col. H. Wilson [Henry]
1st Inf't Commd. Fort Snelling
St. Peters. Fort Snelling [Iowa Territory]

11 ✓ 0

THE WESTERN MAILS

Head Quar Detachment 1st Inf.
Fort Snelling I.T.
24th October 1844

Sir:

In compliance with your instructions of the 5th of September last, (received on the 16th) I moved from this Post on the 18th ult. for the Sisseton Country, for the purpose of demanding a surrender of the persons implicated in the recent murder of Mr. Wakon [Watson], near Lac [Lake] Travers. The Detachment (including the Surgeon and myself), consisted of seven officers, eight non-commissioned officers, and sixty privates. We embarked on the evening of the Eighteenth ult. in four Mackinac Boats, and eight canoes, and on the seventh day (24th Sept.) arrived at Traverse des Sioux. Capt. Sumner with his troop of Dragoons arrived at the same point on the previous day. We carried in our Boats both provisions and forage, and by my direction, a boat followed, five or six days after, with an additional supply. It was with the utmost difficulty that I obtained five small carts [Red River ox carts], each drawn by a single ox, to transport our provisions, but with this slender outfit, we commenced our march for Lac Travers, a distance of about one hundred and sixty miles. The country was rendered exceedingly soft in many places by recent rain, and the duty of extricating the carts and oxen from the numerous swamps crossed during the first four days of our march, though severe and trying was cheerfully performed by the Infantry. On the 27th we passed Le Fromboise [Joseph Laframboise] trading post, and Lac-qui-parle on the 2nd Oct. and on the 5th we arrived at the American Fur Company trading post near the head of Big Stone Lake. On the 29th of September I met with a Mr. Brown [Joseph Renville] who trades near Lac Travers with the Indians about to visit. I despatched him with a friendly message to assemble the Indians, who had gone on their fall Buffalo Hunt & make known my object in visiting them with an armed force. He performed the duty assigned him in a most satisfactory manner. I moved on the 8th of Oct. to Fzesniers trading Post on Lake Travers to wait the action of Brown who was hunting for the murderer and his accomplices. The lateness of the season, the scarcity of grass for the horses and cattle and the coldness of the weather, all reminded me that despatch was requisite. I therefore marched with the dragoons on the 11th to Brown's 30 miles beyond, leaving the Infantry, who were somewhat crippled by their marches and labors, to rest and prepare for any subsequent emergency. On my arrival at Brown's post he had just returned with the principle chief, who I assembled in Council. They willingly surrendered four young men named by me who were accessories to the murder of Wakon, several persons among whom was Brown, hunted for and found on James's River the lodge of the man who fired the first gun but he had fled. The Chiefs agreed to deliver him, and another accomplice as soon as they could find them. Having given the Indians some friendly advice in Council which I believe will have its due weight for the security of the whites, in their persons and property, that may here after pass through their country. We returned to camp at Fresniere on the 12th, and on the 13th I seized, in our camp, another Indian, who was a member of the same war party that committed the outrage upon the Drovers, but belonged to one of the lower bands and was, I understood, regularly receiving his annuity from the government.

On the 14th we commenced our return march, with the five prisoners, who were placed under the charge of the officer of the day and guard with authority to call for as strong a guard as he deemed necessary, and orders to shoot the prisoners if they attempted to escape. At about 2 o'clock on the morning of the 19th October, at Bear River, the five prisoners made their escape from the guard.

THE WESTERN MAILS

Head Quarters Detachment 1st Inf.

Fort Snelling I.T.

21st October, 1844

Sir,

In compliance with your instructions of the 5th of September last, (received on the 16th) I moved from this Post on the 18th ult, for the Sioux Country, for the purpose of demanding a surrender of the persons implicated in the recent murder of Mr. Mason, near Lac Traverse. The Detachment (including the Surgeon and myself), consisted of seven officers, eight non-commissioned officers, and sixty privates. We embarked on the evening of the eighteenth ult. in four Mackinac Boats, and eight canoes, and on the seventh day (24th Sept^r) arrived at Traverse.

The Officer of the day, Lt. Selden, has demanded a court of Inquiry which I have ordered to investigate the matter and will forward the proceedings as soon as they are completed. We arrived at Traverse des Sioux on the 21st — the dragoons had marched for Fort Atkinson a few hours before our arrival. They had been detached near Lac-qui-parle in consequence of the want of grass and the lateness of the season with orders to proceed direct to Fort Atkinson. On the Evening of the 23rd we arrived by water at Fort Snelling. In the performance of the duty assigned me I received much aid and information from Mr. H. H. Sibley of the American Fur Co. and his agents generally. Mr. Brown was exceedingly active and successful and rendered the most important services. Mr. Riggs and Dr. Williamson [Thomas S.] Missionaries at Traverse des Sioux and Lac-qui-parle afforded us much information and are deserving of our warmest thanks. The last six days of our march was performed in cold weather and in a country intersected by marshes, which render it necessary for the troops to march frequently through mud and water filled with ice. But this and every other requisite duty was performed cheerfully and readily by both Dragoons and Infantry who merit the strongest evidence of approbation.

In conclusion I beg to express my acknowledgement for the able assistance afforded me on all and every occasion throughout the expedition by those two very excellent officers Capt. Sumner and Backus [Capt. Electus].

I am, sir,
very reptl
your ob Servant

N.B. The notes taken on the march by Lieut. Selden by my direction, together with a sketch of the country, would have been transmitted with this but for the want of time to have it embodied when I left this Post. The moment it is received it shall be forwarded.

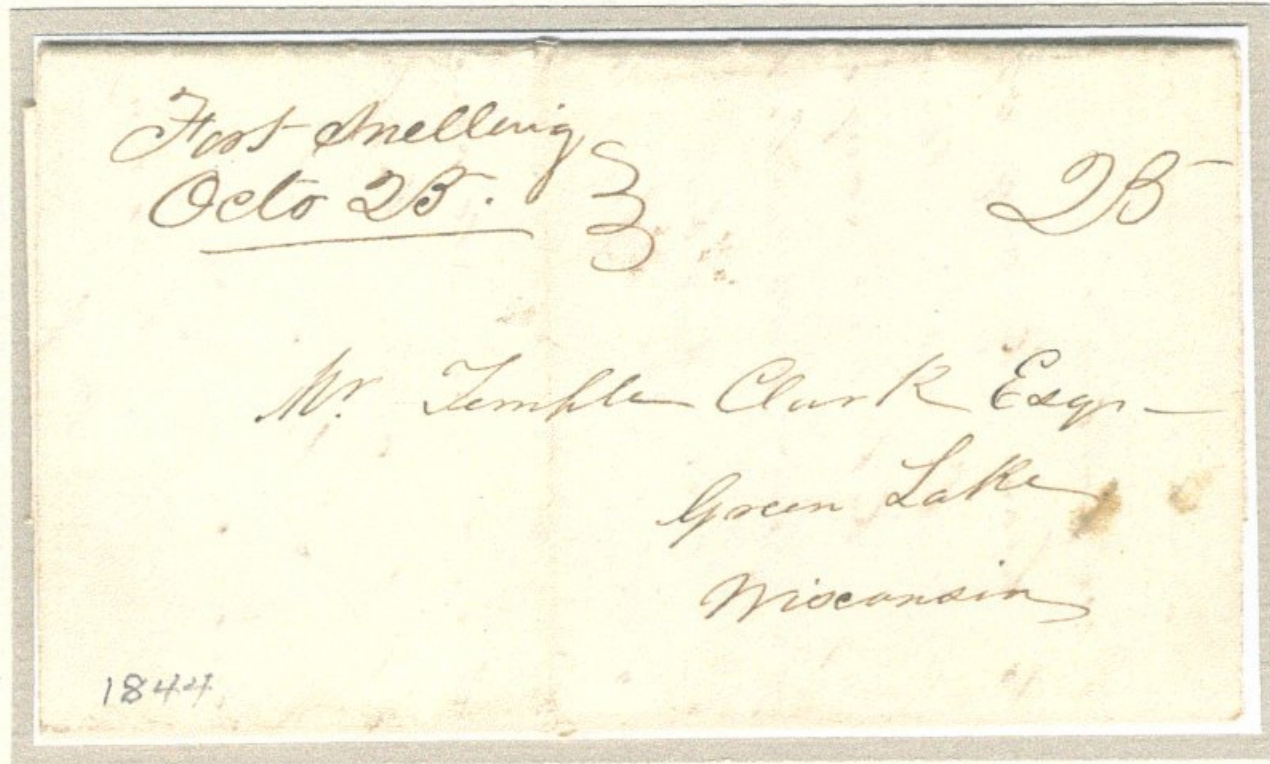
Head Quarters Detachment 1st Inf.
Fort Snelling I.T.
H. Wilson
Lieut: Col: 1st Infantry Comd.

[Lt. Col. Henry Wilson, 1813-1861 Army. Died Feb. 21, 1872.]

des Sioux.
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by the Infan
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trading po
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we commenced
sixty miles. The
air, and the
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cheerfully performed
post, and Lac-
near Fur Company
September I met
I was about to
visit.

The Minnesota Territory



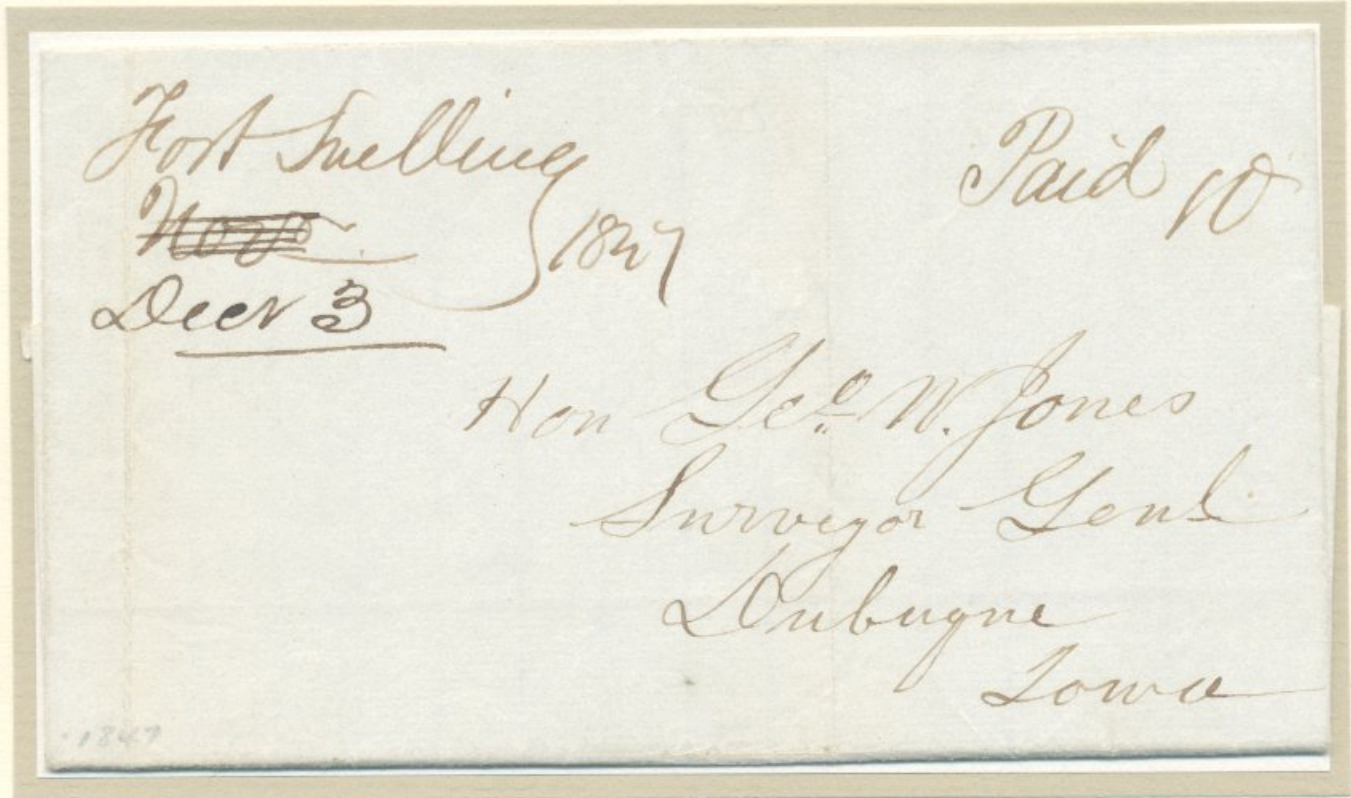
The following excerpts are from a letter written by a Mary S. Clark from Fort Snelling on "October 13th 1844". Oddly enough Mary reports the return of the expedition into the Sisseton country under Col. Wilson (see previous letters).

Mr. Masten Lt. Frederick H. has been absent for a month having been sent with troops up the St. Peters together with Col. Wilson — Dr. Turner — Lieuts Carpenter — Denman — Seldon & Capt. Backus — we are expecting them down daily ... Fort Snelling is a delightful Post much pleasanter I think than Fort Crawford. The people here are agreeable and sociable ... [Mary continues with the coming and going of various persons and personal matters. Then ...] We were all awakened last night by what at first seemed the howl of Indians but proved to be the cry of fire — you can readily imagine the confusion which pervaded through the garrison. The gallery was soon thronged with ladies in their nightcaps — each eagerly inquiring where is it? where is it? One lady was seen walking down the gallery holding a candle in her hand and upon being questioned as to whither she was going answered with as much coolness as possible, "I am going home to save some cloths for my two children Kit and Bob". She was arrested however in her progress by the intelligence that the fire was in the Commissary store and would soon be extinguished which proved to be the fact ... I am expecting every moment to hear the cry of Steamboat when the gallery will be again thronged and made the scene of many bets and conjecture as to who are the passengers and what news the mail contains ... The Steamboat Otter has at length arrived and brought an addition to our society this winter — having on it two sisters of Lt. Carpenter — they are neither of them young and are the ugliest looking mortals in creation. Our garrison will number this winter 15 ladies. We are invited this evening to attend a card party at Lieut Woods. The Steamer Lynx which is expected hourly will bring us Capt. Plummer with his bride ... The troops just returned and are all well ... They took 5 Indians as prisoners, who much to the mortification of the command escaped. Lt. Seldon was officer of the guard at the time of their escape and is to be summoned before a court martial this morning to give his defence.

Postmarked "Fort Snelling Oct. 25" 1844, Iowa Territory, and addressed to Temple Clark, Green Lake, Wisconsin Territory.

The Minnesota Territory

Fort Snelling
~~Nov 10~~ } 1847 Paid 10
Dec 3



UNORGANIZED TERRITORY

FORT SNELLING. Folded letter postmarked at "Fort Snelling Dec. 3 1847" during the residual period between the Iowa territory and the Minnesota territory.

The Minnesota Territory

Donnée pour lui. J'ai peut-être eu tort de ne l'avoir pas déposé en passant, par ce qu'elle avait peut-être d'autre objet, outre celui de me servir d'introduction. Mais il était trop tard quand cette réflexion m'est venue. Cette fois, j'espère bien la rendre à sa destination. Où est, positivement, la résidence de M. Gratiot? Les uns la disent à Galena, les autres à Dubuque. Vous m'obligerez de me fixer sur ce point, afin que je puisse manœuvrer en conséquence pour le succès de mon voyage.

Vous

Fort Snelling
April 20th 37
Julius De Mun, Esq.
St. Louis (Missouri)

Gours
mément
gout
mes sou

un
rité s'il
en avant
ations et

Address: To the care of Maj. Caliaferro, Indian Agent,
St. Peter, Upper Mississippi.

M. Chouteau est-il revenu de New-York?

WISCONSIN TERRITORY

FORT SNELLING Historical letter written by Jean N. Nicollet from "St. Pierre April 19, 1837" (St. Peters across from Fort Snelling). He writes to Julius De Mun, a fur trader and partner of the Chouteaus of St. Louis, about his forthcoming exploration of the country between the Mississippi and Missouri rivers.

par un des prochains Steam boats.

P.S. Je rousse ma lettre pour la 4^e fois, et vous prie de présenter d'une manière expresse mes respects à M. et à Mme Cabanis, à qui je voulais écrire aujourd'hui comme je le leur promettais dans ma lettre de janvier dernier. Mais l'express qui va partir me force de différer. - une grande partie de ce que je croyais faire?

The Minnesota Territory

St. Peters upper Mississippi
June 6th '38

We shall leave this place, Dear Mother, on Saturday morning, on an expedition up the river St. Peters & shall not return here under 3 months. During that period you will receive no news from me as there is no post communication whatever, after leaving this place. You must however answer this and write also from time to time as there is a possibility of our returning sooner & at all events I shall be glad to find letters here when we do return. I have requested the Postmaster of St. Louis to forward to Charleston any letters it may reach his office to my address. I do this in order that you may receive ~~that~~ Capt. Williams letter of information relative to the deposit in the Metropolitan Bank of the

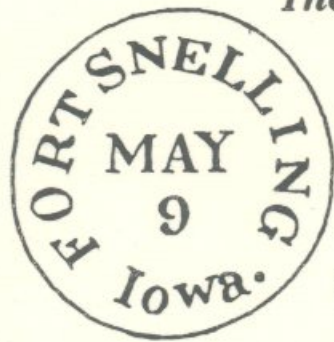
WISCONSIN TERRITORY

FORT SNELLING Letter written by J.C. Fremont while he was attached to Jean Nicollet's survey of the great plateau between the Mississippi and Missouri rivers in 1838. He likes Nicollet but says "he is inclined to spare neither himself nor us regards labor". Nicollet was a real scientific explorer who had been hired by the U.S. Government to conduct this survey. The letter is datelined "St. Peters Upper Mississippi", which was the headquarters of the American Fur Company, and directly across the St. Peters River, (now called the Minnesota River), from Fort Snelling. The letter is postmarked as per illustration.

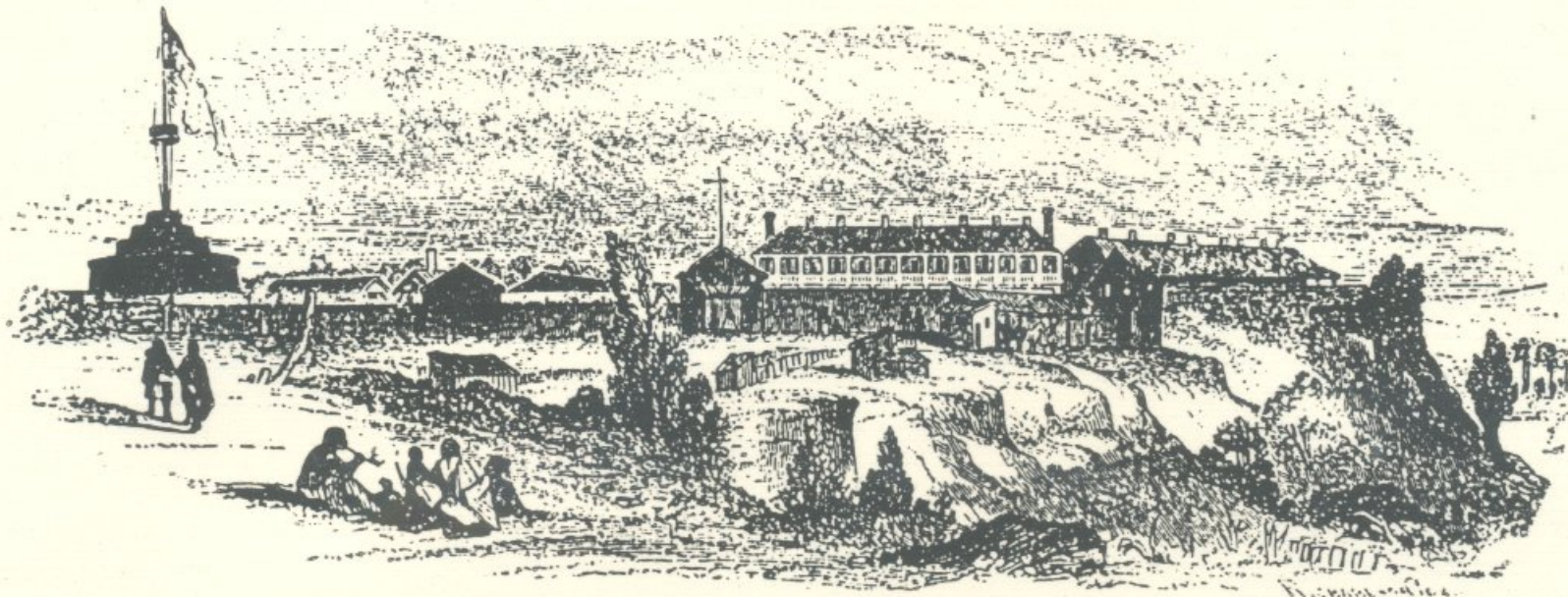
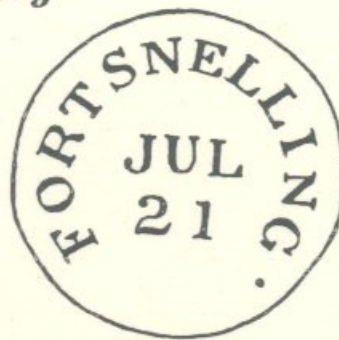
Fort Snelling
June 19th

manner of obtaining the deposit. I had a letter from recently from the gentleman who is to deposit with Capt. Williams the amt. of \$6000. the other amt. of \$146.14, I presume the Capt. has already

The Minnesota Territory



Free
~~10~~

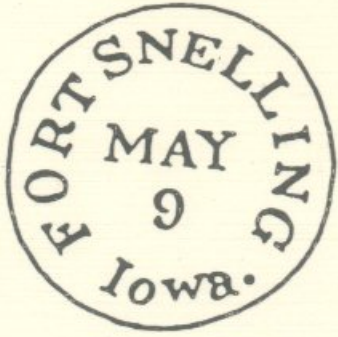


FORT SNELLING.



FORT SNELLING In 1850 the first handstamp was put in use which read FORT SNELLING/IOWA. The cover shown above bears the only recorded example of this postmark with the designation IOWA and it is dated MAY 9 (1850), exactly twenty-two years after the post office was opened. Shortly after this date the word IOWA was cut out as shown by the illustrations above. This was the only territorial handstamp of this fort and it was continued in use until about 1862.

The Minnesota Territory

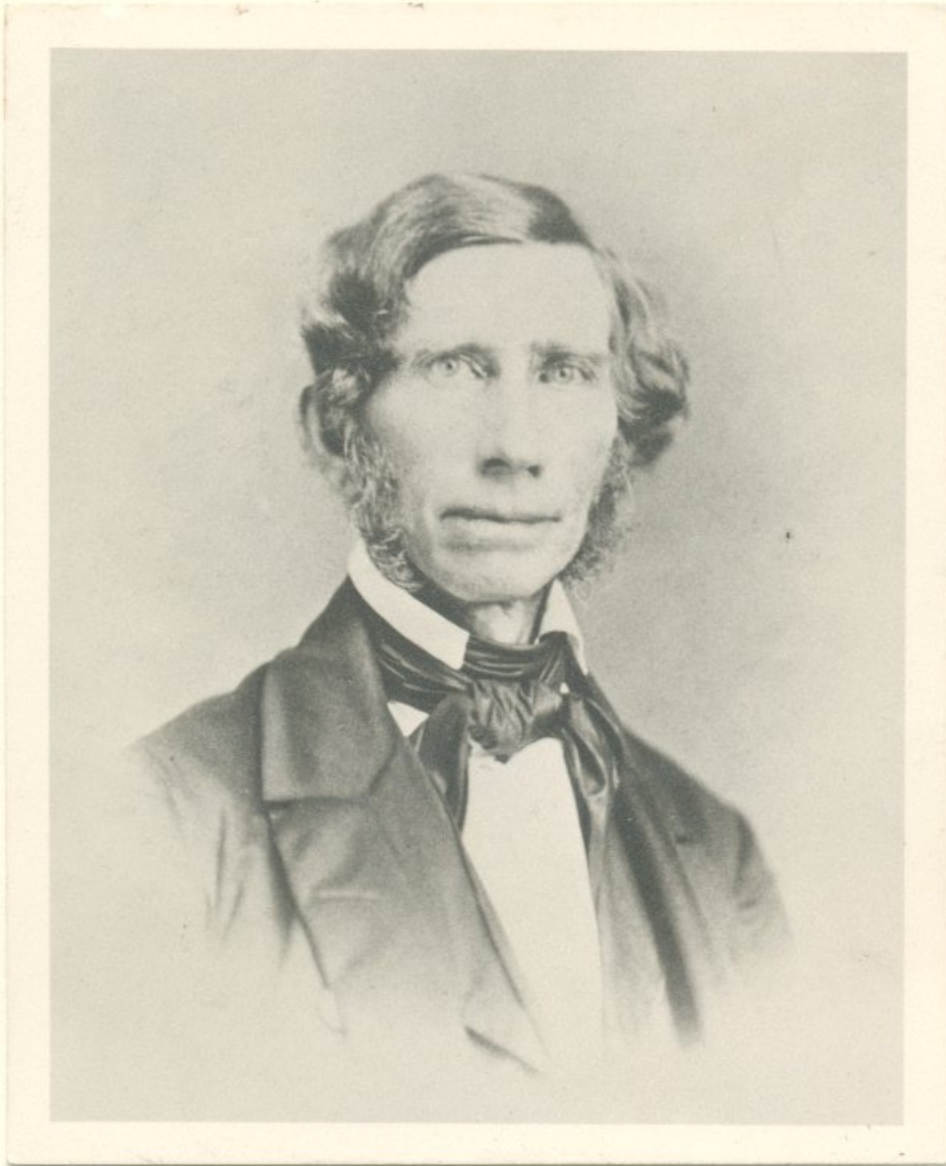


ONLY KNOWN EXAMPLE OF THIS POSTMARK STRUCK in BLUE - NOVEMBER 17, 1850.



FORT SNELLING The handstamp FORT SNELLING/IOWA was altered by cutting out the word IOWA. The altered postmark was continued in use for more than a decade. As a result of this long use of the same postmark, the word IOWA began to reappear as illustrated by the Lincoln patriotic cover shown above.

The Minnesota Territory



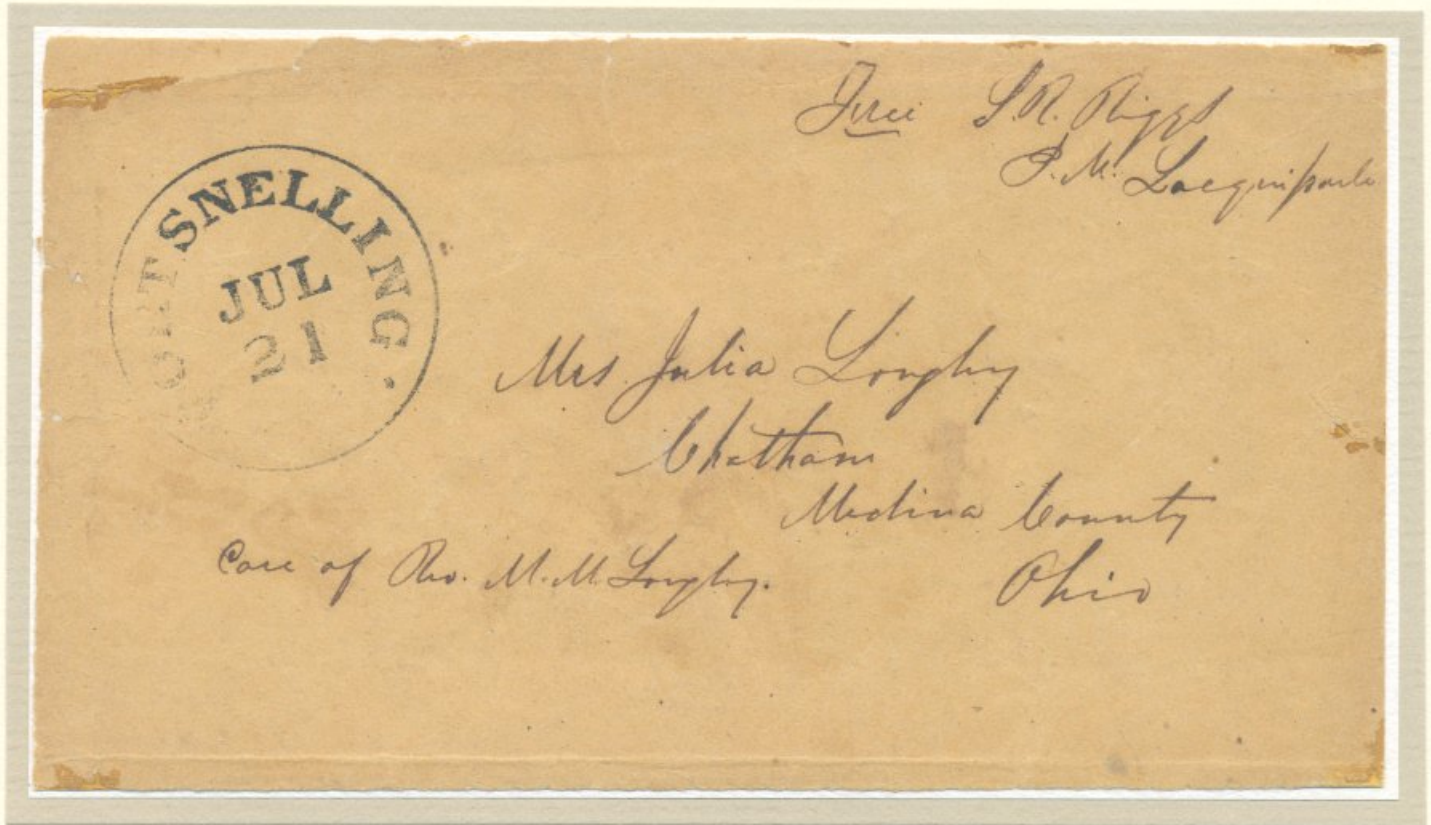
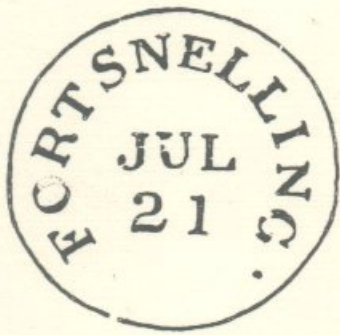
Stephen Return Riggs
Translator of the Bible into the Dakota language.

LAC QUI PARLE This was an early fur trading post and Presbyterian Mission to the Sioux Indians. It was established in 1835 by the distinguished missionaries, Reverends Thomas S. Williamson and Stephen Return Riggs.

The Post Office was established on February 21, 1851 in Dakota County which was one of the nine original counties formed when Minnesota became a territory in 1849. Riggs was its first and only Postmaster until it was discontinued on August 14, 1854. On December 15, 1870 it was re-established and then on August 31, 1907 it was finally discontinued.

Cover shown bears the free frank of the Postmaster: "Free/S.R. Riggs/P.M. Lacquiparle". It also received the postmark of FORT SNELLING when it passed through that office about 1851/54.

*Free S.R. Riggs
P.M. Lacquiparle*

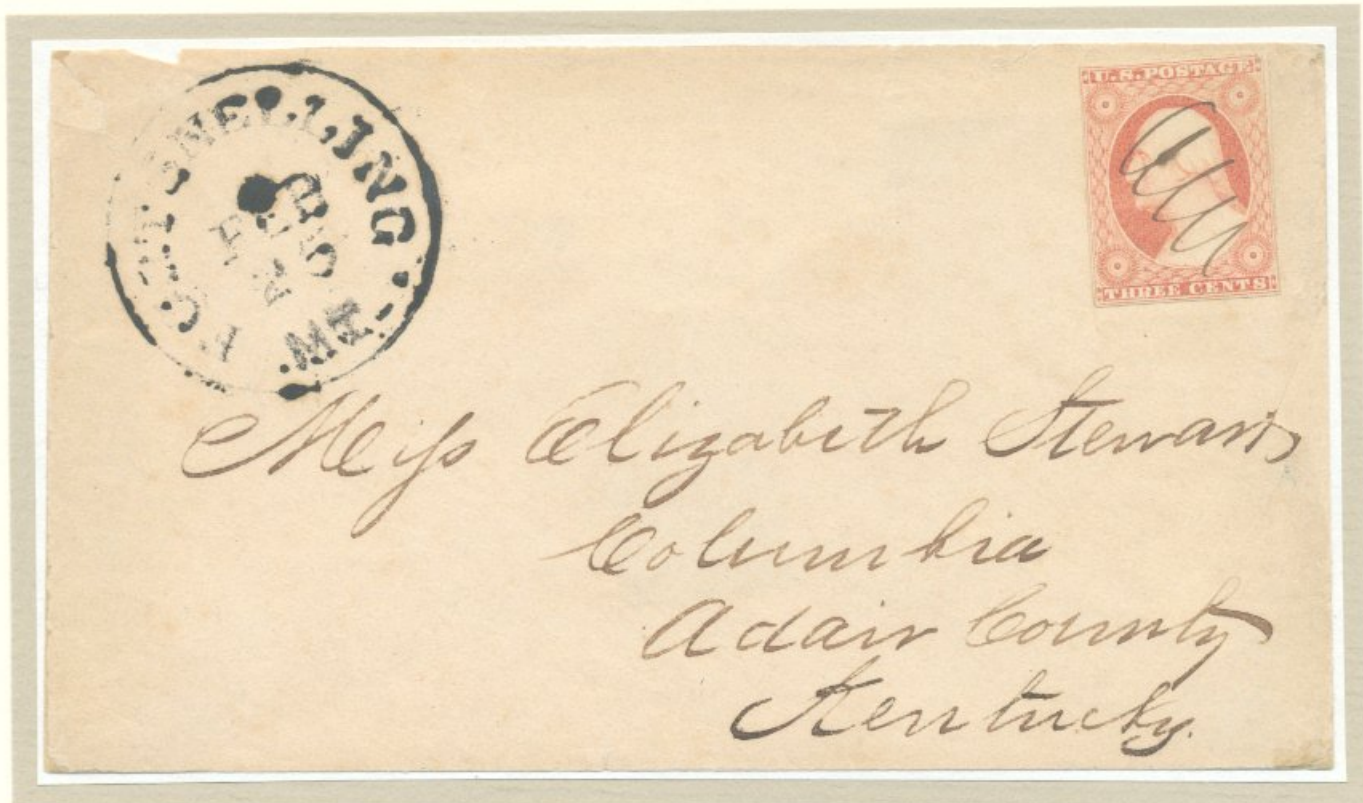


*Free S.R. Riggs
P.M. Lacquiparle*

*Mrs. Julia Longhy
Cheatham
Medina County
Ohio*

Care of Mrs. M.M. Longhy.

THE WESTERN MAILS



FORT SNELLING, M.T. Sometime after the first postmark was altered by cutting out the word IOWA, an attempt was made to add the territorial designation M.T. Apparently this did not prove practical and the M.T. either dropped out or was removed. This cover was discovered by the late Richard McP Cabeen after he had published *The First Hundred Years of United States Territorial Postmarks*. The inks have been checked and are of the same vintage. No year date but the only example known.



The Minnesota Territory

Minnesota Territory.

Fort Snelling, Feb. 17. 1851.

Rev and dear Sir;

I received your letter

some time ago in closing a sold

dollar for Christ's Church, N. Paul,

the first Pres. Ep. Church in Mi-

nesota. Had all the persons to

whom I have applied for assistance

towards this poor ^{given as much,} work, I should

have a nice little sum on hand

and then

I need to

I suppose

that there

is much to

have no

new beg

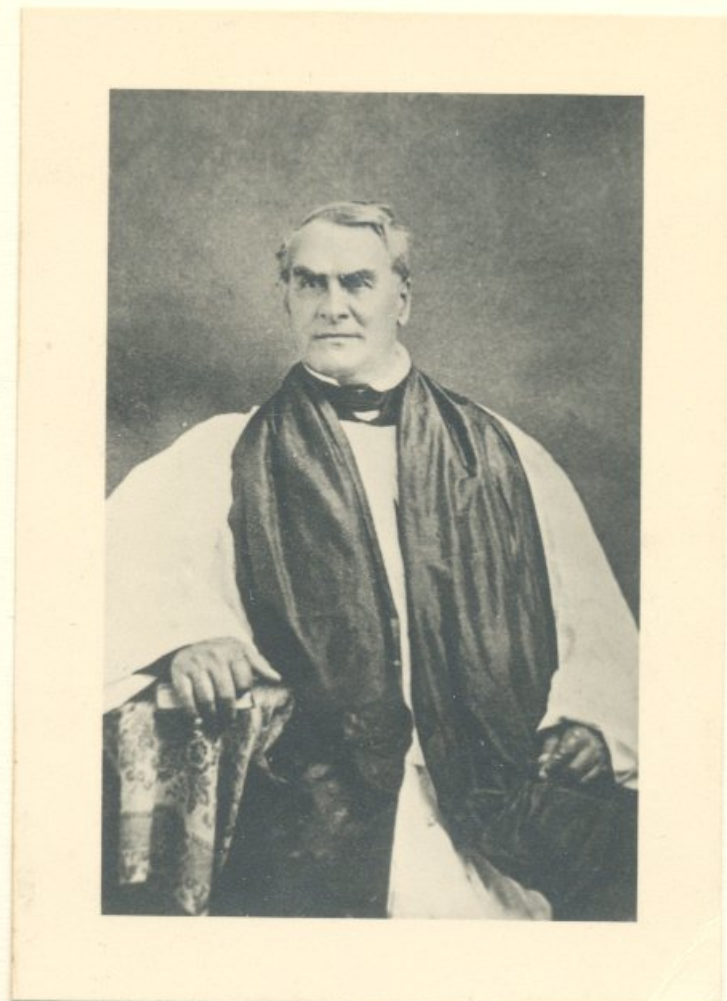
Fort Snelling
Feb 17

10

The Rev. B. Franklin.

Trenton

New-Jersey.



Fort Snelling Minn Sep 18

Dear Grandfather

for "M
Minn
Fort-Snelling
minn

Paid 3⁰⁰ cents
with in

minn

Ben Brewer Esq
Allegheny City
Penn -



Know
Matters
write m
I can
Love to

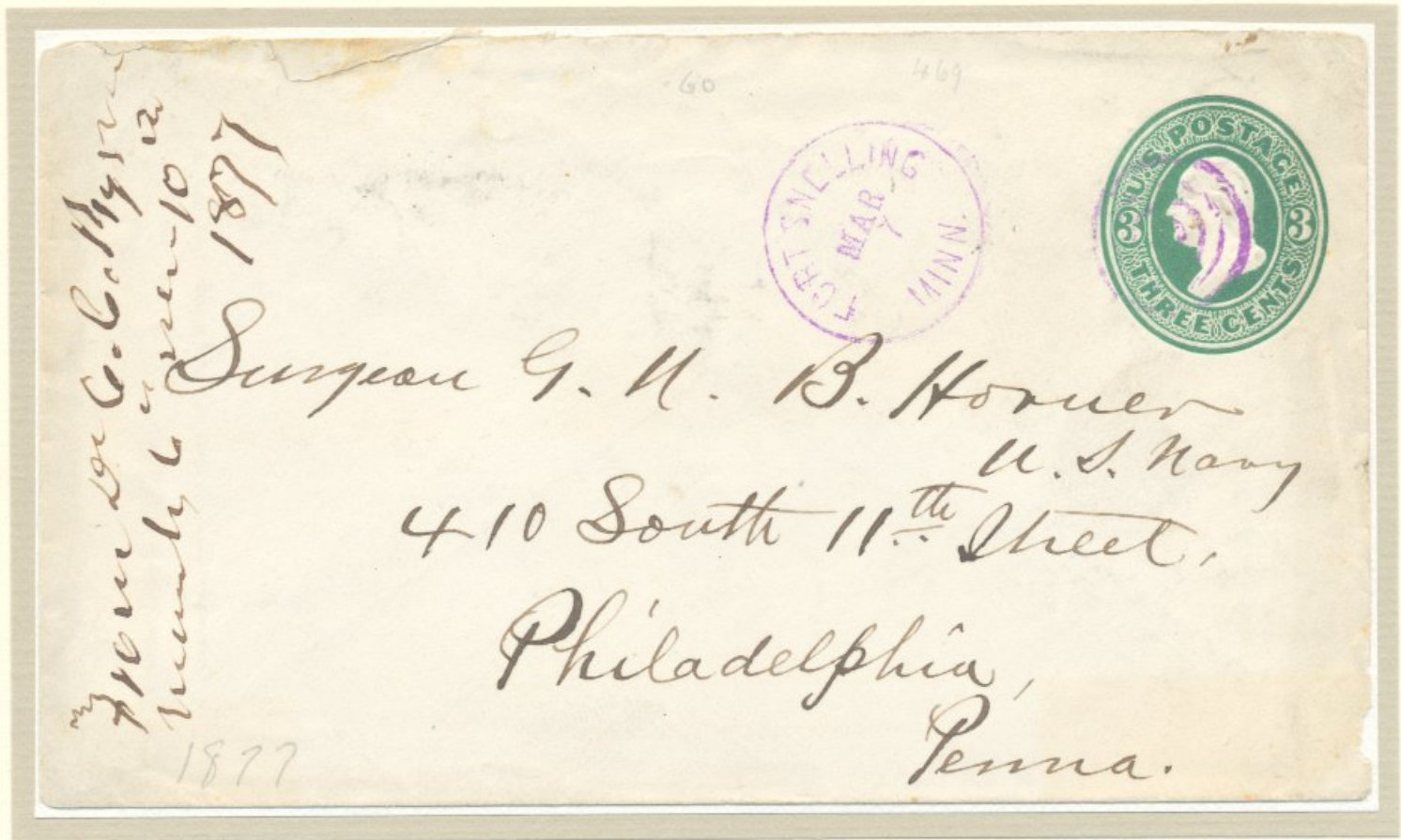
with full
recomendation

Fort Snelling, Minn Paid 3. No year date, but from the content of the letter it has to be 1861. The writer of the letter, E. Brewer Mattocks, was mustered into the Second Minnesota Infantry on June 27, 1861. He served as a Hospital Steward and in Aug. of 1863 he was transferred to the 7th Infantry and promoted to Assistant Surgeon. He was mustered out August 16, 1865.

E. Brewer Mattocks

FORT SNELLING Letter and cover used from the fort on September 19 about 1861. The cover is postmarked in manuscript with "Paid 3" and the original territorial handstamp with the word IOWA cut out. There is no year date on the letter or the cover.

MINNESOTA



FORT SNELLING, MINNESOTA Cover above bears the type III postmark in purple only - MAR 7 1877.

Cover below bears the type IV postmark - DEC 31 1881. Both postmarks are scarce. Only two of type III recorded.



MINNESOTA

Headquarters Department of Dakota,

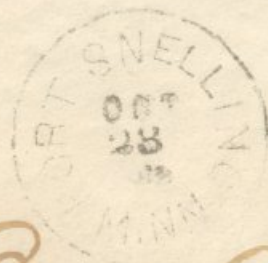
FORT SNELLING, MINN., August 16 1882

Hon. W. C. Robinson, M. C.
New York City.

My dear Sir,

I beg your indulgence for my

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF DAKOTA,
FORT SNELLING, MINN.



Mr R. A. Brock

Richmond

Alfred H. Terry

your
absent
its of
and
I have
into
tter

DEPARTMENT OF DAKOTA HEADQUARTERS stationary. The cover bearing the 3¢ War Department stamp is postmarked by the type V postmark of Fort Snelling and is the only recorded War Department stamp used from that fort. The letter shown is in regards to a pardon for a deserter, in which General Alfred H. Terry refuses to do; "I find the man who was during his service one of the worst of soldiers, one who was constantly committing offence against discipline....that he should be held for the full term of his sentence." At the time of this letter Terry was a Brig. General, In 1886 he was promoted to Maj. Genl. U.S.A. During the Civil War he had the same rank as a volunteer general. Terry died Dec. 16, 1890. The two items have no relation, other than being issued at Fort Snelling.

price. and I for his little ones

Genl. Sherman

Sub Sully, June 28, 1893
(Near St. Paul, Minn.)

4 pp.

Wm. Count letter

We arrived by steam Nyack
at Duluth yesterday at 5 P.M. took
the train for St. Paul at 9⁴⁵ got
there this 7⁴⁵ am & found an
aid of General ^{NEWING} with two
carricks & a baggage wagon, and
by 9 am were here at Genl
Sully's handsome Head Quarters
Sub Sully has been remodelled -
has a formation of four good Cos
of the 25 Inf - & 1 Co of Light
Artillery. It has been vastly
improved and now rivals Sub

not time to write to Mason, but you
may tell him the substance of this, and
write him at Atlantic City or elsewhere
that he soon regret in sacrificing himself
to the wife who is so true to him.
So far as I can see any thing in
Minnesota for breath to St Paul
indicates growth & prosperity, and when
the North Road is done the two
cities of St Paul & Minneapolis will
grow into one, and that a ^{MOST} beautiful
city, - by low water & all
about River frontage. I have telegraphed
& written to Mr. S. G. Linn
and Keeler - I know of Elly, boy -
Minn has always appeared to me

W. S. Sherman

knows along with mathematical

Fort Snelling, M.T.

Sept 16th 1856.

My Dear Coe.

I have just received yours of the 24th (Aug) - It would have been received sooner but had to lay 6 days at S. R. before it could be forwarded to me. I am about half cracked with trying to make out a cursed Army Account, & feel lonesome as the devil, that you know is because this is a strange place. in a few days I shall feel more reconciled than at present. I assure you how I often long for Old Gilmanville, but that is useless for I cannot be there at present. I thought I

Fort Snelling
Sept 16th 1856

Mr C. C. Badger

Gilmanville Centre

Wis. Hampshire

An interesting letter from Fort Snelling, Minn Territory

of course cannot hold out long -

I apprehend rather a lonesome winter

The Minnesota Territory



FORT SNELLING Patriotic covers with the abbreviated territorial postmark used during the Civil War period.



Utica August 9th 1824

Dear Sir,

I received your favor of the 22^d ultimo - by the hands of Judge Miller

The two boxes you mention in your letter from Newport which you were so good as to forward came safe to hand by Mr. Miller - It is now some weeks since

I have heard from Newport except by a gentleman who left there

all were well they were well

Newport my letter from my then at Utica

Robert Crooke Wood
 Asst. Surgeon 28 May 1825
 Maj. Surgeon 4 July 1836
 Col. Asst. Surgeon gen. 14 June 1862
 To 31 Oct 1865
 Bvt. Lt. Coln., Col., & Brig. Genl. 13 March 1865 for gal. & mer. service during Civil War - Died 28 March 1869

next day for Whidah, and the Isle of Prince - he had experienced some difficulty in trading on the coast, in consequence of the war with the English, and Ashantees -

AND SHEET PROTECTOR NY-11

AND SHEET PROTECTOR NY-12

10
Charles C. Dudley
Albany
New York

Recd from Robert
W. Wood
1824

Part of Lt. Wood find.

Albany N.Y.
Orinda County

10
Cm

, Dear Sir,

Fort Snelling February 2^d 1820

I wrote you on my route from
Michilimachinae by Lieut. Morris, and since my
arrival at this post my last letter Oct. 12 - I gave
you some account of my journey, though I was prevented
from sickness in being very particular - since I had
the bilious fever I have been subject upon exposure
to the fever and ague - The weather here has been
very severe, the mercury has sunk to 23 below Zero -
This Fort is pleasantly situated at the junction of the
Mississippi and St. Peter's rivers, and is more elevated than
the surrounding country - it commands the two rivers -
The Indians in the vicinity are at present very peaceable
Col. Snelling arrived about two months ago - he informed
me that before he left Detach. Lt. Lawrence
Sprague of the Army had arrived at that post. he was
appointed the month after me - he has a wife and nine
children by Col. S. acct. I do not understand why I was
ordered there, and so soon removed, unless by the influence

Painé au Chien M^s
February 13 -

25

Mr. Charles E. Dudley

Albany

State of New York

1826



Fort Snelling. Upper Mississippi
October 11th 1825

Dear Sir,

I have just heard of an opportunity from this port, and embrace it with pleasure - I had the pleasure of writing a few lines from Michilimackinac by Lieut. Morris whom I accidentally met there on his way to Albany - a few days afterwards I arrived at the Port at Greenbay, where I was detained nearly a fortnight - Greenbay Fort is situated at the entrance of Fox river - At this place I was obliged to purchase an Indian bark canoe, and proceed on my journey with four Indians up the Fox river - I was six days going up, encamped every night around a fire with the Indians - I suffered extremely with the heat - the water was in such a state

I write you twice from Detroit

Bois du Chemin No. 1.

Nov. 20

25

Genl Charles C. Dudley
Albany
New York

5781



Letter is marked in upper left Prairie du Chien Mic T (black) mss.
Nov. 3 -

Addressed to Hon. Charles E. Dudley, Albany, N.Y. Rated 25 (red) mss.

Fort Snelling, Upper Mississippi,
October 10, 1825

Dear Sir:

I have just heard of an opportunity from this Fort and embrace it with pleasure. I had the pleasure of writing a few lines from Michilimackinac by Lieut. Morris, whom I accidentally met there on his way to Albany. A few days afterward I arrived at the Fort at Greenbay, where I was detained a fortnight - Greenbay Fort is situated at the entrance of the Fox River. At this place I was obliged to purchase an Indian bark canoe and proceed on my journey with four Indians up the Fox River. I was six days going up, encamped every night around a fire with the Indians. I suffered extremely with the heat - the water was in such a state that the fish were floating on the surface.

After proceeding up this river about eighty leagues, we came to a portage, of about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile where I carried over all my baggage and canoe and launched on the Ouisconsin River, where in two days we came out in the Mississippi. The tide running in this river at about the rate of 6 or 7 miles an hour. The Ouisconsin terminates about 4 miles above Prairie du Chien, another military post, where I stopped three days, sold my canoe and took passage on board an Indian trading boat. It is about 250 miles from Prairie du Chien to Fort Snelling.

We were 14 days going up the Mississippi owing to the rapidity of the current, which runs down. When within 50 miles of my destination, I was taken down with a severe bilious attack, which has confined me to my quarters until a few days - at one time I was very sick and wished myself back in Utica again. I am now recovering and rode out to-day.

I arrived here on the 14th of last month but have not been able to see anything of the country yet. Fort Snelling is situated at the junction of the rivers Mississippi and St. Peter's. It is very elevated and healthy. It is the most remote military post in the United States - no society whatever within two or three hundred miles at Prairie du Chien.

There are six companies here of the 5th Infantry, commanded by Col. Snelling after whom the Fort is named - about 230 men. The buildings are very fine and officers quarters good - we have four ladies in our camp - officer's wives. A few days before I came, a surgeon arrived here - whether I shall be kept here or sent further down the Mississippi I cannot say. This place is better known by the name of Falls of St. Anthony, which are a few miles up the St. Peter's River.

I have written my director by a former letter. I have not heard from home since I left Detroit - Please remember me to Mrs. Dudley.

Hon. Charles E. Dudley
Albany.

Your aff. cousin,
Robert C. Wood

I wrote you twice from Detroit.

The Minnesota Territory



IOWA TERRITORY

FORT SNELLING Free frank of Franklin Steele, the Postmaster at Fort Snelling, used from Philadelphia to Washington, D.C. April 10, 1842. Cover also bears the handstamp of the MERCHANTS HOUSE/M.W. BRIDGES/PHILADELPHIA. At this time the Postmaster could use his frank from any point in the United States.

Fort Snelling June 1st 1826

Dear Sir,

I have written you twice, but have not had the pleasure of hearing from you since I left Utica - A few days since I had the pleasure of hearing from Newport as late as the 11th of April by the arrival of a Steam boat from St. Louis with provision - she has gone down to Prairie de Chien for another load, and will return to-morrow or next day - The military post at Prairie de Chien was ordered to be broken up a few months since, but owing to some disturbances among the Indians it has been continued. I have some expectation of being ordered down to the Prairies with a detachment of troops, or up the St. Peter river three or four hundred miles, the latter I should prefer, as the post at the

Priming Book
June 9

1826

Saml. B. Charles. C. D. Dudley

Albany

State of New York

Prarie du Cheu April 25th 1828

Dear fr.

I wrote you from Washington, and from Jefferson Barracks, at which latter place I spent the winter, but have not as yet ~~had~~ had the pleasure of an answer — I left St. Louis the 2^d inst. and arrived here in a perage of eight days in a Steam boat, and have now been waiting here a fortnight to proceed to St. Louis my old station, I shall probably meet with an opportunity in two or three days — I heard frequently from New York, and Maria when at St. Louis, and I believe that my mother's affairs are in a fair train for settlement. There will be a court held here in about a week for the trial of the Indians who committed the murder last year. The Indians are now in confinement at this post. They were delivered up by their nation. This country is fast settling, as it has been discovered to contain inexhaustible beds of lead ore. There is now a population of five or six thousand at Iowa river

Supper 10 amackes D^W

A. M. W.

Charles C. Dudley Esq.

Manh
New York

Dear Sir,

Fort Meading November 1st 1830

I have received your esteemed letter of July 21st covering one from John with much pleasure. There is not a word of news in this part of the country. There is some talk of a treaty to be held here in the spring, as some of the Indian tribes are hostile to each other, particularly the Sioux, and Chippewa in fact their feud, one hereditary. Whether it is good policy in the U. S. to interfere in their way is doubtful. If we do, it ought to be with a strong hand, and a treaty once made should be rigidly enforced. Justice, and punishment with Indians must be summary to be effectual. They do not comprehend the delays of law, and many of their best friends would part with some of their philanthropy after a five year residence in their vicinity. John writes me, that there is a probability of a Branch Bank of the U. S. being established at Meading and that he had written you on the subject. I have advised him to consult Messrs Vanick & Johnson as I think they would recommend him for a situation, if they feel confidence in his capacity, and integrity. Charles appears to feel confident of his ability to stand an examination at West Point, and I have urged him to form habits of close study, and strict subordination, which with ordinary ambition will, I think, ensure his success. The next severe examination will be in January next. I observe what you mention of the abilities of William. It is now more than

Robt Wood Ft Snelling

Sample Mr. Wm. 1880

Charles E. Dudley

U. S. Senate

Washington

From Ft. Snelling Mich. Terr.
No Postal Markings.



Prarie du Chen, M. T.

Dear Sir,

July 2^d 1835

We arrived here yesterday in good health, though the children were a good deal fatigued with the journey —

Our route was on the canal to Buffalo, from thence to Conant on Lake Erie, where I took an up the stage, and passed through Ohio to a short distance above Wellsville on the Ohio river, and from thence to Louisville in a Steam boat where we arrived in about seven, or ^{from Albany} twelve days — On Louisville we stayed a week, and then left for St. Louis, passing five days — remained there two days and had a passage of one day to this place —

Painé du Chien No. 4.

Feb 3

B

Mr. Noble

Charles E. Dudley

Albany

New York

1835

Dear Sir,

Paris du Chen W. T.
March 28th 1830.

Your esteemed favor of Feb. 20 has just reached me, in consequence of the irregularity of the mails - I took no time in procuring all the information respecting the lands in this country which my opportunities afforded; since my return to this post, and previous to that period, my duties have constantly required my attention, so that I have no practical acquaintance with the land in market, having visited Caspelle but once during a moon storm, two years ago, to amputate an arm, in consequence of the urgent solicitations of the friends of the sufferer - My apartment here has just rec^d a feulough which will necessarily confine me to the garison of the officers here, not one has engaged in any land purchase, some for want of funds, other from disinclination. Col Taylor has never, I believe, invested a cent in public lands, though generally on the frontier, and a practical farmer. Still that many fortunate speculators have, and can be made, I do not doubt - The officers of the 5th Regt. stationed at Chicago, and Green Bay have in several instances made themselves independent. Caspelle is about 40 miles from this place, the population, say 150 or 200 - it has been laid off in blocks, lots & streets - The present proprietors are Lyman J. Daniels of Melanago city, W. J. Lucien Lyon of Detroit, the member elect of the Senate, a surveyor, Arthur Brown of New York, & Jacob O. Deniston of your city, who I think visited the country last year, and can give you all detailed information respecting the same - The village has been divided into blocks, containing

she joins me in best regards to Mrs Dudley & yourself

Believe me to be with much respect & esteem

Yours affectionately

Charles C. Dudley

Albany N.Y.

A. Wood

Francis du Chien No 9 St J 25

Albany March 30

Charles C. Dudley

Albany

New York



1838

Fort Snelling

November 18. 1827.

My Dear Sir,

It has been a long time since I have had the pleasure of seeing you. I have addressed two letters to you during my stay in St. Louis, but having received no answer, I presume they have either been miscarried or mislaid; I felt myself much rejoiced with the rest of my friends when we heard the result of your Election, and sincerely hope that the next Election may terminate so favourable to our next Chief Magistrate, Old Hickory, and feel anxious to hear when that hour may come, though I have to keep dark on that Subject.

I take hereby the liberty to solicit a Request from you, should it meet your approbation, that is to intercede so far in my behalf, as to procure me an Appointment of Capt. Quarter Master at some permanent post, where I could be stationed for some time. I have

whom I highly esteem and wish to do all for them which should I

Gideon Low - Pa. - Ensign
22 Inf. 1 June 1812 to 1st Lt. 1814
Hon. disch. 15 June 1815 - 2 Lt
rifla 3 Feb 1819 - 1st Lt. 16 Mar 1820
Tr to 5th Inf. 1 June 1821 - Capt 20
Aug 1828 - Resigned 29 Feb 1840.

vacancy occurs, I
dismiss the duties
as practicable,
y behalf, which
use to Request. -
request, was it not
bounds to look.
which should I
For the welfare, and
obtain such a situation, would both procure them comfort and
happiness. -

I have for two or three years, while I was Stationed at Fort Edwards, performed the duties of Quartermaster, Asst. Commissary, and also acted as Surgeon while at that post, as I was the only Officer there, and to my Satisfaction I never had any Fault found with my conduct, nor likewise in the Administration of those Departments, as my accounts have always been found correct, which in Reference I flatter myself you will perceive I have always performed to General Satisfaction.

I had the pleasure of seeing General Gaines at this post a short time since, and spoke to him on the Subject; he stated that he should be highly pleased to do all that lay in his power in my behalf, but that himself and the Quartermaster General was not on such terms as would justify an interview with him, but that if I had a friend at Washington he would be ready and willing to assist me with any appointment in his power - In pursuance of which I have taken this liberty of calling on your Assistance to procure the Appointment of Asst. Quartermaster or Commissary of Subsistence at some permanent post - There is no Appointment for either at Fort Armstrong.

Mrs Dow begs leave to be remembered to Yourself and Lady, we enjoy good health as well as my little daughters, whom you have already been made acquainted with, are at Pleasant Convent, and progressing fast in their education. - Hoping that yourself and Family also enjoy the blessing of health, and that you will excuse the liberty I have taken, in writing so freely, I subscribe myself

The Hon. Thomas Benton
U. States Senator

With Sentiments of high Respect
Your most Obedt & Humble Serv^t

G. Dow
24th July

Warner Lewis Esq.
Surveyor Genl. Dubuque, Iowa.

General Land Office
May 2^d 1855

Sir:

The act "to authorize the President of
"the United States to cause to be surveyed the tract of land in
"the Territory of Minnesota, belonging to the half-breed, or mixed
"bloods of the Dacotah or Sioux nation of Indians, & for other purposes,"
in its third section, authorized the President to have the lands within
the said reservation surveyed and offered for sale; Act approved 17 July
1854. See Minn's "Statutes at large," 1st Sess: 33 Congress, page 304 =
but, under the act of 31st July 1854, "making appropriations for the current &
contingent expenses of the Indian Department," &c. & for the year ending 30th
June 1855, (see 4th section of that act, on page 332 of same pamphlet
laws,) it was apprehended at the Indian office that the provisions of
said section were such as to require special surveys to be made of the
different tracts allotted to individual Indians, by that section.

These adverse views had the effect to suspend the issuing of instructions
by this office for the extension, last year, of the lines of the regular
surveys over that body of land. The act of 3rd March 1855, "making

A.

(L)



Copy.

Report of the Survey of the Military Reserve at
Fort Snelling

I have the honor to submit the following Report
of my operations while engaged on the survey of the
Military Reserve at the vicinity of Fort Snelling.

In laying out the lines of demarcation
which form the boundaries of this Reserve, I was governed by
the directions contained in the following order.

Bureau of Topical Engineers

Washington March 25th 1853.

Sir

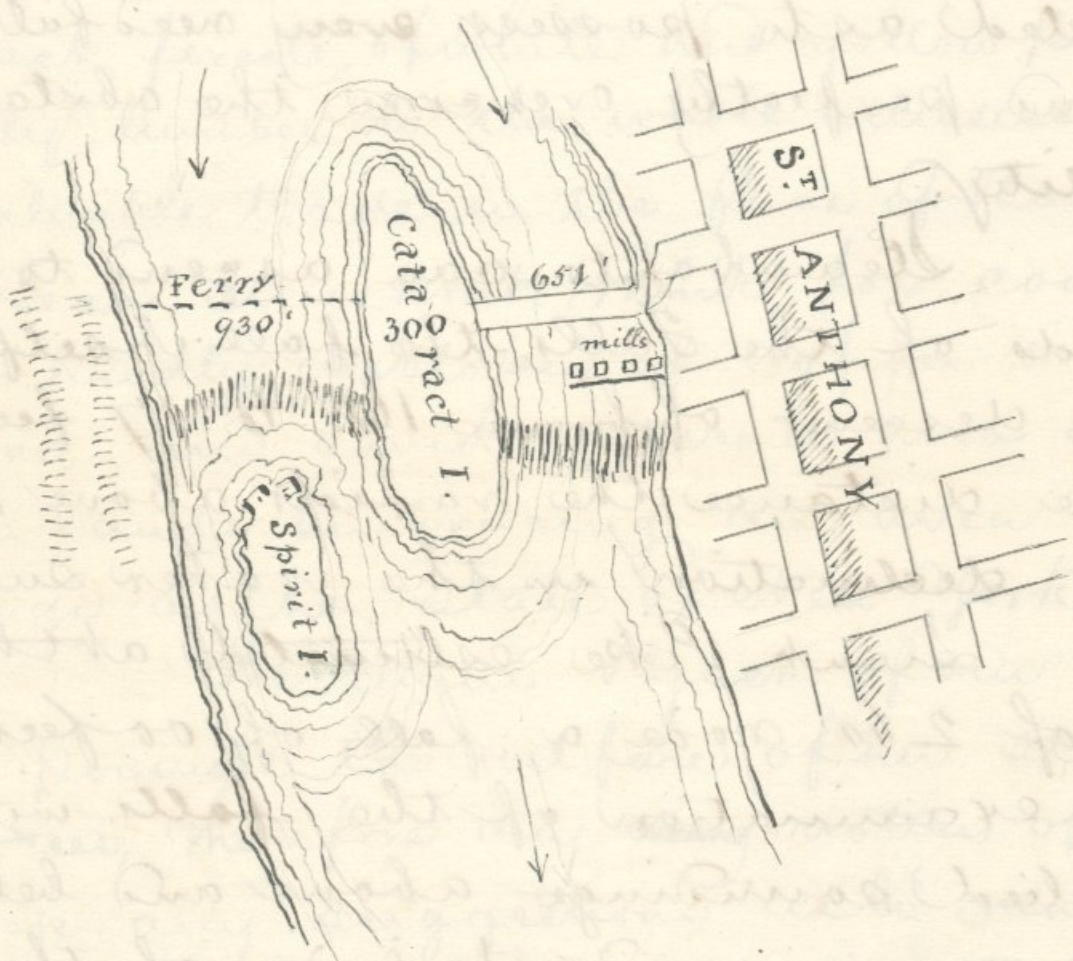
You will repair to Fort Snelling and make a survey
of the Military Reserve at Fort Snelling, in conformity
with the following indications on that subject.

"Beginning at the middle of the channel of
"the Mississippi River, below Pikes Island, thence
"ascending along the channel of said River in such a
"direction as to include all the islands of the River
"to the mouth of Browns creek; thence up said creek
"to Rice Lake; thence through the middle of Rice Lake
"to the outlet of Lake Amelia; thence through said
"outlet and the middle of Lake Amelia to the outlet
"and the middle of Mother Lake to the outlet of Duck
"Lake; thence through said outlet and the middle of
"Duck Lake to the Southern extremity of Duck Lake;
"thence in a line due South to the middle of the chan-
"nel of St Peters river; thence down said river so as
"to include all the islands to the middle of the channel

12
The river at the falls is 1881 feet wide, its waters are divided in two channels by Cataract Island, which is 300 feet wide and $\frac{1}{2}$ mile long. The Western Channel is 930 feet wide and is crossed by a rope ferry, below the falls in the mists of the spray lies "Spirit Island" around which linger the romantic memories of an Indian tradition which has been preserved by the few of Frederika Bremer.

The Eastern Channel is crossed by a bridge, it is 651 feet wide but little water is allowed to flow over it, the supply being regulated by the necessities of numerous saw mills, which number some 20 saws.

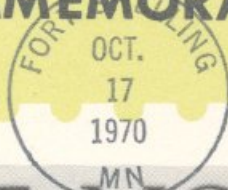
The town of St Anthony is upon the East side of the river. The following sketch will give a clear idea of this locality.



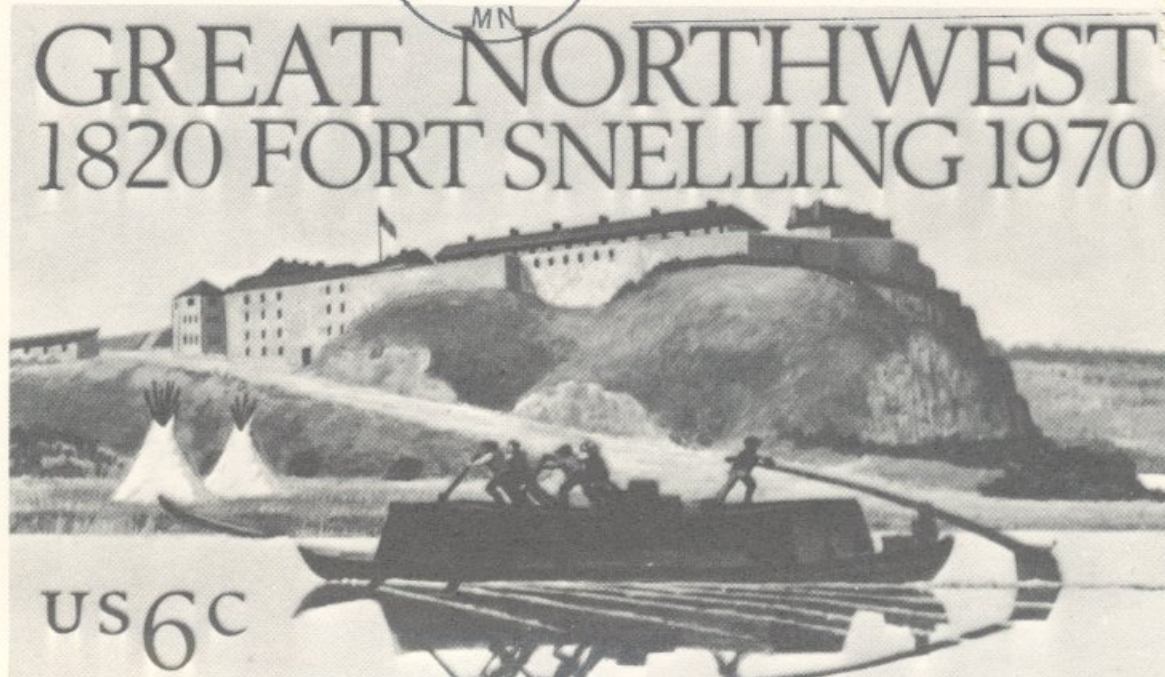
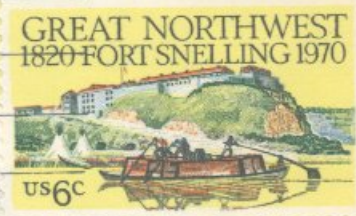
POST ON BULLETIN BOARD

6-CENT FORT SNELLING

COMMEMORATIVE STAMP



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE



The 6-cent commemorative stamp honoring the Great Northwest and Fort Snelling will be first placed on sale at Fort Snelling on October 17, 1970.

This stamp celebrates the 150th anniversary of an outpost that played a heavy role in the opening of the great northwest.

The six-color horizontal stamp was designed by David K. Stone of Port Washington, New York. It shows the fort, which was built atop sandstone bluffs at the juncture of the Minnesota and Mississippi Rivers, south of Minneapolis.

In the foreground is a keelboat navigated by five men that is approaching two tipis on the shores edge. Across the top of the stamp in black roman capitals is "Great Northwest/1820 Fort Snelling 1970." Bottom left, also in black, is "US 6¢."

Yellow (water and sky) and brown (bluffs) were printed by lithography. Red (fort's roof and keelboat) and blue (fort's walls) were printed in another lithography pass. A third press pass, through the Giori, applied black (inscription and fort's windows) and green (trees on bluffs).

A temporary postal station will be established at Fort Snelling October 17 and the cancellation will read "Fort Snelling, Minnesota."

Collectors desiring first day cancellations may send addressed envelopes, together with remittance to cover the cost of the stamps to be affixed, to the Postmaster, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101. A close-fitting enclosure of postal card thickness should be placed in each envelope and the flap either turned in or sealed. The envelope to the Postmaster should be endorsed "First Day Covers Fort Snelling stamp." Requests must be postmarked no later than October 17.

POST ON BULLETIN BOARD
6-CENT
FORT SNELLING



MINNESOTA



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE



The Minnesota Territory



Pembina & The Red River Mails of Canada

PEMBINA One of the historic points of entry between Canada and the United States. It was located at the mouth of the Pembina River on the west side of the Red River in what is now North Dakota. A trading post was built at this site as early as 1797 by the Northwest Co. In 1823 the exact position of the International Boundary was established and Pembina was found to be in the U.S. Territory. Previous to this the Canadians had claimed it as part of the Red River Colony and under the sphere of the Hudson's Bay Co. By 1840 the American Fur Co. was well established at Pembina and a great trade had developed between the Red River Settlement (now Winnipeg) and Fort Snelling and St. Paul.

The first Post Office was established at Pembina May 18, 1850 in Minnesota Territory. Since there were no east/west trans-Canada mails, most letters were sent to eastern Canada and England via Pembina and St. Paul.

The letter shown above was written on Dec. 29, 1851 from Fort Augustus, near Edmonton, Canada, by John Rowand, Chief Factor of the Hudson's Bay Co. He reports on the weather, the Indians starving, no buffalo, half-breed hunters fighting with the Sioux Indians, and on the affairs of the Company and various officials of same.

This letter was carried by an express of the Hudson's Bay Co. to the Red River Settlement. It entered the U.S. mails at PEMBINA, M.T./April 2, 1852 as per postmark and thence to Montreal, via St. Paul, where it arrived on May 13th. Here it was forwarded to Lachine, as per postmark and manuscript directive in lower left corner, which was then crossed out and the address changed to St. Polycart. The 10 cent rate in blue was the U.S. charge, the 6d, which has been crossed out, was the Canadian charge, and the 3d was the final forwarding charge from Lachine to St. Polycart.

The Minnesota Territory



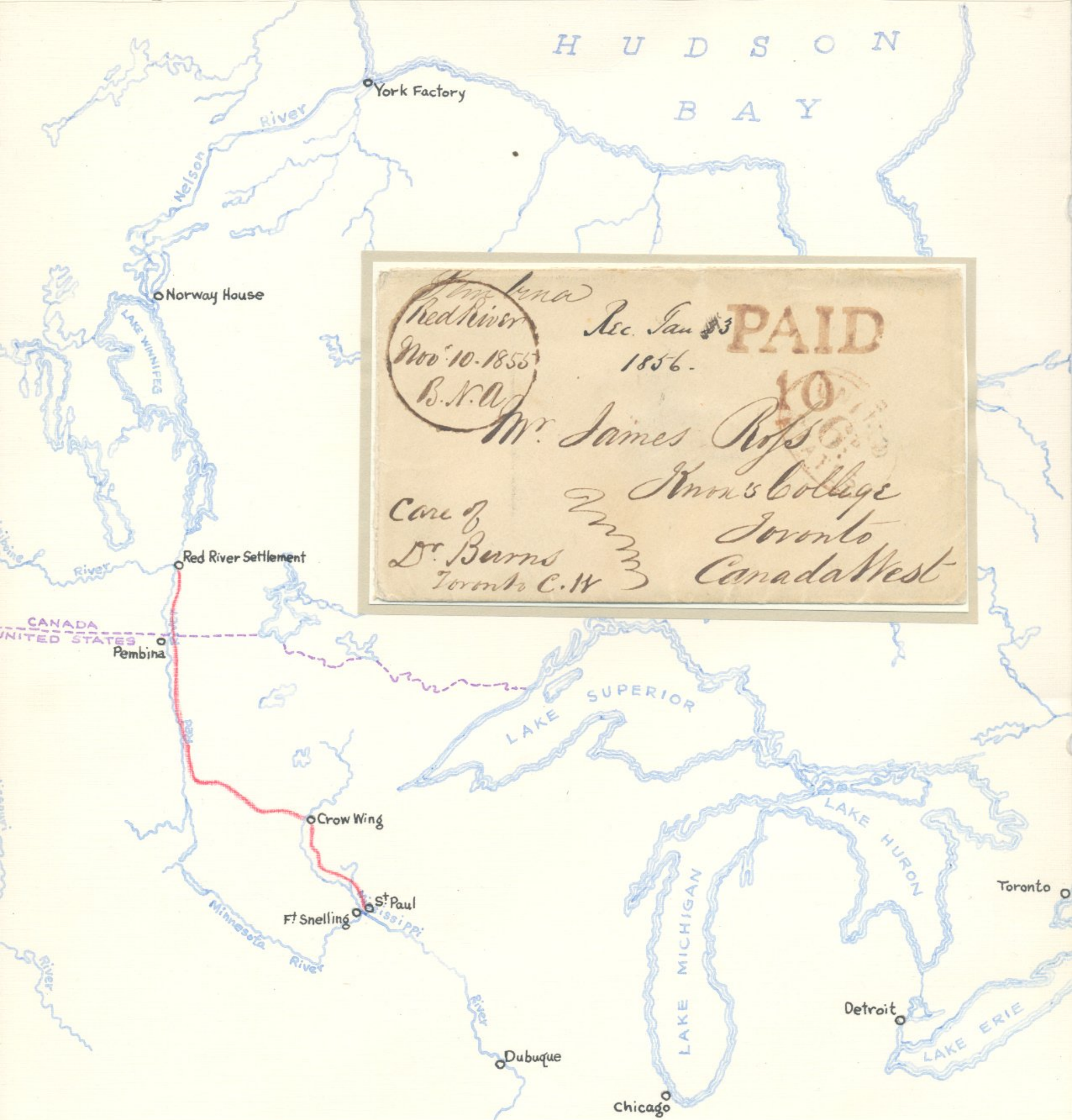
The Red River Mails

PEMBINA - U.S. and CANADIAN FRONTIER. Letter from Chief Trader A.H. Murray to his brother in Scotland via St. Paul and New York. The following is from the letter: "I am now here as far south as I can go on British Territory... my duty is to oppose the Americans who are trading all along this Frontier... among the many advantages of this place is a POST OFFICE... The Americans... send a MAIL EVERY TWO MONTHS BETWEEN THIS AND ST. PAUL... I send this letter by said mail". Postmarked at PEMBINA Dec. 20, 1852 and rated 24 cents paid - 5 cents U.S. and 19 cents Great Britain as denoted by the numeral 19 in red.

The following is an explanation of the postal service between the U.S. & CANADA for this unique International Route:

"The rate for letters from RED RIVER SETTLEMENT to CANADA was 10 cents, which paid the postage from PEMBINA to CANADA. On top of this a carrier charge of one penny (two cents) was payable in cash for conveyance, per letter to PEMBINA. The postmaster at RED RIVER SETTLEMENT was actually acting as an agent of the UNITED STATES POST OFFICE. [He carried U.S. postage stamps in stock.] All mail received by him for dispatch to the UNITED STATES, CANADA or abroad was charged as if the letter originated in the UNITED STATES, he then forwarded the mail by carrier to PEMBINA, MINNESOTA, from where it was forwarded with the U.S. mails to destination. The Hudson's Bay Company Ships still came and went twice a year, and carried the bulk of the mail as it was cheaper though slower than the Pembina/St. Paul route."

"CANADA" as referred to above is that portion east of the Great Lakes. The Red River Settlement was part of what the Hudson's Bay Company called Assiniboia which was a part of Ruperts Land at that time. It is now part of the city of Winnipeg in Manitoba.



The Red River Route

Up to the early 1880's there were no trans-Canada mail routes. Letters were routed through the United States, or carried by the Expresses of the Hudson's Bay Company. One of the routes used was the Red River Trail from the Red River Settlement (Winnipeg) via St. Paul, Minnesota.

The cover shown traveled over this route and bears the classic manuscript postmark "Red River Nov. 1855 B.N.A." (British North America).

The Minnesota Territory



RED RIVER The cover shown bears one of the classic postmarks of Canada **Red River/Nov. 10, 1855/B.N.A.** (British North America). The Postmaster at the Red River Settlement (now Winnipeg) probably traced the circle with the use of a coin, or some other round object, and then wrote in the postmark. There are eight or nine covers known between the dates of November 10, 1855 and March 10, 1856 and three of them are in this exhibit. This short period of time is explained by the sudden death of Postmaster William Ross in April or May of 1856.

Because the mails of the Hudson's Bay Company were too slow, the settlers at Red River decided to establish their own mail service via St. Paul, Minnesota Territory. On November 4, 1853 Ross wrote to his brother James "We have subscribed the sum of 60 pounds to aid the Yankees to carry the mail — it starts tomorrow." Those who failed to subscribe or contribute to the 60 pounds were obliged to pay 5 shillings per letter.

In January or February of 1855 the Council of Assiniboia (R.R. Settlement) put the mail service on an authorized basis and named Ross the Postmaster. On November 10, 1855 Ross applied the first postmark as shown on the cover above. Since there was no official Canadian Post Office, this manuscript marking is considered a provisional postmark. None of Ross' successors appear to have used a postmark until after 1870.

The first year the mail was contracted to be carried to Saint Paul but in some cases the mail was put in the post office at Fort Ripley and Swan River, M.T. See covers from these two post offices in this exhibit. After Ross became Postmaster the Red River mails entered the United States at Pembina, Minnesota Territory. The name Pembina is pronounced PEM-BIN-AW.

Pembina M Ty
June 3, 54



PEMBINA M Ty June 3/54

Cover originated at Red River Settlement June 3, 1854 and entered the U.S. Mails at Pembina, in what was then the Minnesota Territory.

Swan River M.T.
Dec 7

SWAN RIVER M.T.

Post Office established Dec. 31, 1850 in Benton Co. It was discontinued Jan. 7, 1879 while in Morrison Co. The cover is from the Ross correspondence, originating at Red River in 1854. It was routed "Via Pembina Minnesota Territory U.S. America".



The Minnesota Territory



1855 to
 ver it was
 this post-
 bear the
 kings.

Fort Alexander - Lac La Pluie District.

October 27th 1855.

My dear Father

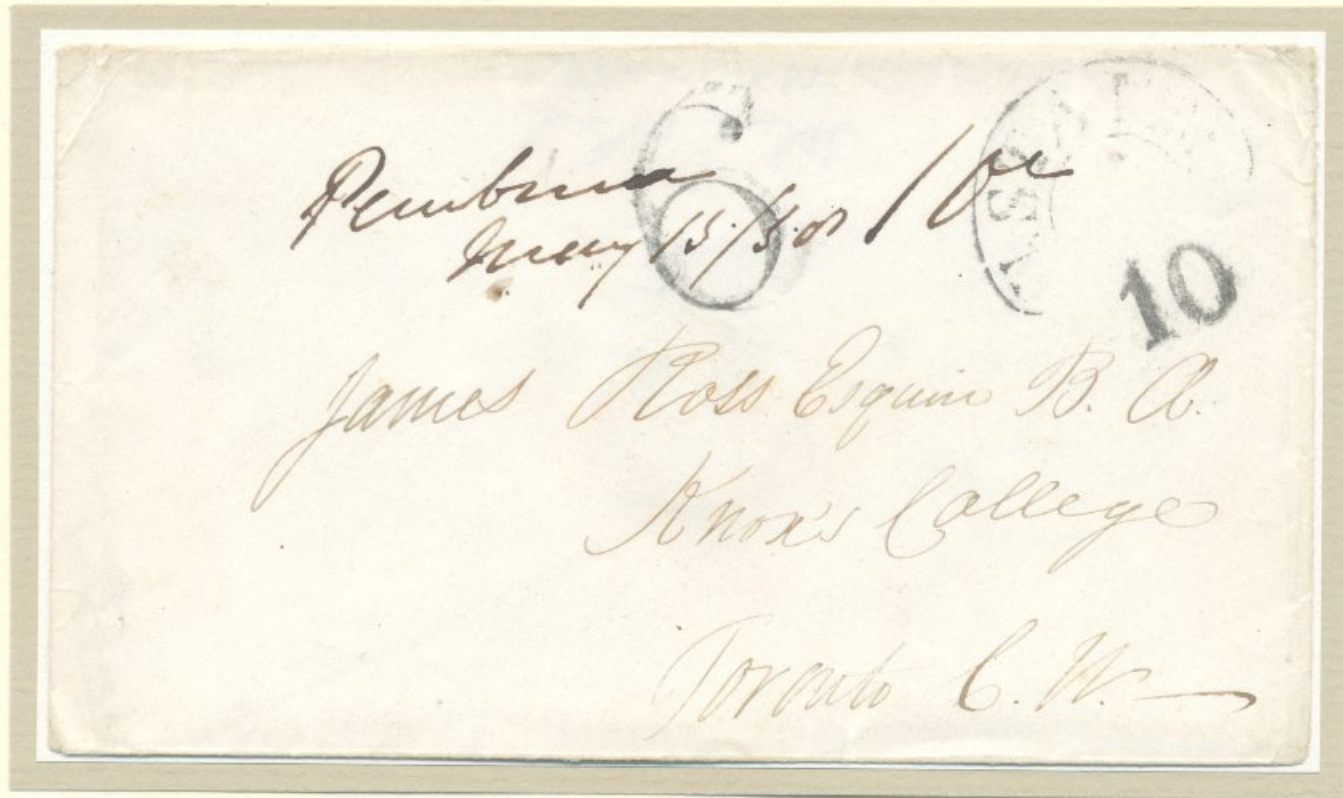
Yesterday, I received your letter of 31st July, informing me of the death of my dear Mother, which melancholy tidings I have long been expecting and prepared to hear: for some years I have lived in the hopes of seeing her once again in this world but such was not permitted, however I will live in the hope of meeting her in a better and happier place; if we were all only such as she was, that hope would be a certainty.

I do feel much for you, my Father, in your present forlorn state, and amid your manifold afflictions, but I trust you will be able to bear up under them; I can only sympathise with you, well knowing that, in your present state, you can find consolation only in the Gospel Christ.

I thought you were aware of my having money in the hands of Thomas Murray & Son Glasgow, and regret exceedingly that you did not at once draw on me through them, to assist in defraying your accumulated expenses; I sincerely hope you have already done so, for your letter has been very long delayed; it is now nearly three months since it was written, but I lose not a day in replying to it.

I now enclose you an order on Thomas Murray & Son for £40 Sterling. In this sum I want neither payment nor interest; I have never yet seen of the least pecuniary assistance to you or my dear Mother, and which, now since I know it has been needed, remains as a sting in my conscience, and it will be a source of great satisfaction

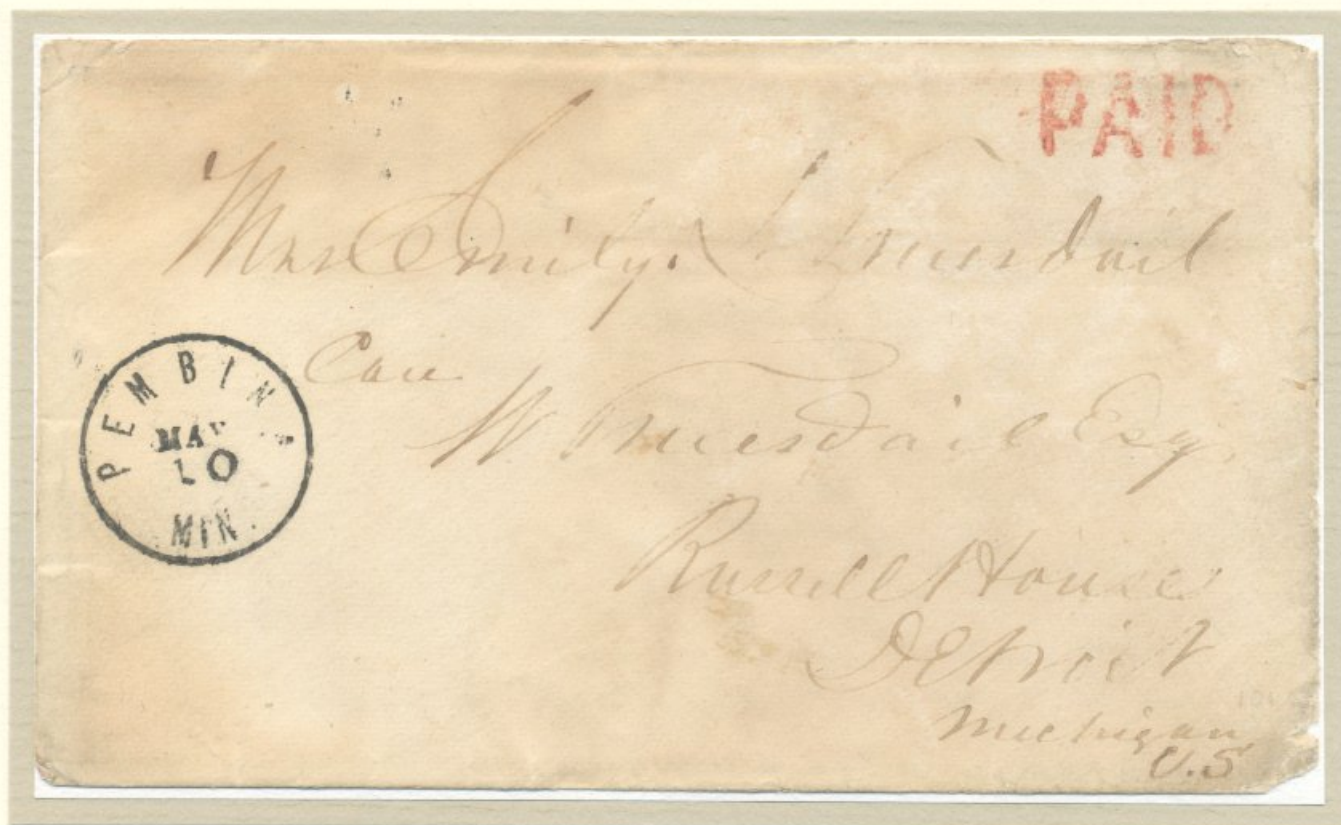
The Minnesota Territory



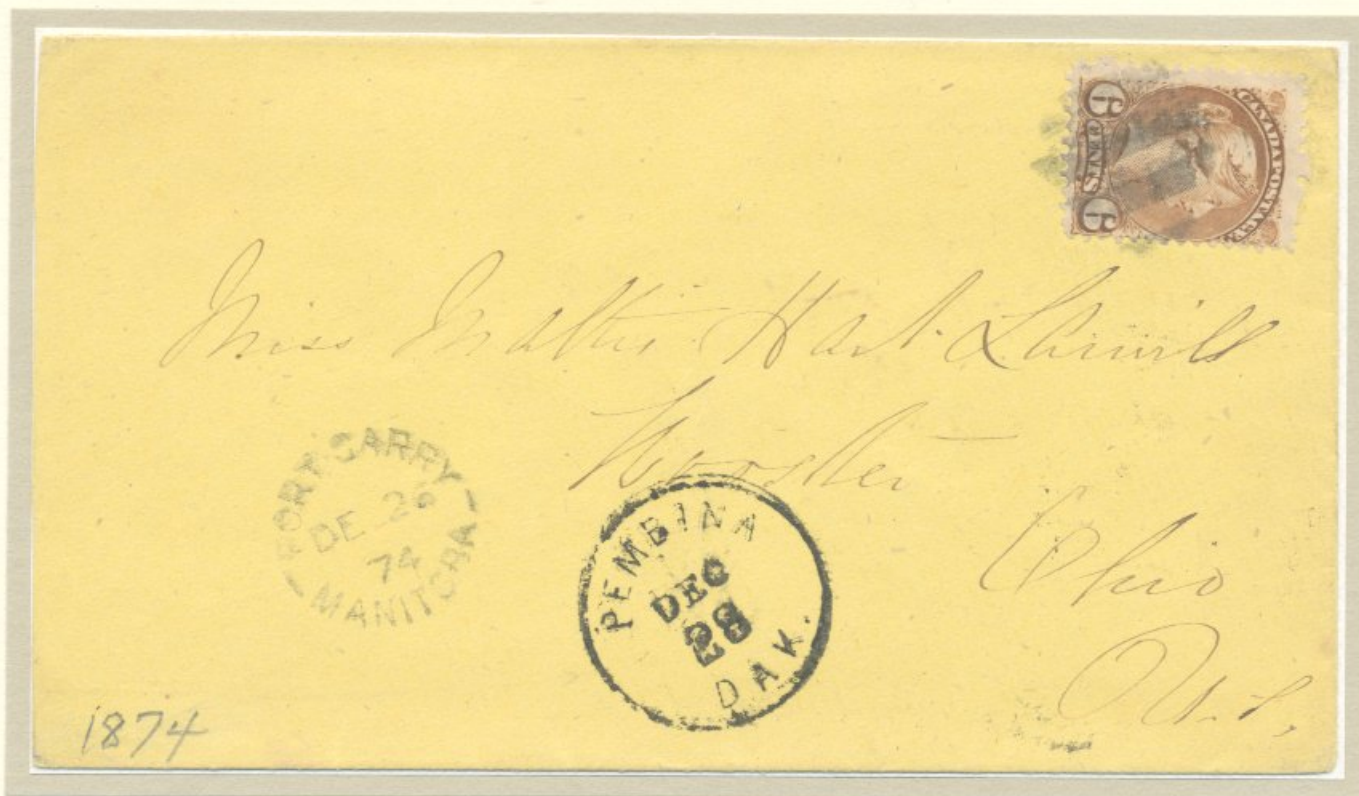
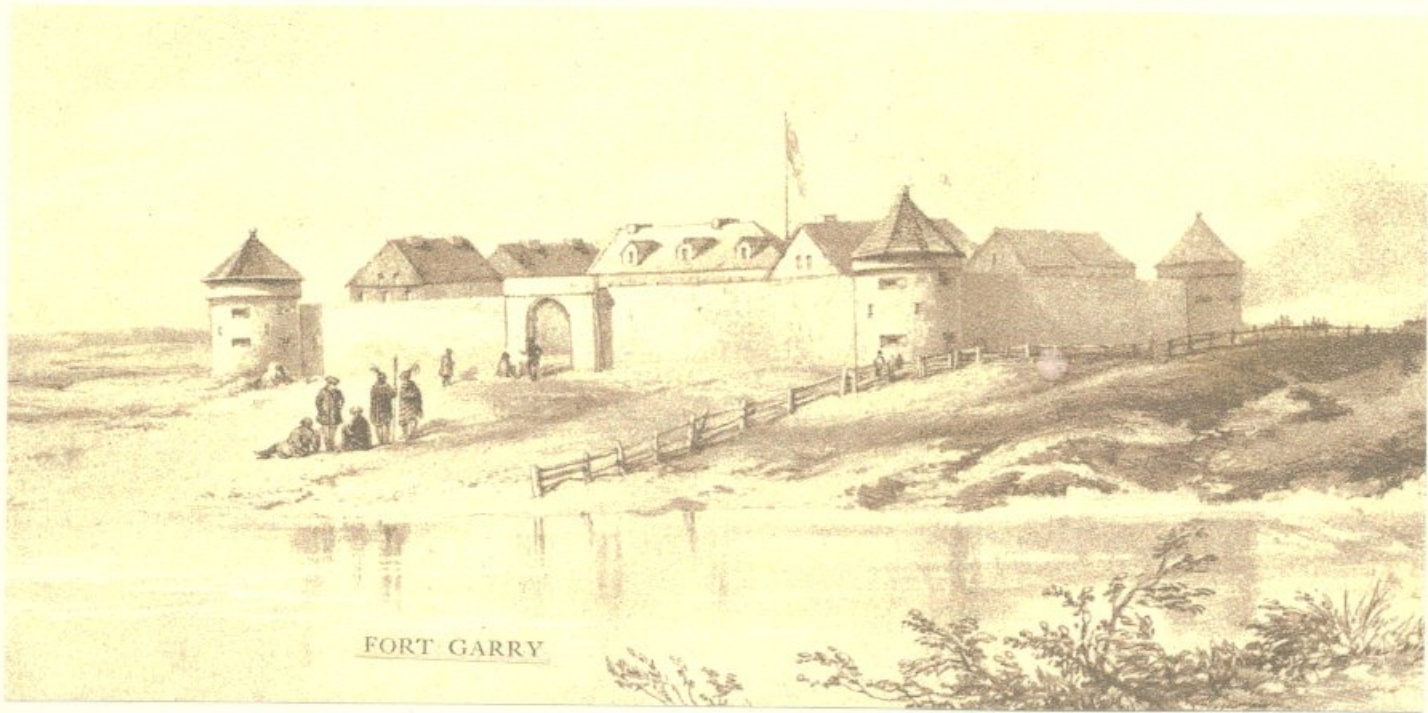
PEMBINA When the state of Minnesota was formed March 2, 1858, all of the territory between the Red and Missouri rivers reverted to an unorganized status until the formation of Dakota Territory on March 2, 1861. Sometime after Minnesota became a state the Pembina Postmaster used a handstamp which read PEMBINA MIN. This handstamp was used as late as 1862.

The cover shown above was used during this intermittent period while under the state of Minnesota - May 15, 1858.

Cover shown below bears the handstamp PEMBINA MIN. and is a late use of May 10, 1862. The red PAID was applied at the Red River Settlement and both covers originated from there.



THE WESTERN MAILS



FORT GARRY This is the Upper Fort Garry built by the Hudson's Bay Company on the Red River at the present site of the city of Winnipeg. Lower Fort Garry was about halfway between the upper fort and Lake Winnipeg on the Red River.

The Post Office was established here in 1870 until May 1, 1876 when it was changed to WINNIPEG.

Cover shown was used from Fort Garry Dec. 26, 1874 and entered the United States mails at Pembina, Dakota Territory on Dec. 28th.



**RED RIVER SETTLEMENT TO CANADA
VIA PEMBINA and U.S. MAILS**

1852, 3p Red on Wove (4; SG 18). Two singles, each with full to large margins all around, tied by partly clear "Pembina Min. Apr. 27" circular datestamp, second very clear strike on 1862 buff cover to Ottawa, forwarded to Almonte, blue framed "U.S. STATES/10" cross-border exchange office handstamp, possibly originating from Fort Garry, Manitoba, backstamped in transit at Prescott (May 17), Ottawa (May 19), Franktown (May 22 in red) and Almonte (May 22), straightline "FORWARDED" handstamp

EXTREMELY FINE AND ONE OF TWO RECORDED CANADIAN BEAVER FRANKINGS ON MAIL ORIGINATING IN THE RED RIVER SETTLEMENT AND POSTMARKED AT PEMBINA.

The Minnesota Territory



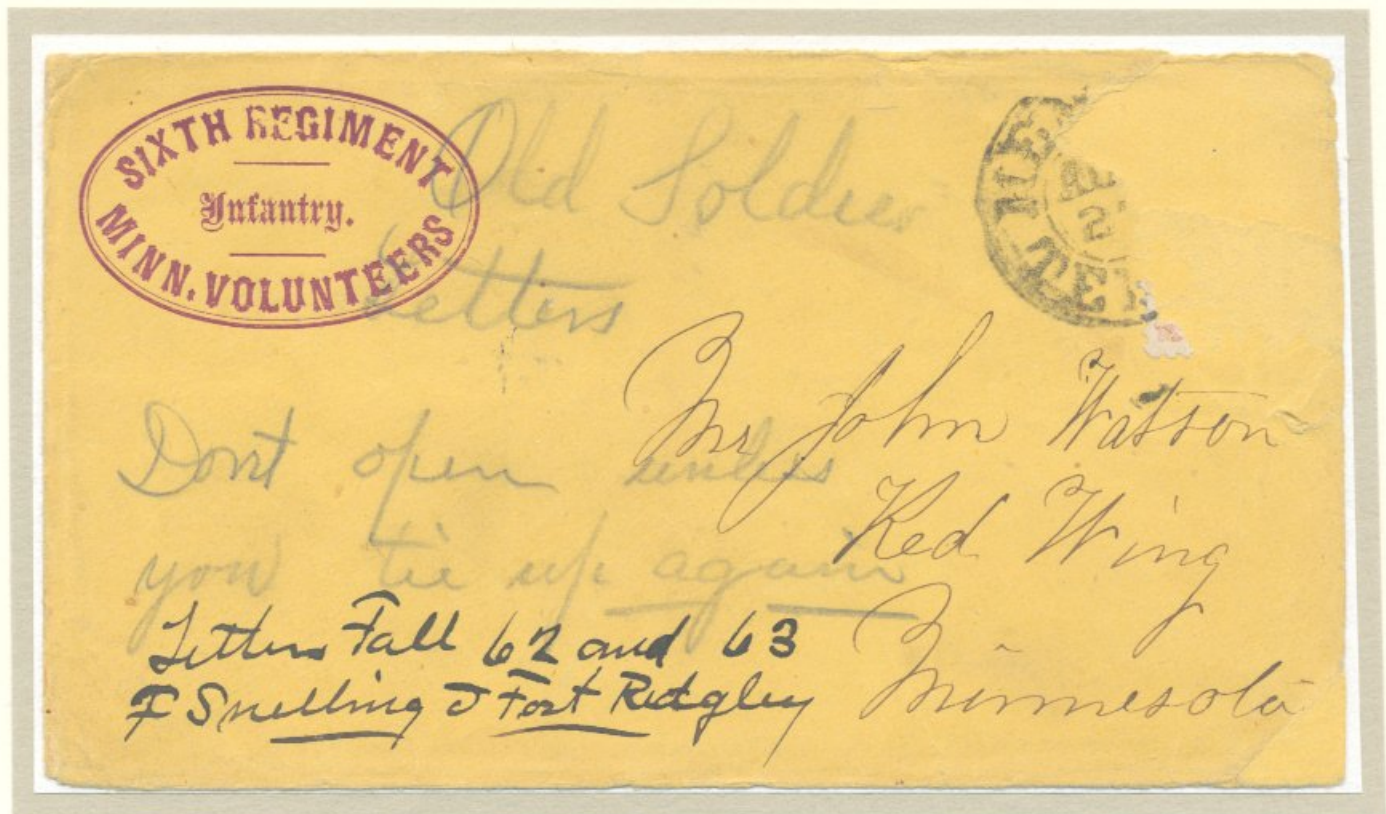
PEMBINA The two covers shown are examples of the use of printed routings on westbound and eastbound mail. This shows the preference to the Pembina/St. Paul route.

Cover shown below bears the Dakota Territorial postmark of Pembina - PEMBINA DAKOTA NOV 6 (1868). It is backstamped OTTAWA/NO 21/68/C.W.



A. Lincoln -
 HIS LIFE AND TIMES
 PATRIOTIC COVERS

1861-1865



PATRIOTISM ON THE CANADIAN FRONTIER

PEMBINA, MIN. MAY 10 [1863]. The two covers were addressed by Charles H. Watson to his relatives in Red Wing, Goodhue County, Minnesota. One from Pembina on the Canadian border and the other from Memphis, Tennessee, after his company was removed to the greater war in the south. There were five privates by the name of Watson in companies 6, 7 and 8th Minnesota Volunteers. However, Charles was from Goodhue County to where the covers are addressed. Also, on the corner card of the SIXTH REGIMENT there is a note that the letters (not present) between 1862 and 1863 are from Fort Snelling and Fort Ridgley in 1863. Charles served as a private from 1862 to 1865 in the 6th Minnesota Infantry. See Cady and Cheetham letters in this collection. The PEMBINA patriotic cover was "Paid 3" in cash and is the only recorded patriotic cover from that post office.

THE WESTERN MAILS



VIA PEMBINA NORTH AMERICA NEW ZEALAND TO RED RIVER SETTLEMENT

Cover originated at INVERCARGILL, SOUTHLAND, NEW ZEALAND May 26, 1869. It is prepaid by the 2 pence and 1 shilling stamps of N.Z. and routed via London and New York as per transit marks. Addressed to "John Inkster/Merchant Red River Settlement/United States via Pembina/North America." A rare usage from New Zealand. The red crayon "8" is the N.Z. share of the postage, and the handstamped "2 CENTS" in red is the U.S. charge across the line into Canada. Because of the transit time of about 80 days the cover was probably routed via Cape Horn. If it had gone via Suez & Marseille the time would have been at least 20 days less. The Panama route had been discontinued in 1868 and the San Francisco route was being negotiated in 1869. From New York the route would be via Chicago, St. Paul and Pembina.

Mourning cover used from LABUAN to WINNIPEG, on the Red River in CANADA, via LONDON & NEW YORK. Postmarked "LABUAN JY 18 1896" with arrival in LONDON "20 AU 96" and backstamped "WINNIPEG AU 31 96 CANADA". It was probably routed via Singapore, Indian Ocean & the Suez Canal to London. Thence to Montreal by steamer and on to Winnipeg over the CANADIAN PACIFIC R.R. which had been completed eleven years earlier - November 7, 1885.

