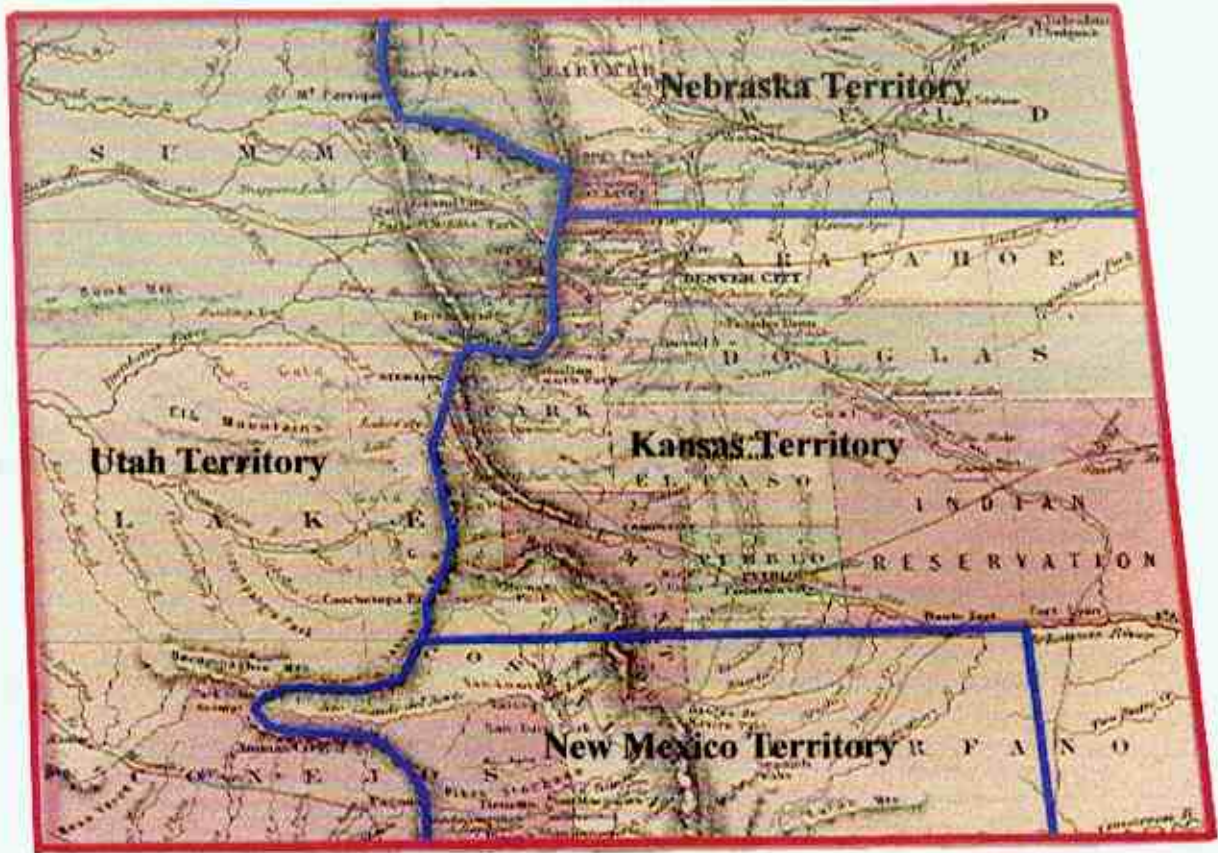


PUTTING TOGETHER COLORADO TERRITORY



Colorado became a state on August 1, 1876 with the same boundaries as Colorado Territory which had preceded it. Colorado Territory had in turn been formed on February 28, 1861 from portions of four different Territories (Kansas, Nebraska, Utah and New Mexico) as shown on the map above.

The purpose of this exhibit is to trace the development of mail handling services in Colorado from the earliest period, while still part of the Unorganized Territory, through the period of the Four Territories, and continuing through the early Colorado Territory period.

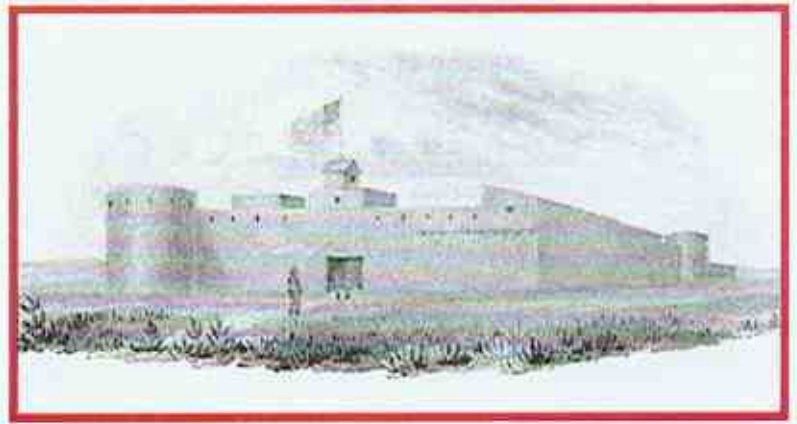
The privately owned express companies, being an integral part of the mail handling services during this period, are also shown. These companies almost invariably provided mail service prior to the establishment of post offices and the letting of mail carrying contracts.

This exhibit has been prepared with the non-philatelist in mind. Historical information is provided in blue and illustrations of relevant material has been included.

UNORGANIZED TERRITORY

Bent's Fort

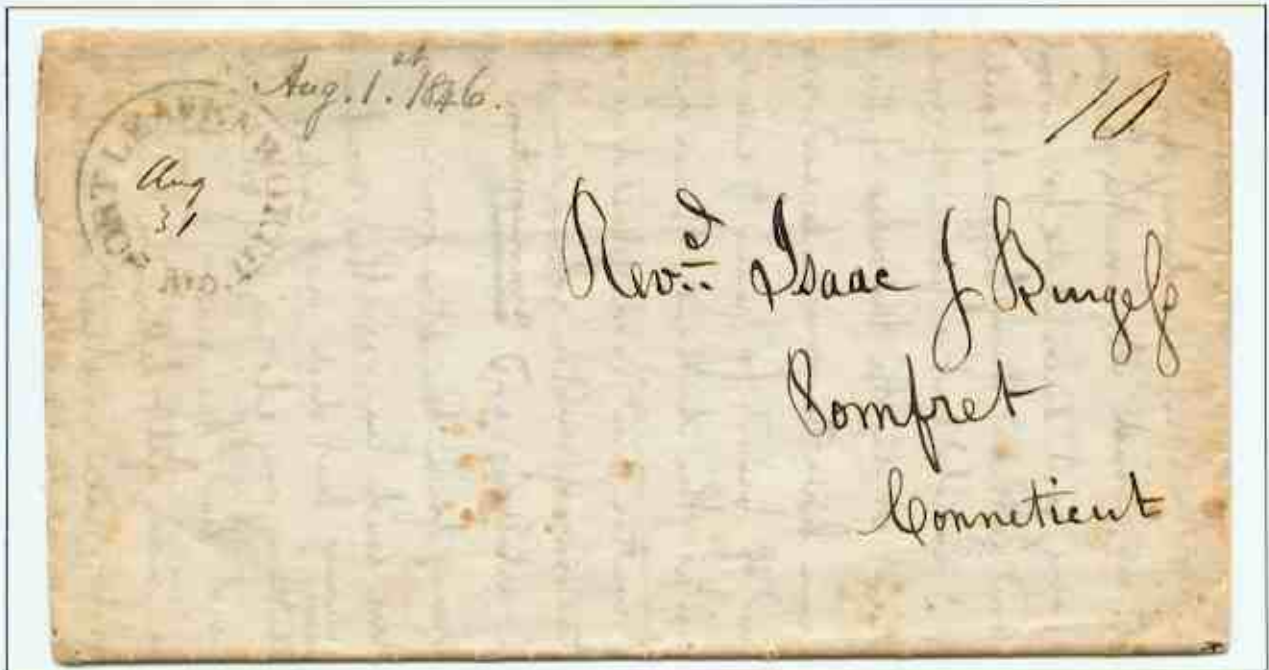
Bent's "Old" Fort was completed in 1833 by the four Bent brothers and their trading partner Ceran St. Vrain. It served as a trading post on the Sante Fe Trail and as the rendezvous point for Kearney's march on Sante Fe during the Mexican War. In 1852 William Bent destroyed the fortress which was replaced by the "New" Bent's Fort 30 miles to the east.



Bent's Fort in the 1840's

The Earliest Reported Usage From What Is Now Colorado

*In camp on the banks of the
Arkansas River five miles below Bent's Fort in the Indian
country August 1st 1846.*



1 August 1846 Bent's Fort, Unorganized Territory (Missouri Country) to Connecticut
by Military Express to Ft. Leavenworth, Missouri Country where in entered the mails on 31 August 1846

soldier's letter, from a member of the Doniphan and Kearney expedition on their way to Sante Fe, mentions: "It is very pleasant at the fort. It is on a rise about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile from the river and was built to keep off the Indians. In all there are three block houses with holes so that you can fire at any position. In fact about all the buildings have port holes in case of need."

NEBRASKA TERRITORY

Boulder

The first prospectors arrived in the area that is now Boulder late in 1858. The town they established was first called Boulder City but this was shortened to Boulder by the time the Post Office was established on April 22, 1859. This area was part of Nebraska Territory until the formation of Colorado Territory on February 28, 1861.



The mail stage in Boulder Canyon in the late 1860's.

One Of The Three Reported Examples From Colorado While Nebraska Territory



30 January 1861 Boulder, Nebraska Territory to Illinois

UTAH TERRITORY

Breckinridge

Prospectors crossed the mountains into the Breckinridge area in the summer of 1859 and soon built a fort and town. It was named for Vice President John C. Breckinridge. A Post Office was established on January 18, 1860 in what was then Utah Territory. The name was changed to Breckenridge when it's namesake supported the Confederate States in 1861.



Breckinridge in the 1860's

The Only Reported Cover With A Postmark From Colorado While Utah Territory



11 October 1860 Breckinridge, Utah Territory to New York

miner's letter mentions: *"I never want any of my friends to go to a Gold Country to get a fortune. The hardest, slowest most uncertain way of making cash that ever was known is in the Gold region."*

NEW MEXICO TERRITORY

Fort Garland

Fort Garland was established in June, 1858 just west of La Veta Pass. It was intended to protect nearby settlers from Utes and Jicarilla Apaches. Originally a part of New Mexico Territory it became a part of Colorado Territory in 1861. A Post Office was first established on February 25, 1862.



Fort Garland in the 1860's

Fewer Than Five Reported Examples From Colorado While New Mexico Territory



25 October 1860 Fort Garland, while New Mexico Territory, to Rhode Island
by Military Express to Fernando de Taos, New Mexico Territory

25 October 1860 entered the mails at Fernando de Taos for carriage to Rhode Island

KANSAS TERRITORY

Montana City

Two main groups of gold-seekers came to Colorado in the summer of 1858. The "Russell" group from Georgia founded Auraria while the "Lawrence" group from Lawrence, Kansas laid out Montana City near where present West Evans Avenue crosses the Platte River in Denver. The "City" was abandoned by the winter and the group laid out the St. Charles townsite on the East bank of Cherry Creek. This letter was sent by a member of the Lawrence group.



Pike's Peaker in full regalia. The first illustration to appear in the *Rocky Mountain News*.

The Earliest Reported Cover From The Colorado Gold Region



30 November 1858 Montana, Cherry Creek Gold Mines, **Kansas Territory** to Michigan carried privately to Fort Kearney, Nebraska Territory where it entered the mails a month later

miner's letter mentions: *"Here I am in the Gold Mines (so called) & I guess it is properly named, for I have seen the gold ... There is quite a rush here to the mines, as there are within a few miles of this place & in this place over 500 persons. There were only about 30 or 40 when we arrived."*

KANSAS TERRITORY

Cherry Creek

Cherry Creek was a location rather than a specific settlement. It referred to the area encompassed by the Denver City and Auraria town sites.



Letter and envelope from E.P. (Pinkie) Stout. Stout had arrived in Denver on October 26, 1858. He was one of the original stockholders in Auraria Town Company and the first President of the Denver City Town Company. A street in downtown Denver was named for him in 1859. The location of his home until 1861 is highlighted on map above.



26 February 1859 Cherry Creek, **Kansas Territory** to Cherry Fork, Ohio
carried privately to Council Bluffs, Iowa where it entered the mails more than a month later

Original letter of E.P. (Pinkie) Stout mentions: "Miners are making from 3 to 10 dol per day and speculators like myself are making two or three times that amount..."

The emigration is coming in continually and our town is building almost like a San Francisco. It already contains one church building, one theater, an opera or ball room, any amount of liquor and gambling saloons and one or two HHs (whore houses) or assignation houses which are to be supplied from Mexico and St. Louis and Cincin(nati).

Enclosed please find a specimen of (gold) dust which I give to sweet little Cora and tell her Pinkie sent it. There is about enough to make her a ring - just one dol worth I took from a few pans of dirt a few days ago while trying my hand washing."

KANSAS TERRITORY

Coraville

Coraville was never a town or locale, it was simply the name of a Post Office. It was established on March 22, 1859 and began to function in June. The office was located in the Leavenworth & Pike's Peak Express Company office on Blake Street in Denver City. However, no mails could be sent until a mail carrying contract was in place. The contract for mails between Salt Lake City and Leavenworth City did not include Coraville. In error, three mails were dispatched from Coraville as contract mails before the Express agent realized that they were not being paid for the service.



Planter's Hotel on Blake Street in the 1860's

The Only Reported Example With Error Of Spelling



17 June 1859 Coraville, **Kansas Territory** to Pennsylvania
error of spelling, final "E" of postmark missing, "Paid 3" rate handstamp

KANSAS TERRITORY

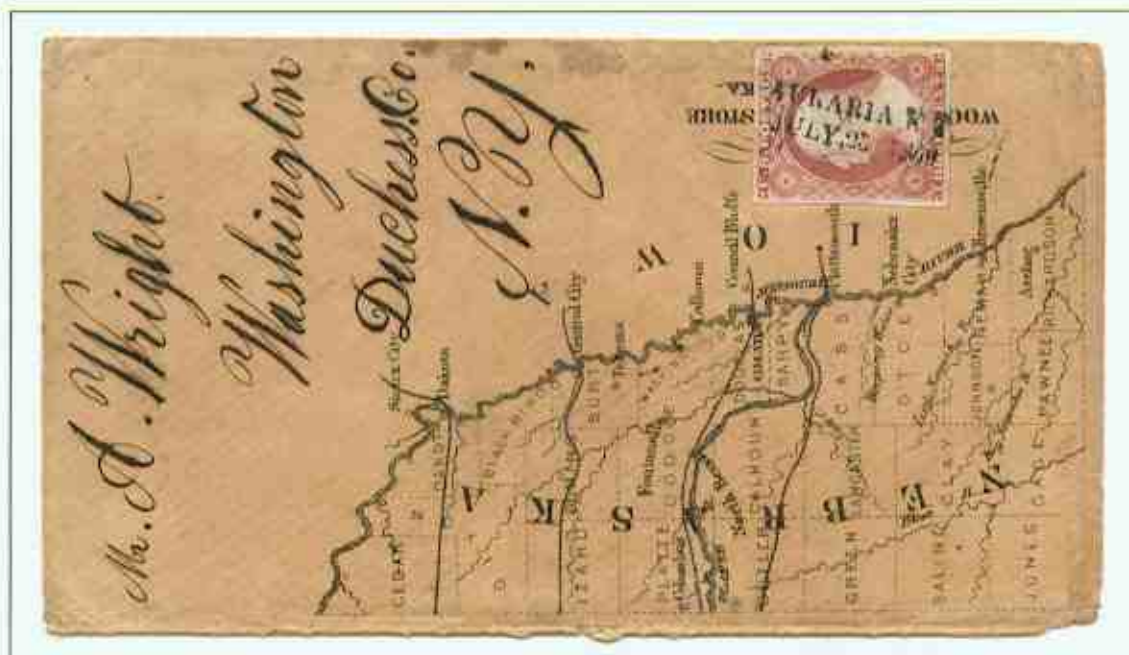
Auraria

Auraria was founded by the "Russell" party from Georgia in the fall of 1858 on the west bank of Cherry Creek opposite what was then the St. Charles townsite. A post office was established on January 18, 1859 although the first contract mails did not begin until July 11, 1859. Contract mails were carried by the United States Express Company until they failed after their August 26, 1859 trip. Auraria was unified with Denver City on April 5, 1860.



Auraria is to the left of Cherry Creek and Denver City is to the right in this view looking towards the Platte River in 1859.

The Earliest Reported Example Of This Postmark



25 July 1859 Auraria, Kansas Territory to New York

KANSAS TERRITORY

Denver City

Denver City was founded in November, 1858 on the St. Charles townsite on the east bank of Cherry Creek across from Auraria. General Larimer and his followers "jumped" the site that had been founded by the "Lawrence" group the previous summer. On April 5, 1860 the two communities of Auraria and Denver City were unified as Denver City.



The Denver City post office on Larimer Street in the fall of 1860



20 September 1860
Denver City,
Kansas Territory to
Missouri

first day contract
mails (carried by
Western Stage
Company)

11 February 1861
Denver City, **Kansas**
to Virginia

used during brief
period after Kansas
Statehood (Jan. 31)
and before Colorado
Territory formed on
February 28, 1861



COLORADO TERRITORY

Denver City

Denver City was threatened in late 1863 and early 1864 by Indian depredations along the stage routes that connected Denver with the East. A Peace council, shown at right, was attempted in September, 1864 without any tangible results. The perceived Indian threat was ended when Colonel Chivington massacred the Black Kettle band of Cheyennes in November, 1864 at Sand Creek.



The Camp Weld council held September, 1864
Whitely believed to be man standing second from left.
Black Kettle is seated at far left.

Envelope is from Simeon Whitely (see recipient docket at right) who was the United States Indian Agent who came to Colorado Territory to resolve the Indian troubles.



16 February 1864 Denver City, Colorado Territory to England
New York transit, 24c rate prepaid with 24c 1861 issue stamp
forwarded from Rochdale with boxed **Redirected-Postage Unpaid** handstamp and 1p due
15 March 1864 Midhurst arrival backstamp

COLORADO TERRITORY

Breckenridge

The post office name was changed from Breckenridge to Breckenridge in early 1861 when its namesake, John Breckenridge, supported the Confederacy after losing the election to Lincoln



View of Breckenridge in 1864.



1 May 1861 Breckenridge to Hazardville, Connecticut
manuscript postmark with name correctly spelled

COLORADO TERRITORY

Breckenridge

The name change from Breckinridge to Breckenridge in early 1861 caused some problems for the Post Office Department as this pair of covers shows. Evidently a postmarking device had been ordered prior to the name change and when it arrived it had two errors of spelling. This device was altered by removing the extra "B" but still had the the "T" instead of the correct "E".



12 October 1861 Breckenridge to Hazardville, Connecticut
error postmarking device which was lettered Breckinbridge

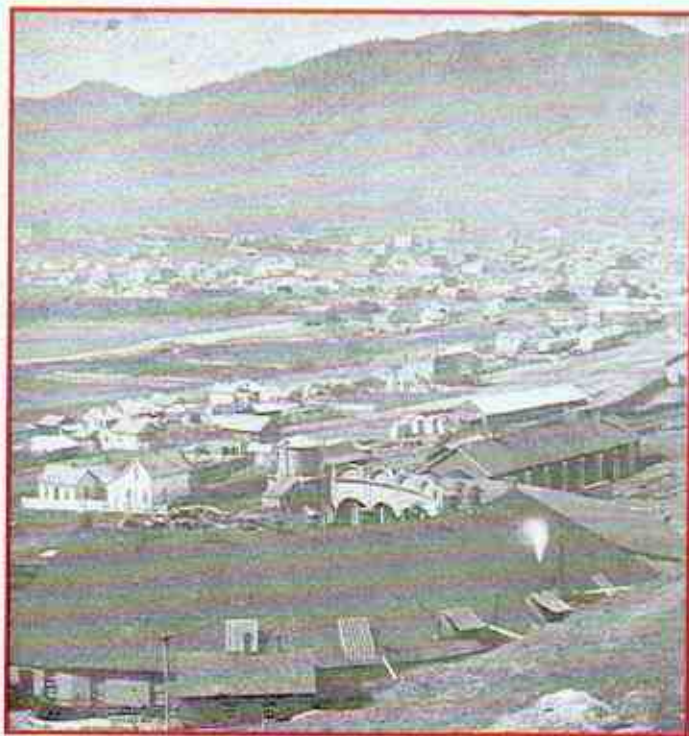


27 February (1862) Breckenridge to Hazardville, Connecticut
error postmarking device which was lettered Breckin Ridge (as above but second "B" removed)

COLORADO TERRITORY

Golden City

Golden City, the present day Golden, was the capital of Colorado Territory from 1862 until 1867. The post office was established on April 6, 1860 and the name changed to Golden in 1876. The town was named for Tom Golden who first camped at the site in 1858.



The Colorado Central Railway's Roundhouse in Golden City.



26 July (1865) Golden City to Vergennes, Vermont

COLORADO TERRITORY

Black Hawk Point

Black Hawk Point was a mining and milling center that grew up at the point of the original Gregory Diggings in Gilpin County. A Post Office was established on December 6, 1862 and the name was shortened to Black Hawk in 1871.



View of Black Hawk Point in 1864.



20 September 1865 Black Hawk Point to Altenburg, Germany

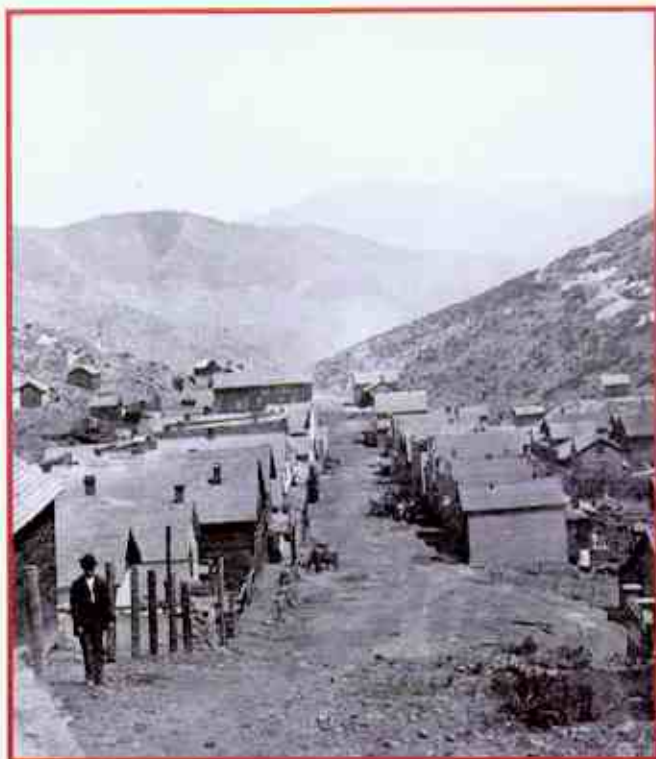
New York and Hamburg transits, correct 15c rate via German Mails paid with 5c 1861 issue

20 October 1865 arrival backstamp

COLORADO TERRITORY

Nevada

Nevada, also known as Nevadaville and Nevada City, was located in the gulch above Central City and was an important early mining camp. It was named for the Nevada City gold camp in California. A Post Office was established as Nevada on January 12, 1861 and the name was changed to Bald Mountain on December 16, 1869.



Nevada in 1865.



12 June 1868 Nevada, Colorado Territory to England

Liverpool transit, 12c rate prepaid with 10c 1861 issue and 2c 1863 issue stamps

2 July 1868 arrival backstamp

COLORADO TERRITORY

Mountain City

Mountain City was located in the gulch above Black Hawk Point and was an important early mining camp. A Post Office was established on January 17, 1860 while still Kansas Territory. The office was moved and the name changed to Central City on October 8, 1869.



Mountain City in the early 1860's



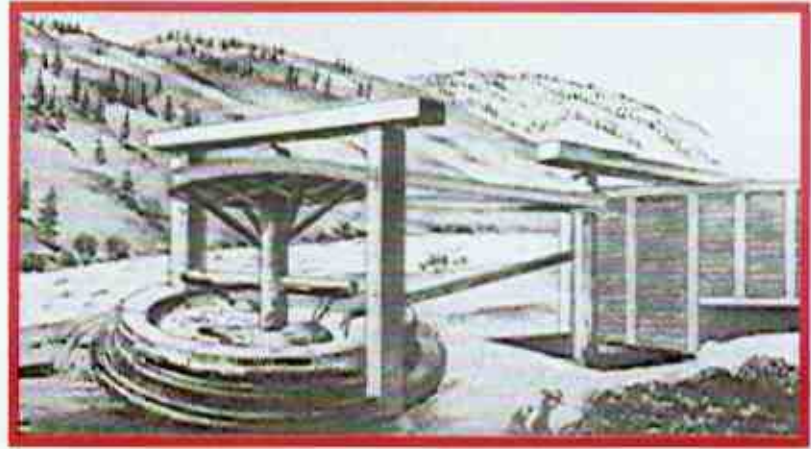
3 March 1862 Mountain City to Montreal, Canada

10c rate paid with strip of three 3c and single 1c 1861 issue
US Paid 10 exchange handstamp of Detroit, arrival backstamp

COLORADO TERRITORY

Spanish Bar

Spanish Bar was located just west of Idaho Springs and was named for the Mexican workers who worked the gold filled "bar" in Clear Creek. Nearly 30 arastras were used along Clear Creek to mill the ore in the earliest period. A Post Office was established at Spanish Bar on December 30, 1860 while still Kansas Territory. The office was moved and the name changed to Fall River on July 9, 1885.



Water powered arastra on Clear Creek in the early 1860's.



30 September 1862 Spanish Bar to St. George, Maine

COLORADO TERRITORY

Empire City

Empire City was founded as a mining and transportation town in upper Clear Creek County. The Post Office was established on June 28, 1861. The name was shortened to Empire on May 7, 1866. The city survived even though the narrow gauge railway bypassed the town.



Union troops drilling at Empire City during 1861 or 1862.

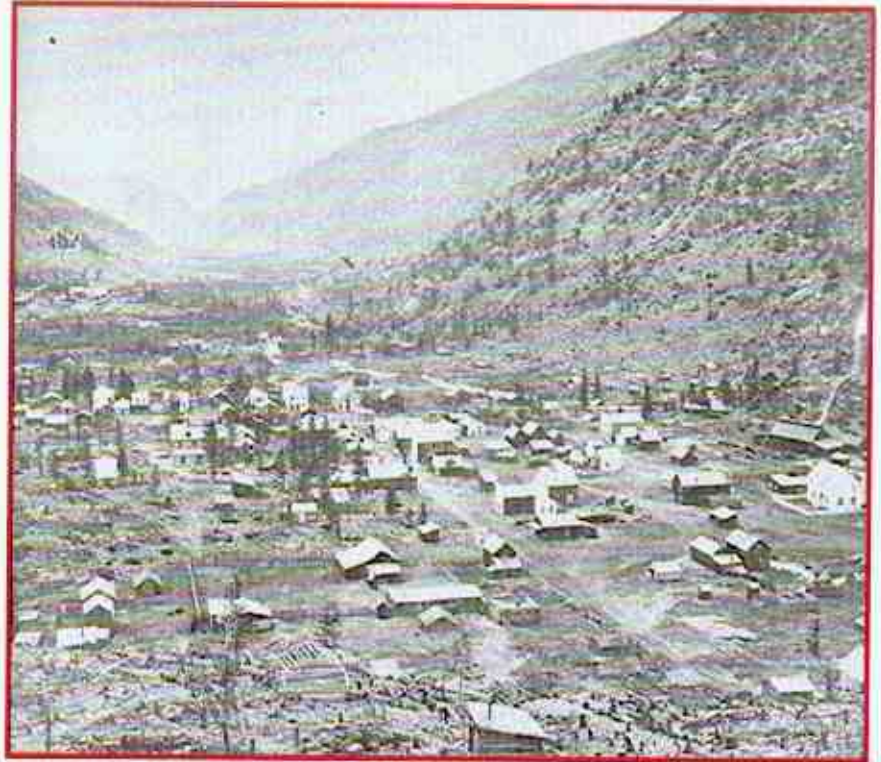


24 August 1863 Empire City to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

COLORADO TERRITORY

Georgetown

Georgetown was one of the later mining camps to develop in Clear Creek County. There was little gold in the area and it wasn't until rich silver strikes were made that the town prospered. The Post Office was established on June 19, 1866.



View of Georgetown in 1867.



5 December 1866 Georgetown to Weathersfield Centre, Vermont

COLORADO TERRITORY

Gold Dirt

Gold Dirt Ore Co. by ap. 1st 1863

LETTERS from ~~Mountain City, Tenn.~~ 1863
To *Empire City Ore, Co.*

Dates	Unpaid			PAID HERE						Post.				
				By Stamps			In Money							
				Cents	Dts.	Grats.	No.	Dolls.	Cents		No.	Dolls.	Cents	No.
				1			3							
<i>1 Missent</i>														
<i>T. W. Sterling Post Master Assist.</i>														
1863 P. M.														

Gold Dirt was a small mining camp on the Boulder County / Gilpin County line that thrived in the early 1860s. A Post Office was established on August 13, 1861 and was discontinued on October 11, 1867.

1 April 1863 P.O. letter-routing slip for missent letter from Gold Dirt to Empire City signed by T.W. Sterling as Post Master Assistant

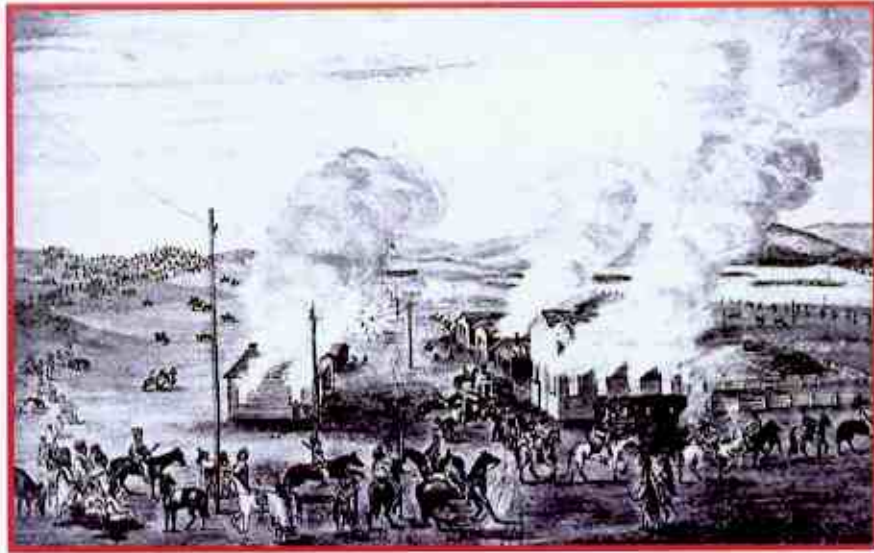


26 July 1865 Gold Dirt to Mount Holly, New Jersey

COLORADO TERRITORY

Julesburgh

Julesburgh began as a staging stop in northeastern Colorado. The stage lines from Denver City connected there to the main trans-continental arteries. The post office was established and discontinued three times between 1860 and 1868. In the winter of 1864/1865 Indian attacks on the stage stations resulted in six weeks without mail connections. After a military contingent was sent to the area in February, 1865, communications were re-established.



Indian attack at Julesburgh.

Provisional "JUL" Postmark Possibly Applied At Camp Rankin (Fort Sedgwick)



25 January 1865 Julesburgh to Marion, Connecticut

9 April 1865 Omaha, Nebraska transit reflecting a long delay in mail transport
delayed mail such as this was postmarked in transit to show where the delay occurred

COLORADO TERRITORY

Julesburgh

The Julesburgh post office was originally established on May 29, 1860 and discontinued September 10, 1862. It was established a second time on January 20, 1864 and discontinued May 3, 1866 only to be established a third time on August 2, 1866 and discontinued on August 21, 1868. Due to frequent Indian attacks that occurred during periods that the post office was operating, it appears that mail must frequently have been handled at Camp Rankin (designated Fort Sedgwick in September, 1865) which was located a very short distance away.



The stage station at Julesburgh.



19 June 1865 Julesburgh to Cape Girardeau, Missouri
manuscript "Due 6c" for penalty due on single unpaid rate

COLORADO TERRITORY

Fort Garland



19 September 1862 Fort Garland, Colorado Territory to New Middleton, Illinois

LETTERS from *Fort Garland June 1 1863*
 To *Empire City Co. T.C.*

Rates.	Unpaid.			PAID HERE						Free.	
	Cents	No.	Dolls.	By Stamps.			In Money.				
Cents				No.	Dolls.	Cents	No.	Dolls.	Cents	No.	
<i>3</i>				<i>1</i>			<i>3</i>				

Jno. M. Francisco

P. M.



La Veta Pass, just east of Fort Garland, was first traversed by the Denver & Rio Grande Railway in 1877.

1 June 1863 P.O. letter-routing slip from Fort Garland to Empire City signed by Jno. M. Francisco as Post Master

COLORADO TERRITORY

Fort Wise / Fort Lyon



Fort Wise was founded as a military fort on August 29, 1860 near the present day town of La Junta. The Post Office was established on September 5, 1860 and discontinued on August 2, 1862 when name was changed to Fort Lyon.

15 September 1861 Fort Wise, Colorado Territory to North Bloomfield, Ohio

The Earlier Of The Two Reported Examples Of This Postmark


original letter dated "Camp on the Cimeron River" from an officer's wife mentions the route up from Fort Union.

24 April 1863 P.O.
letter-routing slip
from Fort Lyon to
Empire City
handstamp of E.C.
Gould as Postmaster

LETTERS from _____ 186

To *Empire City*

Rates	Unpaid		PAID HERE				Fees	
			By Stamp		In Money			
Cents	No.	Dolls.	Cents	No.	Dolls.	Cents	No.	Dolls.
3				1		3		



E.C. GOULD P.M. P.M.

COLORADO TERRITORY

Boonville

Boonville was established near Pueblo in 1860 and served as a stage station on the Santa Fe Trail. The town was named for Col. Albert G. Boone, grandson of Daniel Boone, and noted frontiersman in his own right. A Post Office was established on January 2, 1863 with Albert Boone serving as Postmaster. The name was shortened to Boone on December 5, 1891.



A Stage Station on the Santa Fe Trail.

LETTERS from Boonville, Col. Ter. 1863

To *Empire City & T*

Rates	By Mail			PAID HERE						Free
				By Stamps			In Money			
Cents	No.	Dolls.	Cents	No.	Dolls.	Cents	No.	Dolls.	Cents	No.
3				1		3				

BOONEVILLE COLO. APR 18 1863

Albert G. Boone, P. M.

18 April 1863 P.O. letter-routing slip from Boonville to Empire City signed in type by Albert G. Boone as Postmaster note error of spelling of Booneville in postmark

This Boonville Postmark Is Unreported On Cover

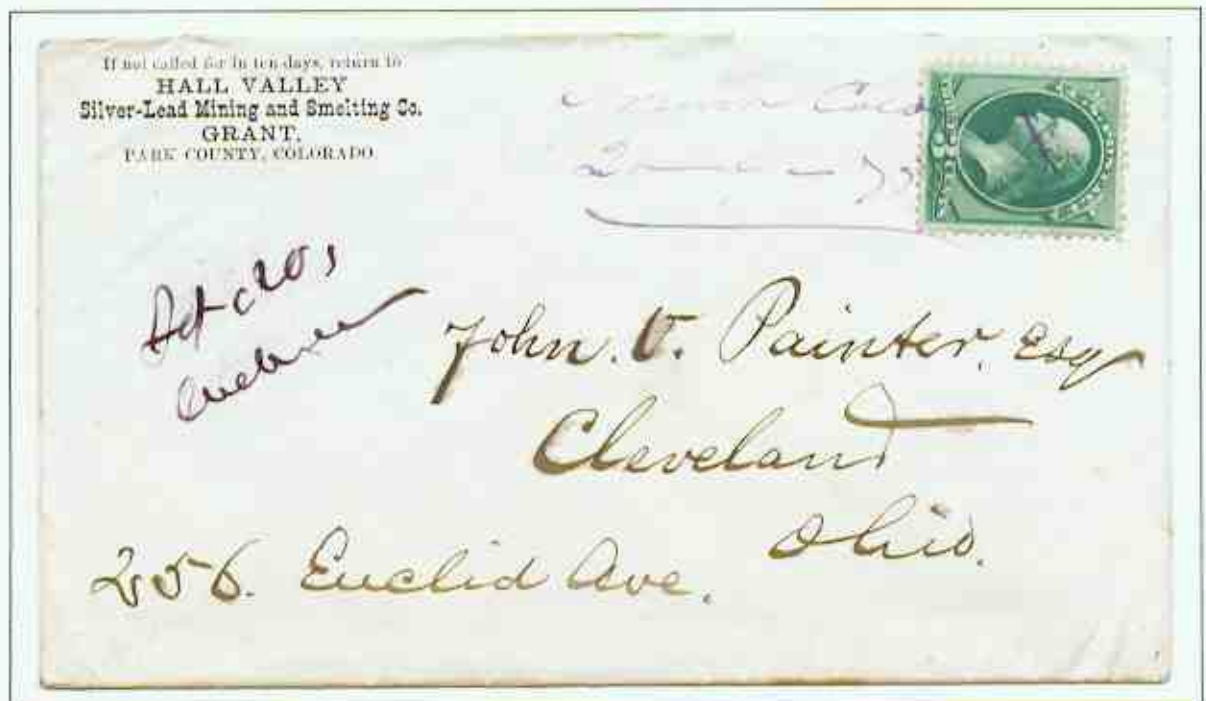
COLORADO TERRITORY

Grant

Grant is located in Park County. A post office was first established there on May 16, 1871. It served as a supply camp for many of the early mining areas nearby. Hall Valley was located just west of Grant and was a particularly rich area. The cover below is from a prominent mining operation in the area.



Hall Valley ca. 1875



21 September 1875 Grant, Colorado Territory to Cleveland, Ohio
advertising corner card of Hall Valley Silver-Lead Mining and Smelting Co.

COLORADO TERRITORY

Del Norte

Del Norte served as a supply point and gateway to the San Juans and was never a mining town. A post office was established on January 28, 1873. Del Norte became a major transportation center after the arrival of the railroad.



Del Norte in 1875.

The Only Reported Usage From Colorado Territory To Japan

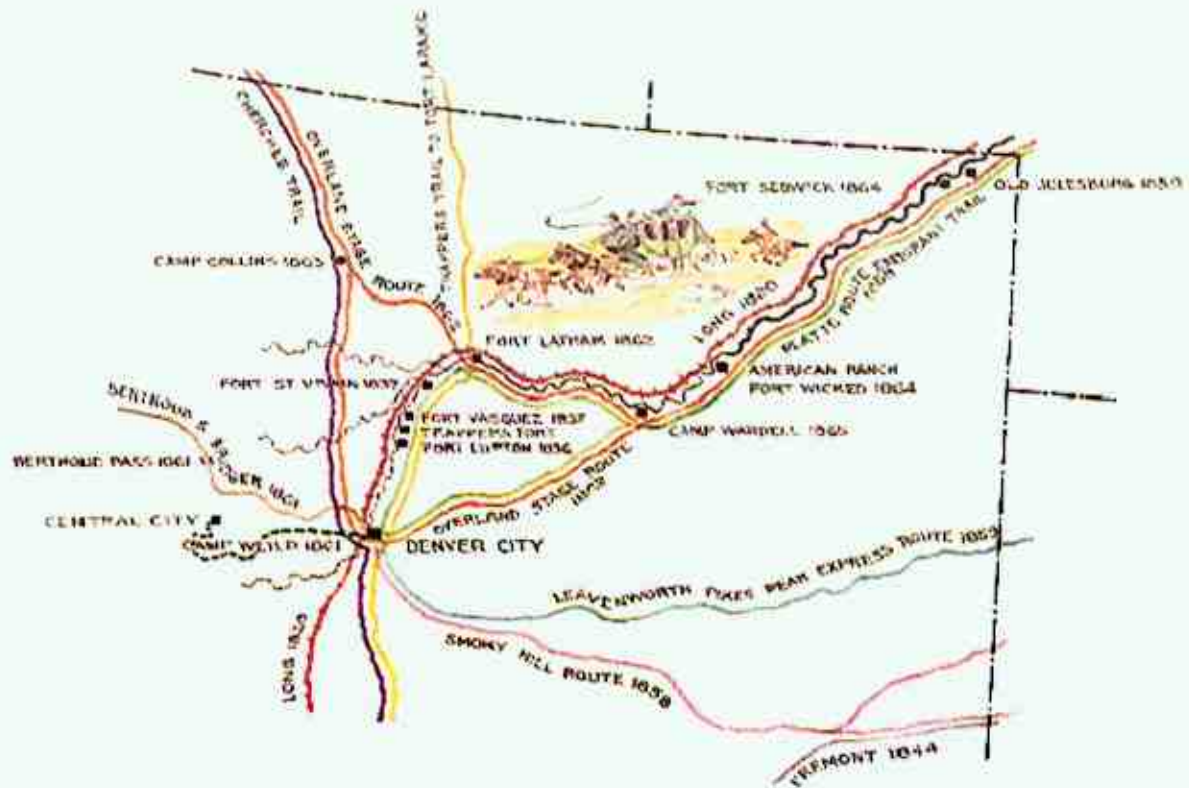


1 September 1875 Del Norte, Colorado Territory to Yokohama, Japan

30c rate paid with 24c and 3c 1870 issue and 3c postal entire

11 October 1875 Yokohama arrival backstamp

COLORADO EXPRESSES



An understanding of the earliest post offices and mails of the Colorado gold regions is dependent on an understanding of the stage coach companies. The earliest mails were carried on foot up the "Trapper's Trail" to Fort Laramie. The stage coach era began when the first Leavenworth & Pike's Peak Express Company coach rolled into Denver on May 7, 1859. The following is an outline of the most important developments:

- 1. Leavenworth & Pike's Peak Express Company** - Carried mails over the Republican River route between Denver City and Leavenworth City between May 7, 1859 to June 7, 1859. Route changed to Platte Valley and continued until handstamp replaced by Jones & Russells on July 19, 1859.
- 2. Jones & Russells Pike's Peak Express Company** handstamp introduced supplanting Leavenworth & Pike's Peak Express handstamp. Continued express service until taken over by C.O.C.&P.P. Express in February, 1860.
- 3. Central Overland California & Pike's Peak Express Company** operated from February, 1860 until it was sold to Ben Holladay in March, 1862.
- 4. Hinckley's Express** was founded in 1860 and operated between the mining regions west of Denver to Denver and then on to Omaha City, Nebraska. The company was purchased by C.O.C.& P.P. on May, 1861
- 5. Well's Fargo & Company** did not operate in Colorado until 1866 and only continued until 1869.

EXPRESS USAGES

Leavenworth City & Pike's Peak Express Co.

The Leavenworth City & Pike's Peak Express Company was formed in February, 1859 by William Russell and John Jones. The express operated between Denver City and Leavenworth City, Kansas Territory with the inaugural trip arriving in Denver on May 7, 1859. From that date until July 9, 1859 mail was carried as express matter over the Republican River route. From June 8 to June 25, 1859 mail was carried over the Platte Valley route as government mail matter in error (during the period of the Coraville markings), and from June 26, 1859 until July 19, 1859 mails were again carried as express matter on the Platte Valley route. When Amos Streck arrived at Denver City on that date he brought with him the "Jones & Russells Pike's Peak Express Company" handstamp that began being used. On May 28, 1859 the express moved their offices from Larimer Street to Blake Street.



Larimer Street, Denver in 1859.



14 May 1859 Fincastle, Ohio to Denver City, **Kansas Territory**
by government mails to Leavenworth City, **Kansas Territory** where it was turned over to the express
27 May Leav'n City & Pike's Peak Express Co. datestamp

One Of Four Reported Inbound Covers Carried On Republican River Route

EXPRESS USAGES

Jones & Russell's Pike's Peak Express

Jones & Russell's Express was formed by William Russell and John Jones in May 1859. The express operated between the mining towns, via Denver City, to Leavenworth City, Kansas Territory. The Company assets were taken over by Russell, Majors and Wadell when the C.O.C.&P.P. Express Company was formed in October, 1859.



17 July 1859 Gregory Diggings (Gilpin County), **Kansas Territory** to Charlotte Centre, New York

29 July 1859 Jones & Russell's Pike's Peak Express, Denver City datestamp, express charges prepaid in cash

8 August 1859 entered the U.S. mails at Leavenworth City, **Kansas Territory**



9 December 1859 Denver City, **Kansas Territory** to Leavenworth City, **Kansas Territory**

Jones & Russell's Pike's Peak Express handstamp and **Free R.B.B.** endorsement of R. Bradford their Denver agent addressed to W.B. Wadell one of the owners of the express, carried entirely out of the U.S. mails

EXPRESS USAGES

The Central Overland California & Pike's Peak Express Company

The C.O.C. & P.P. Express was formed by Russell, Majors and Wadell in February, 1860. The express operated between the mining towns, via Denver City, to Leavenworth City, Kansas Territory or to Saint Joseph, Missouri. It was sold to Ben Holladay in March, 1862.



19 June 1860 Blue River Diggings, **Utah Territory** (near Breckenridge) to Fort Dodge, Iowa
28 June C.O.C. & P.P. Express, **Denver City K.T.** datestamp, express charges prepaid in cash
5 July 1860 entered the U.S. mails at Saint Joseph, Missouri



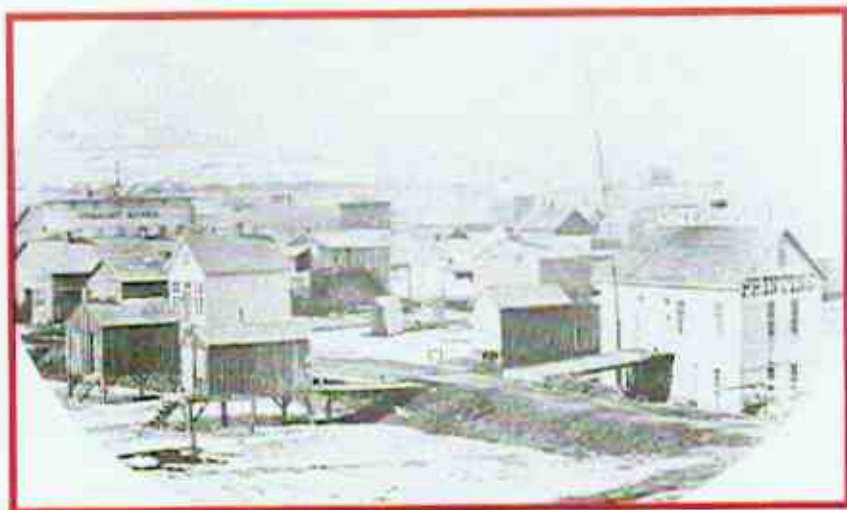
markings on verso

25 June 1860 Leavenworth City, **Kansas Territory** inbound to Hamilton, Kansas Territory (Park County)
25 June C.O.C. & P.P. Express, **Leavenworth City K.T.** datestamp, one of three reported manuscript "Pd G" and "Collect 10 cts" for delivery charge from Denver City to Hamilton

EXPRESS USAGES

The Central Overland California & Pike's Peak Express Company

Jefferson Territory was formed by a group of citizens of the Colorado gold regions in 1859. Without any official sanction, the self proclaimed Jefferson Territory had no status as far as the United States Government was concerned. It dissolved with the formation of Colorado Territory in 1861.



The first home of the Rocky Mountain News before being washed away in the flood of 1864.



5 April 1860 Denver, **Jefferson (Territory)** to Leavenworth, Kansas
corner card of William N. Byers and his *Rocky Mountain News*
carried by the C.O.C. & P.P. Express free of charge as Byers had arranged news letters to go free
the 3c stamp was required to satisfy U.S. postal regulations for privately carried mail.

EXPRESS USAGES

The Central Overland California & Pike's Peak Express Company



24 November 1860 C.O.C. & P.P. Express Denver City K.T. datestamp and magenta label used to New York

30 November 1860 C.O.C. & P.P. Express, St. Joseph, Missouri datestamp for express arrival

1 December 1860 entered the U.S. mails at Saint Joseph, Missouri

Fewer Than Five Reported Examples Of This Label In Magenta

EXPRESS USAGES

Hinckley & Co's. Express

Hinckley & Co's. Express was founded in 1860 by C.S. Hinckley and John Sowers. The express operated between the mining towns, via Denver City and Fort Kearney, to Omaha City, Nebraska Territory. The Company was purchased by the Central Overland, California & Pike's Peak Express Company on May 11, 1861.



24 December 1860 Denver City, **Kansas Territory** to Fort Atkinson, Iowa

Hinckley & Cos. Express franked envelope, 1 January 1861 entered the U.S. mails at Omaha, **Nebraska Territory**



17 March 1861 Georgia Gulch (below present day Leadville) to Fort Dodge, Iowa

25 March 1861 Denver City, **Colorado Territory** to Fort Dodge, Iowa

Hinckley & Cos. Express franked envelope, 30 March 1861 entered the U.S. mails at Omaha, **Nebraska Territory**

EXPRESS USAGES

Hinckley & Co's. Express

The Central Overland California & Pike's Peak Express Company



map of the gold region illustrated cover

June 1860 from the mines by **Hinckley & Co.'s Express** to Denver City

14 June 1860 **C.O.C. & P.P. Express, Denver City K.T.** datestamp, express charges prepaid in cash

24 June 1860 entered the U.S. mails at Saint Joseph, Missouri for delivery to Ohio

Conjunctive Usage Of Two Different Expresses

EXPRESS USAGES

Wells, Fargo & Co.

The Wells, Fargo & Co. operations in Colorado Territory were not nearly as extensive, or profitable, as their operations in most of the other areas of the West. In fact, Wells, Fargo & Co. stage coaches only operated in Colorado from late in 1866 until 1869. They operated during this time frame on two major divisions. A line from the Denver office at the corner of F and Holladay Streets along various overland routes to Wyoming or Kansas as well as a Mountain division that operated from Denver to Georgetown, via Black Hawk.



Wells, Fargo & Co. Denver office in 1868



12 January 1868 Denver City, Colorado Territory to Central City
carried entirely outside of the United States mails by Wells, Fargo & Co.

Fewer Than Five Reported Examples

EXPRESS

Rocky Mountain Transportation Company

The Rocky Mountain Transportation Company operated mule teams across Ute pass between Leadville and Colorado Springs in the 1870's. The pass was designated as one way downhill in the afternoons to accommodate the traffic and at one time the Rocky Mountain Transportation Company had over 2,000 animals engaged in moving their freight wagons. The pass later served as a railroad route for the Colorado Midland.



Rocky Mountain Transportation Company wagons on Ute pass in 1878



Rocky Mountain Transportation Co. illustrated cover, ca. 1876
Leadville, Colorado to Severance, Kansas