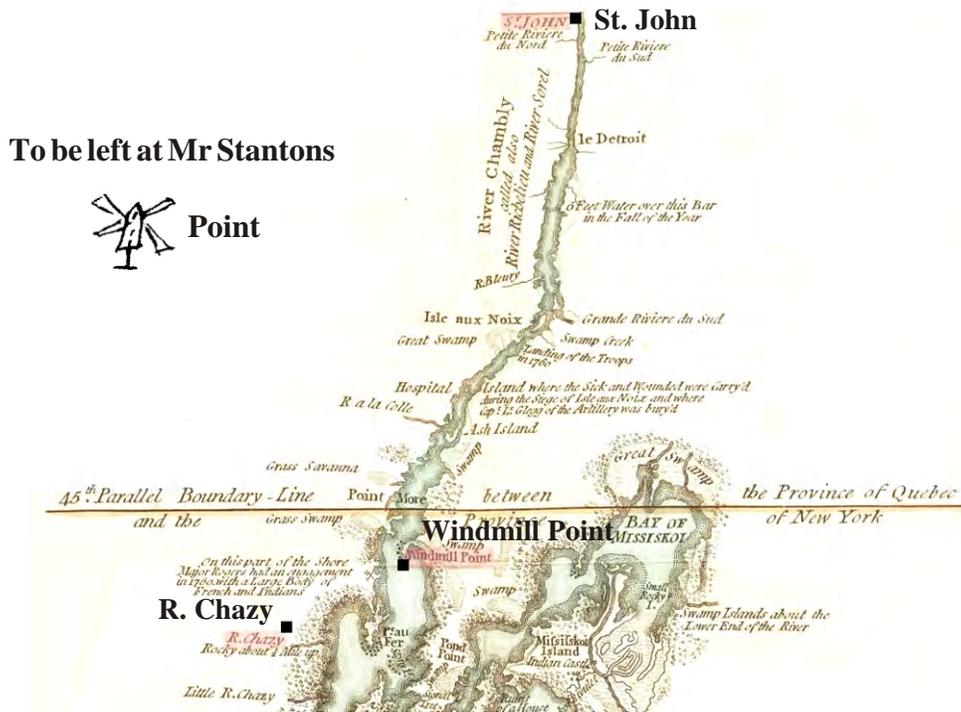


Early Lake Champlain Mail



14 June 1792 letter from St. John (Quebec), via Windmill Point (Vermont), to Chazy River (New York) business letter of Royal Corbin to his brother-in-law, Pliny Moor, directive includes a pictograph

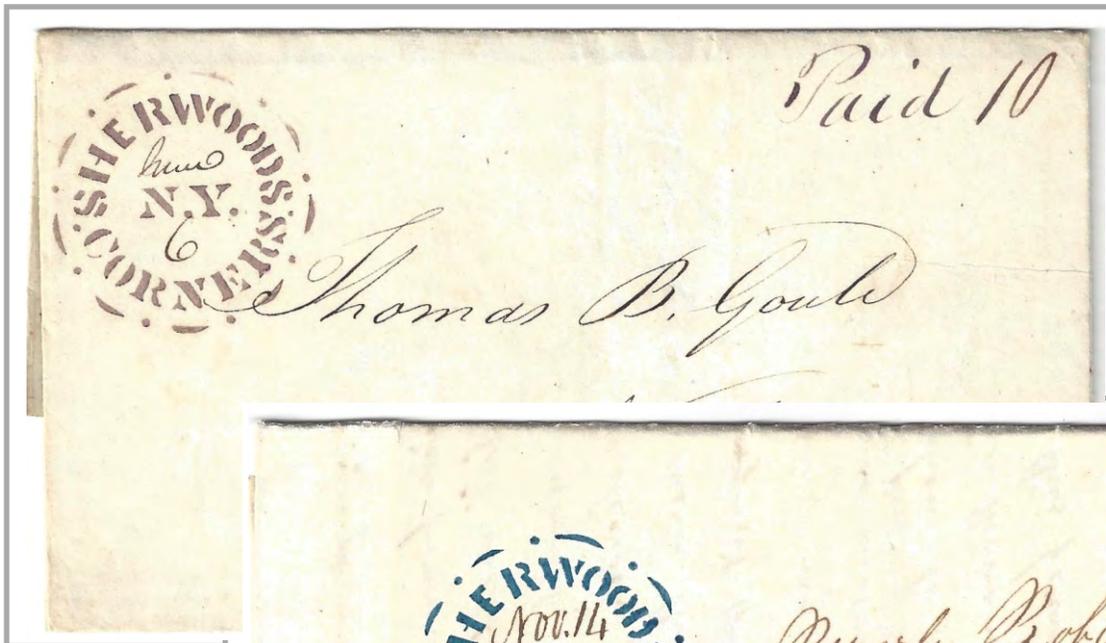
Pliny Moor(e) - In 1785, for service during the Revolutionary War, Moor and 17 others were awarded a land grant consisting of 11,600 acres located on the Big Chazy. The tract was divided into 119 lots of which 40 came to be owned by Moore. In 1788 the town of Champlain, originally called Moorfield, was formed at the headwaters of Chazy River. Moor was appointed postmaster in October 1797.

Mails of the United States

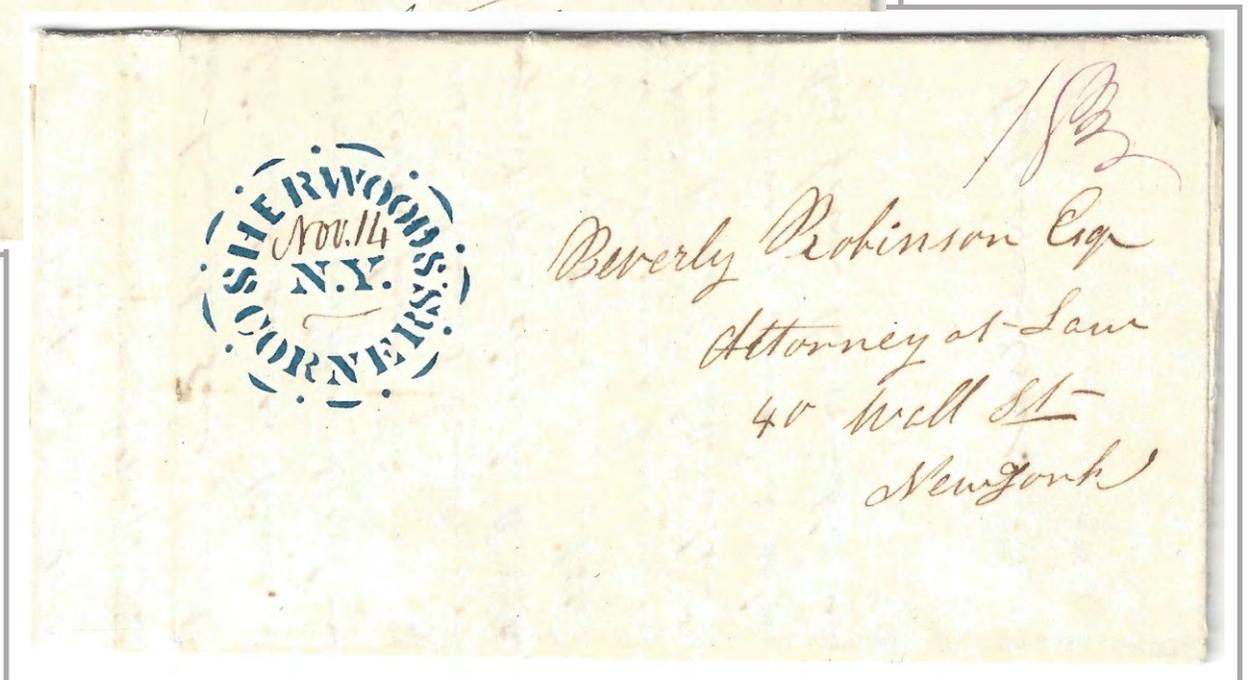
Stenciled Postmarks



1832 Parkersburg, Virginia letter to Maryland



1843 Sherwood Corners
lilac stencil postmark on
letter to Newport



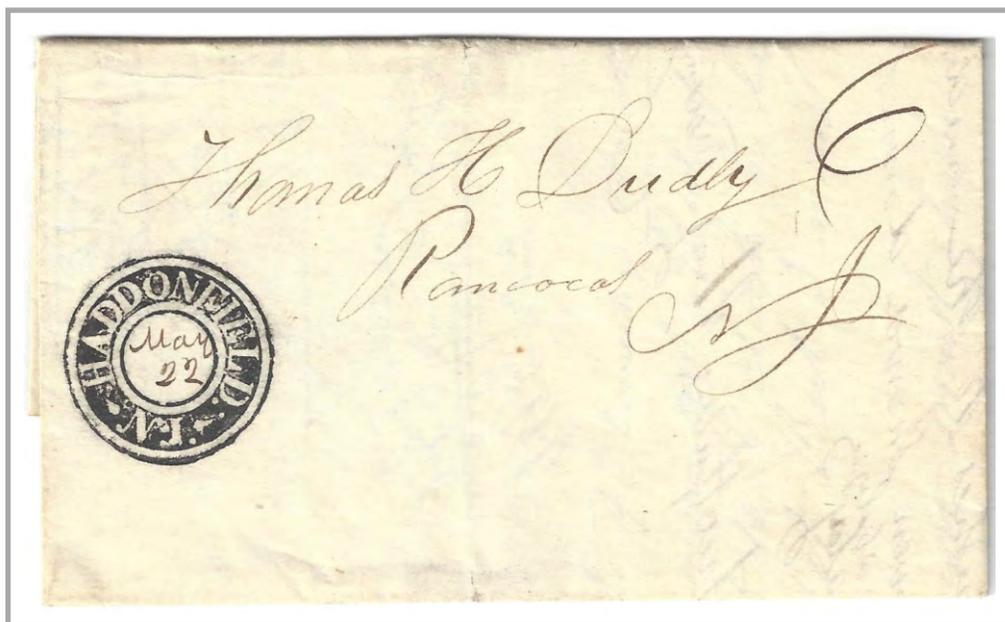
1843 Sherwood Corners blue stencil postmark on letter to New York City

Mails of the United States

Postmarks with Negative Lettering



1827 Hanover, New Hampshire letter to Vermont



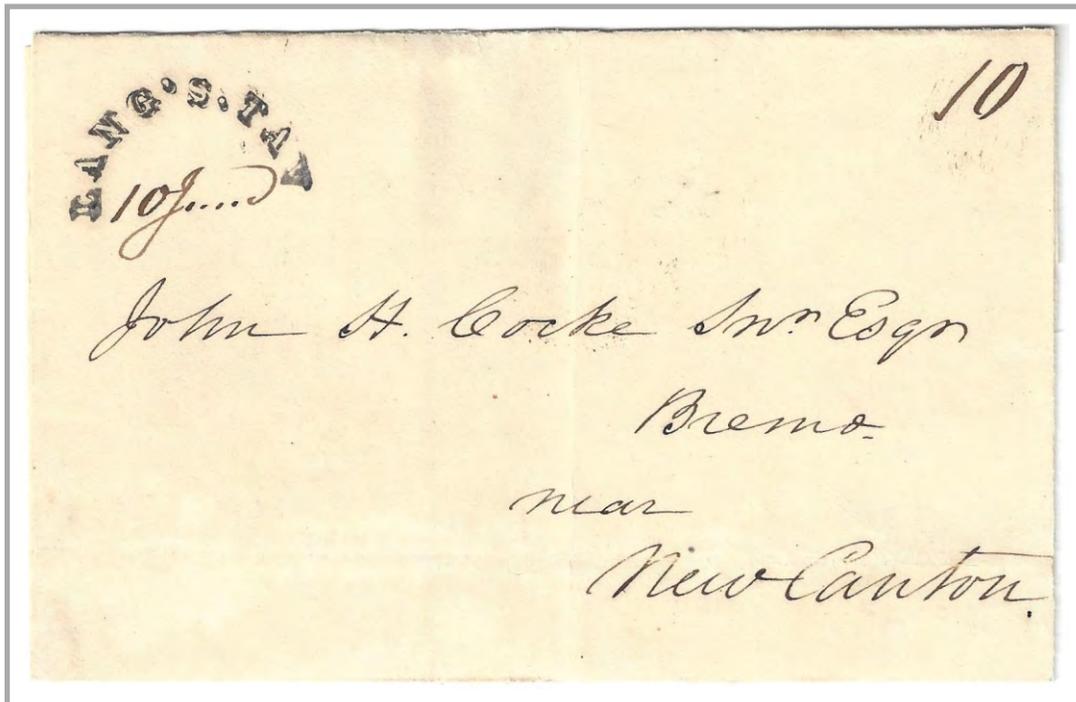
1840 Haddonfield, New Jersey on letter to Rancocas

Mails of the United States

Postmarks with Negative / Hollow Lettering



1828 Langhorne's Tavern, Virginia to University of Virginia
missent to Charlotte, Virginia



1830 Langhorne's Tavern, Virginia to Bremo, Kentucky

Mails of the United States

Rate Handstamps with Negative Numerals



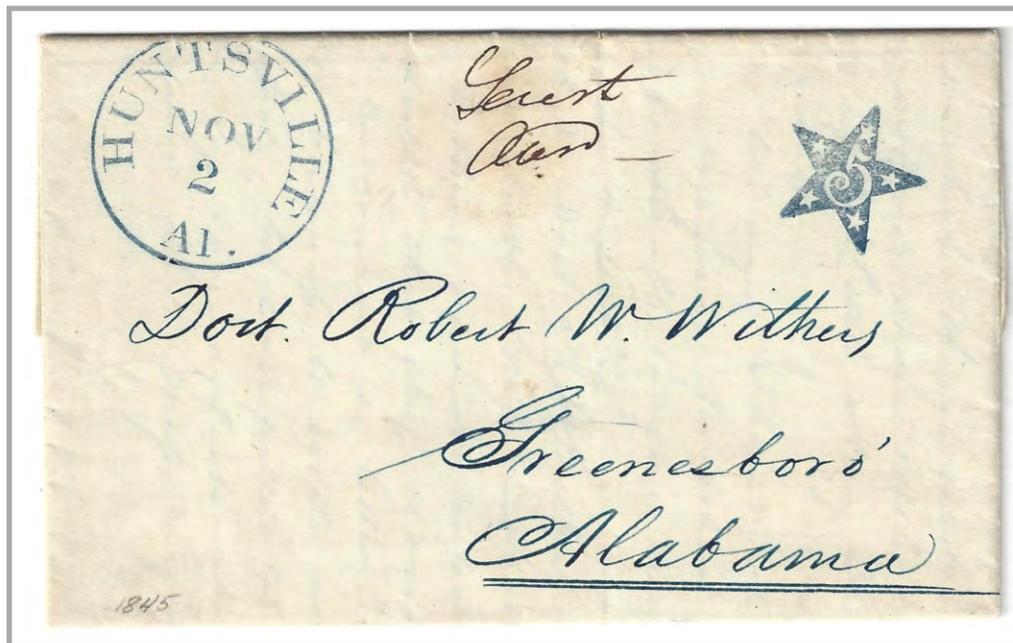
circa 1849 St. Clairsville, Ohio to Meadville, Pennsylvania, "PAID" and "5" rate



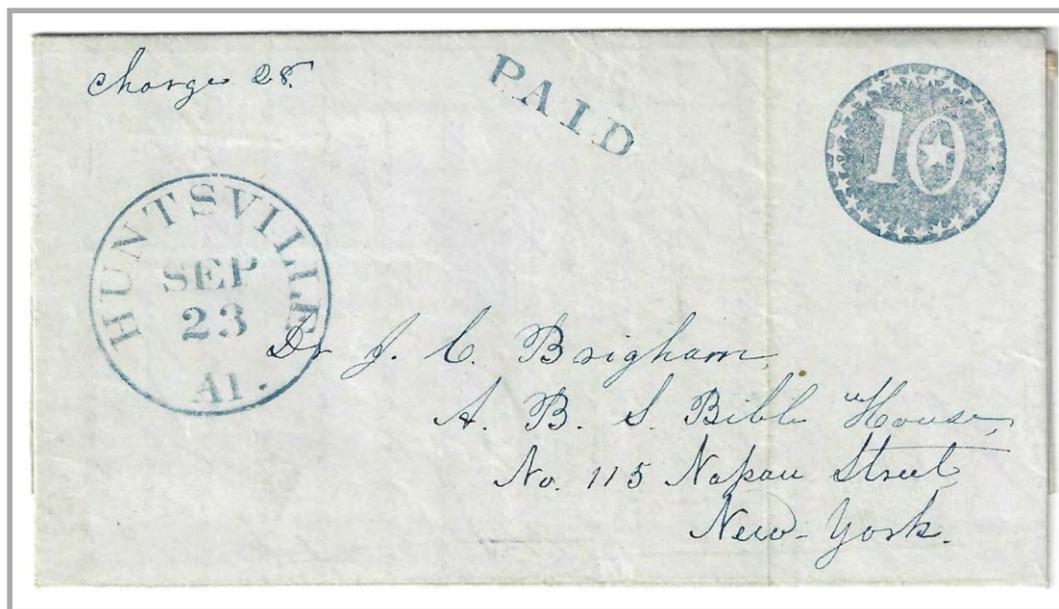
circa 1849 St. Clairsville, Ohio to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, "PAID" and "10" rate

Mails of the United States

Rate Handstamps with Negative Numerals



1845 Huntsville, Alabama to Greensboro, handstamped "5" rate



1845 Huntsville, Alabama to New York City, handstamped "PAID" and "10" rate

Mails of the United States

Fancy Postmarks and Auxiliary Handstamps



1850 Hartland, Michigan to Lansing, handstamped "PAID" and "5" rate



1850 Hartland, Michigan to New York City, handstamped "PAID" and "10" rate

Mails of the United States

Pictorial Postmarks



1832 Collinsville, Connecticut to Hartford, axe head postmark struck twice
letter of Samuel Collins to his brother



1836 Collinsville, Connecticut to St. Francisville, Mississippi

Collinsville, Connecticut - Samuel W. Collins (author of letter at top) founded Collins and Company who became the largest manufacturer of axes in the nineteenth century. It is believed that Elisha Root invented the important industrial technique of die casting while employed by the firm. The use of an axe shaped postmark is a fitting tribute to the founder.

Mails of the United States

Pictorial Postmarks



1839 and 1842 Windsor Locks, Connecticut letters, type 1 postmarks (with and without month in type) both are free franked by postmaster C.H. Dexter, postmark illustrates a steamboat passing through canal lock

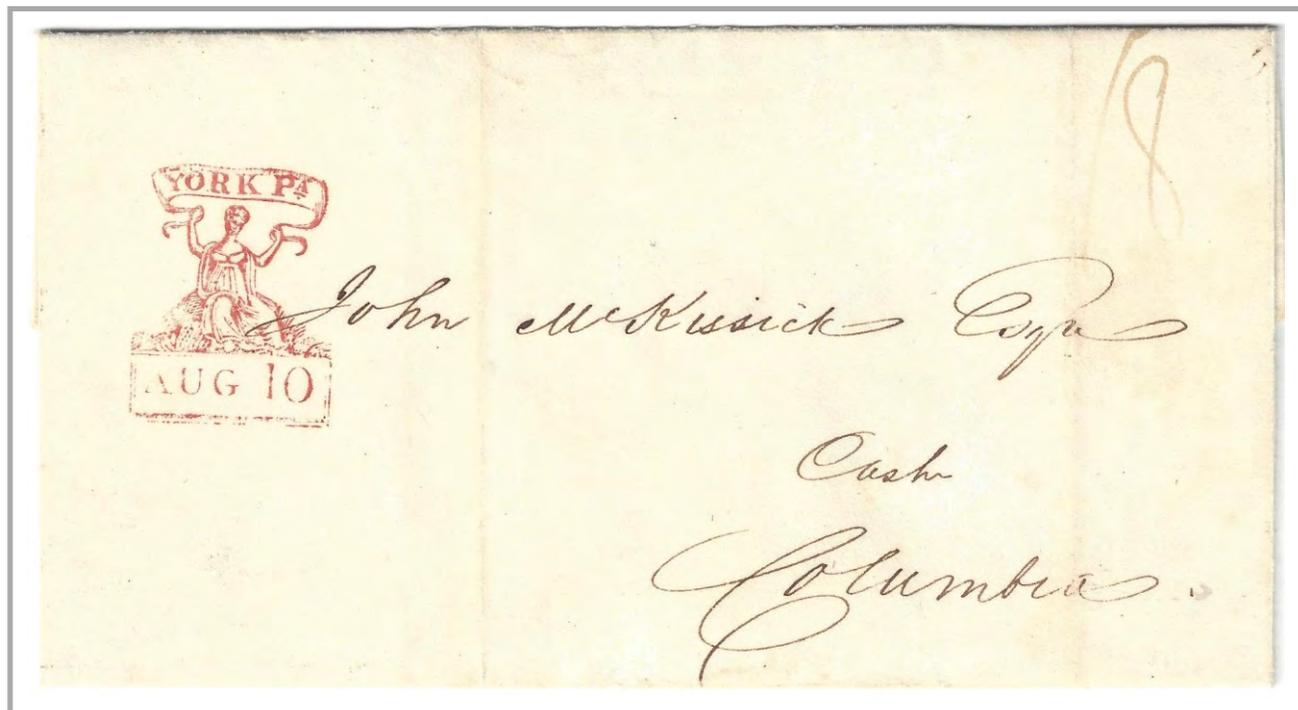


1843 Windsor Locks, Connecticut Amherst, Massachusetts, type 2 postmark redrawn at foot

Windsor Locks, Connecticut - Windsor Locks is named for the series of canal locks that opened in 1829. It is situated just south of the first large falls in the Connecticut River, the Enfield Falls, which was the northernmost point steamboats could attain.

Mails of the United States

Figural Postmark



1827 York, Pennsylvania to Columbia, postmark with allegorical figure

Mails of the United States
Straight Line Postmarks



1792 Stockbridge, Massachusetts to Suffield, Connecticut, postmark includes full year date
"The Postmaster is requested to deliver this to the Stage driver, that Mr. Phelps may obtain it in season"
this manuscript directive authorized receiving postmaster to send along for carrier delivery and collect a fee

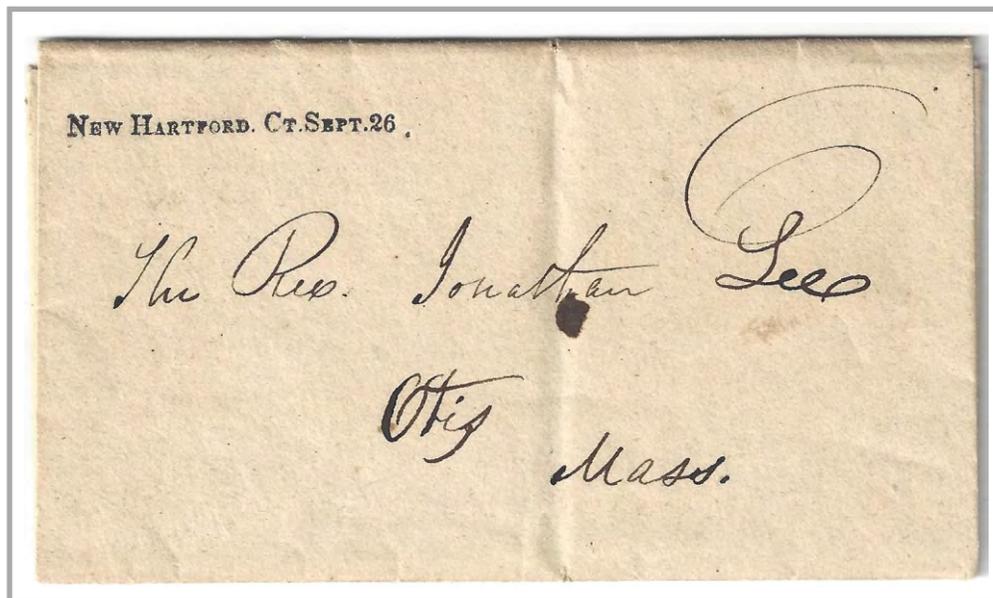


1808 Bridgeport, Connecticut double weight letter to a law student at Yale, New Haven

Mails of the United States
Straight Line Postmarks

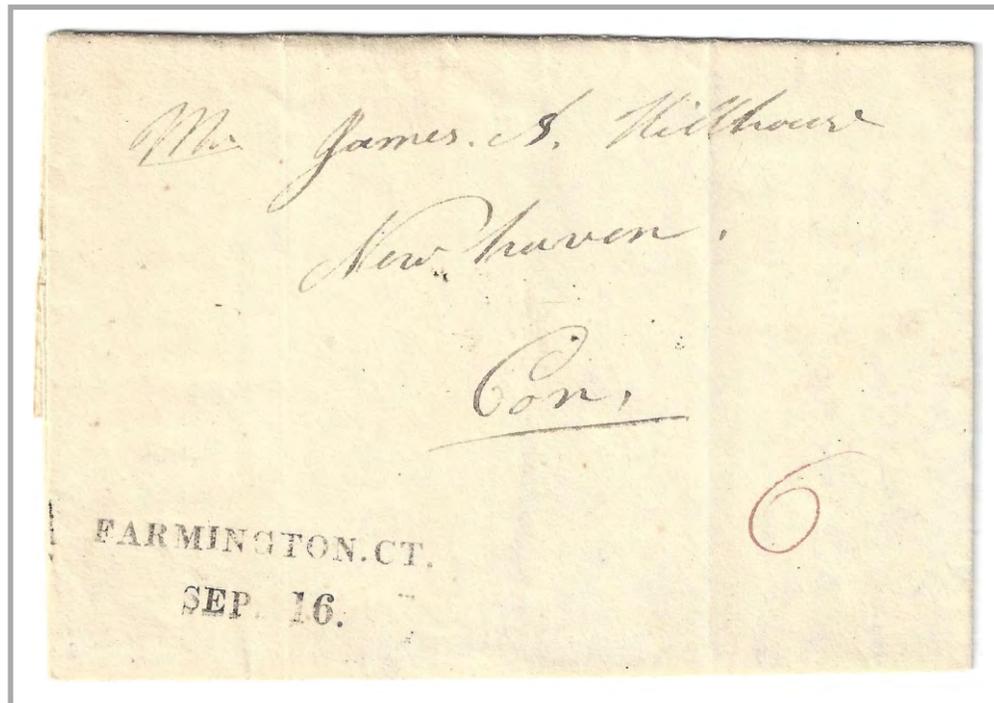


1803 Stamford, Connecticut to Vermont, postmark with month only, "FREE" handstamp endorsed A. Davenport Post Master free frank

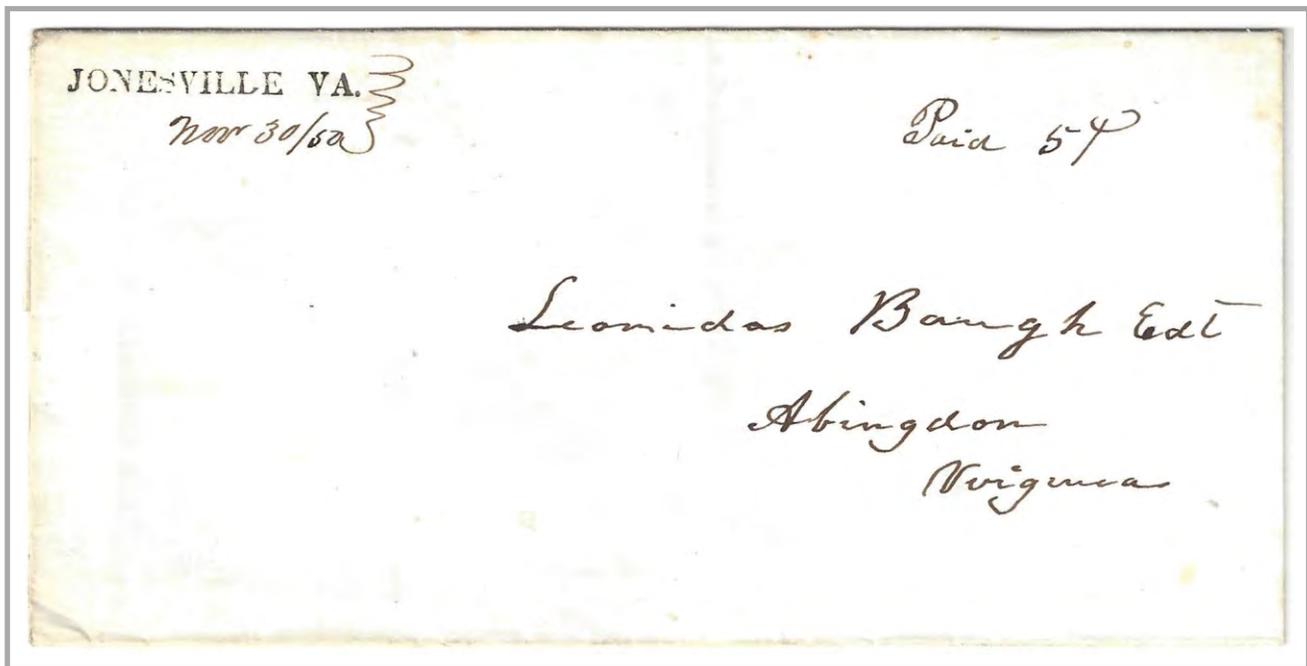


1832 New Hartford, Connecticut to Otis, Massachusetts, postmark with state, month and date

Mails of the United States
Straight Line Postmarks

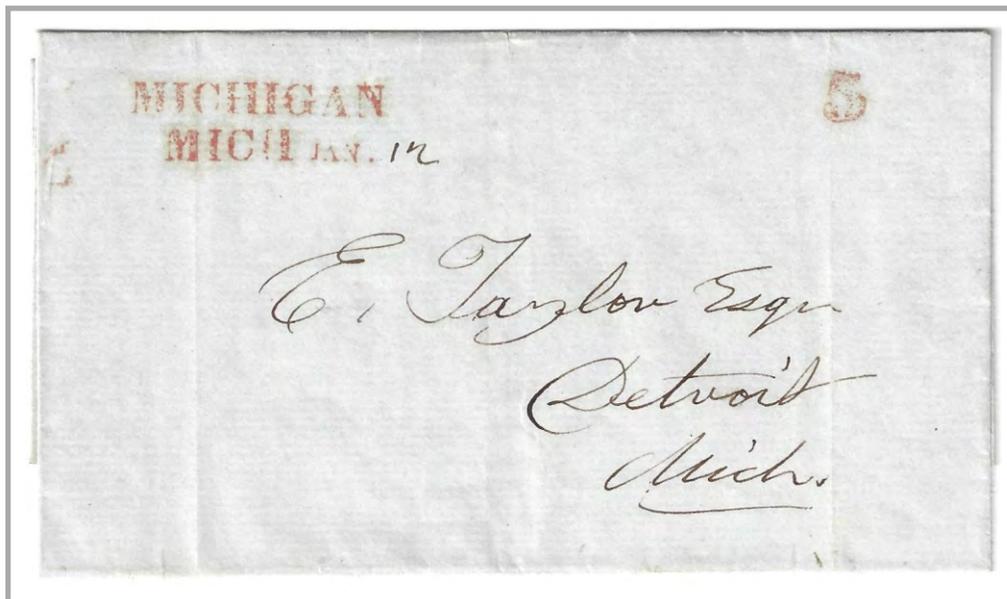


1829 Farmington, Connecticut to New Haven, two line postmark

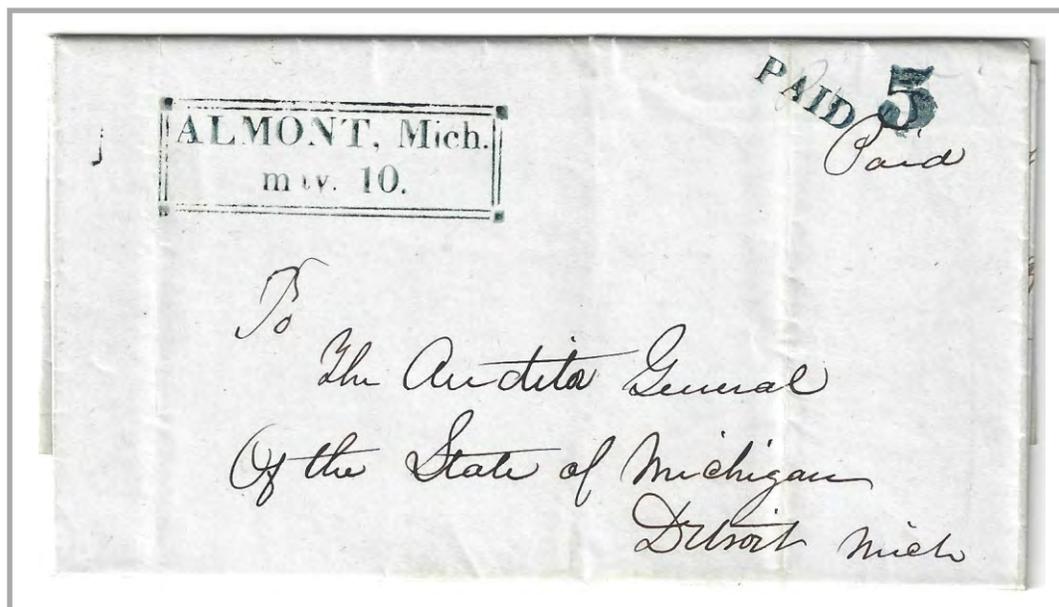


1850 Jonesville, Virginia to Abingdon, single line postmark with manuscript date below

Mails of the United States
Straight Line Postmarks

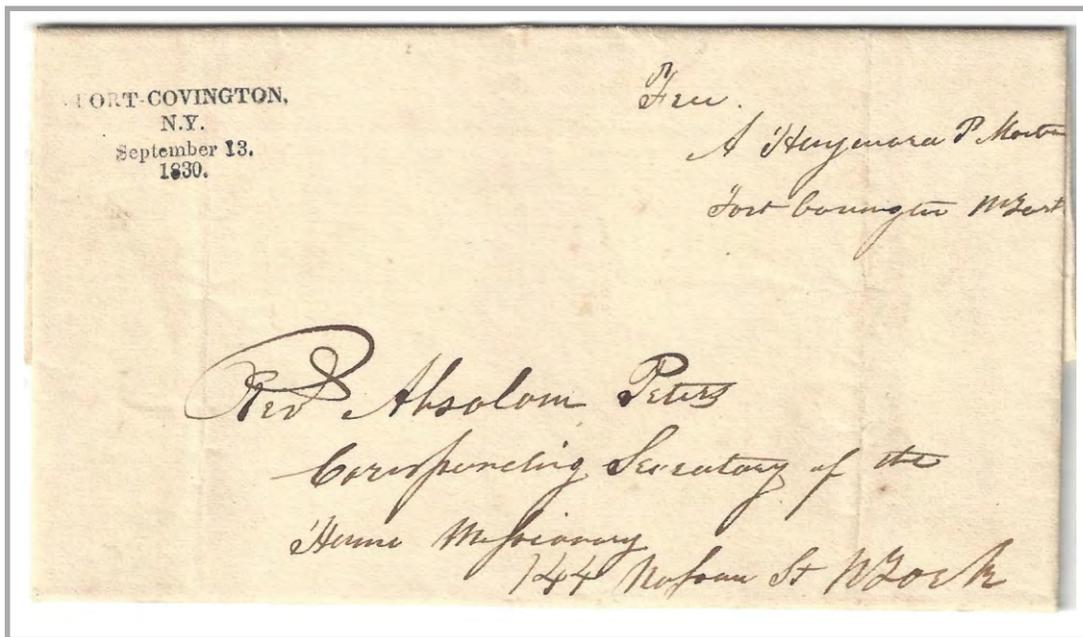


1848 Michigan, Michigan to Detroit, two line postmark with month below, "5" rate handstamp

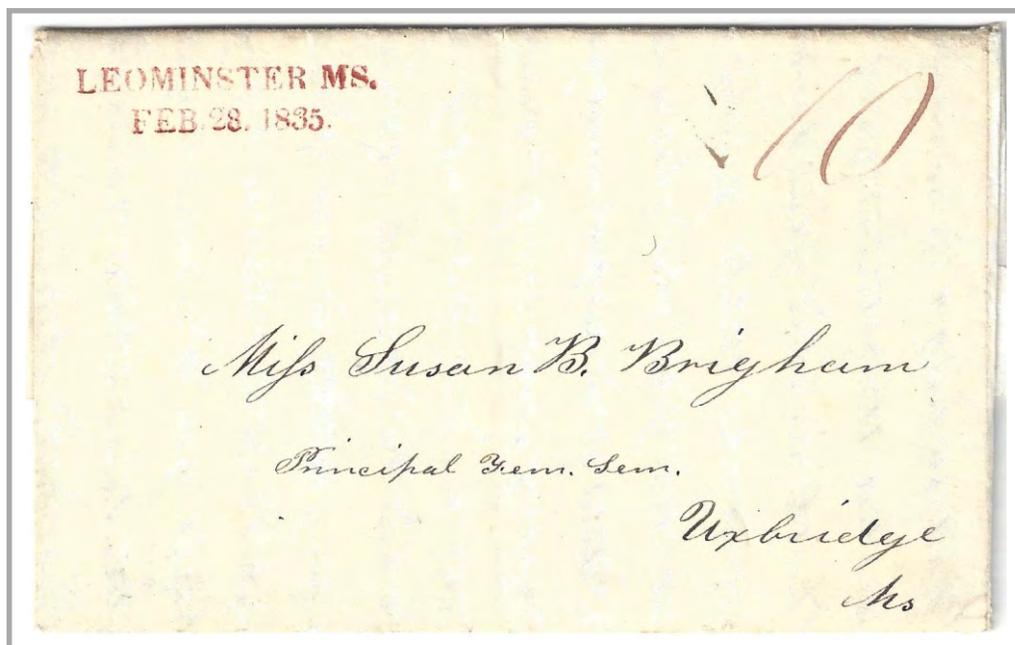


1847 Almont, Michigan to Detroit, two line postmark in ornated, double lined rectangle
"PAID" and "5" rate handstamps

Mails of the United States
Straight Line Postmarks

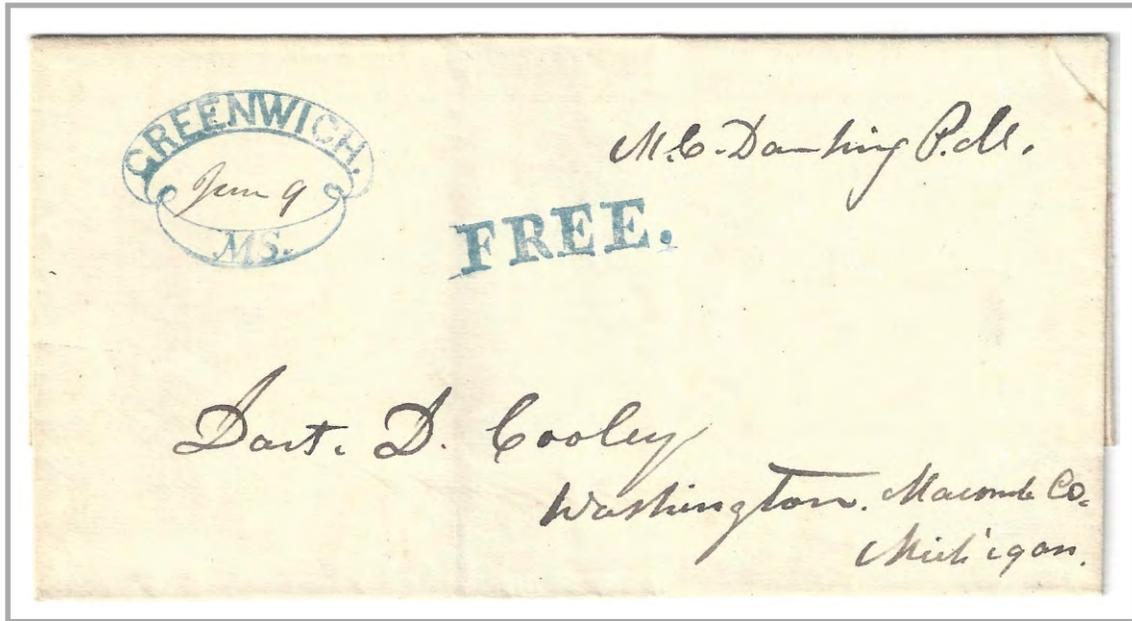


1830 Fort Covington, New York to New York City, four line postmark
"Free, A Hayward, P Master, Fort Covington, N. York" free frank endorsement

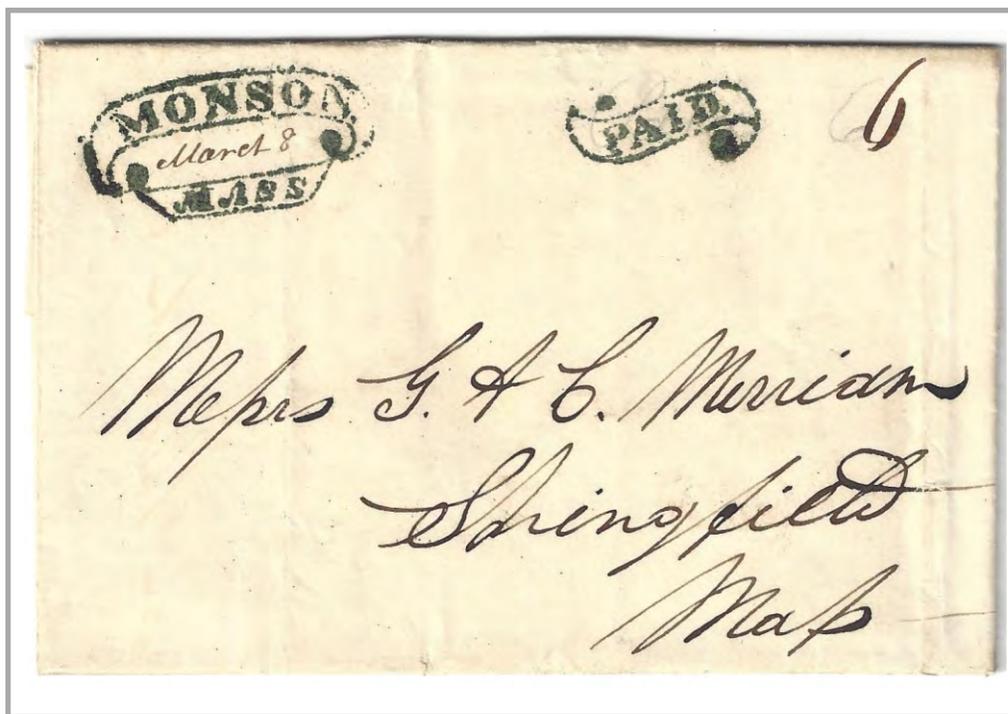


1835 Leominster, Massachusetts, two line postmark with date on second line

Mails of the United States
Ornamental Oval Postmarks



1836 Greenwich, Massachusetts to Michigan, Post Master M.C. Darling free frank, "FREE" handstamp

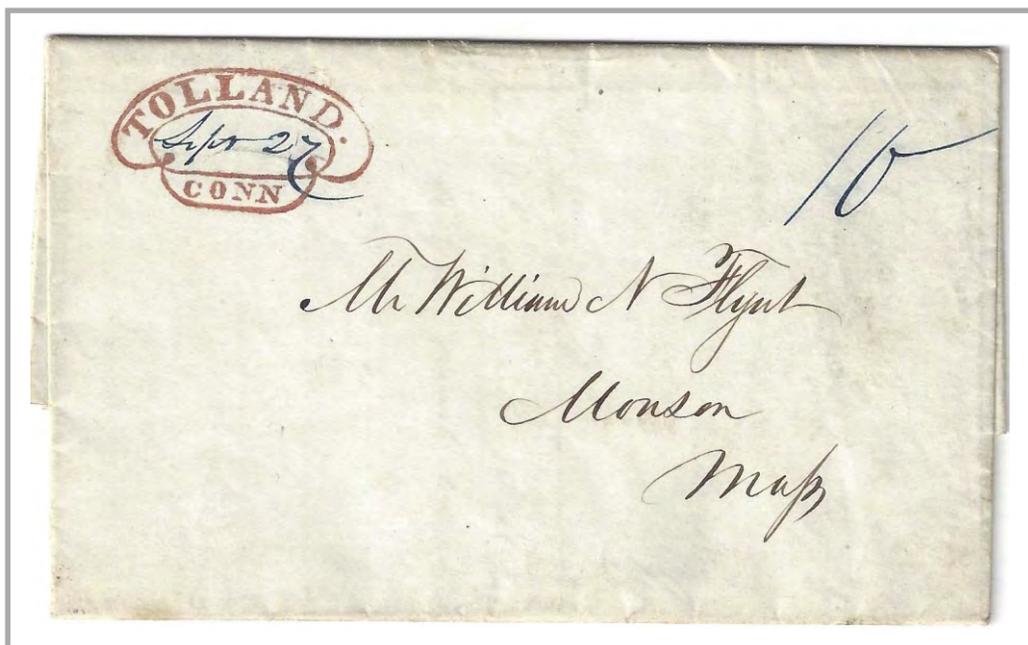


1836 Monson, Massachusetts to Springfield, matching "PAID" in scroll

Mails of the United States
Ornamental Oval Postmarks



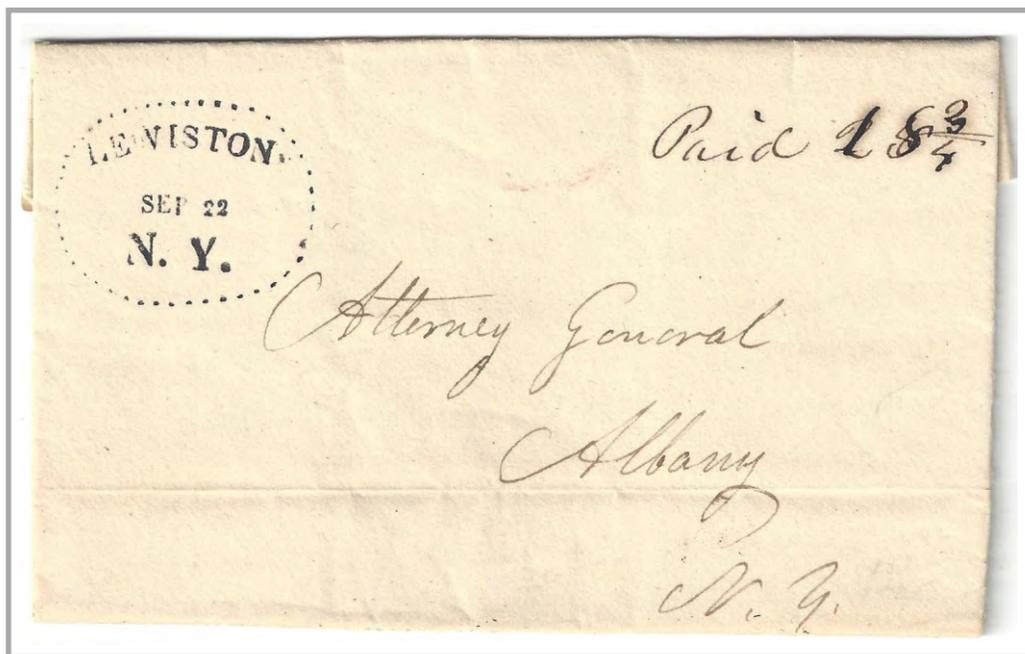
1834 Enfield, Massachusetts to South Wilbraham, arc "PAID" handstamp



1843 Tolland, Connecticut to Massachusetts

Mails of the United States

Oval Postmarks



1836 Lewiston, New York to Albany



1841 Brandon, Vermont to St. Johnsbury

Mails of the United States

Oval Postmarks



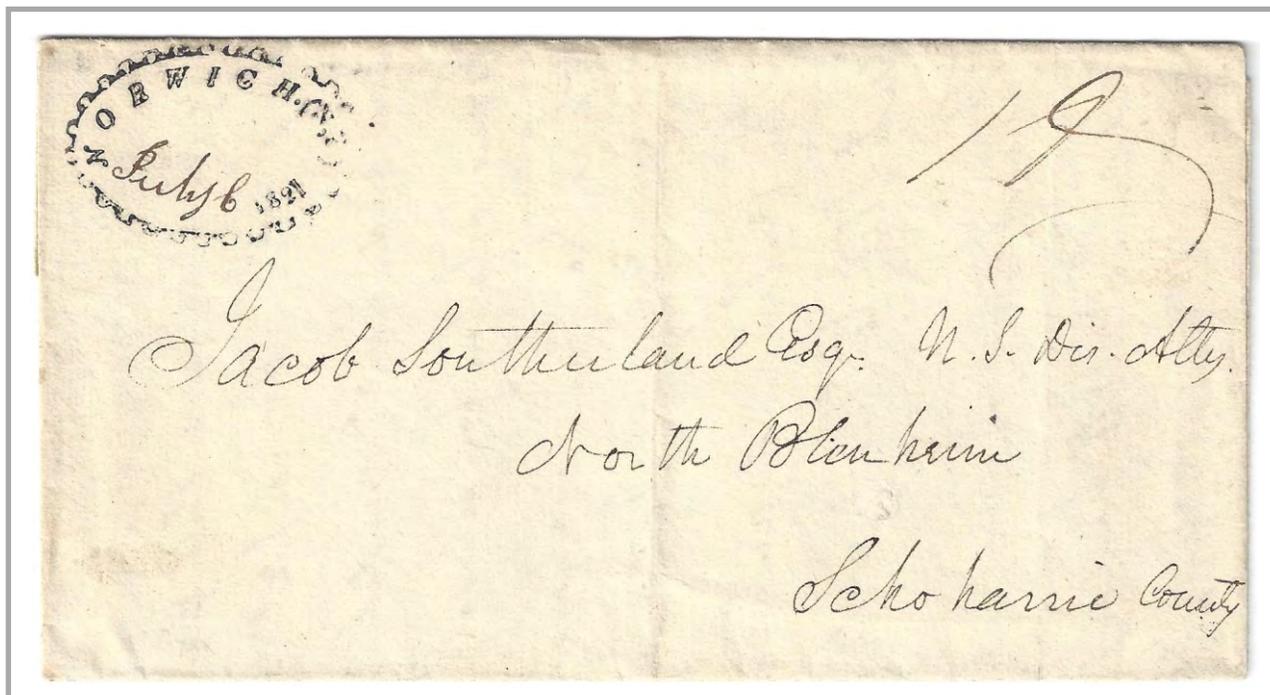
1825 Sparta, Georgia to Savannah, triple the new 18 cents postal rate, but rated at old 18 rate the 18 cents for 150 to 400 miles was raised on May 1, 1825 to conform to value of Spanish coins



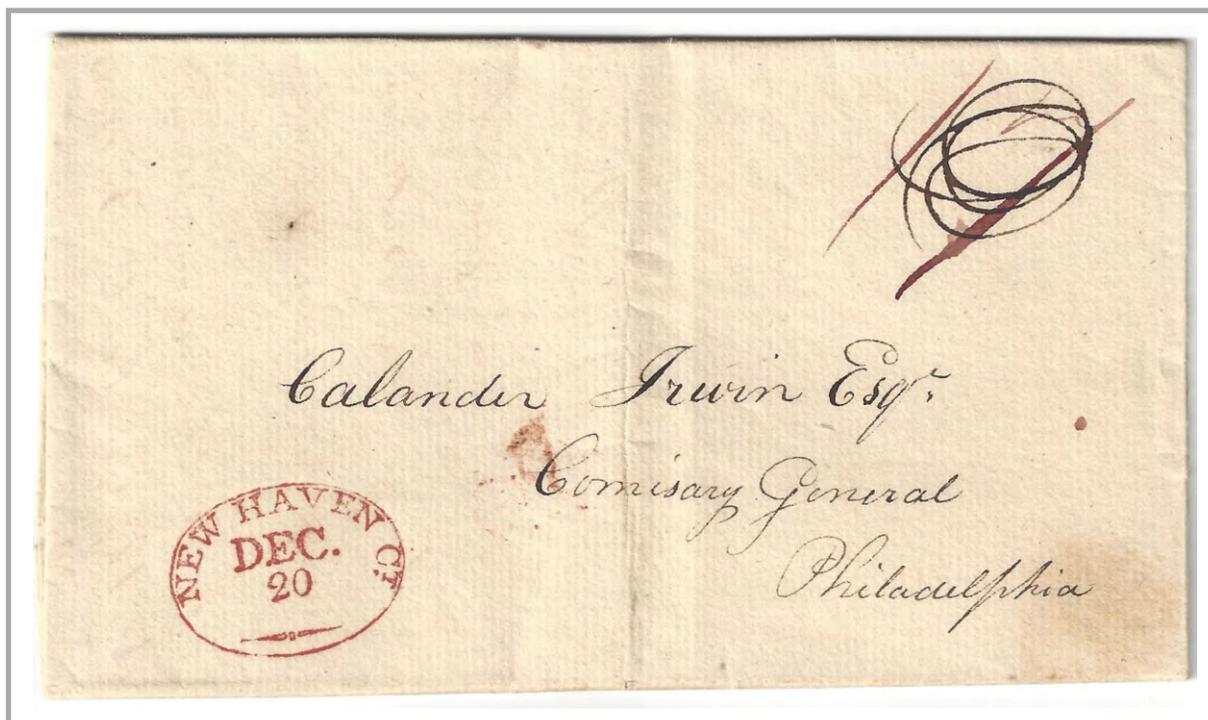
1832 Portsmouth, Ohio to Columbus, prepaid double 12 cents rate for 70 to 100 mile distance pencil endorsement at foot to be charged to sender's post office box

Mails of the United States

Oval Postmarks

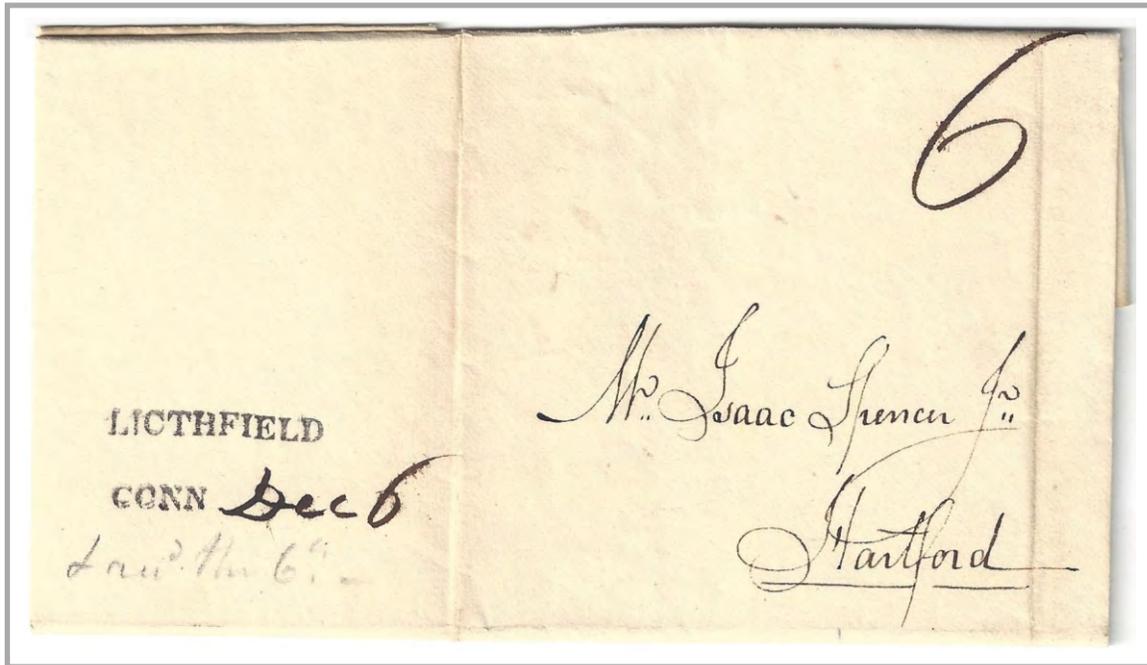


1821 Norwich, New York to North Blenheim, cogged oval with year date at foot

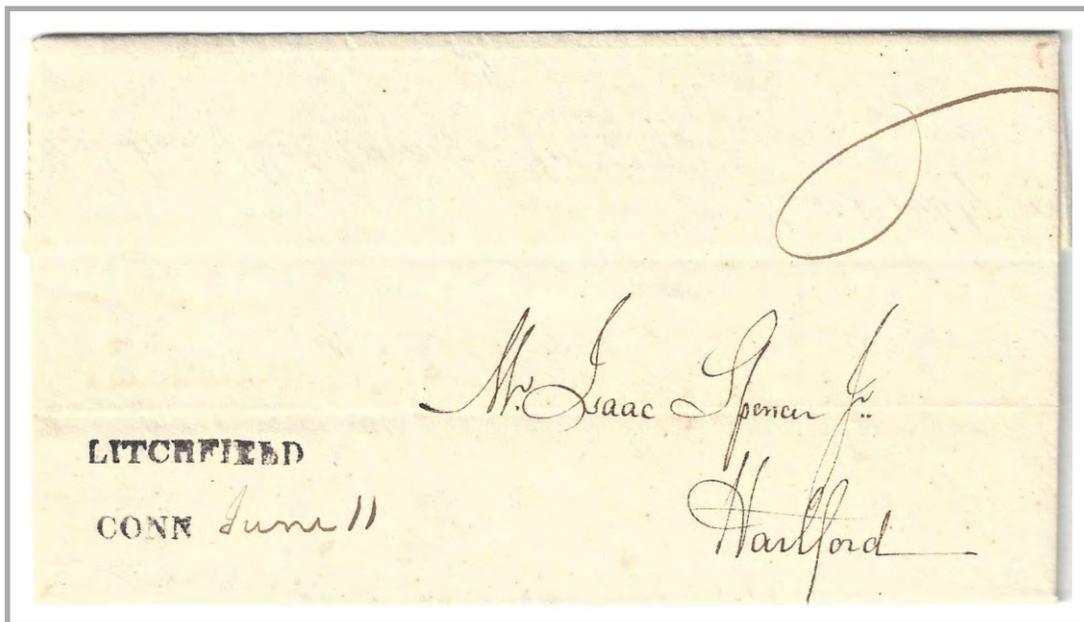


1815 New Haven, Connecticut to Philadelphia, free mail to the Commissary General

Mails of the United States
Straight Line Postmarks



December 1827 Litchfield, Connecticut to Hartford, postmark with error of spelling, "LICTHFIELD"



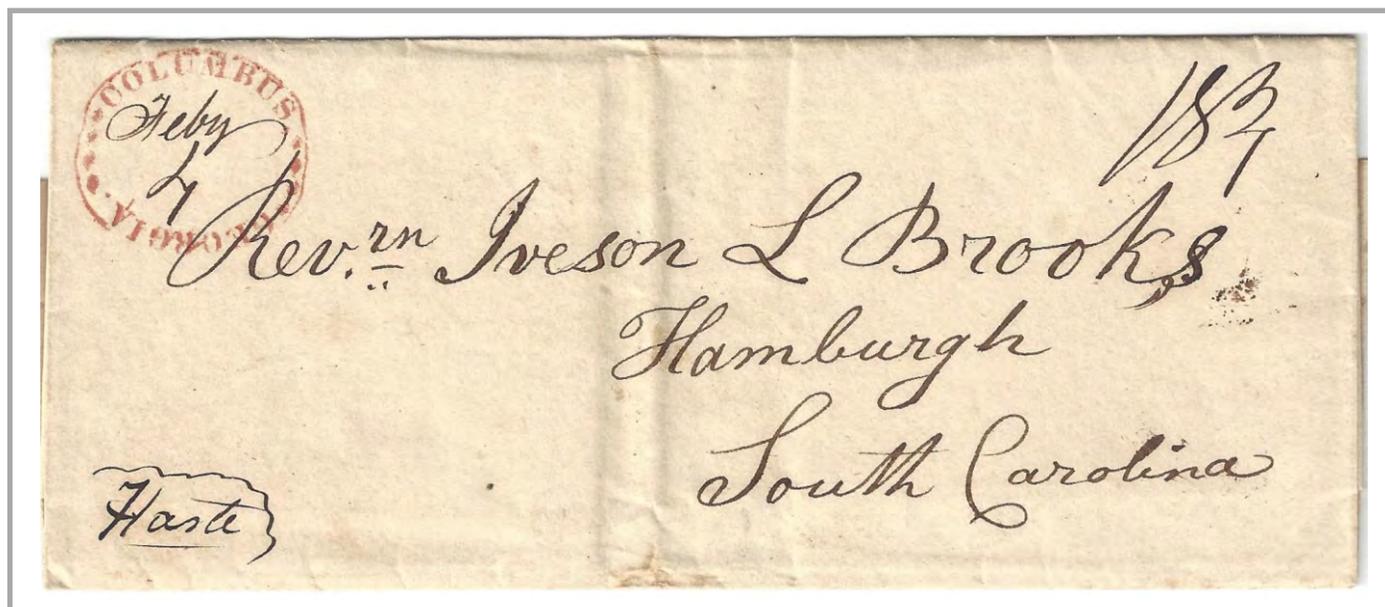
June 1828 Litchfield, Connecticut to Hartford, error of spelling corrected, same correspondence

Mails of the United States

Oval Postmarks



1834 West Brookfield, Massachusetts to Springfield



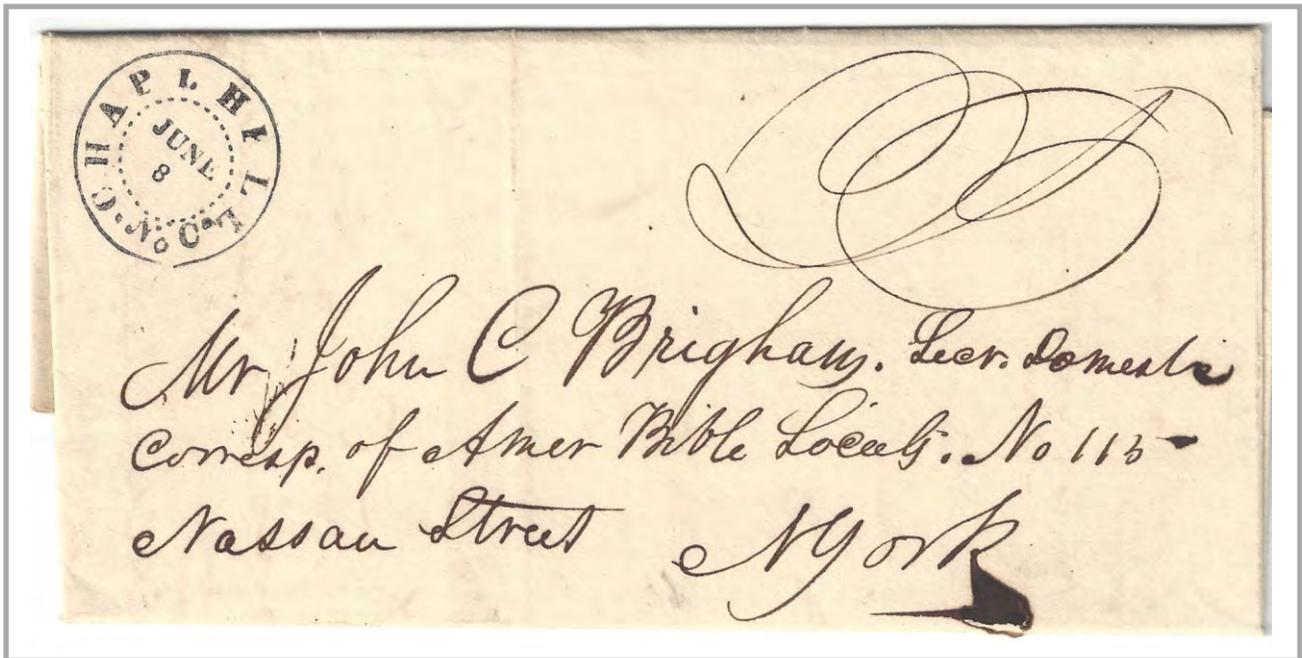
circa 1833 Columbus, Georgia to Hamburg, South Carolina

Mails of the United States

Double Circle Postmarks



1827 Smyrna, Delaware to Pennsylvania, Quaker dated with "2 MO 8" date illustration of a "bee" at foot of postmark where state designation would normally be placed



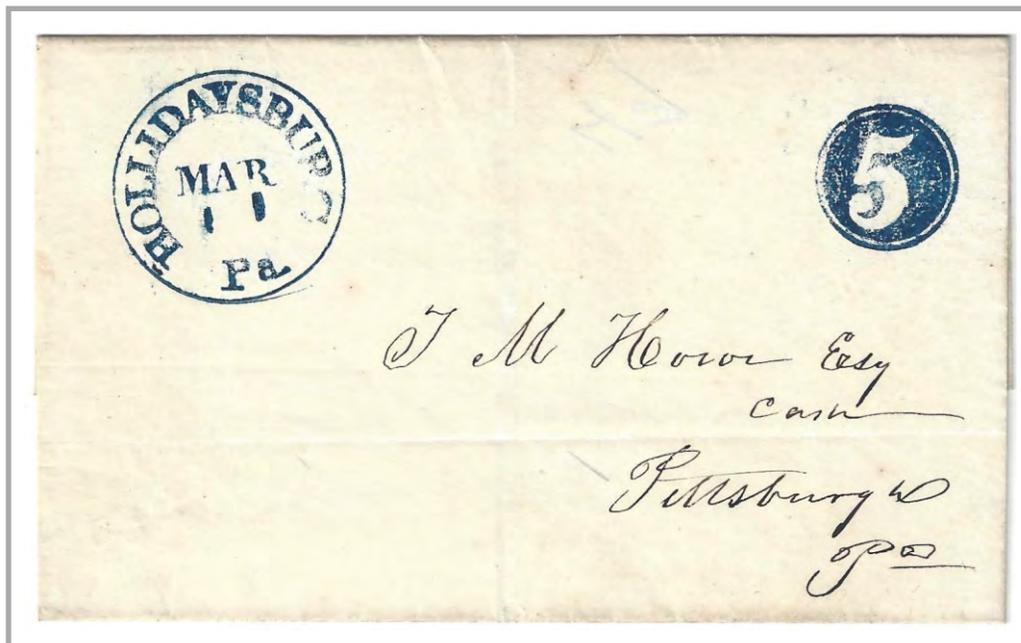
1829 Chapel Hill, North Carolina to New York City, letter regards bibles for the University

Mails of the United States

Rate Handstamps with Negative Numerals



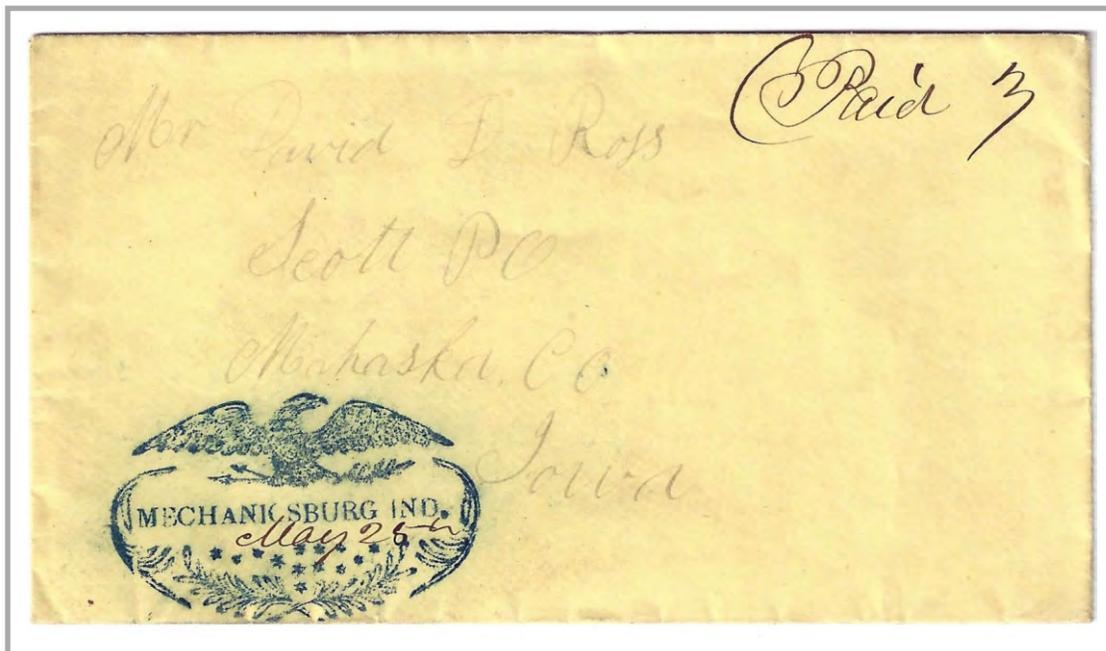
1847 Big Lick, Virginia to Jefferies Store, negative stars and "5" rate handstamp



1849 Holidaysburg, Pennsylvania to Pittsburgh, negative "5" rate handstamp

Mails of the United States

Eagle and Wreath Illustrated, Linen Marker Postmark



1859 Mechanicsburg, Indiana to Scott, Iowa, manuscript "Paid 3" rate, original letter
a late stampless use as from January 1856 all letters were to be prepaid with adhesive stamps

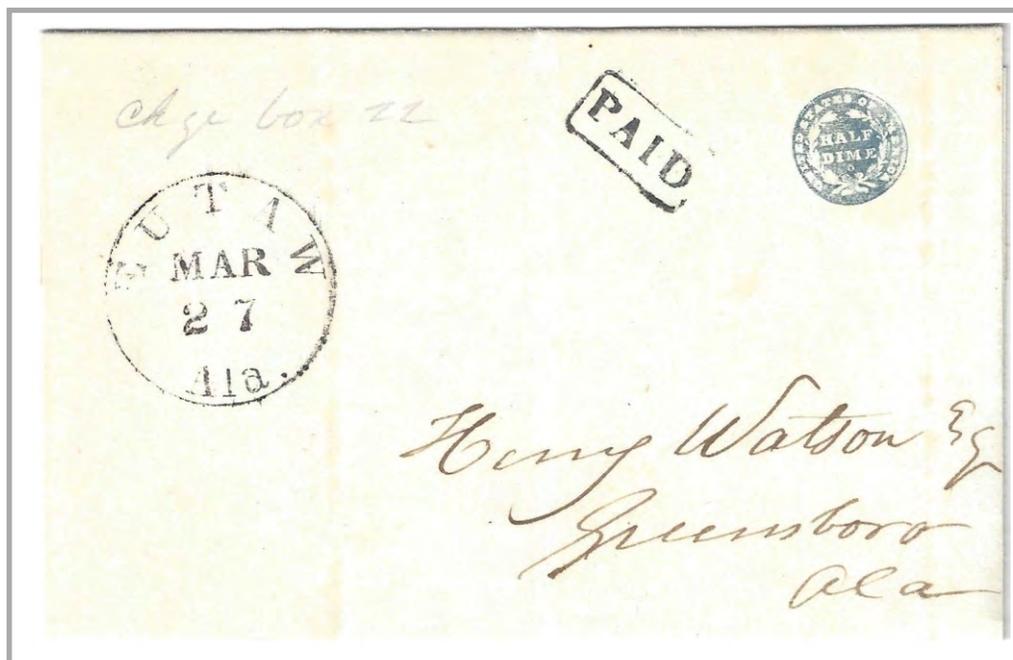
Linen Tester Postmark - This Mechanicsburg postmark is an example of a postmark made by a device manufactured to mark linen. These devices were manufactured briefly in the 1850s for use on marking bolts of linen. They employed a set screw at the side that held a matrix of fonts which allowed a string of text to be included. Although various illustrated designs are known, the eagle and shield patriotic is one of the best executed.

Mails of the United States

Rate Handstamps



1848 Binghamton, New York local use letter with "2 BOX" rate handstamp two cent rate for letters delivered at the office of mailing, such as to a post box, in effect 1845 to 1851



1846 Eutaw, Alabama to Greensboro, "PAID" handstamp and blue "HALF DIME" rate handstamp device for rate mark was made from a United States half dime coin with "O" (New Orleans) mint mark

Mails of the United States

Rate Handstamps



1852 Schaghticoke, New York to Massachusetts, "3" rate with negative "PAID" handstamp

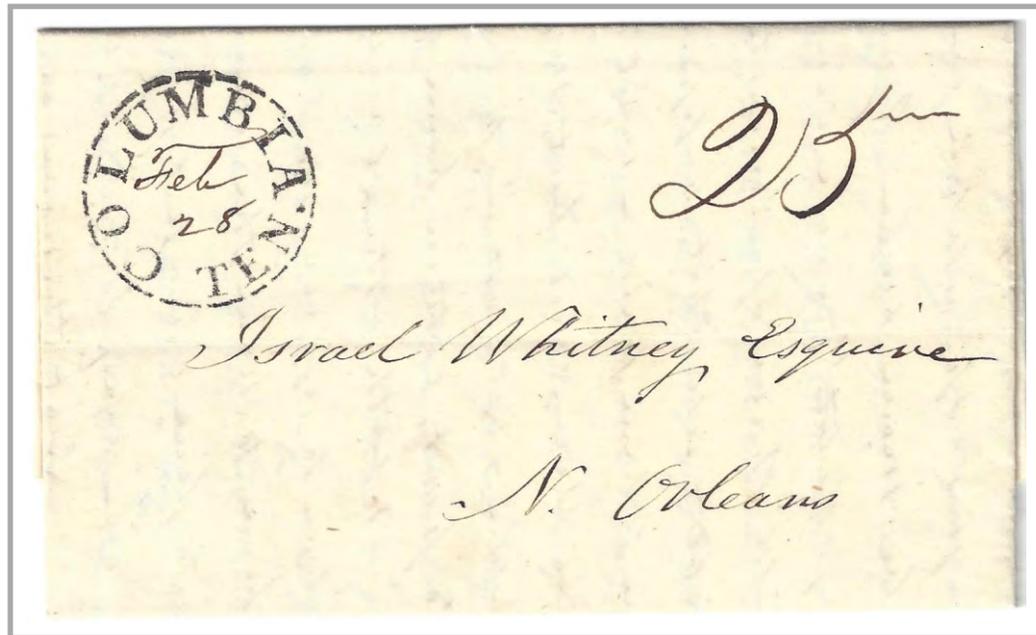


1852 Hillsdale, Michigan to Lansing, "PAID + thime" rate handstamp based on three cent coin

Thime Coin Rate - The March 3, 1851 Act of Congress reduced the postal rate for a single letter sent up to 3,000 miles to three cents and also authorized the first issuance of a three cent (thime) coin. This is the first instance of a coin being minted directly to aid in the payment of a postal rate in the United States. An illustration of a Nesbitt essay of the thime coin is shown above.

Mails of the United States

Circular Postmarks



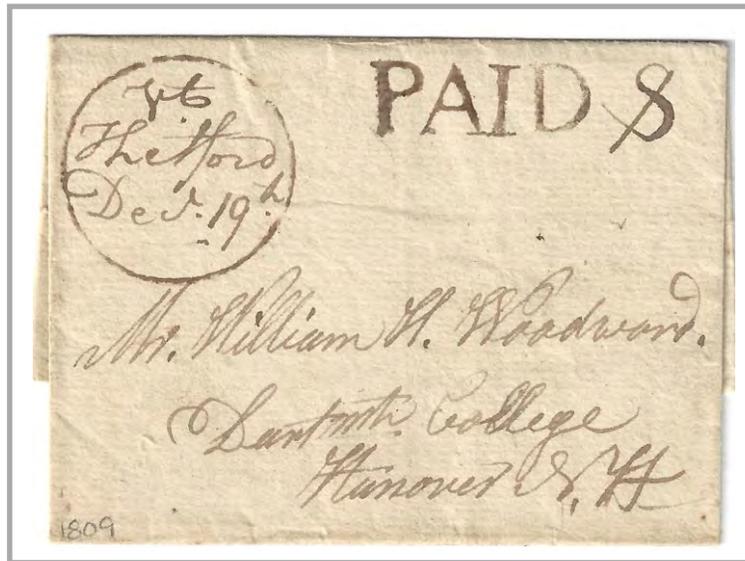
1843 Columbia, Tennessee to New Orleans, circular postmark with rim of dashes



1821 Louisville, Georgia to Ohio, balloon style circular postmark with month and day plugs

Mails of the United States

Circular Postmarks



1809 Thetford, Vermont to New Hampshire, handstamped outer circular ring and "PAID" in brown brown manuscript town name, state, date and rate



1818 Milton, North Carolina to Staggsville, circular postmark containing with four lines of type

Mails of the United States
Canada Line Office Uses



1836 Eaton, Canada, via Derby Line, Vermont to Tennessee

Eaton origin postmark and free frank of P. Hubbard, Postmaster, for postage to the line (then crossed out)
Derby Line fancy negative postmark where it entered the U.S. mails, manuscript "25" due to destination



1851 Eaton, Canada, via Derby Line, Vermont to Massachusetts

Eaton origin postmark, red "Paid" and manuscript "4 d." indicating cash payment to the line
Derby Line entry postmark, waffle grid cancels the "PAID" and "5" due rate handstamp to destination

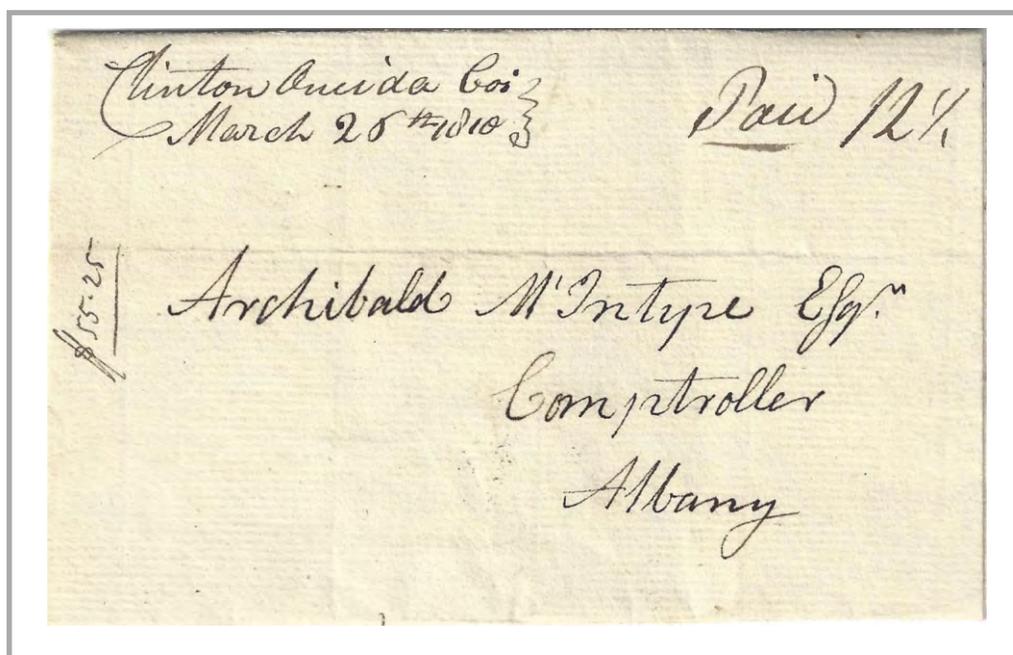
Mails of the United States

Manuscript Postmarks



1840 Bruce, Tennessee to Vermont, postmark "Bruce (Bannocktown)" includes local name of town
letter is dated from Bannocktown

Bruce, Tennessee - The post office of Bruce, in Campbell County Tennessee, operated between 1840 and 1844. Although the official post office name was Bruce, the locals called their town Bannocktown. The inclusion of a local name in a postmark is unique to this marking and to this example only.

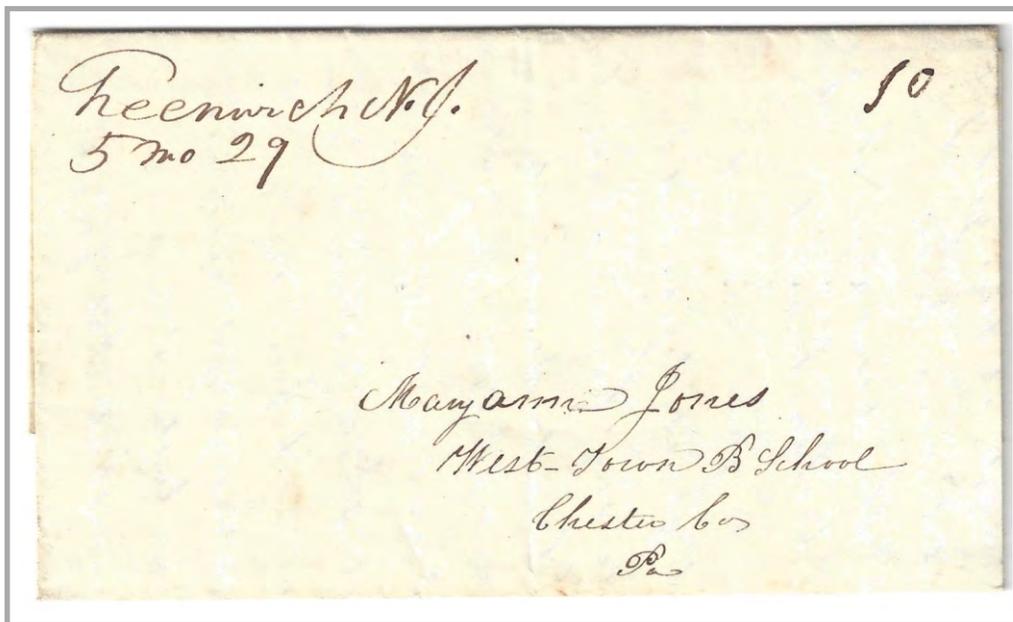


1810 Clinton, New York to Albany, postmark "Clinton Oneida Co." includes county name
a very early use of county name in postmark

Mails of the United States
Manuscript Postmarks

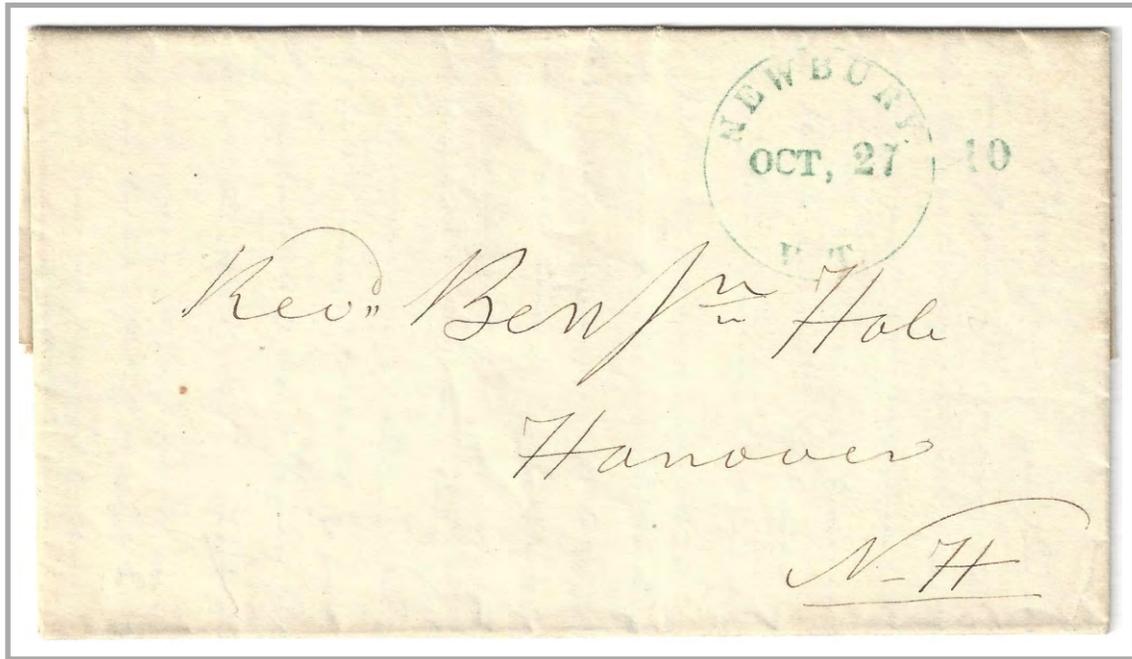


1806 Painted Post, New York to Albany, ornate manuscript postmark with flourishes in red ink and "Th M. Burney, Post M. Painted Post, Free" franking endorsement



1843 Greenwich, New Jersey to West-Town Boarding School, Chester County, Pennsylvania
Quaker dated postmark "Greenwich N.J., 5 mo 29"

Mails of the United States
Postmarks with Attached Rates



1835 Newbury, Vermont to Hanover, New Hampshire, postmark with attached "10" rate



1832 Woodstock, Vermont to Asburnham, Massachusetts, postmark with attached "12" rate and "PAID"

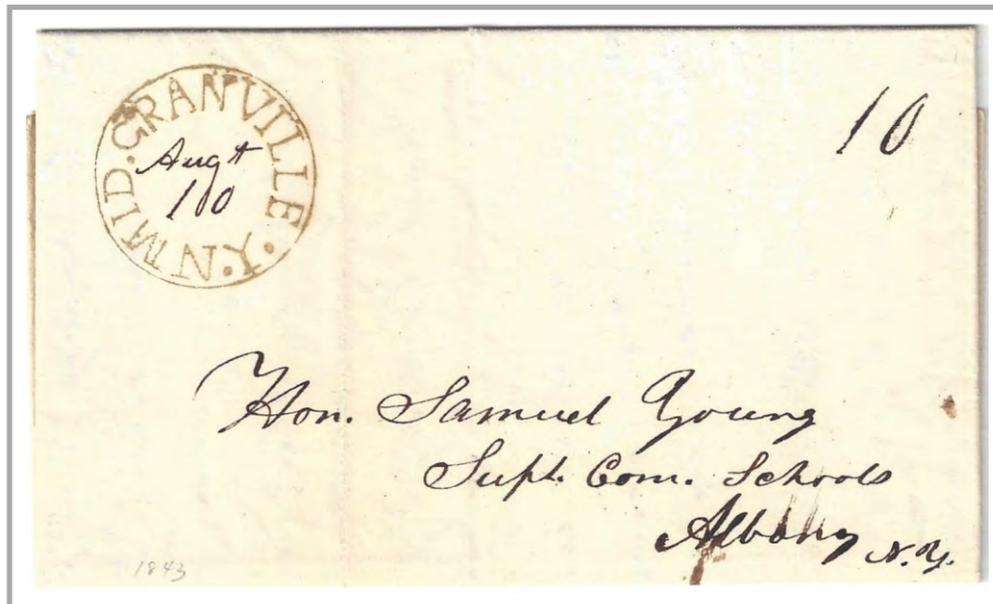
Attached Rate Postmarks - In the 1830s an unidentified postal device manufacturer, or his salesman, toured New England selling several postmasters his new design that allowed for the various rating numerals as well as a "PAID" to be attached to the device. Fewer than thirty different offices are known.

Mails of the United States

Postmarks Struck in Yellow / Olive Yellow



1828 Westfield, Massachusetts to South Lee, rimless postmark struck in true yellow ink



1843 Middle Granville, New York to Albany, postmark struck in olive yellow ink

Postmark Inks - Postmarks of the period between 1800 and 1860 were generally struck in black, red or blue ink. Green or magenta inks appear to a lesser extent and the rarities of the era are the yellow and olive yellow ink colors. Fewer than five towns are known to have briefly used the true yellow color ink.

Mails of the United States

Pointing Hand "PAID" Handstamps



1838 Northampton, Massachusetts to Warwick, large style pointing hand "PAID" in arc in purple

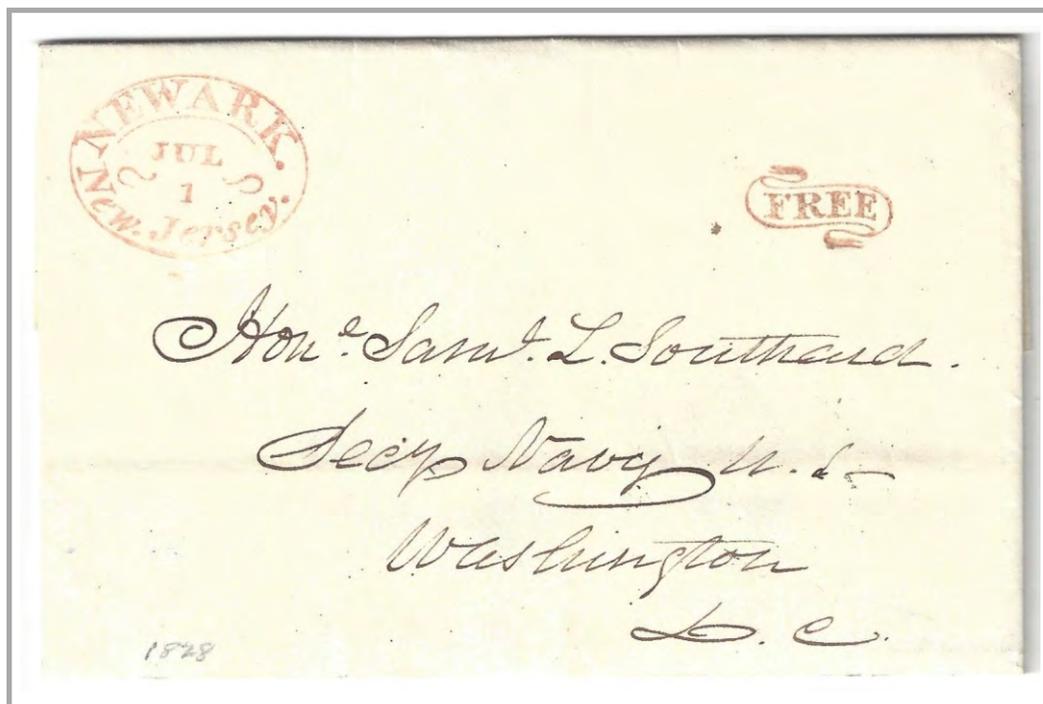


circa 1845 small pointing hand "PAID" handstamp in magenta on newspaper wrapper to Rhode Island
this style pointing hand "PAID" was used at Hartford, Connecticut as proved by red example above

Mails of the United States
Scroll "FREE" Handstamps



1843 Hebron, Connecticut to Hartford, negative "FREE" in scroll, Post Master Abner Henden frank



1828 Newark, New Jersey ornate oval postmark and "FREE" in scroll addressed to Secretary of the Navy Samuel Southard entitled letter to be sent free of postage

Mails of the United States

Postal Device Manufacturer, Edmond Zevely



1850's Pleasant Grove, Maryland to North Carolina, "POST OFFICE STAMPS MADE HERE" red postmark endorsed by E. Zevely, Postmaster and with his fancy postmark including county name and "FREE" with original letter to his daughter that mentions, "I am over run with orders - very busy"



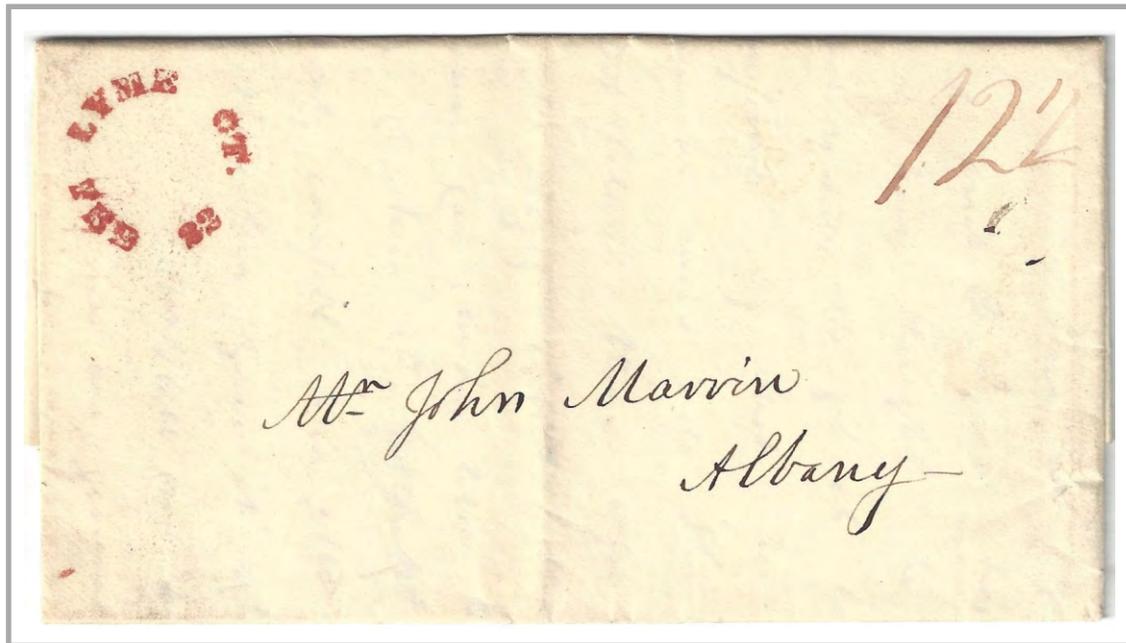
1850's, Pleasant Grove, Maryland to North Carolina, black postmark endorsed by E. Zevely as Post Master and with his postmark including county name

Edmond Zevely was the postmaster of Pleasant Grove, Maryland and was one of the most prolific suppliers of wooden postal devices in the 1850s. Although the government supplied without cost postmark devices in sets with the needed auxiliary markings to the larger post offices, smaller offices could purchase devices from private manufactures such as Zevely.

Mails of the United States
Rimless Circle Postmarks



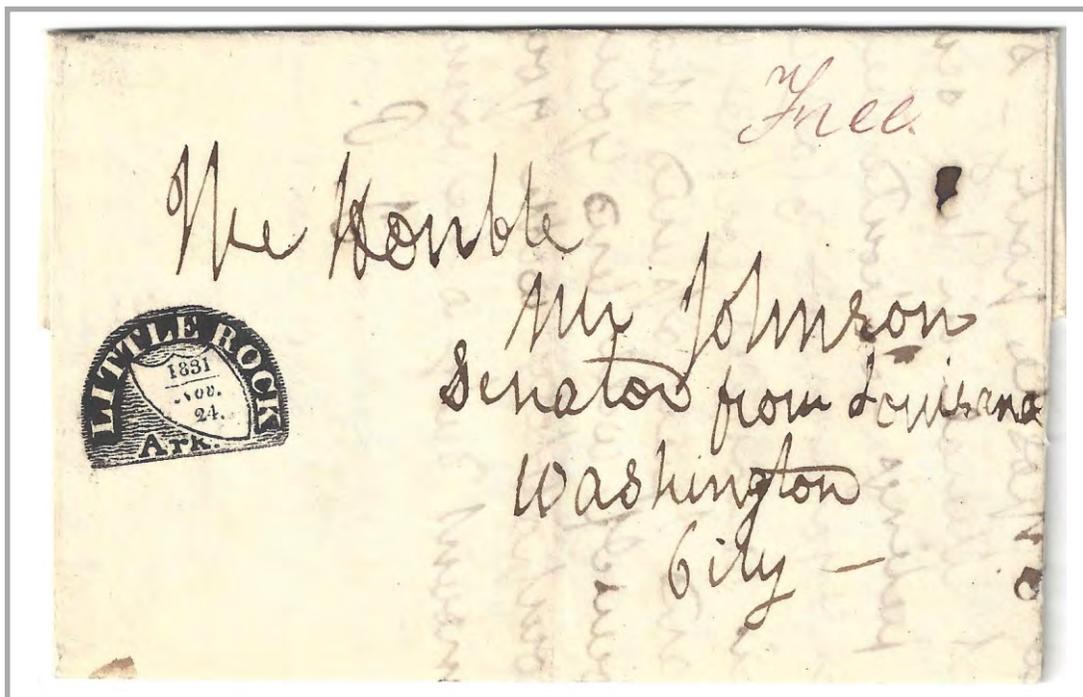
1795 Hartford, Connecticut to Boston ornated postmark without state designation, "PAID." handstamp



1831 Lyme, Connecticut rimless postmark with state abbreviation, month and day forming the circle

Mails of the United States

Territorial Postmarks



1831 Little Rock, Arkansas Territory to Washington, endorsed "Free" as addressed to a Senator
fancy shield in semicircle postmark includes complete date in type

Arkansas Territory was created from Missouri Territory by an Act of Congress effective 5 July 1819. The state was created on 14 June 1836.

Mails of the United States

Pictorial Postmarks



1850 Scranton, Pennsylvania double rate letter to the postmaster of Oxford Furnace, New Jersey postmark shaped in the outline of railroad rail cross-section, "FREE" and "5" handstamps (first rate was free) letter to Charles Scranton with accounts current from Lackawanna Iron Works

Scranton (Scranton), Pennsylvania - The industries that precipitated the city's early growth were iron and steel. In the 1840s, the Scranton brothers founded what would become Lackawanna Iron & Coal and began making nails. Because construction of the Erie Railroad had been delayed for lack of domestic rail, the Scrantons' firm decided to switch focus to producing T-rails for the Erie. The company soon became a major producer of rails for the rapidly expanding railroads. A George Inness view of Scranton in 1855 is shown below.



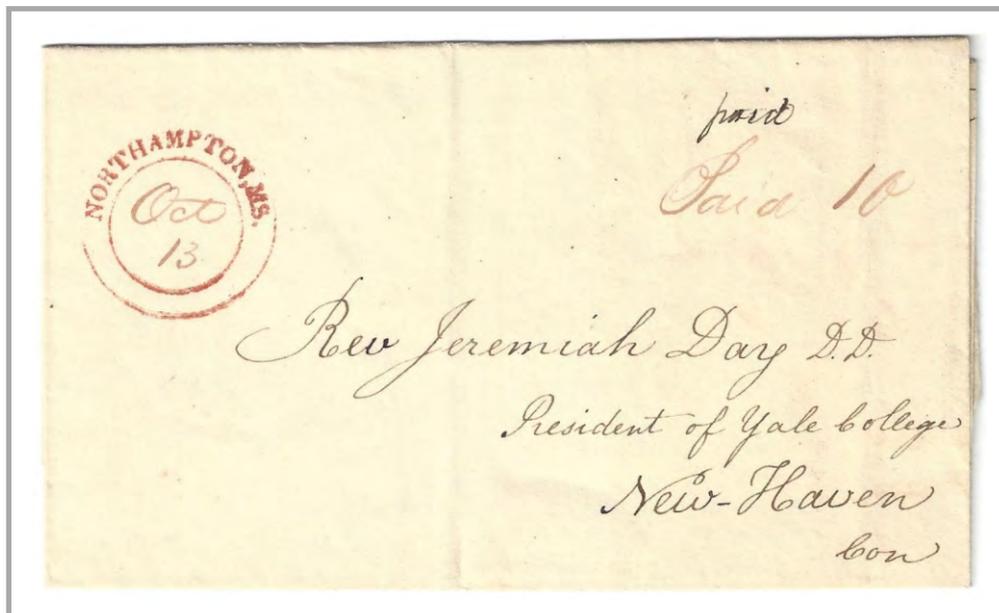
In 1851, the Scrantons built the Lackawanna and Western Railroad northward to meet the Erie Railroad in Great Bend allowing them to transport manufactured rails from the Lackawanna Valley to New York and the Midwest. They also invested in coal mining operations in the city to fuel their steel operations, and to market it to businesses. In 1856, they expanded the railroad eastward as the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad in order to tap into the New York City metropolitan market. This railroad, with its hub in Scranton, would be Scranton's largest employer for almost one hundred years.

Mails of the United States

Double Circle Postmarks



1831 Greenwich Village, Massachusetts to Michigan Territory
ornamented postmark, "FREE P.M." handstamp with signature of W.P. Wing in the center



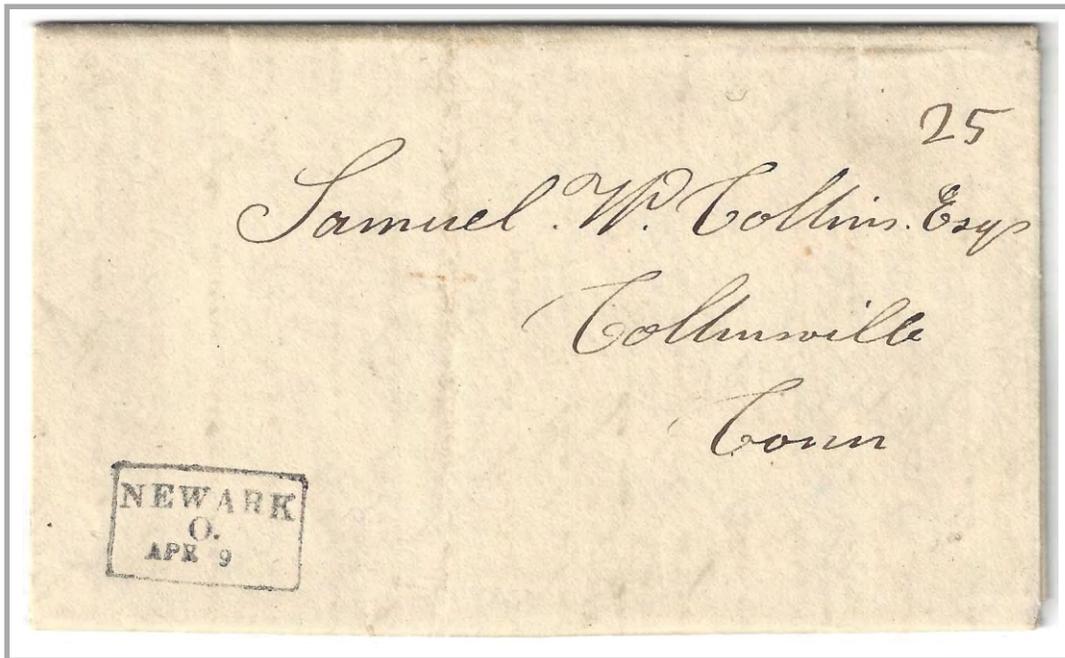
1825 Northampton, Massachusetts to Connecticut

Mails of the United States

Boxed Postmarks

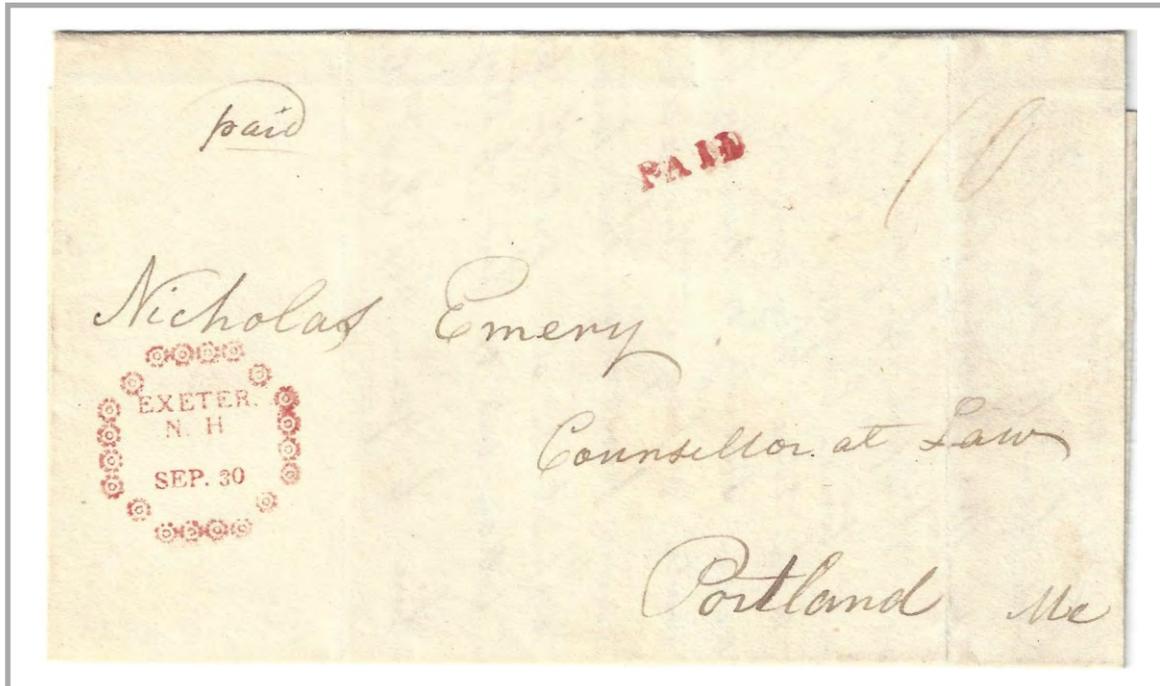


1836 Walpole, Massachusetts to Boston



1833 Newark, Ohio to Connecticut

Mails of the United States
Ornamented Straight Line Postmarks

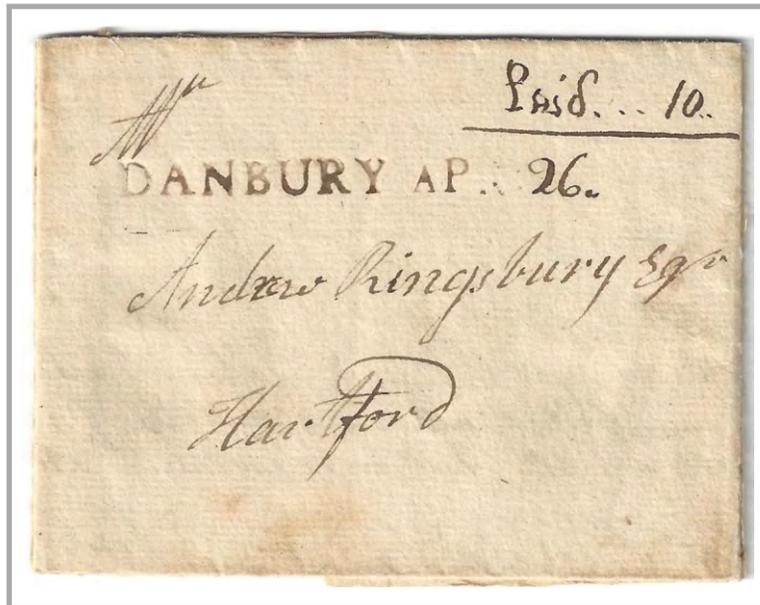


1830 Exeter, New Hampshire to Maine, three line postmark surrounded by rosettes

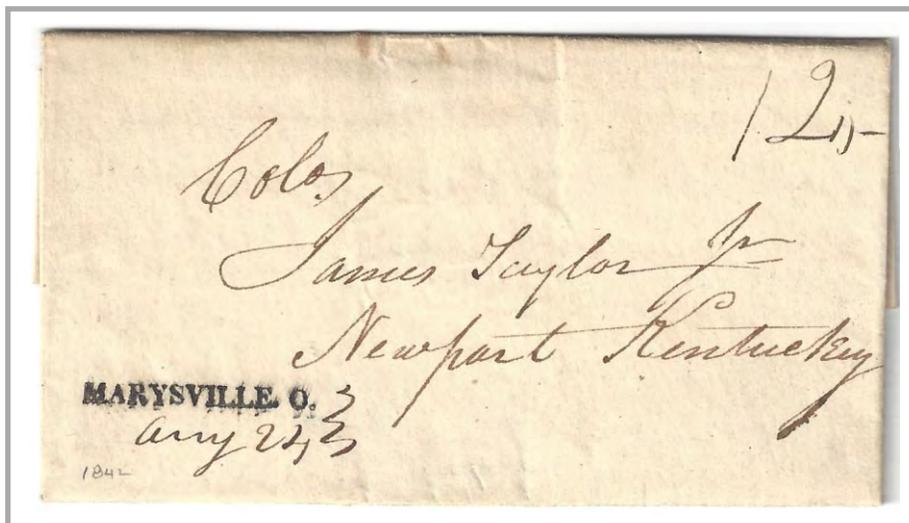


1827 Saco, Maine to New Hampshire, four line postmark with partial ornamental surround

Mails of the United States
Straight Line Postmarks



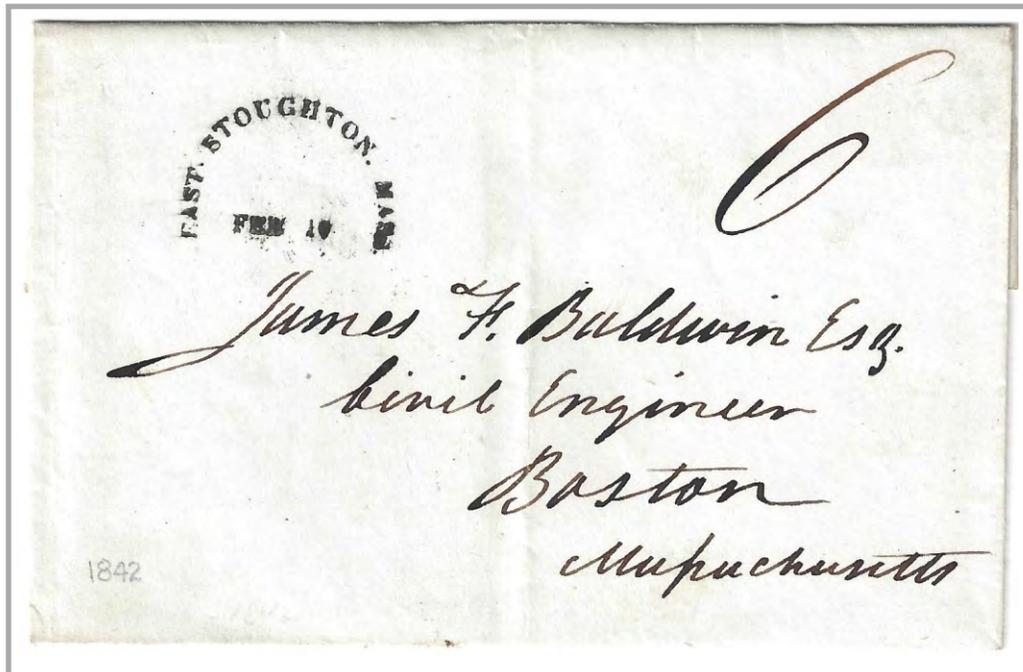
1794 Danbury, Connecticut to Hartford
prepaid 10 cents for a single weight letter sent 60 to 100 miles under the 1792 rate schedule



1842 Marysville, Ohio to Newport, Kentucky
unpaid 12 cents rate for a letter sent between 80 and 180 miles under the 1816 rate schedule

Mails of the United States

Arch Shaped Postmarks



1842 East Stoughton, Massachusetts to Boston



1801 Northampton, Massachusetts to Rhode Island

Mails of the United States

Arc Shaped Postmarks



1848 Farmington, Michigan to Lansing



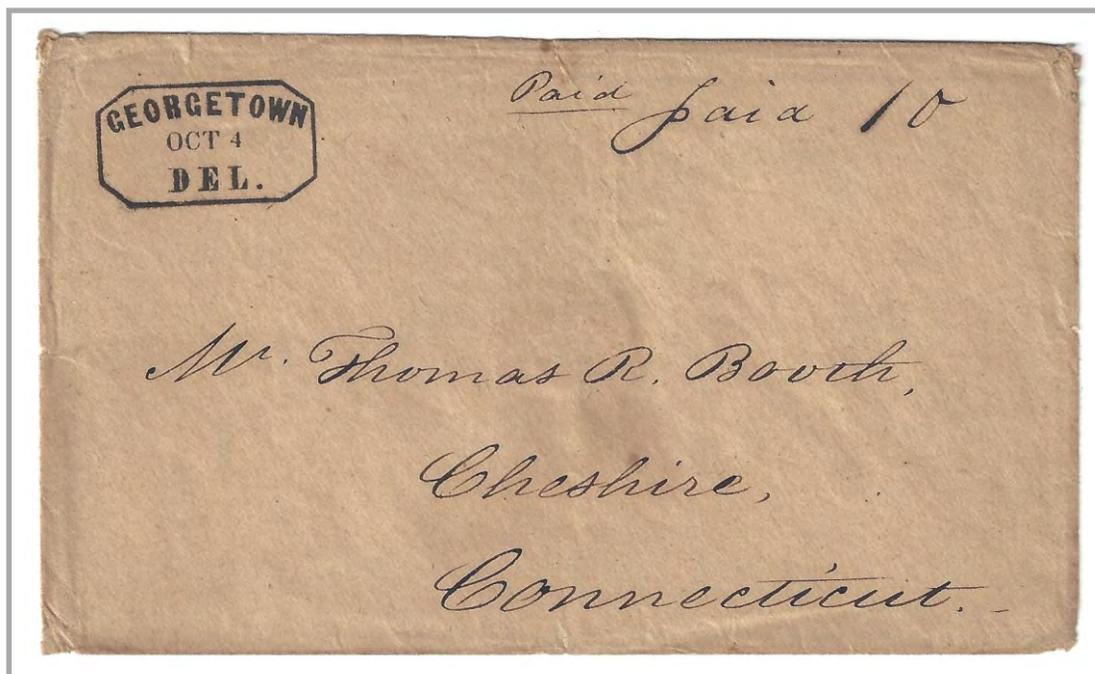
1839 West Brookfield, Massachusetts to Springfield

Mails of the United States

Arc Shaped Postmarks



1835 Penn Township, Pennsylvania to Virginia, "endorsed "Free, D. Pearson P.M." in 1852 Penn Township became part of Philadelphia



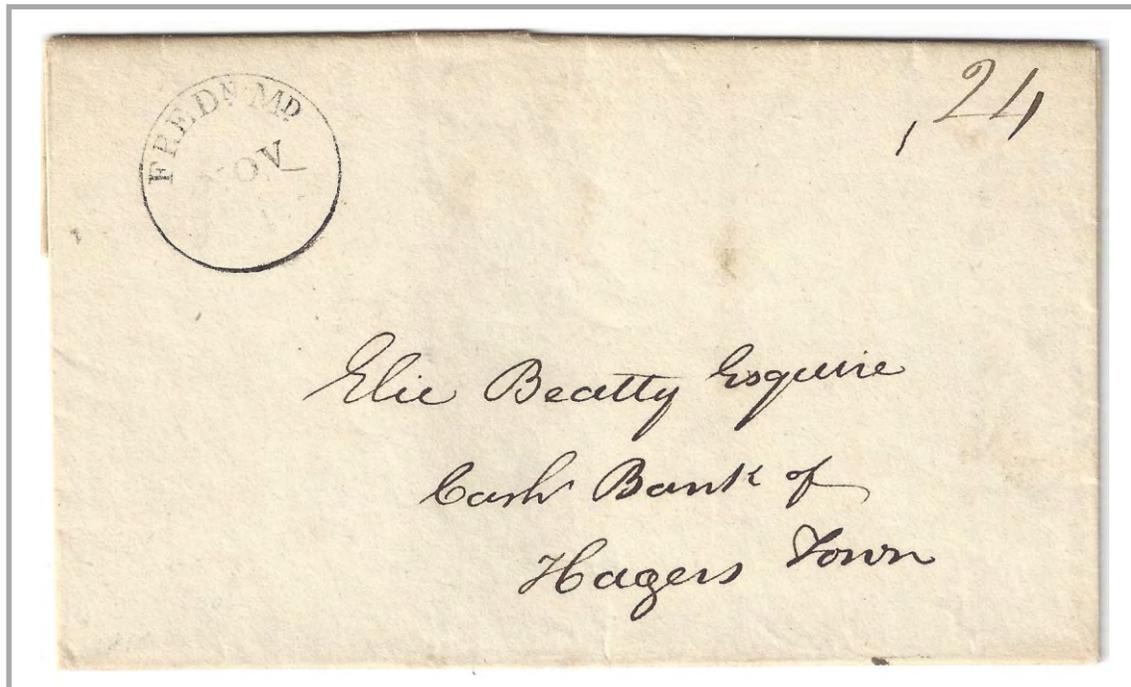
1850 Georgetown, Delaware to Connecticut, arc postmark framed by truncated rectangle

Mails of the United States

1799 Style Postmarks



1815 Annapolis, Maryland to Hagerstown, double 18 cents War Surcharge rate
the 1799 rate for a letter carried 100 to 150 miles was 12 cents, plus 50% surcharge = 18 cents

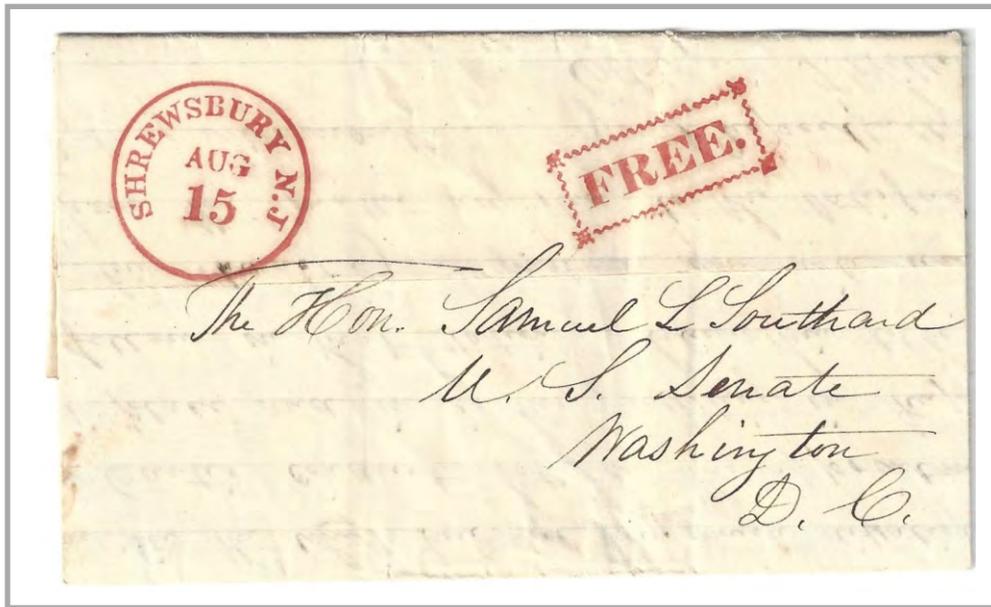


1815 Fredericktown, Maryland to Hagerstown, double 12 cents War Surcharge rate
the 1799 rate for a letter carried to 60 miles was 8 cents, plus 50% surcharge = 12 cents

1799 Style Postmarks - The first style of postmark devices supplied to the larger post offices beginning in 1799 were simple circles with abbreviated city and state names.

Mails of the United States

Auxiliary Handstamps



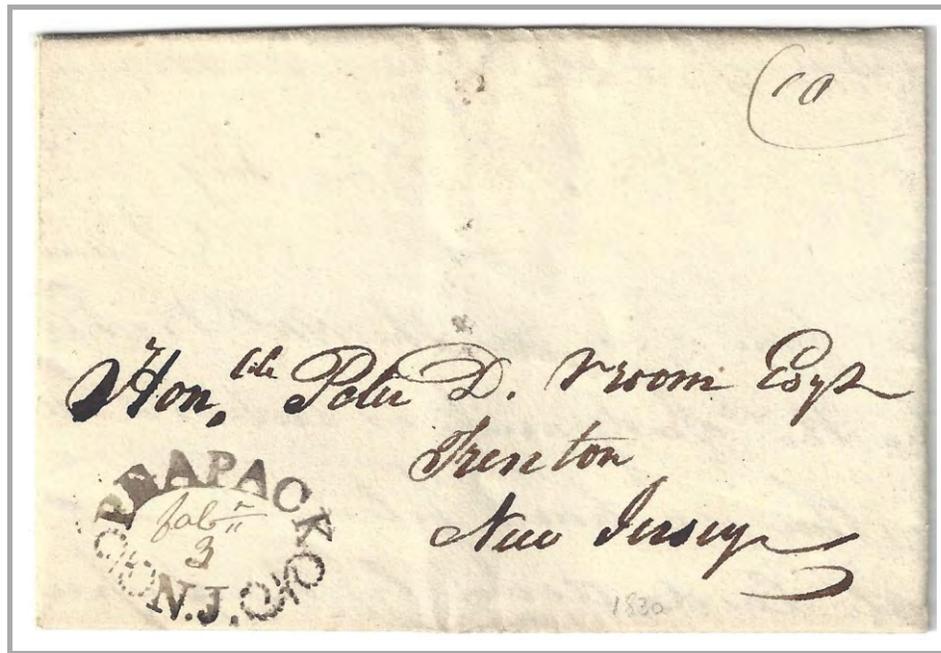
1841 Shrewsbury, New Jersey to Senator Southard in Washington, "FREE" in serrated box



1848 Tyre, New York to New York City, "PAID" in triple-lined hexagons

Mails of the United States

Rimless Postmarks



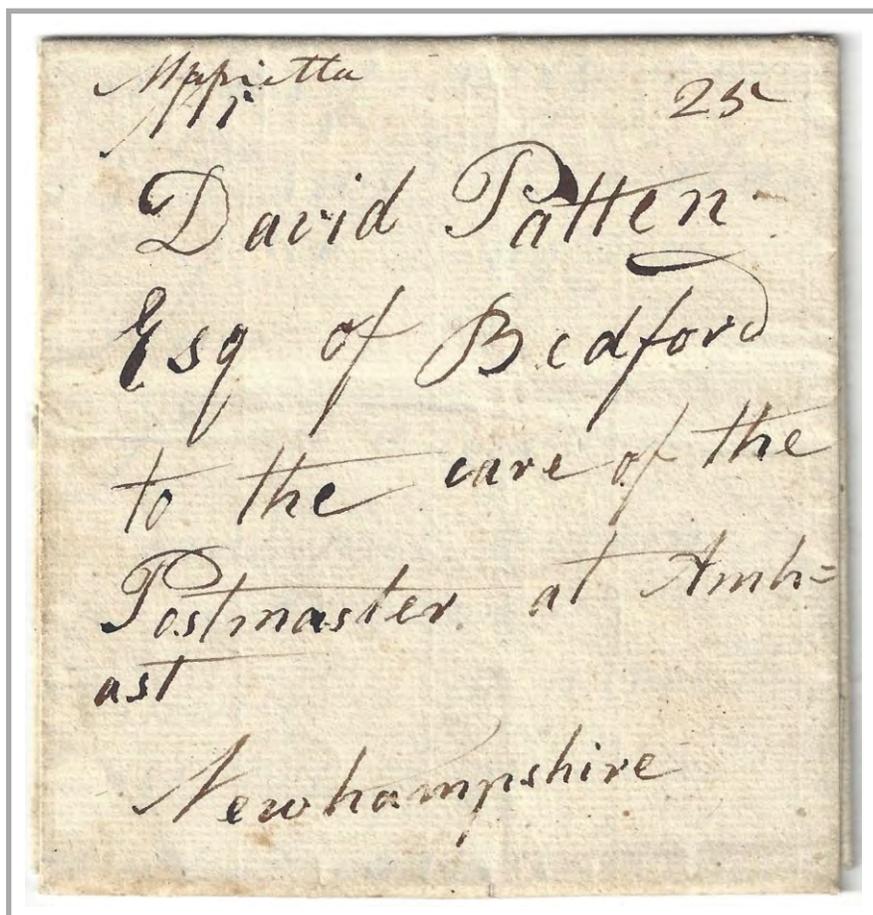
1830 Peapack, New Jersey to Trenton, ornamented rimless oval



1823 Schoharie Court House, New York to New York City, rimless large circle

Mails of the United States

Territorial Postmarks



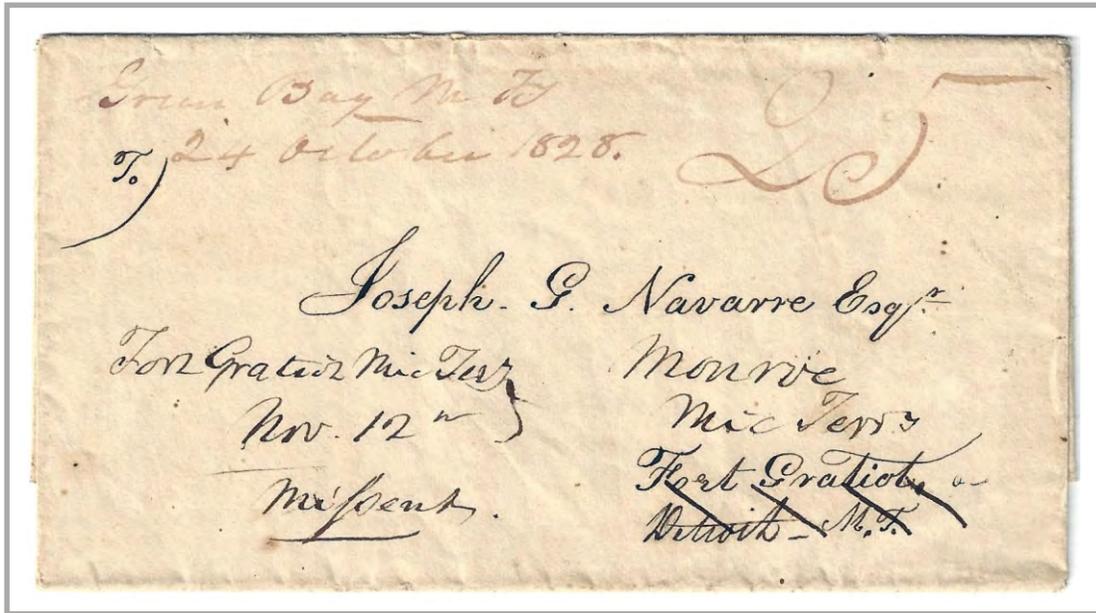
1800 Marietta, Northwest Territory to New Hampshire

Northwest Territory was created on 13 July 1787 and ceased to exist when Ohio became a state on 1 March 1803. Five states were carved out of the old Northwest Territory: Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin.

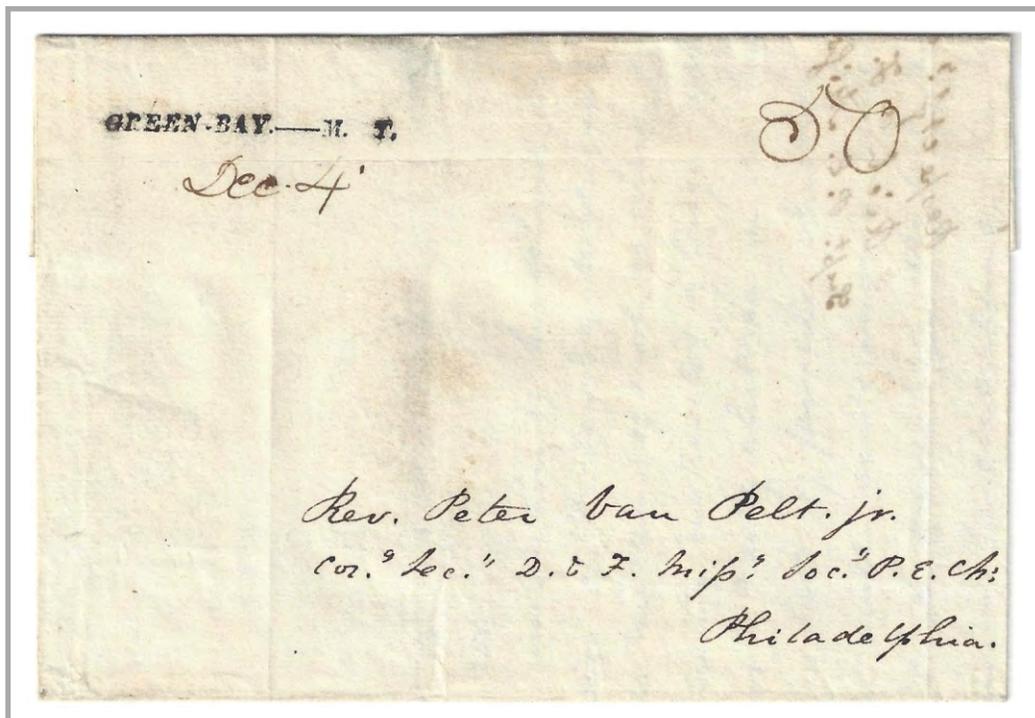
The first permanent settlement in the Territory was Marietta in what is now Ohio.

Mails of the United States

Territorial Postmark



1828 Green Bay (Wisconsin) while Michigan Territory to Monroe, Michigan Territory missent and forwarded with Fort Gratiot Michigan Territory postmark

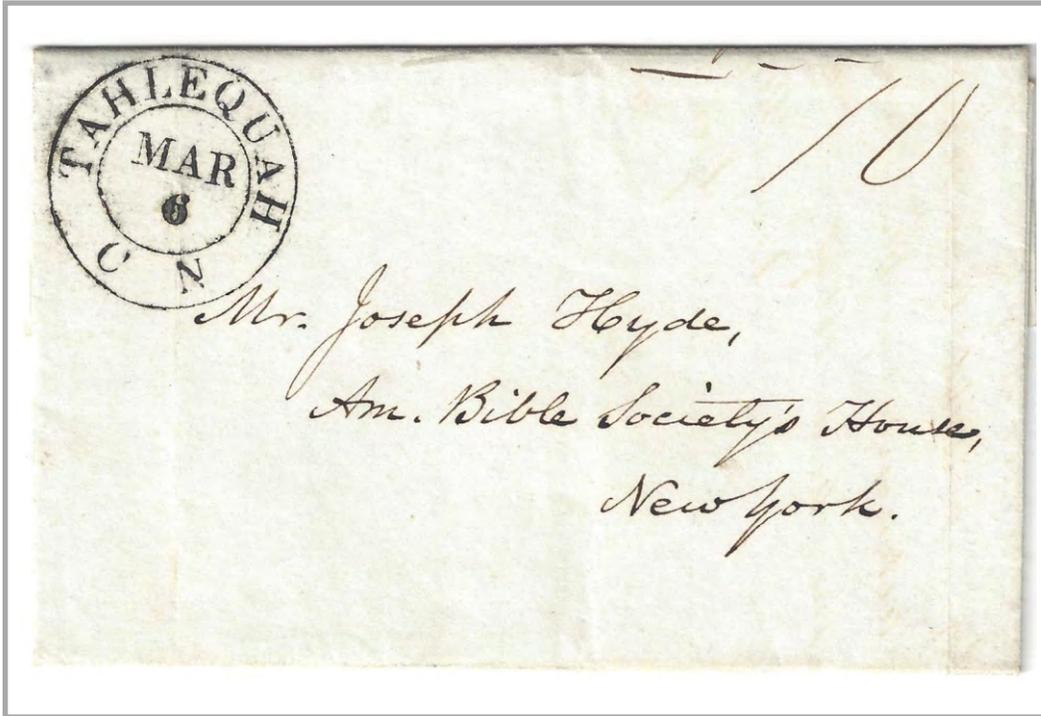


1833 Green Bay (Wisconsin) while Michigan Territory to Philadelphia, straight line postmark

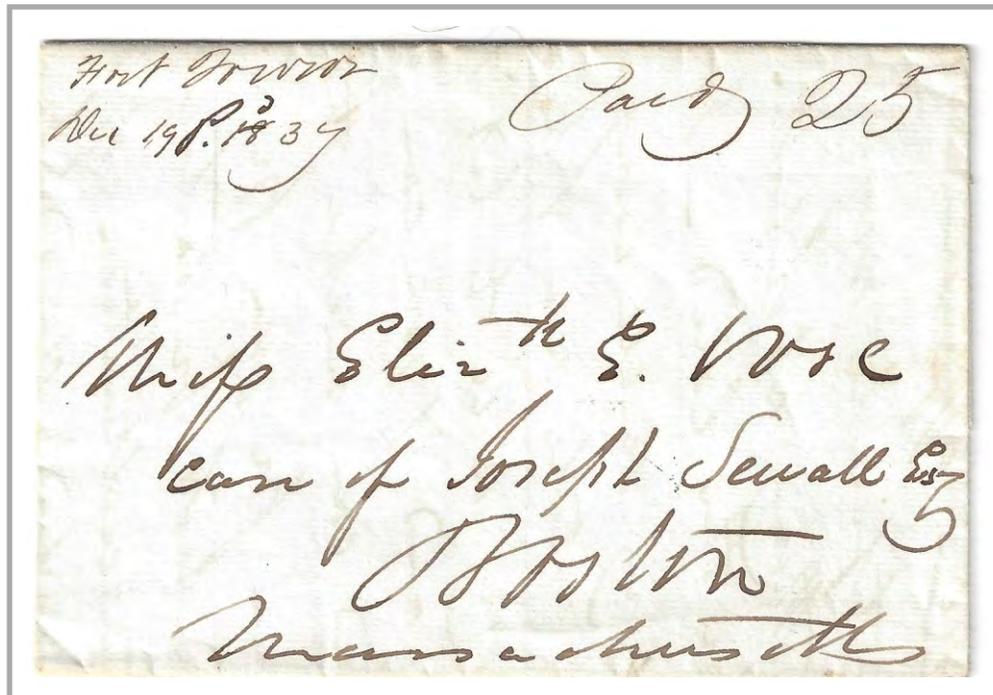
Michigan Territory was created on 3 December 1818. The area that is now Wisconsin became **Wisconsin Territory** on 4 July 1836 and became the state of Wisconsin 28 May 1848. Michigan became a state on 26 January 1837.

Mails of the United States

Territorial Postmarks



1850 Tahlequah, Cherokee Nation (Oklahoma) to New York City

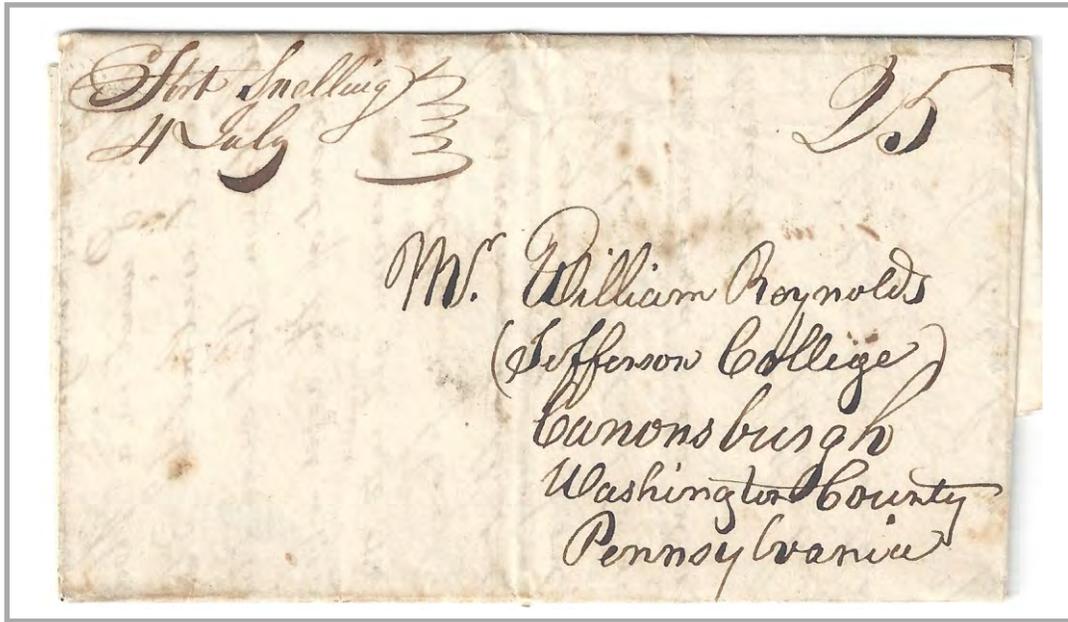


1837 Fort Towson, Choctaw Nation (Oklahoma) to Boston

Arkansas Territory was created on 5 July 1819 and included what is now the state of Oklahoma. The Cherokee and Choctaw Indian Nations operated under their own nominal administration from the late 1820s. Oklahoma gained statehood in 1907.

Mails of the United States

Territorial Postmarks



1833 Fort Snelling (Minnesota) while Unorganized Territory to Pennsylvania

Unorganized Territory was created on 10 August 1821. Fort Snelling became part of Michigan Territory (June 28, 1834 to July 3, 1838), part of Wisconsin Territory (July 4, 1836 to July 3, 1838 and again July 4, 1838 to March 2, 1849), part of Iowa Territory (July 4, 1838 to December 27, 1846) and Minnesota Territory (March 3, 1849 until Minnesota statehood on 10 May 1858).



1818 Detroit, Michigan Territory to New Hampshire

Michigan Territory was created on 1 July 1805 after being cut from Indiana Territory. Both had originally been included in the Northwest Territory. Michigan became a state on 26 January 1837.

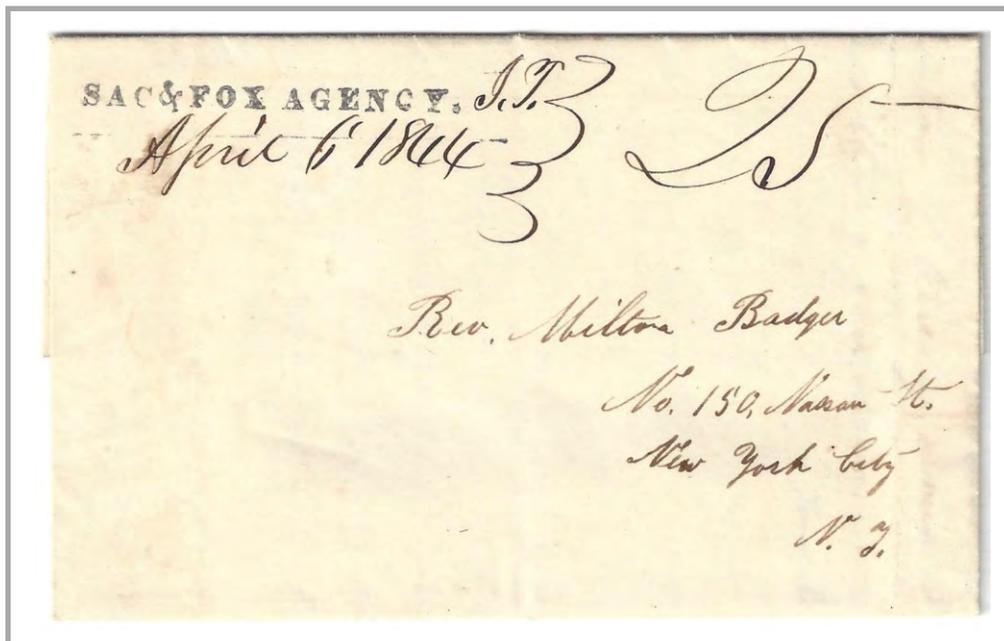
Mails of the United States

Territorial Postmarks



1832 Seminole (Indian) Agency, Florida Territory to Pennsylvania

Florida Territory was created on 30 March 1822 and the state of Florida was created on 2 March

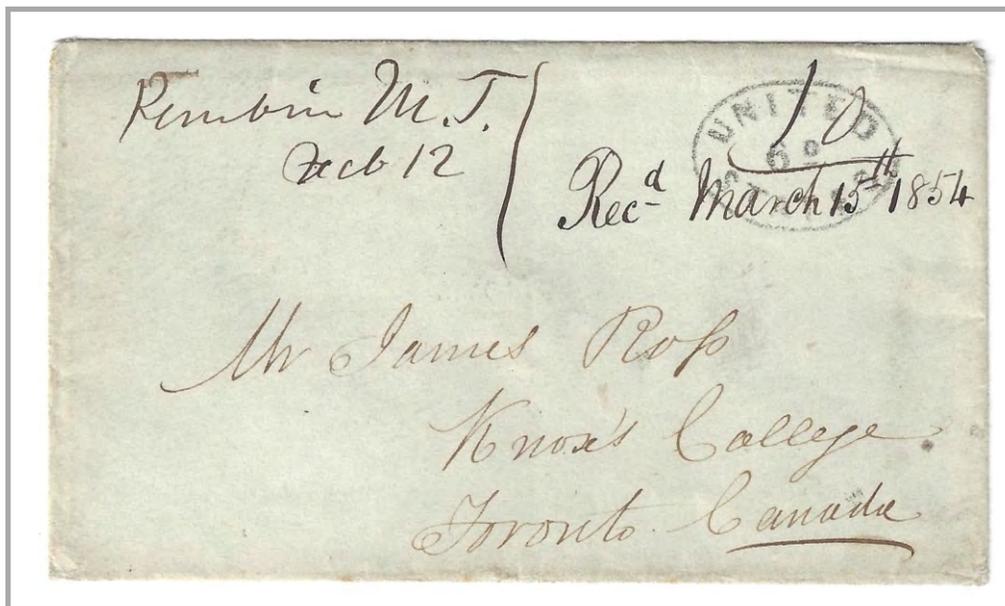


1844 Sac & Fox (Indian) Agency, Iowa Territory to New York City

Iowa Territory was created on 4 July 1838 after previously having been part of the Unorganized Territory, Michigan Territory and then Wisconsin Territory. Iowa became a state on 27 December 1846.

Mails of the United States

Territorial Postmarks



1854 Pembina, Minnesota Territory (North Dakota) to Toronto, Canada



1855 Red River, BNA (now Winnipeg, Canada) via Pembina, Minnesota Territory to Toronto
the Red River postmark is a provisional marking that used a coin for the outline of the circle

Pembina and the Red River Settlements - Pembina was one of the early points of entry between Canada and the United States. It was located in what is now North Dakota at the Canadian boundary. Hudson's Bay Company operated a trading post (Red River Settlements) north of the boundary near what is now Winnipeg. In the 1850s the HBC operated a special mail service to Pembina, (then Minnesota Territory) and onward to Fort Snelling and St. Paul.

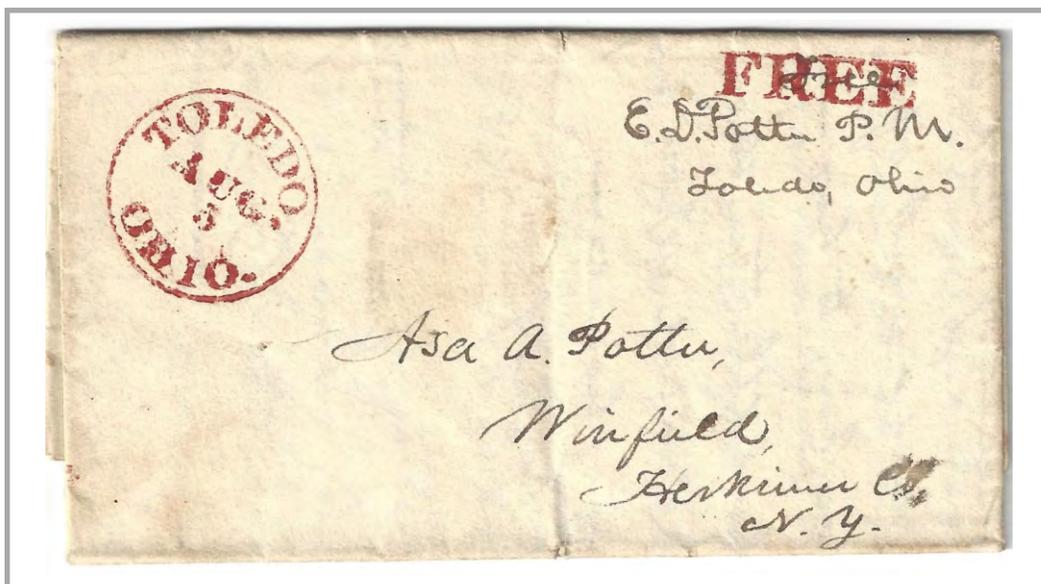
Mails of the United States

Quasi - Territorial Postmarks



1828 Bowdoinham D.M. (District of Maine) to Portland

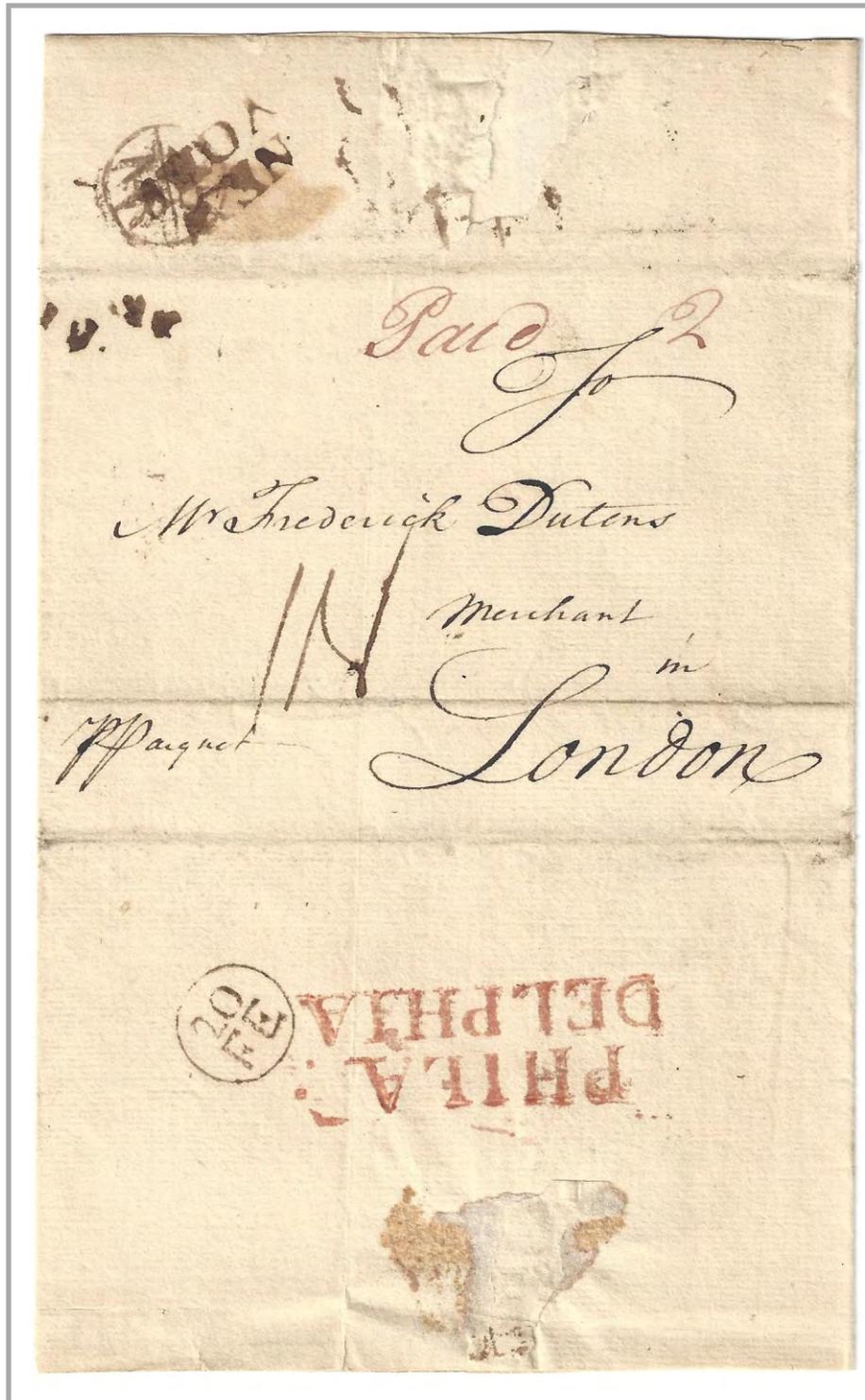
The District of Maine - had become the state of Maine on March 26, 1820, this postmark shows the "D.M." designation. Prior to Maine statehood, it was technically part of Massachusetts.



August 1836 Toledo Strip to New York, "Ohio" in postmark while legally part of Michigan Territory

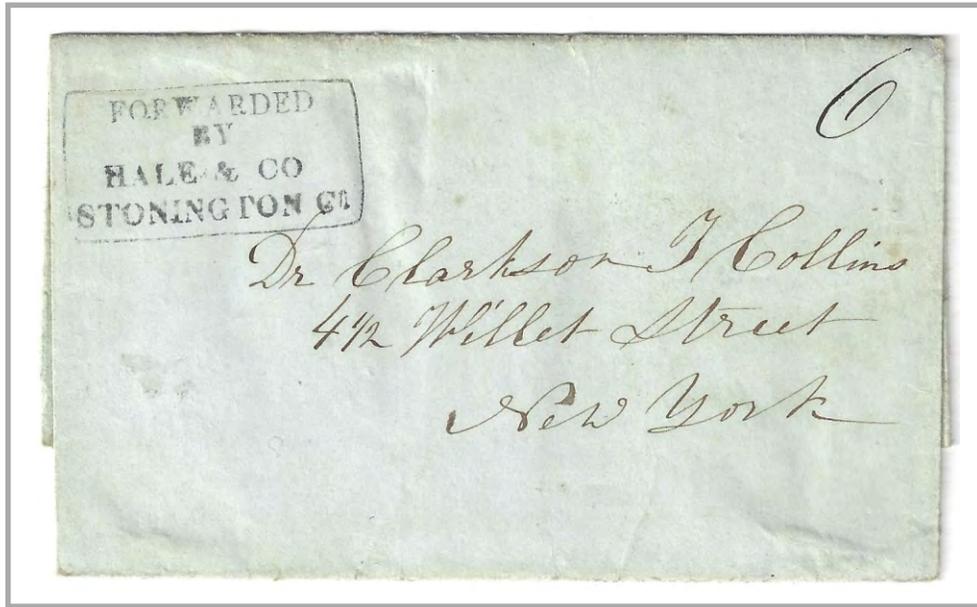
Toledo Strip - When Michigan petitioned for statehood in 1835, it sought to include the disputed territory of the "Toledo Strip" within its boundaries. Ohio's congressional delegation was in turn able to stall Michigan's admission to the Union. On 20 April 1836 Michigan was awarded the upper peninsula as compensation for the strip of land in northwestern Ohio. Finally on 15 December 1836 Congress gave administration of the strip back to Ohio.

Mails of the United States
Colonial Period Postmarks

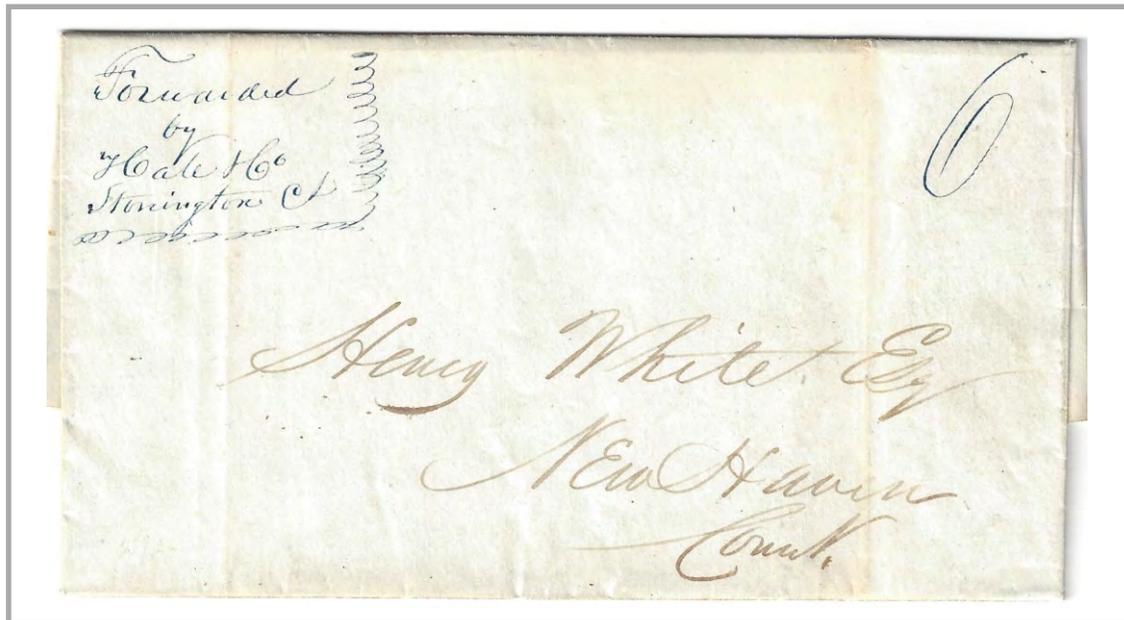


1767 Philadelphia (February 20 datestamp), via New York and by Falmouth Packet to London
"Paid 2" dwt. for postage to New York and 1 shilling postage due in London for packet postage
Falmouth packet "Lord Hyde" departed New York on February 25 and arrived Falmouth on March 23, 1767

Mails of the United States
1844 Independent Mail Company



1844 Hale & Co. from Stonington, Connecticut to New York City, 6 cents rate



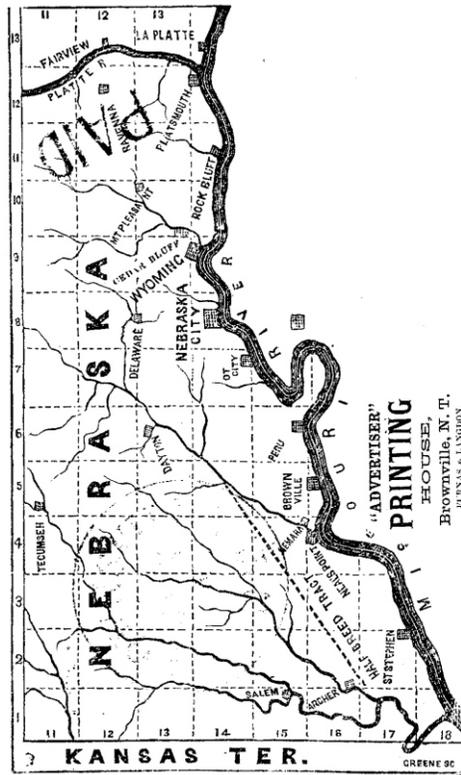
May 1845 Hale & Co. from Stonington, Connecticut to New Haven, 6 cents rate
two known manuscript markings of Hale & Co. Stonington office date after the use of the handstamps

1844 Independent Mail Companies - this group of companies, including Hale & Co. with the largest service area, operated between early 1844 and June 30, 1845. They carried letter mail in direct competition with the post office at substantially lower rates. The Government post office lowered their postage rates from 1 July 1845 ending the Independent Mail Company competition.

Mails of the United States
Territorial Postmarks



circa 1856 Brownsville, Nebraska Territory to Indiana, all over map design of eastern portion map is shown below rotated so North is up with Missouri River forming eastern boundary



Nebraska Territory was created on 30 May 1854 and statehood was granted on 8 February 1867.

Mails of the United States
Sub Post Office with Carrier Service



1836 Northern Liberties New Rooms Sub Post Office, via Philadelphia post office to Clearfield printed marking of a private reading room that served briefly as a sub-post office of Philadelphia

Northern Liberties News Rooms - An October 1835 newspaper column included: "The enterprising, attentive and indefatigable proprietor of that popular establishment, the Northern Liberties Free Admission News Room, has found the business of his Sub Post Office so much on the increase, as to induce him to prepare a new and appropriate stamp, which we perceive is now imprinted upon letters deposited at his office."

It served as a "Sub Post Office" at Philadelphia as a place where letters for delivery to the main Philadelphia Post Office could be deposited and that they would be collected by a regular Philadelphia mail carrier as part of his regular route. An unknown fee was charged for this service and the newspaper account concludes, "we must come in for our share of the postage money."

Mails of the United States

U.S. Despatch Agent at Panama City



1850 Panama, New Grenada to Connecticut

United States post office postmark with "N.Y." error for "N.G." and correct 30 cents due rate

Letter from California bound traveler mentions: *"I am detained here yet awaiting passage on the 'Sarah Sands' with five hundred others who like myself have tickets on the same vessel. Several who have been here awaiting passage on the same steamer have spent all their money and from exposure & want have died."*



U.S. Despatch Agent at Panama, New Grenada -

In 1850 Amos Corwine was the United States despatch agent at Panama City in charge of handling mails across the Isthmus of Panama and receiving mails at Panama City. The first postal device issued to Corwine for mail received at his office was the error device shown on the cover above that reads "PANAMAN.Y." instead of PANAMAN.G." It was used only in June and July 1850 before being replaced by a "PANAMA" marking.

Postage rate was thirty cents between Panama and the eastern United States.

Mails of the United States

U.S. Occupation of Spanish East Florida - The Florida Fiasco



20 August 1812 Augusta, Georgia to "Lieut. Col. Smith, near Augustine (Spanish East Florida)"

Two page letter of Brig. Genl. Thomas Flournoy, Augusta, Georgia, August 13, 1812 reads:

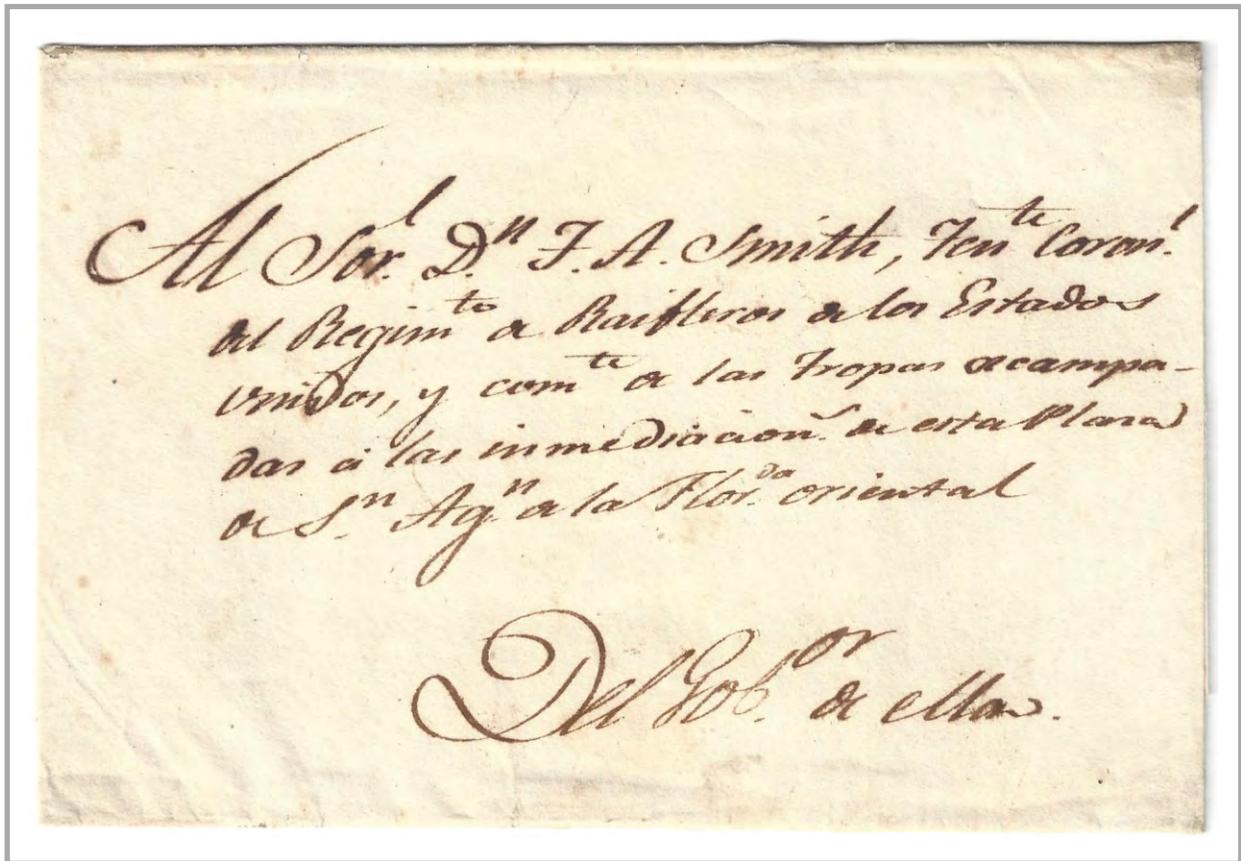
"Apprehensive that your present situation precludes you from many of the public occurrences, I feel it my duty to apprise you that I am appointed a Brigadier General in the Army of the United Sates. And altho at present I cannot consider you under my command, in consequence of your having been placed under the directorship of the Governor of this state, ye, I will suggest to you the propriety of giving me early information should you be driven back from your present situation.

I have no sort of instructions respecting the duties required from you but I cannot suppress a fear that your situation may be a perilous one."

The U.S. Government, in an attempt to acquire Spanish East Florida, encouraged and supported an American led rebellion. A base was established at St. Mary's, Georgia and on March 13, 1812 a force of approximately 80 Georgians and Floridians, led by Lt. Col. Thomas Adam Smith (addressee of this letter), who believed they would be supported by the U.S. Navy, crossed the border into Florida and formed a short lived "Territory of East Florida." It soon became apparent that the chances for success were slim and the U.S. Government disavowed the rebels.

Mails of the United States

U.S. Occupation of Spanish East Florida - The Florida Fiasco



11 June 1812 cover addressed in Spanish "To Sr. Dn. T. A. Smith, Lt. Col. of the Regiment of Riflemen of the United States and commander of the troops encamped in the vicinity of St. Augustine, E. Florida"

the original enclosure, now owned by Florida State Museum, was a note signed by Spanish Governor Sebastian Kindelan ordering Smith to withdraw his troops to the other side of the St. John's River.

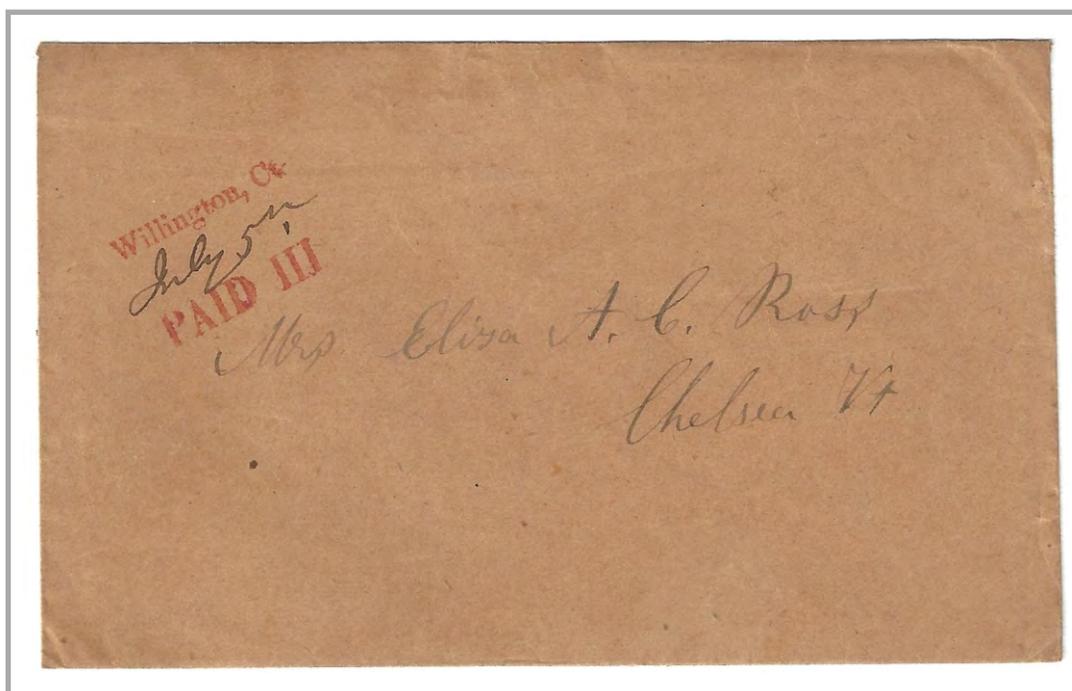
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Mails of the United States

1851 Three Cent Rate



1 July 1851 New York City to Massachusetts, postmark with internal "Paid 3 Cts"
first day of postal rate

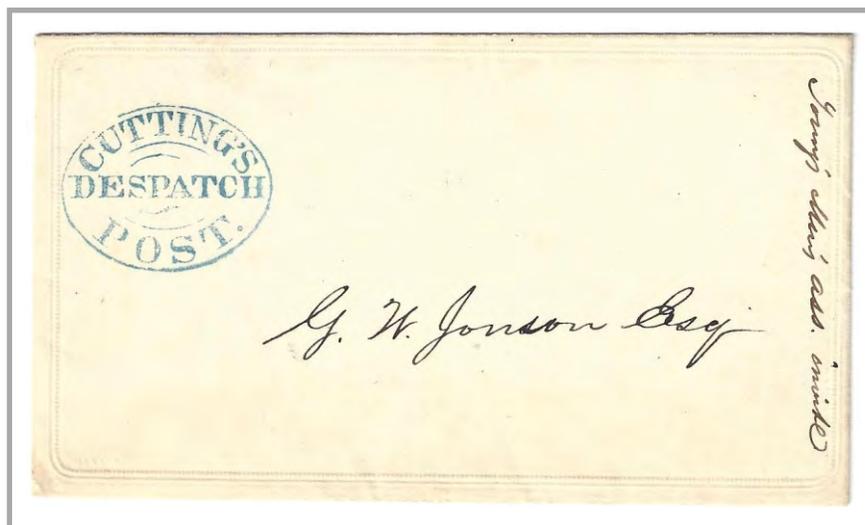


1853 Willington, Connecticut to Vermont, two line postmark incorporating "PAID III" rate in second line

1851 Three Cent Rate - From July 1, 1851 the rate for a prepaid domestic letter, per one-half ounce if sent under 3,000 miles, was three cents.

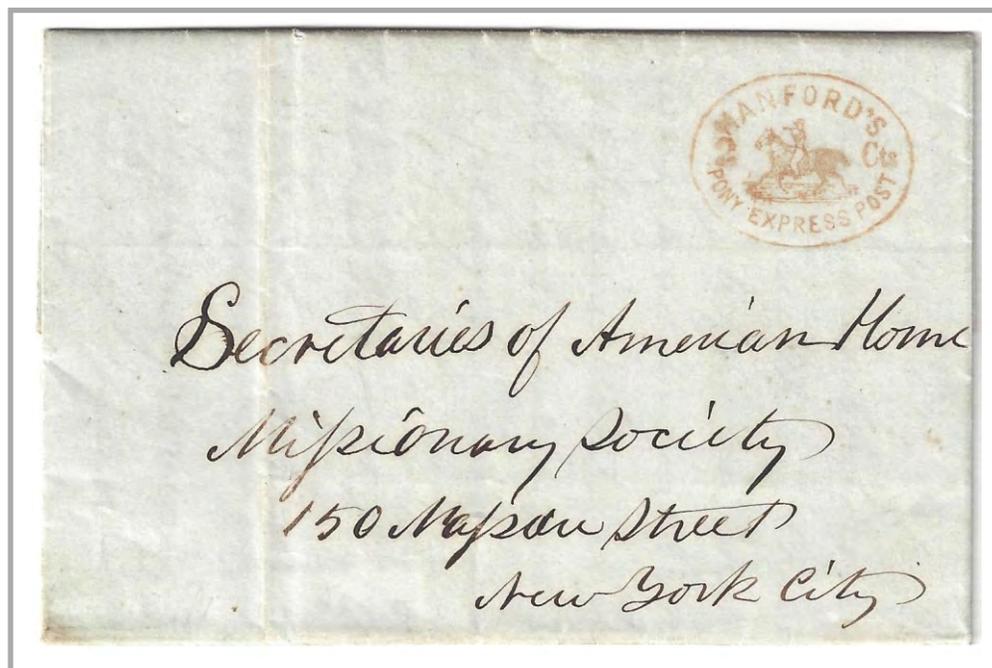
Mails of the United States

Private Local Posts



circa 1847, Cutting's Despatch Post, Buffalo, New York, a local use

Cutting's Despatch Post - formed in January 1847 by Thomas Cutting, the Buffalo local post did a large Valentine's Day business in 1847 and 1848 before selling to Spaulding later in 1848.



1847 Hanford's Pony Express Post, 2 Cts, a New York City local post

Hanford's Pony Express Post - was established by John Hanford in 1847 and continued to operate into the early 1850s in New York City.

Mails of the United States

1844 Independent Mail Company / Hotel Forwarder



1844 Bates & Co. from New Bedford, Massachusetts to New York City, 6 1/4 cents rate handstamp

Bates & Co - was one of the smaller 1844 Independent Mail Companies that carried letter mail in competition with the post office at substantially lower rates.



1849 Western Hotel, Buffalo, New York to the post office service with hotel handstamp
Buffalo post office to Boston by the U.S. mails, unpaid 10 cents postage due

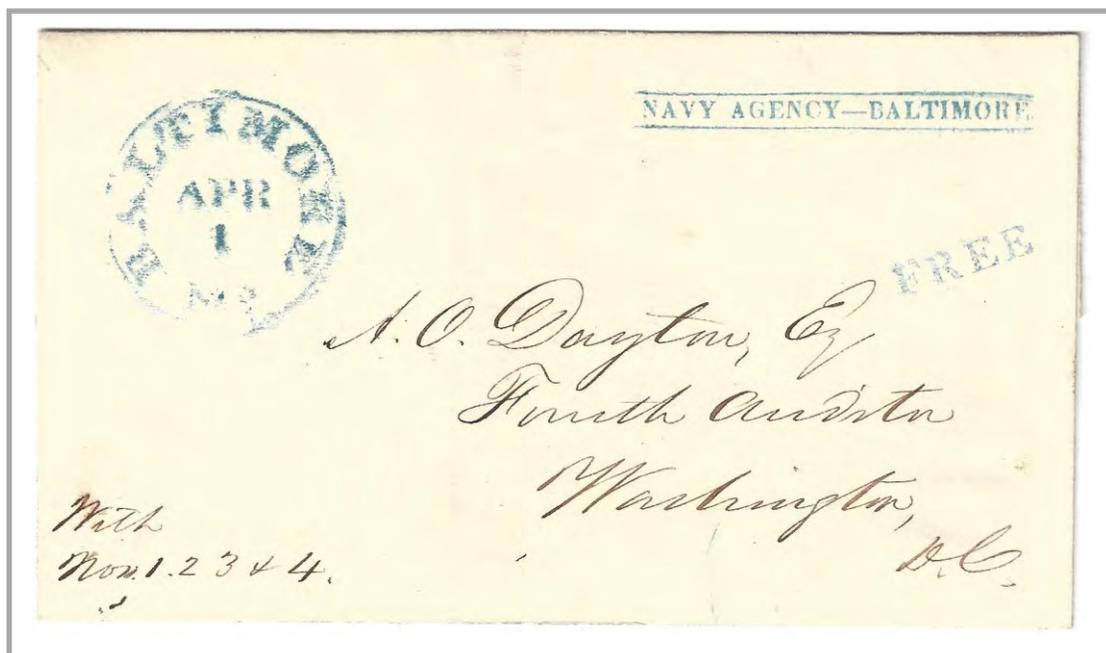
Hotel Forwarders - several hotels ran mail service to and from the local post offices for their patrons in the 1840s and 1850s. It is likely a service that was provided to guests without charge.

Mails of the United States

Auxiliary Markings



1852 Troy, New York to Montreal, Canada, prepaid 10 cents treaty rate, fancy "PAID" in scroll and rate fancy "U. STATES" exchange office scroll applied at Montreal to acknowledge prepayment to destination



"NAVY AGENCY - BALTIMORE" handstamp on cover from Baltimore to Washington, D.C.

"FREE" handstamp as addressed to the Fourth Auditor of the Treasury

Navy Agency - Baltimore - was a principal Navy agency that directed and forwarded mail to and from Navy personnel. This service required tracking of all Navy vessels and their crew.

Mails of the United States
Ship Mail / Steamboat Mail



1818 Liverpool, England by ship Milo to Boston, "SHIP 6" scrolled port of entry due postal rate
Ship Purser's handstamp "SHIP MILO / S.G. BRONSON / Sailed mar. 27"

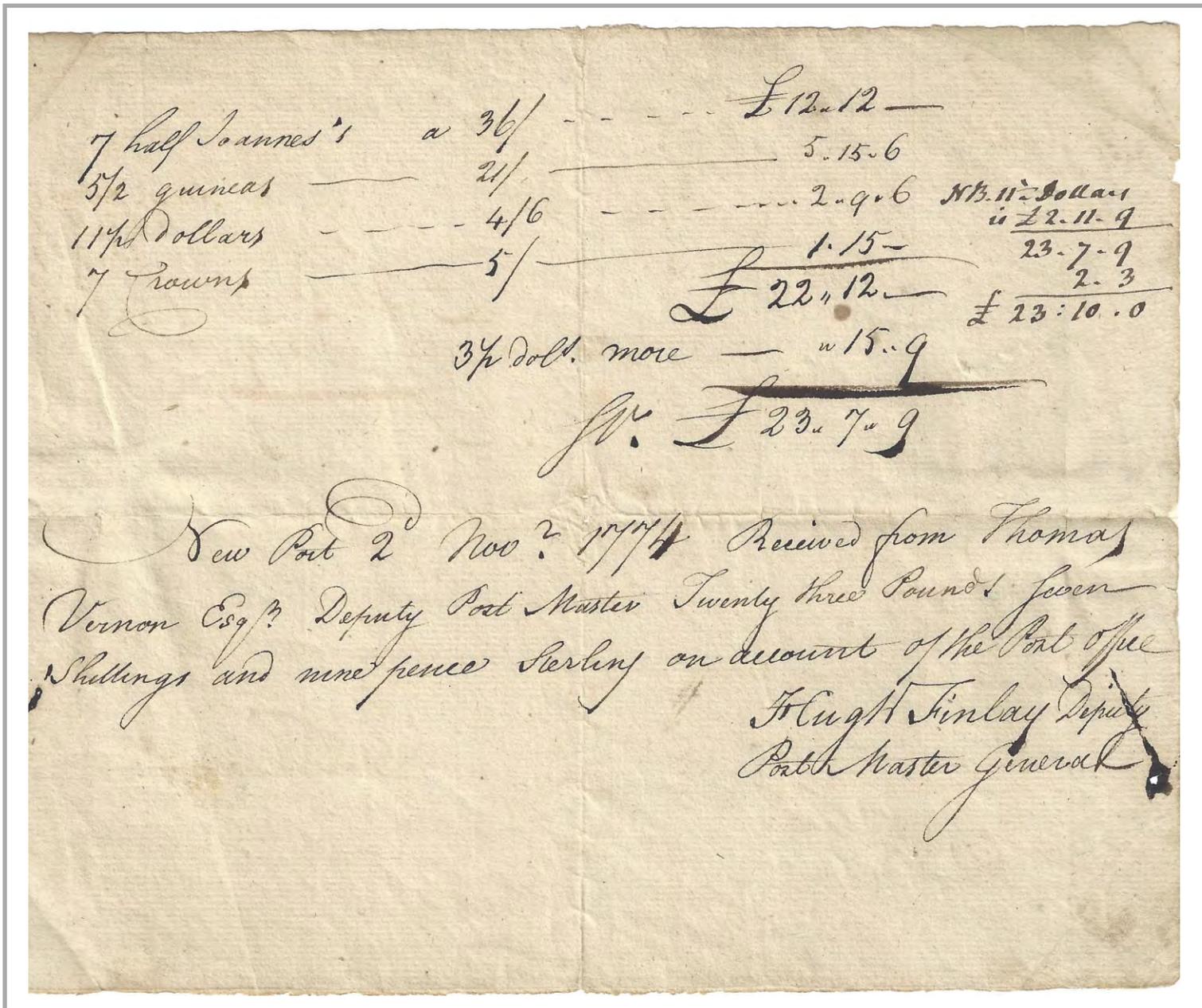


1853 Louisville & Cincinnati (Steamboat) Mail Line use to Washington
"L.VILLE & CIN^{TI} MAIL LINE" postmark was used by a steamboat route agent on the Mississippi River

Route Agents - were post office employees that received and processed mail while traveling aboard steamboats, railroads or on ocean steamers on routes that were busy enough to warrant the expense.

Mails of the United States

Colonial Posts - Post Master General Finlay



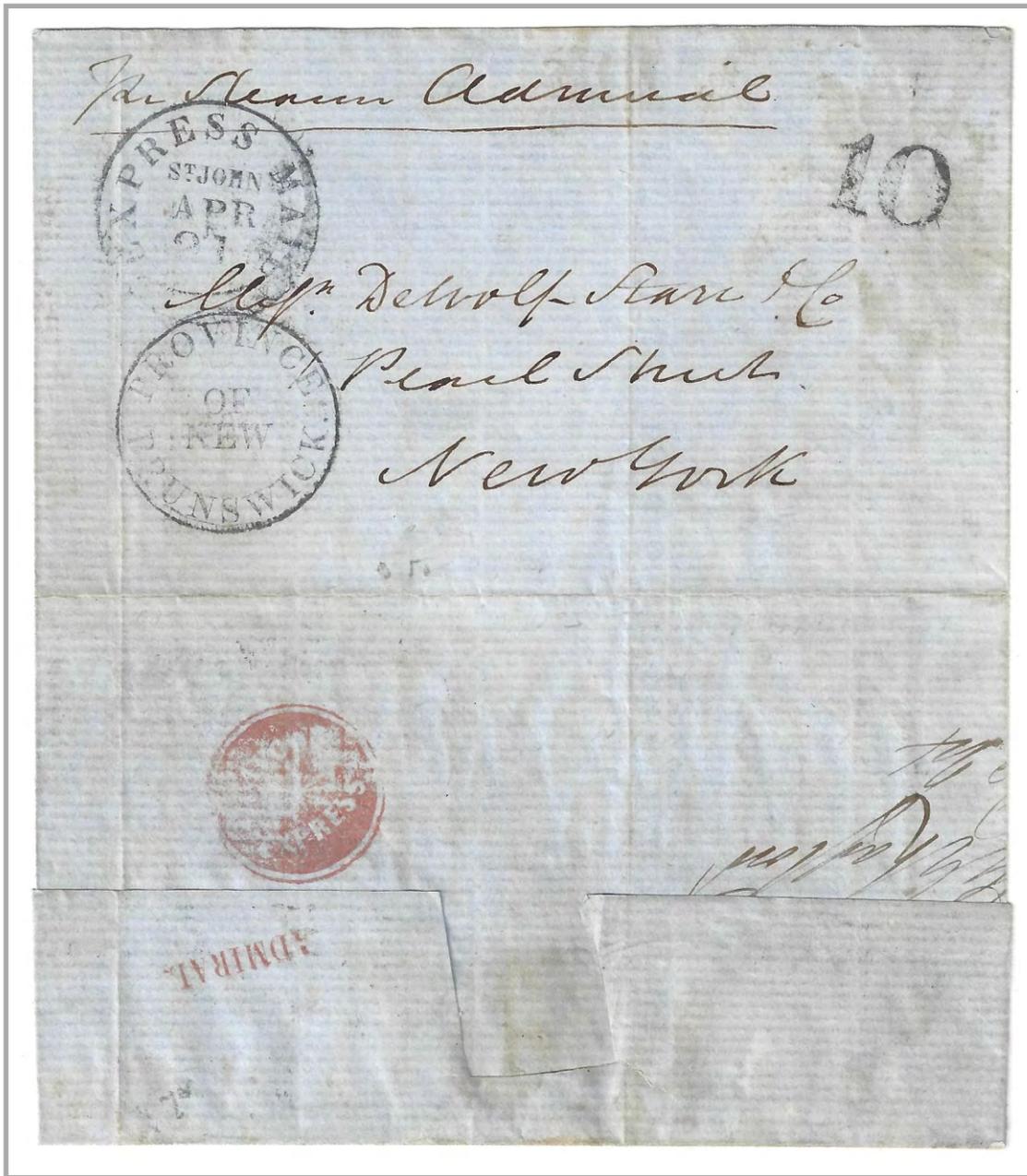
2 November 1774 Post Office Document signed by Hugh Finlay at Newport as Post Master General

Hugh Finlay - Finlay served as Surveyor of the Post Offices and Post Roads on the Continent of North America. He set out in September, 1773 on a journey through Canada and the 13 colonies in order to assess the overall state of the mail system in order to improve the efficiency of the mails.

Finlay's expedition came to an end in June 1774 when growing unrest in the northern colonies made the job of surveying the roads hazardous. In addition, he had been appointed Postmaster General of the Colonies in February 1774 following Ben Franklin's dismissal from that position. However, the appointment would not last long. Increasing competition from the Constitutional Post caused the British Post Office in America to close by Christmas 1775.

Mails of the United States

Favor's Express Route



ADMIRAL

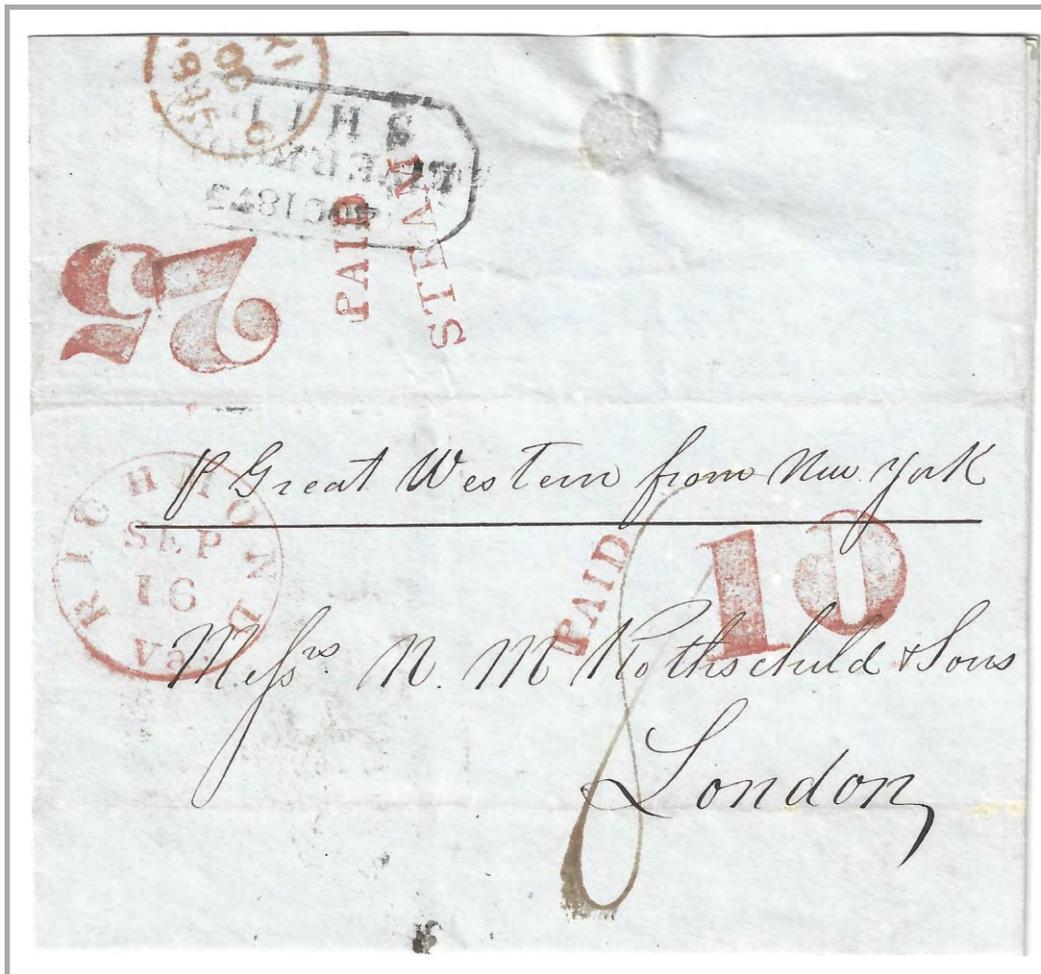


1856 St. John, New Brunswick to New York, per Favor's Express to Boston onboard steamer *Admiral*

Favor's Express - Hiram Favor started an express service in 1849 operating on the steamer *Admiral* between St. John, New Brunswick, via Calais and Eastport, Maine to Boston. The express made two trips a week.

Mails of the United States

Freight Money Letter



1845 Richmond, Virginia, prepaid freight money letter, per steamship *Great Western* from New York
Richmond postmark and "PAID" and "10" rate for postage to New York City
"PAID" and "STEAM" backstamps as well as a "25" rate handstamps for prepayment of freight money fee
Liverpool Ship backstamp and "8" (d) ship rate due for carriage by mail to London

Freight Money System - in 1838, the British & American Steam Navigation Company began a 'Freight Money' letter service. For a fee, which had to be prepaid, and was collected by either the United States or the Canadian Post Office, a trans-Atlantic letter would be carried on one of their steamers. Other private companies soon provided similar services.

Many of the known letters are difficult to recognize because the the private fees and postage are often combined into a single total figure by the Post Office of origin. An exception to this, and the most clearly delineated of the usages, are the five reported covers that originated in Richmond, Virginia. The Postmaster at Richmond marked 'PAID STEAM' with handstamps on the verso of the letter as well as the fee of 25 cents. Then, on the front of the letter, he marked 'PAID' and the inland postage.

Mails of the United States

Freight Money Letter forwarded with Penny Black



18405 Richmond, Virginia, prepaid freight money letter, per steamship *President* from New York
Richmond postmark and "PAID" and "18" rate for postage to New York City
"PAID" and "STEAM" backstamps as well manuscript "25" rate for prepayment of freight money fee
Liverpool Ship Letter arrival backstamp and and "8" (d) ship rate collect
forwarded from Liverpool to Glasgow, Scotland with Great Britain 1d black (plate 5) stamp

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Mails of the United States

Freight Money Letter



1845 New Haven, Connecticut, prepaid freight money letter, per steamship *Great Western* from New York prepaid 30c combined rate (25c for freight money plus 5c for postage to New York City Liverpool Ship arrival and forwarded to Nice prepaid 2sh 10d.m arrival backstamp

Freight Money System - in 1838, the British & American Steam Navigation Company began a 'Freight Money' letter service. For a fee, which had to be prepaid, and was collected by either the United States or the Canadian Post Office, a trans-Atlantic letter would be carried on one of their steamers. Other private companies soon provided similar services.

Many of the known letters are difficult to recognize because the the private fees and postage are often combined into a single total figure by the Post Office of origin. New Haven, Connecticut was one of those offices that combined the freight money fee with the postage. The letter above is the only known example of a freight money letter mailed from New Haven.