

WAR OF 1812 SPECIAL MAIL ROUTES AND RATES

The War of 1812 began with the United States declaration of war against Great Britain on June 18, 1812 and ended with the ratification of the treaty of Ghent on February 17, 1815. The lack of adequate communication at the start of the war was a significant cause of early defeats in the West. In an effort to solve these communication difficulties, several special methods and routes for mail handling were developed. The high cost of the war led to a tax on postal charges, the first ever instituted. These 1815 war surcharge rates were in effect for only thirteen months. The 1799 rates were restored in April, 1816 for a one month period, the briefest period of existence for any U.S. postal rates. The laws governing the free mail privilege were also altered in 1815.

This exhibit illustrates the range of exceptional mail routes that were developed during the period, the postal rates whose passage was mandated by the costs of the war, the April, 1816 restored rates and the free mail system in effect. The 1812 to 1816 period saw the introduction of the first public express mail, the first contract steamboat service, and the first contract service on a canal. The military mail scheme included special arrangements to handle mails in occupied Canada and East Florida. Postal expansion, begun as a war necessity, resulted in a vastly improved communication system in the West. The British blockade, although relatively ineffective, prompted the use of neutral vessels, naval vessels and cartel ships (flag of truce ships carrying prisoners) for carriage of ocean mails during the war. With peace, ocean commerce and correspondence by conventional routes reached new levels.

THE SPECIAL MAIL ROUTES

Overland Mails

Military Mails

Government Express Mail

Inland Waterway Mails

First Contract Steamboat Route

First Contract Canal Route

Ocean Waterway Mails

Blockade Mails

Naval and Cartel Ship Mail

THE SPECIAL MAIL RATES

Free Mail

1815 War Surcharge Rates

April 1816 Restored Rates



Navy Depart^tJune 18th 1812

Sir

I apprise you that war has been this day declared between "the United Empire of Great Britain and Ireland & their dependencies" and the United States of America. You are to consider the vessels under your command as entitled to every belligerent right, as well of attack as defence - For the present, it is desirable that, with the force under your command, you remain in such position as to enable you most conveniently to receive further more extensive, and more particular orders, which will be conveyed to you through New York; but as it is understood that there are one or more British Cruisers on the Coast, in the vicinity of Sandy Hook, you are at once directed, free to strike at them - returning immediately after into Port. You are free to capture or destroy them -

extend these orders to Com^d. Decatur
Respectfully, &c

Command. John Rodgers
U. S. Navy

Paul Hamilton

18 June 1812 from the Secretary of the Navy at Washington, D.C.

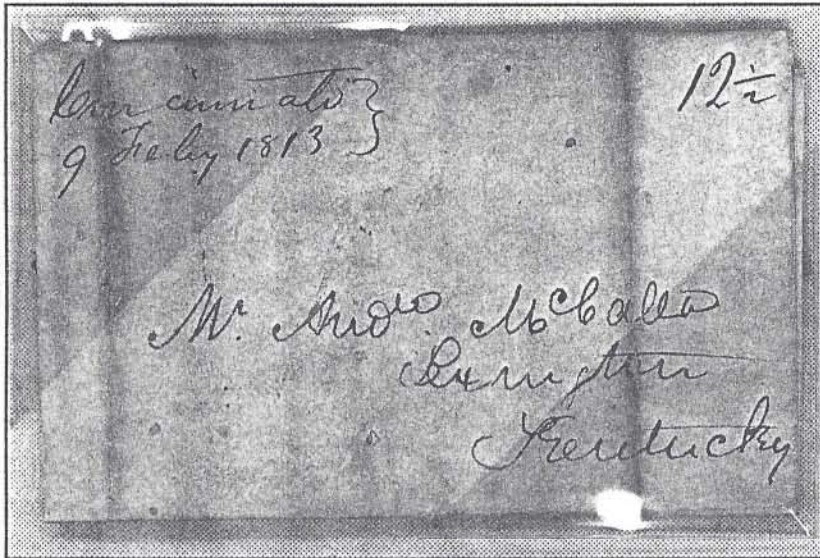
By Military Express to Commander John Rodgers at New York

"I apprise you that war has been this day declared"

Overland Mails 1812 to 1816

Military Mails

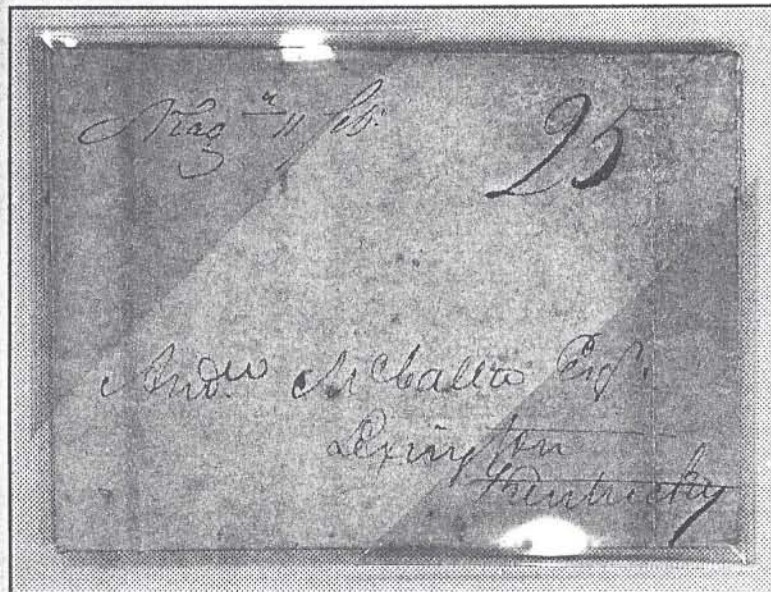
The River Raisin Massacre on 22 January 1813 halted American hopes for a speedy capture of Canada. Slow communication was blamed. The Government Express mail and improved postal service resulted.



French Town, River Raisin.
January 21. 1813.

21 January 1813 from French Town, River Raisin, **Michigan Territory**

By military courier to Cincinnati, Ohio, 9 February 1813 entered the mails and rated 12½ cents (90 to 150 miles)

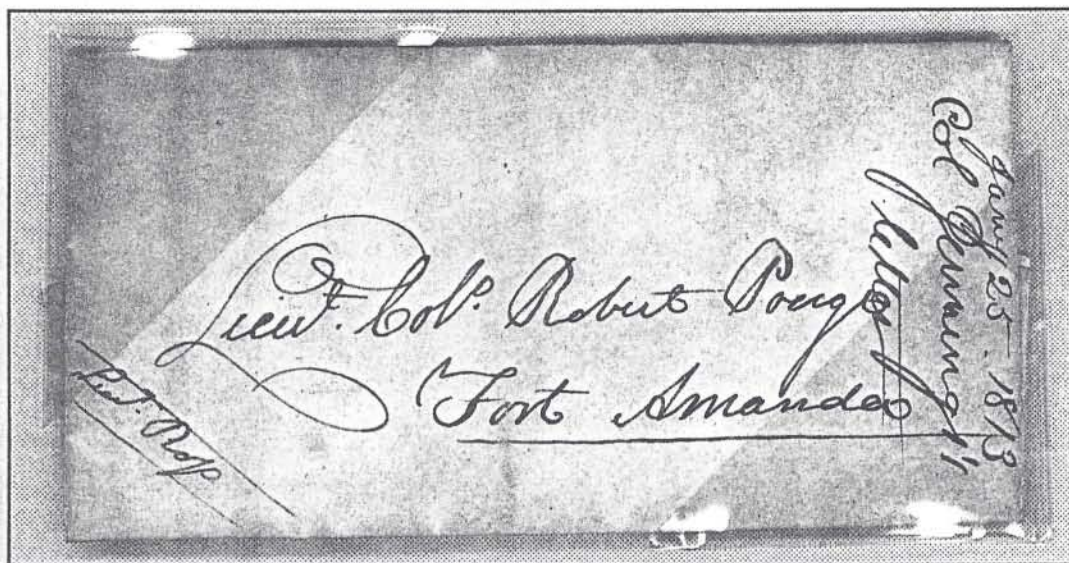


10 February 1813 Fort Niagara, N.Y., from same writer as above, now a paroled prisoner, to Lexington, Kentucky

By military courier to Niagara, N.Y., 11 February rated 25 cents (over 500 miles)

Overland Mails 1812 to 1816

Military Mails



25 January 1813 letter of Col. Jennings from Fort Jennings, Ohio
By military courier, Lieut. Ross, to Col. Pouge at Fort Amanda, Ohio
carried down the Au Glaize River 3 days after the River Raisin Massacre

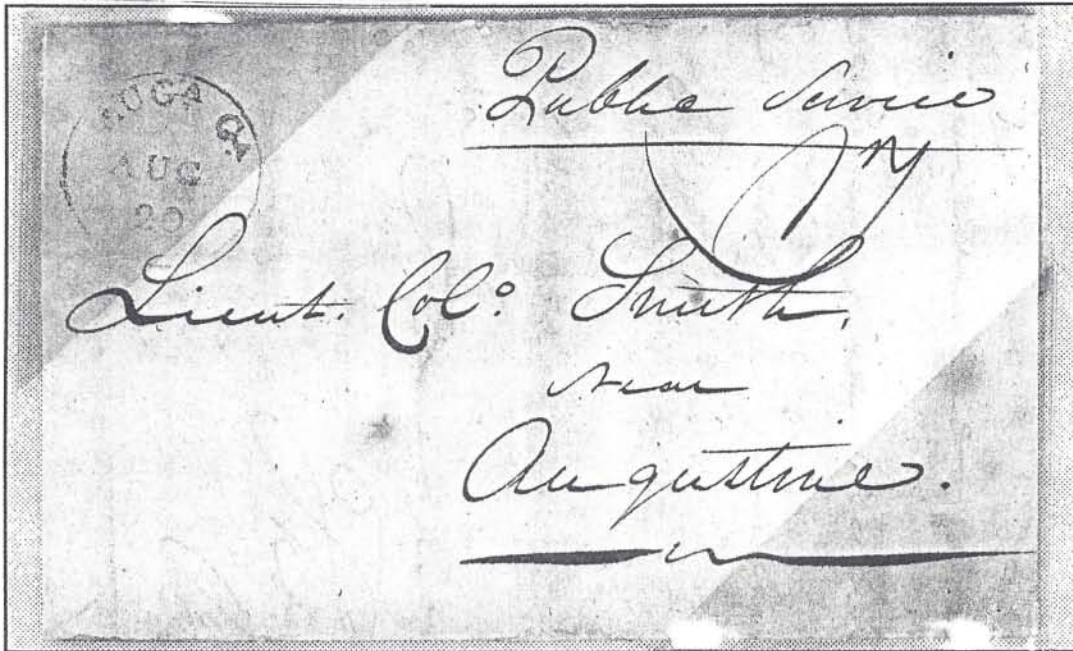


To Col. Eustis (son of the Sec. of War) Genl. Izard's Division, Northern Army
16 December 1814 Dedham, Mass. to the Army via Albany, N.Y., rated 20 cents (300 to 500 miles)
forwarded by Army P.M. to Williamsville, N.Y. and rated 8 cents (under 40 miles)
20 January 1815 forwarded from Williamsville, N.Y. to Albany and rated 17 cents (150 to 300 miles)

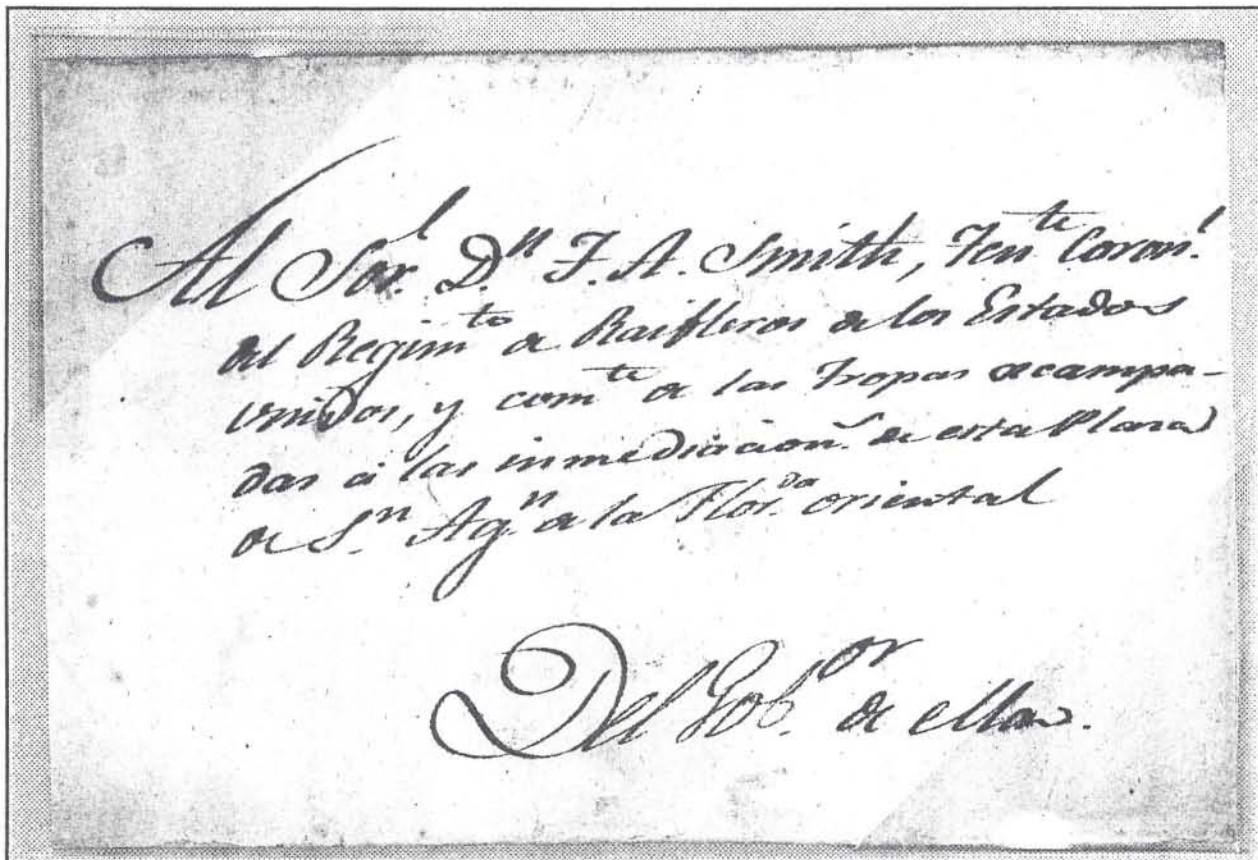
Overland Mails 1812 to 1816

U.S. Occupation Of Spanish Florida

In August, 1812 an abortive attempt was made to occupy Spanish St. Augustine, Florida to keep the area from falling to the British



20 August 1812 from Brig. Genl. Flournoy at Augusta, Georgia
To Col. Smith "near Augustine" Florida, rated 17 cents (150 to 300 miles)



22 August 1812 from Spanish Governor Kindelon to Col. Smith
In command of the U.S. Troops camped in front of St. Augustine East Florida
By flag of truce

Overland Mails 1812 to 1816

U.S. Occupation Of Canada

On September 26, 1813 the Americans recaptured Detroit, which had been held since the River Raisin Massacre.
The Americans pursued Genl. Proctor through Sandwich, Canada which was taken September 29th.
The campaign culminated with the defeat of Proctor and his Indian allies on October 4, 1813.

the only recorded example from occupied Sandwich
the earliest Detroit postmark after re-establishment of U.S. control



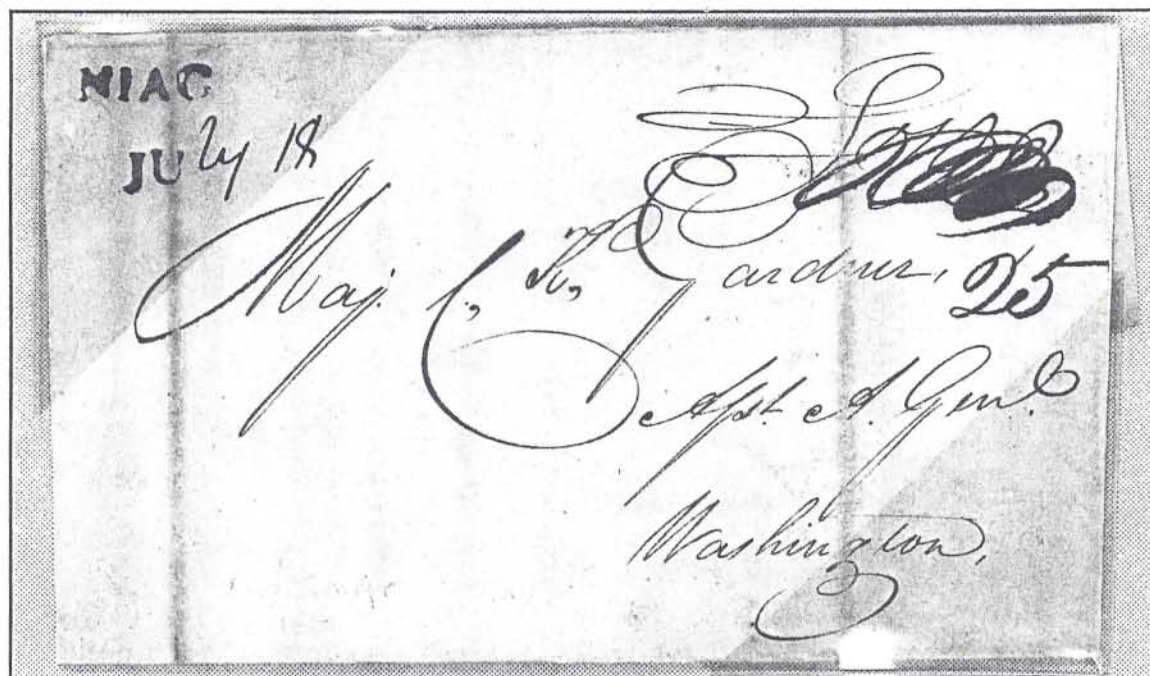
30 September 1813 letter of Adj. Genl. O'Fallon from Sandwich, Canada by **Military Express** to Detroit
31 September entered the mails at Detroit, **Michigan Territory** for carriage to Louisville, Ky.
rated 25 cents (over 500 miles)

Overland Mails 1812 to 1816

U.S. Occupation Of Canada

Fort George, Canada was occupied from May 27 to December 18, 1813

Mail was handled by Dr. J. West, special postal agent for the army, to and from Niagara, N.Y.

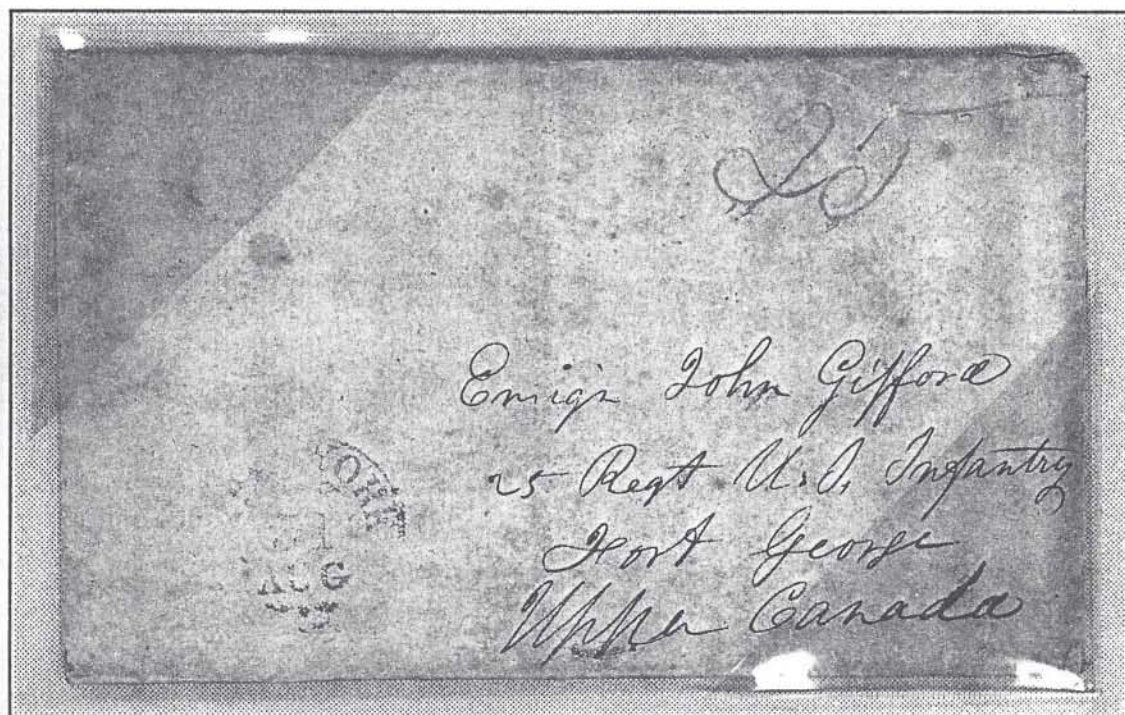


*Head Quarters
Fort George July 18th 1813*

the only recorded example
from Fort George

16 July 1813 from Fort George, Canada to Washington, D.C.

18 July Niagara postmark, rated 25 cents (over 500 miles)



the only recorded example
to Fort George

31 August 1813 from New York, N.Y., Addressed to Fort George, Upper Canada
rated 25 cents (over 500 miles)

May 30th 1813

The Bearer Surgeon Robert
Herr, is directed to proceed
to Fort George, for the
purpose of assisting the
Officers of the Garrison,
in attending the British
Wounded Prisoners of War

John Vincent
Brig. Genl.

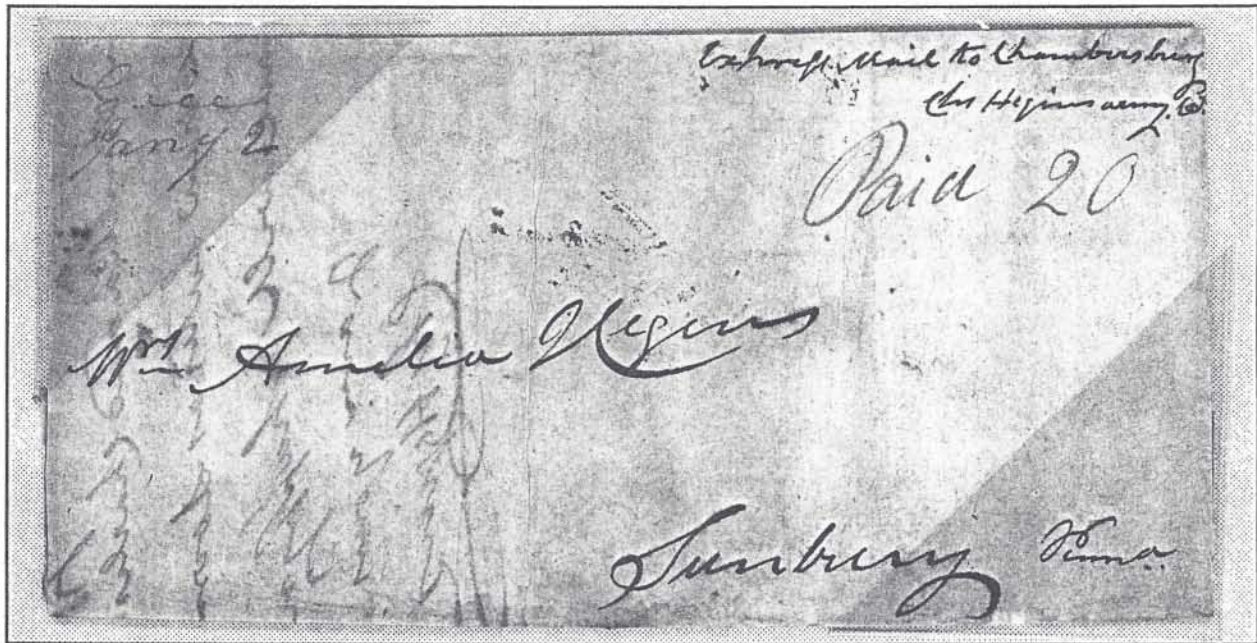
Officer Commanding
The American
Force at
Niagara

30 May 1813 letter of Brig. Genl. John Vincent, British Army
By flag of truce to Genl. Henry Dearborn, his American counterpart
Carried through the lines at Fort George occupied Canada
Fort George, Canada was occupied from May 27 to December 18, 1813

Overland Mails 1812 to 1816

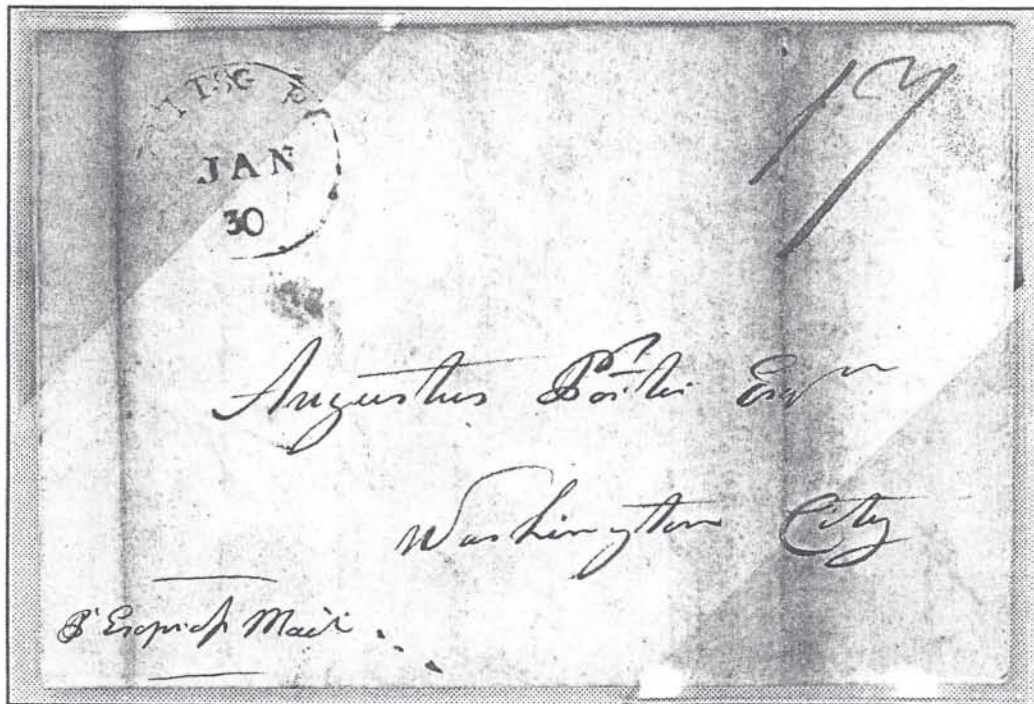
Government Express Mail

An official express mail was instituted by the government in March, 1813 to expedite correspondence between Washington, D.C. and the West. Special Post Office contracts were let and service provided to the general public without additional charges. Service ended in February, 1815.



1 January 1815 from Fort Armstrong, Penna. to Sunbury, Penna.

2 January entered the mails at Erie, Penna., "By Express to Chambersburg"
rated 20 cents (300 to 500 miles) without additional charge



30 January 1814 from Pittsburg, Penna. to Washington, D.C.

"Per Express Mail"

rated 17 cents (150 to 300 miles) without additional charge

Inland Waterway Mails 1812 to 1816

Hudson River Sail And Steam



26 July 1814 from New York, N.Y. to Capt. Macdonough, Commanding on Lake Champlain, at Plattsburgh, N.Y.
by sail to Albany where it entered the mails 28 July
rated double 17 cents (150 to 300 miles) plus 2 cents ship fee

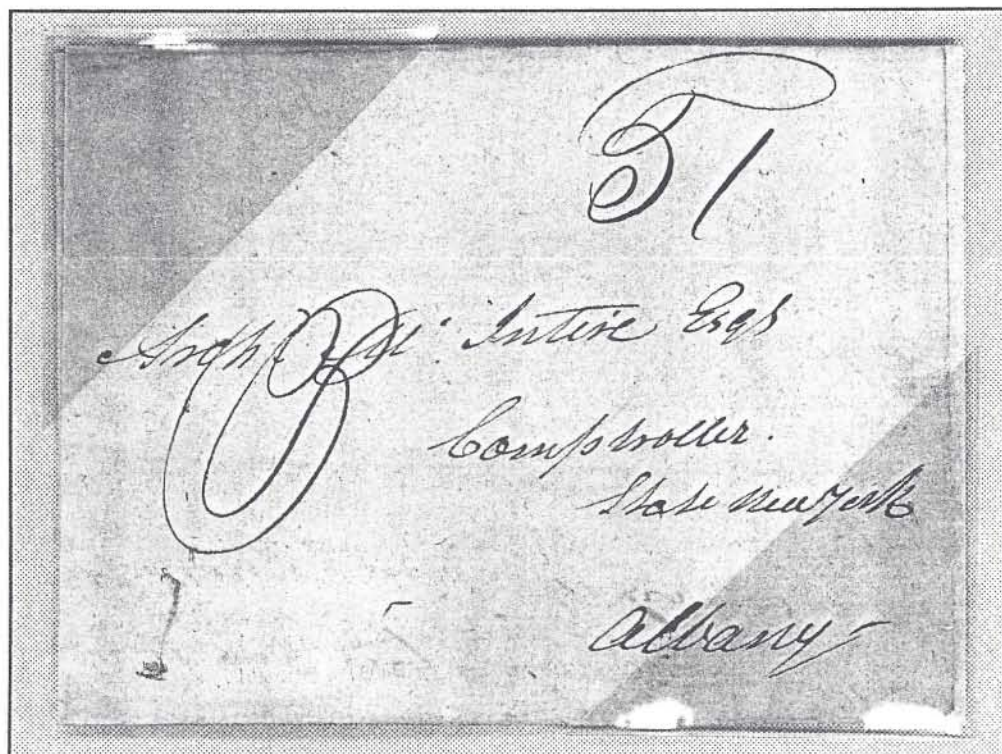


1 July 1812 from New York, N.Y. to Vergennes, Vermont
by steamboat *Paragon* to Albany where it entered the mails 3 July
rated 12½ cents (90 to 150 miles) plus 2 cent ship fee

Inland Waterway Mails 1812 to 1816

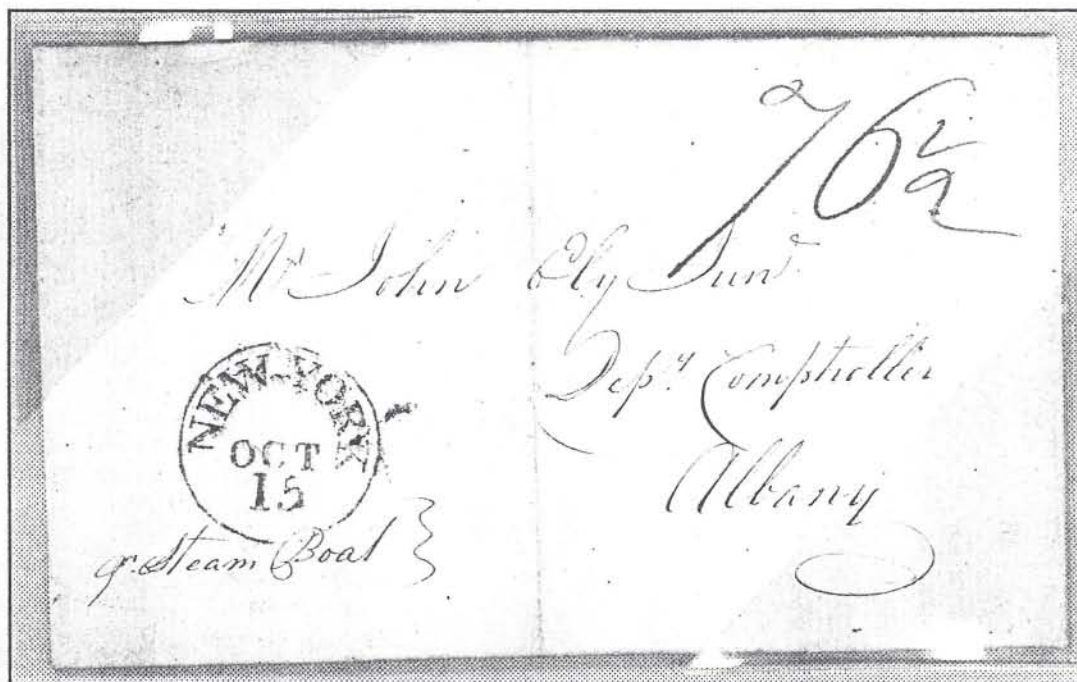
Hudson River Contract Steamboat Route

Contracts were let for steamboat service on the Hudson River in March, 1815. Contract service began in October, 1815.



18 November New York, N.Y. to Albany, N.Y.

loose letter from steamboat over a contract route, entered the mails at Albany
their manuscript "B" and rated double 25½ cents (150 to 300 miles) war surcharge rate



15 October 1815 New York, N.Y. to Albany, N.Y.

by contract steamer

rated triple 25½ cents (150 to 300 miles) war surcharge rate

Inland Waterway Mails 1812 to 1816

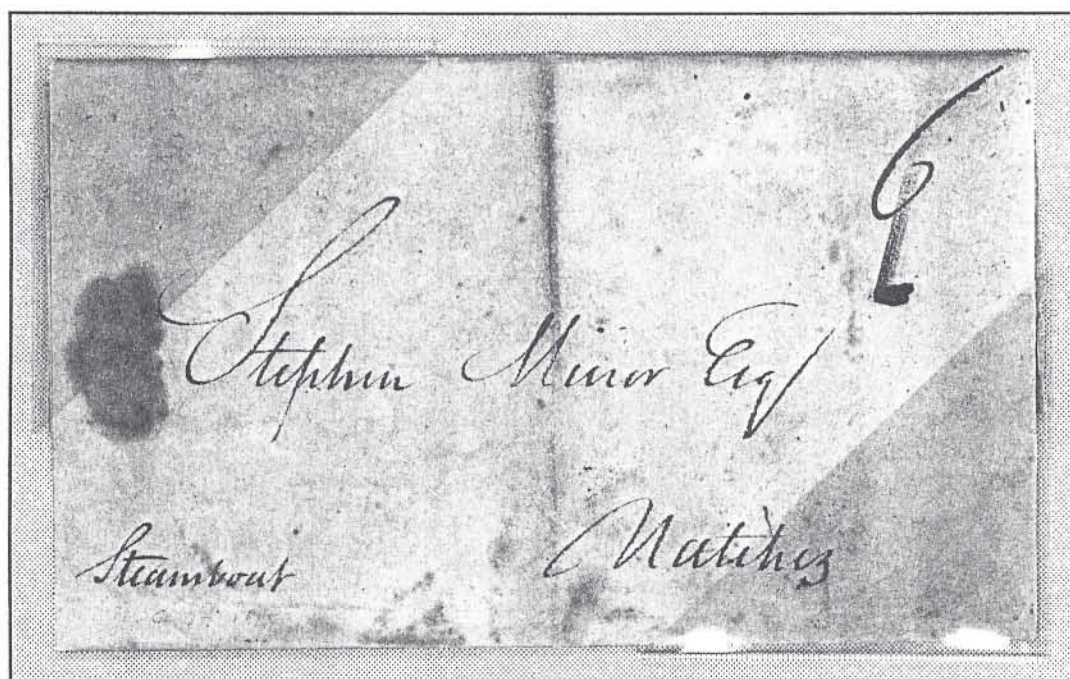
Lake Pontchartrain Contract Sailboat Route



17 July 1815 from New Orleans, La. to Natchez, Miss.

Mail Via The Lake sender's directive for service on contract route
rated double 25½ cents (150 to 300 miles) war surcharge rate

Mississippi River Steamboat



22 August 1815 from New Orleans, La. to Natchez, Mississippi Territory

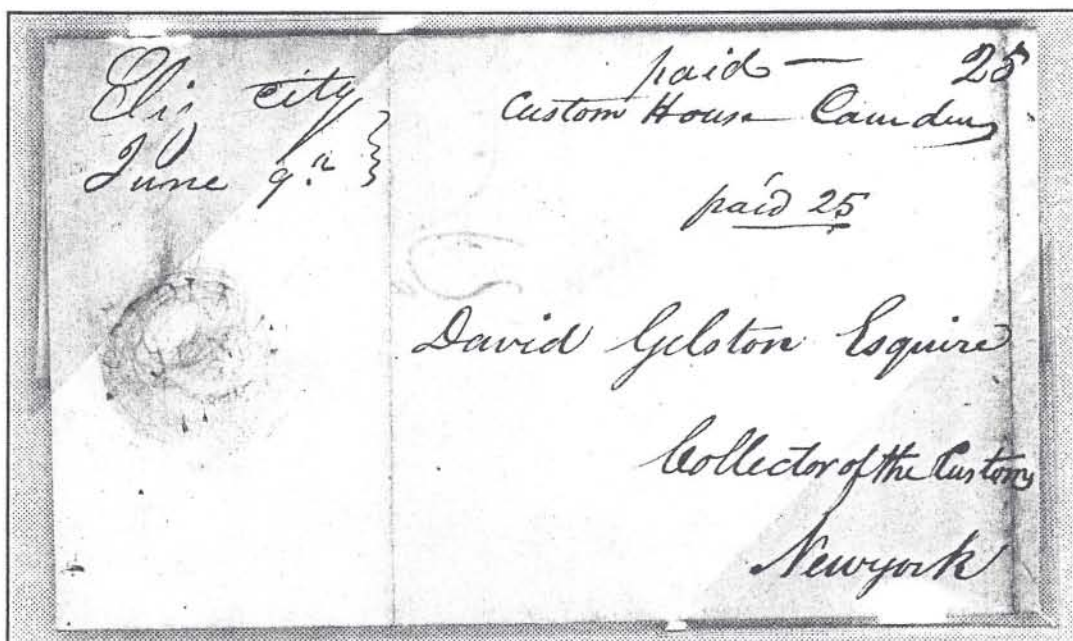
by non contract steamer *Vesuvius*

port of entry ship rate 6 cents in ignorance of war surcharge rate increase

Inland Waterway Mails 1812 to 1816

Dismal Swamp Canal Contract Route

The first contract route for carriage of mails, via a canal, began in 1814 on the Dismal Swamp Canal.



9 June 1814 from Elizabeth City, North Carolina to New York, N.Y.
over Dismal Swamp canal route between Elizabeth City, N.C. and Norfolk, Va.
rated 25 cents (over 500 miles)

Lake Erie Naval Mails

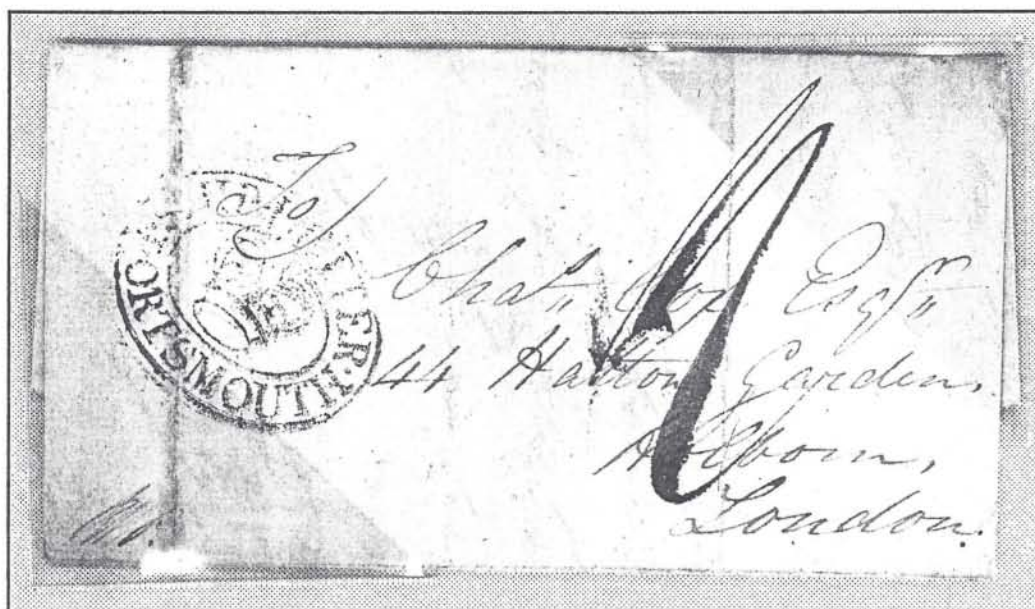


31 December 1813 from U.S.S. Lawrence, to Newport, R.I.
delivered by Naval Purser to the mails at Erie, Penna.
rated 25 cents (over 500 miles)

The brig Lawrence led the attack of Perry's squadron, that ended British control of Lake Erie, on September 10, 1813.

Ocean Waterway Mails 1812 to 1816

Outbound Ship Mail



16 September 1814 from British sailor on H.M.S. *Melpomene* in Chesapeake Bay to London, England

Via British Naval vessel, entered the mails at Portsmouth, England

rated 8d. inland (50 to 80 miles) plus 4d. ship fee (Captain's gratuity waived by Naval Captain)

*From Asia Janth 27. 1815
near New Orleans.*



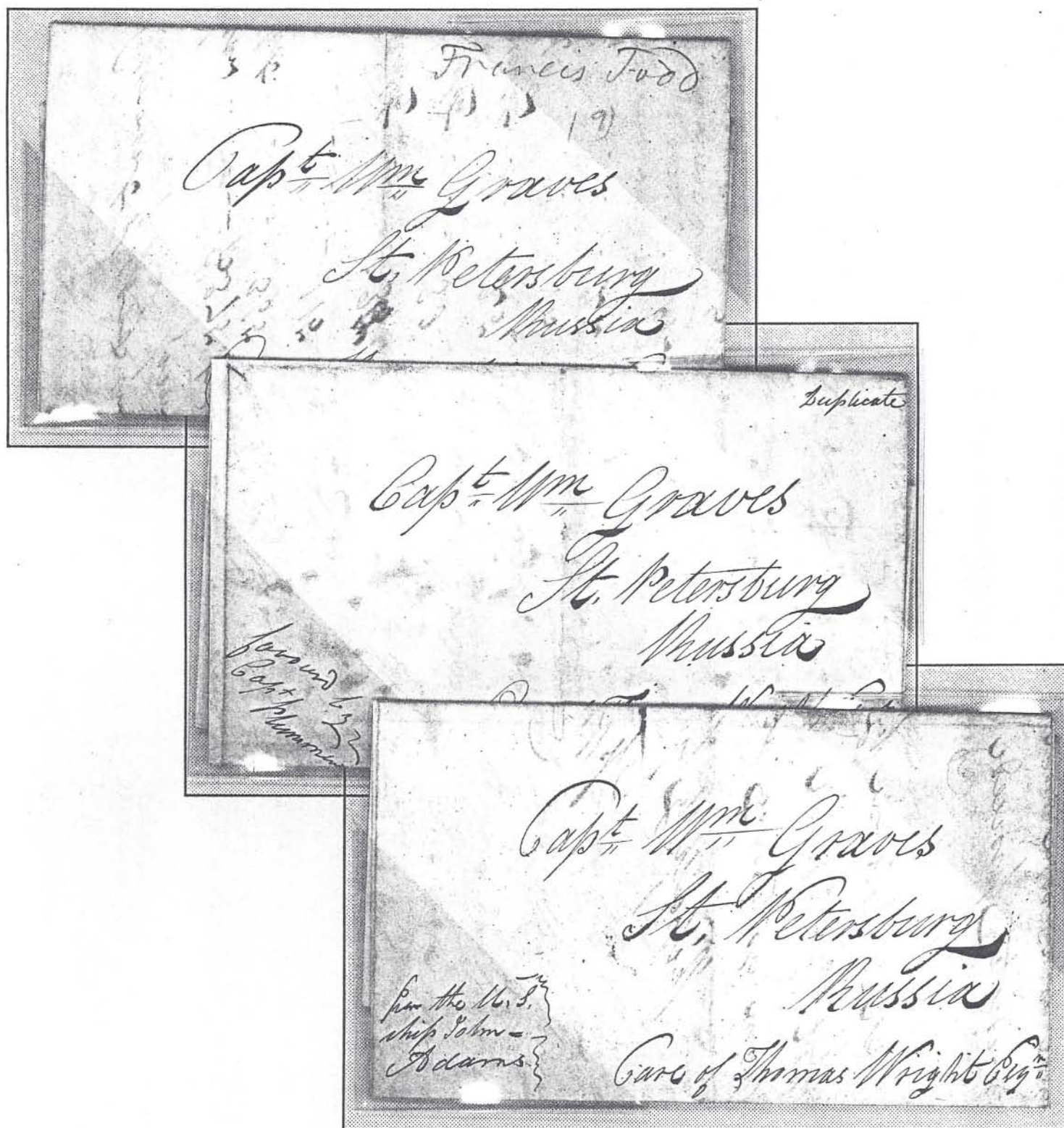
27 January 1815 from British sailor on H.H.S. *Asia* near New Orleans to London, England

Via British Naval vessel, 10 March 1815 entered the mails at Portsmouth, England

rated 8d. inland (50 to 80 miles) plus 6d. ship fee (1814 rate) with gratuity waived

Ocean Waterway Mails 1812 to 1816

Outbound Ship Mail



17 February 1814, in triplicate, from Newburyport, Mass. to St. Petersburg, Russia
the first per U.S. Frigate John Adams "To Gottenburg with Mr. Russell & Clay our Peace Commissioners"
the duplicate with Captain Plummer to the care of the American Consul
the triplicate per the Francis Todd to the care of the American Consul

Ocean Waterway Mails 1812 to 1816

FRAME 2

Outbound Ship Mail



1 March 1813 from Charleston, S.C. to an American Prisoner of War

British Transport Office censor and initials

Prisoner, on parole at Ashburton, the Captain of American Privateer *Charlotte*



12 June 1814 from Charleston, S.C. to Edinburgh, Scotland

By neutral vessel via *Amelia Island, Cuba, Spain and France*

26 September 1814 arrival, ½d. border fee and 6sh. 2d. due

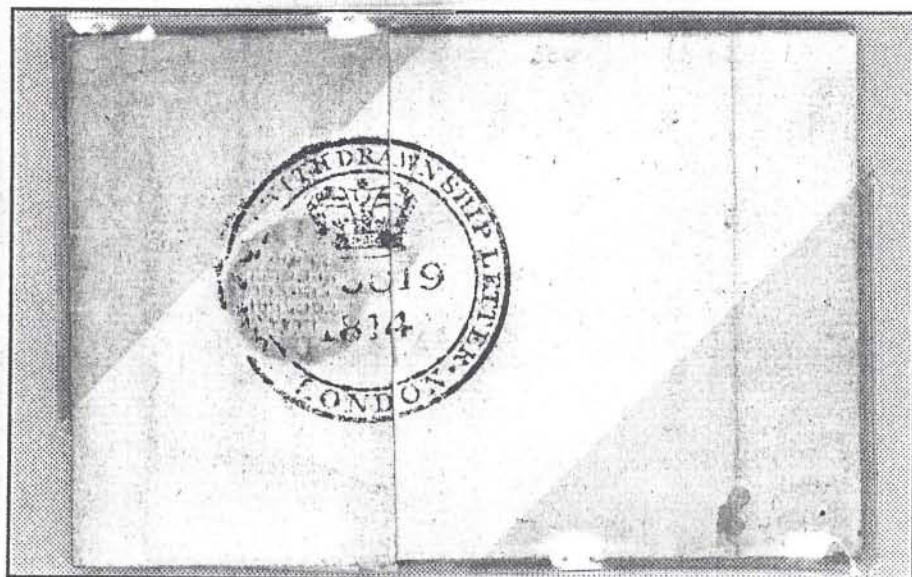
Ocean Waterway Mails 1812 to 1816

Post Paid Withdrawn Ship Letters

A British P.O. Act of September 17, 1814 authorised the sending of letters abroad upon the payment of one third of the packet rates.

Such letters were struck with a backstamp and the amount paid noted. An Act of July 11, 1815 withdrew the authorisation.

Period of usage was less than 11 months.

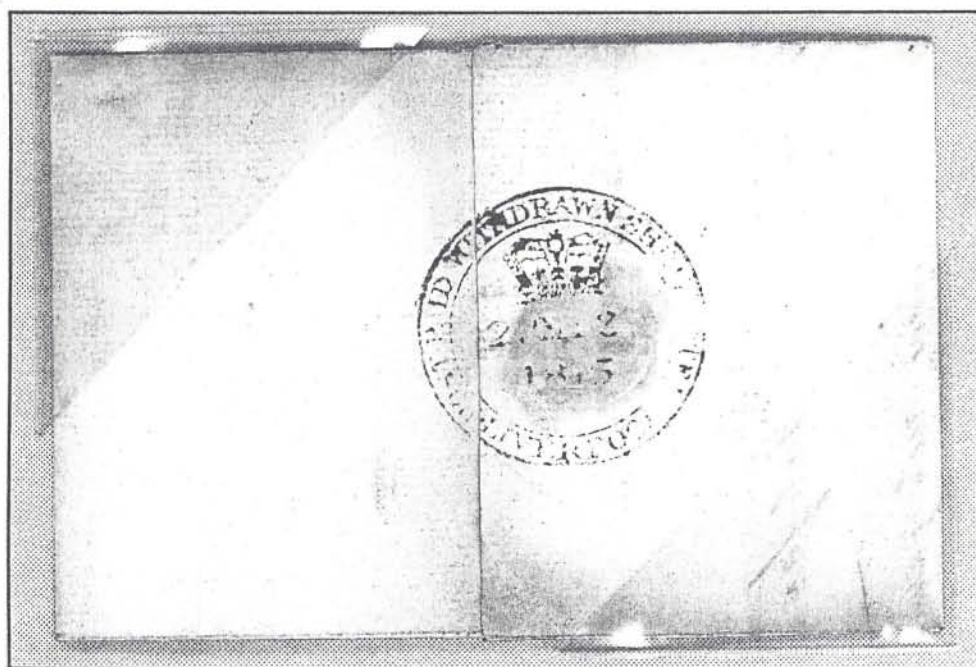


the earliest recorded P.P.W.S.L. usage

16 September 1814 from London, England to New York, N.Y.

19 October London P.P.W.S.L. backstamp, paid 8½d. rate (⅓ packet postage)

Via a Spanish vessel to New York, N.Y., rated 6 cents for port of entry delivery



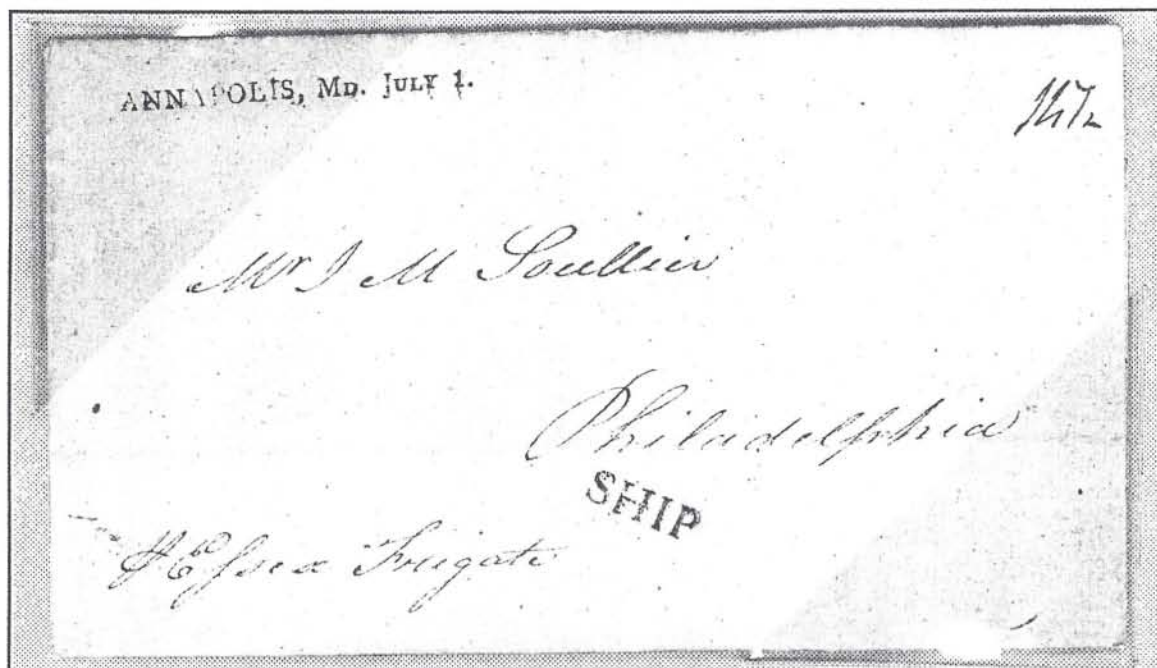
20 April 1815 from Halifax, Nova Scotia, via England, to Philadelphia, Penna.

28 May Liverpool P.P.W.S.L. red backstamp, paid 9d. (⅓ packet postage)

Per *Superior* to Philadelphia, red "9" in circle handstamp, **war surcharge rate** for port of entry delivery

Ocean Waterway Mails 1812 to 1816

Inbound Ship Mail



25 April 1812 letter **per U.S. Frigate Essex** to Philadelphia

1 July entered the mails at Annapolis, Md.

rated 12½ cents (90 to 150 miles) plus 2 cents ship fee



17 November 1814 letter of R.G. Beasley, in charge of prisoner exchange, from London, England to Washington, D.C.

London **P.P.W.S.L.** backstamp, paid 8½d. rate (⅓ packet postage)

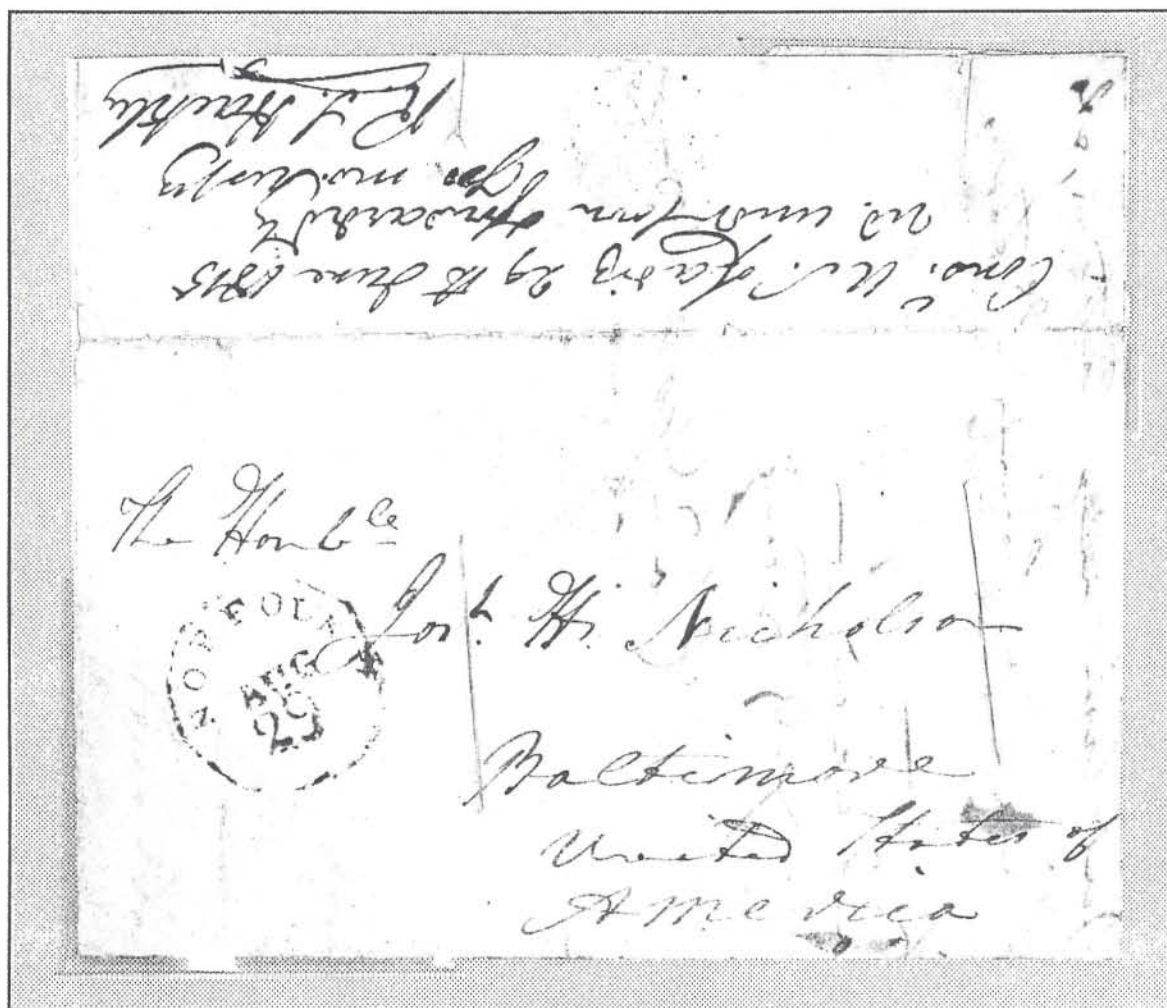
Via British cartel ship Elrax Junior returning with 157 paroled prisoners

27 March 1815 Norfolk, Va. **Ship Free** as addressed to Comm. Genl. for Prisoners

Ocean Waterway Mails 1812 to 1816

Inbound Ship Mail

Cons. U.S. Cadiz 29th June 1815
no. under from forwarded
for Mr. Gordon
R. L. Hackley



19 June 1815 from Capt. Charles Gordon, U.S. Frigate *Constellation*, in the Mediterranean Sea
Disinfected with slits, forwarded by U.S. Consul at Cadiz, Spain
29 August 1815 entered the mails at Norfolk, Va. to Baltimore, Md.
rated 25½ cents war surcharge rate plus 2 cents ship fee

Ocean Waterway Mails 1812 to 1816

Bottle Letter

Date 10 Jan 74 on Board the Pethel Schooner
of War I am an American Born at Boston
aged 26 years Sailed from New York on Board
the Brig Lyon Nov 24. 1805 Nothing

Impressment of American sailors was one of the primary causes of the War of 1812.

This letter describes an impressment and concludes "hoping an effectual mode of redressing the grievances of American Tars will be put into execution by our Government"

Acc We lost sight of the Boat when at



34

David Gilston Esq
Collector of the Customs
New York

two days, after which time was brought
on Deck & Interrogated if we would enter
in his majesties Service with the Alternative
of a good flogging and to live on bread

10 January 1806 from impressed American sailors on board H.M.S. Pethel
thrown overboard in a bottle which washed up on shore near Baltimore, Md.

9 June 1806 forwarded under cover to Collector of Customs at New York

POST-MASTERS

WILL take notice that the following public officers are authorised to frank letters and packets *written by themselves, or by their order on the business of their several offices*, and receiving such as are addressed to them free of postage, under the restrictions referred to.

President of the United States,
Vice President of the United States,
Accountant of the Navy,
War,
Adjutant and Inspector General, 1.
Adjutants General, 1.
Adjutants General of Militia, 2.
Apothecary General, 1.
Assistant Post-master General,
Attorney General,
Auditor of the Treasury,
Clerk of the House of Representatives, 3.
Collector of Direct Taxes, 1.
Commissary General, 1.
Do. do. of Ordnance,
Do. do. of Supplies,
Commissioner of the General Land Office,
Commissioner of the Navy Board, 1.
Commissioner of the Revenue, 4.
Comptroller of the Treasury,
Inspector General, 1.
Inspector of the Army,
Paymaster of the Army,

NOTES.

1. May receive free of postage, and frank, letters and packets on public business only; news-papers are not free.
2. May receive free from any Major General or Brigadier General of Militia, and frank, letters and packets addressed to those officers, which merely relate to the militia.
3. May not frank or receive free letters and packets weighing more than two ounces, and only during actual attendance, and for twenty days after the expiration of the session. Their newspapers free for the same periods.
4. Not entitled to newspapers free.
5. Post-masters can only frank and receive as free, letters and packets which do not exceed half an ounce in weight.

The several officers and persons above named are authorised to receive newspapers free of postage, excepting those having the reference 1 or 4.

The Secretary of the Treasury, of State, of War, of the Navy, and the Post-master General, may frank letters and packets on official business, prepared in any other public office, in the absence of the principal thereof. Every person who shall frank letters other than those written by himself, or by his order on the business of his office, excepting in the above case, incurs a penalty of ten dollars.

If any person authorised to receive letters free of postage, receives any letter or packet addressed to a person not authorised to receive them free, it is his duty to mark on the letter the place whence it came and to return it to the post-office that it may be charged with postage.

Every postmaster is hereby required to prosecute immediately for every breach of the law in relation to franking which comes to his knowledge, and without delay to communicate the subject to this office. The great number of persons who are authorised to frank, and consequent injury to the revenue from abuses, makes it important that the postmasters should be vigilant in this respect.

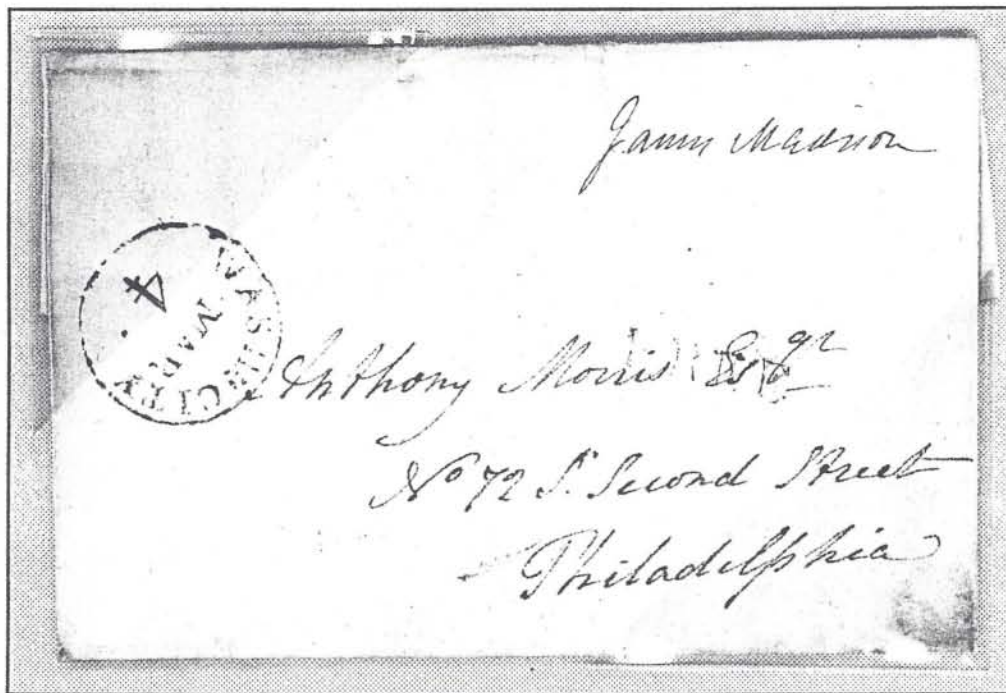
R. J. MEIGS, Jun.

Postmaster General

General Post-Office, April 12, 1815.

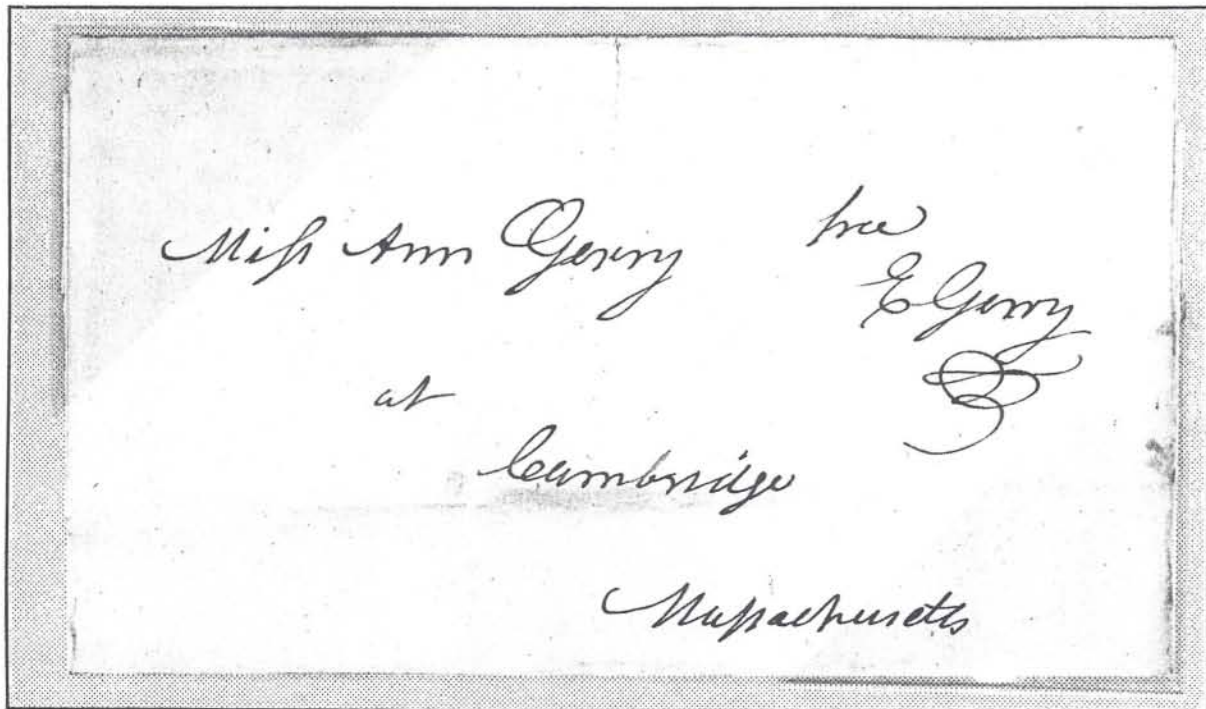
Free Mail 1812 to 1816

President



Free frank of President James Madison
4 March 1815 from Washington, D.C. to Philadelphia, Penna.

Vice President



Free frank of Vice President Elbridge Gerry (died November, 1814)
13 July 1813 from Washington, D.C. to Cambridge, Mass.

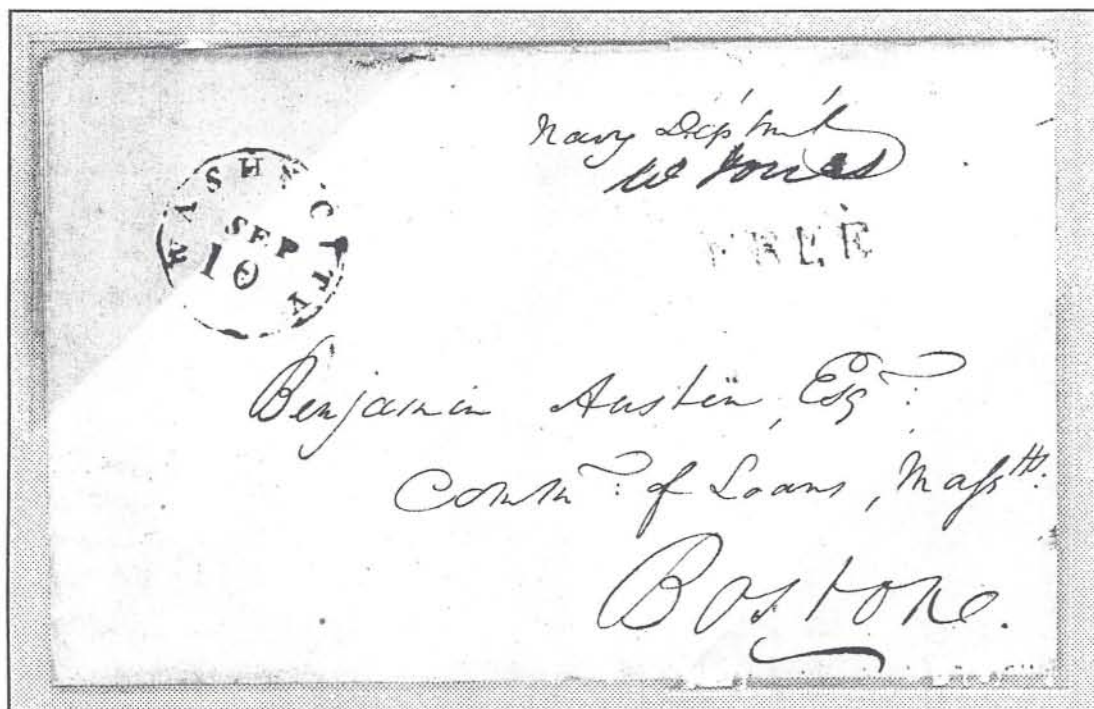
Free Mail 1812 to 1816

Secretary Of War



Addressed to the Secretary "at" War, William Eustis
3 September, 1812 from New York, N.Y. to Washington, D.C.

Secretary Of The Navy



Free frank of William Jones as Secretary of the Navy
10 September 1813 from Washington, D.C. to Boston, Mass.

Free Mail 1812 to 1816

Postmaster General

Post-Master at

Athens N.Y.

GENERAL POST-OFFICE, *March 21, 1815.*

SIR,

AN offer has been made to the owners of the several steam boats to contract for carrying the mail by their boats, and to deliver and receive the mails at a certain wharf at the several landings. There has not yet been time to receive an answer; but presuming that they will contract, and agree to deliver the mail at a wharf convenient to your office, it appeared proper to advise you of the project, that you may have the mail carried to and from the wharf, provided it can be done at a reasonable price, of which you will please to advise me. Letters conveyed in this way are to be rated with postage in the same manner as those conveyed by land, excepting that no one is to be charged with more than quadruple postage, unless they contain more than four distinct letters.

By an act passed at the last session of Congress, published in the National Intelligencer of the 7th instant, every master of a vessel is required to deliver all letters which he carries, into the post-office of the place to which they are addressed, if he stops there, under a penalty of thirty dollars. It will be necessary for you to endeavor to prevent and to prosecute for any infractions of this act.

The masters of steam boats and other vessels, who do not carry the mail by contract, are entitled to receive two cents for each letter and packet which they deliver to a post-master: these letters and packets are chargeable with a postage of nine cents.

Yours, respectfully,

J. Meigs

Free frank of Return J. Meigs as Postmaster General
21 March 1815 from Washington, D.C. to Athens, N.Y.

Circular clarifying non contract ship rates and announcing the letting of contracts for steamboat service on the Hudson River

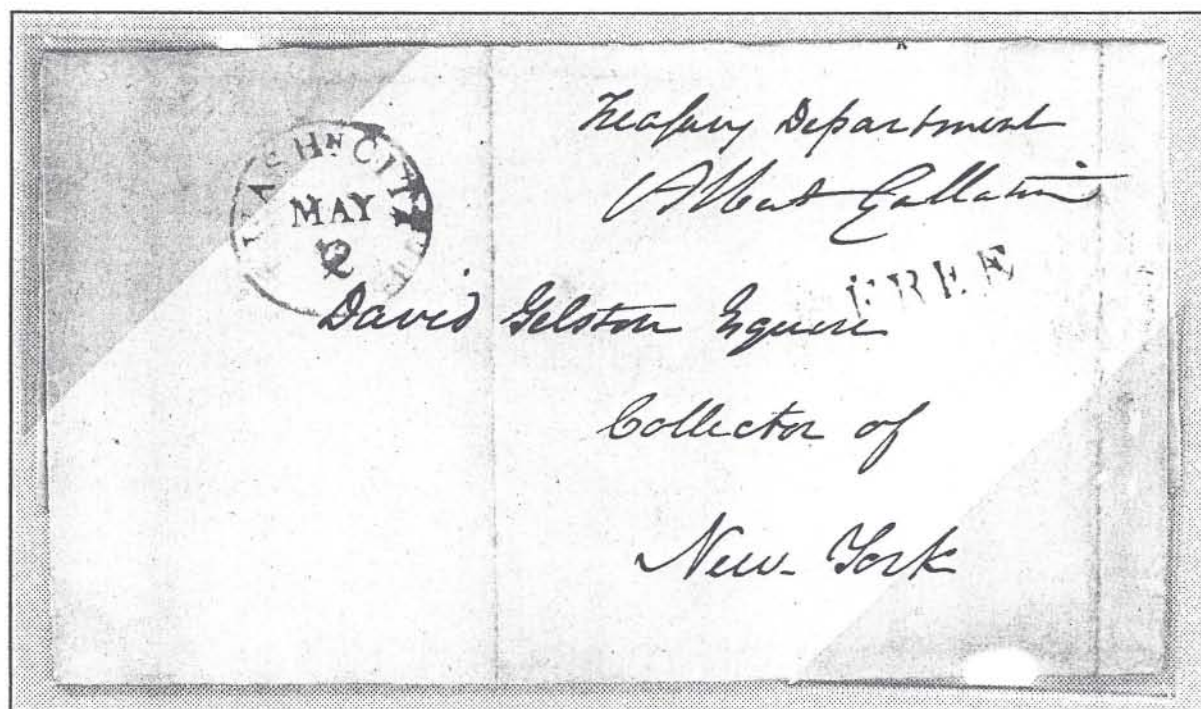
Free Mail 1812 to 1816

Secretary Of State



Free frank of James Monroe as Secretary Of State
15 July 1815 from Washington, D.C. to Philadelphia, Penna.

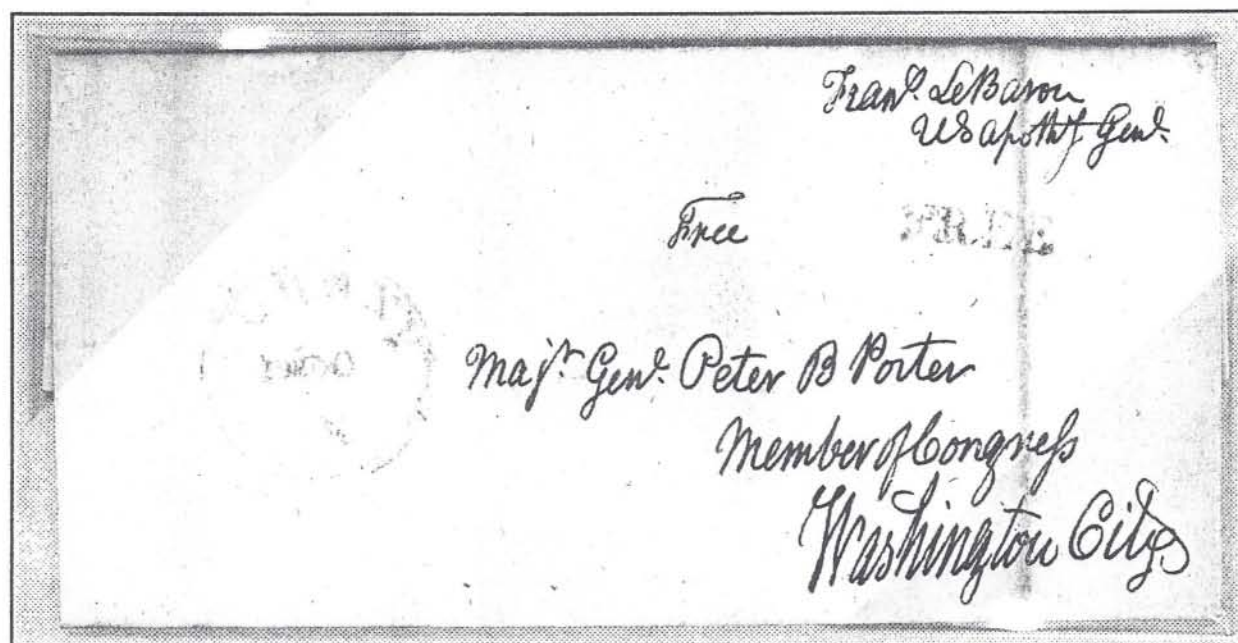
Secretary Of The Treasury



Free frank of Albert Gallatin as Secretary of the Treasury
2 May 1812 from Washington, D.C. to New York, N.Y.

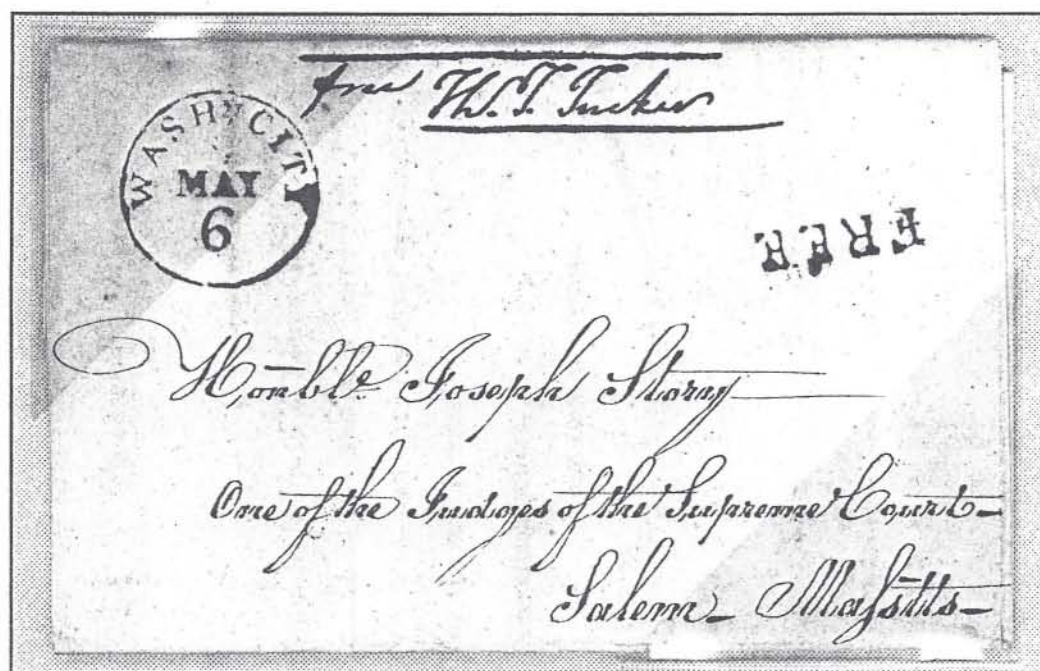
Free Mail 1812 to 1816

Apothecary General



Free frank of Francis LeBaron as Apothecary General
1 December 1815 from Albany, N.Y. to Washington, D.C.

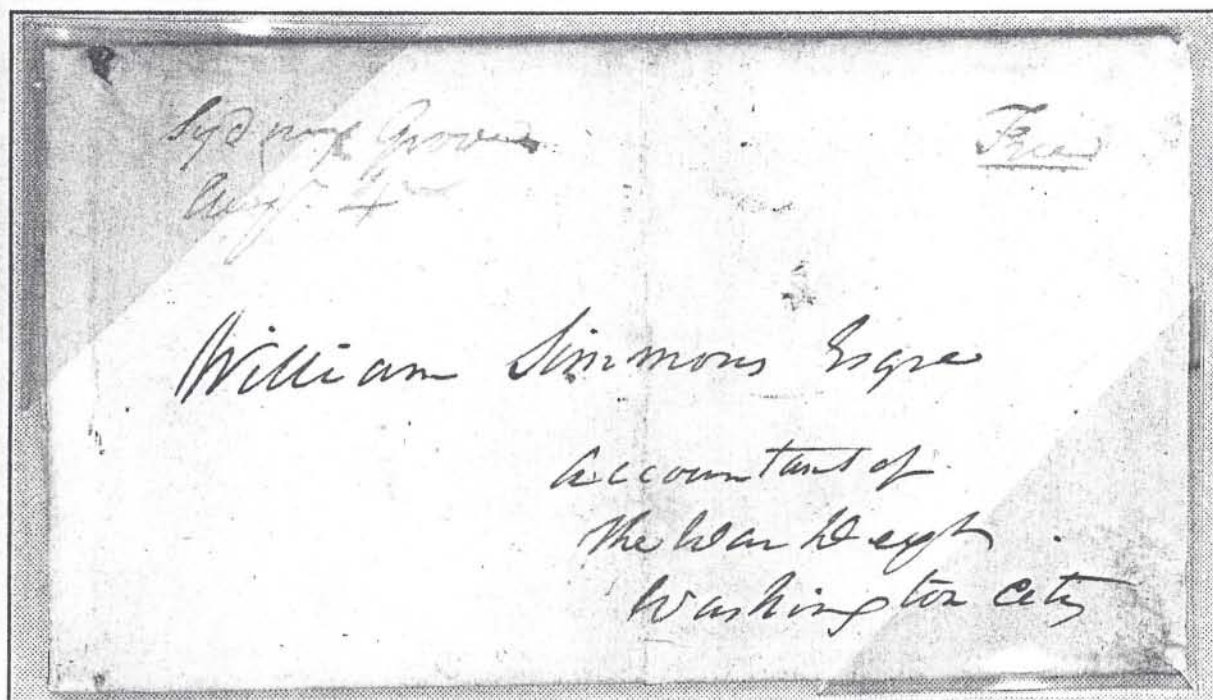
Treasurer



Free frank of Thomas Tudor Tucker as Treasurer
6 May 1815 from Washington, D.C. to Salem, Mass.

Free Mail 1812 to 1816

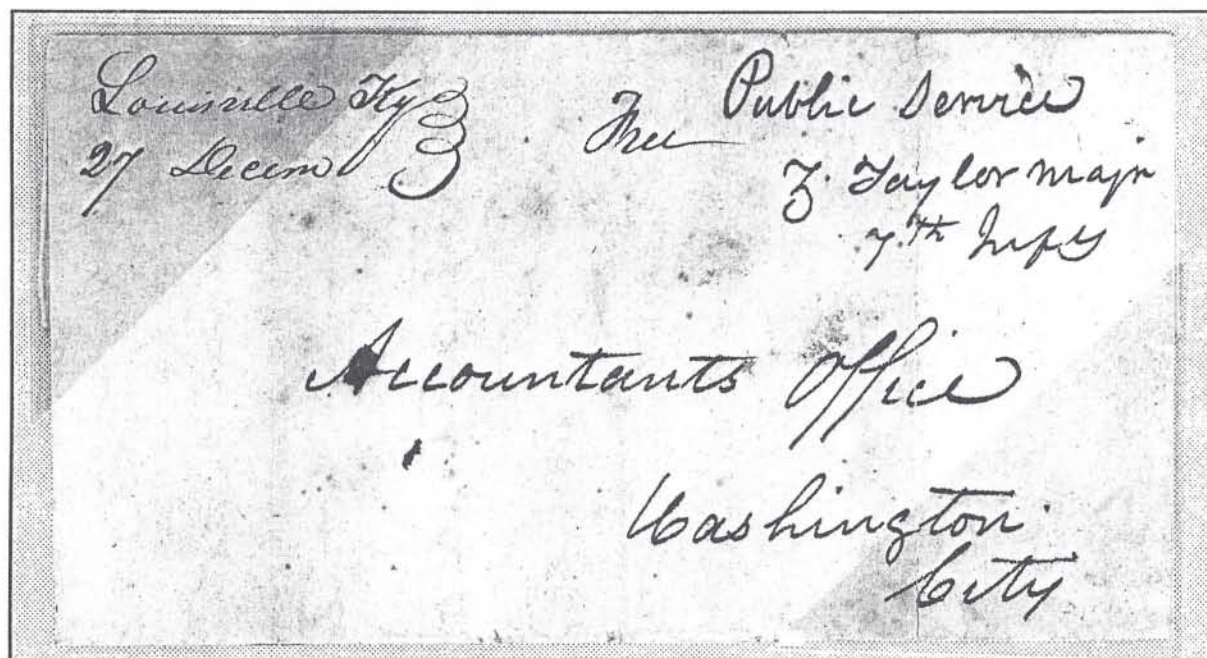
Accountant Of The War Department



Addressed to the Accountant, William Simmons, at Washington, D.C.

4 August 1812 from Sydney Grove, Illinois Territory

Letter of Governor Ninian Edwards regarding Forts for protection against Indians



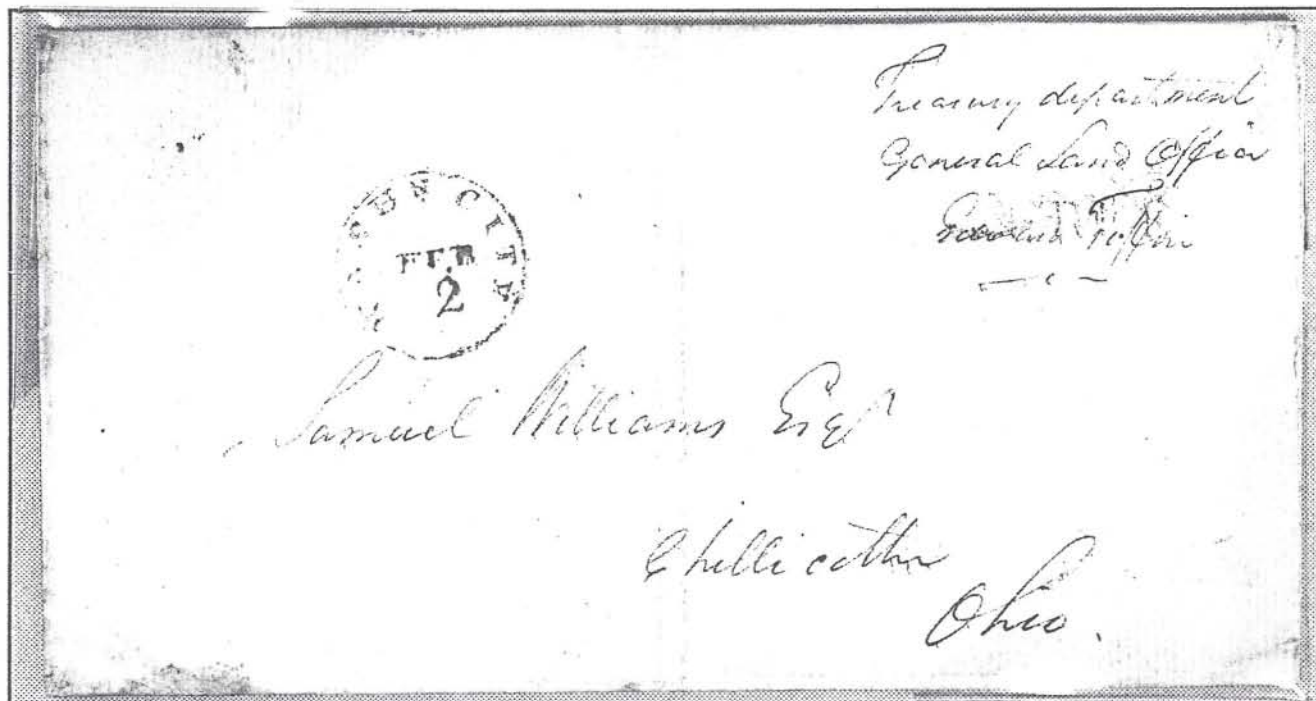
Addressed to the Accountant at Washington, D.C.

27 December 1814 from Louisville, Kentucky

Public Service endorsement of Zachary Taylor

Free Mail 1812 to 1816

Commissioner Of The General Land Office



Free frank of Edward Tiffin as Commissioner Of The General Land Office
2 February 1814 from Washington, D.C. to Chillicothe, Ohio

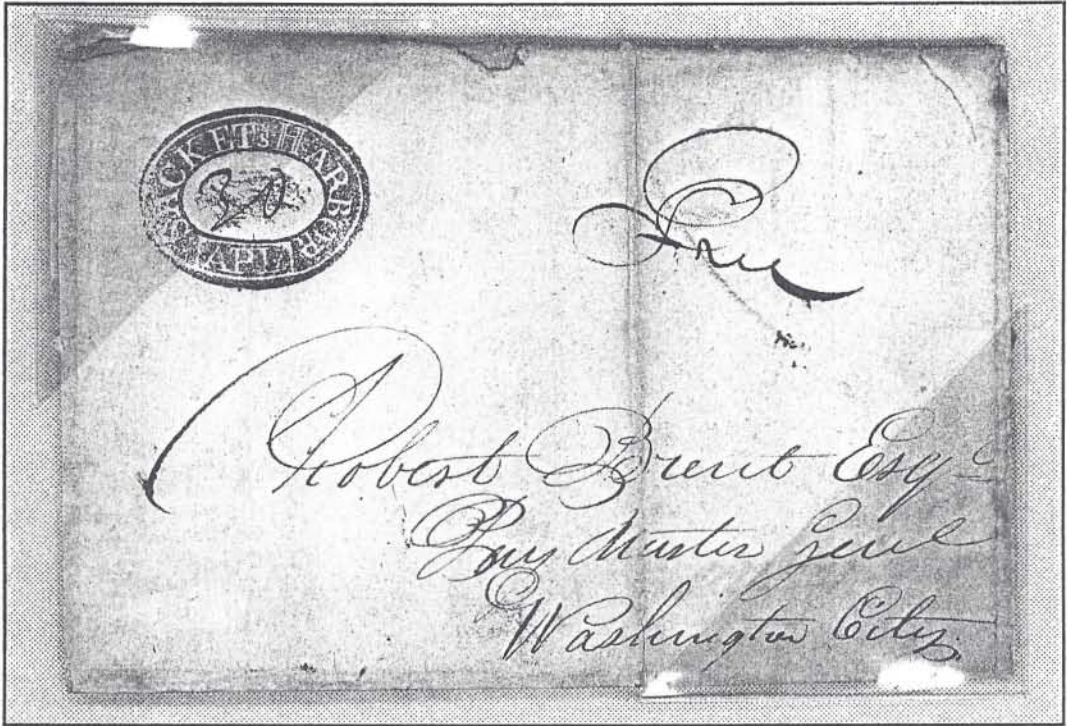
Comptroller Of The Treasury



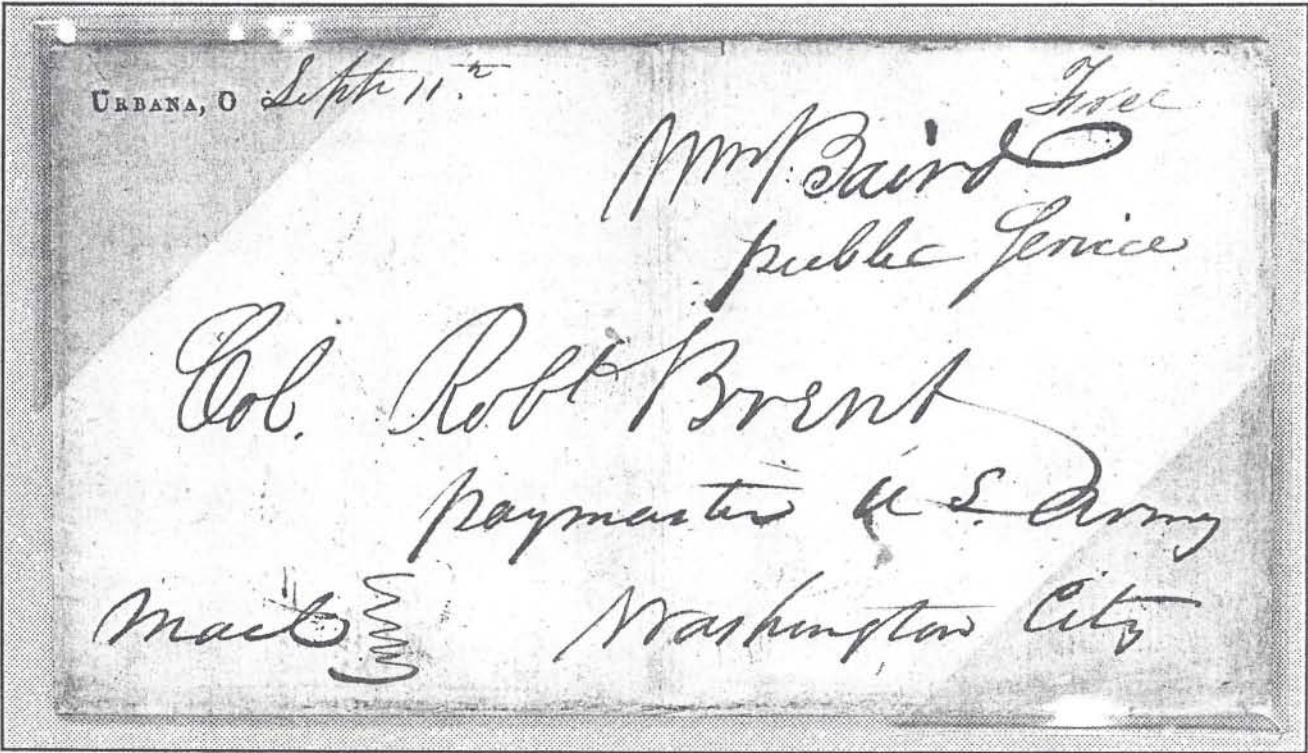
Free frank of Richard Rush as Comptroller of the Treasury
23 May 1812 from Washington, D.C. to Gloucester, Mass.

Free Mail 1812 to 1816

Paymaster Of The United States Army



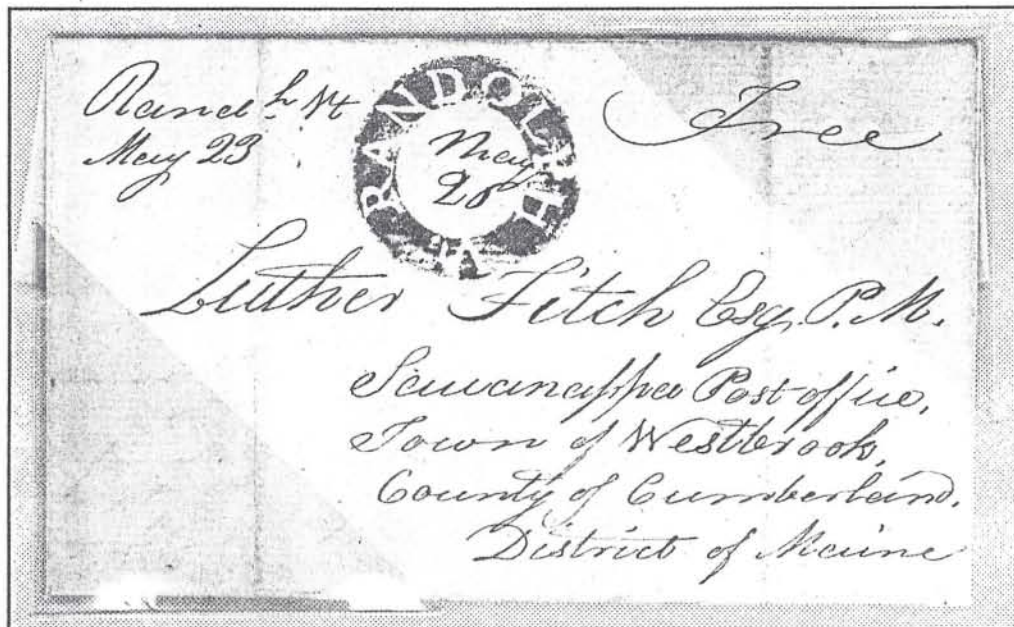
Addressed to the Paymaster, Robert Brent; at Washington, D.C.
30 April 1815 from Sackett's Harbor, N.Y.



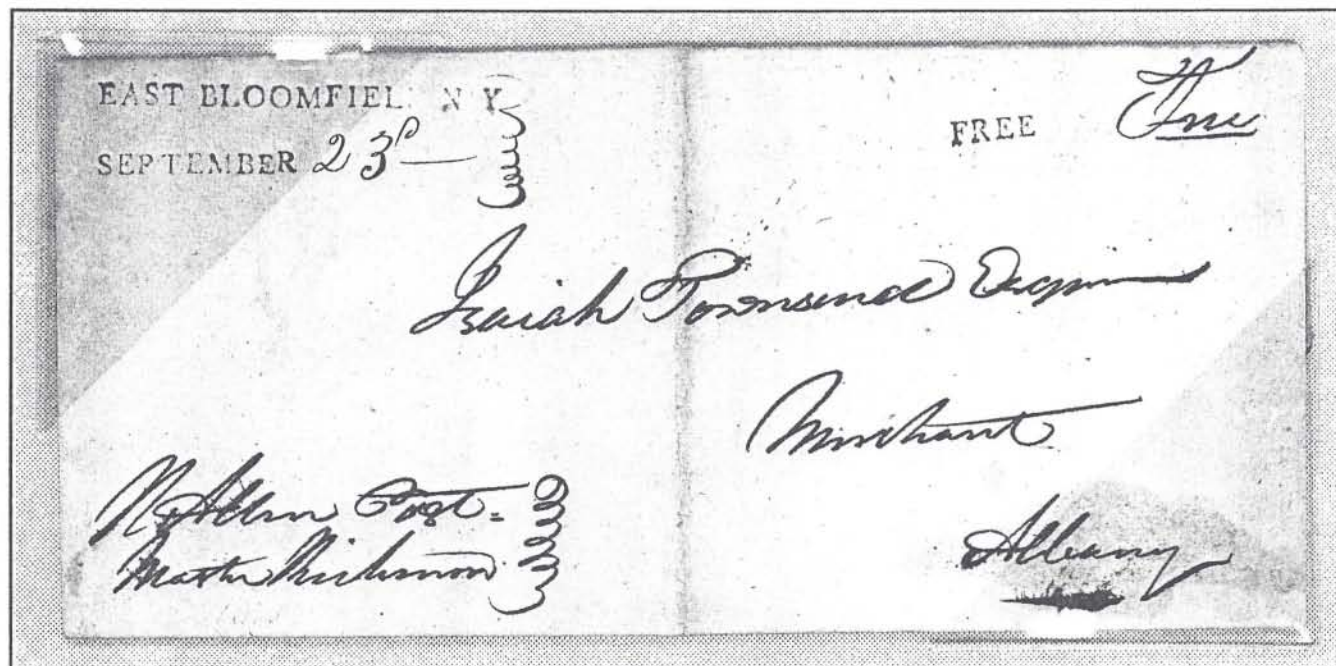
Addressed to the Paymaster, Robert Brent, at Washington, D.C.
11 September 1815 from Urbana, Ohio

Free Mail 1812 to 1816

Deputy Postmasters



Addressed to the postmaster at Westbrook, District of Maine
26 May 1815 from Randolph, Vermont



Free frank of N. Allen as postmaster of North Richmond (Haneoye), N.Y.
23 September 1815 travelling frank usage from East Bloomfield, N.Y. to Albany, N.Y.

1815 War Surcharge Rates

FRANK 3

By an act of Congress, passed December 23, 1814 the postal rates then in effect (the 1799 rates) were to be increased by 50%. This surtax was an indirect taxation to help defray the cost of the War of 1812 and was part of a larger tax scheme proposed and implemented by Alexander J. Dallas, the Secretary of the Treasury. It was the first time that postal charges were used as a way of increasing revenue and in the thirteen months that they were in effect the net revenue of the Post Office increased by \$290,000.

A circular (shown on the following page) announced the new schedule of postal charges now known as the 1815 War Surcharge Rates.

These rates were in effect from February 1, 1815 to March 30, 1816.

First Day Rate

the only recorded first day usage



1 February 1815
Baltimore, Md. to New Geneva, Penna.
rated 25½ cents (150 to 300 miles)

1815 War Surcharge Rates

Post Office Circular Announcing The New Rates

RATES OF POSTAGE.

Postmasters will take notice, that by an act of Congress, passed on the 23d instant, the several rates of postage are augmented fifty per cent; and that after the first of February next, the

Rates of Postage for single Letters will be,

			Cents.
For any distance not exceeding	-	40 miles,	12
Over 40 miles and not exceeding	-	90 do.	15
Over 90	do.	-	18 $\frac{1}{4}$
Over 150	do.	-	25 $\frac{1}{2}$
Over 300	do.	-	30
Over 500	-	-	37 $\frac{1}{2}$

Double letters, or those composed of two pieces of paper, double those rates.

Triple letters, or those composed of three pieces of paper, triple those rates.

Packets, or letters composed of four or more pieces of paper, and weighing one ounce or more, avoirdupois, are to be rated equal to one single letter for each quarter ounce.

Newspapers.

Each paper carried not exceeding 100 miles, or for any distance, not being carried out of the state in which it is printed, - 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cents.

If carried out of the state where printed, and over 100 miles, 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ do.

Magazines and Pamphlets.

	Cents.
Carried not over 50 miles, for each sheet,	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Over 50 and not exceeding 100 miles,	2 $\frac{1}{4}$
Over 100 miles,	3

But pamphlets are not to be received or conveyed by post on the main line, or any cross road, where the mail is large.

RETURN J. MEIGS, Jun.

Post-Master General.

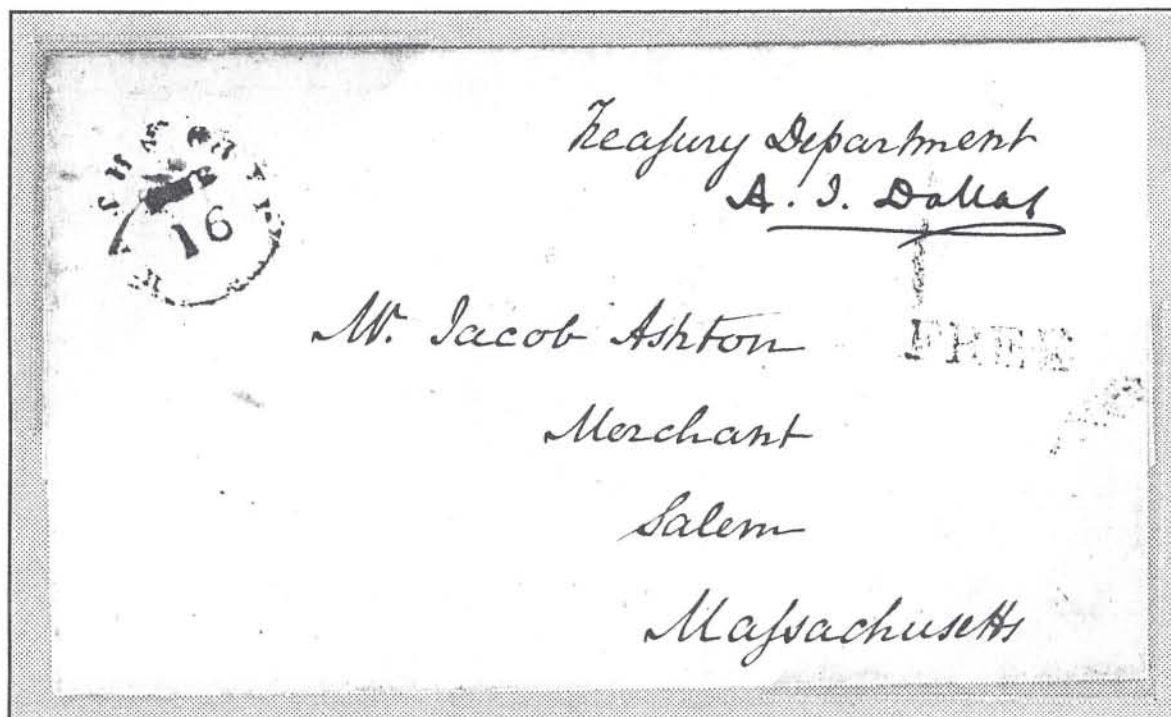
General Post-Office,

December 28, 1814.

1815 War Surcharge Rates

Alexander J. Dallas

A.J. Dallas was responsible for the war surcharge taxes and rates.



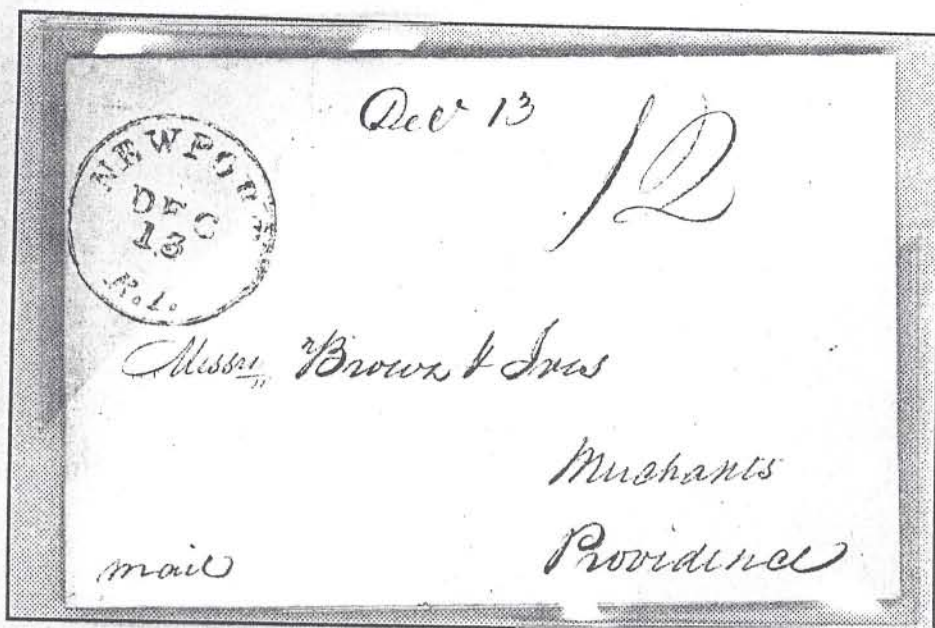
Free frank of Alexander J. Dallas as Secretary of the Treasury
16 February 1815 from Washington, D.C. to Salem, Mass.



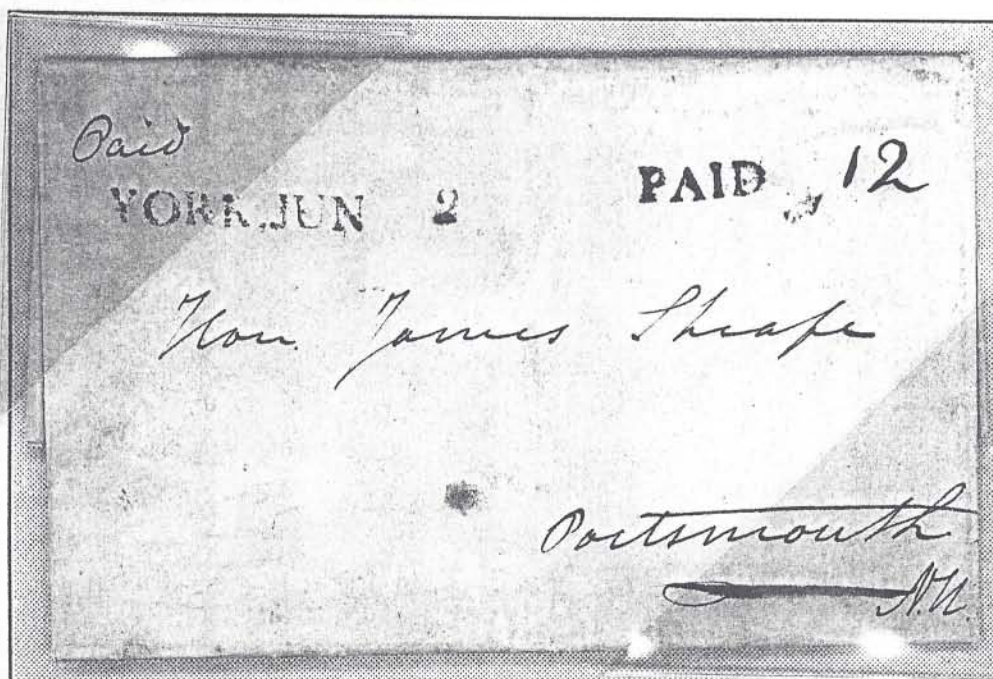
Addressed to the Secretary of the Treasury, A.J. Dallas, at Philadelphia, Penna.
8 September 1815 from New York, N.Y. with war surcharge rate corrected

1815 War Surcharge Rates

12 Cents (For any distance not exceeding 40 miles)



Newport, R.I. to Providence, R.I.
13 December 1815

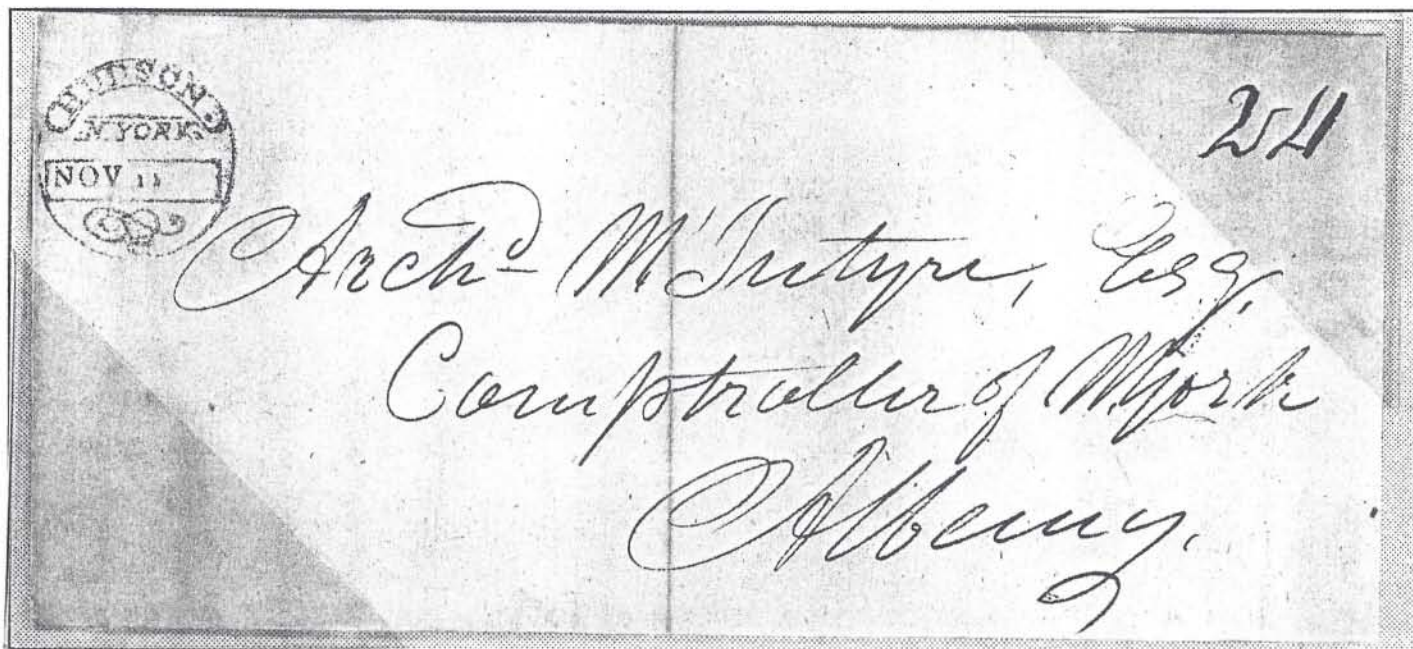


York, District of Maine to Portsmouth, N.H.
2 June 1815

1815 War Surcharge Rates

12 Cents (For any distance not exceeding 40 miles)

Multiple Rates



Hudson, N.Y. to Albany, N.Y.

11 November 1815, double letter for double rate

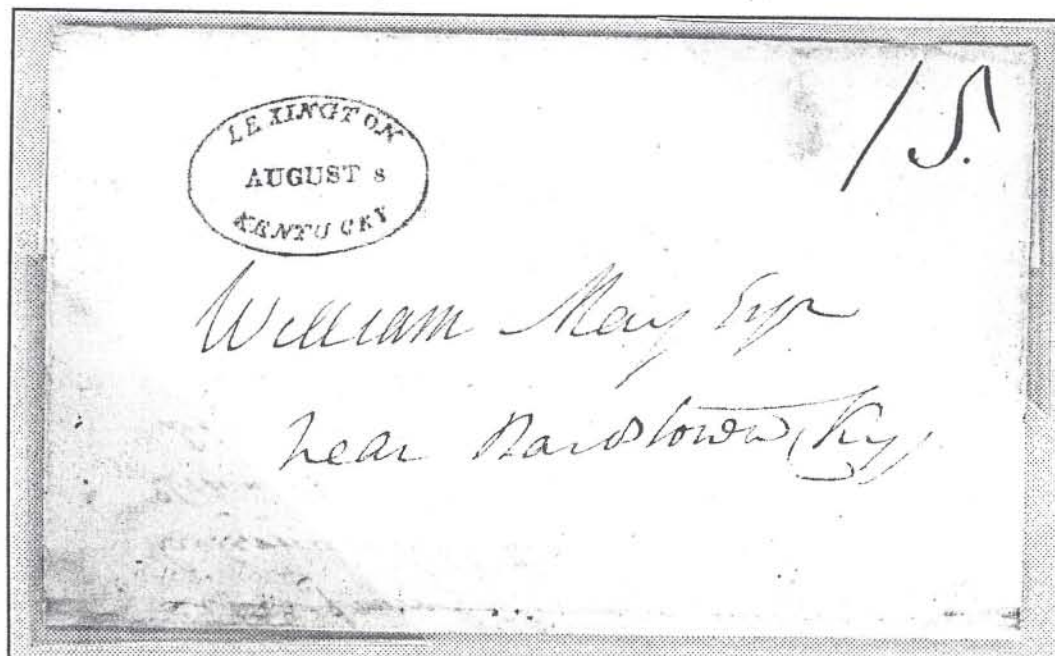


Hudson, N.Y. to Albany, N.Y.

19 October 1815, "1 1/4 Oz" for 5 times rate

1815 War Surcharge Rates

15 Cents (Over 40 miles and not exceeding 90 miles)



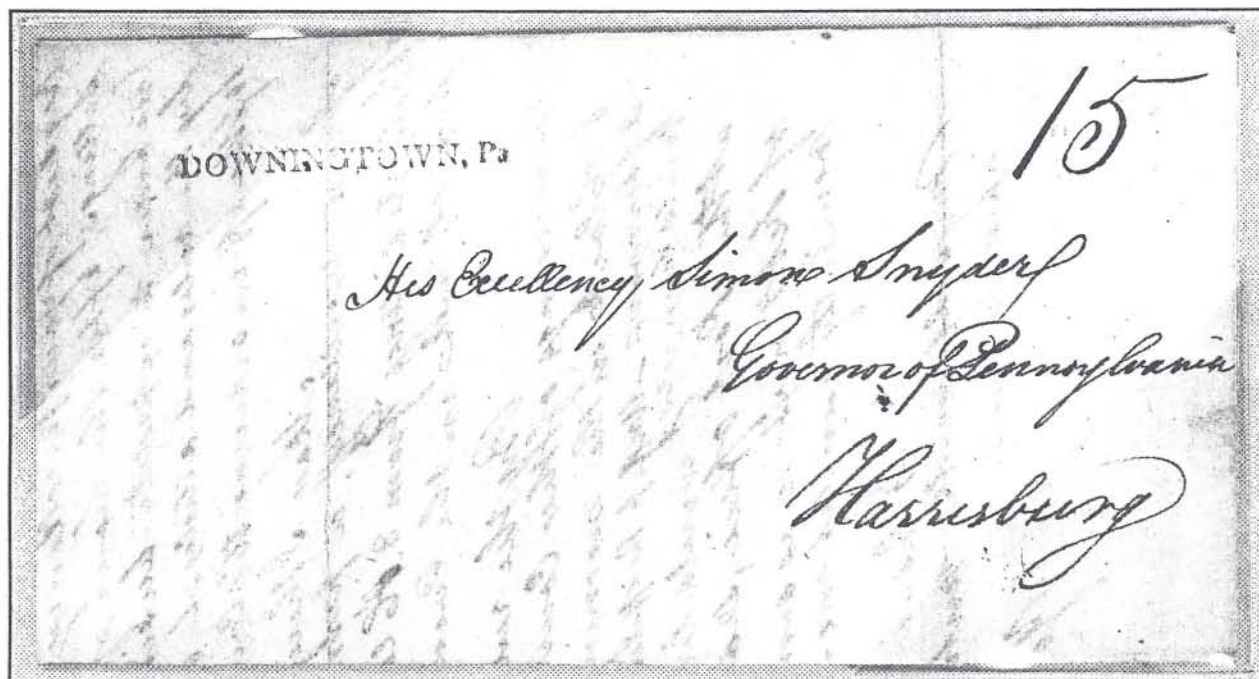
Lexington, Kentucky to Bardstown, Kentucky
8 August 1815



Wardsbridge, N.Y. to New Brunswick, N.J.
19 August 1815

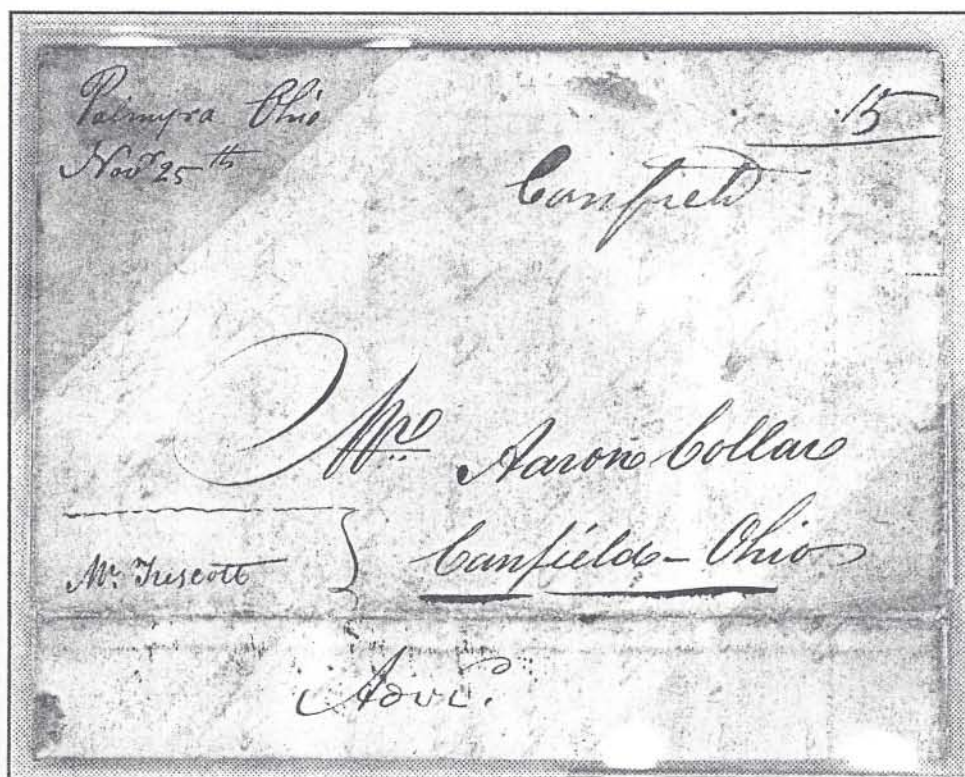
1815 War Surcharge Rates

15 Cents (Over 40 miles and not exceeding 90 miles)



Downingtown, Penn. to Harrisburgh, Penn.

3 February 1815



Palmyra, Ohio to Canfield, Ohio

25 November 1815

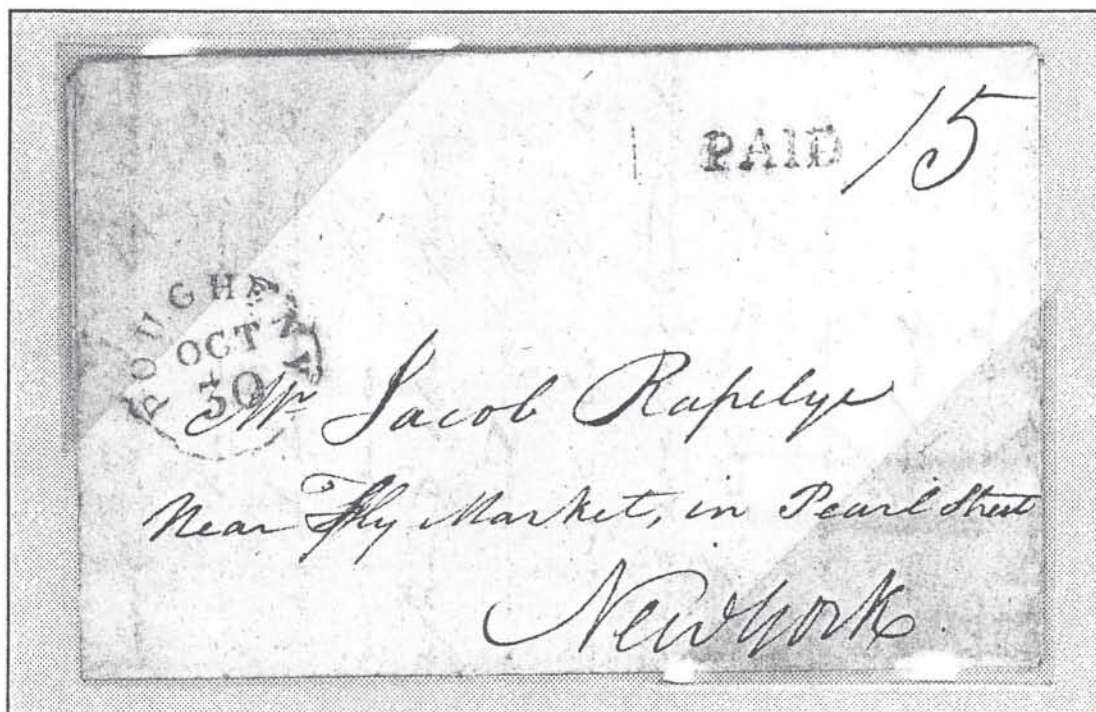
Advertised ("Advtd") at Canfield, no additional fee

1815 War Surcharge Rates

15 Cents (Over 40 miles and not exceeding 90 miles)



26 February 1815 Newport, R.I. to Dartmouth, Mass.
sender's note to Mr. Tucker (P.M.) authorises **carrier delivery** for 2 cent fee



Poughkeepsie, N.Y. to New York, N.Y.
30 October 1815

1815 War Surcharge Rates

18¾ Cents (Over 90 miles and not exceeding 150 miles)



Manlius, N.Y. to Albany, N.Y.

20 April 1815



Boston, Mass. to Portland, District of Maine

20 October 1815, triple letter for triple rate

18¾ Cents (Over 90 miles and not exceeding 150 miles)

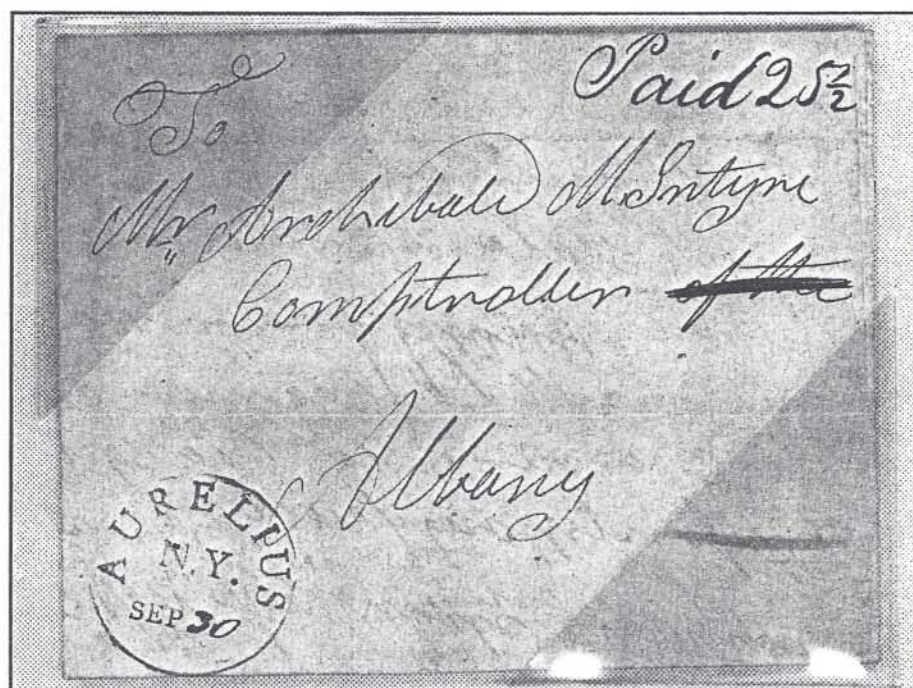
MIDDLEBURY
 Oct 17
 1844
 PAID
 18 1/4
 From My friend. Sig. -
 Dep't of State of York
 Albany -

1834
Severgn Bruyn Esq
at Law
Kingston
Steamboat

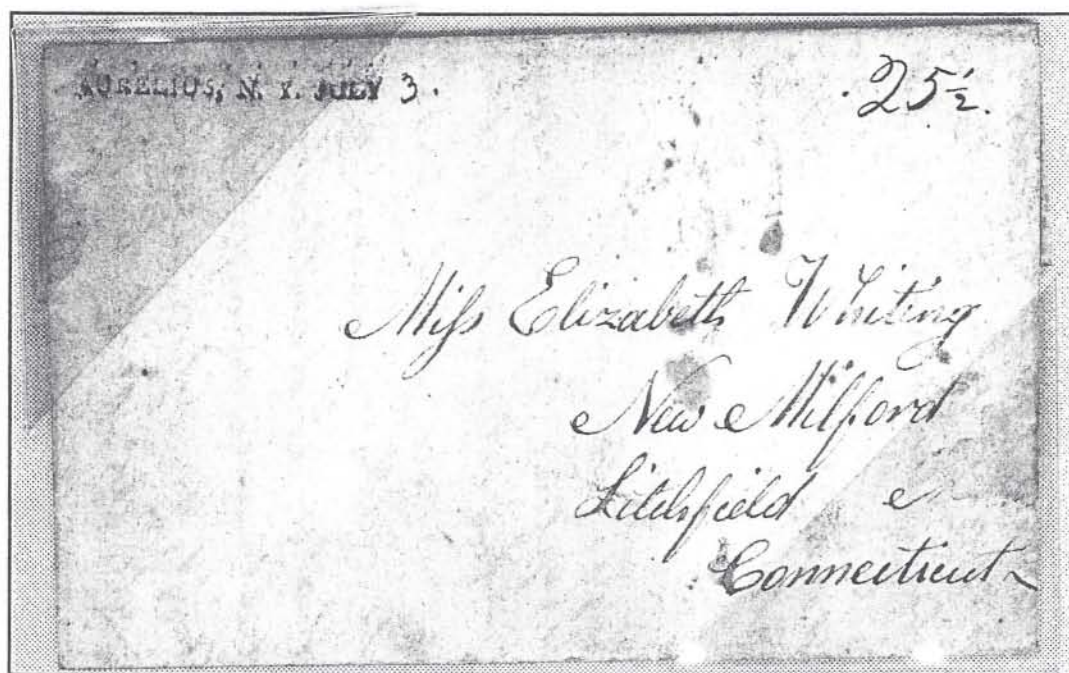
20 May 1815 from New York, N.Y. to Kingston, N.Y.
By Contract Steamboat on the Hudson River

1815 War Surcharge Rates

25½ Cents (Over 150 miles and not exceeding 300 miles)



Aurelius, N.Y. to Albany, N.Y.
30 September 1815



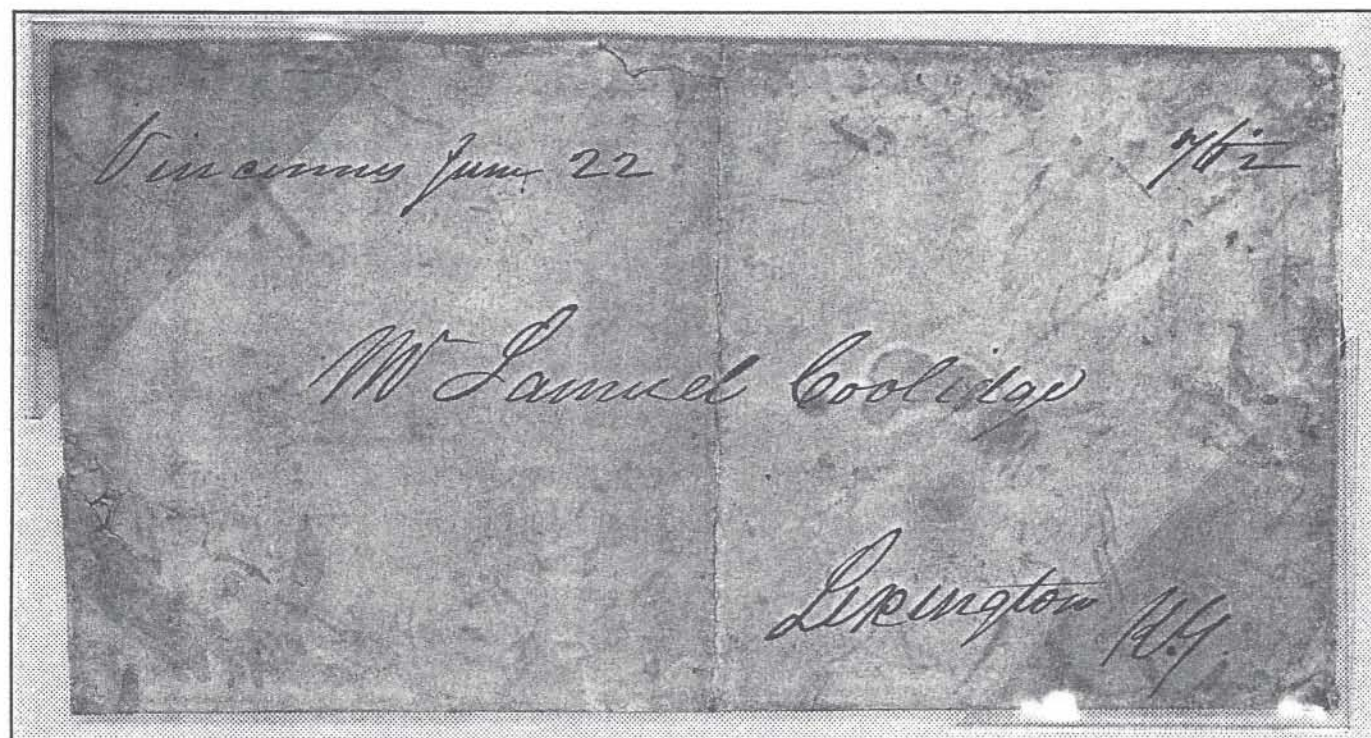
21 June 1815 from Woodhouse, Canada carried out of the mails to Aurelius, N.Y.
3 July 1815 from Aurelius, N.Y. to Litchfield, Conn.

1815 War Surcharge Rates

25½ Cents (Over 150 miles and not exceeding 300 miles)



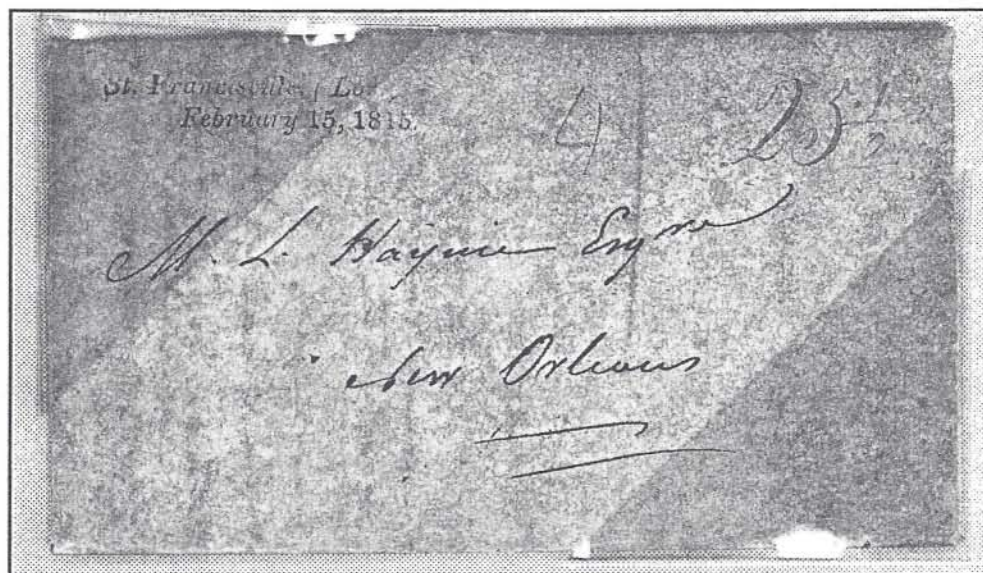
Rochester, N.Y. to Albany, N.Y.
4 September 1815



Vincennes, Indiana Territory to Lexington, Kentucky
22 June 1815, triple letter for triple rate

1815 War Surcharge Rates

25½ Cents (Over 150 miles and not exceeding 300 miles)



St. Francisville, Louisiana to New Orleans
15 February 1815

Earliest American illustrated postmark
the only recorded example

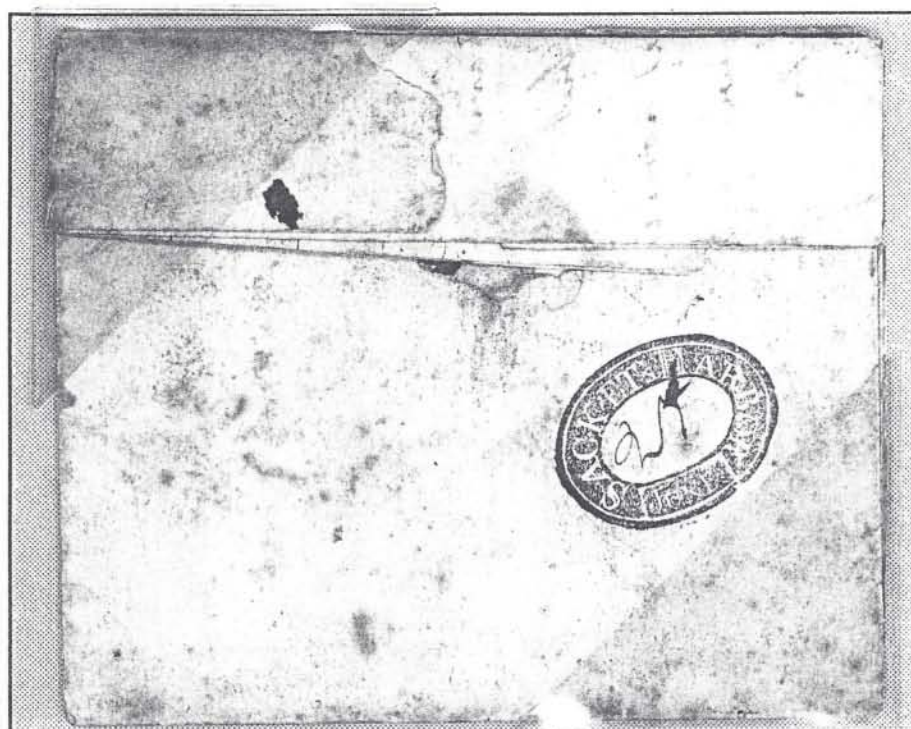


Sackett's Harbor, N.Y. to Albany, N.Y.
20 April 1815



1815 War Surcharge Rates

30 Cents (Over 300 miles and not exceeding 500 miles)



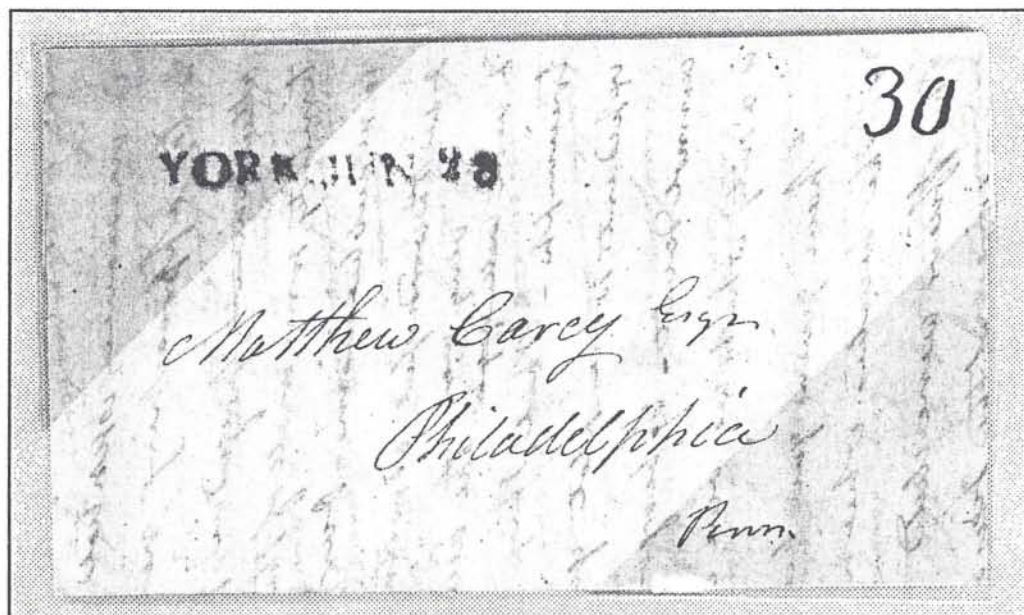
Sackett's Harbor, N.Y. to Charlestown, Mass.
21 June 1815, dated from *U.S. Brig Jones*
postmark as previous page with center removed and new month



Geneva, N.Y. to New York, N.Y.
2 February 1816

315 War Surcharge Rates

1 Cents (Over 300 miles and not exceeding 500 miles)



York, District of Maine to Philadelphia, Penna.

28 June 1815



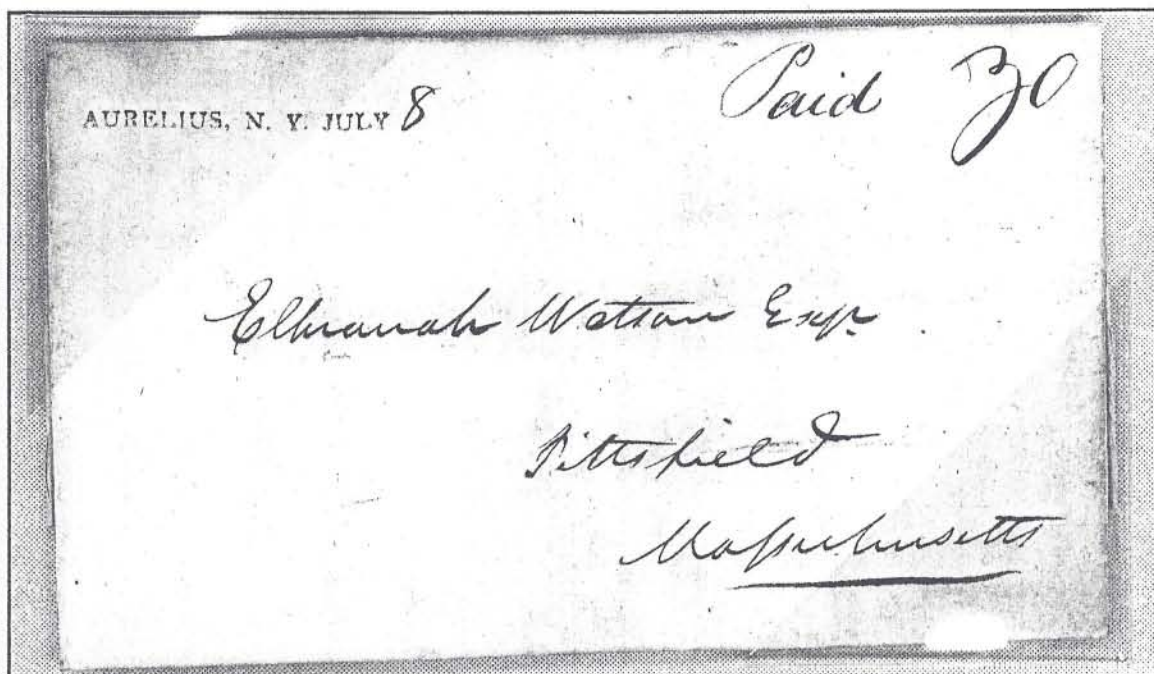
9 March 1816 from Burton, Ohio to Juniata, Penna.

Missent to Pittsburgh, Penna. with 2 April postmark

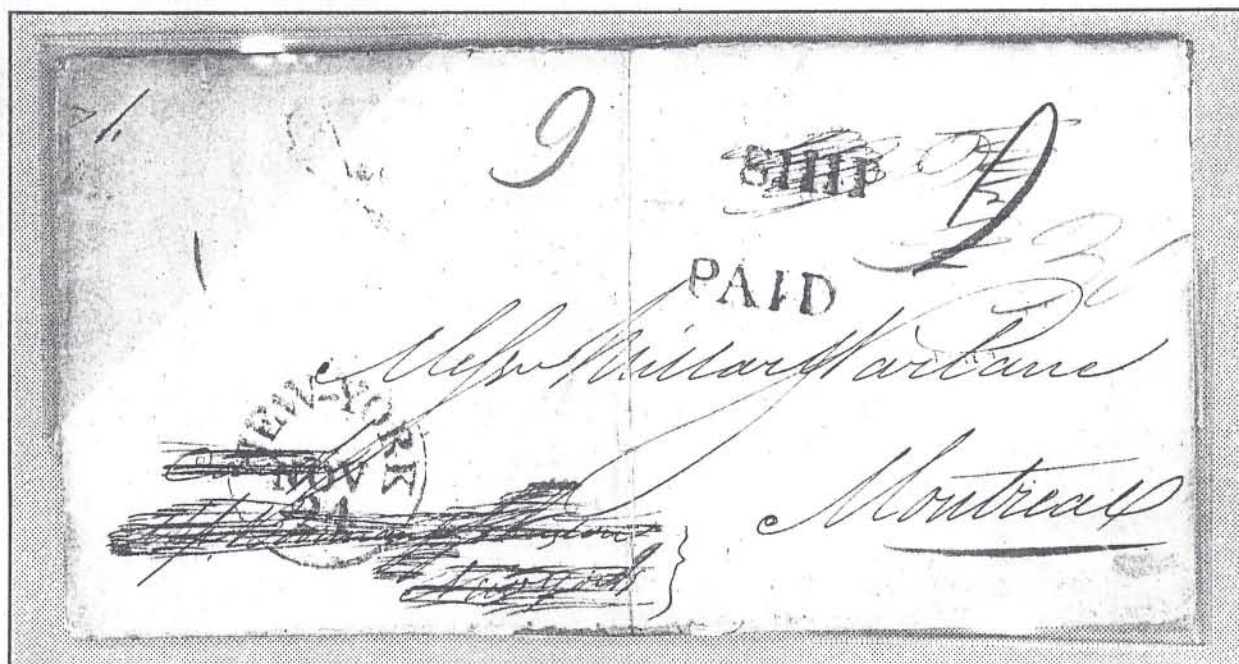
1815 War Surcharge Rates

FRAME 4

30 Cents (Over 300 miles and not exceeding 500 miles)



Aurelius, N.Y. to Pittsfield, Mass.
8 July 1815



30 August 1815 from Liverpool, England via New York to Montreal, Canada
New York ship "9" P.O.E. rate and forwarded by Boorman & Johnson
30 cent rate to the Canadian line prepaid, 9d. Canadian due

New York 24th Nov. 1815
forwarded by
J. Boorman & Johnson

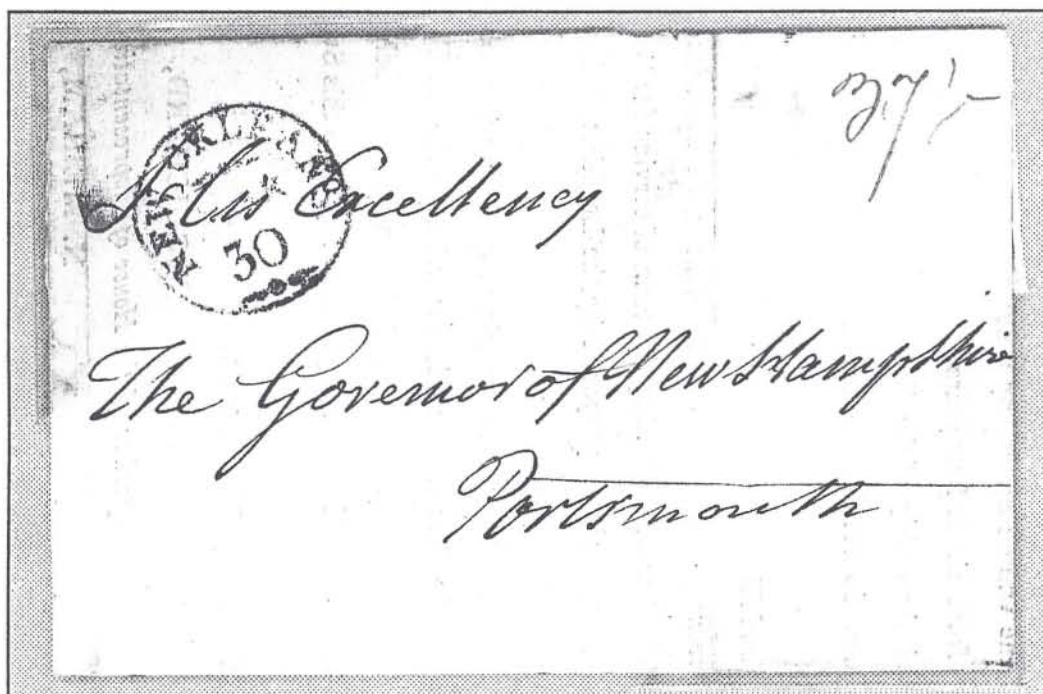
on reverse

1815 War Surcharge Rates

37½ Cents (Over 500 miles)



17 May 1815 from Providence, R.I. to Natchez, Miss. Territory
Forwarded on 4 July 1815 to New Orleans, La.



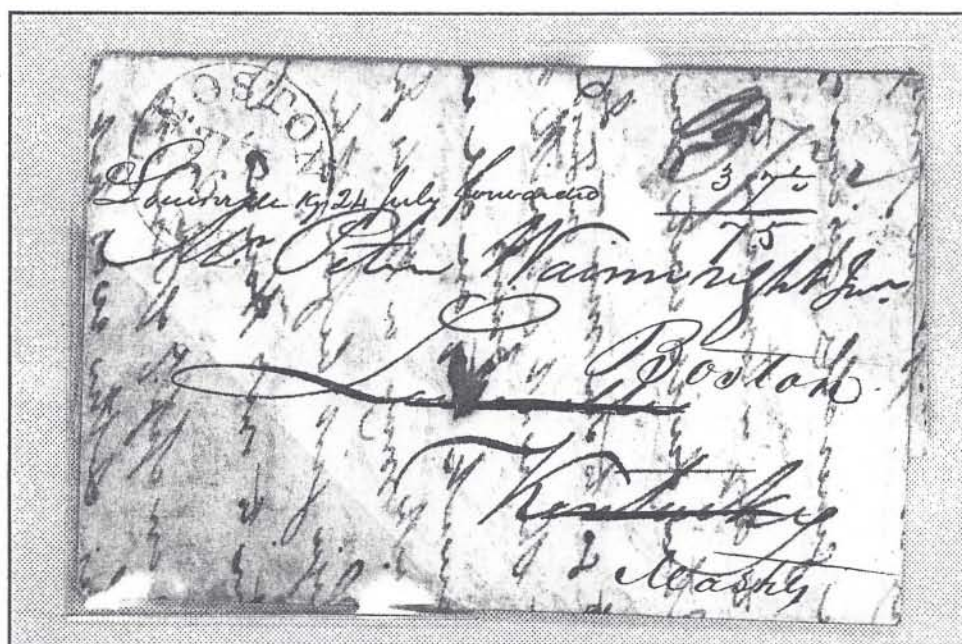
New Orleans, Louisiana to Portsmouth, N.H.
30 March 1816
Last Day of war surcharge rates

1815 War Surcharge Rates

37½ Cents (Over 500 miles)



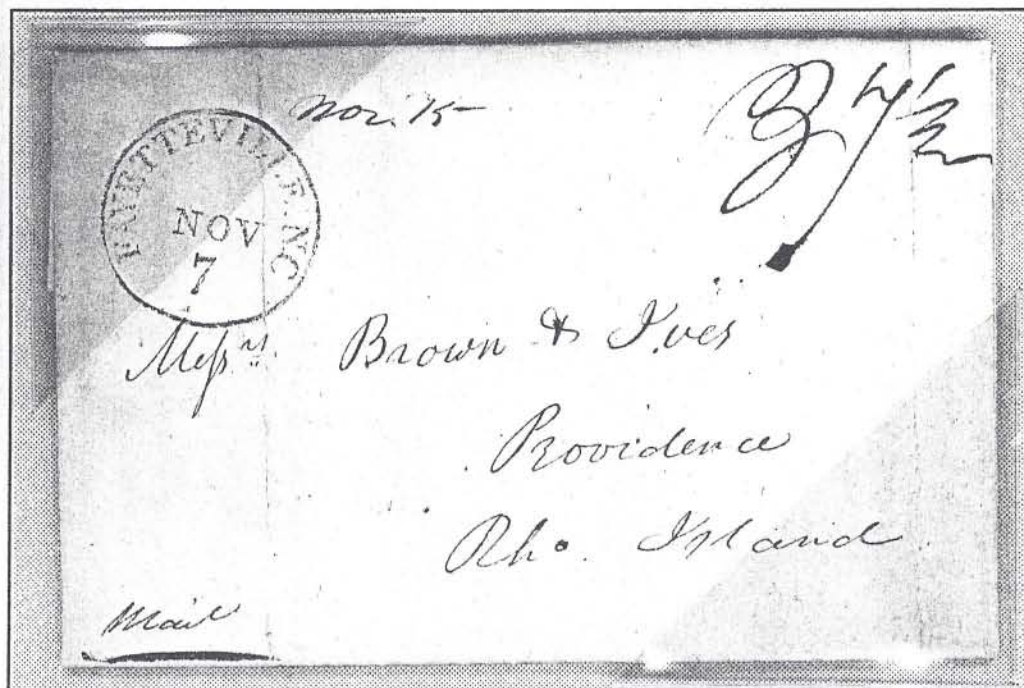
Fort Hawkins, Georgia to New York, N.Y.
30 December 1815



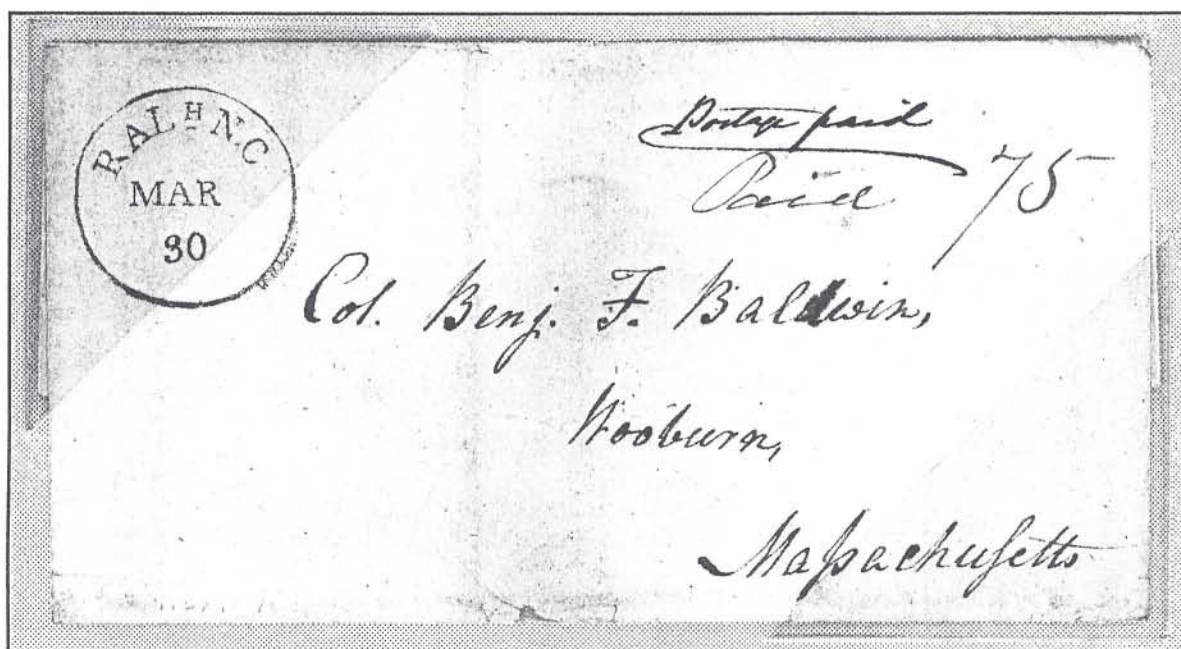
6 July 1815 from Boston, Mass. to Louisville, Kentucky
24 July 1815 forwarded back to Boston, Mass.

1815 War Surcharge Rates

37½ Cents (Over 500 miles)



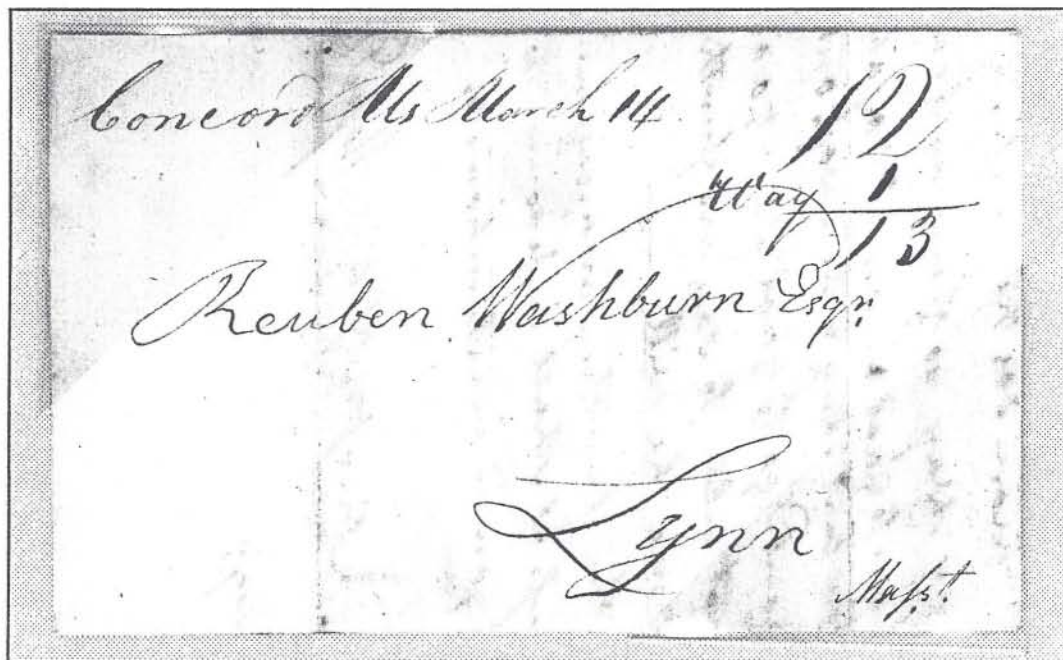
Fayetteville, N.C. to Providence, R.I.
7 November 1815



Raleigh, N.C. to Woburn, Mass.
30 March 1816, double letter for double rate
Last Day of war surcharge rates

1815 War Surcharge Rates

Way Fee 1 Cent (Added to postage)



12 March 1816 from Sterling, Mass. to Lynn, Mass.

14 March entered the mails at Concord, Mass.

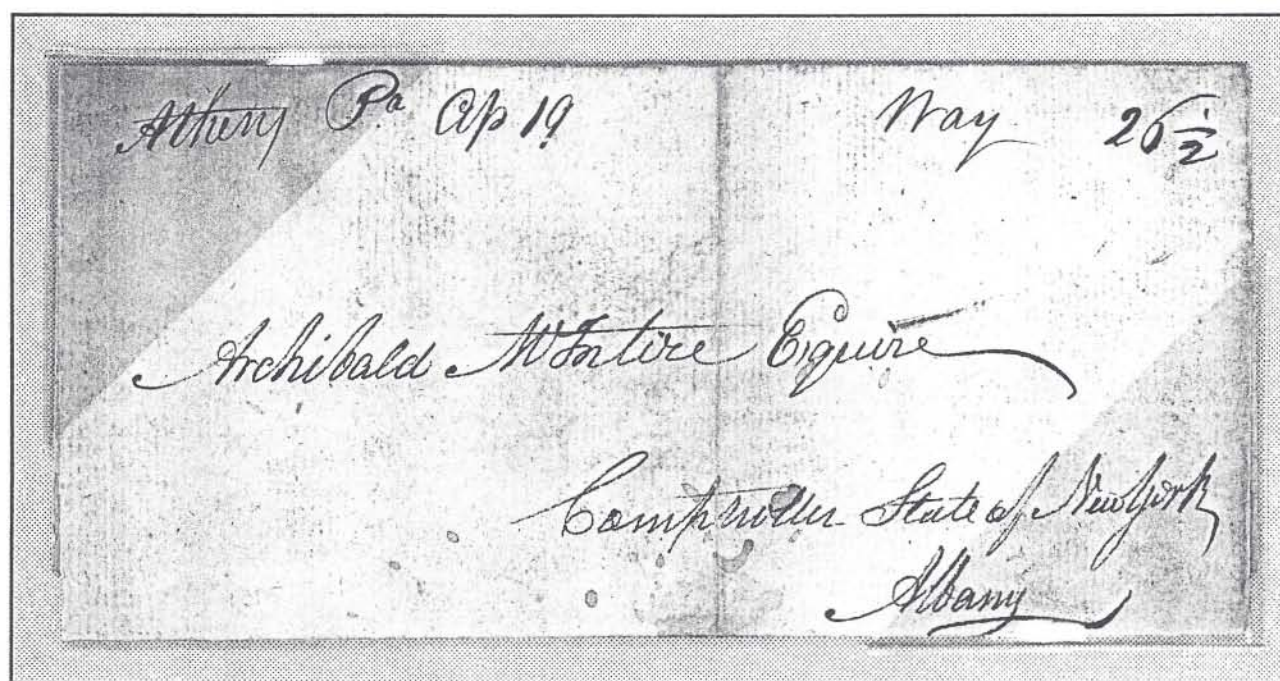
1 cent way fee added to 12 cent rate (to 40 miles)

1815 War Surcharge Rates

Way Fee 1 Cent (Added to postage)



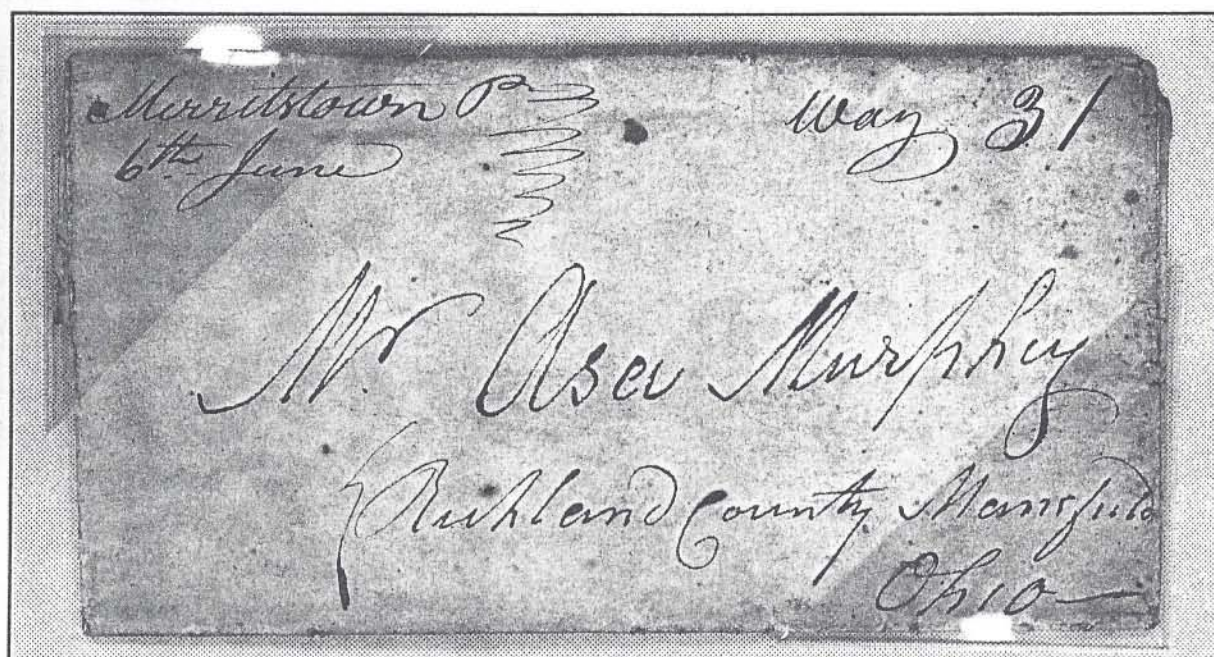
5 October 1815 from Windsor, Vermont to Boston, Mass.
Via the Connecticut River, 6 October entered the mails at Walpole, N.H.
1 cent way fee added to 18 3/4 cent rate (90 to 150 miles)



15 March 1815 from Elmira, N.Y. to Albany, N.Y.
Via the Tioga River, 20 March entered the mails at Athens, Penna.
1 cent way fee added to 25 1/2 cent rate (150 to 300 miles)

1815 War Surcharge Rates

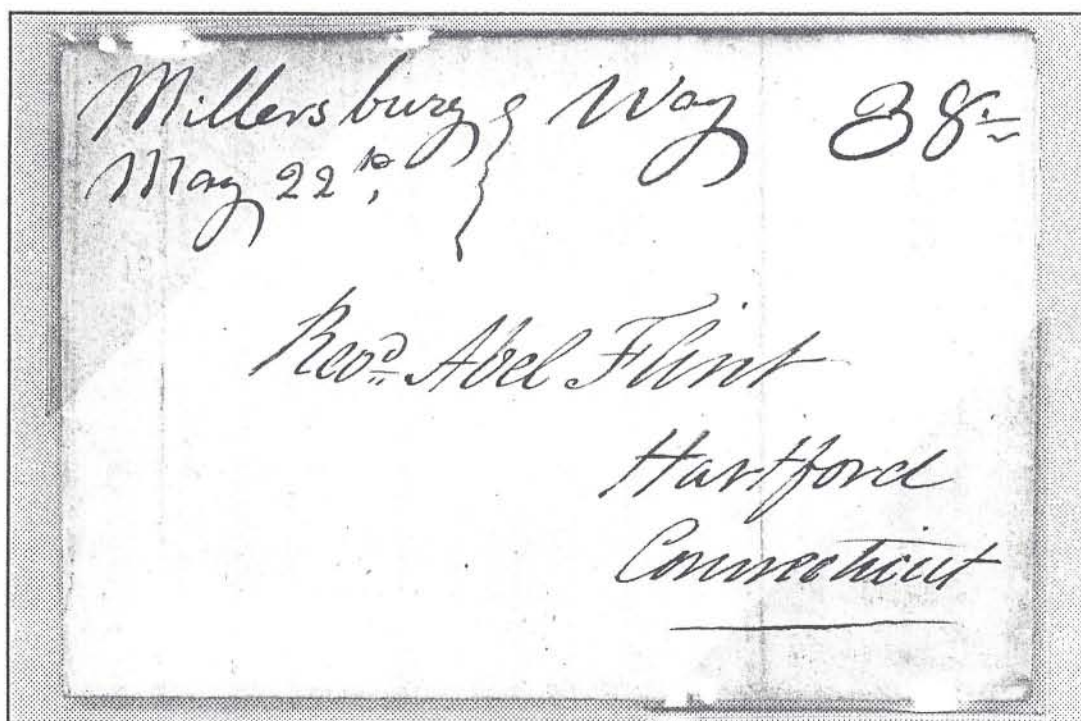
Way Fee 1 Cent (Added to postage)



30 May 1815 from Uniontown, Penna. to Mansfield, Ohio

6 June 1815 entered the mails at Merrittstown, Penna.

1 cent way fee added to 30 cent rate (300 to 500 miles)



15 May 1815 from Winchester, Kentucky to Hartford, Conn.

22 May 1815 entered the mails at Millersburg, Kentucky

1 cent way fee added to 37½ cent rate (over 500 miles)

1815 War Surcharge Rates

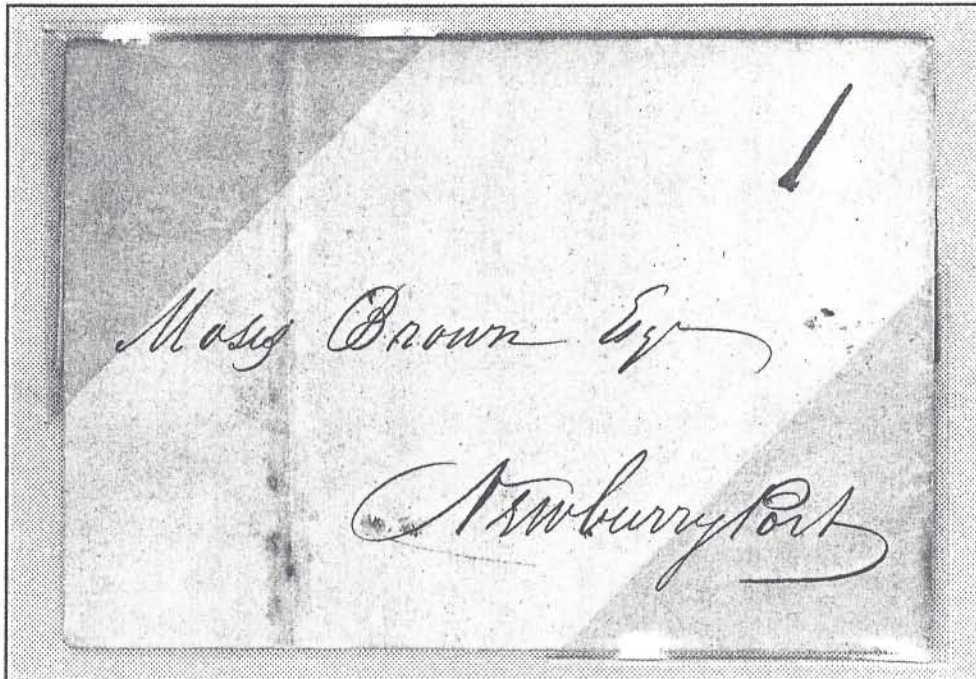
Letters For Office Of Mailing Delivery (1c emolument to P.M.)

The P.O. Act increasing postage rates made no mention of this class of letter

The recorded usages from Albany and New York, N.Y. show a 1½ cent charge, without authorisation

The only authorised charge during the period was 1 cent. This was kept by P.M. without any P.O. accounting

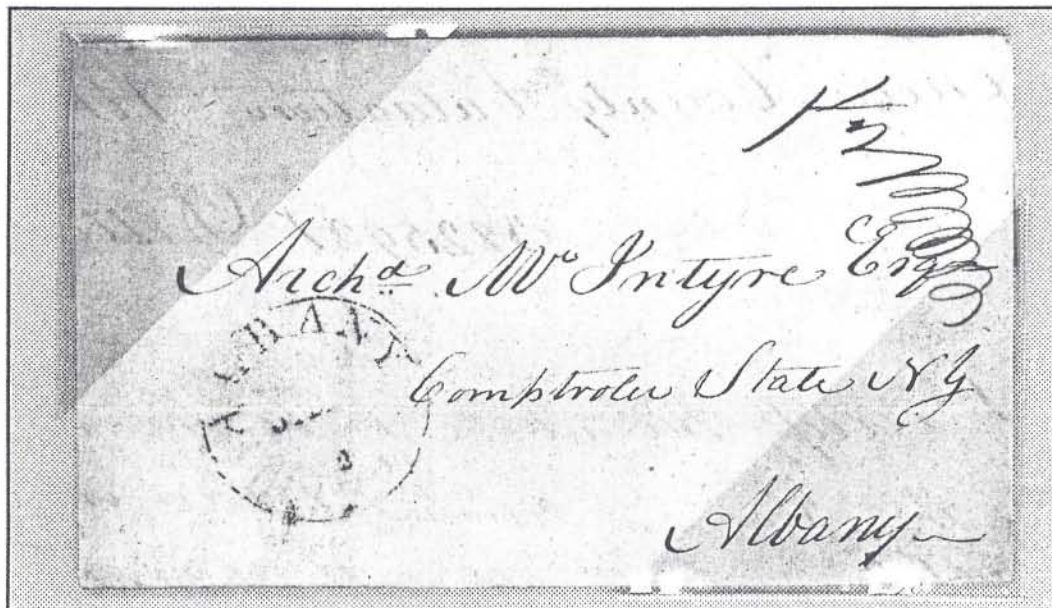
the only recorded example showing the correct charge



12 December 1815 from Alexandria, Va. to Newburyport, Mass.
carried out of the mails to Newburyport where it entered the mails for office delivery

1815 War Surcharge Rates

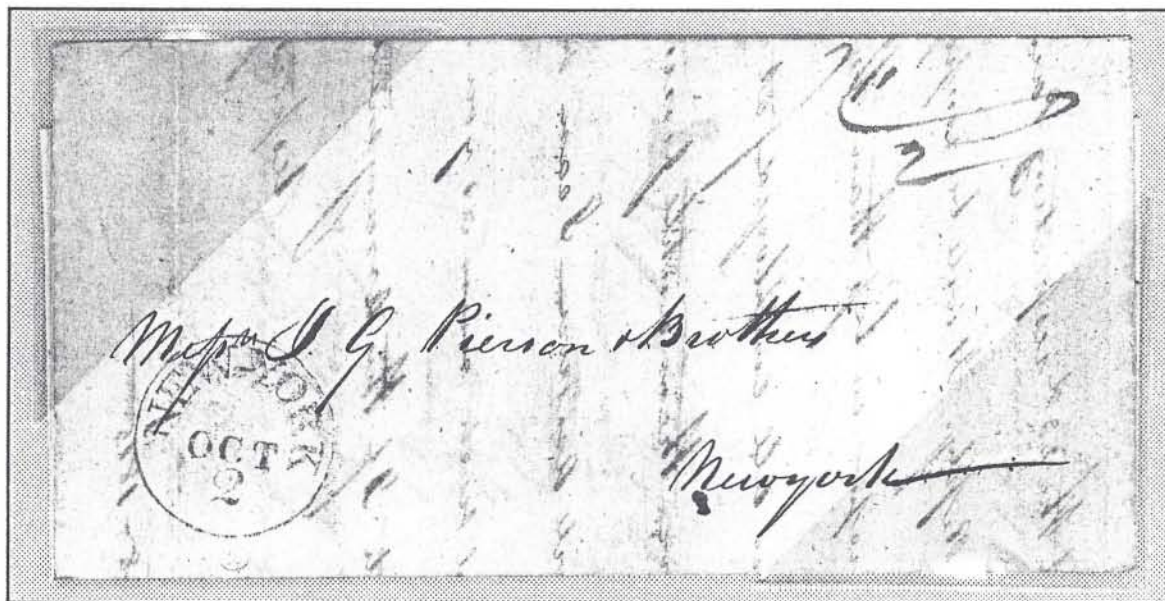
Letters For Office Of Mailing Delivery (1c emolument to P.M.)



2 January 1816 out of the mails from New York, N.Y. to Albany, N.Y.

3 January 1816 entered the mails at Albany for office delivery

unauthorised 1½ cent charge



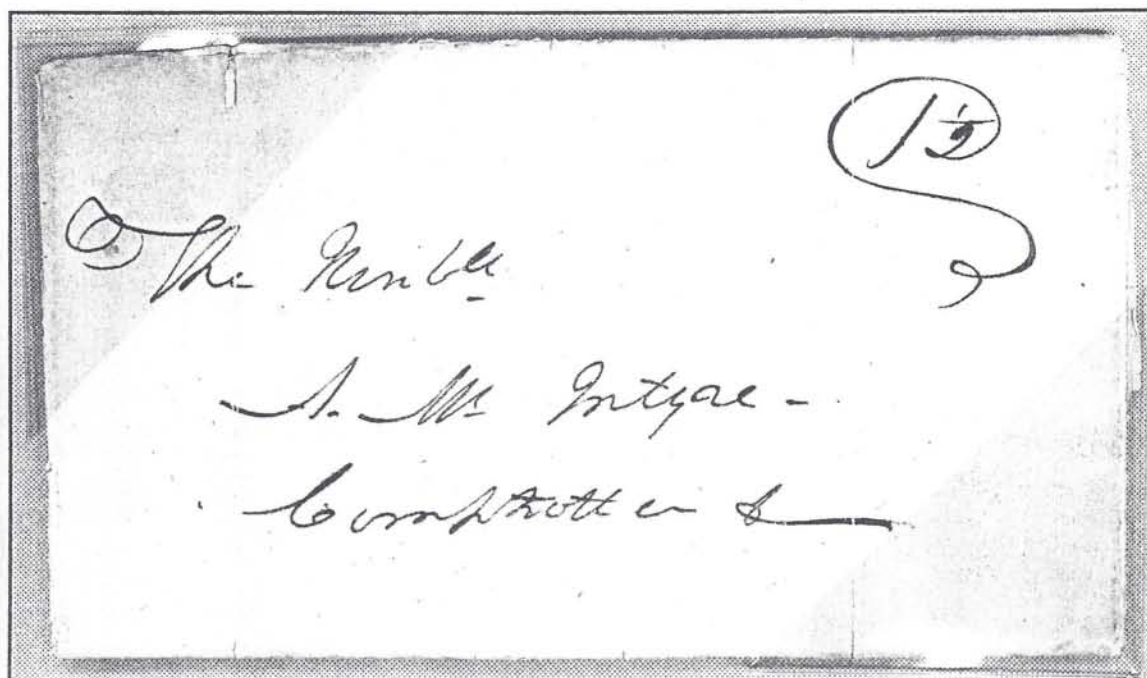
28 September 1815 out of the mails from Newburgh, N.Y. to New York, N.Y.

2 October 1815 entered the mails at New York for office delivery

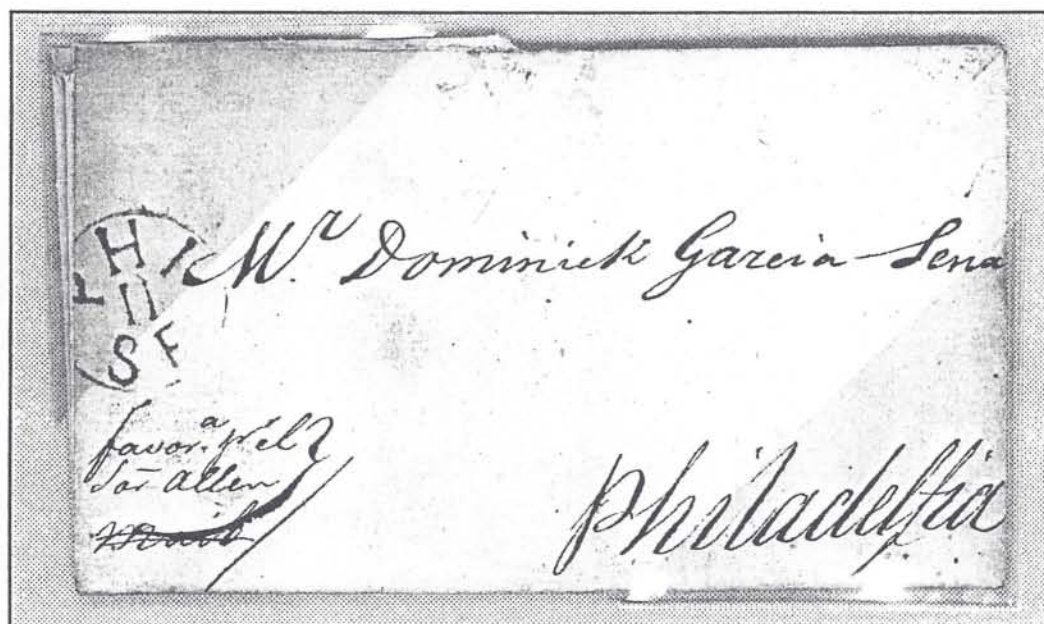
unauthorised 1½ cent charge

1815 War Surcharge Rates

Letters For Office Of Mailing Delivery (1c emolument to P.M.)



23 February 1816 from Albany, N.Y. for Albany office delivery
the only recorded example that did not originate elsewhere
unauthorised 1½ cent charge

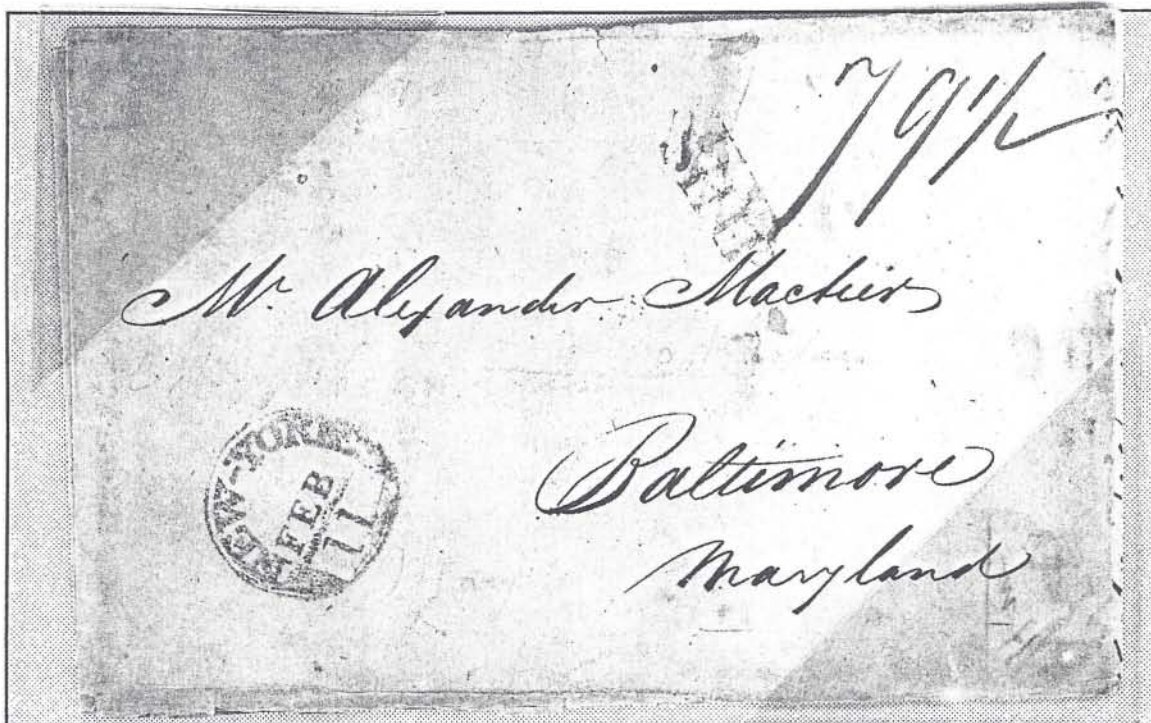


30 August 1815 out of the mails from New York, N.Y. to Philadelphia, Penna.
11 September 1815 entered the mails at Philadelphia for office delivery
charge not indicated

1815 War Surcharge Rates

Ship Fee 3 Cents, Unauthorised

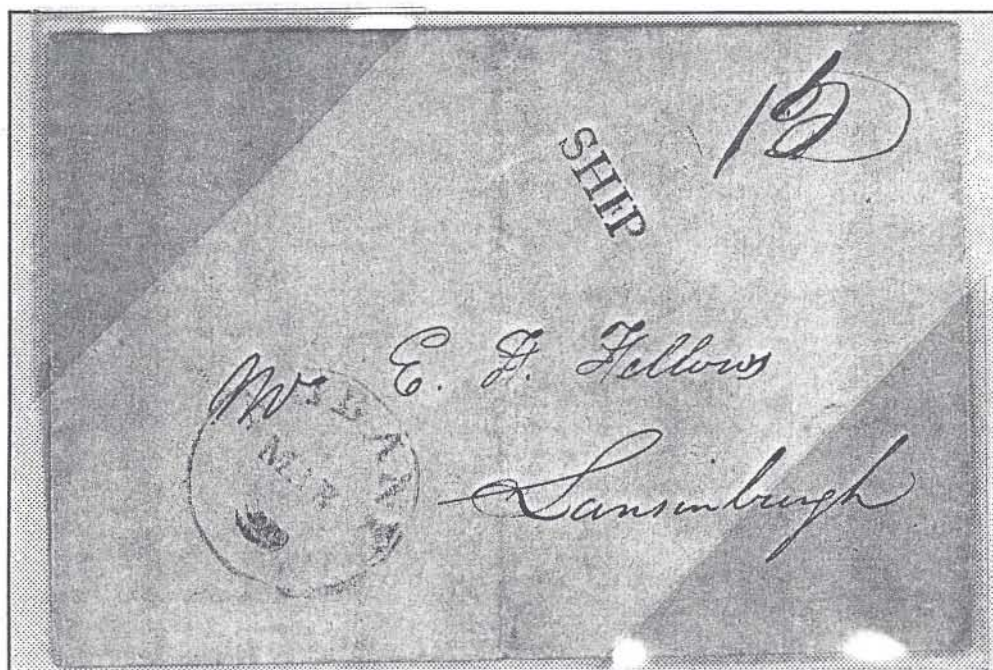
Prior to March 21, 1815, when a P.O. circular confirmed the 2 cent ship fee, two offices surcharged the fee without authority



31 October 1814 from Cork, Ireland to Baltimore, Md.

11 February 1815 entered the mails at New York, N.Y.

**unauthorised 3 cent ship fee added to triple 25½ cent rate (150 to 300 miles)
the only recorded example from New York**



19 March 1815 from New York, N.Y. to Lansingburgh, N.Y.

Via the Hudson River, entered the mails at Albany, N.Y.

**unauthorised 3 cent ship fee added to 12 cent rate (to 40 miles)
the only recorded example from Albany and the latest recorded Ship handstamp**

1815 War Surcharge Rates

Ship Fee 2 Cents (Added to postage)



10 August 1815 from New York, N.Y. to Newport, R.I.

17 August 1815 entered the mails at Providence, R.I.

2 cent ship fee added to 12 cent rate (to 40 miles)



Halifax N.S. 26 Apr. 1815
Forwarded by
W. H. Deblo
Bowie & Deblo

on reverse

13 March 1815 from England to Portsmouth, N.H.

13 March, London P.P.W.S.L. backstamp, ms. paid 1sh. 3d. rate (1/3 packet postage)

1 May 1815 Halifax, Nova Scotia forwarders endorsement of Bowie & Deblo

26 April 1815 entered the mails at Boston, Mass.

2 cent ship fee added to 15 cent rate (40 to 90 miles)

1815 War Surcharge Rates

Ship Fee 2 Cents (Added to postage)



1 January 1816 from Cadiz, Spain to Philadelphia, Penna.

4 March entered the mails at New York, N.Y.

2 cent ship fee added to 18¾ cent rate (90 to 150 miles)



20 July 1815 from Point Petre, Guadaloupe to Newburyport, Mass.

12 August entered the mails at New York, N.Y.

2 cent ship fee added to 25½ cent rate (150 to 300 miles)

1815 War Surcharge Rates

Ship Fee 2 Cents (Added to postage)



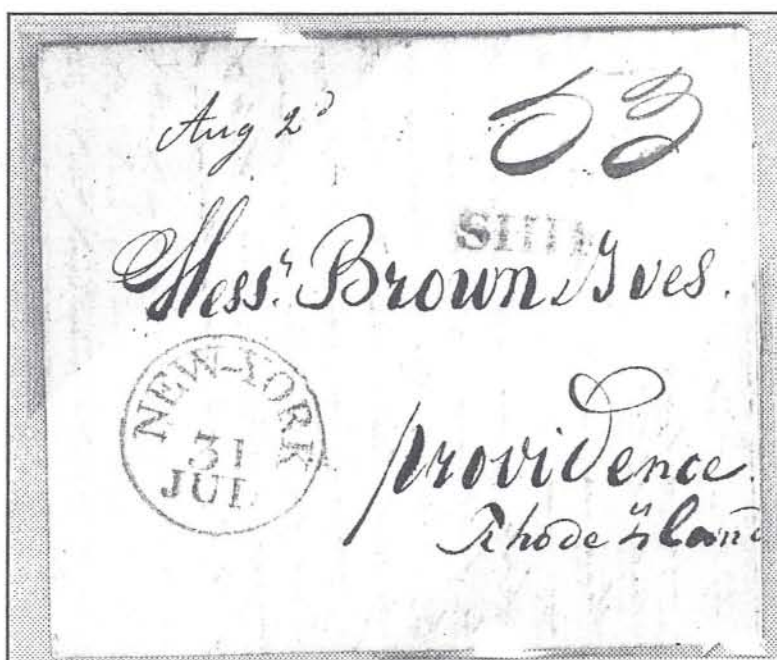
backstamp

27 May 1815 from Liverpool, England to Providence, R.I.

5 June, Liverpool P.R.W.S.L. red backstamp, ms. paid 9d. rate (1/3 packet postage)

6 August entered the mails at New York, N.Y.

2 cent ship fee added to 25 1/2 cent rate (150 to 300 miles)



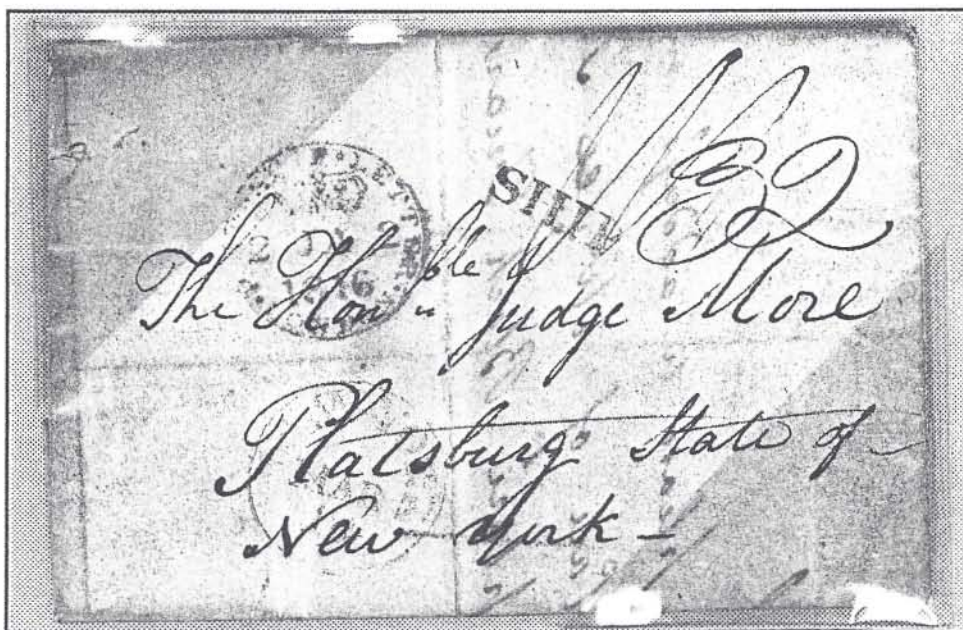
30 May 1815 from Amsterdam, Holland to Providence, R.I.

31 August entered the mails at New York, N.Y.

2 cent ship fee added to double 25 1/2 cent rate (150 to 300 miles)

1815 War Surcharge Rates

Ship Fee 2 Cents (Added to postage by distance)

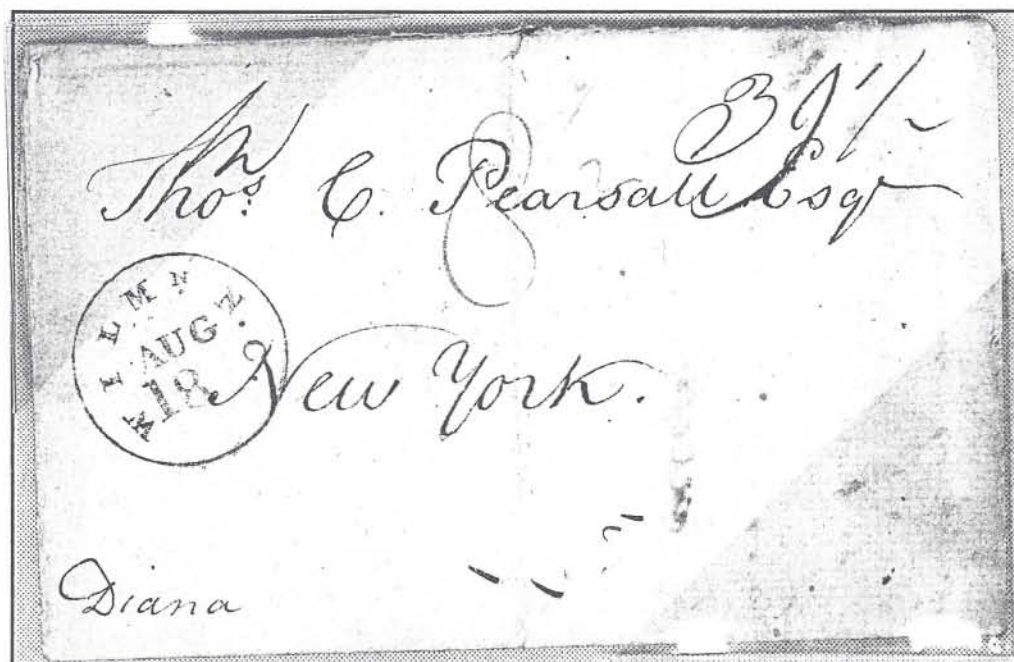


2 January 1816 from London, England to Platsburg, N.Y.

London Paid Ship Letter postmark and 1sh. 1d. rate ($\frac{1}{3}$ packet postage)

14 March entered the mails at New York, N.Y.

2 cent ship fee added to 30 cent rate (300 to 500 miles)



8 April 1815 from London, England to New York, N.Y.

8 April, London P.P.W.S.L. backstamp, ms. paid $8\frac{1}{2}$ d. rate ($\frac{1}{3}$ packet postage)

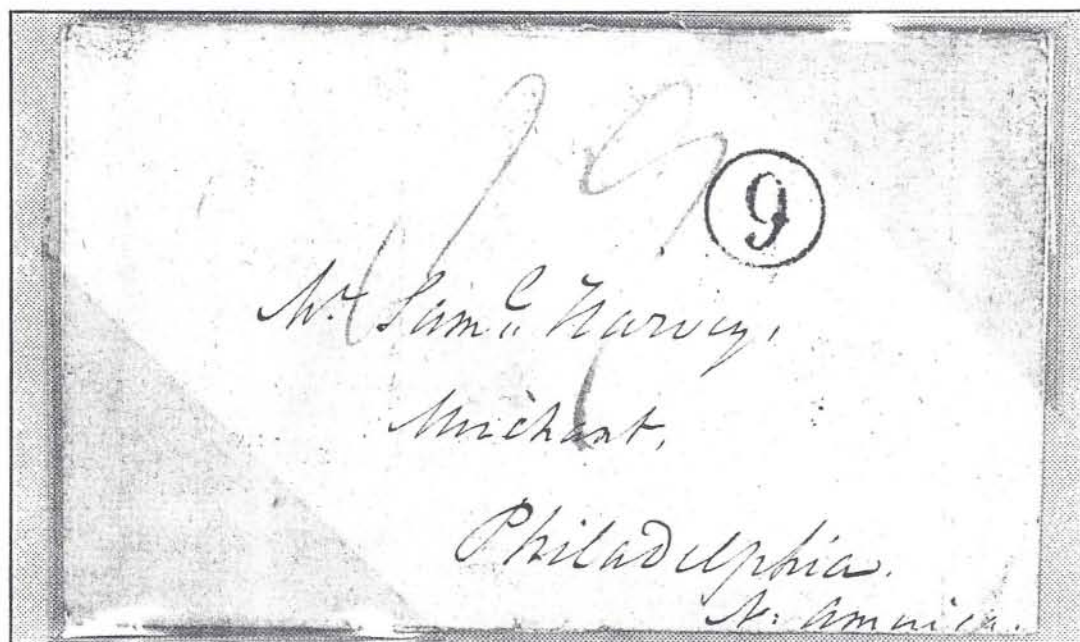
18 August 1815 entered the mails at Wilmington, N.C.

2 cent ship fee added to $37\frac{1}{2}$ cent rate (over 500 miles)

1815 War Surcharge Rates

FRAME 5

Ship Rate For Port Of Entry Delivery - 9 Cents



20 January 1815 from Manchester, England to Philadelphia, Penna.

28 January, **Liverpool P.P.W.S.L.** red backstamp, ms. paid 9d. rate (1/3 packet postage)
entered the mails at Philadelphia with **9 rate handstamp in circle**, 3 recorded examples



the latest recorded
P.P.W.S.L. usage

20 July 1815 from London, England to Philadelphia, Penna.

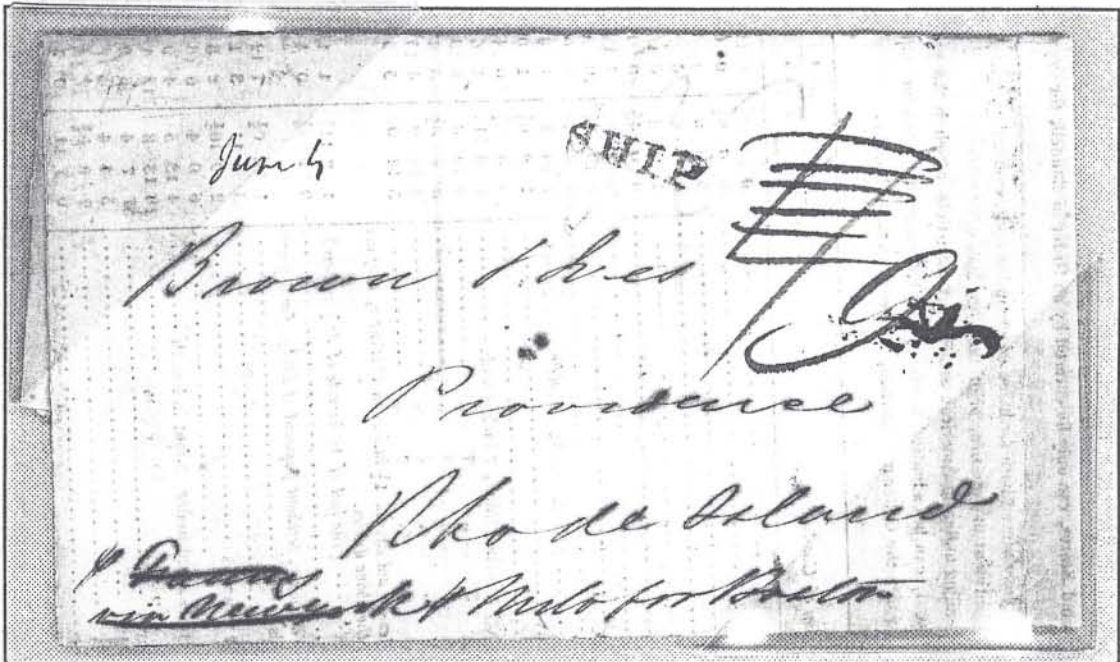
21 July, **London P.P.W.S.L.** backstamp, ms. paid 8½ rate (1/3 packet postage)
entered the mails at Philadelphia with **9 rate handstamp without circle**
the only recorded example of this rate handstamp

1815 War Surcharge Rates

Ship Rate For Port Of Entry Delivery - 9 Cents



18 April 1815 from Liverpool, England to New York, N.Y.
18 April, Liverpool P.P.W.S.L. red backstamp, ms. paid 9d. rate (1/3 packet postage)
entered the mails at New York with 9 cent rate
carried on the *Fanny*



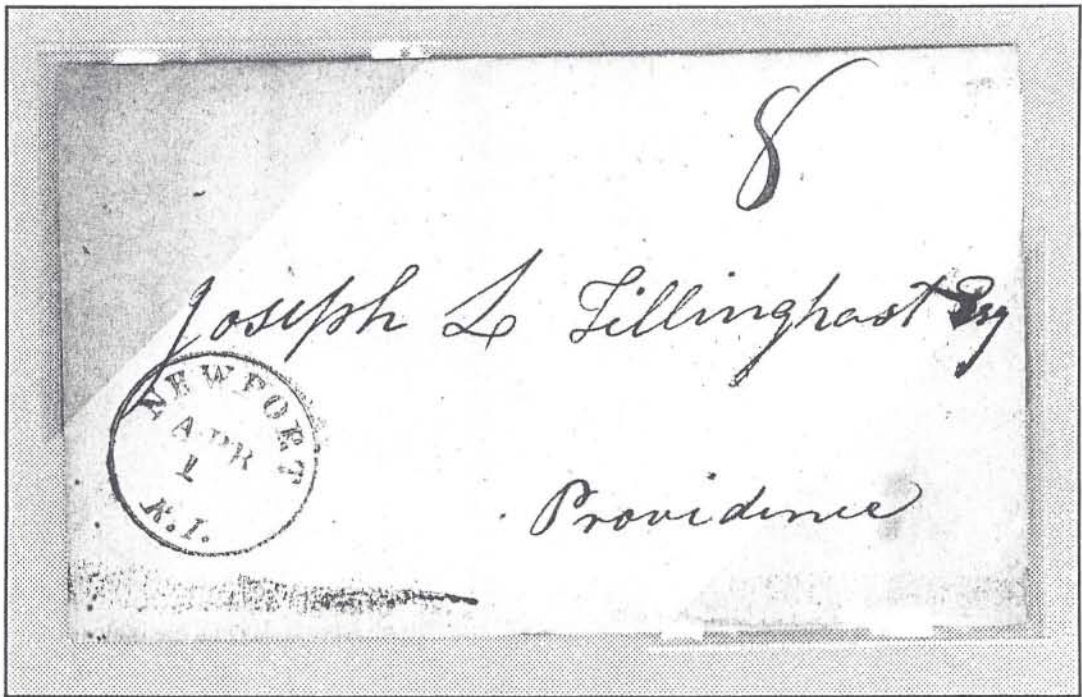
17 April 1815 from Liverpool, England to Providence, R.I., letter announces re-establishment of commerce
19 April, Liverpool P.P.W.S.L. red backstamp, ms. paid 9d. rate (1/3 packet postage)
3 June entered the mails at Boston where an agent for addressee picked it up, rate corrected to 9 cents
originally endorsed for carriage per *Fanny* but changed to the *Milo*, the first American ship to return from England after the war

April 1816 Restored Rates

By an act of Congress, passed February 1, 1816 the War Surcharge Rates were repealed. The postage rates of March, 1799 were restored. During the repeal hearings a firm policy to encourage communication was established. This policy continued to be a cornerstone for postal expansion during the 19th century.

These rates were in effect from April 1, 1816 to April 30, 1816

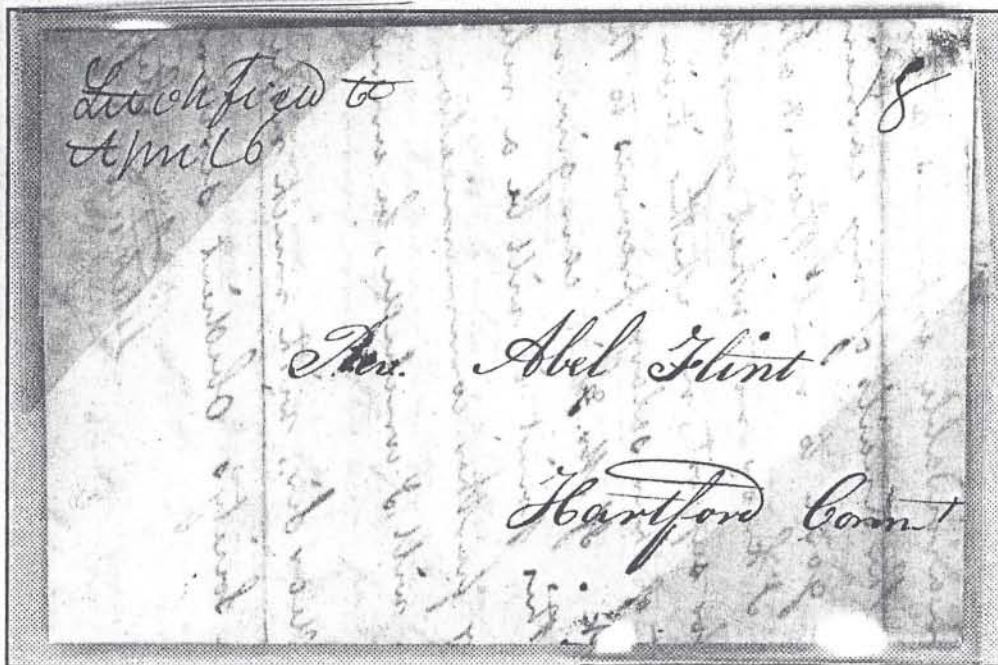
First Day Rate



1 April 1816
Newport, R.I. to Providence, R.I.
rated 8 cents (under 40 miles)

April 1816 Restored Rates

8 Cents (For any distance not exceeding 40 miles)



Litchfield, Conn. to Hartford, Conn.
6 April 1816



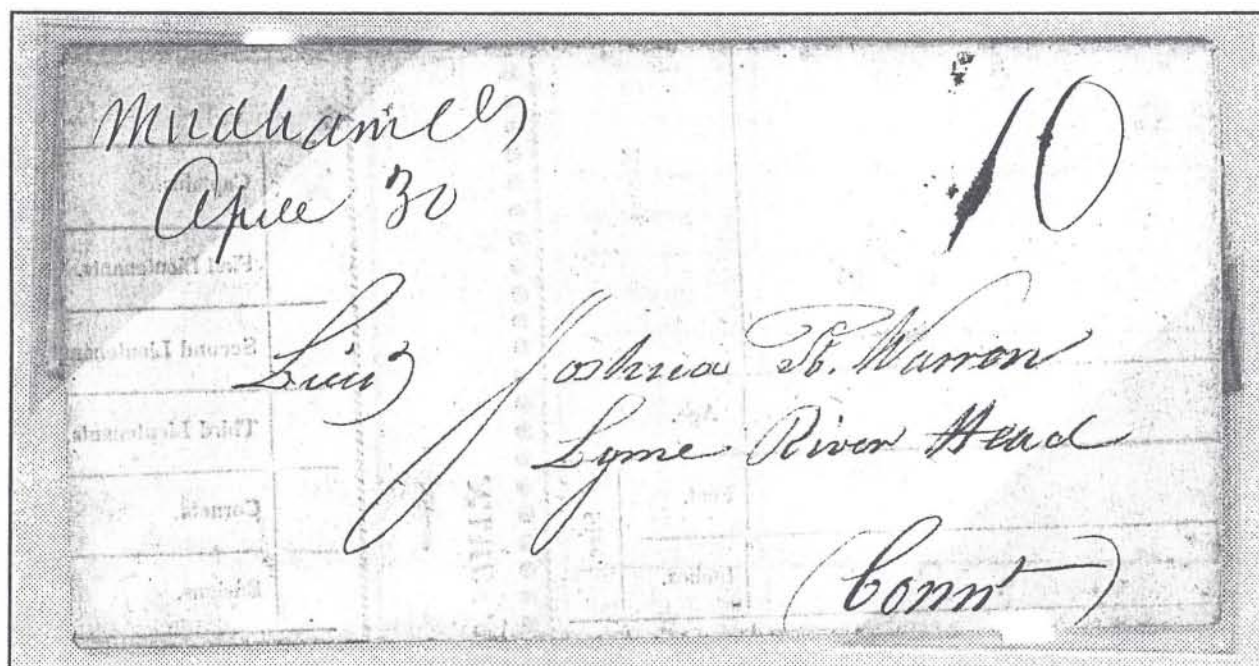
Hudson, N.Y. to Albany, N.Y.
25 April 1816, double letter for double rate

April 1816 Restored Rates

10 Cents (Over 40 miles and not exceeding 90 Miles)



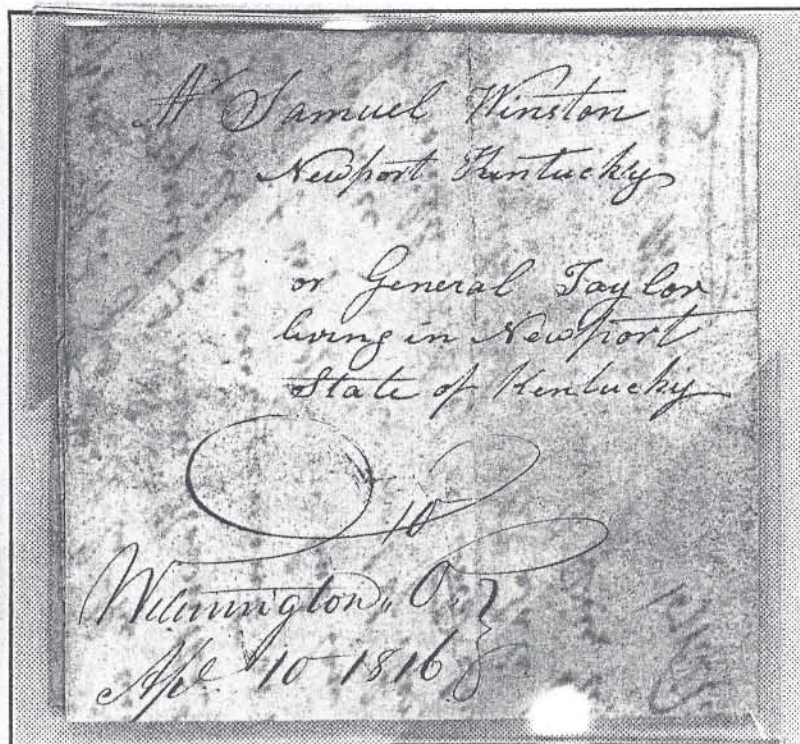
Lancaster, Mass. to Lynn, Mass.
30 April 1816, triple weight for triple rate
last day of restored rates



Windham, Conn. to Lyme, Conn.
30 April 1816, last day of restored rates

April 1816 Restored Rates

10 Cents (Over 40 miles and not exceeding 90 miles)



Wilmington, Ohio to Newport, Kentucky
10 April 1816



Snicker's Gap, Va. to Petersville, Md.
3 April 1816

rated in error, as war surcharge, on third day of new rates

0 Cents (Over 40 miles and not exceeding 90 miles)

275

303 81.20

John H. Branton

7 Arch Street Phila
Philadelphia

To the Care of Robert
 Pearson Esq^r -
 Woodbury



Bridgetown, N.J. to Philadelphia, Penna.

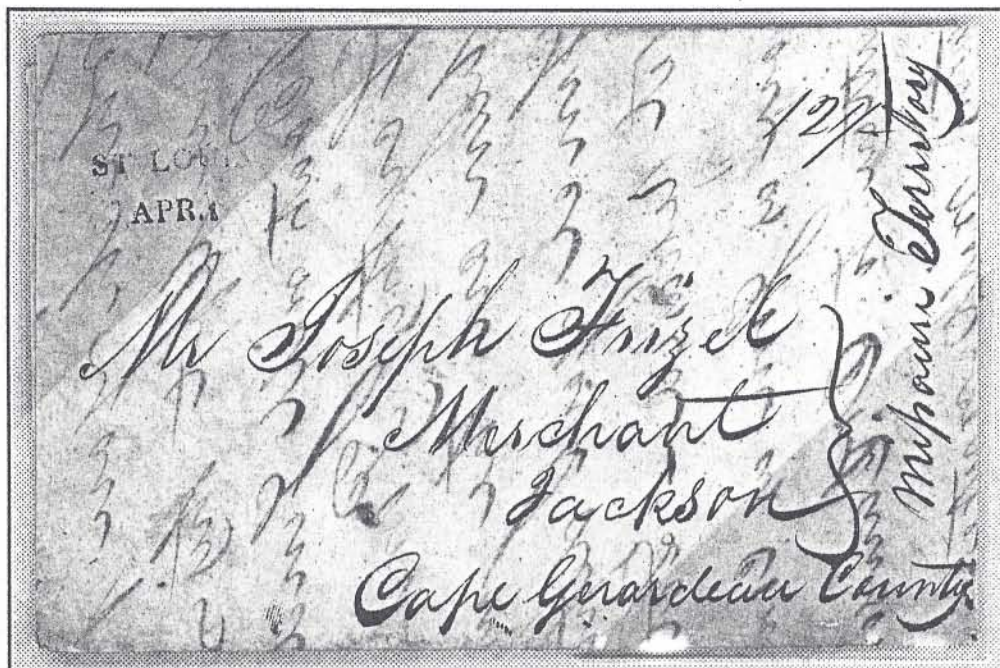
1 April 1816

3 ounce rate, at quadruple postage per oz.

First day restored rates

April 1816 Restored Rates

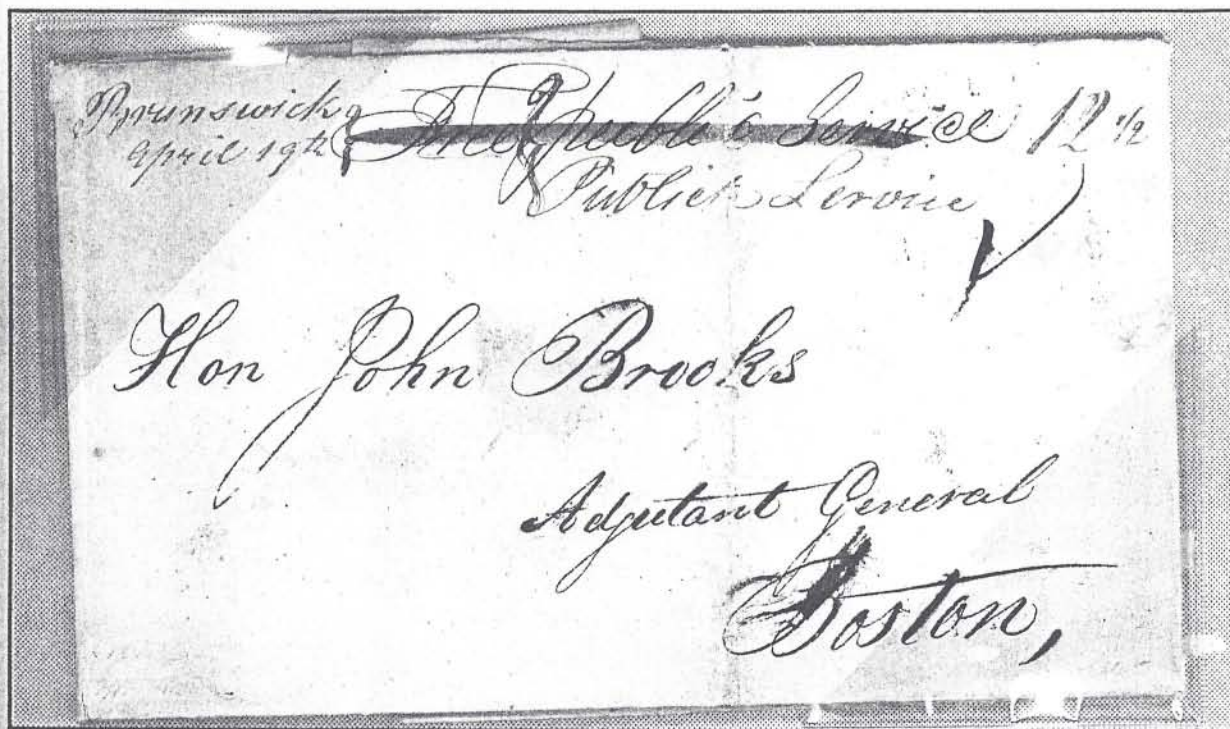
2½ Cents (Over 90 miles and not exceeding 150 miles)



Saint Louis, Missouri Territory to Jackson, Mo. T.

1 April 1816,

First Day restored rates



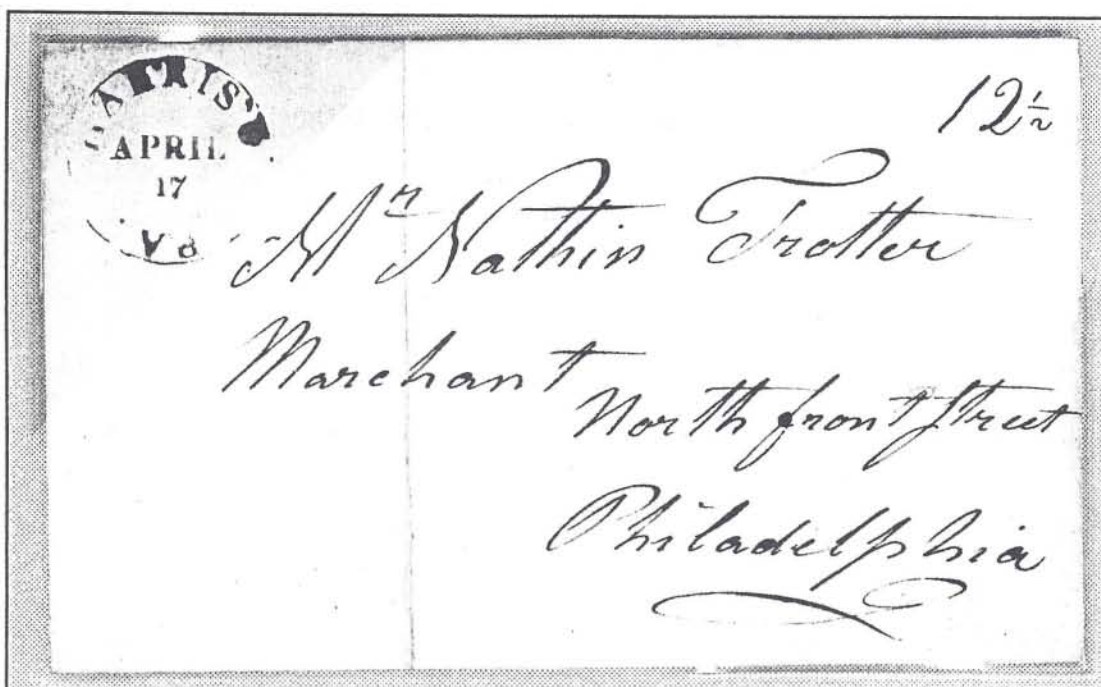
Brunswick, District of Maine to Boston, Mass.

19 April 1816, Free correctly crossed out

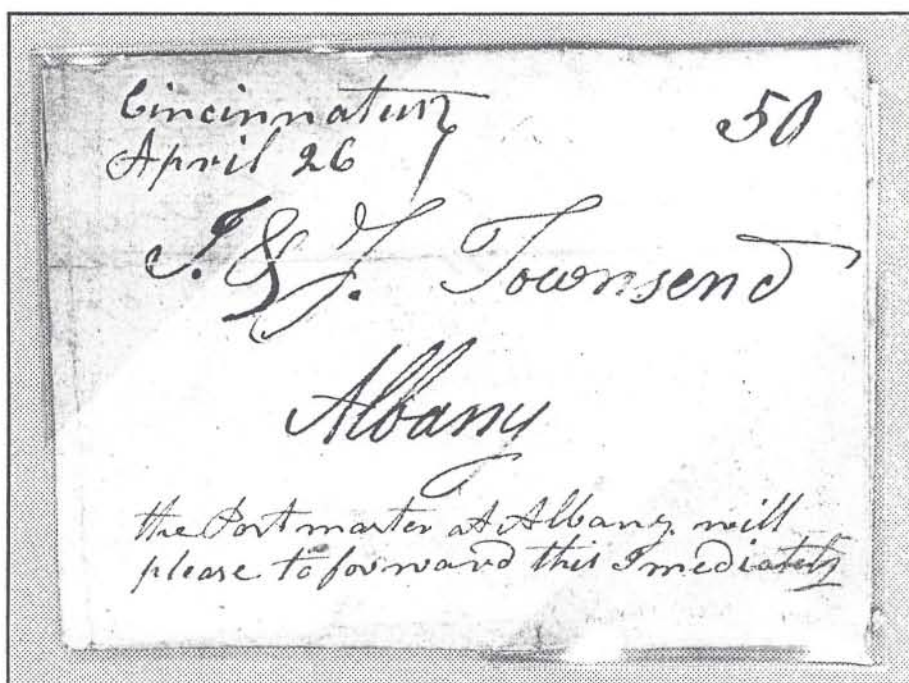
Regional Adjutant General did not have free mail priviledge

April 1816 Restored Rates

12½ Cents (Over 90 miles and not exceeding 150 miles)



Harrisonburg, Va. to Philadelphia, Penna.
17 April 1816,



Cincinnati, N.Y. to Albany, N.Y.
26 April 1816, 1 ounce letter for quadruple rate
sender's note at bottom authorises carrier delivery for 2 cent fee

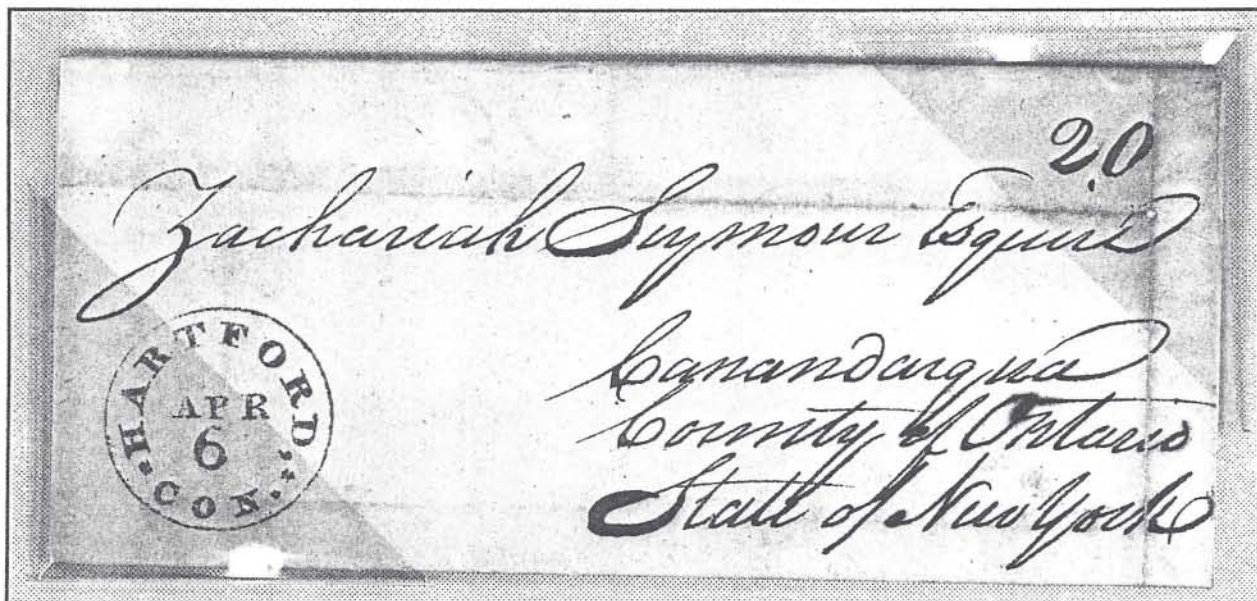
April 1816 Restored Rates

7 Cents (Over 150 miles and not exceeding 300 Miles)

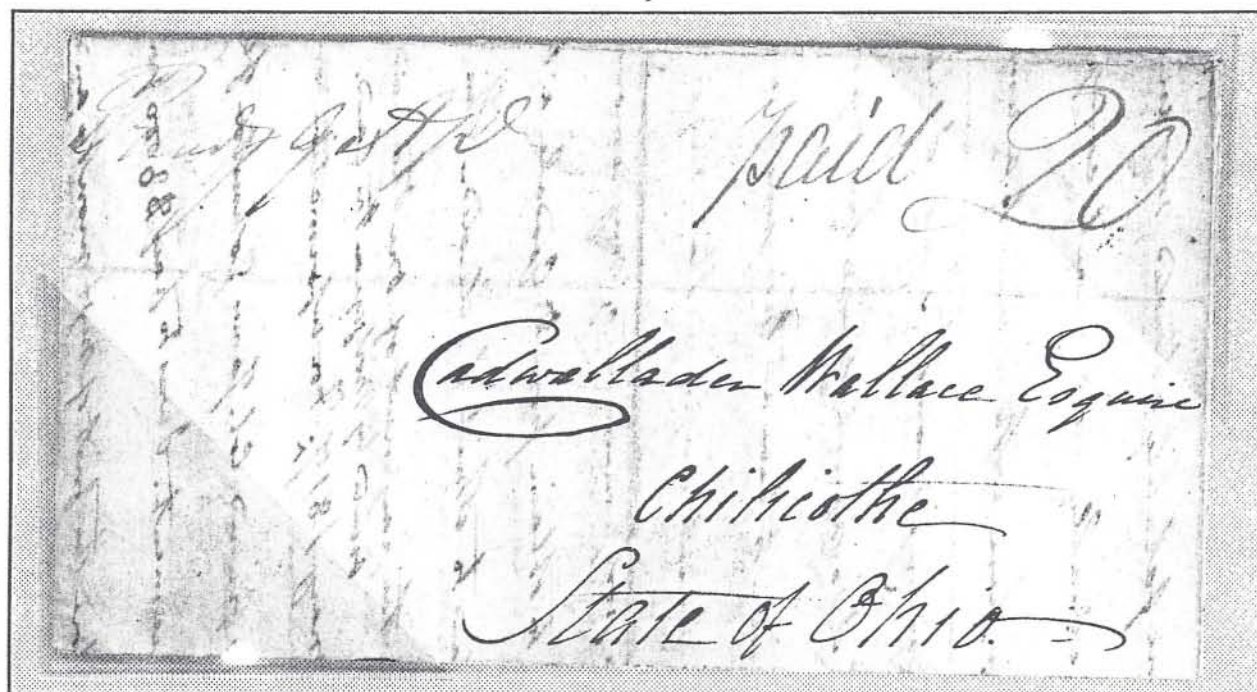


April 1816 Restored Rates

20 Cents (Over 300 miles and not exceeding 500 miles)



Hartford, Conn. to Canandaigua, N.Y.
6 April 1816,



Reading, Penna. to Chillicothe, Ohio
9 April 1816

April 1816 Restored Rates

25 Cents (Over 500 miles)



Detroit, Michigan Territory to Portsmouth, N.H.

13 April 1816,



New Orleans, La. to Comm. Genl. for P.O.W. at Washington, D.C.

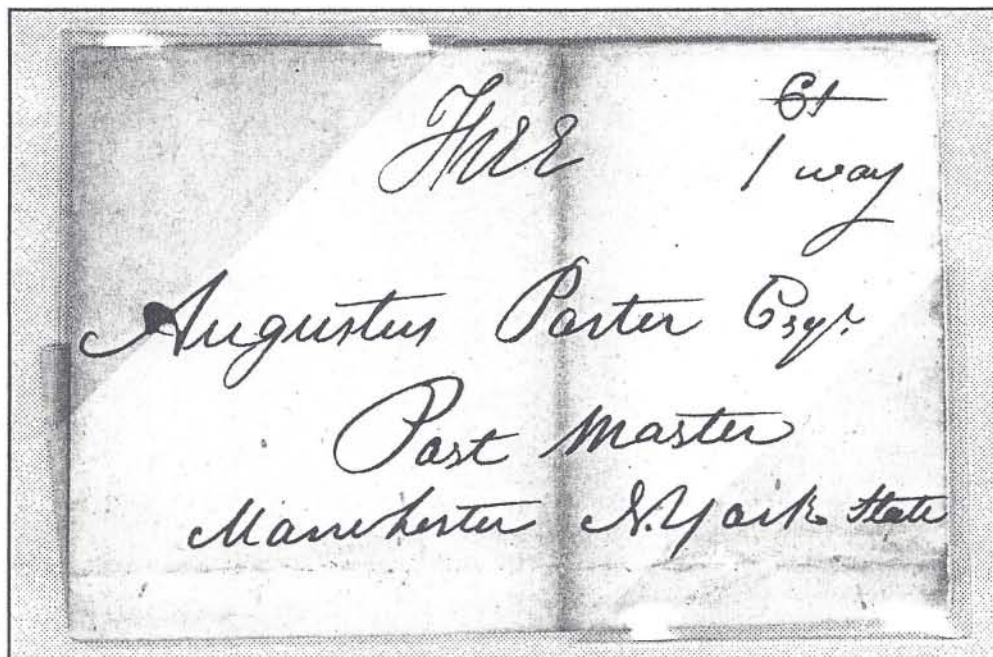
15 April 1816, Free incorrectly struck, triple weight for triple rate

12 May 1816 forwarded from Washington, D.C. to Georgetown, D.C.

combination of restored rate and new 6 cent rate of May, 1816

April 1816 Restored Rates

Way Fee 1 Cent



28 April 1816 from Erie, Penna. to the P.M. at Manchester, N.Y.
postage free but 1 cent way fee still due

April 1816 Restored Rates

Ship Fee 2 Cents (Added to postage)



23 April 1816 from Norfolk, Va. to Bristol, R.I.

27 April entered the mails at Baltimore, Md.

2 cent ship fee added to 20 cents rate (300 to 500 miles)

the **only recorded example** of ship fee during restored rate period



2 April 1816 from New York, N.Y. to Albany, N.Y.

loose letter on **Hudson River steamer** to Athens, N.Y. where it entered the mails

5 April postmark and rated 8 cents (under 40 miles) with **no fee over contract route**

April 1816 Restored Rates

Magazine and Pamphlet Rate

2 Cents per sheet carried over 100 miles



Guyandotte, Cabel County, Va. to Richmond, Va.

16 April 1816

28 Sheets for 56 cents rate

the earliest recorded pamphlet rate usage