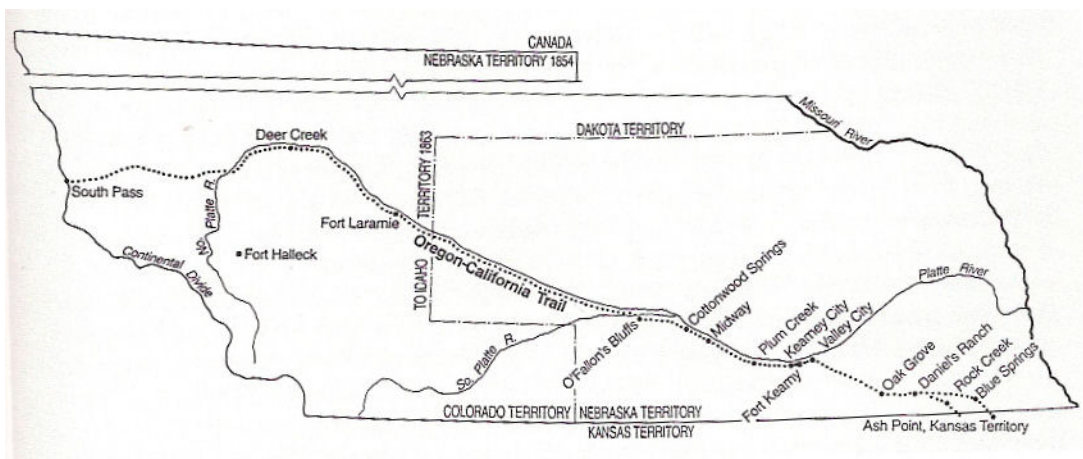


Nebraska Territorial Postal History

Nebraska Territory was formed May 30, 1854; however, the postal history of Nebraska began with the establishment of a US post office at Fort Kearny on July 7, 1849. The Oregon-California trail (shown below) provided for some of the early settlement of the territory along with traffic on the Missouri River, which forms Nebraska's eastern border. The focus of this exhibit is on the postal history of Nebraska prior to statehood, achieved on Mar 1, 1867



PF Certificate No. 105142

Niobrara N.T. Jan 12 1860 fancy eagle handstamp with manuscript postmark, 3¢ 1857 issue adhesive replaced on cover.

Nebraska Territorial Postal History
Private Expresses



Estill & Co Express from the Overland Trail to **Weston, Mo. Aug 16** (1850). James M. Estill operated an express on the California-Oregon Trail in the spring and summer of 1850 at 50¢ per letter carried. Estill made only one round trip, carrying letters westward in advance of the wagon trains as far as South Pass and picking them up on the trail during his return to Weston, where he deposited 4000 letters into the mails.



Copy of verso of Estill & Co Express envelope, with notation *June 19 - 50* (probably indicating the dateline of the letter that had been enclosed) and docketed *Received August 26th 1850* upon arrival by Mrs. Smith in Oskaloosa Iowa.

Nebraska Territorial Postal History
Private Expresses

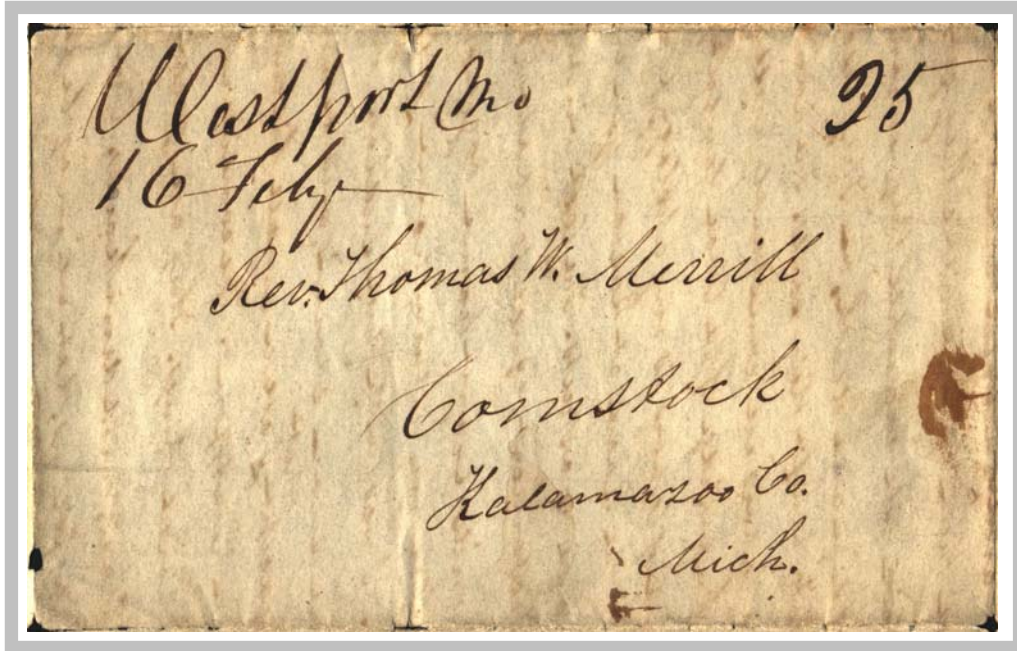


Brownville, N.T. (ca1858) *United States Express Company* label on cover to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs in Washington D.C.

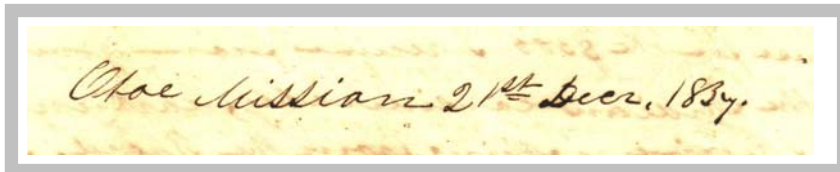


Omaha Neb Jun 28 (1866) handstamp postmark on 3¢ 1861 issue Nesbitt envelope. Carried by *The Holladay Overland Mail and Express Company* to Omaha for entry to the mails. Ben Holladay operated an express and stage line from 1862 to Nov, 1866 when he sold out to Wells Fargo.

Nebraska Territorial Postal History
Indian Agencies – Otoe Mission



Westport Mo 16 Feby (1838) manuscript postmark with **25** rate on stampless folded letter datelined *Otoe Mission Dec 21, 1837*, written by missionary Moses P. Merrill to his brother. Carried privately from Otoe Mission to Westport Mo, as the post office at Otoe Agency was not established until 1862.



The letter reads (in part):

My dear Brother Joseph,

...who will seek the good of these poor Otoes. They are as sheep in the midst of wolves. The avaricious traders take every advantage of their ignorance and their thirst for ardent spirits and their desire for ornaments, to fleece them of what little they get....I have to go 150 miles from home to get the assistance of a good interpreter....These Otoes are raising more corn than heretofore. We consider their prospects as brightening in temporal things. They are great beggars and not small thieves and liars, and drunkards...Mrs. Merrill and myself are the only missionaries here. ...The fruit of our labors is very small and is cause of humiliation before God.

As ever Your affectionate Brother.

Moses Merrill

Nebraska Territorial Postal History
Forts – Fort Kearney



Ft Kearny Oct 20 (1853) manuscript postmark with **Paid 3c** on stampless cover with enclosed letter from P.H. Langdon to his mother telling of leaving St. Joseph Sept 22 and joining up with eight other wagons on the trail headed for Fort Laramie with cattle



Fort Kearney June 22 (1854) manuscript postmark on 3¢ first issue Nesbitt envelope. Post office established Jul 7, 1849 prior to Nebraska Territory being formed on May 30, 1854

Nebraska Territorial Postal History
Forts – Fort Calhoun



Fort Calhoun July 15 (1857) manuscript postmark on 3¢ first issue Nesbitt with enclosed letter from barely literate farmer to his cousin. Post office established Jun 15, 1855.



Fort Calhoun N.T. Oct 18 (1859) handstamp postmark with 3¢ 1857 issue adhesive. Only known example of this type postmark.

Nebraska Territorial Postal History
Town Postmarks - Bellevue

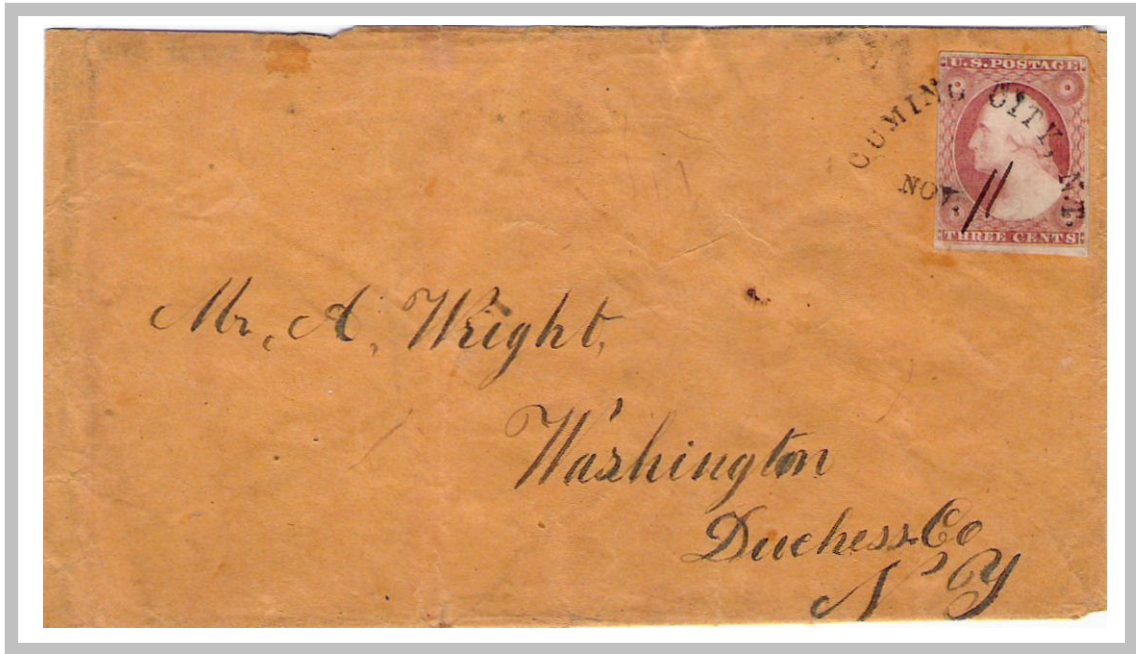


Bellevue N.T. Apr 29 (1857) in black with **PAID 3** on stampless cover.
Post office established Jan 15, 1855.



Bellevue N.T. Sep 23 (1858) in red with **PAID 3** on stampless cover.

Nebraska Territorial Postal History
Town Postmarks – Cuming City and Syracuse

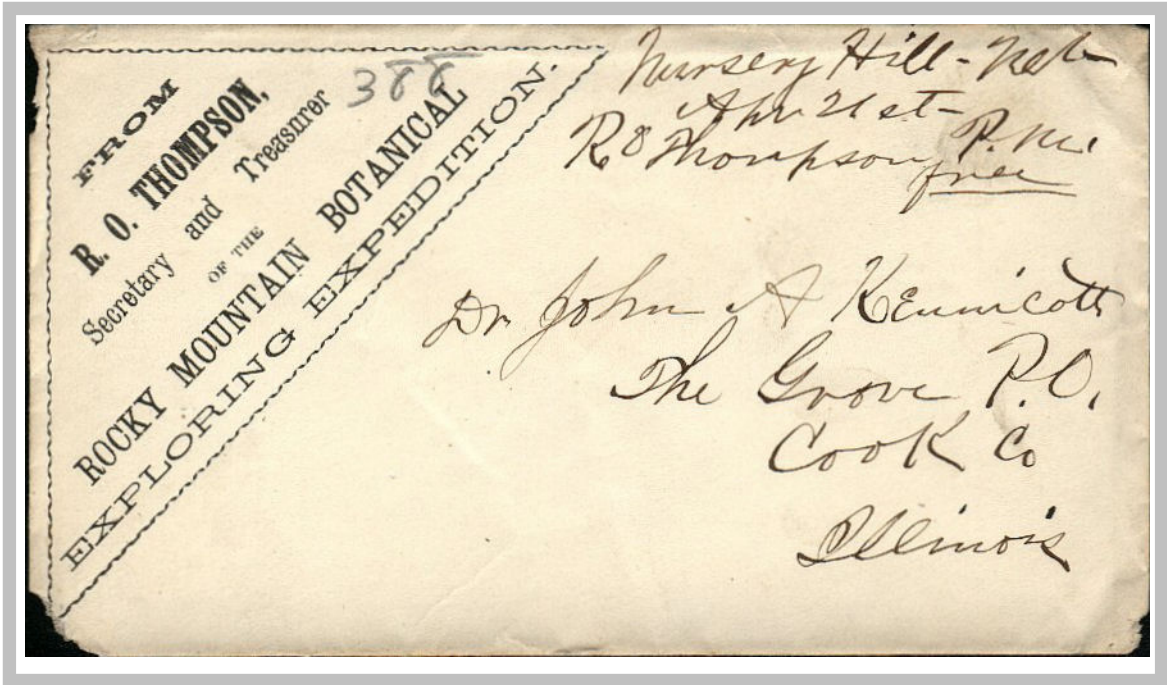


Cuming City, N.T. Nov 11 (1857) rimless arc postmark tying 3¢ 1851 issue adhesive. William N. Byers was a land speculator in Cuming City at the time and founder of the *Rocky Mountain News* in Denver in 1859. He is thought to have made this postmark and the later Denver City, K.T. tombstone postmark from printer's type.



Syracuse N.T. Nov 21st (1862) manuscript postmark with **FREE** handstamp and *from R.O. Thompson P.M* in manuscript. Post office established Feb 24, 1858 and changed to Nursery Hill Mar 13, 1863.

Nebraska Territorial Postal History
Town Postmarks – Nursery Hill



Nursery Hill Neb Apr 21 (1863) manuscript postmark with *R.O. Thompson P.M. Free* free frank. Known as Syracuse prior to Mar 13, 1863 and again after Mar 6, 1872.



Nursery Hill Neb Dec 30 (1865) handstamp postmark on mourning cover with 3¢ 1861 issue adhesive. Enclosed letter reads in part, “*the persons here are mostly yankees and they know that we are rebels and why we left Missouri, yet it makes no difference with them, they all sympathize with us*”.

Nebraska Territorial Postal History
Town Postmarks – Omaha City

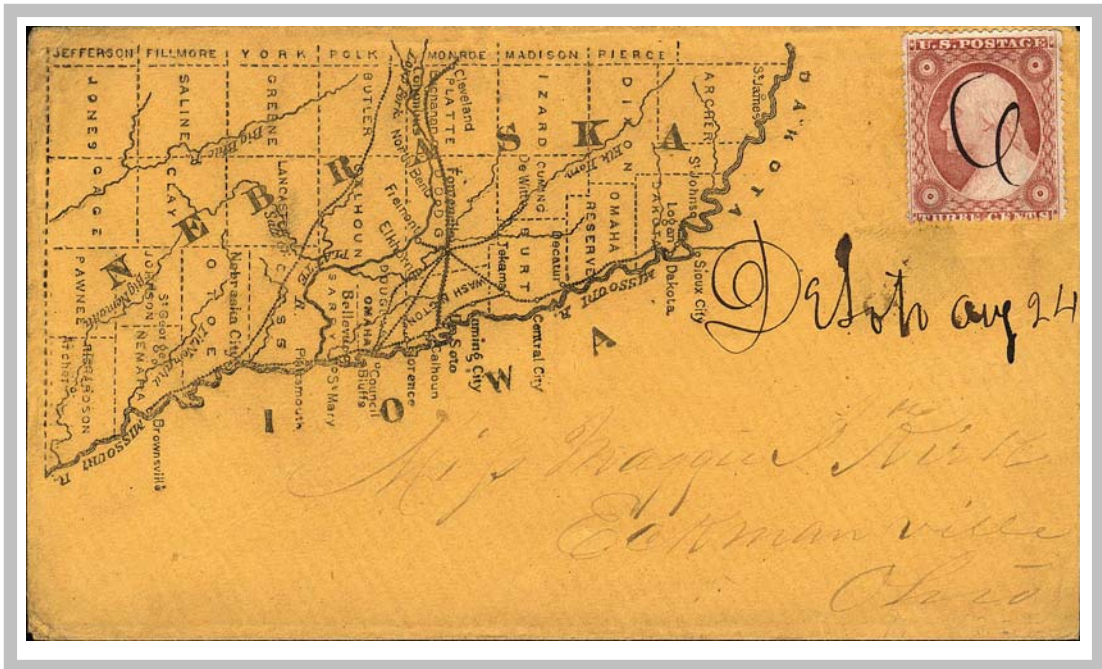


Omaha City N.T. July 7 (1856) manuscript postmark with three 1¢ 1851 issue adhesives. Post office established May 5, 1854.



Omaha City N.T. Sep 1 (1856) handstamp postmark on two 3¢ 1851 issue adhesives paying the 2x rate.

**Nebraska Territorial Postal History
Propoganda Map Usages**



DeSoto Aug 24 (1858) manuscript postmark with 3¢ 1851 issue adhesive on Design C map cover with letter



Omaha City N.T. Jul 17 (ca1857) handstamp postmark with PAID 3 in football shaped oval on Design D map cover

Nebraska Territorial Postal History
Civil War Patriotic Usages



Albaville Neb Dec 18 (1861) manuscript postmark with Pd 3 on stampless
The Loyal States, Union, Nebraska Civil War patriotic (Walcott L1796)



Dakota Neb Dec 23 (1862) handstamp postmark in blue on 3¢ 1861 issue
The Union Forever and Ever Civil War patriotic (Walcott L2266)

Nebraska Territorial Postal History
Civil War Patriotic Usages



Falls City N.T. Mar 8 (1862) handstamp postmark on 3¢ 1861 issue adhesive on female design red, white and blue Civil War patriotic (Walcott L2242)



Mount Vernon N.T. Jun 2 (ca1861) handstamp postmark with **FREE** and *P.O. business J.M. Bliss P.M.* manuscript on *Liberty and Union* Civil War patriotic (Walcott L2286)

Nebraska Territorial Postal History
Civil War Patriotic Usages



PF Certificate No. 0415564

Fort Calhoun N.T. Sep 8 (1861) handstamp postmark with manuscript
Paid 3¢ on *The Star-Spangled Banner* Civil War patriotic (Walcott L2078)



Fort Calhoun Jan 7 (1862) manuscript postmark with 3¢ 1861 issue adhesive on
The Star-Spangled Banner Civil War patriotic (Walcott L2078)

Nebraska Territorial Postal History
Civil War Patriotic Usages



Plattsmouth N.T. Jul 2 (1865) handstamp postmark on 3¢ 1861 issue adhesive on female design in red, white and blue Civil War patriotic (Walcott L2252)



Salem N.T. Mar 1 (1862) handstamp postmark with 3¢ 1861 issue adhesive on Battle Ships and Gun Boats design Civil War patriotic (Walcott L627)

Nebraska Territorial Postal History
Foreign Destinations



Brownsville, N.T. Mar 7 (1859) to Switzerland via Prussian Closed Mail. Originally rated at 42¢, or double the 21¢ French Treaty Rate per ¼ ounce; however, the New York exchange office sent it on the next British packet at the 35¢ Prussian Closed Mail rate per half ounce



Helena Nebr June 28, 62 to Switzerland with ten copies of the 3¢ 1861 issue adhesive paying the 30¢ Prussian Closed Mail rate to the point of exit from the German-Austrian Postal Union