Express Carriage to and from the Occupied Confederacy: Its Fiscal History

Purpose. This exhibit shows **revenue-stamped express company receipts** for shipments **to and from** the **Union-occupied Confederacy,** with annotations on the persons and places involved. As outlined in the Exhibit Plan at left, its **arrangement** approximates the **time-course of occupation**; as such it **furnishes a microcosm of the war,** at least to a **useful first approximation.**

This analysis applies to **two time windows:**

- **November 1862 through March 1863,** the effective time span of the **Express stamp tax,** which was part of the original documentary tax schedule;
- **August 1864 through March 1865,** the time span of the **2¢ Receipt stamp tax** as it applied to express receipts.

(In both cases the express companies, vexed by the inconvenience and delays caused by the stamp tax, had lobbied lawmakers hard against it. When they spoke, Congress listened; the stamp taxes were replaced by direct levies on gross receipts.) Only **about 30** 1862–3 usages with "Confederate connections" have been recorded, and only **about 20** from 1864–5.

The **"missing months"** are lamentable, but as shown here, **surviving usages** encompass a **satisfying geographical diversity,** and the rarity of the material allows a **broad and significant topic** to be presented in **just three frames!**

"Early Matching Usage" of Express Stamps

Express Charge	Stamp Tax
Up to 25¢	1¢
Over 25¢ to $1	2¢
Over $1	5¢

By the original documentary tax schedule, effective October 1, 1862, the **Express** taxes were **1¢, 2¢ or 5¢,** and **Express stamps** in those denominations were created to pay them. This was in accord with the requirement that taxes could be **paid only by stamps bearing the name of the document** on which they were used.

Delays in stamp production made **matching usage unworkable,** and Congress **rescinded the requirement** after **less than three months,** on December 25, 1862, after which documentary stamps could be used interchangeably.

However, users continued to affix matching stamps in significant quantities for some months, as stocks ordered in compliance with the original law were gradually depleted. These **early matching uses ("EMUs")** are the *creme de la creme* of fiscal history. Express receipts of 1862–3 virtually always bear matching Express stamps, and are highly prized thereby, **those generated within the Confederacy especially so.**

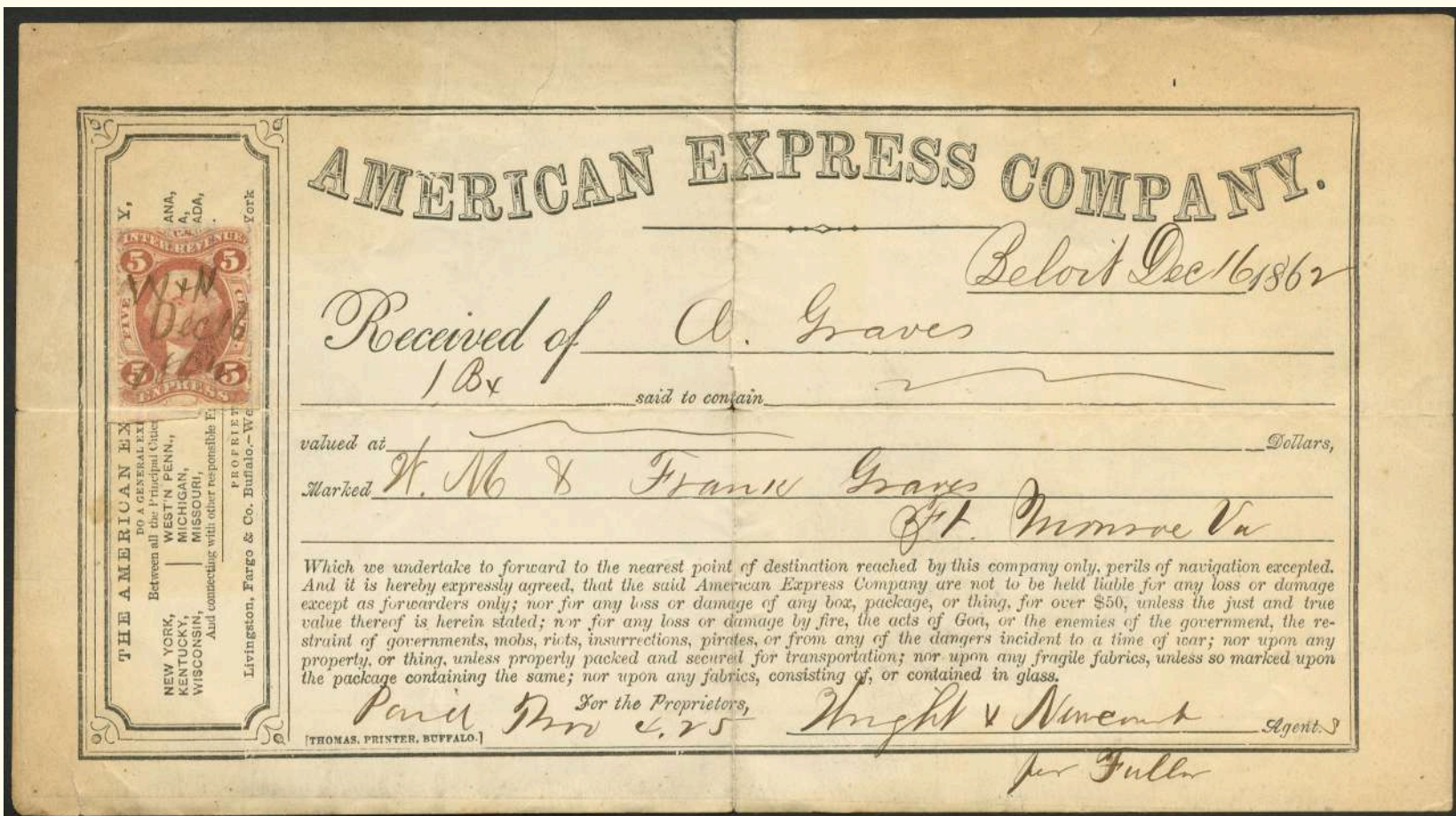### Express Stamps: Imperforate, Part Perforate, Fully Perforated

Most **Express** stamps on 1862–3 receipts are the scarce **imperforates** or **part perforates.** Delays in stamp perforation prompted a directive to the printers on **November 7, 1862,** to **"fill all orders with utmost despatch without perforating."**

- The **5¢ Express** was first delivered **November 20** and is seen only **imperforate or part perforate.**
- A relatively few **1¢ Express** had already been delivered **October 16, 1862,** fully perforated; subsequent early deliveries included **imperforates and part perforates.**
- Like the 5¢, the **2¢ Express** was first delivered **November 20,** but with an interesting twist. It had been **printed in orange** and **fully perforated** early on, but these were **held back** because circa October 10 the color had been changed to blue! On or soon after November 20, the **2¢ Express blue** was delivered **perforated, imperforate and part perforate,** along with the **2¢ orange** stamps.

Fortress Monroe Inward
December 16, 1862, Beloit, Wisc., "1 Bx" to Frank Graves (4th Battery, Wisconsin Light Artillery), **5¢ Express imperforate, One of the earliest recorded uses of this stamp,** the earliest being December 1

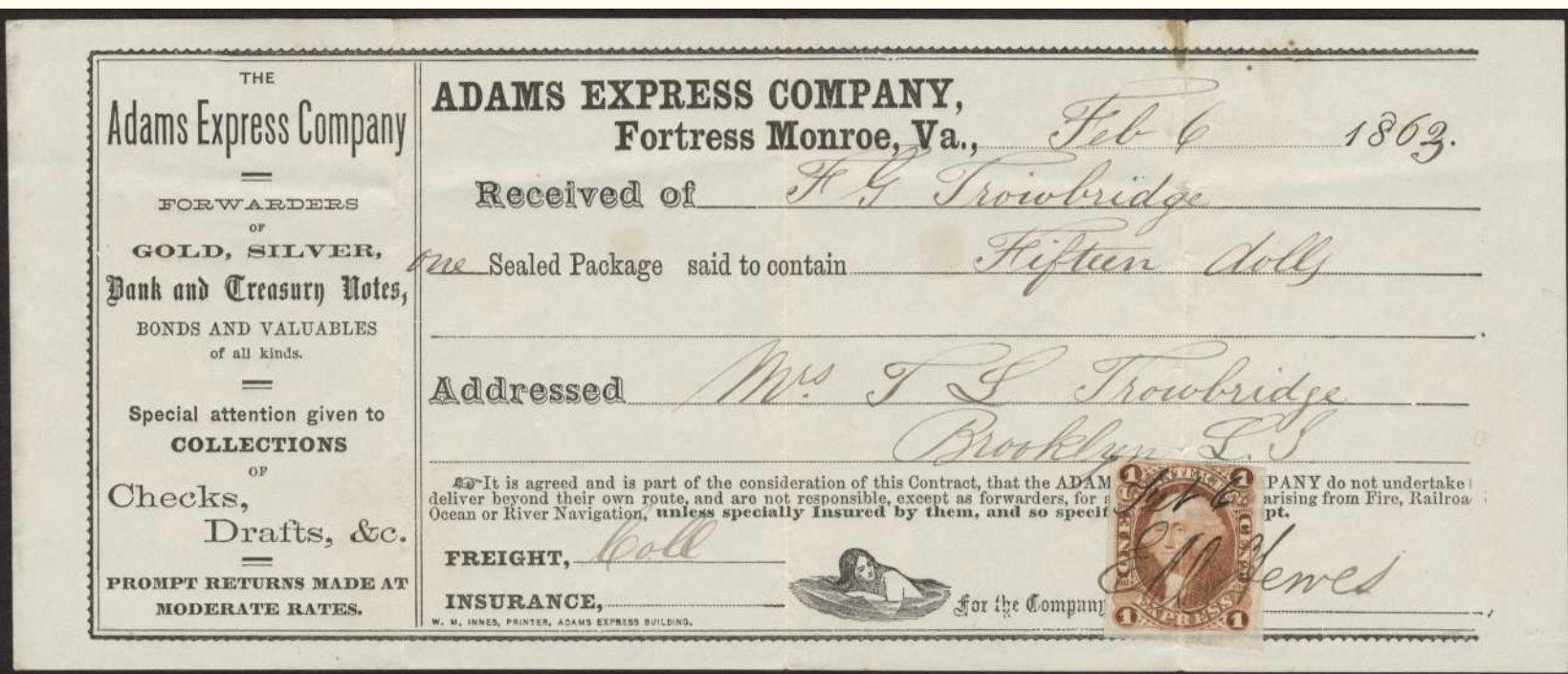### 1. Fortress Monroe ("Occupied" May 1861)
The four receipts shown here are the sole recorded examples to or from Fort Monroe.

Fortress Monroe, at the tip of the Virginia Peninsula at the mouth of Hampton Roads (i.e. roadstead, or harbor), was the key to controlling access to the James River. As a federal fort it was instantaneously "occupied" as soon as Virginia seceded on May 23, 1861, and remained so throughout the war.
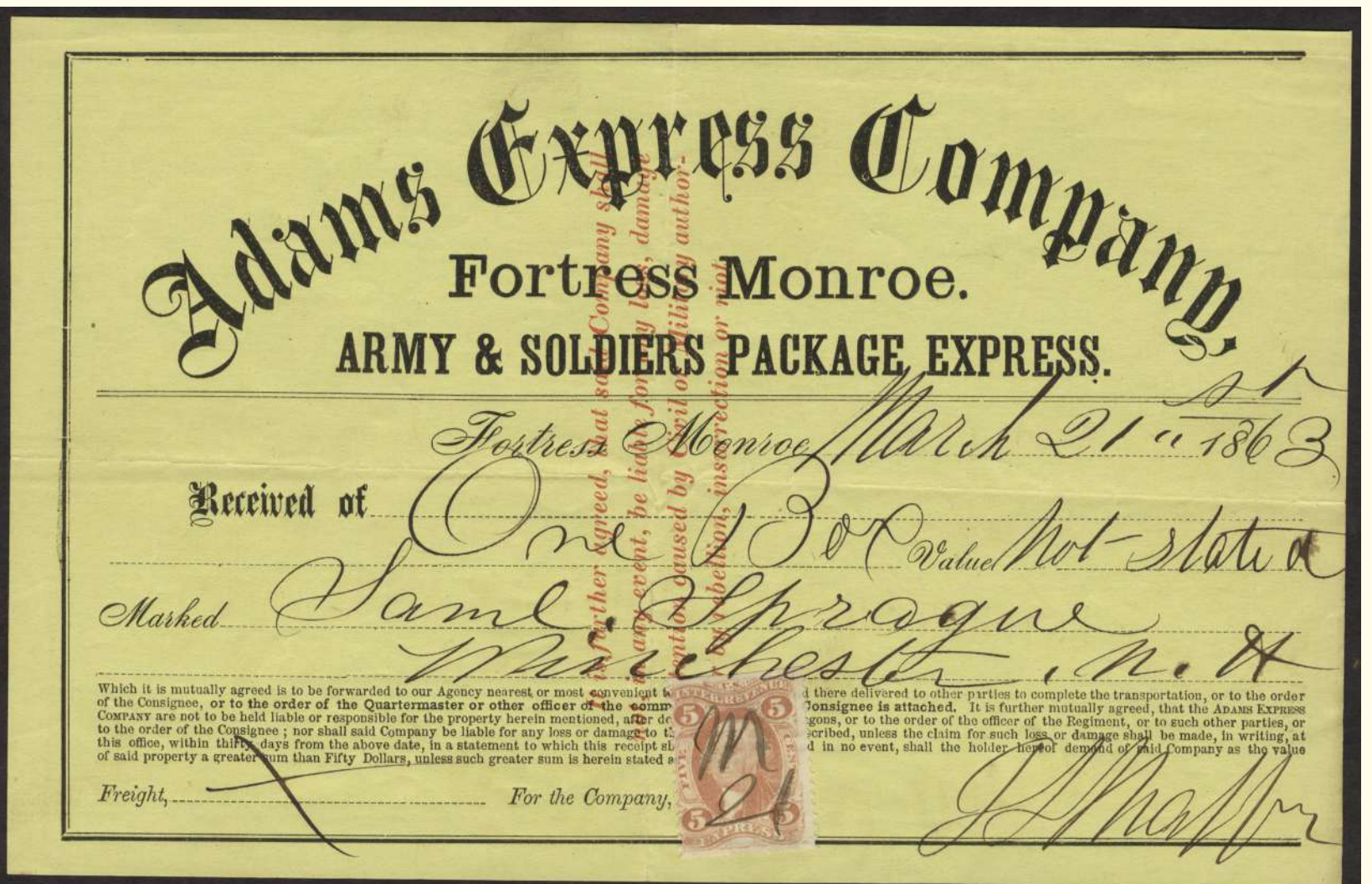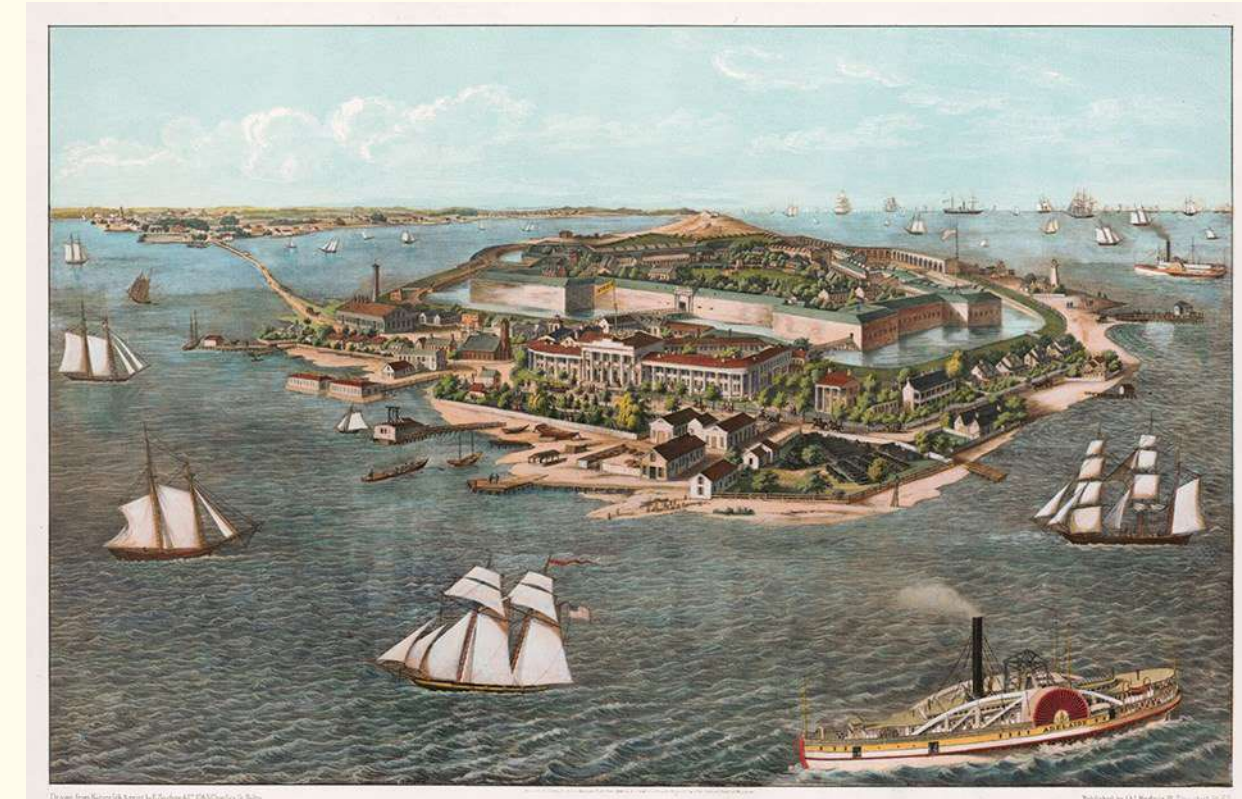

"Fortress Monroe, Old Point Comfort and Hygeia Hotel, Va. in 1861 & 1862"
The **U.S. Secretary of War** ordered the **hotel to be torn down in 1862,** to minimize non-military visitors to Fort Monroe, including **potential Southern spies,** and **improve the upstream field of fire** towards the James River shipping channel.

Fortress Monroe Outward (I)
February 1863, $15 sent to Brooklyn, N.Y., by F. G. Trowbridge, (139th N.Y. Infantry), **1¢ Express imperforate**
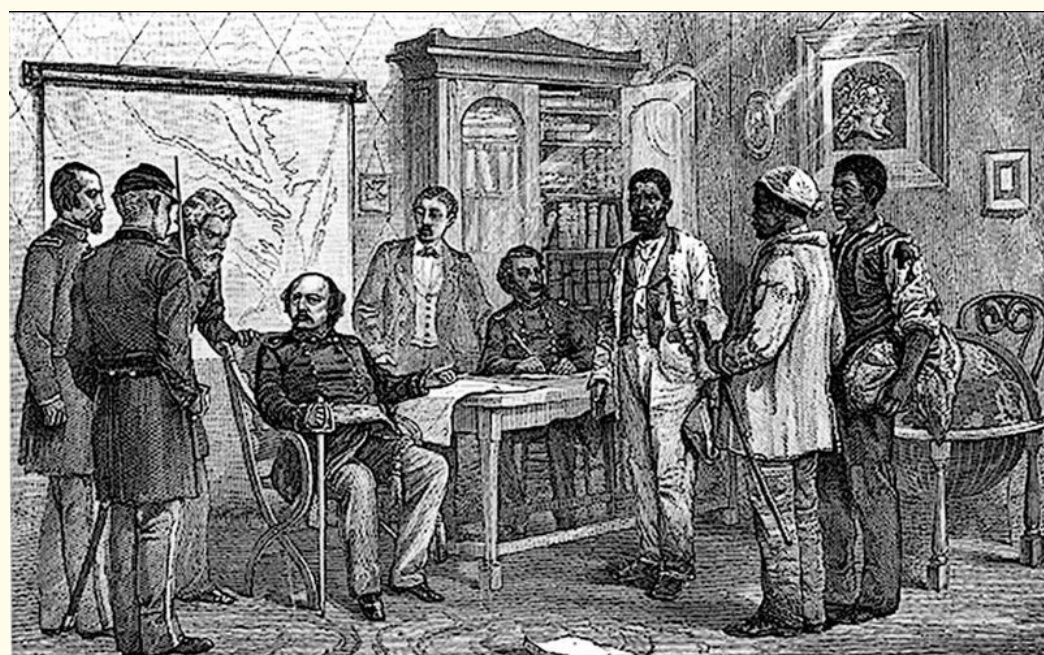
"(Fort) Monroe Doctrine"
Fort Monroe was the site of **Gen. Ben Butler's famous "contraband" decision** in May 1861, in which he declared fugitive slaves **"contraband of war,"** opening the way for a flood of thousands to the safety of Union lines throughout the South.

In August 1861 the **nearby town of Hampton, a haven for runaway slaves,** was torched by rebel Gen. **J. B. Macgruder,** almost certainly in large part motivated by Butler's "contraband" policy.
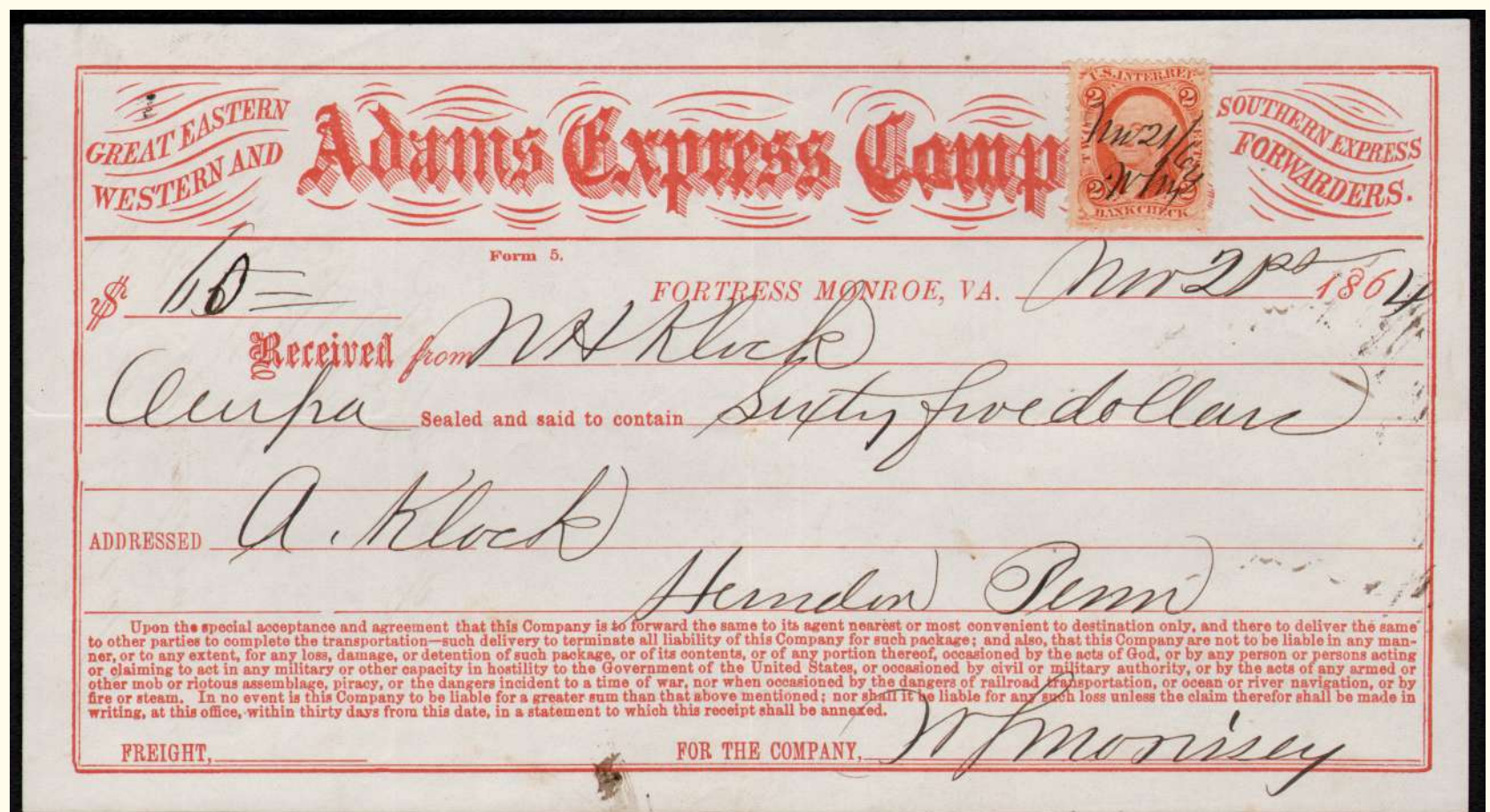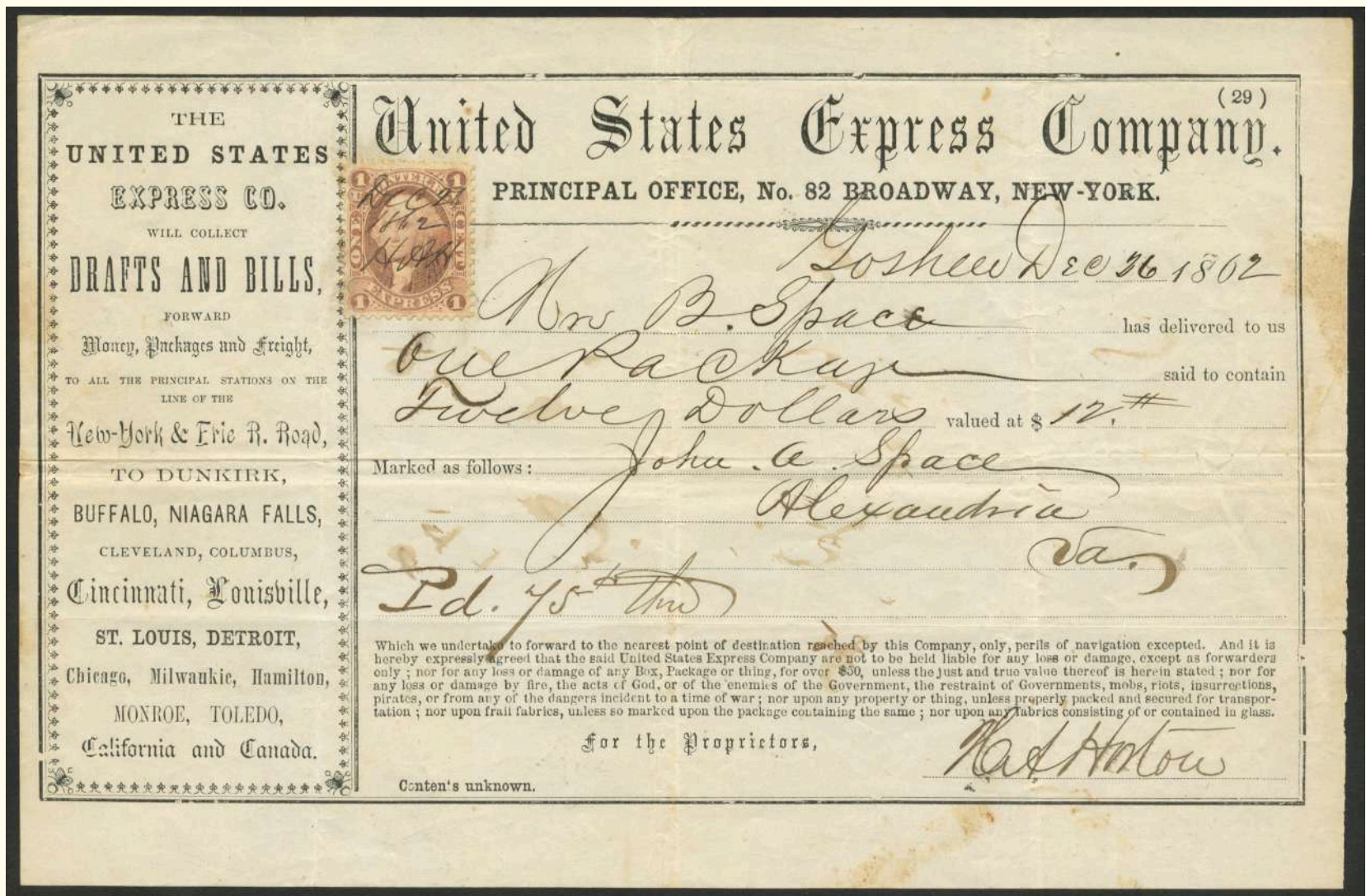

Fortress Monroe Outward (II)
March 1863, "One Box" sent to Manchster, N.H., **5¢ Express part perforate,** (from Lt. Samuel H. Sprague, 9th N.H. Infantry); Sprague died of malarial fever at Cincinnati in August 1863.
Army & Soldiers Package Express forms were normally used for shipments **to the troops, not from them.**

Fortress Monroe Outward (III)
November 1864, $65 sent to Herndon, Pa., by N(oah) H. Klock, (3rd Penn. Heavy Artillery), **2¢ Bank Check orange**

2. Alexandria (Occupied May 1861)
Sole recorded examples to or from Alexandria
Alexandria, just eight miles from Washington across the Potomac, was occupied by Union troops on May 24, 1861, the day after Virginia voters had ratified the decision of a state convention on April 17 to secede.
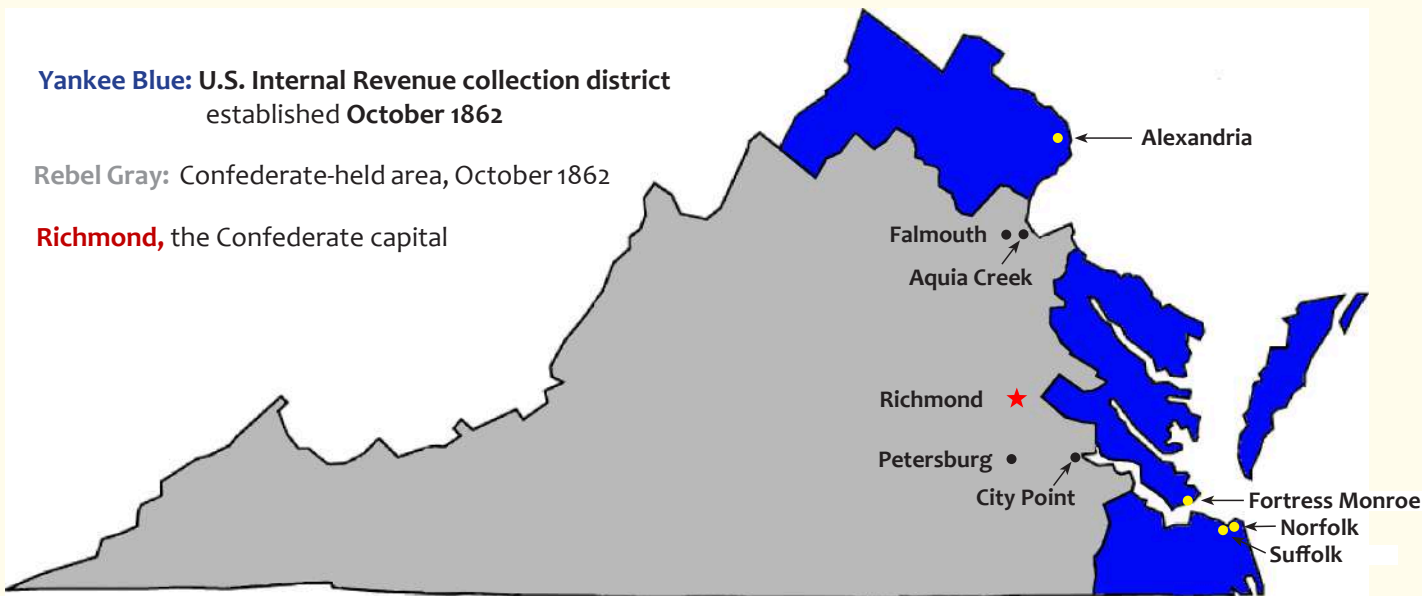
Yankee Blue: U.S. Internal Revenue collection district
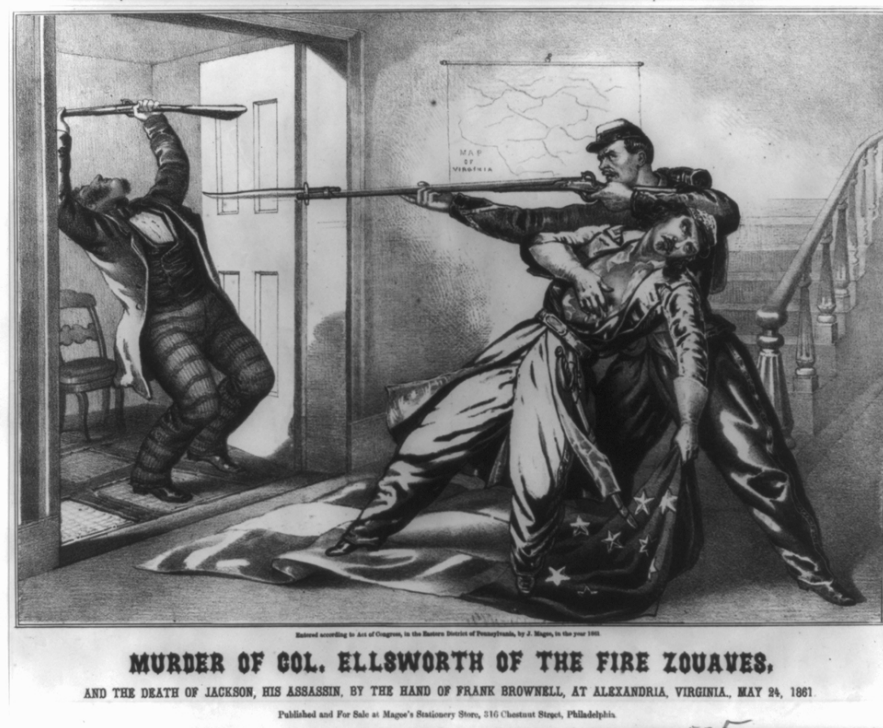established **October 1862**

Rebel Gray: Confederate-held area, October 1862

Richmond, the Confederate capital

Virginia origins/destinations of wartime stamped express receipts

Alexandria Inward; to a Deserter
December 1862, Goshen, N.Y., $12 sent to John A. Space (private, 124th N.Y. Infantry), **1¢ Express perforated**

From the Adjutant-General's Report for the 124th N.Y.: Space, age 21, "enlisted August 11, 1862, at Goshen, to serve three years; . . . **deserted, April 1, 1863, at Alexandria, Va."**

This was not an isolated occurrence; **some 10% of Union troops deserted,** and the same Report shows that **for the 124th N.Y. it was 18%!** While desertion was technically punishable by death, only about 150 met this fate; most of those apprehended were put to labor.

MURDER OF COL. ELLSWORTH OF THE FIRE ZOUAVES,
AND THE DEATH OF JACKSON, HIS ASSASSIN, BY THE HAND OF FRANK BROWNELL, AT ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA, MAY 24, 1861.

Killing of Ellsworth
Alexandria was the site of one of the most inflammatory early events of the war, the killing of Col. Elmer Ellsworth of the New York Zouaves on May 24, 1861, the day Union troops first entered the city.

Incensed at the sight of a Confederate flag flying above the Marshall House Hotel, Ellsworth cut it down, then was fatally shot by the similarly incensed proprietor, James Jackson, who was himself dispatched by zouave Francis Brownell.

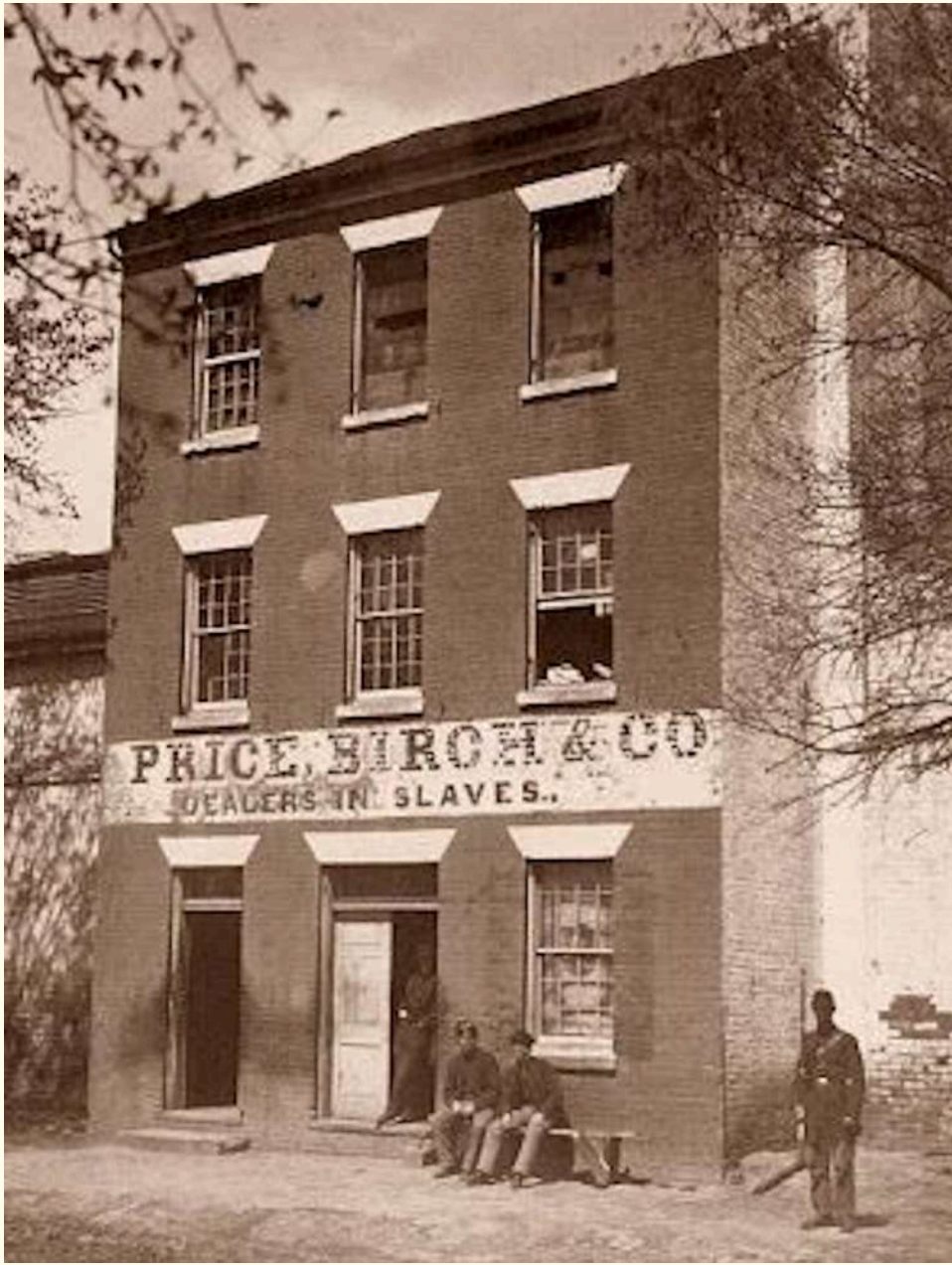*Ellsworth and Jackson became celebrated martyrs to their respective causes.*
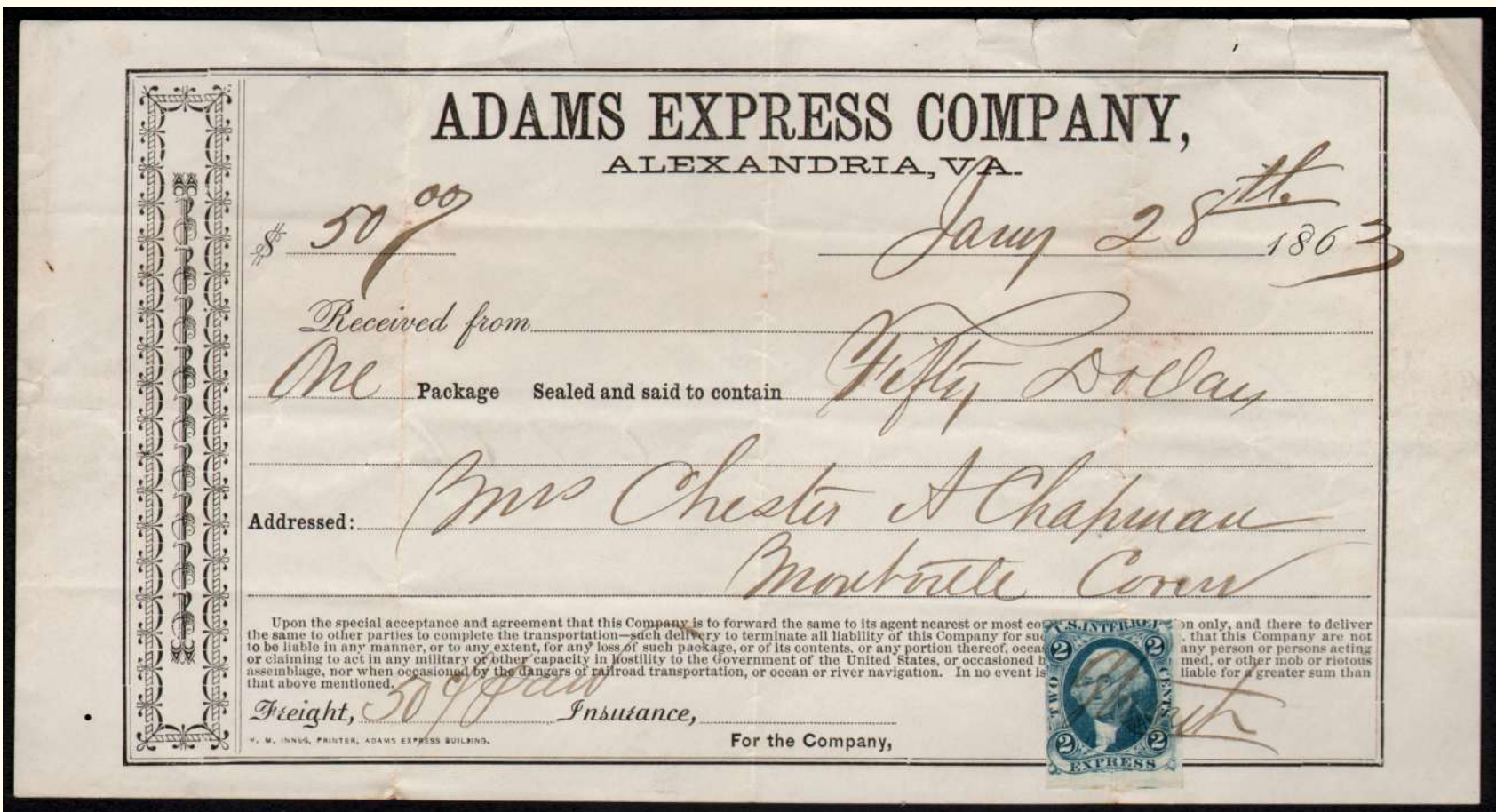
Alexandria Outward (I)
January 1863, $50 sent by Chester A. Chapman (1st Conn. Heavy Artillery) to his wife in Montville, Conn.,
2¢ Express blue imperforate

PRICE, BIRCH & CO
DEALERS IN SLAVES.

Former office of Price, Birch & Co., Dealers on Slaves, Alexandria, circa 1862, abandoned upon Union occupation (Library of Congress)

This photograph elegantly encapsulates the transformation of Alexandria post-occupation. From a small, quiet, prosperous city where slavery was well established, to a teeming Union staging area, supply depot and hospital center, with dozens of commercial and residential buildings commandeered for military purposes and much of the considerable "secesh" populace departed for points South.

Escaped slaves flooded in, legally still owned by their former masters, and labeled "contraband" to protect them from return. By 1863, the number of contrabands was estimated at 18,000; for context, the 1860 census had put the entire population of the city at just 12,652.

Alexandria Outward (II)
March 1865, $3,000 sent by A. G. Stables to Shriver Bros in Baltimore, evidently a commercial transaction,
2¢ Receipt tax paid by 2¢ Bank Check orange, **"ADAMS EXPRESS CO./ALEXANDRIA" oval datestamp cancel**

SCOTT'S GREAT SNAKE.

"Anaconda Plan" devised by Winfield Scott, Commanding General of the Union Army in the early stages of the war,

annotated with the nine points on the "Great Snake" for which express receipts are shown in this exhibit

3.1 Hilton Head, S.C. (Occupied November 1861)
Sole recorded example to/from Hilton Head

*The **first target** in the Union campaign to **control the South Atlantic coast** was the **deep natural harbor in Port Royal Sound** at the mouth of South Carolina's Broad River. A fleet under Adm. Samuel DuPont was despatched from Fort Monroe, and on **November 7, 1861**, its withering fire forced the **abandonment of Forts Walker and Beauregard**, the former on **Hilton Head Island** on the south side of the Sound, the latter on Eddings Island on the north. Hilton Head would become an **important Union staging area** for the remainder of the conflict.*

3.2 Fernandina, Fla. (Occupied March 1862)
Sole recorded examples to/from Fernandina

*After the taking of Port Royal, **Fernandina** was the **Union navy's next objective.** Its **formidable defenses,** anchored by **Fort Clinch,** were **abandoned** by the rebels in favor of defending Charleston and Savannah. After securing it on **March 2, 1862**, Adm. DuPont declared, **"We took Port Royal, but Fort Clinch was given to us."***

Hilton Head, S.C. Inward
January 1863 **Army Express form,** Providence, to soldier in 3rd Rhode Island Volunteers, **2¢ Express blue imperforate**
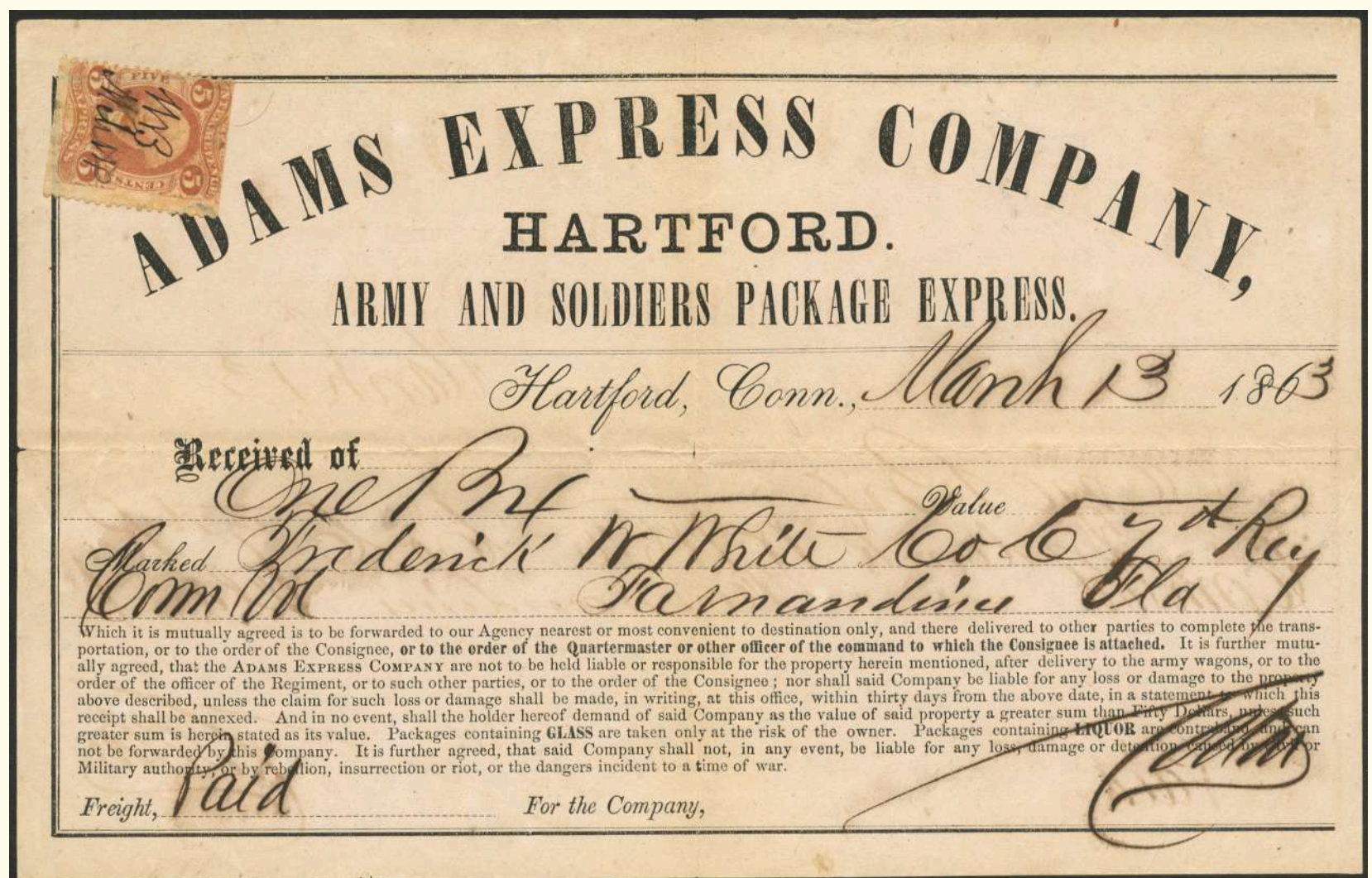
Fernandina, Fla. Inward
March 1863 **Army and Soldiers Package Express,** Hartford, Conn., to soldier in 7th Conn. Volunteers,
5¢ Express part perforate
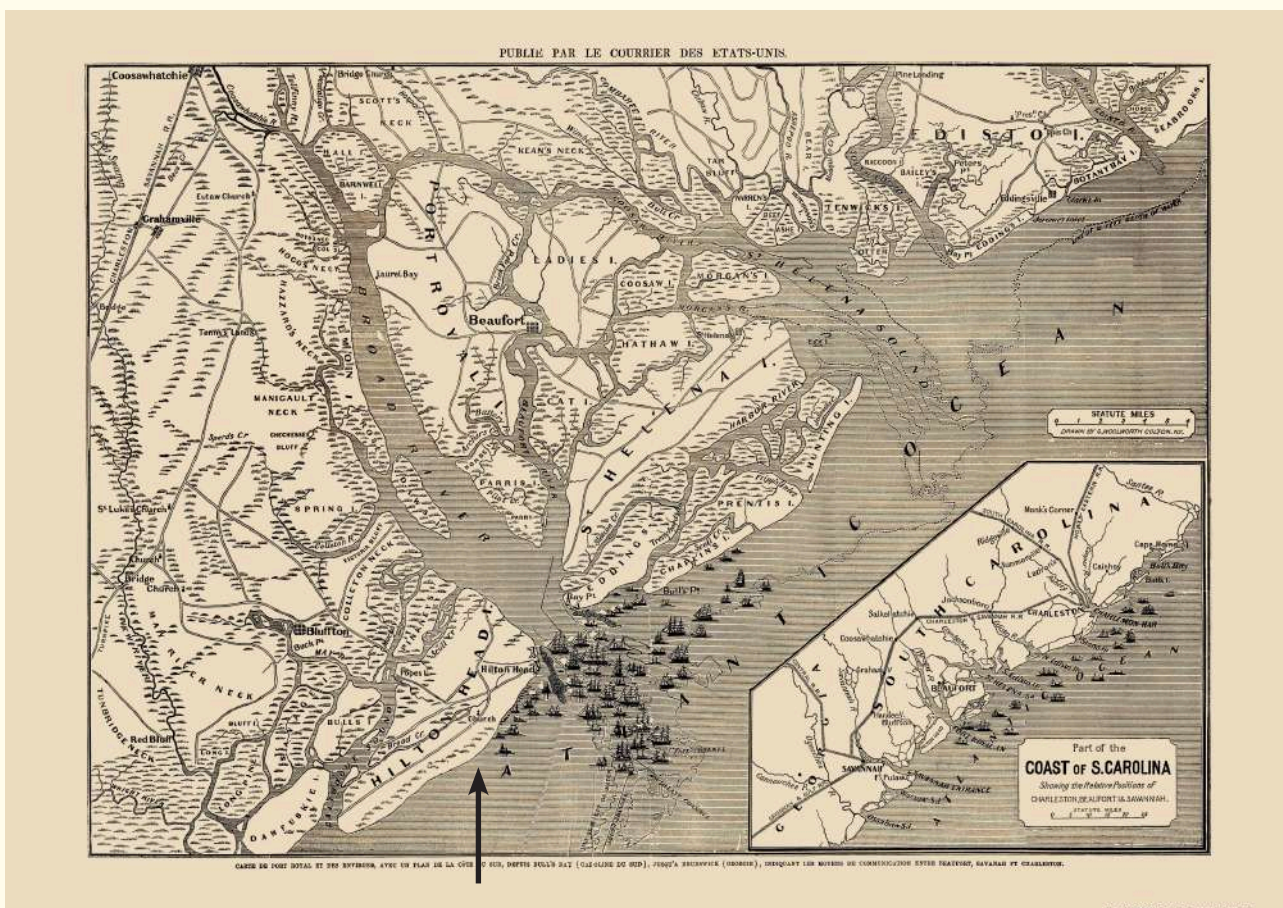
"Port Royal and Environs" showing **Hilton Head (arrow)** at the mouth of the Broad River, and **Union ships massed for attack on Forts Walker and Beauregard** (*Courrier des Etats-Unis*, 1861)
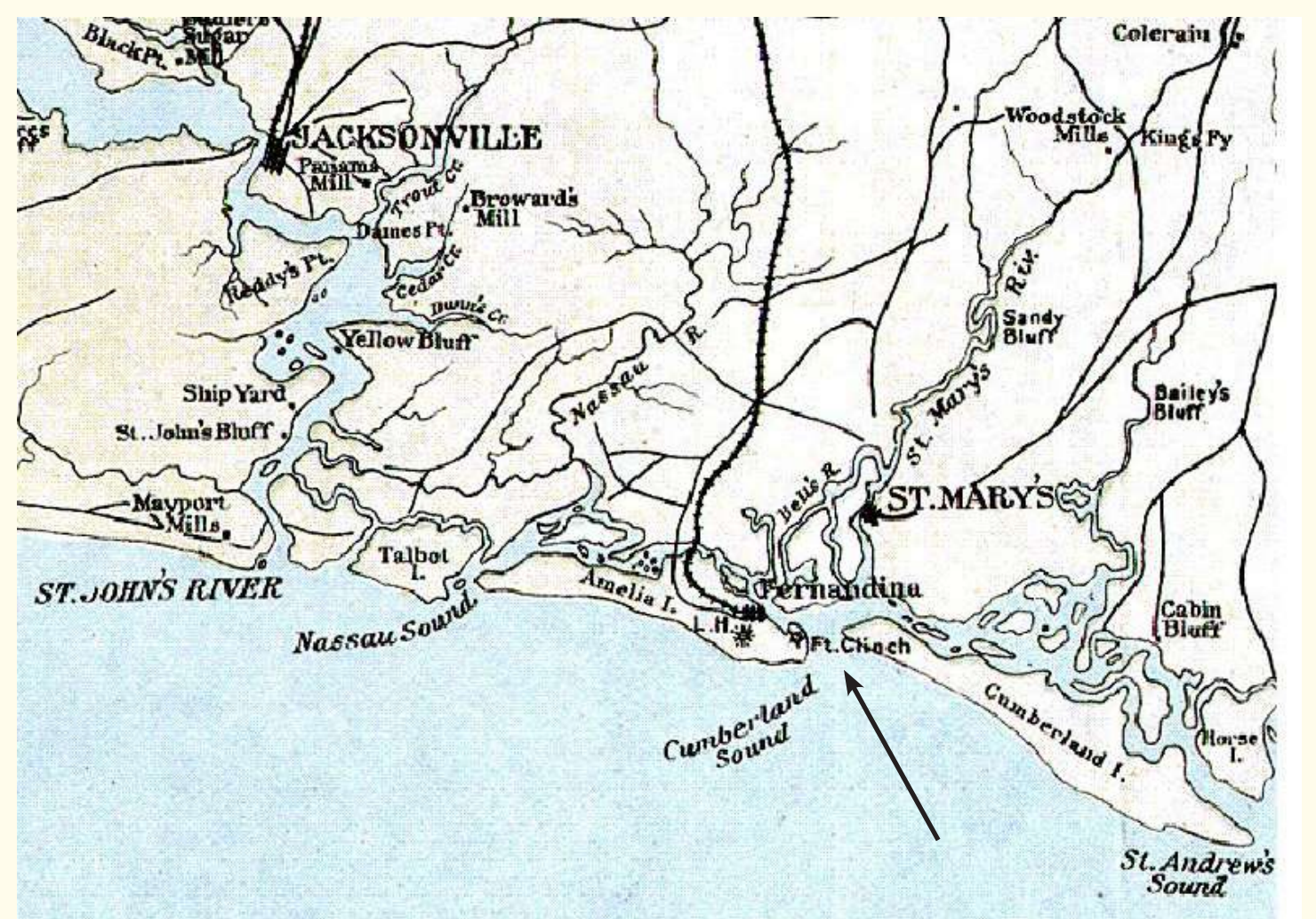
Fernandina (arrow) and environs, showing **Fort Clinch** guarding the Cumberland Sound.
*After Fernandina, DuPont's forces took **Jacksonville** and **St. Augustine, Florida,** and **Brunswick, Georgia,** before the end of March, and on April 11th forced the surrender of **Fort Pulaski,** which controlled the harbor of **Savannah,** cutting it off from blockade runners.*

Freedmen's cabins at Mitchelville, 1865
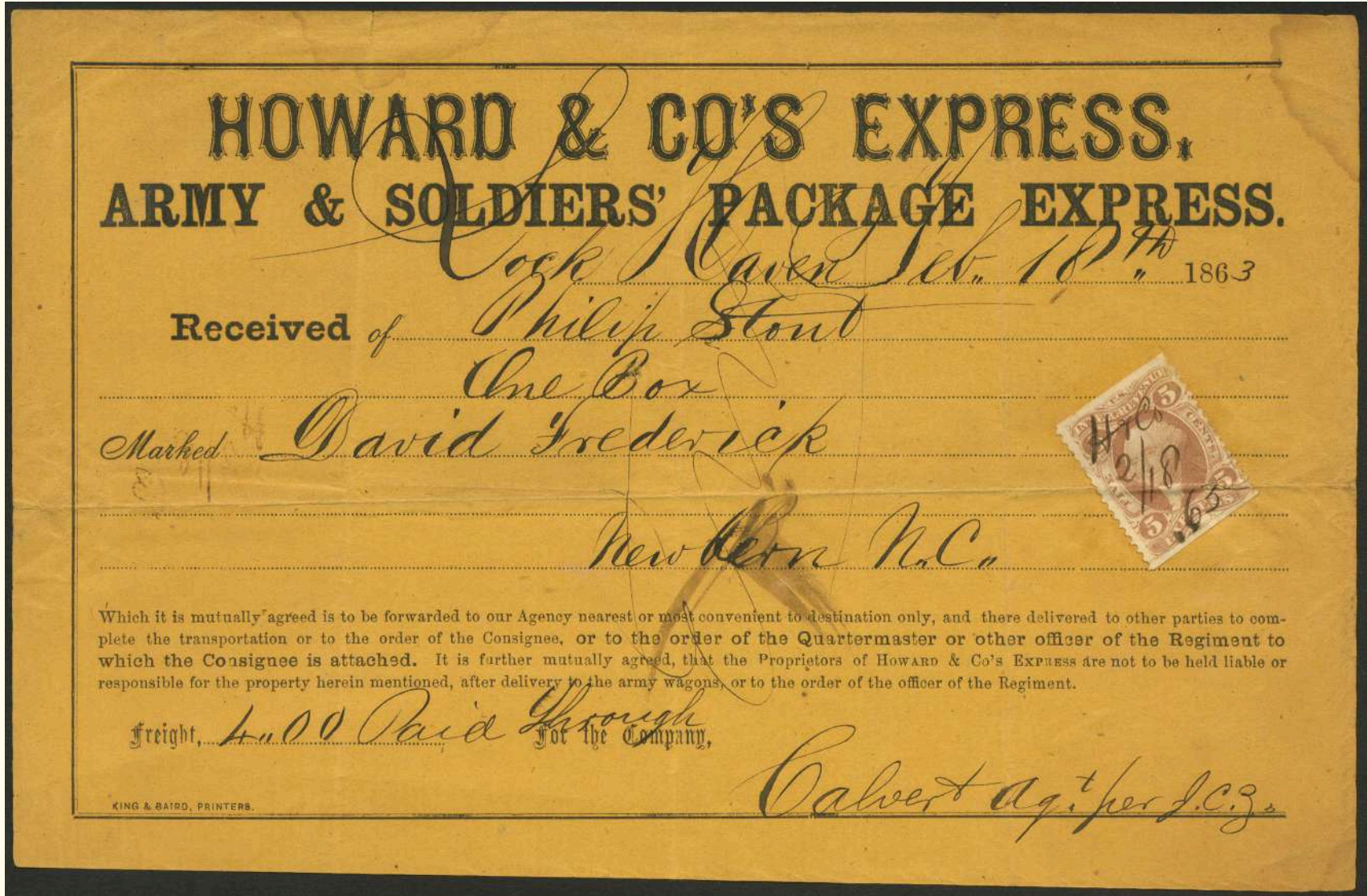
"Freedmen's Village" of Mitchelville
*Pre-occupation, **Hilton Head** was the site of **24 plantations** growing valuable **Sea Island cotton.** All were **abandoned** with the arrival of the Union troops, along with some **2,500 now-freed slaves.** By early 1862 **another thousand runaway slaves** had fled there to freedom. To house them, and more importantly, create a path toward self-sufficiency, the **"freedmen's village"** of **Mitchelville,** named for General Ormsby M. Mitchel, its originator, was built by the freedmen themselves. Sadly but inevitably, after 1865, with the withdrawal of Union forces and return of the plantation owners, Mitchelville went into decline; by the early 20th century it no longer appeared on area maps.*

3.3 New Bern, N.C. (Occupied March 1862)
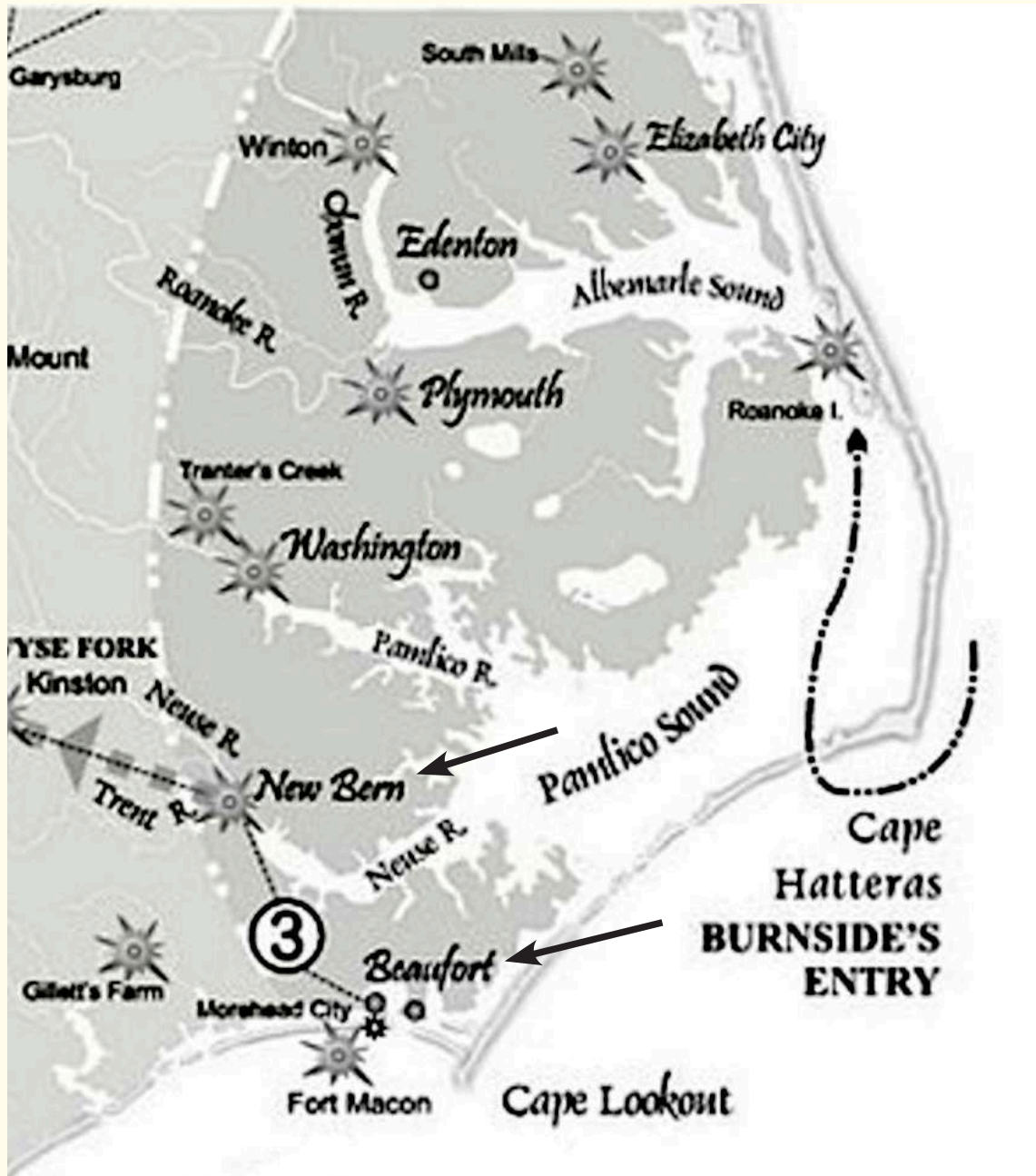#### Sole recorded examples to/from New Bern

*New Bern, on the Neuse River with rail connections to the interior and the port of Morehead City, was a **key target** of **Gen. Ambrose Burnside's North Carolina Campaign** of early 1862. A flotilla from Fort Monroe with 15,000 troops and naval contingent under Flag Officer Louis Goldsborough entered **Pamlico Sound** through the **key Hatteras Inlet** and defeated a rebel force defending **Roanoke Island.***

*Burnside next steamed south toward New Bern and defeated rebel defenders at the city's fortifications six miles below it, **occupying New Bern** on **March 14, 1862.** It remained in Federal hands for the remainder of the war. Burnside went on to take Beaufort in April.*

*Scene of **Burnside's North Carolina Campaign,** which took **New Bern** and **Beaufort** (arrows)*

*The circled "3" denotes the **Atlantic and Carolina Railroad.***

(Mark A. Moore, Encyclopedia of North Carolina)

New Bern, N.C., Inward

February 1863 **Howard & Co.'s Army & Soldiers Package Express,** Lock Haven, Pa., (to soldier in 176th Pa. Vols.),
5¢ Express part perforate

3.4 Beaufort, N.C. (Occupied April 1862)
Sole recorded example to/from Beaufort

*After taking New Bern, Burnside's troops quickly occupied the **ports of Morehead City and Beaufort** without resistance, and surrounded **Fort Macon,** on the Outer Banks, which controlled their access by water. Siege and eventual bombardment forced its surrender on **April 17, 1862.** Beaufort remained an important Union coaling and repair station throughout the war.*
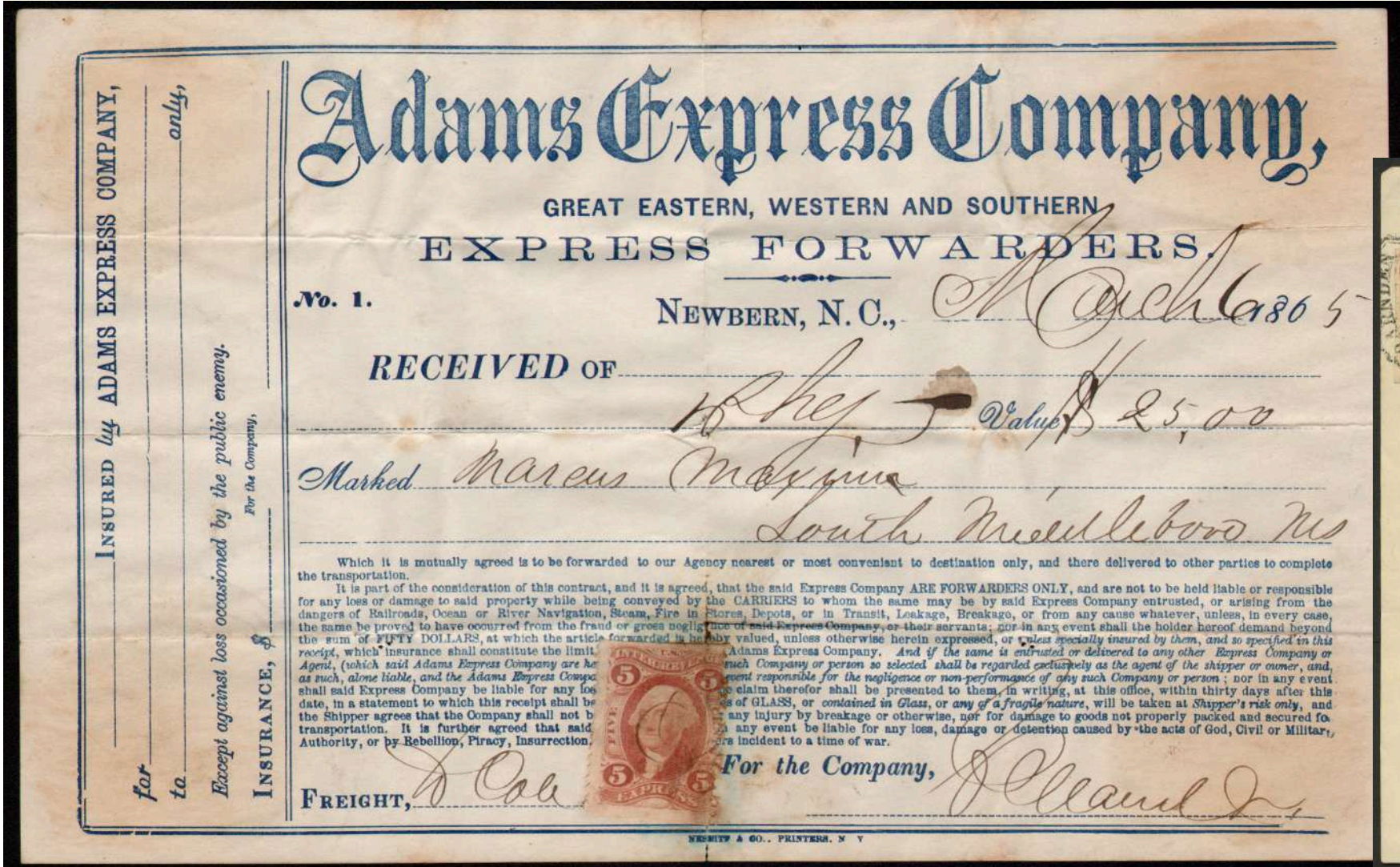
New Bern, N.C., Outward

March 1865, $25 sent to So. Middleboro, Mass. (from Charles Maxim, 23rd Mass. Vols.), **5¢ Express part perforate**

The use of the **5¢ part perforate** at this late date to overpay the **2¢ Receipt tax** is extraordinary. Elsewhere in the East, the **"unfinished" imperfs and part perfs** had been **virtually all used by mid-1864.** This one must have survived in the Adams Express office, superfluous since April 1863 when the **Express tax had been rescinded,** now pressed into service.
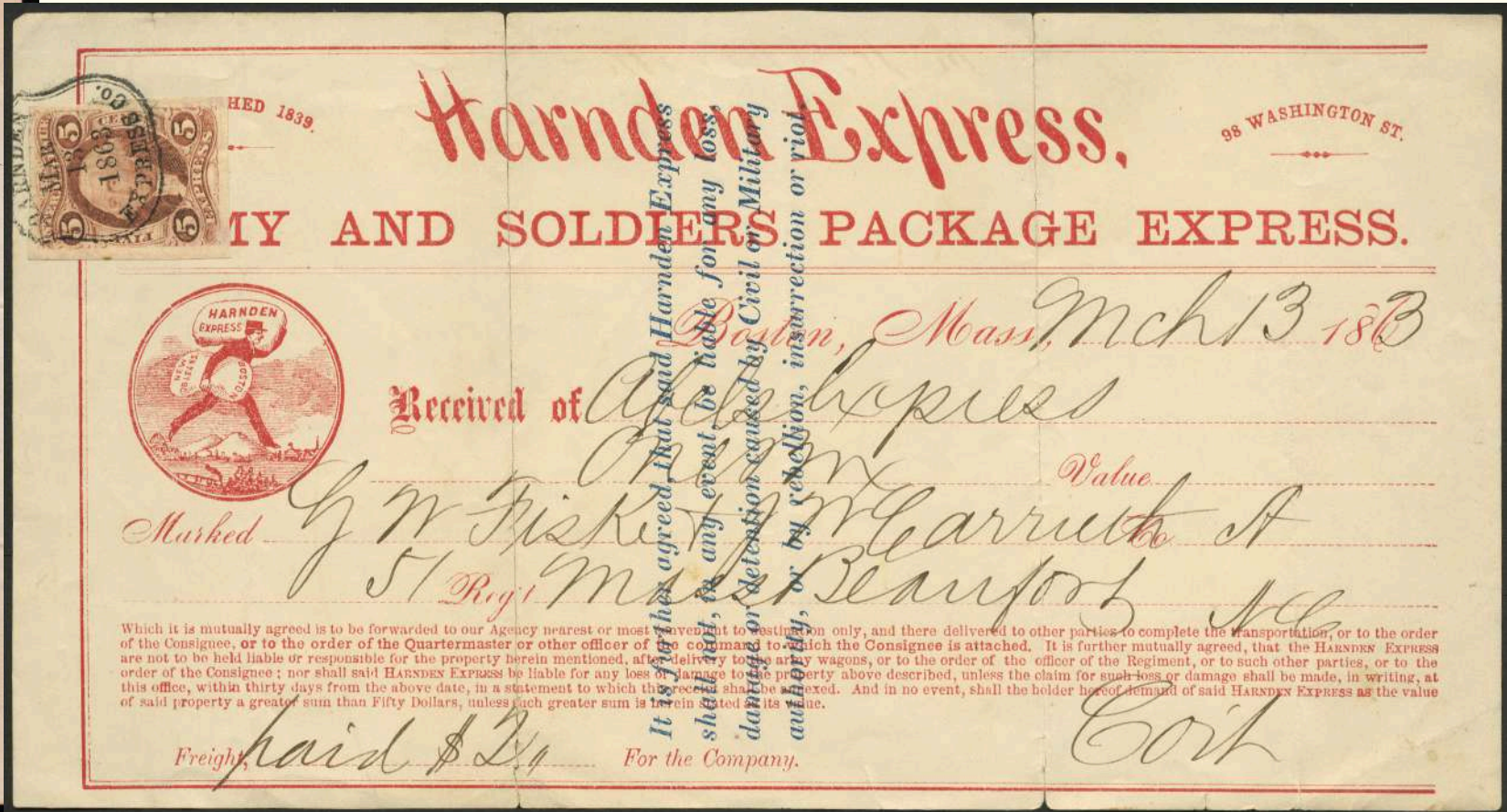
Beaufort, N.C., Inward

March 1863 **Harnden Army & Soldiers Package Express,** Boston, to soldier in 51st Mass. Regt.,
5¢ Express imperforate, Harnden shield-shaped fancy cancel

3.5 Norfolk, Va. (Occupied May 1862)
Sole recorded example to/from Norfolk

*The **Gosport Navy Yard** at Portsmouth, Norfolk's sister city across the Elizabeth River, was **prematurely abandoned** by federal forces in **April 1861;** it was there that the **USS Merrimack** was refit as the **briefly invincible ironclad CSS Virginia.** In its clash with the **USS Monitor** on March 9, 1862, the Virginia was irreparably damaged; the Confederates evacuated Gosport and Norfolk, and they were peacefully **reoccupied** by the Union on **May 10, 1862.***

Hampton Roads and environs, showing **Fortress Monroe, Norfolk, Portsmouth** and **Suffolk**

Red lines indicate **railroads:** Norfolk and Petersburg (to Norfolk); Seaboard and Roanoke (to Portsmouth)
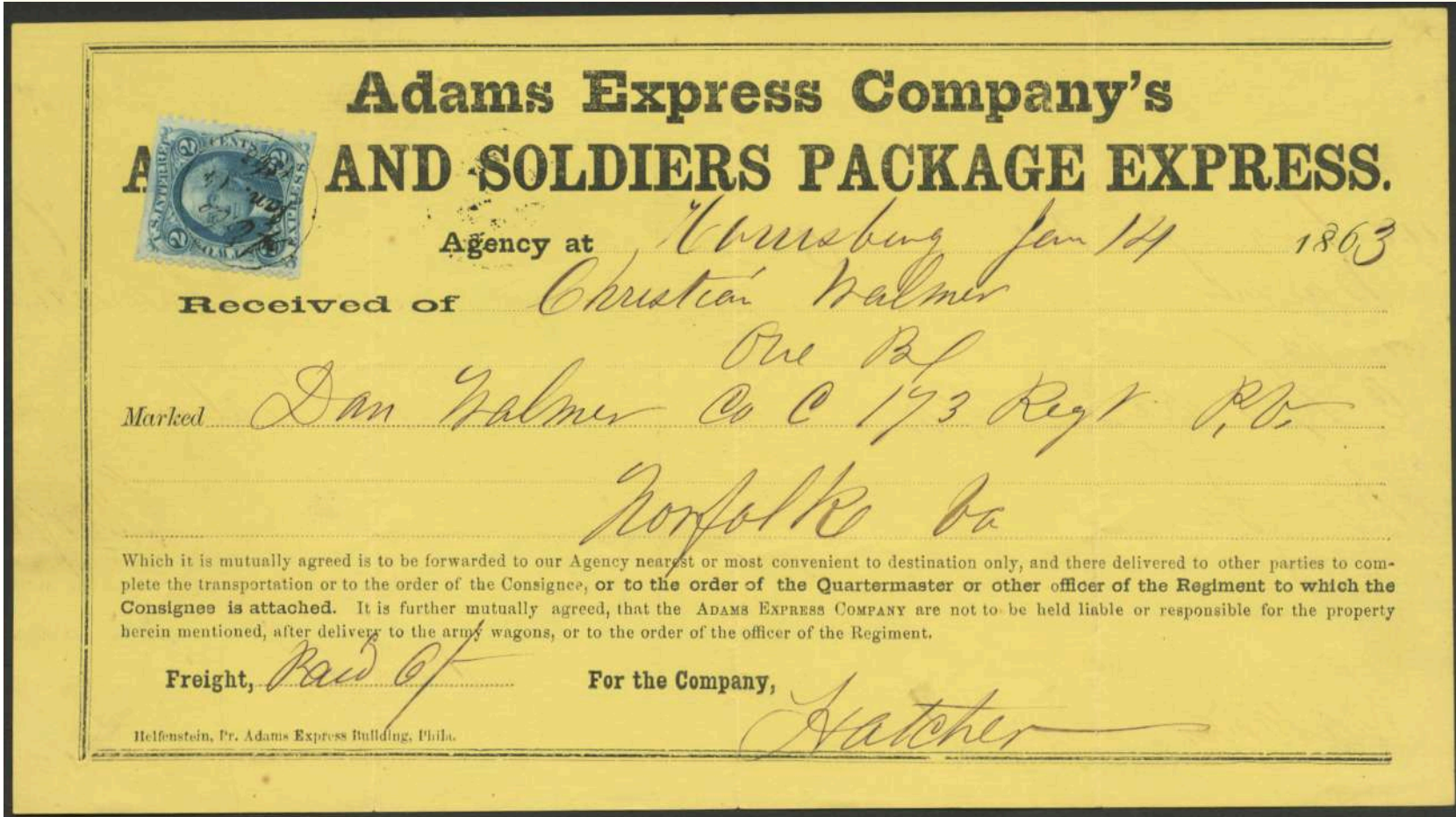
Norfolk, Va., Inward

January 1863 **Army and Soldiers Package Express,** Harrisburg, Pa., to soldier in 173rd Pa. Vols.,
2¢ Express blue part perforate
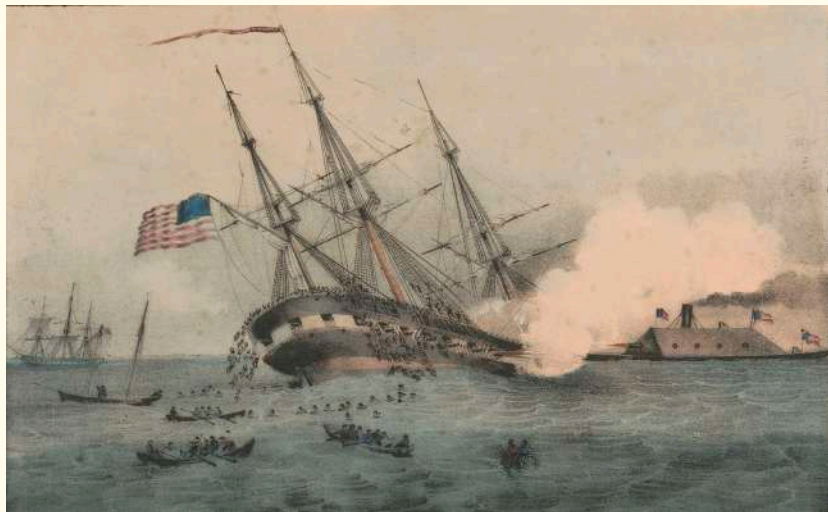
*Left, **"Sinking of the Cumberland by the Merrimack,** March 8th 1862" (Library of Congress). Secretary Stanton predicted she **"would sink every vessel in the navy, capture Fort Monroe, cut off Burnside in the Carolina sounds, retake Port Royal, and lay New York and Boston under 'contribution,'"** but she was neutralized by the "Monitor", then destroyed to prevent capture May 11, 1862 (right).*

Suffolk, Va., Inward
December 1, 1862, Syracuse, N.Y., 5¢ Express imperforate
Earliest recorded use of this stamp, first delivered by the printer November 20

3.6 Suffolk, Va. (Occupied May 1862; Besieged April-May 1863)
Sole recorded example to/from Suffolk

In *May 1862* the *small town of Suffolk* (1860 census 1,395, more than half black) had been occupied by a *Union force of nearly 10,000,* to *safeguard Norfolk and Portsmouth.*

Suffolk Besieged

By February 1863 the stakes would be increased considerably as *three divisions under Lt. Gen. James Longstreet* were detached from the *Army of Northern Virginia* to *forage* in the region for desperately needed supplies, and to capture the garrison at Suffolk if possible.

From *April 11 until May 4, 1863,* the town was besieged, while the Union troop strength was increased to 30,000. Longstreet then withdrew to join Robert E. Lee at Chancellorsville, and on *July 3 Union forces in turn withdrew,* leaving Suffolk to resume its bucolic existence, taking its place alongside hundreds of others briefly catapulted into significance by military events.

6. Middle/Western Tennessee (Occupied February–June, 1862)

6.1 Nashville	6.4 Bolivar
6.2 Murfreesboro	6.5 Memphis
6.3 Franklin	

4.1 Nashville, Tenn. (Occupied February 1862)
Three examples recorded to/from Nashville

The *first key to the occupation of Tennessee* was the *fall of Fort Donelson,* on the *Cumberland River* near the Tennessee-Kentucky border, to U.S. Grant on February 8, 1862. This *opened the Cumberland to federal gunboats,* and *on February 25 Nashville was occupied* by Don Carlos Buell's Army of the Ohio, the first Rebel state capital to fall to Union forces.

Citizens awoke to see the ominous *tortoise-shaped gunboat U.S.S. Cairo* moored on the opposite bank of the Cumberland, its massive guns pointed directly at them. *Nashville* now became an important *Union supply depot and staging area.*

In late 1864 a *desperate attempt to retake it* by John Bell Hood's Army of Tennessee resulted in its *disastrous losses* at Franklin on November 30, then at *Nashville December 15–16.*
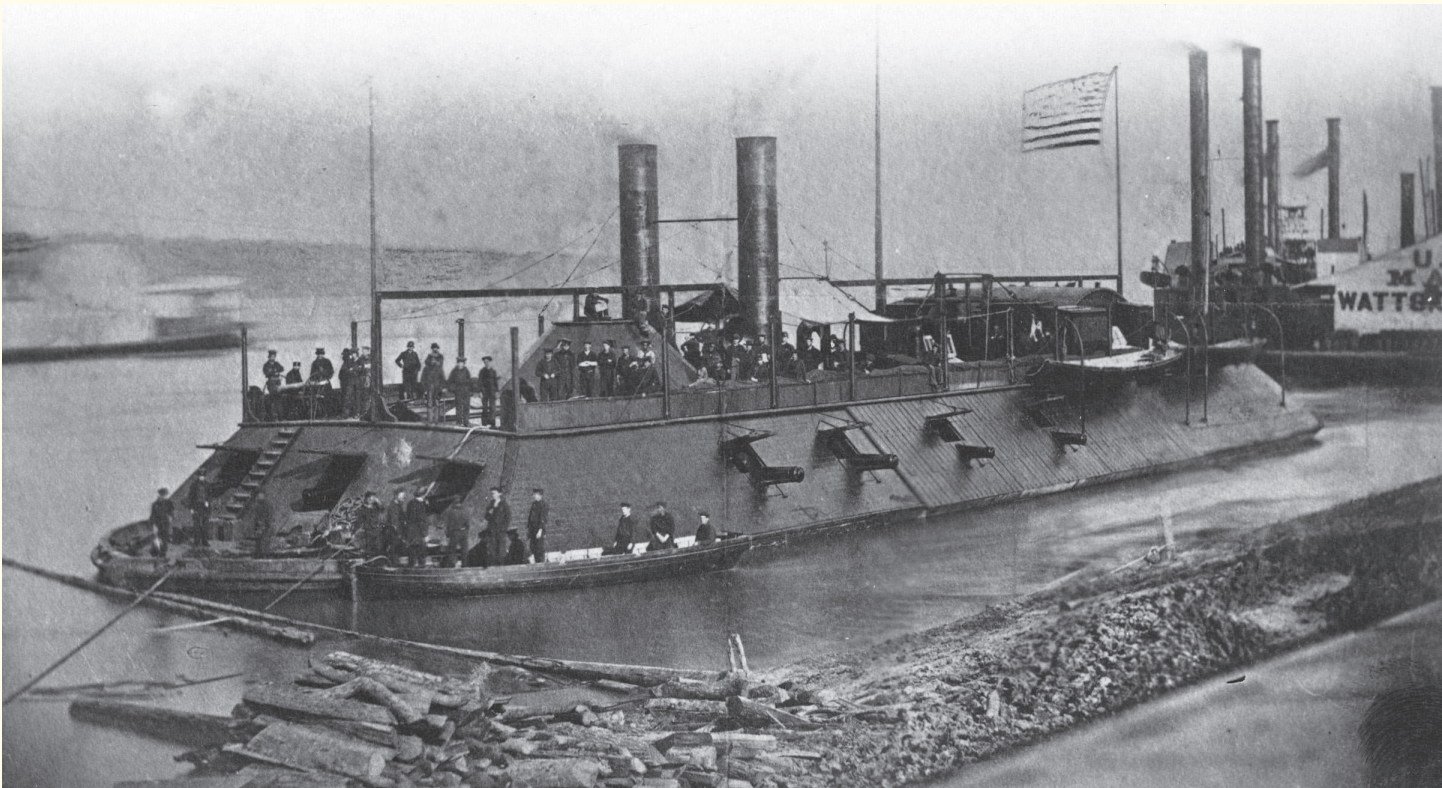
U.S.S. Cairo opposite Nashville, March 5, 1862
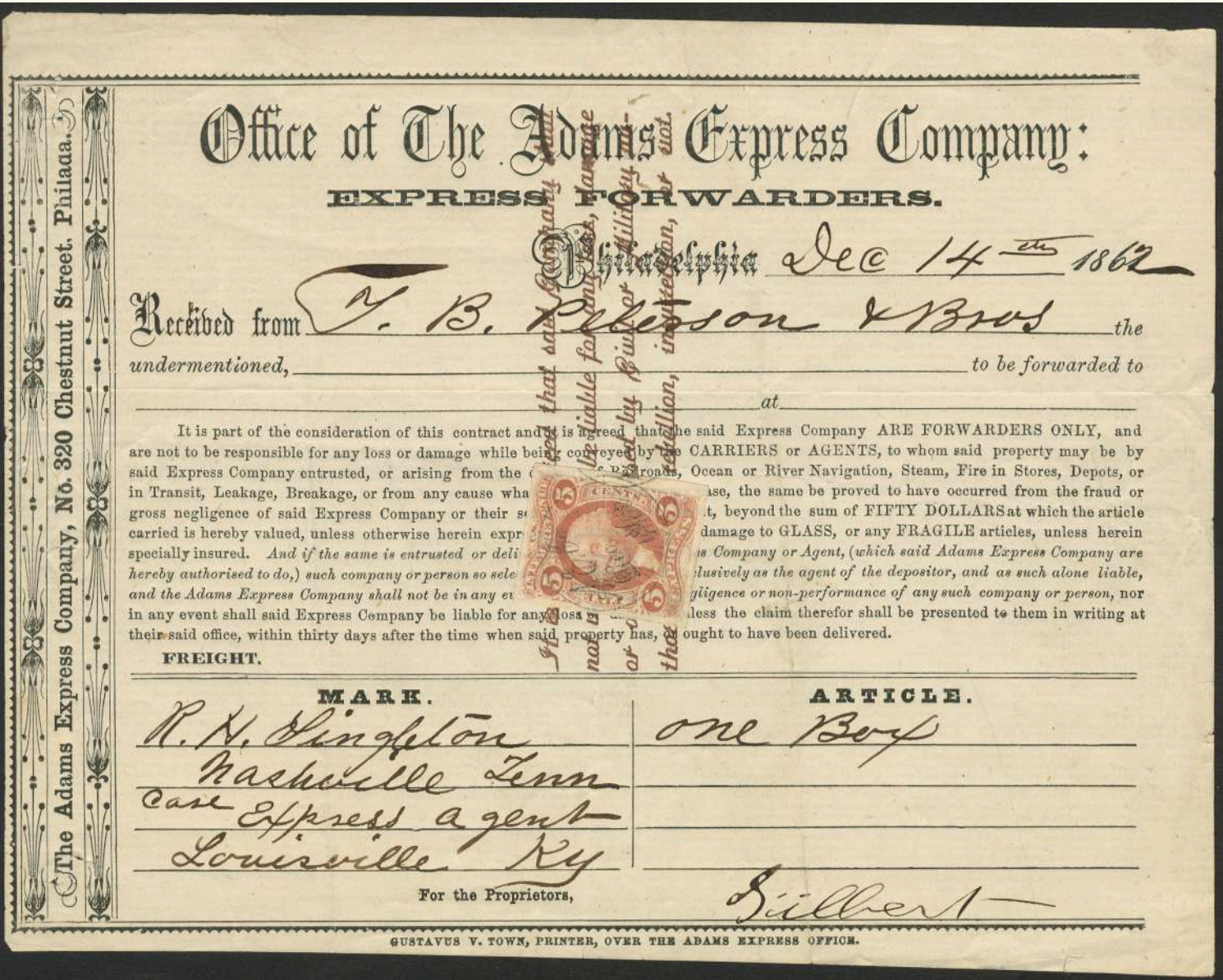
Nashville, Tenn., Inward (I)
December 1862, Philadelphia, to bookseller R. H. Singleton, 5¢ Express imperforate
Singleton circulated an **anti-draft ditty,** shown at right

A bit later (the Union draft was initiated March 3, 1863) Singleton would sell the tongue-in-cheek anti-draft song *"Grafted Into the Army"* by Henry Clay Work.

A printer and an inventor by trade, and diehard abolitionist whose father was rumored to have worked with

the Underground Railroad, **Work** was the author of a number of popular wartime tunes, including *"Marching Through Georgia"* and my personal favorite *"Kingdom Coming (Year of Jubilo)":*

https://www. youtube.com/ watch?v=ZUthYZSGnJY

https://www. youtube.com/ watch?v=rT4sGZ5FvoY
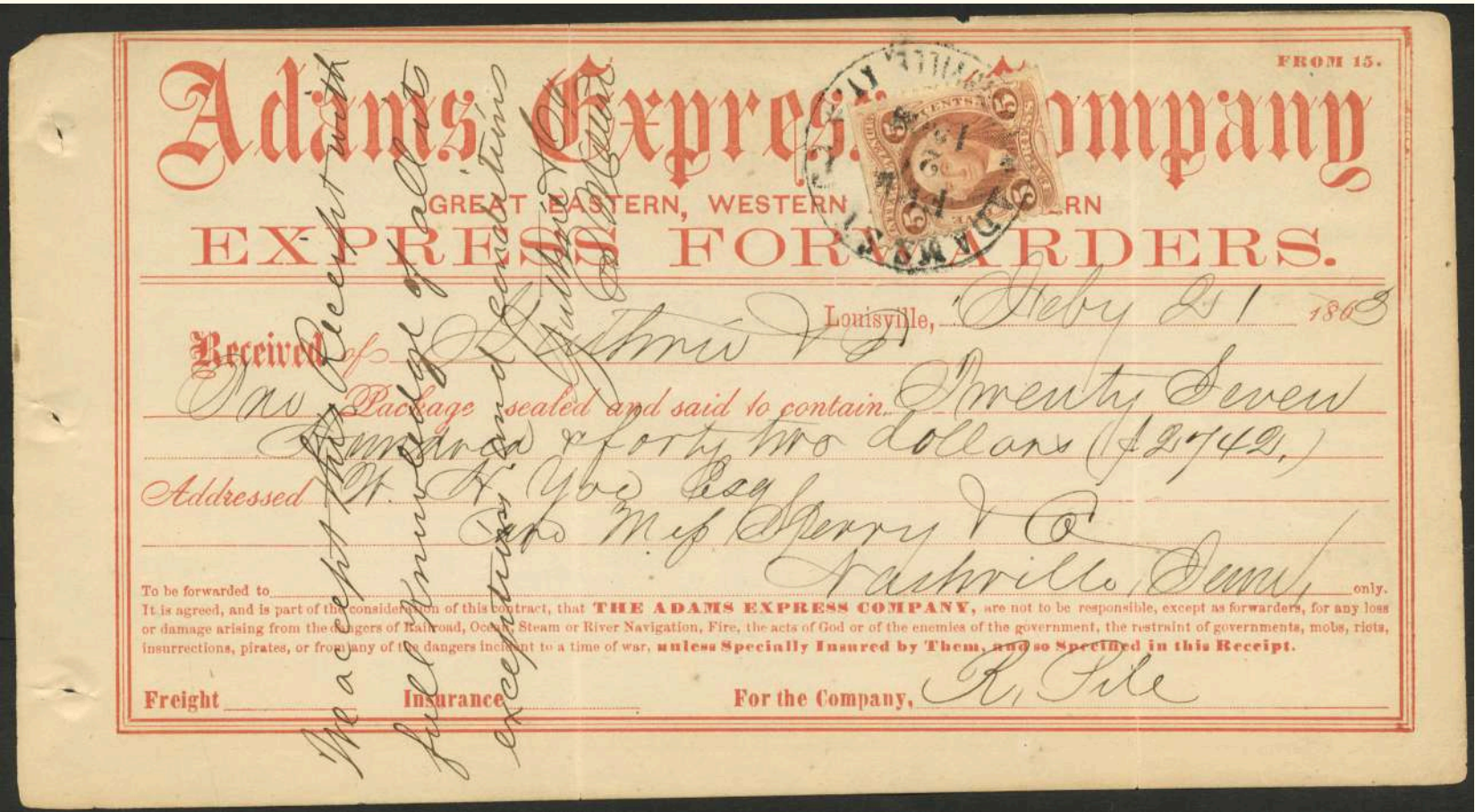
Nashville, Tenn., Inward (II)
February 1863, Louisville, Ky., $2,742 to Sperry & Co., 5¢ Express part perforate

4.2 Murfreesboro, Tenn. (Occupied March 1862)
Sole recorded example to/from Murfreesboro

*Murfreesboro, some **35 miles southwest of Nashville** on the line of the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad, was **occupied in mid-March 1862** by a force of 1,500, and a supply depot and hospital established.*

Captured by Forrest; Jeff Davis Visits; Second Battle of Murfreesboro

*This entire garrison was captured **in July** by a lightning cavalry raid led by **"Genius of the Saddle" Nathan Bedford Forrest**, and in December **Confederate Gen. Braxton Bragg's 35,000 man Army of Tennessee decamped at Murfreesboro**, visited there by CSA President Jefferson Davis to discuss strategy.*

*William S. Rosecrans' Army of the Cumberland, some 43,500 strong, left Nashville to engage Bragg at the **Battle of Murfreesboro, December 31, 1862, to January 2, 1863.** An apparent Confederate victory morphed into a bloody stalemate, with Bragg's subsequent retreat leaving **Nashville safely under federal control.***

Murfreesboro, Tenn., Outward
Money envelope to Columbus, Ind., notated **"30#," "Murfreesboro"** and **"$30 per Express,"**
1¢ Express canceled **"March 26, 1863"**
Probably via **Adams Express**, as with all other recorded outward usages.

4.3 Franklin, Tenn. (Occupied March 1862)
Sole recorded example to/from Franklin

*After the fall of Nashville, Union troops **occupied Franklin, some 20 miles due south**, on **March 16, 1862.** Skirmishing in the region led Gen. Rosecrans to order that Franklin be fortified in February 1863. Confederate cavalry skirmished with federals there on April 10, 1863. Fort Granger would be completed in June 1863.*

*The rebels would revisit the area in force in late 1864, suffering a stinging defeat in the **Battle of Franklin November 30, 1864**, and again in the **Battle of Nashville on December 15–16**, which terminally **decimated the Army of Tennessee.***
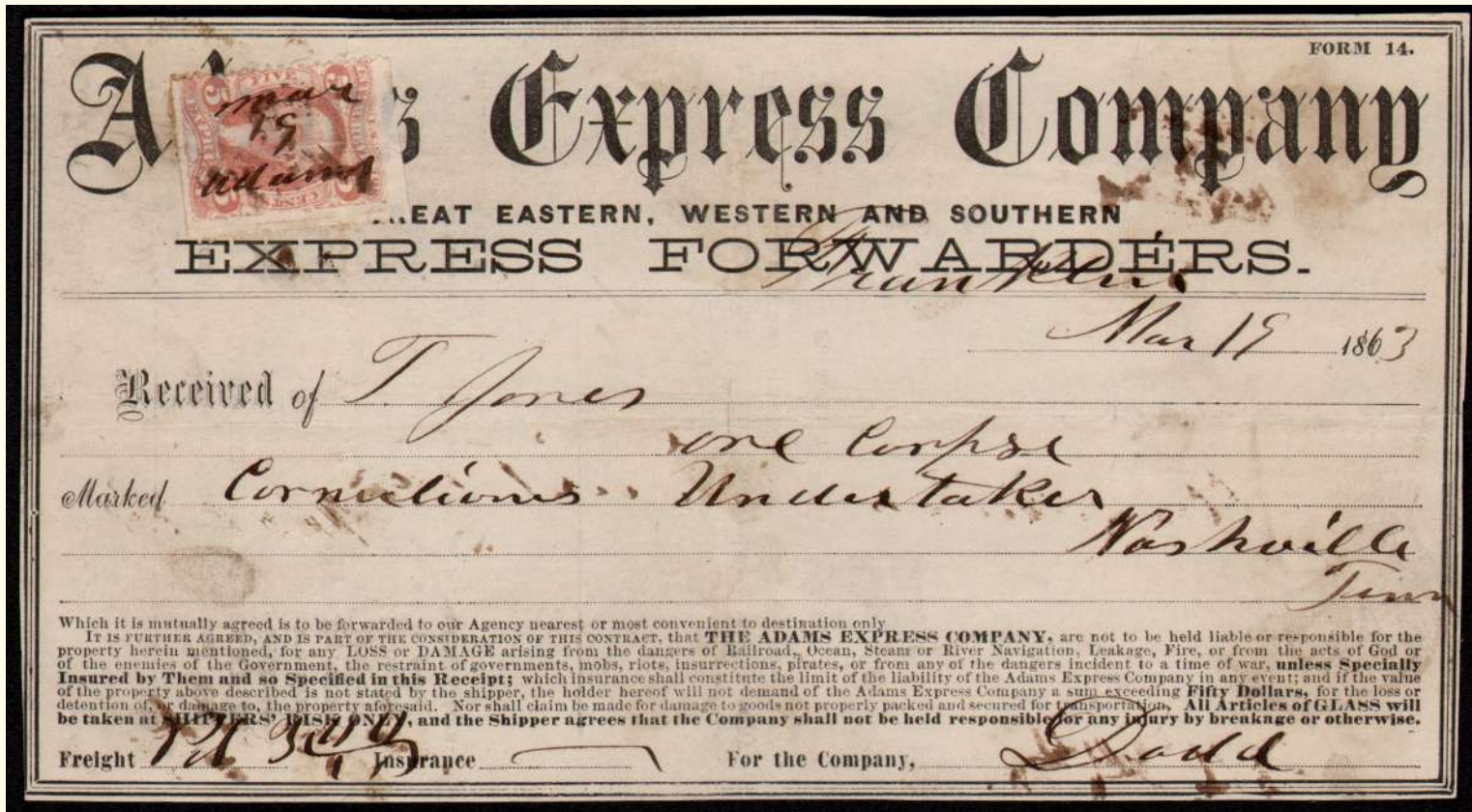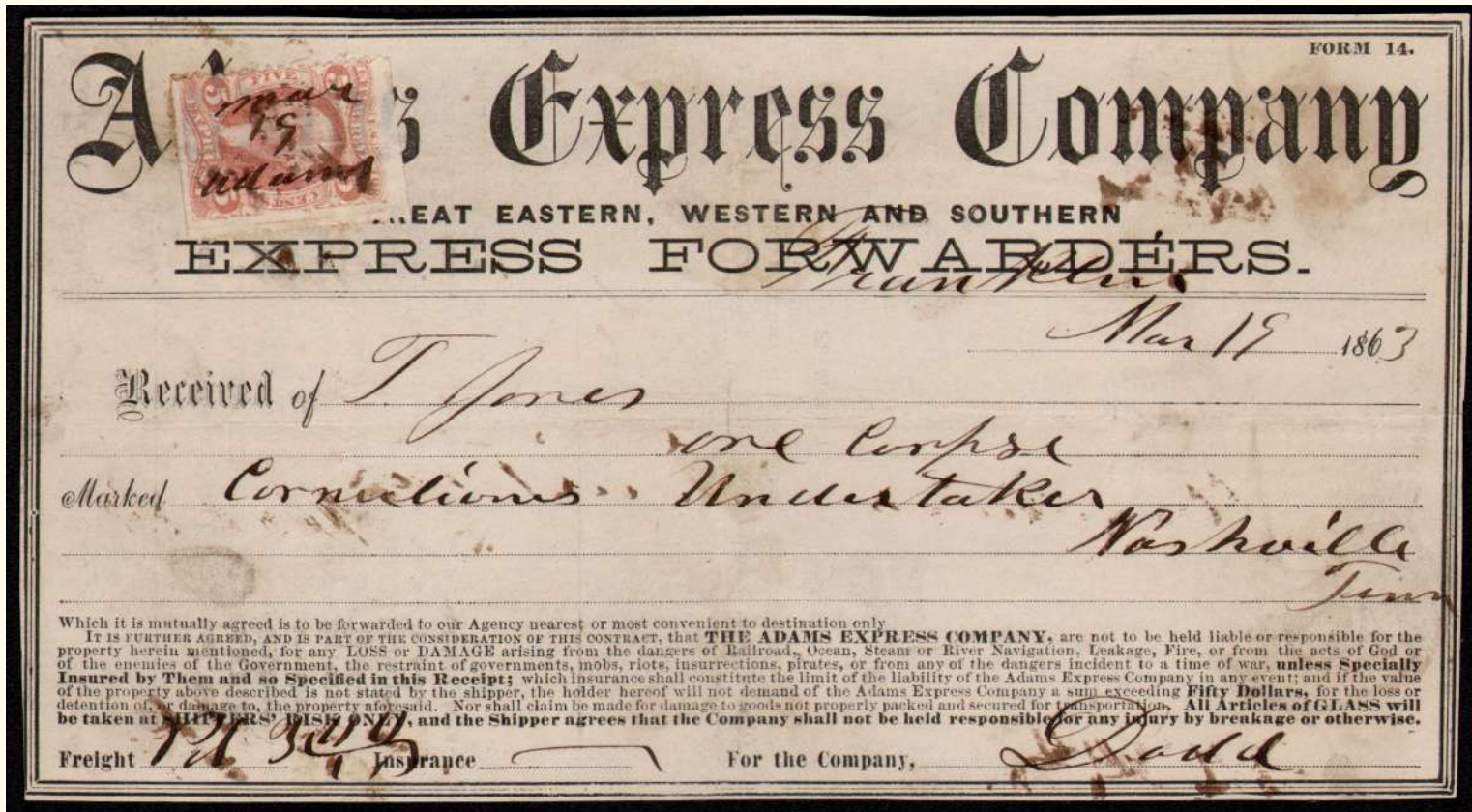
Franklin, Tenn., Outward: "One Corpse"
March 1863, for transmission of **"one corpse"** to undertaker in Nashville,
5¢ Express part perforate

Bolivar, Tenn., Outward
March 1863, ms. **"Bolivar, Ten.,"** $20 sent by Henry McGrievy (43rd Ohio Infantry) to Lima, **2¢ Express blue imperforate**

4.4 Bolivar, Tenn. (Occupied April 1862)
Sole recorded example to/from Bolivar

Bolivar was occupied** soon **after the major Union victory at Shiloh,** April 6-7, 1862. A month after this receipt was issued, it was placed under martial law as a response to partisans **falsely swearing oaths of allegiance** to the Union in order to facilitate **furnishing supplies to rebel guerillas.

*In **April 1864** it gleefully quartered forces of Nathan Bedford Forrest, after which Union Gen. Samuel Sturgis **burned most of the town** as punishment.*

4.5 Memphis, Tenn. (Occupied June 1862)
Three examples recorded to/from Memphis

*After Nashville fell in late February 1862, Tennessee's state officials fled to the Mississippi River stronghold of Memphis, but just three months later, **on June 6, Memphis itself fell** to Union forces advancing down the Mississippi, after which the Confederate government of Tennessee ceased to exist.*

*The city's defense was left to the makeshift River Defense Fleet, and in the resulting naval battle virtually the **entire rebel fleet was destroyed** or captured in only **two hours.***

"Hoisting the Stars and Stripes over the Post Office at Memphis, Tennessee,"
Harper's Weekly, July 5, 1862.

*When the first troops ashore quickly replaced the Confederate flag atop the post office with the Stars and Stripes, the citizenry, many having just witnessed the destruction of their fleet from the bluffs overlooking the city, reacted predictably, as shown here. With the arrival of more troops, **outrage was quickly replaced by resignation,** as occupation became a fact of life.*
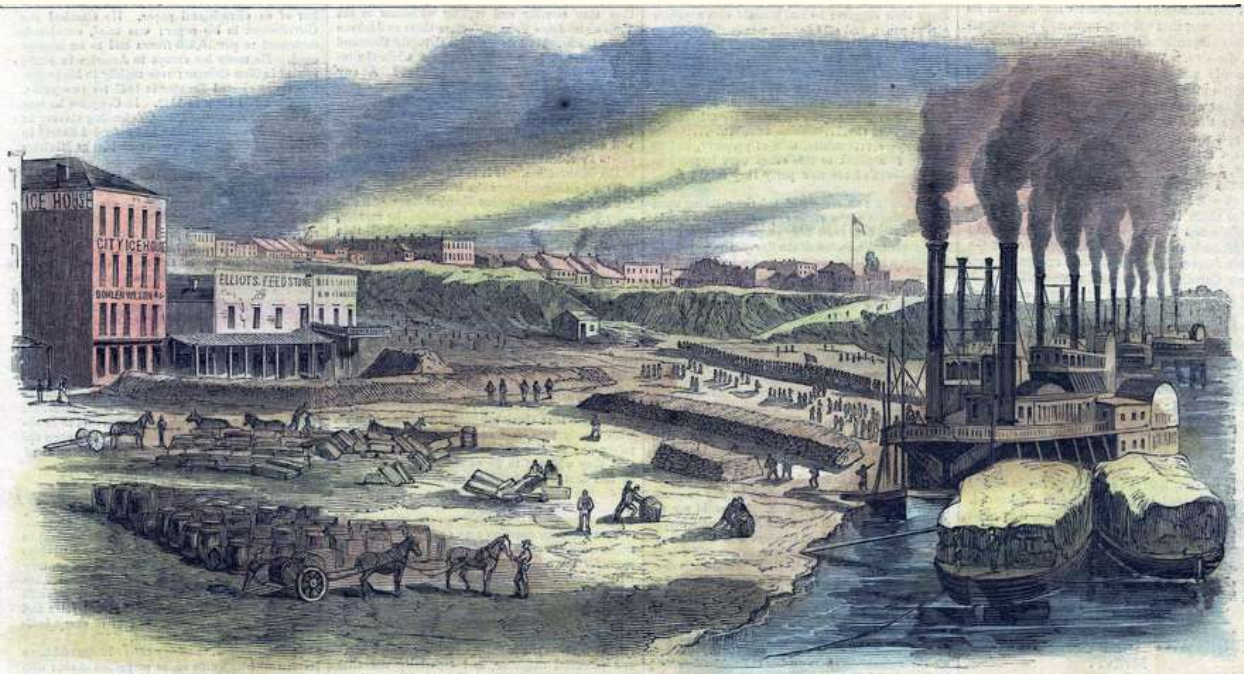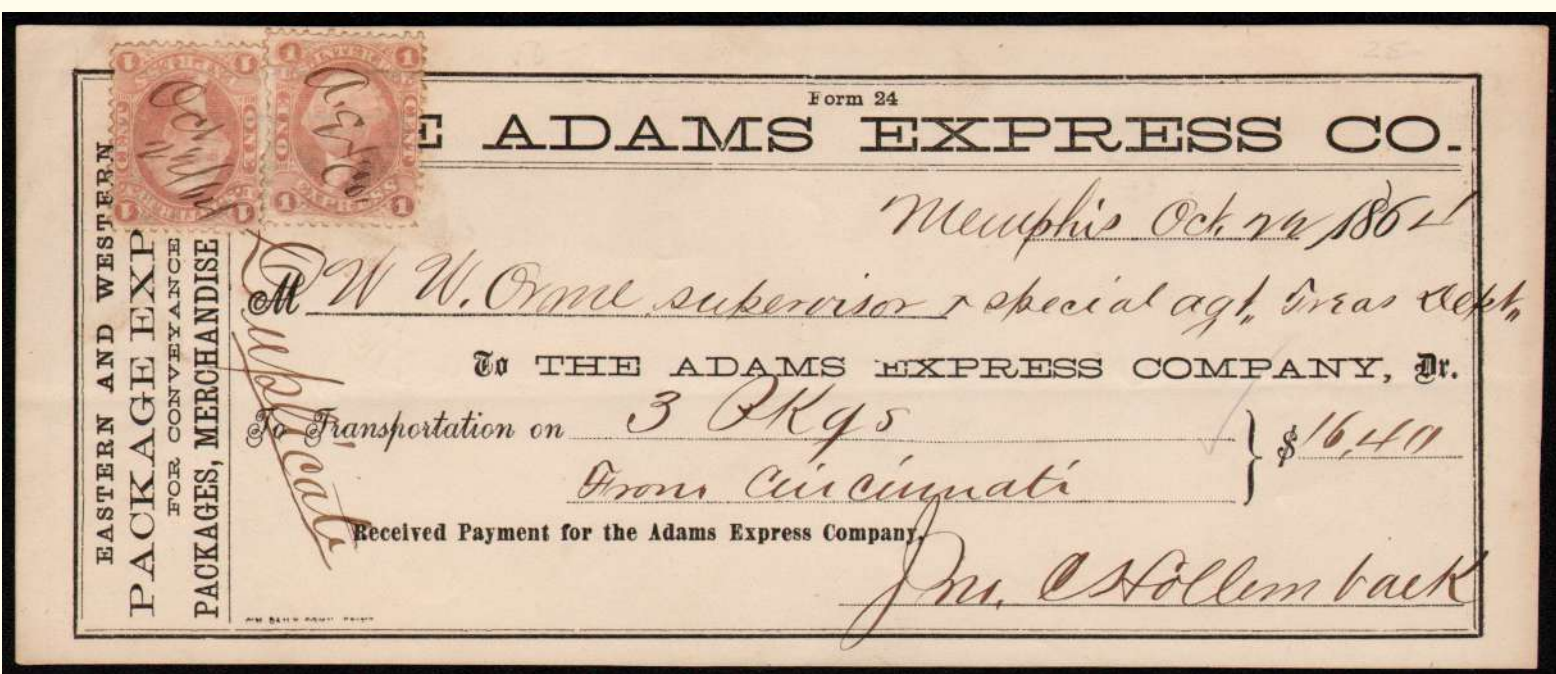

Memphis, Tenn., Outward (I)
March 1863, $200 sent by J. W. Luke (15th Illinois Infantry) to Nora, Ill., **Express 2¢ blue imperf (x2) & 1¢**
The piece de resistance of the field!

"The Levee at Memphis, Tenn.— Hauling Sugar and Cotton from Their Hiding Places for Shipment North"
(Alex. Simplot, *Harpers Weekly,* June 5, 1862)

Memphis, Tenn., Outward (II)
October 1864, **2¢ Receipt tax** paid with 1¢ Express (x2), probably left over from 1862–3 Express tax period

Gen. William W. Orme, Illinois lawyer and **friend of Lincoln**, contracted tuberculosis at Vicksburg, resigned to become **Treasury agent at Memphis** tasked with **bringing to market cotton emerging after the opening of the Mississippi.** He succumbed to his illness in 1866.

Relief of Brig. Gen. William W. Orme,
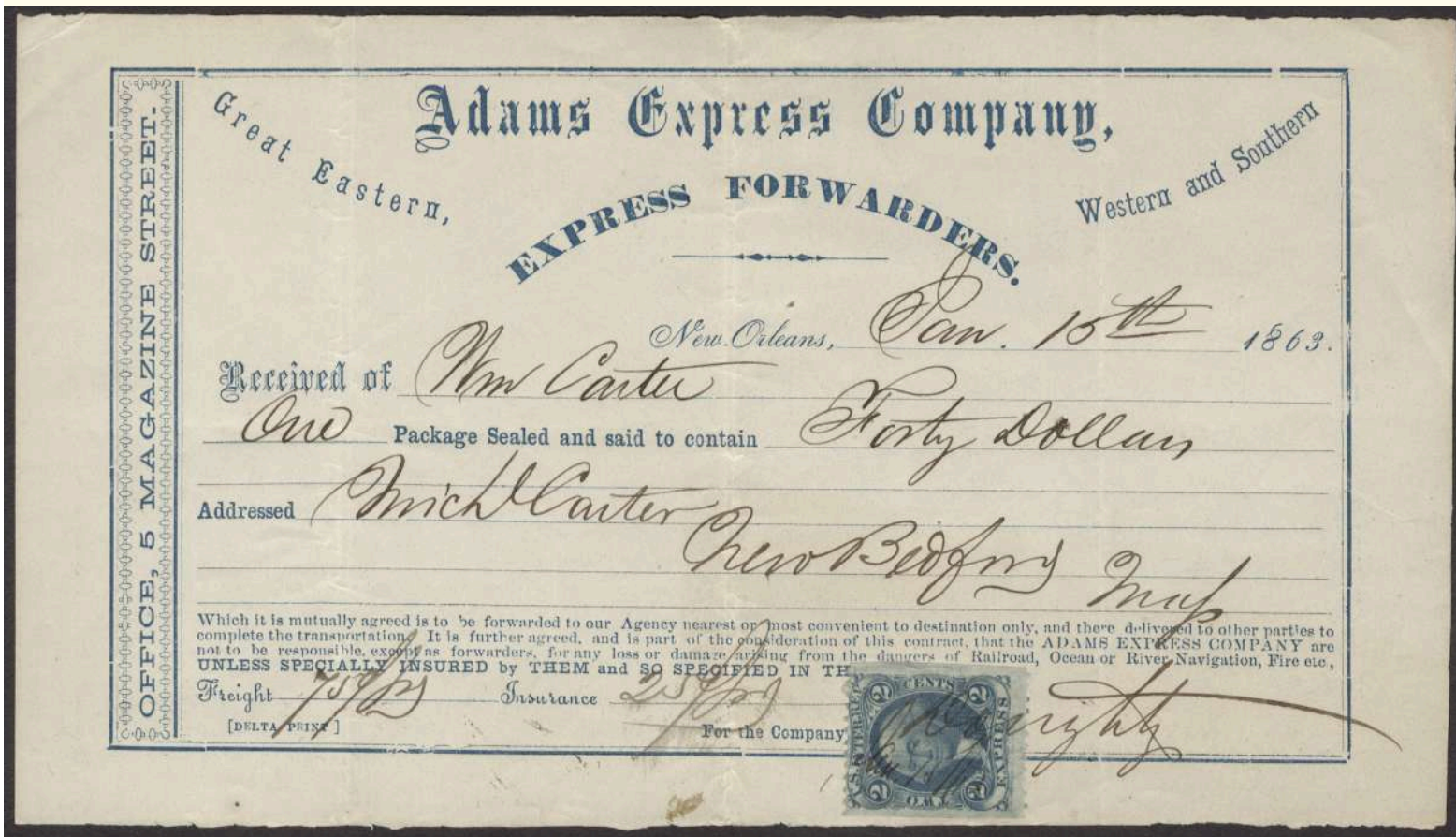Vicksburg National Military Park

5.1 New Orleans, La. (Occupied May 1862)
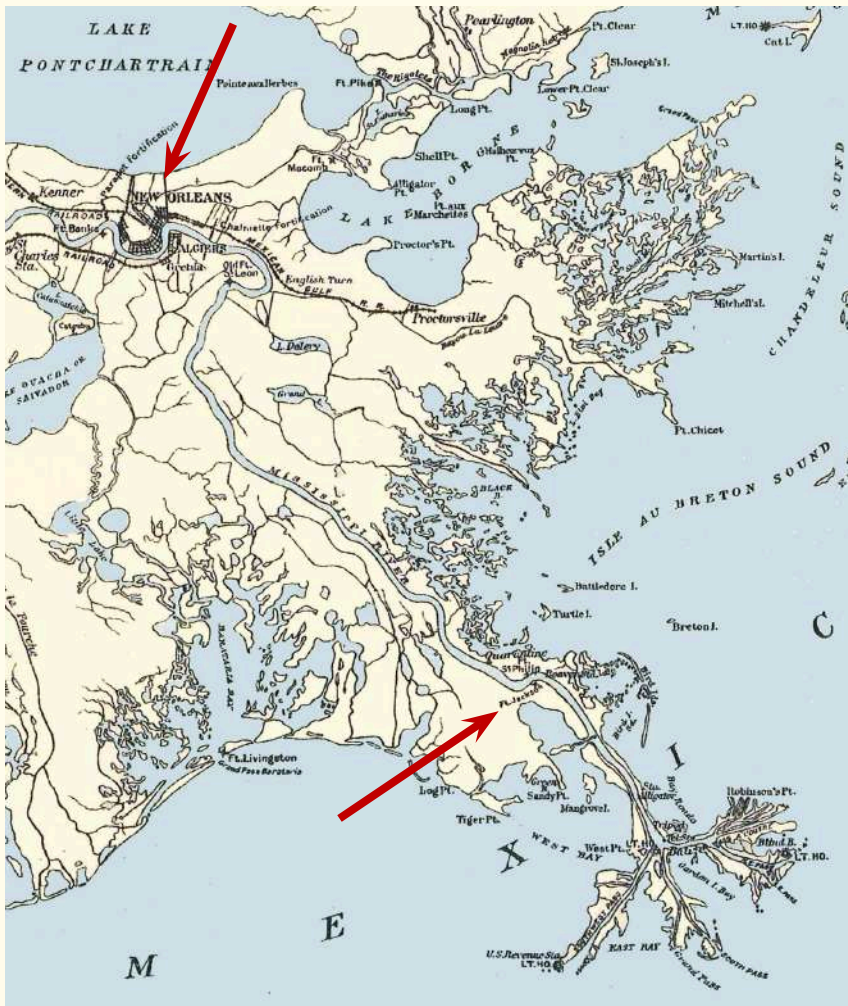**Seven examples recorded to/from New Orleans**

New Orleans, a "seaport" 115 Mississippi River miles from the sea, was defended by Forts Jackson and St. Philip, some 70 miles downstream. On April 24, 1862, ships of Admiral David Farragut's West Gulf Blockading Squadron passed them, and the following day Farragut reached New Orleans, trained his batteries on the defenseless city, and demanded its surrender, but was refused. On May 1 Gen. Ben Butler's forces occupied the city without incident.

"The Splendid Naval Triumph on the Mississippi, April 24th, 1862" (Currier & Ives). Ft. Jackson is on the left side of the river, Ft. St. Philip on the right. Farragut's flagship, the USS *Hartford*, is at lower left center, under attack by a fire raft. The ironclad at far right is the CSS *Manassas*.

"Delta of the Mississippi River and Approaches to New Orleans" *(Official Records of the Union and Confederate Navies)*
Arrows: New Orleans, Forts Jackson and St. Philip

New Orleans, La., Outward (I)
January 15, 1863, $40 to New Bedford, Mass., **2¢ Express blue part perforate**
Predates creation of the Louisiana Internal Revenue collection district on February 16, 1863; the **stamp was provided by the Adams head office** in Philadelphia. It is **imperforate sideways.**

New Orleans, La., Outward (II)
February 1865, to Fairfield, Iowa, **2¢ Bank Check orange**

Butler Holds the Mob in Check

*Faced with an angry and defiant populace, Gen. Butler placed the city under **martial law,** only those swearing allegiance receiving "the protection [afforded] citizens," all others treated as enemies.*

*At the time of Mayor John Monroe's refusal to surrender the city, gambler **William Mumford** had **desecrated the U.S. flag,** which was then burned by a mob. Butler had him **arrested and hanged.***

*On his first meeting with Monroe, Butler ordered the **6th Maine Artillery to the street** to disperse a mob. He later sent the **mayor to solitary confinement at Ft. St. Philip for six months.***

*Defiance was most visibly expressed by ladies of the upper class; Farragut himself had a chamber-pot emptied on his head by one! Butler responded with his infamous **General Order No. 28,** declaring that "when any female shall by word, gesture, or movement **insult or show contempt** for any officer or soldier of the United States she shall be regarded and held liable to be **treated as a woman of the town plying her avocation."** As illustrated at right, it had the desired effect.*

Butler and the mob *(Harper's Weekly, 1896)*

4.2 Algiers, La. (Occupied May 1862)
Sole recorded example to/from Algiers
Algiers was directly across the Mississippi from New Orleans, and was incorporated into it in 1870
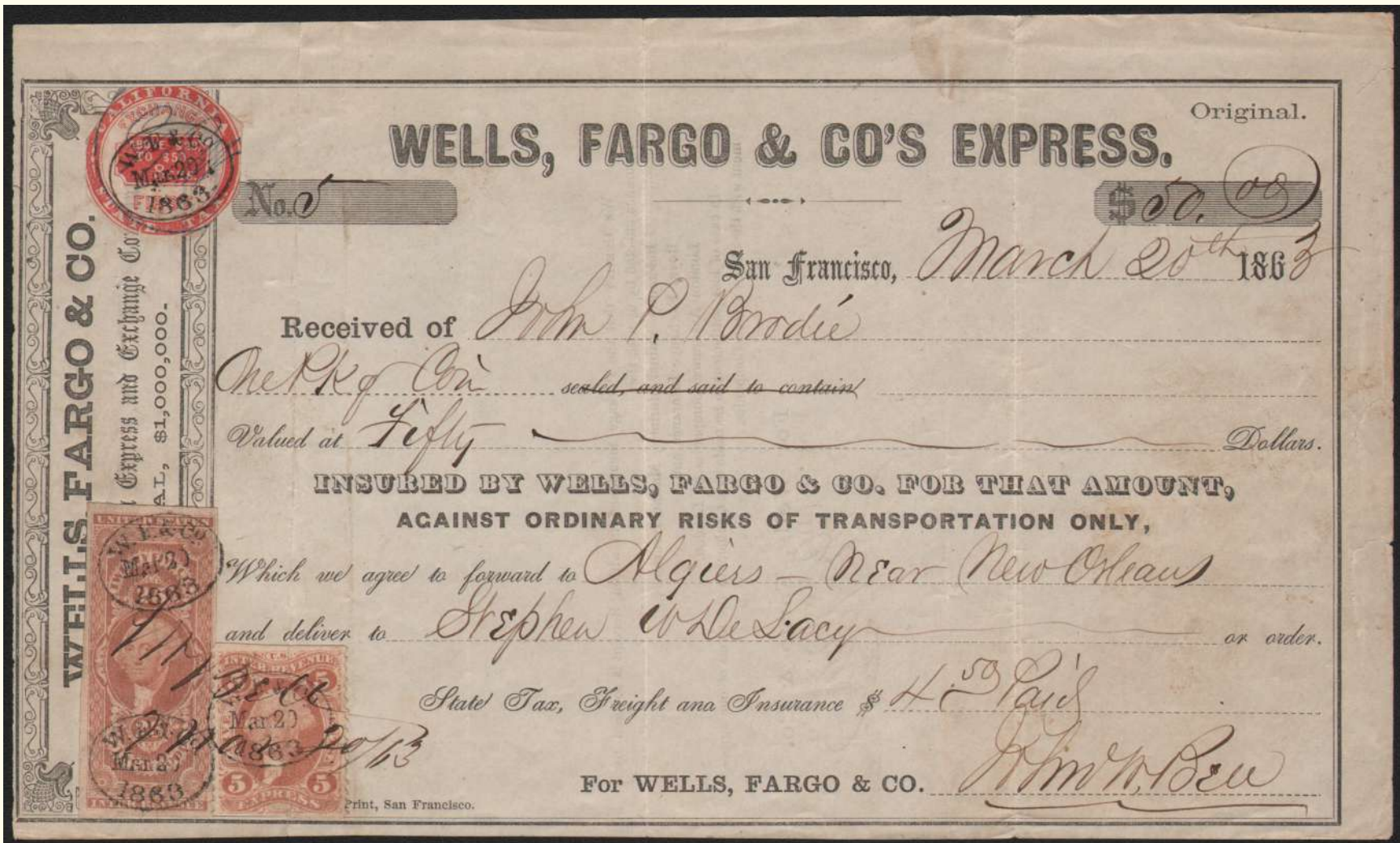
Algiers, La., Inward: Quintuply Unique
Sole recorded example of California Insurance 4¢ rate
Unique Express-Insurance, Express-Insurance-California, Express-California combinations
March 1863 *insured express receipt* to **"Algiers near New Orleans"**
- **U.S. Express tax** paid by **Express 5¢ imperforate**
- **U.S. Insurance 1862 25¢ tax** paid by **25¢ Entry of Goods imperforate**
- **California Insurance 4¢ rate** for amounts to $50

The **California Insurance tax** was paid with an **Exchange stamp!** As with bills of exchange, these receipts were **made in sets of two,** each requiring a stamp. For 8¢ one obtained **8¢ First** and **8¢ Second Exchange** stamps, each representing **4¢ tax;** the First was affixed here to the Original, the Second presumably to the Duplicate, neatly paying the 4¢ tax on both.

6.1 Aquia Creek, Va. (Occupied November 1862–June 1863)
Sole recorded examples to/from Aquia Creek

Aquia Creek (more precisely, **Aquia Landing**, at the junction of Aquia Creek with the Potomac) was a **Union supply base** for **advances on Fredericksburg** by forces under Gen. Ambrose Burnside in the winter of 1862, and **subsequent actions** in the region in **early 1863**: the **ill-fated "Mud March" of January 20–22, 1863**, and the **battle of Chancellorsville in early May 1863**. The Union forces then **abandoned Aquia Landing** and the Confederates destroyed it in June 1863.

Locations of **Aquia (Landing), Falmouth, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville**
(From "Fredericksburg to Richmond," Union cartographer Robert Knox Sneden, circa 1862, Library of Congress)

Aquia Creek, Va., Inward

January 1863, New York City, to soldier in 1st Mass. Cavalry, **5¢ Express imperforate**

Aquia Creek, Va., Outward (II)

March 1863, Fredericksburg dateline **changed to "Aq Creek,"** $70 to Pottsville, Pa.
from Simon Clauser (50th Pa. Infantry),
1¢ Express imperforate and 1¢ Express part perforate

6.2 Falmouth, Va. (Occupied November 1862–June 1863)
Sole recorded example to/from Falmouth

Falmouth, directly **across the Rappahannock from Fredericksburg**, was considerably closer than Aquia Landing to the actions described above. It was also occupied from November 1862 until June 1863.

Aquia Creek, Va., Outward (I)

February 1863, **Washington, D.C.,** dateline **changed to "Aq Ck,"** $75 to Hartford, N.Y.,
(from Nelson L. Brayton, 126th N.Y. Infantry), **2¢ Express blue part perforate**

Falmouth, Va., Inward

February 1863, **Harnden Army and Soldiers Package Express**, Providence, R.I.,
to soldier in 2nd R.I. Vols., **5¢ Express part perforate**
Note the **disclaimer** at center reading up: **"Not . . liable for any loss, damage or detention by Civil or Military authority, or by rebellion, insurrection or riot."** Most forms have similar clauses, but not so prominently placed.

7.1 Port Hudson, La. (Occupied July 1863)
Sole recorded example to/from Port Hudson

Port Hudson, 25 miles upriver from Baton Rouge, 110 miles downriver from Vicksburg, was the **last obstacle to Union control of the Mississippi, falling on July 9, 1863, to the forces of Gen. Nathaniel Banks after a 48-day siege.** Prior to this its defenders had repulsed **two direct attacks**, inflicting heavy losses.

Port Hudson, La., Inward: to Lt. A. W. Greely, USCT

December 1863, **Army and Soldiers Package Express**, Boston, 2¢ Bank Check orange,
to Lt. A. W. (Adolphus Washington) Greely, 81st USCT (U.S. Colored Troops)!

"United States Colored Troops at Port Hudson, Louisiana" (National Archives)

The **81st USCT** had originated as the 9th Corps d'Afrique Infantry, reorganized as the 81st in April 1864. It did **garrison duty at Port Hudson** during its entire enlistment.

Greely led the **ill-fated Lady Franklin Bay Expedition of 1881–4** to the Arctic. He received the Medal of Honor in 1935.
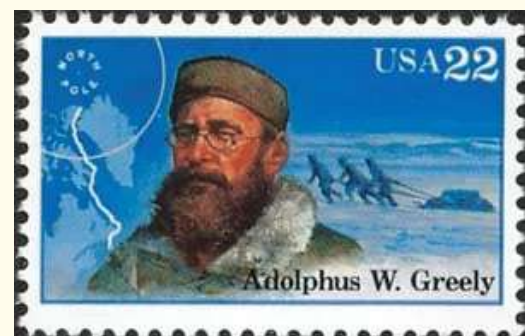
7.2 Natchez, Miss. (Occupied July 1863)
Sole recorded example to/from Natchez

Natchez, a major antebellum cotton shipping point some 75 miles downriver from Vicksburg, was **occupied July 13, 1863,** by troops under U.S. Grant, after the fall of Vicksburg on July 4. It remained under military control for the rest of the war. Cotton production and shipment increased after occupation, as many plantations abandoned by their owners were leased by the U.S. government to unionists.

Lorenzo Thomas circa 1864

"The war in the southwest — Adjutant-General Thomas addressing the Negroes in Louisiana on the duties of freedom" (Library of Congress)

Natchez, Miss., Outward: to U.S. Attorney-General
June 7, 1865, A. L. Mitchell (Lt. Col., 63rd U.S. Colored Infantry, Provost Marshal of Freedmen at Natchez),
to **Brig. Gen. L(orenzo) Thomas, U. S. Adjutant-General,** in Washington, D.C., 5¢ Express overpays the 2¢ Receipt tax
Pushing the envelope: it is debatable whether June 7, 1865, falls within the **occupation or postwar** period.

Thomas, chief of staff for Commanding General Winfield Scott at the outset of the war, then **appointed Adjutant-General of the U.S.,** but **ran afoul of Secretary of War Stanton,** and was **reassigned — some would say banished —** to the **Mississippi valley** to recruit newly-freed slaves to military service, a task he embraced and proved competent at.
After the war, **his rift with Stanton** came full circle. **President Andrew Johnson,** battling with Congress for control of Reconstruction, **attempted to fire Stanton,** intending **Thomas** as his interim replacement. Thomas must have relished personally delivering Stanton's dismissal notice, but the Secretary had the last word, declaring it illegitimate and having **Thomas arrested under the Tenure of Office Act.** Thomas retired the following year.

"The Situation" in February 1868: Secretary of War Stanton aims a cannon labeled "Congress" at Gen. Thomas, his proposed replacement, and President Andrew Johnson, who holds a proclamation reading "coup d'etat." Stanton's rammer is marked "Tenure of Office Bill" and his cannonballs are marked "Justice." Ulysses S. Grant stands to Stanton's left. (Harper's Weekly)

8. East Tennessee: Knoxville (Occupied September 1863)
Sole recorded example to/from Knoxville

Knoxville, an important railway link, was **occupied on September 3, 1863,** by Gen. Ambrose Burnside's Army of the Ohio, then **besieged on November 19** by Gen. James Longstreet's forces from the Army of Northern Virginia. On **December 4** Longstreet withdrew, leaving Knoxville firmly in Union hands.
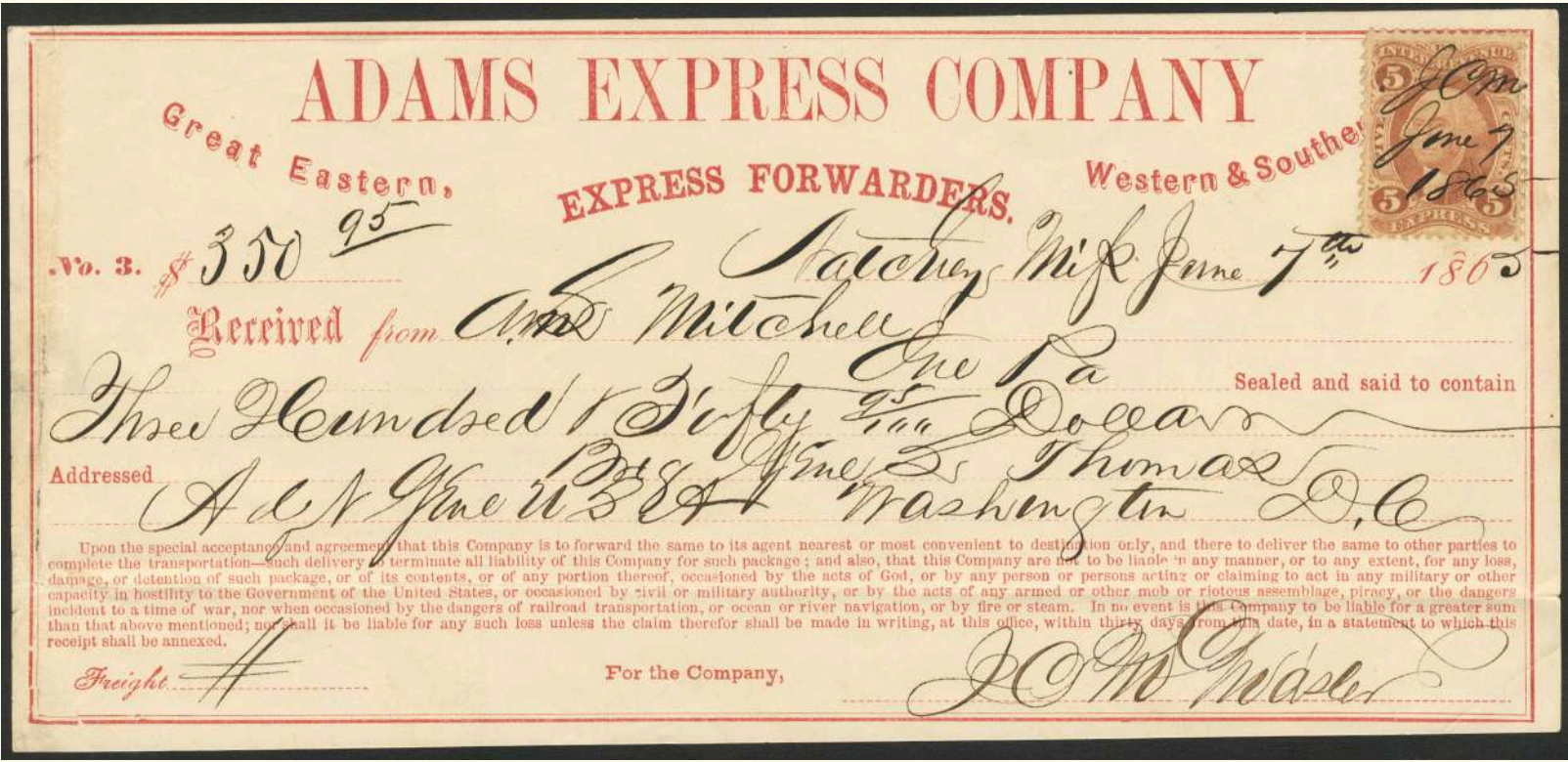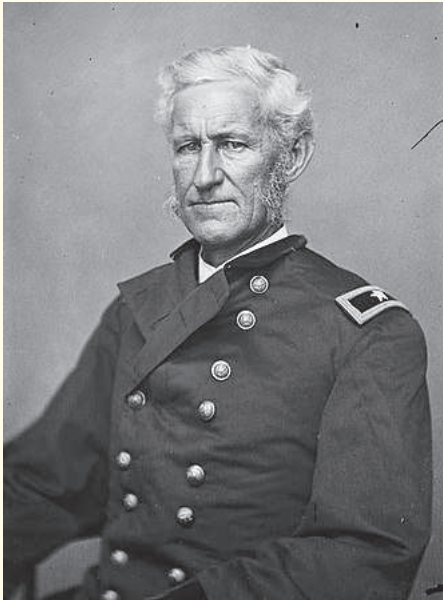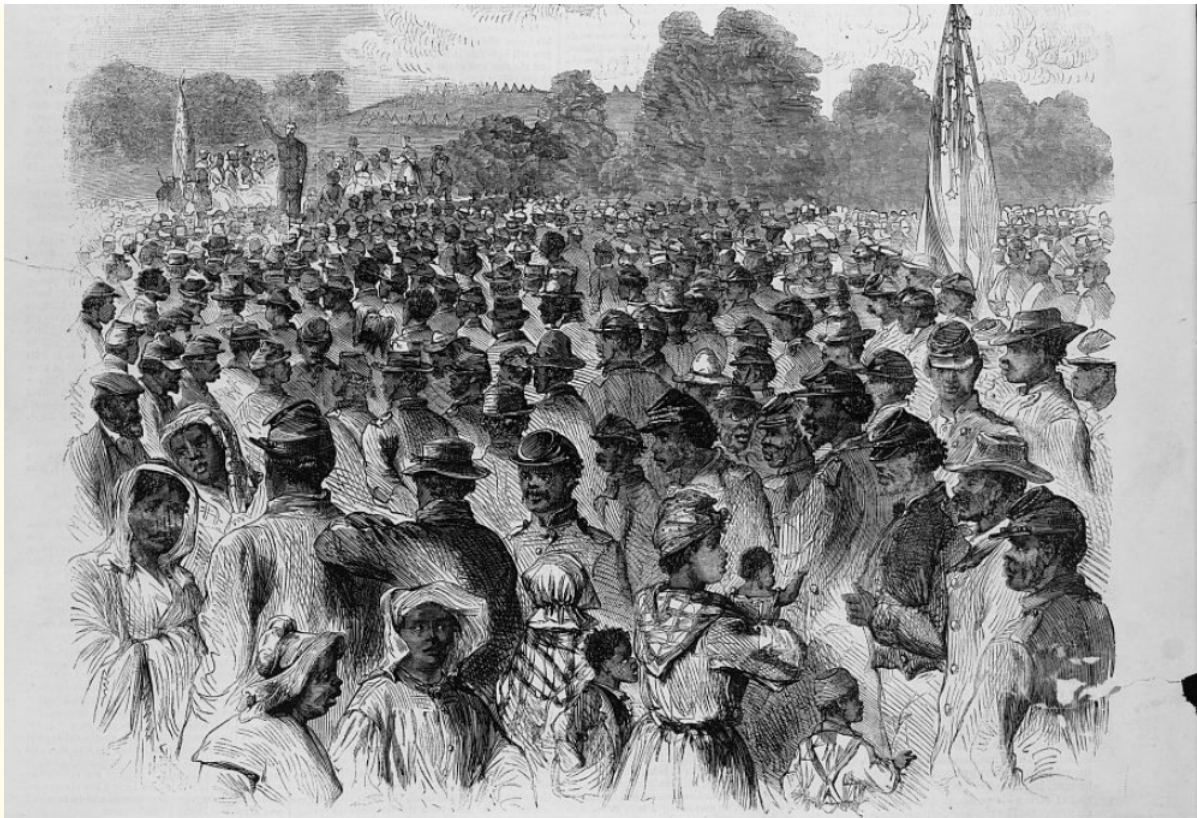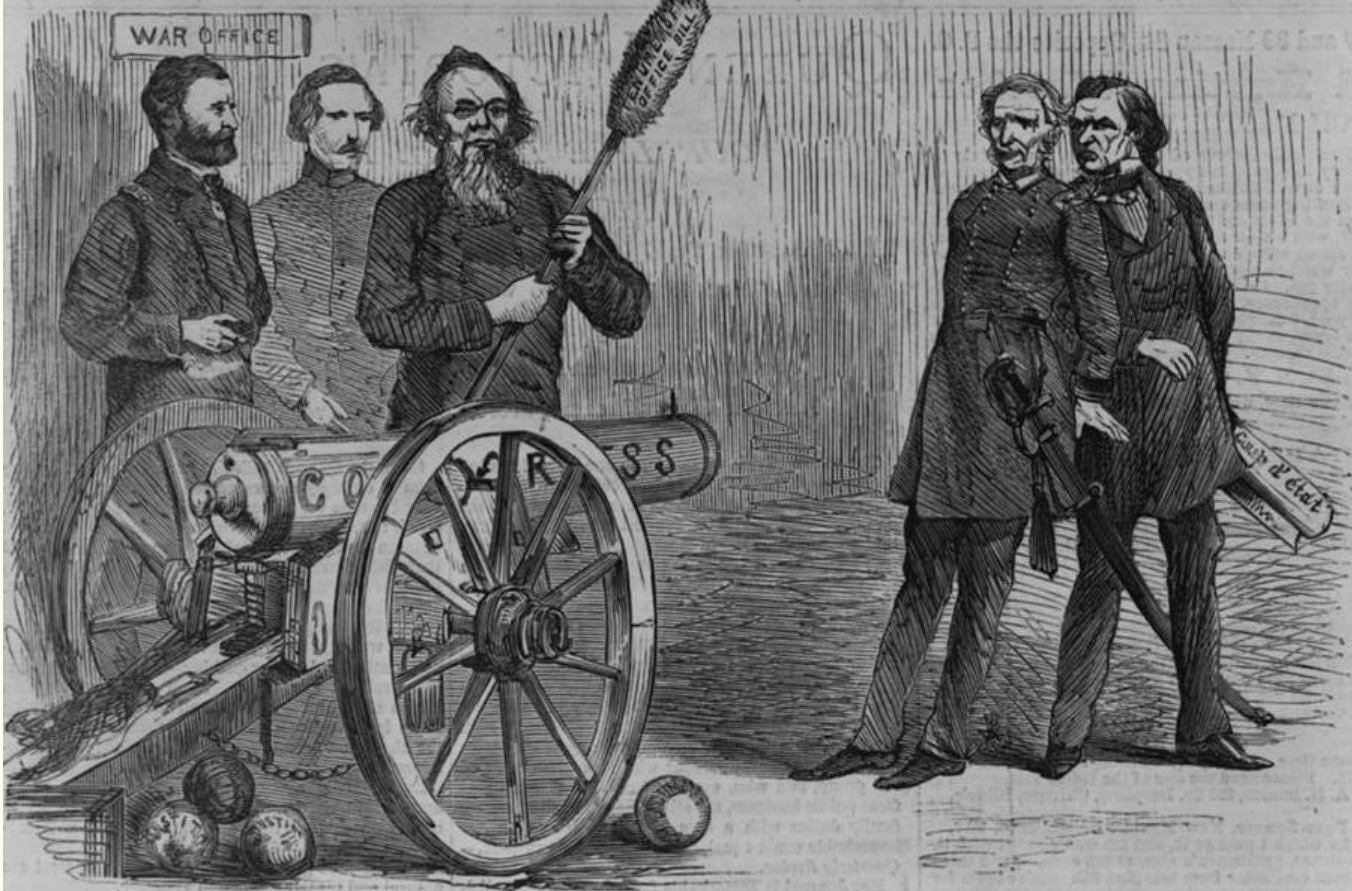

Knoxville, Tenn., Outward
January 1865, to **Pleasant Williams** in **Nashville,** 5¢ Certificate overpays 2¢ Receipt tax

Capt. Pleasant Williams, circa 1864

Gov. "Parson" Brownlow, circa 1865

Pleasant Williams, "Recalcitrant Absentee"
Pleasant Williams, recipient of $125 here, was a **minister-turned-soldier-turned-politician** sitting in the legislature at Nashville when this shipment was made.
In 1866 he would become a **centerpiece** of a **bizarre political battle.** "Parson" Brownlow, Tennessee's firebreathing governor, had scheduled an urgent session of the legislature to **ratify the 14th Amendment,** a necessary condition for the state's readmission to the Union. For **eight House members** including Williams, **citizenship for the newly-freed slaves was a bridge too far,** and they **absented themselves** to prevent a quorum. **Williams fled to his home in the mountains** of East Tennessee, only to be **followed by the House sergeant-at-arms, Captain Heydt, arrested, and forcibly returned to the capitol.** Williams and A. J. Martin were held in a separate room, this controversially considered to contribute to a quorum, while **the Amendment was ratified.** Brownlow managed to fit **two insults to President Johnson** into his telegram to the Senate: "A battle fought and won. We have carried the constitutional amendment in the House. Vote 43 to 11, **two of A. Johnson's tools refusing to vote.** My compliments to the 'dead dog' in the White House."
Williams sued for his release, duly ordered by Judge Thos. Frazier but refused, whereupon Frazier had **Heydt himself arrested by the county sheriff and 25(!) deputies.** The enraged legislature impeached and convicted Frazier at its next session. By 1870 cooler heads had prevailed and Frazier was reinstated as a judge.

9. Petersburg/Richmond (June 1864-April 1865
9.1 "Near Petersburg, Va."
9.2 City Point, Va.
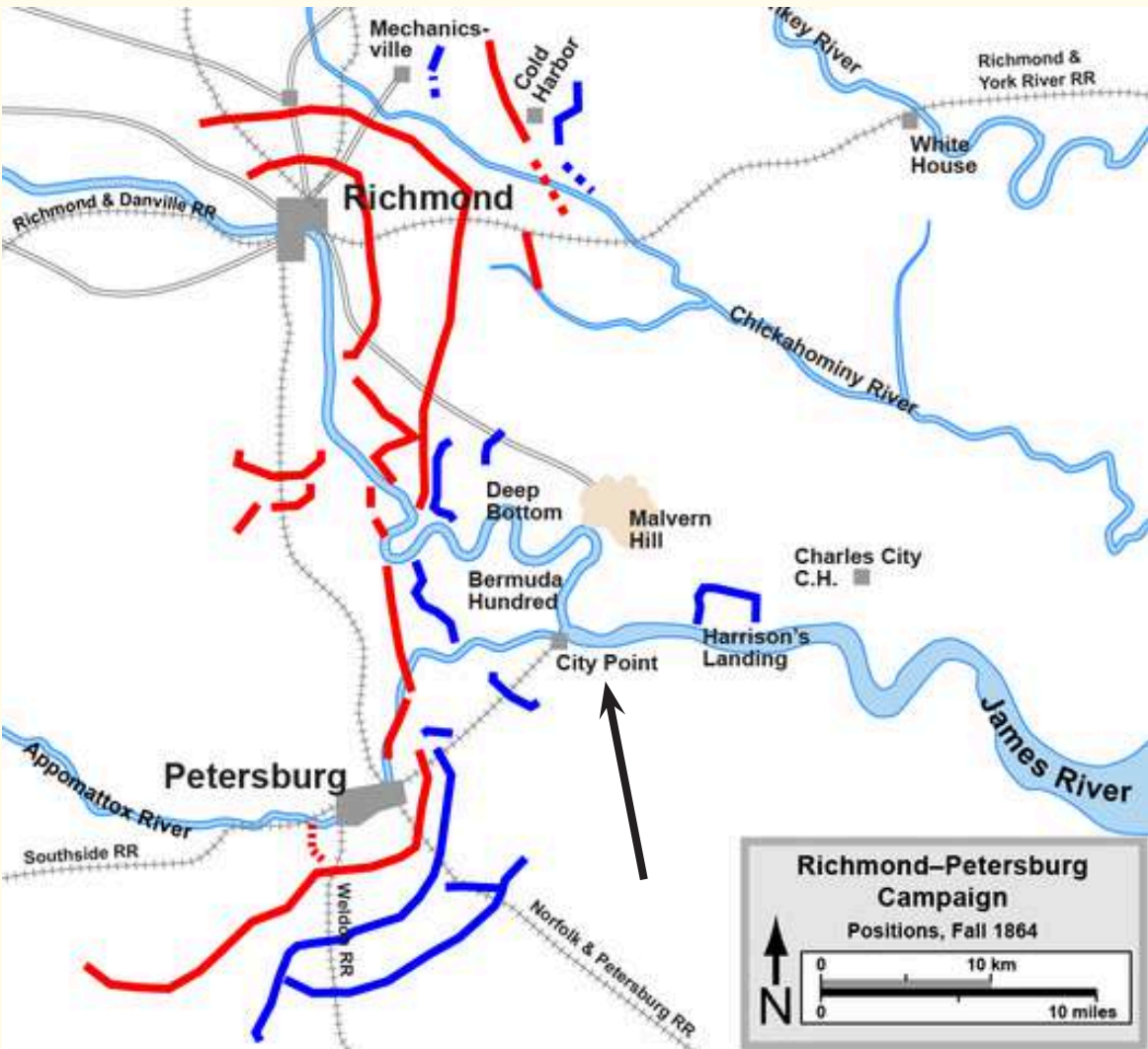
Left, Location of City Point (arrow), at the confluence of the Appomattox and James Rivers. Middle, "*Landing supplies at the wharf at City Point, Va., 1864*" (National Archives). Right, "*Depot of the U.S. Military Railroads, City Point, Va., 1864, showing the engine 'President.'* " (National Archives).

Months earlier none of this had existed, and in a few years virtually all would be gone without a trace.

9.1. Petersburg, Va. (Besieged June 1864)
Sole recorded example to/from Petersburg

Petersburg, fifteen mile south of Richmond, was its main supply center and last line of defense. It would resist all efforts to occupy it, including several direct attacks, then a nine-month siege beginning in June 1864, until Robert E. Lee ordered the simultaneous retreat from both Petersburg and Richmond on April 2, 1865.

" 'Sharpshooters 18th Corps,' General Grant's Campaign - In the trenches before Petersburg"
(A.R. Waud, *Harper's Weekly Magazine*, August 6, 1864)

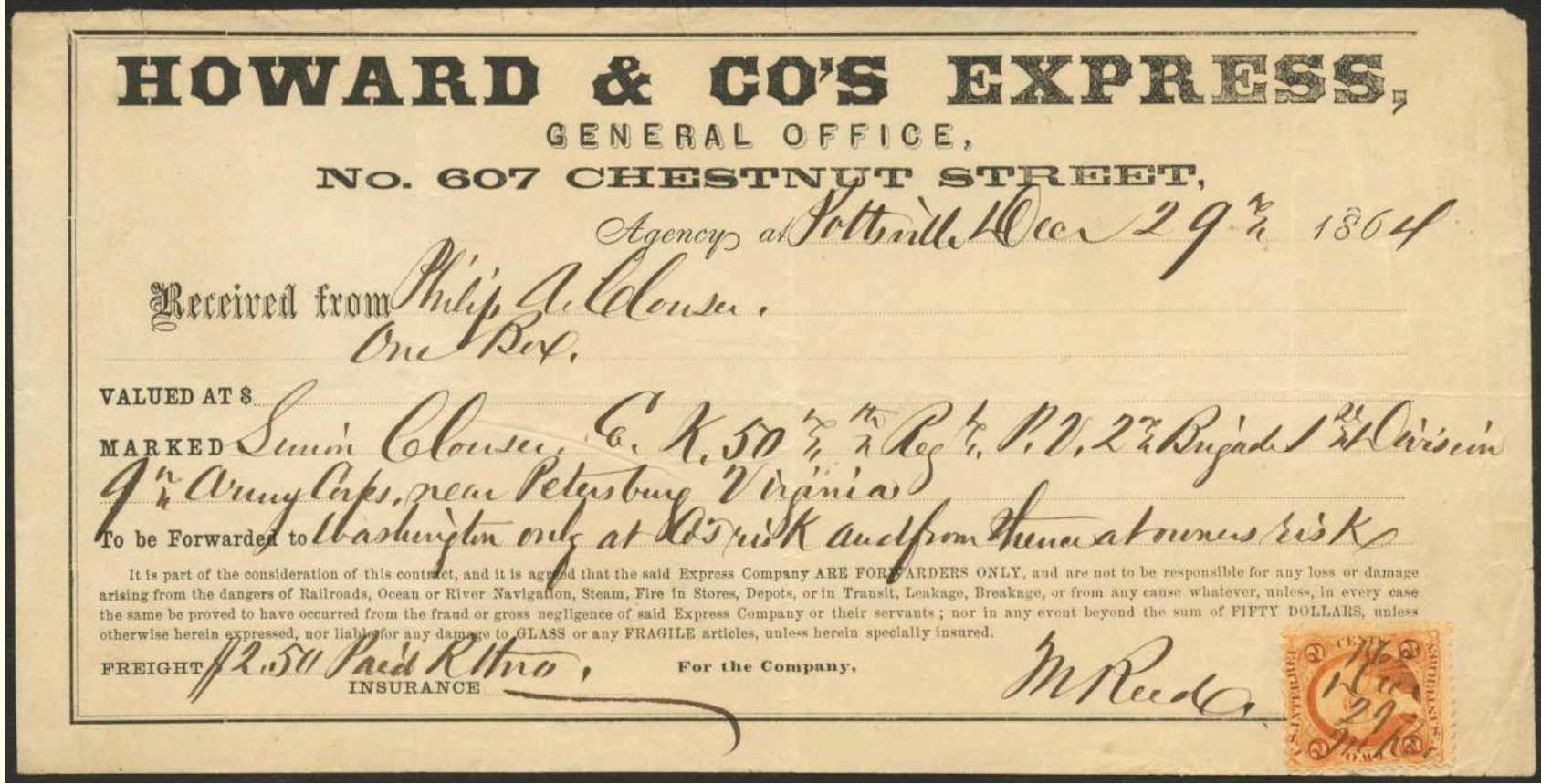*This was not a traditional siege in which a city is surrounded, rather two facing lines of trenches and forts west of Petersburg, eventually reaching 30 miles, the Confederate defenders stretched progressively thinner until the line could finally be breached.*

"Near Petersburg, Va." Inward

December 1864, Pottsville, Pa., to Simon Clauser, 50th Pa. Vols., 2¢ U.S. Inter Rev.
"to Washington only at Co's risk, and from there at owners risk"
(A March 1863 receipt for money sent by Clauser from Aquia Creek, Va., to his family is shown above.)

9.2 City Point, Va. (Occupied June 1864)
### Six examples to/from City Point recorded

*On **June 18, 1864,** U.S. Grant ordered creation of a **supply depot at City Point** to **support the forces besieging Petersburg.** The result was **unparalleled in military history,** capable of supporting an army of 500,000 men, with over 280 buildings, eight wharves, warehouses totaling over 100,000 square feet, and an **intricate rail network** of over 22 miles, transporting over a half million tons of supplies.*

Its repair shops maintained over 5,000 wagons, and facilities maintained the 60,000 animals necessary to support Grant's army. Its hospitals treated 15,000 wounded with medical care unsurpassed in a field environment. A few years later all was gone with barely a trace!
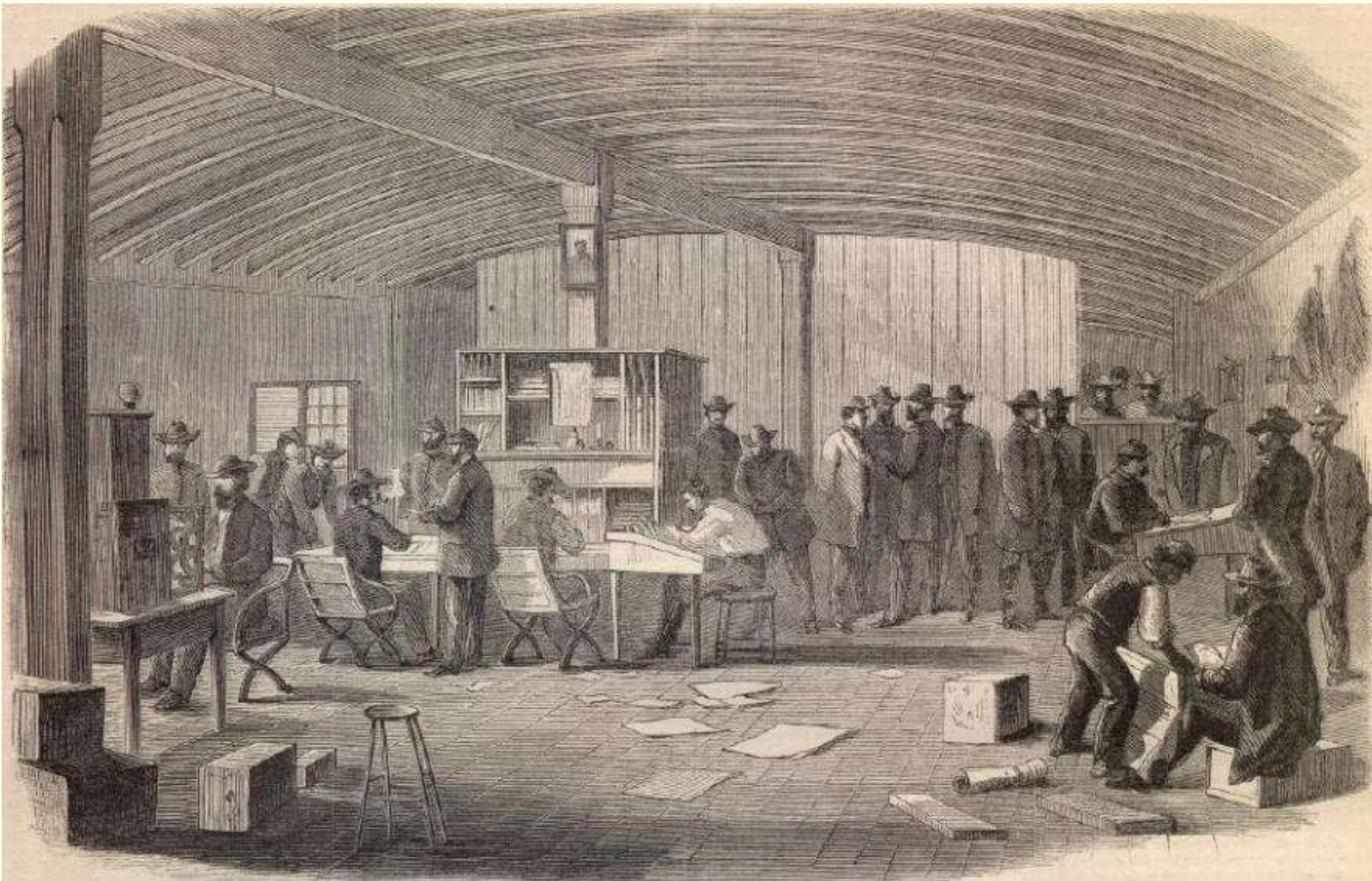
"Adams Express Office at City Point, Virginia, On Pay-Day" (J. R Hamilton, *Harper's Weekly Magazine*, November 5, 1865)
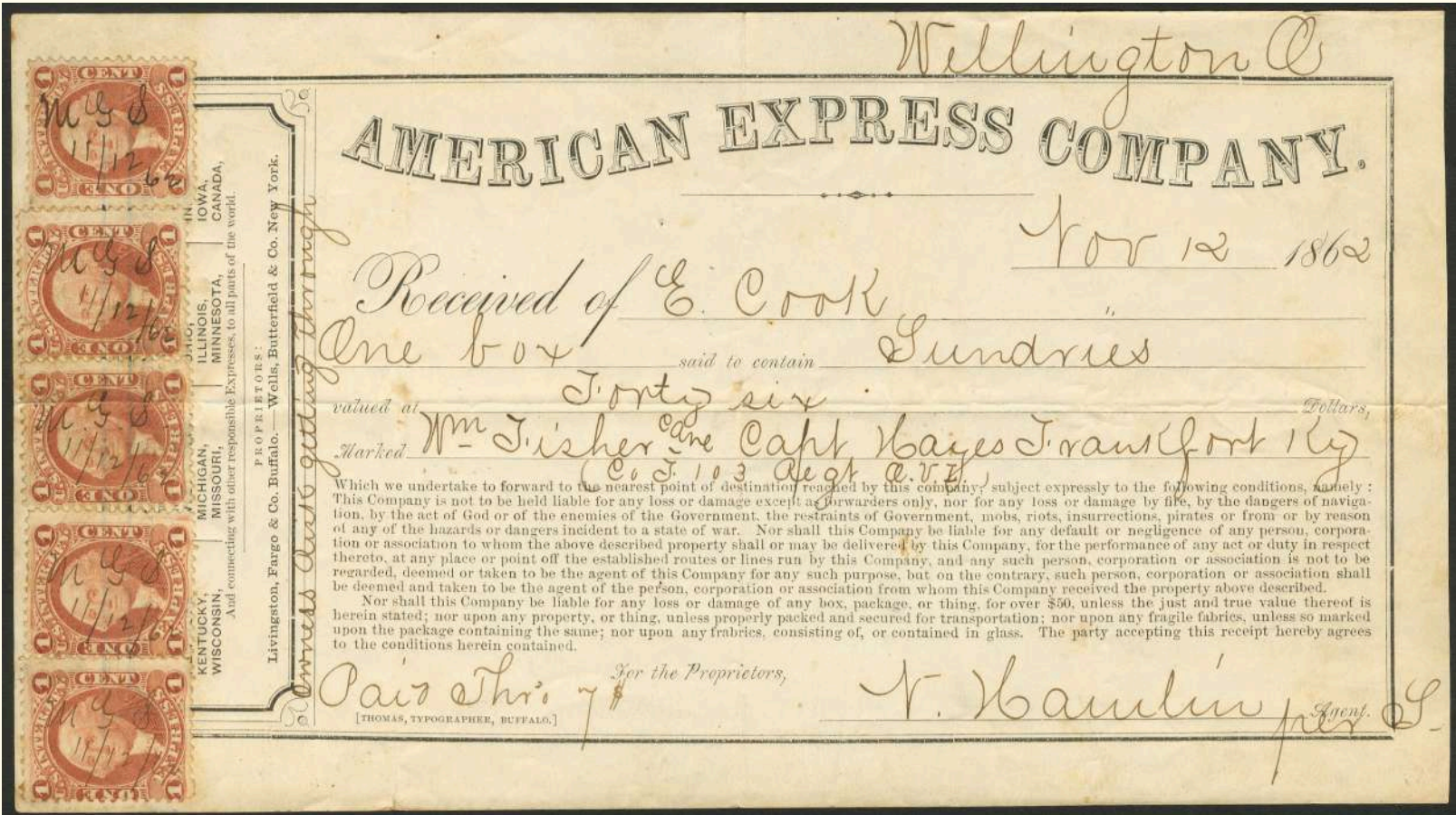
"Few people, in looking at that rough, common-looking barge, moored along the wharf at City Point—and which many hardly recognize as the office of Adams Express Company, in spite of the large flag at the stern announcing the fact plainly enough–could imagine the vast amount of business transacted on board of it. Having to do not only the freighting, but what literally amounts to the banking business of the thousands comprising an army, one may suppose is no ordinary labor ; but very few who have not witnessed the modus operandi can realize how immensely that labor is increased by the necessary lack of all those technical facilities by which banking establishments are carried on, and which it is impossible to find at the temporary base of an army constantly in motion. It is an average thing, irrespective of the large amount of freight constantly going to and from the office at City Point, for from 50,000 to 75,000 dollars in money to be daily transmitted, in individual packages, from the soldiers to their friends at home; and there are days when the aggregate can not fall short of 150,000 dollars.
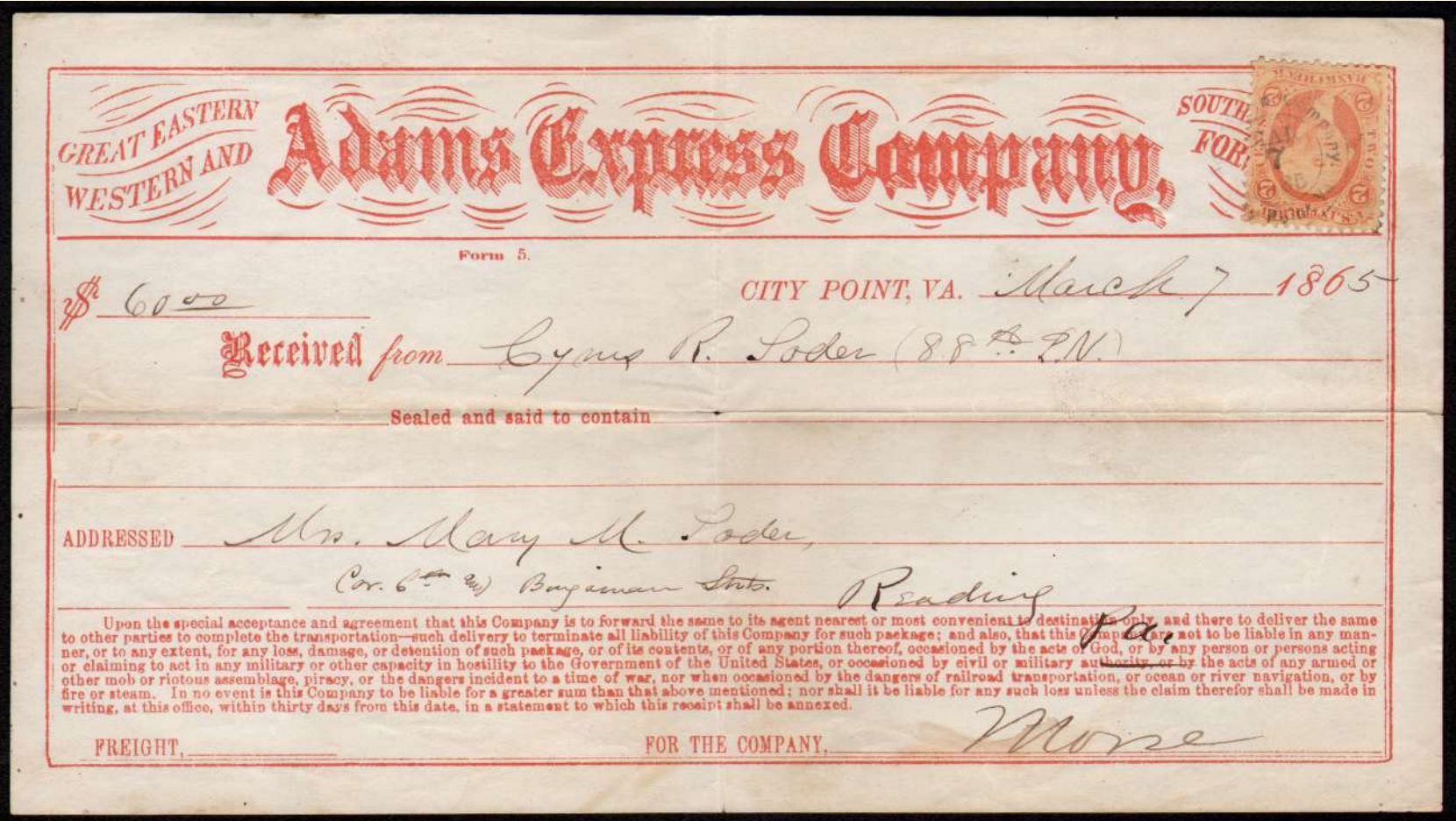
City Point, Va., Outward

March 1865, $60 from soldier in 88th Pa. Vols., to his family in Reading, 2¢ Bank Check orange

10. "Occupied Kentucky" (November 1862)

"Owner's Risk getting through"; "Paid Thr'o 7$"
For delivery of a **package worth $46** over a **relatively short distance,** the **charge of $7 seems exorbitant** — until one realizes that:
- the intended recipient ("Wm. Fisher, Co. F 103 Regt. O. V. I.") was in the **Ohio Volunteer Infantry in the field near Frankfort,**
- and the **invasion of Kentucky by Braxton Bragg's army, the Confederate high-water mark in the West,** had just taken place. Bragg's troops had in fact been **in Frankfort in late September** to **forcibly seat a short-lived Secessionist legislature.**

The manuscript notations thus reflect an understandable anticipation of a potentially difficult delivery.

But does *"getting through"* simply denote arrival at the destination, or more excitingly, does it anticipate passage though Confederate-held territory?

Frankfort, Ky., Inward

November 12, 1862, Wellington, Ohio, "one box Sundries" **to soldier in 103rd Ohio Volunteers,** 1¢ Express strip of five, manuscript notations **"Owner's Risk getting through"** and **"Paid Thr'o 7$."** Ex-Turner

An **extremely early Express usage,** just two days later than the earliest recorded. According to the *Boston Book*, the 1¢ Express had been first delivered by the printers only on October 23, 1862, and the 2¢ and 5¢ stamps did not follow until **November 20.**

On November 12, the 5¢ rate could have been paid only as it was here, by five 1¢ stamps.

Addendum: Washington, D.C.
Twenty examples to/from Washington recorded
Geographically, **Washington, D.C.,** was a **Southern city,** surrounded by seceded Virginia and the slave state of Maryland. At the outset of hostilities, its vulnerability to attack became a matter of urgent concern. Army regulars were ordered to the city, and by the end of April, some 11,000 had arrived, housed in makeshift camps in nearly every available space. Eventually the city was **completely encircled by a defensive perimeter of 37 miles, comprised 68 forts, 93 batteries armed with over 800 cannons, and 20 miles of trenches.** Ideally it would have been manned by a force of some 23,000, but the actual figure was usually roughly half that.

Washington, D.C., Inward (I)
December 9, 1862, Harnden's Express soldiers form, Boston., to soldier in 14th Mass., 5¢ Express imperforate
Very early usage of this stamp (issued November 20; earliest December 1)
Two examples of this spectacular form recorded

Defensive perimeter encircling Washington, D.C., completed Spring 1864
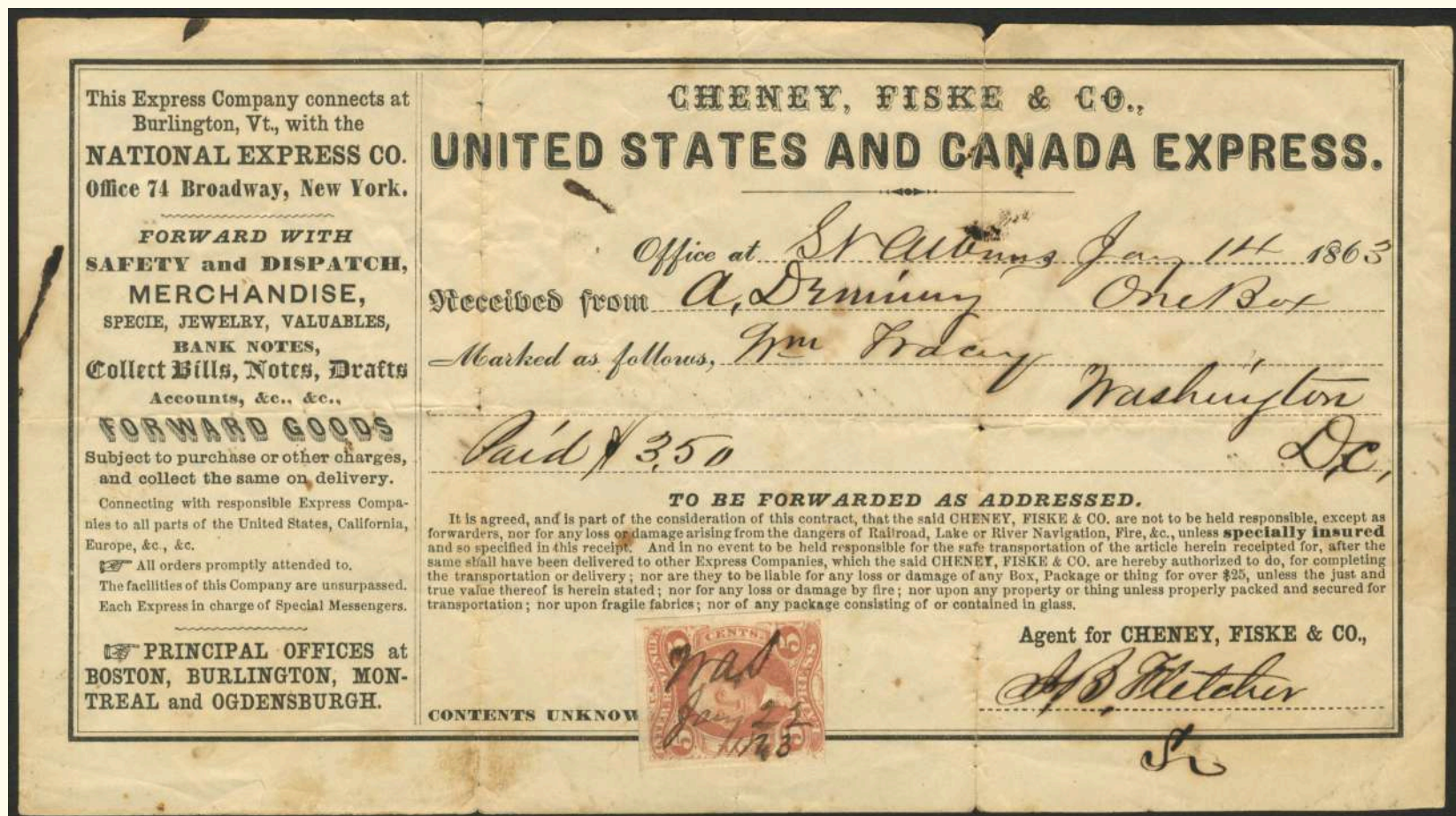
Washington, D.C., Inward (II)
January 1863, Cheney Fiske & Co., United States and Canada Express, St. Albans, Vt., 5¢ Express imperforate
Sole recorded example for this express

Washington, D.C., Inward (III)
December 1862 Army and Soldiers Package Express, Boston, to soldier in 10th Mass. Battery,
2¢ Express blue imperforate
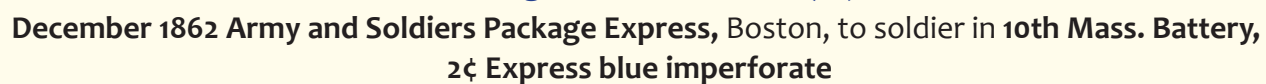
Washington, D.C., Inward (IV)
February 1863 Army and Soldiers Package Express, Boston, to soldier in 37th Mass. Battery,
5¢ Express part perforate
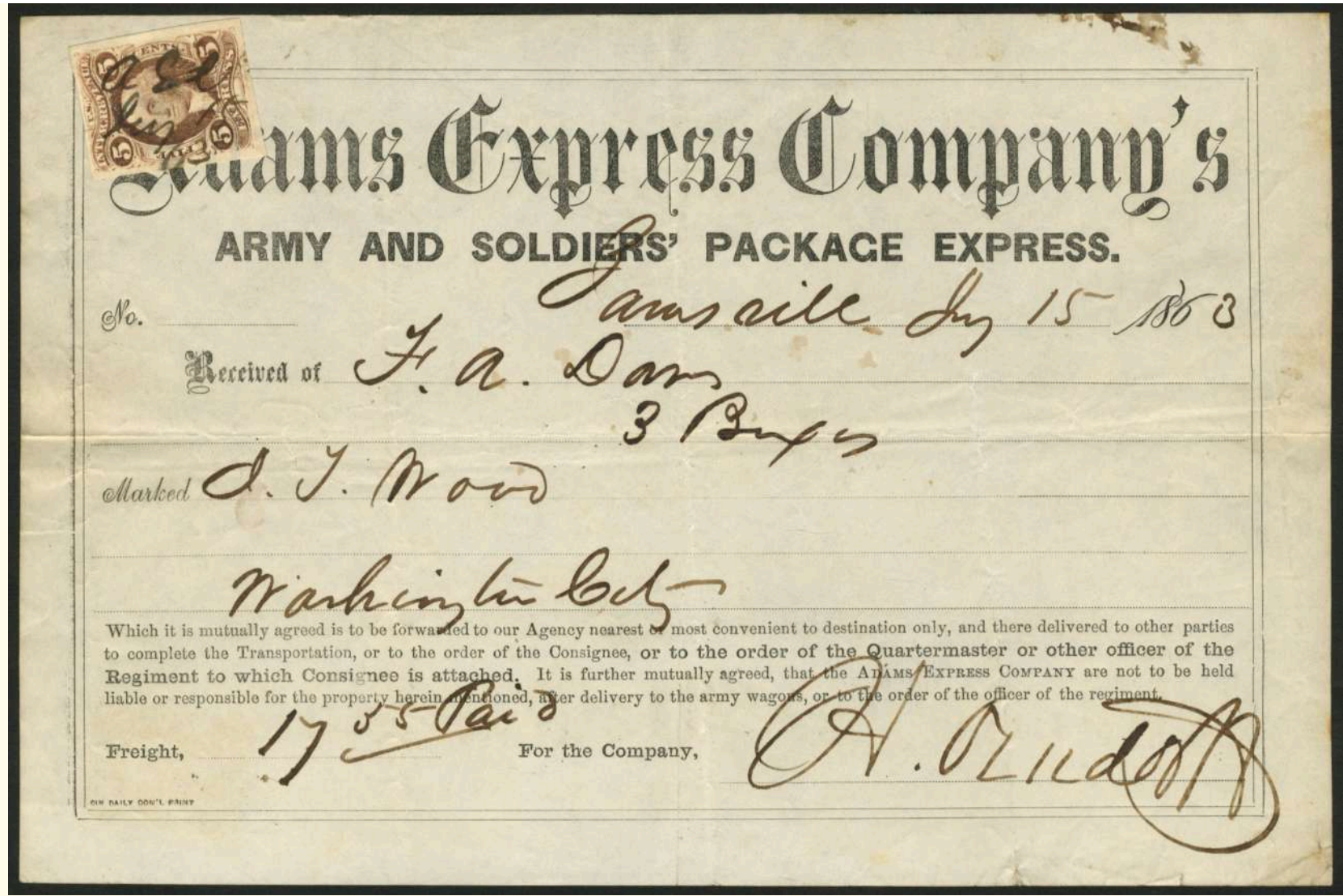
Washington, D.C., Inward (V)

January 1863 **Army and Soldiers Package Express,** Zanesville, Ohio, **5¢ Express imperforate**
Presumably the "3 Boxes" had a fuller address than this receipt!


**Washington, D.C., Inward (VI): to Bremen Ambassador**

December 1862, **Oelrichs & Co.,** New York, for "*Three trunks, Twenty Two Boxes & One Chair,*"
to **Hon. Dr. R(udolph). Schleiden (Ambassador of Bremen to the U.S.), 5¢ Express imperforate**
Sole recorded example of this striking bicolored pictorial form

Schleiden's Peace Mission

In **April 1861 Schleiden,** having first received **informal support from Secretary of State Seward and President Lincoln,** traveled to **Richmond** to confer with **Alexander Stevens, Confederate Vice President,** on **conditions which might lead to a truce.**

Schleiden had **resided in the same house as Stevens during the latter's time in the Senate,** and on learning that Stevens would be in Richmond, broached the idea of a meeting with him to Seward.

The meeting took place **April 26, 1861.** In an **initial three-hour discussion,** Stevens imaginatively **interpreted the Baltimore riot of a week earlier as a vote for secession,** and included **addition of Maryland in the Confederacy** and/or an end of troop movements through the state among his proposed conditions for a truce. Schleiden asked for a **formal written statement,** and with it in hand debated for another two hours, citing its "*significant amount of mistrust coupled with . . . a substantial amount of misplaced honor.*" By meeting's end Scheiden had lost hope, noting also the **surging support for war** evident on the **streets of Richmond.**

While it predictably came to naught, the Schleiden-Stevens meeting is **historically useful** for pointing up **Seward's interest, a month into the war, in forestalling hostilities,** generally attributed to his misplaced optimism that Unionist sentiment might yet prevail in the South.
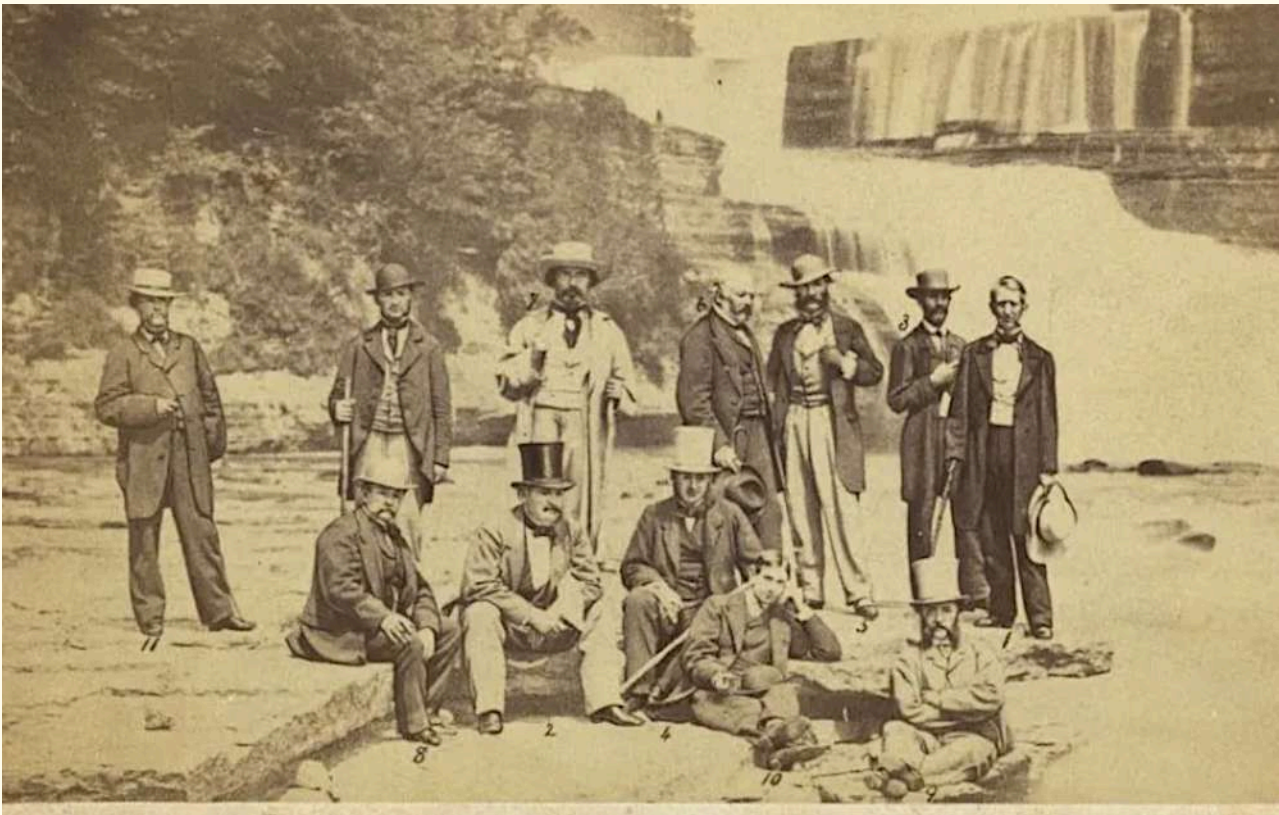

Schleiden (6, standing, center) with **Secretary of State William Seward** (1, far right) and a **delegation of diplomats at Trenton Falls, New York, 1863,** including **Lord Lyons,** British Minister (4) and M. Mercier, French Minister (5)
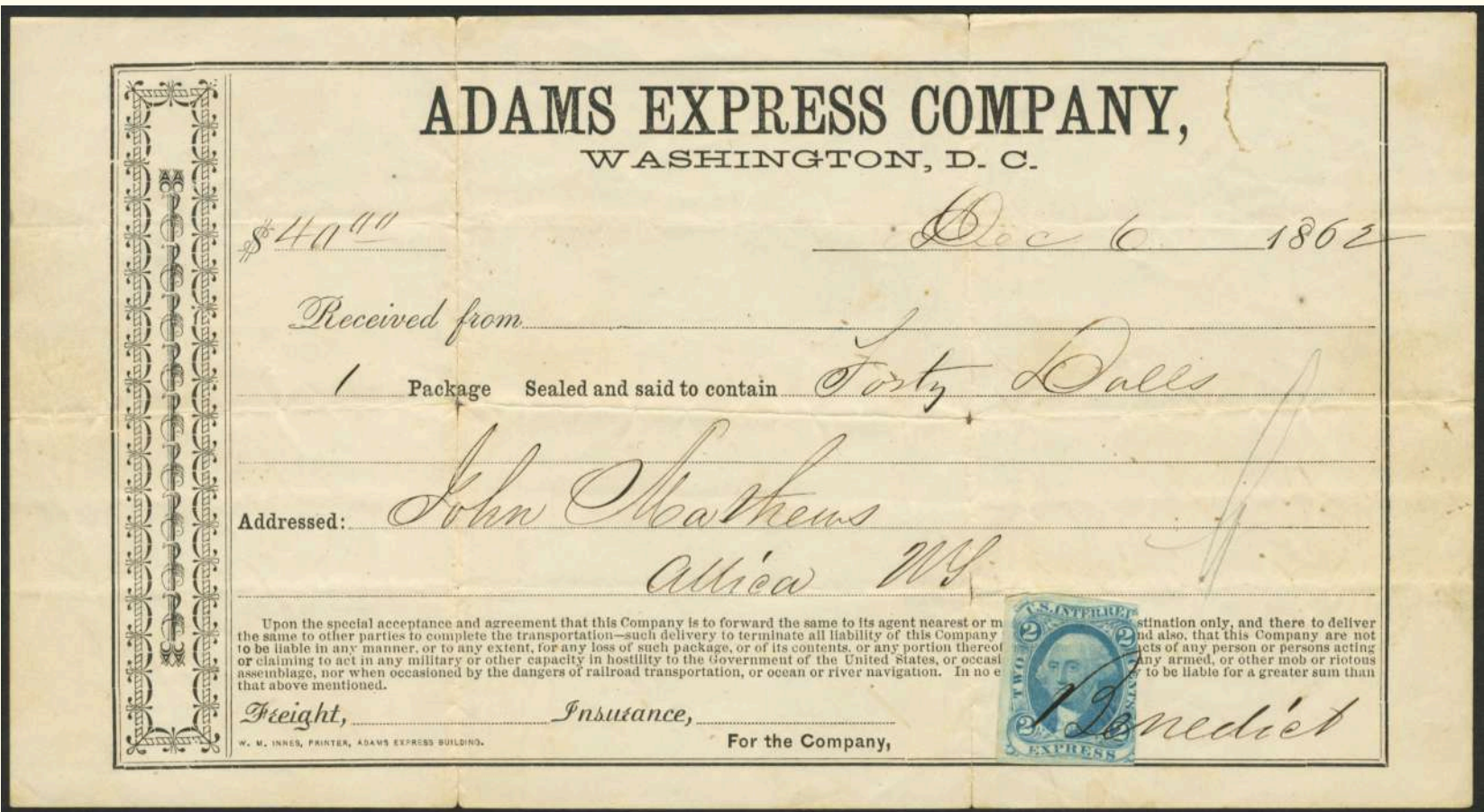(Library of Congress)
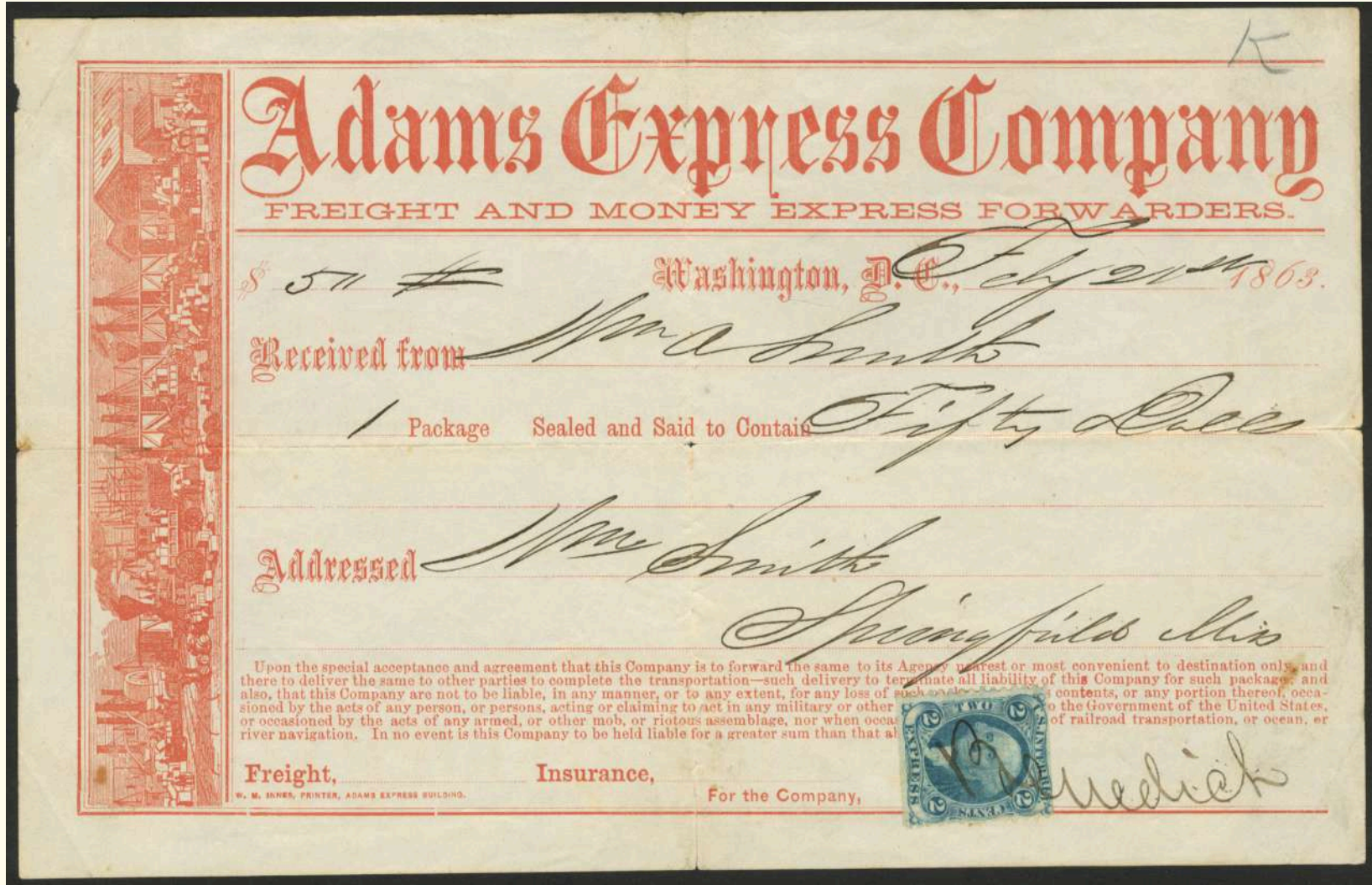
Washington, D.C., Outward (I)

February 1863, $50 to Springfield, Ill., **2¢ Express blue part perforate**
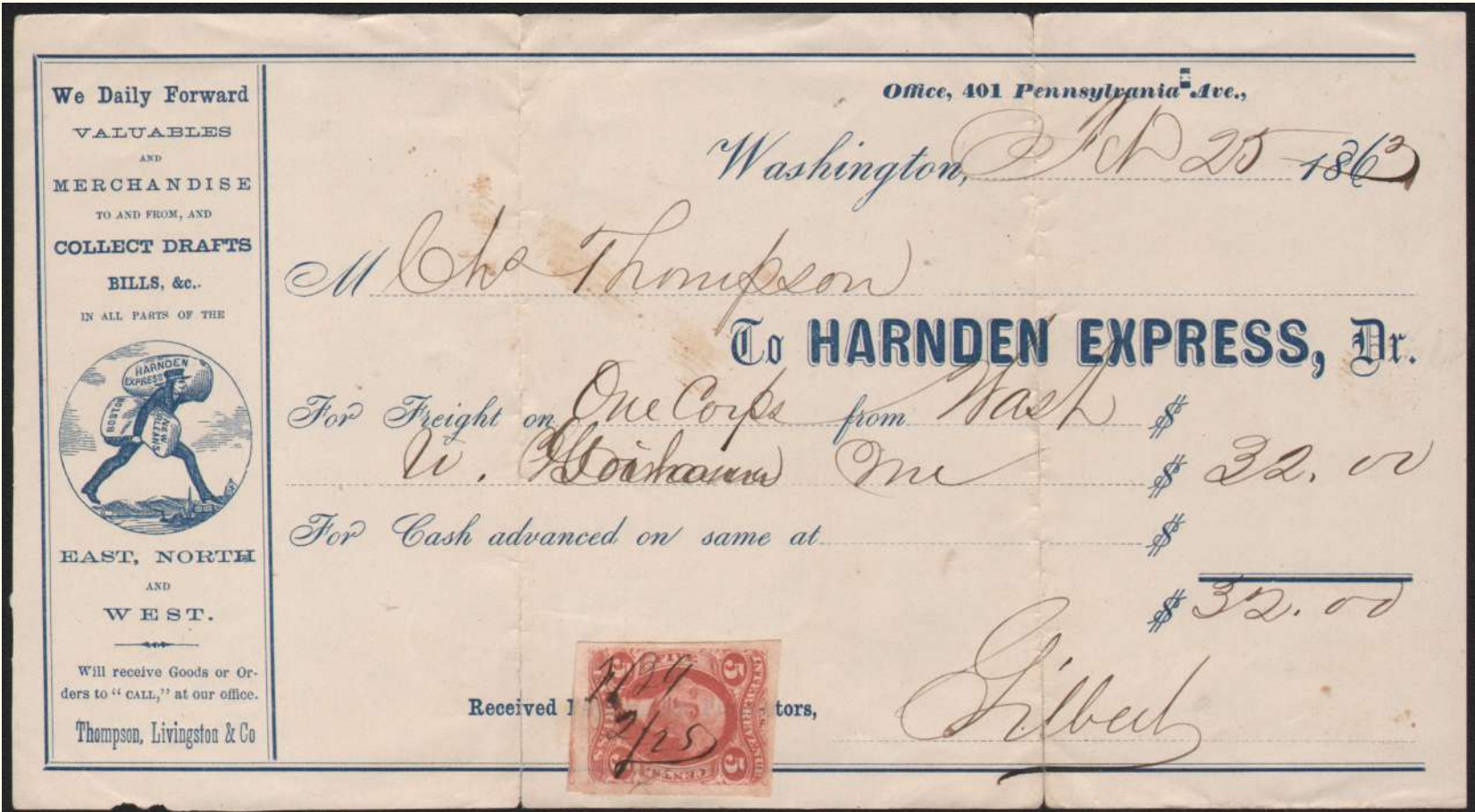**Two examples of this striking form recorded in red**
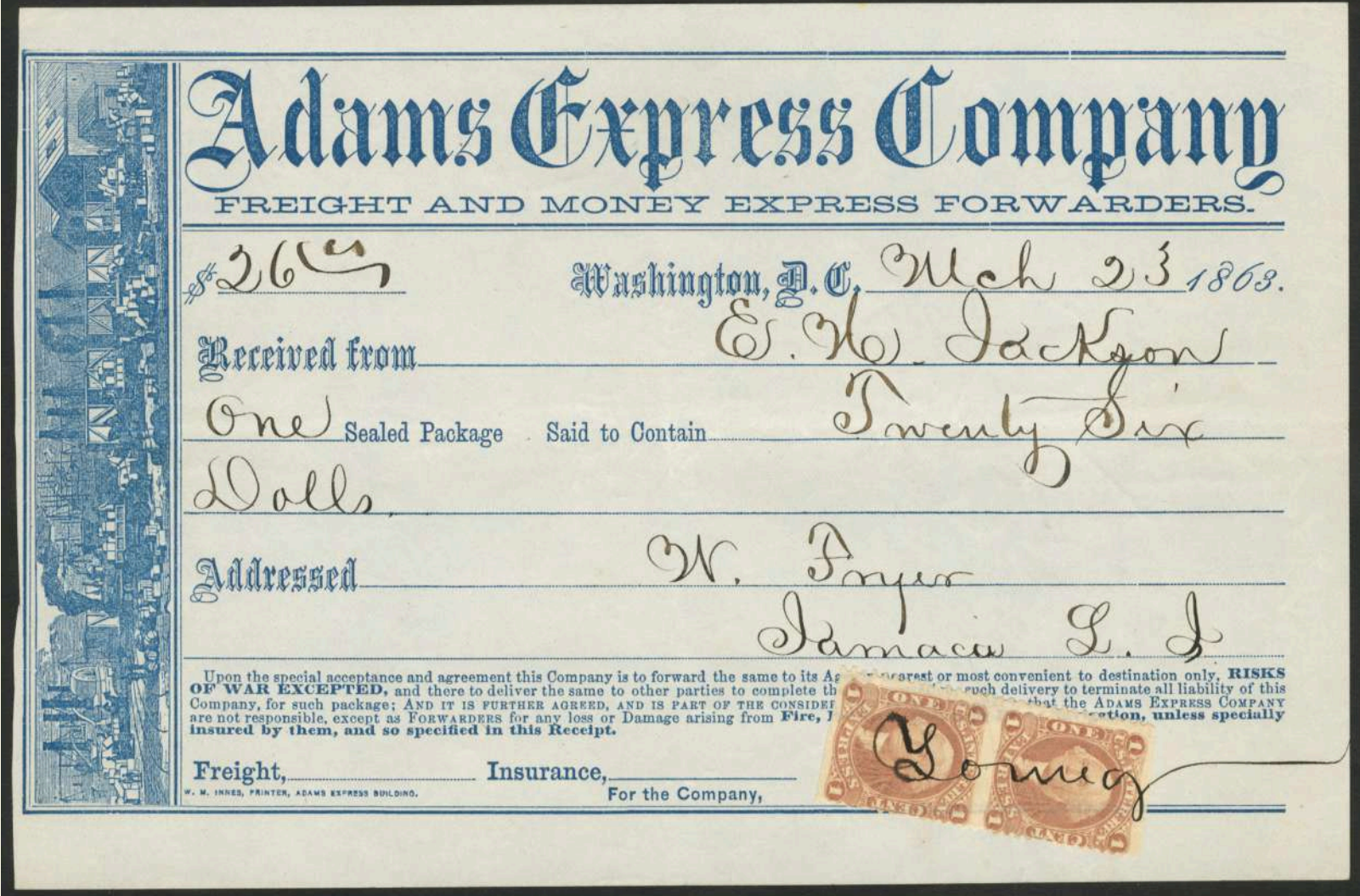
Washington, D.C., Outward (II)

March 1863, $26 to Jamaica, L.I., N.Y., **1¢ Express part perforate pair**
Two examples of this striking form recorded in blue

Washington, D.C., Outward (III)

December 1862, $40 to Attica, N.Y., **2¢ Express blue imperforate**

Washington, D.C., Outward (III): "One Corpse"

February 1863, to W. Gorham, Maine, **5¢ Express imperforate**
Five receipts for transmission of a corpse recorded (four on Harnden Washington forms)