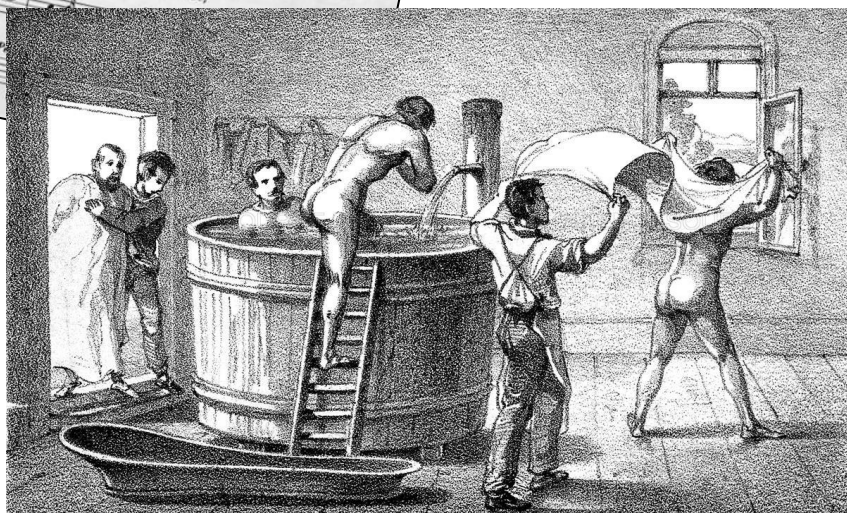
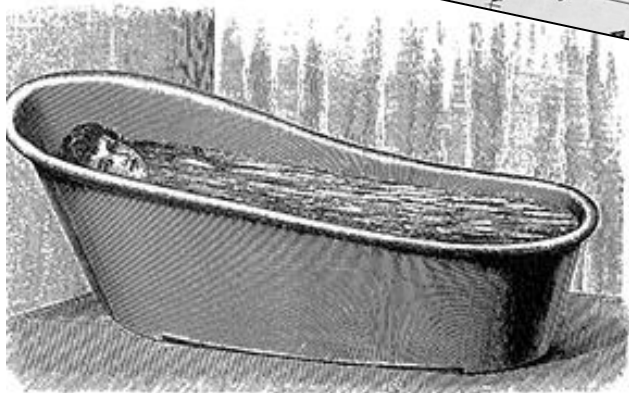
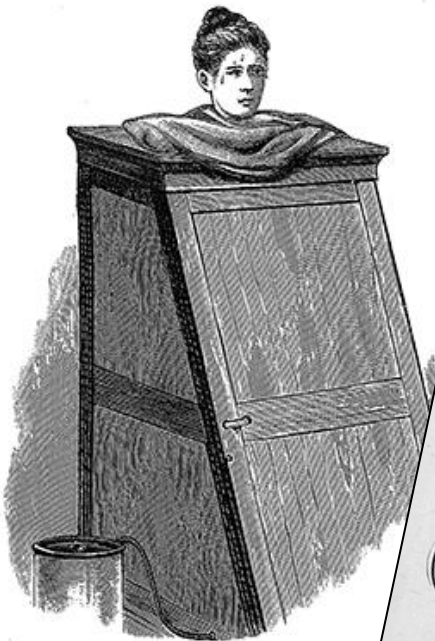


WATER - CURE

Hydrotherapy In the Mid 19th Century and its Philatelic Legacy





Bennington, VT to Springfield, MA. Three 1¢ 1851 issue type II adhesives used on illustrated envelope depicting Dr. Shew's facility at the corner of 12th Street and University Place in New York City.

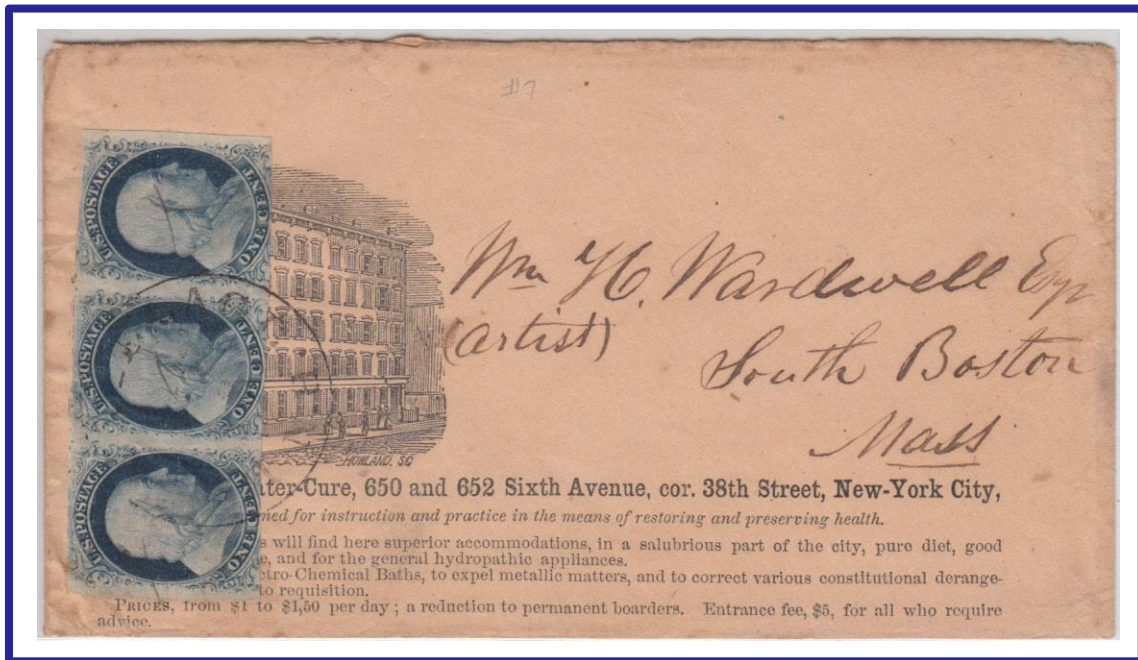
DR. SHEW'S WATER-CURE ESTABLISHMENT, on the corner of Twelfth street and University Place, is now in successful operation.

The house is pleasantly situated in the upper part of the city, away from the noise and confusion of business. In fact, it is almost equal to a residence in the country.

The advantages for treating diseases on Hydropathic principles at this place, are not surpassed by any other in our city. For terms, see advertisement.

Water Cure Journal and Herald
of Reforms, May 1850

Dr Shew's New York Water-Cure Institution. In 1843, Dr. Joel Shew (1816-1865) established a hydropathic treatment business in New York City, the first of its kind in America. He and his wife, Marie Louise Shew, ran the center out of their home on 4th Street. By 1846, the Shews had relocated to 56 Bond Street, and about 1849 opened the establishment on 12th Street. He would later move his facility to Oyster Bay, Long Island.

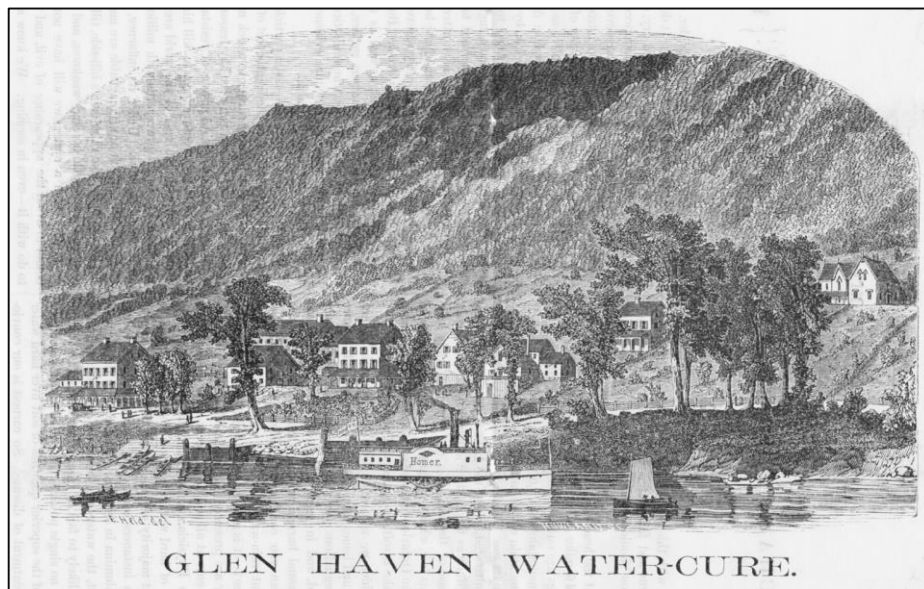


New Hampshire to South Boston, MA. Indistinct town cancellation on strip of three of 1¢ 1851 Type II. Illustrated cover with "Howland" engraver's imprint. Docketed "Aug 19/56" on verso.

Dr. Taylor's Water-Cure. George H. Taylor, born January 4, 1821 in Williston, Vermont., graduated from the New York Medical College in 1852 and started practicing at a hydropathic institution called the New York City Water Cure before establishing his own practice in 1853.



Scott, NY to Atkinson, NH. 3¢ 1851 adhesive. Cameo corner card advertising J. C. Jackson, Hydropathic Physician, Glen Haven Water Cure.



The Glen Haven Water Cure opened in 1847 on the south end of Skaneateles Lake in upstate New York. Patrons would take the railroad to Skaneateles or Homer, NY through either Syracuse or Binghamton. Once there, patrons had the choice of accommodations in ten buildings on the campus and an assortment of treatments. The mailing address for the facility was the nearby town of Scott, NY,



Homer, NY to Atkinson, NH. Strip of three of the 1¢ 1851 adhesive with 1¢ green Glen Haven local post adhesive on circular advertising Glen Haven Water Cure.

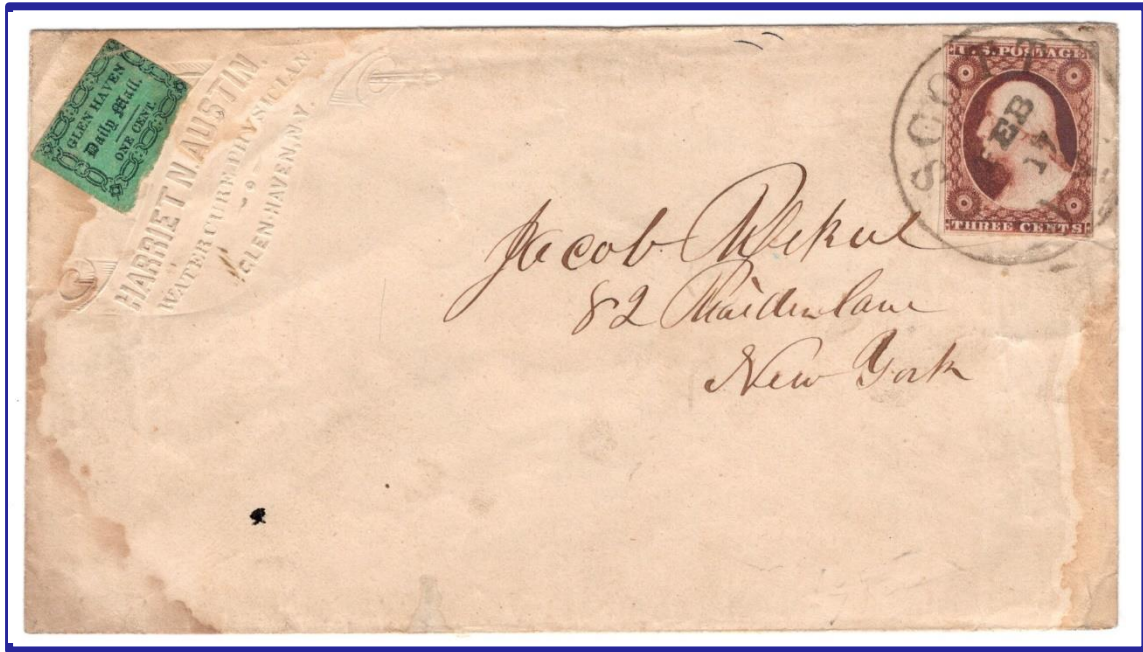
GLEN HAVEN WATER-CURE,
HOMER,
CORTLAND CO., NEW YORK.

PHYSICIANS:
JAMES C. JACKSON, MRS. L. E. JACKSON,
WILLIAM JANSEN, HARRIET N. AUSTIN.

To Sick Women :-
I want to talk to you of WATER-CURE. I want to talk plainly, sensibly, and truthfully. I wish I had the tongue of an angel to do it with; but I am only a woman, and the influence of woman with others of her sex is proverbially small. Nevertheless, I am impelled to speak, and I respectfully yet earnestly entreat you to

seen water-treatment applied to hundreds on hundreds of females who were bed-ridden, or confined to their sick-rooms, or ailing, or sick, or "given up" by scientific and skilful men, and I have seen such rise from their beds, leave their sick-rooms, give up their ailments, cast off the sickness of years, and, from skeleton witnesses of the ill effects of drug-treatment, go forth the blithe, hearty, fleshy

Between 1850 and 1859, guests at the Glen Haven Water Cure had no nearby U.S. post office. The closest was four miles south in the tiny hamlet of Scott, with a larger post office seven miles farther on, in the town of Homer. As a service to its guests, Glen Haven carried letters to Homer or Scott, depending upon the weather, for one penny per letter. Any incoming mail was picked up free of charge, and brought back to the hotel guests.



Scott, NY To New York City. 3¢ 1851 adhesive with 1¢ green Glen Haven local post adhesive on envelope. Circa 1855. Scott, NY was the nearest town with a post office.



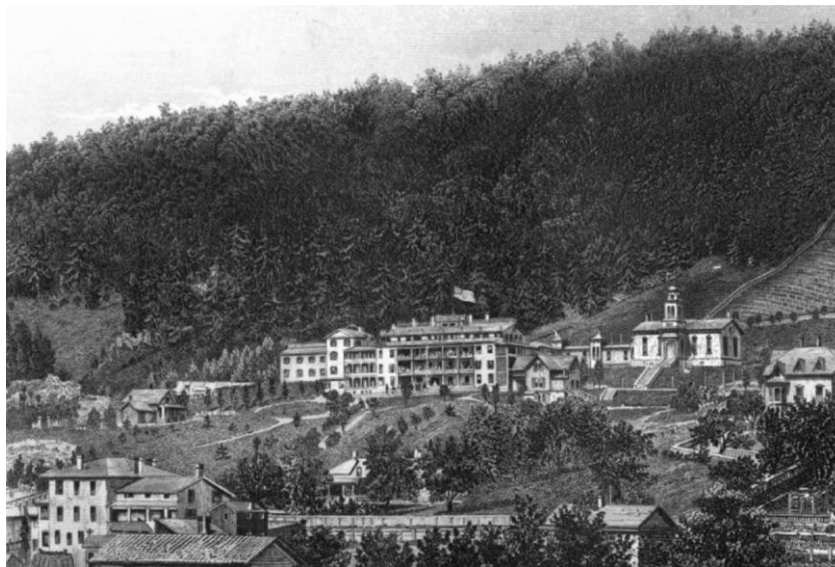
Dr. Austin in her "American costume"

After receiving her degree, Austin found work as a physician at a water cure sanitarium in Owasco, New York. During her time there she formed a professional relationship with James Caleb Jackson, who ran the Glen Haven Water Cure. Jackson invited Austin to join him to manage the treatment of female patients. She would go on to become his business partner and editor of their magazine, *The Laws of Life and Journal of Health*. In 1858, they opened Our Home on the Hill in Danville, NY which would go on to become the nation's largest water cure facility in the 1860s.

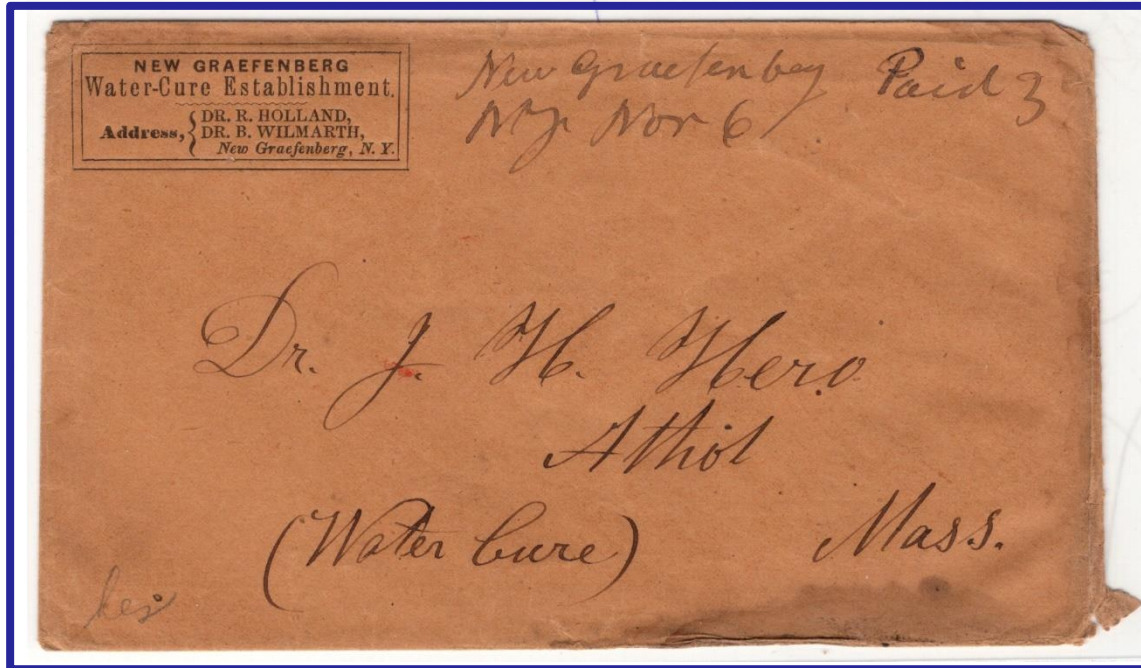
At Our Home, female patients wore an "American costume" that Austin designed: a tunic or shortened dress, with hem landing at the knee, worn over loose pants. The garments were designed to minimize restrictions on women's movement and promote health and hygiene. Our Home sold patterns so women could make their own American costumes at home



Dansville, NY To Lewiston, IL 3¢ 1857-61 adhesive. Cameo-style corner card advertising J. C. Jackson, Water Cure Physician. Enclosed letter from Dr. Jackson is dated March 2, 1859.



The Dansville Water Cure opened in 1854 and had a number of owners before James Caleb Jackson, MD (1811-1895) took over the facility in 1858. Dr. Jackson was a personal friend of both Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony, and he was Clara Barton's personal physician. Possibly as a result of their relationship, the first chapter of the American Red Cross opened in Dansville, NY. The original water cure building was consumed by fire in the 1880s.



New Graefenberg Water Cure

Dr. Holland takes pleasure in announcing to his friends, and those invalids desirous of trying Hydropathic treatment at his Establishment, that he has secured the services of B. Wilmarth, M.D., of Milford, Mass., late of Hope Dale Water-Cure, to aid, with his experience and skill, in their restoration to health.

Dr. Wilmarth has had twenty years Allopathic and five years Hydropathic practice. With such experience he feels confident that success cannot fail to crown his efforts.

This Establishment, having been in operation for the last three and a half years, during which time many hundred patients testify to its success, still affords peculiar advantages to invalids.

Connected with the Establishment is a large Ball Alley, kept exclusively for the recreation and exercise of the patients.

Terms. — From five to eight dollars per week.

Patients arriving at Utica by railroad, will be met at the Depot or National Hotel, by giving a day or two's notice by mail. Address, Dr. R. Holland, or Dr. R. Wilmarth, New Graefenberg, N. Y.



Concord, NH to Salisbury, NH. August 11, (1851). 3¢ orange brown 1851 adhesive pays the ½ ounce letter rate. Corner address card with Concord, NH address indicates that this was sent from the first location for Dr. Vail’s Water Cure.

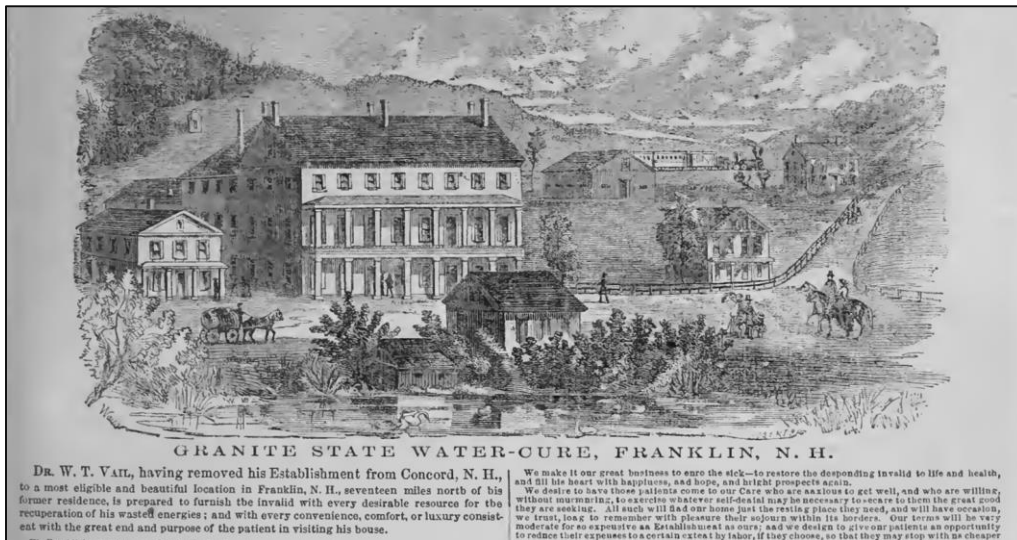
CONCORD WATER-CURE ESTABLISHMENT, CONCORD, NEW-HAMPSHIRE—This Institution, situated in the delightful village of Concord, N. H., has passed into the hands and under the Medical supervision of DR WM. T. VAIL, of New York, who will spare no effort to render it an agreeable home to the invalid, and every way worthy of the liberal patronage it has heretofore received.

To those who would seek the recovery of their health by this simple, beautiful, and efficient method of cure, perhaps no location presents superior inducements to Concord. The unsurpassed purity of the water with which the establishment is supplied, the beauty of the town, the salubrity of the air, and the delightfulness of surrounding scenery, conspire to render it a desirable resort for the invalid, and contribute essentially to aid him in his recovery. Concord is accessible from almost every direction, being the converging point of several different Railroads. Persons from New York, can visit the place at a cost of \$5.

Terms, from \$6 to \$4 per week in summer; \$4 to \$6 in winter. A deduction from the above terms if two patients occupy the same room. Each patient is required to provide himself with two comfortables, two thick woolen blankets, one linen, and two course cotton sheets, towels, &c. May, 3t.

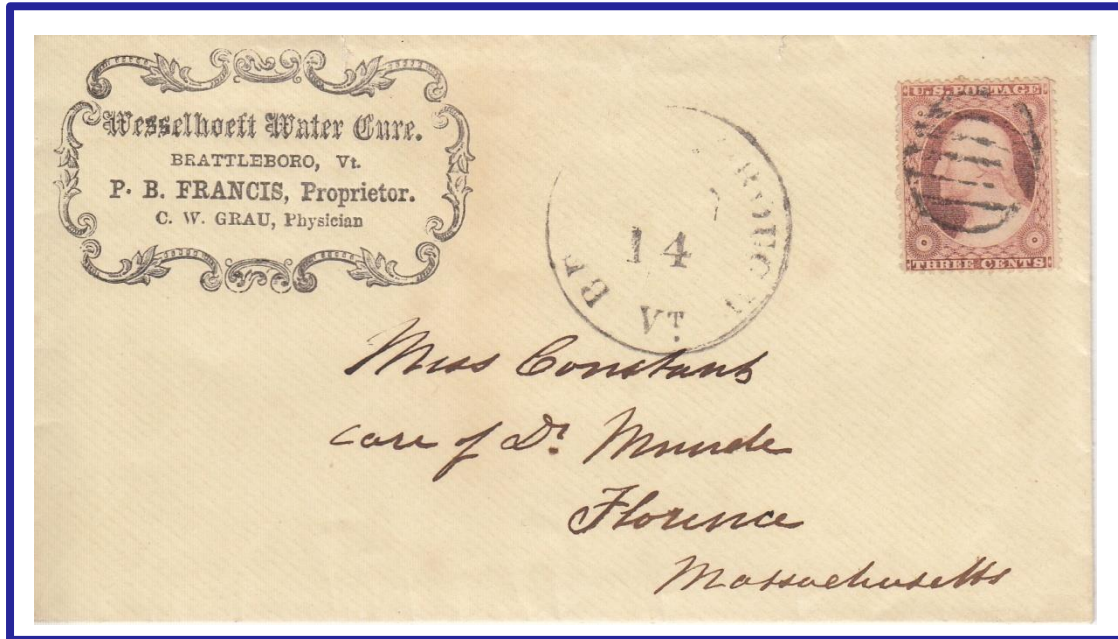


Franklin, NH to Meredith Village, NH. February (1855). 3¢ 1851 adhesive pays the ½ ounce letter rate. Corner address card with Concord, NH corrected to Franklin.



Water Cure Journal, July 1855

The Granite State Water Cure Institution relocated from Concord, New Hampshire seventeen miles north to Franklin, New Hampshire in 1855. Although not year-dated, the change in address dates this envelope to close to that time.



Brattleborough, VT to Florence, MA. 3¢ 1857-61 adhesive. Corner card advertising Brattleboro facility.

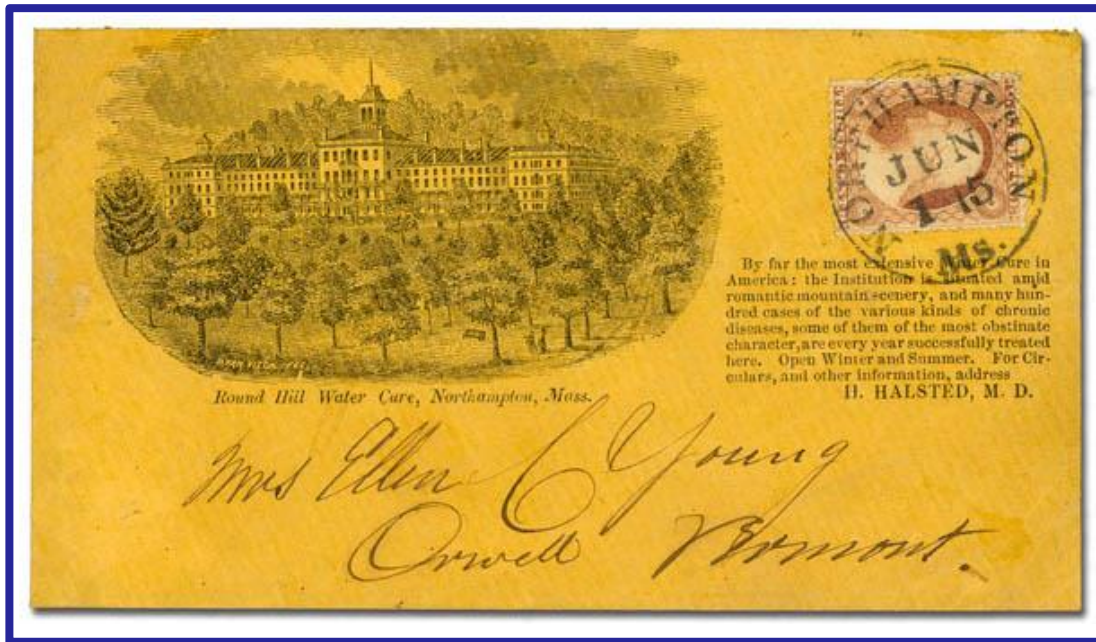


19th Century Stereocard depicting Wesselhoeft Water Cure facility

The Wesselhoeft Water Cure was the third Water Cure to open in the United States. It began in the mid 1840's under the direction of Dr. R. Wesselhoeft and was located at the corner of Elliot and Church Streets in Brattleboro. Opening of train lines to Brattleboro helped get people to town at this time. Many patients stayed in local hotels while attending the Water Cure. By 1846 there were 392 patients at the facility. It was America's most expensive water cure facility charging \$10 for treatments (\$11 in the Summer).

Water Cures

Round Hill Water Cure Northampton, MA

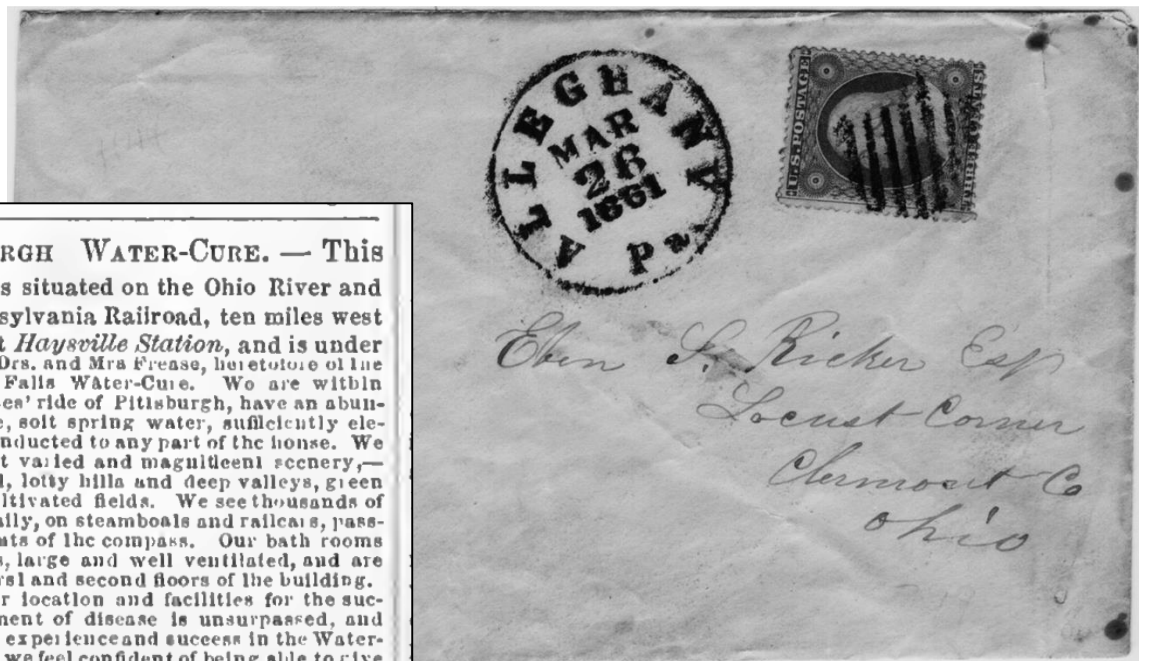
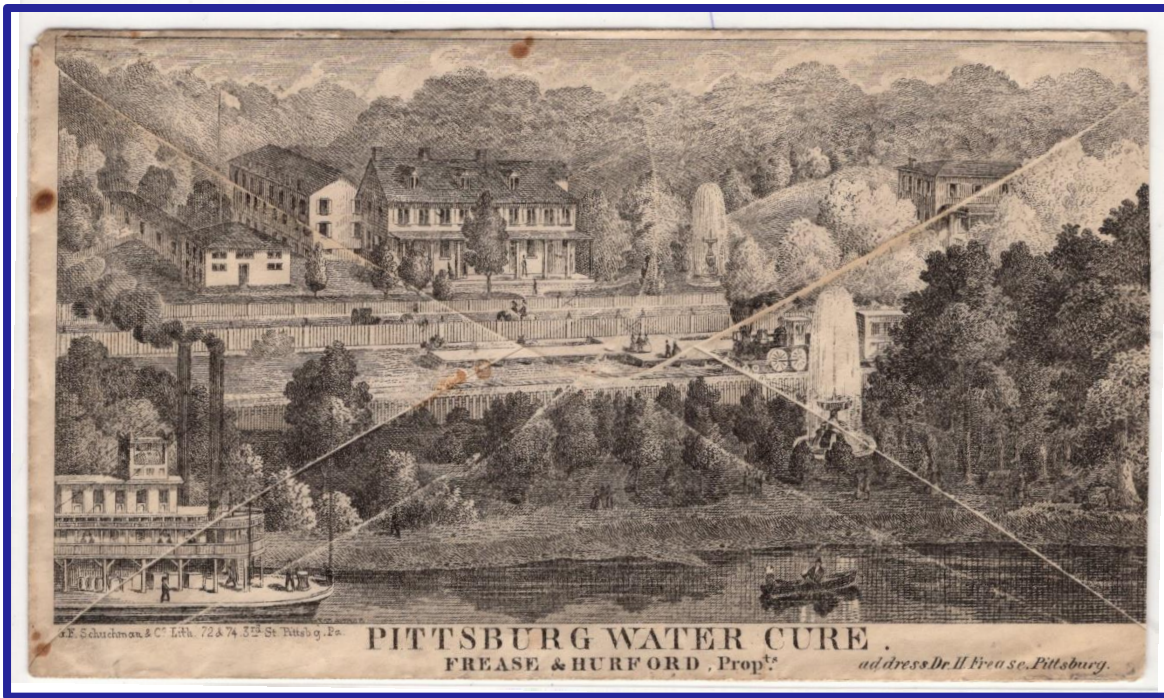


Northampton, MA to Orwell, VT. 3¢ 1857-61 adhesive. Woodcut illustration signed “D. Van Vleck.”



Northampton, MA to Boston, MA. 3¢ 1861-67 adhesive. Advertising envelope utilizes same woodcut, but with different text.

The Round Hill Water Cure in Northampton, Massachusetts, a medical institution based on hydropathic principles, was opened by Dr. E. E. Denniston in 1847. Dr. H. Halsted took over operations of the facility in 1855.



PITTSBURGH WATER-CURE. — This Institution is situated on the Ohio River and Ohio & Pennsylvania Railroad, ten miles west of the city at *Haysville Station*, and is under the charge of Drs. and Mrs. Frease, heretofore of the Sugar Creek Falls Water-Cure. We are within twenty minutes' ride of Pittsburgh, have an abundance of pure, soft spring water, sufficiently elevated to be conducted to any part of the house. We have the most varied and magnificent scenery,—river, railroad, lofty hills and deep valleys, green woods and cultivated fields. We see thousands of people here daily, on steamboats and railcars, passing to all points of the compass. Our bath rooms are numerous, large and well ventilated, and are on both the first and second floors of the building. In short, our location and facilities for the successful treatment of disease is unsurpassed, and from our long experience and success in the Water-Cure practice, we feel confident of being able to give general satisfaction.

The female department is under the charge of Mrs. C. P. R. Frease, a graduate of the New York Hydropathic Institute and the Eclectic Medical College of Cincinnati.

Patients should bring 1 linen and 2 cotton sheets, 2 woollen blankets, 2 comforts, and 5 towels, or we will furnish them for 50 cents per week. Terms, from 6 to 10 dollars per week, payable weekly in advance. Address either of the physicians, Pittsburgh, Pa., Box 1304.

S. FREASE, M. D.,
H. FREASE, M. D.,
C. P. R. FREASE, M. D.,

Aug 1f

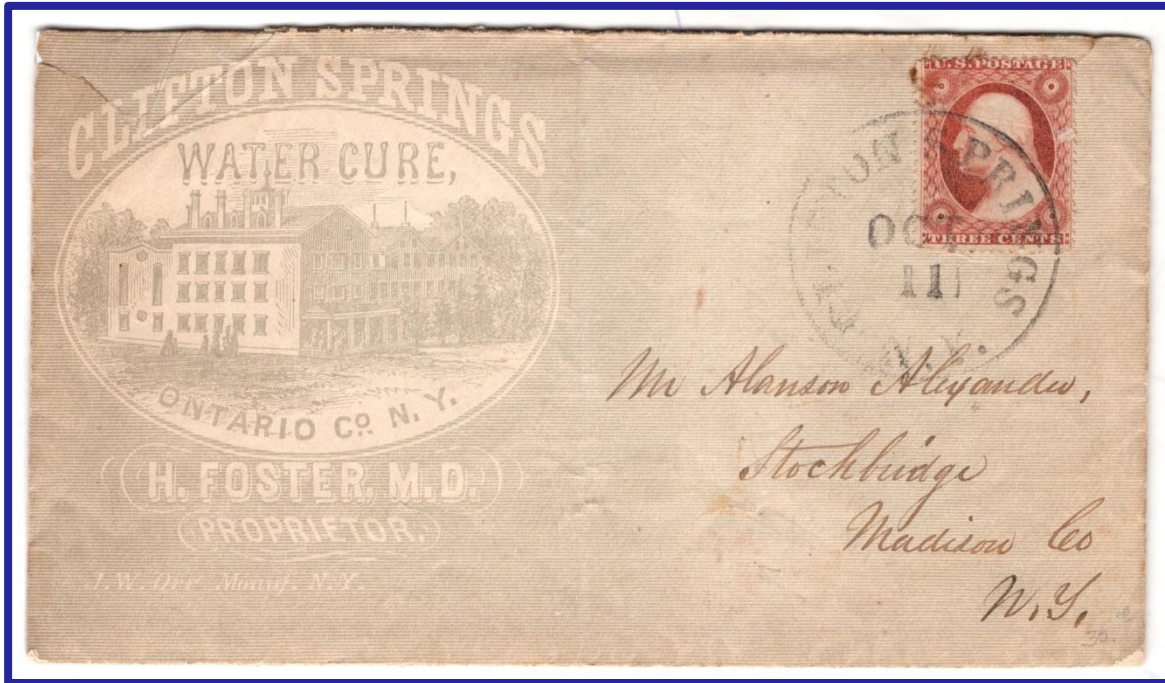
Scan of reverse with 3¢ 1857-issue stamp and Allegheny, March 26, 1861 postmark

Water Cures

Clifton Springs Water-Cure
Clifton Springs, NY



Clifton Springs Water Cure. 16 page brochure with speeches from the dedication of the facility on July 25, 1856. Sent from Clifton Springs on October 29, 1856 at 2¢ circular rate (red "2" denoting rate).



Clifton Springs Water Cure. Dr. Henry Foster studied medicine at Case Western Reserve University and learned homeopathy and hydrotherapy from his brother and brother-in-law. He worked with his brother, Hubbard, at a water cure center in Lowell, Mass. before relocating to Clifton Springs in 1849.

The village was nothing more than a tavern, a blacksmith shop, and a half-dozen homes when Foster arrived, but it had already gained a reputation for its Sulphur springs, which had long been utilized by the local Seneca Indians.

Opened in 1850, the Water Cure started out as a collection of wooden buildings where patients received treatments. The pictured facility opened in 1856 and remained in operation into the 20th century.


WEEKLY BILL.
All Bills Settled at the Business Office, Saturday, A. M.

No. 122 - Clifton Springs, N. Y., Jan 18 70
Mrs. Simon Baldwin to the
CLIFTON SPRINGS WATER CURE CO., Dr.
(Weekly Bills rendered to include Friday night.)

To Board and Treatment,	28
Miss Mears	16-
	7
	28
" Meals at Room,	12
" Heating Room,	1
	34 12

Received Payment, 18

Clifton



Clifton Springs Water Cure. Receipt for services with 2¢ revenue stamp paying the tax on receipts for payments over \$20.00. Stamp precancelled with Clifton Springs Water Cure datestamp, January 13, (1870). This tax was recinded on October 1, 1870.