

BLOOD'S 15L12: Part 13

By

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On June 30, 1845 D.O. Blood & Co. private post was established, and acquired the Philadelphia Despatch Post with their remaining stamps, 15L3, the **world's first pictorial stamp**. The following day, July 1, 1845 was a different postal milestone of much greater proportions, the first day of federal monopolized inter-city mail taken away from the private sector in return for greatly reduced inter-city rates. Despite such overwhelming power, local posts were tolerated. During the next few years D.O. Blood & Co. developed three variations of the iconic "striding messenger" stamp. The final two issues, 15L5 and 15L6,¹ had been reserved for *local door delivery*, and were considered city stamps. Bigger than life, the famous messenger carried a large **PAID** letter.

Within six months, by January 1846, D.O. Blood & Co. developed a profoundly new geometric stamp design with double circle dedicated for *outbound* letters, and were considered post office stamps. Inscribed **For the POST OFFICE**, they were the **world's first special purpose stamp**.² This innovative **paradigm shift** created bifurcated private local postal service.

Two years later, by January 1848, the company was renamed "**BLOOD'S DESPATCH**." The next five stamp issues were no longer large squares, but instead oval or rectangular, and trended smaller. Their last three stamps were "small rectangles," which Stimmell has referred to as "tiny, dull, often acid-stained stamps."³

The first Blood's Despatch *city stamp* was a large oval green 15L11 with "**PAID**" inscribed on a letter carried by dove. Within five months⁴ Blood's Despatch pivoted to small rectangular city stamp 15L12 which conspicuously retained *Paid* in center.

PAID, **PAID**, and *Paid*, all meant pre-paid stamps for city letters, in distinct contrast to collect cash door delivery service, which was the Philadelphia carrier department standard practice delivering inbound Philadelphia letters from other cities.

15L12 "Gold on Black Glazed"

The stamp design in **Figure 1** measured 11 mm high by 14.5 mm wide, is correctly listed in *Scott Catalogue* as 15L12 "gold, black, glazed," 1848-1854 for 2 cents.⁵ The company name in bold capital letters proudly arched across the stamp,

¹ Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, "Blood's Part 6: 15L6," *The Penny Post*, Vol. 22, No. 2, April 2014, Whole No. 87, page 58.

² Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, "Blood's Part 7: 15L7," *The Penny Post*, Vol. 22, No. 3, July 2014, Whole No. 88, pages 29, 53.

³ Gordon Stimmell, "Detecting Blood Types," *The Penny Post*, Vol. 1, No. 2, April 1991, page 28.

⁴ Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, "Blood's Part 11: 15L11," *The Penny Post*, Vol. 23, No. 3, July 2015, Whole No. 92, pages 21, 23, 30.

⁵ *Scott 2012 Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps & Covers, Nineteenth Edition*, Scott Publishing Co., 2011, Sidney Ohio, page 545.

BLOOD'S at top and inverted arch **DESPATCH** at bottom. Cursive fonts in the center declared *Paid*. 15L12 was intended for “city letters,” and perpetuated the city stamp lineage of striding messengers and oval green dove carrying envelope.

No *Paid* 15L12 stamps were perforated, nor were any mechanically separated. No multiples have been recorded, on or off cover. However, several revealed black sheet margins, and one corner margin, very consistent with pane format. Also, many examples show portions of thin black guidelines, which facilitated hand “cut rectangle” separation. Panes from large sheets were quite likely, and consistent with other 1848 issues, such as recent Blood’s Despatch **for the POST OFFICE** 15L10 off cover vertical pair,⁶ prior **PAID** 15L5,⁷ and imminent 15L13.⁸

As with all prior issues, *Paid* 15L12 stamps had not been monetarily denominated. Ever since mid-1846, *single* stamps of either service type were 2 cents. Conspicuously absent of defined monetary value easily provided wholesale volume discounts, different price structure by service type and quantity, while always remaining flexible and readily modifiable if necessary.

Paid 15L12 was the *numerically smallest census* of surviving Blood’s Despatch small rectangular stamps, if not possibly all remaining Blood issues, and missing from many of the famous named collections.^{9,10}

15L12 Description Census

1. September 13, 1848; printed circular; local delivery; right sheet margin cut rectangle, penstroke “X” cancel-tied. To: “Geo. W. Carpenter Esq^r.” January 27, 2010 PFC 483754. Ex Bowman. Morris collection.
2. October 17, (1848); envelope; outbound New York; cut rectangle, uncanceled; partial blue Clarke 60a Philadelphia cds., matching blue numeral “5” in double circle handstamp. To: “To. / The Rev. T.B.Bartow. / Newtown- / Long Island / Queens County. / New York..” Siegel 825 June 27, 2000 lot 1609, Schwartz; Siegel 927 December 20, 2008 lot 1102, Richardson. September 16, 2010 PFC 490221 opinion was acid cancel. Morris collection.
3. November 6, 1848; folded letter with dated contents; local delivery; cut rectangle, four bar grid cancel-tied. To: “Mr. James R Smith / Market below 3rd St / Philad^{as}”. Siegel 830 November 14, 2000 lot 455, Hall; Siegel 908 March 17, 2006 lot 4608; Siegel 1063 December 19, 2013 lot 1734. March 13, 2001 PFC 365810 opinion “stamp removed and replaced inaccurately.”

⁶ Robert Siegel Auction Galleries, sale 927 December 20, 2006, lot 1090.

⁷ Robert Siegel Auction Galleries, sale 830 November 13, 2000, lot 437, Hall.

⁸ Robert Siegel Auction Galleries, sale 925 November 15, 2006, lot 1315, Kuphal.

⁹ Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, “Blood’s 15L12 Small ‘PAID’,” *The Penny Post*, Vol. 9, No. 3, July 2001, Whole No. 36, pages 37-38.

¹⁰ Gordon Stimmell, “Detecting Blood Types,” *The Penny Post*, Vol. 1, No. 2, April 1991, pages 28-30.

4. November 22, 1848; folded letter; local delivery; cut rectangle, four bar grid cancel-tied; pink advertising label. To: "M^r. James Hyatt / 205. South 4th St". Shachat collection.
5. December 2, 1848; envelope; local delivery; cut rectangle, four bar grid cancel-tied. To: "Mssrs Cornelius & Co / Lamp Makers / Chestnut St / Philad^a". Stromberg collection.
6. December 22, 1848; folded letter; local delivery; cut rectangle, four bar grid cancel-tied; advertising label; non-contemporaneous pencil "12/22/1848". To: "Mr. Robert Bell Eq / No. 74 Walnut St / up stairs".¹¹ Siegel 825 June 27, 2000, lot 1608, Schwartz.
7. December 27, 1848; folded letter with dated contents; local delivery; cut rectangle, four bar grid cancel- tied. To: "M^r. James Hyatt / 205. South Fourth s". February 27, 2001 PFC 326620. Ex Gibson. Morris collection.
8. January 11, 1849; folded letter with dated contents; local delivery; cut rectangle, faint four bar grid cancel; light blue advertising label on reverse. To: "Heylin & Farrell / Coal Dealers / Broad & Pine St / Philad". Snow collection.
9. January 20, 1849; folded letter, internal docket Germantown; outbound Virginia; cut rectangle, acid cancel-tied; Bloods advertising label on reverse; 5 cent 1847 general issue Scott #1, USPCS ID 14304, penstroke # cancel, filing fold tied; manuscript "5"; light red POTOMAC STEAMBOAT cds. To: "James A. Heath Esq" / (Richmond, Va.). Siegel 527 April 5, 1978 lot 182; Siegel 569 October 7, 1980 lot 493.
10. January 22, 1849; envelope; local delivery; cut rectangle top guideline, four bar grid cancel-tied; manuscript docket "*Jan. 22nd / 49*"; blue advertising label on reverse; pencil "*333 – Race below 10th*". To: "Lett. To / M^r Edw^d Fraley". John Kaufmann 7 November 14 1972 lot 207; Bennett 301 (March 2006) lot 1708. September 9, 2011 PFC 498920.
11. January 29, 1849; printed circular; local delivery; bottom margin, right guideline, partially torn rectangle, acid cancel; pink advertising label. To: "Saml Bispham Esqr. / 261 Market St." December 7, 2009 PFC 482179. Morris collection.
12. February 5, 1849; folded letter with dated contents; local delivery; cut rectangle, acid cancel-tied. To: "The Rev^d. Geo: Boyd, D.D. / care of M^r. J.W. Kester. /

¹¹ McElroy's 1849 Philadelphia City Directory page 23 lists "Robert Bell, office 74 Walnut, h 109 S 4th," and "Benjamin Bell, waiter, 74 Walnut."

No. 24 Bank Street / Philadelphia”¹² Siegel 927 December 20, 2006 lot 1101, Richardson. January 27, 2010 PFC 483753. Ex Mason.

13. February 10, 1849; folded letter; outbound to Massachusetts; cut rectangle, uncanceled; blue advertising label on reverse; blue indistinct blue Clarke Type Philadelphia cds; 5 cent 1847 Scott #1 general issue vertical pair, USPCS ID 10671, each cancel-tied by matching blue grid in circle. To: “Mr Hamilton Patterson / U.S.Ship Franklin / Boston”. Frajola 20 June 15, 1985 lot 347; Siegel 747 February 17, 1993 lot 1185.
14. February 23, 1849; folded letter; outbound New York; cut rectangle, acid cancel-tied; blue Clarke 74 Philadelphia cds. To: “Benjamin Stark Esqr. / No 90 Broadway / New York”. Shachat collection.
15. February 26, 1849; folded letter with dated contents; local delivery; cut rectangle, acid cancel-tied. To: “George Emlin Esquire / 47 South 5th Street / Philad^a..” Siegel 927 December 20, 2006 lot 1100, Richardson; Carriers & Locals Society Auction 14 July 24, 2008 lot 52. Morris collection.
16. April 4, (1849); envelope; outbound Washington D.C., cut rectangle, faint 4 bar grid cancel; blue Clarke 74a Philadelphia cds; manuscript “*free*”. To: “Hon. W^m. M. Meredith / Washington City / DC.” Wolffers September 8, 1977 lot 65.
17. April 4, 1849; envelope; local delivery; right sheet margin, bottom guideline, partially torn rectangle, acid cancel; manuscript docket “*CD Cleaveland / April 4, 1849*”. To: “M^r John F. James / Actuary of the Girard Life In- / Surance Office / Chesnut below 5th / North Side.”
18. May 8, 1849; envelope; outbound New York; left sheet margin, partially torn rectangle, acid cancel-tied; blue manuscript “5”; non contemporaneous pencil “5-8-1849”. To: “C. Townsend Harris Esq / N^o Amity St / New York”. Stromberg collection.
19. June 11, 1849; year dated folded letter; outbound Virginia; left sheet margin, top guideline, cut rectangle, acid cancel-tied, blue Clark 470n PHILADA RAIL ROAD cds tied;¹³ 5 cent 1847 Scott #1 general issue, USPCS ID 12756, penstroke # cancel, tied by address bleed through; manuscript “W.” To: “William Green, Esqr / Culpepper Co: Co. / Culpepper County / Virginia”. Siegel 285 March 31, 1965 lot 667; Siegel 825 June 25, 2000 lot 902, Schwartz; Bennett 262 June 12, 2003 lot 389. July 27, 1984 PFC 136648.¹⁴ Ex Gibson. Lyons collection.

¹² McElroy’s 1849 Philadelphia City Directory page 200 lists J.W.Kester, mer. 5 Bank Street.

¹³ Clarke Interim page 220 records this until 1850 by the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore Railroad.

¹⁴ Robert B. Meyersburg, “1847 Postage Stamps Used in Combination with Carrier and Local Adhesives,” *The Chronicle*, Vol. 44, No. 1, February 1992, Whole No. 153, page 12.

20. July 24, 1849; folded letter; local delivery; cut rectangle, bold four bar grid cancel-tied.¹⁵To: "St.G.Campbell Esq / 4th. below Walnut / Philadelphia".¹⁶ Siegel 825 June 27, 2000 lot 1606, Schwartz. October 27, 2000 PFC 361543. Morris collection.
21. October 3, 1849; folded letter; outbound Pennsylvania; cut rectangle, (uncancelled); (blue) Clarke 73a Philadelphia cds; 5 cent 1847 general issue Scott #1, USPCD ID 10821, (blue) grid in circle cancel. To: "Pleasant Valley Post Office / Bucks County / To. Frederick Harris in / Care of Charles B.Ott." January 29, 1982 PFC 105,756.
22. (1848-49); ladies envelope; Northern Liberties District delivery; cut rectangle, four bar grid cancel-tied on reverse; light pink advertising label on reverse; manuscript "Paid"; gray label sealed flap. To: "Miss Ellen Evans, / Wood St 2nd door below 5th / Philada". June 15, 1998 PFC 325418. Morris collection.¹⁷
23. (1848-49); folded letter; local delivery; left sheet margin cut rectangle, faint four bar grid cancel-tied; light green advertising label. To: "Lindsay & Blackiston . / N.W. Cor 4th & Chesnut Sts- / Philadelphia." Harmer Rooke 1835 February 15, 1977 lot 120; Siegel 925 November 15, 2006 lot 1313, Kuphal. Morris collection.
24. (1849-50); piece; (local delivery); cut rectangle, acid cancel; Blood's circular Handstamp Type 14.¹⁸ To: Unknown #1. Snow collection.
25. September 2, (1850); (envelope); outbound to New York; cut rectangle, faint ink cancel; Blood's circular Handstamp Type 15¹⁹ 5 cent 1847 general issue Scott #1, USPCS ID 11486, blue ink cancel; blue Clarke Type 73²⁰ Philadelphia cds. To: "Mr. J.P.Jones & co. / 183. William Street. / New York." Siegel 285 March 31, 1965 lot 666; Siegel 925 November 15, 2006 lot 1312, Kuphal; Rumsey 40 December 6, 2010 lot 1245. February 9 2011 PFC 493925. Morris collection.
26. November 3, 1851; folded letter with dated contents; local delivery, originated in Reading, Pa; cut rectangle, acid cancel; Blood's double circle Handstamp Type 17.²¹ To: "Mssrs E. J. Etting & Bro. / 46 Nor. Wharves- / Philad^a". March 17, 2015 PFC 526213. Morris collection.

¹⁵ Latest recorded Morris Type D handstamp.

¹⁶ *McElroy's PHILADELPHIA DIRECTORY for 1849*, page 53, 12th Edition, Philadelphia: Ashmead 1849; listed as "atty. and coun. 203 Mulberry.

¹⁷ Morris, *The Penny Post*, July 2001, page 38.

¹⁸ ASCC Type 9 recorded from May 22, 1849 until March 12, 1850.

¹⁹ ASCC Type 10 recorded from April 15, 1850 until January 21, 1851.

²⁰ Clarke 73 has been recorded from October 7, 1849 until June 21, 1851.

²¹ ASCC Type 12, Morris Type 17 were recorded from October 4, 1851 until December 24, 1854.

27. June 15, (1852-3); (envelope); local delivery; cut rectangle, acid cancel; Blood's double circle Handstamp Type 17 twice, one partial at top. To: "Carl D. Wilson Esqr / Columbia House / Broad st above / Arch st". October 27, 2010 PFC 491605. Ex Bowman. Morris collection.
28. Undated; (folded letter); outbound Pennsylvania; cut rectangle, 4 bar grid cancel-tied, (blue) indistinct Philadelphia cds tied thrice; manuscript "*Paid*"; 5 cent 1847 general issue Scott #1, USPS ID 21659, cancel tied by two of three Philadelphia cds; non-contemporaneous manuscript "15L12". To: "Daniel H. Mulvaney Esq / Norristown / Pennsylvania-". Ex Boker.²²
29. Undated; advertising envelope; local delivery; cut rectangle, four bar grid cancel-tied; pink advertising label. To: "Rob. F. Walsh Jr / D.J. Browardt. / Front Street / a Chestnut." Siegel 853 December 19, 2002 lot 2626, Johnstone.
30. Undated; folded letter; local delivery; cut rectangle, four bar grid cancel-tied; pink advertising label. To: "St. G Cam(pbell) / 4th below (Walnut) / Phila - ". Harmer Rooke 1835 February 15, 1977 lot 121.
31. Undated; (envelope); local delivery; cut rectangle, four bar grid cancel-tied. To: "M^r. M. Meredith Esq / 9 York Buildings". Siegel 925 November 15, 2006 lot 1314, Richardson.
32. Undated; folded letter; local delivery; cut rectangle, four bar grid cancel-tied. To: "J. Geo J. Campbell, Esq^r / Fourth below Walnut". Siegel 908 March 17, 2006 lot 4607, Hahn. March 28, 2001 PFC 365955. Ex Mason.
33. Undated; folded letter; local delivery; cut rectangle, four bar grid cancel-tied, pencil cancel-tied. To: "To, / St. Geo. G. Campbell Esqr. / N^o. 94. S. 4th. St." Siegel 817 November 15, 1999 lot 516, Golden; Siegel 950 December 19, 2007 lot 2531; Bennett (2006) lot 1474. March 28, 2000 PFC 350619. Ex Morris. Alexander collection.
34. Undated; small embossed envelope; local delivery; cut rectangle, four bar grid cancel-tied. To: "Campbell Morfit Esq / Arch St hall above 6th St / Phila^a".²³ Alexander collection.
35. Undated; envelope; local delivery; cut rectangle, four bar grid cancel-tied. To: "Campbell Morfit Esq / Arch St hall above 6th St / Phila". H.R.Harmer 685 October 31, 1951 lot 854, Y. Souren; Mohrmann 140 October 15, 1973 lot 104; (W.Fox 96 April 10, 1974 lot 65); John Kaufmann September 21, 1974 lot 440; Robert Kaufmann May 1979 lot 312. Ex Gibson, Y.Souren. (PFC).

²² Boker Exhibit part 1, page 21.

²³ Listed as chemist at 217 Mulberry St, another name for Arch St, in McElroy's City Directory 1849 page 267 and 1850 page 297; does not appear in 1851 page 304.

36. Undated; small envelope; local delivery; bottom guideline, cut rectangle, four bar grid cancel-tied. To: "For / Mrs Wm Burdsall / S.W. corner. Arch & Twelfth Street / Phila." Siegel 1101 June 23, 2015 lot 656, Stimmell.²⁴
37. Undated; small envelope; Spring Garden District delivery; bottom sheet margin, top and right guideline cut rectangle, acid cancel. To: "Joseph M. Truman Jr_ / 325 Callowhill st / below 9th". Siegel 817 November 15, 1999 lot A517, Golden.
38. Undated; (front); local delivery; right sheet margin cut rectangle, acid cancel (tied). To: "Mr John R. Howell / N^o. 12 Union St / above Front". Siegel 853 December 19, 2002 lot 2627, Johnstone.
39. Undated; (folded letter); local delivery; cut rectangle, acid cancel-tied. To: "J. Martin Esq. / NW Corn. 7th & Cherry Sts. / Philad". Eastland January 29, 1977 lot 713.
40. Undated; envelope; local delivery; left sheet margin, left and bottom guidelines, cut rectangle, acid cancel-tied; extremely faint pencil manuscript (*Recd by EJH Jan 1849*). To: "Mrs. Sarah Harris, / 162 ab 9th. St. / Philada". Stromberg collection.
41. Undated; front; local delivery; cut rectangle, (acid cancel). To: "Charles A. Paiton Esq^r. / Front S^t. / Dr. Dunphson M.D.." Jackson Winter June 27, 1973 lot 327.
42. Undated; envelope; local delivery; left sheet margin, top guideline, cut rectangle, uncanceled; blue advertisement label. To: "Messrs Morris & Jones & Co / Present / Schuyl 6th & Market St / Philad^{an}". Lyons collection.
43. Undated; ornate envelope; local delivery; cut rectangle, uncanceled. To: "Elizabeth T Troth / Care of S.F. Troth / No 102 Nrh 9th St --". Siegel 825 January 20, 2000 lot 1607, Schwartz; Siegel 927 December 20, 2006 lot 1099, Richardson; Siegel 1101 June 23, 2015 lot 655, Stimmell. July 23, 2015 PFC 529401. Morris collection.
44. Undated; envelope; local delivery; cut rectangle, uncanceled. To: "Miss Josephine Mickley / 359 Market St". Corwin collection.
45. Undated; envelope; indeterminate destination; top guideline, partially torn rectangle, 13 point puncture cancel-tied. To: Unknown #2. Lowe "U.S.A.I" Basel March 1, 1973 lot 1679.

²⁴ Gordon Stimmell, "Detecting Blood Types," *The Penny Post*, Vol. 1, No. 2, April 1991, page 28.

Excluded 15L12

- A. January 24, (1852); envelope; local delivery; **Scott Forgery A** “dot after Blood’s.”^{25,26} cut rectangle, uncanceled, gum stain tied; Blood’s double circle Handstamp Type 17.²⁷ To: “Watson Malone / firm Malone & Co / Broad Street / near Cherry St / Phila.” Stromberg collection.
- B. October X, (1849-50); (folded letter); outbound Virginia; cut rectangle, acid cancel-tied; (blue) Clarke 73²⁸ Philadelphia cds; 10 cent 1847 general issue Scott #2, USPCS ID 11951, matching cds cancel-tied. To: “G A_” / (Richmond, Virginia). Christies 6776 March 15, 1989 lot 1025, Klein. Excluded after close scrutiny, since it was identified only once, in Christies auction catalog with poor photograph of acid affected stamp, and self-contradictory description 15L12 **black on bronze** (incorrect since only one *or* the other is possible). Although Meyersburg’s census was only two years following its only auction appearance,²⁹ he incorrectly included this cover as 15L12.³⁰

Not excluded was a controversial October 17, (1848) cover, addressed to Rev. Bartow (census number 2) which warranted extensive deliberation among several philatelic scholars. Blue Clarke 60a Philadelphia cds has been recorded until July 27, 1848, and thereafter as an outlier and new latest recorded date. Numeral 5 in double circle is also a possible outlier, because it has been only recorded until 1847. Nonetheless, ***Paid** 15L12 uncanceled* was not unusual, and is consistent with late 1848. The Philatelic Foundation has importantly certified this example genuine on cover, but as acid cancel. Unfortunately mid-October 1848 was three months too early for acid.

15L12 Photographic Census

All 45 examples have been photographed in auction catalogs and/or the philatelic literature. All have been posted on the Carriers and Locals Society website.

Of 45 photographed genuine covers, 35 or **78% are color**. The remaining 22%, 10, are in black and white (census number 6, 9, 13, 21, 28, 30, 35, 39, 41, 45).

Old auction catalogs often did not include a cover’s entire address. The photograph of one example has been reduced to the stamp *only* (census number 45) with absolutely no destination information. One partially photographed cover (census number 9) does not show a name or address, but could be determined outbound versus local delivery base upon collateral information.³¹ From the data base of 45 covers, 44 or **98% were destination known** with only one entirely

²⁵ Ibid, page 29.

²⁶ October 7, 2015 email communication from Larry Lyons.

²⁷ ASCC Type 12, Morris Type 17 were recorded from October 4, 1851 until December 24, 1854.

²⁸ Clarke 73 has been recorded from October 7, 1849 until June 21, 1851.

²⁹ Robert B. Meyersburg, “1847 Postage Stamps Used in Combination with Carrier and Local Adhesives,” *The Chronicle*, Vol. 44, No. 1, February 1992, Whole No. 153, page 12.

³⁰ November 13, 2015 email communication from Larry Lyons.

³¹ Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, “Blood’s Part 12: 15L17,” *The Penny Post*, Vol. 23, No. 4, October 2015, Whole No. 93, pages 21, 60.

unknown (census number 45). Quantitative analysis has been largely based upon 45 examples, although sometimes reduced appropriately to 44.

15L12 Cover Data Base

A 2% survival rate of private post covers has been selected for this series of articles,³² although likely too generous for later issues. Forty-five genuine examples suggests an original population in the order of 2250.

15L12 Service Time

Evidence based data is associated with *varying degrees of certainty*. From **Table I** data only 19 covers are *date certain* (census number 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 26), given specific day, month, and year. Added to these are four others (census number 2, 8, 16, 25) which are indirectly *date specific* via collateral year information.³³ Altogether, 23 of 45, over **50%** are sufficiently dated. The annualized spread of 23 date specific examples, shown in **Figure 2**, reveals the greatest number by far were 1849.

Four covers can be reasonably determined to within a two calendar year period (census numbers 22, 23, 24, 27), and none ranged longer. The final 18, however, have no information of any type pertaining to date, month or year, and are entirely year and date unknown (census number 28 through 45).

The **Table I** evidence confirms *Scott Catalog* 15L12 *Paid* began in 1848. The earliest recorded *Paid* 15L12 on cover is date certain tied **September 13, 1848, Figure 3** (census number 1). Another example falls during October 1848, two during November 1848, and three December 1848, a crescendo sequence consistent with new issue introduction and likely slow replacement of outstanding city stamps 15L11 **PAID** (which originated only a few months earlier in April). Of chronologic significance, August 24, 1848, less than three weeks prior to *Paid* 15L12, was the first recorded counter-partner 15L17 **Post Office** city stamp.

The **latest recorded 15L12** cover is a *far outlier*, almost four years later on **June 15, (1852-3)**, an untied but PF certified example shown in **Figure 4** (census number 27). The latest recorded *date certain Paid* 15L12 cover was a November 3, 1851 outlier, **Figure 5** (census number 26). *Paid* 15L12 *philatelic lifespan* consisted of 26 covers between date certain **September 13, 1848 and November 3, 1851** (census number 26), three years seven weeks, beyond which only *far outliers* exist (census number 27).

The *cluster* of 15L12 *Paid* stamps, defined by monthly specific and monthly consecutive examples, extended until July 24, 1849 (census number 20).³⁴ The cluster ranged from September 13, 1848 until July 24, 1849 for 315 days, for 45 weeks, or 10.3 months. During these 10.3 months 20 covers represents **1.94 covers per month** and considered peak business activity.

³² Morris, loc. cit., *The Penny Post*, April 2014, page 38.

³³ Ibid.

³⁴ Less stringent for low quantity of data in contrast to large data 15L17 established at two covers per month.

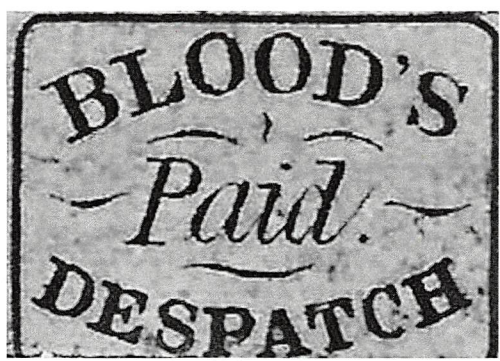


Figure 1. 15L12 “Gold on Black Glazed” *Paid.*

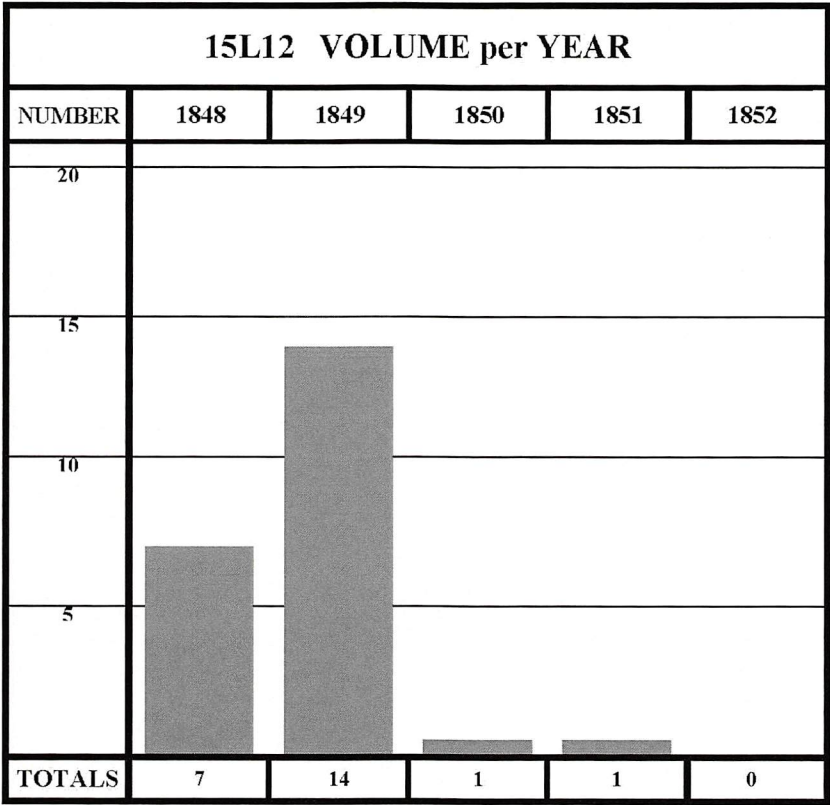


Figure 2. Twenty three 15L12 covers were year specific.



Figure 3. The earliest recorded 15L12 covers with internal dateline inset.



Figure 4. The latest recorded 15L12 far outlier was June 15, (1852-3).

Table I. Chronological 15L12 evidence, parenthesis if probably genuine, although lacking absolute certainty.

No.	DATE	COVER	15L12	CANCEL	TIED	LABEL	FEDERAL STAMPS & MARKS	ADDRESSEE	OUTBOUND	No.
1	September 13, 1848	printed circular	R margin, cut rectangle	penstroke "X"	penstroke "X"	-	-	Geo. W. Carpenter Esq. To: The Rev. T.B. Barlow / Newtown- / Long Island / Queens County / New York.	no	1
2	October 17, (1848)	envelope	cut rectangle	no	no	-	blue Clarke 60a Philadelphia cds blue numeral 5 in double circle	Mr. James R Smith / Market below 3 rd St / Philad ^a	New York	2
3	November 6, 1848	folded letter	cut rectangle	four bar grid	four bar grid	-	-	M ^r . James Hyatt / 205 South 4 th St	no	3
4	November 22, 1848	(envelope)	cut rectangle	four bar grid	four bar grid	pink	-	Misses Cornelius & Co / Lamp Makers / Chestnut St / Philad ^a	no	4
5	December 2, 1848	envelope	cut rectangle	four bar grid	four bar grid	-	-	Mr. Robert Bell Esq / No. 74 Walnut St / vt Stuns	no	5
6	December 22, 1848	folded letter	cut rectangle	four bar grid	four bar grid	yes	-	M ^r . James Hyatt / 205 South Fourth ²	no	6
7	December 27, 1848	folded letter	cut rectangle	four bar grid	four bar grid	-	-	Heylin & Farrell / Coal Dealers / Broad & Pine St / Philad	no	7
8	January 11, (1849)	front	cut rectangle	four bar grid	no	blue, reverse	-	James A. Heath Esq (Virginia)	no	8
9	January 20, 1849	folded letter	cut rectangle	acid	acid	yes, reverse	5 cent 1847, ID 44304, penstroke # cancel manuscript "5" red POTOMAC STEAMBOAT cds	Lett. To / M ^r Edw ^d Fraley	Virginia (Germantown, Pa origin)	9
10	January 22, 1849	envelope	cut rectangle	four bar grid	four bar grid	blue, reverse	manuscript docket "Jan 22 nd / 1849" pencil "333 - Recd below 10 th "	Sanl Bishopian Esq. / 261 Market St.	no	10
11	January 29, 1849	printed circular	B margin, partially torn rectangle	acid	no	pink	-	The Rev ^d . Geo. Boyd, D.D. / care of M ^r . J.W. Kistler. / No. 24 Bank Street / Philadelphia	no	11
12	February 3, 1849	folded letter	cut rectangle	acid	acid	-	-	Mr Hamilton Patterson / U.S. Ship Franklin / Boston	no	12
13	February 10, 1849	folded letter	cut rectangle	no	no	blue, reverse	blue indistinct Philadelphia cds vertical pair 5 cent 1847 each tied by blue grid in circle	Berriannin Stuk Esq. / No 99 Broadway / New York	Massachusetts	13
14	February 23, 1849	folded letter	cut rectangle	acid	acid	-	blue Clarke 74 Philadelphia cds	George Enlin Esquire / 47 South 5 th Street / Philad ^a ..	New York	14
15	February 26, 1849	folded letter	cut rectangle	acid	acid	-	-	Hon. W th . M. Meredith / Washington City / DC.	no	15
16	April 4, (1849)	envelope	cut rectangle	four bar grid	no	-	blue Clarke 74 Philadelphia cds manuscript "free"	Mr John F. James / Actuary of the Girard Life In- / surance Office / Chestnut below 5th / North Side.	no	16
17	April 4, 1849	envelope	R margin, partially torn rectangle	acid	no	-	manuscript docket "CD Cheloland / April 4, 1849"	C. Townsend Harris Esq / N ^y Amity St / New York	no	17
18	May 8, 1849	envelope	L margin, partially torn rectangle	acid	acid	-	blue manuscript "5"	William Green Esq / Culpepper Co. Co. / Culpepper County / Virginia	New York	18
19	June 11, 1849	folded letter	L margin, cut rectangle	acid	acid	-	blue PHILADA RAILROAD cds 5 cent 1847 tied manuscript "JP."	St. G. Campbell Esq / 4 th . below Walnut / Philadelphia	Virginia	19
20	July 24, 1849	folded letter	cut rectangle	four bar grid	four bar grid	-	-	Pleasant Valley Post Office / Bucks County / To: Frederick Harris in / Care of Charles B. Ott.	no	20
21	October 3, 1849	folded letter	cut rectangle	no	no	-	(blue) Clarke 73a Philadelphia cds 5 cent 1847 tied by (blue) grid in circle cancel	Miss Ellen Evans, / Wood St 2 nd door below 5 th / Philada	Pennsylvania	21
22	(1848-49)	embossed envelope	cut rectangle	four bar grid	four bar grid	pink, reverse	manuscript "Pair"	Lansing & Blackiston. / N.W. Cor 4 th & Chesnut Sts. / Philadelphia	Northern Liberties District	22
23	(1848-49)	folded letter	L margin, cut rectangle	four bar grid	four bar grid	green	-	Unknown #1	no	23
24	(1849-50)	piece	cut rectangle	acid	no	-	Bloods handstamp Type 14 (ASCC old Type 9) Bloods handstamp Type 15 (ASCC old Type 10) 5 cent 1847, blue ink cancel blue Clarke 73 Philadelphia cds	Mr. J.P. James & co. / 183. William Street. / New York.	(no)	24
25	September 2, (1850)	(envelope)	cut rectangle	faint ink	no	-	-		New York	25

Table I. Chronological 15L12 evidence, parenthesis if probably genuine, although lacking absolute certainty.

No.	DATE	COVER	15L12	CANCEL	TIED	LABEL	FEDERAL STAMPS & MARKS	ADDRESSEE	OUTBOUND
26	November 3, 1851	folded letter	cut rectangle	acid	no	-	Bloods handstamp Type 17 (ASCC old Type 12)	Messrs E.I.Bing & Bro. / 46 Nor. Wharves - Philad ^a	no (Reading, Pa origin)
27	June 15, (1852-3)	(envelope)	cut rectangle	acid	no	-	Bloods handstamp Type 17 (ASCC old Type 12) twice	Carl D. Wilson Esqr / Columbia House / Broad st above / Arch st	no
28	Undated	(folded letter)	cut rectangle	four bar grid	four bar grid	-	three blue Philadelphia cds 5 cent 1847 tied twice by Phila cds	Daniel H. Mulvaney Esq / Norristown / Pennsylvania-	Pennsylvania
29	Undated	adver envelope	cut rectangle	four bar grid	four bar grid	pink	-	Rob. F. Walsh Jr. / D.J. Broward. / Front Street / a Chestnut.	no
30	Undated	folded letter	cut rectangle	four bar grid	four bar grid	pink	-	St. G Campbell / 4th below (Walnut) / Phila-	no
31	Undated	(envelope)	cut rectangle	four bar grid	four bar grid	-	-	Mr. M. Meredith Esq / 9 York Buildings	no
32	Undated	folded letter	cut rectangle	four bar grid	four bar grid	-	-	J. Geo J. Campbell, Esqr / Fourth below Walnut	no
33	Undated	folded letter	cut rectangle	four bar grid pencil stroke	four bar grid pencil stroke	-	-	To, / St. Geo. G. Campbell Esqr. / N ^o . 94. S. 4 th . St.	no
34	Undated	embossed envelope	cut rectangle	four bar grid	four bar grid	-	-	Campbell Morfit Esq / Arch St hall above 6 th St / Phila ^a	no
35	Undated	envelope	cut rectangle	four bar grid	four bar grid	-	-	Campbell Morfit Esq / Arch St hall above 6 th St / Phila	no
36	Undated	embossed envelope	cut rectangle	four bar grid	four bar grid	-	-	For Mrs Wm Burdall / S.W. corner Arch & Twelfth Street / Phila.	no
37	Undated	small envelope	B margin, cut rectangle	acid	no	-	-	Joseph M. Truman Jr. / 325 Callowhill st / below 9 th	Spring Garden District
38	Undated	(front)	R. margin, cut rectangle	acid	(acid)	-	-	M ^r John R. Howell / N ^o . 12 Union St / above Front	no
39	Undated	(folded letter)	cut rectangle	acid	acid	-	-	J. Martin Esqr. / NW Corn. 7th & Cherry Sts. / Philad	no
40	Undated	envelope	L margin, cut rectangle	acid	acid	-	-	Mrs. Sarah Harris / 102 ab 9 th . St. / Philada	no
41	Undated	front	cut rectangle	(acid)	no	-	-	Charles A. Patton Esq. / Front St. / Dr. Dungsdon M.D.	no
42	Undated	envelope	L margin, cut rectangle	no	no	blue	-	Messrs Morris & Jones & Co / Present / Schupl 6 th & Market St / Philad ^a	no
43	Undated	ornate envelope	cut rectangle	no	no	-	-	Elizabeth T Trodt / Care of S.E. Trodt / No 102 Nth 9 th St-	no
44	Undated	envelope	cut rectangle	no	no	-	-	Miss Josephine Mickleley / 359 Market St	no
45	Undated	envelope	partially torn rectangle	13 point puncture	13 point puncture	-	unknown	Unknown #2	Unknown
A	January 24, (1852)	envelope	L, B, R margin Forgery, cut rectangle	no	gun stain	-	-	Watson Malone / Care Malone & Co / Broad Street near Cherry St / Phila.	no
B	October x, (1849-50)	(folded letter)	cut rectangle	acid	acid	-	(blue) Clarke 73 Philadelphia cds 10 cent 1847 tied by second Clarke 73 Phila cds	(G.A.) / (Richmond, VA)	Virginia

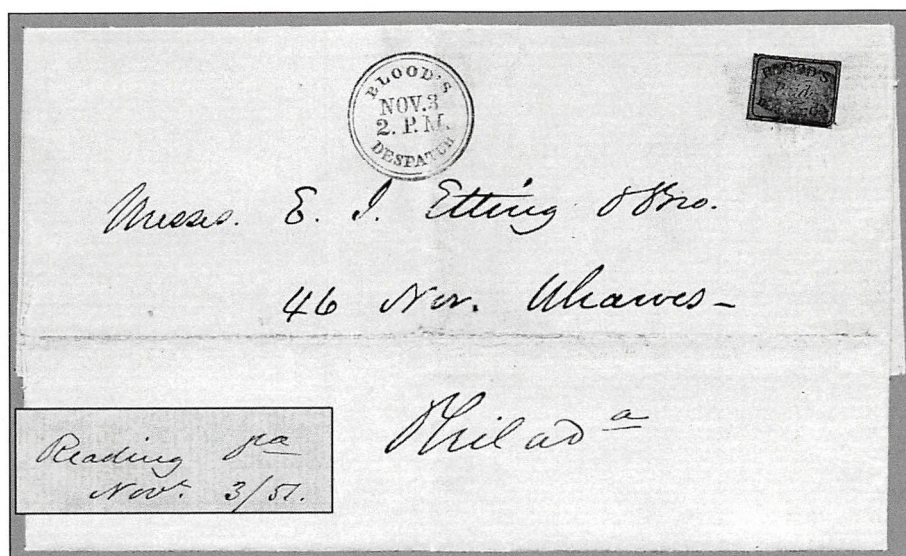


Figure 5. The latest recorded date certain 15L12 cover was November 3, 1851.

Much like ~~Post Office~~ 15L17, *Paid* 15L12 can be considered largely an **1849 stamp** with some prevalence several months before, and a few scattered examples after. They were contemporary counter-partners. No exclusive *Paid* 15L12 philatelic period existed, even if restricted to city stamps only.

15L12 Service Location

Final destinations are summarized in **Table II**. Letters were typically collected by Blood's Despatch, from hundreds of boxes, and sorted at the principal office before being appropriately distributed. Of 44 identifiable destinations, almost **80% were local delivery**, and 20% outbound. The great majority, 35 covers, were door delivered; 33 in the old city and 2 to an adjacent district, **Figure 6**. From the district group of 2, one was delivered to eligible Northern Liberties (census number 22), and one to forbidden Spring Garden District (census number 37).

Of the 9 outbound covers, all were delivered to a post office; 7 to the nearby Philadelphia post office, but 2 to post offices in other cities via railroad or steamboat. Eventual destinations were greatest to New York with 4, Pennsylvania 2 (again second), Virginia with 2, and one to Massachusetts.

Unknown #1 (census number 24) was assigned to a likely local delivery based upon Blood's Despatch auxiliary marking. Unknown #2 (census number 45) is an entirely unknown local versus outbound destination, because no helpful collateral information is available.

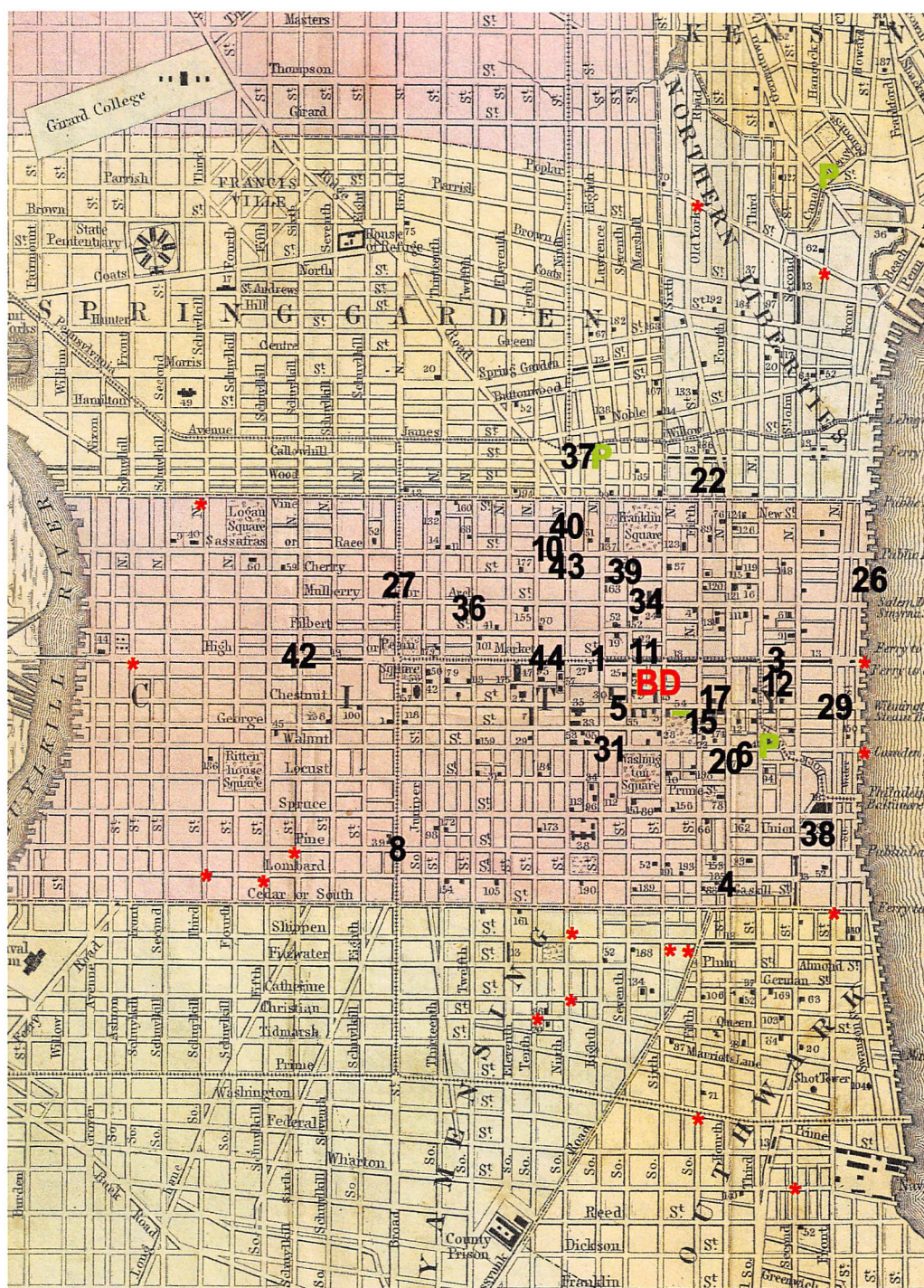


Figure 6. Destinations for 15L12 covers. Red BD is the new principle office. Green P for the three post offices.

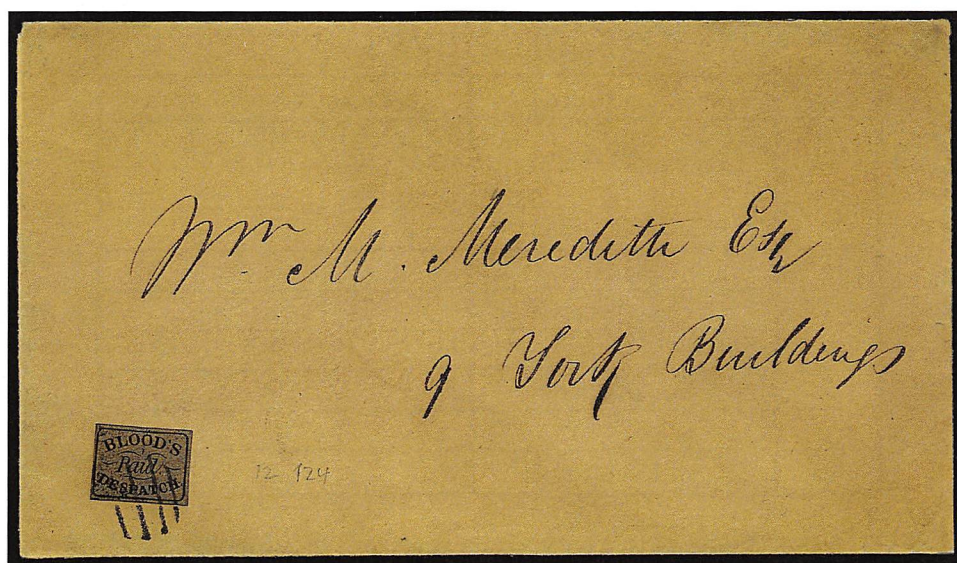


Figure 7. Handstamp D was four bar grid was the most common cancel.

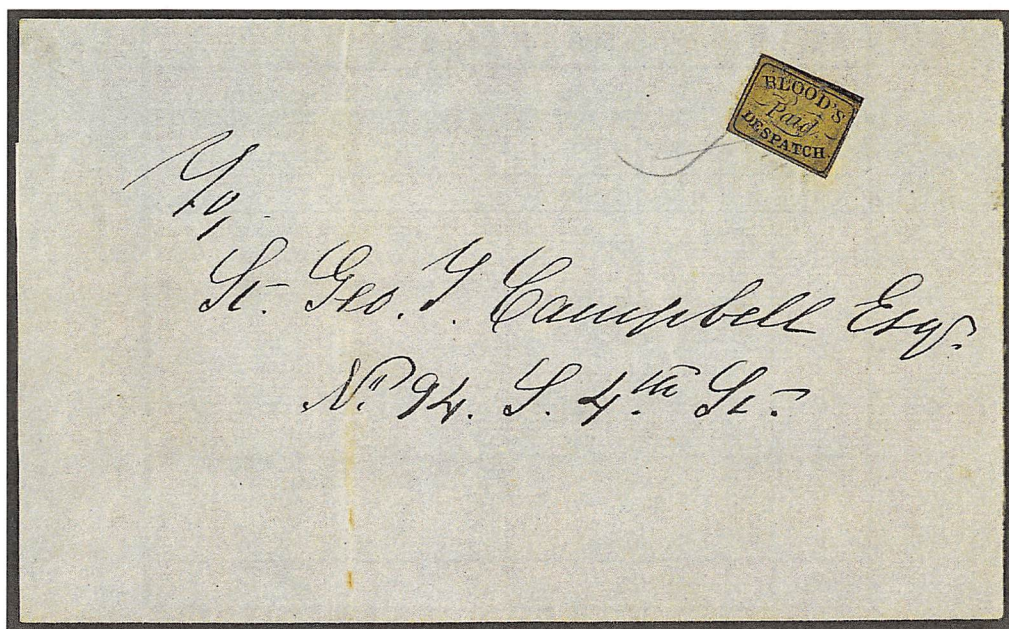


Figure 8. Faint four bar grid handstamp and pencil cancel.

15L12 ADDRESS		
Total	Location	Census Number
33	Philadelphia old city	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 20, 23, (24), 26, 27, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44
2	Philadelphia district	22, 37
4	New York	2, 14, 18, 25
2	Pennsylvania	21, 28
2	Virginia	9, 19
1	Massachusetts	13,
1	Unknown	45
45	All Locations	

Table II. Summary of 15L12 address destinations. 80% were local.

15L12 COVERS		
Total	Cover Type	Census Number
19	Folded Letter	3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 19, 20, 21, 23, 26, (28), 30, 32, 33, (39)
2	Printed circular	1, 11
15	Envelope	2, (4), 5, 10, 16, 17, 18, (25), (27), (31), 35, 40, 42, 44, 45
3	Embossed envelope	22, 34, 36
1	Ornate envelope	43
1	Small envelope	37
0	Large envelope	no
1	Advertising envelope	29
2	Front	(38), 41
1	Piece	24
0	Wrapper	no
45	All Types	

Table III. Summary of 15L12 cover types.

Two unusual *Paid* 15L12 examples originated from *inbound Philadelphia bootlegged* letters handed over to Blood's Despatch for city delivery (census numbers 9, 26). Similar inbound examples from other articles include one **PAID** 15L6 example,³⁵ and one **PAID** 15L11 example.³⁶

15L12 Cover Type

Table III is a summary of various cover types bearing a 15L12 *Paid* stamp. From a data base of 45 examples, folded letters including printed circulars comprised 21 examples (19 and 2 respectively), **Figure 3** (census number 1). Envelopes of various types accounted for another 21 examples, shown in **Figure 4** and **5**, or 47% of the entire data. For the first time in this series, **more envelopes than folded letters** were encountered (15% of 15L10; one third of 15L11; one third of 15L17). At the risk of repetition, envelopes were clearly the mid-century trend.

Two examples are cover *fronts* (census numbers 38, 41), portions of earlier envelopes or folded letter sheets. Data also includes one small remnant "piece of cover" (census number 24). No wrappers were identified.

15L12 Cancel Types

Table IV reveals that **87% of *Paid* 15L12 were cancelled** by Blood's Despatch, 39 of 45 covers, appropriately high for a city stamp, (falling short of immediate predecessor **PAID** 15L11 at 98%).³⁷ Four bar grid handstamp Type D³⁸ was the most common cancel, accounted for half, and appeared on 20 examples, **Figure 7**. One example reveals two types of Blood's Despatch cancels (census number 33), therefore listed as a bold number in **Table IV**, one of which was an unusual pencil marking, **Figure 8**. The second most common cancel was acid, and although not introduced until mid-January 1849 was identified on 16 covers, **Figure 5**. Six were not cancelled by the private post (census number 2, 13, 21, 42, 43, 44), half understandable on outbound mail where no threat of reuse in other cities existed. One odd, unlikely, possibly unique example (census number 45), which unfortunately has not been inspected in forty years, was described by the astute scholar Robson Lowe as "rare puncture cancellation of thirteen points."³⁹

One primitive oversized "X" penstroke cancel extended entirely across *Paid* 15L12 (census number 1), **Figure 3**. No "group of dots cancel," the de minimus penstroke,⁴⁰ remained in service by decade's end.

15L12 Cover Auxiliary Marking

Auxiliary markings provide additional postal information regarding handling and delivery. In the context of private posts, all markings not intended to prevent reuse of the private post stamp have been considered auxiliary markings, both manuscript and handstamp, government and private. More than one marking

³⁵ Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, April 2014, pages 42, 55.

³⁶ Morris, loc. cit., *The Penny Post*, July 2015, pages 24, 33, 36.

³⁷ Ibid, pages 36, 40, 55.

³⁸ Recorded only between May 3, 1848 and July 24, 1849.

³⁹ Lowe "U.S.A.I." Basel March 1, 1973 lot 1679 page 33.

⁴⁰ Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, April 2014, pages 43, 55, 58.



Figure 9. Two blue Philadelphia post office circular handstamps.

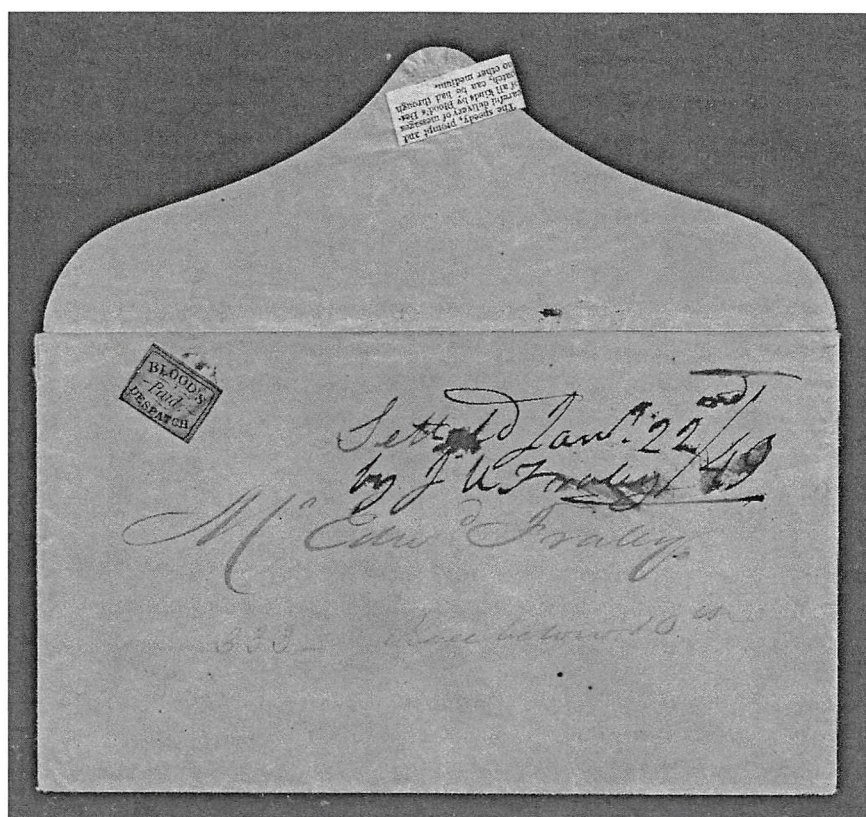


Figure 10. Dated manuscript auxiliary marking. Blue advertising label for Bloods on reverse flap.

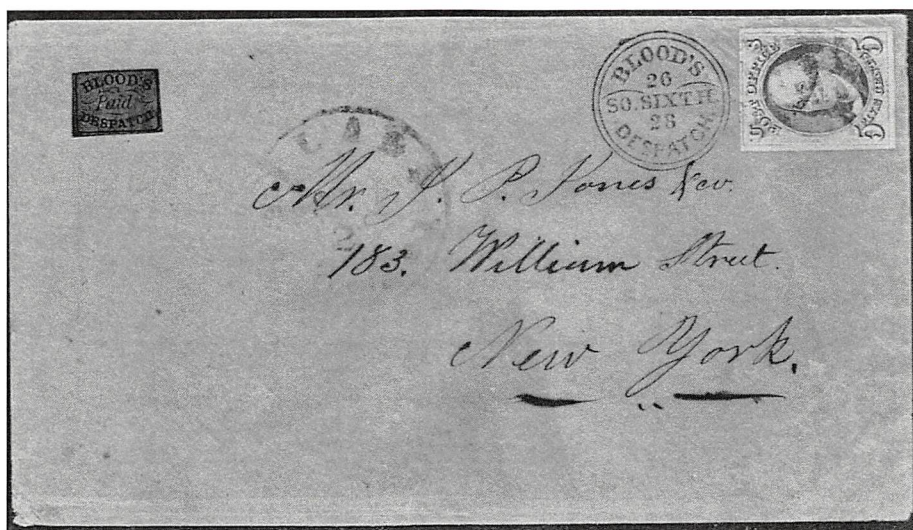


Figure 11. Blood's Despatch and post office circular handstamp markings.

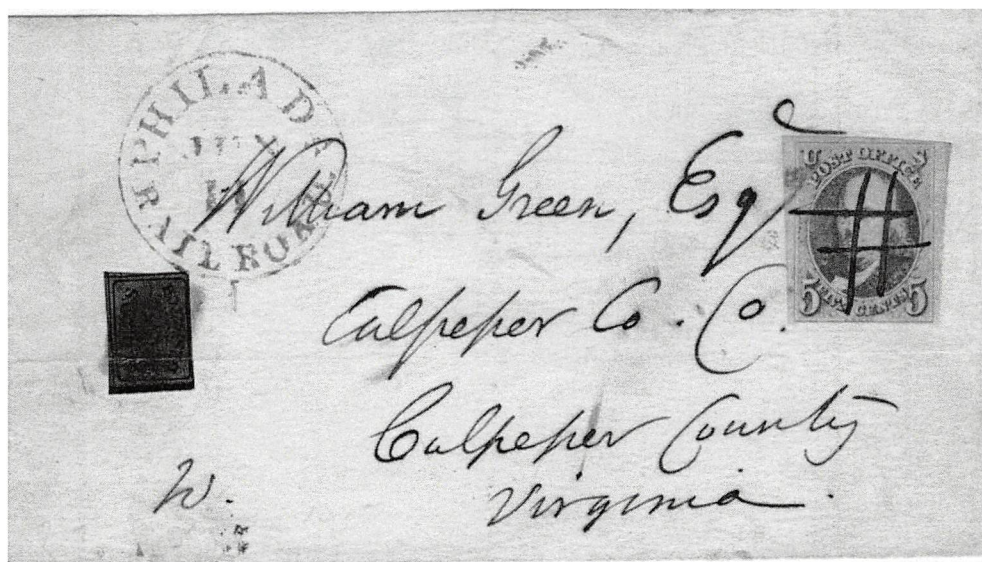


Figure 12. 15L12 tied by both Blood's Despatch cancel and government cds.

15L12 CANCEL		
Total	Cancel Type	Census Number
20	4 bar grid	3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 16, 20, 22, 23 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33 , 34, 35, 36
3	dots or pen stroke	1, 25, 33
16	acid	9, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 24, 26, 27, 37, 38, 39, 40, (41)
(1)	punctures	(45)
6	uncancelled	2, 13, 21, 42, 43, 44
39 (44 covers)	Total	

Table IV. Summary of 15L12 cancels. 90% cancelled.

15L12 AUXILIARY MARKINGS		
Total	Marking Type	Census Number
1	blue Philadelphia (Clarke 60a) cds	2
1	blue Philadelphia (Clarke 73) cds	25
1	blue Philadelphia (Clarke 73a) cds	21
2	blue Philadelphia (Clarke 74) cds	14, 16
2	blue Philadelphia indistinct cds	13, 28
1	blue Philadelphia RAIL ROAD (Clarke 470n)	19
1	red POTOMAC STEAMBOAT cds	9
1	blue numeral 5 in double circle	2
2	blue grid in circle	13, 21
1	Bloods Handstamp Type 14	24
1	Bloods Handstamp Type 15	25
2	Bloods Handstamp Type 17	26, 27
1	manuscript "X"	9
1	manuscript "W"	19
2	manuscript "5"	9, 18
2	manuscript "Paid"	22, 28
1	manuscript "free"	16
2	manuscript date	10, 17
2	manuscript notation	10, 40
1	blue ink	25
28	All Types (17 covers)	

Table V. Auxiliary markings appeared on 40% of 15L12 covers.

may appear on a single cover. Identical markings repeated on a single cover were not included in this assessment.

Table V identified almost **40% *Paid*** 15L12 covers were graced with an auxiliary marking, 17 of 44 in the data base (slightly greater than immediate forerunner city stamp **PAID** 15L11). Almost half of these covers (8 of 17) displayed only one marking type (census number 14, 17, 18, 22, 24, 26, 27, 40). Two different types of markings appeared on 7 covers (census number 2, 10, 13, 16, 19, 21, 28). Three different auxiliary marking types appeared on only two covers (census number 9, 25).

Of 28 markings 20, about 75%, were applied by the government. Of the 20 government markings, 12 were handstamps, **Figure 9** (census number 2), and 8 were manuscript (census number 9 twice, 16, 18, 19, 22, 25, 28). Of the 12 government handstamps, 10 were applied at the Philadelphia post office, and 2 by postal authorities elsewhere (census number 9, 19).

Of the 28 markings only four had been executed by Blood's Despatch (census number 24, 25, 26, 27), **Figure 4 and 5**, revealing three different types of company circular handstamps. Another four of 28 markings (census numbers 10, 17, 40) appear to have been applied by one of the correspondents as docket or other information, **Figure 10**.

One very special example (census number 25) displayed an example of each major group; one Blood's Despatch circular handstamp and one government circular datestamp, **Figure 11**.

15L12 Stamp Shape

Table VI is a summary of the various types of *Paid* 15L12 stamp shapes. No *Paid* 15L12 panes or multiples have been identified.⁴¹ Although mechanical die cut separation of adhesive stamps had been identified on a few predecessor **PAID** 15L11 examples,⁴² none have been recorded on *Paid* 15L12 or any subsequent Blood issues.

All were manually separated rectangles, facilitated by thin guidelines, clearly demonstrated on a small portion of nine examples (census number 10, 11, 17, 19, 36, 37, 40, 42, 45). Ten examples revealed black sheet margins (census number 1, 11, 17, 18, 19, 23, 37, 38, 40, 42). Only one special example (census number 1) was a corner margin stamp, **Figure 3**, the most compelling evidence of pane or sheet configuration.

90% were *cut* rectangles, 41 of 45, whereas 4 were partially hand *torn* rectangles, similar to several for the **POST OFFICE** 15L10.⁴³ None were cut trapezoids, squares, or octagons.

⁴¹ Gordon Stimmell, "Detecting Blood Types," *The Penny Post*, Vol. 1, No. 2, April 1991, page 29.

⁴² Morris, loc. cit., *The Penny Post*, July 2015, pages 21, 39, 41, 43, 55.

⁴³ Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, "Bloods Part 10: 15L10," *The Penny Post*, Vol. 23, No. 2, April 2015, Whole No. 91, pages 37, 38, 39, 53.

15L12 STAMP SHAPE		
Total	Shape	Census Number
41	Cut rectangle	1 Bottom right corner: 1
		5 Left margin: 18, 19, 23, 40, 42
		2 Bottom margin: 11, 37
		2 Right margin: 17, 38
4	Torn Rectangle	0 Top margin: no
		11, 17, 18, 45
0	Cut trapezoid	no
0	Cut square	no
0	Cut to Shape	no
0	Cut to Octagon	no
45	All Types	

Table VI. Summary of 15L12 stamp shapes.

15L12 TIED to COVER		
Total	Marking Type	Census Number
1	blue Philadelphia cds	19
18	4 bar grid	3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 20, 22, 23, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36
9	acid	9, 12, 14, 15, 18, 19, 24, (38), 39, 40
2	penstroke	1, 33
(1)	multiple punctures	(45)
31	All Types (29 covers)	

Table VII. Almost two thirds of 15L12 were tied to cover.

15L12 COMBINATION 1847 COVERS		
Total	Cover Type	Census Number
5	one 5 cent 1847 stamp	9, 19, 21, 25, 28
1	two 5 cent 1847 stamps	13
0	10 cent 1847 stamp	-
6	All Types	

Table VIII. 15L12 in combination with 1847 stamp was 13%.

15L12 Tied to Cover

Table VII summarized tied to cover. An impressive **64%** of 15L12 *Paid* stamps **were tied**, 29 covers from the data of 45, *all* by Blood's Despatch. One was also accidentally tied by government cds (census number 19), **Figure 12**. Blood's Despatch Handstamp Type D four bar grid tied 18 covers, acid tied 9, and penstroke 2. Since two covers were each tied by two mechanisms (bold font census numbers 19, 33), the total was 31 tied *markings* on 29 covers.

15L12 Correspondence

From any philatelic group of covers, multiple examples to the same person or address constitute a philatelic correspondence. George Campbell tops the list with four covers, (census number 20, 30, 32, 33) all delivered to 4th Street below Walnut.⁴⁴ Campbell was born in Philadelphia on March 28, 1783, studied law, and was admitted to the Philadelphia Bar on June 6, 1803. George Campbell served in Common Councils, prepared a large catalog in 1854 for the Philadelphia Library, and was a member of the Pennsylvania Historical Society. He was a director of the Pennsylvania Savings Fund and of the Commercial Bank. George Campbell never married, and died on June 11, 1855.⁴⁵

Three individuals received two covers each. First, William M. Meredith (census number 16, 32), Secretary of the Treasury under President Taylor, was thoroughly reviewed in an earlier article.⁴⁶ Second, James Hyatt (census number 4, 7) resided at 205 South 4th Street. Third, but not least was Campbell Morfit (census number 34, 35) at Arch Street above 6th,⁴⁷ who was also the addressee of an early and highly important **PAID** D.O. Blood & Co.'s cover,⁴⁸ in addition to an example in the last article.⁴⁹

Moreover, three recipients who received but a single *Paid* 15L12 cover were present in earlier articles. First, Reverend George Boyd DD (census number 12) had received one of the highly important 15L2 covers,⁵⁰ and during 1843 had been Rector of St. Johns Church in Northern Liberties. Boyd's 15L12 *Paid* was addressed in care of JW Kester, a merchant in the old city on Bank Street. Second, George Carpenter (census number 1) **Figure 3**.⁵¹ Third, Mrs. William Burdsall (census number 36) on the southwest corner of 12th and Arch (prior to 1853

⁴⁴ *McElroy's PHILADELPHIA DIRECTORY for 1849*, page 53, 12th Edition, Philadelphia: Ashmead 1849; listed him as atty & coun., 203 Mulberry.

⁴⁵ [History of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick and of the Hibernian Society for ... - John Hugh Campbell - Google Books](#)

⁴⁶ Morris, loc. cit., *The Penny Post*, July 2015, pages 43, 44, 46.

⁴⁷ *McElroy's PHILADELPHIA DIRECTORY for 1849*, page 267, 12th Edition, Philadelphia: Ashmead 1849; listed him as chemist 217 Mulberry.

⁴⁸ Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, "Blood's Part 5: 15L5," *The Penny Post*, Vol. 22, No. 1, January 2014, Whole No. 86, pages 27, 34, 51, 57.

⁴⁹ Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, "Blood's Part 12: 15L17," *The Penny Post*, Vol. 23, No. 4, October 2015, Whole No. 93, pages 27, 62.

⁵⁰ Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, "Blood's Part 1: 15L2," *Penny Post*, Vol. 21, No. 1, January 2013, Whole No. 82, pages 20, 29, 33, 37.

⁵¹ Morris, loc. cit., *The Penny Post*, April 2014, pages 42, 45, 46.

renaming had been Mulberry Street).⁵² For several years William Burdsall had been the only unusual name Burdsall listed in Philadelphia city directories, at 350 Mulberry.^{53,54,55} Scott Burdsall, a likely relative, was the recipient of three **for the POST OFFICE** 15L10 covers to Rahway NJ and Montgomery, AL,⁵⁶ and also one **Post Office** 15L17 to Montgomery, AL.⁵⁷

15L12 Valentines

Apparently no ***Paid*** 15L12 covers included valentine enclosures. **Table I** revealed only 4 of 25 February specific covers (census number 12-15), although none were envelopes. From the entire census only three were addressed to females (census number 22, 43, 44), all undated. The first was an embossed envelope, and the second a highly ornate envelope, **Figure 13**, both excellent valentine candidates, but absent confirming enclosure.

15L12 Blood Advertising Labels

An advertisement label appeared on 27% of 15L12 ***Paid*** covers, shown in **Figure 10** (only 15L6 **PAID** was higher at 33%).⁵⁸

Of the 12 examples, 5 were pink labels (4, 11, 22, 29, 30). Second was 4 blue labels (census number 8, 10, 13, 42); one green (census number 23); and two colors were unknown (census number 6, 9). Almost half of all labels were on the *reverse* (census number 8, 9, 10, 13, 22).

Of the 12 examples 7 were date certain, from November 22, 1848 until February 10, 1849. This three month period is largely concurrent with labels in other Blood's Despatch series, such as **PAID** 15L11⁵⁹ and **Post Office** 1517.⁶⁰

15L12 Circulars

Although mass business circulars had been encouraged by D.O. Blood & Co., only two ***Paid*** 15L12 covers were printed notices (census number 1, 11). Furthermore, **Table 1** does not include Blood's Despatch special self-advertisement circulars demonstrating samples of new stamps, along with defined service types and volume discounts,⁶¹ as distributed by former D.O. Blood & Co. Special demonstration circulars have not been recorded for *any* Blood's Despatch stamp issues.

⁵² *Mermaids, Monasteries, Cherokees, and Custer*, Robert I. Alotta, page 10, Bonus Books, 1990, Chicago.

⁵³ *McElroy's PHILADELPHIA DIRECTORY for 1847*, 10th Edition, Philadelphia: Ashmead 1847; page 44.

⁵⁴ *McElroy's PHILADELPHIA DIRECTORY for 1849*, 12th Edition, Philadelphia: Ashmead 1849; page 47.

⁵⁵ *McElroy's PHILADELPHIA DIRECTORY for 1850*, 13th Edition, Philadelphia: Ashmead 1850; page 52.

⁵⁶ Morris, loc. cit., *The Penny Post*, April 2015, pages 29, 40, 41.

⁵⁷ Morris, loc. cit., *The Penny Post*, October 2015, pages 22, 37, 44, 60.

⁵⁸ Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, April 2014, pages 47, 55.

⁵⁹ Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, July 2015, pages 44, 46.

⁶⁰ Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, October 2015, page 44.

⁶¹ Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, July 2014, pages 48-50.



Figure 13. Uncancelled 15L12 on ornate envelope, but no valentine.

<p>READER—Remember Blood's Despatch Office is at 25 SOUTH SIXTH, (Shakespeare Bldg.)</p>			
PRICES OF STAMPS.			
For City Letters.		For Post Office Letters.	
1 dozen	10 cts.	3 Stamps	5 cts.
do	20 "	6 do	8 "
2 do	35 "	12 do	12 "
4 do	60 "	24 do	20 "
6 do	80 "	50 do	42 "
8 do	91 "	100 do	75 "
<p>OFFICE 25 SOUTH SIXTH, (Shakespeare Building.)</p>			
<p>N. B. STAMPS sent to all parts of the City, orders therefor (stating number and kind required,) being dropped into any of "Blood's Despatch" Boxes.</p>			

Figure 14. Unchanged "City Stamp" rates in October 1848 for 15L12.

15L12 Rate

From July 1846 through the end of 1848, *retail* cost per single service had been 2 cents, collect cash *or* prepaid by stamp, city delivery or post office delivery. Within one month of *Paid* 15L12 appearance, on October 9, 1848⁶² Blood's Despatch confirmed *identical* prepayment volume discounts, **Figure 14.**⁶³ ⁶⁴ As a city stamp, *Paid* 15L12 could be purchased for twenty cents a dozen! Even better, 8 dozen, or **96 were only \$1.00**, just over 1 cent per stamp (1.05 cents per stamp), about half price. In 1848 one cent compared very favorably with the Philadelphia carrier department 2 cent *collect* at the door, never discounted. Generic "PAID" stamps could be purchased at the new principal office, 28 South Sixth Street in the Shakespeare Building, **Figure 6** map shown in red, or any of their retail stores. An exchange period was never required, and outstanding city stamp issues were valid for current and future service.⁶⁵

Paid Stamps

A June 12, 1848⁶⁶ newspaper advertised "PAID STAMPS of BLOOD'S DESPATCH," **Figure 15**, likely referring to current **PAID** 15L11 and imminent *Paid* 15L12 city stamps, both trumpeting their "PAID" status. "PAID" in distinct contrast to "collect." "PAID" had appeared on *all* city stamps intended for local door delivery. **PAID** appeared on 15L5 and 15L6; **PAID** on 15L11; and *Paid* on 15L12, all three shown together in **Figure 16**. "PAID" stamps were generically promoted by Blood's Despatch, were in stark contrast to Philadelphia collect carrier service which had no prepaid stamps yet, and "tongue in cheek" primitive 1842 Philadelphia Despatch Post oxymoron and confusing "Free Stamps."⁶⁷

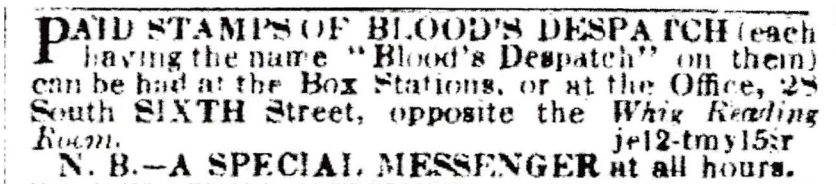


Figure 15. June 1848 advertisement for PAID STAMPS.

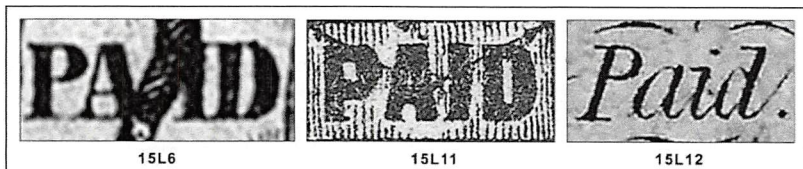


Figure 16. Three different PAID city stamps.

⁶² Public Ledger, Vol. XXVI, No.13, page 3.

⁶³ Public Ledger, July 21, 1848 Vol. XXV, No.1, page 2.

⁶⁴ Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, July 2015, page 48.

⁶⁵ Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, July 2014, pages 47-51.

⁶⁶ Public Ledger, Vol. XXV, No. 68.

⁶⁷ Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, January 2013, page 27, Figure 3.

To the contrary, “Post Office” had been inscribed on all post office stamps intended for outbound mail. **For the POST OFFICE** on 15L7, 15L8, and 15L9;⁶⁸ **for the POST OFFICE** on 15L10; and **Post Office** on 15L17.

Terminology in the stamp design was *specific and consistent* with bifurcated postal service. Blood’s too had delivered some local letters collect (without a stamp), which were not discounted but unfortunately encumbered with an obligatory meeting to exchange cash. “PAID” was self-explanatory and clearly signaled *Philadelphia residents need not pay collect on delivery*. Residents in other cities never received a collect letter since they obviously had no financial obligation to a Philadelphia private post.

15L12 Government Combinations

1847 general issue government stamps in combination with *Paid* 1512 were possible from July 1, 1847, the first day of federal prepayment stamps, until June 30, 1851, their last day before demonetization. From the data of 45 *Paid* 1512 covers all but one (census number 27) were *candidates* for combination. *Paid* 15L12, however, was a city stamp intended for local door delivery, and therefore not the appropriate stamp for intended outbound government inter-city mail, making their appearance together unlikely.

In 1992 Robert Meyersburg assembled a casual census of Blood’s stamps in combination with 1847 general issue stamps,⁶⁹ and reported six with 15L12 *Paid*, two of which were 10 cent rates (incorrectly including census letter B). He provided one black and white photograph (census number 19), shown in **Figure 12**, but did not source his references.

Table I and **VIII** confirmed **6 combination *Paid* 15L12 with 1847** general issue stamps (one not included by Meyersburg), approximately **13%** of the data (census numbers 9, 13, 19, 21, 25, 28). In each case the sender prepaid in full both private post collection and outbound government inter-city mail transportation. This group represents both inter-city rates. Five of 6 were under 300 mile 5 cent rate prepaid by a single 5 cent stamp; one was over 300 mile 10 cent rate pre-paid by a pair of 5 cent 1847 general issue stamps (census number 13).

15L12 Transatlantic

No *Paid* 15L12 transatlantic covers have been identified. Also, none to Canada.

15L12 Volume – Time Analysis

Figure 17 reveals the *Paid* 15L12 cluster period consisted of 20 covers from September 13, 1848 until July 24, 1849. During these 10.3 busiest months *Paid* 15L12 philatelic activity was 1.94 covers per month, **Figure 18**. 70% were local delivery, but 6 of 20 were outbound (census number 2, 9, 13, 14, 18, 19) via a

⁶⁸ Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, January 2015, page 47.

⁶⁹ Robert B. Meyersburg, “1847 Postage Stamps Used in Combination with Carrier and Local Adhesives,” *The Chronicle*, Vol. 44, No. 1, February 1992, Whole No. 153, page 12.

government post office, the clear majority being the Philadelphia post office.⁷⁰ The full census of 44 known destinations was greater compliance, 35 local service for almost 80%.

15L12 Time Line

The most active period of ***Paid*** 15L12 was late 1848 through the first half of 1849, with several far outliers in the very early 1850's. Concurrently serving city stamps included the final three trailing months of recently introduced Blood's Despatch **PAID** 15L11, and surprising winding down left over D.O. Blood & Co.'s **PAID** 15L6 striding messengers (15L6 philatelic lifespan eclipsed ***Paid*** 15L12 reaching fall 1849).⁷¹ Moreover, three earlier **PAID** 15L5 very far outlier striding messenger covers, probably resulting from long misplaced stamps, have been identified throughout 1850.⁷²

Spring Garden District

On July 1, 1845 private posts were effectively forbidden from intercity mail. Philadelphia County had no post offices south of Philadelphia old city. Immediately north of the old city, however, post offices had existed in well-populated Kensington⁷³ on the Delaware River, and just west in sparsely populated but westward growing Spring Garden District.⁷⁴ D.O. Blood & Co. and Blood's Despatch respectfully avoided these municipalities, but had established nearby collection boxes.^{75,76}

A May 20, 1847 **PAID** 15L5 example had been curiously delivered on the Spring Garden side of borderline Vine street,⁷⁷ but was leniently considered an innocuous D.O. Blood & Co.'s minor error. The last article identified a peculiar undated ~~Post Office~~ 15L17 delivered *inside* Spring Garden District, less than one block from their post office.⁷⁸ ***Paid*** 15L12 data includes a third transgression (census number 37) into Spring Garden. In retrospect, a fourth undated **PAID** 15L11 was *incorrectly excluded* (census letter A) because it was addressed to Spring Garden *Street* well into Spring Garden District.⁷⁹

Both D.O. Blood & Co. and Blood's Despatch had properly informed the public via newspapers of their restriction from the Spring Garden District.⁸⁰ On December 18, 1848, however, Blood's Despatch *reversed* company policy and announced collection boxes within eastern Spring Garden District, **Figure 19**.⁸¹

⁷⁰ Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, April 2015, pages 32, 36, 37, 44, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 56.

⁷¹ Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, April 2014, pages 40, 41, 54.

⁷² Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, January 2014, pages 27, 30, 38, 43.

⁷³ Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, April 2015, pages 49-51.

⁷⁴ Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, October 2015, pages 52, 56.

⁷⁵ Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, July 2015, page 53.

⁷⁶ Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, October 2015, page 35.

⁷⁷ Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, January 2014, pages 26, 35, 36, 38, 39, 46.

⁷⁸ Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, October 2015, pages 33, 35, 52, 54, 56.

⁷⁹ Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, July 2015, pages 28, 31.

⁸⁰ Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, April 2014, page 53.

⁸¹ Public Ledger, XXVI No.73, page 4.

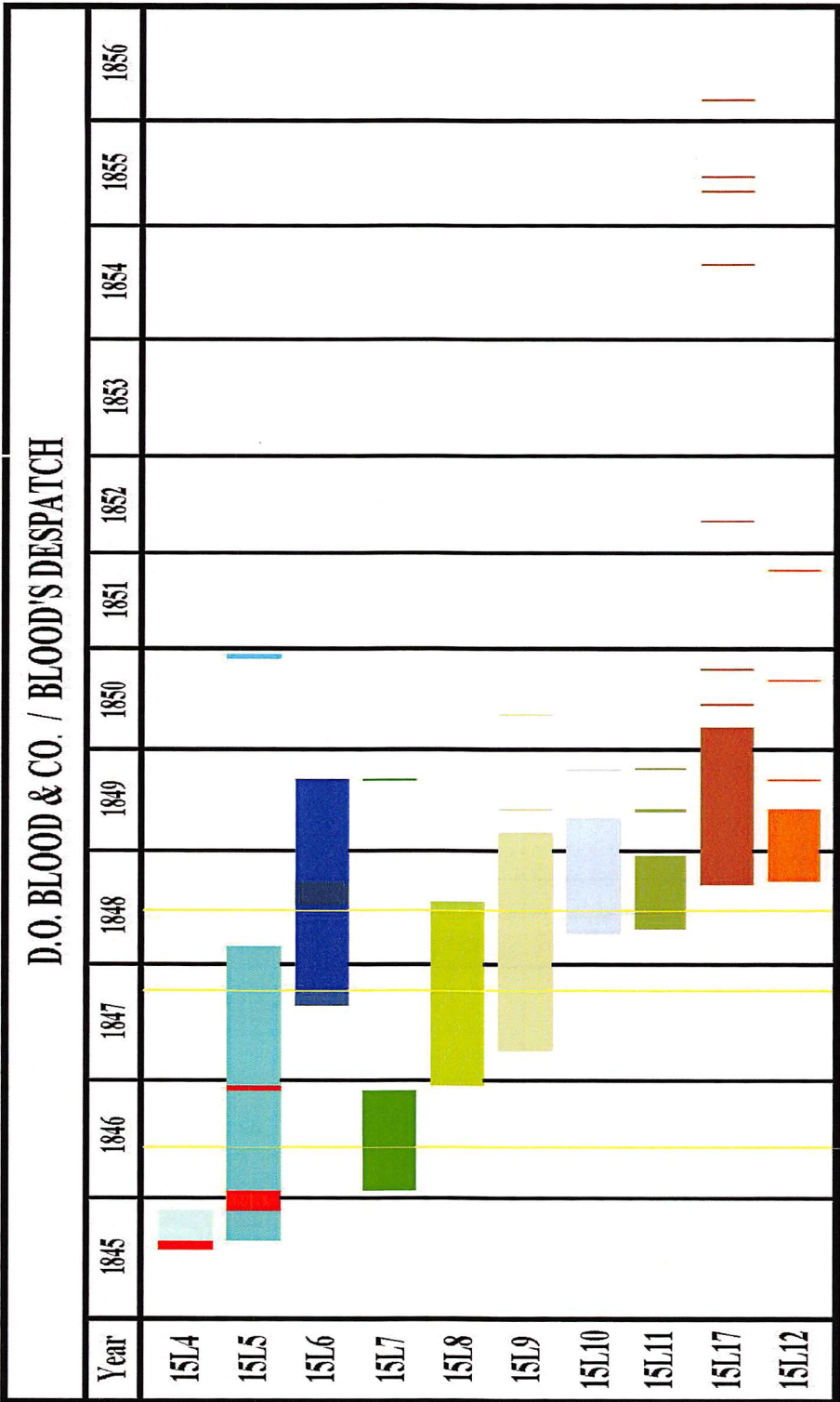


Figure 17. 15L12 cluster time line.

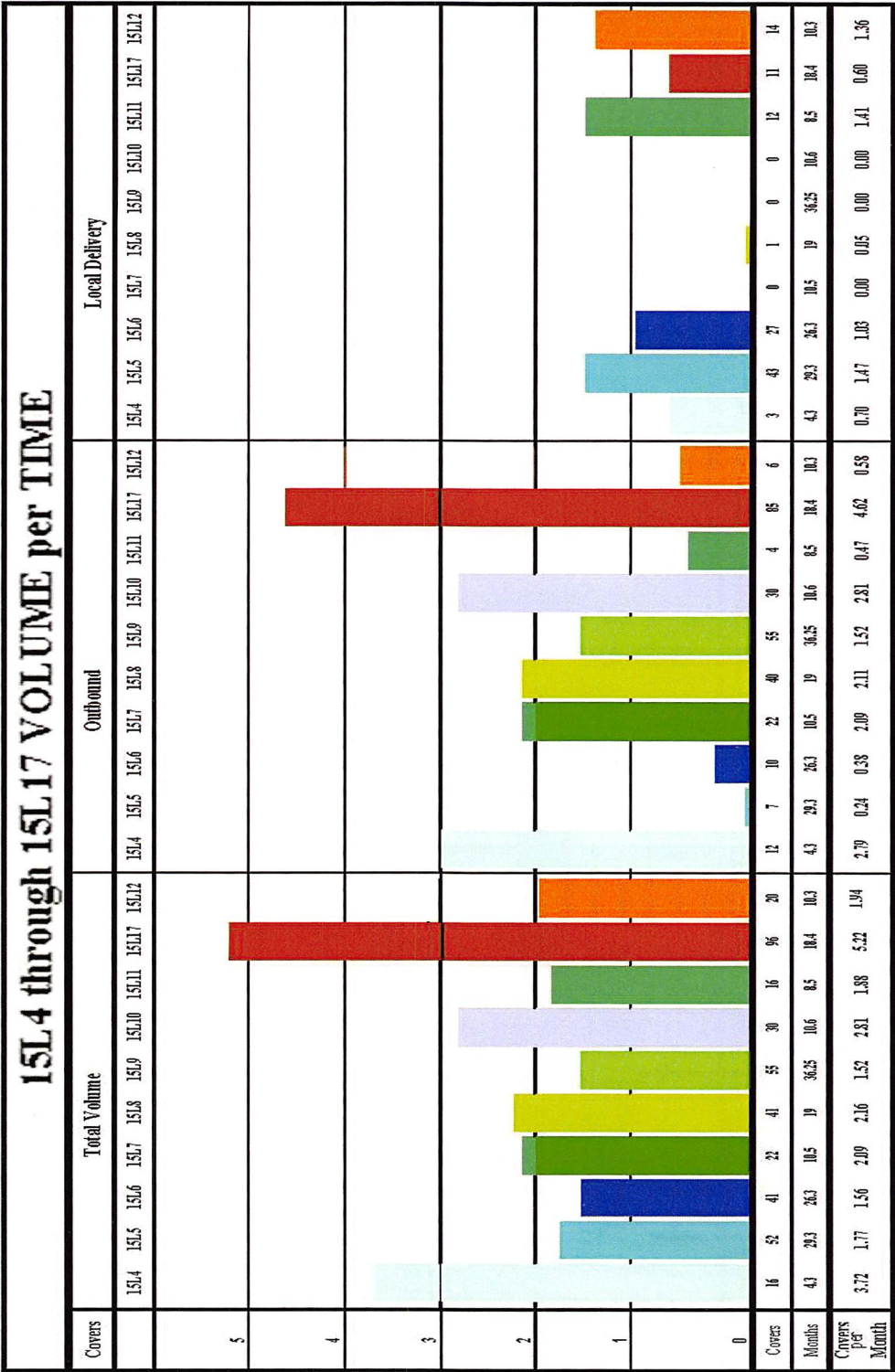


Figure 18. Graphic business activity of Blood stamp issues during cluster periods.

MORE PUBLIC CONVENIENCE.—Our readers in the district of Spring Garden, South of Poplar street and east of Broad, will rejoice to learn that the enterprising proprietor of "Blood's Despatch" has extended to them the usefulness and great convenience of his services and those of his corps of carriers by stationing his boxes for the reception of letters, circulars, funeral and other notices in the principal drug and other stores, at convenient distances from each other, within the boundaries mentioned. Blood's Despatch delivers letters throughout the city three times a day, and including his evening collection for mail letters, delivers to the Post Office four times per day. These evening collections for the Post Office, take place after 8 o'clock, thus affording to the citizens of all classes an opportunity of having their evening written letters mailed the same night.

Stamps for pre-payment can be procured at all the places where the boxes are stationed, and it is a convenience to have them always on hand.

Figure 19. In mid-December 1848 Blood's Despatch announced service in Spring Garden.

Moreover, the same newspaper issue⁸² identified precise locations of 143 Blood's Despatch boxes throughout Philadelphia County, **Figure 20**, of which **22 boxes were incredibly within Spring Garden, Figure 21**. Clearly, competition with the government crossed the proverbial "red line," and signaled a direct frontal assault on federally sanctioned inter-city mail. The iconic striding messenger's powerful leap figuratively reached over minion Spring Garden post office as well. Although *no* Blood's Despatch collection boxes were present in Kensington or further north in the "District of Penn," no shortage of boxes had otherwise existed, and were well stationed throughout eligible Northern Liberties, Southwark, and Moyamensing, and forbidden Spring Garden District.

City Stamp for Railroad / Ferry

Of 9 outbound covers, all were delivered to a post office, 7 to the Philadelphia post office, and two for a post office in another city. Therefore, 77% of outbound examples had been taken to the nearest post office.

⁸² Ibid., page 3.

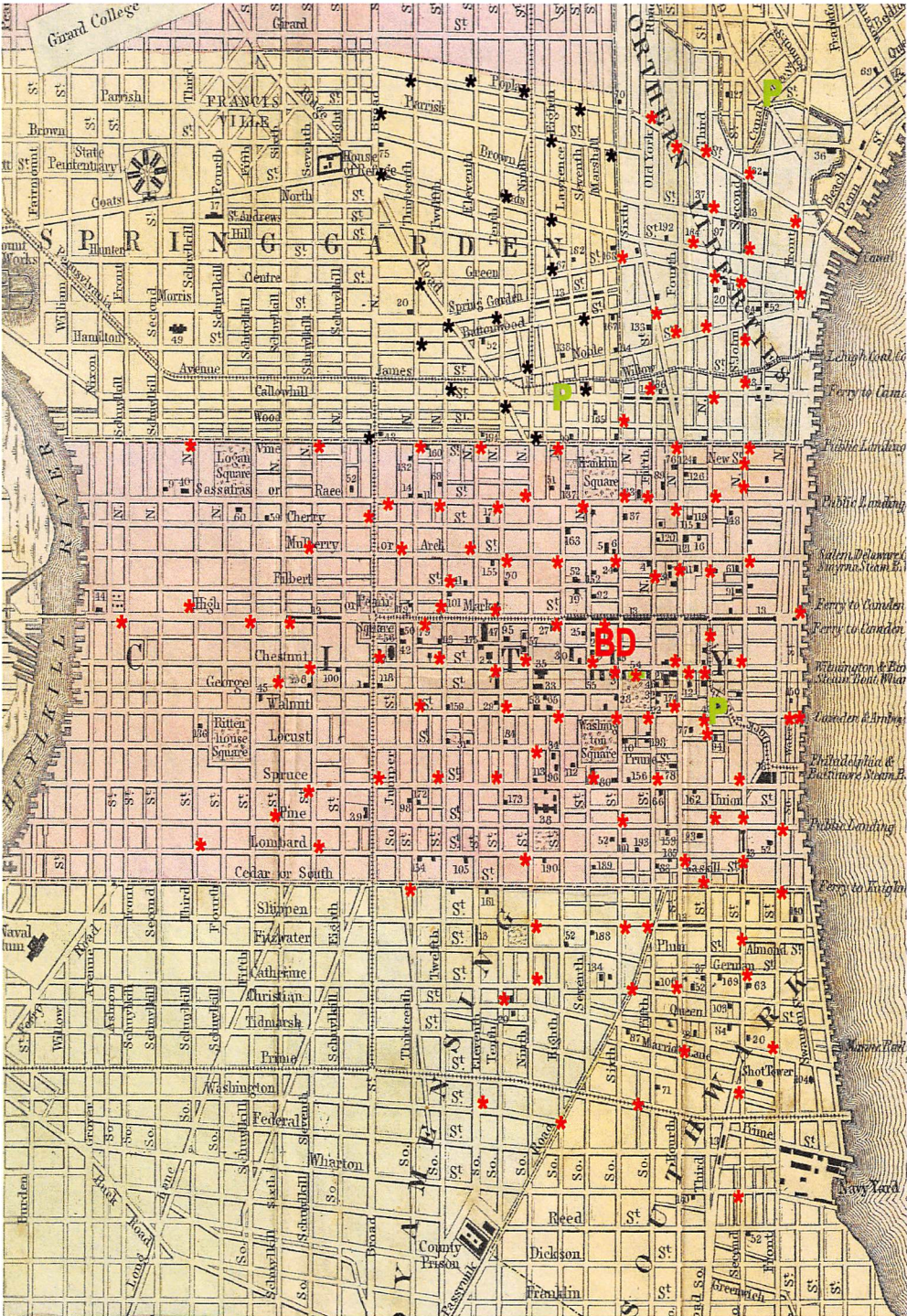


Figure 21. Asterisks locate Blood’s Despatch 22 collection boxes in Spring Garden, shown in black.

THE readers of the Ledger will find the following List very convenient:-

BLOOD'S DESPATCH.

LIST OF BOX STATIONS.

WHARVES.	SIXTH ST.
N. W. cor. Market.	S. E. cor. Walnut.
S. W. " Walnut.	N. E. " Pine.
S. E. " Walnut & Water.	S. E. " Shippen.
FRONT ST.	SEVENTH ST.
N. W. cor. Brown.	N. W. cor. Poplar.
N. E. " Green.	N. W. " Buttonwood.
S. E. " Pine.	N. W. " Callowhill.
S. E. " South.	N. W. " Race.
N. W. " Christian.	N. E. " Chestnut.
SECOND ST.	N. E. " Spruce.
N. E. cor. Poplar.	EIGHTH ST.
N. E. " Coates.	S. E. cor. Parrish.
N. W. " Green.	N. E. " Coates.
No. 238 bet. Noble.	N. E. " Green.
No. 242 abov. Callowhill.	N. W. " Vine.
S. E. cor. Vine.	N. W. " Arch.
No. 133 bet. Vine.	N. W. " Market.
No. 136 abov. Race.	N. W. " Walnut.
S. E. cor. Arch.	NINTH ST.
N. W. " Chestnut.	N. W. cor. Poplar.
N. W. " Spruce.	N. W. " Noble.
No. 160 bet. Litch.	N. E. " Vine.
No. 23 abov. Gaskill.	N. W. " Race.
No. 26 opp. Almond.	N. W. " Chestnut.
S. E. cor. Mead.	N. W. " Locust.
S. W. " Mary.	N. W. " Lombard.
S. W. " Wharton.	N. E. " Shippen.
THIRD ST.	N. E. " Catharine.
N. W. cor. Poplar.	TENTH ST.
N. E. " Brown.	N. E. cor. Coates.
N. E. " Green.	N. W. " Spring Garden.
N. W. " Noble.	N. E. " Ridge Road.
N. E. " Callowhill.	N. W. " Race.
N. E. " Race.	N. E. " Arch.
No. 48 bet. Arch.	N. W. " Market.
N. E. " Market.	N. W. " Chestnut.
S. W. cor. Chestnut.	N. E. " Walnut.
N. W. " Walnut.	N. W. " Spruce.
No. 104 bet. Walnut.	N. E. " Christian.
N. E. cor. Pine.	ELEVENTH ST.
N. W. " Smith.	N. W. cor. Poplar.
S. W. cor. Poplar.	N. E. " Washington.
N. W. " Noble.	N. E. " Vine.
S. W. " Vine.	N. W. " Arch.
S. W. " Race.	TWELFTH ST.
No. 40 bet. Arch.	N. E. cor. Spring Garden.
N. W. cor. Chestnut.	N. E. " Callowhill.
N. W. " Walnut.	N. E. " Race.
S. E. " Lombard.	N. E. " Filbert.
N. W. " Catharine.	No. 22 abov. Market.
N. E. " Carpenter.	N. W. cor. Chestnut.
FIFTH ST.	N. W. " Spruce.
N. W. cor. Callowhill.	THIRTEENTH ST.
N. W. " Race.	N. E. cor. Poplar.
No. 16 abov. Commerce.	N. E. " Ridge Road.
S. E. cor. Walnut.	N. E. " Buttonwood.
N. E. " Spruce.	N. E. " Vine.
S. W. " Shippen.	N. E. " Walnut.
SIXTH ST.	N. W. " South.
S. W. cor. Parrish.	BROAD ST.
N. E. " Green.	S. E. cor. Parrish.
N. E. " Wood.	N. E. " Coates.
N. E. " Race.	N. W. " Vine.
S. W. " Arch.	Westchester House.
S. W. " Chestnut.	N. E. cor. Chestnut.
	N. E. " Spruce.
SCHUYLKILL STREETS.	
S. E. corner Schuyl. Seventh and Vine.	
N. W. corner Schuyl. Seventh and Arch.	
S. W. corner Schuyl. Seventh and Chestnut.	
S. W. corner Schuyl. Seventh and Spruce.	
N. E. corner Schuyl. Seventh and Lombard.	
S. E. corner Schuyl. Sixth and Market.	
N. W. corner Schuyl. Sixth and George.	
N. W. corner Schuyl. Sixth and Pine.	
S. W. corner Schuyl. Fifth and Market.	
S. W. corner Schuyl. Third and Vine.	
N. W. corner Schuyl. Third and Market.	
N. E. corner Schuyl. Third and Lombard.	
S. W. corner Schuyl. Front and Market.	
PROMISCUOUS.	
157 Poplar, below Fifth.	
147 Coates, below Fourth.	
Old York road and Tamany.	
492 Race, below Broad.	
N. E. corner Arch and Jumper.	
292 Market, above Sixth.	
473 Market, below Thirteenth.	
104 Chestnut, below Fourth.	
State House, (main passage.)	
Passyunk road and Catharine.	
Passyunk road and Washington.	
Washington and Parker.	
READER —Please remember that BLOOD'S	
Despatch Office is at	28 South SIXTH Street,
d12-tmy16fr	Near the State House.

Figure 20. Blood's Despatch serviced 143 collection boxes in Philadelphia County.

Only one (census number 18) had probably been transported by railroad agent "favor bag" to the New York post office,⁸³ notated by manuscript "5" due, much like a "way letter." One other outbound cover also bypassed the Philadelphia post office by steamboat to the Southern mail (census number 9).

Theory

Blood's Despatch postal service appeared to have been slowly evolving. Predecessor D.O. Blood & Co.'s had serviced several eligible districts absent a post office, but clearly avoided forbidden Kensington and growing Spring Garden District. In December 1848 Blood's Despatch clearly challenged the federal government by establishing 22 collection boxes within Spring Garden.

Second, decreasing compliance with a bifurcated system of cost differential service, and probable **movement toward a more universal program**. Compliance had always been greater for the less labor intensive **For the POST OFFICE** service: initially combined 15L7, 15L8, and 15L9 was 98.6%;⁸⁴ even higher **for the POST OFFICE** 15L10 at 100%;⁸⁵ but decreased significantly to 80% for ~~Post Office~~ 15L17.⁸⁶ Meanwhile, compliance had been lower for labor intensive city stamps: combined striding messenger **PAID** 15L5 and 15L6 began at 82%;⁸⁷ while **PAID** 15L11 and *Paid* 15L12 each decreased slightly further to 80%.⁸⁸ Combined postal service types by Blood's Despatch **diminished to 80%, not too distant from 50% at random**, perhaps questioning the value of dichotomy.

Third, Blood's Despatch discontinued printed self-advertisement circulars demonstrating new stamp samples, service type, and volume discounts.

Fourth, mechanical separation of stamps had no traction. Flirted with on predecessor **PAID** 15L11, no carry over was identified for either *Paid* 15L12 or ~~Post Office~~ 15L17 examples.

Fifth, much like ~~Post Office~~ 15L17, contemporary counter-partner *Paid* 15L12 can be considered **largely an 1849 stamp** with minor prevalence several months before and but a few scattered examples after.

Sixth, but not least, for the first time in this series, more covers were envelopes than folded letters.

15L12 Summary

By summer 1848 Blood's Despatch introduced their new line of private post stamps that were small and rectangular. First to appear on August 24, 1848 was 15L17 ~~Post Office~~ issue⁸⁹ for outbound letters. The complementary counter-partner city stamp, *Paid* 15L12 appeared less than three weeks later by September 13, 1848 (succeeding city stamp oval green 15L11 **PAID** dove carrying envelope). ~~Post~~

⁸³ Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, April 2015, pages 49-52, 56.

⁸⁴ Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, January 2015, page 60.

⁸⁵ Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, April 2015, pages 30, 53.

⁸⁶ Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, October 2015, pages 33, 55.

⁸⁷ Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, April 2014, page 58.

⁸⁸ Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, July 2015, pages 30, 55.

⁸⁹ Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, October 2015, pages 11, 32, 54, 55, 57.

Office 15L17 and ***Paid*** 15L12 can be considered together, complemented each other, and were largely 1849.

The world's first bifurcated specialized service business model had continued although apparently losing steam in comparison to trailblazer D.O. Blood & Co.⁹⁰ Blood's Despatch continued *single* service of either type for 2 cents, same as Philadelphia carrier department door delivery. However, private post volume discounts to almost 1 cent were extremely attractive and profoundly lower than government carrier's fee based delivery. Blood's Despatch dominated the local Philadelphia market. This robust company had been undeterred, and now tested the federal resolve for what by definition was illegal inter-city private postal service in Spring Garden District, where 22 Blood's Despatch collection boxes were stationed.

A data base of 45 covers with genuine ***Paid*** 15L12 stamp has been tabulated, all photographed with more than three-quarters in color, and known destination locale for all except one. The **earliest recorded *Paid* 15L12 was September 13, 1848, Figure 3**, only a few months following the May 25, 1848 move from Third to Sixth Street. ***Paid*** 15L12 cluster of greatest business activity was from September 13, 1848 until July 24, 1849 for 10.3 months. ***Paid*** 15L12 philatelic lifespan which included outliers was much longer, over three years, from **September 13, 1848 until November 3, 1851**. The latest recorded example is an untied June 15, (1852-53) far outlier, **Figure 4**.

From **Table I** evidence **80% were local door delivery** (identical to recent 15L11 **PAID**). Thirty five were local, 2 of which were transported to adjacent Districts. Likewise, 9 outbound covers inappropriately featured a ***Paid*** 15L12 city stamp.

Almost half of the 15L12 ***Paid*** covers were envelopes, a trend on the rise. Almost **90% were cancelled** to prevent local reuse of ***Paid*** 15L12. The most common cancel was a four bar grid, Handstamp Type D. Although acid cancels didn't appear until later January 1849, the mildly destructive chemical quickly became dominant. Incredibly, **two thirds were tied** to their cover, all by Blood's Despatch marking. 40% of ***Paid*** 15L12 covers were also graced with an auxiliary marking, mostly governmental (slightly more than **PAID** 15L11). Advertising labels appeared on more than 25%.

1847 general issue stamps prepaying outbound inter-city mail were sometimes strangely combined with city stamps,⁹¹ rather than the appropriate post office stamps; first occurred with D.O. Blood & Co.'s 15L5 and 15L6 **PAID** on but only 2% (2 of 95 total covers). 15L11 **PAID** combination prevalence had increased slightly to less than 5%,⁹² but increased in no small way to **13% *Paid* 15L12 in combination** with 1847 stamp.

⁹⁰ Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, July 2015, pages 41, 42, 43, 45, 55.

⁹¹ Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, April 2014, pages 52, 54.

⁹² Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, July 2015, pages 41, 42, 43, 45, 55.

During late 1848 a “stir in the air” must have pervaded 28 South Sixth Street, near the Liberty Bell. Blood’s Despatch was the descendent company of the third entity in the world to produce prepayment stamps,⁹³ descendent of the company which printed the world’s first pictorial stamp,⁹⁴ descendent company of the world’s first special purpose stamp,⁹⁵ and first to developed bifurcated postal service including volume discount *savings kindly passed on to the public*.⁹⁶

Blood’s Despatch was an ambitious enterprise which dwarfed other Philadelphia local post competition, and had essentially precluded the Philadelphia carrier department from servicing city letters by virtue of much cheaper volume service, and convenient omnipresent collection boxes. Although 22 boxes in Spring Garden was an intended, flagrant violation of the law, spirited Blood’s Despatch was undaunted and testing of the federal resolve, showing the same Philadelphia spirit as the immortal striding messenger. How would the federal government respond to this company, which had been given birth just three and one-half years earlier, and intriguingly on the very last day that private inter-city mail was allowed in the United States?⁹⁷

MOVING
Let us know.



⁹³ Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, January 2013, pages 19, 25.

⁹⁴ Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, “Blood’s Part 3: 15L3,” *The Penny Post*, Vol. 21, No. 3, July 2013, Whole No. 84, pages 35, 63.

⁹⁵ Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, July 2014, pages 47, 52, 53, 55.

⁹⁶ Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, January 2015, pages 53, 60.

⁹⁷ Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, “Blood’s Part 4: 15L4,” *The Penny Post*, Vol. 21, No. 4, October 2013, Whole No. 85, pages 40, 41.