

BLOODS Part 4: 15L4

By

Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD

Congress passed The Postal Act of March 3, 1845, which became law on July 1st. Inter-city rates were dramatically reduced to 5 cents for up to 300 miles, and only 10 cents over 300 miles, the approximate market level established by the "Independent Mail Companies." The United States Post Office was granted monopoly status on postal roads between post offices, with no private competition allowed. Remote towns without post offices were exempt. Express companies were permitted, but government postage was required, in addition to the company charge.

During the spring of 1845 only three private posts existed in the country dedicated exclusively to local service. The Philadelphia Despatch Post since December 5, 1842,¹ Boyd's City Express since June 17, 1844 in New York,² and Jones City Express, also in New York, by January 29, 1845.³ These three and subsequent companies were not allowed on roads between post offices. Their use of numerous city streets was not clearly forbidden, although given the political climate probably not without some potential risk.

Sale of the Philadelphia Despatch Post (City Despatch Post) on the last day before the Act of 1845 went into effect was probably not coincidental. Robertson most likely concluded the risk of forced government closure was not worth the reward of continued business. By the same token, a buyer may have been able to negotiate a lower price. **Sale of the City Despatch Post on June 30, 1845 to D.O. Blood & Co.**, was announced in the Public Ledger on Wednesday July 2, 1845, **Figure 1**. In the same notice Daniel Blood confirmed his purchase, and reassured the public: "All paid stamps now out will be received as good." Ongoing research for this Penny Post series has produced this earlier advertisement.⁴ Iconic private post scholars Robson Lowe declared the sale date was July 7, 1845,^{5,6} while Cal Hahn cited July 5, 1845.⁷ Neither provided a source for their information. The former was referenced in the first three articles of this series. Blood's second advertisement, however, was indeed July 7, 1845, **Figure 2**.

¹ Vernon R. Morris Jr., MD, "Bloods Part 1: 15L2," *The Penny Post*, Vol. 21, No. 1, January 2013, Whole Number 82, page 17.

² Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, "Bloods Part 1: 15L2," *The Penny Post*, Vol. 21, No. 1, January 2013, Whole Number 82, page 5.

³ Robert Siegel Auction Galleries, June 18, 2011, sale 1010, lot 148.

⁴ Courtesy of Mark Schwartz.

⁵ Robson Lowe, "Philadelphia Local Posts," *The Chronicle*, Vol. 28, No. 2, Whole No. 90, May 1976, page 86.

⁶ Edward Harvey, "Blood's Despatch," *The Chronicle*, Vol. 41, No. 4, Whole No. 144, November 1989, page 232.

⁷ Calvet M. Hahn, "The Beginning of Adhesive Postage In The U.S.," *The Penny Post*, Vol. 5, No. 4, October 1995, page 24.

TO THE PUBLIC.—The subscribers have this day disposed of their right, title and interest in the *City Despatch Post* to D. O. BLOOD & CO., who will hereafter conduct the business and attend to all transactions connected therewith
Philadelphia, June 30, 1845.

ROBERTSON & CO.

CITY DESPATCH POST.—The subscribers having purchased the above, hereby inform the public that they will conduct the business with attention and promptness. It is their determination to make this well known establishment of the greatest utility and convenience possible to all who desire to take advantage of its facilities.

In addition to the Letter-boxes already established in the stores and at the corners and public places through the city and districts, many more will be established, new routes laid out, and many general improvements made, of which due notice will be given in a few days.

All paid stamps now out will be received as good
Times of delivery from the Press at 9 A.M. & 3 P.M.
Jy 2-21-45
D. O. BLOOD & CO.

Figure 1. On Wednesday July 2, 1845 a Public Ledger notice from both Robertson & Co. and DO Blood & Co. announced their sale on June 30, 1845.

Daniel O. Blood

Daniel Otis Blood was born in Onondaga County, New York on June 22, 1818.⁸ He was not content assisting on his father's farm, and yearned for a mercantile life in a large city. His half brother, William Swain was the senior partner of a new newspaper in Philadelphia, the "Public Ledger." Its first publication was March 26, 1836. Blood saved his money and arrived in Philadelphia during the summer of 1838 as he turned 20 years old.⁹

The Public Ledger proprietors, Mess. Swain, Abell, & Simmons, offered Blood a position as bookkeeper. The Public Ledger building was a large six story structure on two lots occupying the Southwest corner of Third and Chesnut Street [sic] **Figure 3.**¹⁰

⁸ W. Otis Blood, Sr., "Recollections of Blood's Despatch Post," *The Penny Post*, Vol. 5, No. 2, April 1995, page 4.

⁹ W. Otis Blood, Sr., "Recollections of Blood's Despatch Post," *The Penny Post*, Vol. 5, No. 2, April 1995, page 4.

¹⁰ W. Otis Blood, Sr., "Recollections of Blood's Despatch Post," *The Penny Post*, Vol. 5, No. 2, April 1995, pages. 5,7.

CITY DESPATCH POST.—The subscribers, having become Proprietors of the Philadelphia City Despatch Post, are prepared to receive and deliver **LETTERS, PAPERS, SMALL PARCELS, &c.**, from any part of the city or vicinity to another with *promptness and despatch*. **LETTER BOXES** are stationed in the hands of careful persons, (who have kindly offered to keep them for the accommodation of their neighbors, customers and friends) at most of the public places and at a corner of nearly every square, where *Letters, Papers, &c.* if deposited by 9 o'clock, A. M., will be delivered the same forenoon. Or if deposited by 3 o'clock P. M., will be delivered the same afternoon. Those for the forenoon delivery may be deposited at the *Principal Office* No 48 South Third Street, below Chesnut, as late as 10½ o'clock A. M., and those for afternoon delivery as late as 4½ o'clock P. M.

Postage **THREE CENTS**, payable when delivered. Those who wish to pay in *advance* will find at the box stations *paid stamps* that may be attached to the letter, paper or parcel, which will secure their delivery without additional charge.

Prices of Stamps, three cents each, or 25 cents per dozen.

Funeral Notices, Notices of Meetings, Circulars, &c., in quantities, will be delivered on reasonable terms by special arrangement at the principal office.

NOTICE—All matter sent by the *City Despatch Post*, should be *carefully and definitely* directed, to insure a prompt delivery.

Misdirected Matter will be deposited in the Post-Office, or returned to the forwarder, if the address is attached.

N B—All letters or papers to be taken to the Post-Office must be *paid in advance*.

***The public may be assured that all business in connection with the *City Despatch Post* will be punctually and carefully attended to.

157-158 & 159

D. O. BLOOD, & CO.,
No. 48 South THIRD street, below Chesnut.

Figure 2. The second advertisement in the Public Ledger was July 7, 1845. D.O.Blood & Co. listed their office at 48 South Third Street, below Chesnut [sic].



Figure 3. The Public Ledger was located on the southwest corner of Third and Chesnut[sic], occupying two lots on Third. The building changed many times during the nineteenth century, and this is the earliest sketch circa 1851.

D. O. BLOOD & CO.
Office, 48 South Third Street,
(Above the Girard Bank.)

Figure 4. D.O. Blood & Co. address of 48 South Third Street was confirmed by this circular as located “Above the Girard Bank.”

Blood soon advanced to “Chief Clerk and Cashier,”¹¹ which he held until 1851.¹² The indefatigable and enterprising Blood soon established a large Steam Laundry business, which was patronized by many hotels and transatlantic steamship companies.¹³

¹¹ Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, “Bloods Part 1: 15L2,” *The Penny Post*, Vol. 21, No. 1, January 2013, Whole Number 82, page 26.

¹² W. Otis Blood, Sr., “Recollections of Blood’s Despatch Post,” *The Penny Post*, Vol. 5, No. 2, April 1995, page 5.

¹³ W. Otis Blood, Sr., “Recollections of Blood’s Despatch Post,” *The Penny Post*, Vol. 5, No. 2, April 1995, page 5.

Office Location

Daniel Blood found himself in a very good neighborhood. For his own private post Blood had secured a strategic location, only a few doors south of Third and Chestnut Street and the Public Ledger. 48 South Third Street was *above* the venerable Girard Bank, confirmed in **Figure 4**.¹⁴ This Greek Revival building was built in 1795 for the First Bank of the United States, chartered by Congress at the urging of Alexander Hamilton. When Congress failed to renew its twenty year charter in 1811, the bank closed, and the building was taken over by Stephen Girard.¹⁵ The Girard Bank and Blood's office were almost directly across Third Street from the Philadelphia post office in the Merchants Exchange Building at Third and Walnut,¹⁶ **Figure 5**.

Six years later the Second Bank of the United States was chartered, from 1817 until 1836, but located around the corner and one block away at Forth and Chestnut, another Greek Revival building designed by Strickland. **Figure 6** is a map of the vicinity of Third and Chestnut streets circa 1845.

The Public Ledger was located diagonally across Third and Chestnut from several express companies on the northeast corner, **Figure 7**. Many had an address on Third Street. Harnden & Co was on the northeast corner since August 1840,¹⁷ and by August of 1844 Livingston & Co. opened at the same address, 43 South Third Street. In mid-1843 Hatch & Co., took over for Harnden at 42 South Third.¹⁸ Hale & Co. opened in May of 1844¹⁹ a few doors north at 37 South Third, **Figure 8**. Many were located on Chestnut Street. In early 1842 Adams Express was established at 85 Chestnut. Robertson & Co had relocated to 93 Chestnut Street. The American Letter Mail Co was several doors further west at 101 Chestnut Street.²⁰

DO Blood & Co may not have actually moved into 48 South Third Street until September 2, 1845.²¹ If correct, during the meantime Blood & Co probably had access to Robertson's office at 93 Chestnut Street. The second Blood & Co. advertisement on July 7, 1845, however, had already indicated (**Figure 2**) their principal office was 48 South Second St.

¹⁴ Edward T. Harvey, "Blood's Despatch," *The Chronicle*, Vol. 41, No. 4, November 1989, Whole Number 144, page 234.

¹⁵ Edward T. Harvey, "Blood's Despatch," *The Chronicle*, Vol. 41, No. 4, November 1989, Whole Number 144, page 233.

¹⁶ Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, "Bloods Part 3: 15L3," *The Penny Post*, Vol. 21, No. 3, July 2013, Whole No. 84, page 36.

¹⁷ Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, "Bloods Part 3: 15L3," *The Penny Post*, Vol. 21, No. 3, July 2013, Whole No. 84, page 37.

¹⁸ Robert Siegel Auction Galleries, December 20, 2007, sale 950, lot 2740.

¹⁹ Mike Gutman, personal electronic communication Sept 11, 2013.

²⁰ Robert Siegel Auction Galleries, January 18, 2000, sale 820, lot 911.

²¹ W. Otis Blood, Sr., "Recollections of Blood's Despatch Post," *The Penny Post*, Vol. 5, No. 2, April 1995, page 5.



Figure 5. A wonderful color print showing the Greek Revival style and close proximity of the Merchants Exchange Building and the Girard Bank.

15L4 “Black on Grayish”

On the first day of business, Blood & Co. reassured the public they would make good on any outstanding stamps. The new company also sold identical City Despatch Post striding messenger postage stamps. However, they are listed in the *Scott Catalog* as 15L4 “Black on Grayish,” **Figure 9**, and different from 15L3 by the manuscript validated “*D.O.B.&Co’s*” control mark. It is indeterminate whether the initial stamps sold by Blood were un-validated remainders, or expedient printing from the previous plates, or both.

In either scenario, the “*D.O.B.&Co’s*” 15L4 adhesive stamps were “provisionals” until regular issues could be printed by Blood & Co. A slightly modified striding messenger stamp design incorporated the namesake DO Blood & Co^s, Scott 15L5, and the topic of the next article.

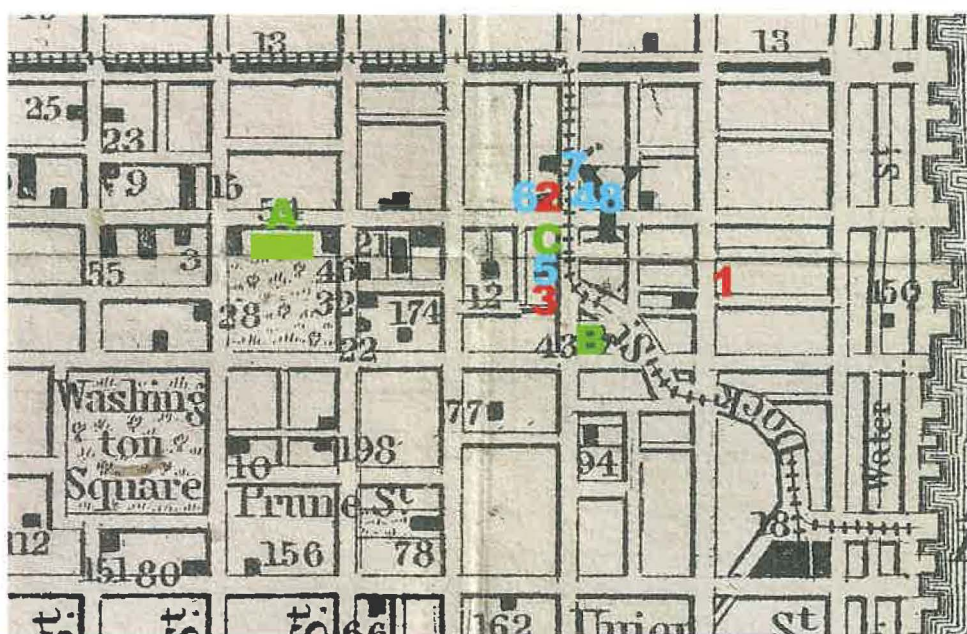


Figure 6. In 1845 Third and Chestnut was *the* postal center. Red numerals represent private posts. Light blue numerals represent Independent Mail Companies or Express Companies. Green capital letters represent government or newspaper operations. Disregard black markings which derive from the original map template.

1. Robertson & Co. first office at 83 South Second Street.
2. Robertson & Co. second office at 93 Chestnut Street.
3. DO Blood & Co. above the Girard Bank at 48 South Third Street.
4. Harnden & Co. at 43 South Third Street on the northeast corner of Third and Chestnut.
5. Hatch & Co. at 42 South Third Street.
6. American Letter Mail Co. second office at 101 Chestnut Street.
7. Hale & Co. at 37 South Third Street.
8. Adams Express at 85 Chestnut Street.
- A. Independence Hall on Chestnut between Fifth and Sixth Streets.
- B. Philadelphia Post Office in the Merchants Exchange Building at Third and Walnut.
- C. Public Ledger Building at southwest corner of Third and Chestnut Street.

15L4 Description Census

- (1) August 5, (1845); (folded letter); outbound Boston; manuscript red "*D.O.B&Co's*"; manuscript "X" cancel, tied by blue Clarke 60a Philadelphia cds, matching numeral 10 in double circle handstamp. To: "Frederick O. Prince Esq / 30 Court St / Boston". Lowe March 1, 1973 lot 1636. *Chronicle* Vol. 28, No. 2, May 1976, Whole No. 90, page 85.
- (2) August 8, 1845; (folded letter); outbound New York; manuscript "*D.O.B&Cos*"; cross hatch pen stroke cancel; blue Clarke 59a Philadelphia cds, matching numeral 5 in double circle handstamp. To: "Atlantic Mutual Ins Company / New York". Lowe March 1, 1973 lot 1630; Frajola June 7, 1990 lot 380, Middendorf; Siegel 868 November 14, 2003 lot 2058. Ex Hollowbush, Schwartz. July 20, 2011 PFC 498067. Snow collection.
- (3) August 11, 1845; folded letter; outbound Pennsylvania; manuscript "D.O -----", large corner town off; manuscript "X" cancel; blue Clarke 57aa Philadelphia cds, matching numeral 5 in double circle handstamp. To: Sarrah Harris / care of Mr Risch / Upper Dublin / Post Office / Montgomery County / Penn". Carriers and Locals Society auction 24, July 17, 2013, lot 35. August 26, 2013 PFC 514260. Morris collection.
- (4) August 12, (1845); folded letter; outbound Boston; red manuscript "*DOB&Co's*"; manuscript "X" cancel, tied by manuscript address; red New York cds, matching PHILADA RAILROAD straightline handstamp. To: "Frederick O. Prince Esq / 30 Court St / Boston". Siegel 723 April 27, 1990, lot 443. September 9, 2002 PFC 387657. Shachat collection.
- (5) August 16, 1845; folded letter; outbound New York; manuscript "*D.O.B&Co's*"; two pen strokes cancel; red PHILADA RAILROAD straightline handstamp, manuscript "5". To: "Mr. J. A. Rohe / 46 Maiden Lane / New. York". Siegel 285 March 31, 1965, lot 643; Siegel 830, November 13, 2000, lot 436, Hall. Ex Mason.
- (6) August 28, 1845; folded letter; local delivery; manuscript "*(D)O.B&Cos*", upper left corner missing; cross hatch pen stroke cancel. To: "Robt Smethurst / Esq. / 51 N 6th Street / below Arch Street.". Siegel 875 April 27, 2004, lot 1168. PFC 514749. ex Stimmell. Morris collection.
- (7) September 6, 1845; (folded letter); outbound New Jersey; manuscript "*DOB&Cos*"; cross hatch pen stroke cancel; (blue) Clarke 60a Philadelphia cds ties stamp, matching numeral 5 in double circle handstamp. To: "Dr. Wood" on Schoolly's Mountain, New Jersey. Lowe October 8, 1974 lot 222.
- (8) September 8, 1845; folded letter; outbound New York; manuscript "*DOB&Cos*"; manuscript "R" cancel, tied by red PHILADA RAILROAD

straightline handstamp. To: J.A.Rohe / Amsterdam ave / New York". Frajola June 6, 1990 lot 379, Middendorf. Ex Gibson. Corwin collection.

- (9) September 16, (1845); folded letter; outbound Boston; manuscript "DOB&Cos"; uncanceled; red New York cds, matching PHILADA RAILROAD straightline handstamp. To: "Frederick O. Prince Esq / 30 Court St / Boston". Siegel 927 December 20, 2006, lot 1064, Richardson; January 27, 2010 PFC 483750. Morris collection.
- (10) September 22, 1845; folded cover; outbound New York; manuscript "DOB&Cos"; penstroke cancel; tied by blue Clarke 60a Philadelphia cds, matching numeral 5 in double circle handstamp. To: "Martin & Lawson / No 24 John St / New York". Siegel 830 November 13, 2000, lot 435, Hall. Ex German, Brown, Hurd. April 17, 2009 PFC 475676.
- (11) September 30, 1845; (folded cover); local delivery; manuscript "DOB&Cos"; cross hatch pen stroke cancel. To: "N.B. Browne Esq. / 114 Walnut Street / Philadelphia". Harmer 1071 March 20, 1957 lot 566, Caspary; Frajola June 6, 1990 lot 381, Middendorf.
- (12) September 30, 1845; folded cover; outbound Pennsylvania; manuscript "DOB&Cos"; pen manuscript "W" upside down cancel; blue Clarke 60a Philadelphia cds, matching numeral 5 in double circle handstamp. To: "Rev. John C. Jacobson / Nazareth Hall / Nazareth, / Penn". Rumsey 35 November 18, 2009, lot 1963. June 10, 2009 PFC 476840. Ex Morris. Stimmell collection.
- (13) October 13, 1845; (folded cover); outbound New York; manuscript "DOB&Cos"; manuscript "X" cancel; tied by blue Clarke 60a Philadelphia cds, matching numeral 10 in double circle handstamp. To: "E.R.Mascow M.D. / Adams Jeff Co / New York". Christies June 20, 1984, lot 585, Gibson. Gronowski collection.
- (14) November 12, (1845); partial folded cover; outbound Baltimore; "DOB&Cos", manuscript "W" cancel; tied by blue Clarke 60a Philadelphia cds tied, partial matching numeral 5 in double circle handstamp. To: "James A Gillmer / at the Merchants Hotel / Baltimore-". Siegel 791 June 25, 1997, lot 353. April 27, 2010 PFC 486180; July 29, 1997 PFC 317259. Morris collection.
- (15) December 15, 1845; folded letter; local delivery; "DOB&Cos"; uncanceled; tied by blue Clarke 60a Philadelphia cds, matching numeral 2 in double circle handstamp. To: "Mssrs Merrick & Towne / Philada." Siegel 820 November 15, 2000, lot 916. June 27, 1991 PFC 242789. Ex Emerson, Lyons. Morris collection.

- (16) Unknown; (unknown); local delivery; “DOB&Cos”; red “PAID” handstamp cancel. To: “Mr Wm.. L. Gibson / Care Thos Borbridge Esq / 272 Market St / Philada.”. October 19, 1912 PFC 507685.
- (A) Undated; (folded cover); local delivery; “DOB&Cos”; manuscript “X” cancel; tied by blue Clarke 60a Philadelphia cds, matching numeral 6 in double octagonal handstamp. To: “Charles Picot / Washington Square 15 / Philadelphia”. Siegel 285 March 31, 1965, lot 644; Lowe October 8, 1974 lot 223.
- (B) November 12, 1845; Folded letter; outbound Reading, Pa.; manuscript “R&Co”; penstroke cancel; blue Clarke 60a, matching numeral 5 in double circle. To: “Mr C.L.Heitzman / Reading / Pa”; May 19, 1991 PFC 240913; April 17, 2012 PFC 503780, WARNING: “The local stamp, with faults, did not originate on this cover and the tying portion of the cancel is painted in.”

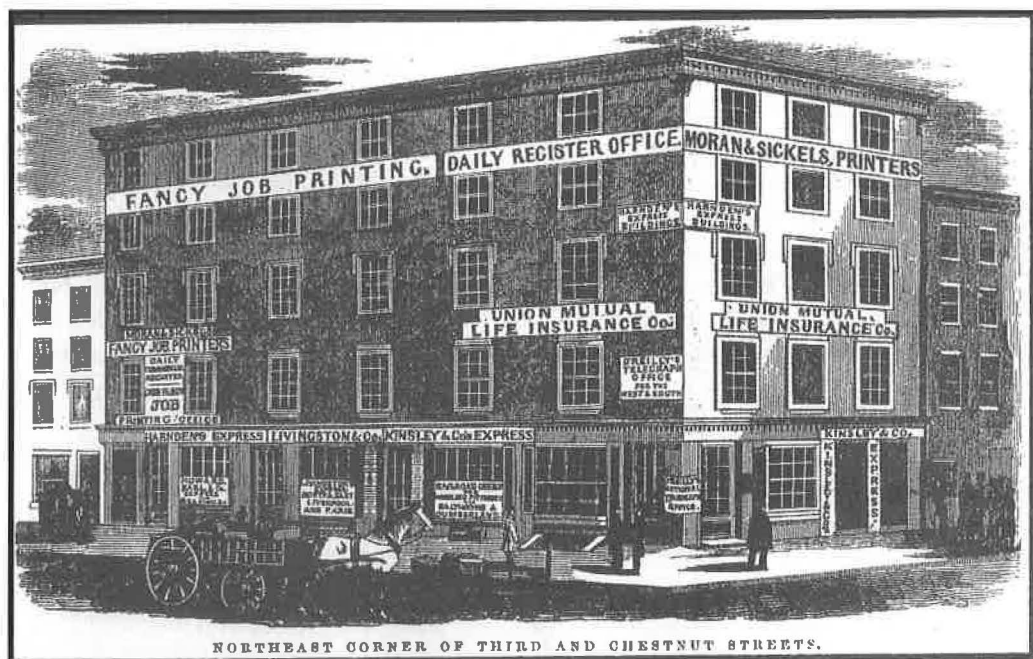


Figure 7. Diagonally across Third and Chesnut [sic], on the northeast corner was the Harnden Building shown by sketch circa 1850.

EXPRESSES—*Packages and letters.*

Adams & Co. 85 Chestnut
Hale & Co. (letter) 37 South 3d

EXPRESSES—PACKAGES.

Adams & Co. 85 Chestnut
Blood D. O. & Co., (Despatch Post) 48 S 3d
Livingston & Co. 43 S 3d

Figure 8. McElroy's city directory listed "Packages and Letters" in the business section at the back of the book. Figure 5a was 1845 which listed Adams and Hales. Figure 5b was 1846 which listed Adams, Livingston, and Blood.

Excluded Covers

Two covers are excluded from the 15L4 census of genuine covers. Census number (A) was excluded as an incoming ship letter handstamped at the Philadelphia "port of call" by the postmaster with a blue "numeral 6 in octagon."²² The ship's captain was obligated and paid to deliver the mail bag to the postmaster, and not allowed to deliver letters to any private individual or company. No photograph of the entire cover exists. It lacks a dateline, and has not been seen in public for over 40 years. Philadelphia blue "numeral 6 in octagon" precludes service by DO Blood & Co.



Figure 9. Scott catalog 15L4 was branded with a manuscript "D.O. Blood & Co." control mark.

²² Tom Clarke, *A Catalog of PHILADELPHIA POSTMARKS, 18th Century to Present, Part II*, pages. 12-46; 1990, Clarke.

Census number (B) is a 15L3 stamp incorrectly submitted in 1991 to the Philatelic Foundation as 15L4. PF certificate 240913 declared the stamp did not originate. The opinion of Paul Alcuri of England on May 11, 1994 was "Scott 15L4 Type II used on cover is genuine." Submitted again to the Philatelic Foundation on April 17, 2012 correctly as a 15L3, PFC 503780 reiterated "The local stamp, with faults, did not originate on this cover and the tying portion of the cancel is painted in." A genuine tied blue Philadelphia cds required an obligatory "offset" clear space immediately adjacent to the stamp, to accommodate the thickness of the stamp paper which prevented contact of the handstamp. Absence of "offset" indicates the stamp did not originate on the cover prior to a government handstamp, but was carefully placed directly next to the cds *after* the handstamp (perhaps by many years).

In summary, exclusion criteria was (A) incoming ship letter, and (B) painted in "tied" cancel absent clear "offset." They are mentioned for future scholarship and auctions.

15L4 Photographic Census

Images of the 16 surviving genuine covers, and two recorded counterfeits are posted on the Carriers and Locals Society website. Several representative examples are shown in this article

15L4 Cover Data Base

Table 1 is the Data Base of 15L4 stamps genuine on cover. All sixteen covers have been photographed, all in color except two (census number 1 and 7), derived from auction catalogs some 50 years ago. All stamp designs are identical to 15L3 "striding messenger," and differ only by the manuscript "*DOB&Co's*" control mark. All sixteen covers are apparently folded letters. No wrappers, Harnden circulars, letter contents, or front only address panels have been identified.

Assuming a 4% survival rate²³ the original number of "provisional" 15L4 stamps serviced by D.O. Blood & Co. was approximately 400.

15L4 Service Time

The period of 15L4 service by DO Blood & Co. can be viewed in several ways. Confirmed service period is obtained from surviving dated genuine covers. Fifteen of the sixteen are dated. The earliest recorded is August 5, 1845, **Figure 10**. The latest recorded is December 15, 1845, **Figure 11**. The fifteen covers span four months and ten days, approximately 4.3 months. The one undated example is taken to fall within this time range. The 15L4 timeline of D.O. Blood & Co. dated "provisional stamp" evidence is demonstrated by bar graph in **Figure 12**.

In a broader view, the company was founded on June 30, 1845, and advertised by July 2, 1845. Many "provisional stamps" may have been serviced later than December 15, 1845, due to the lag time between the final sale and use of the postage stamps. Perhaps six of seven months witnessed "provisional stamps" in Philadelphia.

²³ Calvet M. Hahn, "The Beginning of Adhesive Postage in the U.S.," *The Penny Post*, Vol. 5, No. 4, October 1995, page 22.

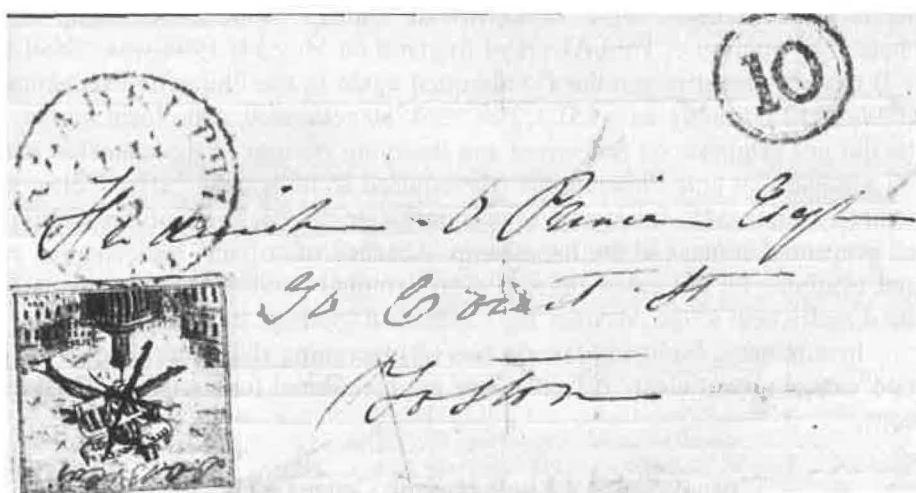


Figure 10. The earliest recorded 15L4 on cover was dated August 5, 1845, five weeks after D.O.Blood & Co. formation. This example has not been seen in public for forty years.

Table 1. Data base of sixteen surviving genuine 15L4 stamps on cover.

DATE	COVER	15L4	15L4 CANCEL	TIED
1. August 5, (1845)	folded Letter	red "D.O.B&Co's"	manuscript "X"	blue Phila cds
2. August 8, 1845	(folded Letter)	"D.O.B&Cos"	manuscript cross hatch	
3. August 11, 1845	folded Letter	"D.O.-----"	manuscript "X"	
4. August 12, (1845)	folded Letter	red "D.O.B&Co's"	two pen strokes	(address)
5. August 16, 1845	folded Letter	"D.O.B&Co's"	two pen strokes	
6. August 28, 1845	folded Letter	"(D)O.B&Cos"	manuscript cross hatch	
7. September 6, 1845	(folded Letter)	"D.O.B&Cos"	manuscript cross hatch	
8. September 8, 1845	folded Letter	"D.O.B&Cos"	manuscript "R"	red Phila RR
9. September 16, (1845)	folded Letter	"D.O.B&Cos"	uncancelled	
10. September 22, 1845	folded Letter	"D.O.B&Cos"	pen stroke	blue Phila cds
11. September 30, 1845	(folded Letter)	"D.O.B&Cos"	manuscript cross hatch	
12. September 30, 1845	folded Letter folded Letter	"DOB&Co's"	manuscript "W"	
13. October 13, 1845	(folded Letter)	"DOB&Co's"	manuscript "X"	blue Phila cds
14. November 12, (1845)	folded Letter partial	"DOB&Co's"	manuscript "W"	blue Phila cds
15. December 15, 1845	folded Letter	"DOB&Co's"	uncancelled	blue Phila cds
16. Unknown	unknown	"D.O.B&Cos"	red PAID	

Table 1. (continued.)

AUXILIARY MARKINGS	ADDRESSEE	OUTBOUND
blue (Clarke 60a) Philadelphia cds matching blue numeral 10 in double circle	Frederick O. Prince Esq / 30 Court St / Boston	BOSTON
blue (Clarke 59a) Philadelphia cds matching blue numeral 5 in double circle	Atlantic Mutual Ins Company / <u>New York</u>	NEW YORK
blue (Clarke 57aa) Philadelphia cds matching blue numeral 5 in double circle	Sarrah Harris / care of Mr Risch / Upper Dublin / Post Office / <u>Montgomery County / Penn</u>	PENNSYLVANIA
red New York cds matching red PHILADA RAILROAD	Frederick O. Prince Esq / 30 Court St / Boston	BOSTON
red PHILADA RAILROAD manuscript "5"	Mr. J.A. Rohe / 46 Maiden Lane / New York	NEW YORK
none	Robt Smethurst / Esq. / 51 N 6th Street / below Arch Street.	
blue (Clarke 60a) Philadelphia cds matching blue numeral 5 in double circle	Unknown	NEW JERSEY
red PHILADA RAILROAD manuscript "5"	J.A.Rohe / Amesterdan ave / New York	NEW YORK
red New York cds matching red PHILADA RAILROAD	Frederick O. Prince Esq / 30 Court St / Boston	BOSTON
blue (Clarke 60a) Philadelphia cds matching blue numeral 5 in double circle	Martin & Lawson / No 24 John St / New York	NEW YORK
none	N.B.Browne Esq. / 114 Walnut Street / Philadelphia	
blue (Clarke 60a) Philadelphia cds matching blue numeral 5 in double circle	Rev. John C. Jacobson / Nazareth Hall / Nazareth / Penn	PENNSYLVANIA
blue (Clarke 60a) Philadelphia cds matching blue numeral 10 in double circle	E.R. Mascow M.D. / Adams Jeff Co / New York	NEW YORK
blue (Clarke 60a) Philadelphia cds matching blue numeral 5 in double circle	James A Gillmer / at the Merchants Hotel / Baltimore-	BALTIMORE
blue (Clarke 60a) Philadelphia cds matching blue numeral 2 in double circle	Mssrs Merrick & Towne / Philada.	
none	Mr Wm.. L. Gibson / Care Thos Boelidge Esq 272 Market St / Philada.	



Figure 11. The latest recorded 15L4 on cover is December 15, 1845. It is also, the only example of a “drop letter,” collected by Blood & Co. and delivered to the post office to be picked up. The Philadelphia post office circular datestamp fortuitously tied the private post stamp to the cover.

To the contrary, an exceedingly narrow time period of “provisional stamps” may also be considered if termination is defined by sale of the next stamp issue, Scott catalogue 15L5. As will be demonstrated in the next article, the earliest 15L5 date is debatable, and dependent upon the degree of certainty for specific covers. Reported in the literature but un-photographed is August 27, 1845.²⁴ The earliest photographed but untied example is September 17, 1845. Greatest certainty is the earliest photographed and tied example, November 5, 1845. All suggest an early conversion process from 15L4 to 15L5. Perhaps the “provisional stamp” exclusive period may have been as small as three weeks, from August 5, 1845 until August 27, 1845.

Given no Table I “far outlier” dates, evidence based data of 4.3 months has been selected. Otherwise, a reasonable philatelic time period may have been as great as six months, from July 1, 1845 until December 31, 1845.

D.O.BLOOD & CO.				
Year	1845	1846	1847	1848
15L4	<div></div>			
Company Existence	<div></div>			

Figure 12. Evidenced based data for the 15 dated examples in blue revealed the 15L4 timespan was only 4.3 months.

²⁴ Robson Lowe, “Philadelphia Local Posts,” *The Chronicle* Vol. 28, No. 2, Whole No. 90, May 1976, page 86.



Figure 13. Contemporary map identifies the three street locations that 15L4 was delivered by Blood & Co in the old city. “B” is Bloods & Co office, and “P” is the Philadelphia post office across Third Street in the Merchants Exchange Building. Small number 15 is in the District of Southwark, the address of the only “drop letter” shown in Figure 12.

15L4 Service Location

Final destinations are identified in **Table II**. Twelve of the sixteen covers, or 75%, were *outbound letters*. Five were addressed to New York City (census number 2, 5, 8, 10, and 13). Three were addressed to Boston (census number 1, 4, and 9). Two were addressed to Pennsylvania outside of Philadelphia (census number 3 and 12). One each to Baltimore and New Jersey (census number 14 and 7 respectively).

A thirteenth cover was delivered to the Philadelphia post office, but held as a “drop letter” for a local business in the District of Southwark (census number 15).

More likely than not, the addressee or his representative not infrequently visited the city's business center, one of many reasons was to pick up the mail.

Blood & Co. delivered only 3 covers, less than 20%, to a local street address in the City of Philadelphia (census number 6, 11, and 16). **Figure 13** is a contemporary map showing the four Philadelphia addressee locations. Furthermore, during the second half of 1845 no examples have been identified delivered by Blood & Co. outside of the old city to adjacent districts.

None of the sixteen covers had been inbound, or "bootlegged" outside of the government mail system, and hand carried to Philadelphia for Blood & Co. to deliver.

15L4 ADDRESS		
Total	Location	Census Number
3	Philadelphia Old City	6, 11, 16
1	Southwark District	15
5	New York, NY	2, 5, 8, 10, 13
3	Boston, MA	1, 4, 9
2	Pennsylvania	3, 12
1	New Jersey	7
1	Baltimore, MD	14
16	All Types	

Table II. Identified the 15L4 census destinations. Most were outbound letters.

Correspondence

Two sets of correspondence have been identified. All three covers to Boston were addressed to Frederick O. Prince Esq. at 30 Court Street (census number 1, 4, and 9).

The second correspondence was in New York. J. A. Rohe received two (census number 5 and 8) of five addressed to New York City.

15L4 Cancel Types

Various 15L4 cancellations are listed in **Table III**. *Manuscript cancel* was by far the most common and more than 80%, 13 of sixteen examples. Several manuscript styles or subsets have been identified. Four, or 25 % of the total were "cross hatch" manuscript, **Figure 14**. Three, almost 20%, were manuscript "X," shown in **Figure 10**. Three examples, almost 20% of the total, were alphabet letters in manuscript; letter "W" (census number 12 and 14), and letter "R" (census number 8).

Only one red "PAID" cancel has been identified (census number 16) much like the former Robertson & Co., **Figure 15**. Two stamps on cover, 12%, were uncanceled (census number 9 and 15), although not inconsistent with the previous

15L3 issue.²⁵ Authenticity of uncanceled examples may be reasonably scrutinized. One was most certainly genuine since it was tied by government cds. None of the fourteen Blood & Co cancels “tied” a 15L4 stamp to its cover.

15L4 CANCEL		
Total	Cancel Type	Census Number
4	Manuscript cross hatch	2, 6, 7, 11
3	Manuscript "X"	1, 3, 13
3	Manuscript pen stroke	4, 5, 10
2	Manuscript "W"	12, 14
1	Manuscript "R"	8
1	Red "PAID" handstamp	16
2	Uncancelled	9, 15
16	All Types Known	

Table III. Identified the various 15L4 cancels. Most were manuscript.



Figure 14. Example of “cross hatch” manuscript cancel on 15L4.

Auxiliary markings provide additional postal information regarding handling and delivery, but were not intended to cancel stamps and prevent reuse. Auxiliary markings may be manuscript or handstamped. The various auxiliary markings on covers bearing a 15L4 stamp are listed in **Table IV**.

²⁵ Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, “Bloods Part 3: 15L3,” *The Penny Post*, Vol. 21, No. 3, July 2013, Whole No. 84, pages 49, 53, 57.



Figure 15. The only 15L4 cancelled by red PAID.

15L4 Cover Auxiliary Markings

Over 80%, or 13 covers show an auxiliary marking of some type. Only one was a manuscript rate (census number 5). Almost 70%, or 11 covers were branded by a government circular datestamp. Of these eleven, nine were Philadelphia cds of varying types (**Figure 11**), and every one was accompanied by matching blue rate in double circle handstamp. Of the same eleven, two were red New York cds (census number 4 and 9), **Figure 16**. New York also employed a red straightline handstamp “PHILADA RAILROAD” marking on four, or 25% (census number 4, 5, 8, and 9) of the data base; two were accompanied by red New York cds and two were not.

Only 3 covers had no auxiliary markings (census numbers 6, 11, and 16), and all were local deliveries by Blood & Co.

15L4 AUXILIARY HANDSTAMPS		
Total	Handstamp Type	Census Number
7	Philadelphia (Clarke 60a) cds	1, 7, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15
1	Philadelphia (Clarke 59a) cds	2
1	Philadelphia (Clarke 57aa) cds	3
6	Numeral 5 in Double Circle	2, 3, 7, 10, 12, 14
2	Numeral 10 in Double Circle	1, 13
1	Numeral 2 in Double Circle	15
2	Red New York cds	4, 9
4	Red PHILADA RAILROAD	4, 5, 8, 9
2	Manuscript "5"	5, 8
	None	6, 11, 16
26	All Types	

Table IV. Identified the auxiliary makings on covers with 15L4 stamp. Most were handstamped by the post office in Philadelphia or New York.



Figure 16. Outbound census number 9 entered the mails in New York where a red New York circular datestamp and matching red PHILADA RAILROAD straight line handstamp were applied.

15L4 Tied to Cover

15L4 stamps “tied” to cover all resulted from auxiliary markings, and none by cancel. **Table V** identified 6 of sixteen examples, or 37%, were tied. By far the most common was the Philadelphia circular datestamp, since five of the six (census number 1, 10, 13, 14, and 15) fortuitously struck the private post adhesive stamp, shown in **Figure 11**.

Of the four covers which were handstamped in New York, only one coincidentally struck the stamp with their red “PHILADA RAILROAD” marking (census number 8).

15L4 TIED to Cover		
Total	Marking Type	Census Number
5	Philadelphia CDS	1, 10, 13, 14, 15
1	Red PHILADA RAILROAD	8
0	Manuscript	0
6	All Types	

Table V. Identified that over one third of the 15L4 stamps were tied to their cover, usually by the Philadelphia circular datestamp on letters delivered by Blood & Co. to the Philadelphia post office.

Government Combinations

No federal government postage stamp combinations were possible prior to July 1, 1847, the first date prepayment stamps were printed for intercity service.

Transition

During the last half of 1845, D.O. Blood & Co. was a new business name in town, probably with little or no name recognition. However, the "City Despatch Post" name had been in existence for two years, and appeared in several Public Ledger advertisements (September 4, 1845, September 29, 1845, and February 17, 1846). The name "City Despatch Post" had also appeared on all striding messenger stamps for almost two years. Throughout 1845 a circular handstamp "CITY DESPATCH" appeared on many stampless covers.²⁶ All were helpful to facilitate continuity of service.

Furthermore, Blood was located in an excellent neighborhood and the business center of Philadelphia. Blood & Co was headquartered in the stately Girard Bank building. Daniel Blood's personal connections at the Public Ledger may have been an intangible benefit. D.O. Blood & Co. was within a half block of the Philadelphia post office, Merchants Exchange, Public Ledger, and several parcel express companies. Third and Chestnut was a very key location for a postal operation. Blood & Co. was in *the postal center* of Philadelphia.

Philadelphia County

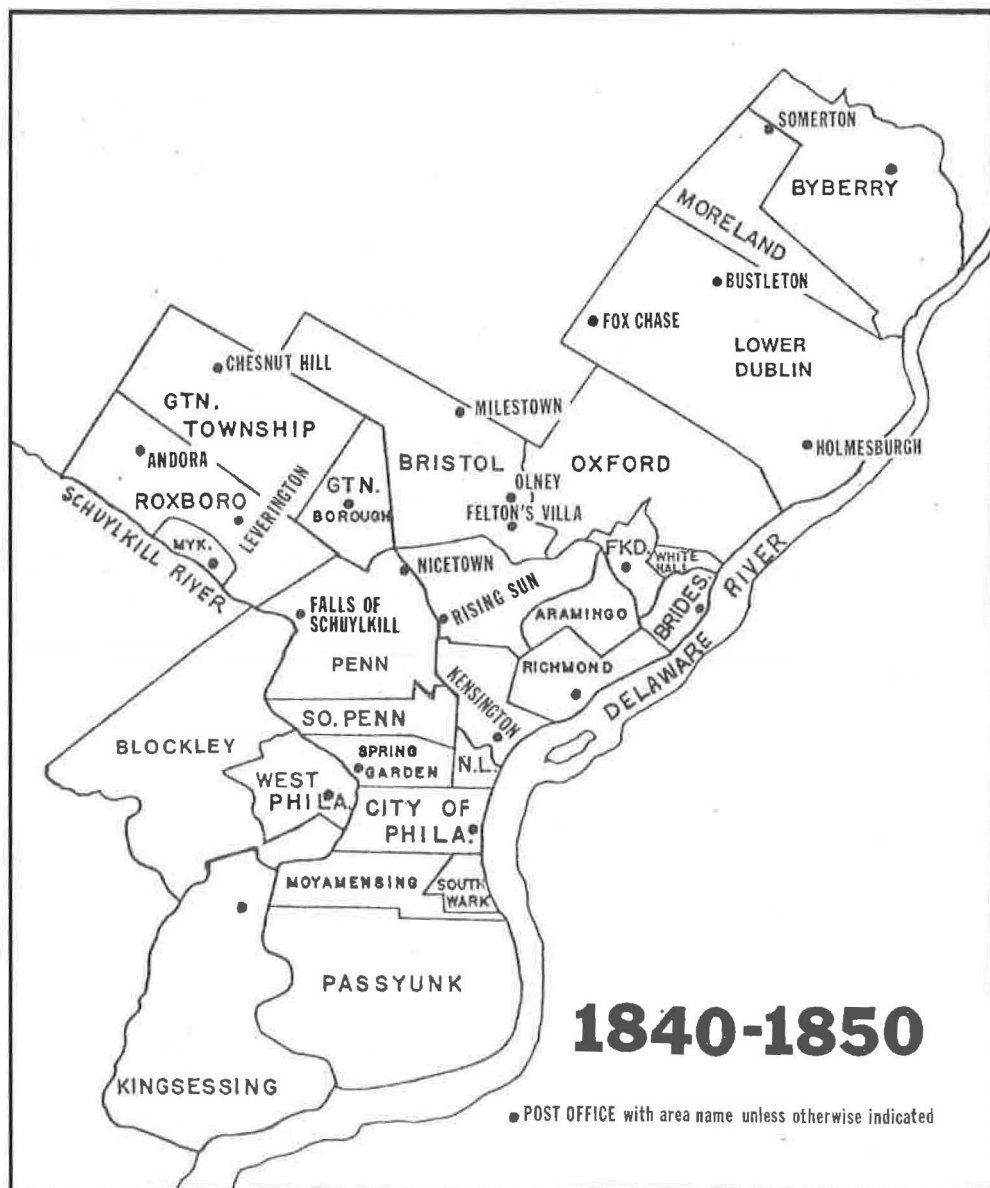
In 1681 Philadelphia County was chartered by William Penn. The Pennsylvania Assembly Act of 1784 created Montgomery County, and reduced Philadelphia county to 129 square miles, only 2 of which were in the City of Philadelphia. The boundary line for the old city was Vine Street on the north, South Street on the south, Delaware River on the east, and Schuylkill River on the west. According to the 1850 census, county population was 287,000, and city 120,000. The number of post offices serving them respectively, however, was 21 in the county and only 1 in the city.²⁷

The Consolidation Act of 1854 was effective February 2nd, and extended the City of Philadelphia to the County of Philadelphia boundary line. Great open areas existed between the old city and 28 other Districts, Boroughs, and Townships.²⁸ To incorporate all post offices into one city postal system required approximately ten years. The 1860 census reported a combined population of 600,000, a growth of approximately 33% in ten years. Philadelphia was the third largest English speaking city in the world.

²⁶ Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, "Bloods Part 3: 15L3," *The Penny Post*, Vol. 21, No. 3, July 2013, Whole No. 84, pages. 51, 55, 57, 61, 62.

²⁷ Robert J. Stets and John L. Kay, *Independent Post Offices of Philadelphia County 1800-1867*, page 3, The Associated Stamp Clubs Of Southeastern Penna & Delaware, 1979.

²⁸ Robert J. Stets and John L. Kay, *Independent Post Offices of Philadelphia County 1800-1867*, page 3, The Associated Stamp Clubs Of Southeastern Penna & Delaware, 1979.



**Figure 17. Sketch map of Philadelphia County in the 1840's showing 24 post offices were open at one time or another during that decade.
From Stets and Kay.**

Forbidden

Following the Post Office Act of March 5, 1845, by definition “post roads” within Philadelphia County were between 22 post offices, and off limits to competitive private postal service,²⁹ **Figure 17.** Blood & Co. was relatively safe if they remained within the City of Philadelphia where only one post office existed, and numerous busy streets were present. The adjacent districts may have been tempting, especially given that an organized post office system was many years away. However, if Blood & Co. used the post roads connecting the old city to the other 21 post offices, they would be guilty of functioning like former “Independent Mail Companies.”

For example, the District of Kensington was formed in 1820 along the Delaware River less than one mile northeast of the old city limits, and had a post office as early as 1826.³⁰ The road between the Philadelphia post office and the Kensington post office was clearly forbidden.

Many districts within Philadelphia County, however, did not have a dedicated post office, and several were contiguous with the old city. South of the old city and along the Delaware River was the District of Southwark, formed in 1784. South of the old city and along the Schuylkill River, the District of Moyamensing existed although not officially formed until 1848.³¹ Neither one ever had a post office or post road. Their residents were remote, and exempt from a “forbidden zone.”

North of the old city was more complicated. Likewise, two districts shared the city’s northern boundary, Northern Liberties east of 6th Street, and Spring Garden west of 6th. In 1803 the Corporation of Northern Liberties was formed, but never had their own post office.³² Their residents had to travel to Kensington or Philadelphia for a post office. The post road from the old city to Kensington, however, must have passed through the very southern fringe of Northern Liberties along the Delaware River. Most of Northern Liberties was far from the post road, and may have been arguably exempt from the new postal law.

In 1813 the Spring Garden District was formed, and in 1827 extended west to the Schuylkill River. By 1835 to serve a small village along the Schuylkill River a post office may have been established in the west at 24th and Callowhill Street.³³ However, the great bulk of Spring Garden was well east, and not very close to either the Spring Garden or Philadelphia post office. A government post road may have existed between the old city and western part of Spring Garden, but probably passed through only the southwestern portion of the Spring Garden District. Much of Spring Garden was remote and perhaps exempt.

²⁹ Robert J. Stets and John L. Kay, *Independent Post Offices of Philadelphia County 1800-1867*, page 8, The Associated Stamp Clubs Of Southeastern Penna & Delaware, 1979.

³⁰ Robert J. Stets and John L. Kay, *Independent Post Offices of Philadelphia County 1800-1867*, page 25, The Associated Stamp Clubs Of Southeastern Penna & Delaware, 1979.

³¹ Robert J. Stets and John L. Kay, *Independent Post Offices of Philadelphia County 1800-1867*, page 3, The Associated Stamp Clubs Of Southeastern Penna & Delaware, 1979.

³² Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, “Cressman & Co’s,” *Collectors Club Philatelist*, Vol. 81, No. 5, September-October 2002, page 241.

³³ Robert J. Stets and John L. Kay, *Independent Post Offices of Philadelphia County 1800-1867*, page 39, The Associated Stamp Clubs Of Southeastern Penna & Delaware, 1979.

In summary, during the early years DO Blood & Co. apparently had no “firewall” at all to the south of the old city, and arguable reasons to service relatively select remote populations of the two adjacent northern districts. DO Blood & Co. penetration into these areas may have been discretionary, provocative, and not without risk. **Figure 18** shows the adjacent contestable areas.



Figure 18. Sketch map of the Districts adjacent to the City of Philadelphia, and the post offices during the 1840's. From Stets and Kay.

Electrical Telegraph

New technology was about to create a new paradigm in human communication. Through his involvement in the news industry at the Public Ledger, Daniel Blood had to be aware of potentially competing communication business models. More than a year before he founded DO Blood & Co., on May 24, 1844, Samuel Morse sent the first long distance electronic message. “What hath God wrought” was instantly transmitted from the Supreme Court Chamber in the U.S. Capitol in Washington DC to the Baltimore railroad depot. **Figure 19** reveals demonstrations given to the general public. The first commercial telegraph line was being installed between Harrisburg, Pa and Lancaster, Pa. on Pennsylvania Route 230, when Blood purchased a private post, and during the period of 15L4 covers. The first commercial application of a telegraph was on January 8, 1846, only six months after DO Blood & Co. opened for business.³⁴

³⁴ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electrical_telegraph

GREATEST WONDER

Of the Age!

PROF. MORSE'S ELECTRO Magnetic Telegraph!!

This truly wonderful machine will be kept for
EXHIBITION,
THIS DAY & EVENING,
AT THE HALL OF THE YOUNG MEN'S ASSOCIATION,
In the Exchange.

The apparatus is sufficiently extensive for
writing or sending intelligence across the street.

A full and definite description will be given
to all. The names of persons, who may desire
it, will be written in Telegraphic Characters.

ADMISSION 12½ CENTS.

Albany, Feb. 6 1845.

Figure 19. Broadside advertising August 5, 1844 demonstration to the public of the new electric telegraph.

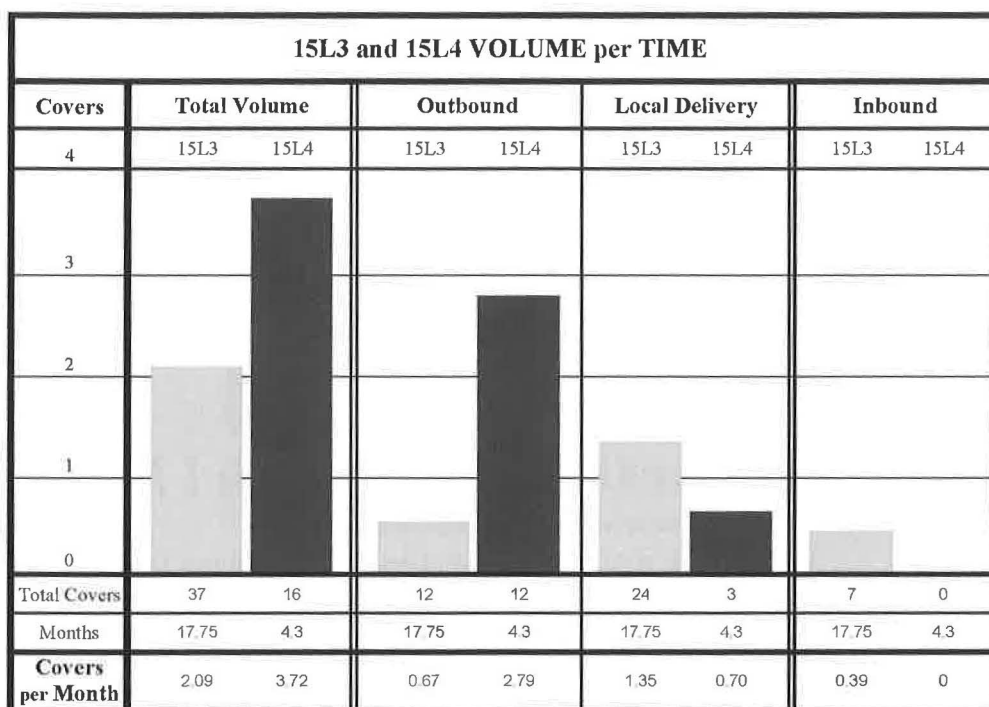


Figure 20. Bar graph of 15L3 and 15L4 volume per month of surviving covers.

Volume - Time Analysis

Fifteen of sixteen surviving covers with 15L4 stamp were dated, and ranged from August 5, 1845 until December 15, 1845, approximately 4.3 months. Of the preceding 15L3 striding messenger stamps,³⁵ twenty-seven of thirty-seven were dated evidence which ranged from October 10, 1843 until May 3, 1845, approximately 17.75 months. A much smaller number of 15L4 examples at first suggests Blood & Co. initial business declined. However, a much shorter time period is a very important variable.

Business activity may be better approximated from the data of surviving examples per unit of time, and perhaps provides a more valid assessment of ownership transition during this very eventful period. Evidence based data in **Figure 20** suggests that volume per time did *not* diminish during the sale, but rather increased! Based upon total surviving covers per month, 15L3 was 2.09 compared to 15L4 at 3.72. *DO Blood & Co. total volume per month increased almost 80%! Despite the onerous government take over of inter city postal service, public sentiment for private service may have apparently held firm or increased.*

Inbound letters had been a not insignificant source of business for the predecessor Philadelphia Despatch Post, almost 20% of 15L3 covers (seven of thirty

³⁵ Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, "Bloods Part 3: 15L3," *The Penny Post*, Vol. 21, No. 3, July 2013, Whole No. 84, pages 44, 45, 49.

seven).³⁶ Source possibilities were word of mouth and express companies. However, no 15L4 covers were generated by individuals privately carrying letters into Philadelphia. The data suggests that the new Blood & Co. lost this source of business. Possibly the effects of the very recent legislation against the "Independent Mails." Perhaps lack of name recognition, i.e. new name, new business location, and uncertainty among non residents traveling to Philadelphia.

The primary initial business of D.O.Blood & Co. was delivery of *outbound letters to the post office*, 75%, or twelve of sixteen. Double the percentage of the predecessor Philadelphia Despatch Post for 15L3 examples which by percentage was only 33% (twelve of thirty six covers with known destination).³⁷ Outbound volume per time, for 15L3 was twelve over 17.75 months (0.67 covers per month), and increased for "provisional" 15L4 to twelve over only 4.3 months (2.79 covers per month). The new company more than *quadrupled the volume per unit time of outbound letters*. On July 1, 1845 the Independent Mail Companies closed their doors, and all outbound mail belonged to the government. Perhaps seventy letter collection boxes throughout the city now owned by DO Blood & Co. assisted the public deliver outbound letters to the post office.

To the contrary, D.O.Blood & Co. *delivery to a local street address* was exceedingly modest. Only three of sixteen 15L3 examples, less than 20% of Blood's business was local delivery (0.70 surviving covers per month). Robertson & Co. by comparison delivered twenty four of thirty six 15L3 with known addresses, or 65% of their work production, during 17.75 months (1.35 covers per month), and approximately *double Blood's*.

Summary

The Postal Act of 1845 profoundly affected private mail service in the United States. All nine Independent Mail Companies closed, Express Companies continued under unfavorable conditions, but the three private local posts in the United States remained "under the government radar" for the time being. On June 30, 1845 Robertson made a business decision to sell the Philadelphia Despatch Post (City Despatch Post), to Daniel Blood. Although the communication industry was on the threshold of a new paradigm of technology via the electric telegraph, and the government was greatly emboldened by the Postal Act of 1845, Daniel Blood made a risk-reward decision which he probably never regretted.

A "provisional stamp" was created from predecessor stamp remainders and/or expedited new printings of former "striding messenger" stamps. They can be distinguished by manuscript branded "D.O.Blood & Co.", creating *Scott Catalog* 15L4. The time period for this stamp may be considered as large as the final six months of 1845, or as little as three weeks until the first reported 15L5 appearance. However, for the purpose of this article the philatelic period has been defined by evidenced based data of 15 dated genuine examples on cover, over 4.3 months, from August 5, 1845 until December 15, 1845.

³⁶ Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, "Bloods Part 3: 15L3," *The Penny Post*, Vol. 21, No. 3, July 2013, Whole No. 84, pages. 50, 55.

³⁷ Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, "Bloods Part 3: 15L3," *The Penny Post*, Vol. 21, No. 3, July 2013, Whole No.84, pages. 55, 57.

The great majority of 15L4 on cover were outbound letters collected by Blood & Co. throughout the city and delivered across the street to the Philadelphia post office to enter the inter-city government mail. One delivered to the post office was a "drop letter" held for the addressee to pick up. Only three covers, less than 20% were delivered by Blood & Co. to a local street address.

Almost 90% of the stamps were cancelled, usually by various manuscript markings. Only one red PAID cancel has been recorded, much like several preceding Robertson & Co. examples. Two were not cancelled. However, "not cancelled" does not necessarily mean "not genuine," proven by an uncanceled 15L4 tied by government handstamp (census number 15).

Over 80% of the covers demonstrated auxiliary markings, although never intended to prevent reuse like a cancel. Only a few auxiliary markings were manuscript, whereas the great majority were handstamped. City namesake specific cds, either Philadelphia or New York, and/or rate handstamps were typical.

Of the sixteen examples, 37% of the 15L4 stamps were tied to their cover. All by fortuitous government handstamp, but none by Blood & Co. cancel.

Only sixteen survivors may suggest low business volume by the new Blood & Co. Time related volume in comparison to the final issue of the predecessor company Philadelphia Despatch Post (City Despatch Post) was analyzed by work type. DO Blood & Co. lost the business for inbound letters privately transported to Philadelphia. However, Blood & Co. collection of outbound letters throughout the city for delivery to the Philadelphia post office *quadrupled*. Blood's business of local delivery to a street address, nonetheless, was modest, and only half of what Robertson's had achieved. Evaluated by total volume over time, Blood & Co. almost doubled Robertson & Co.! Quite impressive given the events and dynamics of 1845.

A great unknown during late 1845 for Daniel Blood was eligibility of private postal service penetration into districts adjacent to the old city of Philadelphia, to reach residents of districts with no post office, and even populations not directly on government post road between post offices.

Carriers and Locals Society Auction #25

Thursday, January 23, 2014

Closing date for consignments
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