

# BLOODS 15L9: Part 9

By

Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD

Blood & Co. was formed on July 1, 1845, and acquired from the Philadelphia Despatch Post the remaining 15L3 stamps, the **world's first pictorial stamp**. By mid-September the striding messenger design was altered adding their namesake title "**D.O.BLOOD & CO.**" across the top. Moreover, during mid-1847 "**CITY DESPATCH**" was added across the middle of the stamp design. Data based evidence of these two combined (15L5 and 15L6) revealed *only 18% (17 of 93) were outbound letters*.<sup>1</sup> These "striding messenger" stamps soon served primarily door delivery "city letters," as defined by the final stamp design.

A few months later, by January 1846, Blood & Co. developed a **new business paradigm** of private postal service with an entirely new geometric double circle stamp design 15L7 "**For the POST OFFICE,**" the **world's first special purpose stamp**. The company had divided and specialized its business model, with delivery to *either* a local street address *or* a government post office. If the "striding messenger" series were for "city letters," the subsequent catalog series were for "post office letters."

The active period of service for 15L7 was virtually all of 1846. In January 1847 the stamp design center, which declared "**CITY/DESPATCH/ POST,**" was modified to create 15L8. The politically sensitive term "**POST**" was replaced with "**PAID,**" as the company was located directly across from the Philadelphia *post* office in the historic Merchants Exchange Building.<sup>2,3</sup> During the Spring of 1847 the stamp design **fonts were modified** creating 15L9, the subject of this article.

## 15L9 "Black"

The 24 mm double circle design in **Figure 1** has been listed by the *Scott Catalogue* as 15L9 in "black" and 2 cents.<sup>4</sup> The center proudly displayed "**CITY/DESPATCH/PAID,**" a generic description of prepaid local service, the middle word in tall narrow fonts. The outer circle was divided top and bottom. The top half explicitly stated the intended purpose "**FOR THE POST OFFICE,**" all words except "post" in narrow fonts. The lower half during the spring 1847 specified the company name, "**D.O.BLOOD & CO.**" In addition to alternating font types, 15L9 converted *all* words to capital letters.

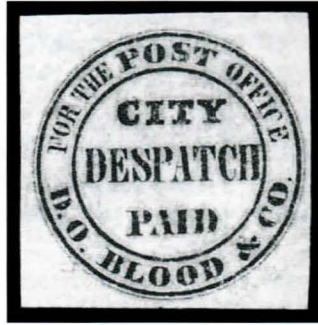
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<sup>1</sup> Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, "Bloods Part 5: 15L5," *The Penny Post*, Vol. 22, No. 1, January 2014, Whole No. 86, pages 22, 23, 40.

<sup>2</sup> John F. Watson; "Localities of the Philadelphia Post Office," *Annals of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania*, Vol. III, pg. 477, Philadelphia, Stuart 1891; reports the post office was on the *north* side of Merchants Exchange Building.

<sup>3</sup> Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, "Bloods Part 4: 15L4," *The Penny Post*, Vol. 21, No. 4, October 2013, Whole No. 85, pages 44, 45, 46.

<sup>4</sup> *Scott 2012 Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps & Covers, Nineteenth Edition*, Scott Publishing Co., 2011, Sidney Ohio, page 545.



**Figure 1. Unused 15L9 geometric “double circle” adhesive stamp differed by *all* capitalized letters, and words in varying font such as its purpose “FOR THE POST OFFICE.”**

The double circle “post office stamps” were **not denominated**, like the concurrent striding messenger “city stamps.” Since mid-1846 singles of either type stamp could be purchased for only 2 cents, no stated monetary value must have facilitated wholesale volume discounts, different pricing for each type of service, and yet potential for global single stamp retail reduction.

No 15L9 multiples off/on cover have been identified. Neither were any 15L9 stamps perforated for easier separation, and required manual separation.

### **15L9 Description Census**

1. April 16, 1847; folded letter; outbound to New Jersey; cut square, uncanceled; blue Clarke 71a Philadelphia cds.,<sup>5</sup> manuscript “14 April 1847” docket tied stamp. To: “Peter J. Stryker Esqr / Sommerville / New Jersey”. HR Harmer May 16, 1961 lot 1246. September 9, 2011 PFC 498917. Morris collection.
2. June 25, 1847; folded letter; outbound Pennsylvania; cut square, gum toned corner; blue Clarke 71a Philadelphia cds. To: “Volney L. Maxwell Esqr / Wilkes Barre / Penn<sup>a</sup>”. Lyons collection.
3. November 7, 1847; folded letter; outbound to New York; cut square, uncanceled; blue Clarke 71a Philadelphia cds. To: “For M<sup>r</sup> W<sup>m</sup> B. Hudson. / In the care of M<sup>r</sup> John Diblin / No. 3.5.2 Third Avenue. / New York.” Alexander collection.
4. December 7, (1847); envelope; outbound to New York; cut square, uncanceled; blue Clarke Type 430d New York & Phila RR cds, matching blue italicized numeral “5” in double circle-tied stamp. To: “Mssrs L B Millett / 24 Park Place / New York”. Siegel 294 January 6, 1966; Lowe March 1, 1973 lot 1660; Lowe October 26, 1973 lot 1905; Morhrmann 142 October 23, 1974 lot 632; Harmer

<sup>5</sup> Tom Clarke, *A Catalog of PHILADELPHIA POSTMARKS, 18<sup>th</sup> Century to Present, Interim Listing*, page 21; 2012. Type 71 earliest is January 7, 1847 and latest September 21, 1848.

2352 July 22, 1976 lot 1331; Siegel 925 November 15, 2006 lot 1305, Kuphal. January 27, 2010 PFC 483751. Ex Gibson, Hollowbush. Morris collection.

5. December 7, 1847; folded letter; outbound to Pennsylvania; cut square, uncanceled; blue Clarke 71a Philadelphia cds, matching blue PAID in lozenge; red crayon manuscript numeral "5" (tied stamp). To: "M<sup>r</sup> John Patterson / Reading / Pa". Siegel 797 December 12, 1997 lot 1933. February 10, 1998 PFC 323197. Alexander collection
6. December 13, (1847); (folded letter); outbound to (New York); cut square, uncanceled, tied by blue Clarke Type 430d New York & Phila RR cds. To: Unknown #1/ (New York). Collectors Shop May 28, 1952 lot 634.
7. December 20, (1847); (folded letter); outbound to Pennsylvania; cut to shape, uncanceled, 5 cent 1847 general issue USPCS ID 11609, blue smudge cancel; blue Clarke 71 Philadelphia cds tied local stamp; manuscript "paid". To: "M<sup>r</sup>. Clement Babbit / Norristown / Care of Rev<sup>d</sup> S. Arron". Bennett International 243 March 23, 2002 lot 13, Craveri. Lyons collection.
8. December 1847; folded letter; outbound to New York; cut square, uncanceled, blue manuscript numeral "5" tied; red numeral "5" in double circle handstamp. To: "M<sup>r</sup> Robert M Ludlow - / Camden & Amboy / Back Road Office / New York". HR Harmer 695 October 31, 1951 lot 852. Shachat collection.
9. February 3, (1847-8); front; outbound to Washington DC; cut square, uncanceled, (ink stain tied); blue Clarke 71a Philadelphia cds. To: "Rev. U. Ward, / Washington City, D.C." September 9, 2011 PFC 498918. Morris collection.
10. February 7, (1847-8); (envelope); outbound to New Jersey; cut square, uncanceled; blue Clarke 71 Philadelphia cds. To: "Scott Burdsale Esq. / Newark / New Jersey". Koerber August 22, 1974 lot 4534.
11. February 10, (1847-8); folded letter sheet; outbound to Massachusetts; cut to shape, uncanceled; tied by red New York cds.; red Clarke Type 430e PHILAD<sup>A</sup> RAILROAD straight line double strike handstamp. To: "Mrs. W. R. Legee / care of / Mssrs Ephrem Appelton of / Boston. / Mass". Harmer 2555 June 4, 1980 lot 204. Siegel 817 November 15, 1999 lot 507, Golden. March 28, 2000 PFC 350617. Morris collection.
12. February 17, (1847-8); folded letter; outbound to Washington DC; cut square, uncanceled; blue Clarke 71 Philadelphia cds. To: "Rev. U. Ward, / (Missouri Av. near 4 ½ street) / Washington City, / D.C." 1936 Laurence auction. Ex Ohlman.



13. March 16, (1847-8); folded letter; outbound to Maryland; cut square, uncanceled, tied by blue Clarke 71 Philadelphia cds. To: "Captain Rick B Fitzgerald / Baltimore". Siegel 723 April 27, 1990 lot 448. Ex Worthington.
14. March 23, (1847-8); (folded letter); outbound to Pennsylvania; cut square, uncanceled; (blue Philadelphia cds). To: Unknown #2 / (Howard, Pa). Siegel 817 November 15, 1999 lot 508.
15. June 3, (1847-8); folded letter; outbound to Maryland; cut square, uncanceled; tied by blue Clarke 71a Philadelphia cds. To: "Mr. W<sup>m</sup>. E Tenbrook / Hancock / Maryland." Siegel 830 November 14, 2000 lot 449, Hall; Siegel 862 May 31, 2003 lot 63, DK; Siegel 1063 December 19, 2013 lot 1731. (PFC 2001 ?). Ex Emerson.
16. June 12, (1847-8); folded letter; outbound to Pennsylvania; cut square, uncanceled, (stain tied); blue Clarke 71a Philadelphia cds. To: "J. N Bell Esq / Hollidaysburg / Penna". Alexander collection.
17. June 16, (1847-8); folded letter; outbound to Washington D.C.; cut square, uncanceled, tied by ink bleed through from manuscript contents; blue Clarke 71a Philadelphia cds. To: "Mrs L.D. Beale / Care Truxturn D. Beale Esq / Washington / D.C." Siegel 965 December 3, 2008 lot 1092, Geisler. May 9, 2013 PFC 512021.
18. June 20, (1847-8); envelope; outbound to Maryland; cut square, uncanceled; blue Clarke 71a Philadelphia cds. To: "Mr Balcom / Baltimore / Maryland". October 9, 2012 PFC 507636.
19. July 10, (1847-8); folded letter; outbound Pennsylvania; cut square, uncanceled; blue Clarke 71 Philadelphia cds. To: "Mr George Sear / Doylestown / P. Office / Bucks County". Snow collection.
20. January 1, 1848; folded letter, outbound to Maryland; cut square, uncanceled; blue Clarke 71 Philadelphia cds. To: "Mr Cha<sup>s</sup> F Pitt / Merchant / Baltimore". Heiman February 20, 1973 lot 594; Winter October 27, 1973 lot 312; Wolffers September 14, 1978 lot 470. Signed "Doane" on reverse.
21. January 5, 1848; folded letter; outbound to Connecticut; cut to shape, uncanceled; blue Clarke 71a Philadelphia cds. To: "Mr J. Edward Welch / Brooklyn / Conn." Stimmell collection.
22. January 6, 1848; folded letter; outbound to Massachusetts; cut square, uncanceled; red New York cds, matching red Clarke Type 430e PHILAD<sup>A</sup> RAILROAD straight line double strike handstamp. To: "Benj P Richardson Esq / -----/ (Boston)". Siegel 285 April 1, 1965 lot 654.



23. January 23, 1848; folded letter; outbound to New Hampshire; cut square, uncanceled; blue Clarke Type 430d New York & Phila RR cds, matching blue italicized numeral "10" in double circle handstamp. To: "Miss Sarah E Frosh / Keen / New Hampshire". Siegel 927 December 20, 2006, Richardson. October 27, 2000 PFC 361540. March 14, 2007 PFC 450313. Morris collection.
  
24. January 27, 1848; folded letter; outbound to Washington D.C.; cut square, uncanceled; two strikes blue Clarke 71 Philadelphia cds., two matching blue "FREE" in lozenge, one tied the stamp. To: "Excellency James K Polk / President of the / United States". Siegel 627 December 13, 1983 lot 1610; Siegel 820 January 18, 2000 lot 924. March 8, 2000 PFC 351713. Ex Emerson, Gibson. Morris collection.
  
25. February 4, 1848; folded letter; outbound to Massachusetts; cut to shape, uncanceled; 5 cent 1847 USPCS ID 6006, tied by red boxed grid cancel; red New York cds., matching red Clarke Type 430e PHILAD<sup>A</sup> RAILROAD straight line handstamp; manuscript "*paid*". To: "Miss Nancy A Blanding / Pawtucket / Mass". Siegel 353 May 20, 1969 lot 218, Matthies. (RKaufmann 71). Kelleher 588 March 5, 1991 lot 3268, Sierra Madre. June 19, 1990 PFC 223892.
  
26. February 16, (1848); envelope; outbound to Pennsylvania; cut square, uncanceled; blue Clarke 71a Philadelphia cds; 5 cent 1847 USPCS ID 11280, tied twice by blue Clarke 71a Philadelphia cds; manuscript "*Paid/5*". To: "Miss Elizabeth J. Newbold / Attleborough / Bucks County / Pa". Siegel 285 March 31, 1965 lot 656; Siegel 1041 April 9, 2013 lot 252, Gross. Ex Boker. May 28, 2013 PFC 512572.
  
27. March 2, 1848; envelope; outbound to CANADA; cut square, uncanceled, tied by (red) Montreal 1848 backstamp; (blue) Clarke 79 Philadelphia cds; two 5 cent 1847 general issue stamps USPCS ID 10492, cancel-tied by two strikes of (blue) Clarke 79 Philadelphia cds; manuscript "*4 ½*" pence due internal Canadian rate. To: "J-H. Joseph Esqr / Montreal / Canada". Siegel 204 October 31, 1957 lot 297.
  
28. March 2, 1848; folded letter; outbound to Virginia; cut square, uncanceled; blue Clarke 79 Philadelphia cds. To: "Hugh B. Gregsby Esqr. / Roanoke Bridge / Charlotte Co. / Virginia-". Lowe October 8, 1974 lot 234; Siegel 853 December 19, 2002 lot 2625.
  
29. March 8, 1848; folded letter; outbound to New Jersey; cut square, uncanceled; blue Clarke 71 Philadelphia cds. To: Unknown #3 / (Newark, New Jersey). R.Kauffman August 1980 lot 400.
  
30. March 9, 1848; envelope; outbound to CANADA; cut square, uncanceled, tied by blue Clarke 79 Philadelphia cds; 10 cent 1847 general issue USPCS ID 11705, cancel-tied by matching blue Clarke 79 Philadelphia cds; manuscript "*4 ½*" pence

due internal Canadian rate. To: "J.H. Joseph Esq / Montreal / Canada". Lowe October 8, 1974 lot 235. Gross collection.<sup>6</sup>

31. March 13, 1848; envelope; outbound to CANADA; cut square, uncanceled, tied by blue Clarke 79 Philadelphia cds; 10 cent 1847 general issue USPCS ID 11707, twice cancel-tied by matching blue Clarke 79 Philadelphia cds; (red Montreal cds backstamp); manuscript "4 ½" pence due internal Canadian rate, manuscript docket date. To: "~~J.H. Joseph Esq / Montreal / Canada~~". Harmers April 1, 1965 lot 657; Siegel 285 March 31, 1965 lot 657; Siegel 333 April 24, 1968 lot 609, Boker; Siegel 645 April 20, 1985 Rarities lot 54. September 9, 1968 PFC 28305. Ex Gibson. Eubanks collection.
32. March 17, (1848); folded letter; outbound to CANADA; cut to shape, uncanceled; blue Clarke 79 Philadelphia cds; missing 5 cent 1847 cancel tied by matching handstamp; red Canadian year datestamp; manuscript "4 ½" pence due internal Canadian rate. To: "Clarke Gamble, Esq / Barrister at Law / Toronto. / Upper Canada". Mayflower February 20, 1958 lot 636.
33. March 20, 1848; (folded letter); outbound to Pennsylvania; cut square, uncanceled; blue Clarke 71a Philadelphia cds. To: "Messrs D. H. Dagar & Co / Norristown / Montgomery Cy / Pa." Lowe March 1, 1973 lot 1661. Mohrmann 142 October 23, 1974 lot 629. Ex Gibson.
34. March 22, 1848; folded letter, date docket on reverse; outbound to Pennsylvania; cut square, uncanceled, (smudge tied); 5 cent 1847 USPCS ID 10502 cancel-tied by blue Clarke 71 Philadelphia cds; manuscript "Paid 5- ". To: "To / A.E. Roberts Esq / New Holland / Lancaster County / P". R.Kauffmann May 13, 1989 lot 208; Siegel 758 March 23, 1994 lot 93; Siegel 925 November 15, 2006 lot 1304, Kuphal. January 24, 2007 PFC 447390.
35. March 23, (1848); folded letter; outbound to Massachusetts; cut square, uncanceled; blue Clarke 79 Philadelphia cds. To: "Messr Mason & Lawrence / Boston". Apfelbaum April 22, 1977.
36. March 27, 1848; envelope; outbound to CANADA; cut square, uncanceled; blue Clarke 79 Philadelphia cds; two 5 cent 1847 general issues USPCS ID 10505, twice cancelled-tied by matching blue PAID in lozenge; red Montreal 1848 cds on reverse; manuscript "4 ½" pence due internal Canadian rate. To: "~~J.H. Joseph Esq / Montreal / Canada~~". (2008 PFC). (EBAY).
37. March 30, 1848; envelope; outbound to CANADA; cut square on reverse flap, uncanceled; blue Clarke 79 Philadelphia cds; two 5 cent 1847 general issues

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<sup>6</sup> Calvet Hahn, "Authenticating the T. Walters Local," *Collectors Club Philatelist*, Vol. 73, No. 6, Nov.-Dec. 1994, page 335.

USPCS ID 10507, twice cancelled-tied by matching cds; red Montreal 1848 cds on reverse flap; manuscript “4 ½” pence due internal Canadian rate. To: “J.H. Joseph Esq. / Montreal / Canada”. Siegel 569 October 7, 1980 lot 516; Bennett International 275 April 23, 2004 lot 12. July 6, 2004 PFC 413738.

38. April 11, 1848; folded letter sheet; outbound to Maryland; cut square, uncanceled; manuscript “Way 5” tied; blue Baltimore cds; extraneous pen mark tied stamp, non-contemporaneous pencil “April 11, 1848.” To: “Mr. W.E. Tenbrook / Hancock / Maryland”. (Lowe 1981 lot 746). Siegel 825 June 27, 2000 lot 1599. October 27, 2000 PFC 361541; April 27, 2010 PFC 486185. Ex Hoe.
39. April 13, 1848; folded letter; outbound to Maryland; cut square, uncanceled; blue Philadelphia Clarke 71 cds. To: “(Tenbrook) / Hancock / Maryland”. (Lowe 1981 lot 746).
40. April 27, 1848; (envelope); outbound to Connecticut; cut to shape, uncanceled; blue Clarke 71 Philadelphia cds. To: “Miss Charlotte H. Pettibone / West Hartford / Conn.” Bowman collection.
41. May 25, 1848; folded letter; outbound Maryland; cut square, uncanceled; blue Baltimore cds.; manuscript “Way 5”. To: “Mr Balcom Esqr / Port Deposit / Maryland”. Stimmell collection.
42. May 29, 1848; folded letter; outbound to New York; cut square, uncanceled; red numeral “5” in double circle handstamp. To: “John K. Starin Esqr. / No 81 Cedar St / New York”. Lowe March 1, 1973 lot 1662; Mohrmann 142 October 23, 1974 lot 631; H.R.Harmer 2352 July 22, 1976 lot 1332; Siegel 927 December 20, 2006 lot 1079; Siegel 1063 December 19, 2013 lot 1732. Ex Hollowbush.
43. May 30, 1848; folded letter; outbound to Pennsylvania; cut to octagon, uncanceled; blue Clarke 71a Philadelphia cds. To: “Mr. P. Gray Esq / Bellefonte / Pa”. Stimmell collection.
44. June 17, 1848; folded letter; outbound to CANADA; cut to shape, uncanceled; 10 cent 1847 general issue USPCS ID 11730, blue Clarke 79 Philadelphia cds cancel-tied, matching Philadelphia cds at right; red Canadian year datestamp on flap; manuscript “4 ½” pence due internal Canadian rate. To: “- Clarke - Gamble, Esq / - Barrister at Law / Toronto. / - U. Canada”. Bennett International 243 March 23, 2002 lot 13, Craveri. Lyons collection.
45. June 21, 1848; envelope; outbound to CANADA; cut square, uncanceled; two 5 cent 1847 singles USPCS ID 10572, cancel-tied by three strikes of blue Clarke 79 Philadelphia cds, forth strike to left; red Montreal 1848 cds on reverse flap; manuscript “4 ½” pence due internal Canadian rate. To: “~~Mr JH Joseph~~ / Montreal / Canada”. (Kaufmann 60 lot 1330) Siegel 875 April 25, 2004 lot 727; Siegel 1023



April 24, 2012 lot 2451. January 11, 1980 PFC 81558; May 16, 2012 PFC 504590. Morris collection.

46. June 23, (1848); envelope; outbound to Massachusetts; cut square, uncanceled, tied by blue Clarke Type 430d New York & Phila RR cds, matching blue "PAID" in box. To: "W<sup>m</sup> G Morris / Pittsfield Gymnasium / Pittsfield / Ma-----". Siegel 825 June 27, 2000 lot 1598, Schwartz. October 27, 2000 PFC 361540. Morris collection.
47. July 7, 1848; folded letter; outbound to New York; cut square, uncanceled; blue Clarke 71 Philadelphia cds; non-contemporary pencil "*July 6, 1848*". To: "Charles P Fay. / New York City." Siegel 817 November 15, 1999 lot 509, Golden; Siegel 853 December 19, 2002 2624.
48. July 27, (1848); folded letter; outbound to Maine; cut square, uncanceled; blue Clarke 79 Philadelphia cds. To: "Rufus Dwinel / Bangor / Maine". Siegel 825 June 26, 2000, Schwartz. Alexander collection.
49. November 7, 1848; folded letter; outbound to Delaware; cut square, uncanceled, (tied by file fold); blue Clarke 73 Philadelphia cds.<sup>7</sup> To: "Casper W Pennock / Near Wilmington / For c a / Caroline Pennock} Delaware". Kauffman February 1981 lot 329. April 29, 2003 PFC 396897. Morris collection.
50. (1848); folded letter; outbound to New Jersey; cut square, uncanceled; (blue) Clarke 71 Philadelphia cds. To: "Scott Burdsale Esq / (Newark, New Jersey)". Southard November 9, 1970 lot 248.
51. February 16, 1849; envelope; outbound to CANADA; cut square, uncanceled, tied by blue Clarke 79 Philadelphia cds;<sup>8</sup> 5 cent 1847 general issue horizontal pair USPCS ID 10672, penstroke cancel each; manuscript "*Feb 16*" and "*4 ½*" pence due internal Canadian rate. To: "~~Mr JH Joseph~~ / Montreal / Canada". Eubanks collection.
52. February 26, 1849; (envelope); outbound to Virginia; cut square, uncanceled; (blue) Philadelphia cds. To: Unknown #4 / (Norfolk, Virginia). Lowe October 8, 1974 lot 233. NO PHOTO.
53. February 1849; folded letter; outbound New York; cut square, uncanceled, tied by address; blue Clarke 74 Philadelphia cds. To: "Mssrs D. Simmone & Co / (New York)". (Kauffmann July 18, 1951 lot 303).

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<sup>7</sup> Clarke, 2012, page 24 reports Type 73 from October 26, 1849 until June 20, 1851.

<sup>8</sup> New latest recorded Type 79.

54. July 12, 1849; (folded letter); outbound to New York; cut square, uncanceled; (blue) Clarke 74 Philadelphia cds.;<sup>9</sup> 5 cent 1847 USPCS ID 10775, cancel-tied by two grid in circle handstamps. To: "Messrs R. L A. Stuart / New York".<sup>10</sup>
55. April 23, 1850; folded letter; outbound Pennsylvania; cut to shape, uncanceled; tied by two strikes Clarke 73 Philadelphia cds; red Reading Pa cds; manuscript "Missent". To: "Mr James Ennis / Easton / Pa." October 27, 2010 PFC 491604. Ex Bowman. Morris collection.
56. January 22, (18xx); (folded letter); outbound Pennsylvania; (cut square), (uncanceled); (5 cent 1847 general issue). To (David Hoffman) / (Lebanon, Pennsylvania). USPCS on line census (no ID number). NO PHOTO.
57. February 23, (18xx); (folded letter); outbound via New York; cut to shape, uncanceled; (red) New York cds, matching (red) Clarke Type 430e PHILAD<sup>A</sup> RAILROAD straight line double strike handstamp. To: Unknown #5 / (New York). Fox March 22, 1967 lot 857.
58. February 27, (18xx); outbound; cut square, uncanceled; blue Philadelphia cds. To: Unknown #6 / Unknown #1. Fox October 12, 1981 lot 645.
59. April 1, (18xx); folded letter; outbound; (partially cut to shape), uncanceled; blue Philadelphia cds. To: Unknown #7 / Unknown #2. Apfelbaum November 29, 1977 lot 1373.
60. April 21, (18xx); ladies envelop; outbound to Virginia; cut square, uncanceled, tied by blue Baltimore cds; manuscript "Way 5". To: Unknown #8 / (Alexandria, Va). Harmer 1071 March 20, 1857 lot 574, Caspary.
61. Unknown date #1; front; local delivery; cut square, uncanceled; blue numeral "2" in double circle handstamp. To: "Mssrs Thomas & William Savery / Northern Liberties / Phil<sup>aa</sup>". Siegel 820 January 18, 2000 lot 925. February 4, 2003 PFC 394298. *Penny Post* Vol. 1, No. 4, November 1991, page 9. Ex Bowman. Morris collection.
62. Unknown date #2; (unknown); cut square, uncanceled (rusted stain). To: Unknown #9 / Unknown #3. Harmer June 18, 1968 lot 526.
63. Unknown date #3; (unknown); outbound New Jersey; (cut square). uncanceled; (blue) Philadelphia (71a) cds. To: Unknown #10 / (Flemington, NJ). R.Kaufmann 58 May 13, 1989 lot 846. NO PHOTO.

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<sup>9</sup> Clarke, 2012, Interim page 24 reports Type 74 earliest on October 19, 1848 and latest on September 12, 1849.

<sup>10</sup> Robert Meyersburg, "1847 Postage Stamps Used in Combination with Carrier and Local Adhesives," *Chronicle* February 1992, Whole No. 153, Vol. 44, No. 1, page 11.

- A. September 19, 1846; folded letter; outbound to Pennsylvania; cut to shape, uncanceled; blue Clarke 70 Philadelphia cds.<sup>11</sup> To: "O.J.Hamlin Esqr / attorney at Law / Smithport / M<sup>e</sup>Kean County / P.A." July 23, 2010 Carriers & Locals Society Auction 18 lot 26. July 30, 2003 PFC 400562; August 30, 2010 PFC 489847. Morris collection.
- B. Undated; folded letter; local address; cut to shape, uncanceled; blue numeral "2" in double circle handstamp; manuscript "10", manuscript "(b)*rig Faion / (v)ia Boston*". To: "Mr. Augustus Nelson / Care of Jacob Bignot Esqr / Philadelphia". Gold Medal February 23, 1977 lot 2088.
- C. (1858); (envelope); local address; cut square, uncanceled, (blue) cds; Blood Handstamp (old ASCC Type 15; Morris Type 21). To: "Mrs Dale / S Fourth St - / opposite Willing alley". Kennedi October 8, 1971 lot 969.

### **Excluded 15L9 Covers**

Two 15L9 covers were likely counterfeit (census number A and B). A third cover has been excluded as highly unlikely on the basis of year date and service type (census number C).

Census letter A was internally dated September 19, 1947 with *untied* 15L9 stamp. Since the cluster of 15L9 covers did not begin until 14 months later, it would be a *very far* early outlier, by several standard deviations. Furthermore, census letter A was dated *2 months before the earliest 15L8 cover* on December 23, 1846! In all probability the stamp was added to the cover well after Blood & Co. ceased to exist, much to the recent dismay of the Philatelic Foundation, owner, and author.

Undated census letter B was transported by ship from Boston properly rated 10 cents inbound to the Philadelphia post office. Blue numeral 2 designates Philadelphia "drop" rate or carrier department local delivery to attorney Bignot, either of which would have precluded Blood & Co. The *untied* 15L9 stamp was non-contemporaneously added to the cover.

The third example was an 1858-1861 letter serviced by Blood & Co, but ten years later, well after the company had been renamed twice and became Bloods Penny Post. Although an extremely late far outlier misplaced for ten years is not impossible, it is highly unlikely. Moreover, the stamp was struck by an indistinct circular handstamp which does not tie it to the cover, and paradoxically indicated *outbound* service for a local address. Secondly, the position of the stamp on cover is not typical with most of the cds missing and off the cover for conceptual "overhang."

### **15L9 Photographic Census**

Of the 63 identified genuine 15L9 stamps on cover, all but three (census number 52, 56 and 63) have been previously photographed in auction catalogs and/or

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<sup>11</sup> Tom Clarke, *A Catalog of PHILADELPHIA POSTMARKS, 18<sup>th</sup> Century to Present, Interim Listing*, page 21; 2012, Clarke records the earliest Type 70a on April 26, 1846 and latest on January 29, 1847.



the philatelic literature. The 60 photographed covers have been posted on the Carriers and Locals Society website. Three without photographs have been described in old auction catalogs with sufficiently accurate date and/or town destination to distinguish them from all others in the data base. Some calculations therefore may have been based upon a group of 60 through 63 examples.

Of the 60 photographed covers, 42 are available in **full color, for 70%**. Black and white photographs are available for 17, or 30% (census number 6, 10, 20, 22, 29, 32, 33, 35, 39, 50, 53, 54, 57, 58, 59, 60, and 62). One example is a *composite* image of both color and black and white (census number 27).

Old auction catalogs all too often did not reveal the cover's entire address. As mentioned, **three have no photographs**. The photograph of 7 covers had been reduced to the stamp only, without any part of the address (census number 6, 14, 29, 58, 59, 60, and 62). Photographs of five covers revealed a portion of the address (census number 22, 39, 50, 53, and 57). The address of 10 are listed as "Unknown," (census number 6, 14, 29, 52, 57, 58, 59, 60, 62, and 63), although archival *descriptions* have revealed the destination city *only* for more than half (census number 14, 29, 52, 56, 60, and 63).

### 15L9 Cover Data Base

A 2% survival rate of private posts covers during this period has been recently selected for this series of articles.<sup>12</sup> Sixty three genuine examples suggests an original population of *approximately 3150*.

### 15L9 Service Time

Evidence-based data unfortunately includes *varying degrees of year certainty*. **Table 1** reveals that 34, more than *half are date certain* (census number 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 47, 49, 51, 52, and 55) since each reports the day, month, and year. Another 21 covers are not year specific, but a reasonable time period can be determined from auxiliary markings such as Philadelphia circular date stamps.<sup>13</sup> Ten of 21 can be determined to within a *one* calendar year period (census number 4, 6, 7, 26, 35, 46, 48, 50, 53, and 54) by Clarke Type. The other eleven of the 21 can likewise be determined to within a *two* year period (census numbers 9 through 19). The final 8 census numbers, however, are entirely date unspecified. Five of 8 (census numbers 56 through 60) provide only month and day information, without any year leads. Unfortunately, the other 3 offer no information of any type: date, month or year (census numbers 61 through 63).

**Table I** evidence readily reveals the initial 50 of 63 covers, about 82%, are 1847 or 1848, and probably higher given some of the enigmatic final 8 would probably fall within the most common two years. Only the earliest 8, or 14%, are clearly 1847. Thirty-one covers, about 50%, are clearly 1848 (census numbers 20 through 50).

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<sup>12</sup> Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, "Bloods Part 6: 15L6," *The Penny Post*, Vol. 22, No. 2, April 2014, Whole No. 87, page 38.

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid*.

**Table I. Chronological Data Base of 15L9 genuine on cover. Parenthesis used for information lacking certainty, and with varying degrees of probability.**

No.	DATE	COVER	15L9	CANCEL	TIED	LABEL
1	April 16, 1847	folded letter	cut square	no	docket	-
2	June 25, 1847	folded letter	cut square	(gum tone)	no	-
3	November 7, 1847	folded letter	cut square	no	no	-
4	December 7, (1847)	envelope	cut square	no	numeral 5	-
5	December 7, 1847	folded letter	cut square	no	(red crayon)	-
6	December 13, (1847)	folded letter	cut square	no	blue cds	-
7	December 20, (1847)	folded letter	cut to shape	no	blue cds	-
8	December, 1847	folded letter	cut square	no	blue 5	-
9	February 3, (1847-8)	front	cut square	no	(ink stain)	-
10	February 7, (1847-8)	(envelope)	cut square	no	no	-
11	February 10, (1847-8)	folded letter	cut to shape	no	red NY cds	-
12	February 17, (1847-8)	folded letter	cut square	no	no	-
13	March 16, (1847-8)	folded letter	cut square	no	blue cds	-
14	March 23, (1847-8)	(folded letter)	cut square	no	no	-
15	June 3, (1847-8)	folded letter	cut square	no	blue cds	-
16	June 12, (1847-8)	folded letter	cut square	no	(stain)	-
17	June 16, (1847-8)	folded letter	cut square	no	ink from contents	-
18	June 20, (1847-8)	envelope	cut square	no	no	-
19	July 10, (1847-8)	folded letter	cut square	no	no	-
20	January 1, 1848	folded letter	cut square	no	no	-
21	January 6, 1848	folded letter	cut to shape	no	no	-
22	January 5, 1848	folded letter	cut square	no	no	-
23	January 23, 1848	folded letter	cut square	no	no	-
24	January 27, 1848	folded letter	cut square	no	blue lozenge	-
25	February 4, 1848	folded letter	cut to shape	no	no	-
26	February 16, (1848)	envelope	cut square	no	no	-
27	March 2, 1848	envelope	cut square	no	red cds	-
28	March 2, 1848	folded letter	cut square	no	no	-
29	March 8, 1848	folded letter	cut square	no	no	-
30	March 9, 1848	envelope	cut square	no	blue cds	-
31	March 13, 1848	envelope	cut square	no	blue cds	-
32	March 17, 1848	folded letter	cut to shape	no	no	-

**Table I. (cont'd.)**

FEDERAL STAMPS & MARKS	ADDRESSEE	OUTBOUND	No.
blue Clarke 71a Philadelphia cds manuscript "14 April 1847"	Peter J. Stryker Esqr / Somerville / New Jersey	New Jersey	1
blue Clarke 71a Philadelphia cds	Volney L. Maxwell Esqr / Wilkes Barre / Penna	Pennsylvania	2
blue Clarke 71a Philadelphia cds	For Mr Wm B. Hudson. / In the care of Mr John Diblin / No. 3.5.2 Third Avenue. / New York.	New York	3
blue Clarke 430d New York & Phila RR cds blue italicized numeral 5 in double circle	Mssrs L B Millet / 24 Park Place / New York	New York	4
blue Clarke 71a Philadelphia cds blue PAID in lozenge red crayon (numeral "5")	Mr John Patterson / Reading / Pa	Pennsylvania	5
blue Clarke 430d New York & Phila RR cds	Unknown #1	(New York)	6
blue Clarke 71 Philadelphia cds 5 cent 1847, blue smudge cancel manuscript "paid."	Mr. Clement Babbit / Norristown / Care of Revd S. Arron	Pennsylvania	7
red numeral 5 in circle handstamp blue manuscript "5"	Mr Robert M Ludlow - / Camden & Amboy / Back Road Office / New York	New York	8
blue Clarke 71a Philadelphia cds	Rev. U. Ward / Washington City / DC	Washington, DC	9
blue Clarke 71 Philadelphia cds	Scott Burdsale Esq. / Newark / New Jersey	New Jersey	10
red Clarke 430e PHILADA RAILROAD sl red New York cds	Mrs. W. R. Legee / care of / Mssrs Ephrem Appleton of / Boston. / Mass	Massachusetts	11
blue Clarke 71 Philadelphia cds	Rev. U. Ward. / (Missouri Av. near 4 1/2 street) / Washington City, / D.C.	Washington, DC	12
blue Clarke 71 Philadelphia cds	Captain Rick B Fitzgerald / Baltimore	Maryland	13
(blue Philadelphia cds)	Unknown #2 / (Howard, Pa.)	(Pennsylvania)	14
blue Clarke 71a Philadelphia cds	Mr. Wm. E Tenbrook / Hancock / Maryland	Maryland	15
blue Clarke 71a Philadelphia cds	J. N Bell Esq / Hollidaysburg / Penna	Pennsylvania	16
blue Clarke 71a Philadelphia cds	Mrs. L.D. Beale / Care Truxtum D. Beale Esq / Washington / D.C.	Washington, DC	17
blue Clarke 71a Philadelphia cds	Mr Balcom / Baltimore / Maryland	Maryland	18
blue Clarke 71a Philadelphia cds	Mr George Sear / Doylestown / P. Office / Bucks County	Pennsylvania	19
blue Clarke 71 Philadelphia cds	Mr Chas F Pitt / Merchant / Baltimore	Maryland	20
blue Clarke 71a Philadelphia cds	Mr J. Edward Welch / Brooklyn / Conn.	Connecticut	21
red Clarke 430e PHILADA RAILROAD sl red New York cds	Benj P Richardson Esq / (Boston)	Massachusetts	22
blue Clarke 430d New York & Phila RR cds blue italicized numeral 10 in double circle	Miss Sarah E Frosh / Keen / New Hampshire	New Hampshire	23
blue Clarke 71 Philadelphia cds, twice blue FREE in lozenge, twice	Excellency James K Polk / President of the / <u>United States</u>	Washington, DC	24
red Clarke 430e PHILADA RAILROAD sl red New York cds manuscript "paid" 5 cent 1847 tied by red boxed grid cancel	Miss Nancy A Blanding / Pawtucket / Mass	Massachusetts	25
5 cent 1847 tied twice by blue Clarke 71a Phila cds manuscript "Paid/5"	Miss Elizabeth J. Newbold / Attleborough / Bucks County / Pa	Pennsylvania	26
blue Clarke 79 Philadelphia cds two 5 cent 1847, each tied by blue Clarke 79 Phila cds red Montreal cds	J.H. Joseph Esqr / <u>Montreal / Canada</u>	CANADA	27
blue Clarke 79 Philadelphia cds	Hugh B. Gregsby Esqr. / Roanoke Bridge / Charlotte Co. / Virginia ---	Virginia	28
blue Clarke 71 Philadelphia cds	Unknown #3 / (Newark, New Jersey)	New Jersey	29
blue Clarke 79 Philadelphia cds 10 cent 1847 tied by blue Clarke 79 Phila cds	J.H. Joseph Esq / Montreal / Canada	CANADA	30
blue Clarke 79 Philadelphia cds; (Canadian cds backstamp) 10 cent 1847 tied twice by Clarke 79 manuscript docket	J.H. Joseph Esqr / <u>Montreal / Canada</u>	CANADA	31
blue Clarke 79 Philadelphia cds (missing 5 cent 1847) red Canadian datestamp	Clarke Gamble, Esqr / Barrister at Law / Toronto. / <u>Upper Canada</u>	CANADA	32



**Table I. (cont'd) Chronological Data Base of 15L9 genuine on cover. Parenthesis used for information lacking certainty, and with varying degrees of probability**

No.	DATE	COVER	15L9	CANCEL	TIED	LABEL
33	March 20, 1848	folded letter	cut square	no	no	-
34	March 22, 1848	folded letter	cut square	no	(smudge)	-
35	March 23, (1848)	folded letter	cut square	no	no	-
36	March 27, 1848	envelope	cut square	no	no	-
37	March 30, 1848	envelope	cut square	no	no	-
38	April 11, 1848	folded letter	cut square	no	manuscript 5	-
39	April 13, 1848	folded letter	cut square	no	no	-
40	April 27, 1848	(envelope)	cut to shape	no	no	-
41	May 25, 1848	folded letter	cut square	no	no	-
42	May 29, 1848	folded letter	cut square	no	no	-
43	May 30, 1848	folded letter	cut to octagon	no	no	-
44	June 17, 1848	folded letter	cut to shape	no	no	-
45	June 21, 1848	envelope	cut square	no	no	-
46	June 23, (1848)	envelope	cut square	no	blue cds	-
47	July 7, 1848	folded letter	cut square	no	no	-
48	July 27, (1848)	folded letter	cut square	no	no	-
49	November 7, 1848	folded letter	cut square	no	(file fold)	-
50	(1848)	folded letter	cut square	no	no	-
51	February 16, 1849	envelope	cut square	no	blue cds	-
52	February 26, 1849	(envelope)	cut square	no	no	-
53	February 1849	folded letter	cut square	no	address	-
54	July 12, (1849)	(folded letter)	cut square	no	no	-
55	April 23, 1850	folded letter	cut to shape	no	blue cds	-
56	January 22, (18xx)	(folded letter)	(cut square)	(no)	(no)	-
57	February 23, (18xx)	(folded letter)	cut to shape	no	no	-
58	February 27, (18xx)	(folded letter)	cut square	no	no	-
59	April 1, (18xx)	(folded letter)	partially cut to shape	no	no	-
60	April 24, (18xx)	ladies envelope	cut square	no	Baltimore cds	-
61	Unknown #1	front	cut square	no	no	-
62	Unknown #2	(folded letter)	cut square	(rusted line)	no	-
63	Unknown #3	(folded letter)	(cut square)	no	no	-
A	September 19, 1846	folded letter	cut to shape	no	no	-
B	Unknown #4	folded letter	cut to shape	no	no	-
C	(1858)	(envelope)	cut square	no	no	-

**Table I. cont'd..**

FEDERAL STAMPS & MARKS	ADDRESSEE	OUTBOUND	No.
blue Clarke 71a Philadelphia cds	Messrs D. H. Dagar & Co / Norristown / Montgomery Cy / Pa.	Pennsylvania	33
5 cent 1847 tied by blue Clarke 71 Philadelphia cds manuscript "Paid 5."	To / A.E.Roberts Esq / New Holland / Lancaster County / Pa	Pennsylvania	34
blue Clarke 79 Philadelphia cds	Messr Mason & Lawrence /Boston	Massachusetts	35
blue Clarke 79 Philadelphia cds (red Montreal cds) two 5 cent 1847, tied twice by blue PAID in lozenge	J.H. Joseph Esq. / Montreal / Canada	CANADA	36
blue Clarke 79 Philadelphia cds red Montreal cds two 5 cent 1847, tied twice by blue Clarke 79 Phila cds	J.H. Joseph Esq. / Montreal / Canada	CANADA	37
blue Baltimore cds manuscript "Way 5"	Mr.W.E. Tenbrook / Hancock / Maryland	Maryland	38
blue Clarke 71 Philadelphia cds	(Tenbrook) / Hancock / Maryland	Maryland	39
blue Clarke 71 Philadelphia cds	Miss Charlotte H. Pettibone / West Hartford / Conn.	Connecticut	40
blue Baltimore cds manuscript "Way 5"	Mr Balcom Esqr / Port Deposit / Maryland	Maryland	41
red numeral 5 in double circle handstamp	John K.Starin Esqr. / No 81 Cedar St / New York	New York	42
blue Clarke 71 Philadelphia cds	Mr. P. Gray Esq / Bellefonte / Pa	Pennsylvania	43
blue Clarke 79 Phila cds red Canadian datestamp 10 cent 1847 tied by blue Clarke 79 Phila cds	Clarke - Gamble, Esq / - Barrister at Law / Toronto. / - U. Canada	CANADA	44
blue Clarke 79 Philadelphia cds red Montreal cds 5 cent 1847 pair tied by blue Clarke 79 Philadelphia cds	Mr JH Joseph / Montreal / Canada	CANADA	45
blue Clarke 430d New York & Phila RR cds; PAID in box	Wm G Morris / Pittsfield Gymnasium / Pittsfield / Ma---	Massachusetts	46
blue Clarke 71 Philadelphia cds	Charles P Fay. / New York City.	New York	47
blue Clarke 79 Philadelphia cds	Rufus Dwinel / Bangor / Maine	Maine	48
blue Clarke 73 Philadelphia cds	Casper W Pennock / Near Wilmington / For c a / Caroline Pennock) Delaware	Delaware	49
(blue) Clarke 71 Philadelphia cds	Scott Burdsale Esq / (Newark, New Jersey)	New Jersey	50
blue Clarke 79 Philadelphia cds manuscript "Feb 16" 5 cent 1847 horizontal pair, penstroke cancel each	Mr JH Joseph / Montreal / Canada	CANADA	51
(blue) Philadelphia cds	Unknown #4 / (Norfolk, Virginia); (NO PHOTO)	Virginia	52
blue Clarke 74 Philadelphia cds	Mssrs D. Simmone & Co / (New York)	New York	53
blue Clarke 74 Philadelphia cds 5 cent 1847 issue tied by two grid in circles	Messrs R.L.A. Stuart / New York	New York	54
blue Clarke 73 Philadelphia cds, twice red Reading, Pa cds manuscript "Missem"	Mr James Ennis / Easton / Pa.	Pennsylvania	55
(5 cent 1847 issue)	(David Hoffman) / (Lebanon, Pennsylvania) (NO PHOTO)	Pennsylvania	56
(red) Clarke 430e PHILADA RAILROAD sl (red) NY cds	Unknown #5	(New York)	57
(blue Philadelphia cds)	Unknown #6	Unknown #1	58
blue Philadelphia cds	Unknown #7	Unknown #2	59
blue Baltimore cds manuscript "Way 5"	Unknown #8 / [Alexandria, DC]	Virginia	60
blue numeral "2" in double circle handstamp	"Mssrs Thomas & William Savery / Northern Liberties / Phila	local delivery	61
unknown	Unknown #9	Unknown #3	62
(blue) Philadelphia cds	Unknown #10 / (Flemington, New Jersey); (NO PHOTO)	New Jersey	63
blue Clarke 70 Philadelphia cds	O.J. Hamlin Esqr / attorney at Law / Smithport / McKean County / P.A.	Pennsylvania	A
blue numeral "2" in double circle handstamp manuscript "10" "(b)rig Faion" "(y)ia Boston"	Mr. Augustus Nelson / Care of Jacob Bignot Esqr / Philadelphia	Philadelphia	B
Blood Handstamp Type 17	Mrs Dale / S Fourth St - / opposite Willing alley	local delivery	C

Four covers are clearly 1849 (census number 51 through 54). One cover is definitively 1850. Therefore, **70%, or 44 covers are year certain**.

Eight covers (census numbers 56 through 63), without any year information complicates quantitative analysis. They may be inliers or outliers, but probably better withheld from the other 55 *for meaningful year based data and calculations*. Since 11 covers can be either of two years, until additional data is available, two options exist: withholding them too from trend calculations; or, including them in the second year, 1848, with greater likelihood based on total numbers per confirmed year, and to not possibly manufacture an incorrect earliest record cover. For simplicity, safety and caution, the first option has been selected. 15L9 “Year Certain Annual Volume” for the subset of 44 covers is graphically shown in **Figure 2**, and excludes 19 year uncertain covers (census number 9 through 19, and 56 through 63).

The philatelic literature has previously reported 15L9 appeared by April 16, 1847,<sup>14</sup> and was confirmed in **Table I**. The date certain **earliest recorded example is April 16, 1847** tied cover (census number 1), shown in **Figure 3**. The next year certain example is not until June 25, 1847, **Figure 4**, suggesting one of two possibilities. Either the April 16<sup>th</sup> cover was an early outlier, although by only 9 weeks. Eleven examples (census number 9 through 19), however, are possible interval candidates because all show Clarke 71 cds (recorded as early as January 7, 1847).<sup>15</sup> Hypothetically, as many as six early 1847 examples (census number 9 through 14) would be contenders, and the earliest possible date conceivably could have been early February 1847. However, the **earliest** record is held to a very high standard, requiring year certainty.

The date certain **latest 15L9 was April 23, 1850** (census number 55), shown in **Figure 5**, a late outlier. The 15L9 cluster ended with July 27, (1848) (census number 48). During the 21-month interval from July 27, (1848) until April 23, 1850 four other examples are interspersed at intervals of several months each. Therefore, April 23, 1850 is *not an unreasonable late far outlier*. Also **Figure 4** is especially significant as the latest date certain of the three different stamp issues in this series.

The greatest *conceivable* 15L9 lifespan could be as early as February 3, (1847) persisting until the latest recorded April 23, 1850 for 3 years 10 weeks. The date certain **confirmed period is from April 16, 1847 until April 23, 1850**, 3 years one week, for purposes of 15L9 business activity calculations. However, there is *reasonable likelihood* of several early “year uncertain” covers were 1847 (from census number 9 through 19), in addition to several recorded late covers interspersed between July 27, 1848 and April 23, 1850. The highly conservative philatelic period of *greatest 15L9 activity* is defined from November 7, 1847 until July 27, (1848) for a total of 262 days or almost 38 weeks.

### 15L9 Service Location

The final destinations are summarized in **Table II**. *All covers* were collected by Blood & Co., (typically from Blood’s boxes), sorted at the Blood’s office, and transferred to a government post office, almost always directly across the street, but

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<sup>14</sup> Hahn, loc. cit.

<sup>15</sup> Clarke, loc. cit.



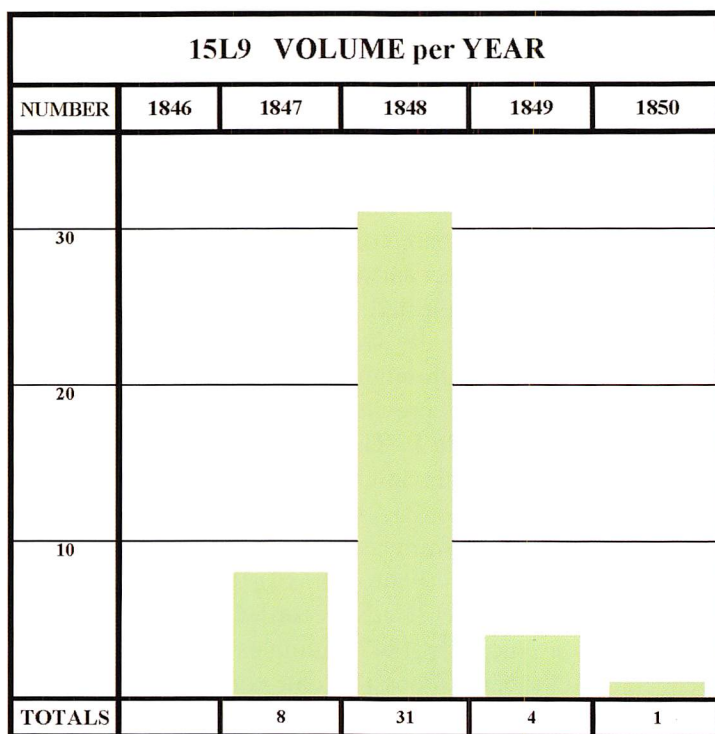


Figure 2. The majority of year certain 15L9 covers were 1848.



Figure 3. The earliest recorded 15L9 cover was April 16, 1847 tied by manuscript docket addressed to Sommerville, New Jersey.

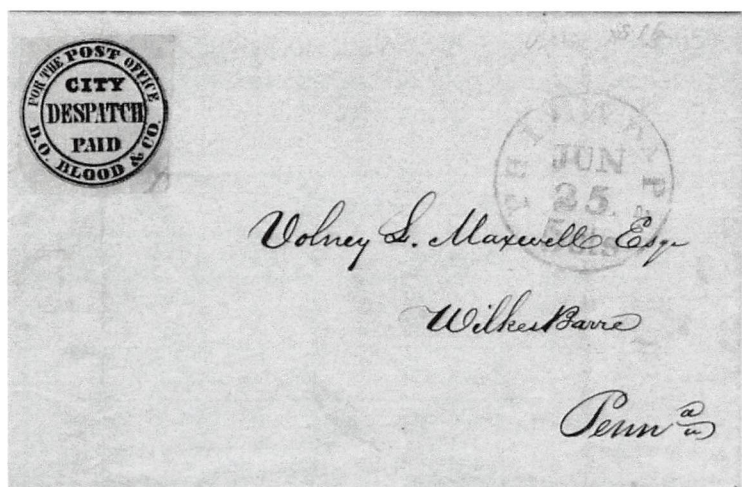


Figure 4. The second earliest recorded 15L9 cover was two months later, June 25, 1847, addressed to Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania.

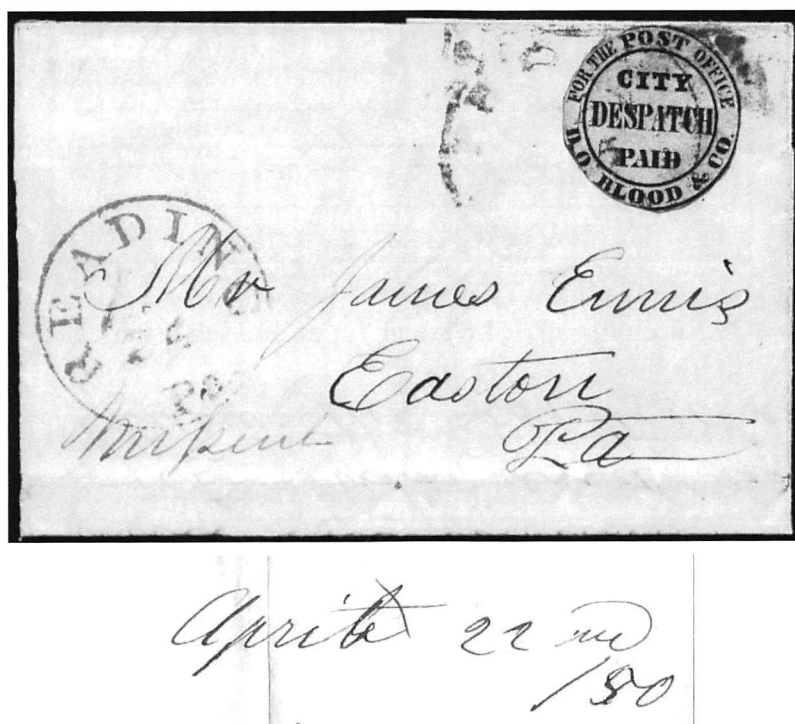


Figure 5. The latest date *certain* 15L9 was an uncanceled “cut to shape” stamp on a folded letter addressed to Easton, Pa., initially missent to Reading, Pa. where a red cds was applied.

**Table II. Summary of 15L9 address destinations. Of 63 covers, all were delivered to a government post office, all outbound except one “drop” letter.**

15L9 ADDRESS		
Total	Location	Census Number
0	Philadelphia old city	none
1	Philadelphia district	61
12	Pennsylvania	2, 5, 7, 14, 16, 19, 26 33, 34, 43, 55, 56
7	New York	3, 4, 8, 42, 47, 53, 54
7	Maryland	13, 15, 18, 20, 38, 39, 41
5	New Jersey	1, 10, 29, 50, 63
5	Massachusetts	11, 22, 25, 35, 46
4	Washington D.C.	9, 12, 17, 24
3	Virginia	28, 52, 60
2	Connecticut	21, 40
1	Delaware	49
1	Maine	48
1	New Hampshire	23
5	Unknown	6, 58, 59, 62, 57
9	CANADA	27, 30, 31, 32, 36, 37, 44, 45, 51
0	Transatlantic	none
63	All Locations	

**Table III. Summary of 15L8 cover types. Folded letters accounted for 75%.**

15L9 COVERS		
Total	Cover Type	Census Number
47	Folded Letter	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, (10), 11, 12, 13, (14), 15, 16 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 28, 29, 32, 33, 34 35, 38, 39, 41, 42, 43, 44, 47, 48, 49, 50, 53 (54), 55, (56), (57), (58), (59), (62), (63)
14	Envelope	4, 18, 26, 27, 30, 31, 36, 37, (40), 45, 46, 51, (52), 60
2	Front	9, 61
0	Wrapper	none
0	Circular	none
63	All Types	



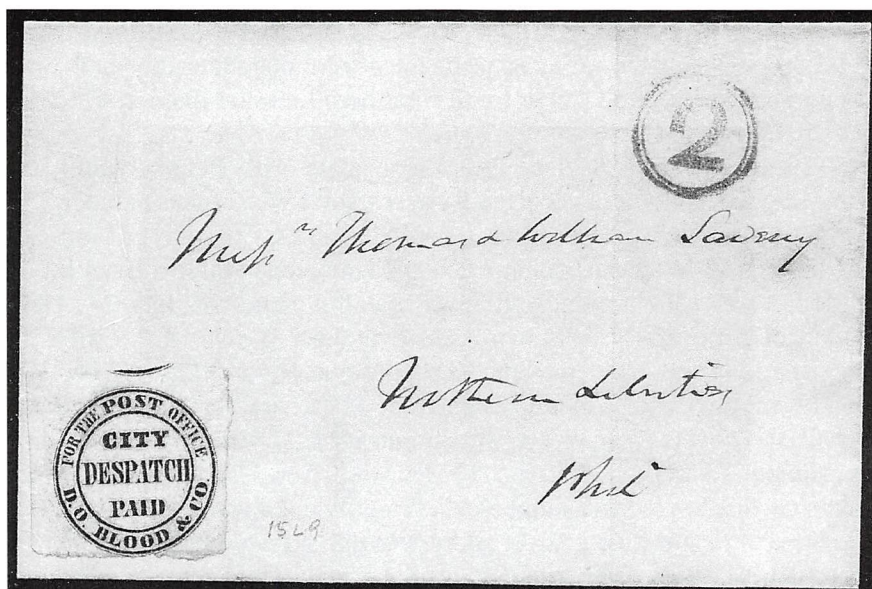


Figure 6. One 15L9 cover was addressed locally, but delivered to the Philadelphia post office. Numeral 2 was the expensive “drop” fee for the postmaster holding a letter; or carrier department for door delivery which is unlikely given no street address.

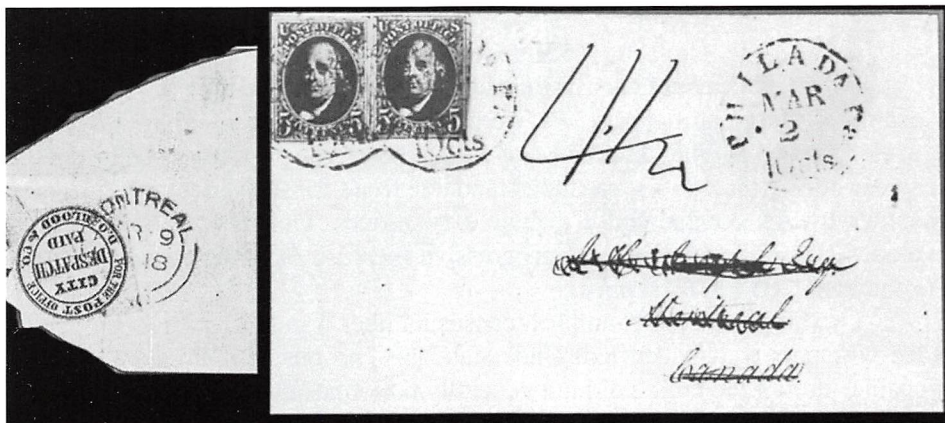


Figure 7. The earliest record Blood & Co cover addressed to Canada was March 2, 1848, of the J.H. Joseph correspondence. The image is a composite from two different sources.

some bypassed and were expedited to the Philadelphia railroad station for the New York or Baltimore post office. **100% were transported to a United States post office. 98.4% were outbound** by entering the government inter-city mail, except one (census number 61), a “drop” letter for the Northern Liberties district, which was held for pick up, **Figure 6**.

The most common final destination state was **Pennsylvania 19%**, by receiving 12 covers. **Canada received 9 covers, for 13%** (census number 27, 30, 31, 32, 36, 37, 44, 45, and 51). The earliest recorded Blood & Co. cover to Canada, **Figure 7**, was March 2, 1848 (census number 27), also the second international Blood & Co cover<sup>16</sup> (first was 15L8 to England seven months earlier on July 27, 1847). The destination of 5 covers is unknown (census number 6, 57, 58, 59, 62), although auxiliary markings indicate a New York destination or transit. New York and Maryland were next with 7 examples each, or 11%. New Jersey and Massachusetts each received 5 covers each, or 8%. Washington D.C. 4; Virginia 3; and Connecticut 2. One example was addressed to each of Delaware, New Hampshire, and Maine. One example’s destination (census number 62) is totally unknown.

No covers specified a street address in the old city of Philadelphia **for door delivery, 0%**. The absolute vacuum results from quintessential *special purpose* service “FOR THE POST OFFICE,” less expensive than door delivery to thousands of city addresses, which required an obligatory more expensive striding messenger stamp. Blood & Co. simply delivered all to two places in the old city, across the street to the Philadelphia post office, or the Philadelphia train station for delivery to the post office in New York or Baltimore.

Inbound bootlegged letters handed over to Blood & Co., for local delivery have *not* been identified on 15L9 covers (as 15L7), virtually excluded by the special purpose nature of 15L9 stamp for *outbound* service.<sup>17,18</sup>

### 15L9 Cover Type

**Table III** is a summary of the various cover types bearing a 15L9 stamp. Of 63 examples the great majority, 47, were *folded letters, representing 75%*, such as **Figures 3, 4 and 5**. The percentage of folded letter sheets progressively decreased each year during the 1840’s, an understandable trend for the series reflecting greater consumer use of commercially available envelopes. Only 14 of 63 covers were envelopes, for 22%, a conversely progressive *increase* over the two prior issues of “For the POST OFFICE” stamps.

Two are *front only* examples (census number 9 and 61) such as **Figure 6**. No folded wrappers were identified. Understandably, no business circulars exist, since companies during the period did not generally target business from other cities.<sup>19</sup>

**Table 1** listing of “cover” types relies upon auction catalog descriptions, authenticating certificate descriptions, and first hand inspection by current owners. When those sources are not available, the photographic image often indicates a folded

<sup>16</sup> Morris, op.cit., *The Penny Post*, October 2014, pages 32, 34, 41.

<sup>17</sup> Morris, op.cit., *The Penny Post*, July 2014, page 38.

<sup>18</sup> Morris, op.cit., *The Penny Post*, April 2014, page 42.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid., pages 47, 55.

letter by the folded under portion exposed on the right or left side resulting from less than perfect folding. Furthermore, envelope corners were vulnerable to becoming blunted from original handling/transportation, or interim philatelic dealer and collector handling and mounting during the past 170 years. A folded letter sheet “front” often has perfectly cut down edges, even resembling a fresh envelope, and often detected only by first hand examination.

### 15L9 Cancel Types

The data for 15L9 cancels are summarized in **Table IV. No examples were cancelled by D.O. Blood & Co.** Of 63 recorded covers, only one questionable example was identified, for 2%, consistent with outbound service to another city where private post stamp reuse was not possible. One curious example (census number 62) was described in a 1968 auction catalog as “rusted pen stroke canc,” the appearance of which is two linear dashes in perfect alignment, almost too good for penmanship. The “rusted” nature suggests artifact perhaps resulting from a metallic object (perhaps paper clip) pressure over time. It was included in the data in parenthesis reflecting the significant uncertainty of its legitimacy.

Another possible candidate (census number 2) reveals an apparent stain on the lower right corner, which does not affect the stamp design. The cover’s owner believes the discoloration was caused by “gum toning.” In either event, **Blood & Co. outbound letters did not require cancellation** because there was virtually no risk of their reuse in any other community!

No manuscript “X” cancels were identified among the data, recorded on 15L8 until June 20, 1847,<sup>20</sup> and 15L5,<sup>21</sup> and even on later 15L12 covers, a future article.

No 15L9 stamps were cancelled by red “PAID;” the latest recorded “PAID” cancel was a predecessor 15L7 on May 16, 1846.<sup>22,23</sup> 15L9 was not cancelled by red numeral “3,” understandable since this issue followed the rate reduction of mid-1846.<sup>24</sup> No grid handstamps were employed, even though they appeared by December 8, 1847 on contemporary 15L6.<sup>25</sup> No 15L9 “group of dots” cancel, although so common on recent striding messenger stamps during all of 1847 and a few February 1848 examples.<sup>26,27</sup>

15L9 is the **only Blood & Co., and possibly future Bloods Despatch stamp type without any having been cancelled.**

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<sup>20</sup> Ibid., page 58.

<sup>21</sup> Morris, op.cit., *The Penny Post*, January 2014, pages 33, 37, 38.

<sup>22</sup> Morris, op.cit., *The Penny Post*, April 2014, page 43,43.

<sup>23</sup> Morris, op.cit., *The Penny Post*, July 2014, pages 31, 39, 54.

<sup>24</sup> Ibid, pages 31, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 53, 54.

<sup>25</sup> Morris, op.cit., *The Penny Post*, April 2014, pages 32, 43, 45, 63.

<sup>26</sup> Morris, op.cit., *The Penny Post*, January 2014, pages 54, 56.

<sup>27</sup> Morris, op.cit., *The Penny Post*, April 2014, page 60.



**Table IV. None of the 63 examples of 15L9 on cover were cancelled.**

15L9 CANCEL		
Total	Cancel Type	Census Number
(1)	dots or pen stroke	(62)
0	manuscript "X"	none
0	red "PAID" handstamp	none
62	Uncancelled	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51 52, 53, 54, 55, (56), 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 63
0	Total	

**15L9 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 may appear on a single cover.

**Table V** reveals that 63 covers were graced by a total of 108 auxiliary markings! Identical markings repeated on a single cover were not considered multiple. Two different types of markings appeared on each of 17 covers (census number 1, 4, 7, 10, 21, 23, 30, 38, 39, 41, 45, 46, 51, 54, 57, 59 and 60). Three different markings appeared on each of 9 covers (census number 5, 24, 25, 26, 27, 32, 34, 37, and 44). Four markings appeared on only two covers (census number 36 and 55). Five different markings appeared on only 1 cover (census number 31).

By far the most common were 63 *government circular datestamps*, 48 were *blue Philadelphia*, **Figure 8**. Four were red New York (census number 11, 22, 25, (57)), such as **Figure 9**; three were blue Baltimore (census number 38, 41, 60); one red Reading, Pa. (census number 55). At least seven of the nine addressed to Canada (census number 27, (31), 32, (36), 37, 44, and 45), **Figure 10**, are recorded in tandem with a United States cds. Only one cover (census number 55) had been miss-sent to Reading and displays two different United States city circular datestamps, and was shown in **Figure 5**. Only three covers (census number 8, 42, and 61) had no government circular datestamp. One example (census number 62) is entirely unknown.

Various other blue Philadelphia and red New York *numeral* handstamp markings were present (census number 4, 23, and 61; 8, and 42 respectively). Other *boxed* blue handstamps from Philadelphia existed (census number 5, 24, 36, and 46). Two *grid* cancels were identified (census number 25, and 54). Eight rail road markings

**Table V. Summary of 15L9 auxiliary markings. Each cover possessed one marking or more.**

<b>15L9 AUXILIARY MARKINGS</b>		
<b>Total</b>	<b>Marking Type</b>	<b>Census Number</b>
13	blue Philadelphia (Clarke 71a) cds	1, 2, 3, 5, 9, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21, 26, 33
13	blue Philadelphia (Clarke 71) cds	7, 10, 12, 13, 20, 24, 29, 34, 39, 40, 43, 47, 50
12	blue Philadelphia (Clarke 79) cds	27, 28, 30, 31, 32, 35, 36, 37, 44, 45, 48, 51
2	blue Philadelphia (Clarke 74) cds	53, 54
2	blue Philadelphia (Clarke 73) cds	49, 55
6	blue Philadelphia indistinct cds	14, (52), (56), 58, 59, (63)
1	blue FREE in lozenge	24
2	blue PAID in lozenge	5, 36
1	blue PAID in box	46
1	blue numeral 2 in double circle	61
1	blue numeral 5 in double circle	4
1	blue numeral 10 in double circle	23
4	blue Philadelphia (Clarke 430d) cds	4, 6, 23, 46
4	red Philadelphia (Clarke 430e) sl	11, 22, 25, (57)
4	red New York cds	11, 22, 25, (57)
2	red numeral 5 in circle	8, 42
1	red Reading cds	55
3	blue Baltimore cds	38, 41, 60
7	red Canadian cds	27, (31), 32, (36), 37, 44, 45
1	grid in circle	54
1	red boxed grid	25
4	manuscript "5 "	5, 8, 26, 34
3	manuscript "Way 5"	38, 41, 60
4	manuscript "paid"	7, 25, 26, 34
3	manuscript date	1, 31, 51
2	manuscript notation	31, 55
9	manuscript "4 1/2"	27, 30, 31, 32, 36, 37, 44, 45, 51
0	artifact / none	(62)
<b>108</b>	<b>All Types (63 covers)</b>	



Figure 8. The first and perhaps only Blood & Co. letter addressed to a sitting United States President. An uncanceled cut square 15L9 was tied to cover by blue FREE in lozenge, matching Philadelphia cds.



Figure 9. An uncanceled “cut to shape” 15L9 on cover addressed to Boston was expedited by Blood & Co. to the train route agent “for the Post Office” in New York where the red handstamps were applied.





Figure 10. At least seven of the nine 15L9 covers addressed to Canada are recorded with a red Canadian cds, usually as a backstamp.



Figure 11. Only one 15L9 was separated from a sheet a stamps in the “cut to octagon” style.

were applied in New York: four red “PHILAD<sup>A</sup> RAIL ROAD” and four blue “NEW YORK & PHIL<sup>A</sup> R R.”<sup>28</sup> Manuscript markings appeared on 18 covers, three covers with multiples. Manuscript numeral “5” on seven covers (census number 5, 8, 26, 34, 38, 41, and 60); manuscript “paid” on four (census number 7, 25, 26, 34); and manuscript date on three (census number 1, 31, and 51).

No private post including Blood & Co circular handstamp markings were identified on this issue.<sup>29</sup>

### 15L9 Stamp Shape

Since 15L9 was not known to have been perforated, manual separation was required from assumed panes or sheets.<sup>30</sup> **Table VI** is a summary of the various types of 15L9 shapes in the data base. “Cut squares” were 83%, 52 of the 63, shown in **Figures 4, 7, and 8**, while **Figure 6** was more like a “torn square.” “Cut to shape” was a distant second, identified on 9 of 63 covers, for 14%, demonstrated in **Figure 5**. Only 1 example, 2%, was “cut to octagon,” shown in **Figure 11** (census number 43). “Partially cut to shape”, a hybrid of two categories was only 1 example, 2%, (census 59).<sup>31</sup> Contemporary “striding messenger” stamps were likewise imperforate, but a *square* design easily separated by the efficient cut square technique. The very different double *circle* design was suitable, however, for several stamp separating options including fashionable “cut to shape” or “cut to octagon” varieties. The most efficient method for 15L9 would also be cut squares, assumed to be the method of choice by “wholesaler” Blood & Co., and perhaps their various business stations. Patrons too could purchase large volumes directly from the Blood’s office at a discount, and fashion stamp separation to their liking. Blood & Co. was able to accordingly offset some of the volume price reduction by labor cost savings, not having to divide the stamps into singles.<sup>32</sup>

### 15L9 Tied to Cover

**Table VII** revealed that 33% of 15L9 stamps were tied to their cover, 21 of 63, typically by **government cds**. Thirteen of 21 tied (65% of tied examples) were by government markings, as shown in **Figure 5, 7, and 9** (census number 55, 27, and 11 respectively). **Figure 3** and **Figure 8** (census number 1 and 24 respectively) were tied respectively by manuscript and blue handstamp markings.

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<sup>28</sup> Clarke, op.cit., p.208.

<sup>29</sup> Blood handstamps on contemporary “striding messenger” stamps were precious few, 4 of 93 covers, *only 4%*.

<sup>30</sup> Robert Siegel Auction Galleries, sale 1063 December 19-20, 2013 lot 1728.

<sup>31</sup> Morris, op.cit., *The Penny Post*, July 2014, pages 31, 32, 42, 60.

<sup>32</sup> *Ibid.*, page 42.

**Table VI. More than 80% of 15L9 were “cut squares.”**

<b>15L9 STAMP SHAPE</b>		
<b>Total</b>	<b>Cancel Shape</b>	<b>Census Number</b>
<b>52</b>	Cut Square	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 22, 23, 24, 26 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 41, 42, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 56, 58, 60, 61, 62, 63
<b>9</b>	Cut to Shape	7, 11, 21, 25, 32, 40, 44, 55, 57
<b>1</b>	Cut to Octagon	43
<b>1</b>	Partially Cut to Shape	57
<b>63</b>	<b>All Types</b>	

**Table VII. Only 33% of 15L9 stamps were tied to their cover.**

<b>15L9 TIED to COVER</b>		
<b>Total</b>	<b>Marking Type</b>	<b>Census Number</b>
9	blue Philadelphia cds	6, 7, 13, 15, 30, 31, 46, 51, 55
1	blue Philadelphia lozenge	24
1	blue numeral handstamp	4
0	blue open circle grid	0
1	red NY cds	11
0	red Clarke 430e PHILADA RAILROAD sl	0
2	blue Clarke 430d New York & Phila RR cds	6, 46
1	blue Baltimore cds	60
1	red Canadian cds	27
2	manuscript "5" or "Way 5"	8, 38
2	manuscript address or docket	1, 53
1	ink from contents	17
0	incidental: ink, crayon, stain, smudge, fold	(5, 9, 16, 34, 49)
<b>21</b>	<b>All Types (63 covers)</b>	





**Figure 12. Another important Canadian, a Barrister at Law, received letters handled by Blood & Co. At lower left is a faint red Canadian cds.**

### 15L9 Correspondence

In any philatelic census identifying more than one letter sent to the same person or address defines a philatelic correspondence. Four individuals received more than one 15L9 cover. Scott Burdsale Esq of Newark, New Jersey received two 15L9 letters (census number 10, and 50). Three 15L9 covers were addressed to William E. Tenbrook in Hancock, MD (census number 15, 38, and 39), although he was listed in the 1847<sup>33</sup> and 1849<sup>34</sup> Philadelphia city directories as a Philadelphia resident and merchant, at "17 S Water." His father Abraham Ten Brook appears in 1788 on the New York State "Roll of [Attornies]"sic, and first lawyer in Cooperstown, NY, and the likely origin of Van der School, "the parenthetical lawyer" in James Fenimore Cooper's *The Pioneers*. Abraham married in Trenton during 1807, soon moved to Philadelphia, and appears in the 1814 city directory as Abraham Tenbrook. William was one of three children who was listed in 1844 as merchant,<sup>35</sup> and apparently on business or pleasure in Hancock, Maryland during April through June 1848.

Two of the four correspondences were to lawyers in Canada, for which some terminology of the period is helpful. Seven covers (census number 27, 30, 31, 36, 37, 45, and 51) were addressed to J.H. Joseph, *Esquire* in Montreal, **Figure 10** and **Figure 7**. Two 15L9 covers (census number 32, and 44) were addressed to Clarke Gamble

<sup>33</sup> *McElroy's PHILADELPHIA DIRECTORY for 1847*, page 343, 10<sup>th</sup> Edition, Philadelphia: Ashmead 1847.

<sup>34</sup> *McElroy's PHILADELPHIA DIRECTORY for 1849*, page 371, 12<sup>th</sup> Edition, Philadelphia: Ashmead 1849.

<sup>35</sup> Ruth L. Woodward & Wesley Frank Craven, "Princetonians, 1784-1790: A Biographical Dictionary, page 58.

Esquire, *Barrister at Law* in Montreal Canada, **Figure 12.** Esquire and Barrister at Law had been derived from English terms.

In the United Kingdom *Esquire* was a title of respect accorded to men of higher social rank in a formal context, and which had been derived from the old English word *squire*, apprentice of assistant to a knight.<sup>36</sup> In the United States at that time, esquire was a courtesy for any male, mostly in correspondence, but today typically reserved for lawyers. Moreover, a *Barrister* at that time represented clients at the “bar” in court and was accorded privileges to conduct litigation, whereas a *Solicitor* had privileges giving oral or written legal advice, generally outside of the courtroom.<sup>37</sup> In modern Canada many lawyers in solo practice participate in both solicitor and barrister work. There is no longer any legal distinction between litigating and advising roles.

Joseph Clarke Gamble, K.C. was born in 1808 in Kingston. Known in his childhood as Clarke Gamble, he was of U.E. Loyalist stock, and called to the “Bar in Trinity term, 1832, as Number 149” on the roll of barristers. He was elected a Bencher of the Law Society<sup>38</sup> in 1840, and confirmed a “Queen’s Counsel”<sup>39</sup> by Lord Monek in 1867. He became widely known publicly during his 23-year term as Solicitor for the City of Toronto from 1840 to 1863. In 1845 Clarke was a promoter of the Toronto and Huron Railway Company.<sup>40</sup> In 1846 The Toronto, Hamilton & Niagara Electro-Magnetic Telegraph Company was organized, the first in Canada. Gamble was one of the principal instigators who also became president.<sup>41</sup> Gamble also served as vice-chancellor of the province of Ontario.<sup>42</sup> Clarke Gamble led an active and honorable life, when deceased on November 23, 1902 at 94 years old. His newspaper obituary proclaimed “THE OLDEST MEMBER OF THE ONTARIO BAR PASSES AWAY. He Was Widely Known as a Barrister, and Served as City Solicitor For 23 Years – Became a Q.C. 35 Years Ago.”<sup>43</sup>

Jacob Henry Joseph was born on September 14, 1814 in Berthier-en-Haut in Lower Canada, to one of the wealthiest Jewish families in 19<sup>th</sup> century Quebec. In 1830 the family took up residence in Montreal, and by 1832 he inherited and managed a tobacco-importing business which became resoundingly successful. J.H. Joseph was a partner in the New York, Newfoundland and London Telegraph Company founded in 1854, and responsible for the first transatlantic cable completed in 1866. He was a director of the Champlain and St. Lawrence Railroad, which in 1851 completed an

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<sup>36</sup> <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Esquire>.

<sup>37</sup> <http://canadalawstudent.blogspot.ca/2005/12/solicitor-vs-barrister>.

<sup>38</sup> The Queen’s or King’s Superior Court.

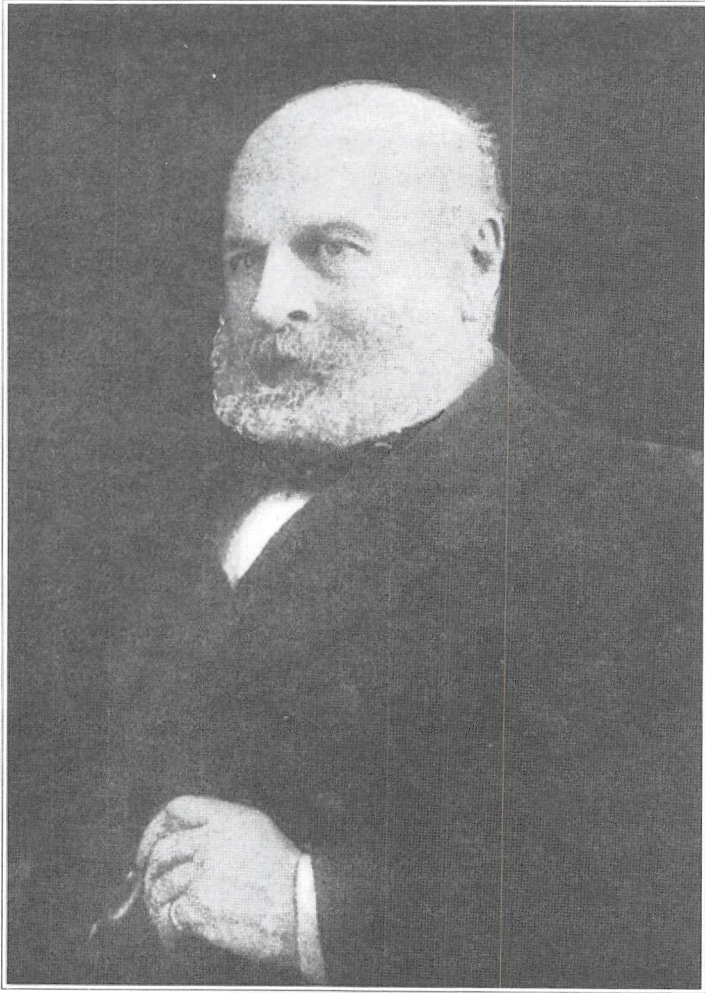
<sup>39</sup> Queen’s Council (Q.C.) or King’s Council (K.C.) depending on the monarch reigning is an honor given to a long standing barrister in recognition of a distinguish career.

<sup>40</sup> Osgoode Hall – Reminiscences of the Bench and Bar by James Cleland Hamilton, Toronto, Carswell 1904.

<sup>41</sup> Telecommunications in Canada: Technology, Industry, and Government by Robert E. Babe, University of Toronto Press, 1990.

<sup>42</sup> Spirituality and Social Work: Select Canadian Readings.

<sup>43</sup> The Globe (1844-1936; Nov. 24, 1902; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Globe and Mail (1844-2011).



JACOB HENRY JOSEPH

**Figure 13. Jacob Henry Joseph received seven of nine 15L9 covers addressed to Canada. In 1848 he married into a wealthy Philadelphia family.**



extension to Rouses Point, NY. An active member of the Montreal Board of Trade, he served as its vice-president from 1861 to 1863. Mr. Joseph, **Figure 13** photograph, played a prominent role in the formation of several Canadian banks. In 1848 he married Sarah Gratz Moses, a niece of Philadelphia philanthropist Rebecca Gratz, the model for the character Rebecca in Sir Walter Scott's famous novel *Ivanhoe* (Edinburgh, 1819). Mrs. Joseph, an important Montreal philanthropist, died a few years before her husband, who was in good health until his own death at 92 on February 28, 1907. It should come as no surprise that seven 15L9 covers from 1848 Philadelphia were destination Montreal (census number 27, 30, 31, 36, 37, 45, and 51).<sup>44</sup>

No important person and destination exceeds a sitting United States President in Washington D.C. **Figure 8** addressed to President James Polk (census number 24) may be the only stamp from any local post in combination with a **sitting United States President Free Frank**.<sup>45</sup> Scholars have ranked Polk favorably on the list of greatest presidents. Polk has also been called the "least known consequential president." As the 11<sup>th</sup> President from 1845-1849 he had previously been Governor of Tennessee. When he took office at 49 he became the youngest man at the time to assume the presidency. Polk was the last strong pre-Civil War president. When Mexico rejected American annexation of the Republic of Texas (independent since 1836) Polk led the nation to a sweeping victory including capture of Mexico City in 1847. The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo increased the size of the United States by one third. In the Northwest Territories, Polk avoided war with Britain by dividing the disputed land south of Russian controlled Alaska. **Figure 8** is the only recorded Blood cover addressed to a sitting President of the United States, possibly the only local post or Independent Mail letter addressed to a sitting United States President.

### 15L9 Valentines

Apparently 15L9 did not service any valentines. **Table I** has no examples dated February 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup>. Only one late possible candidate exists dated February 16, (1848) (census number 26). The cover was fully prepaid for inter-city and local collection, and addressed to "Miss Elizabeth Newbold." Perhaps an exception to the rule that distant romances were generally too far away for valentines to other cities.<sup>46</sup>

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<sup>44</sup> [http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/joseph\\_jacob\\_henry\\_13E.html](http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/joseph_jacob_henry_13E.html).

<sup>45</sup> One Boyd's ex US President free frank to Martin Van Buren has been recorded, per Martin Richardson, December 15, 2014 email image and communication. One personal letter with Bloods 15L11 was addressed to in office President Taylor but not a free frank, courtesy of Cliff Alexander, December 18, 2014 email image and communication.

<sup>46</sup> Morris, op.cit., *The Penny Post*, July 2014, , page 44.

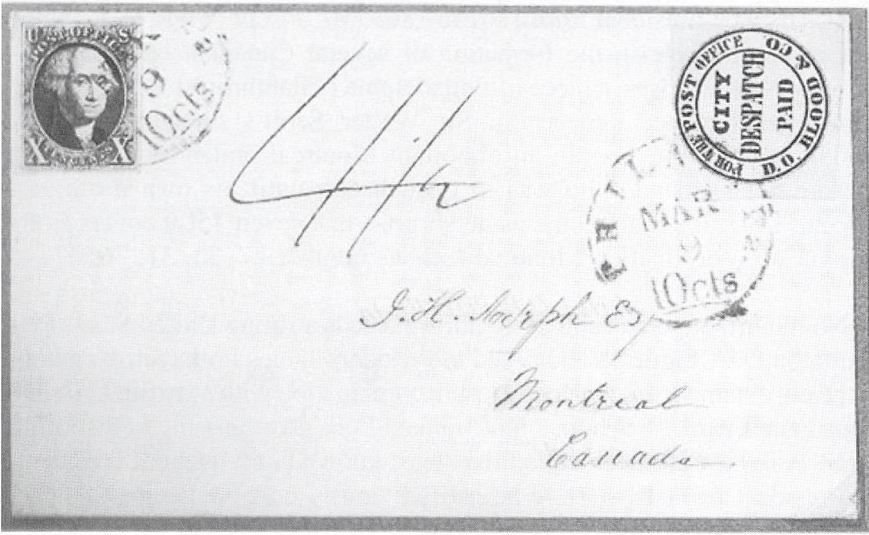


Figure 14. One of only three 15L9 covers in combination with a ten cent 1847 general issue stamp.



Figure 15. Post offices in Philadelphia County are marked by a dot. Red 61 is located in Spring Garden at the boundary line with Northern Liberties.

### 15L9 Blood Advertising Labels

The data base of 63 covers with 15L9 stamp did not include any advertising labels. Blood & Co. advertising labels did not make their appearance until July 1847.<sup>47</sup> Two members of the 15L9 data base pre-dated Blood & Co. labels (census number 1 and 2). Another 11 covers (census numbers 9 through 19) may also be precluded as potential combination candidates should their origin be 1847 rather 1848. The number of potential label combination candidates could be as high as 61 or as low as 50.

### 15L9 Government Combinations

General issue government stamps in combination with 15L9 were not possible, of course, until July 1, 1847, the first day the federal government sold prepayment stamps. Of the 63 covers with 15L9 a minimum of 2 and a maximum of 12 covers predate July 1, 1847, and are precluded from this combination possibility.

In 1992 Robert Meyersburg assembled a casual census of Blood & Co. stamps in combination with 1847 general issue stamps,<sup>48</sup> and reported 14 examples with 15L9. However, he provided only *one* black and white photograph, and did not include any source references for his data. The photographic and descriptive census herein provides the necessary hard evidence based data for 14 combinations, one having the 1847 stamp removed (census number 32). In time perhaps others may surface. All 14 covers *prepaid in full both private post collection and outbound government mail transportation by sender*.

**Table VIII** reveals **14 covers combined 15L9 and 1847** general issue stamps (census number 7, 25, 26, 27, 30, 31, (32), 34, 36, 37, 44, 45, 51, and 54), 22% of the full census, and almost **28%** of the possible candidates. Three of the 14 were prepaid by a single 10 cent stamp, Scott #2 (census number 30, 31, and 44). The latter two were included by Meyersburg, whereas the first one, **Figure 14**, was not. Five other covers prepaid the 10 cent rate with two 5 cent 1847 Scott #1 stamps, (census number 27, 36, 37, 45, and 51). Six covers pre-paid the 5 cent rate (census number 7, 25, 26, (32), 34, and 54), although one is missing the adhesive stamp.

### 15L9 Transatlantic

No 15L9 transatlantic covers have been identified.

### Outbound Letters

During the previous one hundred years the Philadelphia post office had provided carrier service, but for door *delivery of inbound* letters. In February 1849, Postmaster General Cave Johnson<sup>49</sup> instructed the carrier departments of several large

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<sup>47</sup> Morris, op.cit., *The Penny Post*, January 2014, page 34.

<sup>48</sup> 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 11.

<sup>49</sup> Steven M. Roth, "Tabulation of Carrier Fees in Philadelphia during the Fee Paid Period" *The Penny Post*, Vol. 4, No. 4, October 1994, page 35.



Table VIII. Just over 20% of 15L9 stamps were combined with an 1847 federal stamp, together full prepayment of outbound postal service.

15L9 COMBINATION 1847 COVERS		
Total	Cover Type	Census Number
6	one 5 cent 1847 stamp	7, 25, 26, (32), 34, 54
5	two 5 cent 1847 stamps	27, 36, 37, 45, 51
3	one 10 cent 1847 stamp	30, 31, 44
14	All Types	

Savery Thomas, lumb. mer., 289 N 6th  
Savery Wm., lumb. mer., 269 N 7th

Figure 16. City directories reveals Wm and Thomas Savery were merchants who actually lived just outside of Northern Liberties in the Spring Garden district.

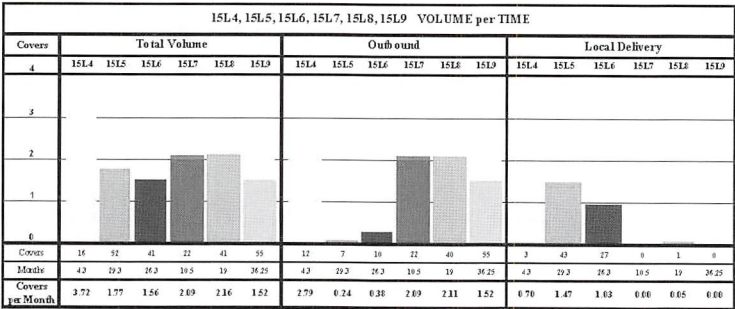


Figure 17. Graphic demonstration of Blood & Co. business activity for all five stamp issues, as surviving covers per month.

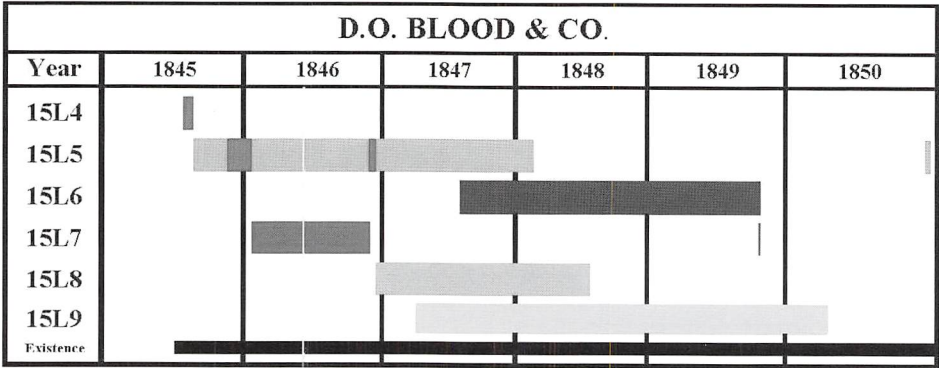
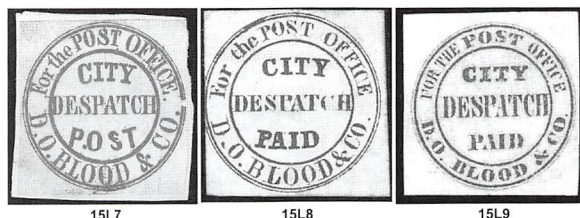


Figure 18. Timeline for all Blood & Co. stamps shows 15L9 overlaps most of 15L8, and concurrent with all of 15L6 city stamps.



**Figure 19. Display of the post office stamps for the series.**

cities including Philadelphia *reorganize* and reduces their fees in half.<sup>50</sup> They also issued “carrier department stamps,” to avoid the clumsy exchange of coins given to a carrier while on his route.<sup>51</sup> Not until 1851 did the carrier department in Philadelphia begin to establish collection boxes throughout the old city.<sup>52,53</sup> Blood & Co. was an innovator of postal service, and many years ahead of the lagging local government carrier department providing this convenient service.

Evidence based data reveals the final destination is known for 62 of 63 covers with 15L9. Of the 62 known, 100% were addressed outside of the old city of Philadelphia. Once collected by Blood & Co., all special purpose 15L9 letters were subsequently entrusted to the government and transferred to a post office as defined by “FOR THE **POST** OFFICE,” but not necessarily the Philadelphia post office. The great majority were indeed easily delivered across the street to the Philadelphia post office. Several, however, bypassed the local post office and were expedited by Blood & Co. directly to the Philadelphia rail road station, and a bag entrusted to a railroad route agent “FOR THE **POST** OFFICE,” in New York or Baltimore.<sup>54</sup> Perhaps, Blood & Co patrons would not view the private company as an extra step *delay*, but instead letters, especially late afternoon, could otherwise make the last train. The Philadelphia post office received 49 of 62 covers for 78%. The other 13 covers, or 22% were transported directly to the train station. Three were post marked in Baltimore (census number 38, 41, and 60). Ten were handstamped in New York: 4 by red New York cds (census number 11, (22), 25, (57); 4 marked by blue railroad circular handstamp (census number 4, 6, 23, 46); and 2 by red numeral 5 in circle (census number 8 and 42).

Of the 49 delivered to the Philadelphia post office, one cover, **Figure 6** (census number 61) was addressed simply to “Northern Liberties,” **Figure 15**, an

<sup>50</sup> Steven M. Roth, “Why Were Letter Carrier Fees Reduced in 1849?” *The Penny Post*, Vol. 4, No. 4, October 1994, page 32.

<sup>51</sup> Vernon R. Morris Jr, MD, “What is a ‘Drop Letter’ and a ‘Drop Dead Letter’?,” *The Chronicle of the U.S. Classics Postal Issues*, Vol. 55, No. 4, Whole Number 200, November 2003, pages 252, 253.

<sup>52</sup> Elliot Perry, “The Carrier Stamps of the United States / Philadelphia,” *The Chronicle of the U.S. Classics Postal Issues*, Vol. 34, No. 3, Whole Number 115, August 1982, page 177.

<sup>53</sup> Morris, op.cit., pages 254, 255.

<sup>54</sup> Edward T. Harvey, “‘Favor Bag’ Mail; New York City – Philadelphia, 1845-1851,” *LaPosta*, March 1988, pages 24-32.

adjacent district without post office, open to private posts during the 1840's.<sup>55</sup> However, the 1847, **Figure 16**,<sup>56</sup> and 1849<sup>57</sup> city directories reveal that Thomas and William Savery were lumber merchants who lived just west of the 6<sup>th</sup> street boundary of Northern Liberties and technically in the Spring Garden district, just out of bounds for Blood & Co. Furthermore, since no street address was provided, the addressees likely picked up a "drop letter," 2 cents due, while on other business in the old city, no house delivery required. *Otherwise*, door delivery would have necessitated government inter-city mail to the Spring Garden post office for 5 cents.<sup>58</sup> Therefore, this **cover was incorrectly addressed to Northern Liberties**. The high federal "drop" rate of 2 cents was created by the Act of March 3, 1845, was very unpopular, and reduced back to 1 cent by the Act of March 3, 1851 effective July 1, 1851.<sup>59</sup> Furthermore, the Philadelphia carrier department had not served the northern two districts until annexed in 1857 as a sub-post office.<sup>60,61</sup>

As a human interest story, William Savery was born October 20, 1832, graduated from the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy in 1854, was medical registrar at the Friends Asylum for the Insane until 1860, graduated from the University of Pennsylvania medical class of 1861, and was resident physician at Wills Eye Hospital until 1862. In 1870 President Grant appointed Dr Savery physician of the Winnebago tribe of Indians in Nebraska. From 1872 until retirement in 1888 Dr.Savery was in private practice at the Hospital of the Good Shepherd, near Bryn Mawr. He died in his residence on Morris Street in Germantown on March 13, 1896.<sup>62</sup>

In summary, none of the 15L9 showed a local street address. Of the 62 known with address "FOR THE **POST OFFICE**," **49 were the Philadelphia post office, 10 the New York post office, and 3 Baltimore post office**. Only one of these was held at the Philadelphia post office and the others were outbound and delivered elsewhere to the addressee.

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<sup>55</sup> Morris, op.cit., *The Penny Post*, pages 35, 36, 52.

<sup>56</sup> McElroy's *PHILADELPHIA DIRECTORY for 1847*, page 302, 10<sup>th</sup> Edition, Philadelphia: Ashmead 1847.

<sup>57</sup> McElroy's *PHILADELPHIA DIRECTORY for 1849*, page 327, 12<sup>th</sup> Edition, Philadelphia: Ashmead 1849.

<sup>58</sup> Vernon R. Morris Jr, MD, "What is a 'Drop Letter' and a 'Drop Dead Letter'?", *The Chronicle of the U.S. Classics Postal Issues*, Vol. 55, No. 4, Whole Number 200, November 2003, pages 264-267.

<sup>59</sup> Ibid., pages 250-255.

<sup>60</sup> Ibid., page 255.

<sup>61</sup> Elliot Perry, The Carrier Stamps of the United States / Philadelphia, "*The Chronicle of the U.S. Classics Postal Issues*, Vol. 34, No. 4, Whole Number 116, November 1982, page 241.

<sup>62</sup> *American Druggist and Pharmaceutical Record, A Semi-Monthly Illustrated Journal of Practical Pharmacy*, Vol. XXVIII, January to June 1896, Caswell Mayo and Thomas Keenan, New York, American Druggist Publishing Company, 1896, page 259.



### 15L9 Volume - Time Analysis

The earliest recorded 15L9 was April 16, 1847. The latest *date certain* was April 23, 1850. The corresponding 15L9 philatelic lifespan estimate was 3 years 1 week, or 36.25 months, during which time 55 covers have been identified (census numbers 1-55), with corresponding activity of 1.52 covers per month.

The *liberal* philatelic lifespan estimate for 15L9 is 3 years 10 weeks, given the *possibility* of beginning earlier on February 3, (1847) (census number 9); and by including 8 year un-datable possible far outliers, increase the number of covers to 63. Sixty-three covers over 38.5 months would have been 1.64 covers per month.

Both calculations were very close. The *conservative estimate has been selected* for its *greater specificity*. The **15L9 estimate of 1.52 surviving covers per month** is not inconsistent with the preceding 15L7 issue at 2.09 covers per month,<sup>63</sup> and 15L8 estimate of 2.16 surviving covers per month, same special purpose stamp types. **Figure 17** graphically demonstrates the similarity.

### 15L9 Circulars

Although business circulars had been encouraged by Blood & Co., none bear a 15L9 stamp. The reason was simple, 15L9 was a less expensive stamp for outbound service and did not satisfy the more involved and expensive local door delivery service in Philadelphia. Furthermore, **Table I** 15L9 data does not include special Blood & Co. self-advertising circulars demonstrating *sample* stamps with comparison of service type options and charges!

### 1846 Rate Reduction

All recorded 15L9 evidence were at least 10 months or more following the mid-1846 reduction to 2 cents.<sup>64</sup> 15L9 stamps were never more than 2 cents retail per single stamp, as advertised by July 14, 1846 in the newspapers.<sup>65</sup> Furthermore, one hundred “post office stamps” were only 75 cents, or **¾ cent each**; a 63% “*wholesale*” discount from the 2 cent retail charge!

### Theory

**Figure 18** is the timeline bar graph for all Blood & Co. prepaid stamps to date, and from which it is easy to decipher the time period complementary nature of the two series of stamps; namely striding messenger pictorial design 15L4, 15L5, and 15L6 “city stamps” verses the geometrical double circle design 15L7, 15L8, and 15L9 “post office stamps.” 15L9 was the third and greatest enduring special purpose “**FOR THE POST OFFICE**” stamp providing the less expensive outbound service.

Blood & Co. 15L5 overlapped the early 15L9 ten months (April 16, 1847 beginning of 15L9 until the last of 15L5 on February 24, 1848).<sup>66</sup> Also, the entire 15L6 lifespan was concurrent with the middle years of 15L9 (June 30, 1847 until September 8, 1849) for 3 years 1 week. Moreover, both 15L5 and 15L6 were in service

<sup>63</sup> Morris, op.cit., *The Penny Post*, July 2014, pages 44, 45, 46.

<sup>64</sup> Ibid., pg. 48, 49.

<sup>65</sup> Ibid.

<sup>66</sup> Morris, op.cit., *The Penny Post*, January 2014, pages 27, 30, 31, 38, 41, 42, 56, 57.

together complementing 15L9 for a subset of almost 8 months (June 30, 1847 entrance of 15L6 until the finish of 15L5 on February 24, 1848). **15L6 was the most common service type counterpart companion for 15L9.** Since 15L9 overlapped these issues and several others in future articles, *no 15L9 exclusive philatelic time period* existed. Not to be forgotten, 15L4 preceded the others, but at the company inception, prior to service type bifurcation, and thereby included both local door delivery and post office delivery.

Ever since prepaid stamps originated in 1840 until today, risk of reuse without additional payment has been of great concern. Adhesive stamp cancellation has been an effective technique for 175 years to prevent this fraudulent activity. No 15L9 on cover has yet been identified with a legitimate cancelled by Blood & Co. The many auxiliary markings by government, sender, or recipient may have tied the 15L9 to its cover, but were never intended to prevent free reuse of the stamp. 15L9 is likely the **only Blood stamp issue, and probably only local post issue to have never been cancelled.**

### 15L9 Summary

A data base of **63 covers** with genuine 15L9 stamps has been identified to date, 60 of which have been photographed, 42 in color. Fifty of the 63 are from 1847 or 1848. Forty-four of 63, or about 70%, are *year specific*.

The earliest recorded 15L9 is April 16, 1847, and tied to its cover by manuscript date. The latest recorded *date certain* cover was three years later, April 23, 1850, tied to its cover by Philadelphia cds. The confirmed philatelic lifespan may be considered **from April 16, 1847 until April 23, 1850**, during which time 55 covers have been identified, for a volume of 1.52 surviving covers per month.

**None were delivered to a local street address, and 100% were transported to a United States post office.** Of 62 known destination, 49 were easily transported across the street to the Philadelphia post office. The other 13 were expedited to the Philadelphia railroad station, given to a route agent on the train, and delivered to *other* government post offices; 10 to New York and 3 the Baltimore post offices. Of the 62 examples at a post office, only *one at Philadelphia was held there by the postmaster as a "drop" letter*, to be picked up by the addressee. The remaining 61 received a circular datestamp, and officially enter the federal mail system, outbound to elsewhere, the most common destination was Pennsylvania, 20%. The second highest destination was surprisingly Canada at 13%. Almost 10% went to each New York, Maryland, New Jersey, and Massachusetts.

**None of the 63 stamps were cancelled by Blood & Co.,** perhaps considered an unnecessary procedure of little value since virtually all letters were destined to another city where reuse was not possible. 15L9 is the only Blood & Co. (perhaps any private post) stamp type **never cancelled by the company.** However, numerous government auxiliary handstamp markings coincidentally and unintentionally struck the private post stamp, and philatelically tied it to the cover. Likewise, manuscript markings by the sender, or docket by receiver, tied the stamp and cover. Altogether 108 markings appear on each and every one of 62 covers (with sufficient information).



Most common were government circular date stamps, 66 in number. Nonetheless, only **33% of the 15L9 were tied.**

Well over 80% of stamps were the standard “cut square” type. About 75% of the covers were folded letters. No business circulars, no advertising labels, and no valentines. All stamps were sold under the 2 cents single service cost structure.

### **Double Circle “For the POST OFFICE” Series Summary**

Blood & Co. was founded on July 1, 1845, acquired the remaining 15L3 striding messenger stamps, and almost immediately manuscript authorized their own as 15L4 stamps, to satisfy prepaid delivery to *either a local street address or post office*. Door delivery to thousands of street addresses was much more labor intensive and costly than delivery to a post office, either across the street to the Philadelphia post office,<sup>67</sup> or eventually the Philadelphia railroad station for the *post office* in New York or Baltimore.

Within six months of their founding, Blood & Co. adopted a **bifurcated business model, new paradigm** formally separating their postal service into two branches, each associated with a respective stamp design. By very early 1846 they created the **world’s first explicit special purpose stamp**, 15L7, with a profoundly different geometrical circle stamp design stating across the top **“For the POST OFFICE”** defining it’s purpose and function!

By the end of 1846 Blood & Co. created 15L8, the world’s second special purpose stamp replacing “POST” in the center with “PAID,” as if too bold or offensive to the receiving Philadelphia *post office*. A prudent upstart business would be wisely sensitive to public opinion and potential competitor criticism. Mid-Spring 1847 brought another albeit small modification to the stamp design. All letters were capitalized and words varied by font width; top of outer circle declared **“FOR THE POST OFFICE,”** and inner circle stated **“CITY/DESPATCH/PAID.”** Stamp design progression is shown in **Figure 19**. The series of three stamps has also been organized by specific year groups restricted to *year certain* covers, and summarized in table form to better understand philatelic trends.

The geometric “post office stamps” were **not denominated**, just as the concurrent striding messenger “city stamps.” No declared monetary value in the stamp designs afforded flexibility for single charge *reduction*, as well as variable volume discounts. Just prior to mid-1846 Blood & Co. reduced the single service charge, (collect or prepaid by stamp) from 3 to 2 cents. The impetus may have been driven by the appearance of several new local posts which were likely attracted to a lucrative 3 cent local service, at a time when long distance intercity mail was only 5 cents up to 300 *miles*! *Volume discounts* had been available for years, dating back to at least 1844 by predecessor Philadelphia Despatch Post.<sup>68</sup> Only the initial third of the first stamp, 15L7, fell under the high single rate, confirmed as late as a May 19, 1846 cover

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<sup>67</sup> Morris, op.cit., *The Penny Post*, April 2014, pages 50, 52.

<sup>68</sup> Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, “Bloods Part 3: 15L3,” *The Penny Post*, Vol. 21, No. 3, July 2013, Whole No. 84, page 38.



**Table IX. Series summary of address destination. More than 98% were delivered to a post office.**

COMBINED 15L7, 15L8, 15L9 ADDRESS				
15L7	15L8	15L9	Location	Total
(1)	1	0	Philadelphia old city	2
0	0	1	Philadelphia District	1
6	16	12	Pennsylvania	34
3	7	7	New York, NY	17
5	6	5	New Jersey	16
2	6	7	Maryland	15
2	5	4	Washington D.C.	11
3	3	5	Massachusetts	11
1	2	3	Virginia	6
1	1	2	Connecticut	4
0	3	1	Delaware	4
0	3	0	Missouri	3
1	1	0	Vermont	2
1	0	1	Maine	2
0	0	1	New Hampshire	1
0	1	0	North Carolina	1
0	1	0	Illinois	1
0	1	5	Unknown	6
0	0	9	CANADA	9
0	1	0	TRANSATLANTIC	1
25	59	63	All Locations	147

**Table X. Series summary of cover type. More than 75% were folded letters.**

COMBINED 15L7, 15L8, 15L9 COVERS				
15L7	15L8	15L9	Cover Type	Total
22	48	47	Folded letter	117
0	10	14	Envelope	24
0	1	2	Front	3
2	0	0	Wrapper	2
1	0	0	Piece	1
0	0	0	Circular	0
25	59	63	All Types	147

**Table XI. Series summary of cancels. Less than 20% were cancelled by Blood & Co.**

COMBINED 15L7, 15L8, 15L9 CANCELS				
15L7	15L8	15L9	Cancel Type	Total
10	10	0	Manuscript "X"	20
4	0	0	red "PAID" handstamp	4
1	0	0	"3" handstamp	1
1	0	0	Blood's Handstamp	1
0	(1)	0	Traces of blue	1
0	0	(1)	Dots or Pen stroke	0
9	48	63	Uncancelled	120
<b>16 (25)</b>	<b>11 (59)</b>	<b>0 (63)</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>27 (147)</b>

(census number 7),<sup>69</sup> and cancelled by red numeral "3." No 15L8 or 15L9 covers were 3 cents. From the universe of covers in this series, only 7 of 147 occurred under the *3 cent single charge, less than 5%*.

Non-denominated stamps also greatly facilitated variable volume discounts. Reduced labor costs for delivery to only two locations, across the street or the train station, allowed Blood & Co to volume reduce "post office" stamps to a greater degree than "city stamps." One dozen 2 cent "city stamps" for door delivery could be purchased for 20 cents, while one dozen "post office stamps" was only 12 cents, just 1 cent each, an appropriate cost differential for service type. **The first one cent postal transportation service in the United States of America.** Furthermore, one hundred post office stamps were only 75 cents, an incredible  $\frac{3}{4}$  cent each! Blood & Co. was indeed an aggressive competitor, with ambition and innovation. For several years Blood & Co. was the only private post or world government to charge less for outbound letter service, and even **passed the savings on to the public.**<sup>70</sup>

Blood & Co. advertised their stamps, service type, and cost for each via printed circulars which included demonstration sample stamps. These special circulars had been distributed and posted throughout the old city at various stations, usually retail businesses, which sold Blood & Co. stamps, and also doubled as collection locations. Six advertising circulars have survived, but only 3 available to collectors.<sup>71,72,73</sup>

<sup>69</sup> Morris, op.cit., *The Penny Post*, July 2014, pages 31, 41, 47, 48, 49, 53.

<sup>70</sup> Boyds City Express Post in New York used the same stamp at the same price while almost half of their business was outbound.

<sup>71</sup> The other 3 are owned by the Library Company of Philadelphia, whose senior librarian James Green has recently acknowledged via email on November 20, 2014 can only locate one.

<sup>72</sup> Morris, op.cit., *The Penny Post*, July 2014, pages 34, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 54, 56, 57.

<sup>73</sup> Morris, op.cit., *The Penny Post*, October 2014, pages 14, 17, 18, 42, 44.

The profound stamp difference between *square* pictorial and geometric *circle* design was sufficiently **conspicuous** to readily distinguish between service type and cost. This **mechanism assisted Blood & Co. from incorrectly providing a greater service** than paid for, such as door delivery for a less expensive “post office stamp.” **Figure 17** data confirmed only one *certain* mistaken door delivery, 15L8 full cover (census number 33),<sup>74</sup> and one *possible* 15L7 *on piece* mistake (census number 25),<sup>75</sup> but no 15L9 errors. Respective delivery type mistake was **1 of 146 full covers 0.66%**, or if including the 15L7 piece **2 of 147 examples a 1.4% mistake rate**. A highly efficient and successful business model with remarkable low error rate.

For quite a long time Philadelphia had been in need of a better letter collection system, not conveniently provided by the government. Since Ben Franklin’s carrier initiative no significant advancements had been implemented. Carriers had been slowed and hampered by clumsy cash transactions at the door or on route, and had largely serviced only *delivery* of inbound or unclaimed drop letters. Prepaid carrier department stamps in 1849 eliminated the need for cash transactions. Blood’s predecessor, the Philadelphia Despatch Post, had been the *first* in Philadelphia to establish collection boxes. By December 8, 1842, the private company “stationed letter boxes in careful hands at most of the public places, and at a corner of nearly every square,”<sup>76</sup> which in short time reached 70 locations,<sup>77</sup> and confirmed by an *outbound 15L1* example as early as April 19, 1843.<sup>78</sup> Only red 15L1, and no black 15L2 stamps, serviced letters to the post office for outbound mail, perhaps the *precursor* mechanism by different *stamp color* to distinguish or earmark outbound service. By 1846, *Blood & Co. developed this concept further by producing a special purpose stamp with an explicit design for outbound letters, in addition to cheaper cost*. **A formidable business machine was created, the competitive likes of which Philadelphia had never seen.**

**Figure 18** graphically demonstrates the philatelic lifespan of these three stamps, which together **extended 4 ¼ years, from January 24, 1846 until April 23, 1850**, the respective first date certain (untied) 15L7 to the latest date certain (tied) 15L9. Greatest longevity belonged to 15L9, more than three years, and also longer than the combined overlapping span of 15L7 and 15L8, two and one half years (January 24, 1846, earliest 15L7, until July 21, 1848 latest 15L8).<sup>79,80</sup> The concurrent and complementary three striding messenger stamps issued by Blood & Co. spanned just over 4 years, excluding a few *far* outliers (August 5, 1845 earliest recorded date

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<sup>74</sup> Ibid., pages 10, 17, 18, 25, 38, 39, 40, 45.

<sup>75</sup> Morris, op.cit., *The Penny Post*, July 2014, pages 37, 45, 54, 57.

<sup>76</sup> Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, “Bloods Part 1: 15L2,” *The Penny Post*, Vol. 82, No. 1, January 2013, Whole No. 82, page 27.

<sup>77</sup> Morris, op.cit., *The Penny Post*, July 2013, page 38.

<sup>78</sup> Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, “Bloods Part 2: 15L1,” *The Penny Post*, Vol. 21, No. 2, April 2013, Whole No. 83, pages 34, 38, 53, 55, 57, 60, 61.

<sup>79</sup> Morris, op.cit., *The Penny Post*, July 2014, pages 29, 36, 54.

<sup>80</sup> Morris, op.cit., *The Penny Post*, October 2014, pages 13, 17, 18, 20, 44.



certain tied 15L4<sup>81</sup> until the final date certain untied 15L6 on September 8, 1849).<sup>82</sup> However, if the striding messenger series is taken back to its predecessor, the Philadelphia Despatch Post, and extended until the latest far outlier 15L5, the basic design would have philatelically extended 7 years 2 months, (15L3 introduction October 10, 1843 tied,<sup>83,84</sup> until latest far outlier 15L5 December 7, 1850 untied).<sup>85</sup>

**Table IX** summarized the series address destinations. From the combined census of 147 examples, 145, or **98.6% were transported to a post office, most across the street** to the Philadelphia post office, and a minority to the railroad station for the post office in New York or Baltimore. Only 1 of the 145 was a drop letter held at the Philadelphia post office for pick up, while the other 144 entered the government inter-city mail. The State of **Pennsylvania received 23%** of the series. New York, New Jersey, and Maryland each about **11%**. Massachusetts and Washington DC each received about 7.5% each. Virginia, Connecticut, Delaware, Missouri, Vermont, Maine, New Hampshire, North Carolina, and Illinois in decreasing percentages. International covers appeared in this series, and **Canada received 9 covers**, all 15L9, for 6%. **Only one transatlantic** cover, a 15L8 example, was identified for less than 1%.

**Table X** summarized the series by cover type. The great majority, **79% were folded letters**, 117 of 147 examples. Second were envelopes at 16%. The balance was comprised of 3 fronts, 2 wrappers, and 1 piece of cover.

**Table XI** summarized the series by cancel. Only **18% were cancelled** by Blood & Co, 27 of 147, to prevent reuse by the addressee. Since almost all covers were destined for other cities, reuse anxiety elsewhere must have been essentially zero. The trend from first to last stamp decreased dramatically. By stamp issue, the cancel rate was 64% of 15L7,<sup>86</sup> 19% of 15L8,<sup>87</sup> and **0% for 15L9**. By far the most common type was **manuscript "X"** on 20 of the 27 cancelled stamps in the series. The next most common type was four red **"PAID,"** an unusual 8 by 15mm style,<sup>88</sup> identified on 15L7 only. No more than 1 example was cancelled by a large numeral **3**,<sup>89</sup> 15L7 on May 19, 1846, at the end of the 3 cent single service charge.<sup>90</sup> Only one example from the entire series was cancelled by a Blood & Co handstamp marking,<sup>91</sup> a 15L7 (census number 25) on piece of cover.

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<sup>81</sup> Morris, op.cit., *The Penny Post*, October 2013, pages 47, 51, 53, 66, 67.

<sup>82</sup> Morris, op.cit., *The Penny Post*, April 2014, pages 34, 40, 54, 56, 60, 61.

<sup>83</sup> Morris, op.cit., *The Penny Post*, July 2013, pages 41, 46, 47, 49, 50, 57, 60.

<sup>84</sup> Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, "The Philadelphia Despatch Post," *The Collectors Club Philatelist*, Vol. 92, No. 6, November-December 2013, page 364.

<sup>85</sup> Morris, op.cit., *The Penny Post*, January 2014, pages 27, 30, 56.

<sup>86</sup> Morris, op.cit., *The Penny Post*, July 2014, pages 38, 54.

<sup>87</sup> Morris, op.cit., *The Penny Post*, October 2014, page 45.

<sup>88</sup> Old ASCC Type unlisted; Morris Type B Handstamp.

<sup>89</sup> Old ASCC Type 3; Morris Type 6 Handstamp.

<sup>90</sup> Morris, op.cit., *The Penny Post*, July 2014, pages 31, 39, 41, 47, 48, 53, 56.

<sup>91</sup> Old ASCC Type 9; Morris Type 14 Handstamp.

**Table XII. Series summary of auxiliary markings. All covers displayed one or more.**

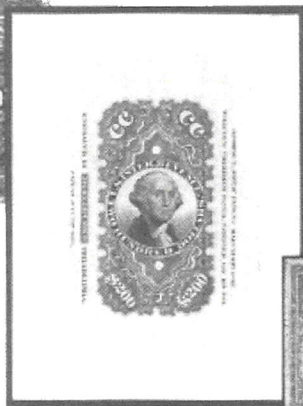
COMBINED 15L7, 15L8, 15L9 AUXILIARY MARKINGS				
15L7	15L8	15L9	Marking Type	Total
4	0	0	blue Philadelphia (Clarke 59) cds	4
2	0	0	blue Philadelphia (Clarke 60) cds	2
14	6	0	blue Philadelphia (Clarke 70) cds	20
1	28	26	blue Philadelphia (Clarke 71) cds	55
1	0	2	blue Philadelphia (Clarke 73) cds	3
0	0	2	blue Philadelphia (Clarke 74) cds	2
0	12	12	blue Philadelphia (Clarke 79) cds	25
0	3	6	blue indistinct Philadelphia cds	8
0	5	4	blue Philadelphia (Clarke 430d) cds	9
2	4	4	red Philadelphia (Clarke 430e) cds	10
1	2	4	red New York cds	7
0	1	3	blue Baltimore cds	4
0	2	1	other US city cds	3
0	0	7	Canadian cds	7
0	2	0	European cds (1 cover)	2
1	0	1	blue FREE in lozenge	2
0	8	2	blue PAID in lozenge	10
0	0	1	blue PAID in box	1
0	1	0	red PAID	1
0	0	1	blue numeral 2 in double circle	1
1	2	1	blue numeral 5 in double circle	4
1	1	1	blue numeral 10 in double circle	3
1	0	0	blue numeral 10 in italics	1
0	0	2	red numeral 5 in circle	2
0	1	1	grid in circle	2
0	0	1	red boxed grid	1
1	2	0	Blood & Co. handstamp	3
1	0	0	Hotel handstamp	1
1	4	4	manuscript "5"	9
0	0	3	manuscript "Way 5"	3
0	2	0	manuscript "10"	2
0	0	4	manuscript "paid"	4
2	0	0	manuscript "mail" or "free"	2
2	0	3	manuscript date or docket	5
0	5	2	manuscript notation	7
0	0	0	penstroke	0
0	1	9	manuscript "4 1/2" or "1/"	10
0	0	0	artifact / none	(1)
<b>36 (25)</b>	<b>91 (59)</b>	<b>108 (63)</b>		<b>235 (147)</b>

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