

PHILADELPHIA LOCAL & INTERCITY POSTS  
AND  
THE U.S. POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT

STEVEN M. ROTH

AS RECEIVED BY  
THE EXHIBITION PHOTOCOPY COMMITTEE  
OF THE  
U.S. PHILATELIC CLASSICS SOCIETY, INC.  
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# PHILADELPHIA LOCAL & INTER-CITY POSTS and THE U.S. POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT

The story of the Local Posts (operating within the City) and the Inter-City Mail Carriers (Independent Mails) represents the defeat of free enterprise when faced with a Government undertaking (the carriage of mail) which was unable to compete with the Private Sector other than on a legislated monopoly basis.

Both the Local Posts and the Independent Mail Carriers offered better and more convenient service at lower cost to the user than did the U.S. Post Office. Nonetheless, using the monopoly postal power inferred from the Constitution and the legislation which emanated from that power, as well as frequent and heavy fines against violators (such as the railroads on which the Independent Mail Carriers' messengers rode), the Post Office caused all of the Philadelphia Local Posts (other than Blood's Despatch) to cease doing business. It also forced the Independent Mail Carriers to end their letter carrying business on June 30, 1845. In due course, Blood's, too, succumbed to the effect of lengthy and costly court battles. It closed its doors on January 10, 1862.

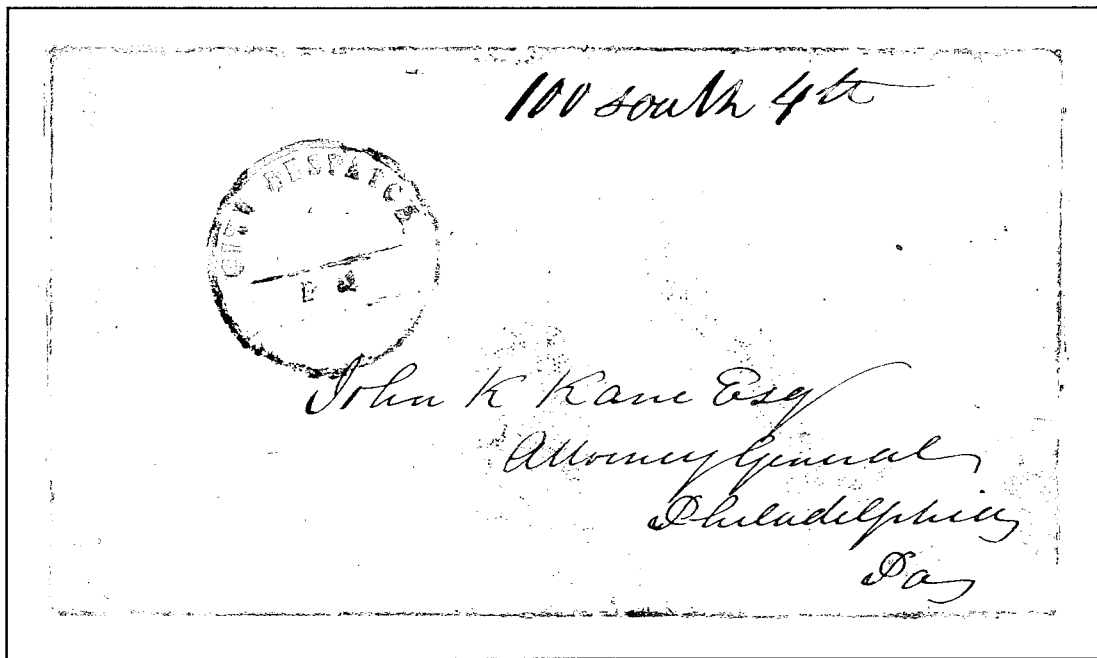
The Philadelphia Carrier Department during this period of competition sought to compete with the Local Posts by adjusting its fees for the various services which it offered. For example, in the case of mail that came into the Philadelphia Post Office from another town or city, the Carrier Department acknowledged the control and, therefore, the practical monopoly which it had over this mail, and charged the maximum allowable fee under law (2¢). On the other hand, where the private Local Posts competed best (and successfully), e.g., the collection of mail from letter boxes and its delivery either to the Post Office ("*to the Mails*") or to a street address ("*City Mails*"), the Philadelphia Carrier Department reduced its fees to meet or to beat the private competition. Thus, at varying times the Government's fee to collect letters and to convey them to the Post Office was 1¢ or was free, depending on how well the private Posts were competing for this business. Too, the Government's fee for delivering City Mail began at 1¢, was raised to 2¢ in 1857, but was reduced to 1¢ again in 1858. There it remained during the balance of the fee paid period (through June 30, 1863).

**The organization of this Exhibit is as follows:**

- \* Local Posts in Competition with the Carrier Department;
- \* Independent Mail Carriers; and,
- \* The Philadelphia Carrier Department.

## City Despatch Post

Very little is known about this Post. It was located at 48 South Third Street, and may have been the predecessor of Robertson & Co.

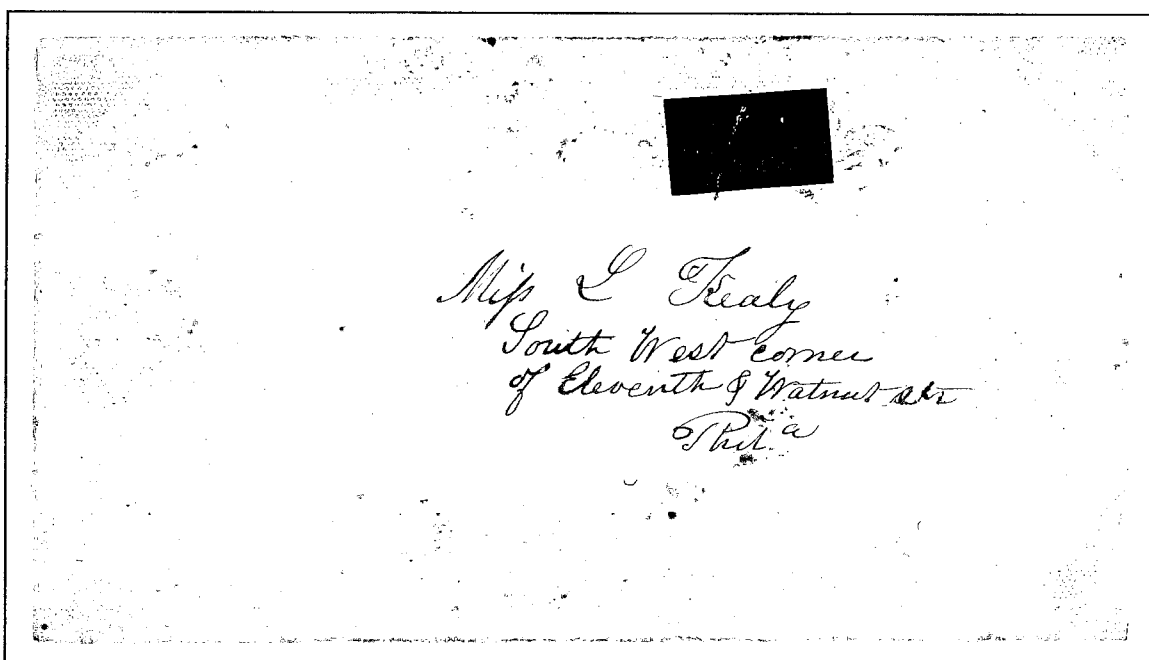


January 25, 1845. "PM".

All reported uses were in 1845. One example is known with "AM" in handstamp.

Cressman & Co.'s Penny Post

This Post operated for approximately eleven months in 1856 from its office at the Southeast corner of Third and Buttonwood Streets (Public Ledger, April 6, 1856).



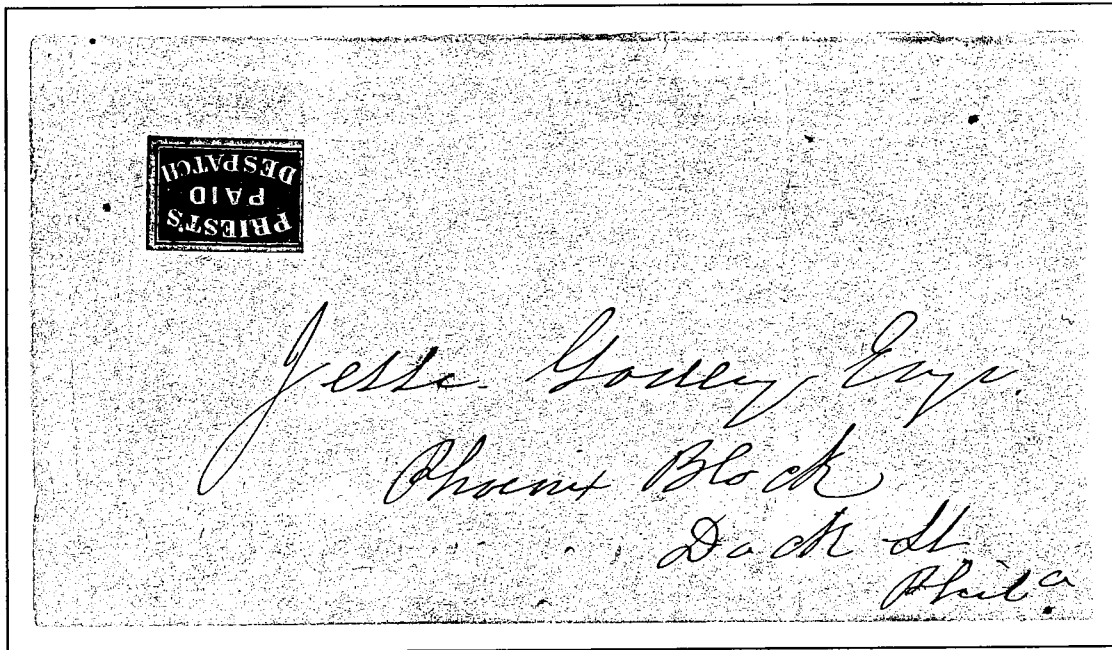
No year date. Valentine enclosure.

There are no known handstamps from this Post.



Priest's Despatch

*Black on Rose Paper*

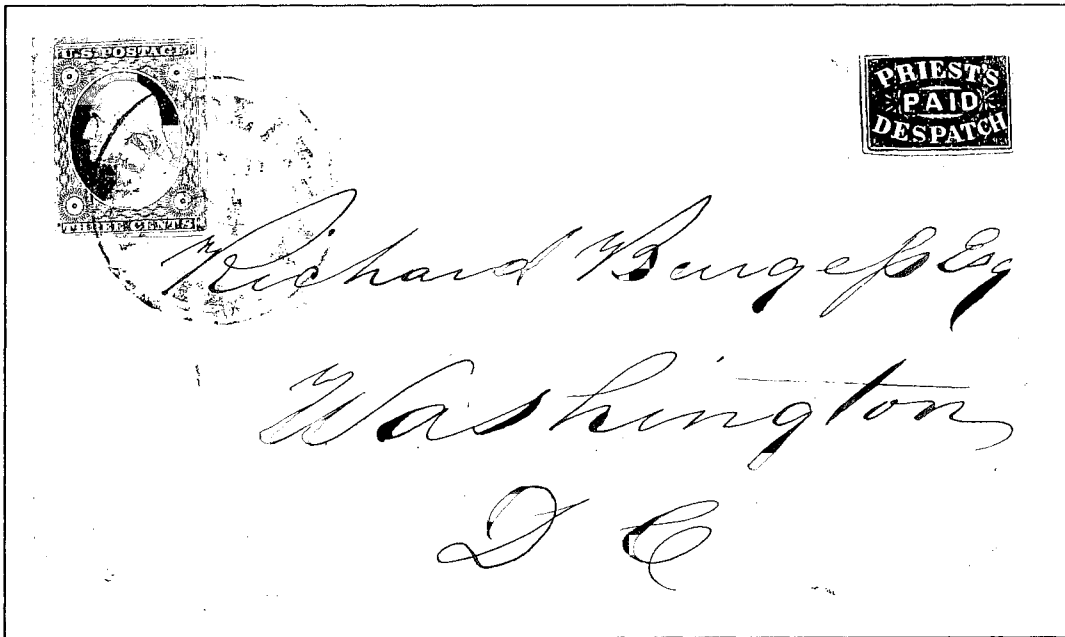


September 16, 1851.

Priest printed his adhesives on papers  
of several different colors.

Priest's Despatch

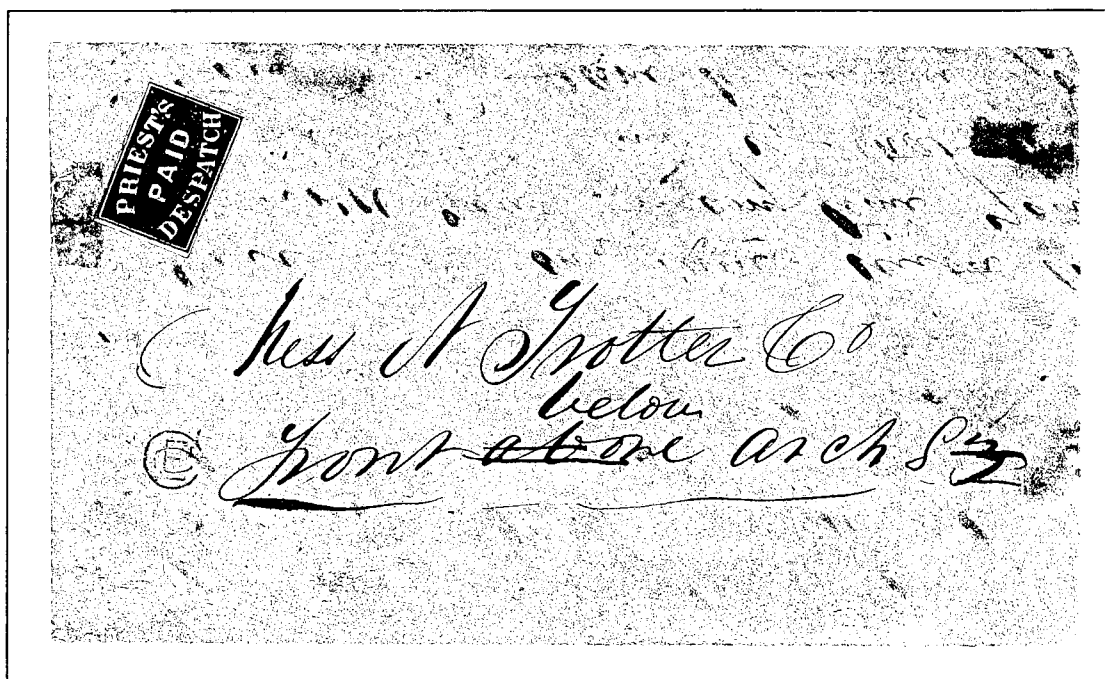
*Black on Yellow Paper*



There are no reported covers with cancelled adhesives or with Company handstamps.

## Priest's Despatch

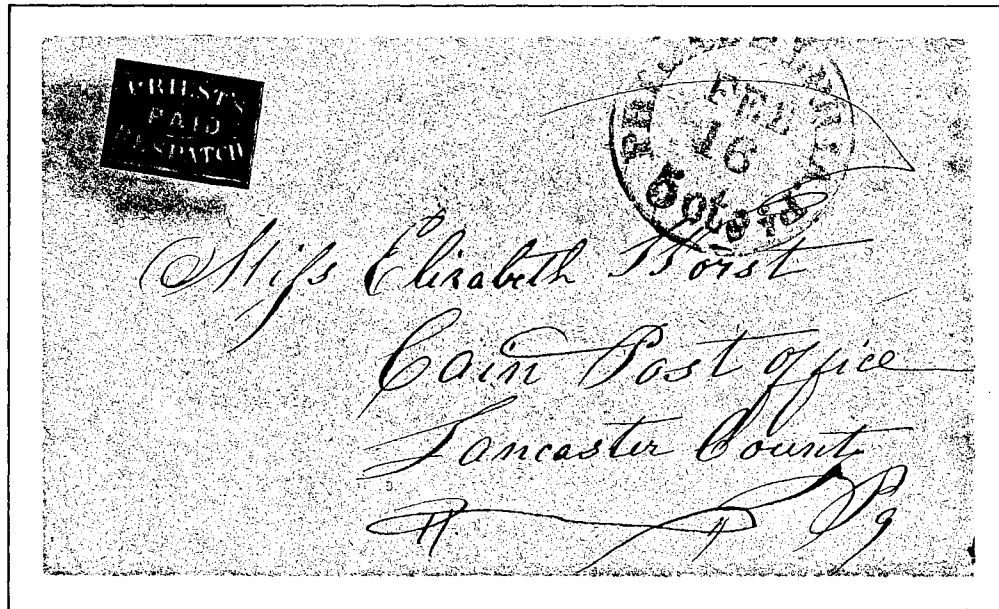
*Gold on Blue Paper*



One (1) of Two (2) examples of the "Gold on Blue" stamp reported on cover.

Priest's Despatch

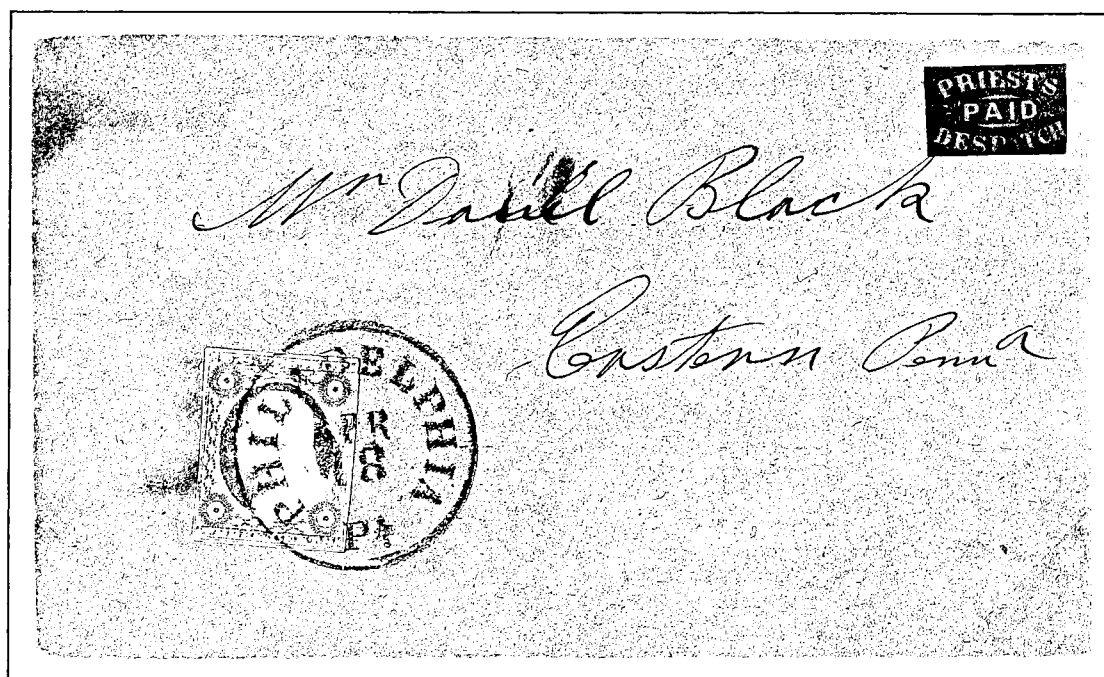
*Black on Blue Paper*



No year date, but Philadelphia CDS  
reported 1851-1852.

# Priest's Despatch

*Black on Blue Paper*

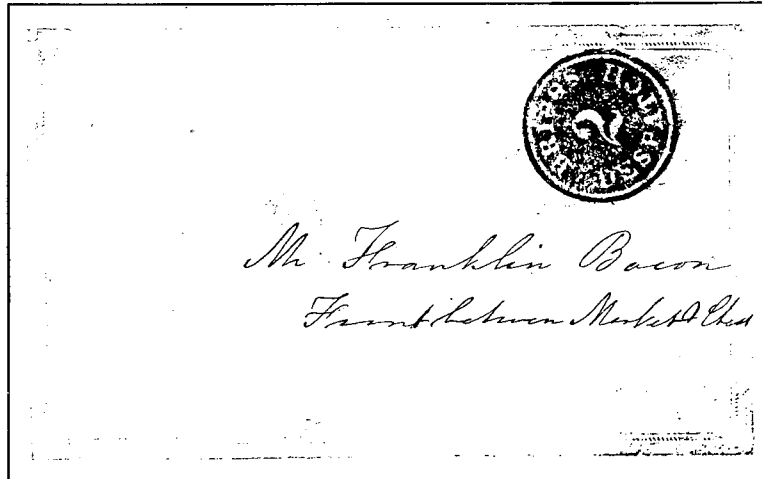


No year date, but Philadelphia CDS  
reported 1851-1852.

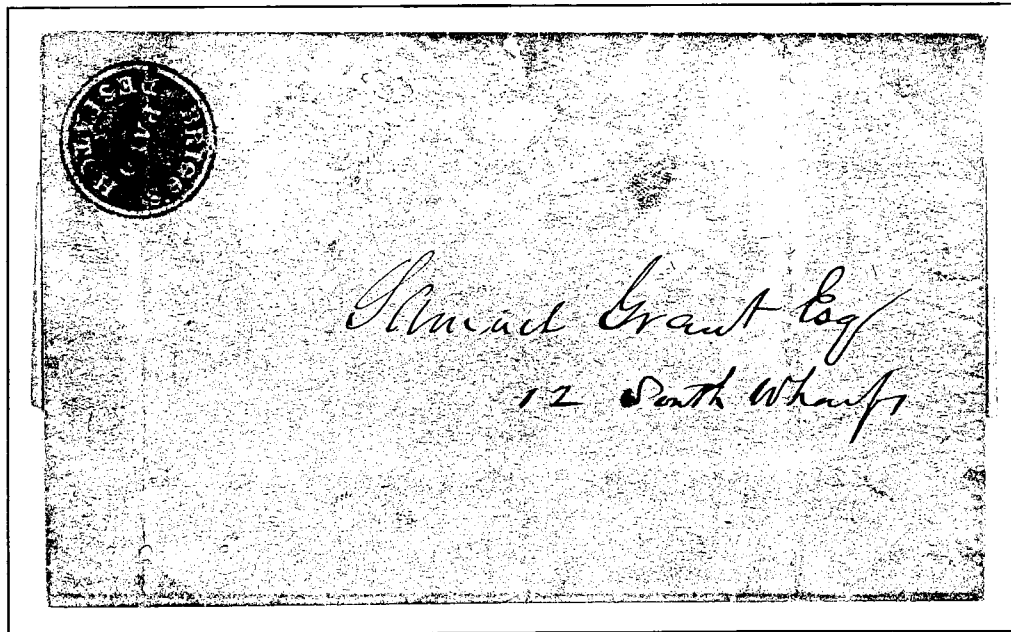
## Brigg's Despatch

This Post operated from its offices at  
61 South 8th Street in 1848 & 1849.

Type "2" (Due) Handstamp



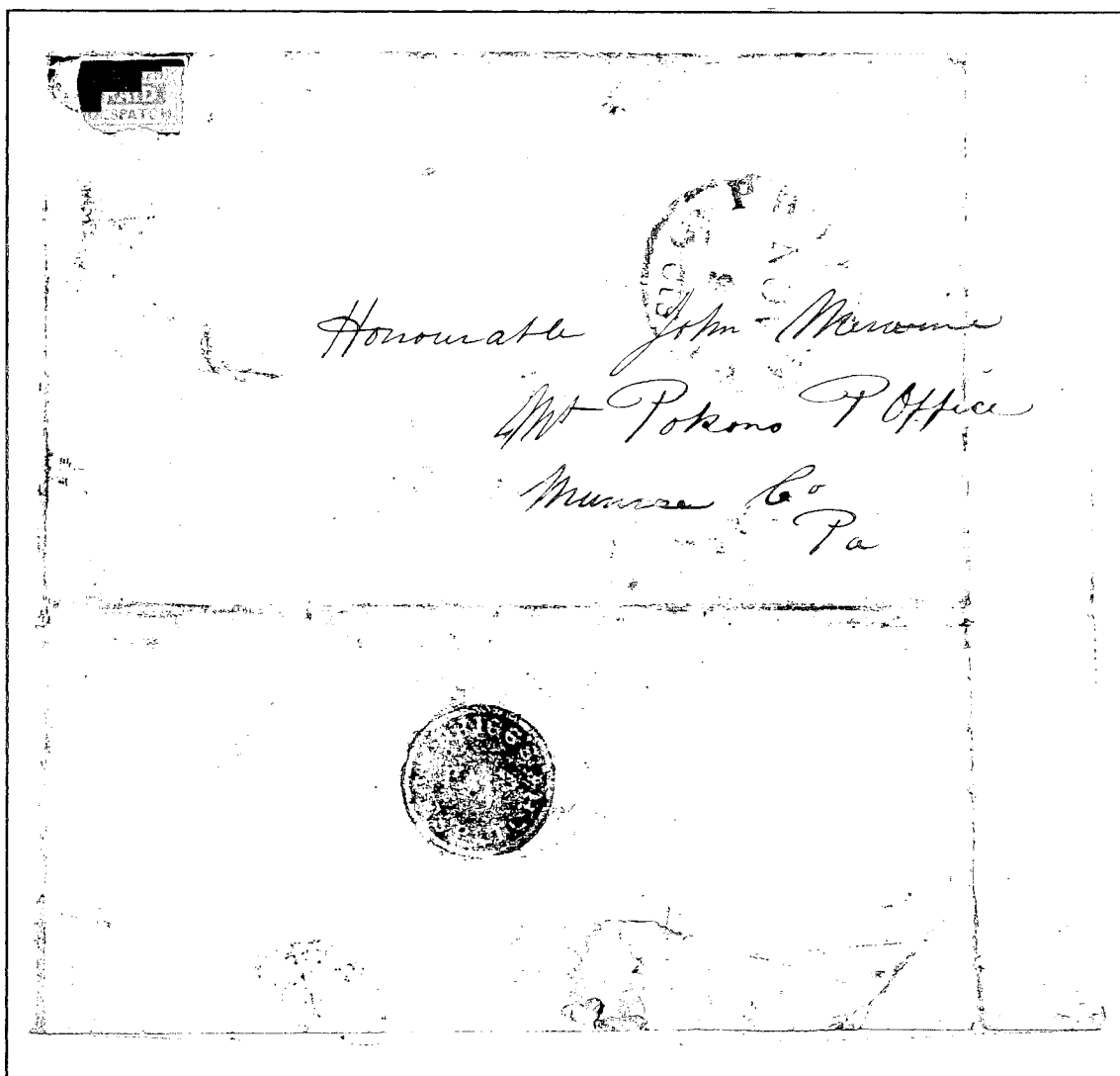
Type "PAID" Handstamp



October 9, 1848.

Brigg's Despatch

Black on Gold Paper

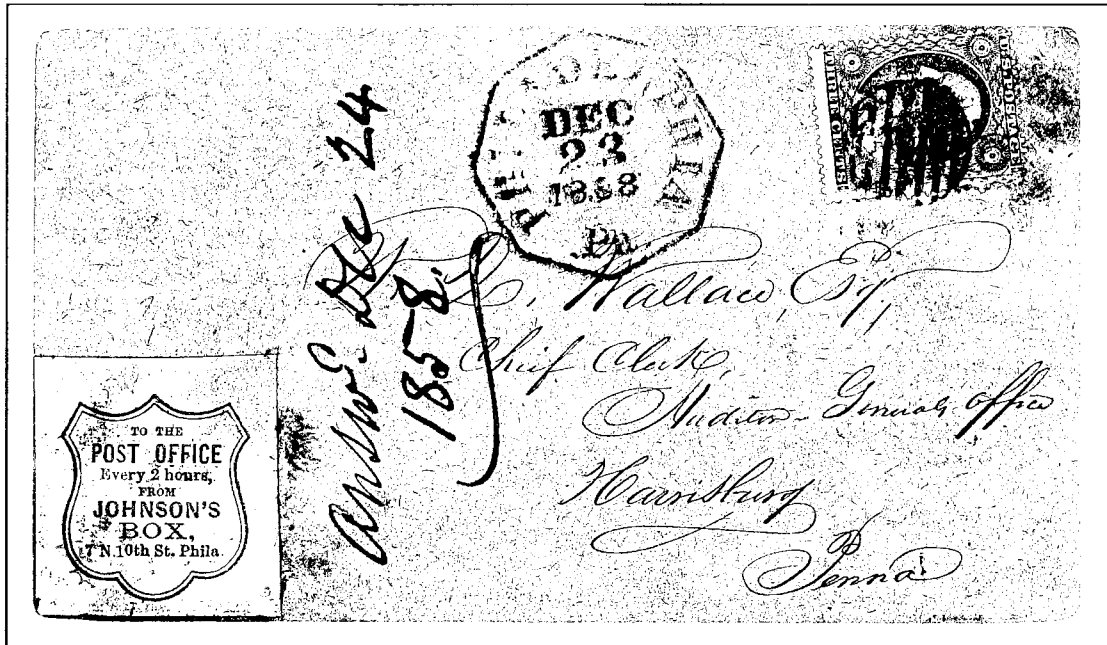


November 7, 1848.

Type "PAID" Handstamp.

# Johnson's Box

Operated 1852 - 1859.

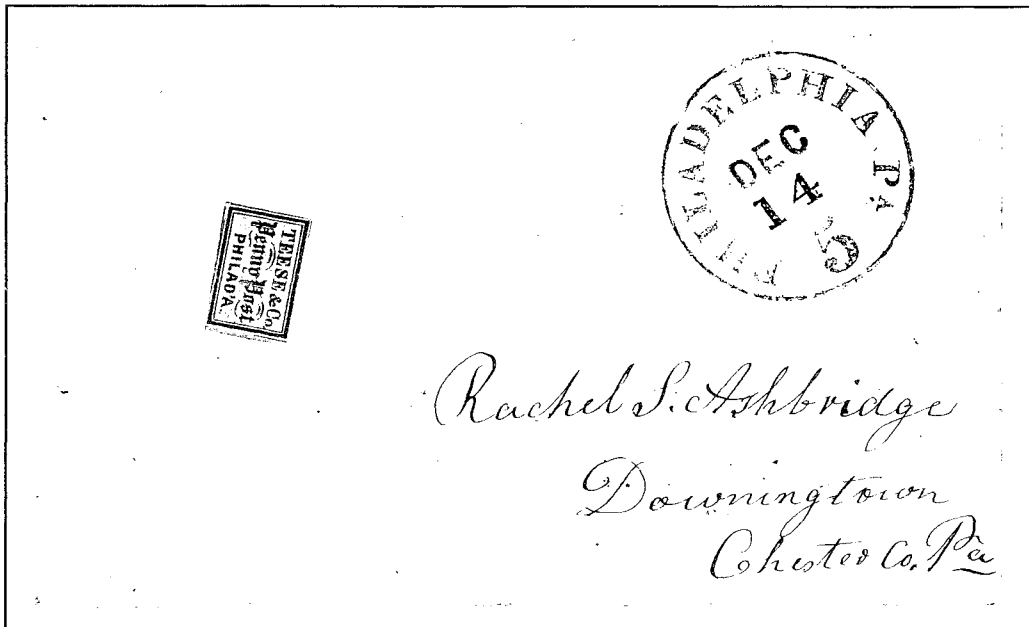


This Post delivered mail "To the Post Office" without charge to customers of Johnson's store.



Teese & Co. Penny Post

This Post operated 1852-1854. Very little  
is known about it.

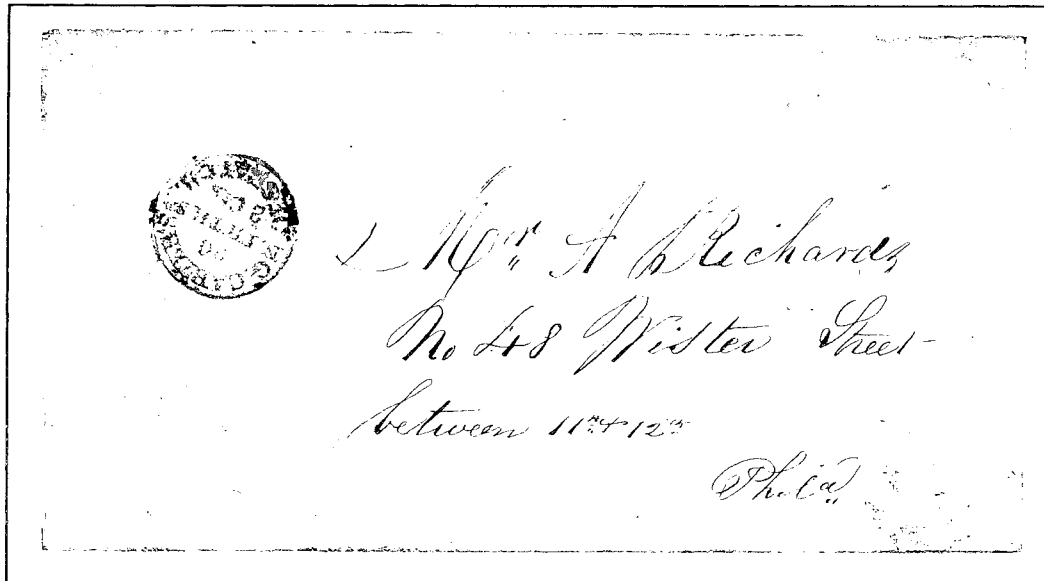


December 14, 1852.

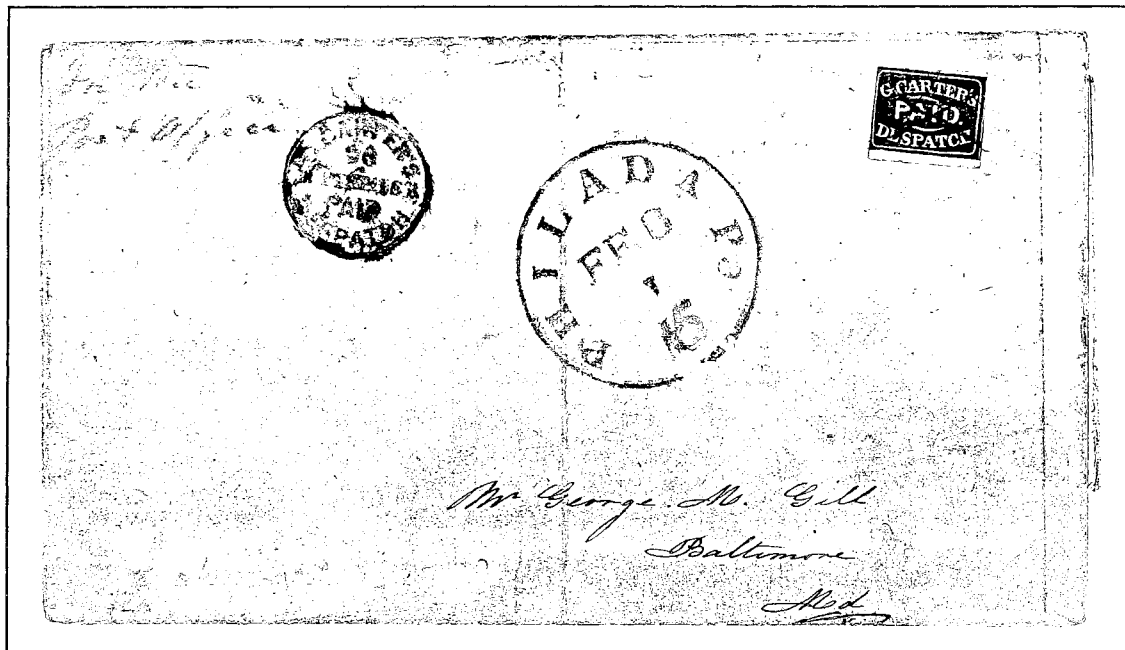
The Teese adhesive imitates contemporary  
*Blood's Penny Post* stamps.

## G. Carter's Despatch Post

Carter's Despatch operated from 1848 to 1852 from its office at 90 N. Fifth Street.



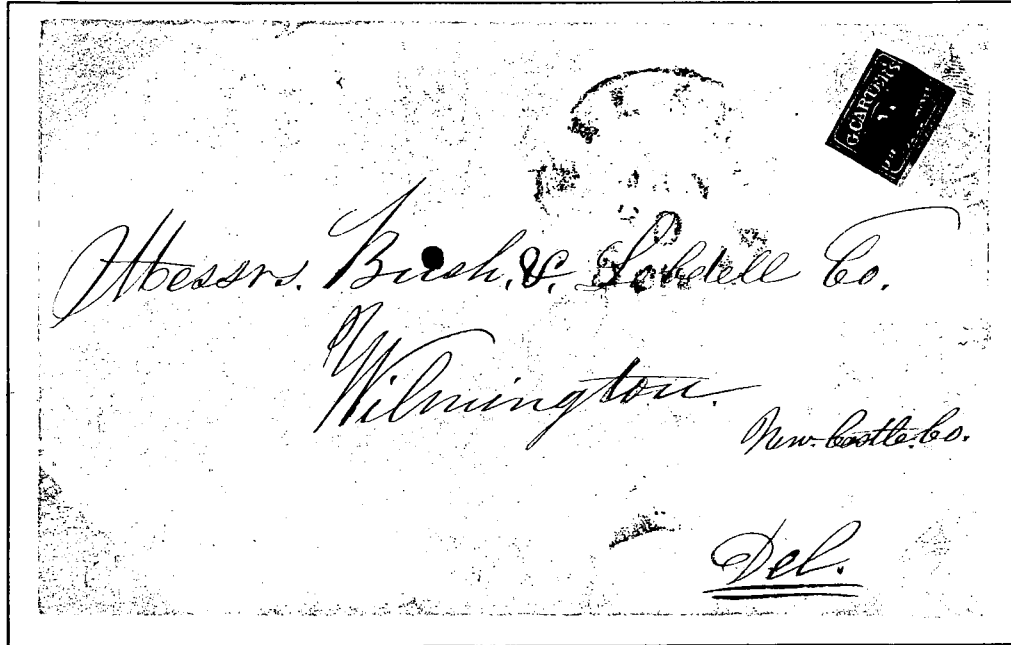
No year date. Type "2 Cts." handstamp.



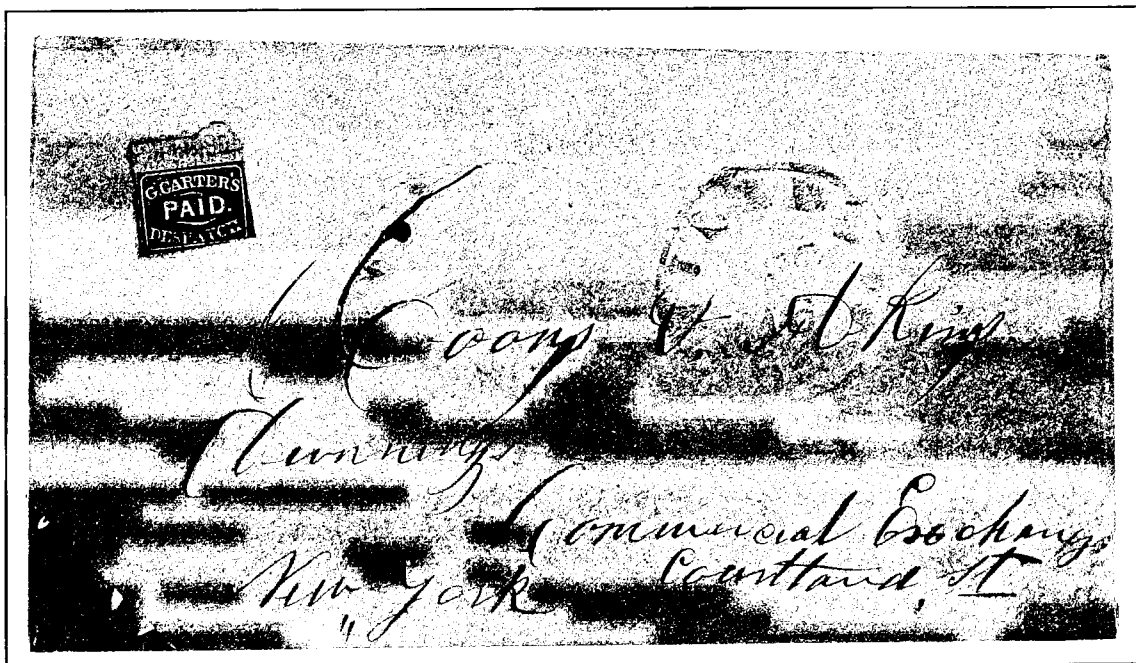
1849. Type "PAID" handstamp.

# G. Carter's Despatch Post

Red Stripe with Blue Stroke through "Despatch"



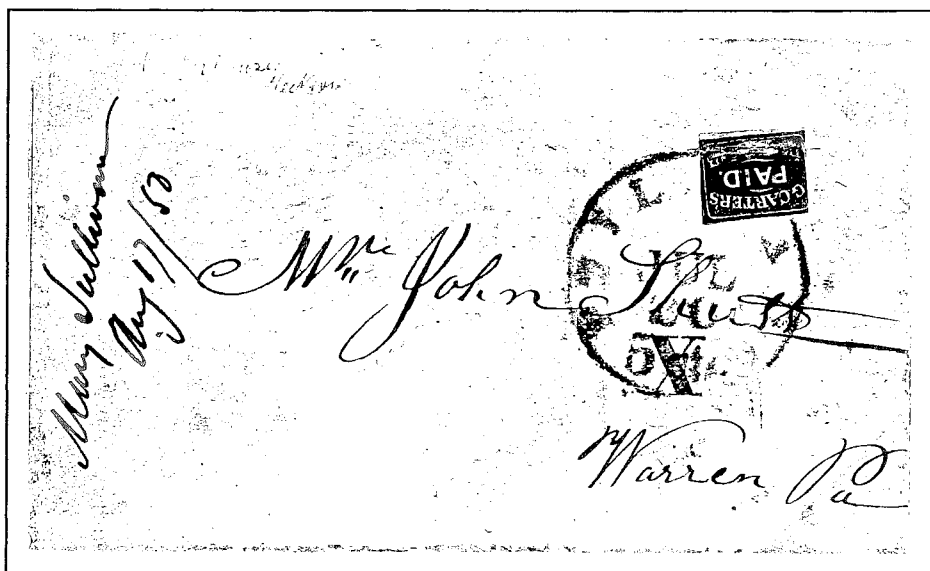
1851. Some students believe the red stripe was a Precancel; the blue a cancellation.



No year date. "LAID PAPER" variety; Red and blue stripes.

## G. Carter's Despatch Post

Example of the Word "Despatch" Scratched-Out

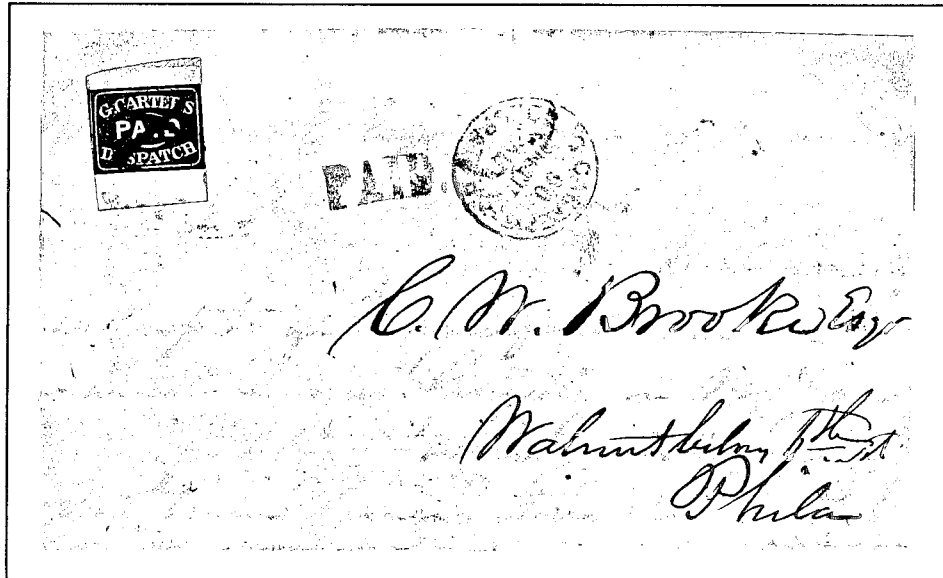


July 20, 1850.

We do not know why the word "DESPATCH" was eliminated, but four (4) examples have been reported.

G. Carter's Despatch Post

Straight-Line Gothic Handstamp "PAID"

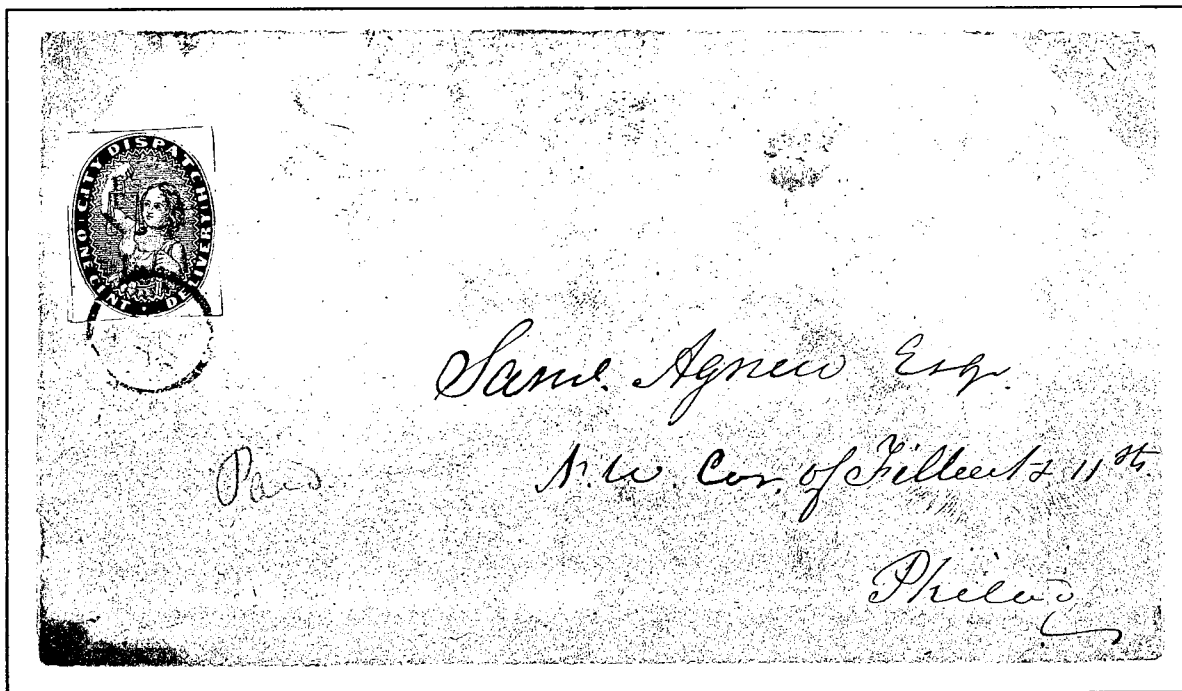
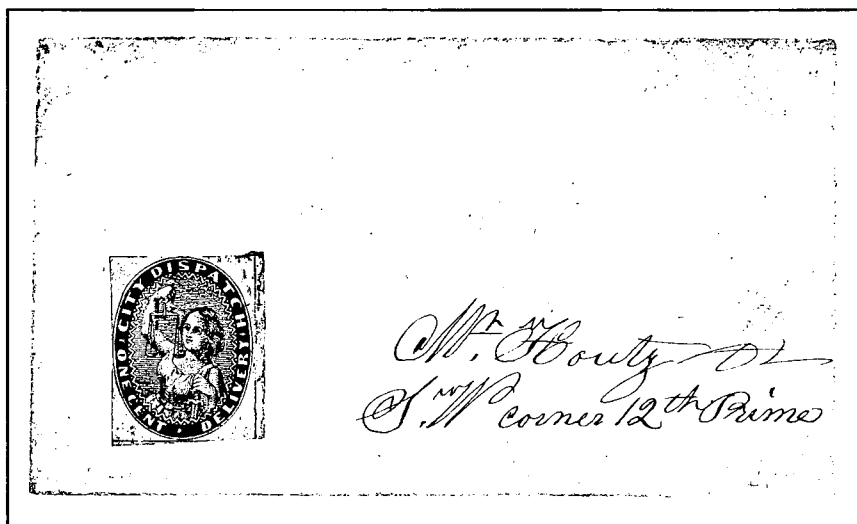


June 30, 1849.

Wide top and bottom gutter margins.

## City Dispatch Post

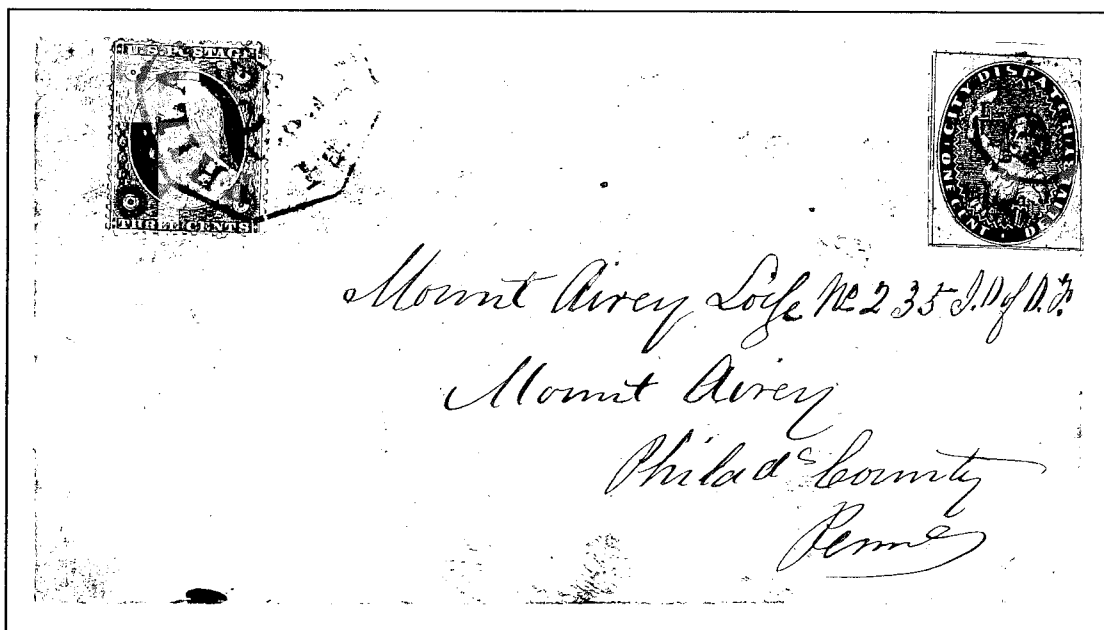
All datable covers carried by this Post  
are from the year 1860



Some students believe that this Post was owned  
secretly by Blood's Despatch.

## City Dispatch Post

Local Post prohibited from delivering within  
Philadelphia City limits.

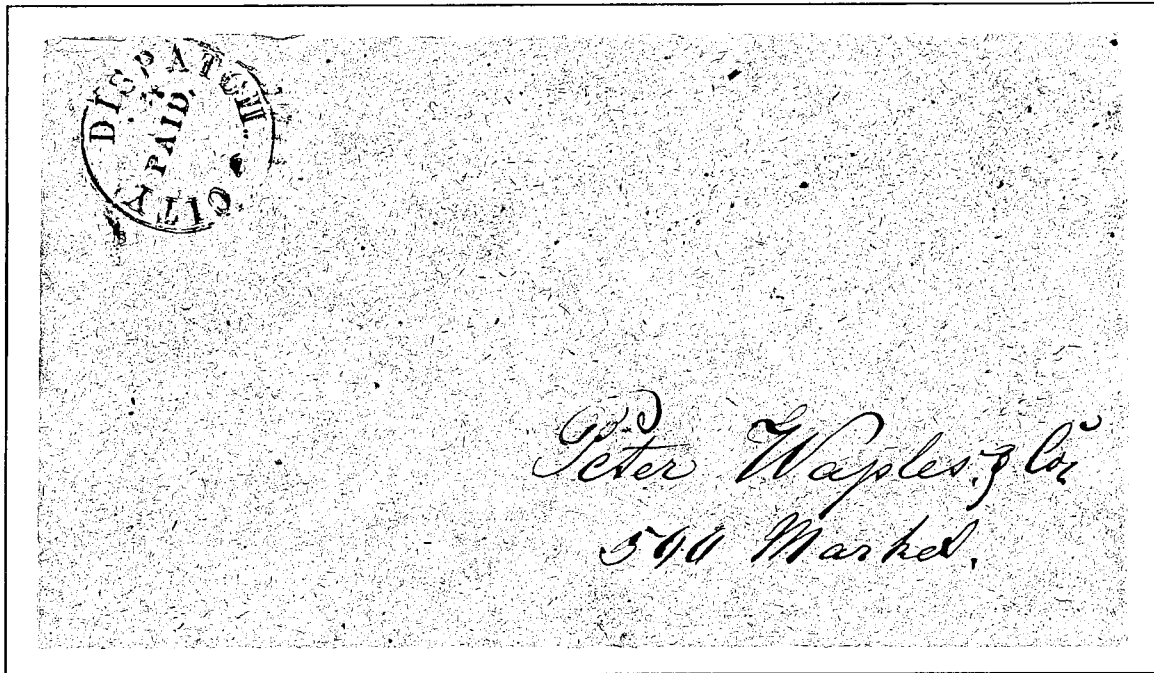


No year date, but octagonal CDS used 1854-1860.  
Mount Airy was incorporated into Philadelphia  
in 1854.

Because Mount Airy operated its own Post Office  
after 1854, letters to this Borough had to be  
placed into the Mails rather than delivered there  
directly by the Local Post.

City Dispatch Post

"CITY DISPATCH\PAID"



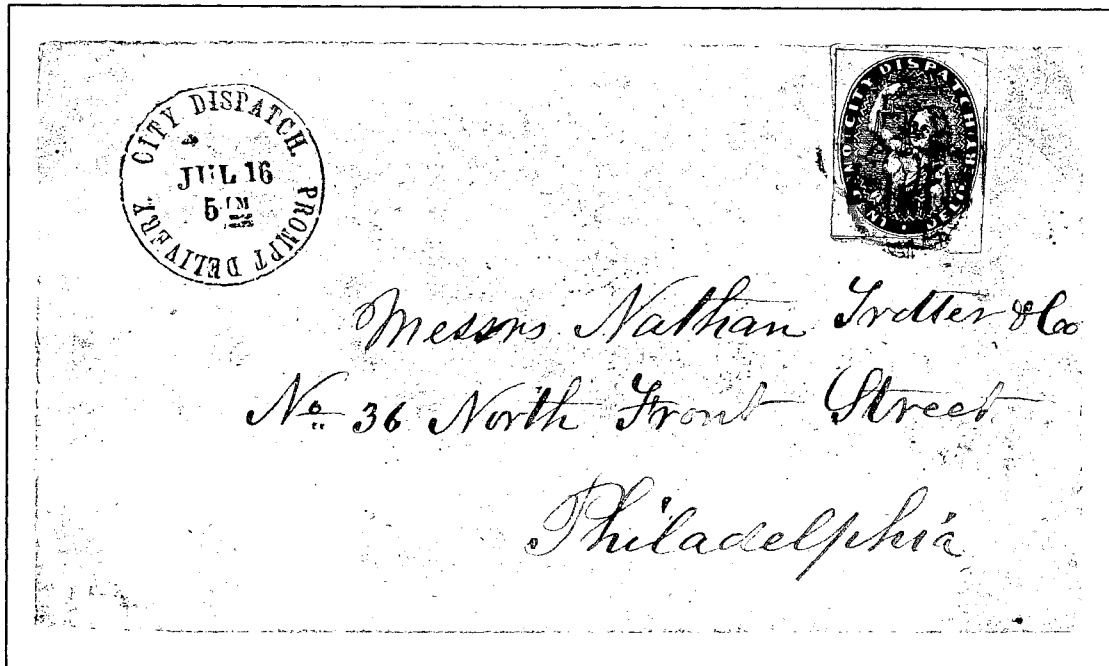
Docketed 1860.

A recent cover discovery has confirmed that this  
handstamp was used by the City Dispatch Post,  
not by a separate company.



City Dispatch Post

"CITY DISPATCH./PROMPT DELIVERY"

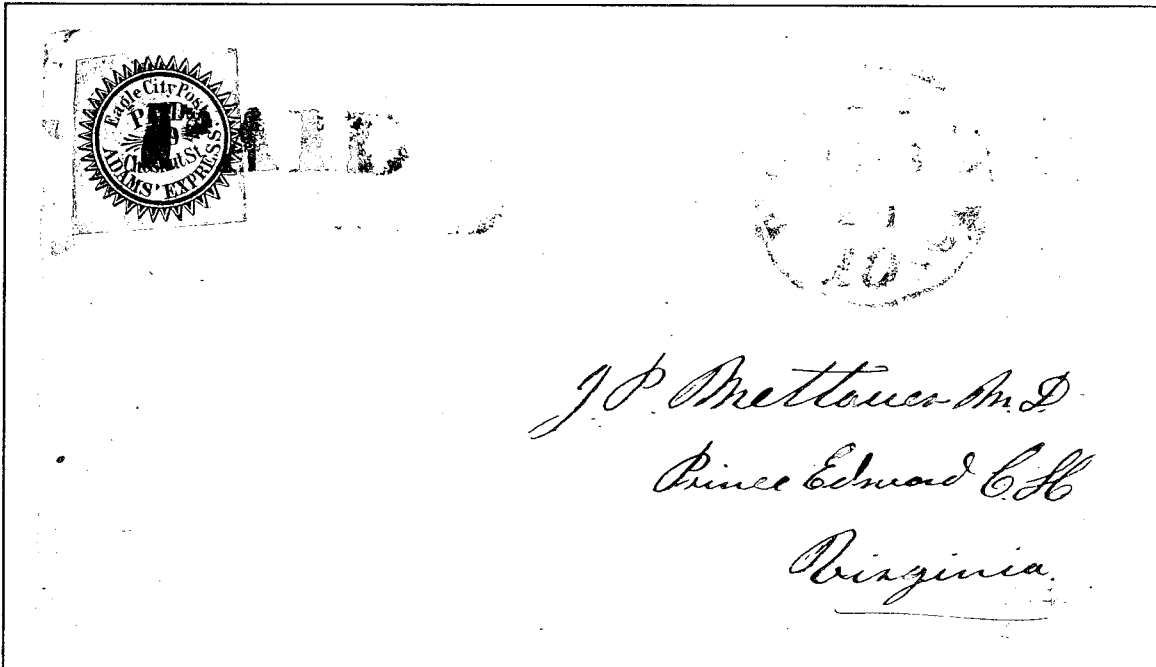


July 16, 1860. Grid cancellation.

This handstamp has been reported  
from July 13-25, 1860, only.

## Eagle Post

This local Post was started by The Adams Express Company to supplement its income after Congress passed the Act of 1845 prohibiting the *inter-state* carriage of letters by Express Companies.



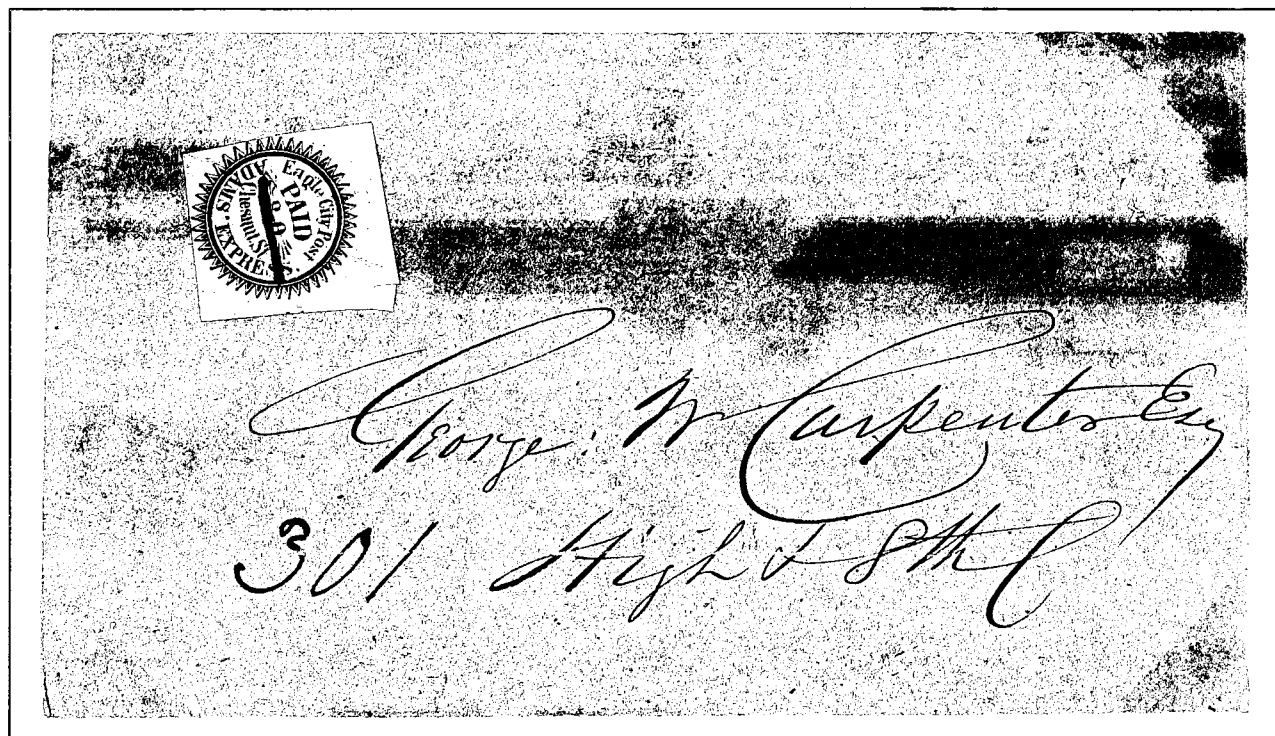
No date. CDS Type 46 (Reported 1848-1850).

This is the only reported example of this adhesive tied by the Company handstamp.

Type I adhesive (39 points)

This Post went through many name changes: Eagle City Post;  
Eagle City Post & Mag. Telegraph Messengering Dept.;  
and, Stait's Despatch Post.

Eagle Post

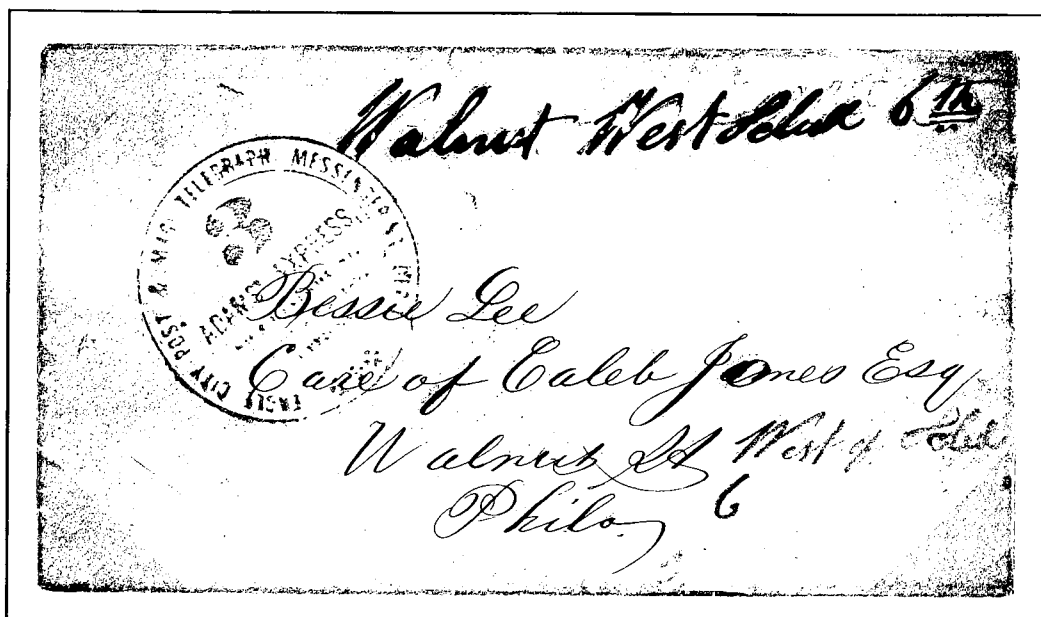


Type II adhesive (46 points)



Eagle Post

"EAGLE CITY POST & MAG. TELEGRAPH MESSENGERING DEPT."



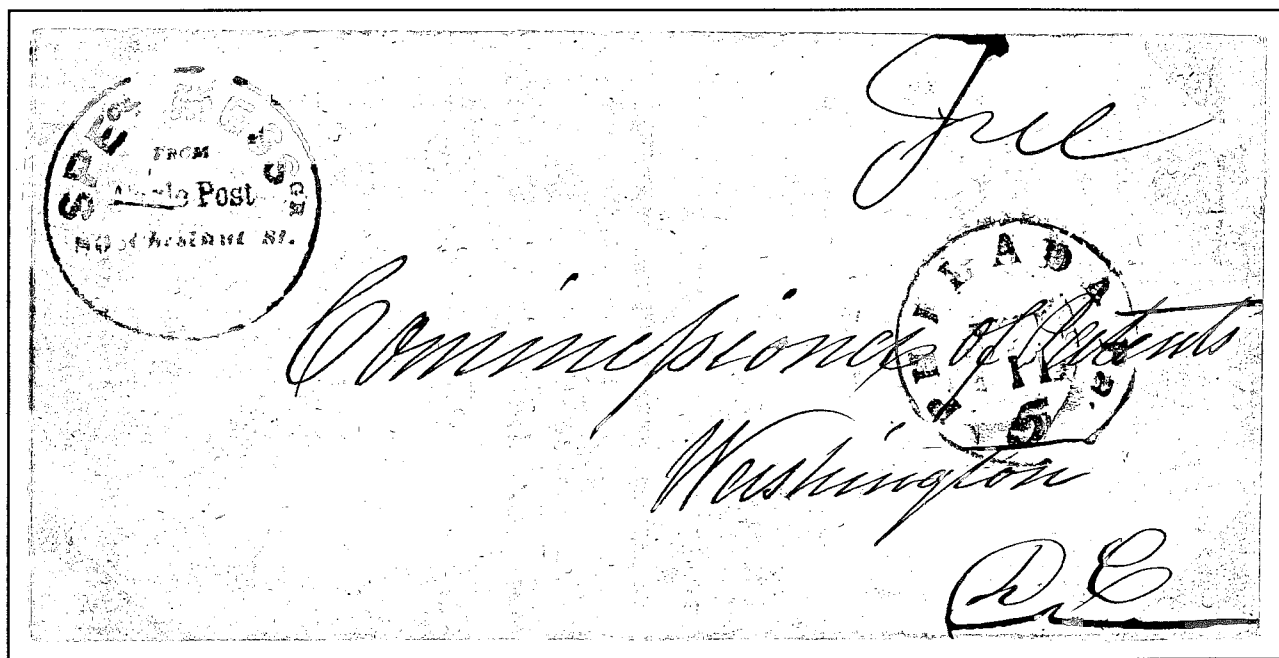
"3" (Due). 1851.



1849. Same handstamp, but with "PAID".

Eagle Post

## "SPECIAL MESSENGER" Service

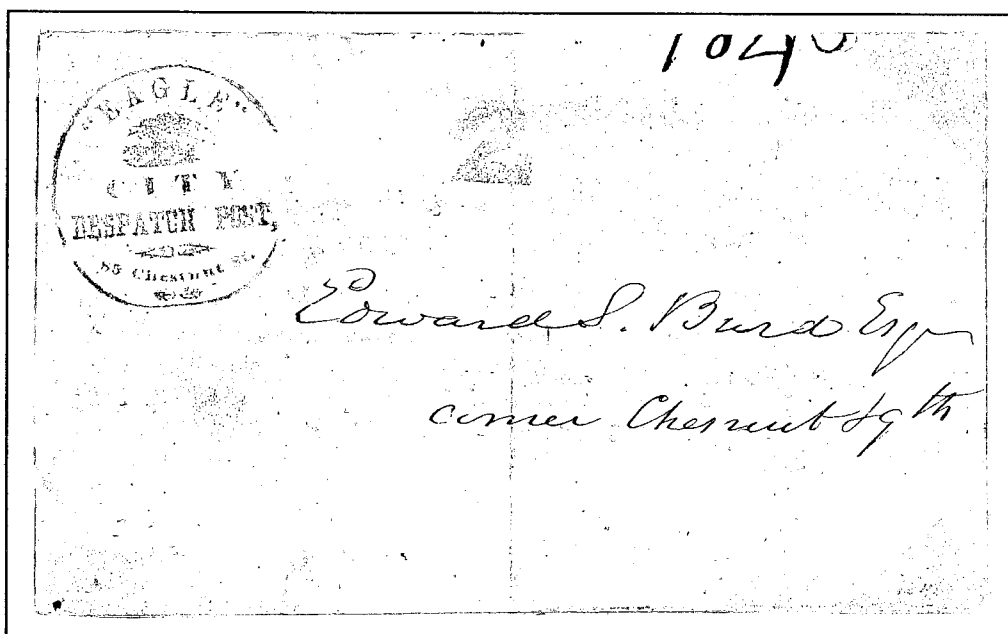


No date; Philadelphia CDS used 1848-1849.

William Stait began offering Special Messenger service in 1848 "...for City, State or any part of the World, at half an hour's notice." (*Philadelphia Public Ledger*, December 2, 1848).

## Eagle Post

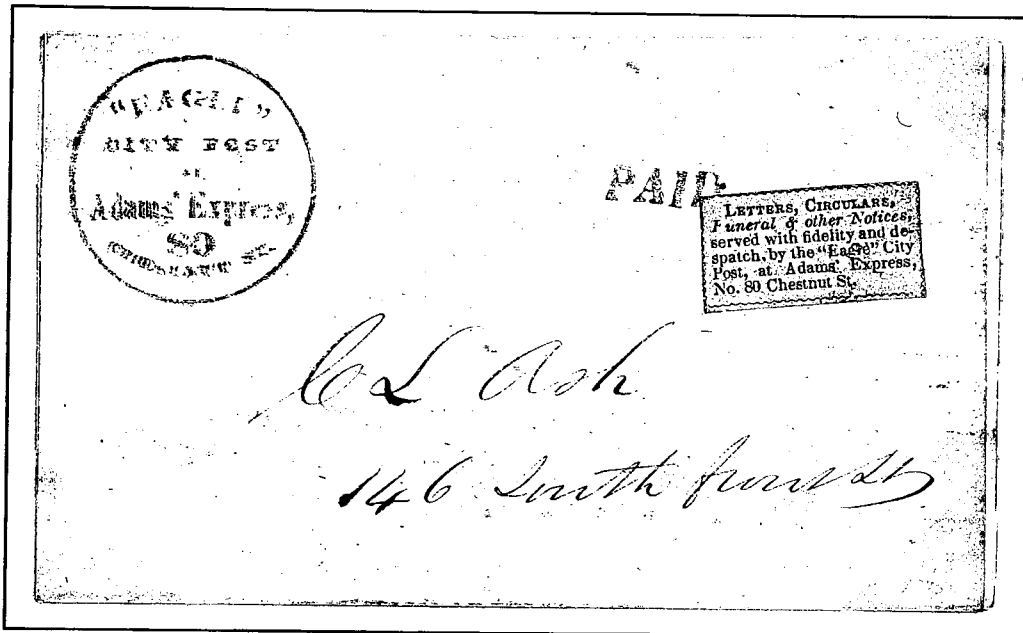
"EAGLE/CITY/DESPATCH POST" Handstamp



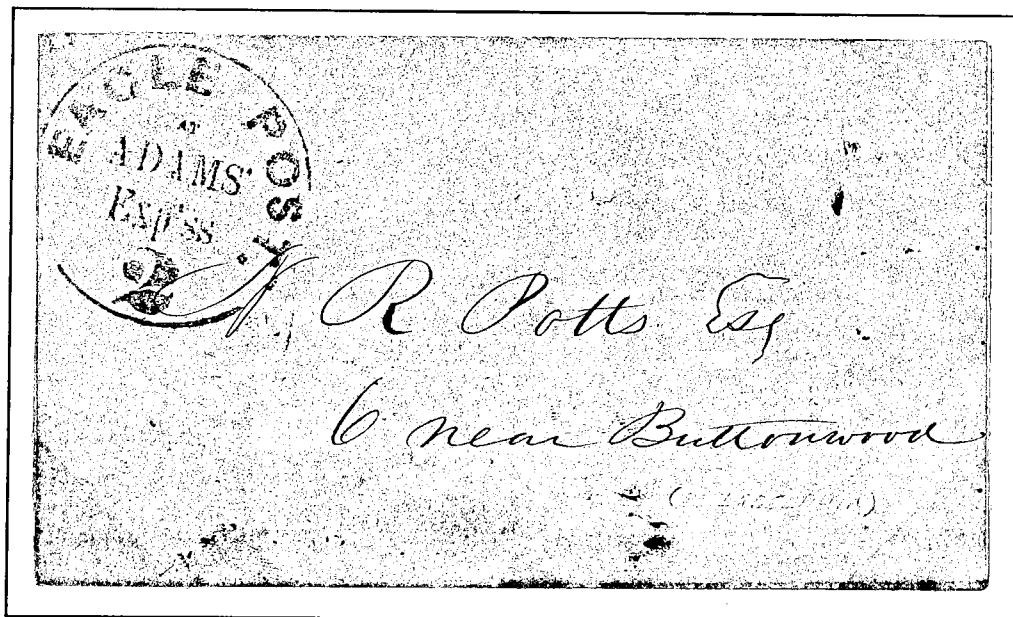
1846. Printed circular.

Handstamp with "Eagle" reflects the change of name.

# Eagle Post



No date. "EAGLE/CITY POST/AT/ADAMS EXPRESS/80/CHESTNUT ST."

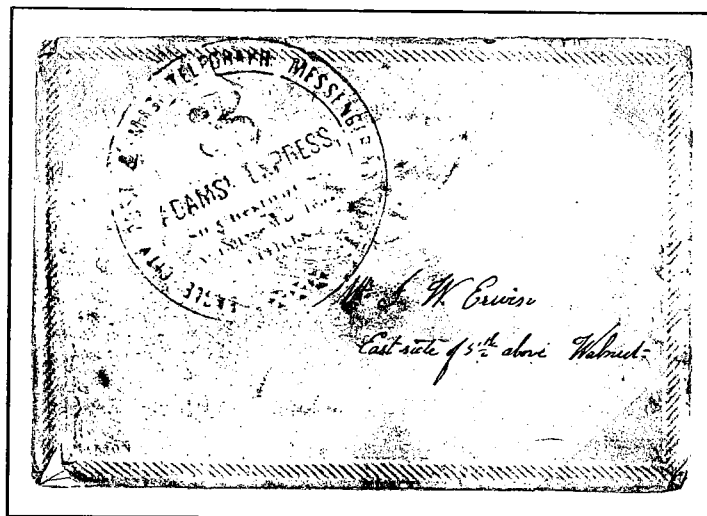


No date. "'EAGLE POST/AT/ADAMS'/EXP'SS/2"

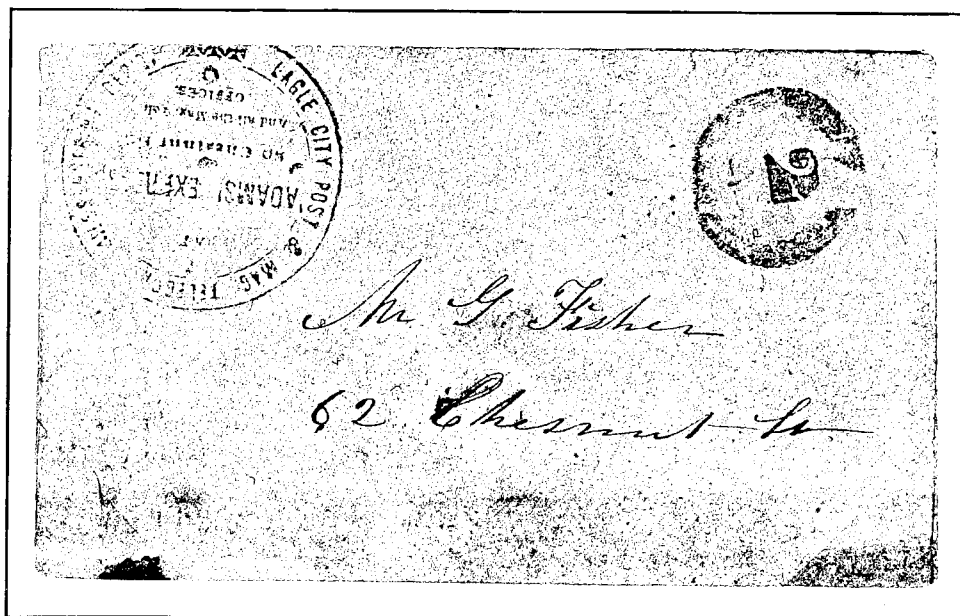


Rates for Telegram Delivery by Eagle Post Varied

3¢ Rate

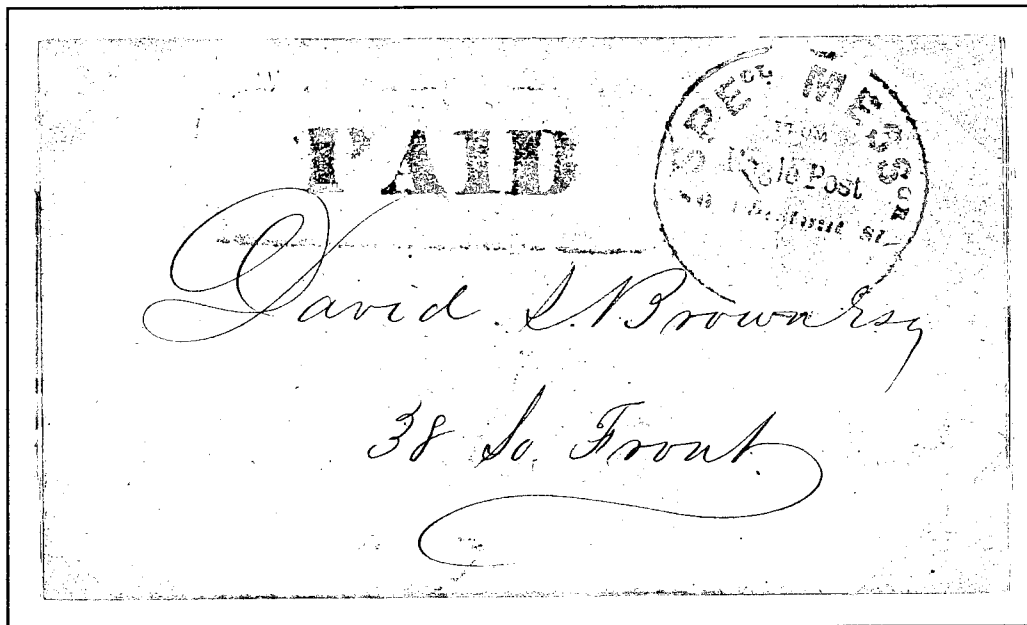


2¢ Rate



Eagle Post

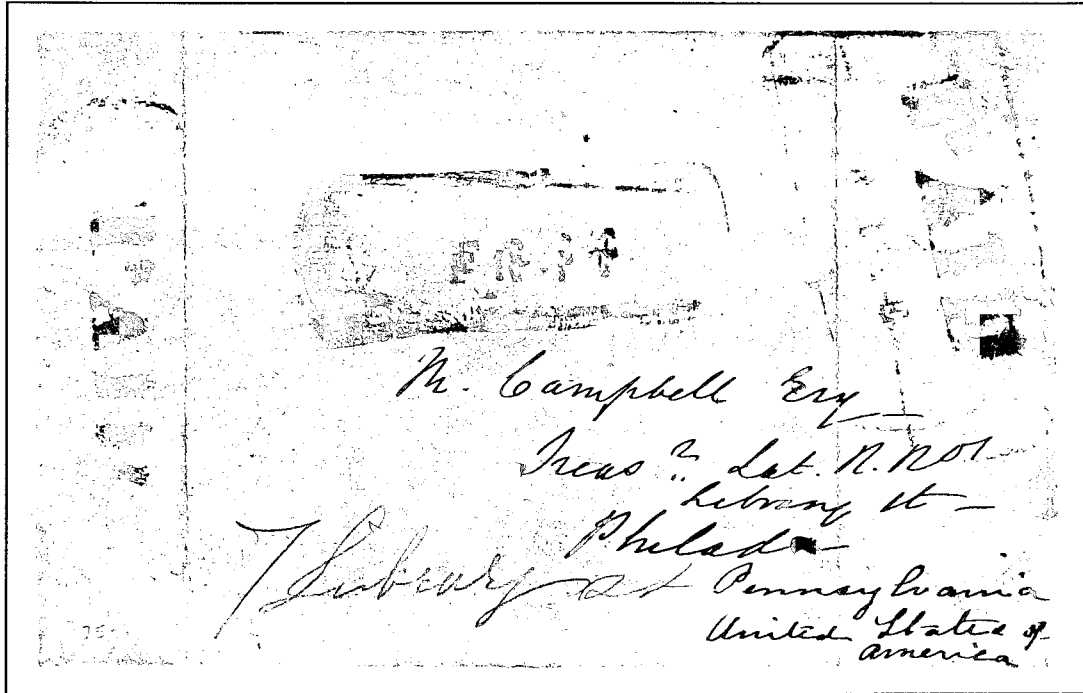
"SPECIAL MESSENGER"



March 26, 1850. Printed circular.

The "SPECI. MESSOR" handstamp is reported  
with "FREE" in box (1849) and "PAID" in  
box (1850).

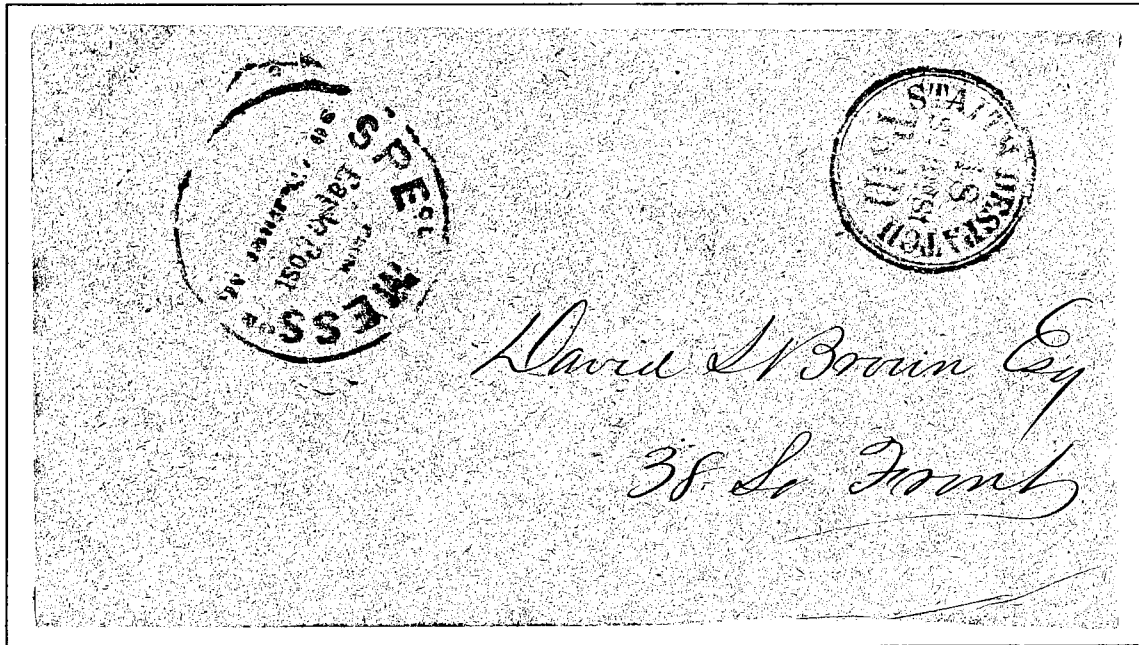
Eagle Post



February 22, 1850.

We do not know why this folded letter had both the "PAID" and the "FREE" handstamps on it.

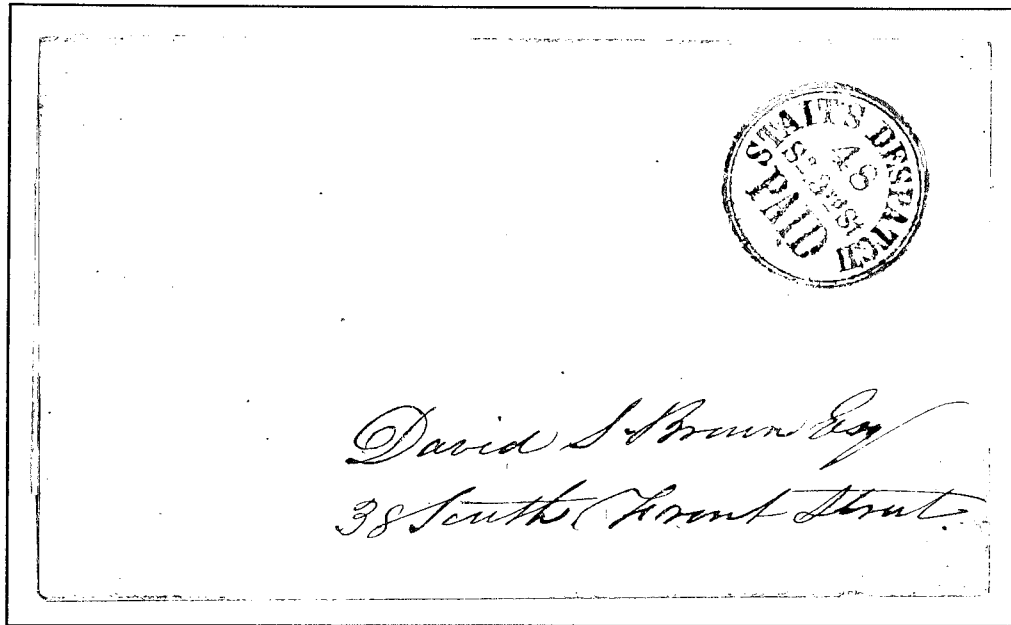
Eagle Post/Stait's Despatch Combination



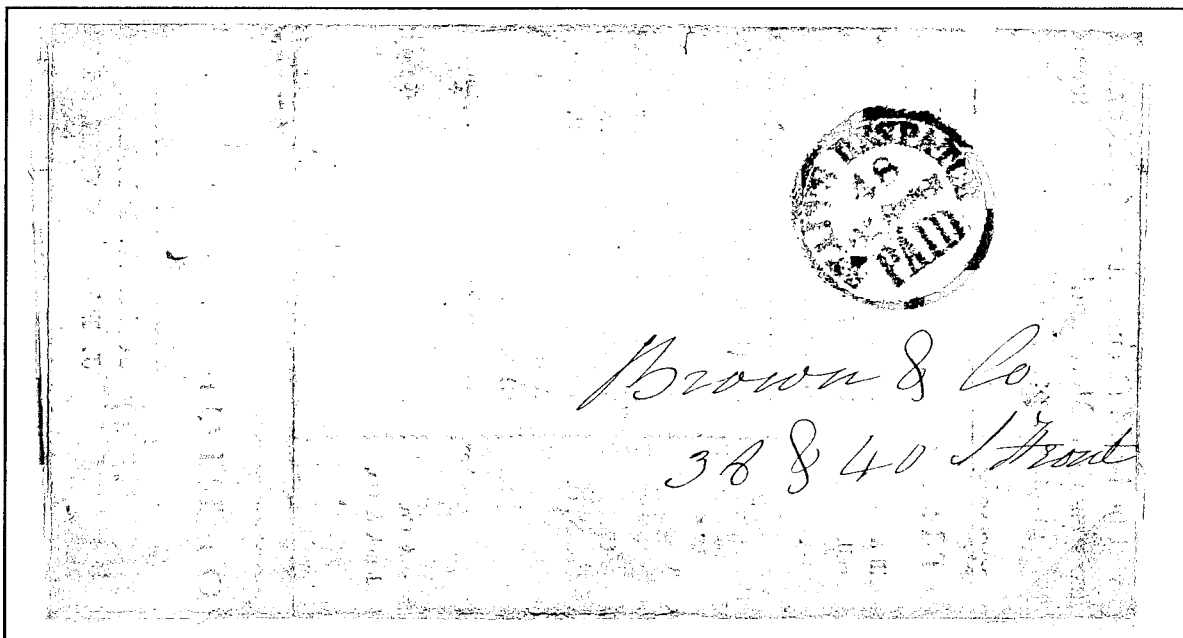
"Special Messenger" (Eagle Post); STAIT'S DESPATCH PAID"

This combination of handstamps demonstrates the transition when Stait acquired the Post from Adams' Express Co.

Stait's Despatch Post



1852. Printed circular.



1851. After Stait acquired City Despatch Post, he moved his office to 48 South 3rd Street, away from the Adams Express Company offices.

Stait's Despatch Post



May 1, 1850.

The *Blue* adhesive was the fourth stamp issued by Eagle Post/Stait's Despatch.



# A NEW SYSTEM OF SAVING FUNDS, OR, TONTINE ACCUMULATIONS, FOR DEFINITE PERIODS.

The PHILADELPHIA LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY, propose to take insurances on the plan of the well known *Tontine Associations*, with this difference, viz: That the payments are in the shape of an Annual Premium, and the risk for a definite period.

The following is the Scale adopted for \$100.

Age.	Expire in 10 years.	Expire in 15 years.	Expire in 20 years.		Age.	Expire in 10 years.	Expire in 15 years.	Expire in 20 years.
10 or less	8 68	5 11	3 35	TONTINE ACCUMULATIONS.	36	8 39	4 83	3 05
11	8 68	5 11	3 35		37	8 37	4 80	3 01
12	8 68	5 11	3 35		38	8 35	4 77	2 98
13	8 67	5 10	3 34		39	8 33	4 74	2 95
14	8 67	5 10	3 34		40	8 30	4 70	2 90
15	8 66	5 10	3 34		41	8 26	4 66	2 87
16	8 66	5 09	3 33		42	8 23	4 61	2 83
17	8 65	5 09	3 33		43	8 18	4 57	2 79
18	8 64	5 08	3 33		44	8 13	4 53	2 75
19	8 64	5 07	3 32		45	8 07	4 48	2 70
20	8 63	5 07	3 32		46	8 02	4 43	2 65
21	8 62	5 06	3 31		47	7 97	4 39	2 60
22	8 60	5 05	3 30		48	7 91	4 34	2 55
23	8 58	5 03	3 29		49	7 85	4 29	2 50
24	8 56	5 01	3 28		50	7 80	4 23	2 44
25	8 55	5 00	3 27		51	7 73	4 17	2 38
26	8 53	4 99	3 26		52	7 69	4 11	2 32
27	8 51	4 98	3 25		53	7 63	4 05	2 25
28	8 50	4 96	3 23		54	7 56	3 97	2 17
29	8 48	4 95	3 21		55	7 50	3 90	2 09
30	8 47	4 94	3 20		56	7 42	3 81	
31	8 45	4 93	3 18		57	7 34	3 72	
32	8 44	4 91	3 15		58	7 25	3 63	
33	8 43	4 90	3 13		59	7 15	3 53	
34	8 42	4 88	3 10		60	7 05	3 42	
35	8 40	4 86	3 07					



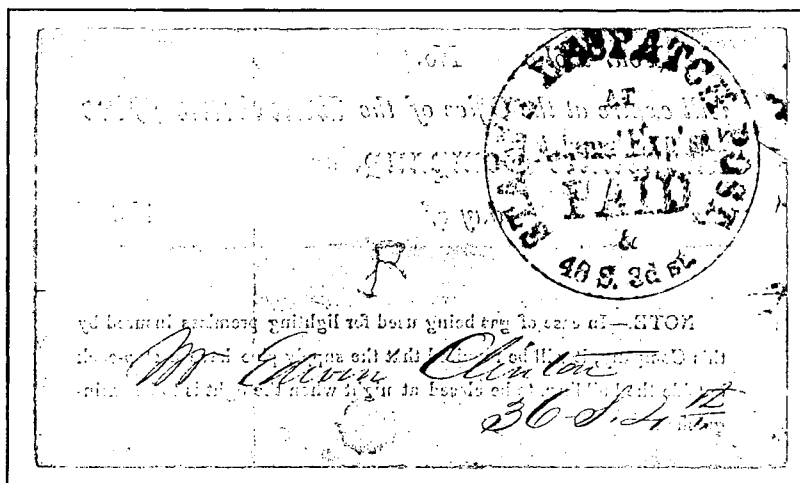
By the above plan, any man may connect himself with a *Tontine Accumulating Fund*, for any definite period, say 7, 10, 15, or 20 years, and at the end of that period, the *whole amount* that may have accumulated will be divided *pro rata* amongst the *surviving* insurers, according to the amount they may have insured. Any person may insure from \$100 to \$2000, and pay the premium and receive the dividend accordingly. The premiums paid by the *deceased* members, are forfeited for the benefit of the living. In this manner the *surviving* member or insurer may very readily receive three or four times the amount for which he nominally insures. The Philadelphia Life Insurance Company will pay all the charges and expenses in the management of the different classes of Tontines, and will likewise allow five per cent interest, compounded annually, for the moneys paid in as premiums, and will also guarantee that each individual member shall receive the amount that he insures for, and as much more as the funds will divide. In return, the Company will charge as a commission, ten per cent. on the net amount received.

A Tontine of this kind is peculiarly applicable as a provision for minors; it is a saving fund of the most profitable kind, payable at a definite period if the child is alive. This office will annually furnish to each member an exact statement of the state of affairs of the Class to which he belongs.

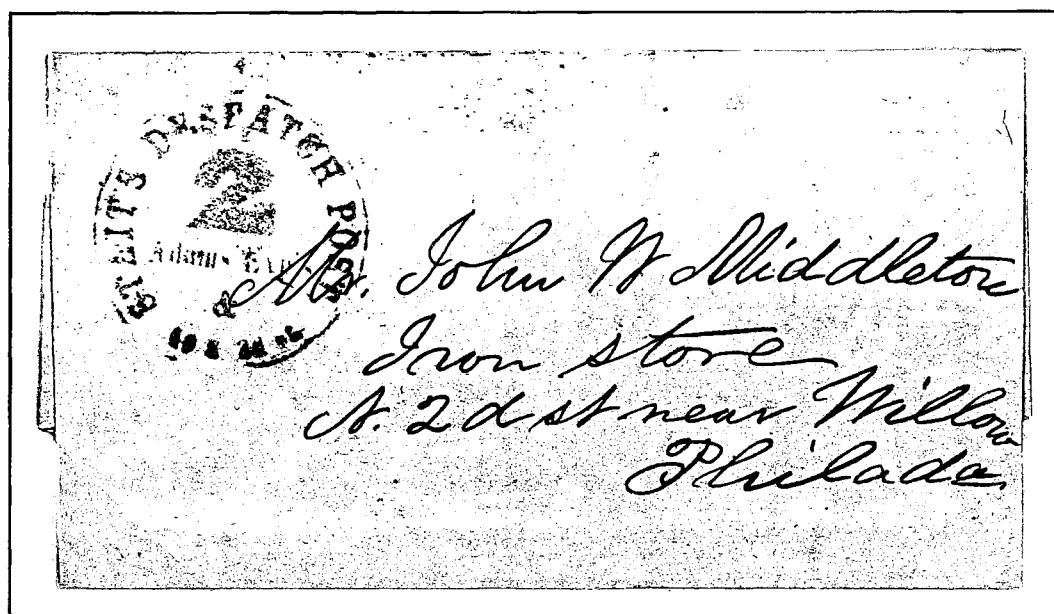
The books are now open for the first series of Tontines, and will close on the first day of May next.

# Stait's Despatch Post

This handstamp shows that Stait maintained his relationship with Adams' Express after moving.

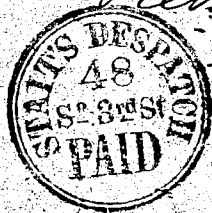


1850. "STAIT'S DESPATCH POST/AT/ADAMS' EXPR'SS/PAID  
&  
48 S.3d St."



1851. Same handstamp, but with "2" (Due).





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The Charges against the Collector and Surveyor of  
the Port of Philadelphia.

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REPLY OF CHARLES GIBBONS  
TO THE  
ARGUMENT OF DAVID PAUL BROWN, ESQ.  
WITH AN APPENDIX,  
CONTAINING THE STATEMENT OF THE  
HON. JAMES COOPER,  
IN ANSWER TO THE NARRATIVE OF WM. D. LEWIS.

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Stait's Despatch Post



*Philadelphia, January 31, 1850.*

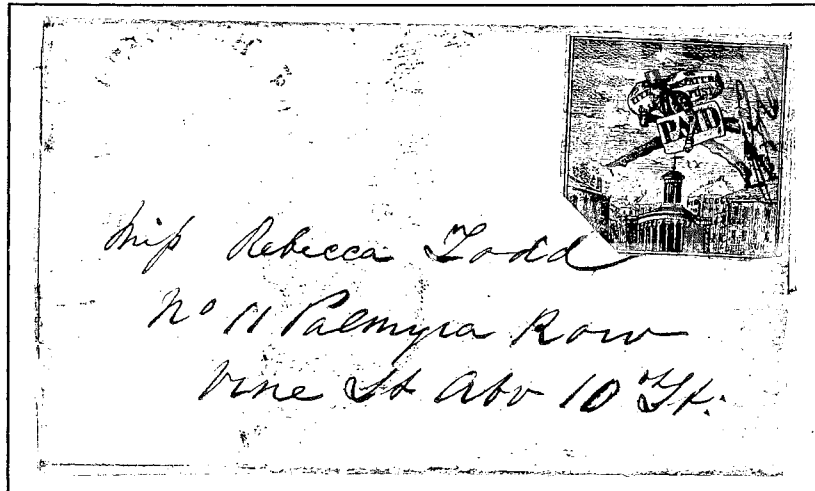
*In accordance with a Resolution passed at a Meeting of the Stockholders of the Pennsylvania Rail-road Company on 24th December, 1849, for the appointment of a Committee to procure subscriptions to the Stock of said Company, I have appointed Boyc Hale as one of that Committee, and respectfully request his attendance at the Office, No. 70 Walnut Street, on February 1st, at 11 o'clock, A. M.*

**THOMAS P. COPE,**  
**Chairman.**

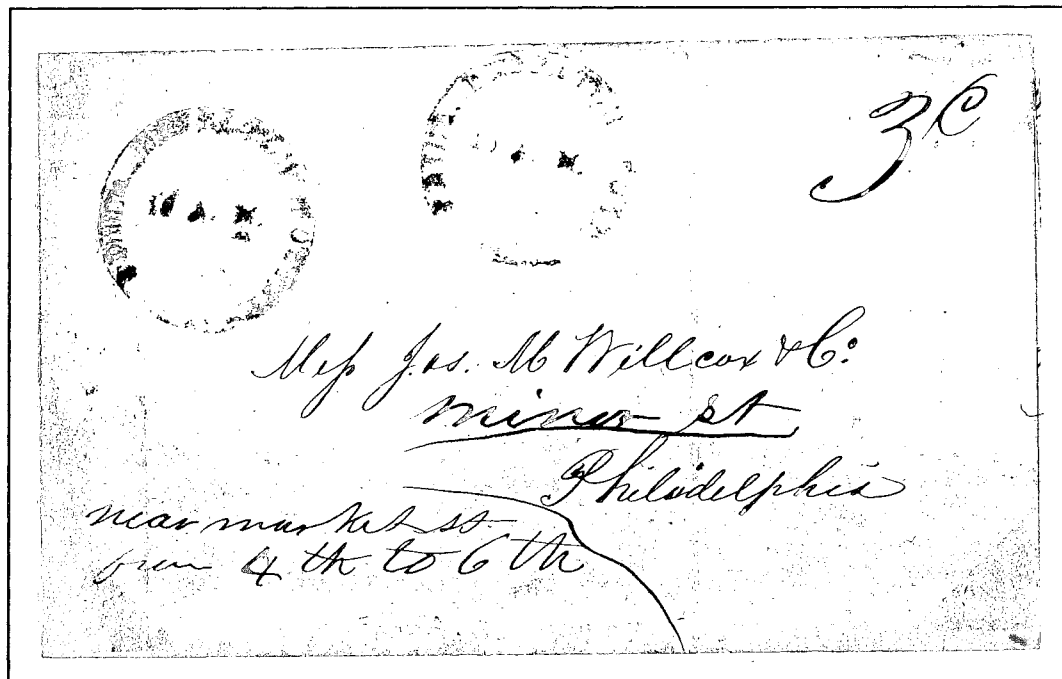
This handstamp also appears on the face of this locally delivered printed circular.

## Philadelphia Despatch Post

This Local Post, the first within Philadelphia City limits, was started in 1842 by Robertson & Co.

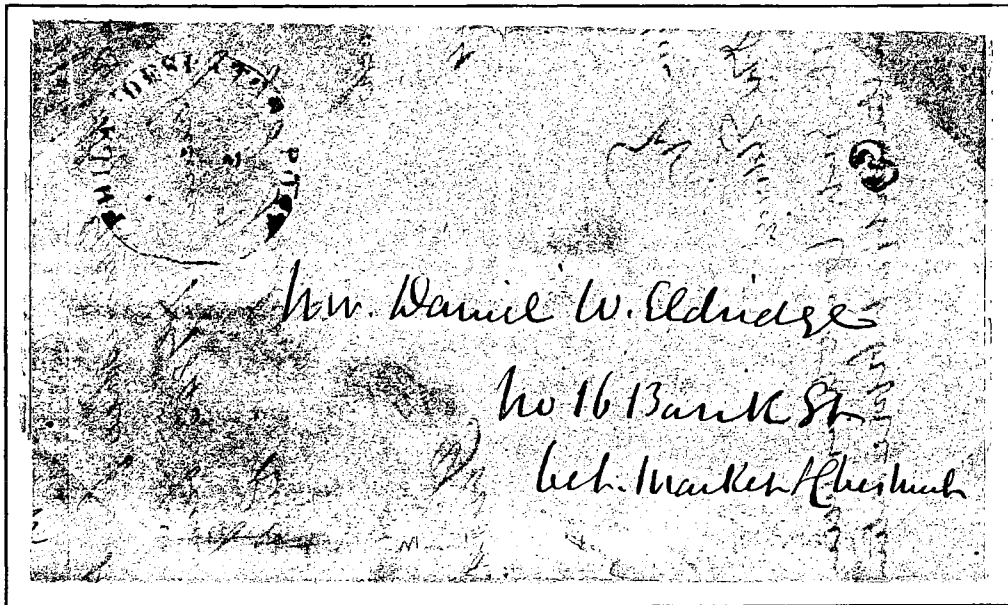


May 9, 1844. Initialled in ink: "R & Co."

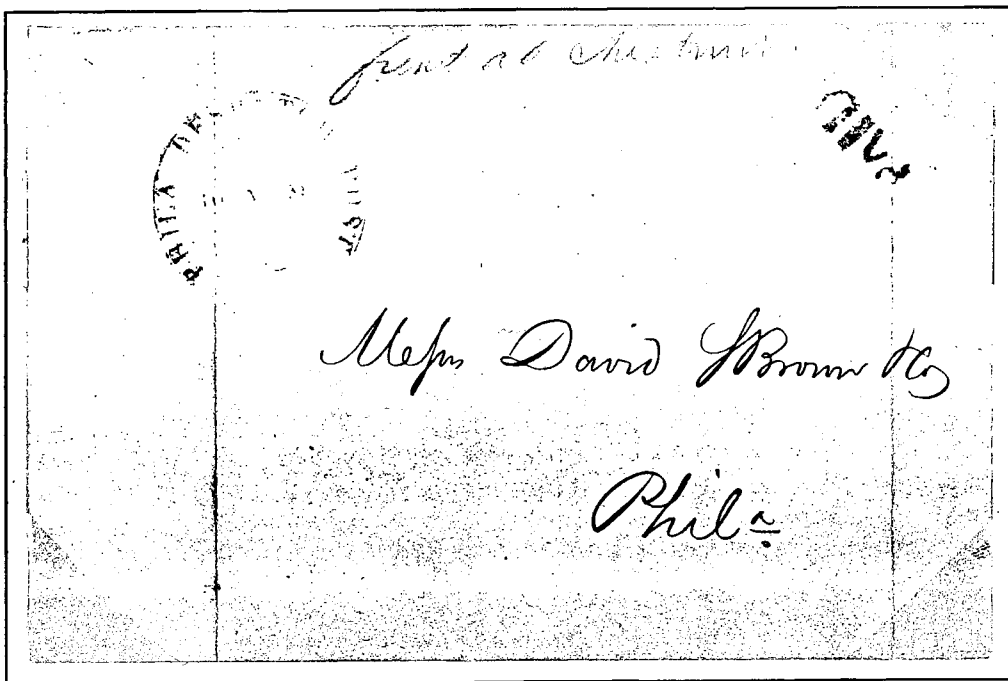


February 16, 1843. "3c" <Due> in manuscript

Philadelphia Despatch Post



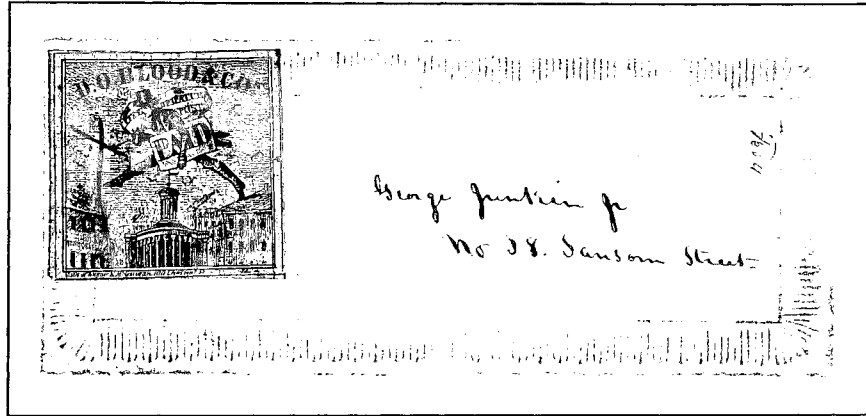
March 4, 1844. "PHILA DESPATCH POST/time"; "3" (Due)



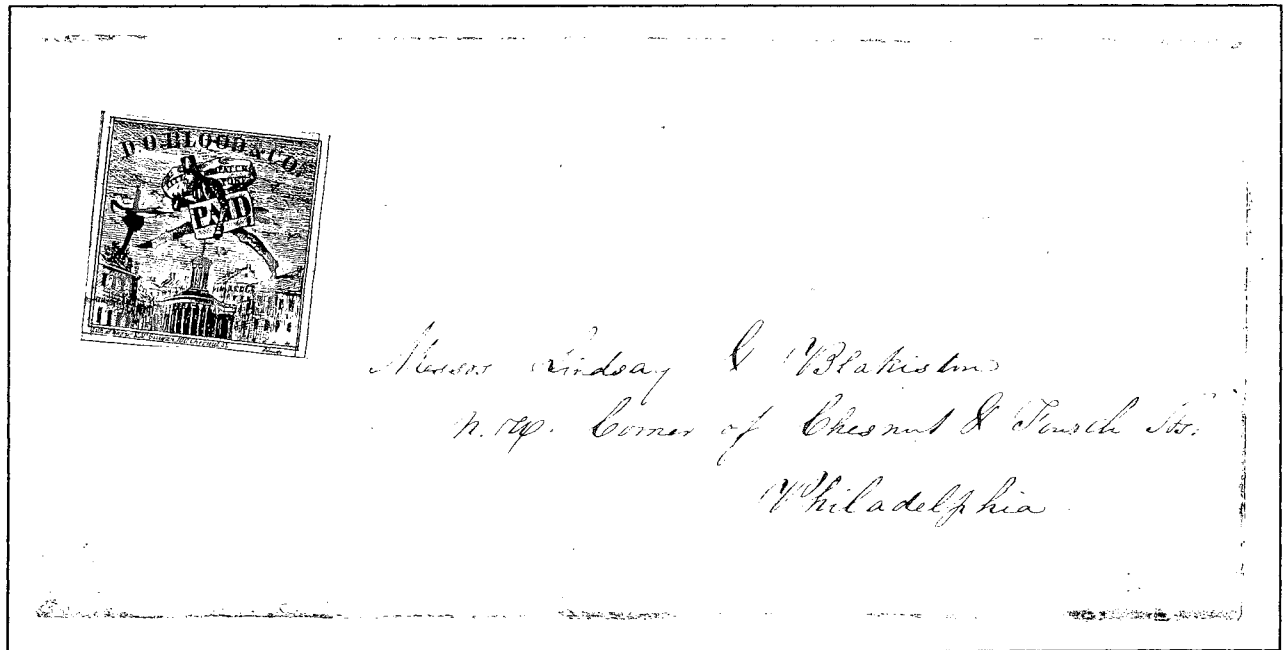
January 22, 1844. "PAID".

D.O. Blood & Co.

Daniel O. Blood acquired the Philadelphia Despatch Post from Robertson & Co. on July 7, 1845, renaming the business *Blood's Despatch*.



No year date.

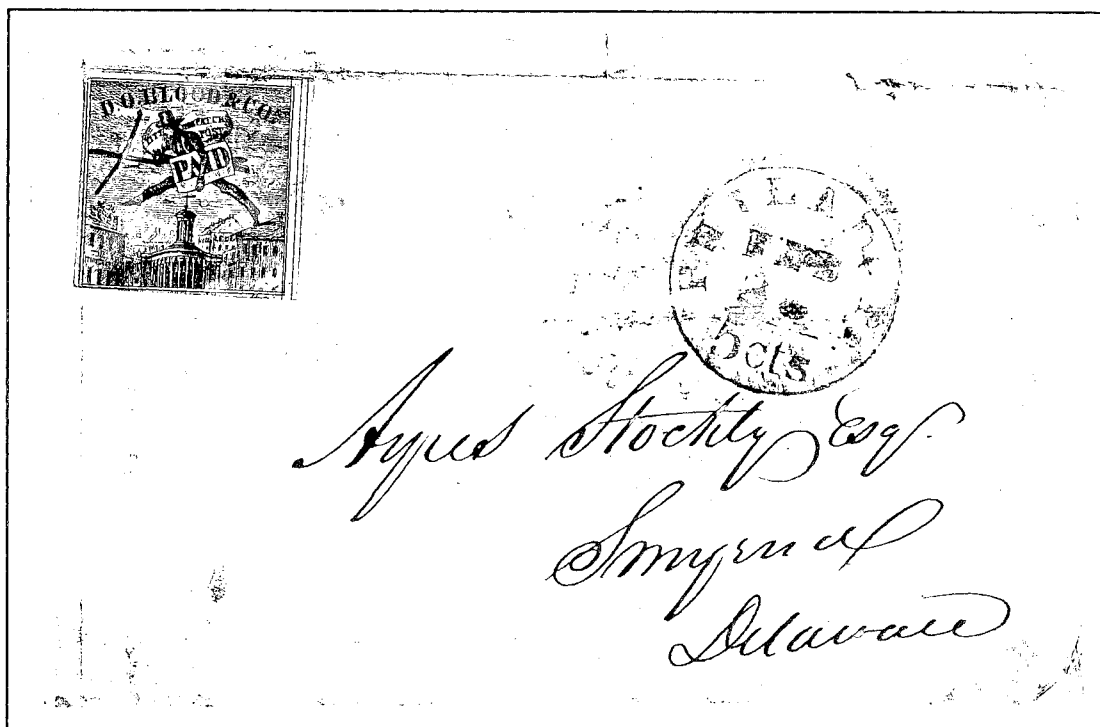


No year date.

After Blood's had exhausted the existing stock of "*Striding Messenger*" stamps he had acquired from Robertson & Co., Blood had new stamps printed with Blood's Company name at the top.

D. O. Blood & Co.

"To the Mails"

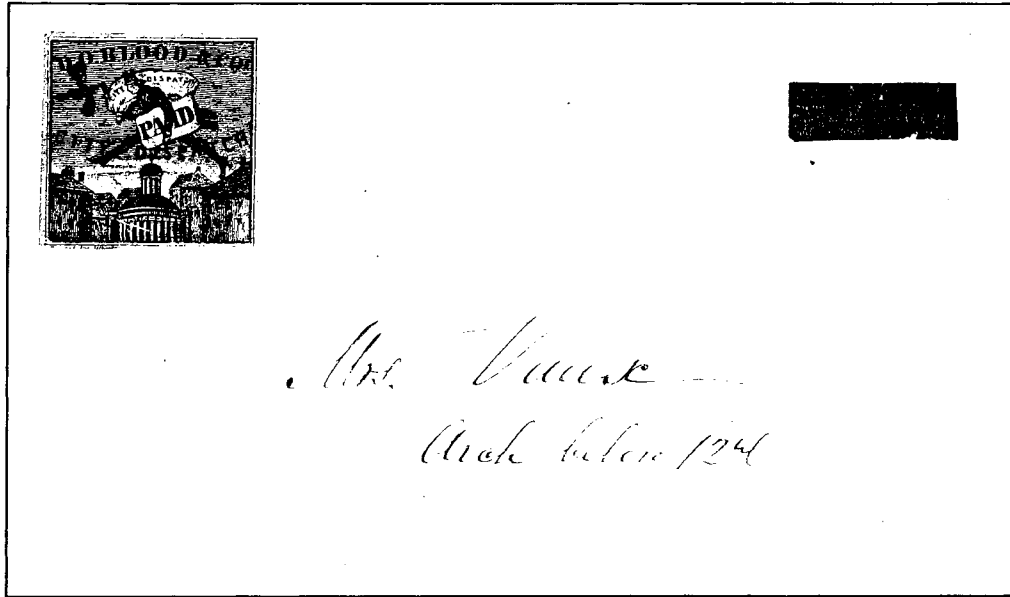


February 23, 1847.

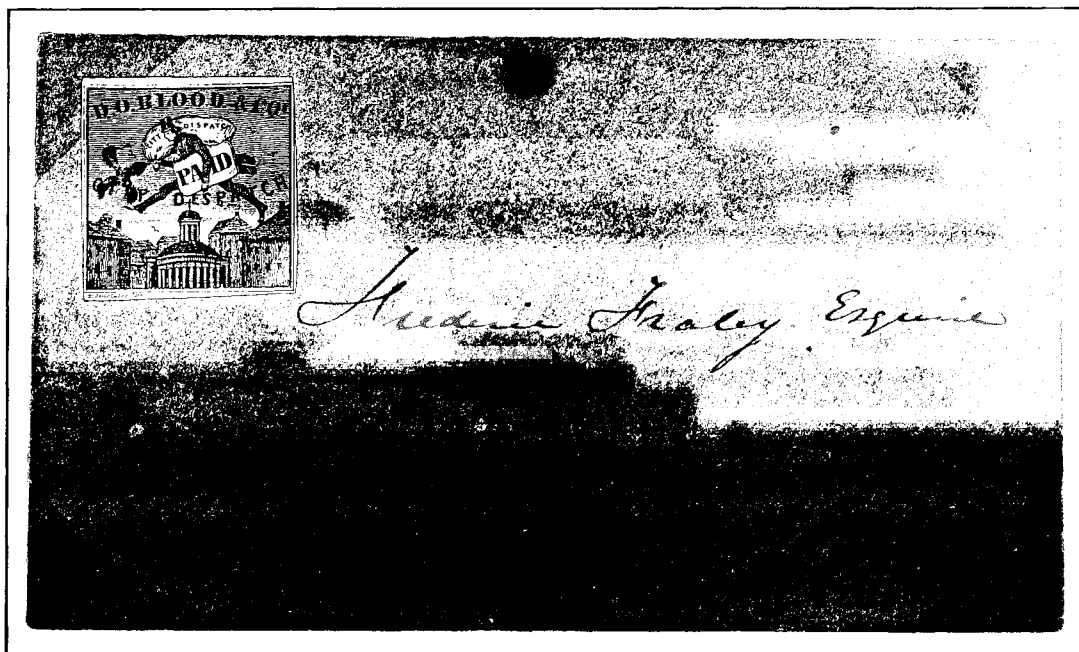
Once Blood's issued stamps in 1846 to be used  
"FOR THE POST OFFICE", it was unusual to find  
the *Striding Messenger* used to the Mails.

D. O. Blood & Co.

When the existing stock of stamps ran out, Blood replaced them with a newly engraved issue having the phrase "CITY DESPATCH" in the center.

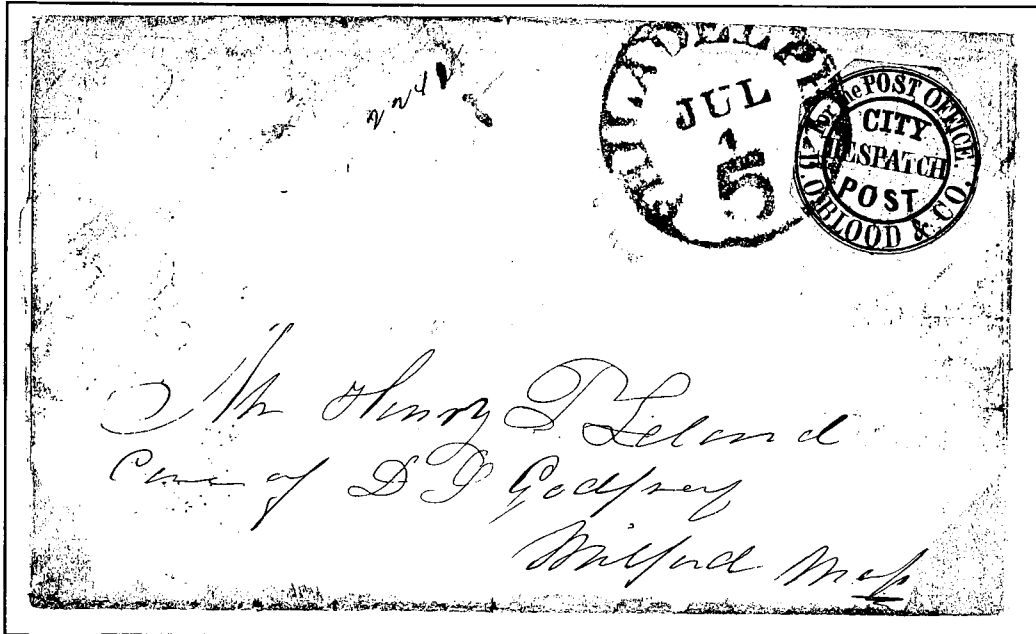


December 1847. Printed circular.

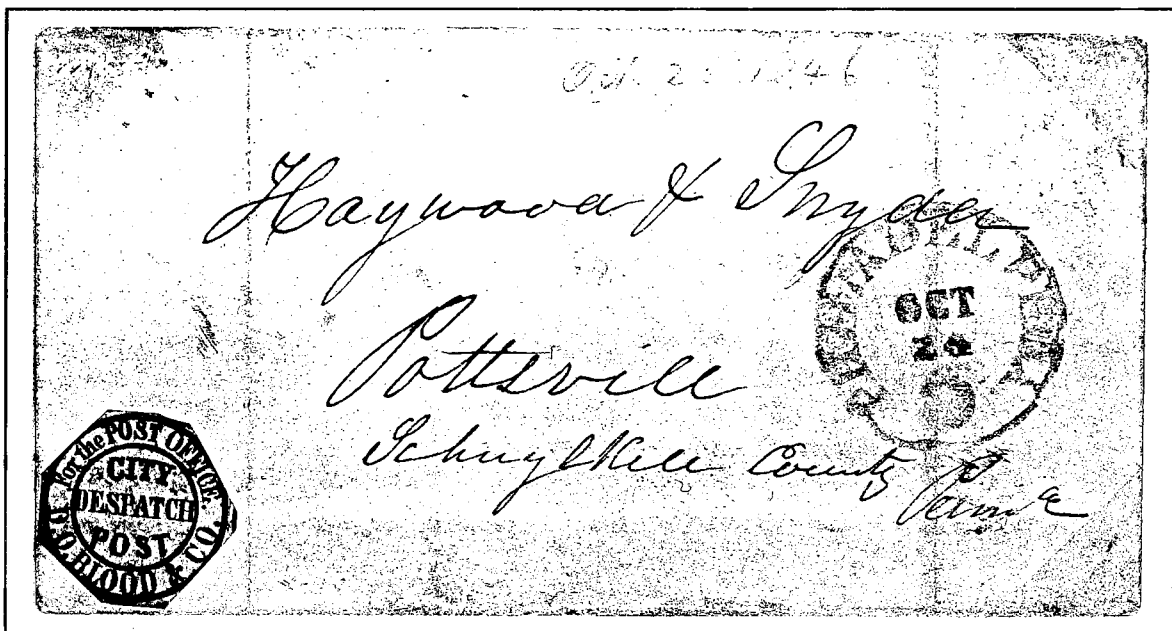


D. O. Blood & Co.

"FOR THE POST OFFICE"



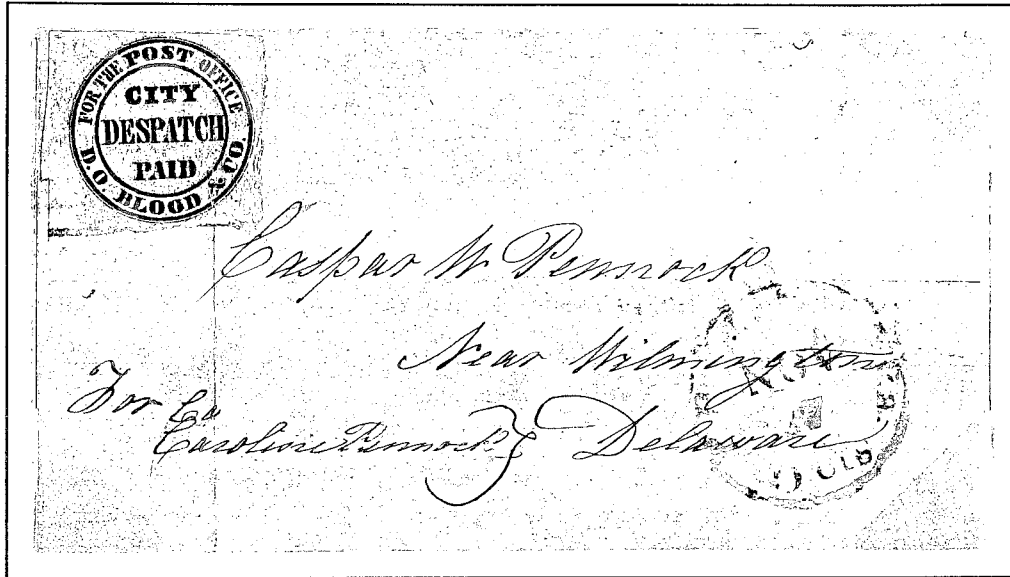
July 1, 1846. Type I ("POST") adhesive.



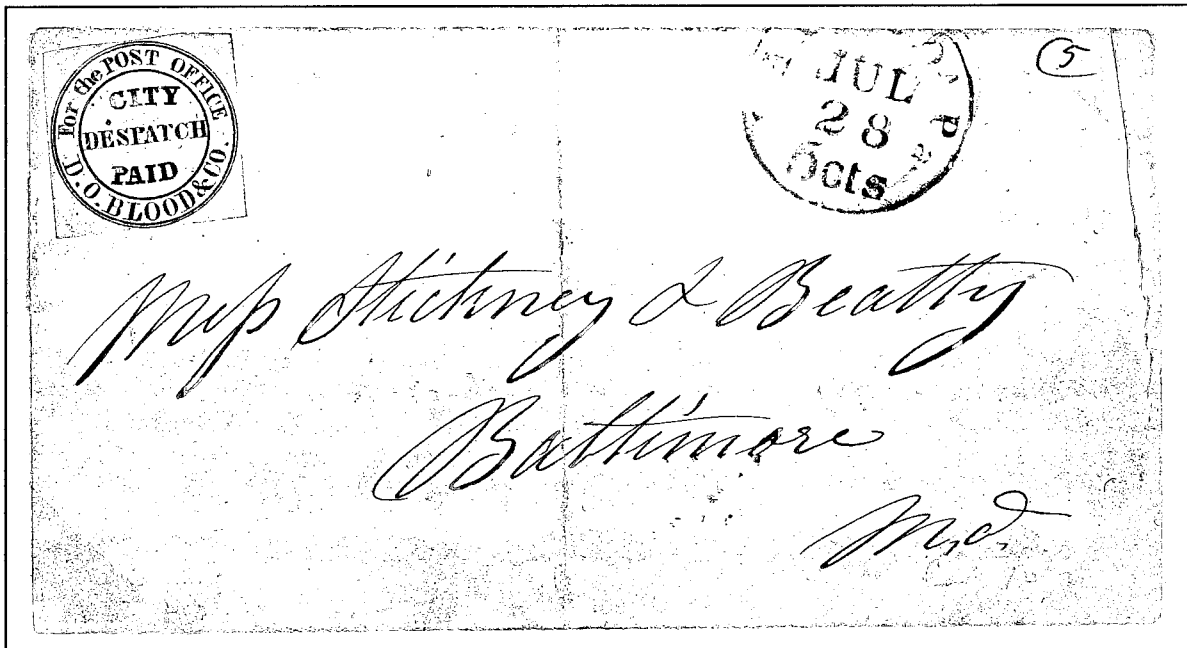
October 25, 1846. Type I.



D. O. Blood & Co.



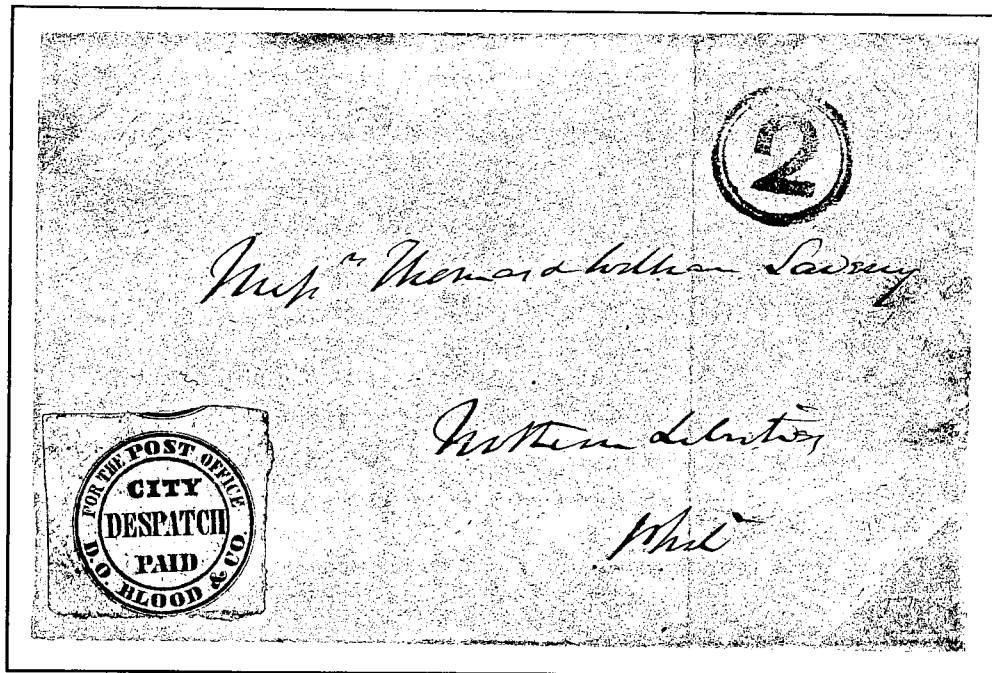
November 7, 1848. Type III ("PAID" in straight line).



July 27, 1847. Type II ("PAID" curved).

D. O. Blood & Co.

"Local Delivery" use of the "FOR THE POST OFFICE" stamp.

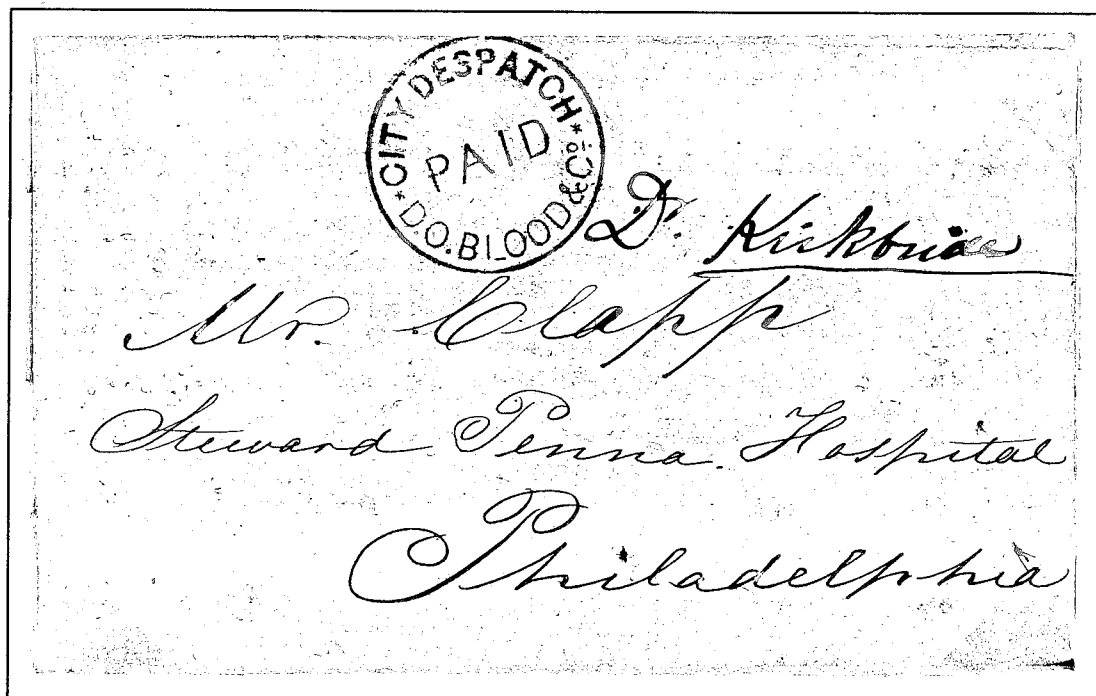


1848. 2¢ Drop Letter rate.

Northern Liberties, the destination, was serviced by the Philadelphia Post Office at this time, so the letter was treated as a Drop Letter.

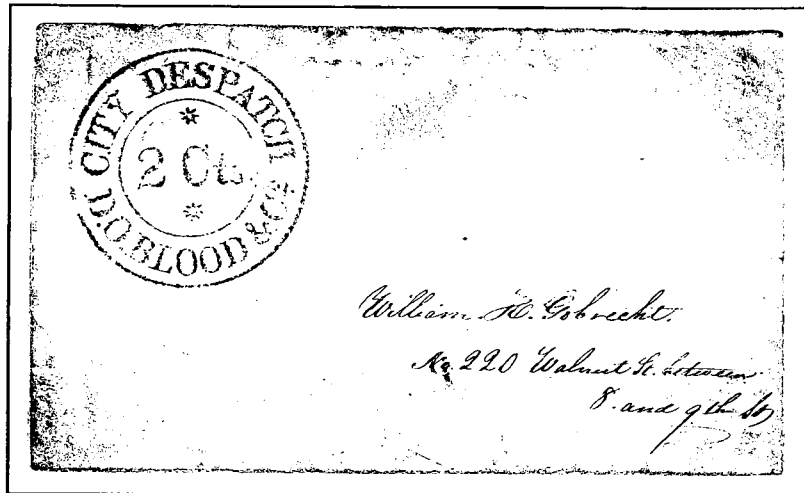
## Introduction of Blood's Handstamps

In 1847, Blood's introduced two handstamps, one showing prepayment and one showing payment due.



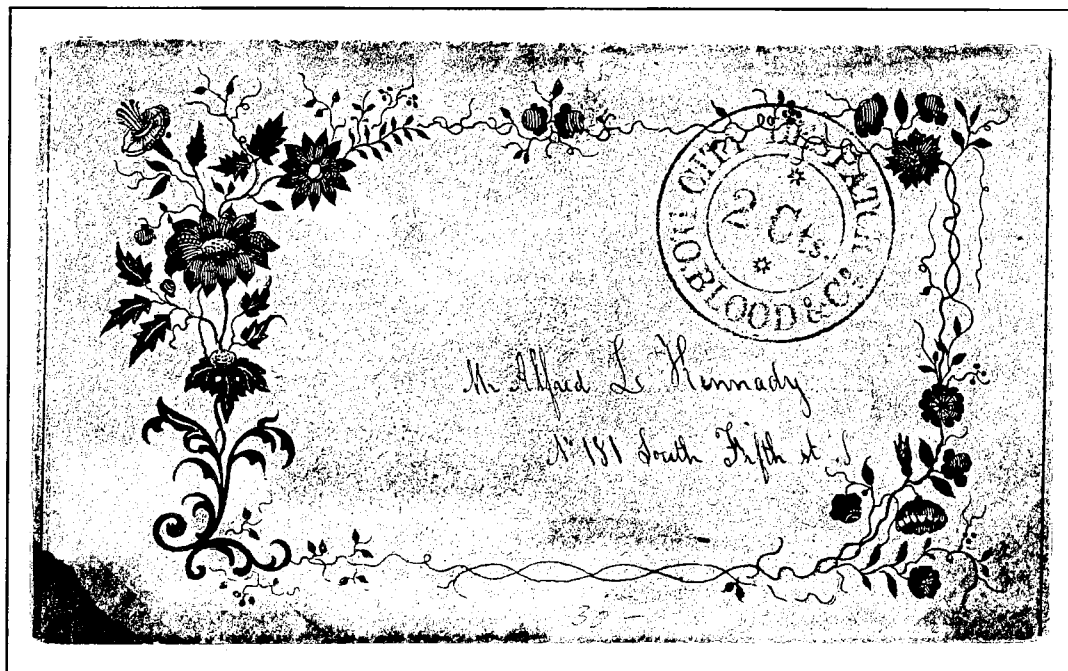
October 5, 1847.

2¢ Payment Due



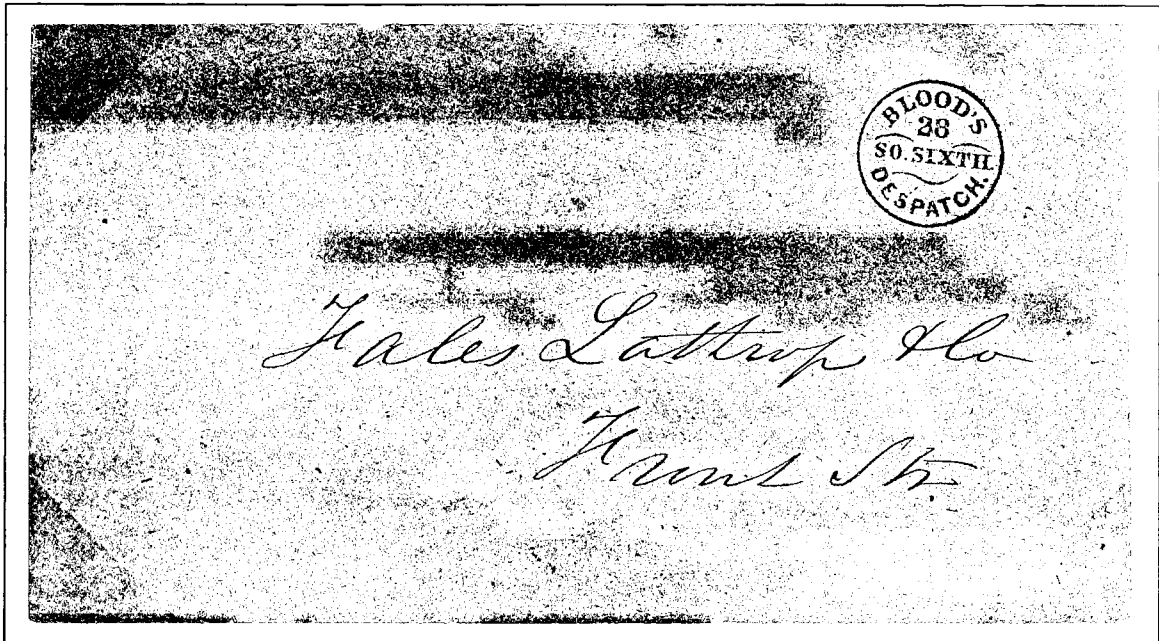
Red

1847.

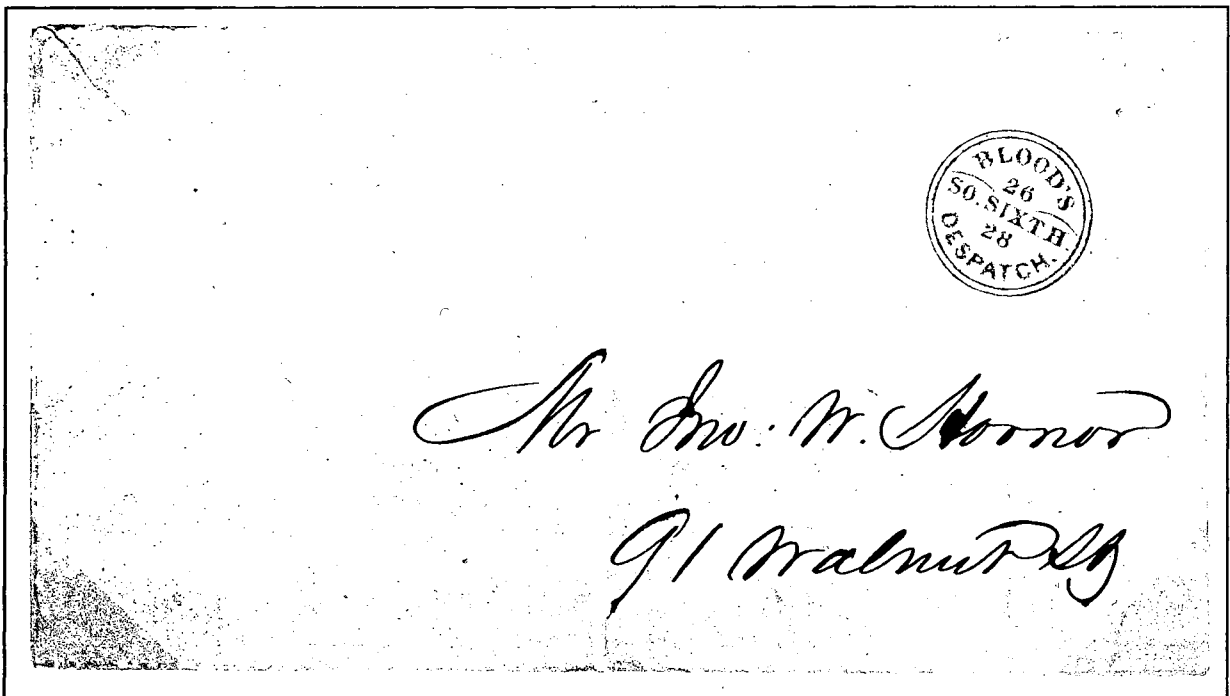


Black

## Blood's Expands His Office

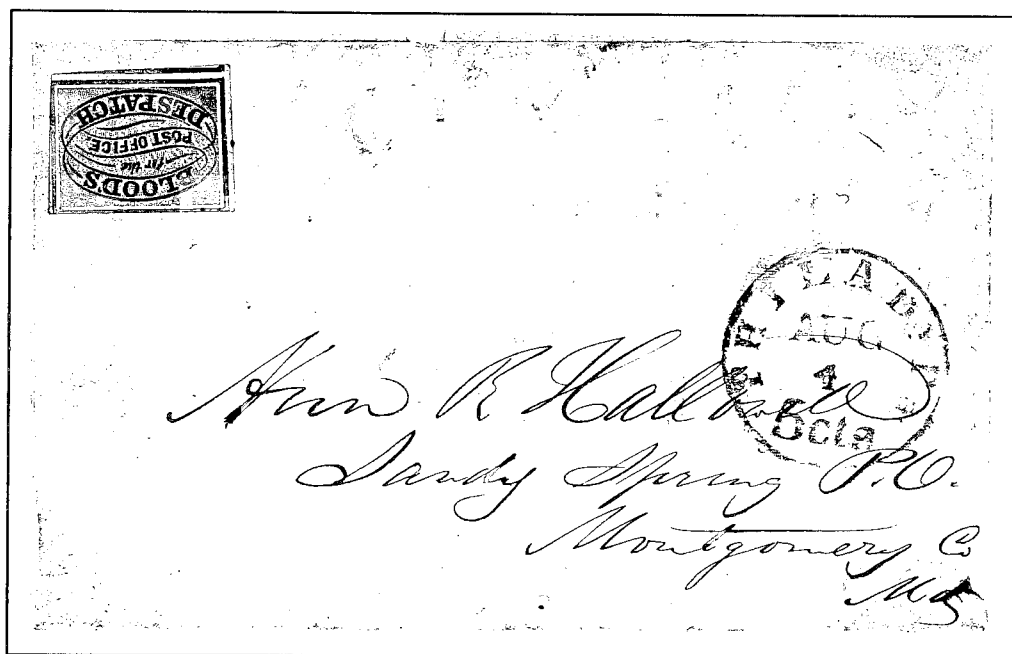


No date, but likely 1849 since Blood's moved its office to 28 So. Sixth Street in 1849, and expanded next door to 26 So. Sixth in 1850.



# Blood's Introduces Three New Stamps in 1848

One of the stamps issued in 1848



August 4, 1848

We do not know why Blood's issued *three stamps*,  
since each represented a value of 2¢.

One of the New Stamps Issued in 1848  
with 2¢ Value



Myers Lindsay & Blackiston  
S.W. corner 4<sup>th</sup> & Chestnut  
Philadelphia

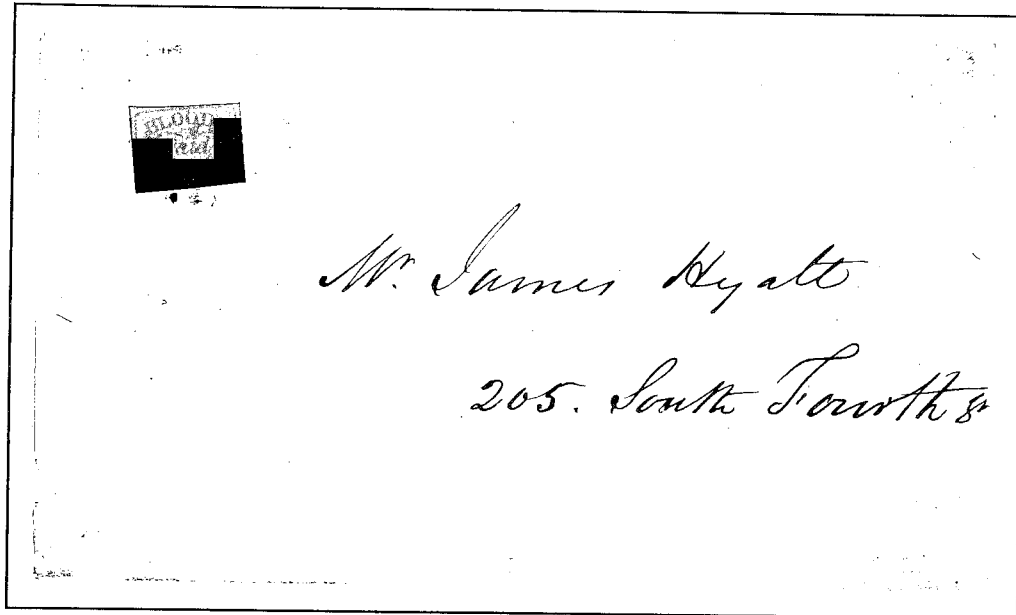


John Haseltine Gage  
No 10 South  
St James  
Phila

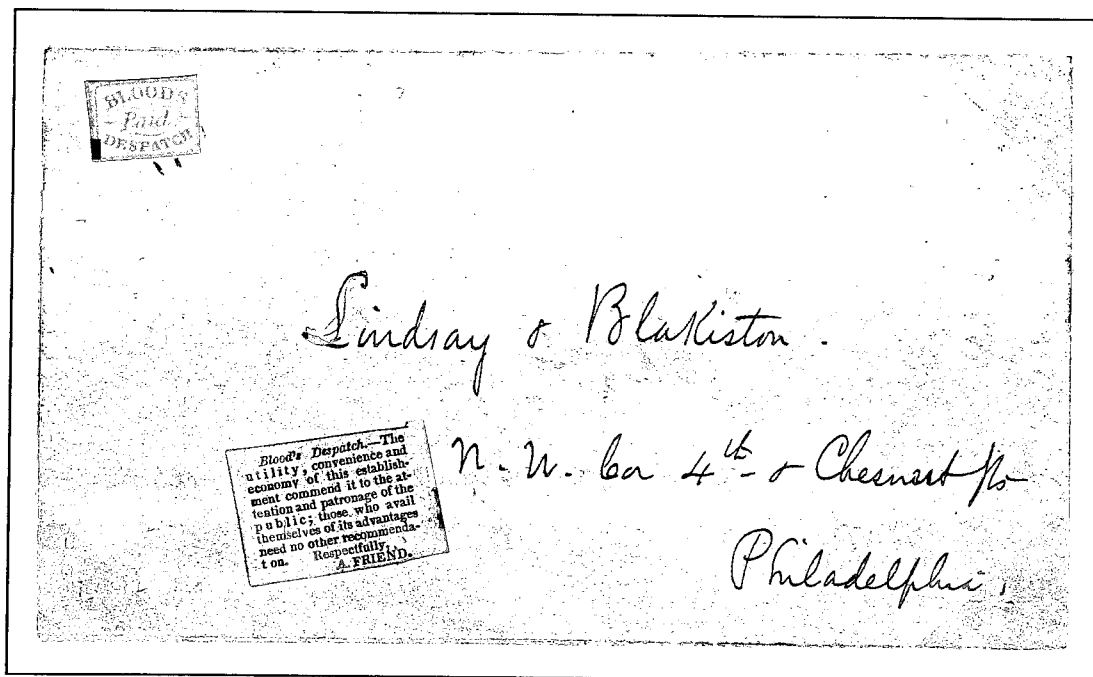
July 8, 1848.

One of the Stamps issued in 1848

The Center "PAID"

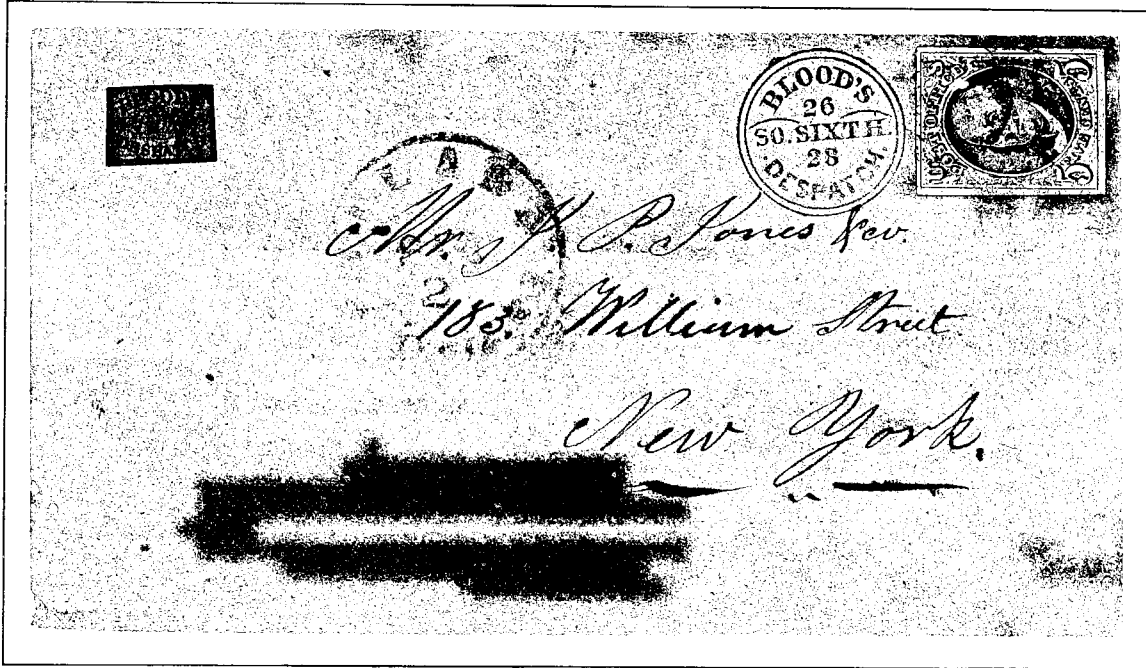


December 27, 1848.



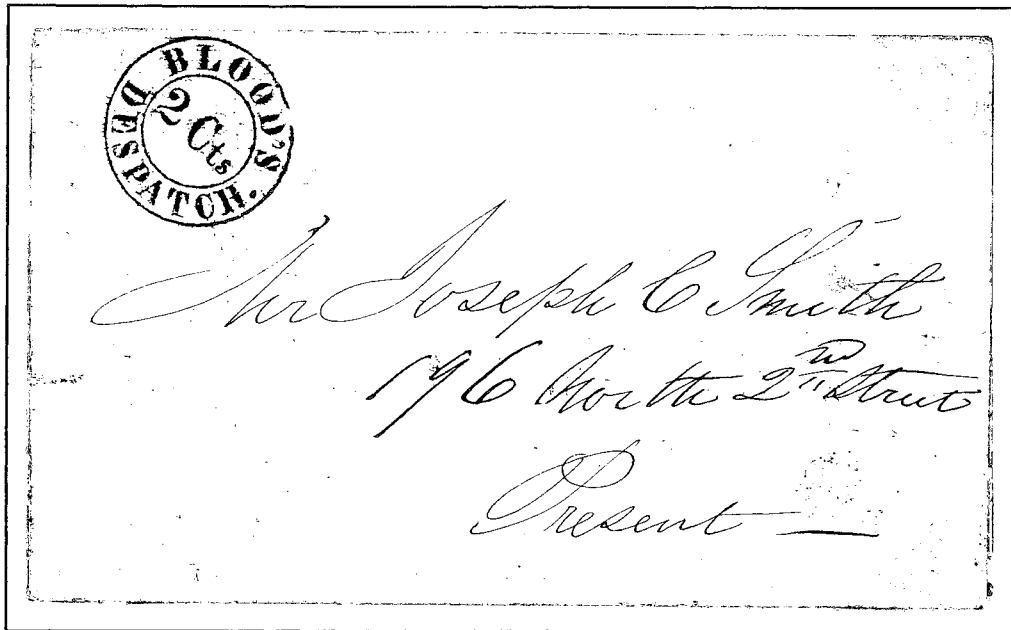


The Center "PAID"

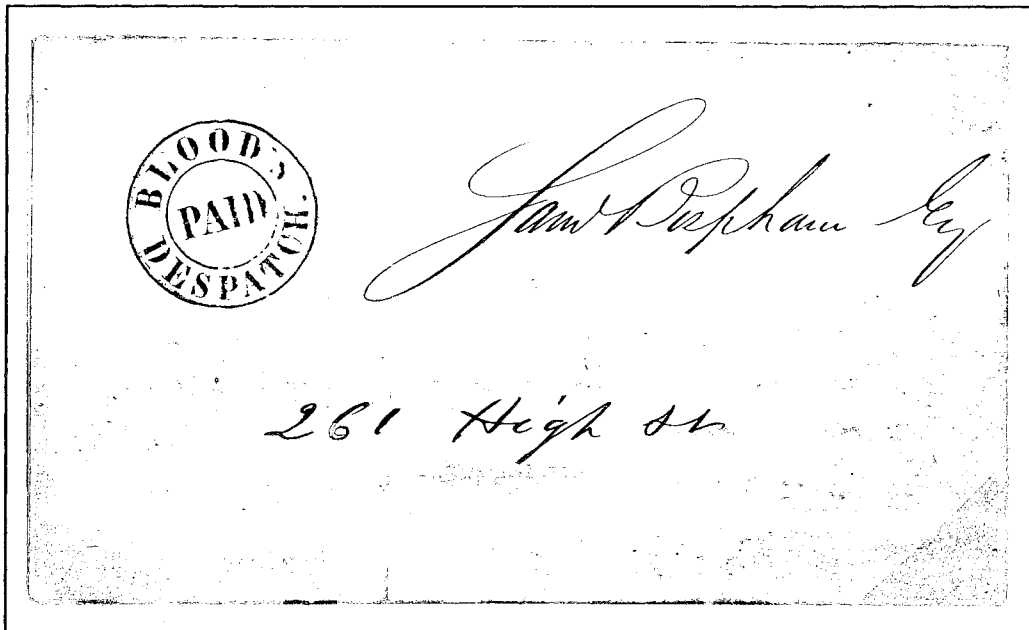


No date, but Blood's handstamp Type 10 was in use 1850-1851;  
the Philadelphia CDS (Type 43) was in use 1848-1850. The  
overlap dates this cover as 1850.

Latest Reported Use of "2¢" (Due)

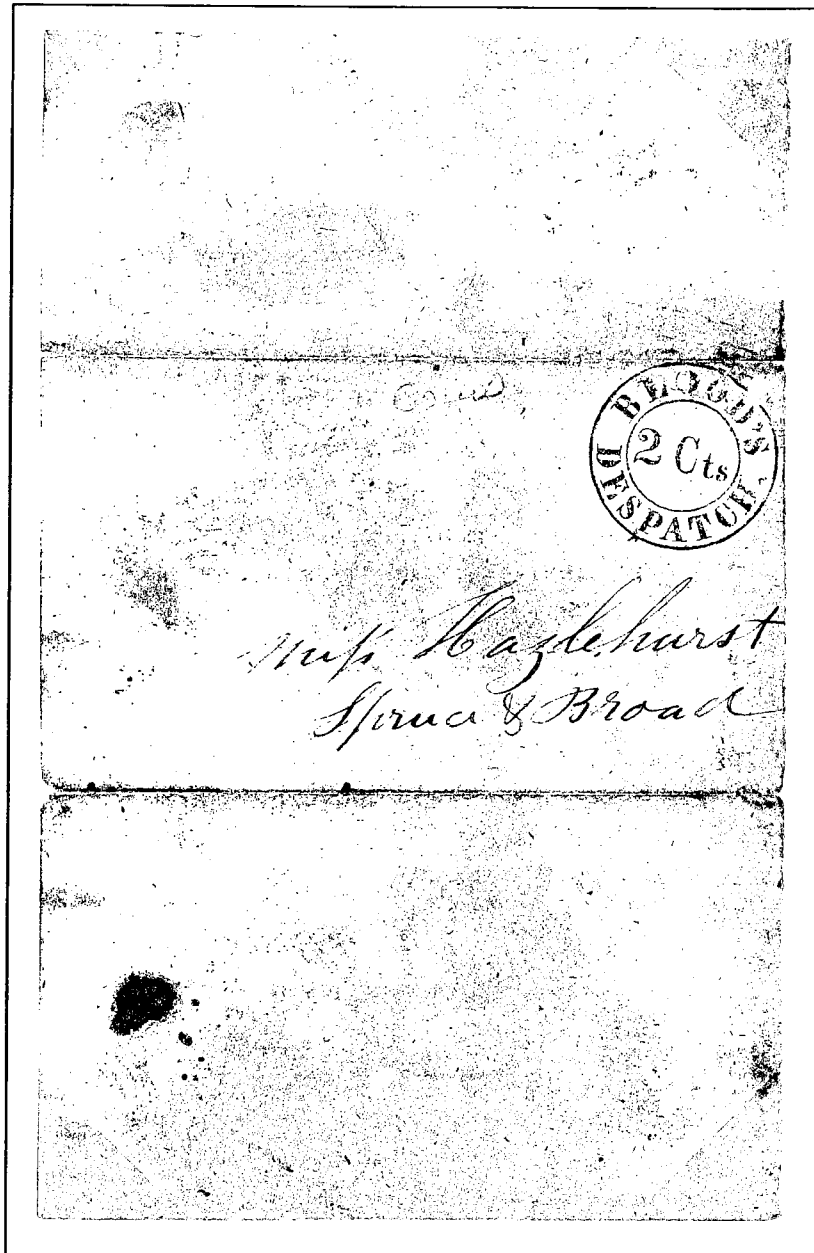


November 10, 1848.



November 29, 1848. "PAID".

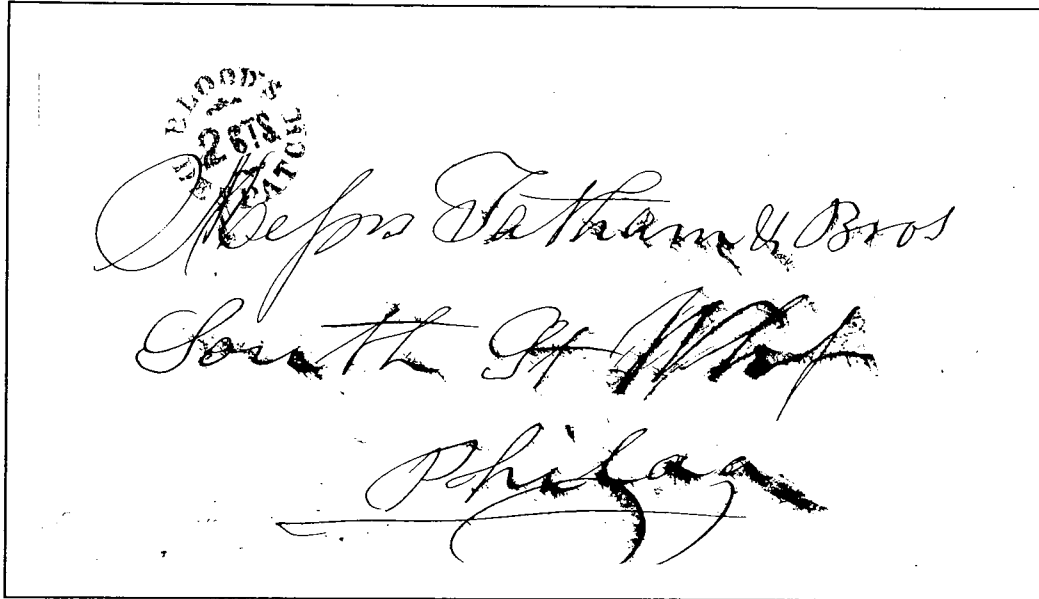
Blood's Handstamp on a Wrapper



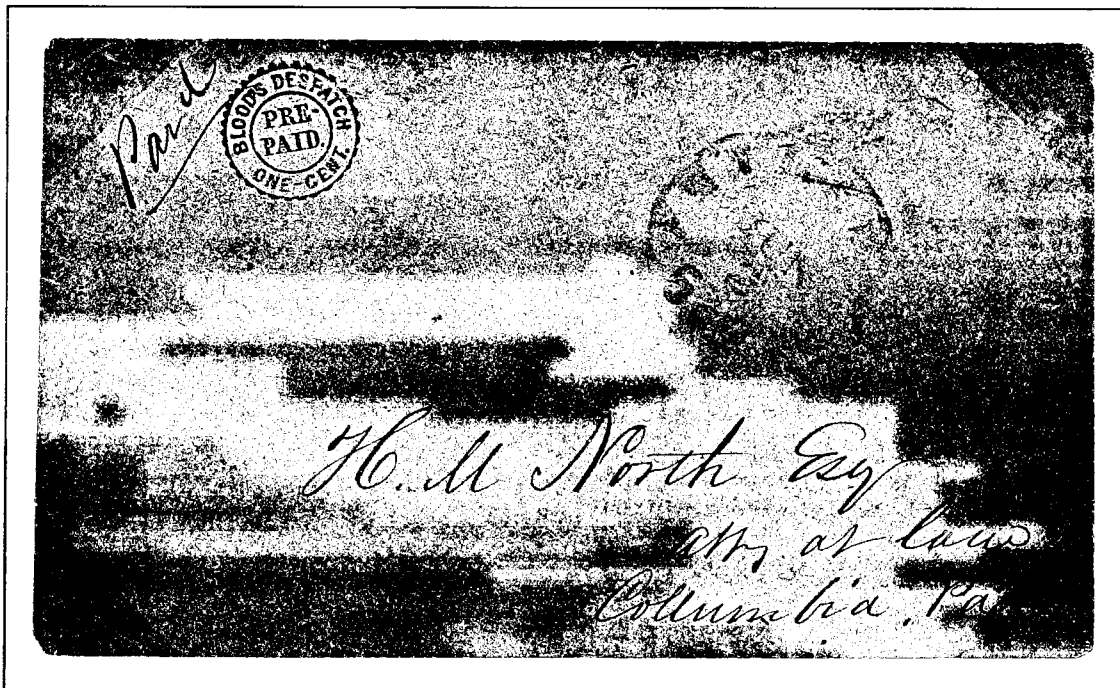
No date.

## Blood's Again Carries Unpaid Letters

In 1851, Blood's advertised (*Public Ledger*, April 8) that it would begin to transmit *UNPAID* letters for 2 cents each, and *PREPAID* letters for 1 cent each. New handstamps were then introduced to reflect this service.

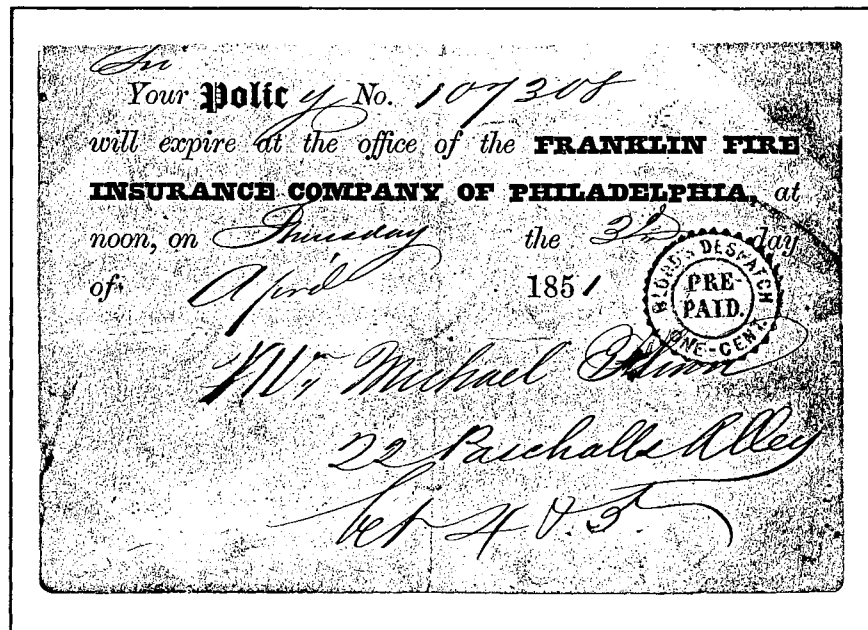


November 4, 1852.



June 4, 1851.

Earliest Reported Use of "PREPAID" Handstamp

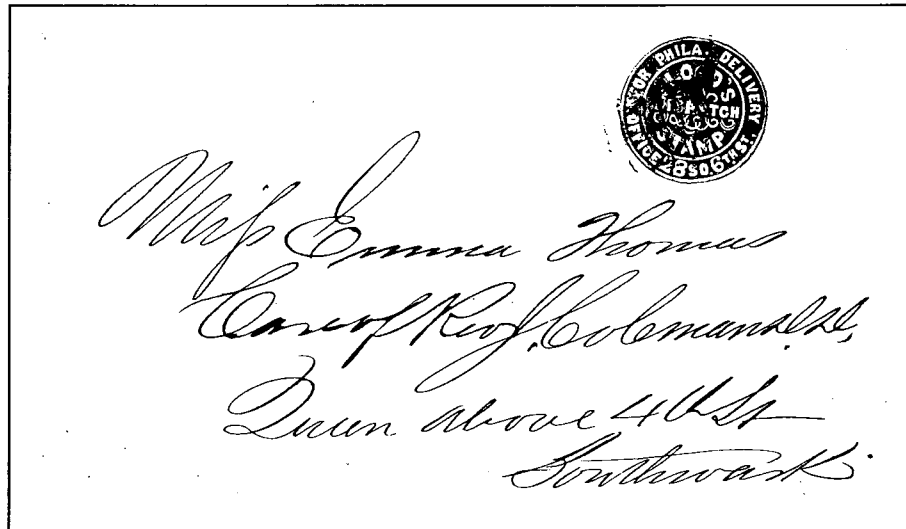


April 3, 1851.

Pre-Paid Notice of Insurance Premium Due.

Type I Embossed Envelope

28 So. 6th St.



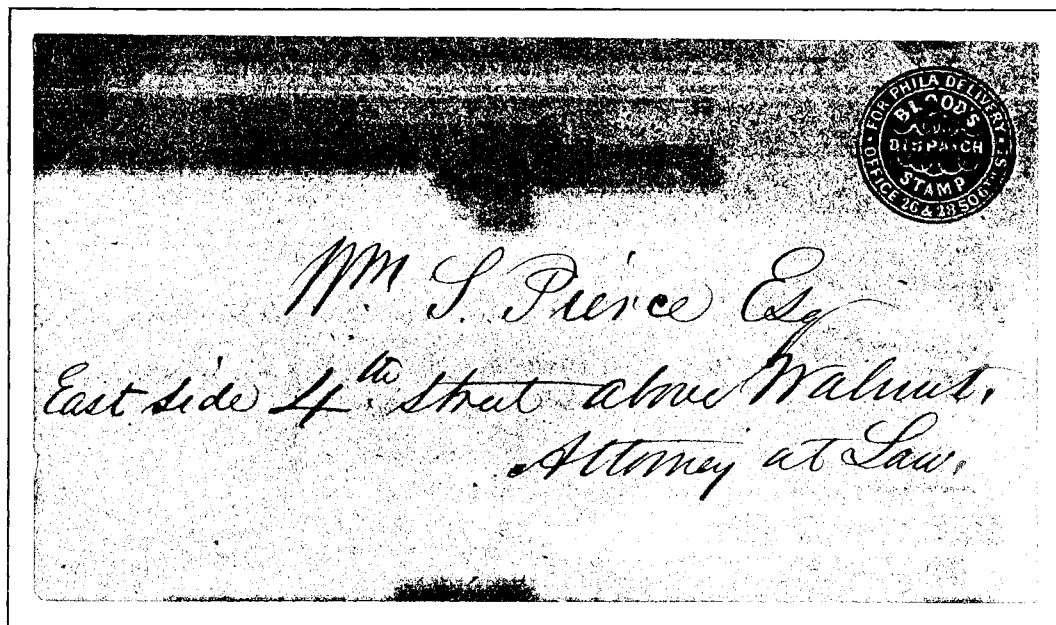
White laid paper.



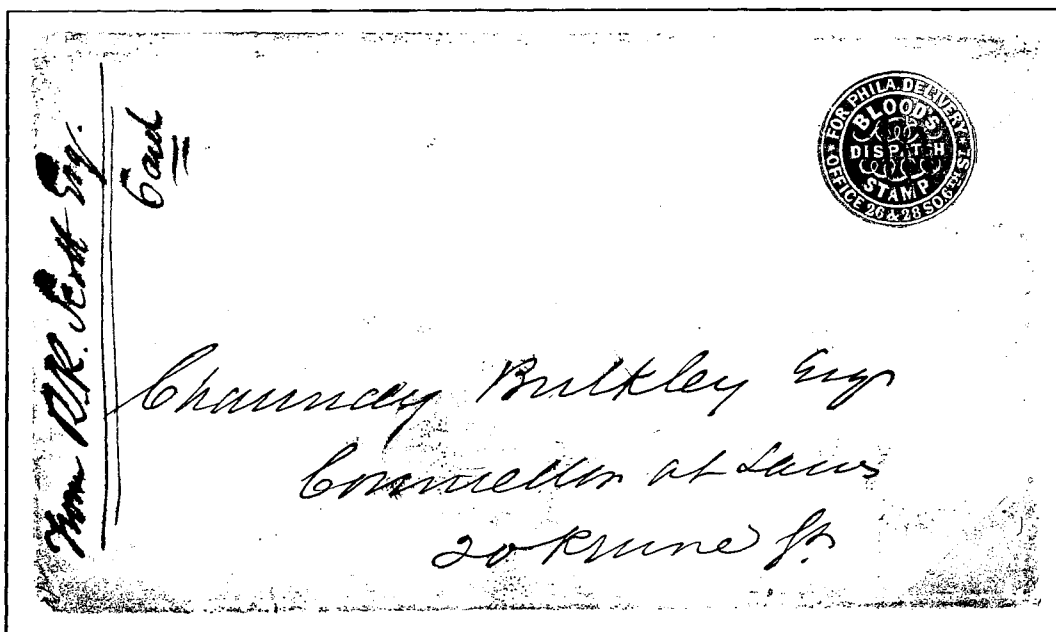
Buff paper.

Type II Embossed Envelope

26 & 28 So. 6th St.



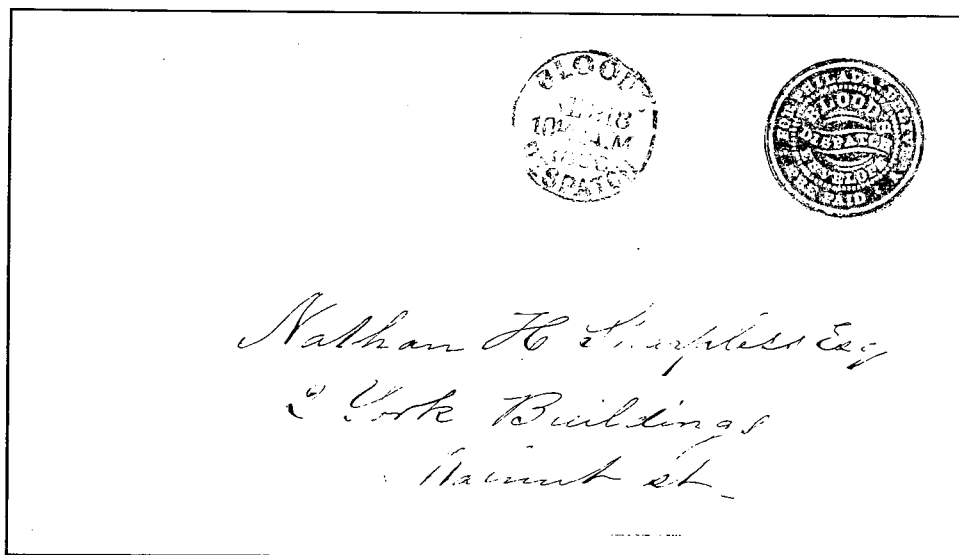
Buff paper.



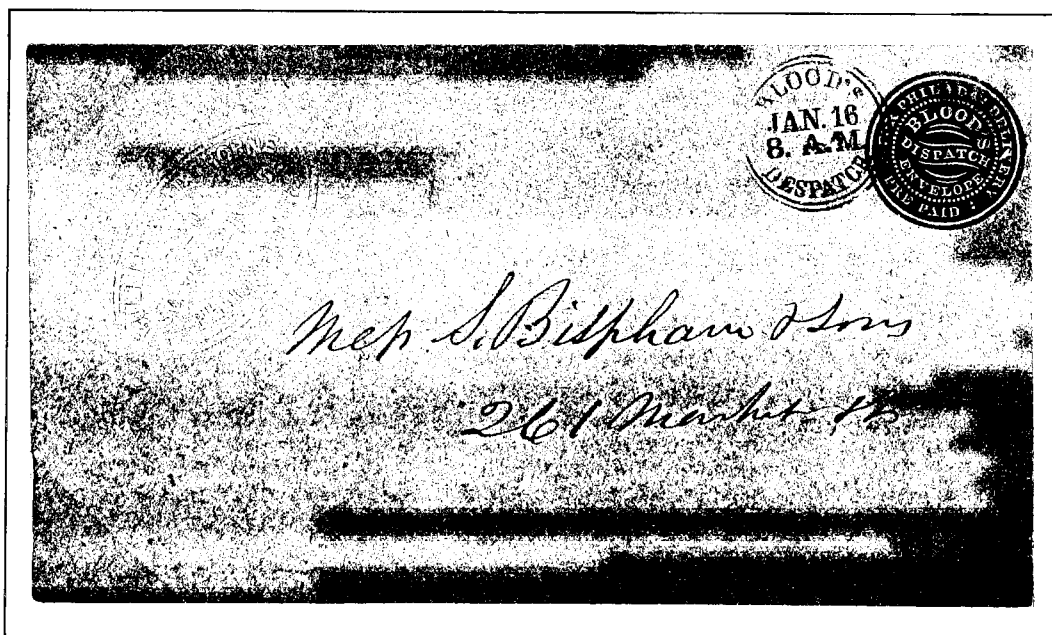
White paper.

Type III Embossed Envelope

PREPAID



White wavy paper.

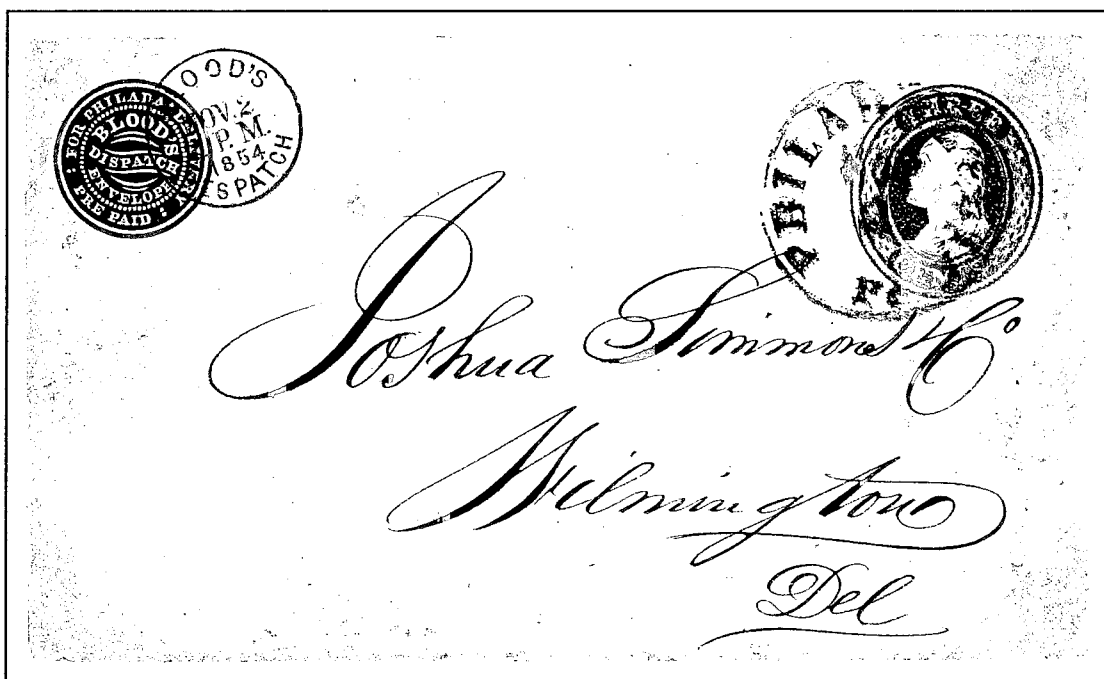


Buff paper.



**A Blood's Innovation for the Convenience of its Customers**

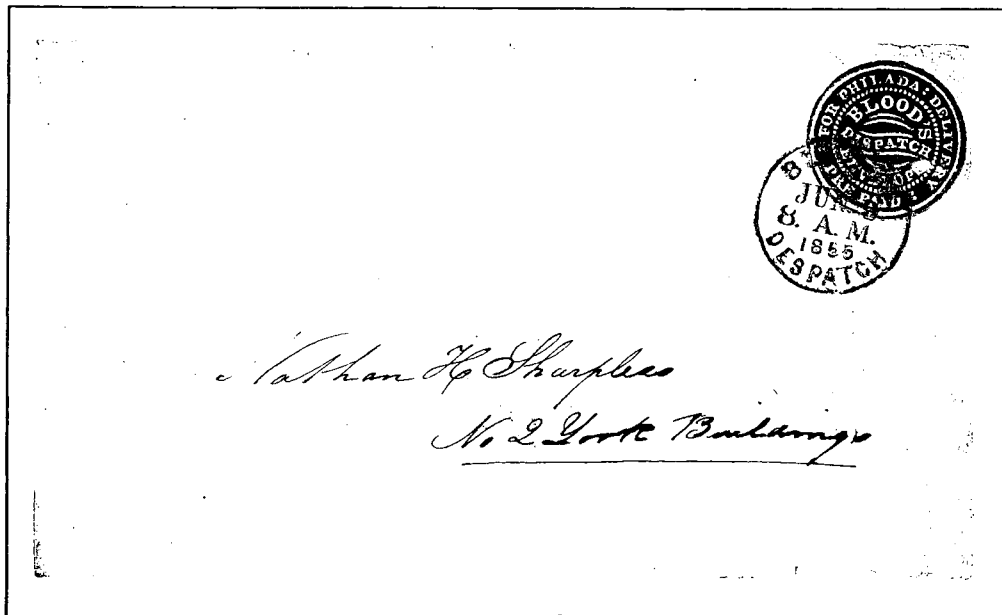
Blood's offered embossed envelopes well in advance of the Post Office. It also offered its customers the Government issue envelope with its own embossing on it.



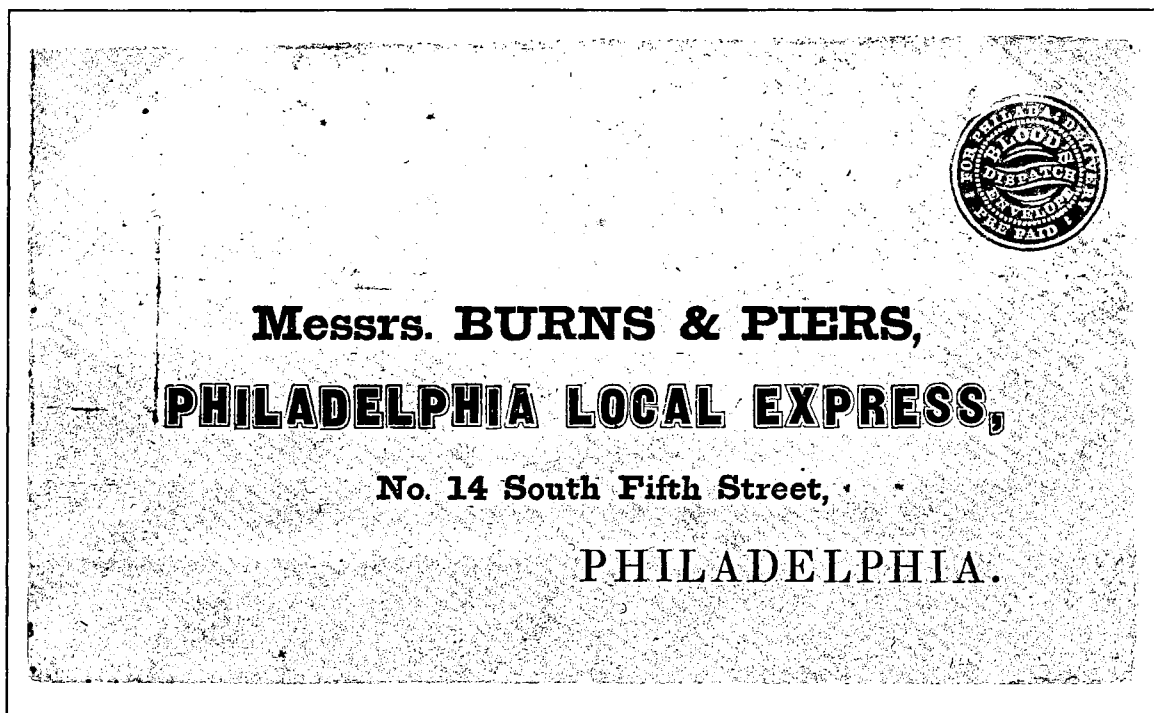
November 2, 1854.

Type III Embossed Envelope

Type III Embossed Envelope



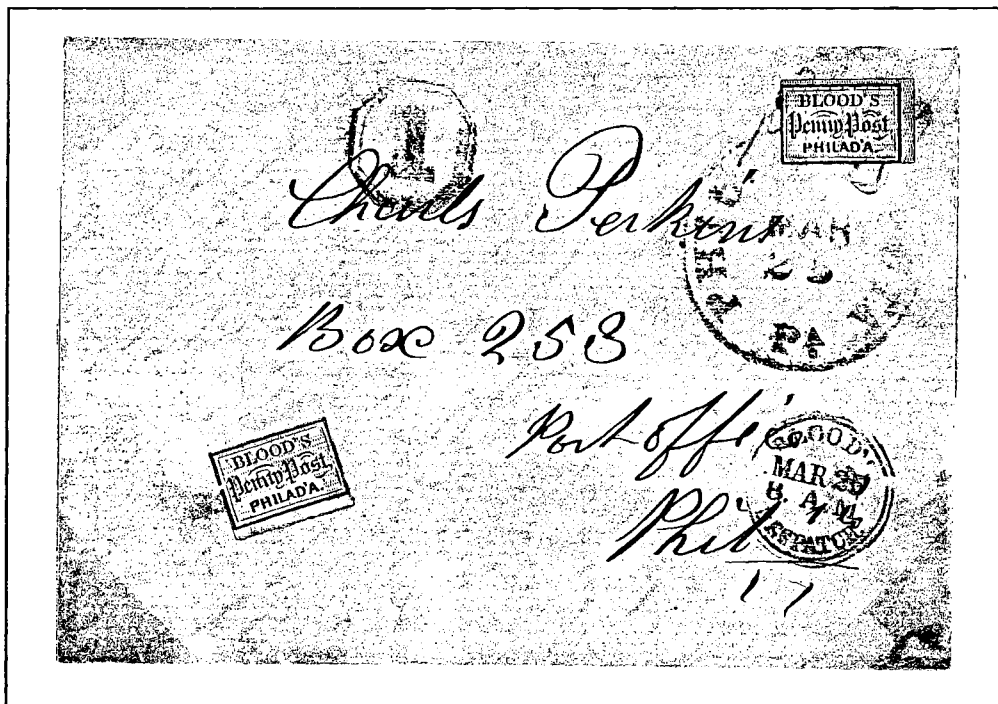
White wove paper.



Laid paper.

*Two Services Provided by Blood's*

It appears that this folded letter (which is internally dated "March 23") was delivered by Blood's to the Post Office, was placed in "Box 253", and was rated 1¢ [Due] as a Drop Letter. This would account for one adhesive.



No year date. Blue on pink paper adhesives.

Thereafter, it appears that Blood's retrieved the letter from the Post Office (and paid the 1¢ due) and probably delivered the letter to Mr. Perkins, charging the additional penny for this service.

*Dr. J. R. Paul*

*Spruce ab. 10<sup>th</sup> St.*

Vol. II.

NEW SERIES.

No. 4.

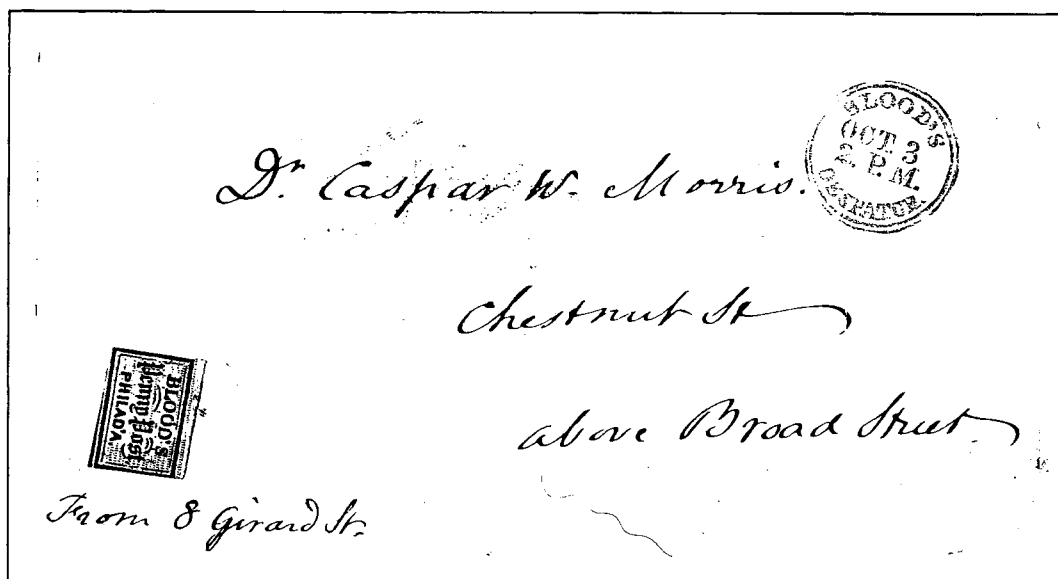
QUARTERLY SUMMARY  
OF THE  
TRANSACTIONS OF THE  
COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS  
OF PHILADELPHIA.



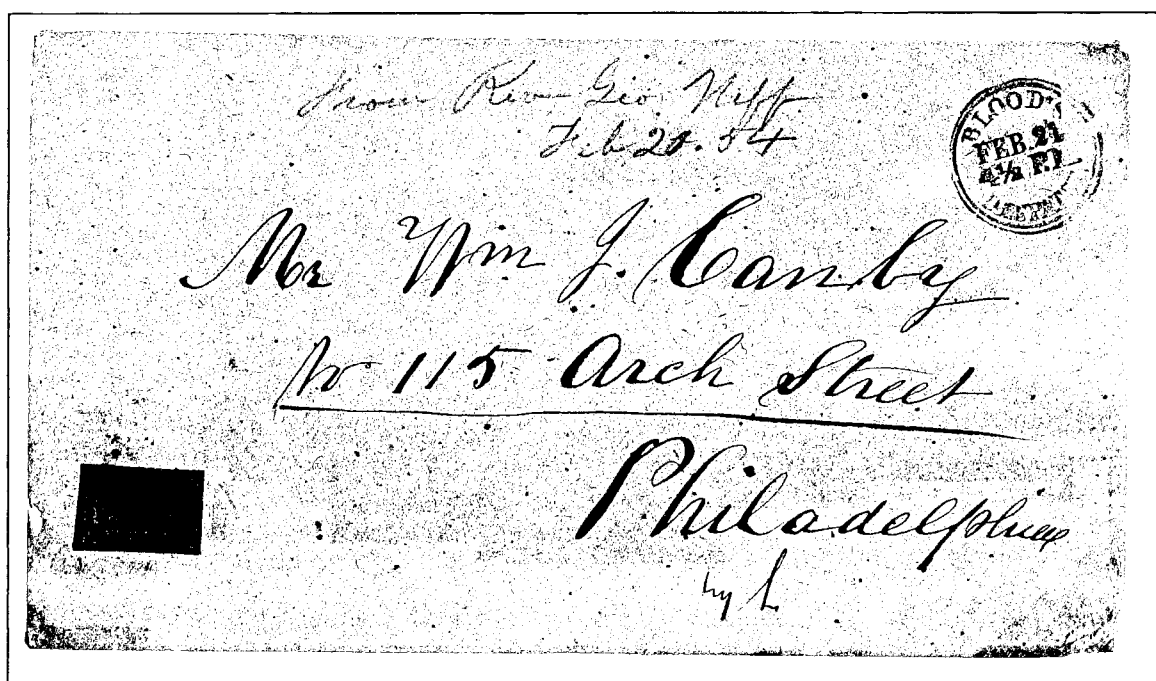
From FEBRUARY 1, 1854, to APRIL 5, 1854, inclusive.



PHILADELPHIA:  
LIPPINCOTT, GRAMBO AND CO.,  
SUCCESSORS TO GRIGG, ELLIOT AND CO.,  
1854.



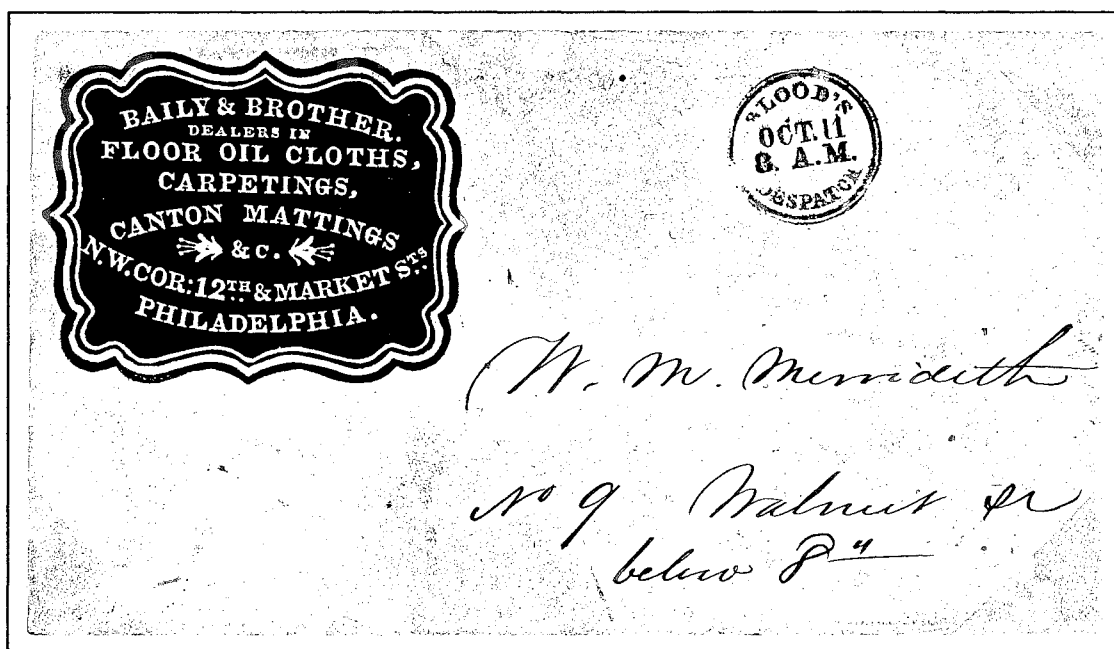
"PENNY POST". Blue on pink paper.



"PENNY POST". Bronze on black paper.

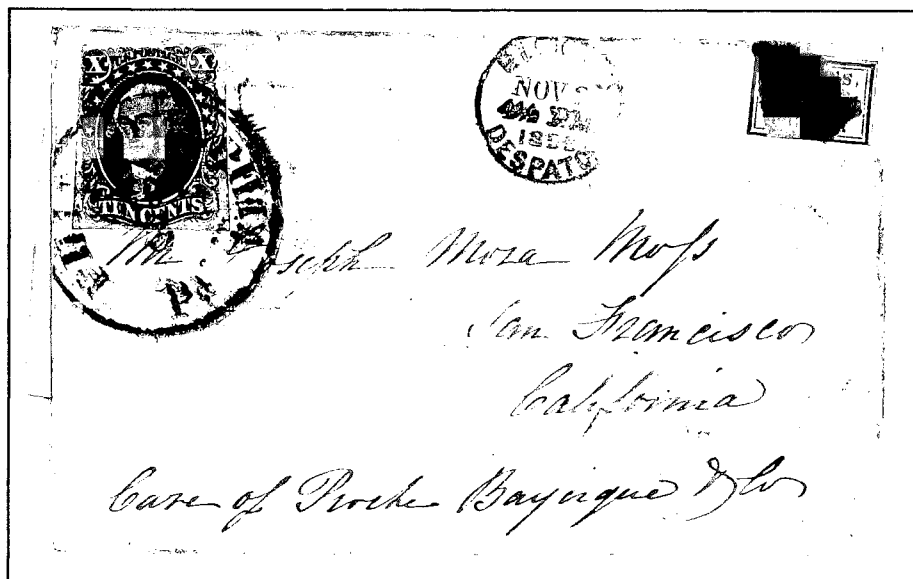
## Introduction of "Time Identified" Handstamps

In response to complaints to the *Public Ledger* that there was no way to confirm the efficiency of Blood's Despatch, in 1851 Blood's introduced handstamps that showed the time of collection from the despatch boxes.



These handstamps show us that Blood's pickups became more and more extensive, from five (5) times each day in 1851, to fourteen (14) times each day in 1857.

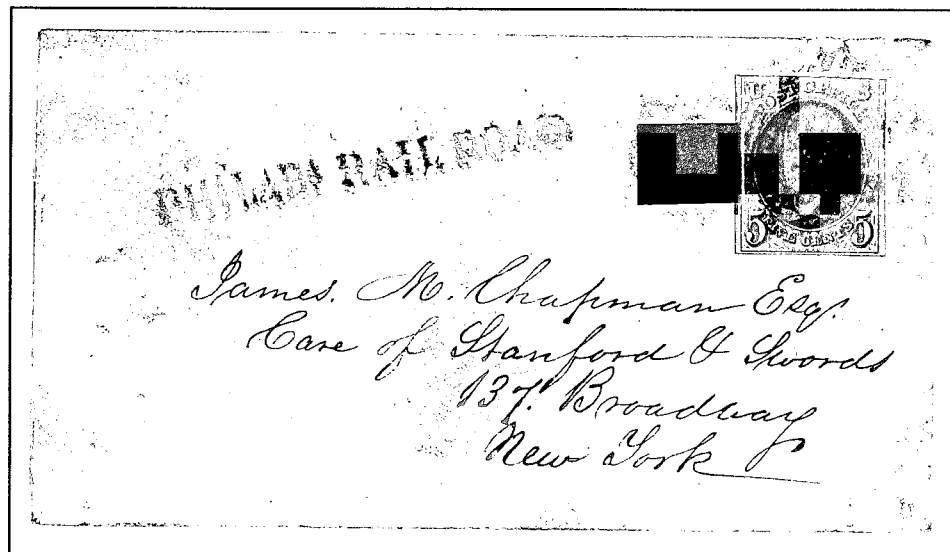
Blood's "To the Mails" to California



1856.

There have been only five (5) Blood's covers reported on mail to the West Coast.

"Favor Bag" Mail



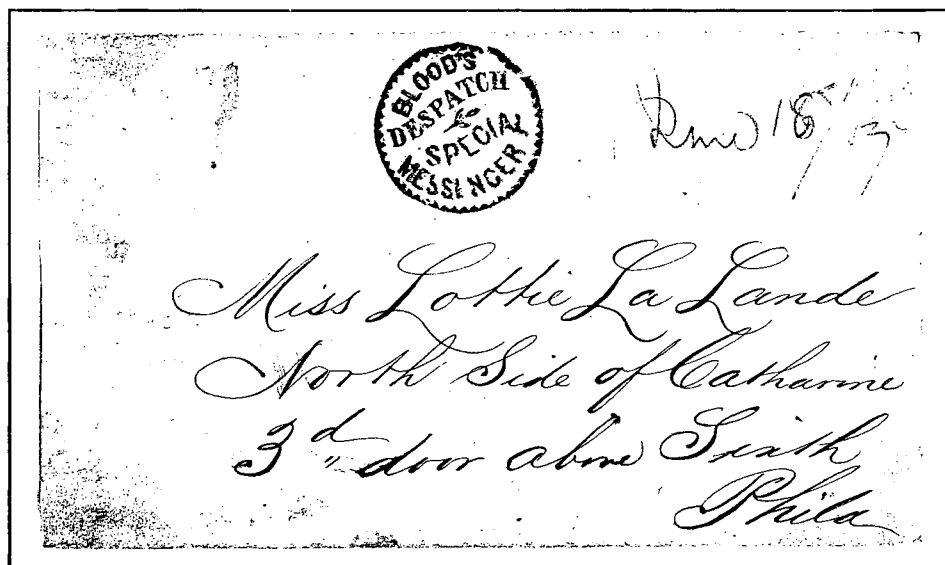
"PHILAD<sub>A</sub>. RAILROAD"

This letter was carried by Blood's Despatch to the train station; it was placed in the "late mail favor bag" and carried to New York City where the handstamp was applied.

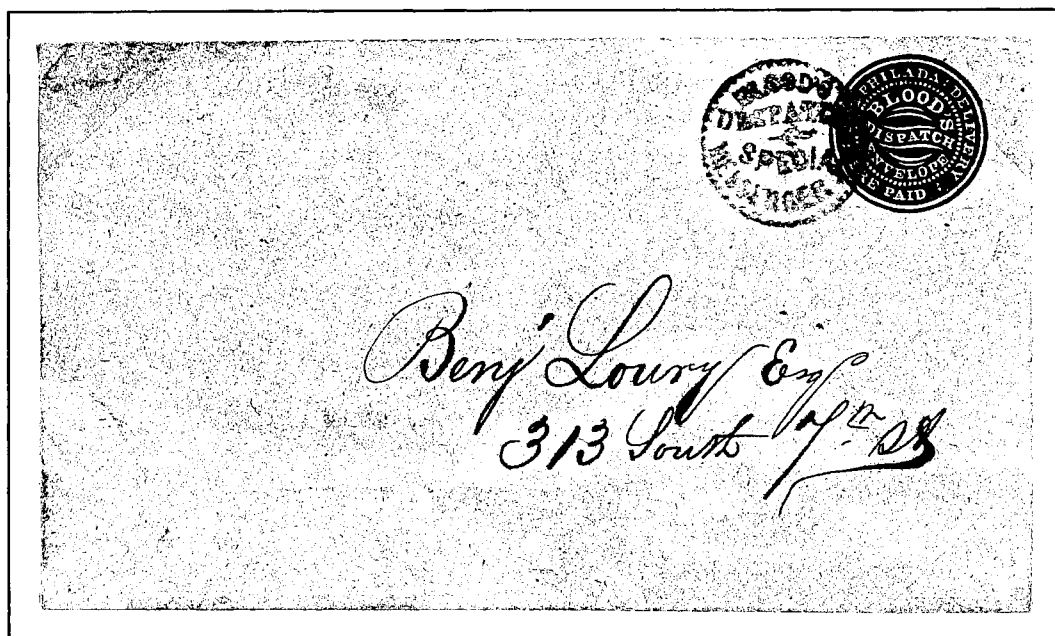


Blood's SPECIAL MESSENGER Service

Blood's offered the equivalent of modern Special Delivery service upon the payment of a 5¢ or 10¢ premium, depending on the distance serviced.

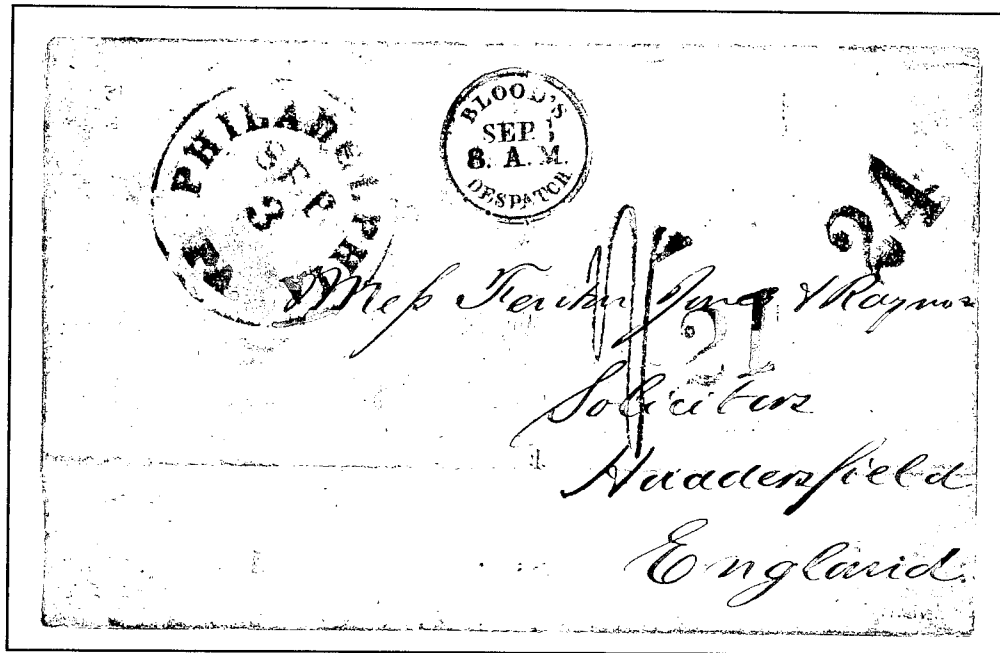


June 18, 1857. Rate not expressed.



No year date. Embossed envelope shows prepayment.

Letter to England Carried by Blood's  
to the Post Office



1852.

Letter wholly unpaid, so debited 24¢, of which  
21¢ was due U.S. (5¢ inland postage + 16¢ ship  
carriage). 1 sh. (3¢) due Britain.

Blood's to Canada West

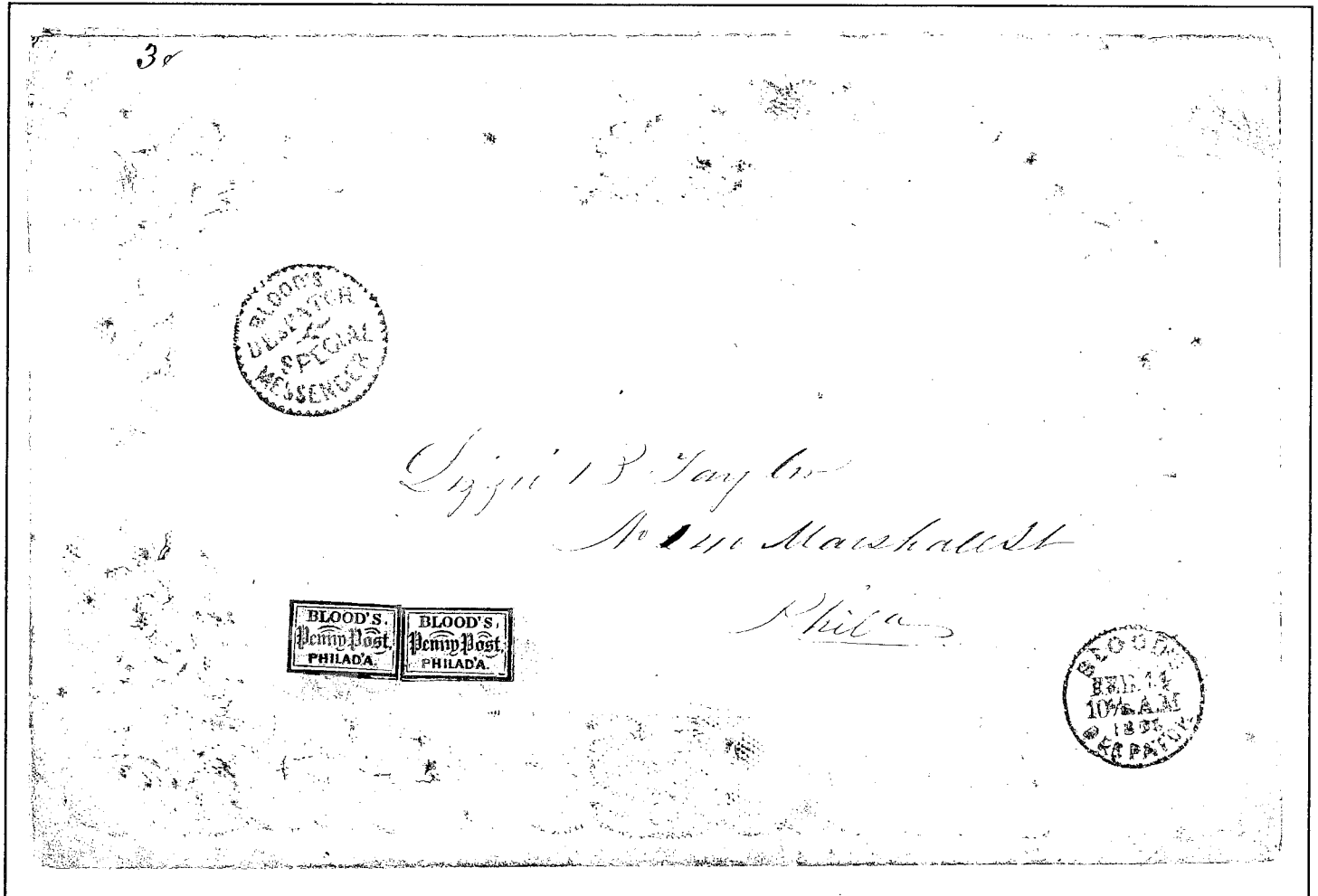


October 12, 1853.

Blood'd carried the letter to the Philadelphia Post Office  
which sent it to the Border Exchange Office.

**A Valentine Partially Paid in Cash and by Stamps**

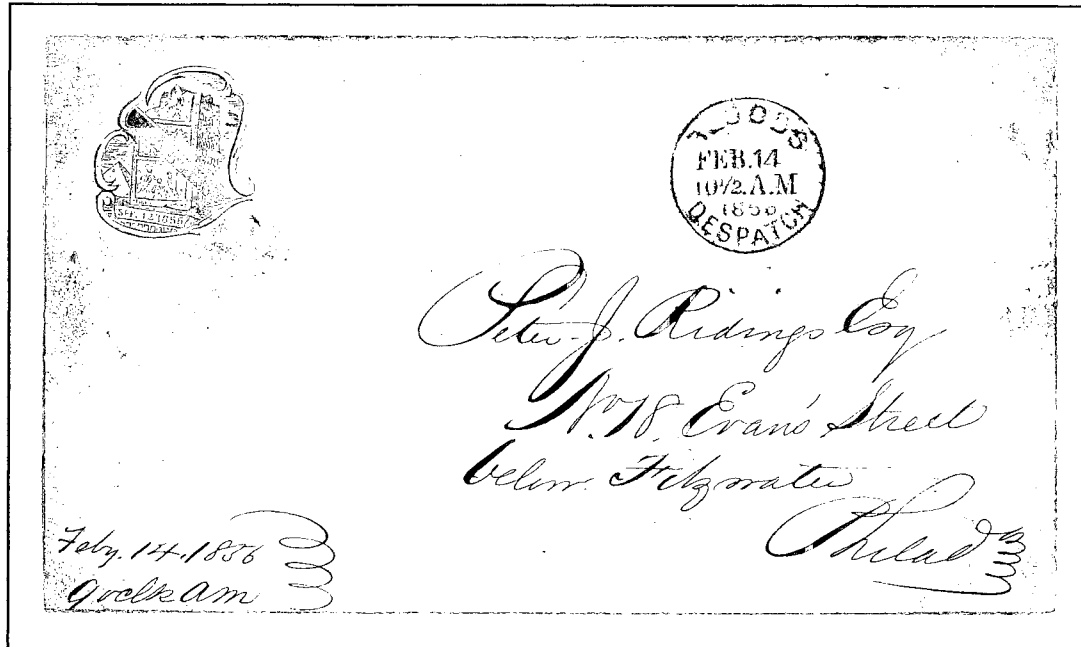
Blood's advertised in the *Public Ledger* (January 10, 1850)  
that large Valentines would only be delivered by *Special  
Messenger*, and at a prepaid fee of 5¢ each.



February 11, 1856. *Special Messenger* handstamp.  
Valentine enclosure.

The 5¢ Fee was paid by two 1¢ Blood's adhesives and  
by 3¢ Cash (as indicated in the upper left corner).

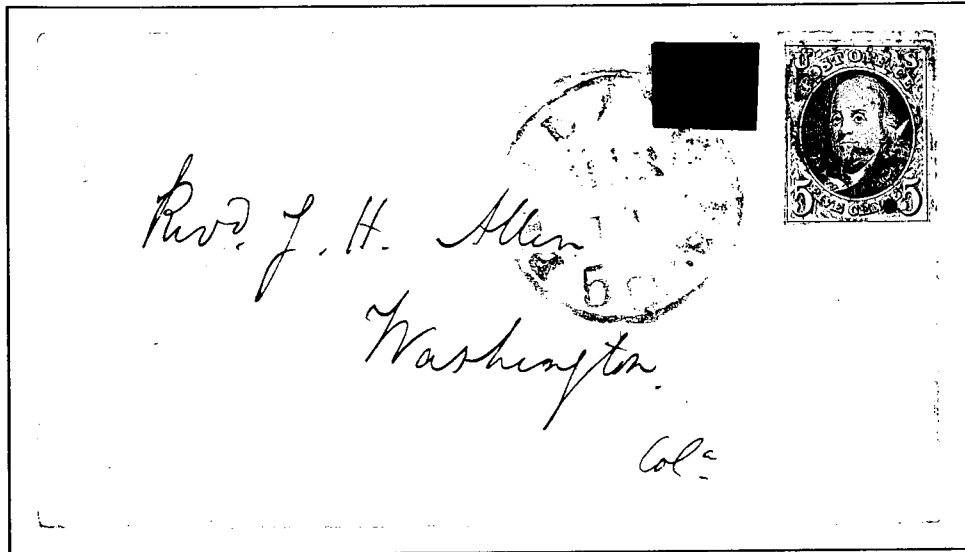
Valentine's Day City Delivery



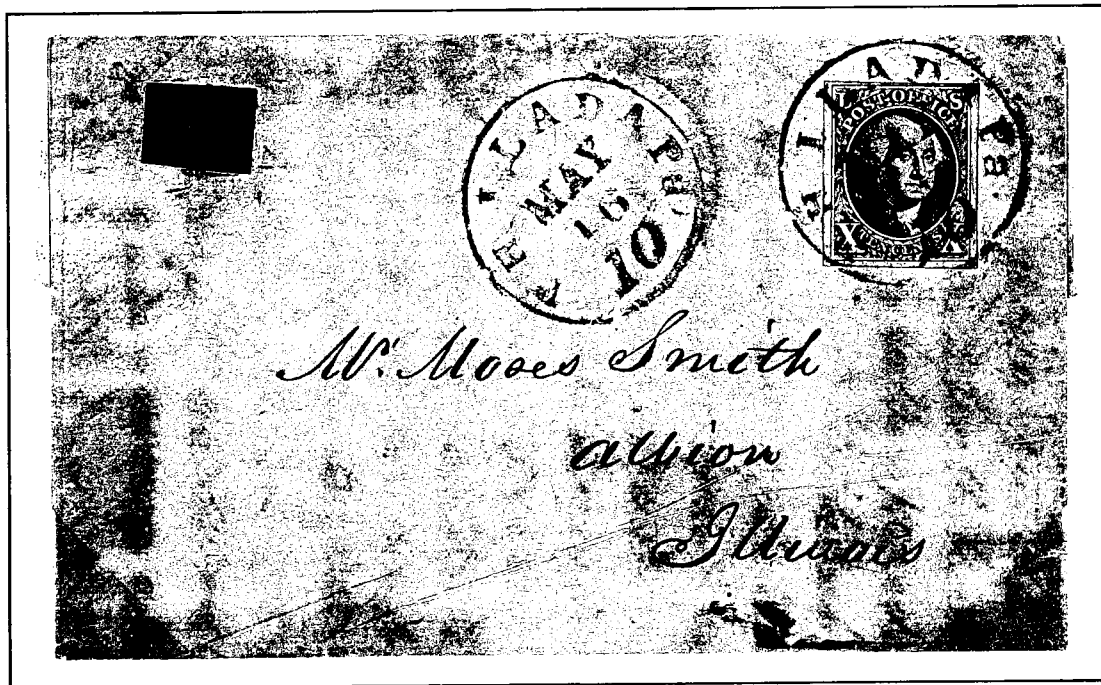
February 14, 1856.

Generally, Blood's on Valentine's Day would deliver only by *Special Messenger*, and so indicated by a special handstamp, not present here.

"To the Mails"



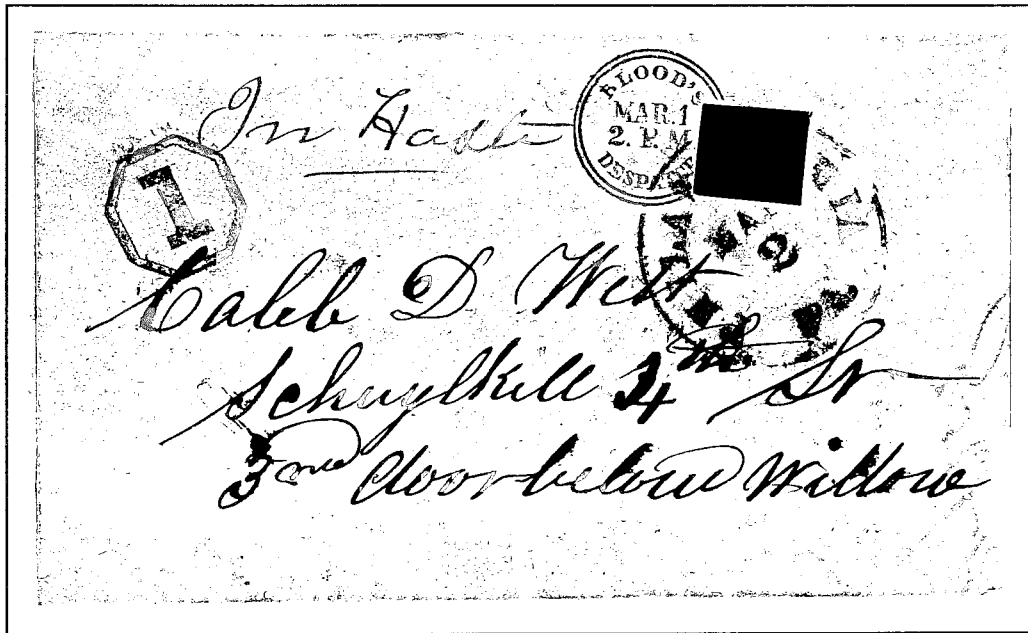
No year date. Under 300 miles.



1849. 300+ miles.

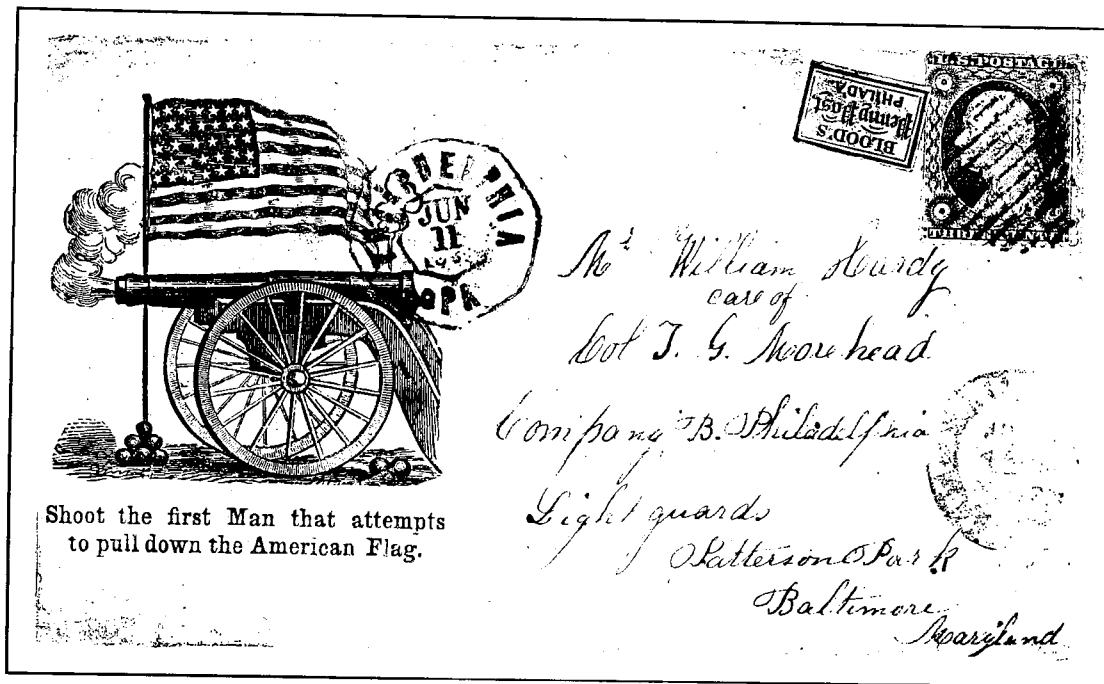
**Blood's Delivery Area Restricted to Original  
City Boundaries**

Letter delivered by Blood's to the Philadelphia  
Post Office rather than to the street address,  
where it was treated as a Drop Letter and was  
rated 1¢ (Due).

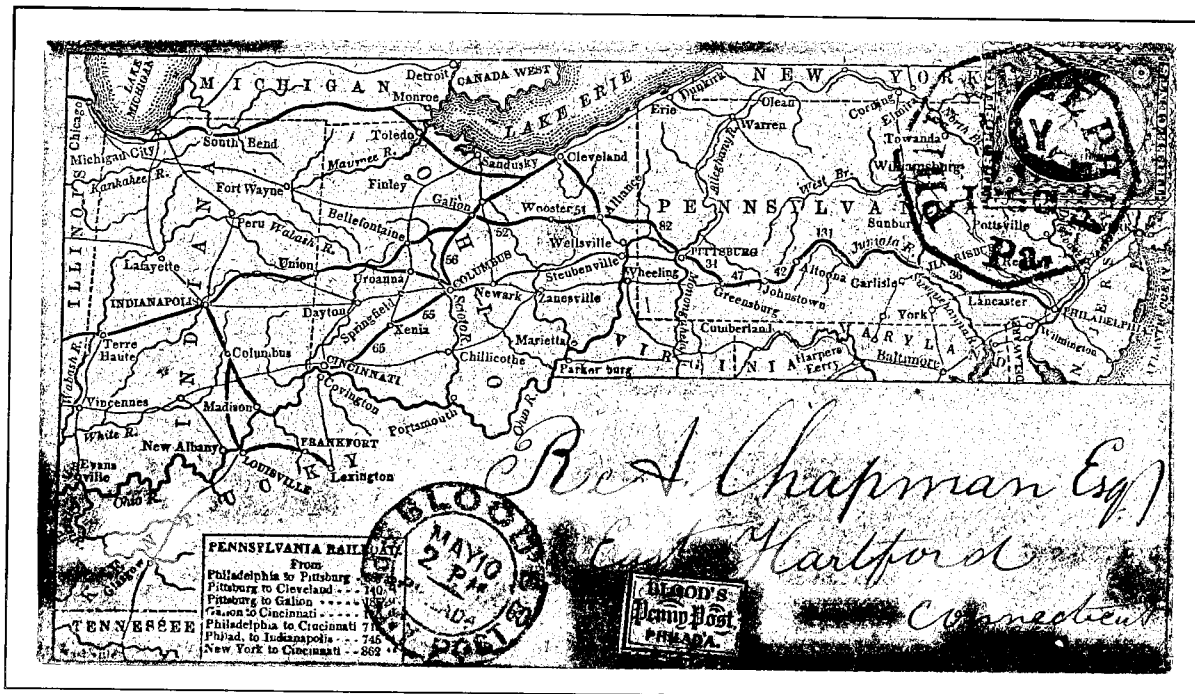


March 1, 1852.

The destination of this letter was outside the part  
of Philadelphia that Blood's could service and not violate  
the Act of July 1, 1845, which prohibited the private  
carriage of mail *between areas served by different  
Post Offices.*



"PENNY POST". Bronze on lilac paper.

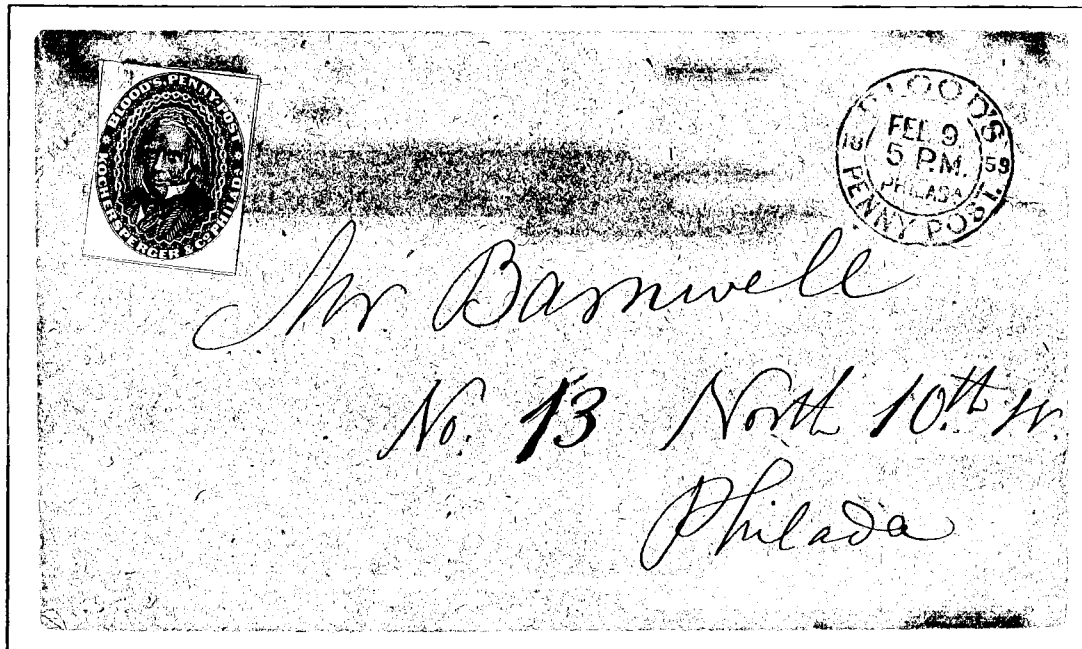


"PENNY POST". Bronze on lilac paper.

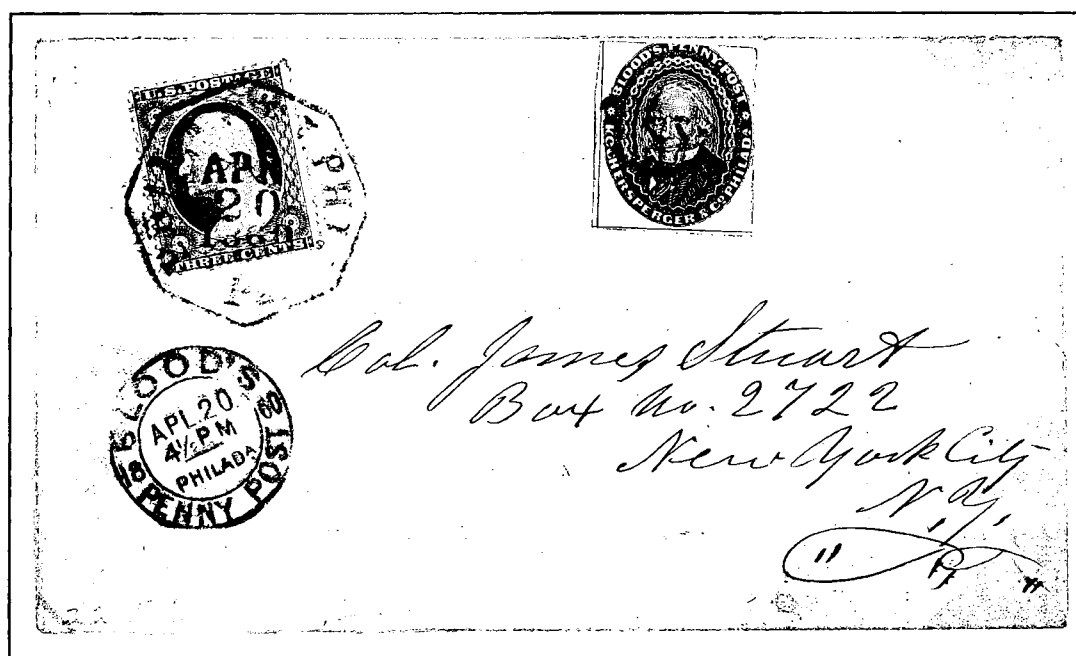


## Change of Ownership at Blood's Despatch

Charles Kochersperger purchased the business from Blood's heirs in 1855, and continued to trade under the name "Blood's Penny Post". He issued a new stamp bearing the portrait of Henry Clay.

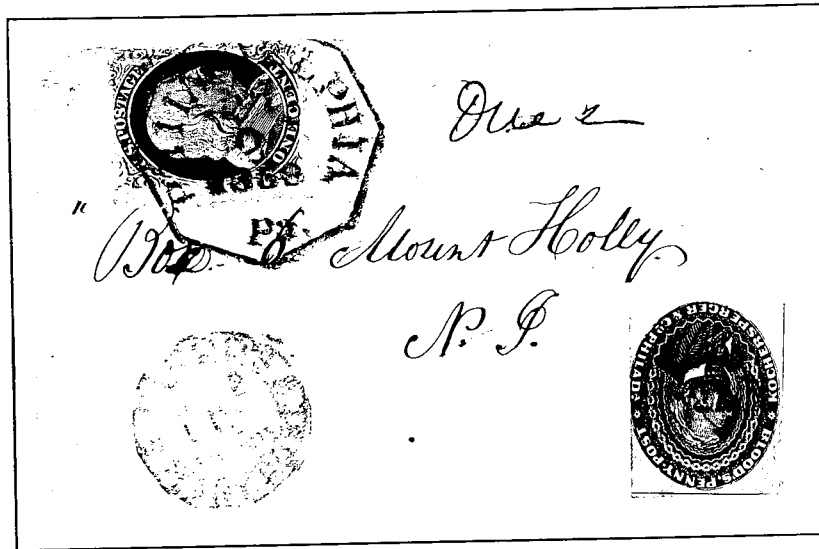


1859. City delivery.



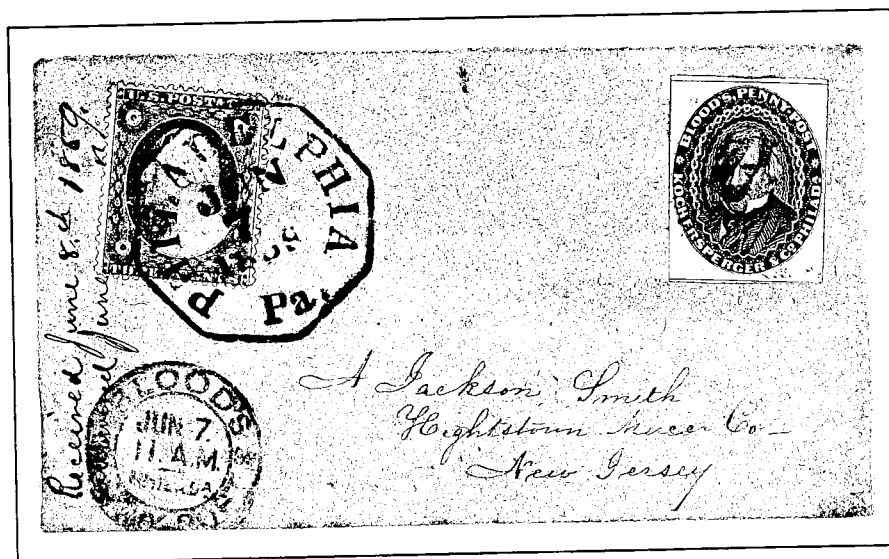
1860. Delivery "To the Mails".

"Underpaid" to the Mails



1858. "DUE 2".

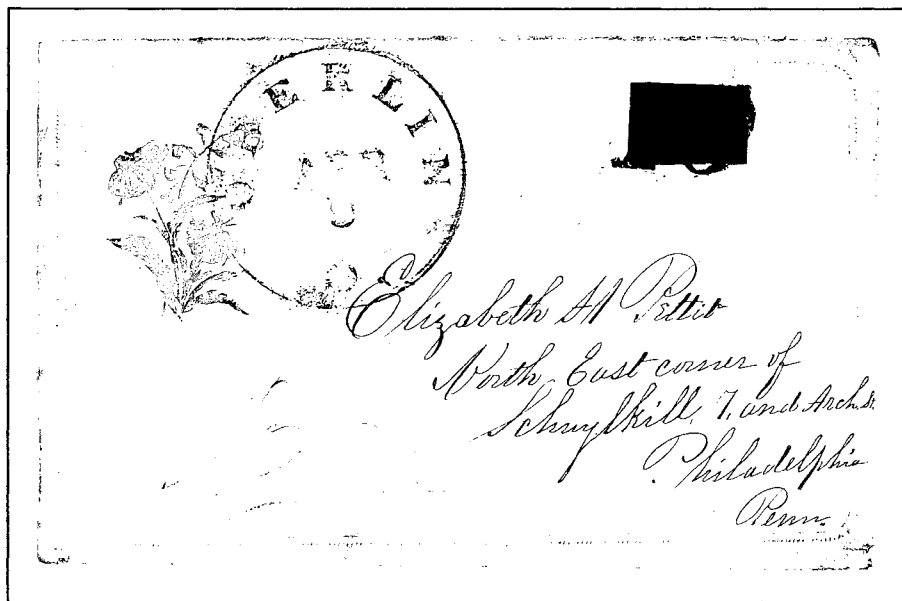
"Fully Paid" to the Mails



1859.

Delivered by Blood's "From the Post Office"

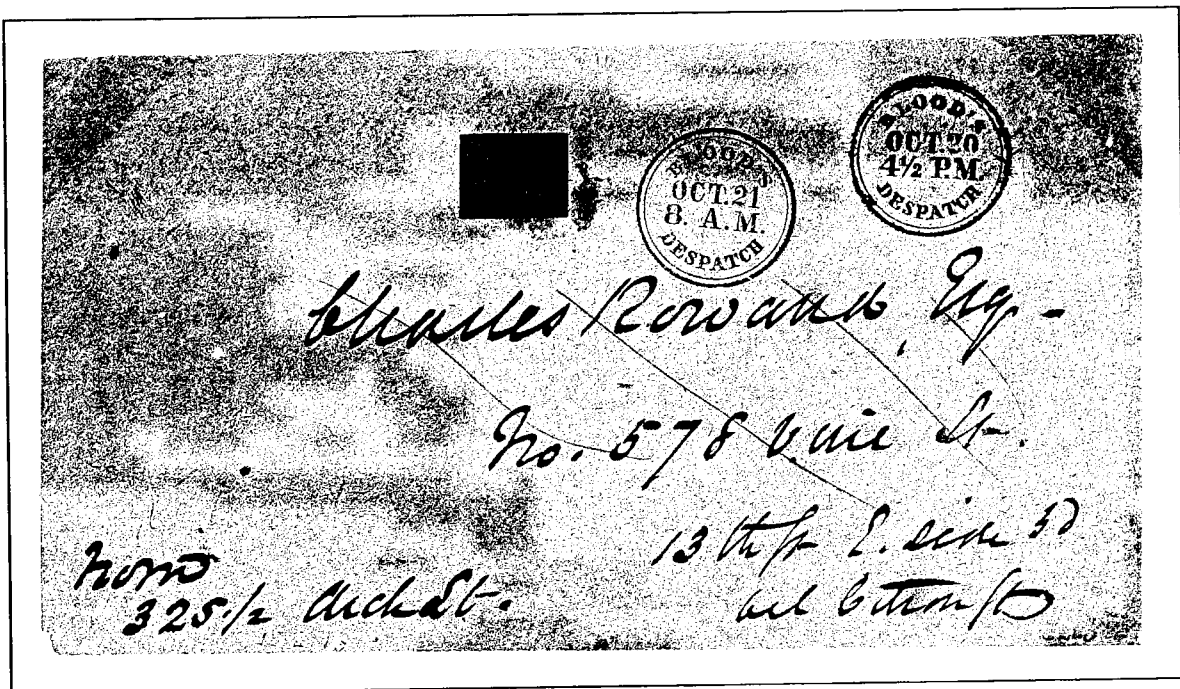
Because the Government controlled practically all mail which came into the Philadelphia Post Office from another Post Office, few such letter were delivered by the private Posts.



Letter picked up from a Post Office Box (see pencil inscription) and delivered by Blood's to the addressee. Presumably, Blood's paid the 10¢ due before placing its adhesive over the Post Office handstamp.

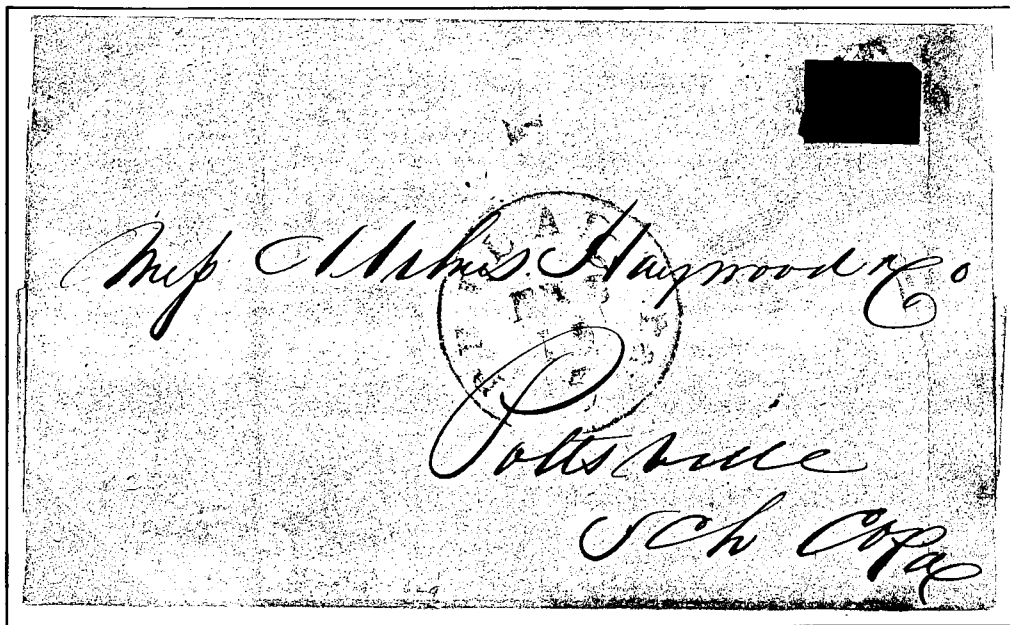
### Two Delivery Attempts by Blood's

Blood's tried to deliver the letter on October 20, as shown by one handstamp. The address was not the correct one, so it was crossed out in pencil, and the letter taken to Blood's Office.

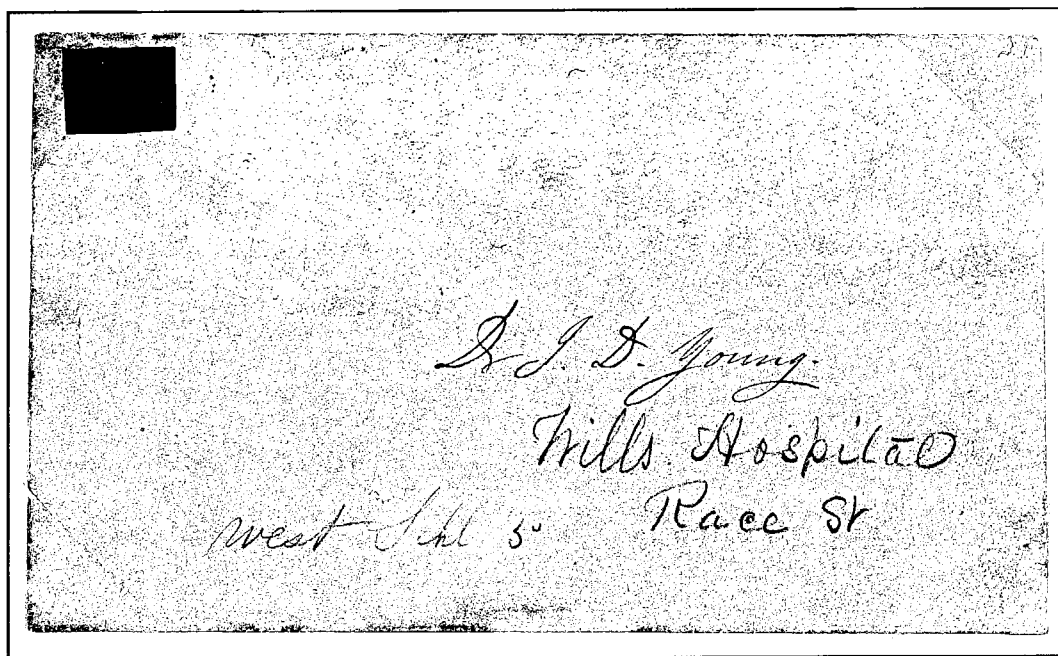


On October 21 [second handstamp], with Mr. Rowand's home address now written in the lower left corner, Blood's again took the letter for delivery.

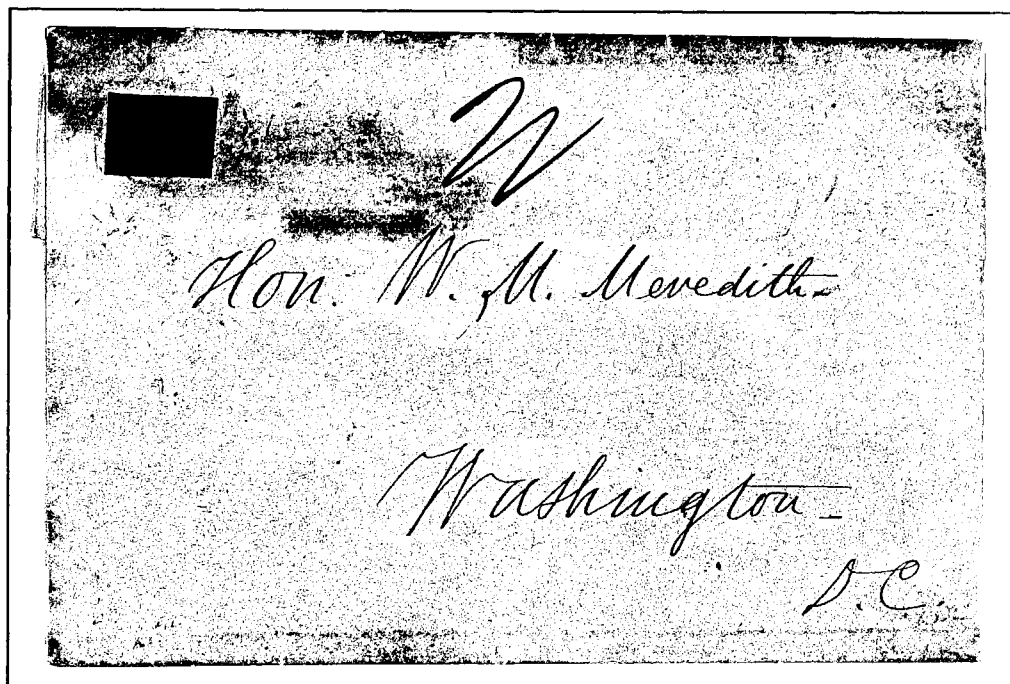
This stamp (Black on Bronze Paper) generally is found  
on letters going "To the Mails".



One (1) of Six (6) Reported used for City Mail



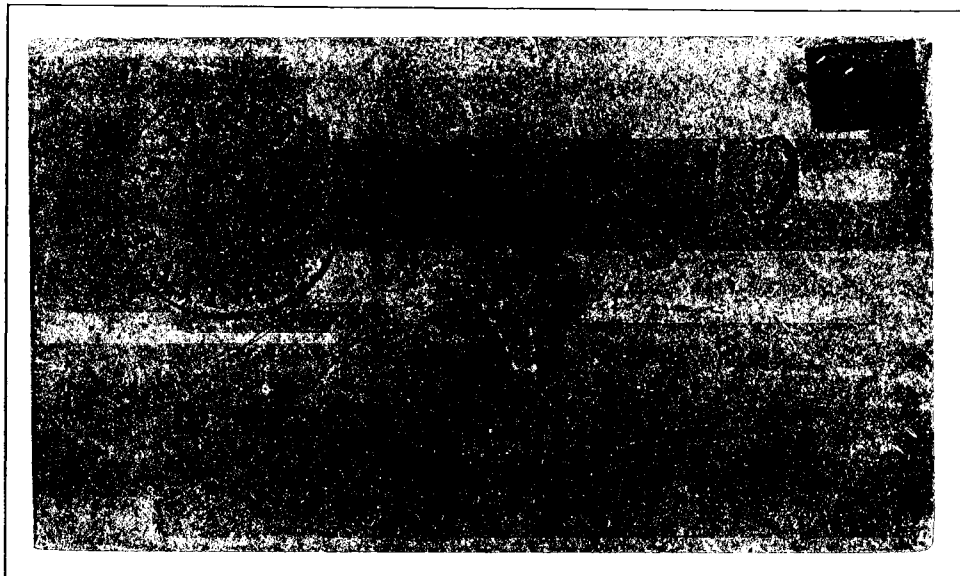
"Way" Letter ("W") from Philadelphia  
to Washington, D.C.



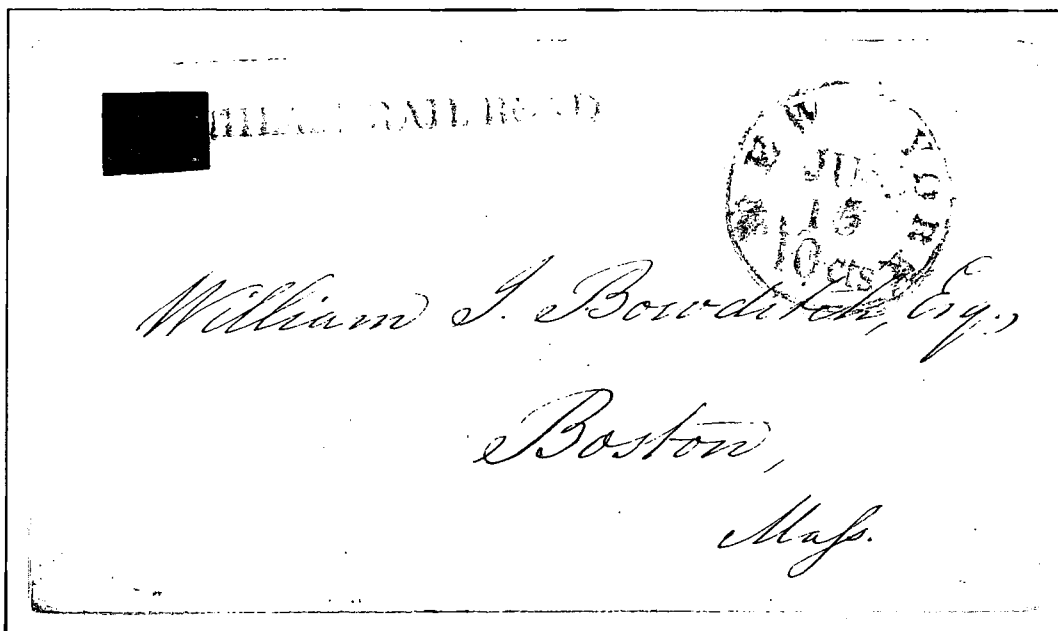
January 10, 1850.

Blood's delivered this folded letter to the carrier  
at or on his way to the train. The letter entered  
the mails in Washington.

"Favor Bag" Mail



"PHILADA. RAILROAD". No year date.

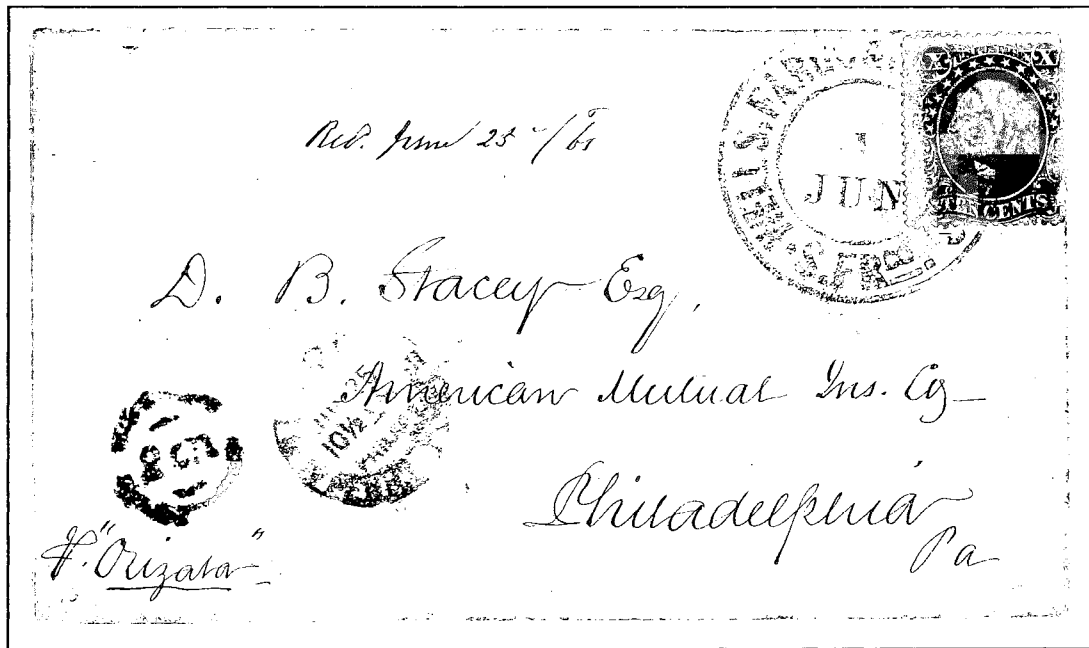


No year date.

These markings were applied in New York City  
when the letters entered the mail.

Wells Fargo Co. cover from San Francisco  
to Philadelphia

*Blood's Despatch delivered to Addressee*



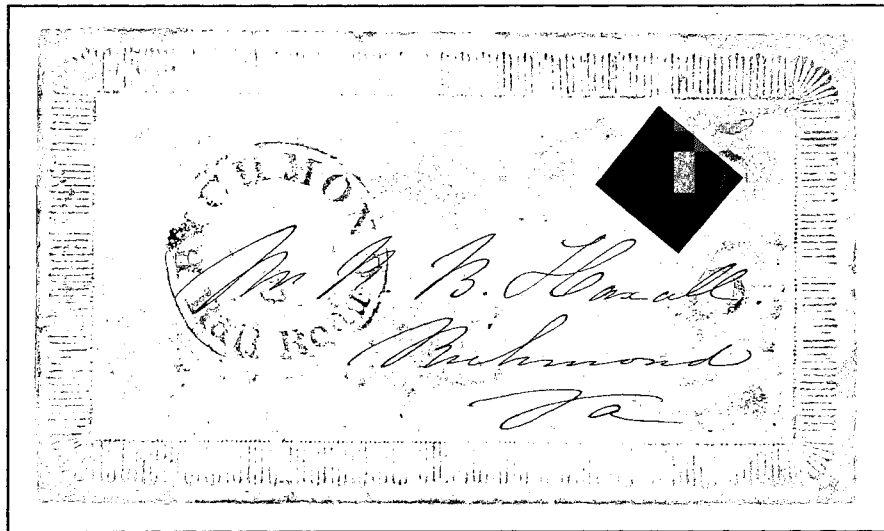
1861. Twenty-one days in transit.

Letter carried entirely outside the Mails,  
via Panama.



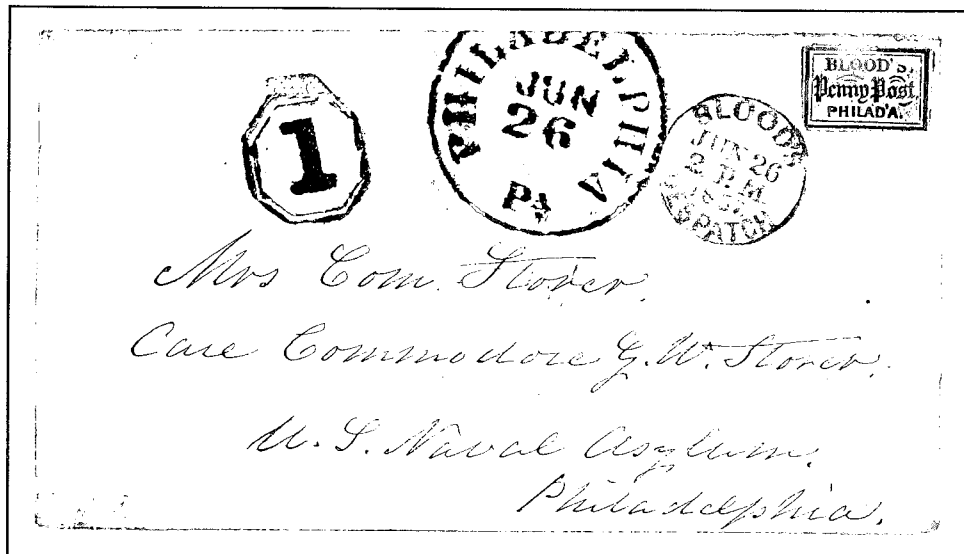
**Richmond, Fredericksburg & Potomac R. R.**

It is likely that Blood's Despatch handed this letter to the Route Agent in Philadelphia, and that the letter was transferred in Washington (after transit through Baltimore) to the Route Agent on the Richmond R. R.



The colloquial name for this Railroad was "**Richmond R.R.**" The Line ran from Richmond north to Acquia Creek, Virginia, where it connected with the steamboat from Washington.

**Blood's Service Limited to Old City Boundaries**

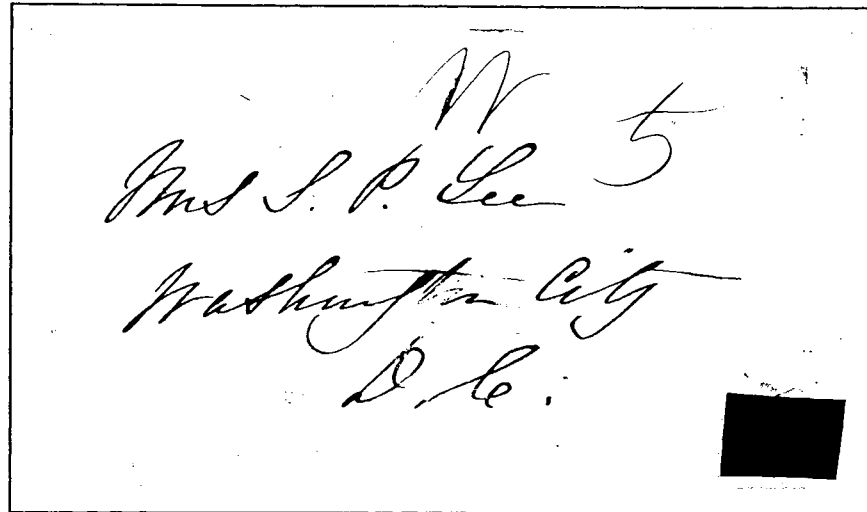


1857. Carried to the Post Office where it was held as a Drop Letter and rated 1¢ (Due).

The U.S. Naval Asylum was located outside the City boundaries on the banks of the Schuylkill River, fronting on Gray's Ferry Road.

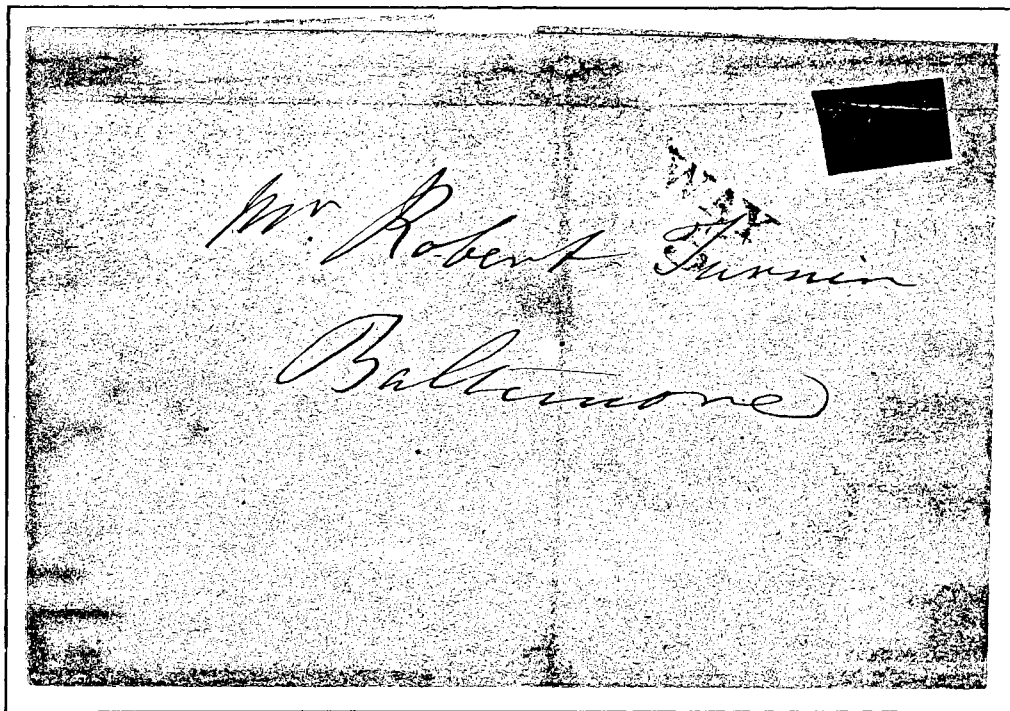
"Way" Delivery to Letter Carrier

Manuscript "W"; "5"



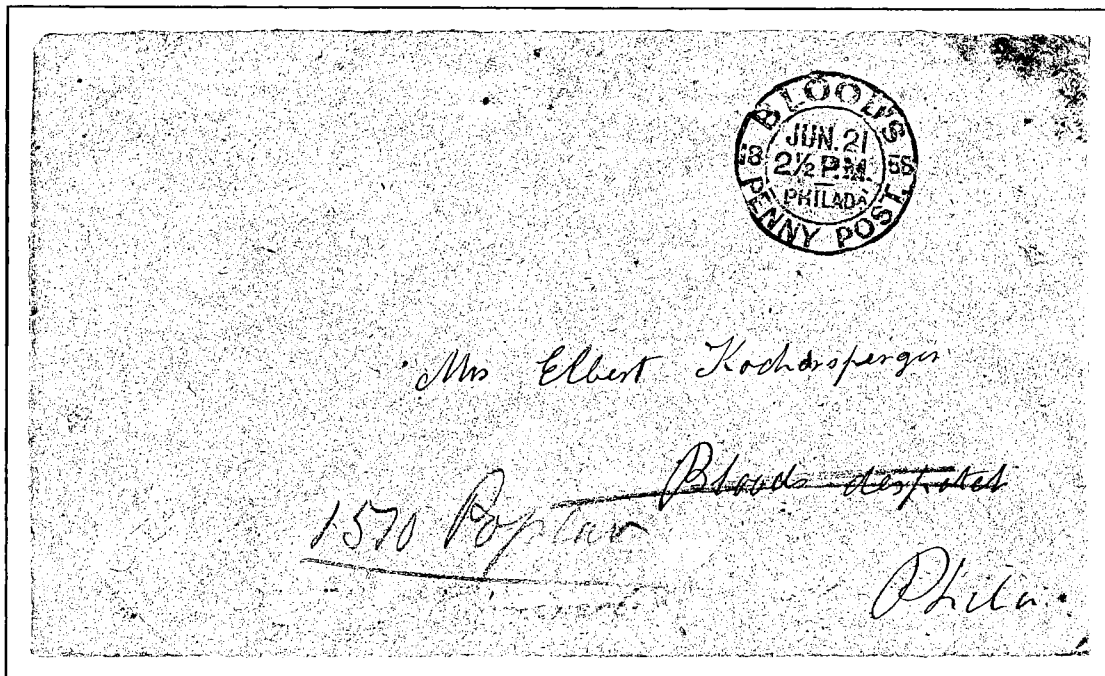
6¢ Due on delivery (1¢ Way Fee + 5¢ Postage)

Handstamp "WAY/5"



1850. Handstamp applied in Baltimore when letter entered the mails.

Mail Drop Box Kept at Blood's Office

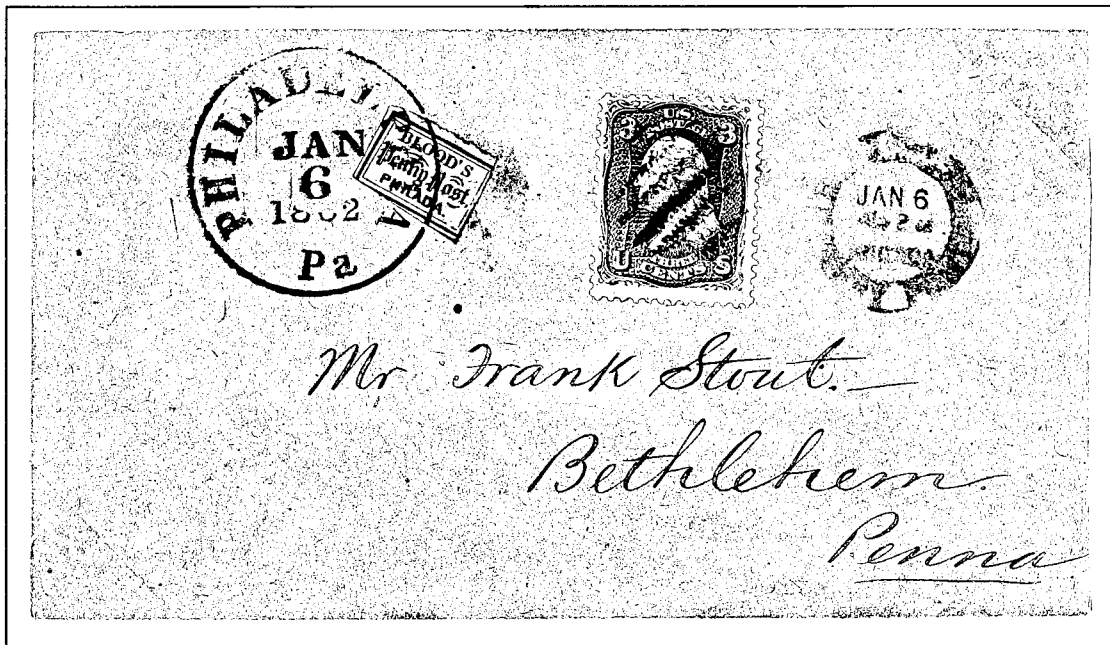


June 21, 1858. Forwarded from Blood's Despatch.

Blood's permitted mail to be addressed to customers at the Blood's office, often providing them with boxes. We do not know if there was a charge for this service.

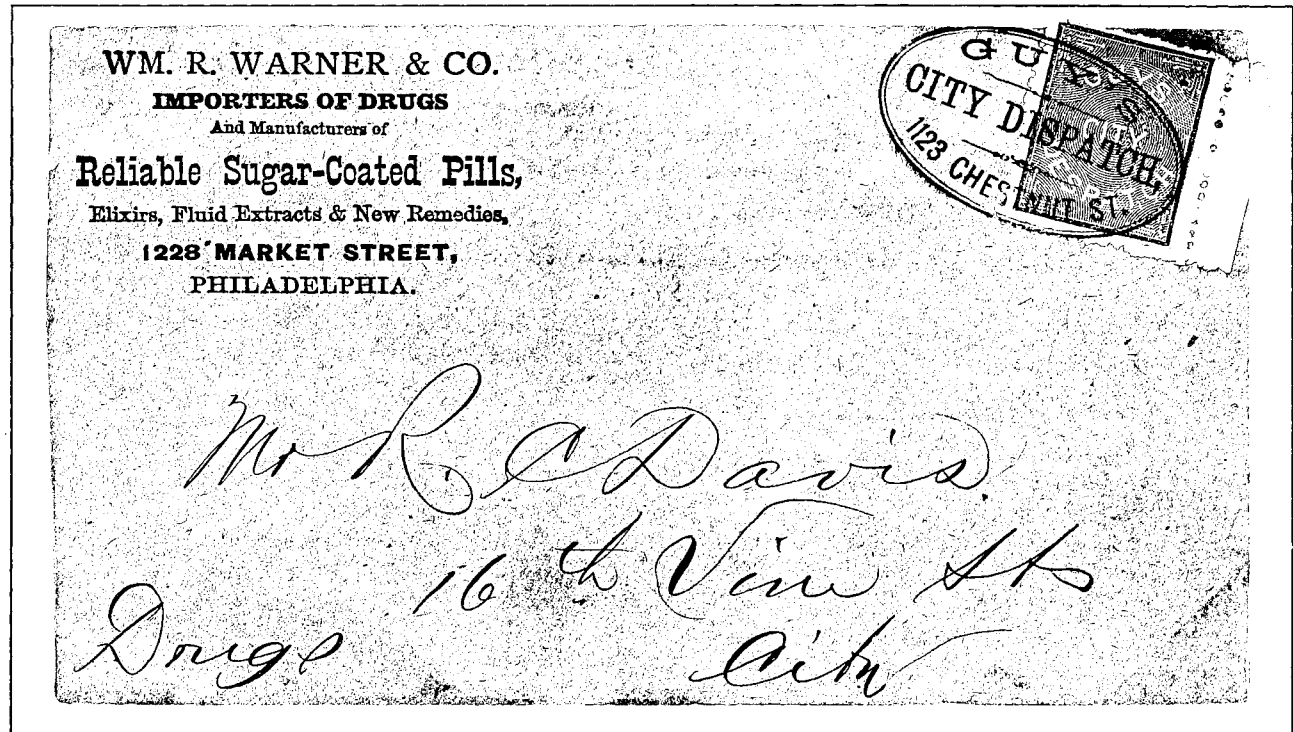
## The Last Days of Blood's Despatch

After years of resisting Government harassment, Blood's closed its doors on January 10, 1862.



When Blood's ceased operations, it sold its assets to the Post Office Department.

Guy's City Despatch



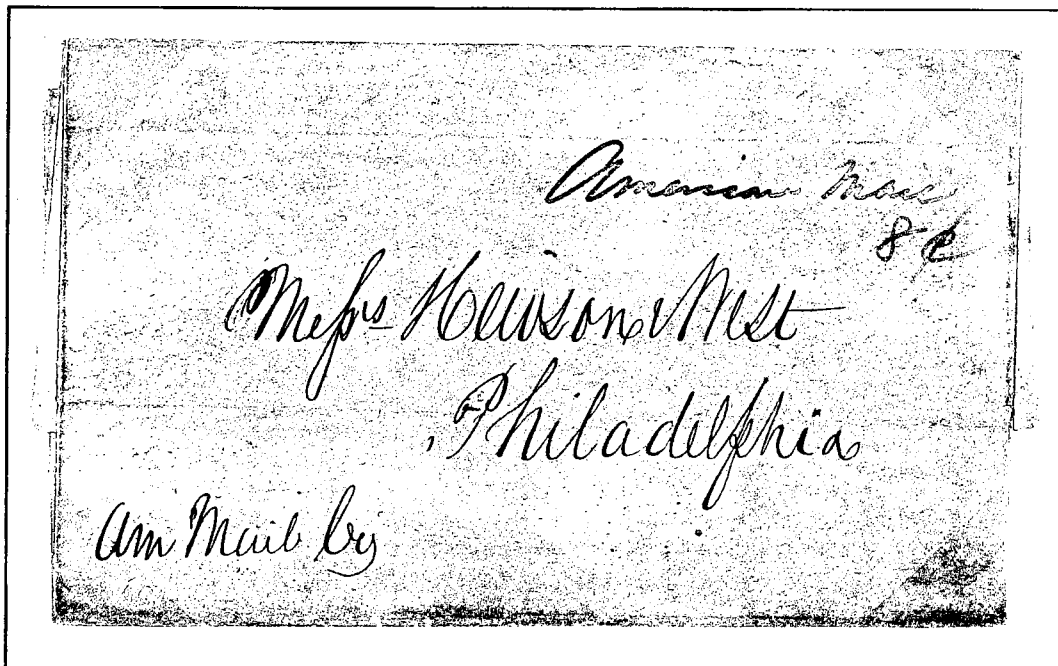
Long after the last Local Post (Blood's Despatch) had gone out of business, Guy's City Despatch appeared in April 1879. The Government immediately went to Court to suppress it. Guy's ceased operations after three months.

## Independent Mail [Inter-City] Companies

### *American Mail Company*

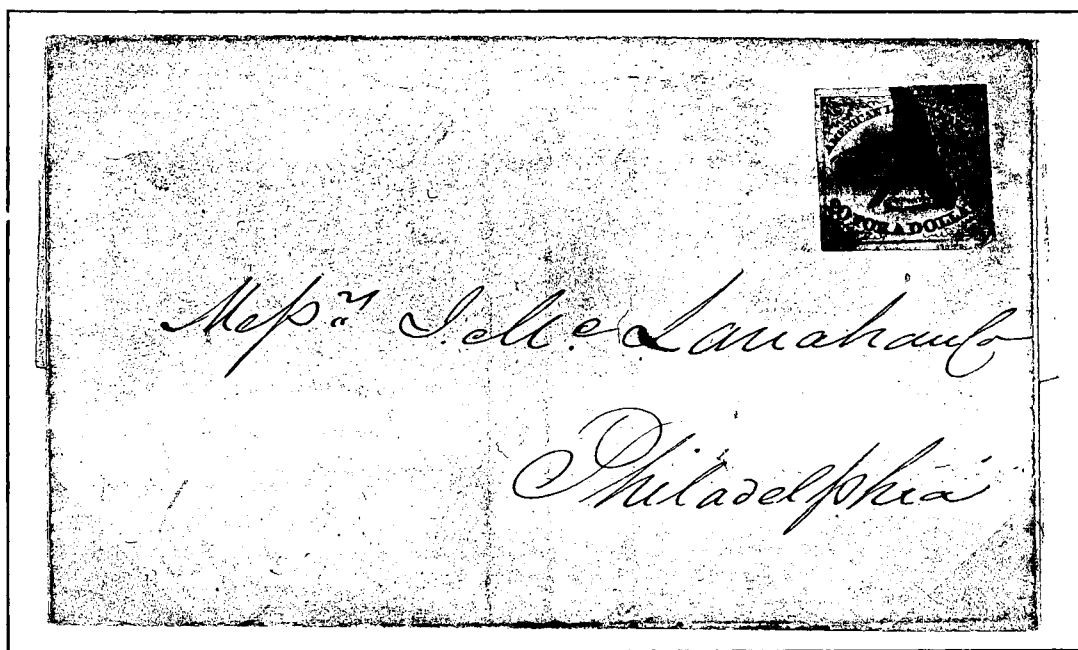
Founded on January 23, 1844 by Lysander Spooner, this Company privately carried mail along 400 miles of the Atlantic Seaboard. It ceased operations on June 30, 1845.

### *Forerunner to Company Handstamp*

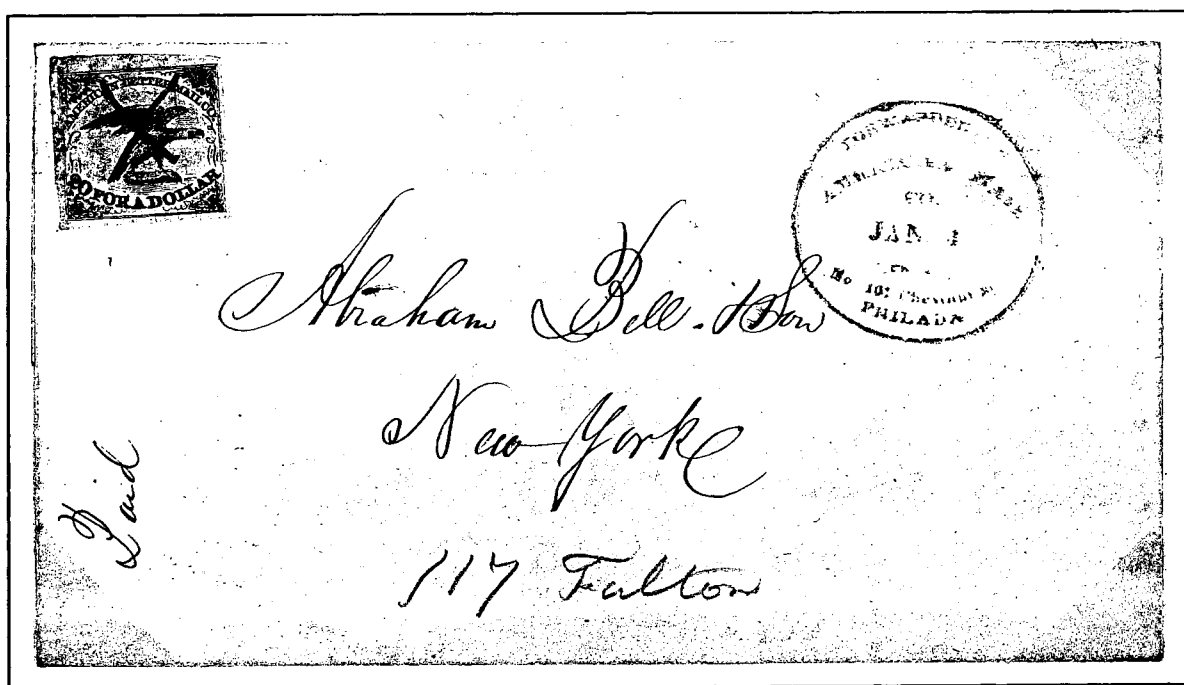


February 13, 1844. The earliest reported Handstamp is May 1844.

Rated "American Mail/8¢". Of this charge, 6¢ was for carriage to Philadelphia, and 2¢ was for delivery to the addressee.



January 31, 1844. New York to Philadelphia.

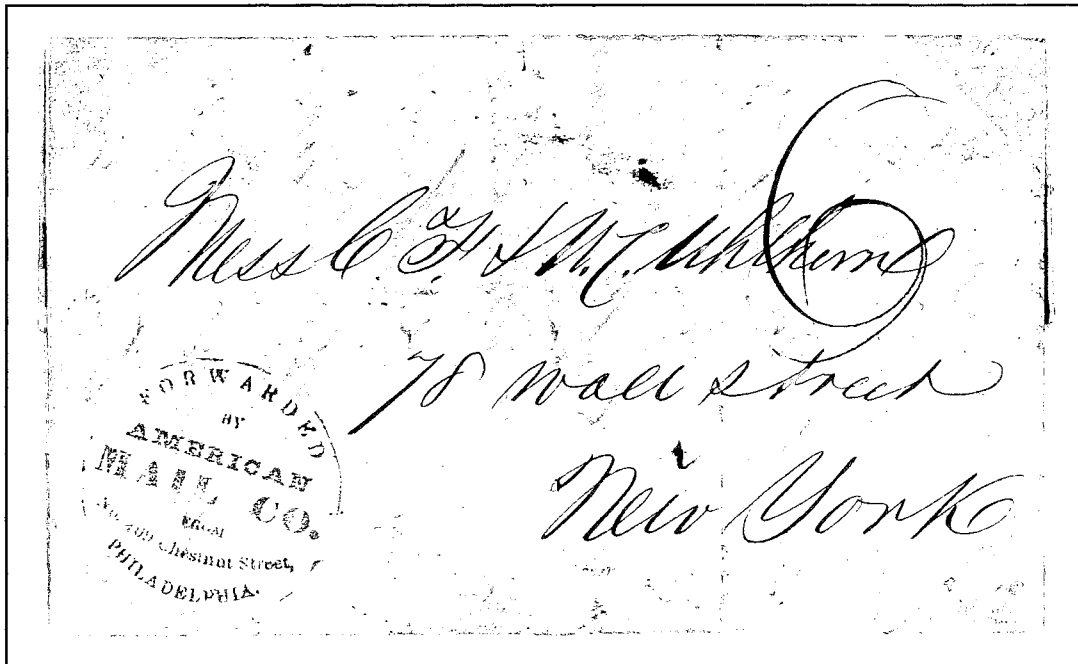


January 4, 1845. Type B handstamp.



**Handstamp Reported Used only Thirty-Three (33) Days**

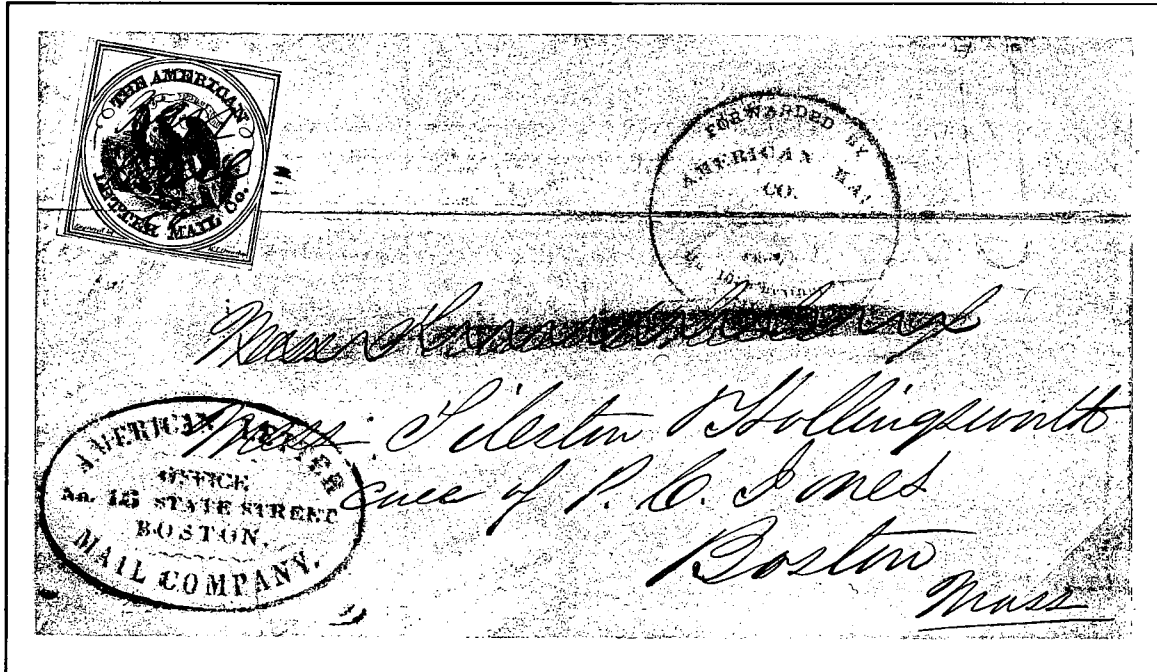
This first circular type handstamp has been reported used August 3 - September 5, 1844.



August 23, 1844.

Sometime in the latter part of September 1844, the Company moved from its office at 109 Chestnut Street.

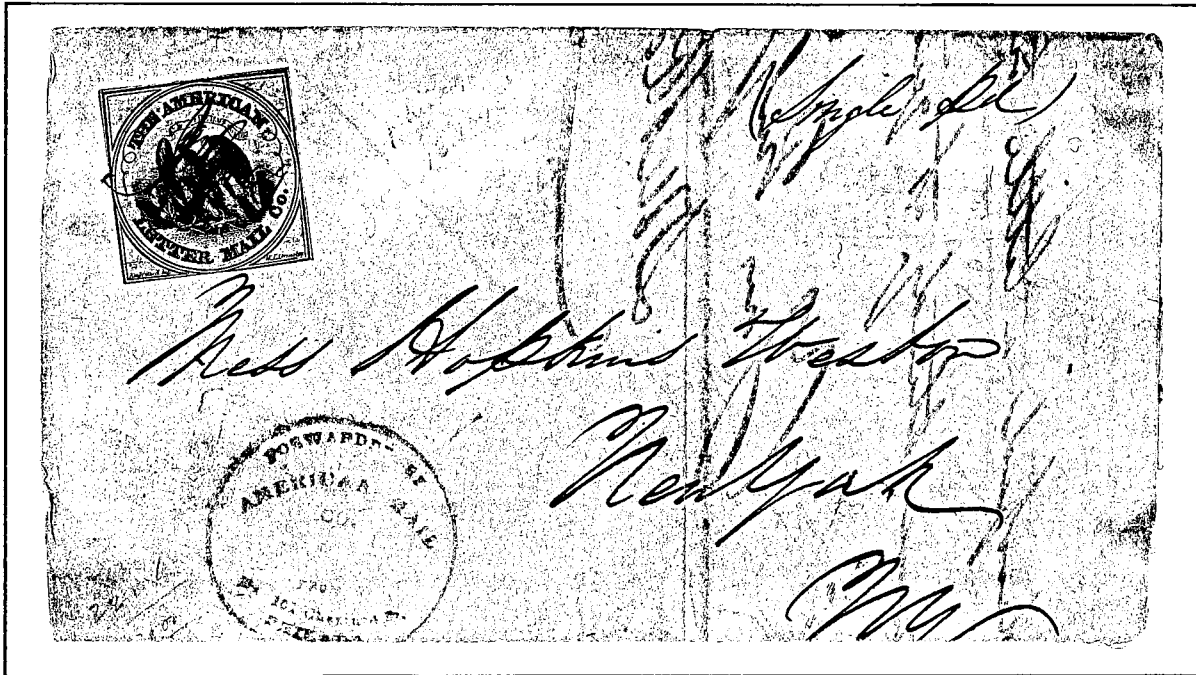
# The Black Stamp



March 22, 1845. Type B Philadelphia handstamp at point of origin; Boston Company handstamp upon receipt.

Adhesive cancelled by phrase "Amer/Mail/Co".

The Blue Stamp

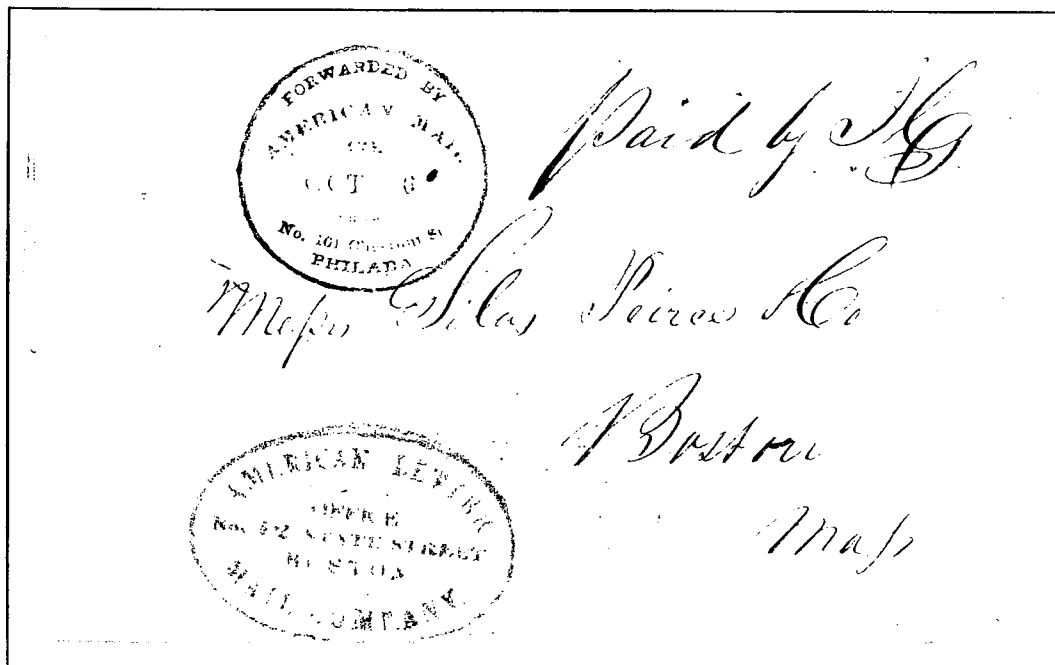


June 13, 1845.

Adhesive cancelled by initials "J. Gray", a letter carrier employed in the Philadelphia office.

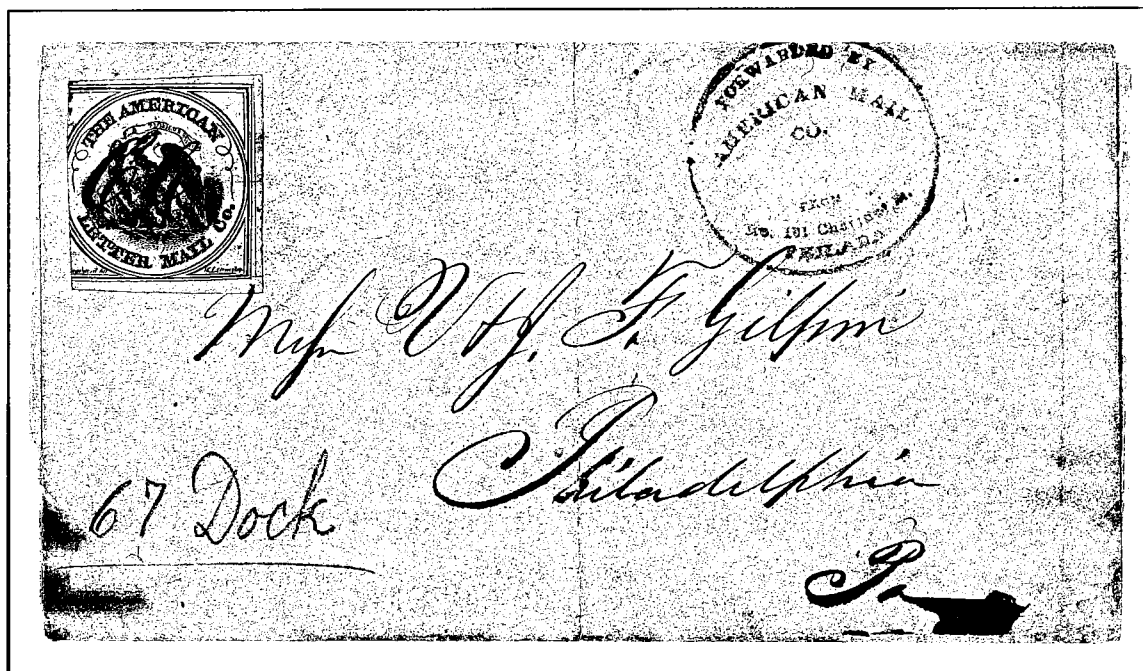
American Mail Company Letter Carriers' Markings

"Paid by J.G."



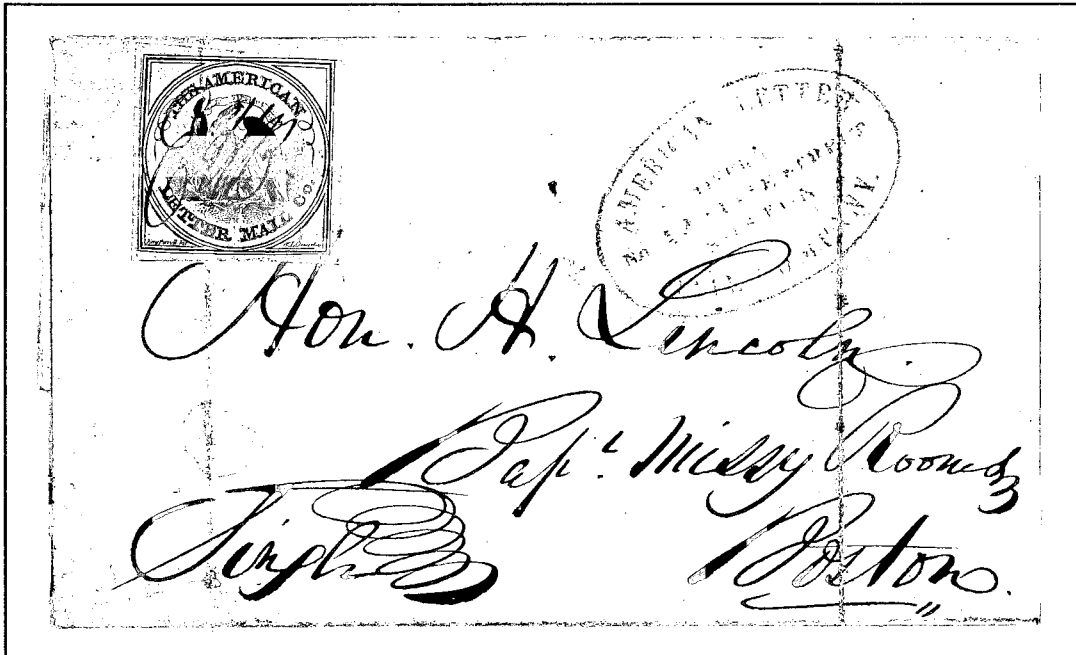
October 5, 1844. John Gray was employed in Philadelphia.

Stamp Cancelled by Initials "C.C."



May 17, 1845. Calvin Case was a carrier in the Philadelphia office of American Mail Company.

Carrier's Initials "EHB" Cancellation

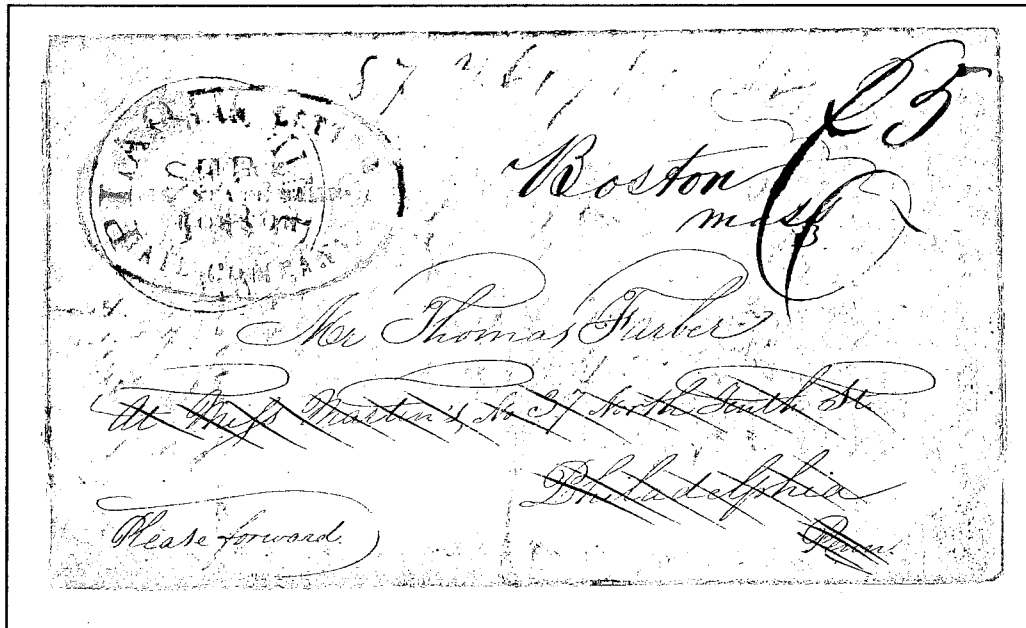


February 28, 1845.

It is believed that the initials belong to a letter carrier employed by American Mail Company in the Philadelphia office, although he has not been identified.

American Mail Company

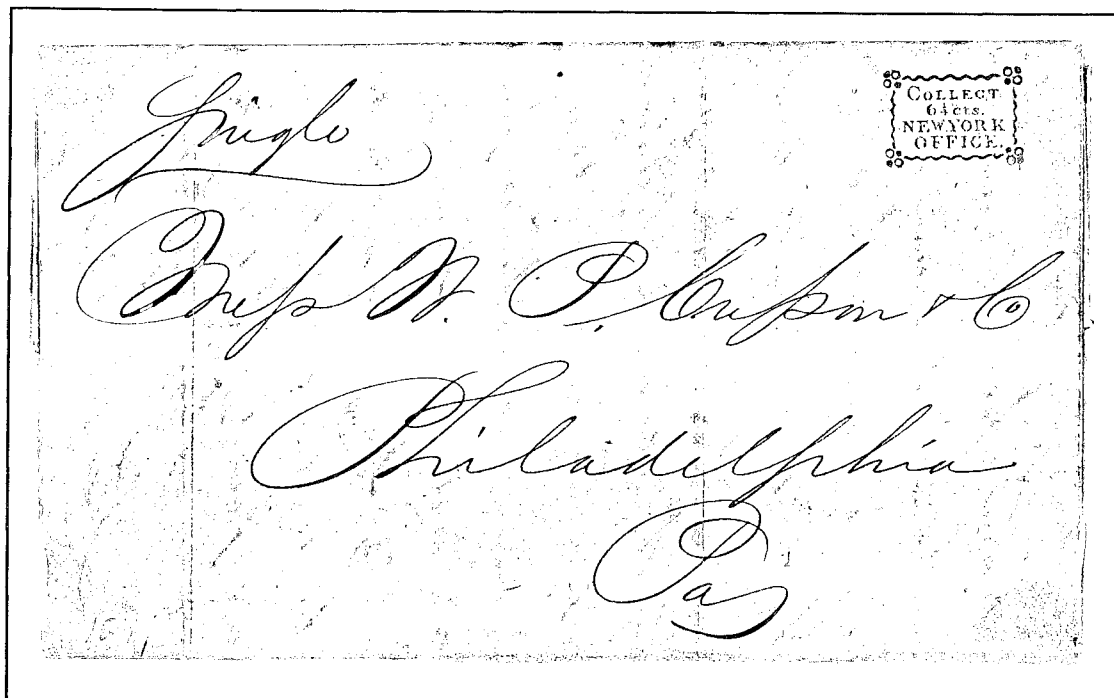
**Forwarded Letter Shows Disparity (x3) Between Government  
Post and Private Rates**



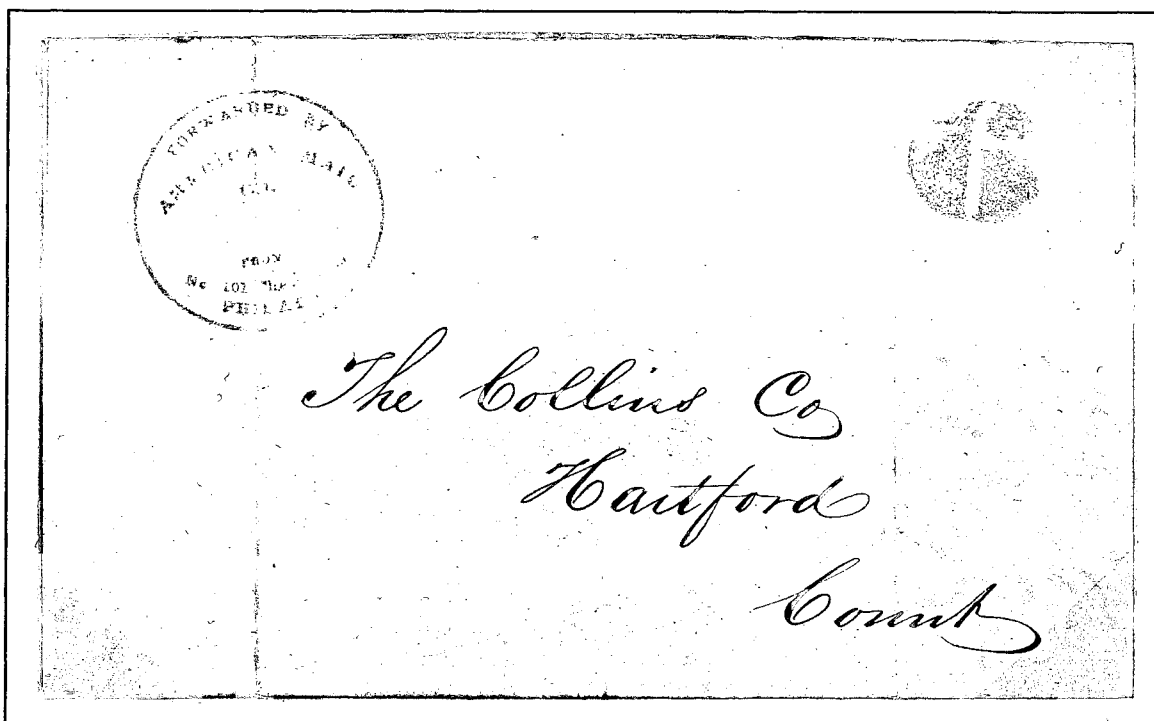
1844. Letter carried from Plaquemine, La. to Philadelphia  
by U.S. Post Office; then forwarded to Boston via  
American Mail Company.

If this letter had been forwarded to Boston by  
U.S. mail, the postage would have been 18½¢  
rather than the 6¼¢ charged by private express.

The Charge was 6¼¢ per Half Ounce for Carriage



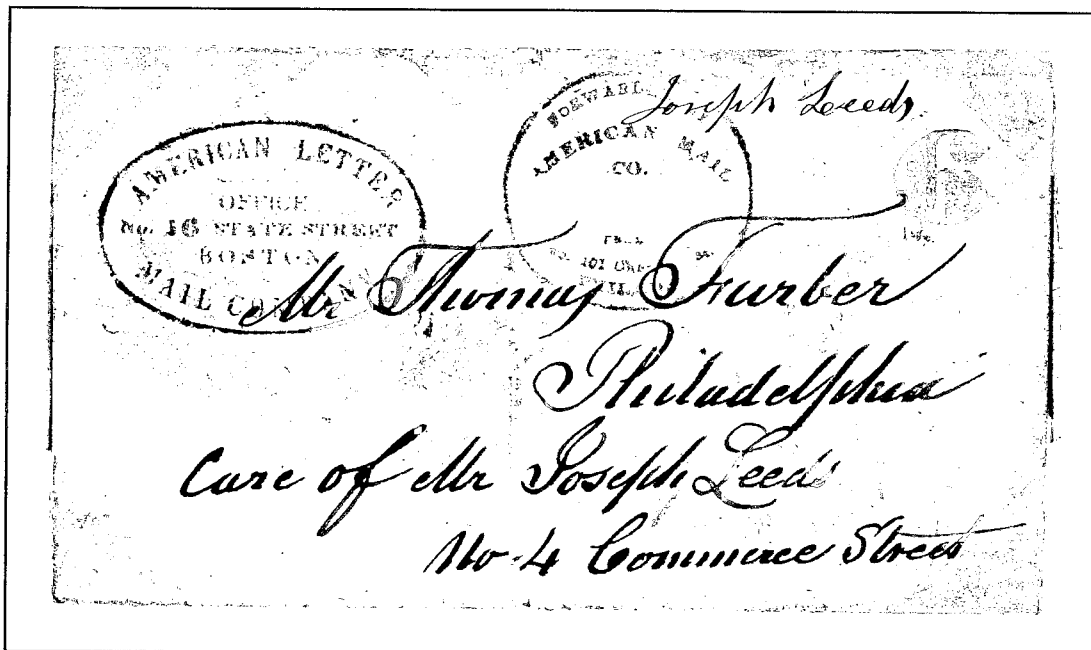
"Collect/6¼¢" Handstamp.



Sometimes the charge was expressed merely as "6".

# Carriage from Boston Office to Philadelphia Office

We do not know how the several offices accounted among themselves for the fee charged when more than one office was involved.

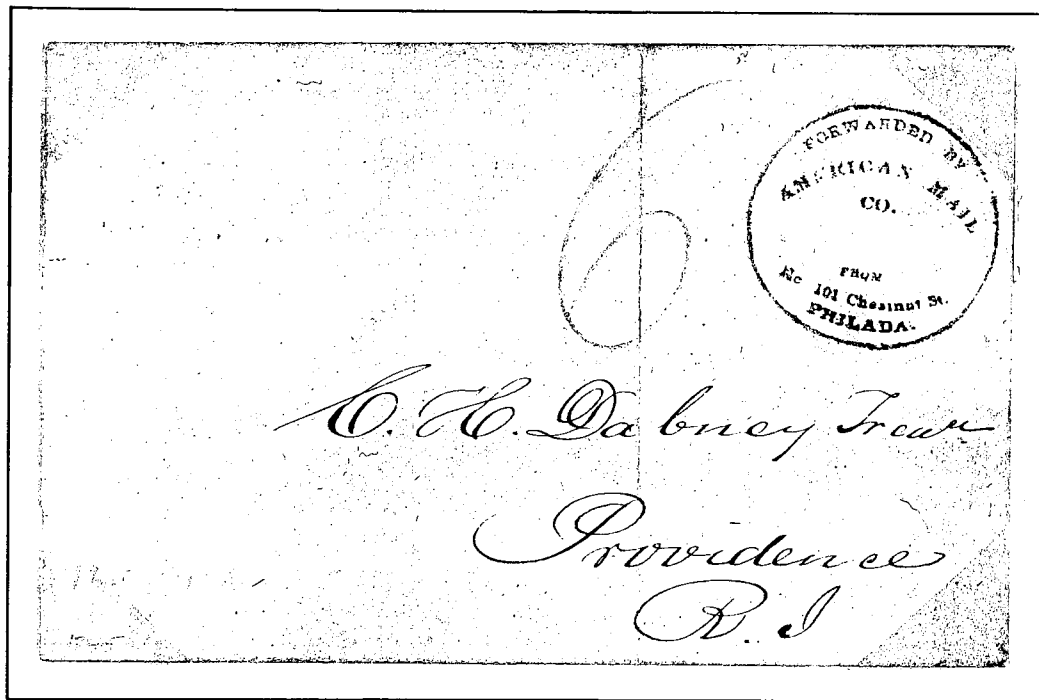


May 17, 1845.

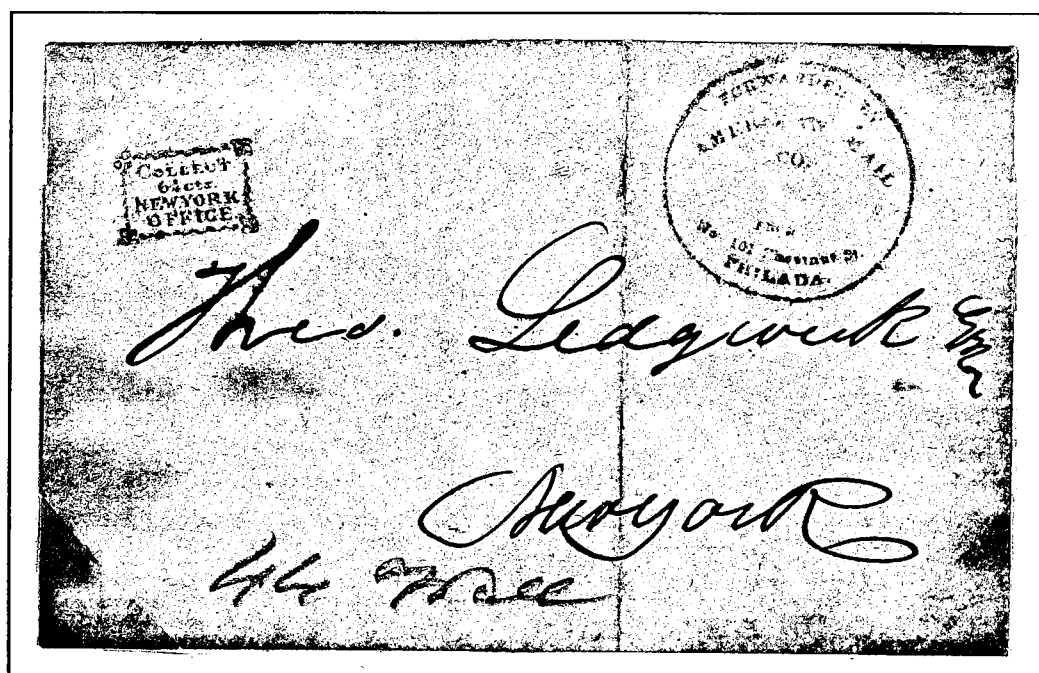
The Boston Company handstamp is on the left;  
the Philadelphia handstamp is in the center.



Rarely were "Fractional Cents" Expressed  
When the Rate was Hand Written



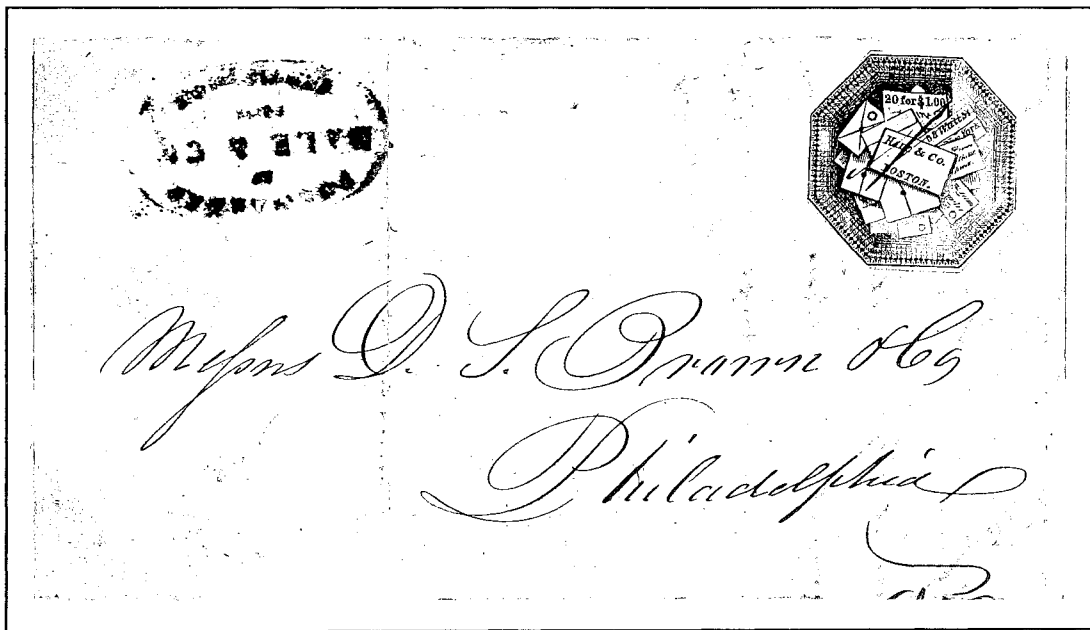
Rated "6" for 6¼¢ Due from addressee.



Handstamped "Collect/6¼¢/NEW YORK/OFFICE".

Hale & Co.

Hale & Co. operated along the East Coast, and became  
a major Independent Mail Carrier before being  
legislated out-of-business by Congress.

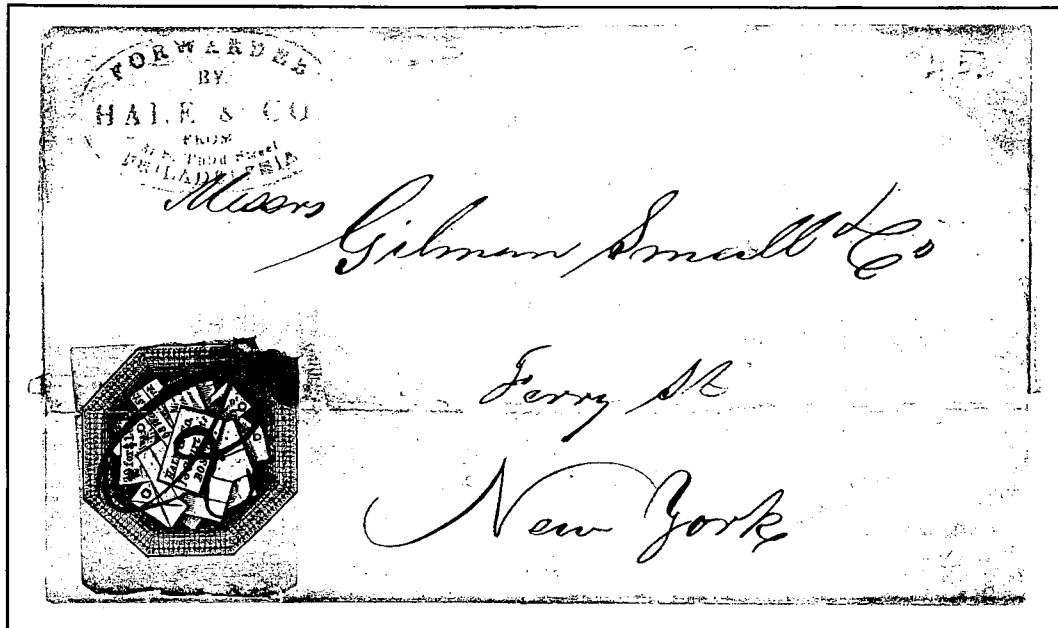


May 22, 1845.

Providence Office to Philadelphia Office.

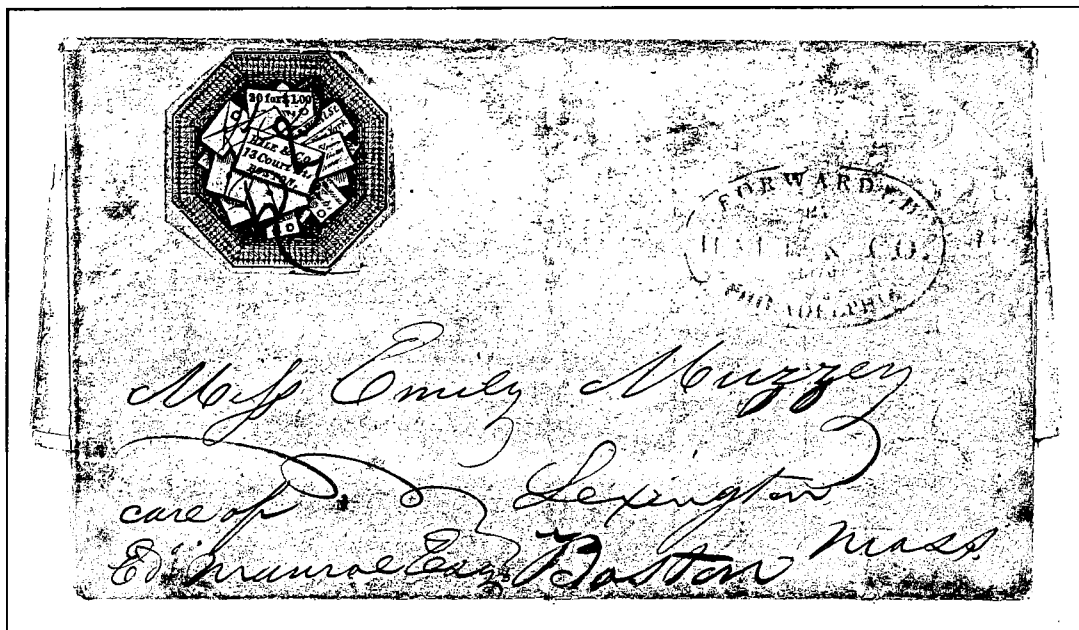
# Adhesives Cancelled by Carrier's Initial "R"

Although several examples of this cancellation have been reported, the carrier has not yet been identified.



May 24, 1845

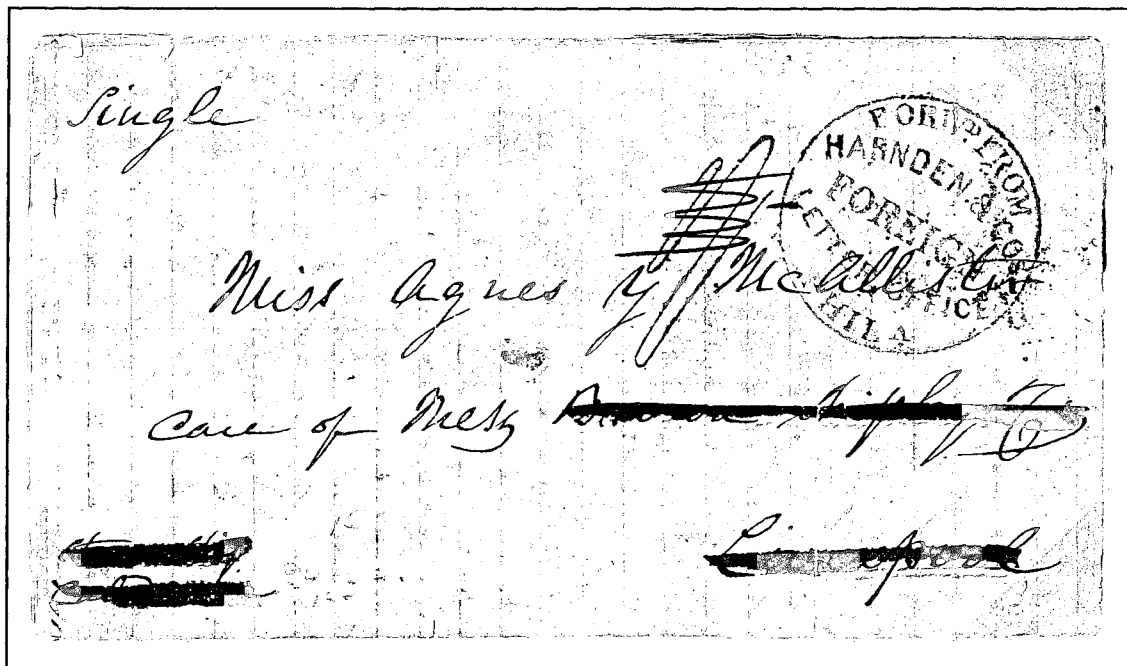
"R/R"



February 22, 1845.

## Harnden's Letter Express

Harnden's was the first Inter-City Express, having been founded in 1839. The business began in Boston, and was expanded to Philadelphia in 1840.

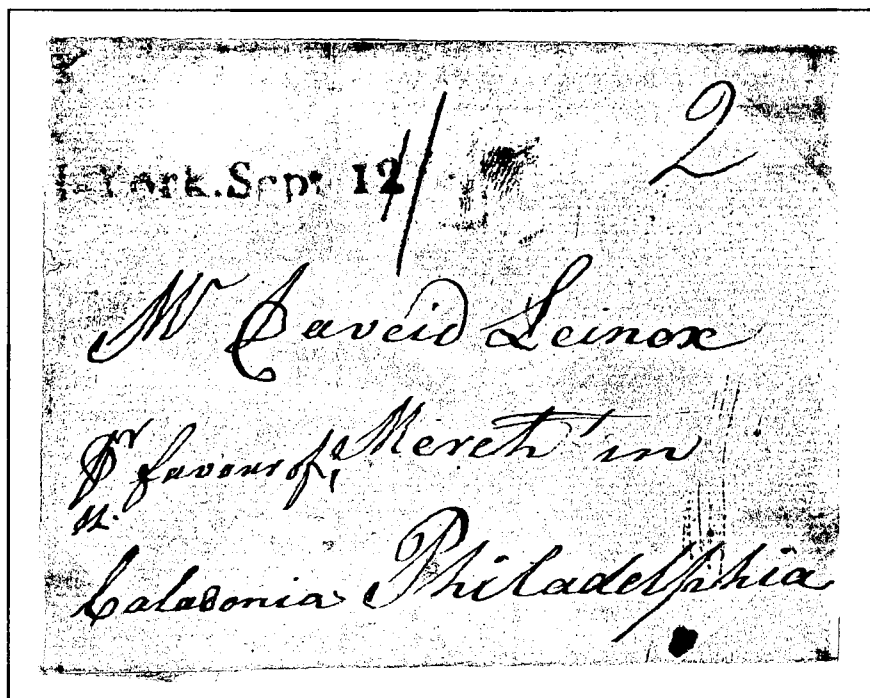


July 27, 1840.

Harnden enlarged his business to include Europe in 1841.

Government Carrier Service

Articles of Confederation Post



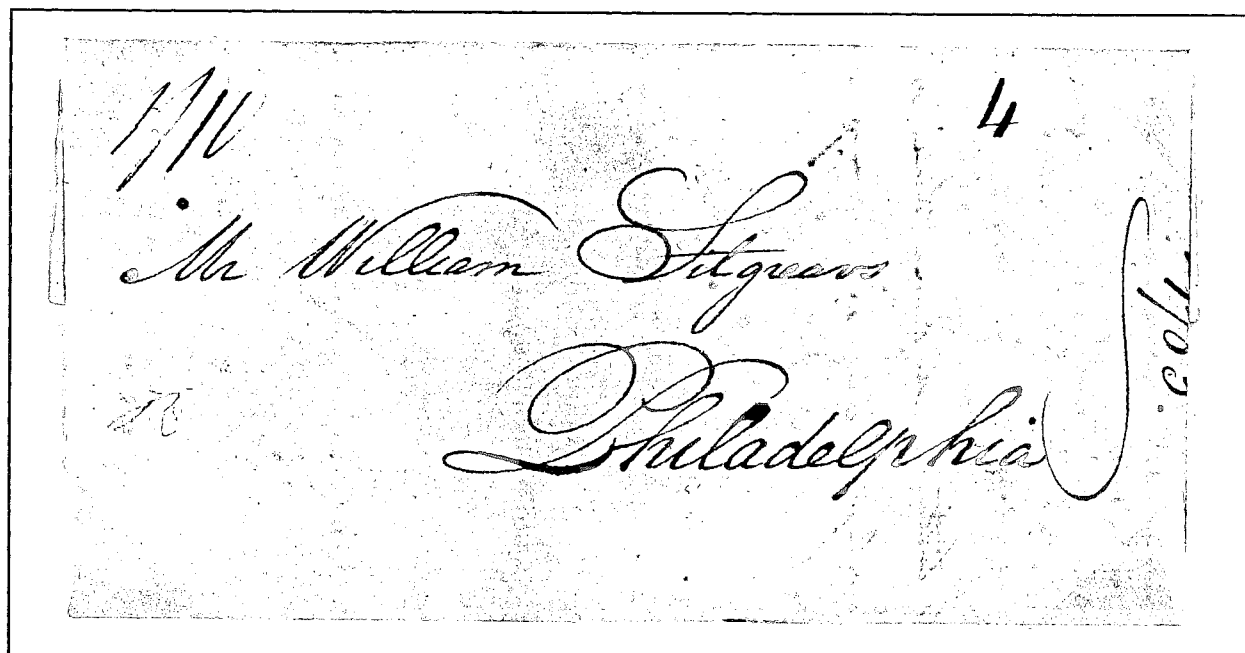
September 12, 1785.

Rated "2" Pennyweights (= 10 Pence) in New York City, but rated "1/" [One Shilling] (= 12 Pence) in local currency at Philadelphia.

The extra two (2) Pence probably was a charge for Carrier delivery from the Philadelphia Post Office.

Articles of Confederation Post

Petersburg, Va. to Philadelphia



March 24, 1783.

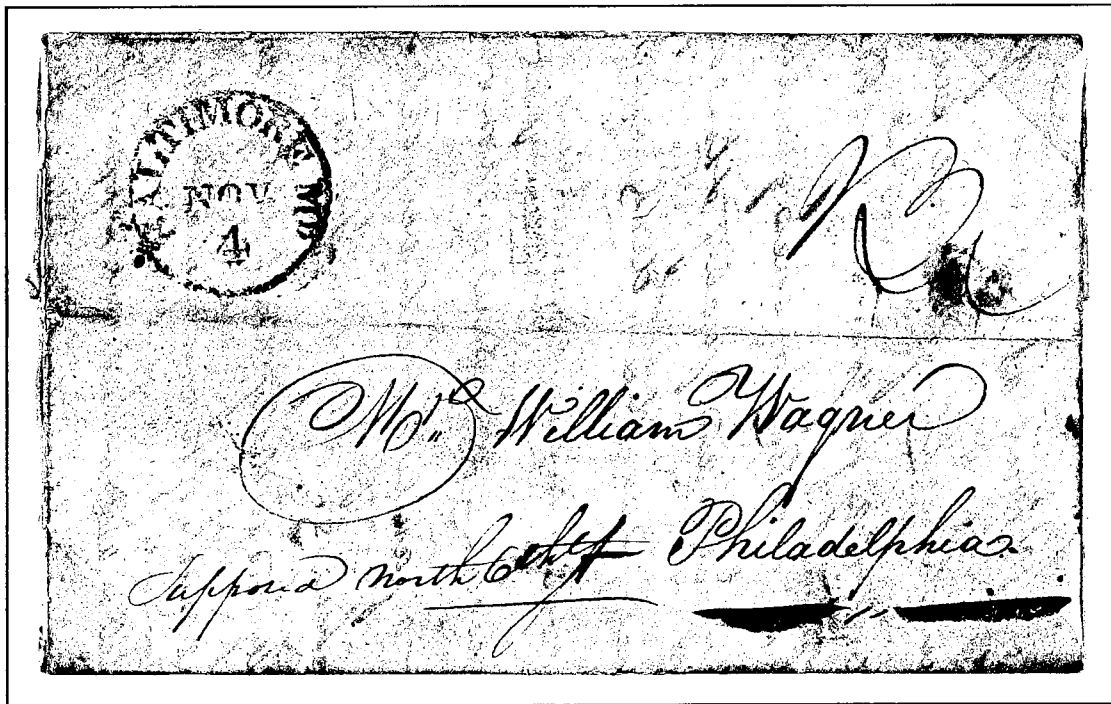
Rated "4" Pennyweights [= 20 Pence] (300-400 miles) in Petersburg,  
but rated "1/10" [= 22 Pence] in Philadelphia local currency.

The extra two (2) Pence for the carrier delivery fee in  
Philadelphia was not affected by the increased postage  
according to distance.

*Constitutional Post*

The records establish that a Government letter carrier (William Blake) was appointed in Philadelphia in 1791. Thereafter, although there was no *Carrier Department*, additional letter carriers were appointed who earned their income from the pooled fees they all received from patrons.

Delivery to District of Northern Liberties.



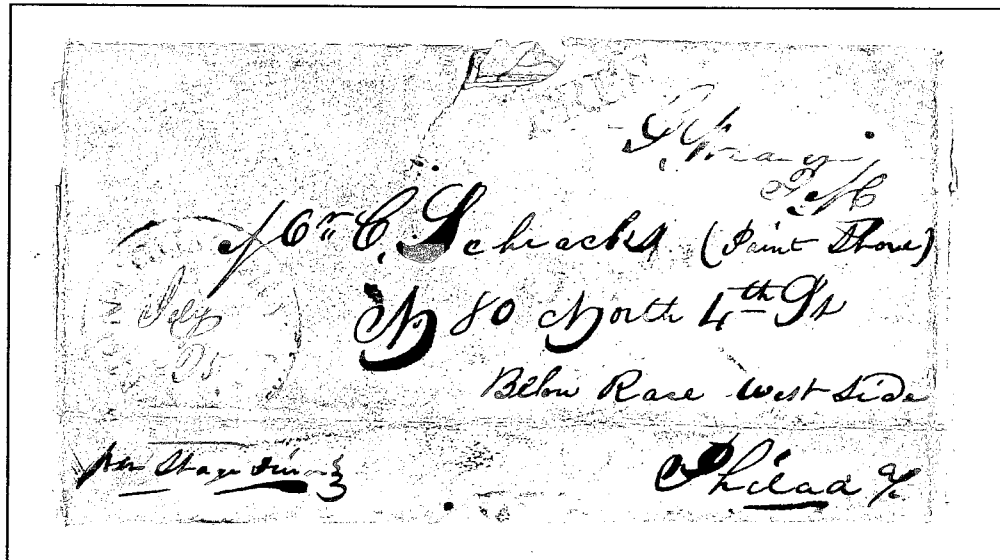
November 4, 1824.

Address supplied by letter carrier who delivered  
the folded letter from the Post Office and  
collected the fee "in cash".

# Incoming Stage Coach Letter Carrier Delivered

The presence of the street address and very specific directions make it very likely that this letter was delivered by a Philadelphia letter carrier.

"N 80 North 4<sup>th</sup> St/Below Race West Side"



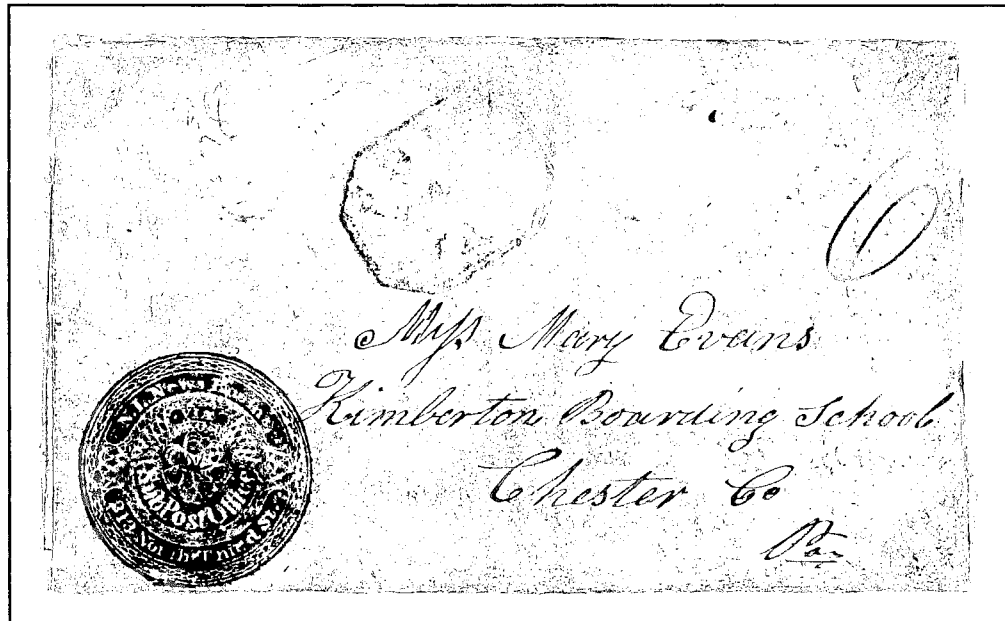
July 25, 1828. Montgomery Square,  
NJ to Philadelphia.

Free franked by George Weaver, Postmaster. The carrier fee (2¢) would be collected "in cash" from the addressee.



# Northern Liberties News Room

Letter sheets were sold by the Northern Liberties Sub-Post Office in late 1835 and early 1836 for Carrier Service by Government letter carriers to the main Philadelphia Post Office.

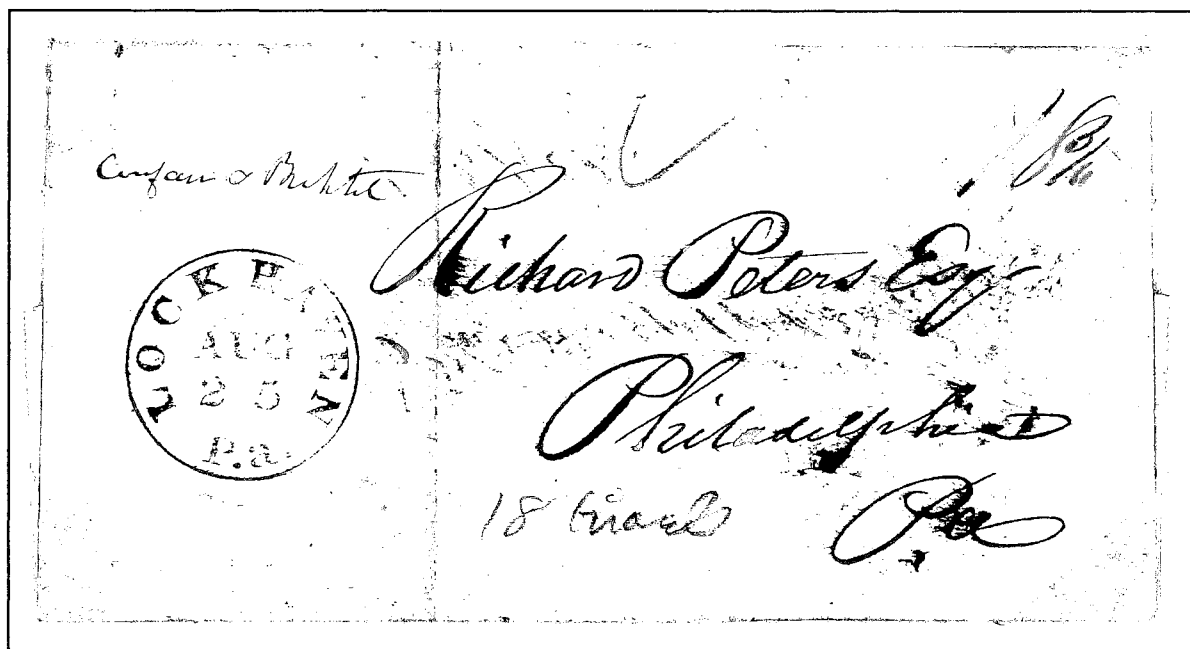


1836. Type I (Filled-in center). 6¢ Due.

Postal historians argue whether the "impression" was pre-printed on a letter press or was handstamped.

Carrier Delivered "From the Mails"

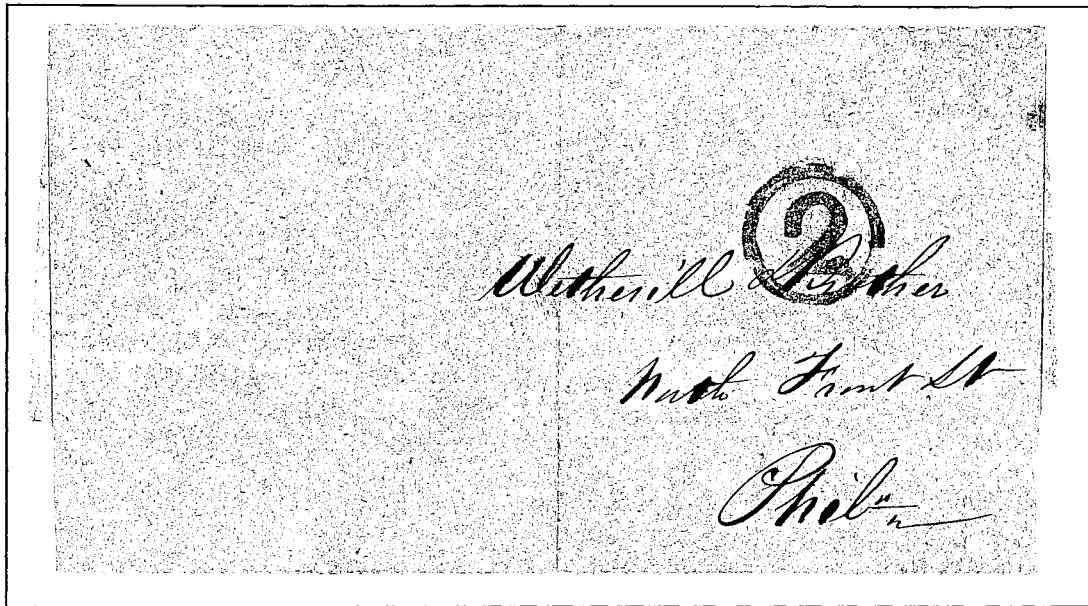
"C" Applied by Carrier Department



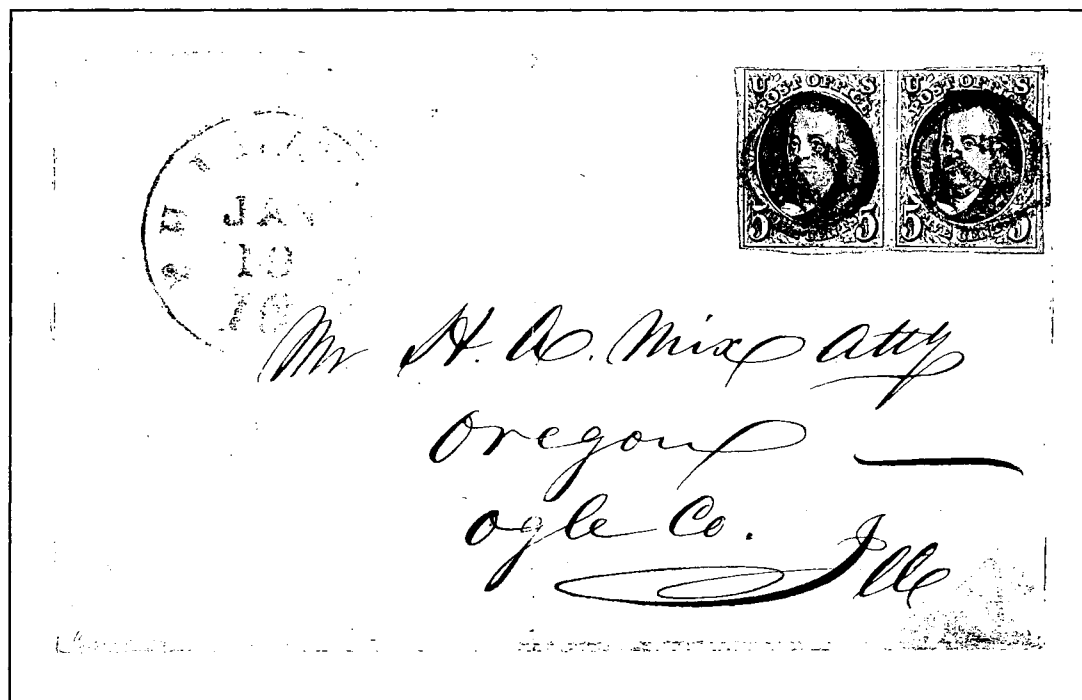
August 25, 1841.

There are three (3) reported covers on which the Carrier Department indicated its handling the letter by marking it with "C" and the street address.

Carrier Fees in Philadelphia were "Not more than 2¢"  
 From July 2, 1836 until February 19, 1849.



July 7, 1848. City delivery to North Front Street.



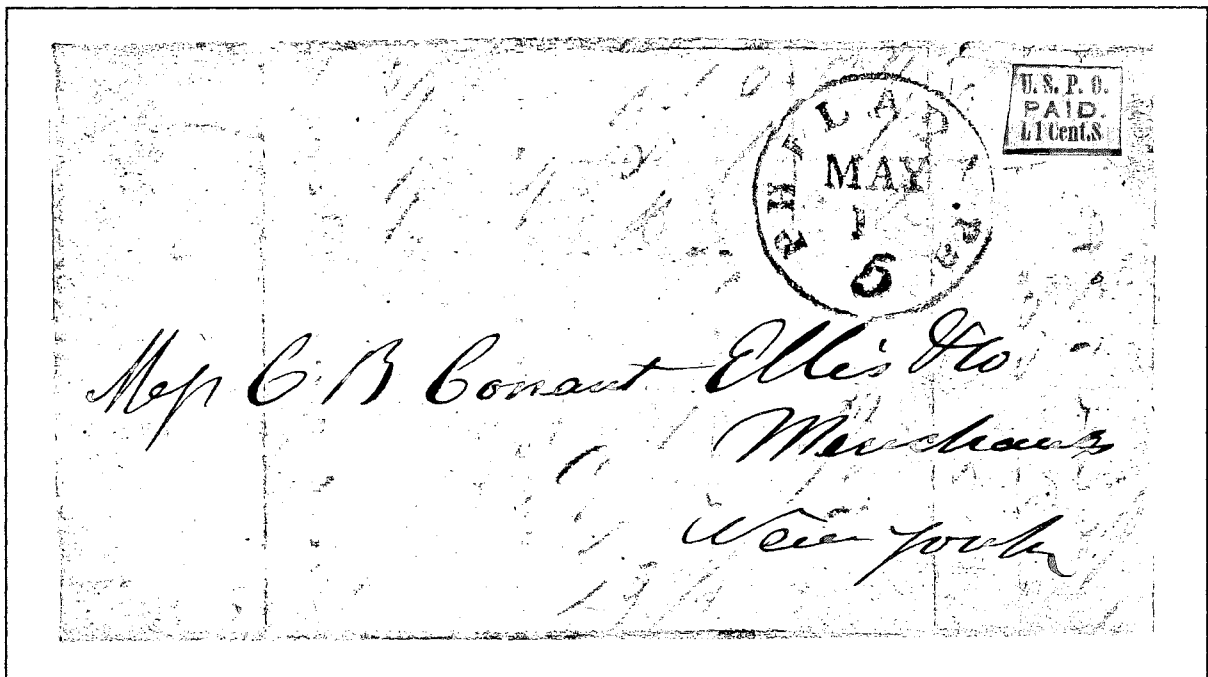
January 19, 1848.

The "2" circle handstamp is thought by some students  
 to indicate prepayment of the Collection Fee in cash.

## Semi-Official Carrier Stamps

As part of the reorganization of the Philadelphia Carrier Department in 1849, Postmaster William White issued a series of small, crude adhesives.

The 1849-1850 Series: With Initials



May 12, 1849.

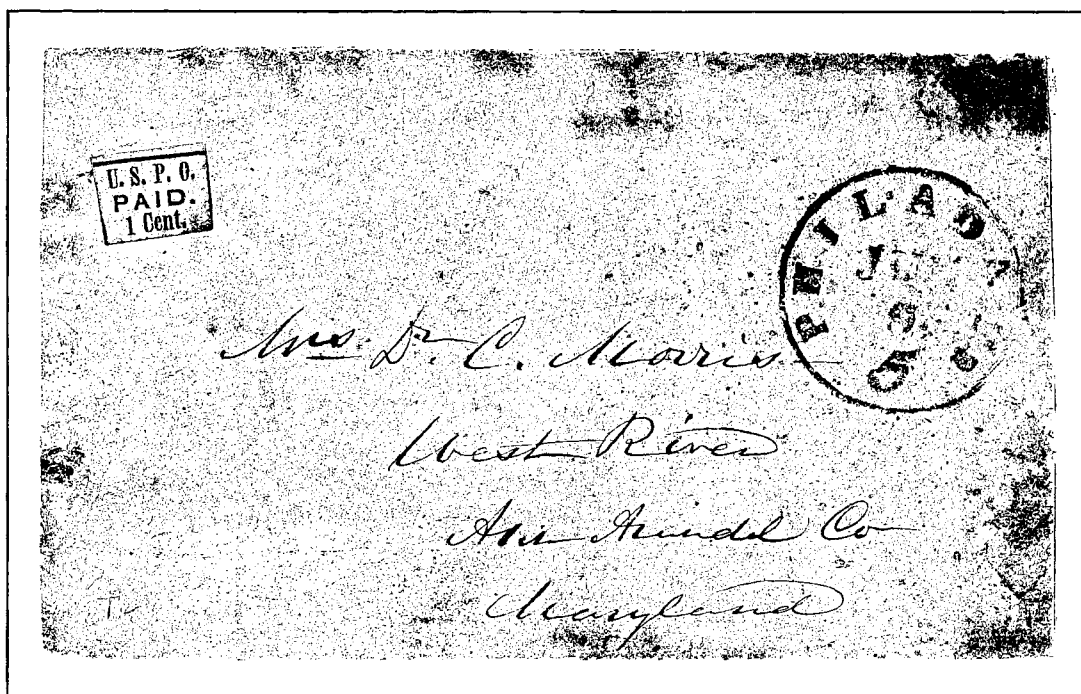
*Initials "L S"*

Some postal historians speculate that the initials which appear on some of the stamps in this series were the initials of the letter carriers.

## Semi-Official Carrier Stamps

The 1849-1850 Series: Without Initials

Black on Buff



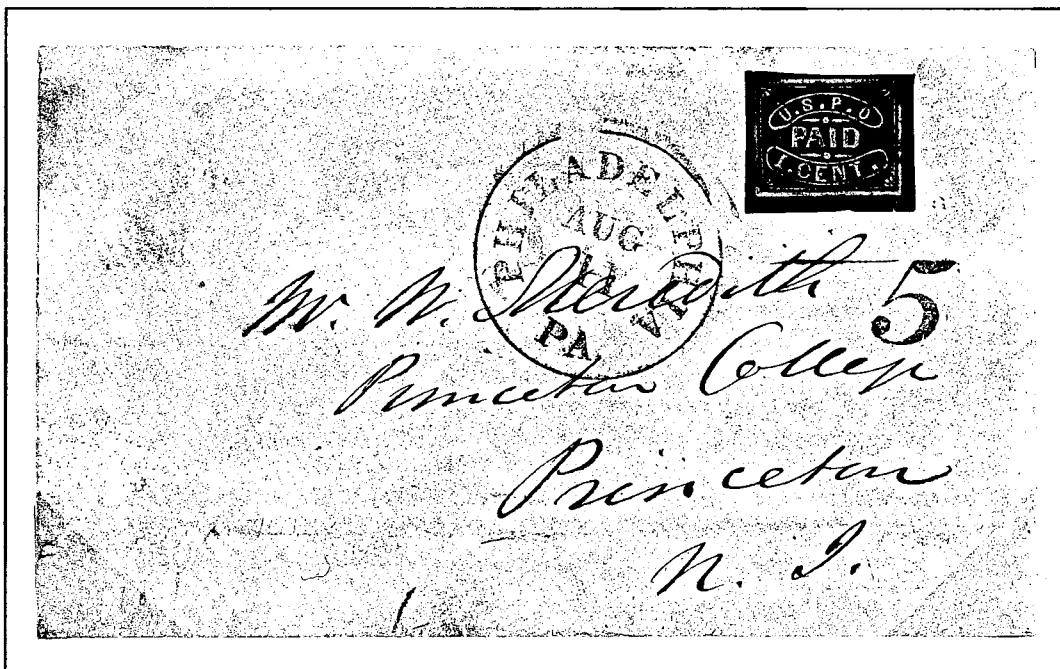
No date, but probably 1849 since this series of adhesives was available 1849-1850, and the CDS (Type C-44) was in use 1848-1849.

Only reported example on cover.

## Semi-Official Carrier Stamps

### The Second Series

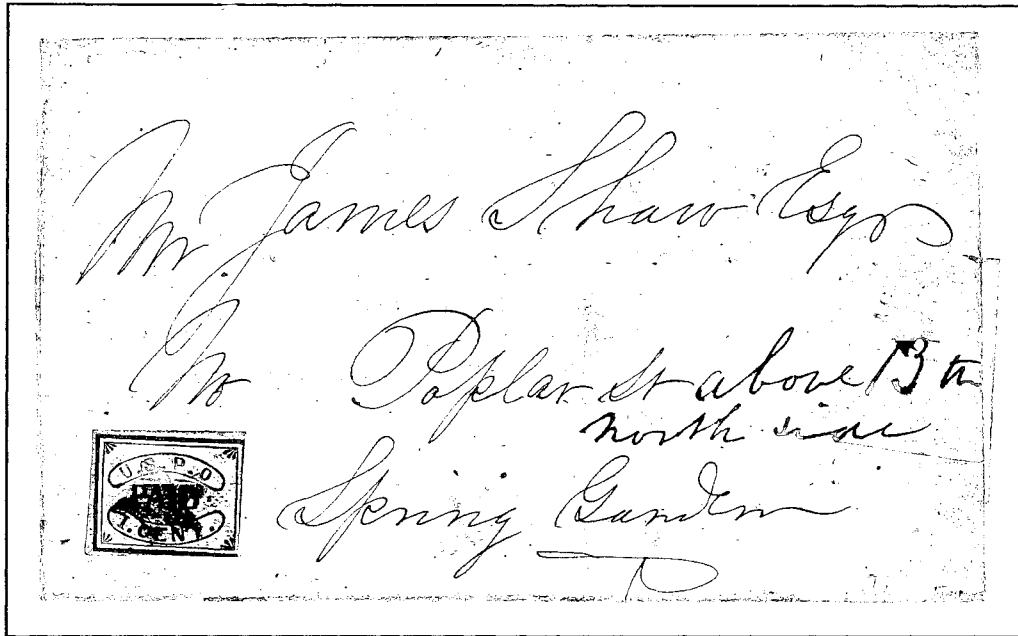
Postmaster White issued a new series of carrier stamps from 1850-1852. These adhesives could be used rather than the Franklin carrier or Eagle carrier stamps which were also available during part of this time.



August 11, 1851.

The carrier fee had to be prepaid **only if**, like this letter, the cover was to be taken to the Post Office for transmittal out-of-town.

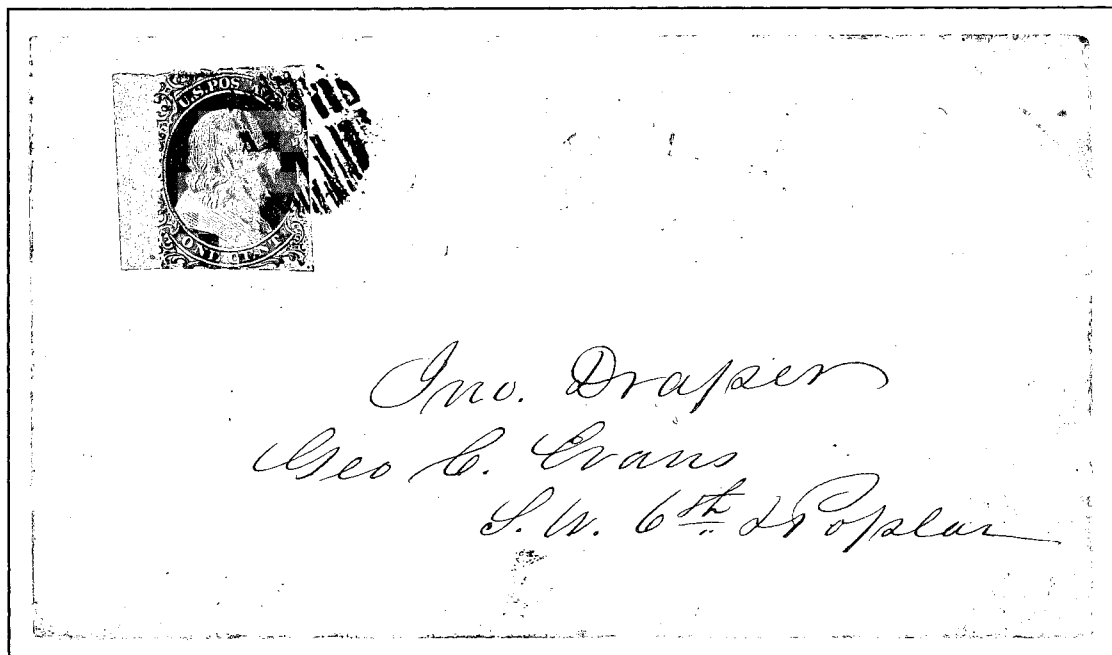
Delivery to Spring Garden District  
by the Philadelphia Carrier Department



September 30, 1852.

It has been incorrectly written that because the  
Spring Garden District had its own Post Office,  
the Philadelphia Carrier Department did not deliver  
to the District.

Delivery to Spring Garden District

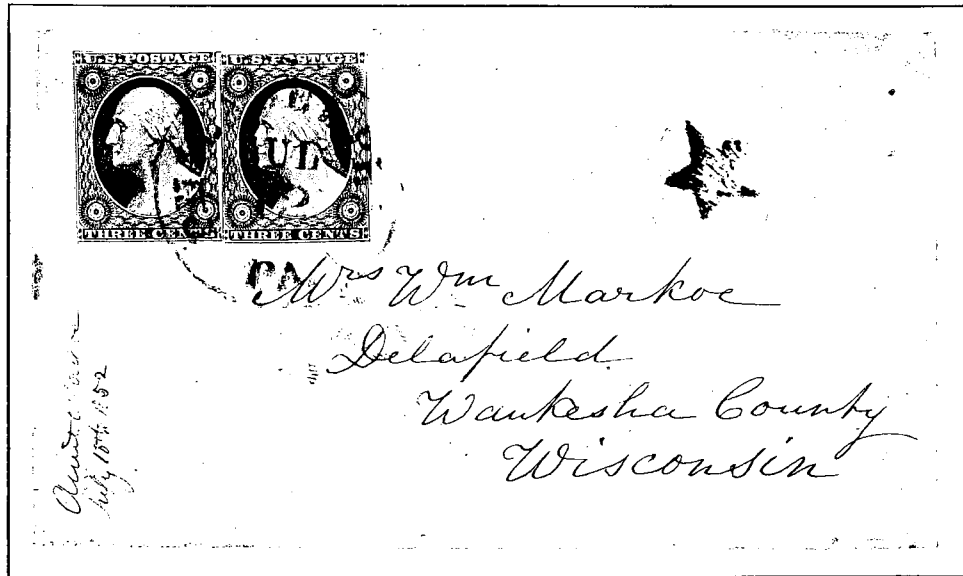


No date.

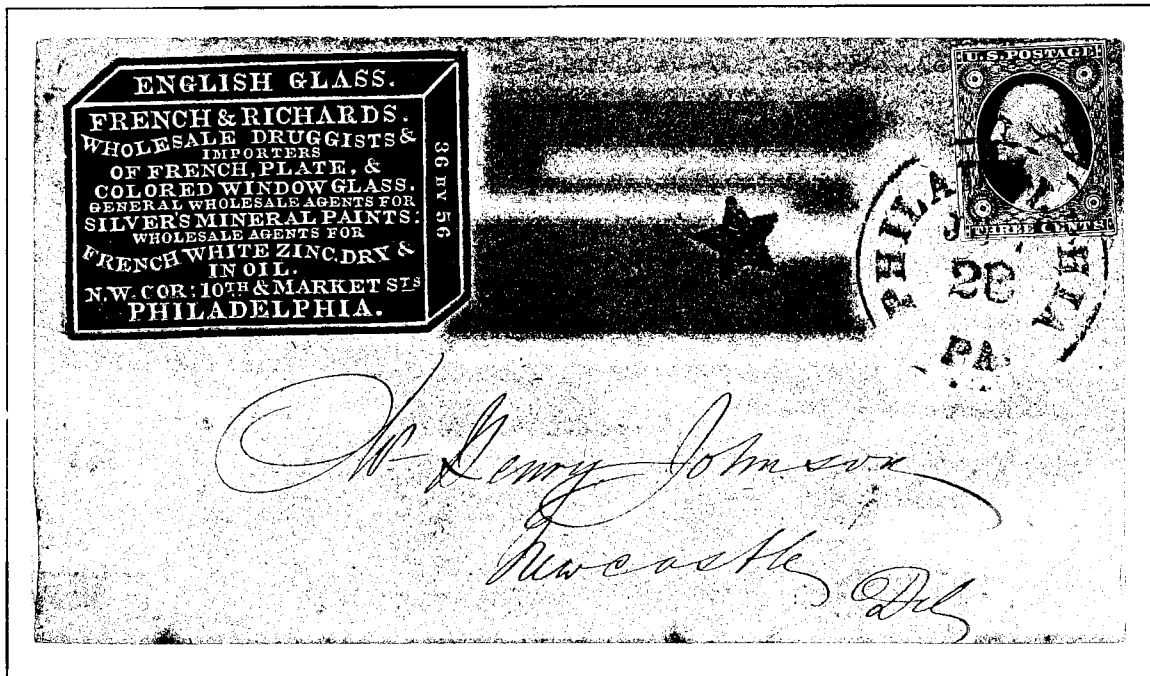
"6th & Poplar" Streets were in the Spring  
Garden District.



Prepayment of the Carrier Fee "In Cash"



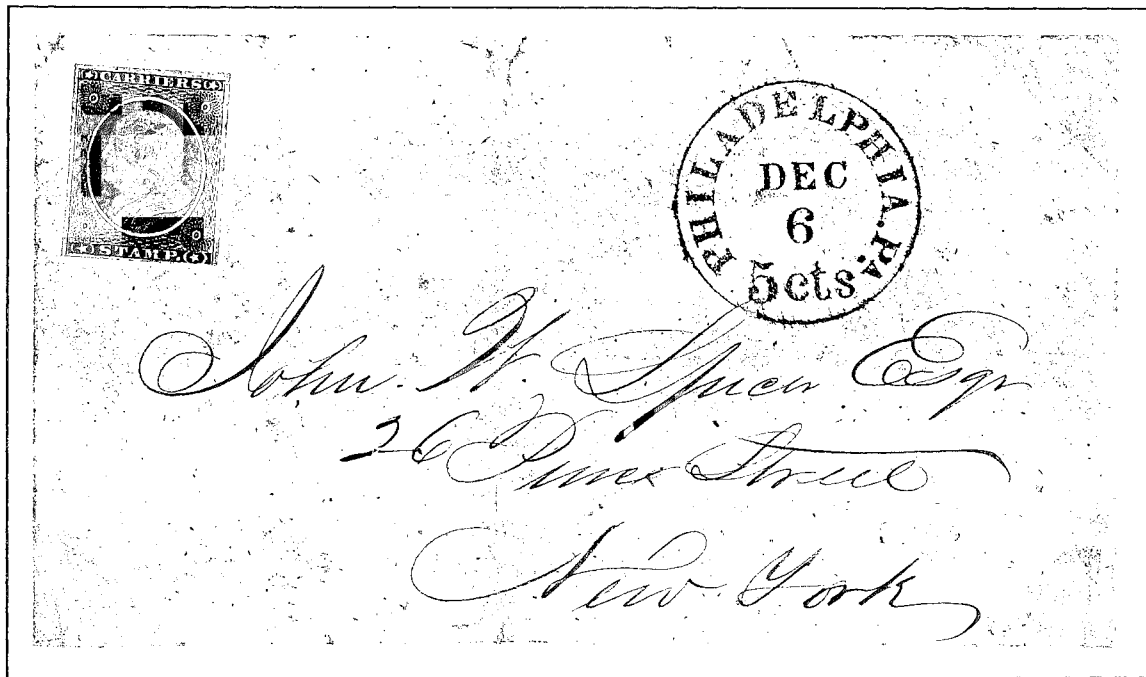
July 12, 1852.



In the 1850's, the Philadelphia Carrier Department often used a red star to indicate prepayment "in cash" of the carrier collection fee (1¢) to the Post Office.

## The Official Post Office Carrier Stamp

On October 21, 1851, the Philadelphia Post Office received 10,000 *Franklin* carrier stamps, the only shipment it ever received.

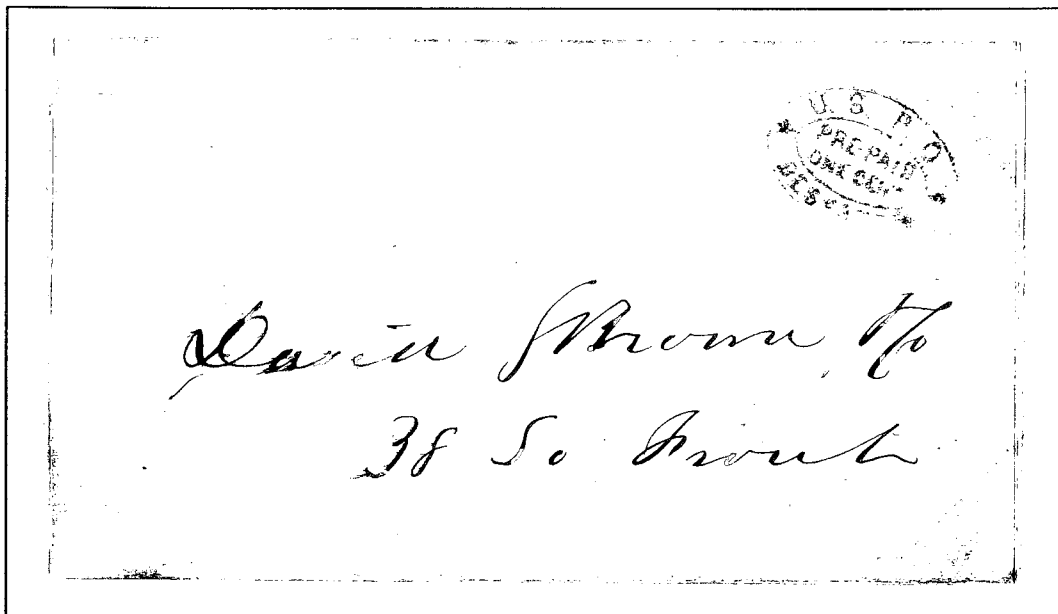


No year date, but likely 1851. With PF Certificate.

The Franklin carrier was superseded by the Eagle carrier stamp in November 1851.

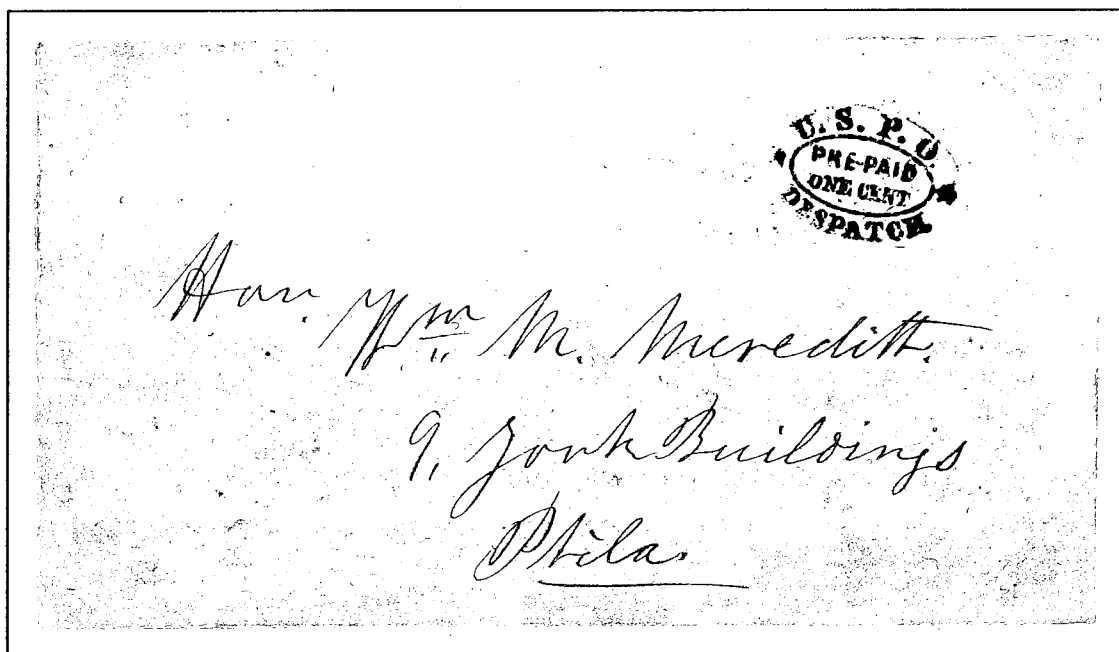
Act of July 1, 1851

Without Serifs [Type C-32]



October 10, 1853. These markings evidence prepayment of the carrier fee "in cash".

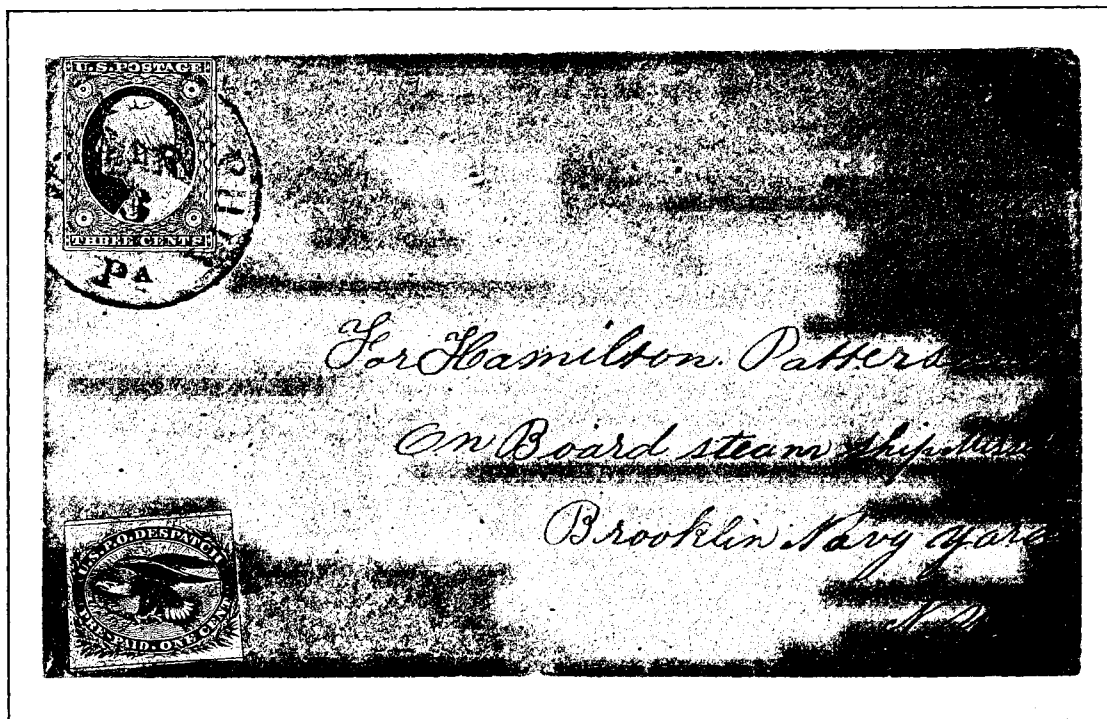
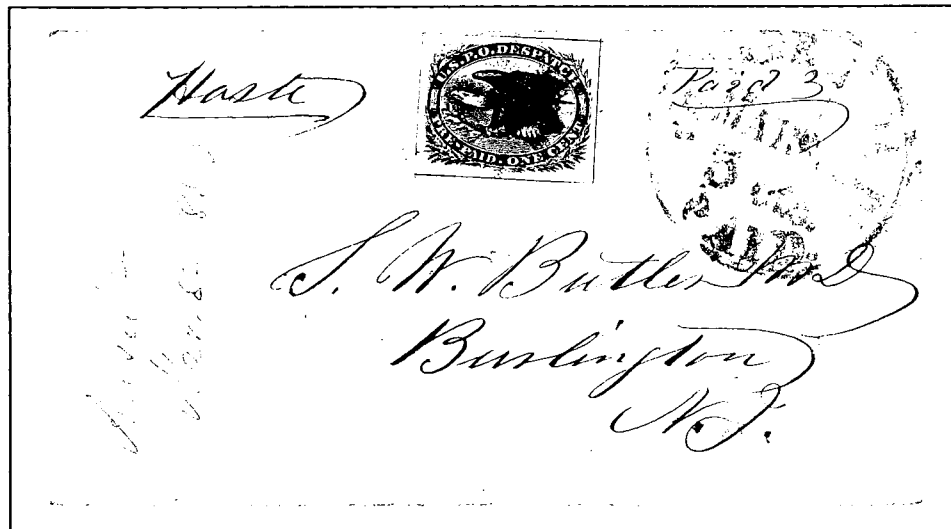
With Serifs [Type C-33]



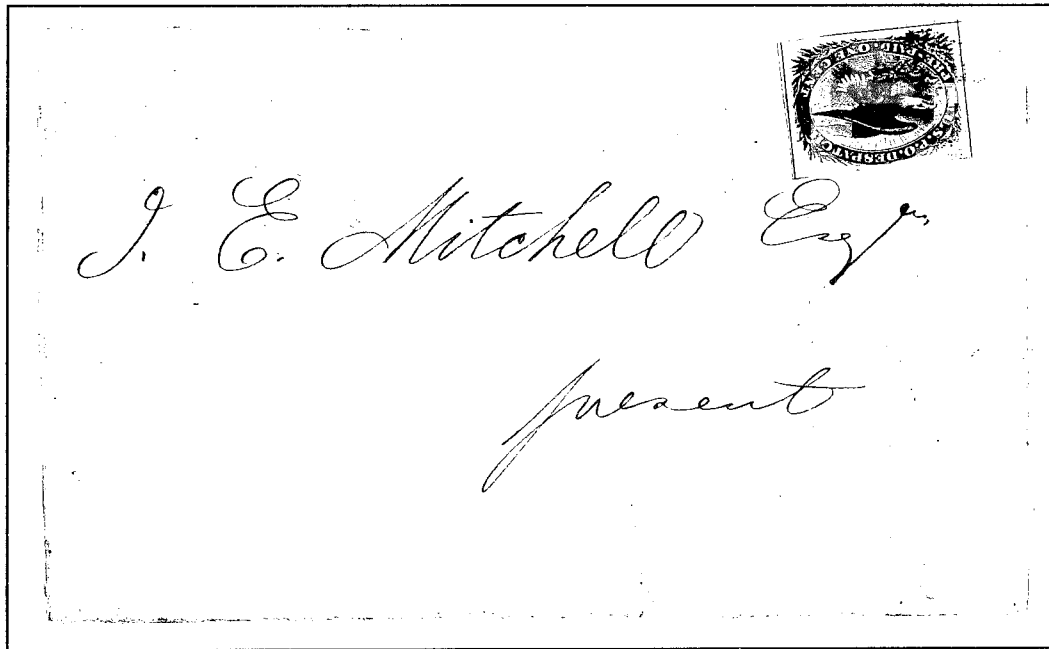
February 5, 1853.

## The Second Official Post Office Carrier Stamp

On November 17, 1851, the Philadelphia Post Office received a shipment of 20,000 Eagle carrier stamps, the only one it ever received.

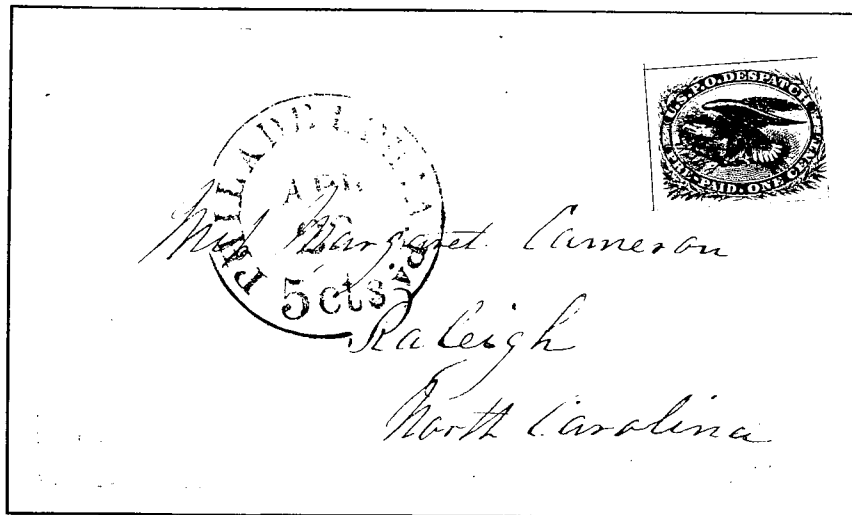


Carrier Delivered Printed Circular

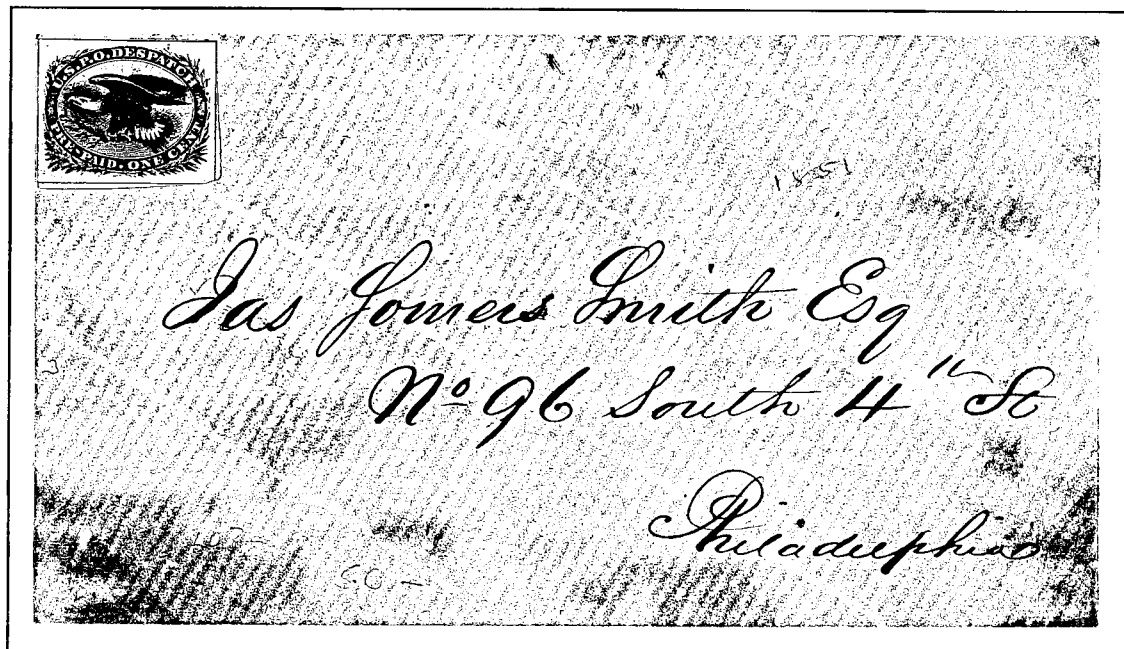


1854. City delivery.

"To the Mails"



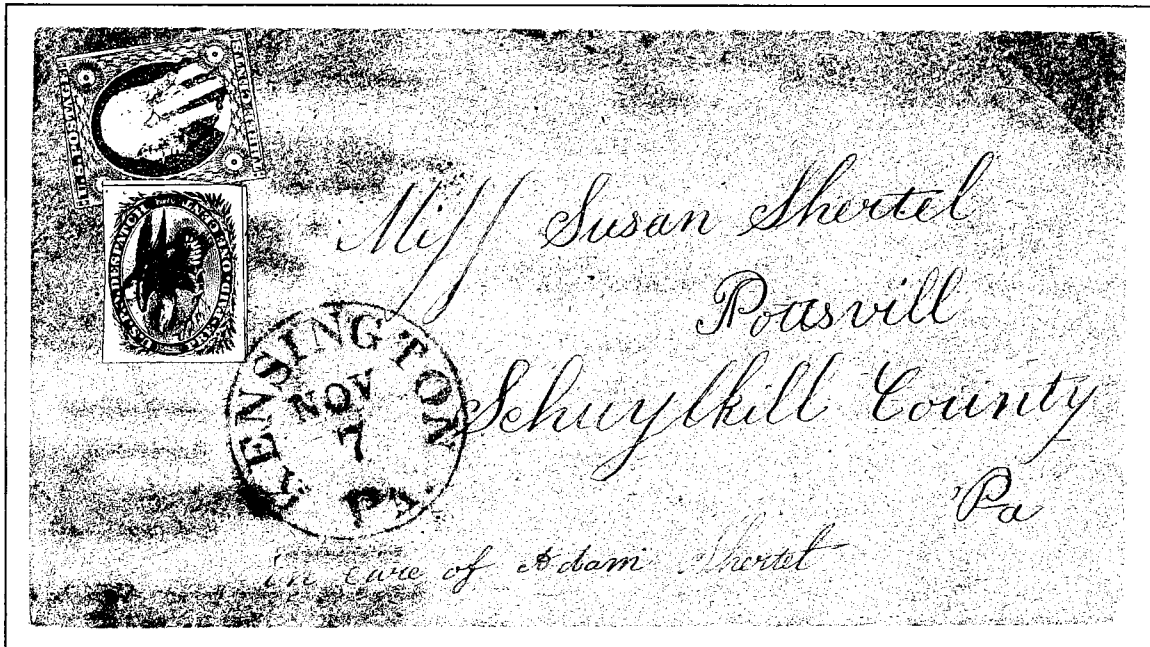
"City Delivery"



Despite the availability of government carrier service, most City delivery service was performed by the private local Posts such as Blood's Despatch.

Carrier Service at Kensington, Pa.

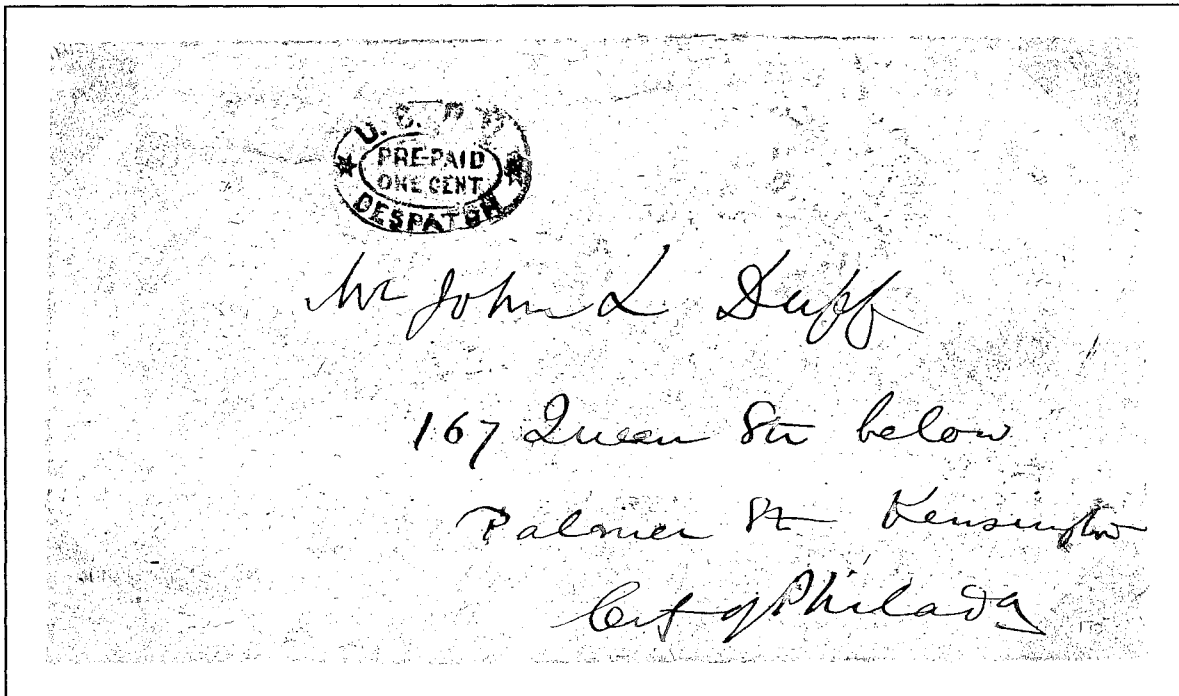
Kensington, a Borough located in Philadelphia County (and eventually incorporated into the City), had its own Post Office and Carrier Department. Because of its proximity to Philadelphia, it also was served by the Philadelphia Carrier Department.



Of the four Post Offices that distributed Eagle carrier stamps, Kensington records the fewest examples on cover - - only twenty-seven (27).

**Carrier Service to Kensington, Pa.**

This letter, addressed to Kensington [a District adjacent to Philadelphia], was delivered by the Philadelphia Carrier Department, even though the Kensington Post Office had its own carrier service.



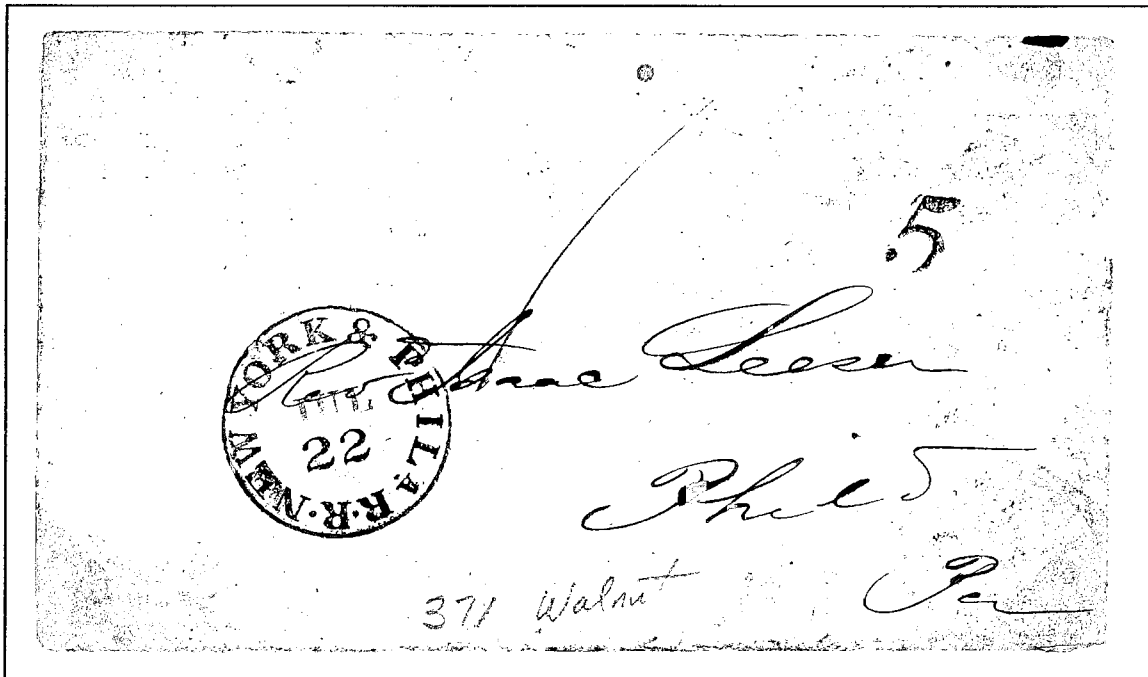
No year date. "U.S.P.O.\*DESPATCH\*/PRE-PAID/ONE CENT"  
[Type C-32-Without Serifs]

This handstamp reflected the reduction in Carrier Fees implemented in February 1849.



Carrier Delivered From Railroad Route Agent

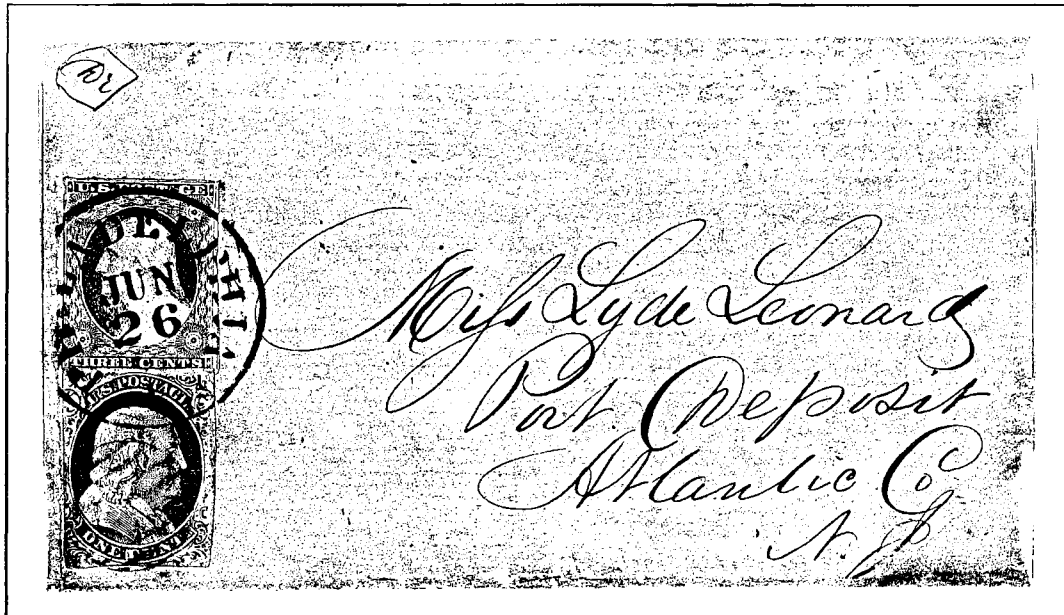
"New York & PHIL<sup>A</sup> R.R."



Carrier fee <due> indicated by "1" in pencil.

Carrier delivered letters taken from railroad service are among the scarcest usages.

*Early Use of 1¢ Imperforate Stamp to Pay  
For Collection Service*

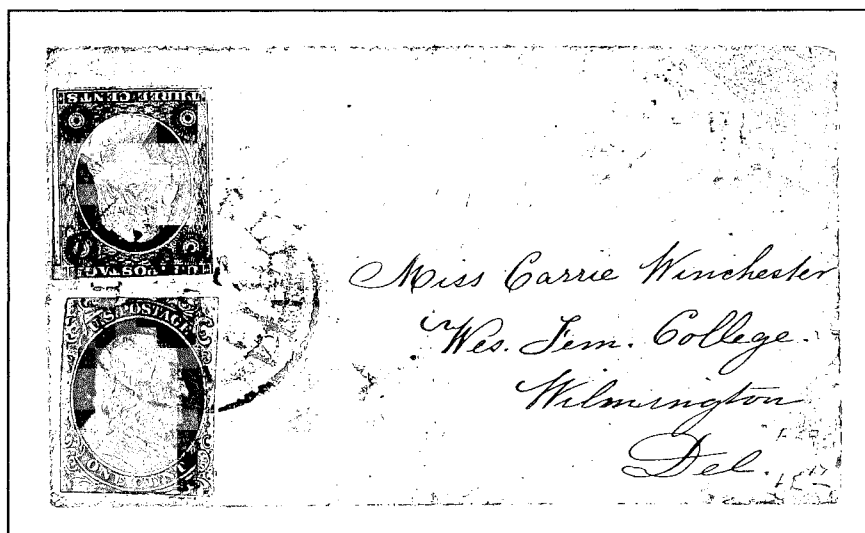


June 26, 1856.

The 1¢ imperforate stamp began to be used to pay the collection fee in Philadelphia, concurrently with the Eagle carrier stamp, in June 1856.

1¢ Imperforate Stamp Cancelled by Black Oval

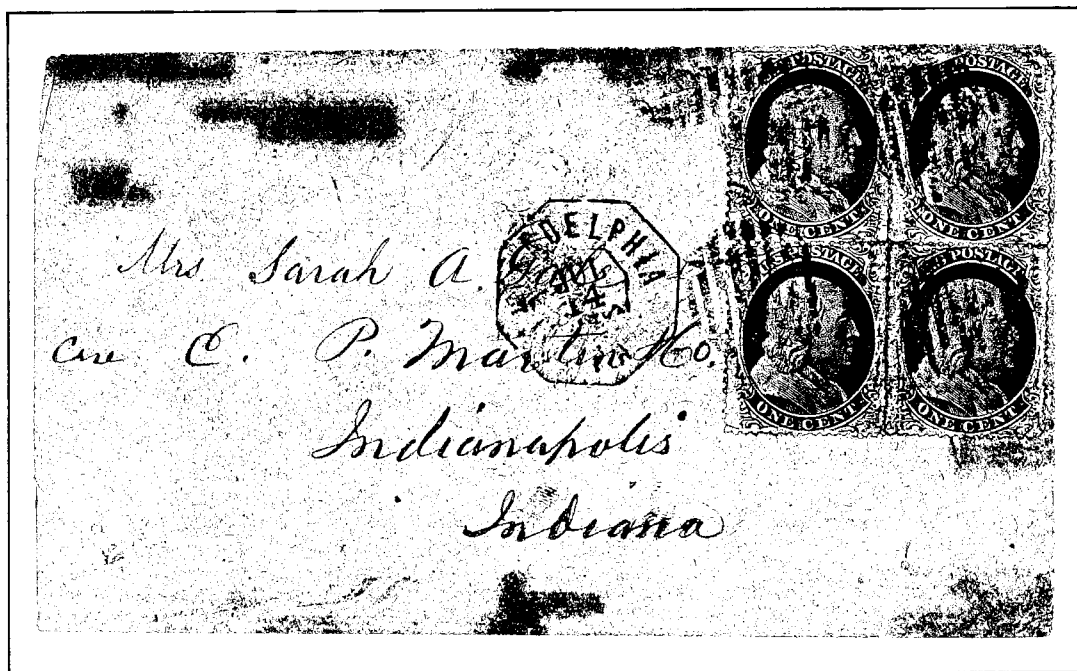
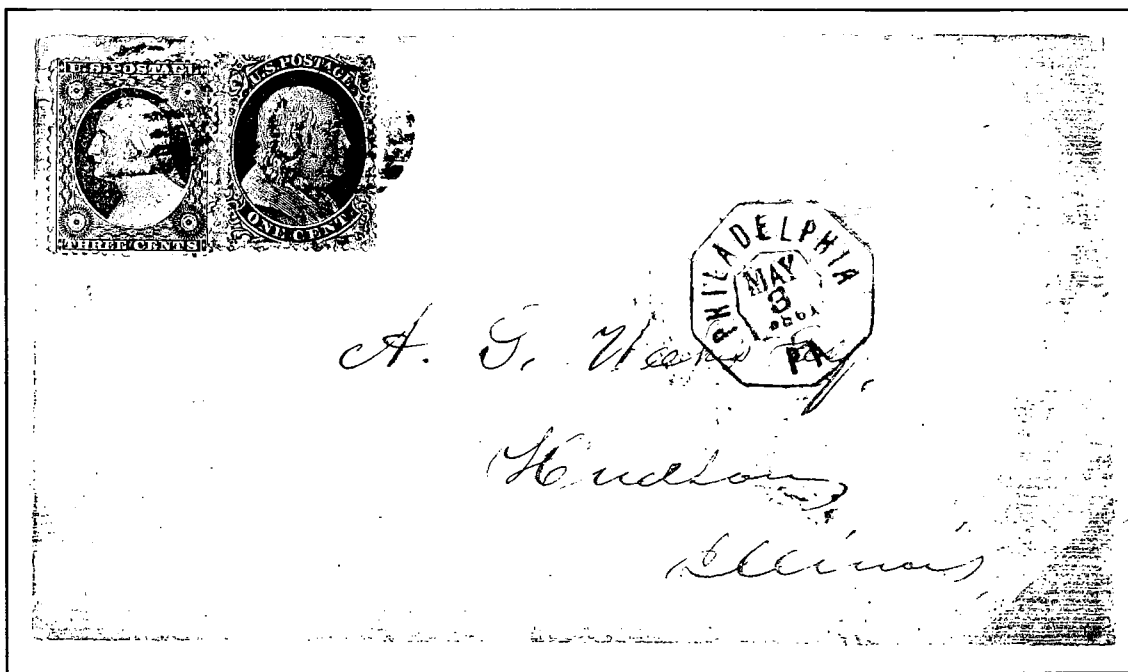
"U.S.P.O.\*DESPATCH\*/PRE-PAID/ONE CENT" Handstamp



No date.

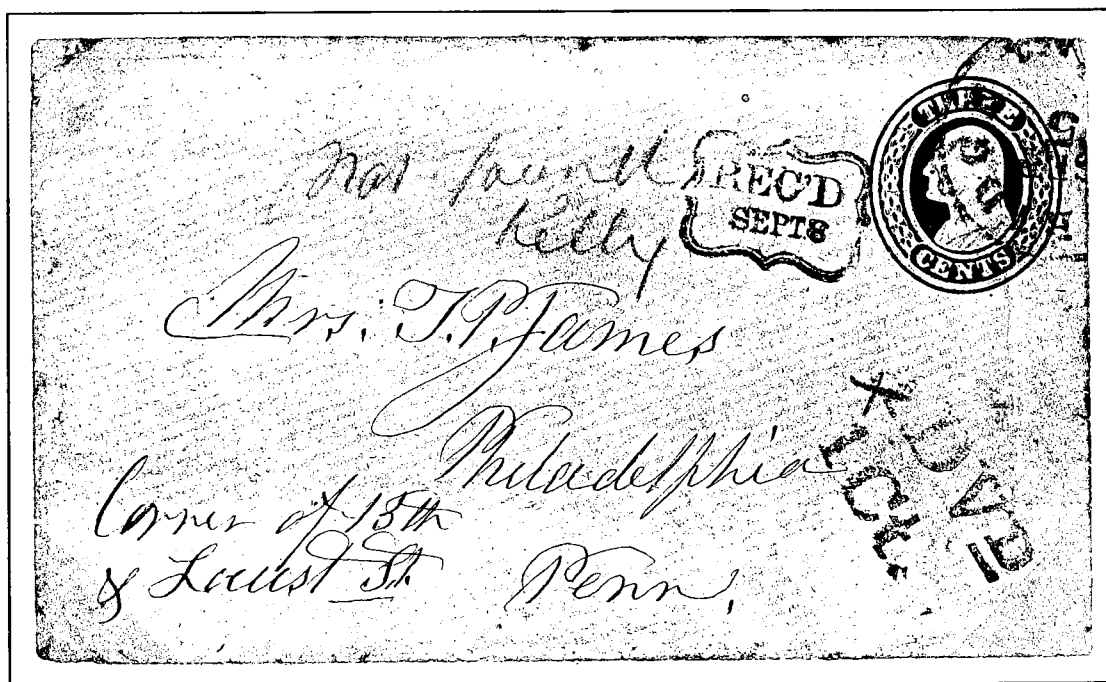
The 1¢ stamp was used for Carrier collection service in Philadelphia from June 1856 through November 1857 when this service became free.

"To the Mails"



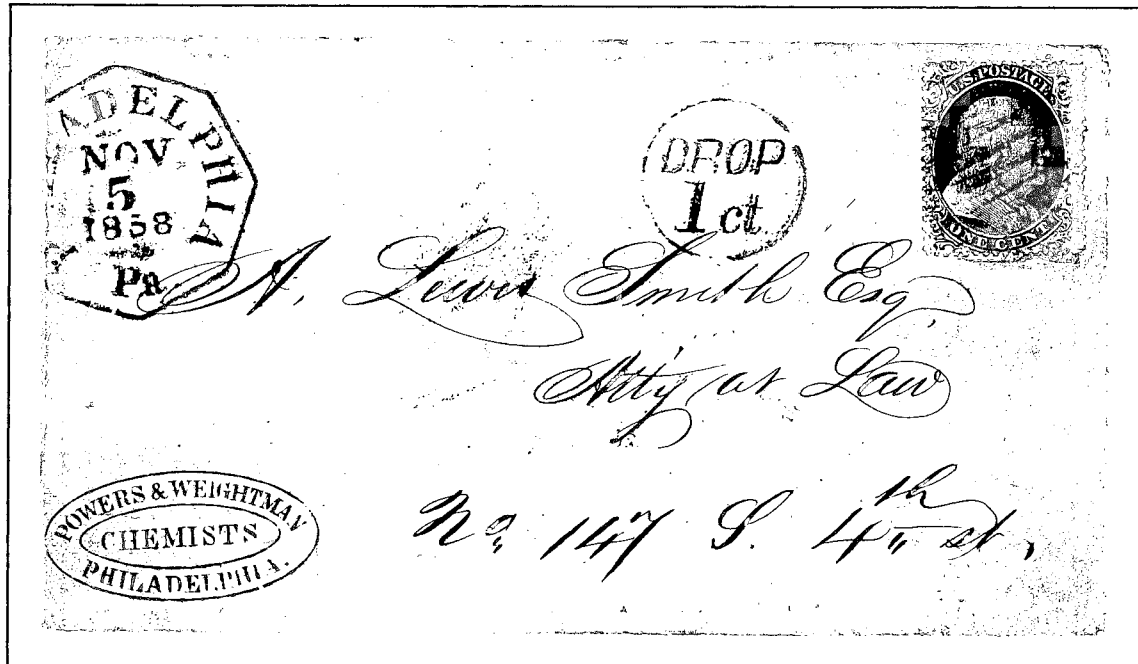
1¢ (x4) pays Carrier fee + Postage.

Letter Carrier Pencil Notation: "Not found/Kelly"



The letter carrier (Kelly) returned the letter  
to the Post Office to be advertised.

Carrier & Drop Letter Combination

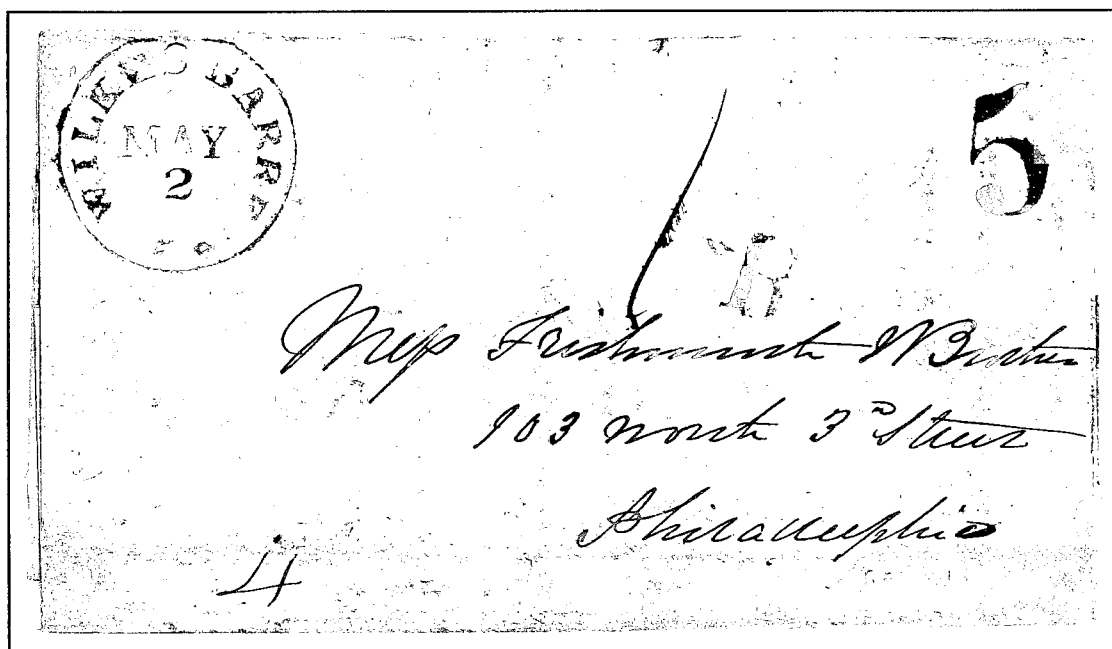


November 5, 1858. Rated 1 cent (Prepaid) for Carrier Fee + 1 cent (Due) for Drop Letter postage.

This letter, addressed to a street address, would have been delivered for the Carrier Fee only had it been put in the Carrier Box at the Post Office. Because the letter was placed in the regular mail window, it was also subject to the Drop Letter postage charge.

# Incoming Registered/Recorded Letter Carrier Delivered

One of the scarcest carrier usages was the delivery of a recorded letter from the Post Office to the addressee.

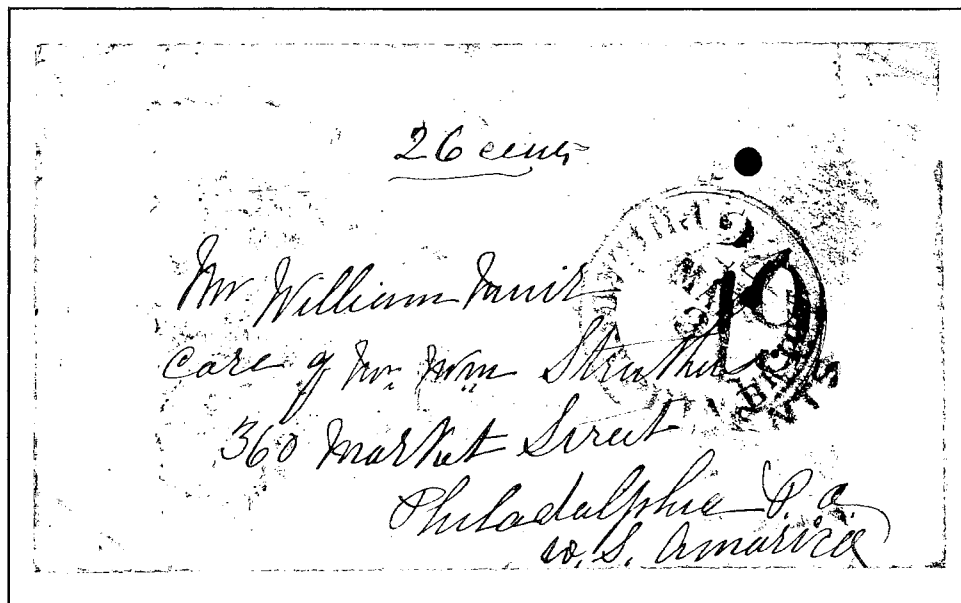


1850. Manuscript "4" (Recordation Number). Carrier fee  
<1¢ Due> indicated by pen stroke.

One of two (2) Recorded/Registered covers reported  
delivered by Philadelphia Carrier Department.

*Incoming Transatlantic Carrier Delivered*

"26 cents"



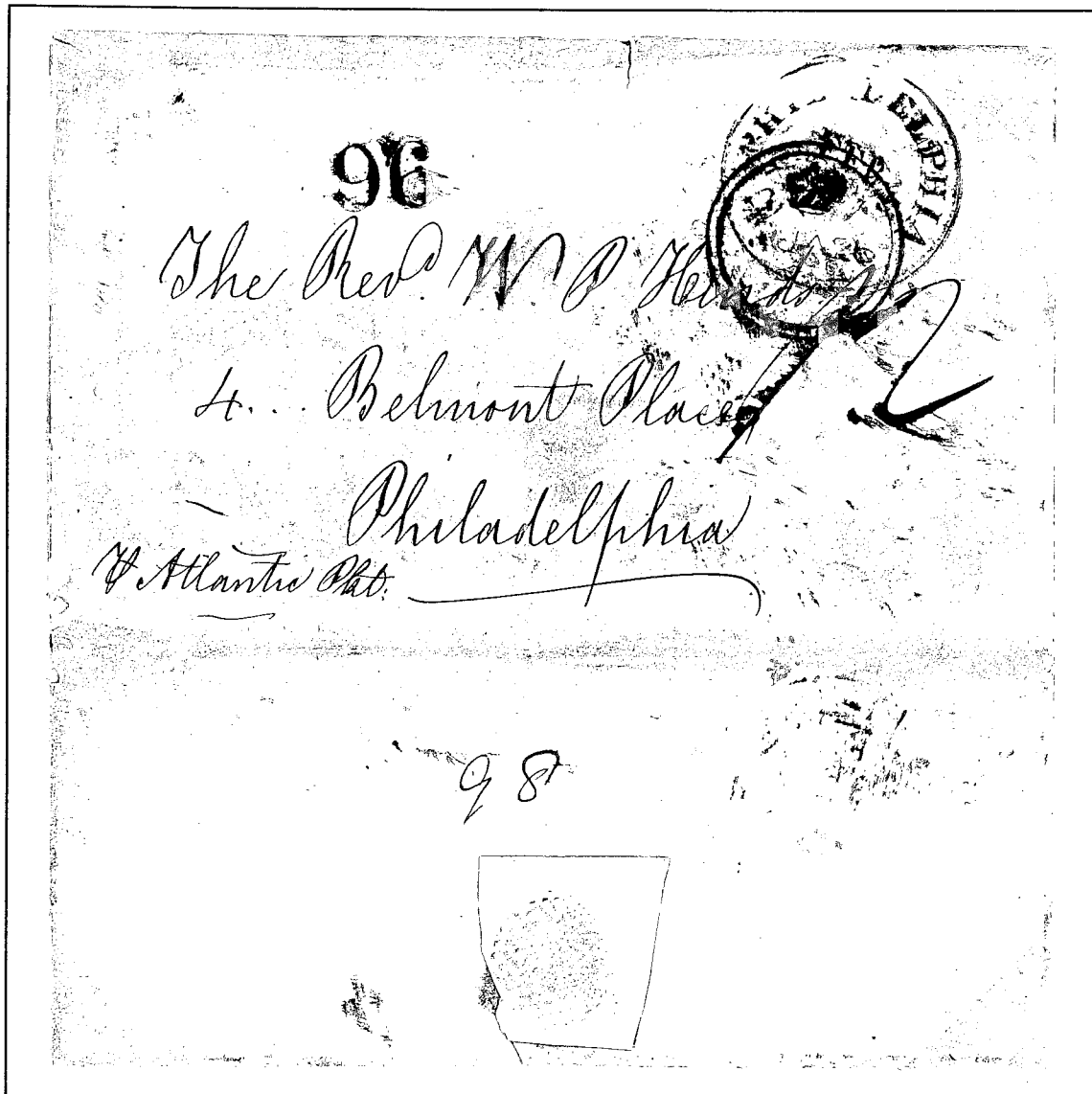
March 3, 1855. Liverpool to Philadelphia.

Letter Carrier wrote "26 cents" representing  
24¢ Due for Transatlantic passage + 2¢ Carrier Fee.



Incoming Transatlantic Carrier Delivered

"98" [Cents]



February 1854. London to Philadelphia.

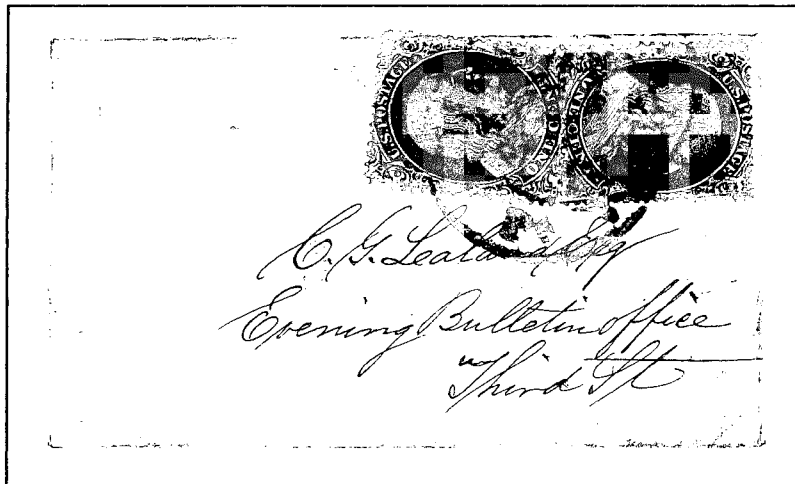
Quadruple Rate [24¢ x 4]

Letter Carrier wrote "98" representing the  
96¢ Due for Transatlantic passage + 2¢ Carrier Fee.

## 2¢ Sub-Post Office Delivery Fee

In November 1857, Philadelphia Postmaster Westcott announced the establishment of four (4) Sub-Post Offices.

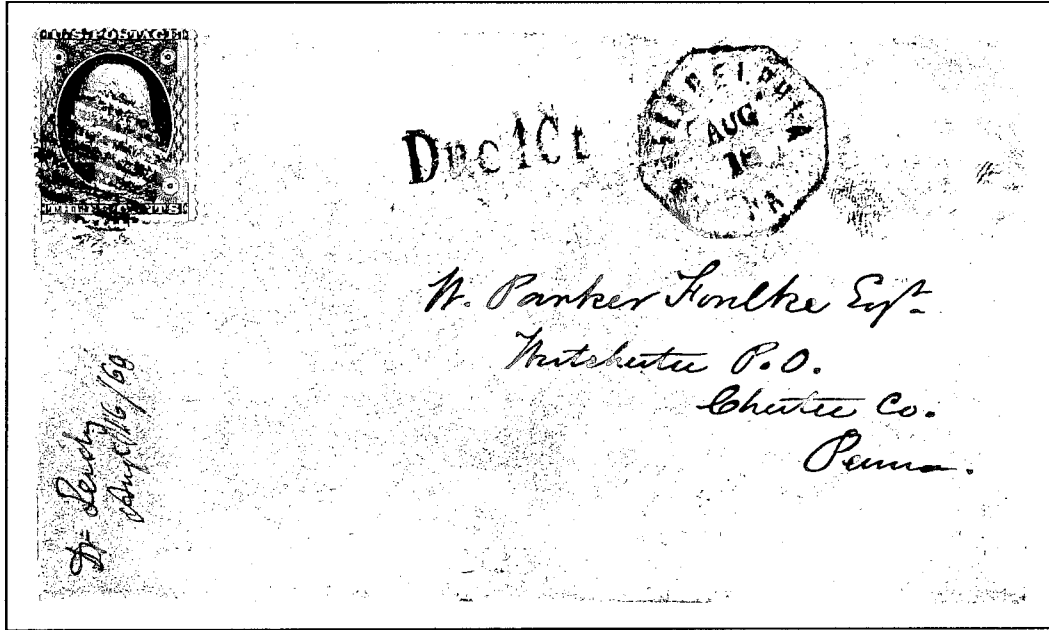
Under this new collection and delivery system, there would be no charge for taking a letter from a Sub-Post Office to the Main Post Office, but there would be a charge of 2¢ (1¢ Drop Rate + 1¢ Carrier Fee) to deliver a letter from a Sub-Post Office to anywhere else in the City.



No year date.

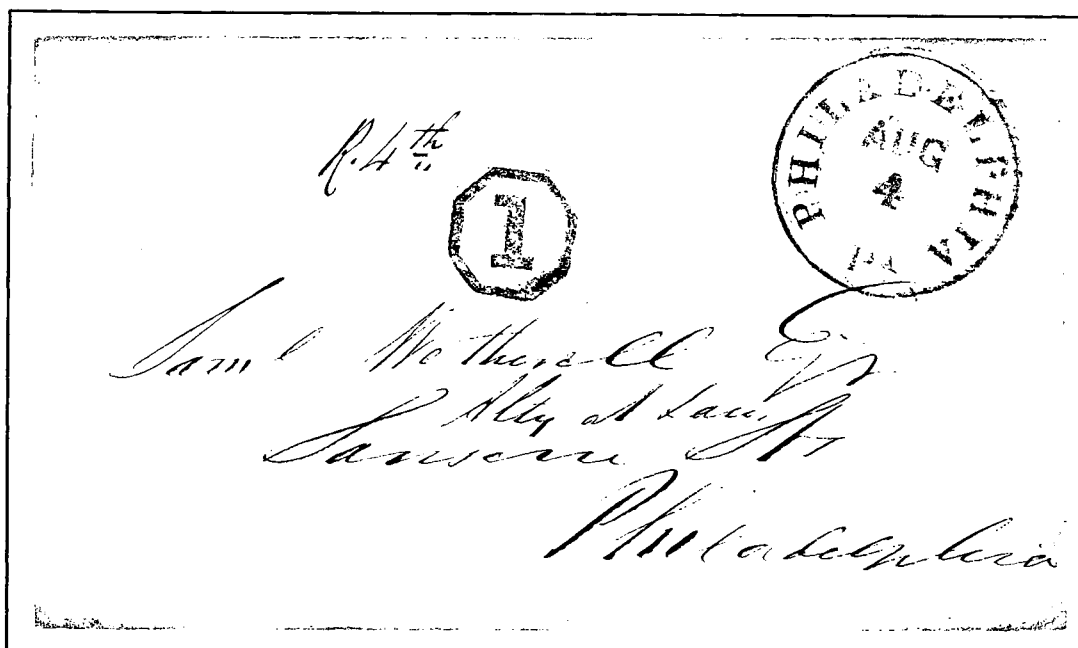
City delivery other than from a Sub-Post Office remained at 1¢ per letter.

Collection Fee not Pre-Paid

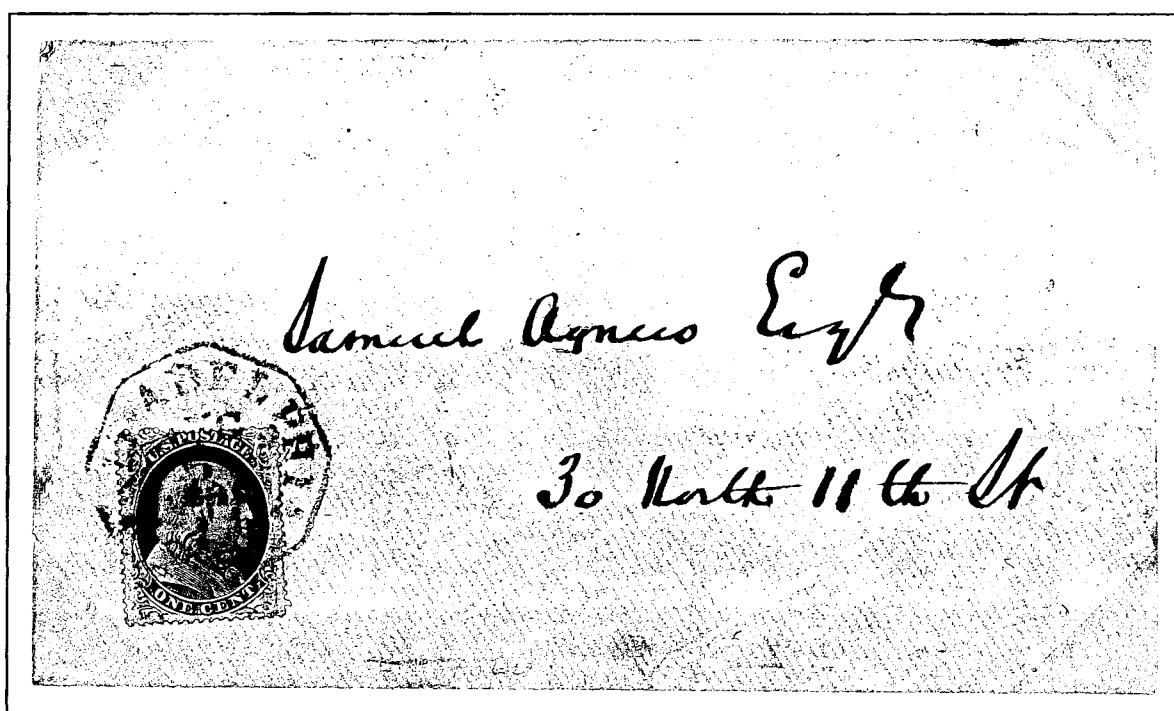


August 18, 1860.

Beginning in August 1860, the Philadelphia Postmaster permitted the Collection Fee to be passed on to the addressee in another City. He ceased this practice in October/November 1860 because of complaints that no service had been rendered to the addressee. Thereafter, such letters were held until the sender paid the Fee.



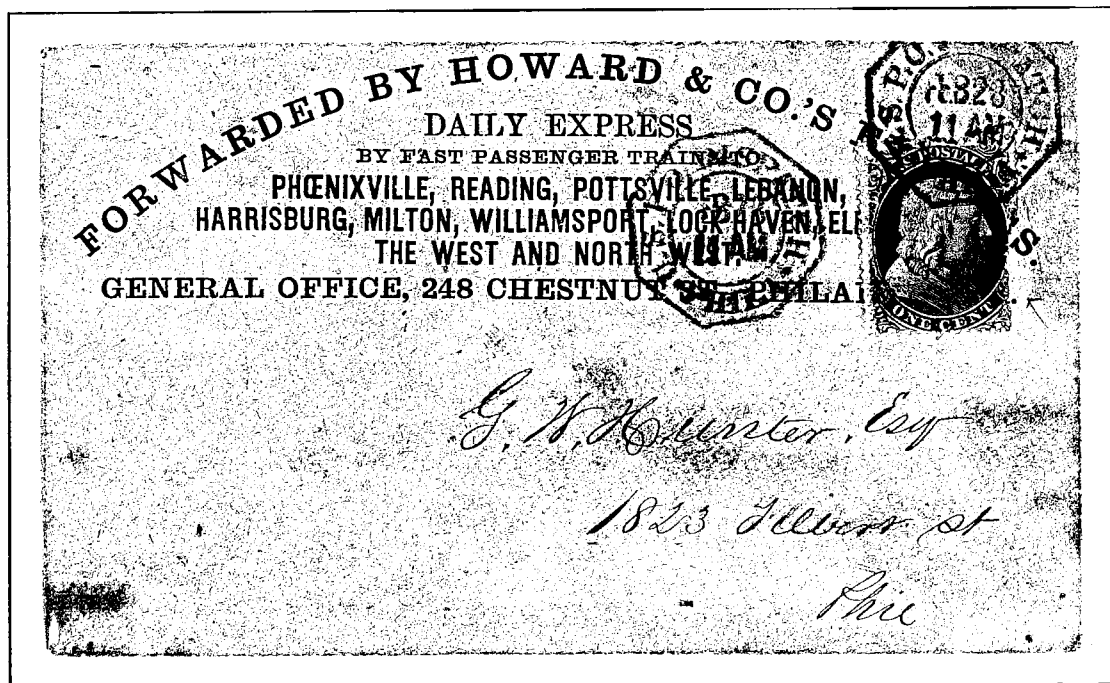
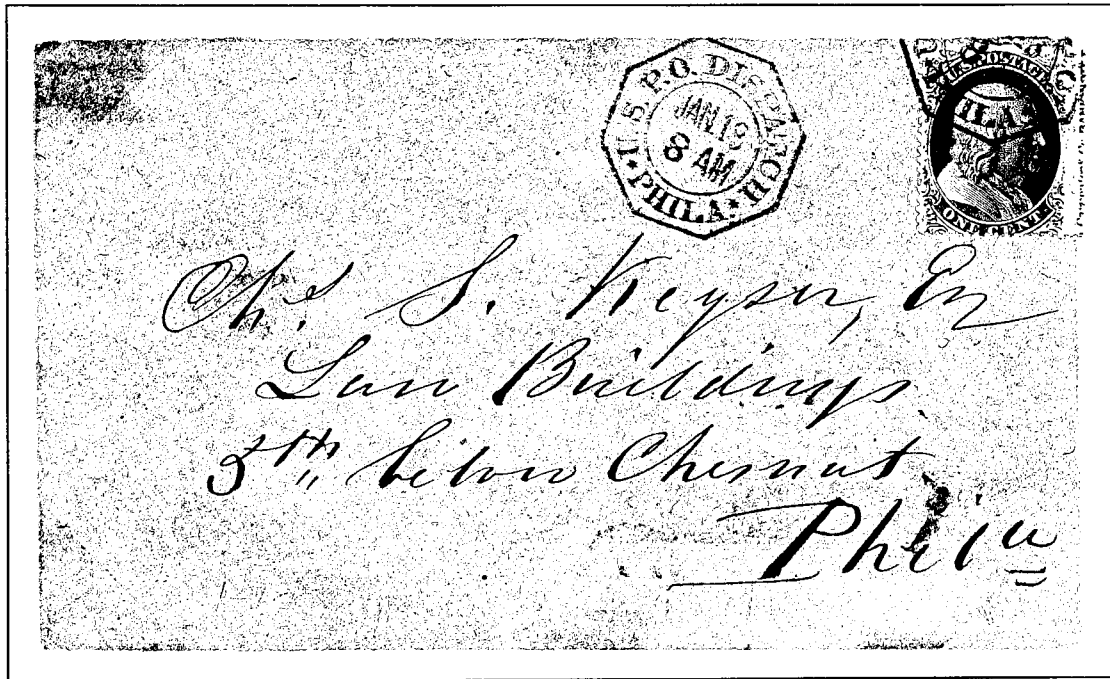
This letter was handled only by the  
Carrier Department, so only the 1¢ Carrier Fee was  
charged, rather than 2¢ (1¢ Carrier Fee + 1¢ Drop Postage)



Carrier delivered, but regular CDS applied  
to cancel stamp.

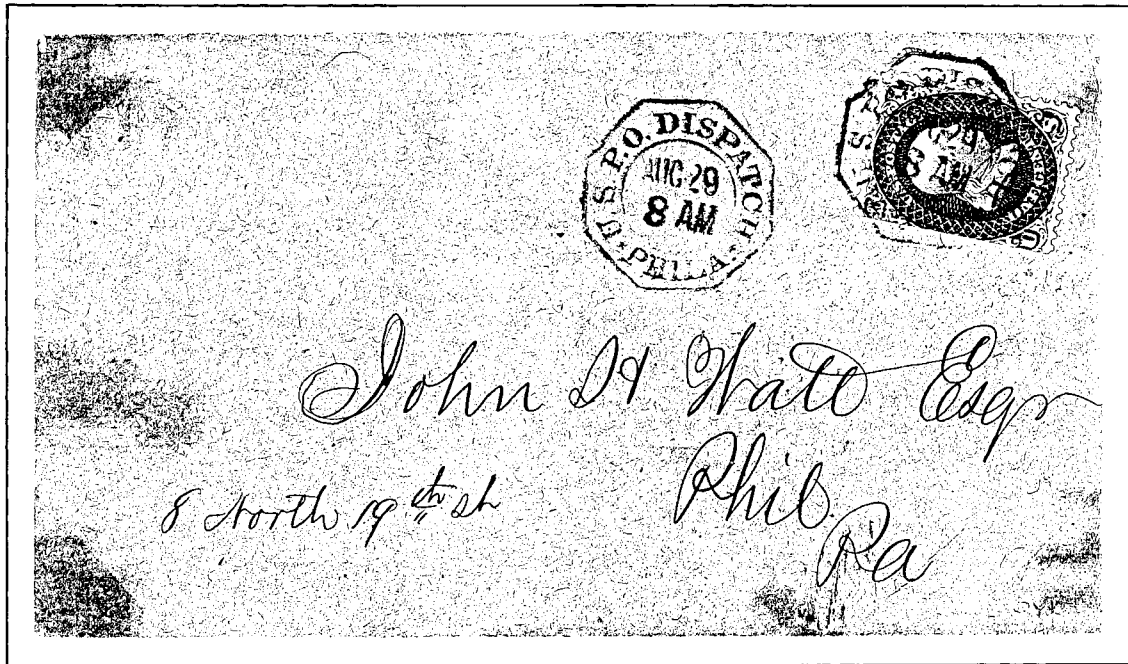
\* U.S.P.O. DESPATCH \* PHILA.

This marking was used by the Carrier Department from  
May 1860 to April 1862 on City letters only.

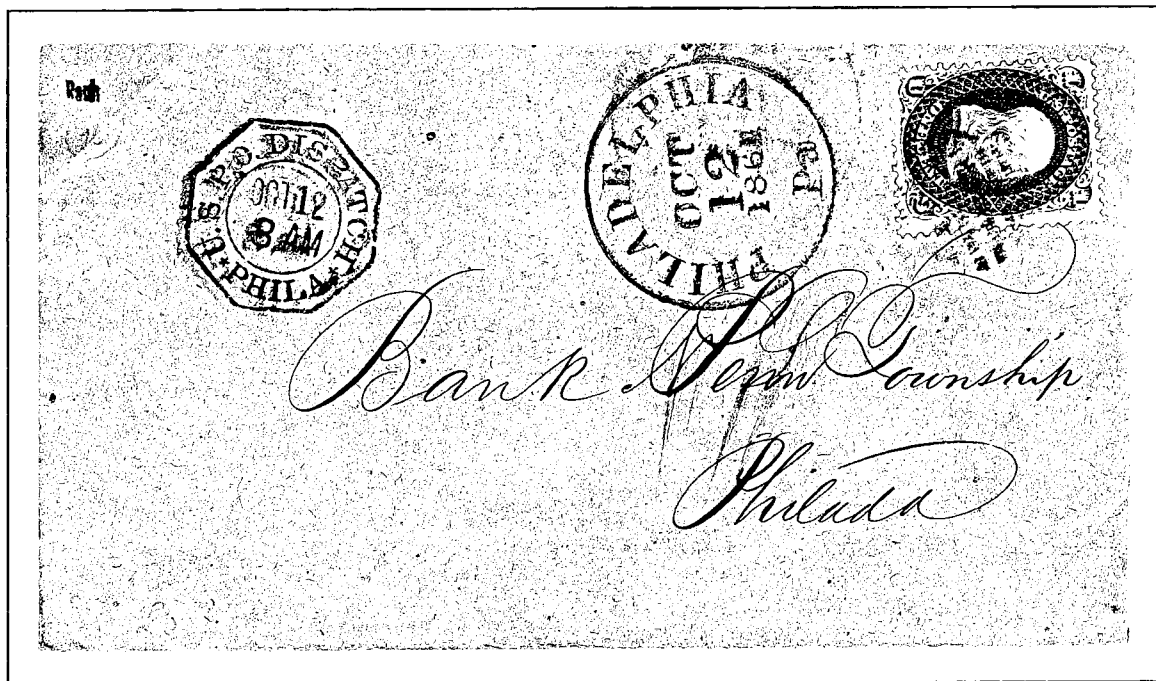


**\*U.S.P.O. DESPATCH \* PHILA.**

Typically, but not always, the Carrier handstamp was struck twice: once to cancel the stamp and once on the front of the envelope.



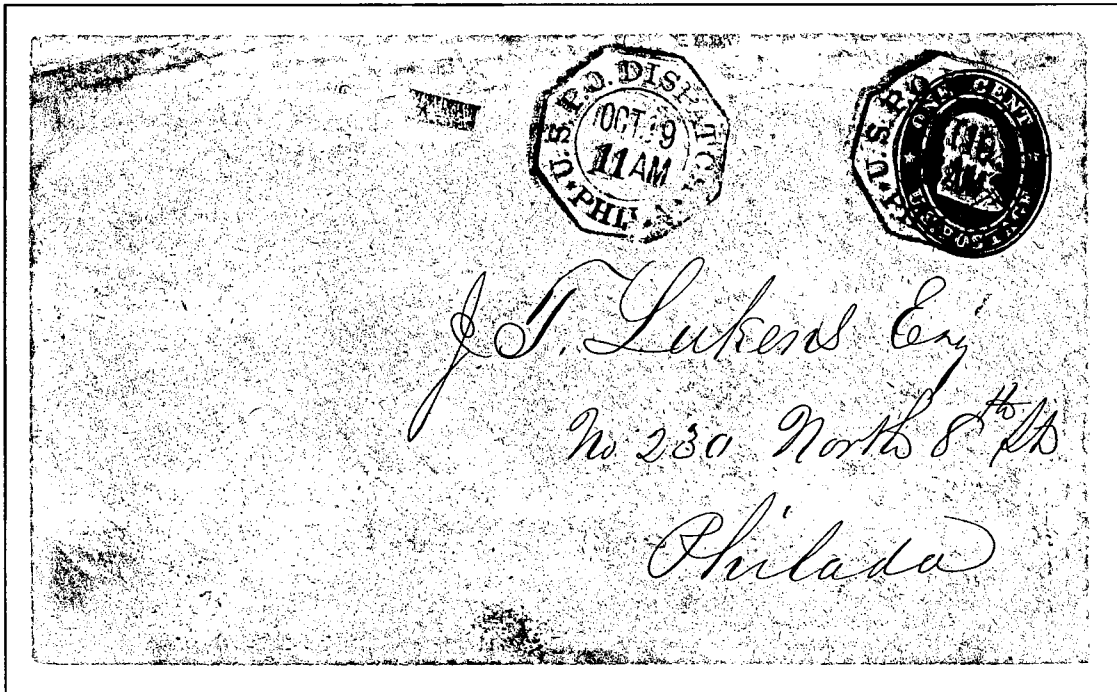
Marking struck twice.



Marking struck once.

One Cent (1¢) Star-Die Envelope Used  
for City Mail

One (1) of Two (2) Reported from Philadelphia

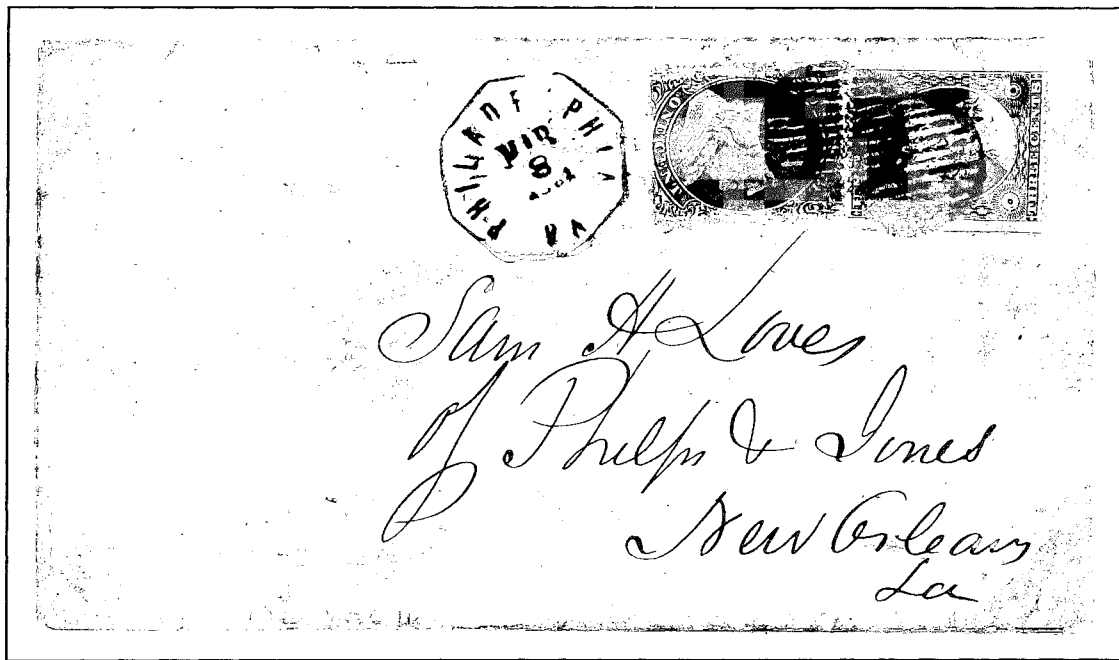


No year date. "U.S.P.O. DISPATCH \*PHILA.\*"

The embossed envelope stamp served the same purpose  
as did the Eagle Carrier stamp, showing prepayment  
of the 1¢ carrier fee.

Carrier Usage Destined for the Confederate  
States of America

Until May 31, 1861, the Confederate States  
accepted U.S. stamps on letters received  
from the North.

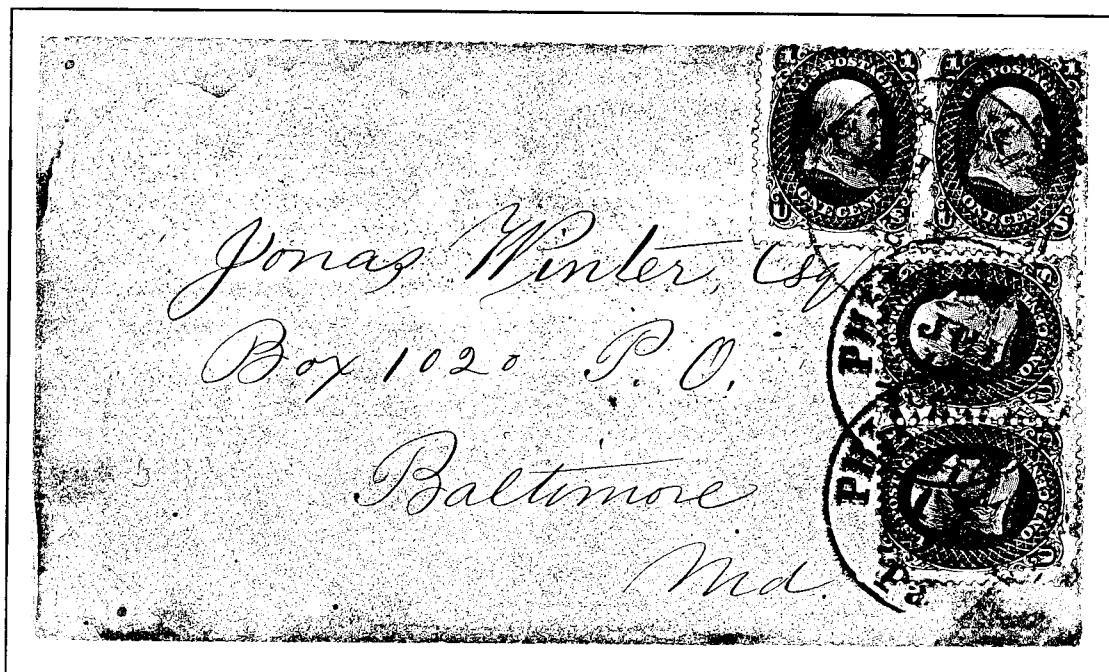
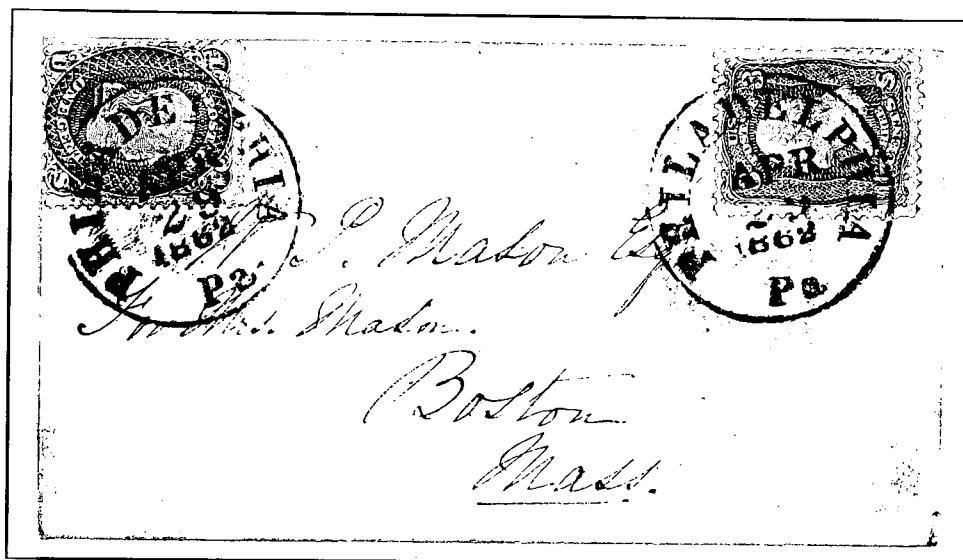


March 8, 1861. Destined for New Orleans, Louisiana.

This letter, carried "To the Mails" in Philadelphia,  
went to New Orleans almost one (1) year  
before the City was recaptured by the North.

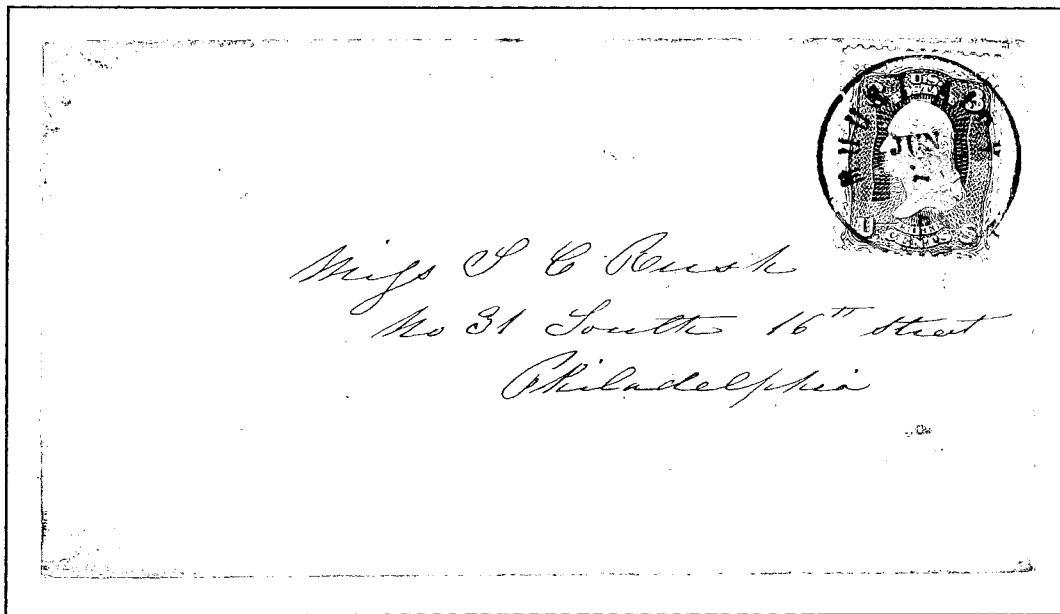


"To the Mails"



**Carrier Delivered City Letter Receives Rate  
Peculiar to Philadelphia**

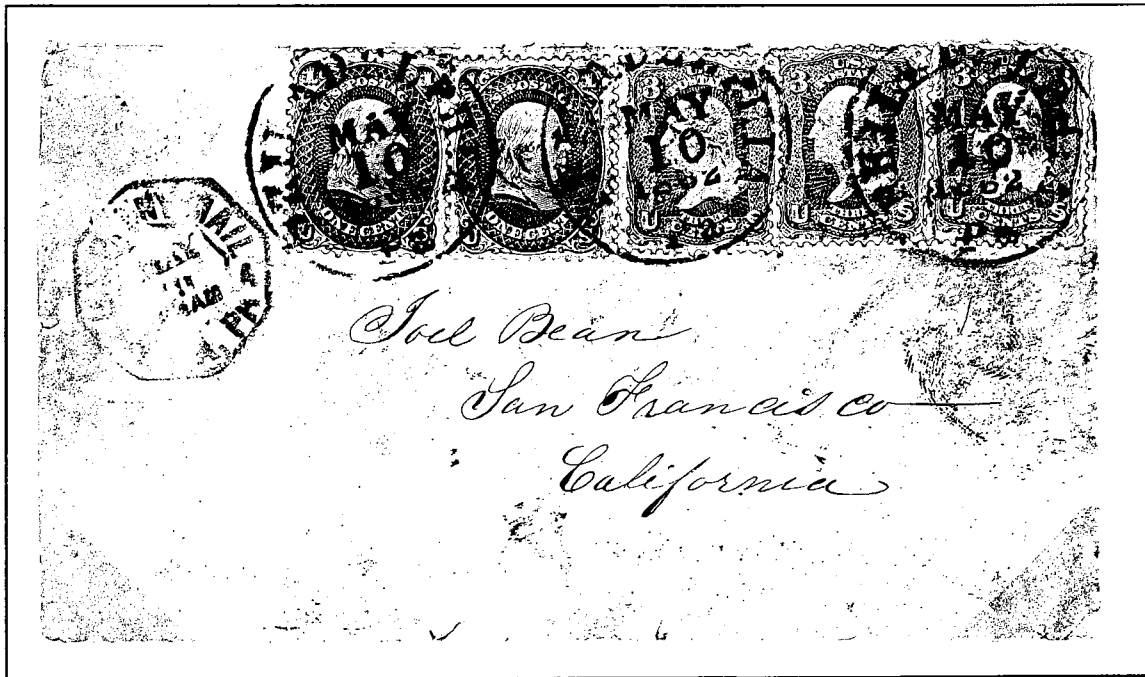
Because Mount Airy still had its own Post Office after the Consolidation of 1854, letters to other parts of Philadelphia were charged the *Inter-City* postage rate (3¢), rather than the *City Mail carrier* rate (1¢).



No year date, but prior to July 1, 1863 when delivery became free. Mount Airy Post Office established 1855; Discontinued in 1863.

"U.S. PENNY MAIL PHILA. PA" Octagon

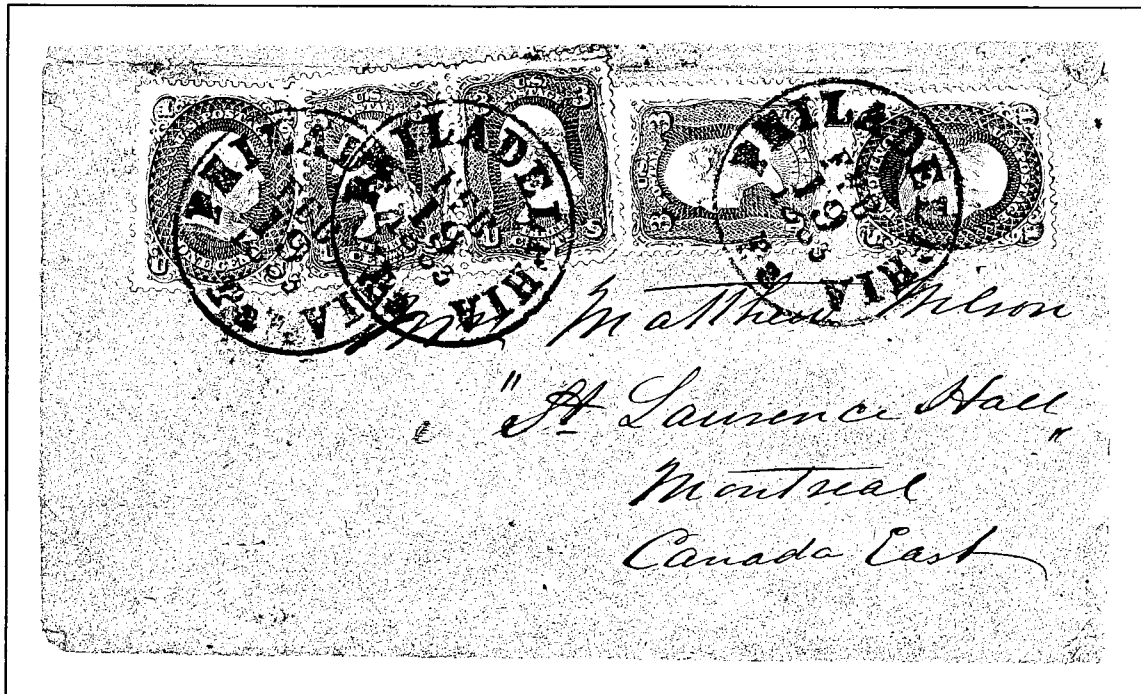
Carrier service on mail to California



The postage to the West Coast was 10¢ in 1862.

One 1¢ stamp paid the collection fee  
to the Philadelphia Post Office.

Carrier Letter to Canada East



February 19, 1863.

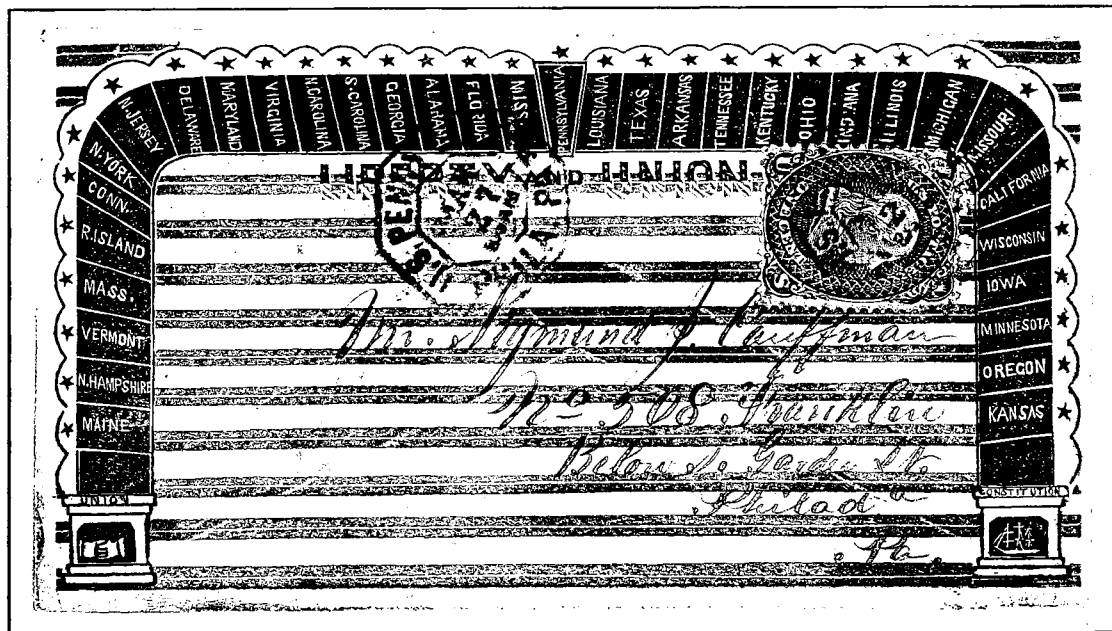
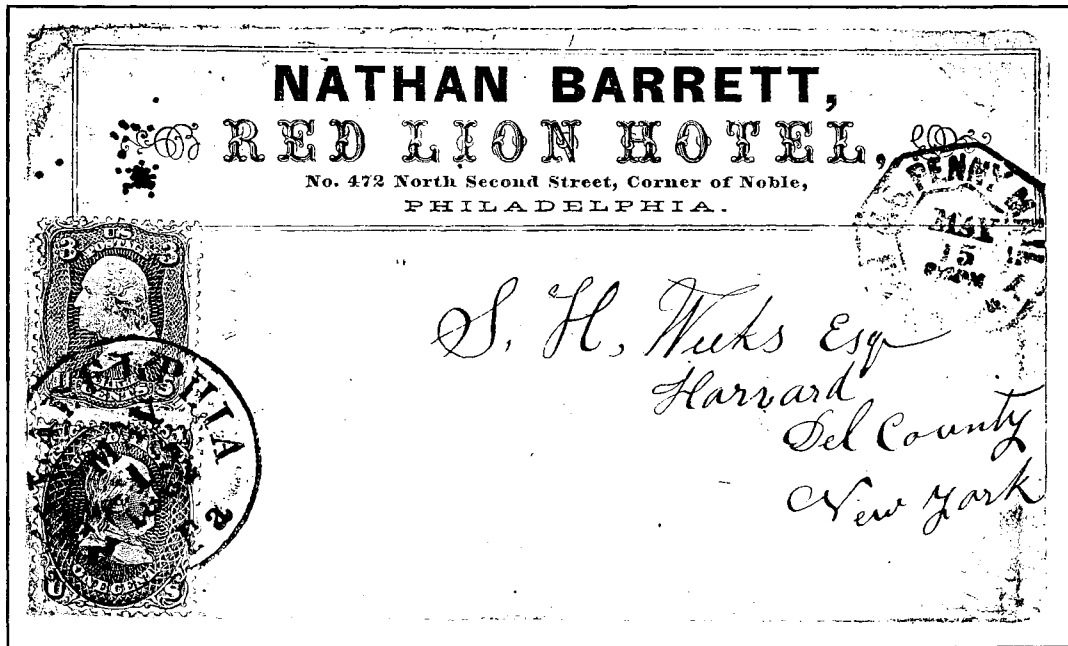
1¢ (Carrier Fee "To the Mails")

+

10¢ (Postage Rate to Canada)

U.S. PENNY MAIL PHILA. PA.

This marking was used from April 1862 to August 1863,  
on both City letters and letters "to the Mails".



City letter.