

H.T. CROFOOT LETTER OFFICE

H.T. Crofoot, was the Newburyport, Massachusetts agent for Hale & Co. and American Letter Mail Co. He operated the letter office from his bookstore at 3 Pleasant Street.

Crofoot did not release stamps for his mail matter. Letters were sent with a red oval handstamp and small red "PAID" handstamp.

AT LEFT: ADVERTISEMENT
FROM THE NEWBURYPORT HERALD
SEPTEMBER 20, 1844

Second Wharf above the Market.

NEW LETTER OFFICE
SAVE YOUR CHANGE!

THE subscriber has opened an office in connection with Hale & Co. and the American Mail Co. and will forward letters in advance of the Mail,

Boston	Lowell
New York	Albany
Philadelphia	Worcester
Providence	Springfield
Norwich	Tr-y
Taunton	Rochester
New Bedford	Buffalo.

Postage 6½ cents through, payable in advance
Mails close daily at 9½ o'clock.
Office at the Periodical Repository, No 3 Pleasant street.
H. T. CROFOOT & CO.
Newburyport, July 2, '44.

BANGOR LUMBER.
M No 1 and 2 clear dry dimension Boards

The cover below was mailed from Newburyport to Boston by Crofoot's Letter Office. The letter, which discusses the politics, religion and abolitionism, is

addressed to Emma C. Goodwin at the General Hospital in Boston. Docketing on the letter indicates that it was sent by C.K. Whipple, an author and member of the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society and the Society for the Aid of Discharged Convicts.



H.T. CROFOOT LETTER OFFICE HANDSTAMP
GENUINE USE ON COVER
DOCKETED MARCH 14, 1845

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Featured here is a cover representing a conjunctive use between Crofoot's Letter Office and Hale & Co.'s independent mail, for whom he was an agent. It is a turned and reused letter mailed both ways through Hale & Co.

This cover was originally mailed from H.T. Crofoot's office in Newburyport on October 16, 1844. The letter was prepaid with a Hale & Co. stamp modified with Crofoot's manuscript "C" control mark. Crofoot marked the cover with a red oval "H.T. Crofoot's Newburyport Letter Office" and the "Forwarded by Hale & Co's Great Eastern Mail" handstamp used for Hale & Co. mail delivered through cooperative agreements.

Within the letter, John Balch informs his brother, Benjamin Balch that he will not loan him money.

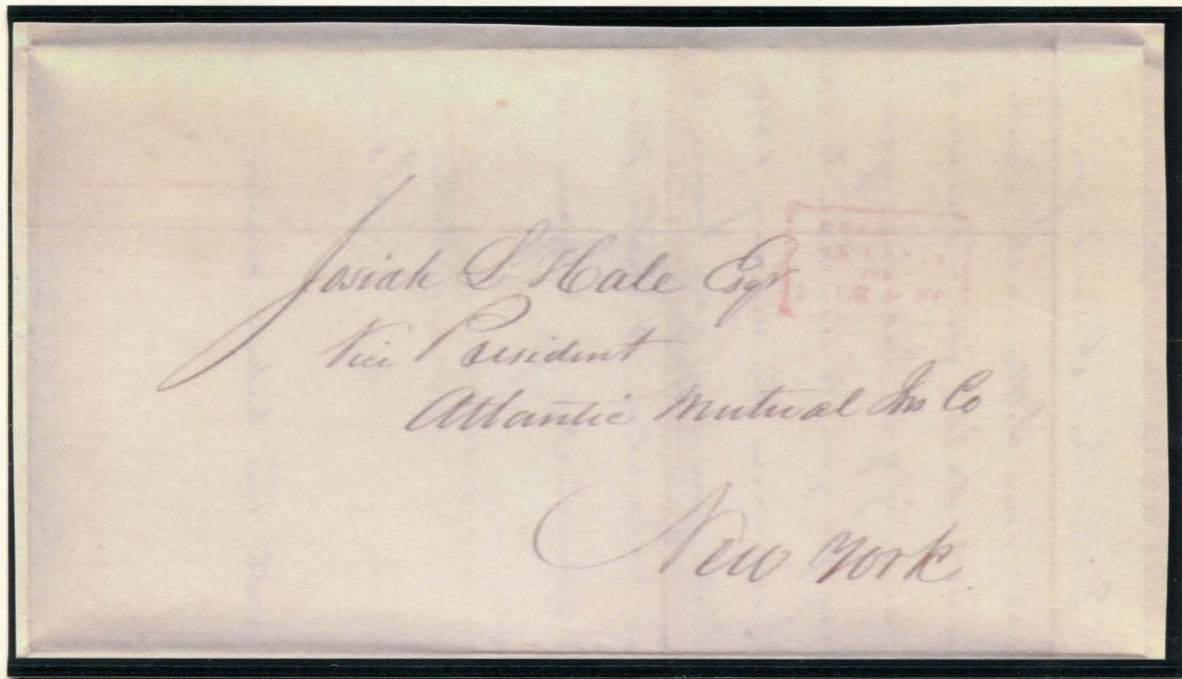


75L5 : 6¢ BLUE - WITH "C" MANUSCRIPT
RED H.T. CROFOOT LETTER OFFICE HANDSTAMP
BROWN HALE & CO. FORWARDING HANDSTAMP : F-41
GENUINE USE ON COVER
DOCKETED OCTOBER 16, 1844
FRONT COVER OF TURNED LETTER - SEE FOLLOWING PAGE
PF CERT #0365916

The cover was then folded and used by Benjamin Balch, who sent the letter with his own addition (complaining about his brother and his lack of clothes and funds) to Josiah L. Hale in New York. - The continuation of this cover is included on the following page.

H.T. CROFOOT LETTER OFFICE

Balch's letter to Josiah Hale, the president of the Atlantic Mutual Insurance Company, was mailed from the Hale & Co. office in Worcester on October 19. It was received at the New York office, where it was marked with a red "Collect Six Cents for Hale & Co." handstamp.



PHOTOCOPY : BACK COVER OF TURNED LETTER - SEE PREVIOUS PAGE
RED HALE & CO. FORWARDING HANDSTAMP : C-2
DOCKETED OCTOBER 18, 1844

Within the letter, Balch asks Hale for a payment of \$15 and also for assistance in his business. Balch was running an insurance company in Worcester at the time. By 1845, however, Balch had been revealed as a fraud who was scamming his company's members and was removed from the company.