

THE
MIKE FARRELL
COLLECTION
OF INDEPENDENT MAILS

INCLUDING THE HISTORY, FORGERIES, & FANTASIES OF
UNITED STATES, LOCAL POSTS, CARRIERS,
INDEPENDENT MAIL ROUTES, & EXPRESS CO.S

FEARS & BRAY'S EXPRESS

The information and identification within these selections is the individual work of the Farrell Collection. It is always recommended to consult multiple sources for additional information or opinions. Local post company descriptions are based on information available at the time of writing. Descriptions in the Farrell Collection were written based on personal research and sources including, but not limited to: Articles in the Carriers and Locals Society's The Penny Post; Amos Media's Scott Catalogue; Patton's The Private Local Post of the United States; Springer's Handbook of North American Cinderella Stamps; Lyons' Identifier for Carriers, Locals, Fakes Forgeries and Bogus Posts of the United States; articles in the USPCS's The Chronicle; Mosher's Catalog of Private Express Labels and Stamps; The Eastern Independent Mail Company Study Group's Eastern Independent Mail Companies and Express Mail Companies 1840-1845; Elliot Perry's Pat Paragraphs; James N. Drummond's Catalog of Philatelic Miscellany; and the notes of George Sloane and Gordon Stimmell.

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Unless otherwise noted, stamps are identified by their Scott Catalogue numbers and forgeries are identified by their Lyons Identifier type. Scott numbers in parenthesis under listed forgeries represent approximately what stamp the forgery is attempting to imitate.

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FEARS & BRAY'S EXPRESS

COMPANY HISTORY

Fears & Bray's Rockport & Pigeon Cove Express was a regional parcel express company located in Massachusetts. Samuel Fears started the express as "Parsons and Fears" in the 1860s, but partnered with Isaac Bray around 1873 to form Fears & Bray's. The company operated into the 1890s.

EXPRESS LABELS

Six different types of Fears & Bray's Express labels are recorded. The first two types are similar in design, with a rectangular, double line border around the same text. The first, used around 1879, was known used on merchandise orders. It is imperforate. The second type is rouletted horizontally in black.



F&BX-L1
BLACK ON GREEN SC
IMPERFORATE



F&BX-L2
BLACK ON ORANGE SC
H ROULETTE 25

The third type of label uses an octagonal frame design and is known in four colors. These labels are known used in 1884.



F&BX-L3
BLACK ON GREEN SC
IMPERFORATE



F&BX-L4
BLACK ON ORANGE SC
IMPERFORATE

FEARS & BRAY'S EXPRESS

EXPRESS LABELS

The third type of label uses an octagonal frame design and is known in four colors. These labels are known used in 1884.



F&BX-L3
BLACK ON YELLOW
IMPERFORATE



F&BX-L3
BLACK ON LAVENDER
IMPERFORATE

From at least 1887 on, three other label types were used. These labels had simple rectangular designs similar to the earlier labels, but larger. They were all printed in black on orange, but differed in their text font and address.

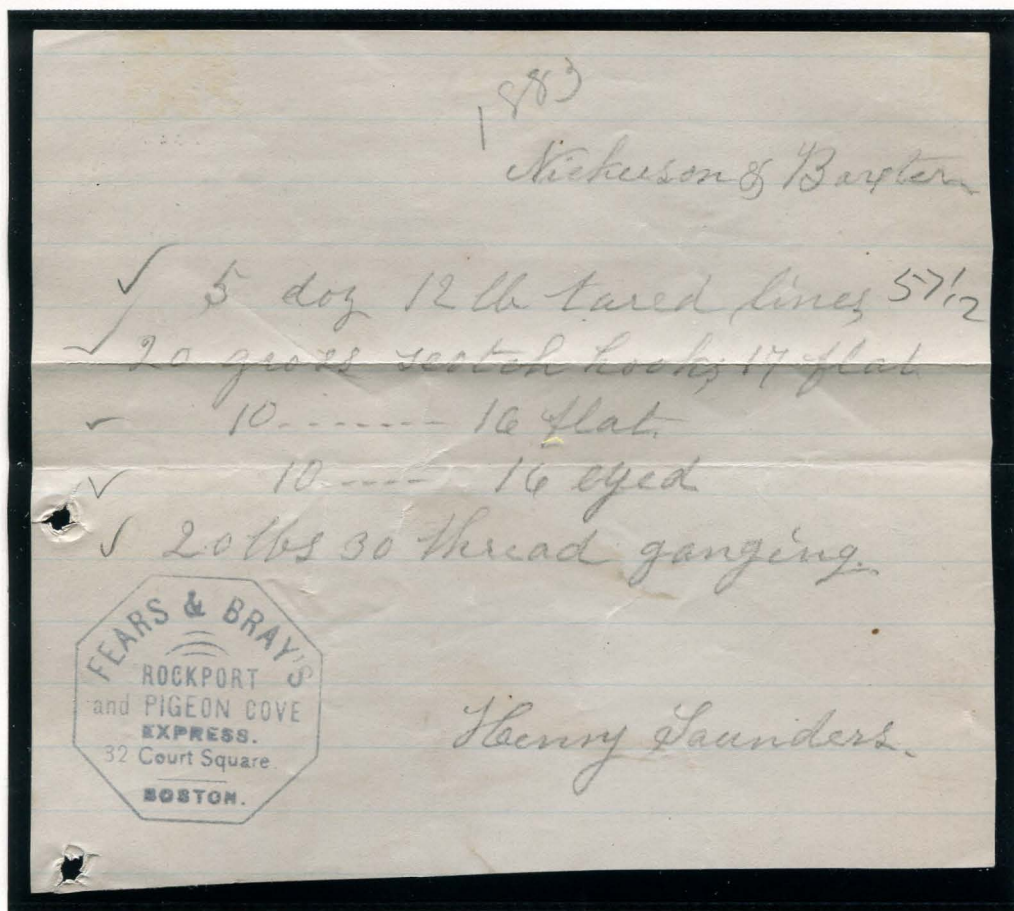


F&BX-L12
BLACK ON ORANGE SC
IMPERFORATE

FEARS & BRAY'S EXPRESS

EXPRESS COVER

The cover below was carried by Fears & Brays Express along with a shipment of fishing hooks and lines. It is marked with an octagonal company handstamp.



F&BX
HANDSTAMP ON COVER