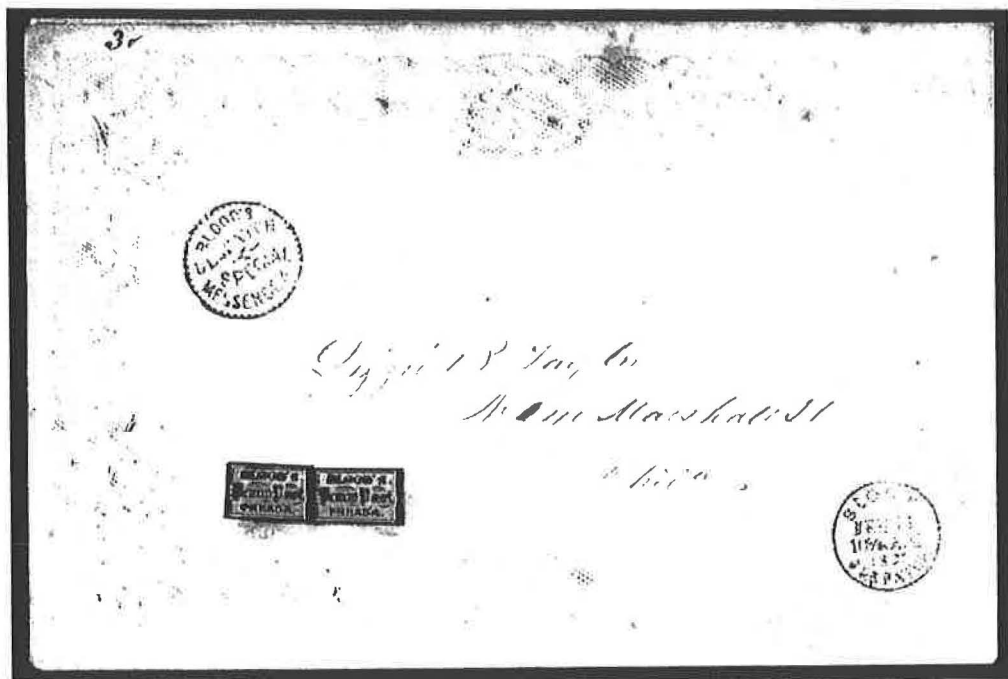


NOVEMBER 1991

Vol. 1 No. 4

THE PENNY POST

Official Journal Of The Carriers And Locals Society



Multiple rate Blood's locals on a sweetheart of a Valentine's cover.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

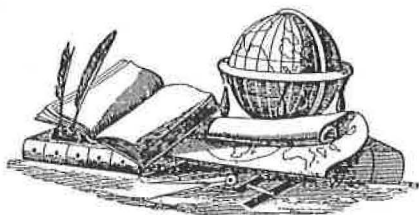
BLOOD'S DESPATCH REVISITED

NEW JENKINS PORTRAITS

ST. LOUIS DELIVERY CO.

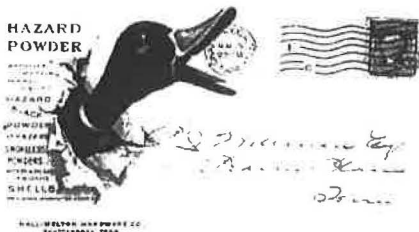
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THE PENNY POST



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FROM THE EDITOR

Blood's Despatch is the prime focus of this last issue of the first year of *The Penny Post*.

As one of the longer surviving private posts, Blood's has frequently formed the starting point for collectors in their quest for locals.

While many of Blood's stamps and covers are frequently encountered, the avid collector soon runs into a bewildering array of original types, deceptive forgeries and mysterious usages.

One of our members, Steven Roth, finds the history of Blood's Despatch particularly fascinating and has done extensive research and exhibiting of Blood's postal history.

It is with great pleasure we turn over this issue to showcase Steven's diligent studies and vital discoveries.

It is no small relief that I personally have the opportunity to present someone else's major article in these pages. Reading my own verbiage was beginning to engulf me in a gnawing sense of *deja-vu*!

In *passim*, I note ascending prices realized in recent auction sales of carriers and locals. Our specialized area is generating bids astounding for a time shuddering in throes of recession, tight money and cautious investment.

Also noted with keen interest is the most welcome prospect of Patton's Volume II on non-New York locals being published soon by the sponsor of our current *Penny Post*, Phil Bansner, and earlier sponsor, Eric Jackson.

What particularly whets my curiosity is what posts will still remain to be covered beyond the scope of this long-awaited opus.

This should be grist for the mill of

upcoming *Penny Post* articles. Discovering what still requires research and exposure to the light of day will be a key to the direction and content of future issues of our journal.

And of course, as Phil himself points out, filling in the holes of knowledge, missing forgeries, incomplete history, and apparent errors contained within the upcoming book will occupy and entertain most of the serious students in our field for years.

That being said, it is gratifying to note that the grand master of the locals universe, Robson Lowe, has personally assured me from Britain that he has poured his extensive knowledge into the Patton pages. So we expect far more than a trace element of excellence in the forthcoming book.

The idea meanwhile for a Question And Answer column in our journal has suggested itself from several sources. Our field is certainly rife with unending questions.

So what do members think of an Ask The Experts column? Are there any volunteers for taking on such a column? It would provide a needed forum for sharing knowledge. But I would like to hear if members really want it, or it will never get off the ground. So write if you're interested and send in some great questions.

Our first Adlets can be found in this issue, near the back of the journal. We need a few more if we want to make it an ongoing feature.

Again, I look forward to meeting many of you in SEPAD at our first annual Society meeting.

Gordon Stimmell
Editor

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Alas, the moment of truth is upon us. We cannot continue to publish this journal under the present dues structure. We are simply too small an organization to generate the dues income we need. Cost of the three issues to date has shown us that the copy a member receives costs approximately \$8.50 to produce. He has paid \$3.75 toward it.

Generous dealers have taken up the burden by sponsoring an issue at \$1000 a turn. This cannot continue for long.

Many of our members have written letters glowing with praise for the quality of the journal making its way into their hands. Several suggested that even one issue was worth the price of admission.

It is our desire to maintain the quality of our publication over the long term. Quality, however, costs money.

We are therefore instituting a revised dues schedule effective with the membership year starting Jan. 1, 1992. You may have already received your dues renewal notice, together with an explanation.

Old dues:

Member	\$15
Canadian Member	\$17
Overseas Member	\$25
Contributing Member	\$30

New Dues:

Member	\$35
Canadian Member	\$37
Overseas Member	\$45
Contributing Member	\$50

In addition we are establishing two levels of contributors above the present Contributing Member: Sustaining Member for contributions of \$51 to \$500 and Patron Member for contributions over \$500.

Each contribution will be gratefully acknowledged in a list that will appear in each issue and be continued through the year. Unless, of course, the donor wishes to avoid this publicity.

It is important to stress that the Internal Revenue Service has accepted us as a not-for-profit organization with an educational mission. As such, all contributions above \$35 (for domestic members) are deductible to the fullest extent permitted by law.

Now a reminder, gentle reader (outraged reader?). We will be holding our first annual meeting at SEPAD (Philadelphia National Stamp Show) Saturday, Nov. 16 at 2 p.m. SEPAD is being held at the Valley Forge Convention Center in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania. I hope you've made plans to attend. I look forward to meeting you there.

This issue of The Penny Post is sponsored by Phil Bansner. You'll see his ad on the inside front cover devoted, among other things, to philatelic literature.

I've just learned with astonishment that Phil has almost 5,000 titles in his data base, and 2,000 more waiting. That sort of concentration warrants his utilizing a full time librarian with a Masters in Library Science simply to service customers.

His next step is to publish his own titles. Due in about a year is the long wished-for Patton II, to be published with Eric Jackson (a previous sponsor). There will be more about Patton II in a forthcoming issue. I can promise you that you'll be pleased at what you'll read.

Richard Schwartz
President

BLOOD'S DESPATCH

REVISITED

A Revisionist's View: Some Myths Exposed; Issues Still Open and Some Closed; Newly Reported Information; and "Odds & Ends".

By Steven M. Roth.¹

The purpose of this writing is to bring together some of the issues that still remain to be explored concerning the operation of Blood's Despatch, to correct some seemingly logical (albeit incorrect) conclusions and theories that still inhibit an accurate understanding of this local Post, and, finally, to share with other students of Philadelphia postal history some of the information concerning Blood's Despatch that I have recorded over the years.

It is not the purpose of this brief article to write the definitive story of the operation of Blood's Despatch, a local Post which thrived in competition with the United States Post

Office in Philadelphia for nearly twenty years, and which exceeded the Government Post both in performance and in pricing.

That story has been well written by the expert postal historian Edward T. Harvey,² although new discoveries already have and will from time to time require some revisions to his work. More specifically, it is my hope in writing this article that I will provoke other students of this local post to make serious inquiry with respect to unresolved issues, to maintain careful listings of covers and markings, and, of course, to report for general use the information that they obtain.

I. A Select Blood's Despatch Bibliography³

There is some very good information available with respect to Blood's Despatch, although none of it is complete. Woven together, however, the fragmentary pieces offer one a fairly complete and accurate picture of the operation of this Post, as well as an understanding of its adhesive stamps

and handstamps. The most complete treatment of the history and operation of Blood's Despatch is Ed Harvey's article in *The Chronicle*. The one problem I have with this study, however, is that, as Mr. Harvey informs us, "... (w)hen faced with discrepancies between different

1.(C) 1991 — Steven M. Roth. All rights reserved.

2. Harvey, E.T., "Blood's Despatch", *The Chronicle* 144, Vol. 41, No. 4 (Nov. 1989).

3. I refer throughout to the Post as Blood's Despatch. This was the name given to the business by Daniel O. Blood when he and his brother, Walter, purchased Robertson & Co. on July 7, 1845. However, the Philadelphia City Directories for the years 1846–1851 list the business as D.O. Blood & Co. In 1852–1860, however, the business is listed as Blood's Despatch. An advertisement placed by Blood's in the *Stranger's Guide* for 1852 and 1861 calls the post Blood's Despatch Post.

sources, the more likely account is used."⁴ My difficulty with this approach is that it would have been useful to other students if Mr. Harvey had indicated, perhaps in footnotes, the discrepancies among the sources from which he made his final selections, so that we could determine, perhaps based on new or different information, if his choices were ones we agree with. Be that as it may, Ed Harvey's general high level of scholarship satisfies me that it is very likely that he made the "correct" choice in each instance, so that his Article can and should be relied on.

Curiously, Elliott Perry in his 2000 consecutively numbered pages of *Pat Paragraphs* (58 issues over nearly 27 years), offered only sporadic and scant entries concerning Blood's Despatch, mostly offering anecdotes or illustrating the handstamps,⁵ but not discussing the Post in any depth. Similarly, George Sloane, the columnist for *Stamps*, and the authority on many local Posts, devoted only two columns to Blood's (June 30, 1934 & June 21, 1941). Robson Lowe, on the other hand, both in published articles and in his auction catalogues, gave thorough treatment to the adhesive stamps and to the handstamps, and, to a lesser extent, to the postal history of this Post. For example, Lowe addressed the postal history of Blood's in his article "Philadelphia Local Posts" which appeared in *The Chronicle* in 1976.⁶ He also dealt with adhesive stamps #s 15L12 - 15L17 in "Blood's Penny Post" in *The Collector's Club Philatelist*.⁷ Finally, although there are catalogues from several Lowe auctions which contain good Blood's Despatch information, the definitive catalogue, I believe,

described the sale held on March 1 & 2, 1973 in Basle, called "Local and Carrier Posts / Western Expresses". This catalogue offers a very fine study of Blood's Despatch, although it takes some very careful reading and, often, rereading of the Lots descriptions to fully extract their information. Further, new information has rendered some of Lowe's observations and conclusions obsolete, but there is enough valid information remaining to make this catalogue an important addition to one's local Posts library.

The definitive study of Blood's adhesive stamps and their forgeries was serialized by Donald S. Patton in *The Philatelist* in eleven issues appearing in 1960 - 1961. While this study contains some errors, its possession is a must for the student of the adhesives of the various local Posts, including Blood's Despatch.⁸

The most important source of information concerning Blood's is, by far, the *Philadelphia Daily Public Ledger* for the period 1845 - 1862. Very few of the other contemporary Philadelphia newspapers that I examined on microfilm even mentioned Blood's Despatch. I note that it was an interesting discovery for me that while Blood's competitors seldom were mentioned in this daily newspaper, Blood's Despatch was referred to over and over again. Obviously this reflected the residual goodwill which Daniel Blood maintained at the newspaper when he left its employ as Chief Cashier in 1845 so that he could purchase the local Post operated by Robertson & Co (or William Halsey). It probably also did not hurt that his half-brother, William Swain, was the principle owner (among three partners) of the newspaper.

4. *Ibid.*, p.320.

5. *Pat Paragraphs*, pp. 363-364 (BIA Reprint, 1981).

6. "Philadelphia Local Posts", *The Chronicle* 90, Vol. 28, No. 2 (May 1976), at pp. 84-88, 91-94.

7. Vol. 43, No. 4, p.205ff.

8. "The American Local and Carriers' Stamps," Parts XXXI - XLII, *The Philatelist* (1960-1961).

II. Some Issues, Myths, Misconceptions and Some Corrections

A. Which were the predecessor companies to Blood's Despatch?

The local Post companies which eventually gave rise to Blood's Despatch are believed to have been the Philadelphia Despatch Post - the first local post within the Philadelphia City limits - followed by the City Despatch Post. Little is known about either Post, although some information has been inferred from fragmentary documentary evidence. The point of this Section of the article is that the speculation concerning different possibilities with respect to the lineage of Blood's Despatch too often has been expressed as conclusions based on indisputable facts — without any demonstrated evidence — rather than as one possible conclusion among several possibilities.

The first mention of the Philadelphia Despatch Post, which appears to have been owned and operated by Robertson & Co., is found in an advertisement in the *Public Ledger* for Dec. 8, 1842. The advertisement mentions the availability of the Post's service, and offers adhesive stamps for sale. This Post used a handstamp set in a 28mm circle, impressing the phrase "PHILA. DESPATCH POST./(time)" upon the folded letter. The stamps were made by impressing the handstamp on adhesive paper and by replacing the (time) with the word "PAID". These adhesives were cut to shape and were initialed along the right border in ink with the letters "R & Co." This latter fact is important to Robertson Lowe and to Edward Harvey in establishing the apparent linkage

with the local Post which may have been next in the chain of title - the City Despatch Post, which issued the first "Striding Messenger" stamps. These, too, were marked with the handwritten initials "R & Co."

Very little has been established with respect to the City Despatch Post. No one knows when it started or who owned it, although it is likely, at the very least, that Robertson & Co. controlled this Post, as evidenced by the marked adhesive stamps. As mentioned above, it appears to Messrs. Lowe and Harvey⁹ from the evidence of the "Striding Messenger" (#15L3), possibly issued by this local Post, and also from the extant covers, that this Post was the successor to the Philadelphia Despatch Post. I do not agree that the evidence known to date by itself establishes this succession. Indeed, it is my belief that such scant evidence as is known is not inconsistent with the possibility that the City Despatch Post might never have existed as a separate local Post at all, and that Lowe's and Harvey's conclusion was a misinterpretation of the phrase "CITY DESPATCH POST/PAID" on the first Striding Messenger stamp. That is, it is arguable from the language on the stamp itself that it is as likely that there was a City Despatch Post which was the successor to the Philadelphia Despatch Post, based on the scant evidence, as it is as likely that the phrase "CITY DESPATCH POST/PAID" was intended merely to describe the service to be offered. The language on the stamp may merely have expressed its intended

9. Lowe, in his 1973 Basel auction catalogue, states that "...in 1843 a rival service 'City Despatch' started and this is included under the Robertson service as it was a company either run by Robertson & Co. or taken over by them in October 1843, for when the Striding Messenger stamps first appeared in that month the name of the company had been changed to 'City Despatch Post'." As I will discuss in the text, this statement begs the essential question and offers no evidence for its support.

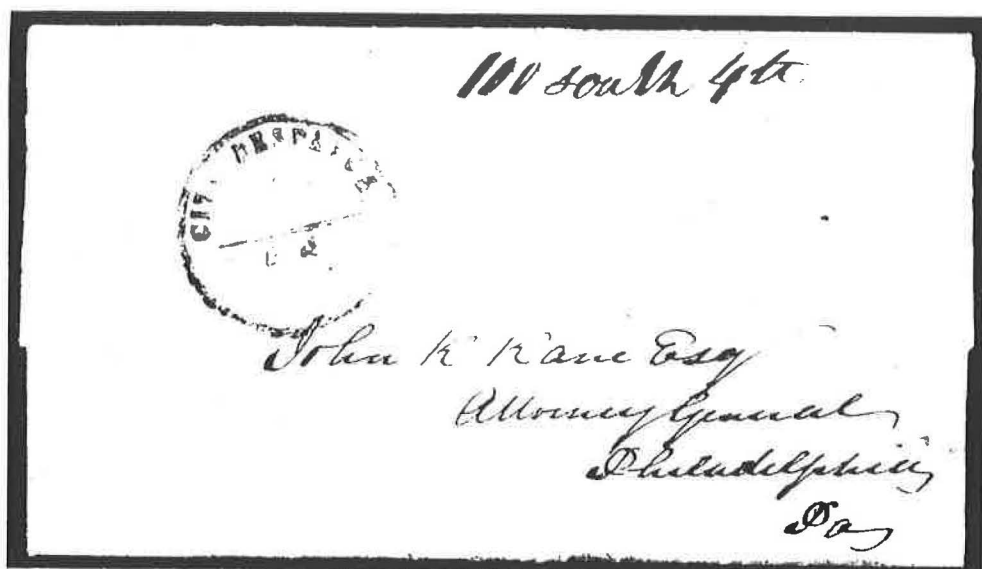


Figure 1.

function — for the pickup and delivery of City mail, rather than for the carriage of mail “to the Post Office” for out-of-town delivery.¹⁰

Furthermore, I am not persuaded that the presence of the initials “R & Co.” on the Striding Messenger stamp argues any more for the existence of the City Despatch Post as the predecessor of Blood’s Despatch (since this conclusion necessarily would assume the existence of the City Despatch Post) than it argues that such stamps might have been used by the Philadelphia Despatch Post during its last years of business. There just is not enough information currently known to justify the Lowe/Harvey extrapolation from the adhesive stamp. To this end, I note that the Philadelphia City Directories for 1843-1844 contain no mention of the City Despatch Post, although for that matter they also contain no mention of Robertson & Co. (which we do know existed!) In my opinion,

the whole question of the place, if any, of the City Despatch Post in the lineage of Blood’s Despatch remains open for investigation.

There is an argument, however, which at first blush would suggest that Messrs. Lowe and Harvey might be correct after all. There did exist in 1845 a company operating from 48 South Third Street known as the CITY DESPATCH. This company used a 32mm red handstamp “CITY DESPATCH/PM”. I am aware of two reported covers which bear this marking, one from 1844 and one from 1845. (See, Figure 1). Although very little is known about this local Post, it could not have been sandwiched between the PHILADELPHIA DESPATCH POST (which terminated in 1843 or 1844) and BLOOD’S DESPATCH (which was founded July 7, 1845), since the owner of this Post announced in the *Public Ledger* for July 22, 1848 that his business was for sale because he was leaving the

10. The argument against this latter interpretation, obviously (although one no more persuasive than the two former), is that there are reported #15L3 Striding Messenger covers that were taken to the Post Office for delivery outside of Philadelphia. The point is, there just is not enough evidence one way or the other to arrive at a reasoned conclusion at this time.

City. Indeed, it is believed that this Post was purchased by William Stait, who was operating Eagle City Despatch at this time, and who moved his offices to 48 South Third Street in late July or early August 1848. Blood's Despatch, on the other hand, already had maintained its offices at 48 South Third Street from 1846 to 1848, after which it moved to 28 South Sixth Street.

Finally, there is one other possibility concerning the identity of the predecessor of BLOOD'S DESPATCH, which was mentioned by Ed Harvey in his article. Thus, he notes that the *Annals of Philadelphia*¹¹ state that Blood's Despatch originally was started as "Halsey's Despatch", although he can find no record of this company. My own search for this Post has also been fruitless.

B. Was the last Striding Messenger stamp (#15L6) used only for City Delivery?¹²

Robson Lowe thought so. In his Basle auction catalogue he wrote, "The second (Blood's) Striding Messenger stamp (S.15L6) appeared in 1847.... This stamp remained on sale for less than a year and is only known for local mail." (Bold emphasis added) In my experience, based on my observations of notes written on the backs of many #15L6 covers by dealers and collectors, people have often accepted this statement as correct. Was it?

When the first Striding Messenger stamp was issued (#15L3) by Robertson & Co, there was no other stamp issued by this Post available for use "To the Post Office". Hence, while local use of this stamp predominated, "to the mails" out-of-town

destinations on covers bearing #15L3's have been recorded, although they are by no means plentiful. This was true, too, when Blood acquired the remaining unused stock of Striding Messengers (#15L3) when he purchased the business in 1845, and he thereupon wrote in ink along the right margin "D.O.B. & Co's".

These stamps (#15L4), sometimes referred to as the "Provisional Issue", bridged the gap between Robertson & Co.'s #15L3 and the first Striding Messengers printed for Blood (#15L5) with his company's name at the top. As might be expected, local use greatly outweighed covers carried "To the mails", but several of the latter have been recorded.

Blood's first Striding Messenger stamp (#15L5) followed the same carriage pattern as that described above for #15L3 and #15L4, until 1846 when Blood's issued a "FOR THE POST OFFICE" stamp (#15L7), followed by two more "FOR THE POST OFFICE" types in 1847 (#15L8) and in early 1848 (#15L9). While the first of Blood's Striding Messengers (#15L5) occasionally continued to be used "To the Mails", the reported covers indicate that there was a marked decrease in such use after June 1846 when #15L7 became available.

But what about the second Blood's Striding Messenger stamp (#15L6)? Would it be reasonable to assume that its use "To the Mails" might naturally decline to "no such use" with the availability of three types of "FOR THE POST OFFICE" stamps? Yes, I submit, this would be a reasonable conclusion, especially if one has not seen any uses to the con-

11. Hazard, Willis P. and Watson, John F., *Annals of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania in the Olden Time*, 1899 ed., Philadelphia.

12. Note that I am not asking if the Striding Messenger stamp was intended only for City delivery. While I would very much like to know the answer to this question, I know of no information concerning it. Rather, my inquiry addresses only the actual use of the stamps, whatever the original intent.

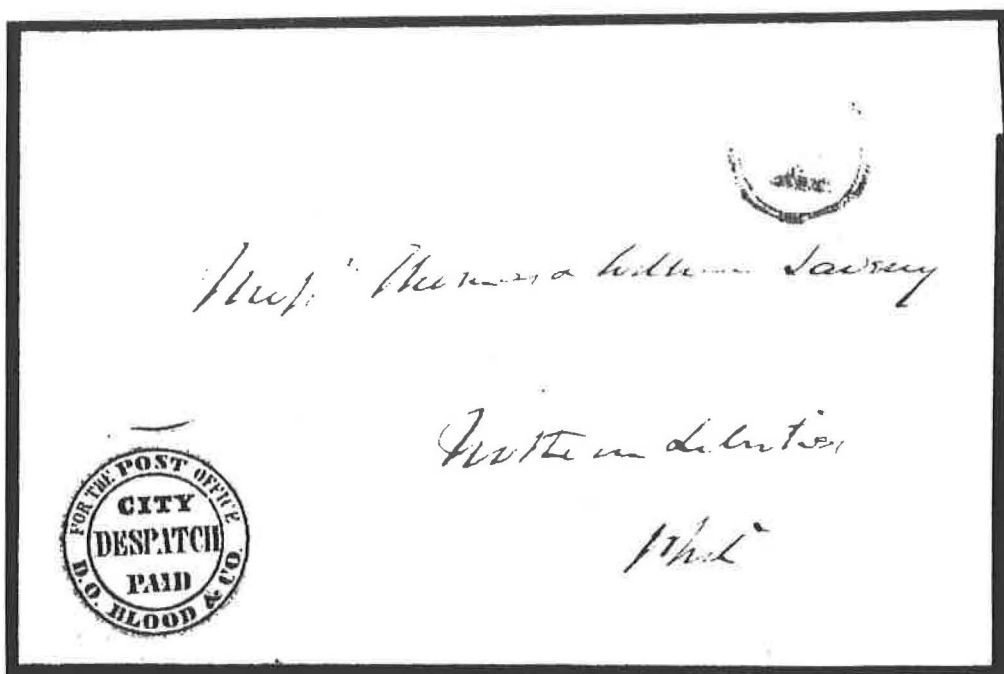


Figure 2.

trary. So, within Robson Lowe's own extensive visual experience, his statement was correct. But - and this is my point here - I have listed in my records three uses of #15L6 "To the Mails": one to New Haven (1847), one to New York City (1847) and one to St. Louis (1848). It would not surprise me to learn that other students of Blood's Despatch also have recorded a few such uses. Yet the well conceived but erroneous statement by Robson Lowe has been permitted to stand and to be repeated on the backs of covers to the innocent deception of dealers, collectors and postal historians alike, thereby misleading all who have read or who will read it. It is time to set the record straight on this point, in print, so that future collectors and students will not be misled.¹³

13. It is not my intention in this article to challenge the prestige and scholarship of Robson Lowe, the premier student of the Philadelphia local posts, who not only inspired me to collect them, but without whom our knowledge of this area would resemble a desert. Mr. Lowe is mentioned in this article because he has been a pioneer writer; much of what has been published by his successors has been but a footnote to his works. Were I writing an article describing the known and accurate (as we believe it to be today) information that has been published with respect to Blood's Despatch, most of that article would be a tribute to (and a borrowing from) Robson Lowe.

14. *The Chronicle* 90, p.86, a statement was consistent with a similar statement in the Basel auction catalogue.

C. Were Blood's "FOR THE POST OFFICE" stamps (#15L7, #15L8 & #15L9) used only "To the mails"?

Robson Lowe stated in his *Chronicle* article in 1976 that, "...these three stamps are found only used on letters addressed out of town and carried to the post office."¹⁴ For the record, I have recorded a local use of #15L8 in Dec. 1847 and one such use of #15L9 in 1848 (See Figure 2).

D. Does the *Scott's U.S. Specialized Catalogue* listing of #15L12 - #15L17 reflect the correct chronological order of the issuance of the stamps?

No. The actual order of issuance was #s 15L12, 15L13, 15L17, 15L14, 15L15 and 15L16. The first three stamps were all issued from the same plate when Blood still operated the Post. The last three stamps were issued under the auspices of Blood's

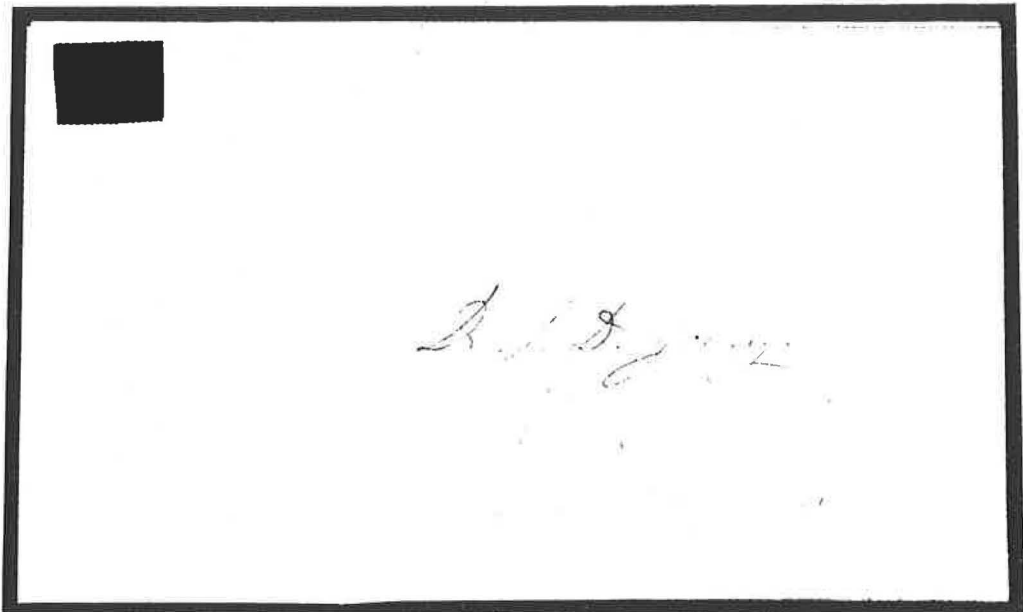


Figure 3.

successor owner, Charles Kochersperger. For a thorough discussion, see the Patton articles previously cited and Gordon Stimmell's recent article in *The Penny Post*, "Detecting Blood Types."¹⁵

E. Was Blood's #15L17 ("POST OFFICE") stamp used only for mail carried to the Post Office for out-of-town delivery?

In his 1973 Basle Sale, Lowe describes Lot #1684 as "...erroneously used on local envelope 6.2, 1856 (?)", and he goes on to add by way of comment, that "Note: The above is the only example of the stamp (15L17) used for local delivery known to us."

For the record, I have recorded eight such uses. (See, for example, Figure 3) Surely, while this use is uncommon, it is not rare.

F. How did Blood's Special Messenger Service operate?

The earliest reference I have found in the *Public Ledger* to Blood's Special Messenger Service appeared in the issue for Feb. 6, 1849, where it

was stated that, "In addition to the regular deliveries from all of our Boxes, at the hours stated above we have at the Office, 28 So. Sixth St., careful and prompt special messengers for the conveyance of letters, papers and small parcels to any part of the City or Districts desirable, at any moment in the day, from 7 in the morning to 9 o'clock in the evening, at the following extremely low charges: To any point east of Broad and South of Coates - 5 cents; To any points within the paved limits, No. of Coates and West of Broad - 10 cents."

This advertisement was modified in the issue of Jan. 10, 1850, that stated, in part, "At any moment in the Day or Evening, Letters, &c., left at the office, can be sent by special messengers, at a charge of five cents or ten cents each, according to distance." This advertisement appeared with frequency, although its form occasionally was altered to read, "Special messengers to be had at the offices at any moment." (*Public Ledger*, May 24, 1851).

15. *The Penny Post*, Vol.1, No.2 (April 1991), p.28ff.

The uppermost charge (10 cents) may have been increased in due course - although I know of no evidence that it was - as suggested by the advertisement in the *Public Ledger* for Dec. 8, 1857, which stated that special messengers would be sent to all parts of the City (within 10 miles of the Office) at a charge of 5 cents and upwards, according to distance. It is possible, however, that this phrase did not refer to increases in the fee above 10 cents, but that it referred to smaller increments of increase over 5 cents, but less than 10 cents.

Indeed, one prominent Blood's collector has stated in his Exhibit write-up that there was a 3 cent Special Messenger fee for pickup at one's place of business and 2 cents for pickup at one's home. I saw no mention of this in any notice published by Blood's in the *Public Ledger*, nor did I see any corroboration of this statement elsewhere. All references to the Special Messenger fees were as described above, 5 cents or 10 cents or upward, as the case may be. The examples of the covers in the Exhibit shown to illustrate the incremental fee theory bore no evidence that they were delivered by Special Messenger, although they did contain multiple copies of Blood's adhesives. It appeared to me that these covers are more properly explained by the discussion below in Section "H" concerning covers with multiple stamps.

Not only did Blood's offer Special Messenger Service to its client's as an accommodation, in certain circumstances not involving letters it would render delivery only if this Service were used. Thus, in the Jan. 10, 1850 issue of the *Public Ledger*, for example, Blood's advertisement stated that, "Money, Jewelry, or other articles of intrinsic value, will not be delivered by Blood's Despatch,

except by "special messengers," in which cases the articles must be left at the Office, 26 and 28 So. Sixth St., registered, and the special messenger charge paid thereon.

An instance in which Blood's at first encouraged, but eventually mandated the use of the Special Messenger Service was in the delivery of Valentines. Thus, it was said in the *Public Ledger* for Feb. 11, 1853, that "BLOOD'S DESPATCH POST delivers no unpaid Valentines¹⁶(and) LARGE AND COSTLY VALENTINES should (Bold emphasis added) be sent by the Special Messengers of Blood's Despatch Post, Office 30 Arcade".

This message was restated in the issue for Feb. 9, 1854, with the added information on Feb. 14 that "Large sized Valentines must be (pre)paid five and ten cents each." By 1856, the admonition to use special messengers had become mandatory: "LARGE OR COSTLY VALENTINES will be delivered only by (Bold emphasis added) the Special Messengers of Blood's Despatch. Price 5 and 10 cents, according to distance, from the Principle Office, 28 So. Fifth St." (*Public Ledger*, Feb. 11, 1856).

G. How did Blood's handle unpaid mail?

The simple answer is that Blood's handled mail which had not been prepaid in different ways at different times, depending in part on the expressed desires of its customers, sometimes delivering such mail without charging an additional fee, sometimes refusing to deliver collect mail, and at other times delivering it at a premium. Unfortunately, the so-called simple answer does not take into account contradictions which are found among the issues of the *Public Ledger* and from an examination of the covers themselves.

16. The examination of prepaid Valentine covers raises interesting questions explored below in Section H.

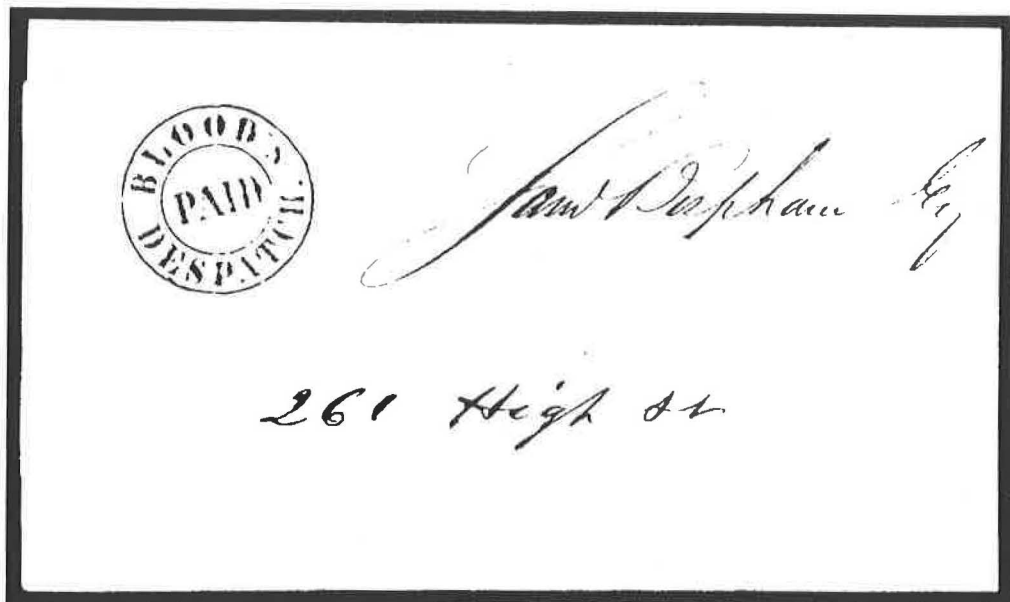


Figure 4.

It appears from the available evidence that at first Blood's delivered both prepaid and unpaid letters, and that it did so without making any distinction between them with respect to fees. (See, for example, Figures 4 & 5). Thus, we find an announcement in the *Public Ledger* for Dec. 18, 1848, stating that, "Stamps for pre-payment can be procured at all places where the boxes are stationed, and it is a convenience (Bold emphasis added) to have them always on hand". While this statement on its face does not exclude the possibility that it might have been a convenience to have stamps available because otherwise Blood's would not have delivered the letter, in fact, there is no such suggestion in the *Public Ledger* or on examined covers with regard to unpaid mail prior to 1849.

The first notice to the public indicating that letters to be carried by Blood's had to be prepaid appeared in the *Public Ledger* on Jan. 3, 1849, announcing this new policy effective Jan. 8. This was followed by another notice on Jan. 11 announcing that all

unpaid letters would be held at Blood's Office pending payment. The motivation for this new policy was reflected in Blood's announcement that it would respond to the Post Office's reduction in the carrier fee to 1 cent by also reducing its fee to 1 cent; however, as a consequence of such reduction, said Blood's, "... (Blood's) on and after Monday next (i.e., Jan. 8), will deliver prepaid letters at one cent, and will not carry unpaid letters." (*Public Ledger*, Saturday, Jan. 6, 1849).

Apparently, however, the new practice was not readily adopted by Blood's customers. Thus, on Feb. 6, 1849, Blood's reminded its customers that, "All persons will please bear in mind that we deliver no letters except that they are pre-paid." (*Public Ledger*) Then, on Feb. 10, Blood's issued an announcement that sounds almost sarcastic in tone: "It appears difficult to get every person to remember that Blood's Despatch delivers no unpaid letters. Only one cent a letter is charged, but they must be prepaid." The announcement went on to state:

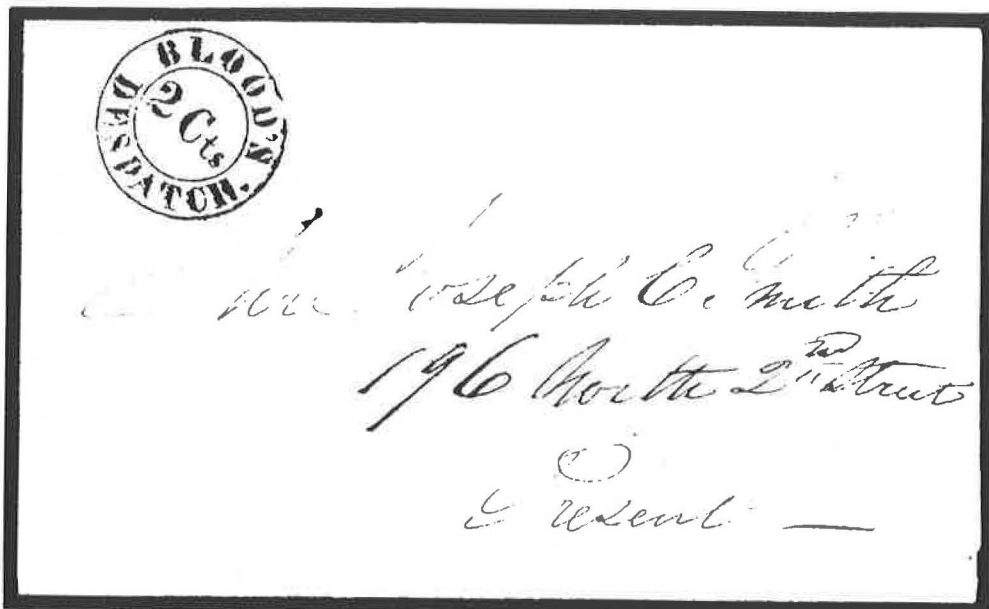


Figure 5.

“\$10 REWARD! BE CAREFUL!! BE CAUTIOUS!! ALL LETTERS ARE PREPAID!!! Blood’s Despatch delivers nothing but pre-paid matter and in addition to the caution to persons not to pay for Letters when received we hereby offer a reward of Ten Dollars for the detection and conviction of any one in receiving pay for any Letter, Message or Parcel of any kind, at the time of delivering it through the Despatch.” (*Public Ledger*, Feb. 10, 1849) This practice continued into 1850 (*Public Ledger*, Jan. 10, 1850), and at least into April 1851.

On April 6, 1852 (*Public Ledger*), Blood’s made the following announcement, reversing its policy: “PUBLIC ACCOMMODATION having always been the object of the proprietors of BLOOD’S DESPATCH, they are induced, at the urgent request of many friends, to change so much of their regulations as state that no unpaid letters will be delivered. Many letters are placed in our boxes unpaid, and, if not delivered, often cause great inconvenience to the parties to whom they are to be sent; but

hereafter all Letters, whether prepaid or not, will be delivered.” (Bold emphasis added)

“Stamps for pre-payment One cent each, for sale at the Office, No. 15 ARCADE, and at all the box stations. Letters not prepaid Two cents each will be collected.” This practice continued for the duration of Blood’s existence as a despatch post. An announcement which appeared on Dec. 4, 1852, made it clear that only City letters could be sent collect; that all letters to be taken to the Post Office for delivery outside of Philadelphia had to be prepaid. New handstamps (Types 10 and 11) were prepared to reflect the rate differentials for City letters. (See, for example, Figures 6 & 7)

Note the language of the announcement which stated that Blood’s would deliver unpaid mail, something it had not done for several years. It is clear that the new program was to be prospective (“...but hereafter all Letters...”), yet there exist in the collection of this writer one cover bearing Handstamp Type 10 (“BLOOD’S DESPATCH/PRE-/PAID/ONE-

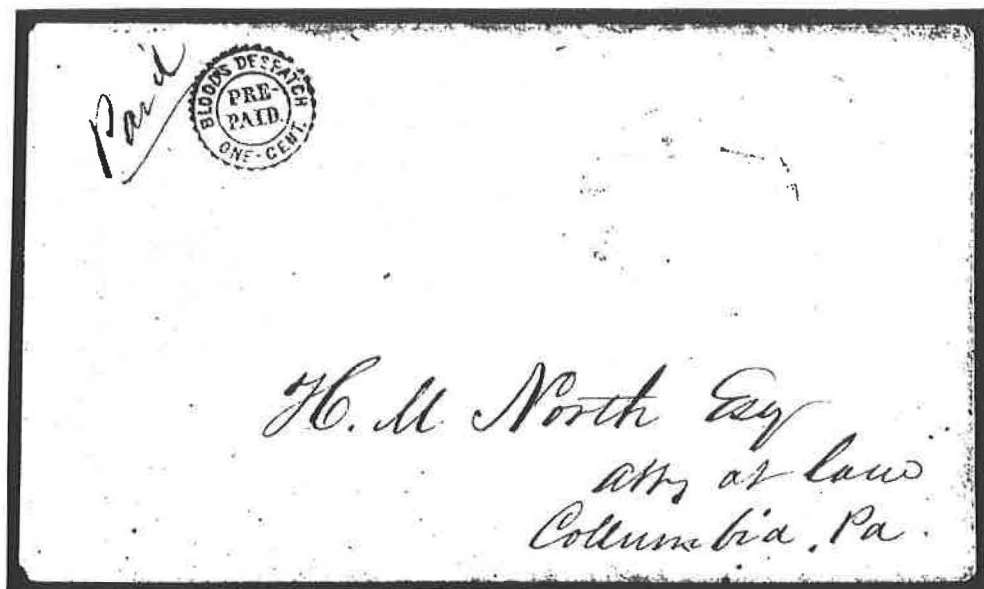


Figure 6.

CENT") that is unquestionably dated June 6, 1851 (See Figure 6 from ante), and a notice which states that an insurance premium will be due no later than April 3, 1851. (See Figure 8) Obviously, more data is needed.

There was, however, an exception to the delivery of unpaid City letters. This exception appears to have been a reflection of the heavy volume of business that Blood's incurred around Valentine's Day. Thus, Blood's

announced on Feb. 5, 1853 (*Public Ledger*), that "NO UNPAID LETTERS OR VALENTINES will be delivered by Blood's Despatch, from the 10th to the 20th of February...."

H. Why do we find Blood's covers bearing multiple adhesives?

There appear to be four general categories of covers that were carried by Blood's Despatch and which have more than one stamp on each cover: (i) large Valentines; (ii)

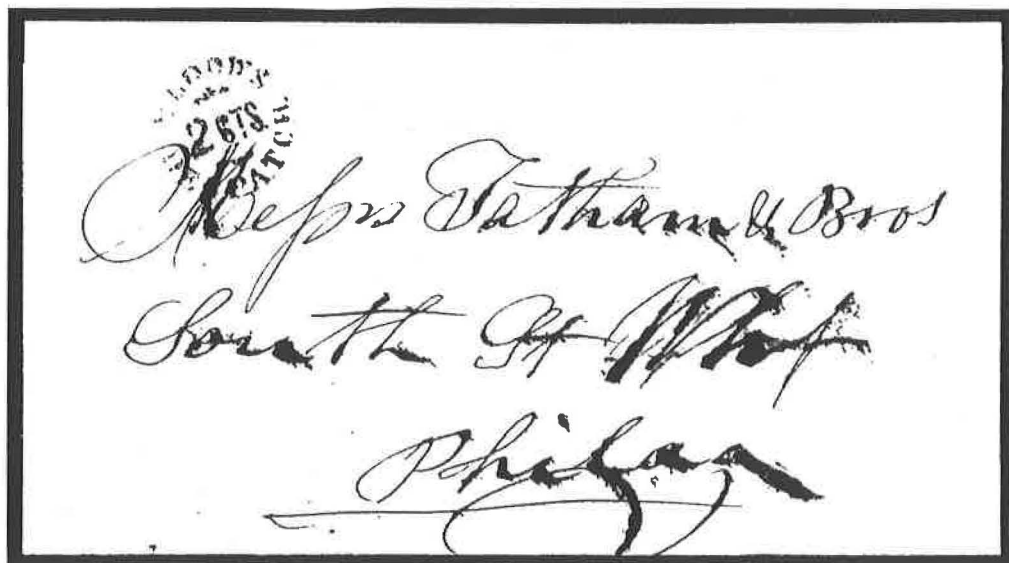


Figure 7.

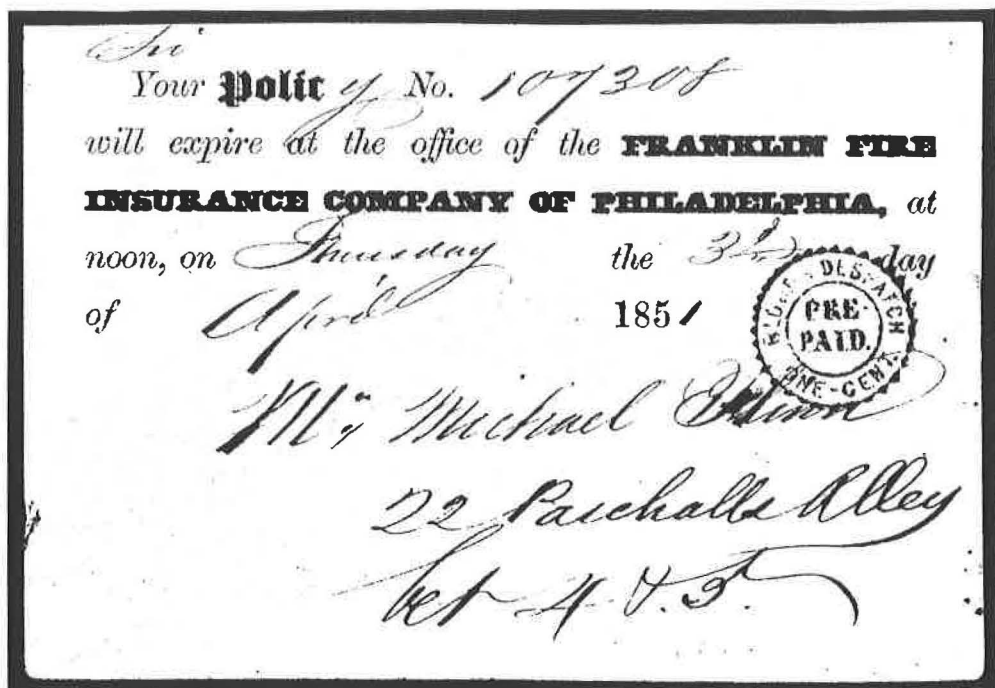


Figure 8.

covers for which more than one service was rendered by Blood's; (iii) covers that were not prepaid; and, (iv) covers for which there is no explanation for the multiple adhesives. One category which did not carry multiple adhesives - although it logically might have - were multiple weight letters. As we will see below, such overweight letters were charged only a single fee.

With respect to large Valentines, we have already seen that these were charged 5 cents or 10 cents, according to distance. What has not been reported to my knowledge, however, are Valentine covers with five or ten individual stamps on them to pay the entire fee according to the distance. Indeed, this writer has not recorded any Valentines reflecting the 10 cent fee, although they surely must be out there. What has been reported, however, are large Valentine covers

bearing multiples of Blood's stamps (either two stamps or three), in combination with a portion of the fee having been paid "in cash", as indicated by the notation in the upper corner of the envelope. (See, for example, Figure 9) In all reported instances save one, the combination of the adhesives and the "cents" notation add up to 5 cents.¹⁷

The second category of cover bearing more than one adhesive is less certain in its explanation since this writer is aware of only one such usage. This is a cover in the writer's collection which appears to have received two services from Blood's (See, Figure 10), thereby (if the interpretation is correct) requiring two fees (i.e., two stamps). The interpretation of this cover would seem to be as follows: This folded letter (which was internally datelined "March 23") was delivered by

17. The one exception known to this writer contains three copies of \$15L14 and the notation "3¢", for a total of 6¢. To my knowledge, the extra 1¢ was wasted, although it would seem unlikely that the Blood's clerk would have accidentally charged too much. Perhaps he made the cents notation before the customer erroneously added three stamps to the envelope? For now, such speculation will have to do!

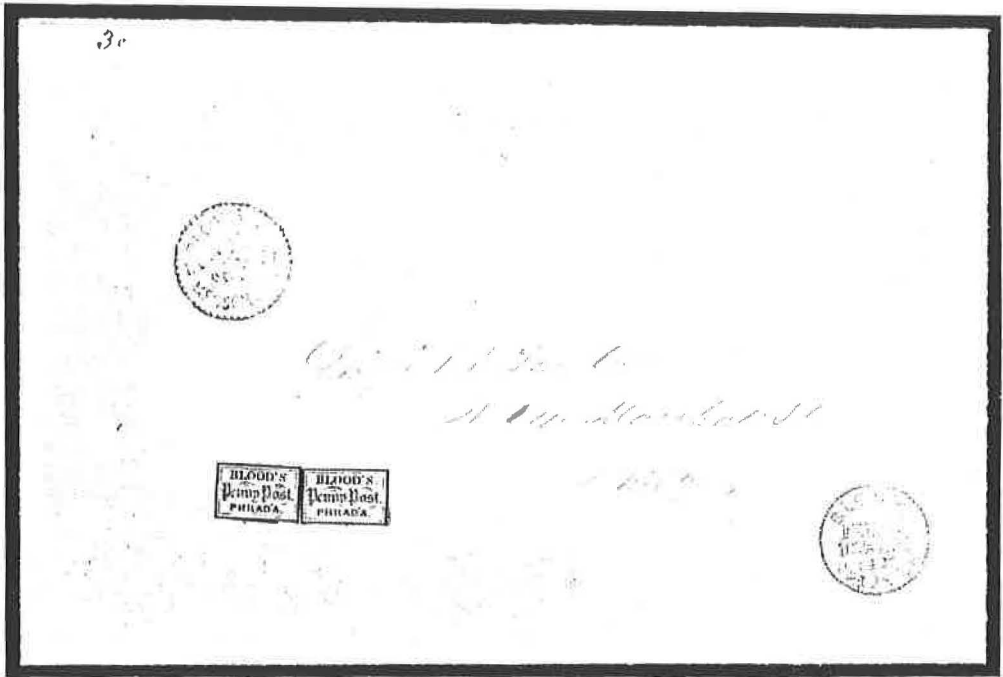


Figure 9.

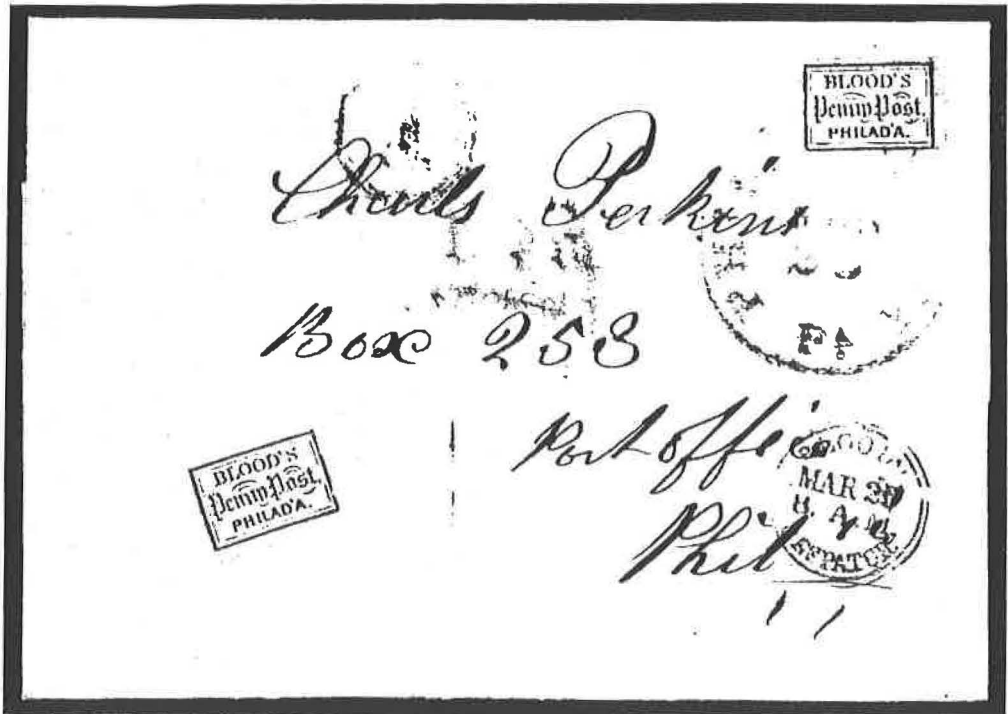


Figure 10.

Blood's on that date to the Philadelphia Post Office where it received the Philadelphia CDS (March 23), was placed in "Box 253", and was rated 1 cent (Due) as a Drop Letter. This would account for one Blood's adhesive (#15L15).

Thereafter, on March 25 (See Blood's handstamp Type 12 on the face of the envelope), it appears that Blood's retrieved the letter from the Post Office (in which case it would have paid the 1 Drop Letter fee due), and thereupon delivered the letter to Mr. Perkins, charging the extra fee for this second service (accounting for the second stamp, also #15L15).

Further, the absence of a third stamp to indicate that Blood's was reimbursed for the 1 cent Drop Letter fee which it paid would suggest either that Perkins had advanced the Penny, or that Blood's had advanced the Fee and had been reimbursed in coin, but did not indicate this with a third adhesive since no "Blood's service", per se, had been rendered. There may be other interpretations; if so, this writer would appreciate hearing of them.

The third category of covers bearing multiple adhesives would appear to be those letters that were not prepaid after April 1851, when, as described above, Blood's once again carried unpaid letters, but at twice (2 cents) the prepaid fee (1 cent). (See, for example, Figure 11 for a possible example of such a cover) Because such multiple adhesive covers do not bear any markings to demonstrate such unpaid double fee usage, we are left to theorize (speculate?) based on the fact that all such covers that have been reported occurred after April 3, 1851, the earliest date of which we know that Blood's began to offer such service. To my knowledge, there are no known multiple adhesive covers with stamps earlier than #15L14. More information is still needed.

The fourth category, unfortunately, encompasses all of those multiple adhesive covers for which no explanation can be given. This is the category which contains the greatest number of examples, although even these are not plentiful (I have recorded nine examples). The most interesting was illustrated as Lot

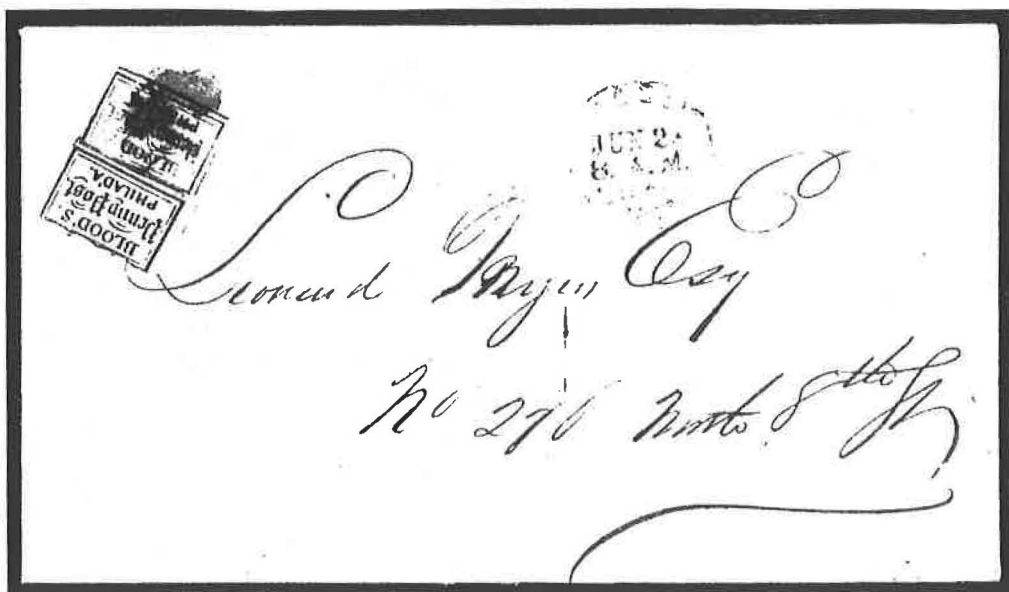


Figure 11.

#1745 in the 1973 Lowe Basle Sale. It was described as follows:

"A BLOCK OF FOUR, acid cancel, on creased (cover symbol) dated 23.10.1854 4 ½ P.M. - the largest known used multiple."

No more has ever been reported of this tantalizing cover; the partial illustration is inadequate to render meaningful information.

Letters which one would have expected to bear multiple adhesives, that is, overweight letters, for some reason were charged only the single fee by Blood's. There are many examples of domestic mail which was carried to the Post Office by Blood's for transmittal beyond, having only one Blood's adhesive, but which were obviously overweight because they were sent after July 1, 1851 (when the postage rate was set at 3 cents prepaid per ½ oz. up to 3000 miles), that were not sent more than 3000 miles, but which bore more than one United States postage stamp.

I. Would Blood's deliver and pickup anywhere within the Philadelphia City limits?

It probably would have had it been permitted to, but Federal law did not permit Blood's this much territory to engage in its business.

When Congress forced the Inter-City expresses (the so-called Independent Mail Companies) to go out-of-the-letter-carrying business by passing a statute effective July 1, 1845, declaring (as had the Act of 1827) that the roads between main post offices were "post roads" over which the Government had a monopoly, the question arose whether Blood's could deliver mail within the broadened Philadelphia City limits (as created by the Pennsylvania Consolidation Act of 1854), or whether Blood's was confined to the narrow original City boundaries. That is,

were "post roads" between main post offices the same as "post routes" (the subject of the Act of 1851), which attempted to give the Government a monopoly within cities? The Court held that "post routes" (as used in the 1851 law) and "post roads" (as used in the 1845 law) were not the same; that post routes were roads between a main post office and its subordinate stations, not roads and ways within a city. This meant that the Act of 1851 failed to give the Government a monopoly over the streets and ways within a city's limits.

The problem from Blood's point of view was that this did not avoid the legal issue because of an anomaly in the structure of the City of Philadelphia. Even though the Pennsylvania legislature had consolidated the City and County of Philadelphia in the Consolidation Act of 1854, so that the former County entities were now part of the City of Philadelphia, many of the former County districts continued to operate their own independent post offices, so that the roads between them and the main City Post Office could properly still be construed as "post roads" between post offices under the Act of March 3, 1845 (effective July 1, 1845), over which the Government had a monopoly. To avoid being treated as an Independent Mail Carrier (rather than strictly as an intra-City local Post), Blood's therefore refrained from taking mail to or picking up mail from such former County post offices, as well as from carrying mail to any point beyond the City's original boundaries.

Thus, an advertisement placed by Blood's in the *Public Ledger* for Jan. 10, 1850, concluded with the statement that, "Letters are delivered throughout the City proper, Southwark, Moyamensing, Northern Liber-

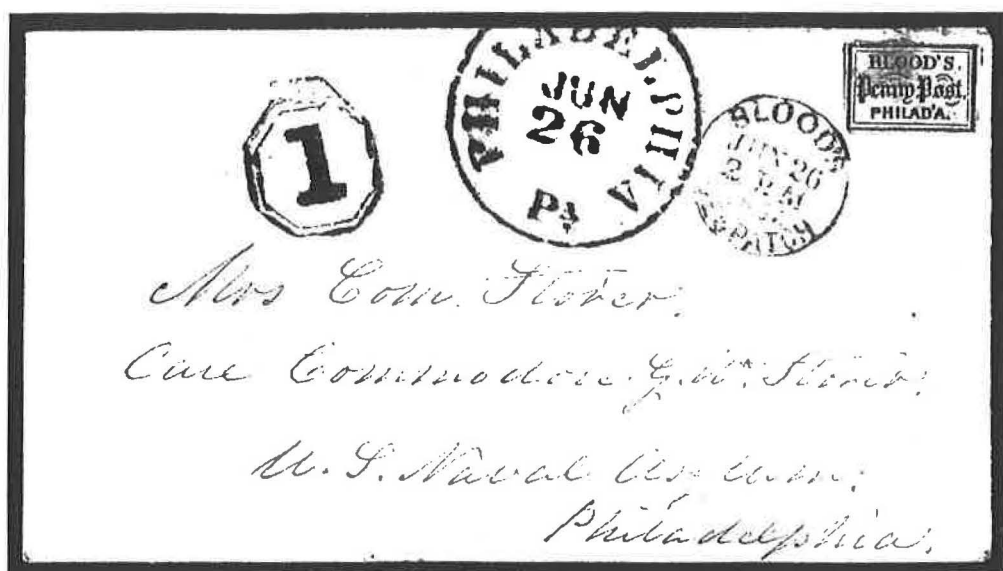


Figure 12.

ties and all of Spring Garden East of Schuylkill Sixth, but no letters are taken out of the paved limits in direction." (Bold emphasis added) An example of such a cover is Figure 12. Why wasn't this letter delivered directly to the addressee at the U.S. Naval Asylum, thereby saving Mrs. Storer the 1 Drop Letter charge at the main Philadelphia Post Office? This is because the Naval Asylum, although within the Philadelphia City limits as defined by the Consolidation Act, was located outside the original City boundaries, on the banks of the Schuylkill River, fronting on Gray's Ferry Road. Other such examples exist.

J. Could a person outside of Philadelphia prepay the Fee for Blood's to pickup a letter coming into the Post Office for delivery within the City?

There is no evidence to indicate that one could prepay the collection fee by Blood's from the Post Office, although there is no evidence, either, to suggest that he could not. At least one knowledgeable Blood's collector has taken the position in his Exhibit

that this fee could be prepaid; one leading auction house, too, has recently implied agreement with this position.

What is the available evidence? First, nowhere in the *Public Ledger*, despite the many advertisements by Blood's Despatch describing the extent of its services, does it ever mention collection from the Post Office with prepayment of its fees. Second, beginning with the Act of 1792 (Section 28), and repeated in each major postal statute thereafter, the procedure in cities (such as Philadelphia) having Government carrier service was to deliver the letter from the Post Office unless there was lodged with the Postmaster an order from the addressee to the contrary. It would follow, then, that if the addressee did not want his incoming letter delivered by the Government service, and if he did not want it held at the Post Office for his pickup, but wanted instead to have it retrieved and delivered by a private local Post, that the procedure would have been to instruct the Post Office in writing to release the letter to the private local Post.

I am not aware of any reported written instructions concerning the prepayment of Blood's fees with respect to mail to be delivered from the Post Office. Nor am I aware of any reported covers which on their face would appear to have been prepaid for delivery from the mails, or which contain private delivery instructions to the Postmaster. Third, the few covers which I have recorded that could possibly be examples of mail sent to the Philadelphia Post Office from out-of-town for which the Blood's fee had been prepaid are inconclusive evidence. The most recently reported example appeared in the Christie's Jarrett Sale held Oct. 9 & 10, 1990, as Lot #1158. It was described (and illustrated) as follows:

"1158 Blood & Co., Philadelphia Pa., (1 Cent) Red on amber entire (15LU6), used with strip of three 1 Blue type II (7), ...tied by clear blue Raleigh, N.C. date-stamps, on cover to Philadelphia Pa. address,...a very interesting use into Philadelphia, although addressed to a street address, the lack of Blood's cancel seems to indicate that this was not given to the local company for delivery as intended, intriguing and scarce combination."

I agree with the cataloguer that the lack of a Blood's handstamp and the absence of a cancellation of the preprinted stamp by the usual four pen strokes suggest that the Blood's preprinted/prepaid penny fee was wasted, either intentionally because the envelope was handy and an envelope was needed or for failure to have instructed the Postmaster otherwise.¹⁸ However, the price projected to be realized (\$500-750) by

the cataloguer and the price actually realized (\$880) by the successful bidder strongly imply that they, at least, thought that this cover represented something more than a wasted example of #15LU6.

A second example, also used from Raleigh to Philadelphia, is discussed in Footnote No. 18, above. A third example of this possible prepayment use was illustrated as part of the sale held by Richard Frajola in 1983¹⁹ of the collection of the prominent collector of Philadelphia postal history, Wylie Flack. This cover originated in Port Richmond, Pennsylvania, a Philadelphia County Post Office. The Blood's embossed stamp is not cancelled and there is no Blood's marking on the face of the envelope. A fourth example of this possible use also appeared in the 1973 Basle Sale as Lot #1698. This cover originated in Elmira, New York, contained three "slightly cut-into 1851 3," and was addressed to "Mr. Elbt. Kochersperger, Blood's Despatch Office, Philadelphia". It was described as Ex-Gibson. Unfortunately, it was not illustrated and was inadequately described both in the 1973 Basle Sale and again when it reappeared in another Lowe Basle Sale (Oct. 26, 1973) as Lot #1919.

The fifth cover that I have recorded appears in the Exhibit of a very knowledgeable student of Blood's Despatch. This cover originated in Ralston, Pennsylvania, and also was addressed to Elbert Kochersperger, brother of the owner of the Post at this time, at "Blood's City Post Office/Arcade/Philadelphia/Penna." It, too, because of the combination of Blood's embossed envelope and out-of-town origination

18. This cover first appeared in the Lowe Basle Sale as Lot \$1697, as part of a two cover Lot, with both covers originating in Raleigh, N.C. The other cover, bearing Scott #11 and the Blood's preprinted envelope is only partially illustrated in that Sale making it impossible to tell if it contained relevant Blood's markings or instructions to the Postmaster. However, this cover was fully illustrated by Lowe in his article in *The Chronicle* (p.93). There are no Blood's markings on the face of this envelope.

19. Lot #371, Richard C. Frajola Inc., Feb. 5, 1983.

appears at first blush to have prepaid the delivery fee by Blood's Despatch. However, no delivery instructions appear on the face of the envelope; and no Blood's marking of any kind is present.

Since two of the five covers known to this writer (not much of a sampling, unfortunately) were addressed to Elbert Kochersperger at Blood's Despatch Office, it is conceivable — and this merely is speculation — that Blood's had left general written instructions at the Post Office concerning mail addressed to family

members? More information is needed.

Finally, I am not persuaded that the lack of a Blood's handstamp and/or the common cancellation strokes rule out the possibility that the covers were prepaid and delivered from the Post Office upon arrival at Philadelphia. I have recorded too many Blood's embossed envelopes for City Delivery and "to the mails" which were not cancelled and which did not reflect a Blood's handstamp, but which unquestionably were serviced by Blood's. Here, too, more work needs to be done.

III. Some "Odds and Ends"

What follows are bits and pieces of information which I have accumulated from time to time concerning Blood's Despatch. None is of itself important enough or extensive enough to warrant separate treatment in its own article. Hopefully, however, these fragments will sometime fill-in a missing piece for some other student or prove to be the catalyst for further research.

A. Blood's moved its offices from 28 So. Sixth Street to 26 & 28 So. Sixth Street in 1850.

This is the conventional wisdom, repeated in the leading writings about this Post and reflected in Exhibit write-ups. This often repeated date for Blood's expansion next door is wrong.

Blood's enlarged its office by expanding next door to include 26 So. Sixth Street sometime between March 27, 1849, when it gave its address as part of a *Public Ledger* advertisement as "28 S. Sixth St." and May 8, 1849, when the following appeared in that newspaper:

"BLOOD'S DESPATCH STAMPS are only ONE CENT each at 26 and 28 So. SIXTH STREET."

A complete listing of the several Blood's office locations appears in Ed Harvey's article at pages 245-246, but it includes the incorrect date for the above-described move.

B. Blood's maintained offices in cities other than Philadelphia.

It frequently has been stated that Blood's maintained a branch office in Baltimore and in Washington, D.C., although I have not been able to document this in my review of the City Directories for each City.²⁰ Furthermore, it has been claimed that Blood's sold the Baltimore office to Joseph Grafflin in 1853, and the Washington office to the One Cent City Despatch in 1852. What has not been reported before this Article is that Blood's also maintained branches (although not strictly offices) for the pickup and delivery of letters and packages across the river from Philadelphia in Camden, New Jersey.

The following two notices appeared in the *Public Ledger* on Friday, June 16, 1848 and Tuesday, April 2, 1850, respectively:

"RESIDENTS OF CAMDEN will

20. I have not yet reviewed newspapers for these cities during the relevant period.

find boxes of Blood's Despatch at Bloodgood's Hotel, Walnut Street Wharf; Burr's Hotel, Market St. Wharf; and Gegan's Drug Store, Front and South; from which letters, papers &c., are taken four times a day to the Post Office and three times a day to all parts of the City and Districts (except Kensington and Spring Garden) at two cents each. N.B. - Hours of Delivery - 10 A.M., and 2- and 8 P.M."

and,

"CITY AND CAMDEN EXPRESS - The proprietors of BROWN'S CITY and BLOOD'S CAMDEN EXPRESS have completed their arrangements, and are now delivering Marketing and Packages of all kinds throughout Philadelphia and Camden. Citizens of Camden availing themselves of this medium, (may) send their goods from any part of Philadelphia by Brown's Express, to the Wharf, thence through by Blood's Express to any part of Camden, or vice versa from Camden to Philadelphia."

C. Blood's initiated several postal reforms in advance of the Post Office Department.

1. In response to letters to the *Public Ledger* stating that it was impossible to determine the efficiency of Blood's messengers since a patron could not tell when the letter delivered to him had been collected from the boxes, Blood's announced on Saturday, May 24, 1851, that thereafter new handstamps would be used which would show the time of the pickup.

2. Blood's offered its patrons pre-printed embossed stamped envelopes as early as Thursday, June 14, 1849 (*Public Ledger*), when it advertised that, "STAMPED ENVELOPES, in any quantity - ADHESIVE do at very low rates, and PLAIN do wholesale and retail, at/26 & 28 So. Sixth St." This was approximately four years in advance of the first Government (Nesbitt) envelopes.

Another spin-off innovation pioneered by Blood's at this time (but one that the Post Office Department could hardly have been expected to innovate), was the creation of the compound envelope, consisting of the Blood's embossing on the official Government issue envelope (see, Figure 13).

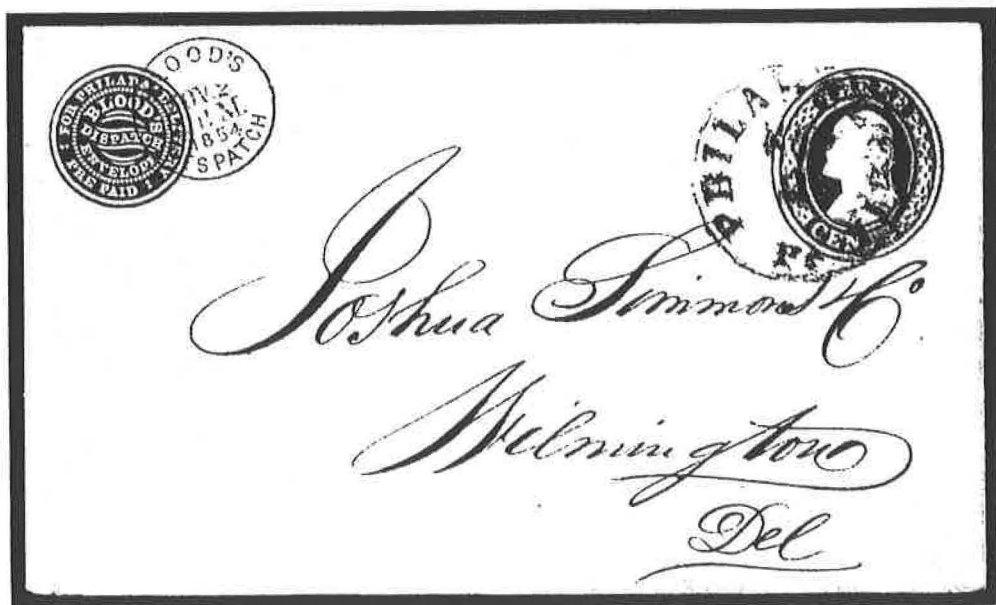


Figure 13.

D. A Fire at Blood's Despatch!

Blood's suffered a serious fire which destroyed most of its offices and much mail. The following appeared in the *Public Ledger* on Dec. 29 and 30, 1851, respectively:

"BLOOD'S DESPATCH - TO THE PUBLIC - During the fire of Saturday morning, our Office was totally destroyed, with everything in it. A new location will be secured as soon as possible, meanwhile, regular deliveries, from all our Boxes, will be made as usual." (12/29/51)

"Messrs. Blood & Co. lose sic. \$1200 and notwithstanding their establishment was entirely destroyed, through the indomitable perseverance of the proprietors, the letters of Saturday morning were despatched during the day as if nothing occurred to mar the harmony of their complete arrangement for supplying the largely increasing demand of the public for such conveniences." (12/29/51)

"DESTRUCTION OF LETTERS - The number of letters remaining in Blood's Despatch Office, at the time of the fire, amounted to nearly 90,000. These were the accumulation of the six years this enterprising firm has been in operation. The contents of the letters, of course, are unknown to Messrs. Blood & Co., and the probabilities are that large sums of money have been destroyed in the letters." (12/30/51)

After the fire, Blood's opened its new offices at No. 15 Arcade, West Avenue (*Public Ledger*, Dec. 31, 1851).

E. When did Blood's Despatch cease operations?

Lowe, in his article in *The Chronicle*²¹ stated that we do not know exactly when Blood's went out of business. This may have been true in 1976, but that is no longer so. Harvey, in his *Chronicle* article,²²

21. Ibid, p.94.

22. Ibid, pp. 242-243.

reprints in full the closing notice. The last day that Blood's Despatch was in operation was Jan. 10, 1862. There is no last day cover known to this writer, although I have seen a cover in the Exhibit of one Philadelphia Postal History collector which was delivered to the Post Office on Jan. 9.

F. How extensive were Blood's Despatch's operations?

As one follows the mention of Blood's Despatch through the pages of the *Public Ledger*, it is clear that Blood's pursued a continuous growth path, offering its patrons more and more conveniences as time went on.

The issue for Sept. 7, 1848, provided that "BLOOD'S DESPATCH had Boxes at the extremes of the City, as follows:

Second and Wharton Streets, Southwark;

Second and Poplar, Northern Liberties;

Tenth and Christian, Moyamensing;

Schuylkill, Third and Vine; and

Schuylkill, Third and Lombard.

We do not know how many boxes Blood's had placed throughout the City by 1848. However, by Oct. 29, 1851, Blood's had advertised that "It has now, within a circuit of twelve miles, no less than four hundred box-stations...." By Aug. 10, 1852, this number had increased to five hundred.

At first, Blood's collected and delivered mail within the City and to the Post Office three times each day, i.e., 7:00 A.M., 10:00 A.M. and 2-P.M. (*Public Ledger*, Dec. 14, 1847). On Dec. 18, 1848, Blood's notified the public that it would now make three daily deliveries throughout the City and four deliveries each day to the Post Office. Further, it stated, the evening delivery to the Post Office would take place after 8:00

P.M. "...thus affording to the citizens of all classes an opportunity of having their evening written letters mailed the same night." By Sept. 15, 1851, this schedule increased to four City deliveries each day and to five daily deliveries to the Post Office (*Public Ledger*). The hours of delivery for City mail were 7, 9-, 1 and 3- o'clock; for mail to be taken to the Post Office, 7, 9-, 1, 3-, and 7 P.M. By 1857, Blood's had dramatically increased its service to its patrons, advertising that "On and after Tuesday, Dec. 15th, all Letters deposited in the boxes between Vine and Spruce Streets, and east of Ninth Street, will be collected and delivered every hour, from 7 A.M. to 6 P.M. in Winter, and till 8 P.M. in Summer. Beyond the above mentioned limits, deliveries will be made every two hours." (*Public Ledger*, Dec. 8, 1857) (Bold emphasis added).

G. Did Charles Kochersperger secretly own the City Dispatch Post?

This speculation was put forth by

Lowe in his article in *The Chronicle*.²³ He offers no evidence to support this. However, he does justify his theory on the basis of the similarity between Blood's #15L18 and the City Dispatch stamp #41L1. Indeed, they are remarkably similar. But so are (i) Blood's #s 15L7, 15L8 & 15L9 and the stamps of T. A. Hampton Despatch Post (#77L1 & #77L2) and those of G. S. Harris Despatch Post (#79L1 & #79L2); so also are (ii) Blood's #15L14 & #15L15 and that of Teese & Co. (#137L1). Yet nobody, not even Lowe, has suggested common ownership among these Posts. At best, Lowe merely was able to speculate that at a time when Kochersperger was engaged in battle for his economic life with the Government, the Scales of Justice engraved on the City Dispatch stamp may have represented his plea to the Government to show mercy to the local Post.²⁴ Unfortunately, this speculation often has been repeated as fact in the literature and in write-ups for Exhibits.

Conclusion

The importance of the pioneering works published by Robson Lowe, Elliott Perry, George Sloane and more recently by Ed Harvey in their studies of Blood's Despatch cannot be gainsaid. But the fact that they came first should not prove to be daunting to later students. Indeed, it is in the scholarly spirit fostered by these postal historians that later students should feel an obligation to undertake to add new information to that already published, to correct mis-

takes now known for what they are, and to call attention to what was theory masquerading as fact, as well as to what is indeed now known fact. It is in this spirit that I have undertaken this article, with a corresponding invitation to other Blood's students to take up the challenge. I invite correspondance, and published corrections of errors, new information and contrary views. It is time now and in the future "to set and to keep the record straight!"

23. Ibid., p.96.

24. Ibid., p.96.

WHO IS THIS MAN?

By Richard Schwartz

The John Halstead/Elliott Perry article "Jenkins Camden Dispatch" in this journal's inaugural issue, Jan. 1991, presented the first cohesive account of this local post.

Had it offered no more than a classification of the many Jenkins counterfeits it would have been gratefully welcomed by collectors. It went well beyond that, leaving a sense of the personality of its founder, Samuel H. Jenkins and his brother William Henry Jenkins.

Recently I was offered a small lot



"Uncle Samuel Jenkins."



"Samuel Harris Jenkins"
with envelopes in hand.

of local material. Among the reprints and counterfeits were two photos, the first a partly hand-tinted brown print, cut oval; the second a small copy print of what may have been originally a larger studio photo.

The oval photo bears a pencilled inscription "Uncle Samuel Jenkins" on the reverse. The back of the other is inscribed "Samuel Harris Jenkins. From Margaret W. Elwell, Toms River, N.J." in what appears to be the same hand.

If you look closely at the rectangular photo you might see that Samuel Harris Jenkins is holding a handful of envelopes. Awaiting delivery?

Is he not the Samuel H. Jenkins of Jenkins' Camden Dispatch? If not, Who is this man?



Front of patriotic cover posted in Cincinnati on September 25.

CAVEAT EMPTOR

AB AQUILIS

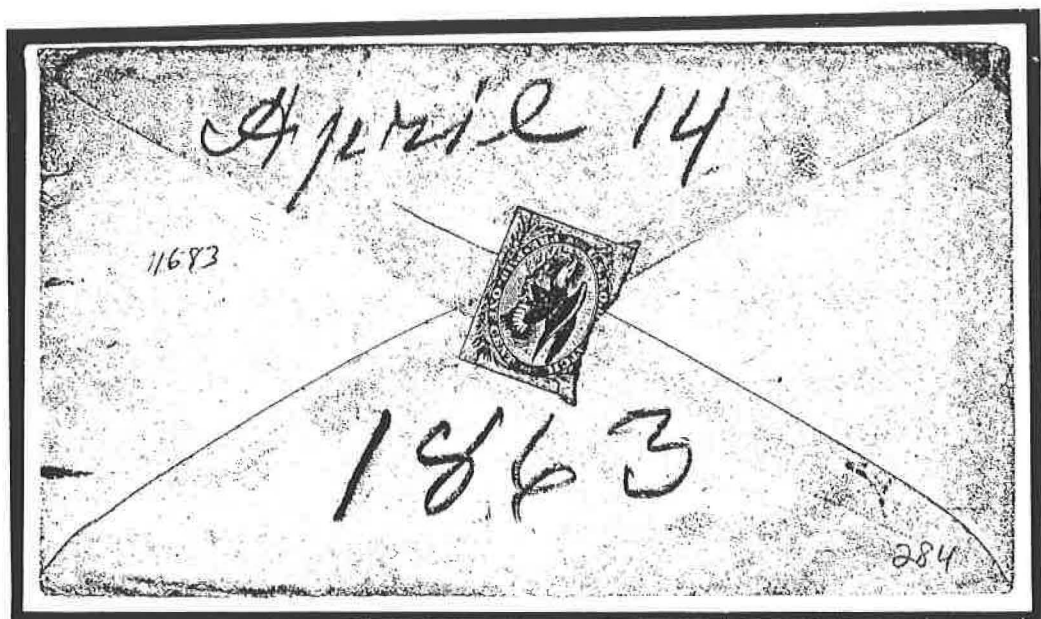
By Robert B. Meyersburg

Manufacturing rare and exotic covers is one of the oldest professions associated with philately. Buying these productions unknowingly for your collection is risky. The best protection, in my opinion, is to know more about the subject than the designer.

When I lived in France during the 1950s I became friendly with an artist who couldn't make the grade in his chosen profession because he wasn't willing to produce the kitsch that the tourists wanted — shiny-eyed poodles or Montmartre street scenes — so,

being technically very competent, he turned to the philatelic trade for his livelihood. He painted magnificently — his postmarks and fancy cancellations were true works of art — but his knowledge of postal history was sorely limited. In spite of that deficiency he made a pretty good living fooling other people who didn't know very much postal history until his hand became shaky. But this is not his story.

This is about a pretty little patriotic envelope, with the scene printed in magenta ink, franked with a 3



Back of same cover with Eagle carrier stamp sealing the flap.

cent 1861 properly postmarked with a blue Cincinnati double circle of Sept. 25, with the inviting inscription "In Haste" on the cover front (Figure 1). On the reverse, helping to seal the flap, is the ubiquitous Eagle carrier stamp, "precancelled" with a blue ink stroke and a meaningless crayoned date of April 14, 1863 (Figure 2).

If somebody stuck the Eagle on just for the hell of it, like a Christmas Seal, then OK, all is forgiven. But if, as I suspect, somebody felt he was creating a unique carrier cover which was intended to pay him for his trouble (I'm assuming no lady would be involved in such a nefarious scheme), then he should have known (1) that he was creating a Sept. 25, 1862 cover, since the double circle canceller appeared in Oct. 1861, and Eagles served no useful purpose after June 30, 1863; (2) that effective August 1861 the requirement in Cin-

cinnati to use only Eagles for prepayment of the collection fee was rescinded and replaced with the authorization to use one cent postage stamps; (3) no precancels have ever been reported used in Cincinnati; and finally, that an Eagle properly used to prepay the collection fee from any city at this late date would automatically be suspect, and hence would be subject to a very careful examination, which in this case produced firm physical evidence that the stamp, though genuine, is neither precanceled nor did it originate on the cover.

In closing, a thought to remember: *Cave emptor aquilarum*.

Editor's note: For the less than literate Latinates among us, Robert has thoughtfully supplied a translation. *Cave emptor aquilarum* means "Let the buyer of eagles beware" and *caveat emptor ab aquilis* signifies "Let the buyer beware of eagles."

ST. LOUIS DELIVERY CO.

By Richard Schwartz

“No such delivery now exists in this city - or my division.”

So wrote Warren P. Edgerton, the Post Office Inspector assigned to St. Louis, to John K. Tiffany, an important collector and writer of the late 19th century. Edgerton was referring to the St. Louis City Delivery Company started by J. Staley in Nov. 1882 to cater to firms in the business center of the city. The letter follows:

In reply to yours of the 7th inst. concerning the St. Louis City Delivery Co. I have the honor to inform you that about 3 months ago one J. Staley established a concern of the above name and commenced operations — delivering letters and circulars outside of the U.S. Mail — specimen of stamp used herewith inclosed on envelope addressed to Geo. P. Plant & Co. St. Louis Delivery. This Co. was violating the U.S. Postal Law. I referred the matter to the U.S. Attorney who suppressed the concern and its business — no such delivery now exists in this city, or my division.

Very respectfully,
Warren P. Edgerton



J. Staley's stamps from St. Louis and Cincinnati differ in small details.



Warren P. Edgerton,
Post-Office Inspector.

Post Office Department,

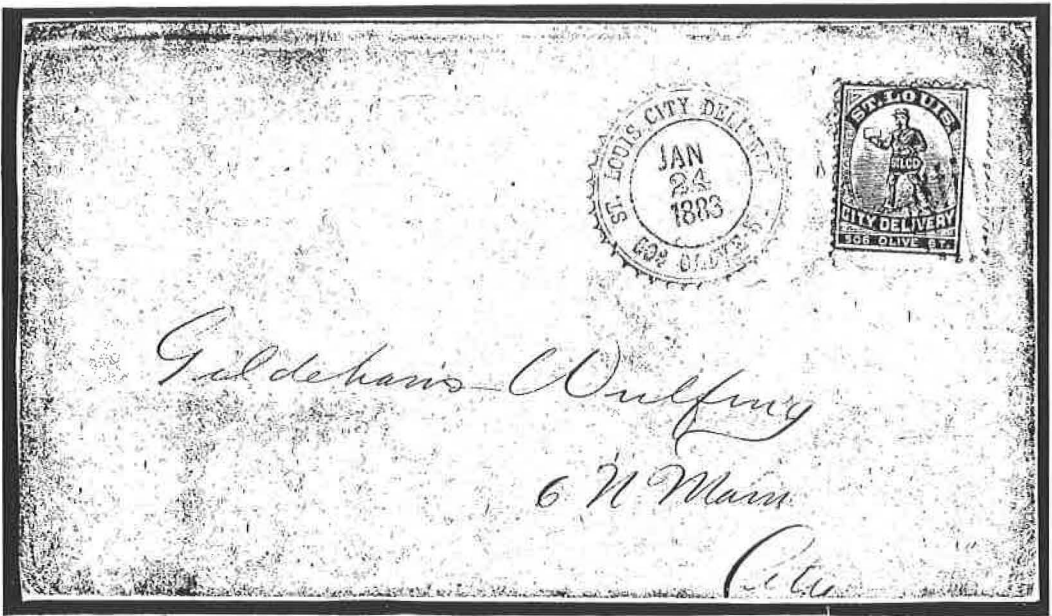
Inspector's Office,

St. Louis, Mo.

May 10th 1882

John K. Tiffany Esq.
St. Louis Mo.

Letterhead from Post Office Inspector Edgerton.



A rare genuine use of St. Louis City Delivery stamp on cover.

The demise of this local post meant also the closing of a branch company the firm had opened only weeks earlier in Cincinnati, the Cincinnati City Delivery.

In the *Bayonne Philatelist*, Aug. 1884, Dr. W.H. Mitchell (who four years later created the five-day Blizzard Mail) writing about this post stated that the St. Louis office had sold 20,000 stamps to its customers, most of which were actually used.

This statement must be questioned today, as so few covers are known. In addition to the example shown here, one is in the Tapling Collection of the British Library, dated Jan. 11, 1883. A cover dated Jan. 26, 1883 was sold in an Apfelbaum sale of Dec. 8, 1952. Two others are noted in George Sloane's reference library, dated Jan. 1 and 24, 1883. Robert Siegel's 723 sale, April 27, 1990, offered an example on a wrapper.

Stamps held by customers were redeemed and many cancelled with a two-ring target to prevent their being offered again for redemption. To the

writer's knowledge this target cancel was not used in the normal business of the post. The significance of the "3" seen written on some remainders is not known. Stamps bearing a black grid cancellation were genuinely used, as were the few seen with a portion of the toothed circular date stamp.

The format of the St. Louis stamp was adapted for Cincinnati with slight differences in the central figure and ornamentation. The designs were wood engraved and printed from electrotypes. Sheet size is believed to be 25, by inference from a known sheet of 25 (5x5) Cincinnati stamps.

St. Louis stamps are perforated 12x12 and are red; the Cincinnati are perforated 11x11 and are carmine, though each exists in a color range. While Scott lists both as an imperforate pair, unpriced, none has been reported. Sloane reported a counterfeit believed to be of German origin. This writer has never seen one. Has any reader?

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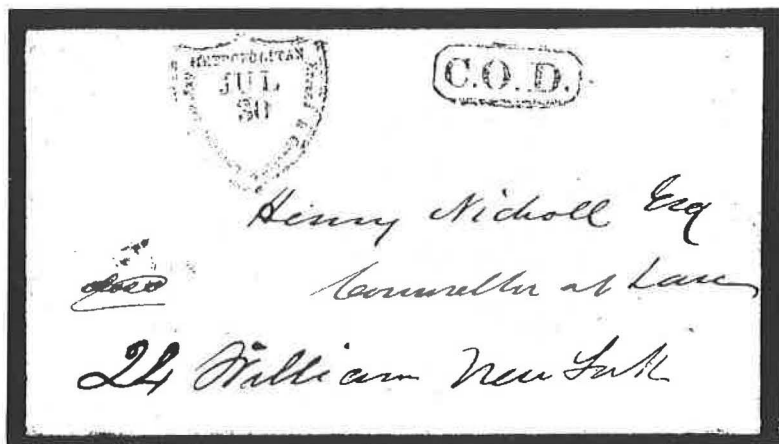


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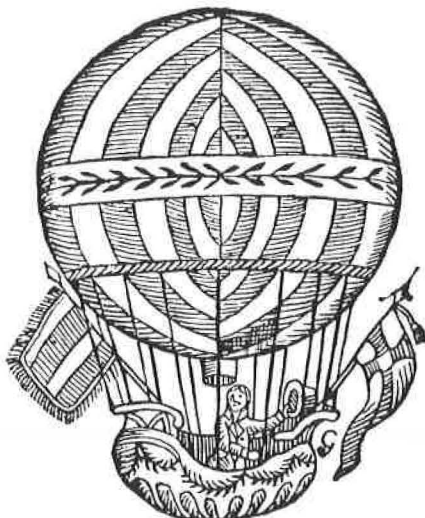
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