

# THE PENNY POST

Official Journal Of The Carriers And Locals Society



**U.S. 1851 stamp in conjunction with the Eagle Carrier stamp  
and  
U.S. 1857 stamps in conjunction with a Blood's 15L15 stamp.  
See the census information to know which is rarer.**

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DEALER  
AN OLD BUSINESS CARD FOR BURGER STAMP CO. WITH A  
HUSSEY STAMP  
AND MORE

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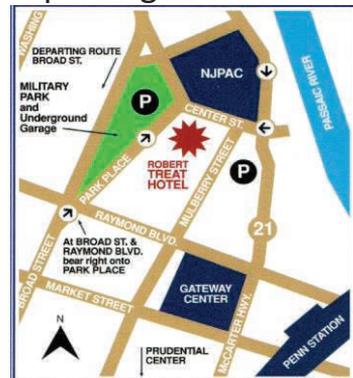
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# THE PENNY POST

VOL. 25 NO. 1

JANUARY 2017



The Carriers and Locals Society, Inc.  
APS Affiliate 211

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## Official Journal Of The Carriers and Locals Society

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Published quarterly in January, April, July and October.  
Price per issue: \$10.00 for members, \$12.00 for non-members.

Website: [www.pennypost.org](http://www.pennypost.org)

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# Editor's Message

By  
Larry Lyons

I want to wish a very Healthy and Happy New Year to everyone. Perhaps in 2017 you will start a new collecting interest in a section of carriers and locals. Is it time to choose a new specialty or expand on one you have already started? Is it time to put together an exhibit for others to see? It is certainly time to commit to attending a philatelic show. I guarantee it will be an enjoyable experience. Is it time to help a fellow collector with information or make a trade? It is time to make new friends and thank old friends for their friendship. It is time to enjoy another year of collecting.

## **New Society Members**

We are on a campaign to add a significant number of members to our Society. If you have a friend who you would like to share our journal with please buy them a subscription. The gift is tax-deductible so Uncle Sam will financially assist you. A hearty welcome to the 30+ members who joined our Society in 2016. I also thank Cliff and Vern for their efforts in recruiting new members.

## **Society Awards**

For all our newbies and forgetful oldbies I summarize our journal accomplishments as follows:

Since 2000 *The Penny Post* has won 25 Gold Medals and 7 Reserve Grand Awards in literature competitions. The editors of *The Penny Post* have won three Diane D. Boehret Awards for excellence in Philatelic Literature (1994, 2009, 2011).

## **What's new?**

We will soon be announcing a new website manager. I know him and I have great faith he will dazzle you. We also expect to restart our Society auctions. All of the players are in place. The Carriers and Locals Society will put on a great display at NOJEX which will be held September 8-10 in Newark, New Jersey. There will be a Society dinner gathering, a Society booth and lots of philatelic phun to be had by all.

## **Mission Statement**

The purpose of *The Penny Post* is to present original research articles in the fields of United States Carriers, Local Posts and Eastern Expresses. Forgeries in these areas are also researched. Any article in these fields can be submitted to me for publication (email: llyons@philatelicfoundation.org). These articles are reviewed and assistance is provided by the Editor's section heads who comprise the editorial board. *The Penny Post* continues to be at the top of society publications.

### **In This Issue**

We continue with Vernon Morris' saga on Blood's with his Part 15 article on the 15L15 stamp. Vern's articles are very thorough and this article contains 15 theories the author has developed through his Blood research (a 15 theme?) we all thank Vern 15 times for his efforts and research.

Cliff Alexander continues his research series on the Eagle Carrier stamp. The article in this issue is "Use of the Eagle Carrier Stamp in Kensington." The research and census of 27 covers is quite remarkable. We thank Cliff for providing us with this extensive research.

I have provided a short article on a Boyd's Independent Mail Letter to Brooklyn Delivered by the Brooklyn City Express." Yes, a focus on only one cover can produce an interesting article You should try it.

John Bowman and Cliff Alexander co-wrote an article on a "Hussey's Time Posted Label used by (a) Canadian Stamp Dealer." Once again a focus on a single cover can produce an interesting article. It is also a cover which most have never seen. Much thanks to the authors for presenting this to us.

There are three more short articles in this issue of *The Penny Post*. I have written one on "Hussey's 'Unaddressed Mail Rate.'" This is a story about circular delivery or "junk mail" as we call it today.

Bill Sammis has provided us with a research article on Wing's Express and Huntress' Express. The research stems from a single cover find. Bet you haven't heard of this express company before this article. Much thanks to Bill for his digging up of some facts on this elusive, to say the least, company.

Last but not least, John Bowman has written an article about his seeing an old business card for Burger Stamp Co. Thanks to John for spotting this and writing it up for us to see.

Again, short articles with a single focus.

### **Next up in *The Penny Post***

I already have some articles in the hopper for our next issue of *The Penny Post*. More are needed so put your pen to the paper and tune your brain to original research. We will have more from Cliff Alexander on his continuing series. I will present the second installment on the Hussey circus rider stamps. We will also have an alternative viewpoint on Hussey's 87L52 stamp by John Bowman, so fasten your seatbelts.

### **Thank You Advertisers**

I would be remiss if I didn't thank our advertisers for their continued support of our journal. I hope you study the ads and use the services of these fine dealers and auction houses.

### **Final Message**

Happy Collecting in 2017. If you want to enhance the enjoyment of our hobby experience see the suggestions in the first paragraph of this *Editor's Message*. Hope you enjoy this issue of *The Penny Post*. A very Happy and Healthy New Year to you all and may our hobby bring you peace and tranquility in 2017.



# Public Stamp Auction Coming Soon !!

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# Use of the Eagle Carrier Stamp in Kensington

By

Clifford J. Alexander

Kensington, Pennsylvania, is one of four jurisdictions where the Eagle Carrier stamp was regularly used to prepay the fee for carrier service during the 1850's. This article reviews the history of the Eagle Carrier stamp, discusses the Christiana Thomas correspondence, describes a number of other unusual Kensington covers with Eagle Carrier stamps, and provides a census of known covers.

Kensington originally was a separate district in the County of Philadelphia. It was incorporated into the City of Philadelphia, along with 29 other districts, townships and boroughs, on February 2, 1854 by the Act of Consolidation. Kensington had its own post office from April 1826 until March 1862, when its post office was merged into the Philadelphia post office.

Kensington District was located north of the City of Philadelphia. The two were separated by the small District of Northern Liberties. All three were bordered on the east by the Delaware River. The Kensington post office was located about twenty blocks from the northern Philadelphia border and thirty blocks from the Philadelphia post office.

Northern Liberties did not have its own post office. It was served by the Kensington and Philadelphia post offices, but did have what was called a sub-post office in the Northern Liberties News Room a few blocks north of the Philadelphia border. **Figure 1** is a map showing locations of the post offices in Philadelphia and Kensington, as well as the Northern Liberties News Room.

For a number of years, it was believed that Kensington did not have carrier service. Elliott Perry wrote in 1946 that "no evidence appears that the U. S. carrier service which was then established extended to Kensington, or included any part thereof."<sup>1</sup> At that time, Perry was only aware of three covers from Kensington with an Eagle Carrier stamp. Robert Stets in 1984 wrote an article in which he declared, "It has taken almost thirty-eight years, but we can now say with certainty that carrier service was available at Kensington, Pennsylvania, (in Philadelphia County), between 1851 and 1862."<sup>2</sup>

## The Eagle Carrier Stamp

The Eagle Carrier stamp was designed and printed by Toppan, Carpenter, Casilear & Co. of Philadelphia in the fall of 1851 to replace the Franklin Carrier stamp, which the post office believed was too easily confused with the blue 1¢ Franklin regular issue stamp. The stamp was primarily utilized only by four post offices: Philadelphia, Washington, Cincinnati and Kensington.

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<sup>1</sup> Elliott Perry, "Eagle Carrier Used in Kensington," *The American Philatelist* (1946), page 1063.

<sup>2</sup> Robert J. Stets, "Carrier Services at Kensington, Pa.," *The American Philatelist* (Mar. 1984), page 242.



**Figure 1. The locations of the post offices in Philadelphia, Kensington and the Northern Liberties News Room.**

The first official record of a delivery of Eagle Carrier stamps to any city is 20,000 the Post Office Department supplied Philadelphia in November 1853.<sup>3</sup> There is no record of Kensington having received Eagle Carrier stamps. However, post office records are incomplete. The lack of records prevents us from knowing whether Kensington received its own supply or was given stamps by the Philadelphia post office.

The Perry and Meyersburg article also noted that no records had been found relating to deliveries of Eagle Carrier stamps from 1853 to July 1, 1858; and available records for years after 1858 do not mention any deliveries of Eagle Carrier stamps. However, the **Figure 1** map shows that Toppan Carpenter's offices were only two blocks from the Philadelphia post office and thirty from the Kensington post office. It would have been easy and convenient for Toppan Carpenter to provide Eagle Carrier stamps to both the Kensington and Philadelphia post offices whenever their inventories were short.

John Luff quoted an 1869 letter from W.H.H. Terrell, Third Assistant P.M. General, stating that the Eagle Carrier stamp "was withdrawn January 27th, 1852."<sup>4</sup> The meaning of this statement is not clear, because the Travers Papers indicate that the Post Office Department delivered stamps to Washington D.C. in July 1853.<sup>5</sup> Terrell's statement might have intended to say that there were no additional printings of Eagle Carrier stamps after January 1852.

The carrier departments of Philadelphia and Kensington may have depleted their stocks by 1857 or 1858. The last reported use in Philadelphia is March 12, 1857. Supplies lasted longer in Cincinnati where the last recorded date of use is December 22, 1860, and Washington DC, where the last recorded date of use is May 27, 1863. As noted below, only two year dates can be established for Kensington covers—1854 and 1855.

### Summary of Census

I have found 27 covers with the Eagle Carrier stamp used in Kensington. **Table I** provides the dates, additional regular issue stamps, addressees and information sources for the covers in the census. I found only one Eagle Carrier stamp on a piece with a Kensington cds; it was dated June 4.

Like the great majority of post offices, Kensington did not use a circular date stamp during the 1850's with a year slug. All of the Kensington covers in the census show only a month and day. None of the Kensington covers has a manuscript note or docketing with a year date. In addition, each of the covers have the same type of circular date stamp, which the Catalog of Philadelphia Postmarks by Tom Clark indicates was used from April 1852 to February 1862.<sup>6</sup>

Although the Kensington cds used during the 1850's does not help us identify dates of use, two covers have letters enclosed with datelines. The letter in

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<sup>3</sup> Elliott Perry and Robert B. Meyersburg, Editor, "The Carrier Stamps of the United States": Philadelphia, *Chronicle* 117 (Feb. 1983), page 25.

<sup>4</sup> John N. Luff, "The Postage Stamps of the United States," (1981 Ed), page 194.

<sup>5</sup> See Robert S. Boyd and Wilson Hulme II, "The Travers Papers Toppan, Carpenter, Casilear & Co.—1851-66: Part I," *Chronicle* 245 (Feb. 2015), page 66.

<sup>6</sup> Tom Clarke, "Philadelphia's First Cancels 1847-1863," *LaPosta* (Sept. 1992), page 20.

the March 6 cover to Mrs. Thomas has an 1854 year date; and the May 2 cover has a letter enclosed with an 1855 year date.

### **The Christiana Thomas Correspondence**

Nine of the 27 covers in the census (or one third) are addressed to Mrs. Christiana Thomas care of the Danboro Post Office in Bucks County Pennsylvania. Each of the covers has a number written in pencil, typically at the top center. The highest number recorded is an “11” on a cover with a March 6 cds, which suggests at least two others might be in the hands of collectors. The author has a copy of a letter from Richard Schwartz to Robert Meyersburg dated February 21, 1989, which states that ten of the Thomas letters “came into Elliott (Perry’s) possession. He sold one or two to Hollowbush. I (Schwartz) bought the rest.”

The March 6 cover with the number “11” is unusual in that is the only one from Kensington that has three 1851 1¢ blue stamps Type IV (Scott No. 9), including a pair of the triple transfer variety. **Figure 2.**

This cover was sold by Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries as lot 1015 in Sale No. 806 (1989). The lot description stated that it had the “original letter enclosed datelined Philadelphia 1854.” The cover has a note at the bottom left “Philadelphia/Mar 6, 1859,” that was added at a later date. The person who wrote that note must have thought the “4” in the letter’s dateline was a “9.” The cover was issued Foundation Certificate No. 333962, which states that the stamps “are genuinely used.”

The cover with a November 23 cds also is from the Thomas correspondence. **Figure 3.** A 2009 Foundation certificate notes the “pencil ‘2’ at the top and states that “we... decline opinion.” Because the Thomas correspondence indicates the sender had a history of using the Eagle Carrier stamp to pay for collection of letters, the author believes that this is a genuine use on cover.

When the author bought this cover, the seller suggested that the manuscript “2” might indicate carrier delivery service to the addressee. This interpretation is highly unlikely because carrier delivery fees are rarely marked on covers and there is no evidence Danboro had carrier service during the 1850’s. This issue might have been the basis for the Foundation to decline expressing an opinion. Based on the census, we know that the number was added (most likely by Mrs. Thomas) to indicate the sequence of the correspondence.

That the cover apparently was carried from Kensington to Philadelphia for 1¢ is unusual. As noted above, Kensington had a separate post office until 1862. However, the Kensington and Philadelphia post offices at the time might have had an arrangement that permitted carrier service in the two areas for a single intra-city fee. Dr. Vernon Morris has written that covers between Philadelphia and Kensington indicate “a close working relationship between the two jurisdictions.”<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> Vernon Morris, MD, “Two Philadelphia Eagle Carrier Cancellation Discoveries, New LRD, and New Theory, *The Penny Post* (Apr. 2009), page 14.



Figure 2. March 6 cover. Census #10.



Figure 3. November 23 cover. Census #22.



Figure 4. Cover dated February 9. Census #7.

The red seven line grill cancel with part of one side missing is listed in the article “Philadelphia’s First Cancels 1847-1863” by Tom Clarke as having been used in Philadelphia from July 1858 to 1861. It is possible that the grid cancel was used earlier than reported by Clarke, or that this is a very late use of an Eagle Carrier stamp in Philadelphia or Kensington. There are a number of reported covers that were carried between Philadelphia and Kensington with a red seven line grid cancel.

### Other Unusual Kensington Covers

The follow is a description of some of the more unusual covers in the census:

**Figure 4** is a small envelope dated February 9 and addressed to 15 East 13th Street in New York. This is one of only six covers where the Eagle Carrier stamp is tied by the Kensington cds. This cover has a distinguished history having been in the Edward Knapp, Alfred Caspary, William Middendorf, Donald Johnstone, and Robert Markowits collections.

The January 20 cover is the only one in the census that originated in Kensington and was addressed to Philadelphia. **Figure 5.** This cover was submitted to the Philatelic Foundation by Robert Markowits, who received Certificate No. 409055 stating “it is a genuine usage.” There is no marking on the cover to indicate that the addressee paid 3¢ for mail carried between two post offices.

The March 20 cover has an Eagle Carrier stamp tied by a red “3” handstamp. **Figure 6.** This cover was illustrated in Elliott Perry’s article on carrier stamps of Philadelphia.<sup>8</sup> Foundation Certificate No. 365933 states that “the carrier stamp did not originate, and the tying cancellation is counterfeit.”

The last two illustrated covers both have “PAID/3” markings. Because domestic letters were required to be prepaid by stamps effective January 1, 1856, we can conclude that both covers were placed in the mails before 1856. The July 28 cover to Norristown PA has a “PAID/3” in a circle marking. **Figure 7.** The American Stampless Cover Catalog lists the marking as having been in use from 1852 to 1857. Many cities used their “PAID/3” devices to cancel stamps after prepayment was required in 1855. This cover was in both the Caspary and Boker collections.

A similar cover with a November 20 cds has a red arched “PAID/3” and a manuscript notation “Paid” at the top right. **Figure 8.** The Eagle Carrier stamp is cancelled by four black pen strokes. This is one of two covers in the census addressed to William Lodge of Claymont Delaware. It was issued Foundation Certificate No. 385337 in 2002, which states “it is a genuine usage.” This cover was in the Johnstone and Markowits collections.

### Conclusions

This is part of a series of articles by the author on uses of the Eagle Carrier stamp. The October issue of *The Penny Post* has an article on “Use of the Eagle Carrier with the 3¢ 1861 Issue After Demonetization.” The Carriers & Locals Society plans to initiate a project in 2017 to put a census of all Eagle Carrier covers on its website. Volunteers who would like to assist are welcome.

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<sup>8</sup> Elliott Perry, “U.S. Letter Carrier Stamps of Philadelphia under the Fee System 1849 to 1863,” *National Philatelic Museum Bulletin*, Vol. 6, No. 4 (1954), p. 486 Illustration 12.



Figure 5. Census #3. The only recorded Eagle Carrier cover originating in Kensington to Philadelphia.



Figure 6. Census #13. Not believed to be a genuine use.



Figure 7. Cover dated July 28. Census #18.



**Figure 8. Cover dated Nov. 20. Census #21.**

I would like to thank John Bowman, Dr. Vernon Morris, Steve Roth and Robert Boyd for their assistance. I also would like to acknowledge the valuable help provided by Siegel PowerSearch auction database and Richard Frajola's PhilaMercury database. We would appreciate receiving scans of any Kensington Eagle Carrier covers not included in the current census. They can be sent to Clifford J. Alexander at [clifford.alexander@klgates.com](mailto:clifford.alexander@klgates.com).

No.	DATE	STAMPS	ADDRESSEE	SOURCES / COMMENTS
1	Jan 1	Sc #11	Mrs. Christiana Thomas/ Danboro Post Office/ Bucks County, Pa	Meyersburg Carrier. Numbered "6."
2	Jan 17	Sc #11A	Mrs. Christiana Thomas/ Danboro Post Office/ Bucks County/ Pa	Siegel 825, #1408; Siegel 908, #4408; Siegel 1063, #1656. Numbered "7."
3	Jan 20	-	Dr. Caspar Morris/ Chestnut at Broad Streets	PF Cert #409055; PSE Cert #131214; Siegel 825, #1411
4	Jan 26	Sc #11	Miss Susan Shertel/ Pottsville/Schuylkill County/ Pa/ c/o Adam Shertel	PF Cert #417031; Siegel 853, #2485; Ex Johnstone and Markovitz.
5	Feb 2	Sc #11	Mrs. Christiana Thomas/ Danboro Post Office/ Bucks County/Pa	APS Cert # 129153; Siegel 825, #1409; Frajola PhilaMercury #12399. Numbered "9."
6	Feb 8	3¢ 1851	Mr. H. L. Keese/ Patent Office/ Washington City/ DC	Illustrated in "Eagle Carrier in Kensington" by Elliott Perry, <i>The American Philatelist</i> (1946), p. 1063.
7	Feb 9	Sc #11	S.C. Swartz/ 15 East 13th Street/ NY	Parke Bernet (Knapp Sale) 5/1941, #892; Harmer (Caspary Sale) 3/1957, Lot 39; Frajola (Middendorf Sale) Net Price Sale 4, Lot 36; Siegel 853, Lot 2484 (\$900+). PF Cert #324620.
8	Feb 17	Sc #11	Edward D. Cope/ West Town B.S./ West Chester P.O./ West Chester, Pa	
9	Feb 20	Sc #11	Mrs. Christiana Thomas/ Danboro Post Office/ Bucks Co./Pa	Meyersburg file. Numbered "10."

**Table 1. Eagle Carrier Stamp used in Kensington, Pennsylvania**

No.	DATE	STAMPS	ADDRESSEE	SOURCES / COMMENTS
10	Mar 6	Sc #9 (x3)	Mrs. Christiana Thomas/ Danboro Post Office/ Bucks County/ Pa	PF Cert #333962; Siegel 806, #1015. Numbered "11."
11	Mar 9	Sc #11A	Mr. John Reily/ Stillvalley Post Office/ New Jersey	PF Cert #476821; Rumsey 35, #1929. MS at bottom left "in haste."
12	Mar 12	Sc #11	Mrs. Mary P. Elder/ Belle-Centre/ Logan County, Ohio	PF Cert #167090.
13	Mar 20	Sc #11	Mr. Wells/ Attorney at Law/ Pottsville, Pa	Not a genuine usage; illustrat 12 in "U.S. Letter Carrier Stamps of Philadelphia under the Fee System 1849 to 1863" by Elliott Perry, <i>National Philatelic Museum Buletin</i> Vol. 6, No. 4 (1954), p. 486; PF Cert #365933; Siegel (Hall Collection) 830, #22 (W/D). Meyersburg census. L02 tied by red h/s "5." Date
14	Mar 29	-	John McCoy/ McCartsyville, NJ	1991 PSE Cert; park Bernet (Knapp Collection) 5/1941, #891; Siegel 862 (D. K. Collection), #4.
15	May 2	Sc #11A	Mr. Miller & Company/ Wall Street/ 108/ New York,	
16	May 4	Sc #11	Mr. William C. Lodge Claymont, Del.	PF Certs. 492056 and 317215; Fox 3/31/61, #461; Siegel (Sheriff Sale) 665, #103; Siegel (Meyersburg Sale) 791, #54; Dr. Vernon Morris C of C Exhibit; illustrated in "Carrier Service in Kensington, Pennsylvania" by Robert J. Stets, <i>The American Philatelist</i> (Mar 1984) pp 242-244. Meyersburg census. L02 tied by red h/s "5."
17	Jun 15	-	John McCoy/ McCartsyville, NJ	
18	Jul 28	-	William/ Norristown/ Pa	Harmer (Caspary Sale) 3/1957, #38; Siegel 825, #1410; Ex Boker. "Paid 3" in circle at center right.

**Table 1. Eagle Carrier Stamp used in Kensington, Pennsylvania. (cont'd)**

No.	DATE	STAMPS	ADDRESSEE	SOURCES / COMMENTS
19	Aug 10	-	Messrs. Reamy Moffitt/ Penn Works/ Kensington/ Philadelphia/ Pa.	Siegel (Hall Collection) 830, #23 cover has a NYC CDS. The Siegel description states that this is the only known cover "paying the delivery fee." However this might be inaccurate.
20	Nov 7	Sc #11	Miss Susan Shertel/ Pottsville/ Schuylkill County/ Pa	Harmer (Company Sale); 3/1957, #40; Siegel (Piller Sale) 748, #328 (\$1150); Siegel (Kuphal Sale) 925, #1153. Frajola PhilaMercury #12400
21	Nov 20	-	Mr. C. Lodge/ Claymont/ Del.	PF Cert #385337. Frajola PhilaMercury #12398; MS "Paid" at top right.
22	Nov 23	Sc # 11	Mrs. Christiana Thomas/ Danboro Post Office/ Bucks Co./ Pa	PF Cert #409056 declines opinion; Siegel Sale 825, #1412. Numbered "2."
23	Nov 29	Sc #11	Mrs. Christiana Thomas/ Danboro Post Office/ Bucks Co./ Pa	Ebay (Feb 2016). Siegel Sale 825, #1413. Numbered "3."
24	Dec 4	Sc #11	Mr. Stevens/Tax Collector	Lowell Newman Auction 5, Lot 265. Ad Cover for Ephraim Wilson, Manufacturer, Philadelphia. Meyersburg file. Numbered "4."
25	Dec 12	Sc #11	Mrs. Christiana Thomas/ Danboro Post Office/ Bucks Co./Pa	
26	Dec 22	Sc #11A	Mrs. Christiana Thomas/ Danboro Post Office/ Bucks Co./ Pa	PF Cert #317216. Siegel (Meyersburg Sale) 791, #55; Rumsey 55, #1687; Rumsey 58, 31181; in Dr. Vernon Morris C of C exhibit. Numbered "5."
27	?	-	Mr. N.K. Zook/ New Providence P.O. Lancaster Co./Penns.	Siegel (Meyersburg Sale) 791, #56. MS "Paid x" of carrier. "PAID/3" in arch.

Table 1. Eagle Carrier Stamp used in Kensington, Pennsylvania. (cont'd)

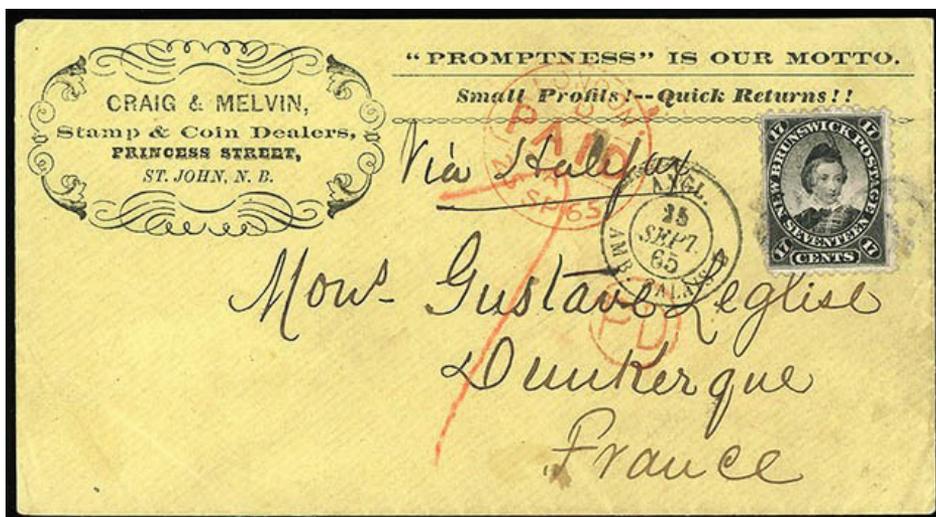
# Hussey's Time Posted Label Used by Canadian Stamp Dealer

By

John D. Bowman and Clifford J. Alexander

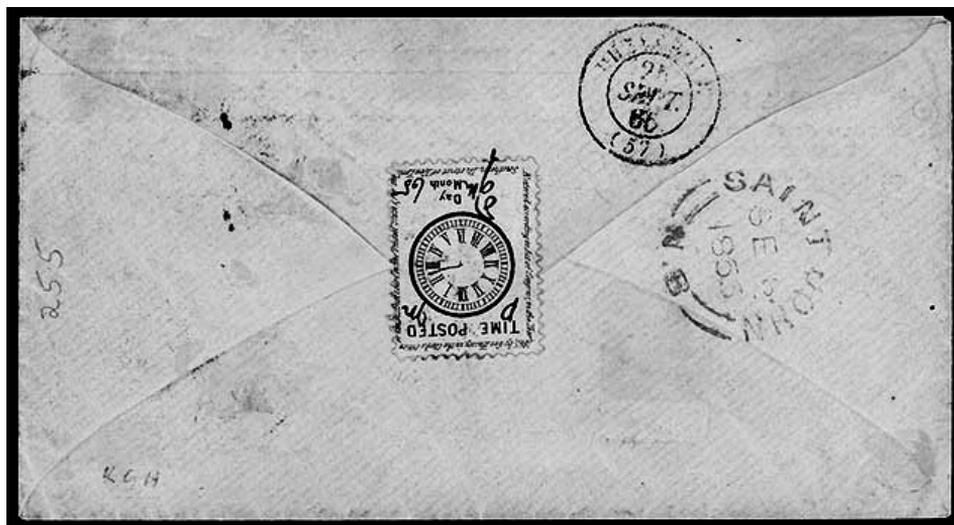
The Schuyler Rumsey auction #70 of Sept. 23, 2016 included as lot 407 (which did not sell) an unusual example of the blue type I Hussey Time Posted label. These labels were the subject of a comprehensive article in *The Penny Post*.<sup>1</sup> The article included a census of these Hussey labels on cover, but this cover had not been seen by the authors and was not in the census.

The Hussey's label is affixed to the reverse of an envelope bearing the corner card advertisement of Craig & Melvin, Stamp & Coin Dealers, St. John, New Brunswick, and addressed to Dunkerque, France. This cover is significant for local post collectors because it shows how extensively George Hussey distributed his products to stamp dealers in Canada and elsewhere.

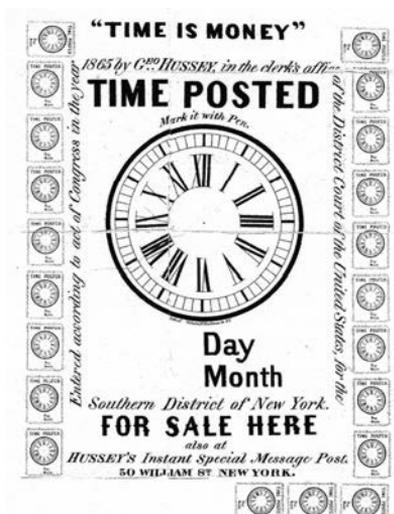


The Hussey label was not sold to prepay postage. It was used by senders of mail to record the time when the envelope was dropped off at the post office or placed in a collection box. At the top above a clock are the words "TIME IS MONEY" and "TIME POSTED." In this case the sender drew a hand on the clock to indicate 2:30pm on the "8<sup>th</sup> Day / 9<sup>th</sup> Month (18)65." Interestingly, the stamp dealer's ad cover includes a sentence at the top " 'PROMPTNESS' IS OUR MOTTO."

<sup>1</sup> John D. Bowman and Clifford J. Alexander, "Hussey's Time Posted Labels." *The Penny Post*, Vol. 13, No. 1, Jan. 2005, pages 5-22.



Back of cover



Hussey's poster advertisement for the time posted label

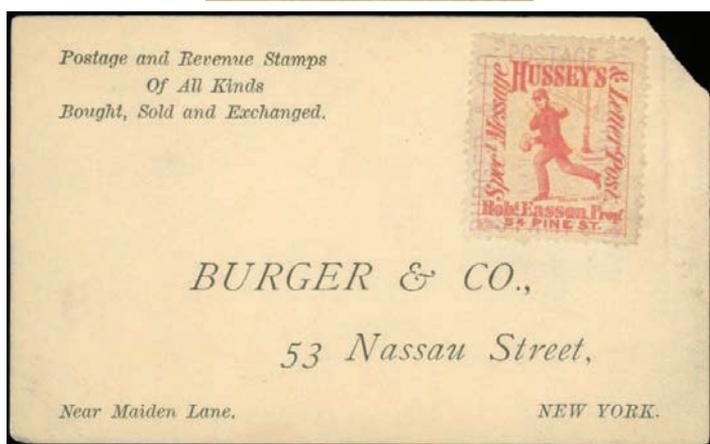
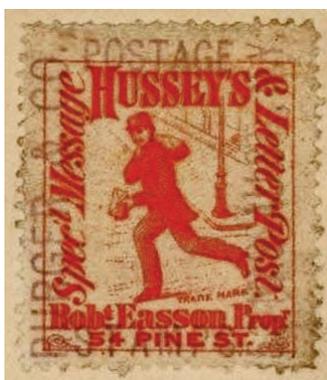
As noted in the 2005 *Penny Post* article, Hussey advertised these labels and several variations for sale in quantities of one hundred for fifteen cents. Existing covers with the first design label are scarce and are found used after 1865, except for this example and the one listed in the census to Miss M. Hussey dated June 3, 1865. This is the eighth recorded example of the Type A label. One off cover example is dated February 23, 1864.

Covers bearing the Hussey Time Posted label are more than a curiosity or advertising medium for Hussey. Handstamps of the period used in several post offices already indicated the date of mailing. These, however, were more specific since they showed the time letters were brought to the post office or placed in a collection box as well as the date. In addition, the fact that Hussey offered them for sale reflected the dissatisfaction with post office service in the mid- to late 1860's.

# An Old Business Card for Burger Stamp Company with a Hussey Stamp on eBay

By  
John D. Bowman

An interesting item turned up on eBay recently as lot 232095467225. It was a business card for a Nassau Street stamp company named Burger & Co. To highlight the business card, they affixed a Hussey stamp, Scott 87L60 with a collar overprint reading "Burger & Co./Postage/Stamps/53 Nassau St. NY." It sold for \$34.99. Large quantities of 87L60 in mint condition still exist today. The figure below has been enhanced with Adobe Photoshop Essentials in order to make the overprint more legible.



## Business card on eBay

I searched for "Burger & Co Stamps" with my browser, and found another auction (icollector.com) with a pair of business cards, identical except with intact corners and the advertising overprint is bolder and in black.

According to Herman Herst, Jr. in *Nassau Street*, the Burger brothers opened their stamp business in the 1880's on Nassau Street, and maintained this location up into the 1950's.

*Postage and Revenue Stamps  
Of All Kinds  
Bought, Sold and Exchanged.*



*BURGER & CO.,  
53 Nassau Street,*

*Near Maiden Lane.*

*NEW YORK.*

*Postage and Revenue Stamps  
Of All Kinds  
Bought, Sold and Exchanged.*



*BURGER & CO.,  
53 Nassau Street,*

*Near Maiden Lane.*

*NEW YORK.*

**Business cards found on icollector.com**

# A Boyd's Independent Mail Letter to Brooklyn Delivered by the Brooklyn City Express

By  
Larry Lyons

A.S. Campbell, son of Augustus Campbell, attended high school in New York and graduated in June 1852 and entered college on the 28<sup>th</sup> of June. He wrote this letter to his father inquiring if he was going out of town. See **Figure 1**. He also writes "Please come see us if you have the time." The letter does not explain who "us" is. A.S. Campbell was inquiring if he could join his father on a vacation if his father had the time to get away. A.S. Campbell started the letter July 7, 1852 but evidently did not attempt to send the letter until about August 1<sup>st</sup>. He gave the letter to a Boyd's office who affixed their 20L7 adhesive. Boyd's also received the two cent local delivery fee to be paid to the Brooklyn City Express post. Boyd's placed their adhesive at the upper left and pencil marked it "PAID." They also marked the top right of the letter "Paid" in pencil to indicate they had received the two cent delivery fee which they gave to the Brooklyn City Express to make the delivery of the letter at 232 Atlantic Street in Brooklyn. The Brooklyn City Express handstamped the letter with their oval on August 2 and also stamped the letter "PAID." Having received the two cents for delivery of the letter from Boyd's. The Brooklyn City Express affixed their black on blue, 28L5 adhesive and pencil marked the adhesive "Pd." The Brooklyn City Express adhesive was affixed with a wax seal. The Philatelic Foundation examined this folded letter and found it to be genuine. See **Figure 2**.

Brooklyn was a separate city so this letter from New York came from another city making this an Independent Mail service. The letter was carried by one local post to Brooklyn and was delivered by a second local post. Boyd's had discontinued their 'Boyd's Brooklyn City Express' in 1845 when the Independent Mail businesses were closed by an Act of Congress of March 1845 effective July 1, 1845.

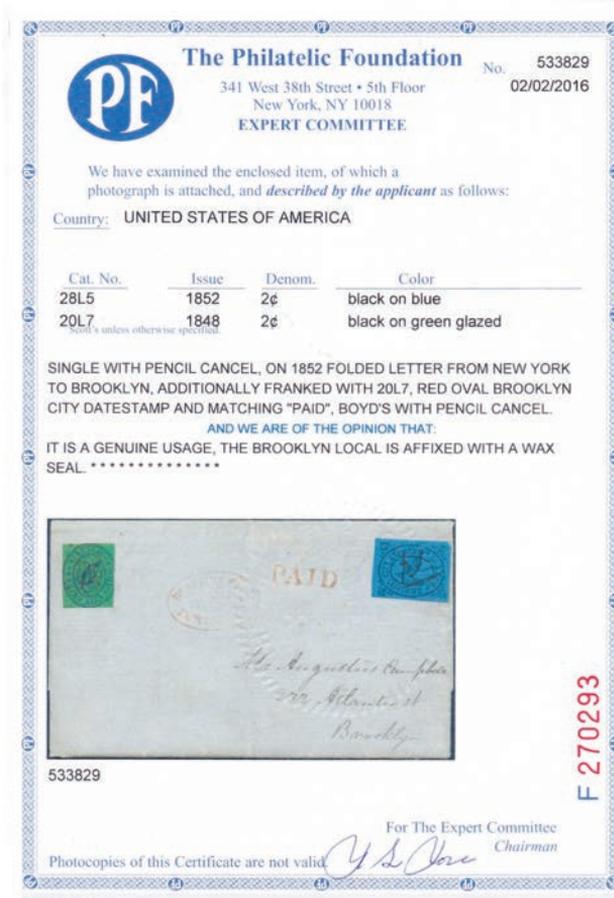
This letter was given to Boyd's on August 1, 1852, which was a Sunday. The government post office was not open to take the letter to Brooklyn, so Boyd's carried the letter themselves, in violation of the law. The Brooklyn City Express was able to deliver the letter early Monday morning. It was a "conjunctive use," just like in the old days before July 1, 1845.

I am unaware of any other Independent Mail letters carried by two different local posts after July 1, 1845 with both local posts affixing their adhesives. Anyone have one?

This folded letter should be Scott listed under both 20L7 and 28L5 as an illegal Independent Mail use.



**Figure 1. A folded letter from New York to Brooklyn with a Brooklyn City Express date of August 2. The letter is internally dated 1852. The letter was carried by Boyd's to Brooklyn and was delivered by the Brooklyn City Express. The Boyd's adhesive is 20L7 and the Brooklyn City Express adhesive is 28L5.**



**Figure 2. The Philatelic Foundation certificate for the folded letter.**



# Hussey's "Unaddressed Mail" Rate

By  
Larry Lyons

What is "unaddressed mail?" It is a circular or advertisement that is delivered in a blanket fashion to all residents in a particular area. Today we call it "junk mail." It is easy to deliver unaddressed mail by just bringing it to every mailbox in the area the sender wishes his message to be read.

Hussey was one of the first to handle "unaddressed mail." Hussey advertised his willingness to handle directed circulars" and "Undirected circulars." See **Figure 1**. As indicated in the 1879 broadside advertisement directed circulars would be delivered at 80 cts per 100 which is  $\frac{8}{10}$ <sup>th</sup> of a cent each. A larger quantity price was \$7.50 per 1,000 which is  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a cent each. The last rate in the ad is for "undirected circulars" at \$2.50 per 1,000 which is  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a cent each. These rates can be compared to Hussey's rates for the delivery of wedding and invitation cards at 2 cents each or at a discount of \$1.50 per 100 which is  $1\frac{1}{2}$  cents each.

Unfortunately there are no surviving examples of Hussey's advertised  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a cent rate for undirected circulars in a quantity of 1,000. There is one example of an "undirected circular" delivered by Hussey at a  $\frac{1}{2}$  of a cent rate. See **Figure 2**. It is presumed that this "undirected circular" was from a batch of a lesser quantity than 1,000 that Hussey agreed to dispatch in a given area for  $\frac{1}{2}$  of a cent each. It is more possible that this unique half cent handstamp was used by George Hussey in 1858 or 1859 and this was his regular rate for "undirected circular" delivery. The  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a cent rate was that in effect in 1879 when Hussey's Post was under the ownership of Robert Easson. The answer as to why we don't have more surviving examples of "undirected circulars" is easy—it was junk mail!



**Figure 2. The unique Hussey half cent handstamp. It is on an "undirected circular" and indicates Hussey's rate for its delivery. The handstamp was probably used between September 1858 and June 1859 based on comparisons with similar handstamps.**

PRIVATE ENTERPRISE.

# HUSSEY'S SPECIAL MESSAGE POST,

54 PINE STREET, N. Y.

Established 1854.

## NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC.

*Special Messengers always at the Office for the delivery of Special Letters to any part of the City and adjacent Cities.*

### To Banks and Bankers.

*Drafts and Checks for Collection and Certification made on up-town Banks and Banks of adjacent Cities, also on Firms or Individuals at Moderate Charges.*

Bank, Insurance, Society, Club, Lodge Notices and Letters of all kinds delivered promptly.

**CORRECTIONS MADE OF REMOVALS AND ANYTHING NOT FOUND RETURNED.**

*Wedding and Invitation Cards delivered clean and unstamped at 2 cents each, or \$1.50 per 100.*

**Directed Circulars, sealed, delivered at 80 cts. per 100.**

“ “ “ “ **\$7.50 per 1,000.**

**Undirected “ “ “ “ 2.50 per 1,000.**

*Magazines, Papers, Reports, Pamphlets, etc., etc., delivered at low rates. Hand Parcels, Bags, Valises, &c., delivered to and brought from any part of this and adjacent Cities. Circulars addressed. Directories for fifty years back at the office.*

### STAMPS FOR SALE.

ROBERT EASSON, Prop'r.

### REFERENCES.

**BANKS.**—Bank of New York.  
Bank of North America.  
Phoenix National Bank.  
**FIRE INS.**—Greenwich Fire Ins. Co.  
Broadway Fire Ins. Co.  
Exchange Fire Ins. Co.  
**LIFE INS.**—Mutual Life Ins. Co.  
United States Life Ins. Co.

**SOCIETIES.**—St. Andrews.  
St. Nicholas.  
Chamber of Commerce.

**CLUBS.**—Caledonian.  
Union.  
Union League.

**LODGES.**—New York.  
National.

### PUBLISHERS

Harper & Bro.  
D. Appleton & Co.

R. Westerman & Co.  
L. W. Schmidt.  
and others.

C. Scribner & Co.  
Eclectic Magazine.

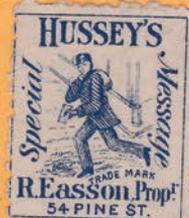


Figure 1. A Hussey's broadside advertisement, ca. 1879 which gives his rates for delivery of "undirected circulars."

# Wing's Express and Huntress' Express

By  
William W. Sammis

In March of 1855 the *Bangor [Maine] Daily Whig and Courier* started running Henry S. Wing's advertisement dated March 8<sup>th</sup> announcing the formation of "Wing's Bangor and Mattawamkeag Express". The advertisement continued running through May 7, 1855, and is as follows (Figure 1.):

**TIME ALTERED!**  
**WING'S**  
**Bangor and Mattawamkeag**  
**EXPRESS.**



(LATE HUNTRESS' EXPRESS.)

**T**HE subscribers having bought all the interest in the above named Express, will run the same between *Bangor and Mattawamkeag*, for the transportation of Merchandise, &c.

He will also attend to the collection of Bills, Drafts, &c.

Packages, &c. forwarded to Houlton, Woodstock, and vicinity, by *Woodbury & Bailey's Stage Line*,—to Patten, No. 11, Fort Kent, Fish River, &c. by *J. F. Hill's Line*

Mr. Wing will leave Bangor every *Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday*, at 7 o'clock A.M., via Cars, returning, to Mattawamkeag every *Monday, Wednesday, and Friday*, at 4 o'clock A.M., arriving at Oldtown in season for the 2 o'clock train of Cars for Bangor

Mr. W. hopes, by personal and prompt attention to business, that his Line will be patronized as liberally as it was under the management of Mr. Huntress, the late Proprietor

**AGENTS:**

W. H. SANGER, No. 1 Strickland's Block, Bangor  
GEO SCAMMON, Nute & Scammon's store, Lincoln

C. J. FAY, Cottage Place, North Lincoln  
GEO W. SMITH, Asn. Smith's store, Mattawamkeag

**Henry S. Wing, Proprietor.**  
Bangor, Mch. 12, 1855

**TIME ALTERED!**

**WING'S**  
**Bangor and Mattawamkeag**  
**EXPRESS**

[stage vignette]

(LATE HUNTRESS' EXPRESS.)

The subscribers having bought all the interest in the above named Express, will run the same between *Bangor and Mattawamkeag* for the transportation of Merchandise, &c.

He will also attend to the collection of Bills, Drafts, &c.

Packages, &c., forwarded to Houlton, Woodstock, and vicinity by *Woodbury & Bailey's Stage Line* - to Patten, No 11, Fort Kent, Fish River Dr. by A.F. Hale Line.

Mr. Wing will leave Bangor every *Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday* at 7 o'clock A.M. via Cars, returning, leave Mattawamkeag every *Monday, Wednesday, and Friday*, at 4 o'clock A.M. arriving at Oldtown in season for the 9 o'clock train of Cars for Bangor.

Mr. W. hopes, by personal and prompt attention to business, that his line will be patronized as liberally as it was under the management of Mr. Huntress, the late Proprietor.

**AGENTS**

W.H. SANGER, No. 1 Strickland's Block, Bangor

GEO SCAMMON, Nute & Scammon's store, Lincoln

C.J. FAY, Cottage Place, North Lincoln  
GEO W. SMITH, Asn. Smith's store, Mattawamkeag.

**Henry S. Wing, Proprietor.**  
Bangor, Mch. 12, 1855

Figure 1. 1855 advertisement for Wing's Bangor and Mattawamkeag Express.

Wing indicated that his services were those customarily provided by period express companies, e.g. transporting goods and money, collecting drafts and bills, receiving and giving receipts, etc. From the company's name and its list of offices, all in Maine, (Bangor, Lincoln, North Lincoln and Mattawamkeag) it is apparent that

Wing's primary route was along the navigable portion of the Penobscot River running north out of Bangor, approximately sixty miles to Mattawamkeag. The advertisement refers to coordinating with the [Railway] Cars at both Bangor and Old Town, Maine. This a reference to the Bangor & Old Town Railway that Wing used for eleven miles of his express route north from Bangor and south from Old Town (**Figure 2.**). On March 14, 1855, a few days after Wing started business, this railway became the Bangor, Old Town & Milford Railroad.

Wing also indicated that he had extended his reach north of Mattawamkeag and across the border into New Brunswick by partnering with two stage lines, Woodbury & Bradley and A.F. Hale. The **Figure 2** map indicates the towns of Wing's primary and secondary routes.



**Figure 2. The Bangor & Old Town Railway used by Wing's Express.**

The service location of "No. 11" mentioned in Wing's advertisement and noted on the map above, requires further explanation. Townships in parts of Maine received numerical designations. Often a range number followed the township number e.g., "Number 11 R.1". Township Number 11 is located in Aroostook County and (per Sterling T. Dow's *Maine Postal History and Postmarks*) during 1862-1867 it supported a post office of that name. (As an aside, I own an 1858 copy of *Geer's Express Directory and Railway Forwarder's Guide*. In the alphabetical listing of places and townships within Maine, Geer lists sixty-five numbered townships, starting with "Number 1" in Hancock County and running through

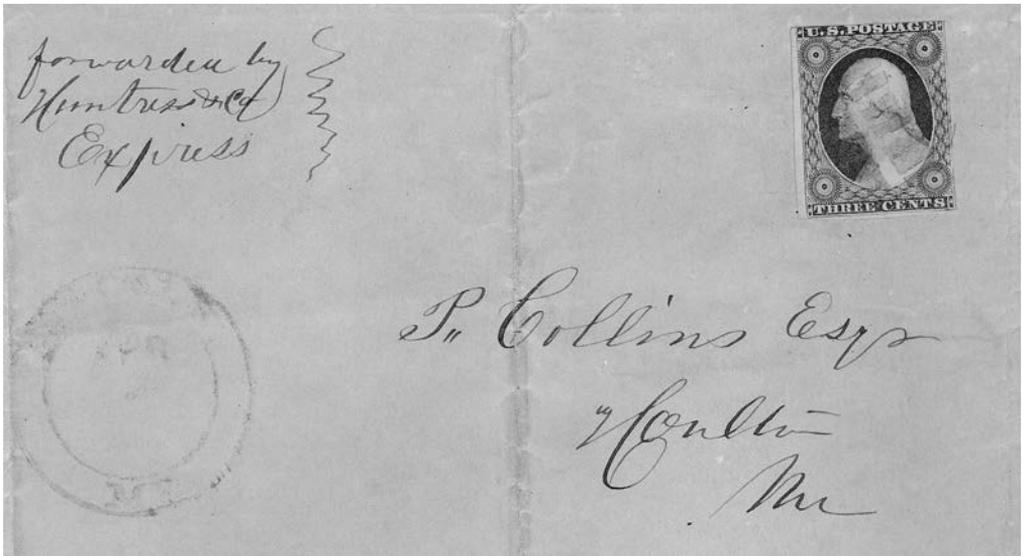
"Number 33", also located in Hancock County. Most of the listed townships have range designations added. Fifteen of the listed townships are located within Aroostook County.)

Starting on May 8, 1855 Wing started running a second advertisement in the same paper. This ad was a simplified version of the first, listing the same offices and agents within Maine but with no mention of service beyond Mattawamkeag. It ran through October 20, 1855.

We know that Wing's Express was still in business as late as August of 1857 as the *Boston Herald* mentioned that the company had run afoul of Custom House agents at Bangor where five gallons of brandy, allegedly being smuggled in from St. John, New Brunswick, was seized. This would indicate that Wing still had the capability to serve New Brunswick, potentially for both legal and illicit purposes.

Regrettably, as far as the author is aware, no postal history has survived from Wing's Express; however, their March 12, 1855 advertisement does offer another piece of historical information. Henry Wing indicates that he had take over the express company previously operated under the name of "Huntress' Express" and, "Mr. W. hopes, by personal and prompt attention to business, that his line will be patronized as liberally as it was under the management of Mr. Huntress, the late Proprietor."

Until obtaining the **Figure 3** cover I had no more information regarding Huntress' Express.



**Figure 3. Manuscript notation of "Huntress' Express" taken over by Henry Wing.**

This folded letter is internally dated April 28, 1852 and gives clues as to how Mr. Huntress conducted his express business. The business letter, addressed to Houlton, Maine (see **Figure 2.**) and signed by the founder, reads as follows:

Mr. Pitt wishes me to forward your box. I paid the R.R. bill and forwarded it. When you want anything forwarded from Bangor we should be happy to rec[eive] your orders and they shall rec[eive] prompt attention. Yours truly, M.[?]M.[?] Huntress & Co.

The “R.R. bill” (out of Bangor) mentioned in the letter refers to charges that would have been incurred when the box was carried over the Bangor & Old Town Railway, Huntress having taken over the box’s transportation at Old Town, Maine. Like the successor company, Wing’s Express, Huntress had available to him the Bangor & Old Town Railway that covered eleven miles of his route between Bangor and Old Town.

The internal portion of the folded letter yields additional information. It notes, “forwarded by Huntress & Co./Express/from Mattawamkeag by Stage”. This, along with the letter’s destination of Houlton, Maine, indicates that, like Wing’s Express, Huntress had the logistics in place to move express business beyond Mattawamkeag. And, it can be assumed that like Wing’s Express, partnerships were formed with stage lines to provide this service. As with Wing’s Express this would have essentially been a route extension. (It is apparent that Huntress’ and Wing’s business plans were similar [e.g. “from Mattawamkeag by Stage”]. It is reasonable to assume that some and perhaps all of the practices set forth in Wing’s **Figure 1** advertisement were directly carried over from Huntress’ Express.)

Of further interest is the fact that Mr. Huntress used a heading of “Steamer Mattanawcook” when writing this letter. This tells us that during the steaming season, which likely started in April, Huntress used this steamboat on the navigable portion of the Penobscot River, which extended north from Bangor as far as Mattawamkeag. Due to the limited size of the channel the *Mattanawcook* would have been a small, flat-bottomed non-ocean-going stern wheeled steamboat. During the winter season, stages, as illustrated in Wing’s **Figure 1** advertisement, would have been used out of necessity.

It is possible that Huntress had a stateroom/office aboard the *Mattanawcook*. This arrangement would not have been without precedence. Colonel Hiram S. Favor operated his private express from April 29, 1849 into 1861 with additional work as a sworn-in Steamboat Letter Carrier. Favor’s primary route was between St. John, New Brunswick and Boston with an intermediate stop at Eastport, Maine. When aboard the steamship *Admiral*, which was his preferred conveyance, Favor maintained a stateroom for business and entertainment purposes.

On the outside of this folded letter Huntress wrote, “forwarded by Huntress & Co. Express” and on the back, “Huntress & Co. Express Letter 1852”, the word “Letter” having been crossed out. I believe that initially Huntress intended to have this “Express Letter” carried to Houlton outside-the-mails. However, as Houlton was well beyond the company’s normal terminus at Mattawamkeag, it became prudent, for the cost of a three-cent stamp to cover the inland postage rate, to let the Post Office Department do the heavy lifting. As a result the letter was consigned to the P.O.D. at the steamer’s port-of-call of Lincoln, Maine on the Penobscot River. The date stamp being indistinct, **Figure 4** shows the appropriate tracing from

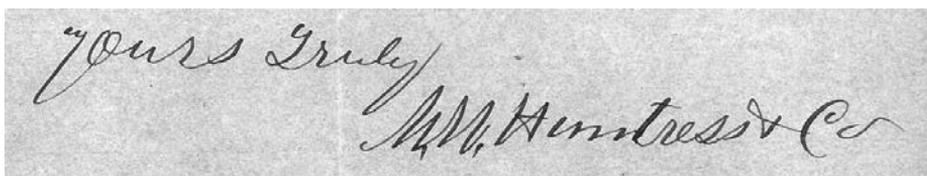
Sterling T. Dow's *Maine Postal History and Postmarks*. Dow's example has the day of the month entered manually. The **Figure 3** example has some residual red ink indicating that possibly day-of-the-month slugs were entered into the datestamp. (Dow indicates that this datestamp is known used in both black and red inks from 1844 into 1853. That would make the example under consideration a late-usage and some wear may have contributed to the illegible impression.)



**Figure 4. The datestamp from Lincoln, Maine as recorded in Dow's *Maine Postal History and Postmarks*.**

Requests of the membership:

1. Does anyone have additional postal history or information relating to either of these two express companies?
2. Can anyone provide from other sources either Huntress' initials or full name? My best guess is that the initials are either "M.M." or "W.M.". A scan of his signature is provided as **Figure 5**.
3. Can members supply other copies of the Lincoln ds to help the author reconstruct his example?



**Figure 5. Huntress' company name and initials.**

I thank Max Lynds who has kindly served as my guide to the Maine North Woods. As always I invite correspondence at either cds13@cornell.edu or 436 Thomas Road, Ithaca, NY 14850-9653.



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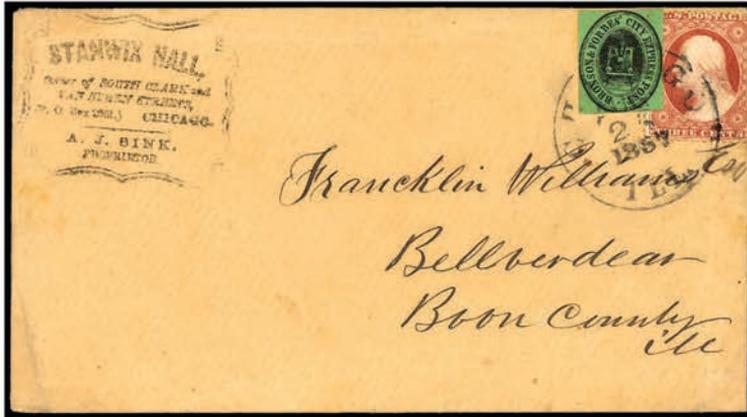
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Walton & Co's City Express 2c on cover

Hammer price:  
**\$5500**



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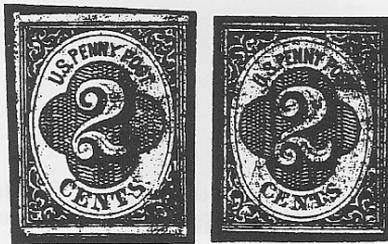
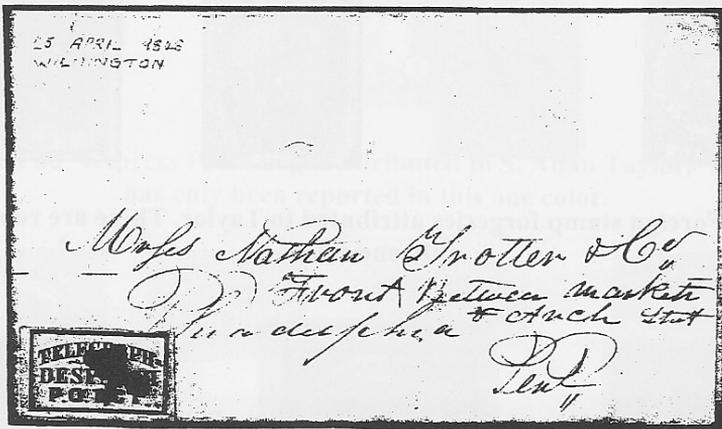
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# BLOOD'S 15L15: Part 15

By

Vernon R. Morris, Jr. MD

On June 30, 1845 D.O. Blood & Co. was established by acquiring the Philadelphia Despatch Post and their remaining 15L3 **world's first pictorial stamps**. The following day, July 1, 1845 our government eliminated private sector inter-city mail service, but compensated the public with rates reduced to recent market levels. The precious few local posts were fortunately ignored. During the next few years D.O. Blood & Co. printed three variations of the historic "striding messenger" stamp,<sup>1</sup> which soon became reserved for *local door delivery* and considered a "city stamp," and is the present day logo of the Carriers and Locals Society,

Within six months, by January 1846, D.O. Blood & Co. developed profoundly different geometric double circle stamp designs dedicated for *outbound* letters, and considered a "post office stamp." Inscribed "**For the POST OFFICE,**" the **world's first special purpose stamp**<sup>2</sup> created a paradigm shift to bifurcated private local postal service.

Two years later, by January 1848, the company was renamed "**BLOOD'S DESPATCH,**" which of course appeared on stamps and handstamps. The next five adhesive stamp issues were no longer large squares, but instead oval, rectangular, and trended smaller. On May 25, 1848 the company moved west from near the Merchants Exchange Building and post office to Sixth Street,<sup>3</sup> directly across from Independence Hall.

Bifurcated postal business allowed Blood's Despatch to better pass savings on to the public, because outbound letters easily went to the nearby post office and were less costly. Although volume discounts varied according to service type, in the very largest quantities both were very close to 1 cent.

The benchmark single service price had remarkably decreased within eight months from 3 cents in May 1848, to 2 cents in July 1848, to 1 cent by January 8, 1849. Some other nearby local posts in 1848 (Telegraph Despatch), and eventually the Philadelphia carriers by March 1849 reduced their charges to market level: 1 cent. Bifurcated local service was obsolete. Blood's volume discounts were no longer necessary. The trade-off for simple flat one-cent single service price was mandatory prepayment, **no collect service**. Blood's Despatch final issue, 15L13, clearly specified **One Cent**, and was its dominant issue for several years.

For over three years, however, letters without a prepaid stamp deposited in Blood's Despatch collection boxes quietly went undelivered, from January 8, 1849 until as late as April 6, 1852,<sup>4</sup> shortly following the great fire of December 27, 1851.

---

<sup>1</sup> Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, "Blood's 15L6: Part 6" *The Penny Post*, Vol. 22, No. 2, April 2014, Whole No. 87, page 58.

<sup>2</sup> Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, "Blood's 15L7: Part 7," *The Penny Post*, Vol. 22, No. 3, July 2014, Whole No. 88, pages 29, 53.

<sup>3</sup> Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, "Blood's 15L11: Part 11," *The Penny Post*, Vol. 23, No. 3, July 2015, Whole No. 92, page 50.

<sup>4</sup> Public Ledger, Vol XXXIII No. 14.

The topic of this article begins in the Spring of 1852 with a third generation of Blood's name, stamps, office location, and service milestones.

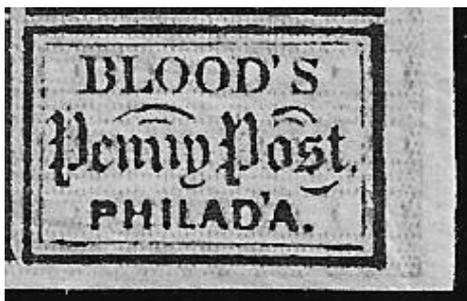
### 15L15 "Blue & Pink, *Bluish*"

The stamp design in **Figure 1** measures 11 mm high by 14.5 mm wide, and has been listed in the *Scott Catalogue* as 15L15 "blue & pink, *bluish*, (53)" correctly under the group "1848-1854 for 1 cent,"<sup>5</sup> but as an individual issue incorrectly beginning in 1853. The company name at top, BLOOD'S, was no longer in bold capital letters; gone at bottom was DESPATCH inverted arch, and replaced by a mundane PHILAD'A; cursive fonts remained in the center, although for the first time "**Penny Post**" appeared. "BLOOD'S / Penny Post / PHILAD'A" 15L15 **declared a new company name**, one that would last for a long time.

**Figure 2** reveals a 15L15 pane format at 25, five rows and five columns, with a 3mm bluish outer margin. This arrangement was different from **One Cent** 15L13, which had been 24 stamps arranged in six rows of four columns. Common to both, however, was a double frame. Predecessor **One Cent** 15L13 outer frame line, though, was a thin guideline continuous with all other stamps in the pane; and inner frame line with rounded corners.<sup>6</sup> The **Penny Post** 15L15 outer frame line, however, was bold and discontinuous with surrounding stamps; and an inner line with squared off corners. Therefore, **Penny Post** 15L15, included a "clear" space surrounding individual 15L15 stamps.

Old auction catalogs have referred to a black on bluish variant, perhaps a precursor Blood's Penny Post stamp issue, **Figure 3**. The author has never personally examined an example, nor to his knowledge has any authenticating service provided confirmation. Black on blue is listed for completeness and to encourage further study.

*Editor's Note: The census will be posted on the Carriers and Locals Society website. The tables can also be viewed on the website.*



**Figure 1. Single 15L15 "Blue & Pink, *Bluish*."**

<sup>5</sup> *Scott 2012 Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps & Covers, Nineteenth Edition*, Scott Publishing Co., 2011, Sidney Ohio, page 545.

<sup>6</sup> Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, "Blood's Part 14: 15L13," *The Penny Post*, Vol. 24, No. 3, July 2016, Whole No. 96, pages 6, 23.



Figure 2. Pane of 25 unused 15L15 “Blue & Pink, *Bluish*.”

### 15L15 Photographic Census

One hundred forty three "BLOOD'S / Penny Post / PHILAD'A" 15L15 covers have been identified. Three suspicious examples have been withheld, leaving a data base of 140, of which 139 were photographed; census number 140 has not been photographed. All available photos have been posted on the Carriers and Locals Society website. For simplicity, this stamp will be referred to as Penny Post 15L15. Ninety four are color, 67%, while 45, or 33%, are black and white (census number 1, 2, 7, 8, 14, 31, 36, 38, 39, 42, 43, 44, 46, 47, 51, 57, 63, 67, 86, 87, 91, 97, 98, 99, 102, 106, 111, 112, 113, 116, 117, 119, 122, 123, 124, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137).

All too often old auction catalog photos did not include a cover's entire address. Of the 15L15 cover data 7 photographs revealed a partial address (census number 26, 67, 91, 106, 132, 136, 140); another 15 photos omitted the entire address (census number 1, 31, 34, 42, 46, 47, 55, 99, 102, 107, 111, 116, 123, 124, 129) offering no destination information. Accompanying auction catalog descriptions of postal markings and destinations, however, are not without merit by providing useful collateral information.<sup>7</sup> These 22 difficult covers comprise 16% of 140 covers; 11 of which (8%) are partially unknown, **Table II**. Conversely, **92% are destination known**.

### 15L15 Cover Data Base

A 2% survival rate for private post covers had been previously selected for this series of articles,<sup>8</sup> but no longer seems applicable. During the very early 1850's the quantitative scale of Blood's Despatch as measured by enormous numbers of collection boxes, numerous deliveries each day, cheap postal costs, and enormous quantities lost by fire, created an environment of unpredictable survival numbers.

<sup>7</sup> Morris, loc. cit., *The Penny Post*, October 2015, pages 21,60.

<sup>8</sup> Morris, loc. cit., *The Penny Post* April 2014, page 38.

Although certainly far from complete, a meaningful data base has nonetheless been compiled, providing a critical mass to appreciate, examine, understand, theorize, further interpret company behavior, and form logical conclusions for this great private post.

### 15L15 Service Time

Evidence based philatelic data by necessity is associated with *varying degrees of certainty*. **Table I** data include 39 *date certain* examples, given direct and specific day, month, and year. Another 32 are *indirectly date specific*, but well supported by collateral information.<sup>9</sup> Altogether, **71** of 140, or 51% are year determinate with certain dates. The annualized spread of these 71 are graphically demonstrated in **Figure 4**. Volume was **greatest in 1853**, and dropped rapidly over the following two years.

A different set of 38 covers can be reasonably determined to within a two calendar year period (census numbers 36-58; 96-107; 110-112) based largely upon auxiliary markings of known service periods. Another 21 examples (census numbers 79-95; 117-119; 128) can be determined to within a three year period, 2 covers (126-127) fall within a four year period; 4 covers (census numbers 132-135) within a six year period, and 1 (census number 137) within seven years (none 5 years). Total is 66 covers within a defined period of time.

Finally, only 3 (census number 138, 139, 140) are entirely undated without any date information.

**Table I** evidence confirms *Penny Post* 15L15 began earlier than mid-1852. The **earliest** recorded date certain is a tied **May 13, 1852** cover, see **Figure 3** (census number 1). Shortly thereafter a second 1852 date certain example on June 30, 1852 (census number 2) has been recorded. Although neither has been seen in public for 62 and 40 years respectfully, their auction catalog descriptions fortunately provide unequivocal dates. They are indeed early outliers, since not until the **April 1953 crescendo** did a typical sequence of increasing volume develop, consistent with new issue introduction, and likely slow replacement of outstanding city stamps and post office stamps.<sup>10</sup>

The **latest recorded** date certain *Penny Post* 15L15 cover is **August 6, 1861** (census number 137), **Figure 5**, a *very far outlier* by several years, and more than 12 years following earliest data.

Philatelic **15L15 lifespan** has been derived from 130 covers between date certain **May 13, 1852** (census number 1) and **August 13, 1858** (census number 130), beyond which *outliers* exist. This period is 2302 days, or 329 weeks, and equivalent to 75 months.

The **15L15 cluster** of *Penny Post* covers is not quite as broad including 127 covers, is defined by date specific and monthly consecutive examples, and had extended from **April 16, (1853)** (census number 3) until **January 7, (1858)** (census number 129). The total domain of 127 cluster examples reflects the period of greatest business activity. The cluster period spanned 1,573 days, or 225 weeks,

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<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> Morris, loc. cit., *The Penny Post*, July 2016, pages 7, 15.

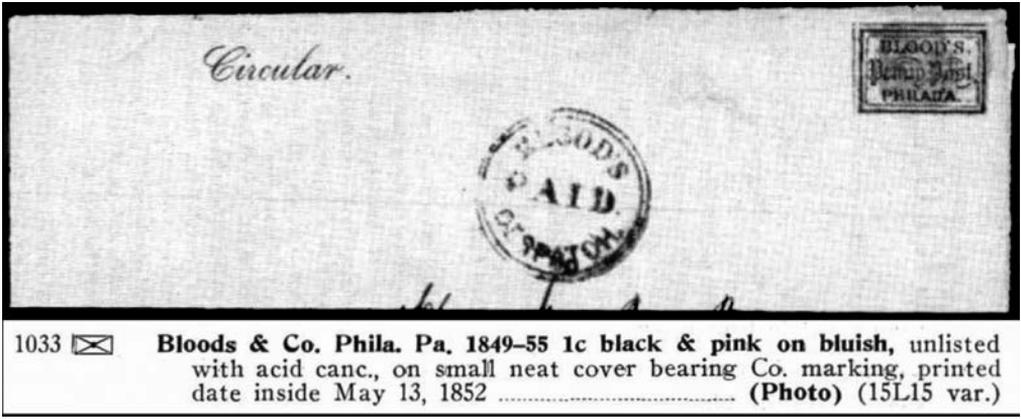


Figure 3. Earliest recorded 15L15 was May 13, 1852, variant “Black on *Bluish.*”

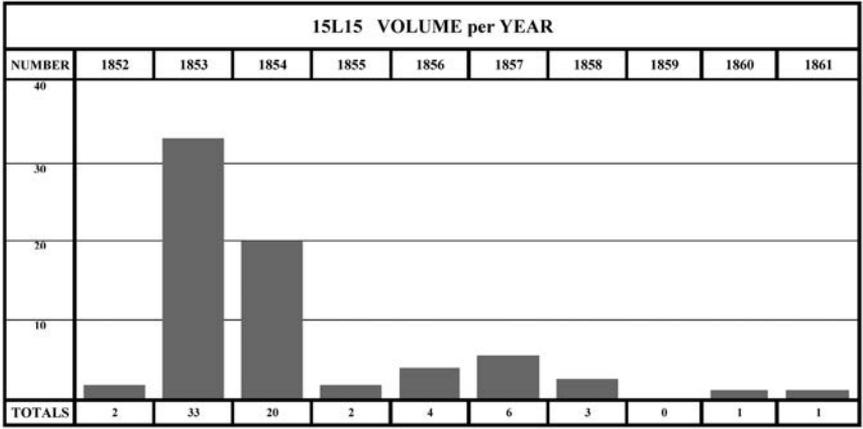


Figure 4. Seventy-three 15L15 covers were year determinant.



Figure 5. Latest recorded 15L15 was August 6, 1861.

equivalent to 52 months. During these 52 months 127 covers is a rate of **2.44 covers per month survival**. Of 127 cluster covers, 85 are *likely* outbound destination, and 42 are likely local destination. Of 127 cluster examples, however, only 119 are destination *specific*; 80 outbound and 39 local service. Furthermore, a period of virtually exclusive presence existed from **July 12, 1853 through February 13, 1854** with no other issues actively in play.

To place in context, Blood's Despatch stamp predecessors **Post Office** 15L17 and its counter-partner **Paid** 15L12, were largely one year stamps during 1849. **One Cent** 15L13, however, the final Blood's Despatch issue was quite different with staying power with significant volumes during three calendar years (virtually exclusive from March 1, 1850 until April 15, 1853).

### 15L15 Service Location

Final destinations are summarized in **Table II**. Blood's Penny Post collected from five hundred boxes<sup>11</sup> before sorting at the principal office and appropriate delivery.

Six 15L15 **Penny Post** destinations are unknown, lacking definitive information outbound versus local delivery. Five must have been outbound given a 3 cent general issue postage stamp (census number 34, 42, 46, 99); one was likely outbound given a post office handstamp (census number 47); one was most likely private post delivered, devoid of any post office stamps or handstamps (census number 102), and an addressee known from previous articles.<sup>12</sup>

Of 134 known destinations, 86 letters, or 64% were outbound letters via a United States post office. Moreover, given five of six unknowns are most likely outbound, from the entire data base of 140 examples **65% were outbound**.

Conversely, **48 covers, 34% were local** deliveries. See **Figure 6** map. From the 48 local deliveries, 13 or **27% of local service had been to an adjacent District**. Ten of these 13 were addressed to Spring Garden (census number 9, 63, 76, 83, 93, 95, *112, 118, 119, 128*), **Figure 7**; two Northern Liberties (census number 81 and 106); and one to Moyemensing (census number 90).

The most contentious destination had been Spring Garden.<sup>13</sup> Four of ten addressed to Spring Garden (census numbers *112, 118, 119, 128*) are *italicized* because they also bear a government cds with matching "numeral 1 in double octagon" handstamp, indicating local government participation. The post office either (a) held a "drop letter" for up to two days,<sup>14</sup> (b) perhaps held longer in a subscription box, or (c) carrier department door delivery to the Spring Garden District address.

**Figure 8** (census number 65) was addressed to the Philadelphia post office, a drop letter specifically held in a post office box.<sup>15</sup> Only one **Penny Post** 15L15 cover, (census number 85), **Figure 9**, was similarly addressed to Blood's office, likely held in one of their boxes.

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<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

<sup>12</sup> Morris, loc. cit., *The Penny Post*, October 2015, page 43.

<sup>13</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, July 2016, pages 19, 20.

<sup>14</sup> Vernon R. Morris Jr, MD, "What is a 'Drop Letter' and a 'Drop Dead Letter'?" *The Chronicle of the U.S. Classics Postal Issues*, Vol. 55, No. 4, (Whole No. 200), November 2003, pages 248-250.

<sup>15</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, July 2016, pages 8, 30.

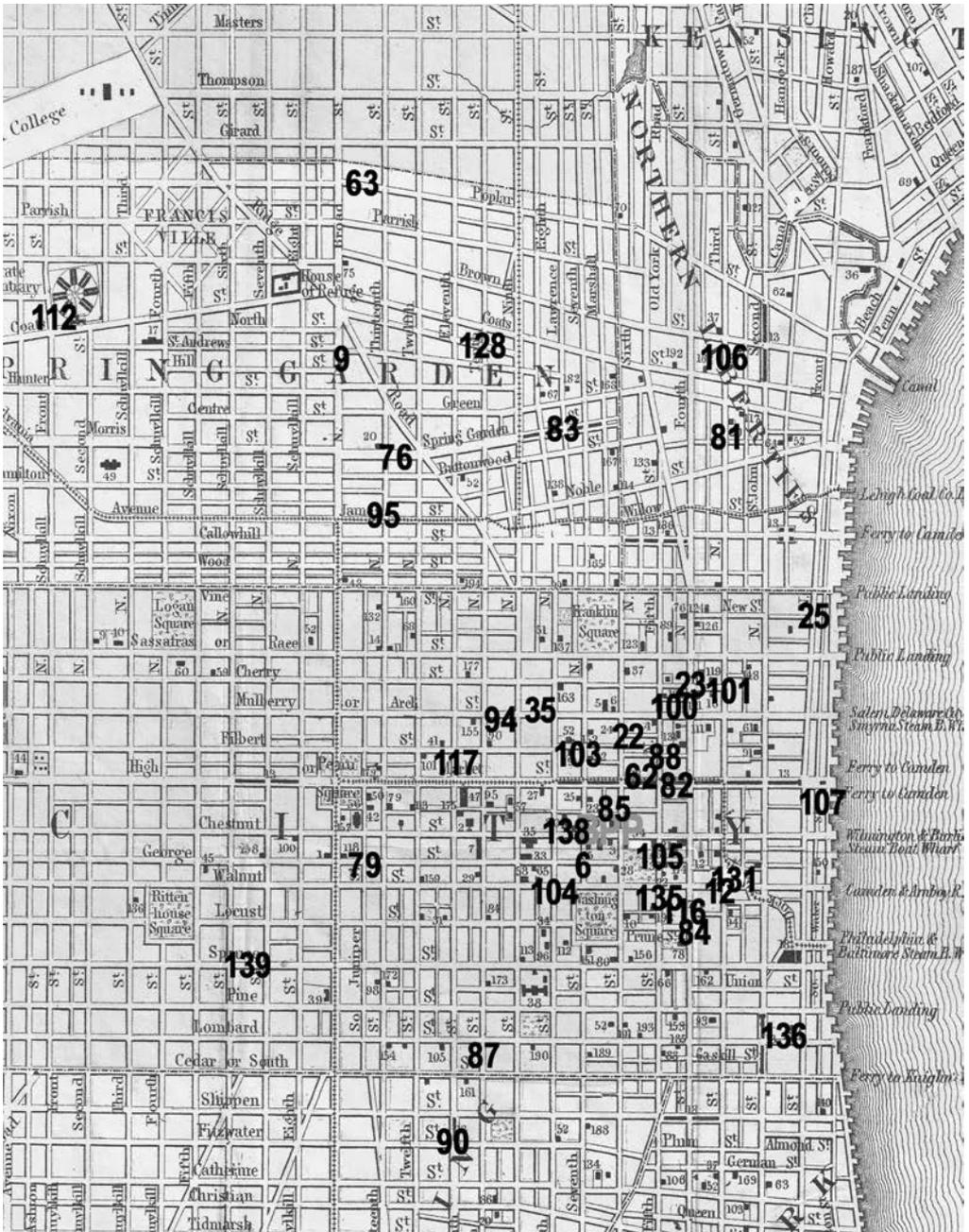


Figure 6. Map distribution of 15L15 local addresses.

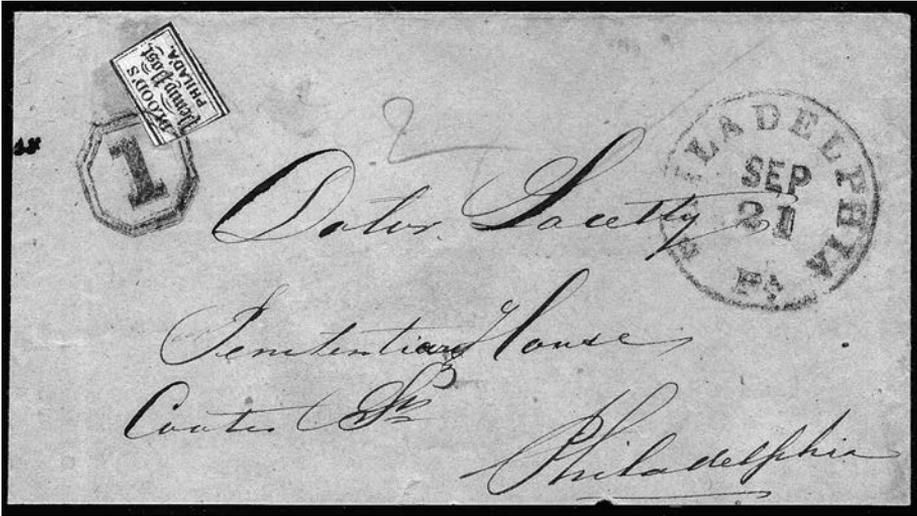


Figure 7. Eastern State Penitentiary was in western Spring Garden District.

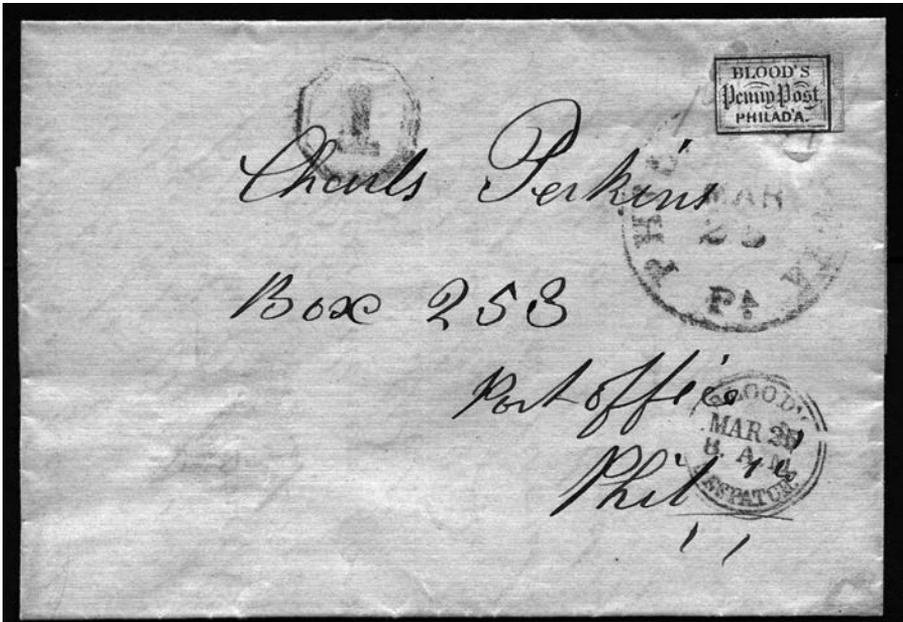


Figure 8. 15L15 addressed to Post Office box.

Only two locations had been west of Broad Street: a valentine to Dr. Lewis (census number 139); and Dr. Lassiter at Eastern State Penitentiary in Spring Garden, who received 3 of 140 covers, about of 2% all data. Previous Blood's Despatch data bases also similarly confirmed only 2% business activity west of Broad Street: 15L17 issue with only 3 of 159 data;<sup>16</sup> 15L12 issue only 1 of 45;<sup>17</sup> 15L13 issue only 7 of 299.<sup>18</sup> Drawing from 603 covers in four data bases only 12 locations (14 covers) were **west of Broad Street, less than 2%**.

Two covers were bootlegged (carried privately) into Philadelphia, and given to Blood's Penny Post for service (census number 8 and 11). Each originated in Greece, and were eventually destined for Princeton, New Jersey,<sup>19</sup> **Figure 10**.

### 15L15 Cover Type

**Table III** summarized various cover types bearing a 15L15 Penny Post stamp. A total of 113 examples, **81%, were envelopes**. The highest percentage yet for envelopes. Of the 113 total envelopes, only 30 deserved special descriptions, several of which tabulated more than once. Folded covers accounted for most of the remaining 27, or 19%, some included dated letter contents.

At most, three are cover *fronts* (census number 51, 68, 90), portions of earlier envelopes or folded letter sheets. No remnant "piece of covers." No wrappers.

**Table I** is only the third data base in this series comprised of **more envelopes than folded letters**, this group in dramatic fashion. At the risk of repetition, envelopes were clearly the mid-century trend. Advertising envelopes made a strong appearance, 8% of data (census number 32, 33, 41, 45, 61, 78, 105, 108, 117, 128, 136), **Figure 11**. No proprietary "self-sealing" envelopes with company name embossed on reverse flap had been identified.<sup>20</sup> However, Nesbitt government embossed prepaid envelopes were commercially available in Philadelphia by July 7, 1853. Eight examples (census number 19, 27, 31, 32, 33, 63, 114, 133) are found among the 113 envelopes, almost 6% of the entire 15L15 data base. The earliest recorded Nesbitt combination 15L15 Blood's Penny Post stamp was August 24, (1853), **Figure 12**.

### 15L15 Cancel Types

**Table IV** revealed that 139 of 140 covers with 15L15 Penny Post stamp, well over **99%, were cancelled** by Blood's Penny Post. Virtually all were cancelled by **acid**, introduced mid-January 1849.<sup>21</sup>

Perhaps one had not been cancelled (census number 128), since neither the auction description nor black and white photo provided evidence supporting the presence of acid.

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<sup>16</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, October 2015, pages 13, 29, 35.

<sup>17</sup> Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, "Blood's Part 13: 15L12," *The Penny Post*, Vol. 24, No. 1, January 2016, Whole No. 94, pages 34, 42.

<sup>18</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, July 2016, electronic pages 21, 26, 33, 38, 39, 79.

<sup>19</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, April 2014, page 42.

<sup>20</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, July 2016, page 9.

<sup>21</sup> Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, "Blood's Part 10: 15L10," *The Penny Post*, Vol. 23, No. 2, April 2015, Whole No. 91, pages 33, 34.

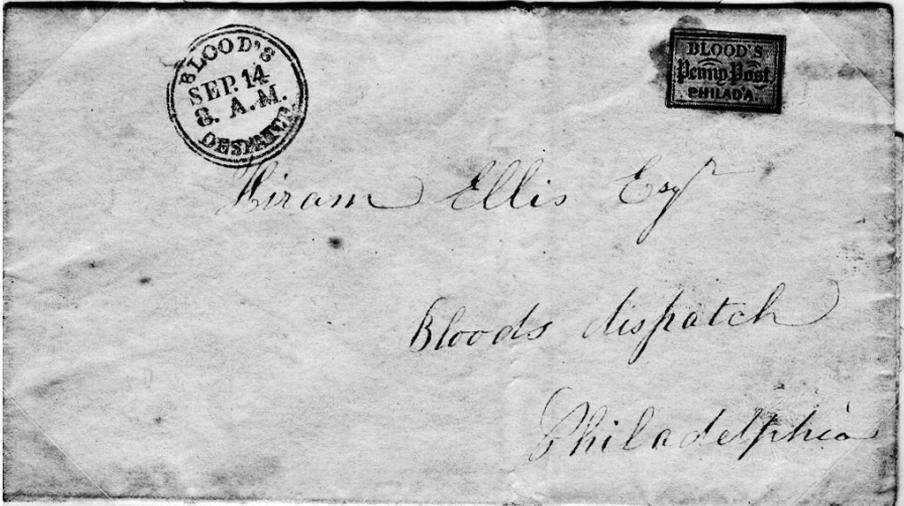


Figure 9. 15L15 addressed to box at Blood's office.

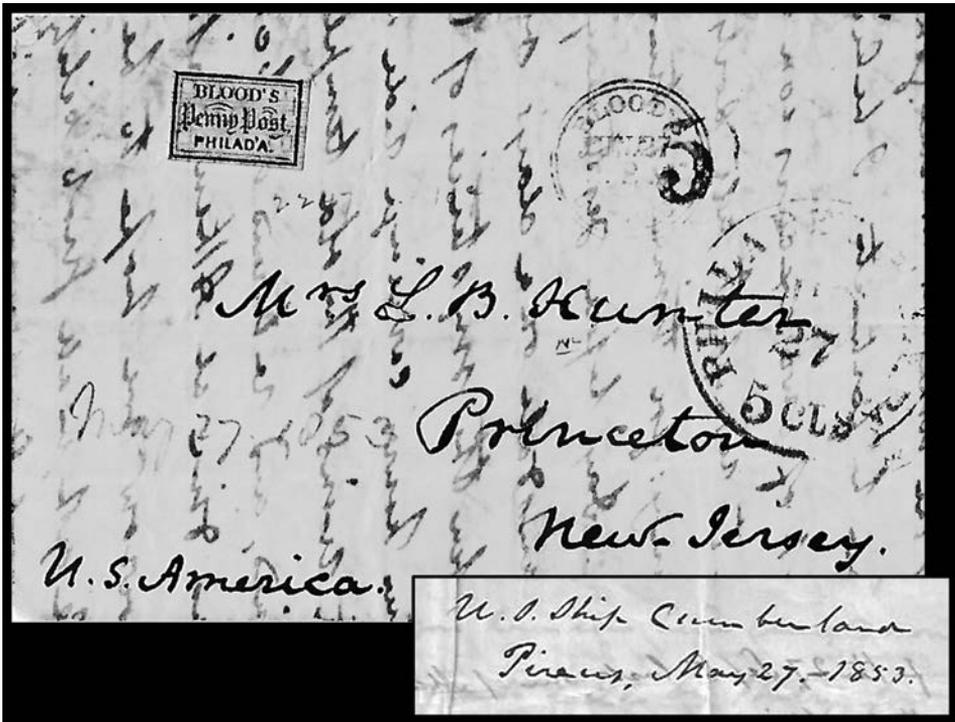


Figure 10. Greece origin of 15L15 delivery by Bloods.

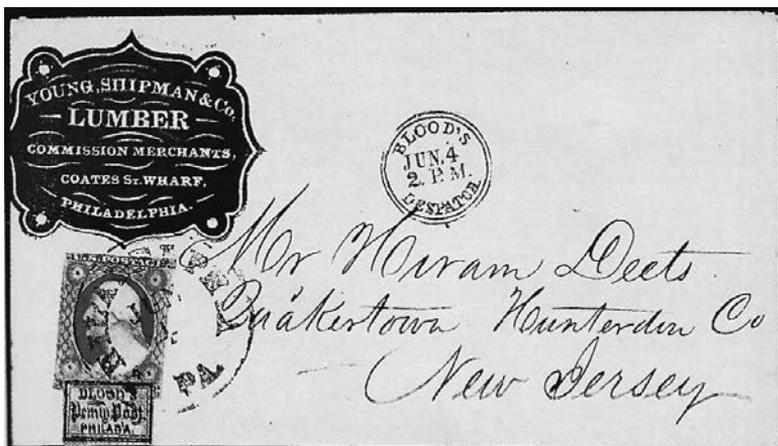


Figure 11. Blue corner advertising envelope.



Figure 12. 15L15 on prepaid government envelope.



Figure 13. 15L15 cancelled by acid and tied by Bloods handstamp.

No evidence exists that Blood's Penny Post employed former manuscript "X" penstroke cancels, "group of dots" cancel, red PAID cancel, multiple punctures cancel, or handstamps intended for cancellation. Only one 15L15 *Penny Post* example (census number 43) **Figure 13** was by serendipity struck by a Blood's handstamp.

### Blood's Handstamps

Blood's handstamp markings can provide a mechanism to date covers. **Table V** data reveal that 121 covers, or **86%** received a Blood's Handstamp. Of 121 examples the overwhelming preponderance were Handstamp Type 17,<sup>22</sup> appearing on 100 covers, 70% of all data, and 82% of Blood's handstamp subset. Moreover, **Type 17** was a new paradigm as the first recent "Blood's Despatch" handstamp documenting **partial date** information including month, day, hour (although not year), and had been reported by September 20, 1851 in newspapers.<sup>23</sup> Very recently updated Type 17 examples, both on 15L13 covers, have been identified by Marc Stromberg on a *date certain* October 2, 1851,<sup>24</sup> and by David Snow on a September 10, (1851) *date likely* example. However, the earliest *date likely* remains September 4, (1851).

Second most common was Blood's Handstamp **Type 19**,<sup>25</sup> identified on 14 covers. Type 19 was very significant as first Blood's handstamp with **full date** information including year, exceedingly helpful in data base formation. The earliest recorded Type 19 handstamp on 15L15 cover (census number 74) was October 30, 1854, the second earliest from all Blood stamp issues, only twelve days following a 15L13 October 18, 1854 example.<sup>26</sup> Of note was Blood's Despatch name retained on handstamps in late 1854, rather than the longer name Blood's Penny Post.

Also significant was a single Blood's Handstamp **Type 20 with outer circle** from May 20, (1852-54) "collect 2 cents" was struck on stampless covers.

### 15L15 Cover Auxiliary Marking

Auxiliary markings provide additional useful philatelic information regarding postal handling and delivery. In the context of private posts, all markings not intended to prevent reuse of the private post stamp have been considered auxiliary markings, both manuscript and handstamp, government and private. More than one marking may appear on a single cover. Identical markings repeated on a single cover were not "piled on" in this assessment.

**Table V** *Penny Post* 15L15 identified 139 of 140 covers graced with a domestic auxiliary marking, over **99%**. Only 1 cover had no markings of any type including handwritten notes (census number 139). Only one cover had no private post or government postal markings (census number 6). The majority of covers displayed more than one marking on a cover, accounting for approximately 268 domestic markings on 140 covers. If spread over 139 covers, the average was **1.92**

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<sup>22</sup> American Stampless Cover Catalog, Volume II, Fourth Edition, Phillips Publishing, 1987, page 67, Type 12.

<sup>23</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post* July 2016, pages 9, 10.

<sup>24</sup> Ibid. page 28.

<sup>25</sup> American Stampless Cover Catalog, Volume II, Fourth Edition, Phillips Publishing, 1987, page 67, Type 14.

<sup>26</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, July 2016, pages 30, 89, 94, 96.

**auxiliary markings** per cover. Of 268 domestic marking, 123 were government, 121 private post, 23 private individual, and 1 printed.

Government markings accounted for 123 of 268 markings; 111 were handstamp markings and 12 were manuscript markings. Also, from the 123 government markings, 118 were applied by the Philadelphia post office, 96%.

The greatest number of auxiliary markings per cover were found with foreign country destinations (census number 3, 5, 24, 29), due to a very high number of *foreign* transit markings, **Figure 14**.

### 15L15 Tied to Cover

**Table VI** summarized 15L15 **Penny Post** tied to cover. Of 140 recorded covers only 9 were *not* tied (census number 11, 29, 30, 32, 45, 64, 71, 76, 120), the preponderance during the earlier half of data base, whereas 131 were **tied, 94%**.

From 131 tied covers, 126 were by Blood's Penny Post. Therefore, **Blood's cancel tied 90%**, 126 of 140 covers. From 131 tied covers, 37 were accidental government handstamp, or 27%. Furthermore, 32 of the 37 covers were tied by *both* Blood's and government; and 6 others by government only (census number 42, 47, 57, 128, 129, 140), **Figure 15**.

No 15L15 stamps were triple tied to their cover by Blood's Despatch handstamp, Blood's acid, and government cds.<sup>27</sup>

### 15L15 Stamp Shape

**Table VII** summarized various types of 15L15 **Penny Post** stamp shapes. Mechanical separation has not been recorded, unlike a recent attempt with **PAID** 15L11.<sup>28</sup> Apparently all 15L15 stamps were manually separated. From the data base of 140 covers, 138 were rectangles and 2 were trapezoids (census number 51, 127). From 138 covers with rectangles the great preponderance was fully hand cut, and only 2 had been partially torn apart (census number 6 and 138), the later comprised of five stamps (4 cut rectangles and one partial torn rectangle).

No thin guidelines existed of course as the outer frames were cut. Very light "bluish" sheet margins were identified on 28 examples, 20% of all data. Three corner margin stamps, only 2% of all data, have been identified (census number 64, 76, 100), the last of which a corner straddle pane margin, **Figure 16**.

### 15L15 Correspondence

From any philatelic group of covers, multiple examples sent to the same person or address constitute a philatelic correspondence. The greatest **Penny Post** 15L15 quantity was three covers, but to only two persons. Mrs. L.B. Hunter received three covers (census number 8, 11, 26) in Princeton, New Jersey, **Figure 10**. A fourth went to Reverend A.H. Hunter in Philadelphia who may have been the correspondent. Another receiving three was Dr. Lassiter (census number 112, 118, 119) at the Eastern State Penitentiary in western Spring Garden District, **Figure 7**,

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<sup>27</sup> Ibid, pages 10, 30.

<sup>28</sup> Morris, loc. cit., *The Penny Post*, July 2015, pages 21, 39, 41, 43, 55.



Figure 14. Transit markings en route to Germany.



Figure 15. 15L15 tied by government marking.



Figure 16. 15L15 straddle margin corner.

on Coates Street, today's Fairmont Avenue.<sup>29</sup> Very interesting information on the later topics in this article.

Six persons received two **Penny Post** 15L15 covers. William M. Meredith is well known to these articles, and makes another appearance (census number 102, 104).<sup>30, 31, 32</sup> Second is C Shrack (census number 23 and 72),<sup>33</sup> who is noteworthy for being one of only five addressees to receive the Philadelphia Despatch Post first stamp issue 15L2.<sup>34</sup> Third is John Calvert of Washington D.C. (census number 116, 125). Fourth is Sam Buckman (census number 32 and 33) who received almost identical illustrated advertising embossed envelopes during the same month, **Figure 17**. Fifth is Mrs. Blair of Washington DC and Baltimore (census numbers 15, 55). Sixth is E. Spencer Miller (census number 84, 92) on South 4<sup>th</sup> Street, and perhaps a relative Mrs. Miller in Princeton (census number 49).

Correspondence to the Cameron family is possible. Three different Camerons in three different states received 15L15 assisted letters (census number 14, 20, 89).

Persons known from prior articles who also received a single 15L15 **Penny Post** cover deserve to be mentioned. Nathan Potts (census number 83) was also the addressee of the earliest recorded world's first pictorial postage stamp<sup>35</sup> from predecessor Philadelphia Despatch Post. Potts had remained at his same office location on Spring Garden Ave.<sup>36</sup> Second is Robert Markoe (census number 64) of Wisconsin who circa 1850 had received five Blood's covers.<sup>37</sup> (John) Hickman (census number 31) of West Chester, PA was provided a likely address from a previous article.<sup>38</sup> John Austin (census number 106) may also have appeared in the past.<sup>39</sup>

William Lewis (census number 139) had moved from his 309 Spruce Street location in June 1849.<sup>40, 41</sup> In 1856 Wm. D. Lewis was president of Catawissa RR, and his son Wm. D. Lewis Jr. at 655 Spruce Street was president of N. Branch Coal Co.<sup>42</sup> Philadelphia renumbering was in effect by 1858 when perhaps the father moved in with son at **new number 1621 Spruce**,<sup>43</sup> important in the valentine section.

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<sup>29</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, July 2016, electronic page 20.

<sup>30</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, July 2015, pages 43, 44, 46.

<sup>31</sup> Morris, loc. cit., *The Penny Post*, January 2016, pages 31, 33, 51.

<sup>32</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, July 2016, pages 27, 32, 43, 51.

<sup>33</sup> 1855 McElroy's City Directory of Philadelphia, page 489 lists "varnish and pain manuf., 80 N 4<sup>th</sup>."

<sup>34</sup> Vernon R. Morris Jr, MD, "Blood's Part 1: 15L2," *The Penny Post*, Vol. 21, No. 1, January 2013, Whole Number 82, pages 2, 31)

<sup>35</sup> Morris, loc. cit., *The Penny Post*, July 2013, pages 41, 46, 50, 59.

<sup>36</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, July 2016, pages 45, 79, 90.

<sup>37</sup> Ibid, page 45.

<sup>38</sup> Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, "Blood's Part 8: 15L8," *The Penny Post*, Vol. 22, No. 4, Oct 2014, Whole No. 89, pages 6, 15, 16.

<sup>39</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, July 2016, page 24.

<sup>40</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, October 2015, pages 17, 35.

<sup>41</sup> 1856 McElroy's City Directory, page 372 William D Lewis, president Catawissa W&E RR Co, S 4th Willing's al, h 360 Spruce.

<sup>42</sup> 1856 McElroy's City Directory, page 372.

<sup>43</sup> 1858 McElroy's City Directory, page 393 William D Lewis Jr, president N. Branch Coal Co., S 4<sup>th</sup> & Willings al, h 1621 Spruce.



Figure 17. Two advertising Nesbitt covers were addressed to Sam Buckman.

**NO UNPAID LETTERS OR VALENTINES** will be delivered by "BLOOD'S DESPATCH," from the 10th to the 15th of February. Large and costly Valentines must be sent by *Special Messengers*, in which case they must be left at the Office, registered, and the *Special Messenger* charge, 5 or 10 cts., according to distance, paid thereon.  
Office No. 30 ARCADE.

Figure 18. February 5, 1853 notice for large valentines.

**UNPAID VALENTINES** will not be delivered by Blood's Despatch Post. Large and costly ones should be left at the Office, 30 Arcade, registered and sent by special messengers.

February 9, 1854

**UNPAID VALENTINES** will not be delivered by BLOOD'S PENNY POST. Large and costly Valentines must be paid 5 and 10 cents each. Feb 4-31st

February 14, 1854

Figure 19. February 9, 1854 at top, and February 14, 1854 at bottom.

Of philatelic interest is Charles Lex (census number 22), the recipient of the only Franklin Carrier Stamp, *Scott Catalogue* LO1,<sup>44</sup> tied by the Philadelphia carrier department red star handstamp.<sup>45,46</sup> Campbell Morfit (census number 96) in Baltimore has also been included in several articles.<sup>47,48</sup> Charles Biddle (census number 6),<sup>49</sup> and Robert Logan (census number 81) were historic names in Philadelphia.

### 15L15 Valentines

Traditionally valentines have involved large envelopes and often heavier fancy enclosures, time sensitive handling, and additional expense especially to more distant locations.<sup>50</sup> **Figures 18** and **19** reveal relevant newspaper announcements in early February of 1853 and 1854 respectively, and pertain specifically to valentines. Recently reinstated collect door service had expressly *excluded* large valentine envelopes, which required 5 or 10 cents prepayment, and registration for special messenger service. Perhaps rightfully so, for an endearing fancy valentine “gift.” Chivalry was “in order” and required by Blood’s. Nonetheless, Blood’s private post, was not less than opportunistic in formalizing, expediting, and charging heavily.

**Table I** data revealed four valentine candidates; all large ornate envelopes, but with curiously different payments. Two are undated, and two oddly dated February 15<sup>th</sup>, of course the day following Valentine’s day. All display at least one **Penny Post** 15L15 stamp, but not all with the required 5 stamps. All were cancelled, but only three show a Blood’s handstamp. Some uncertainty exists for proper date of delivery, late delivery, or no delivery. Newspaper advice, if not warning, to the public in due time by February 5, 1853<sup>51</sup> that “*Large and costly Valentines must be sent by Special Messenger, in which they must be left at the Office, registered and the Special Messenger charge, 5 or 10 cts, according to distance, paid thereon. Office No. 30 Arcade,*” **Figure 18**. Very similar the following year, 1854, on February 9<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, **Figure 19**.<sup>52</sup>

The most credible valentine was addressed to Mr. Henry Long (census number 138), **Figure 20**. Fully compliant with five prepaid **Penny Post** 15L15 cancelled stamps, and registration confirmed by undated Special Messenger handstamp marking, Blood’s Handstamp Type 23 (old ASCC type 17). Although undated, this model example was in all likelihood February 14<sup>th</sup> year uncertain.

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<sup>44</sup> *Scott 2012 Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps & Covers, Nineteenth Edition*, Scott Publishing Co., 2011, Sidney Ohio, page 538.

<sup>45</sup> Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, “The Franklin Carrier Stamp on Cover,” *The Chronicle*, Vol. 63, No. 1, February 2001, Whole No. 229, pages 30, 35.

<sup>46</sup> Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, “The Philadelphia Eagle Carrier Cancellations,” *Collectors Club Philatelist*, Vol. 88, No. 3, May-June 2009, Whole No, page 149.

<sup>47</sup> Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, “Blood’s Part 5: 15L5,” *The Penny Post*, Vol. 22, No. 1, January 2014, Whole No. 86, pages 27, 34, 51, 57.

<sup>48</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, July 2016, page 11.

<sup>49</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, April 2014, pages 36, 61.

<sup>50</sup> Roth, loc. cit., *The Penny Post*, November 1991, pages 15, 16.

<sup>51</sup> Public Ledger Vol. XXXIV No. 116, page 2.

<sup>52</sup> Public Ledger Vol. XXXVI No. 119, page 2 and respectively Vol. XXXVI No. 123 page 2.

Almost as credible was the valentine to Miss Mary (census number 101), **Figure 21**, prepaid with only three instead of five Penny Post 15L15 stamps, but cancel tied and service confirmed by Blood's handstamp. However, three cents was underpayment for registration and Special Messenger. Rather than an undated Special Messenger handstamp, a pedestrian dated Type 17 is present, but one day late on February 15<sup>th</sup>! Was late delivery the consequence of large envelope short of appropriate payment? Not impossible given published notices requiring registration of large envelopes during valentine's week. Perhaps the sender wasn't correctly informed, but had a sense that additional payment was necessary, but not fully knowledgeable of the requirement to visit Blood's office for registration. It appears to have received regular handling one day late. Was the sender guilty of tardiness or short payment?

More unlikely was a large ornate envelope addressed to Mr. Nathan Peterson (census number 100), **Figure 22**. Prepaid by only one Penny Post 15L15 stamp, as if intended for routine delivery. Similar to Miss Mary this example received an unceremonious Blood's Handstamp Type 17, appropriate for usual common local service, but also dated February 15<sup>th</sup>! Another example of underpaid large valentine delivery one day late. Retaliation? Consequences? Another improbable rationale for February 15<sup>th</sup> would be Valentine's Day falling on a Sunday. During the 1850's, however, Sunday was possible only once, in 1858. However, no evidence exists that Blood's did not deliver on any Sundays.<sup>53</sup>

Most improbable was the valentine addressed to "Dr. Lewis" (census number 139), **Figure 23**, likely the son Wm. D. Lewis as mentioned above in correspondence section on "Spruce St" likely at 1621 Spruce,<sup>54</sup> more than two blocks west of Broad Street, and where 10 cent Special Messenger very likely had been appropriate. Nonetheless, this cover bears only one Penny Post 15L15 stamp, which appears lightly cancelled, probably tied. More problematic is the absence of Blood's handstamp marking to confirm delivery. Perhaps the letter was dropped into one of 500 Blood's collection boxes leading up to Valentine's Day, and at the principal office was cancelled, but immediately recognized invalid and woefully underpaid probable 10 cent rate. The beautiful item may have been held, as if unpaid, and not even delivered late on February 15<sup>th</sup> as the Peterson example. Alternatively, perhaps the sender presented to the Blood's Office with one stamp already on the cover, was routinely cancelled, but upon being asked for an additional 9 cents, the sender declined and departed to hand deliver them himself.

Only one of four examples fully complied with advertised requirements for February 14<sup>th</sup> delivery, **Figure 20**. Short paid **Figure 21** and **22** were delivered late on February 15<sup>th</sup>; **Figure 23** large envelope was never delivered for one cent to far away 16<sup>th</sup> and Spruce. Given Blood's Penny Post official Valentine's Day policy, widely advertised and planned, why should the private company compromise its policy?

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<sup>53</sup> October 28, 2016 personal email from Gordon Stimmell.

<sup>54</sup> 1858 McElroy's City Directory page 393 William D Lewis Jr, president N Branch Coal Co, S 4<sup>th</sup> & Willings al, h 1621 Spruce.



Figure 20. Five 15L15 stamps and Special Messenger registered.



Figure 21. Underpaid three 15L15 stamps, not registered, and late delivery.



Figure 22. Underpaid one 15L15 stamp, not registered, and late delivery.

From the data base of 140 covers with 15L15 almost 3% were likely valentines, but only one properly paid and delivered on time. Since all 4 valentines were locally addressed, they comprise 9% of the subset of 48 local examples.

Very relevant to Blood's Valentine Day policy was contemporary **One Cent** 15L13, whose data of 299 included two large envelopes. Each possessed five stamps and an undated Special Messenger Handstamp.<sup>55</sup> They were properly paid, registered at Blood's office, and promptly delivered by Special Messenger. A valentine addressed to Miss Catherine Marsh revealed undated Special Messenger Type 22 successfully delivered to the nearest Spring Garden neighborhood, and reasonably at 5 cents. Adjacent Districts, therefore, appear not categorically assigned 10 cents. To the converse, old city west of Broad Street, as in Dr. Lewis (census number 139) **Figure 23**, was within the old city, but may have been further from Blood's Penny Post routine delivery circuit.

The other 15L13 valentine was addressed to Miss Sally Claghorn at Broad and Arch Streets, and which displayed an undated Special Messenger Handstamp Type 23 and dated Handstamp Type 17 for February 16<sup>th</sup>! Two days late! The sender correctly purchased five **One Cent** 15L13 stamps, properly registered the large envelope at Blood's office for special messenger handstamp confirming immediately delivery, although two days after Valentine's Day! Was Blood's Special Messenger two days tardy? Not possible! Perhaps Broad Street too, required 10 cents, and the sender refused the double rate, and possible late arrival? Unlikely, because Arch street was central and not north of the old city like Spring Garden. Or, could the sender himself have been two days late for some unknown reason? Possibly both, one day late and not enough incentive for 10 cents immediate delivery. If so, perhaps Blood's wanted to protect their special messenger's reputation, and not be misconstrued or culpable for delinquent service, and hence the additional dated handstamp.

### 15L15 Multiple Stamps

Only 2 examples from **Table VIII** data bear multiple Blood's Penny Post stamps (census number 101 and 138). The former contains three 15L15 stamps addressee Miss Mary, **Figure 21**; the latter five **Penny Post** stamps, **Figure 20**.

**Table VIII** also identified multiple government postage stamps on five 15L15 covers (census number 21, 24, 29, 59, 125).

### 15L15 Blood Advertising Labels

Advertising labels were obsolete, and did not appear upon any **Penny Post** 15L15 covers. Until recently the latest recorded Blood's advertising label was date likely April 14, (1852),<sup>56</sup> or date certain March 17, 1852 from prior articles.<sup>57</sup> They were immediately prior to the first Blood's Penny Post brand stamps May 13, 1852. Recently Marc Stromberg has identified a May 20, (1852) stampless cover with label, during the very first week of 15L15 introduction.

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<sup>55</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, July 2013, electronic pages 32, 37, 46, 65, 90, 91, 94, 96.

<sup>56</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, October 2015, pages 25, 44, 62.

<sup>57</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, July 2016, pages 11, 12, 32.



**Figure 23. Underpaid one 15L15 stamp, no handstamp, and unlikely delivery.**

### 15L15 Circulars

Mass business circulars had always been encouraged by D.O. Blood & Co. However, only two Blood's Penny Post 15L15 examples have been identified on circulars. May 13, 1852 (census number 1) in **Figure 5** is shown only by an old photo from 70 years ago, but reveals "Circular" printed on the cover. Second example (census number 4) was a printed notice, **Figure 24**.

### 15L15 Government Combinations

**Penny Post** 15L15 could not possibly be in combination with 1847 general issue government stamps, which were demonetized ten months earlier, on July 1, 1847. However, 1851 imperforate and 1857 perforated general issue stamps had been contemporaneously in service, and the former was an especially common combination with 15L15.

**Table VIII** confirmed **68 combination Penny Post** 15L15 with government prepaid postage, almost **50%** of the entire data base of 140. Of the 68 combinations, 8 were embossed stationary, 58 were 1851 general issues, and two were 1857 general issues (census number 125 and 137). Although the vast majority were 3 cent stamps, a single 1 cent (census number 29) was identified, **Figure 25**. Only two were 1857 perforated combinations (census number 125 and 137), **Figure 26**, or 3% of all combinations

### 15L15 Transatlantic

Three of 140 **Penny Post** 15L15 covers were transatlantic, for a 2% incidence rate. Two were addressed to Germany (census number 3, 5), **Figure 14** and **Figure 27**. One was destined for Scotland via England (census number 24), **Figure 28**.

### 15L15 Canada

Only one **Penny Post** 15L15 cover was destined for Canada West shown in **Figure 25** (census number 29). Altogether four of 140 **Penny Post** 15L15 covers were foreign country destinations (census number 3, 5, 24, 29), 3% of all data.

### 15L15 Transcontinental

Only one 15L15 cover was addressed to the West coast. **Figure 29** (census number 21), was dated September 8, 1853, and so far in this series only the second California destination.<sup>58</sup>

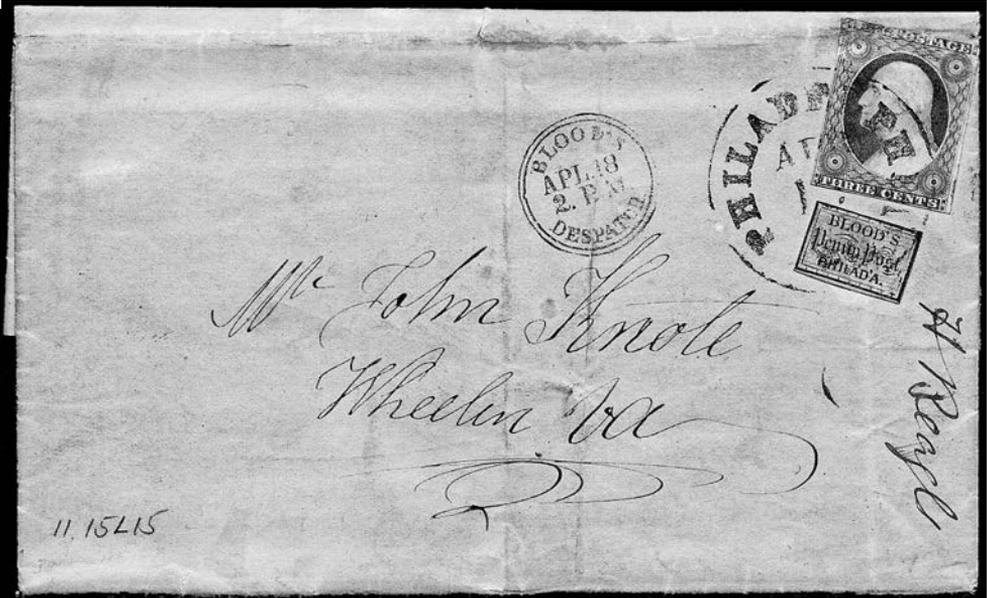
### 15L15 Volume – Time Analysis

The **Penny Post** 15L15 data *cluster period* included 127 covers between **April 16, (1853)** and **January 7, (1858)**. The respective 52 months of greatest philatelic activity based upon 2.44 cover survivors per month, **Figure 30**.

From the cluster subset of 127, likely outbound were 85, and likely local delivery were 42. Therefore, **67%** of the **cluster** subset were **outbound letters**, and 33% were local delivery, old city or adjacent districts.

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<sup>58</sup> Ibid, pages 14, 28.



**BALTIMORE AND OHIO TRANSPORTATION LINE,**

CONNECTING

BOSTON, NEW YORK, PHILADELPHIA,  
WHEELING,



CINCINNATI, LOUISVILLE,  
ST. LOUIS, &c.

**AGENTS.**

FORSYTH & HOPKINS, WHEELING, VA.  
COLHOUN & COWTON, N. E. CORNER THIRD AND CHESTNUT STREETS, PHILADELPHIA.

MARCUS BEARES, No. 14 BROADWAY, NEW YORK.

Received, Philadelphia, *April 16* 1853, of *H. Beagle*  
in apparent good order, the following packages, which we promise to forward via Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore, and Baltimore and Ohio Railroads, to *Forsyth & Hopkins* in *Wheeling Va*  
within *five* days (Sundays and unavoidable delays excepted.)

All the customary risks taken by Insurance Companies for Freights in transitu westward, must be taken by the owner or shipper of this Merchandize, as no such risks are assumed by this Company.

All freights to be paid by the consignee in par funds, at the following low rates, subject to the advance in Ohio river rates, whilst these Goods are in transitu from Philadelphia to Wheeling.

*(Gunpowder and Friction Matches not received.)*

FIRST CLASS.	SECOND CLASS.	THIRD CLASS.	FOURTH CLASS.
Boots, Shoes, Hats, Bonnets, Books, Stationery, Bottled Liquors, Camphire, Carpeting, Cedarware, China, Clocks, Confectionary, Cutlery, Dry Goods, Foreign Fruit, Foreign Liquors, Second-hand Furniture, Looking Glasses, Paper, Pianos, Saddlery, Tin-ware, Umbrellas, Wine.	Agricultural Productions, Alcohol, Bagging, Brown Sheetings in bales, Cast-iron, Drugs and Medicines, Domestic Liquors, Groceries, (except Coffee, Gunny bags, Hardware, Leather, Mahogany, Marble (manufactured), Oil, Printing paper, Ropes, Rice, Saltpetre, Shot, Spices, Steel, Tea, Tobacco, White Lead, Hop, Turpentine, Spirits, Oil Cloth, Paper Hangings, Clock-weights, Machinery.	Ashes, pot or pearl, Castings, Coffee, Copper, Earthen-ware and Stone-ware, German Clay, Gunny, Iron (sheets or bars), Millstones, Nails and Spikes, Queens-ware, Sawed Marble, Straw Paper, Tin, Whiting, Zinc, Steam Engines.	Bacon, Pork and Beef salted, Fish, Lead, Marble in Blocks, Tar, Pitch, and Rosin. Acks, Carriages, Furniture (not boxed), Willow ware. Furniture (boxed). All perishable articles, or articles liable to be broken, to leakage, or to chafing, will be at the owner's risk.
Per 100 lbs.	Per 100 lbs.	Per 100 lbs.	Per 100 lbs.

**MARKS.**

GRATTAN, PRINTER.

Figure 24. 15L15 on printed notice.

### 15L15 Time Line

The most active cluster period for **Penny Post** 15L15 was mid-April 1853 until very early January 1858. **Figure 31** reveals two early outliers, and a few late outliers until mid-1861, with an approximate incidence rate of one per year. The cluster period of four years nine months is unprecedented, and well exceeded **One Cent** 15L13 of three years eight months. Such longevity may suggest satisfaction with Blood's Penny Post stamp and/or company stability, perhaps enhanced by willingness to re-instate collect service.

For **seven months** a relatively **exclusive 15L15** philatelic period of service has been identified. This important period begins the day following conclusion of **One Cent** 15L13 cluster period July 11, 1853,<sup>59</sup> and ends the day before February 14, 1854 beginning or 15L16 cluster. During this special period extremely few outlier stamps of other stray Blood issues may have infrequently appeared, thereby classifying this period as "relatively" exclusive.

No absolutely exclusive philatelic period has been identified since late 1846. They had been highlighted by red in bar graphs, and were not contaminated by other outliers.

### 1852

On **January 8, 1849 one cent** became the universal Blood's rate for every single service, except large valentines. **Prepayment was mandatory**,<sup>60</sup> and volume discounts were obsolete. The unintended insidious consequences were a tremendous number of letters held for non-payment at the Blood's Despatch South 6<sup>th</sup> Street office. The fire of December 27, 1851 unfortunately destroyed 90,000 letters,<sup>61</sup> but made the public aware of the great magnitude of failed communications. In desperate need of an immediate new office, the company secured nearby **15 Arcade**, West Avenue,<sup>62,63</sup> several doors toward 7<sup>th</sup> on the north side of Chesnut Street. A yellow line in **Figure 31** marks this milestone. Leading up to the great fire, the company had been in the midst of a seemingly logarithmic increase in collection boxes, having announced 300 boxes by June 28, 1851<sup>64</sup> and 400 boxes by October 29, 1851.<sup>65</sup>

Within a few months of the fire, one of the nation's very largest private posts capitulated to public demand for collect service. Blood's Despatch indeed **restored collect door service, but doubled the price** to 2 cents,<sup>66</sup> announced in newspapers by April 6, 1852.<sup>67</sup> Of course outbound letters delivered to the Philadelphia post office required pre-payment. By definition collect service means no pre-paid stamp, and created a new need for a collect 2 cents handstamp, Blood's Handstamp Type **20**. Double price must have strongly discouraged collect service,

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<sup>59</sup> Ibid, page 49, electronic page 72.

<sup>60</sup> Ibid, pages 16, 20.

<sup>61</sup> Ibid, page 77.

<sup>62</sup> Ibid, page 18.

<sup>63</sup> Public Ledger December 31, 1851 Vol. XXXIL No. 82, page 3.

<sup>64</sup> Public Ledger Vol. XXXI No. 81, page 2.

<sup>65</sup> Public Ledger Vol. XXXII No. 29, page 2.

<sup>66</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, July 2016, page 18.

<sup>67</sup> Public Ledger Vol XXXIII No. 14.

and 2 cent stampless 1852 and 1853 covers are indeed very scarce. Courtesy Marc Stromberg, **Figure 32** is the earliest example, and the only recorded variety with “outer ring.” A second strike at right virtually obliterated an underlying Blood’s Handstamp Type 17, typical for this period, and suggesting May 20 was during 1852-54. Since combined with an advertising label this stampless cover was very likely 1852.



**Figure 25. One 15L15 cover combined with 1851 One Cent.**



Figure 26. Two 15L15 cover combined with 1857 Three Cent.



Figure 27. Two 15L15 covers to Germany.



Figure 28. One 15L15 cover addressed to Britain.



**Figure 29. One 15L15 cover addressed to California.**

These events occurred about the same time as the earliest *Penny Post* 15L15 service was recorded, May 13, 1852 (census number 1), **Figure 5**. Within three months, by August 10, 1852 Blood's advertised 500 collection boxes.<sup>68,69</sup> By early September 1852 Blood's *Despatch* moved within the Arcade Building to **30 Arcade**, East Avenue,<sup>70</sup> presumably for more suitable and efficient mail service. A yellow line in **Figure 31** also indicates this location milestone as well.

The name Blood's *Penny Post* appeared in newspapers no later than December 4, 1852, **Figure 33**.<sup>71</sup> The company, nevertheless, retained the name and good will of Blood's *Despatch*, and for many years both titles seemed interchangeable. The title "Blood's Penny Post" appears to have slowly phased in during 1852. For the purpose of these articles the most relevant philatelic date for the new company name has been arbitrary selected on the earliest recorded adhesive stamp on cover, May 13, 1852.

### **Teese Penny Post**

The term "penny post" properly suggests one cent service. The name "Blood's Penny Post" or "Teese Penny Post" implies a company which delivered letters for one cent. Of course Blood's *Despatch* service at volume discounts had been one cent since early 1848. The first documented one cent flat rate service stamp was "Telegraph *Despatch* **P.O. 1 CT.**" late April 1848.<sup>72</sup>

<sup>68</sup> Public Ledger Vol. XXXIII, No. 118, page 2.

<sup>69</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, July 2016, page 15.

<sup>70</sup> Public Ledger September 11, 1852, Vol. XXXIII, No. 146.

<sup>71</sup> Public Ledger Vol. XXXI No. 62, page 2.

<sup>72</sup> Bennett sale 283 lot 2142 on November 13, 2004.

By 1849 Postmaster General Cave Johnson reduced Philadelphia and other carrier department's fees in half to one cent in what today would be called a "gas war." In 1851 at Postmaster General Hall's discretion, all carrier departments were to manipulate their fees to two cents delivery, and free pick up. The author has previously proposed an 1851 Philadelphia carrier department defiance of Washington and continuation of the immediately prior two years market valued "one cent for all services" in the old city.<sup>73</sup> By contrast New York City private post charges held at two cents throughout the 1850's.<sup>74</sup>

In Philadelphia, Blood's Penny Post set the pace, and many small private posts mimicked the size and shape of Blood's small rectangular stamps.<sup>75</sup> During late 1852 one of many upstart private posts, Teese Penny Post, appeared, but as usual faded away within a few years.<sup>76,77</sup> Teese Penny Post issued only one design, listed by *Scott Catalogue* as 137L1 "blue bluish"<sup>78</sup> which was almost an identical twin to Blood's Penny Post 15L15 except name.

The earliest recorded Teese Penny Post 137L1 cover was a date certain September 10, 1852 folded letter,<sup>79</sup> **Figure 34 top**. Mitchell Teese had been listed in the 1852 city directory as "letter carrier," **Figure 34 middle**. The author has informally recorded sixteen Teese covers, half of which are tied, but only one cancelled by acid, **Figure 34 bottom**. The sender purchased a Teese Penny Post stamp, but the letter must have been mistakenly dropped into one of 500 Blood's collection boxes. Blood's Handstamp Type 17 and acid cancel confirm mistaken service by Blood's Penny Post on June 8, 1854. Mimicking is the sincerest form of flattery, and can also be very profitable.

### Daniel Otis Blood

Daniel Otis Blood was only 34 years old when he died on September 21, 1853 in Florence New Jersey per **Figure 35** obituary. A biography circa 1870's by D.O. Blood's son was discovered in the National Philatelic Collection in the Museum of Natural History in Washington D.C. by researcher Richard John PhD, and delivered in 1995 to the philatelic community by Stephen Roth.<sup>80</sup>

Born June 22, 1818 on a farm in Onondaga County, New York, Blood yearned for a mercantile life in a large city. His half-brother William Swain was a senior partner of a fledgling newspaper in Philadelphia, the Public Ledger. At age 20

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<sup>73</sup> Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, "The Philadelphia Eagle Carrier Cancellations: Two Discoveries," *Collectors Club Philatelist*, Vol. 88, No. 3, May-June 2009, pages 149-151.

<sup>74</sup> October 25<sup>th</sup> email from John Bowman.

<sup>75</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, January 2016, pages 28, 29.

<sup>76</sup> Steven M. Roth, "A Report on Some Short-Lived Local Posts of Philadelphia" *The Penny Post*, Vol. 3, No. 4, October 1993, pages 26-27.

<sup>77</sup> Steven M. Roth, "Some Short-Lived Local Posts of Philadelphia: A Follow-Up" *The Penny Post*, Vol. 4, No. 4, October 1994, page 34.

<sup>78</sup> *Scott 2012 Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps & Covers, Nineteenth Edition*, Scott Publishing Co., 2011, Sidney Ohio, page 564.

<sup>79</sup> Robert Siegel Auction Galleries, sale 908, March 17, 2006 lot 4984; ex Schwartz; 1982 PFC.

<sup>80</sup> W. Otis Blood, Sr., "Recollections of Blood's Despatch Post," *The Penny Post*, Vol. 5, No. 2, April 1995, pages 4-9.

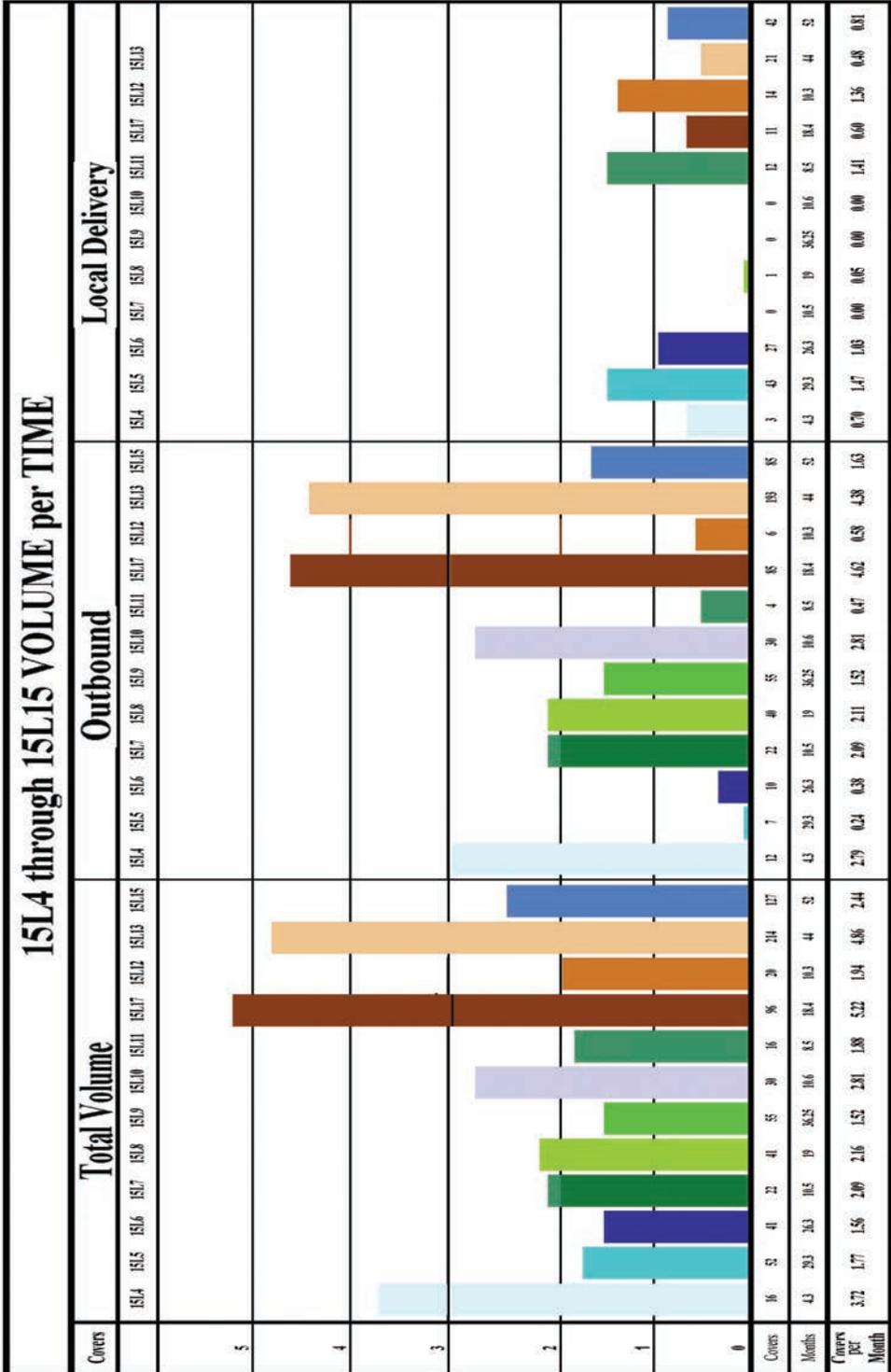
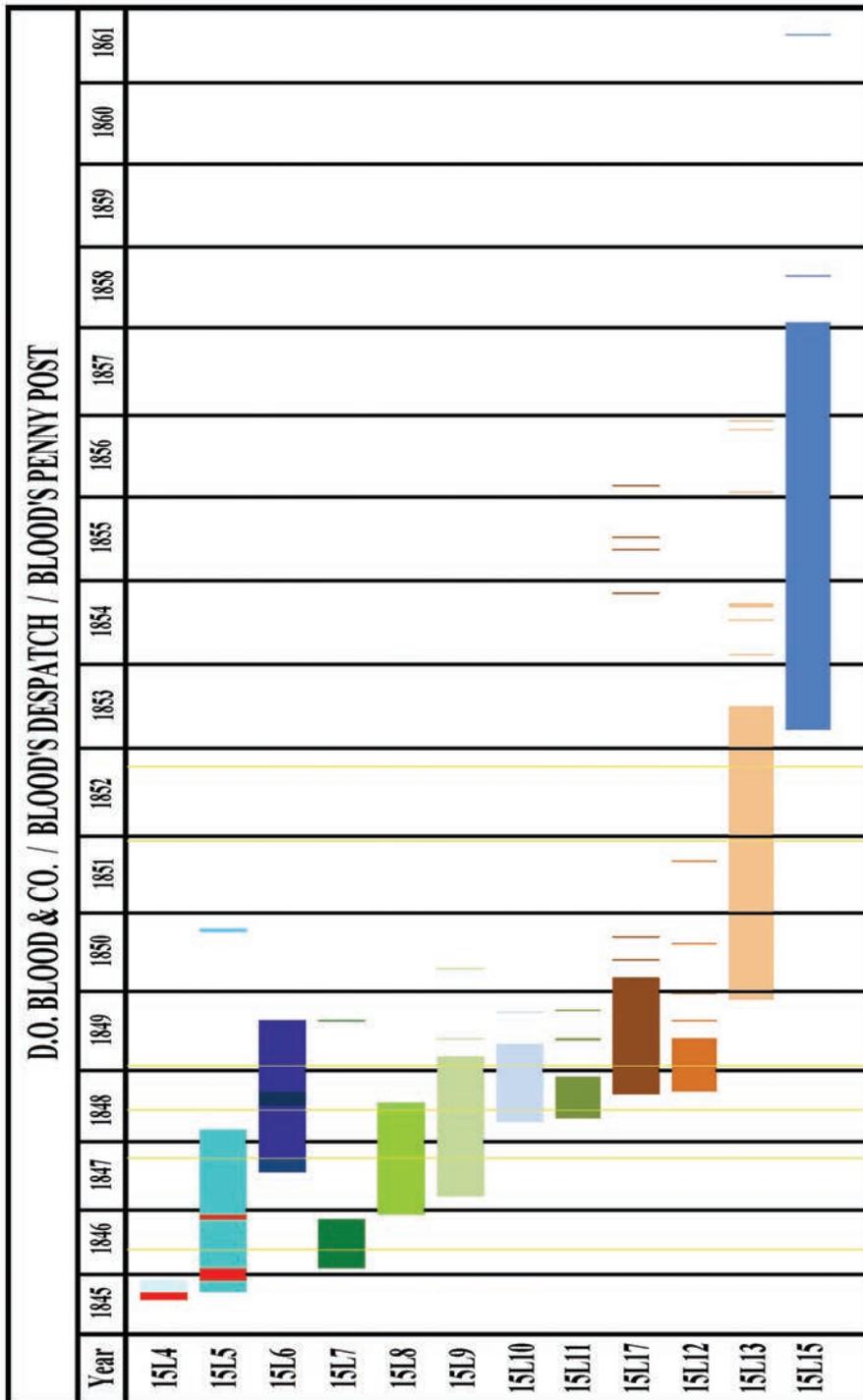


Figure 30. Business activity of Blood's stamps.



**Figure 31. Blood's stamp issue timelines.**



Figure 32. Handstamp Type 20 / 2 CTS with “outer rim” collect.

**B**LOOD'S PENNY POST delivers Letters, Papers and Circulars throughout the City and to the Post Office, at one cent each, if prepaid, or five cents for city letters, payable on delivery. Letters to the Post office, and answers to advertisements, must in all cases be prepaid one cent. At 7, 9, 1 and 3 o'clock throughout the City; at 7, 9, 1, 3 and 7, P. M., to the Post office. Despatch Stamps and Government Stamps for sale at all the principal box stations. STAMPED ENVELOPES of buff, white and laid paper, (extra quality) for sale at the PRINCIPAL OFFICE, No. 30 ARCADE. Persons having any supposed cause for complaint against any of the employees of the establishment will confer a favor by stating particulars in a note to the proprietors. BLOOD'S DESPACH POST has, by strict attention to the wants of the community, become a necessary adjunct to every business and professional man. The recommendations of the press, and encomiums bestowed by individuals occupying the highest positions in the community, point to it as the MODEL PENNY POST of this country. dot lwr

DANL. O. BLOOD,  
CHAS. KOCHERSPERGER, } Proprietors.

Figure 33. Blood's Penny Post name in December 4, 1852 newspaper.

## OBITUARY.

"Tears ran down aged furrows then.

"And wept young eyes, and wept strong men!"

We are reminded of the above quotation on feeling and seeing the effect produced by the announcement of the death of DANIEL OTIS BLOOD, who departed this life, at his residence, near Florence, N. Jersey, on the evening of the 21st inst. The writer of this knew him well. Associated with the deceased for many years in the same establishment, we bear testimony to the moral worth, to the sterling integrity, that marked all his actions. Combining with sound judgment a firm and decided manner that allowed no difficulties, however numerous, to thwart his purpose when once fixed, he established a reputation for wisdom and sound policy that induced men of maturer years to seek his opinion and advice on subjects of weight and importance to themselves.

His Philosophy was sometimes thought visionary, yet the introduction into this community of the Despatch Post that bears his name, the planning and carrying into successful execution the Public Laundry, the system he originated in the business department of the establishment in which he was Chief Clerk, all show the master mind. Although aided in a great degree by his partner in the two first named schemes, yet to his firmness is attributed the final triumph over the many threatening difficulties that surrounded them. His death at this time is more to be deplored, for when about to realize the profits of his industry, the destroyer laid its cold hand upon him, and we are compelled once more to acknowledge the uncertainty of its coming.

His career on this earth has not been marked by any renowned deed, nor has he occupied such a position in the community that would lead us to expect his name recorded in history; yet in the circle in which he moved, and with all with whom he was brought into contact, an impression was created that will never be effaced while life with us lingers.

Although rough in his exterior, his constant urbanity and natural kindness of heart attracted many around him, who, now that he has gone, feel sensibly that Death has robbed them of a sincere friend, one whose words flowed with wisdom, and one whose example we could follow without fear of the world's reproof.

We bow the head with grief, but submit calmly, as calmly as we can, to the decree, believing in the words of holy writ: "That God's power is great, and His will must be done." But one more duty remains to be performed. His now inanimate body must be consigned to the grave. In a few hours, all that is left of our beloved friend, will be covered by its mother, Earth, and we then return to our worldly employments, feeling that a void exists in our midst, we fear ne'er can be filled.

G. S. W.

Figure 35. Daniel Otis Blood obituary.



Teese Mitchell, letter carrier, Washington bel  
6th



Figure 34. Earliest 1852 Teese at top; 1852 City Directory in middle, serviced by Blood's at bottom.

Blood arrived in Philadelphia in the summer of 1838,<sup>81</sup> was soon employed as bookkeeper for the Public Ledger, and quickly advanced to Chief Clerk and Cashier, a position which he held until 1851.

On June 30, 1845, the last day of the Independent Mail Companies, Blood had boldly purchased the Philadelphia Despatch Post, which had been the only private post in the United States for one and a half years, between December 1842 and June 17, 1844. Blood also operated a large Steam Laundry for transatlantic steamship companies and hotels. After working all day at the Public Ledger he spent nights overseeing D.O. Blood & Co.'s, which struggled during the initial two years. Blood was renowned as indefatigable and persevering. Four boys were replaced with men. Wagons transported five carriers plus a driver. Immediate service was available to any location by a corps of not inexpensive readily available special messengers, who were popular during "Holidays" and St. Valentine's Day. Eventually 32 carriers were employed. 500 boxes were rented at one dollar a year.

Blood was not in a position of power or wealth, but was locally known for moral worth, sterling integrity, and being decisive. He displayed sound judgement, wisdom, and was a visionary. Despite a rough exterior, Blood was kind and beloved.

### **Charles Kockersperger**

Charles Kockersperger was born about 1826, making him only 23 in 1849, the most likely year that he joined Blood's Despatch. The 1850 census lists him as "carpenter." His father's death notice was in the Philadelphia Inquirer on June 23, 1846. At age 47 his father was listed at the northeast corner of 13<sup>th</sup> and Poplar, in Spring Garden District. Perhaps growing up in familiar Spring Garden was especially luring for Kockersperger.

**Figure 36** reveals that Charles Kockersperger had been the active manager and sole director of Blood's Despatch for four years, i.e. 1849. Kochersperger may have started much earlier, and by one account at the company inception in 1845, age 19, when Blood purchased "Halsey Despatch."<sup>82</sup>

On May 2, 1851 the two proprietors, Blood and Kochersperger, audaciously submitted to Postmaster General N.R. Hall a proposal they provide all city letter service including government mail, **Figure 37**, with deliveries every two hours. **Figure 38** may be the earliest Blood's cover addressed to Charles Kochersperger (census number 9), at the South East corner of Broad and Wallace, in Spring Garden District.

*Editor's Note: Figure 37 can be viewed on the website version of this article.*

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<sup>81</sup> Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, "Blood's Part 4: 15L4," *The Penny Post*, Vol. 21, No. 4, October 2013, Whole No. 85, page 41.

<sup>82</sup> February 12, 2015 email from Dana Dorman of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania referencing a 1915 book "Post Office Buildings of Philadelphia" by Charles R. Barker, published by the City History Society of Philadelphia, 1915.

*Blood's Dispatch* — The Sunday Dispatch of yesterday, says:—“The death of D. Otis Blood took place last week. Mr. Blood was an enterprising, useful citizen, and justly esteemed for his sound mind, excellent judgment, and many good personal qualities. He was the founder of that valuable public accommodation, Blood's Dispatch Post, which, by a long course of faithfulness and perseverance on the part of the proprietors, has become, to all intents and purposes, a public institution. For many years Mr. Blood paid great attention to this matter, but upon the establishment of the Camden Laundry, he devoted his care principally to that enterprise. Whilst he retained an interest in Blood's Dispatch, he ceased to be the active manager of the concern. His partner, Charles Kochersperger, has, for the last four years, been the sole director of the Dispatch. We, therefore, have every guarantee that the decease of Mr. Blood will not in any way effect the Dispatch Post. That very useful public convenience will be continued, as heretofore, by Mr. Kochersperger, without any change, except such as may be calculated to render it more useful than it ever was.”

Figure 36. Blood's partner Charles Kochersperger.

### Spring Garden District

Spring Garden District was incorporated on March 22, 1813, and eventually became one of the ten largest cities in the United States<sup>83</sup> as the old city expanded north and toward the Schuylkill River. However, it ceased to exist with the 1854 Philadelphia Act of Consolidation, which expanded the boundary of the City of Philadelphia to the limits of the County of Philadelphia. Thirteen townships, 6 boroughs, and 9 districts surrounding the city<sup>84</sup> were absorbed over five years. The Philadelphia post office converted most of these outlying post offices into branches.<sup>85</sup> Furthermore, during this transition period and in 1856 an “Ordinance of Council” renumbered old city Philadelphia street addresses,<sup>86</sup> which was not implemented until January 1, 1857, and eventually incorporated into city directories for 1858.<sup>87</sup>

<sup>83</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spring\\_Garden\\_District,\\_Pennsylvania](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spring_Garden_District,_Pennsylvania).

<sup>84</sup> *Philadelphia; A 300 Year History*, Russell Weigley, Norton & Company, 1982, pages 359, 375.

<sup>85</sup> Stets, Robert J. and Kay, John L. “Independent Post Offices of Philadelphia County, 1800-1867”, Associated Stamp Clubs of Southeastern Penna. And Delaware, Inc., Horsham, Pa. 1979.

<sup>86</sup> *Annals of Philadelphia, and Pennsylvania Volume III*, John Watson, 1891, Stuart, page 499.

<sup>87</sup> Personal email September 29, 2016 from Dana Dorman researcher of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.



**Figure 38. Letter addressed to Kockersperger residence.**



**Figure 39. Eastern State Penitentiary.**

Spring Garden's post office had been very nearby, located in the far southeastern corner of the district near 8<sup>th</sup> and Callowhill since 1842, but relocated in 1855 to the far western area at 24<sup>th</sup> and Center Streets close to the Schuylkill River.<sup>88</sup> Within two years, by 1857, a Sub-Post Office was established at 13<sup>th</sup> and Spring Garden Street.<sup>89</sup> For two years highly populated eastern Spring Garden must have been without their own post office, a situation where for several years Blood's Despatch had been unable to resist.

Private posts and Blood's Penny Post must have been emboldened and free to conduct business in this robust market. At some point burgeoning Spring Garden must have no longer been considered inter-city mail with the old city, but intra-city mail. How intuitive was Blood for several years approaching, surrounding, and recently penetrating this rapidly growing district.<sup>90</sup>

From the data base of 140 ~~Penny Post~~ 15L15, ten were addressed to Spring Garden (census number 9, 63, 76, 83, 93, 95, 112, 118, 119, 128), **Figure 8**, representing 7% of all data, and 21% of all local deliveries! Four of the ten were subsequent to February 1, 1855 (census number 112, 118, 119, 128) while eastern Spring Garden had no post office.

### Eastern State Penitentiary

Three covers (census number 112, 118, 119) were addressed to Dr. Lassiter at Eastern State Penitentiary in the Spring Garden District. They comprise more than 2% of all ~~Penny Post~~ 15L15 data, and over 6% of the subset of 48 local deliveries. Eastern State Penitentiary was several blocks west of Broad Street; the remaining seven covers were all addressed east of Broad Street, to where the Blood's collection boxes had been established several years earlier.<sup>91</sup>

Dr. William W. Lassiter was the prison's resident physician from 1851 to 1856.<sup>92</sup> Entries in the Warden's journal for Dr. Lassiter include August 19, 1854 his assisting a female inmate delivering her baby; October 21, 1855 attending two inmates overcome by gas leak; and January 28, 1856 tending to a male inmate who attempted to castrate himself.

Eastern State Penitentiary is a U.S. National Historic Landmark.<sup>93</sup> A former American prison in Philadelphia, Eastern Penitentiary has been operational from 1829 until 1971, most recently renowned for inmates Willie Sutton and Al Capone. Visited by notables Charles Dickens and Alexis de Tocqueville, it is currently a museum open daily, **Figure 39**, and has no inmates. Eastern State is considered the **world's first true penitentiary**, with a revolutionary Quaker inspired approach to move criminals toward spiritual reflection and penitence. A radial floor plan and system of solitary confinement had been the model for over 300 prisons worldwide.

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<sup>88</sup> Morris, op. cit., *The Penny Post*, July 2015, page 52.

<sup>89</sup> Elliott Perry, "The Carrier Stamps of the United States," *The Chronicle*, Vol. 34, No. 4, Whole No. 116, November 1982, page 241.

<sup>90</sup> Morris, op. cit., January 2016, pages 56, 59, 60, 61.

<sup>91</sup> Ibid.

<sup>92</sup> Email communication November 17, 2016 from Annie Anderson, Senior Specialist, Research and Public Programming Eastern State Penitentiary.

<sup>93</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eastern\\_State\\_Penitentiary](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eastern_State_Penitentiary).

Small doors encouraged prisoners to bow. When a prisoner left his cell, an accompanying guard would wrap a hood over his head to prevent him from being recognized. Individual outdoor exercise and gardening areas were promoted, with walls so high to prevent communication. Inmate were allowed pets. The cells were made of concrete with a single glass skylight to suggest God is watching. Cell accommodations were advanced for their time, including a faucet with running water and a flush toilet. During winter months hot water pipes along one wall provided reasonable heat. This Pennsylvania System was in contrast to traditional physical punishment and forced work, the Auburn or New York System (Sing Sing).

### **Theory**

- 1) *Scott Catalogue* incorrectly lists 15L15 beginning in 1853 rather than evidence based 1852.
- 2) A predecessor or trial stamp color “Black on Bluish” variety may have existed.
- 3) Blood’s Penny Post pane format of 25 stamps replaced Blood’s Despatch 24 stamp format.
- 4) Blood’s Penny Post did not use self-advertising labels.
- 5) Blood’s first ~~Penny Post~~ stamp, 15L15, enjoyed relative exclusivity for 7 months; July 12, 1853 until February 13, 1854.
- 6) Blood’s Handstamps Type 17 and 19 were dominant for six years, from October 1851 until December 1857, overlapping for a few months beginning October 1854.
- 7) For the first time in three years a “2 Cent” due handstamp was necessary, Type 20, for newly reinstated collect door delivery service.
- 8) Door delivery collect service was very expensive and sparingly used.
- 9) All three handstamps during the 15L15 cluster period continued under Blood’s Despatch rather than the longer name Blood’s Penny Post.
- 10) From 1855 to 1857 Blood’s Penny Post was legally able to conduct business in Spring Garden District.
- 11) Deliveries west of Broad Street accounted for only 2% of deliveries, largely due to sparse settlement and poor cost efficiency.
- 12) Expensive registered Special Messenger service was confirmed by specific undated Special Messenger handstamps, and was very profitable during Holidays.
- 13) Underpaid unregistered large valentines were at risk for *late* regular delivery, confirmed by dated handstamp. No service and no handstamp were possible if the address was very distant and grossly underpaid.

- 14) Registered large valentines were given undated Special Messenger handstamps, but after February 14<sup>th</sup> were used in combination with a dated handstamp documenting Blood's immediate service well after the Holiday.
- 15) Whereas New York private posts and carrier department were able to maintain two cents single service, Philadelphia's highly competitive market rate had been reduced to one cent, but one where only Blood's Penny Post and the Carrier Department was able to survive for very long.

### 15L15 Summary

During the first half of the 1840's competition between government and private postal service had become existential, and by mid-1845 the Federal Government prevailed for intercity mail. Within four years angst redirected to several large cities and control of local letter service. Perhaps the greatest federal challenge was Blood's Despatch in Philadelphia. By early 1848 Blood's huge volume discounts had reduced much of the service to one cent. Also, by late April 1848 another private post sold the first one cent denominated stamps "Telegraph Despatch **P.O. 1 CT.**" By January 8, 1849 Blood's Despatch offered flat one cent single service prepaid stamps. Two months later Washington informally "Re-organized" the few carrier departments to reduce their fees in half, and each sold their own prepaid carrier department stamps for one cent. Two years later The postal Act of March 3, 1851 included universal federal carrier stamps. On May 2, 1851 Blood's proprietors boldly proposed they provide all Philadelphia intra-city letter service with deliveries every two hours. Although Washington manipulated carrier fees further, the tight competitive market in Philadelphia required their carrier department disobey and continue two years of ongoing "**one cent for all services.**"<sup>94</sup>

By **Spring 1852** Blood's Penny Post arrived on prepaid 15L15 stamps. The earliest recorded ~~Penny Post~~ 15L15 stamp has been arbitrarily selected as the philatelic beginning of Blood's Penny Post, May 13, 1852. A few weeks earlier by April 6, 1852 Blood's Despatch had agreed to reinstate collect door delivery at 2 cents, with the exception of Valentines and outbound mail. All of a sudden an apparent self-contradicting new company named Blood's Penny Post provided collect service for two cents.

By August 10, 1852 Blood's Penny Post reached **500 collection boxes** in various commercial places along their 12 mile circuit. By September 11, 1852 the company moved within the Arcade Building, from number 30 to number 15, on Chesnut Street between 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. Many small competing private posts, such as Teese Penny Post in mid-September 1852, sold prepaid stamps for one cent which incredibly mimicked Blood's size and shape and name.

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<sup>94</sup> Vernon R. Morris Jr., MD, "Two Philadelphia Eagle Carrier Cancellation Discoveries, New LRD, and a New Theory," *The Penny Post*, Vol. 17, No. 2, Whole No. 67, April 2009, pages 2, 4, 5, 17, 23, 24.

While the new company name was successful and long lasting, recently introduced handstamps retained Blood's Despatch. Type 17 and 19 were dominant for many years. The former confirmed date and time and appeared by October 2, 1851; the later also included the year, and became its successor in the fall of 1854.

A data base of 143 covers has been assembled, from which 140 genuine examples have been identified, 139 photographed (67% in color), and 134 destinations identified. The earliest recorded *Penny Post* 15L15 was date certain tied **May 13, 1852**. Greatest business activity clustered from **April 16, (1853) until January 7, (1858)**, 4 years 4 months. If far outliers are included *Penny Post* 15L15 philatelic lifespan was much longer, five and one half years, from **May 13, 1852 until August 13, 1858**, 6 years 3 months. The latest recorded date certain cover is a very far outlier **August 6, 1861**. Quantitative analysis revealed 1853 through 1854 were the years of greatest presence. Furthermore, a period of virtually exclusive service with no other issue actively at play existed from **July 12, 1853 through February 13, 1854**. Data has produced evidence of 2 genuine examples during 1852, one year earlier than classified by the *Scott Catalogue*.

The evidence in **Table I** confirms the clear majority of serviced outbound letters. From the entire data base **65% were outbound post office letters** and 35% city letters; the cluster period was about the same. Mid-century trend toward envelopes increased and reached over 80% of 15L15 covers.

Over **99% were cancelled**, virtually all by **Blood's acid**. Furthermore, auxiliary markings also appeared on **99%** of 15L15 covers, and averaged almost two markings per cover, about equal government versus Blood's. **94% were tied** to their cover, an exceedingly high amount. Blood's Penny Post cancel tied 90% of the data base. Government only markings accidentally tied 4%. **86% included a Blood's handstamp**.

Given no mechanical separation from panes, all were manual; the great majority cut, and very few torn. Size, shape, and Penny Post name were copied by many small competing private posts, such as Teese Penny Post. Blood's rectangular shapes accounted for 99%, and only two were an unintentional trapezoidal configuration.

Advertising labels were becoming a thing of the past, and no longer appear on Blood's Penny Post covers.

Almost **50%** of *Penny Post* 15L15 stamps were in combination with prepaid government postage. Most were 3 cent general issue, virtually all imperforate; one example combined with a 1 cent government stamps. For the first time in this series, combination with government postage occurred with postal stationary rather than adhesive stamps. Eight examples were all subsequent to the July 7, 1853 release of Nesbitt envelopes.

Almost **3% to foreign** destinations: 3 transatlantic covers, and one to Canada. For only a second time was a Blood's cover addressed to California.

Special Messenger service for large valentines had been becoming an emerging specialty. An in-depth analysis and plausible explanations have been proposed for Blood's private special handling *modus operandi*, from four very pertinent 15L15 and two contemporary 15L13 survivors. Probably no other private

post of the 1850's including those in New York had quite engineered such specialized registered local service.

Short biographies of the two enterprising proprietors have been included at this pivotal time in the history of such an incredible company. They stood up to the formidable Federal Government, even proposing to take over their Philadelphia letter distribution operation. Quite the opposite of 1842 New York when the carrier department purchased Greig's City Despatch. Even at one cent service, Blood's Penny Post survived and remained top dog in a tough city to carry on the fight. "Neither snow nor rain nor heat **nor fire** nor gloom of night stays Blood's messengers from the swift completion of appointed rounds" should have appeared over the Arcade Building, several doors away from Independence Hall.



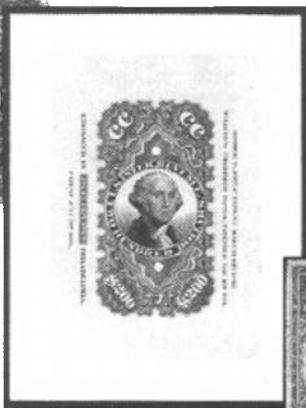
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