

THE TELEGRAPH IN AMERICA 1846-1872

GEORGE JAY KRAMER

AS RECEIVED BY  
THE EXHIBITION PHOTOCOPY COMMITTEE  
OF THE  
U.S. PHILATELIC CLASSICS SOCIETY, INC.  
19 JANUARY 1993

# THE TELEGRAPH IN AMERICA

## THE CLASSIC PERIOD 1846 - EARLY 1870'S

IN 1844, AN EXPERIMENTAL LINE WAS CONSTRUCTED BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND BALTIMORE UNDER THE GENERAL DIRECTION OF THE POSTAL DEPARTMENT. ALTHOUGH THE POSTAL DEPARTMENT DID NOT EXERCISE ITS RIGHTS TO PURCHASE THE TELEGRAPH PATENT OF SAMUEL F.B. MORSE, THE POSTAL SERVICE AND / OR LOCAL POSTS WERE FREQUENTLY EMPLOYED TO DELIVER TELEGRAPH MESSAGES TO OR FROM TELEGRAPH OFFICES. AS MOST EASTERN CITIES SOON HAD CONNECTING TELEGRAPH SERVICE, THE POSTAL SYSTEM WAS ALSO USED BETWEEN A RURAL AREA AND A CITY IN ORDER TO INITIATE OR COMPLETE THE TRANSMISSION OF A MESSAGE.

THE UNITED STATES WAS UNIQUE IN THAT IT WAS THE ONLY COUNTRY IN THE WORLD WHICH DID NOT INTEGRATE THE TELEGRAPH INTO ITS POSTAL SYSTEM. IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT THE CONFEDERATE STATES DID INTEGRATE THE TELEGRAPH INTO ITS POSTAL SYSTEM.

THE PURPOSE OF THIS EXHIBIT IS TWOFOLD:

FIRST, TO PRESENT AN ORDERLY PROGRESSION OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE TELEGRAPH.

SECOND, TO DEMONSTRATE THE CLOSE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TELEGRAPH AND THE POST AS WELL AS THE MUTUAL DEPENDENCE OF EACH TO THE OTHER.

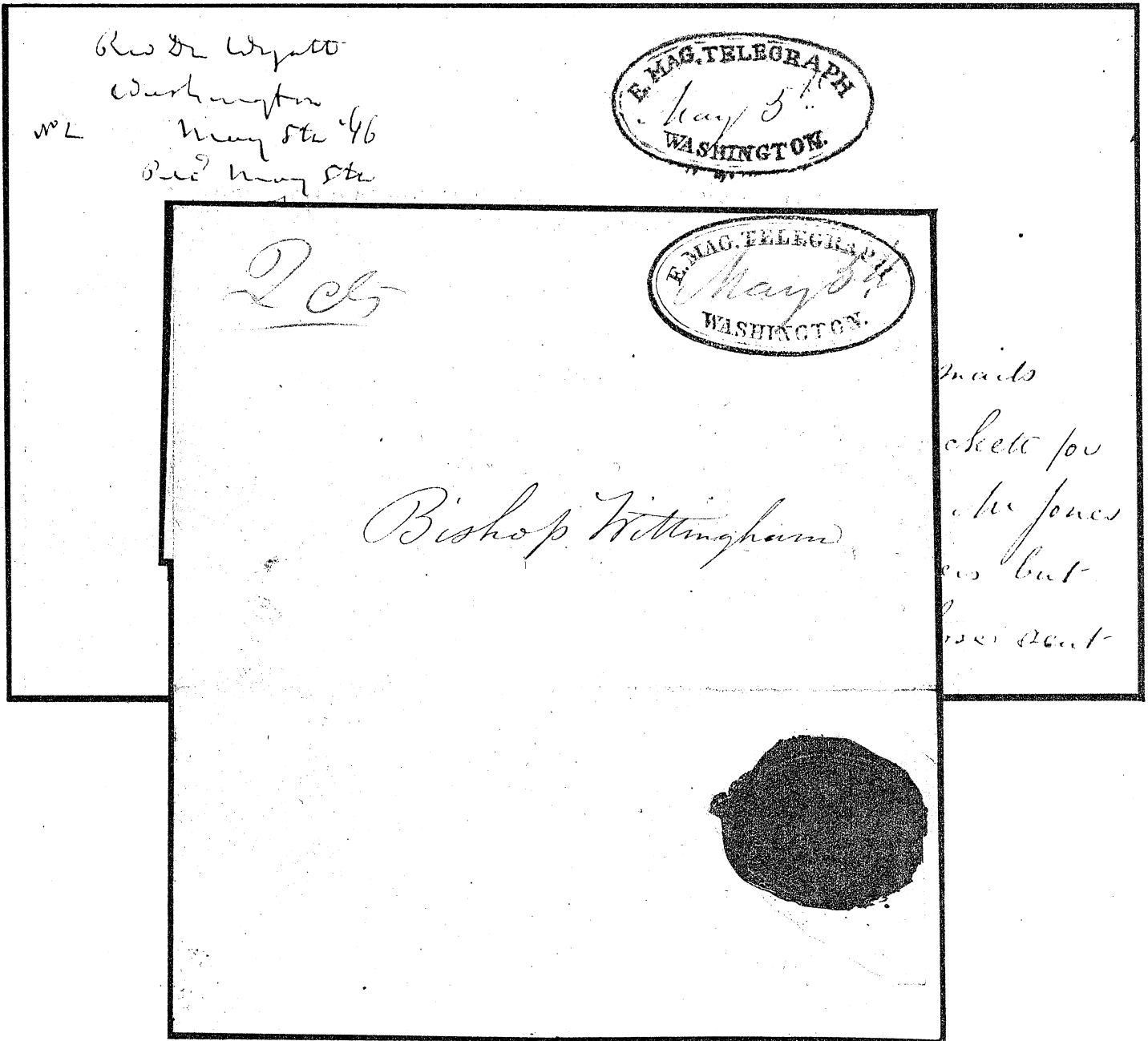
FRAME I	U.S. GOVERNMENT EXPERIMENTAL LINE	1846
	MORSE, BAIN AND HOUSE COMPANIES	1847 - 1854
FRAME II	EARLY ENTREPRENEURS	1847 - 1854
	VERMONT AND BOSTON LINE	
FRAME III	CONSOLIDATIONS	1851 - 1856
	THE LINK TO THE CANADAS	
	INDEPENDENT COMPANIES	
FRAME IV	AMERICAN TELEGRAPH COMPANY	1856 - 1864
	WESTERN UNION	
	INDEPENDENTS	
FRAME V	CONFEDERATE STATES TELEGRAPH SYSTEM	1861 - 1865
	UNION STATES TELEGRAPH SYSTEM	1861 - 1864
FRAME IV	UNION STATES TELEGRAPH SYSTEM	1863 - 1865
	POST WAR	1865 - 1872

THREE OR LESS RECORDED ARE DENOTED BY 13



ELECTRO MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH  
(THE U.S. GOVERNMENT EXPERIMENTAL LINE)

MAY 6, 1846



WASHINGTON  
BALTIMORE

BY WIRE  
TWO CENTS "PENNY POST" DELIVERY

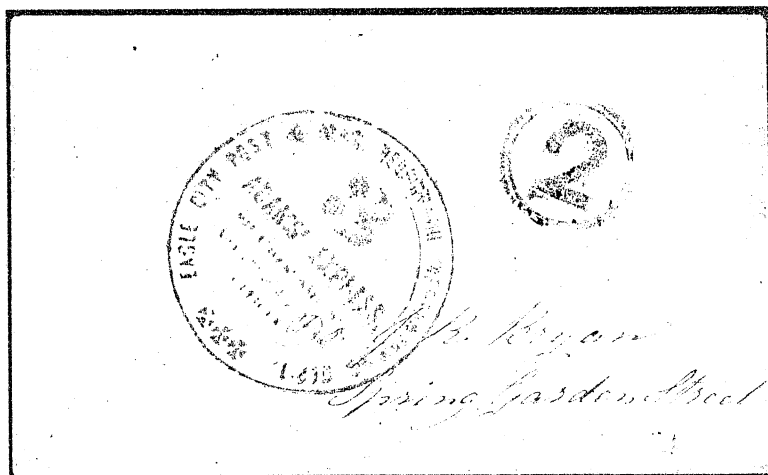
BALTIMORE  
ADDRESSEE

"UPON THE RECEPTION OF A DISPATCH AT EITHER OFFICE IT SHALL BE THE DUTY OF THE OFFICERS TO HAVE THE SAME TRANSLATED IN A FAIR HANDWRITING, CAREFULLY ENVELOPED AND SEALED, AND AND THE MAGNETIC CHARACTERS IMMEDIATELY DESTROYED, AND TO PLACE THE DISPATCH IN THE HANDS OF THE PENNY POST FOR DELIVERY, WHO SHALL BE ENTITLED TO RECEIVE THE SAME COMPENSATION THEREFORE AS FOR THE DELIVERY OF LETTERS TRANSMITTED NOW BY MAIL." - U.S. POSTMASTER GENERAL, MARCH 29, 1846.

THE RECEIVING OPERATOR STRUCK THE COPIED MESSAGE AND FACE WITH THE NAME OF THE PLACE OF ORIGIN.

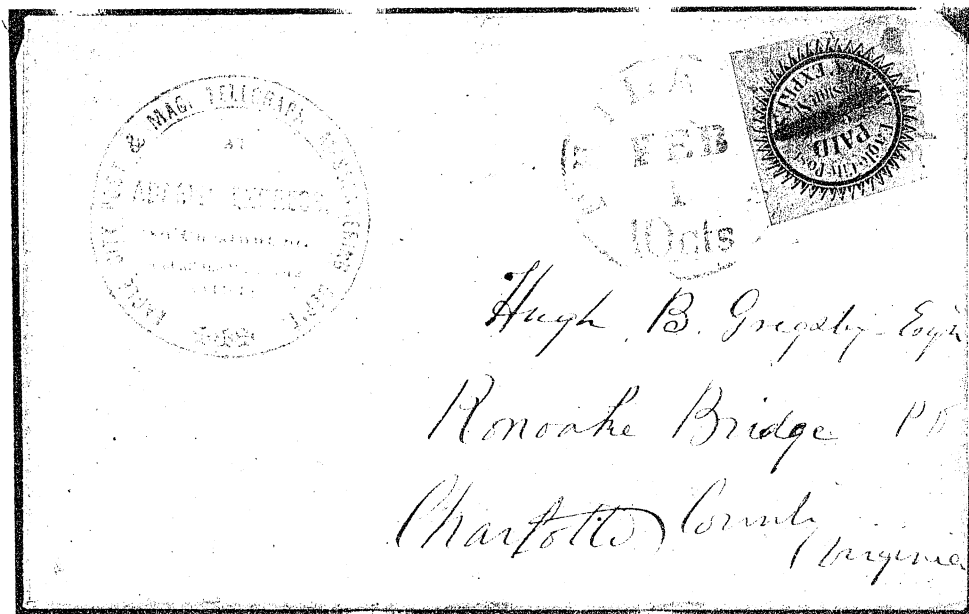
ALTHOUGH THE LINE WAS OPEN FROM APRIL, 1845 UNTIL APRIL, 1847, RECEIPTS WERE SMALL. CONGRESS DECLINED THE OFFER TO PURCHASE AND THE LINE WAS LEASED TO THE MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

# EAGLE CITY POST & MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH



THESE COVERS FROM PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA ILLUSTRATE THE INTERTWINING OF THE TELEGRAPH, POST, AND PRIVATE EXPRESS COMPANIES.

THE ABOVE 1847 STAMPLESS COVER ALSO BEARS A "2" CENT CARRIERS DELIVERY MARKING.



THIS 1848 PERIOD COVER ILLUSTRATES THE EAGLE CITY POST LOCAL STAMP ADDITIONALLY TIED BY THE 10 CENT PHILADELPHIA POSTMARK.

# REGULATIONS, TARIFF, &C., OF THE "NEW-YORK, ALBANY, AND BUFFALO ELECTRO MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

Office hours for receiving communications, from 8 A. M. to 8 P. M., daily, (Sundays excepted, being closed).  
Every message is treated as strictly confidential.  
Communications for transmission must be PLAINLY written with INK, and no figures used except date and number of street.

No charge is made for the address or signature, and it is desirable that they be given IN FULL, to ensure prompt delivery. The operator is often blamed because messages are not PROMPTLY ANSWERED, therefore the messengers are instructed to receive answers to every communication they deliver, if possible, but they must not be DETAINED. Persons will confer a favor upon the telegraph as well as their correspondents, by answering immediately.

The Messengers are not allowed to collect for delivery, within a reasonable distance from any office.  
Pre-payment is invariably required, except in cases where "ANSWER PAID" is written on the communication received.

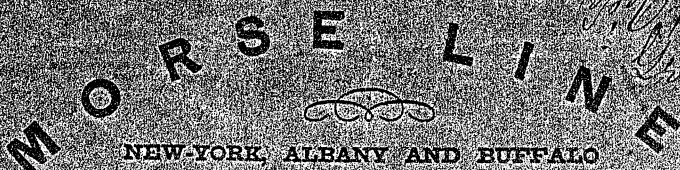
The Directors assume no responsibility in business transactions over this line, beyond the exercise of good faith and due diligence and the price paid for transmission.

Messages destined for other lines, will be promptly despatched and the money entrusted to us paid over, after which we cannot be held responsible for any remissness in transmission or otherwise.

No precedence allowed in transmitting, except in cases of sickness or death and reports for the press.  
The Chief Operator, at each station, will be held responsible for the faithful attention to and transmission of all business entrusted to his office, and is instructed to see that all rules and regulations of the Company are strictly observed.

## GENERAL TARIFF OF THE LINE.

For 150 miles and under, - - -	20	cents	for	10	words,	and	1	cent	for	each	additional	word.
Over 150 and under 300 miles, - 30	"	"	"	10	"	"	2	"	"	"	"	"
For 300 miles and over, - - - - - 40	"	"	"	10	"	"	3	"	"	"	"	"



**MORSE LINE**

NEW-YORK, ALBANY AND BUFFALO

**ELECTRO MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH COMPANY.**

OFFICE, IN THE POST OFFICE, VALATIE.

*P. W. Burroughs*  
*Dr. M. J. M. M. M.*  
*Am.*

*Wm. M. Stephentown*

*Ph. W.*

*Ref.*

If an answer is required please send it to this office without delay.

— BY TELEGRAPH — VALATIE, NEW YORK  
VALATIE, NEW YORK — U.S. MAIL — STEPHENTOWN FLATTS, NEW YORK

THIS WAS THE FIRST COMMERCIAL LINE OPENED IN AMERICA ON NOVEMBER 7, 1845.

NEW YORK AND BOSTON MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH COMPANY

J. A. Bogan  
Oct 1. 1846

New York and Boston Magnetic Telegraph Office.

SPRINGFIELD, GOODRICH'S BUILDINGS.

*Chas. D. Bogan* Oct 1 1846

SIR:—The following communication has just been received by Telegraph for you,

from

*Hartford*

to wit:

*Sir Please send by*

*first train to Morrow Morning 1 Dozen Hammers  
Saw letter. 1 Dozen 6 inch Sweep  
7 inch Sweep Saws*

*Yours*

*J. A. Bogan  
Hartford*

HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

THE SECOND TELEGRAPH COMPANY WAS COMPLETED JUNE 27, 1846. ABOVE IS THE OLDEST RECORDED COVER (FOLDED LETTER FORM) OF THIS COMPANY.

NEW YORK AND BOSTON MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH COMPANY

New York and Boston Magnetic Telegraph Office,

CORNER MAIN AND PEARL STREETS, HARTFORD.

*The following was just received at this Office.*

*New York Mar 22 1848.*  
*Eliza Correll*

From the Hartford Office of the  
New York and Boston Telegraph Company,  
Corner of Main & Pearl Streets.

*Eliza Correll Esq*  
*Portland Conn.*

NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT  
PORTLAND, CONNECTICUT

THIS VITAL "MORSE" COMPANY WOULD SERVE AS THE MAIN TRUNK FOR TRANSMITTING NEWS FROM THE STEAMERS WHICH ARRIVED AT HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA FROM EUROPE. IT WAS CONSOLIDATED AS PART OF THE NEW YORK AND NEW ENGLAND UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY IN 1852.

# WASHINGTON & NEW ORLEANS TELEGRAPH COMPANY

Charge from	Words	Rate
Washington, Va.	10	1.00
Fredericksburg, Va.	21	1.10
Richmond, Va.	27	1.20
Charlottesville, Va.	32	1.30
Leesburg, Va.	39	1.40
Norfolk, Va.	41	1.50
Hampton, Va.	47	1.60
Suffolk, Va.	49	1.70
Smithfield, Va.	50	1.80
Washington, D.C.	50	1.90
Blacksburg, Va.	51	2.00
Farmville, N.C.	52	2.10
Greensboro, N.C.	53	2.20
Charlotte, N.C.	54	2.30
Charlotte, S.C.	55	2.40
Charleston, S.C.	56	2.50
Augusta, Ga.	57	2.60
Savannah, Ga.	58	2.70
Macon, Ga.	59	2.80
Orlando, Fla.	60	2.90
Albany, Ga.	61	3.00
Atlanta, Ga.	62	3.10
Mobile, Ala.	63	3.20
Montgomery, Ala.	64	3.30
Meridian, Miss.	65	3.40
Memphis, Tenn.	66	3.50
St. Louis, Mo.	67	3.60
St. Paul, Minn.	68	3.70
Chicago, Ill.	69	3.80
Indianapolis, Ind.	70	3.90
Cincinnati, Ohio	71	4.00
Columbus, Ohio	72	4.10
Dayton, Ohio	73	4.20
Cleveland, Ohio	74	4.30
Pittsburgh, Pa.	75	4.40
Philadelphia, Pa.	76	4.50
New York, N.Y.	77	4.60
Boston, Mass.	78	4.70
Providence, R.I.	79	4.80
New Haven, Conn.	80	4.90
New Orleans, La.	81	5.00

**Washington & New Orleans Telegraph,**  
**THE ONLY DIRECT SOUTHERN LINE.**  
**Office, Corner of Seventh & D Streets, Washington City, D. C.**  
**DELIVERY FREE.**

*H. L. Latimer*  
*P. B. Dismore*  
*Southwestern Telegraph and*  
*Washington*  
*Collect 9.10*

*W. G. H. H.*

THIS COMPANY WAS INCORPORATED MARCH 20, 1847 IN VIRGINIA. THE "COLLECT \$9.10" ON THE ABOVE COVER INDICATES A LENGTHY MESSAGE OF 81 WORDS; \$2.00 FOR THE FIRST 10 WORDS, AND TEN CENTS EACH FOR 71 ADDITIONAL WORDS. THE LOWER COVER WAS POSTED AT MACON, GEORGIA IN THE LATE 1840'S. THE COMPANY WAS LEASED TO "THE MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH COMPANY" ON JULY 16, 1856.

From the Office of the *Public Affairs*

**Washington & New Orleans Magnetic Telegraph Company.**

*cover check for \$750.00* **MACON, GA.**  
*and check for \$100.00*

*Mr. Herman S. Telfer*  
*Principal Female Seminary*  
*Richmond, Va.*



THE MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH COMPANY,  
101 Chesnut Street,  
QUINCY GRANITE BUILDINGS,  
NORTH SIDE, SECOND STORY, FRONT ROOM.  
BETWEEN NEW YORK, PHILADELPHIA, BALTIMORE, WASHINGTON,  
*A. S. Brown & Co.*  
*No 26 N. Front St.*  
MORSE'S { And Intermediate Stations, connecting with all Morse's Lines of  
TELEGRAPH  
NORTH, SOUTH, EAST AND WEST. } LINE.

THE MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH COMPANY,  
MORSE LINE,  
BETWEEN PHILADELPHIA, NEW YORK, BALTIMORE AND WASHINGTON.  
Office in Washington, National Hotel, Penn'a Avenue, corner Sixth St.

Godsland Dec 4

P. R. Fendall

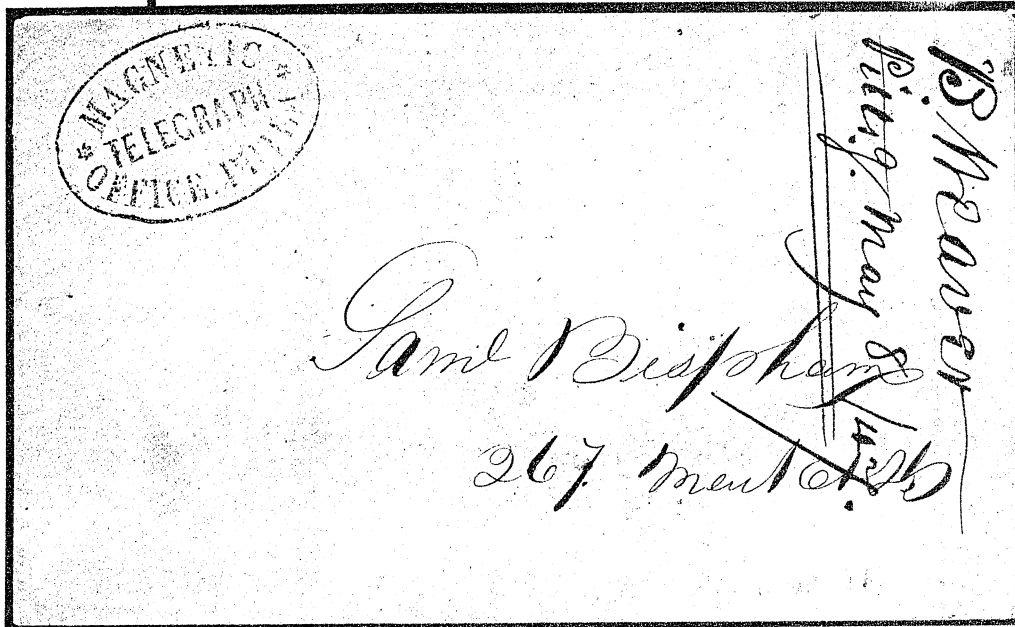
Opposite City Hall

Stations:—Wilmington, Trenton, Havre de Grace, Port Deposit, New Hope, Princeton,  
New Brunswick, Newark and Jersey City. This Line connects with the Southern Line to  
Charleston, Mobile and New Orleans; The Western, Pottsville, Easton, and other Morse Lines.

NEW YORK: PUBLISHED BY J. B. BAKER.

THE MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH COMPANY

Pittsburg May 17  
Saml. Bishopham

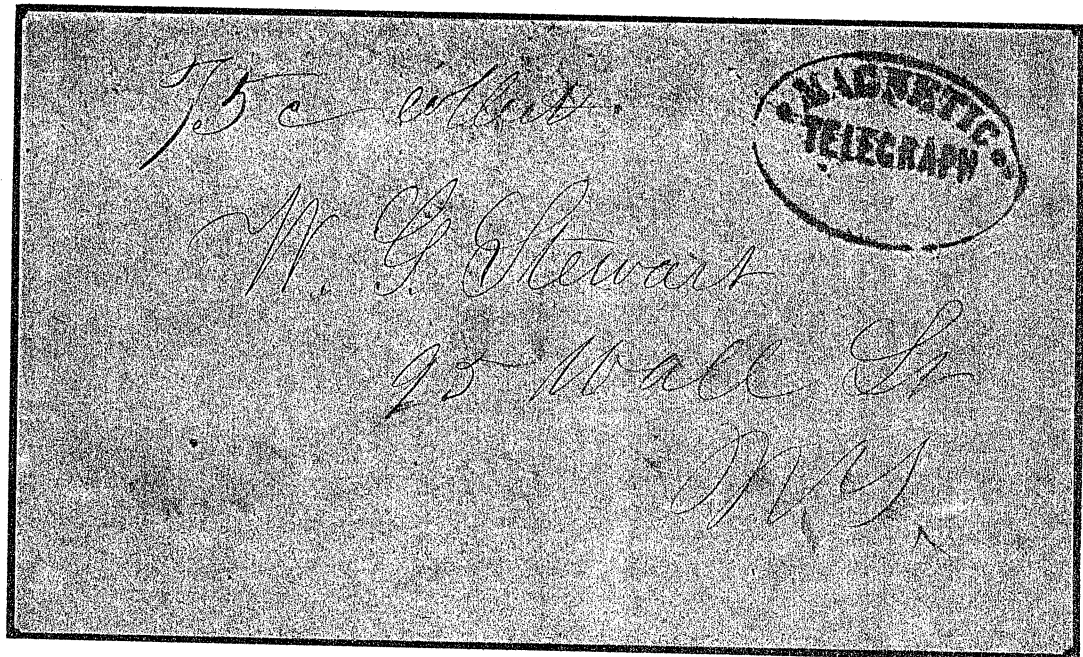


ONE OF THE EARLIEST MESSAGES TRANSMITTED FROM MID-AMERICA. NOTE THE SPELLING OF PITTSBURG(H).



MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH COMPANY

CIRCA 1847

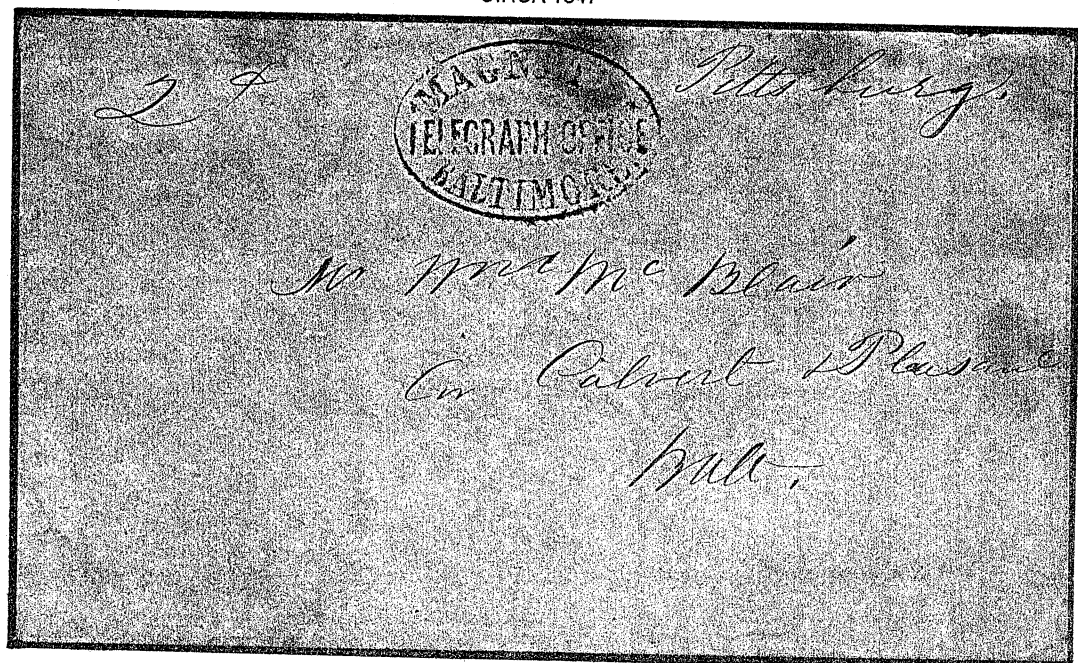


RECEIVING STRIKE OF THE NEW YORK CITY OFFICE

RATE: 75 CENTS COLLECT

M/S ON REAR SIDE: "message sent 1/4 to 12  
ans recd at 1/2 past 3 o'clock"

CIRCA 1847



BY WIRE FROM PITTSBURG(H)

2 CENTS LOCAL DELIVERY (COLLECT)

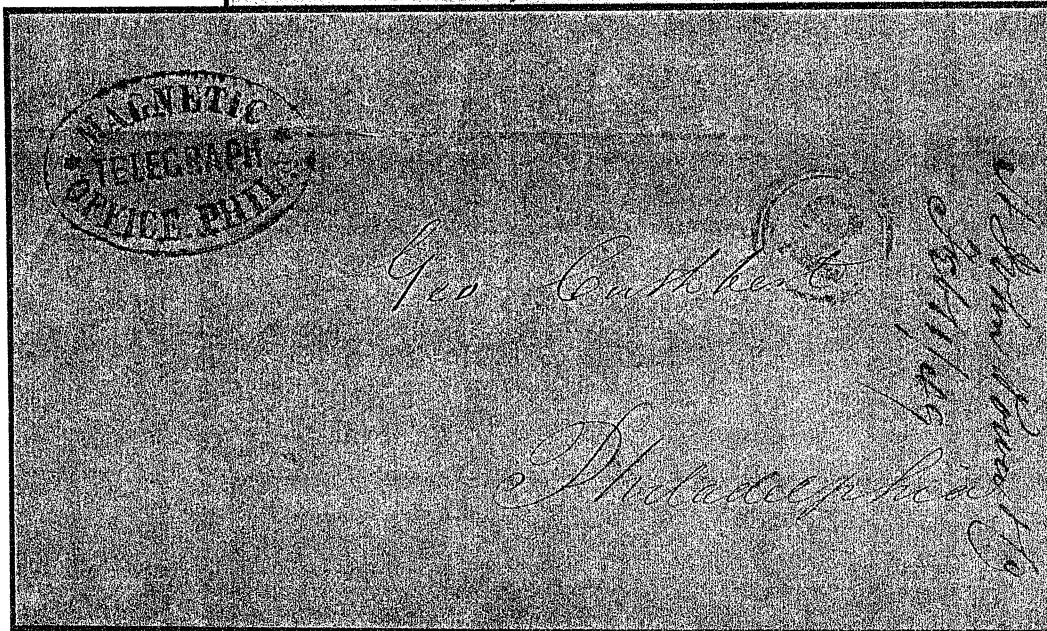
BALTIMORE

SOUTHERN MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH

Southern Magnetic Telegraph,

No. 5 Hanover-St. Cor. of Beaver.

The following communication was received at  
this office, at 9 o'clock, 32 min. A. M. Feb 13  
Dated, Mobile Feb 11<sup>th</sup> 1849.  
Geo. Cuthbert

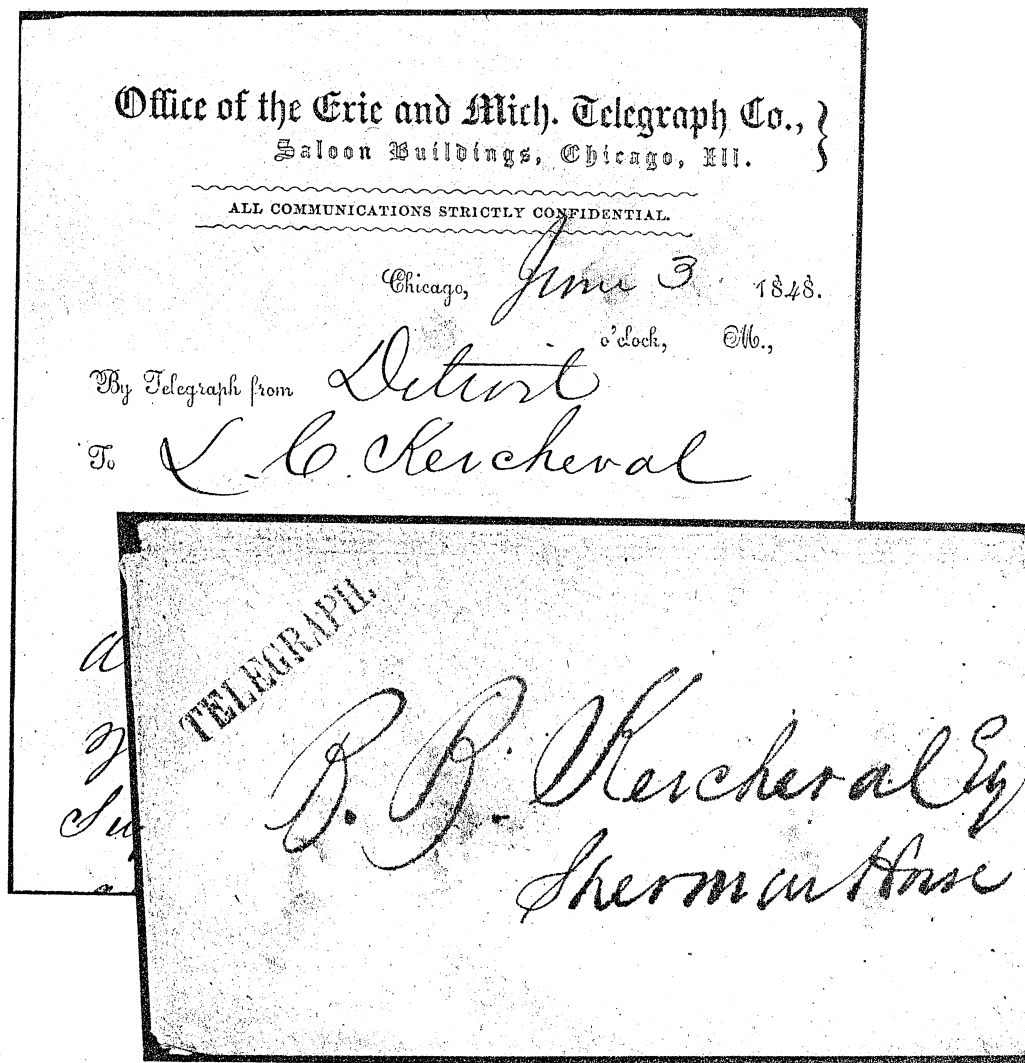


MOBILE, ALABAMA  
2 CENTS LOCAL DELIVERY

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA  
ADDRESSEE

THE FORM IS FROM THE NEW YORK CITY OFFICE, ALTHOUGH THE COVER IS OF THE PHILA-  
DELPHIA OFFICE.

ERIE AND MICHIGAN TELEGRAPH CO.



DETROIT, MICHIGAN

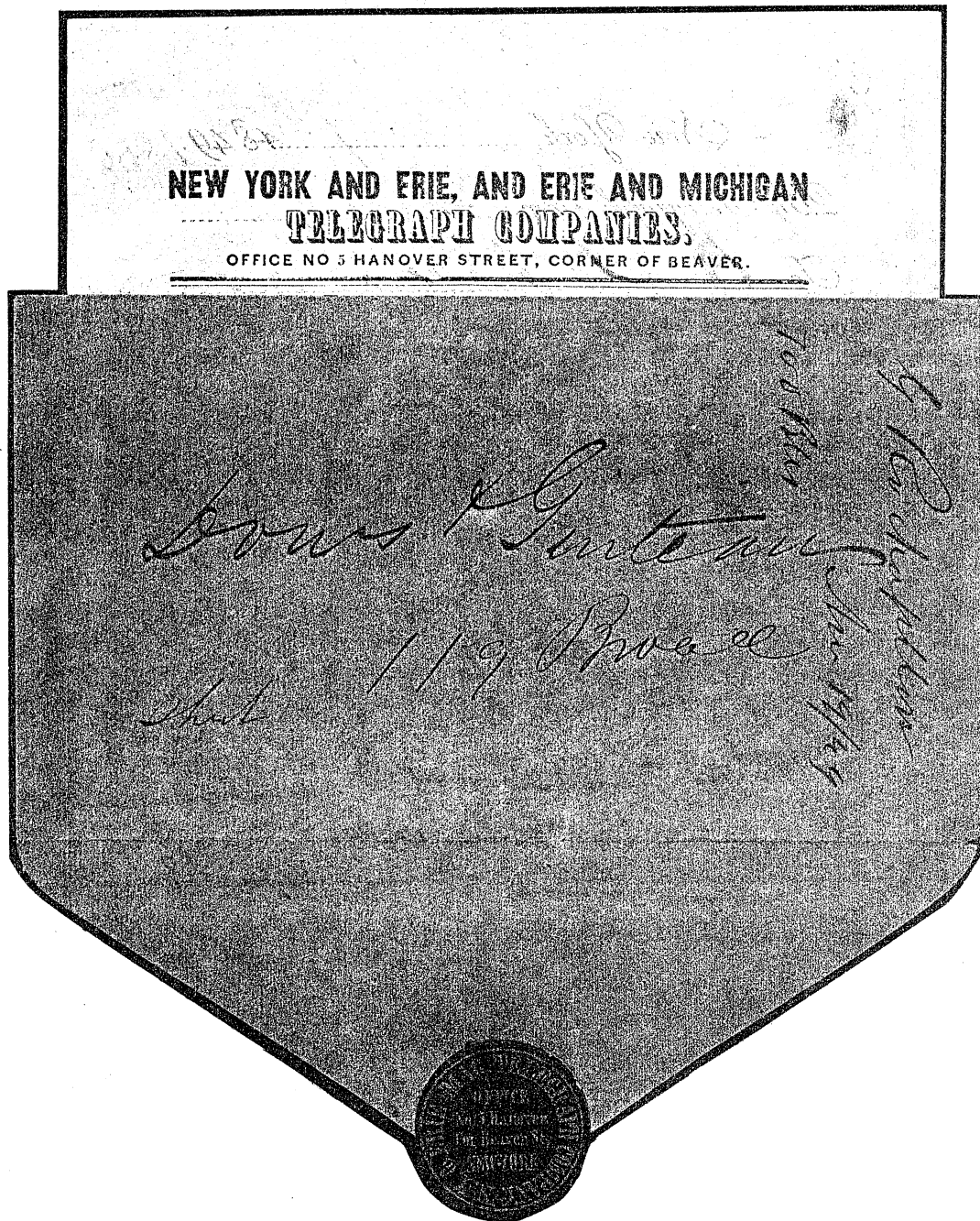
—

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

ONE OF THE EARLIEST KNOWN MIDWESTERN COMPLETE TELEGRAPH MESSAGE  
AND COVERS. THIS COVER COULD BE CONSIDERED PROVISIONAL IN NATURE.

NEW YORK AND ERIE MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH COMPANY

NOVEMBER 19, 1849



CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

—

NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK

THIS WAS THE FIRST MORSE COMPANY TO PROBE TO THE MIDWEST. IT WAS ALSO THE FIRST COMPANY TO USE A SEALING LABEL.



THE MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH COMPANY



The Magnetic Telegraph Company,

BETWEEN

New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Washington,

Connecting with the Southern, Western, Eastern, and Northern Lines of Morse's Telegraphs.

To the Telegraphing Public.

Please write plainly; answer quickly; PRE-PAY; use no figures, except dates, they cost more; give name, street, and number of the party addressed, to insure prompt delivery; also your own address under your signature; no charge for address and signature. The above is for your safety as well as our convenience.

Office in BALTIMORE.....No. 2 Merchants' Exchange, South Gay-st.  
 " WASHINGTON.....Cor. of Louisiana Avenue and Sixth-st.  
 " PHILADELPHIA.....Quincy Granite Building, No. 101 Chestnut-st.  
 " NEW YORK.....No. 5 Hanover-street, cor. of Beaver-st.

By Telegraph, dated New York Mar 20 1850.

Rec'd, Philadelphia, 1850, o'clock, min, M.

To N. Trotter Esq

From the Office of

The Magnetic Telegraph Company.

No. 31 Merchants Exchange, Phila.

Have brought in the  
 not long ago paper

N. Trotter Esq  
 Front St bet  
 Market & Arch

NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK

— PHILADELPHIA PENNSYLVANIA

THE ADDRESS ON THE FORM IS DIFFERENT THAN THE ADDRESS ON THE COVER.

THE NEW YORK CITY ADDRESS IS THE SAME AS THE NEW YORK AND ERIE MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

THE MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH COMPANY

**MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH COMPANY,  
MORSE LINE,**

BETWEEN PHILADELPHIA, READING & POTTSVILLE.

OFFICE IN PHILADELPHIA, at No. 21 Merchant's Exchange, (second floor.)

" READING, Rail Road Passenger Depot.

" POTTSVILLE, Pennsylvania Hall.

*C. Tower Esq*

WAY STATIONS.—Port Richmond, Falls of Schuylkill, Norristown, Phoenixville, Pottstown, Port Clinton, and Mount Carbon. Also connects with Line to Minersville.

COVERS OF THE EARLY 1850'S. THIS COMPANY WAS ACQUIRED BY THE AMERICAN TELEGRAPH COMPANY IN 1859.

MORSE'S TELEGRAPH.

OFFICE,  
No. 11 Main Street,  
SPRINGFIELD, MASS.

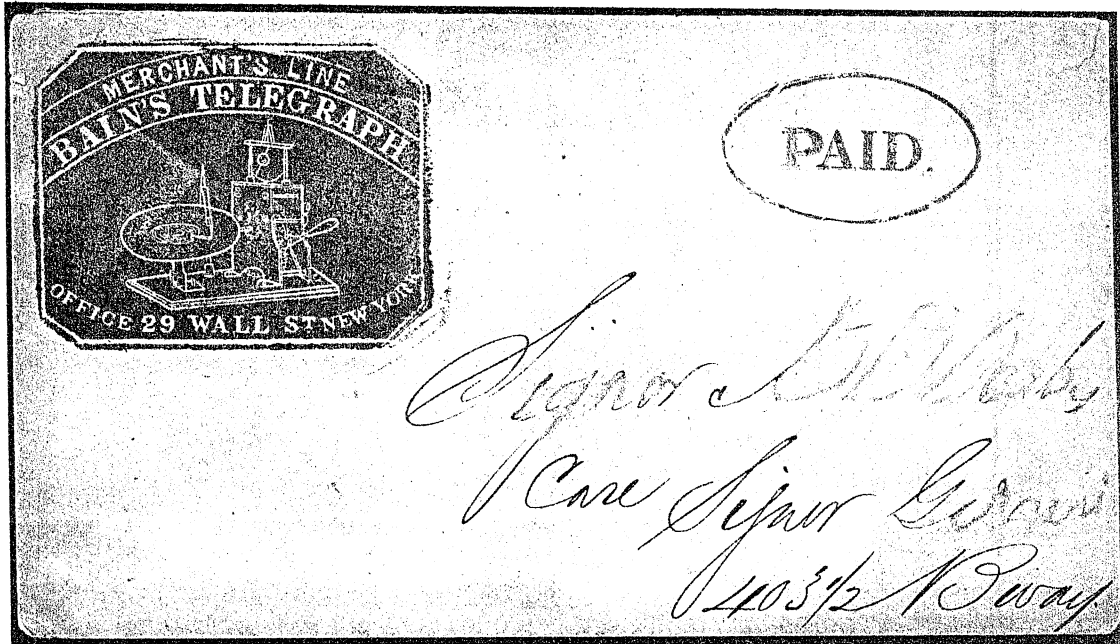
*40 St coll*

*D. E. Foster Esq*

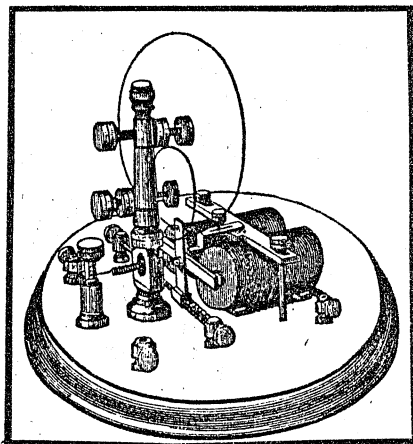
THERE WERE TWO OTHER SUCCESSFUL EARLY TELEGRAPH PATENTEES, - ALEXANDER BAIN AND ROYAL E. HOUSE. EACH PRESENTED FORMIDABLE COMPETITION TO MORSE. ALEXANDER BAIN'S SYSTEM MADE USE OF POTASSIUM AND DID NOT DEPEND UPON MAGNETIC CURRENT WHICH SOMETIMES PLAGUED THE MORSE CONCEPT.

## BAIN'S TELEGRAPH

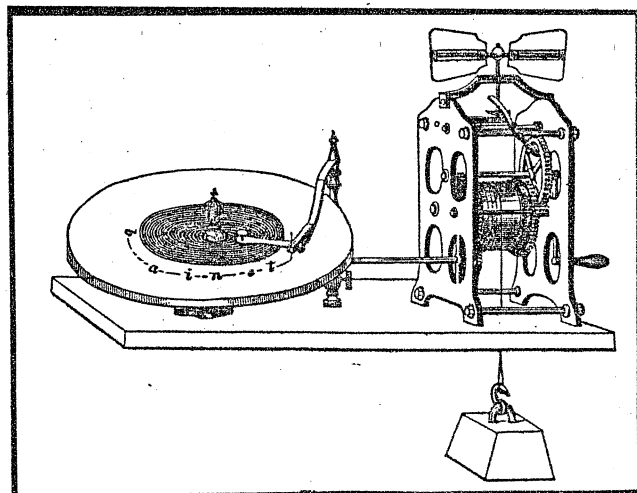
CIRCA 1849



USING THE BAIN SYSTEM, "MERCHANTS LINE" OPERATED BETWEEN BOSTON AND NEW YORK.



BAIN SENDING AND RECEIVING  
INSTRUMENTS



MERCHANTS LINE



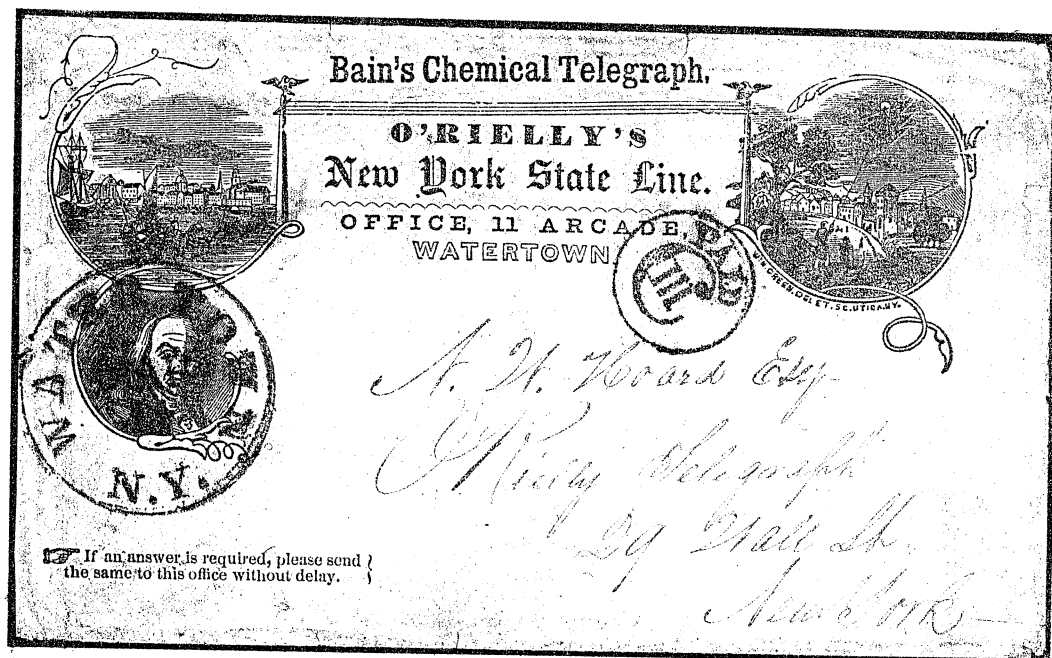
MERCHANTS LINE WAS THE SECOND COMPANY TO EMPLOY SEALING LABELS.

THE LOWER COVER WAS RECEIVED IN NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK AND THEN PLACED IN THE U.S. MAILS TO THE ADDRESSEE.





# BAINS ELECTRO - CHEMICAL TELEGRAPH



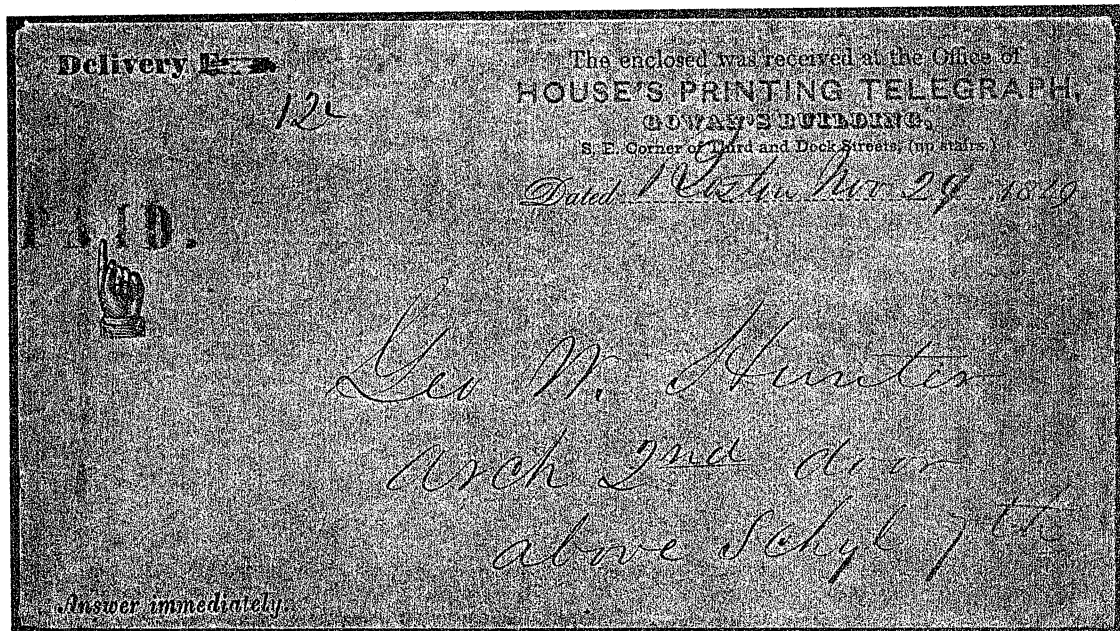
ALTHOUGH ALEXANDER BAIN HAD INVENTED A VIABLE TELEGRAPH CONCEPT, THE MORSE INTEREST BROUGHT SUIT AGAINST HIM FOR AN INFRINGEMENT UPON THEIR SYSTEM. A CLOSE FRIEND, HENRY O'REILLY, ENCOURAGED BAIN TO CARRY HIS CASE TO THE SUPREME COURT. WHEN BAIN AND MORSE SETTLED THEIR PATENT DISPUTE, O'REILLY SUBSEQUENTLY RECEIVED SOME VERY PROFITABLE EASTERN CONTRACTS INCLUDING "THE NEW YORK STATE LINE" ILLUSTRATED ABOVE. THIS COVER POST-MARKED WATERTOWN, NY HAS A FANCY "PAID III" COIN CANCEL.

BAIN'S CONCEPT WAS EMPLOYED FROM 1849 TO 1852.



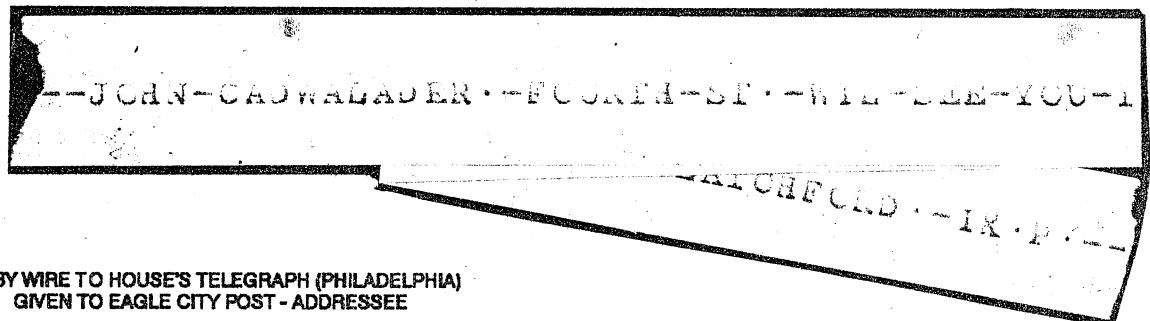
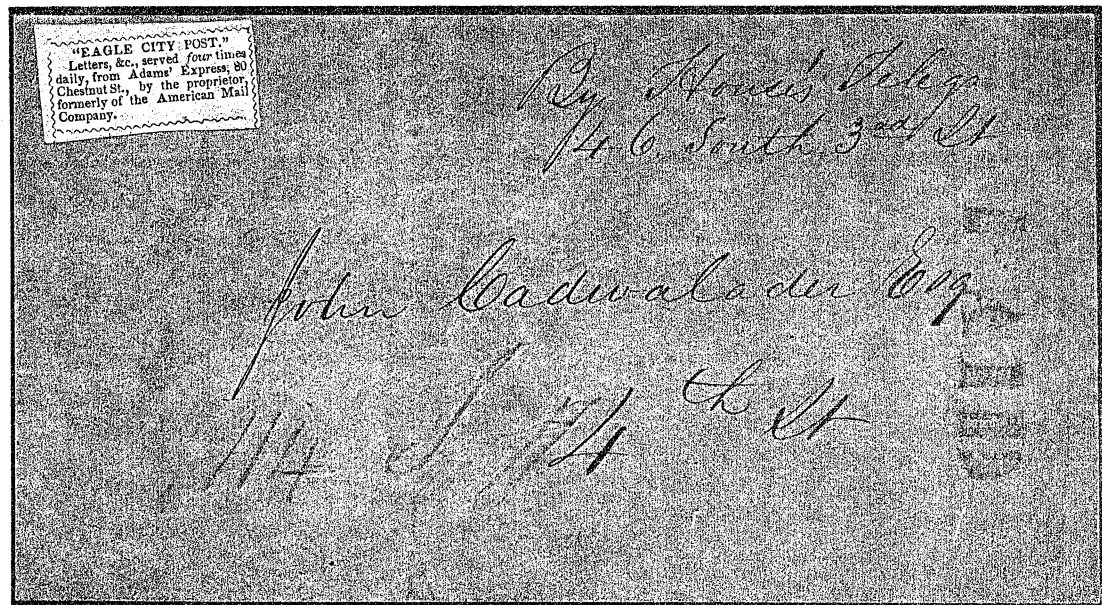
# HOUSE'S PRINTING TELEGRAPH

NOVEMBER 24, 1849



IN 1848, ROYAL E. HOUSE OF VERMONT WAS GRANTED A PATENT ON AN INGENIOUS PRINTING INSTRUMENT. INSTEAD OF RECORDING MESSAGES IN THE FORM OF DOTS AND DASHES THAT HAD TO BE LABORIOUSLY TRANSLATED, HIS PRINTED DIRECTLY ONTO A PAPER TAPE IN ROMAN LETTERS.

TYPE "A" TAPE - 3 MM. HIGH (CIRCA 1849)



BY WIRE TO HOUSE'S TELEGRAPH (PHILADELPHIA)  
GIVEN TO EAGLE CITY POST - ADDRESSEE

# HOUSE'S PRINTING TELEGRAPH

Please answer immediately

Delivery



This is the only **DIRECT** and **RELIABLE** line to New York, connecting with Boston, Buffalo, and intermediate stations.

**HOUSE'S PRINTING TELEGRAPH,**  
VAN DYKE'S BUILDING,  
South East corner of THIRD & CHESTNUT Streets.

The enclosed was received, Dated *Wilmington Nov 6* 1852

*Mr Nicholson*  
*Paid* *P. O. N. 5<sup>th</sup> St*

MILLER. LETS HAVE A BIG TIME. CANT GET THE H

NICHOLSON. ESQR. XCVI. NORTH

TYPE "C" TAPE - 2 1/2 MM. HIGH (CIRCA 1854)  
(SMALLER AND SHARPER)

## "HOUSE'S LIGHTNING PRINTING TELEGRAPH."

New York, Central New Jersey, and Pennsylvania Company's Line,

Connecting with the Northern, Eastern, and Canadian Lines, at New York city, with the Southern, Western, and Pennsylvania Lines, at Doyestown and Easton—the latter connection including all the towns on the Susquehanna river and its branches—making



the cheapest, most expeditious, and reliable series of telegraphic connections now existing.

CAUTION.—Write plain; answer quick; pre-pay; use no figures; give name, street, and number in full of the party addressed. The above is for our mutual benefit.

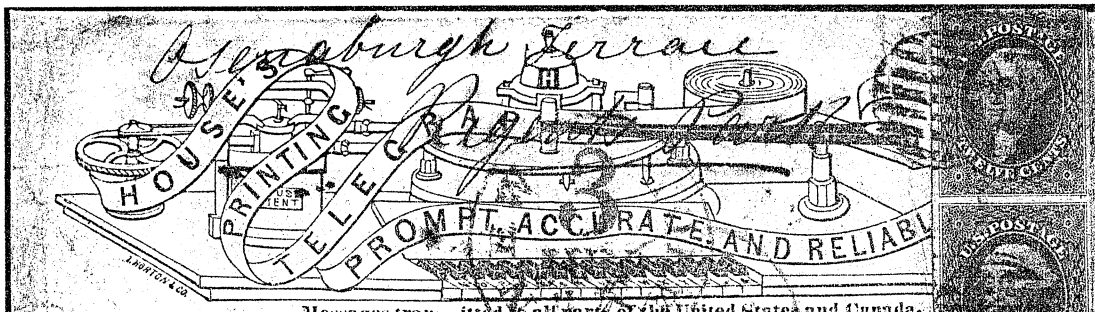
RETURN AN ANSWER BY THE BEARER.

*J. G. Shipman Esq*  
*Belvidere*

A EASTON FEBY. XXTH. J. G. SHIPMAN. BELVIDER W. SNYDER

# HOUSE'S NEW YORK & WASHINGTON LINE

JUNE 17, 1854



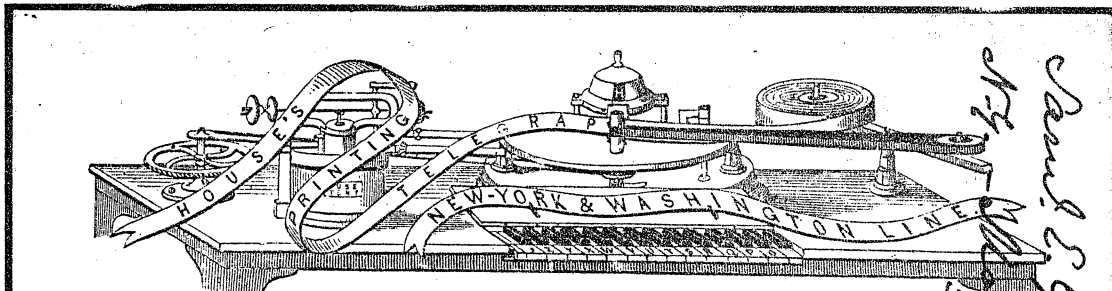
Messages transmitted to all parts of the United States and Canada.

<p><b>OFFICES.</b></p> <p><b>Philadelphia,</b> North-East corner 3d and Chestnut Street</p> <p><b>Paterson, N. J.,</b> TELEGRAPH BUILDING, Main Street.</p> <p><b>Trenton, N. J.,</b> CHANCERY BUILDING, State Street.</p>	<p><b>NEW-YORK OFFICE, 21 Wall St.</b></p> <p><i>The Right Honorable The Earl of Darnley in London England</i></p> <p><i>Mail Steamer June 17/54</i></p>	<p><b>OFFICES.</b></p> <p><b>Baltimore,</b> 131 Baltimore Street.</p> <p><b>Washington, D. C.,</b> NATIONAL HOTEL, entrance from 6th Street</p> <p><b>Wilmington, Del.,</b> South-East corner of 3d and Market Street.</p>
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BY WIRE  
U.S. MAIL, NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK

NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK  
LONDON, ENGLAND

24c RATE U.S. — ENGLAND (U.S. INLAND 5c; AMERICAN PACKET 16c; BRITISH INLAND 3c)



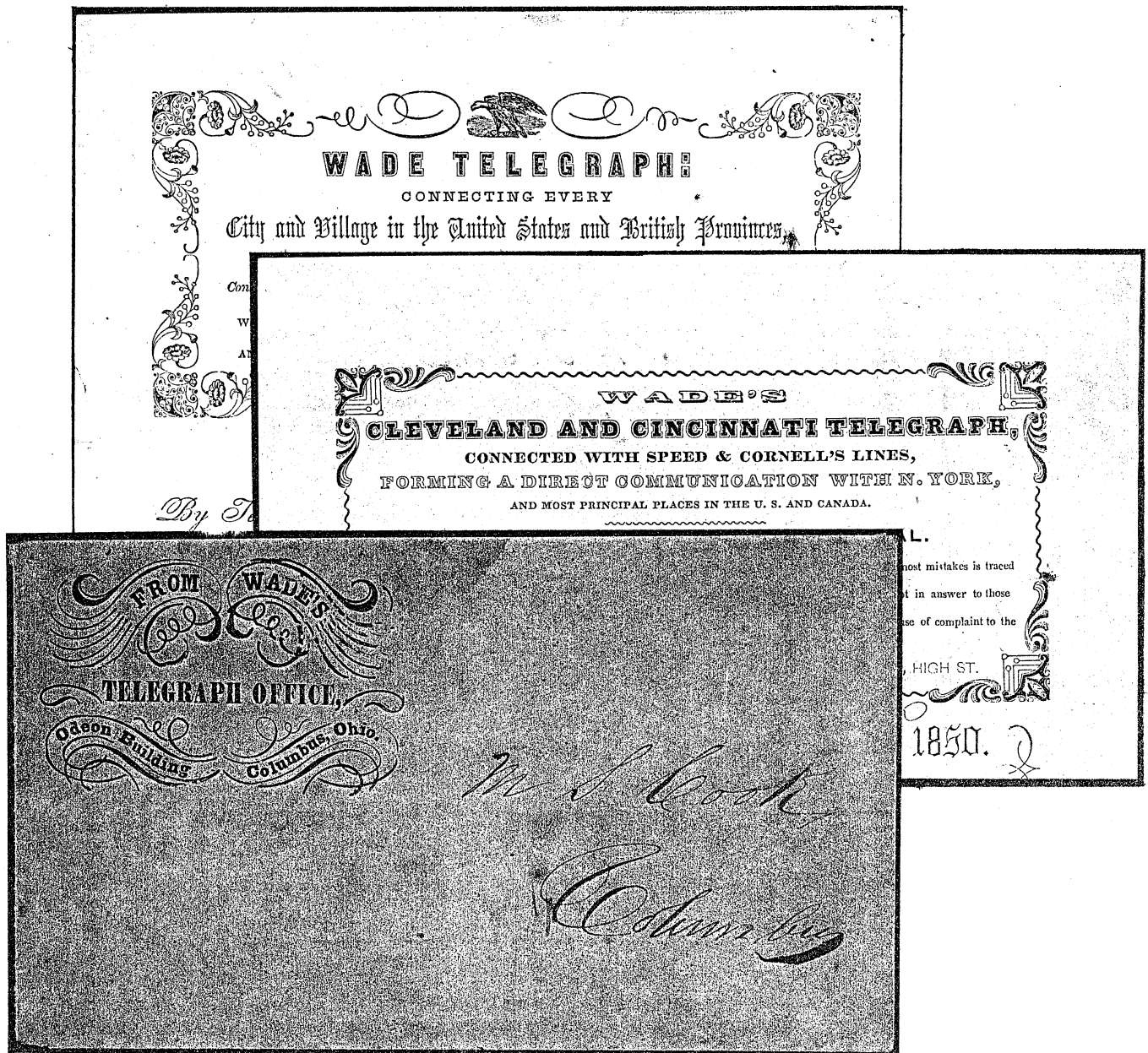
Messages transmitted to all parts of the United States and British Provinces.

<p><b>OFFICES.</b></p> <p><b>NEW-YORK,</b> 21 WALL STREET.</p> <p><b>PATERSON, N. J.</b> Telegraph Building, West St.</p> <p><b>TRENTON, N. J.</b> State St., opposite the Post Office.</p>	<p><b>Philadelphia Office, N. E. Corner of Third &amp; Chestnut Sts.</b></p> <p><i>C. Lower.</i></p> <p><i>Gisard House</i></p>	<p><b>OFFICES.</b></p> <p><b>BALTIMORE,</b> 131 Baltimore Street.</p> <p><b>WASHINGTON D.C.</b> National Hotel, Entrance from 6th St.</p> <p><b>WILMINGTON, DEL.</b> S. E. corner of 3d and Market Sts.</p>
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THIS ILLUSTRATED MASTHEAD IS SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT THAN THE UPPER COVER.



# WADE'S TELEGRAPH

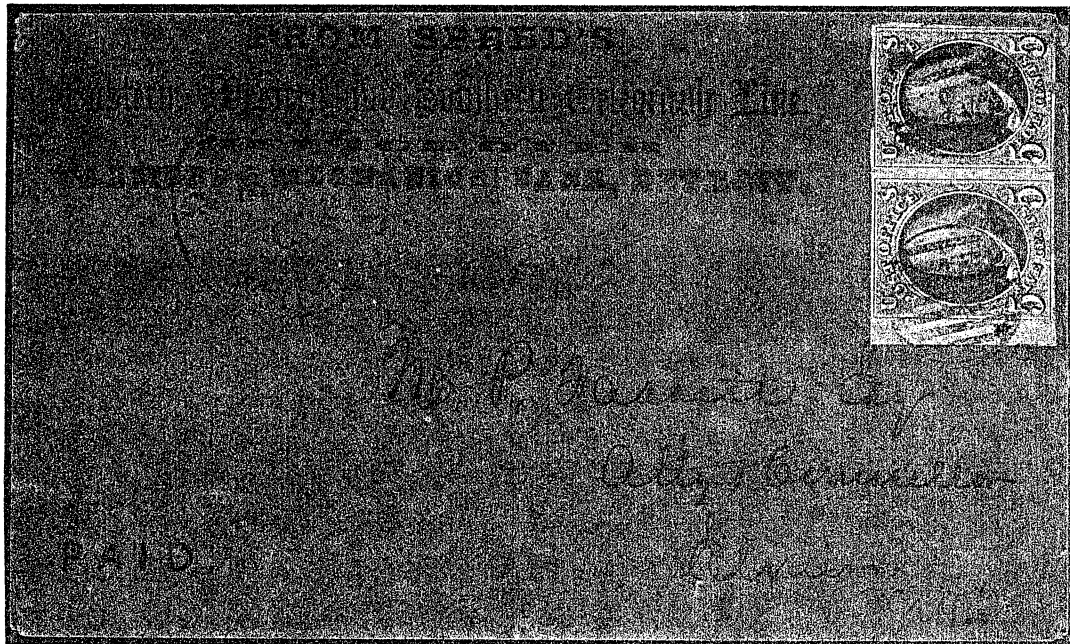


JEPHTHA H. WADE WAS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT FIGURES IN EARLY TELEGRAPH HISTORY. HIS SHREWDNESS AND INGENUITY HELPED HIM TO BE APPOINTED THE FIRST PRESIDENT OF "WESTERN UNION".

THE CENTER FORM INDICATES HIS CLOSE ALLIANCE WITH EZRA CORNELL, JOHN SPEED (AND SAMUEL MORSE).

SPEED'S  
EASTERN, WESTERN AND SOUTHERN TELEGRAPH LINE

CIRCA 1848



BY WIRE --  
PLACED IN U.S. MAILES --

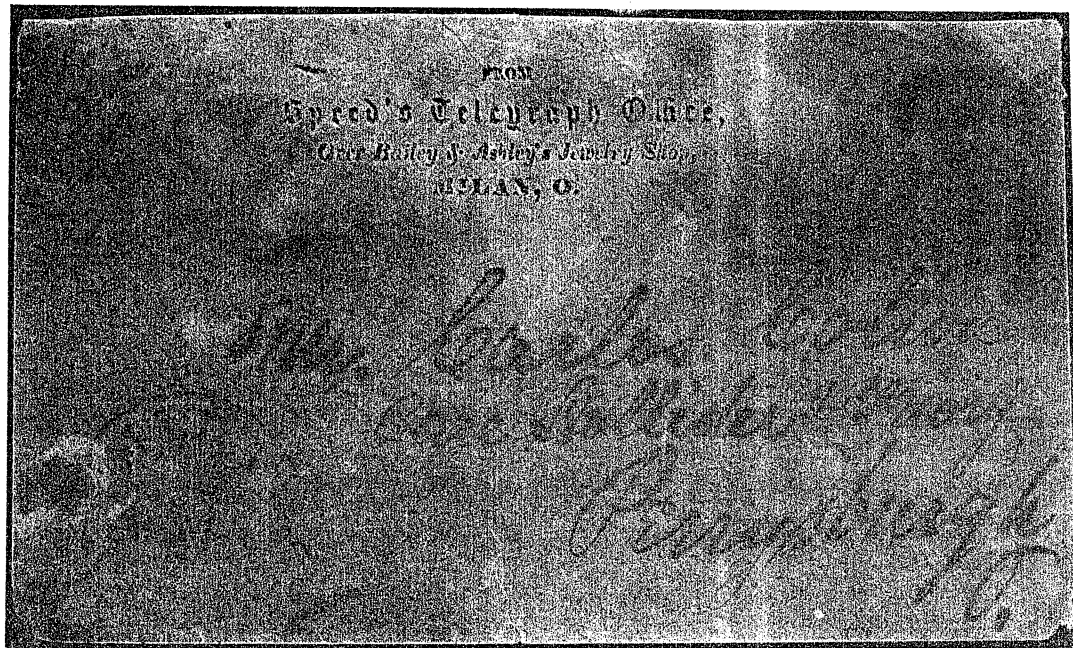
TO SPEED'S TELEGRAPH DETROIT, MICHIGAN  
ELMIRA, NEW YORK

JOHN J. SPEED, JR. AFFILIATED HIMSELF WITH SAMUEL MORSE IN THE MID 1840'S. HE CONDUCTED TESTS IN 1847 BETWEEN CLEVELAND AND BUFFALO WHICH WERE TO THOROUGHLY CONVINCE MORSE THAT "SOUND TELEGRAPHY" WOULD BE MORE EFFICIENT THAN ANY OF THE OTHER POSSIBLE AVAILABLE TECHNIQUES. SPEED OPERATED A NUMBER OF "MORSE" EQUIPED COMPANIES IN THE MID- NORTHERN PART OF THE COUNTRY FROM ABOUT 1848 TO 1855.

THIS IS THE ONLY RECORDED TELEGRAPH COVER WITH A PAIR OF 1847 STAMPS AFFIXED.

# SPEED'S TELEGRAPH OFFICE

CIRCA 1848



JOHN J. SPEED, JR. AFFILIATED HIMSELF WITH SAMUEL MORSE IN THE MID 1840'S. HE CONDUCTED TESTS IN 1847 BETWEEN CLEVELAND AND BUFFALO WHICH WERE TO THOROUGHLY CONVINCE MORSE THAT "SOUND TELEGRAPHY" WOULD BE MORE EFFICIENT THAN ANY OF THE OTHER POSSIBLE AVAILABLE TECHNIQUES. SPEED OPERATED A NUMBER OF "MORSE" EQUIPPED COMPANIES IN THE MID-NORTHERN PART OF THE COUNTRY FROM ABOUT 1848 TO 1855.



**SPEED'S  
ERIE AND MICHIGAN TELEGRAPH LINE.  
FROM BUFFALO TO MILWAUKEE.**

Speed's Telegraph Line—Buffalo to Milwaukee.

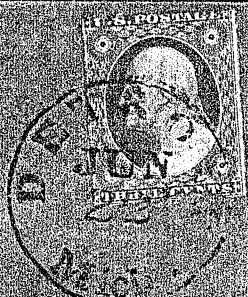
**Principal Offices:**

Buffalo—No. 145 Main Street, and No. 15 Merchants Exchange.	Cleveland—American Hotel Buildings, & over in Rawson's Ware- house, on the dock.	Detroit—Opposite Masonic Hall, & No. 2 M. C. R. R. Depot.
Dunkirk—Opposite American Hotel.	Sandusky—Phoenix Block, Water St.	Chicago—Corner Clarke & Lake Sts.
Erie—Williams Block.	Toledo—Johnson's Block.	Milwaukee—Phoenix Block.

*Crane & Weston*

SPEED'S TELEGRAPH LINE WAS EVENTUALLY CONSOLIDATED WITH VARIOUS OTHERS INCLUDING "ERIE & MICHIGAN" WHICH IN ITSELF WAS ONE OF THE TWO COMPANIES THAT WERE MERGED IN 1856 TO FORM "THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY".

**SPEED'S  
TELEGRAPH OFFICE,  
OPPOSITE MASONIC HALL,  
AND NO. 2 M. C. R. R. FREIGHT DEPOT,  
DETROIT.**



*W. P. Hassett Esq.  
Elmira  
N.Y.*

PREPAID BY WIRE  
U.S. MAIL, DETROIT

DETROIT  
ELMIRA, NEW YORK

ILLINOIS AND MISSISSIPPI TELEGRAPH COMPANY



THIS COMPANY WAS INCORPORATED APRIL 11, 1849. THE MESSAGES WERE RECEIVED BY WIRE AND POSTED AT QUINCY, ILLINOIS.



QUINCY TELEGRAPHY

Quincy, June 14<sup>th</sup> 1851  
10 P.M.



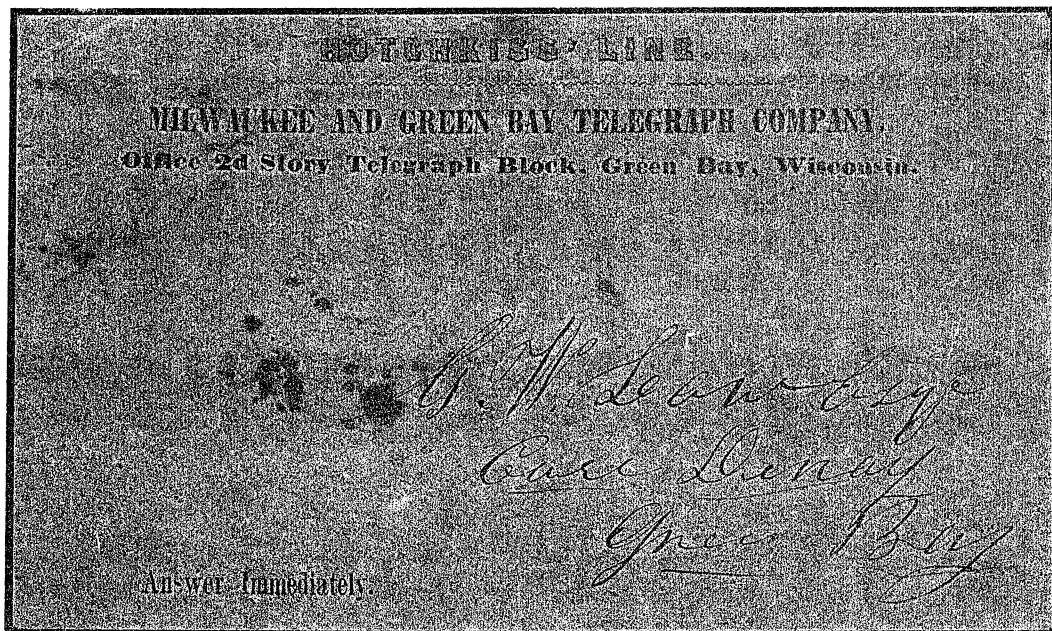
QUINCY, ILLINOIS

ALTON, ILLINOIS

EARLY INDEPENDENT MIDWESTERN SHORT LIVED COMPANIES

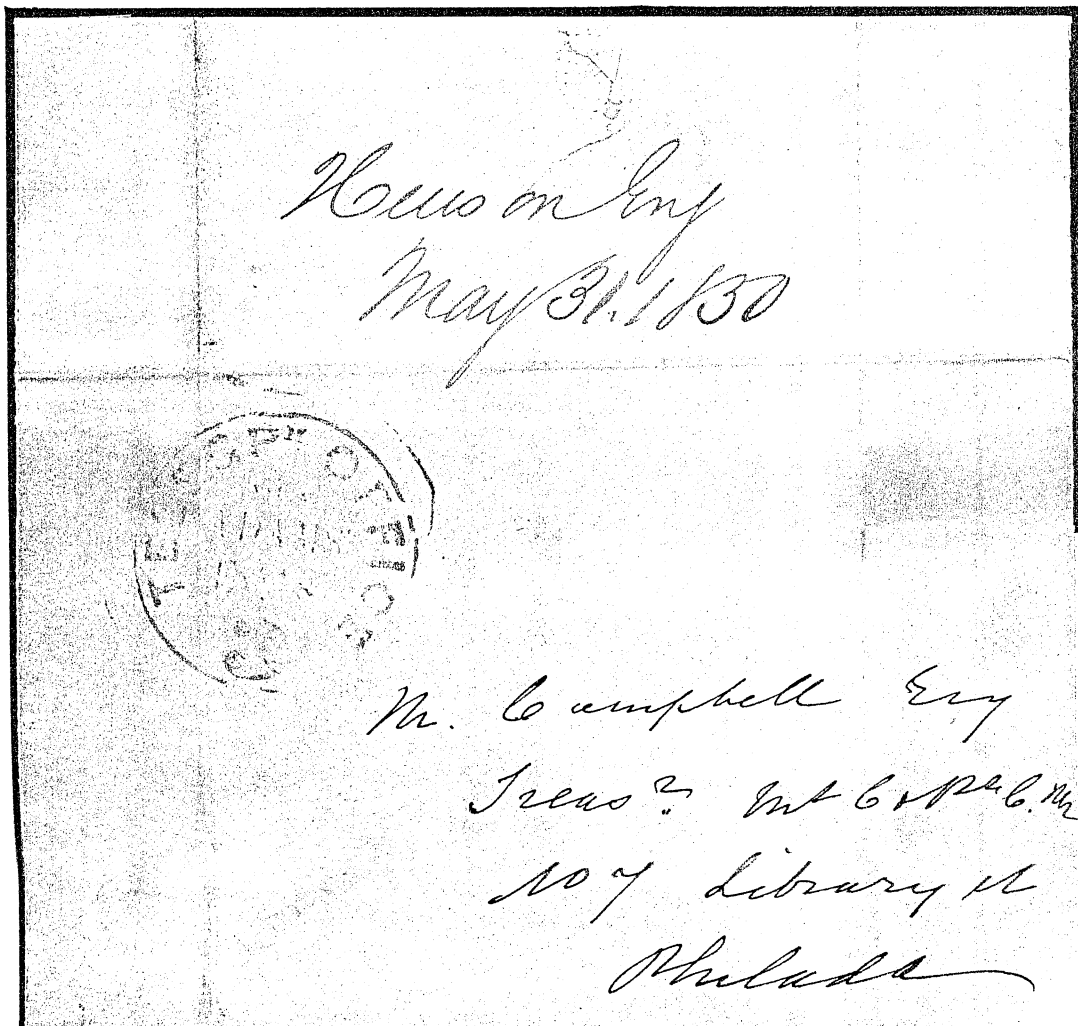
HOTCHKISS' LINE

CIRCA 1851



THIS COMPANY WAS HERETOFORE UNRECORDED; ABOVE IS THE LISTING COPY

ADAMS EXPRESS COMPANY



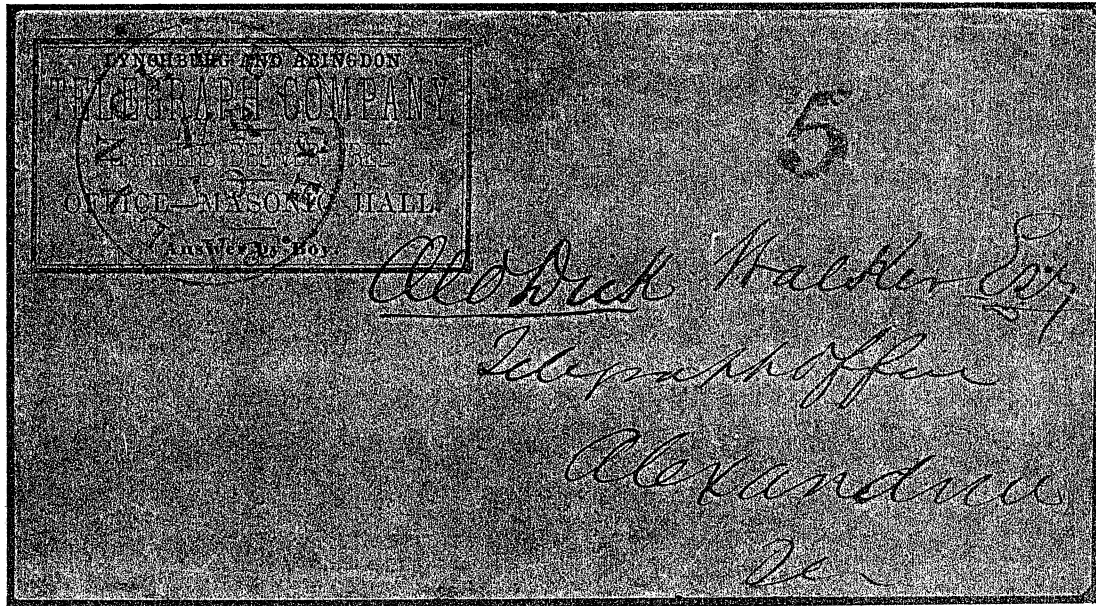
BY TELEGRAPH  
ADAMS EXPRESS COMPANY

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA  
ADDRESSEE

"3" IS EVIDENTLY A LOCAL DELIVERY FEE. IT IS UNUSUAL IN THAT MOST LOCAL FEES WERE ONE OR TWO CENTS.



LYNCHBURG AND ABINGDON TELEGRAPH COMPANY



BY WIRE  
U.S. MAIL

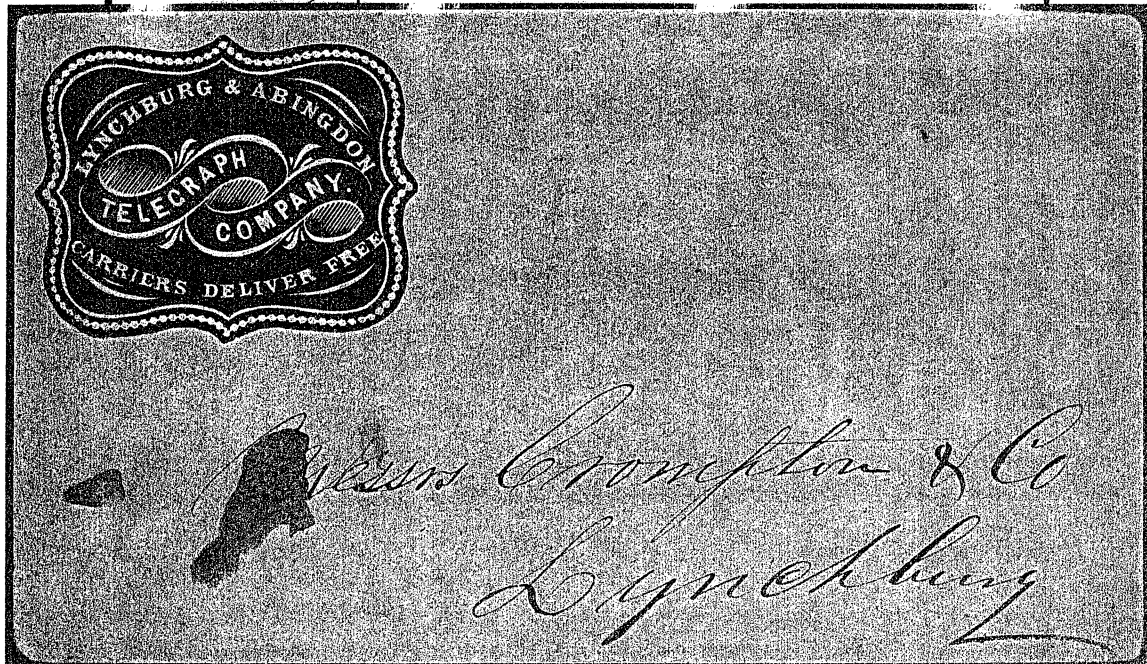
LYNCHBURG, VIRGINIA  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

ESTABLISHED MARCH 15, 1851, THIS COMPANY RAN THROUGH THE WESTERN VIRGINIA FARMING COUNTRY TO RICHMOND. IT WAS LEASED TO THE AMERICAN TELEGRAPH COMPANY DECEMBER 28, 1859.

Lynchburg and Abingdon Telegraph Company.  
OFFICE--MASONIC HALL,  
LYNCHBURG, VA.

COMMUNICATIONS STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL.

CHARGES.--From Lynchburg to Richmond, Twenty-five cents for first ten words, and two cents each additional word. No charge for address, signature, or date.



ANNAPOLIS TELEGRAPH COMPANY

Office Annapolis Telegraph Company.

The following Message was received at this Office  
at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock July 20<sup>th</sup> 1866.  
dated *12th* July 20<sup>th</sup> 1866.

OFFICE ANNAPOLIS TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

Col. Geo. H. Hildt

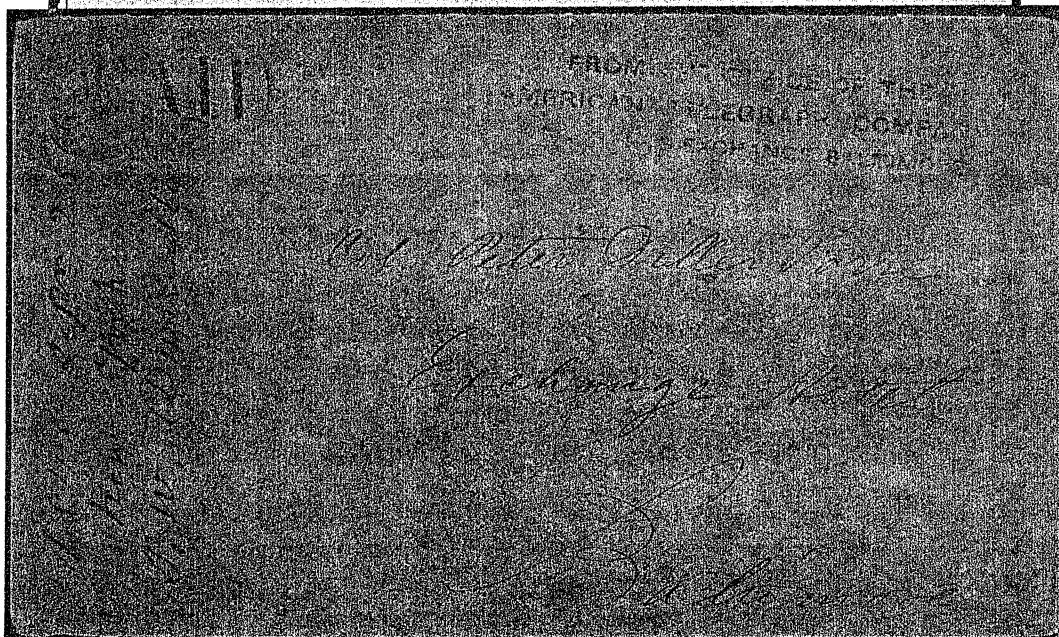
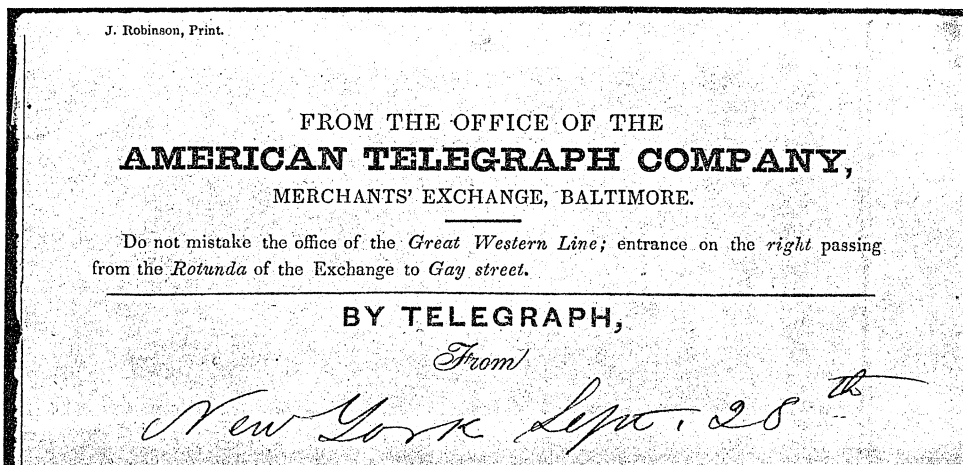
Annapolis

Geo. Hildt  
Harndens Express

THIS SMALL COMPANY WAS INCORPORATED FEBRUARY 27, 1861 IN MARYLAND. THE ABOVE TELEGRAM SURELY MUST HAVE BEEN ONE OF ITS FIRST AS SOME TIME HAD TO PASS BETWEEN INCORPORATION AND THE OPENING OF ITS OFFICES. "HARNDENS EXPRESS" BELOW THE SIGNATURE PROBABLY REFERS TO THE TELEGRAPH OFFICE LOCATION. THE COMPANY WAS SOLD TO "WESTERN UNION" IN 1871.

AMERICAN TELEGRAPH COMPANY

SEPTEMBER 25, 1848



NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK

—

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

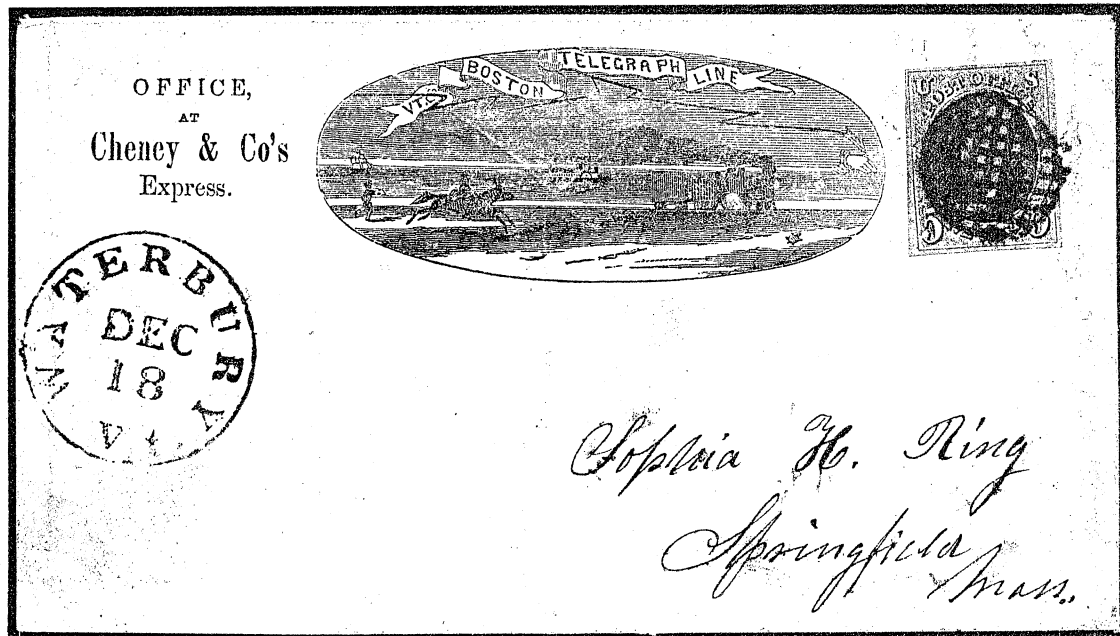
THIS HITHERTO UNREPORTED COMPANY IS NOT TO BE CONFUSED WITH A COMPANY OF THE SAME NAME WHICH WAS ORGANIZED IN 1855.

AS IT HAS NOT BEEN MENTIONED BY MORSE, BAIN OR HOUSE, THIS WRITER WOULD SURMISE THAT THIS COMPANY WAS AN EARLY O'REILLY EXPERIMENTAL LINE.

THIS IS THE ONLY RECORDED COVER OF THE COMPANY.

# VERMONT AND BOSTON TELEGRAPH LINE

DECEMBER 18, 1850



BY WIRE PER VERMONT AND BOSTON TELEGRAPH COMPANY TO WATERBURY, VERMONT  
U.S. MAIL, WATERBURY, VERMONT - SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

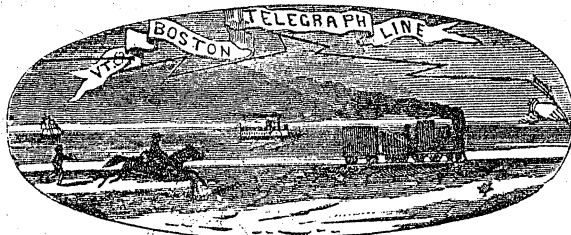
INCORPORATED IN 1848, THE VERMONT AND BOSTON COMPLETED 228 MILES OF LINE IN 1850 AND USED THE BAIN ELECTRO - CHEMICAL INSTRUMENTS. THE COMPANY DID NOT HAVE A TELEGRAPH OFFICE IN WATERBURY, VERMONT PER SE; RATHER, IT USED THE EXPRESS OFFICE OF ONE OF ITS INCORPORATORS, BENJAMIN P. CHENEY.



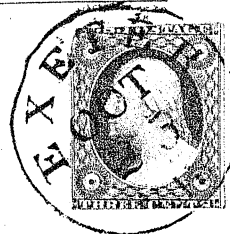
VERMONT & BOSTON TELEGRAPH LINE

ELECTRO-CHEMICAL TELEGRAPH.  
VERMONT & BOSTON TELEGRAPH LINE.

LIST OF STATIONS AND TARIFF.



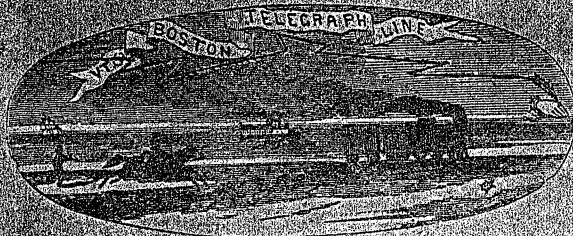
NO CHARGE.



*W.D.  
Oct. 26. 1872.*

*C. C. Carpenter Esq.  
Bernardston  
Mass.*

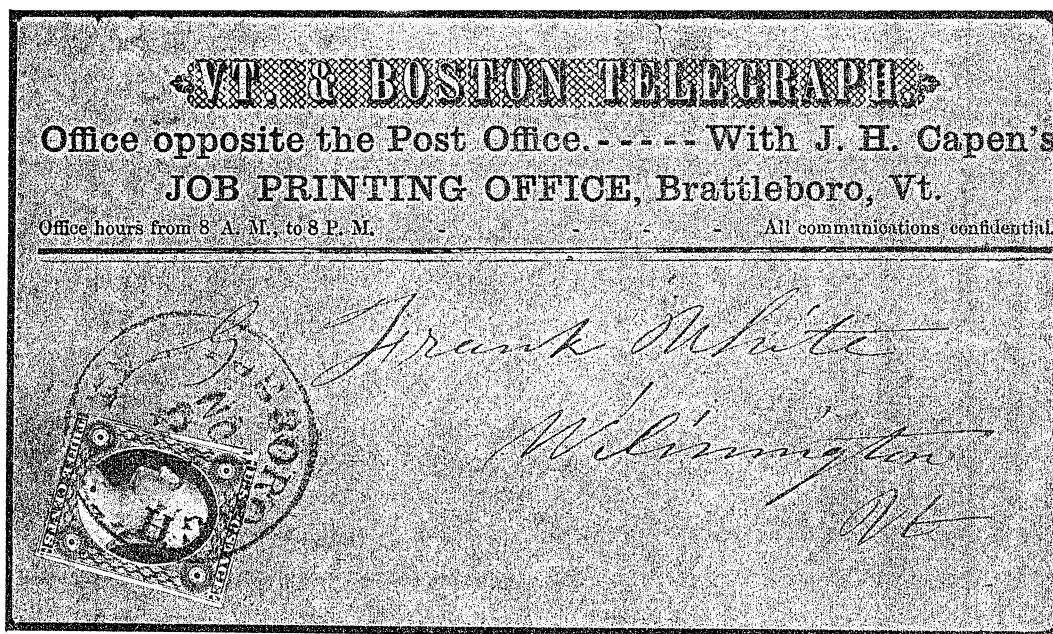
IN 1851 THE COMPANY SHIFTED ITS ILLUSTRATED MASTHEAD TO THE LEFT CORNER OF ITS ENVELOPES. TARIFF RATES WERE A MINIMUM OF 25 CENTS FOR 10 WORDS PLUS 2 CENTS FOR EACH ADDITIONAL WORD.



NO CHARGE

*Hon John Smith  
St. Albans*

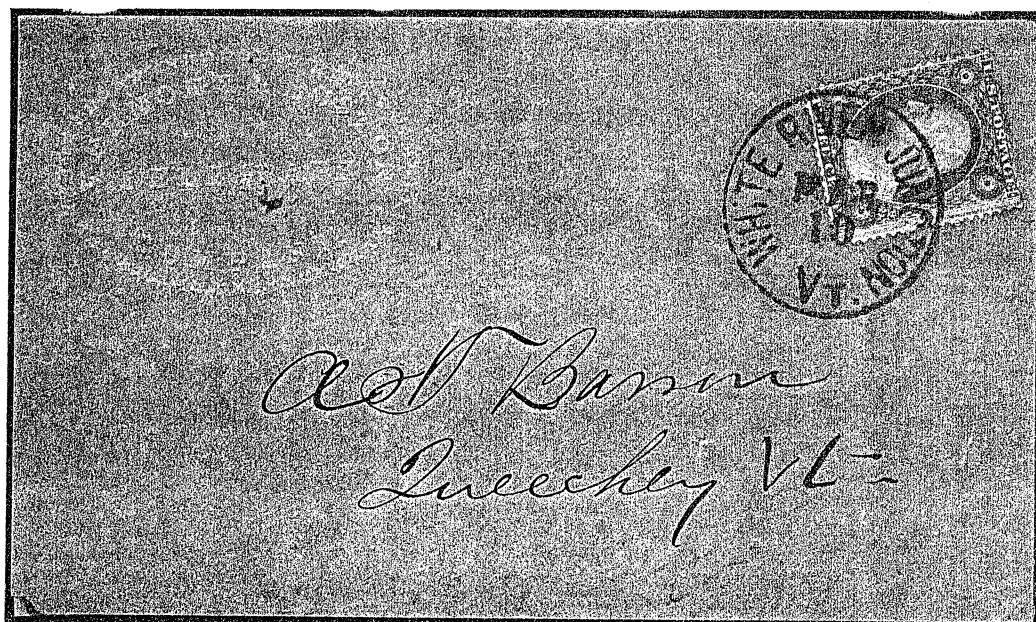
VERMONT AND BOSTON TELEGRAPH



BY TELEGRAPH  
U.S. MAIL

BRATTLEBORO, VERMONT  
WILMINGTON, VERMONT

THIS IS THE ONLY RECORDED COVER OF THIS STYLE.



BY TELEGRAPH  
U.S. MAIL

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION, VERMONT  
QUEECHY, VERMONT

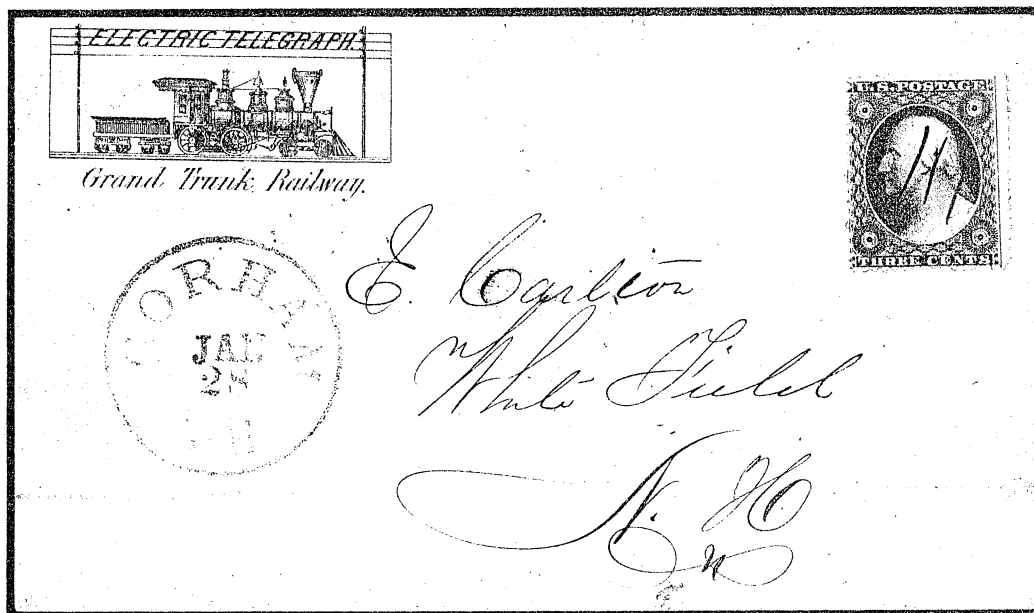
VERMONT AND BOSTON TELEGRAPH

APRIL 22, 1854 (ENCLOSURE)



WEST RANDOLPH — BY WIRE — WEST LEBANON, NEW HAMPSHIRE  
 PLACED IN U.S. MAIL — SNOWS STORE, VERMONT  
 1 CENT 1851 TYPE IV POSITIONS 65-67 L1L

GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY  
 ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH



GORHAM, NEW HAMPSHIRE — WHITEFIELD, NEW HAMPSHIRE  
 THIS COVER APPARENTLY ILLUSTRATES A PRIVATE RAILROAD TELEGRAPH. IT IS THE ONLY  
 RECORDED COVER.

# Electro-Chemical Telegraph.

## VERMONT AND BOSTON LINE.

### List of Stations and Tariff.

FROM HANOVER TO	FROM HANOVER TO	FROM HANOVER TO	FROM HANOVER TO
Boston, 35-3	Montpelier, 35-3	Potsdam, 60-4	Windsor, 25-3
Lowell, Mass. 40-4	Waterbury, 35-3	Canton, 60-4	Claremont, 25-3
Neshua, 40-4	Burlington, 35-3	Ogdensburg, 60-4	Springfield, Vt. 25-3
Manchester, 40-4	Essex, Vt., 40-4	St. Johns, 60-4	Charlestown, N.H. 30-3
Concord, 35-3	St. Albans, 45-4	St. Lamberts, 60-4	Bellows Falls, 30-3
Franklin, 30-3	Swanton, 50-4	Montreal, 75-4	Brattleboro, 30-3
Enfield, 25-3	Rouse's Point, 50-4	St. Johnsbury, 25-3	Greenfield, Mass. 30-3
Woodstock, 25-3	Chateaugay, N. Y. 60-4	Wells River, 25-3	Northampton, " 30-3
S. Royalton, 25-3	Malone, 60-4	Bradford, 25-3	Holyoke, " 30-3
West Randolph, 30-3	Potsdam Station, 60-3	W. R. Junction, 25-3	Springfield, " 30-3
Northfield, 30-3			

### Connecting with other Lines for North, South, East and West.

All messages strictly confidential. No abbreviations or figures used in the body of a message. Office hours from 8 A. M. to 8 P. M.

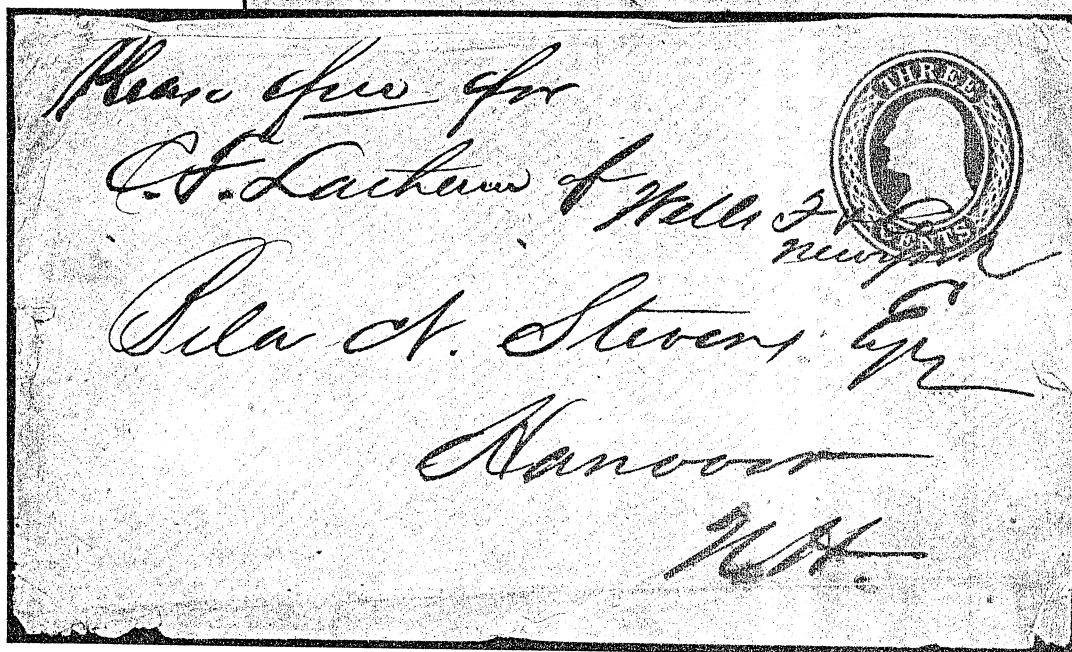
E. SMALLEY, Operator.

Hanover, June 24, 1856

By Telegraph from New York

For Bela N. Stevens

The Package has arrived  
Latham



EVIDENTLY, THE VERMONT AND BOSTON TELEGRAPH COMPANY HAD A WORKING ARRANGEMENT WITH WELLS, FARGO & CO. AT SOME POINT, THIS MESSAGE WAS GIVEN TO THE TELEGRAPH COMPANY WHICH TRANSMITTED THE MESSAGE TO THEIR HANOVER, NEW HAMPSHIRE OFFICE "FREE FOR C.F. LATHAM (AGENT) OF WELLS, FARGO & CO. NEW YORK".



Col D. C. Gould  
Ticket Agent

Manchester Oct 3<sup>rd</sup> 1856  
By Telegraph from Chicago  
For J. J. Cheney

Charles Gould was on  
the Niagara - we have  
every reason to believe  
him lost - will write you  
J. J. Cheney

IN 1856 AT ITS BOSTON JUNCTION, THE VERMONT AND BOSTON TELEGRAPH JOINED WITH THE CONSOLIDATION OF THE MORSE AND BAIN LINES ALONG THE NEW YORK - BOSTON ROUTE. BOTH THE NAME AND ENVELOPE STYLE WERE CHANGED.



NEW YORK STATE LINE

Vermont & Boston Telegraph Company

BETWEEN

BOSTON, MONTREAL & OGDENSBURGH;  
ALSO, SPRINGFIELD AND ST. JOHNSBURY;

AND INTERMEDIATE PLACES. \* WITH CONNECTIONS TO ALL PARTS OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

TERMS AND CONDITIONS ON WHICH MESSAGES ARE RECEIVED BY THIS COMPANY FOR TRANSMISSION.

The public are notified, that in order to guard against mistakes in the transmission of messages, every message of importance ought to be repeated, by being sent back from the station at which it is to be received to the station from which it is originally sent. Half the usual price for transmission will be charged for repeating the message. This company will not be responsible for mistakes or delays in the transmission or delivery of unreported messages, from whatever cause they may arise, nor will it be responsible for damages arising from mistakes or delays of a repeated message, beyond an amount exceeding one hundred times the amount paid for sending the messages nor will it be responsible for delays arising from interruptions in the working of its Telegraphs, nor for any mistake or omission of any other Company over whose lines the message is to be sent to reach its place of destination. All messages will hereafter be received by this Company for transmission, subject to the above conditions.

G. W. GATES, Sup't.

G. G. BENEDICT, Pres't.

*May 19th 1861*  
*By Telegraph from: Canton*

NEW YORK STATE LINE.

O'REILLY'S TELEGRAPHIC RANGE--BAIN'S PATENT.

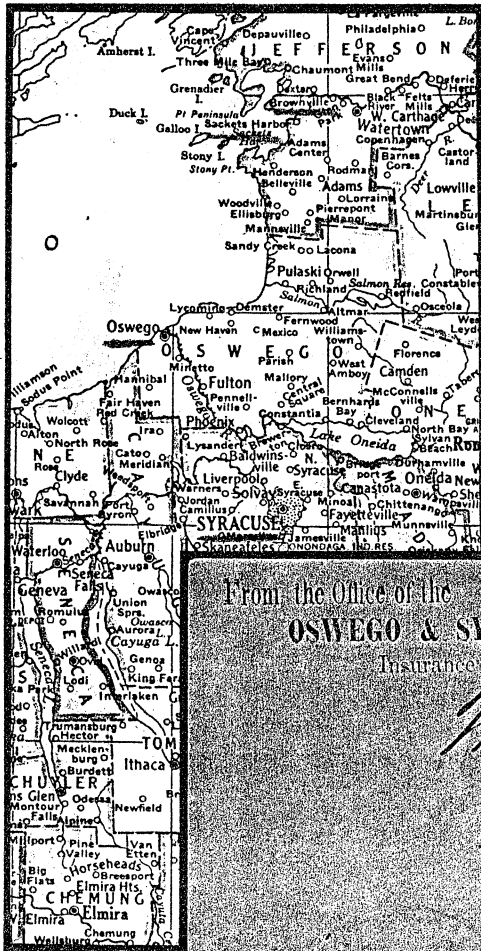
Office over Humphrey & Co.'s Drug Store, Ford-st., Ogdensburgh.

*L. S. Goodhue Esq*

If an answer is required, please send }  
it to our Office without delay. }

THIS COVER AND MESSAGE FORM ILLUSTRATE THE LAST USAGES OF THE O'REILLY LINES  
AND THE BAIN INSTRUMENT.

# OSWEGO AND SYRACUSE TELEGRAPH



## FROM THE OFFICE OF THE Oswego and Syracuse Telegraph

SECOND STORY INSURANCE BUILDINGS.

Tariff of Prices from Oswego to Syracuse.  
For the first ten words, twenty-five cents—each additional word, two cents

### TO THE TELEGRAPHING PUBLIC.

It is for your own interest, as well as our convenience, that communications be *plainly written*. The cause of almost all mistakes is traced to bad copy. Orders for money and all important communications, must be written with ink and signed by a responsible person. Give full address, name, street and number, to ensure prompt delivery, and your own address, under your signature, if you expect an answer. Use no figures except date—they cost more, and are more unsafe than words. Pre-pay always, and if you wish to pay for your answer, say so under your address. All reasonable cause of complaint, addressed to me, at Oswego, will be immediately investigated.  
C. C. MARSH, Sup't. O. & S. Telegraph.

By Telegraph from *Pittsburg*  
Oswego, Sept 11<sup>th</sup> 1850.

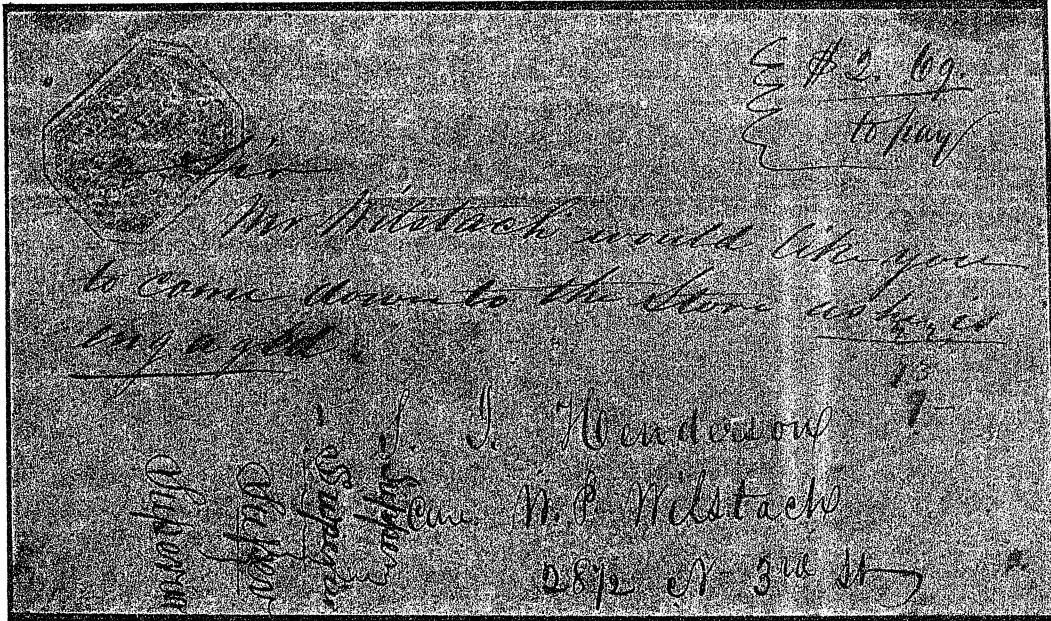
From the Office of the  
OSWEGO & SYRACUSE TELEGRAPH.  
Insurance Buildings, Oswego.

*Morrison Loomis*  
*Brownville*  
*Sept 11<sup>th</sup> 1850*  
*Cor J. T. Hooker*  
*Witherell House*

PITTSBURG(H), PENNSYLVANIA — BY WIRE — OSWEGO, NEW YORK  
OSWEGO, NEW YORK — (PROBABLY BY WIRE) — SACKETS HARBOR, NEW YORK  
SACKETS HARBOR, NEW YORK — U.S. MAIL — BROWNSVILLE, NEW YORK

THE MOST POSITIVE REFERENCE TO THIS LITTLE KNOWN AND SURELY SHORT LIVED COMPANY WAS BY JAMES REID IN "THE TELEGRAPH IN AMERICA" 1879. HE NOTED THAT THEODORE FAXTON, PRESIDENT OF "NEW YORK, ALBANY AND BUFFALO LINE". PURCHASED RIGHTS TO THE MORSE PATENT BETWEEN OSWEGO AND SYRACUSE MAY 7, 1849. MOST CERTAINLY THERE WAS A WORKING ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO LINES.

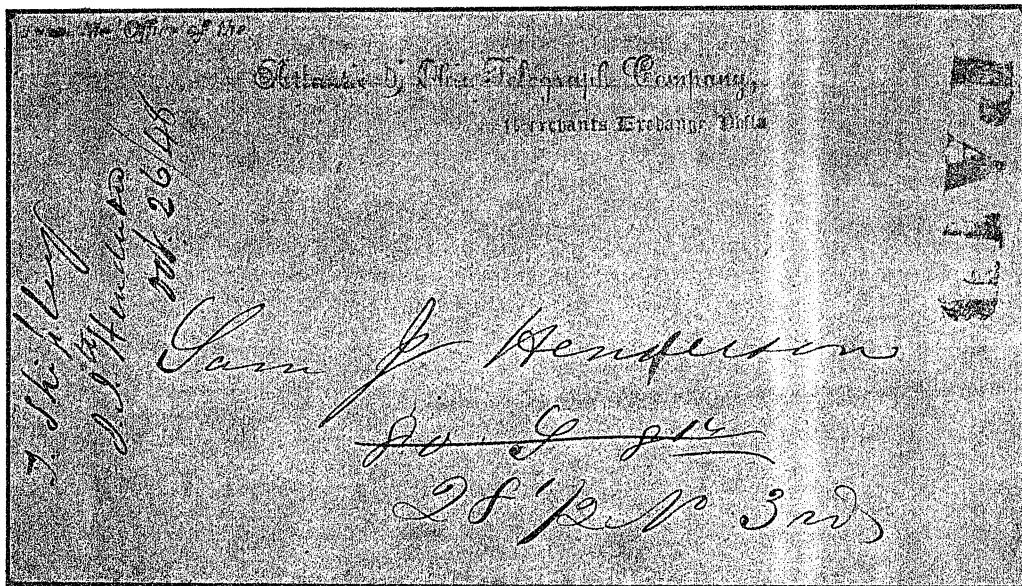
ATLANTIC AND OHIO TELEGRAPH COMPANY  
CIRCA 1847



THIS WAS HENRY O'REILLY'S KEYSTONE COMPANY CONNECTING PHILADELPHIA WITH THE GREAT LAKES THROUGH PENNSYLVANIA.

SEEING THE VALUE OF CONNECTING THE GREAT LAKES WITH THE EAST, ON JUNE 13, 1845, HE "ENTERED INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE MORSE PATENTEES FOR EXTENSION OF THE MORSE TELEGRAPH OVER A REGION TERRITORY WIDER AND MORE VALUABLE THAN ANY WHICH HAD YET BEEN CONTEMPLATED." JOSEPH D. REID, "THE TELEGRAPH IN AMERICA" 1879.

OCTOBER 26, 1848



ATLANTIC, LAKE AND MISSISSIPPI TELEGRAPH RANGE



*Phil'd Nov 11. 217*

*M. J. Somers Smith*



*M. J. Somers Smith*

*Cincinnati*

*Brooklyn, N.Y.*

*w. 10*

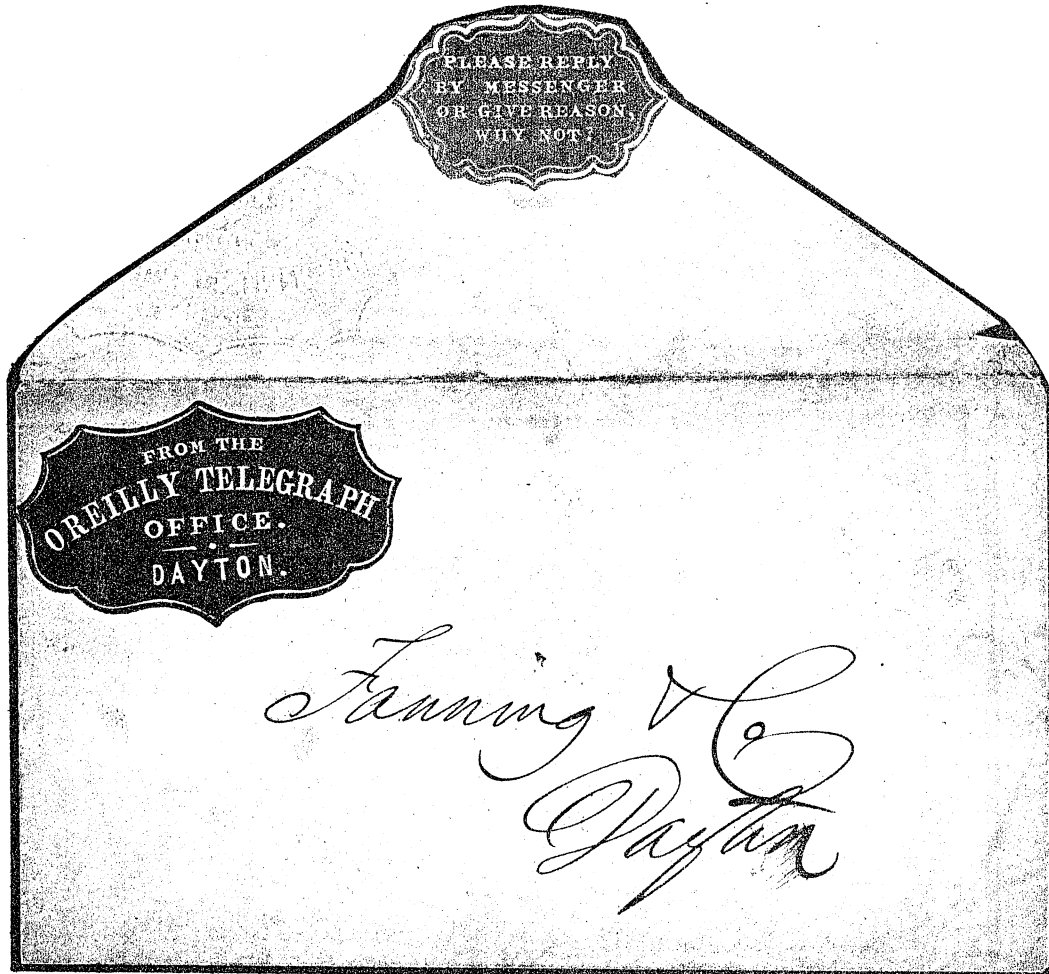
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

—

CINCINNATI, OHIO



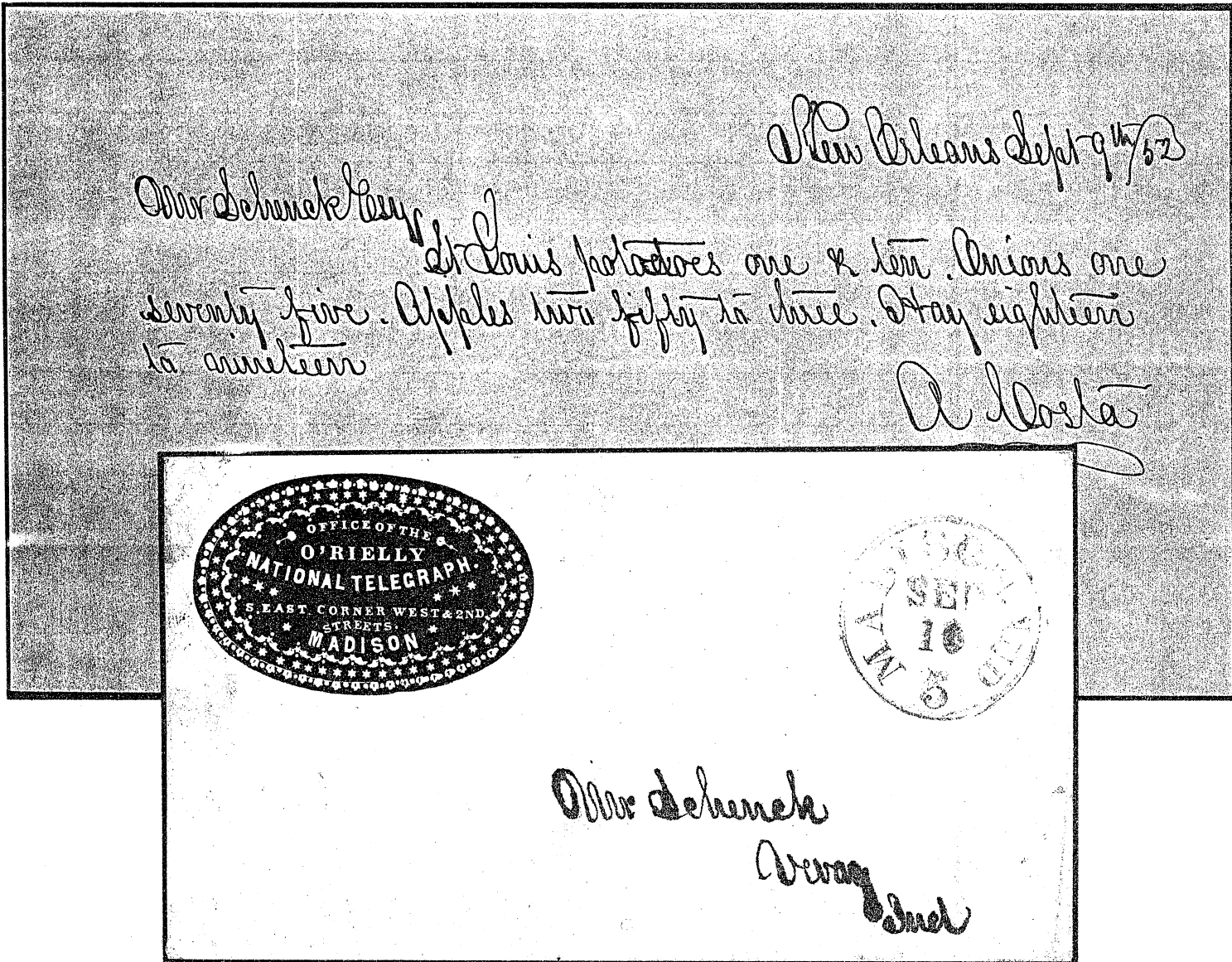
O'REILLY TELEGRAPH



THIS 1851 COVER DOES NOT SHOW ANY INDIVIDUAL COMPANY AFFILIATION ALTHOUGH  
A MATCHING "OHIO, INDIANA AND ILLINOIS" FORM WAS ENCLOSED.  
THE AFFIXED LABEL WAS PREVIOUSLY UNREPORTED.



O'RIELLY NATIONAL TELEGRAPH  
(NOTE THE MISPELLING OF O'REILLY)



NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA — BY WIRE — MADISON, INDIANA  
U.S. MAIL, MADISON, INDIANA (ABOUT 15 MILES) — VEVAY, INDIANA

THE COMPANY WAS LEASED TO WESTERN UNION IN 1864.

ATLANTIC, LAKE & MISSISSIPPI TELEGRAPH  
FORMERLY KNOWN AS O'REILLY LINE

Atlantic, Lake & Mississippi Telegraph  
LAKE ERIE LINE.

(USING MORSE'S PATENT.)

Office next door to Farmers' and Mechanics' Bank, opposite Masonic Hall.

☒ Please write plainly—use no figures—answer quickly—give full address. Despatches delivered within city limits, promptly, and without extra charge. All despatches strictly confidential. Despatches left at the office between the hours of 7 o'clock A. M. and 9 P. M., will be punctually forwarded.

Detroit, *July 1st* 1854

The following Despatch was just received at this office, dated

*Cleveland 1st* 1854

Atlantic, Lake and Mississippi Telegraph.  
FORMERLY KNOWN AS O'REILLY LINE.

Offices 1st door North of Farmers' & Mechanics' Bank, and opposite N. C. K. R. Depot, Detroit.

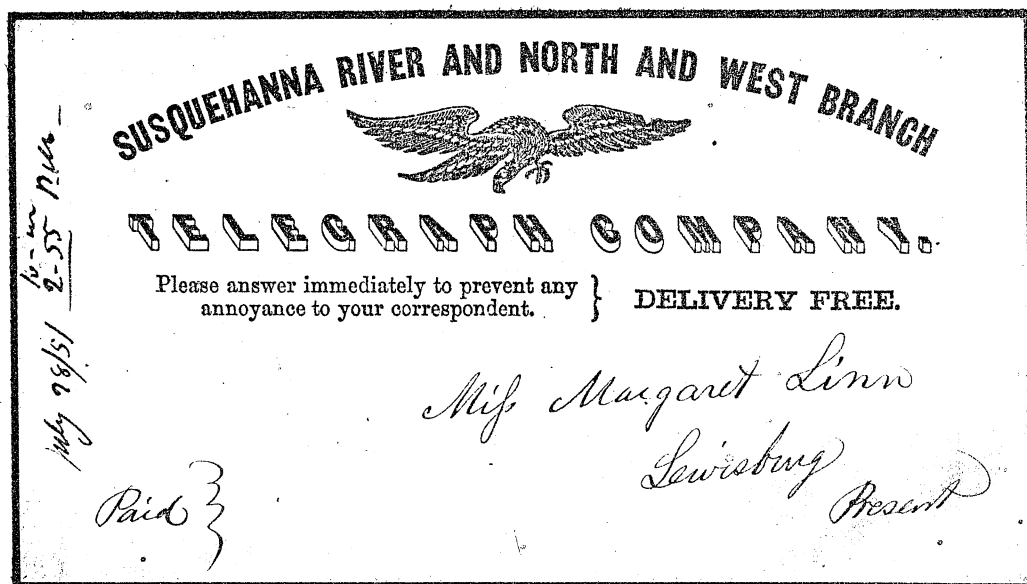
*Frank Morrison*

CLEVELAND, OHIO

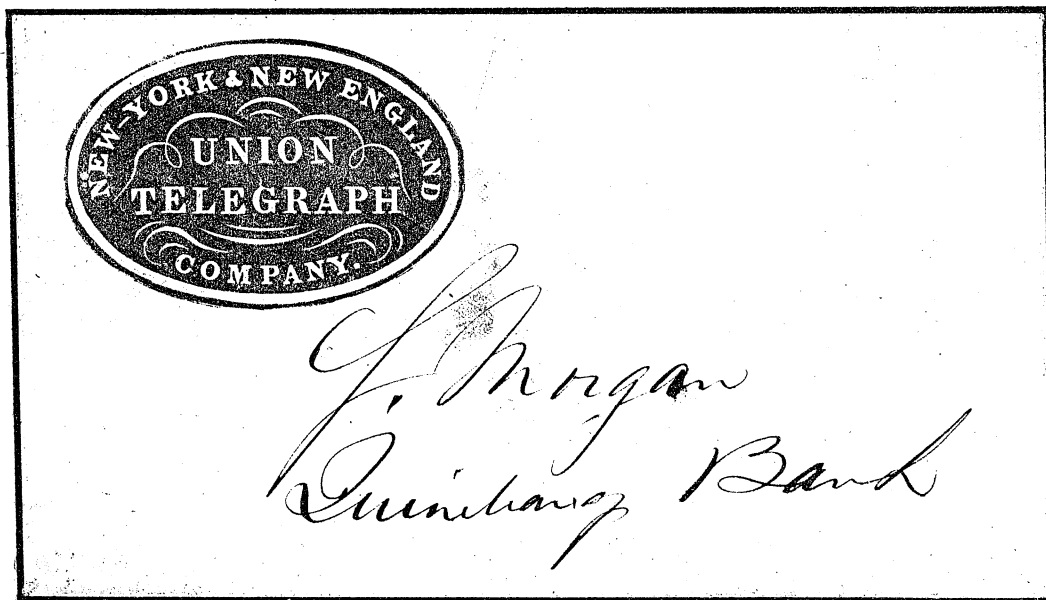
DETROIT, MICHIGAN

SUSQUEHANNA RIVER AND NORTH AND WEST BRANCH TELEGRAPH COMPANY

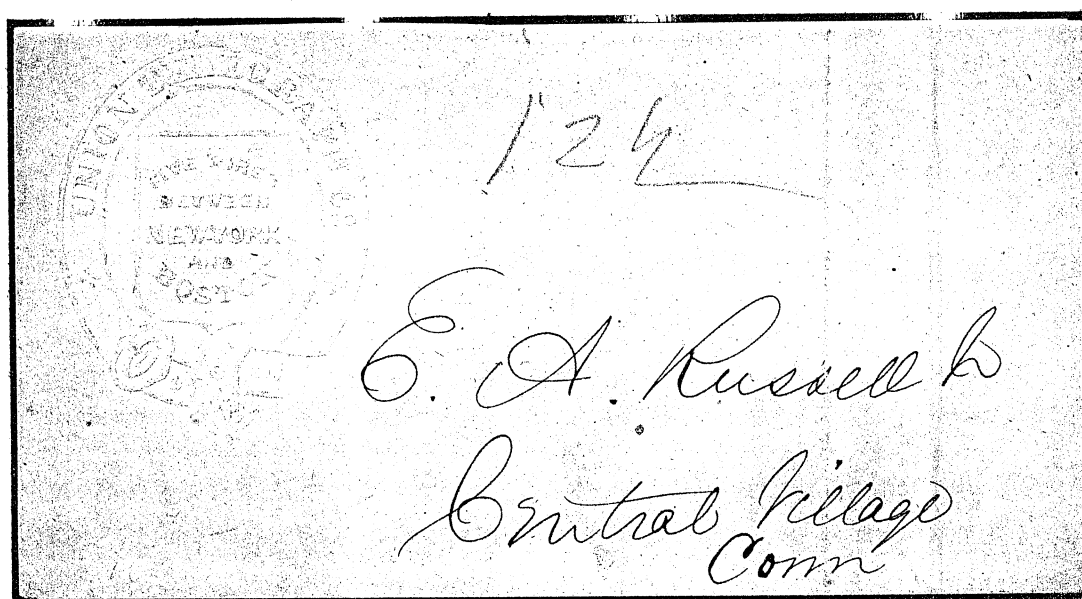
JULY 28, 1851



NEW YORK & NEW ENGLAND UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY



IN 1851, THERE WERE SIXTY-SEVEN LINES USING MORSE INSTRUMENTS IN THE UNITED STATES HAVING 20,000 MILES OF WIRE; SEVEN BAIN LINES HAVING OVER 2,000 MILES OF WIRE; AND EIGHT HOUSE LINES HAVING ABOUT 3,000 MILES OF WIRE. USING BOTH MORSE AND BAIN STRUMENTS, SERVICE BECAME MUCH IMPROVED AND THE LINE PROSPERED. THE EMBOSSED COVER BOASTS OF "FIVE WIRES BETWEEN NEW YORK AND BOSTON."



THE UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY

THE  
UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY  
BETWEEN  
NEW-YORK AND BOSTON,  
AND INTERMEDIATE STATIONS,

Connecting with the Principal Cities and Towns in the United States and Canadas.

TO THE TELEGRAPHING PUBLIC.

Please write plainly; answer quickly; PRE-PAY; use no figures except dates—they cost more; give name, street and number of the party addressed, to insure prompt delivery; also your own address under your signature; no charge for address and signature. The above is for your safety, as well as our convenience.

CHAS. F. WOOD, Sup't.

H. M. SCHIEFFELIN Pres't.

OFFICE, CORNER OF MAIN AND CENTRAL STREETS.

Dated *Boston* 1856

Rec'd, Fall River, *July 23* 1856 o'clock min. *A.*

Union Telegraph Office

CORNER OF MAIN & CENTRAL STS.  
FALL RIVER.

*J. E. Macomber*  
*Portsmouth*  
*R.I.*



BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS - BY WIRE - FALL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS  
FALL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS - U.S. MAIL - PORTSMOUTH, RHODE ISLAND

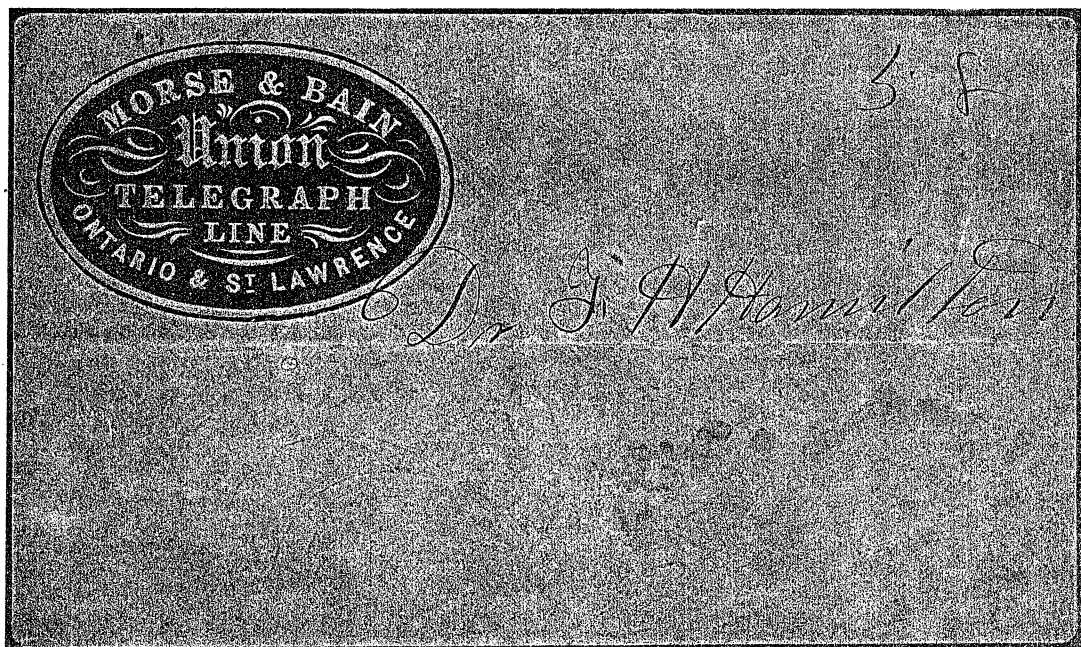
THE MORSE AND BAIN LINES BETWEEN NEW YORK AND BOSTON WERE CONSOLIDATED JULY 3, 1852 INTO THE NEW YORK & NEW ENGLAND TELEGRAPH COMPANY, COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE "UNION TELEGRAPH". THE UNION TELEGRAPH WAS EVENTUALLY ACQUIRED BY THE AMERICAN TELEGRAPH COMPANY.



UNION TELEGRAPH LINE

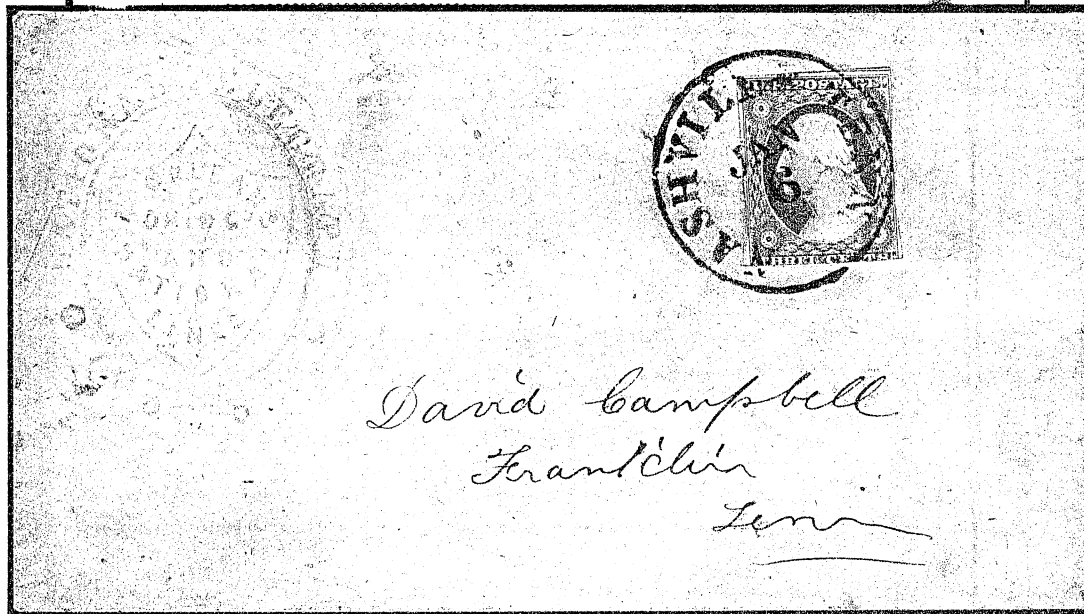


EAST-WEST CONSOLIDATION OF AMERICAN-CANADIAN BORDER FRANCHISES.



NATIONAL TELEGRAPH  
NEW ORLEANS & OHIO & NATIONAL LINES  
AND  
PEOPLE'S TELEGRAPH COMPANIES

THE UNITED  
**NEW ORLEANS AND OHIO,**  
AND  
People's Telegraph Companies.  
Connecting with all the Principal Cities and Towns in the United States,  
Canada, and Nova Scotia.  
Nashville, *Jan 5<sup>th</sup>* 185*7*  
Office on CEDAR STREET, between Cherry Street and the Square.



SAVANNAH, GEORGIA — BY TELEGRAPH — NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE — U.S. MAIL (15 MILES) — FRANKLIN, TENNESSEE

COMPRESSION OF THE O'REILLY EMPIRE

**NATIONAL TELEGRAPH.**  
FROM THE OFFICE OF THE  
**NEW YORK, PHILADELPHIA,**  
**PITTSBURGH, CINCINNATI & LOUISVILLE,**  
The United **NEW ORLEANS & OHIO & People's**  
**ST. LOUIS, INDIANA & LAKE ERIE**  
**TELEGRAPH LINES,**  
CORNER OF THIRD AND MAIN STREETS,  
**DAYTON, Ohio.**

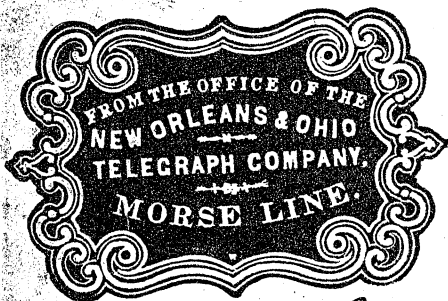
Haven, print.

*Dated, Springfield June 30 1854.*

*From Dear Mother*

*Miss Emily S. Pierce  
Care Mrs. Wheeler*

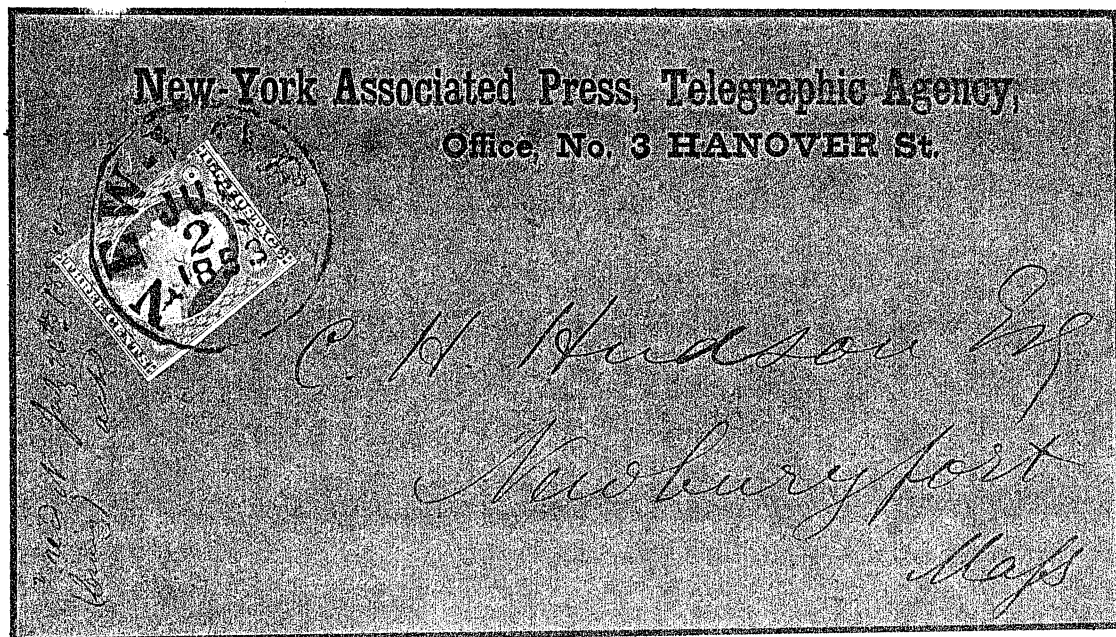
THESE COVERS OF THE EARLY 1850'S ILLUSTRATE CONSOLIDATIONS IN THE MIDWEST.



*Thos. Respass  
Mayville*

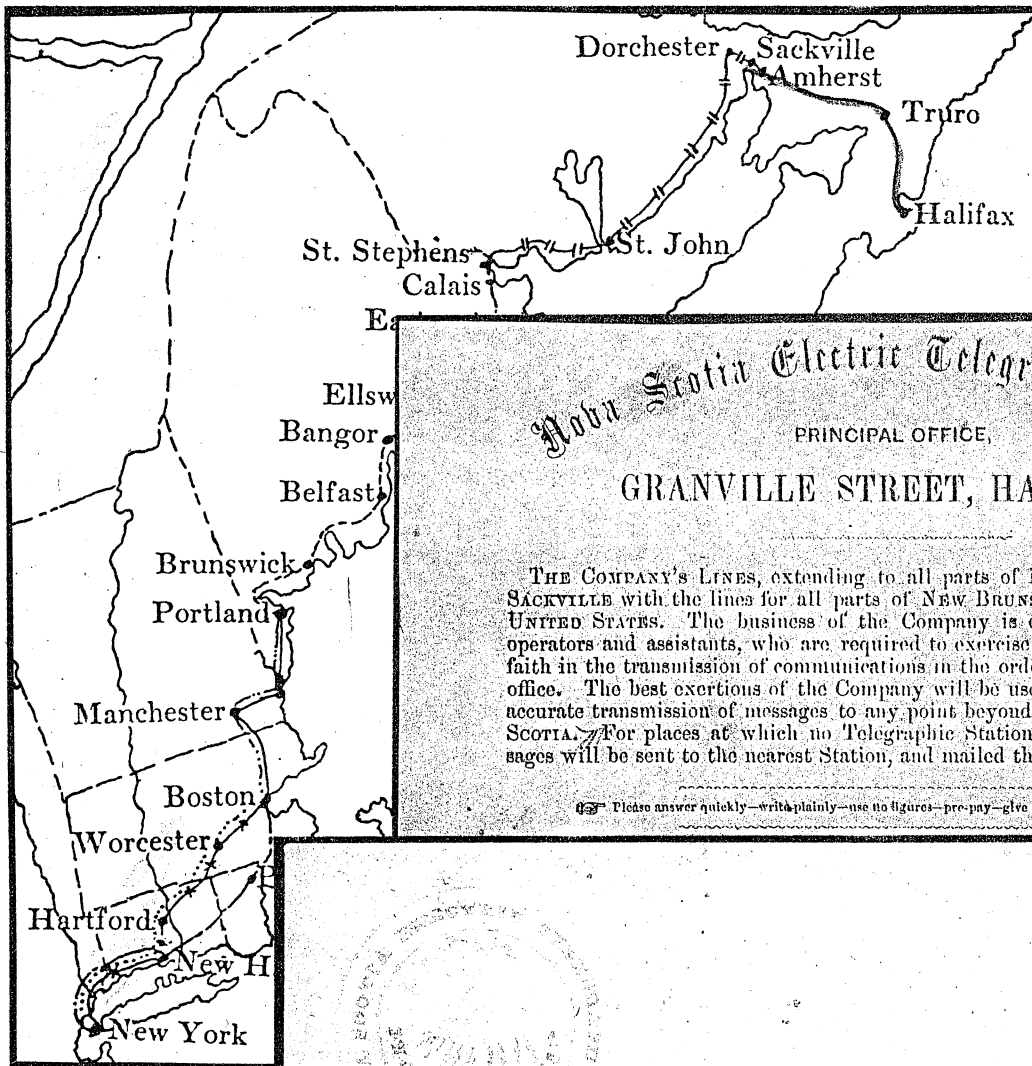
NEW YORK ASSOCIATED PRESS, TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

JULY 25, 1853



THE INCORPORATION DATE OF THIS SURVIVING COMPANY IS APPARENTLY 1850. GEORGE BARTLET PRESCOTT IN HIS "HISTORY, THEORY AND PRACTICE OF THE ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH" 1860 WROTE: "SUBSEQUENTLY TO THE FORMATION OF THE NEW YORK ASSOCIATION, NEARLY ALL THE DAILY NEWSPAPERS IN THE UNITED STATES BECAME ASSOCIATED WITH IT. EVERYTHING OF INTEREST OCCURRING IN EVERY PART OF THIS COUNTRY IS TELEGRAPHED AT ONCE TO THE GENERAL OFFICE IN NEW YORK, COPIES BEING DROPPED AT ALL INTERMEDIATE POINTS ON THE ROUTE, AND THE OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY BEING SUPPLIED FROM THE CENTRAL OFFICE." THE HOUSE INSTRUMENT WAS EMPLOYED FOR TRANSMITTING REPORTS.

# THE NOVA SCOTIA TELEGRAPH COMPANY

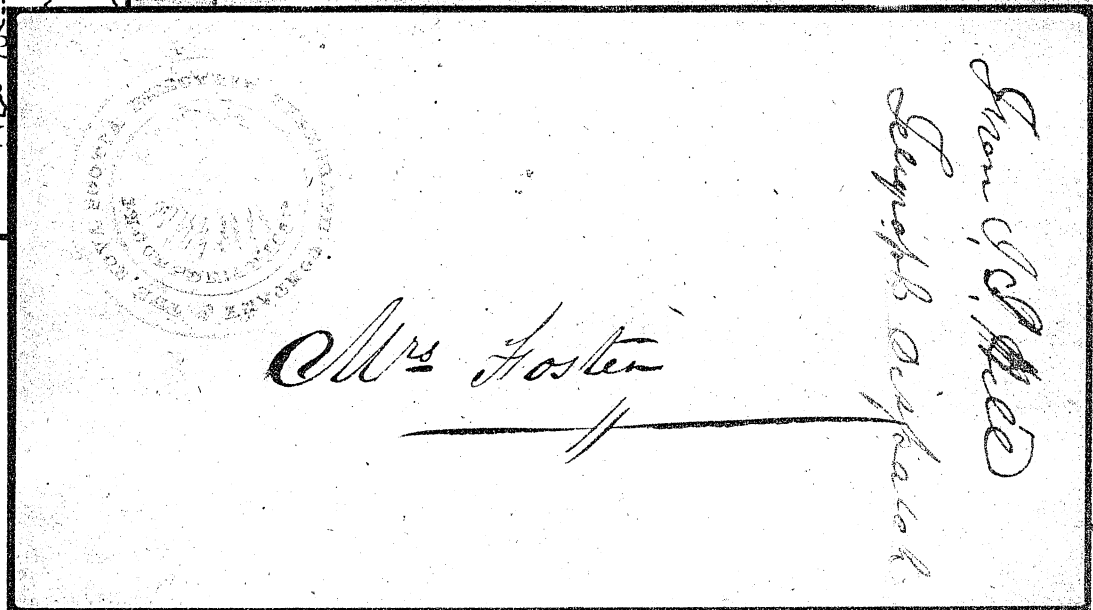


## *Nova Scotia Electric Telegraph Company.*

PRINCIPAL OFFICE,  
GRANVILLE STREET, HALIFAX.

THE COMPANY'S LINES, extending to all parts of NOVA SCOTIA, connect at SACKVILLE with the lines for all parts of NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA, and the UNITED STATES. The business of the Company is entrusted only to sworn operators and assistants, who are required to exercise due diligence and good faith in the transmission of communications in the order of their receipt at the office. The best exertions of the Company will be used to ensure the safe and accurate transmission of messages to any point beyond the boundaries of NOVA SCOTIA. For places at which no Telegraphic Station is yet established, messages will be sent to the nearest Station, and mailed thence.

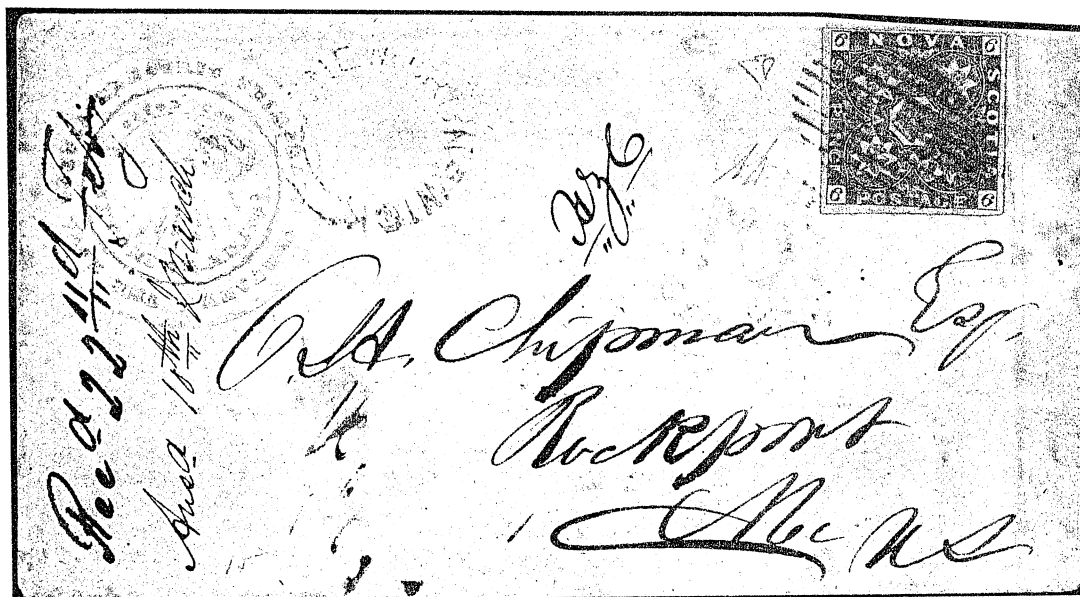
Please answer quickly—write plainly—use no figures—pre-pay—give full address and signature.



IN THE EARLY 1850'S, THIS SMALL CANADIAN COMPANY WAS THE EASTERNMOST LINK TO EUROPEAN NEWS WHICH ARRIVED AT HALIFAX VIA STEAMER. THE LAST SENTENCE OF THE FORM ILLUSTRATES THE TOTAL TELEGRAPH SYSTEM AND ITS DEPENDENCE UPON THE POSTAL SYSTEM



THE NOVA SCOTIA TELEGRAPH COMPANY



BY WIRE  
YARMOUTH, N.S. FEB 6, 1856  
NEW BRUNSWICK

SHELBURNE, N.S.  
DIGBY, N.S. FEB 8, 1856  
ROCKPORT, MAINE FEB 22, 1856

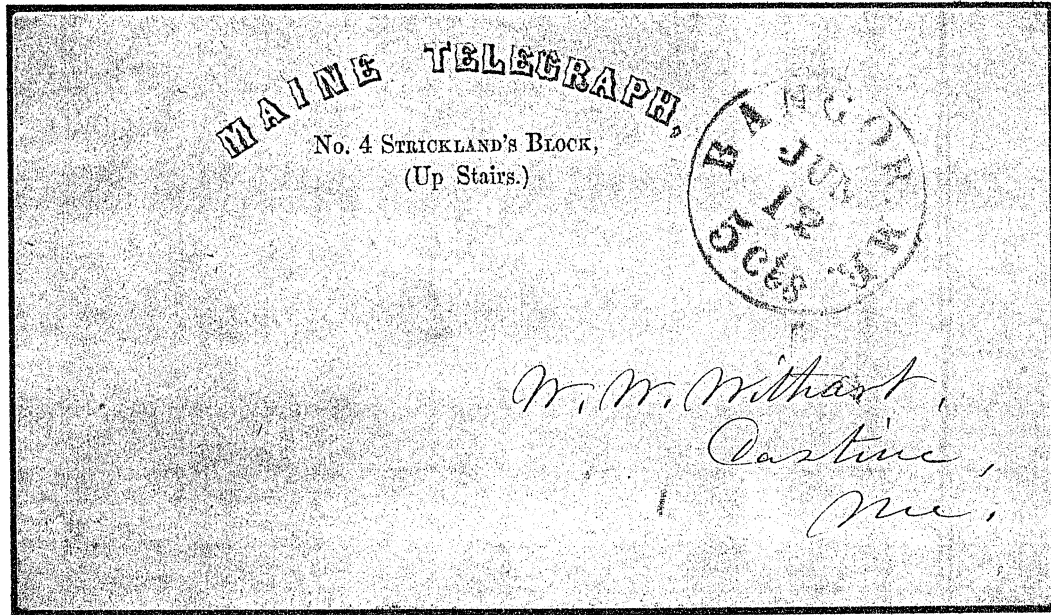


BY WIRE  
LOCKS ISLAND N.S. FEB 18, 1858  
ST. ANNS, MARCH 2, 1858

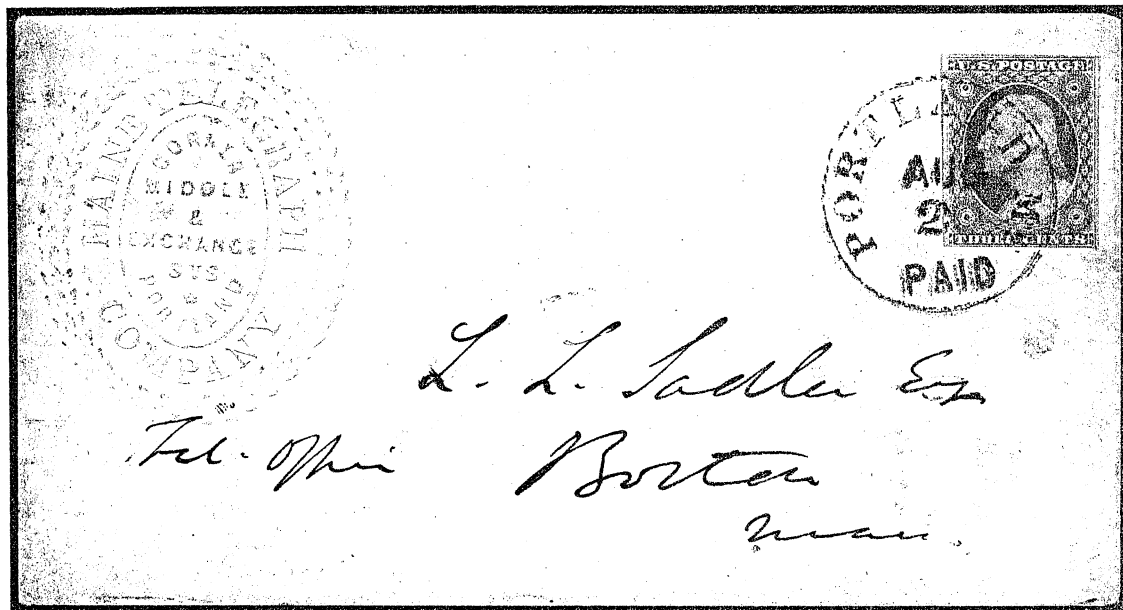
INDISTINCT MARKING, FEB 8, 1858  
BADDECK, MARCH 1, 1858  
CAPE BRETON ISLAND, MARCH 11, 1858

(SOME TRANSIT MARKINGS ARE ON THE REAR OF THESE COVERS)

# MAINE TELEGRAPH COMPANY



THIS MORSE AFFILIATED COMPANY WAS INCORPORATED AUGUST 10, 1848. IT WAS THE IMPORTANT LINK WHICH BRIDGED THE HALIFAX STEAMSHIPS TO BOSTON. IN 1855 IT WAS LEASED TO THE AMERICAN TELEGRAPH COMPANY.



MAINE TELEGRAPH COMPANY

# Maine Telegraph,

BETWEEN

BOSTON, PORTLAND, BANGOR AND CALAIS, WITH INTERMEDIATE STATIONS.

Connecting with lines to all parts of the United States and British Provinces.

If an error occurs in the transmission of any dispatch over the lines of this Company or if one is unreasonably delayed, the tolls thereon will be refunded; but the Company will not be responsible beyond the exercise of good faith and the amount of tolls received, nor will it be in any way responsible for errors or faults of lines not its own, and over which it has no control.

JAS. EDDY, Sup't.

Office in Portland,---Corner of Middle and Exchange Streets.

Office in Boston,---Traveller Buildings, 31 State Street.

Portland,

Dec 6<sup>th</sup> 1855

MAINE TELEGRAPH,

Union St., Portland.



13  
Jas. J. Eddy, Portland  
rec'd by mail at N.  
April 23 1855  
ack'd

C. H. Hudson Esq  
Telegraph Sup't.  
Newburyport  
Mass

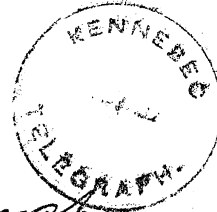
THE ORIGINAL PATENT FOR THIS COMPANY WAS GRANTED TO JAMES EDDY, THE SENDER OF THE COVER. INTERESTINGLY, ONE OF THE FEW MESSAGES TO EUROPE BY THE SHORT-LIVED ATLANTIC CABLE OF 1857 CARRIED THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF HIS DEATH DESCRIBING HIM AS "THE FIRST AND BEST TELEGRAPHER IN THE UNITED STATES".

KENNEBEC TELEGRAPH

*Kennebec Telegraph.*

Connecting with lines to all parts of the United States and British Provinces.

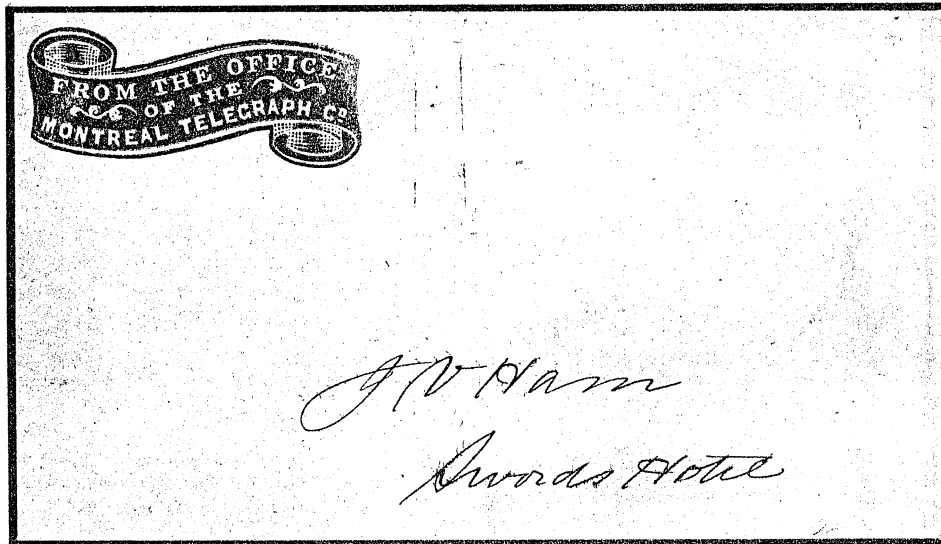
*Augusta, June 18 1859*  
*By Telegraph from Laco*  
*To Edwin J. March*



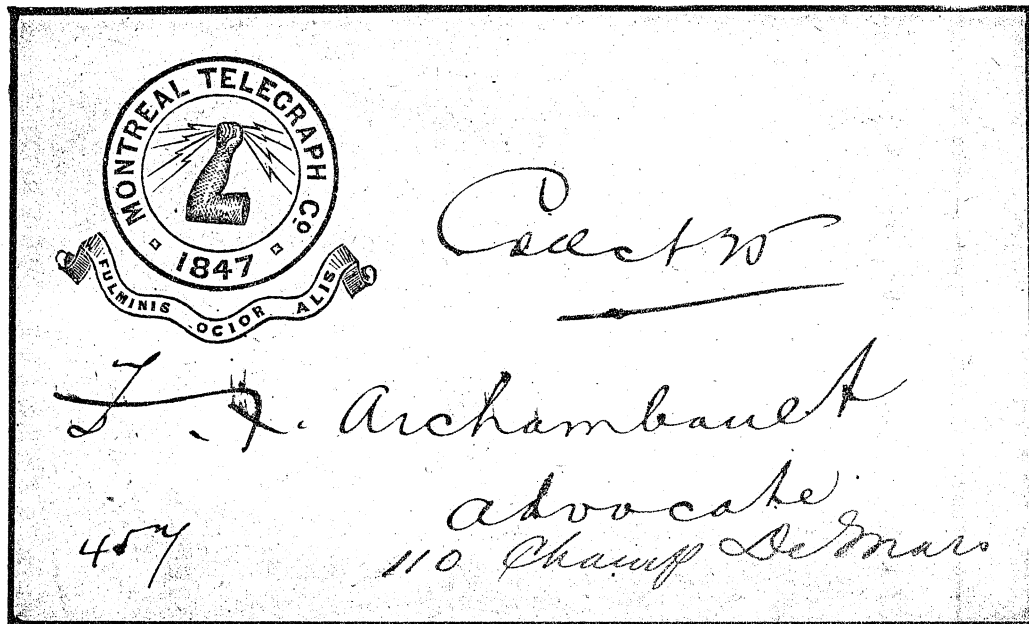
*Edwin J. March*  
*Mansion House*

AS THE MAINE TELEGRAPH COMPANY WAS GEARED TO COASTAL SERVICE AND EUROPEAN NEWS, THIS SMALL COMPANY WAS INCORPORATED AUGUST 28, 1850 PRIMARILY FOR INLAND SERVICE. IT WAS ACQUIRED BY WESTERN UNION IN 1870.

THE MONTREAL TELEGRAPH COMPANY



THIS MORSE FRANCHISE WAS ORGANIZED IN 1847 AND INITIALLY OPERATED FROM TORONTO TO QUEBEC. IT WAS THE MOST POWERFUL CANADIAN TELEGRAPH COMPANY AND ENJOYED A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP FIRST WITH THE NEW YORK ALBANY AND BUFFALO TELEGRAPH COMPANY AND LATER WITH WESTERN UNION.





# CANADAIGUA AND ELMIRA TELEGRAPH

OCTOBER 27, 1855

**Canandaigua and Elmira Telegraph,**  
OFFICE AT THE R.R. DEPOT, ... *Penn-Yan*

Messages transmitted to all parts of the United States and Canada.

Charges *P.O.*

*John L. Lewis for*  
*Penn Yan*

*By Telegraph* ... *Required.*

**TELEGRAPH.**

**NOTION LINE**

... STATES and the CANADAS.  
... ot, Penn-Yan.

M PENN-YAN.

Each word added	To	First TEN words	each word added
9	Marietta, O.	155	9
2	Montrose, Pa.	50	4
2	Medina, ...	45	3
2	New York	50	4
7	Pittsburgh, Pa.	95	7
2	Syracuse	45	3
5	Utica	45	3

Boston, Mass.	85	6	Jefferson	25	2
Canandaigua	25	2	Lockport	70	5

FOR RATES OF CHARGES TO OTHER STATIONS, PLEASE CALL AT THE OFFICE.

WRITE PLAINLY—give FULL ADDRESS and SIGNATURE—USE NO FIGURES, except date and number of Street—PAY IN ADVANCE, except for answers to communications.

*Penn Yan* ... *1855*


By Telegraph, Dated *October*

ROCHESTER, NEW YORK

PENN YAN, NEW YORK

## CANADA GRAND TRUNK TELEGRAPH

CIRCA 1854



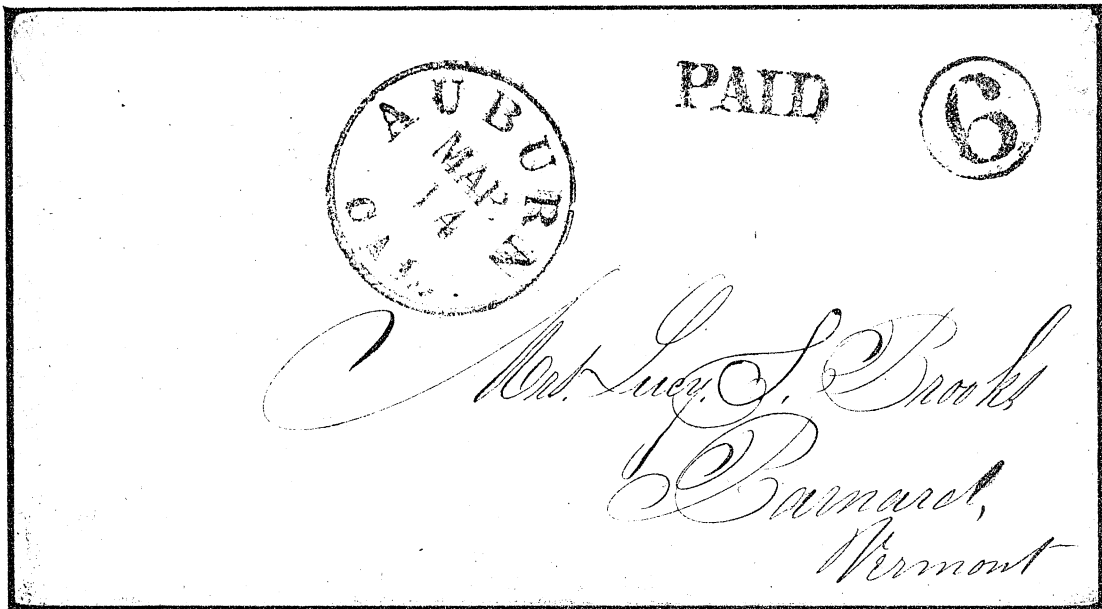
*1. V. Ham Eng*

*to*

*Whitby*

INCORPORATED NOVEMBER 24, 1852, THIS COMPANY RAN FROM MONTREAL TO QUEBEC AND THEN NORTH. IT WAS SOLD TO THE MONTREAL TELEGRAPH COMPANY APRIL 18, 1857

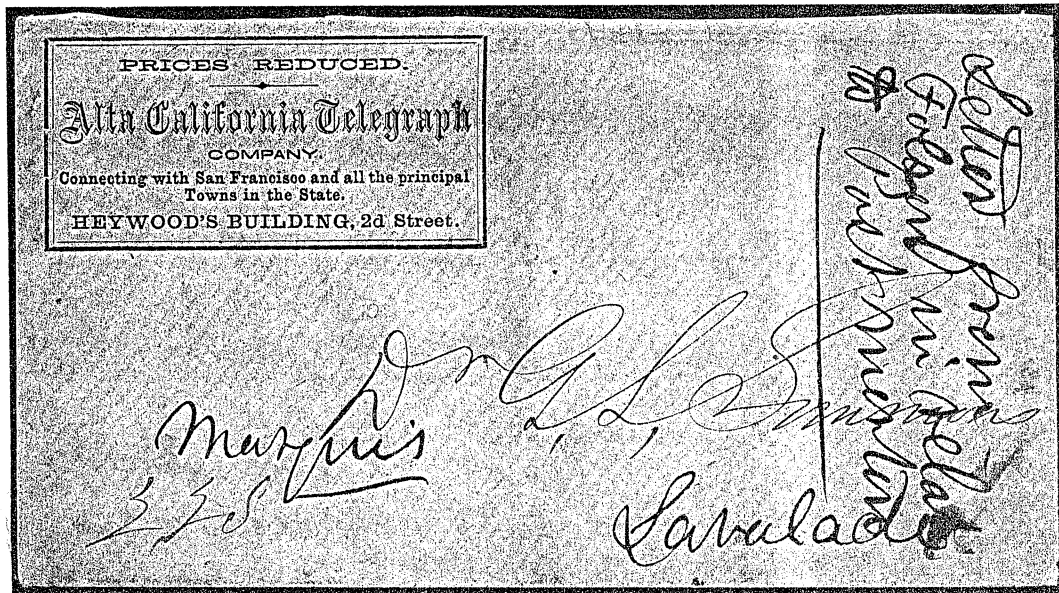
ALTA CALIFORNIA TELEGRAPH COMPANY



BY WIRE  
U.S. MAIL

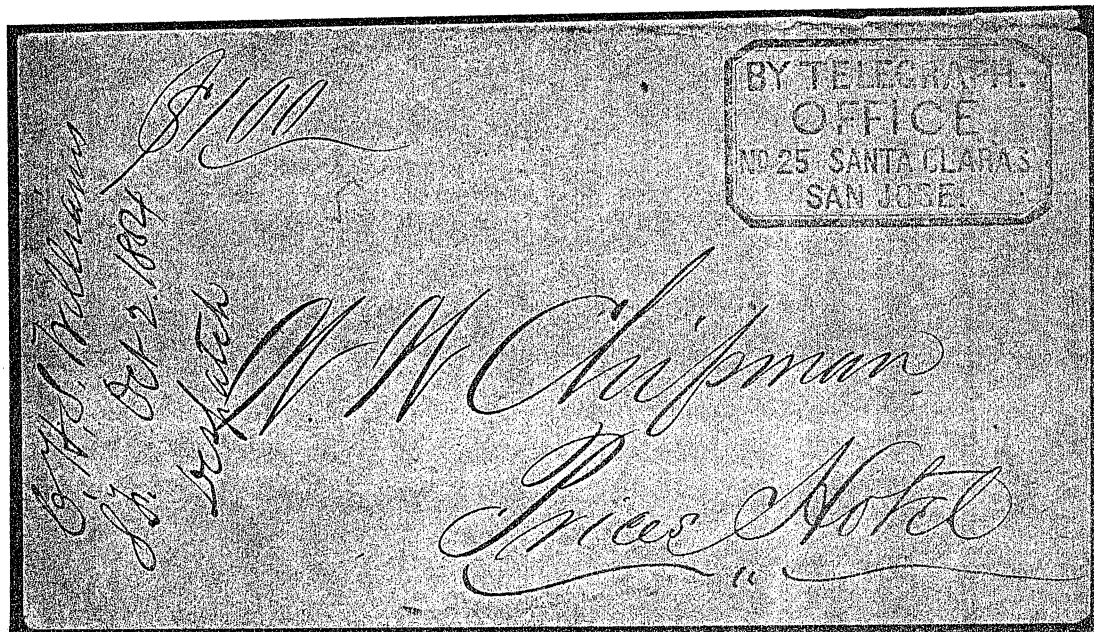
AUBURN, CALIFORNIA  
BARNARD, VERMONT

THE ALTA CALIFORNIA TELEGRAPH COMPANY WAS INCORPORATED OCT. 14, 1854. IT ERECTED A LINE FROM SACRAMENTO TO NEVADA CITY, CALIFORNIA. THIS WAS EXTENDED TO ALL THE PRINCIPAL MINING TOWNS AND TO SAN FRANCISCO WHERE IT ENGAGED IN COMPETITION WITH THE CALIFORNIA STATE TELEGRAPH COMPANY.



CALIFORNIA STATE TELEGRAPH COMPANY

OCTOBER 2, 1854



THIS "PROVISIONAL" TYPE COVER BELONGS TO THE CALIFORNIA STATE TELEGRAPH COMPANY WHICH WAS THE ONLY TELEGRAPH COMPANY OPERATING IN SAN JOSE IN 1854.

# CITY & SUBURBAN TELEGRAPH COMPANY

## CITY TELEGRAPH.

In immediate communication with different parts of NEW-YORK CITY and BROOKLYN, and connecting with every Telegraph Station in the United States and Canada. This line receives daily at its office, 21 Wall Street, and distributes, nearly all the Telegraphic Dispatches coming from other cities, etc., for the City of New-York, above Canal Street, and Brooklyn; affording merchants, and business men generally, opportunities for telegraphing their correspondents late in the afternoon or evening, and receiving replies in time for early business hours in the morning.

21 WALL STREET.	NEW-YORK HOTEL, 721 BROADWAY.	BROOKLYN,
METROPOLITAN HOTEL, DOWN STAIRS.	MADISON SQUARE P. O., BROADWAY AND 22D STREET.	Cor. MONTAGUE & COURT.

*Answer*

12¢

.....charge.....

*J. Maldron*

*care H. H. Day*

12¢ — 10¢ *SL*

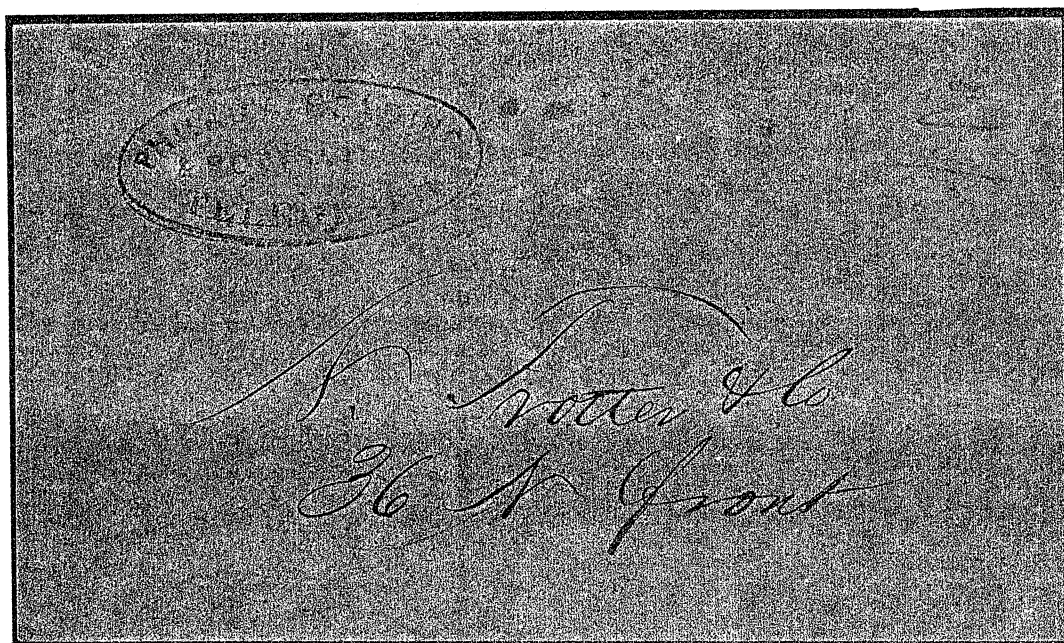
WASHINGTON XXVIII. J. MALDRON. CARE H. H. DAY.

DO NOT BE SAVED. ANSWER IMMEDIATELY. A

THE NEW YORK & SUBURBAN PRINTING TELEGRAPH COMPANY WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1855 FOR LOCAL TELEGRAPH DELIVERY SERVICE IN MANHATTAN, AND EVENTUALLY BROOKLYN. MESSAGE DEPOSITORIES WERE LOCATED IN VARIOUS LOCAL DRUG STORES, GROCERIES ETC. AND WERE REGULARLY ATTENDED TO BY COMPANY COURIERS, BROUGHT TO ONE OF SEVERAL TELEGRAPH OFFICES, RELAYED OVER THE LINE TO ANOTHER OFFICE, THEN PERSONALLY DELIVERED TO THE RECIPIENT. THE SOMETIMES CALLED "CITY AND SUBURBAN" WAS THE FIRST PRIVATE TELEGRAPH COMPANY IN THE WORLD TO ISSUE STAMPS FOR PAYMENT OF SERVICES. THE REQUIRED TARIFF WAS TO BE CUT BY THE USER AND THEN AFFIXED TO THE MESSAGE. RECONSTRUCTED BELOW IS THE HORIZONTAL LAYOUT OF A TYPICAL SHEET. THERE ARE NO FULL SHEETS IN EXISTENCE.




# PHILADELPHIA, READING & POTTSVILLE TELEGRAPH



THIS COMPANY OPERATED IN THE 1850'S AND WAS LOCAL IN NATURE.

**PHILADELPHIA, READING & POTTSVILLE**  
**TELEGRAPH**  
 CONNECTING WITH THE  
 Philadelphia & Sunbury, and Susquehanna, North & West Branch  
**TELEGRAPH LINES.**

DISPATCHES FORWARDED TO  
 Reading, Pottsville, Port Richmond,  
 Falls Schuylkill, Norristown,  
 Phoenixville, Pottstown,  
 Mohrsville, Port Clinton, Auburn,



AND TO ALL  
 STATIONS ON THE SUSQUEHANNA.

Office in Philadelphia, No. 21 Merchants' Exchange.

DISPATCHES FORWARDED TO  
 Owingsburg, Schuylkill Haven,  
 Mt. Carbon, Pella, Alto, Mine Hill,  
 Mine Hill, New Ashland, Mt. Carmel,  
 Shamokin, Strabury,

CALVERT & MEEHAN



THE BRISTOL, WARREN AND PROVIDENCE MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH COMPANY

SEPTEMBER 11, 1855

THE  
BRISTOL, WARREN AND PROVIDENCE  
Magnetic Telegraph Company,

*Connecting with the Eastern and Northern Lines to Halifax, and Southern  
and Western Lines.*

By Telegraph

W. P. Munroe

re; give  
address  
as well

es't.

55

M.

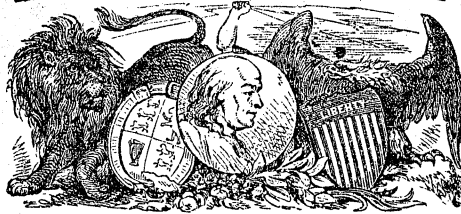
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND

THIS LOCAL RHODE ISLAND COMPANY OPERATED BRIEFLY DURING THE MID 1850'S.  
"MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH COMPANY" WOULD INDICATE A CONNECTION WITH THE MORSE  
PATENT.

AMERICAN TELEGRAPH COMPANY

AMERICAN TELEGRAPH COMPANY.  
PRINTING LINES.



OFFICE, No. 9  
DIRECT LINES TO  
TROY, PORTLAND, Me., ST. JOHN, HALIFAX, AND INTERMEDIATE STATIONS, AND CONNECTING WITH LINES TO  
ALL OTHER PARTS OF THE UNITED STATES AND BRITISH PROVINCES.

Washington Building.  
NEW YORK, BOSTON, ALBANY,

OFFICES. {  
New York, 21 Wall St.  
Boston, 31 State St., Traveller Buildings.  
Albany, Bank Building, Broadway.

{  
A. A. LOVETT, Sup't.  
New York, Boston and Albany District.

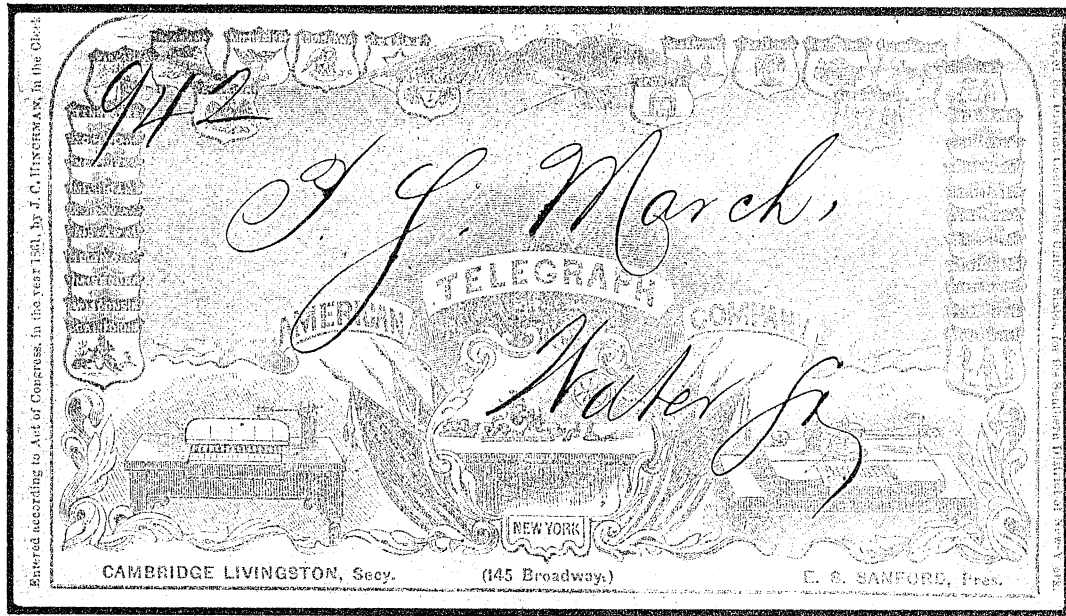
To *Mr. D* Providence, 185



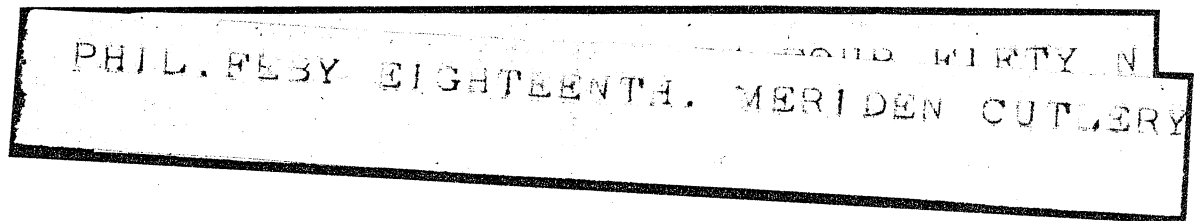
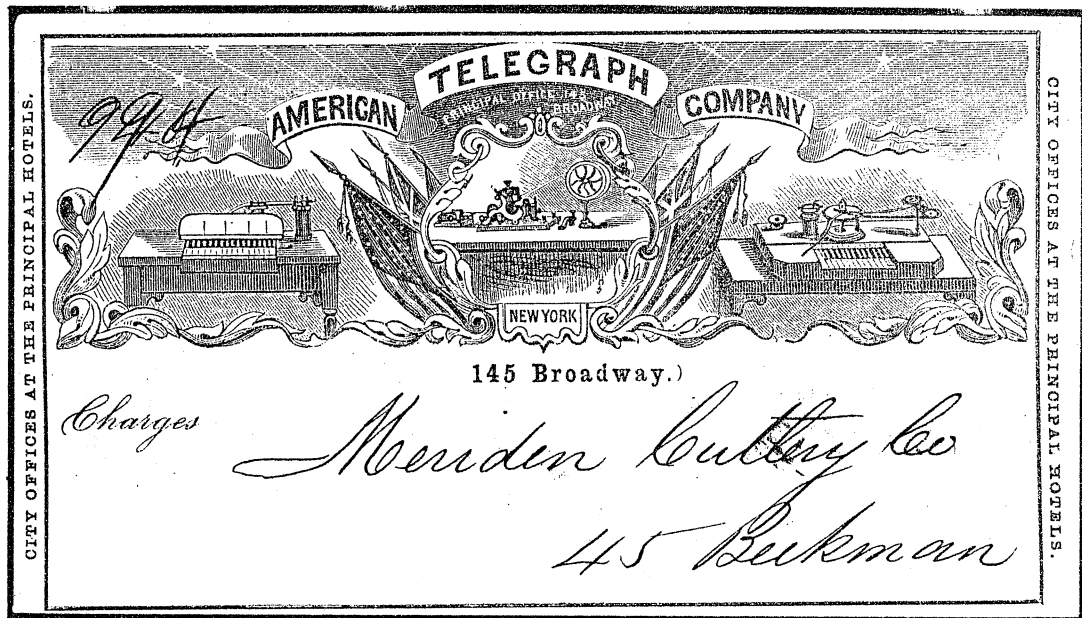
*Call ST*  
*Geo Livermore*  
*98 Paul St*

THIS PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND FORM AND BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS COVER ARE EARLY AMERICAN TELEGRAPH COMPANY EXAMPLES. THE BLUE EMBOSSED EAGLE IS 58 x 40 1/2 mm.

# AMERICAN TELEGRAPH COMPANY



THESE COVERS OF THE EARLY 1860'S ILLUSTRATE THE PRINTING INSTRUMENTS OF HUGHES, MORSE AND HOUSE, -ALL OF WHOSE SYSTEMS IT WAS ENTITLED TO USE.



# AMERICAN TELEGRAPH COMPANY

**American Telegraph Company**  
**PRINTING AND MORSE**  
 DIRECT TO ALL STATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

Offices, 432 Pennsylvania Avenue, U. S. Capitol, and Willard, The U. S. Hotel, and National Hotels, Washington, D. C.

44

If any error occurs in the transmission of any despatch over the lines of this Company, or if any one is unreasonably delayed, the tolls thereon will be refunded, but the Company will not be responsible beyond the exercise of good faith and the amount of tolls received, nor will it be responsible, in any way, for errors or faults of lines over which it has no control.

Let Jas G. Hall  
 Res. Co. 1<sup>st</sup> Mass Arty

Charge \_\_\_\_\_

BOSTON FEB. FIRST. LT. JAS. G. HALL  
 COCH CONGRESSMAN AND USE P. S. NAME DANL. A. GLEASON.

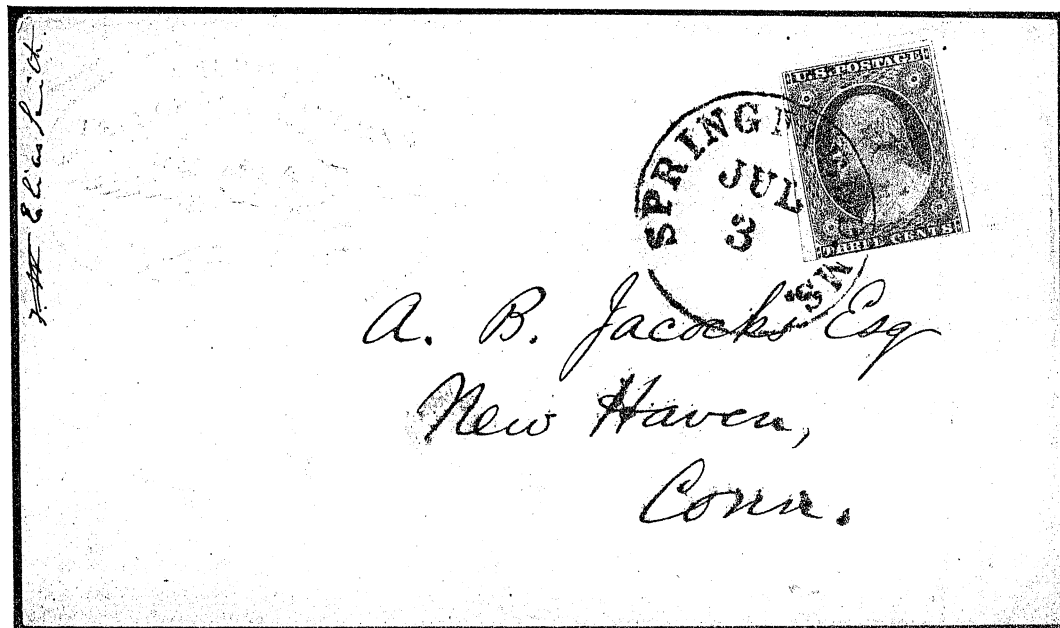
THIS 1864 TELEGRAM WAS SENT TO LT. JASON HALL OF THE 1st MASSACHUSETTS ARTILLERY.  
 IT IS INTERESTING TO COMPARE THE DIFFERENT "HOUSE" TAPES IN MILLIMETERS.

House's Printing Telegraph  
 City and Suburban  
 American

Tape Width	Letter Height	Letter "S" Width
25 $\frac{3}{4}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{3}{4}$
26 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{3}{4}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
18	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{3}{4}$

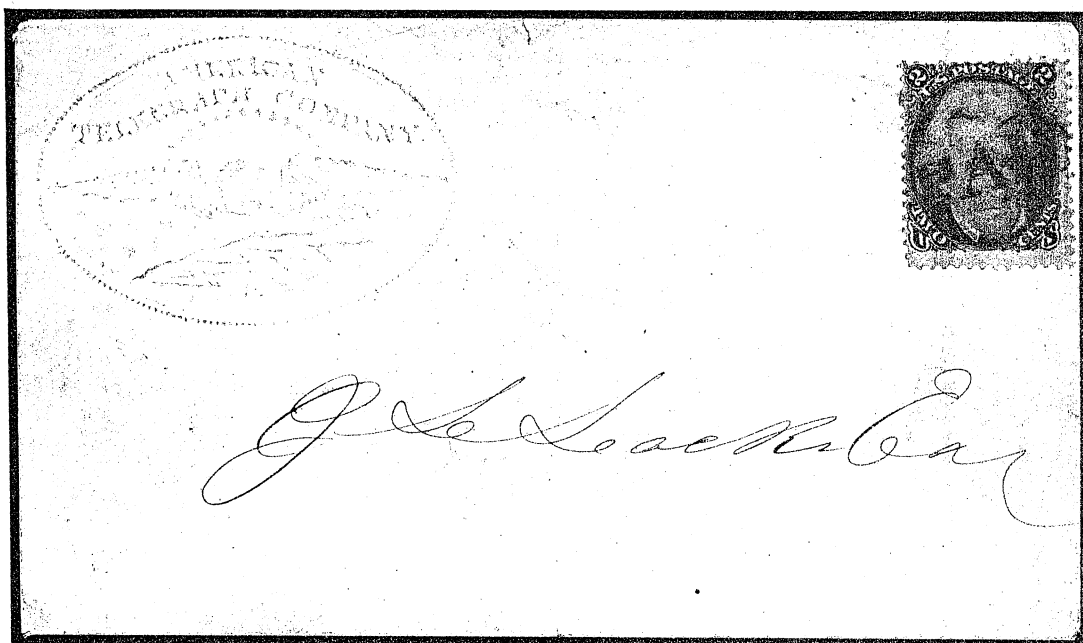
AMERICAN TELEGRAPH COMPANY

CIRCA 1856



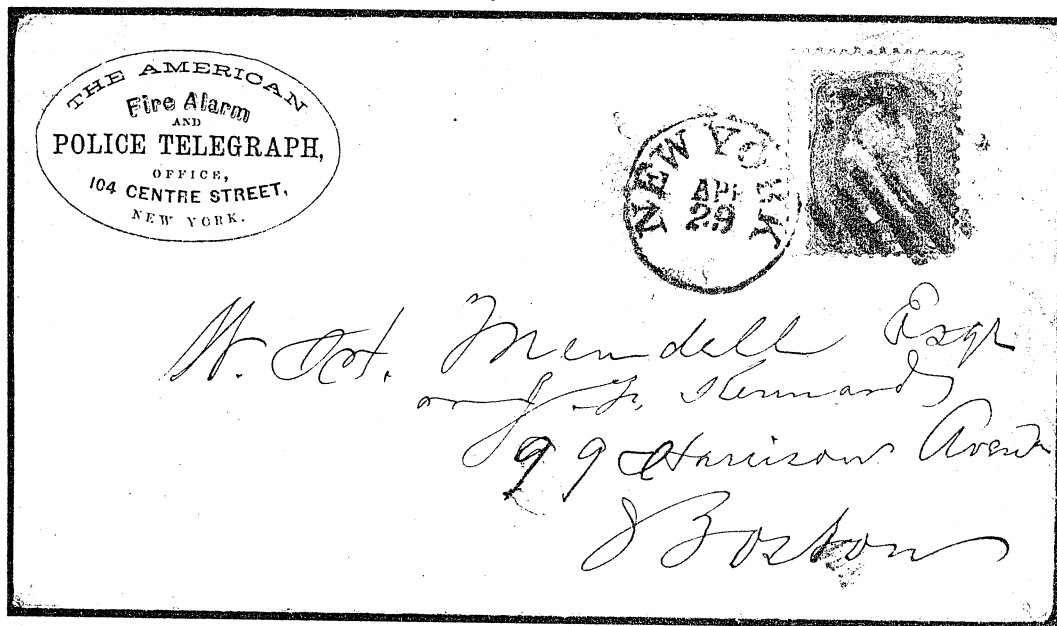
THE AMERICAN TELEGRAPH COMPANY WAS INCORPORATED NOVEMBER 1, 1855. IT BECAME THE FIRST SUCCESSFUL CONGLOMERATE, — ACQUIRING 50 OTHER COMPANIES BEFORE BEING LEASED TO WESTERN UNION, JUNE 12, 1866. THESE ARE 56 x 38½ MM EMBOSSED EAGLE STYLE COVERS.

CIRCA 1864



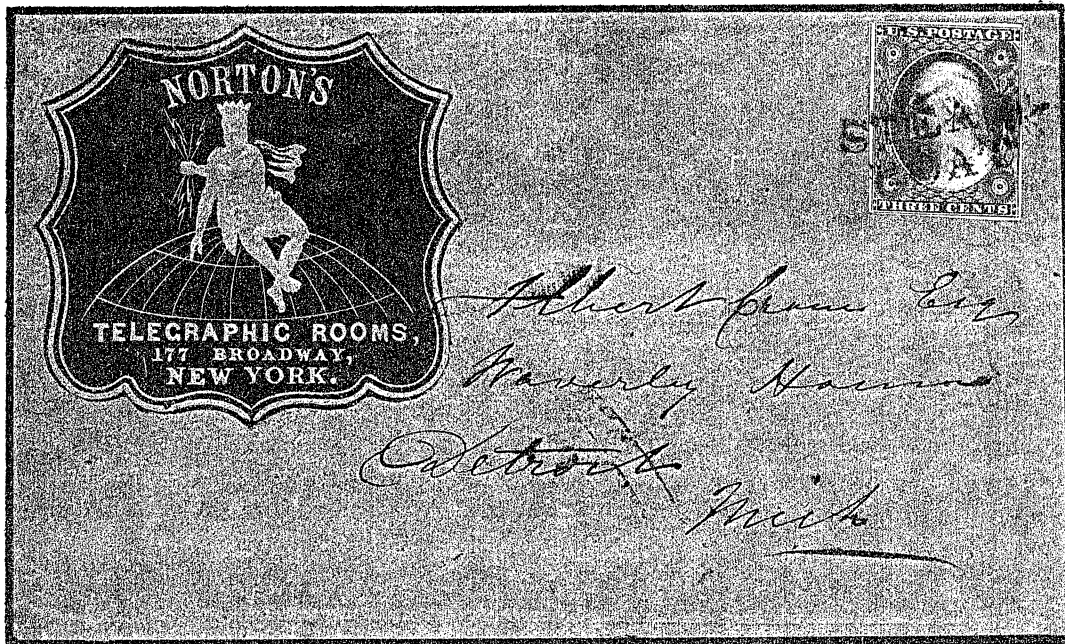


# THE AMERICAN FIRE ALARM AND POLICE TELEGRAPH

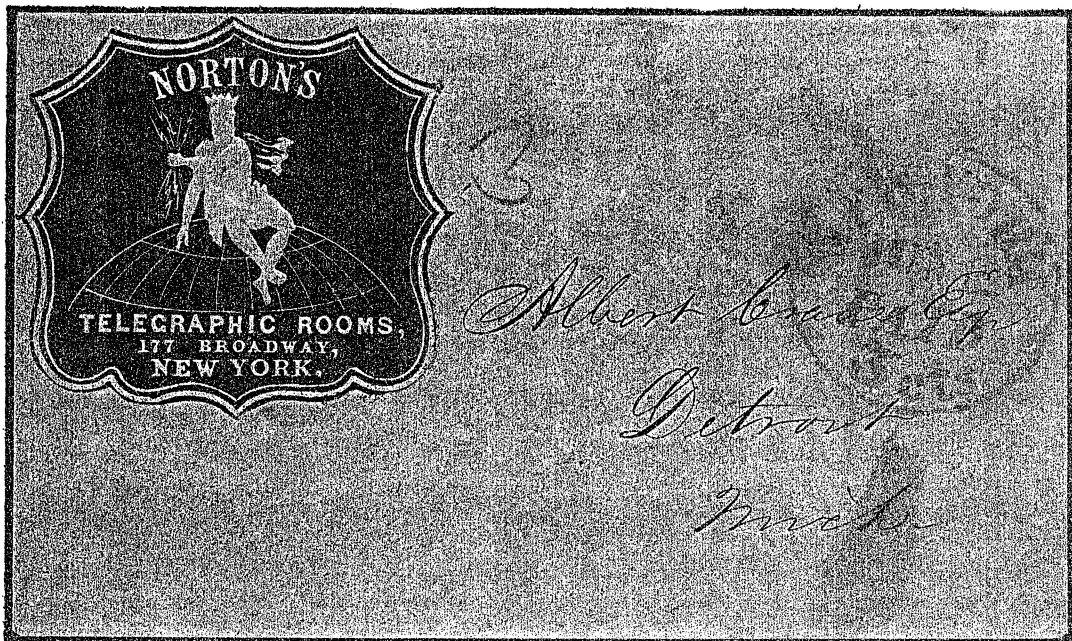


THIS COMPANY OF THE 1860'S WAS THE FIRST DESIGNED FOR PRIVATE EMERGENCY SERVICE TO THE FIRE AND POLICE DEPARTMENTS.

# NORTON'S TELEGRAPHIC ROOMS



THIS COMPANY, AS FAR AS IS KNOWN, WAS A PRIVATE DISPATCH SERVICE FOR PICKING UP AND DELIVERING TELEGRAMS. IT OPERATED BRIEFLY IN THE MID 1850'S. THE UPPER COVER IS ONE OF TWO KNOWN. THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY SIX KNOWN OF THE LOWER TYPE. BOTH WERE EXPIDITED THROUGH THE POSTAL SYSTEM.



ASTOR HOUSE TELEGRAPH

OFFICE WITHIN THE HOTEL, TO THE RIGHT OF THE MAIN ENTRANCE FROM BROADWAY.  
ENTRANCE FOR LADIES AT THE PRIVATE DOOR ON VESEY-STREET.

**ASTOR HOUSE TELEGRAPH.**

OFFICE OF THE

AMERICAN, THE NEW-YORK, ALBANY AND BUFFALO,  
AND THE CITY LINES,

*Having direct connection at established rates, with all parts of the United States and the Canadas ;  
also with the principal Hotels in the upper part of the city, Brooklyn,  
Williamsburgh, Fort Hamilton, and the*

**GENERAL OFFICE, NO. 21 WALL-STREET.**

**BY TELEGRAPH.**

*Dated* *Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> 1860*

*Rec'd at the* ASTOR HOUSE, *1/2* *M.*

**G. SWAN'S ASTOR HOUSE TELEGRAPH.**  
OFFICE,  
**RIGHT HAND SIDE,**  
ENTRANCE TO THE EXCHANGE ROOM, BROADWAY.

*Cyrus Dickson Esq*

*Astor.*

APPARENTLY, THIS PRIVATE CONCERN WAS A DISPATCH SERVICE WHICH OPERATED IN SOME HOTELS WITHIN PARTS OF GREATER NEW YORK CITY. THE FORM INDICATES WORKING ARRANGEMENTS WITH MAJOR TELEGRAPH COMPANIES AS WELL AS THE LOCAL "CITY" (AND SUBURBAN).

PHILADELPHIA AND WILKESBARRE TELEGRAPH COMPANY

*Philadelphia and Wilkesbarre Telegraph Co.*

**DIRECT LINE**

**TO EASTON, ALLENTOWN, MAUCH CHUNK, WILKESBARRE,  
SCRANTON, ELMIRA, BUFFALO, DUNKIRK, &c.**

Connecting with Telegraph Lines on the  
NEW YORK & ERIE R. R., LAKE SHORE R. R., MICHIGAN CENTRAL, ILLINOIS CENTRAL,  
and other Roads, making this

The most reliable Telegraphic Connection from PHILADELPHIA to the FAR WEST.

**Communications Confidential.**

Any remissness in the transmission or delivery of messages will be promptly attended to if  
reported to the undersigned. J. L. MINGLE, Sup't. Easton.

**Office in Philadelphia, 311 Chestnut Street,**  
SECOND FLOOR, FRONT ROOM.

Dated *M. Chubb* **BY TELEGRAPH.** *Feb 15* 1858



CONNECTING WITH

*Rail Road Telegraphs to the Far West.*

OFFICE IN PHILADELPHIA

SECOND FLOOR **311 Chestnut Street.** FRONT ROOM.

*Saml M Dubois*  
*109 Sanson St*

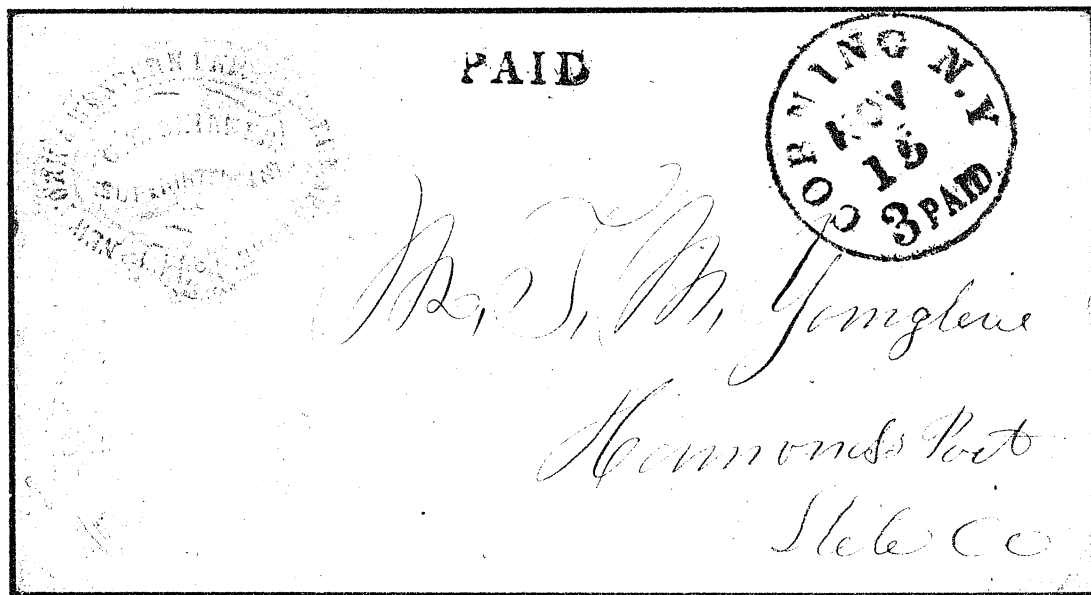
MAUCH CHUNK, PENNSYLVANIA

—

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

ESTABLISHED IN THE LATE 1840'S, THIS 1858 COMPANY MASTHEAD INDICATED A SPECIAL ABILITY TO PROVIDE CONNECTING SERVICE TO THE RAILROAD TELEGRAPH COMPANIES WHICH PROBABLY DID NOT HAVE OFFICES IN EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA. THE COMPANY WAS ABSORBED BY THE AMERICAN TELEGRAPH COMPANY IN 1861.

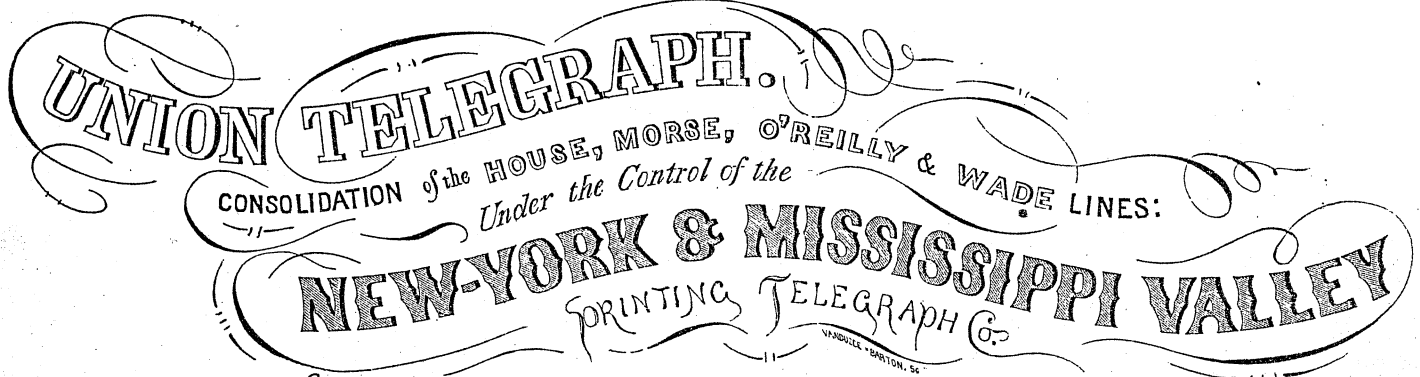
THE NEW YORK AND WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH LINE



THE NEW YORK AND WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH LINE WAS WHOLLY OWNED BY EZRA CORNELL. FROM JANUARY 1852 TO JANUARY 11, 1853 IT OPERATED IN COMPETITION WITH THE EXPANSION LINES TO THE GREAT LAKES. IT WAS THEN LEASED BY THE POWERFUL NEW YORK ALBANY AND BUFFALO AND EFFECTIVELY REMOVED FROM BUSINESS. AT THE FINAL CONSOLIDATION, CORNELL INSISTED THAT THE NAME "WESTERN UNION" SURVIVE.

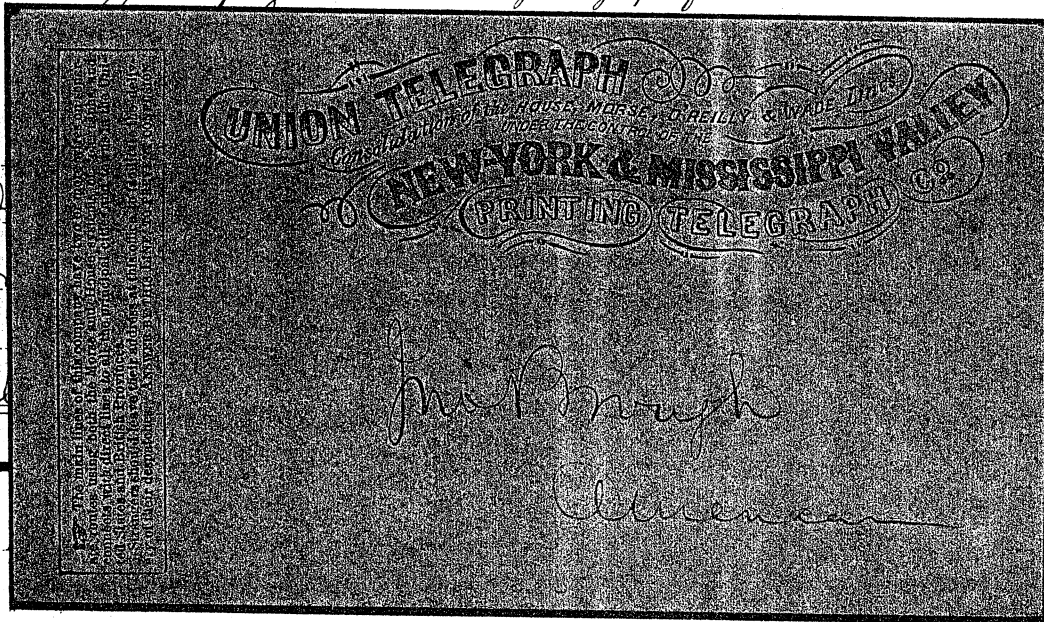


Cleveland Office—Franklin Buildings, cor. Superior and Water Sts. (first floor.)



Cleveland, 14th July, 1855. By Telegraph from Marion 185

I cannot  
to get it  
my report  
make  
I have a

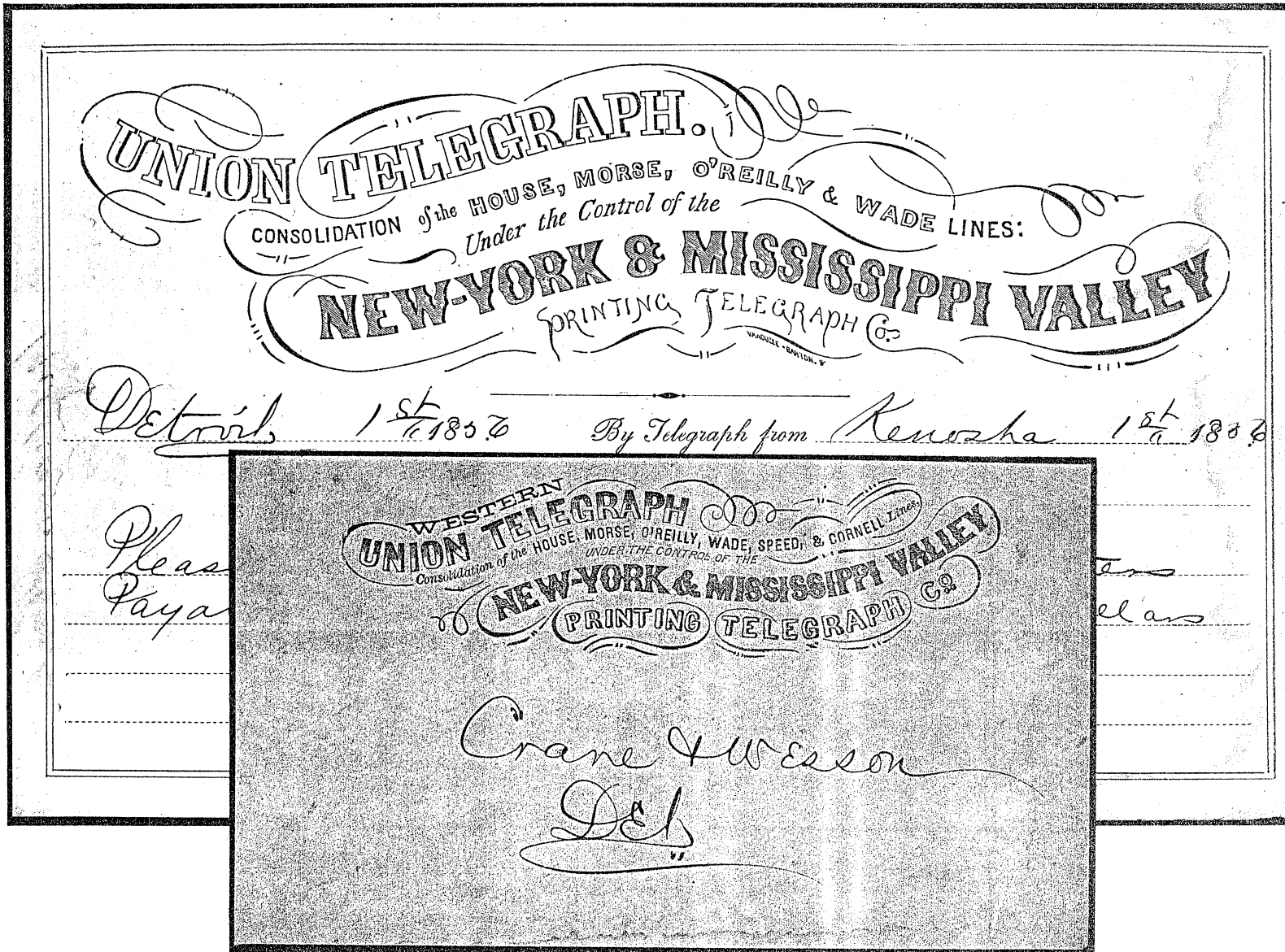


Cleveland  
now do to get  
seen to  
cannot be blas  
now Saturday

THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY WAS ORGANIZED APRIL 4, 1856 BY CONSOLIDATION OF THE ERIE AND MICHIGAN TELEGRAPH CO. WHICH POSSESSED THE MOST STRATEGIC ROUTES TO THE WEST AND THE NEW YORK & MISSISSIPPI VALLEY PRINTING TELEGRAPH CO. WHICH CONTROLLED THE MOST IMPROTANT MORSE PATENTS.

THE COVER WAS THE FINAL TYPE USED BY NEW YORK AND MISSISSIPPI VALLEY.

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH



THIS "PROVISIONAL" 1856 "WESTERN UNION" COVER IS OF EXTREME IMPORTANCE BECAUSE IT IS ONE OF A FEW RECORDED. THE PRECEEDING COVER WAS MODIFIED TO INSERT "WESTERN" ABOVE THE "UNION TELEGRAPH". ADDITIONALLY, "SPEED & CORNELL" WERE SQUEEZED IN ON THE FOLLOWING LINE.

IT IS INTERESTING THAT THE FORMER COMPANY MASTHEAD HAD NOT YET BEEN CHANGED ON THE ACCOMPANYING FORM.

# WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH.

CONSOLIDATION OF THE

HOUSE, MORSE, O'REILLY, WADE, SPEED AND CORNELL LINES.

BY TELEGRAPH

PRINCIPAL OFFICES  
OF THE  
Union Telegraph  
AND ITS CONNECTIONS.

Albany, Louisville,  
Buffalo, Milwaukee,  
Boston, Montreal,  
Baltimore, New York,  
Cincinnati, Oswego,  
Chicago, Philadelphia,  
Cleveland, Pittsburgh,  
Columbus, Quebec,  
Detroit, Toronto,  
Dayton, Toledo,  
Dubuque, St. Louis,  
Halifax, Sandusky,  
Washington, D. C.

DISPATCHES FOR EUROPE, forwarded by Steamers, from New York, Boston, or Halifax.

WESTERN  
UNION TELEGRAPH  
Consolidation of the HOUSE, MORSE, O'REILLY, WADE, SPEED, & CORNELL LINES



Rev. Dr. Edwards  
South Hanover  
Ind

THIS TELEGRAM IS THE FIRST TYPE WESTERN UNION FORM. IT WAS SENT FOUR MONTHS AFTER CONSOLIDATION. THE COVER IS THE FIRST "OFFICIAL" TYPE AND WAS USED FOR ABOUT ONE YEAR.

# WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH CO.

## CONSOLIDATED LINES.

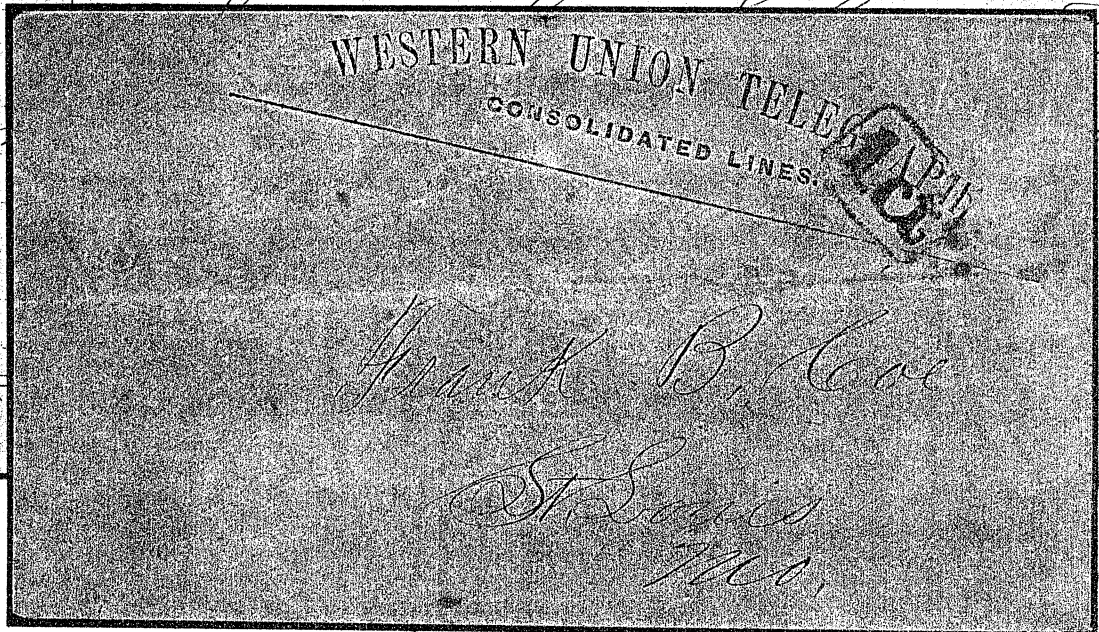
### TERMS AND CONDITIONS ON WHICH MESSAGES ARE RECEIVED BY THIS COMPANY FOR TRANSMISSION.

The public are notified, that, in order to guard against mistakes in the transmission of messages, every message of importance ought to be repeated, by being sent back from the station at which it is to be received to the station from which it is originally sent. Half the usual price for transmission will be charged for repeating the message. This Company will not be responsible for mistakes or delays in the transmission or delivery of unreported messages, from whatever cause they may arise; nor will it be responsible for damages arising from mistakes or delays in the transmission or delivery of a repeated message, beyond an amount exceeding two hundred times the amount paid for sending the message; nor will it be responsible for delays arising from interruptions in the working of its Telegraphs, nor for any mistake or omission of any other Company over whose lines a message is to be sent to reach the place of destination. All messages will hereafter be received by this Company for transmission, subject to the above conditions.

A. STAGER, Gen. Sup't, Cleveland, O.

I. R. ELWOOD, Sec'y, Rochester, N. Y.

To *Frank B. Coe* St. Louis, *December 1st 1857*  
*P.O.* By Telegraph from *Middletown 1st 1857*



THE 1857 FORM IS THE SECOND TYPE AND SHOWS RECEIPT IN ST. LOUIS BY WIRE. THIS SECOND TYPE DELIVERY COVER INDICATES THE MESSAGE WAS THEN SENT STAMPLESS THROUGH THE POSTAL SYSTEM "ACROSS TOWN".



WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH CO.

GIRARD, CONNEAUTVILLE AND MEADVILLE TELEGRAPH CO.

CONNEAUTVILLE OFFICE, IN ROBINSON'S BRICK BLOCK, D. D. WILLIAMS, OPERATOR

18

By Telegraph from Paoli July 14 1854

To Thos J. Neall

Thy Father is living  
but cannot survive long. Come soon

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH.  
CONSOLIDATED LINES.

Thos J. Neall Esq

Paoli

THIS STYLE COVER, IN USE FROM LATE 1857 TO 1861, ILLUSTRATES THE ACQUISITION OF A SMALL LOCAL TELEGRAPH COMPANY. THE MESSAGE FORM STILL RETAINS THE IMPRINT OF THE LOCAL COMPANY, BUT THE MATCHING ENVELOPE HAS THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH MASTHEAD.

# WESTERN UNION AND MONTREAL TELEGRAPH COMPANIES.

No. 1.]

Terms and Conditions on which this and all Messages are Received by this Company.

In order to guard against and correct as much as possible some of the errors arising from atmospheric and other causes appertaining to telegraphy, every important message should be repeated, by being sent back from the station at which it is to be received to the station from which it is originally sent. Half the usual price will be charged for repeating the message, and while this Company in good faith will endeavor to send messages correctly and promptly, it will not be responsible for errors or delays in the transmission or delivery, nor for the non-delivery of repeated messages, beyond two hundred times the sum paid for sending the message, unless a special agreement for insurance be made in writing, at the amount of risk specified on this agreement, and paid at the time of sending the message. Nor will the Company be responsible for any error or delay in the transmission or delivery, or for the non-delivery, of any unrepeated message, beyond the amount paid for sending the same, unless in like manner specially insured, and amount of risk stated hereon, and paid for at the time. No liability is assumed for errors in cipher or obscure messages; nor is any liability assumed by this Company for any error or neglect by any other Company over whose lines this message may be sent to reach its destination, and this Company is hereby made the agent of the sender of this message to forward it over the lines extending beyond those of this Company. No agent or employee is allowed to vary these terms, or make any other or verbal agreement, nor any promise as to the time of performance, and no one but a Superintendent is authorized to make a special agreement for insurance. These terms apply through the whole course of this message on all lines by which it may be transmitted.

To *Chas Hartung* From *New York* Dated *Nov 12*  
*Mich Exch Hotel* Rec'd *186 130 M.*  
*Why should we not be*  
*made what do you mean*

## Western Union & Montreal Telegraph

DETROIT OFFICE.

No. 50 Griswold Street, adjoining Express Building.

OPEN DAY AND NIGHT.

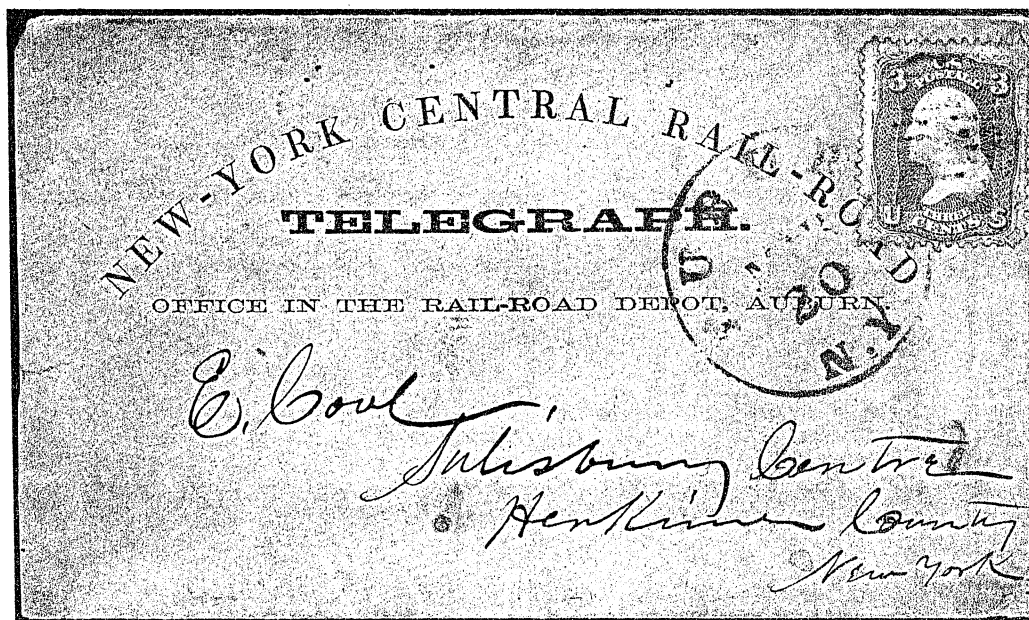
Branch Offices: New Board of Trade Building, and all the R. R. Depots.

No. *72* *Chas Hartung*  
*Mich Exch*  
 NO CHARGE.  
 The Messenger is not allowed to make a charge for delivery, as he is paid in full by the Company.

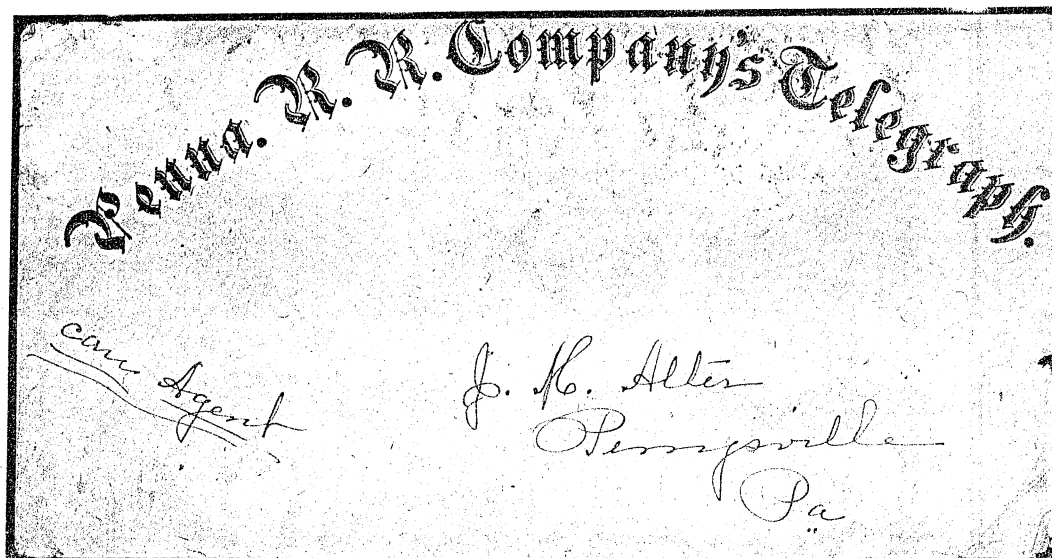
THIS WAS NOT A COMPANY PER SE BUT RATHER A WORKING ARRANGEMENT AS THE MASTHEAD OF THE ABOVE FORM ILLUSTRATES.



## RAILROAD TELEGRAPH COMPANIES

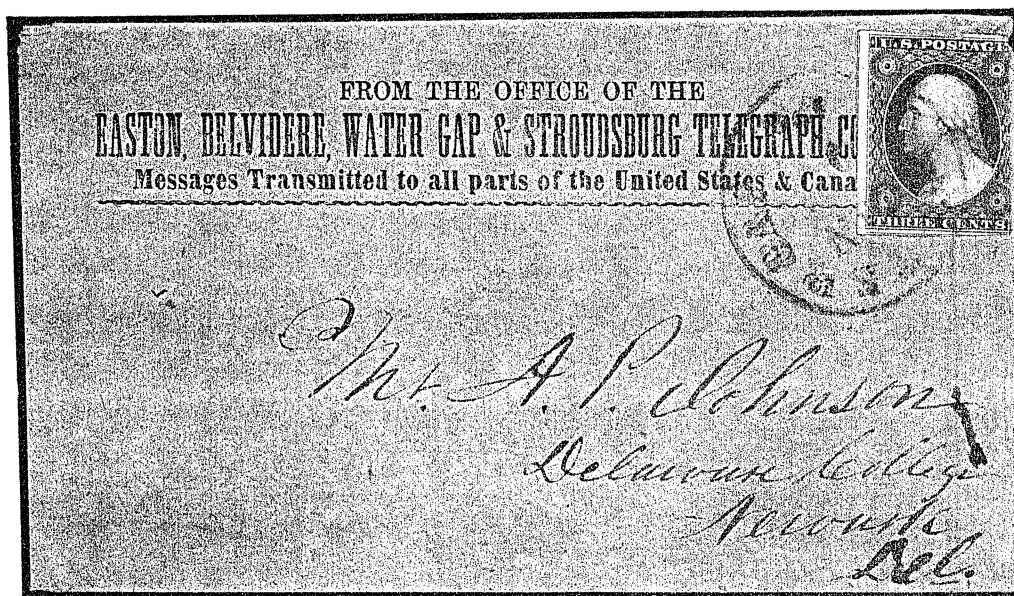


BY 1860, MANY RAILROADS HAD ESTABLISHED THEIR OWN TELEGRAPH COMPANIES; SOME ONLY TO TRANSMIT RAILROAD INFORMATION WHILE OTHERS ACCEPTED PUBLIC BUSINESS, - PARTICULARLY THAT FROM PRIVATE COMPANIES WITH WHOM THEY HAD TRANSACTIONS.



EASTON, BELVIDERE, WATER GAP & STROUDSBURG TELEGRAPH COMPANY

JANUARY 9, 1857  
(PENCIL NOTATION ON BACK)



VERY LITTLE IF ANYTHING IS KNOWN ABOUT THE ORIGINS OF THIS COMPANY WHICH APPARENTLY OPERATED IN EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA. THE POSTMARK ON THIS COVER IS "WATER GAP PA, JAN 9". THERE IS A PENCIL NOTATION "JAN 12, 1857" ON THE BACK SIDE.

Long Bar 14<sup>th</sup> May 1859

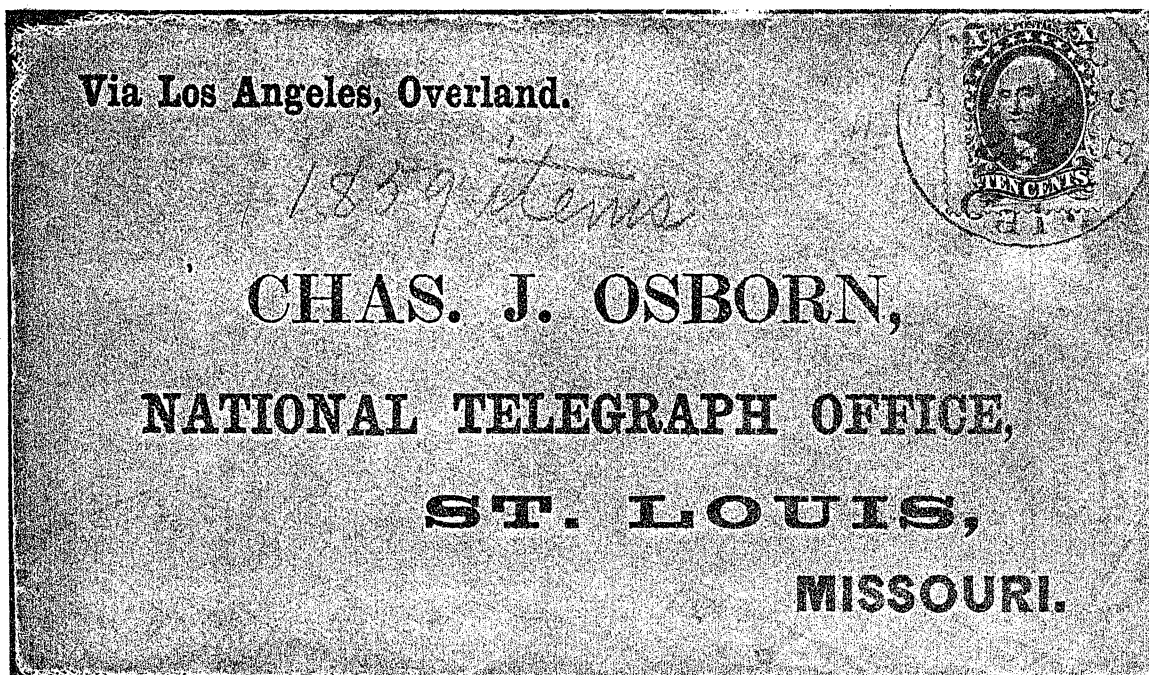
Geo. Searf Esq.  
Telegraph Office,  
Marysville.



THIS ILLUSTRATED "MINER" COVER MAY OR MAY NOT HAVE RESULTED IN A TELEGRAPH BEING SENT FROM THE TELEGRAPH OFFICE IN MARYSVILLE, CALIFORNIA. AS IT WAS CARRIED BY PRIVATE EXPRESS FROM THE DIGGINGS AT LONG BAR, IT ILLUSTRATES THE IMPORTANCE OF THE TELEGRAPH TO THE GOLD RUSH.

OVERLAND BY STAGECOACH

CIRCA 1859

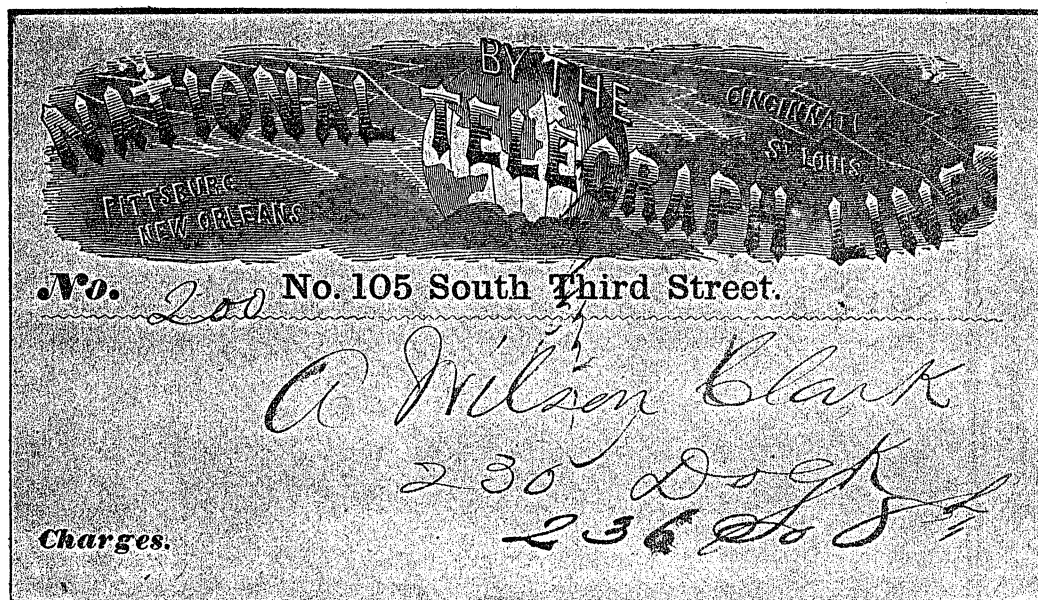


SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA - VIA LOS ANGELES - BUTTERFIELD ROUTE  
NATIONAL TELEGRAPH OFFICE, ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI - BY WIRE - ADDRESSEE

THIS WEST - EAST COVER CONTAINED A MESSAGE WHICH WAS TRANSMITTED IMMEDIATELY UPON ITS RECEPTION IN ST. LOUIS BY THE NATIONAL TELEGRAPH COMPANY TO THE ADDRESSEE.

WHILE NOT SHOWN, THE DATING OF THIS COVER IS MOST LIKELY 1859. THE TRANSCONTINENTAL TELEGRAPH WAS COMPLETED OCTOBER 24, 1861, AND AS THE WIRES GOT CLOSER TOGETHER DURING 1860 AND 1861, IT WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN NECESSARY TO EMPLOY THE FULL BUTTERFIELD ROUTE.

NATIONAL TELEGRAPH LINES



THIS O'REILLY CONTROLLED LINE WAS A MAJOR MIDWEST - PHILADELPHIA COMPANY.

[BY TELEGRAPH FROM ST. LOUIS TO FORT KEARNY,  
THENCE BY PONY EXPRESS TO MIDDLE GATE  
STATION, THENCE BY TELEGRAPH TO SACRA-  
MENTO.]

MIDDLE GATE STATION,  
75 miles east of Fort Churchill,  
July 30th.  
The Pony, with dates from St. Louis to July  
22d, arrived here at one o'clock this morning,  
ten hours behind time, bringing advices for the  
Union.

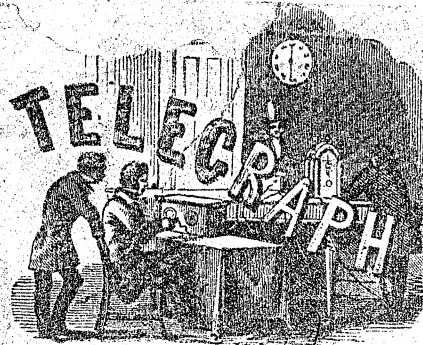
**DATES TO JULY 22d.**

The United States Grand Army mov-  
ing on Manassas Junction—the Rebels  
Retreat from their advanced Pos-  
itions—Attack on Batteries—Killed  
and Wounded—General Johnson  
forming a Junction with Beaure-  
gard—Six hundred of Wise's men  
Driven from Barboursville—Califor-  
nia Treasure escorted from Aspi-  
wall—Cotton Report—Colonel Sigel  
Promoted to a Brigadier-General—  
A party Surprised by Rebels near  
Fortress Monroe—New Tariff Bill—  
Two more Battles in Missouri—The  
Rebels defeated in both instances.

St. Louis, July 20th,  
via FORT KEARNY, July 22d.

On July 18th the grand army reached Bull's  
Run, three miles from Manassas Junction, where  
it met the first resistance of any importance.  
Prior to that only a few collisions occurred be-  
tween the Federal scouts and skirmishers, and  
scattering bands of the enemy's cavalry. A  
few of the latter were captured. The obstruc-

JULY 30, 1861



**PLACERVILLE**  
AND  
**ST. JOSEPH**  
**OVERLAND TELEGRAPH**  
**COMPANY.**

Charges.

*Jas. M. Reynolds*

NEWS OF BULL'S RUN; NOTE THE INTERWORKING  
OF THE TELEGRAPH AND THE PONY EXPRESS.

ON OCTOBER 24, 1861 THE TRANSCONTINENTAL TELEGRAPH WAS COMPLETED BY  
THIS COMPANY. THEN, THERE WAS NO LONGER A NEED FOR THE PONY EXPRESS TO  
CARRY NEWS AND IT CEASED OPERATION SHORTLY THEREAFTER.

125

**NEW YORK, ALBANY & BUFFALO TELEGRAPH CO**

PRINCIPAL OFFICE, TELEGRAPH BUILDINGS, 145 BROADWAY, COR. LIBERTY ST., NEW-YORK.

Auxiliary Offices: St. Nicholas Hotel, Hudson River Railroad Depots, & Produce Exch:

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS ON WHICH MESSAGES ARE RECEIVED BY THIS COMPANY FOR TRANSMISSION.**

The public are notified that, in order to guard against mistakes in the transmission of messages, every message of importance ought to be repeated by being sent back  
station at which it is to be received to the station from which it is originally sent. If the usual price for transmission will be charged for repeating the message, and  
Company will, as heretofore use every precaution to ensure correctness, it will not be responsible for mistakes or delays in the transmission or delivery of repeated messag  
an amount exceeding five hundred times the amount paid for sending the message, nor will it be responsible for mistakes or delays in the transmission of unreported mess  
whatever cause they may arise, nor for delays arising from interruptions in the workings of its telegraphs, nor for any mistake or omission of any other company over w  
a message is to be sent to reach the place of destination. All messages will hereafter be received by this company for transmission subject to the above conditions.

**JAMES D. REID**, Sup't, Utica, N. Y.

**THOMAS R. WALKER**, Presid

To A. W. Canfield  
Albany. Opdyke & Co

From San Francisco Dated  
Rec'd. Apl 19 1862 12 25 &

No. 19

**New York, Albany and Buffalo Telegraph Co.**  
PRINCIPAL OFFICE,  
TELEGRAPH BUILDING, No. 145 BROADWAY,  
OPEN AT ALL HOURS.

AUXILIARY OFFICES.—St. Nicholas Hotel, Produce Exchange, and Hudson River R. R. Depots.

*A W Canfield*  
*Geo Opdyke & Co*  
*36 Barclay*

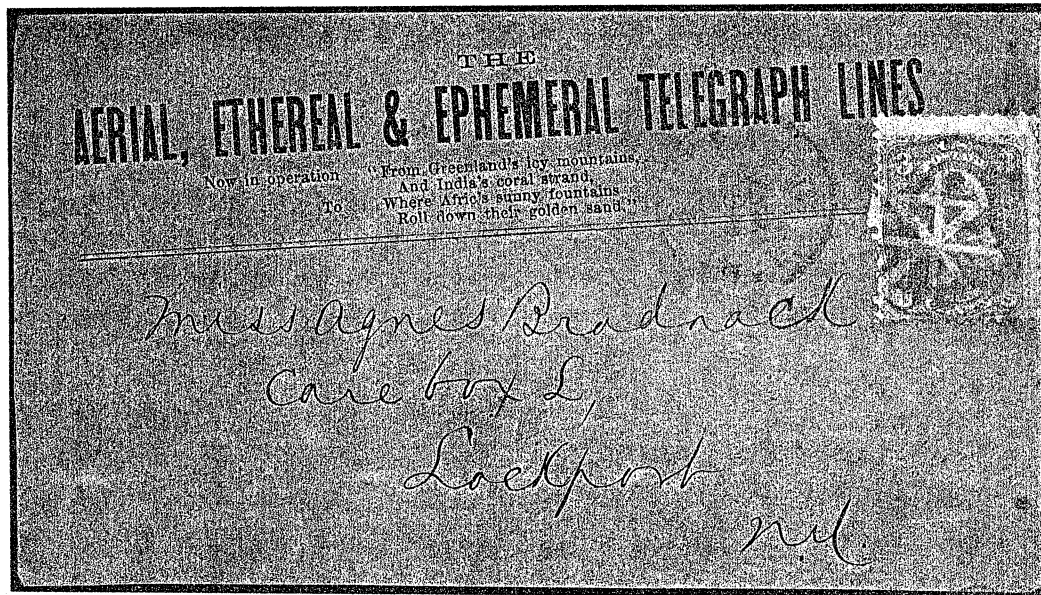
*Raid*

*left Eleventh*  
*last*

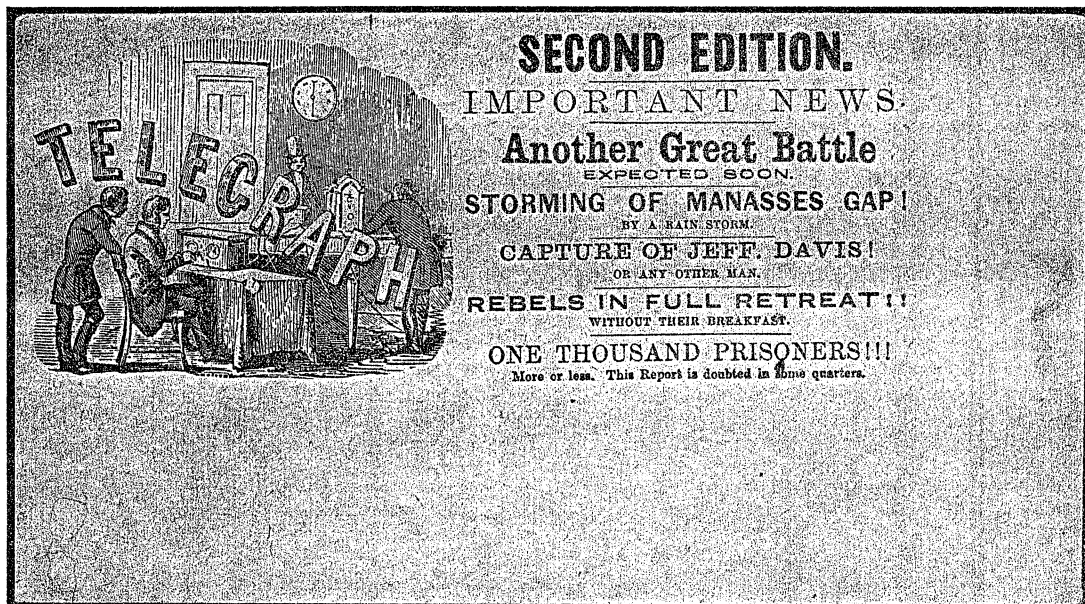
AN EARLY EXAMPLE OF THE COMPLETED  
TRANSCONTINENTAL TELEGRAPH.



SPOOFS!



THESE COVERS OF THE 1860'S WERE COMPLETELY FRAUDULENT.



THE VIGNETTE OF THIS COVER WAS TAKEN FROM THAT OF THE PLACERVILLE AND ST. JOSEPH OVERLAND TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

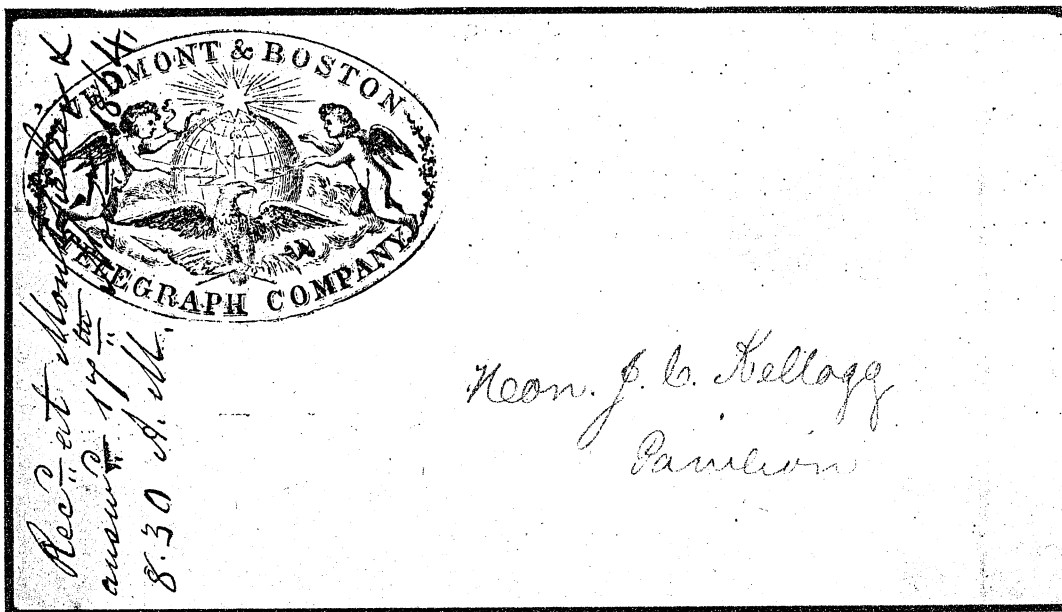


VERMONT & BOSTON TELEGRAPH COMPANY

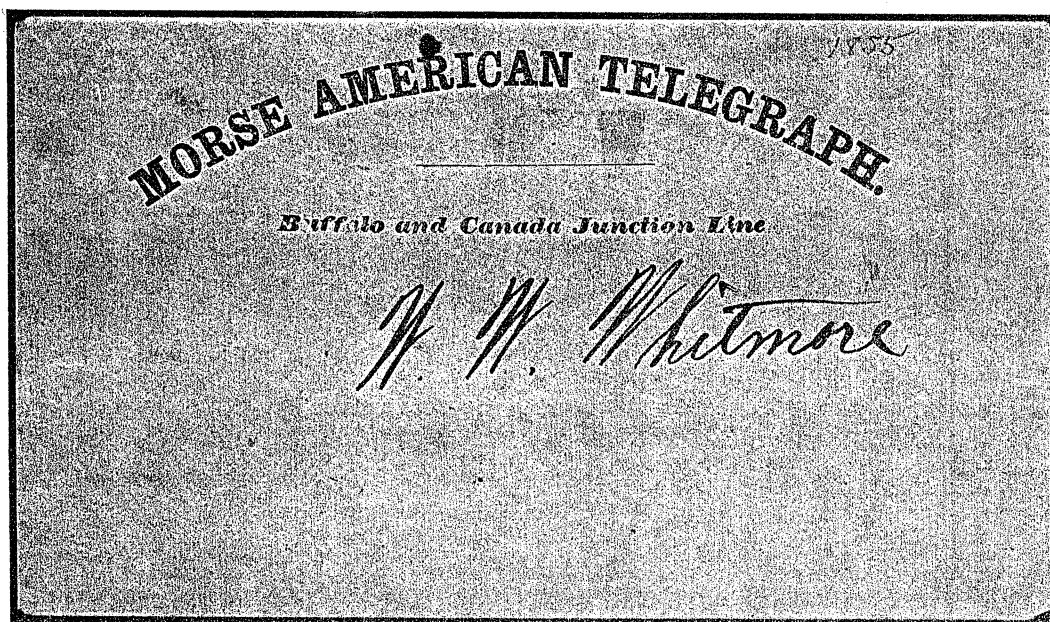


IN 1863, THE AMERICAN TELEGRAPH COMPANY PURCHASED CONTROLLING INTEREST AND REPLACED THE BAIN EQUIPMENT WITH THAT OF MORSE, VIRTUALLY ENDING ALL COMPETITION BETWEEN THE TWO SYSTEMS.

THESE 1863 AND 1864 COVERS ARE THE LAST TYPE USED BY THIS COMPANY

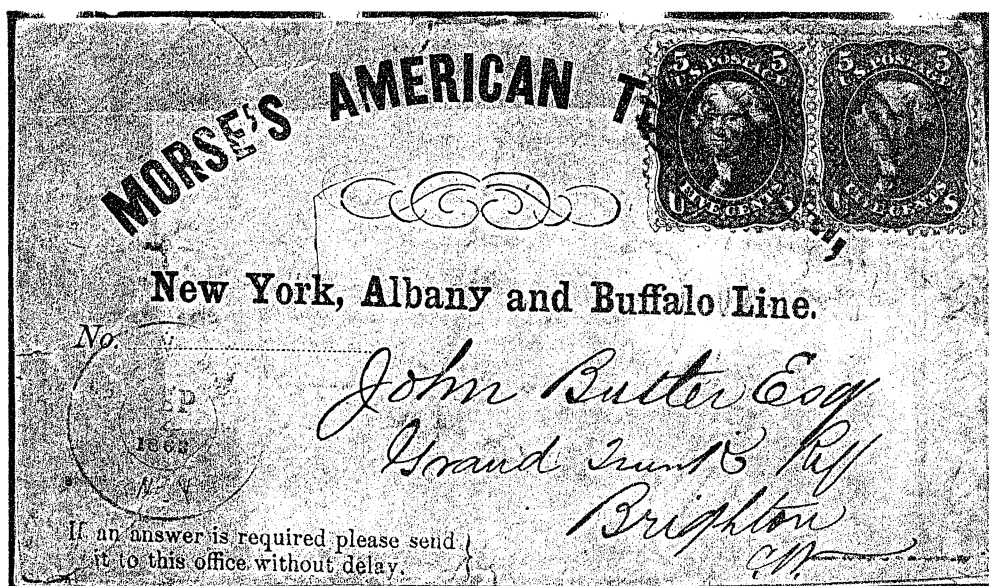


MORSE'S AMERICAN TELEGRAPH



THIS LINE CONNECTED WITH THE MONTREAL TELEGRAPH COMPANY AT BUFFALO, N.Y.

SEPTEMBER 4, 1863

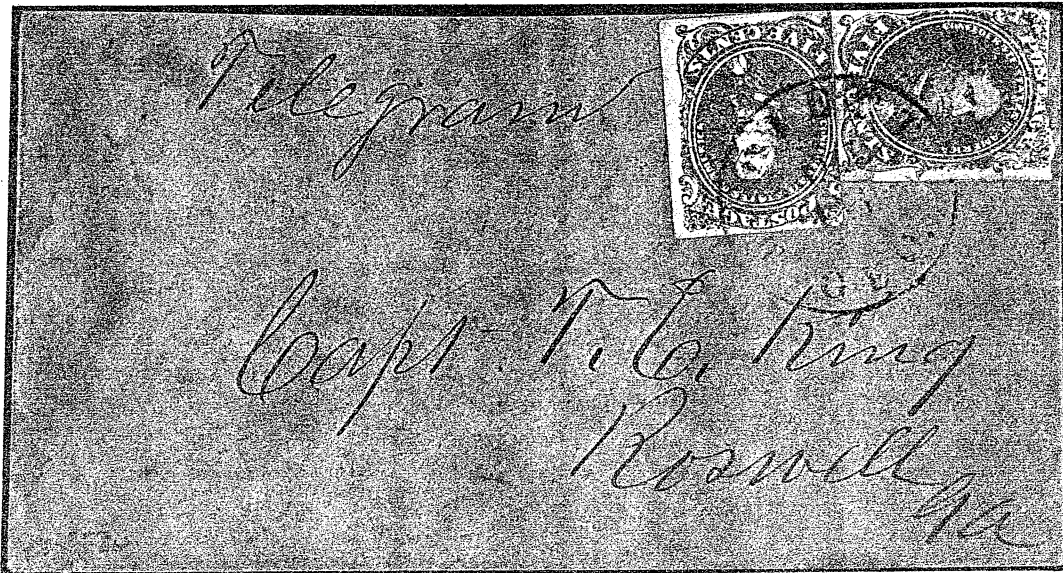


CHERRY CREEK, NEW YORK  
VIA GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY

U.S. MAIL  
BRIGHTON, CANADA WEST

## CONFEDERATE TELEGRAPH SYSTEM

ALTHOUGH IT IS UNCLEAR AS TO WHETHER THERE WERE ANY PRIVATELY OWNED TELEGRAPH COMPANIES IN THE CONFEDERACY, ALL WERE UNDER THE DIRECT SUPERVISION AND CONTROL OF THE CONFEDERATE POSTAL SERVICE. THEREFORE, IT IS CALLED A TELEGRAPH SYSTEM.



THE POSTAL SERVICE WAS USED TO SEND THE ABOVE COVER TO CAPTAIN T.C. KING FROM MARIETTA TO ROSWELL, GEORGIA, WHICH IS A DISTANCE OF LESS THAN FIFTEEN MILES. PERHAPS THE "TELEGRAM" NOTATION IN MANUSCRIPT ENTITLED THIS PIECE OF MAIL TO PRIORITY TREATMENT. THERE PROBABLY WAS A LACK OF, OR TEMPORARY DISRUPTION OF, THE TELEGRAPH WIRES BETWEEN THE TWO TOWNS.

NOTE: AS THERE ARE ARGUABLY 40 - 60 CONFEDERATE TELEGRAPH COVERS EXTANT, THEY ALL ARE CONSIDERED "TREASURES".

# CONFEDERATE TELEGRAPH SYSTEM

MAY 13, 1861

## AMERICAN TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

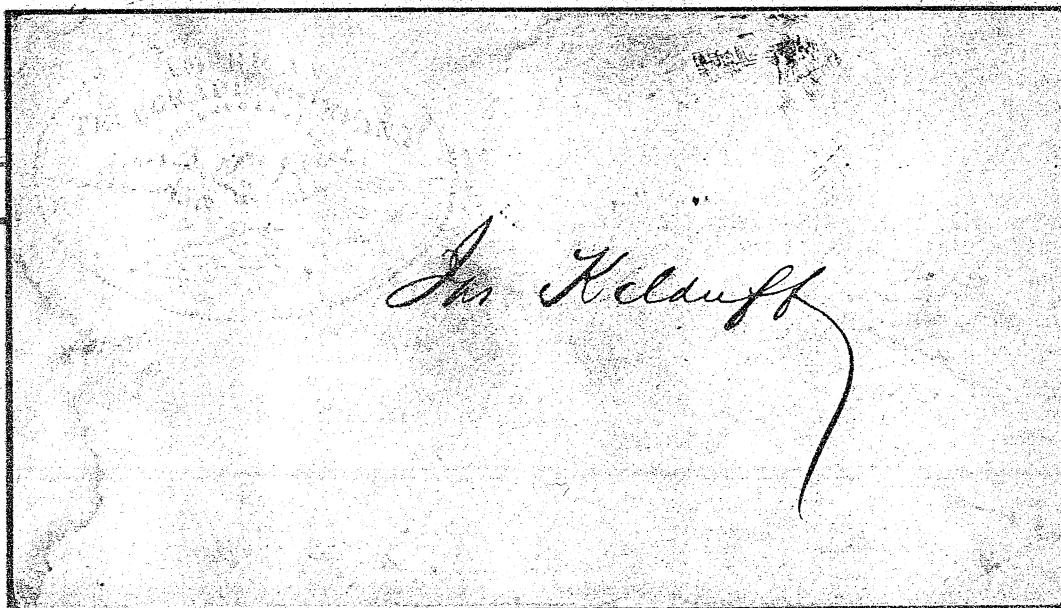
### TERMS AND CONDITIONS ON WHICH MESSAGES ARE RECEIVED BY THIS COMPANY FOR TRANSMISSION.

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J. KENDALL, Gen'l Sup't,  
145 BROADWAY, N. Y.

E. S. SANFORD, Pres't,  
145 BROADWAY, N. Y.

Received at Mobile May 13 1861. at 1 o'clock, 15 minutes.  
By telegraph from Montgomery To James Kilduff  
State artillery leave for Pensacola  
tomorrow seven ⑦ a.m. All well.  
Geo Lyons Jr  
10.50 CENTS



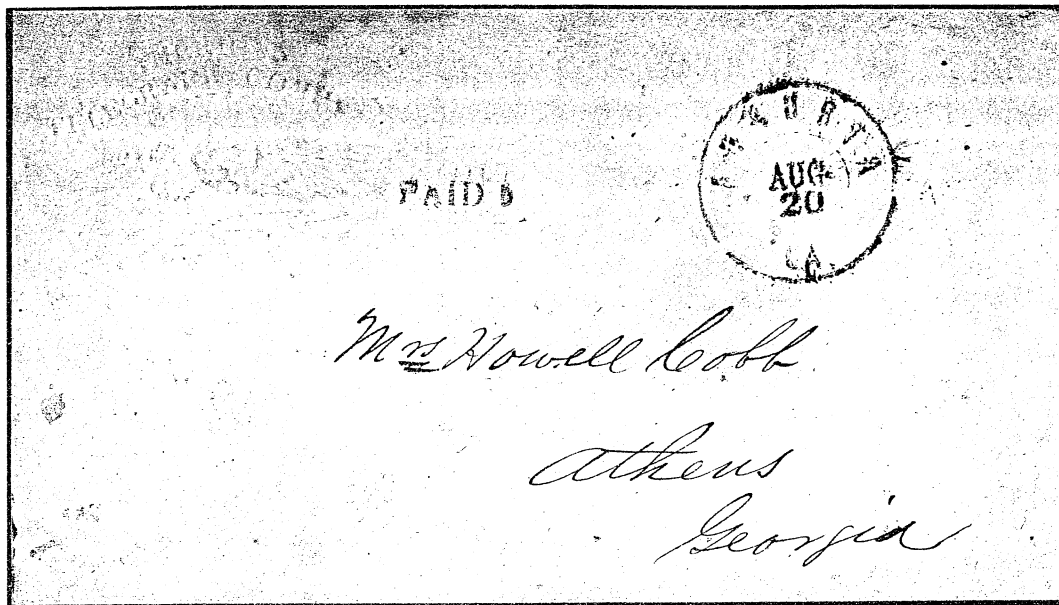
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA - BY WIRE - MOBILE, ALABAMA

THE AMERICAN TELEGRAPH LINES FROM RICHMOND, VIRGINIA AND SOUTH WERE REORGANIZED AS THE SOUTHERN (CONFEDERATE) TELEGRAPH COMPANIES ON MAY 21, 1861. EXISTING FORMS AND COVERS REMAINED IN USE.

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA WAS THE FIRST CONFEDERATE CAPITAL (FEBRUARY 4 - MAY 29, 1861).

# CONFEDERATE TELEGRAPH SYSTEM

AUGUST 20, 1861



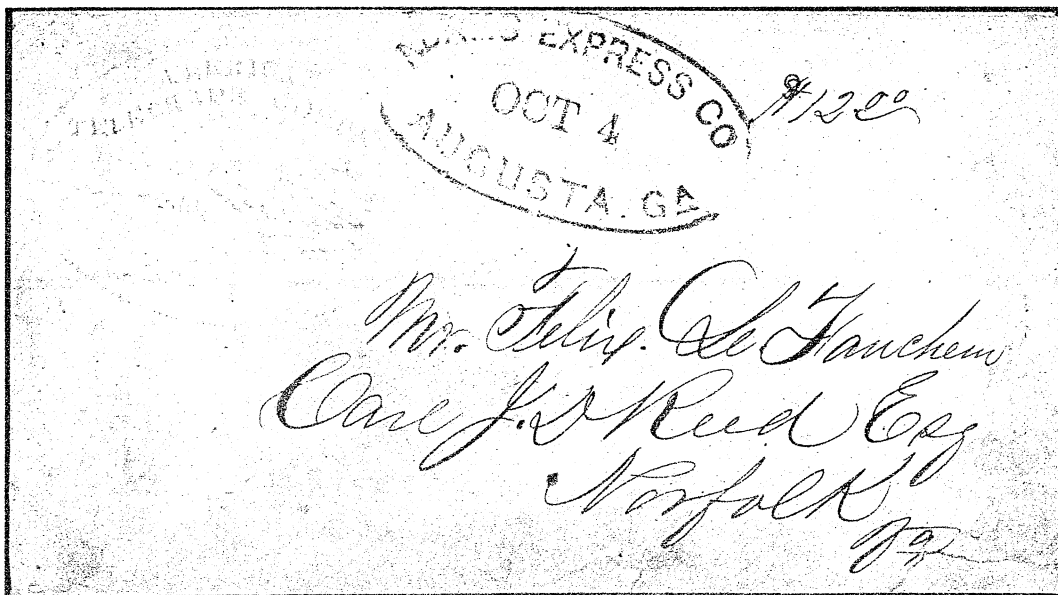
BY WIRE  
CONFEDERATE MAIL "PAID 5" AGUSTA GEORGIA

AGUSTA, GEORGIA  
ATHENS, GEORGIA

THE NATIONAL POSTAGE RATE WAS 3 CENTS IN 1860; THE CONFEDERATE POSTAGE RATE WAS 5 CENTS IN AUGUST, 1861 AND 10 CENTS BY AUGUST, 1862. THEREFORE, THIS COVER WAS SENT IN 1861.

## ADAMS (SOUTHERN) EXPRESS CO

OCTOBER 4, (PROBABLY 1861)



BY WIRE  
ADAMS EXPRESS, AGUSTA, GEORGIA

AGUSTA, GEORGIA  
NORFOLK VIRGINIA

THE SOUTHERN EXPRESS COMPANY WAS STARTED WITH THE PURCHASE OF ALL THE RIGHTS, ROUTES, EQUIPMENT AND OFFICES IN THE SOUTH FROM ADAMS EXPRESS ON APRIL 8, 1861, FOUR DAYS BEFORE THE START OF WAR. THE USE OF THE ADAMS STRIKE ON A TELEGRAPH COVER IS MOST UNUSUAL.



THE SOUTHERN EXPRESS COMPANY

Forward Packages by Passenger Trains & Steamers, and Dispatches by Telegraph  
to all parts of the Confederate States.

Dated 11/11/18

Addressed to

*liv*

THE ABOVE COVER WAS MADE FROM A USED LEGER PAGE.  
IT ILLUSTRATES THE DIRE STRAITES OF THE CONFEDERACY.

SOUTHERN EXPRESS COMPANY'S  
TELEGRAPH.

Feb

Charges



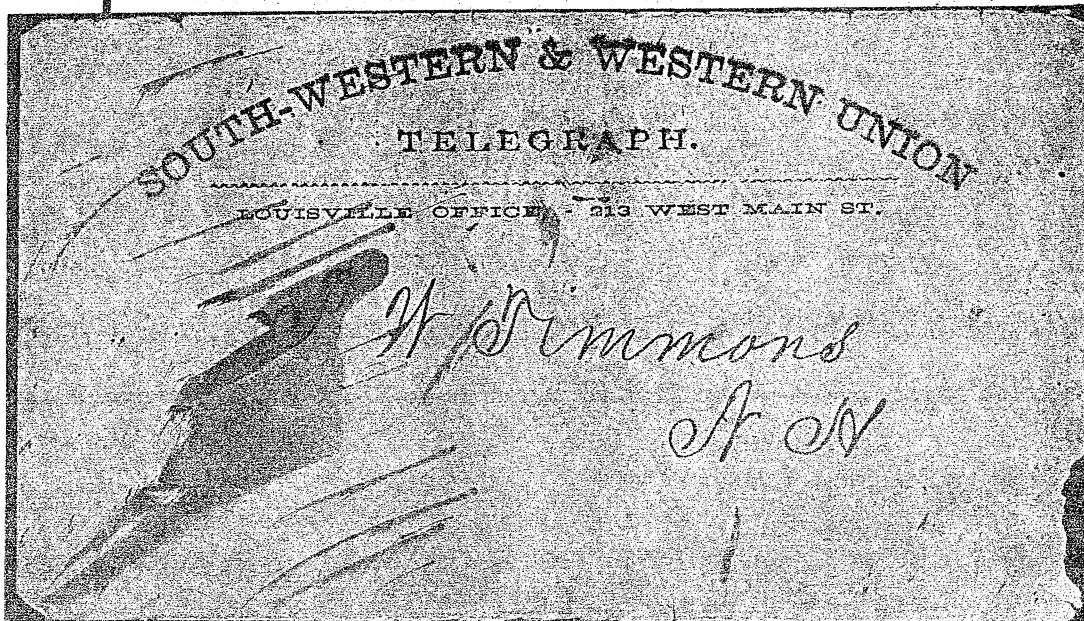
## South-Western Telegraph Company.

THE PUBLIC are notified, that in order to guard against mistakes in the transmission of messages, every message of importance ought to be repeated by being sent back from the station at which it is to be received to the station from which it is originally sent. Half the usual price for transmission will be charged for repeating the message, and while this company will, as heretofore, use every precaution to ensure correctness, it will not be responsible for mistakes or delays in the transmission or delivery of repeated messages, beyond an amount exceeding two hundred times the amount paid for sending the message; nor will it be responsible for mistakes or delays in the transmission of un-repeated messages from whatever cause they may arise, nor for delays arising from interruptions in the working of its Telegraphs, nor for any mistake or omission of any other Company, over whose lines a message is to be sent to reach the place of destination.

All messages will hereafter be received by this Company for transmission, subject to the above conditions.

N. GREEN, Prest., Louisville, Ky.

*May 20 '86*  
*By Telegraph from Camp Wood 20 1862*  
*To P. W. Simmons*  
*Prior is better will*  
*write*  
*E. I. Hooker*  
*1st Lieut*



ON MAY 21, 1861 THE CONFEDERATE CONGRESS HAD PASSED AN ACT VOIDING THE RENEWAL OF THE MORSE PATENT, THEREBY DEPRIVING THE SOUTHWESTERN TELEGRAPH COMPANY OF ALL PATENT PROTECTION WITHIN THE CONFEDERACY.

THIS FORM AND COVER DEMONSTRATE THE DELICATE RELATIONSHIP WHICH ENABLED WESTERN UNION TO OPERATE WITH THE CONFEDERATE CONTROLLED SOUTHWESTERN TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

# Confederate States of America:

Post Office Department,

FINANCE BUREAU;

Richmond, Oct. 10<sup>th</sup> 1862.

Dr W. S. Morris  
Agent for Telegraph Lines,  
So much  
of the order of August  
2<sup>nd</sup> ~~taking possession~~ by  
which the government  
took possession of certain  
telegraph lines as applies  
to the lines of the South  
Western Telegraph Com-  
pany has been this day  
repacked. Please com-  
municate this to those  
lines by telegraph.

Very Respectfully  
John H. Reagen  
P. M. General

SHORTLY AFTER THE OUTBREAK OF WAR, CONFEDERATE POSTMASTER GENERAL JOHN H. REAGEN ASSUMED NOMINAL CONTROL OF ALL TELEGRAPHS IN THE SOUTH.

THIS DOCUMENT ILLUSTRATES HIS WORKING ALLIANCE WITH DR. WILLIAM S. MORRIS, PRESIDENT OF THE SOUTHERN (OR CONFEDERATE) TELEGRAPH COMPANIES WHO DESIGNED THE CONFISCATION OF THE SOUTHWESTERN TELEGRAPH COMPANY IN THE SOUTH.

THIS IS THE INITIAL CORRESPONDENCE WHICH LED TO THE RETURN OF SOUTHWESTERN STOCK TO ITS STOCKHOLDERS A FEW WEEKS LATER.

# CONFEDERATE TELEGRAPH SYSTEM

## THE SOUTHERN TELEGRAPH COMPANIES.

Office Hours, 7 A. M. to 10 P. M.—Sundays, 8 to 9 A. M., and 7 to 9 P. M.

### Terms and Conditions on which Messages are Received by these Companies for Transmission.

The public are notified that in order to guard against mistakes in the transmission of messages, every message of importance ought to be repeated by being sent back from the station at which it is to be received to the station from which it is originally sent. Half the usual price for transmission will be charged for repeating the message, and while these Companies will as heretofore use every precaution to insure correctness, they will not be responsible for mistakes or delays in the transmission or delivery of repeated messages beyond five hundred times the amount paid for sending the message, nor will they be responsible for mistakes or delays in the transmission of unrepeatable messages, from whatever cause they may arise, nor the delays arising from interruptions in the workings of their Telegraphs, nor for any mistakes or omissions of any other Company over whose lines a message is to be sent to reach the place of destination. All messages will hereafter be received by these Companies for transmission subject to the above conditions.

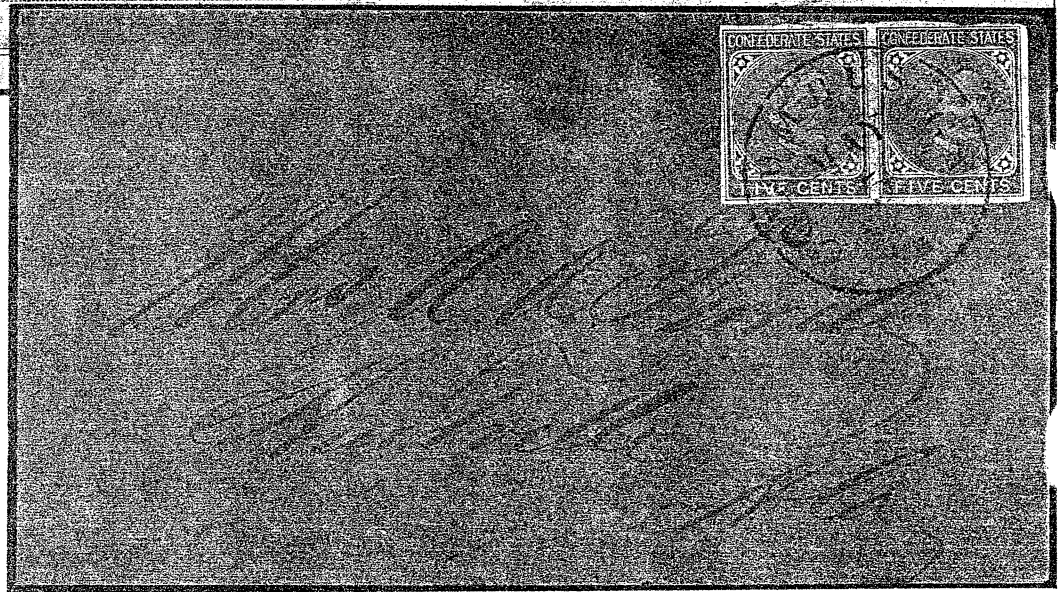
J. R. DOWELL, Gen'l Sup't, Richmond, Va. 2

W. S. MORRIS, Pres't, Richmond, Va.

Received at Milford May 1862 at 10 o'clock, 15 minutes.

By telegraph from J. R. Dowell

Right Mr. Morris of Sunday the 2nd  
has through the paper & way  
will see the paper from the  
news of the same day back  
25/200



THERE WAS VIRTUALLY NO CONFEDERATE MILITARY TELEGRAPH PER SE. THEY RELIED UPON THE PRIVATE COMPANIES TO DO MOST OF THEIR MILITARY TELEGRAPHING. "THE SOUTHERN TELEGRAPH COMPANIES" WAS A CONSOLIDATION OF MANY WAR TROUBLED CONFEDERATE TELEGRAPH COMPANIES AND CONFISCATED NORTHERN OWNED CONNECTIONS. THIS TELEGRAM WAS SENT FROM A BATTLE AREA NEAR MILFORD TO COLUMBUS, GEORGIA AND THEN POSTED (10c RATE) TO HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA. THE TELEGRAM RATE WAS \$2.80 FOR 25 WORDS.



# CONFEDERATE TELEGRAPH SYSTEM

THE RICHMOND AND DANVILLE RAILROAD TELEGRAPH  
EXTENDING FROM  
RICHMOND TO DANVILLE,  
And Connecting at Richmond with the Southern Telegraph Companies.  
ALL COMMUNICATIONS STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL.

Dated *Petersburg May 5<sup>th</sup>* 1864  
Rec'd, *Dalles Branch* 1864, *7* o'clock, *40* min. P. M.  
To *Capt E. R. Baird ADC*

*You had better come to  
Petersburg as soon as you  
can instead of going as you  
might have ~~not~~ understood*

The Richmond & Danville R. R. Tel

Extending from Richmond to Danville,  
*southern*

And connecting at Richmond with the *American* Telegraph Comp.

*Telegram*

*Capt E. R. Baird ADC*

*Dalles Branch  
R. R. R.*

*39c + 10c postage Due*

*Please pay it to me personally*



*Yesterday to*

*from*

*Pickett*

*43*

THE ABOVE 1864 CONFEDERATE TELEGRAM WAS SENT BY THE FAMOUS LEADER OF "PICKETT'S CHARGE." "THE RICHMOND AND DANVILLE RAILROAD TELEGRAPH" WAS AFFILIATED WITH THE SOUTHERN TELEGRAPH COMPANY, HAVING BEEN CONFISCATED FROM THE AMERICAN TELEGRAPH COMPANY. THE EXPENSIVE RATE OF 15c PER WORD ILLUSTRATES THE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF THE WARTIME SOUTH.

# CONFEDERATE TELEGRAPH SYSTEM

AUGUST 27, 1864

## THE SOUTHERN TELEGRAPH COMPANIES.

*Terms and Conditions on which Messages are Received by these Companies for Transmission.*

The public are notified that in order to guard against mistakes in the transmission of messages, every message of importance ought to be repeated by being sent back from the station at which it is to be received to the station from which it was originally sent. Half the usual price for transmission will be charged for repeating the message, and while these companies will use every precaution to insure correctness, they will not be responsible for mistakes or delays in the transmission or delivery of repeated messages. You have paid the amount paid for sending the message, nor will they be responsible for mistakes or delays in the transmission of un-repeated messages, from whatever cause they may arise, nor the delays arising from interruptions in the workings of their telegraphs, nor for any mistakes or omissions of any other Company over whose lines a message is to be sent to reach its place of destination. All messages will hereafter be received by these Companies for transmission subject to the above conditions.

J. R. DOWELL, Gen'l Supt. Richmond, Va.

W. S. MORRIS, Pres't, Richmond, Va.

Received at

1864

at

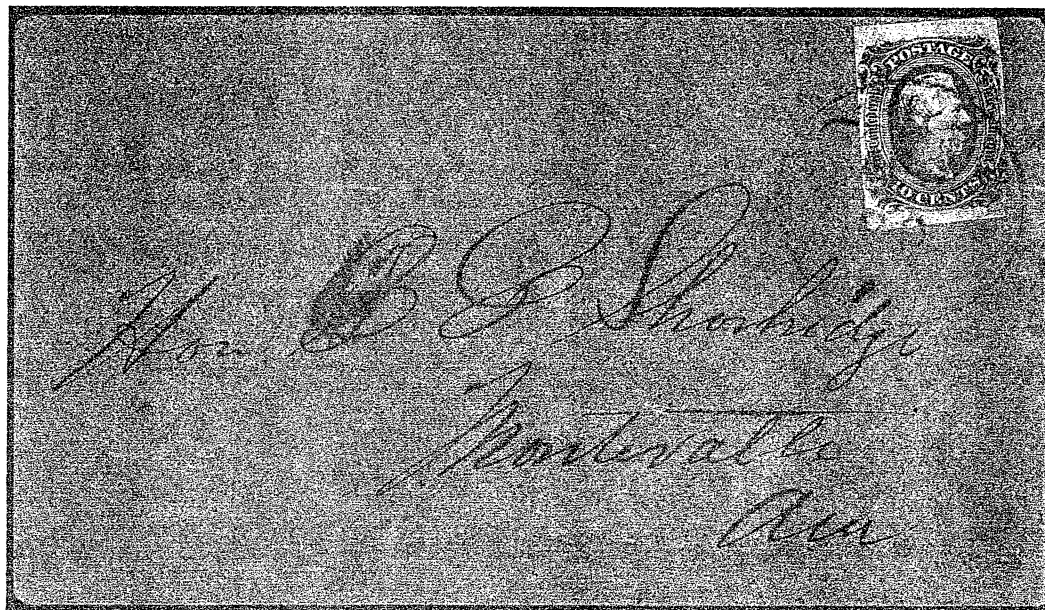
O'clock

minutes

By telegraph from

To

Atlanta 27  
To Hon B P Shorthridge  
Montvalle  
Frank was killed on the  
24th. He died as he had  
lived a hero  
D. S. Lewis  
1573/11 pay 10



ATLANTA, GEORGIA  
SELMA, ALABAMA

BY WIRE  
BY CONFEDERATE POST

SELMA, ALABAMA  
MONTVALLO, ALABAMA

"FRANK WAS KILLED ON THE 24TH. HE DIED AS HE HAD LIVED A HERO"

TELEGRAPH RATE: "15 (WORDS) 73 (CENTS) PAY 10 (CENTS)"

CONSIDERING THE TEXT, PERHAPS THE ADDRESSEE WAS REQUIRED TO ONLY REIMBURSE FOR THE POSTAGE.

# PREPARING ESCAPE FROM SAVANNAH

ROBERT E. LEE  
GEORGE T. BEAUREGARD

PROBABLY DECEMBER 7, 1864

## THE SOUTHERN TELEGRAPH COMPANIES.

*Terms and Conditions on which Messages are Received by these Companies for Transmission.*

The public are notified that in order to guard against mistakes in the transmission of messages, every message of importance ought to be repeated by being sent back from the station at which it is to be received to the station from which it is originally sent. Half the usual price for transmission will be charged for repeating the message, and while these Companies will as heretofore use every precaution to insure correctness, they will not be responsible for mistakes or delays in the transmission or delivery of repeated messages beyond five hundred times the amount paid for sending the message, nor will they be responsible for mistakes or delays in the transmission of unreported messages, nor will they ever cause them to arise, nor the delays arising from interruptions in the workings of their Telegraphs, nor for any mistakes or omissions of any other Company over whose lines a message is to be sent to reach the place of destination. All messages will hereafter be received by these Companies for transmission subject to the above conditions.

J. R. DOWELL, Gen'l Sup't, Richmond, Va.

W. S. MORRIS Pres't, Richmond, Va.

Received at *(Copy of this sent to Gen Hardee)* 1864 *4: PM* clock, minutes,

By telegraph from *Augusta* To *Genl G T Beauregard*

*Following dispatch just recd from  
Gen Wheeler near Sylvania Dec 7 7am  
Davis fourteenth (14th) Corps and  
Kilpatricks Cavalry passed down  
river road yesterday & made many  
inquiries relative to Hudsons Ferry.*  
*3/536 20 Braxton Bragg*

RELAY BY BRAXTON BRAGG OF "DISPATCH JUST RECEIVED FROM GEN. WHEELER NEAR SYLVANIA, (GEORGIA) DEC. 7 7 AM."

AUGUSTA, GEORGIA — BY WIRE — CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

"DAVIS FOURTEENTH (14TH) CORPS AND KILPATRICKS CALVALRY PASSED DOWN RIVER ROAD YESTERDAY — MADE MANY ENQUIRIES RELATIVE TO HUDSONS FERRY."

GENERAL BEAUREGARD WAS IN OR ABOUT CHARLESTON ON DECEMBER 7TH AND 8TH. GENERAL ROBERT E. LEE COUNTERSIGNED THE PENCIL RESPONSE: "OPERATOR WILL SEND THIS DISPATCH TO GENS. HARDEE & JONES — IF IT HAS NOT ALREADY GONE TO THEM --- RETURN THIS ONE.

PENNED "COPY OF THIS SENT TO GEN. HARDEE & GEN. JONES 4 PM."



## UNION TELEGRAPH SYSTEM

THE UNION TELEGRAPH SYSTEM WAS COMPOSED OF TWO PARTS. PRIVATE TELEGRAPH COMPANIES WERE EMPLOYED FOR MANY OF THE NON FIELD OPERATIONS AND STILL ALL OF THE CIVILIAN NEEDS. THE "UNITED STATES MILITARY TELEGRAPH" WAS ESTABLISHED FOR BALANCE OF OPERATIONS.

DECEMBER 3, 1861

### UNITED STATES MILITARY TELEGRAPH.

DEPARTMENT OF THE WEST.

Connecting Head Quarters and Government Offices with all Lines in the United States.

Operators in this Department are sworn into the Government service, and held strictly accountable to Military Discipline.  
OFFICE HOURS, at all principal Stations—constant—Day and Night.

GEO. H. SMITH, Supt.

To *Maj J. C. Bulver*

*Saint Louis Dec 4 1861*

*Pay Master U.S.A.*

By Telegraph from *Edwards Dec 3 1861*

UNITED STATES MILITARY TELEGRAPH  
DEPARTMENT OF THE WEST.

*Maj J. C. Bulver*

*Pay Master U.S.A.*

THE UNITED STATES MILITARY TELEGRAPH CORPS WAS A SPECIAL ORGANIZATION, AND ITS MEMBERS WERE NOT CONSIDERED AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE ARMY EXCEPTING ABOUT TWELVE HOLDING COMMISSIONS. THIS ENABLED THESE MEN TO OFFICIALLY RECEIVE AND DISBURSE FUNDS AND PROPERTY. THE CORPS WAS NOT UNDER MILITARY CONTROL PROPER, AS ITS ORDERS CAME DIRECTLY FROM THE SECRETARY OF WAR. APPROPRIATE ACCOMMODATIONS WERE MADE FOR BATTLEFIELD CONDITIONS

# WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

## NO. 1.] TERMS AND CONDITIONS ON WHICH MESSAGES ARE RECEIVED BY THIS COMPANY FOR TRANSMISSION.

The public are notified that, in order to guard against mistakes in the transmission of messages, every message of importance ought to be repeated, by being sent back from the station at which it is to be received, to the station from which it is originally sent. Half the usual price for transmission will be charged for repeating the message; and while this Company will, as heretofore, use every precaution to ensure correctness, it will not be responsible for mistakes or delays in the transmission or delivery of repeated messages, beyond an amount exceeding five hundred times the amount paid for sending the message; nor will it be responsible for mistakes or delays in the transmission of unrepeatable messages from whatever cause they may arise, nor for delays arising from interruptions in the working of its Telegraphs, nor for any mistake or omission of any other Company, over whose lines a message is to be sent to reach the place of destination. All messages will hereafter be received by this Company for transmission, subject to the above conditions.

A. STAGER, Gen. Sup't, Cleveland, Ohio.

I. R. ELWOOD, Sec'y, Rochester, N. Y.

To Military Com in the of  
Huron County By Telegraph from Columbus May 26 1862 186  
Washington City is in imminent danger.  
You will please raise without delay a force  
of Two Hundred men and send them as fast as raised  
to Camp Chase where they will be organized and  
equipped and such as are not willing to go will  
perform guard duty in  
place of the regiment now at Camp Chase  
J. Pool Governor

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH.



1100 S. Israel  
Chairman Mil. Com  
Mt V

FOR THE FIRST TIME, VIRTUALLY INSTANT COMMUNICATIONS WERE TO BE USED IN WARFARE. THE TELEGRAM ABOVE, DATED MAY 26, 1862 FROM THE GOVERNOR OF OHIO, CALLS FOR MEN TO DEFEND THE CITY OF WASHINGTON FROM THE CONFEDERATE ARMY. DURING THE WAR, MANY WESTERN UNION COVERS FEATURED A "ZEUS" LIKE FIGURE. THE QUALITY OF WARTIME IMPRESSIONS WAS GENERALLY POOR, - PERHAPS DUE TO SHORTAGES OF HIGH GRADE INK.



# NEW YORK, ALBANY & BUFFALO TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS ON WHICH MESSAGES ARE RECEIVED BY THIS COMPANY FOR TRANSMISSION.

THE PUBLIC are notified, that, in order to guard against mistakes in the transmission of messages, every message of importance ought to be repeated, by being sent back from the station at which it is to be received, to the station from which it is originally sent. Half the usual price for transmission will be charged for repeating the message, and while this Company will as heretofore use every precaution to ensure correctness, it will not be responsible for mistakes or delays in the transmission or delivery of repeated messages beyond an amount exceeding five hundred times the amount paid for sending the message, nor will it be responsible for mistakes or delays in the transmission of unrepeatd messages, from whatever cause they may arise, nor for delays arising from interruptions in the workings of its Telegraphs, nor for any mistake or omission of any other Company over whose lines a message is to be sent, to reach the place of destination. All messages will hereafter be received by this Company, for transmission, subject to the above conditions.

No. 1.

JAMES D. REID, Sup't, Utica, N. Y.

T. R. WALKER, President.

Reg'd

To *R. A. Hawley*  
*Susp Bridge*

By Telegraph from *New York*  
*Dec 2nd 1862* Rec'd *P.M.*

**MORSE'S AMERICAN TELEGRAPH,**

**New York, Albany and Buffalo Line.**

No.

*R. A. Hawley*  
*Susp Bridge*  
*N.Y.*

*Collect 53*

If an answer is required, please send }  
it to this office without delay.

*lower very*  
*4 10 to five rights*

*A. Reed*  
*10 Collect 5-3*

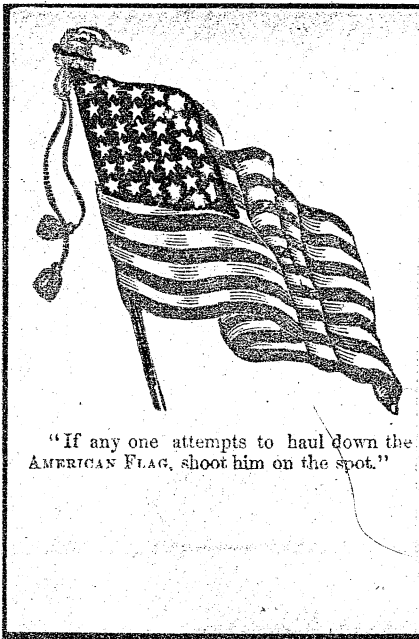
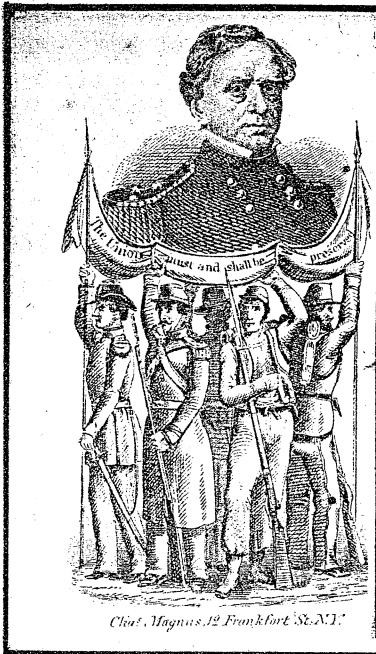
WITH THE OUTBREAK OF THE CIVIL WAR, THERE WERE A SERIES OF TAXES INTRODUCED IN JULY, 1862 TO FINANCE THE WAR EFFORT. A 3 CENT REVENUE STAMP FOR MESSAGES COSTING OVER 30 CENTS WAS TO BE AFFIXED TO THE FORM RETAINED BY THE TELEGRAPH COMPANY AND EVENTUALLY DESTROYED. THE ABOVE REVENUE STAMP WAS INADVERTANTLY PUT ON THE DELIVERY FORM (NO. 1) AND PRECANCELLED "AR", THE INITIALS OF THE SENDER, A. REED. THE MESSAGE FORM SHOWS THE PROPER "COLLECT" RATE OF 50 CENTS FOR TEN WORDS PLUS 3 CENTS FOR THE STAMP.

"TELEGRAPH" REVENUE STAMPS WERE DELIVERED FOR USE BY BUTLER AND CARPENTER ON NOVEMBER 21, 1862; THE NECESSITY OF HAVING A "TELEGRAPH" REVENUE STAMP ON A TELEGRAPH FORM WAS DISCONTINUED DECEMBER 25, 1862.

THIS DECEMBER 2ND USAGE IS THE ONLY ONE RECORDED ON A COMPANY FORM.

UNITED STATES MILITARY TELEGRAPH

DECEMBER 4, 1862



United States Military Telegraph.

Received Dec 4, 1862.

From Fortress Monroe  
To Major Erasmus D. Keyes

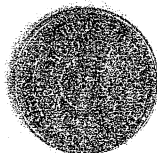
Send the seven negroes  
to Provost Marshall  
here

John A. Dix  
Major Erasmus D. Keyes

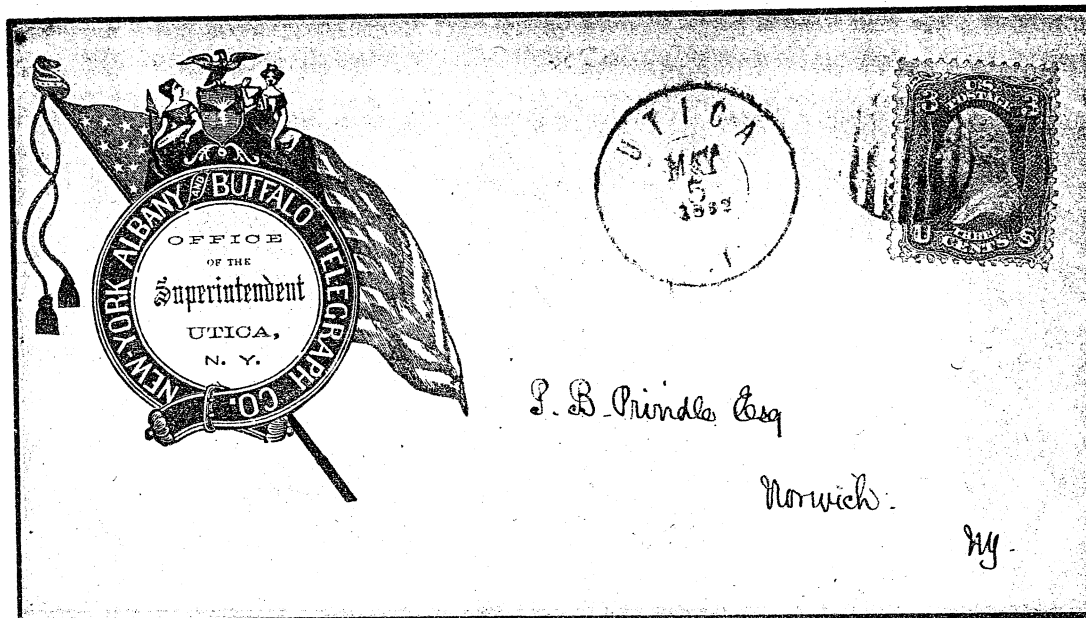
MAJOR GENERAL JOHN A. DIX TO MAJOR GENERAL ERASMUS D. KEYES.

FIELD TELEGRAMS WERE OFTEN DELIVERED WITHOUT AN ENVELOPE.

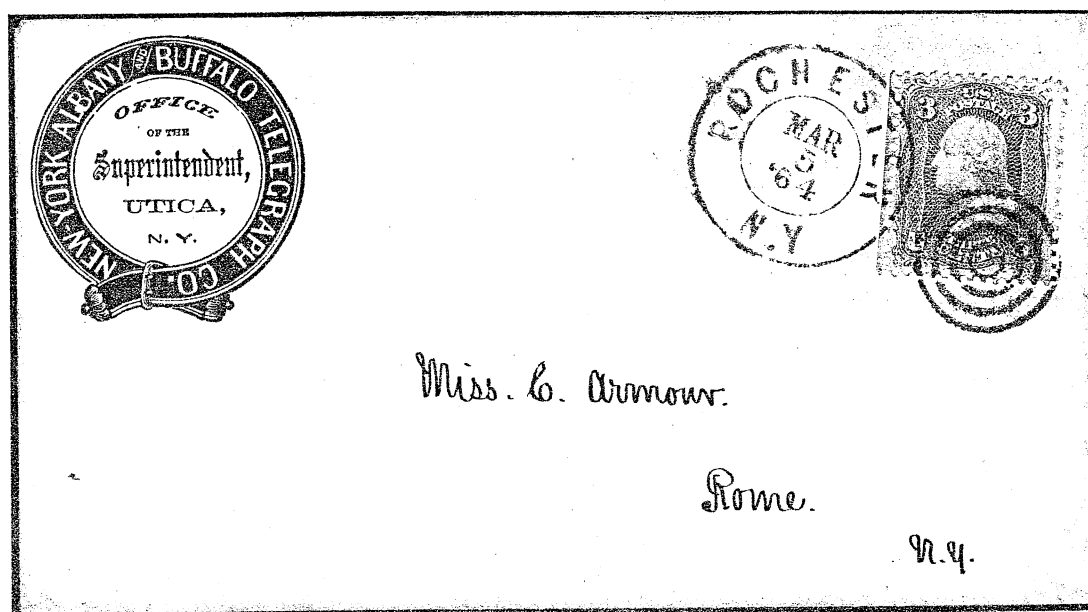
GENERAL DIX WAS VERY WELL KNOWN FOR HIS PATRIOTIC SLOGAN SHOWN ON THE "FLAG COVER" AND COIN.



NEW YORK, ALBANY AND BUFFALO TELEGRAPH CO.



THIS WAS THE ONLY TELEGRAPH COMPANY KNOWN TO HAVE USED A "PATRIOTIC" COVER. WESTERN UNION SECURED A TEN YEAR LEASE ON DECEMBER 23, 1863 AND ABSORBED THIS COMPANY SOON THEREAFTER.





# UNITED STATES SIGNAL TELEGRAPH

United States Signal Telegraph,  
Head-Quarters, Army of the Potomac,

Received.....1863.

From *Mr. Ford*.....

To *Major Gen. Slocum*.....

*Service 12th Corp*

The only troops I have  
to do. I am sorry at  
the fact on the subject  
of the 1st Regt 12th Corp  
they are needed here, and  
are necessary and for  
this duty by order of  
Gen. Hooker. I will  
order them to be sent  
I shall return them  
unless you direct  
otherwise.

*Wm. R. Pattee*

UNIDENTIFIED OFFICER TO GENERAL HENRY W. SLOCUM

A SIGNAL TELEGRAPH SYSTEM WITH FLAGS WAS USUALLY EMPLOYED ACROSS RIVERS OR BEFORE LINE TELEGRAPH COULD BE IMPLIMENTED; THENCE CARRIED BY FOOT SOLDIER, RIDER OR, PERHAPS, EXISTING TELEGRAPH SERVICE.

UNITED STATES MILITARY TELEGRAPH

U. S. Military Telegraph.

By Telegraph from

To

June 30 1862  
 Collinsville 186  
 Capt Fenny  
 Depot C.S.

Have two  
 hundred 200 head  
 of cattle loaded on  
 cars tonight for  
 Gen Smith's Command

C. C. Washburn  
 Maj. Genl

Answer. No cattle here, Contractor  
 has to purchase about the city for  
 supply of Hospitals today.

(300) Three hundred head cattle on  
 steamer J. J. Roe. Expected here tonight  
 will forward as soon as arrival  
 here. June 30 1862.

ADDED PENCILLED ANSWER FROM CAPTAIN WILLIAM A. TERRY TO MAJOR GENERAL  
 WASHBURN AT COLLINSVILLE, VIRGINIA.

UNITED STATES MILITARY TELEGRAPH

APRIL 27, 1864

Headquarters Department of Washington,

22<sup>D</sup> ARMY CORPS,

Washington, D. C., *Apr 27* 1864.

Commodore Dribling:  
Naval Station,  
Philada.

Sir:

Will be on with  
about thirty men to-mor-  
row at 3 P. M.

*196 P.* Geo. Mear Capt  
*12<sup>th</sup> Collect* A.D.C.

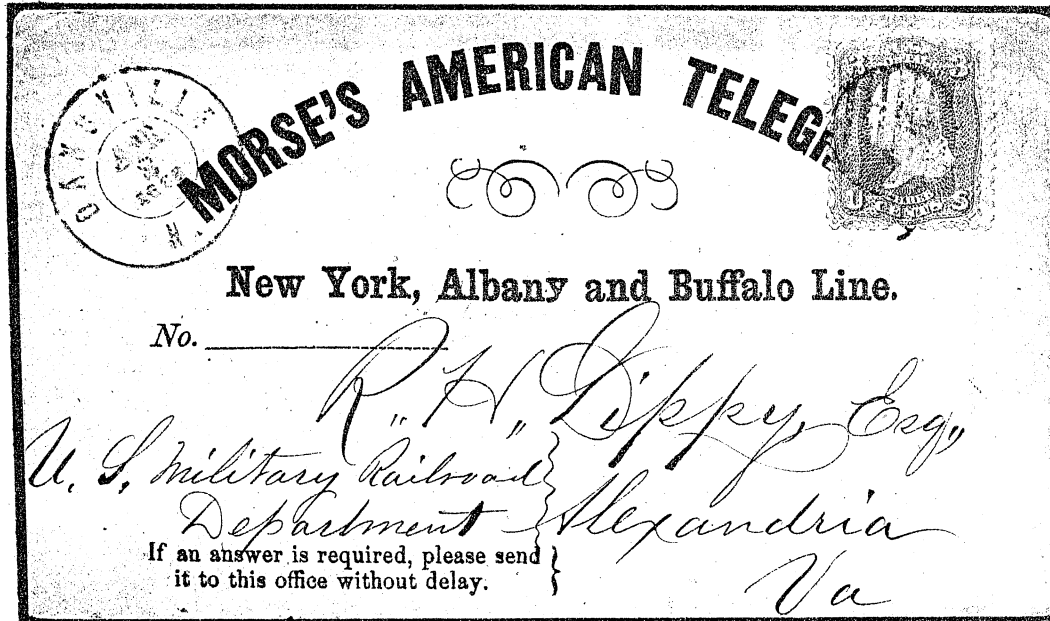
*Recd. 12.15 Pm.*

*Sent 12.50 pm*

*Ry H*

THIS APPEARS TO BE A NON-COMBAT INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN  
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA AND WASHINGTON, D.C.

U.S. MILITARY RAILROAD DEPARTMENT



DANVILLE, NEW YORK

ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

BY APRIL 8, 1863, ALEXANDRIA HAD FALLEN TO THE UNION. THIS COVER WAS PROBABLY CARRIED BY THE POSTAL DEPARTMENT AS PRIORITY MAIL.

UNITED STATES MILITARY TELEGRAPH

AUGUST 22, 1864

United States Military Telegraph.

By Telegraph from *Fort Mifflin*

Dated *Aug 22* 1864.

To *Gen. Butler*

*Which one of our Batteries  
is replying - Be more explicit  
or your Descriptions will give  
no information*

*10:40 A.M.  
22<sup>nd</sup> mo*

*Capt. Norton  
Sg. Off.*

(3)

THIS BATTLEFIELD FORM IS MARKED "10:40 A.M.". THE BACK SIDE IS PENNED "11:10 A.M. - GEN. BUTLER: ENEMY HAVE OPENED ANOTHER MORTAR ON US: GOT GOOD RANGE BUT DISTANCE NOT EXACT. - MAJ. LUDLOW"



**HAGERSTOWN (MARYLAND)  
TELEGRAPH COMPANY**

JUNE 3, 1862

M/S 14 (WORDS) 47 (CENTS)

**THE GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH LINE**

NOVEMBER 24, 1863

THE ORGANIZATION AND STRUCTURE OF THIS FLORIDA COMPANY IS UNKNOWN TO CONTEMPORARY STUDENTS. IT IS TENTATIVELY CLASSIFIED AS AN "INDEPENDENT" BECAUSE THERE IS NO MENTION OF IT IN GOVERNMENT RECORDS WHICH HAVE BEEN SEEN. MORE IMPORTANT, THE "TERMS AND CONDITIONS" ARE VERY COMMERCIAL AND DICTATE PUBLIC USAGE.

THE TEXT OF THIS MESSAGE IS CLEARLY MILITARY AND THERE ARE NO NOTATIONS OF MONIES PAID OR DUE FOR THE THIRTEEN WORDS. PERHAPS, THE MILITARY HAD SOME SORT OF "CHARGE ACCOUNT" ARRANGEMENT.

**Hagerstown Telegraph Company,  
CONNECTING  
With all Points in the United States,  
AT  
AUGHINBAUGH'S DRUG STORE.**

*Received June 3, 1862.*

*From H. Henry -*

*Chas Gen Banks*

*Gen Sigel reports  
from beyond Charleston  
that he heard Gen  
Shields is in Winchester*

*D. S. Miles ("Col 2nd Inf.")*

**MILITARY USE OF WARTIME INDEPENDENT COMPANIES**

**The Government Telegraph Line.**

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS ON WHICH MESSAGES ARE RECEIVED BY THIS LINE FOR TRANSMISSION.**

The public are notified that in order to guard against mistakes in the transmission of messages, every message of importance ought to be repeated by being sent back from the station at which it is to be received to the station from which it is originally sent. Half the usual price for transmission will be charged for repeating the message, and while this Line will as heretofore use every precaution to insure correctness, it will not be responsible for mistakes or delays in the transmission or delivery of repeated messages beyond the amount paid for sending the message, nor will it be responsible for mistakes or delays in the transmission of unreported messages, from whatever cause they may arise, nor the delays arising from interruption in the workings of its Telegraphs, nor for any mistakes or omissions of any other Company over whose lines a message is to be sent to reach the place of destination. All messages will hereafter be received by this Line for transmission subject to the above conditions.

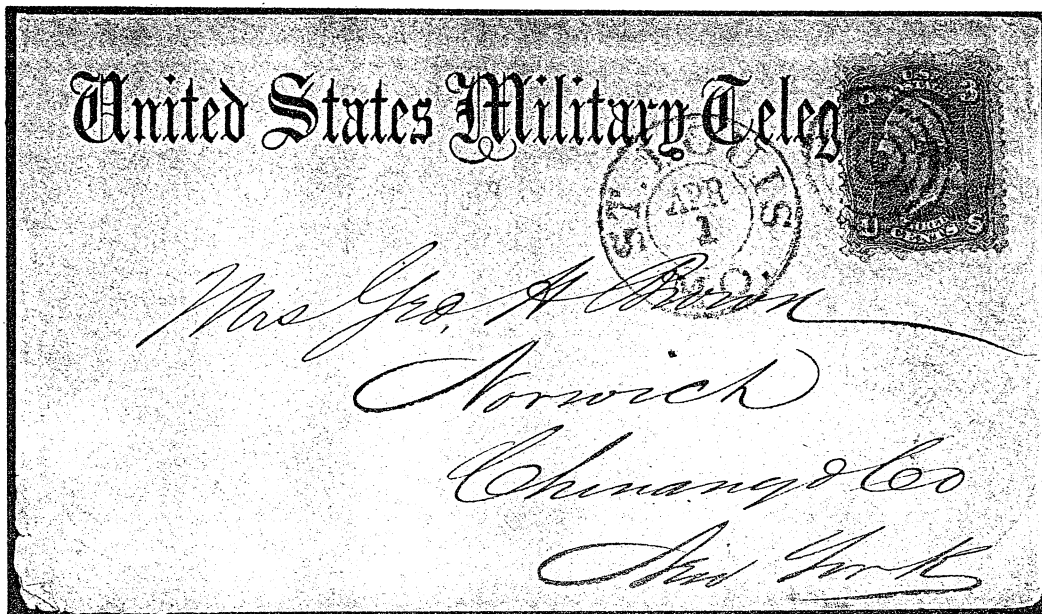
**A. L. CANOVA, Superintendent.**

*Received at Gaithersburg 24<sup>th</sup> 1863 at 7 o'clock P.M.*

*By Telegraph from Lake City 24<sup>th</sup> To R. J. Adams*

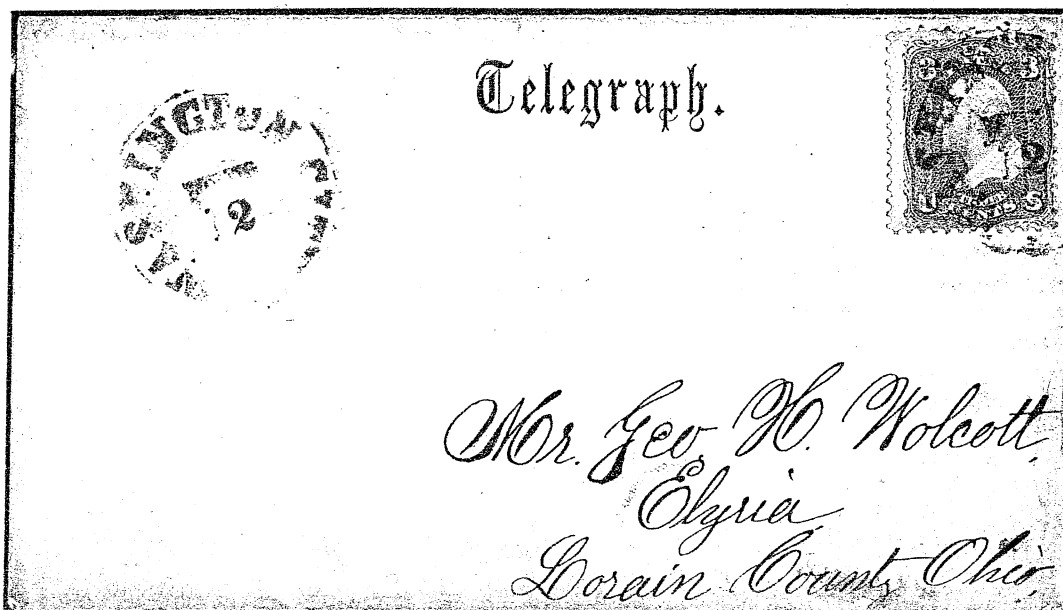
*You will furnish transportation for  
Capt Pearson's Company from Brownsville  
to Clay Landing - H. J. Roush  
R. J. Adams*

UNITED STATES MILITARY TELEGRAPH



DURING THE WAR THE UNION ARMY OFFICIALLY CONSTRUCTED ABOUT 15,000 MILES OF TELEGRAPH LINES AND EMPLOYED APPROXIMATELY 1500 OPERATORS. THE CONFEDERACY CONSTRUCTED LESS THAN 500 MILES OF TELEGRAPH LINES AND EMPLOYED 51 OPERATORS.

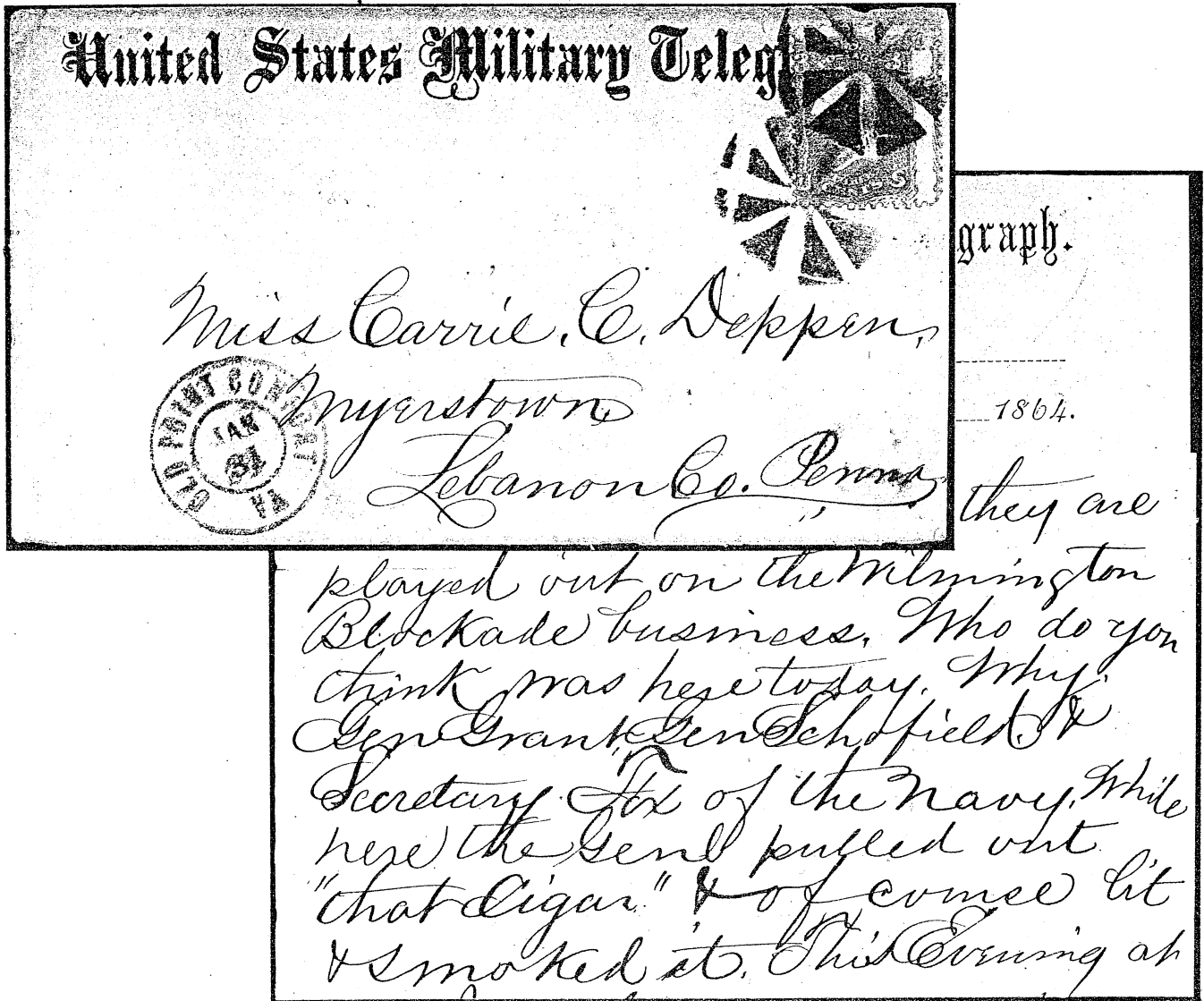
FEBRUARY 12, 1863



THE MASTHEAD WOULD SUGGEST THAT THIS WAS OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

UNITED STATES MILITARY TELEGRAPH

JANUARY 31, 1864



THIS COVER HAS A MUCH THICKER MASTHEAD THAN THOSE ON THE PREVIOUS PAGE. INTERESTINGLY, THE WRITER, PERHAPS A HOSPITAL PATIENT, REFERS TO GENERAL GRANT AND "THAT CIGAR". THE LENGTH AND STYLE OF WRITING WOULD SUGGEST THAT THIS WAS A LETTER SENT ON MILITARY TELEGRAPH STATIONERY.

"ANDREW JOHNSON, PRES. U.S."  
PASSPORT

**AMERICAN TELEGRAPH COMPANY,**

SOUTHERN DISTRICT,

UNDER CONTROL AND SUPERVISION OF UNITED STATES MILITARY TELEGRAPH.

By Telegraph from *Washington*

Dated *August 7* 1865.

To *Gen. J. E. Brown.*

*You are authorized to  
visit Washington City on  
your parole.*

*Andrew Johnson,  
Pres. U.S.*

**American Telegraph Company,**

SOUTHERN DISTRICT,

UNDER CONTROL AND SUPERVISION OF U. S. MILITARY TELEGRAPH.

*Gen. J. E. Brown*

"YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO VISIT WASHINGTON CITY ON YOUR PAROLE."

THIS TELEGRAM WAS SENT BY PRESIDENT ANDREW JOHNSON TO THE FORMER GOVERNOR OF GEORGIA, JOSEPH EMERSON BROWN, WHO WAS IMPRISONED FOLLOWING HIS RESIGNATION OF OFFICE JUNE 7, 1865. BROWN DID VISIT WASHINGTON IN 1866 AND PROBABLY USED THIS DOCUMENT AS A "PASSPORT."

"AMERICAN TELEGRAPH COMPANY, SOUTHERN DISTRICT, UNDER CONTROL AND  
SUPERVISION OF THE U.S. MILITARY TELEGRAPH"

CIVIL WAR RECONSTRUCTION PERIOD

# THE SOUTHERN TELEGRAPH COMPANIES.

*Terms and Conditions on which Messages are Received by these Companies for Transmission.*

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J. R. DOWELL, Gen'l Sup't, Richmond, Va.

W. S. MORRIS, Pres't, Richmond, Va.

Received at \_\_\_\_\_ 186\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock, \_\_\_\_\_ minutes.

By telegraph from *Augusta 25* To *Capt A A Buck*  
*Americus Ga*

*In your monthly inspection report  
for July there are seven absent Comm-  
missioned officers not accounted for  
by \_\_\_\_\_ sent  
by \_\_\_\_\_*

## American Telegraph Company

SOUTHERN DISTRICT,

UNDER CONTROL AND SUPERVISION OF U. S. MILITARY TELEGRAPH

*Capt A A Buck*  
*Inspector*  
*Americus Ga*

THE FINAL CHAPTER OF CIVIL WAR TELEGRAPHIC HISTORY IS VIVIDLY ILLUSTRATED ABOVE. THE U.S. MILITARY TELEGRAPH COMMISSION REMAINED IN THE FORMER CONFEDERATE STATES FOR A BRIEF PERIOD FOLLOWING THE WAR. THE ABOVE TELEGRAM, REQUESTING AN ACCOUNTING OF SEVEN ABSENT COMMISSIONED OFFICERS ALTHOUGH WRITTEN ON A CONFISCATED SOUTHERN TELEGRAPH COMPANIES FORM, WAS ENCLOSED IN AN AMERICAN TELEGRAPH COMPANY ENVELOPE WHICH AT THIS TIME HAD RECOVERED CONTROL OF ITS SOUTHERN ROUTES.



# Independent Line of Telegraph.

NEW HAVEN OFFICE, Corner STATE and CHAPEL STREETS.

## NOTICE.

Every message for transmission by this Company will be received only upon the following conditions, viz.:  
The Company assumes no responsibility in business transacted over its line, beyond the exercise of good faith and due diligence, and the amount paid for a transmission. And it assumes no responsibility for the accuracy or despatch of messages beyond the terminus of its line. It will make, free of charge, payments to other lines that are made to this line to cover charges on messages required to be delivered to such other lines. But it will not refund any such payments, on account of any neglects or failures, not occurring on this Line, beyond the sums which the Line at fault shall first refund to this Line.

The address, date and words, and should be written. All messages to be transmitted. Abbreviated words often. Messengers are allowed as on the envelope. Messages will be transmitted to the public Press and the public. All communications must be for answers, will please say so. All messages will be transmitted. Every customer will cover its line of any cause of complaint.

J. W. LANE.

The following  
day of

To

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE

## INDEPENDENT LINE OF TELEGRAPH.

Corner of State and Chapel Streets, New Haven, Conn.

UNLESS THE CONTRARY APPEARS WITHIN, ALL CHARGES ARE PAID

Arthur Robinson  
Care Chas Robinson

THIS MIDLANTIC COMPANY COMPETED WITH THE AMERICAN TELEGRAPH COMPANY WHOSE LINES RAN INTO THE WAR DEPARTMENT AND WERE DIRECTLY UNDER GOVERNMENT CONTROL. THE "INDEPENDENT" WAS UNDER NO SUCH SUPERVISION.

## WARTIME INDEPENDENT COMANIES

TELEGRAM.

**Inland and Independent Line of Telegraph.**

413 CHESTNUT STREET, 9 SOUTH THIRD STREET, 204 WALNUT STREET,  
MERCHANTS' EXCHANGE, AND MERCHANTS' HOTEL.

David McConaughy  
Gettysburg

Charges

ON MAY 18, 1864, THERE APPEARED IN TWO NEW YORK NEWSPAPERS WHAT PURPORTED TO BE AN OFFICIAL PROCLAMATION SIGNED BY ABRAHAM LINCOLN CALLING FOR A LEVY OF 400,000 MORE MEN AND APPOINTING MAY 26 AS A DAY OF FASTING, HUMILIATION AND PRAYER. THIS ARTICLE, A FRAUD CAUSED GREAT PANIC. ALL THE OFFICERS AND MANAGERS OF THIS COMPANY WERE PLACED UNDER MILITARY ARREST AND THE LINE WAS SHUT DOWN FOR SEVERAL DAYS UNTIL THE CULPRIT WAS CAUGHT.

CALIFORNIA STATE TELEGRAPH CO.  
WELLS, FARGO & CO.

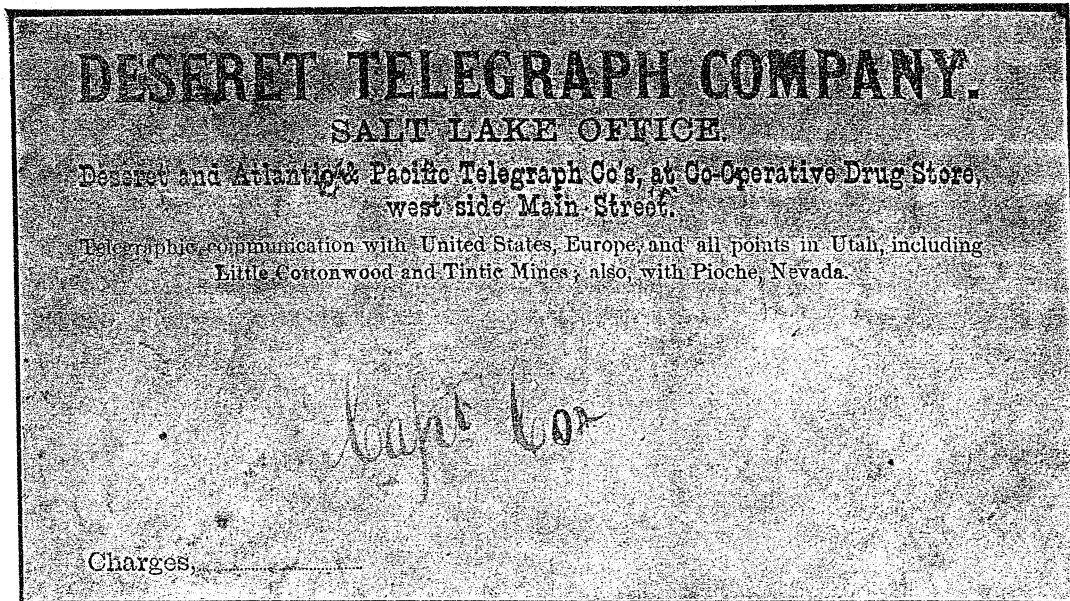
CIRCA 1865



ALTHOUGH THE TELEGRAM COMMUNICATION WAS FROM OROVILLE TO INDIAN VALLEY, THE WELLS, FARGO & CO. "PASTE BACK" INDICATES THAT AT SOME POINT IT CARRIED \$140.00 TO THE ADDRESSEE.

## DESERET TELEGRAPH COMPANY

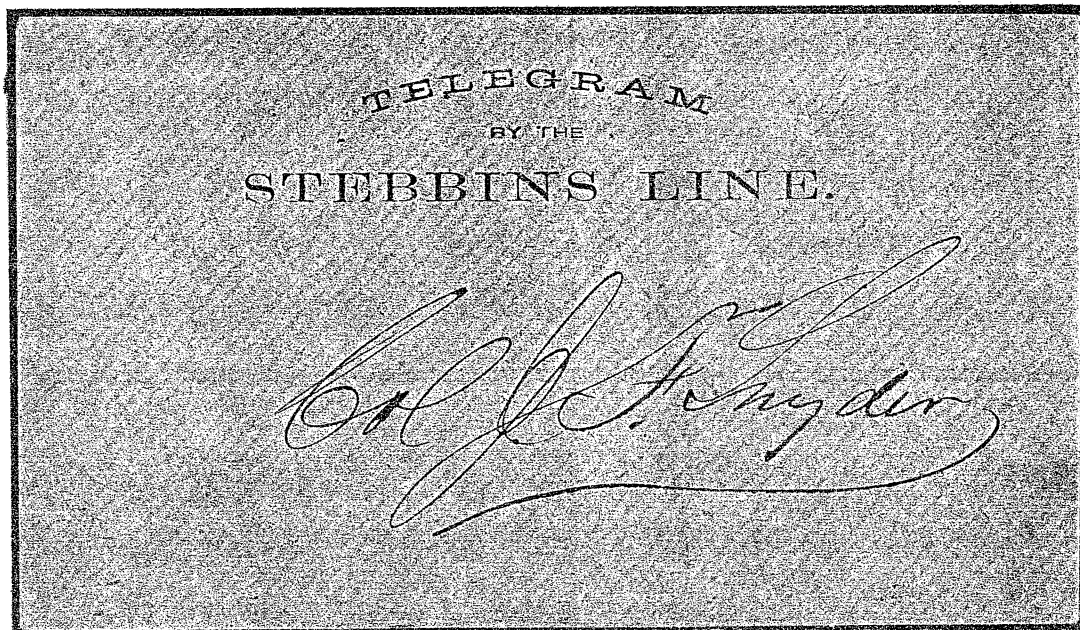
CIRCA 1870'S



THE DESERET TELEGRAPH COMPANY WAS BEGUN IN 1866 PRIMARILY TO LINK SALT LAKE CITY AND OTHER TOWNS LAYING ON A GENERAL NORTH - SOUTH LINE WITH THE TRANS-CONTINENTAL TELEGRAPH WHICH RAN EAST - WEST ACROSS UTAH.

### EXPANSION OF THE WEST

#### STEBBINS LINE



ALTHOUGH FEW COVERS HAVE SURVIVED, THIS COMPANY PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE TRANSCONTINENTAL TELEGRAPH. W.H. STEBBINS GUIDED CONSTRUCTION FOUR HUNDRED MILES EAST FROM SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH. MOREOVER, IN 1861, CHARLES M. STEBBINS WAS PRESIDENT OF THE "MISSOURI AND WESTERN TELEGRAPH", (SOMETIMES CALLED THE {STEBBINS LINE}) WHICH BUILT A SECTION JUST WEST OF OMAHA, NEBRASKA.

No. 1.

# United States Pacific Telegraph Company.

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS ON WHICH MESSAGES ARE RECEIVED, TRANSMITTED AND DELIVERED.

To guard against errors, every despatch should be telegraphed back to the Station from which it is sent. For such repetition, one half the regular price will be charged.  
The Superintendent of the Company will, if required, enter into a special contract in writing, to insure against errors and delays in the transmission and delivery of messages. Such contract must be made at the sending of the message, the consideration paid, and the amount of risk specified. No other person is authorized to make a contract of insurance.  
The conditions upon which this Company send messages are as follows: That it shall not be held liable for any mistakes or delays in unrepeatable messages, from whatever cause they may arise, nor for any mistakes or delays in the transmission or delivery of repeated messages, paid for as above mentioned, beyond an amount exceeding fifty times the sum so paid. Nor shall they be held liable, under any circumstances, for errors in cipher or obscure messages, or for interruptions in the working of their lines, nor for any mistakes or delays of any other Company, over whose lines any message may be sent to reach its destination.

THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE IS TRANSMITTED AND DELIVERED, SUBJECT TO THE FOREGOING CONDITIONS.

JAS. GAMBLE, Superintendent, San Francisco.

HENRY MORGAN, President, New York.

San Fran Apr 3 1866  
9:00 AM

To Rev M C Briggs

Can you address freedmens meeting  
tomorrow night at Maryaville

A C Wheeler  
Gen Agt

9 Paid  
75.00

# United States Pacific Telegraph Company.

Office at Wells, Fargo & Co's.



Answer

Rev M C Briggs  
200 N St

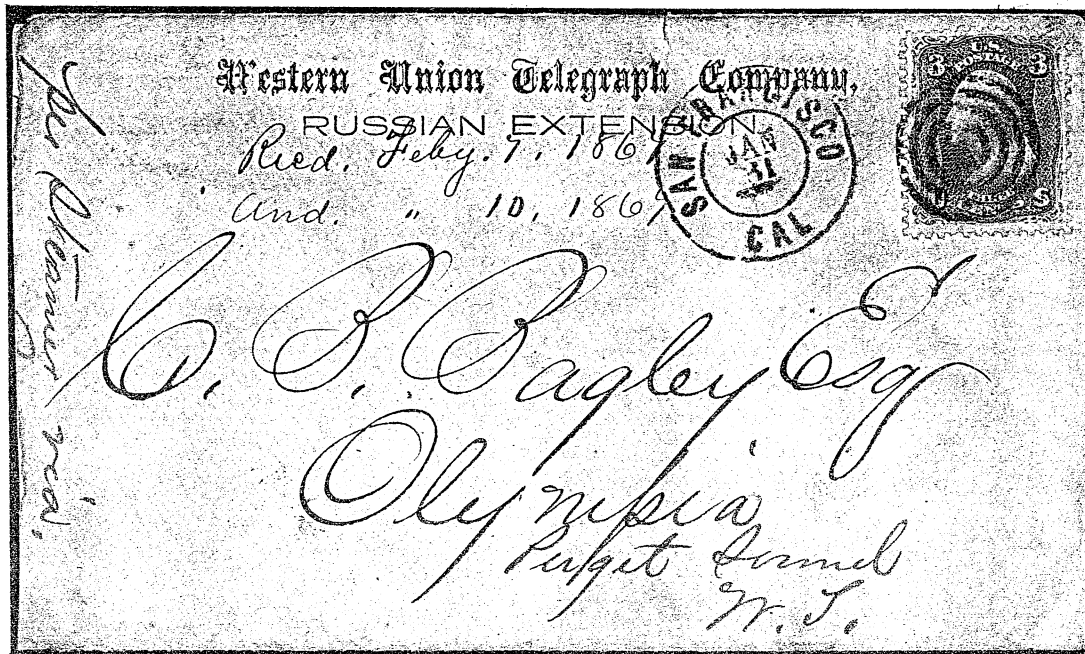
CHARGE

Pd

"OFFICE AT WELLS, FARGO & CO'S." ILLUSTRATES THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ALLIANCE BETWEEN THE TELEGRAPH AND THE EXPRESS COMPANIES. ORGANIZED IN 1865, THIS COMPANY WAS ABSORBED BY WESTERN UNION IN 1866. THIS IS PERHAPS THE FINEST OF THE FEW KNOWN COVERS.

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY  
RUSSIAN EXTENSION

JANUARY 31, 1867



IN THE SPRING OF 1866, WESTERN UNION ATTEMPTED A MASSIVE PROJECT, -TO CONNECT SAN FRANCISCO WITH ST. PETERSBURG, RUSSIA, A LINKING OF THE CONTINENTS. THE COLOSSAL EFFORT OF MAN AND MATERIAL WAS DOOMED BY THE SUCCESSFUL LAYING OF THE ATLANTIC CABLE IN AUGUST 1866.

THE ABOVE COVER WAS SENT BY POST PER STEAMER FROM SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA TO PUGET SOUND, WASHINGTON TERRITORY, -TAKING SEVEN DAYS. THIRTY DAYS LATER THE ENTIRE PROJECT WAS ABANDONED AND MILLIONS OF DOLLARS LOST.



# THE GREAT ATLANTIC CABLE

Blank No. 2.

## THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

### ALL MESSAGES TAKEN BY THIS COMPANY SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING TERMS:

To guard against mistakes, the sender of a message should or let it REPEATED; that is, telegraphed back to the originating office. For repeating, one-half the regular rate is charged in addition. And it is agreed between the sender of the following message and this Company, that said Company shall not be liable for mistakes or delays in the transmission or delivery, or for non-delivery, of any UNREPEATED message beyond the amount received for sending the same; nor for mistakes or delays in the transmission or delivery, or for non-delivery, of any REPEATED message beyond fifty times the sum received for sending the same, unless specially insured; nor in any case for delays arising from unavoidable interruptions in the working of their lines, or for errors in cipher or obscure messages. And this Company is hereby made the agents of

the sender, without liability, to forward any message over the lines of any other Company when necessary to reach its destination.

Correctness in the transmission of messages to any point on the lines of this Company, can be INSURED by contract in writing, stating agreed amount of risk, and payment of premium thereon at the following rates, in addition to the usual charge for repeated messages, viz: one per cent. for any distance not exceeding 1,000 miles, and two per cent. for any greater distance. No employee of the Company is authorized to vary the foregoing.

The Company will not be liable for damages in any case where the claim is not presented in writing within sixty days after sending the message.

O. H. PALMER, Secretary.

J. H. WADE, President.

*Recd thro Stoker & Stuarts  
Cable Agency 52 Pine St } London 14<sup>th</sup> Feb'y 1867*

*Send the following Message subject to above terms which are agreed to.*

*To Larnman & Kemp*

*French Quinine advancing sales four and seven*

*W H Cole & Co*

*116  
114*

LONDON, ENGLAND  
STOKER & STUARTS CABLE AGENCY

BY CABLE

NEW YORK CITY  
ADDRESSEE

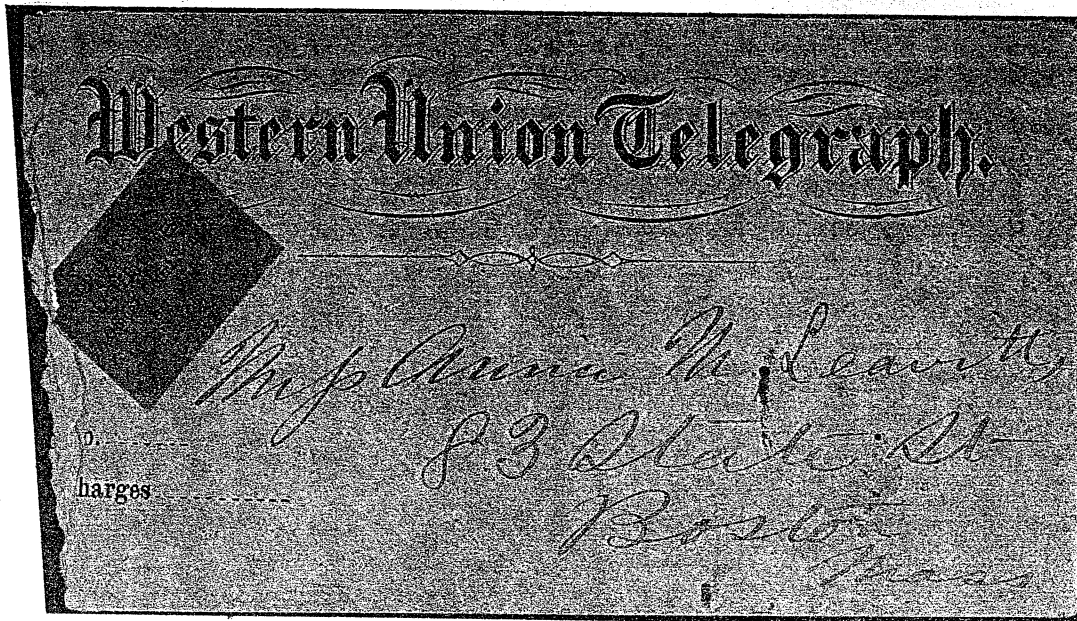
CYRUS FIELD CONCEIVED, AND AFTER SEVERAL ATTEMPTS, SUCCESSFULLY LAID THE GREAT ATLANTIC CABLE. WESTERN UNION, HOWEVER, HAD SECURED CONTROL OF ALL INTERESTS A FEW MONTHS BEFORE. COMMERCIAL SERVICE COMMENCED ON AUGUST 26, 1866.

THIS CABLE FORM FROM LONDON TO NEW YORK ILLUSTRATES THE NEED OF PRIVATE CABLE AGENCIES (IN RED INK) TO RECEIVE AND FACILITATE DELIVERY OF MESSAGES IN THIS EARLY PERIOD OF OVERSEAS COMMUNICATION.

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH CO.

PERKINS LETTER EXPRESS

MAY, 1867

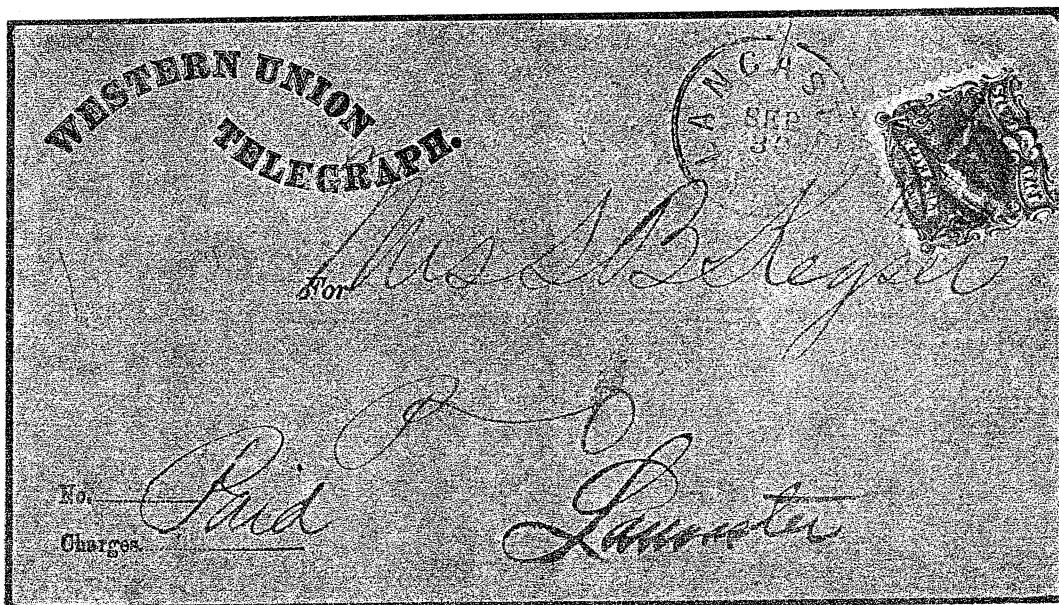


BY WIRE PER WESTERN UNION  
PERKINS LETTER EXPRESS

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS  
ADDRESSEE

DROP RATE

SEPTEMBER 30, 1870

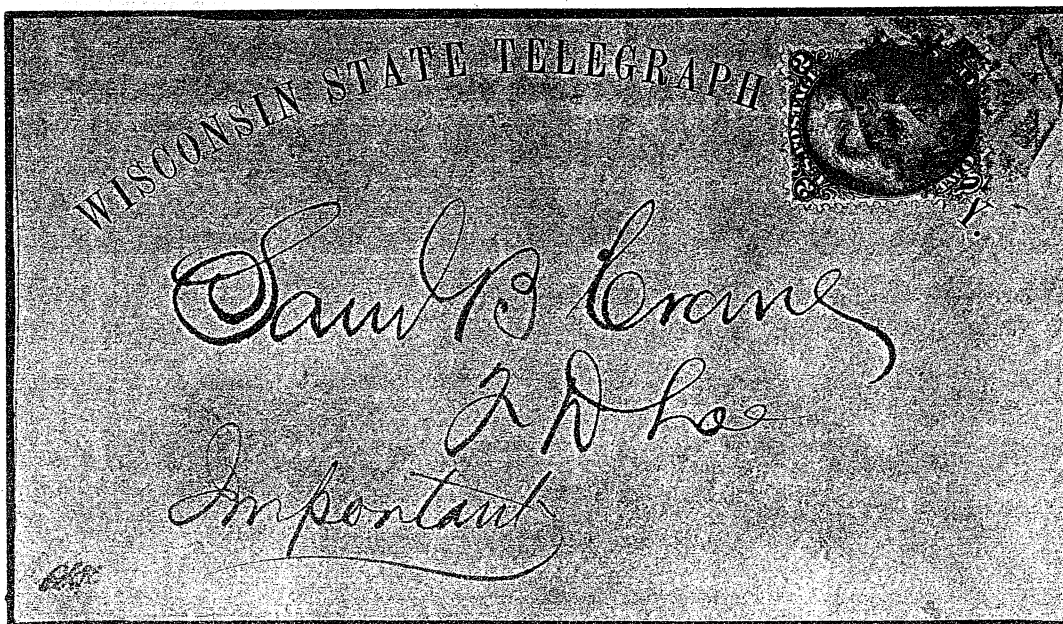


BY WIRE PER WESTERN UNION  
U.S. MAIL

LANCASTER, PENNSYLVANIA  
ADDRESSEE

WISCONSIN STATE TELEGRAPH COMPANY

CIRCA 1865



THE WISCONSIN STATE TELEGRAPH COMPANY WAS INCORPORATED MARCH 21, 1855. THIS IS A LATE USAGE OF THIS STYLE COVER AS THE COMPANY BECAME THE NORTHWESTERN TELEGRAPH COMPANY IN 1862.

MINNESOTA STATE TELEGRAPH COMPANY

SEPTEMBER 18, 1868



BY WIRE PER MINNESOTA STATE TELEGRAPH CO.  
U.S. MAIL

ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA  
CAMP CHASE, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA



No. ....

Reg'd .....

TO ALL POINTS IN THE UNITED STATES AND BRITISH PROVINCES.

# United States Telegraph Company,

No. 21 South Street Baltimore

## NOTICE.

FIRST. To guard against errors, every despatch should be telegraphed back to the Station from which it is sent. For such repetition, one half the regular price will be charged.

SECOND. The Superintendent of the Company will, if required, enter into a special contract in writing, to insure against errors and delays in the transmission and delivery of messages. Such contract must be made at the sending of the message, the consideration paid, and the amount of risk specified. No other person is authorized to make a contract of Insurance.

The conditions upon which the Company will accept of messages, or delays in delivery of repetition, shall they be lines, nor for

WILL

By T

To .....

No. ....

TELEGRAM BY

# United States Telegraph Lines.

Charges

THE ABOVE TELEGRAM RELATED TO THE ACCEPTANCE BY  
MAJOR GENERAL SAMUEL CRAWFORD TO SPEAK ON JULY 4, 1865.

## IMPORTANT POSTWAR INDEPENDENT COMPANIES

# International Ocean Telegraph Co.

8

Gen T. W. Sherman

Key West

Oct.

ORGANIZED DECEMBER 2, 1865, THIS COMPANY CONNECTED KEY WEST, FLORIDA TO HAVANA, CUBA WHICH WAS THE NATURAL HUB TO THE OTHER CARIBBEAN ISLANDS. IT CONNECTED WITH WESTERN UNION ON THE U.S. MAINLAND AT LAKE CITY, FLORIDA..

Milford, Penn., And Port Jervis N.Y.  
TELEGRAPH LINE

CONNECTING WITH THE  
W. U. Tel. Co. at Port Jervis.

Dated

*Honesdale Pa. 14th*  
*11 & 12*

*up*

Milford, Penn., And Port Jervis N.Y.  
TELEGRAPH LINE

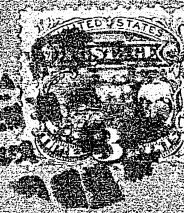
CONNECTING WITH THE  
W. U. Tel. Co. at Port Jervis.

*John D. Biddis*  
*Milford*

MILFORD, PENNSYLVANIA AND PORT JERVIS, NEW YORK TELEGRAPH LINE

OBSCURE LOCAL POST WAR INDEPENDENT COMPANIES

Franklin Telegraph



*Master Walter F. Stearns*  
*Care J. Horace Kent Esq.*  
*Portsmouth,*

No. \_\_\_\_\_

Charged \_\_\_\_\_

FRANKLIN (NEW HAMPSHIRE) TELEGRAPH CO.



THE SOUTHERN AND ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH CO.

Blank No. 1

The Southern and Atlantic Telegraph Co.

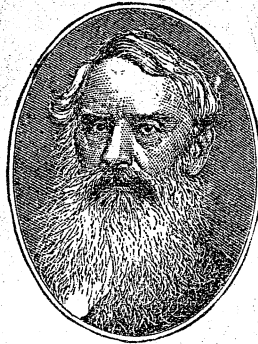
REDUCED RATES!

PROMPT DESPATCH!

EXECUTIVE OFFICE,

51 New Street.

P. O. Box 3098, New York.



CONNECTING

WITH ALL

Points North, South, East & West

And with EUROPE, by Cable.

All messages received for transmission are required, by the Company's Rules, to be written on its message blanks, subject to the conditions printed thereon.

Russell Brothers, Printers, 17 Rose Street, N. Y.

OPPOSITION TO MONOPOLY.

SOUTHERN AND ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH CO.

Send answer to

*A. R. Blakey*

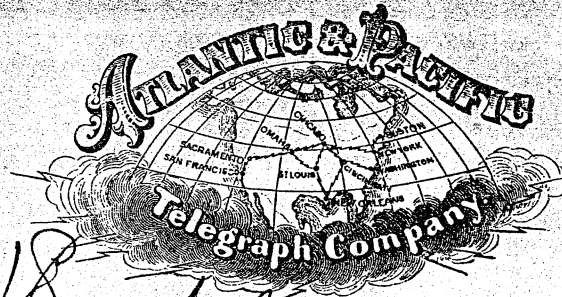
No. *1*

Charges *1.00*

THIS COMPANY WAS INCORPORATED JULY 29, 1859 IN NEW YORK. THE POST WAR FORM AND COVER VIVIDLY ILLUSTRATES "OPPOSITION TO MONOPOLY" OF THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY, AS WELL AS THE PRESENCE OF THE ATLANTIC CABLE.

# ATLANTIC AND PACIFIC TELEGRAPH COMPANY

Blank No. 1.

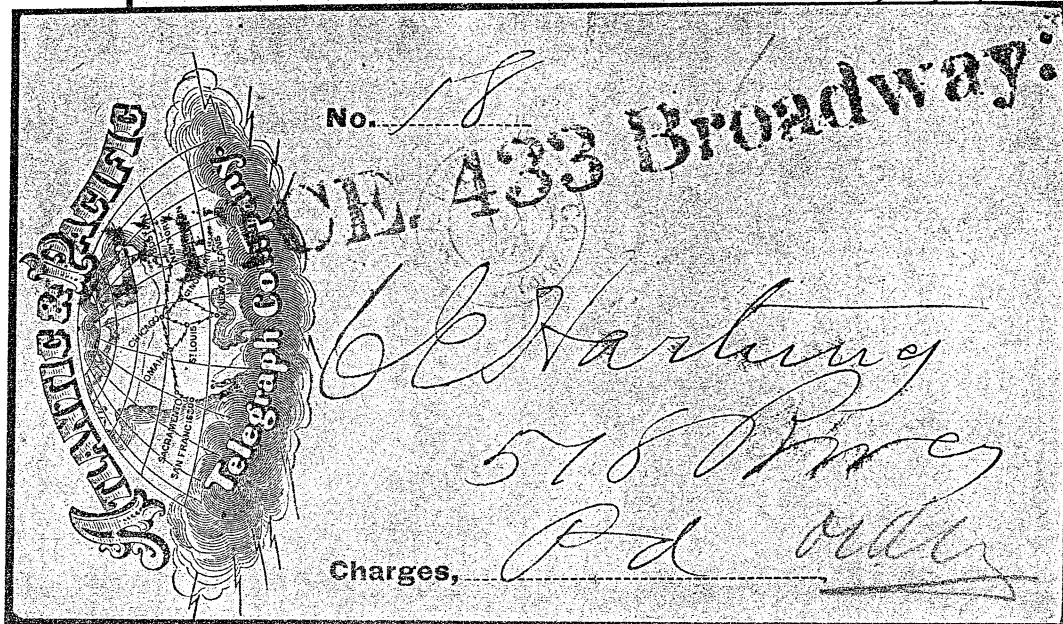


## TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

The rules of this Company require that all messages received for transmission shall be written on the message blanks of the Company, under and subject to the conditions printed thereon.

A. F. WILLMARTH, Pres.  
ALFRED NELSON, Sec. & Treas. } N.Y.  
E. D. L. SWEET, Gen. Manager. }

18  
Dated at *Milwaukee* *Sept 19* 187 *1*  
Received at *433 Broadway*  
Addressed to *C E Hartung*



MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK

PERHAPS THE FINAL CHAPTER OF THE FIRST QUARTER CENTURY OF TELEGRAPH SERVICE WAS WRITTEN BY THIS COMPANY. INCORPORATED DECEMBER 22, 1865, THE MORSE PATENT HAD EXPIRED, HENRY O'REILLY PARTIALLY BACKED BY JAY GOULD, A NOTABLE OPPORTUNIST, TRIED TO RIVAL THE EVER EXPANDING "WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY" THROUGH LOWER RATES. THE RESULT WAS GRADUAL FAILURE AND THE COMPANY WAS EVENTUALLY SOLD TO "WESTERN UNION" IN 1881.

ATLANTIC AND PACIFIC TELEGRAPH COMPANY

T.T.1.

**The Central Pacific Division**  
OF THE  
**Atlantic and Pacific Telegraph Company.**

The rules of this Company require that all messages received for transmission shall be written on the message blanks of the Company, under and subject to the conditions printed thereon, which conditions have been agreed to by the sender of the following message.

LELAND STANFORD, President.

F. L. VANDENBURGH, Gen'l Sup't.  
San Francisco.

T.T.C.

**CENTRAL PACIFIC DIVISION**  
OF THE  
**ATLANTIC AND PACIFIC TELEGRAPH COMPANY,**  
San Francisco Office, 507 California Street.

*J. L. Muesdorffer & Bros*  
*Bush & Montgomerie*  
*CHARGES, Paid*

THIS COMPANY WAS INCORPORATED DECEMBER 22, 1865. THE MORSE PATENT HAD EXPIRED, HENRY O'REILLY PARTIALLY BACKED BY JAY GOULD, A NOTABLE OPPORTUNIST, TRIED TO RIVAL THE EVER EXPANDING "WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY" THROUGH LOWER RATES. THE RESULT WAS GRADUAL FAILURE AND THE COMPANY WAS EVENTUALLY SOLD TO "WESTERN UNION" IN 1881.

FRANKLIN TELEGRAPH CO.



Opposition Line! Prices Reduced!

Franklin Telegraph Co.

Lines East, West, North and South.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

The rules of this Company require that all messages received for transmission shall be written on the message blanks of the Company, under and subject to the conditions printed thereon.

GEO H ELLERY, Pres.

J. G. SMITH, Supt.



FRANKLIN TELEGRAPH.

PRINCIPAL OFFICES.

BOSTON: 37 State Street, 60 Franklin Street, 126 Commercial Street.  
NEW YORK: 16 Broad Street, 233 Broadway, Gold Room.  
WORCESTER: No. 2 Lincoln House Block.  
SPRINGFIELD: Republican Office. HARTFORD: U. S. Hotel.

No. 1

Charges, Pp

Rev S. G. Willard  
7 George

Rev S. G. Willard  
7 George  
Jan 16 1867

THE FRANKLIN TELEGRAPH COMPANY WAS INCORPORATED MARCH 20, 1865 IN MASSACHUSETTS. THIS FORM AND COVER ARE VIVID ILLUSTRATIONS OF POST CIVIL WAR COMPETITION TO THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

ATLANTIC & PACIFIC AND FRANKLIN

Form 93.

TELEGRAPH COMPANIES.

ATLANTIC & PACIFIC AND FRANKLIN

PRINCIPAL OFFICE  
198 BROADWAY, N.Y.

WIRES EAST, WEST, NORTH & SOUTH.

*Captain Nash*  
*Lehigh*

No. \_\_\_\_\_  
CHARGES \_\_\_\_\_

CONSOLIDATION BETWEEN THE ATLANTIC & PACIFIC AND THE FRANKLIN WAS THE LAST MAJOR ATTEMPT OF THE PERIOD TO STOP WESTERN UNION FROM TOTAL DOMINATION.

Form 93.

TELEGRAPH COMPANIES.

ATLANTIC & PACIFIC AND FRANKLIN

PRINCIPAL OFFICE  
145 BROADWAY, N.Y.

WIRES EAST, WEST, NORTH & SOUTH.

*Mrs Albert A. Wright*  
*Canth Ho*

No. *22*  
CHARGES *Paid*