

FANCY POSTAL MARKINGS
ON UNITED STATES
STAMPLESS COVERS

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AS RECEIVED BY
THE EXHIBITION PHOTOCOPY COMMITTEE
OF THE
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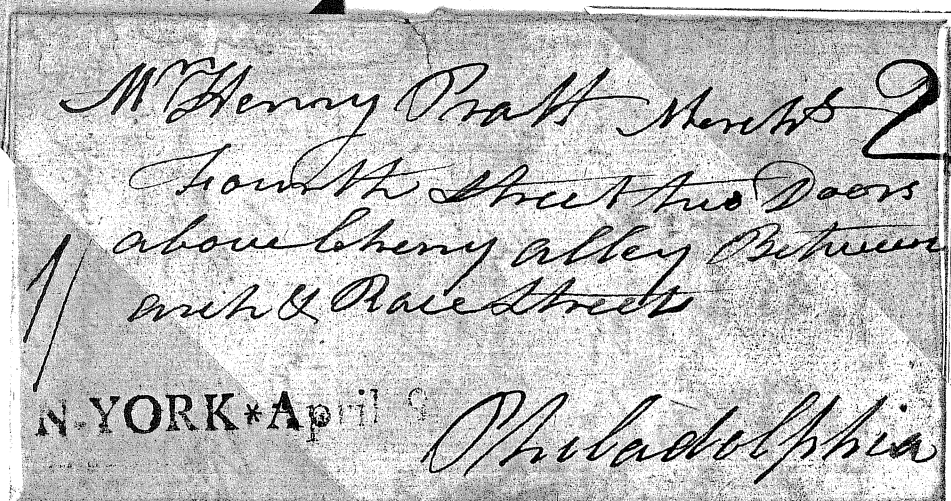
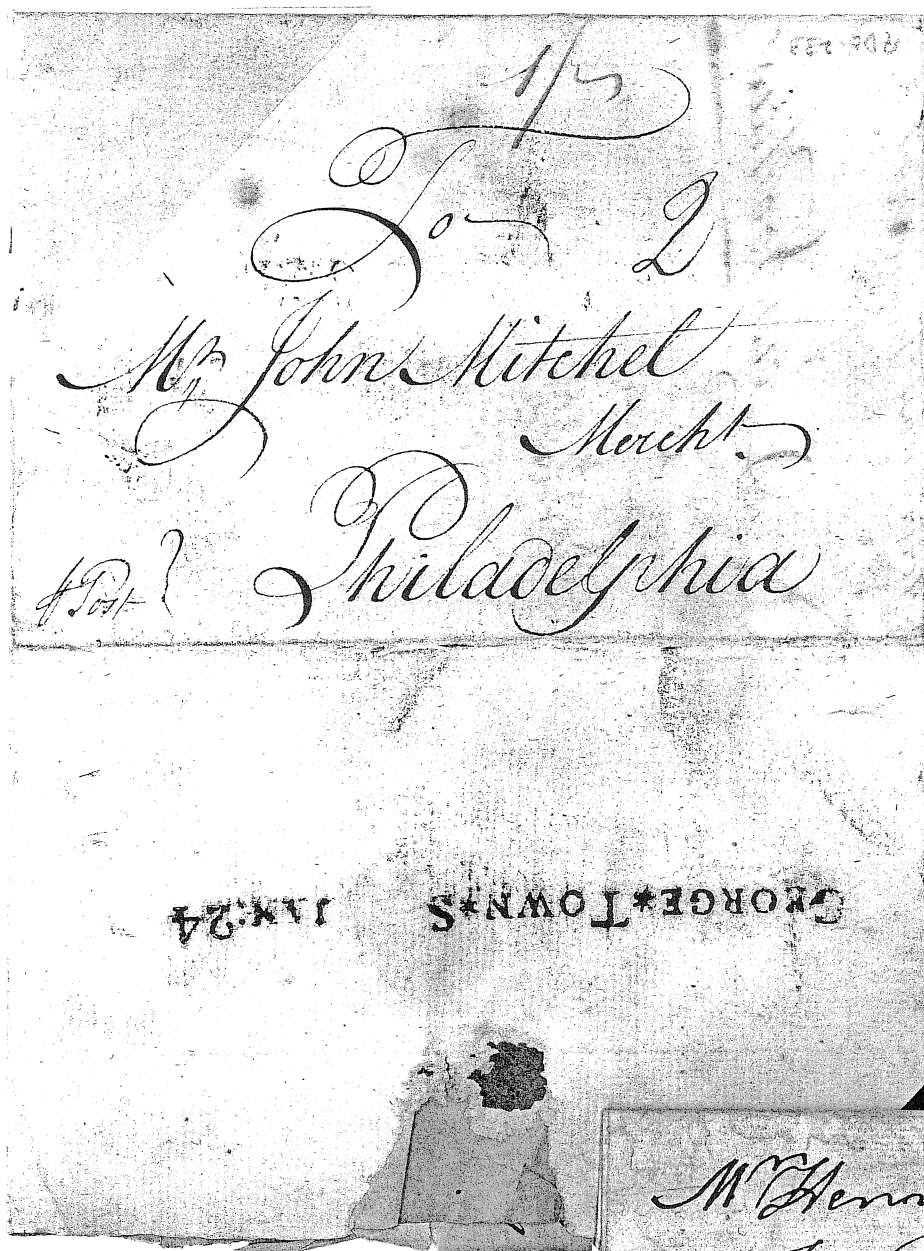
FANCY POSTAL MARKINGS ON UNITED STATES STAMPLESS COVERS

The classification of handstruck postal markings has always been a challenge. For stampless covers the device used to cancel stamps is eliminated as a consideration, but instead there are handstamps to indicate the postal rate and whether it was paid or not. The present classification by this exhibitor is a very simple one based on the configuration of the lettering in the postmark and whatever auxillary markings were used.

To be classified as fancy is somewhat arbitrary. I have used unusual distinctive lettering and added decorative devices alongside the lettering as examples of fancy lettering. And a second feature that can be designated as fancy is the frame around the lettering. With a handful of exceptions, all of which would be considered as fancy by most collectors, all postmarks on stampless covers can be catagorized within this classification scheme. This exhibit includes examples of postal markings that can be considered fancy with respect to all other stampless cover postmarks which show no embellishments.

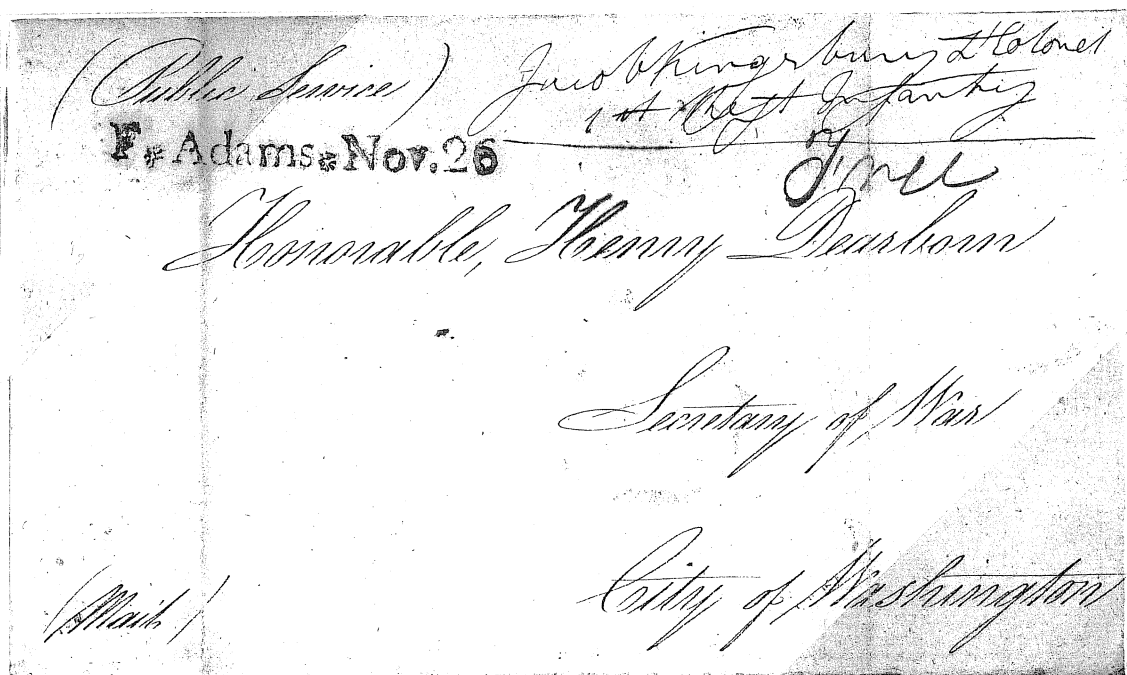
- A. Straight Lines
 - 1. Lettering and Decorations
 - 2. Frame
- B. Arch
 - 1. Lettering and Decorations
 - 2. Frame
- C. Oval
 - 1. Lettering and Decorations
 - 2. Frame
- D. Circular
 - 1. Lettering and Decorations
 - 2. Frame
- E. Other Configurations
- F. Auxillary Postal Markings
 - 1. Numerical Rating Marks
 - 2. PAID Marks
 - 3. FREE Marks
 - 4. Postmaster's Marks and other
 - 5. SHIP, STEAM, and WAY Marks

Straight Lines- Lettering and Decorations

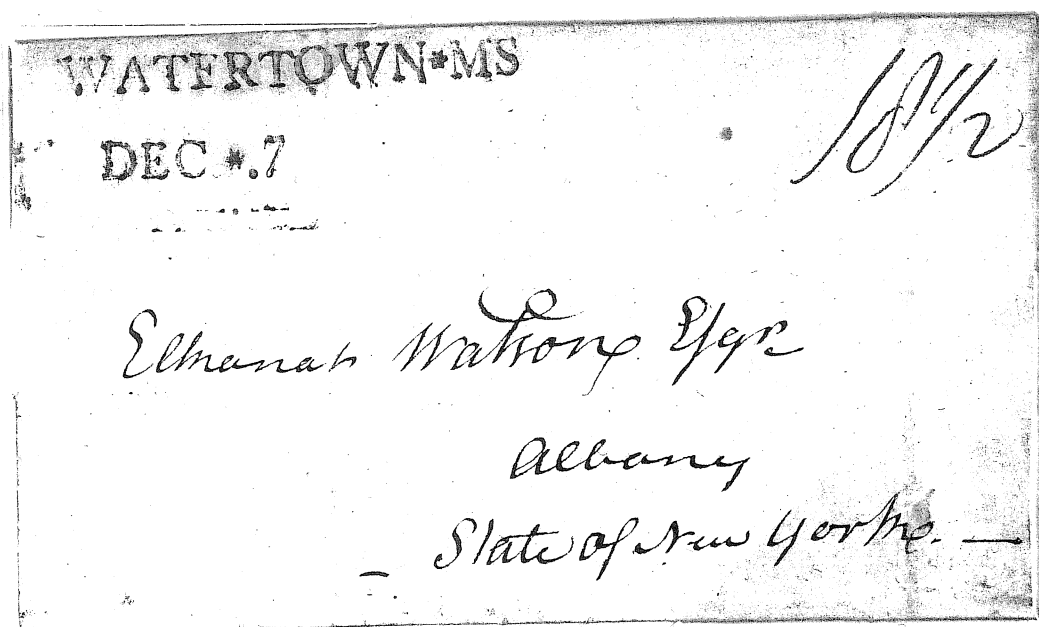


The earliest type of fancy embellishment of postal markings was the use of a star or asterisk as a spacing device. This Colonial period stampless cover "GEORGE*TOWN*S JAN:24" bears a 1775 dated letter. It was rated 2 dwts in silver collect which was 1/- (one shilling) in local currency at Philadelphia. The 1787 cover with "N-YORK* April 9" is but one of a number of different New York straight line postmarks that contained an asterisk. It has the same "2" and "1/" markings as the other cover.

Straight Lines- Lettering and Decorations

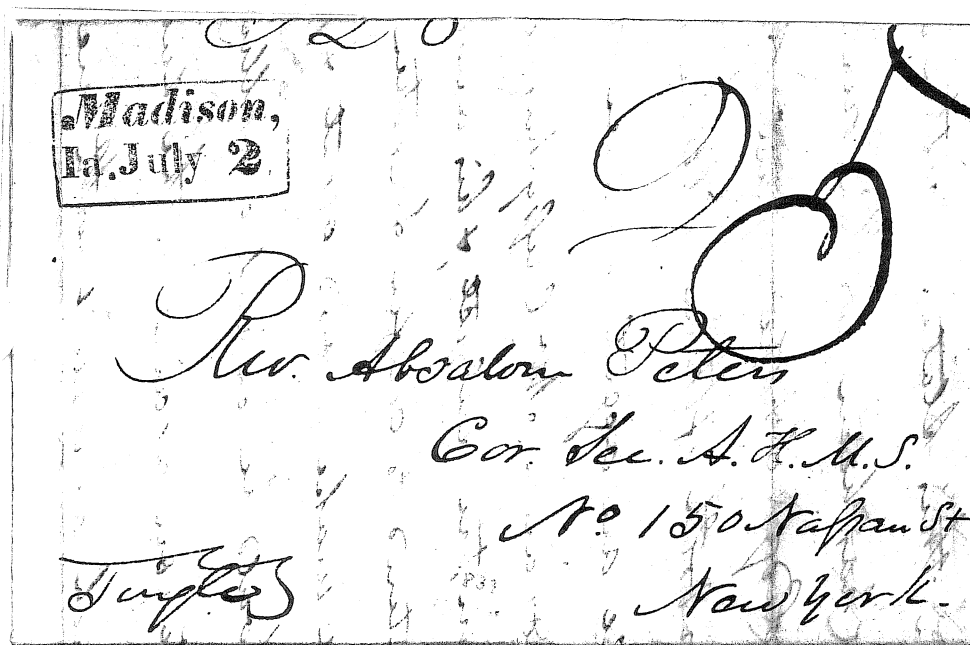


This postmark "F*Adams*Nov.26" is from Mississippi Territory in 1807. Named after President John Adams it was an important outpost when the frontier was near here. This example was mailed "Free" (red pen) to Henry Dearborn, Secretary of War. The Lt. Colonel whose name is written at the upper right probably did not have the franking privilege.

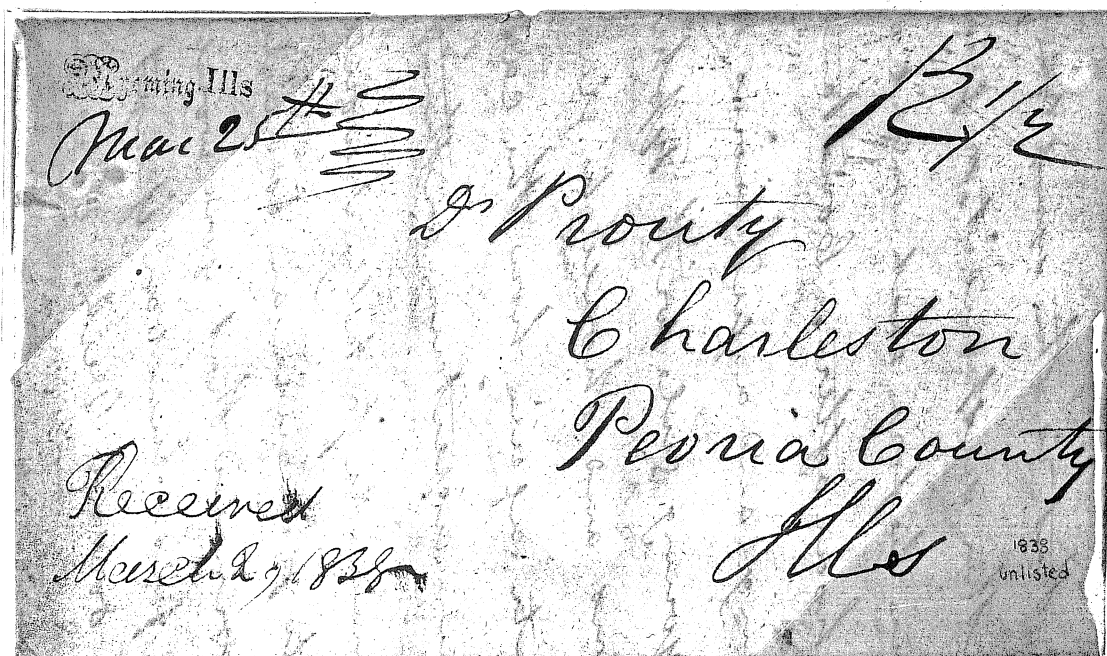


The lettering of this cover "WATERTOWN*MS DEC*.7" in two red straight lines is a later usage of the earlier style. This cover is dated 1816.

Straight Lines- Lettering and Decorations

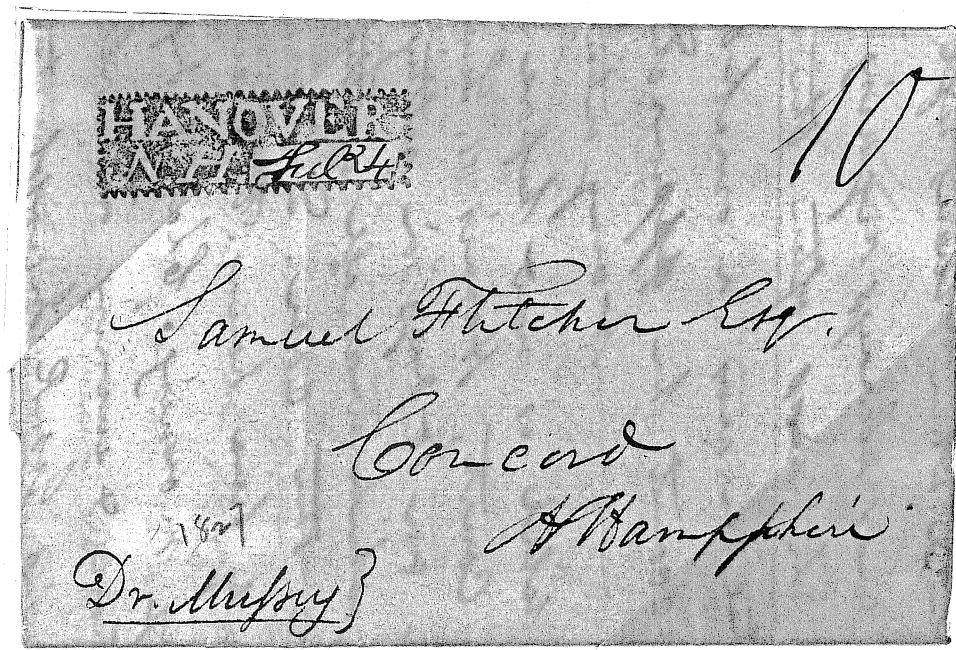


The typeface used to make this postmark "Madison In. July 2" is quite distinctive. The mixture of italics, bold lettering (the M, I, J and 2) with regular type creates a very unusual marking which is contained in a simple rectangular frame. The usage is 1833. This postmark exists with "In" substituted for "Ia".

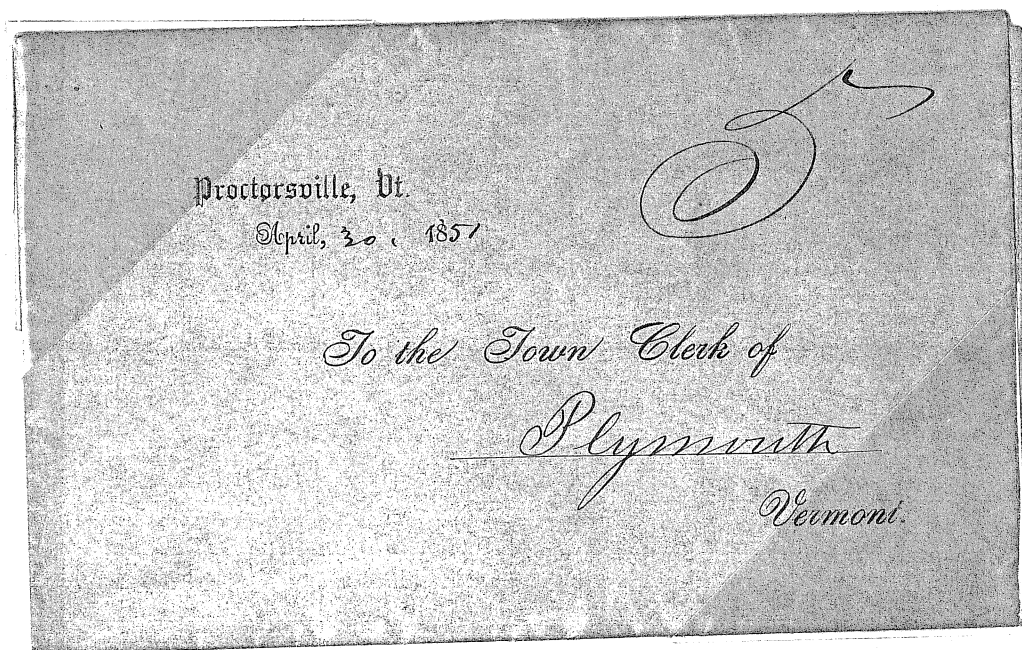


This "Wyoming, Ills" straight line has German style lettering in the town name and a very fancy "W" letter. The usage is 1838. It is very rare.

Straight Lines- Lettering and Decorations

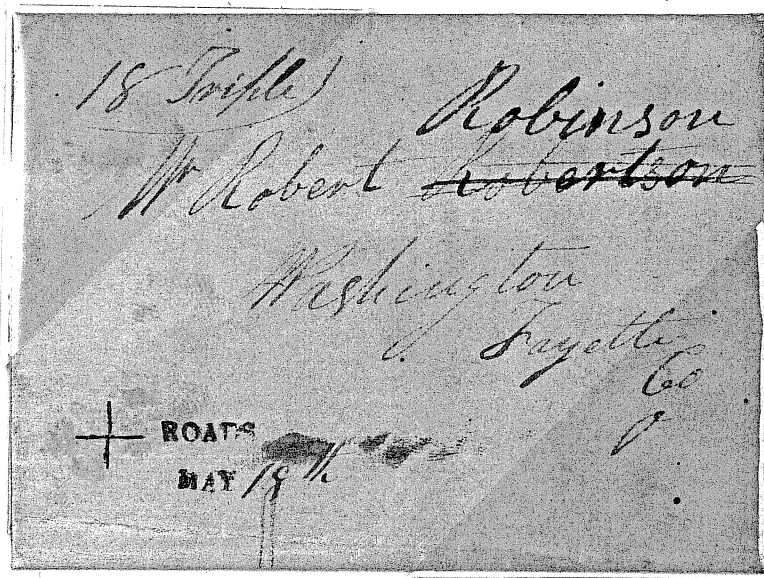


Negative lettering is a very desirable form of fancy lettering. There are very few negative straight line postmarks. This 1827 example in blue with "HANOVER N.H." and handwritten dating also has a sawtooth outer frame which is an unusual feature too.

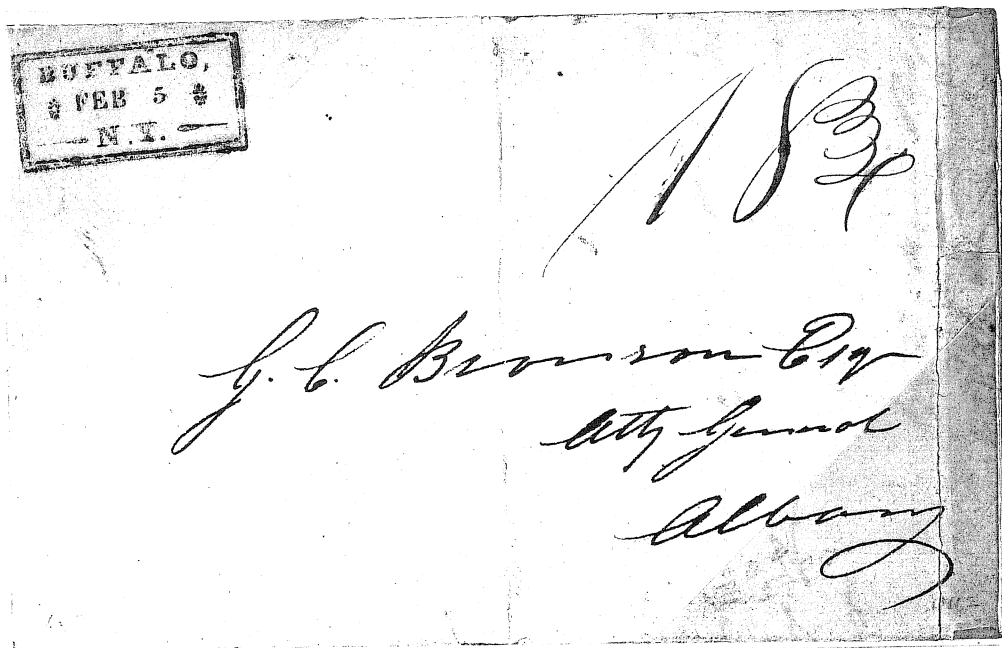


This cover has very unusual lettering; its postmark "Proctorsville, Vt. April, 30, 1851" is printed. Only the date and year date were left blank. The cover bears a "5" due rating marking, the correct postal charge for early 1851.

Straight Lines- Lettering and Decorations

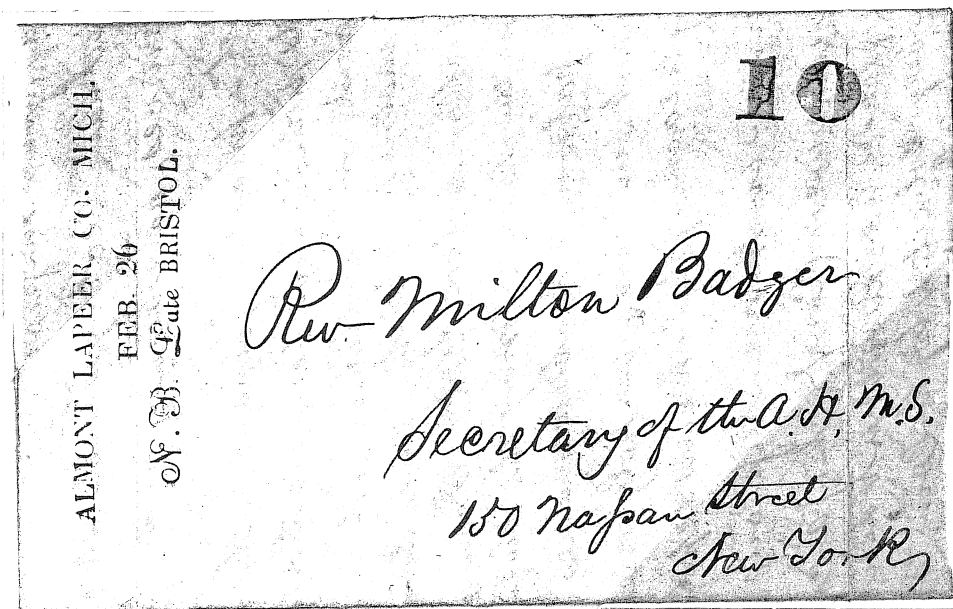


This cover is from a town named Crossroads, Ohio. It can be seen that there is a large blue cross as a substitute for the actual lettering. The month is also handstamped, but the date was written in. This 1833 letter was rated a triple because of enclosures. This is the lowest postal rate for a distance of less than 30 miles.

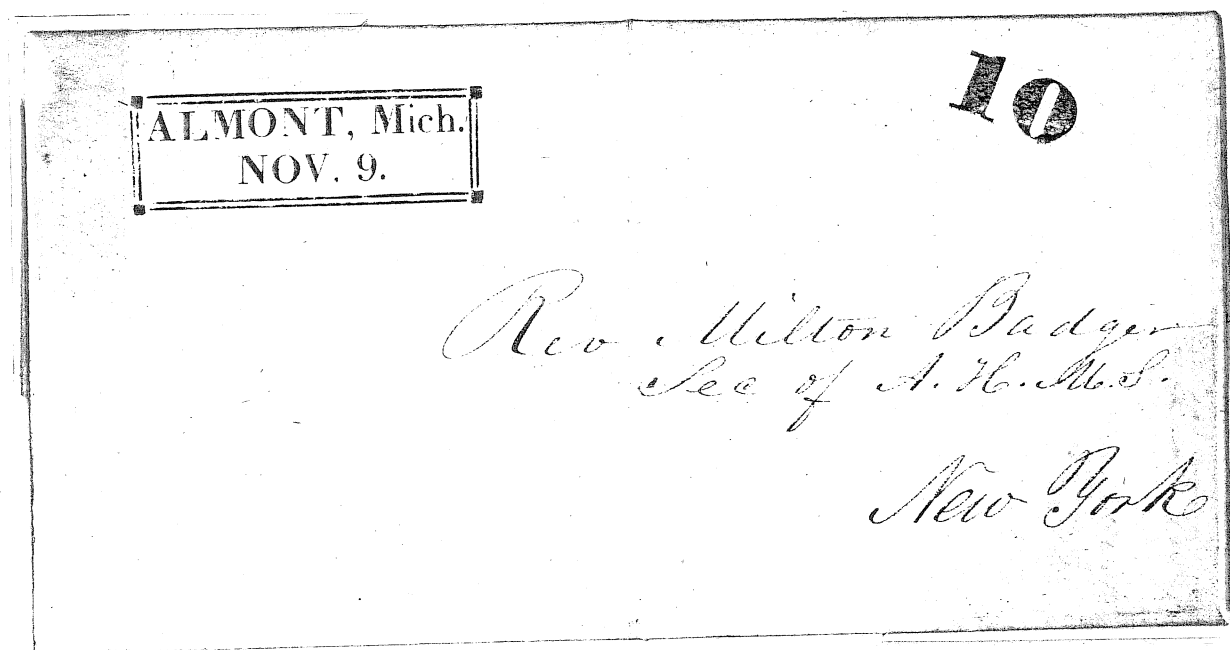


Decorations around the lettering was another fancy modification. This red "BUFFALO FEB 5 N.Y." (1829) contains asterick type decorations around the date, and there other decorations around the "N.Y". This is also a double lined frame.

Straight Lines-Lettering and Decorations



This rare marking shows the change of a post office's name: "ALMONT LAPEER CO. MICH. FEB. 26 N.B. Late BRISTOL." (1846). The fancy lettering "N.B" stands for "note well" meaning "take note- formerly Bristol".



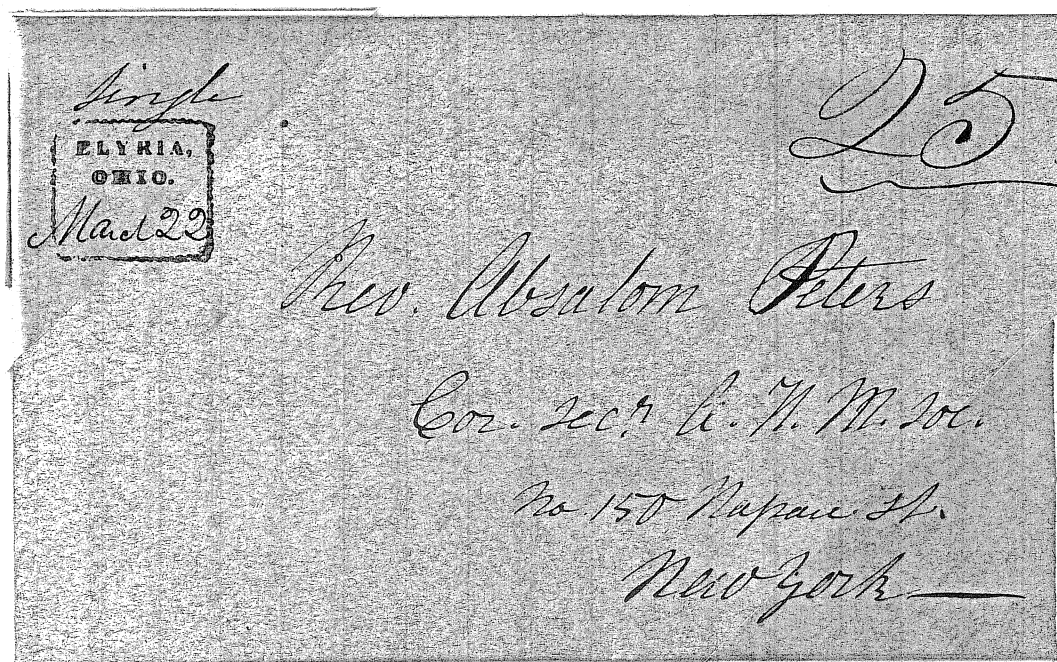
The next postmark from this town is an example of a fancy frame around a straight lined postmark, "ALMONT, Mich. NOV. 9." in two lines with quite a fancy frame, 1846. Note that the "10" rating mark is the same device.

Straight Lines- Frame

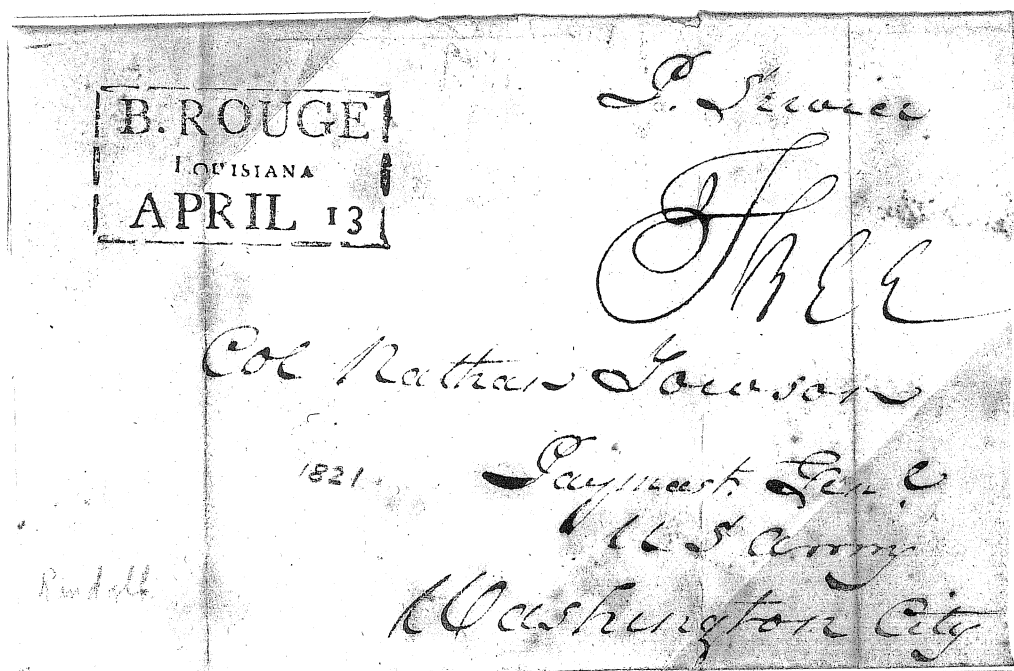


These three covers are examples of simple fancy frames, double frames or double lines. The first is a bold "Middlebury, OHIO" (1827) with manuscript dating and rating. The second, "Cleveland, O JULY 1", is one of many types of boxes from this town. The last, "KINGSBORO' Mont. Co. (N.Y.) April 11th" (1826) is the only known example of this postmark. It is an example of a county postmark, one in which the county name is included.

Straight Lines- Frame

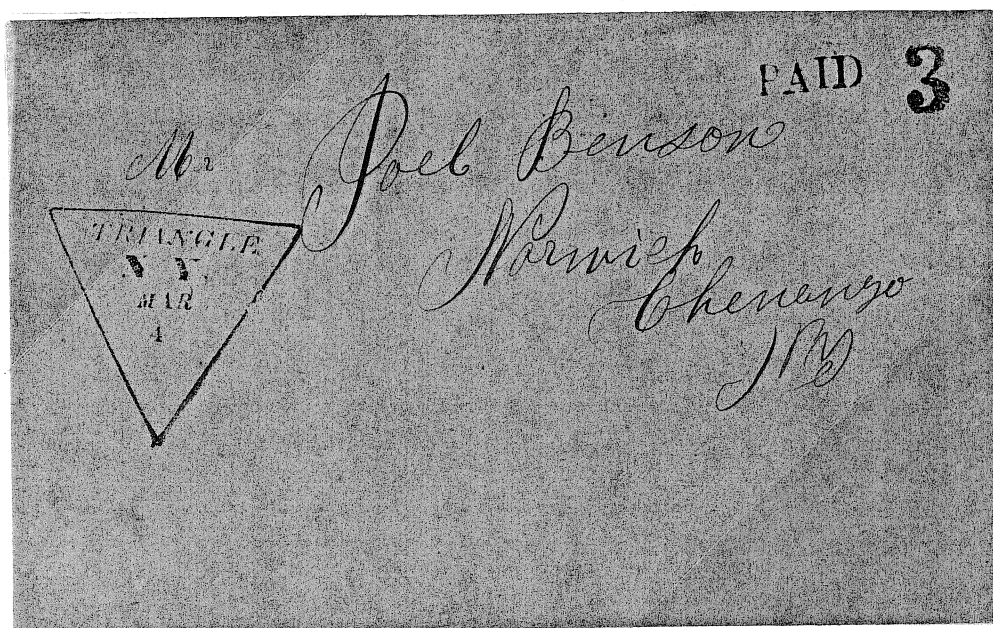


This "ELYRIA, OHIO. March 22" (1833) has an outer frame with rippled lines.

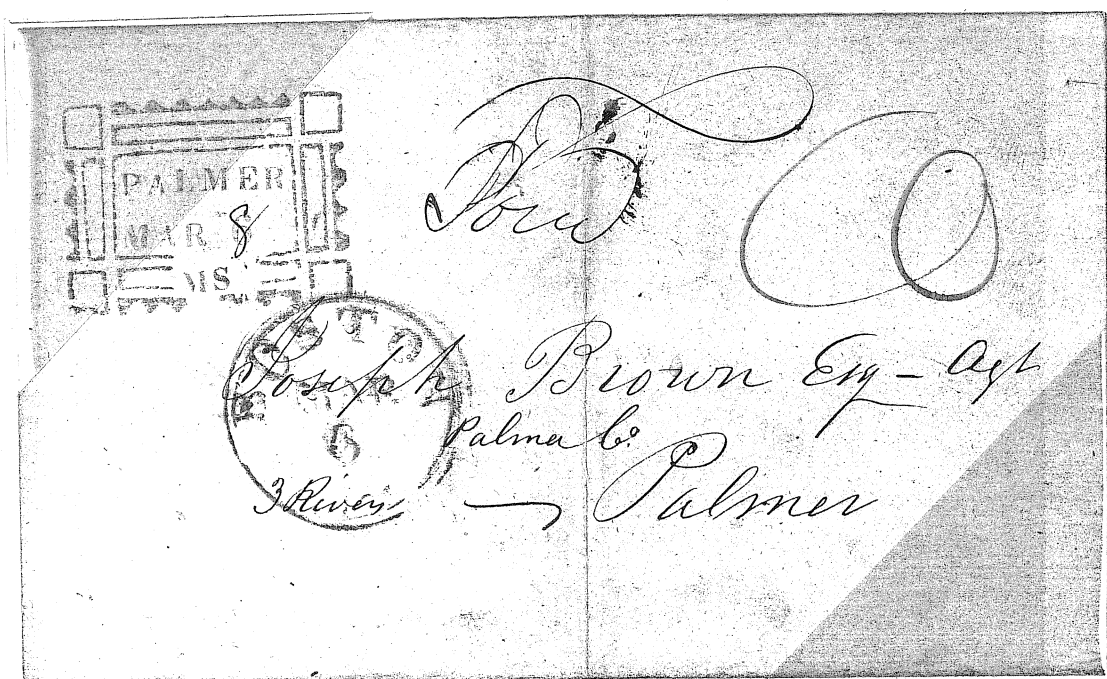


The bold "B. ROUGE LOUISIANA APRIL 13" (1821) in three straight lines is unusual in its size, the spelling out of the state name, and with the frame which consists of broken lines.

Straight Lines-Frame

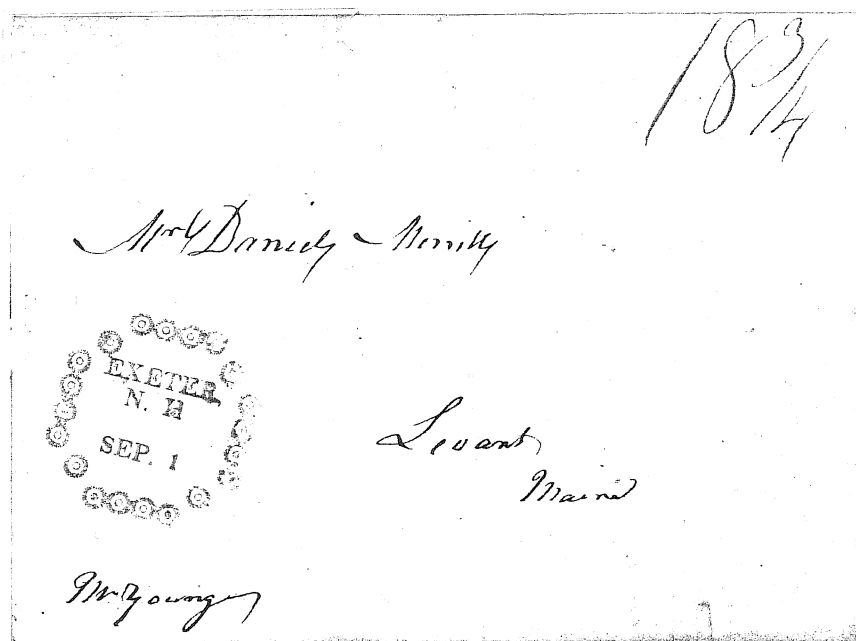


This "TRIANGLE N.Y. MAR 4" is a good example of the use of the present classification method to use lettering format for classification rather than just calling any unusual marking "fancy". All of the lettering is parallel; therefore this is a straight line marking, four lines, in a triangular frame, unique to this town.

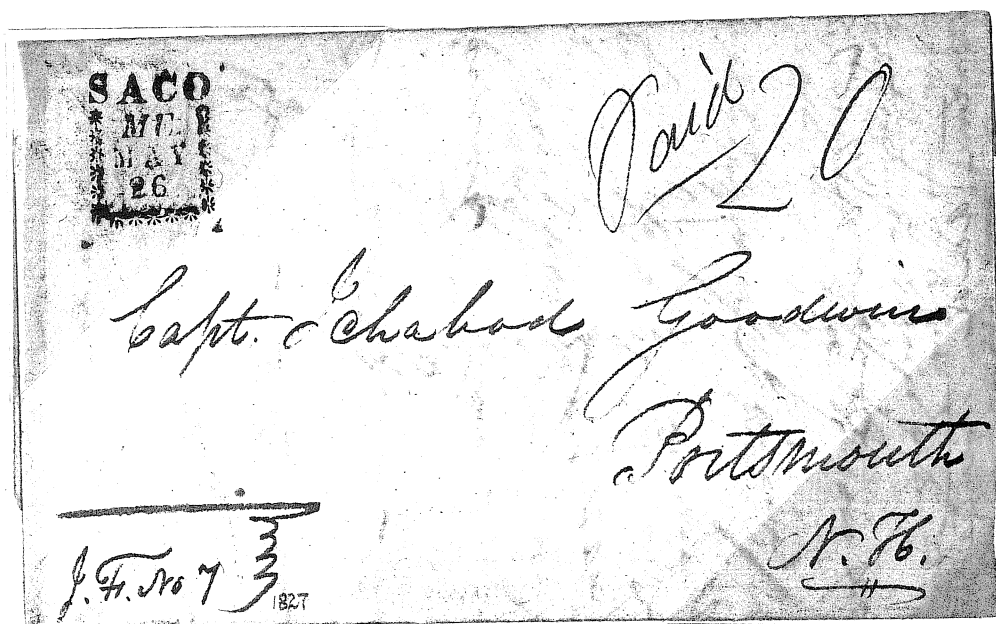


The "PALMER MS MAR 6" (1839) marking was used to forward this cover originating at Boston. This unusual frame reminds one of a postage stamp, but of course it is too early for that representation.

Straight Lines- Frame

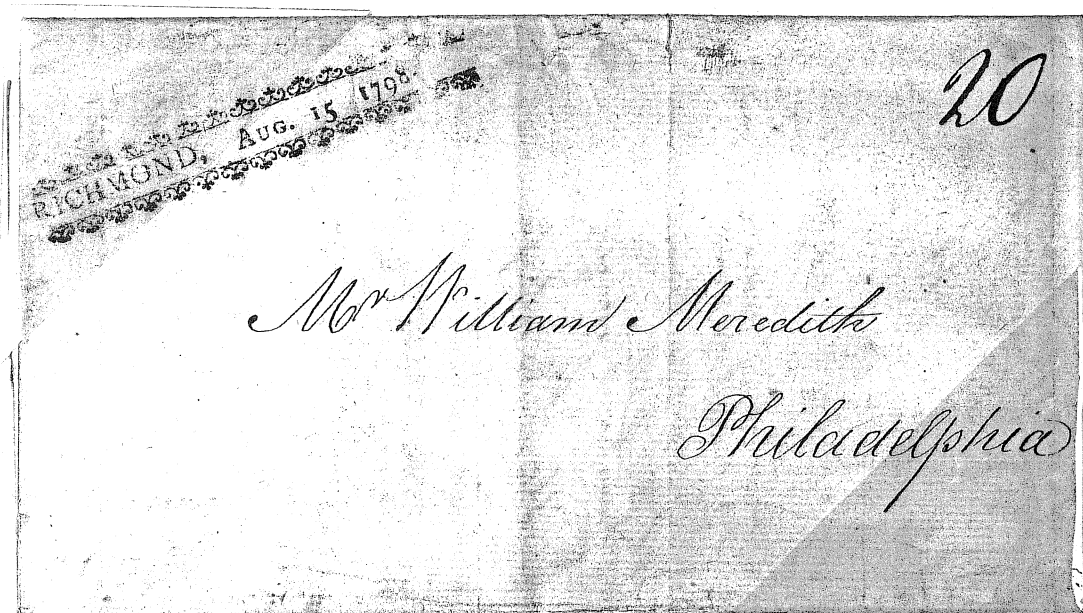


The "EXETER N.H. SEP. 1" (1829) cover above has a frame made from many individual rosettes set into a square format with truncated corners. It is seldom struck so clearly.

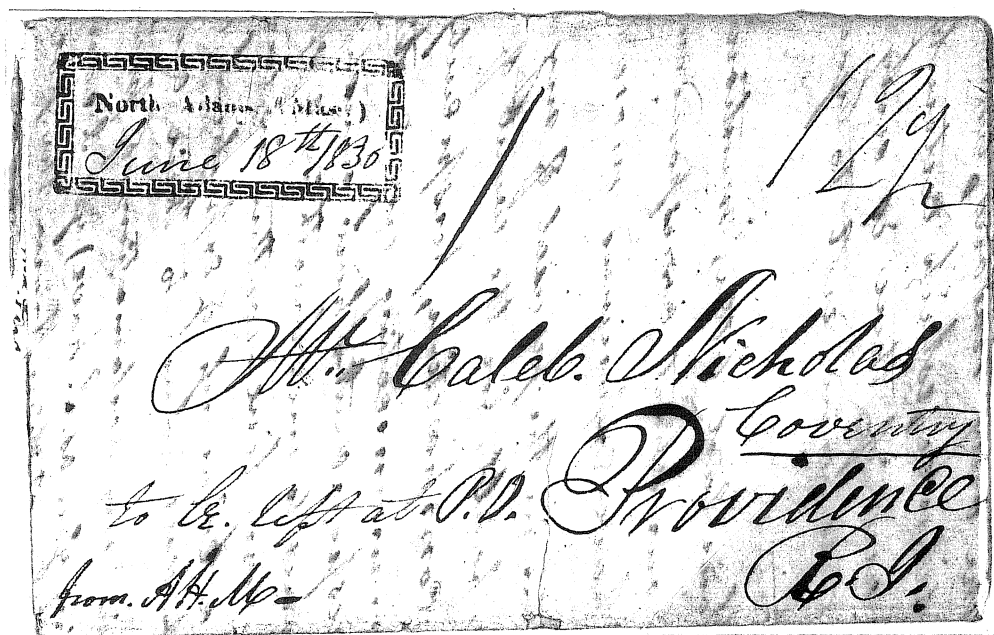


There are a variety of different framed postmarks from Saco, Maine. This 1827 example shows the most fancy type, "SACO ME. MAY 26" with a frame composed of rosettes.

Straight Lines- Frame



This "RICHMOND, AUG. 15, 1798" straight line between two parallel fancy printer's framelines is one of the earliest fancy type postmarking devices.

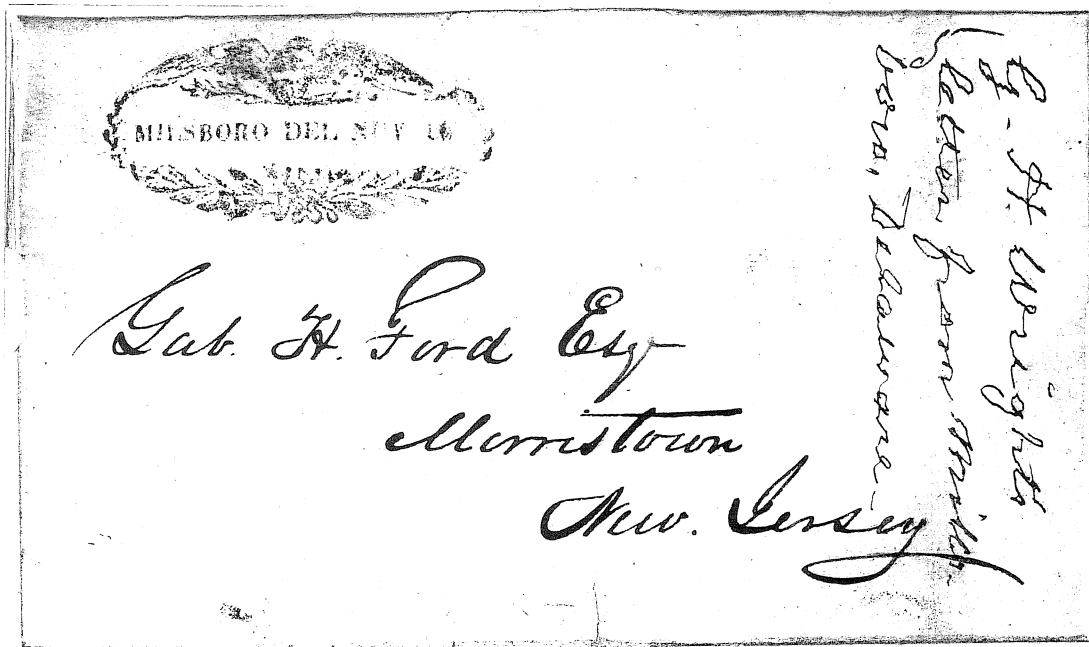


The "North Adams Mass." straight line with manuscript "June 18th 1830" dating is contained in a classic type frame reminding one of Greek vases. It is very uncommon.

Straight Lines- Frame

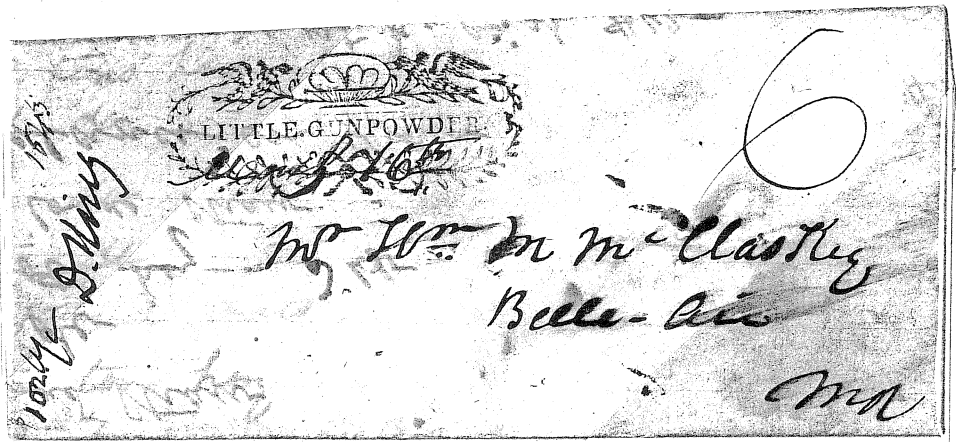


The ornamented frame reaches its finest style with the straight lines within handstamps prepared for other purposes than postmarks. These were handstamping devices that lacked a central slug. This could be made of printers' type and added as a slug in the center. This eagle frame contains "PERINS. MILLS. O." (1843). The dates are usually written. Only known example.

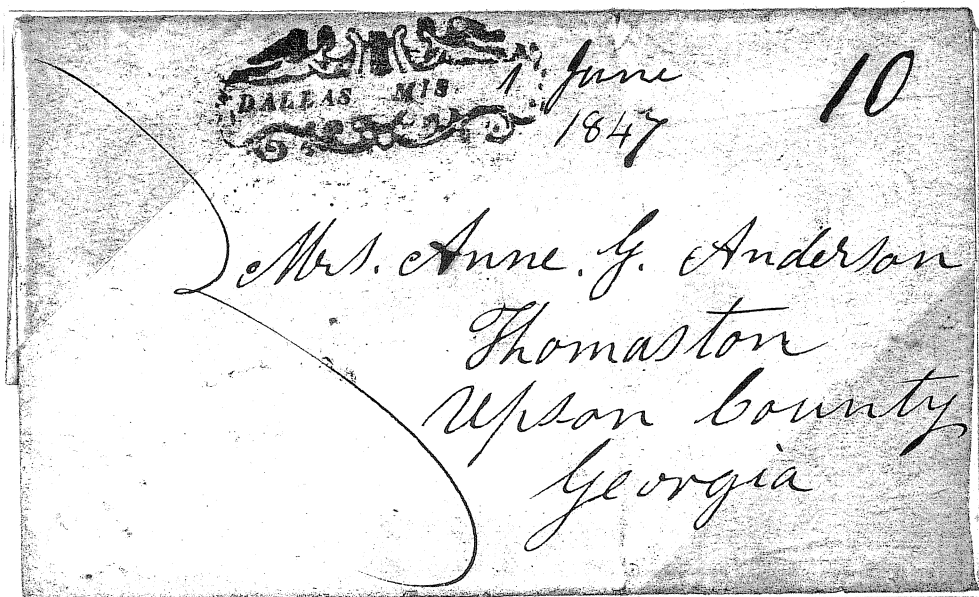


This is a much more unusual eagle frame with "MILSBORO DEL NOV 16" (1841) (misspelled). It includes the date. Ex Mayer. Only known example with misspelling.

Straight Lines- Frame

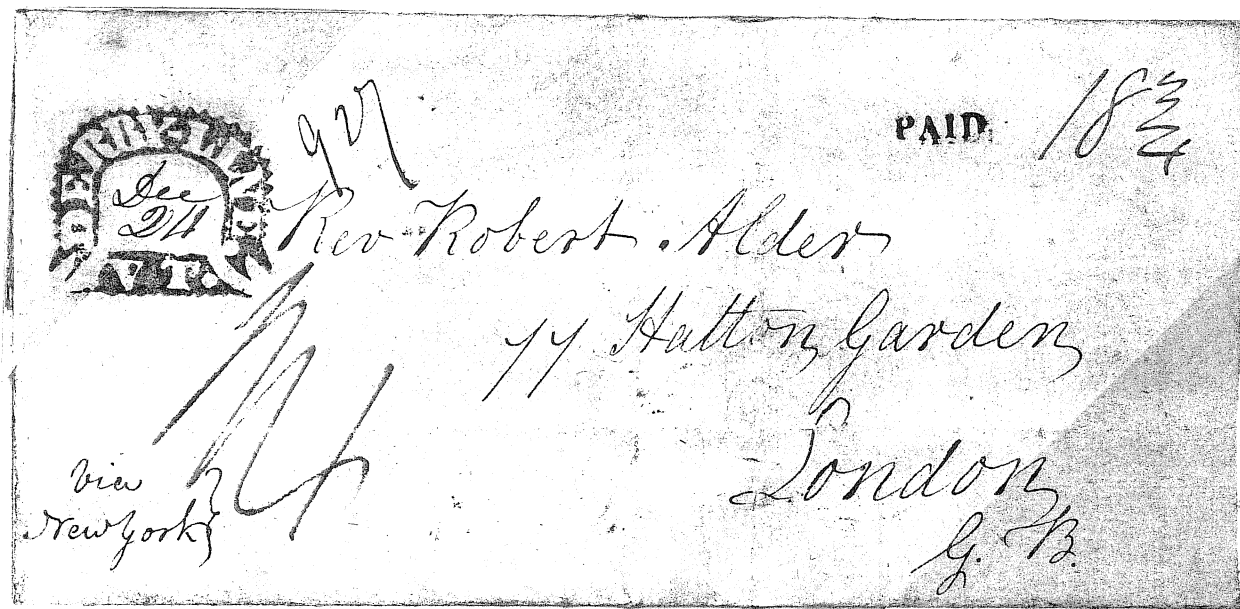


This is a newly discovered cover never shown before. The postmark is "LITTLE. GUN POWDER." (1844), a town in Maryland. The frame is very ornate with two birds alongside a covered bowl. There are anchors with floral branches and a central ribbon at the bottom. The frame was used also at McLeansboro, Illinois for a postmark there.

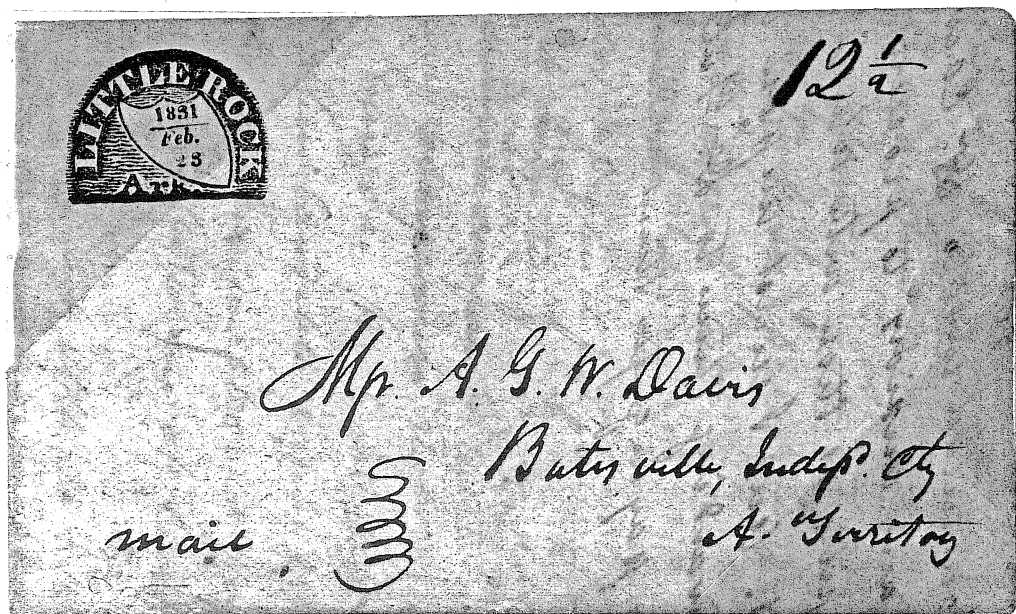


This framed "DALLAS MIS." with manuscript "1 June 1847" shows a frame of two cherubs holding a lyre at the top. This is a complete frame into which the town's name on a metal slug was fastened by a screw at one end of the frame. Only known example.

Arch- Lettering and Decorations

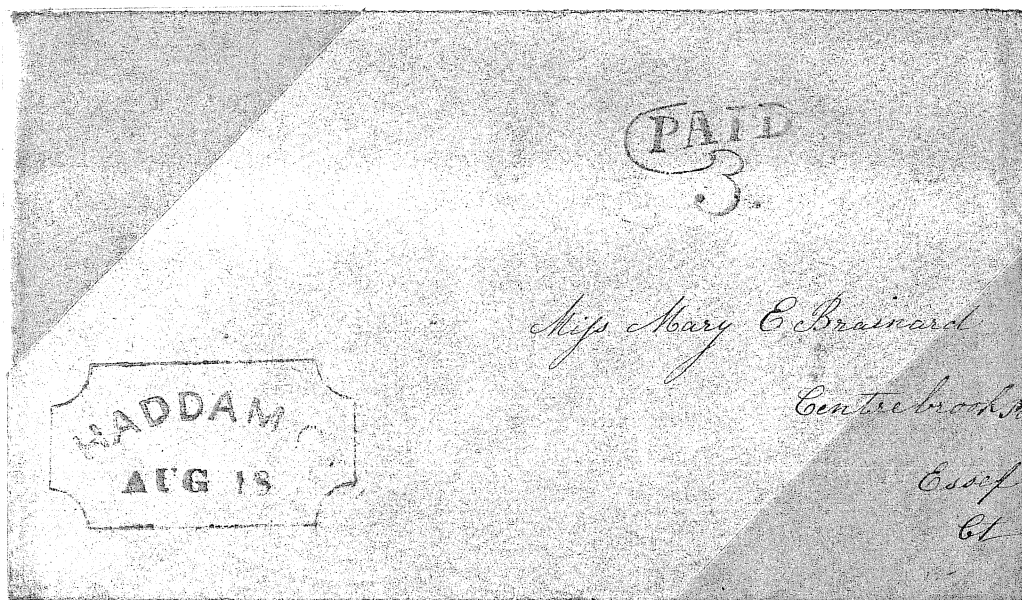


Fancy lettering is unusual with the arch format. This cover "DERBY-LINE VT. Dec 24" (1837) with negative lettering in a banner for the town's name and a matching base is in the reddish brown ink rather than the usual black. It is also a rare transatlantic usage, "1/4" due, "SHIP LETTER DEAL" on the reverse.

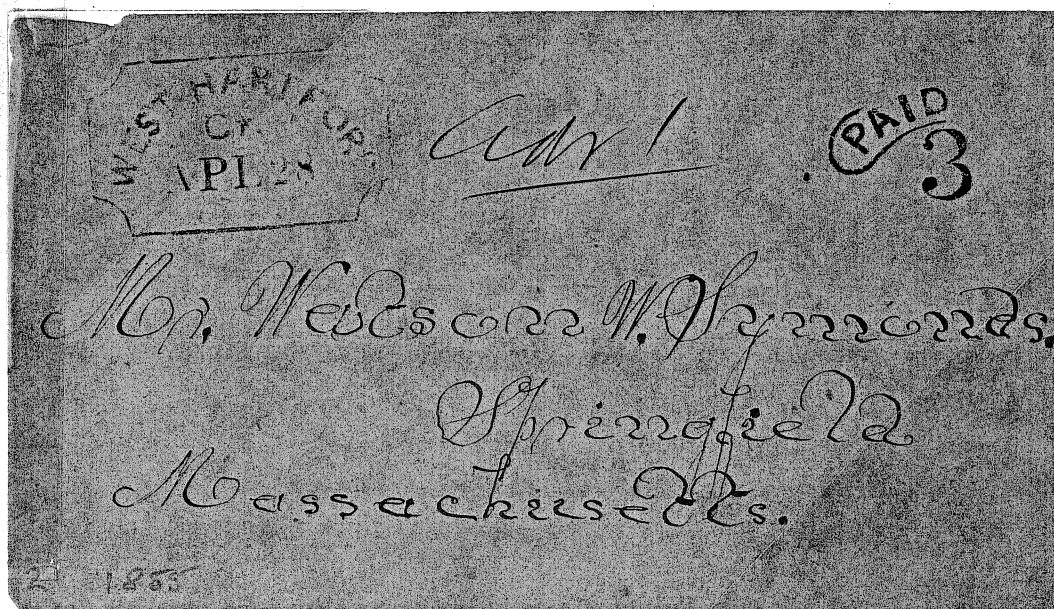


The famous shield cancel of Little Rock, "LITTLE ROCK Ark. 1831 Feb. 23" with negative lettering is also in the arch format, that is, a curved top and flat lower line. It has both unusual lettering, the negative lettered arch, and decorations, the shield and the wavy lines.

Arch- Frame

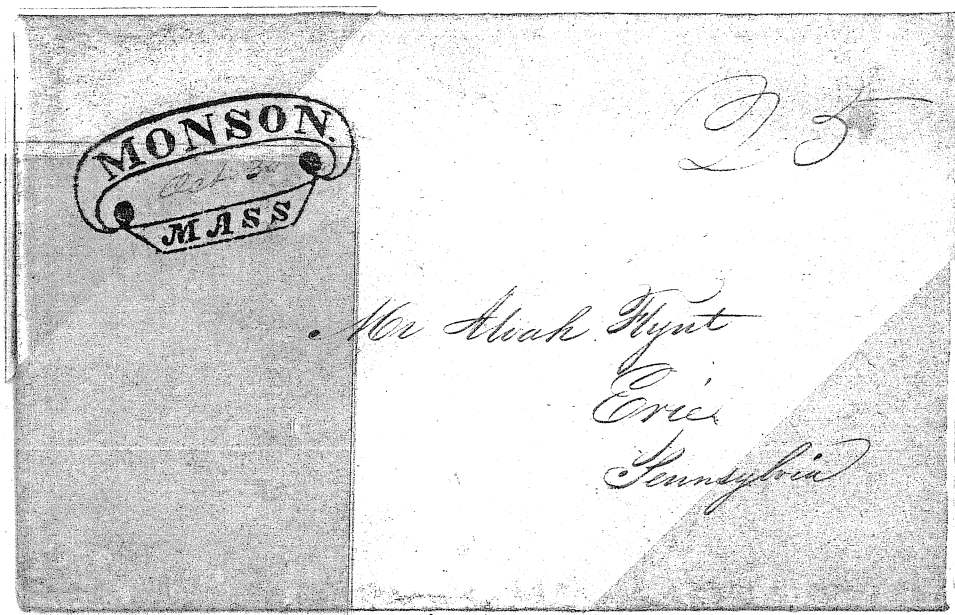


Two Connecticut towns used arch postmarks in truncated rectangles. The first in red is “HADDAM CT. AUG 18’ with a very usual “PAID 3. The lettering is in arch format.

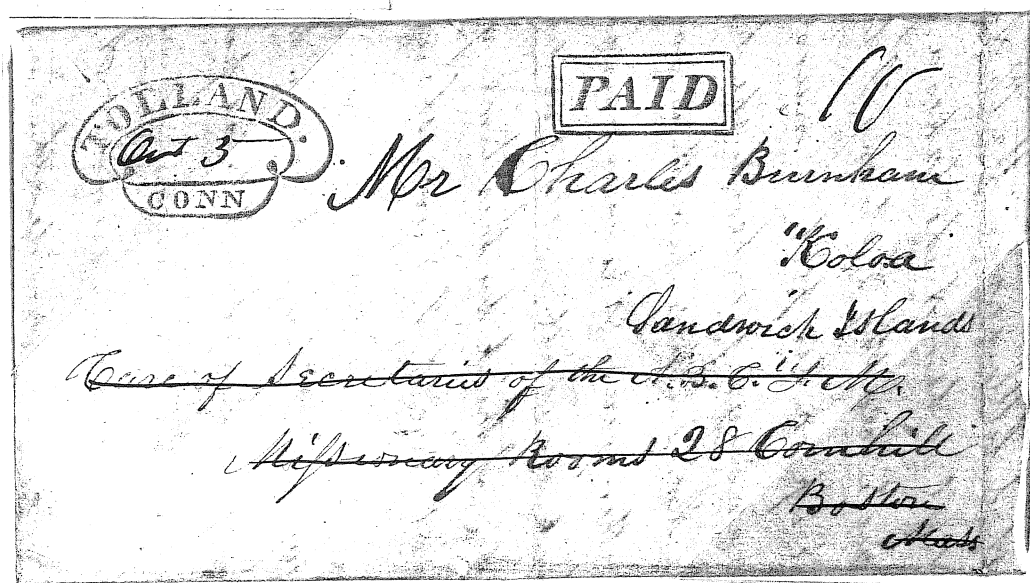


The other postmark in black is “WEST HARTFORD CT. APL 28” (1855). This town also used a “PAID 3” that is quite unusual. Probably the Haddam is the first type because the curved line around the PAID connects to the 3. This particular cover was not picked up at Springfield so it was advertised in a local newspaper. There was a penny charge “Adv 1”.

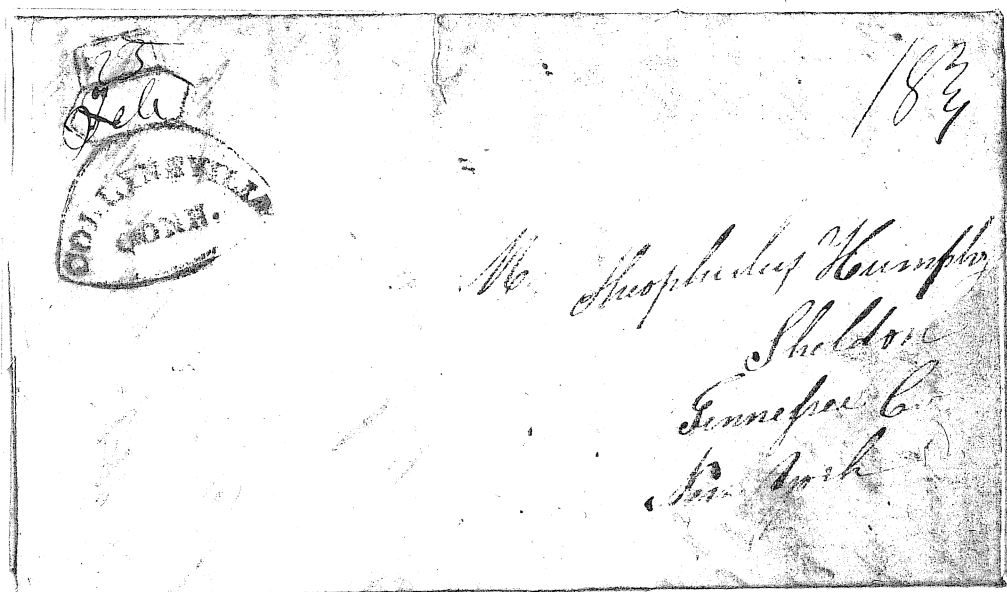
Arch- Frame



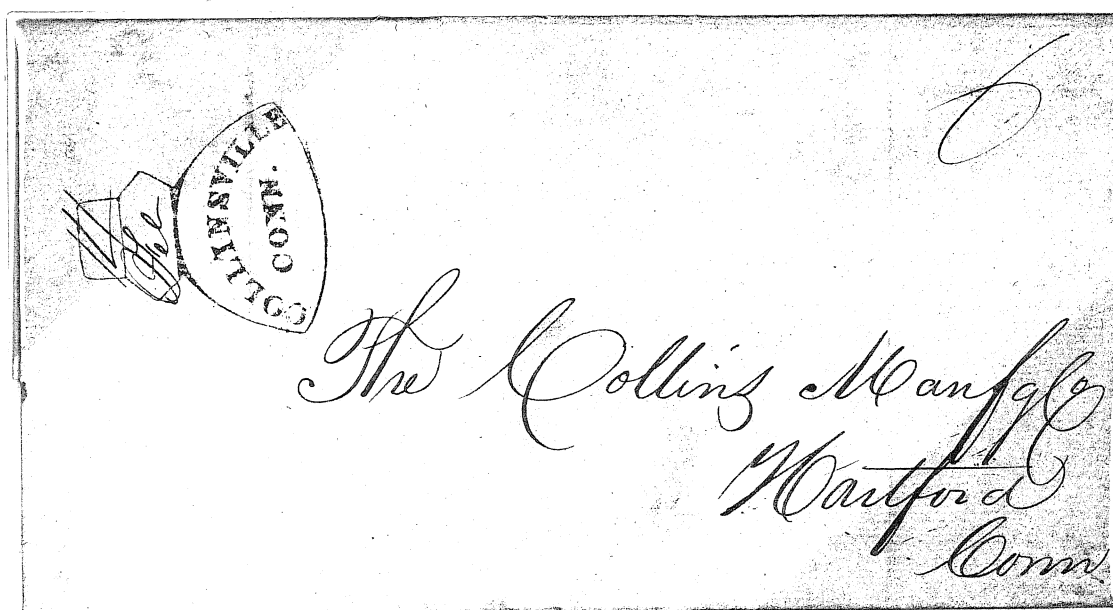
This type of this frame has the top row curved and the second level. The postmark, “MONSON. MASS” is not rare although this is an unusually bold strike. There was no provision for a dating slug, so the “Oct 30” (1830) is in manuscript.



This marking “TOLLAND CONN” with “Oct 5” (1843) in manuscript is a similar type arch. The PAID with italic letters and a double frame is a fancy PAID. The cover was mailed to Boston and then forwarded out of the mails to Hawaii.

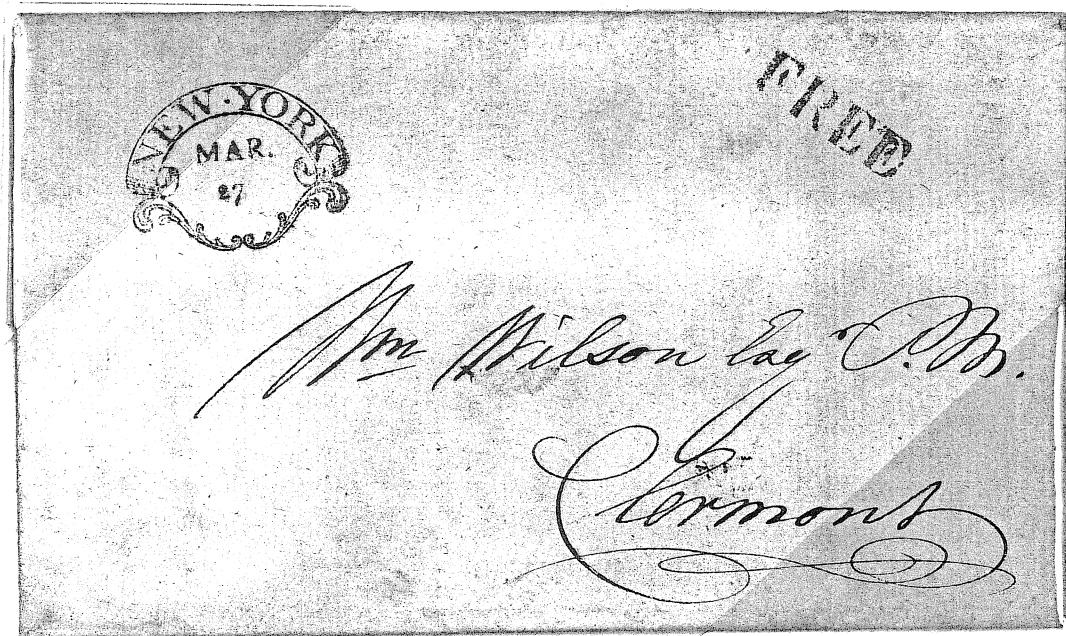


The well-known ax cancellation with "COLLINSVILLE CONN." has the lettering in an arch. The date "13 Feb" was typically written in manuscript above. The red color is the more rare type.

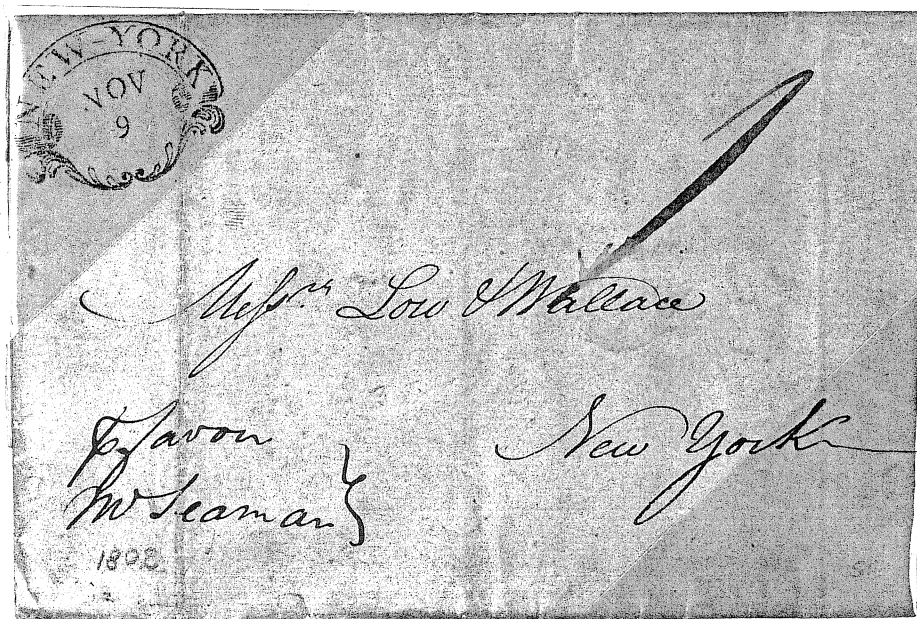


This cover "COLLINSVILLE CONN." with "14 Feb" dating is sent to the Collins Manufacturing Co., the maker of axes and castings for which the town was named.

Arch- Frame

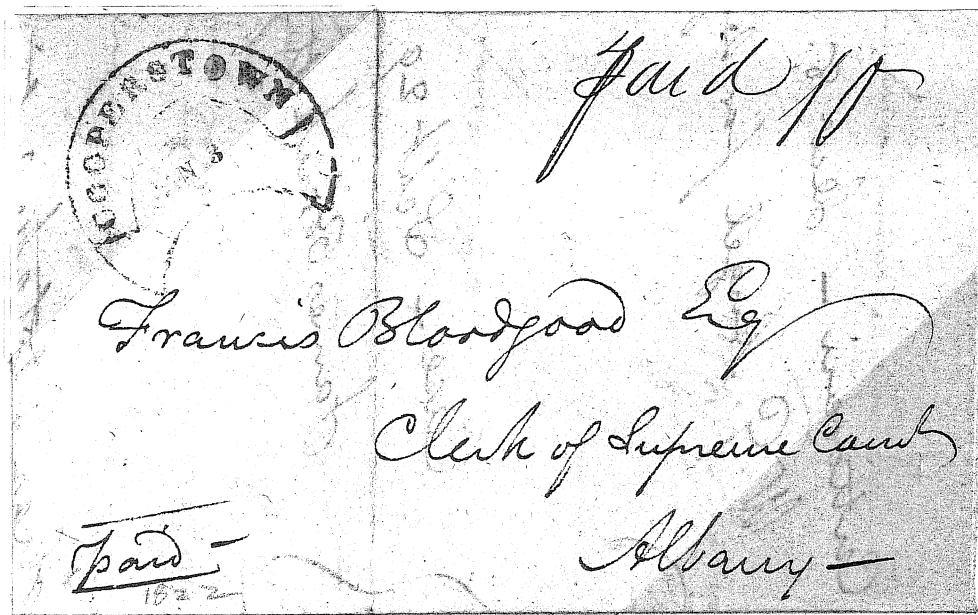


The so-called clamshell of New York City is of course only a decorated banner. The town's name is curved and the dating is level. One could call this an oval, but as it stands, the arch is the better terminology for classification purposes. This "NEW-YORK MAR 27" (1798) in red is both very early for a fancy stampless and also a very choice strike. It went "FREE" to a postmaster.

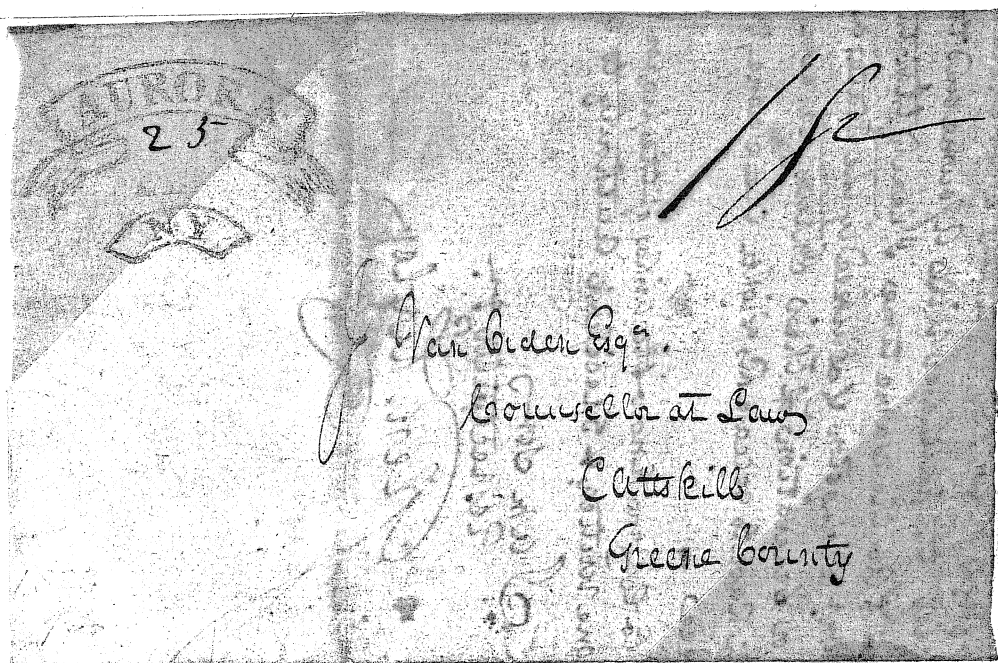


The black usage is the more common one. This "NEW-YORK NOV 9" (1802) paid only a penny drop rate. It was actually carried by someone from London. Such covers are termed to be "boot-legged" to save on postage.

Arch- Frame

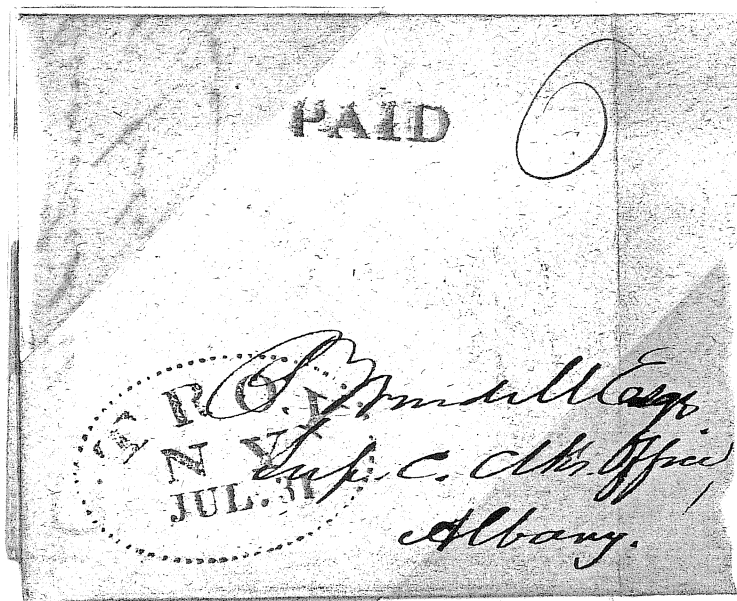


This unusual format from Cooperstown, "COOPERSTOWN JUN 3" has an enclosed semicircular town's name with a cut away circle at the bottom. If it contained the state's name below, it would just be a circular type.

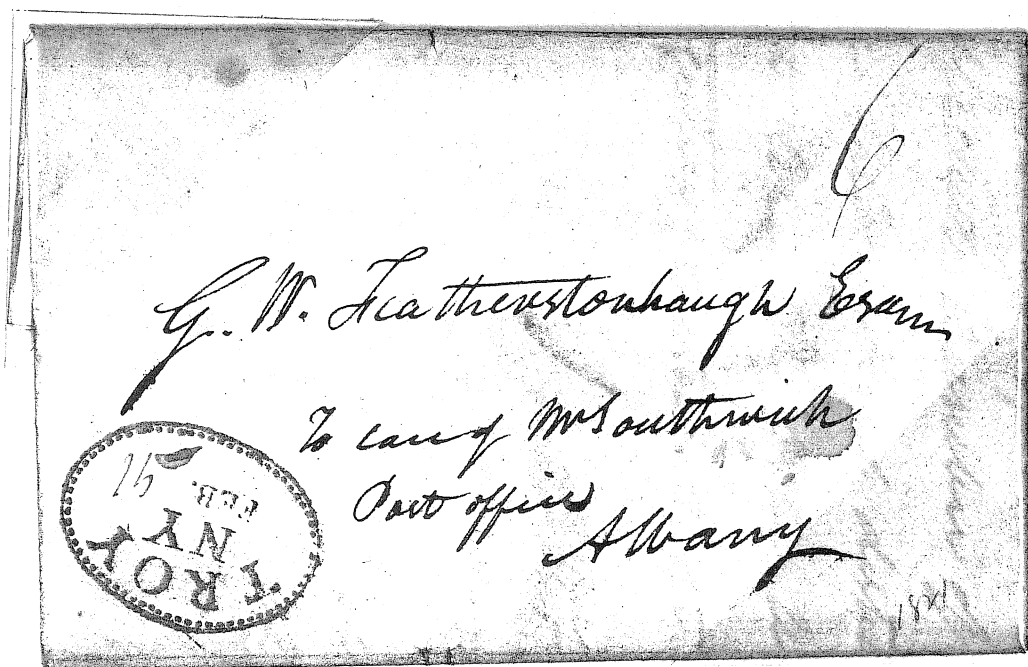


This marking "AURORA N.Y. 25 FEB" (1822) in two parallel banners is really not a marking which fits the present classification by lettering. To be an arch, the bottom "N.Y." should be flat. If it curved the other way from the top curved town's name, this would be classified as an oval type.

Arch- Frame

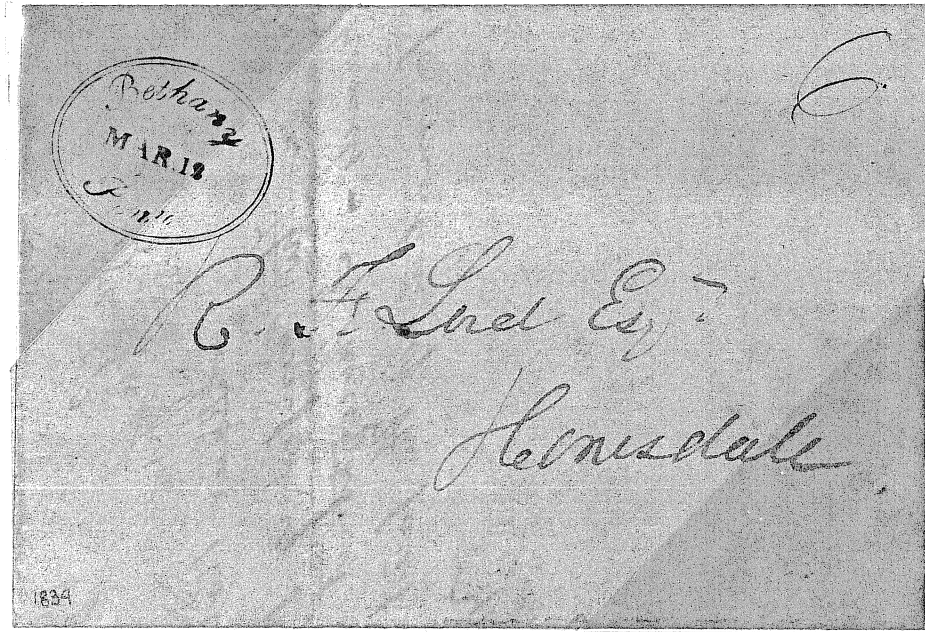


This postmark "TROY N.Y. JUL. 31" (1830) would be classified by most as an oval postmark. However, by the present classification, the town's name is curved and the state's name is level. We would classify this as an arch postmark within a dotted oval frame.

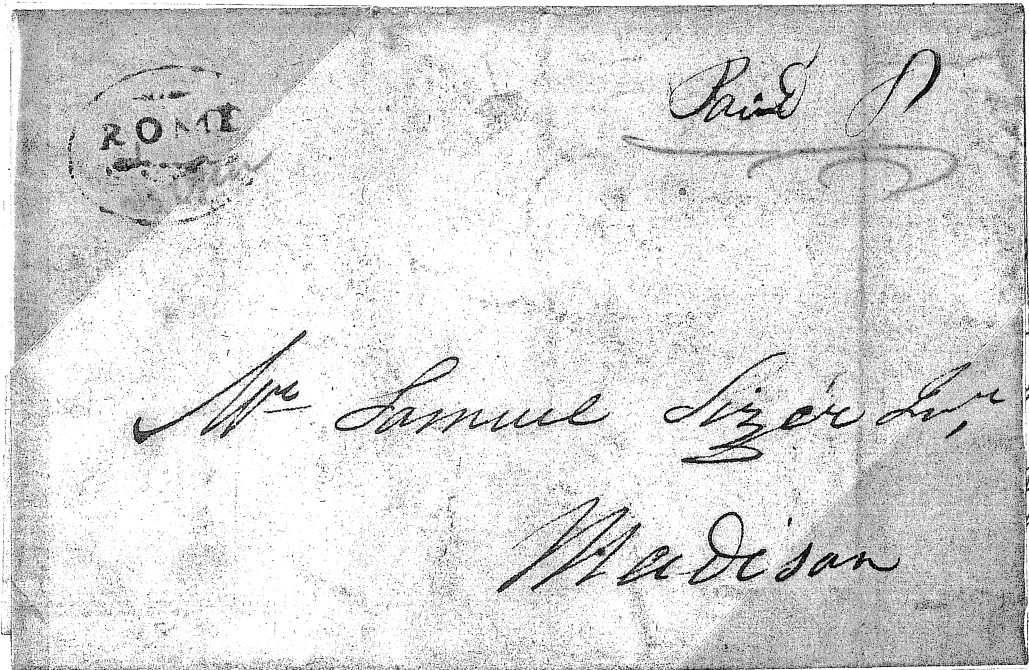


This second "TROY N.Y. FEB. 15" (the "15" is upside down in pen) (1821) is an earlier arch type within a frame composed of a solid outer oval and a dotted inner oval, quite a fancy frame.

Oval- Lettering and Decorations

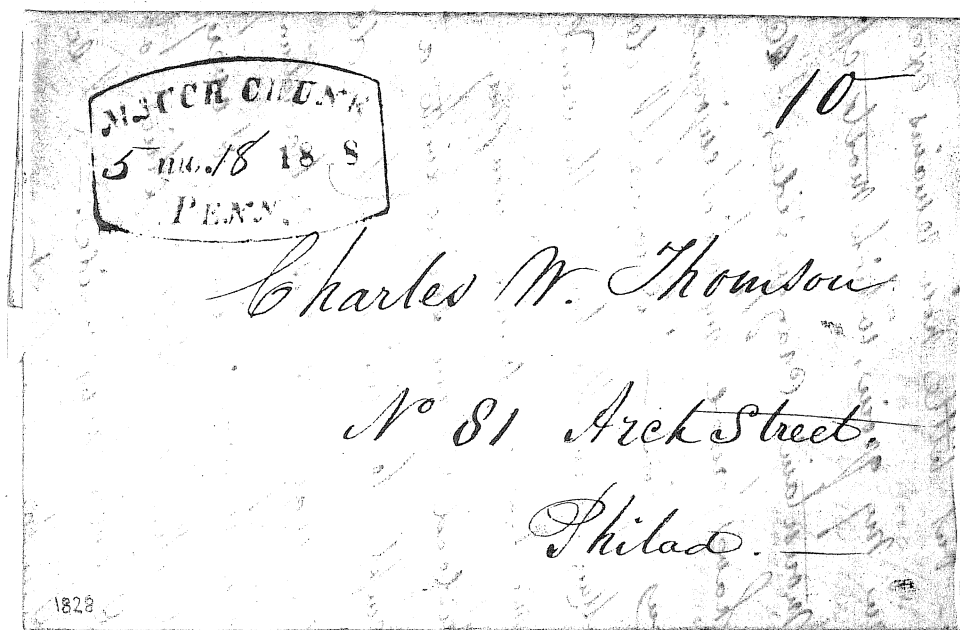


The lettering within this oval “Bethany Penn. MAR 12”(1839) oval is a script type which is fancy. Also the frame is a double oval which is a more unusual type of oval.



This very primitive type of oval frame contains the word “ROME” in unusual type face. There are also decorative embellishments above and below the name. The date is written below “25 Mar” (1810).

Oval- Lettering and Decorations

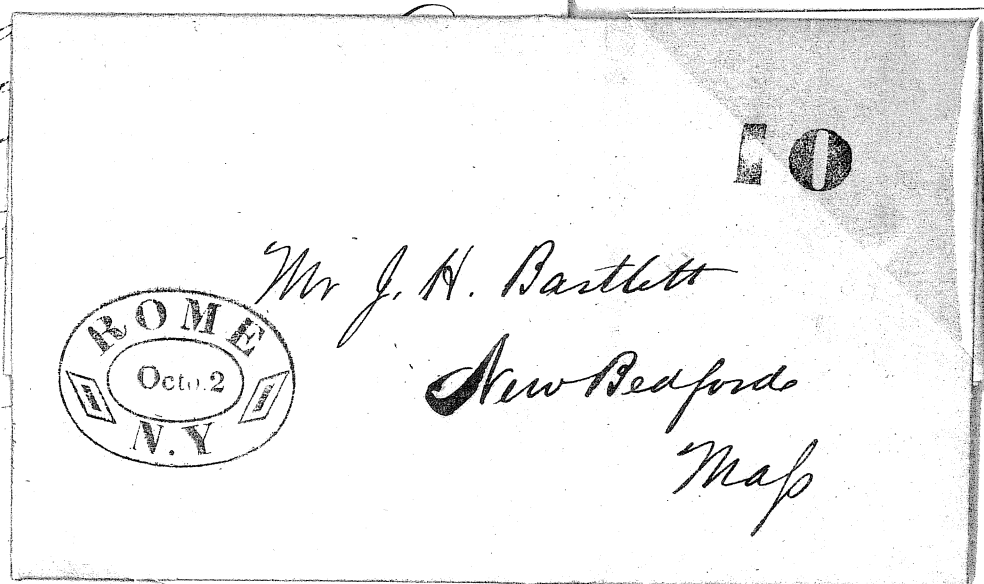
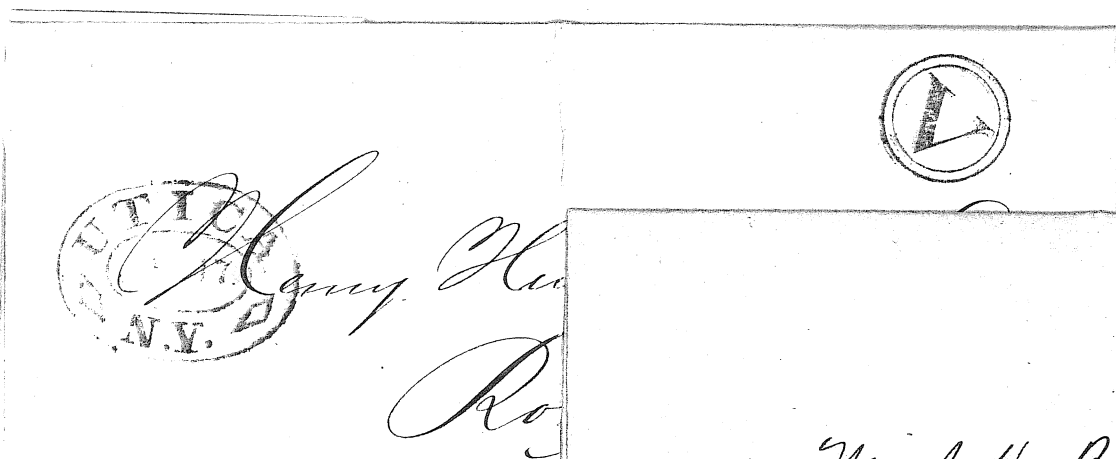
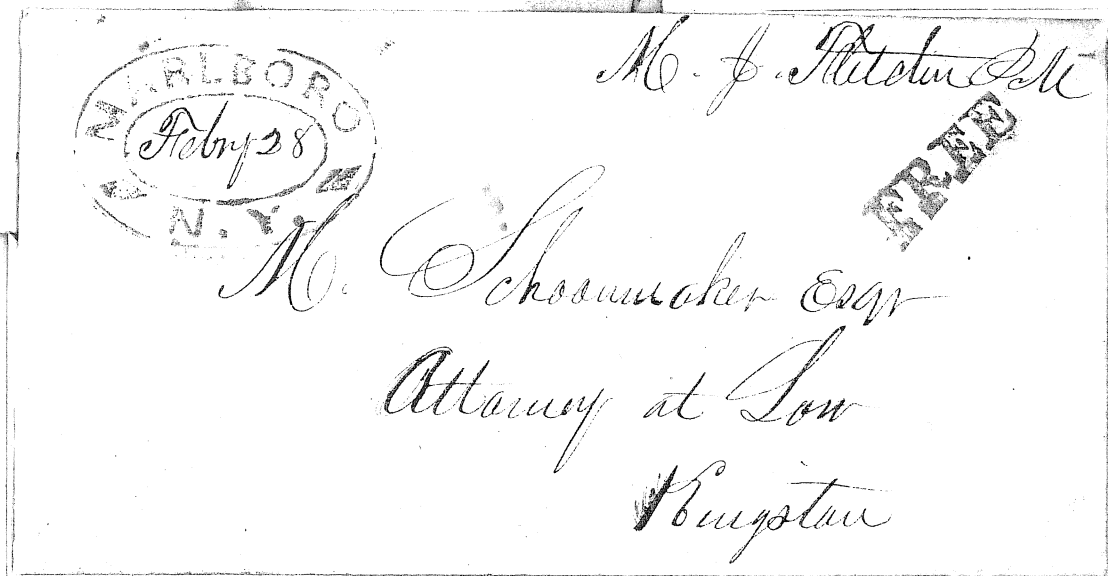
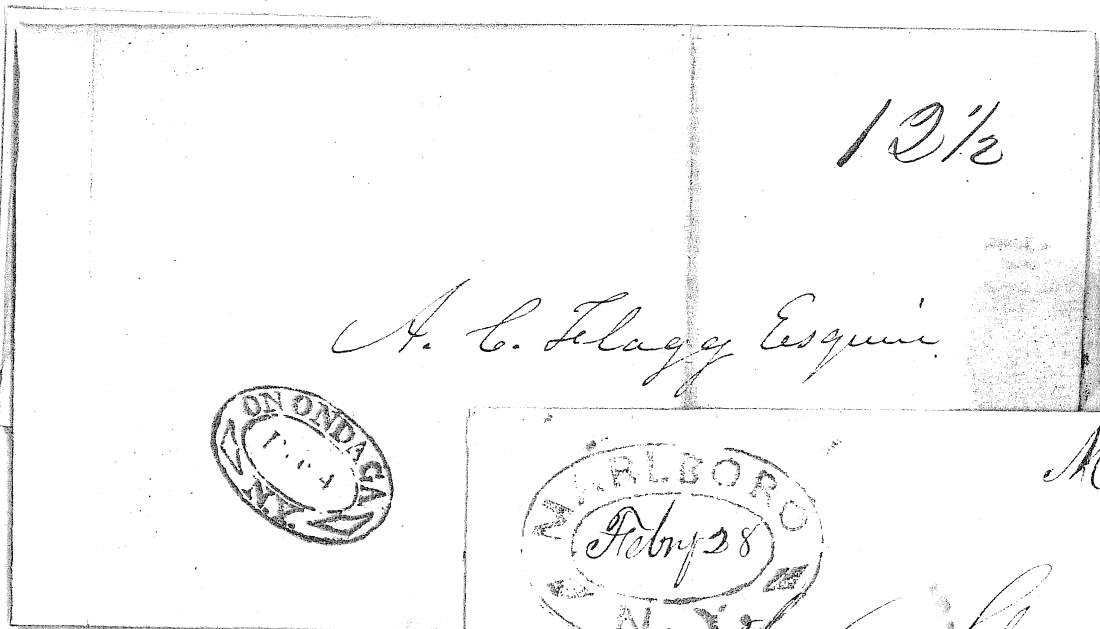


The lettering in this “MAUCH CHUNK PENN. 5 mo. 18 1828” is an unusual type. This is also a quaker dated postmark (5 mo. 18). Year dates are unusual at this period. And this is also a very distinctive fancy frame, the only one known of this type.



The lettering in this “SMITHFIELD VA. Oct 13” (1836) oval is in negative letters. There is also a second oval frame outside of the negative oval with the lettering.

Oval- Lettering and Decorations



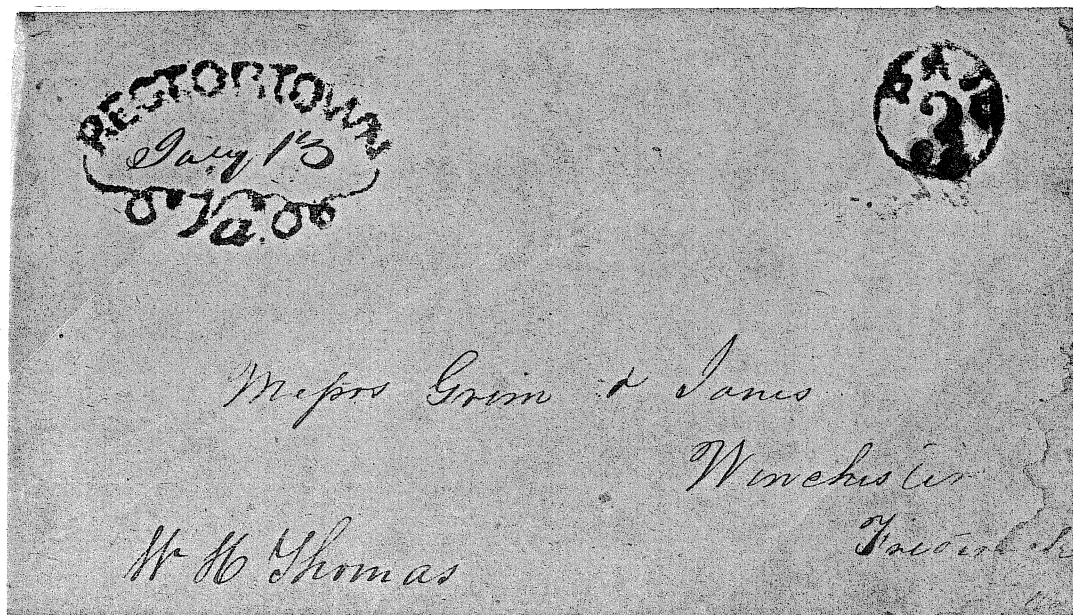
This group of four covers from Onondaga, Marlboro, Utica, and Rome, N.Y. all contain diamond decorations between the name of the town and the "N.Y." The red ovals are before the change of rating in 1845 to five or ten cents depending on whether the cover was carried less than 400 miles.

Oval- Lettering and Decorations



These are four covers all from Buffalo, N.Y. which used postmarks with oval formats for over 30 years. These covers all show different decorative devices within the oval. They are dated top to bottom 1830, 1837, 1845 and 1847.

Oval- Lettering and Decorations

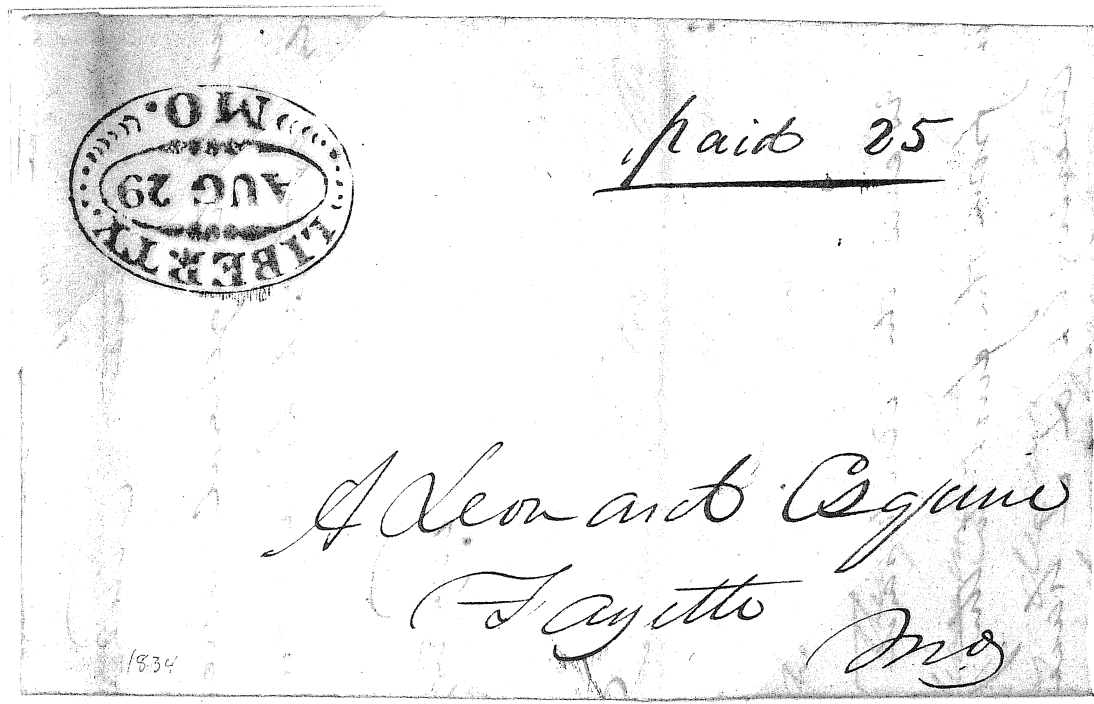


The classification of this "RECTORTOWN Va." (1850's) marking could be either arch or oval. It is certainly a rimless type with ornamentation around the state's name.

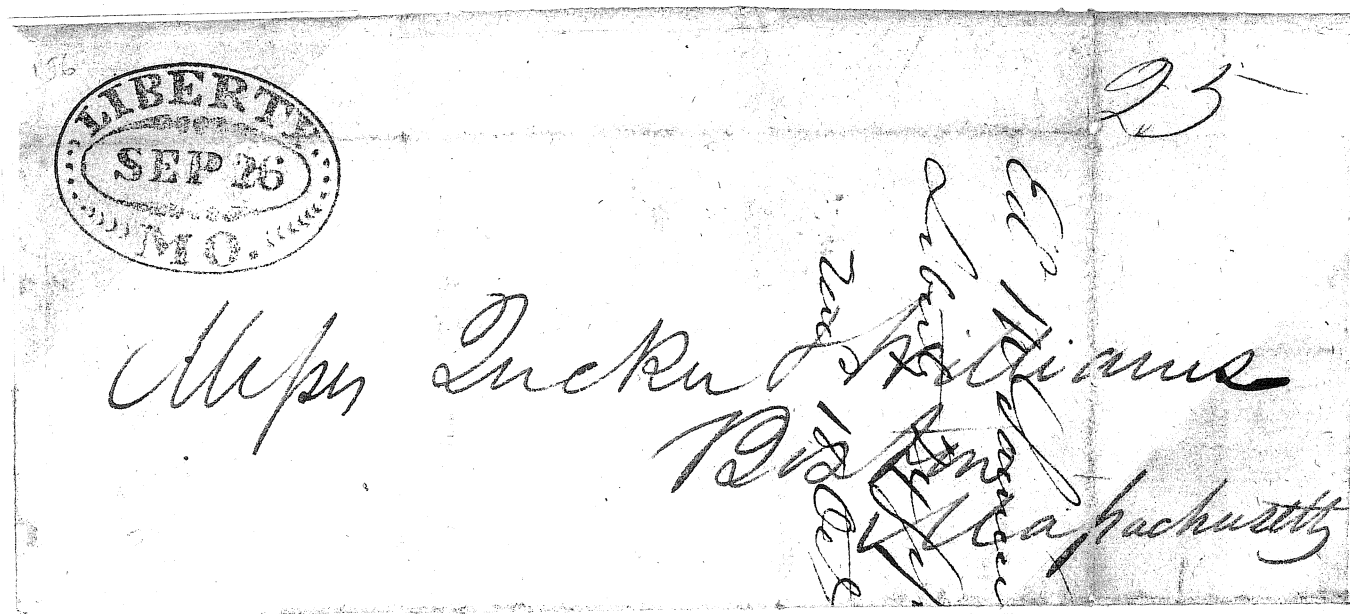


The rimless "PEAPACK N.J. Jan'y 15" with its ornamentations along side the lettering cause this to be one of the classic fancy markings.

Oval- Lettering and Decorations

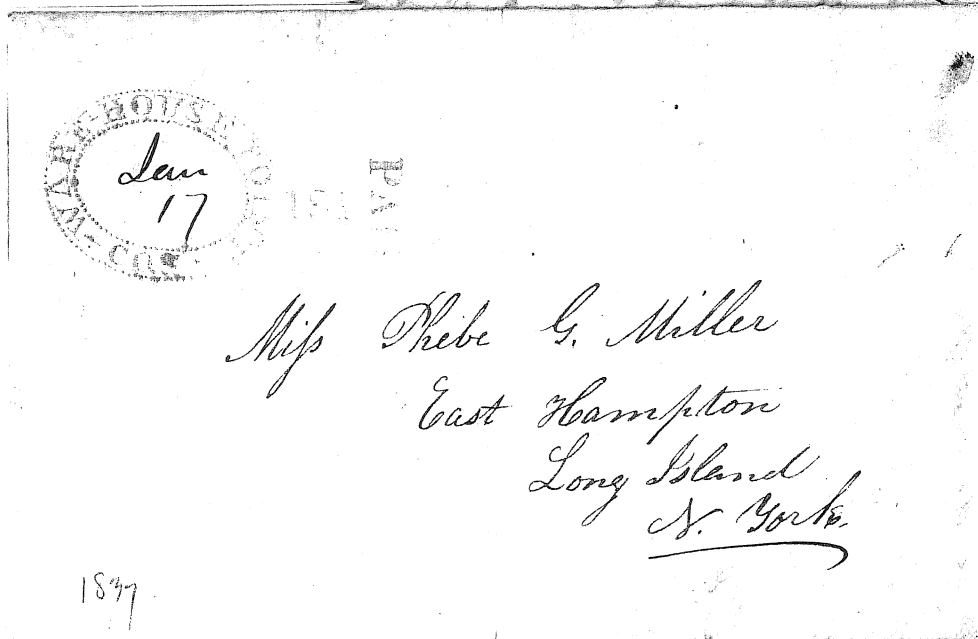
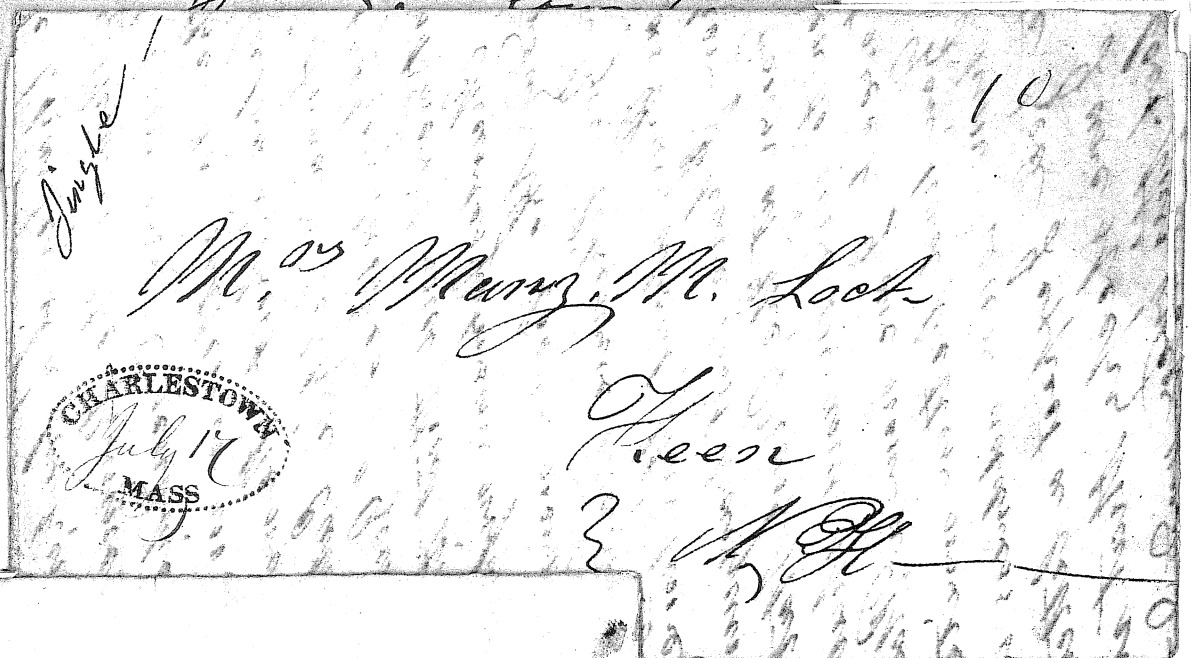
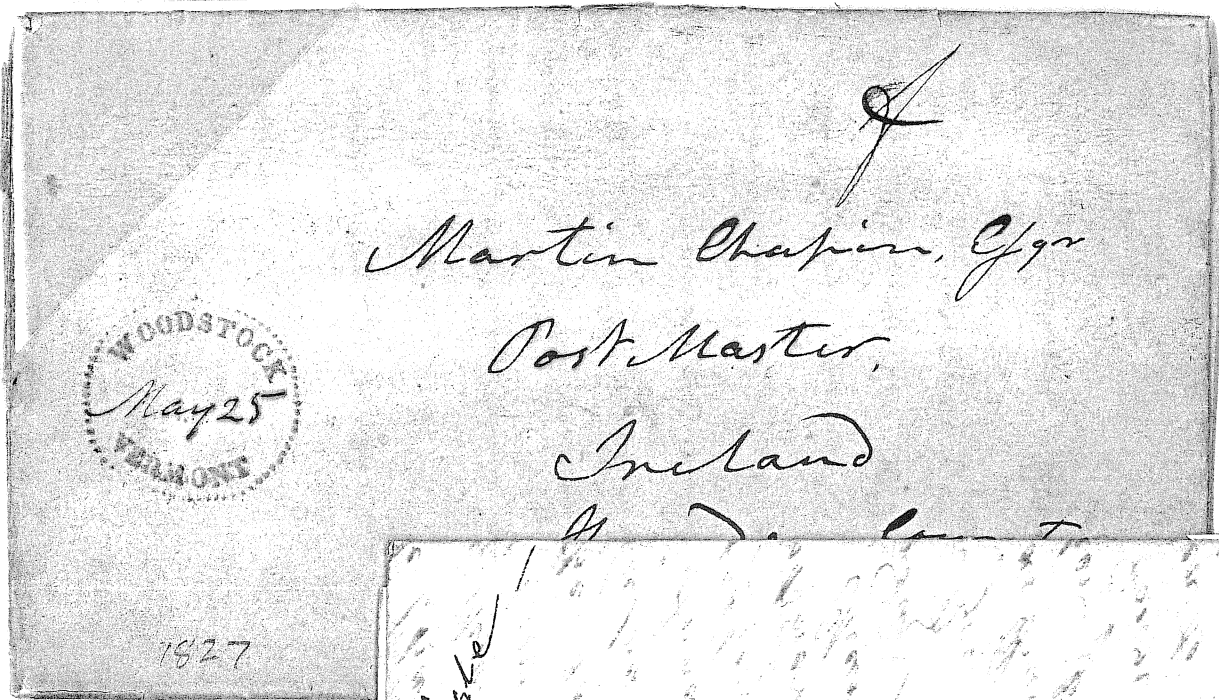


This marking “LIBERTY MO. AUG 29” (1834) in red demonstrates an embellished inner oval as well as a progressing from dots to curved lines going towards the “MO.” One of two known examples in red.



This is an example of the same marking in black, “LIBERTY MO. SEP 26”. The black usages were 1835-1837.

Oval- Frame

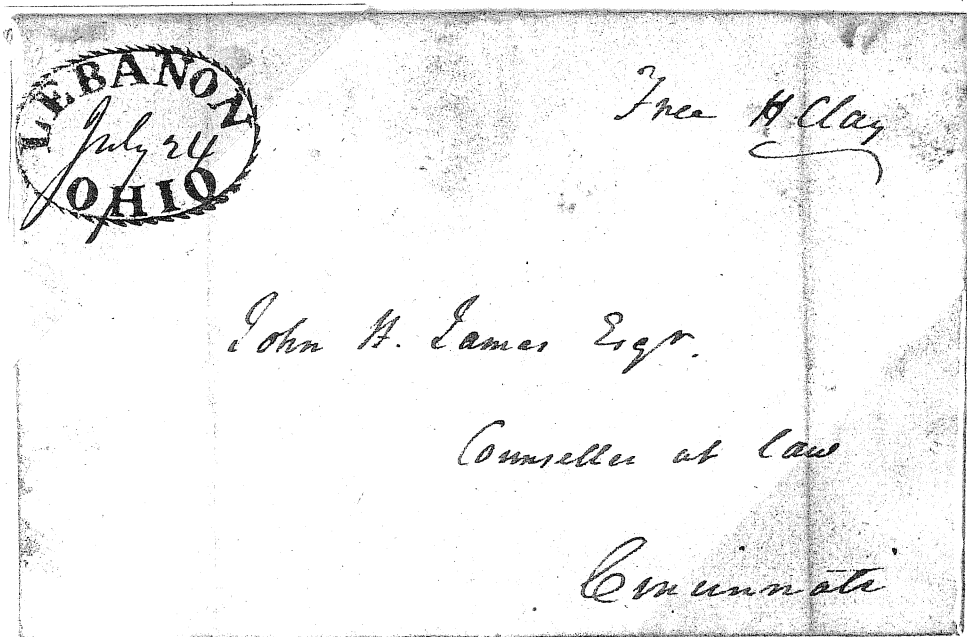


The simplest fancy frame was to compose the frame in a series of dots or dashes. Examples include "WOODSTOCK VERMONT May 25" (1827), "CHARLESTON MASS July 17" (1832), and "WARE-HOUSE POINT CON Jan 17" (1837). This last cover is an example of an attached rate, "18³/₄", and attached "PAID".

Oval- Frame

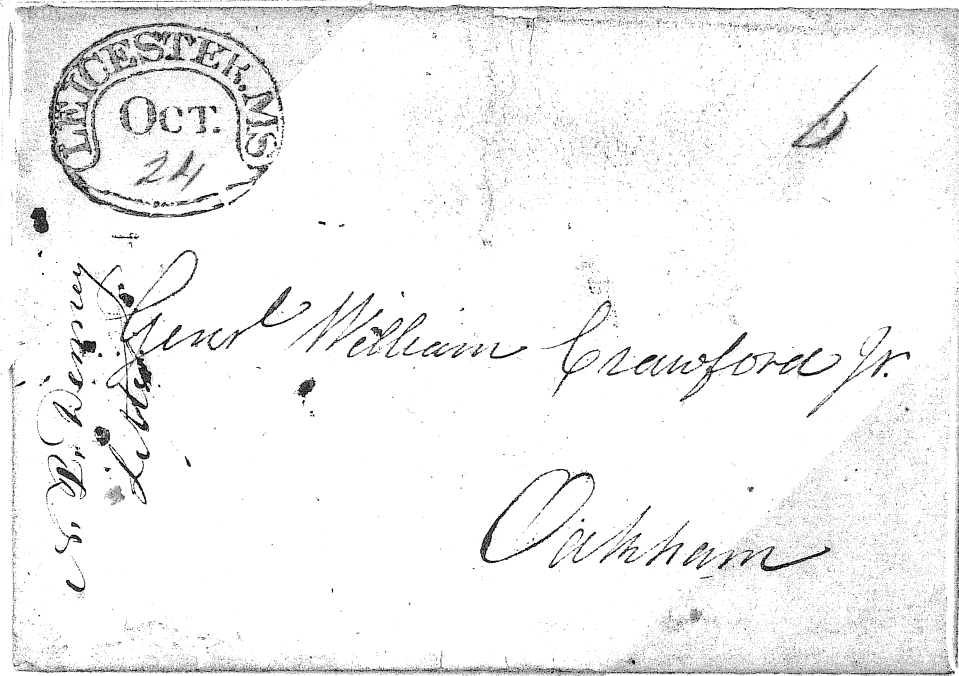


This "BUFFALO. N Y SEPT 25" (1818) is a well-known cover; it is the earliest steamboat cover from the Great Lakes. The manuscript "Sh" meant "Ship" which was used on steamboat mail at that time. The rating is 18¾ plus 2 cents. This is the earliest type of fancy Buffalo oval. The lettering of "N Y" is fancy too.

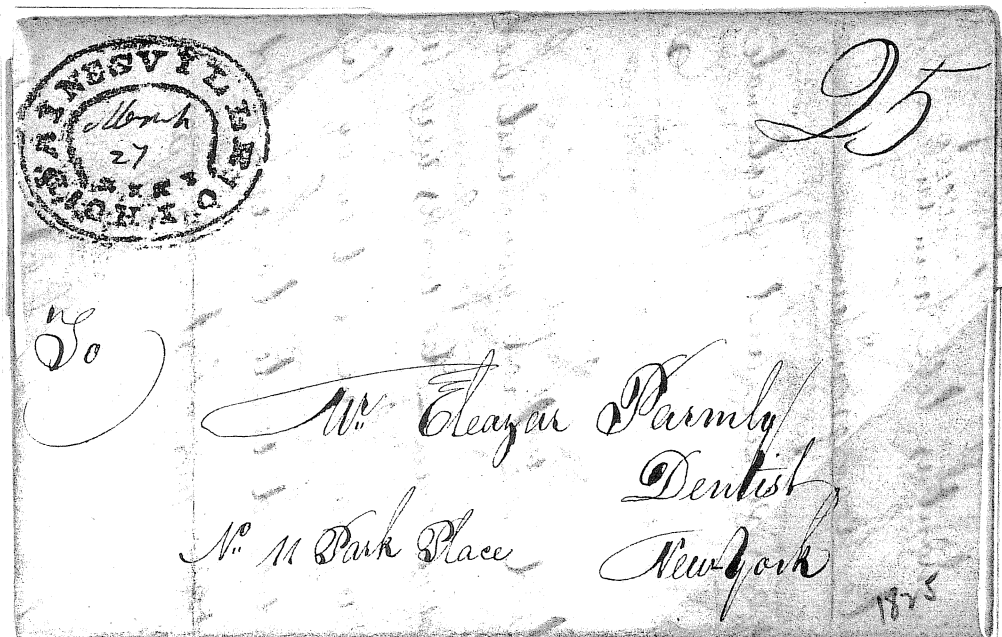


This "LEBANON OHIO July 24" (1825) fancy oval also bears a free frank of Henry Clay. The letter is written by him as well.

Oval- Frame

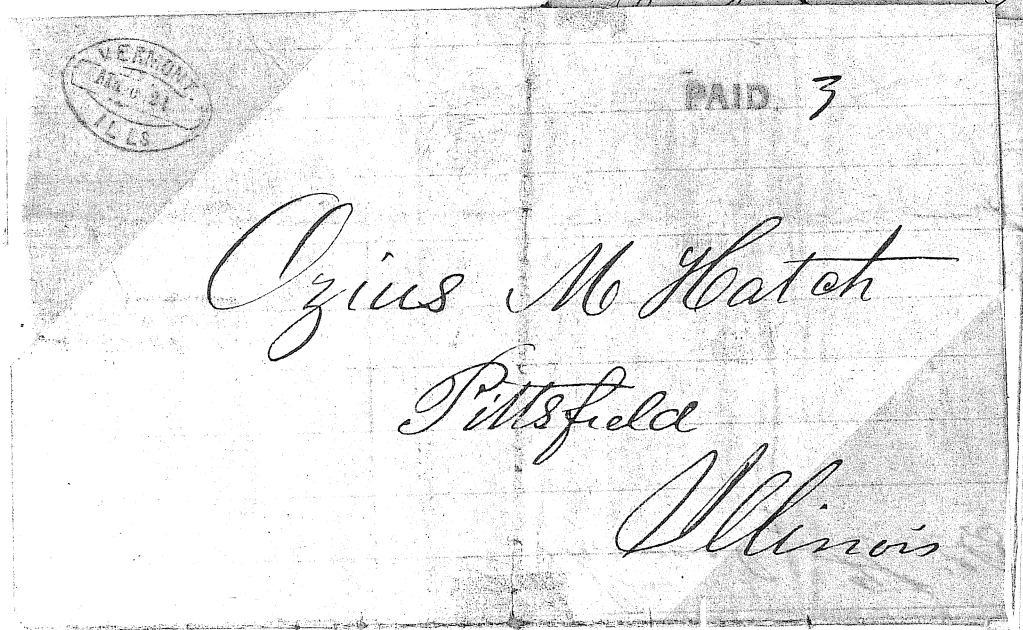
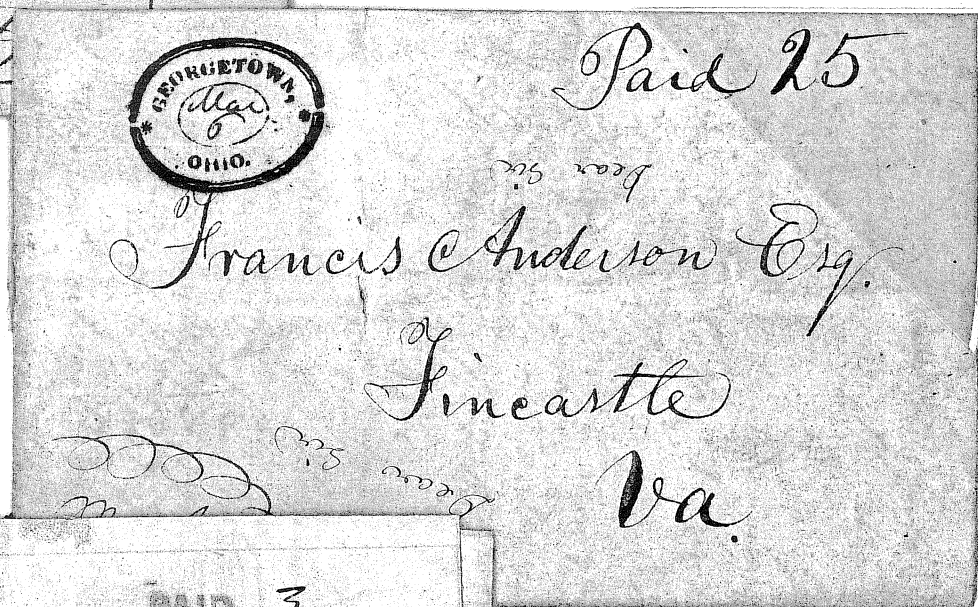
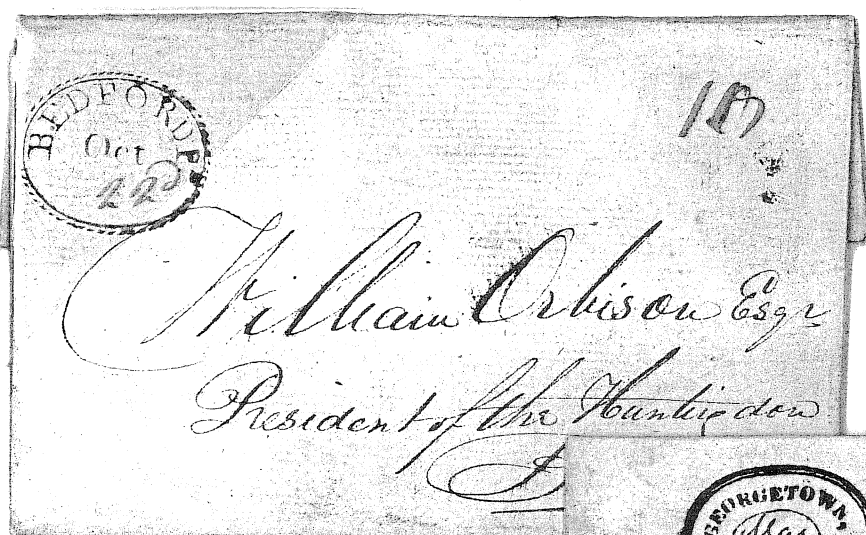


This "LEICESTER MS OCT 24" (1825) marking is contained within a walled off portion of the oval. There is also an extra line at the bottom.



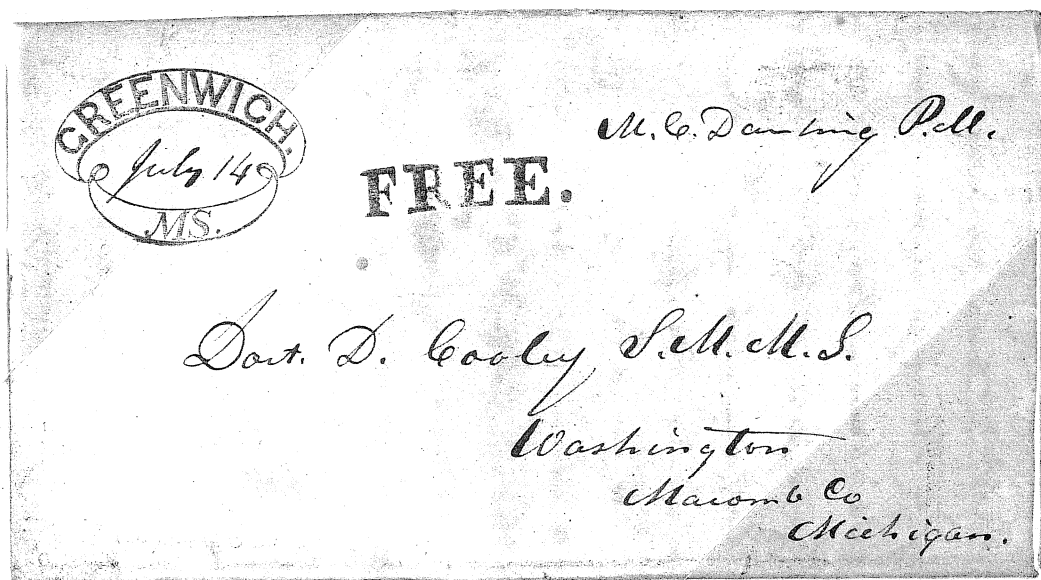
This rare "PAINESVILLE OHIO March 27" (1825) has four small x's in addition to the special frame around the town's name.

Oval-Frame

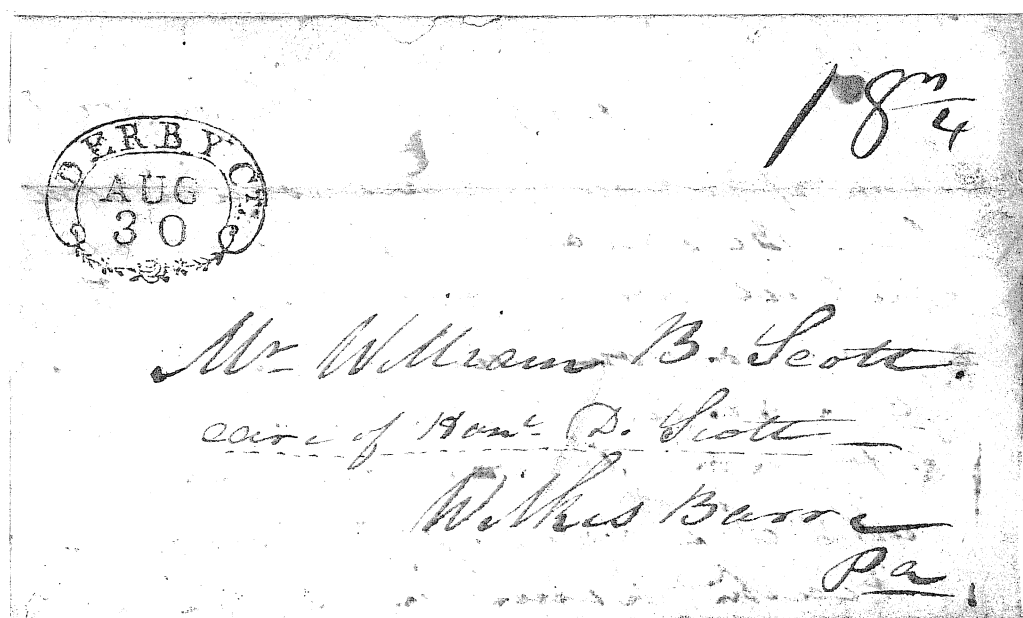


The frame of this "BEDFORD PA Oct 22d" (1816) oval has a dotted outer frame and an inner solid frame. The "GEORGETOWN, OHIO Mar 6" (1832) oval has double solid outer solid frame lines and a thin inner frame line. There are also two astericks between the town and state names. However, the "VERMONT ILLS Mar 24" (1853) is the most unusual with its egg shape and very tiny size.

Oval- Frame

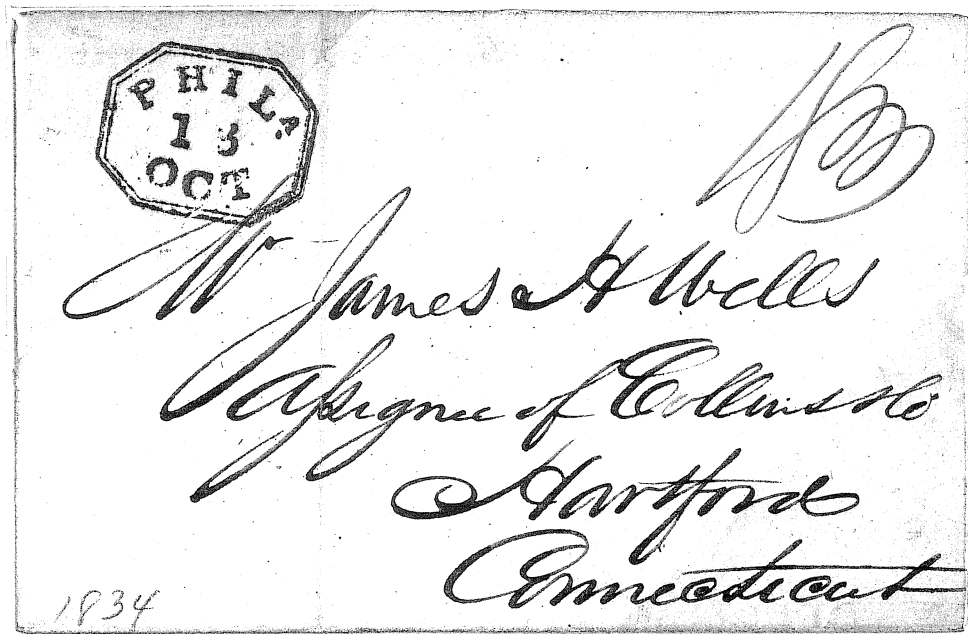


The two banners with their twists cause this blue marking "GREENWICH. MS. July 14" (1835) to be one of the most attractive oval fancy frames. This example also bears an unusual "FREE." with the postmaster's frank.



The lettering in this "DERBY CT. AUG 30" (1826) marking appears to be in an arch format so its classification could be an arch within a fancy oval frame. When clearly struck like this cover, it is one of the gems of stampless covers.

Oval- Frame

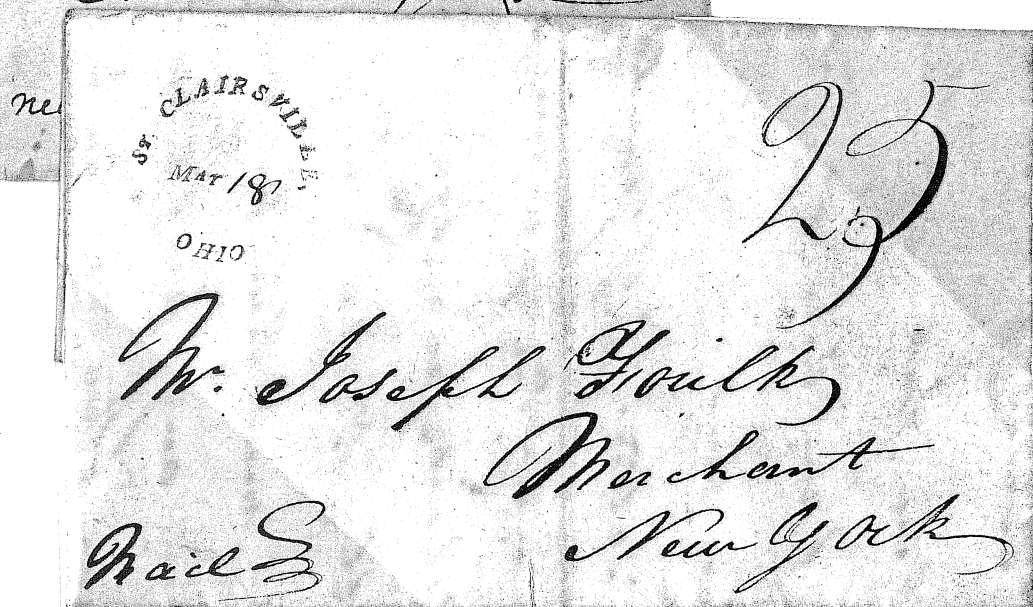
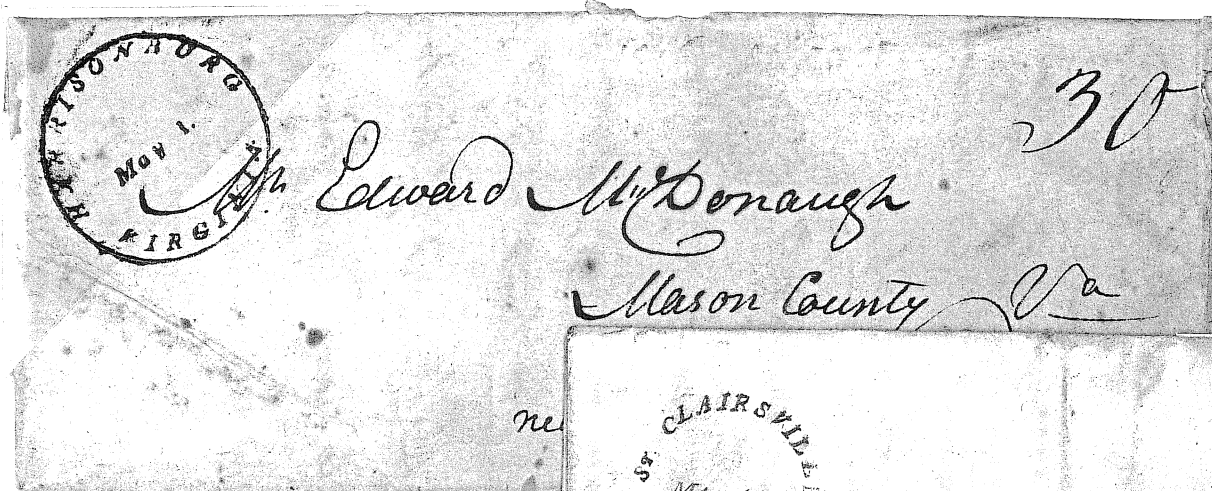


The red and blue octagons of Philadelphia are among the most common fancy stampless markings. This example "PHILA OCT 13" (1834) demonstrates that the lettering is in an oval format. So this is an oval marking with octagonal double frame.

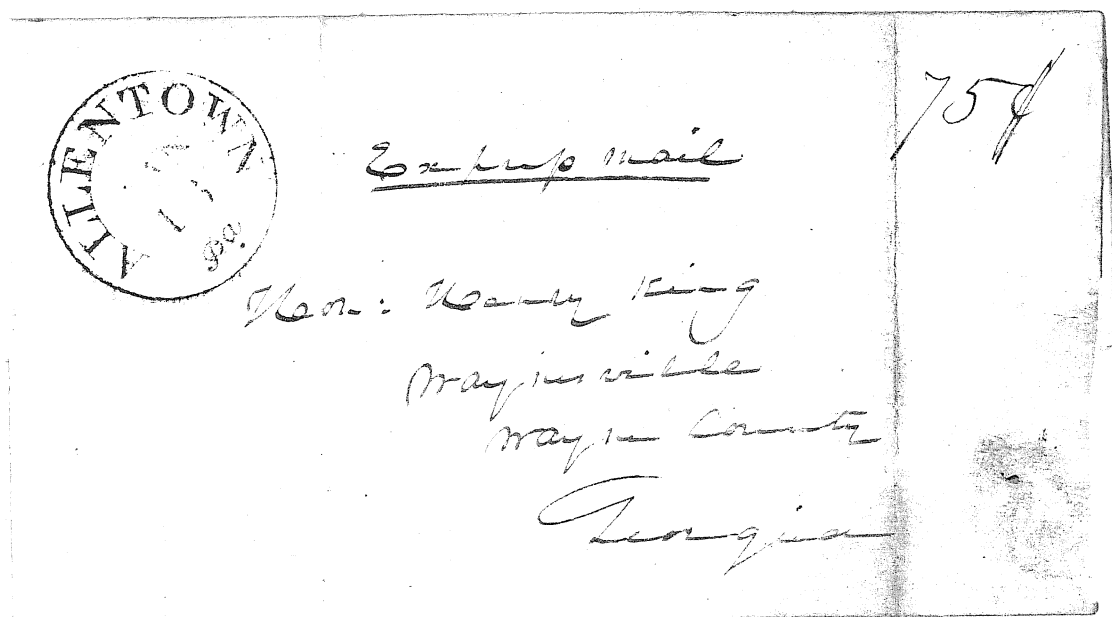


However, the same frame can be found with different lettering. This "PHILA 24 Cts PAID" is not oval format; it is an arch format. The lower two lines are level and the upper line is curved. This marking was used for transatlantic covers going to England to indicate prepayment of the packet postage. It went by an American steamer so only 3 cents was credited to England.

Circular- Lettering and Decorations

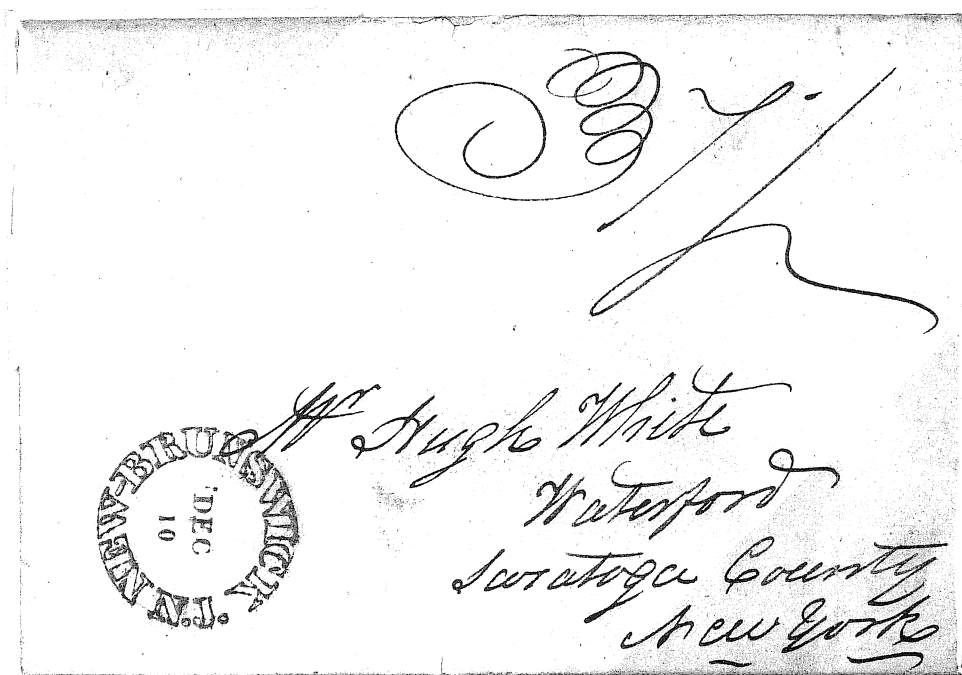


These two covers "HARRISONBURG VIRGINIA May 1." (1815), a double rate war rate usage, and "ST. CLAIRSVILLE OHIO MAY 18" (1820), one with frame and the other without, are examples of fancy lettering.

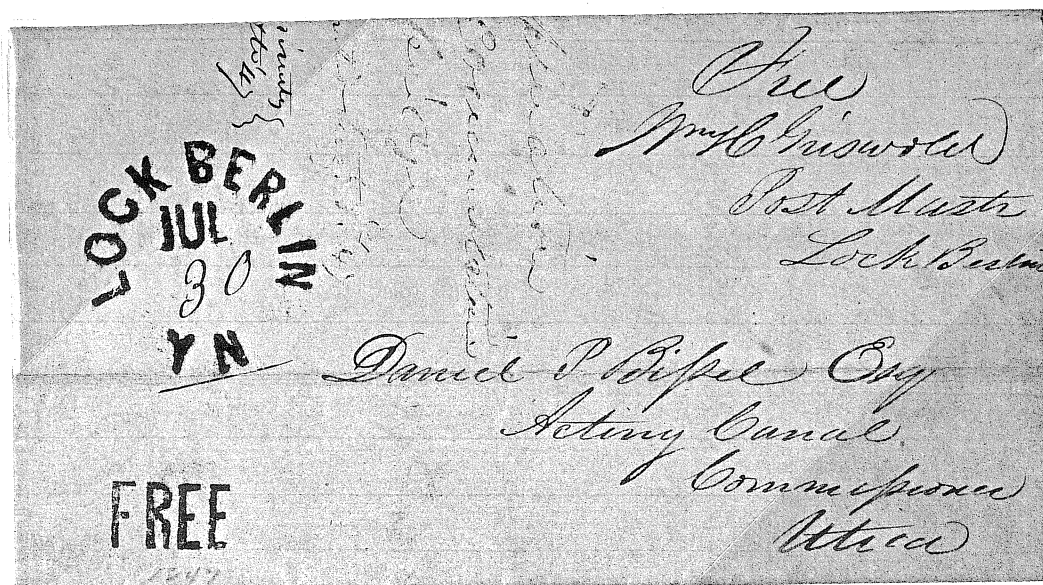


This cover with "ALLENTOWN Pa. JAN 13" (1837) shows script lettering for the state name. This is an "Express Mail" usage debited at the triple rate, "75¢", going by express mail from Philadelphia to Georgia.

Circular- Lettering and Decorations

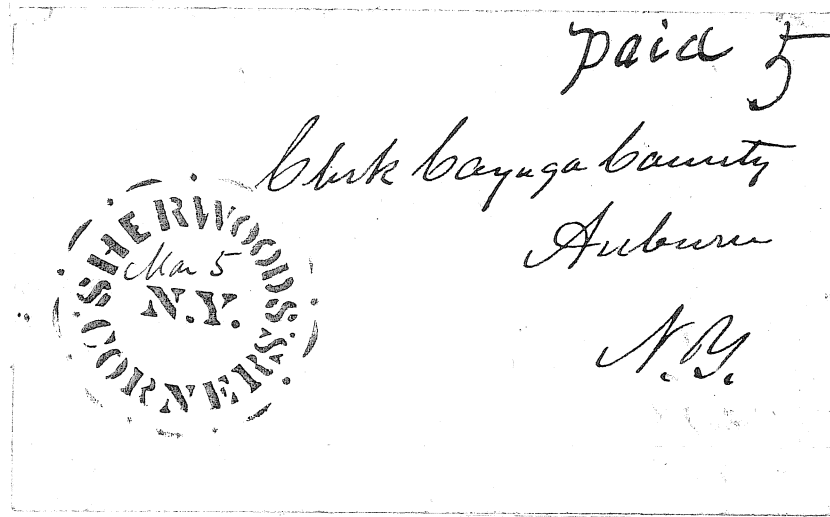


This "NEW-BRUNSWICK N.J. DEC 10" (1832) marking is not rare, but it is the finest postmark showing hollow lettering known.

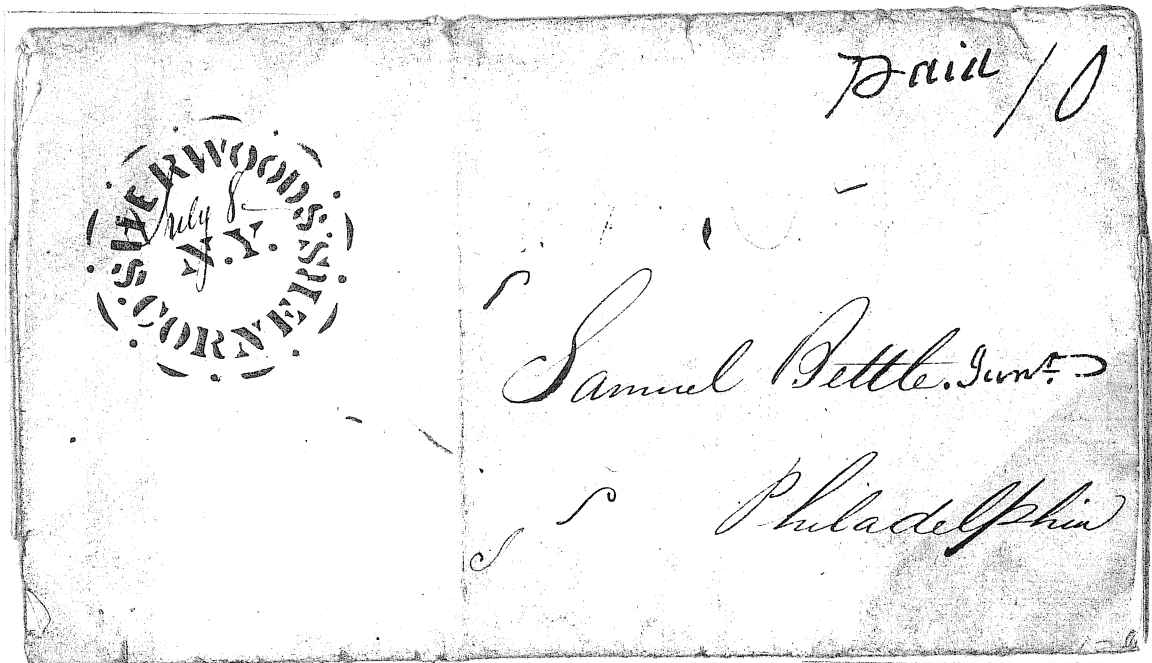


The lettering in this "LOCK BERLIN N.Y. JUL 30" (1847) marking seems to be very primitive. Note the reversed "N.Y." and also the crude "FREE".

Circular- Lettering and Decorations

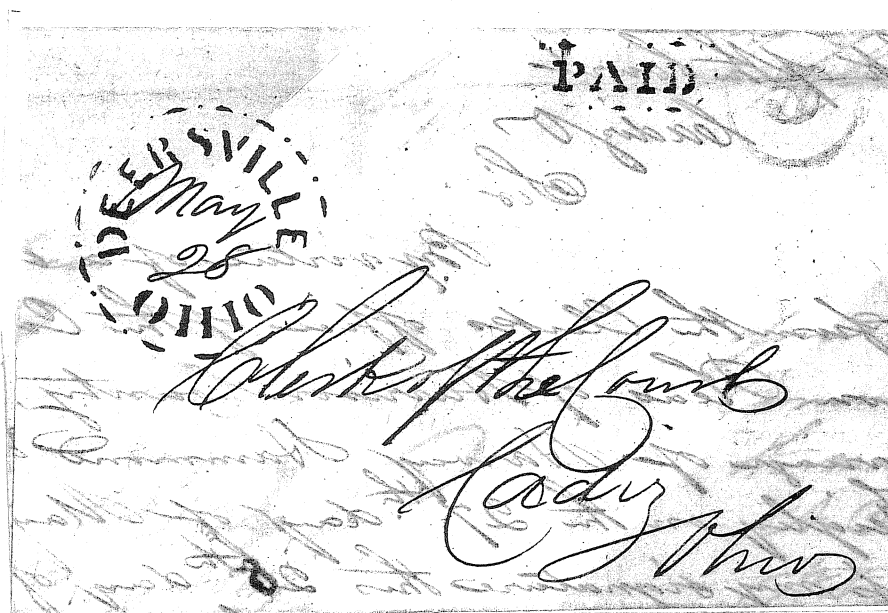


This "SHERWOODS CORNERS N.Y. Mar 5" (1846) example is in violet ink.

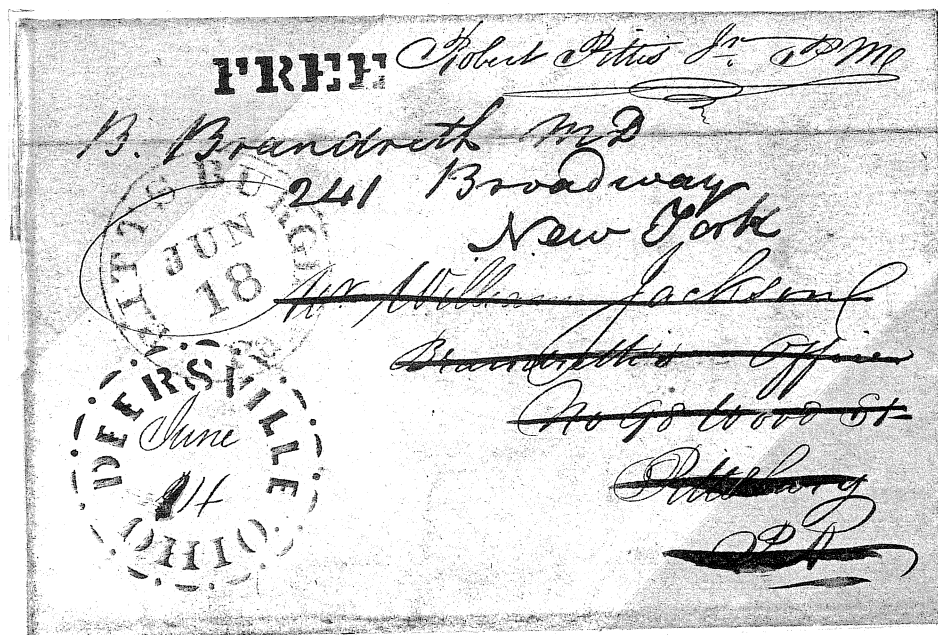


And the final cover dated July 8, 1845 is an example in green.

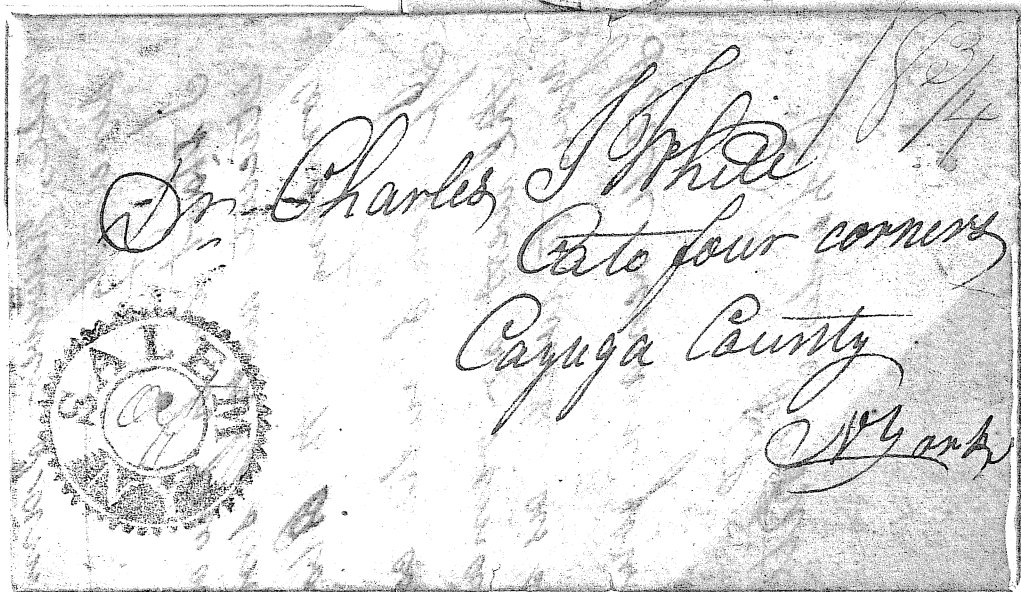
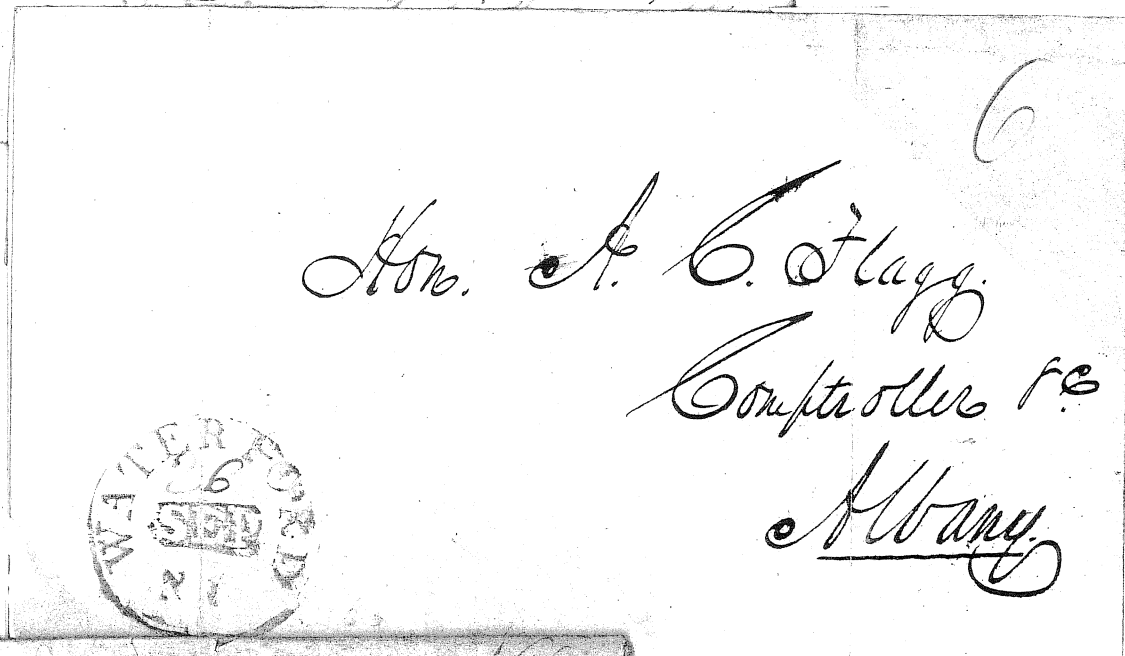
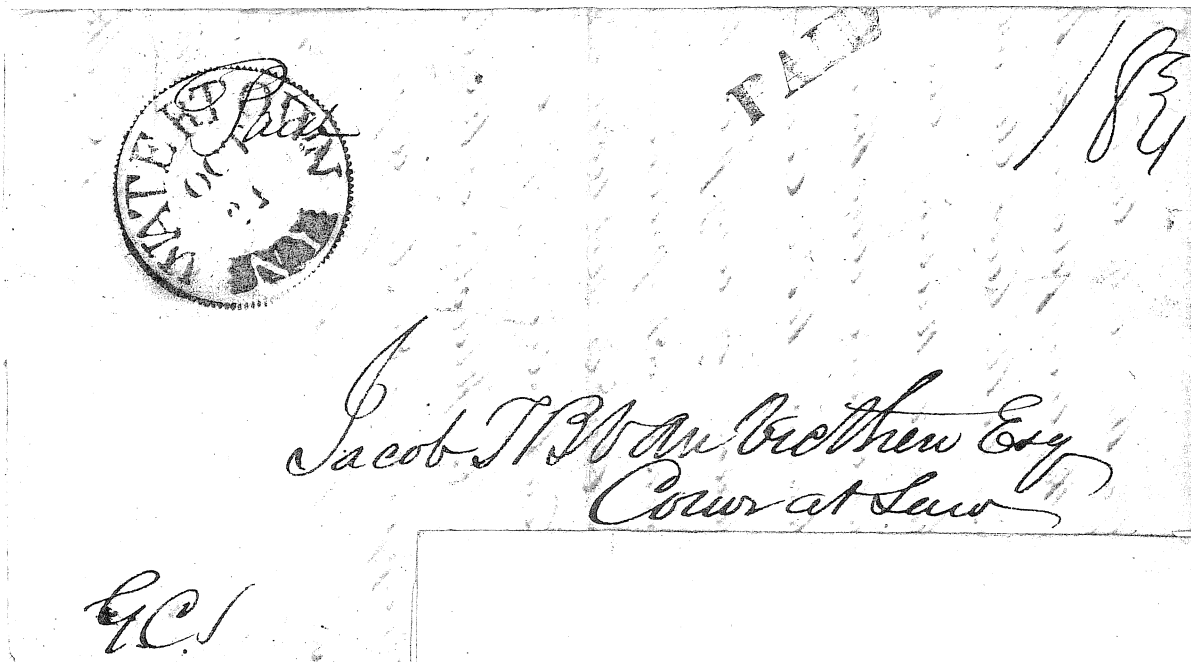
Circular- Lettering and Decorations



This is another stencil marking “DEERSVILLE OHIO May 28” (1847) in black ink. There is also a fancy “PAID” made by the stencil process.



This is a second “DEERSVILLE OHIO June 14” (1844) but in blue. There is a “FREE” in the same stencil ink with a manuscript postmaster’s frank. The cover was later forwarded at Pittsburgh, Pa. to New York to a different addressee.



These three postmarks show examples of partial negative lettering. The state's initials are negative in the "WATERTOWN N.Y. OCT 24" (1838) cover. The "WATERFORD N.Y. 26 SEP" (1837) has a negative month slug. And the "SALEM N.Y. Oct 11 (1825) is both a fancy cogwheel frame as well as negative lettering in "N.Y."

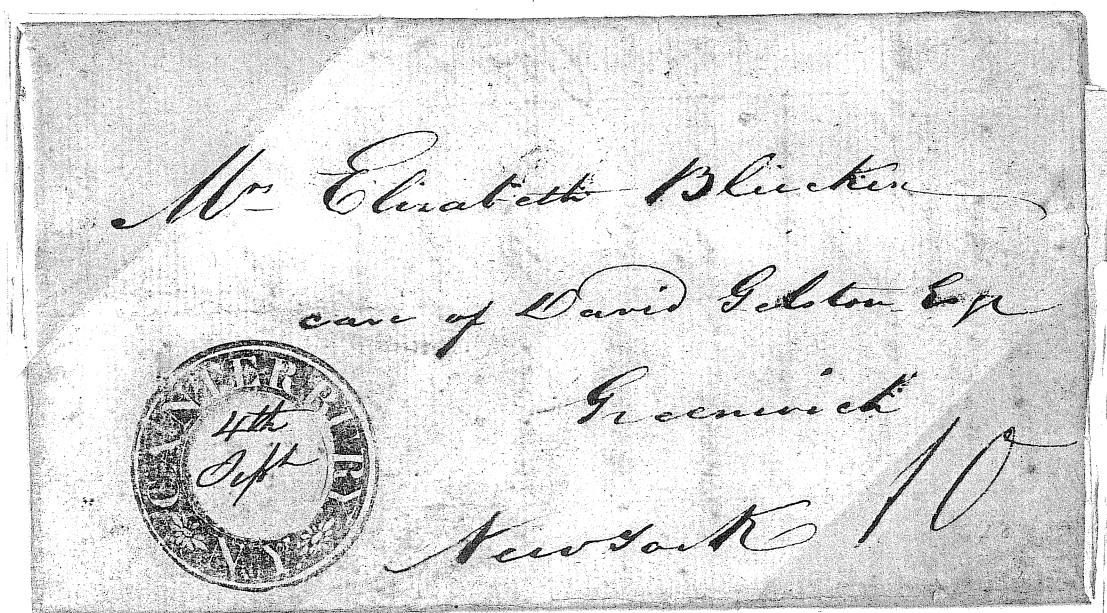
Circular- Lettering and Decorations



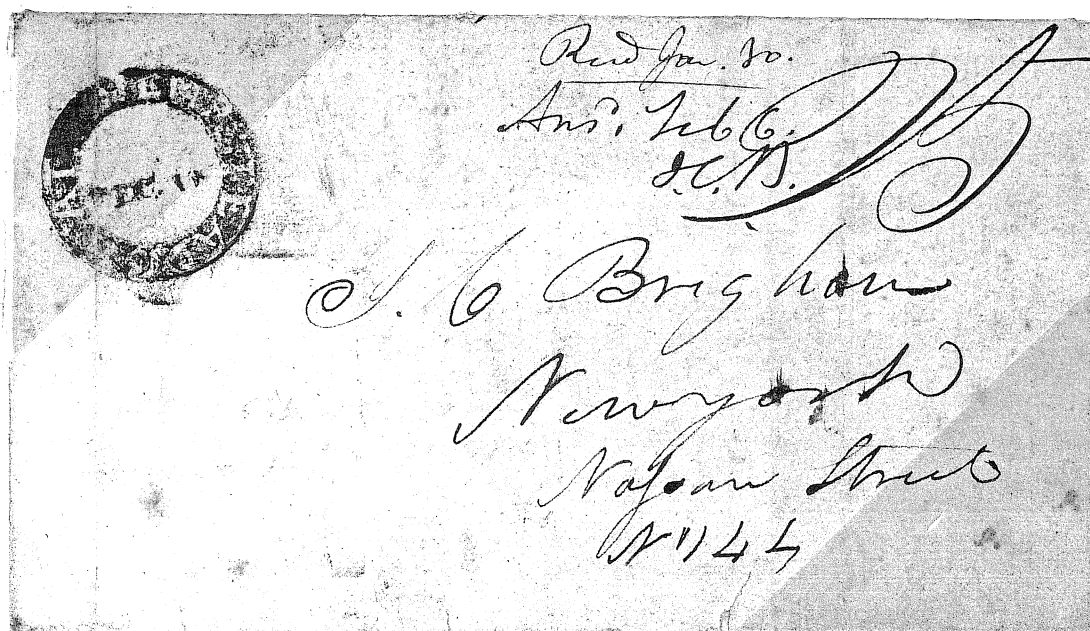
The marking "SHELBYVILLE Kentucky Jul 12 1821" is unusual for many reasons. The lettering in Kentucky is unique for a negative postmark. The outer frame is a very fancy hand-tooled pattern. The inner frame line is wavy. And there is a handstamped dating including the year date. Ex Salzer.



As time goes by a canceling device such as this one will wear out. This is one of the latest usages of the same marking from September 6, 1829, over eight years after the upper cover. The fine lettering, the outer frame and even the town's name are all blurred and altered.



This marking "CANTERBURY N.Y. 4th Sept" (1822) also has very fancy lettering for a negative marking. There are two decorative flowers alongside the "N.Y." And there is an outer frame around the black field.

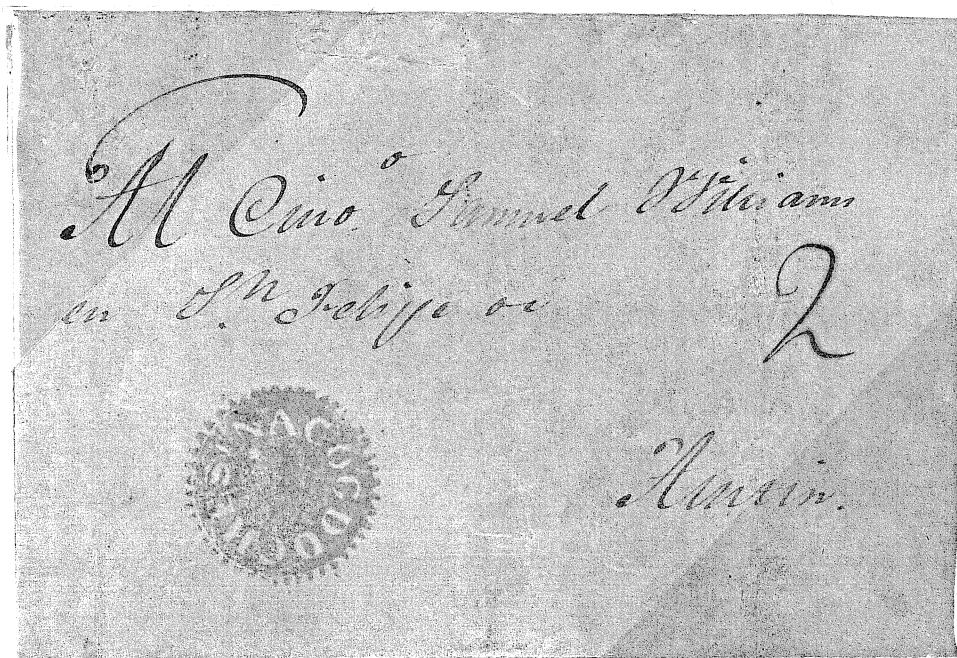


This marking "HEMPSTEAD C. H. A.T. DEC 12" (1831) is a very primitive type of negative lettered postmark. This is the only known example. There appears to be some more contemporary alteration of the black between the T of A.T. and the H.

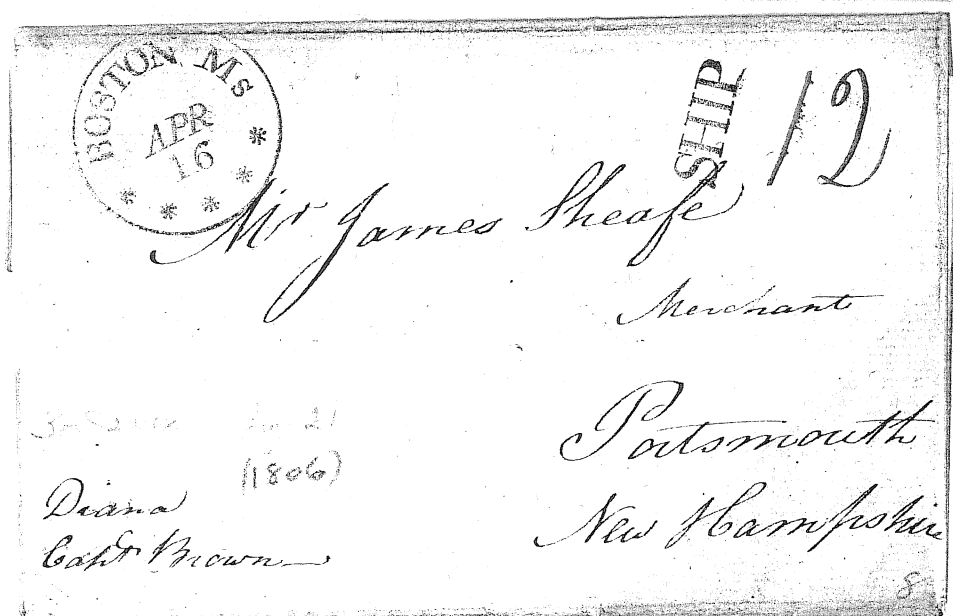
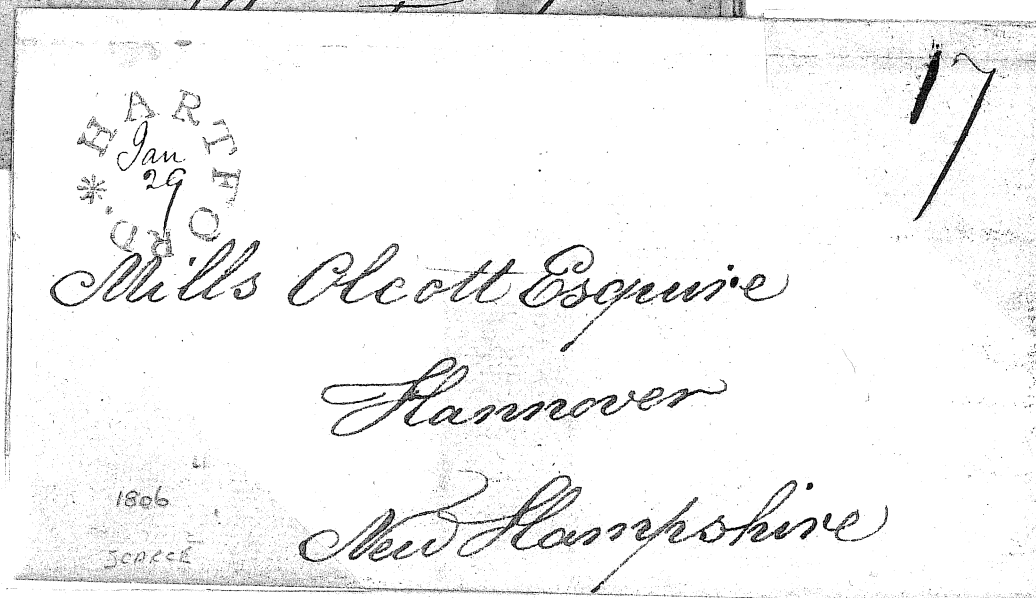
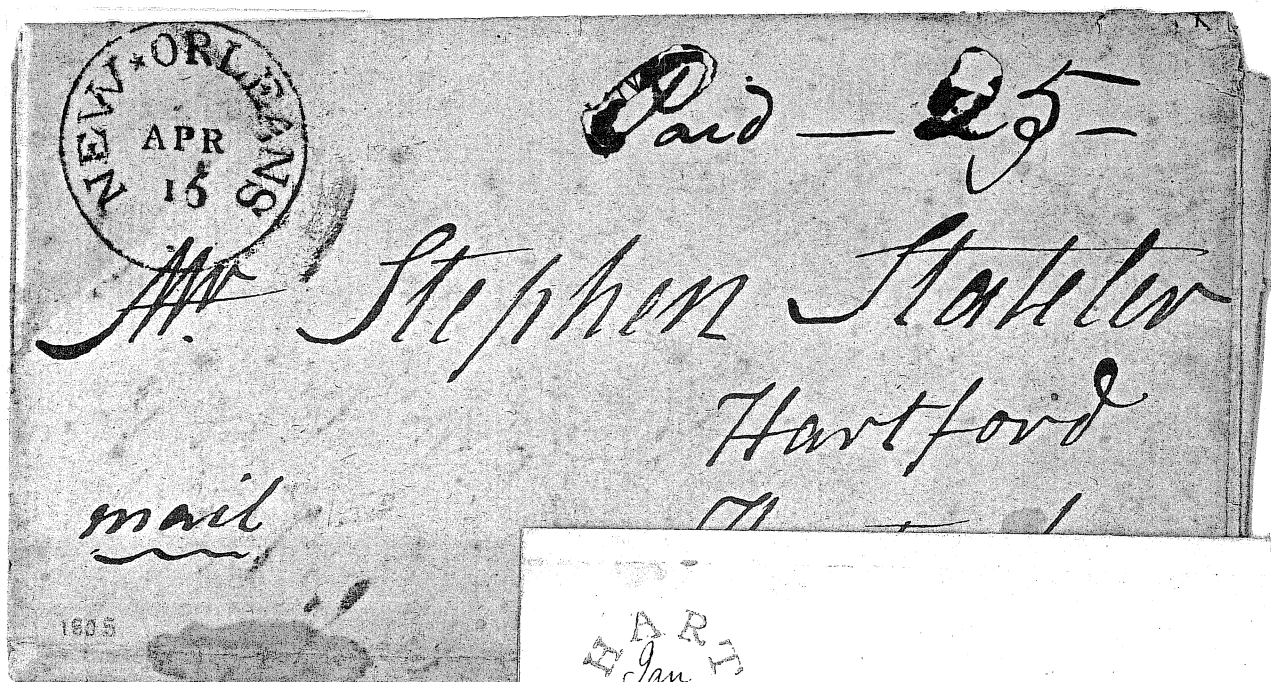
Circular- Lettering and Decorations



This marking "LISBON IOWA March 21" is one of the primitive lettered negative postmarks. It has both an outer and inner frame. There is also a decoration between the L and I. However, the striking feature of the cover is the negative "5 cts" handstamp which is unlike any other 5 cents rating mark. Only known example.

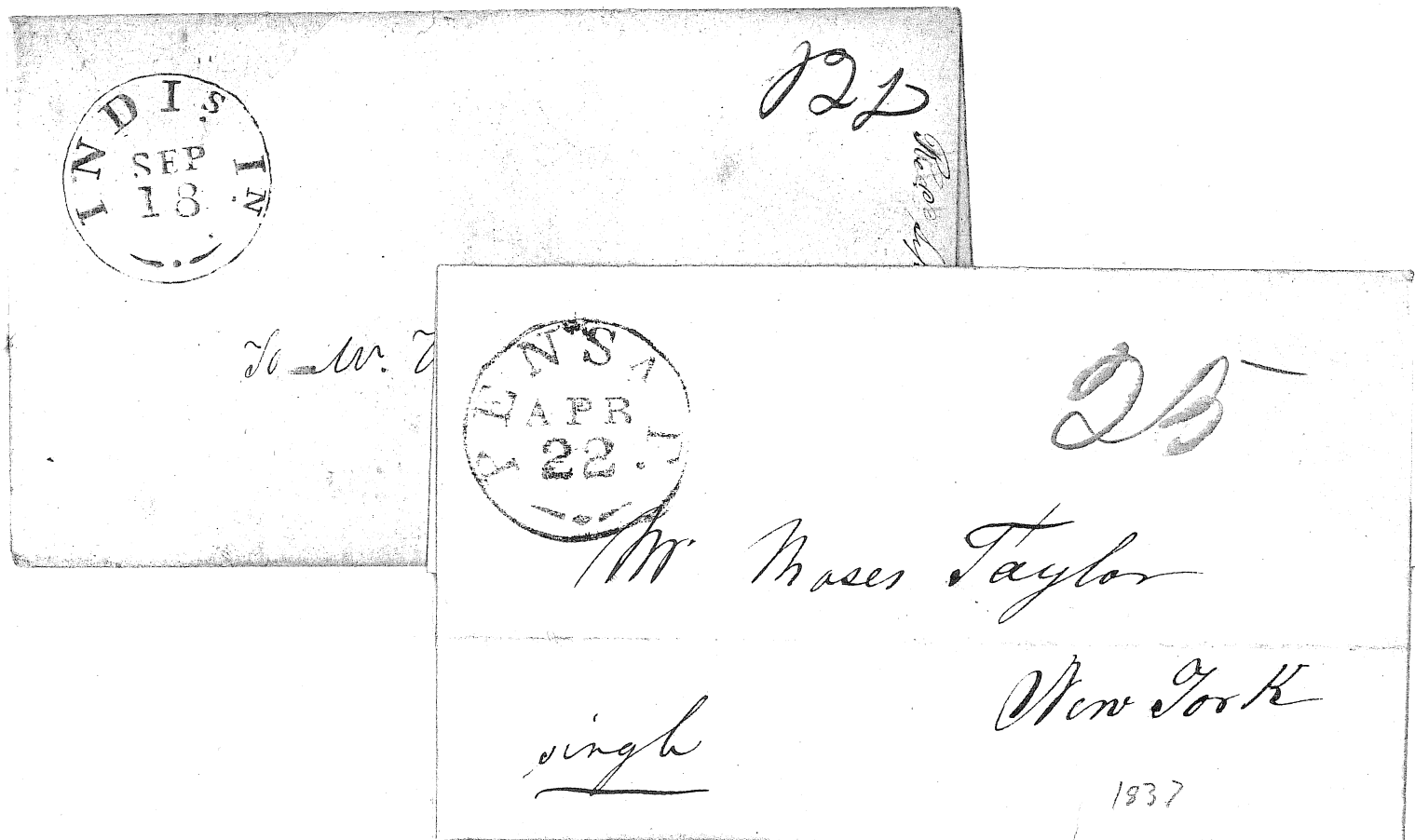


The undated marking "NACOGDOCHES" in red is a cover from a Texas town when it was still under Spanish administration. Two reales was the postage in the 1830's.

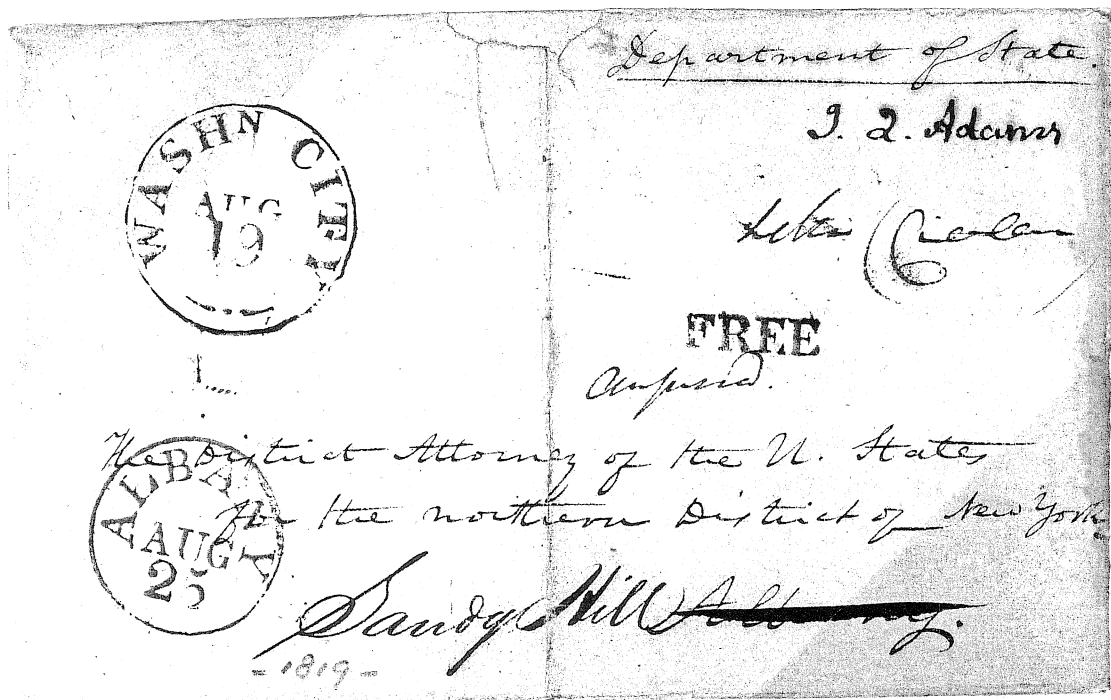


The usage of the asterick continued from the earlier straight line postmarks into the era of circular postmarks. These three covers with "NEW*ORLEANS APR 15" (1805), a territorial usage, "HARTFORD* Jan 29" (1806), a rimless type, and "BOSTON MS *****APR 16" (1806) and "SHIP", "12" are all examples.

Circular- Lettering and Decorations

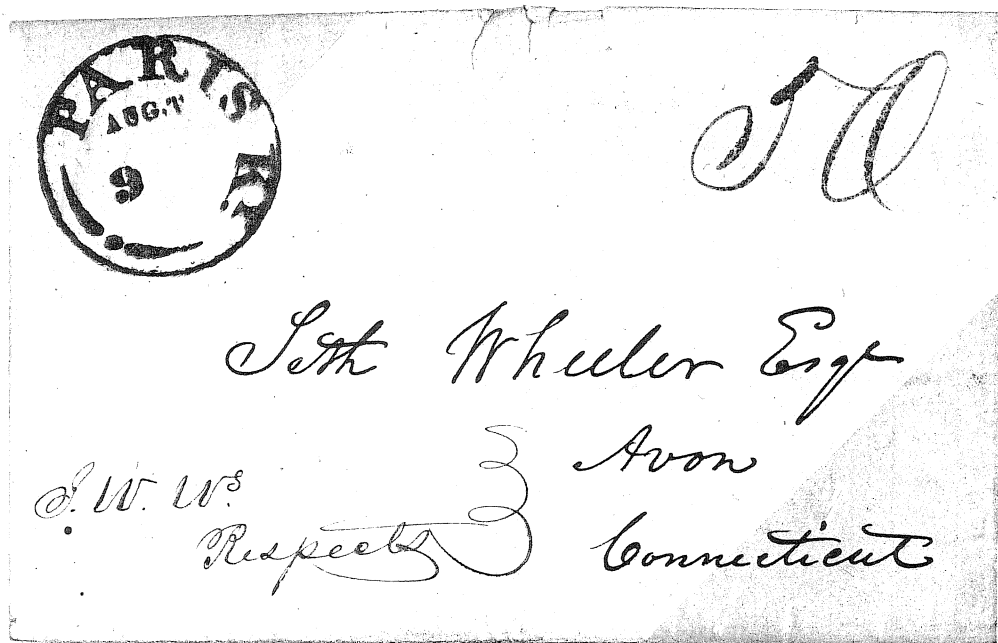


This violet "INDIS. IN. SEP 18" (1828) is an example of a fleuron in the circle of lettering. The black "PNSA F. APR 22" (1837) is a similar design from a territory.

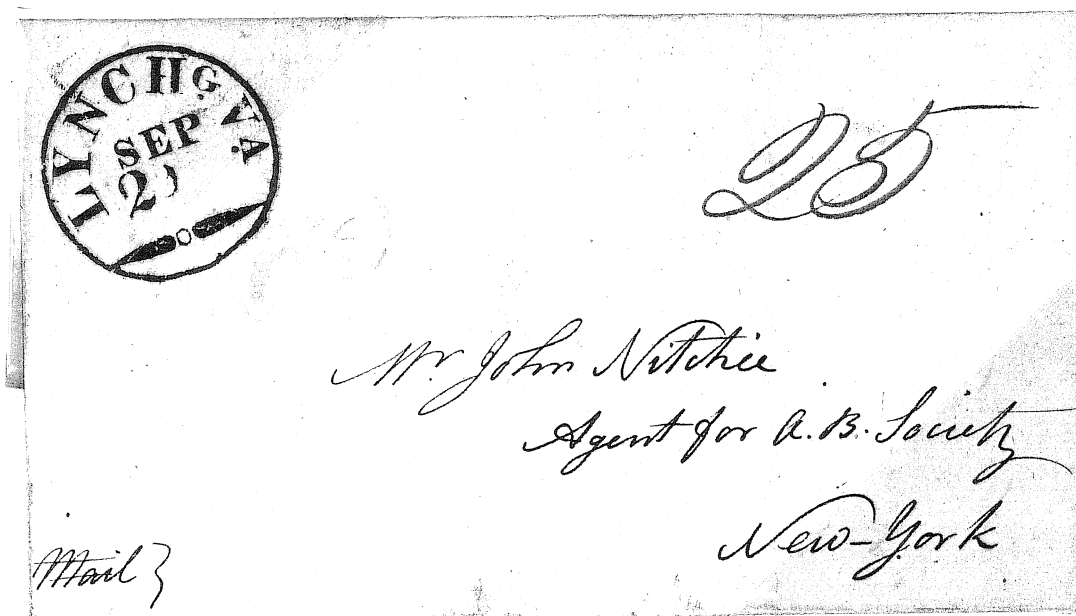


"WASHN CITY AUG 19" (1819) is another postmark containing a fleuron. This usage is a free frank of John Quincy Adams as Secretary of State. The cover was also forwarded at Albany, N.Y. and went "FREE" again.

Circular- Lettering and Decorations

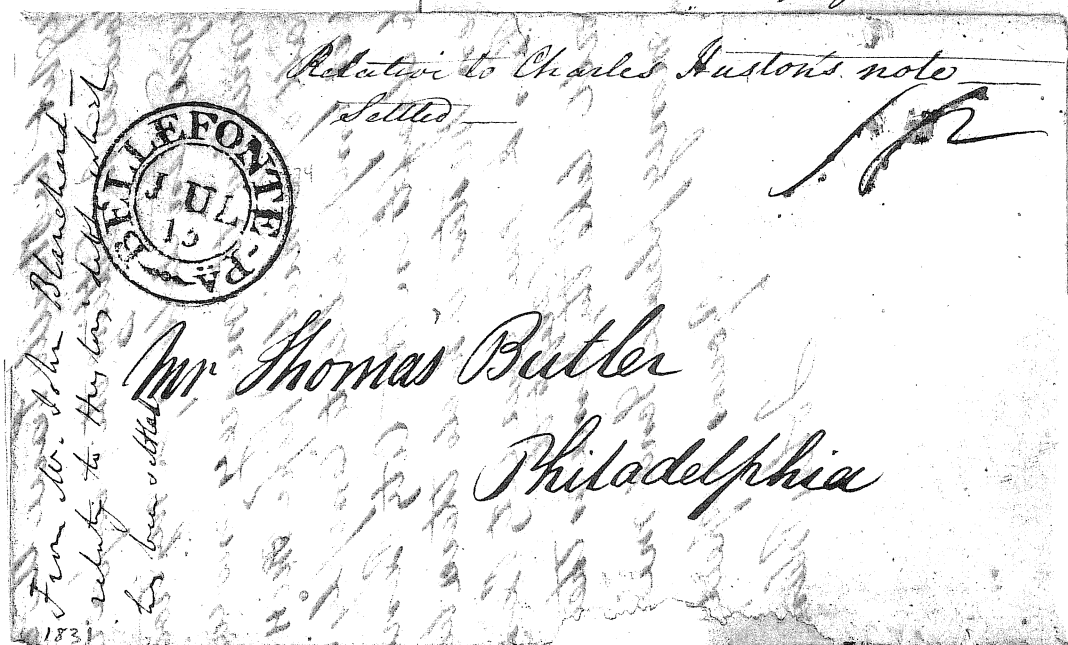
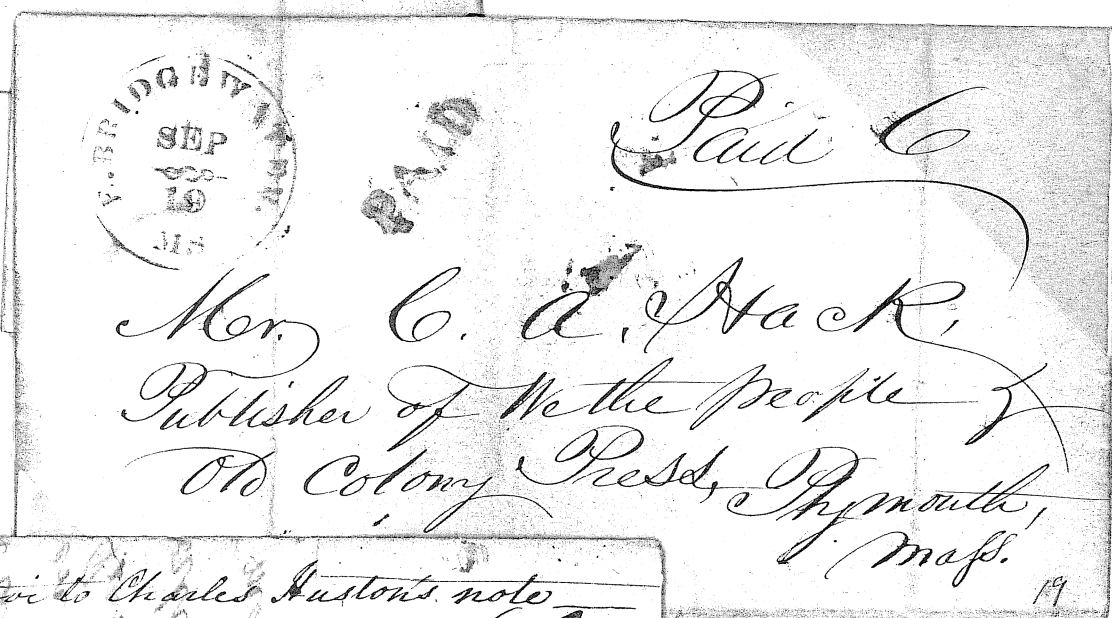
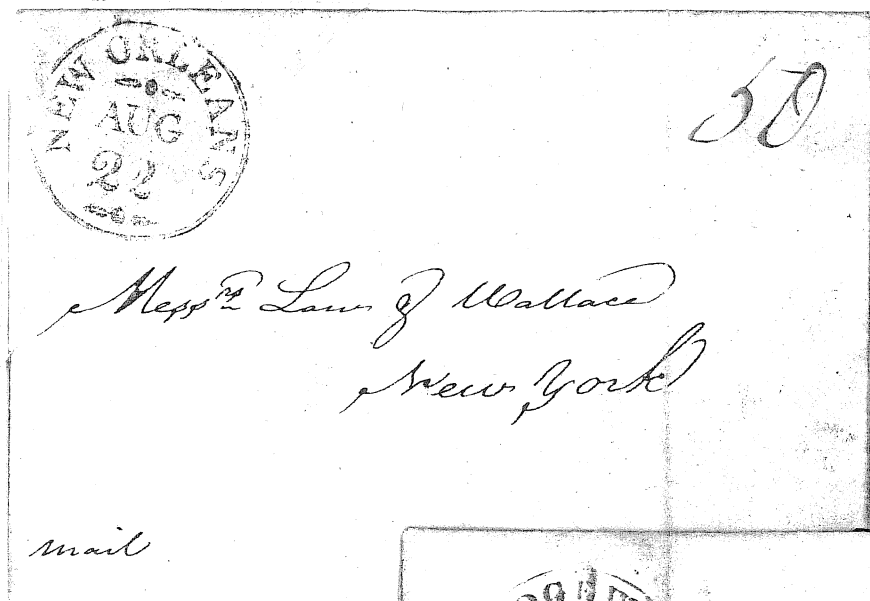


This bold "PARIS KY AUG. T 9" demonstrates a very large fleuron in the marking.



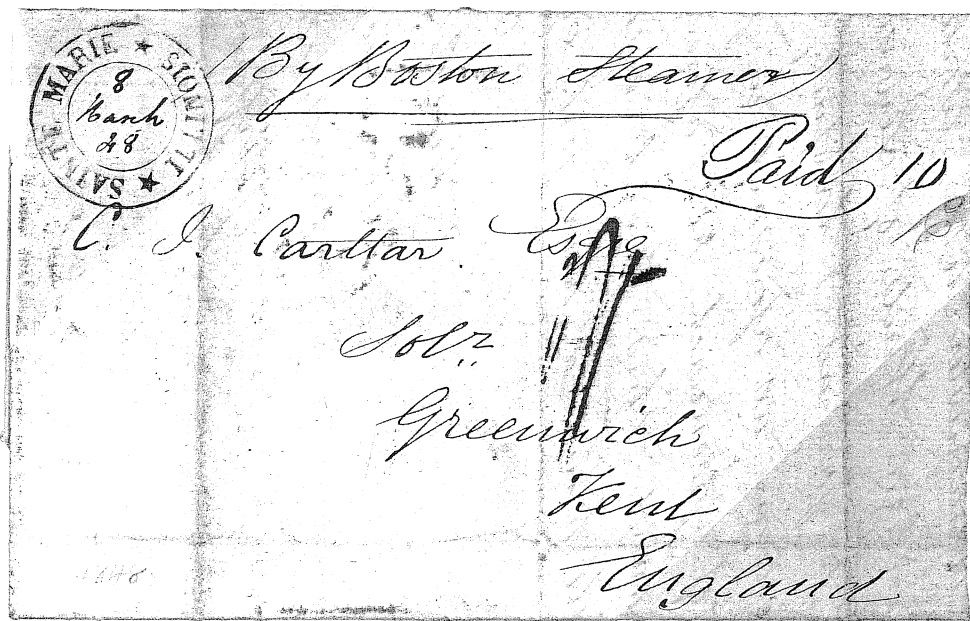
This "LYNCHG. VA. SEP 29" (1820) shows a variant of the fleuron with straight branches and a hollow circle instead of a dot.

Circular- Lettering and Decorations

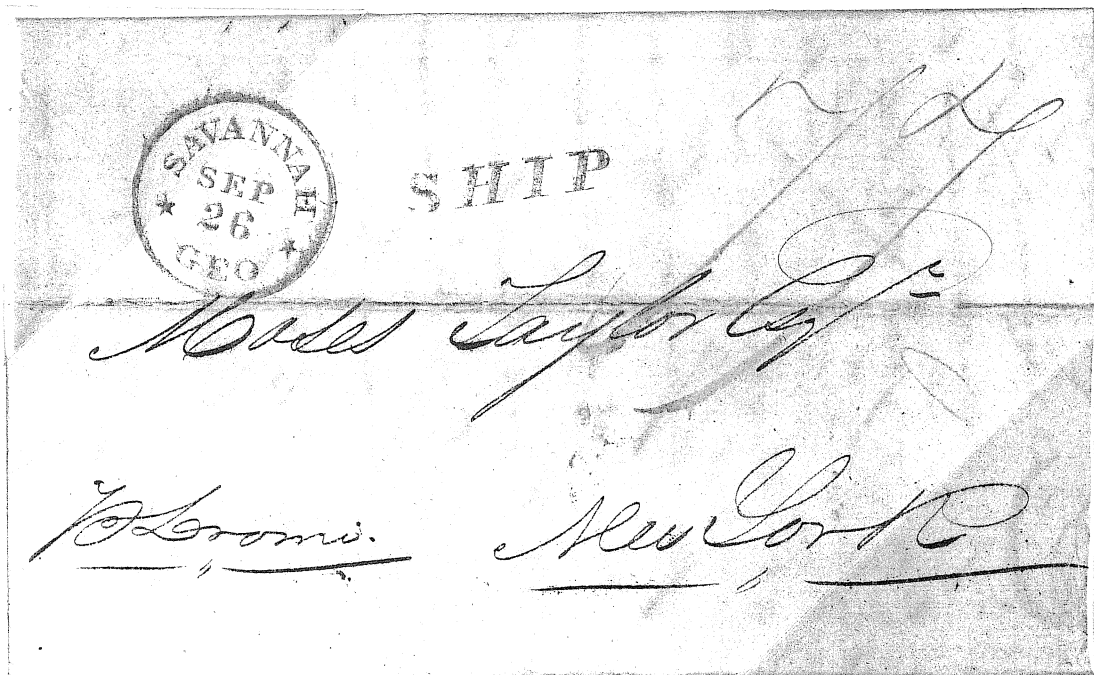


Other variants of the fleuron are shown by these three covers, "NEW ORLEANS AUG 22" (1808), a territorial usage with hollow bars in the fleurons which are above and below the date; E. BRIDGEWATER MS SEP 19" (1834) with a hollow decoration, and "BELLEFONTE PA. JUL 15" (1831) with curved bars on the fleuron and an inner frame line around the date.

Circular- Lettering and Decorations

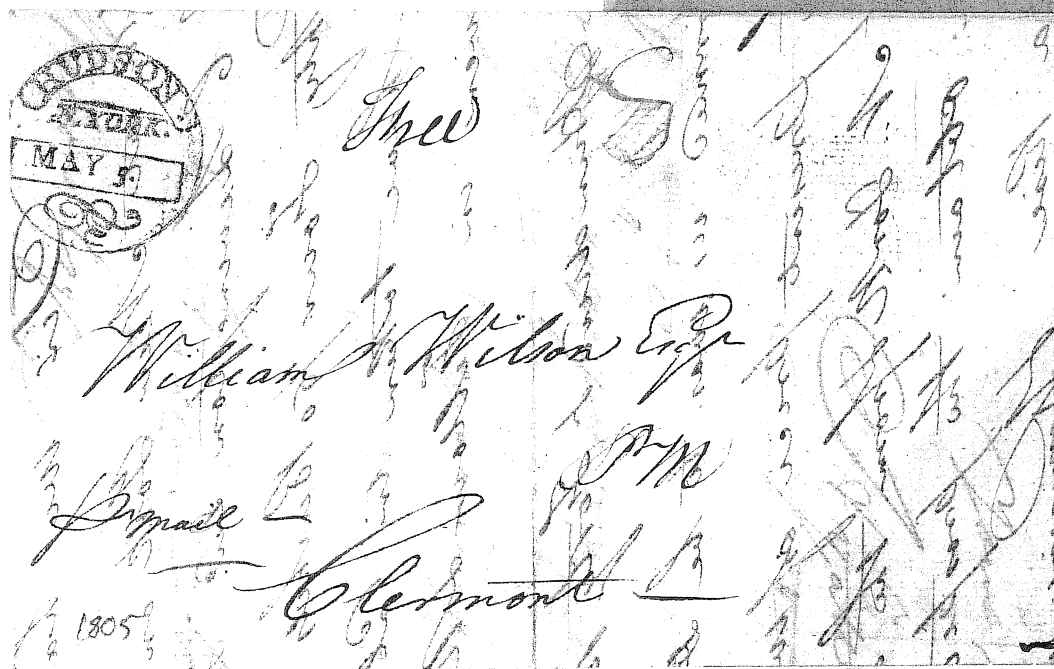
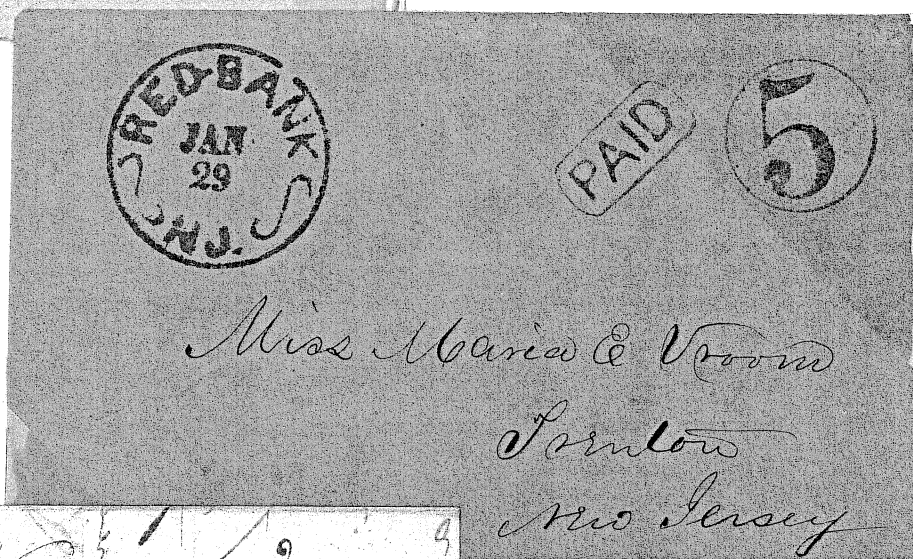
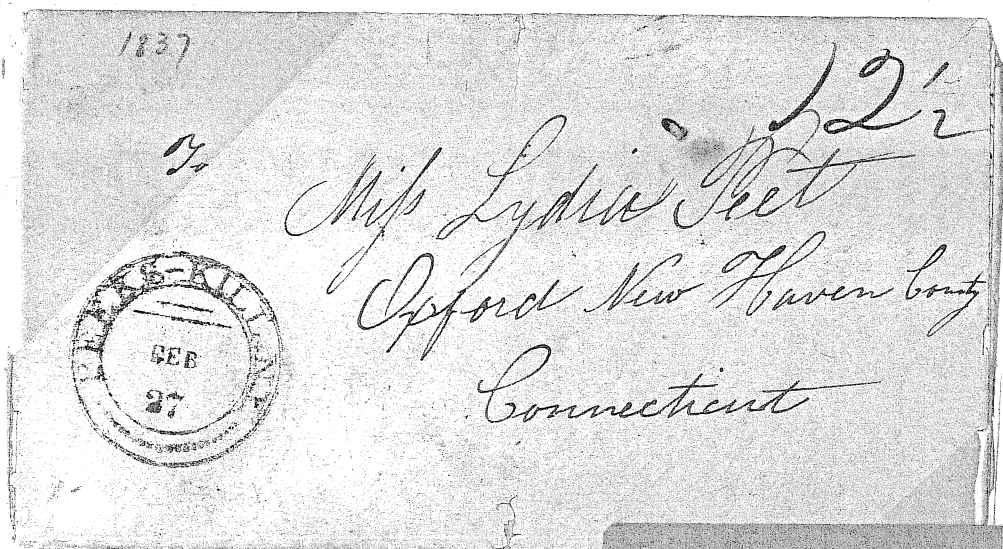


This postmark from "SAINTE MARIE ILLINOIS 8 March 48" has two stars within the line of lettering and an inner frame line. The usage is paid to the port of Boston and then collect overseas packet postage 1/- by "Cambria" of Cunard Line to Liverpool.



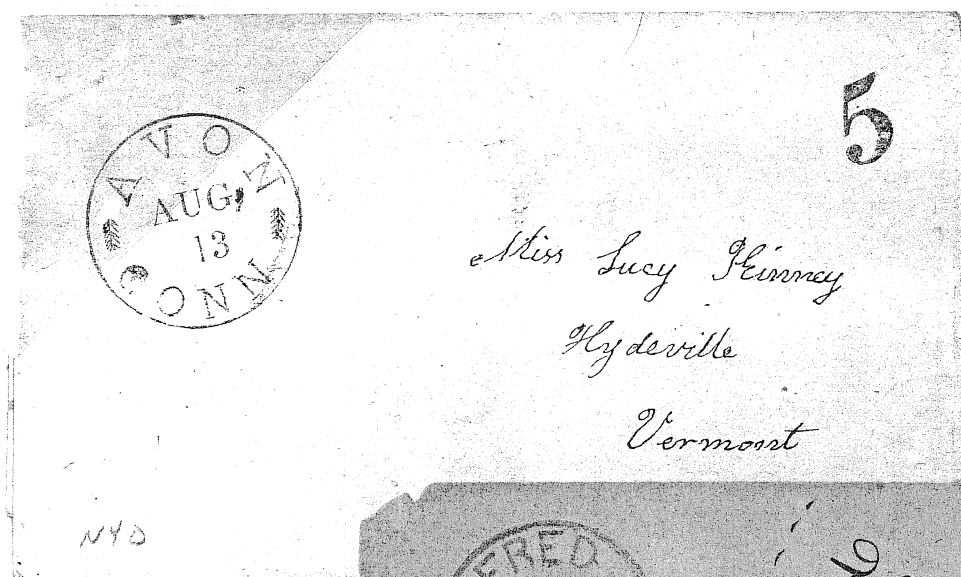
The "SAVANNAH GEO SEP 26" (1837) and "SHIP", "77" could very well be the correct markings for a single rate express mail cover sent during the period of optional prepayment. However, this is a triple rated letter because of enclosures. The stars are again a prominent feature of this postmark.

Circular- Lettering and Decorations



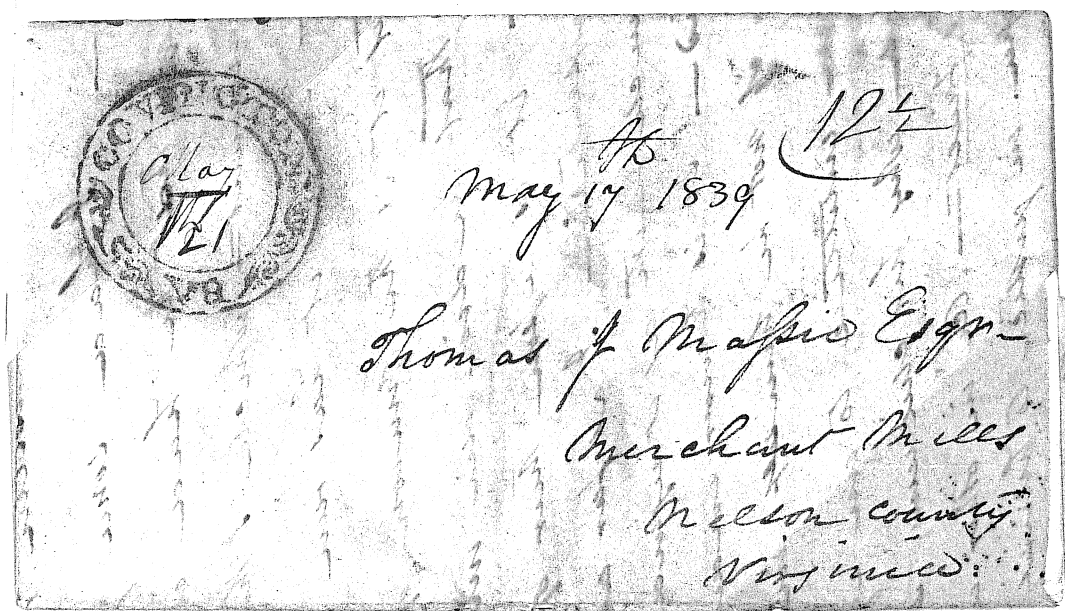
These covers show different types of decorations in circular postmarks. The "PEEKSKILL N.Y. S FEB 27" (1837) has a row of dots and two level lines above the dating. The "RED-BANK N.J." has nice curved lines as well as bold "PAID" and "5". The early "HUDSON N. YORK MAY 5." (1805) is another arch type in a circular frame with a very fancy marking like calligraphy.

Circular- Lettering and Decorations

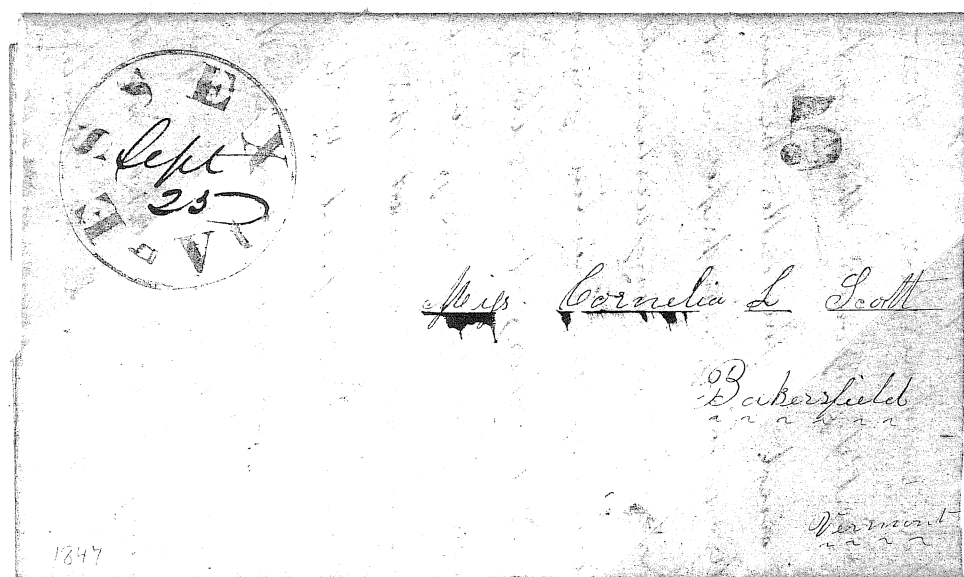


These three covers show another group of decorations within circular frames. The "AVON CONN AUG 13" is an unlisted type. The "ALFRED MAINE JAN 1" has three connected hollow ovals. The "NEW HAVEN CT JUN 22" (1830) while quite common is also very fancy.

Circular- Lettering and Decorations



The "COVINGTON Va May 21" (1839) is ornamented in the double circular frame which had no logo; the date was written.

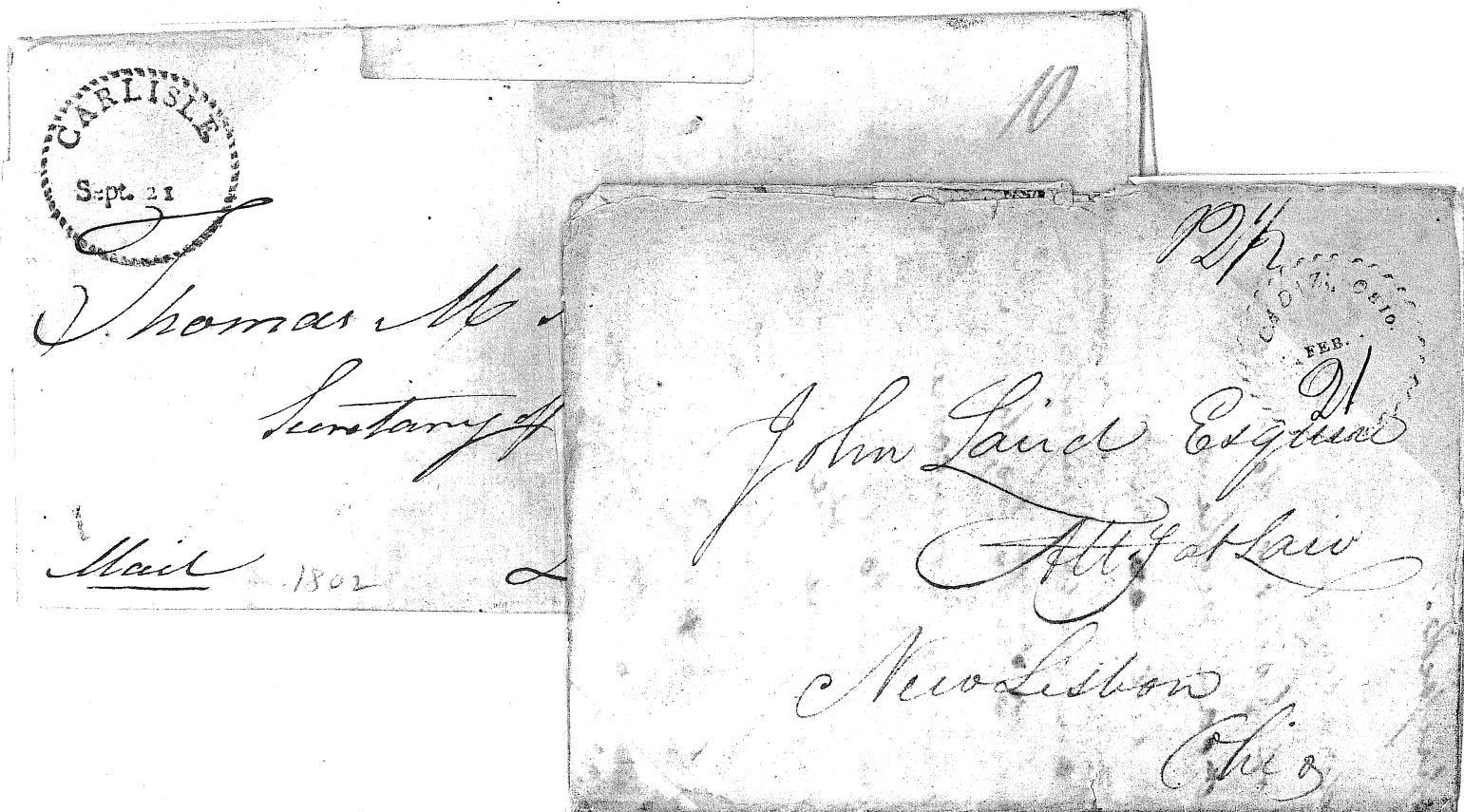


This "ESSEX Vt. Sept 25" (1847) contains a pointing hand with the finger toward the E. This is the only such postmark to demonstrate this feature. All other pointing hands are either separate or part of an auxiliary postmark.

Circular- Frame



Framelines are typically solid for circular postmarks of the stampless period. A few show double circles or inner frame lines as well. Dotted framelines are unusual and distinctive as this "SAGHARBOUR 14 Mar" (1808) cover demonstrates. This is a very rare marking, only one other recorded.



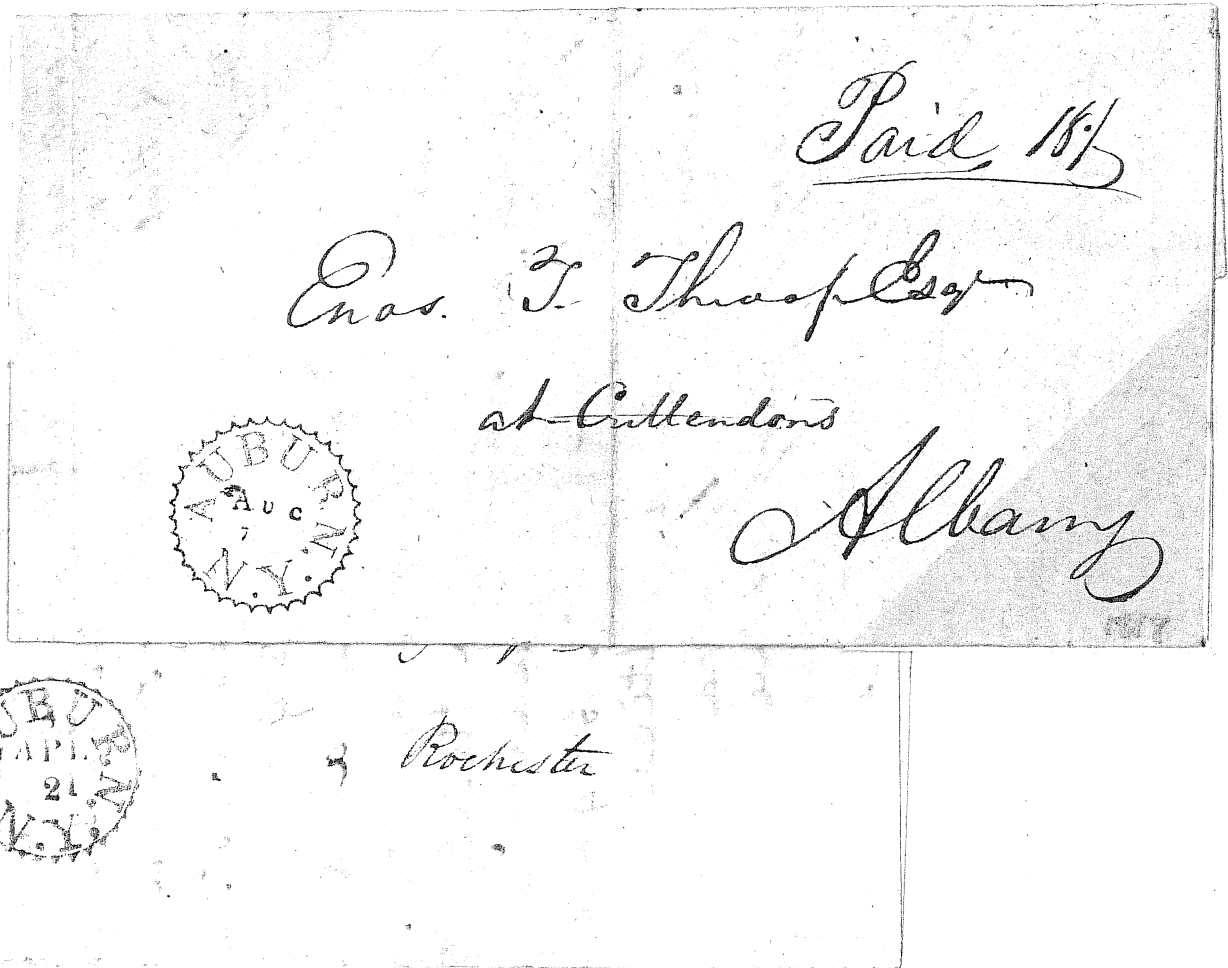
The segmented circular "CARLISLE Sept. 21" (1802) resembles a rope, not just dots. This is its first year of usage so it is clear. The "CADIZ, OHIO FEB 21" (1818) is the listing copy of this marking with fancy lettering and fancy frame.

Circular- Frame

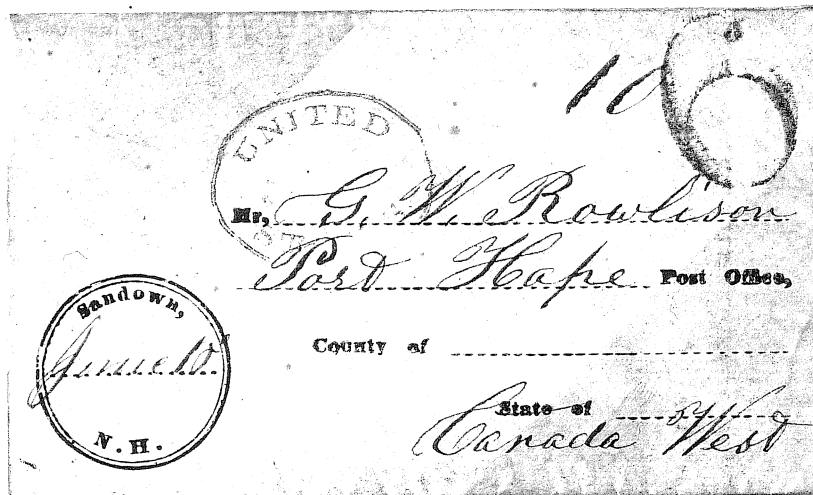


These three covers demonstrate varieties of dotted and cogged frames. The "GREENWICH N.Y. NOV 18" (1834) variety shows a dotted circle. The "WOODSTOCK, VERMONT. March 7" (1820) has a rim of tiny pyramids, while the "EDENTON, N.C. AUG 23" marking is a solid circle with cogs.

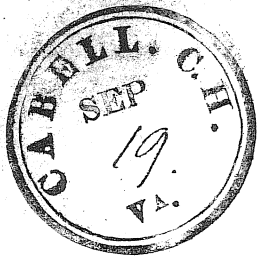
Circular- Frame



The early "AUBURN N.Y. Auc 7" (1819) shows a very clear strike of a postmark with scalloping of the outer frame and sharp lettering. Later markings from the same town such as this red "AUBURN N.Y. APL 21" (1829) shows a cogged circle and different lettering. There appears to be two different postmarks here.



Printed postmarks are very rare. They can be considered an unusual type of frame when the lettering is not unusual, but they could also be classified as printed lettering too. This example "Sandown, N.H. June 10" (1857) shows the address lines and the circle postmark in the same blue ink. However, this example was mailed to Canada, so the rate was "10" cents due, converted to "6" pence due at Port Hope. There are Kingston backstamps too.

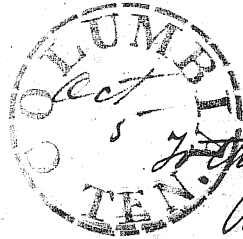


paid 5

Dr. Frances Stirling

Superintendent

1848



Rev. J. D. Barber

Ac'd Genl. Apt. N. C. B. B.

281 Broadway

New York

N. York

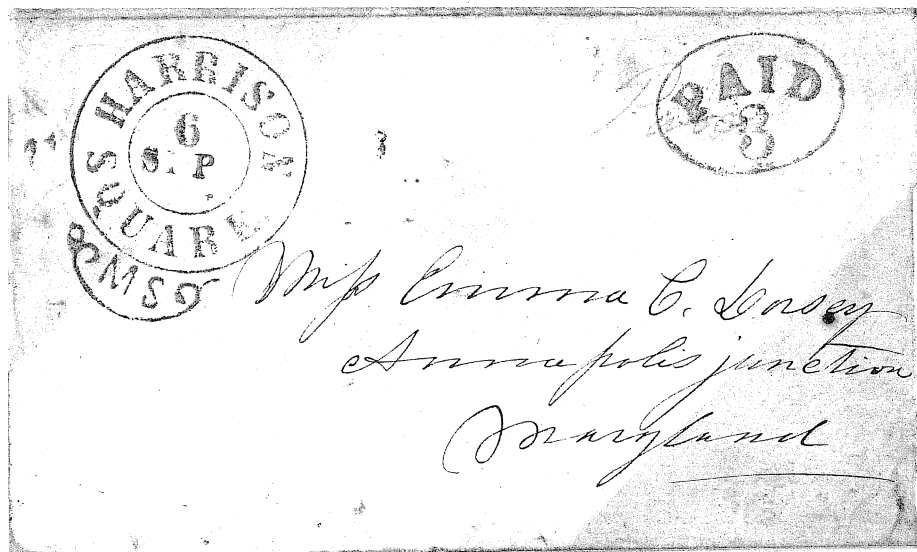


Benjamin Oden Esqr
Upper Marlborough
Prince Georges County
Maryland.

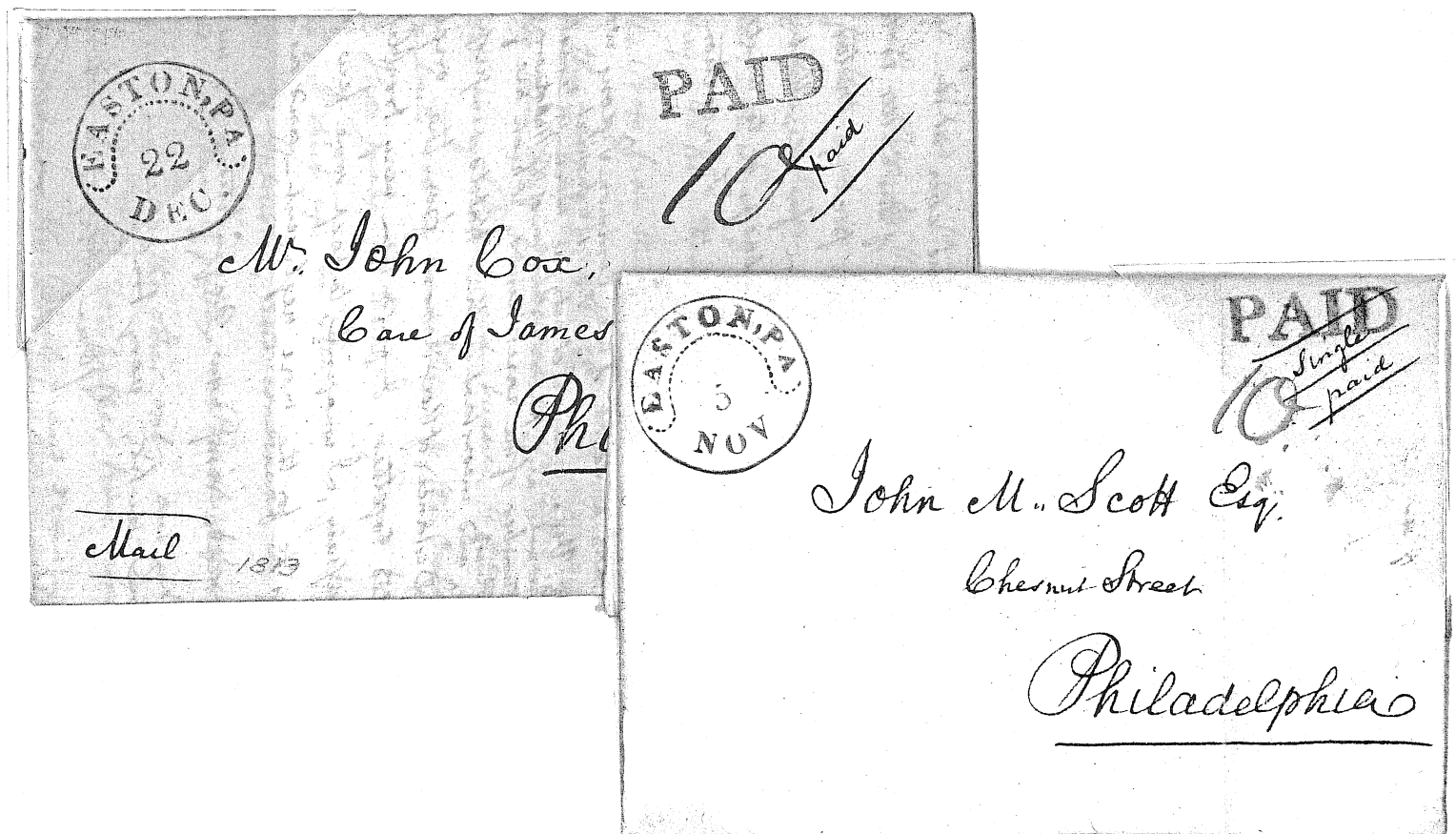
Mail.

This "CARBELL. C.H. VA. SEP 19" (1848) shows double frame lines of different thicknesses. The outer frame of this "COLUMBIA TEN. Oct 5" (1844) variety consists of dashes. The frame of this stenciled "PARKERSBURG VA. Jan 22" (1833) shows rounded dashes. Other stenciled postmarks can show even more unusual rims.

Circular- Frame

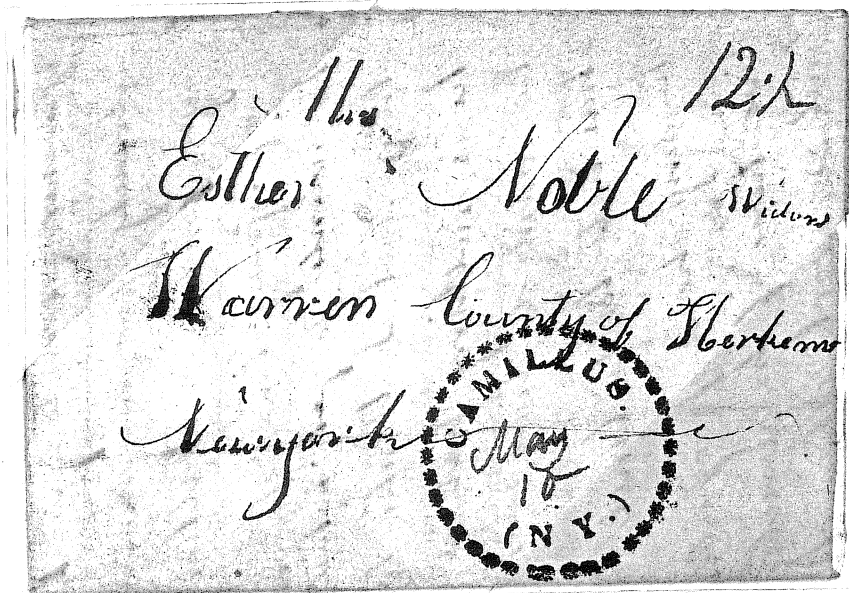


This "HARRISON SQUARE MS 6 SEP" with oval "PAID 3" shows the "MS" to be attached by a fancy frame to the double circle.

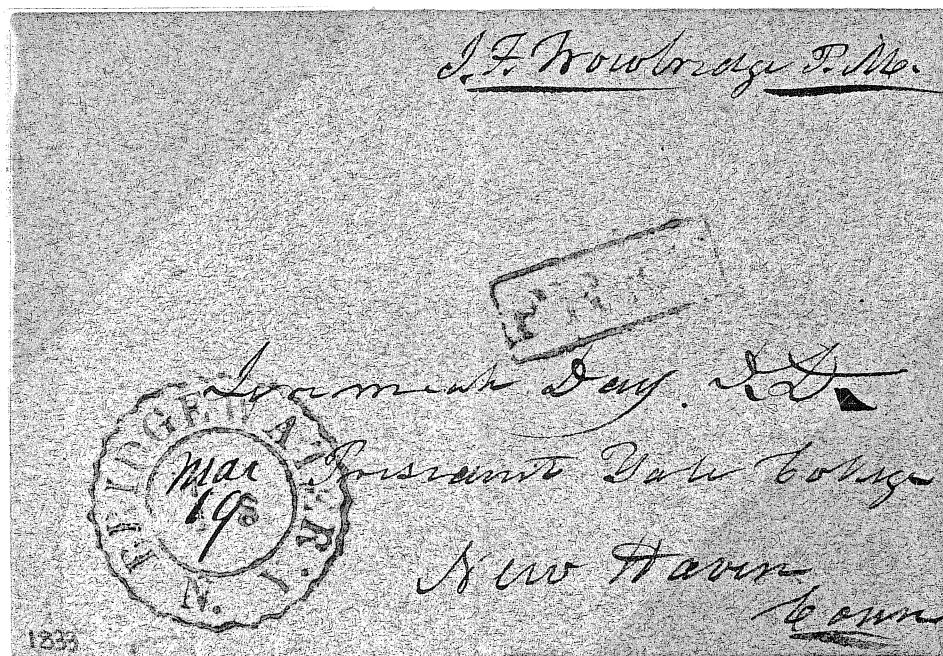


These two covers show the same postmark in two different inks. The red example "EASTON, PA 22 DEC." (1813) is the earlier. The redbrown variety is dated 5 Nov., 1820 and was addressed by the same person as the former.

Circular- Frame

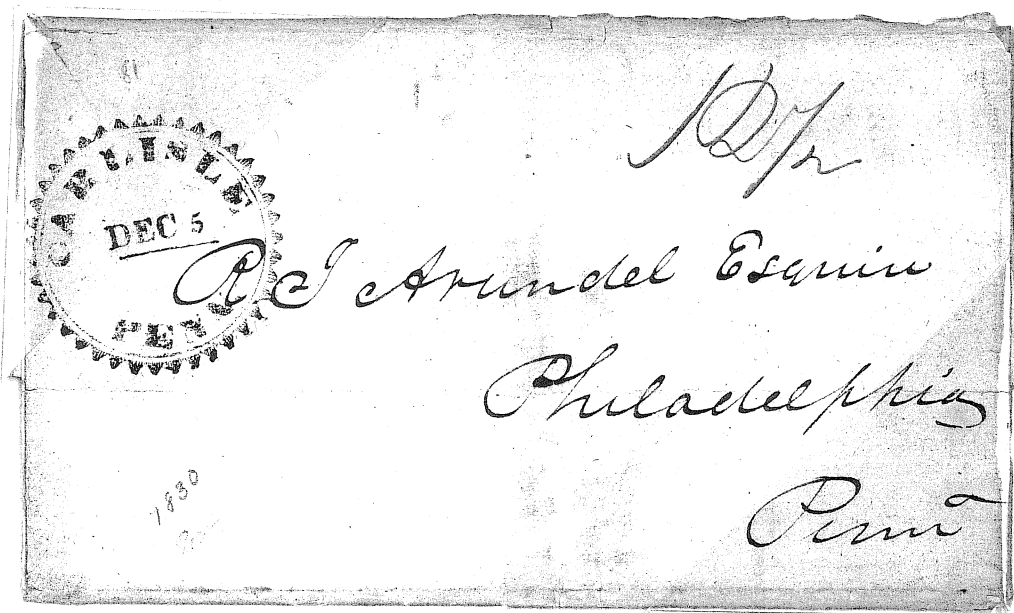


The frame around this "CAMILLUS N.Y. May 10 "(1826) marking consists of large astericks.

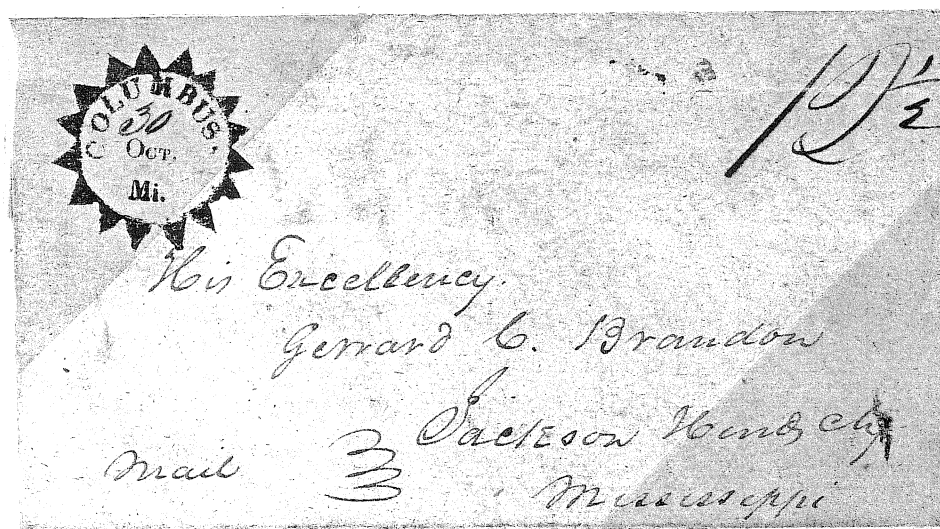


This "BRIDGEWATER N.Y. Mar 19" (1833) marking has a wavy outer frame and a solid inner frame line. It also has a framed "FREE" with postmaster's frank.

Circular- Frame

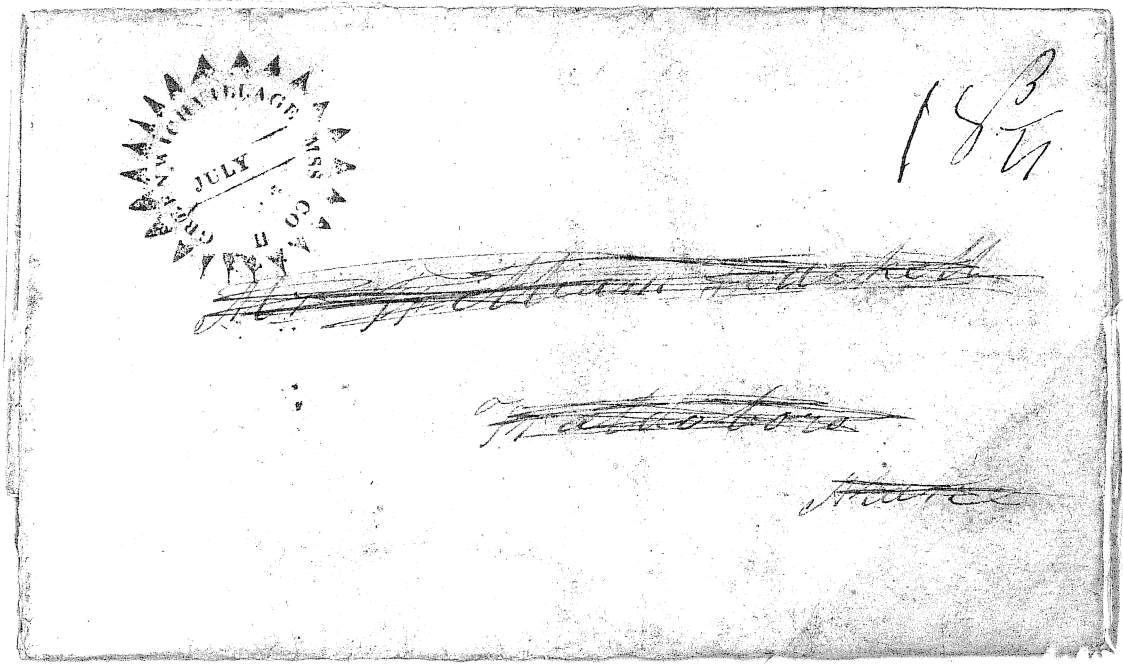


This "CARLISLE PENN. DEC 16"(1830) is a nice example of a cogged circle and an inner second solid circle, both outside of the lettering.

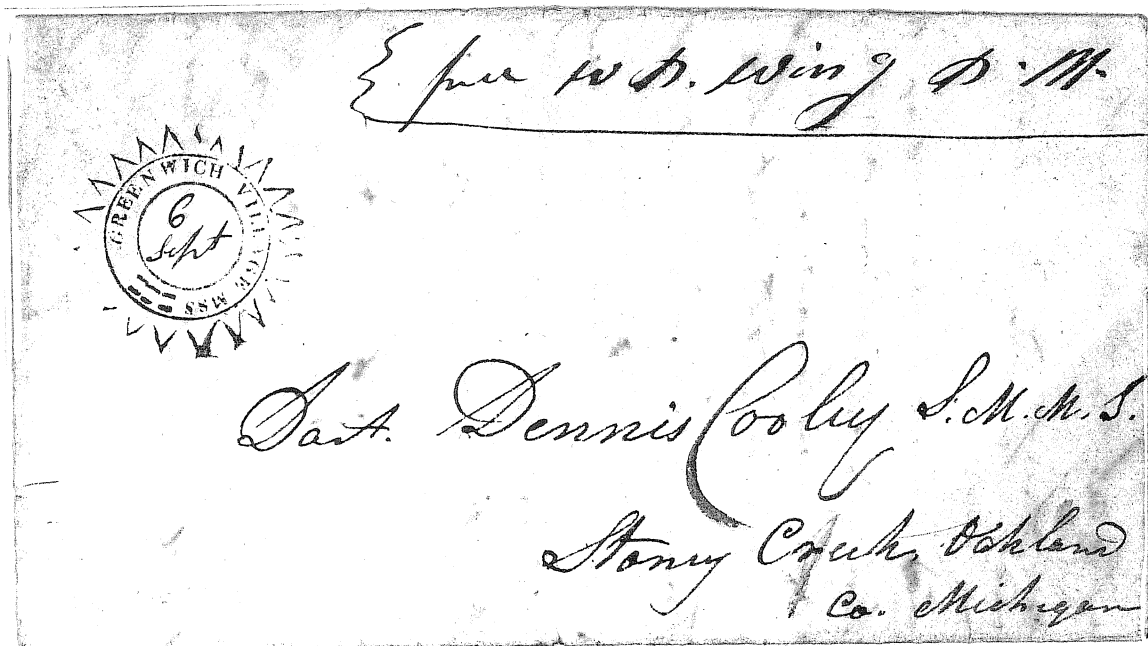


The solid cogged "COLUMBUS, Mi. 30 OCT"(1826) is a spectacular type of cogged circle frame. However, because the "Mi." is level and not within the outer circle, this marking could be classified as an arch with circular frame. One could argue that the "C" goes beyond the arch format.

Circular- Frame

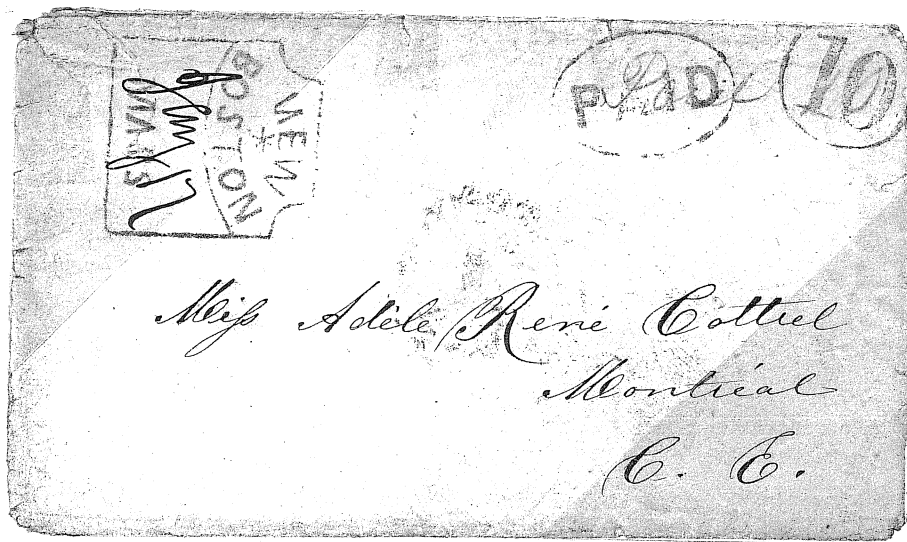


“GREENWICH VILLAGE MSS CO H JULY” (1829) is the earlier of two very unusual postmarks from this town. This one is the county postmark with CO H standing for Hampshire County. This cover was turned and remailed at “Waldsboro July 31”

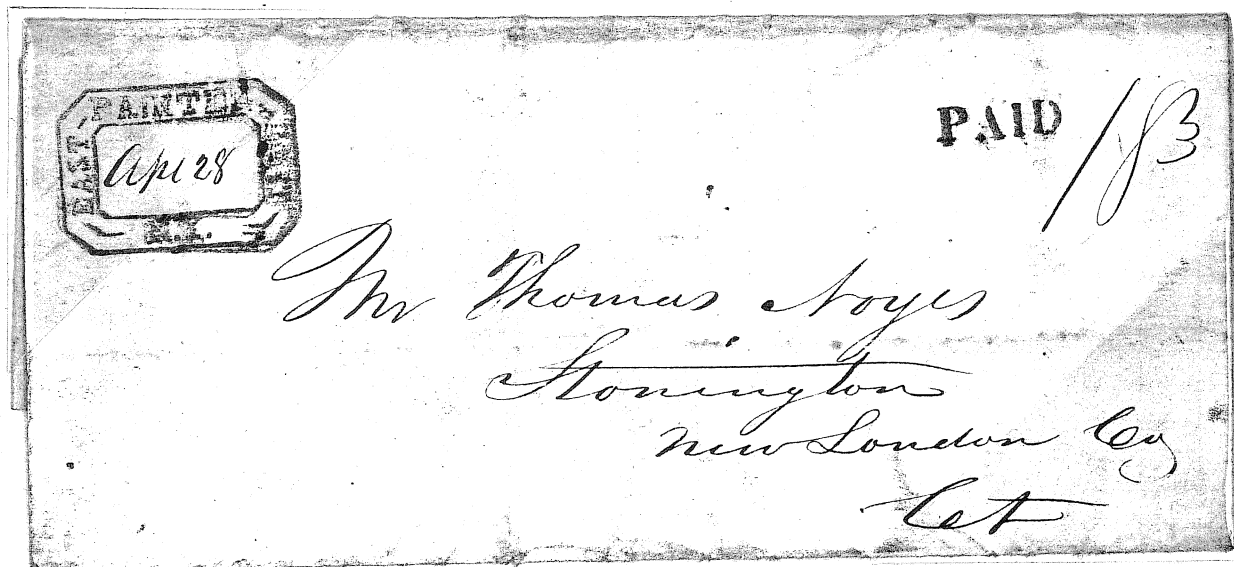


Here the cogs are hollow and there are two circles around the “GREENWICH VILLAGE MSS 6 Sept” (1831) marking. There is a manuscript frank of Wing, the postmaster, who also has a handstamp for his name, but this is not a fancy marking.

Other Configurations

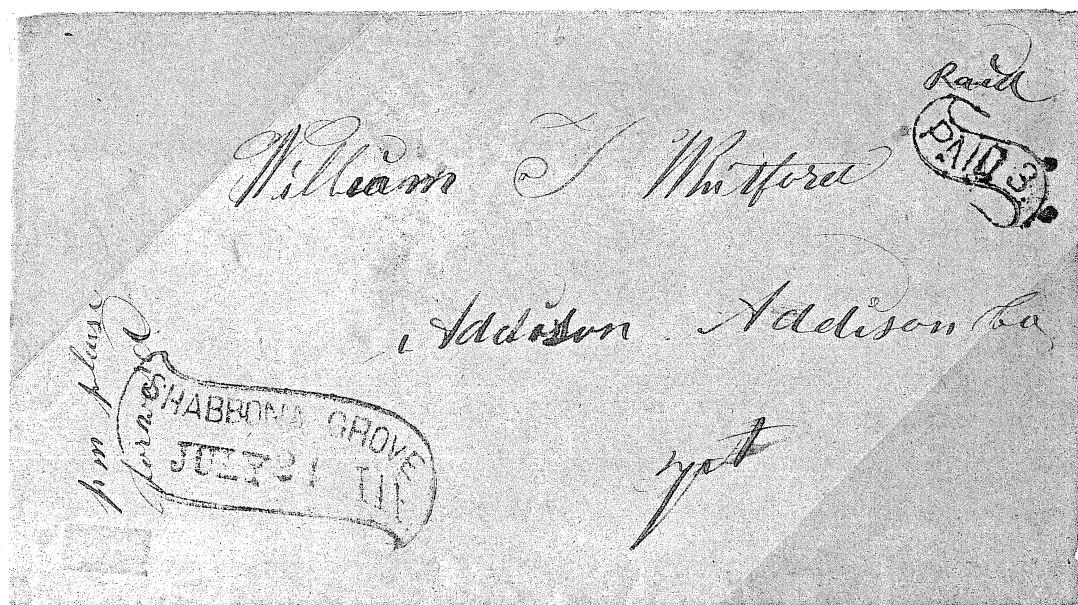


These are markings in which the lettering does not follow any of the usual four configurations already shown. This “NEW BOSTON MASS Jan 17” (1853) in a blue frame resembling a tombstone has lettering with an oval configuration above a level state name. The usage is to Canada; there is a red cancel over the address.

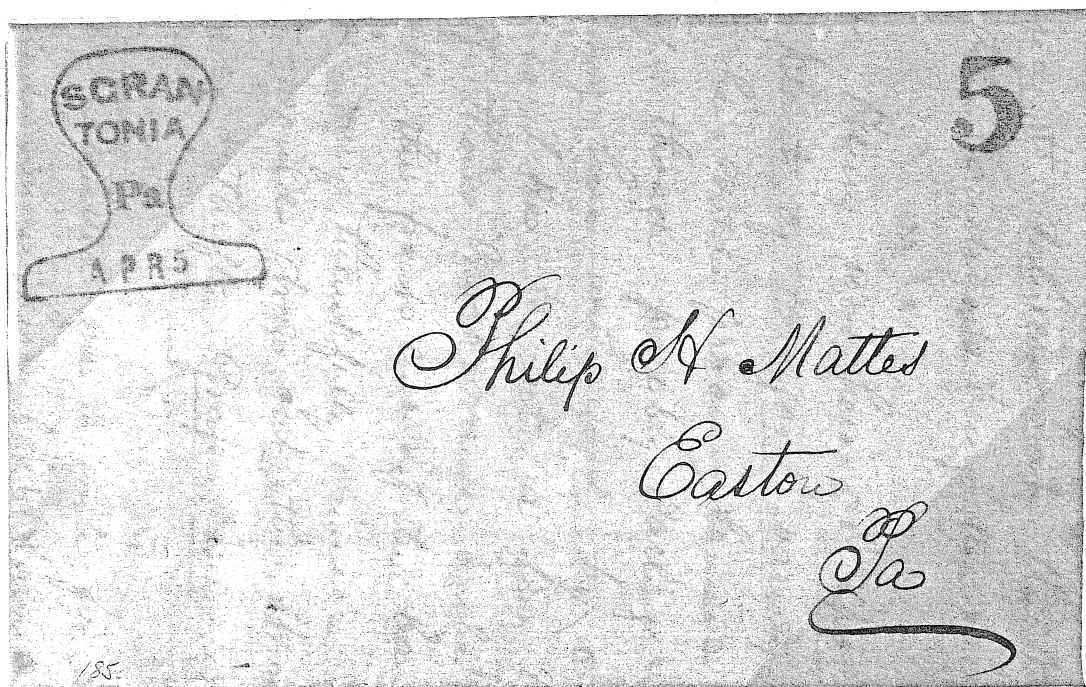


This “EAST PAINTED POST N.Y. Apr 28” (1845) has the lettering on all four sides of a rectangular format. The frame is an octagon and contains small decorations between the words.

Other Configurations



Both the lettering and the date of this “SHABBONA GROVE JULY 21 Ill.” banner type postmark follow the shape of the frame. There is also a matching “PAID 3” with a matching configuration.

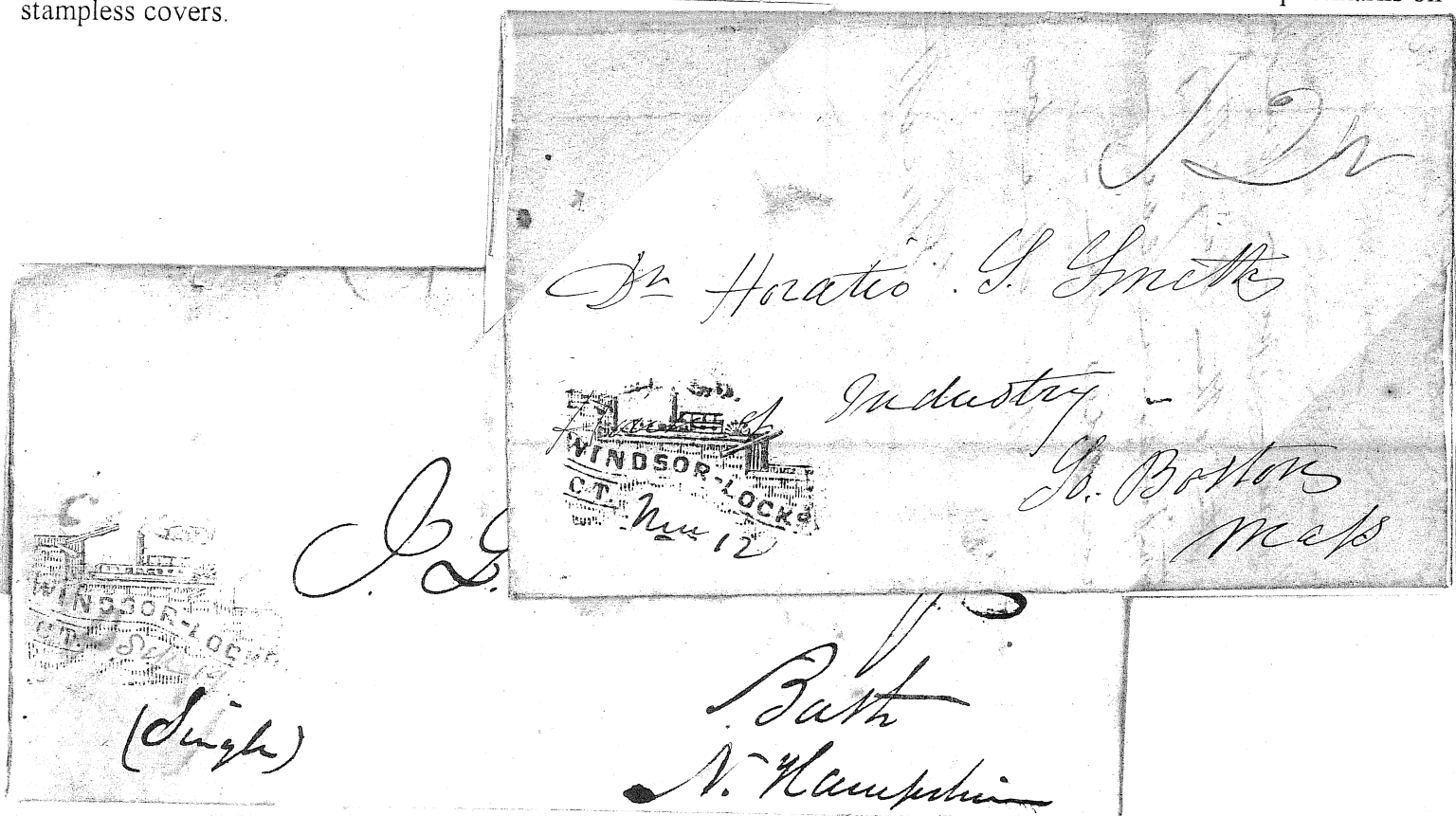


Possibly one could say this “SCRANTONIA Pa APR 5” (1850) marking is a variety of an arch, but the town’s name is split. The unusual frame is meant to depict the cut section of a rail for a railroad.

Other Configurations

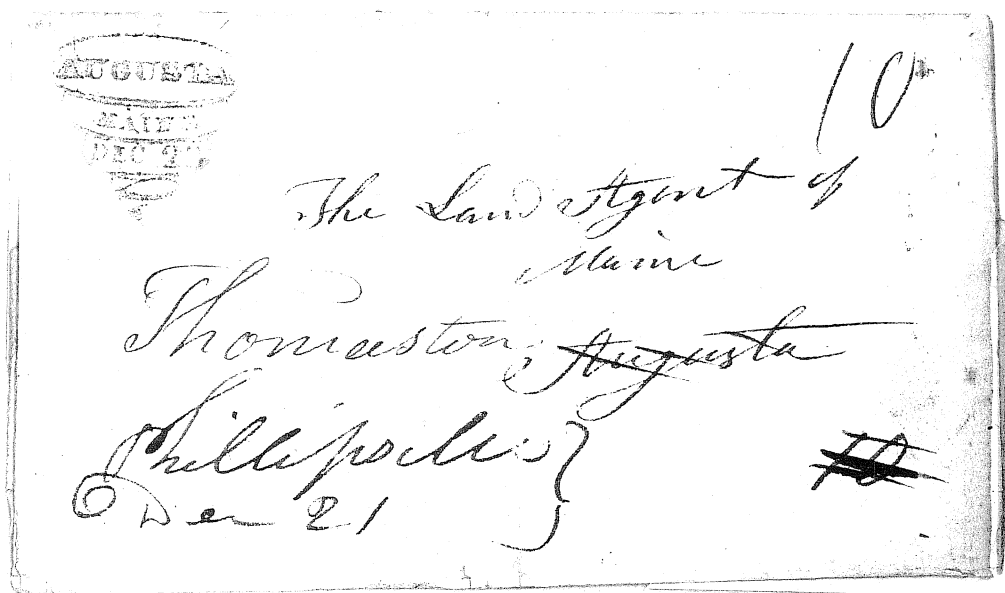


The "WINDSOR LOCKS CT. July 7" (1837) depicts a steamboat (with smoke coming from its single stack) sitting within a lock of a canal. The vessel is at the middle level of three. This is one of the most unusual U.S. postmarks on stampless covers.

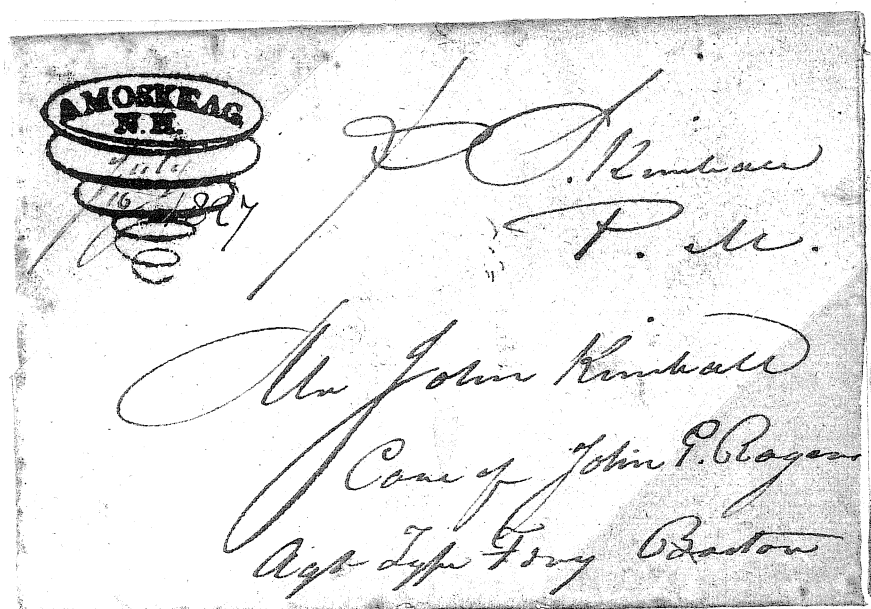


The second variety of this postmark is the more common type. The "WINDSOR LOCKS CT. Mar 12" (1844) shows the stones of the lock and the paddle wheel is clear. The "WINDSOR LOCKS CT. Sep 14" (1843) example is a very clearly struck one showing the vessel about to enter the upper lock.

Other Configurations

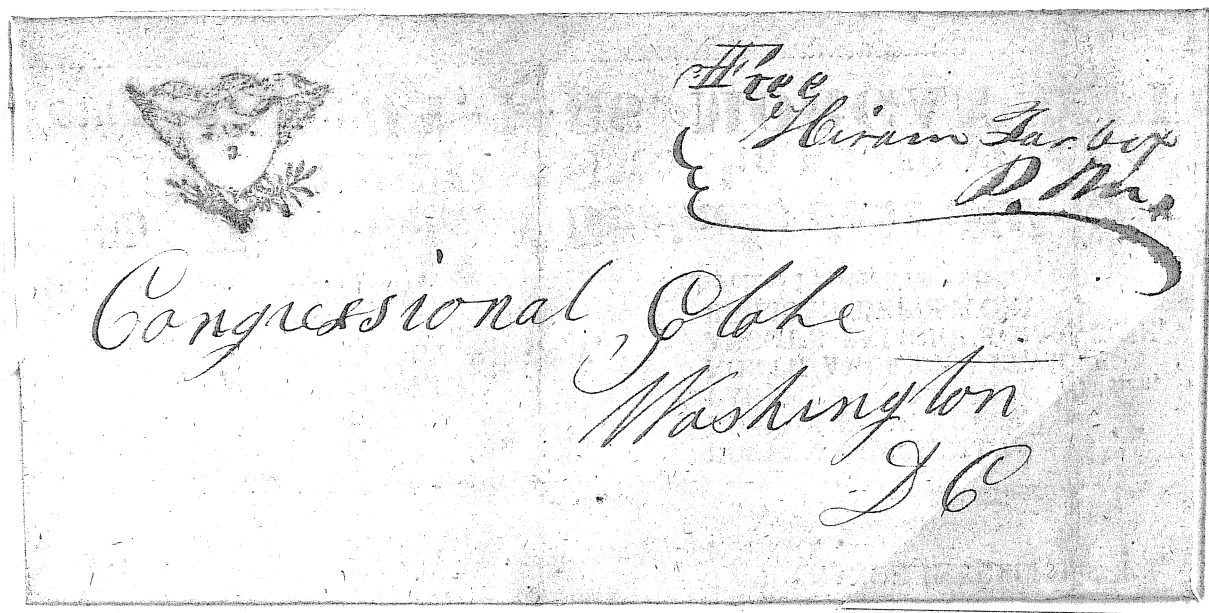


In the “AUGUSTA MAINE DEC 23” (1832) the lettering of MAINE and the date both have an upwards curve, the reverse of an arch format. The frame style is known as the “horn of plenty”.

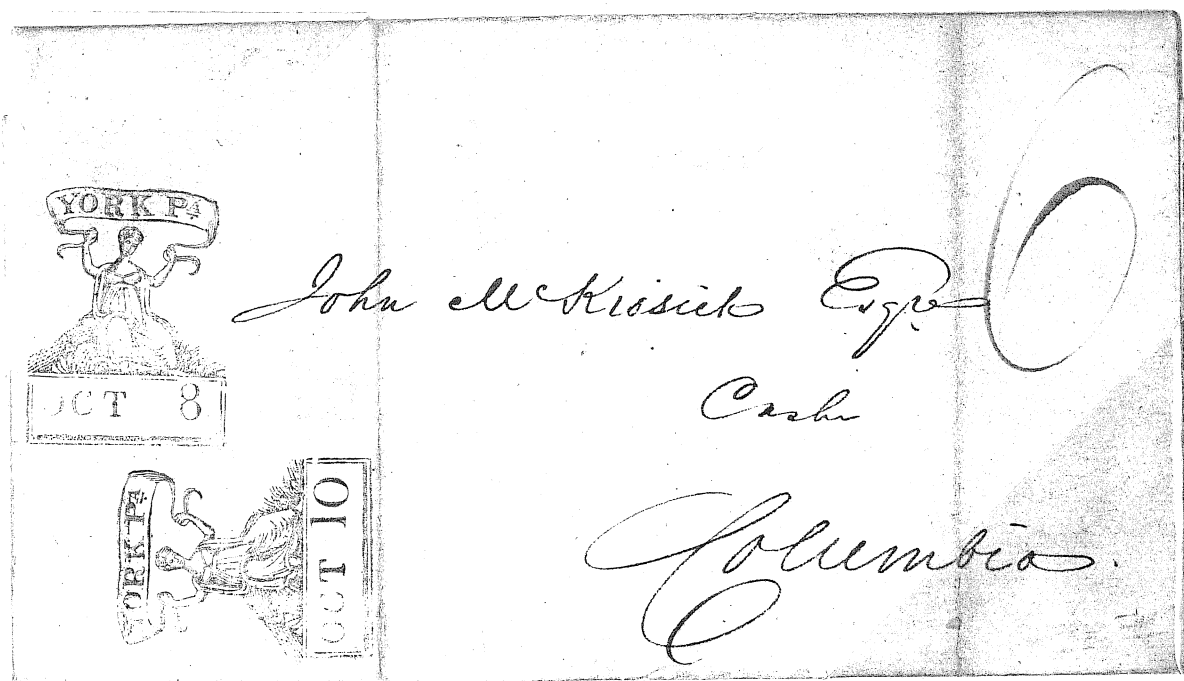


The much more rare “AMOSKEAG N.H. July 16 1827” horn of plenty type is actually an arch format, curved above level lettering. This spectacular example in black was mailed free by the postmaster.

Other Configurations

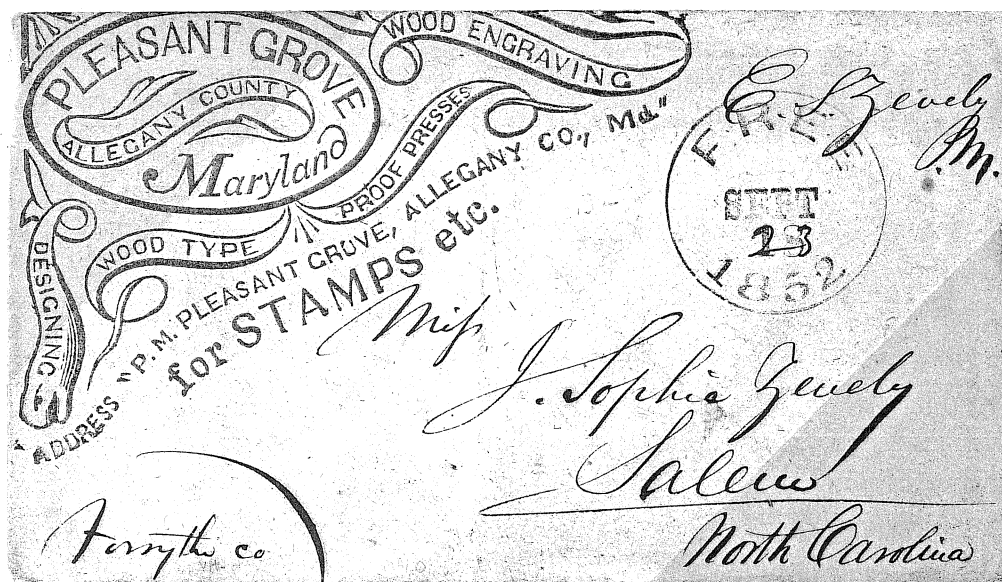


This red eagle carries a banner reading "LISBON CT" that follows the curves of the banner. The date "JAN. 3"(1836) is level. The usage is on a large broadside poster franked by the postmaster. This is the only known example.

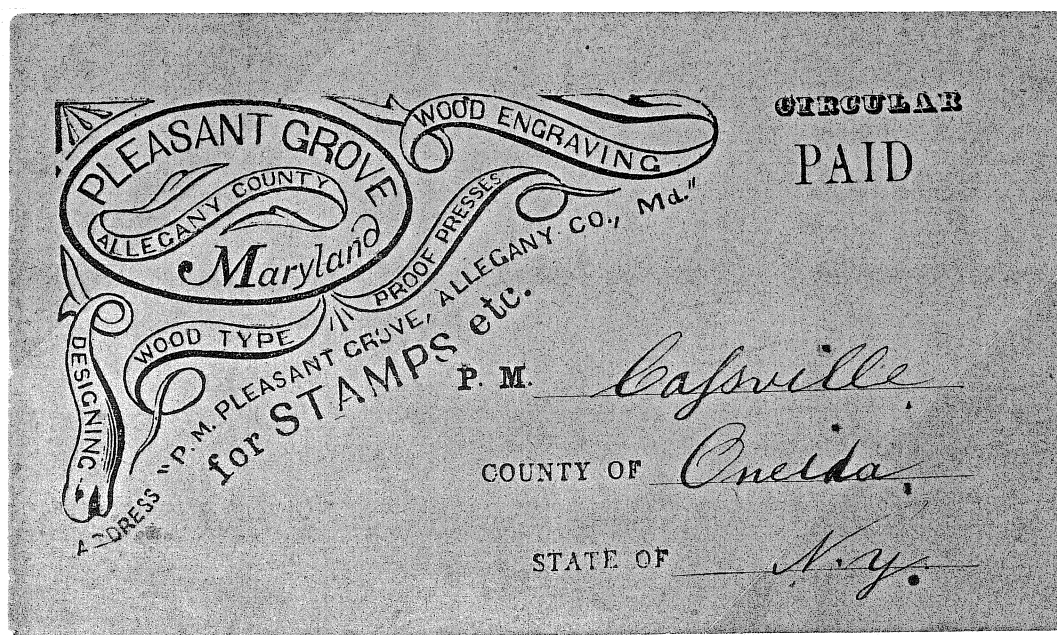


The "YORK PA. OCT 8" (1827) with a seated female figure holding the name in a banner contains lettering that is not level. Therefore, this cannot be called a straight line with illustrated female figure in frame. This cover also bears a second strike of the postmark dated two days later, the only known cover with two strikes of the marking.

Other Configurations

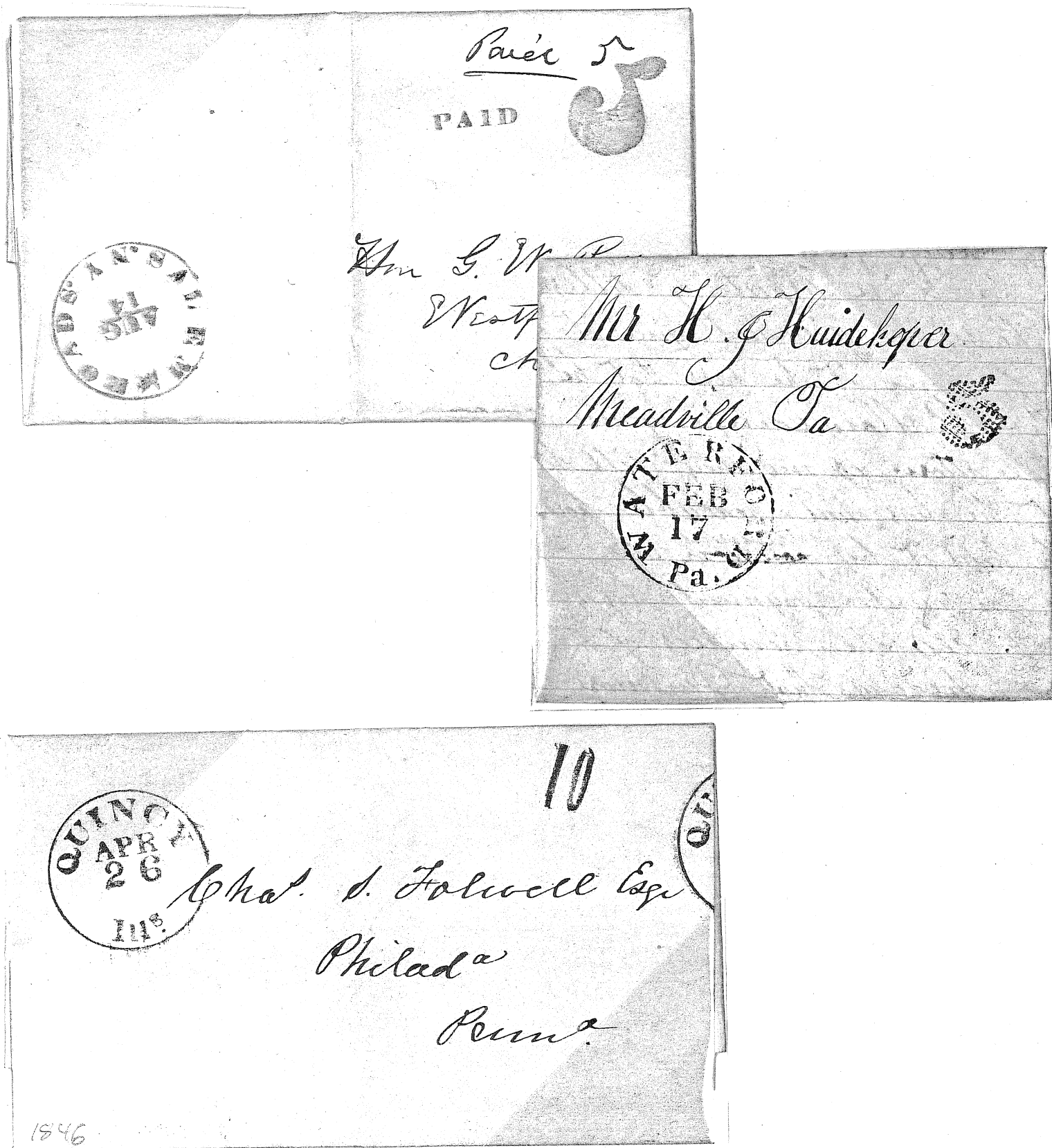


This is a printed cornercard which was used as a postmark by E.S. Zevely, the postmaster at Pleasant Grove, Maryland. The cover bears a circular "FREE SEPT 23 1852" marking which is unique to this town. Zevely sold handstamps for postmarking.



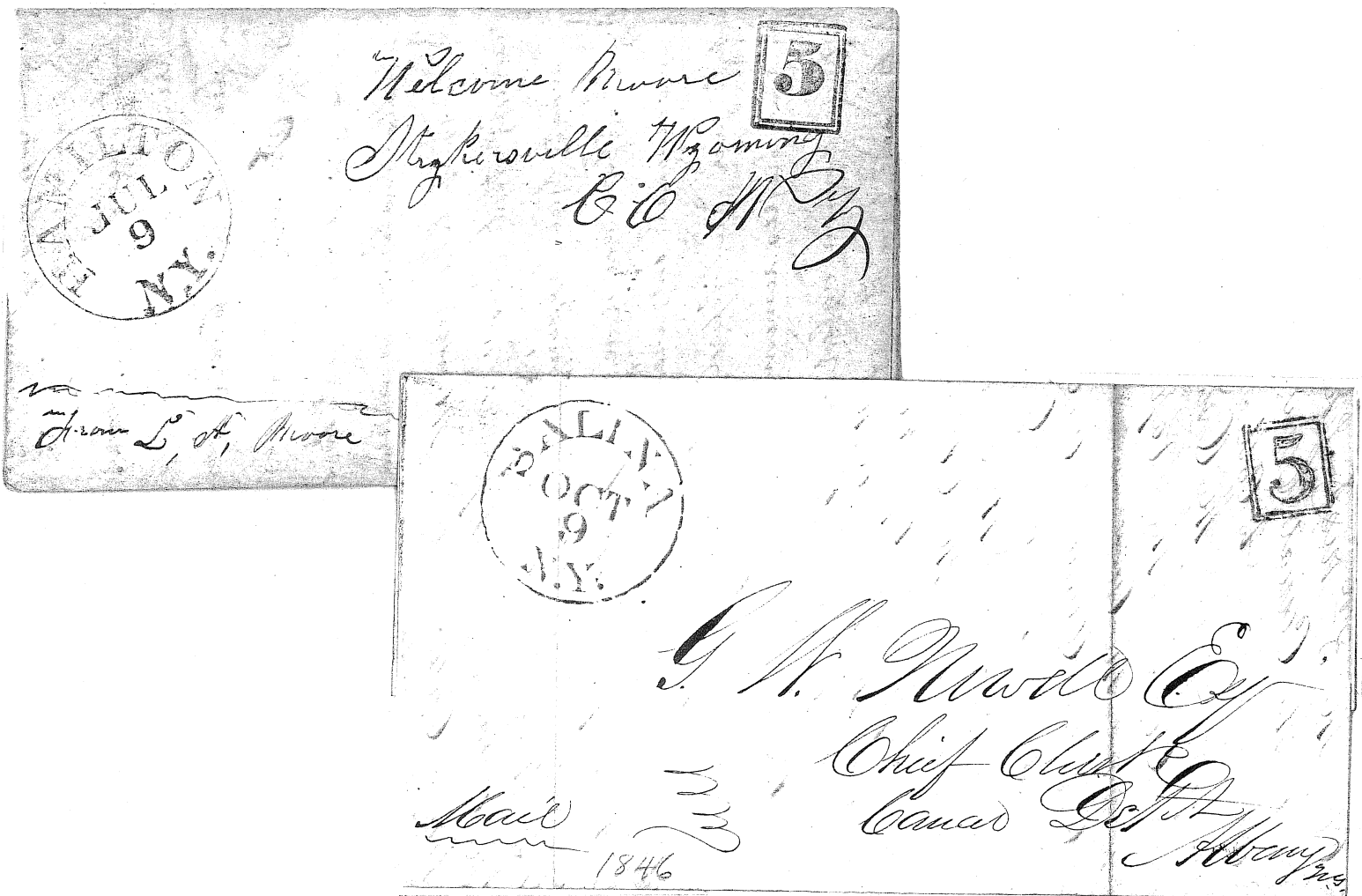
This is the more rare form of this corner card being prepared in black only for circulars. This also bears a printed postmark "PAID" which is very rare on stampless covers. Thus it is an early precancel use. Two examples known.

Auxillary Postal Markings- Numerical Rating Marks



The most simple type of fancy numeral would be an unusual or ornamented numeral handstamp. Certainly this fanciful "5" on cover "SALEM X ROADS N.Y. AUG 14" (1849) is very different from the usual 5 handstamp. The "5" on this "WATERFORD Pa. FEB 17" (1851) is cross-hatched. And the narrow "10" from "QUINCY Ills. APR 26" (1846) is also unusual.

Auxillary Postal Markings- Numerical Rating Marks



This is a plain “5” within a double box frame from “HAMILTON N.Y. JUL 9”(1845). The marking of “SALINA N.Y. OCT 9” (1846) has a similar double frame around the “5”. However, the numeral itself is also very fancy if one looks at it carefully.



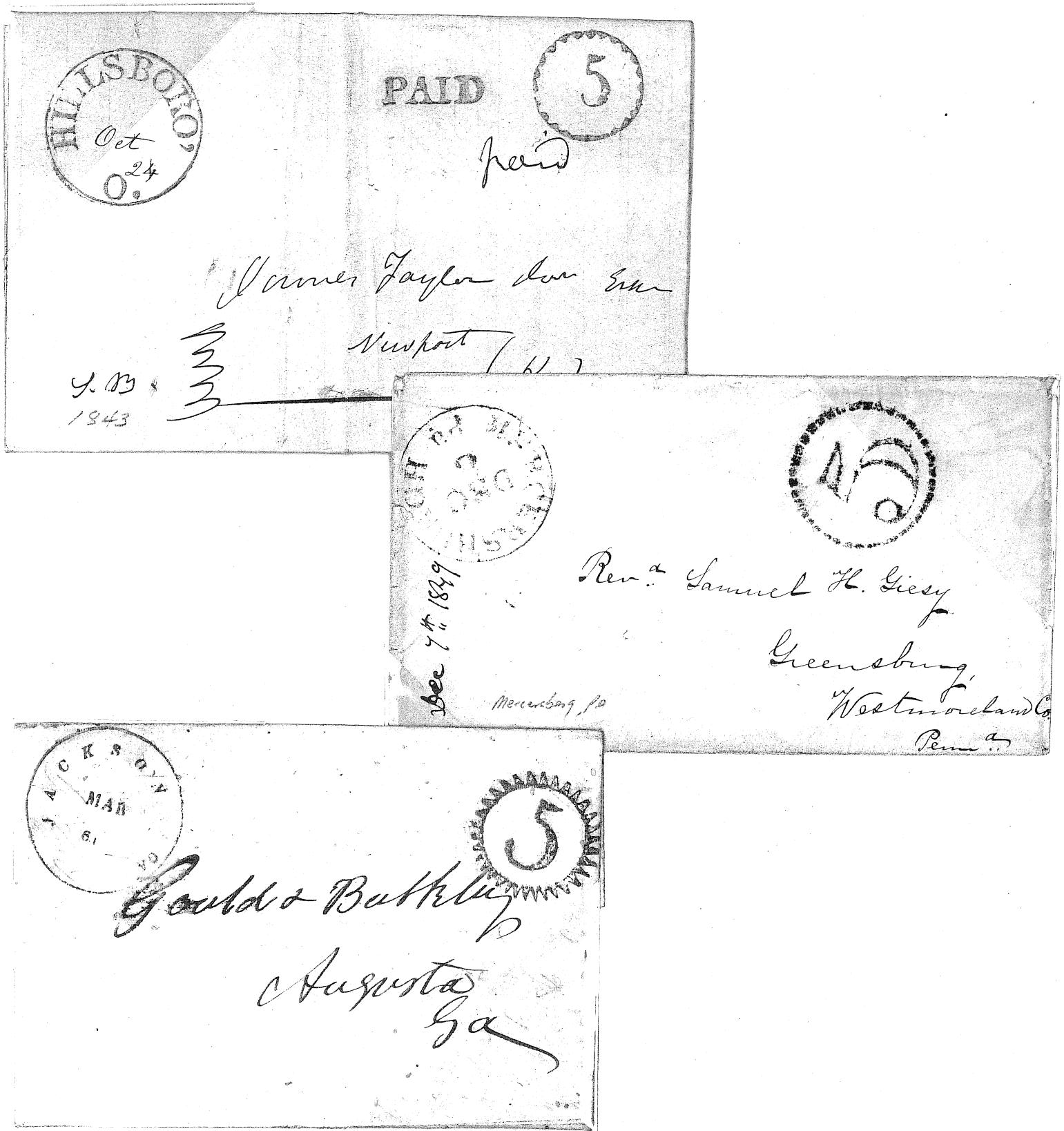
The “5” in the bearded frame of this “LAFARGEVILLE N.Y. Oct 10” (1849) cover with crosses between town and state abbreviation is accompanied by a third fancy handstamp, framed “Paid” in unusual typeface.

Auxillary Postal Markings- Numerical Rating Marks



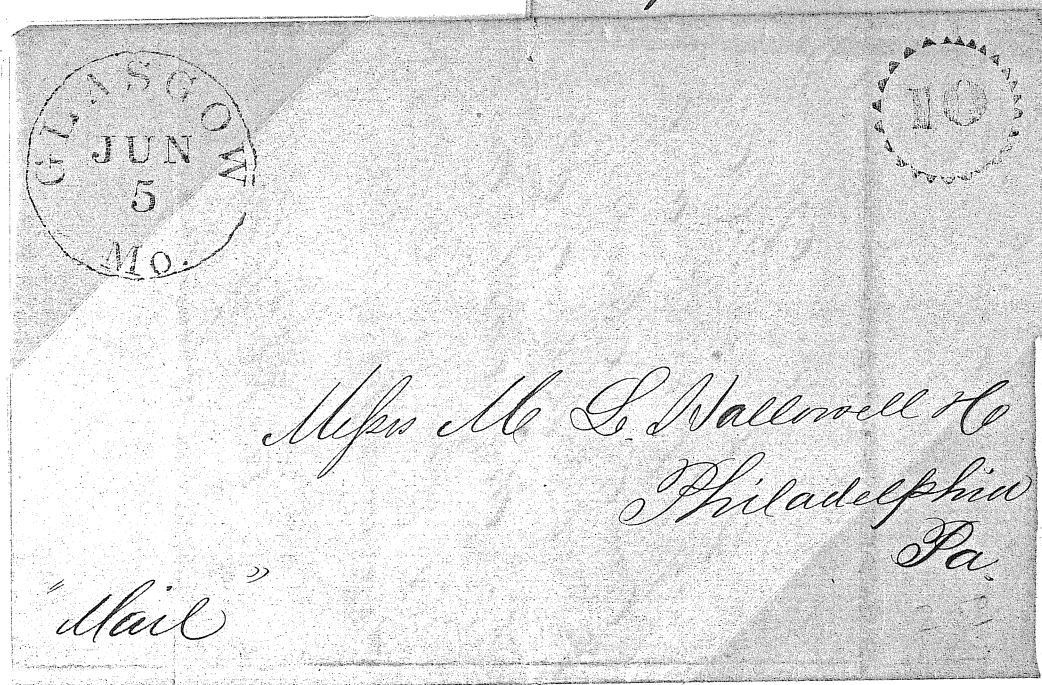
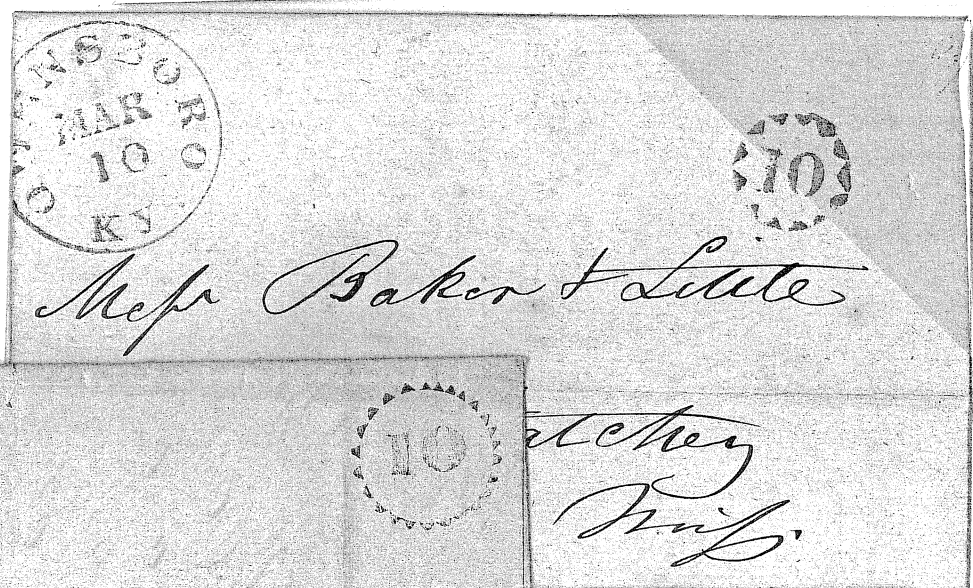
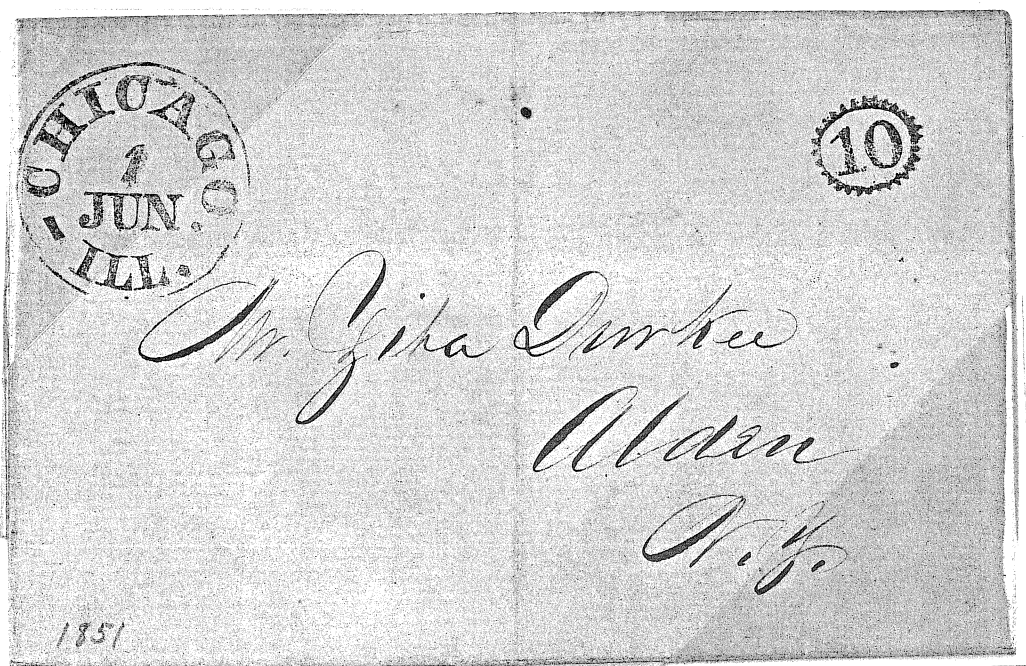
These three covers are examples of unusual frames around a numeral device. The example of "WHITE-PLAINS N.Y. AUG 1" (1850) is in a true brown shade ink. The scalloped frame on the cover "Mt. PLEASANT Te. DEC 17" (1851) is unusual. The rate for unpaid postage was two cents more than prepayment. The "5" in a partly dotted circle of "CIRCLEVILLE O OCT 5" (1846) is the most unusual with a fancy numeral too.

Auxillary Postal Markings- Numerical Rate Markings



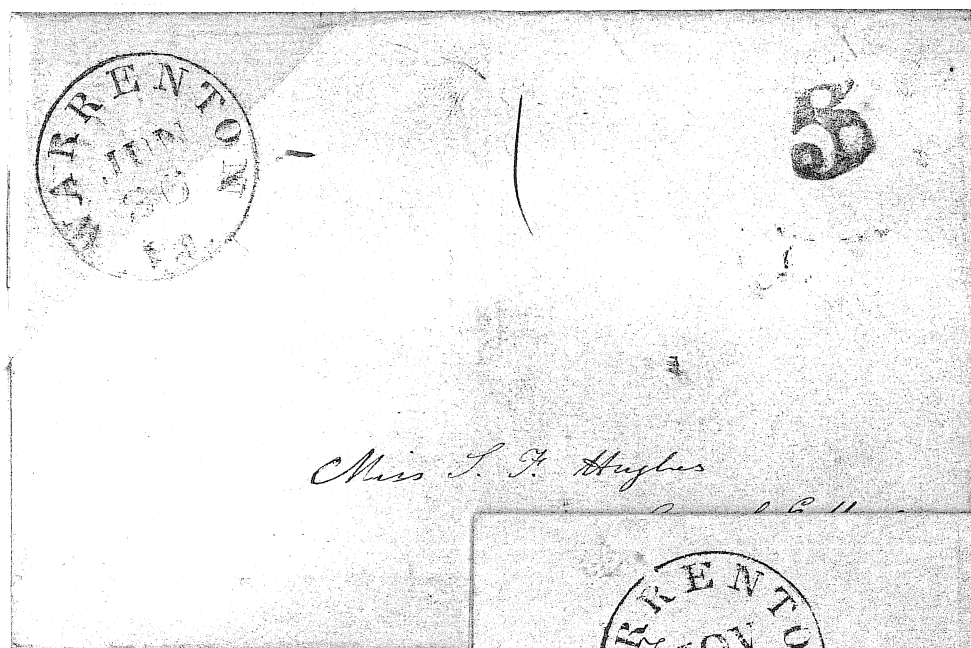
The cover from "HILLSBORO O. Oct 24" (1843) has an unusual "5" in cogged frame with the cogs facing inward. The color of the ink is also orange rather than red. The hollow "5" in large cogged circular frame from "MERCERSBURGH Pa. DEC 8" (1849) has both a fancy numeral and fancy frame. The large "5" with curved cogs outward is a very spectacular rating mark from "JACKSON GA MAR 61" (1847) which is also unusual for the tiny italic lettering; the "61" is a reversed "16".

Auxillary Postal Markings- Numerical Rating Marks

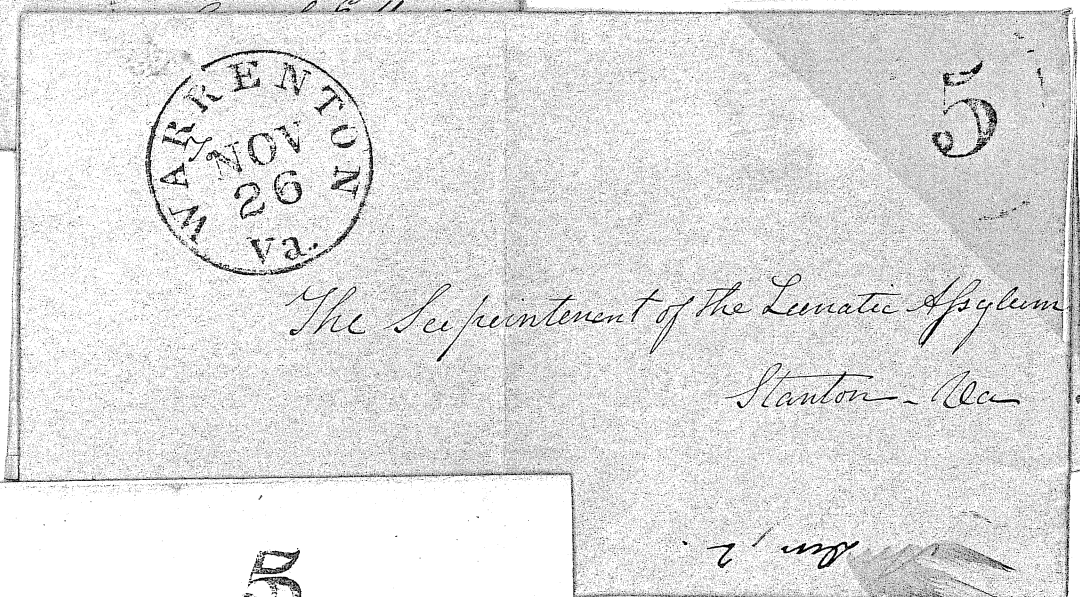


These three covers are other types of cogged frames for "10" rating numerals. The red marking with "CHICAGO ILL. 1 JUN"(1851) is fairly common. The "OWENSBORO Ky MAR 10" (1849) is quite unusual and creates a negative field empty of color within a circle. The "GLASCOW Mo. JUN 5" (1850) marking of a 10 within a cogged circle with the points outwards, like the Chicago marking, is less striking visually.

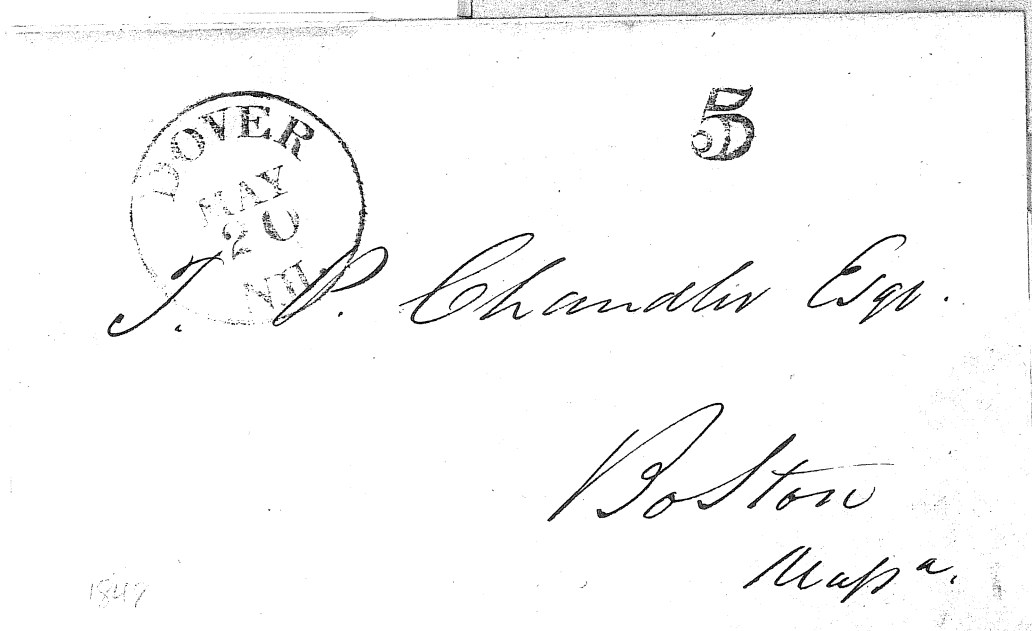
Auxillary Postal Markings- Numerical Rating Marks



Miss J. F. Hughes



*The Superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum
Stanton - Va*



J. P. Chandler Esq.

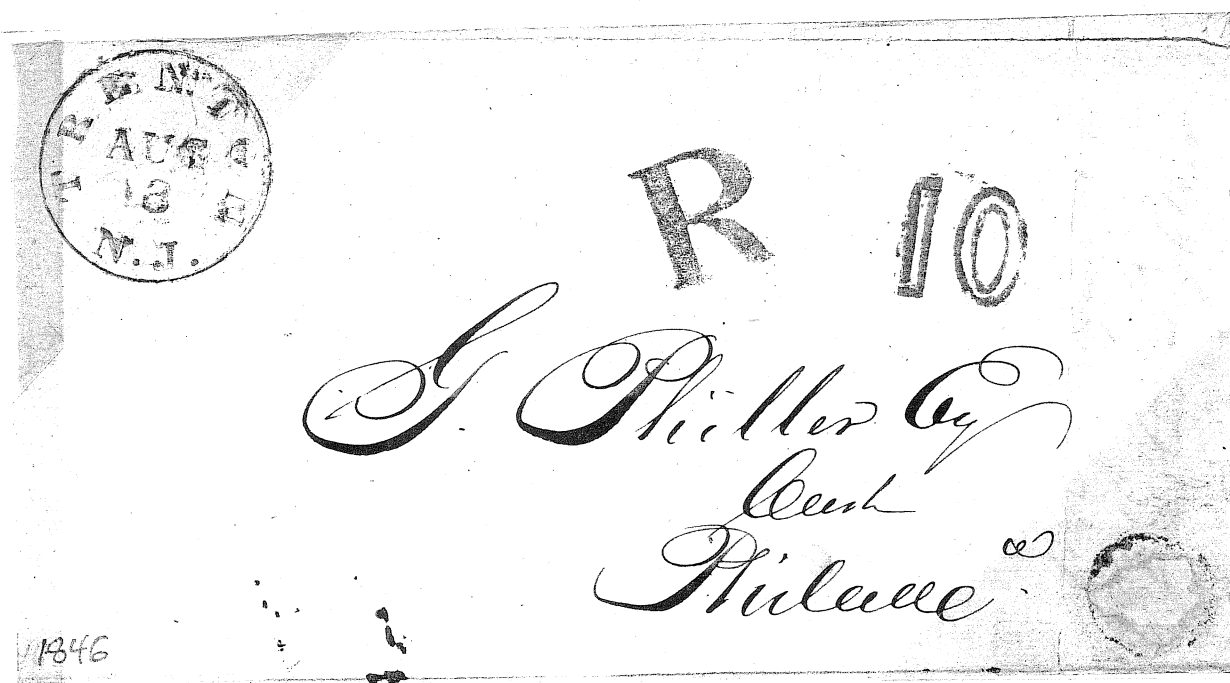
*Boston
Mass*

These rating marks demonstrate purposeful hollow areas. The simplest one is the "WARRENTON Va. JUN 26" (1847) with three circles inside the "5". Another marking from the same town, "WARRENTON Va. NOV 26" (1850) shows a more artful "5" with varying regions of shading by hollowing. And the "DOVER N.H. MAY 20" (1848) is a different hollow "5", also nicely done.

Auxillary Postal Markings- Numerical Rating Marks

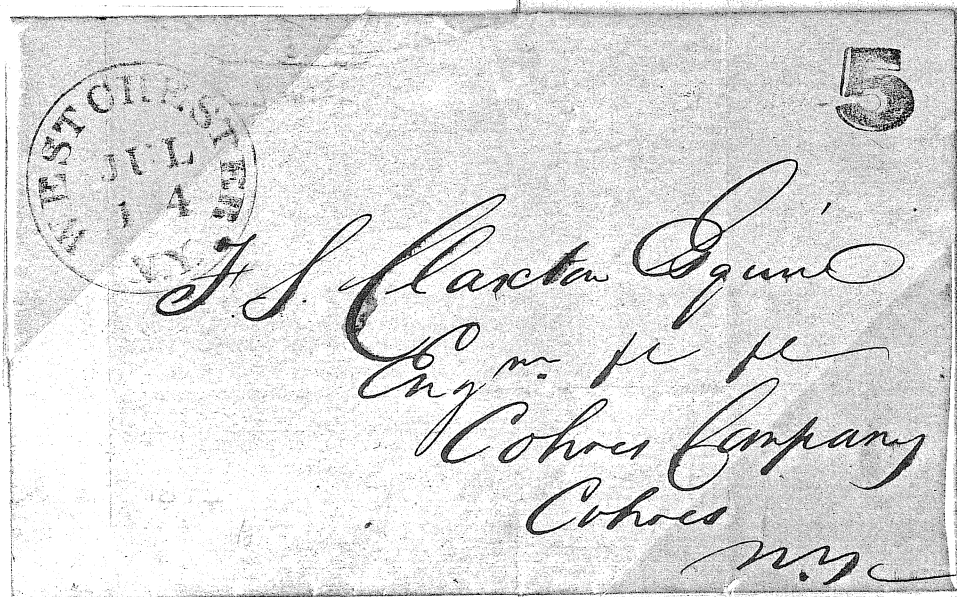
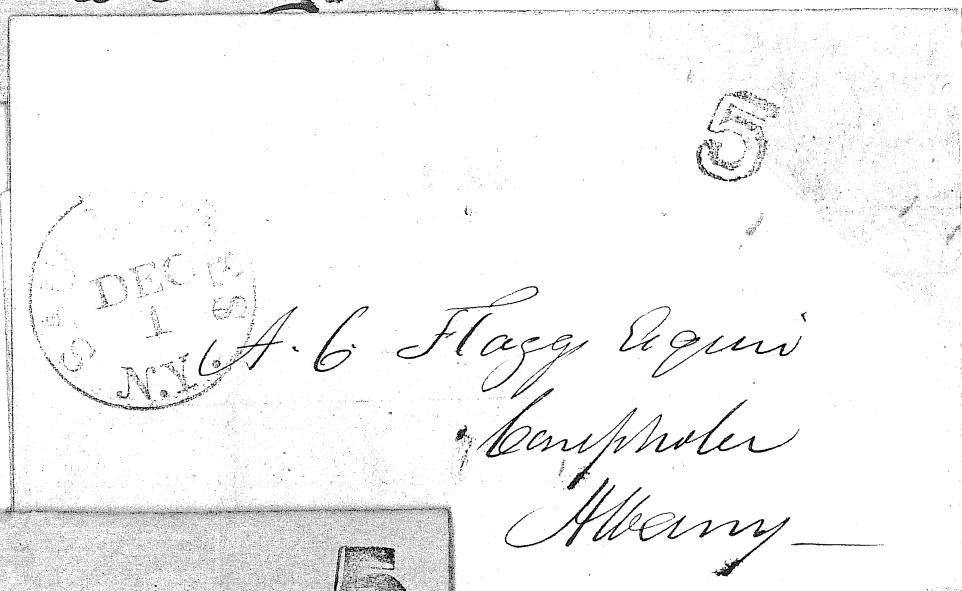
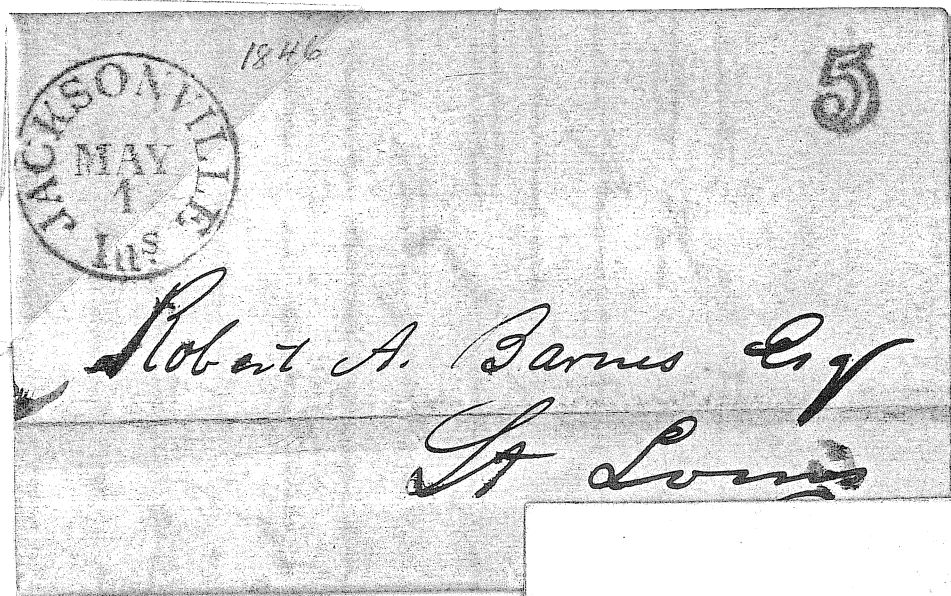


This "TRENTON N.J. AUG 27" (1846) shows a large hollow "5" from this town. It also is an example of an unofficially registered cover with the large Philadelphia blue "R".



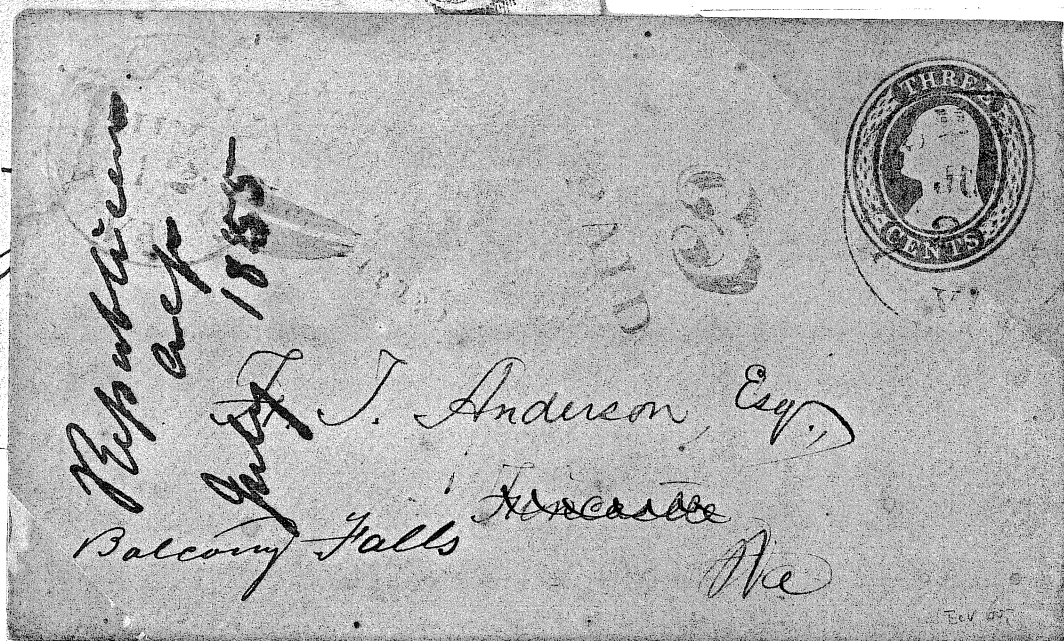
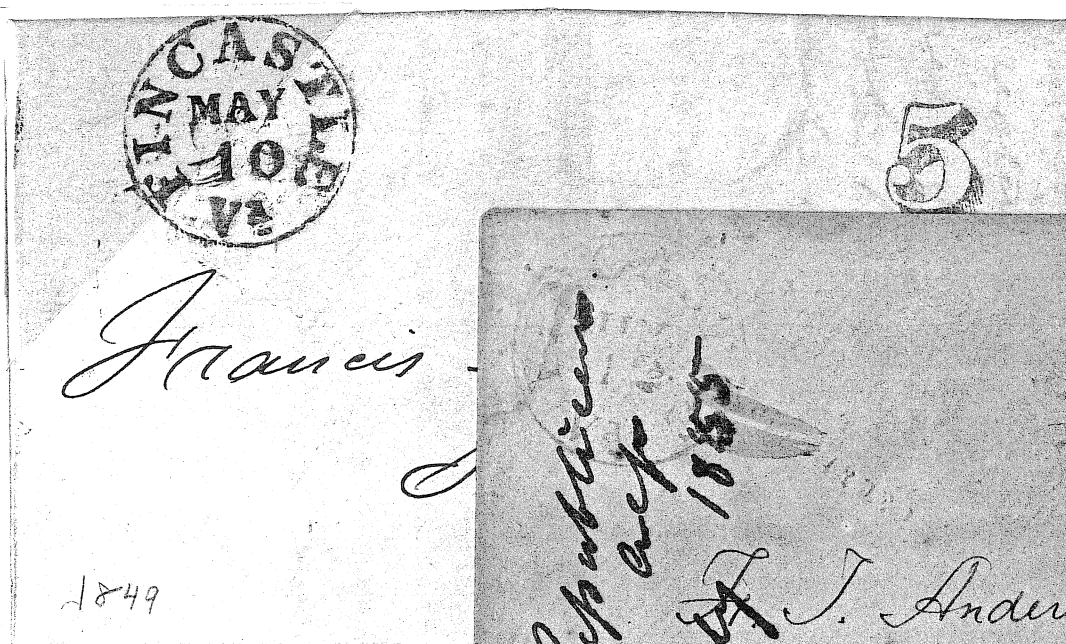
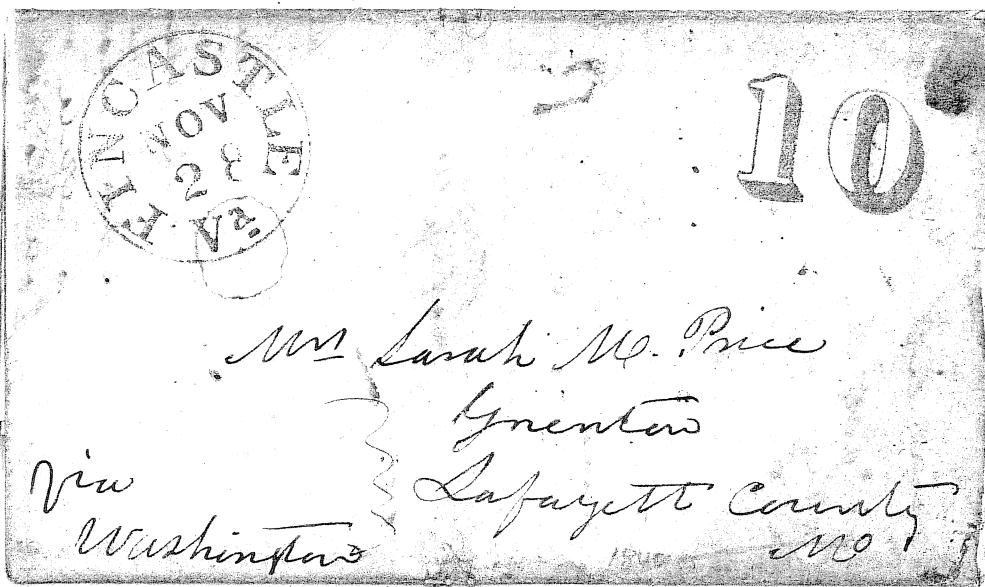
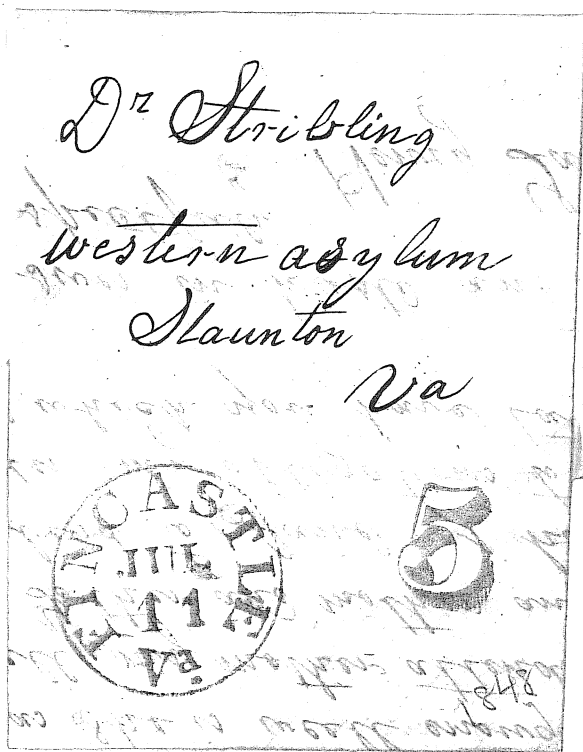
The usage "TRENTON N.J. AUG 13" (1846) shows the matching "10" also in hollow letters. Note that these two covers with "R" markings are from the same bank correspondence. The difference in postal charge was related to enclosures.

Auxillary Postal Markings- Numerical Rating Marks



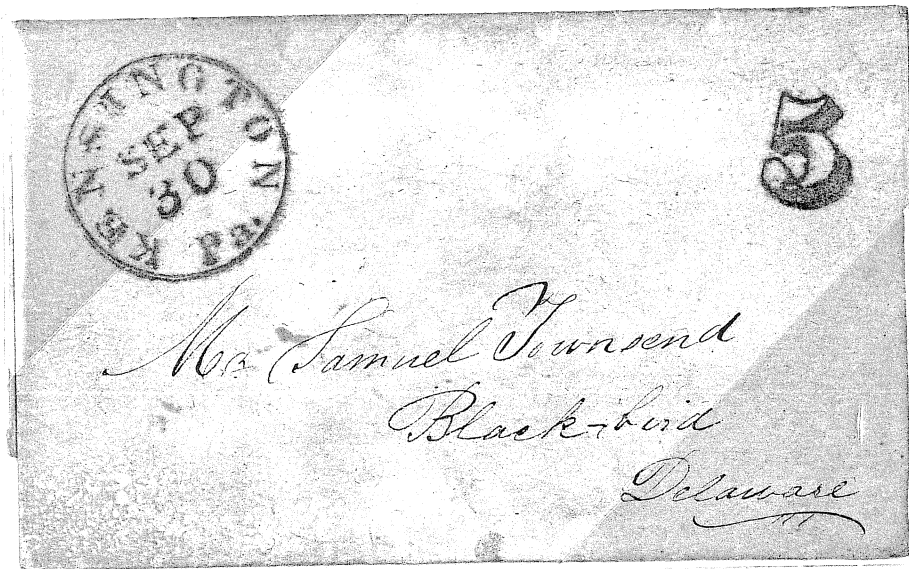
The first of these covers, the one from "JACKSONVILLE Ills MAY 1"(1846) shows a "5" with equal thickness around the hollow center. The example from "SAUGERTIES N.Y. DEC 1" is a colorless "5" surrounded by increased red from the top of the letter (looking down). The "WEST CHESTER N.Y. JUL 14" (1848) is a solid "5" which is shaded from the bottom and left.

Auxillary Postal Markings- Numerical Rating Marks

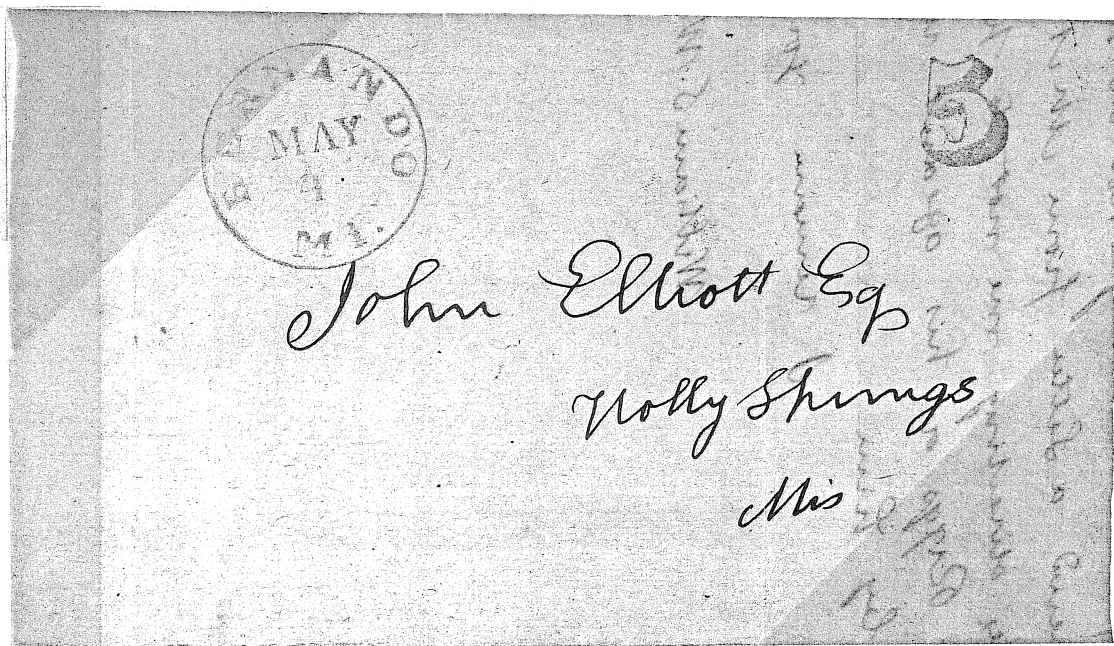


The shaded numbers from "FINCASTLE Va. JUL 11" (1848) as exemplified by this "5" are the best known shaded numerals. The cover "FINCASTLE Va. NOV 28" (1848) shows the matching "10" handstamp for distances over 400 miles. This "FINCASTLE Va. MAY 10" (1849) shows the same postal markings in blue. The separate vertical lines can be seen clearly in this strike. The most uncommon shaded numeral is a "3" shown on a "FORWARDED", "PAID", "3", "FINCASTLE, Va. JUL 12" (1855) on an 1851 entire originating at Lynchburg, Va. Prepayment was required on all letters less than two weeks before. This is a stampless forwarding usage to Balcony Falls, Va.

Auxillary Postal Markings- Numerical Rating Marks

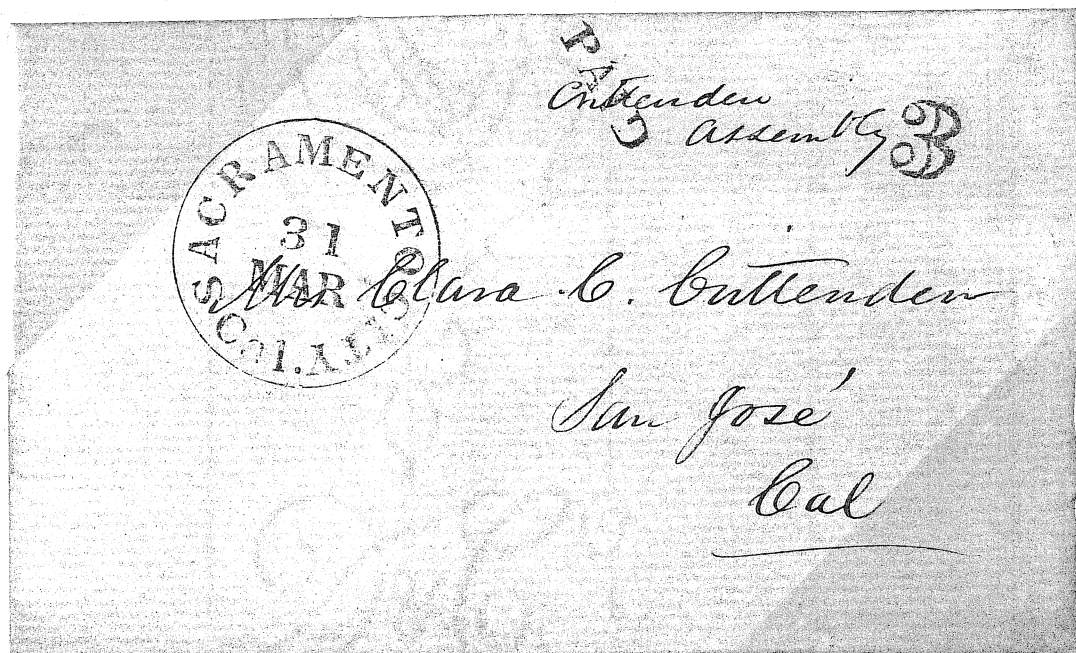


This shaded “5” of “KENSINGTON Pa. SEP 30” (1846) resembles the Fincastle number, but close observation shows it is different.

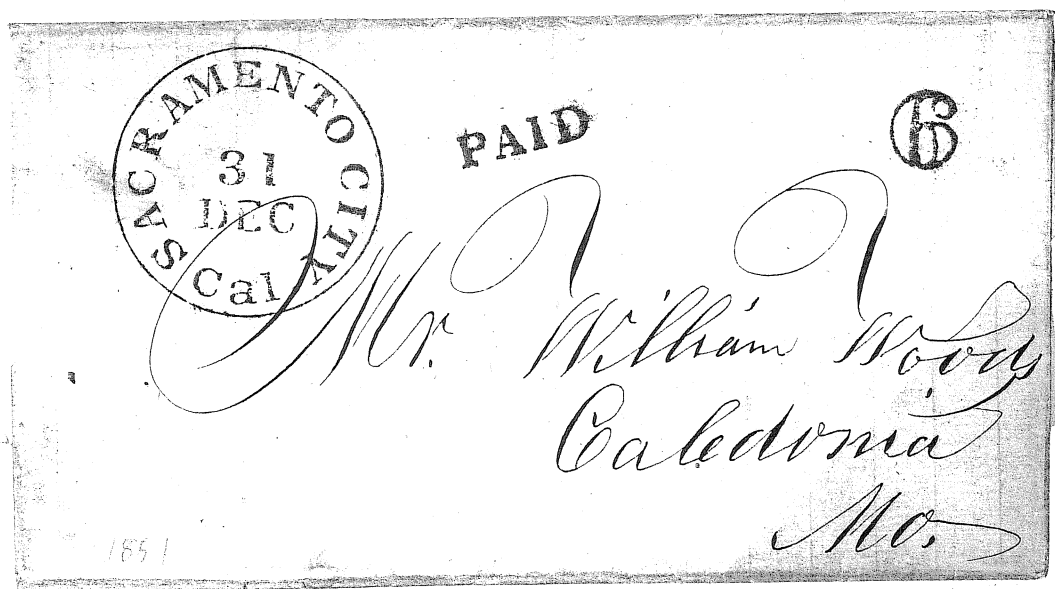


This cover with green postmarks from “HERNANDO MI. MAY 4” (1847) has a very similar “5” but the colorless part is thicker, so it is a third variation of the hollow 5.

Auxillary Postal Markings- Numerical Rating Marks

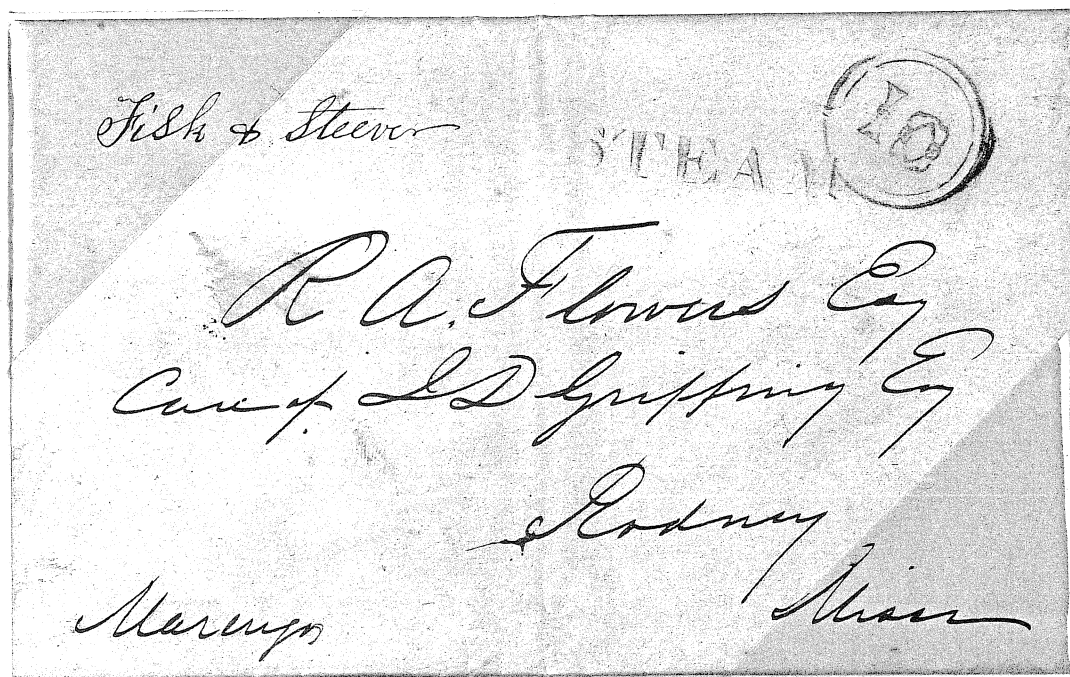


“SACRAMENTO CITY Cal. 31 MAR” (1852) with hollow “3” and “PAID” is one of few fancy numerical markings from the far west.

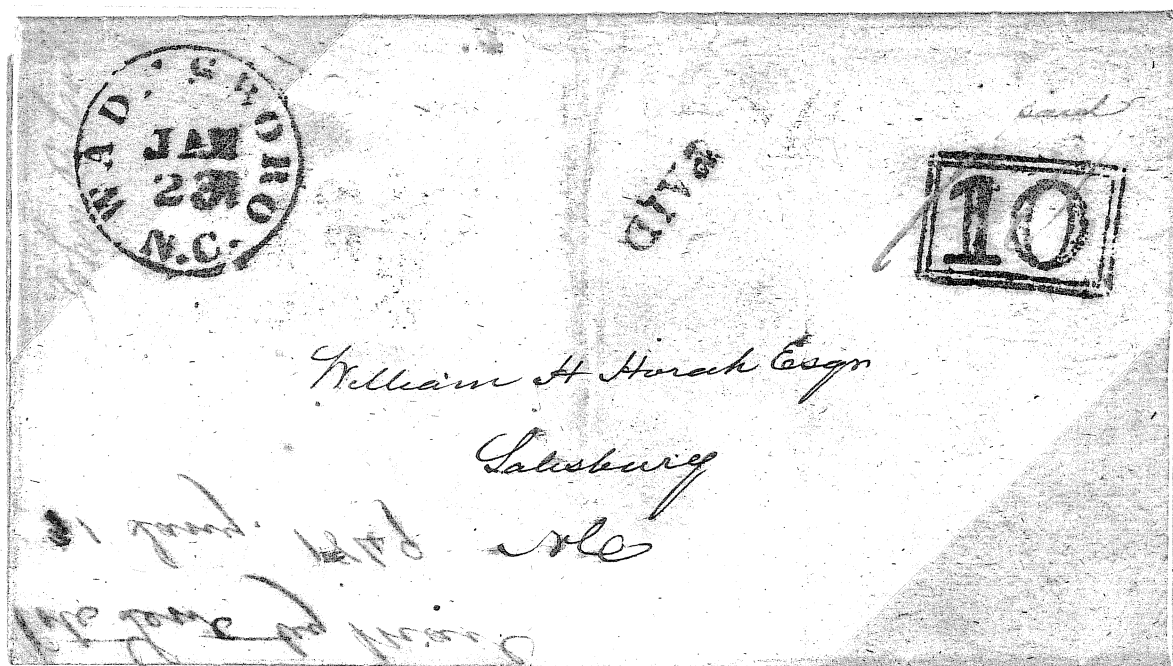


This town had a matching “6” which on this cover “SACRAMENTO CITY Cal 31 DEC” (1851) paid the more than 3000 mile rate to the east coast. In 1851 mail went by sea to New York and then west to Missouri.

Auxillary Postal Markings- Numerical Rating Marks

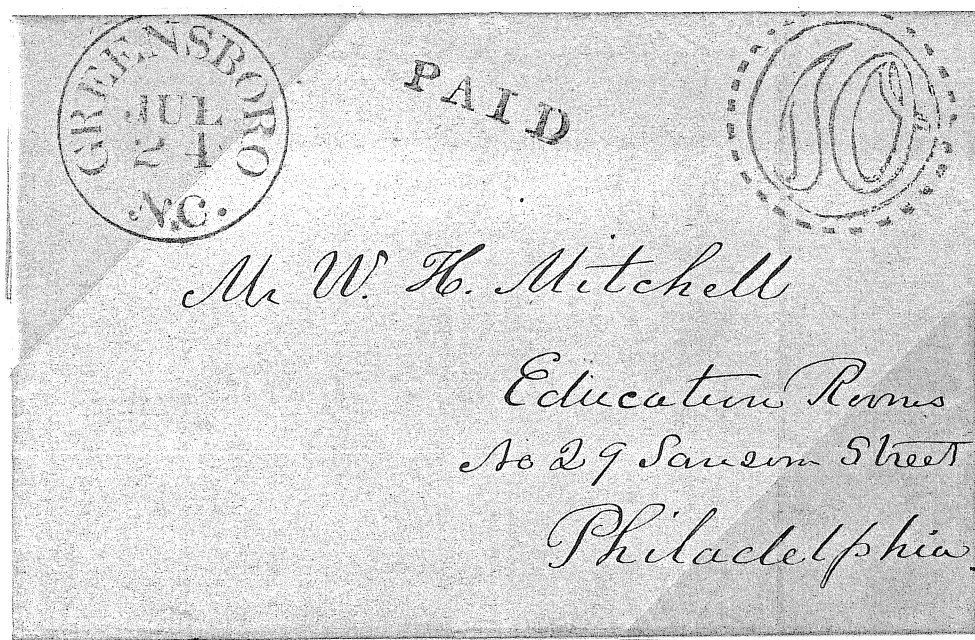


This cover shows a fancy "10" in double circle used as postal marking with "STEAM" on a contract steamboat, the *Marengo*, coming into Rodney, Mississippi in 1847.

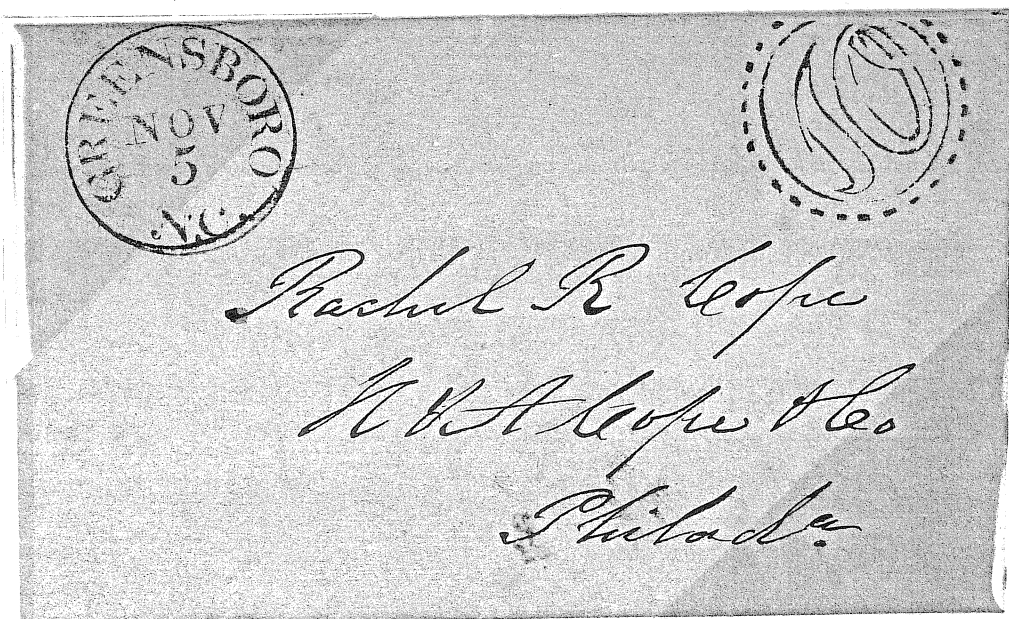


The "10" with hollow numbers and a double rectangular frame is quite an unusual handstamp. It originated at "WADESBORO N.C. JAN 23" (1849).

Auxillary Postal Markings- Numerical Rating Marks

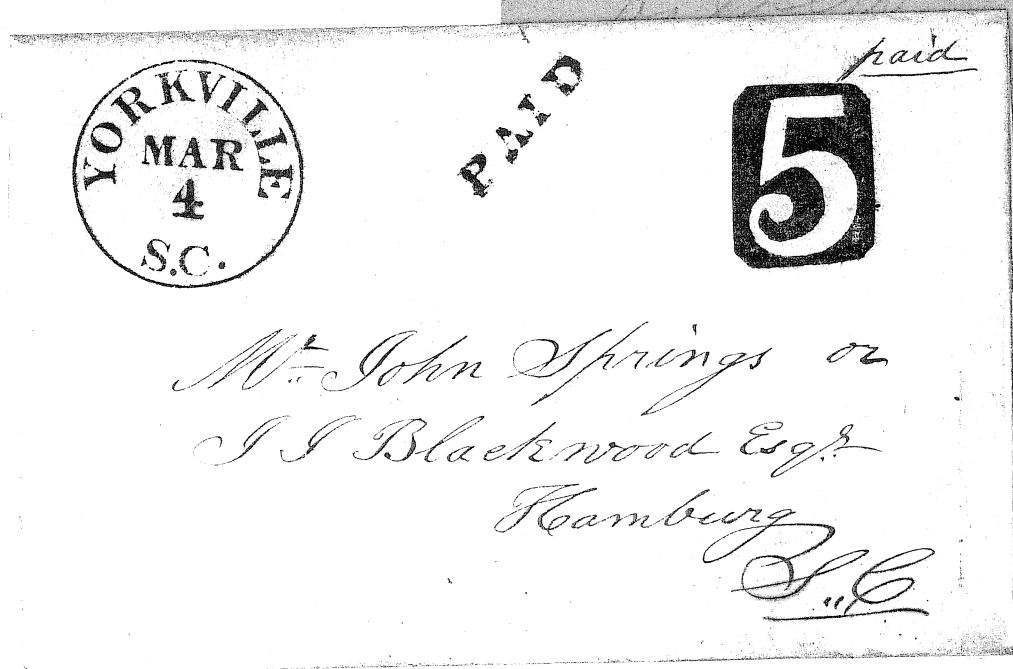
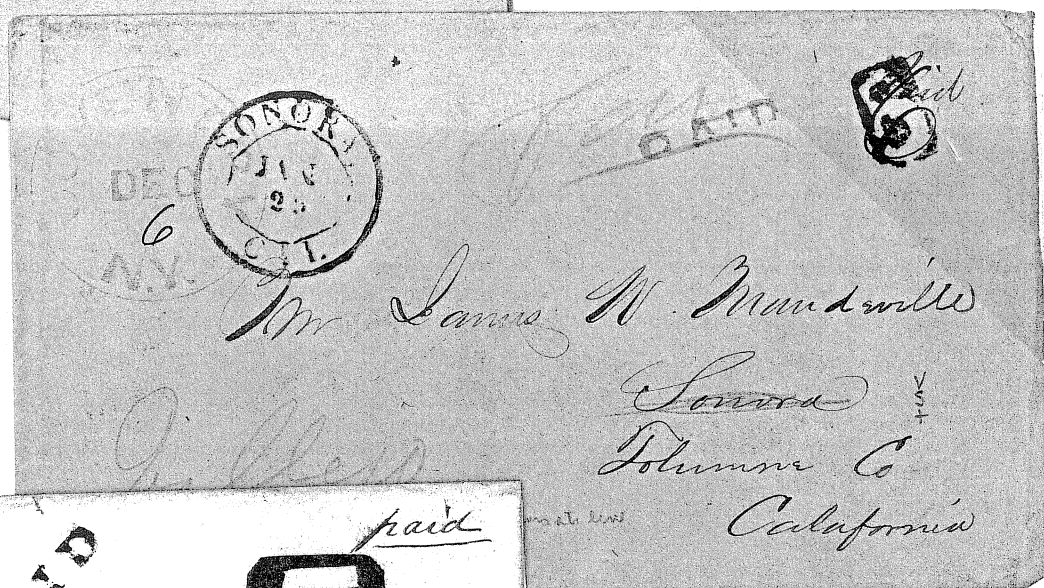


Certainly the most unusual hollow numeral "10" is the script marking with double frame, the outer of which is a dotted circle from "GREENSBORO N.C. JUL 24" (1846).



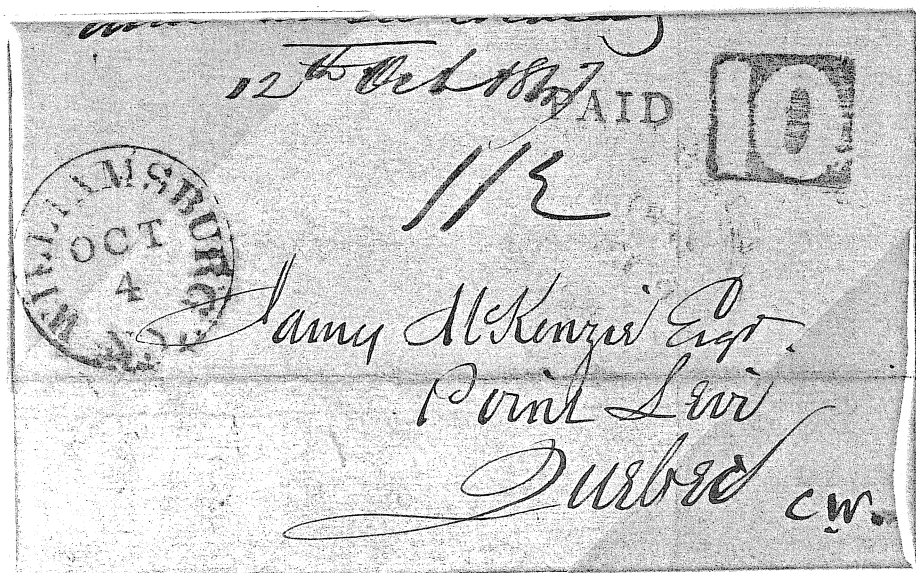
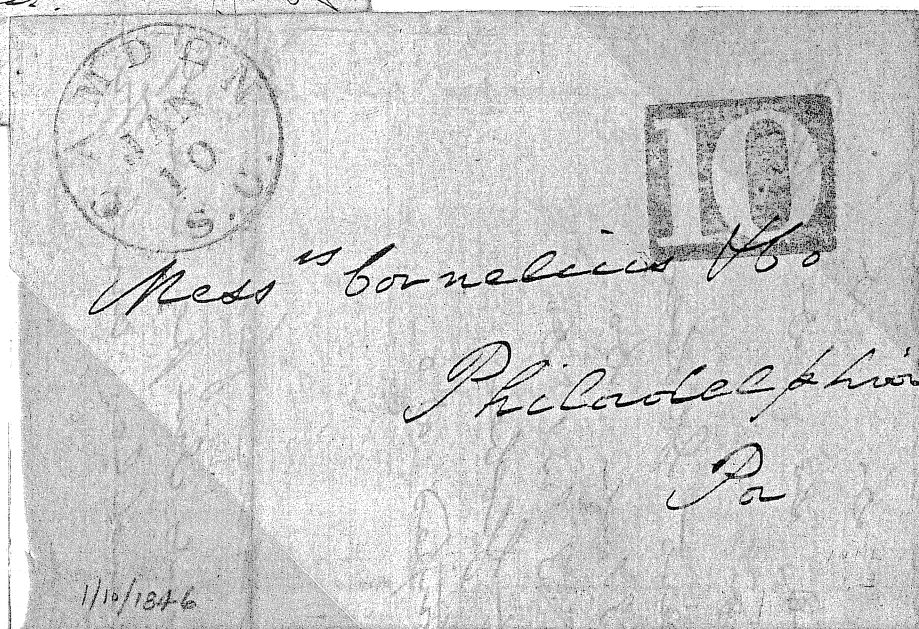
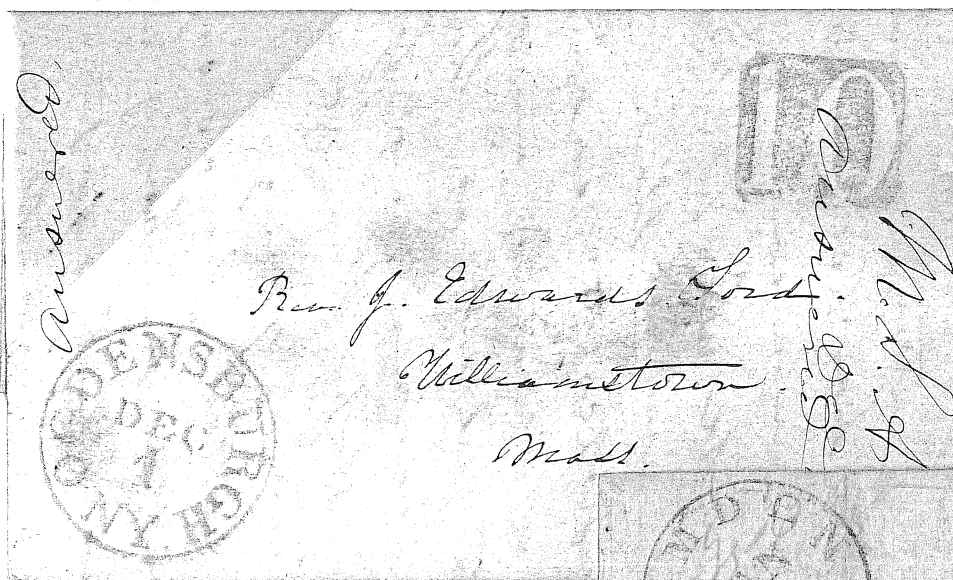
This example "GREENSBORO N.C. NOV 5" (1847) shows the same markings in blue, an unpaid usage.

Auxillary Postal Markings- Numerical Rating Marks



Hollow numerals exist similar to the hollow lettering in town postmarks. These are three "5" examples. The first is "NAUGATUCK CT. OCT 15" (1846) and also has a Philadelphia large blue "R" for unofficial registration. The next is "SONORA CAL. JAN 25" used to forward a letter to Vallejo; the original usage was a "PAID" and "6" from "COVENTRY N.Y. DEC 6". The third cover bears a huge negative "5" with "YORKVILLE S.C. MAR 4" (1846).

Auxillary Postal Markings- Numerical Rating Marks

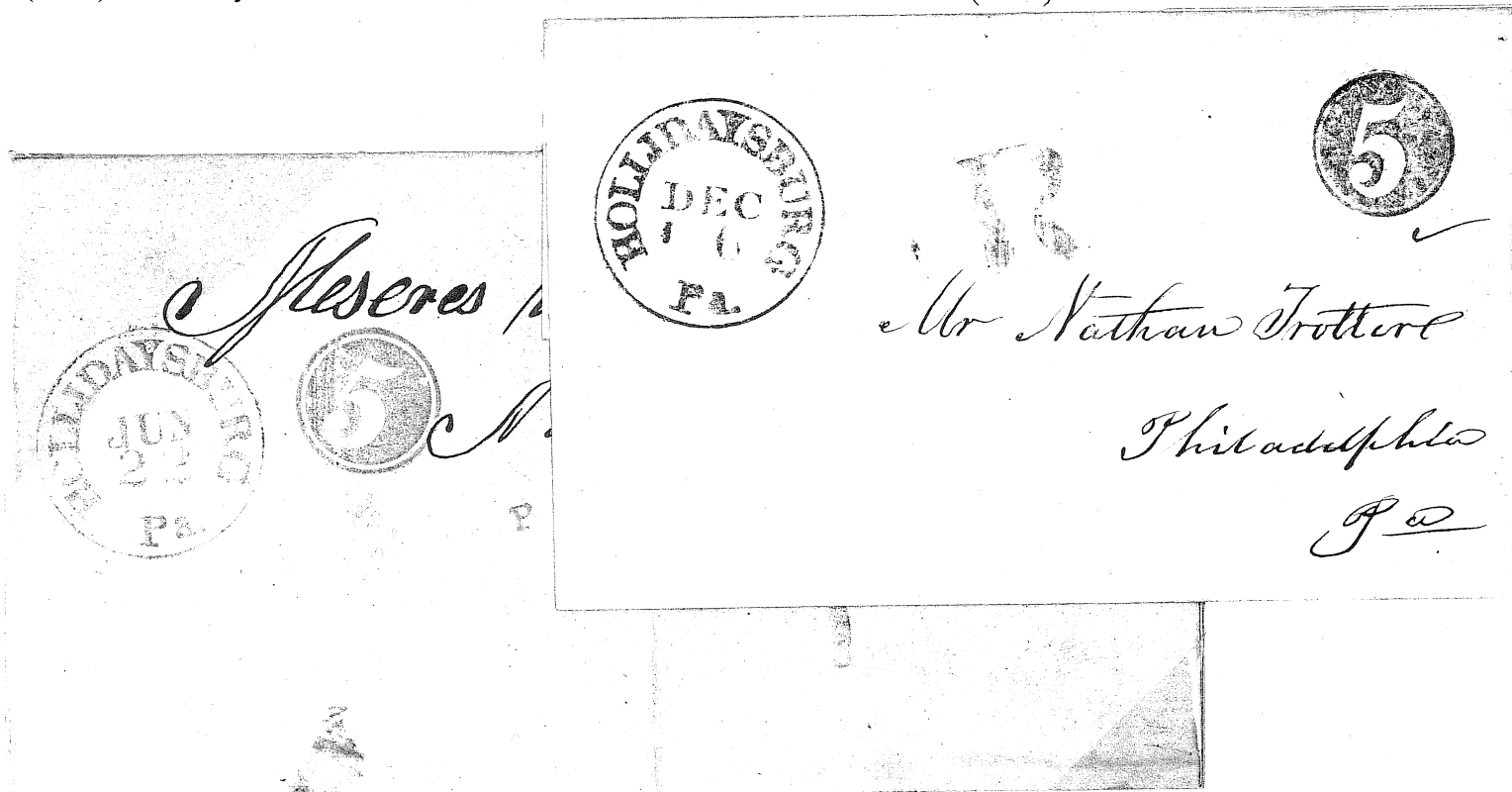


These covers demonstrate the simple negative "10" marks. The first is "OGDENSBURG N.Y. DEC 1" (1847). The marking of "CAMDEN S.C. JAN 10" (1846) is probably the most common type seen. The "WILLIAMSBURG N.Y. OCT 4" (1847) is a nice usage of the marking paying the U.S. rate to Canada. There is a red "QUEBEC U.C. OCT 9 1847" on the reverse.

Auxillary Postal Markings- Numerical Rating Marks



These two covers show negative "5" marks with a circular frame. The first is "McCONNELLSBURG Pa APR 20" (1850) with a tiny "PAID". The other is "WILLIAMSPORT Pa. JUL 31" (1849).



Another town using this mark was "HOLLIDAYSBURG Pa. Dec 16" (1848) with the Philadelphia large blue "R". A matching cover is the red "HOLLIDAYSBURG Pa. JUN 22" (1847) with a lower "5" than the blue marking. It also shows registration with the blue "R".

Auxillary Postal Markings- Numerical Rating Marks



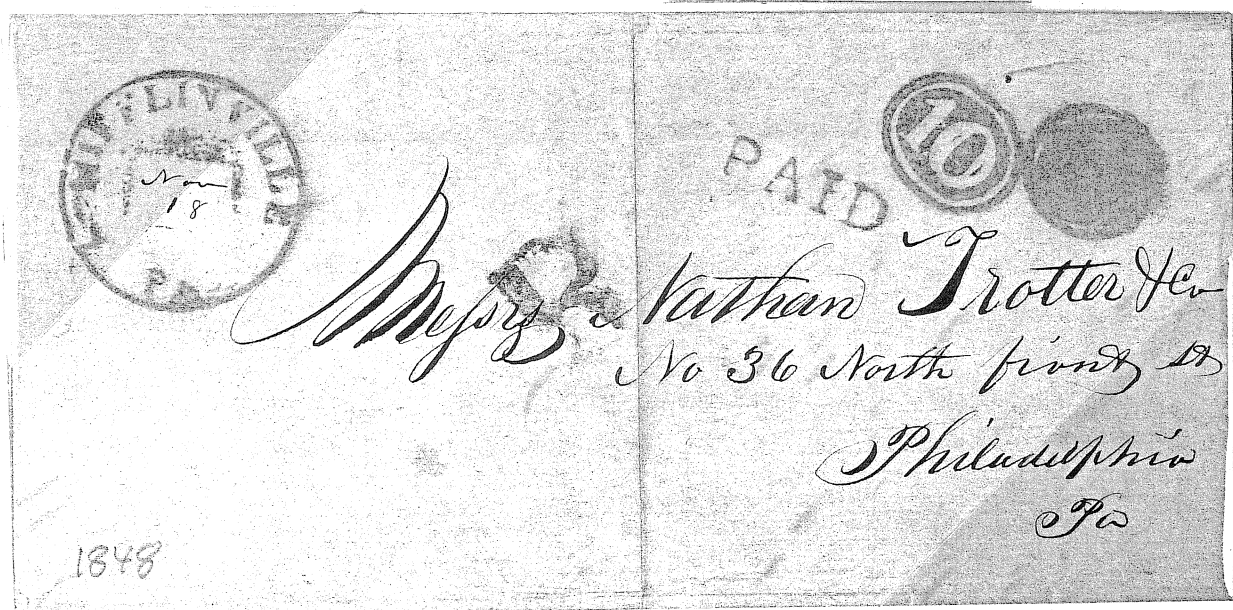
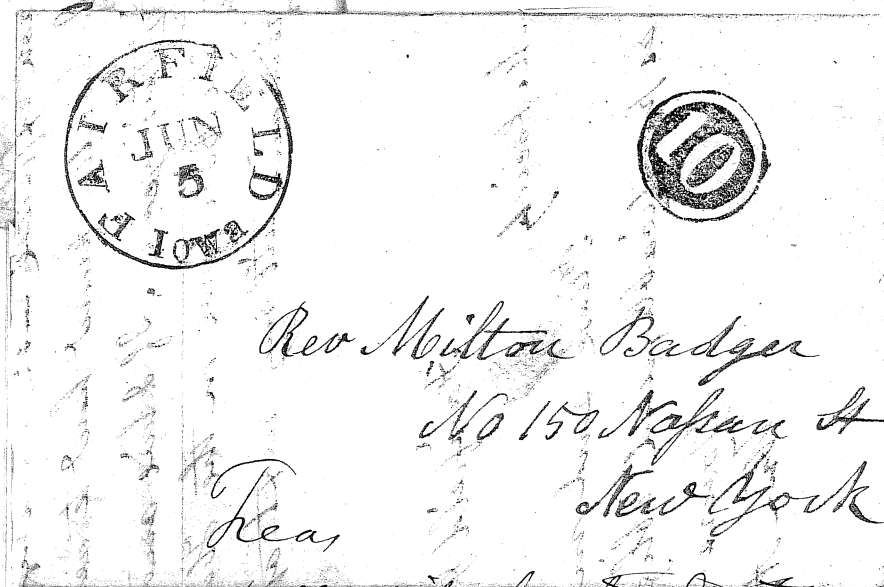
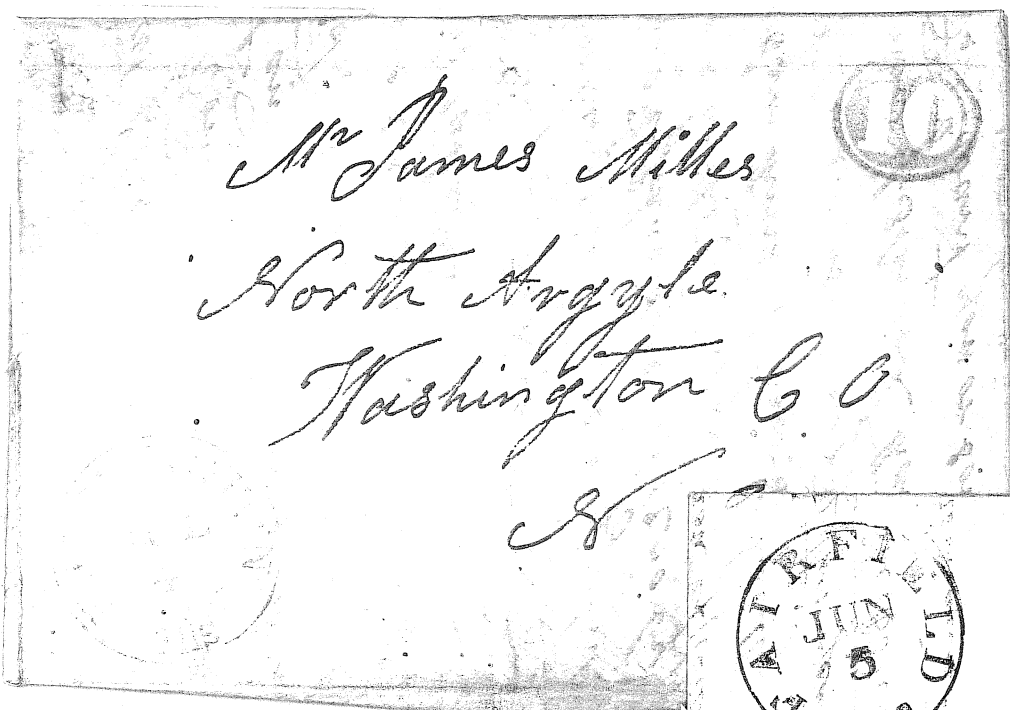
St. Clairsville, Ohio used a series of different negative numerals, both 5 and 10 denominations. Shown here are five different colors of "5" markings, the first in red (1845), the second in olive green(1845), the third in green (1846), the fourth in blue (1847), and the fifth in black (1847).

Auxillary Postal Markings- Numerical Rating Marks



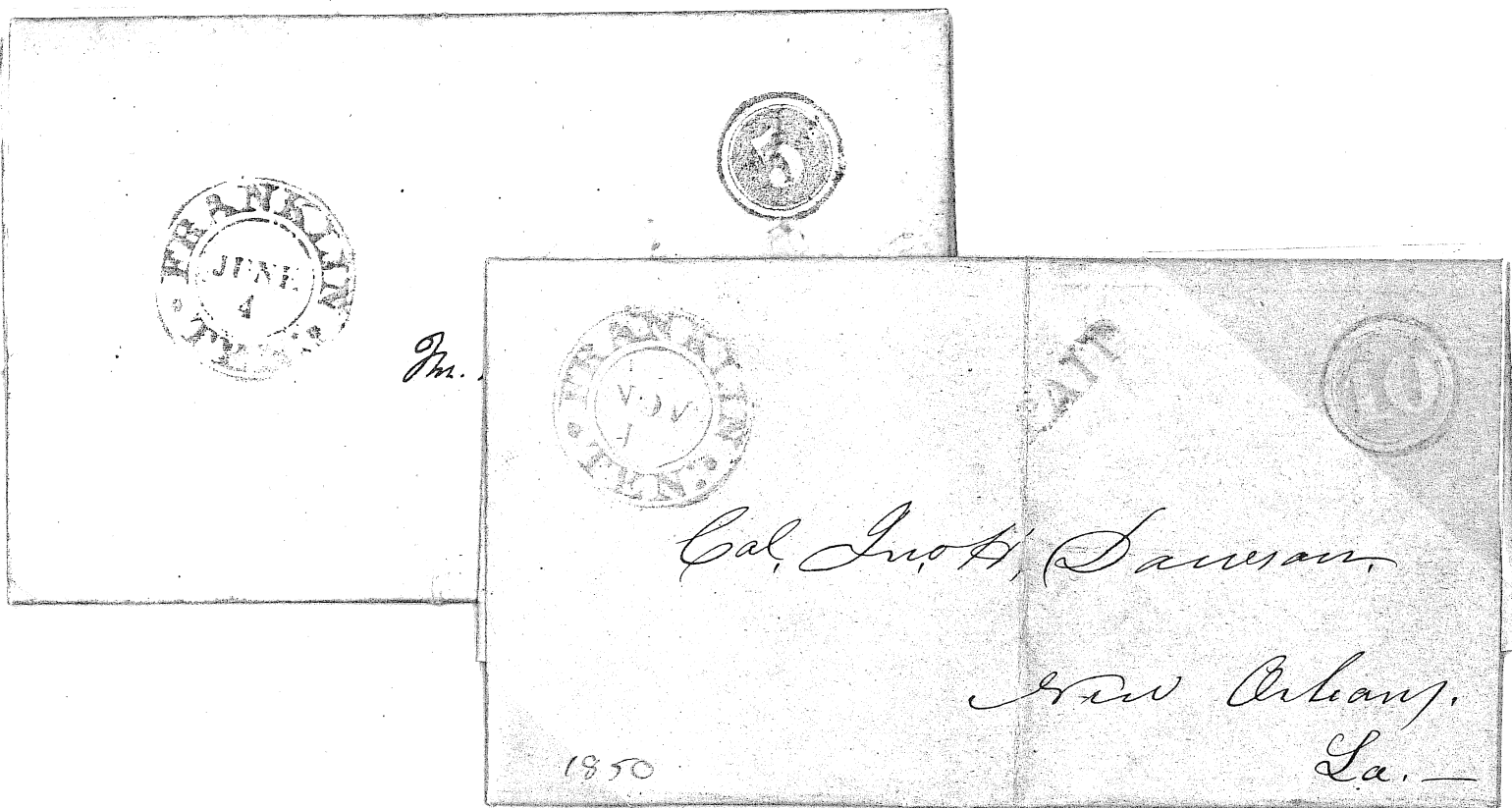
There were similar markings for the 10 cent rate. Covers are shown in red (1845), blue (1847), brownish red (1847), green (1848) and red with stars (1849). The bottom two covers also have blue "R" markings for registration.

Auxillary Postal Markings- Numerical Rating Marks

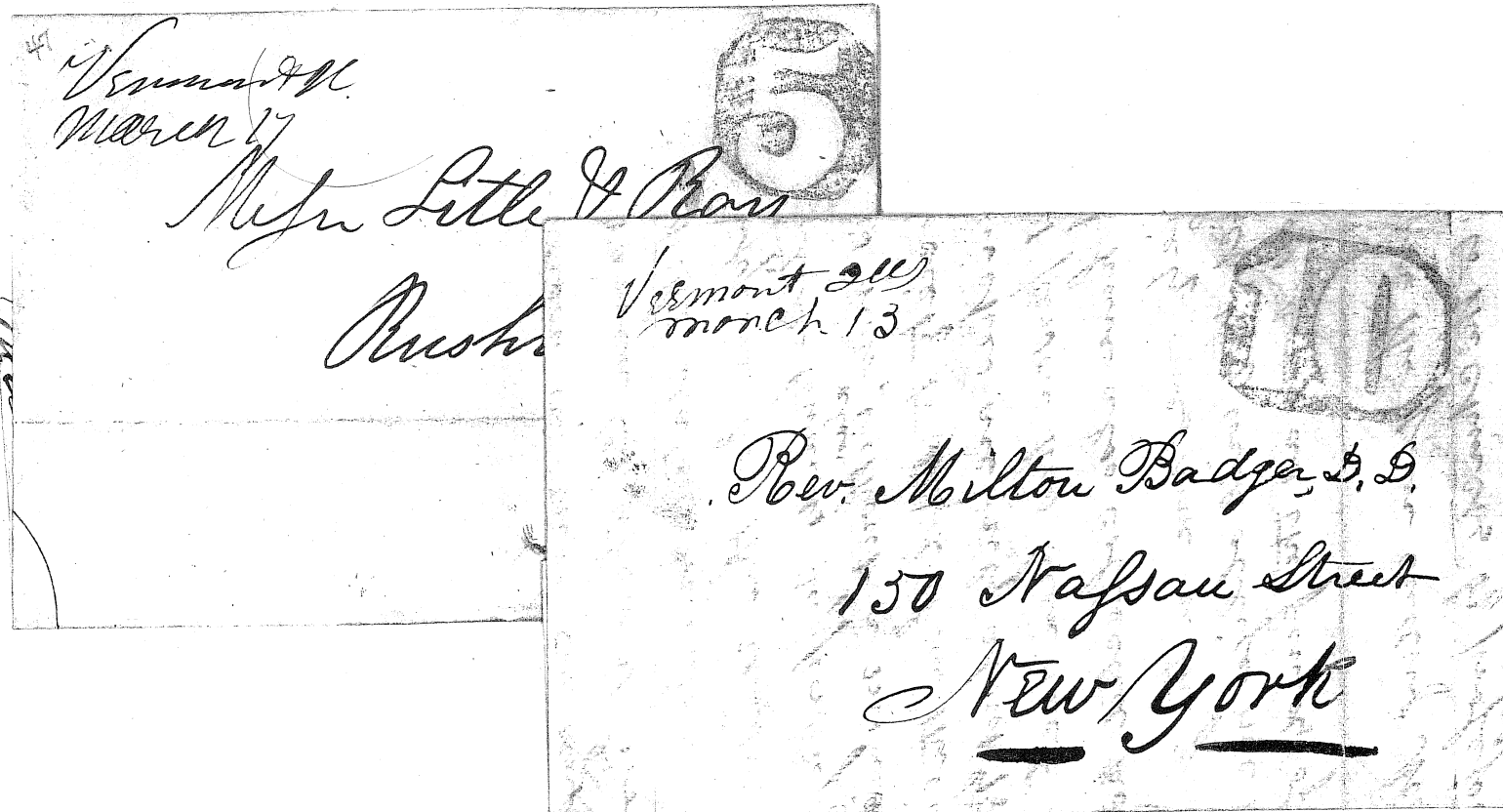


There were framed "10" markings matching the "5" markings. Shown here are red "FARMINGTON Ills. JUL 4" (1844) on letter describing farming on the prairie. The black "FAIRFIELD Iowa JUN 5" (1849) is a simple carved cork. The last in blue "MIFFLINVILLE Pa. Nov 18" (1848) bears a "PAID" and "10" (note dashes of color in 0); the "10" is an oval. To the right is a circular "5" that was obliterated. The letter was registered with Philadelphia "R".

Auxillary Postal Markings- Numerical Rating Marks



These two 1850 covers from Franklin, Tennessee show matched negative "5" and "10" numbers with double frame lines.

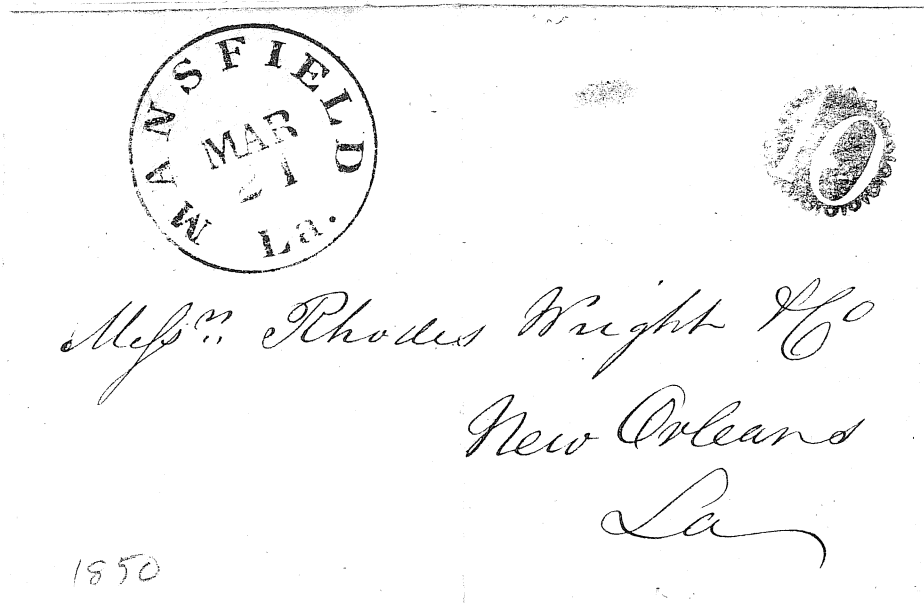


It is uncommon for fancy numeral postmarks to be used with manuscript town markings. Here is a pair of such handstamps with manuscript "Vermont Ills March 17" (1847) with the "5", and the "10" just four days later.

Auxillary Postal Markings- Numerical Rating Marks

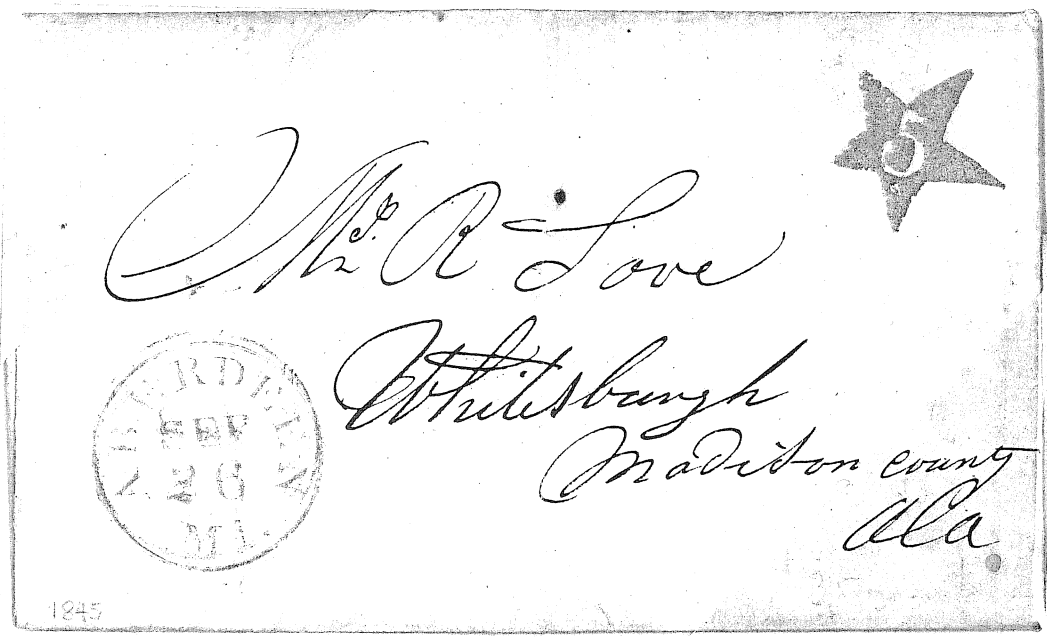


This pair of covers shows dissimilar fancy negative rating marks. The "5" is a unusual script type of marking "OBERLIN O. SEP 23" (1847). And the "10" has an unusual 0 and the outer rectangle is cogged, "OBERLIN O. JUL 24" (1847).

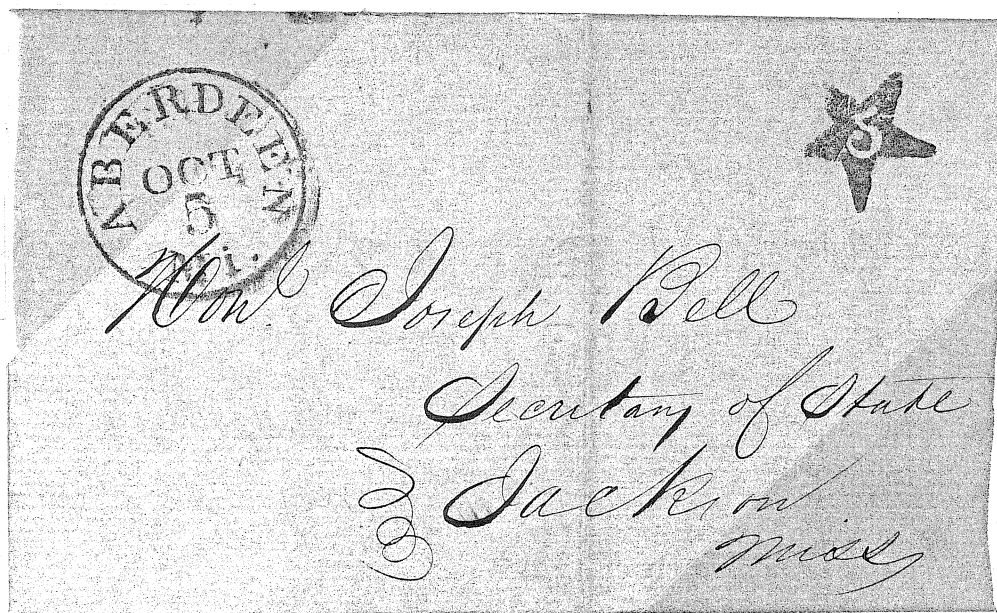


This "MANSFIELD La. MAR 21" (1850) cover has a negative "10" in a field which demonstrates alternative cogs and loops, a very unusual rating mark.

Auxillary Postal Markings- Numerical Rating Marks

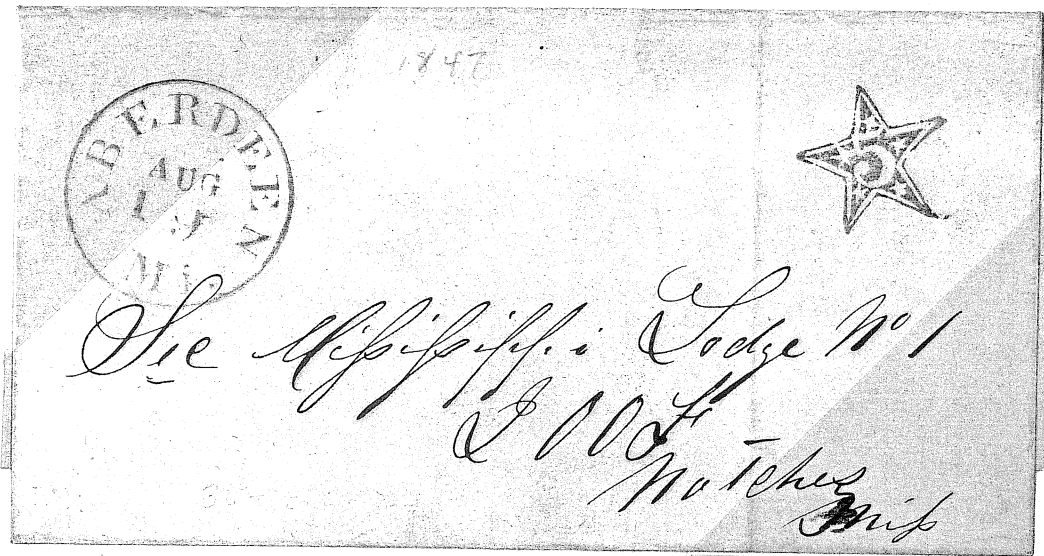


One of the most fancy types of rating marks are the negative numerals with stars. The most simple is a negative “5” in a star shaped field of color. This “ABERDEEN Mi. Sep 26” (1845) is an early usage with a red “5” in star.

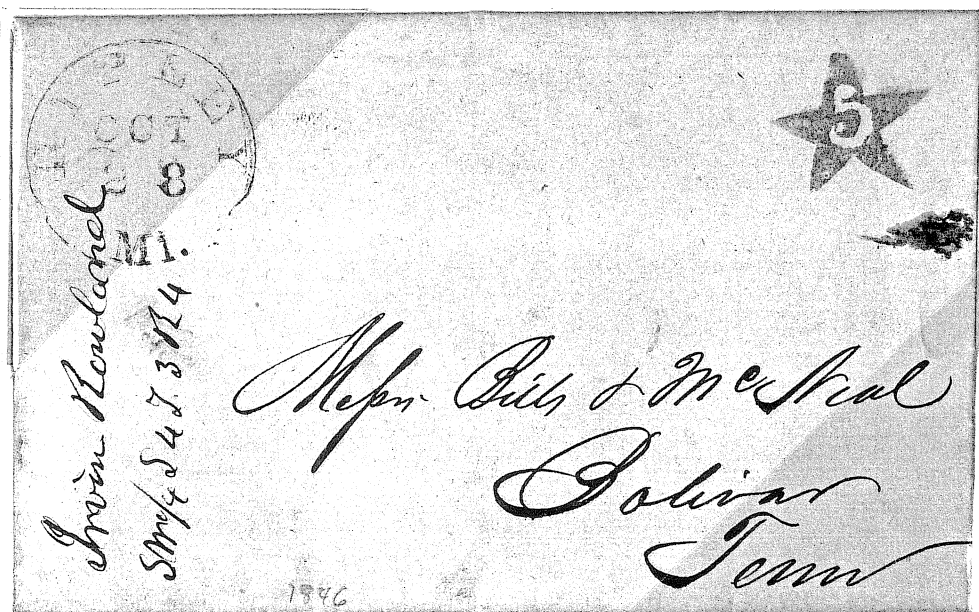


This cover “ABERDEEN Mi. OCT 5” (1850) is a different marking although similar format. The number of different rate markings that resemble each other has not been resolved; there are at least three.

Auxillary Postal Markings- Numerical Rating Marks

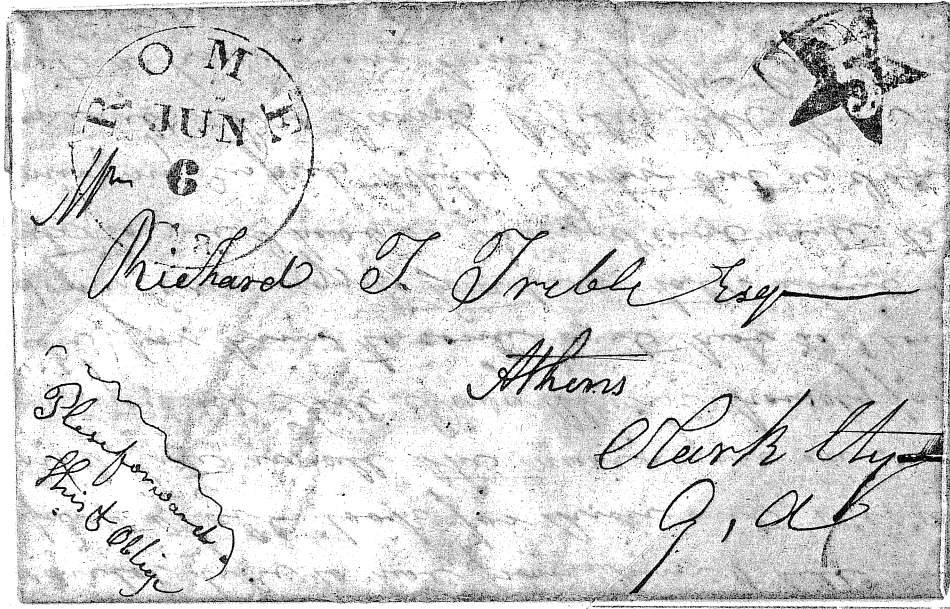


The "ABERDEEN Mi. AUG 19" (1847) usage here shows five stars in each of the points of the central star and a star shaped outer frame line.

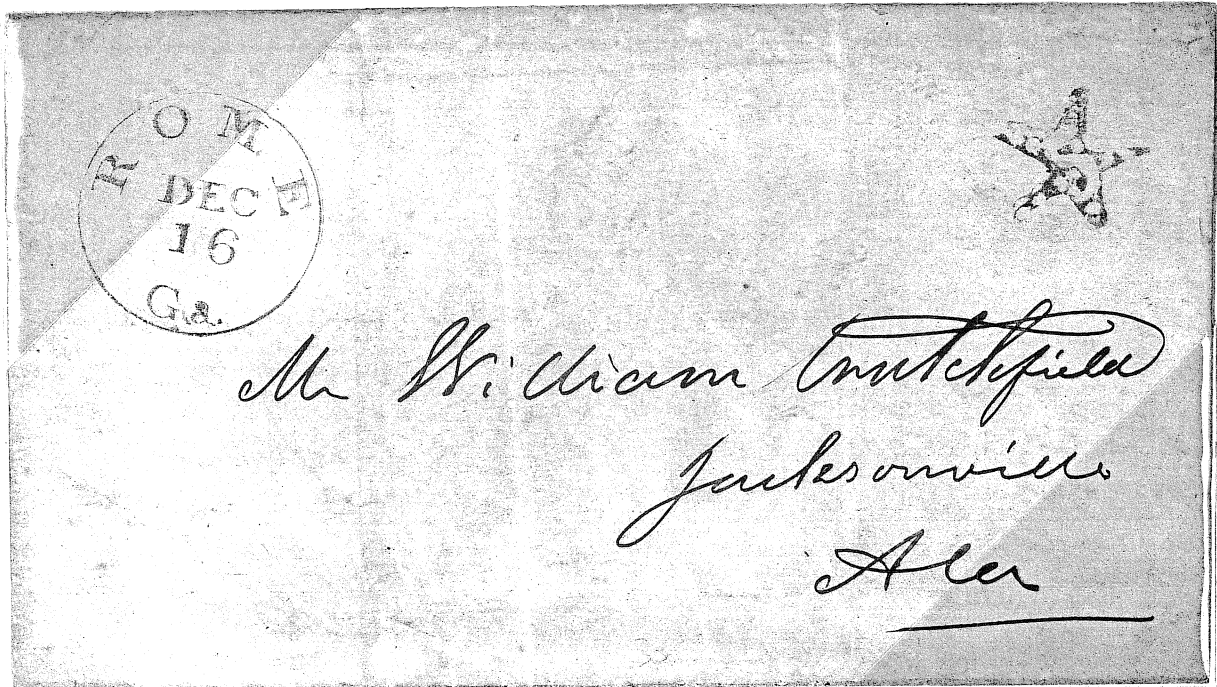


This green "RIPLEY Mi. OCT 28" (1846) has a red negative "5" in a star for rating mark. Only known example. There is also a heart shaped field with rating numeral known from this town, also very rare.

Auxillary Postal Markings- Numerical Rating Marks

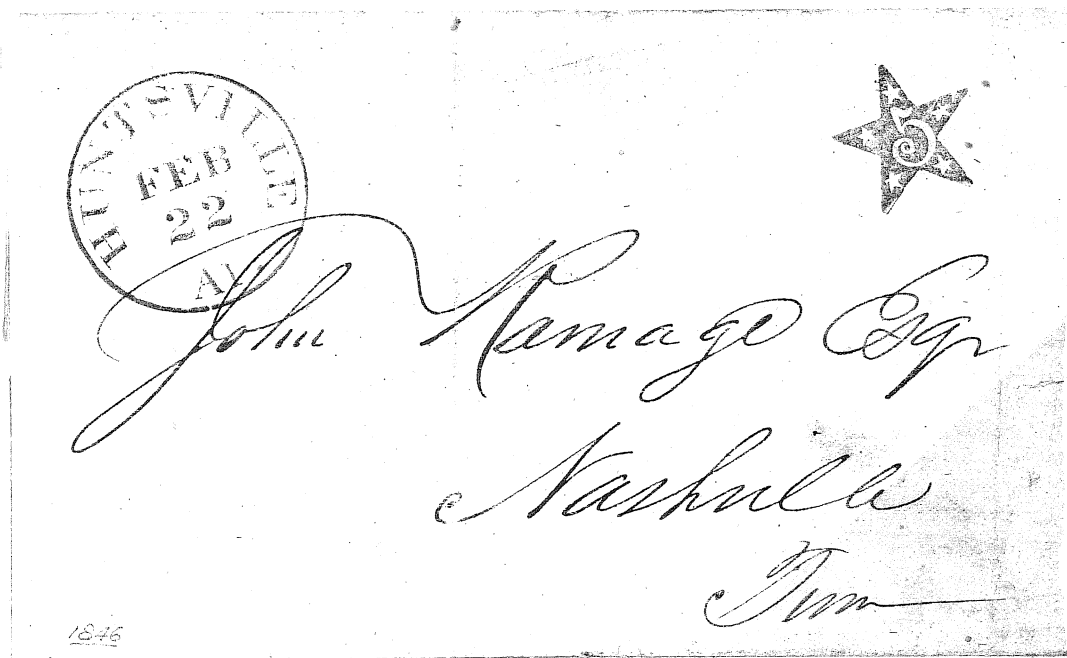


Another town with negative “5” markings in stars was Rome, Georgia. This “ROME Ga. JUN 6” (1847) shows one of several types of handstamps that are similar to each other.

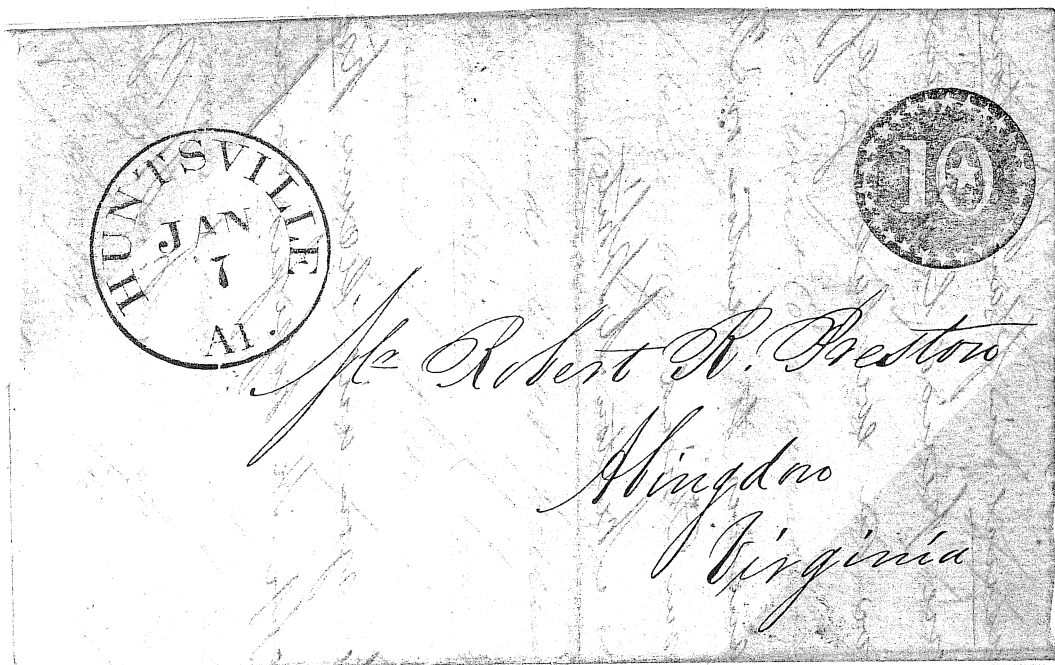


This "ROME Ga. DEC 16" (1848) shows many small colorless circles within the points of the stars, a fairly crude version of the elegant Aberdeen marking.

Auxillary Postal Markings- Numerical Rating Marks

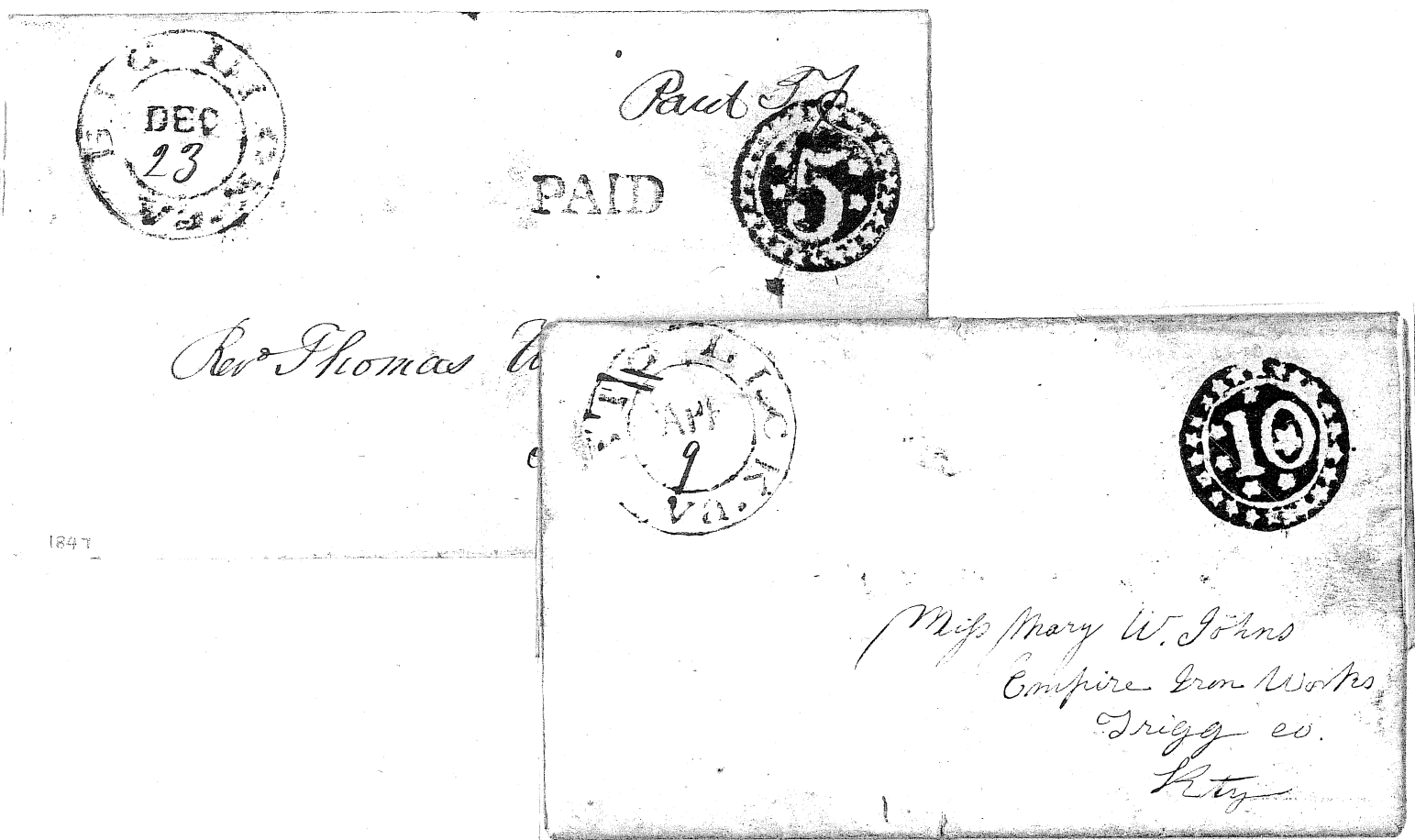


The best known of the fancy negative "5" in star markings is the one shown here "HUNTSVILLE AL. FEB 22" (1846) which almost certainly is a metallic marking rather than a cork.

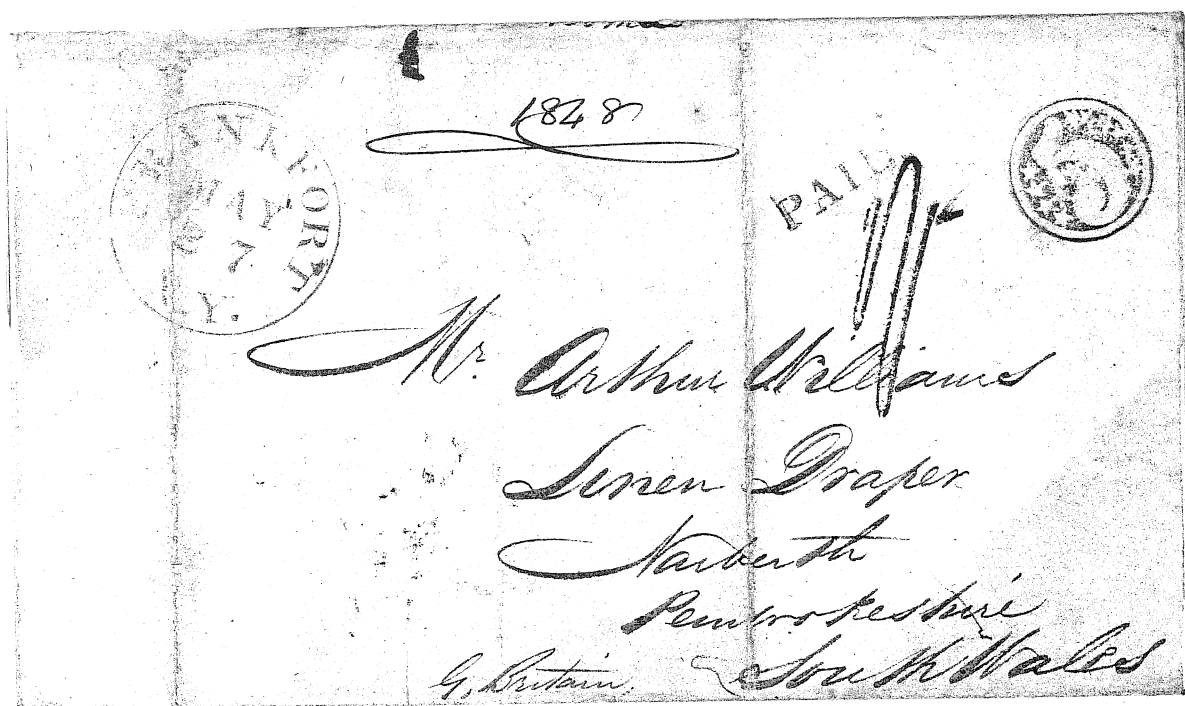


There is a very fancy negative "10" within a circular field with multiple stars, "HUNTSVILLE AL. JAN 7" (1847) which fortunately is not too rare.

Auxillary Postal Markings- Numerical Rating Marks

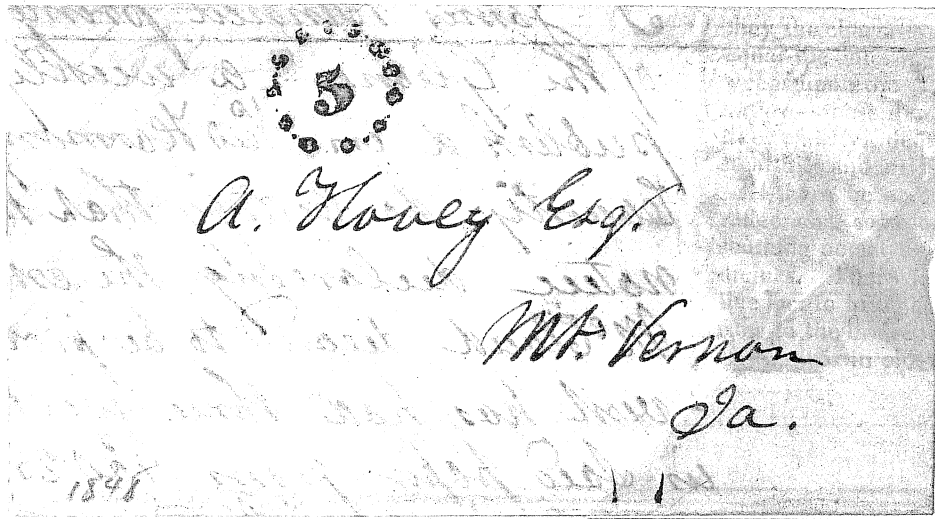


This pair of covers "BIG LICK Va. DEC 23" (1847) with the "5" mark and "BIG LICK Va. APR 9" (1847) with the "10" variety show markings that may have been influenced by the Huntsville "10".

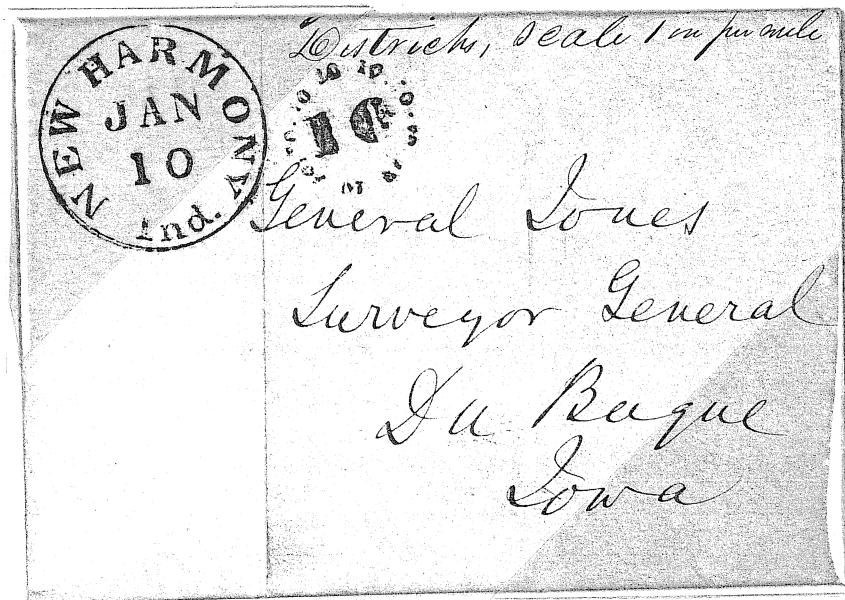


This cover with "FRANKFORT N.Y. MAY 27" (1848) has a "PAID" and "5" in negative field with stars. It was sent by packet to Great Britain with 1/- due. The marking also comes in a prussian blue shade of ink.

Auxillary Postal Markings- Numerical Rating Marks

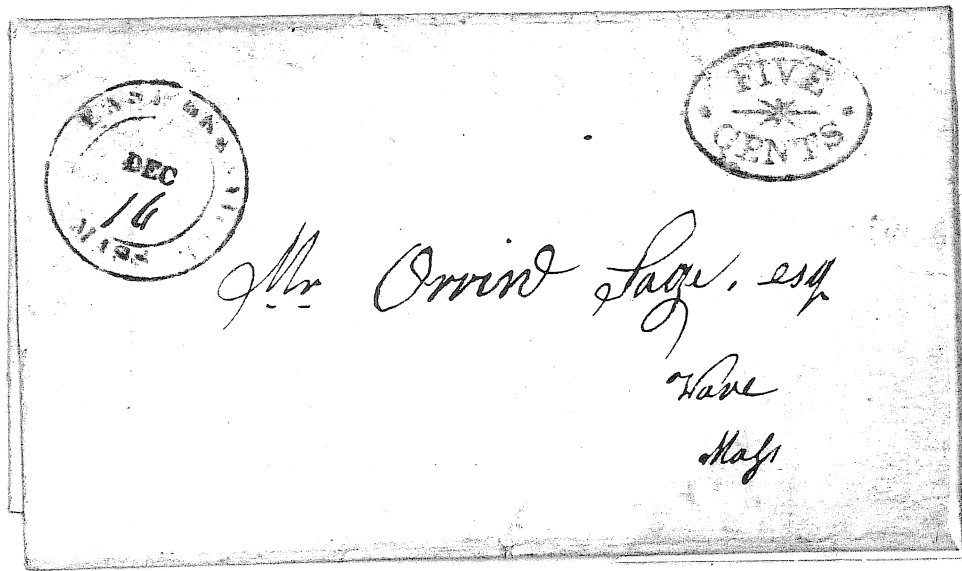


New Harmony, Indiana had a pair of rating marks with the numeral surrounded by a ring of tiny similar numeral. This "5" shows tiny 5's, most clear at top, with 1848 usage, no town marking.

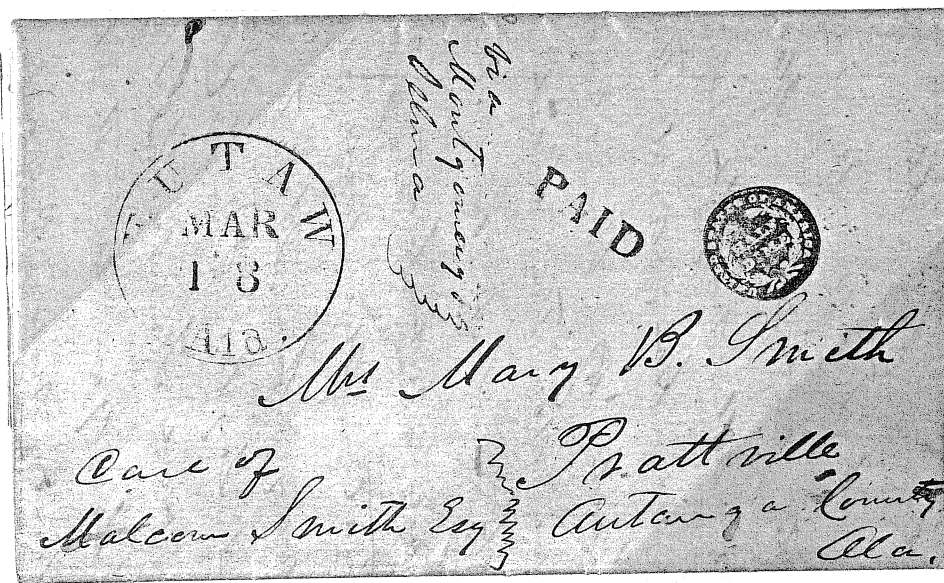


The "NEW HARMONY Ind. JAN 10" (1848) cover has a "10" with tiny 10's which are quite clearly seen.

Auxillary Postal Markings- Numerical Rating Marks

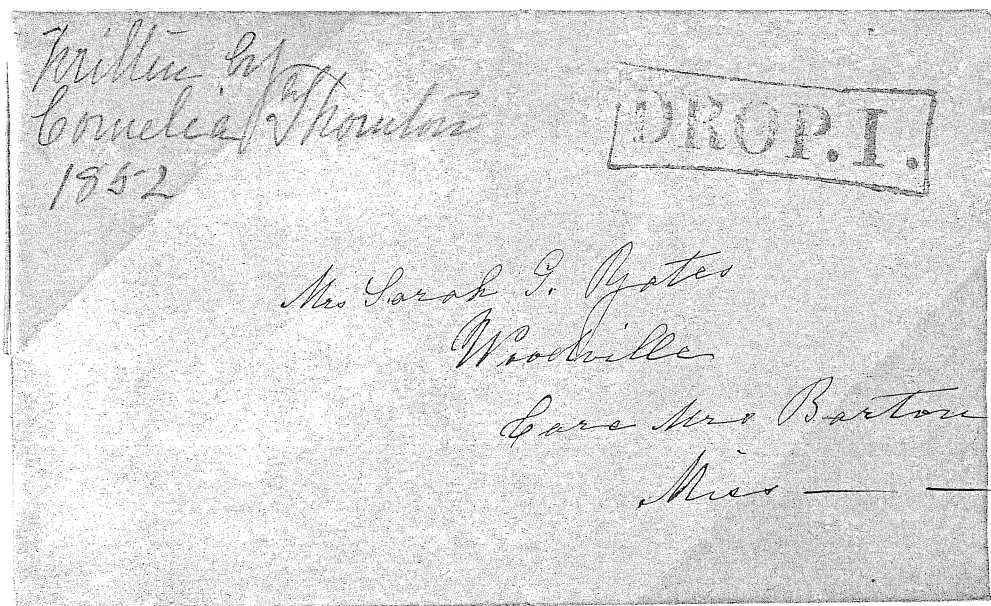


This ornamented oval with "FIVE CENTS" is usually seen from "EAST GRANVILLE MASS DEC 14" (1850). It is certainly one of the unusual numerical markings.



The dime and half dime fascimiles of the current coinage from "EUTAW Ala. MAR 18" (1848) is probably the most fancy numerical postmark. The five cent marking is the more common and comes also in red ink. It is often not clear; this example is very clear.

Auxillary Postal Markings- Numerical Rating Marks

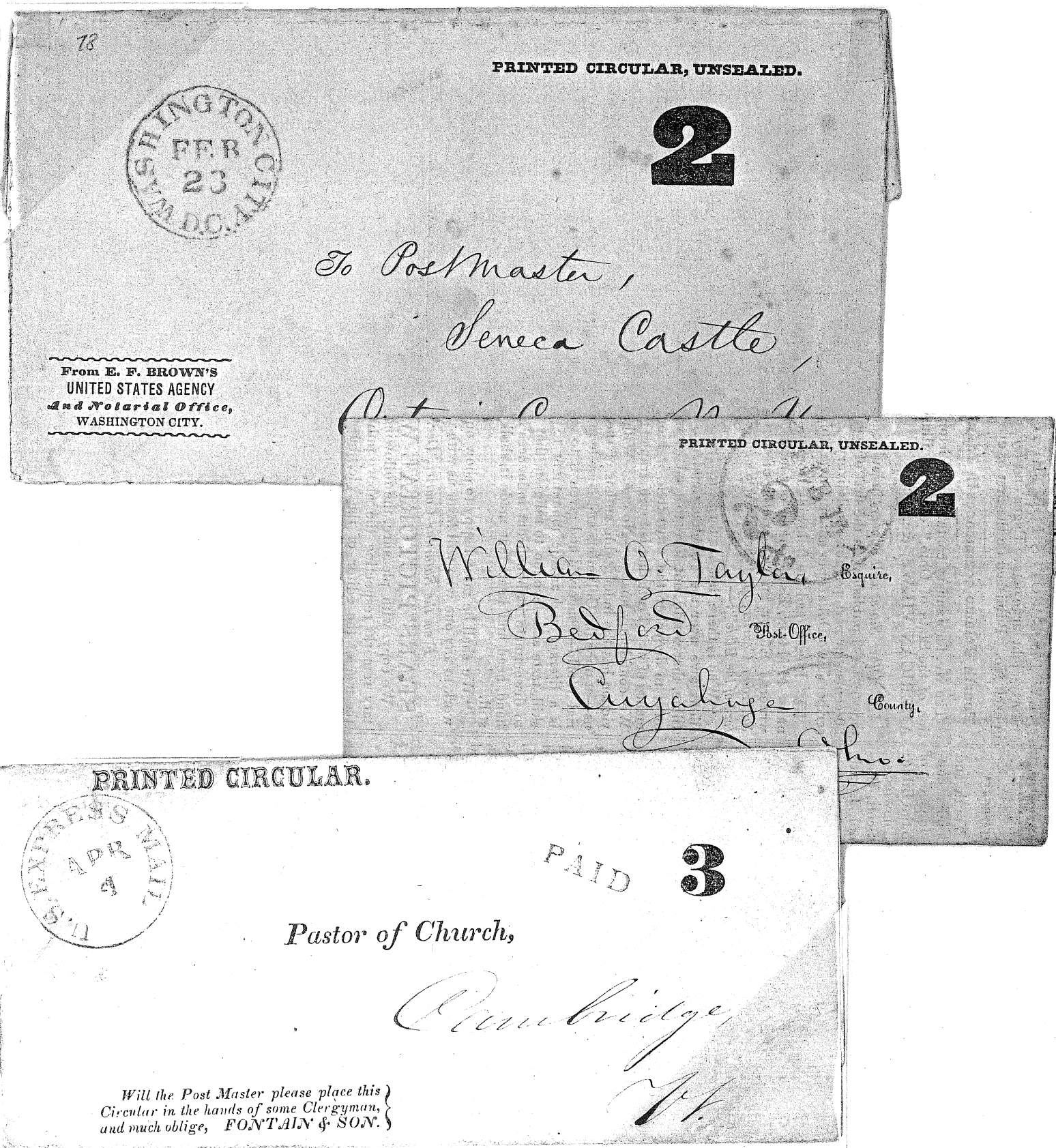


There are a few other markings for rates other than five and ten cents, but very few of these are fancy. This red "DROP.1." in fancy frame with curved sides from Woodville, Mississippi shows a usage in 1852.



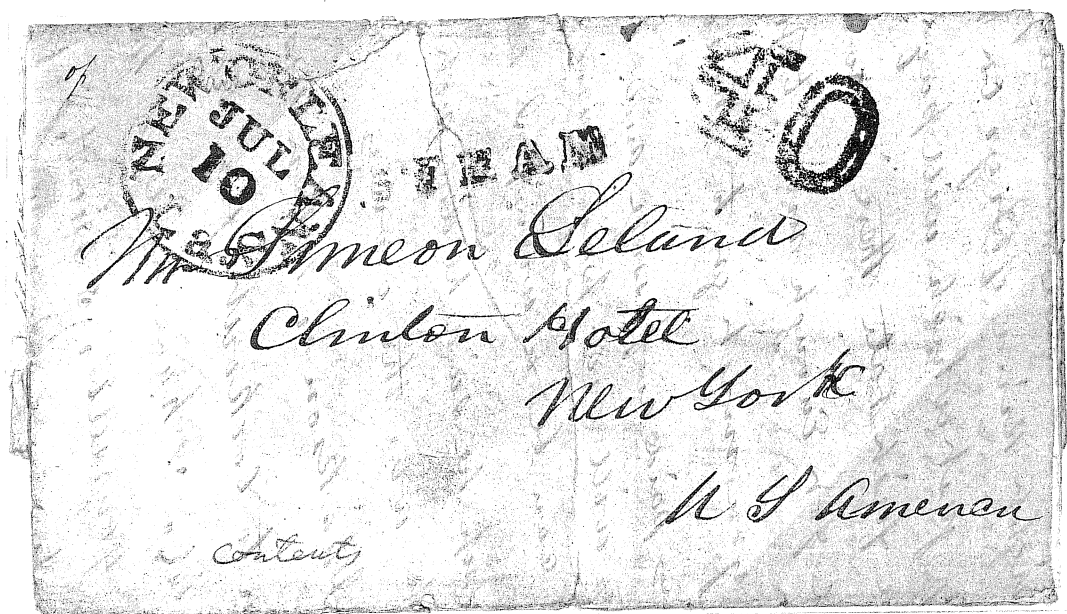
The earlier drop letter rate was two cents. This valentine "BINGHAMTON N.Y. FEB 12" also has a large "2" with "BOX" within a fancy scroll.

Auxillary Postal Markings- Numerical Rating Marks



Printed numerical markings on printed circulars were created by the printers of the circulars, but were used by the post offices from which they were mailed. All are very rare. The "WASHINGTON CITY D.C. FEB 23" (1845) example shows the 2 cent rate in 1845. A very similar but smaller "2" is shown on a 1847 New York circular. And the "U.S. EXPRESS MAIL APR 7" (1847) is a route agent marking showing a three cent rate on another Washington circular.

Auxillary Postal Markings- Numerical Rating Marks

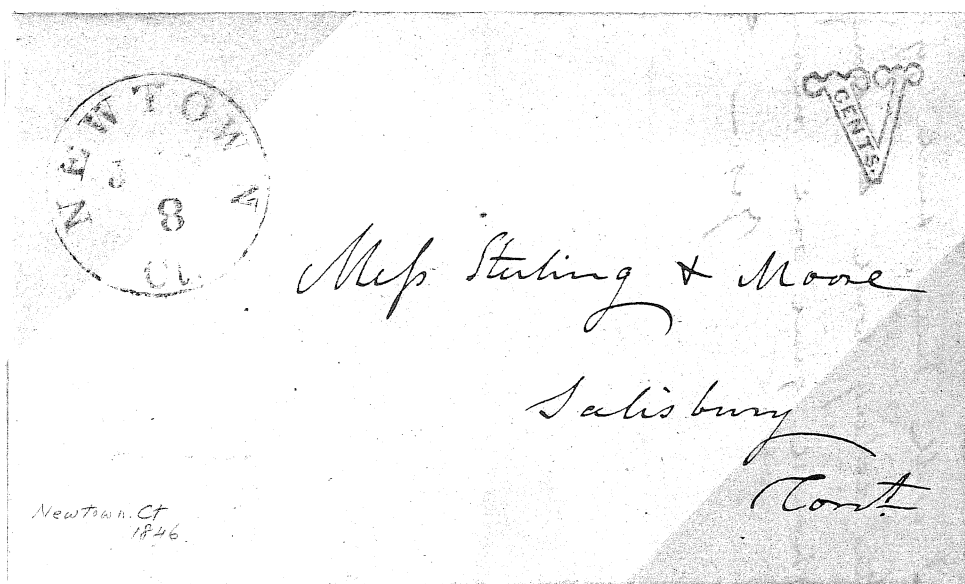


There are also a few unusual higher rate markings. The "40" in hollow lettering has been seen on letters originating from the west coast of South America, mostly from miners bound to California. The other postmarks "NEW ORLEANS La. JUL 10" (1849) and "STEAM" were used on steamship mail. The rate from Panama should have been 30 cents, not 40 cents, but there are a number of similar covers with contents, so these are not double rate 20 cent usages from Chagres.

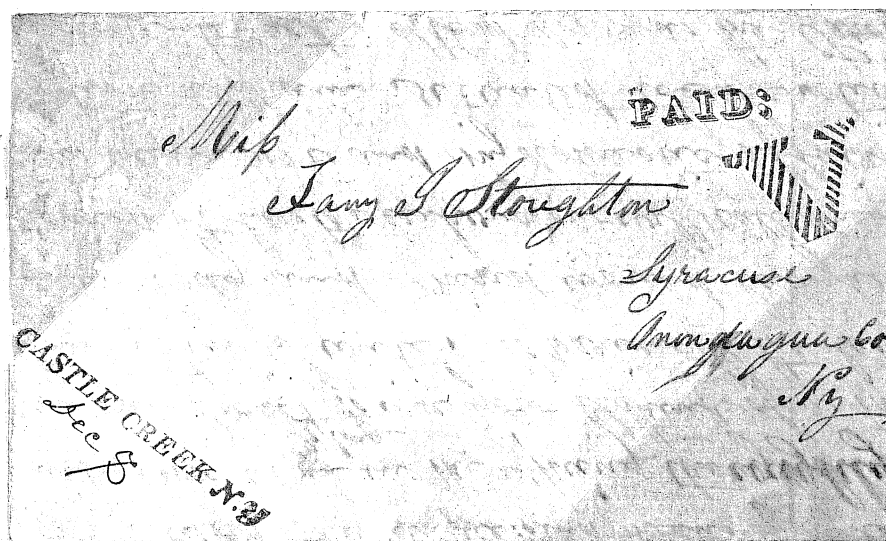


This "SACRAMENTO CAL. MAR 28" (1850) oval is accompanied with "PAID 40." in double oval, one within. This is the only known example. The "SACRAMENTO CAL. 27 JUNE 40" (1850) cover shows a unframed arch "PAID".

Auxillary Postal Markings- Roman Numeral Rating Marks

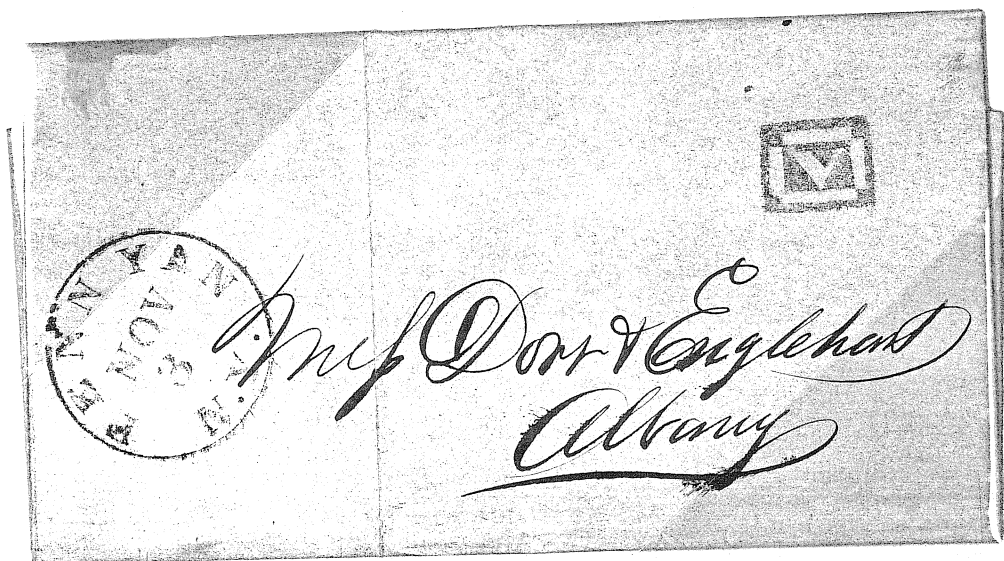
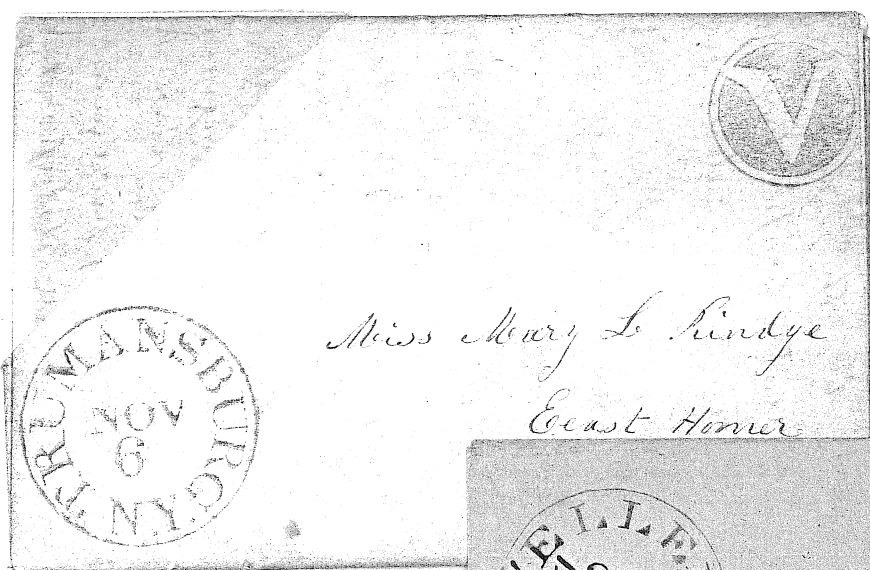


Roman numerals "V" were used instead of "5" at many post offices. This example "NEWTOWN Ct JUN 8" (1846) shows a fancy "V" with "CENTS." within one arm.



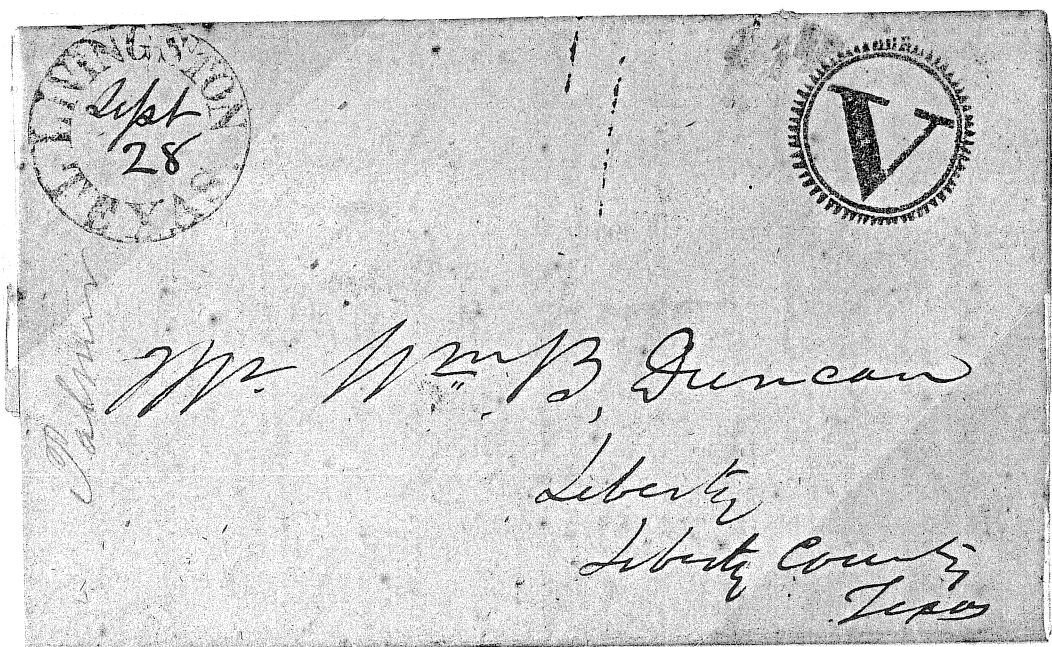
This well-known cover has unusual lettering in the straight line "CASTLE CREEK N.Y. Dec 5" (1848), in the "PAID:" with shaded lettering, and in the rating mark "V" which is very striking. Only known example.

Auxillary Postal Markings- Roman Numeral Rating Marks

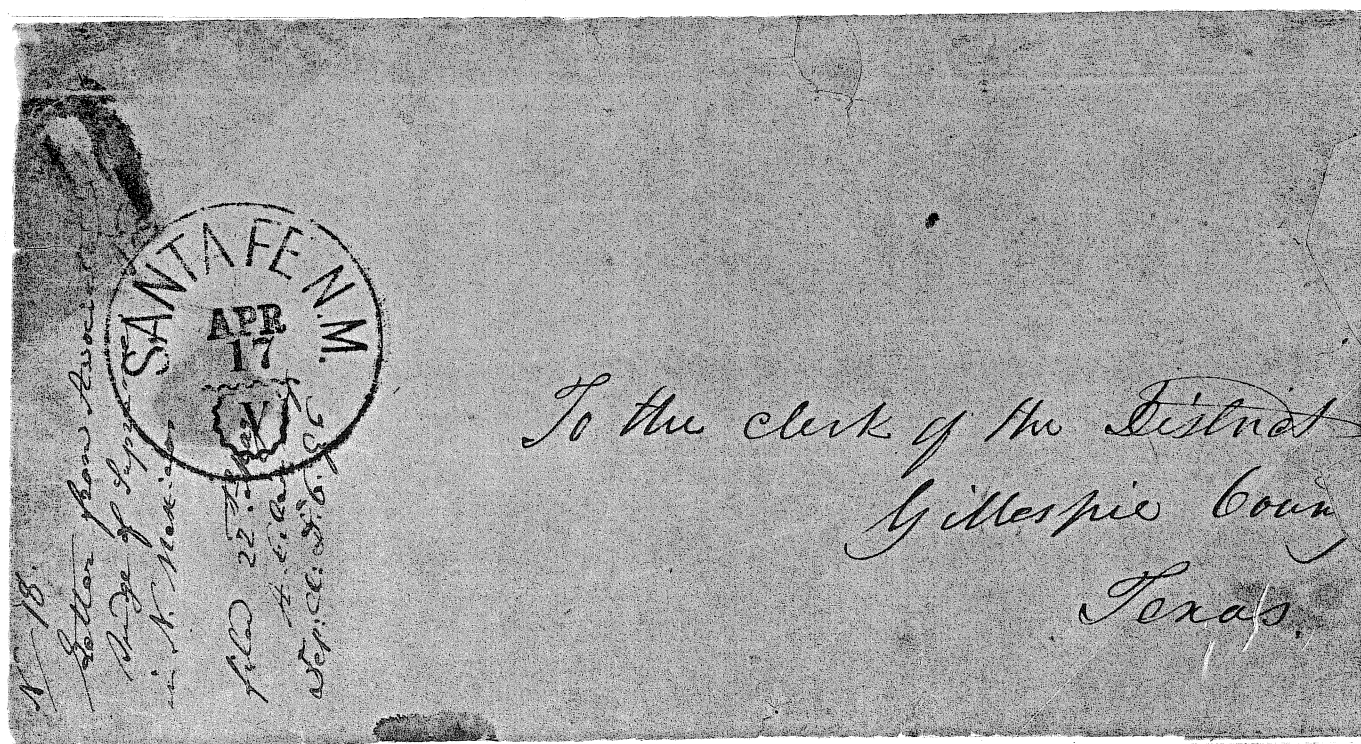


These are three different types of unusual negative "V" markings. The red "TRUMANSBURG N.Y. NOV 6" (1847) shows a negative "V" with circular frame. The "BELLEVUE O. 26 MAY" (1851) has a blue negative "V" with the colored field matching the shape of the letter. The blue "PENN YAN N.Y. NOV 3" (1848) shows the negative "V" surrounded by a negative space within a colored rectangle.

Auxillary Postal Markings- Roman Numeral Rating Marks

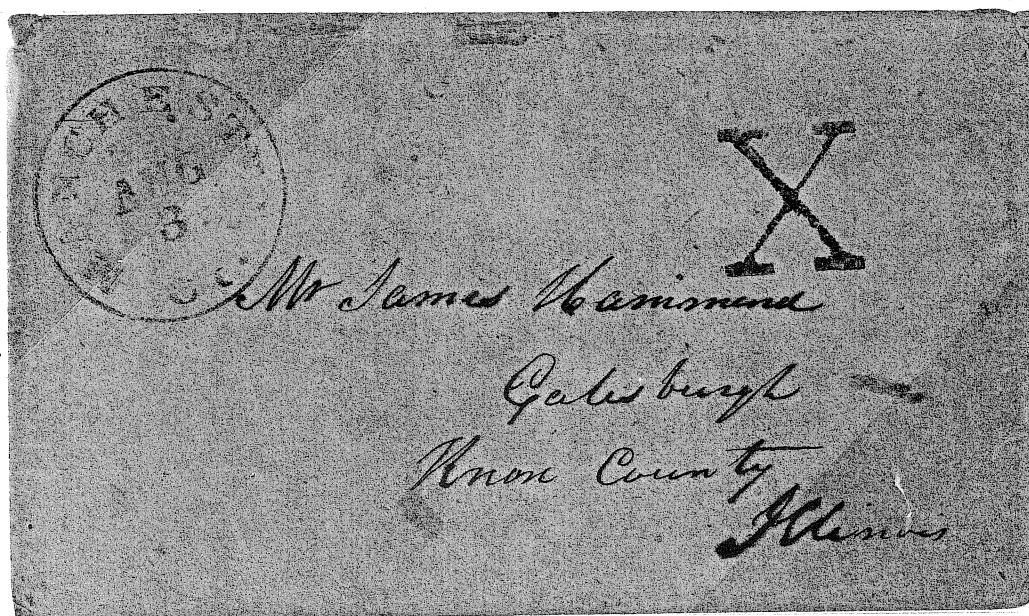


This "V" within the very fancy cogged double circular frame with "LIVINGSTON TEXAS. Sept 28' (1848) is an example of a fancy frame around a Roman numeral rating mark.

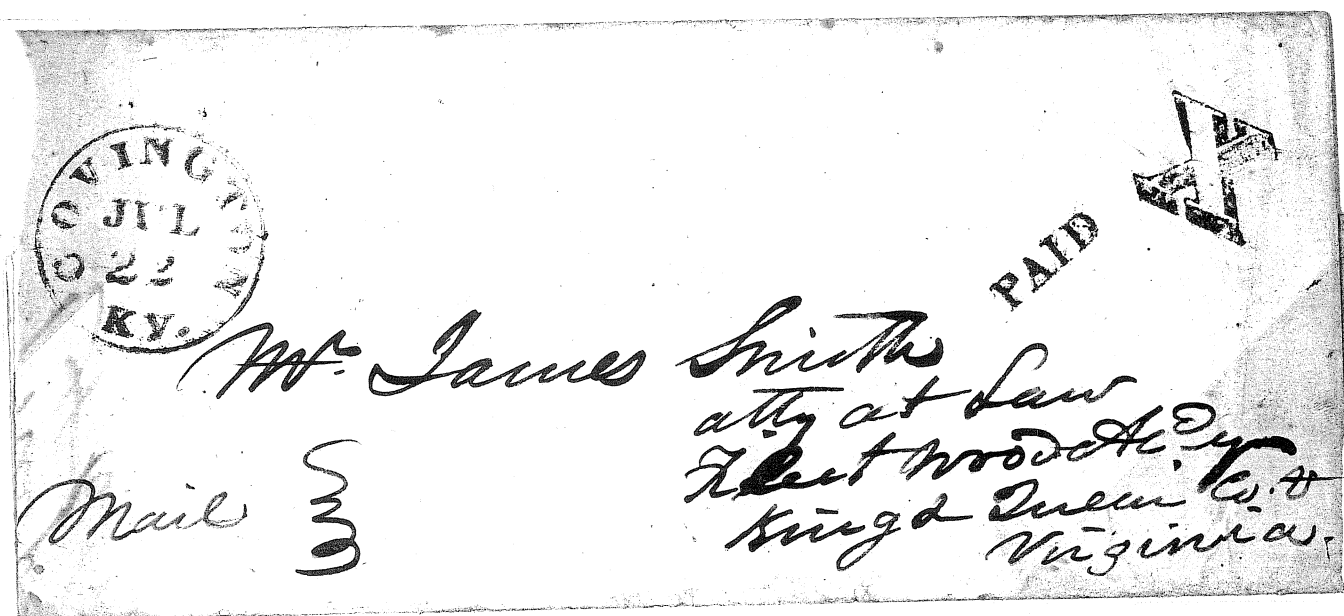


This unusual marking "SANTA FE N.M. APR 17 V" (V within serrated frame) is a fancy rating marking incorporated into a town postmark. This device was from New Mexico Territory about 1853 with two known examples of which this is the earlier.

Auxillary Postal Markings- Roman Numeral Rating Marks

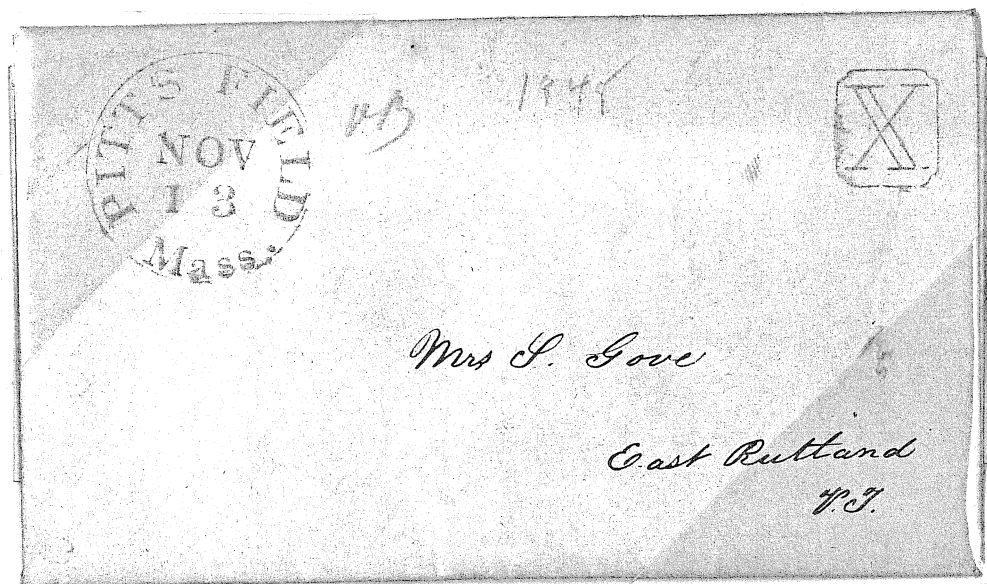


Actually all Roman numerals are unusual rating marks. This large "X" would be the simplest type. It is from "MANCHESTER Ct. AUG 3" and is unlisted.

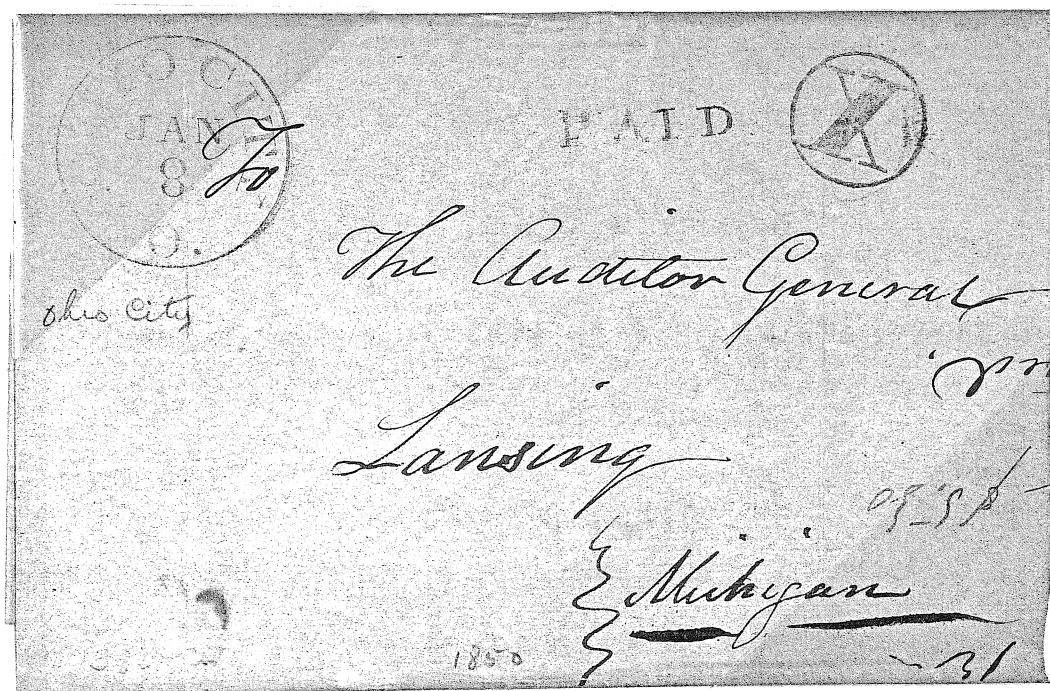


This blue shaded "X" with "PAID" from "COVINGTON Ky. JUL 22" is very unusual.

Auxillary Postal Markings- Roman Numeral Rating Marks

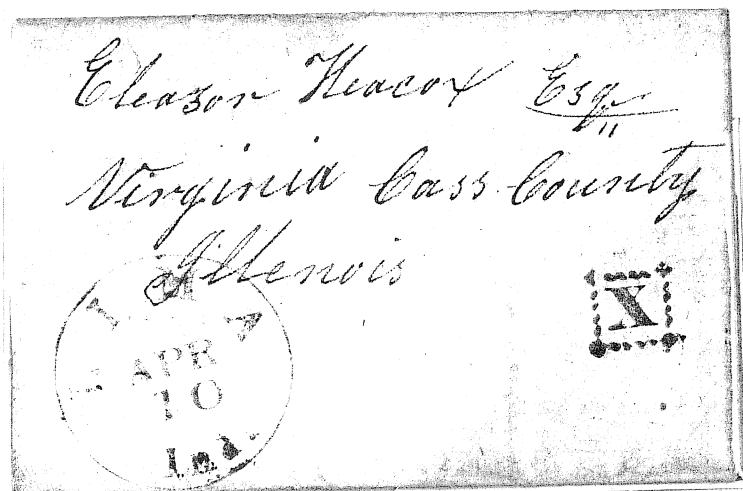


The red "X" with doubling of the left bar from "PITTSFIELD Mass. NOV 13" (1848) is within a rectangular frame with truncated corners.

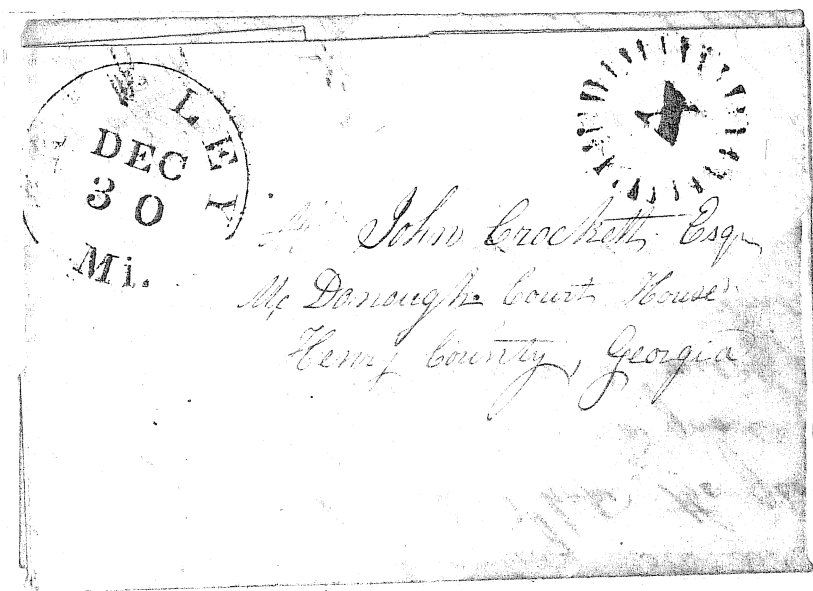


The blue "X" of "OHIO CITY O. JAN 8" (1850) shows widening of the right bar and a circular frame.

Auxillary Postal Markings- Roman Numeral Rating Marks

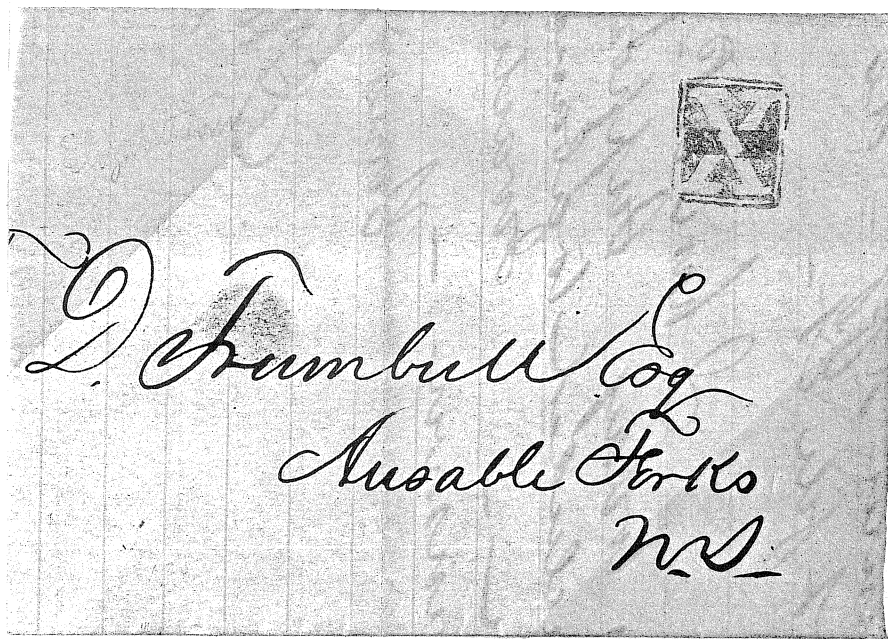


This marking is in green ink from "LIMA Ind. APR 10" (1846). The "X" is within a frame composed of printer's stock with wavy lines and different markings at the corners (two are circles).

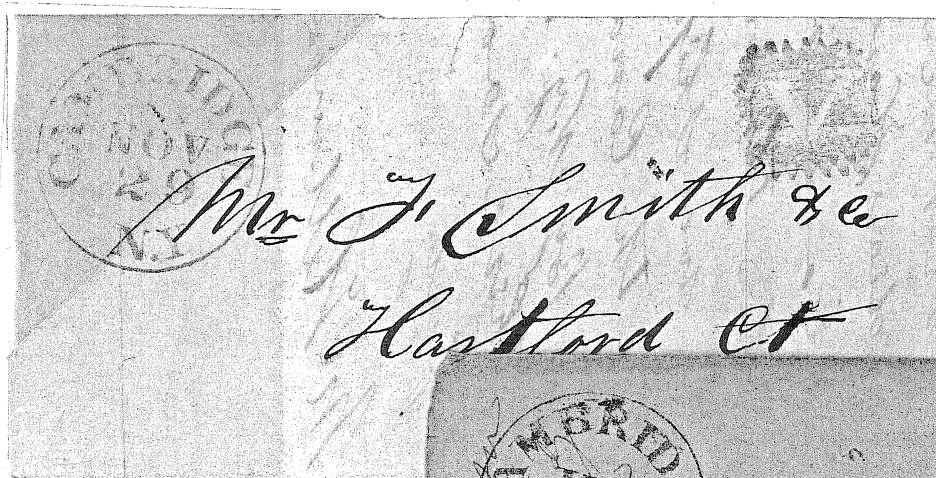


This cover is in true green "RIPLEY Mi. DEC 30" (1847) and shows a small "X" within a sunburst of thin wedges.

Auxillary Postal Markings- Roman Numeral Rating Marks

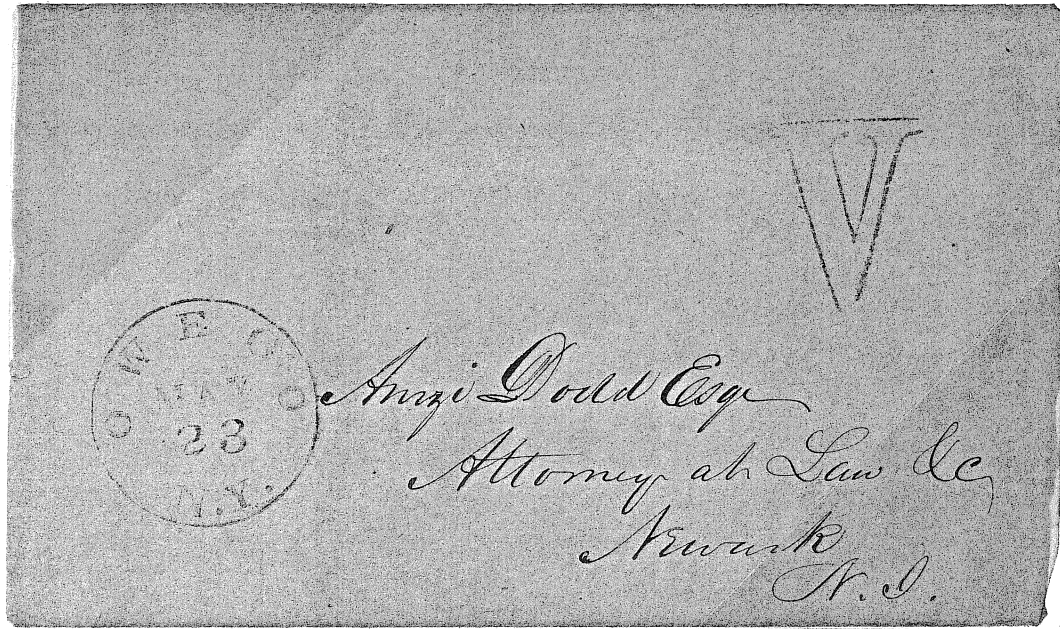


This negative "X" with additional outer frame comes from Elizabethtown, N.Y. in 1849.

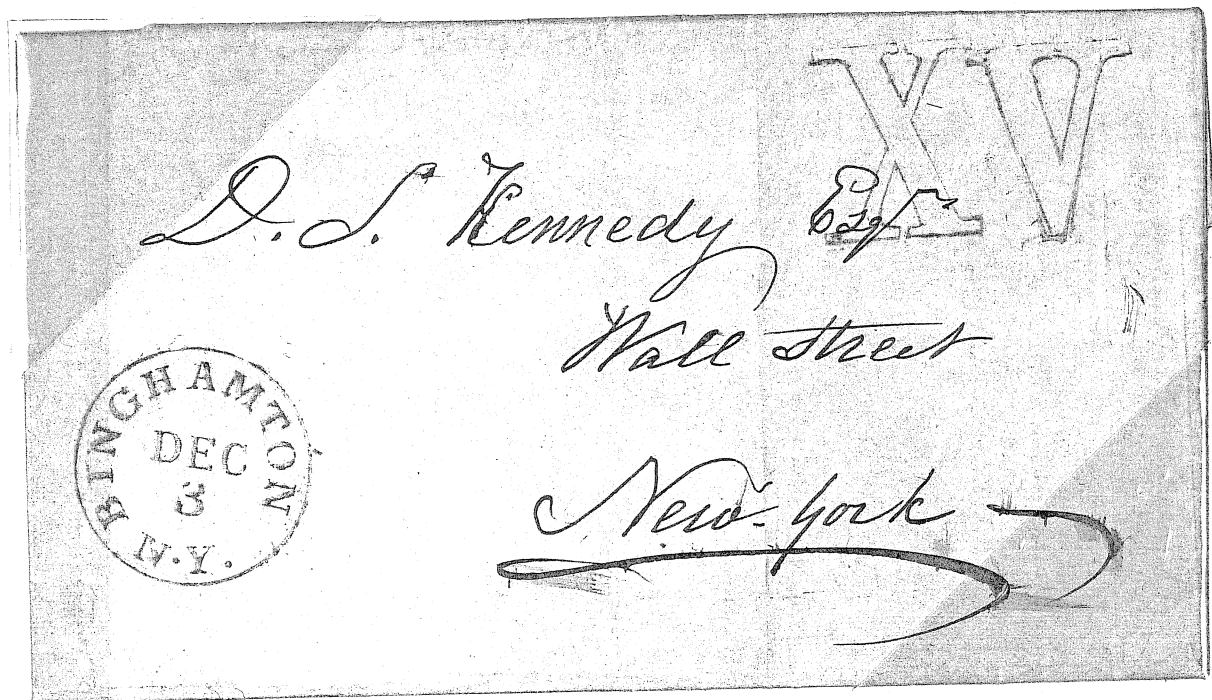


This pair of covers shows negative "V" from "CAMBRIDGE N.Y. NOV 29" (1849) and negative "X" with "CAMBRIDGE N.Y. JUL 21" (1848). The second cover was overweight with three enclosures.

Auxillary Postal Markings- Roman Numeral Rating Marks

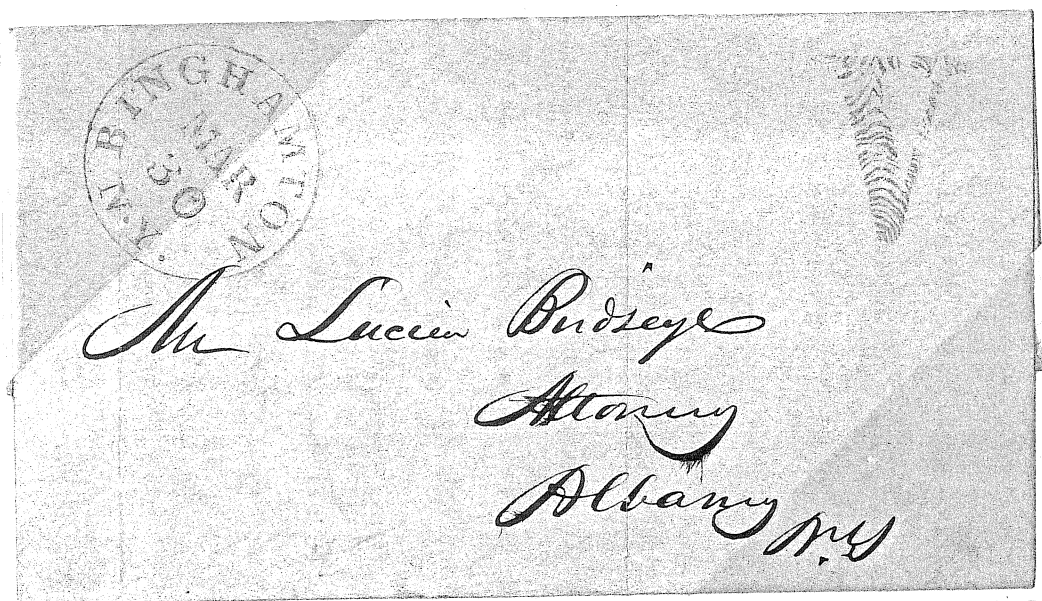


This cover from "OSWEGO N.Y. MAY 13" shows a large hollow "V" for the five cent fee.



This "BINGHAMTON N.Y. DEC 3" (1847) cover has a "X" and a "V", both in hollow letters, to make the 15 cent triple rate.

Auxillary Postal Markings- Roman Numeral Rating Marks

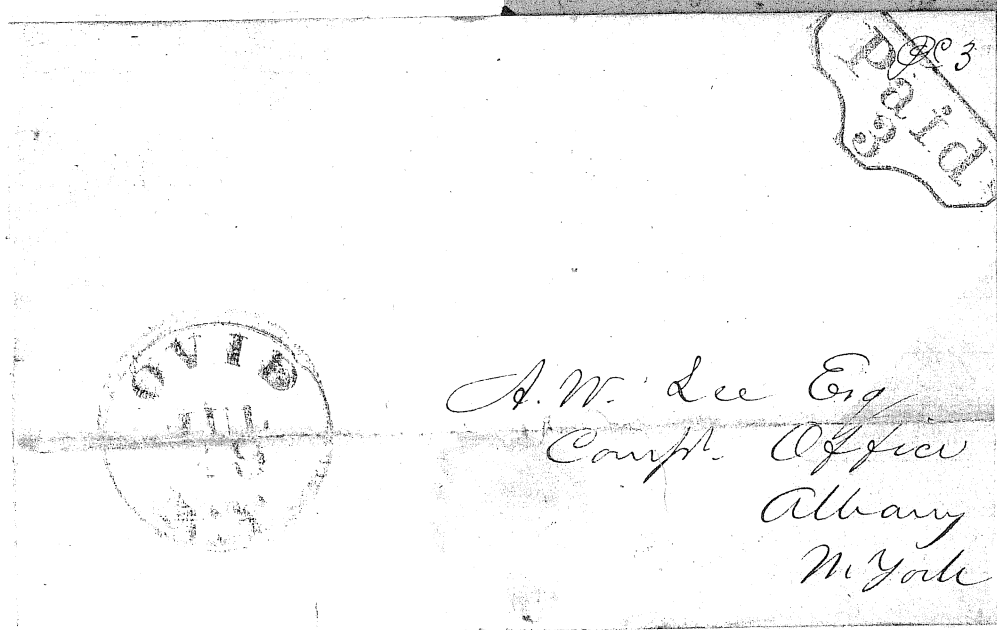
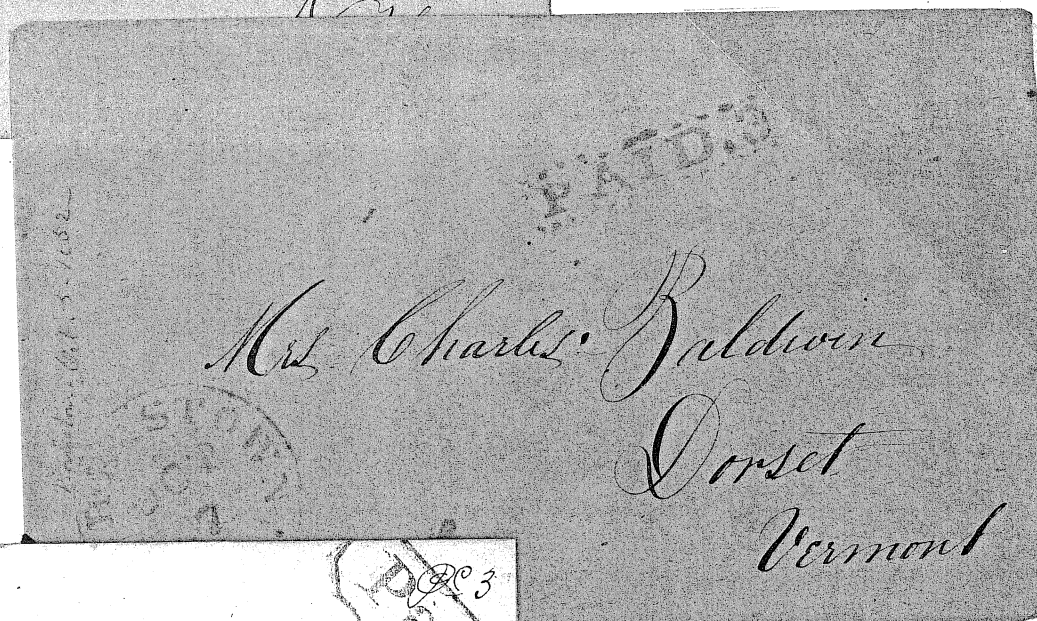
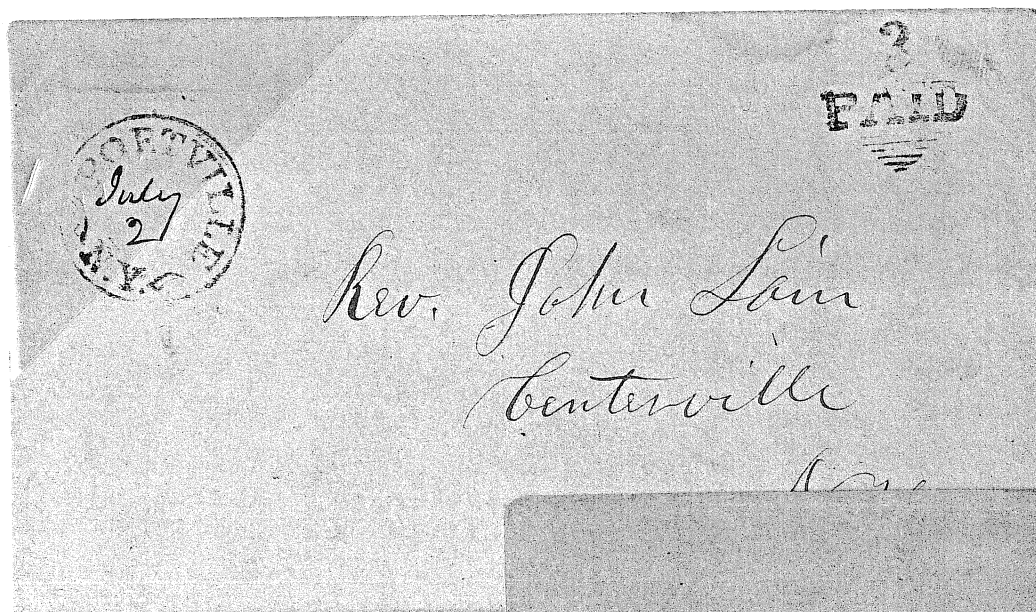


This "V" with "BINGHAMTON N.Y. MAR 30" (1850) has unusual wavy lines within the numeral.



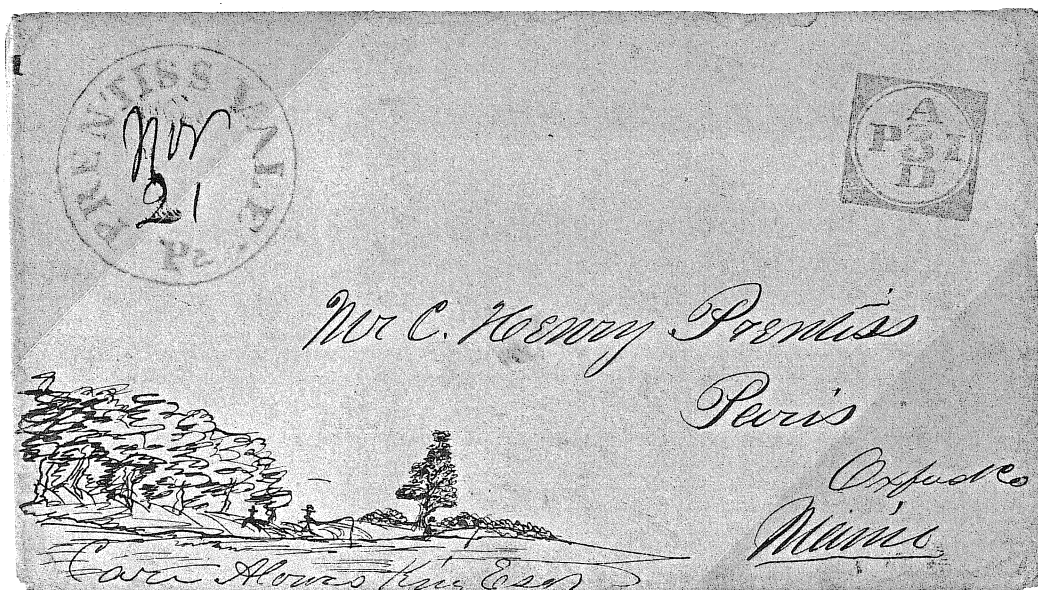
However, the "X" on this cover "BINGHAMTON N.Y. SEP 16" (1847) shows parallel vertical lines for shading.

Auxillary Postal Markings- Paid 3 Rating Marks

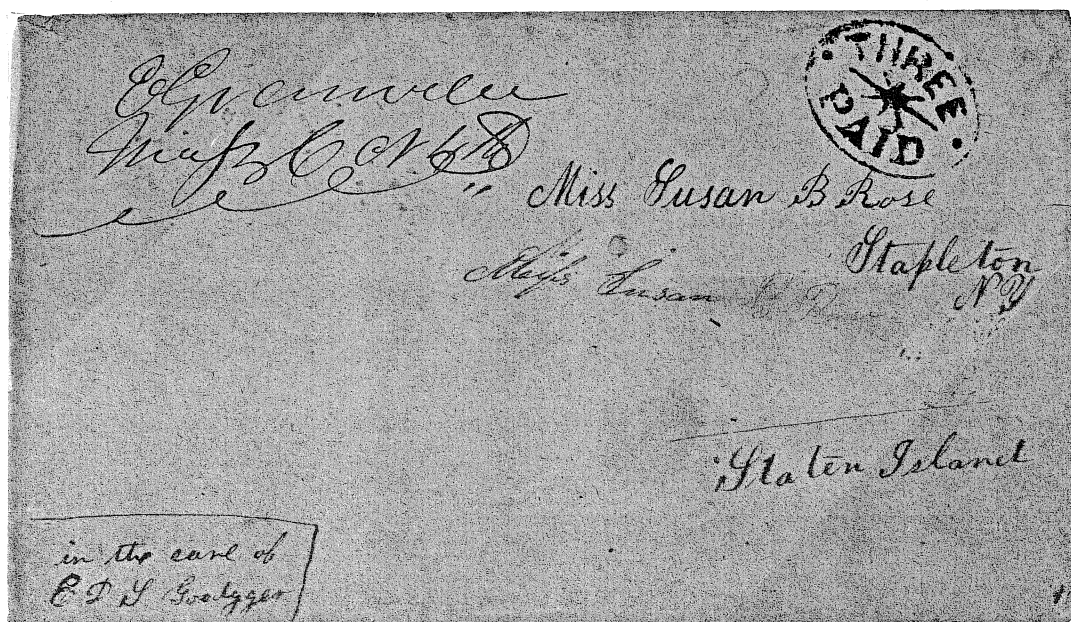


With the change of postal rates to three cents for paid ordinary domestic letters in 1851, a large number of integral markings were made that incorporated the 3 with the PAID; the rate only applied to prepaid letters. There are markings with unusual lettering, spacing and frames. Shown here a "3 PAID" above inverted triangle from "PORTVILLE N.Y. July 27", "PAID.3" in dotted frame from "NORRISTOWN Pa. OCT 7" (1852), and "Paid 3" in shield type frame of "OVID N.Y. JUL 19" (1851).

Auxillary Postal Markings- Paid 3 Rating Marks

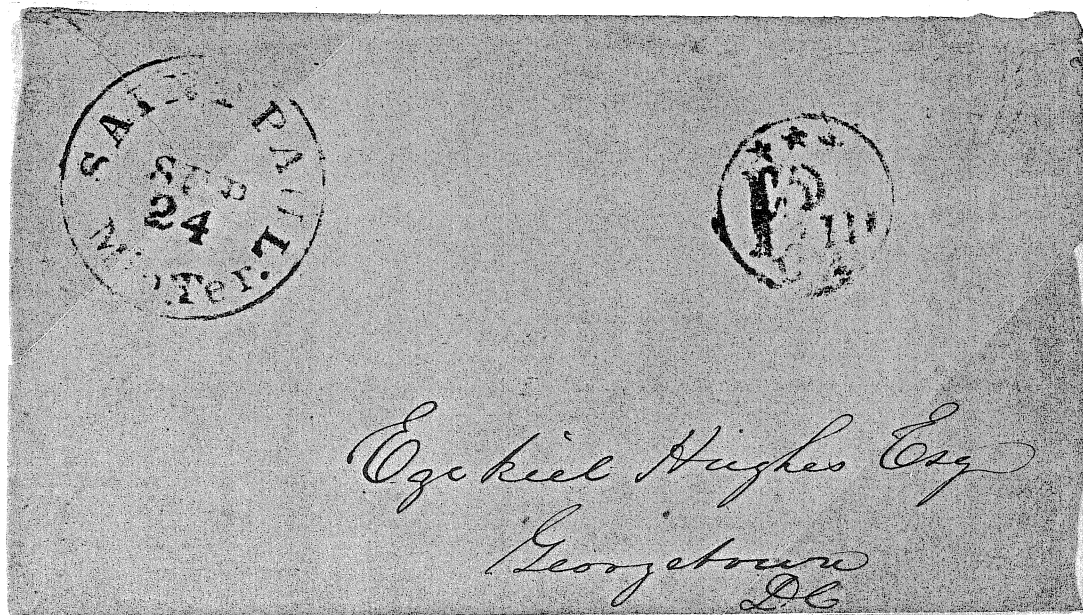


This marking of "PRENTISSVALE Pa. Nov 21" rather defies description. It is a very unusual mark.

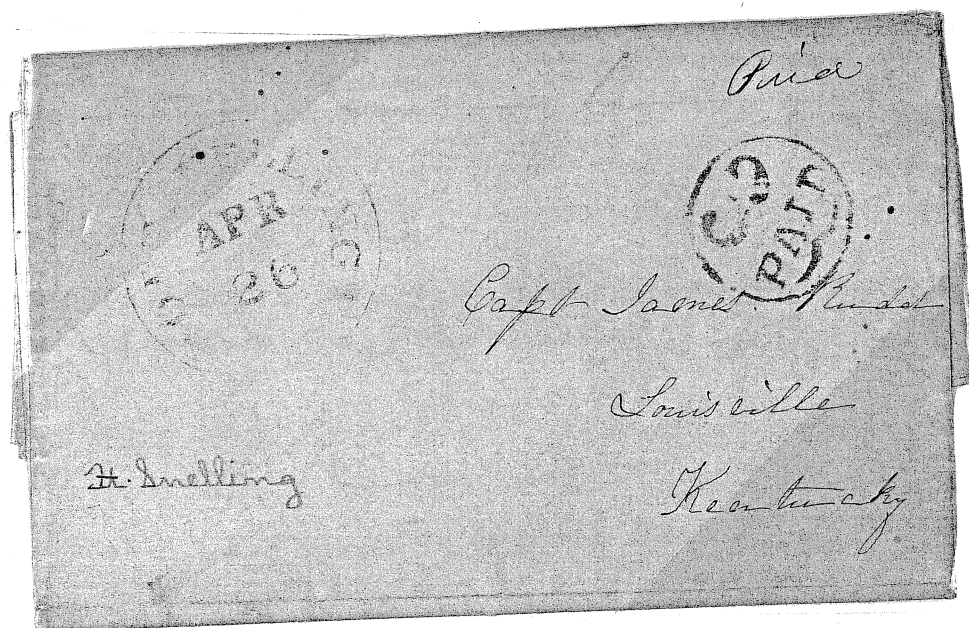


This marking with a manuscript "E Granville Mass Oct 4" shows a "THREE PAID" in fancy oval similar to the more common "FIVE CENTS" marking from the same town.

Auxillary Postal Markings- Paid 3 Rating Marks

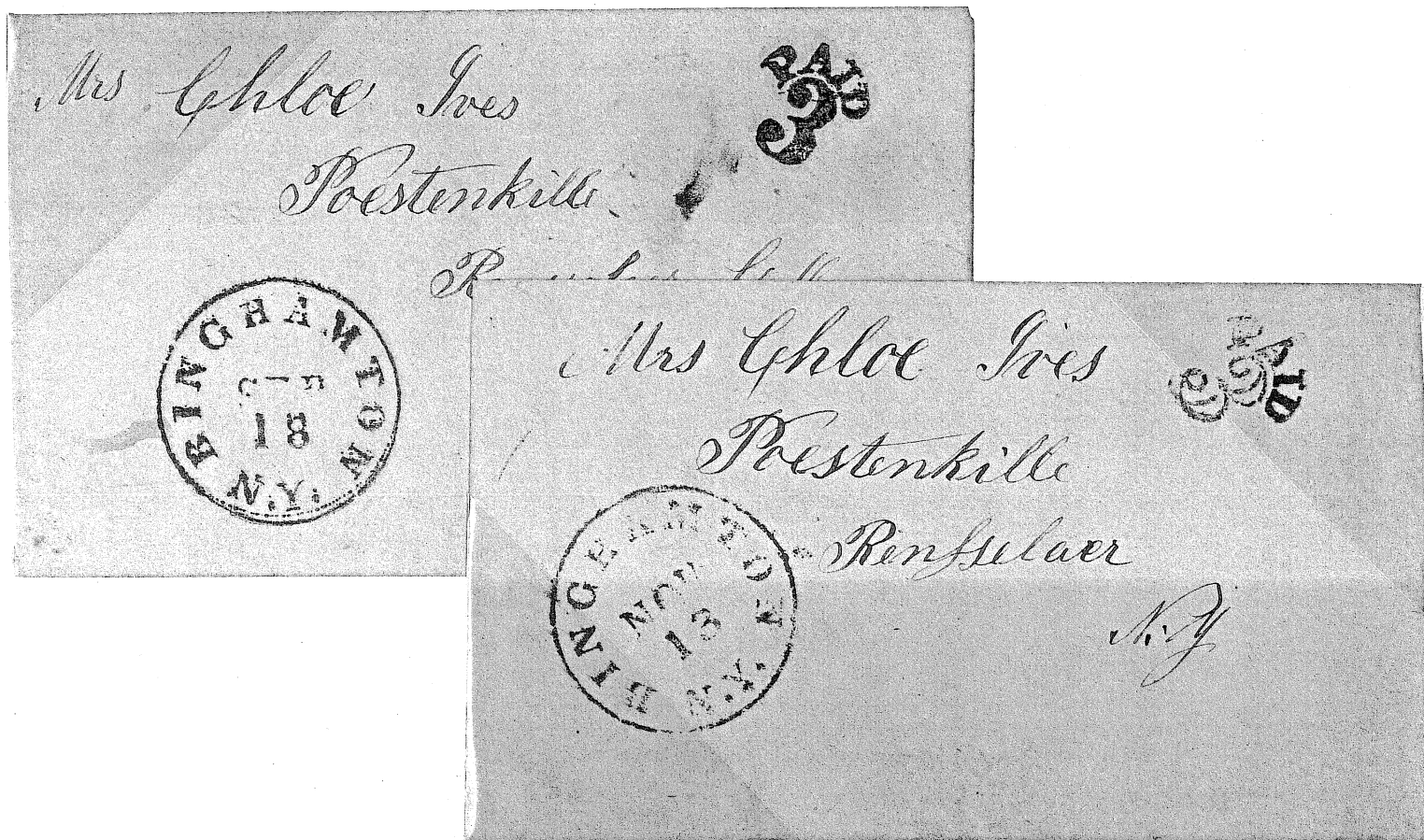


There are very few fancy postmarks from territories. The "3" within the "P" of "Paid" above "U.S." and stars above has "SAINT PAUL Min. Ter." (1853) postmark.

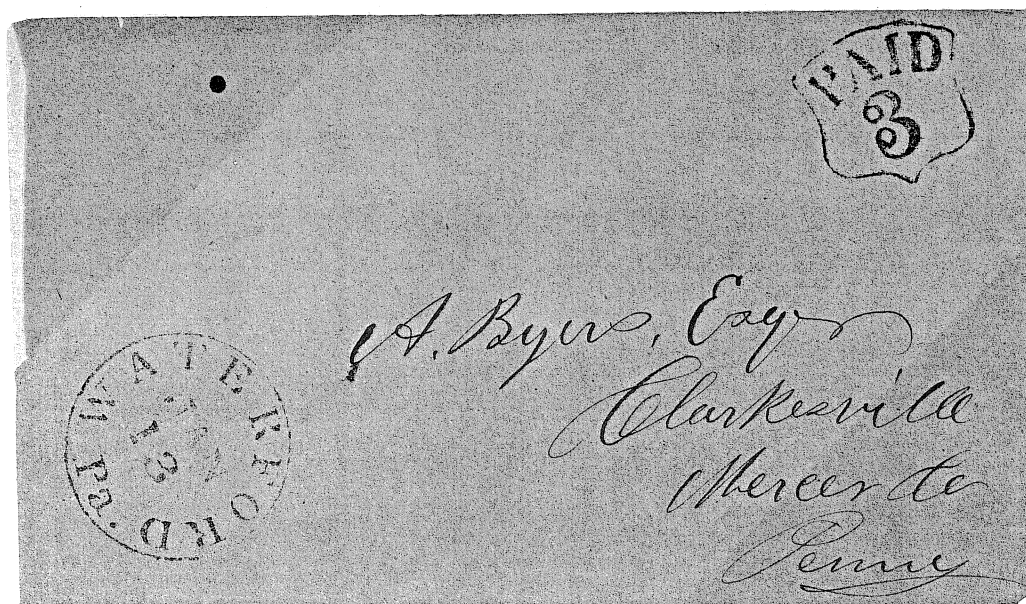


This is another unusual "3 PAID" with the PAID on edge and decoration in circular frame. It is from Fort Snelling before stamps were required and is hence territorial too.

Auxillary Postal Markings- Paid 3 Rating Marks

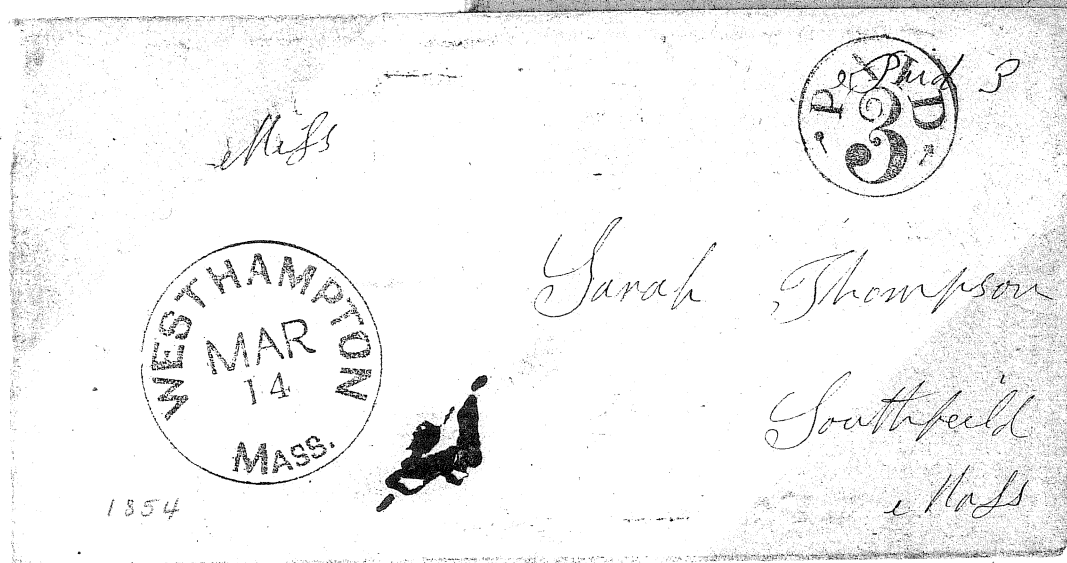
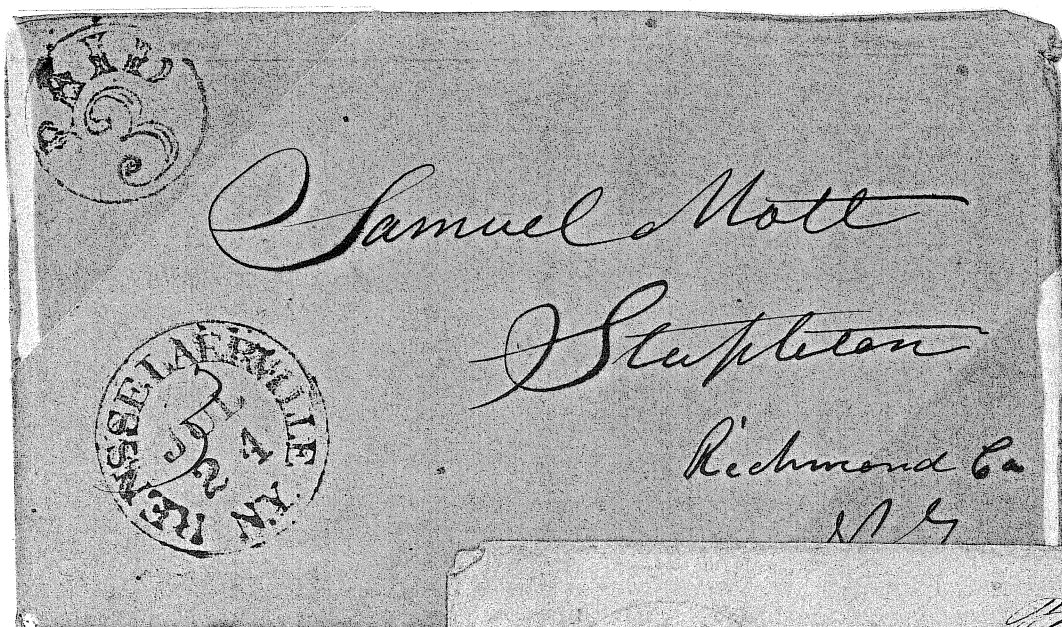


An arched "PAID" above the numeral "3" was the common Paid 3 marking of the end of the stampless period. Various postmasters embellished their markings and those are the ones included in this exhibit. This pair of covers from Binghamton, N.Y. written two months apart show a solid "3", the ordinary type, and a hollow "3"



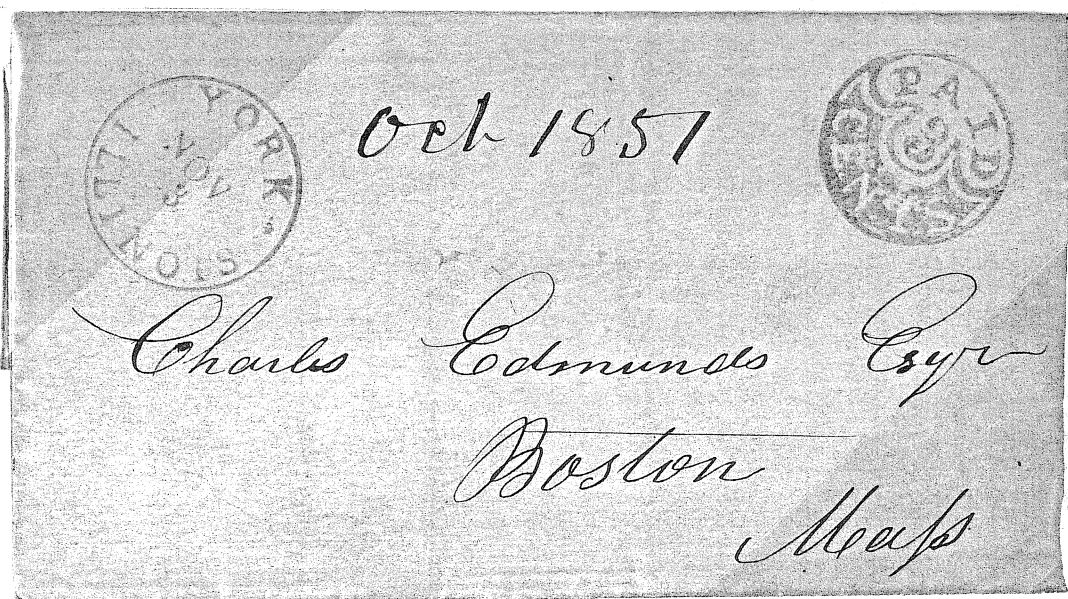
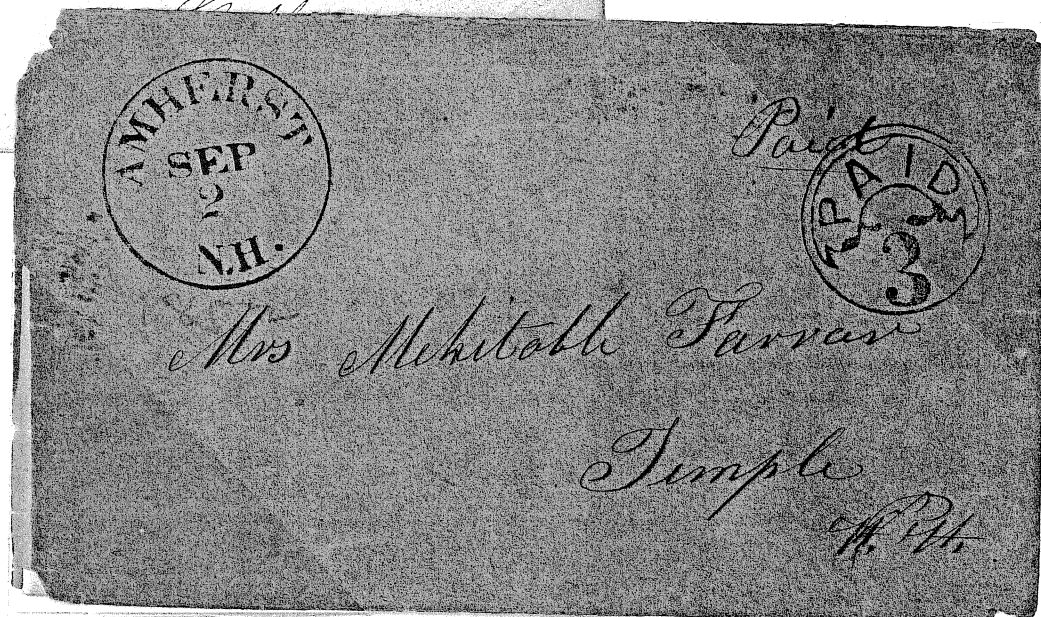
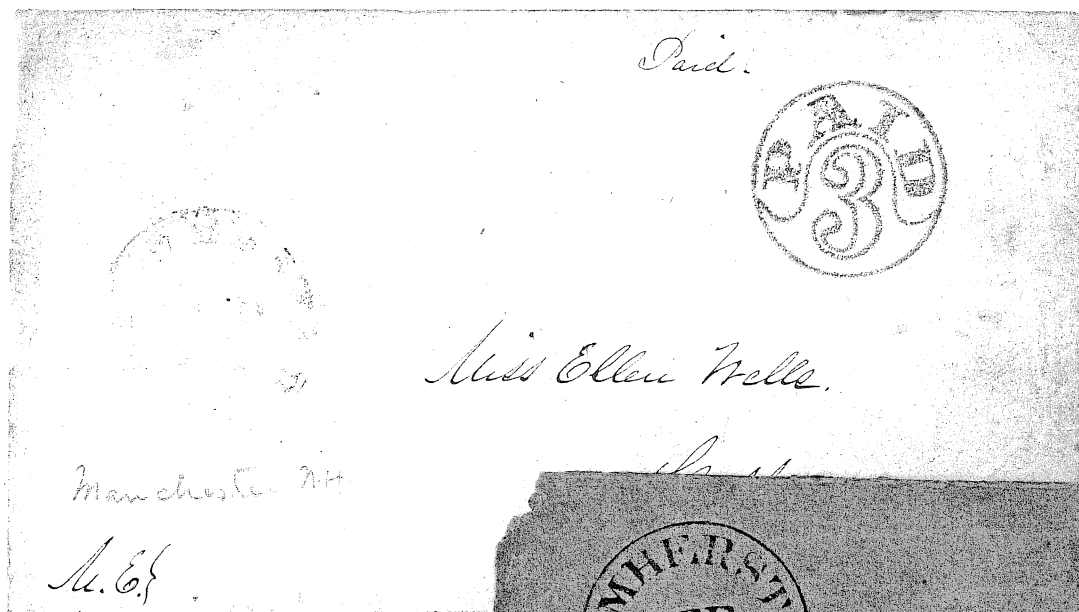
This example "WATERFORD Pa. JAN 13"(1853) has a fancy "3" and the frame is shield-shaped.

Auxillary Postal Markings- Paid 3 Rating Marks



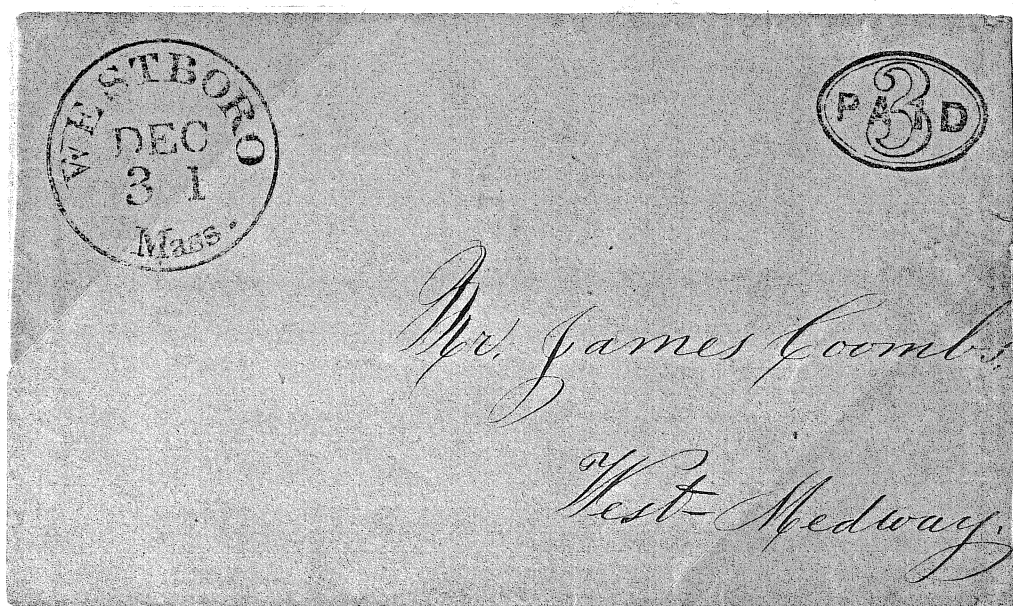
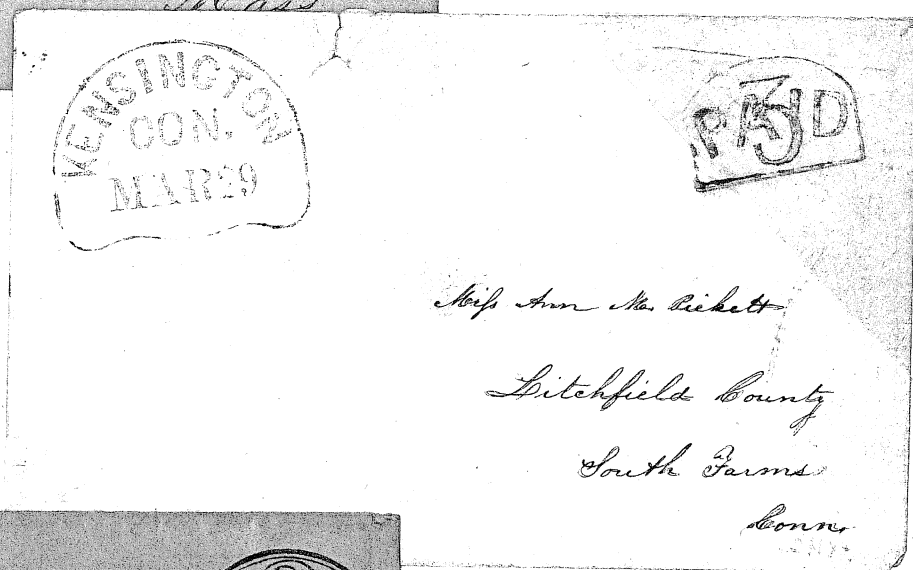
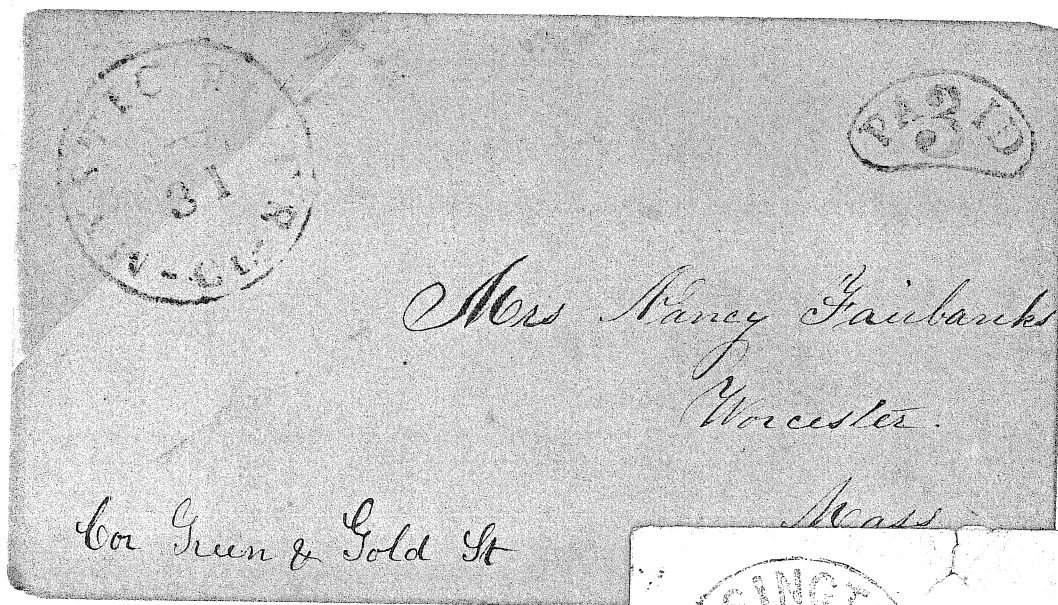
The "PEPPERELL Mass APR 26" (1852) in red has a very peculiar "3" that is capped by a connected "PAID". The lettering in the example "RENSSELLAERVILLE N.Y. JUL 24" (1855) is quite ornate. This marking from "WESTHAMPTON MASS. MAR 14" (1854) demonstrates an ornate "3" and decorations alongside.

Auxillary Postal Markings- Paid 3 Rating Marks



These three markings have the "PAID" in an unusual band. The simplest is the blue "MANCHESTER N.H. SEP 23" with separate band above a hollow "3". Then the "AMHERST N.H. SEP 2" (1852) marking has the PAID within a nice banner at the top. The "YORK ILLINOIS NOV 3" (1851) has the Paid 3 as a banner above the colorless "CENTS", a quite complicated marking.

Auxillary Postal Markings- Paid 3 Rating Marks

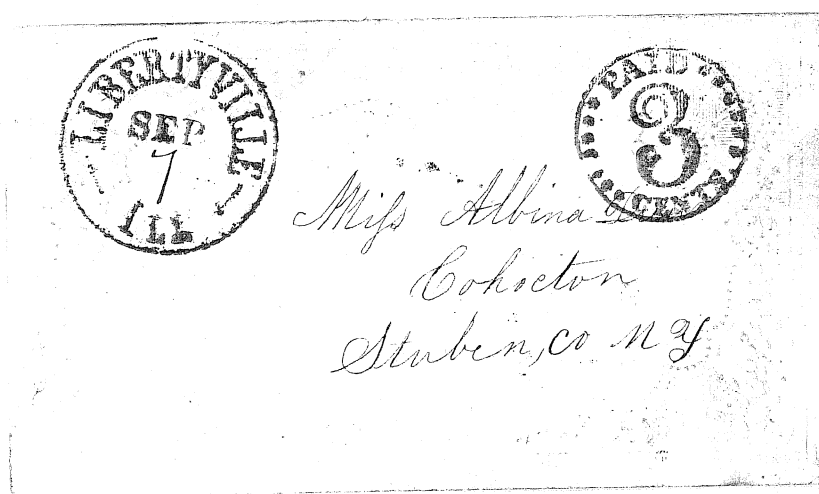


The next type of marking is where the "3" stands between the letters of the "PAID". The cover with red "MYSTIC RIVER Ct. JUL 31" shows a simple type with the letters separated. The arch "KENSINGTON CON. MAR 29" which is a fancy town mark too demonstrates the "3" overlying the letters. This is visually improved by the "WESTBORO Mass. DEC 31" cover where the "3" is shown as a hollow letter overlying the "PAID".

Auxillary Postal Markings- Paid 3 Rating Marks

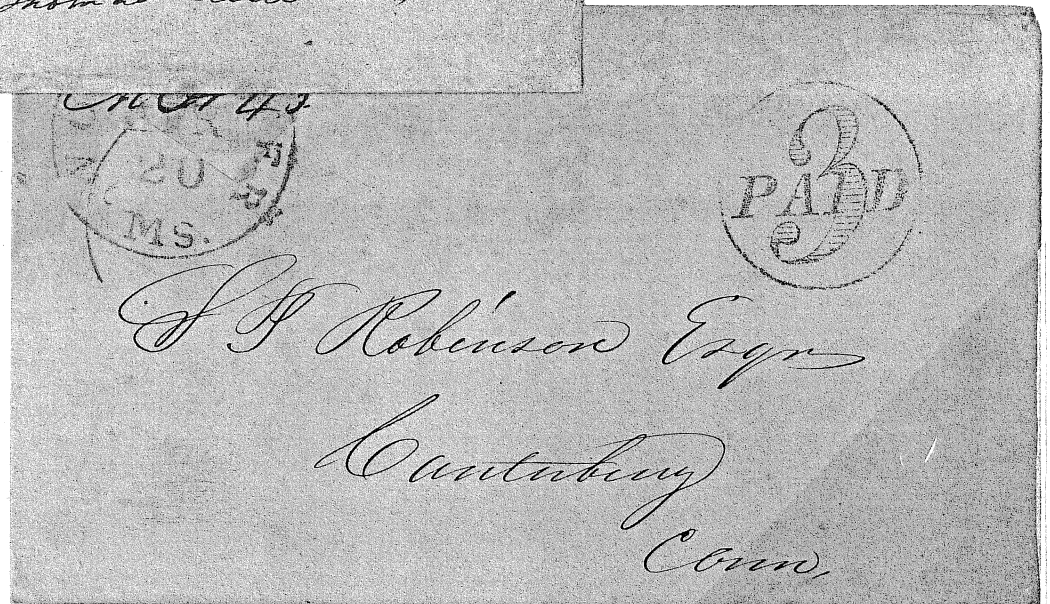
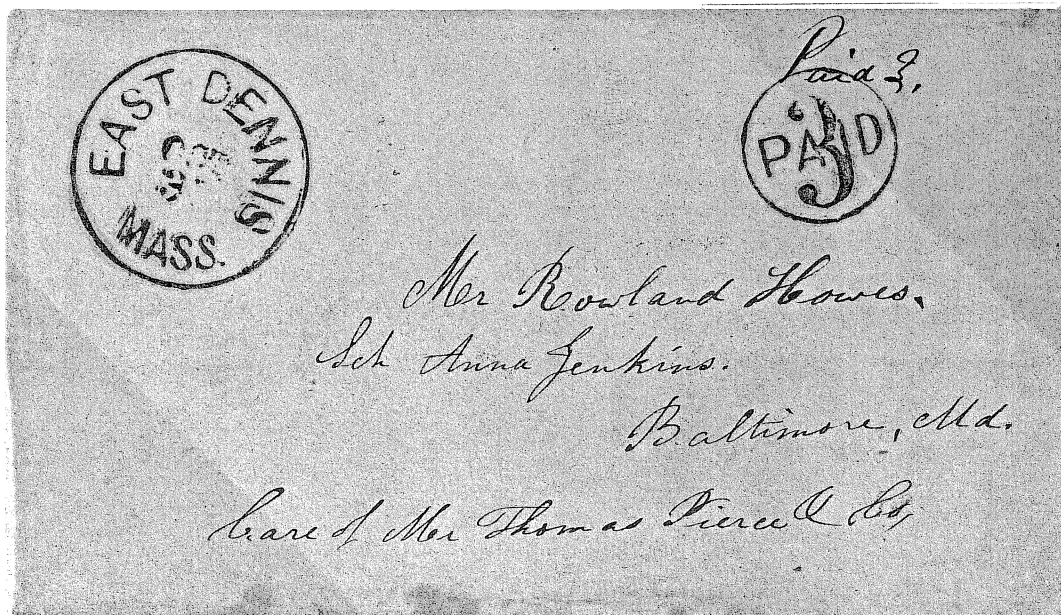
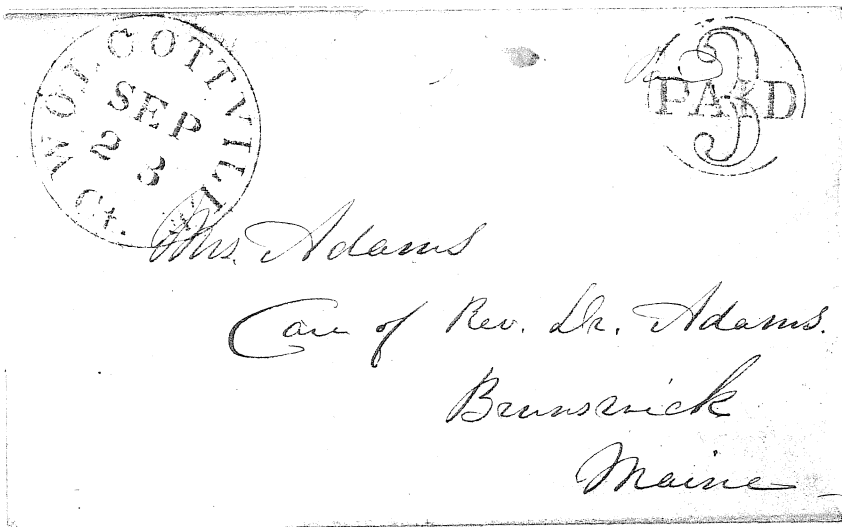


The "WHEELING Va. SEP 22" (1852) cover with the sunburst "PAID 3" is one of the well-known markings.



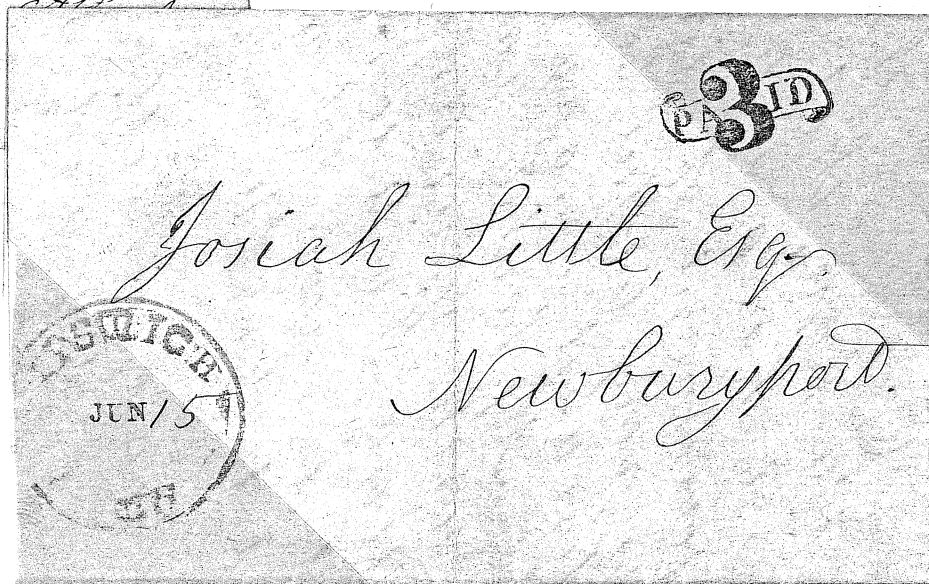
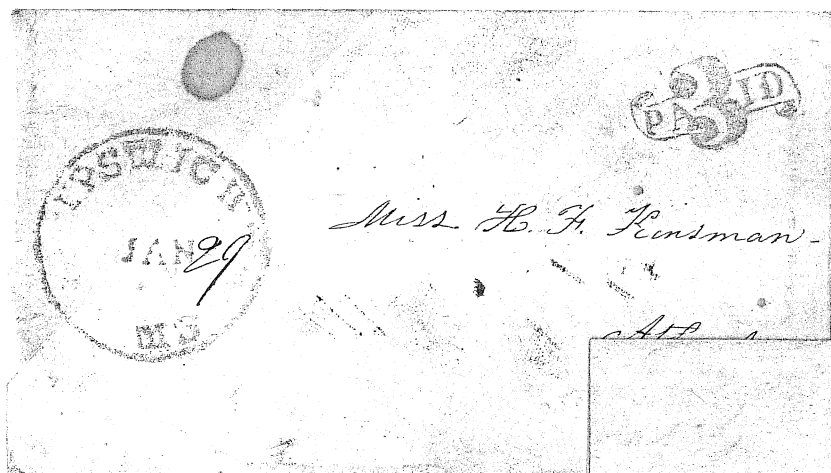
The marking from "LIBERTYVILLE Ill. SEP 7" shows a "PAID 3 CENTS" surrounded by a circle of stars.

Auxillary Postal Markings- Paid 3 Rating Marks

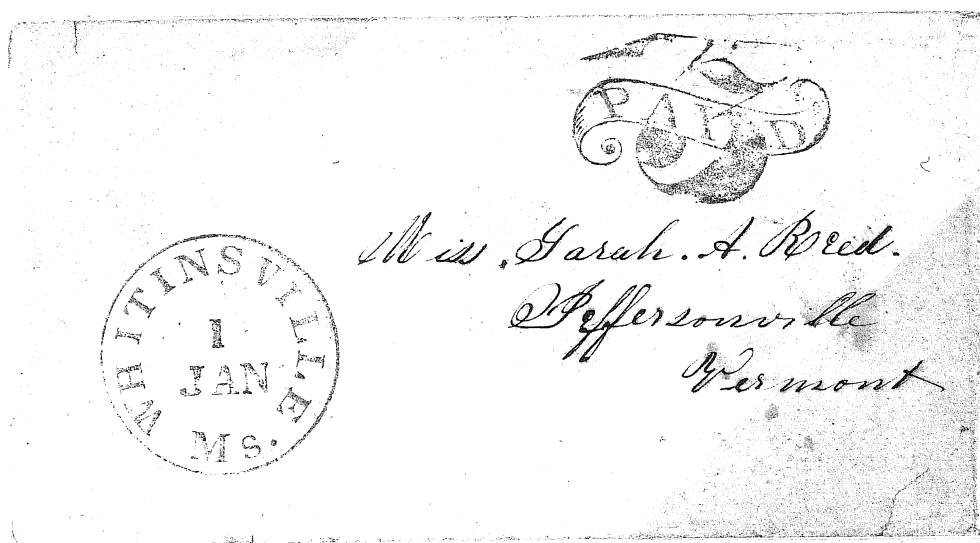


The "WOLCOTTVILLE Ct. SEP 23" shows a large hollow "3" with solid "PAID" within a circular frame. Because the "EAST DENNIS MASS. OCT 3" cover bears a solid "3" the letters are moved so they do not overlap. The well-known ornate "3" over the "PAID" of the "WORCHESTER MS. APR 20" is a compromise between the two types.

Auxillary Postal Markings- Paid 3 Rating Marks

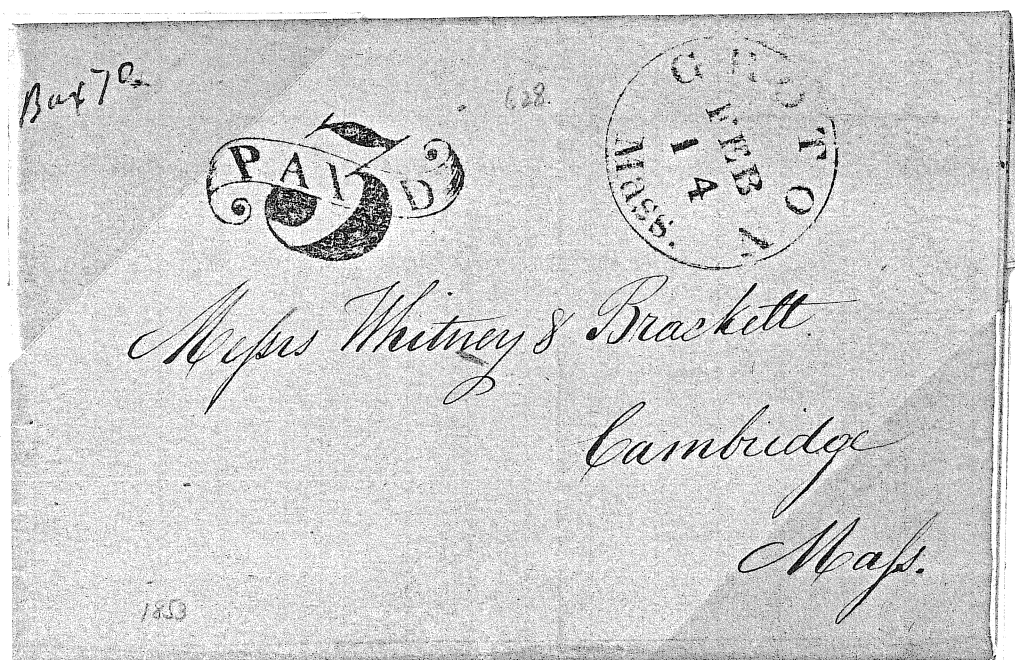


These two covers show the small banner "PAID" with solid "3" of "IPSWICH MS JUN 15" (1853) (black) and "JAN 29" (red).

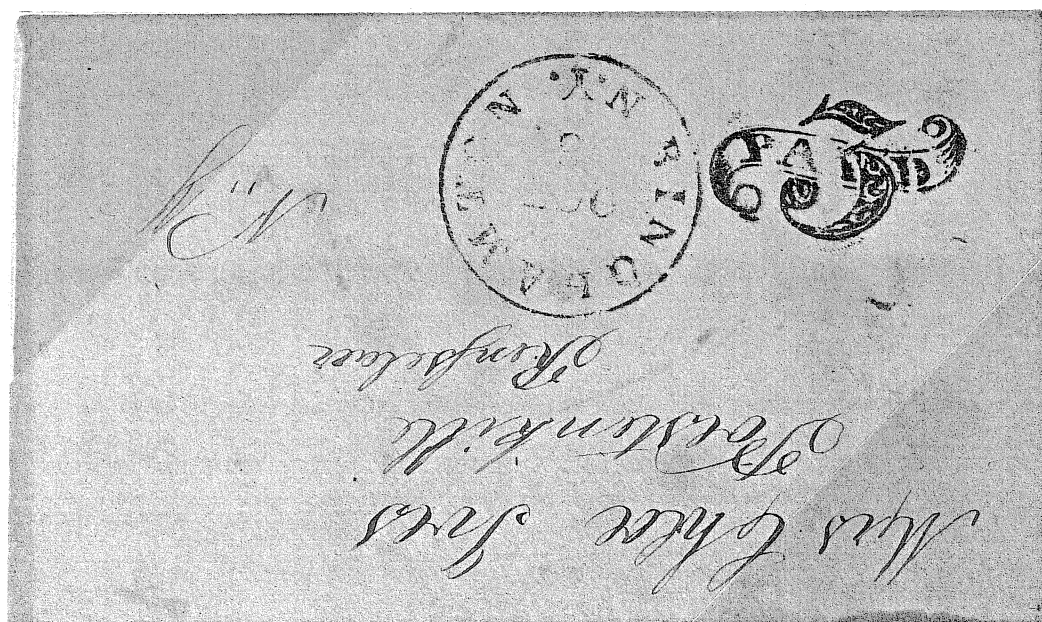


The large stylized version with fancy banner and huge "3" is a marking sold to a number of small towns. The example here has "WHITINSVILLE Ms. 1 JAN" in red.

Auxillary Postal Markings- Paid 3 Rating Marks

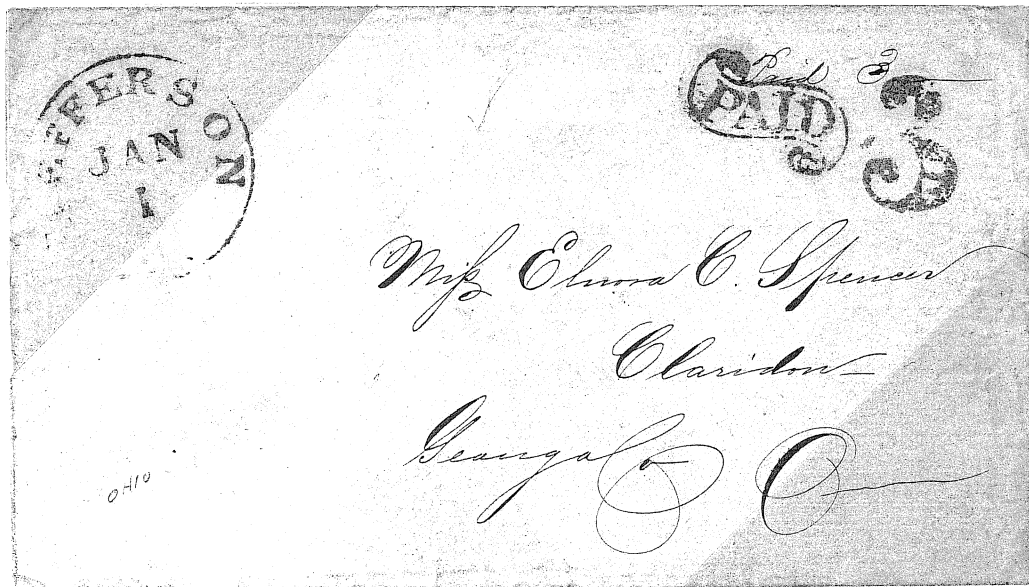


The same marking in black was used at "GROTON Mass. FEB 14" (1853).



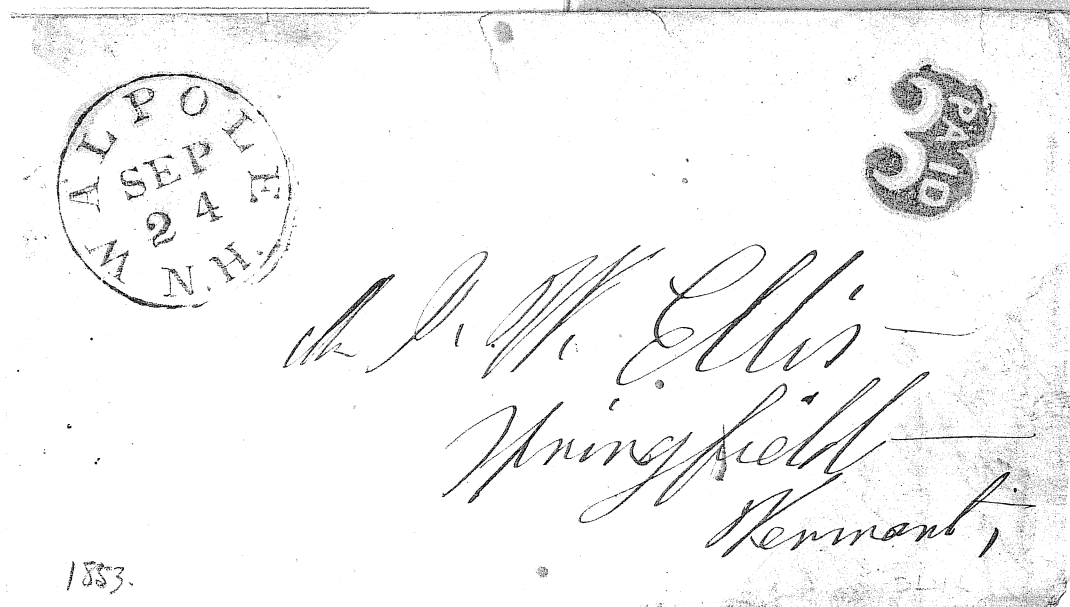
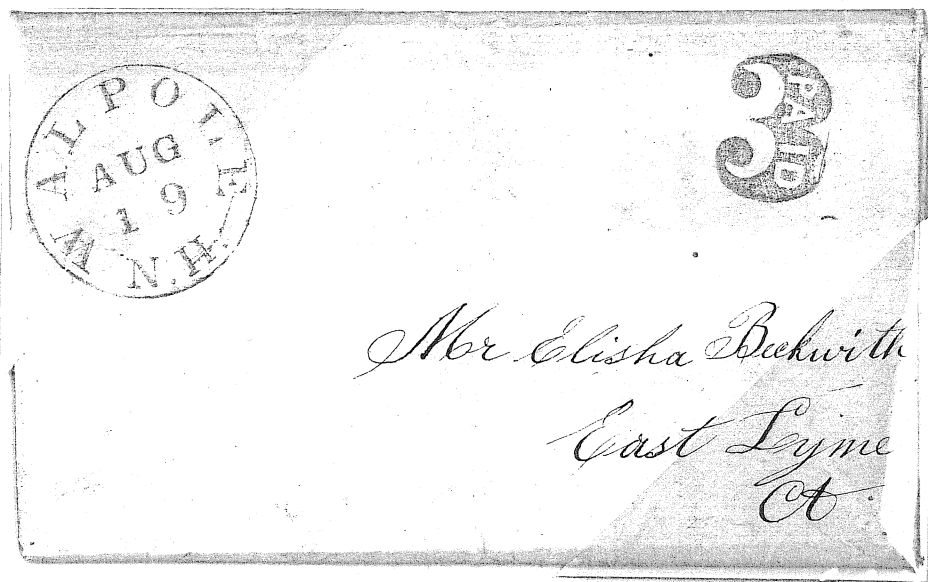
However, at "BINGHAMTON N.Y. OCT 3" the marking was modified with a floral pattern within the "3" and smaller "PAID" within the banner.

Auxillary Postal Markings- Paid 3 Rating Marks



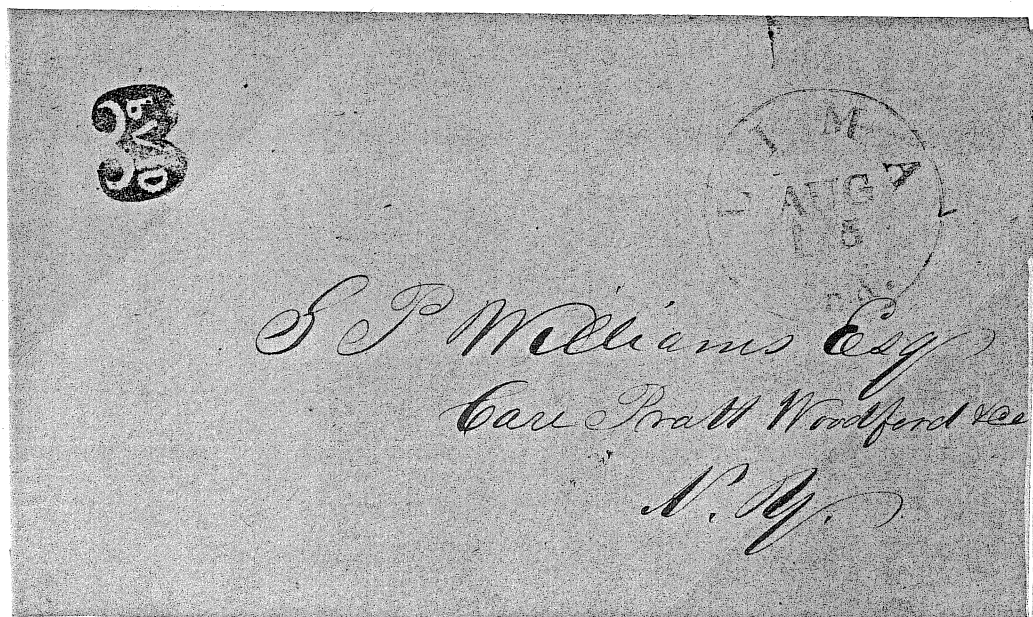
Another distinctive marking during the early 1850's is the negative "PAID" within the numeral "3". The best known of these is the large red "3" with "JOHNSON VT. FEB 25" (1852) postmarks. More typical is the "PAID" in "3" shown by the "SHUSHAN N.Y. NOV 8" (1852) in black. A red variety with a fancy "PAID" in scroll from "JEFFERSON O. JAN 1" shows a hard to read "PAID" which is why it was necessary to use the separate "PAID".

Auxillary Postal Markings- Paid 3 Rating Marks

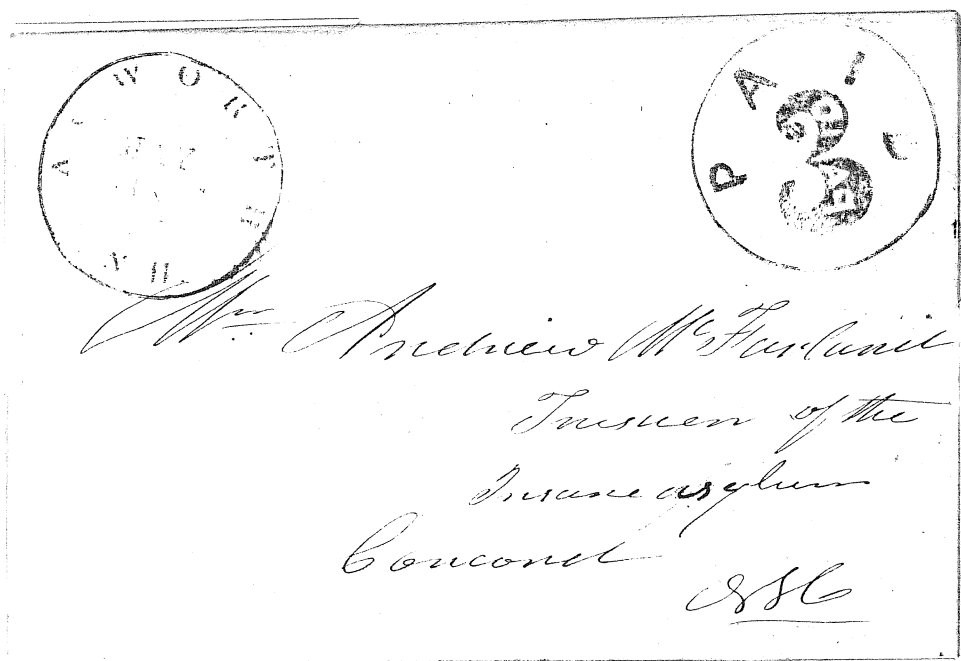


These three covers from Walpole N.H. demonstrate the marking very nicely and show that it was used in different inks, red (1851), blue (1852), and black (1853).

Auxillary Postal Markings- Paid 3 Rating Marks

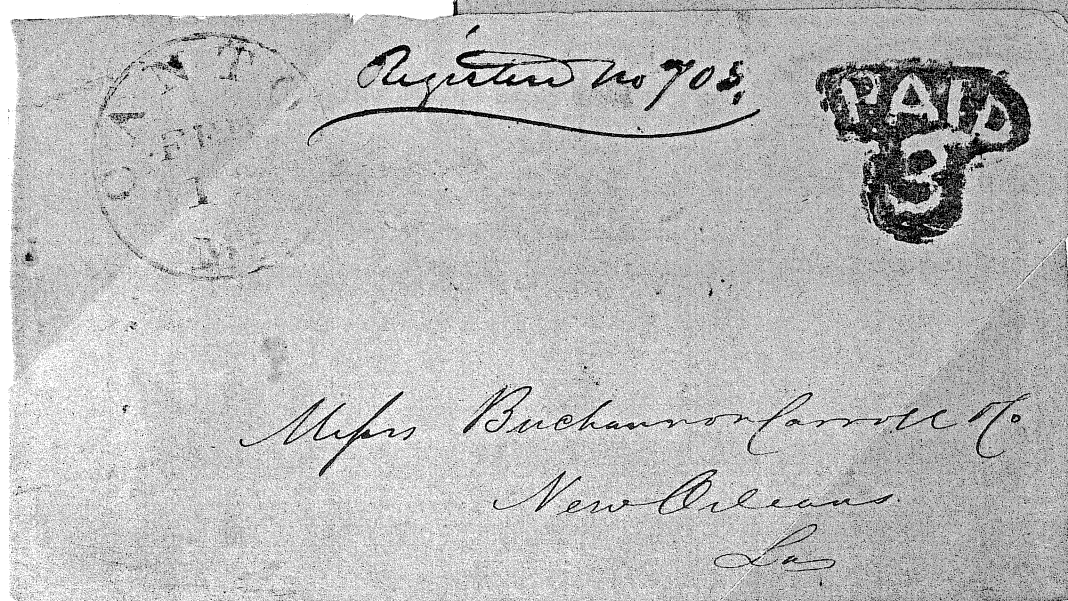
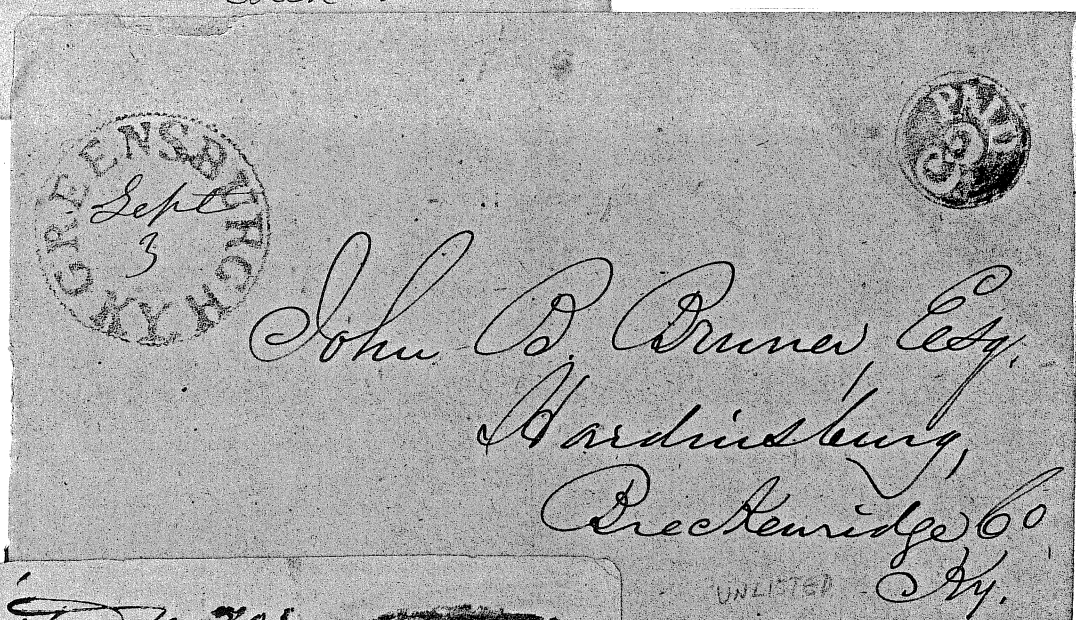


This cover from "LIMA, Ind. AUG 15" shows a reversed carving of the "PAID" starting top to bottom.



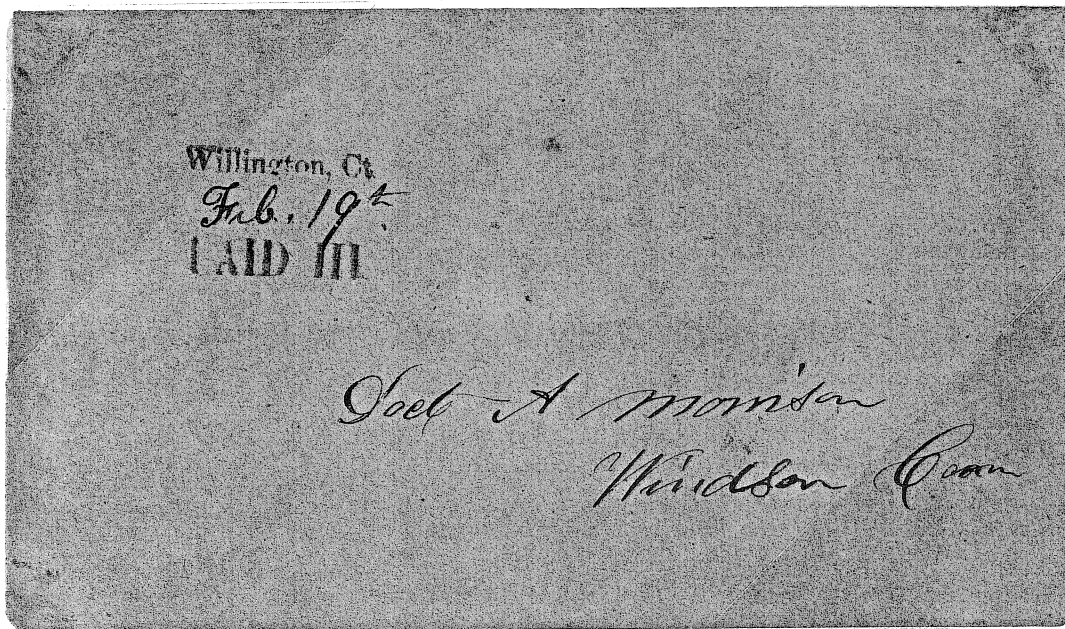
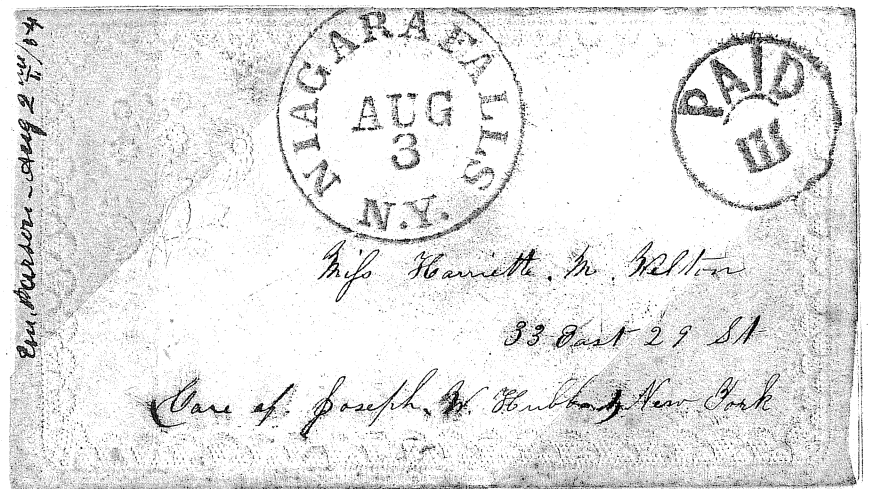
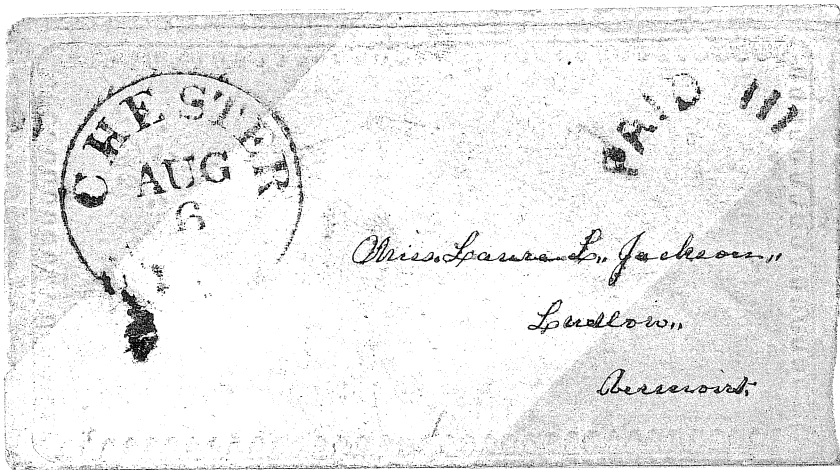
On the other hand this example "ACWORTH N.H. MAY 1"(1852) shows the reversed lettering starting bottom to top. This is the only negative "PAID" in "3" marking with an outer frame line and a repeat of the "PAID".

Auxillary Postal Markings- Paid 3 Rating Marks



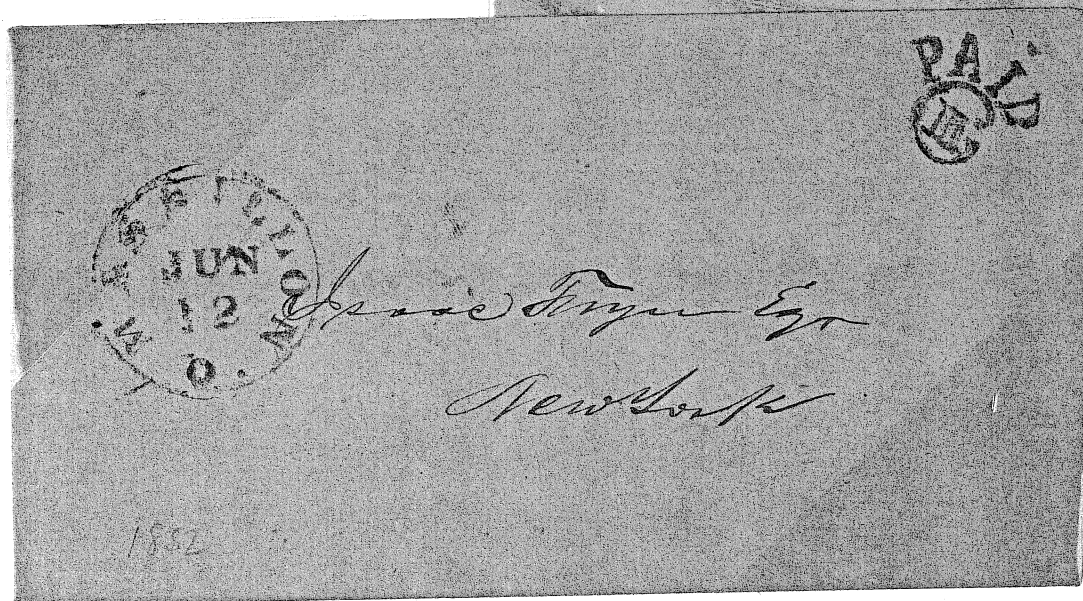
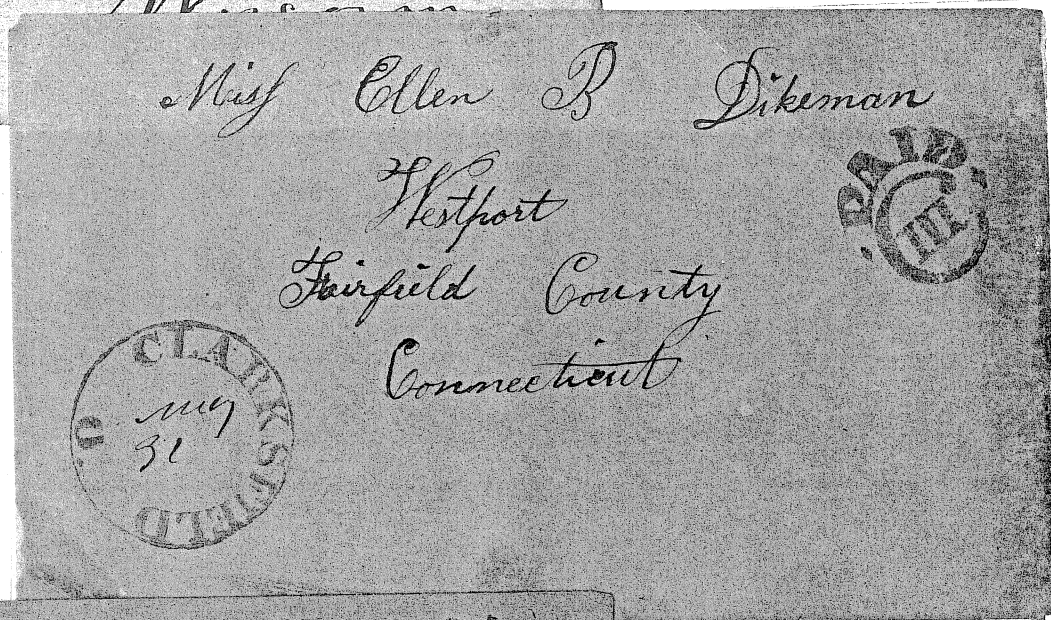
These three covers show other types of negative "PAID 3" markings. The "NEWPORT N.Y. APR 25" cover shows the "PAID" in the upper horizontal bar of an unusual "3". The arch "PAID" over a "3" all in negative is a variety of the common non-negative marking. As always "CANTON MISS FEB 1" shows a different marking, in this case a crudely carved cork variety. This cover shows "Registered no. 705" too, but the year date is uncertain.

Auxillary Postal Markings- Paid 3 Rating Marks



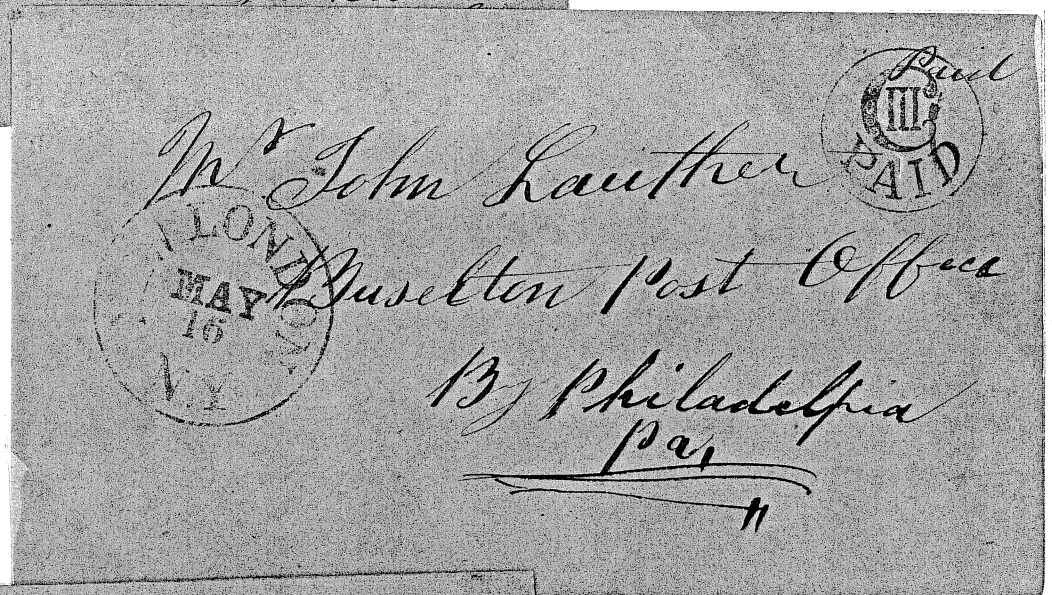
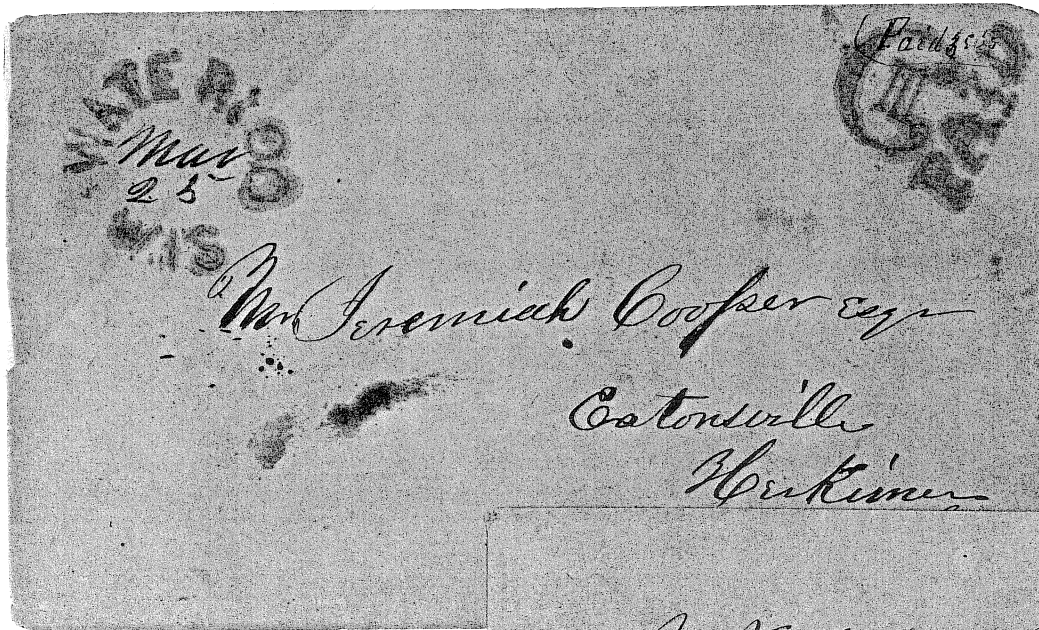
There are also a few "Paid 3" markings where the "3" is indicated by Roman numerals. This "CHESTER N.Y. AUG 6" shows an arched "PAID III". The blue "NIAGARA FALLS N.Y. AUG 3"(1854) has a circular frame around the "PAID III". The postmark of "Willington, Ct. Feb. 19th PAID III" shows an incorporation of the postal rating marking into the town mark, not unusual for circular postmarks from this period, but unique for a straight line marking.

Auxillary Postal Markings- Paid 3 Rating Marks



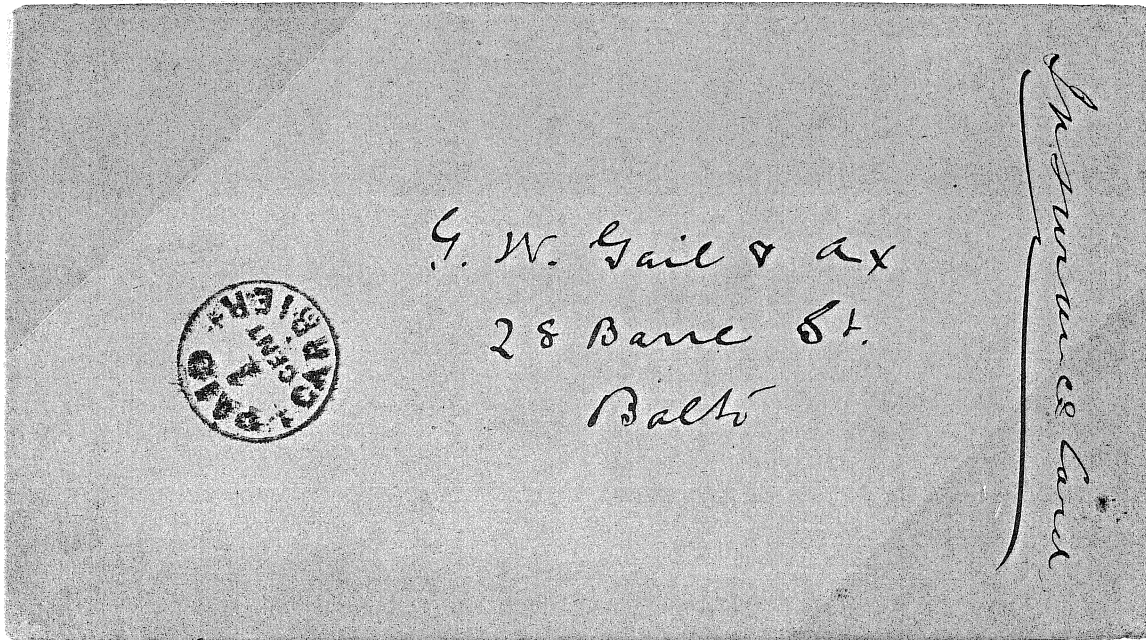
These covers bear rating markings in which the "PAID 3" is expressed in Roman numerals. The "PAID III" from "ROME N.Y. MAY 25" is the most common type and was used at several towns. The red "CLARKSFIELD O. Aug 31" cover has a more bold "PAID" and a larger "CHH" with two diamond decorations. The blue "MASSILLON O. JUN 12" (1852) is a quite unusual rimless style.

Auxillary Postal Markings- Paid 3 Rating Marks



The red rimless "WATERLOO WIS Mar 25" shows an unusual vertical "PAID" along side the "CIII". The "NEW LONDON N.Y. MAY 16" marking shows the "PAID" with a reverse curve under a decorated "CIII". Most unusual is the "NEW HARTFORD N.Y. JAN 16" (1854) cover with a replica of the current three cent coin (similar to the Eutaw, Alabama five and ten cent markings).

Auxillary Postal Markings- Paid 1 Rating Marks



A very small number of other auxillary markings can be considered fancy during the PAID 3 period of 1851-1855. This Baltimore, Maryland marking for carrier service contains two small stars for decoration.



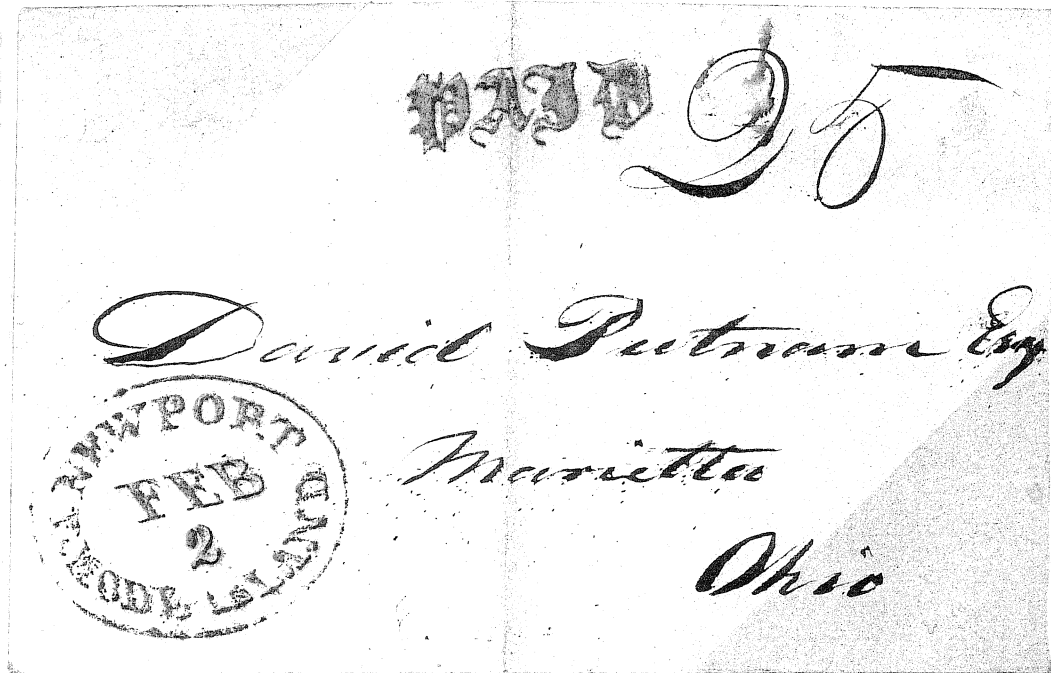
The circular rate was also one cent at this time. This cover blue oval "BUFFALO N.Y. JUL 15" with fleurons has a blue "PAID 1 CENT" in a fancy shaped frame.

Auxillary Postal Markings- PAID Marks

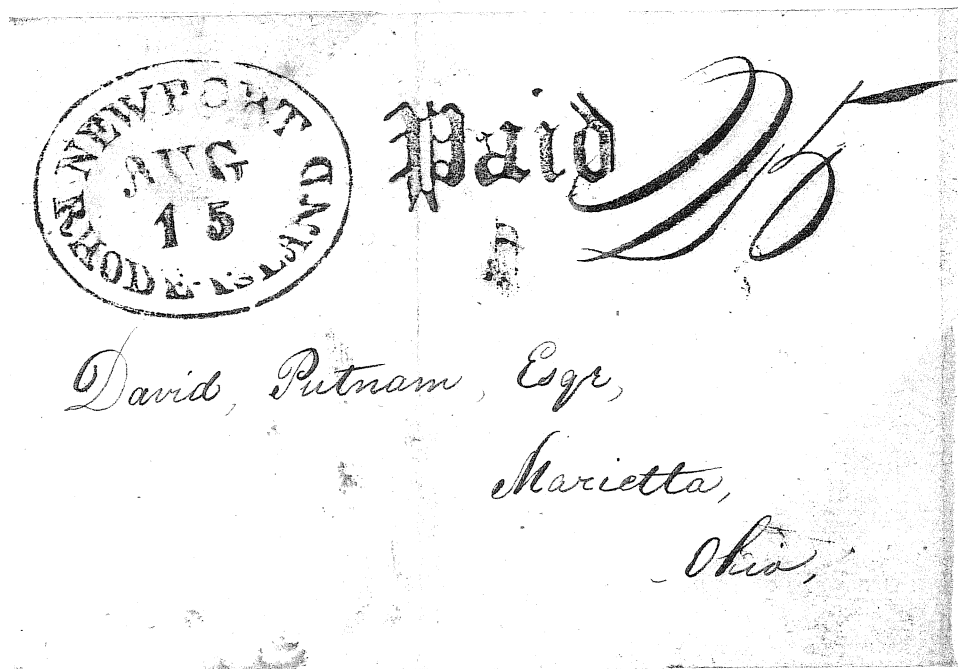


Because the postal rates depended on distance and weight, they were usually hand-written. But the postage could be prepaid or the postage could be collected from the recipient. The use of "PAID" handstamps goes back to the Eighteenth Century, but the markings are usually plain. Later some embellished markings were made. The "SYRACUSE N.Y. JUNE 20"(1833) cover has a shaded "PAID". A similar marking is on this cover "CLAIBORNE. A.T. MAR 14" with also shaded numbers. This cover "P.O. Shelburn, Vt.", "PAID,", and "3" is printed and is an example of an early precancel. The "PAID" is also shaded.

Auxillary Postal Markings- PAID Marks

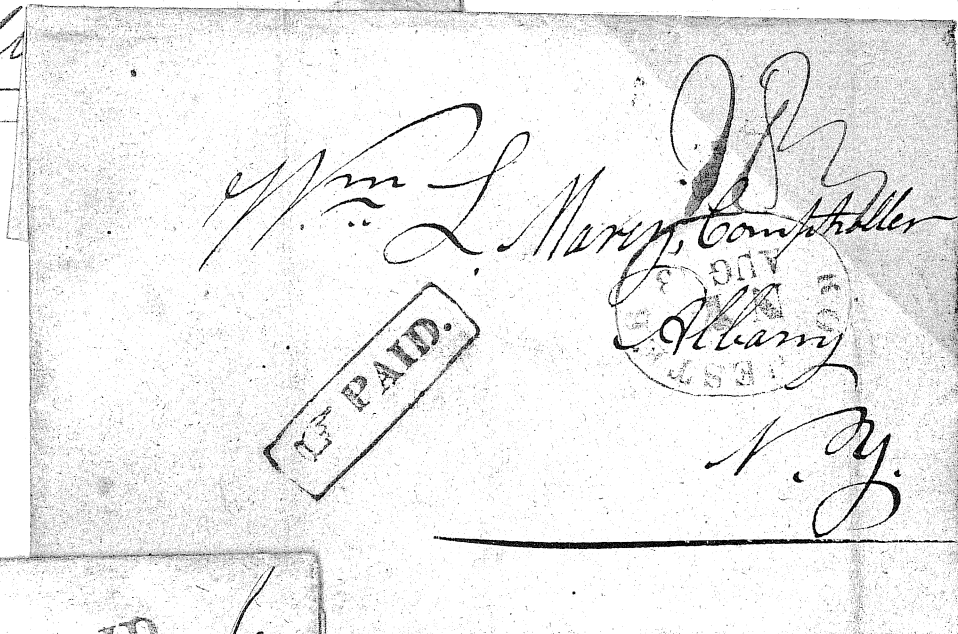
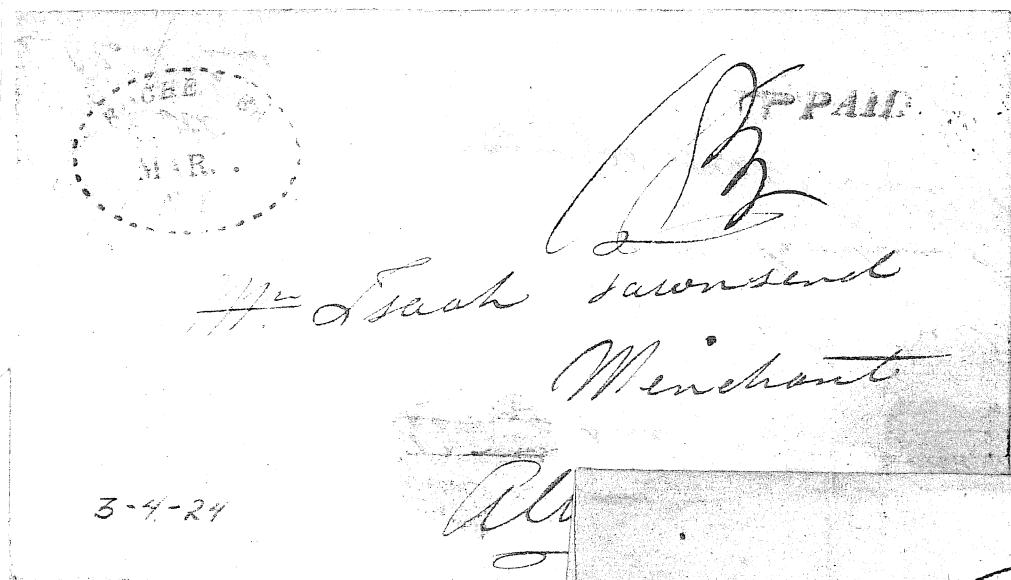


This green oval "NEWPORT RHODE ISLAND FEB 2" (1825) bears a matching "PAID" in Old English type face.



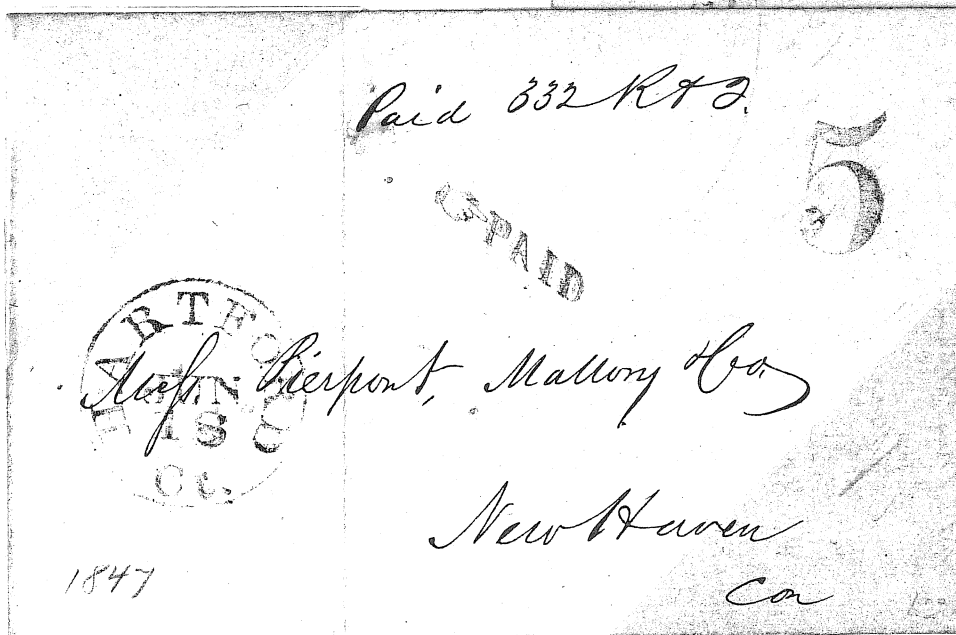
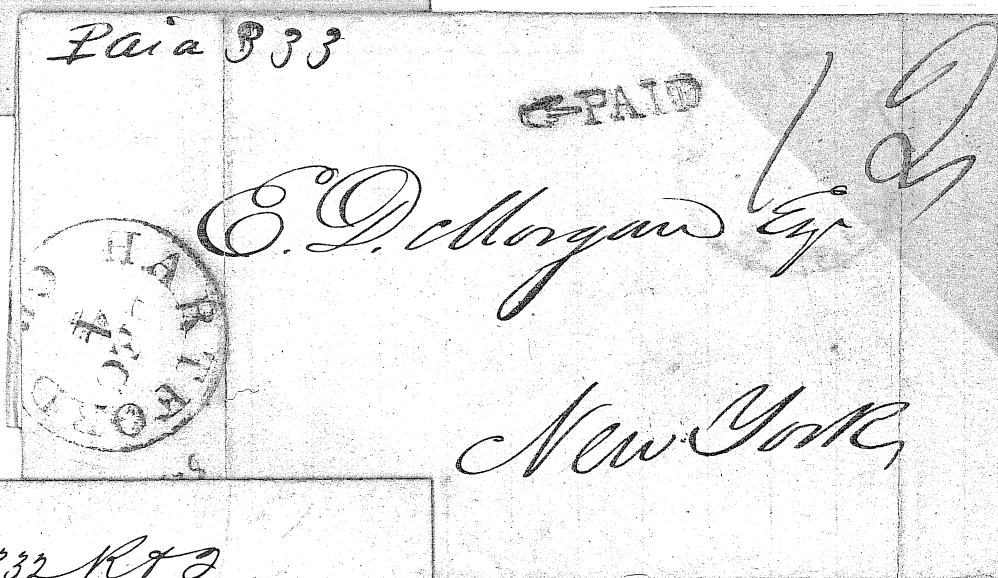
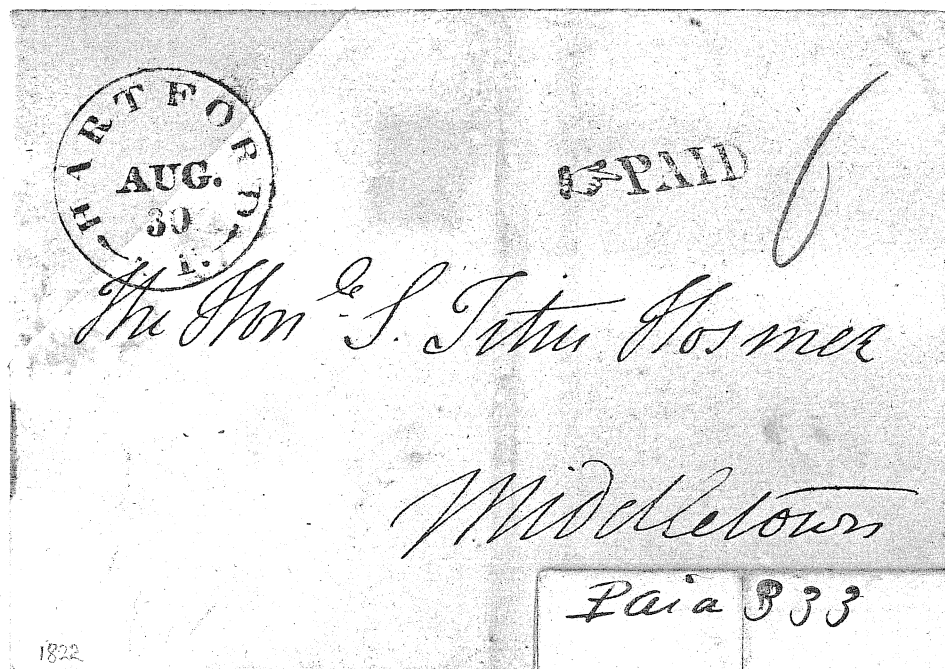
The "NEWPORT RHODE ISLAND AUG 15" (1825) cover shows a different "Paid" in a similar type face, both markings in green.

Auxillary Postal Markings- PAID Marks



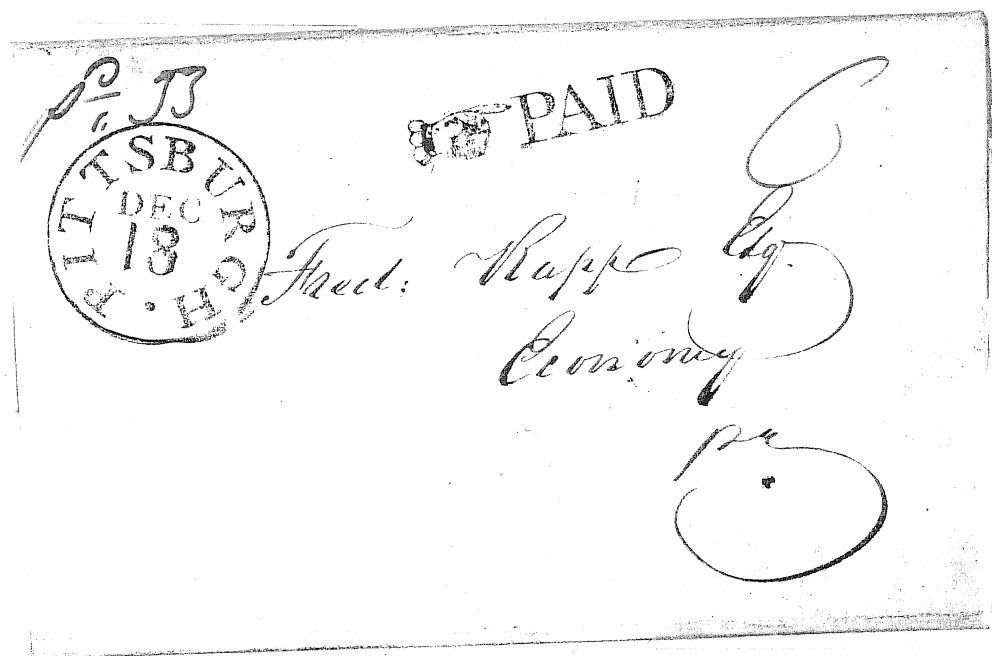
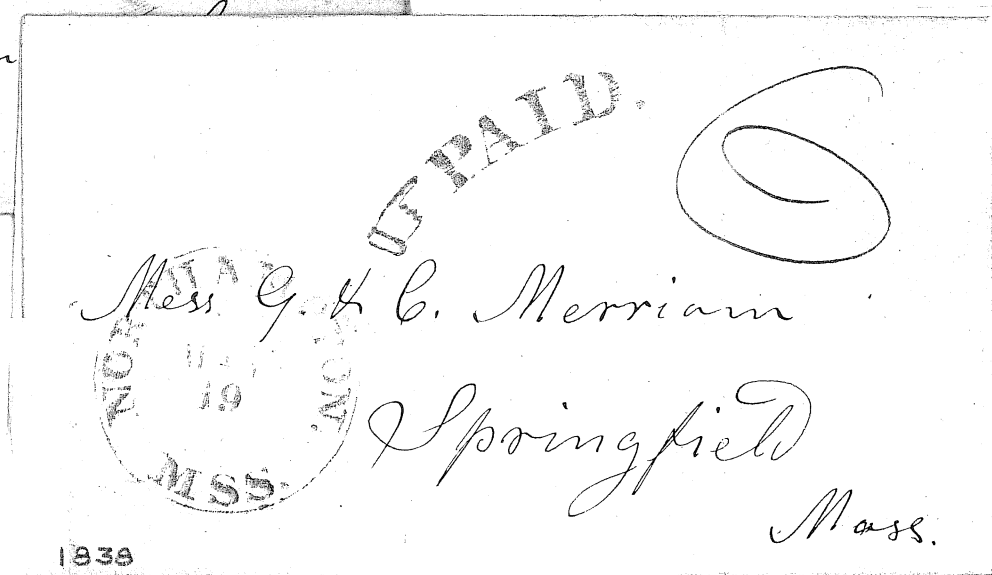
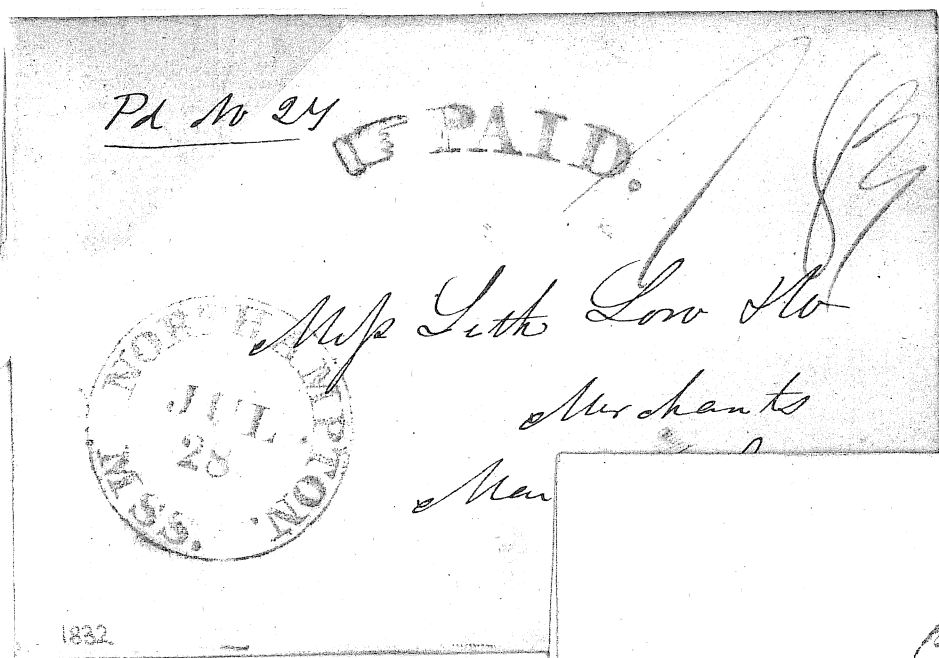
A form of decorated "PAID" markings are those with a pointing hand. The dotted oval "ROCHESTER N.Y. MAR" (1824) is accompanied by an italic "PAID" to the left of which is a pointing hand. A different style of this within a rectangular frame was used with "ROCHESTER N.Y. AUG 3", a marking which technically is an arch with oval frame. A separate hand is shown on the "HAMPTON MAINE AUG 30" (1829) cover which also shows a prepaid way fee.

Auxillary Postal Markings- PAID Marks



Hartford, Connecticut used the pointing hand "PAID" for many years. A very clear example with a decorated town marking "HARTFORD CT. AUG. 30" (1822) is shown with manuscript rating. A later "HARTFORD CT. DEC 4" (1838) shows the "long finger" type. A blue "HARTFORD Ct. JUN 18" (1847) is used with a handstamped rate mark and the pointing "PAID". There are other types too, and the markings are found on covers with stamps.

Auxillary Postal Markings- PAID Marks



These two markings "NORTHHAMPTON. MSS. JUL 28" (1832) in red and "NORTHHAMPTON. MSS. MAY 19" (1838) in magenta show an arched pointing hand "PAID." The other "PITTSBURGH. DEC 18" (1830) is a very handsome hand with a large "PAID".

Auxillary Postal Marks- PAID Marks



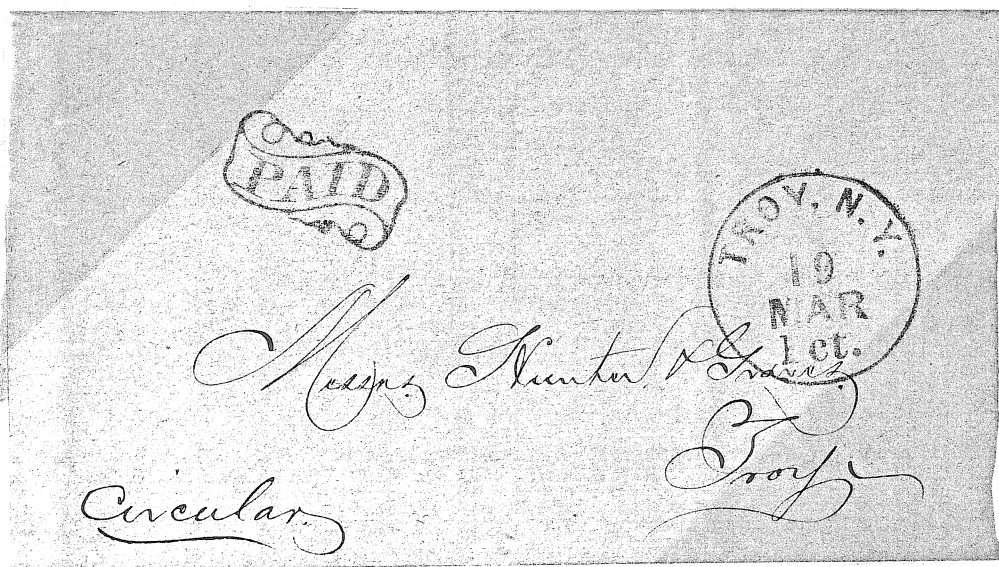
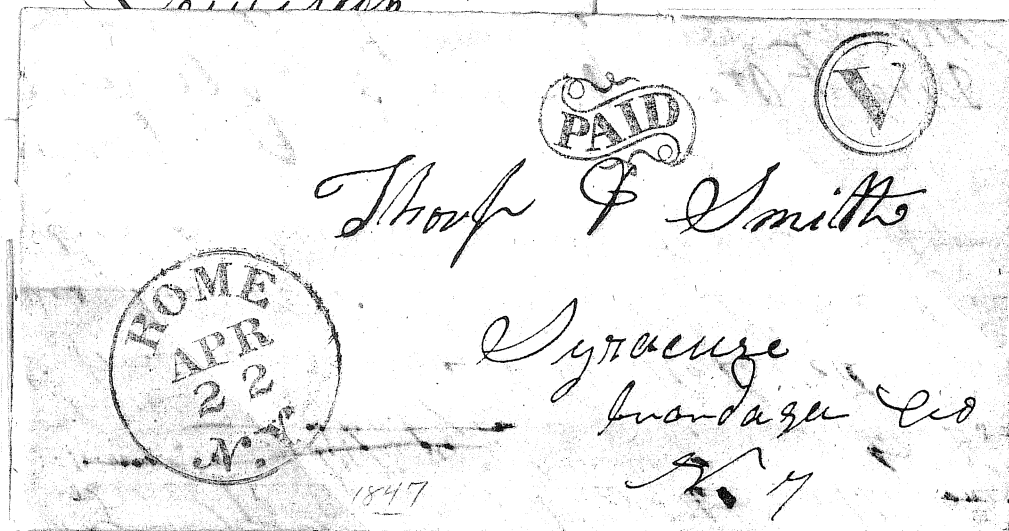
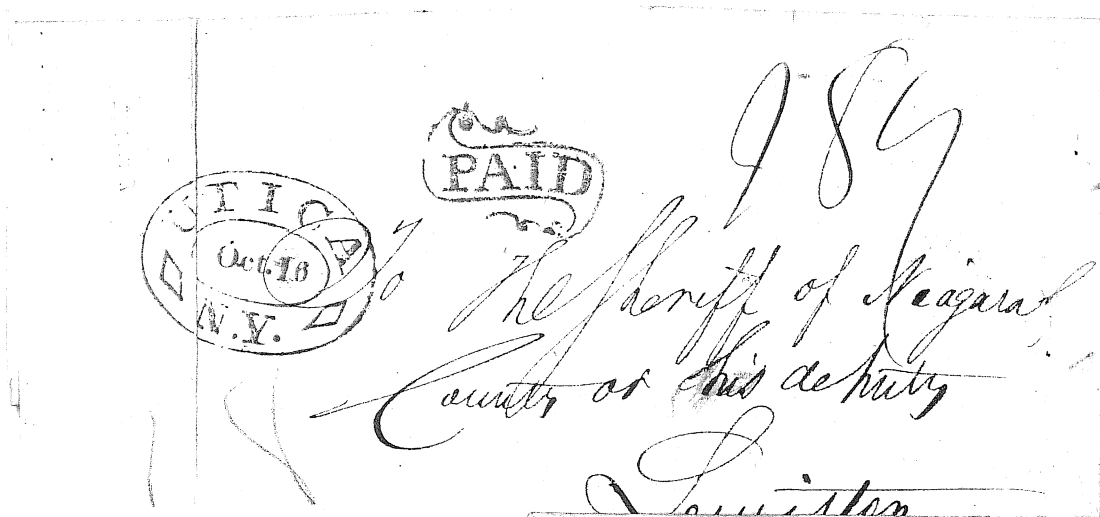
Like town postmarks, auxillary markings with lettering can have fancy lettering and decoration, or the frame can be unusual. These are examples of frame modification. The first cover with straight line "WARREN R.I. JUNE 6" (1836) in magenta double frame shows a "PAID" between double horizontal lines. The red "DAYTON O. MAR 11" (1831) has "PAID" in full double framed rectangle. And the octagon "PAID" of "PHILADA PA. APR 18" (1837) is a common marking, but the usage is "by Express Mail" with a "75" triple postage.

Auxillary Postal Markings-PAID Marks



The "SYRACUSE N.Y. AUG 28" (1852) cover bears a shield frame around the large "PAID". A curtailed banner frame on the "PAID" on "RICHMOND Va. JUL 23" (1846) is peculiar to this town. The fancy "PAID" of "LEICESTER MS NOV 13" (1845) is a more decorated type frame.

Auxillary Postal Markings- PAID Marks



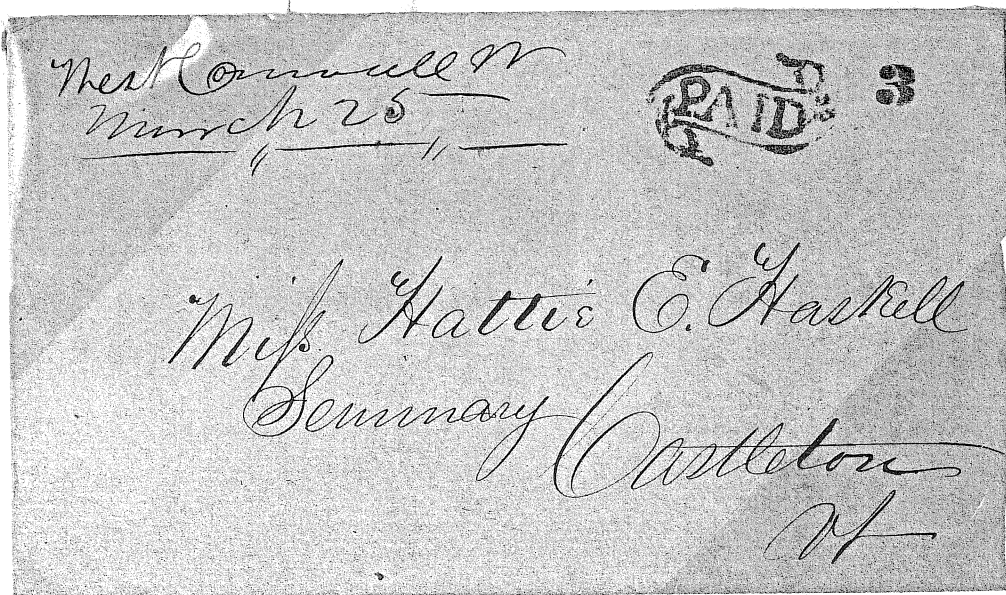
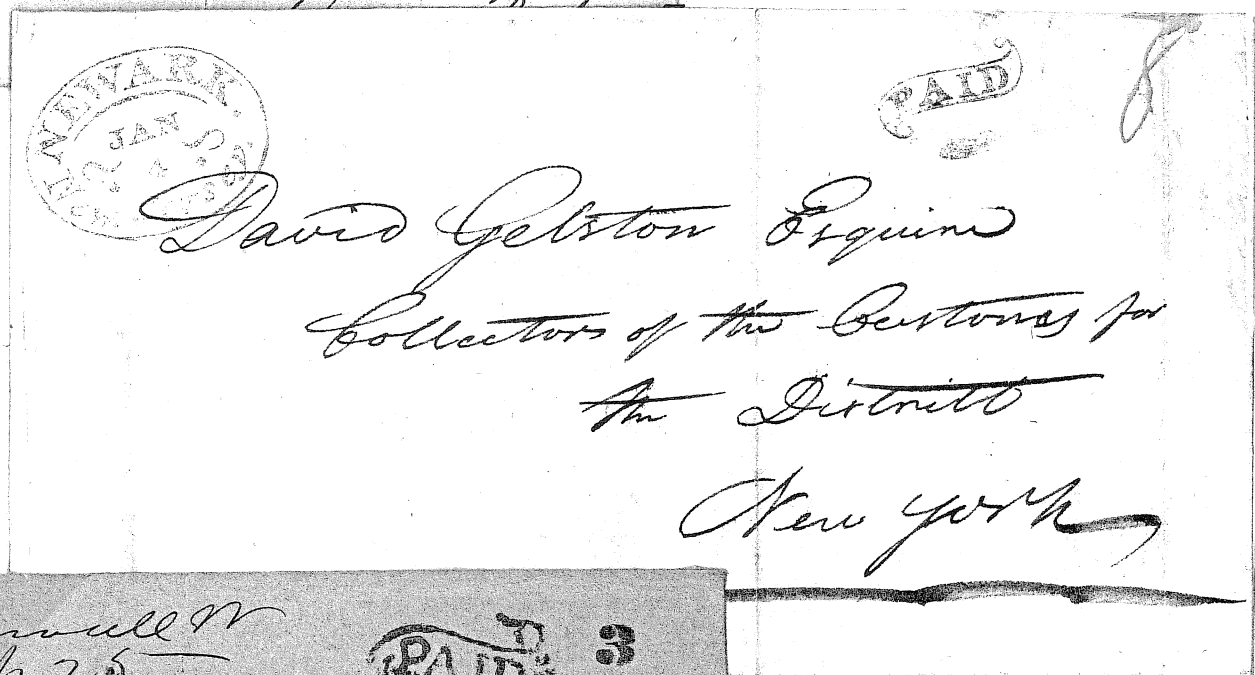
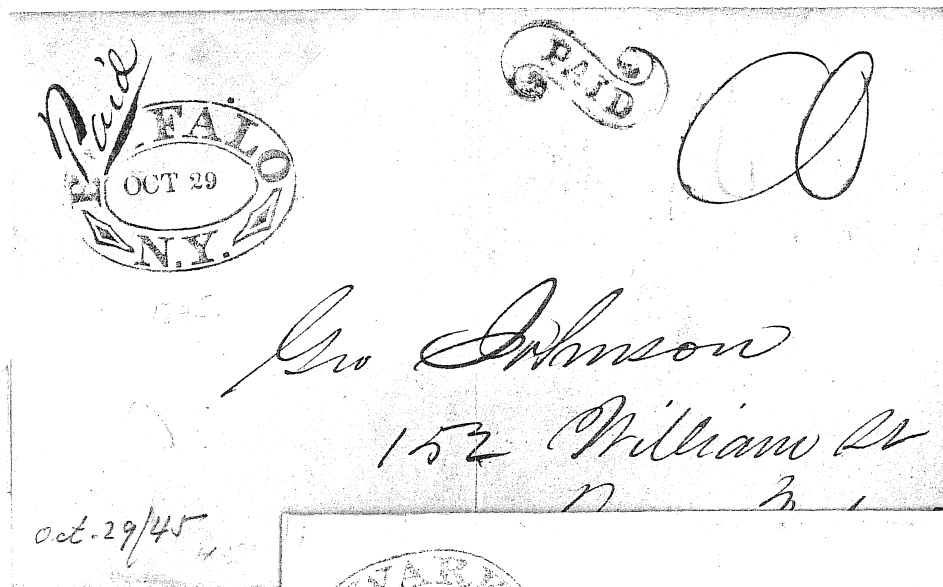
A number of towns used scroll or banner type "PAID" handstamps. Some are very common such as the group on this page. The "UTICA N.Y. Oct. 16" (1838) red decorated oval with the fancy "PAID" is very fancy although very common. The "ROME N.Y. APR 22" (1849) shows fancy lettering in the numbers and "N.Y." as well as a smaller "PAID" in scroll and "V" rate mark. And the "TROY N.Y. 19 MAR 1 ct." (1852) is a third type of scroll "PAID" on a circular usage.

Auxillary Postal Markings- PAID Marks



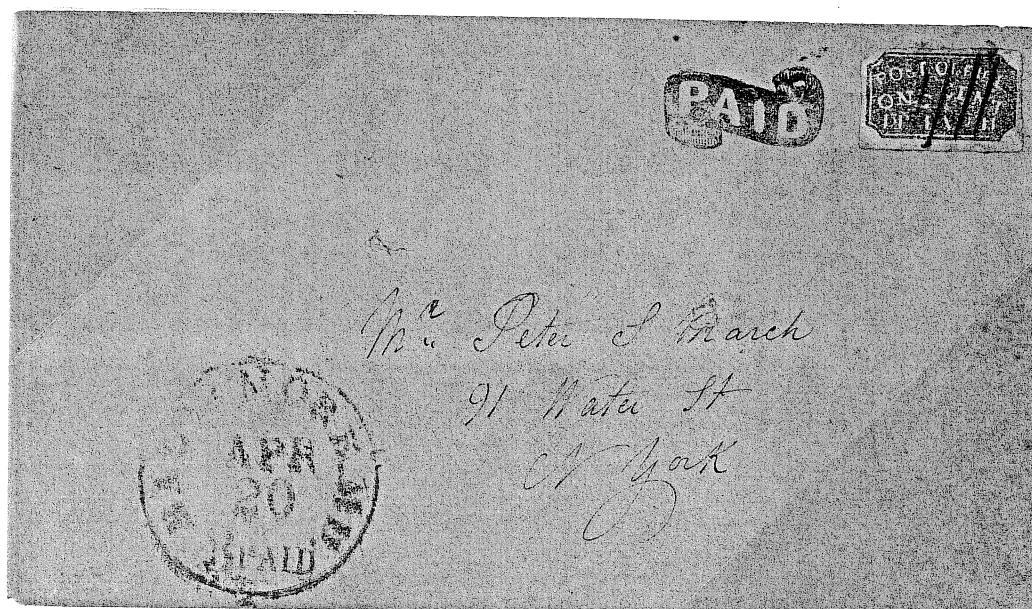
This group shows more uncommon markings. The oval "AUBURN N.Y. Apr. 12" (1836) is a earlier and more simple banner "PAID". The "PAID" in scroll compliments the fancy frame "MONSON MASS. Feb 9" (1832), an arch marking. The "ASHTABULA OHIO JAN 29" (1837) with the decorated double oval matches the unusual scroll "PAID" marking as also very fancy markings.

Auxillary Postal Markings- PAID Marks

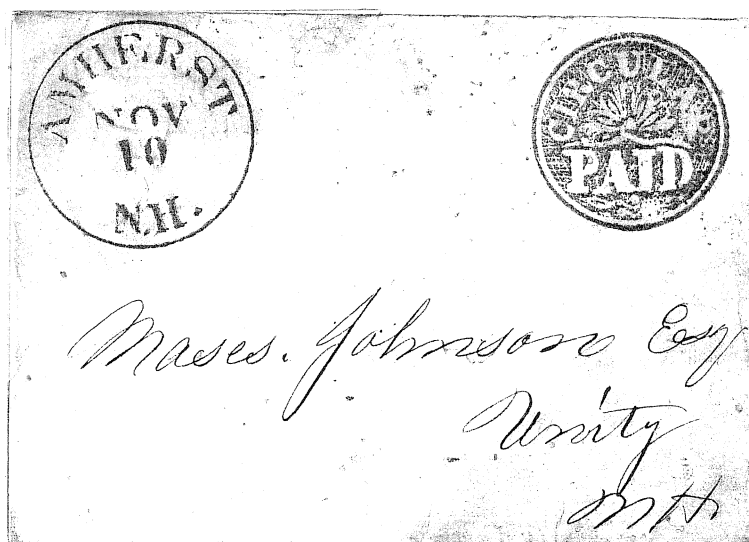


These three markings show a reversed type of "PAID" with the lettering higher on the left when the frame is level. The "BUFFALO N.Y. OCT 29" (1845) is one of the decorated ovals from that town. This "PAID" is not common. The "NEWARK New Jersey JAN 4" (1814) is one of the earliest scroll "PAID" marks; the oval is decorated too. The more crude "PAID" with floral decorations and "3" with manuscript "West Cornwall Vt. March 25" is also unusual.

Auxillary Postal Markings- PAID Marks

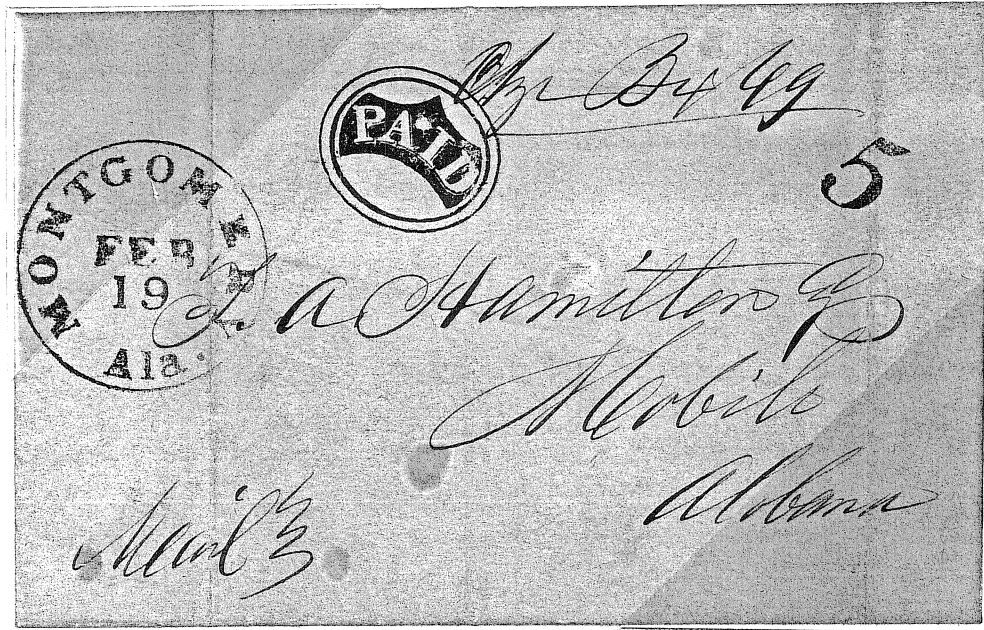


“PAID” in negative letters set into blue scroll. Baltimore one cent Carrier stamp with manuscript cancel, blue “BALTIMORE MD APR 20 3 PAID” to New York.

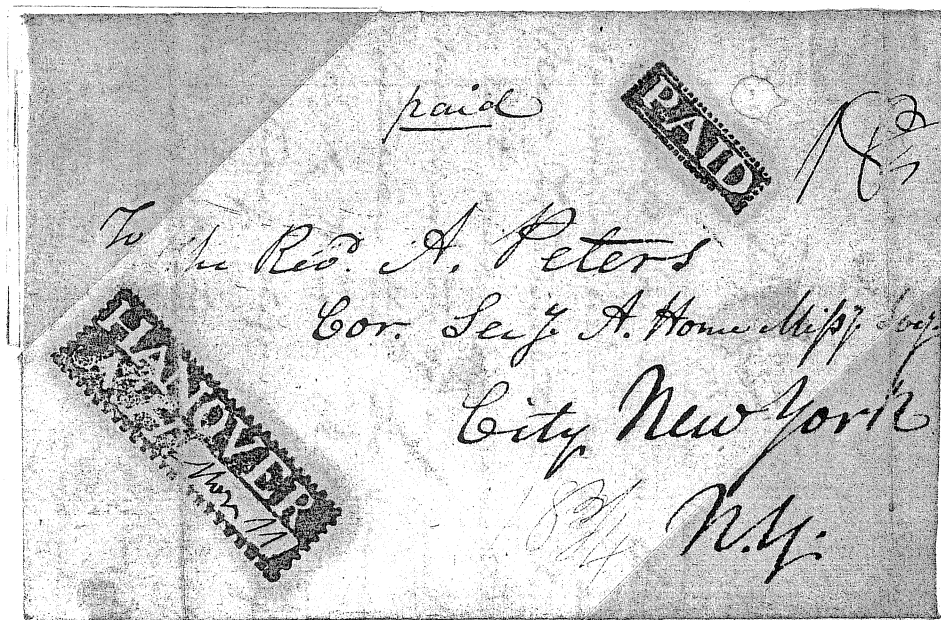


“CIRCULAR PAID” in blue circular field negative lettering with floral decorations, outer frame line too. Matching blue “AMHERST N.H. NOV 10” (1857). The postmaster sent the circular advertising huge California cucumbers.

Auxillary Postal Markings- PAID Marks



“MONTGOMERY Ala. FEB 19” (1850), “5” and negative lettered “PAID” in arch format within fancy field with double oval frame of different thicknesses, a spectacular marking showing shading in letters too.



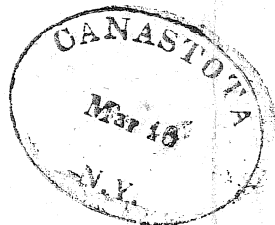
“PAID” in negative blue field, rectangular frame of dots with matching type town postmark “HANOVER N.H. Nov 11” (1827). Note that the town marking has a coggled outer frame differing from the “PAID”.

Auxillary Postal Markings- FREE Marks

FREE

J. G. Spurr
Om

Orville Williams Esq



Clinton

Hon. Lewis G. Linn

FREE

Senator,

Washington City.



FREE*

James Irrell Esquire

Edenton

Free
Rich^d. D. Spaight. North Carolina

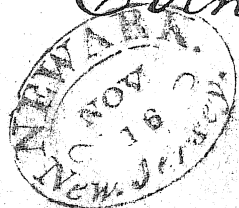
The "FREE" handstamp shows shaded letters, no frame, oval "CANASTOTA N.Y. Mar 16" (1830). One could argue the lettering is an arch, but it could be an oval format matching the frame. The common octagonal framed "FREE" of "PHILADELPHIA Pa. FEB 15" (1842) to a senator. "FREE*" (asterisk) with "4JY" on 1787 free franked cover by Richard D. Spaight, Signer of Constitution (which is why he is in Philadelphia) and Governor of North Carolina.

Auxillary Postal Markings- FREE Marks



Hon. Thomas Ewing

Washington City

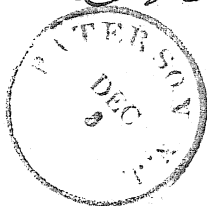
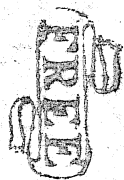


Ebenezer Hilton Esq.

Postmaster

Wiscasset

Maine



Doctor J. C. Caulfield

Post Master

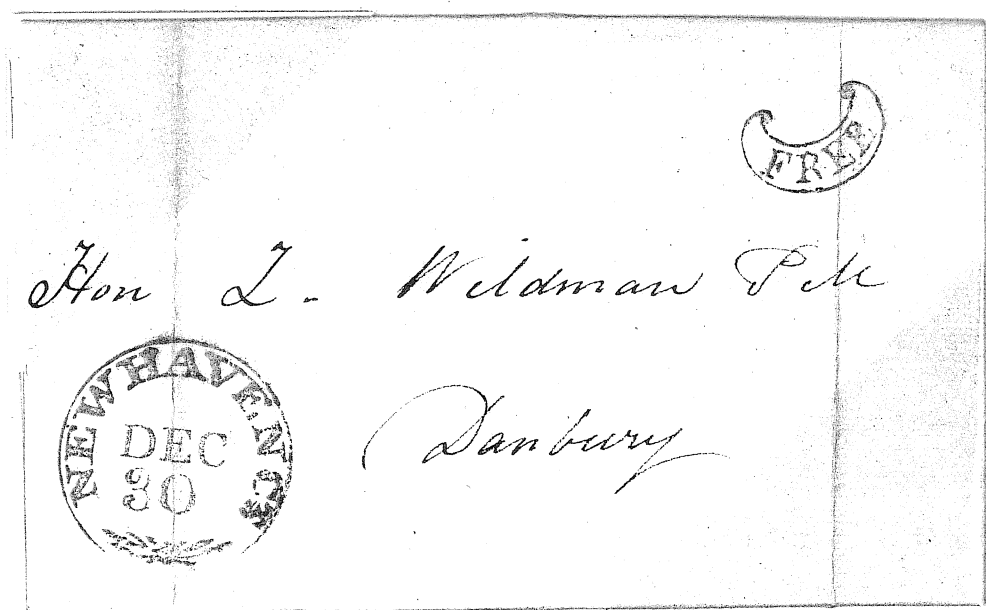
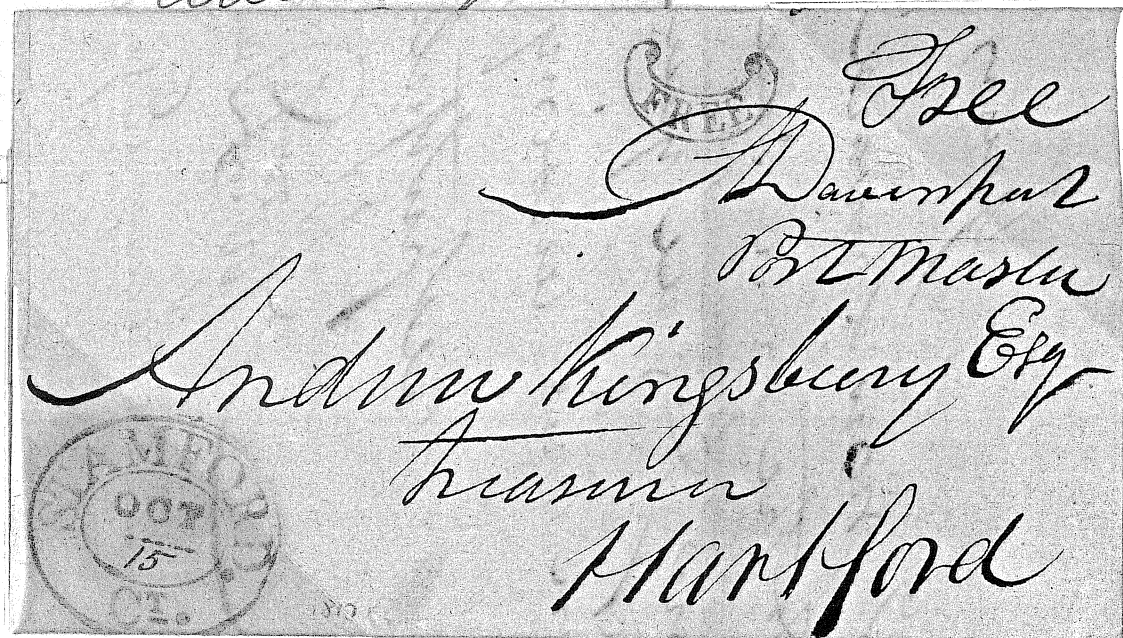
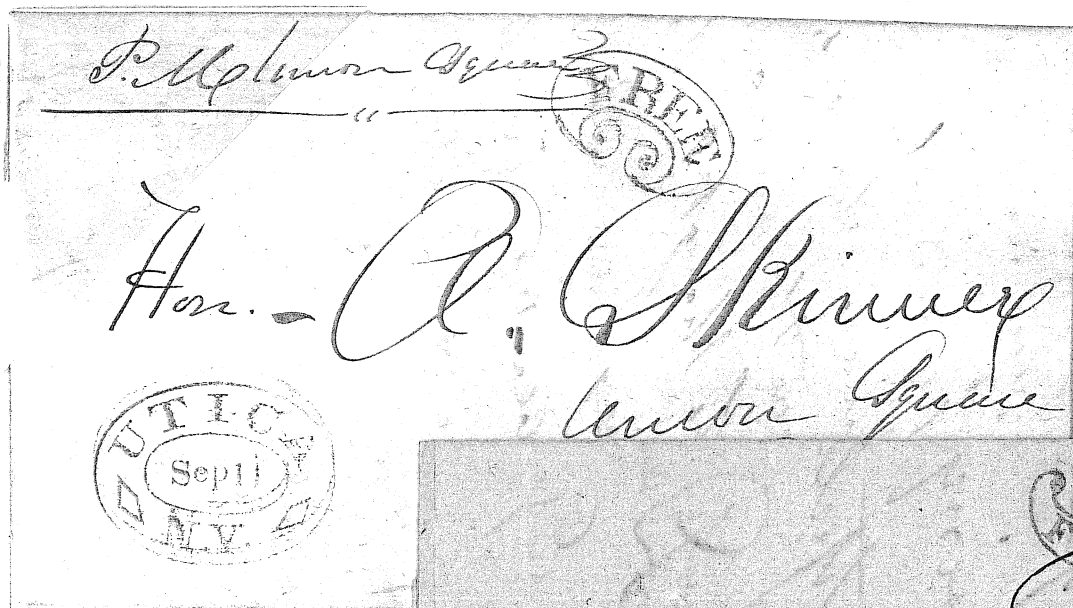
Bergain Town

Gloster Co. N.J.

1832

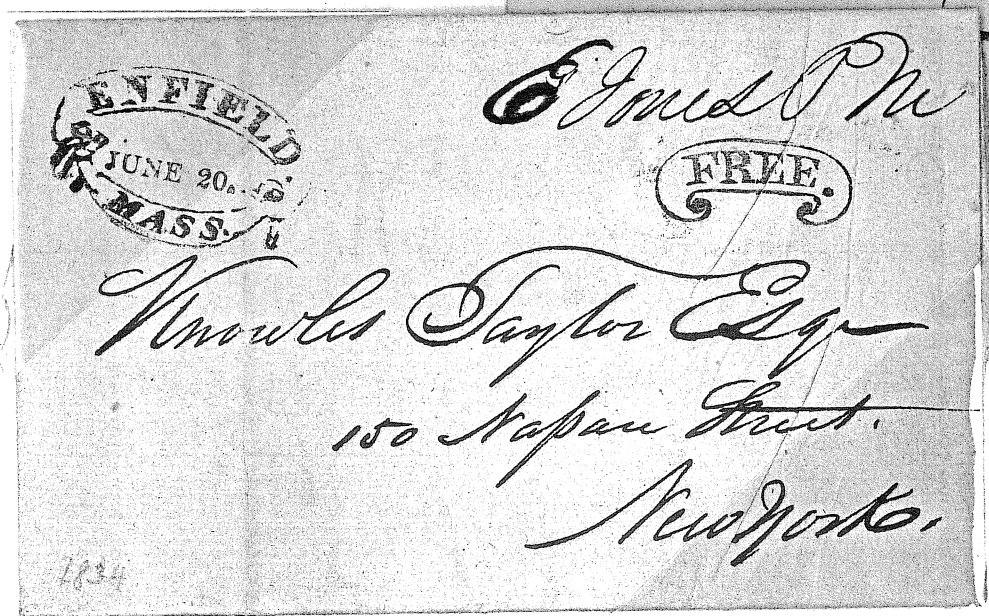
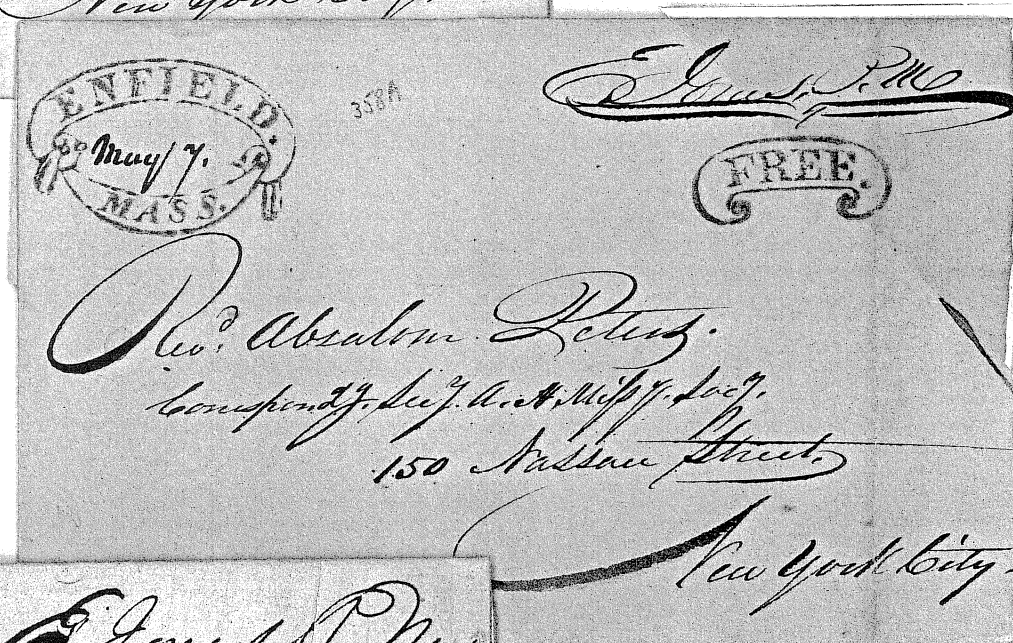
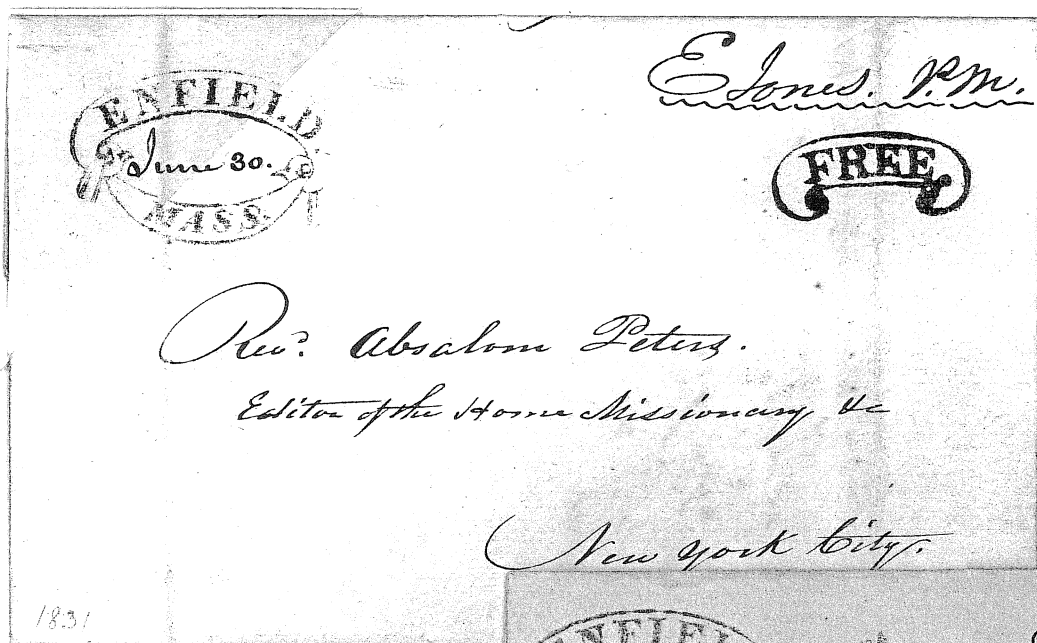
"FREE" in unusual wavy format within matching banner frame, "LANCASTER OHIO Decr 21" (1833) double oval frame. Double oval frame "NEWARK New Jersey NOV 16" (1823) with decorations, fancy "FREE" in banner. Similar but larger "FREE" with "PATERSON N.J. DEC 3" (1832).

Auxillary Postal Markings- FREE Marks



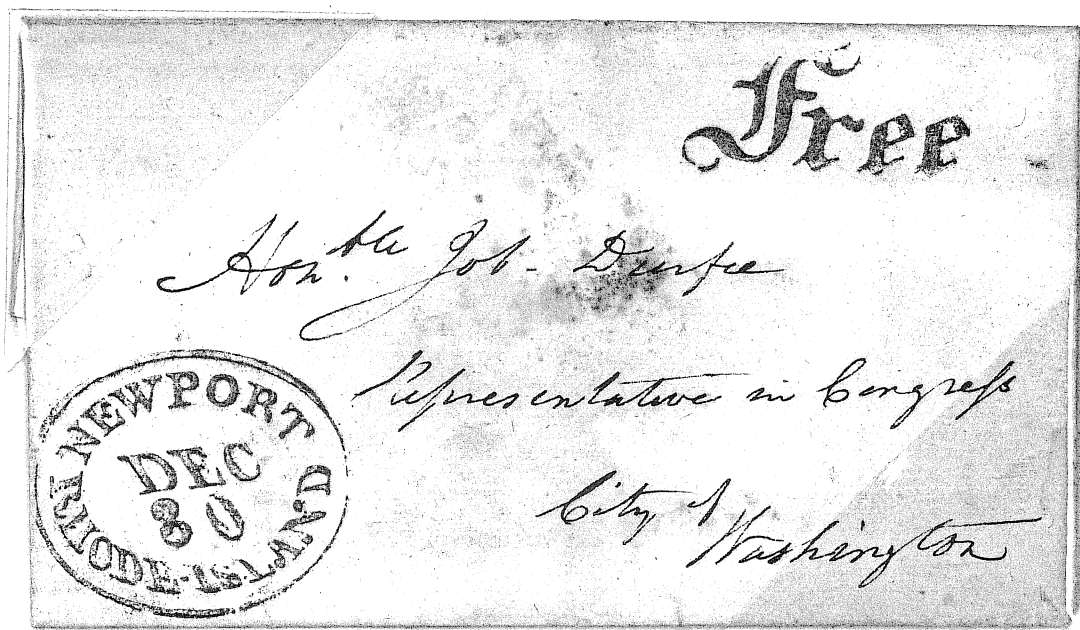
"FREE" in fancy scroll, double red oval "UTICA N.Y. Sep 11" (1834) with diamond decorations. "FREE" in reverse shaped scroll, red double oval "STAMFORD. CT. OCT 15" (1817), postmaster's frank. Red "FREE" similar scroll, "NEW HAVEN CT. DEC 30" (1831) with decoration below lettering.

Auxillary Postal Markings- FREE Marks

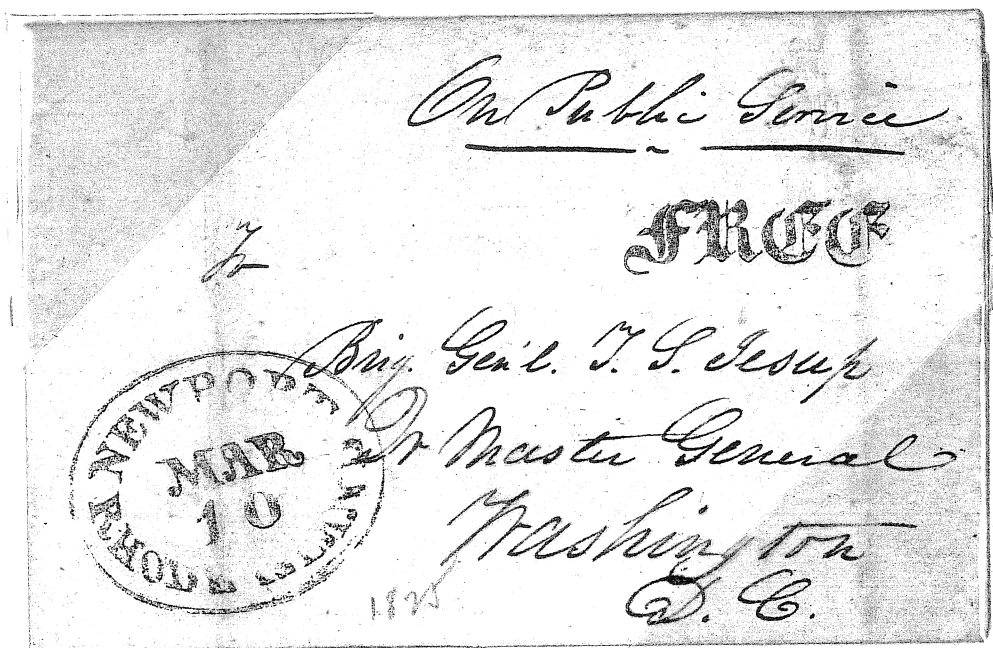


This set of three covers shows the same fancy scroll "FREE." with very fancy frame of Enfield, Massachusetts. The 1831 cover is in black, the 1833 cover in red and the 1834 cover in blue. All are postmaster's franks.

Auxillary Postal Markings- FREE Marks

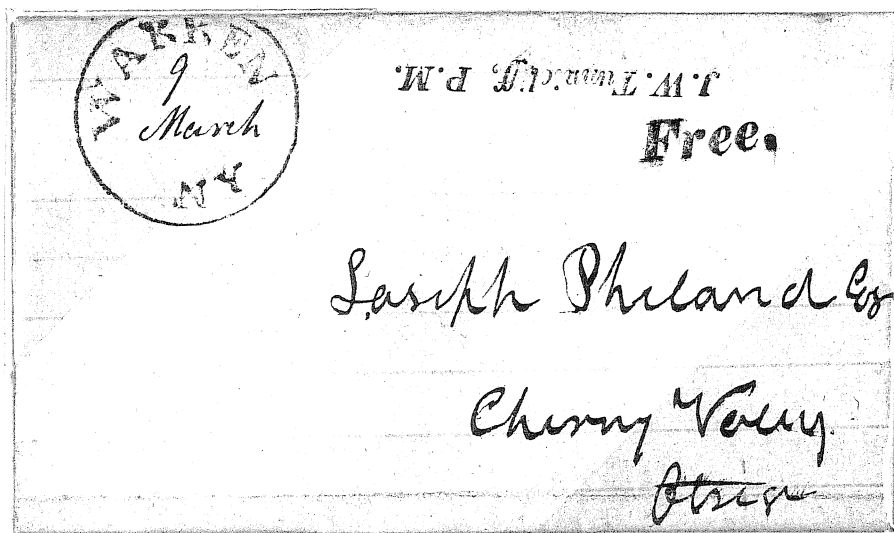


This is the largest "Free" handstamp known on stampless covers. It is also in green and is in unusual script type from "NEWPORT RHODE ISLAND DEC 30" (1823) green oval with unusual type too.

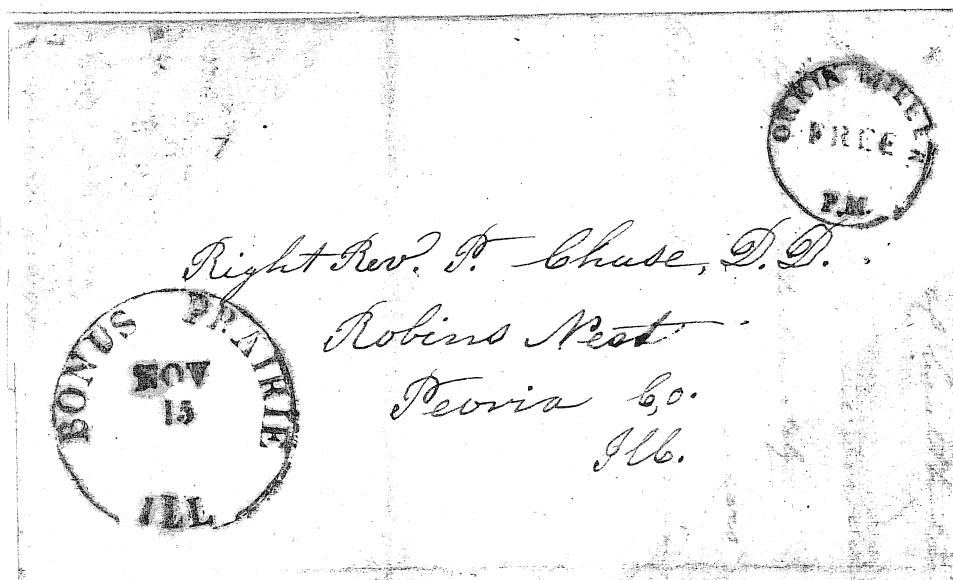


A later use "NEWPORT RHODE ISLAND MAR 10" (1825) with the smaller script "FREE", also all in green.

Auxillary Postal Markings- Postmaster's Marks

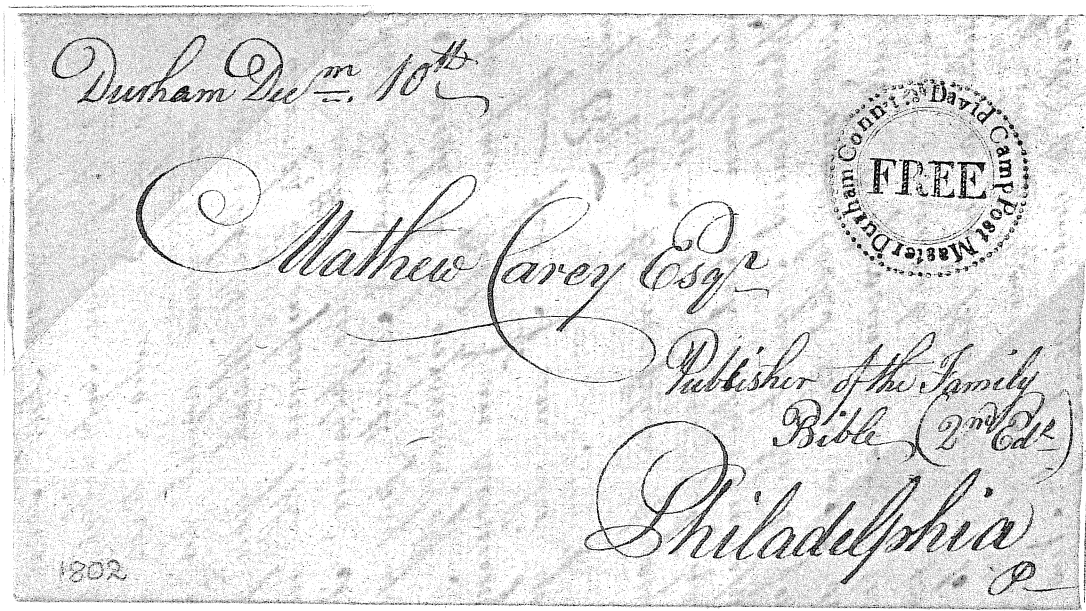


“WARREN N.Y. 9 March” (1837), “Free.” with “J.W. Turncliff, P.M.” in italics. Only known example.

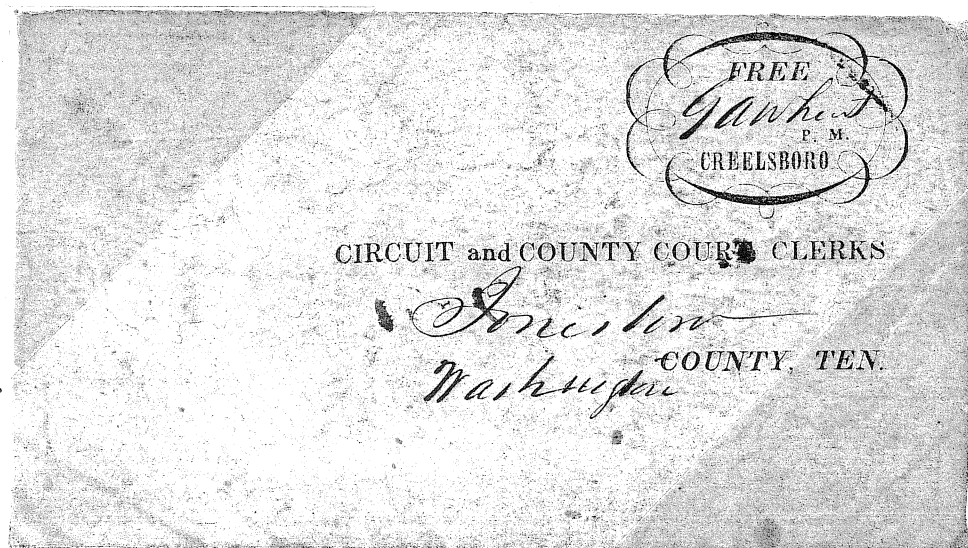


“BONUS PRAIRIE ILL NOV 15” (1847) and circular “ORKIN MILLER P.M. FREE” in circle, unusual format. This may be the listing copy.

Auxillary Postal Markings- Postmaster's Marks



Manuscript "Durham Dec 10th" (1802) with handstamped "FREE David Camp PostMaster Hurham Conn.t." fancy lettering in "FREE", double inner frame and dotted outer frame. A gem of U.S. postal history, ex Salzer.

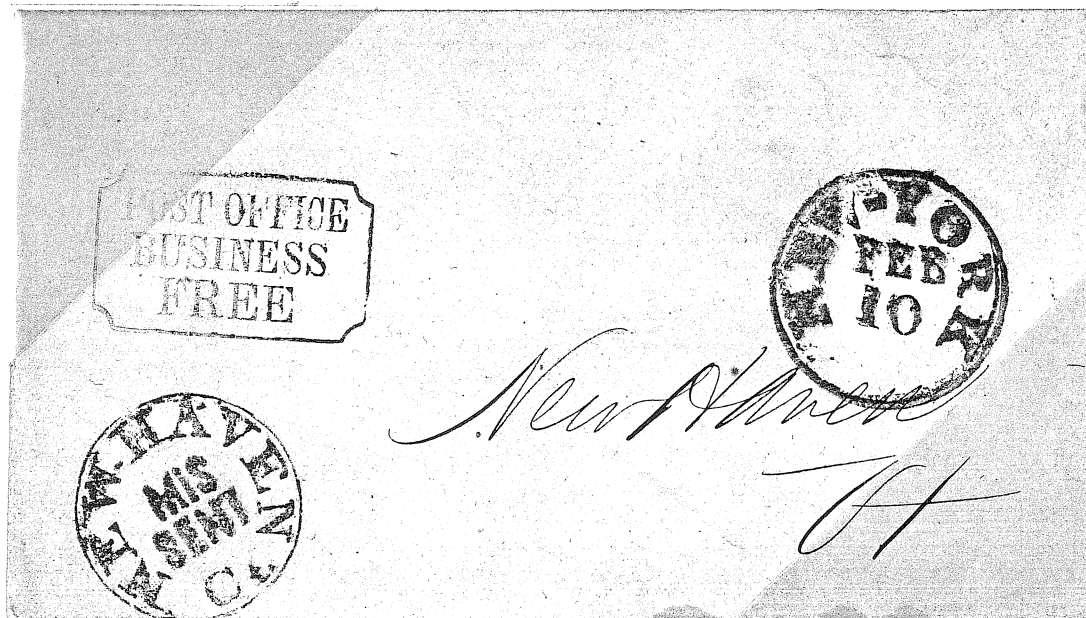


"FREE G A Wheat P.M. CREELSBORO" (1851) printed circular with fancy frame. Only known example.

Auxillary Postal Markings- Postmaster's Marks

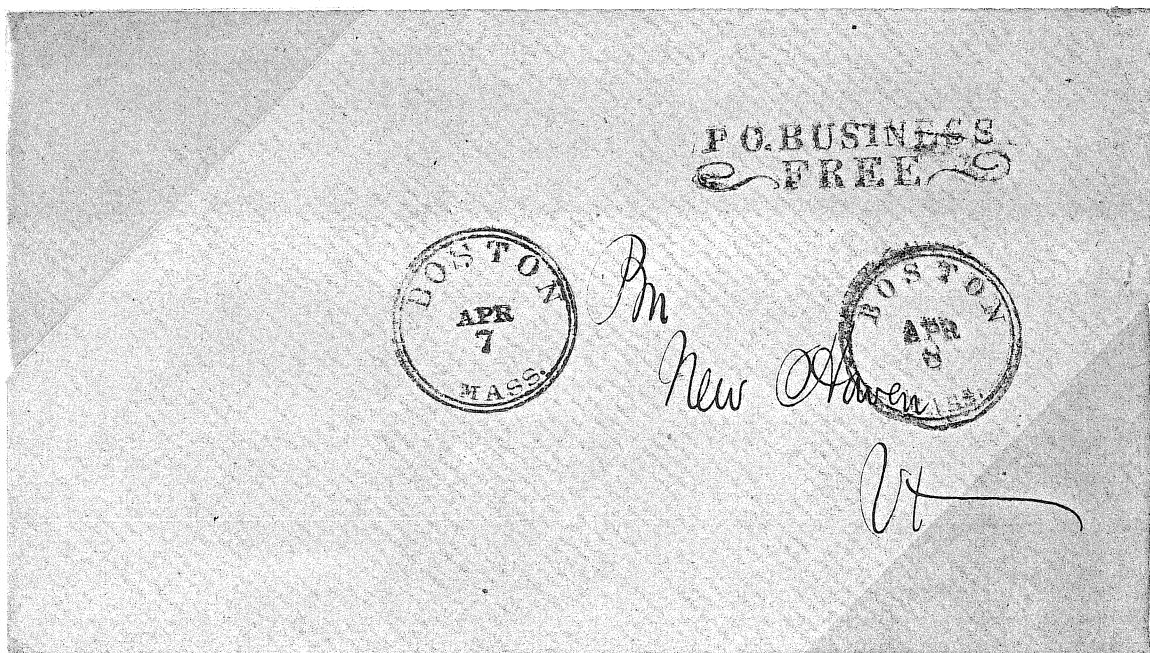


In addition to simple FREE postmarks, certain postmasters prepared handstamps that did not require the handwritten free frank. For the most part while these are stampless covers, their usage was later, during the period when stamps were available for postage. This blue “P.O. Business; fREE” circular format in old English script type was used April 30, 1856 to mail a Return Registered Letter Bill from Middlebury, Vermont.



This “POST OFFICE BUSINESS FREE” marking was used at New York to send a Return Registered Letter Bill. This is an example of an unusual frame. The cover also has a “MISSENT NEW-HAVEN Ct.” in circle. It is addressed to Vermont.

Auxillary Postal Markings- Postmaster's Marks

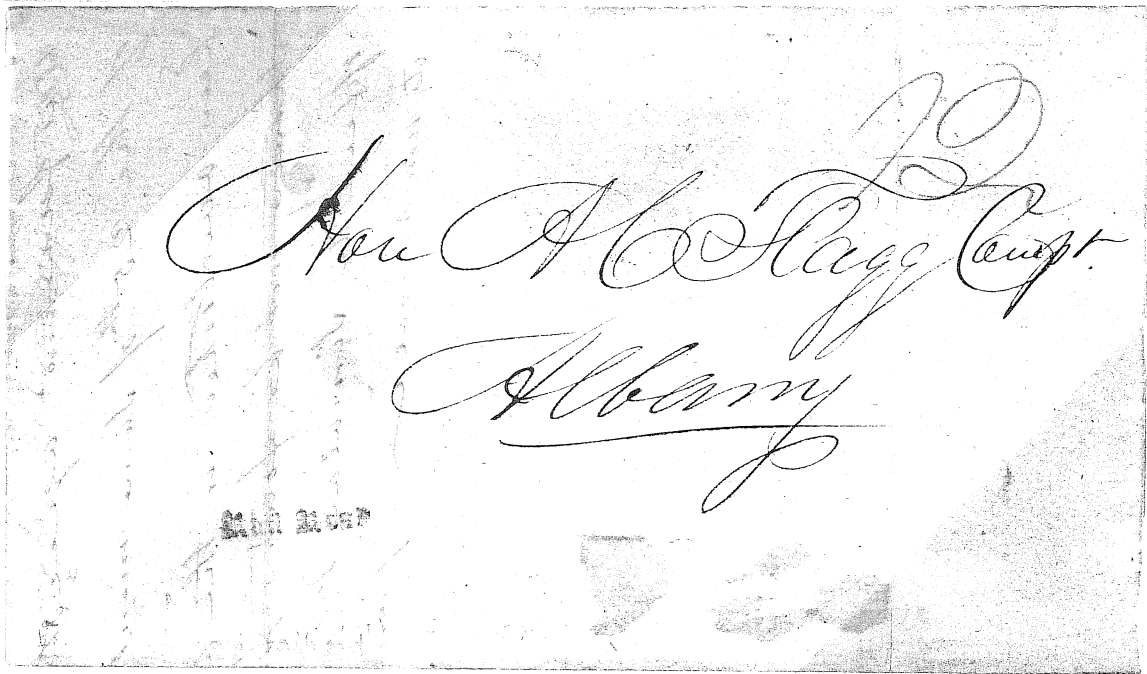


This "P.O. BUSINESS FREE" handstamp in two lines includes decorative scrolls around the FREE. This example is from Boston returns a Return Registered Letter Bill also with an April 7 postmarked bill. It is not clear why there are two Boston postmarks on the cover.

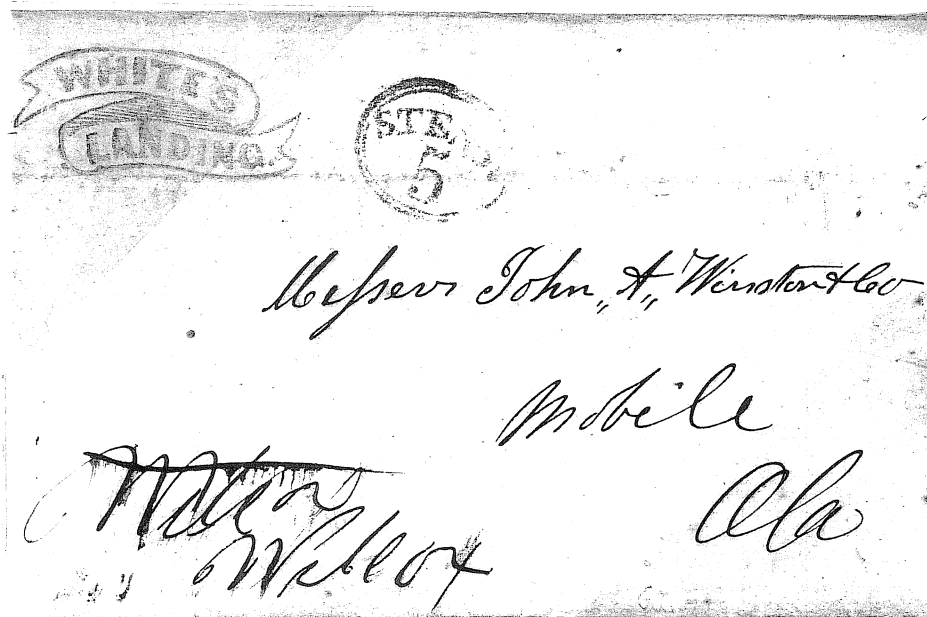


This cover bears blue postmarks including the same handstamp as above from Boston, demonstrating that the handstamp was manufactured as a stock type. The usage here with "NASHUA N.H. DEC 21 1858" postmark was again for a return registered letter bill informing the postmaster at the sending office that the letter had arrived.

Auxillary Postal Markings- Other

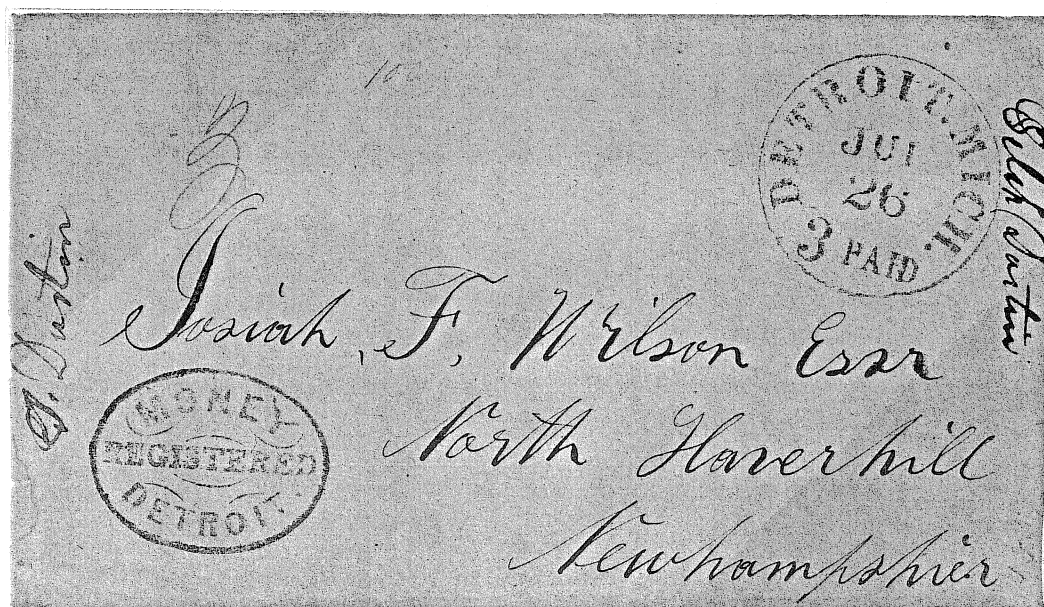


"Rail Road" in old English lettering, November 2, 1837, earliest known railroad postmarked cover. Ex Dunsmoor.

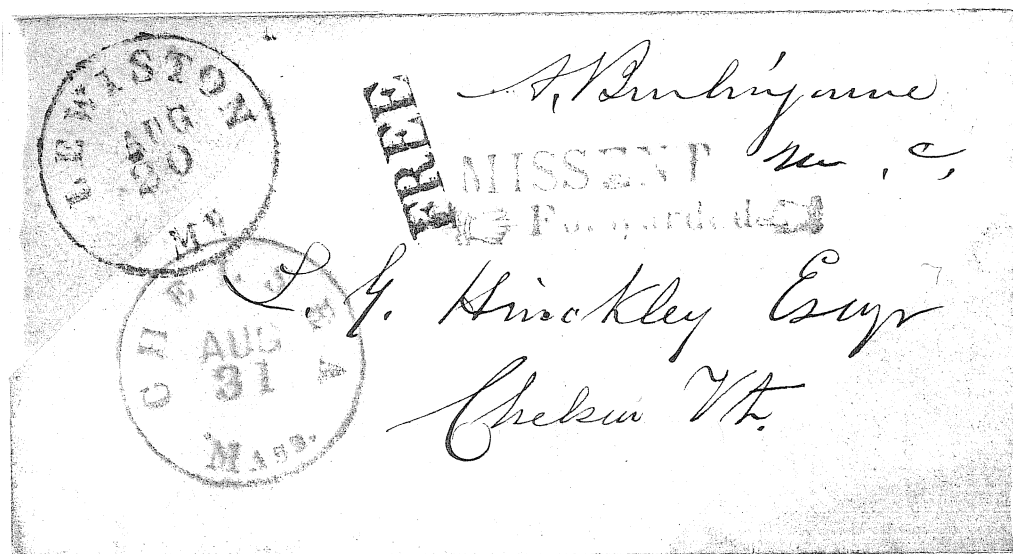


"WHITE'S LANDING" red handstamped marking from steamboat landing in 1852. Sent by steamboat "Wilcox" to Mobile where postmarked "STEAM 5" in double oval. One of two known examples.

Auxillary Postal Markings- Other

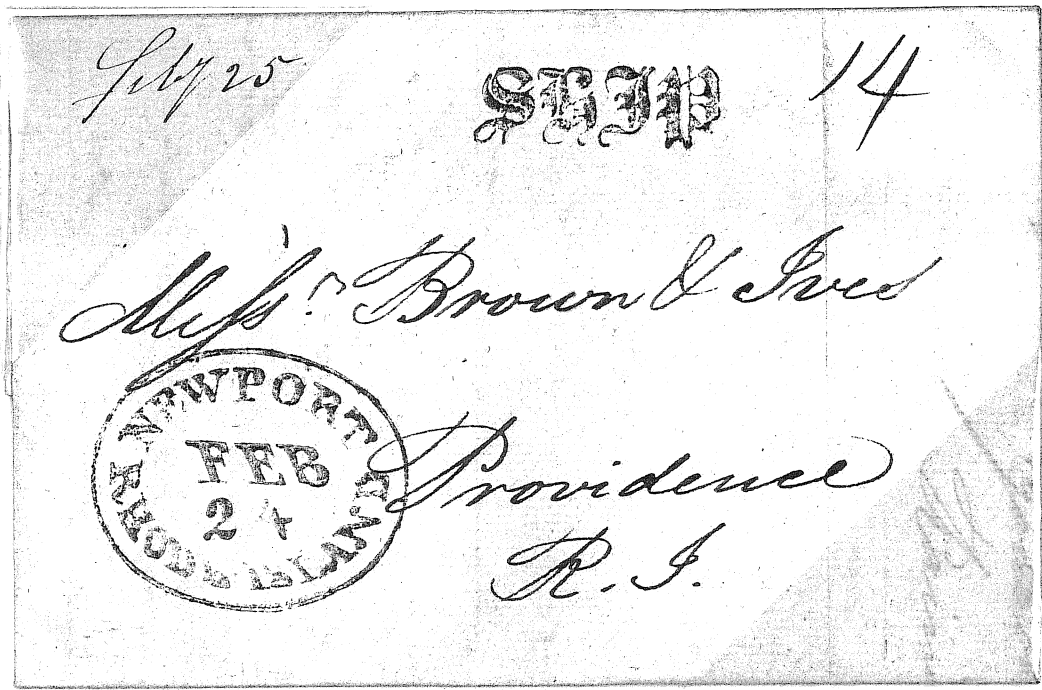


“DETROIT MICH. JUL 26 3 PAID”(1854) in red, black “MONEY REGISTERED DETROIT” in black oval containing decorative lines. From period of unofficial registration. One of two known examples.



“LEWISTON ME. AUG 20”, “FREE” with frank, red “CHelsea MASS. AUG 31” and “MISSENT” and “Forwarded” with two pointing hands to Chelsea, Vermont. There are probably two different marks from Chelsea.

Auxillary Postal Markings- SHIP, STEAM, and WAY Marks

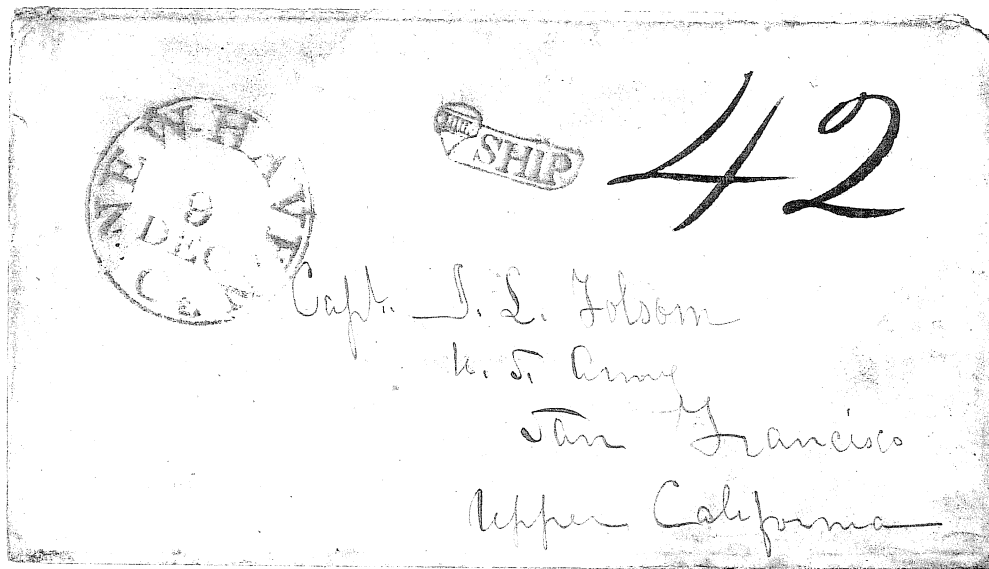


"NEWPORT RHODE ISLAND FEB 24" (1826) in fancy green oval, "SHIP" in old English type, example of fancy lettering.

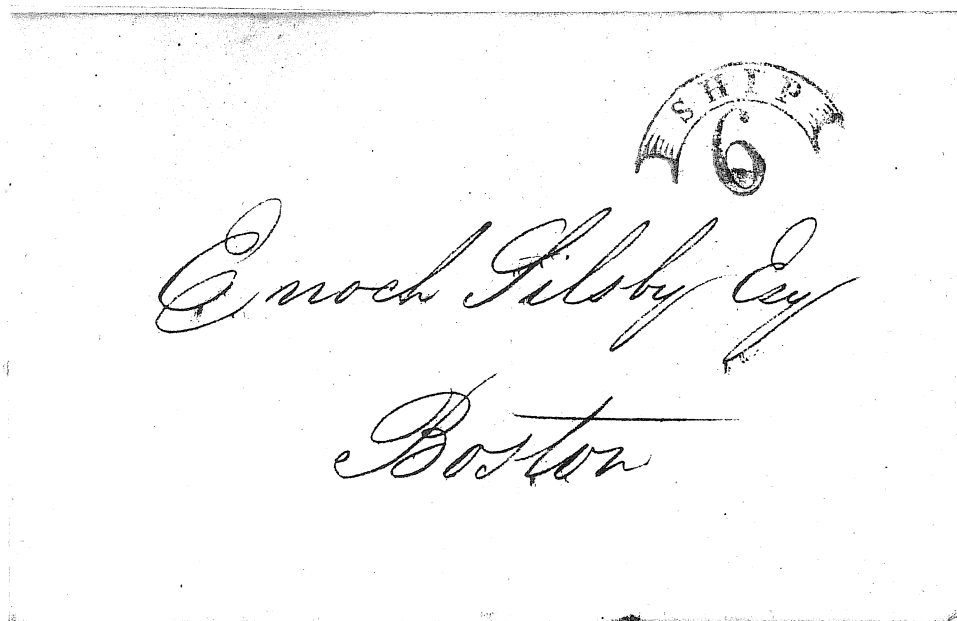


"SAVAN. GA. DEC 27" (1802) with "SHIP." in decorative scroll. This is the earliest fancy "SHIP" marking.

Auxillary Postal Markings- SHIP, STEAM, and WAY Marks

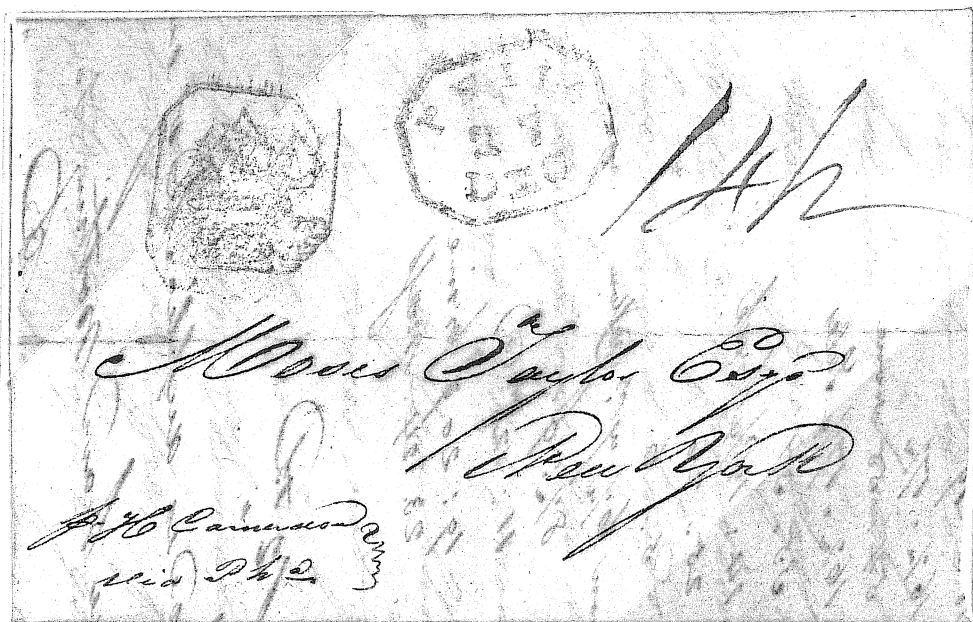


"NEW HAVEN Ct. 9 DEC" (probably 1850) with matching "SHIP" in frame illustrating ship's hull. The rate is "42" representing the 40 cents rate to California plus 2 cents ship fee. Notation that origin was St. Croix, D.W.I.



The arched "SHIP" in ribbon frame over a "6" (1826) was used at Boston for letters carried by private ship and addressed to Boston, port of entry.

Auxillary Postal Markings- SHIP, STEAM, and WAY Marks

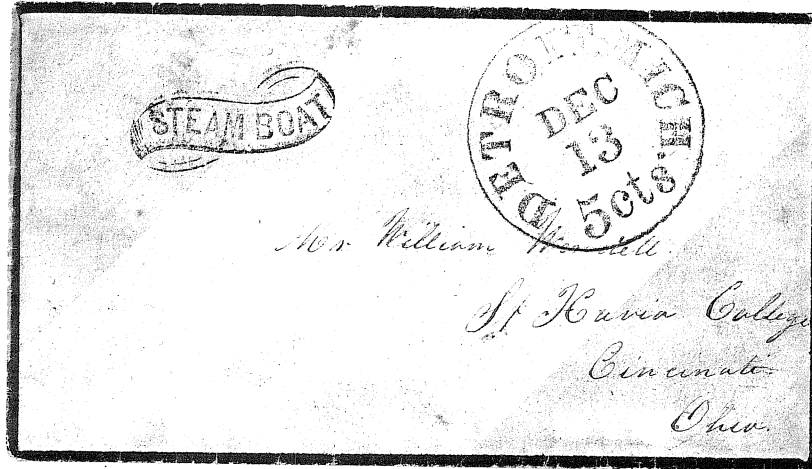


“PHILA 27 DEC”(1835) in red octagon, two incomplete strikes of the small illustrated ship postmark, 12½ plus 2 cents to New York. Only known example in red, one cover known in blue.

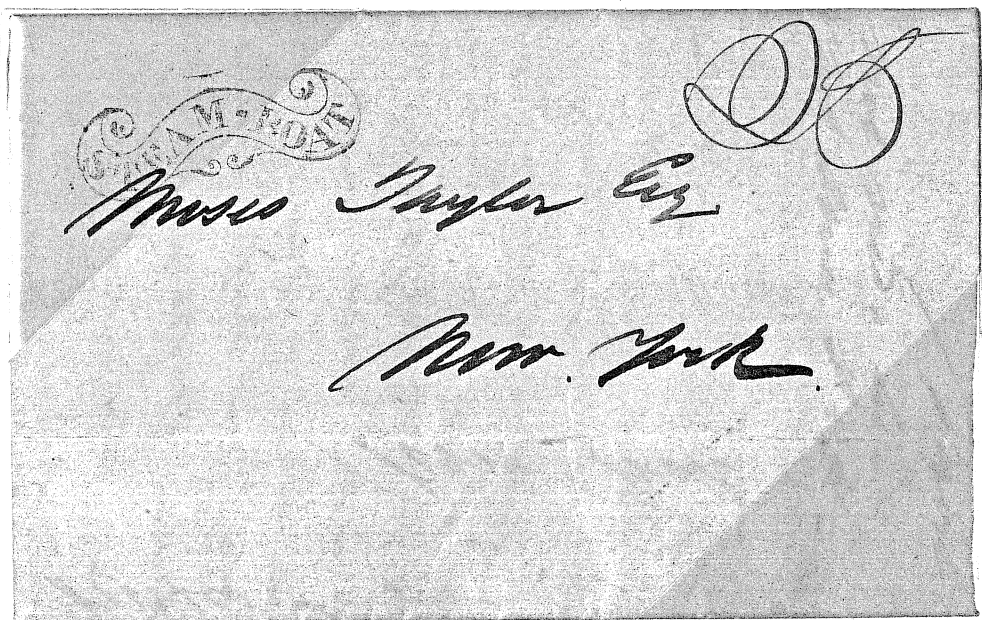


“PHILA. 22 NOV” (1834) with the large red illustrated ship marking from Rio de Janeiro Sept, 1834.

Auxillary Postal Markings- SHIP, STEAM, and WAY Marks

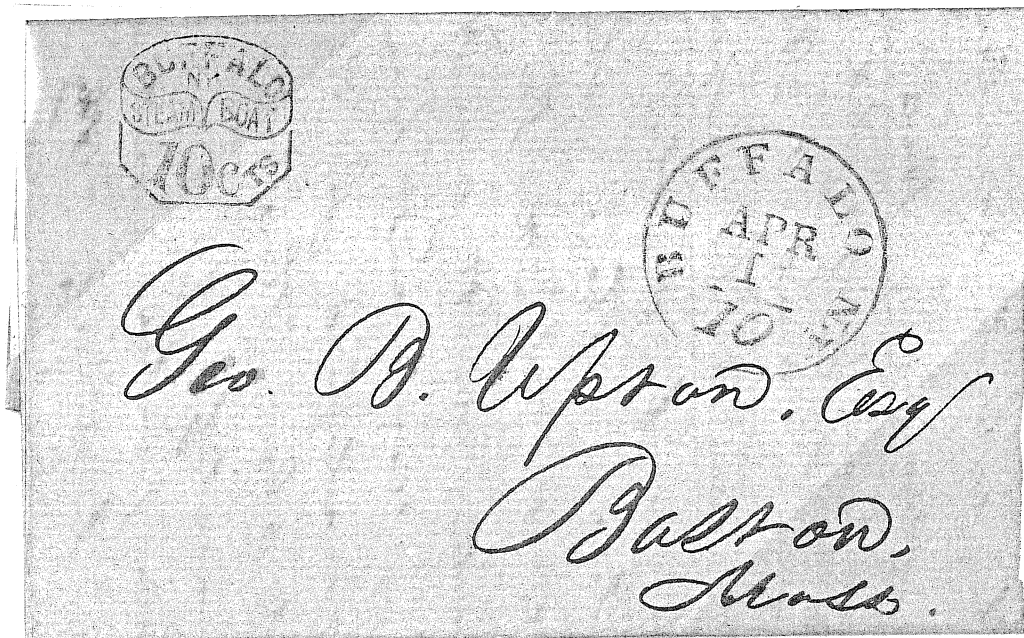


"DETROIT MICH. DEC 13 5 cts" with "STEAMBOAT" in scroll, used before required prepayment from contract vessel.

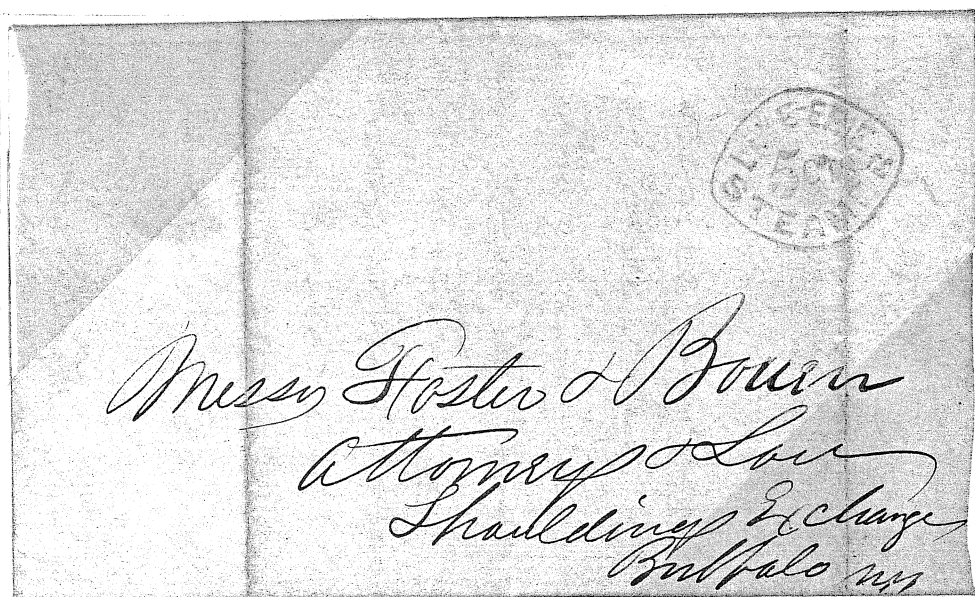


"STEAMBOAT" in ornate scroll used at Buffalo, New York on contract steamboat, origin Perrysburgh, Ohio June 12, 1836.

Auxillary Postal Markings- SHIP, STEAM, and WAY Marks



"BUFFALO N.Y. APR 1 10" with "BUFFALO N.Y. STEAM BOAT 10 CTS" marking in fancy frame.

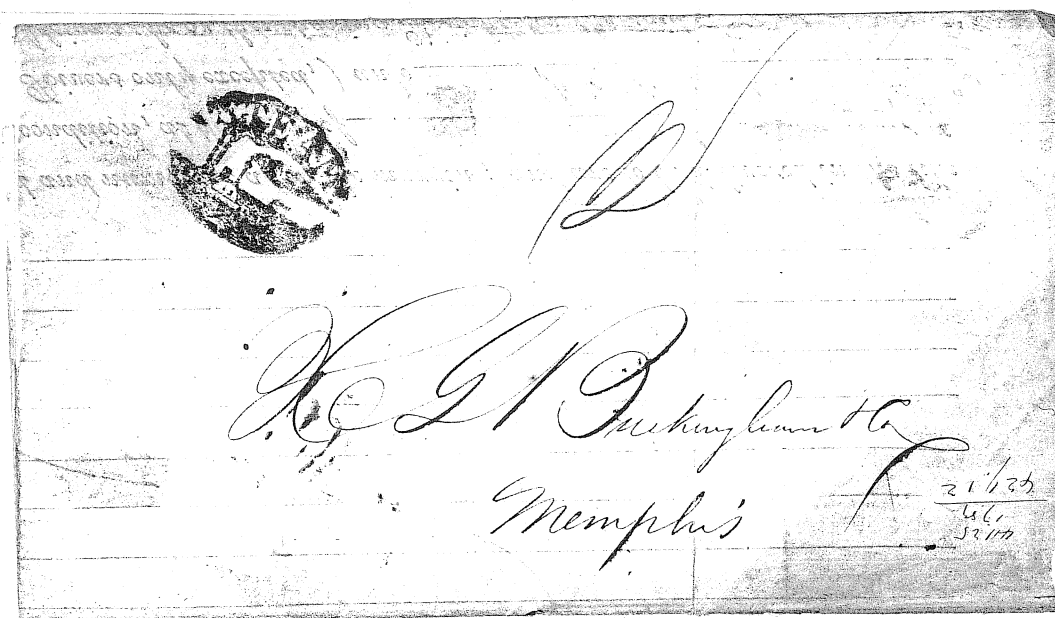


"LAKE ERIE STEAMER 5 CTS" on letter Cleveland June 9, 1851. While the lettering is in an oval format, the frame is quite peculiar and can qualify as fancy.

Auxillary Postal Markings- SHIP, STEAM, and WAY Marks

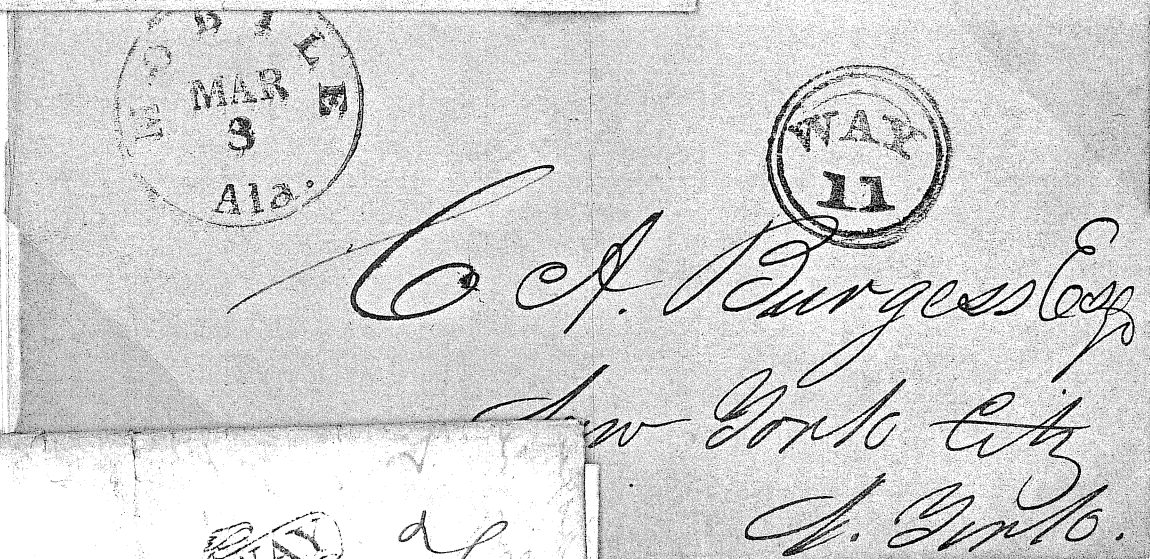
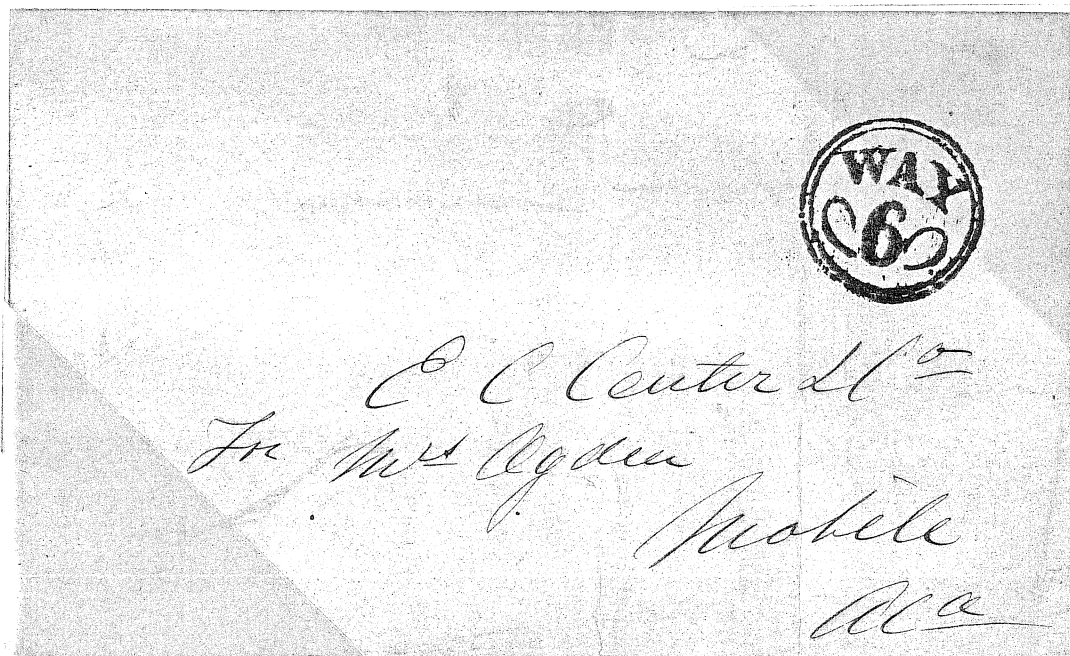


“WILMN D OCT 3” with illustration in red of steamboat, “6” to Philadelphia. Little is known about this marking. The letter is from Tusculum Oct 2, 1834. Only known example.



“STEAM” with pictorial view of steamboat in river, used at Memphis, Tennessee as postmark on 1846 illustrated freight bill from New Orleans. The rate is 12 for ten cents plus two cents, non-contract steamboat. Two examples known.

Auxillary Postal Markings- SHIP, STEAM, and WAY Marks



Few way markings are fancy. The Mobile "WAY 6" shows decorations within a double circle. The "MOBILE Ala/ MAR 3" (1850) with "WAY 11" is a double circular frame and there is a wavy line over the "WAY". Both are waterways usages. The "PATERSON N. JERSEY. JAN 25" (1830) has a letter from Great Neck, but the "WAY" and "7" would signify someone handcarried the letter and gave it to a mail carrier. Two examples known.