

REGISTRATION OF VALUABLE LETTERS IN THE UNITED STATES  
1845 - 1870

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AS RECEIVED BY  
THE EXHIBITION PHOTOCOPY COMMITTEE  
OF THE  
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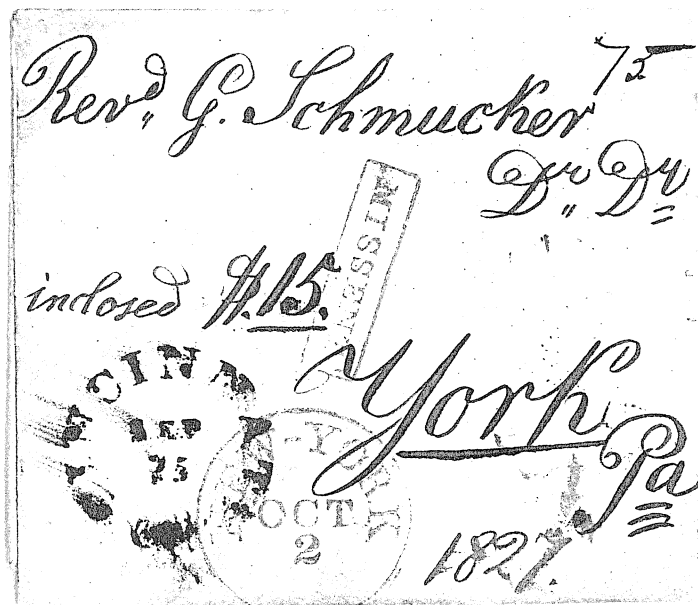
# **REGISTRATION OF VALUABLE LETTERS IN THE UNITED STATES 1845 – 1870**

- 1. EARLY AND ALTERNATIVE USAGES** – examples of early letters sent by the posts containing money, mail robberies, and transportation of money in U.S. by alternative methods to the mails.
- 2. UNOFFICIAL REGISTRATION OF LETTERS 1845-1855** – the origins and examples of a unofficial system of mail registration to trace lost valuable letters in the decade before official registration by the Post Office Department.
- 3. OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AFTER JULY 1, 1855** – announcement and regulations of registration law for letters with five cents cash fee, early and typical usages, explanation of markings and different usages, examples of official forms and documentation.
- 4. OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AFTER JULY 1, 1863** – a new postal act increases fee from 5¢ to 20¢ July 1, 1863 and institutes system of return receipts, examples of usages, postal forms and documentation.
- 5. REGULATION CHANGES IN 1867 AND 1869** – the cash fee of 20¢ payable in stamps June 1, 1867, and then lowered to 15¢ payable in stamps January 1, 1869, a system of registered package envelopes used for the transport of registered letters.
- 6. FOREIGN USAGES OF REGISTRATION** – early treaties with Germany, Great Britain and Canada, examples of usages under 5¢ rate in 1850's, increased rate of 20¢ with Great Britain July 1, 1863 but not other countries, payment of fees in stamps as of June 1, 1867, lowering of U.S. registration rate to 8¢ for most of Europe on January 1, 1868.
- 7. HANDSTAMPED REGISTERED POSTMARKS 1845 – 1870** – examples of specific handstamps used on registered letters in 1845 - 1870 period , during both unofficial and official registration, alphabetically by town, showing specific usages of the early postal markings on registered letters.

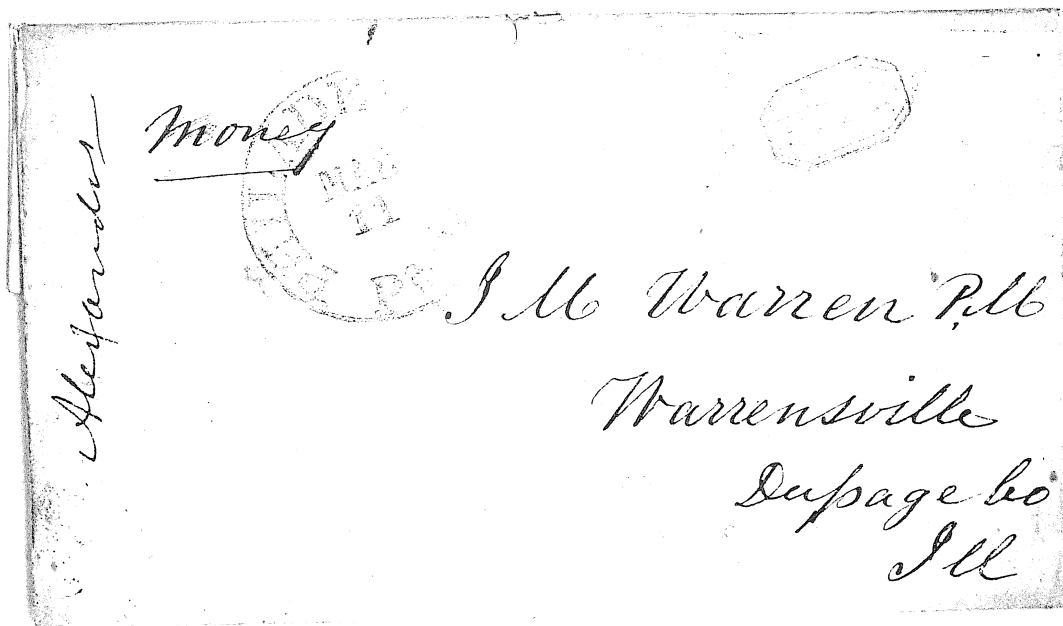


## 1. Early and Alternative Usages

### FORERUNNER USAGES



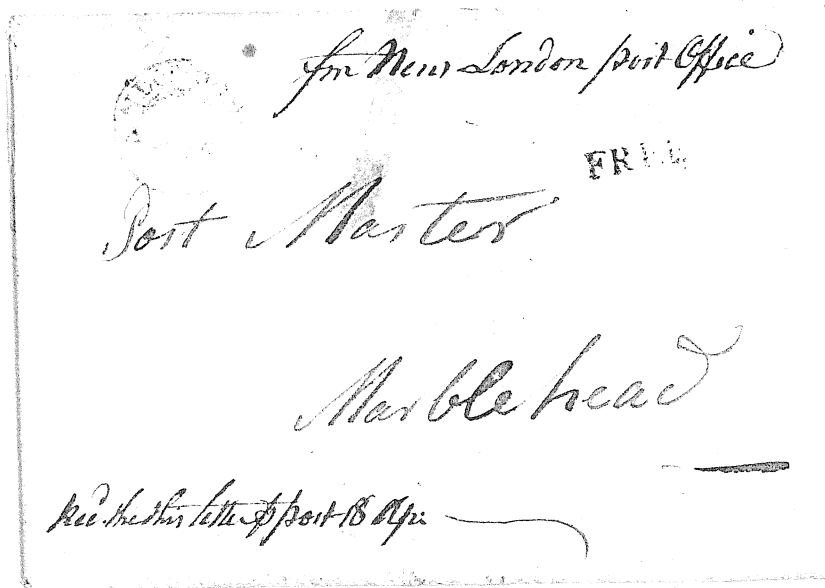
Very early United States cover marked with money notation. Sent from Cincinnati, OH., September 25, 1828 enclosing \$15.00 (marked "inclosed \$15."). The postage was 75 cents because of the enclosures of the two bills. "MISSSENT" to New York and redirected October 2 to York, PA. The "1827" seems to be a notation; the date of mailing is 1828.



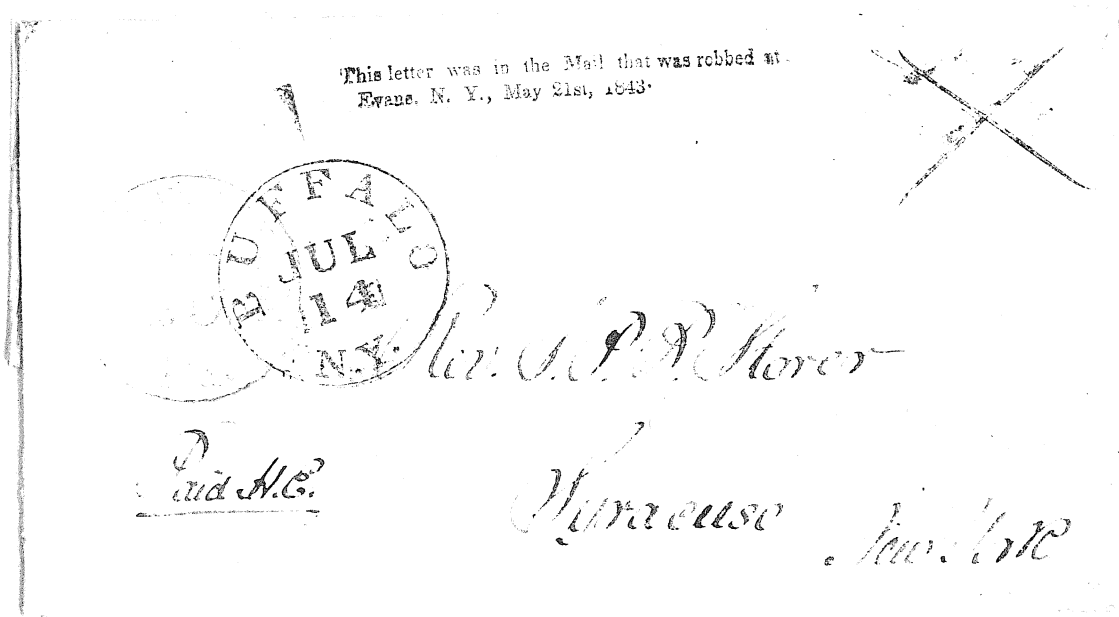
Letter sent by Philadelphia newspaper, *The Messenger*, March 10, 1842 returning two five dollar bills of the Bank of Illinois and stating that such notes were subject to such a steep discount that they did not cover the price of a subscription. The cover is very early example of a private money letter and is marked "money". Sent free to a postmaster.

## 1. Early and Alternative Usages

### ROBBERY OF THE MAILS



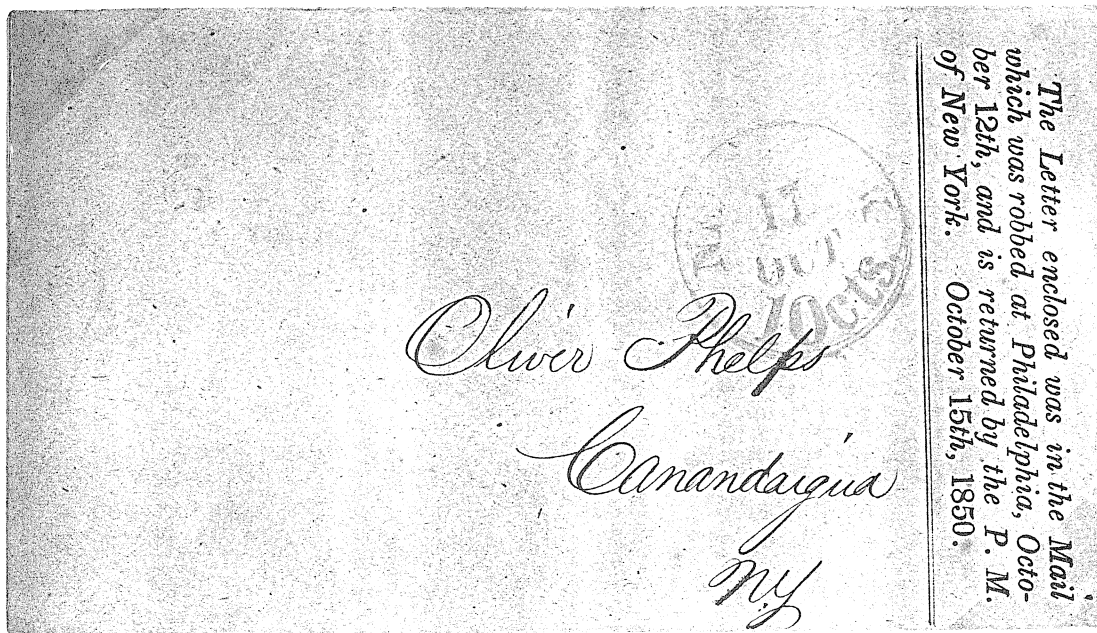
Letter from postmaster at New London, CT. April 16, 1804 describing that "some Villin broke into the [stage] house where the mail portmanteaus were deposited...cut a hole in the portmanteau going westward...and opened it." The letter goes on to describe defacement and mutilation of many letters including quarterly report of the addressee, postmaster at Marblehead.



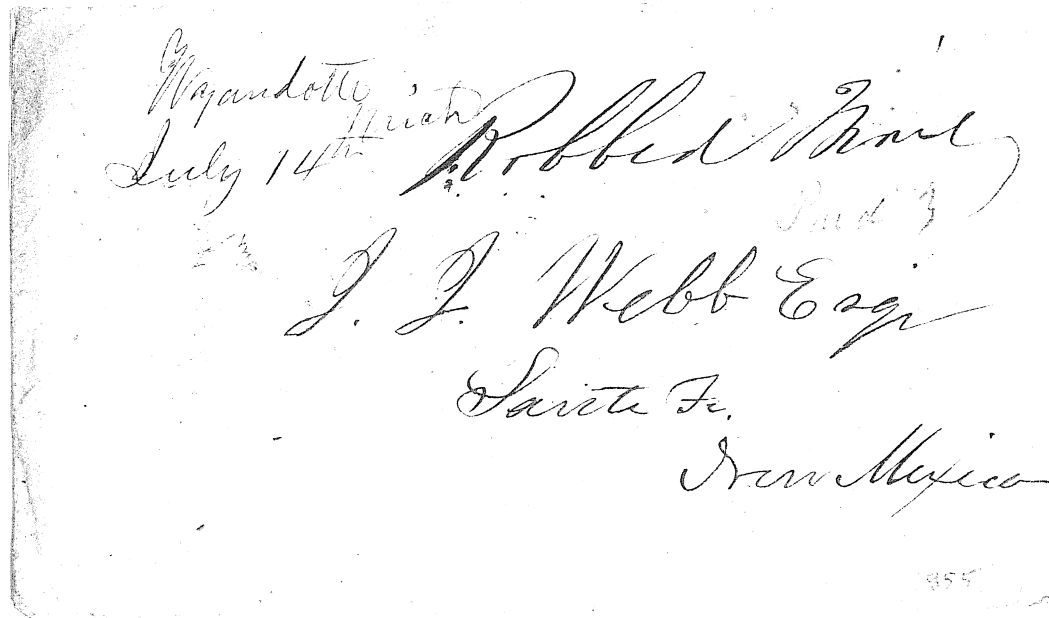
Handstamped marking applied at Buffalo, N.Y. for mail robbery May 21, 1843. Finest example of 3 known. Registration was intended to discourage such depredations in the mails.

## 1. Early and Alternative Usages

### ROBBERY OF THE MAILS



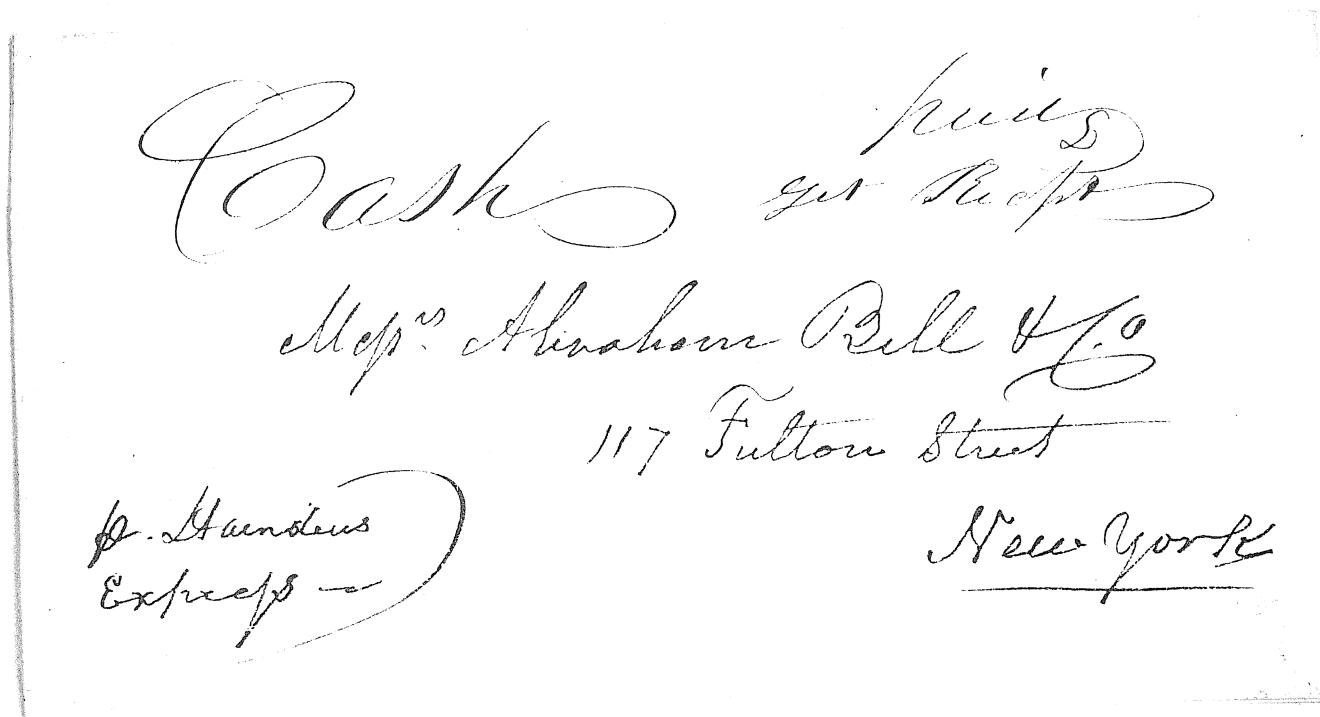
Post Office Envelope (printed seal of W.V. Brady, P.M. New York City on reverse) returning a robbed letter to sender in 1850. The robbers were caught, but many letters containing valuables were rifled. Only known example.



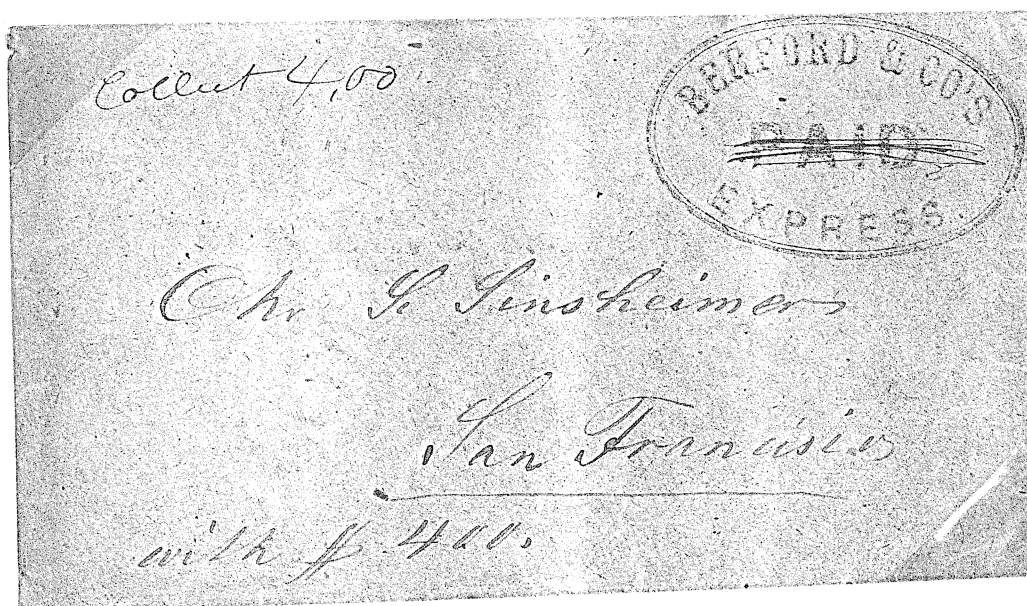
"Robbed Mail" in manuscript on 1855 cover from Wyandotte, MI. to Santa Fe, New Mexico Territory, stamp missing. One other cover from this same robbery known with reverse usage. The three robbed mail covers in this exhibit are the only known robberies with distinctive covers during the 1840's - 1860's.

## 1. Early and Alternative Usages

### EXPRESS COMPANY TRANSMISSION OF VALUABLE LETTERS



Letter containing \$50 in cash carried by the first expressman, Harden & Co. Express from Boston June 12, 1840 to New York, very early private express usage. Marked "Cash" and "paid get Receipt". Most valuable mail from businesses came to be carried by private expresses rather than the Post Office Department's mails on certain routes between large Eastern cities. Many expresses used the new railroads.



Western express usage of money letter. This cover was carried in 1853 with "BERFORD & CO'S EXPRESS PAID" in oval with the PAID crossed out and ms. "Collect \$4.00". It is marked "with \$400". Much currency was carried by private expresses in the 1850's until the Post Office Department stopped them by regulating post roads.

## 1. Early and Alternative Usages

### STEAMBOAT TRANSMISSION OF VALUABLE LETTERS

*From Strang & Tucker Cash \$256<sup>50</sup>/<sub>100</sub>*  
  
*W Robt Brown*  
*Care of J. L. Duren Esq*  
*Bluff Port*  
  
*Eliza*

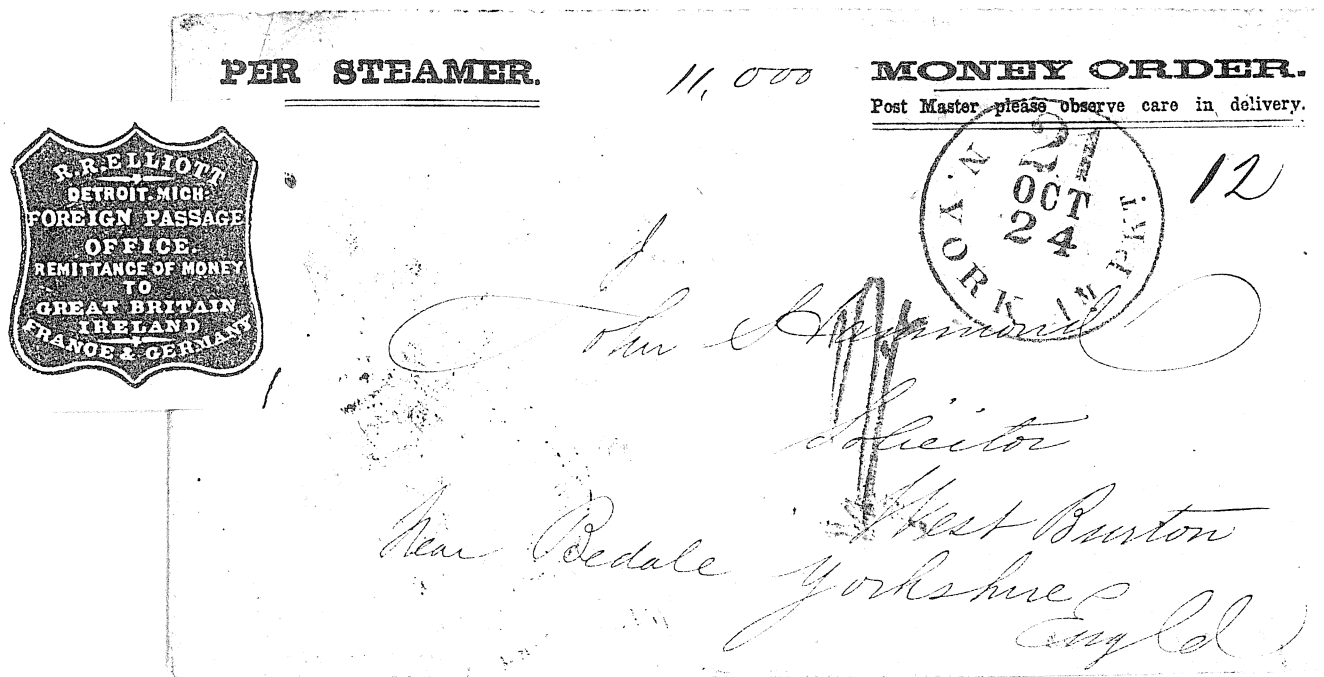
Money letter from Cotton Factor to customer, carried on the steamboat "Eliza" the benefits of sale of 11 bales of cotton less expenses (including shipping on "James Hewitt" \$1.00 a bale) and some groceries came to the \$256.50 enclosed. Money was sent both ways on the rivers by steamboat.

*Valuable*  
  
*N. V. Wilkinson Esq*  
*Cashier*  
  
*care*  
*A. H. Gardner Esq*  
*F. M. Streck*  
  
*New Orleans*  
*Jun 19*

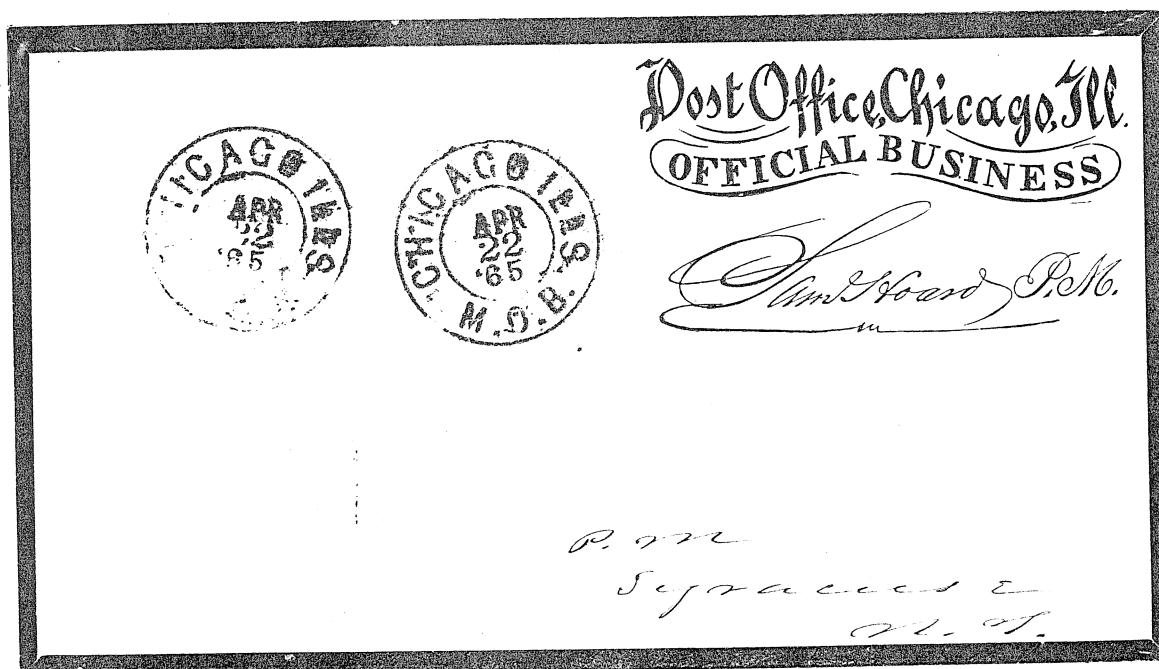
Steamboat cover with "S.B. F.M. STRECK" in serrated red box. It was marked "Valuable" in blue pen and is addressed to the cashier of a New Orleans bank. At New Orleans it was postmarked "STEAM 10". It is docketed June 19, 1849, so it was received.

## 1. Early and Alternative Usages

### MONEY ORDERS



Private Money Order cover showing green cornercard on reverse of New York agent who remitted money orders to various European countries. The black cornercard on front is just a notification to the postal authorities of the contents (\$11,000 ?). Sent by American packet and debited 21 cents, one shilling collected on receipt.



Black bordered cover from postmaster of Chicago, IL. with fascimile signature to postmaster at Syracuse, N.Y. with two strikes blue "CHICAGO ILLS. M.O.B. APR 22 '65". Money Orders were first available through the Post Office Department on June 1, 1864, but were not accepted by the public at large. This is the earliest recorded postmarked cover with Money Order Business indicated on the cover. It is also a very unusual Lincoln mourning cover.

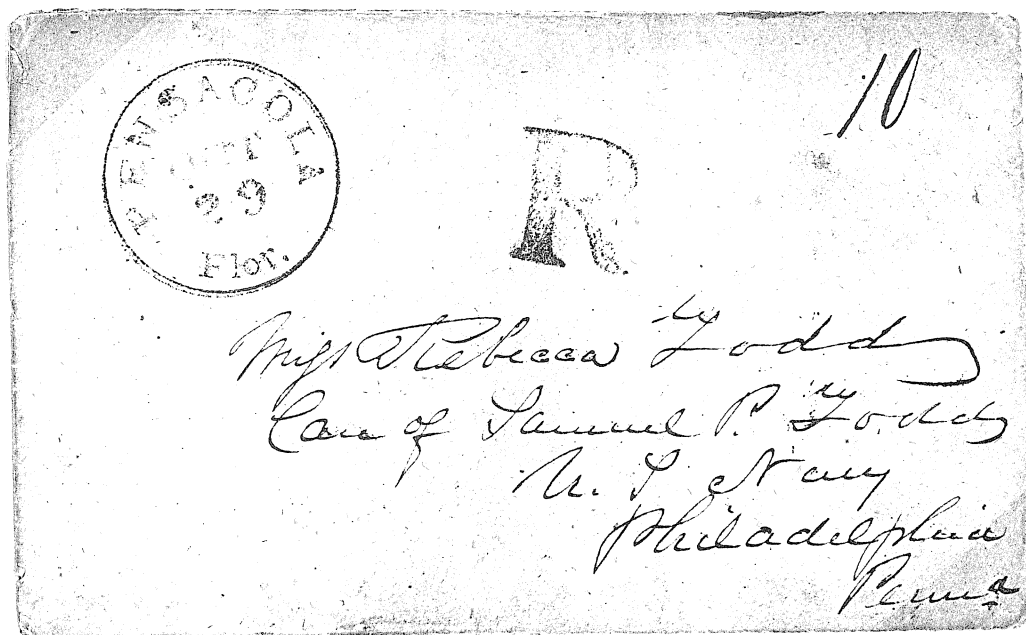
## 2. Unofficial Regulation of Letters 1845 – 1855

### ORIGINS OF REGISTRATION

The policy of the Post Office Department as early as 1825 stated that "Money, or other valuable things sent in the mail, is *at the risk of the owner*. But if it be lost, the Department will make every effort in its power to discover the cause, and if there has been a theft, to punish the offender."

But in 1845 the Postal Laws and Regulations stated that "No reported loss will be investigated by an agent, unless satisfactory evidence is produced, either by the certificate of the postmaster, or some other disinterested individual that the money or other thing was deposited in the post office."

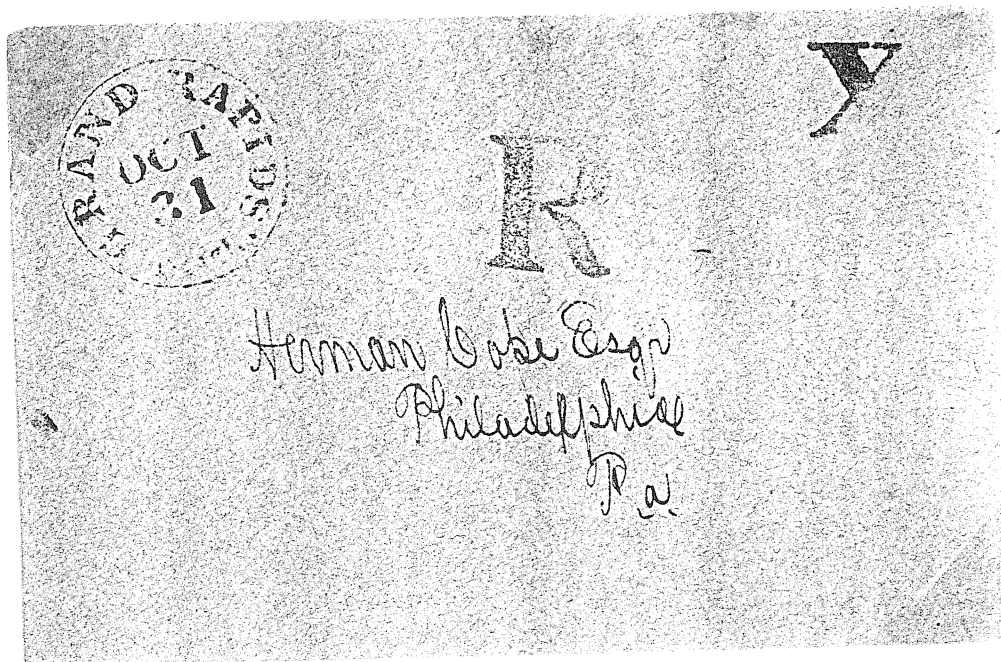
Therefore the senders of valuable mail needed proof of the name of the post office in which the letter was placed, the date, the postage, the route, mailed by whom, the name of the addressee and a particular description of the contents. All of these particulars were addressed by creating registers for this information at mailing post offices and issuing receipts to the senders. This was the reason for unofficial registration of mail.



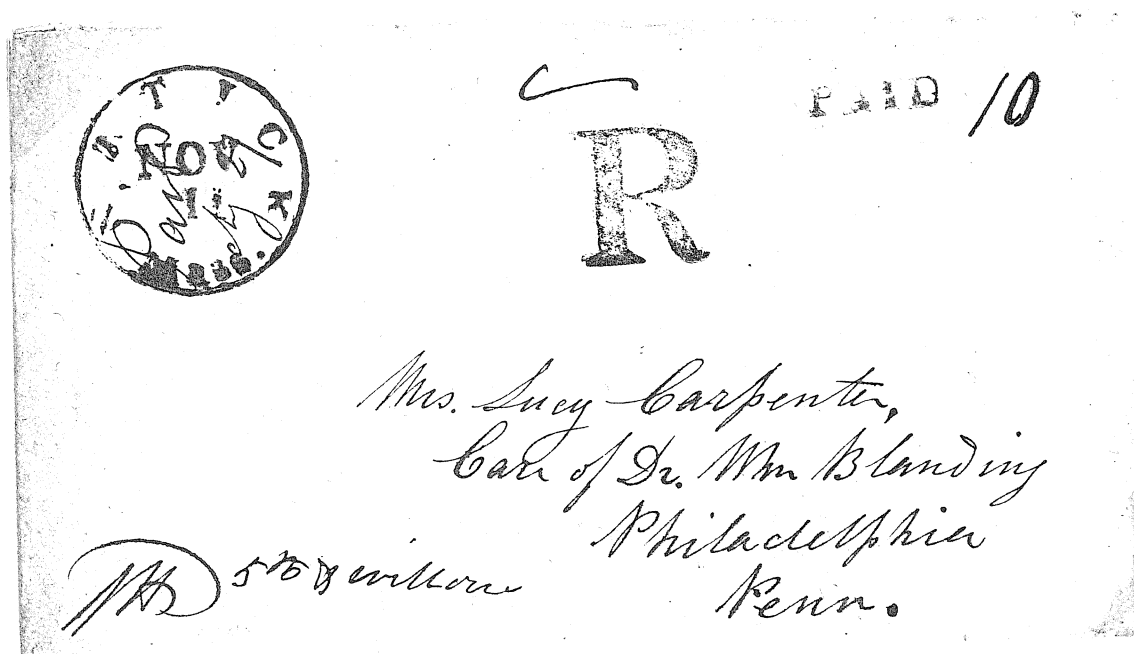
The earliest known markings indicating registration of mail are blue capital "R" letters applied on receipt at the Philadelphia post office. The earliest known date of usage is October 29, 1845 which is the date of this cover from Pensacola, FL. Thus this cover is the earliest known registered cover of the United States. One other example from Pittsburgh, PA. is also known with the same date.

## 2. Unofficial Registration of Letters 1845 – 1870

### EARLY USAGES



"GRAND RAPIDS Mich. OCT 31" and "X" to Philadelphia with large blue "R". This is the second earliest known day of usage. Note that the marking was used on a cover from a small midwestern town showing widespread unofficial registration even before the markings.

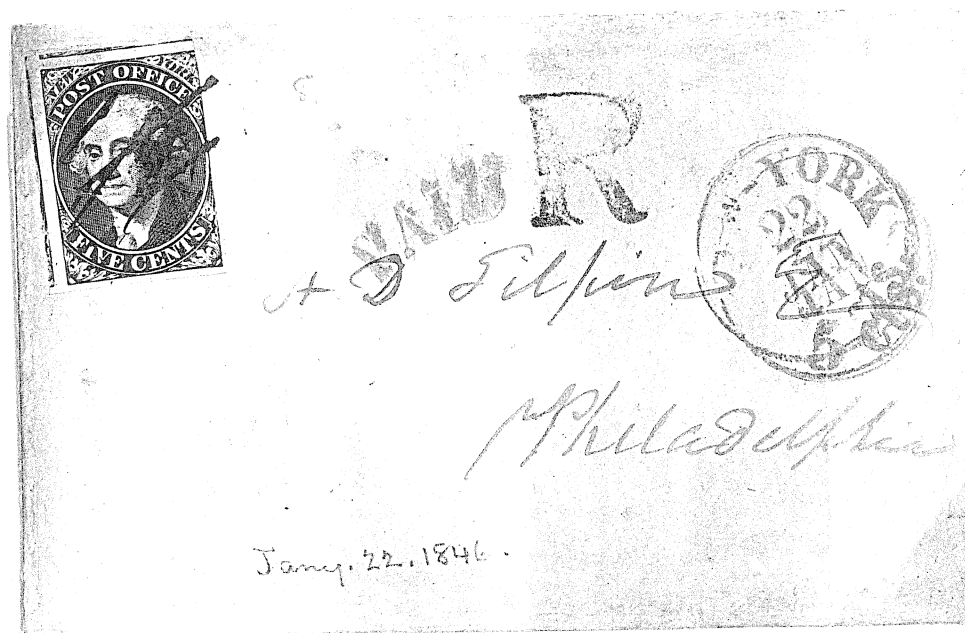


Large blue R applied at Philadelphia. Cover postmarked at Matlack, MA. November 1, 1845 which makes it a very early usage (third earliest date recorded). For this cover to have been registered at Philadelphia means it was accompanied by a postal waybill indicating it had special value.

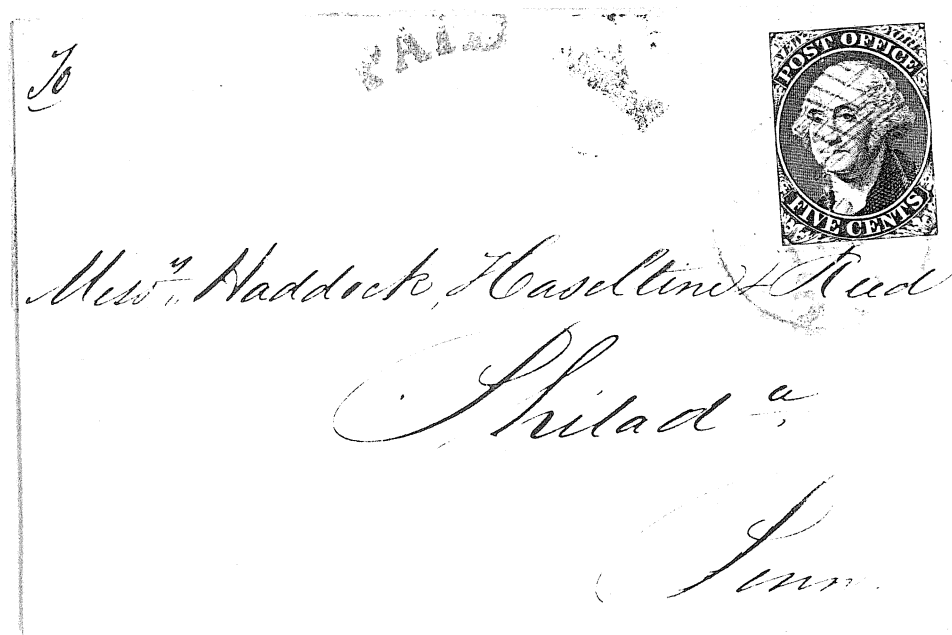


## 2. Unofficial Registration of Letters 1845 – 1855

### USAGES WITH POSTMASTER PROVISIONAL STAMPS



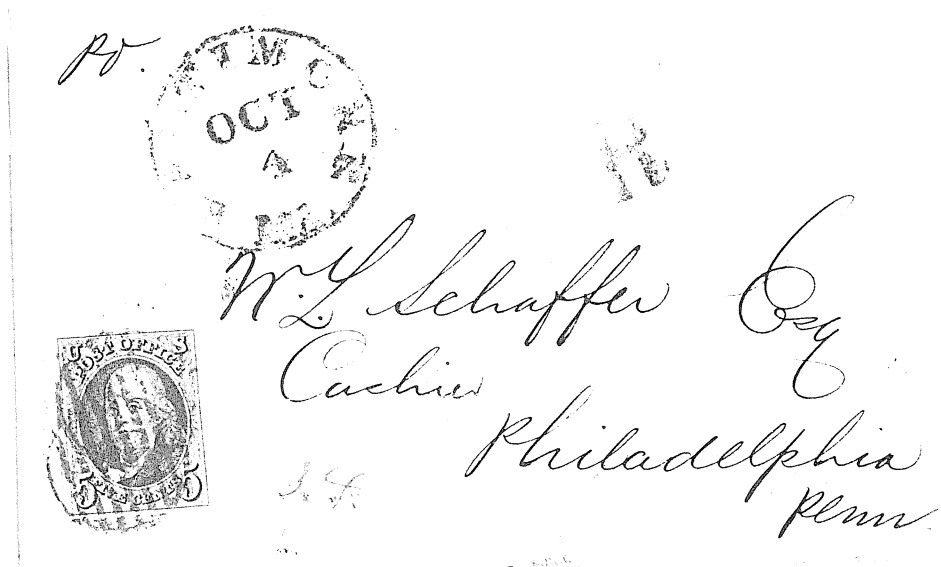
Five cent New York provisional tied blue pen with red "NEW - YORK 22 JAN 5 cts" (1846), "PAID" and blue large "R" of Philadelphia on rebacked front. Most of the provisional usages of the R marking are quite early uses. Less than 10 are known.



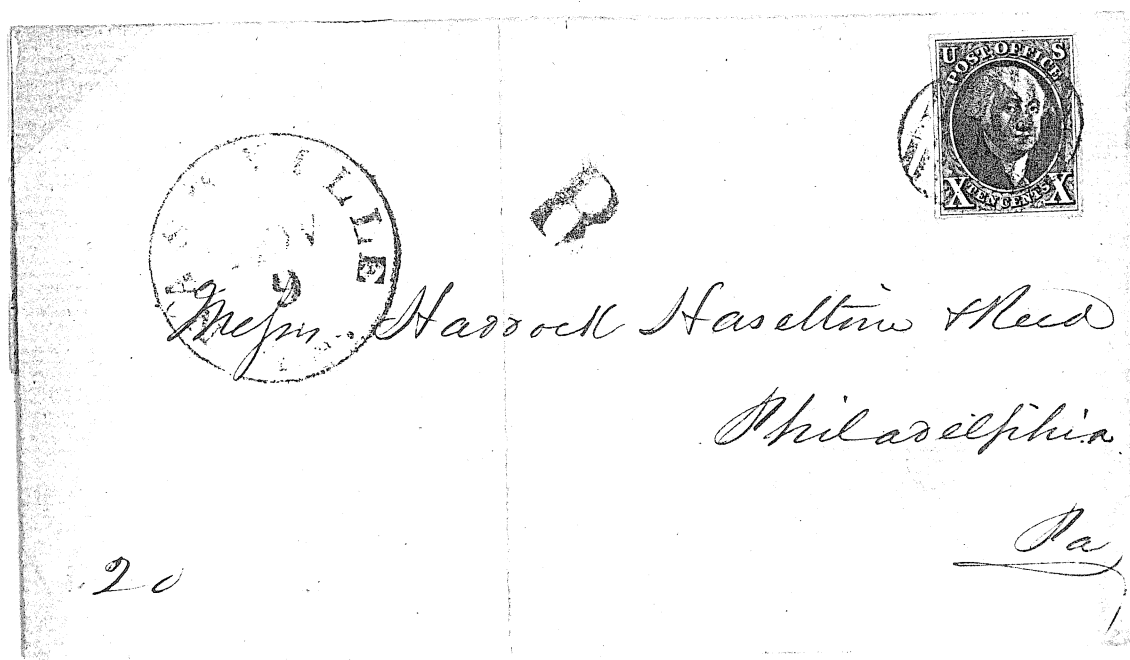
Five cent New York provisional with magenta pen tied New York postmark of February 12, 1847 with large blue "R" on letter containing check for \$2100. This is the latest usage of the R on a provisional cover.

## 2. Unofficial Registration of Letters 1845 – 1855

### USAGES WITH 1847 ISSUE POSTAGE STAMPS



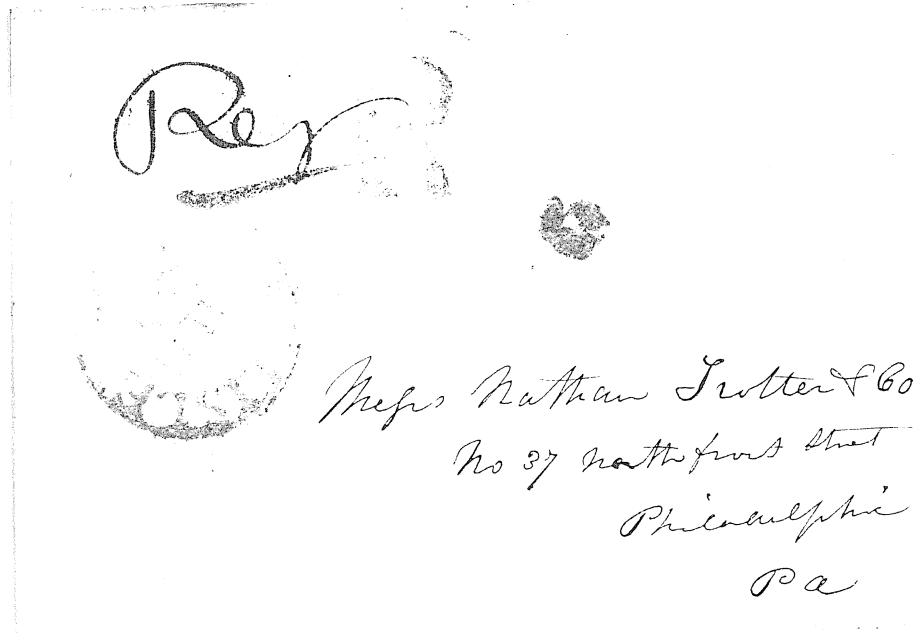
Five cent 1847 stamp tied red grids with blue "BALTIMORE Md. OCT 4" (1850) and Philadelphia small blue "R" with manuscript number "34".



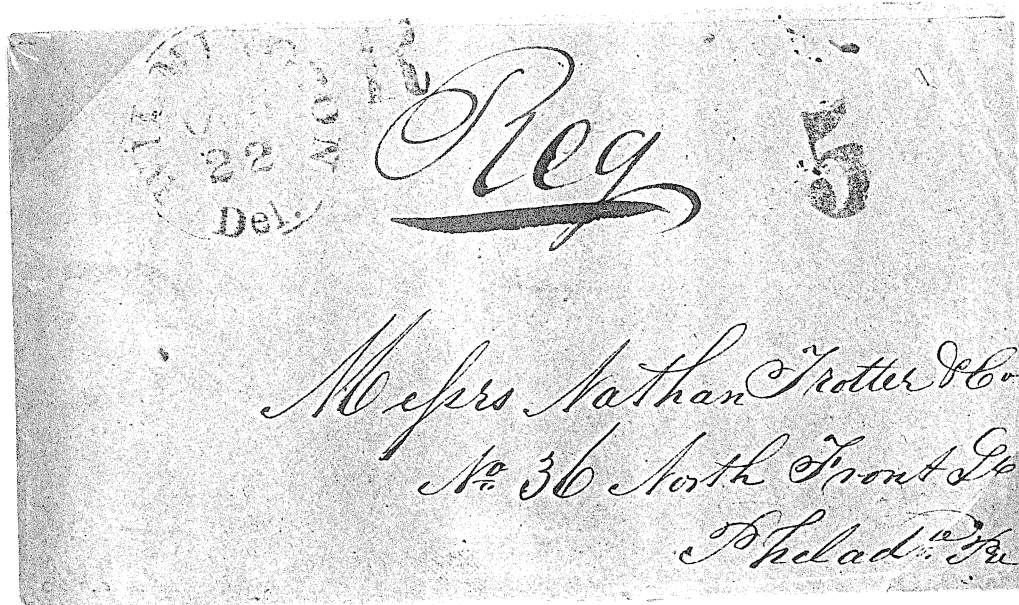
Ten cent 1847 tied blue grid with "NASHVILLE Ten NOV 9" (1850) to Philadelphia where it received small blue "R" and was numbered "20" at lower left. The letter enclosed a draft for \$2103.48. The ten cent stamp usage is rarer with R markings than the five cent stamp with the same usage.

## 2. Unofficial Registration of Letters 1845 – 1870

### REGISTRATION POSTMARKS AT TOWN OF ORIGIN



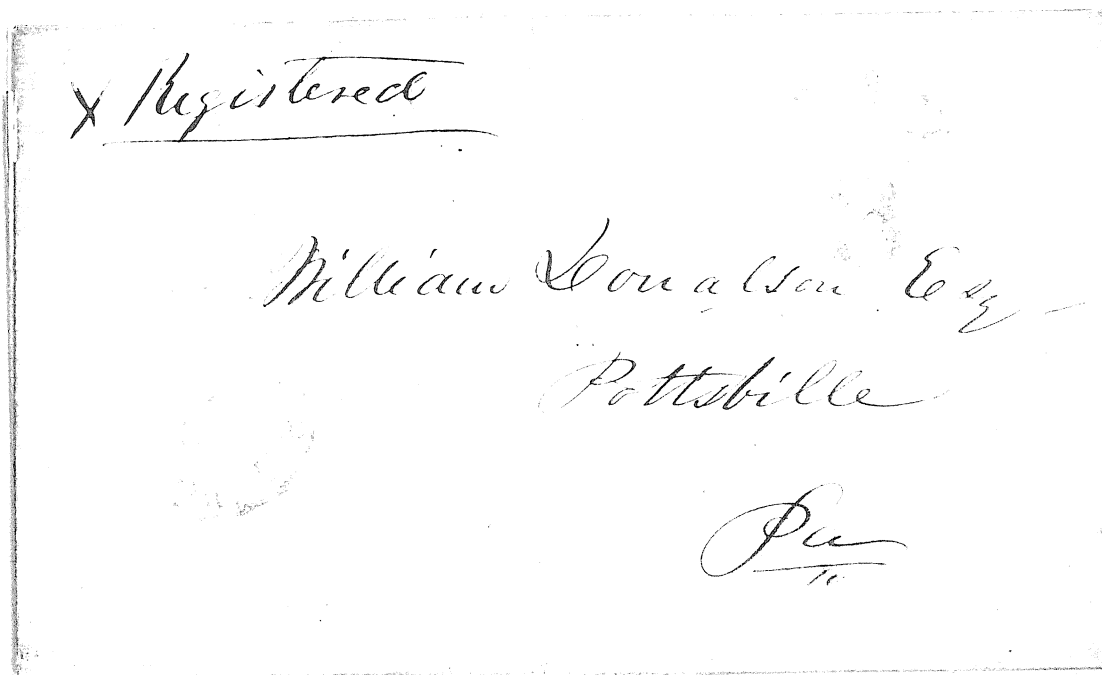
Registered cover marked "REG" with "CARLISLE PENa AUG 31" (1849) and "5" to Philadelphia where a large blue "R" was applied on receipt. This is a fairly late usage of the large blue "R".



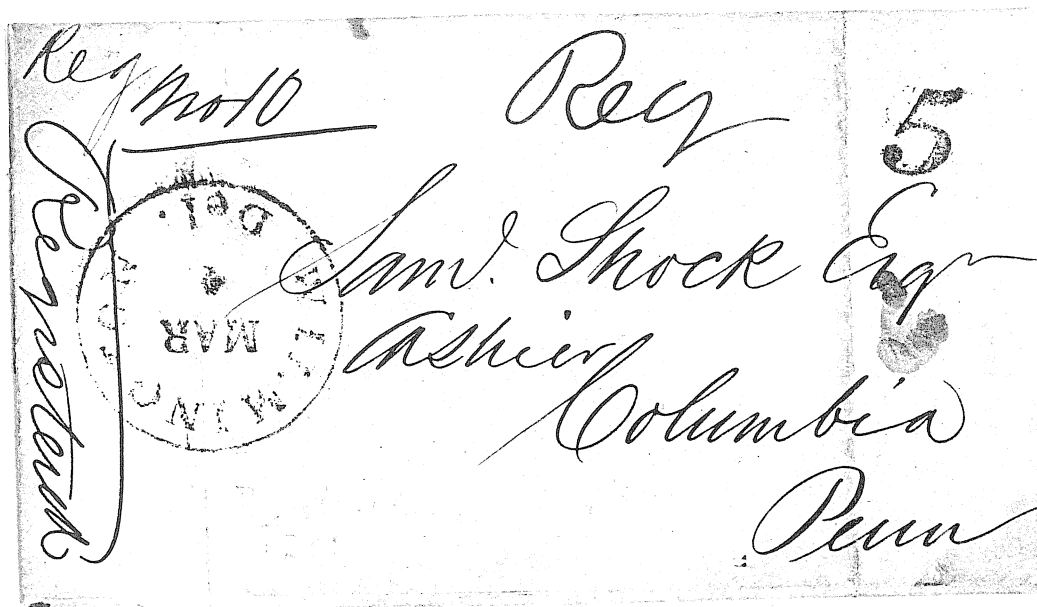
Money letter from Brandywine October 22, 1849 enclosing \$300.00 cash in partial payment of commercial account at the recipient. The cover is marked "Reg" and is postmarked at Wilmington on October 22, 1849 with "5" due. At Philadelphia it received the small blue "R" and is the second earliest date of usage of this marking. Note that no manuscript numbers were used there yet.

## 2. Unofficial Registration of Letters 1845 – 1870

### MANUSCRIPT REGISTRATION PRIOR TO 1855



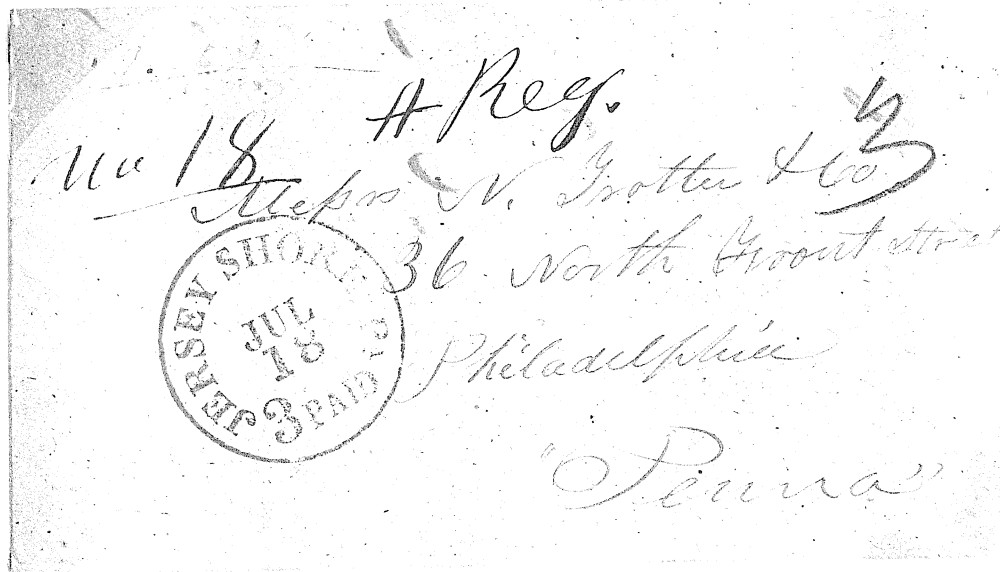
Registered letter from Bloomsburg, PA., December 2, 1851 enclosing \$23.00 cash. Marked "X" and "Registered" as well as postmarks dated December 3 (inverted) and rate. Addressed to another small Pennsylvania town and showing the common use of unofficial registration at this locale.



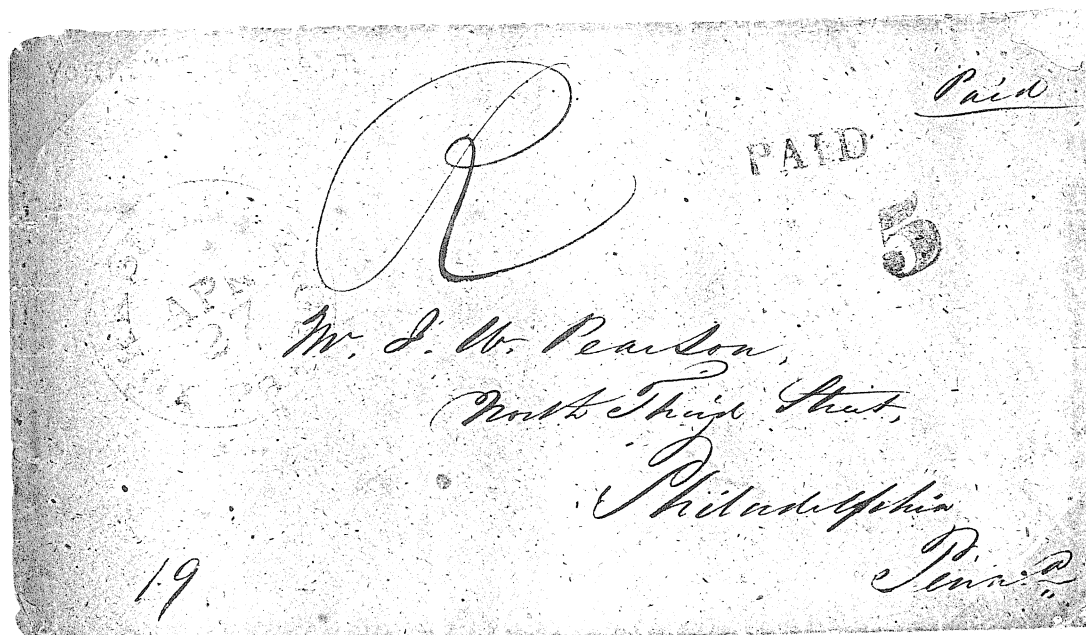
Three different manuscript "Registered" markings are on this 1851 cover from Wilmington, DE. to Columbia, PA. There is also a number "No 10" which was the register number at Wilmington.

## 2. Unofficial Registration of Letters 1845 – 1870

### MANUSCRIPT REGISTRATION PRIOR TO 1855



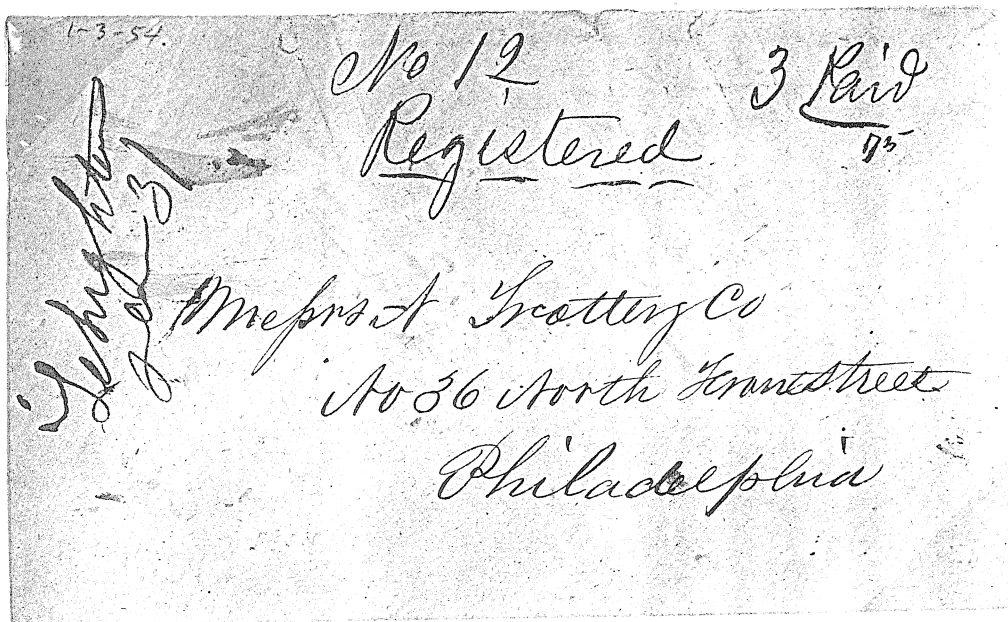
Letter from Mount Holly enclosing check for \$90.17. Postmarked "JERSEY SHORE PA. 3 PAID JUL 18" (1854) with manuscript "#Reg" and "No. 18". The "#" or "X" symbols were used at Jersey Shore to indicate registration, and they were also used at other towns.



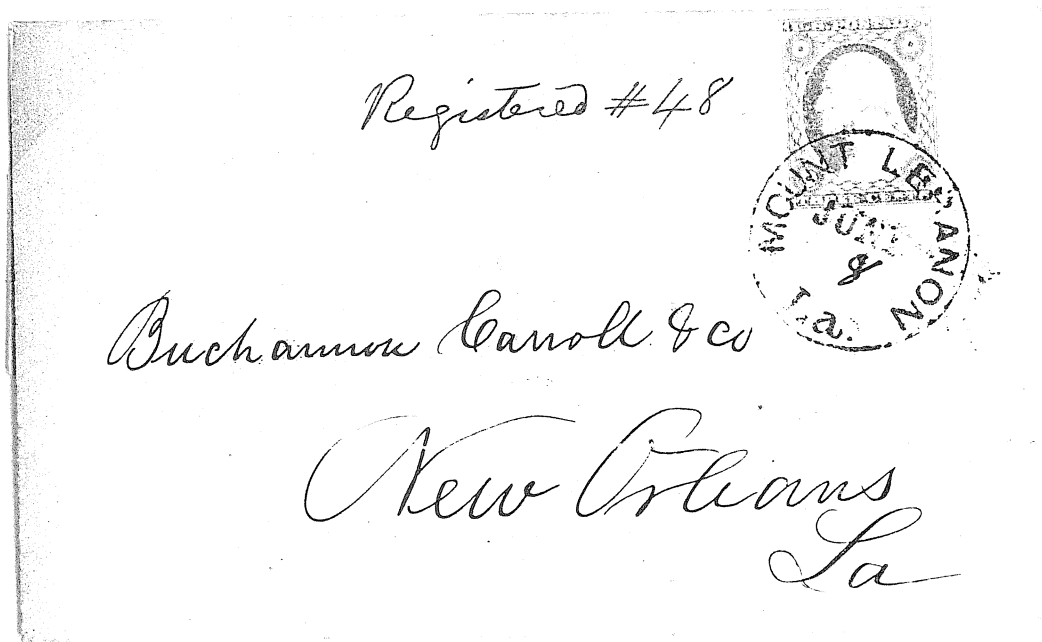
Registered cover with "YORK SULPHUR SPRINGS Pa. APR 27", "PAID", and "5" with large manuscript "R" going to Philadelphia. The cover bears the typical manuscript number of a Philadelphia R cover of the period after 1849. While the large R could be a Philadelphia marking, it seems more likely to be from the smaller town and was just accepted as such at Philadelphia.

## 2. Unofficial Registration of Letters 1845 – 1870

### UNUSUAL USAGES



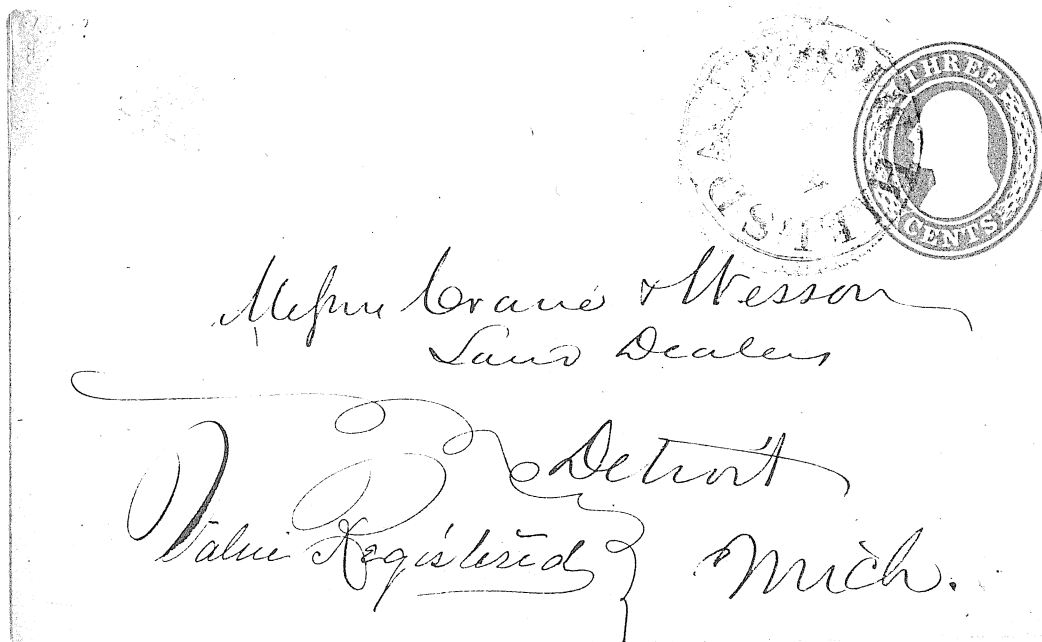
Letter from Lehighton January 30, 1854 enclosing \$75.00 in cash. The cover is postmarked "Lehighton Jan 31", "No 12 Registered" and "3 Paid 75". What is most unusual is that the postmaster indicated the value of the contents, \$75.00, in the postal markings. His handwriting is very different from that of both the sender and the recipient, who docket the amount on the letter.



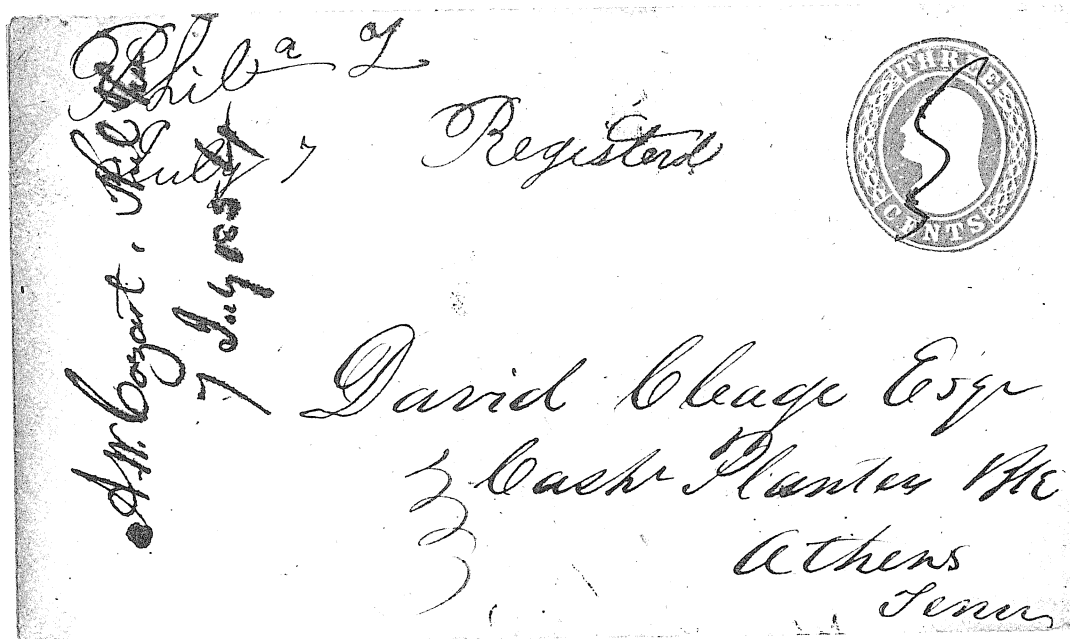
Manuscript "Registered #48" on cover with 3 cent 1851 tied "MOUNT LEBANON, La. JUNE 8" (1854) containing a letter which enclosed one half of a \$100 bill. The writer states "There are so many mail robberies that I am dubious in sending too much at a time."

## 2. Unofficial Registration of Letters 1845 – 1870

### 1853 ENTIRES WITHOUT CONTENTS



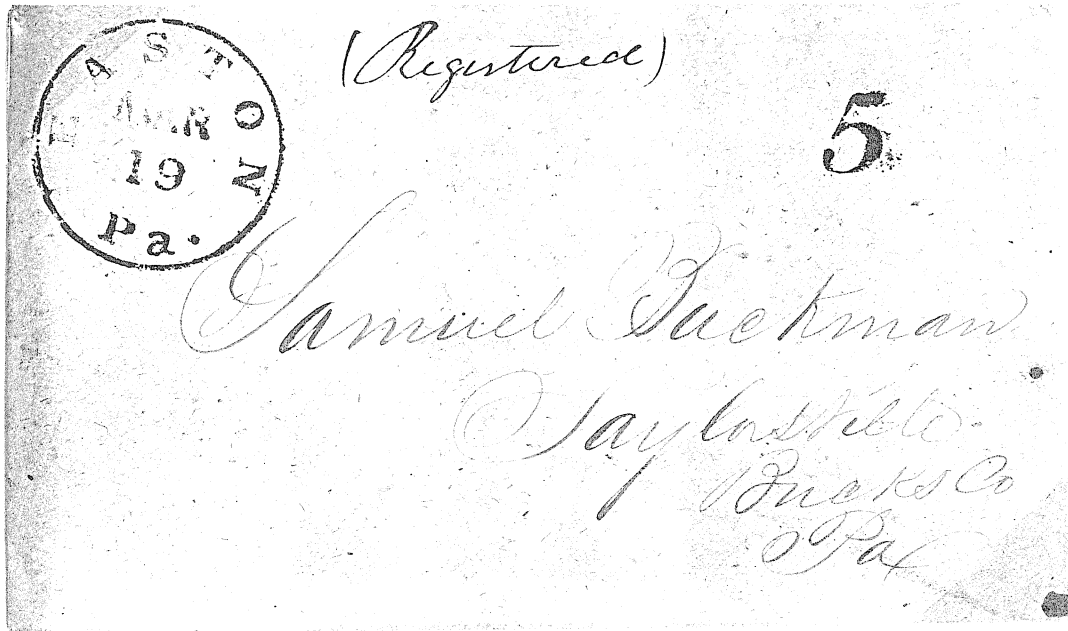
Three cent entire without contents with blue "HILLSDALE MICH." cancel, manuscript "Value Registered" and no number. When official registration began, one of the regulations forbade the use of words "valuable" and "money" on registered covers.



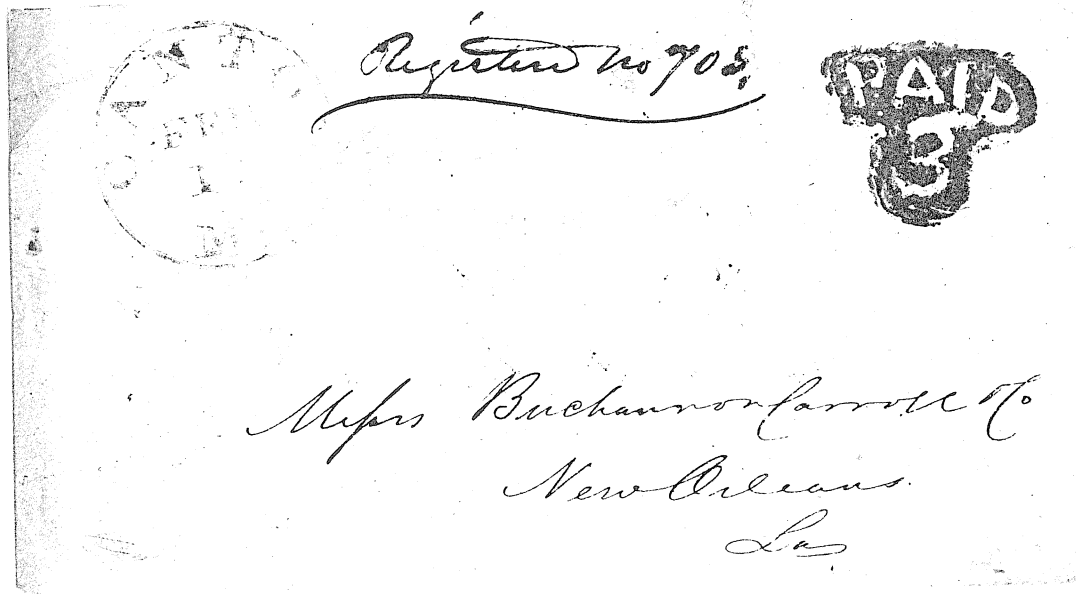
Manuscript registration usage from Philadelphia, TN., July 7, 1854, just one year before official registration. While the lack of a number might make one interpret the usage as unofficial registration, it is the docket that establishes this.

## 2. Unofficial Registration of Letters 1845 – 1870

### ENVELOPES WITHOUT CONTENTS



"EASTON Pa. MAR 19" and "5" in black, manuscript "(Registered)" to Taylorsville, PA. on small envelope with no contents. Unofficial registration postmarks are quite common from small towns in Pennsylvania which were probably familiar with the Philadelphia incoming R markings and registration. Also this cover lacks a registration number which suggests the earlier usage too.

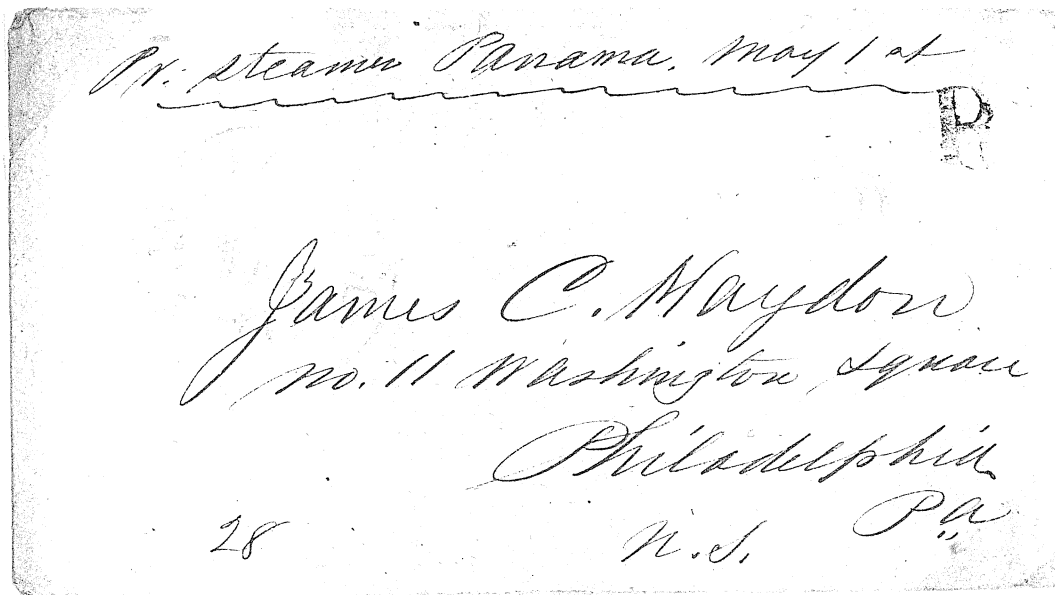


"CANTON Miss. FEB 1?" with unusual negative "PAID 3" and ms. "Registered No 705.". It seems unlikely that a small town like Canton generated so many registered letters, so the high number might be thought to represent a number of New Orleans. However, while New Orleans used numbers in the unofficial period, New Orleans did not number incoming registered letters.

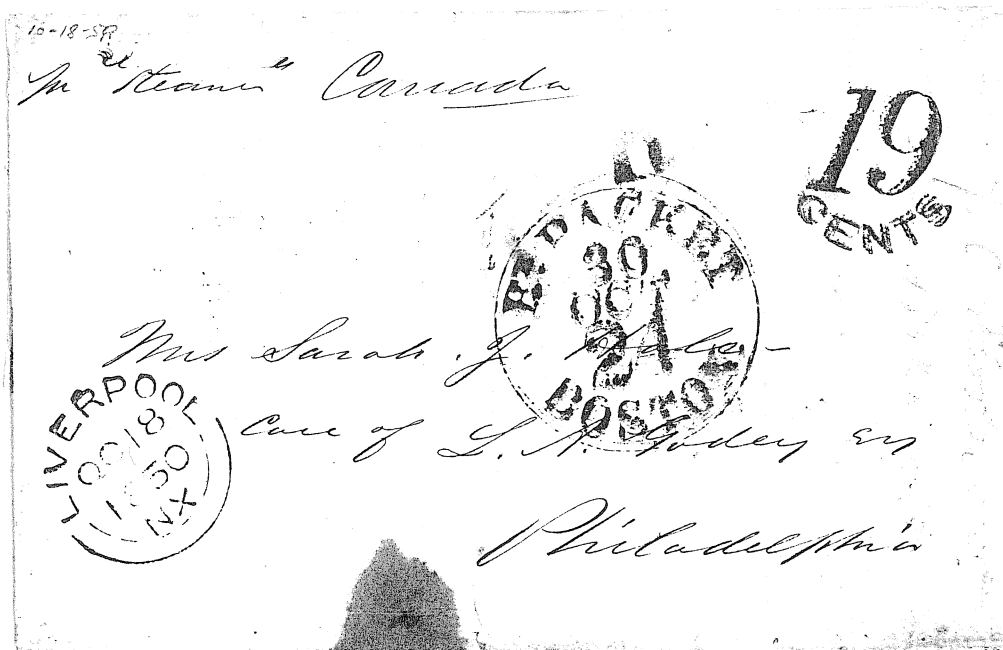


## 2. Unofficial Registration of Letters 1845 – 1870

### FAR AWAY ORIGINS



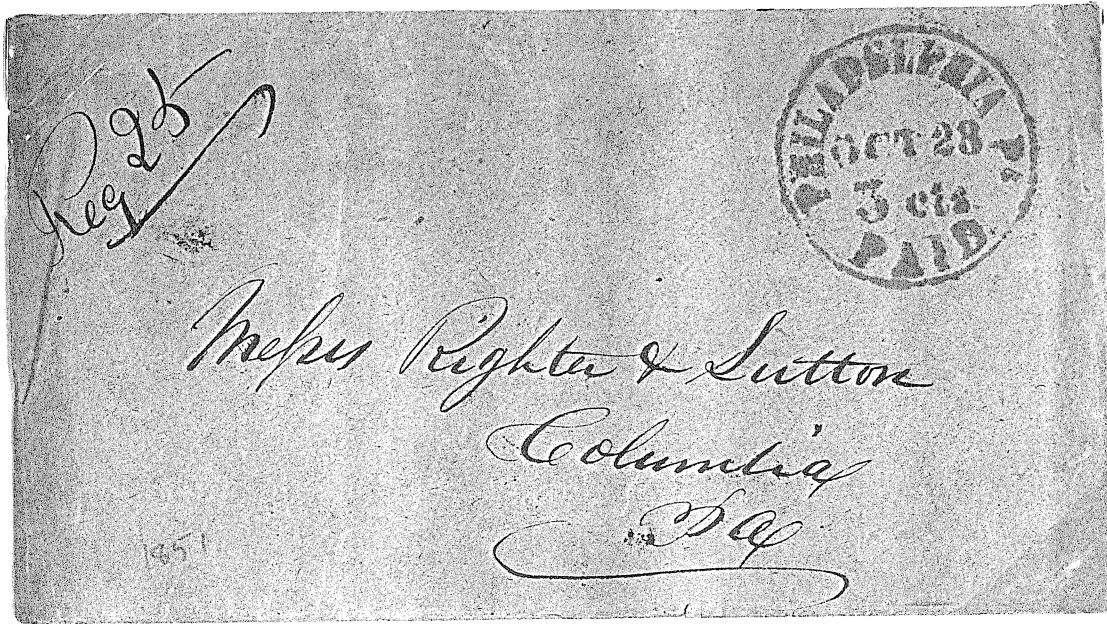
Philadelphia, PA. small blue "R" marking with "28" with postmark of "SAN FRANCISCO 1 MAY 40" and "PAID" in red. This 1850 cover shows unofficial registration spread to the Far West since the postbill must have been so marked as valuable when the letter reached Philadelphia. It is the earliest western registered cover.



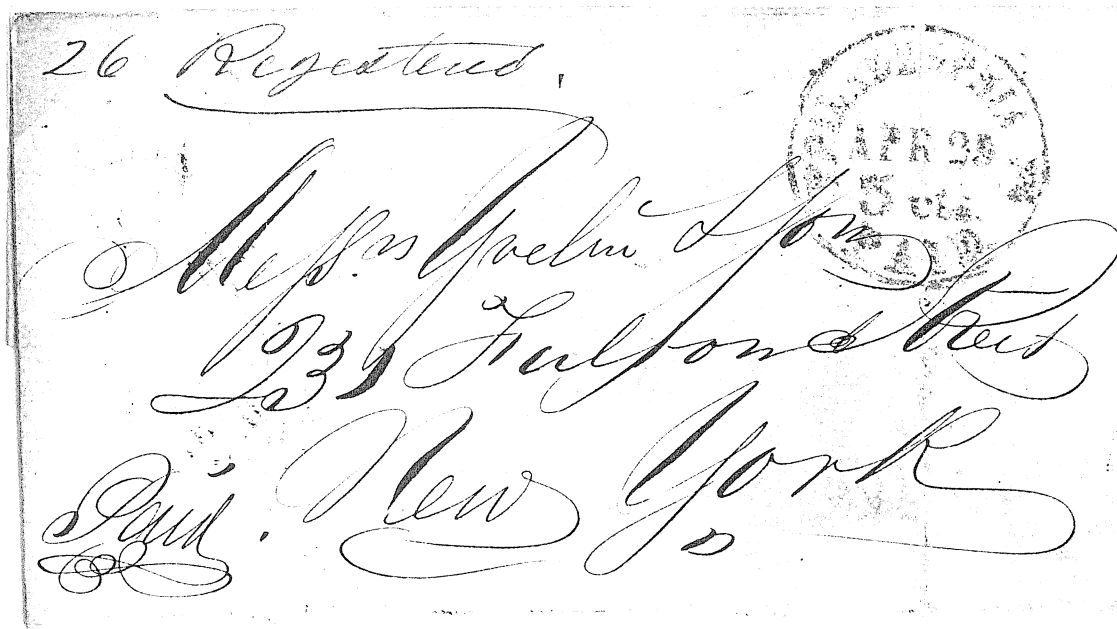
Philadelphia, PA. small blue "R" on cover with transatlantic usage via Cunard steamer "Canada" through Boston, 19 cents credit to Great Britain in 1850. Only one similar cover known.

## 2. Unofficial Registration of Letters 1845 – 1870

### PHILADELPHIA ORIGIN USAGES



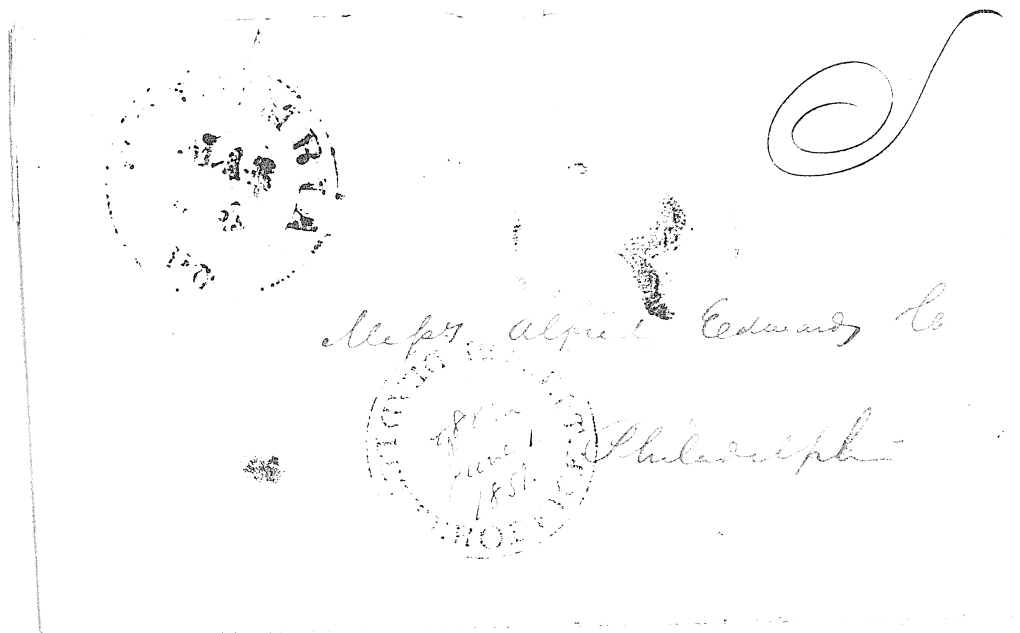
Philadelphia was one of the few cities to number registered letters during the unofficial period. But the "R" markings are not known on outgoing registered letters. This cover bears "PHILADELPHIA PA. OCT 28 3 cts PAID" in red with "Reg 25". The 1851 letter encloses the return for one load of corn and the balance of hemlock.



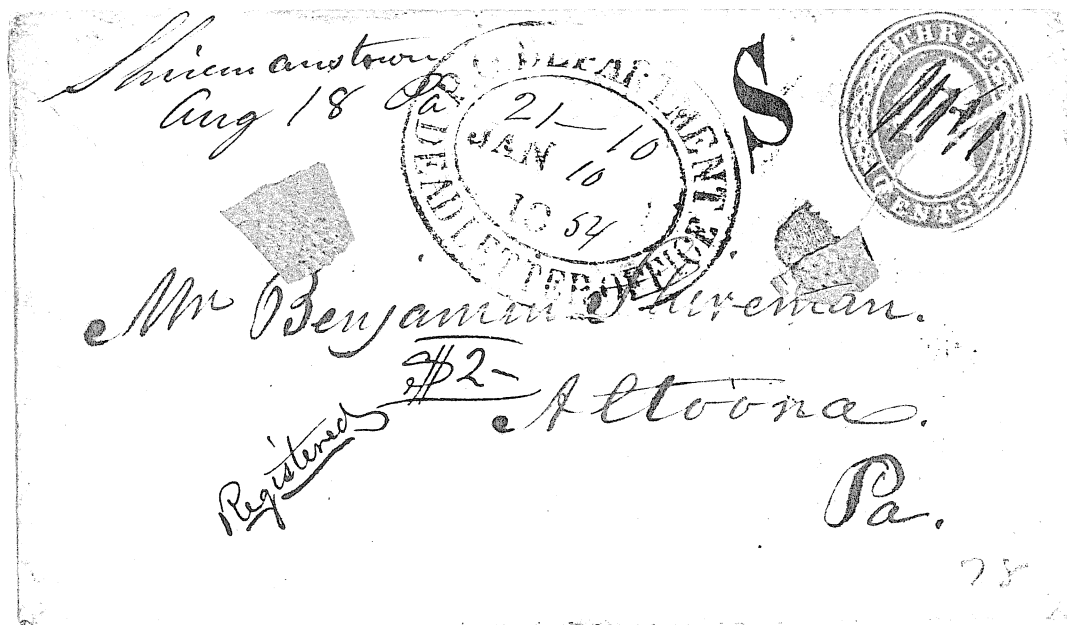
Philadelphia, PA. to New York City, postmarked April 29, 1852 prepaid. There is manuscript "26 Registered." in upper left and no R marking. The R markings were used only on incoming registered mail. Note that New York has no markings.

## 2. Unofficial Registration of Letters 1845 – 1870

### DEAD LETTER OFFICE USAGES



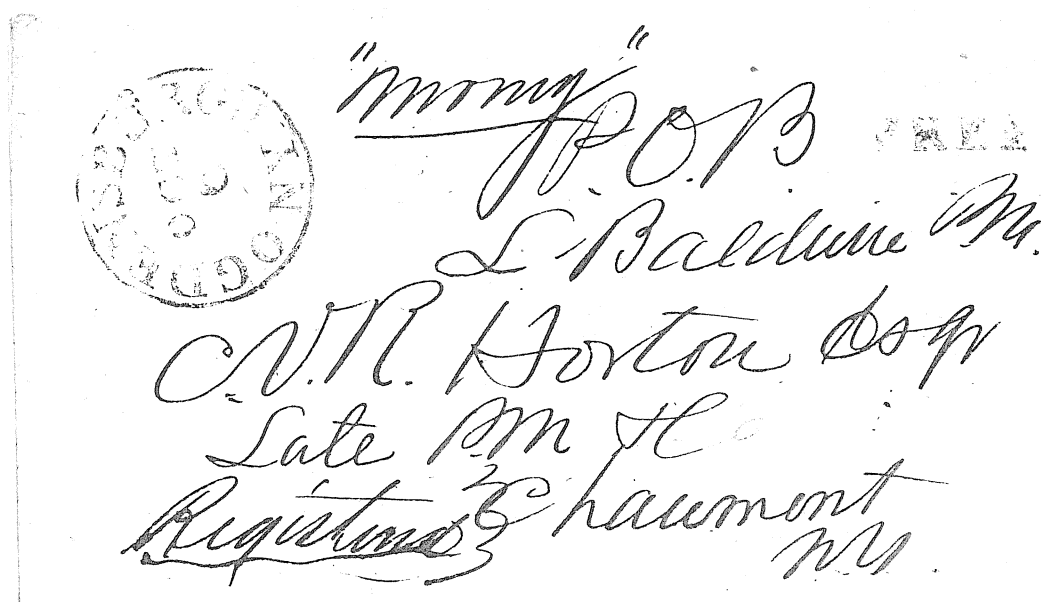
Philadelphia large blue R on cover postmarked "COLUMBIA Pa MAR 25" (1847) from a bank enclosing a draft for \$222.19. For reasons unexplained the cover bears a black "P.O. DEPT. DEAD LETTER OFFICE" marking with June 11, 1851 dating. It may have been because the letter was refused since it returned also a note which was not acceptable to the addressee.



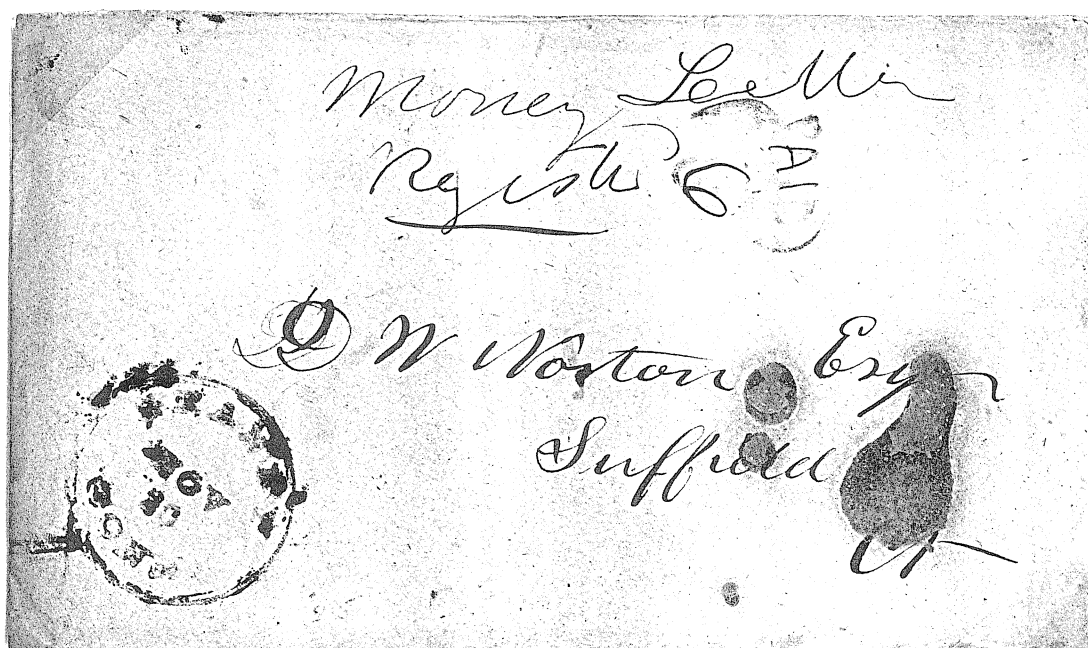
"Registered" on cover with ms. "Shiemanstown Pa Aug 18" on 3 cent entire addressed to Altoona, PA. Backstamped "ATLOONA Pa. DEC 31" with some pencil markings. Large oval "P.O. DEPARTMENT DEAD LETTER OFFICE. JAN 10 1854 21 – 10" and torn envelope resealed with wax wafers, seal and paper. \$2- enclosure indicated in blue ink. Large "S" is for "Shireman" (Dead Letter Office).

## 2. Unofficial Registration of Letters 1845 – 1870

### MONEY LETTER TERMINOLOGY



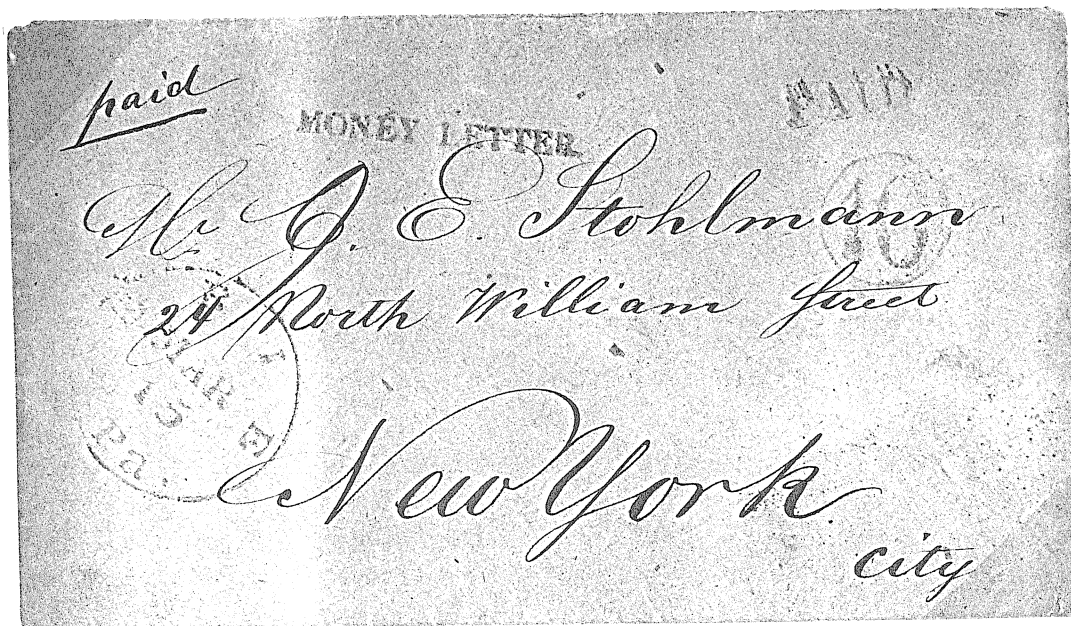
This cover was marked "money" and also "Registered" at Ogdensburg, N.Y. It is also franked by the postmaster, marked "P.O.B." and sent with "FREE" postmark. This was probably pre-1855. The five cent registration fee was not free to those with the franking privilege.



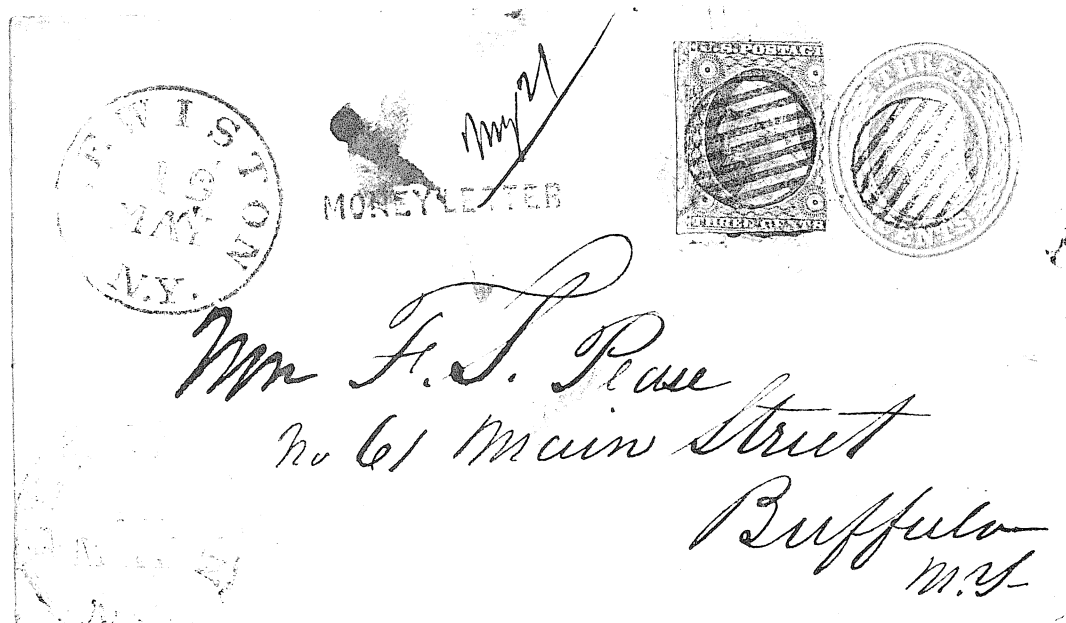
1854 letter from Granly, CT. enclosing \$38.32 in cash and coin (thus the overweight postage) which is marked "Money Letter" and "Registered" to another small Connecticut town, Suffield.

## 2. Unofficial Registration of Letters 1845 – 1870

### MONEY LETTER TERMINOLOGY



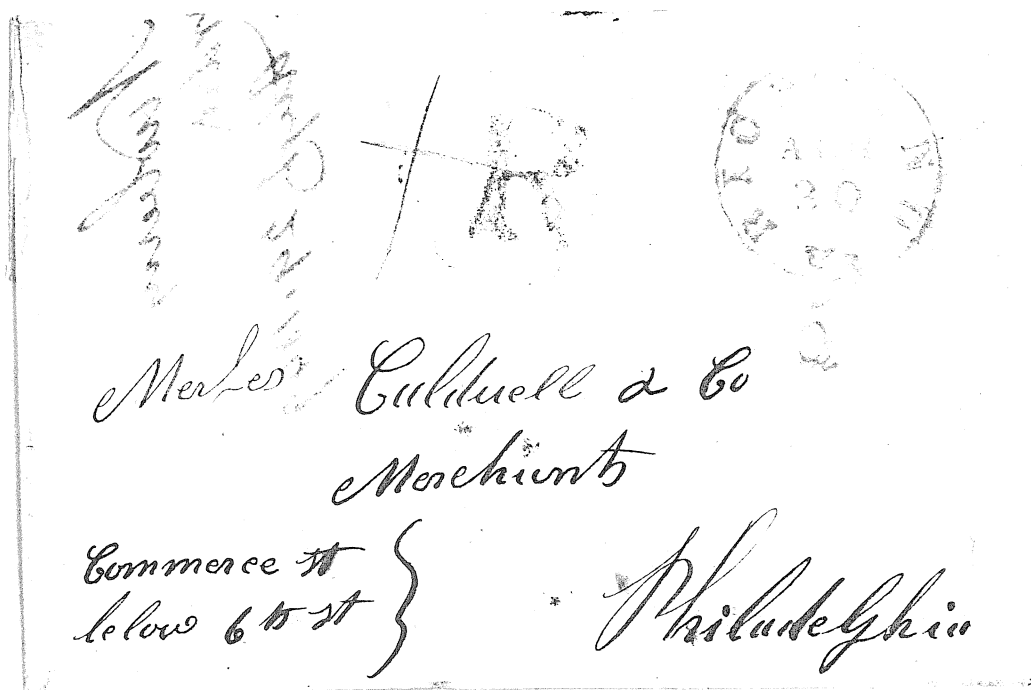
Erie, PA. with red "MONEY LETTER" on paid letter to New York. There is an 1851 docket marking on the reverse. This is an unofficial registration usage with the Canadian "Money Letter" terminology, not too surprising considering that Erie was a Great Lakes port. There is a second later handstamp in black italics too. This is the only known example and is the earliest U.S. handstamped "MONEY LETTER" postmark.



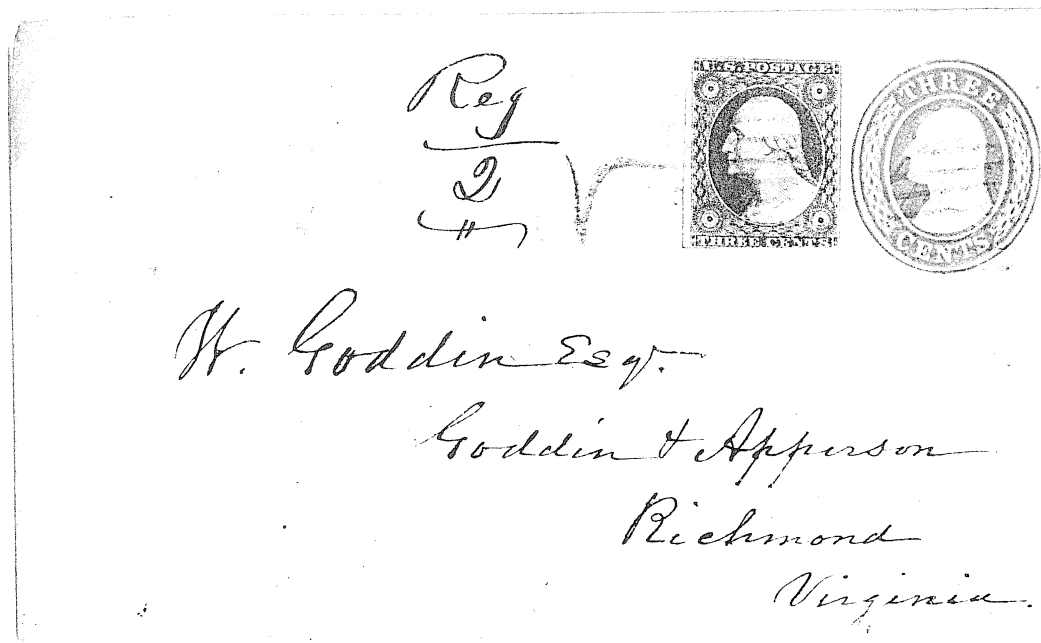
Lewiston, N.Y. cancels with blue grids on 3 cent 1851 and 3 cent entire together with straight line "MONEY LETTER". This cover was illustrated by Norona in his 1934 classic article and is the only known example. It is likely the postmaster of Lewiston used this terminology because he was familiar with the Canadian markings; Lewiston was an exchange office.

## 2. Unofficial Registration of Letters 1845 – 1870

### UNUSUAL MARKS



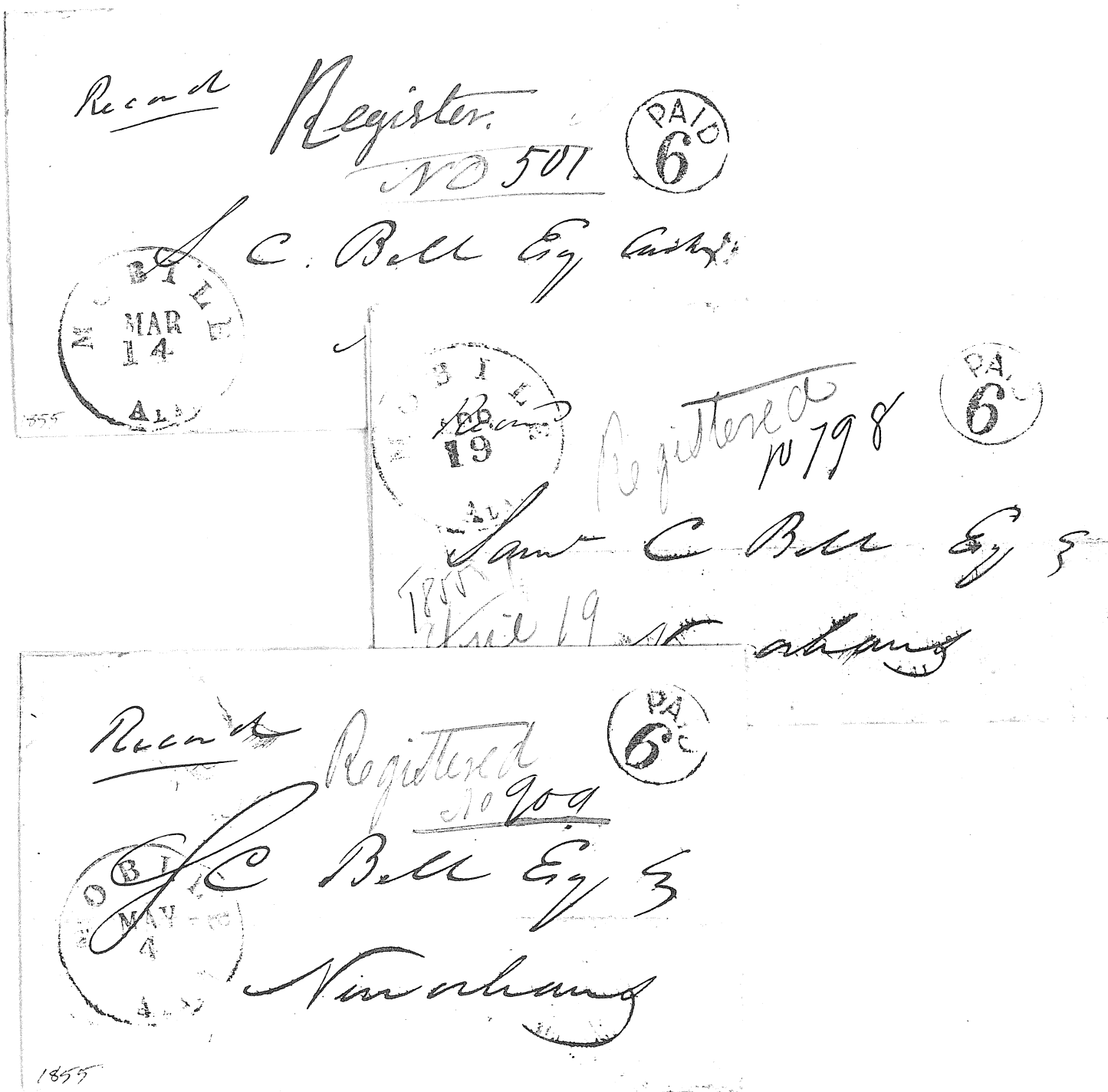
Richmond, VA. appeared to have used crayon markings on registered mail during the unofficial period. This cover bears a red "X" together with the postmark "RICHMOND Va. AUG 30" (1849) and received a large blue "R" at Philadelphia, a late usage of that marking.



This cover bears a blue "FINCASTLE Va. JUL 18" with ms. "Reg/2". There is a red crayon check mark that is consistent with other crayon markings on registered mail from Richmond. Thus it seems likely that marking was applied at Richmond to indicate valuable contents. This cover may be from period of official registration (1855 would be nice), but it may not too.

## 2. Unofficial Registration of Letters 1845 – 1870

### REGISTRATION, NOT RECORDED



This correspondence of letters to the Cashier of a New Orleans bank are all in the handwriting of the clerk of one Mobile company who wrote "Record" on each of the many existing letters. But the postal markings on every one of the letters as are seen here is "Registered" and they bear numbers for registration. The majority were overweight and paid double postage. Because of these covers some early students used terminology that pre-1855 letters were recorded to differentiate them from true registered covers for which a fee was paid. The covers show that the official terminology was always "registered", no matter what date, during the 1845- 1855 decade.

### 3. Official Registration after July 1, 1855

## ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW SERVICE

### NEW POSTAGE ACT.

AN ACT further to amend the act entitled "An act to reduce and modify the rates of postages in the United States, and for other purposes," passed March three, eighteen hundred and fifty-one.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, in lieu of the rates of postage now established by law, there shall be charged the following rates, to wit:*

For every single letter in manuscript, or paper of any kind in which information shall be asked for or communicated in writing, or by marks or signs, conveyed in the mail for any distance between places in the United States not exceeding three thousand miles, three cents; and for any distance exceeding three thousand miles, ten cents.

And for a double letter there shall be charged double the rate above specified; and for a treble letter, treble those rates; and for a quadruple letter, quadruple those rates; and every letter or parcel not exceeding half an ounce in weight shall be deemed a single letter; and every additional weight of half an ounce, or additional weight of less than half an ounce, shall be charged with an additional single postage; and upon all letters passing through or in the mail of the United States, excepting such as are to or from a foreign country, the postages as above specified shall be prepaid, except upon letters and packages addressed to officers of the government on official business, which shall be so marked on the envelope. And from and after the first day of January, eighteen hundred and fifty-six, the Postmaster General may require postmasters to place postage stamps upon all prepaid letters upon which such stamps may not have been placed by the writers.

And all drop-letters, or letters placed in any post office not for transmission through the mail, but for delivery only, shall be charged with postage at the rate of one cent each; and all letters which shall hereafter be advertised as remaining over, or uncalled for, in any post office, shall be charged with one cent each, in addition to the regular postage, both to be accounted for as other postages now are.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted, That it shall not be lawful for any postmaster or other person to sell any postage stamp or stamped envelope for any larger sum than that indicated upon the face of such postage stamp or for a larger sum than that charged therefor by the Post Office Department; and any person who shall violate this provision shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and, on conviction thereof shall be fined in any sum not less than ten nor more than five hundred dollars. This act to take effect and be in force from and after the commencement of the next fiscal quarter after its passage. Provided, That nothing herein contained shall be so construed as to alter the laws in relation to the franking privilege.*

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted, That for the greater security of valuable letters posted for transmission in the mails of the United States, the Postmaster General be and hereby is authorized to establish a uniform plan for the registration of such letters on application of parties posting the same, and to require the prepayment of the postage, as well as a registration fee of five cents on every such letter or packet to be accounted for by postmasters receiving the same in such manner as the Postmaster General shall direct: Provided, however, That such registration shall not be compulsory; and it shall not render the Post Office Department or its revenue liable for the loss of such letters or packets or the contents thereof.*

This March 3, 1855 circular to postmasters under Sec. 3 describes the new system for registration of valuable letters with a five cents fee to be charged. This circular does not describe the date of the beginning of the service. Another March 12, 1855 circular states "the provisions in regard to the registration of valuable letters will be carried into effect and special instructions issued on the subject as soon as the necessary blanks can be prepared and distributed."



### 3. Official Registration after July 1, 1855

## INSTRUCTIONS TO POSTMASTERS,

AND

## NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC.

*For carrying into effect the 3d Section of the Act of March 3d, 1855, providing for the Registration of valuable letters.*

Sec. 1. Letters, alleged to be valuable, posted at one Post Office in the United States, and deliverable at another such office, shall from and after the first day of July, 1855, be registered at the office of mailing, on the application of the person posting the same, and the payment of a registration fee of five cents.

2. Postmasters are instructed to enter all such letters in a book to be prepared and kept for the purpose, to be called the *Receipt Book* (which, in small offices, will be prepared by stitching together the several sheets of blank receipts furnished by this Department,) containing blank receipts with a wide margin for a brief duplicate of each, as in Bank check books. The Postmaster will enter in this margin the number of the receipt, the date of filling it, the name of the person to whom the letter is addressed, and of the place to which it is to be mailed. He will then fill up the receipt to correspond with this marginal entry, separate it from the margin, and deliver it to the person who deposited the letter.

3. *Registered Letters* will not be entered in the ordinary accounts of mails received and sent, but separate accounts of such letters will be kept at each Post Office, to be called *account of registered letters received*, and *account of registered letters sent*, blanks for which will be furnished by the Department.

4. When a letter has been received, registered, and receipted for, as directed in section 2, the Postmaster will enter its number, the date of mailing, the rate of postage, the name of the person to whom it is addressed, and of the office (whether of distribution or delivery) to which it is to be sent, in his *account of registered letters sent*. He will make a separate letter

*Two copies of this sheet will be furnished to each Postmaster. One of them he will carefully preserve for reference on his own files: the other he will post up conspicuously in his office for the information of the public.*

May 10th, 1855.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,

Postmaster General.

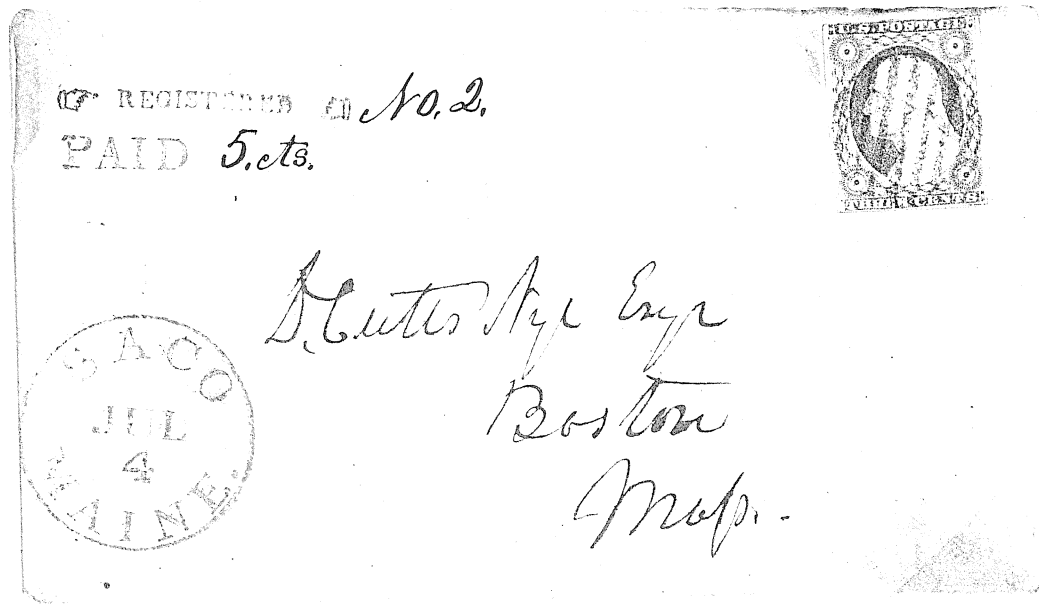
JAMES CAMPBELL,

perfect transcripts of such accounts with the letters pertaining to them, retaining the originals in his office for reference.

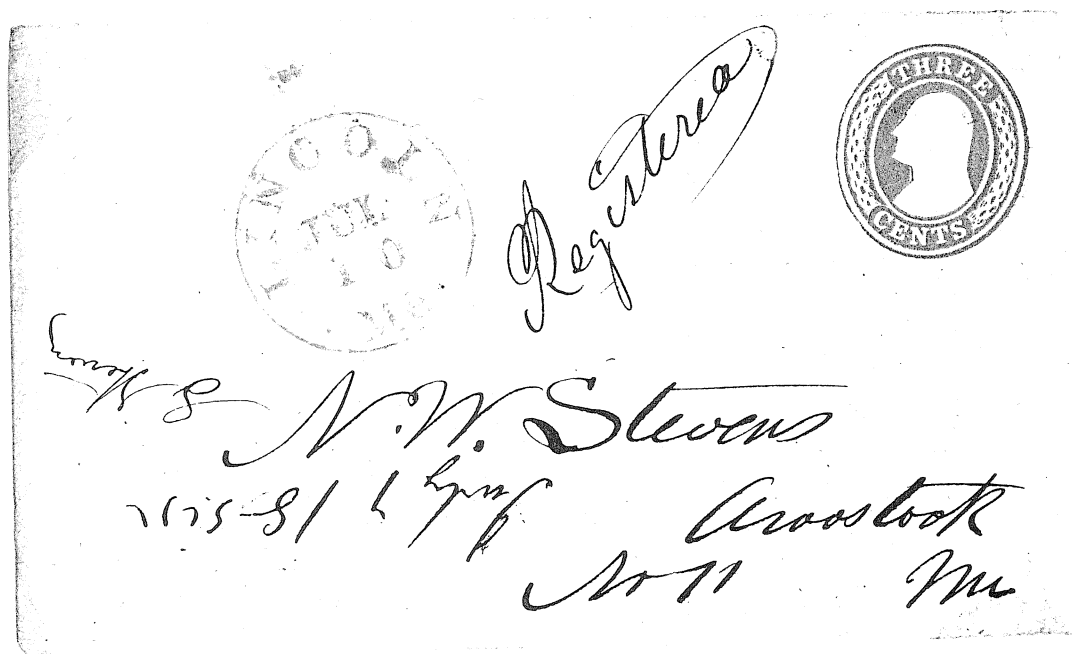
This is the official Instructions to Postmasters concerning Registration of valuable letters from the Postmaster General, May 10, 1855.

### 3. Official Registration after July 1, 1855

#### EARLY USAGES



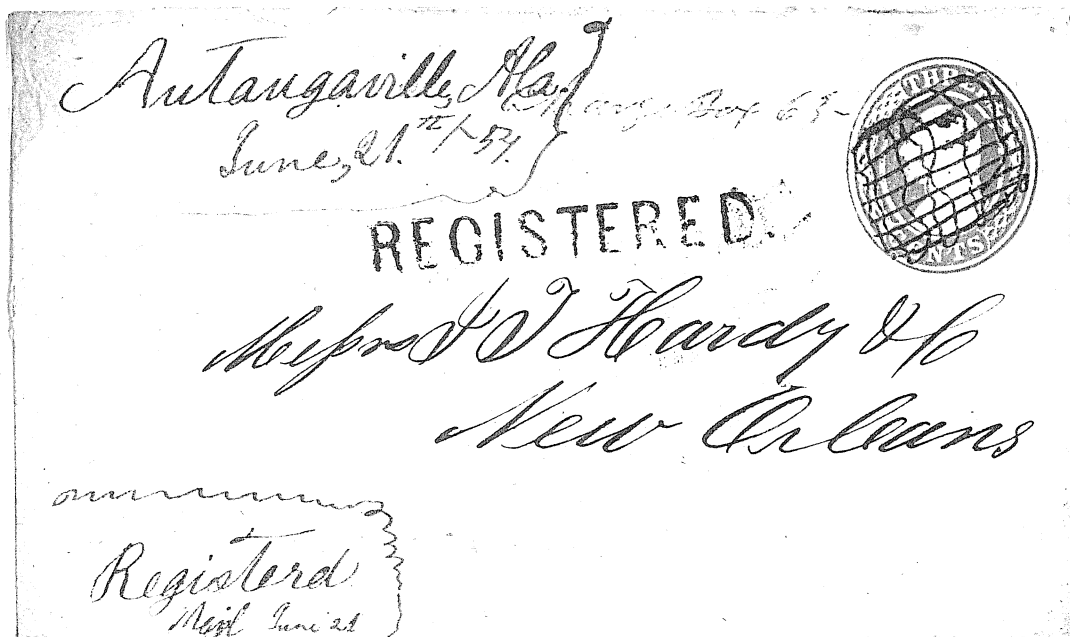
This is considered to be the earliest known officially registered cover. It was mailed at Saco, ME. on July 4 only four days after registration began as an official service of the P.O.D. It bears a very rare straight line with two pointing hands "REGISTERED" which is also known from the unofficial period. But it is also numbered "No. 2" and bears a red "PAID" with ms. "5 cts." and thus appears to be the second officially registered cover sent from Saco.



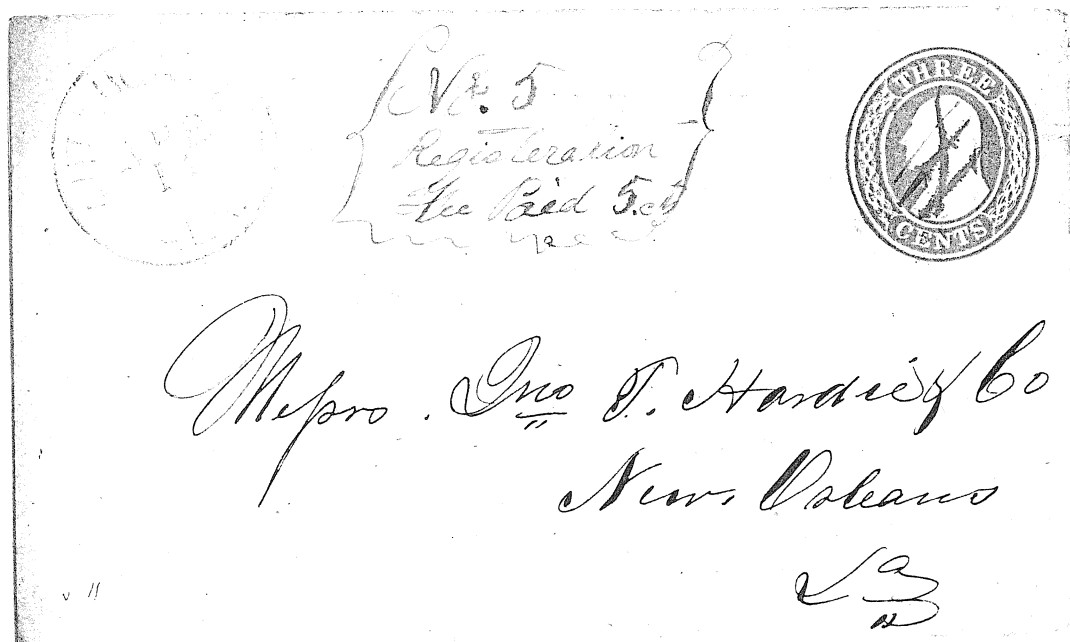
Red "LINCOLN Me. JUL 10" with ms. "Registered" and no number. However, the cover is docketed "July 7, 1855" with the name of the writer. Therefore, this is the second earliest known U.S. officially registered cover.

### 3. Official Registration after July 1, 1855

#### REGISTRY FEE SHOWN ON COVER



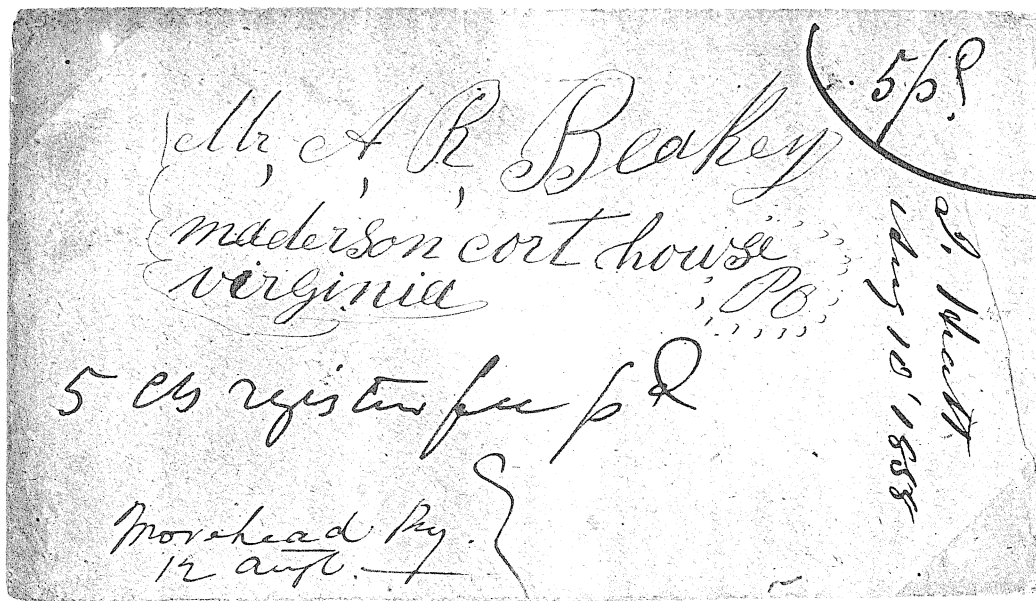
This 3 cent entire bears many markings. The postmark is ms. "Autaugaville, Ala. June 21, /54". Then there is "Registered Mail June 21" also by the postmaster. There is no register number. So this is an unofficially registered cover. It also bears the interesting black straight line "REGISTERED." which is probably a Montgomery, AL. transit marking, with New Orleans address. No New Orleans handstamped markings on incoming registered mail are known, and New Orleans numbered their outgoing registered letters.



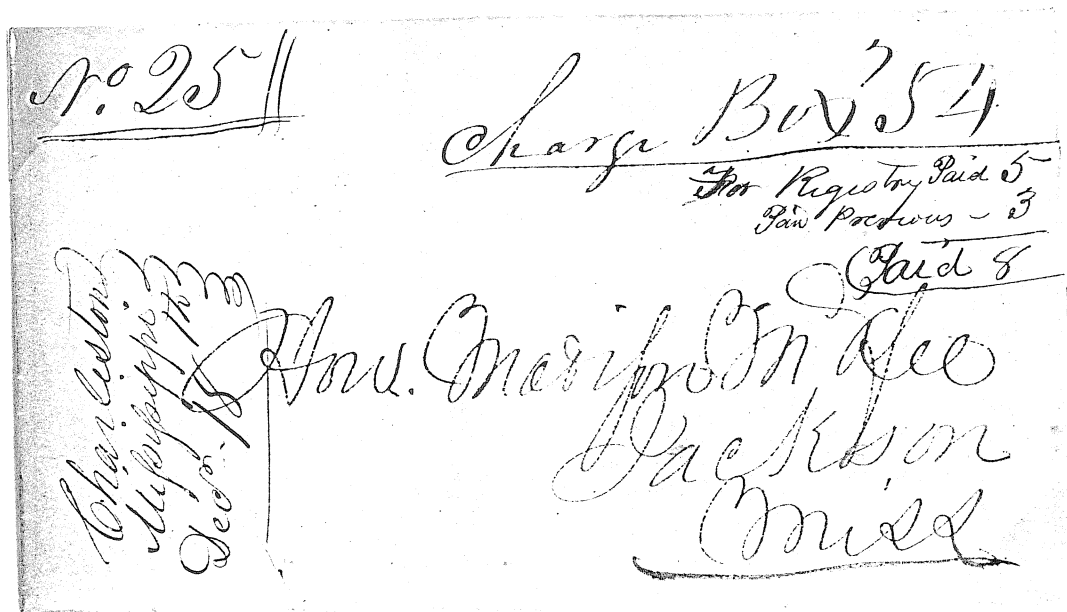
"AUTAUGAVILLE ALA. APR 14" on 3 cent entire with ms. "No. 5 Registration fee Paid 5 cts". Presumably this numbered cover is an 1856 usage after official registration.

### 3. Official Registration after July 1, 1855

#### REGISTRY FEE SHOWN ON COVER



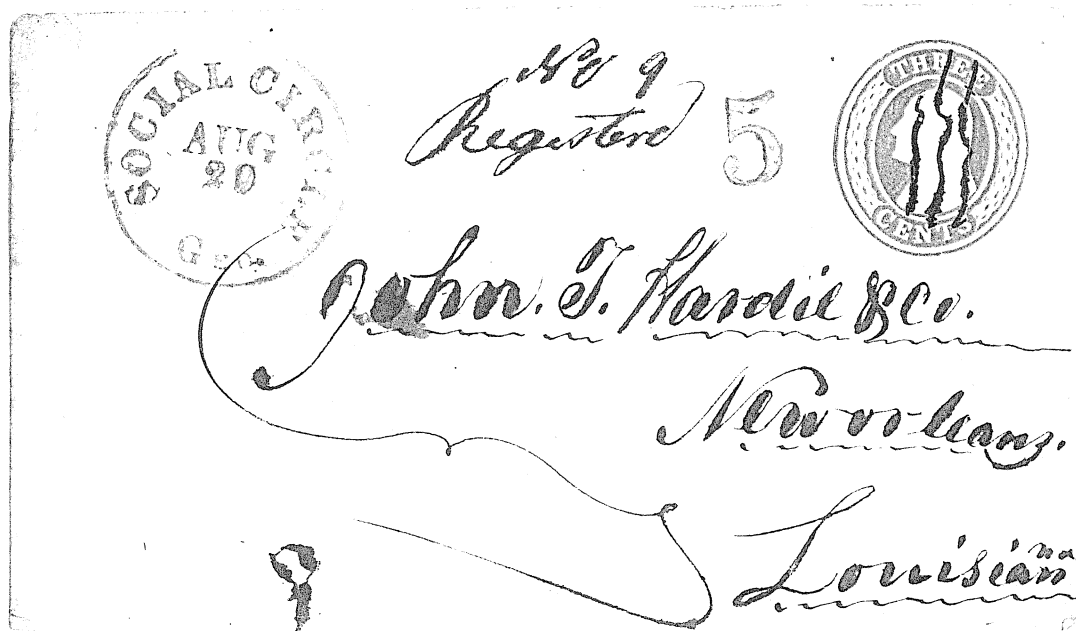
Manuscript "Morehead, Ky. 12 Aug" with "5 pd" and "5 cts register fee pd" on 1858 cover to Madison Court House, VA. This is a scarce usage showing the fee indicated. The postage fee should have been 3 cents, not 5 cents, and this is likely an error by the postmaster.



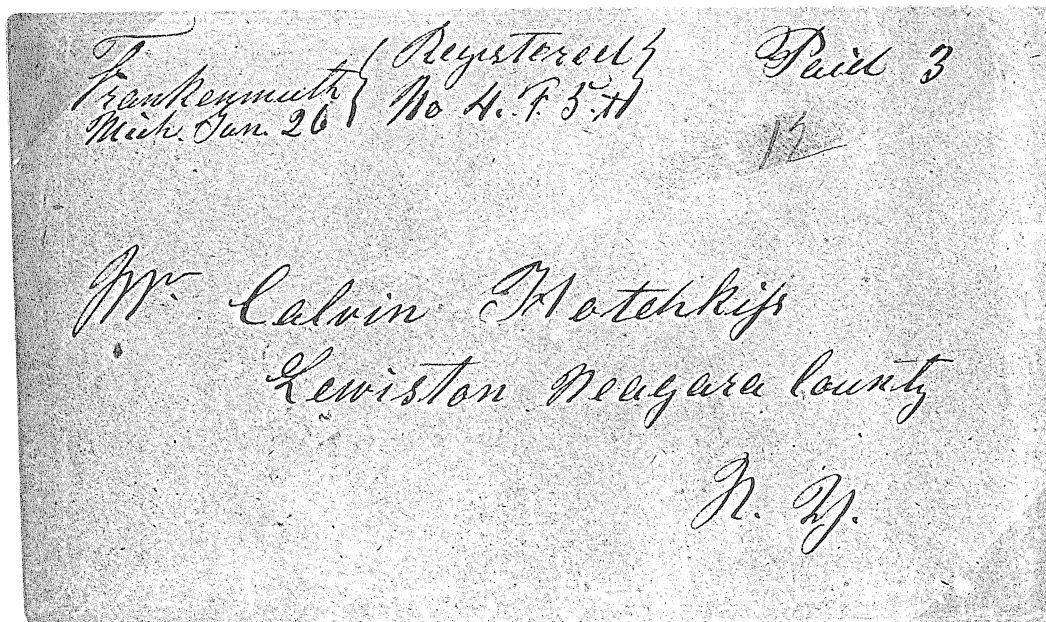
Manuscript "Charleston Mississippi Decr. 18th" (1855) with "No. 25" (registry number) and ms. "For Registry Paid 5 Paid Previous 3/ Paid 8." This is the only known registered cover showing addition of postage and registry fee for eight cents, which of course was the usual postage and fees on a registered letter from mid-1855 to mid-1863. Note that all postage was charged to a post office box account.

### 3. Official Registration after July 1, 1855

#### REGISTRY FEE SHOWN ON COVER



A well-known example used in several published articles showing the five cents registry fee indicated by red "5" handstamp on entire postmarked "SOCIAL CIRCLE GEO. AUG 29" and ms. "No 9 Registered".



Manuscript "Frankenmuth Mich Jan. 26" with "Paid 3" and "Registered No. 4 P(d) 5 ct". The year date is unknown.

### 3. Official Registration after July 1, 1855

#### REGISTRY FEE SHOWN ON COVER



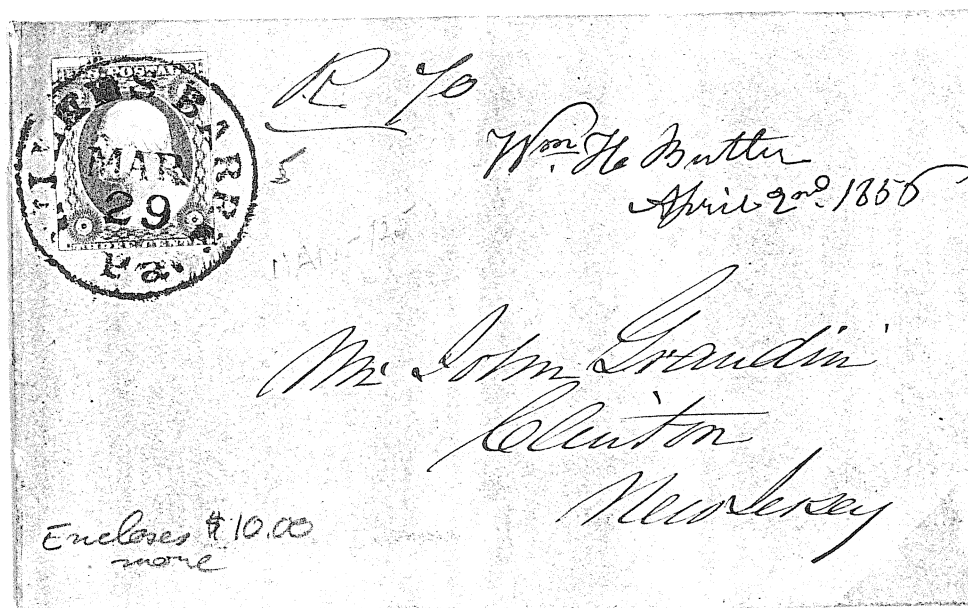
This cover was first described by Dr. Chase in his book. It demonstrates a unique rimless hand-stamp "REGISTERED" with manuscript "Paid 5" in the center, so the usage may be 1855. There is no town of origin indicated. The postage was "FREE" because the addressee was the Commissioner of Pensions who had the franking privilege. But the registry fee was not free.

### 3. Official Registration after July 1, 1855

## THE IMPORTANCE OF CONTENTS



Three cent 1851 stamp tied "WILKESBARRE Pa. MAR 27" (1856) with only manuscript "No 65" without registered marking. The contents included \$22.00. Real understanding of registered letters comes from covers that have the original contents and which can be dated accurately.

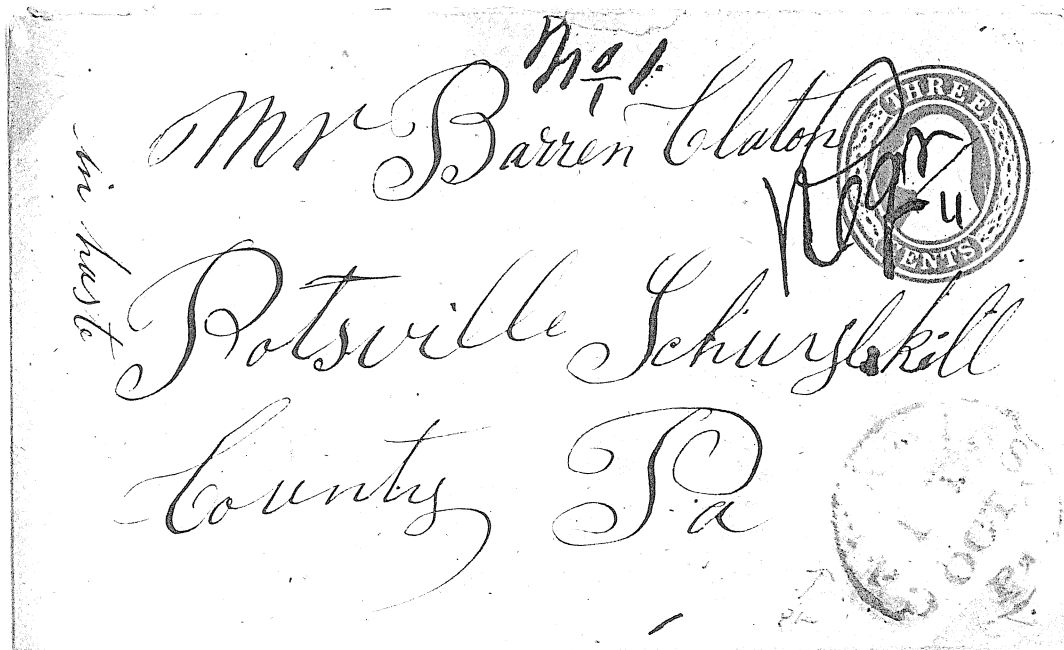


Similar cover with usage of March 29, 1856, two days later, with manuscript "R 70" enclosing \$10.00 more. The existence of the two covers reveals that at Wilkesbarre, there were two or three registered covers sent daily at this time.

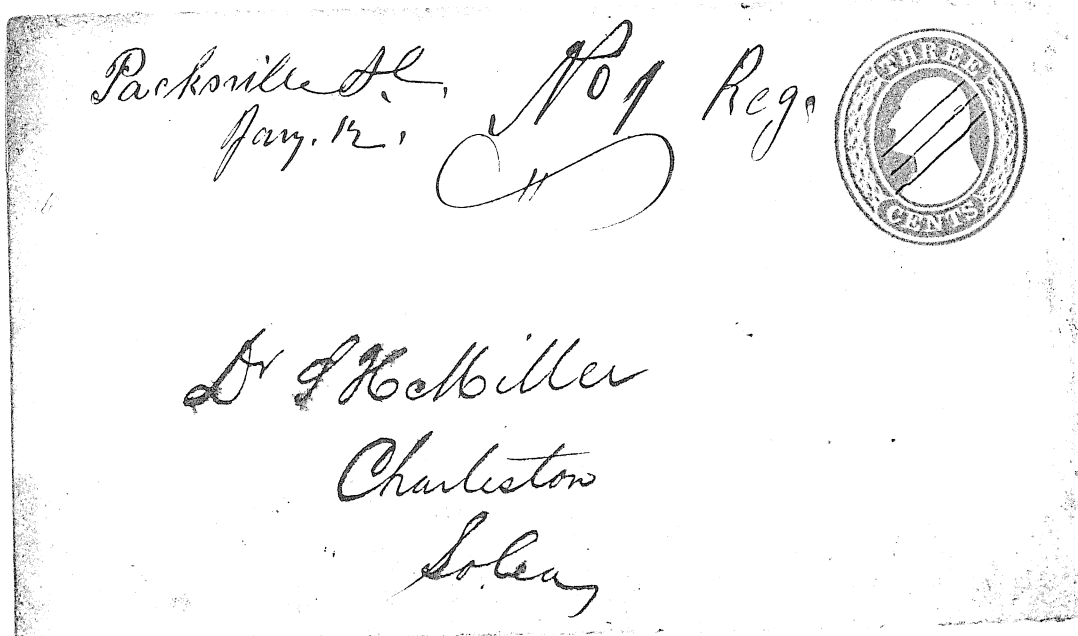


### 3. Official Registration after July 1, 1855

#### USE OF THREE CENT ENTIRES



Entire canceled at Pennsylvanian town on Oct 11, unknown year, with large ms. "Regr" and "No.1". This shows the quarterly accounting of registered covers, October 1 being the beginning of a new quarter, so is probably during official registration.



This entire is canceled "Packsville S.C. Jan. 12" and "No. 1 Reg." to Charleston. The use of the number correlates with the beginning of the new quarter on January 1, so this is presumably from the period of official registration, the quarterly numbering of registered letters being established then.



### 3. Official Registration after July 1, 1855

## NOTIFICATION OF REGISTERED LETTER

*R*


Registered Letter No. *10895*

Post Office, New York,

November *30* 1858.

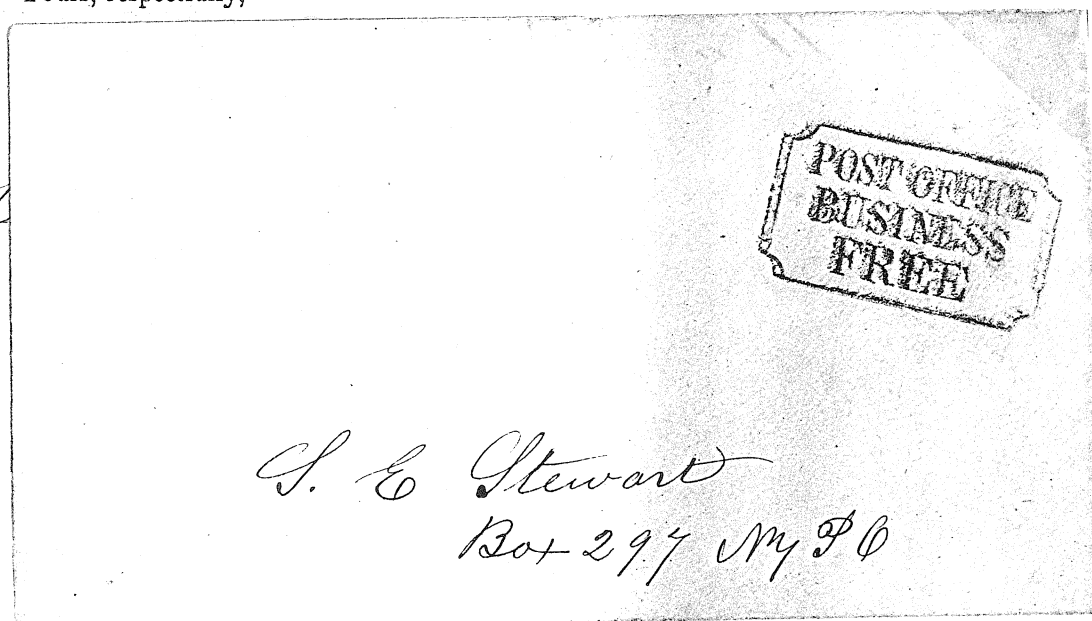
The above Registered Letter has been received, and will be delivered upon your calling at this Office and signing a receipt therefor.

The entrance to the Office for the Delivery of Registered Letters is through the gate on Nassau Street nearest to Liberty.

 Bring this Notice and Envelope with you.

Yours, respectfully,

Per *[signature]*



This is an unusual notice that appears to have been produced by the New York postmaster to notify persons that they had to appear to sign for a registered letter addressed to them. Note the large manuscript "R" with the number of the letter. The initials are probably those of the clerk assigned to handle registered mail. The cover bears a handstamp also used to mail return registered letter bills and other matters. Note it is addressed to a box and so was never mailed.

### 3. Official Registration after July 1, 1855

## REGISTERED LETTER RETURN BILLS

### RETURN REGISTERED LETTER BILL.

To be filled up, and sent back to this office.

Upon the receipt of the package of Registered Letters to which the annexed bill relates, the Postmaster will make a duplicate bill thereof, by filling up this blank, and mark it correct, if it be found so, or note upon it any error that may be found. He will then enclose it in a sealed envelope, direct it to the Postmaster, and mail it direct to This Office.

Post Office, *1856*

REGISTERED LETTERS Received from

*New Haven*

New York									
No.	To whom addressed.	Regis-try Fees. Cents.	Originally paid at this office.				Free.		
			By Stamps.		In Money.				
			Dolls.	Cents.	Dolls.	Cents.	No.		
2	Chas J Peterson	5		3					

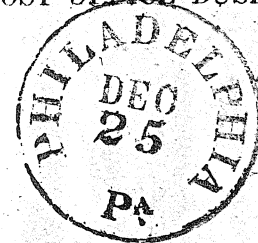
*Correct*

*Amey*  
P. M.

Mail Direct.

POST OFFICE BUSINESS.

Post Master,



*New Haven*

*PA*

RETURNED R. LETTER BILL.

Return Registered Letter Bill from Philadelphia, canceled on Christmas Day, 1856. These bills are between postmasters. They inform the sending postmaster that the letter has reached the office returning the bill, in this case a delivering post office. Note the fee of 5 cents and postage of 3 cents. Philadelphia had special envelopes marked "RETURN R. LETTER BILL."

### 3. Official Registration after July 1, 1855

## REGISTERED LETTER BILLS AND RETURN BILLS

### REGISTERED LETTER BILL.

☒ Postmasters sending a Registered Letter Bill will in all cases send the Return Bill attached.

☒ The Postmaster to whom this Bill is sent will detach, fill up, and return to this office the accompanying Bill, according to the directions thereon printed. ☒ The first letter registered is to be entered No. 1, the second, No. 2, and so on to the end of the quarter. The next quarter will commence again with No. 1.

REGISTERED LETTERS From

*Darby Pa*

1860

To

*Brandywine  
Wilmington Del.*

No.	To whom addressed.	Regis-try Fees. Cents.	Originally paid at this office.		Free.
			By Stamps.	In Money.	
			Dolls.   Cents.	Dolls.   Cents.	No.

*16 Mrs. C.*

### RETURN REGISTERED LETTER BILL

☒ To be filled up, and sent back to this office.

☒ Upon the receipt of the package of Registered Letters to which the annexed bill relates, the Postmaster will fill up this bill, and mark it correct, if it be found so, or note upon it any error that may be found. He will then enclose it in a sealed envelope, direct it to the Postmaster, and mail it direct to THIS OFFICE.

Post Office, .....

REGISTERED LETTERS Received from

*Henry Clay Factory Del*

No.	To whom addressed.	Regis-try Fees. Cents.	Originally paid at this office.		Free.
			By Stamps.	In Money.	
			Dolls.   Cents.	Dolls.   Cents.	No.
<i>1</i>	<i>Rev. Philip Barton Rallywarney P.O. Ireland</i>		<i>5</i>	<i>04</i>	

*Carrier  
Hall*

P. M.

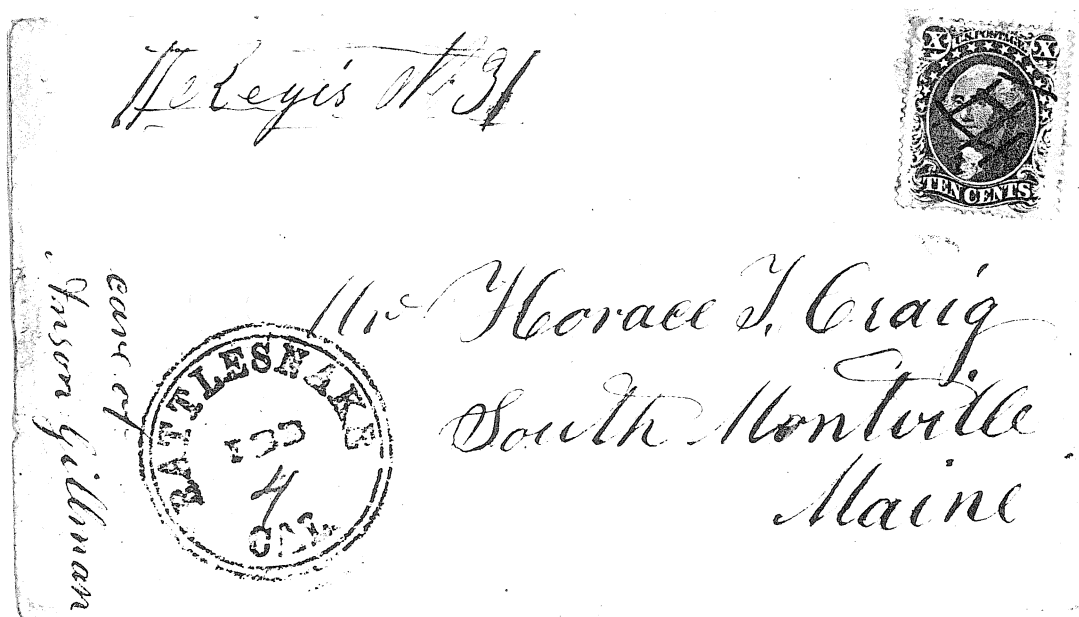
The upper item is a Registered Letter Bill, much rarer than the return bills, and this one accompanied a registered letter from Darby, PA. to Brandywine, DE. in 1860. The Return Registered Letter Bill is from Henry Clay Factory, DE. to Philadelphia, PA., a distribution post office for a letter that would have gone to New York since it is addressed to Ireland. In 1858 the registry rate to Great Britain, Ireland, and Scotland was 5 cents, the same as the U.S. domestic rate, but of course the postage was 24 cents by packet.

### 3. Official Registration after July 1, 1855

#### WESTERN USAGES



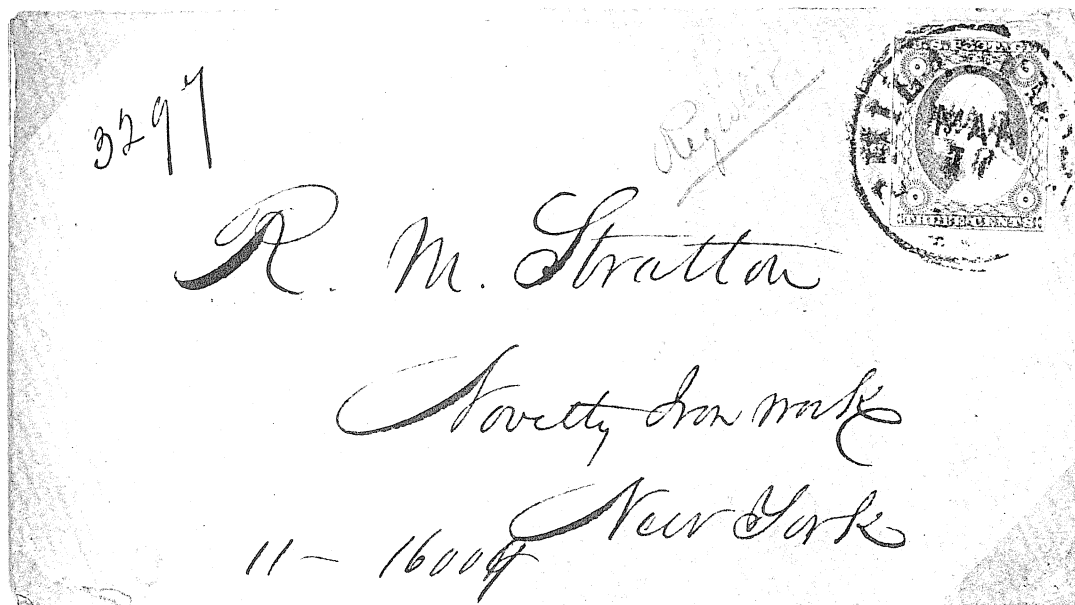
Strip of three of three cent 1851 (damaged at right), Plate 4 with ms. "Santa Clara Cal July 11" (1855 or 1856) paying triple rate to San Francisco on cover "Registered no. 4". This is the earliest officially registered cover from anywhere in the Far West. The postmarks and the address are all in the same handwriting, so the letter must have been from the postmaster at Santa Clara.



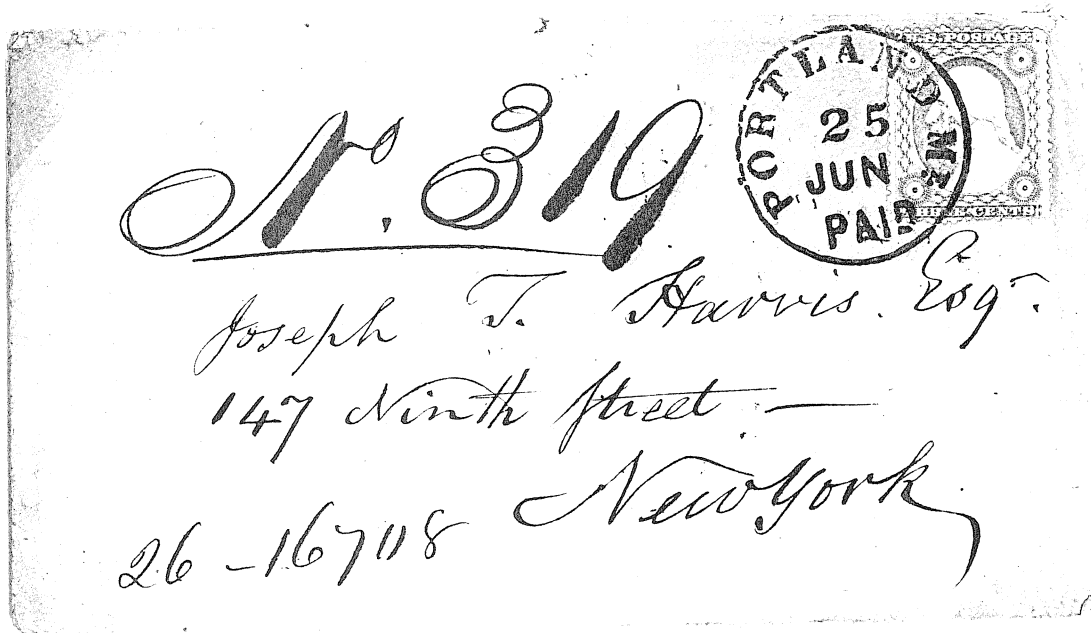
Ten cent 1857 with "RATTLESNAKE CAL. FEB 4" and manuscript "Regis No. 3" to Maine. Western usages during the 1850's are very scarce. If the quarter began January 1, this might have been only the third registered letter from this town, a rate of two a month.

### 3. Official Registration after July 1, 1855

#### NEW YORK LEDGER NUMBERS



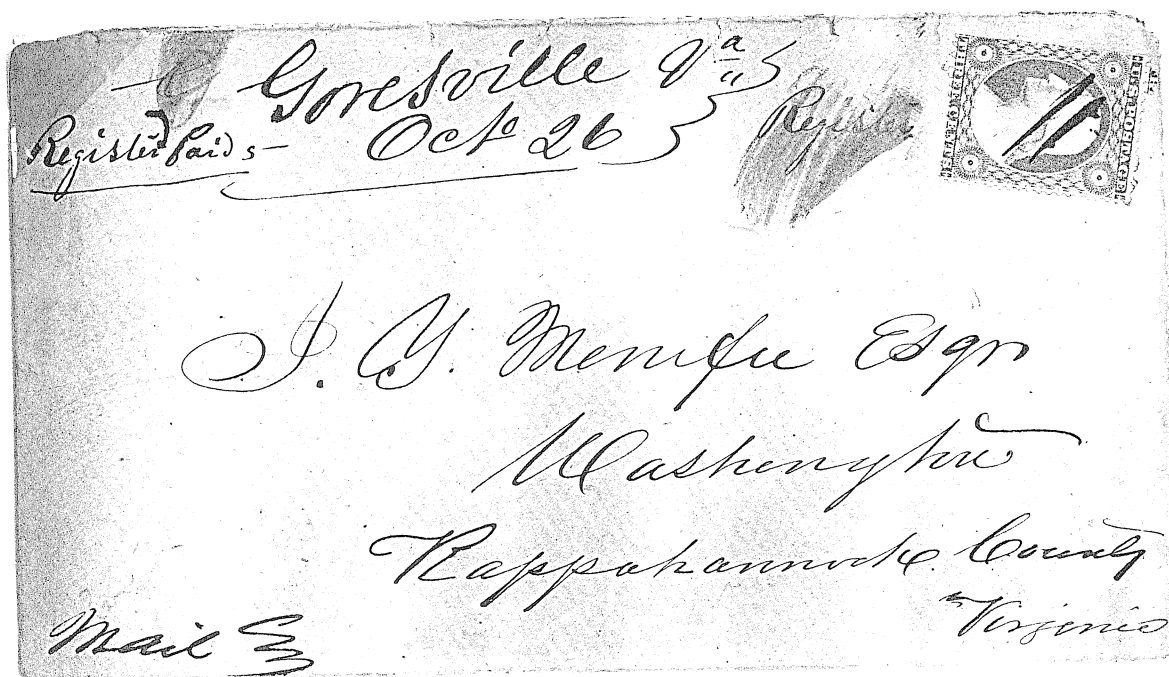
Philadelphia, PA. March 17 origin for registered letter to New York. It bears a number "3297" which is the Philadelphia marking. The "11-16708" is the New York ledger number, which is high for the end of a quarter (Mar. 30/ Apr. 1). Note that neither of these large cities had handstamps for the period of official registration in the 1850's.



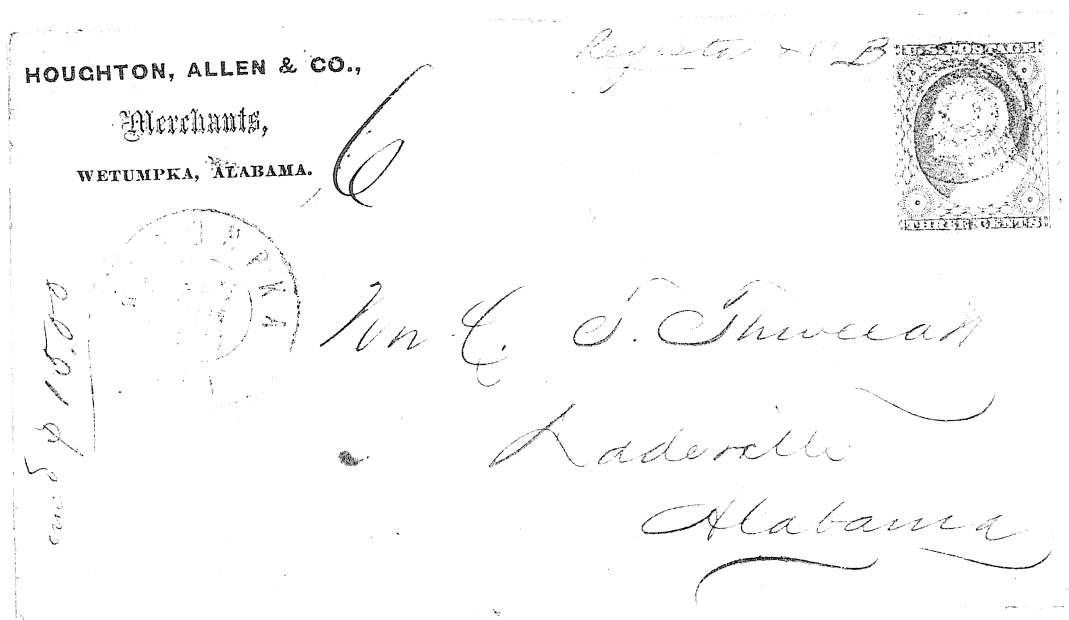
This cover from Portland, ME. bears a huge ms. "No. 319" for registration and received a black ms. "26 - 16708" at New York. Again the number is ledger 26 #16708 which is high because June 25 is near the end of the quarter, June 30. Note the placement of ledger numbers below address.

### 3. Official Registration after July 1, 1855

#### USAGES IN 1860'S



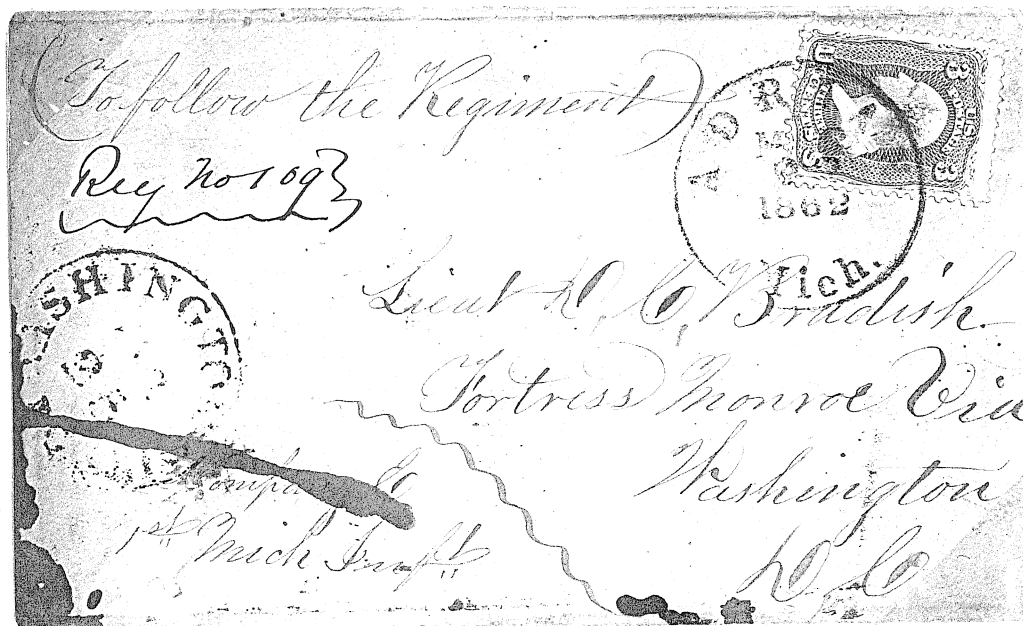
Three cent 1857 canceled "Goresville Va. Oct 26" and "Registered Paid 5" This is a late usage of the registry fee being indicated on the cover.



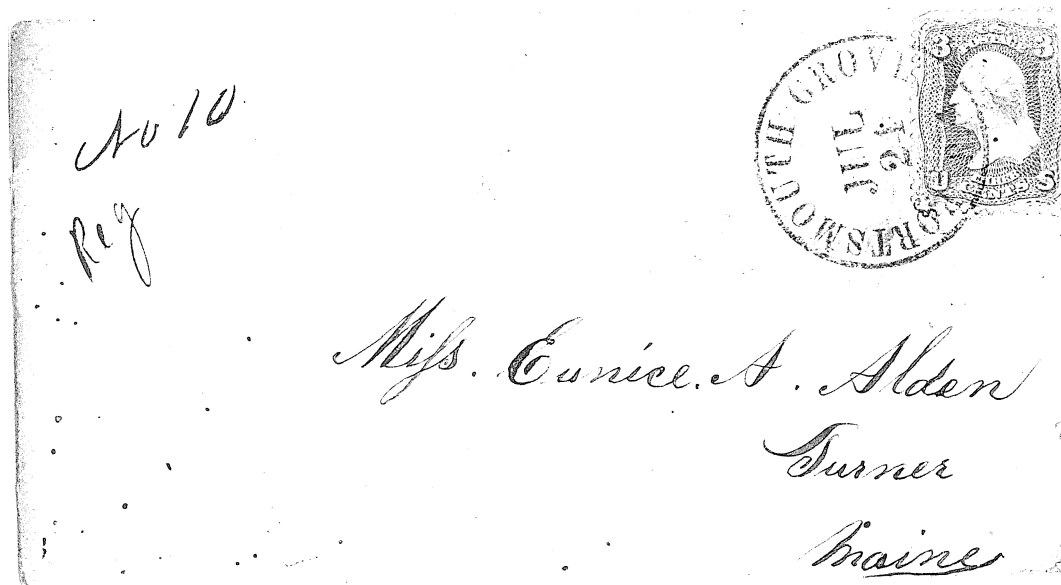
Three cent 1857 tied target with blue "WETUMPKA ALA JAN ? 1861". There is a ms. "register" and charge box notation under the stamp. The number "6" would be appropriate as a number at the beginning of the quarter starting January 1. There is a docket that the cover "encd \$15.00". This is an independent state usage of registration during the period after secession of Alabama. C.S.A. authentication certificate 2870.

### 3. Official Registration after July 1, 1855

## TRANSMISSION OF MONEY DURING CIVIL WAR



This cover is endorsed "To follow the Regiment" and was probably a family letter from Adrian, MI. enclosing money. There is a manuscript "Reg No 109". It is postmarked at Washington three days later which was not regular procedure for a soldier's letter with this type of address, so that indicates special attention because of the registration.



Letter from Lowell Hospital, Portsmouth Grove, R.I. July 22, 1863 from a wounded soldier sending \$25 in pay home: "I think I shall get this letter registered for we have just been paid off". The cover has ms. "Reg" and "No 10", an early number for the third quarter beginning July 1. This is an early usage of the 20 cents registry rate.



### 3. Official Registration after July 1, 1855

## TRANSMISSION OF MONEY DURING CIVIL WAR

9340. Mr Schiffman  
German Savings Bank  
New York  
\$20.00 via Cooper Institute

Most of the money sent by soldiers was carried by private express companies. Patriotic cover sent by soldier to his bank containing \$20.00. This was carried by Adams Express Co. which company's wax seal is on the reverse from Washington, D.C. Money Clerk F.G. Wilson.

Forwarded by the Adams Express Company,  
BEAUFORT, S. C.

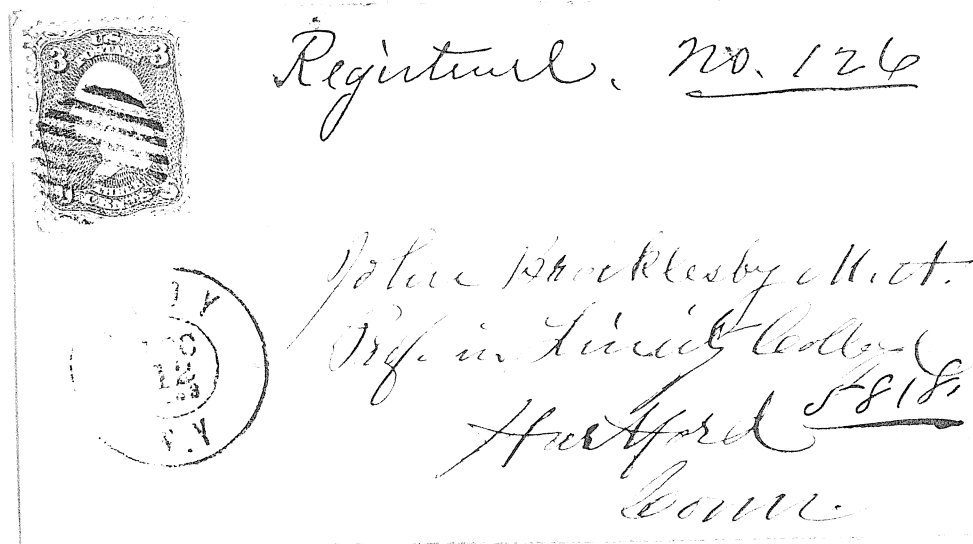
No. 8006 Freight paid, collect  
Date October 21/63 Insurance "50"  
31/10/63 \$ 28.00 Enclosed. **SOLDIER'S PACKAGE.**  
50 Receipt for  
FOR German Savings Bank  
FROM Strom & Schelling  
Co. 9th Reg't, N.Y.V. H. Cooper Institute  
Walla Island S.C.  
October 21/63 1863. New York City

Printed Adams Express Company's Soldier's Package from Beaufort, S.C.. The freight is marked collect so the fee of 50 cents was deducted from the \$28.00 enclosed for deposit. These printed envelopes were widely used by soldiers.

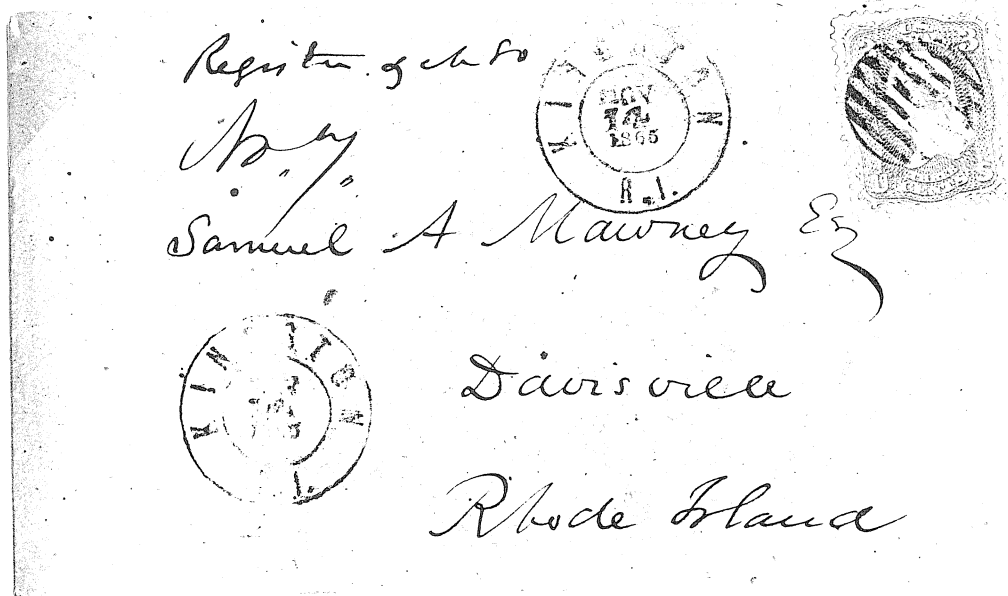


#### 4. Official Registration after July 1, 1863

### 20 CENT FEE PAID IN CASH



To know if an 1860's period registered cover is a 5 cents or 20 cents registry rate, the new rate after July 1, 1863, one has to be able to yeardate the cover by contents, postmark, docketing or something else. This cover with ms. "Registered No. 126" has a postmark "TROY N.Y. DEC 12 1863" which is in the latter rate period. No covers are known with notations showing "20 cts registered paid".



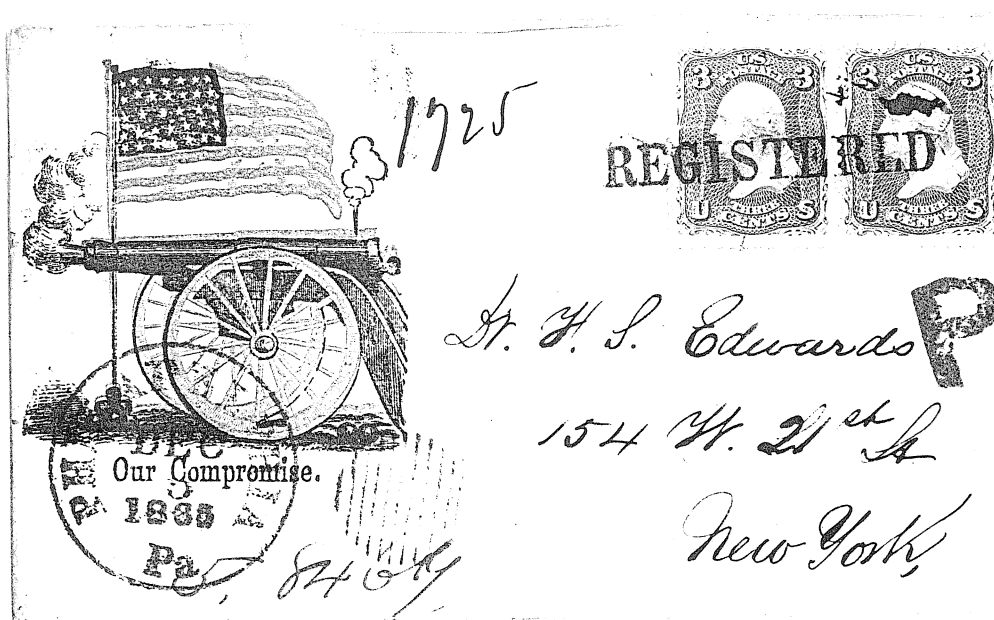
Three cent 1861 canceled "KINGSTON R.I. NOV 14 1865" with "Register & Ch 80" by the sender and "No. 7" by the postmaster. The big question is what was charged to P.O. Box 80's account? Certainly the 20 cents registry fee was. But perhaps so also was the 3 cents charged for the stamp. Such "Charge to P.O. Box Account" letters must have been presented in person, not dropped into a post box, in order to get the receipt for the registered letter.

#### 4. Official Registration after July 1, 1863

### UNUSUAL HANDSTAMPED LETTERS ON COVERS TO NEW YORK



Registered cover with "BELLEVUE O. Sept 2 1863" town marking and "PAID 3" killer with ms. "Registered No. 19" to New York. The cover bears the magenta New York ledger numbers at the bottom. But it also bears an large capital "I", one of a number of letters all of a similar size seen only on registered letters at New York of this date period.




Black straight line "REGISTERED" cancels two copies of 3 cent 1861 from Philadelphia in 1865 on Civil War patriotic envelope. In addition to the three Philadelphia markings, this cover bears a magenta manuscript New York ledger marking "5 8467" and a large "P". All of these letter handstamps have been seen only on incoming New York registered covers. All come from different correspondences with different addresses.

#### 4. Official Registration after July 1, 1863

### RETURN REGISTERED LETTER RECEIPTS


Return Registered Letter Receipts were a new service with the increased registry rate of 20 cents. This example is really a receipt form, not a return receipt form, but as can be seen written at the top, it is a duplicate return receipt. It bears the pencil signature of the recipient and is postmarked at the delivering post office. The receipt form is for the patron. The bill is the form for the postmaster.

*Return Registered Receipt*  
No. 3 REGISTERED LETTER *duplicate*  
Post-Office, Cleveland  
Jan 1 1864  
Received a Letter addressed to Horace McKim  
Sand & Co. to H. M.  


RETURN REGISTERED LETTER RECEIPT.

NOTE.—This return receipt, after being signed by the party to whom the letter or package which accompanies it is delivered, must be immediately enclosed to the Postmaster at the office where it originated.  
☒ Should the registered letter not be delivered, this receipt must be forwarded with it, in due course, to the Dead Letter Office.

No. 15 May 23<sup>d</sup> 1865.  
Mailed at Salmon Oregon  
by Capt McCall  
a letter addressed to John Aird  
Vancouver W.T.

Stamp here the office, and date of delivery  
  
Received the above described letter.  
Sign here } John Aird

This is a proper form for a Return Registered Letter Receipt, in this case postmarked "VANCOUVER W.T. MAY 23" (1865), a Washington Territorial post office.

#### 4. Official Registration after July 1, 1863

### RETURN REGISTERED LETTER BILL

RETURN REGISTER LETTER BILL.

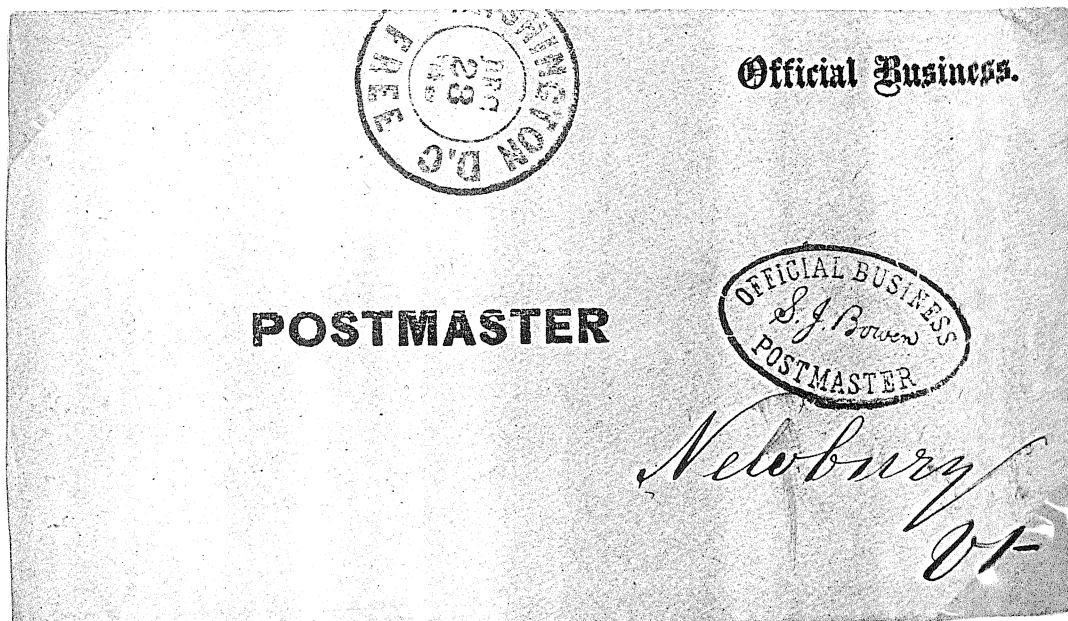
Letters Received at \_\_\_\_\_, 186 ,

From Newbury Vermont

NO.	ADDRESS.	FEE.
14	United States Treasury	1

I hereby acknowledge the receipt of above described letter.

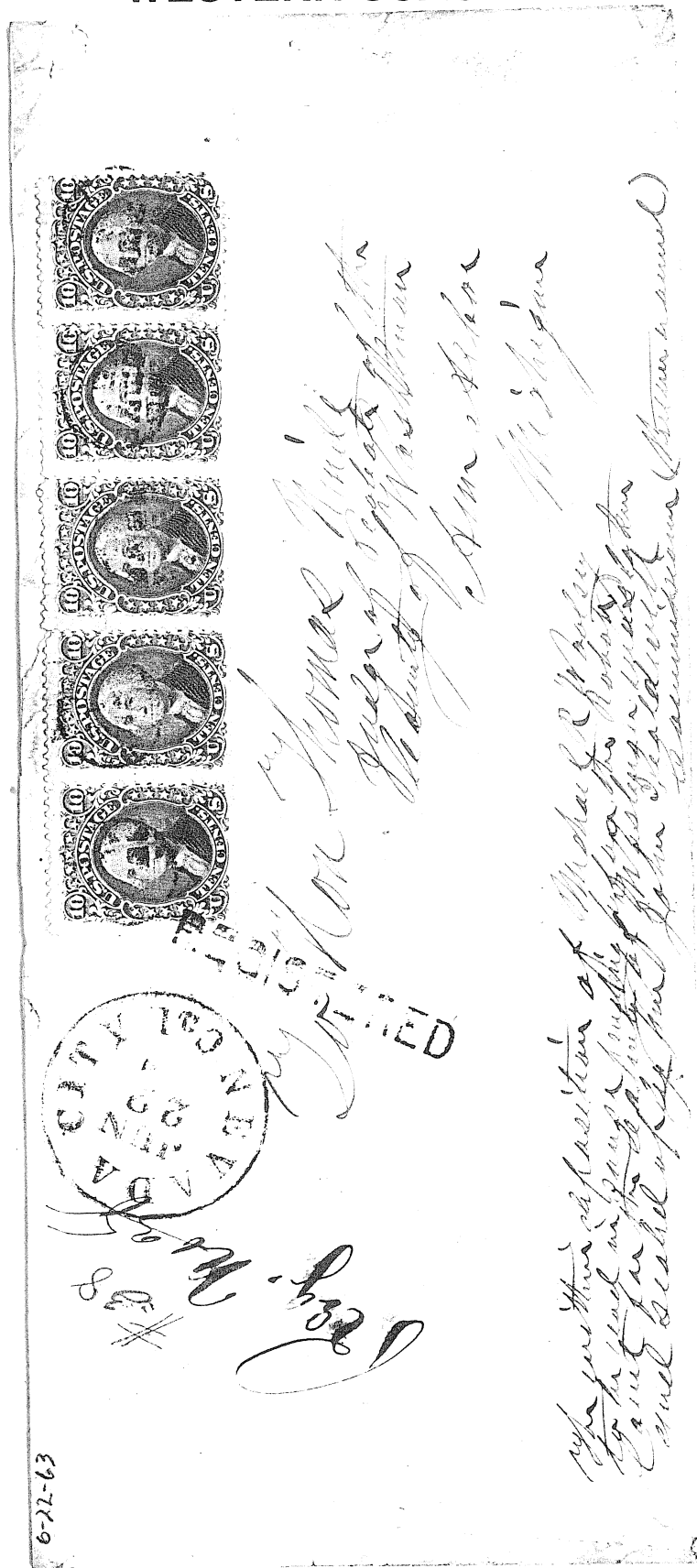
P. M.



Return Register Letter Bill from the postmaster of Washington, D.C. to postmaster of Newbury, VT. for letter to U.S. Treasury. Note it paid a single fee; no registered letters were free. It bears a "CORRECT S.J. BOWEN P.M." and "WASHINGTON D.C. DEC 23" postmark. The cover is year-dated 1866 and bears an unusual handstamped facsimile frank of the postmaster. Postage was free since this was official business.

#### 4. Official Registration after July 1, 1863

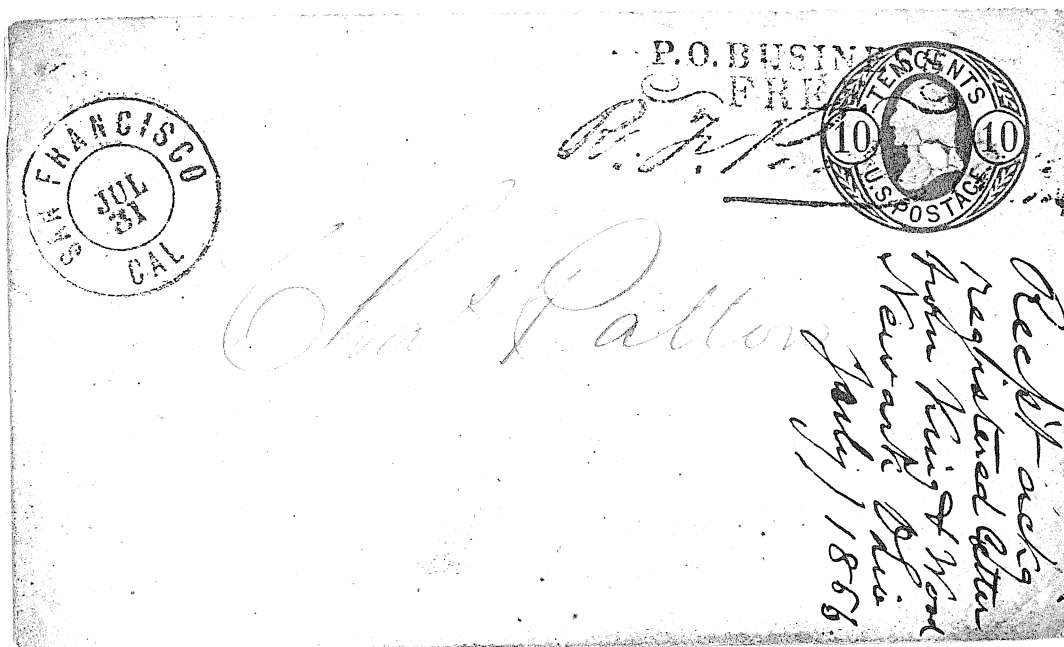
## WESTERN USAGES



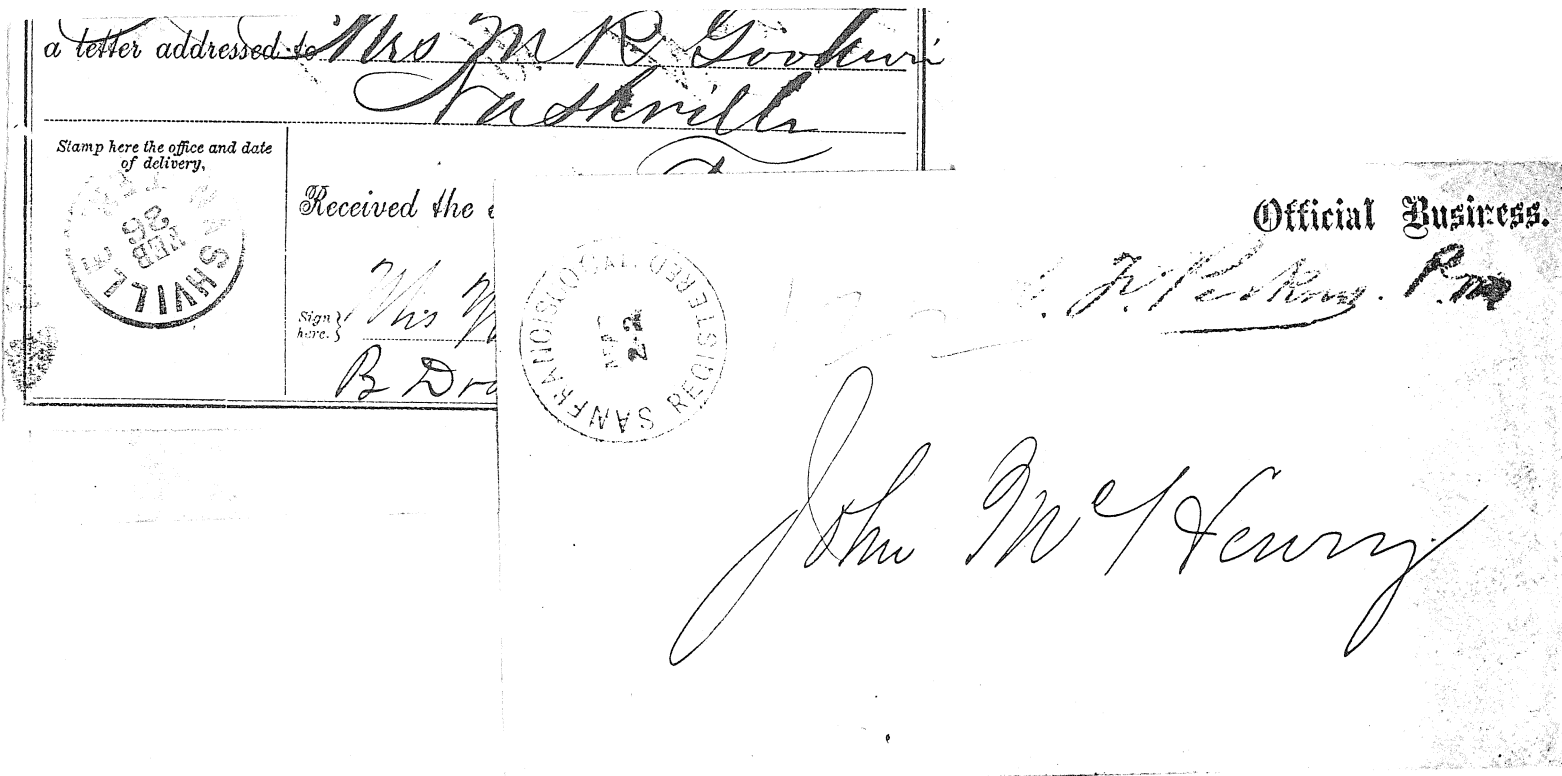
This legal sized envelope paid a 5X rate from Nevada City, CA. It bears a ms. "#38 Reg. No 38" and handstamped "REGISTERED" of Nevada City. There is an earlier type straight line marking from this same California town in the late 1850s. The 20 cents fee was paid in cash.

#### 4. Official Registration after July 1, 1863

### SAN FRANCISCO RETURN RECEIPTS



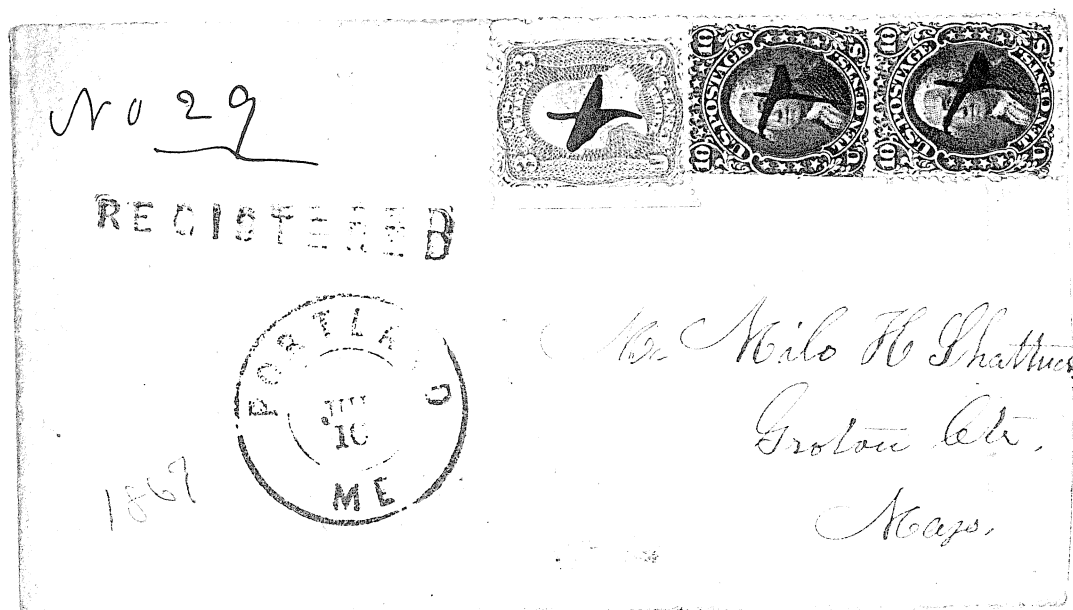
Ten cent entire used after issue withdrawn by San Francisco postmaster for official business. There is a punch mark and overprint by facsimile frank. Used for returning a registered letter receipt in 1866 to a local patron.



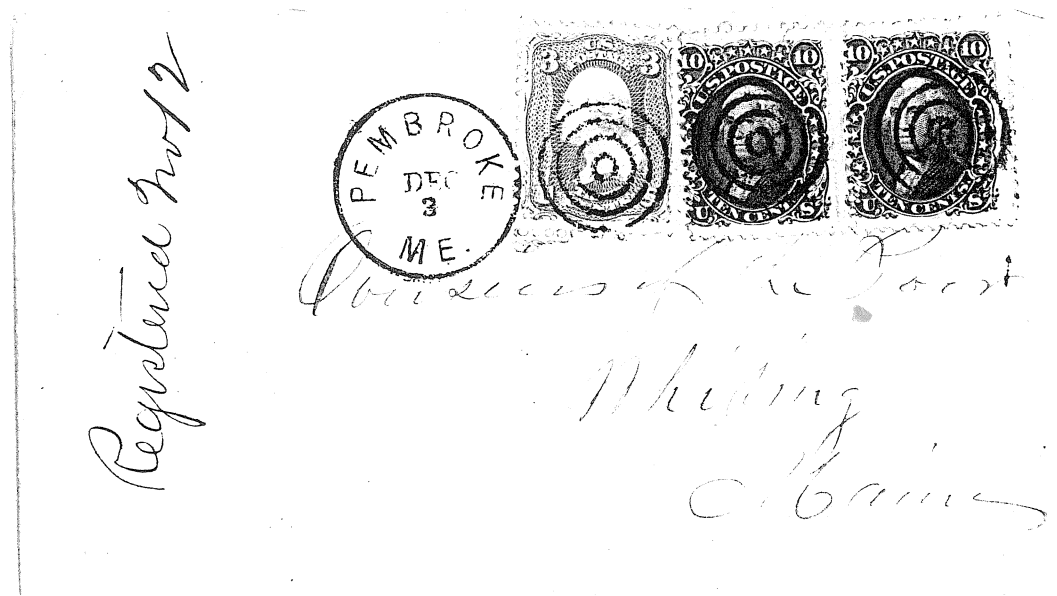
Return Registered Letter Receipt sent from San Francisco to Nashville, TN., signed by recipient and postmarked by Nashville postmaster. This receipt was mailed with handstamped "SAN FRANCISCO CAL. REGISTERED MAR 22" postmark under a frank to sender. Very rare postal usage.

## 5. Regulation Changes in 1867 and 1869

### PAYMENT 20 CENT FEE IN STAMPS JUNE 1, 1867

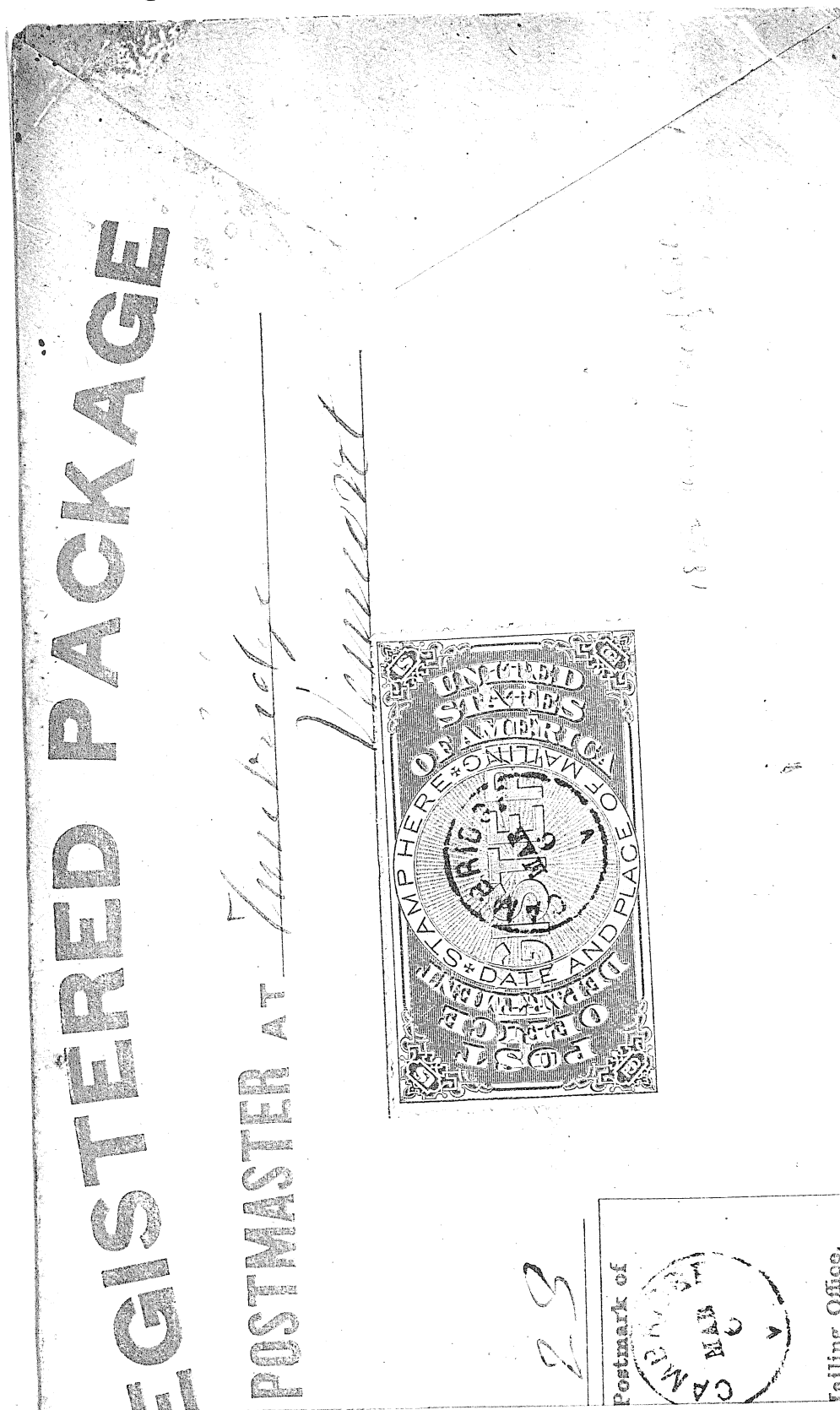


Twenty cents registry fee paid by two copies 10 cent 1861 with single 3 cent stamp, canceled at "PORTLAND ME JUL 10" (1867), early usage of payment by stamps, with "REGISTERED".



Manuscript "Registered No. 12" on cover with "PEMBROKE ME. DEC 3" (1868) paying the 20 cents registry rate with two 10 cent stamps and postage of 3 cents.

## 5. Regulation Changes in 1867 and 1869



1874 example of a Registered Package Envelope which was the device used after 1867 to send registered letters in mail bags to other offices. Multiple registered letters, up to 13, can be enclosed in each package envelope. They were postmarked and numbered as is this one. The stamp was issued five years after the introduction of these orange envelopes. The bills were sent in the same mail but in a different type envelope.




## 5. Regulation Changes in 1867 and 1869

### REGISTERED PACKAGE RECEIPTS

#### RECEIPT FOR REGISTERED PACKAGES.

Type 3-

Received of *W. L. Bucklin*, P. M. at *Cattaugusville*  
 (Date here.) *Aug 10*, 18*70*, the following described registered packages, to wit:

REGISTERED POSTAGE STAMP PACKAGE.	REGISTERED STAMPED ENVELOPE PACKAGE.	REGISTERED PACKAGE ENVELOPE.	POSTMARKED AT—	DATE OF POST- MARK.	NAME OF P. O. ADDRESSED.
		<i>1</i>	<i>Cattaugusville</i>	<i>Aug 10</i>	<i>Albany D.P.O. N.Y.</i>

(Sign here.)

From *S. Nims* to

The Route Agent or Railway Postal Clerk by whom the pouch containing this receipt and accompanying package is first opened, will sign his name and title above this note, with the names of the termini of his route, and return it to the Postmaster from whom he receives it.

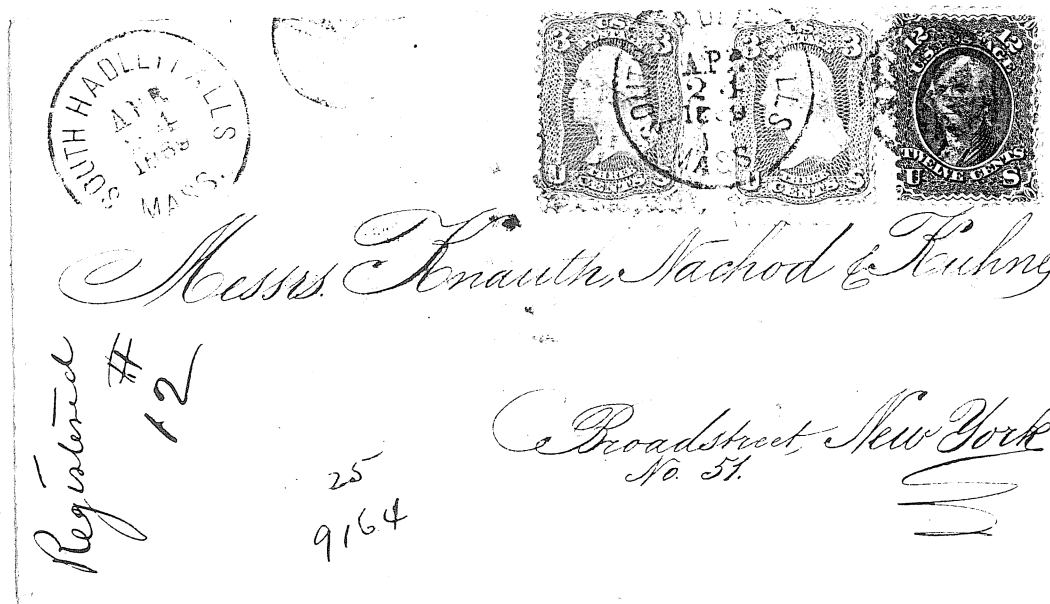
This is an example of a Receipt for Registered Packages. In this case a single registered package envelope was opened by a route agent, S. Nims (in crayon), who signed the receipt. Note that the envelope was addressed to a distribution post office, Albany, N.Y. What is unusual about this receipt is that Nims postmarked it with his route agent's stamp on August 10, 1870. Other items signed by him are not so postmarked. He was on Fitchburg, Cheshire and Rutland, Burlington Railroad. Other receipts show multiple Registered Packages on a single receipt, each numbered.

## 5. Regulation Changes in 1867 and 1869

### PAYMENT OF 15 CENT FEE IN STAMPS JANUARY 1, 1869



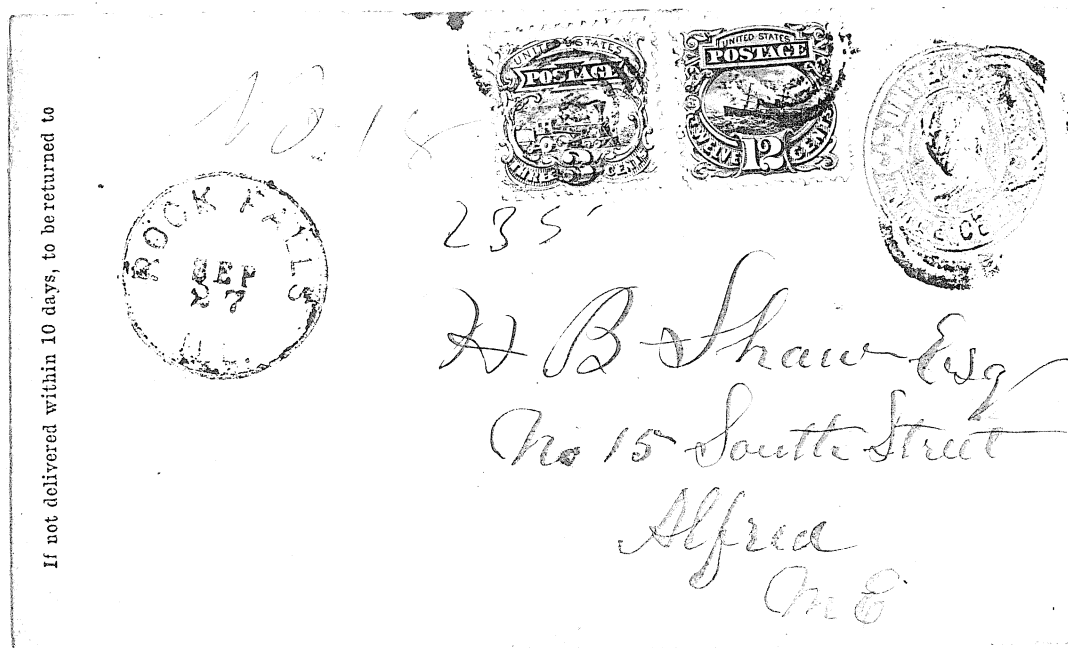
On January 1, 1869 the domestic registry rate was reduced to 15 cents. This cover with ungrilled 15 cent and 3 cent stamps is postmarked "REGISTERED PHILA. PA. FEB 3 1869" in dark blue. It is sealed with wax and has two blue backstamps of the sender's firm. It also bears traces of the Return Registered Letter Receipt which was glued to the back of the envelope.



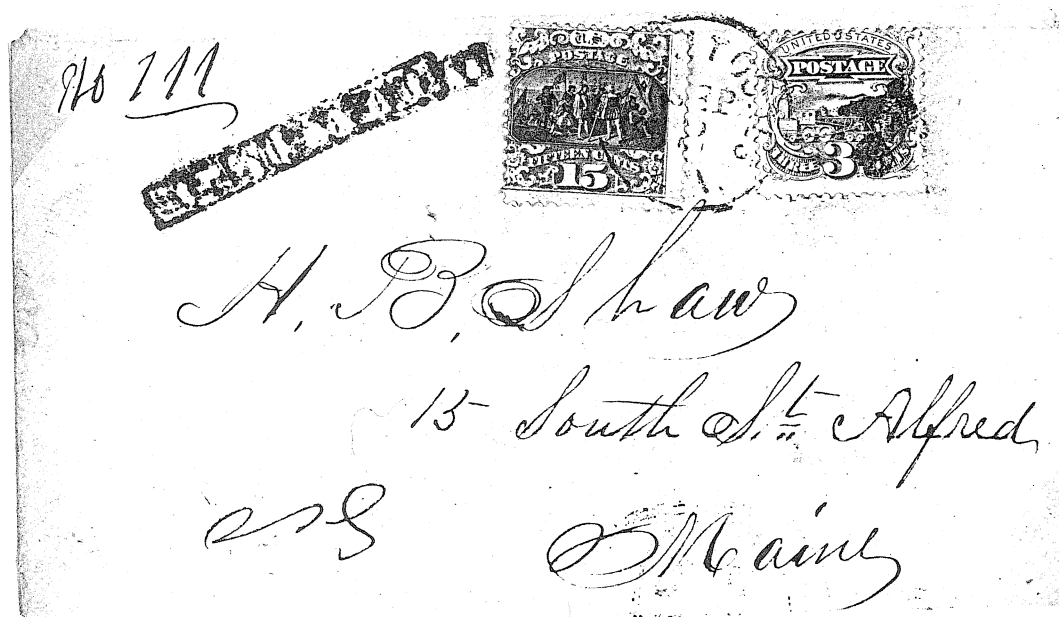
Payment of 15 cents registry fee with 3 cent and 12 cent F grill stamps tied "SOUTH HADLEY FALLS MASS. APR 24 1869". There is a magenta ledger number for New York "25-9164", a fairly low number since the new quarter began April 1.

## 5. Regulation Changes in 1867 and 1869

### PAYMENT OF 15 CENT FEE IN STAMPS JANUARY 1, 1869



Fifteen cents registry fee paid with 3 cent and 12 cent 1869 issue on 3 cent entire from Rock Falls, IL. September 27, 1869. This combination is less common than the 15 cent 1869 stamp used with a 3 cent stamp or envelope.



Black straight line "REGISTERED", ms. "No 111", and "NACHITOCHESS LA. SEP 2" on 3 cent and 15 cent 1869, the latter rarely used with handstamped registration postmarks.

## 5. Regulation Changes in 1867 and 1869

### REGISTERED LETTER RECEIPTS AND RETURN RECEIPTS

A registered letter receipt for letter 6640 from the New York post office, February 18, 1869. Such receipts are very rare since few have survived. This one is also for a letter with usage to Leipzig.

Registered Letter No. 6640

Post Office, New York,

Received of

a letter addressed to

FEB 18 1869.

JAMES KELLY, P. M.

### RETURN REGISTERED LETTER RECEIPT.

NOTE.—This return receipt, after being signed by the party to whom the letter or package which accompanies it is delivered, must be immediately enclosed to the Postmaster at the office where it originated.

Should the registered letter not be delivered, this receipt must be forwarded with it, in due course, to the Dead Letter Office.

No. 17

Feb 17<sup>th</sup> 1870.

Mailed at

Cumtinsville N.Y.

by

Geo. J. Phalen

a letter addressed to

Ray J. Vandeker

329 River St Troy N.Y.

Stamp here the office and date of delivery.



Received the above described letter.

Sign here.

Ray J. Vandeker

This is an example of a Return Registered Letter Receipt in 1870 showing that these receipts were continued as part of the service even though the registry fee had been reduced from 20¢ to 15¢. They were to be marked "correct" and signed by the receiving postmaster. But some offices made up special handstamps for this purpose of which this example from Troy, N.Y. is a nice example.

## 5. Regulation Changes in 1867 and 1869

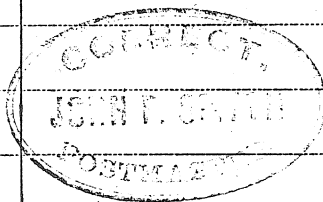
### RETURN REGISTERED LETTER BILLS

#### RETURN REGISTERED LETTER BILL.

Upon the receipt of this Bill at the office of its destination, the Postmaster will at once enter the date of its receipt and ascertain whether a corresponding package of registered letters has been received at his office. If it *has* he will endorse this Bill *correct*, if it is found so, or note any error or difference which may be found in it, and will then inclose and return it by the first mail to the office from which it was received. If it be found that the corresponding package *has not* been received, he will endorse the Bill *not received* and will return it in the same manner. The Registered Letter Bill will be retained and filed at the office at which it is received.

Post Office Cuttingsville VT  
Sept 20, 1870.  
 Registered Letters received from Cuttingsville VT

Registered Number of Letter.	TO WHOM ADDRESSED.	OFFICE OF FINAL DESTINATION.	Forwarded in Reg. Package Envelope No.
25	J. H. Johnston	Pittsburgh Pa	25

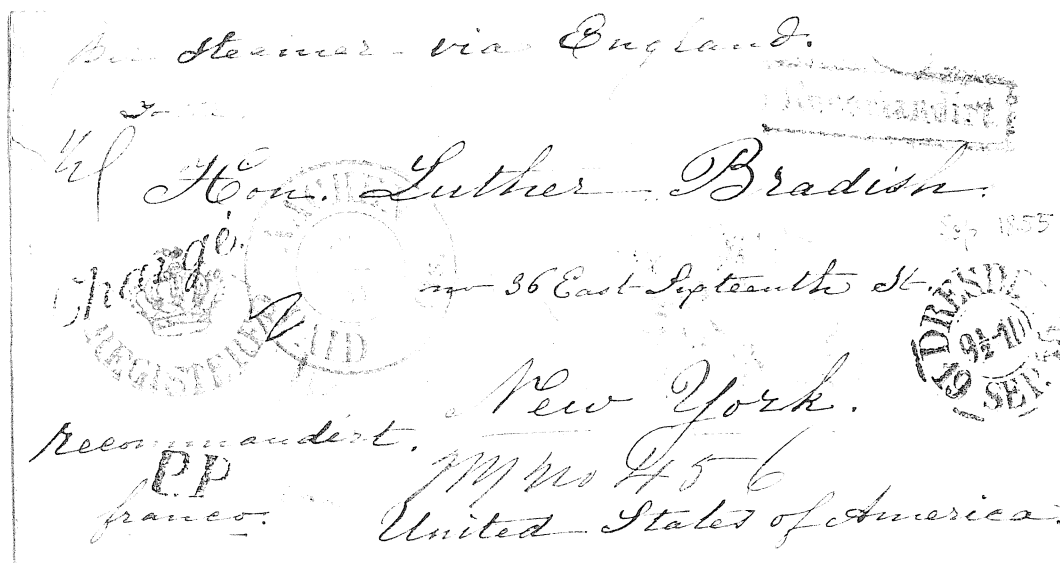


P. M.

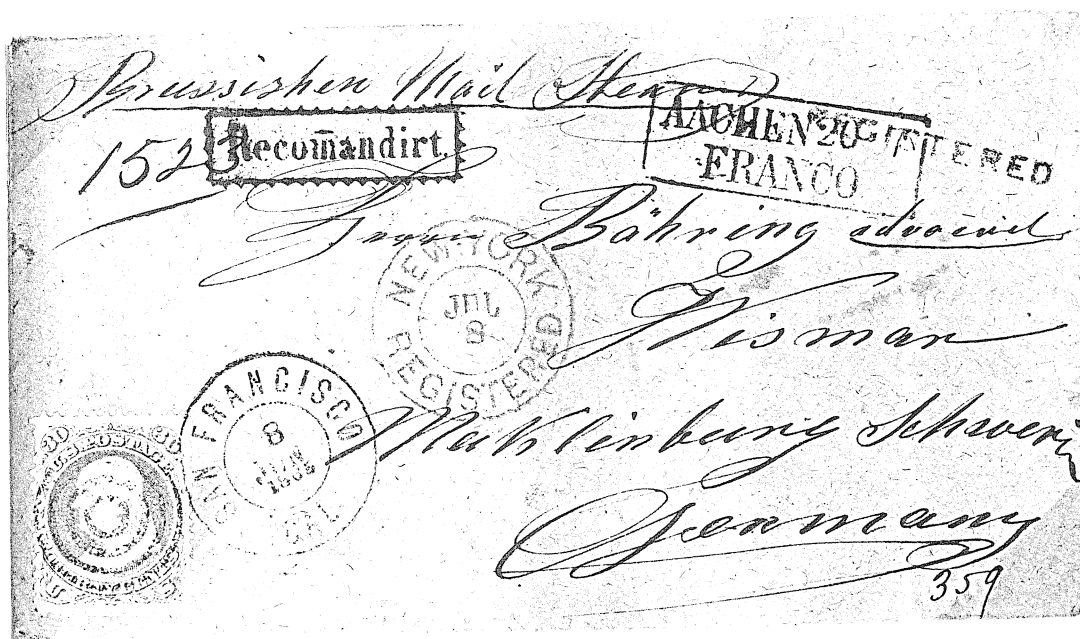
This is a Return Registered Letter Bill from Albany, N.Y. September 22, 1870. The sending office was Cuttingsville, VT. But the receiving office was Pittsburgh, PA. Thus this bill is an example of a bill from a distribution post office. Each post office handling a registered letter had to return a bill to the sending office showing the letter had reached that office. Note that after 1867 the bills show a Registered Package Number. Only bills, never receipts, were sent from distribution post offices. Bills are official post office documents between postmasters for transmission of the mails.

## 6. Foreign Usages of Registration

### REGISTERED LETTERS THROUGH PRUSSIA



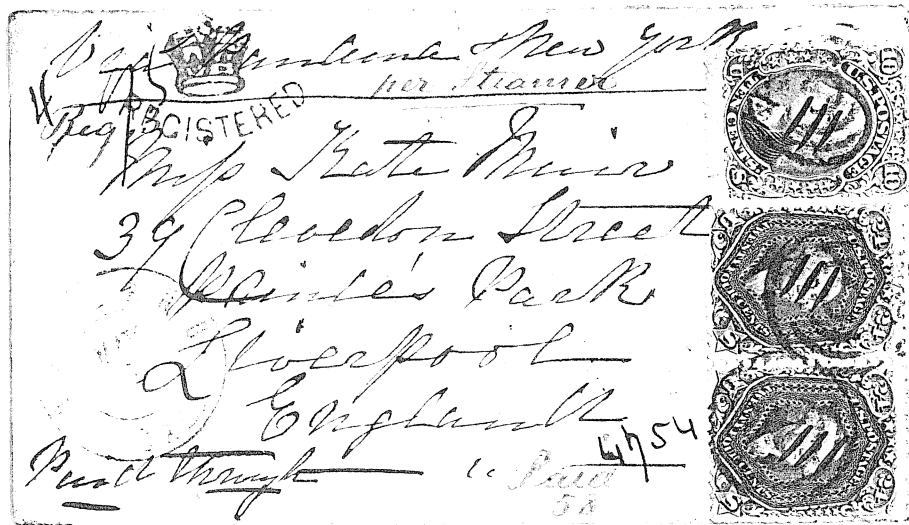
Registered letter originating September 10, 1855 at Dresden, sent through Prussia (Aachen) by registered mail with "Recomandirt." in box and "REGISTERED" with crown. At New York it received manuscript magenta "N Y No 456". This is the earliest U.S. registered cover with foreign usage; the 1855 treaty with Bremen and Prussia was the first to cover registration. When mailed in the U.S. the fee was five cents in cash at the post office of mailing and was not indicated on any cover.



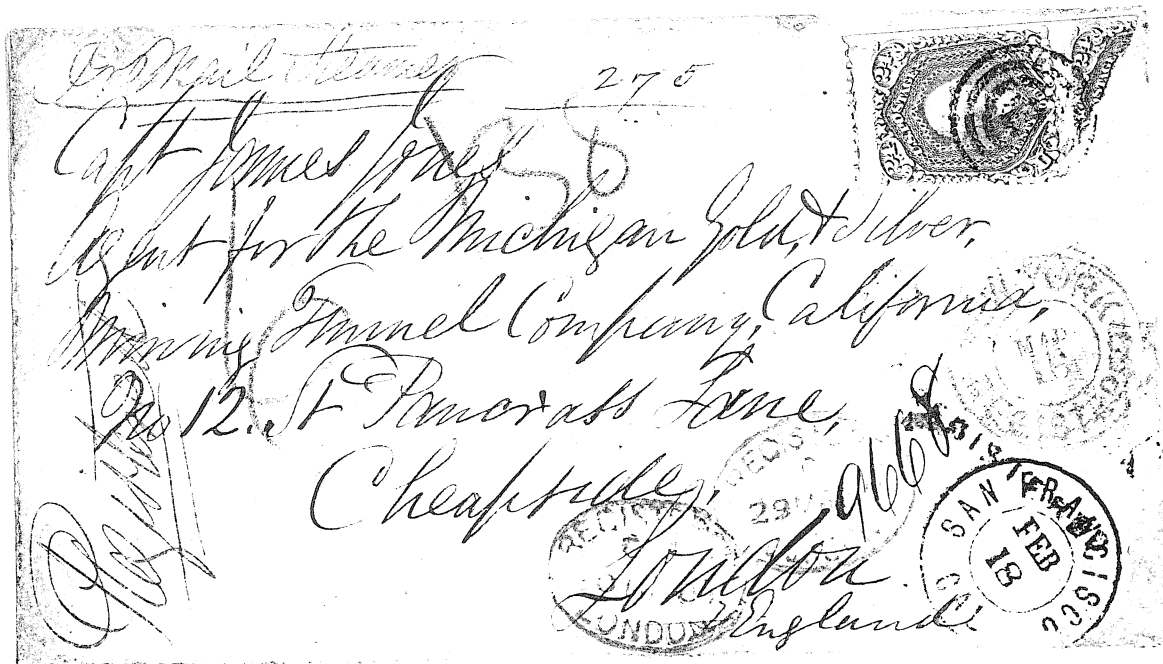
International registry usage with 30 cent 1861 tied "SAN FRANCISCO CAL 8 JUN 1865" with "REGISTERED" in black (upper right), red double circle "NEW-YORK REGISTERED JUL 8" and blue "Recomandirt.", the Prussian registered marking. The cover went by Prussian Closed Mail. It bears ms. numbers "1523" from San Francisco and "359" from New York. It is marked as paid in Aachen.

## 6. Foreign Usages of Registration

### REGISTERED LETTERS THROUGH ENGLAND



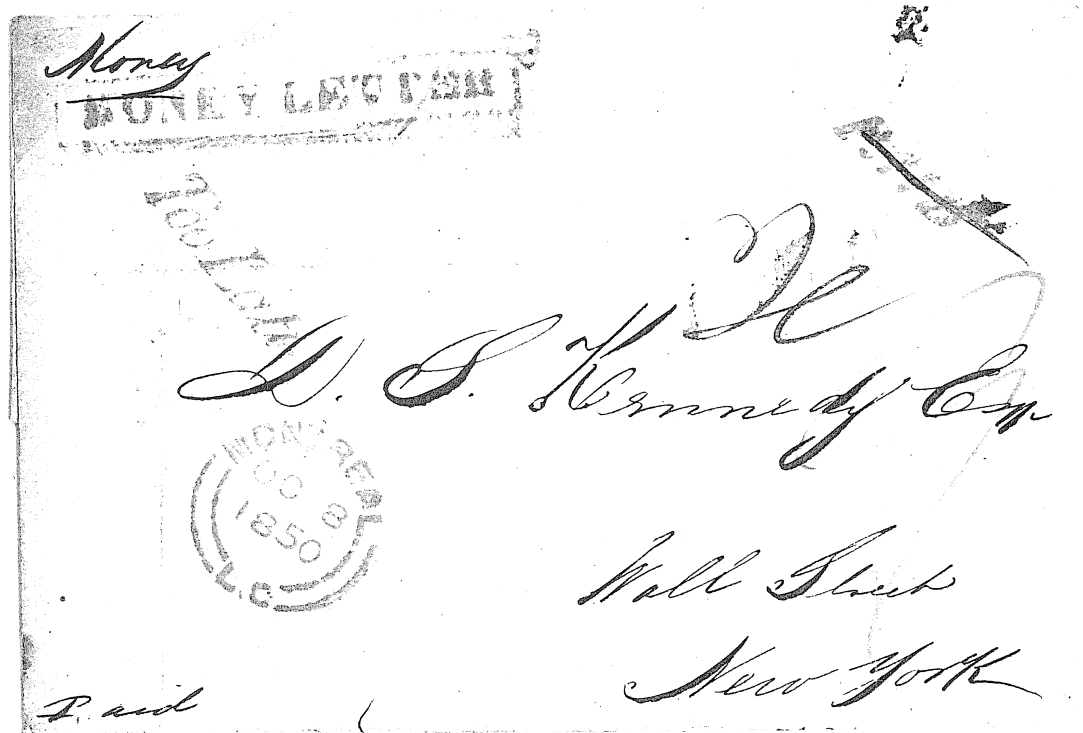
Registered letter from Oakland, CA. May 1, 1863 with western postage of 58 cents paid by pair 24 cent and single 10 cent 1861 stamps ("Paid 58" in magenta). There was also a cash fee of five cents for British registry at this date. The New York number "4754" is seen at bottom of address, and there is a special type of double red circle handstamp used only on registered letters at New York on the back of the envelope too. The red crayon "40½" is U.S. credit to England, 38¢ (double 19¢) + 2½¢ (half of 5 cents registry fee).



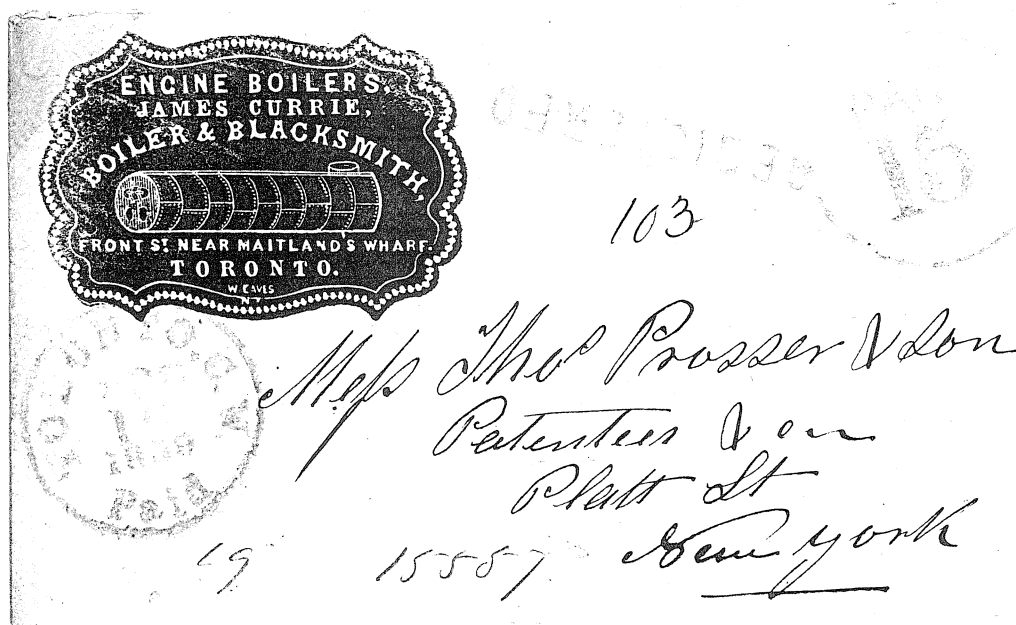
Twenty-four cents 1861 tied target and "SAN FRANCISCO CAL FEB 18" (1867) with straight line "REGISTERED" and "275" paying the 20 cents registry fee in cash, just prior to the June 1 requirement to use stamps. There are also red New York and London registration postmarks with "9668" as a New York number. The letter concerns gold mining machinery worth \$75,000.

## 6. Foreign Usages of Registration

### REGISTERED LETTERS THROUGH CANADA



Letter marked "money" by sender with Canadian postmarks "MONTREAL L.C. OC 8 1850", "PAID", "MONEY LETTER" in box, and "Too Late" all in red. The Canadian rating mark 9 pence (double 4½) has been crossed out and the letter rerated "20" for 20 cents double rate due at New York. There are no U.S. markings for registration here, but other covers sometimes show a check mark. This is in the unofficial registration period for U.S. and money letter period for Canada.

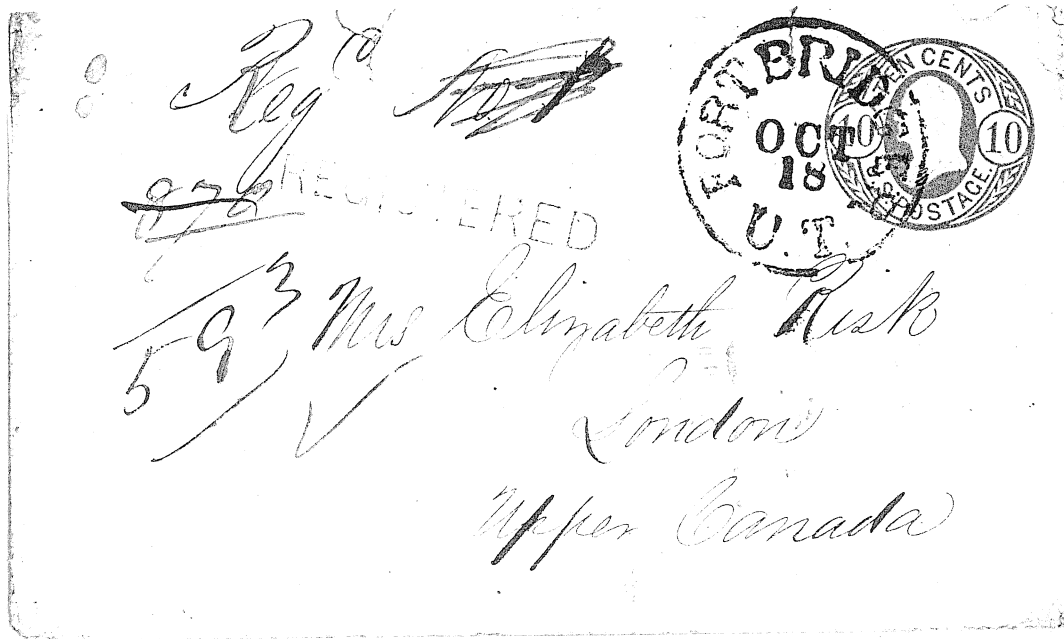


Canadian registered letter after official registration began in Canada in 1855. There is a straight line "REGISTERED", a manuscript number "103", an 1859 Toronto postmark, and "PAID 15" in circle which is 10 cents postage and 5 cents registration. At New York the cover received a magenta ledger marking "19 15557", showing a high number near the end of the fourth quarter of 1859.

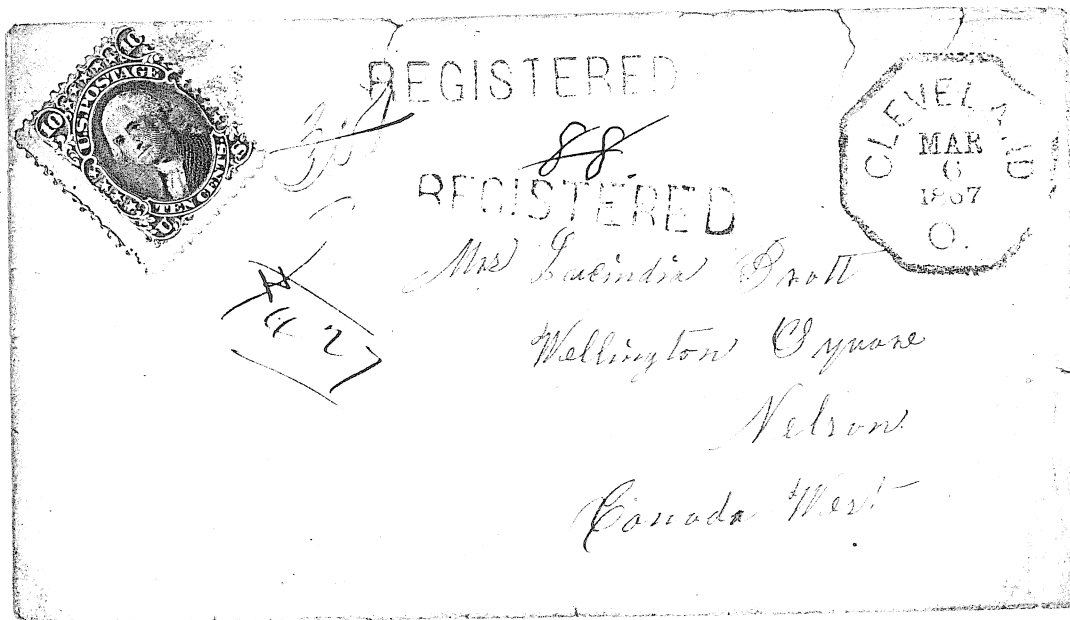


## 6. Foreign Usages of Registration

### REGISTERED LETTERS THROUGH CANADA



Ten cent 1857 entire postmarked "FORT BRIDGER U.T. OCT 18" with ms. "Regd No. 1" to London, Upper Canada. Windsor and London backstamps indicate 1862 usage. The handstamp "REGISTERED" is listed for London. The numbers are probably "1" for Fort Bridger, "870" for Windsor, and "593" for London with earlier numbers crossed out. A rare western registered use.



This cover paid 10 cents postage to Canada and 5 cents registry to Canada. While Canadian covers to the U.S. show the registry postage, the reverse usage from U.S. to Canada did not. Each country kept the fee collected in that country. This cover bears octagonal Cleveland, OH. March 6, 1867 and "REGISTERED" postmarks. If it had been mailed after June 1, the registry fee would have been paid by stamps.

## 6

via Bremen or Hamburg  
 [Redacted]  
 Hochwürden Herrn Capitän  
 in Hackler  
Autendorf  
Wiesenberg  
Germany 9484

Registered No. 13.

Frank

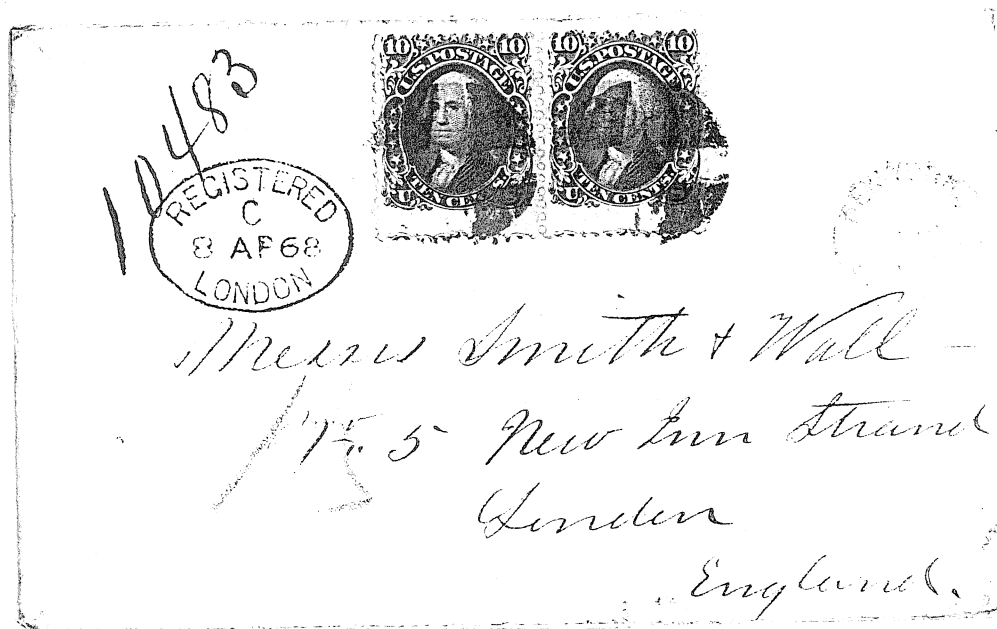
ST. FRANCISCO  
 DEC 2  
 1851

REGISTERED  
78  
108  
13/92  
Miss Maggie Smith  
Little Green  
Chetham  
nr Manchester  
England

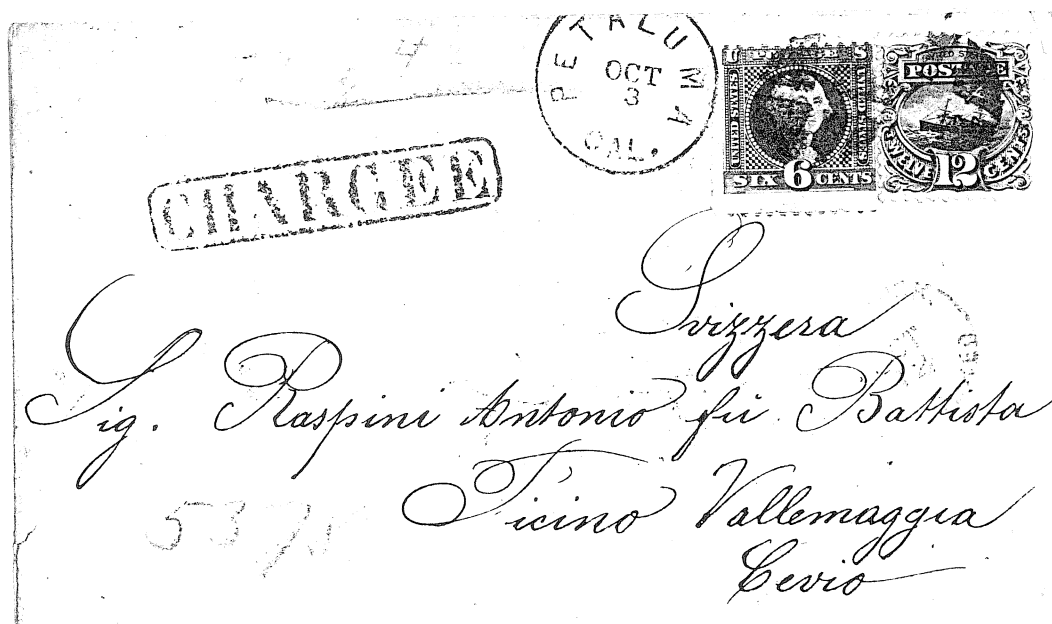
Twenty cent registry fee with Great Britain became payable in stamps on June 1, 1867. This rate continued for 7 months until the change of foreign rates on January 1, 1868. This cover is a double rated cover with two 24 cent 1861 stamps for postage, and two 10 cent 1861 stamps (one replaced) for registration, all with fancy cancels, red "PATERSON N.J. DEC 24", black straight line "REGISTERED." (only known example), red rimless "NEW YORK REGISTERED DEC 25", and British crown type marking. The red crayon is for postage credit 38¢ + 10¢ registry = 48¢. The treaty called for splitting the registry fees between the two countries.

## 6. Foreign Usages of Registration

**EIGHT CENT RATE JANUARY 1, 1868**

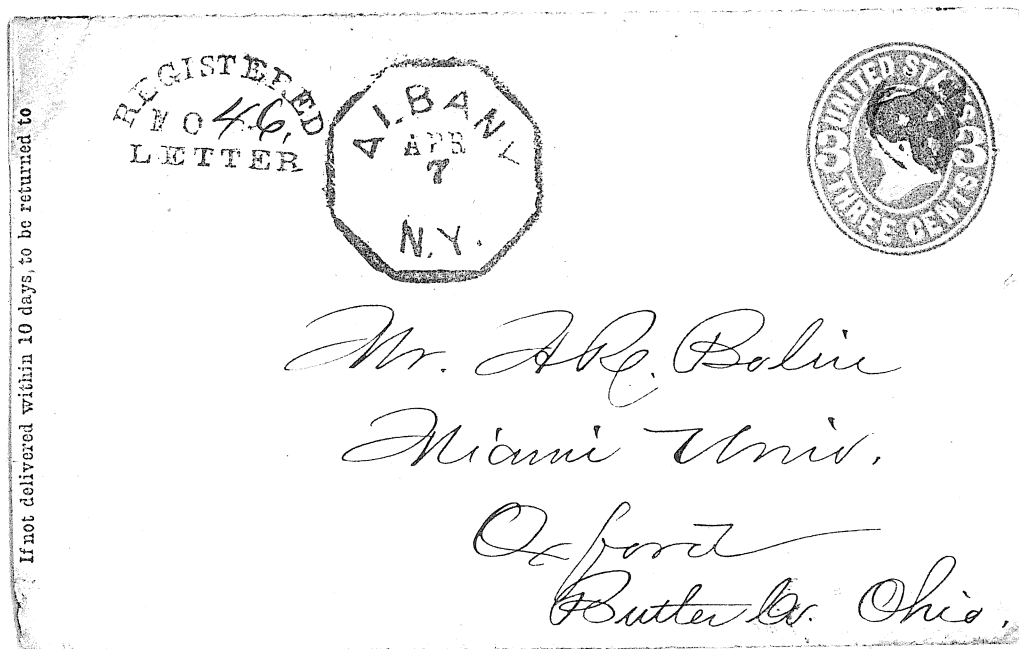


Pair of 10 cent E grill stamps paying 12 cents postage to England and 8 cents international registry fee (as of January 1, 1868). The cover has a rimless red New York March 20, 1868 registered postmark and a black London registry marking. It is interesting to reflect that on this date a domestic registered cover would have cost 23 cents because the domestic registry fee was 20 cents.

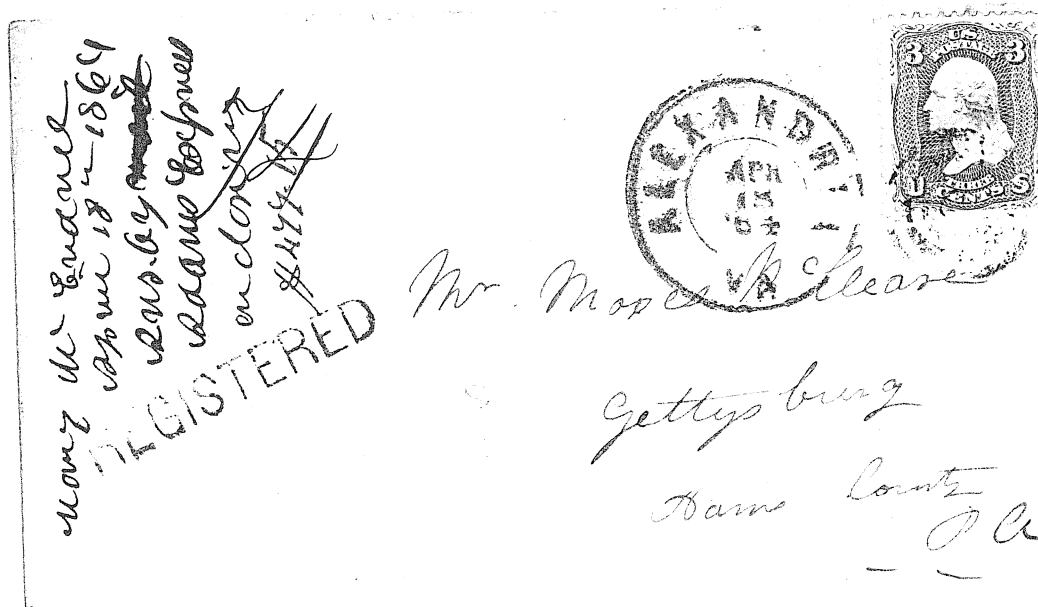


Western and international registration usage in 1870. This cover bears 6 cent and 12 cent 1869 paying 10 cents postage to Switzerland and 8 cents international registry rate from Petaluma, CA. There is red "NEW-YORK REGISTERED OCT 12" and boxed "CHARGE", a French language marking for registration.

## 7. Handstamped Registered Postmarks 1845 – 1870

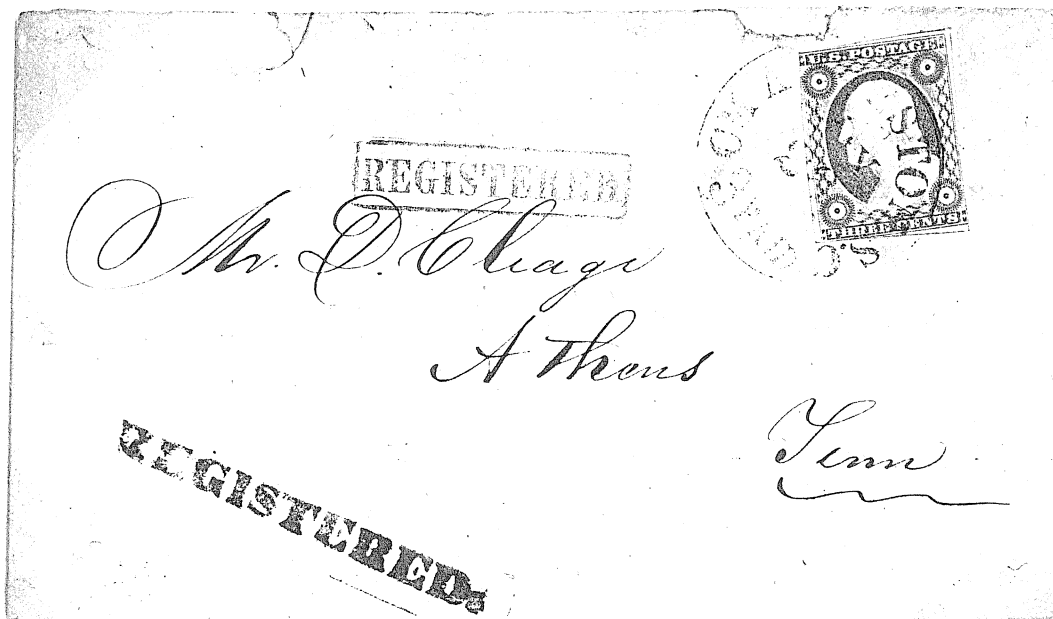


“ALBANY N.Y. APR 7” with odd killer resembling a mask on 3 cents entire also canceled  
“REGISTERED NO 46 LETTER”, a marking which originally read “MONEY”. Only known example.

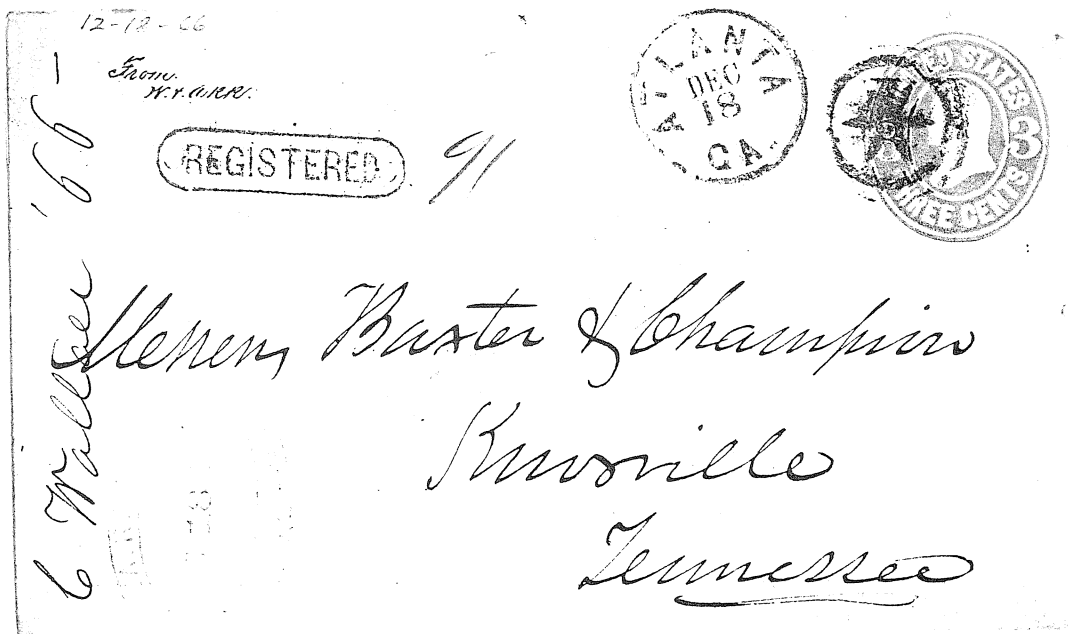


Straight line “REGISTERED”, with 3 cent 1861 tied “ALEXANDRIA VA APR 18 ‘64”. The docket shows the contents of value. This is the common style straight line during the 1860’s.

## 7. Handstamped Registered Postmarks 1845 – 1870

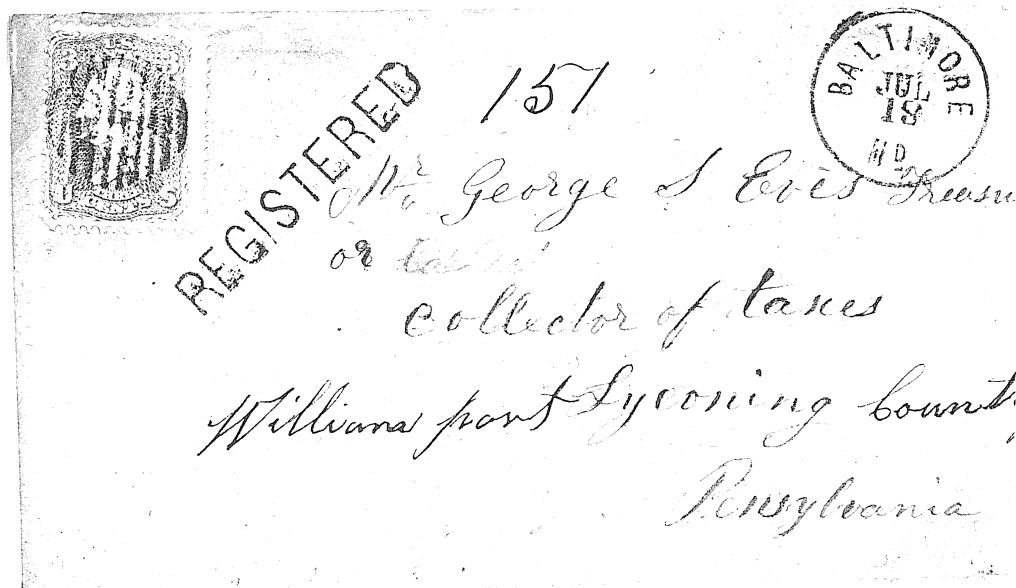


This cover bears two different REGISTERED handstamps. The origin was Charleston, S.C. where it received the boxed blue "REGISTERED" used during unofficial registration. The second longer "REGISTERED." with no frame was applied at Athens, TN. It is very rare. This shows another town that applied registered markings on receipt.

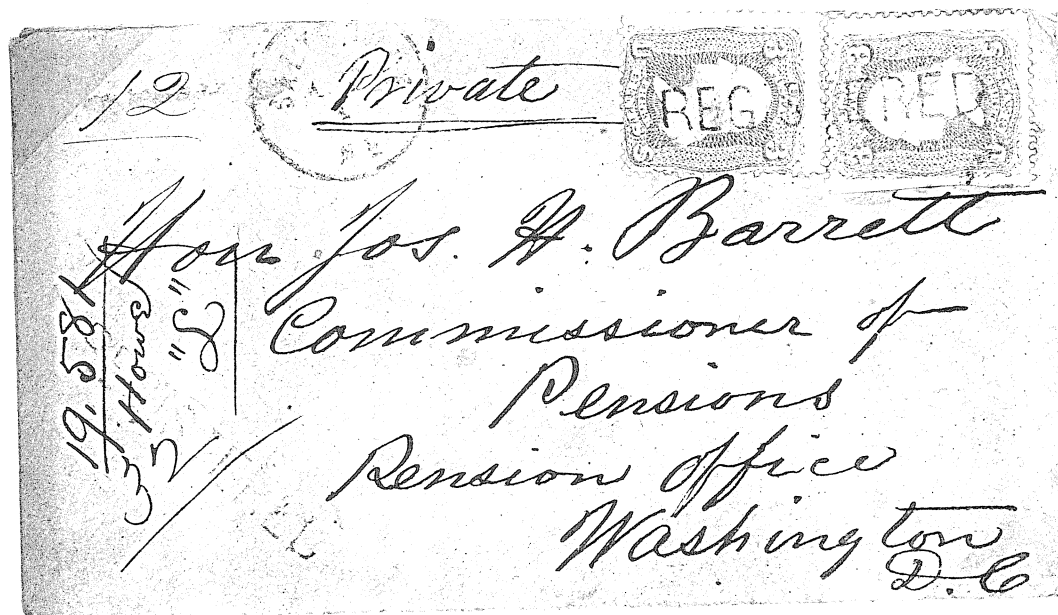


Oval "REGISTERED." with ms. number "91" on 3 cent entire canceled "ATLANTA GA. DEC 18" and fancy killer. This marking resembles the oval from Baltimore and may be of common manufacture.

## 7. Handstamped Registered Postmarks 1845 – 1870

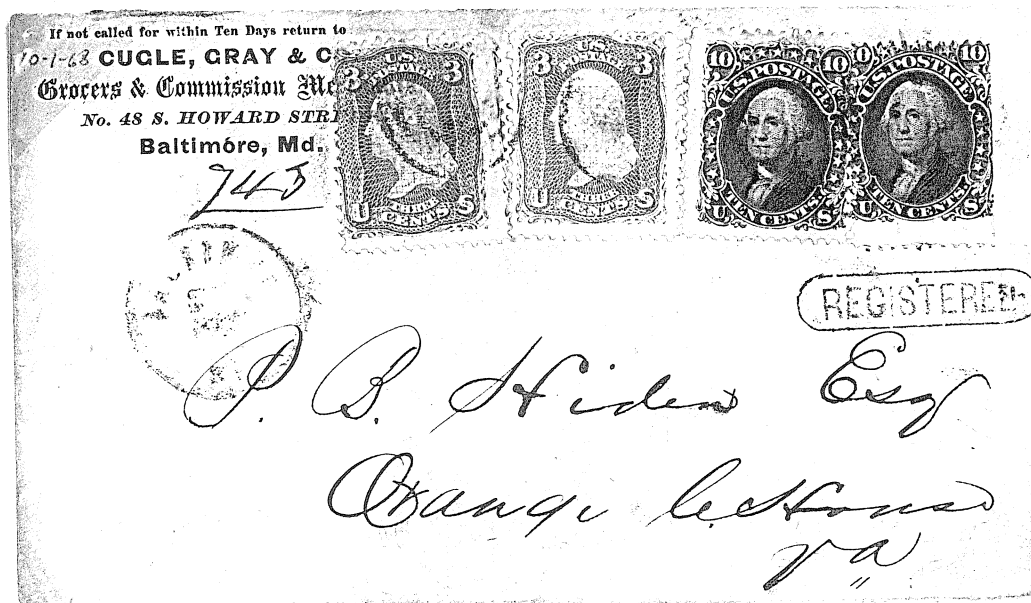


Blue "BALTIMORE MD JUL 18", blue grid on stamp, and matching "REGISTERED" with ms. "151". There are traces of paper glued to top of reverse of the envelope presumably the return receipt. Therefore, this is a usage post-July 1, 1863 when the receipts were begun.

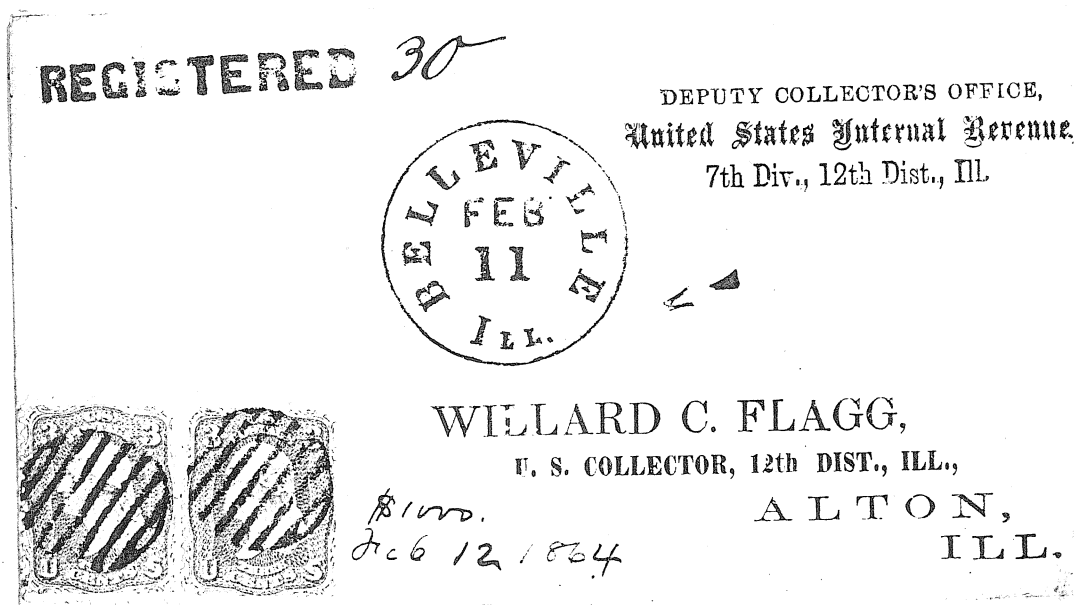


This is the same marking in black used to cancel two stamps on a pension claim envelope. There is a second strike at lower left. This usage is also probably in the 20 cents fee period, but year dating a cover from the contents is important for registry rate covers.

## 7. Handstamped Registered Postmarks 1845 – 1870

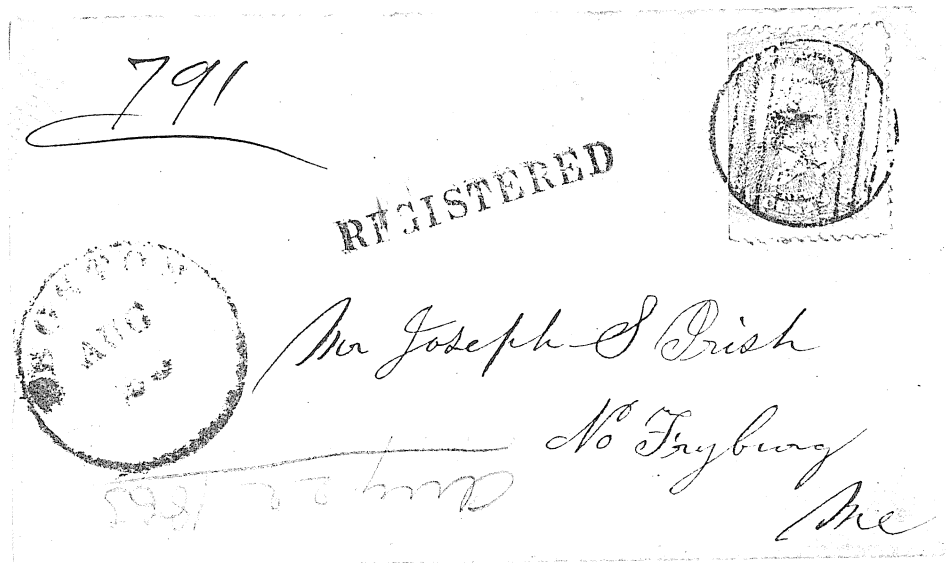


Black straight line "REGISTERED" in oval from Baltimore during the period of the 20 cents registry rate with double postage. This envelope has October 1, 1868 received docket and also shows portions of the Return Registered Letter Receipt which had been glued to it's reverse.

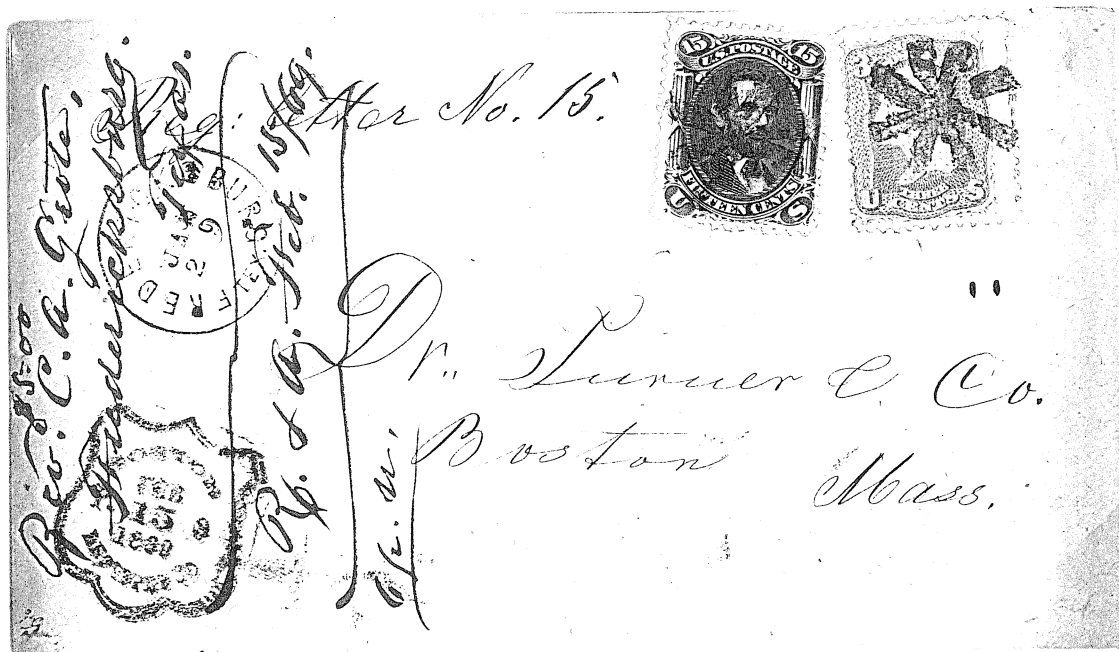


Three cent 1861, two copies, from Belleville, IL. February 11, 1864 during 20 cents rate period, straight line "REGISTERED" and ms. "30" on I.R.S. envelope ( federal taxes began with Civil War). Only known example.

## 7. Handstamped Registered Postmarks 1845 – 1870



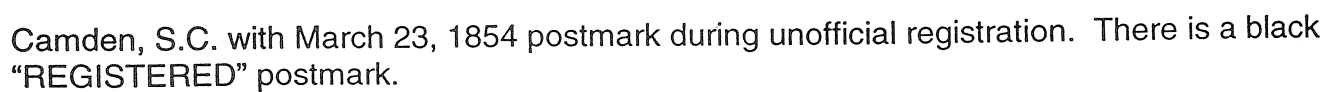
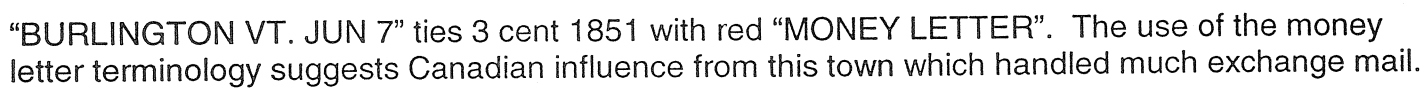
Three cent 1861 tied "PAID" in circle, "BOSTON AUG 23" (1865) and "REGISTERED" straight line with number.



"BOSTON REGISTERED FEB 15 1869" in shield on incoming registered cover ms. "Reg letter No. 15" from Fredericksburg, TX. This is the period when 15 cents was payable in stamps for the registry fee. This was paid with a 15 cent E grilled stamp and a 3 cent F grilled denomination. Possibly only known copy of shield cancel.



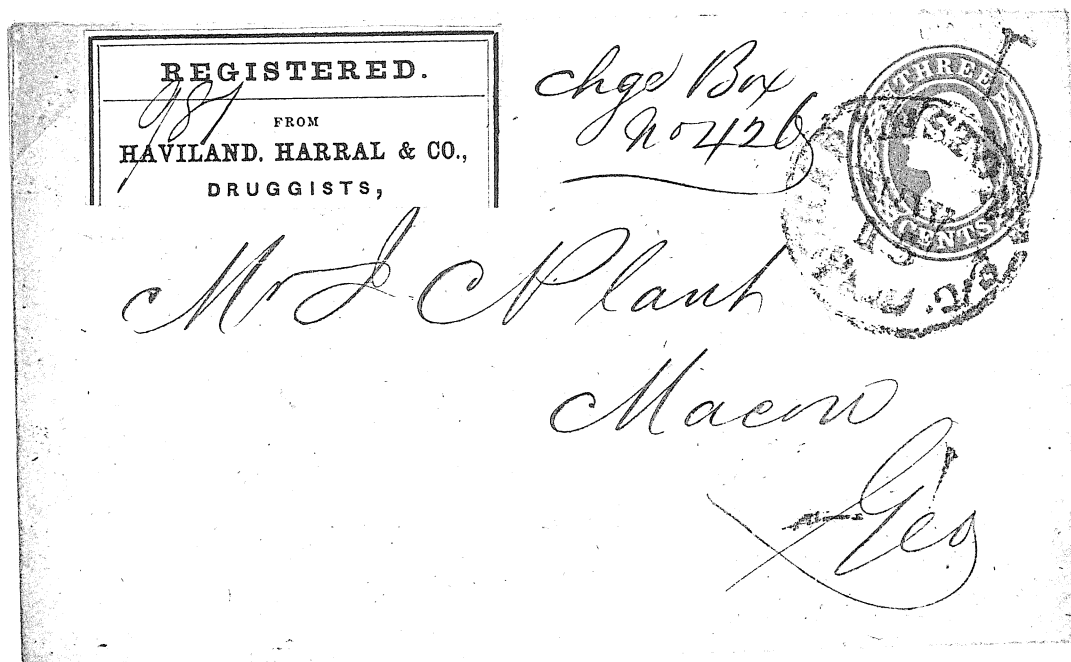
## 6



## 7. Handstamped Registered Postmarks 1845 – 1870

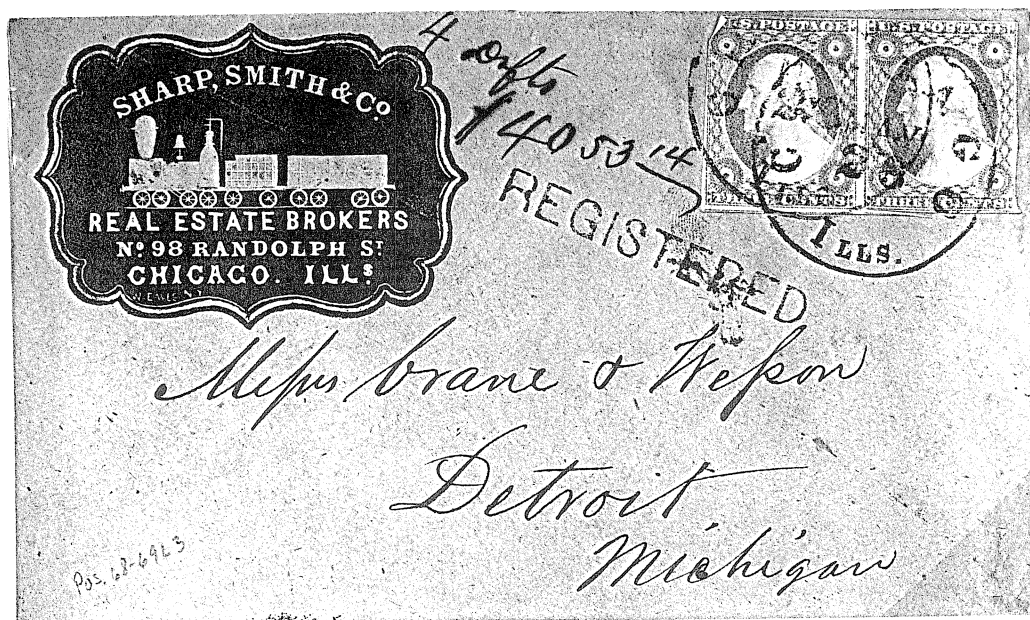


Charleston, S.C. blue REGISTERED. in rectangular frame. This example bears a three cent 1851 with blue town postmark on May 16, 1852 paying the postage and the registered handstamp in the same color ink. There is no registration number which is typical for Charleston registered covers in the unofficial period.

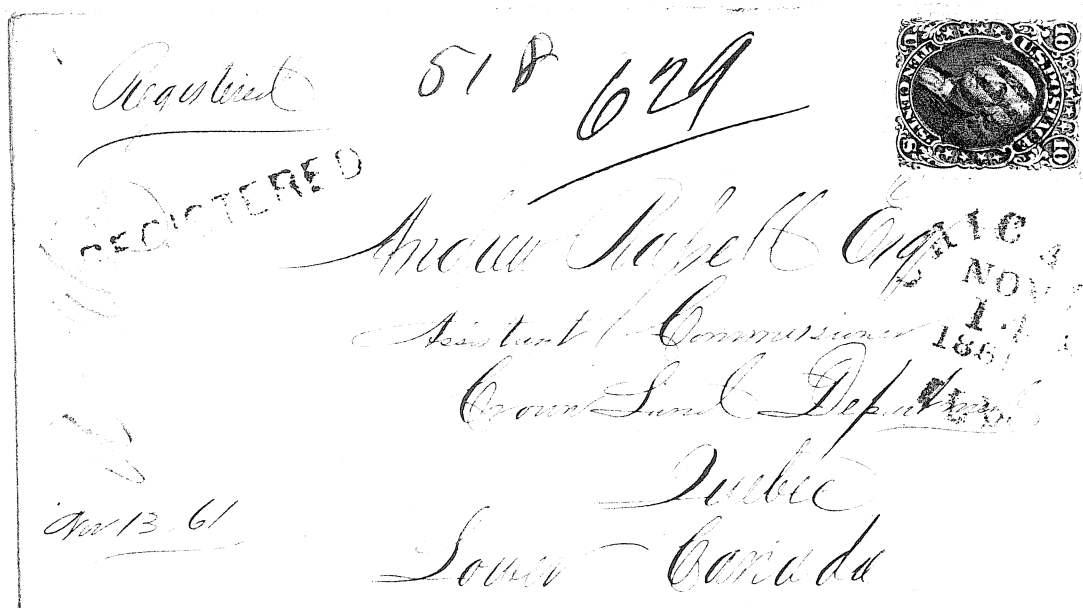


Black label "REGISTERED" with ms. number and druggist's name. The cover is a 3 cent entire canceled with the Charleston, S.C. postmark of unknown date. However, the cover bears "Chgo Box No 426". Since the entire paid the postage, only the registry fee remains to be charged to the box account. And that proves the registered label is genuine since the cover was registered. Thus the usage is during the period of official registration. Only known example.

## 7. Handstamped Registered Postmarks 1845 – 1870

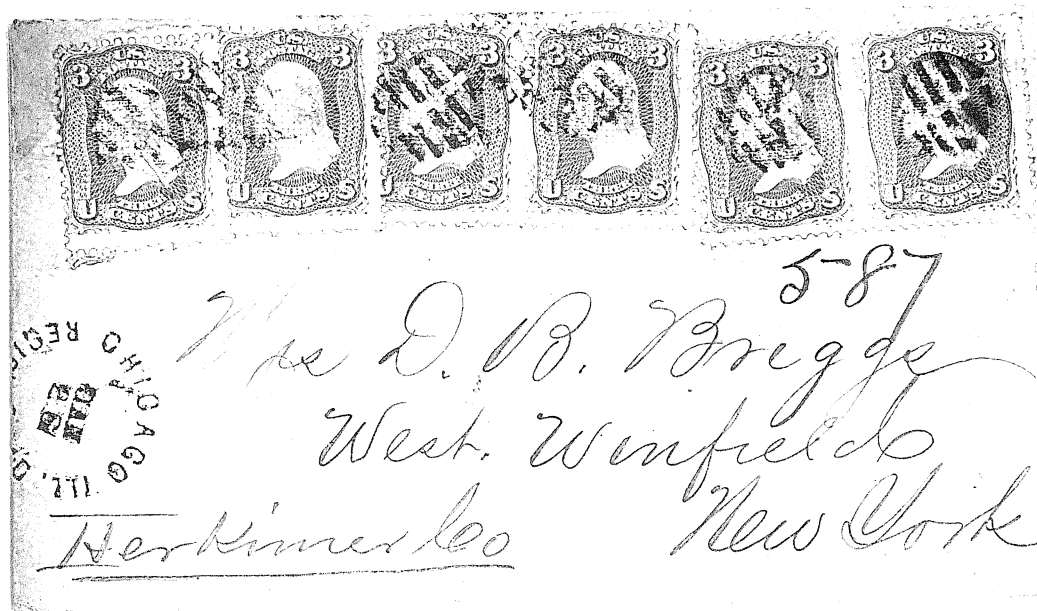


Chicago, IL. black cancels tied pair 3 cent 1851 on illustrated envelope with straight line "REGISTERED". No known year date but probably after 1855. The contents seem to be indicated by the recipient, drafts worth \$4053.14. Only known example.

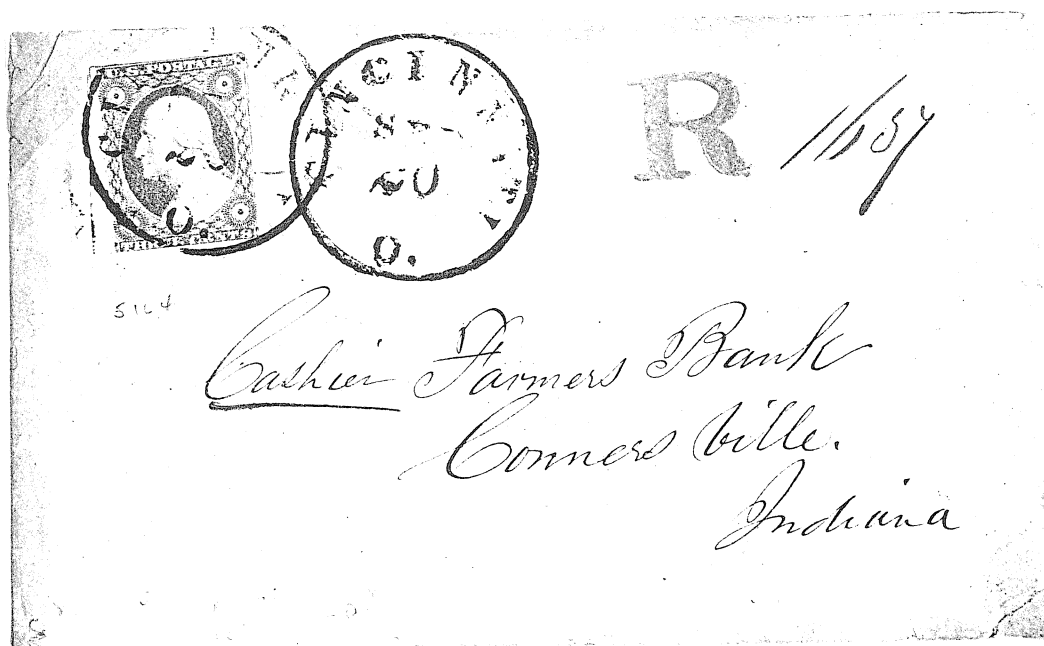


Blue "CHICAGO ILL. NOV 14 1861" on 10 cent 1861 and black "REGISTERED" to Canada with 5 cents U.S.- Canadian registry fee paid in cash and not indicated on cover. Only known example of this particular Chicago marking.

## 7. Handstamped Registered Postmarks 1845 – 1870

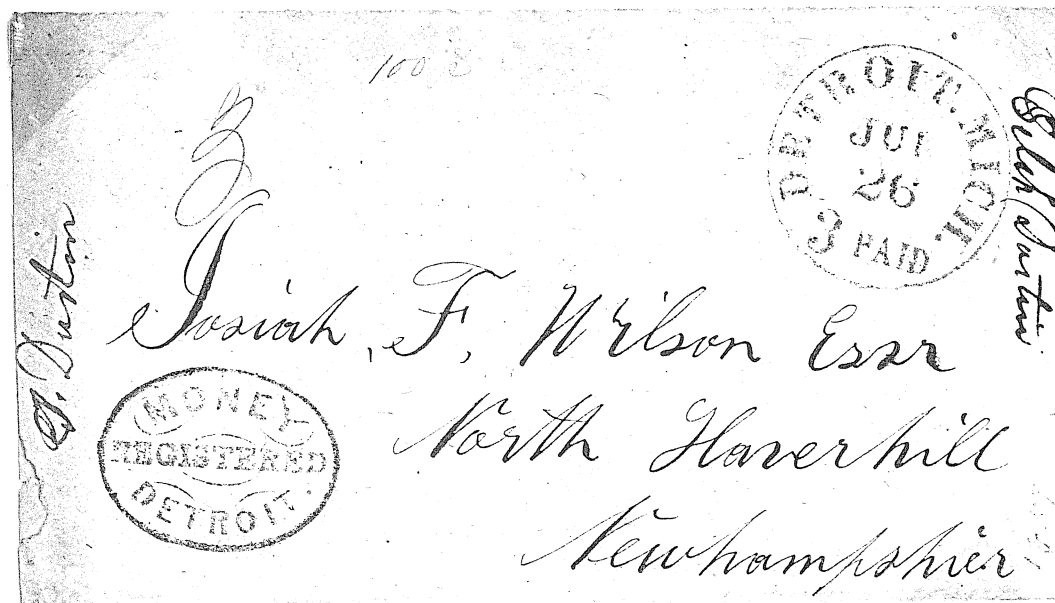


Fifteen cents registry rate and 3 cents postage paid with 3 cent F grill stamps, rimless black "CHICAGO ILL. REGISTERED JAN 28" (1869) and ms. "587". This is an early example of the new 15 cents rate and is one of two known examples of this postmark.

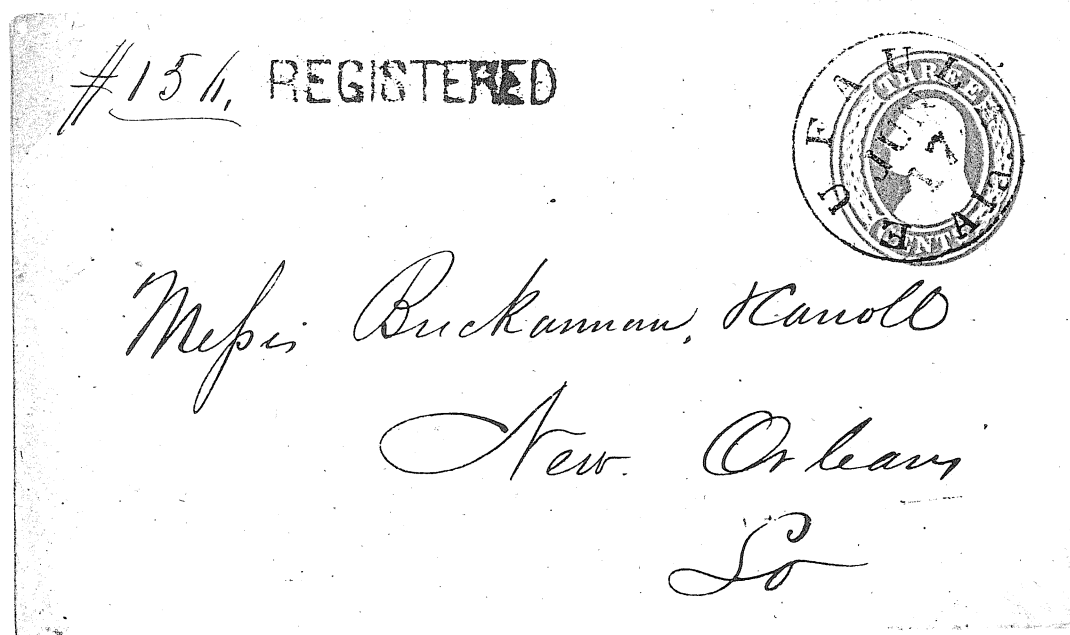


Cincinnati, OH. used blue town markings in the 1850's. This cover shows a 3 cent 1851 usage with red "R" handstamp used during the period of official registration. Note the high number "1657". This cover appears to be an early usage of this marking which was used to 1860.

## 7. Handstamped Registered Postmarks 1845 – 1870

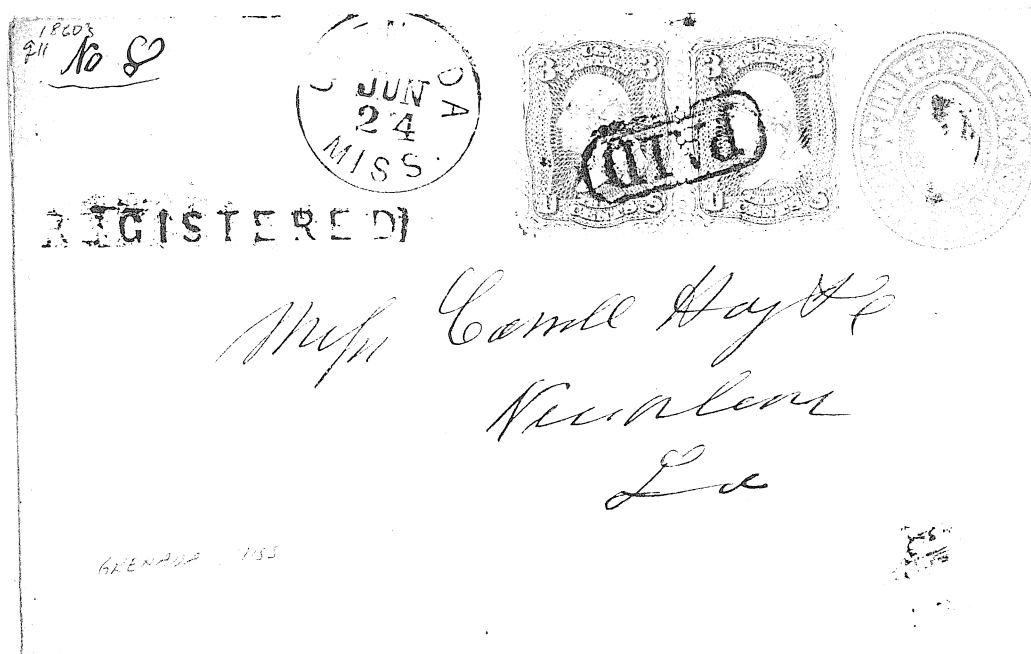


Detroit, MI. used a very unusual handstamp during the late period of unofficial registration. This cover shows one of the two known examples, "MONEY REGISTERED DETROIT" in black oval. The other cover is dated 1854. No other Detroit registered postmarks are known to 1870.



This straight line "REGISTERED" from Eufaula, AL. resembles in style the common black marking that comes from many towns in the 1860's. However, it has smaller dimensions. Only known example.

## 7. Handstamped Registered Postmarks 1845 – 1870

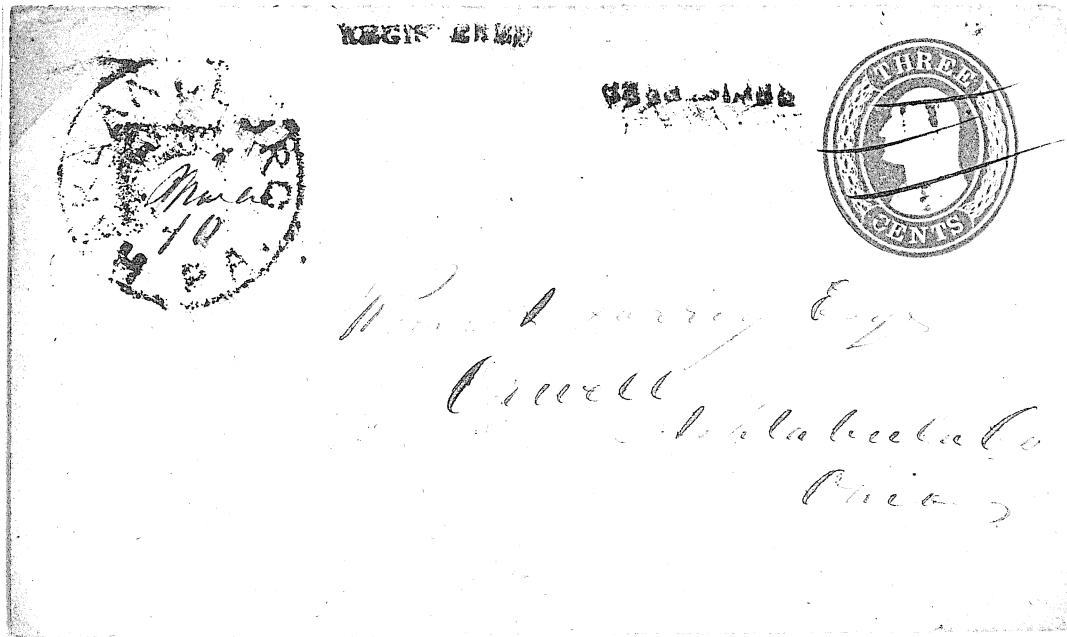


Black straight line "REGISTERED" with "No 8" and "GRENADA MISS. JUN 24" on 3 cent entire with two additional stamps cancelled "PAID" in oval, probably 1866.

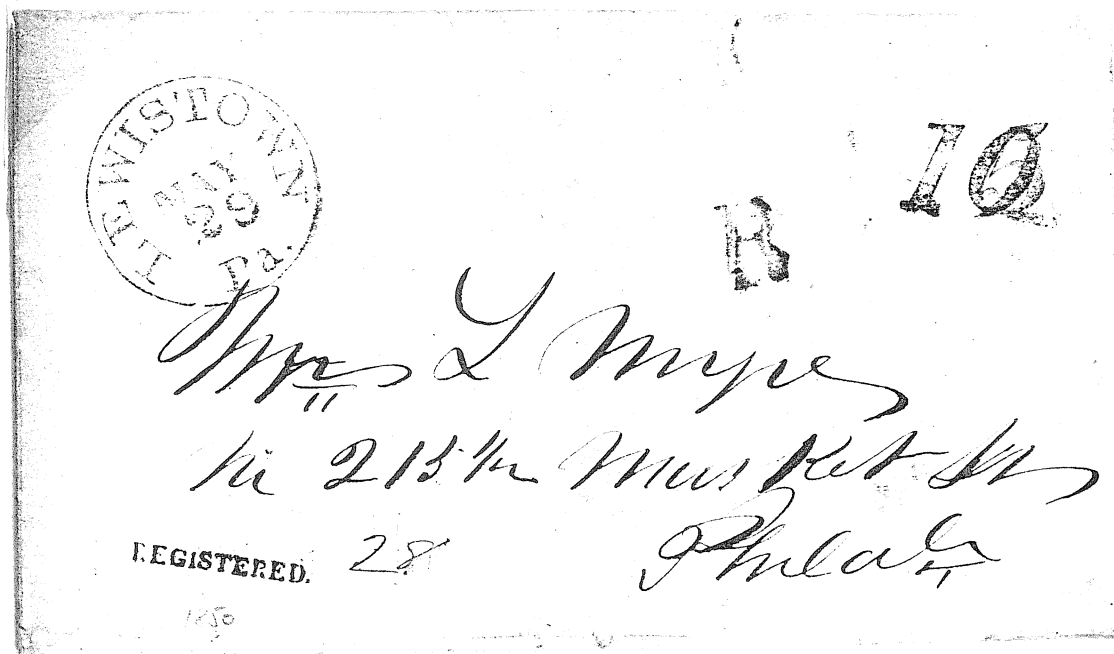


Three cent 1851 tied "HAMILTON Ohio APR 11" to Canonsburgh, PA. with large blue "R", pencil "X", and manuscript "12". This R marking is certainly copied from the one used at Philadelphia; it is of a different size. Only known example.

## 7. Handstamped Registered Postmarks 1845 – 1870

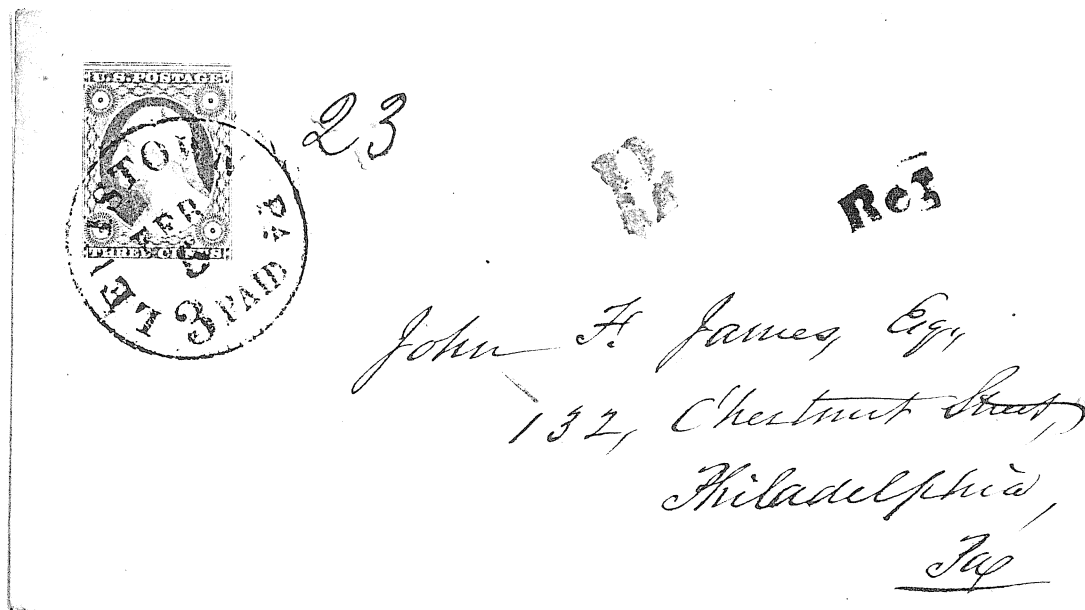


Blue "HARLANDBURG PA. March 10" with matching two strikes of "REGISTERED", smallest size type of registration handstamp. There is no number so this may have been unofficial registration. Only known example.

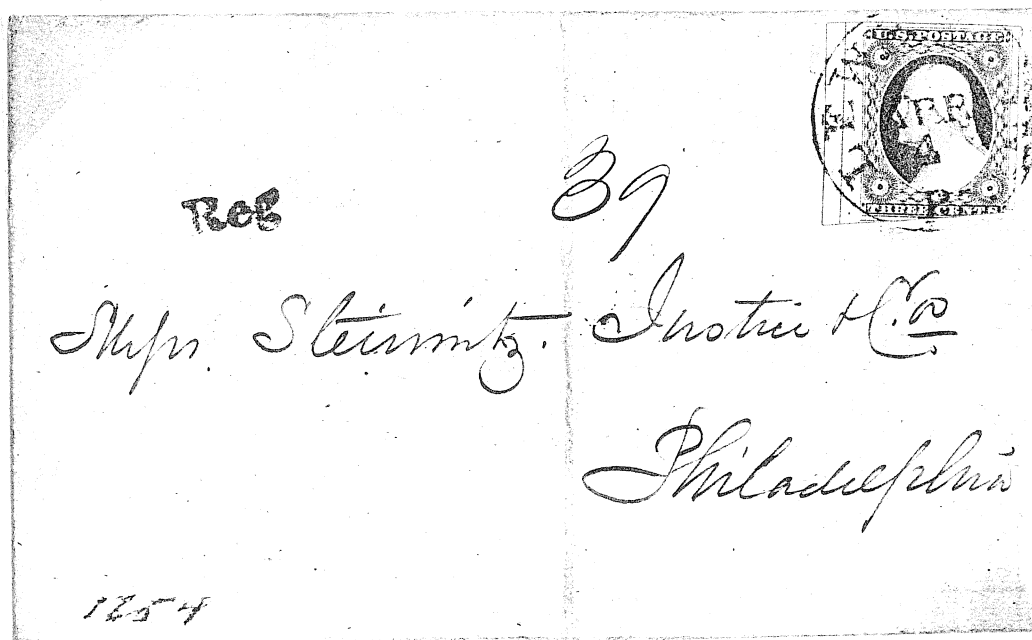


Black "LEWISTOWN Pa. MAY 29" (1850), "10" and straight line "REGISTERED", smallest size of handstamp. This cover was addressed to Philadelphia, so it also bears small blue "R" and ms. "28".

## 7. Handstamped Registered Postmarks 1845 – 1870



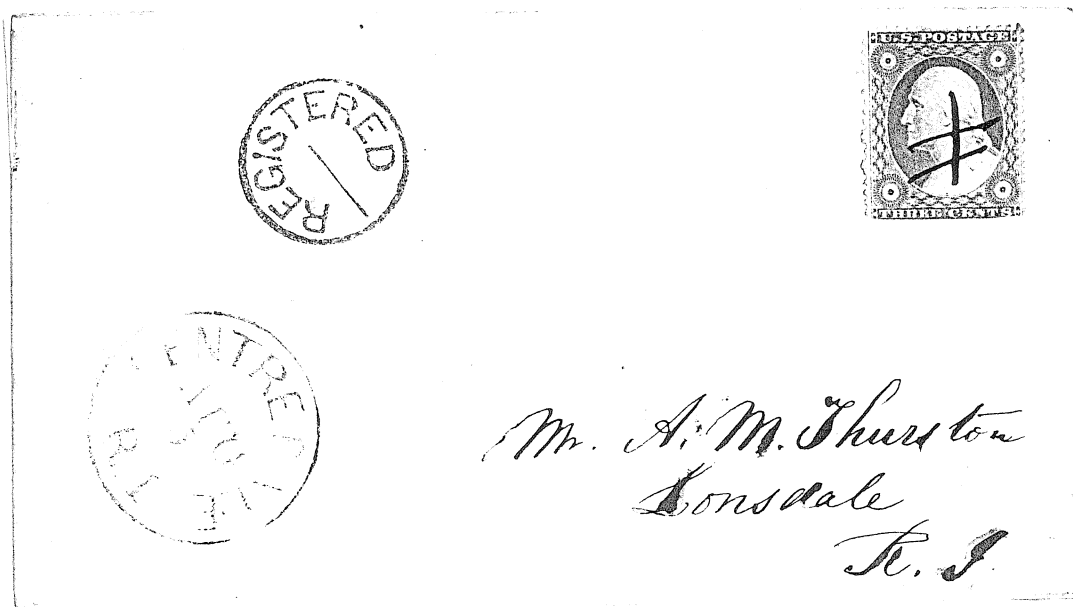
This cover bears a black "Reg" with ms. 23" from Lewistown, Pa. Feb 5. It also bears a small red "R" from Philadelphia. This latter marking was last used in January, 1855, so this undated cover must have had either 1853 or 1854 usage.



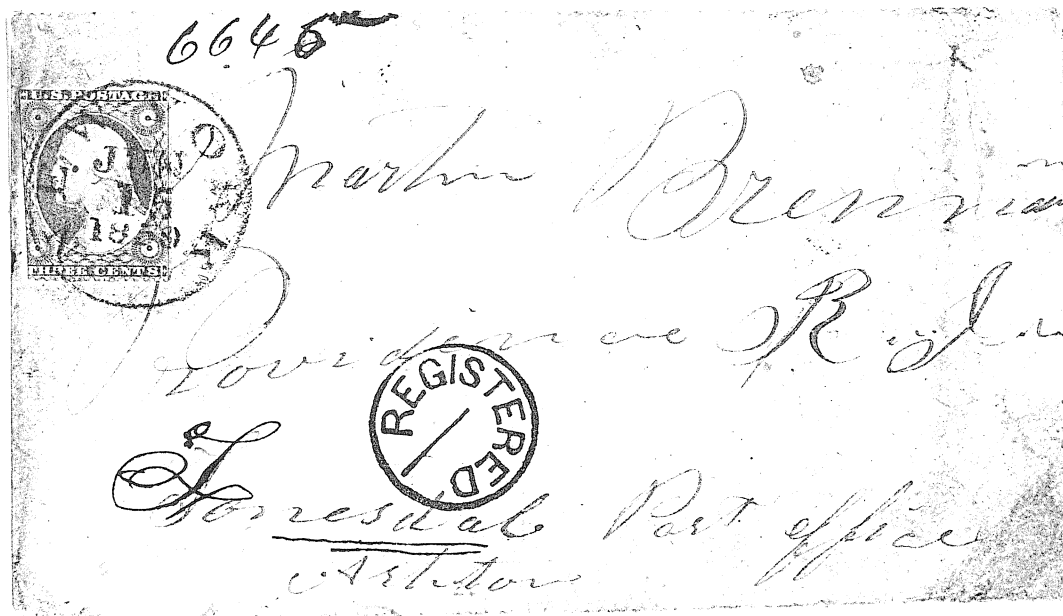
This is another cover from Lewistown, PA., but this has an April 4, 1854 date. It also bears a "Reg", but the "R" in this handstamp is fancy, while the former marking has a simple "R". It is possible that the "R" was changed in the same handstamp. The spacing is different too.



## 7. Handstamped Registered Postmarks 1845 – 1870

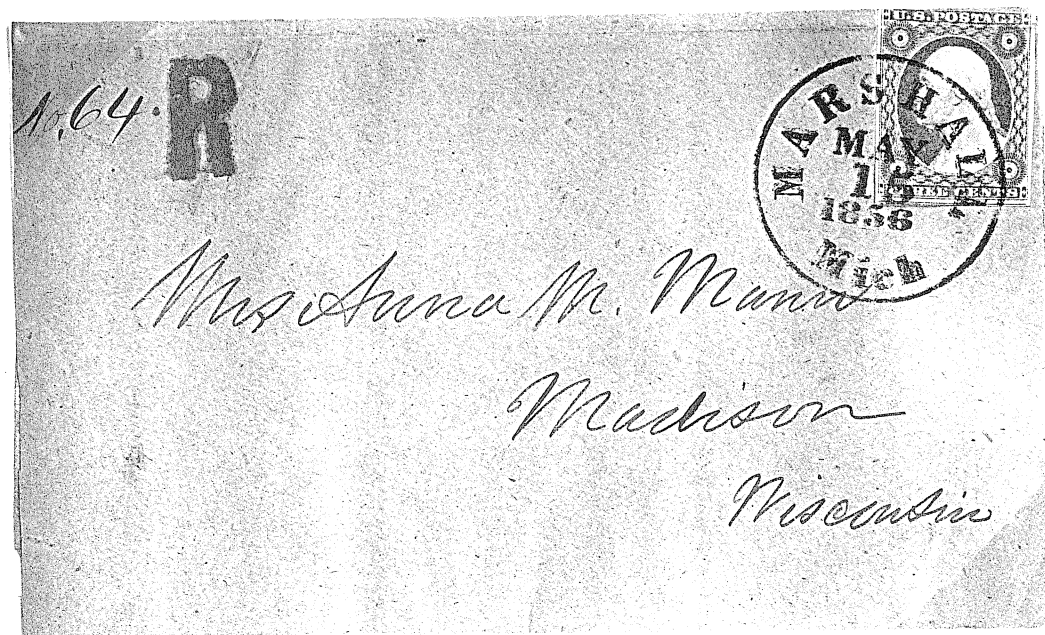


Lonsdale, R.I. black circle with REGISTERED. This is one of the few registered postmarks which were applied on receipt instead of at the time of mailing. The first cover shows a circular "CENTREDALE R.I." with the black circular "REGISTERED", so one might think the marking is from that town.

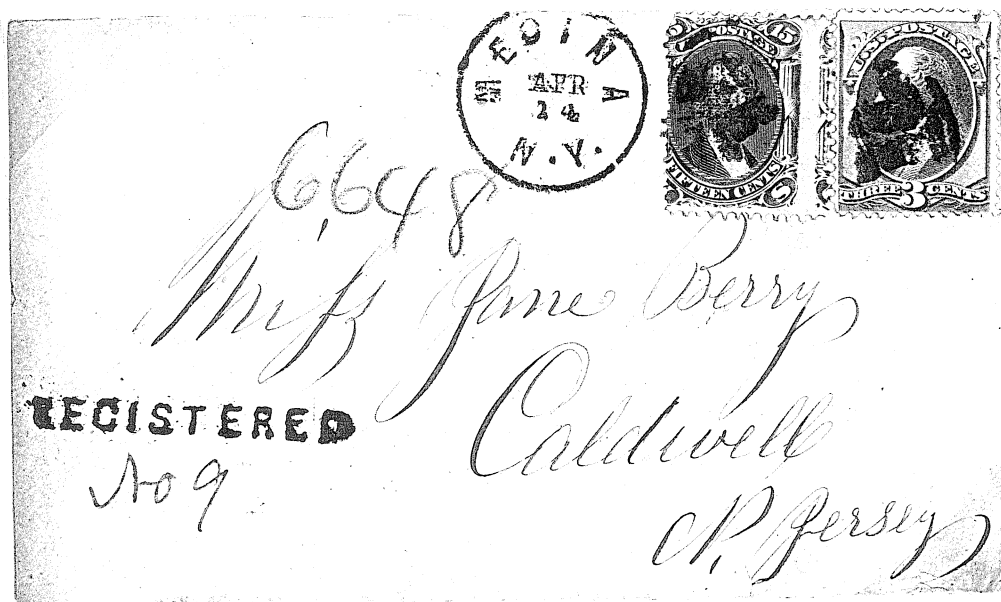


However, the second cover comes from New York City on June 15, 1859 and has the number "6645" but no postmark showing registration until the cover reached its destination at Lonsdale where the circular handstamp was applied. The pair of covers proves the circular handstamp usage was at Lonsdale. The marking itself is known from no other city.

## 7. Handstamped Registered Postmarks 1845 – 1870

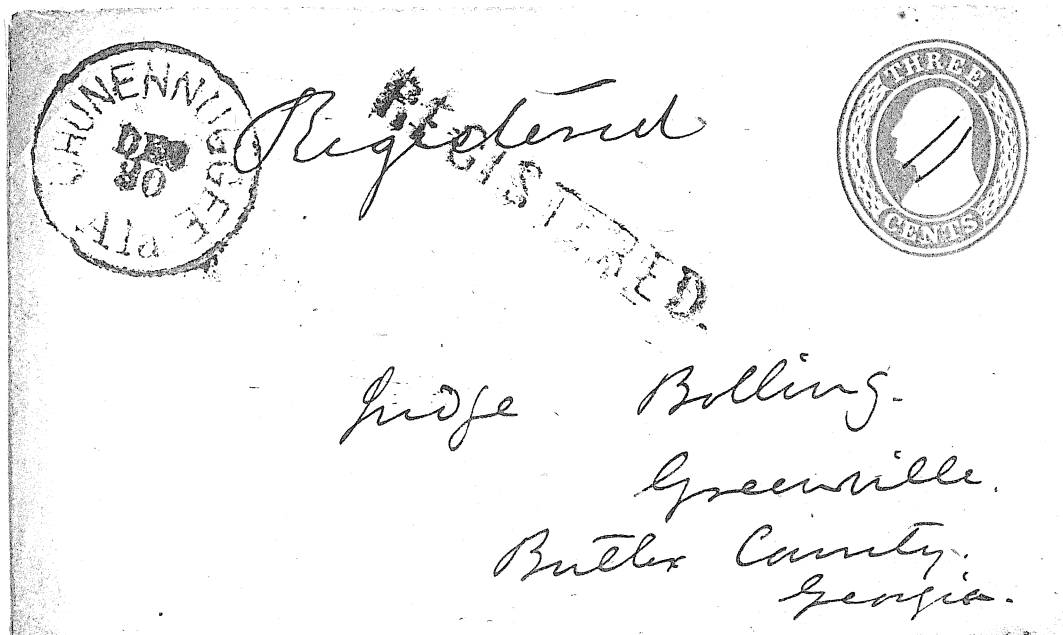


This cover with "MARSHALL Mich. MAY 15 1856" on 3 cent 1851 also bears a large red "R" and "No 64" in manuscript. It is likely the postmaster at Marshall saw the Philadelphia markings. Only known example. Five cents fee paid in cash.

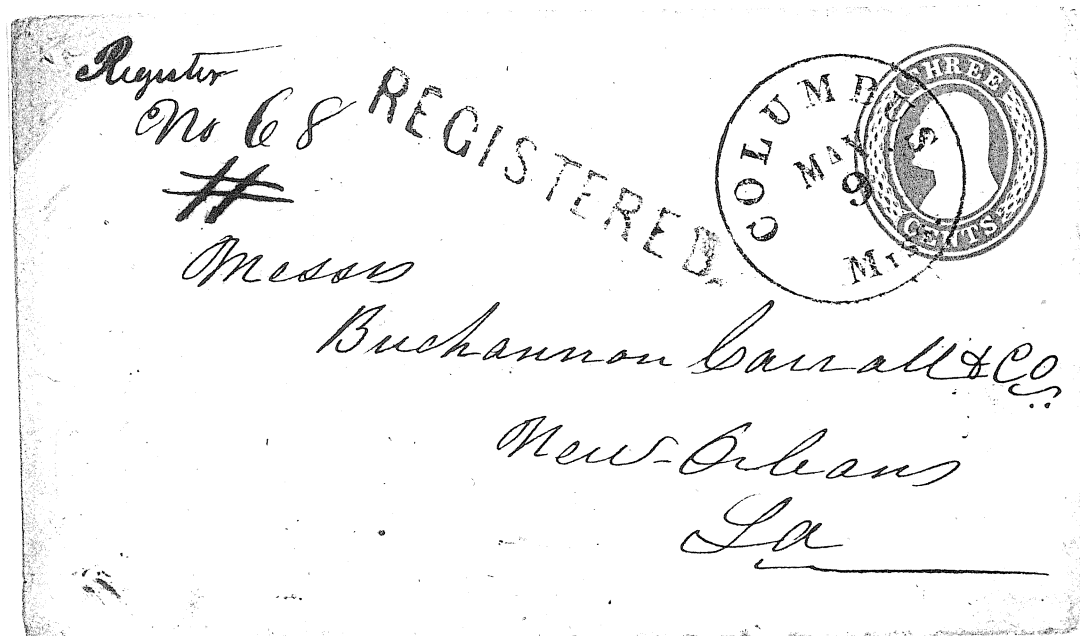


"REGISTERED" in straight line with mixed franking of 3 cent Banknote and 15 cent F grill postmarked "MEDINA N.Y. APR 14" (1870) paying the 15 cents registry rate. Only known example.

## 7. Handstamped Registered Postmarks 1845 – 1870

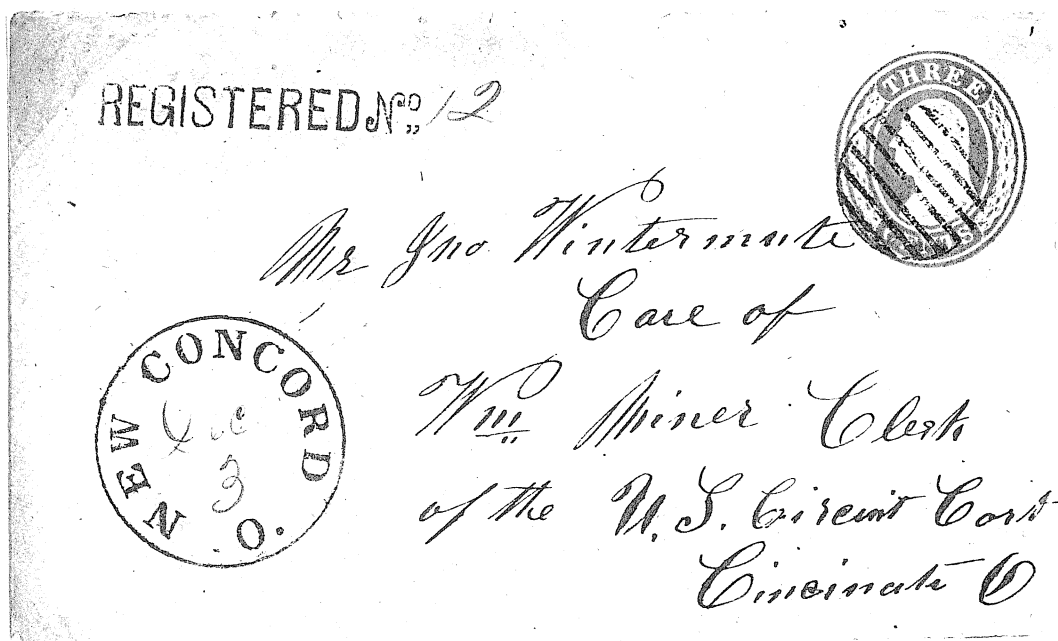


Montgomery, AL. used straight line REGISTERED both on origin and on transit letters. This cover with the postmark on a cover with red "CHUNENNUGGEE Ala DEC 20" also has manuscript "Registered" which was applied at the time of mailing. The handstamp was applied when the cover was sent to Montgomery as a distribution post office.

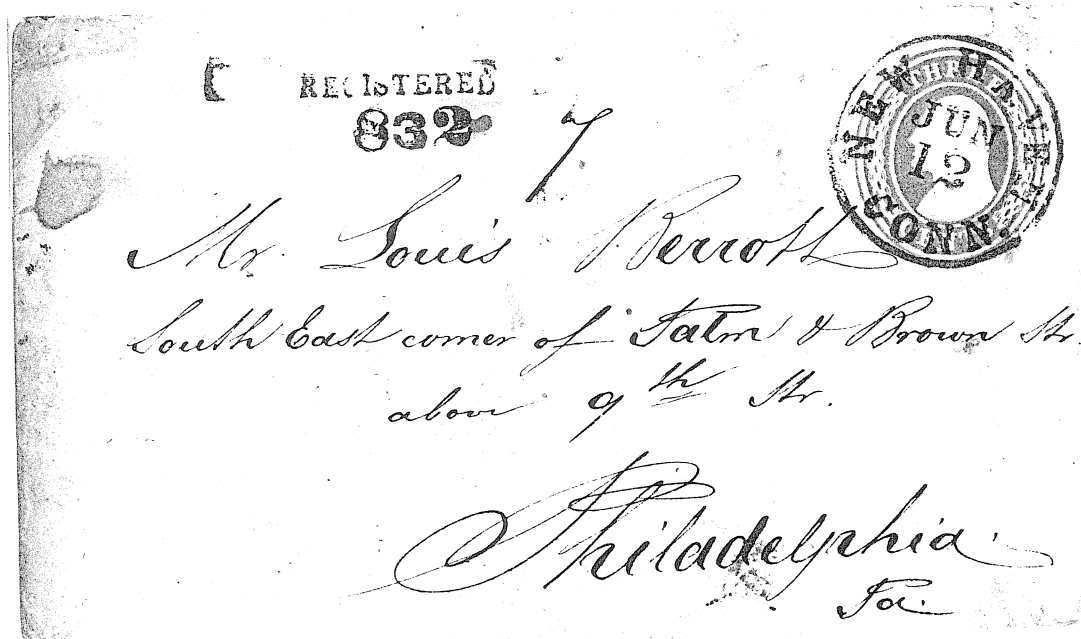


Four examples of the postmark are known with Montgomery postmarks. This is a second example of the use on transit registered mail. The cover was postmarked in ms. "Register No. 68 #" (the # used as a symbol here) at Columbus, MS. The black straight line was used at Montgomery. Of 11 recorded covers only one is year dated, but the marking is believed to have been used both before

## 7. Handstamped Registered Postmarks 1845 – 1870

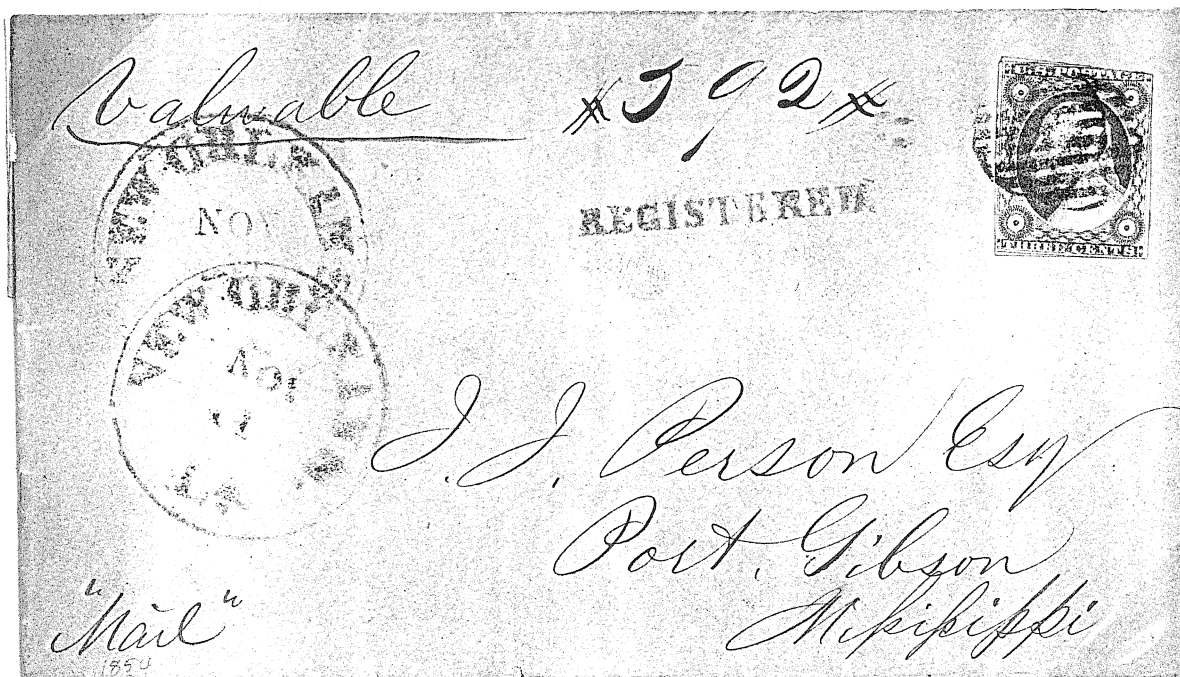


Three cent entire with "NEW CONCORD O. Dec 3" AND "REGISTERED No." black straight line with ms. "12". Handstamps showing numbering are very rare. Only known example.

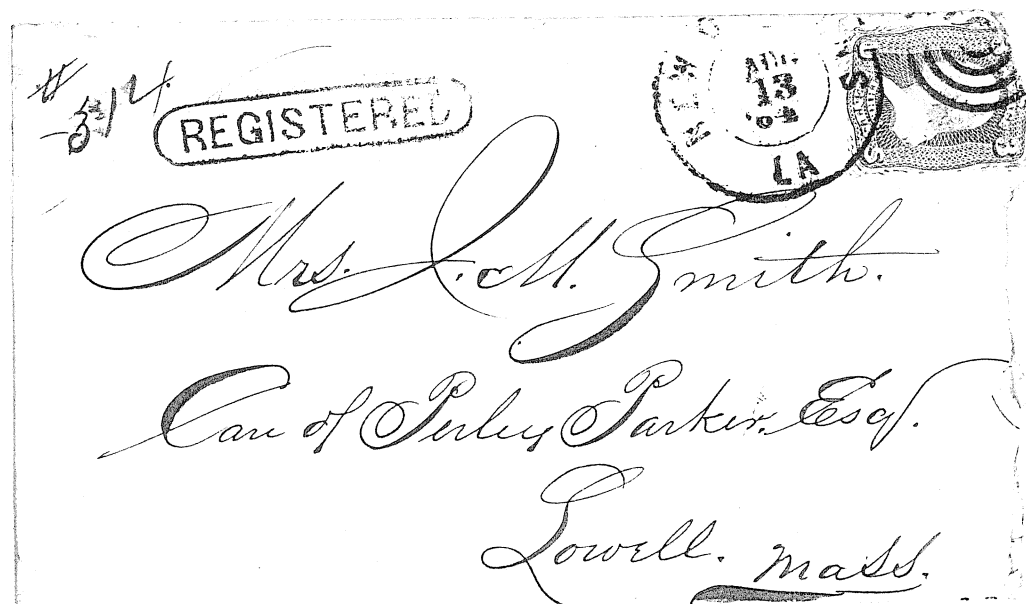


Three cent entire canceled "NEW HAVEN CONN. JUN 12" with black straight line "REGISTERED" and handstamped number "832", probably a separate numbering device. This is the only known handstamped number on an early registered cover.

## 7. Handstamped Registered Postmarks 1845 – 1870

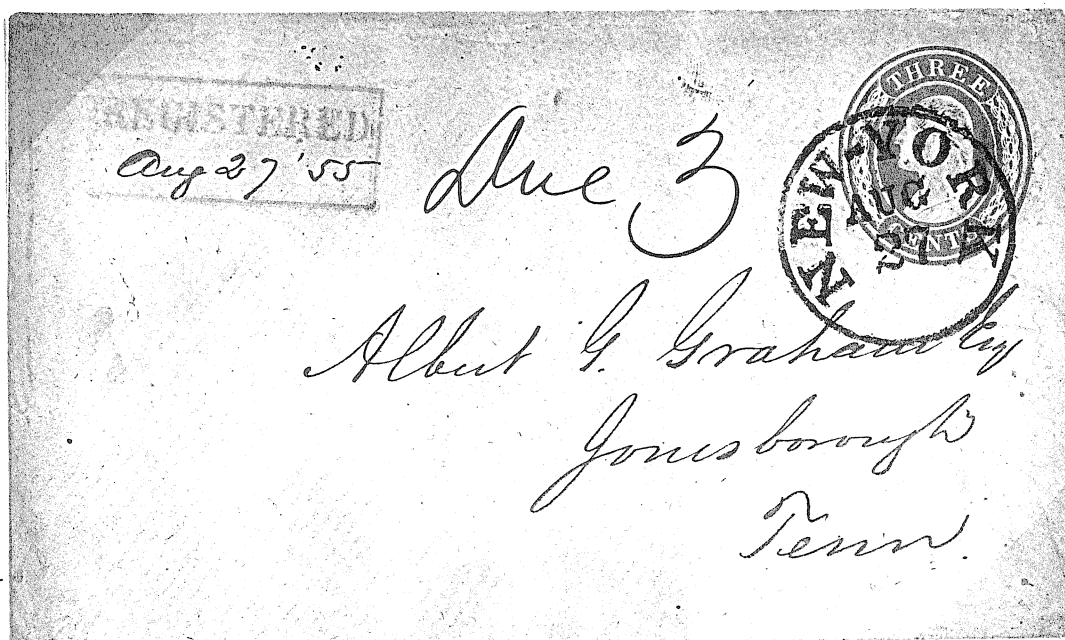


New Orleans, LA. was one of the first large cities to number registered letters. The postmaster in the unofficial period had a special registered mail clerk. This 1854 cover is typical with a red straight line "REGISTERED" postmark and "592" number.

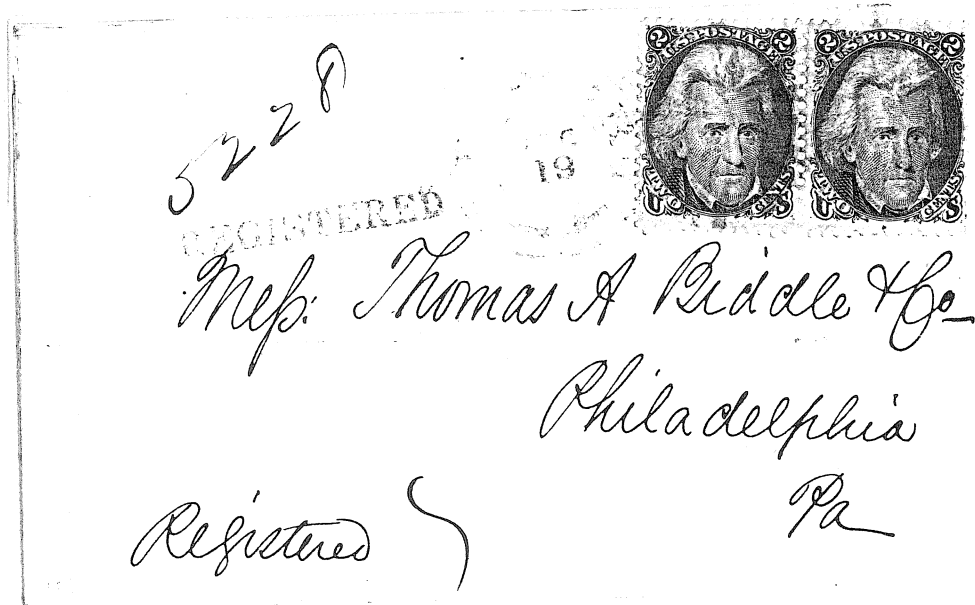


"REGISTERED" in black oval and ms. number "344" from New Orleans, August 13, 1864 with damaged stamp. This was during the Civil War while New Orleans was an occupied city. It demonstrates that registration as a postal service was resumed even though hostilities continued. There was no registration under the Confederate Post Office System.

## 7. Handstamped Registered Postmarks 1845 – 1870

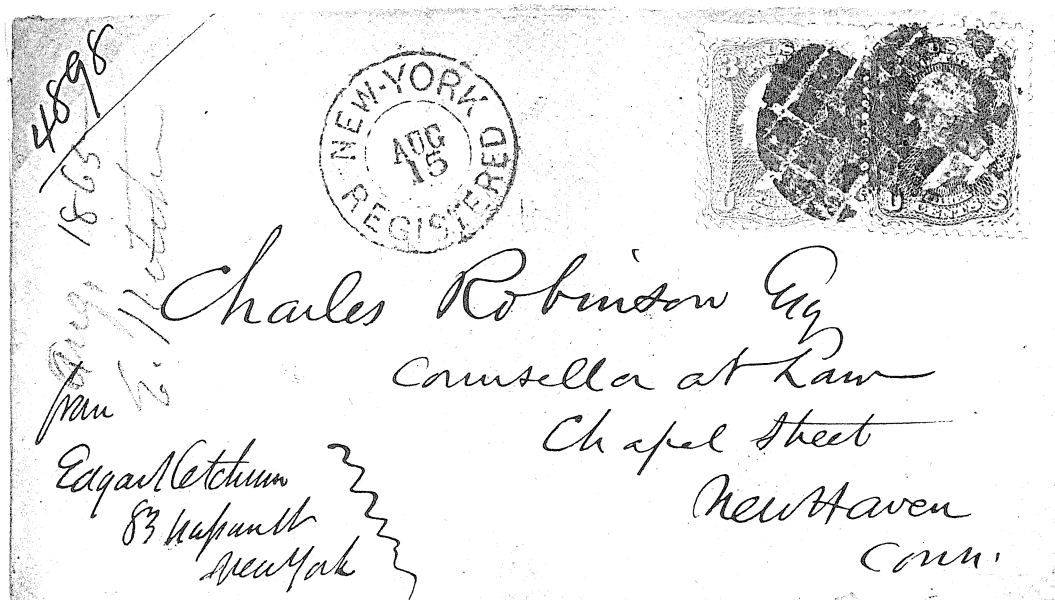


One of two known examples of red boxed "REGISTERED" from New York. This cover was dated August 27, "55 in the rectangle which corresponds to the black postmark. There is no reason to suppose this was not a postmark, but its rarity from such a large city would show its period of usage was quite short. This is within two months of the beginning of official registration.

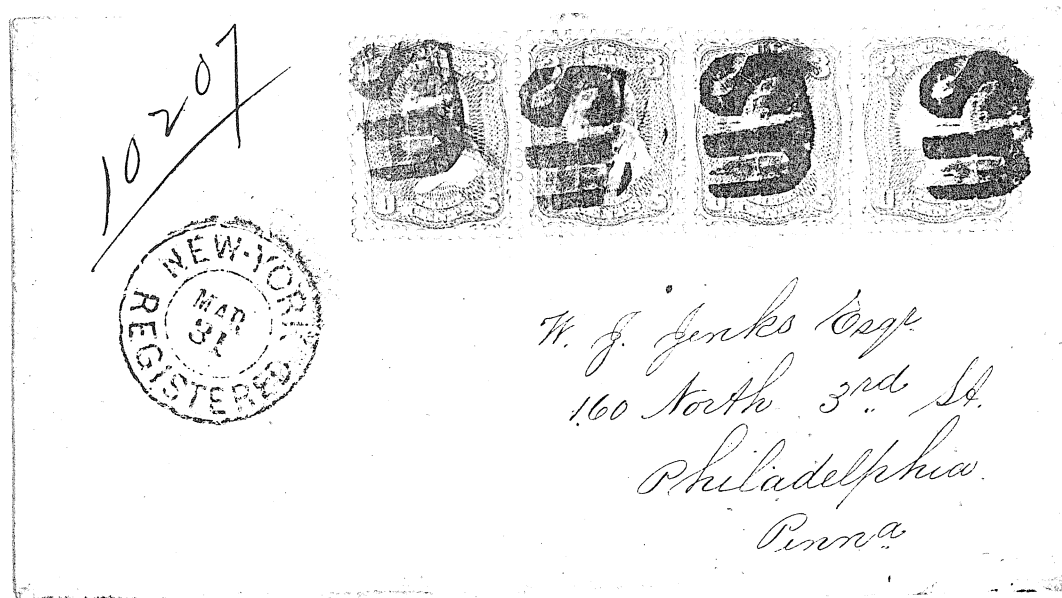


There are two registered postmarks on this cover, the straight line "REGISTERED" and the "NEW-YORK AUG 19" with ornaments in double circle. Both of these postmarks were almost always used on international mail and are found in red. This is the only known example of either of these postmarks in black, made even more unusual by the usage of the two 2 cent 1863 stamps on this 1864 folded letter, one cent overpayment.

## 7. Handstamped Registered Postmarks 1845 – 1870



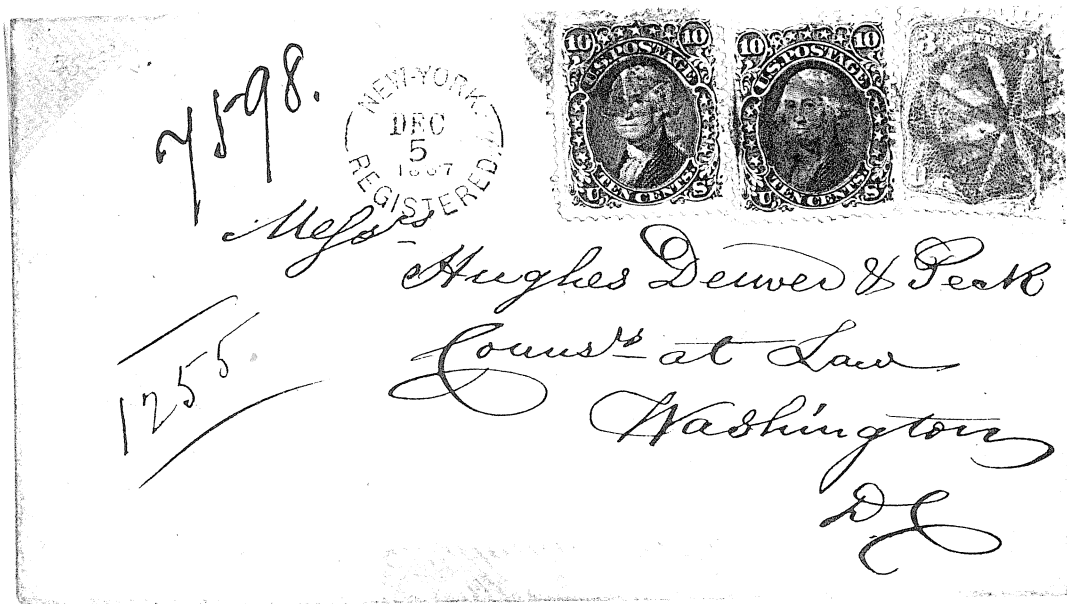
“NEW - YORK REGISTERED AUG 15” (1865) double circle with manuscript number “4898” Note that the ledger numbers are only found on incoming registered mail. Note the use of a return address.



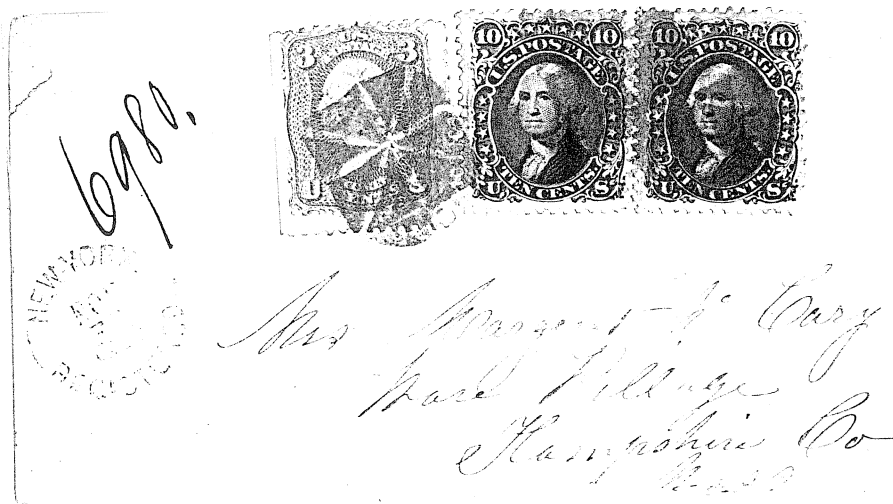
Double circle “NEW - YORK REGISTERED MAR 31” with ms. number “10207”, four copies of 3 cent 1861 canceled “U.S.”, rare fancy cancel with registered usage. The quadruple rate is not explained.



## 7. Handstamped Registered Postmarks 1845 – 1870



Black "NEW-YORK REGISTERED DEC 5 1867" with two copies 10 cent and 3 cent 1861 stamps is paying the 20 cents registry fee in stamps which began June 1, 1867. The higher number "7598" is the New York registry number. This postmark in black is the one used at this time for domestic registered letters. The 1867 year date is found in both the red and black postmarks of 1867, but in 1868 and later, there is no year date in the postmark.



Two copies of 10 cent 1861 and single 3 cent canceled rimless "NEW-YORK REGISTERED 1867" all with red ink. This is an error. Red ink was reserved for international registration while black ink was used on domestic letters.

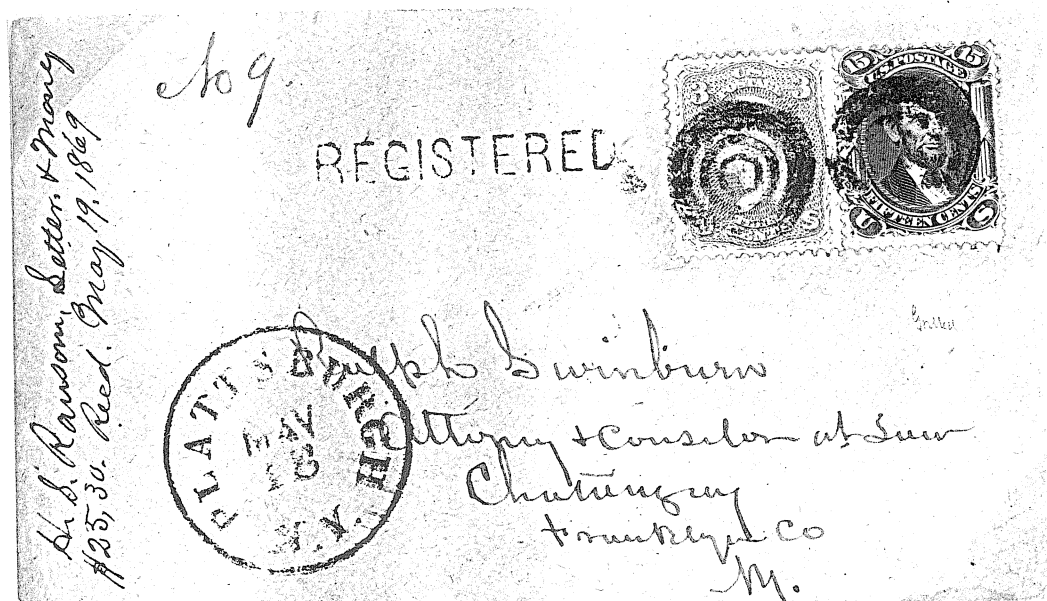
NOT  
while



## 7. Handstamped Registered Postmarks 1845 – 1870

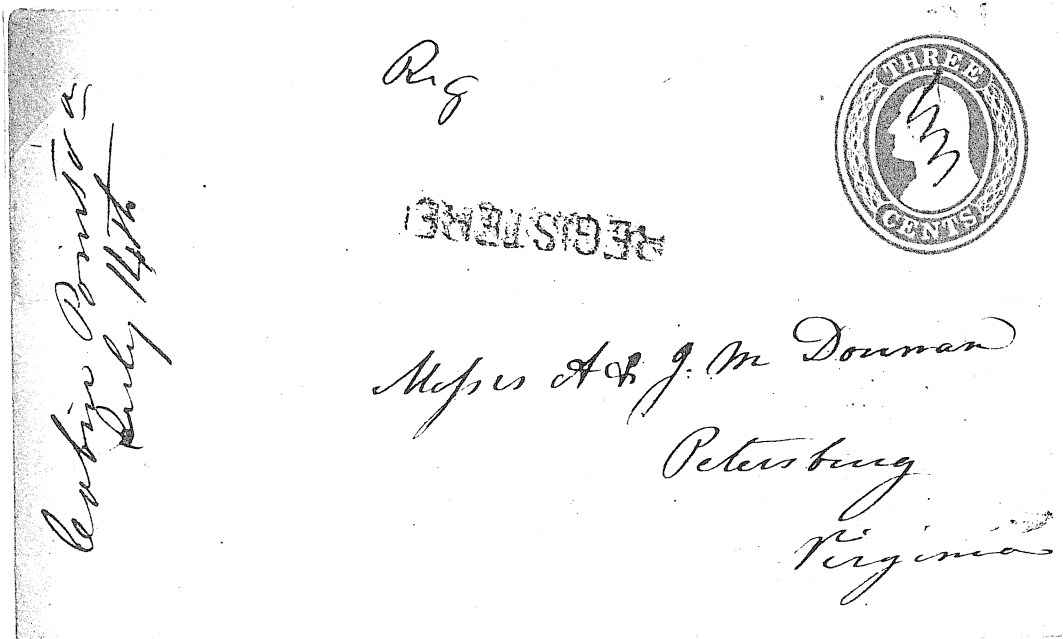


Straight line "REGISTERED" in the common type of lettering with usage from Pawtucket, R.I. November 23, 1868 when the 20 cents registry fee was payable in stamps. Only known example.

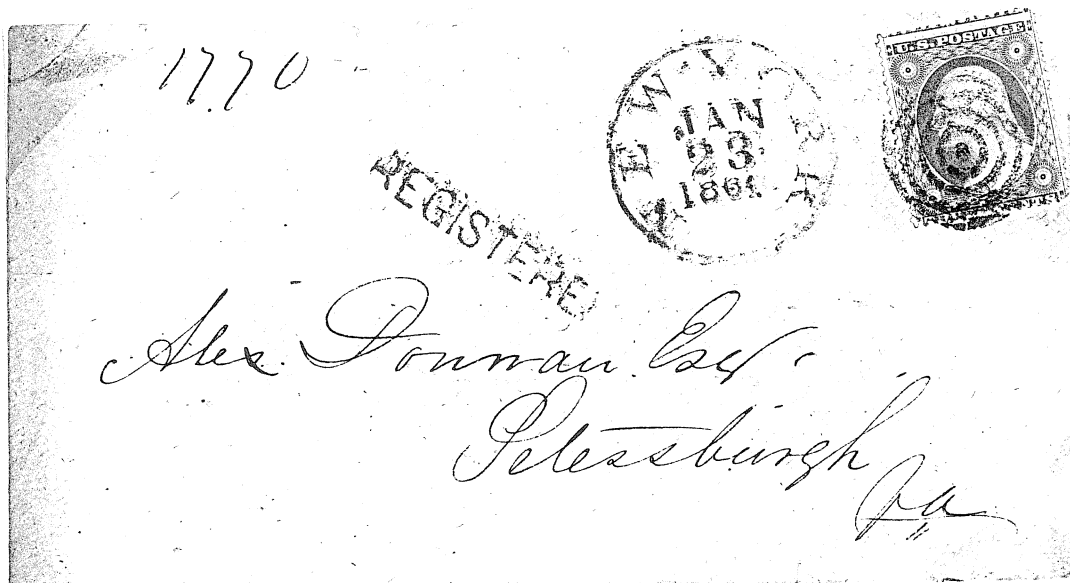


Black straight line "REGISTERED" and "PLATTSBURGH N.Y. MAY 18" (1869) with targets on 15 cent and 3 cent ungrilled stamps. Another example of this particular style of straight line, probably available from a particular distributor. Only known example from this office.

## 7. Handstamped Registered Postmarks 1845 – 1870

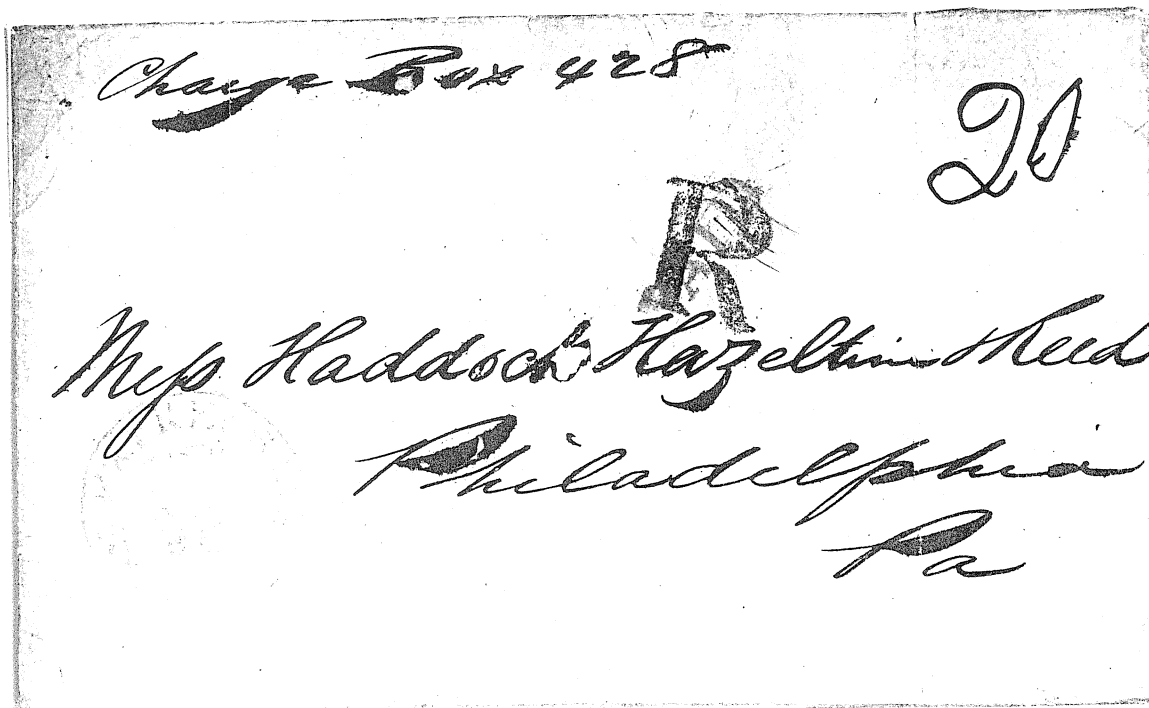


Petersburg, VA. blue "REGISTERED" used on receipt. Three cent entire with ms. "Cobin Point Va. July 14th" and ms. "Reg". It received the handstamp at Petersburg with a usage similar to that of the Philadelphia R markings, on receipt.

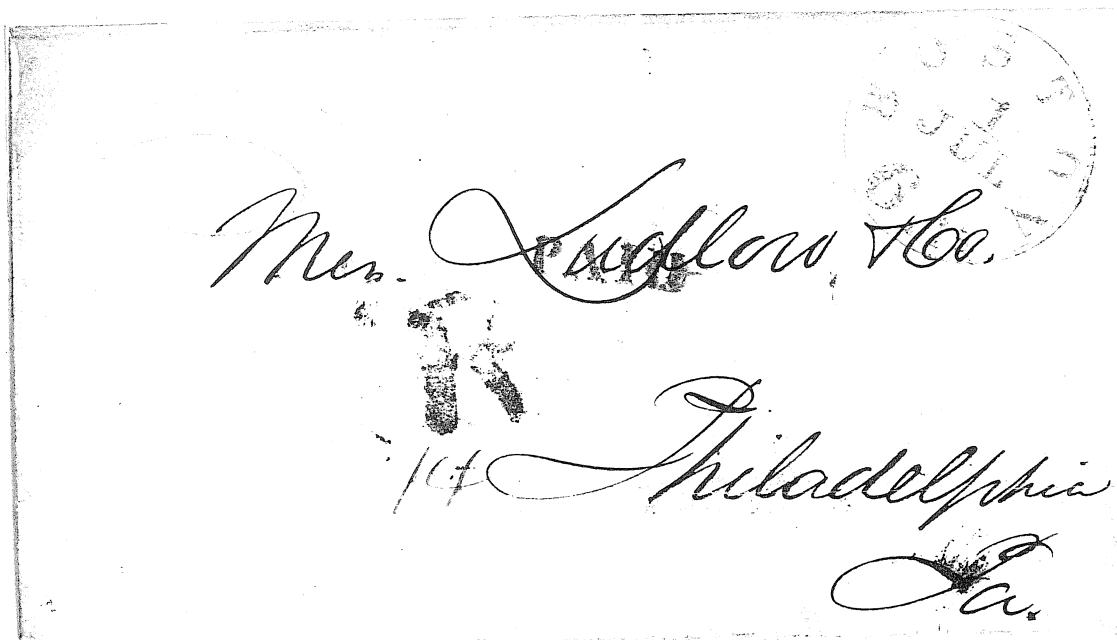


Three cent 1857 canceled at New York on January 23, 1861 with unusual target used only on registered letters (five examples known). There is a ms. "1770" which must be a New York registration number. At Petersburg it received the blue straight line "REGISTERED".

## 7. Handstamped Registered Postmarks 1845 – 1870

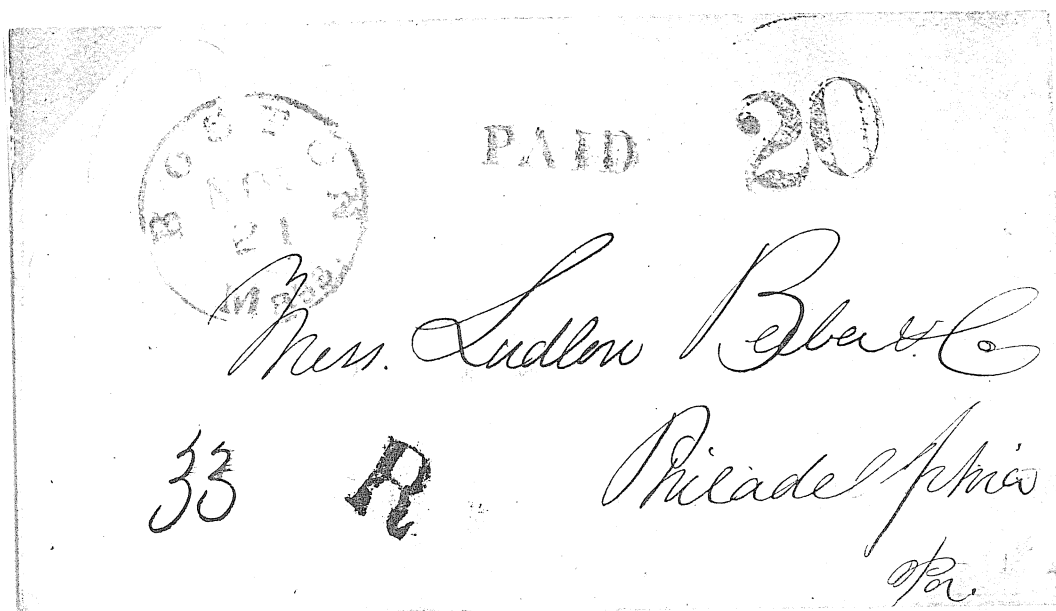


Philadelphia, PA. large blue R, first period of usage is October 29, 1845 to October 10, 1849. This marking is considered the first handstamped registered postmark in the United States. This cover shows a railroad usage with red "U.S. EXPRESS MAIL BOSTON NOV 20" (1845), the first month of usage. The "R" was applied right over the "PAID". It is a charge to postal box usage.

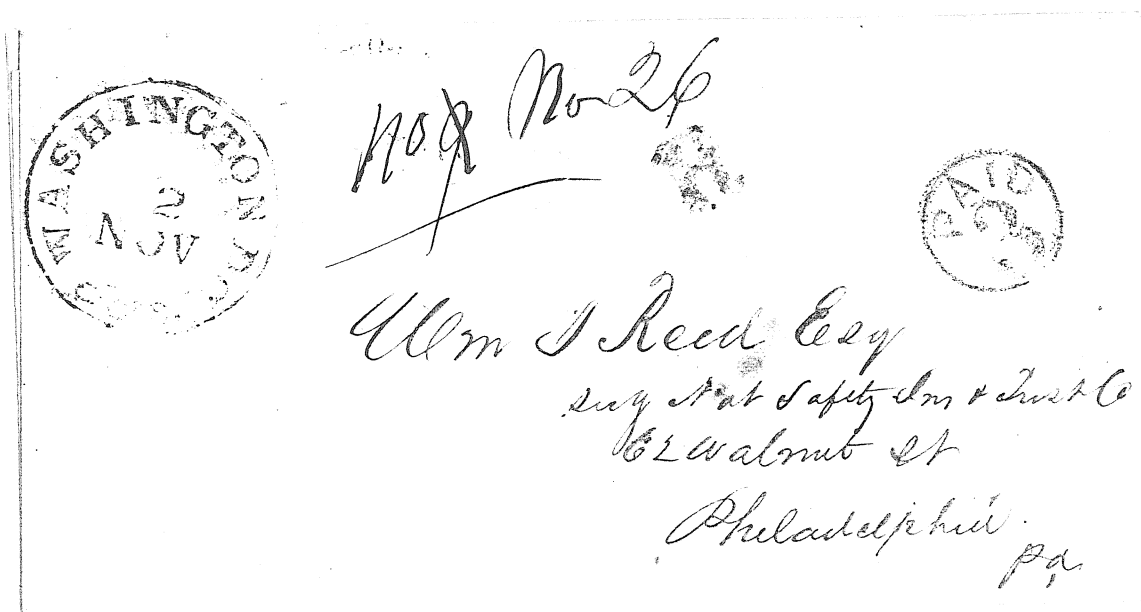


Philadelphia, PA. large blue R, second period of usage June 24, 1851 to July 12, 1851, making it the most rare of the Philadelphia R markings. This cover was postmarked "BOSTON 1 JUL 6 cts" (1851), "PAID" in black, and has a large blue "R". It was mailed on the first day of the new lower 1851 rates and is the only known registered cover so used.

## 7. Handstamped Registered Postmarks 1845 – 1870

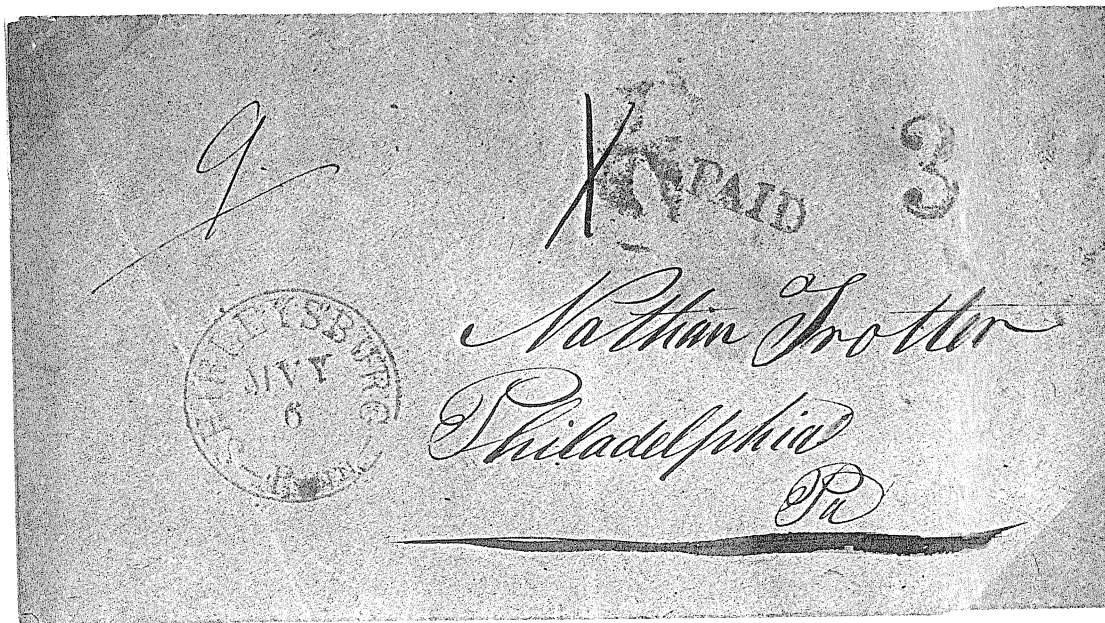


Philadelphia, PA. small blue R, period of usage October 19, 1849 to August 18, 1851. "BOSTON Mass. NOV 21", "PAID" and "20" (double rate) to Philadelphia with excellent strike of small blue "R" and ms. "33" number. Such numbers at lower left are usually seen on small blue R covers.

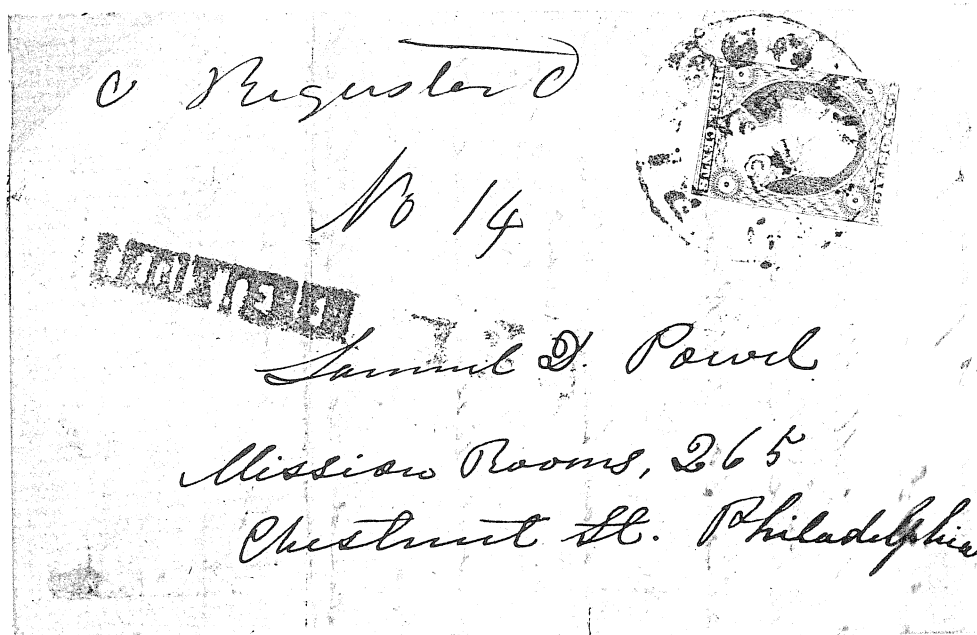


Philadelphia, PA. small red R, periods of usage October 22, 1851 to February 27, 1852 and September 14, 1852 to January 8, 1855. This cover shows manuscript usage which is probably an origin number with black "WASHINGTON D.C. 2 NOV" (1851) and "PAID 3" in circle, an early usage.

## 7. Handstamped Registered Postmarks 1845 – 1870

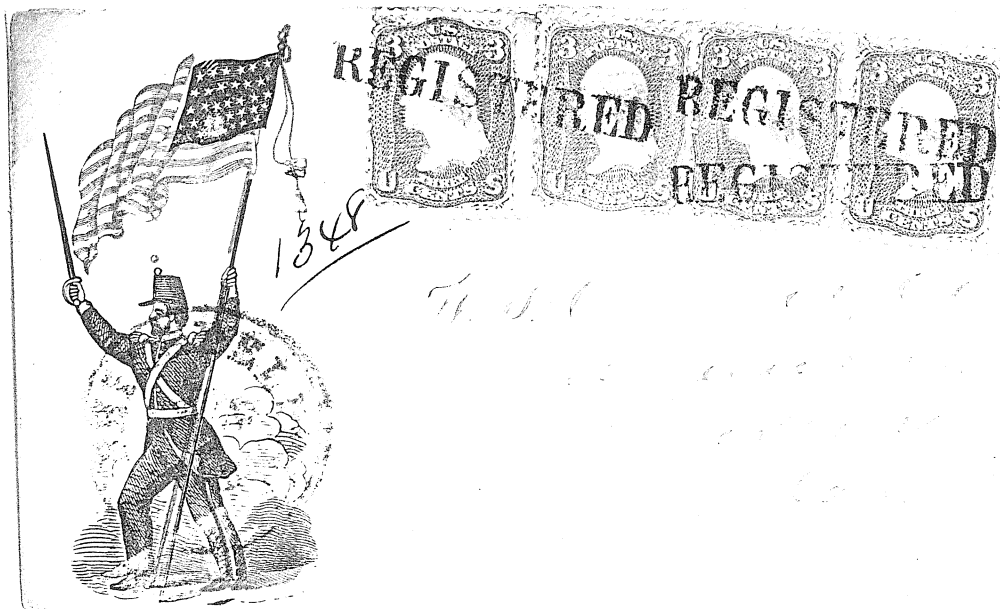


Philadelphia, PA. large red R, period of usage May 6, 1852 to September 14, 1852. This cover bears a large manuscript "X" from Shirleysburg, PA. with "3" and "PAID" handstamp: on May 6, 1852 which is the earliest recorded date for this large "R" marking in red. The "X" is a registration marking; this is proved by the existence of a handstamped "X" used later. The "9" is a Philadelphia number.



This cover originates at Ringgold, GA. where it has a green cancel January 11, 1854. It enclosed cash. There is a ms. "Registered No 14" from Ringgold. But it is also addressed to Philadelphia and bears a strange straight line "REGISTERED" in the typical Philadelphia shade of blue ink. This appears to be a Philadelphia marking meant to replace the "R", but it was not very clear and was probably not used much. There is another similar Philadelphia straight line in 1852.

## 7. Handstamped Registered Postmarks 1845 – 1870

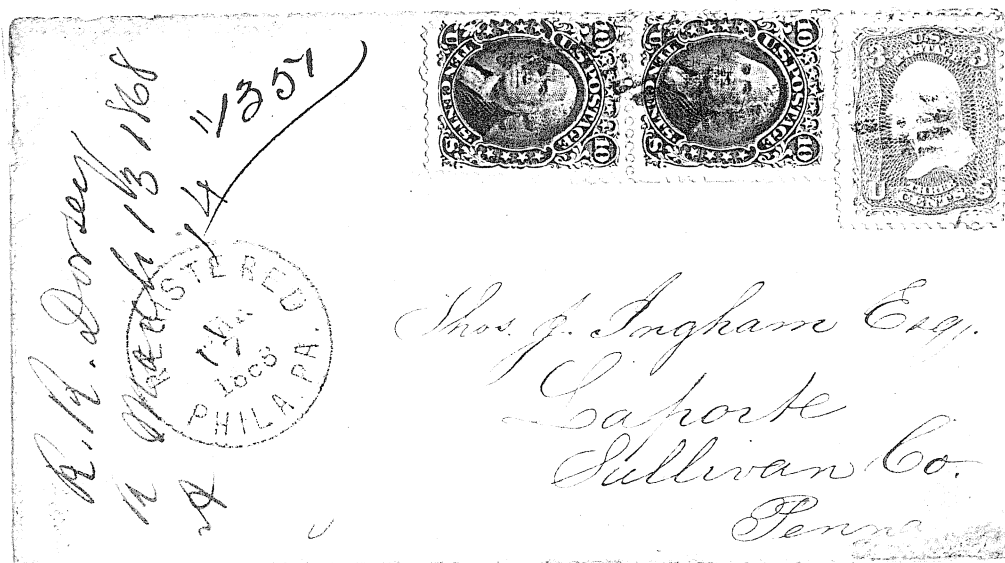


Blue straight line “REGISTERED” with blue Philadelphia, PA. postmark on Civil War Patriotic bearing four copies of 3 cent 1861.

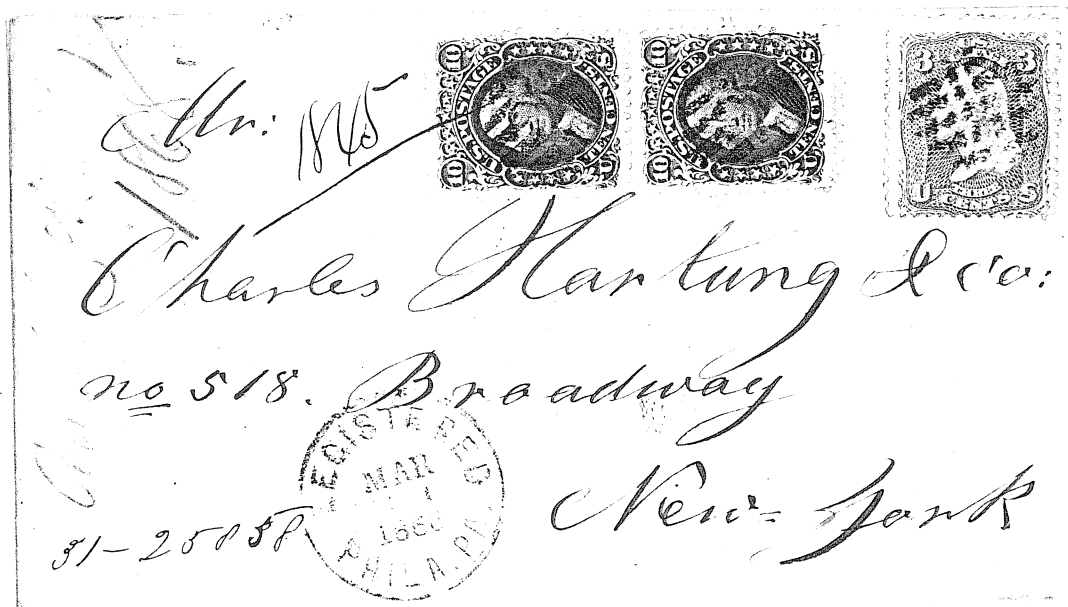


Black straight line “REGISTERED” and black “PHILADELPHIA Pa JUN 16 ?” on unusual design Civil War patriotic envelope with five copies of 3 cent 1861 stamp. The multiple copies of this stamp on these registered patriotic covers has never been explained. The stamps paid only the postage, not the registry fee.

## 7. Handstamped Registered Postmarks 1845 – 1870.

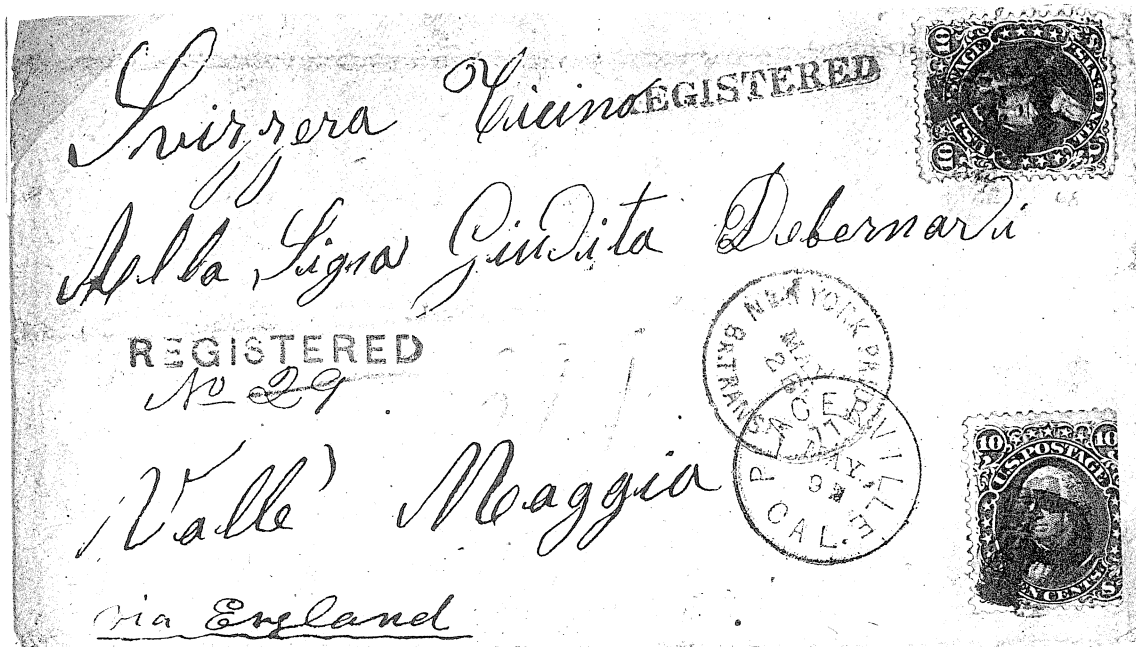


Blue "REGISTERED PHILA PA. MAR 7 1868" year dated postmark with pair 10 cent F grill and 3 cent 1861 paying 20 cent registry rate in stamps.

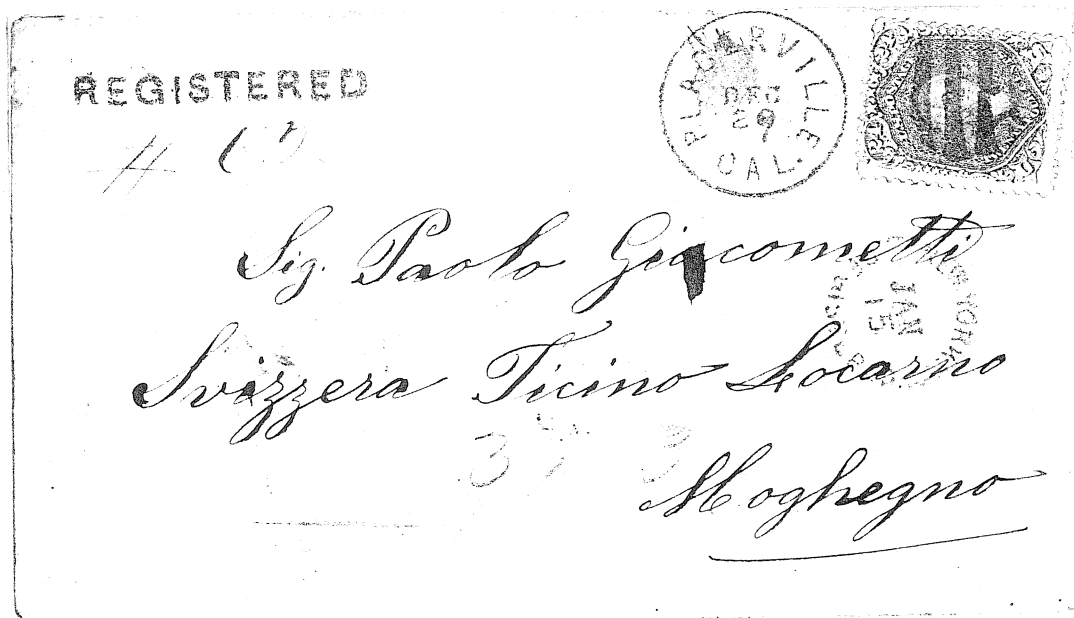


Same postmark but in black dated March 1, 1868 on same combination of stamps. The blue postmark was used again in 1869. This cover also bears a New York ledger number in magenta at bottom left. Over 25,000 registered letters had been received in two months at New York.

## 7. Handstamped Registered Postmarks 1845 – 1870



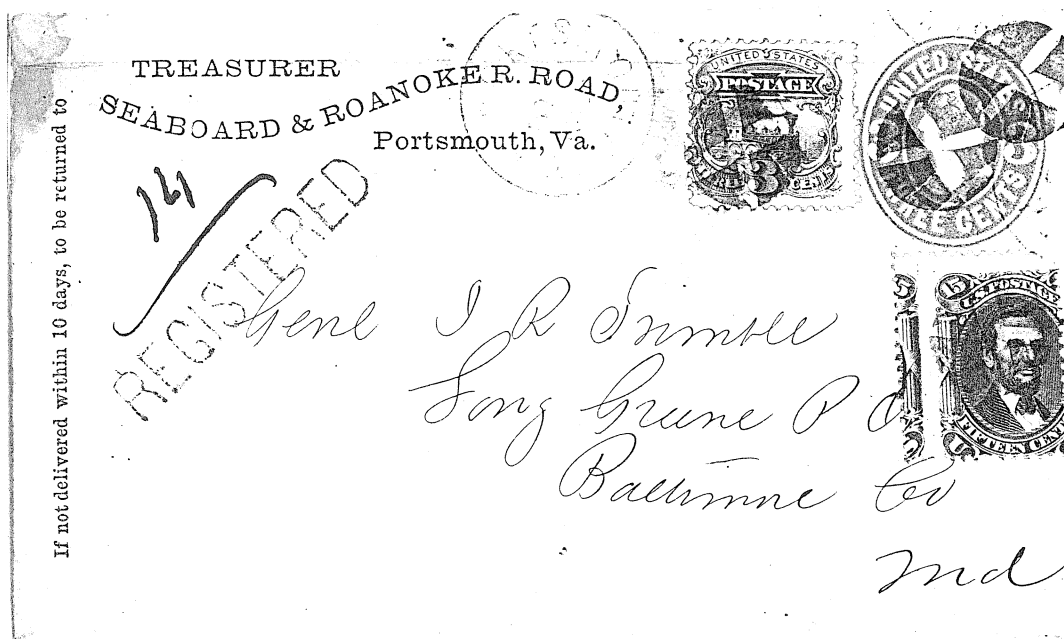
"PLACERVILLE CAL. MAY 22" (1868) and "P" cancels on two 10 cent stamps (3 cent missing?) with red "REGISTERED" and "No 29" via New York with second red straight line "REGISTERED", via England to Switzerland. The rate was 15 cents postage and 8 cents registry. Only known example.



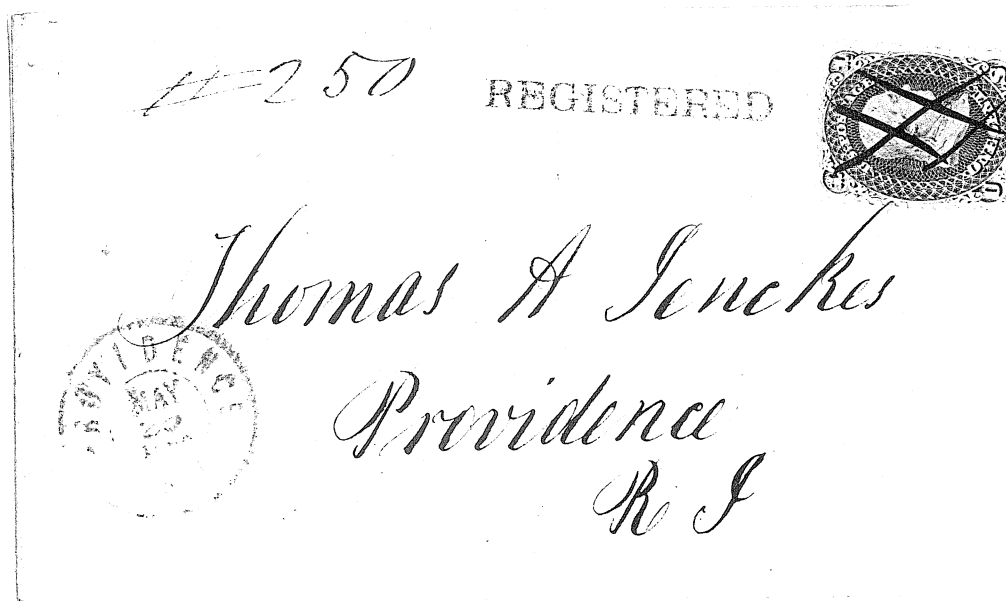
Blue "PLACERVILLE CAL. DEC 29" (1869) with matching "REGISTERED" to Switzerland with rimless red "NEW YORK REGISTERED JAN 15". In this case the postage and registry was the same, 23 cents, so the postage is overpaid one cent. Only known example.



## 7. Handstamped Registered Postmarks 1845 – 1870

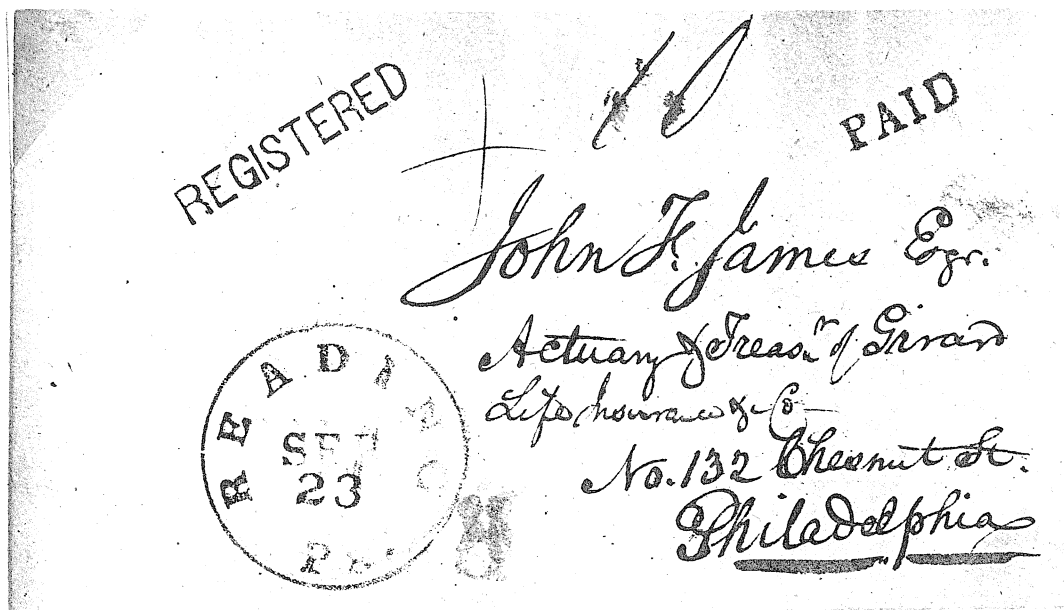


Black straight line "REGISTERED" from Portsmouth, VA. April 24, 1869, with mixed franking of double rated letter paying 15 cents registry fee. Only recorded example.

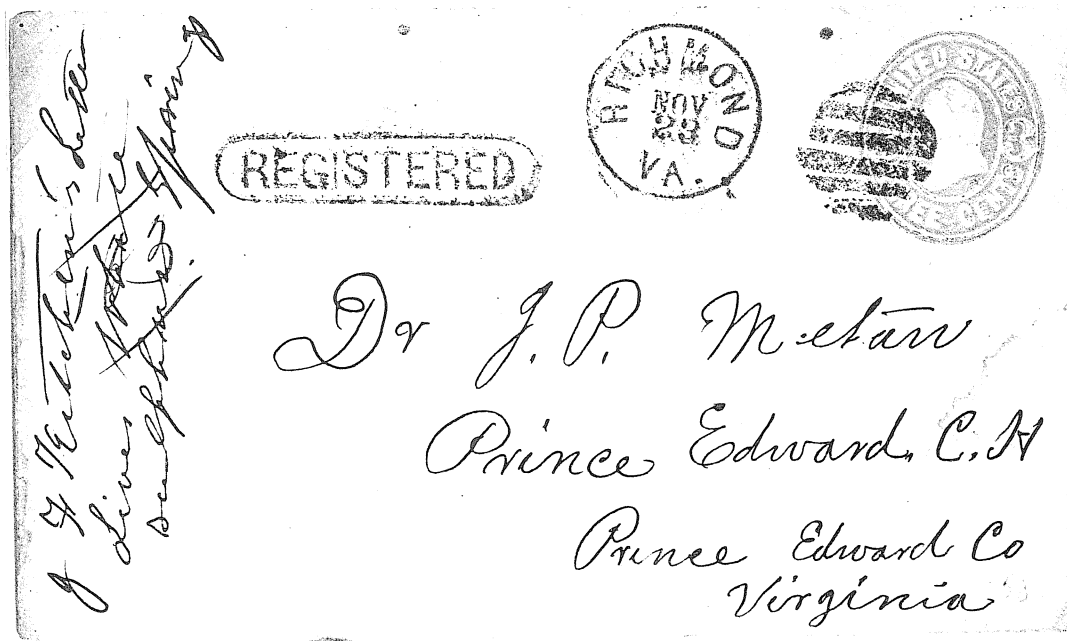


One cent 1861 paying drop letter postage with straight line "REGISTERED" from Providence, R.I., May 25, 1865. This is the only recorded example of drop letter and registration usage in the 1860s.

## 7. Handstamped Registered Postmarks 1845 – 1870

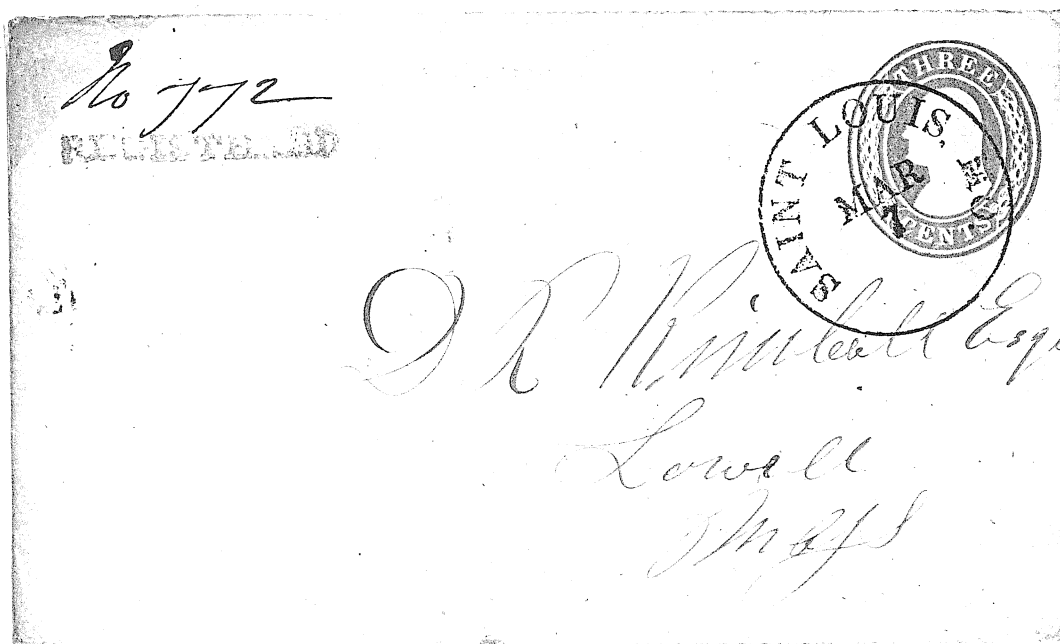


"READING Pa. SEP 23", "PAID", and "REGISTERED" with ms. "X" and "10" rating to Philadelphia where small red "R" was added. Very scarce marking.

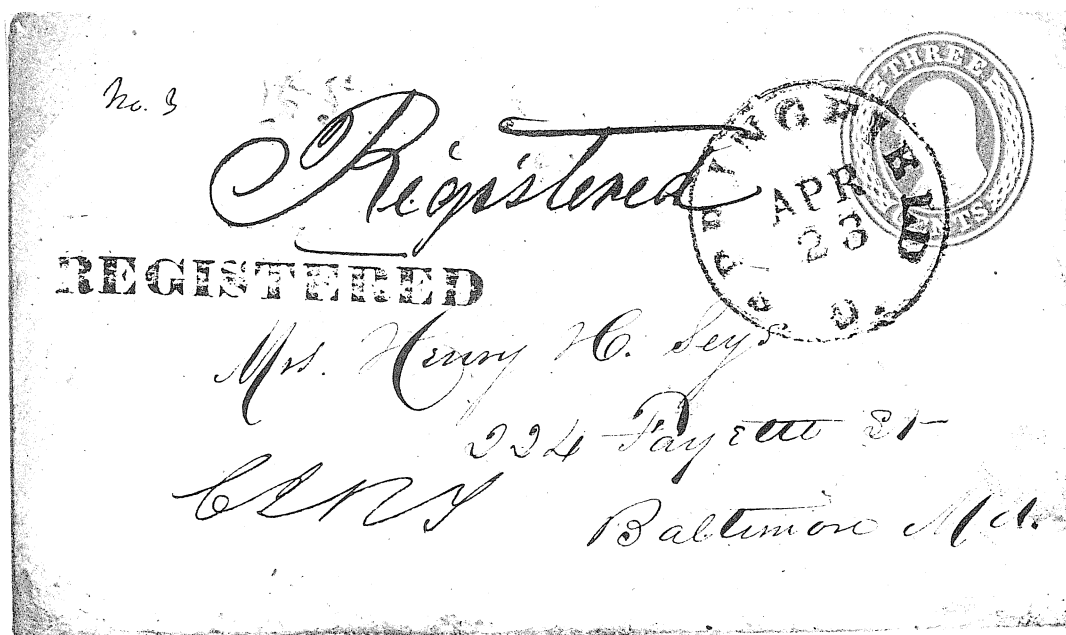


"RICHMOND VA. NOV 23" (no date) with "REGISTERED" in oval on 3 cent entire. Traces of the return receipt are glued to top of the reverse.

## 7. Handstamped Registered Postmarks 1845 – 1870

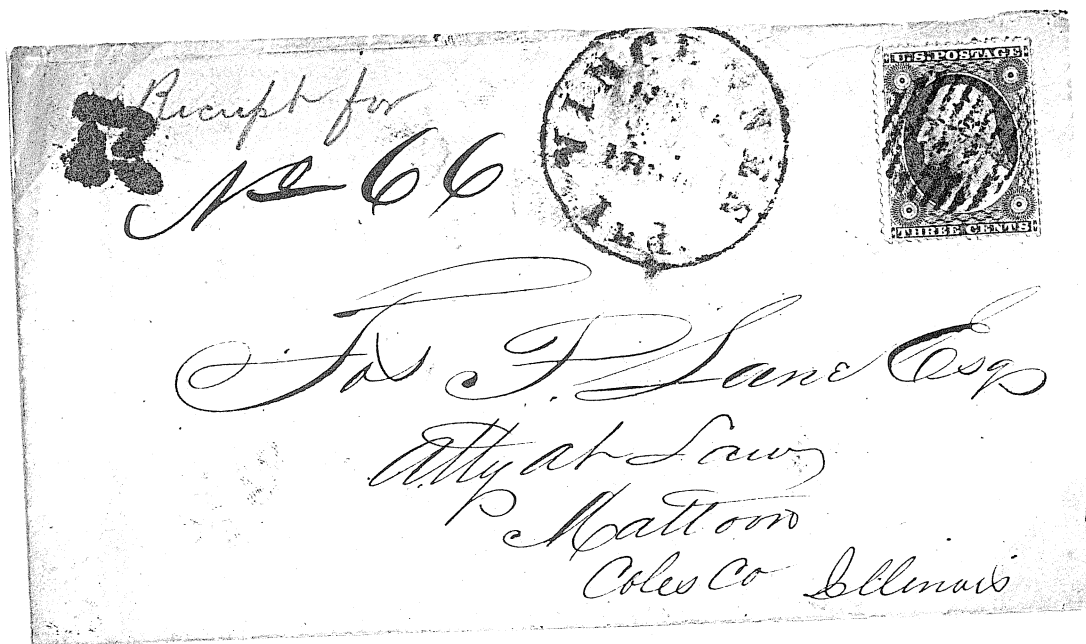


Red straight line "REGISTERED" with "No 772" on undated 3 cent entire canceled "SAINT LOUIS MO. MAR 7", probably official registration.

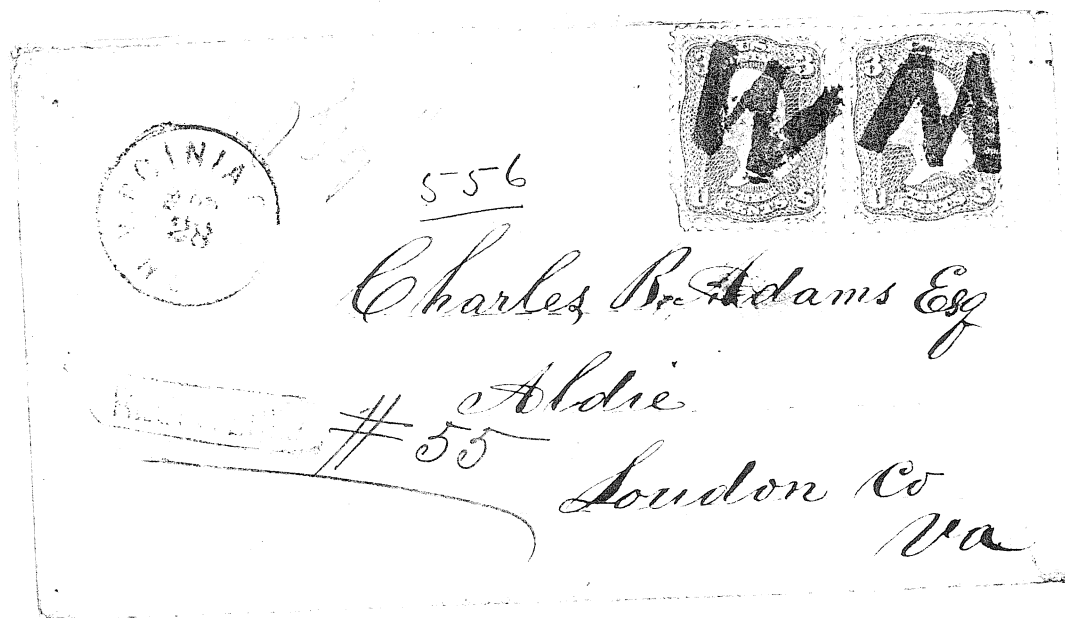


Blue "SPRINGFIELD O. APR 23" (1855) with ms. "Registered", just months before official registration. There is also a black straight line "REGISTERED" which has been attributed to Springfield too, although it could be a Baltimore marking. However, it is the only known example.

## 7. Handstamped Registered Postmarks 1845 – 1870

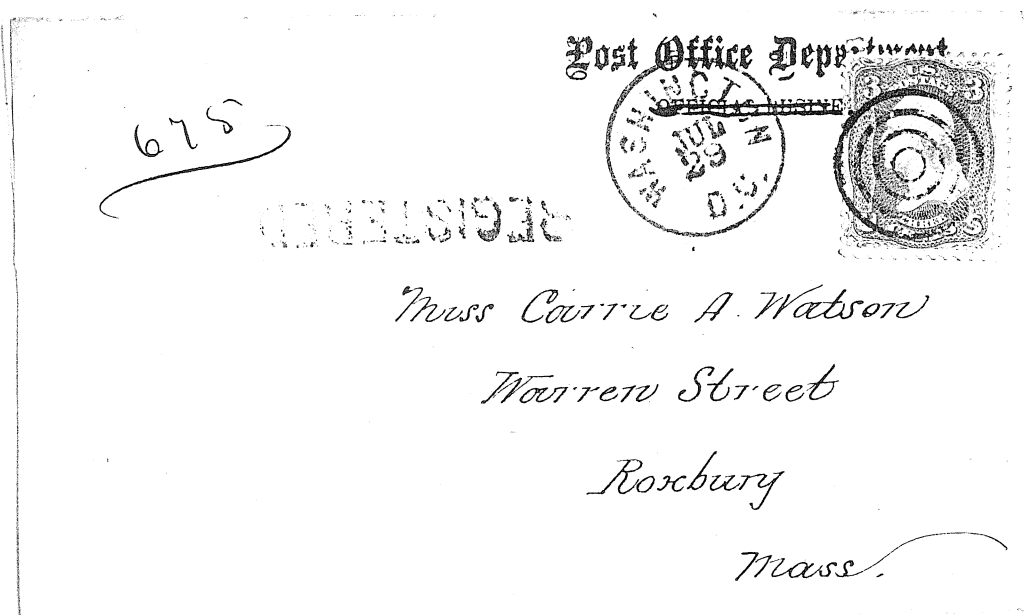


Blue "VINCENNES Ind. SEP 20 1860" with blue grid on stamp and blue "R" with ms. "No 66". The letter enclosed \$6.00. Only known example. This is the latest handstamped R marking.



"VIRGINIA CITY NEV AUG 28" with two "W" cancels on two copies 3 cent 1861. There is also a magenta "REGISTERED" in oval and ms. "#55" also in magenta. The pencil notation is probably by the sender. The "556" is unexplained; it is probably not a registration number.

## 7. Handstamped Registered Postmarks 1845 – 1870

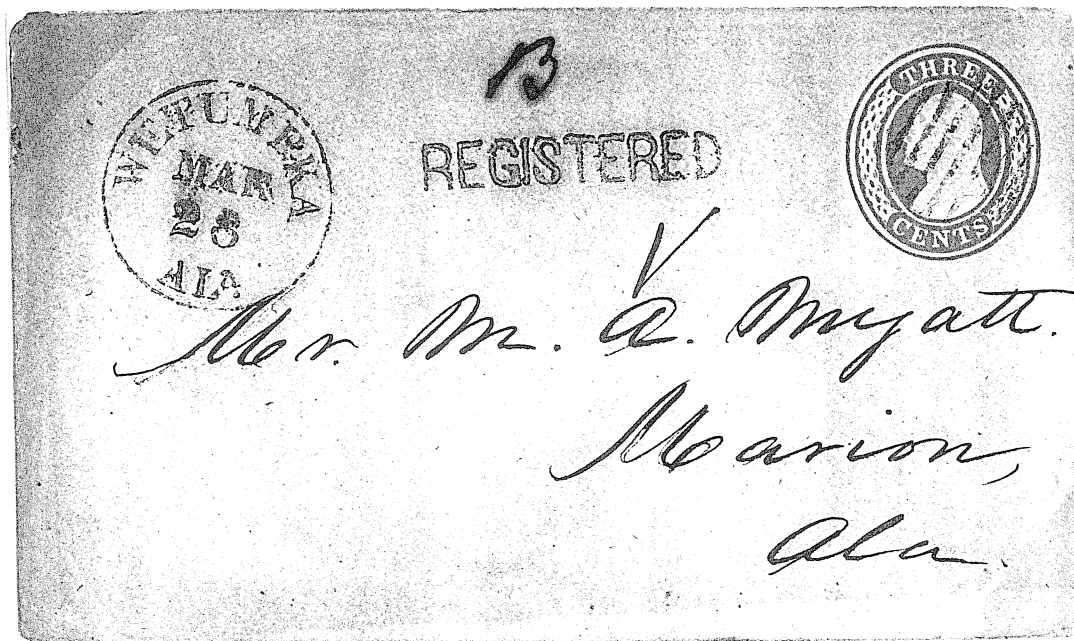


Straight line "REGISTERED" with 3 cent 1861 tied "WASHINGTON D.C. JUL 29". Since a glue impression of a portion of a receipt is present on the reverse, this usage would be from the 20 cents registry rate period.

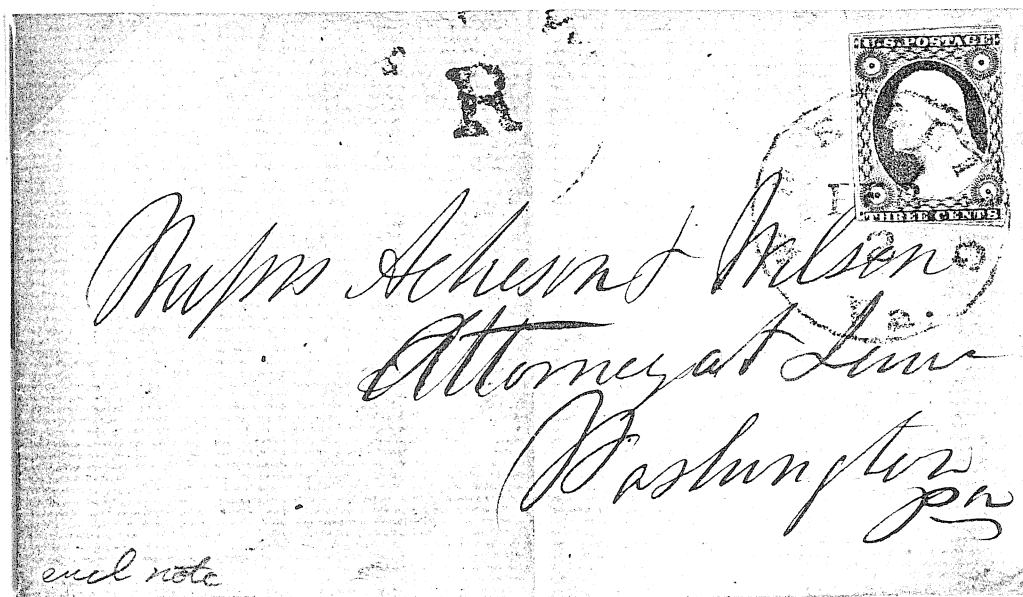


"WASHINGTON D.C. REGISTERED MAR 13" with 15 cent rate paid with ungrilled 5 cent and 10 cent stamps on 3 cent entire. Note the return address; there is a blue handstamped marking on the reverse. This envelope also had the return registered letter receipt glued to its back, and portions still remain. Postmasters were instructed not to glue these forms to the envelopes. But obviously they did.

## 7. Handstamped Registered Postmarks 1845– 1870

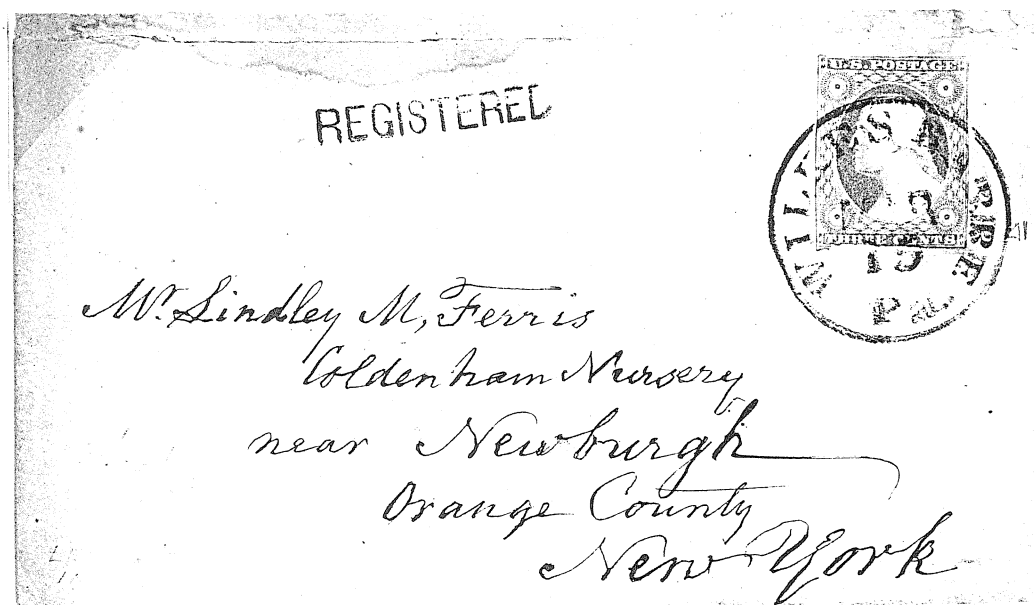


Blue "WETUMPKA Ala. MAR 28", grid on entire, and "REGISTERED" to Marion, AL. with ms. "13" numbering. Without a known year date it is not possible to define the period of usage since the marking is so rare (this may be only known copy).

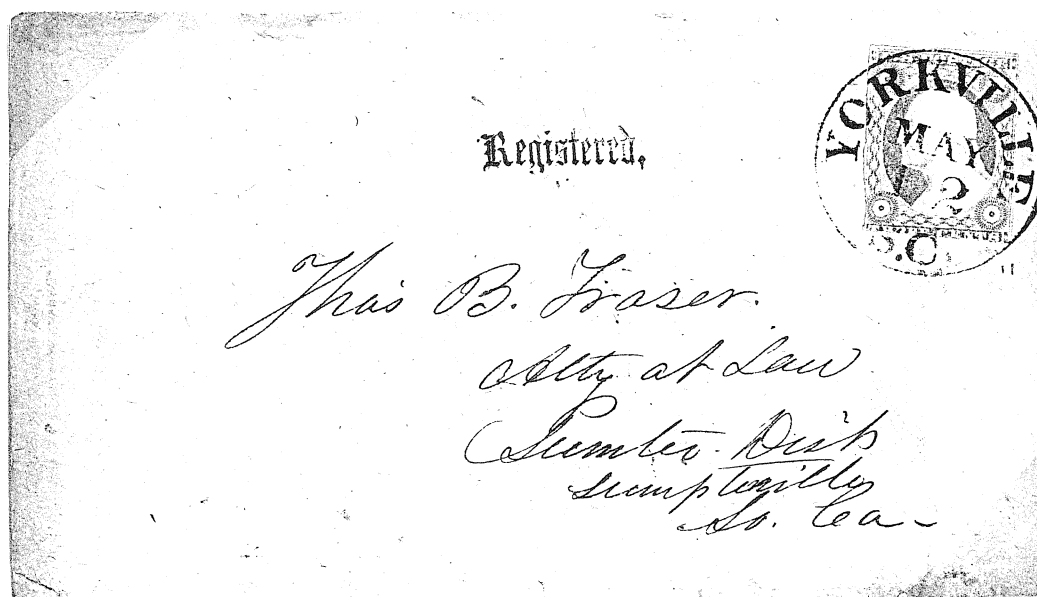


Three cent 1851 tied "WHEELING Va. FEB 2" (1855) in the months before official registration. The cover bears unusual "R" in circle and enclosed a financial note. Wheeling has another rather bizarre "R" marking too. Only known example.

## 7. Handstamped Registered Postmarks 1845 – 1870



Three cent 1851 tied "WILKESBARRE Pa. MAR 15" (1853) with "REGISTERED" during the unofficial registration period. Only a few examples known.



Yorkville, S.C. unusual REGISTERED handstamp in Old English Lettering. This cover bears a town marking of May 12 without known year date. Another example is on 6 cent entire. Neither cover bears numbering which is typical of the unofficial period.