

FREE FRANKS OF PRESIDENTS,
PRESIDENTIAL WIDOWS AND SIGNERS

CREIGHTON C. HART

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

4 NOVEMBER 1988

FREE FRANKS OF PRESIDENTS

Only the first 18 Presidents of the United States had the privilege of free franking their mail while in office. This privilege extended to mail received as well as mail sent. Once these 18 men received the franking right, it remained with them for the rest of their lives, or until July 1, 1873, when all franking was abolished.

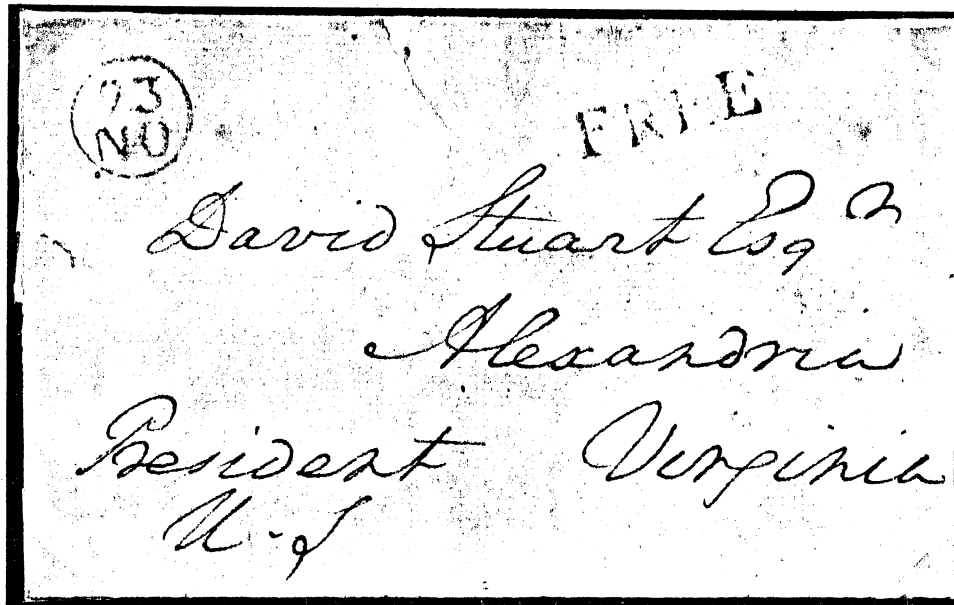
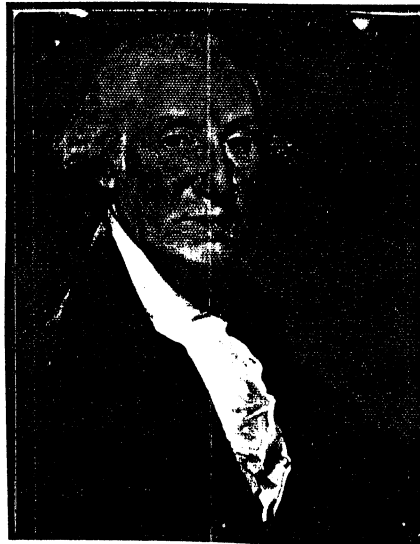
During these early years, the right to frank was also given to Congressmen and many government officials, as well as military officers. The franks of many of these 18 men are known before they became President as well as afterwards.

Gradually, after 1873, the franking privilege was restored to Congressmen and others, but not to the President while in office. Presidents in office are supposed to send mail free only in penalty envelopes rather than by frank. In 1968 Congress restored the franking privilege to all former Presidents and to all future Presidents when they leave office. The following list estimates the rarity of all franks of the first 18 Presidents. The middle column is Stern's relative rating from 1 to 18, with 1 being the most rare.

<u>President</u> <i>Washington</i>	<u>Prior to Presidency</u> <i>Common</i>	<u>During Presidency</u> <i>6</i>	<u>After Presidency</u> <i>Scarce</i>
J. Adams	Scarce	7	Common
Jefferson	Common	11	Common
Madison	Scarce	9	Common
Monroe	Scarce	5	Common
J. Q. Adams	Common	14	Common
Jackson	Scarce	12	Scarce
Van Buren	Common	17	Common
Harrison	Rare	1	—
Tyler	Scarce	15	Rare
Polk	Scarce	7	Very rare
Taylor	Scarce	3	—
Fillmore	Common	16	Scarce
Pierce	Common	18	Common
Buchanan	Common	11	Common
Lincoln	Very rare	4	—
Johnson	Scarce	2	Scarce
Grant	Rare	9	Abolished

GEORGE WASHINGTON

1789 - 1797

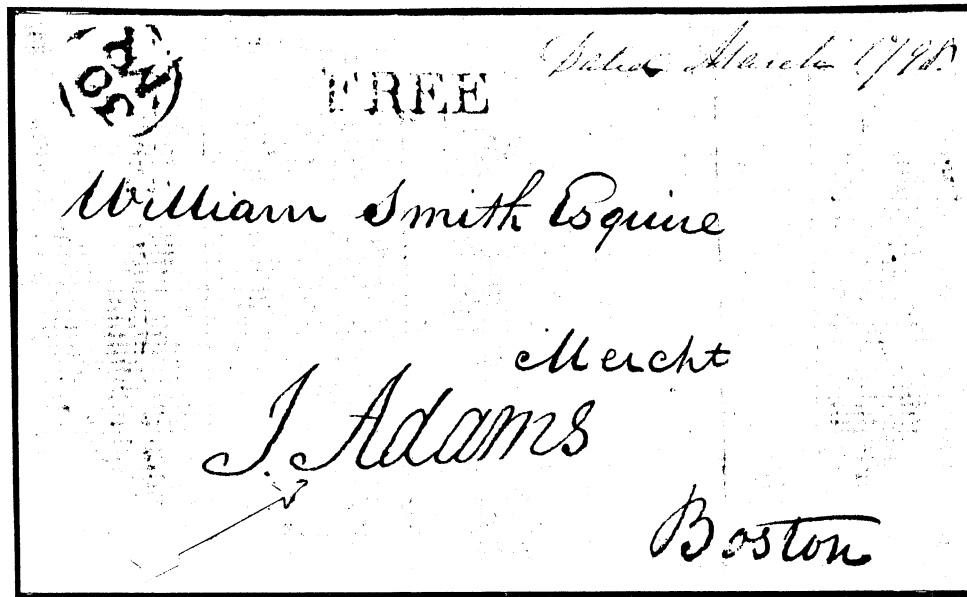


While President, Washington franked with his title only - not his name - the only President to do so.

As Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army, he franked with the more conventional "Geo Washington."

JOHN ADAMS

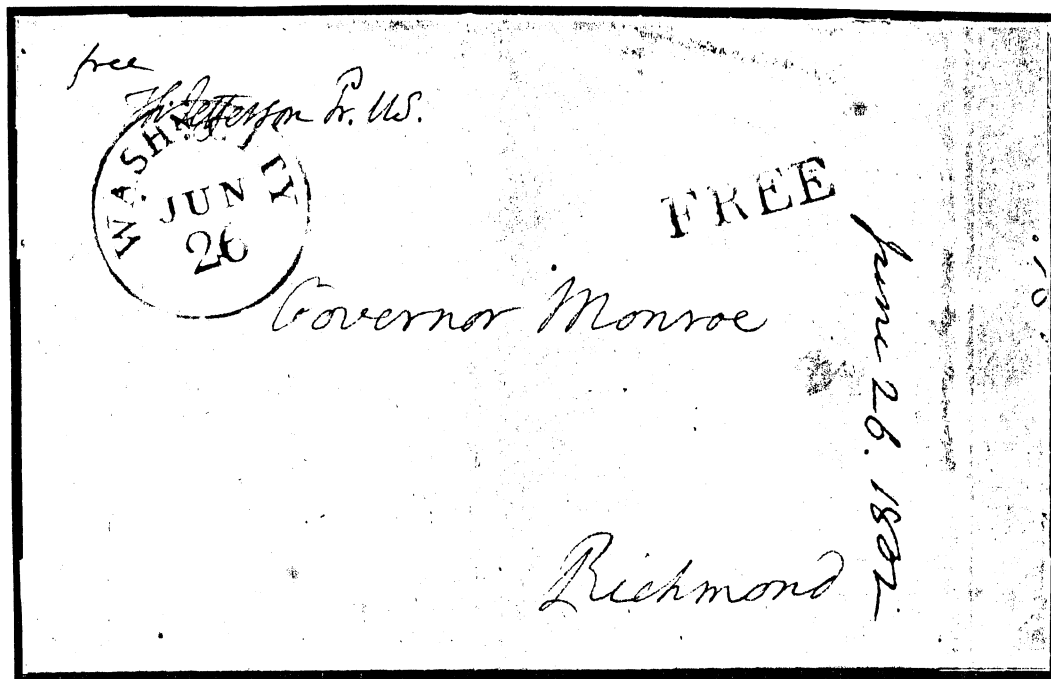
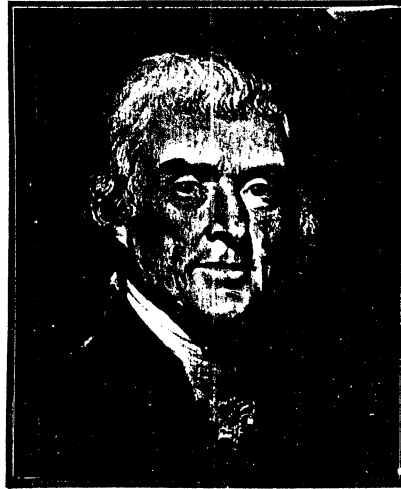
1797 - 1801



This cover, signed while Adams was President, is typical of the odd placement of his frank during his entire life. Adams had the franking privilege nearly all of his adult life, beginning as a member of the First Continental Congress.

THOMAS JEFFERSON

1801 - 1809

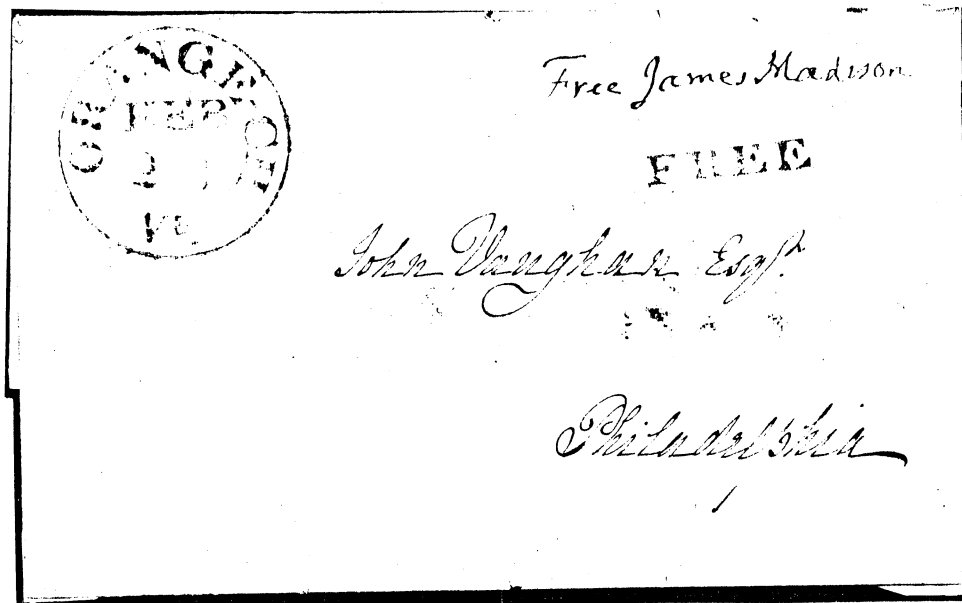
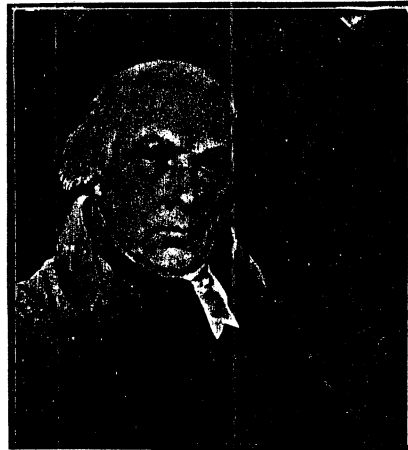


While President, Jefferson franked this letter with his name "The Jefferson," adding an abbreviation of his title, "Pr. U.S."

Jefferson had wide interests and carried on an extensive correspondence. As a result, his frank is fairly common.

JAMES MADISON

1809 - 1817

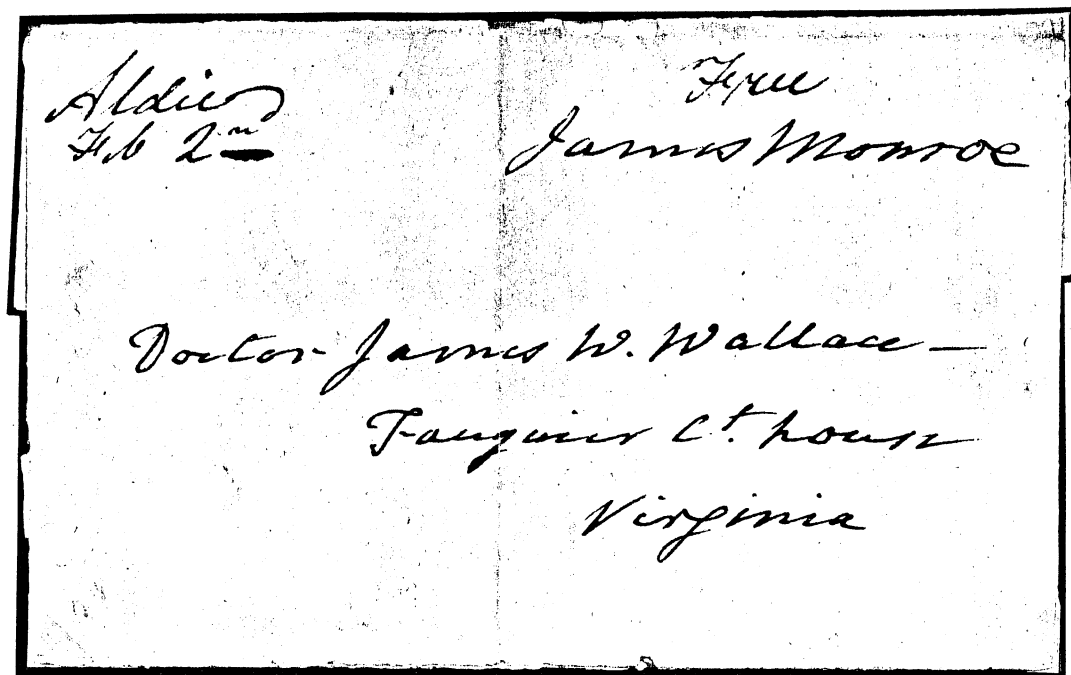


This letter was franked by Madison for his wife to save the postage from their home in Orange County, Virginia, to Philadelphia. Such franking on non-official mail was proper at this time. When this letter was mailed in 1830, Madison was an ex-President.

Madison was a leader at the Constitutional Convention and argued for its adoption. While he was President the Executive Mansion was burned by the British during the War of 1812.

JAMES MONROE

1817 - 1825

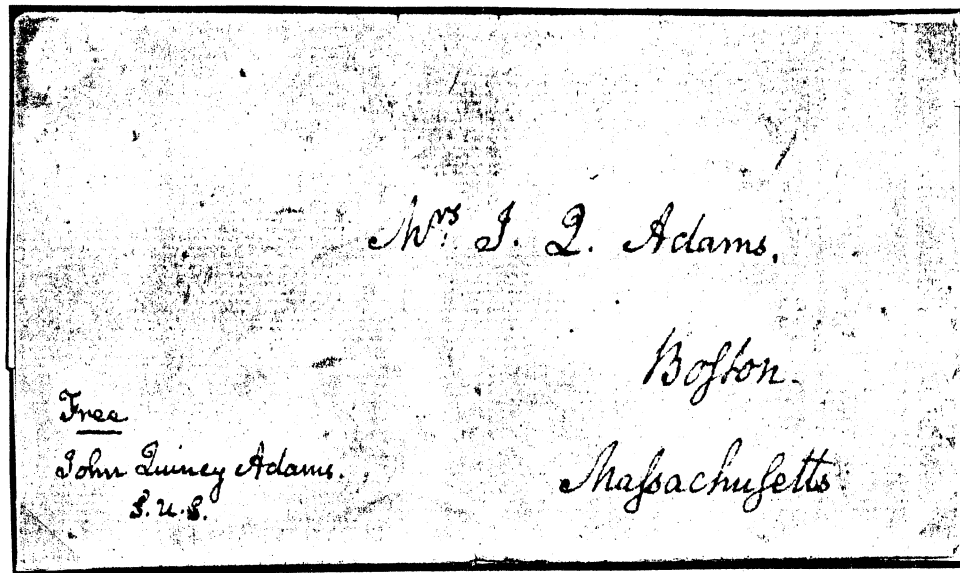


This cover, entirely in Monroe's hand, was franked in 1828, three years after leaving the Presidency.

Monroe's administration was known as the "Era of Good Feeling," during which control over the area comprising the Louisiana Purchase was consolidated and Florida was acquired from Spain.

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS

1825 - 1829



While a member of the Senate, Adams franked this letter, using an abbreviation of his title, "S. U. S." The letter, to his wife, was probably mailed in Washington, even though a postmark is missing.

ANDREW JACKSON

1829 - 1837



Free Andrew Jackson

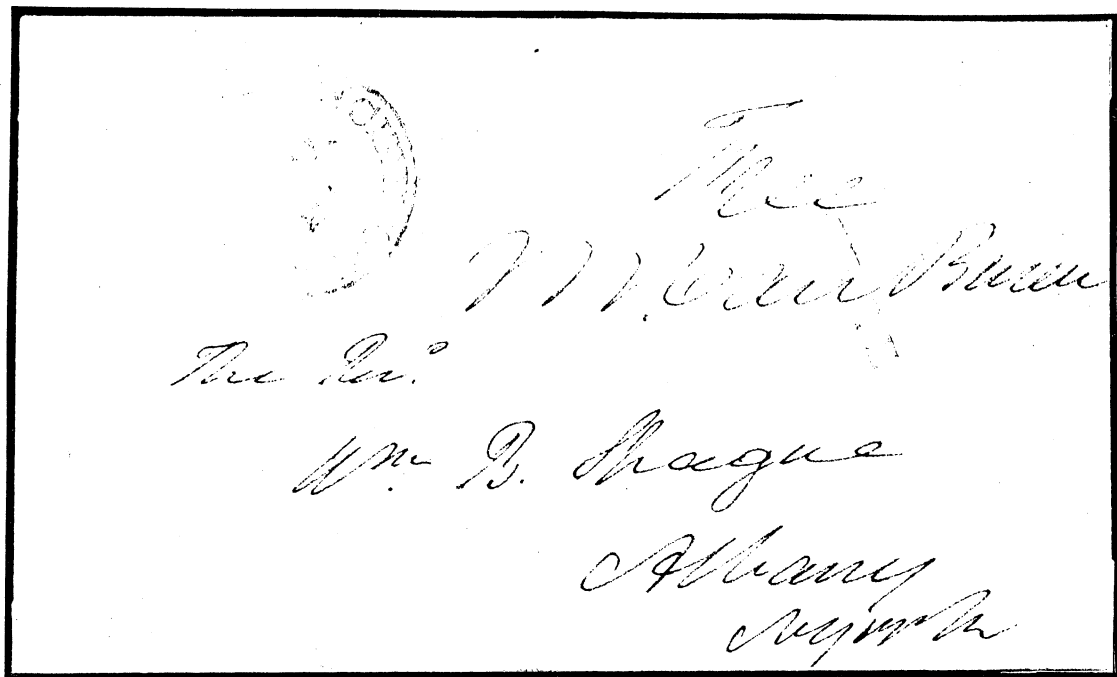
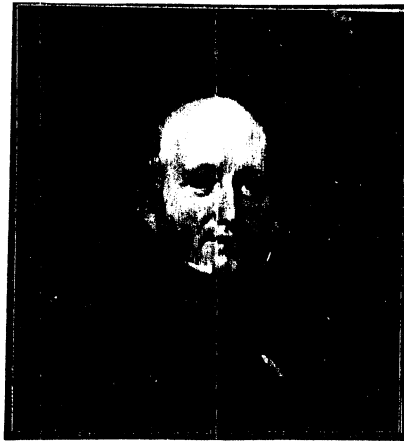
*Saml. H. Brad for Exp
Philadelphia*

This cover, having the frank "Free Andrew Jackson," probably was intended for the mail, but may have been carried by hand.

Jackson had great popular appeal and was important as a soldier. His fame rests largely on his victory at the Battle of New Orleans. During his lifetime he held many offices with franking privileges.

MARTIN VAN BUREN

1837 ~ 1841

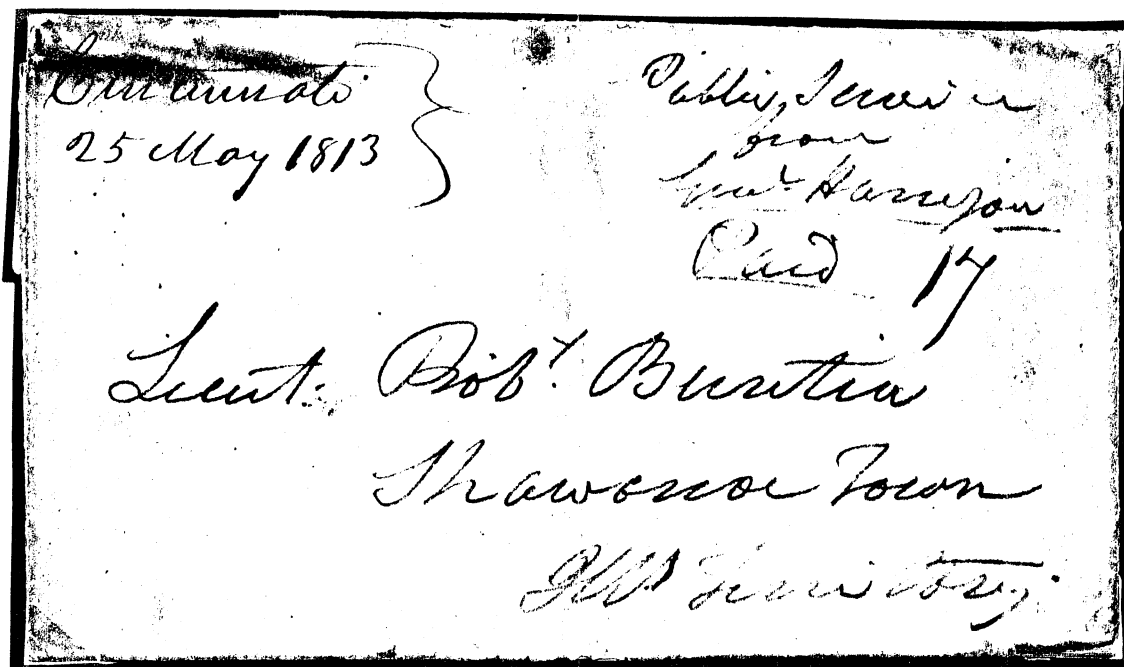
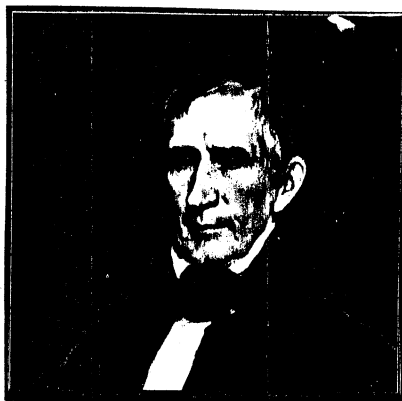


This cover was franked by Van Buren as President on March 21, 1839.

The panic of 1837 occurred while he was President and his actions in connection with the panic made him unpopular.

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON

March 4 to April 4, 1841

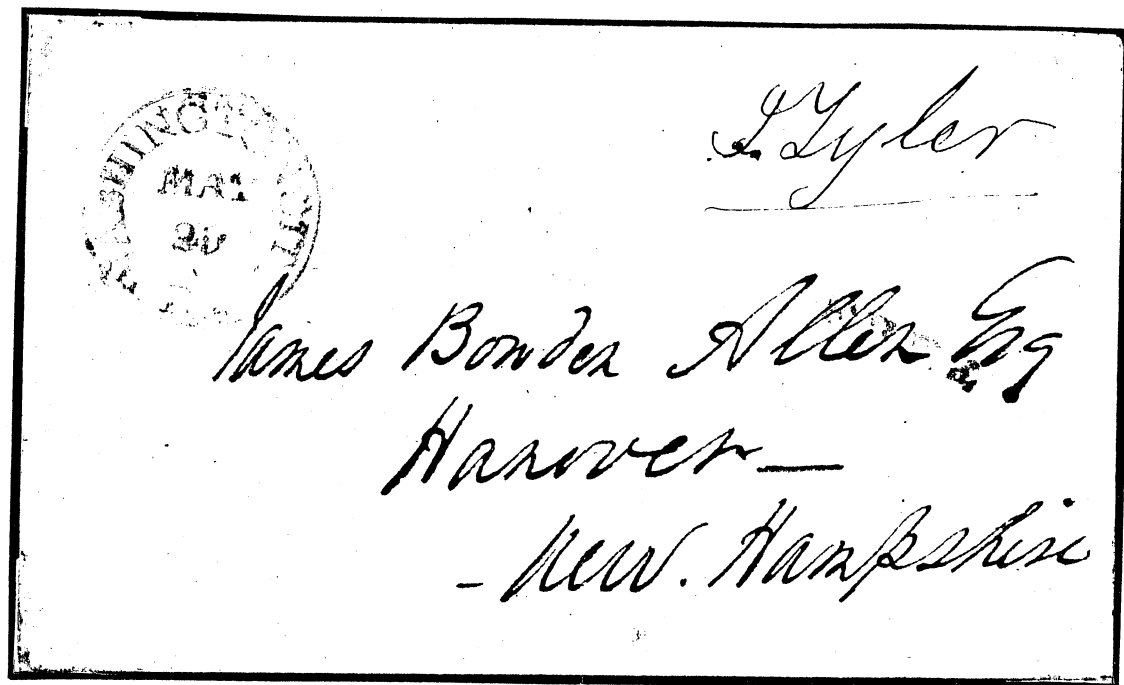


This cover was franked by General Harrison in 1813, while he was stationed near Cincinnati during the War of 1812.

Harrison served the shortest term of any President. He caught pneumonia during the inauguration ceremonies and died a month later.

JOHN TYLER

1841 - 1845

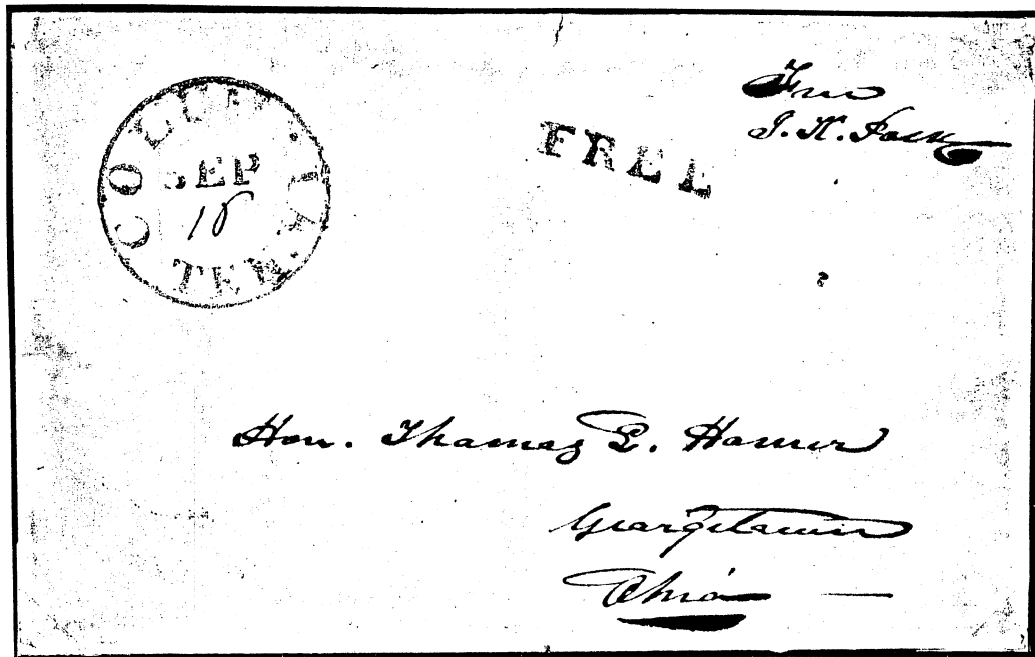
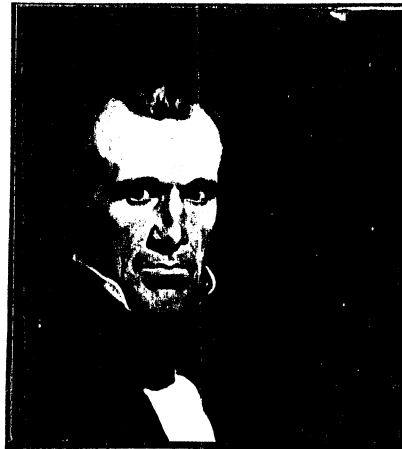


This letter, addressed to a senior at Dartmouth College, was franked in 1845, while Tyler was President.

After his term as President, Tyler returned to Virginia. In 1861 he was elected to the Confederate Provisional Congress.

JAMES K. POLK

1845 - 1849

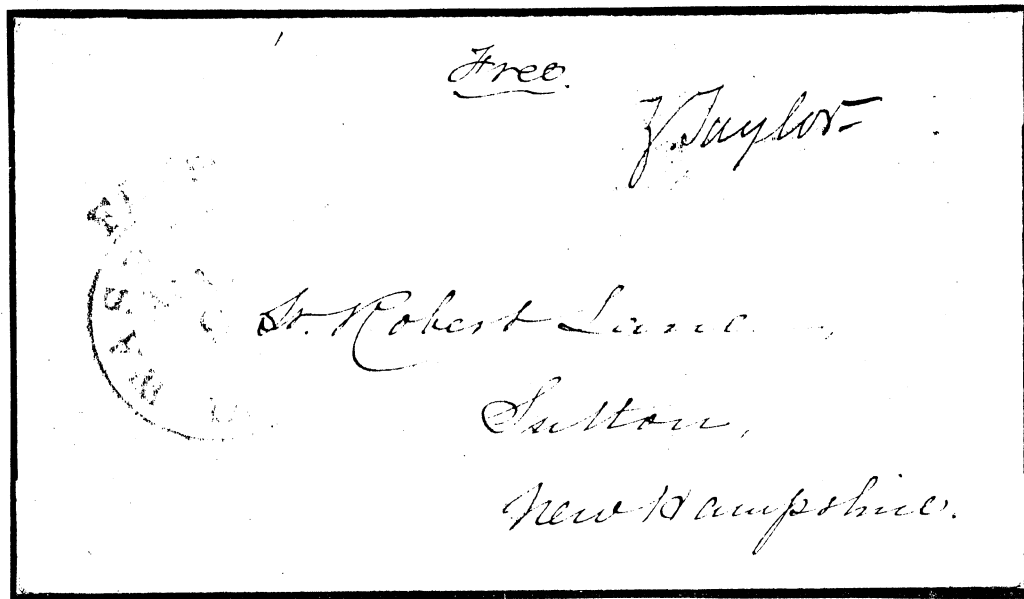
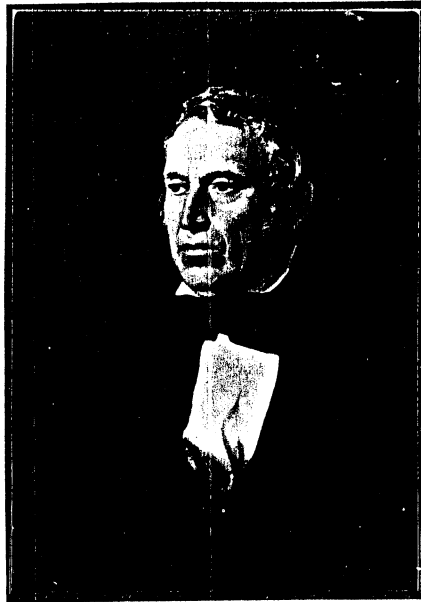


Postage stamps were first issued during Polk's administration, but he is best remembered as a territorial expansionist. During his term of office Texas, large parts of Mexico, and Oregon were acquired by the United States.

This cover was franked in 1821 while Polk was a Congressman.

ZACHARY TAYLOR

1849 - 1850

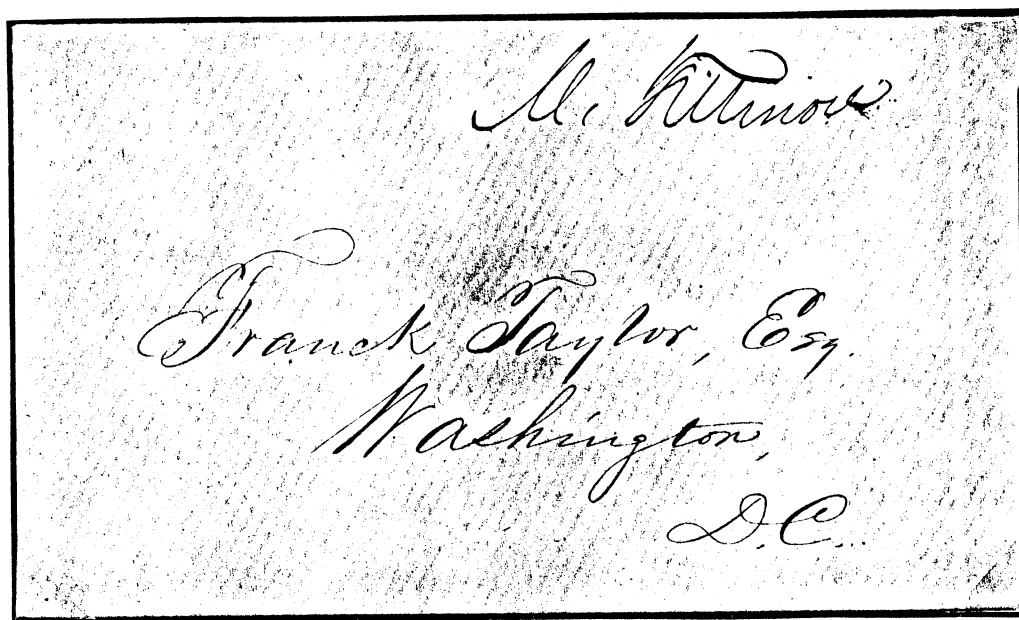


Taylor was in office a little over a year. This cover was franked in May, 1849, shortly after being inaugurated.

A distinguished military career coupled with a brilliant record in the Mexican War was capped by his election to the Presidency.

MILLARD FILLMORE

1850 - 1853

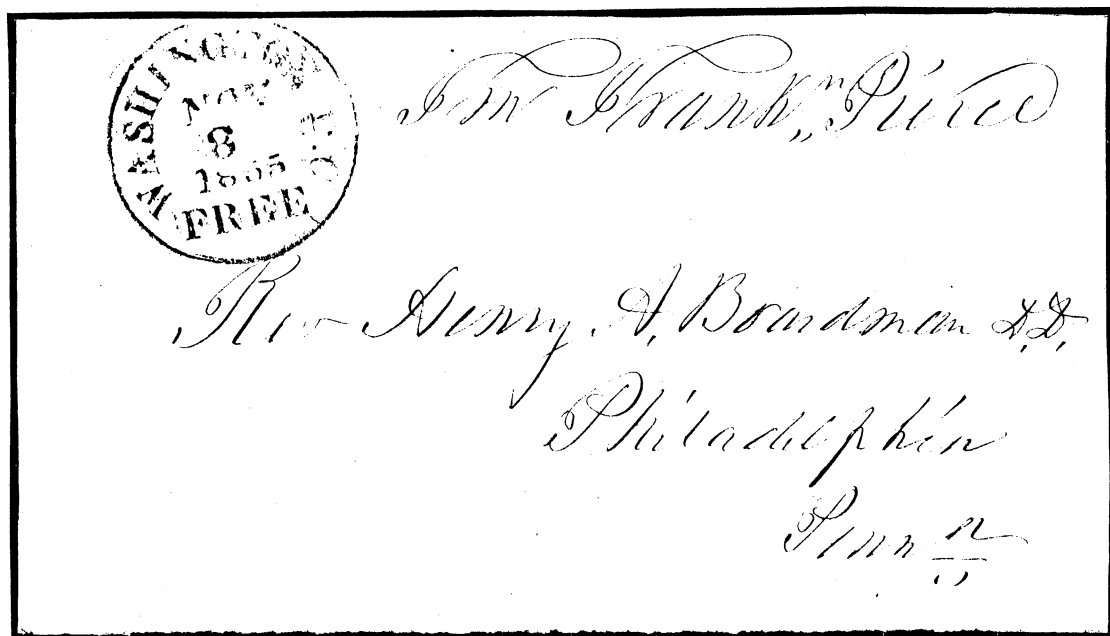
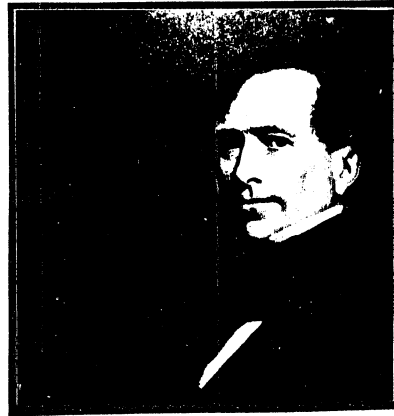


This cover was franked while Fillmore was President. The small Presidential seal is from the back of the envelope. The letter, addressed to Washington, D. C., either missed a postmark or was hand-delivered.

Fillmore was the third President to hold office while the first issue of United States postage stamps was current (1847-1851).

FRANKLIN PIERCE

1853 - 1857

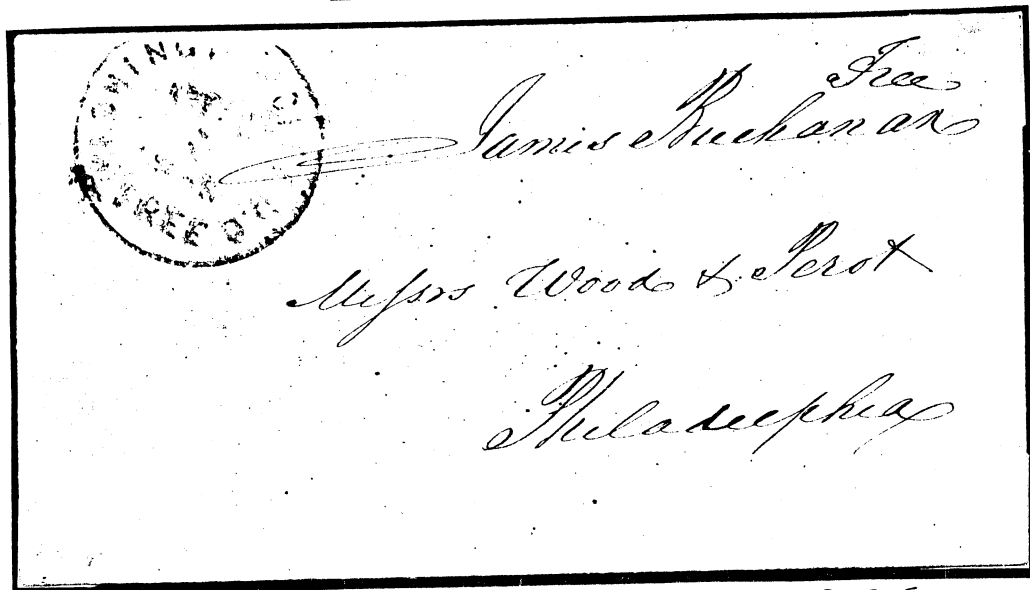


This letter was franked by Pierce during his Presidency.

Like Polk, Pierce was a territorial expansionist. Through his minister to Mexico, James Gadsen, the Gadsen Purchase was effected, adding to the southern boundaries of Arizona and New Mexico.

JAMES BUCHANAN

1857 - 1861

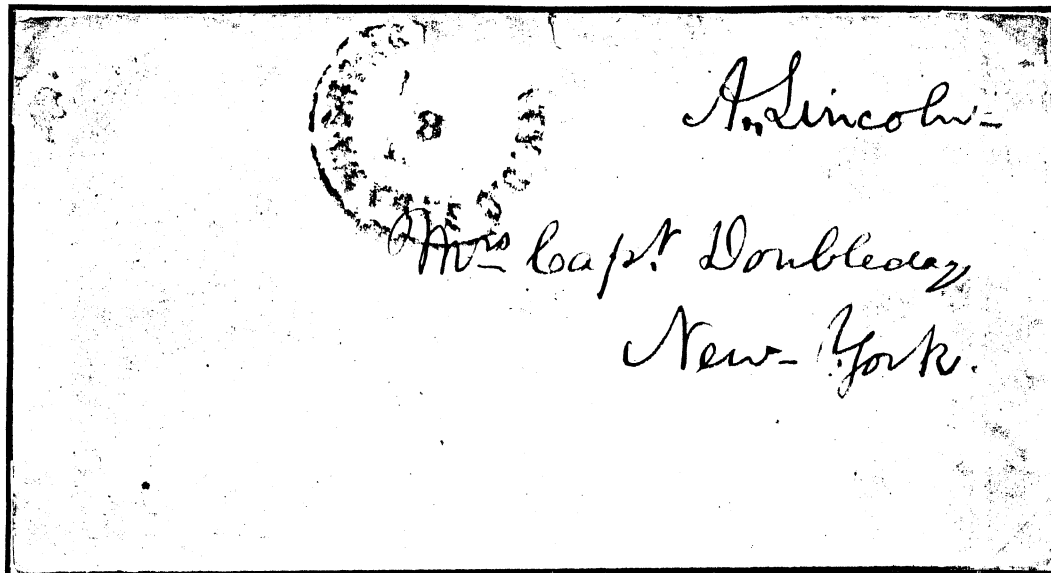
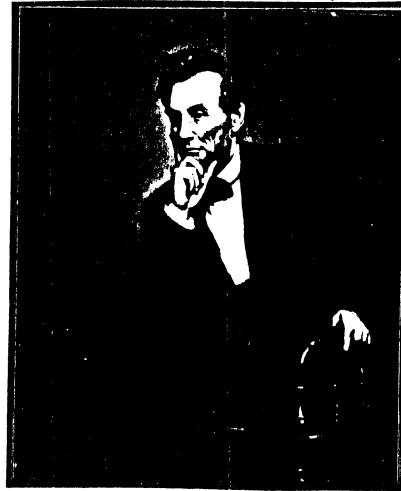


While President, Buchanan franked this letter, which has a small Presidential seal on the back.

In his message to Congress in December, 1860, Buchanan asserted there was nothing in the Constitution to prevent a state from leaving the Union.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

1861 - 1865

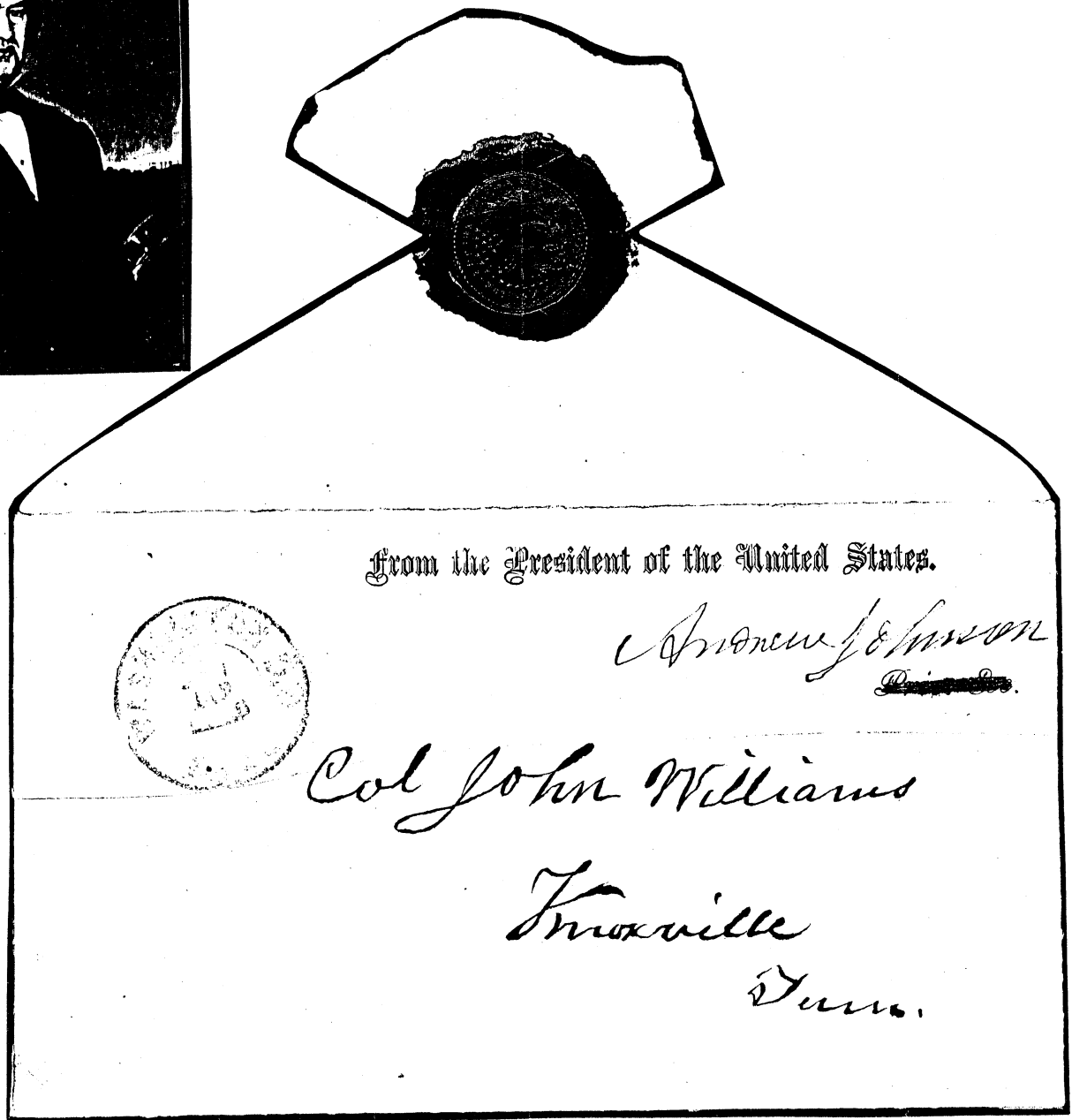
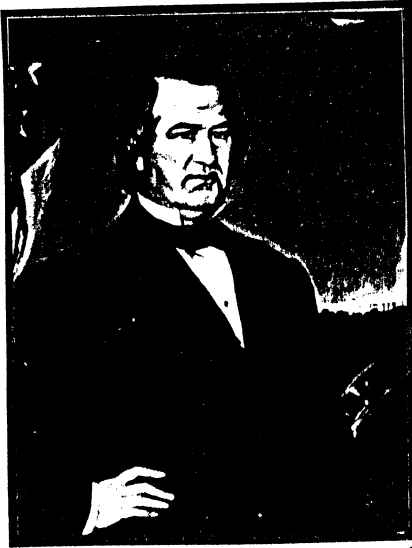


This cover is franked by Lincoln while President. It is addressed to the wife of Captain Doubleday, who at this time was at Fort Sumter. Lincoln requested that wives furnish him letters from their husbands in the besieged fortress.

Nearly all of the letters franked by Lincoln are as President. Letters franked while postmaster at New Salem and as Congressman are rare.

ANDREW JOHNSON

1865 - 1869



This cover with the clearly impressed Presidential seal was franked by Johnson in 1866. The lower portion of the cover has been restored.

Johnson favored a pencil to a pen, the only President to do so. As ex-President, he nearly always used a pencil and a cover so written in his hand and franked is also in this exhibit.

U L Y S S E S S . G R A N T

1869 - 1877



Executive Mansion.

U. S. Grant

Secretary.

*Gen. W. A. Hillyer
521 East 120th Street
New York City*

This Executive Mansion envelope, intended for franking by a secretary, was franked by Grant who then crossed out the printed word "Secretary."

Grant was the last President to officially have the right to frank. Later Presidents have franked:

- 1. While holding another public office.*
- 2. By favor while President.*
- 3. As former President, beginning with Eisenhower; but including previous living former Presidents Hoover and Truman.*

PRESIDENTIAL WIDOW FRANKS

Three times Congress has not given a President's widow the privilege of franking. These were the widows of Presidents John Tyler, Andrew Johnson and Millard Fillmore:

Julia G. Tyler Eliza M. Johnson Caroline C. Fillmore

Only one widow has ever relinquished the franking privilege. Jacqueline Kennedy did so when she became Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis.

Only one widow's frank is unknown, that of Margaret Taylor, widow of Zachary Taylor. This is her signature as it appears on an official document in New Orleans:



M. Taylor

Three franks not included in this exhibit are those of Julia Grant, Mary Lincoln and Florence Harding.

Special permission has been granted by the Smithsonian Institution to show the color prints of the First Ladies' gowns.

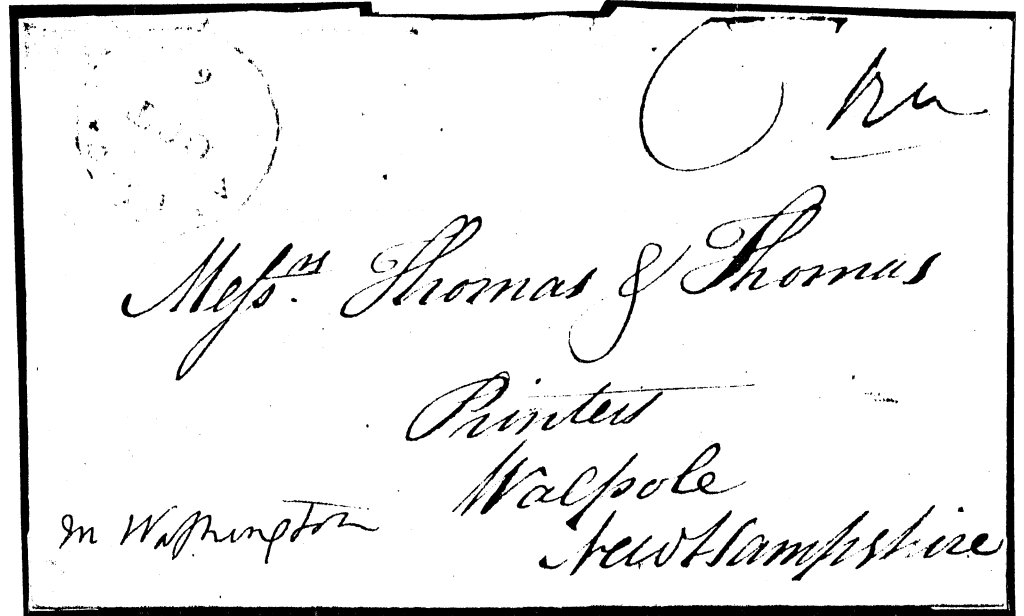
RELATIVE RARITY OF
WIDOW'S HOLOGRAPH FRANKS

<i>Martha Washington</i>	<i>2 known</i>
<i>Dolley P. Madison</i>	<i>scarce</i>
<i>Anna Harrison</i>	<i>scarce</i>
<i>Louisa C. Adams</i>	<i>3 known</i>
<i>Sarah Polk</i>	<i>2 known</i>
<i>Margaret Taylor</i>	<i>unknown</i>
<i>Mary Lincoln</i>	<i>scarce</i>
<i>Lucretia Garfield</i>	<i>common</i>
<i>Julia Grant</i>	<i>rare</i>
<i>Ida McKinley</i>	<i>scarce</i>
<i>Frances Cleveland</i>	<i>scarce</i>
<i>Frances Cleveland Preston</i>	<i>common</i>
<i>Mary Lord Hamison</i>	<i>common</i>
<i>Edith C. Roosevelt</i>	<i>common</i>
<i>Florence K. Harding</i>	<i>scarce</i>
<i>Edith B. Wilson</i>	<i>scarce</i>
<i>Helen Taft</i>	<i>scarce</i>
<i>Grace Coolidge</i>	<i>common</i>
<i>Eleanor Roosevelt</i>	<i>scarce</i>
<i>Bess Truman</i>	<i>living</i>
<i>Mamie Eisenhower</i>	<i>living</i>
<i>Jacqueline Kennedy</i>	<i>rare</i>
<i>Lady Bird Johnson</i>	<i>living</i>

The rubber stamped, printed or postage machine franks of recent widows are all common.

MARTHA WASHINGTON

April 3, 1800 - May 22, 1802

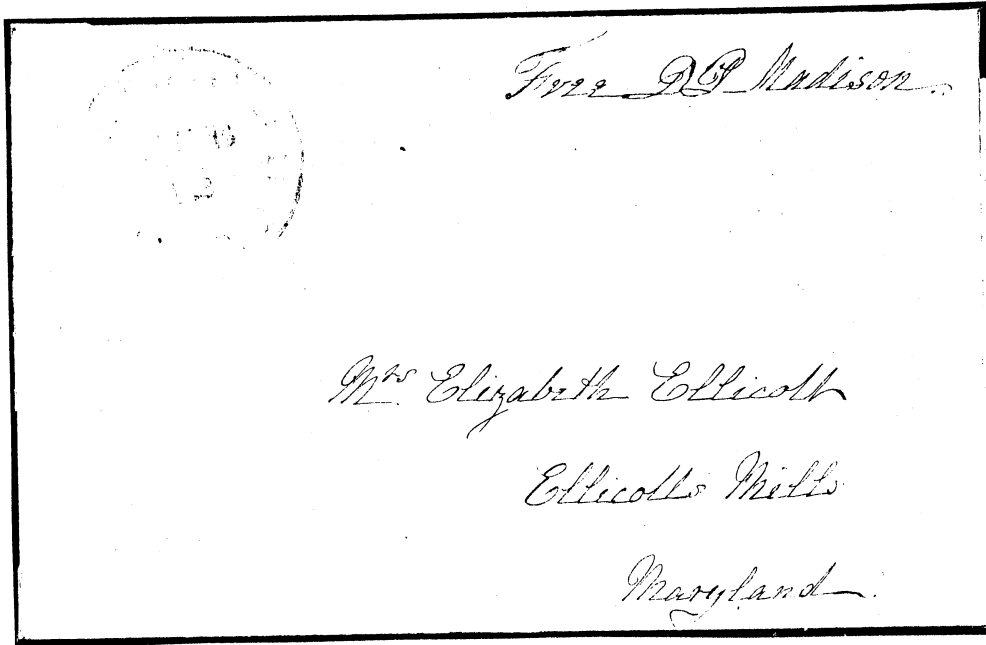


Martha Washington franked this letter on October 6, 1800. Her name appears "M. Washington" in the lower left corner. The postmark is Alexandria, Virginia.

At the time of her marriage to George Washington, Martha was a woman of great wealth and social position. During the Revolution she managed Mount Vernon while the General was away fighting. Even then, however, she spent each winter with her husband, including the winter at Valley Forge.

DOLLEY P. MADISON

July 2, 1836 - July 12, 1849



Dolley Madison franked and addressed this letter mailed from Washington.

After her husband's death, she returned to Washington from Montpelier, and spent much of the balance of her life there. In addition to saving the Declaration of Independence and other artifacts when the British burned Washington, she is remembered as the first to serve ice cream at the White House - in 1809.

LOUISA CATHERINE ADAMS

March 9, 1848 - May 15, 1852

To the Citizens of Næpøle.

Washington D. C. March 9th 1848.

With heartfelt cordials I have received



L. C. Adams



Edmund W. Clap. Esq.

Næpøle.

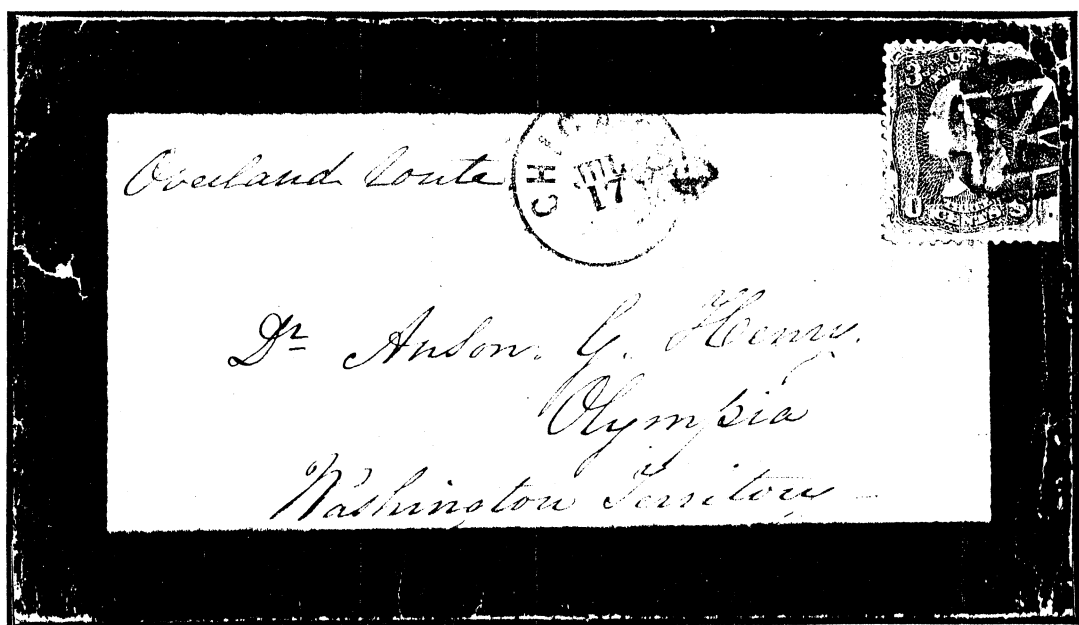
Denmark.

of my gratitude and deep sensibility, for
the share in it, you have been so
kind as to manifest in the present
instance -

Louisa Catherine Adams

The widow of John Quincy Adams wrote and franked this letter the first month
that she was granted that privilege.

MARY A. LINCOLN

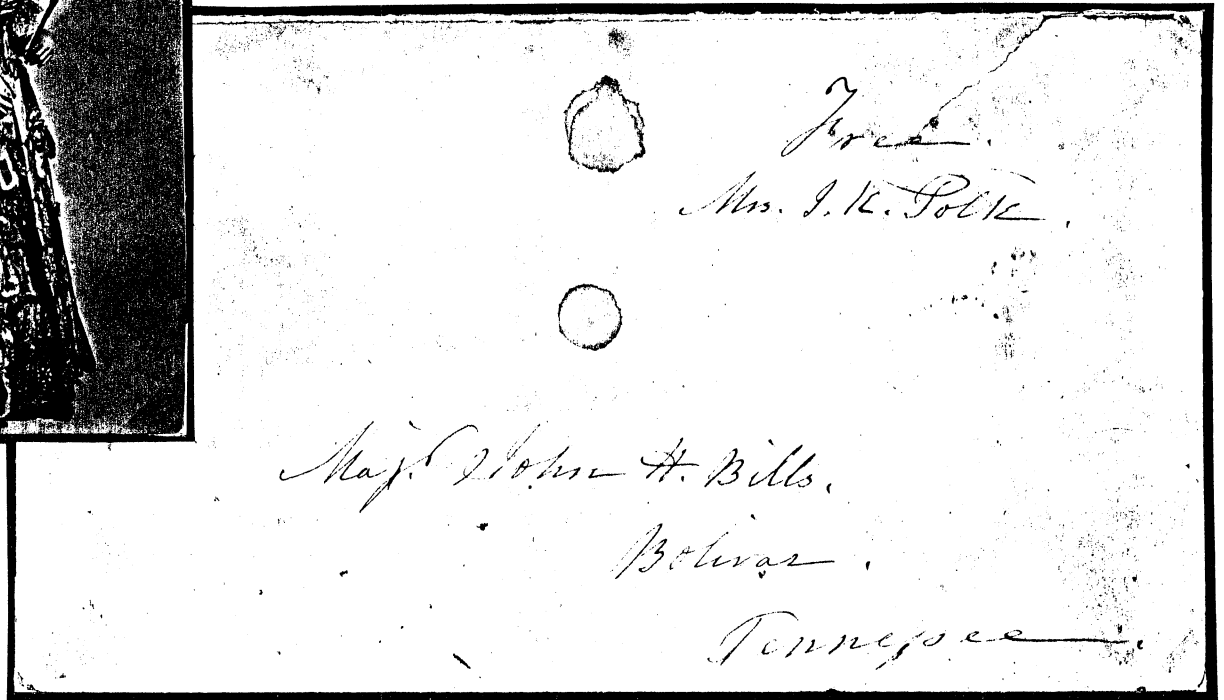


This stamped envelope, addressed by President Lincoln's widow, was mailed July 17, 1865, after Lincoln's death on April 15, 1865, and before she was granted the franking privilege on February 10, 1866.

The routing was via the Central Overland Route, which followed the old California - Oregon Trail.

SARAH POLK

January 10, 1850 - August 14, 1891



The widow of James K. Polk franked this letter "Mrs. J. K. Polk"; she is also known to have franked as "Sarah Polk."

Mrs. Polk enjoyed the franking privilege for 41 years, longer than anyone else, and yet her frank is among the scarcest known. She shunned Washington social life because of her strict upbringing and religious beliefs. Her widowhood was spent in Nashville.

LUCRETIA R. GARFIELD

December 20, 1881 ~ March 13, 1918



Princeton N.J.
June 2nd 1905

My Dear Mrs. Childs -
Are you safe
in New York? It
seemed such an
effort to get home
to the
that I



Lucretia R. Garfield
Mrs. George W. Childs
of The Manhattan
42nd Street
New York City
New York.

The widow of President James A. Garfield had the franking privilege 37 years, the second longest of any President's widow. Mrs. Garfield had been her husband's pupil at Hiram College when he taught there.

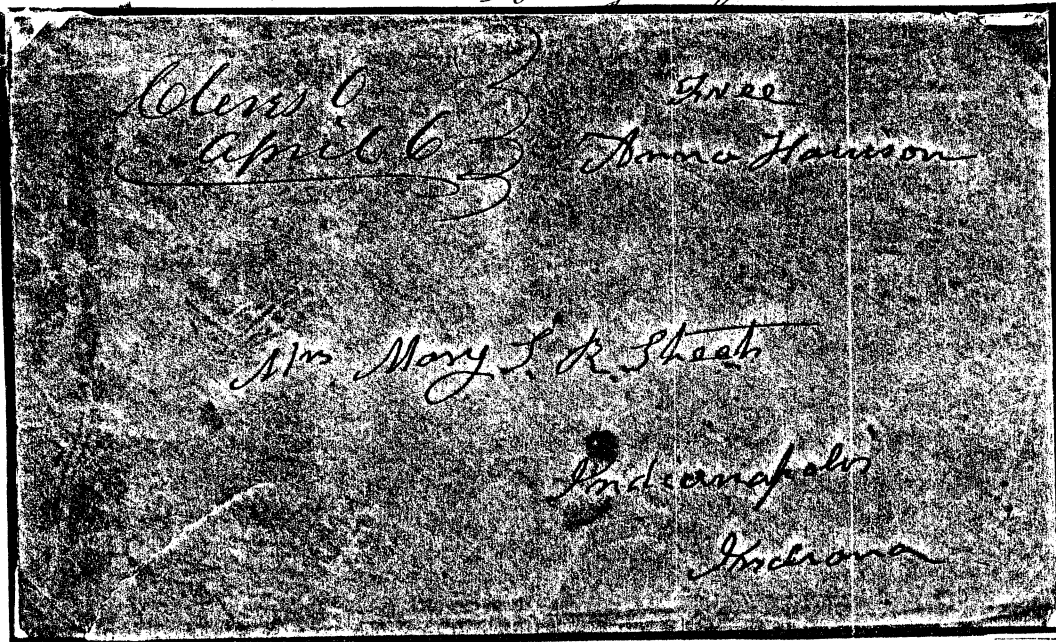
ANNA HARRISON

33
Northland August 2 44

Sir, I received your letter, while I was on a visit, to one of my children in the City of Cincinnati, or I would have attended to your request sooner, but hope it will not arrive too late, for the purpose you design it for.

Accept Sir, my best wishes for your health, & happiness,
your friend -

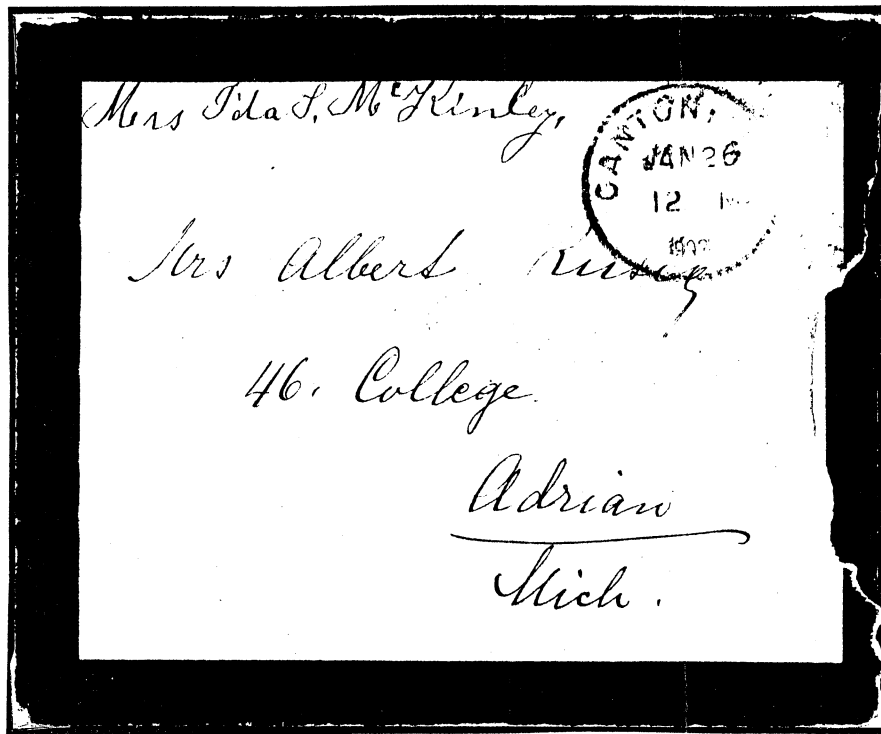
Anna Harrison
wife of a resident



Anna Harrison, widow of William Henry Harrison, was ill at the time of her husband's inauguration, and never lived at the White House. After his death she retired to her family home at Cleves, Ohio. She held the franking privilege from September 9, 1841, to February 25, 1864.

IDA S. MCKINLEY

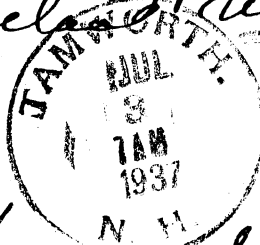
January 22, 1902 - May 26, 1907



Mrs. McKinley, widow of President William McKinley, was an invalid. It was an effort for her to even sign her name; consequently, her mail was usually stamped to avoid the bother or exertion of franking manually.

FRANCES F. CLEVELAND

Frances F. Cleveland Preston



*Richard E. Townsend
40 W. 40th St.
New York*



CHALFONTE
ATLANTIC CITY, N.J.



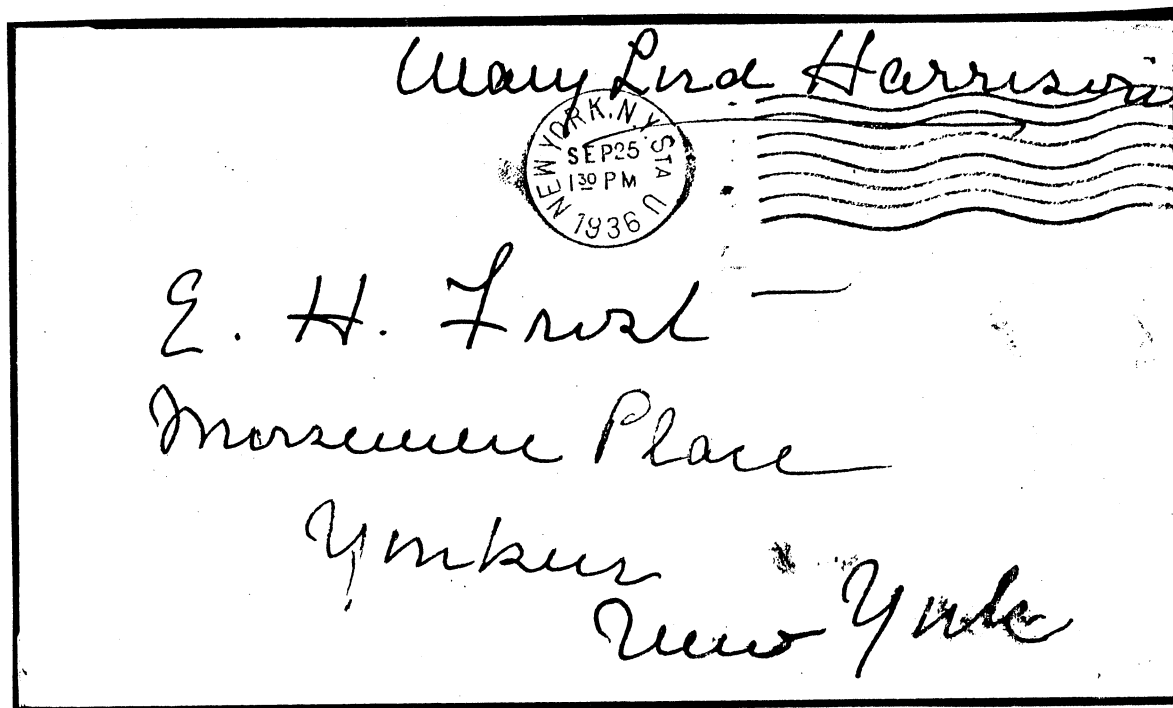
Frances F. Cleveland



*Master Samuel Browne.
of Mr. Thos. Browne
Chalfonte
Atlantic City
N.J.*

The widow of President Cleveland franked as Frances F. Cleveland for 5 years. She married Professor T. J. Preston in 1914, after which she franked as Frances F. Cleveland Preston for 32 years. Her marriage to Cleveland was the first of a President to take place in the White House.

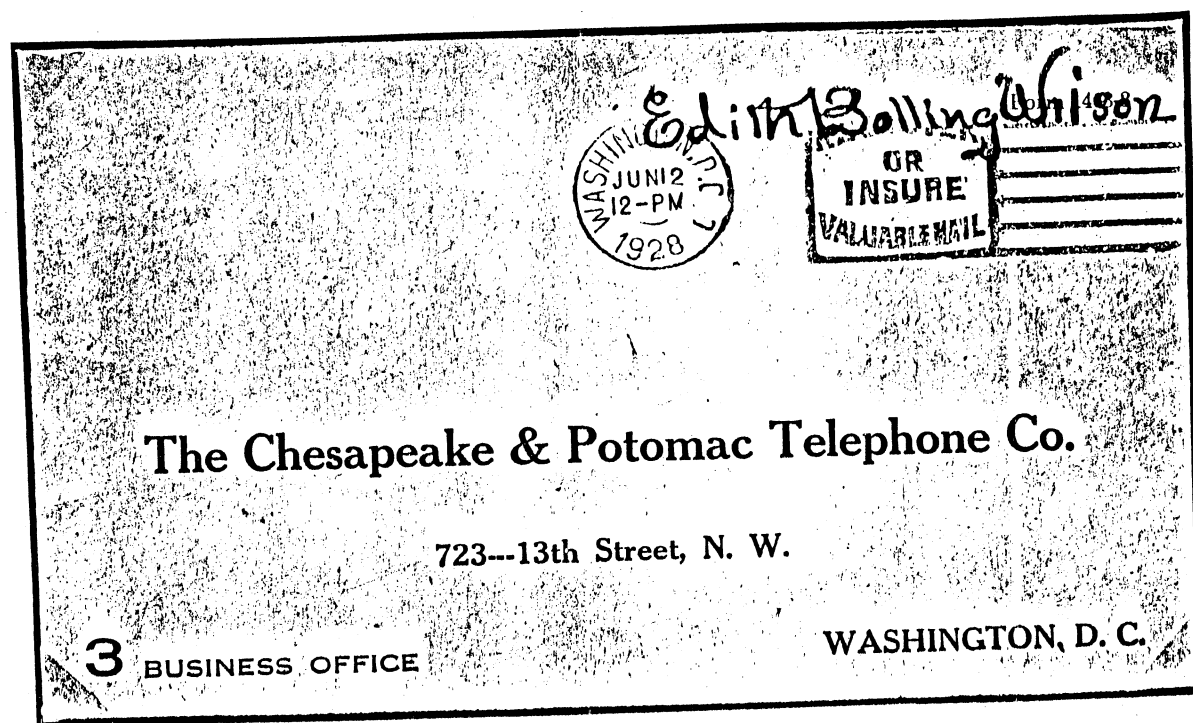
MARY LORD HARRISON



Mary Lord Harrison was the widow of President Benjamin Harrison. This letter is entirely in her hand. Mrs. Harrison never lived in the White House, since she did not marry Harrison until three years after he left the Presidency.

Her autograph frank is scarce, but her handstamped frank is common.

EDITH BOLLING WILSON

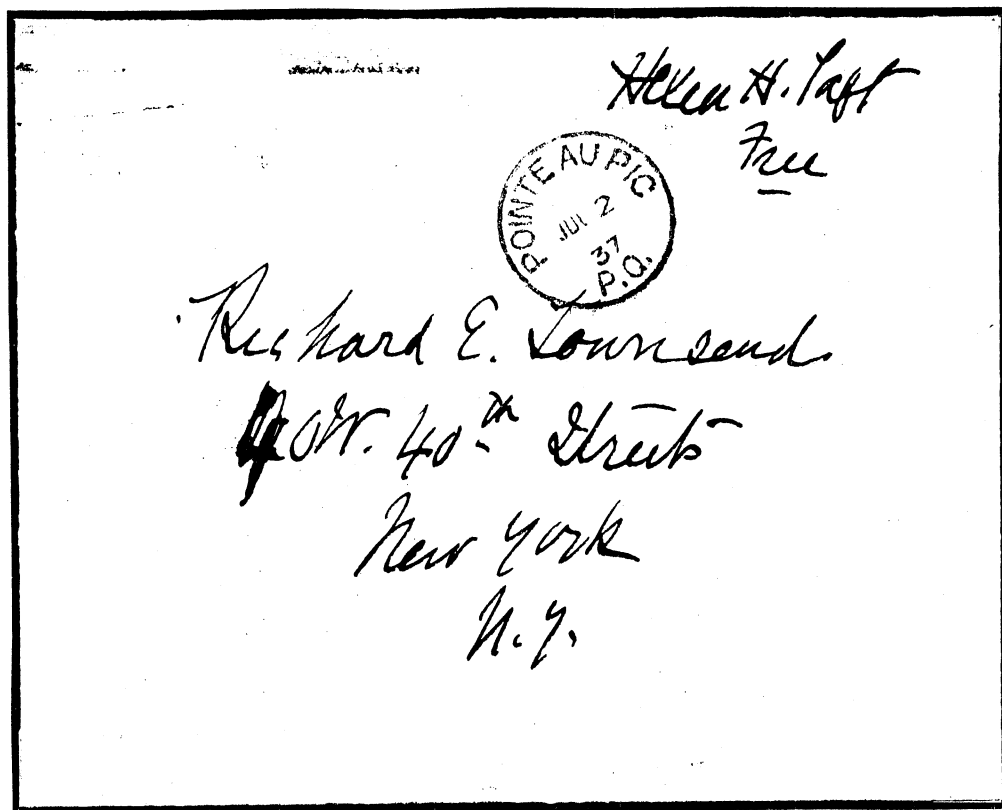


The widow of President Woodrow Wilson is the first widow to use a rubber stamp for free franking.

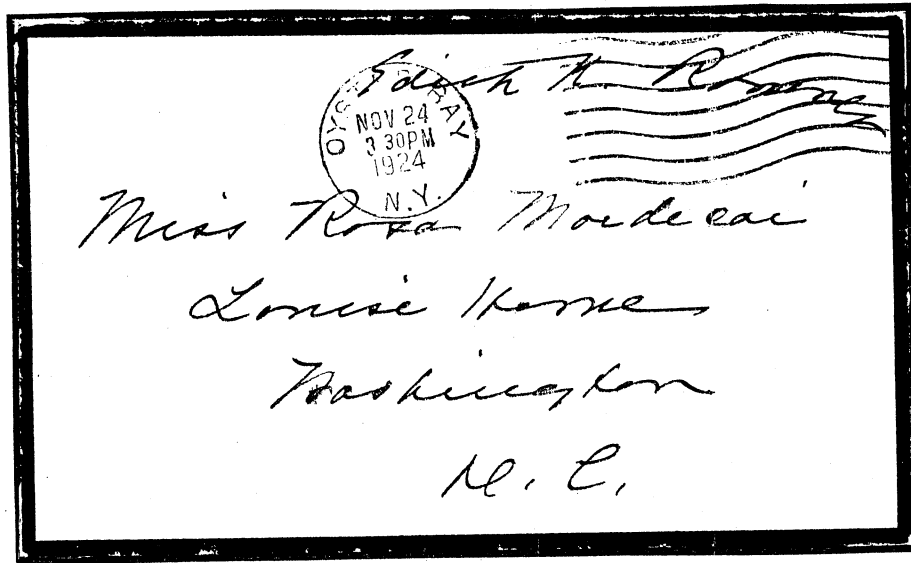
Mrs. Wilson is believed to have exercised the powers of the President during his serious illness.

HELEN H. TAFT

June 14, 1930 - May 22, 1943



Widow of William Howard Taft. This cover was mailed from Pointe Aupic, P.Q. (Province of Quebec), where the Tafts maintained a summer home. Mrs. Taft's franking privilege did not extend to Canada, even though the cover passed free of postage there, apparently as a matter of courtesy.



Widow of President Theodore Roosevelt. This cover bearing her autograph frank is postmarked Oyster Bay, New York, home of this branch of the Roosevelt family. There were five children, including "Princess Alice," of whom President Roosevelt said "I can run the country or manage Alice, but not both at the same time."

Mrs. Roosevelt's autographs are scarce, but in other forms her autographs are common.

ANNA ELEANOR ROOSEVELT



**ROOSEVELT
FOR PRESIDENT**

Franklin D. Roosevelt
Anna Eleanor Roosevelt
Anna Eleanor Roosevelt
FREE

C. C. Hart
2700 Verona Road
Kansas City 13, Missouri



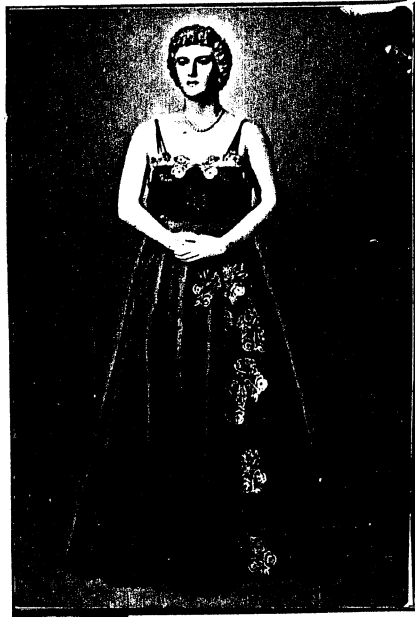
Human Rights Day — December 9, 1955



This illustrated cover of candidate Roosevelt was autographed by him in 1932. The unused envelope was later franked by his widow with both a rubber stamp and her holograph frank.

Hyde Park, where the letter was mailed, is the home of the Roosevelt family.

BESS W. TRUMAN



Bess W. Truman

President Truman's widow franked this cover as a personal favor for a collector of historic franks and manuscripts.

Mrs. Truman still lives in Independence, Missouri, where this envelope was postmarked on July 4, 1974.

MAMIE DOUD EISENHOWER



Mamie Doud Eisenhower

Air Mail

Mr. Robert L. D. Davidson
915 Court Street
Fulton, Missouri 65251

Widow of Dwight D. Eisenhower.

This free franked cover is addressed to Mr. Robert L. D. Davidson, who conceived the project that resulted in the Winston Churchill Memorial at Fulton, Missouri.

JACQUELINE KENNEDY



Jacqueline Kennedy
NEW YORK
JUN 24
1965
WA

Robert L. D. Davidson, President
Westminster College
Fulton, Missouri

Widow of John F. Kennedy. This cover is to the President of Westminster College and contains a letter relative to the Winston Churchill Memorial located there.

Mrs. Kennedy's franks before she married Aristotle Onassis are rare.

CLAUDIA "LADY BIRD" JOHNSON

*L.B.J. Ranch
Stonewall, Texas 78671*

Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson



President Robert L. D. Davidson
Westminster College
Fulton, Missouri

AIR MAIL



*President Lyndon B. Johnson's widow still lives on the L. B. J. Ranch
near Stonewall, Texas, where this letter was mailed.*

P R E - P R E S I D E N T I A L F R A N K S

Some Presidents since U. S. Grant have had the franking privilege while holding other elective offices or for other reasons, such as serving in the military establishment.

The five future Presidents represented in this category are:

Benjamin Harrison

U. S. Senate

James A. Garfield

House of Representatives

Theodore Roosevelt

Vice - President

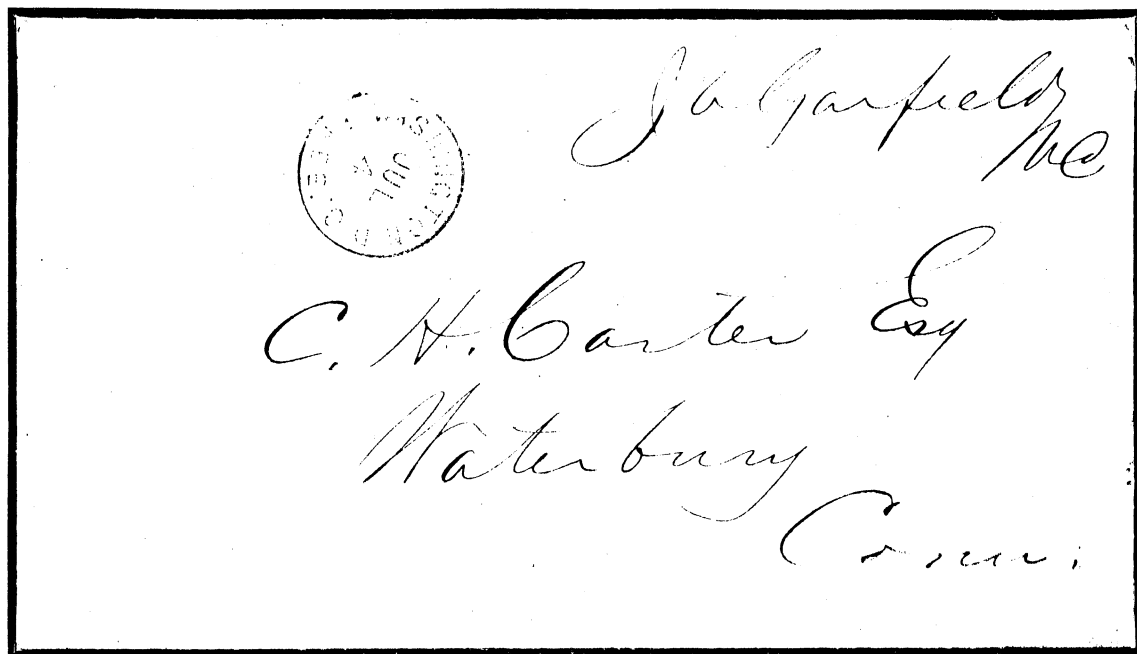
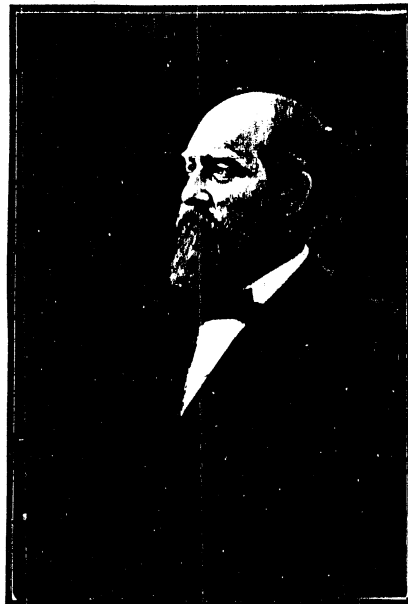
Dwight D. Eisenhower

General, U.S. Army

Richard M. Nixon

Vice - President

JAMES A. GARFIELD
AS
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Garfield served 18 years in the House of Representatives, being the Republican leader there. He was the compromise presidential candidate of his party when the convention could agree on neither James G. Blaine nor a third term for U.S. Grant. Garfield was assassinated in the Washington railway station during his first year as President.

BENJAMIN HARRISON

AS

U. S. SENATOR



United States Senate.

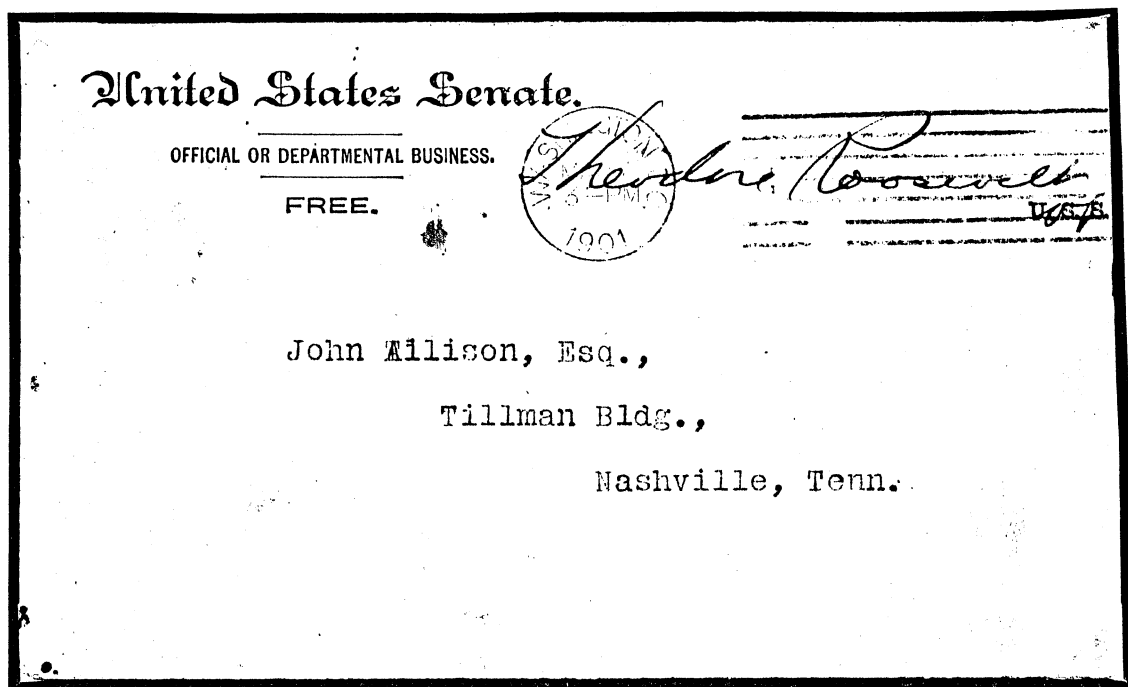
*Benjamin
Harrison*

*Dr W. W. Garrison
Arlington Hotel*

*Attn: Mr. Garrison }
Get answer*

This autographed cover was probably carried by hand from the U.S. Senate Building to the Arlington Hotel in Washington. Harrison was a great grandson of a signer of the Declaration of Independence and a grandson of William Henry Harrison, ninth President of the United States.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT
AS
VICE PRESIDENT



Roosevelt had been Governor of New York. To prevent his re-election to that office, the Republican Party booted him upstairs to the Vice-Presidency under McKinley. This envelope was franked on March 7, 1901, three days after his inauguration as Vice-President.

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

AS

GENERAL



General Dwight D. Eisenhower
APO 757, New York



Dwight D. Eisenhower

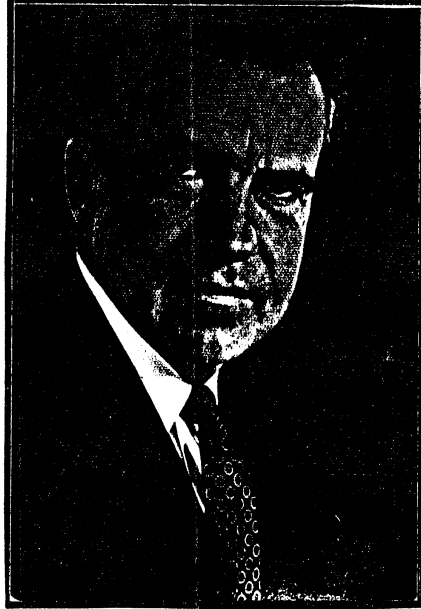
Mrs. Lillian M. Stone
68-63 Continental Avenue
Forest Hills, L.I.
New York.

General Eisenhower franked this cover on November 9, 1945, after victory in Europe and Asia. He was President for 8 years, but is best remembered as the Commander-in-Chief of allied forces in Europe.

RICHARD M. NIXON

AS

VICE PRESIDENT



OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON

Free

A handwritten signature of Richard M. Nixon in dark ink. The signature is written over a circular postmark that is partially visible. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Mr. Creighton C. Hart
922 Walnut Street
Kansas City 6, Missouri

Nixon is primarily noted for (1) renewing U.S.-Chinese friendship, (2) the Watergate scandal, and (3) being the first President to resign.

FRANKS BY FAVOR
WHILE PRESIDENT

Presidents since Grant have not specifically been given the right to frank, but the privilege seems to be implied by their use of penalty envelopes.

A very few such covers are known and in this exhibit are four by:

Calvin Coolidge

Herbert Hoover

Franklin D. Roosevelt

John F. Kennedy

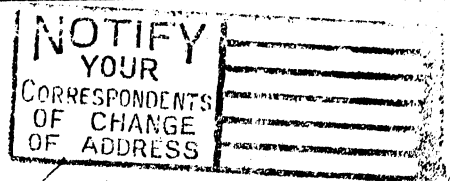
In addition, franks while President are known from (and there may be others) James A. Garfield and Chester A. Arthur.

Arthur was Garfield's Vice President and succeeded to the Presidency after Garfield was assassinated.

HERBERT HOOVER



THE WHITE HOUSE
OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE \$300

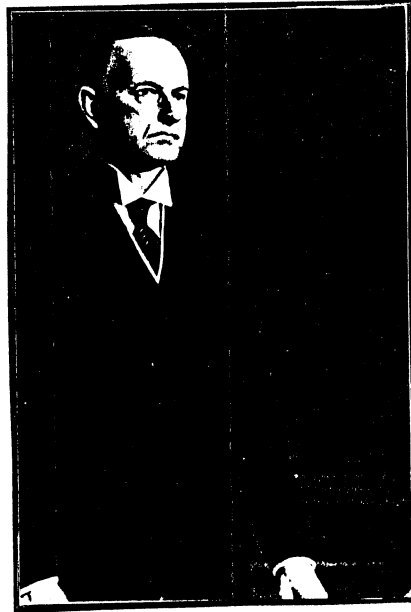


Herbert Hoover

Mr. Edward Stern,
87 Nassau Street,
New York City, N. Y.

President Hoover autographed this envelope as a favor to Edward Stern, a prominent collector of Presidential franks and letters.

CALVIN COOLIDGE



THE WHITE HOUSE
OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE \$300

Calvin Coolidge



Mr. Edward Stern,
87 Nassau Street,
New York City, N. Y.

President Coolidge signed this penalty envelope where an autograph frank would normally appear. Coolidge had the franking privilege as Vice President, but no examples of such a frank are known. He succeeded to the office of President upon the death of Warren G. Harding.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT



THE WHITE HOUSE

Franklin Roosevelt



Mr. William T. Marshall
Hotel Willard
Washington, D.C.

This White House envelope was franked during Roosevelt's first term. There are more letters franked by Roosevelt than any other President.

FRANKS OF EX-PRESIDENTS

Former Presidents, living in 1872, continued to have the franking privilege granted to them while President.

Because the franking privilege had become so widely granted and was so grossly abused, all franking was abolished by law in 1873, during the Grant administration. The right of former Presidents to frank was not restored until 1969, during the Nixon administration. Former Presidents living at that time were:

Herbert Hoover

Harry S. Truman

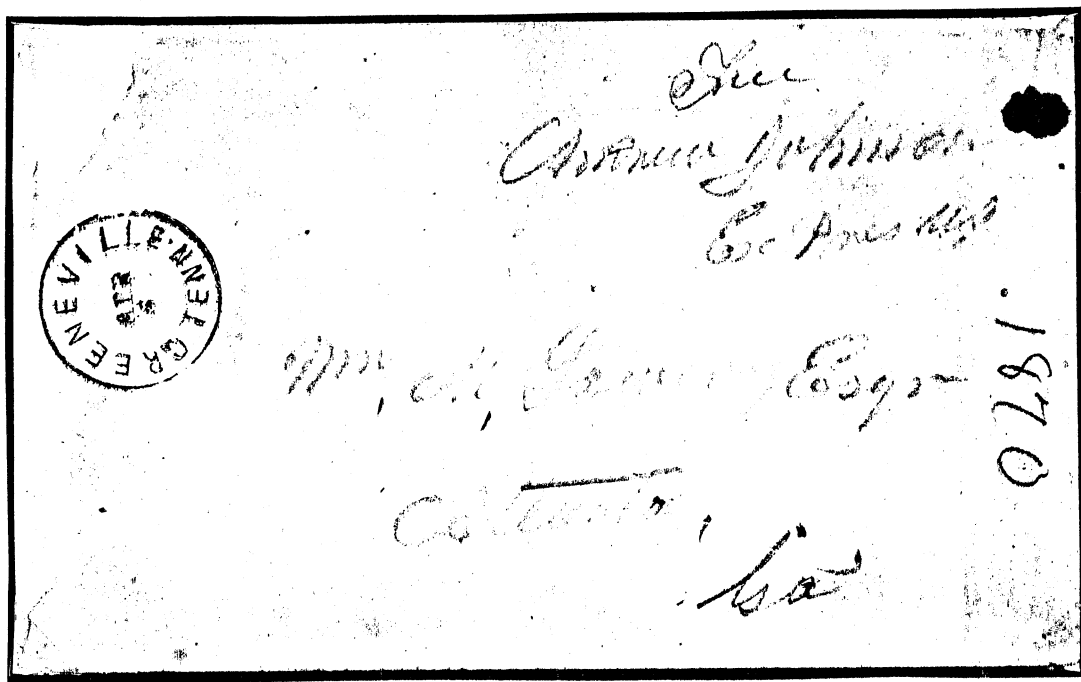
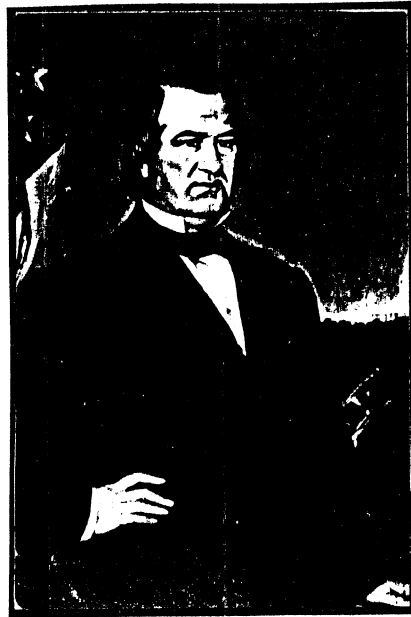
Dwight D. Eisenhower

Two Presidents have since become eligible:

Lyndon B. Johnson

Richard M. Nixon

ANDREW JOHNSON

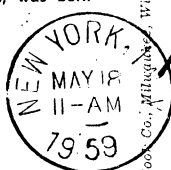


As a former President, Johnson had the franking privilege from 1869 until 1873, two years before his death. Johnson favored a pencil to a pen, as in this example: "Free/Andrew Johnson/Ex Pres U.S."

HERBERT HOOVER



The two-room cottage in West Branch, Iowa, where Herbert Hoover, 30th President of the United States, was born August 10, 1874.



A Genuine Ekachrome Reproduction, The L. L. Cook Co., Milwaukee, Wis.



Address

WILLIAM S. WARFORD
2341 Locust Street
Quincy, Illinois

Copyright 1955, The L. L. Cook Co.
15498

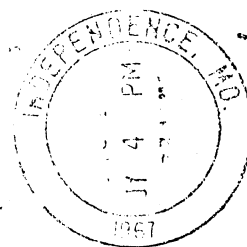
Hoover freely used the Pitney Bowles machine for his mail and was reluctant to write his name for franking. This postal card is one of the few examples known.

HARRY S. TRUMAN



HARRY S. TRUMAN
INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI

Harry Truman



This unaddressed envelope contained the following letter from Truman to the exhibitor. Notice his knowledge of Greek and his "Give them Hell" remarks about the American Bar Association.

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

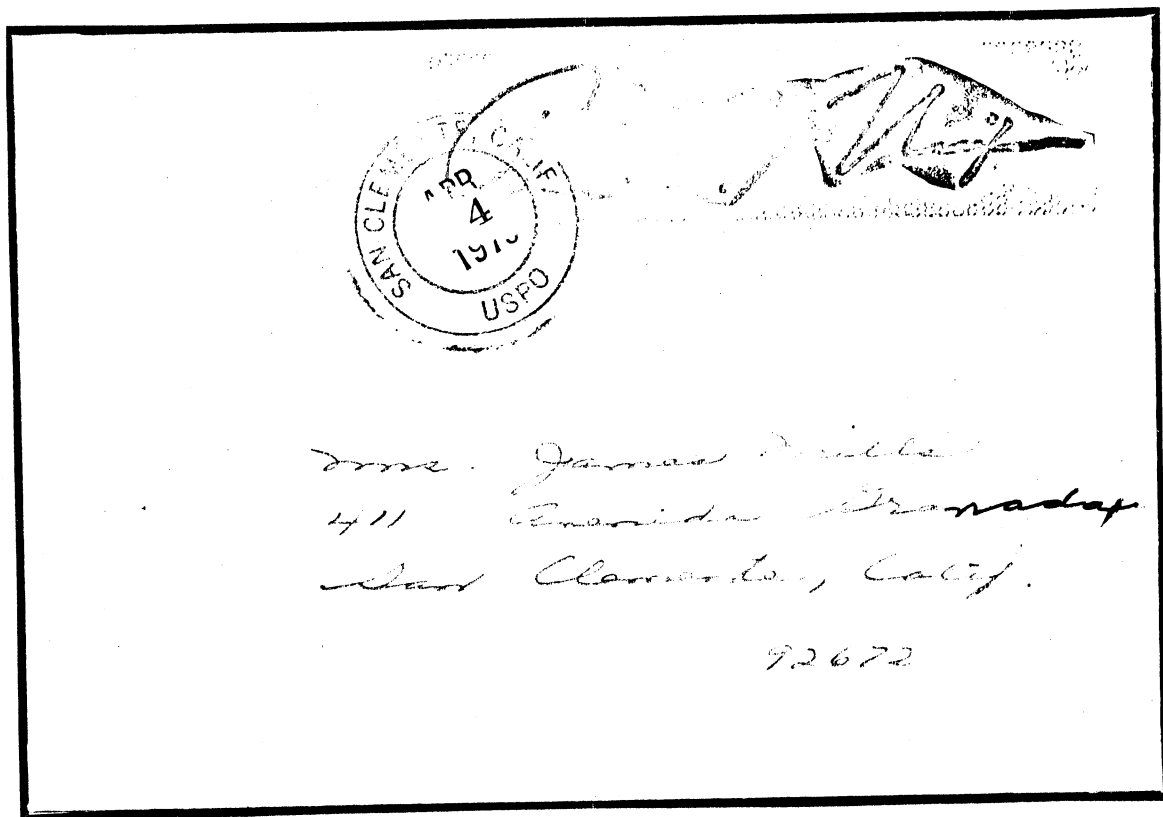


AIR MAIL POSTAGE DUE 5 CENTS

Mr. Creighton C. Hart
922 Walnut Street
Kansas City 6, Missouri

This envelope was franked with a Pitney Bowles machine for former President Eisenhower. This frank incorporates the 5 stars of his General of the Armies rank. It was not recognized by the postoffice & rated 5¢ due. When the "Air Mail" was noticed, the due marking was changed to 8¢.

RICHARD M. NIXON



This crude handstamp was used in April, 1975, eight months after he resigned as President in August, 1974.

LYNDON B. JOHNSON



LYNDON B. JOHNSON
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701

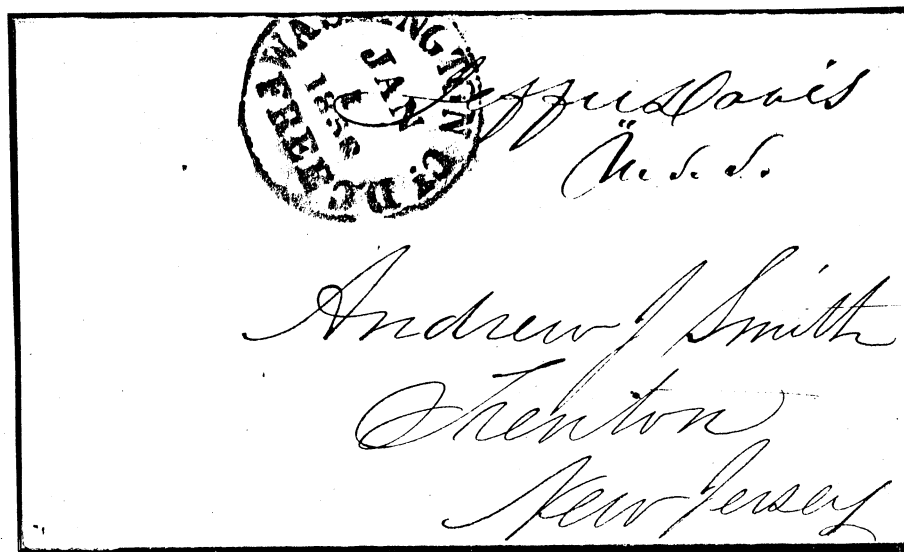
Lyndon B. Johnson

Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. D. Davidson
Westminster College
Fulton, Missouri

AIR MAIL

This embossed frank is exhibited to show the type of frank commonly used by former Presidents. Dated during Johnson's lifetime.

JEFFERSON DAVIS
PRESIDENT
CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA



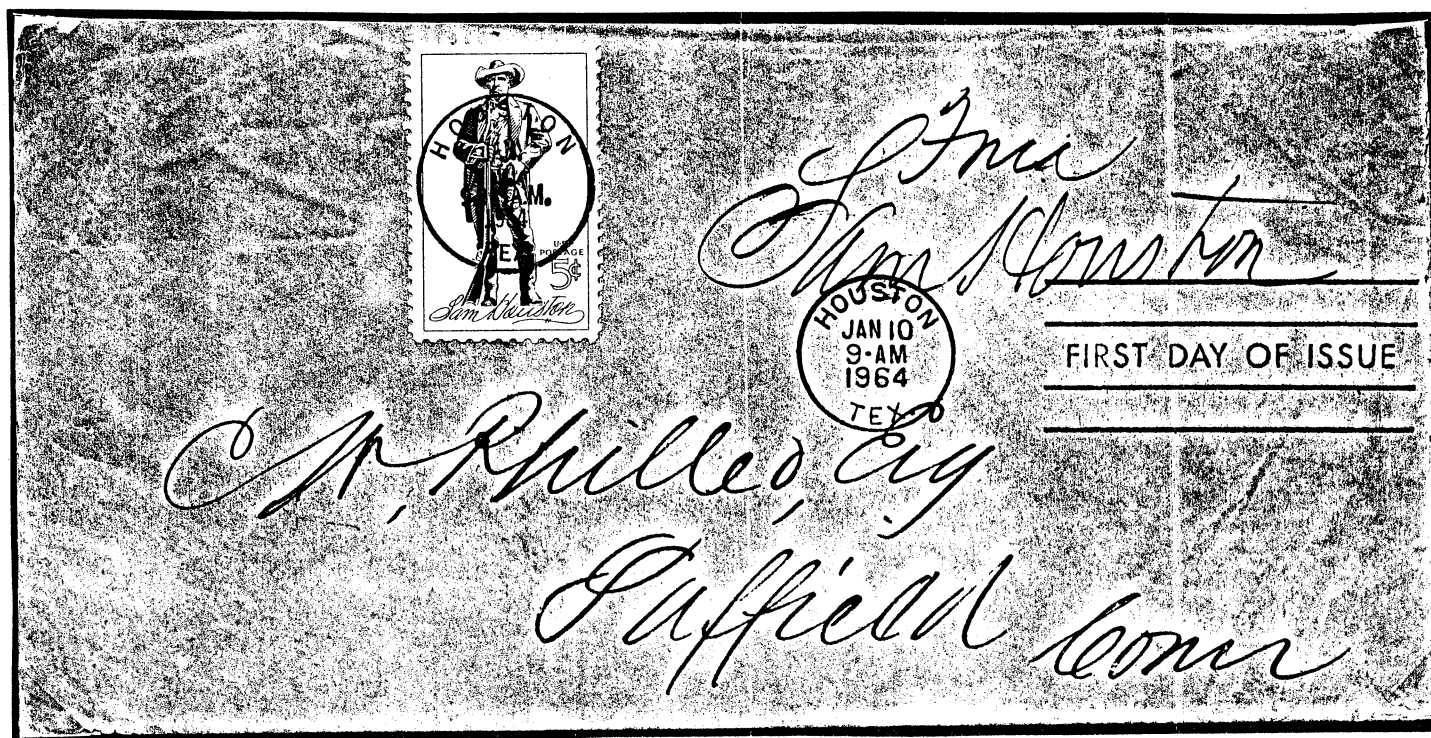
This envelope was franked by Jefferson Davis in January, 1852, while he was a Senator from Mississippi. In 1853 he was Secretary of War under President Franklin Pierce.

Davis was elected President of the Confederacy in 1861 after several Southern states had seceded. The franking privilege was never given to Davis as President of the Confederate States.

P R E S I D E N T
R E P U B L I C O F T E X A S

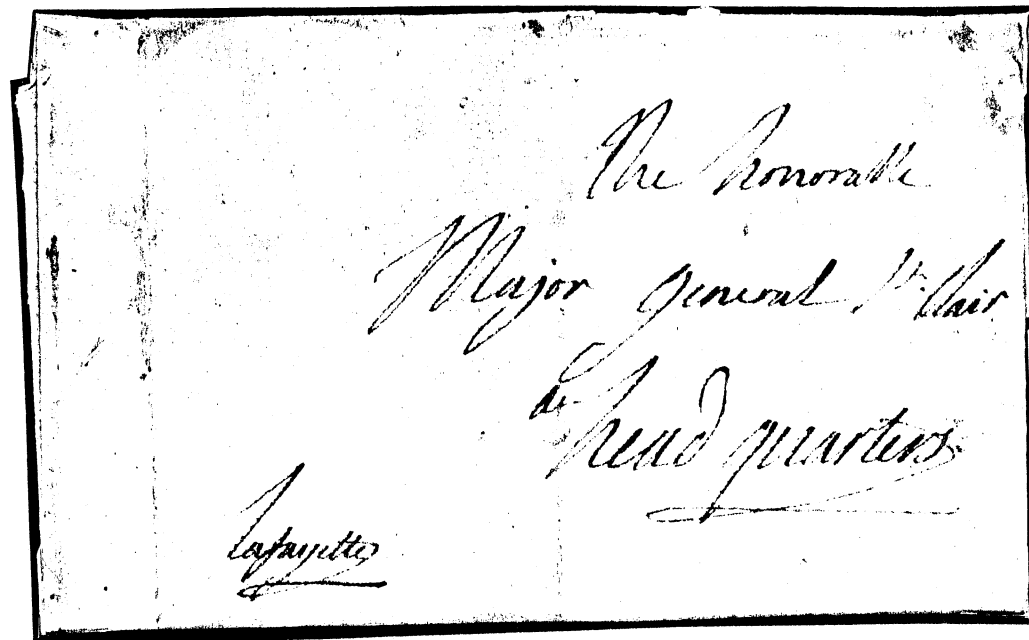


Sam Houston was President of the Republic of Texas from 1836 to 1845. He was the first U.S. Senator from Texas and this envelope was franked while he held that office.



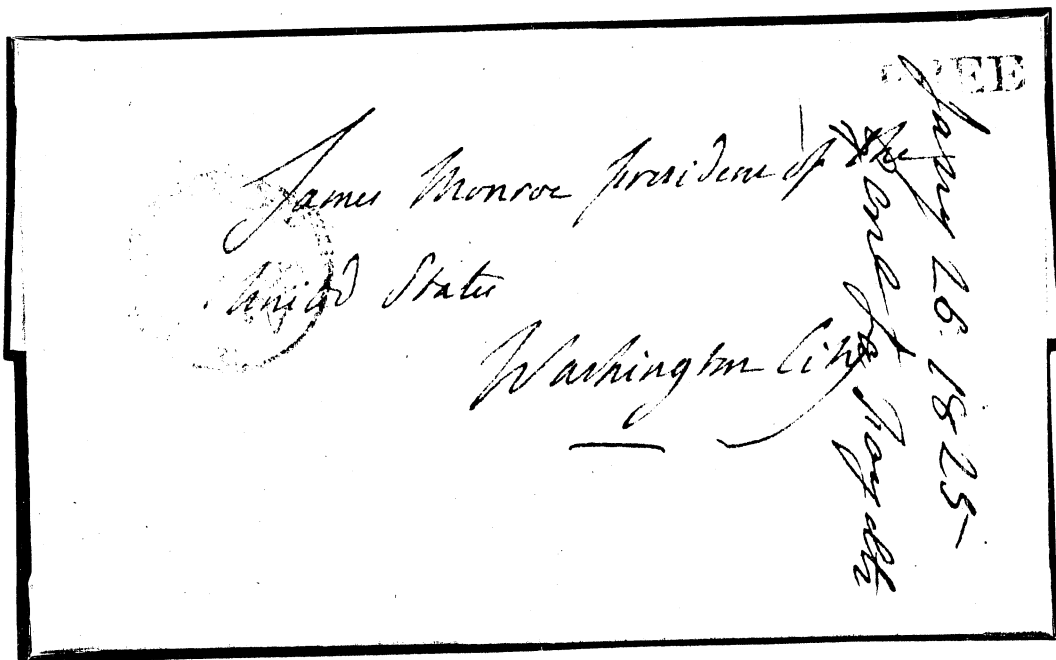
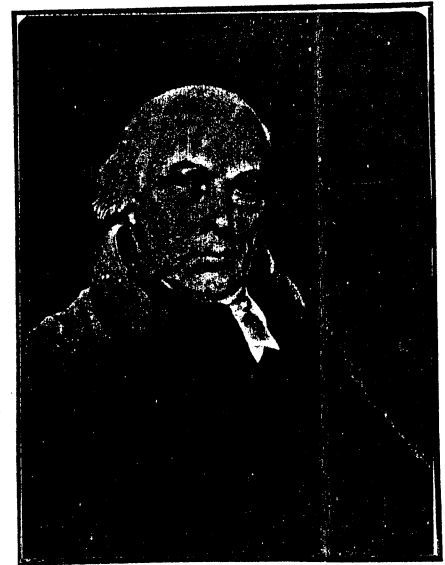
Frank of Houston on a 1964 First Day cover!

GENERAL LAFAYETTE



This letter, dated 1779 on board the ship Alliance off Boston, is entirely in English and in Lafayette's hand. His frank is in the lower left corner. It could have been carried in the mail, but probably went by military courier since Colonial mail was so uncertain during the War years.

LAFAYETTE TO MONROE



This letter to "My dear friend" James Monroe President of the U.S., is from Lafayette when he returned to this country for a visit in 1825 and received the thanks and praise of the new nation. It was sent FREE under the franking privilege of the addressee as President of the United States.

Lafayette writes to Monroe thanking him for the welcome the country has given him.

SIGNERS
OF THE
DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE



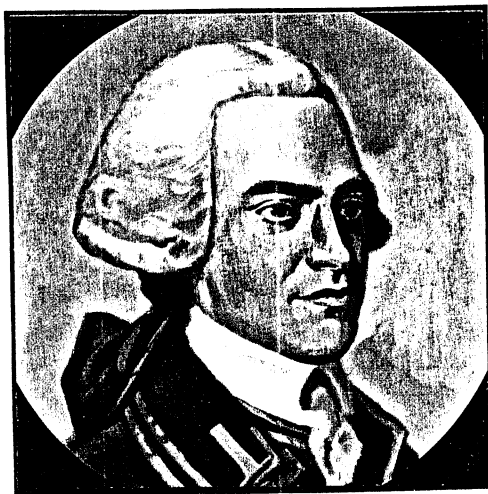
Fifty-six delegates to the Continental Congress, of which John Hancock was then President, signed the Declaration.

The signatures of some Signers are rare in any form, including those clipped from library books. Button Gwinett of Georgia is the rarest partly because he was killed in a duel in 1777.

Most of the Signers were regular members, but a few were substitutes and signing the Declaration was their only moment of glory. Franks of 26 of the Signers are so far known to exist. Others will undoubtedly become known, but some Signers may have never used the privilege during their short time as a member or substitute.

Only two Signers, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, ever became Presidents of the United States.

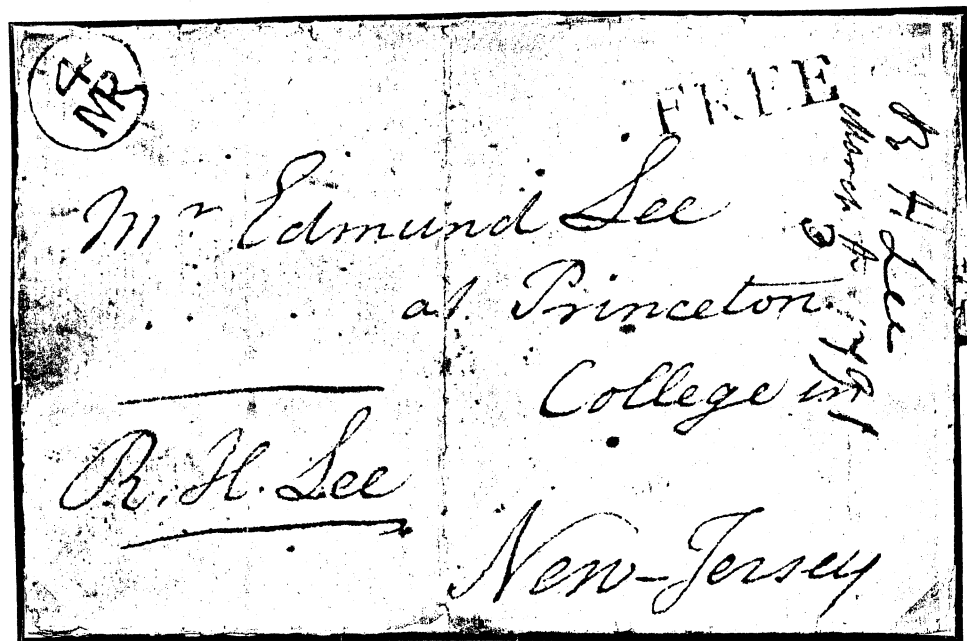
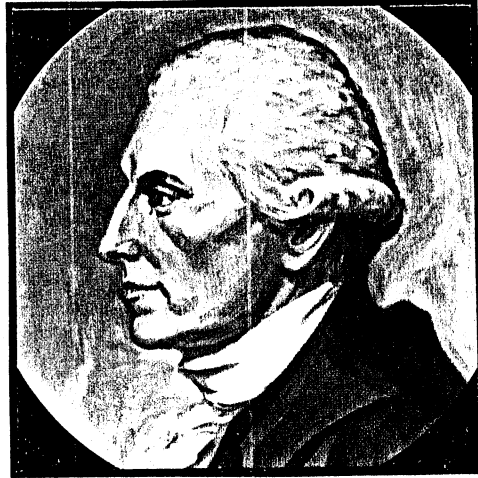
Four other Signers received a few votes for President in the Electoral College: Samuel Adams, John Hancock, Samuel Huntington, and Edward Rutledge.



On the Publick Service
To
John Thomas Esq.
First Brigadier General in the American Army
At
Cambridge
Congress Philada.
John Hancock

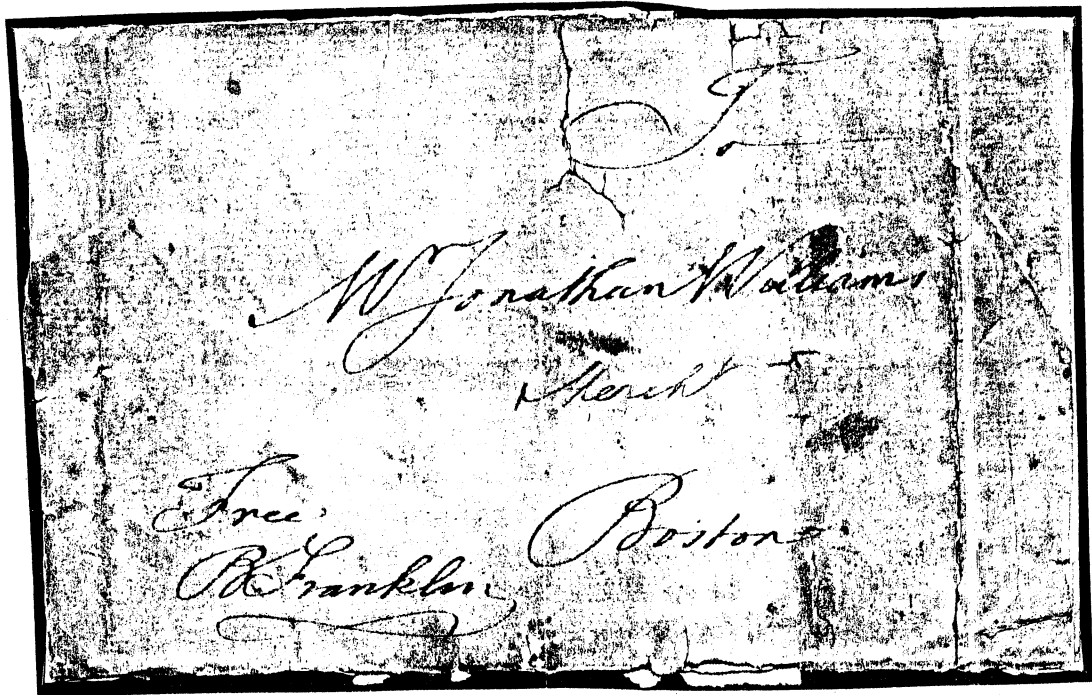
This address leaf was franked in 1775 by John Hancock as President of the Continental Congress. The letter was probably carried by military courier rather than being sent by mail, although the mails at this period were safely in the hands of the colonists.

RICHARD HENRY LEE



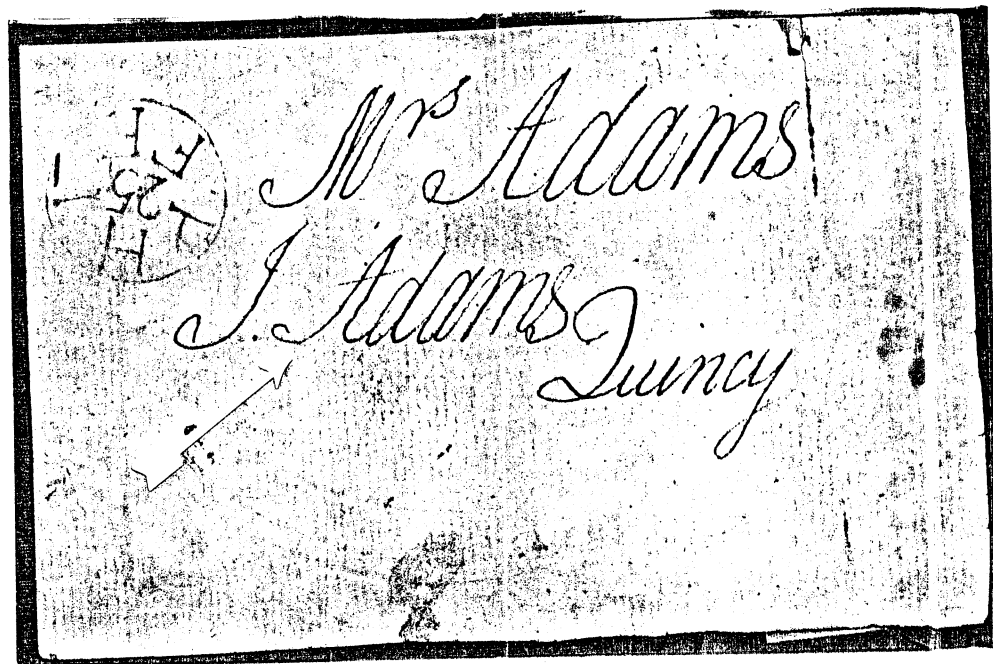
Lee of Virginia introduced the resolution calling for a Declaration of Independence. Because of his wife's illness he had to leave the Continental Congress, and the assignment to write the Declaration was given to Thomas Jefferson.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



This letter from Philadelphia to Boston was franked by Benjamin Franklin in 1762. At that time he was Deputy Postmaster General in the Colonies, representing the British Postmaster General.

JOHN ADAMS

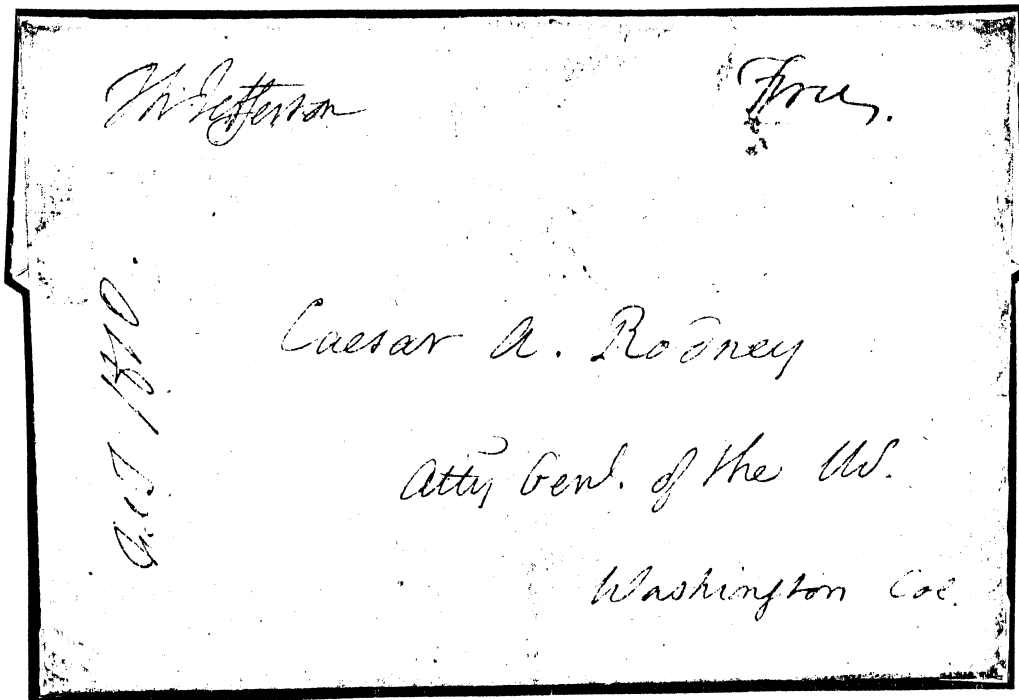
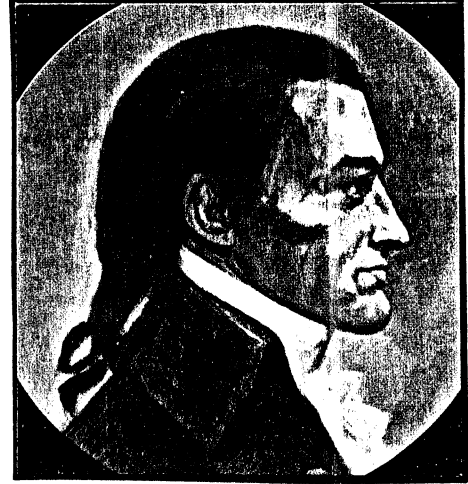
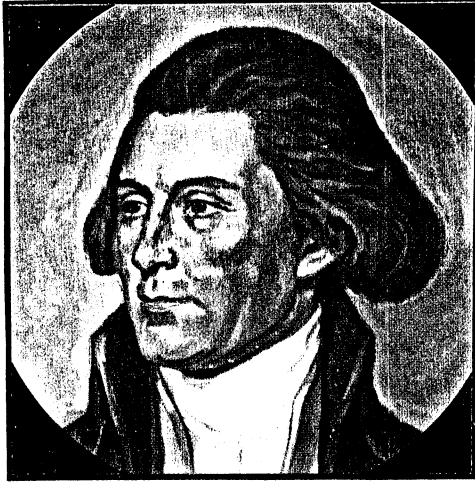


This address leaf by young John Adams was mailed to his wife at Quincy, Massachusetts. It was postmarked at Philadelphia, where the Continental Congress met in 1776.

THOMAS JEFFERSON

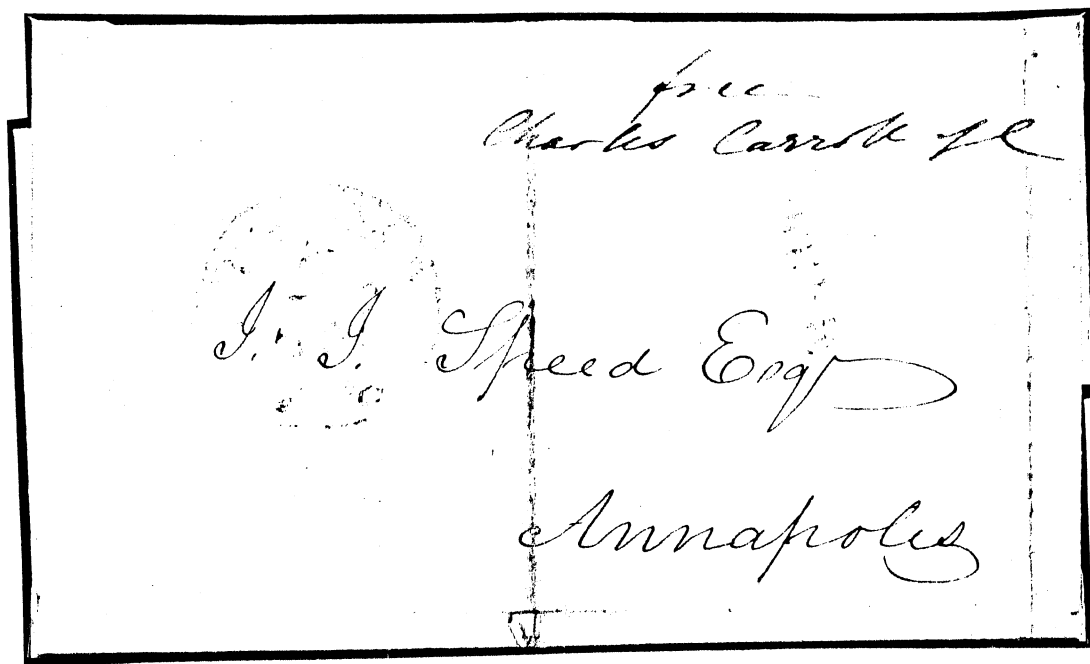
TO

CAESAR A. RODNEY



This cover from one Signer to another shows the close friendship that existed among many members of the Continental Congress. Rodney, a Signer for Delaware, was appointed Attorney General by President Jefferson. He served in that office for the last two years of Jefferson's term & the first 2 years of Madison's.

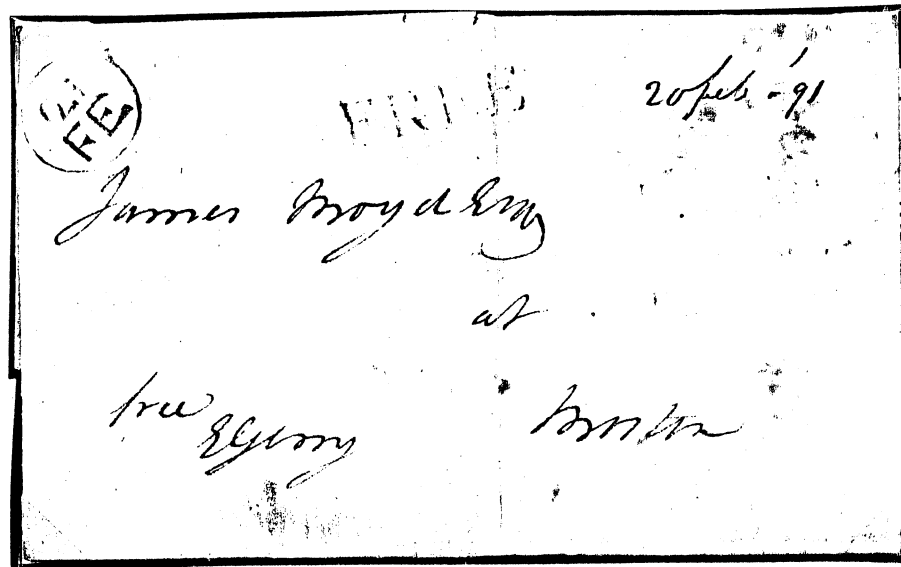
CHARLES CARROLL
OF
CARROLLTON



Charles Carroll of Maryland lived until 1832, being the last Signer to die. This folded letter is franked by Carroll, but is addressed in the hand of a secretary.

Carroll was probably the most wealthy Signer. He was the only Roman Catholic to sign the Declaration of Independence.

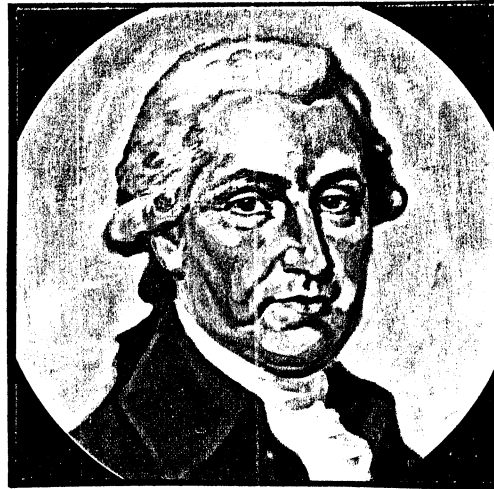
ELBRIDGE GERRY



This small folded letter is franked by Gerry, a Signer for Massachusetts.

The term "Gerrymander" is derived from Signer Gerry, who was the Governor of Massachusetts in 1812. The word means to divide an area into political units to give special advantages to one group.

FRANCIS HOPKINS



On Public Service
To Col. Robert L. Hooper
Lieut. Martin et
J. M. Alricks.
Easton

Francis Hopkins, a signer for New Jersey, wrote this letter in 1778 while the Revolutionary War was still being fought. It is franked "On Public Service" by Hopkins and is headed "Continental Navy Board Borden Town 21 Mar 1778."

PRESIDENTS
THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS
RICHARD HENRY LEE



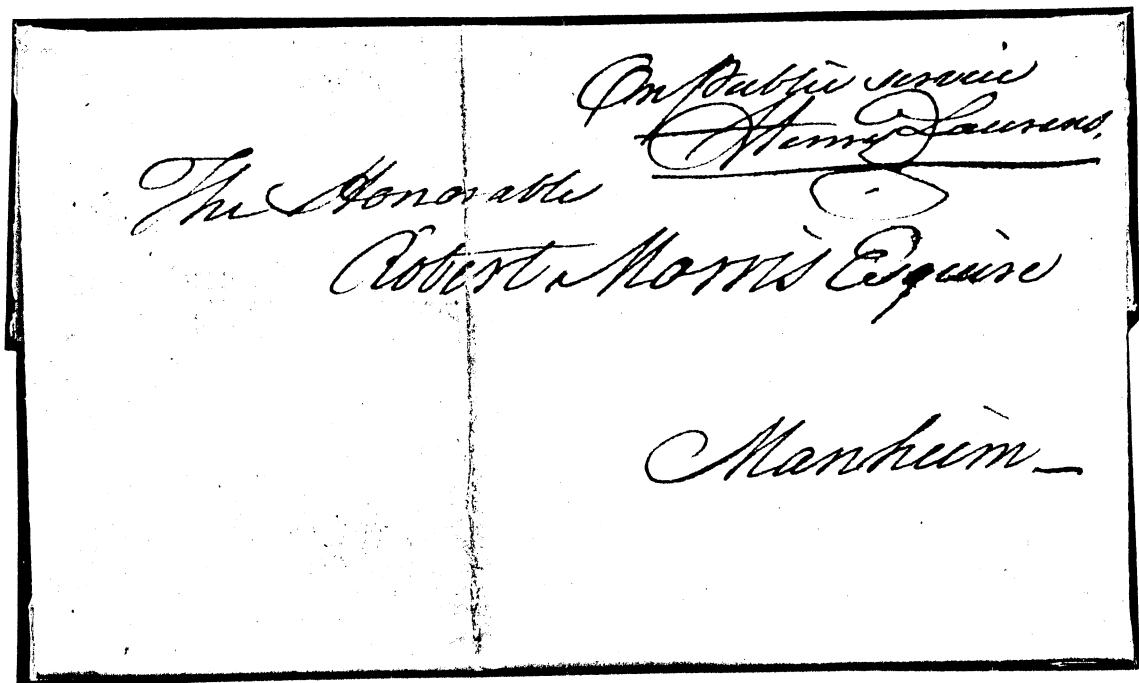
There were 14 Presidents of the Continental Congress in its 15 years. Presidents often served for only a few months, none holding the office as long as two years.

This letter, datelined New York May 4, 1785, was written and franked while Lee was President of the Congress.

HENRY LAURENS



Henry Laurens presiding as President of the Continental Congress.

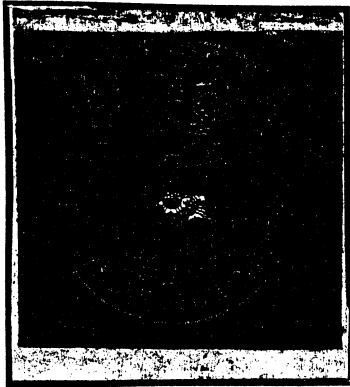


This folded letter, dated April 6, 1778, at York Town, was franked by Henry Laurens of South Carolina while he was President of the Continental Congress.

The letter is addressed to Robert Morris, a Signer from Pennsylvania.

BOSTON TEAPARTY STAMP

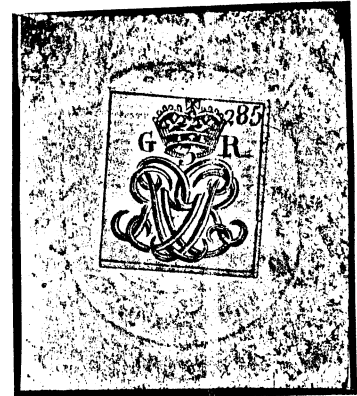
Front



Design



Back

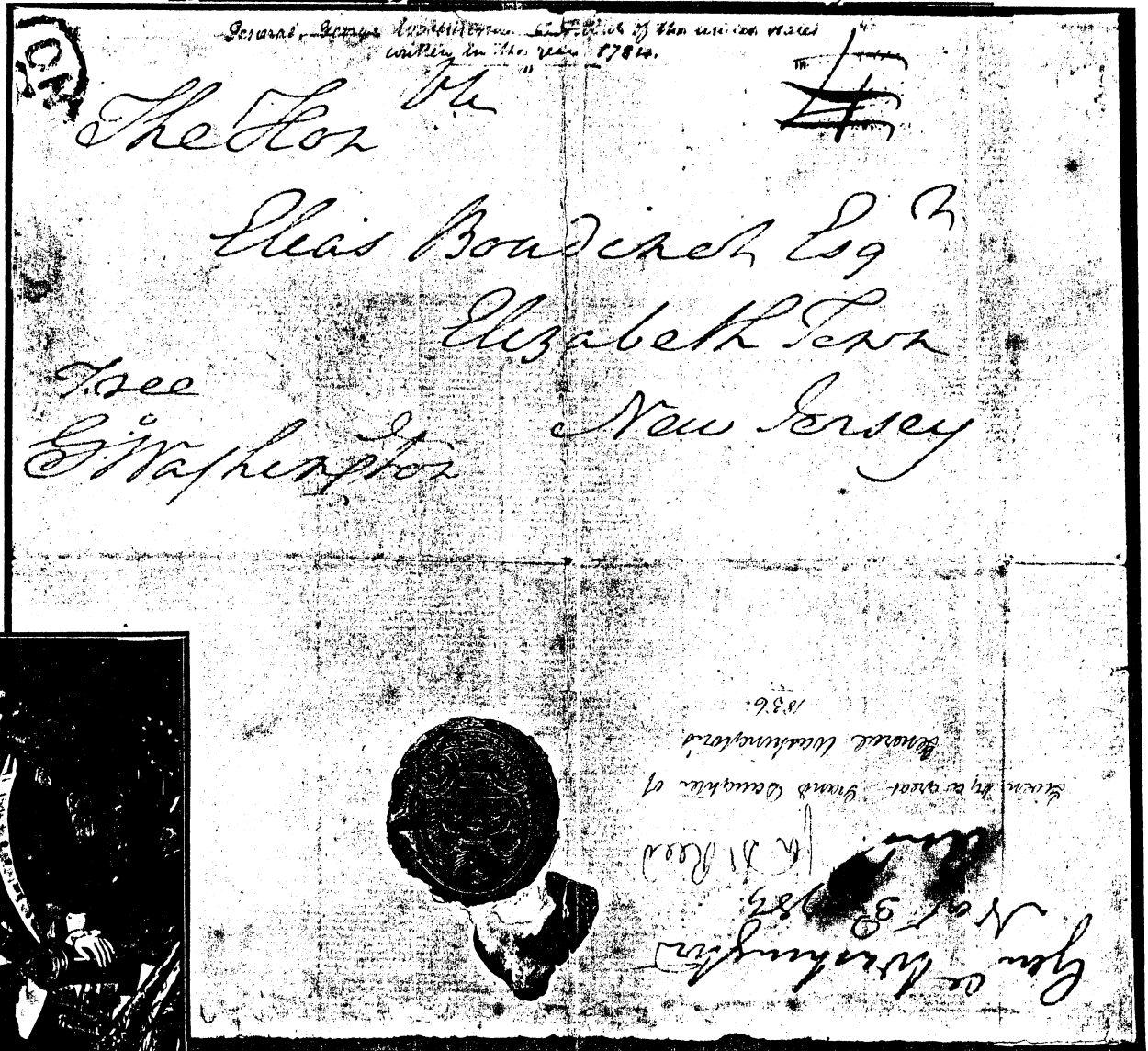


These British General Revenue stamps were for taxes on the American Colonies. They were quickly withdrawn because of protests of the colonists against taxation without representation. The "teaparty" at Boston followed the issuance of these stamps by two years.



One of the King's tax collectors collecting untaxed tea.

GEORGE WASHINGTON

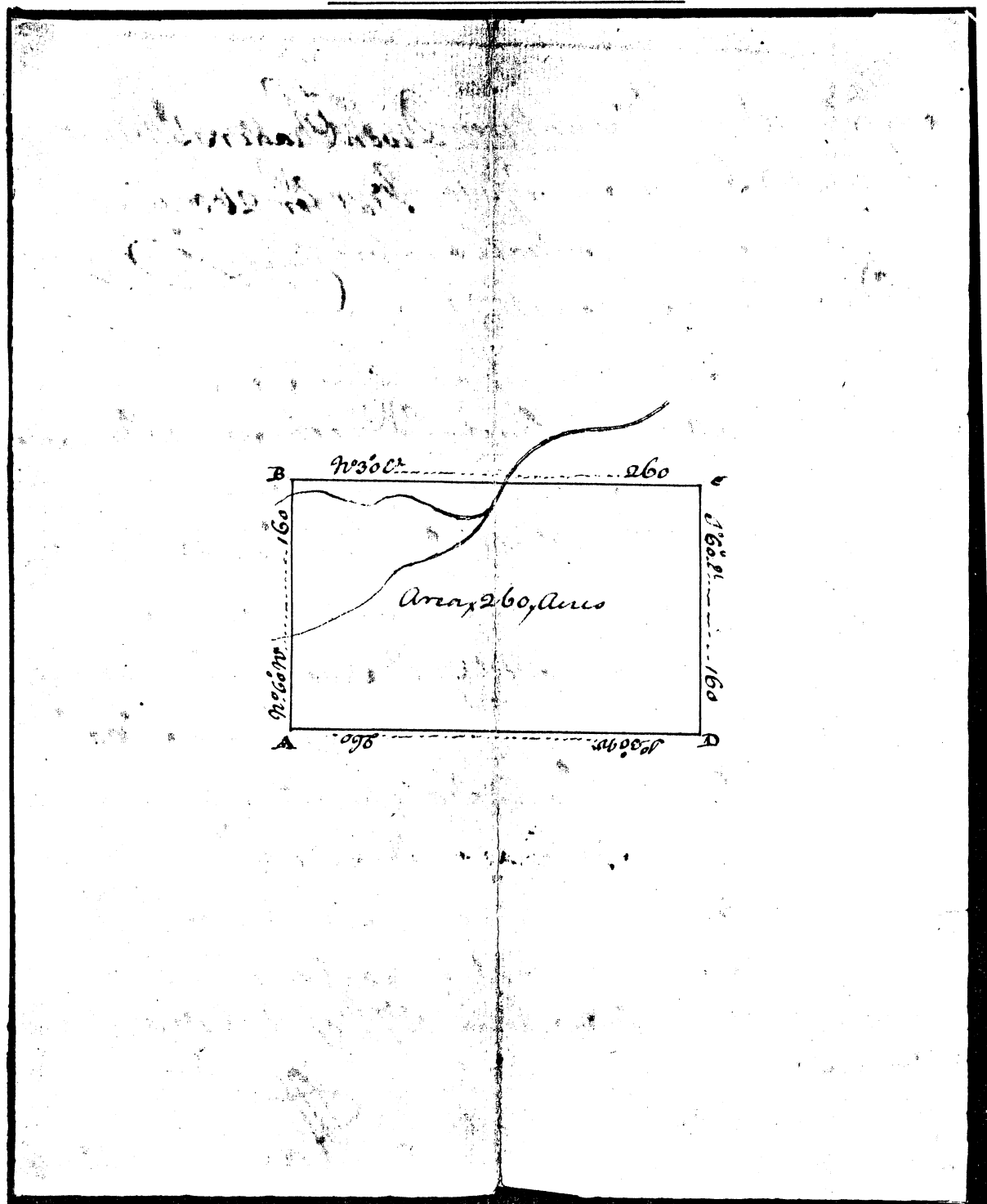


November 3, 1784

This address leaf was franked by Washington as Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army.

The sharp impression of the Washington family crest shows the stars and stripes which is reported to have inspired the design of our national flag.

GEORGE WASHINGTON
SURVEYOR



Survey drawn by Washington when he was 19 years old.

GEORGE WASHINGTON

SURVEYOR

Pursuant to a Warrant from the Proprietors Office to
Me directed I have Surveyed for Owen Rogers a certain
tract of waste Land situated on a branch of Cacapon
and bounded as followeth [Copy]

Beginning at a limestone rock
at White Walnut and two chestnut Oaks
on the side and near the top of a m^r. and
extended N. 60 W. One hund. and sixty poles
to two hick and a white Oak on the side of
white thence N. 30 W. Two hund. and sixty
poles to a pine by a rock thence S. 60 E.
One hund. and sixty poles to three more
hick saplings on the side of the M^r. we
began on finally S. 30 W. Two hund.
sixty poles to a big cypress two hund. and
sixty poles thence this 27th of Apr. 1751

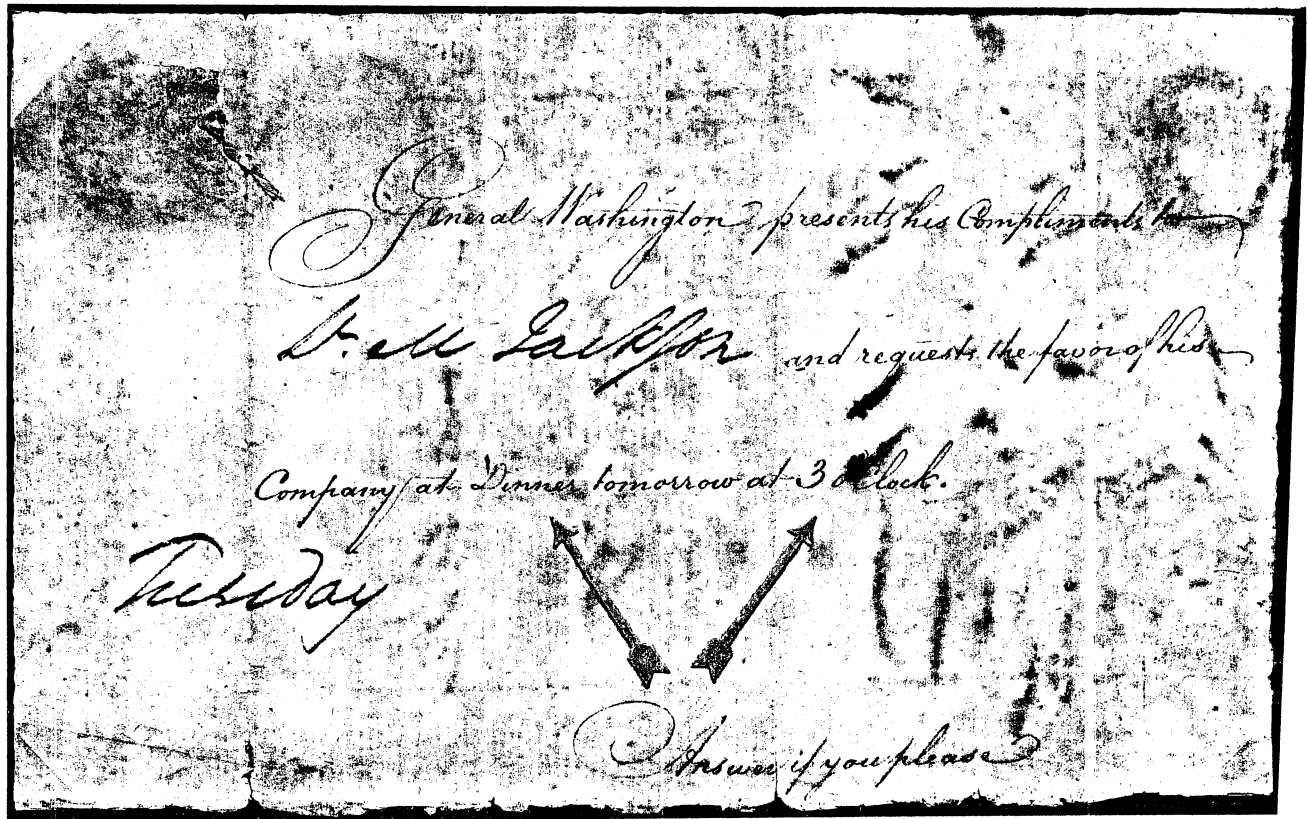
John Loner
Wm. Reynolds
George Cotto M

by

Washington

Legal description of the 260 acres illustrated on the following
page, signed by Washington.

GEORGE WASHINGTON



"General Washington presents his compliments to Lt. M. Jackson and requests the favor of his company at dinner tomorrow at 3 o'clock."

Michael Jackson fought at Bunker Hill and was an officer throughout the Revolution.