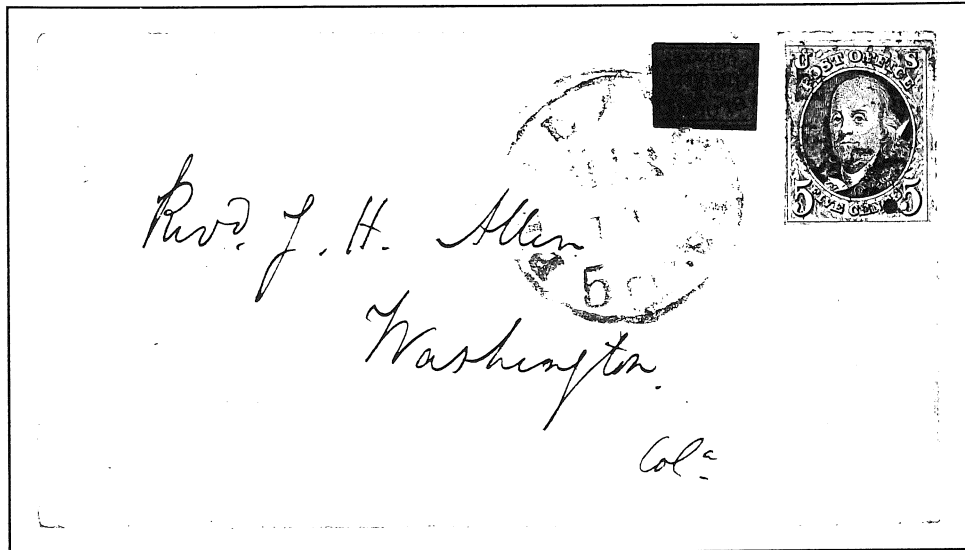


"To the Mails"



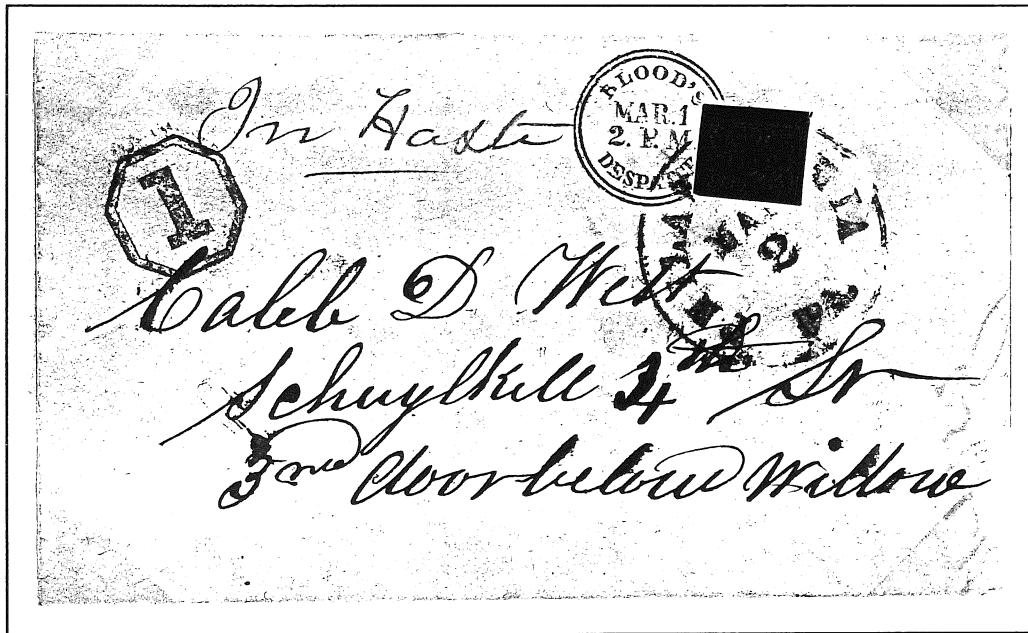
No year date. Under 300 miles.



1849. 300+ miles.

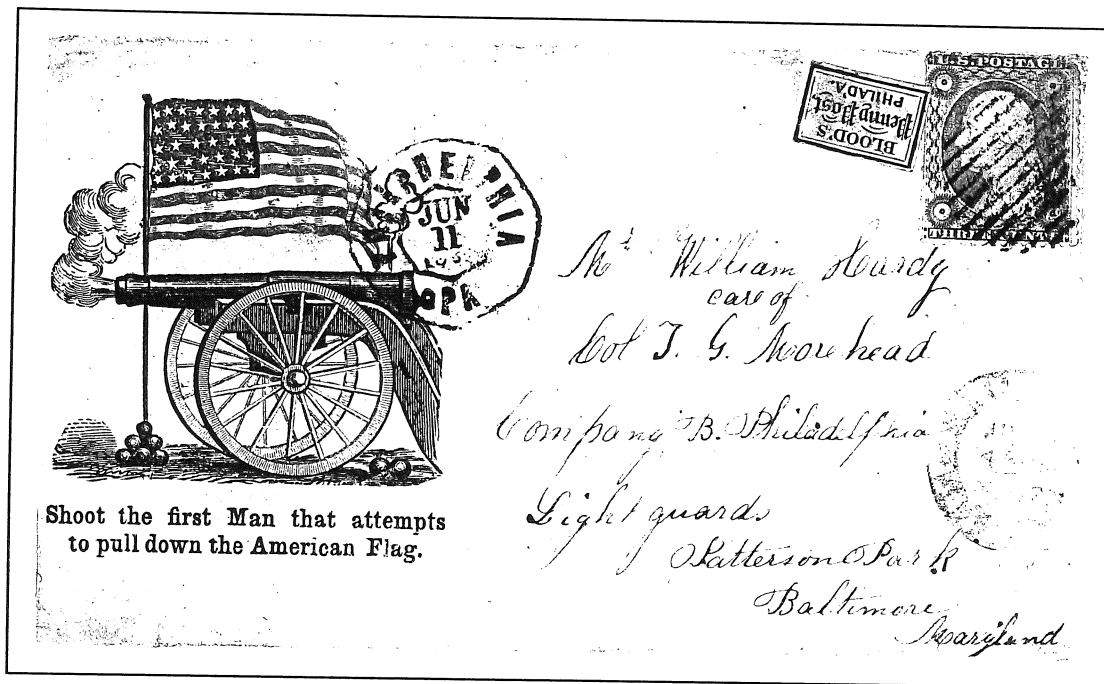
**Blood's Delivery Area Restricted to Original
City Boundaries**

Letter delivered by Blood's to the Philadelphia
Post Office rather than to the street address,
where it was treated as a Drop Letter and was
rated 1¢ (Due).



March 1, 1852.

The destination of this letter was outside the part
of Philadelphia that Blood's could service and not violate
the Act of July 1, 1845, which prohibited the private
carriage of mail between areas served by different
Post Offices.



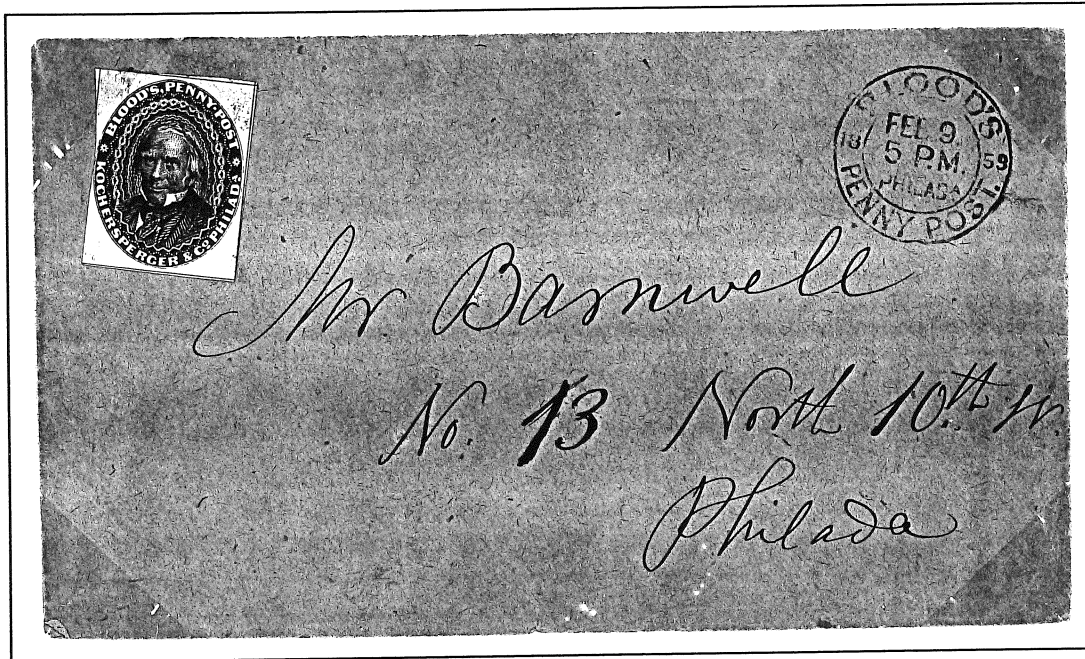
"PENNY POST". Bronze on lilac paper.



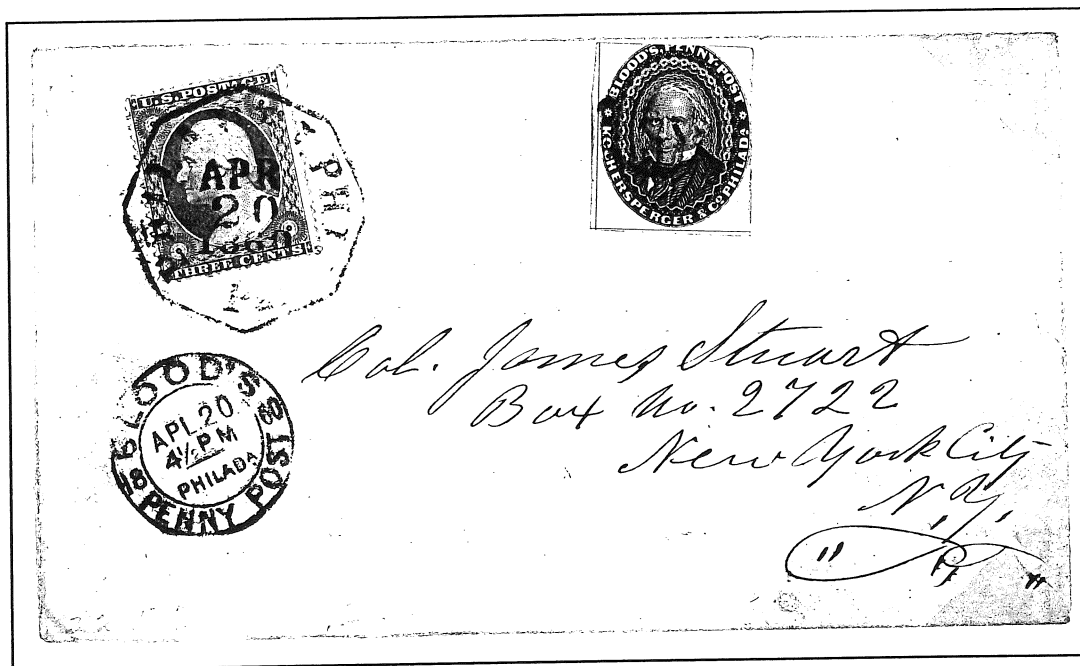
"PENNY POST". Bronze on lilac paper.

Change of Ownership at Blood's Despatch

Charles Kochersperger purchased the business from Blood's heirs in 1855, and continued to trade under the name "Blood's Penny Post". He issued a new stamp bearing the portrait of Henry Clay.

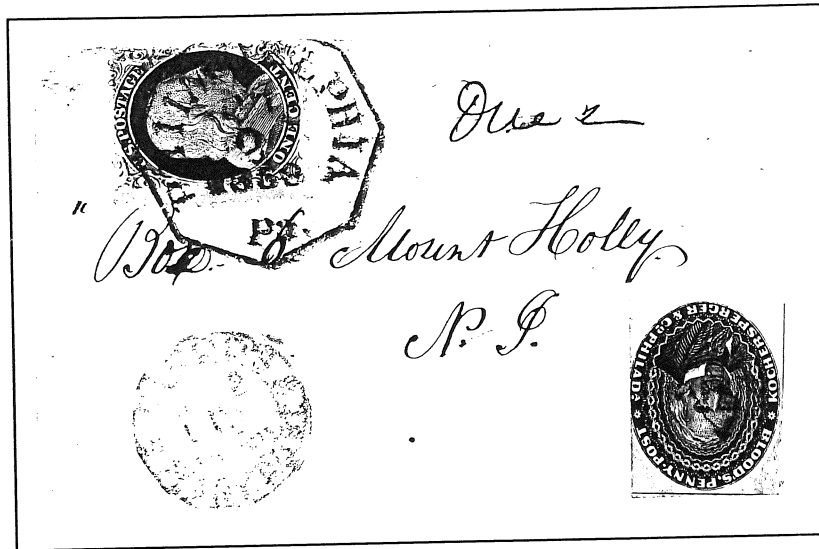


1859. City delivery.



1860. Delivery "To the Mails".

"Underpaid" to the Mails



1858. "DUE 2".

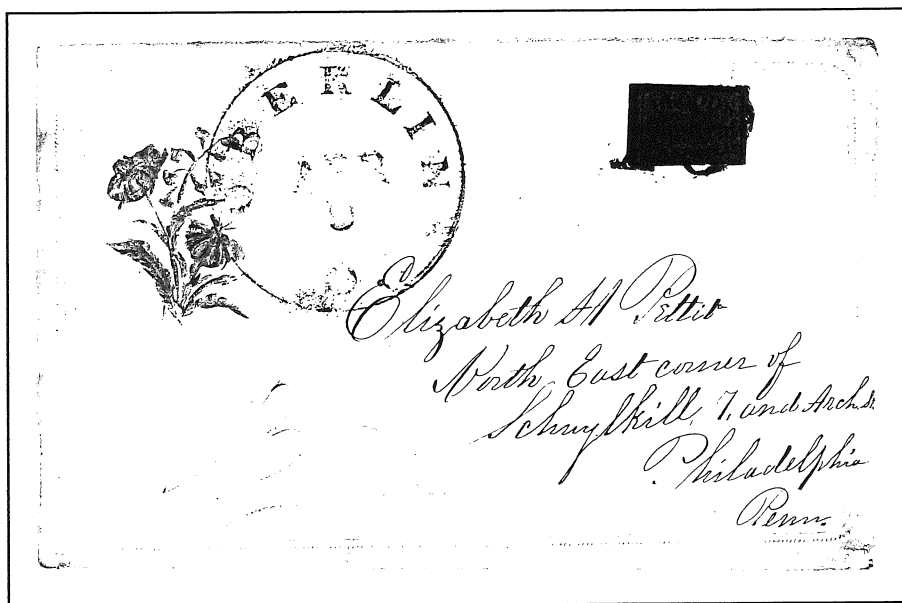
"Fully Paid" to the Mails



1859.

Delivered by Blood's "From the Post Office"

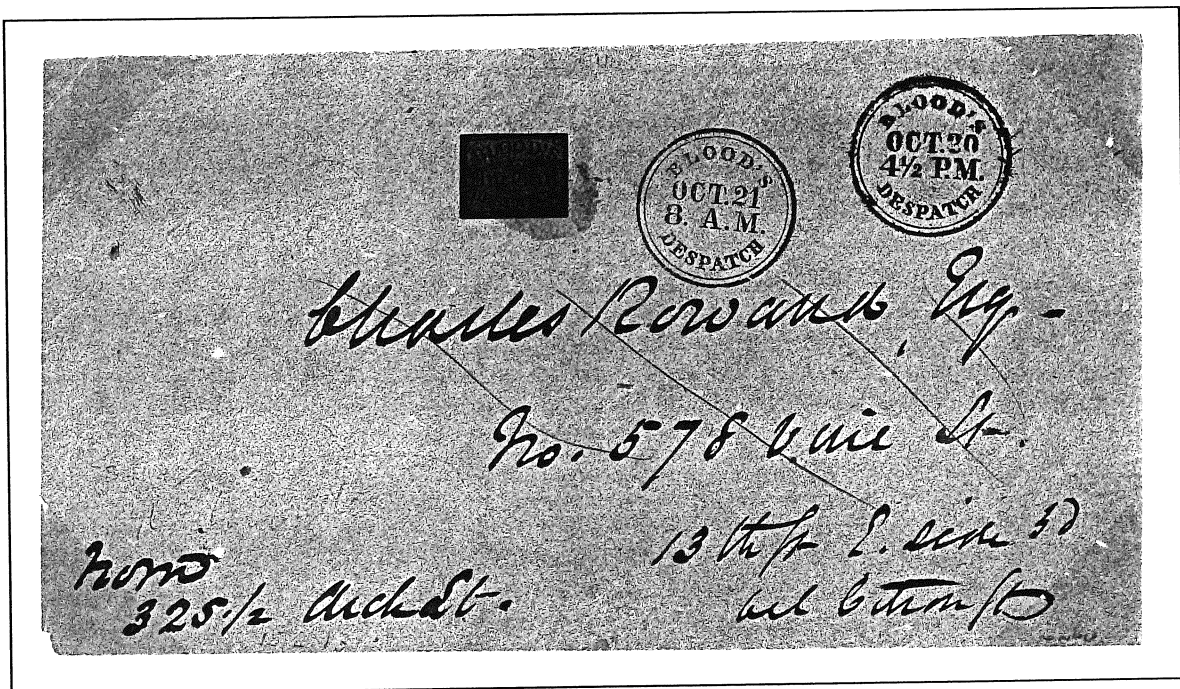
Because the Government controlled practically all mail which came into the Philadelphia Post Office from another Post Office, few such letter were delivered by the private Posts.



Letter picked up from a Post Office Box (see pencil inscription) and delivered by Blood's to the addressee. Presumably, Blood's paid the 10¢ due before placing its adhesive over the Post Office handstamp.

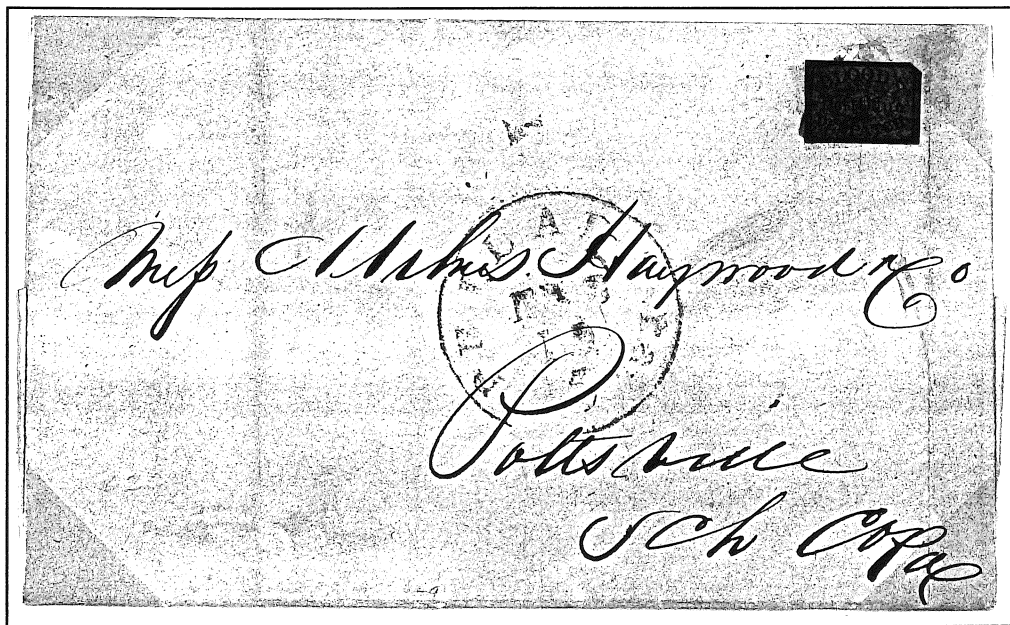
Two Delivery Attempts by Blood's

Blood's tried to deliver the letter on October 20, as shown by one handstamp. The address was not the correct one, so it was crossed out in pencil, and the letter taken to Blood's Office.



On October 21 [second handstamp], with Mr. Rowand's home address now written in the lower left corner, Blood's again took the letter for delivery.

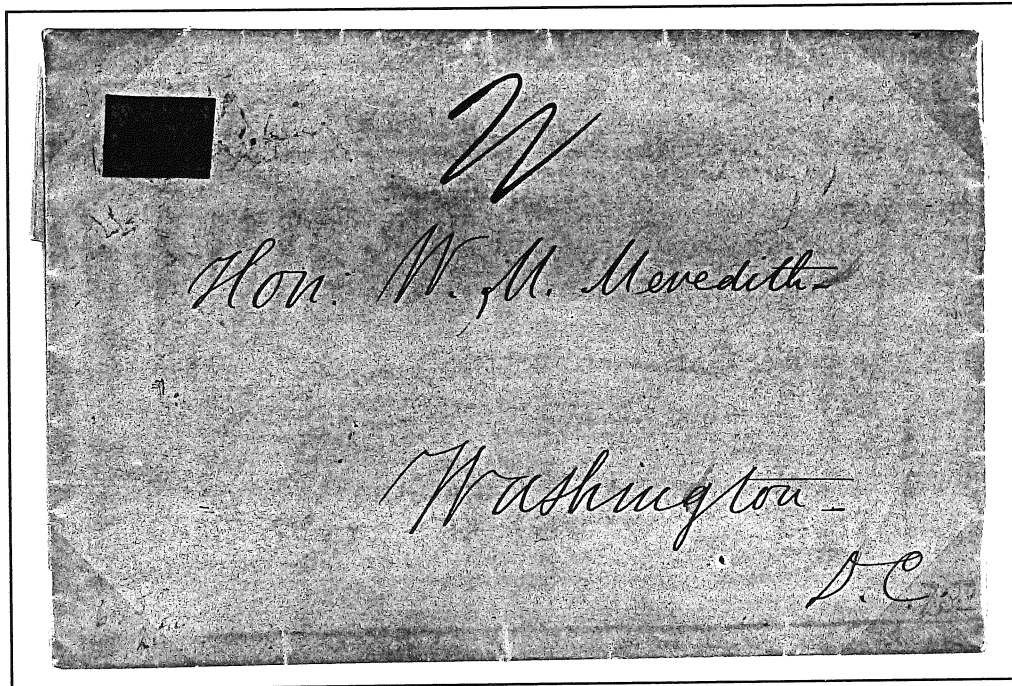
This stamp (Black on Bronze Paper) generally is found
on letters going "To the Mails".



One (1) of Six (6) Reported used for City Mail



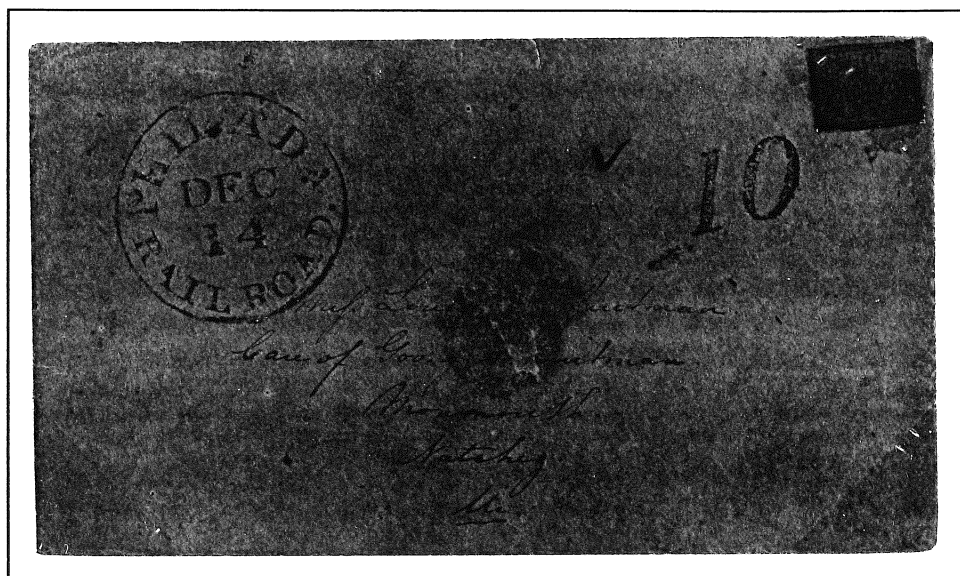
"Way" Letter ("W") from Philadelphia
to Washington, D.C.



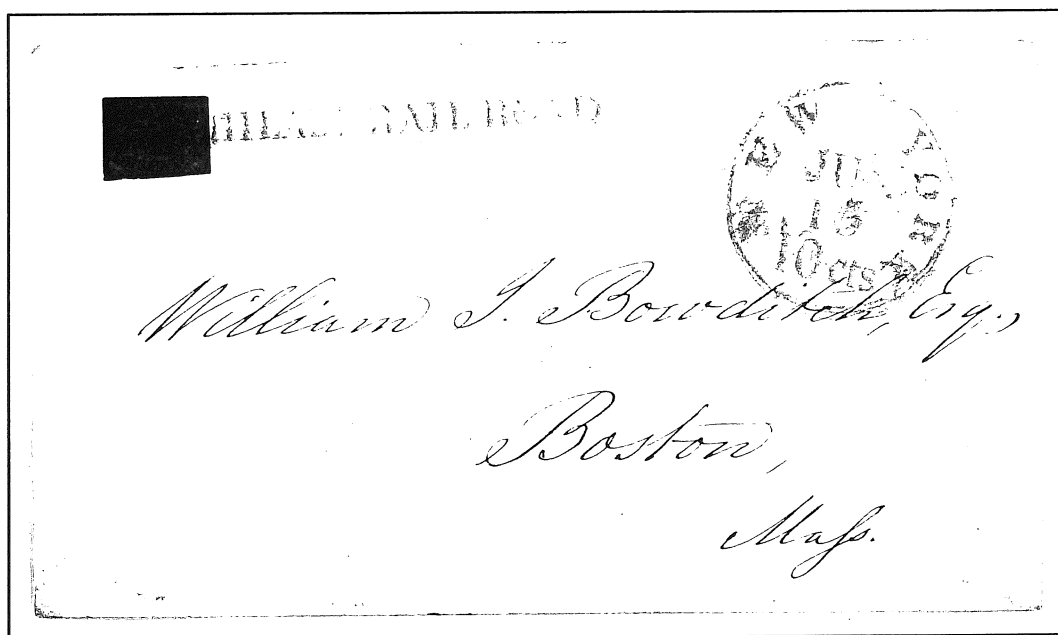
January 10, 1850.

Blood's delivered this folded letter to the carrier
at or on his way to the train. The letter entered
the mails in Washington.

"Favor Bag" Mail



"PHILADA. RAILROAD". No year date.

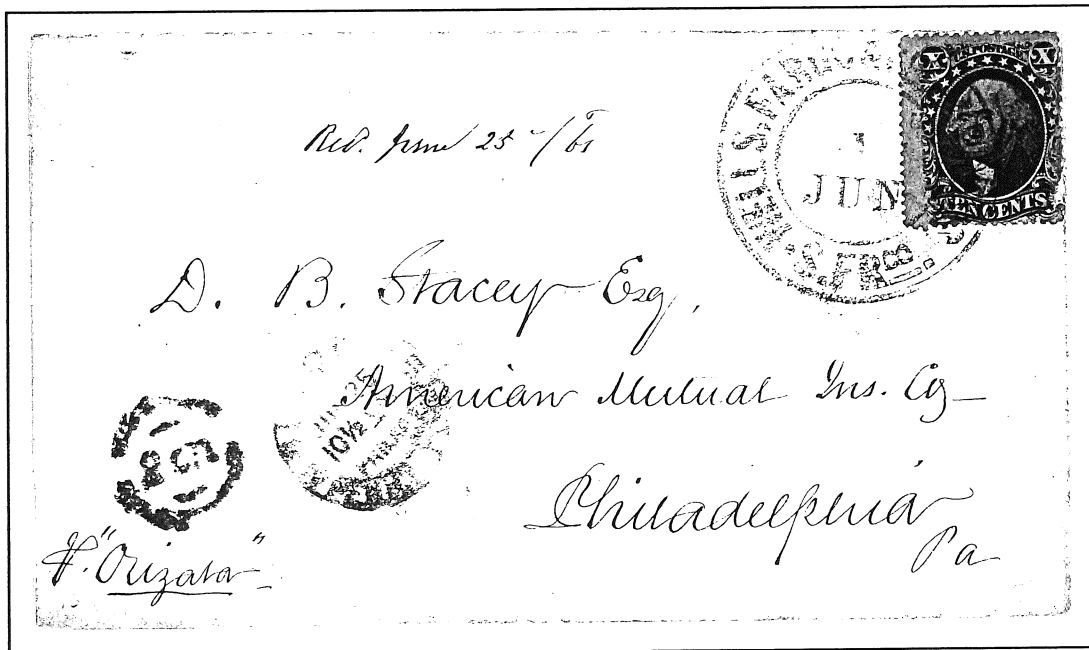


No year date.

These markings were applied in New York City
when the letters entered the mail.

Wells Fargo Co. cover from San Francisco
to Philadelphia

Blood's Despatch delivered to Addressee

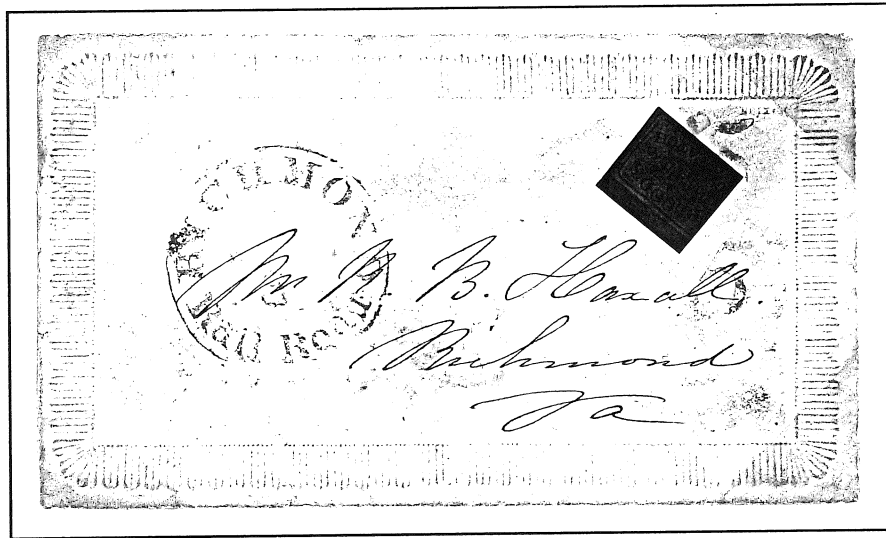


1861. Twenty-one days in transit.

Letter carried entirely outside the Mails,
via Panama.

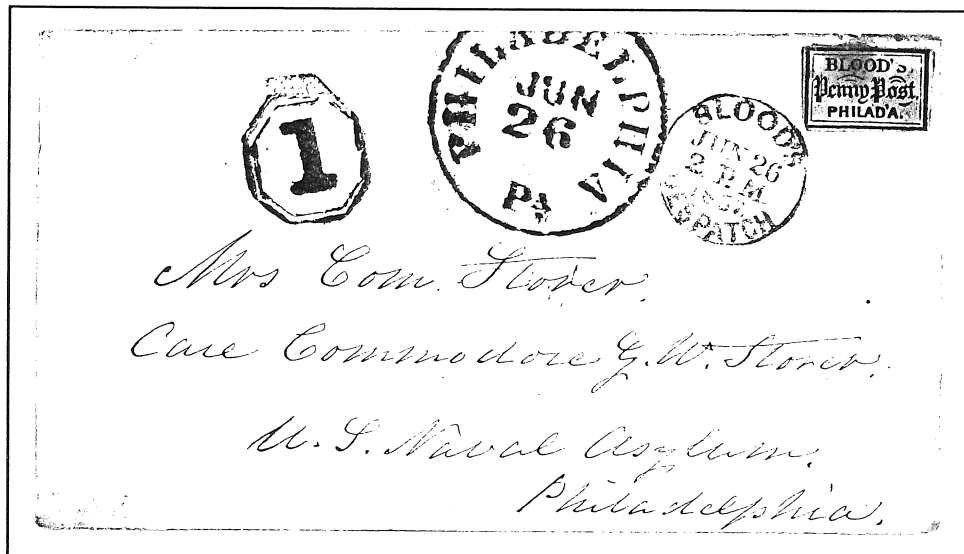
Richmond, Fredericksburg & Potomac R. R.

It is likely that Blood's Despatch handed this letter to the Route Agent in Philadelphia, and that the letter was transferred in Washington (after transit through Baltimore) to the Route Agent on the Richmond R. R.



The colloquial name for this Railroad was "*Richmond R.R.*" The Line ran from Richmond north to Acquia Creek, Virginia, where it connected with the steamboat from Washington.

Blood's Service Limited to Old City Boundaries

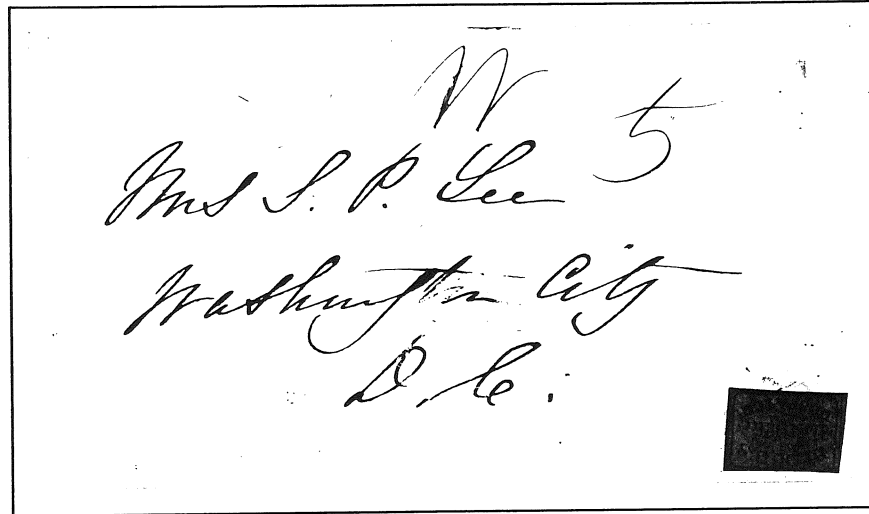


1857. Carried to the Post Office where it was held as a Drop Letter and rated 1¢ (Due).

The U.S. Naval Asylum was located outside the City boundaries on the banks of the Schuylkill River, fronting on Gray's Ferry Road.

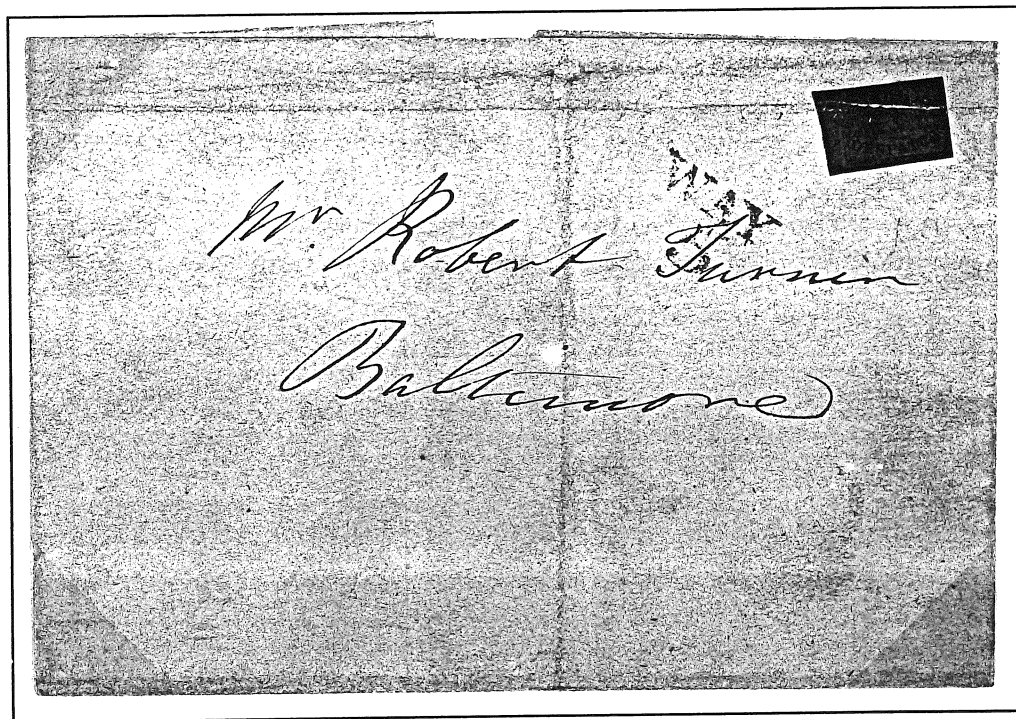
"Way" Delivery to Letter Carrier

Manuscript "W"; "5"



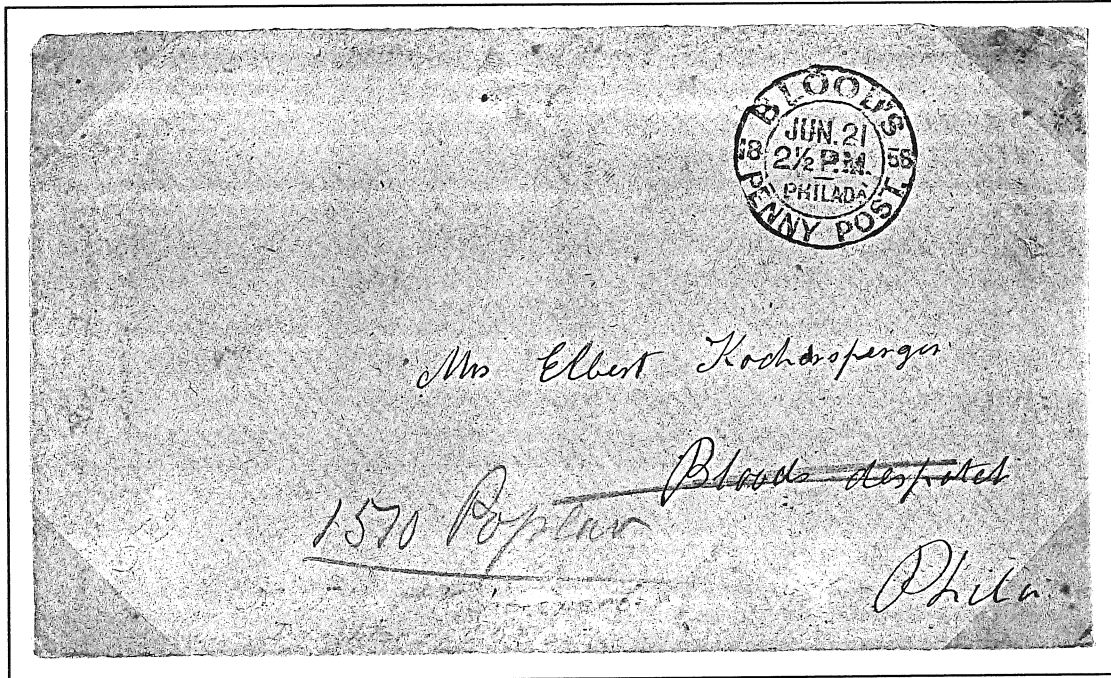
6¢ Due on delivery (1¢ Way Fee + 5¢ Postage)

Handstamp "WAY/5"



1850. Handstamp applied in Baltimore when letter entered the mails.

Mail Drop Box Kept at Blood's Office

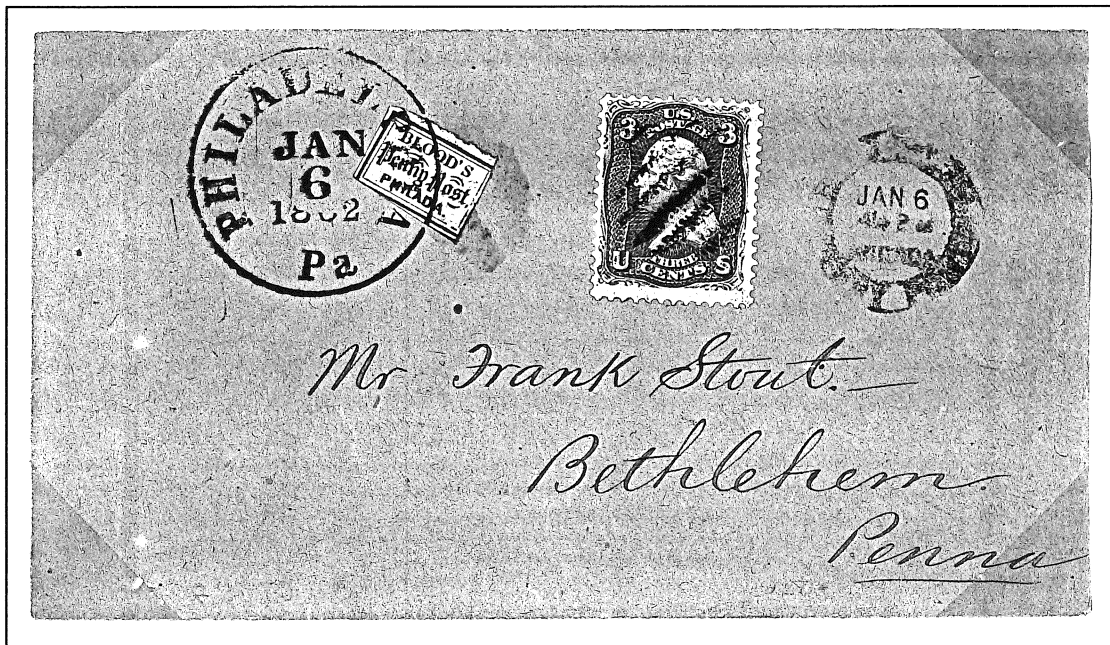


June 21, 1858. Forwarded from Blood's Despatch.

Blood's permitted mail to be addressed to customers at the Blood's office, often providing them with boxes. We do not know if there was a charge for this service.

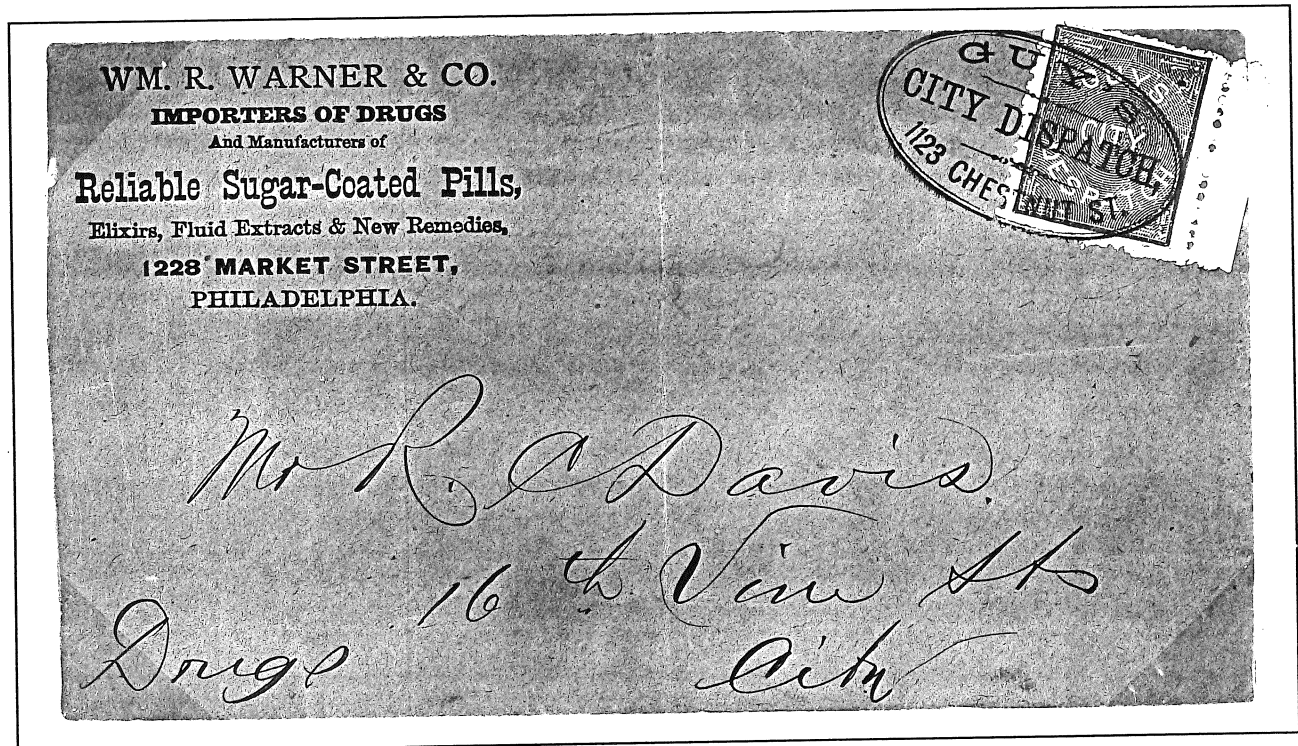
The Last Days of Blood's Despatch

After years of resisting Government harassment, Blood's closed its doors on January 10, 1862.



When Blood's ceased operations, it sold its assets to the Post Office Department.

Guy's City Despatch



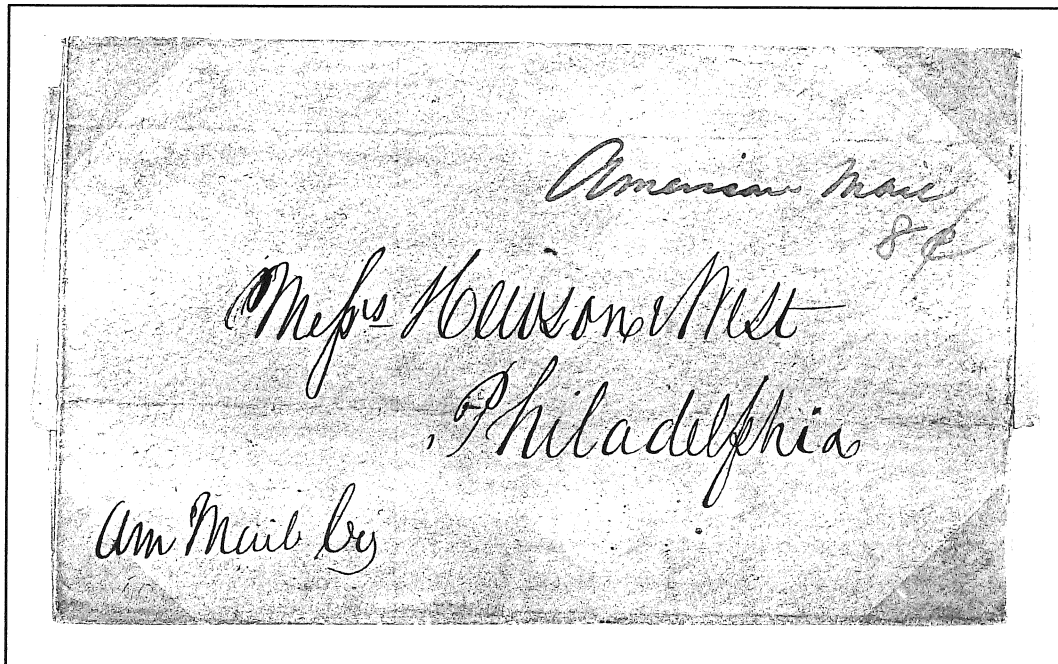
Long after the last Local Post (Blood's Despatch) had gone out of business, Guy's City Despatch appeared in April 1879. The Government immediately went to Court to suppress it. Guy's ceased operations after three months.

Independent Mail [Inter-City] Companies

American Mail Company

Founded on January 23, 1844 by Lysander Spooner, this Company privately carried mail along 400 miles of the Atlantic Seaboard. It ceased operations on June 30, 1845.

Forerunner to Company Handstamp

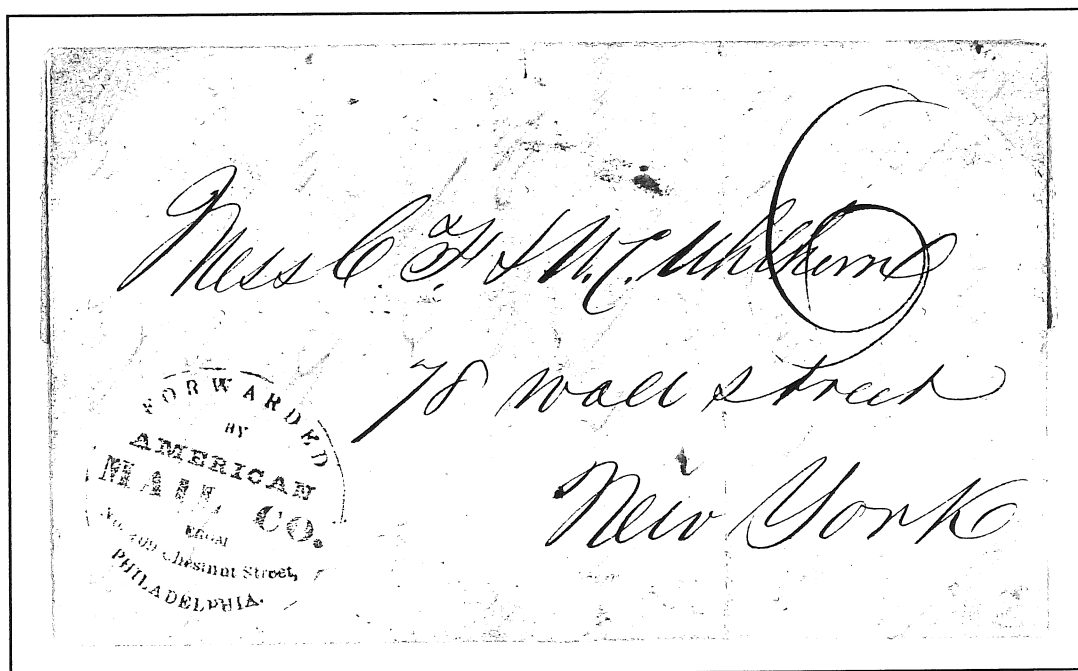


February 13, 1844. The earliest reported Handstamp is May 1844.

Rated "American Mail/8c". Of this charge, 6¢ was for carriage to Philadelphia, and 2¢ was for delivery to the addressee.

Handstamp Reported Used only Thirty-Three (33) Days

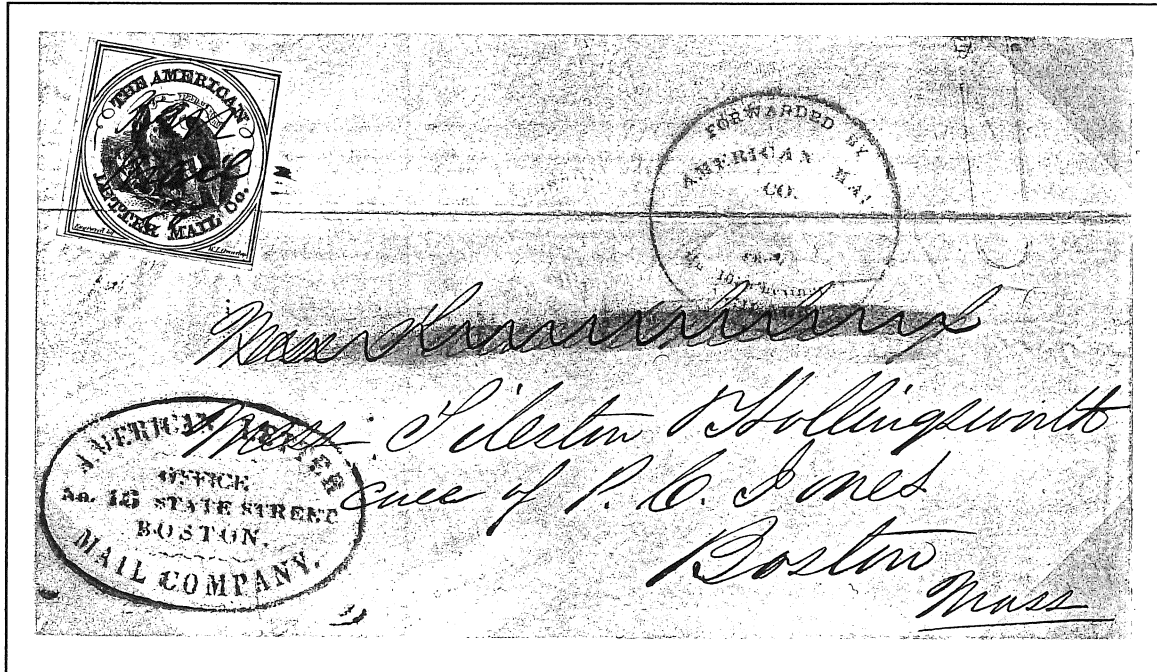
This first circular type handstamp has been reported used August 3 - September 5, 1844.



August 23, 1844.

Sometime in the latter part of September 1844, the Company moved from its office at 109 Chestnut Street.

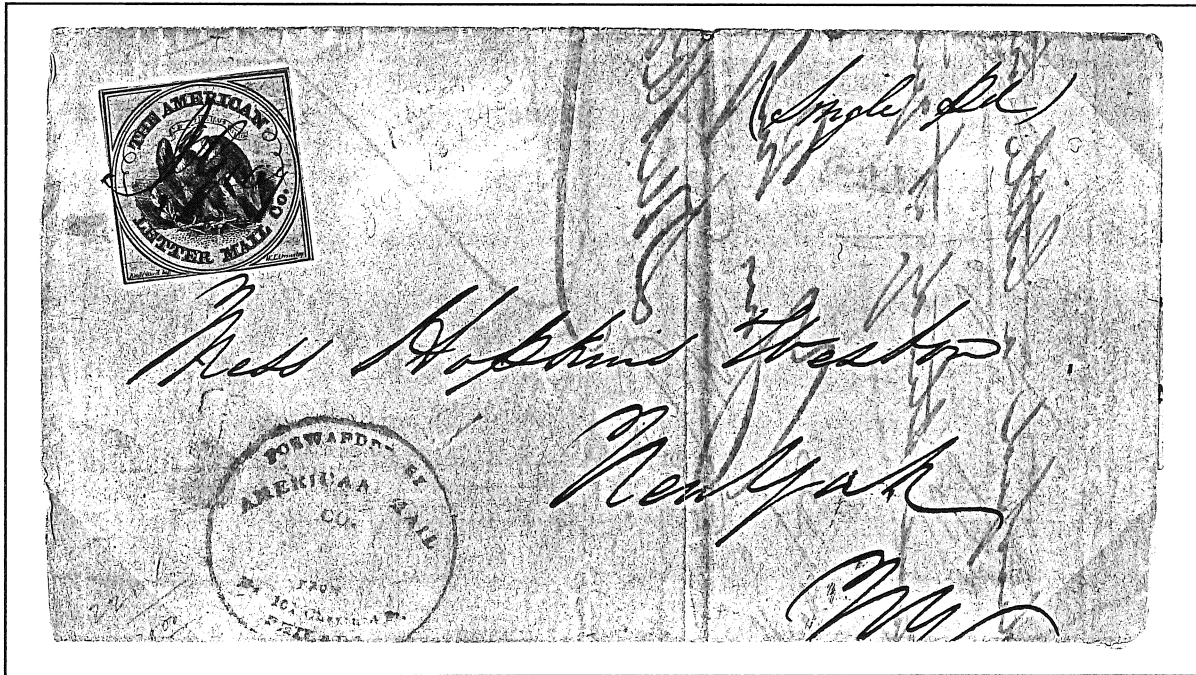
The Black Stamp



March 22, 1845. Type B Philadelphia handstamp at point of origin; Boston Company handstamp upon receipt.

Adhesive cancelled by phrase "Amer/Mail/Co".

The Blue Stamp

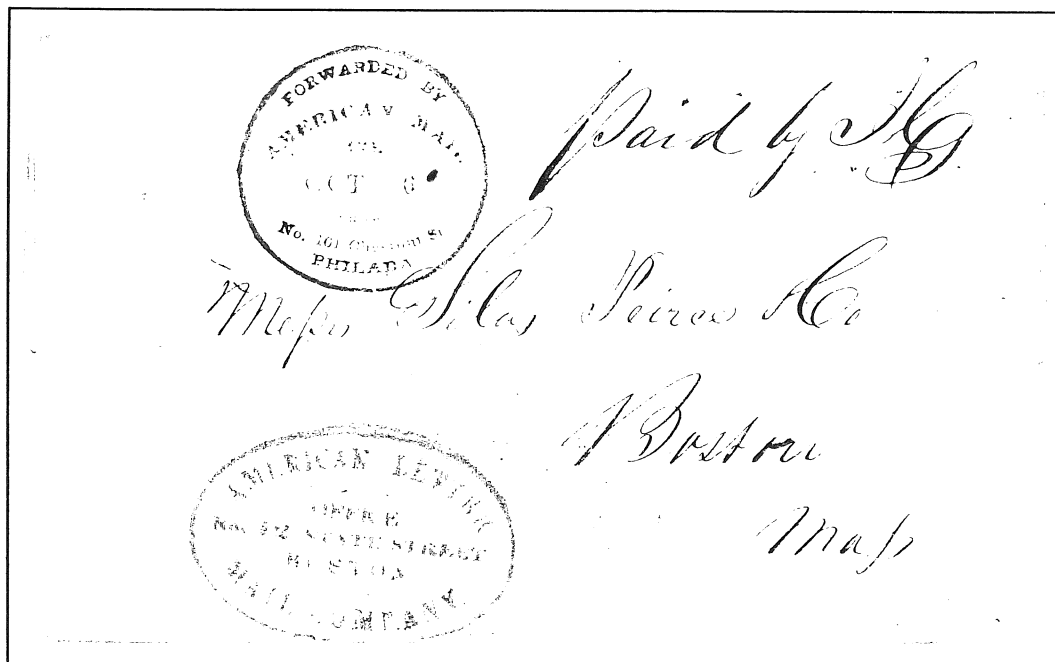


June 13, 1845.

Adhesive cancelled by initials "J. Gray", a letter carrier employed in the Philadelphia office.

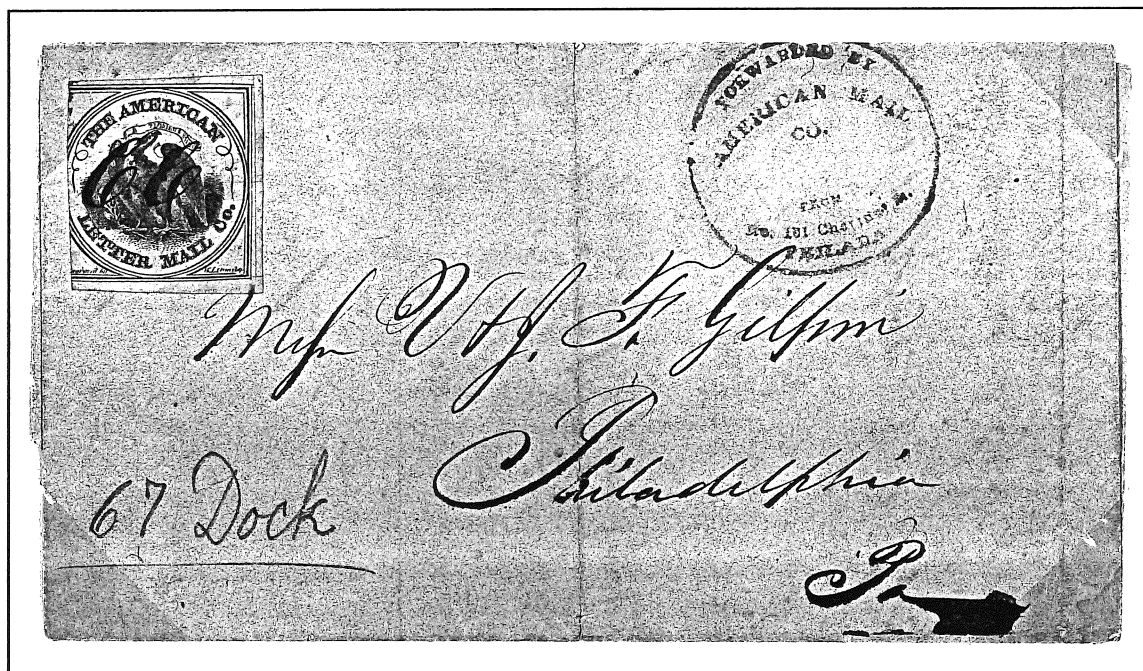
American Mail Company Letter Carriers' Markings

"Paid by J.G."



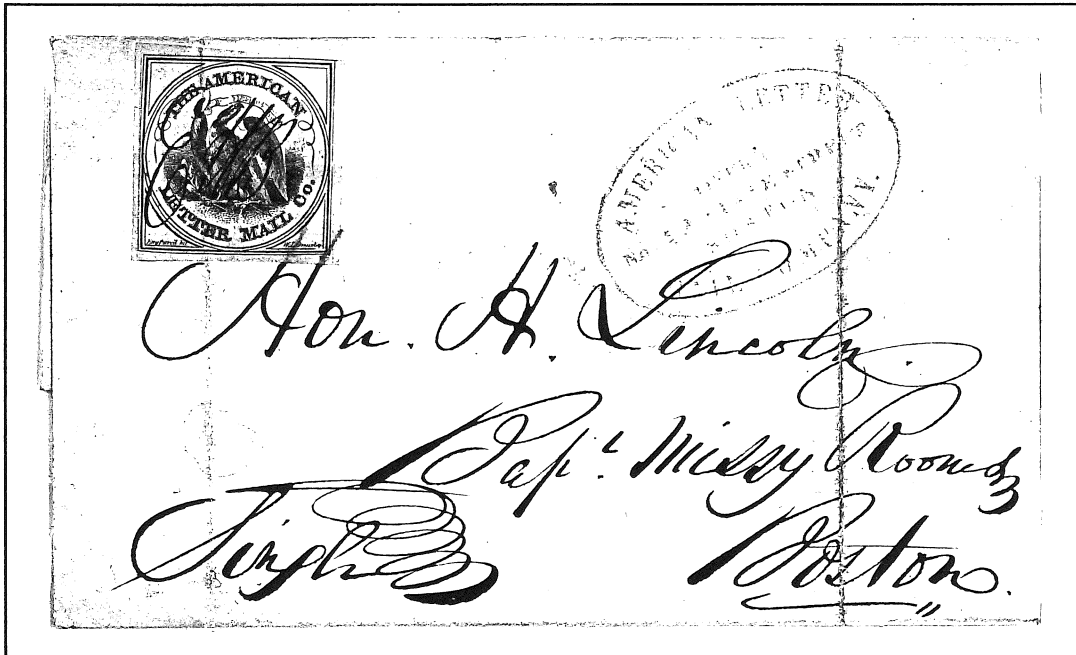
October 5, 1844. John Gray was employed in Philadelphia.

Stamp Cancelled by Initials "C.C."



May 17, 1845. Calvin Case was a carrier in the Philadelphia office of American Mail Company.

Carrier's Initials "EHB" Cancellation

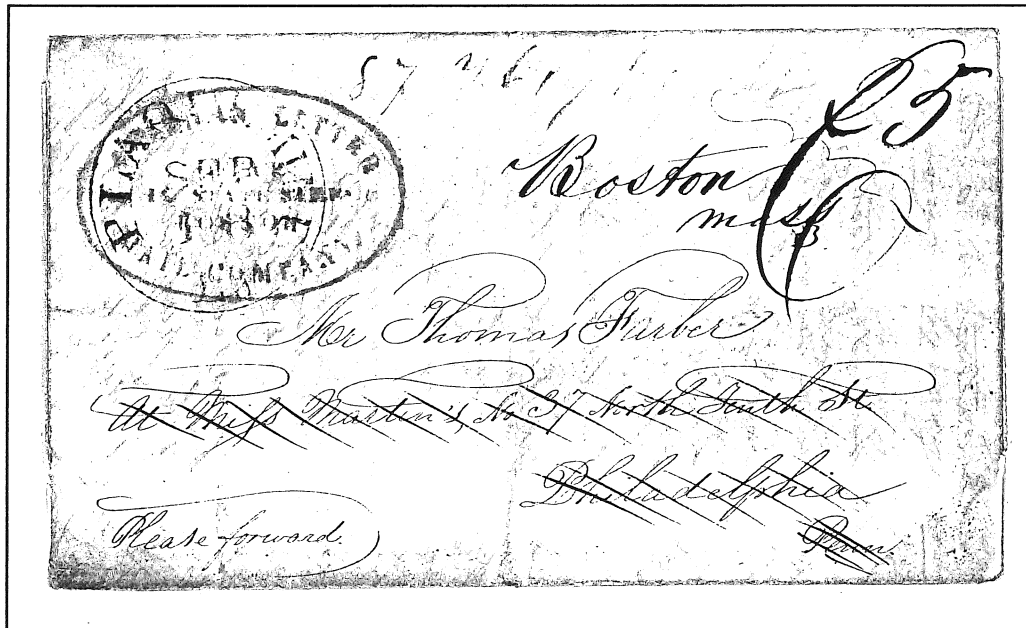


February 28, 1845.

It is believed that the initials belong to a letter carrier employed by American Mail Company in the Philadelphia office, although he has not been identified.

American Mail Company

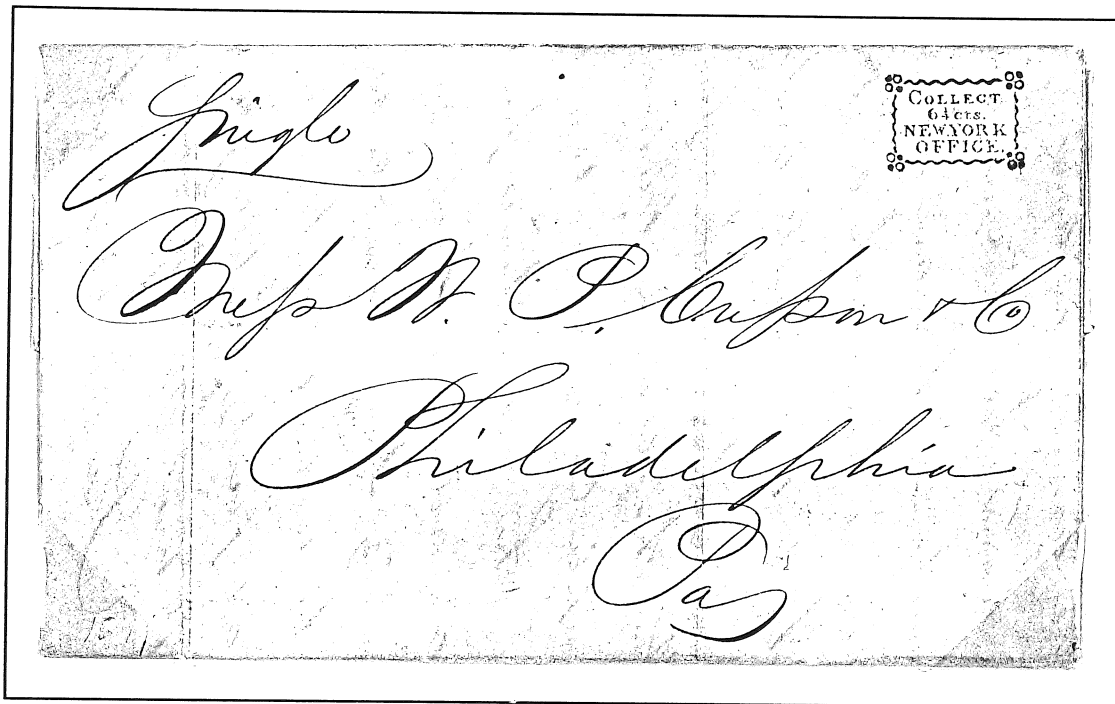
**Forwarded Letter Shows Disparity (x3) Between Government
Post and Private Rates**



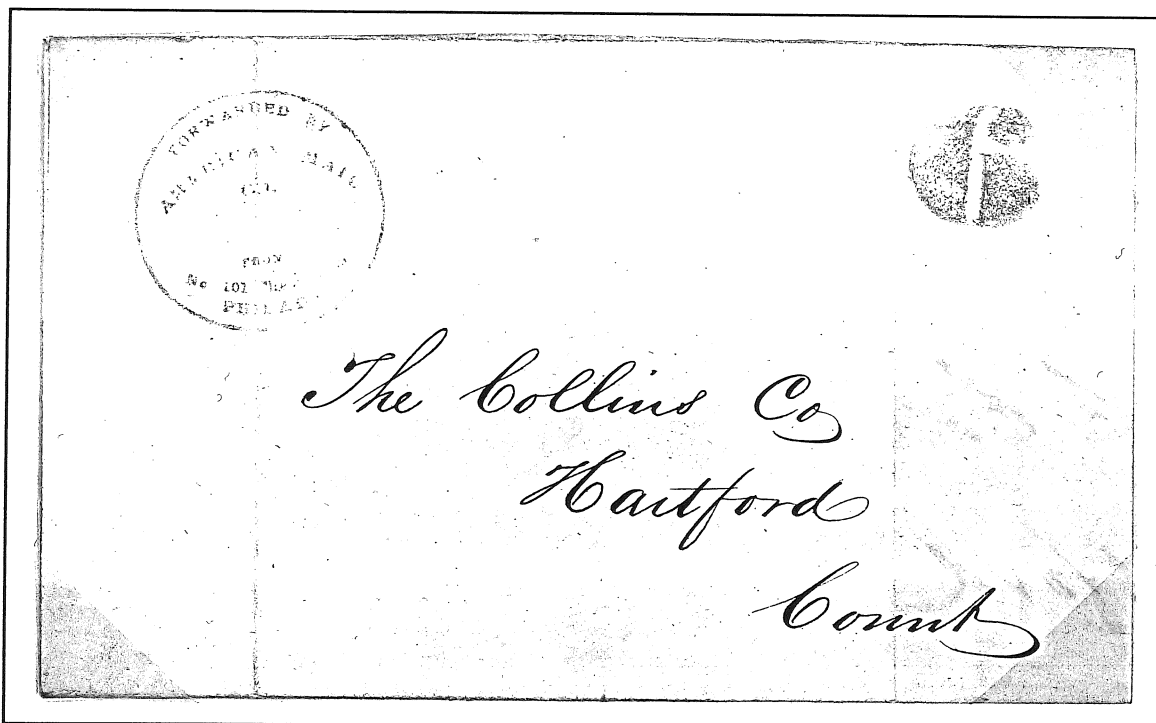
1844. Letter carried from Plaquemine, La. to Philadelphia by U.S. Post Office; then forwarded to Boston via American Mail Company.

If this letter had been forwarded to Boston by U.S. mail, the postage would have been 18½¢ rather than the 6¼¢ charged by private express.

The Charge was 6¼¢ per Half Ounce for Carriage



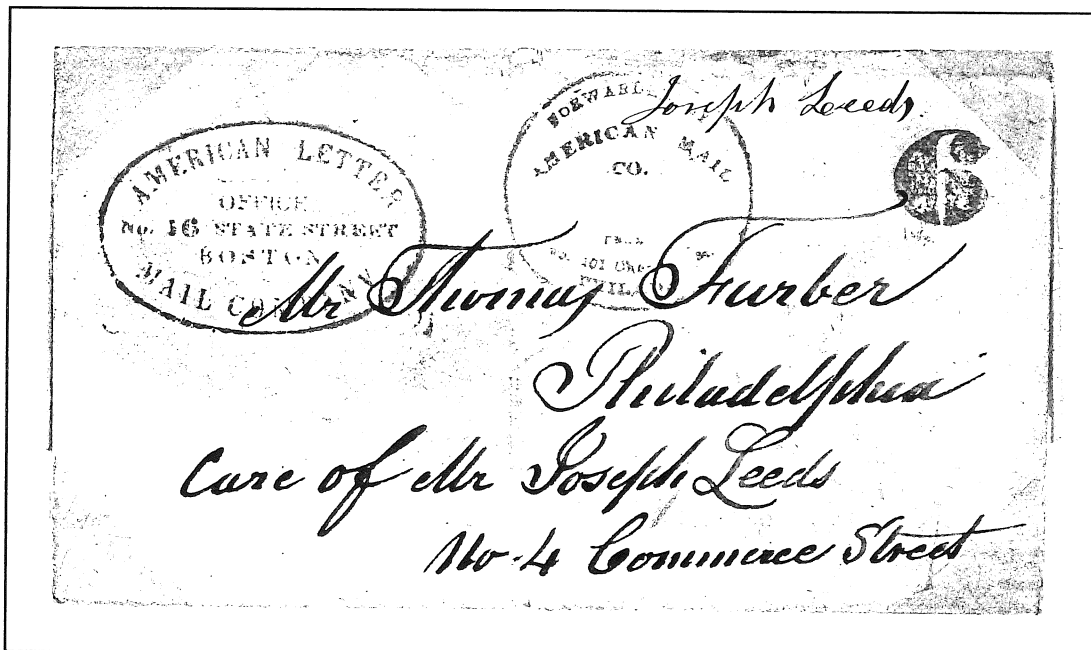
"Collect/6¼¢" Handstamp.



Sometimes the charge was expressed merely as "6".

Carriage from Boston Office to Philadelphia Office

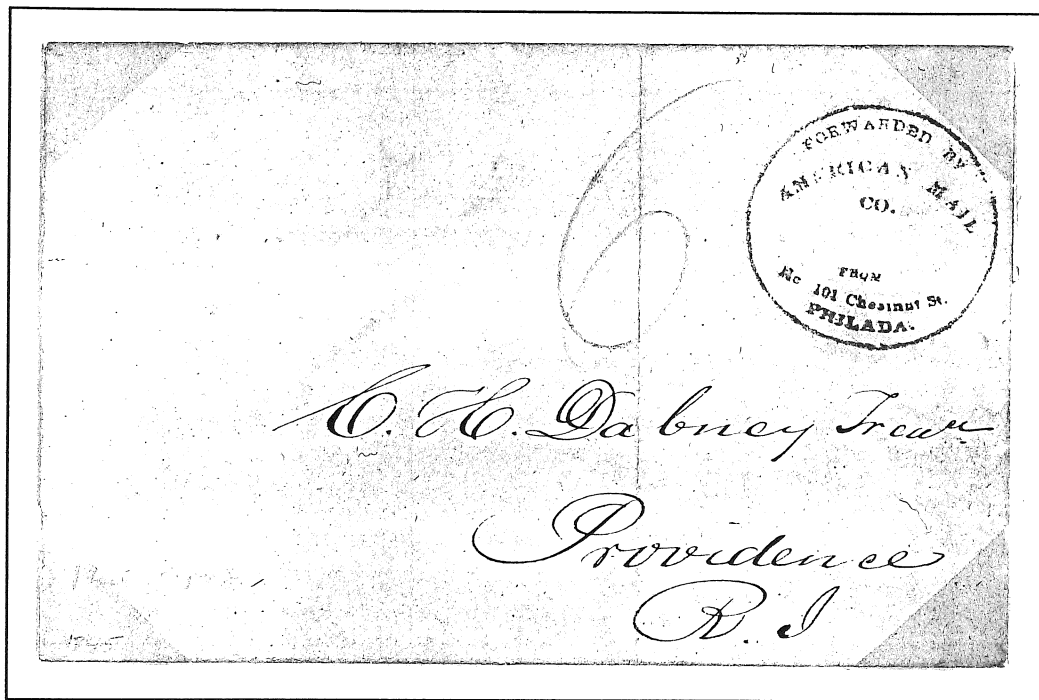
We do not know how the several offices accounted among themselves for the fee charged when more than one office was involved.



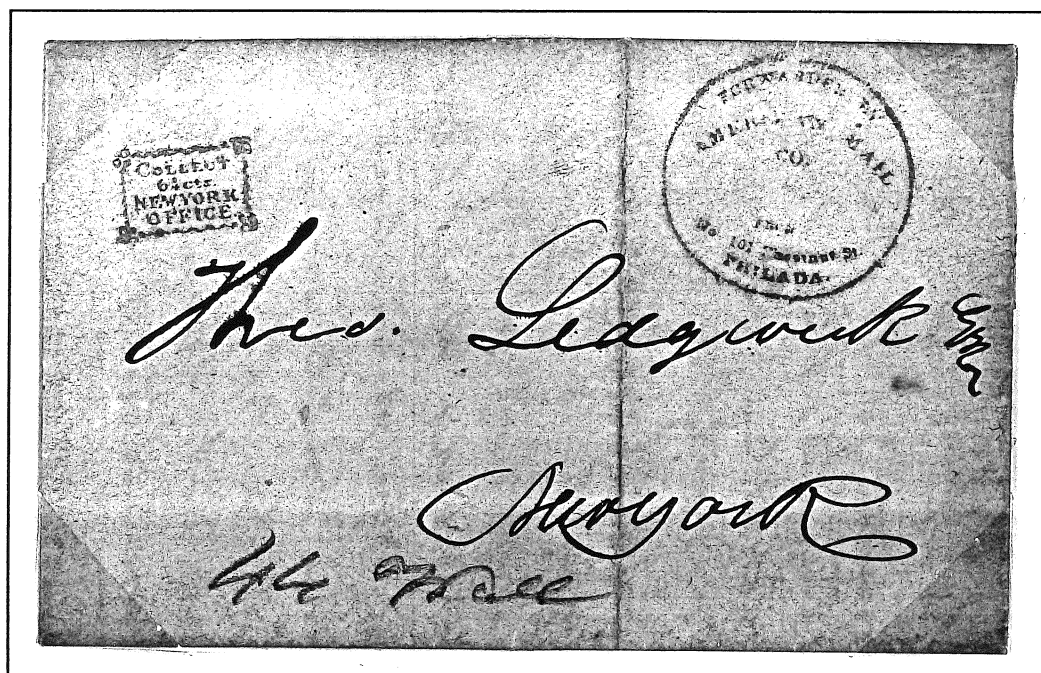
May 17, 1845.

The Boston Company handstamp is on the left;
the Philadelphia handstamp is in the center.

Rarely were "Fractional Cents" Expressed
When the Rate was Hand Written



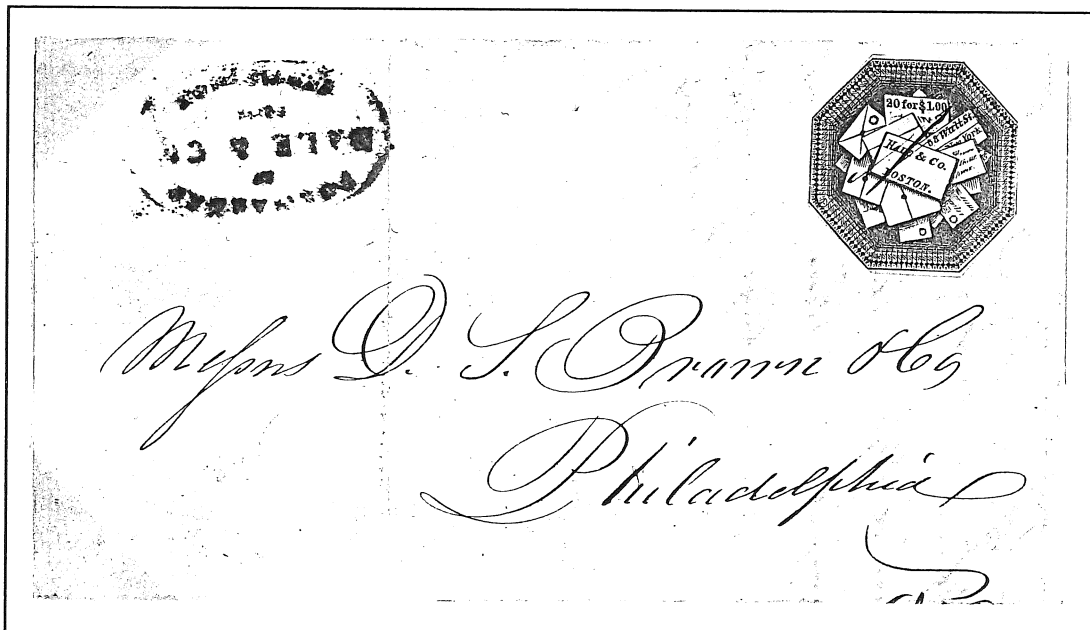
Rated "6" for 6¼¢ Due from addressee.



Handstamped "Collect/6¼¢/NEW YORK/OFFICE".

Hale & Co.

Hale & Co. operated along the East Coast, and became
a major Independent Mail Carrier before being
legislated out-of-business by Congress.

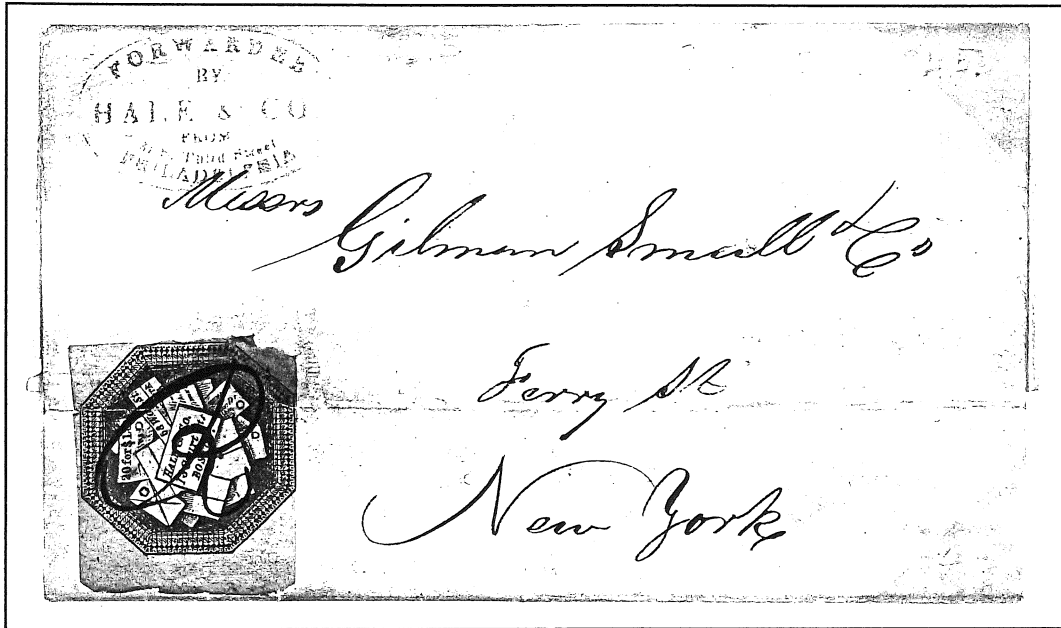


May 22, 1845.

Providence Office to Philadelphia Office.

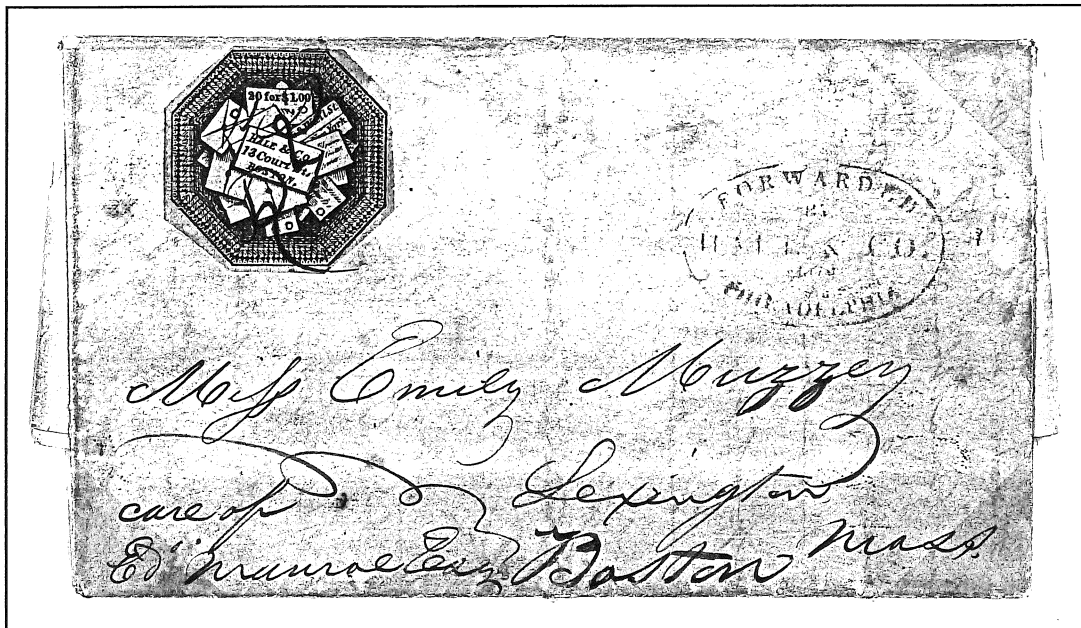
Adhesives Cancelled by Carrier's Initial "R"

Although several examples of this cancellation have been reported, the carrier has not yet been identified.



May 24, 1845

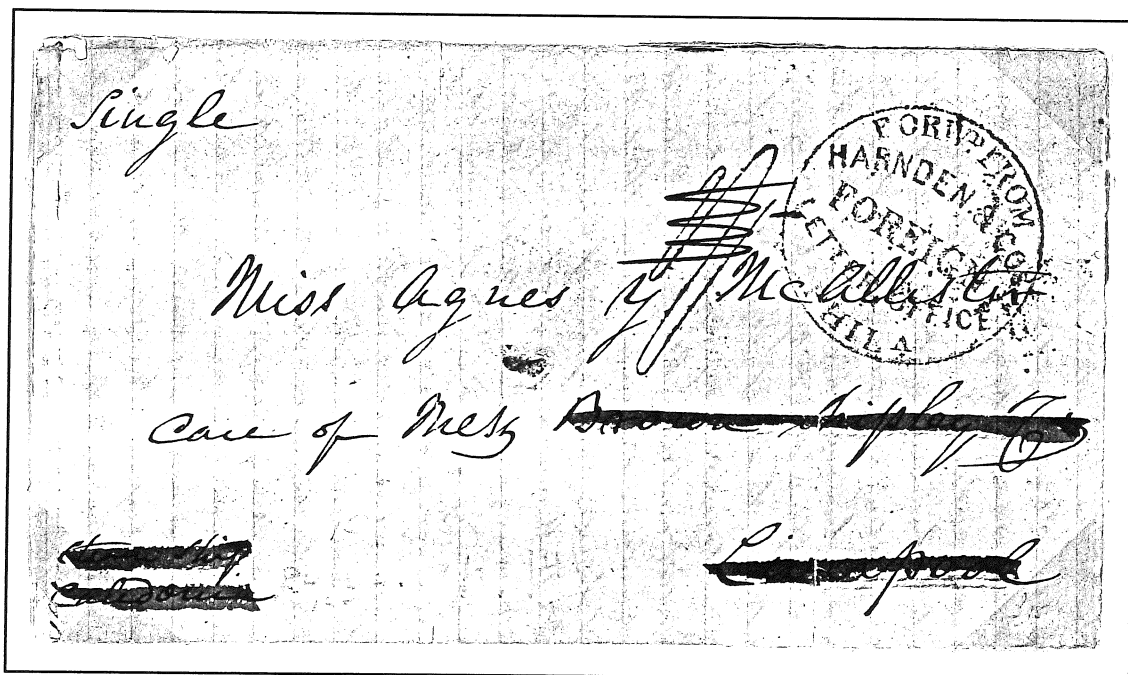
"R/R"



February 22, 1845.

Harnden's Letter Express

Harnden's was the first Inter-City Express, having been founded in 1839. The business began in Boston, and was expanded to Philadelphia in 1840.

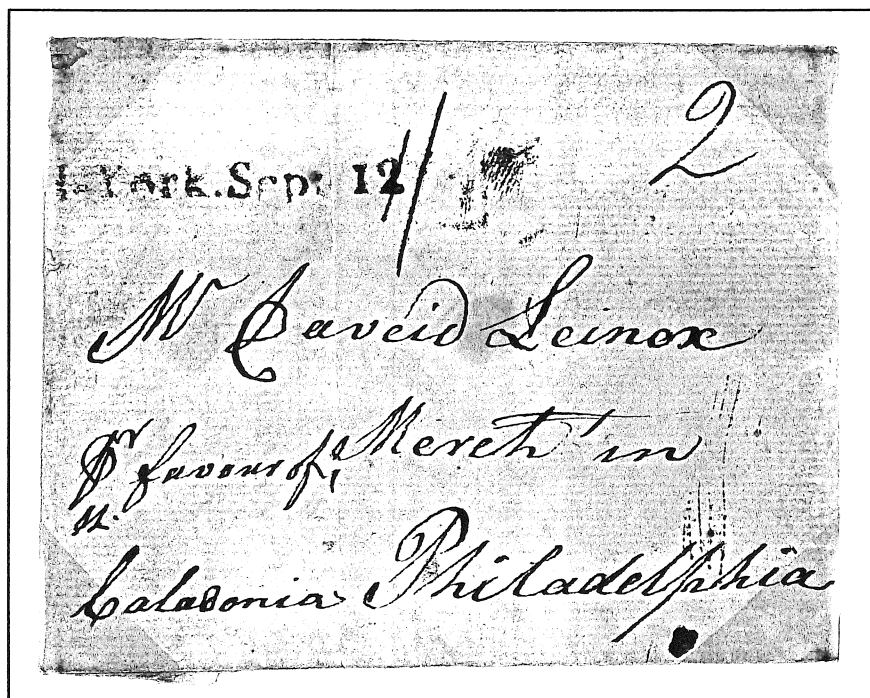


July 27, 1840.

Harnden enlarged his business to include Europe in 1841.

Government Carrier Service

Articles of Confederation Post



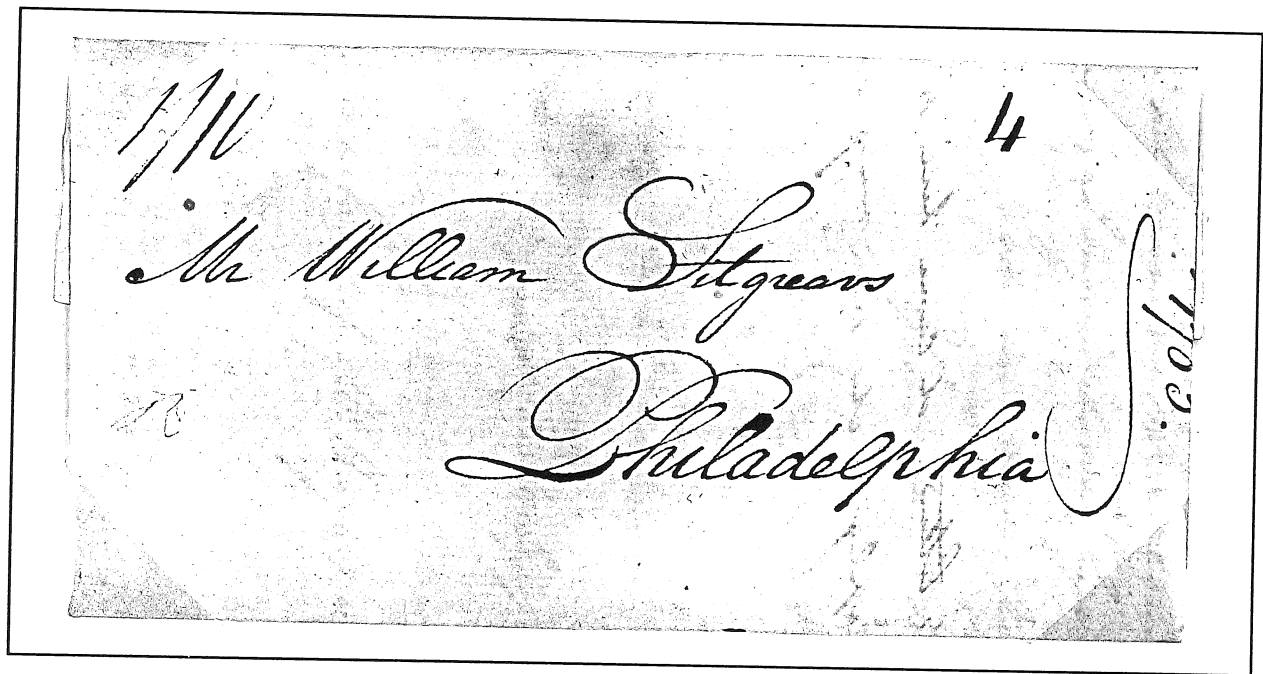
September 12, 1785.

Rated "2" Pennyweights (= 10 Pence) in New York City, but rated "1/" [One Shilling] (= 12 Pence) in local currency at Philadelphia.

The extra two (2) Pence probably was a charge for Carrier delivery from the Philadelphia Post Office.

Articles of Confederation Post

Petersburg, Va. to Philadelphia



March 24, 1783.

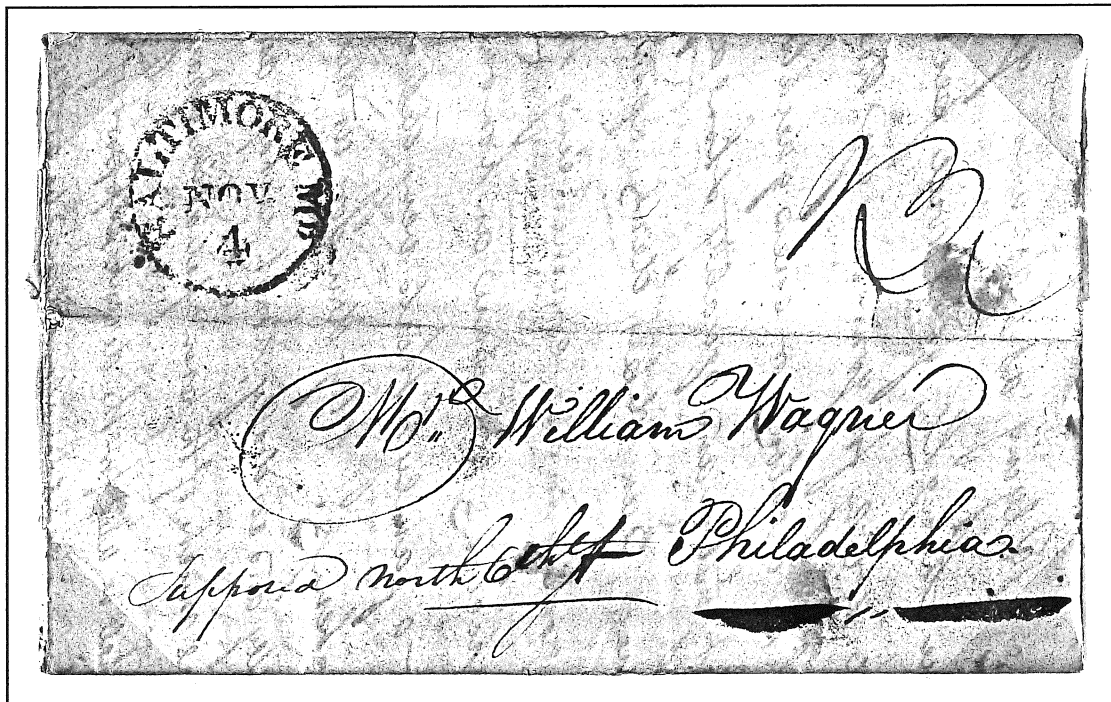
Rated "4" Pennyweights [= 20 Pence] (300-400 miles) in Petersburg,
but rated "1/10" [= 22 Pence] in Philadelphia local currency.

The extra two (2) Pence for the carrier delivery fee in
Philadelphia was not affected by the increased postage
according to distance.

Constitutional Post

The records establish that a Government letter carrier (William Blake) was appointed in Philadelphia in 1791. Thereafter, although there was no *Carrier Department*, additional letter carriers were appointed who earned their income from the pooled fees they all received from patrons.

Delivery to District of Northern Liberties.



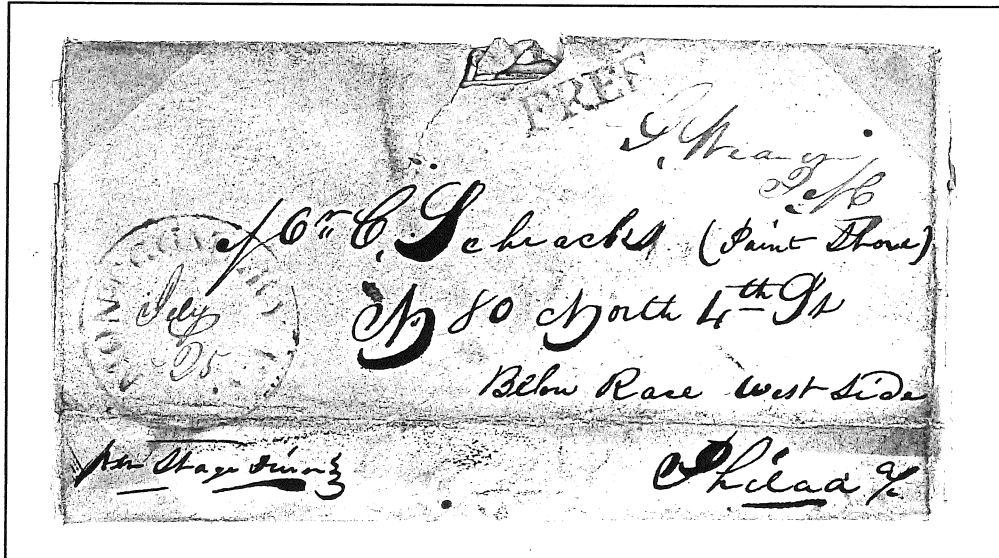
November 4, 1824.

Address supplied by letter carrier who delivered
the folded letter from the Post Office and
collected the fee "in cash".

Incoming Stage Coach Letter Carrier Delivered

The presence of the street address and very specific directions make it very likely that this letter was delivered by a Philadelphia letter carrier.

"N 80 North 4th St/Below Race West Side"

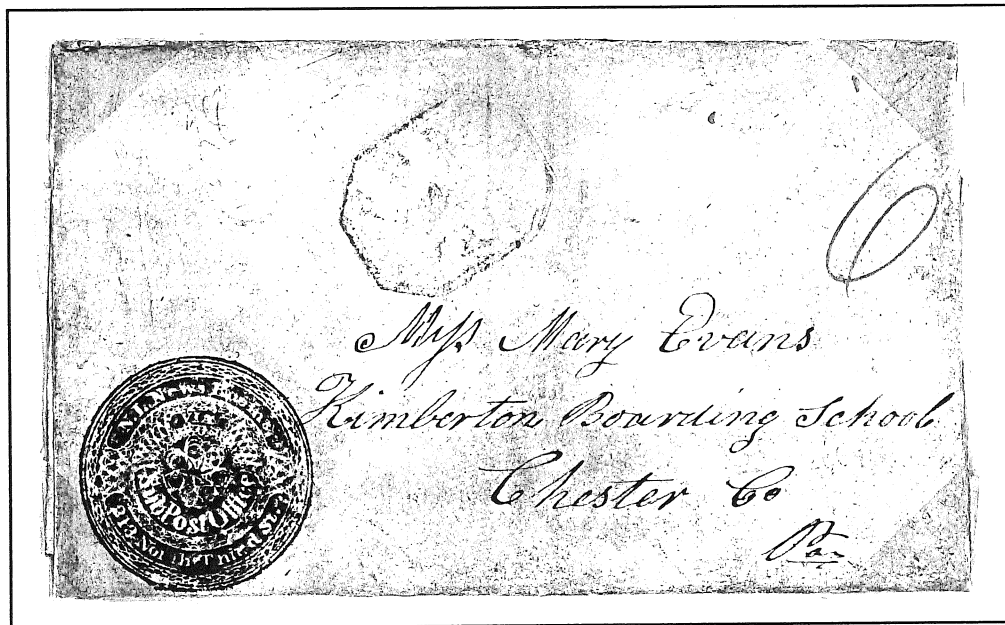


July 25, 1828. Montgomery Square,
NJ to Philadelphia.

Free franked by George Weaver, Postmaster. The carrier fee (2¢) would be collected "in cash" from the addressee.

Northern Liberties News Room

Letter sheets were sold by the Northern Liberties Sub-Post Office in late 1835 and early 1836 for Carrier Service by Government letter carriers to the main Philadelphia Post Office.

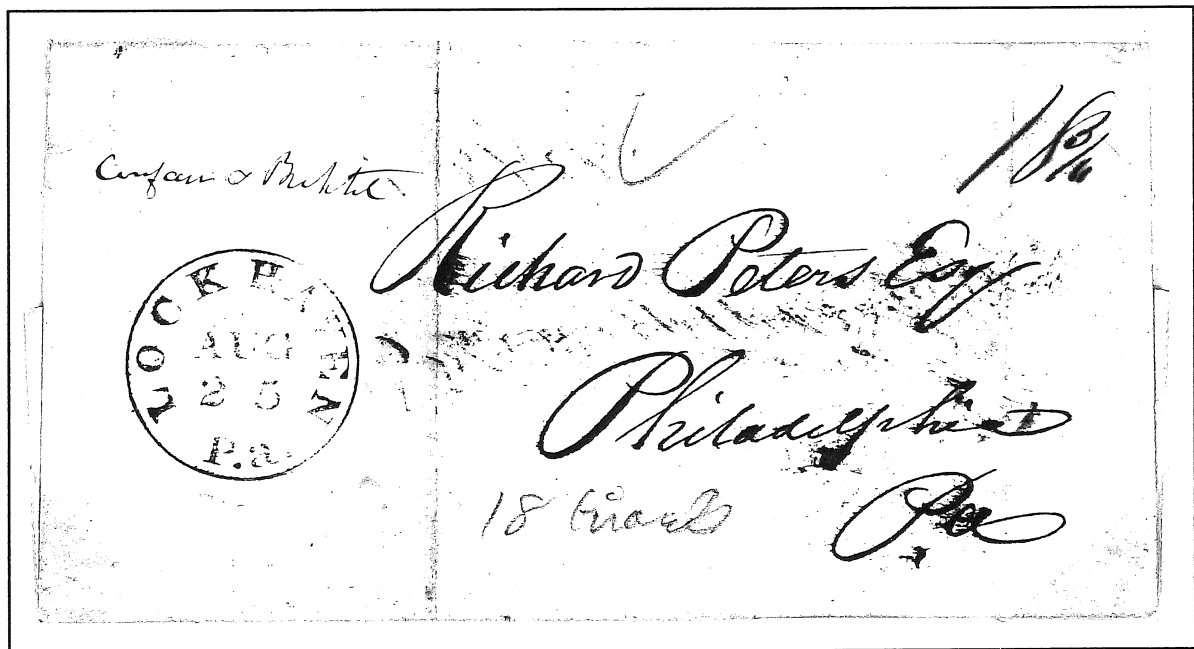


1836. Type I (Filled-in center). 6¢ Due.

Postal historians argue whether the "impression" was pre-printed on a letter press or was handstamped.

Carrier Delivered "From the Mails"

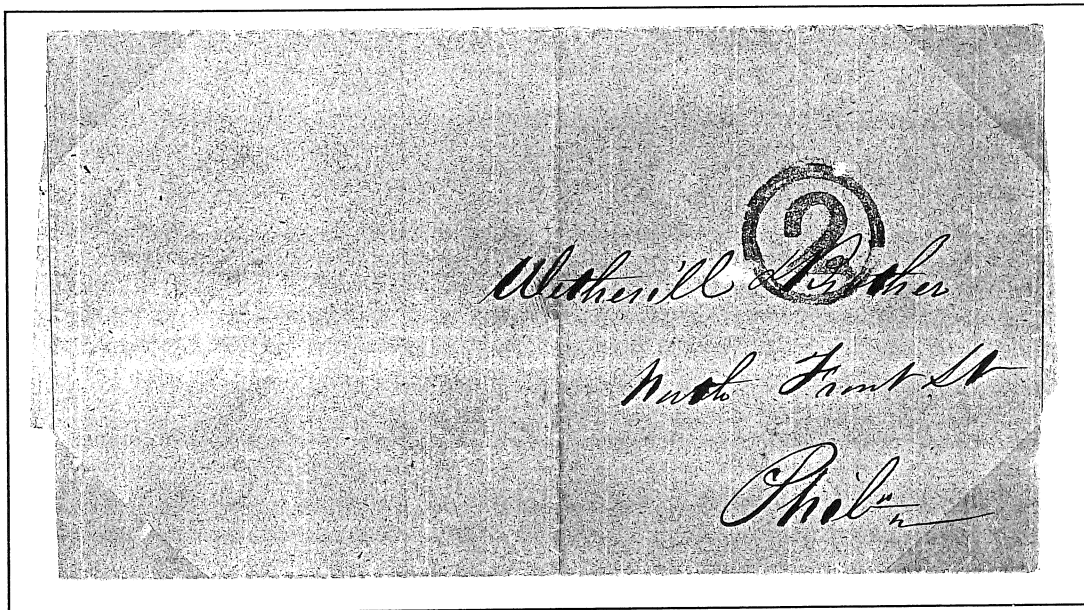
"C" Applied by Carrier Department



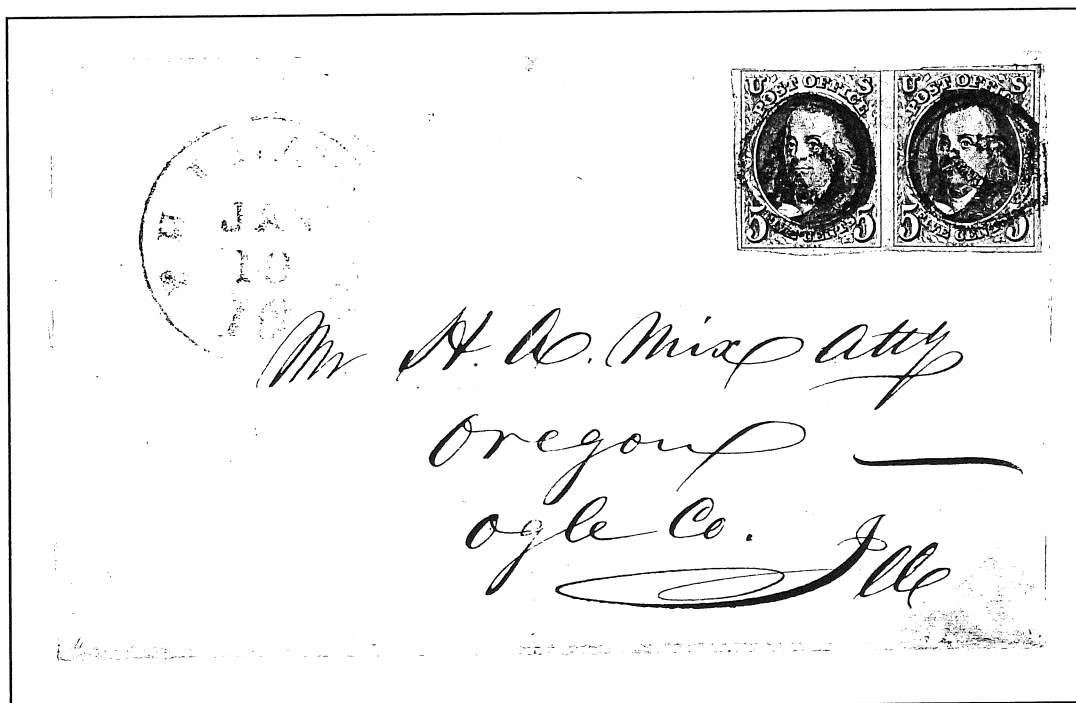
August 25, 1841.

There are three (3) reported covers on which the Carrier Department indicated its handling the letter by marking it with "C" and the street address.

Carrier Fees in Philadelphia were "Not more than 2¢"
From July 2, 1836 until February 19, 1849.



July 7, 1848. City delivery to North Front Street.



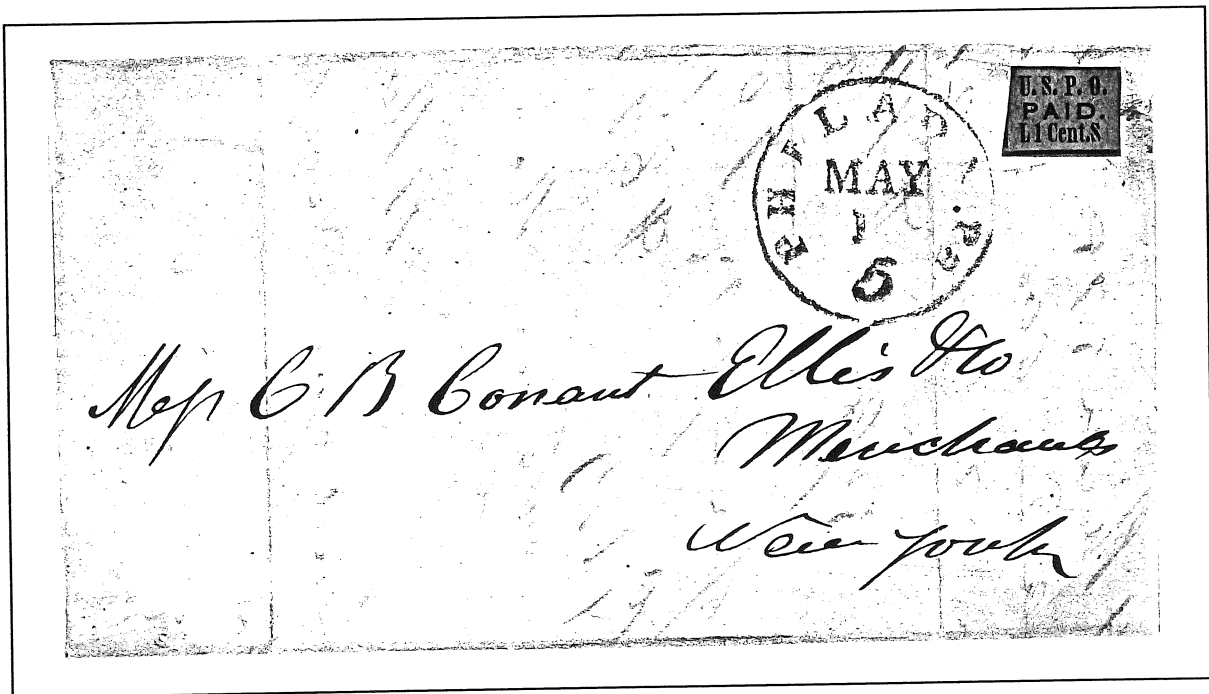
January 19, 1848.

The "2" circle handstamp is thought by some students
to indicate prepayment of the Collection Fee in cash.

Semi-Official Carrier Stamps

As part of the reorganization of the Philadelphia Carrier Department in 1849, Postmaster William White issued a series of small, crude adhesives.

The 1849-1850 Series: With Initials



May 12, 1849.

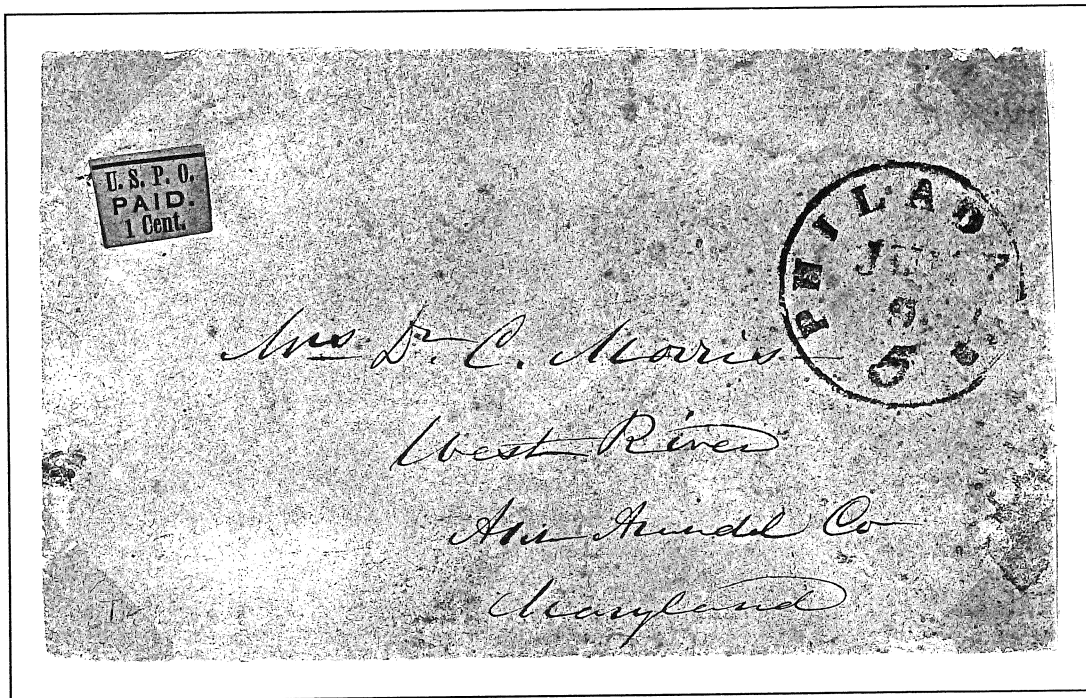
Initials "L S"

Some postal historians speculate that the initials which appear on some of the stamps in this series were the initials of the letter carriers.

Semi-Official Carrier Stamps

The 1849-1850 Series: Without Initials

Black on Buff



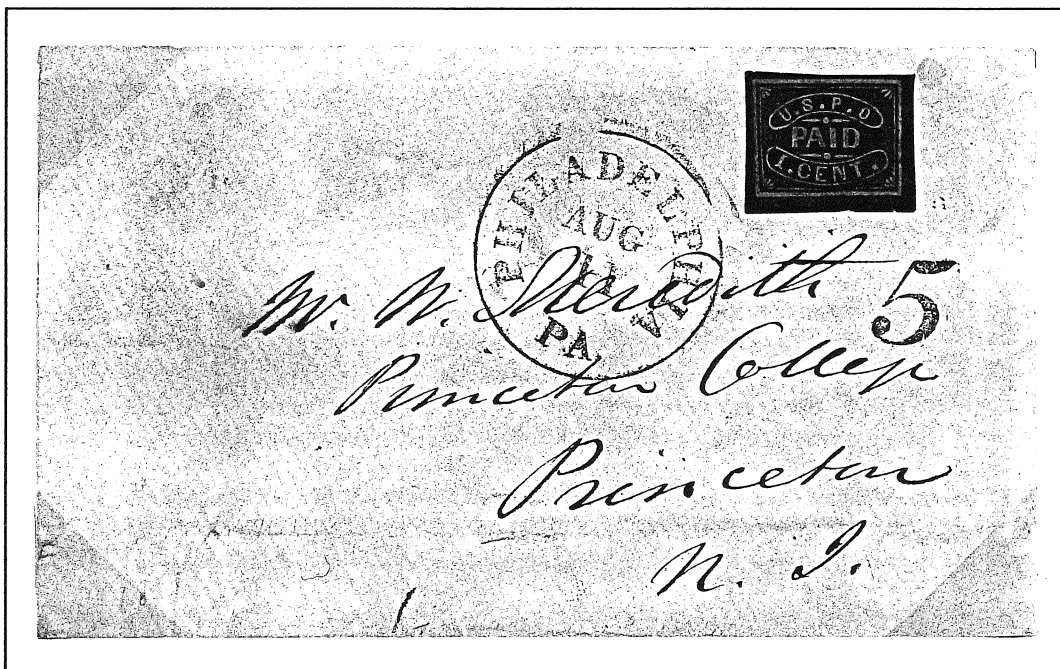
No date, but probably 1849 since this series of adhesives was available 1849-1850, and the CDS (Type C-44) was in use 1848-1849.

Only reported example on cover.

Semi-Official Carrier Stamps

The Second Series

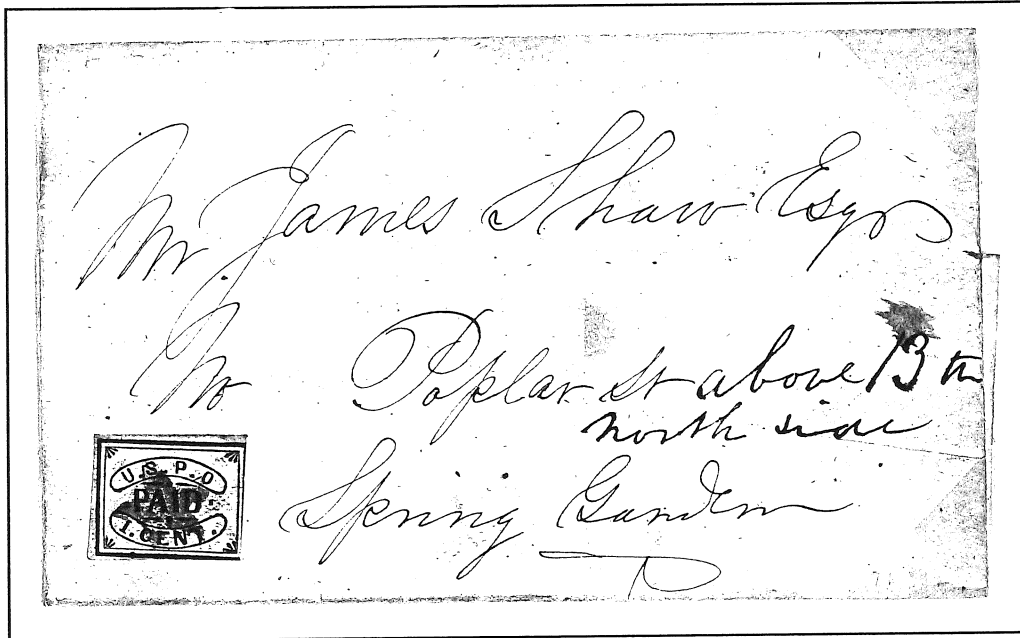
Postmaster White issued a new series of carrier stamps from 1850-1852. These adhesives could be used rather than the Franklin carrier or Eagle carrier stamps which were also available during part of this time.



August 11, 1851.

The carrier fee had to be prepaid **only if**, like this letter, the cover was to be taken to the Post Office for transmittal out-of-town.

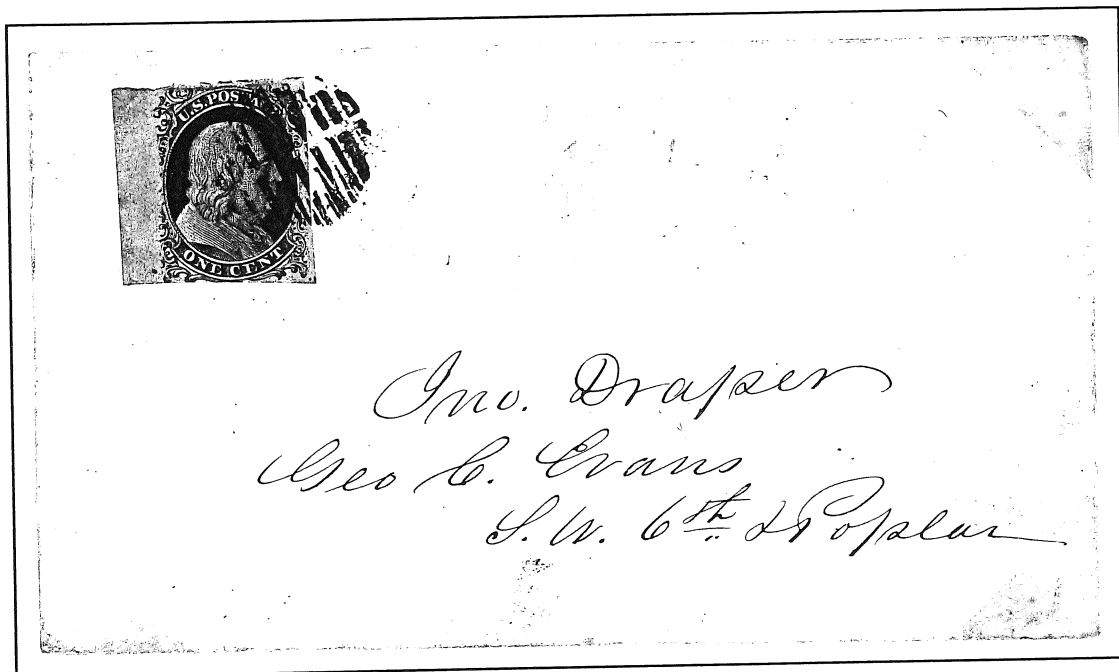
Delivery to Spring Garden District
by the Philadelphia Carrier Department



September 30, 1852.

It has been incorrectly written that because the
Spring Garden District had its own Post Office,
the Philadelphia Carrier Department did not deliver
to the District.

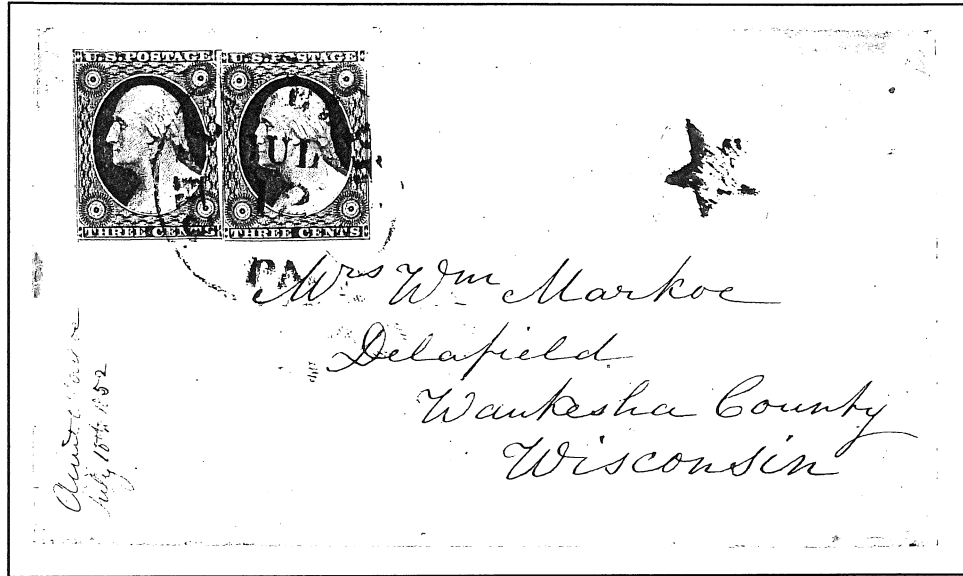
Delivery to Spring Garden District



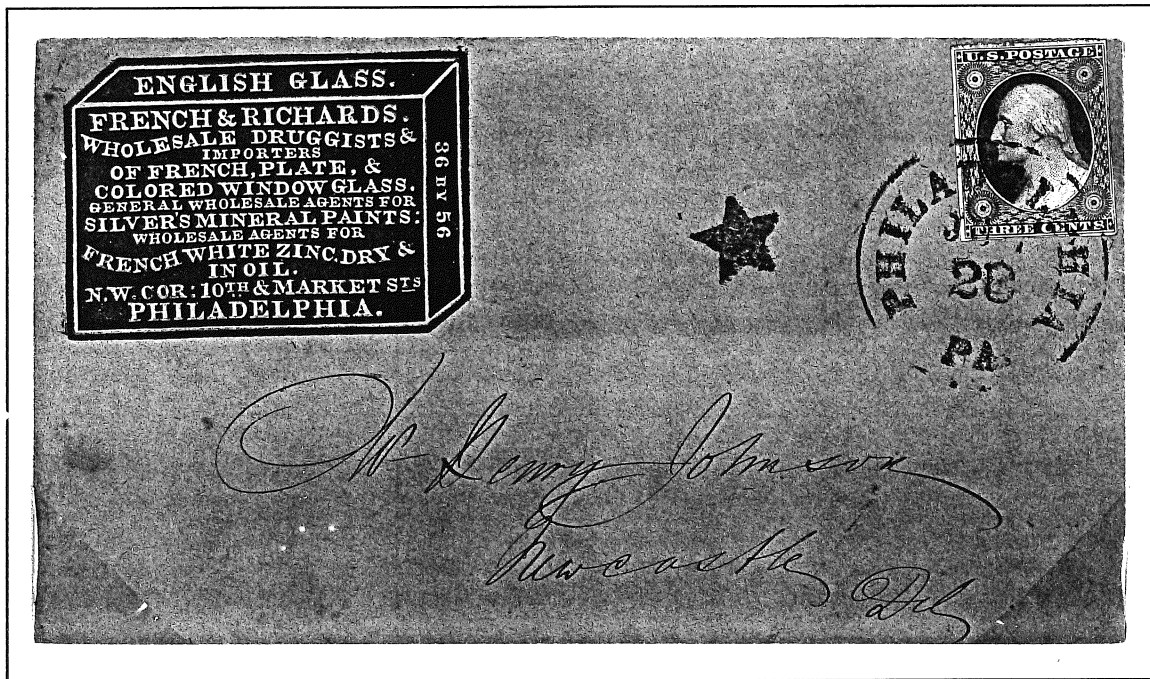
No date.

"6th & Poplar" Streets were in the Spring
Garden District.

Prepayment of the Carrier Fee "In Cash"



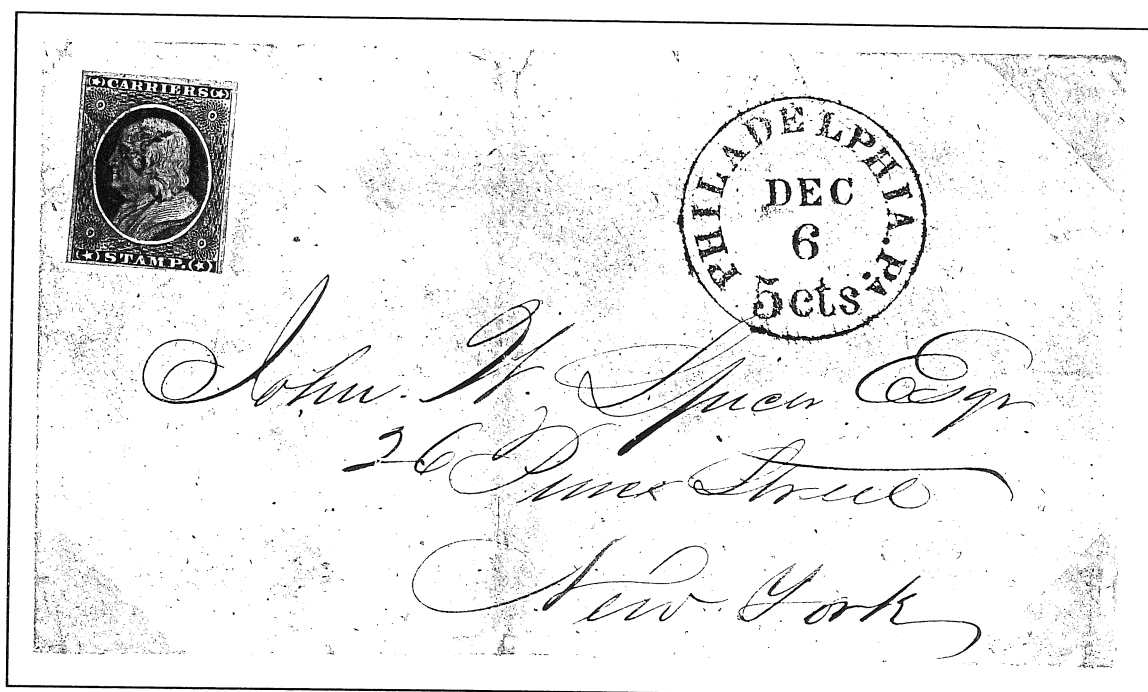
July 12, 1852.



In the 1850's, the Philadelphia Carrier Department often used a red star to indicate prepayment "in cash" of the carrier collection fee (1¢) to the Post Office.

The Official Post Office Carrier Stamp

On October 21, 1851, the Philadelphia Post Office received 10,000 *Franklin* carrier stamps, the only shipment it ever received.

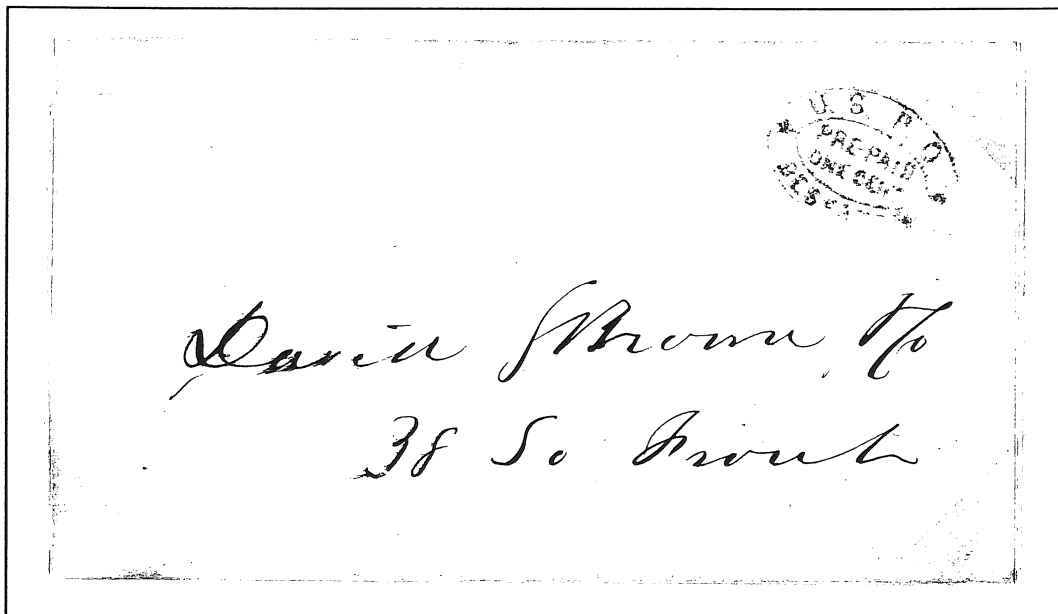


No year date, but likely 1851. With PF Certificate.

The Franklin carrier was superseded by the Eagle carrier stamp in November 1851.

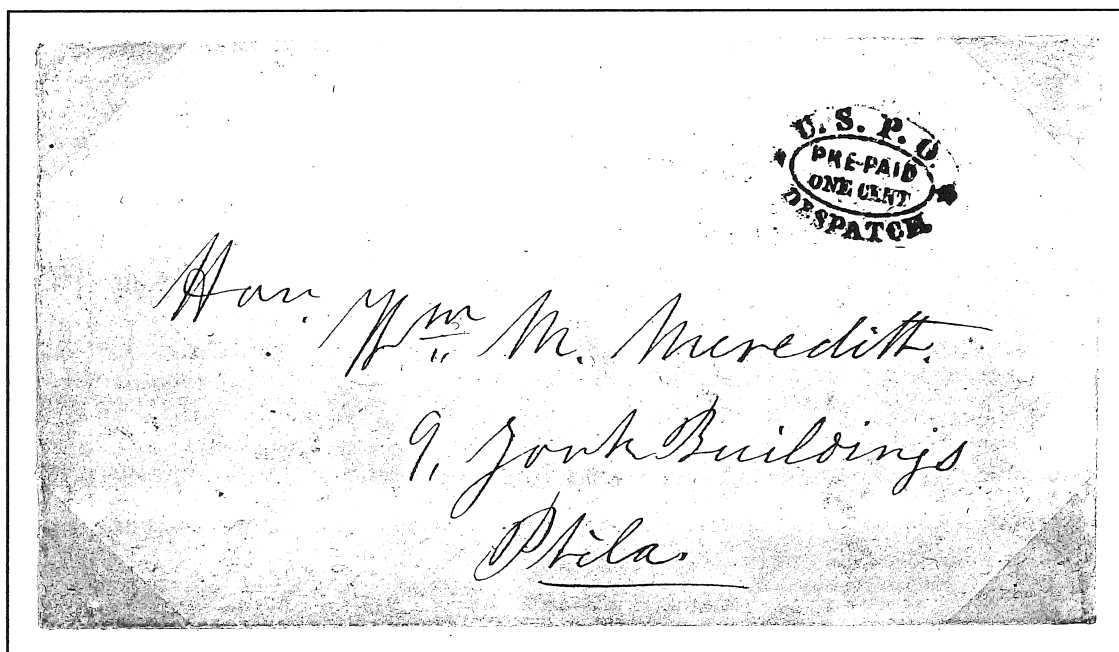
Act of July 1, 1851

Without Serifs [Type C-32]



October 10, 1853. These markings evidence prepayment of the carrier fee "in cash".

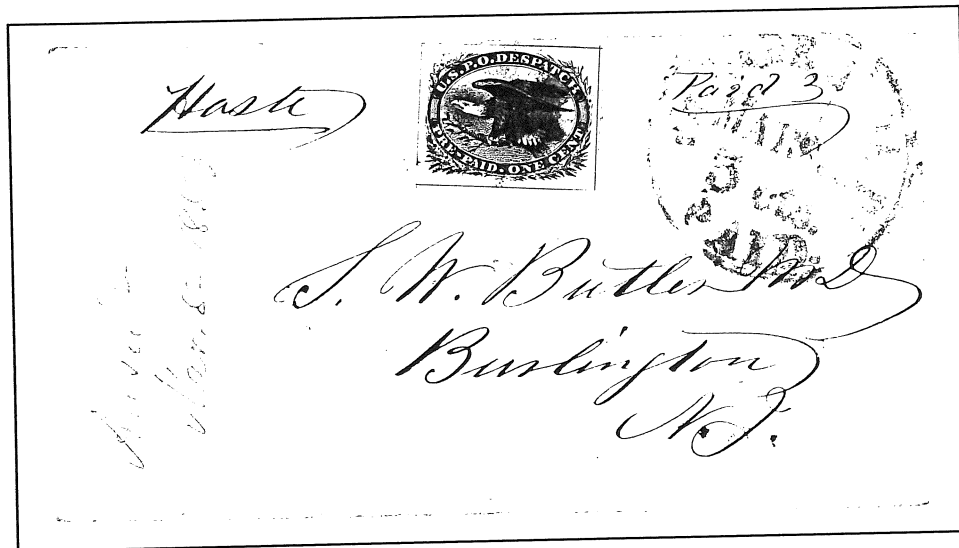
With Serifs [Type C-33]



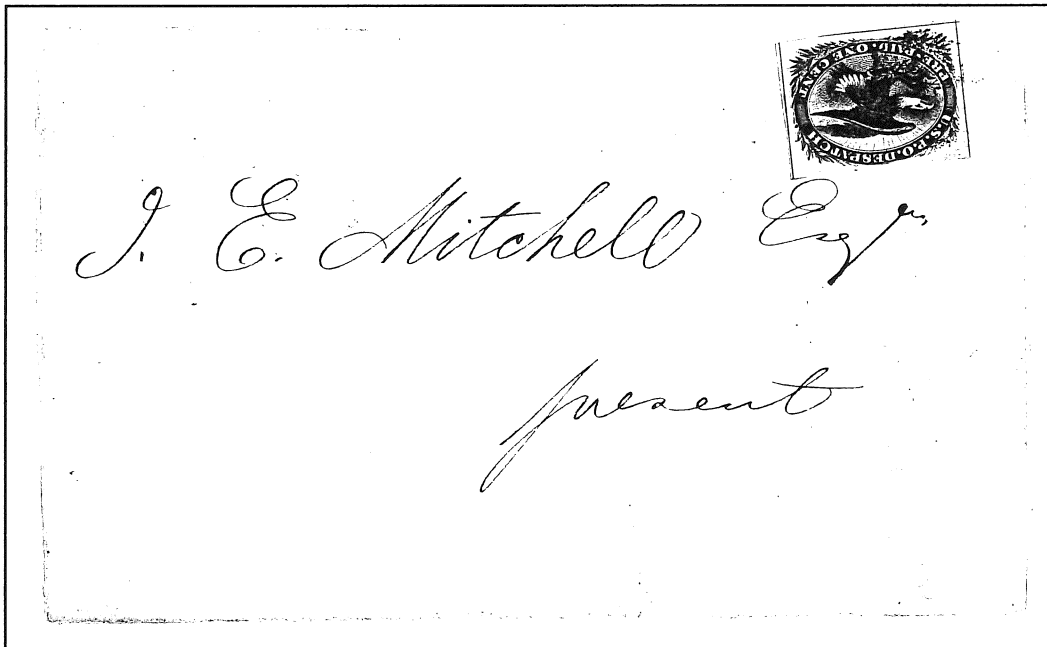
February 5, 1853.

The Second Official Post Office Carrier Stamp

On November 17, 1851, the Philadelphia Post Office received a shipment of 20,000 Eagle carrier stamps, the only one it ever received.

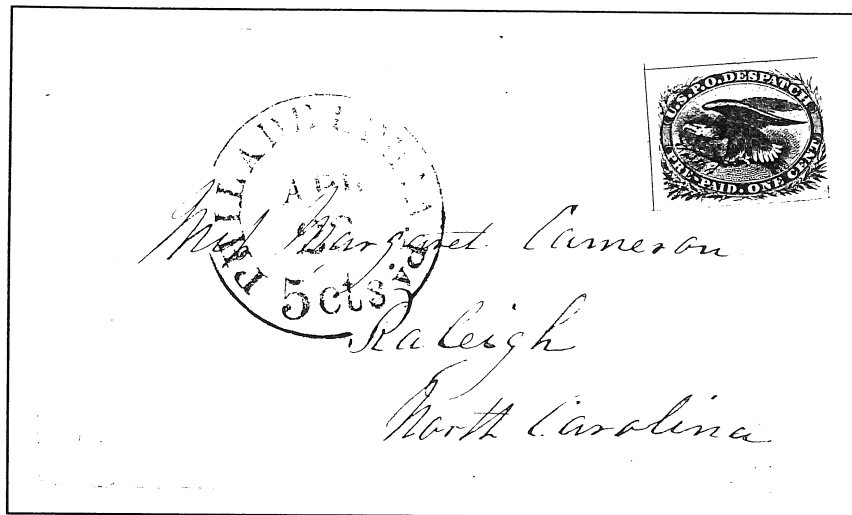


Carrier Delivered Printed Circular

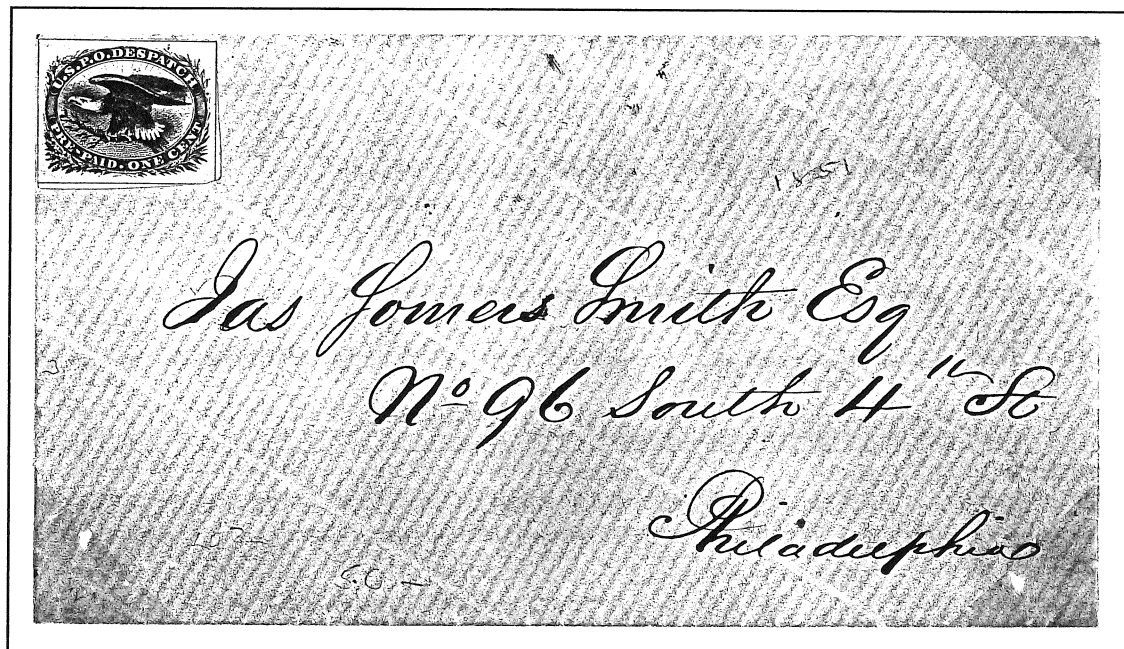


1854. City delivery.

"To the Mails"



"City Delivery"



Despite the availability of government carrier service, most City delivery service was performed by the private local Posts such as Blood's Despatch.

Carrier Service at Kensington, Pa.

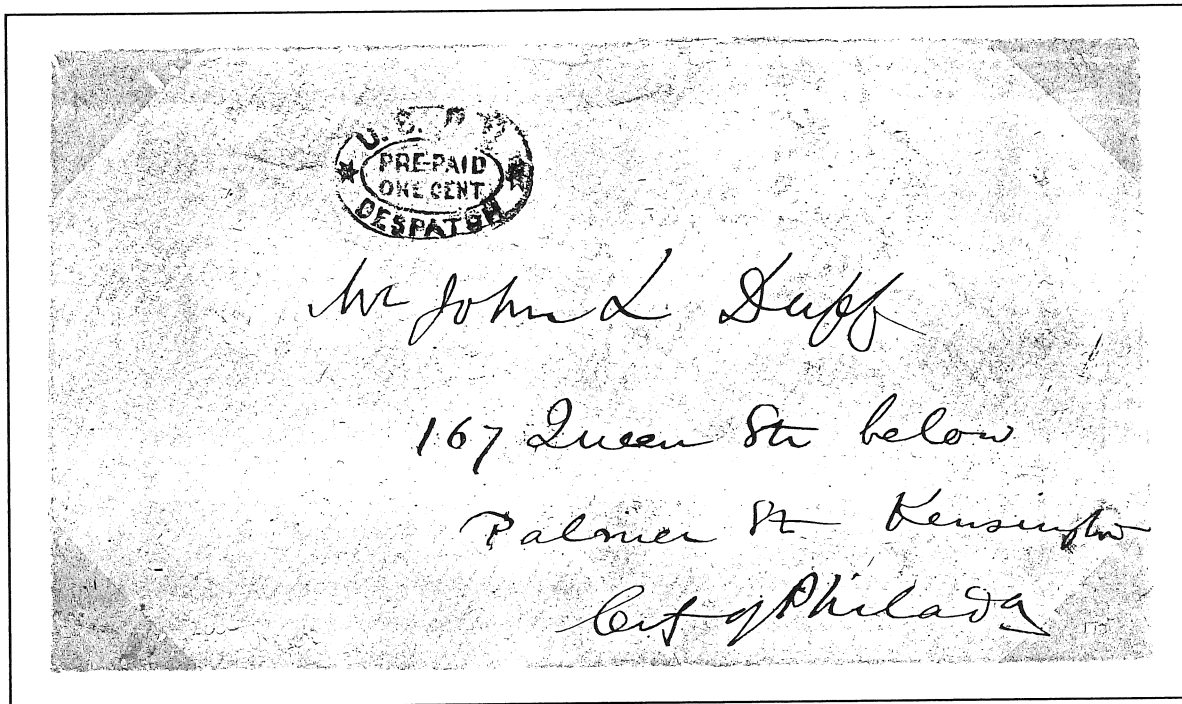
Kensington, a Borough located in Philadelphia County (and eventually incorporated into the City), had its own Post Office and Carrier Department. Because of its proximity to Philadelphia, it also was served by the Philadelphia Carrier Department.



Of the four Post Offices that distributed Eagle carrier stamps, Kensington records the fewest examples on cover - - only twenty-seven (27).

Carrier Service to Kensington, Pa.

This letter, addressed to Kensington [a District adjacent to Philadelphia], was delivered by the Philadelphia Carrier Department, even though the Kensington Post Office had its own carrier service.

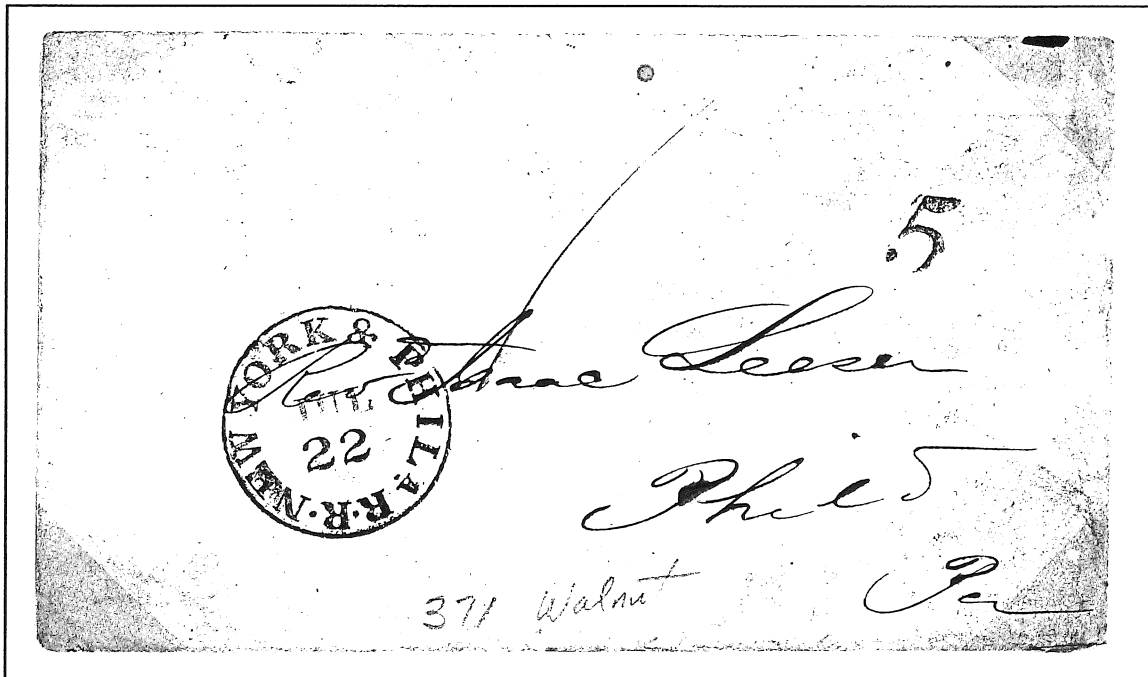


No year date. "U.S.P.O.*DESPATCH*/PRE-PAID/ONE CENT"
[Type C-32-Without Serifs]

This handstamp reflected the reduction in Carrier Fees implemented in February 1849.

Carrier Delivered From Railroad Route Agent

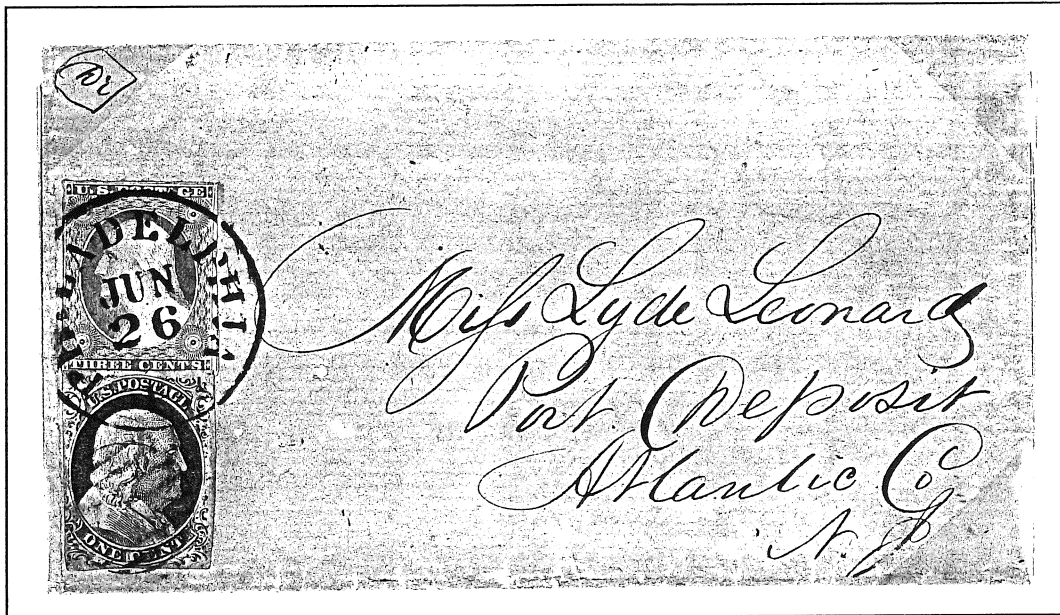
"New York & PHIL^A R.R."



Carrier fee <due> indicated by "1" in pencil.

Carrier delivered letters taken from railroad service are among the scarcest usages.

*Early Use of 1¢ Imperforate Stamp to Pay
For Collection Service*

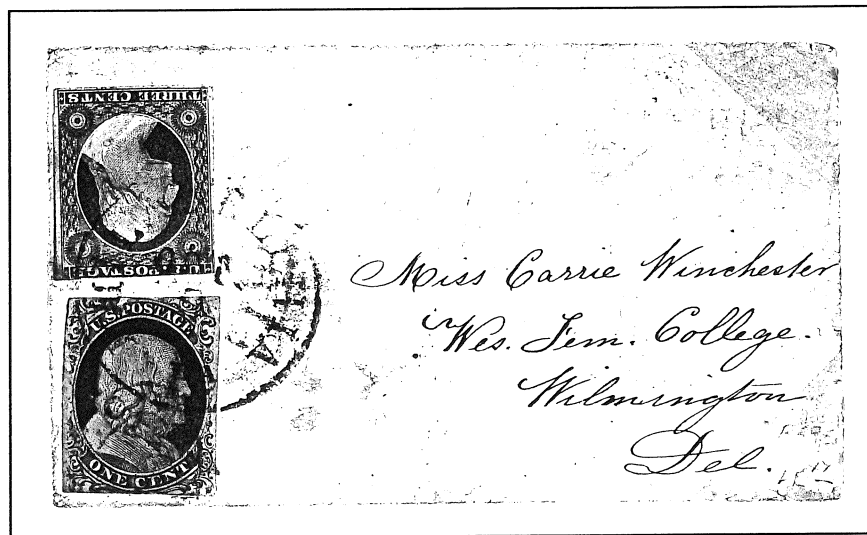


June 26, 1856.

The 1¢ imperforate stamp began to be used to pay the collection fee in Philadelphia, concurrently with the Eagle carrier stamp, in June 1856.

1¢ Imperforate Stamp Cancelled by *Black Oval*

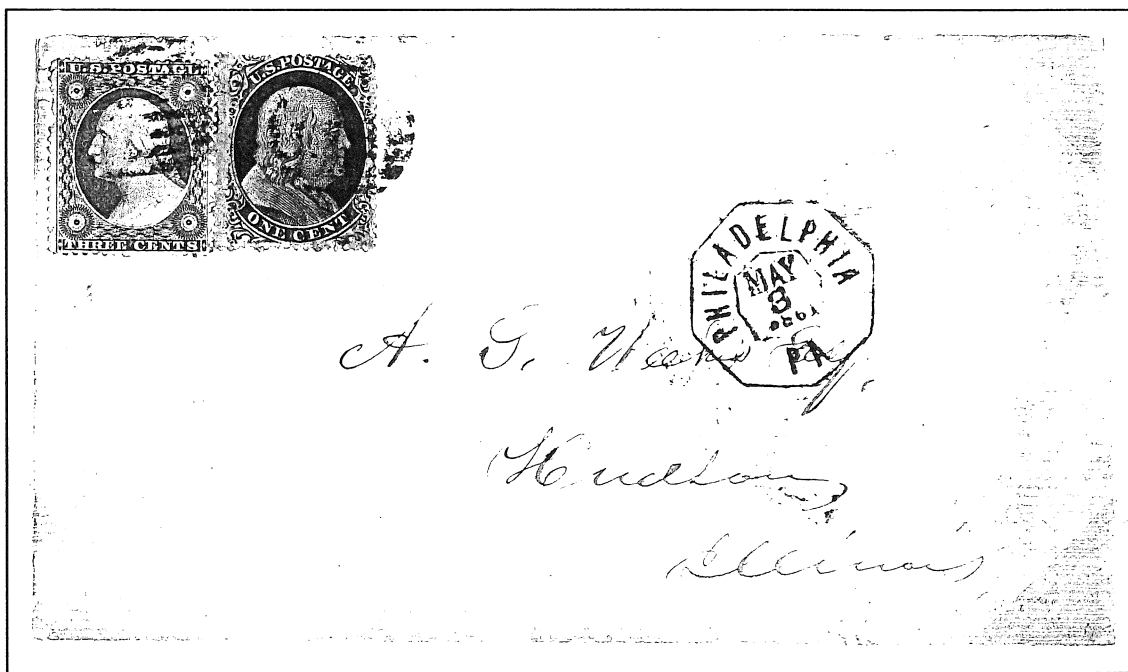
"U.S.P.O.*DESPATCH*/PRE-PAID/ONE CENT" Handstamp



No date.

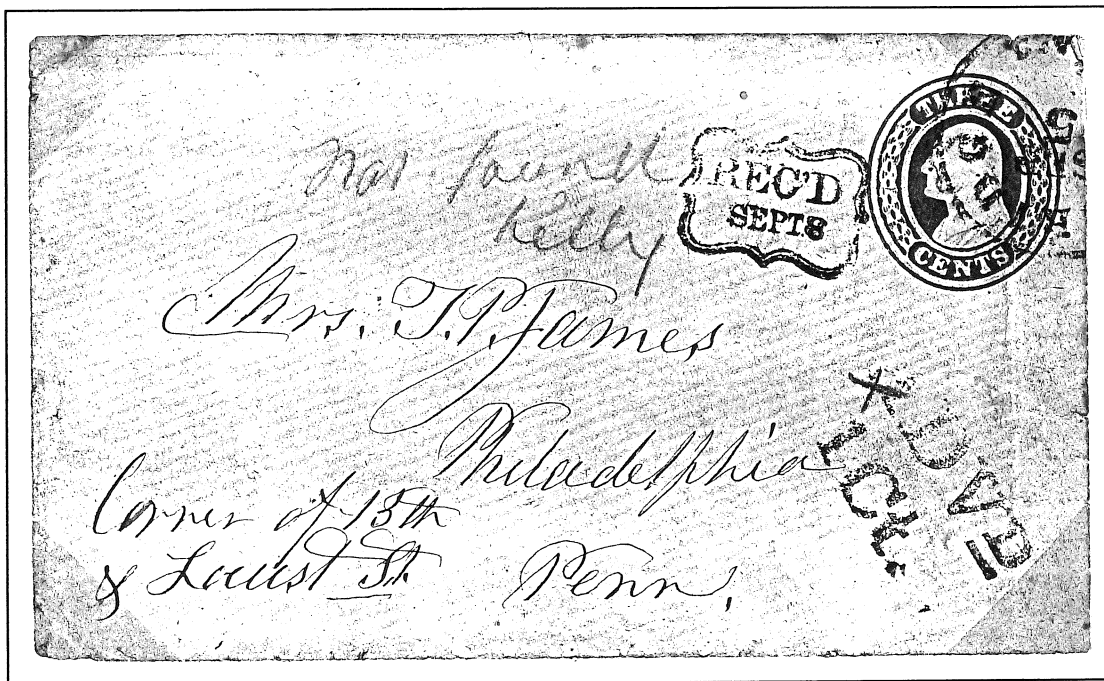
The 1¢ stamp was used for Carrier collection service in Philadelphia from June 1856 through November 1857 when this service became free.

"To the Mails"



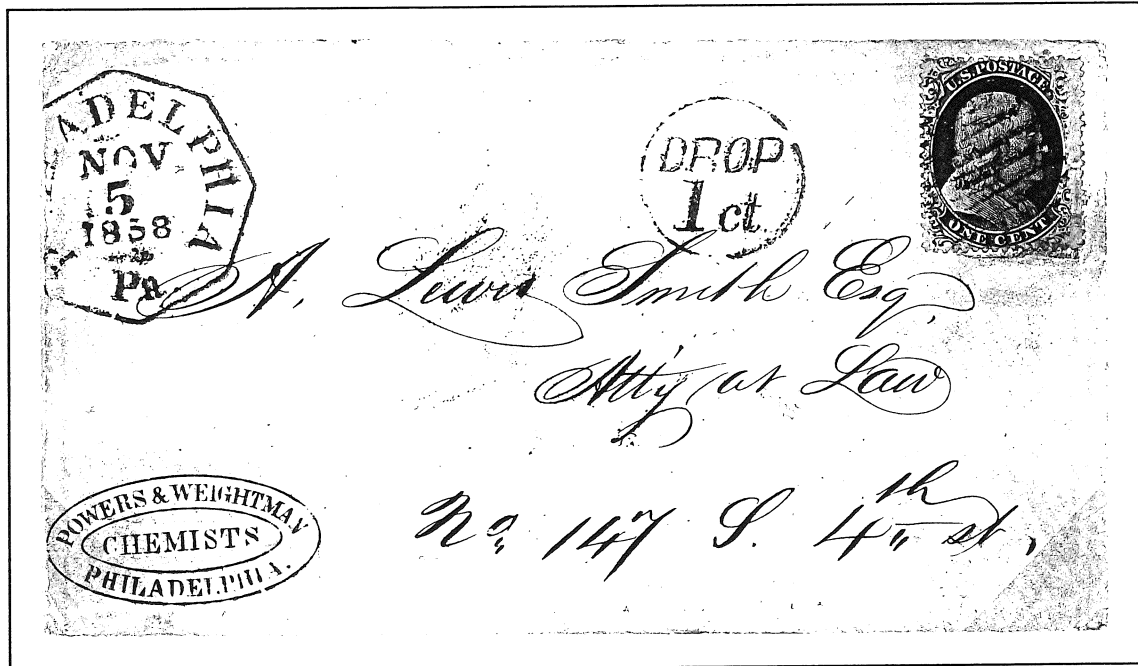
1¢ (x4) pays Carrier fee + Postage.

Letter Carrier Pencil Notation: "Not found/Kelly"



The letter carrier (Kelly) returned the letter
to the Post Office to be advertised.

Carrier & Drop Letter Combination

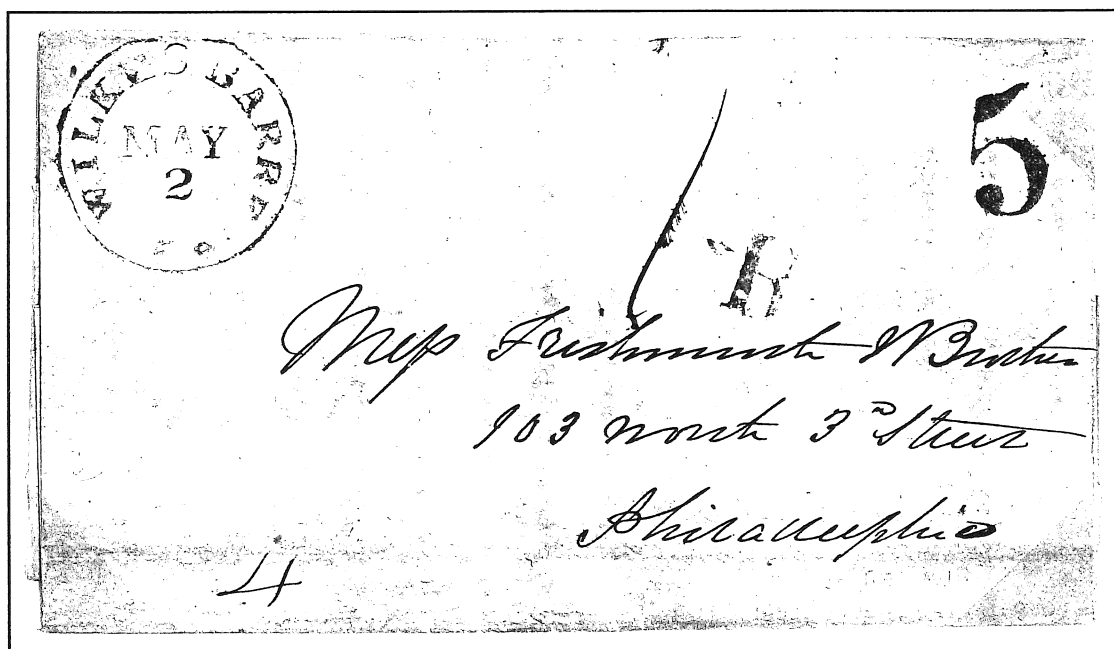


November 5, 1858. Rated 1 cent (Prepaid) for Carrier
Fee + 1 cent (Due) for Drop Letter postage.

This letter, addressed to a street address, would have
been delivered for the *Carrier Fee* only had it been put
in the Carrier Box at the Post Office. Because the letter
was placed in the regular mail window, it was also subject
to the Drop Letter postage charge.

Incoming Registered/Recorded Letter Carrier Delivered

One of the scarcest carrier usages was the delivery of a recorded letter from the Post Office to the addressee.

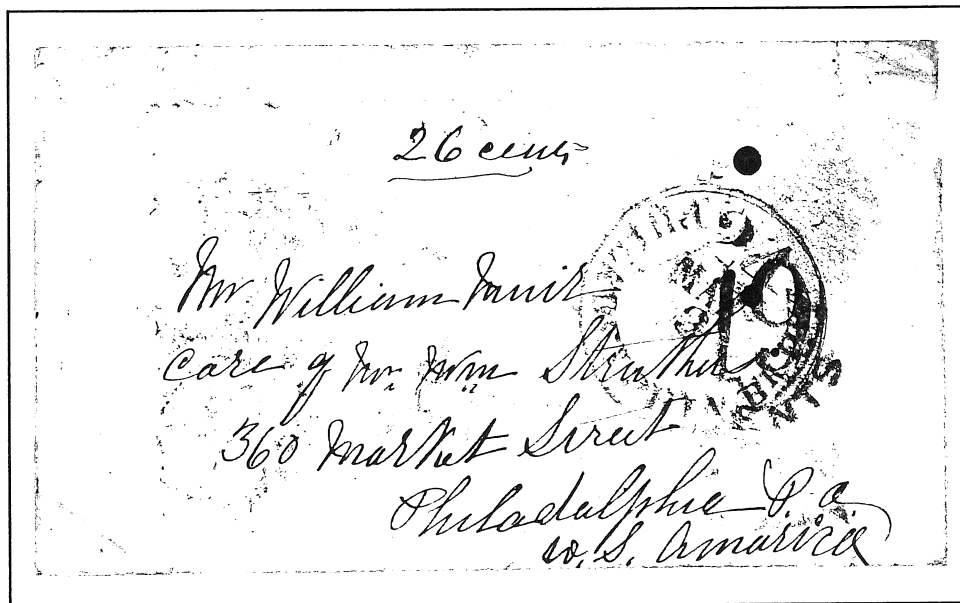


1850. Manuscript "4" (Recordation Number). Carrier fee
<1¢ Due> indicated by pen stroke.

One of two (2) Recorded/Registered covers reported
delivered by Philadelphia Carrier Department.

Incoming Transatlantic Carrier Delivered

"26 cents"

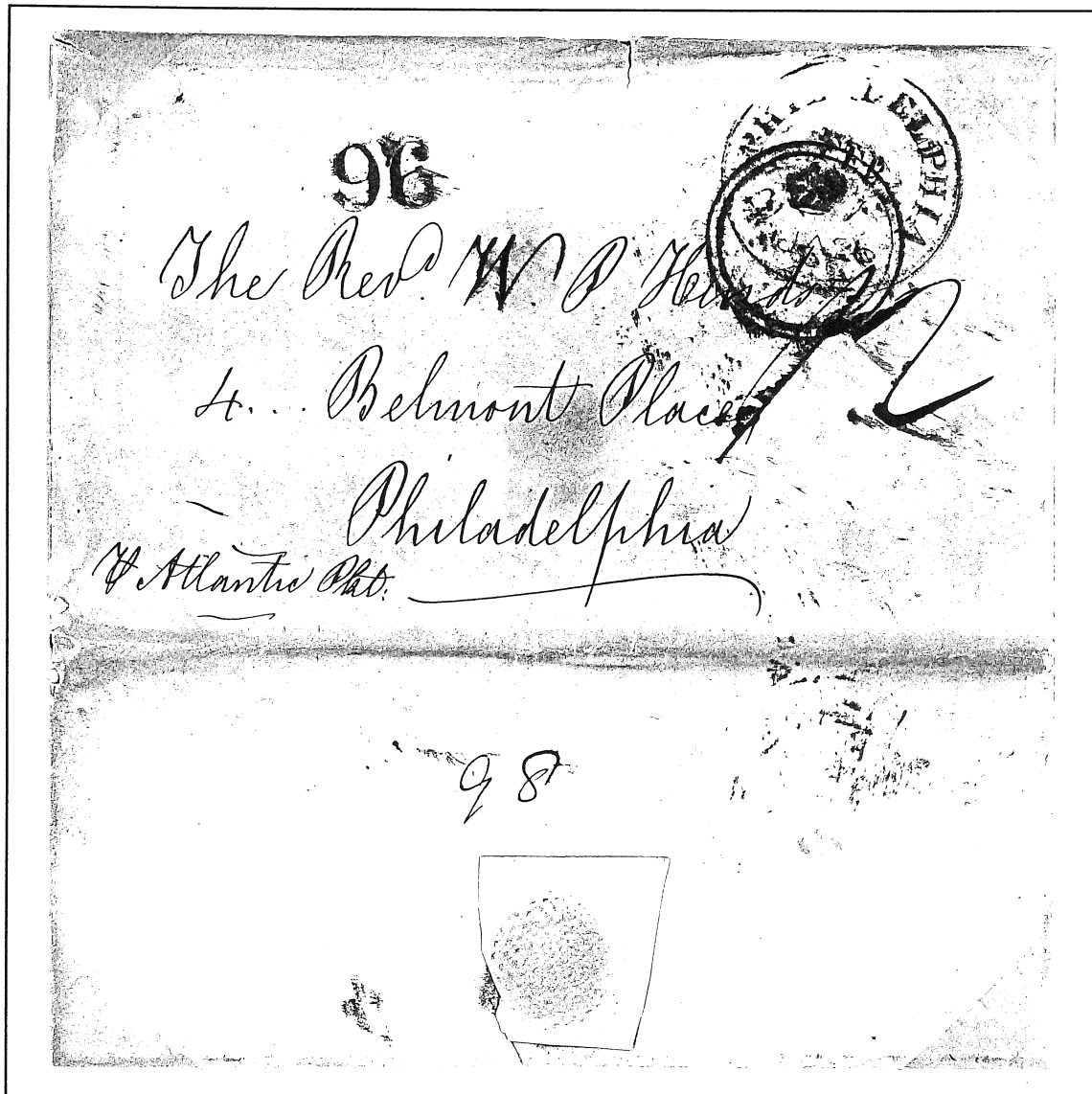


March 3, 1855. Liverpool to Philadelphia.

Letter Carrier wrote "26 cents" representing
24¢ Due for Transatlantic passage + 2¢ Carrier Fee.

Incoming Transatlantic Carrier Delivered

"98" [Cents]



February 1854. London to Philadelphia.

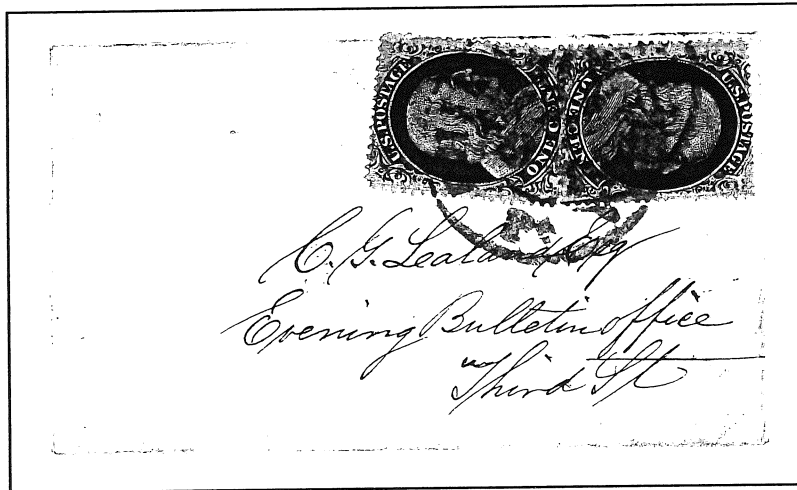
Quadruple Rate [24¢ x 4]

Letter Carrier wrote "98" representing the
96¢ Due for Transatlantic passage + 2¢ Carrier Fee.

2¢ Sub-Post Office Delivery Fee

In November 1857, Philadelphia Postmaster Westcott announced the establishment of four (4) Sub-Post Offices.

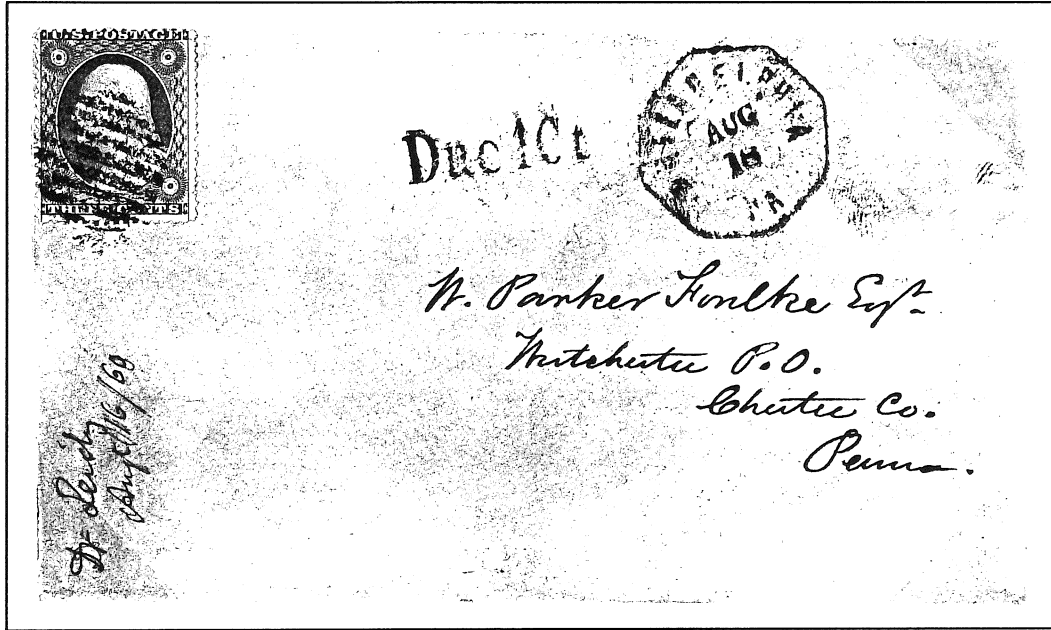
Under this new collection and delivery system, there would be no charge for taking a letter from a Sub-Post Office to the Main Post Office, but there would be a charge of 2¢ (1¢ Drop Rate + 1¢ Carrier Fee) to deliver a letter from a Sub-Post Office to anywhere else in the City.



No year date.

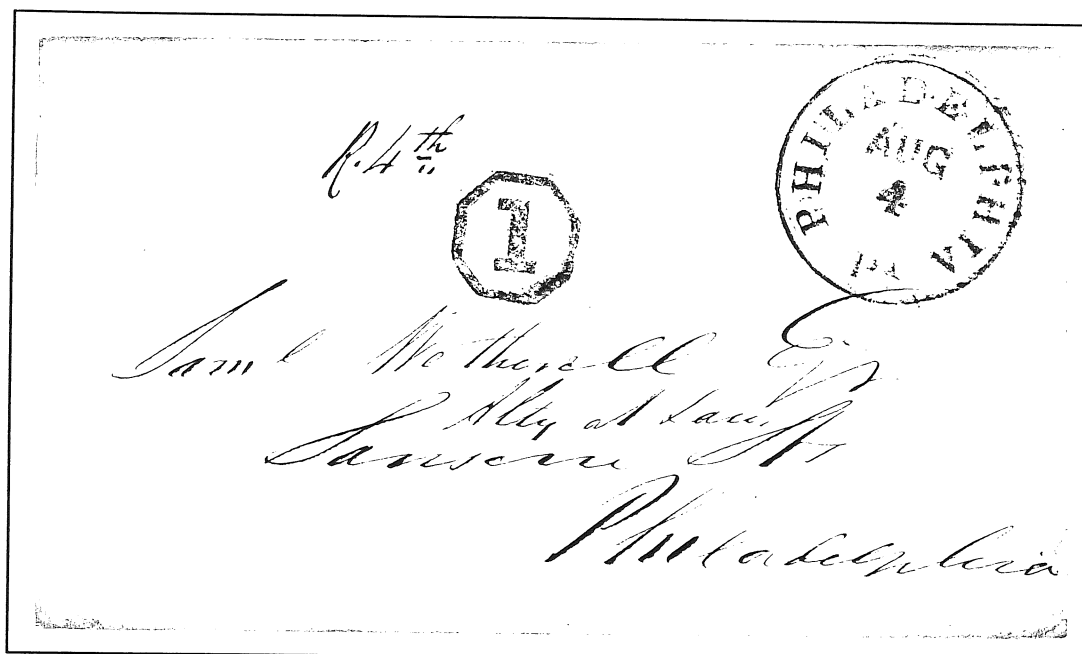
City delivery other than from a Sub-Post Office remained at 1¢ per letter.

Collection Fee not Pre-Paid

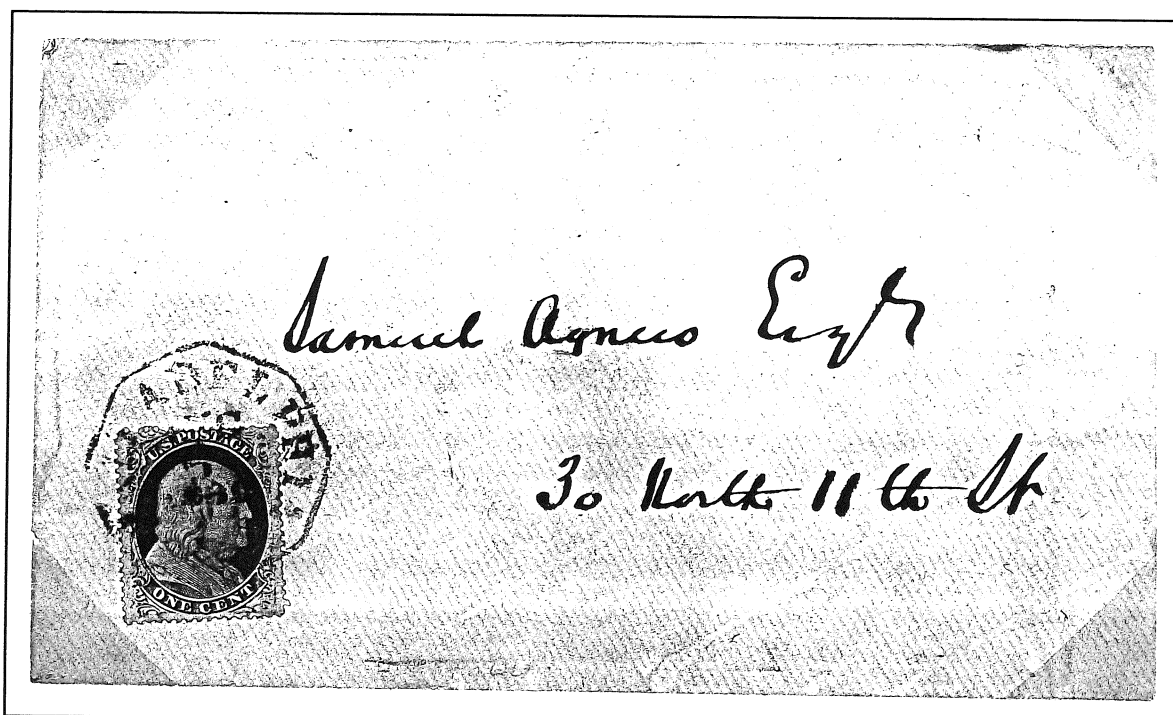


August 18, 1860.

Beginning in August 1860, the Philadelphia Postmaster permitted the Collection Fee to be passed on to the addressee in another City. He ceased this practice in October/November 1860 because of complaints that no service had been rendered to the addressee. Thereafter, such letters were held until the sender paid the Fee.



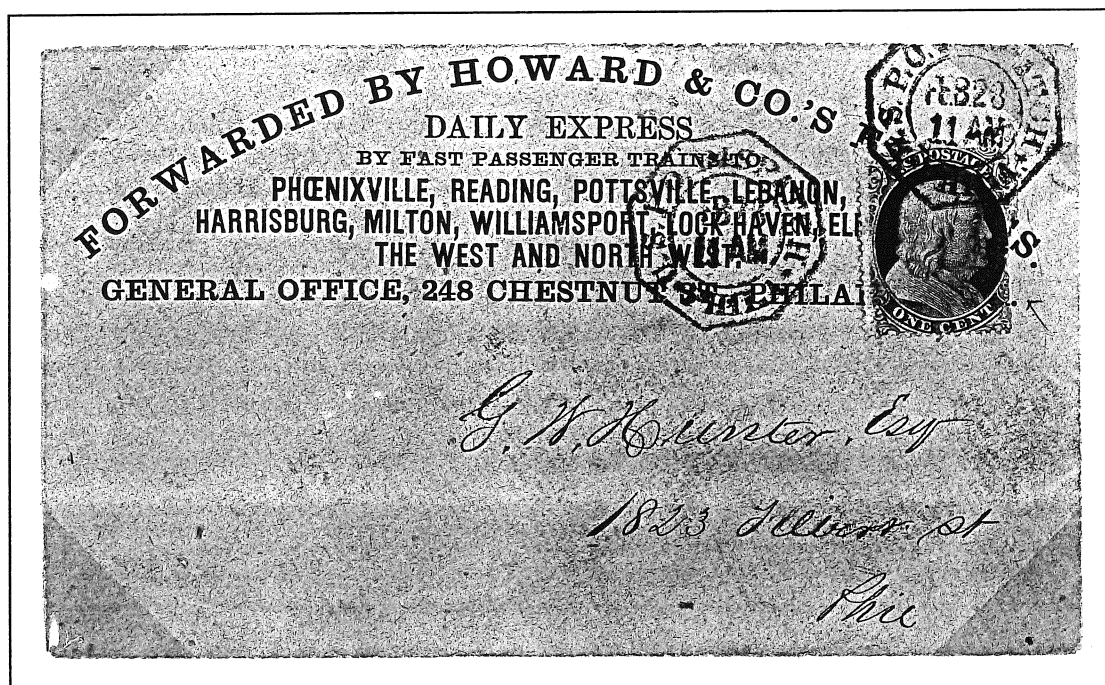
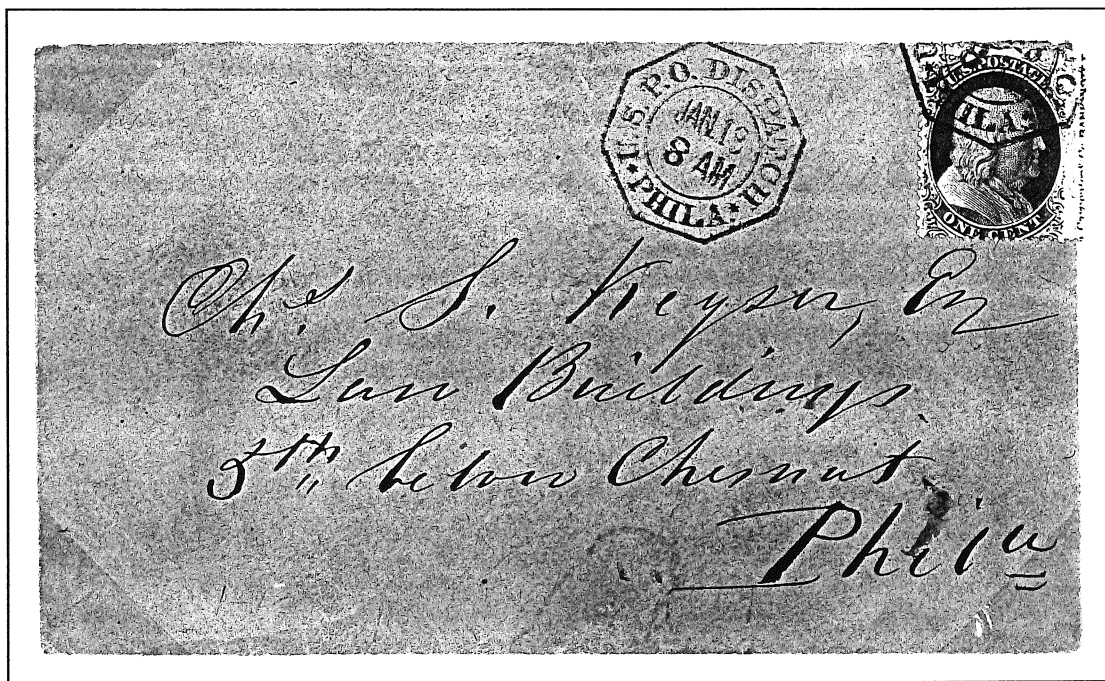
This letter was handled only by the
Carrier Department, so only the 1¢ Carrier Fee was
charged, rather than 2¢ (1¢ Carrier Fee + 1¢ Drop Postage)



Carrier delivered, but regular CDS applied
to cancel stamp.

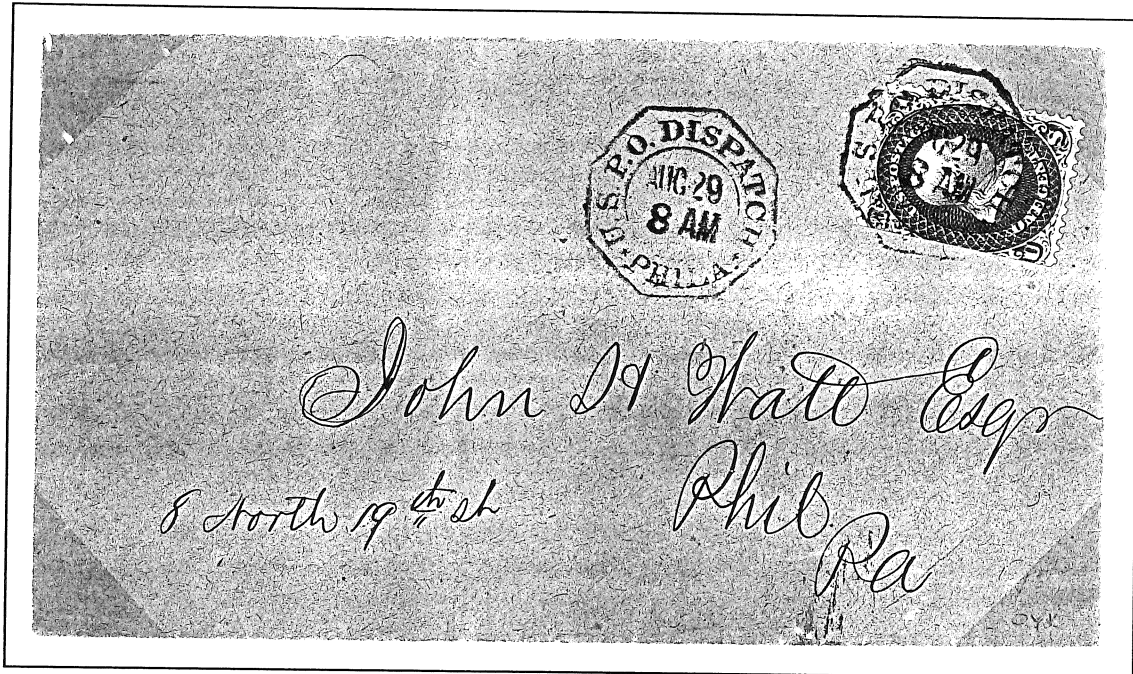
* U.S.P.O. DESPATCH * PHILA.

This marking was used by the Carrier Department from
May 1860 to April 1862 on City letters only.

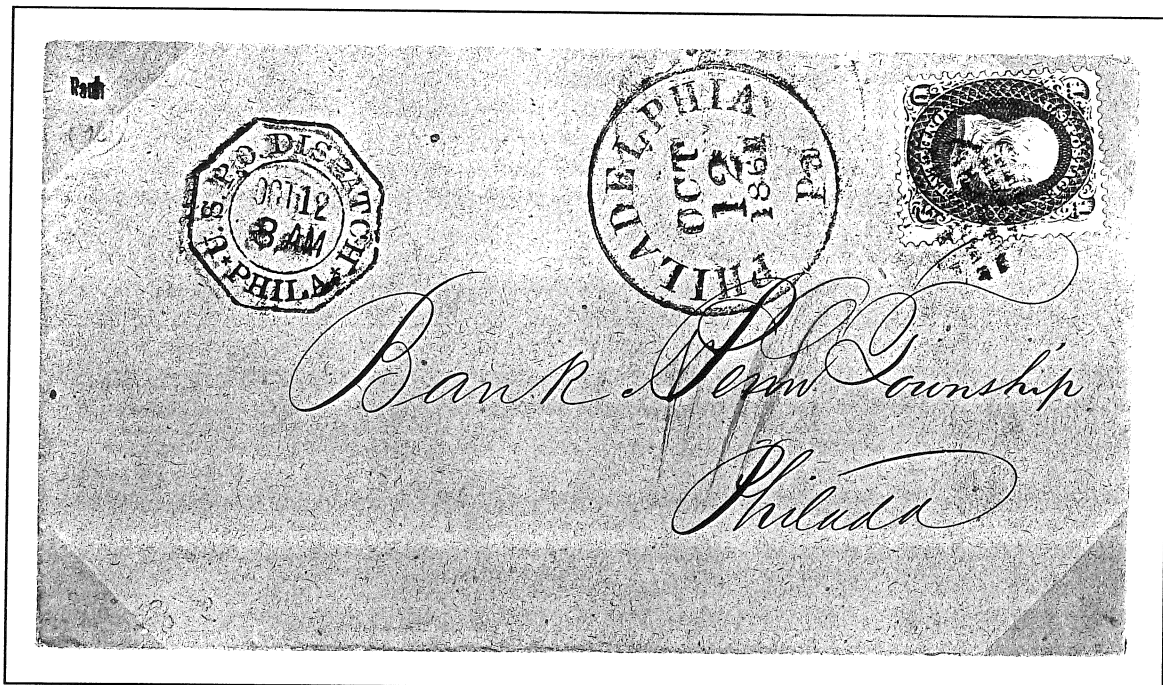


***U.S.P.O. DESPATCH * PHILA.**

Typically, but not always, the Carrier handstamp was struck twice: once to cancel the stamp and once on the front of the envelope.



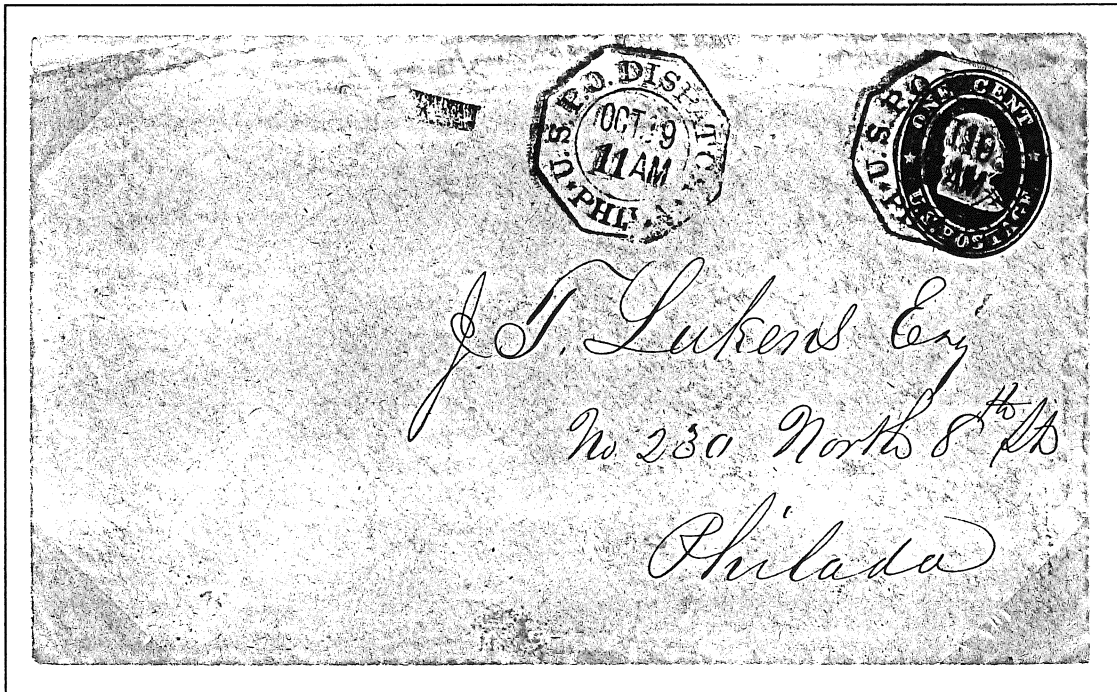
Marking struck twice.



Marking struck once.

One Cent (1¢) Star-Die Envelope Used
for City Mail

One (1) of Two (2) Reported from Philadelphia

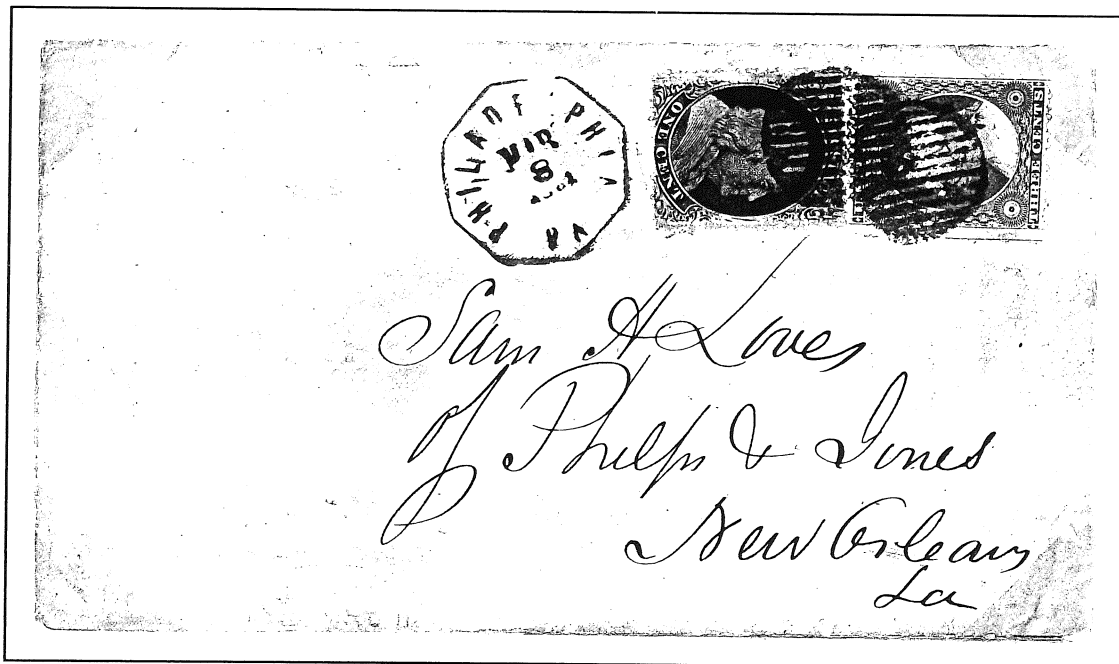


No year date. "U.S.P.O. DISPATCH *PHILA.*"

The embossed envelope stamp served the same purpose
as did the Eagle Carrier stamp, showing prepayment
of the 1¢ carrier fee.

Carrier Usage Destined for the Confederate
States of America

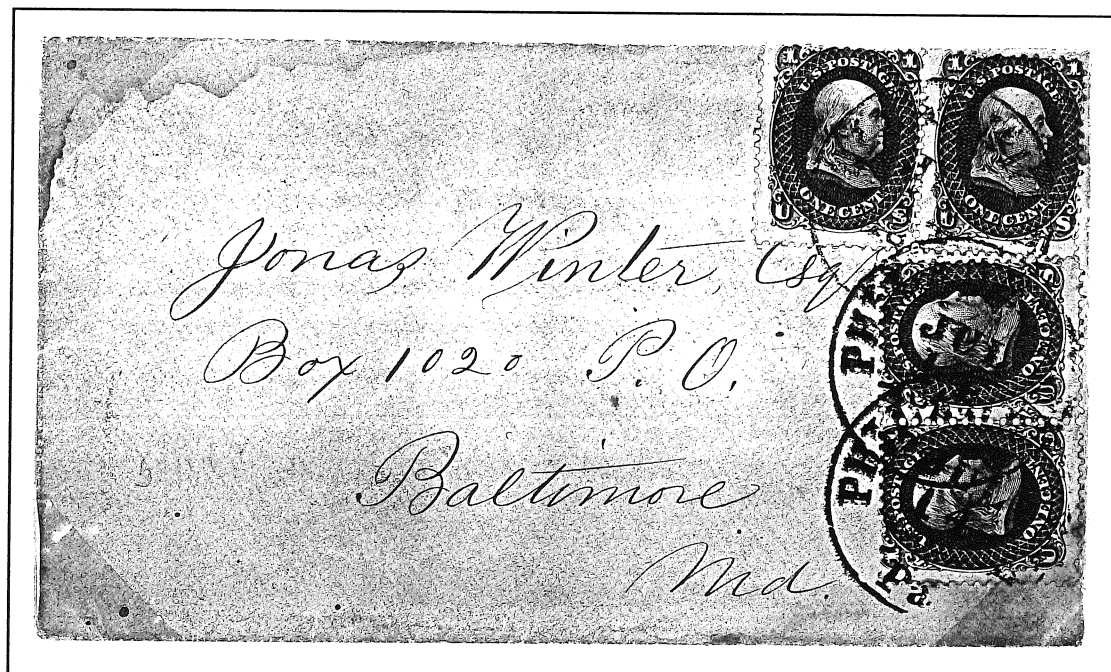
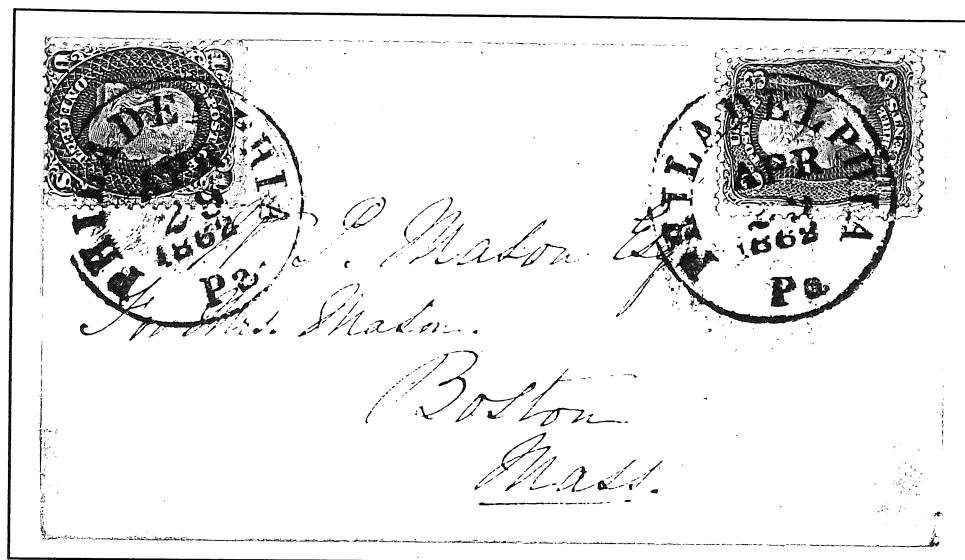
Until May 31, 1861, the Confederate States
accepted U.S. stamps on letters received
from the North.



March 8, 1861. Destined for New Orleans, Louisiana.

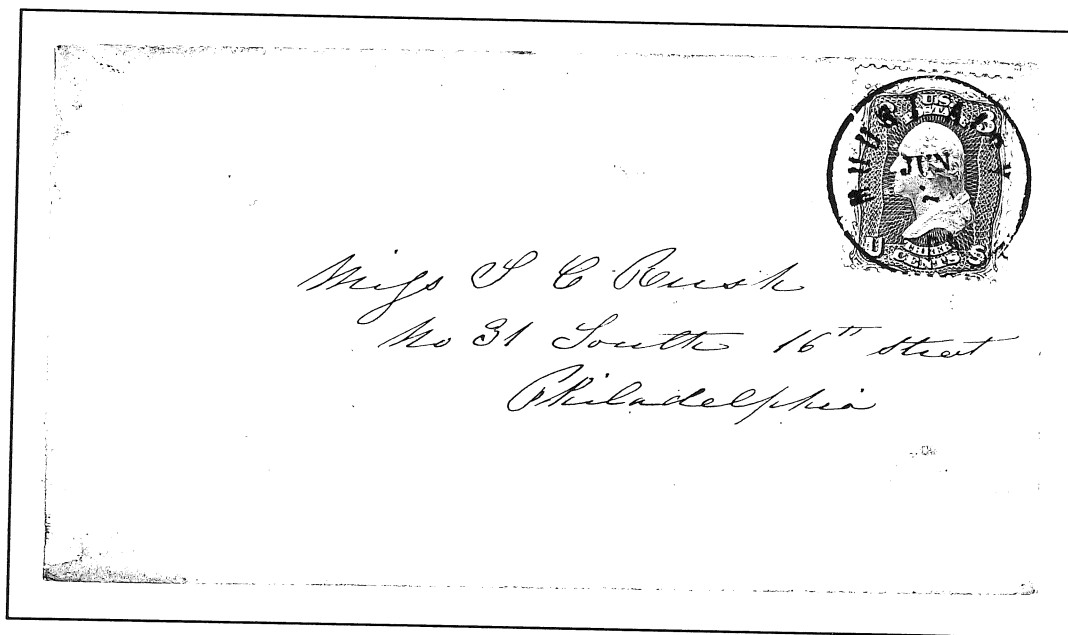
This letter, carried "To the Mails" in Philadelphia,
went to New Orleans almost one (1) year
before the City was recaptured by the North.

"To the Mails"



**Carrier Delivered City Letter Receives Rate
Peculiar to Philadelphia**

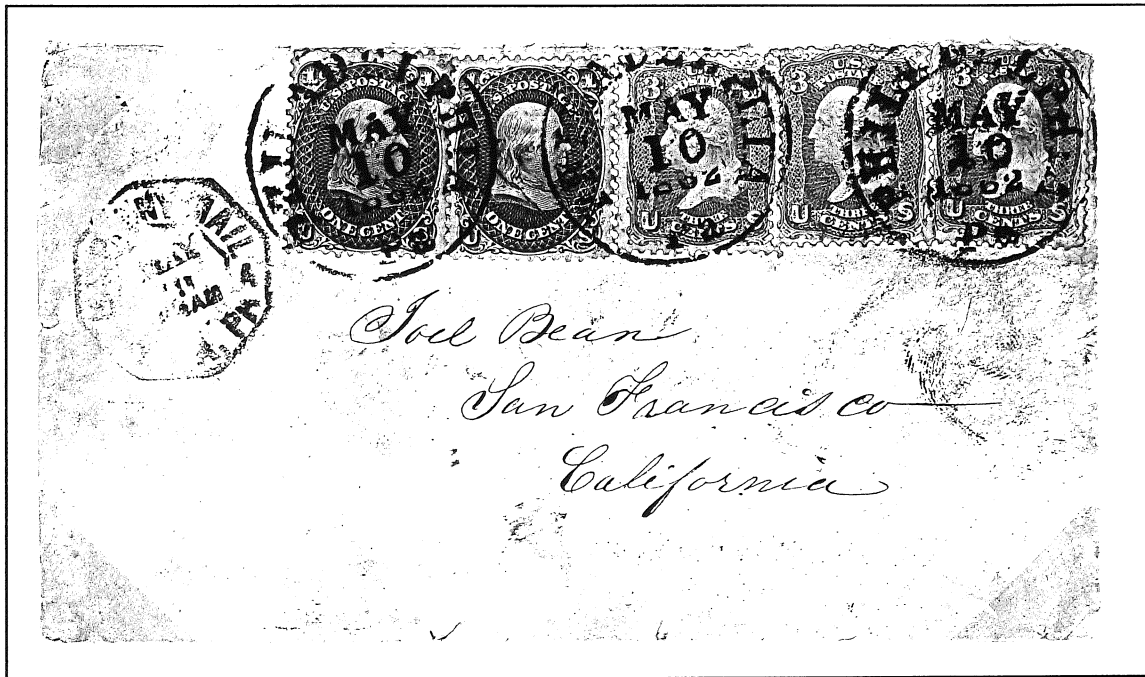
Because Mount Airy still had its own Post Office after the Consolidation of 1854, letters to other parts of Philadelphia were charged the *Inter-City* postage rate (3¢), rather than the *City Mail carrier* rate (1¢).



No year date, but prior to July 1, 1863 when delivery became free. Mount Airy Post Office established 1855; Discontinued in 1863.

"U.S. PENNY MAIL PHILA. PA" Octagon

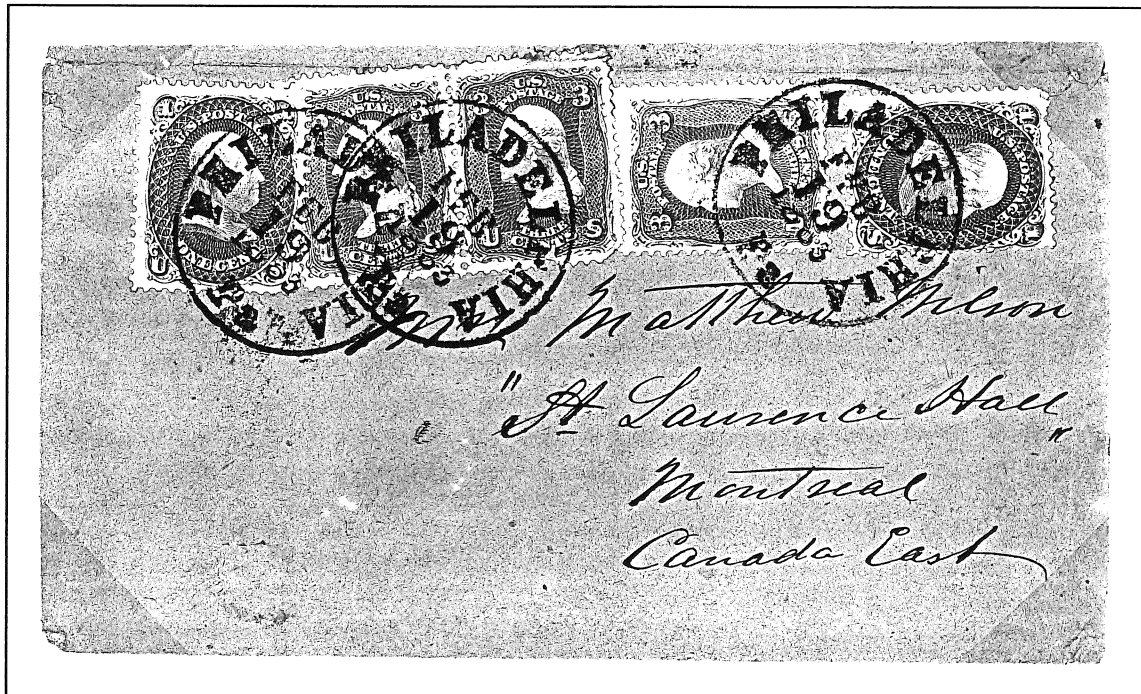
Carrier service on mail to California



The postage to the West Coast was 10¢ in 1862.

One 1¢ stamp paid the collection fee
to the Philadelphia Post Office.

Carrier Letter to *Canada East*



February 19, 1863.

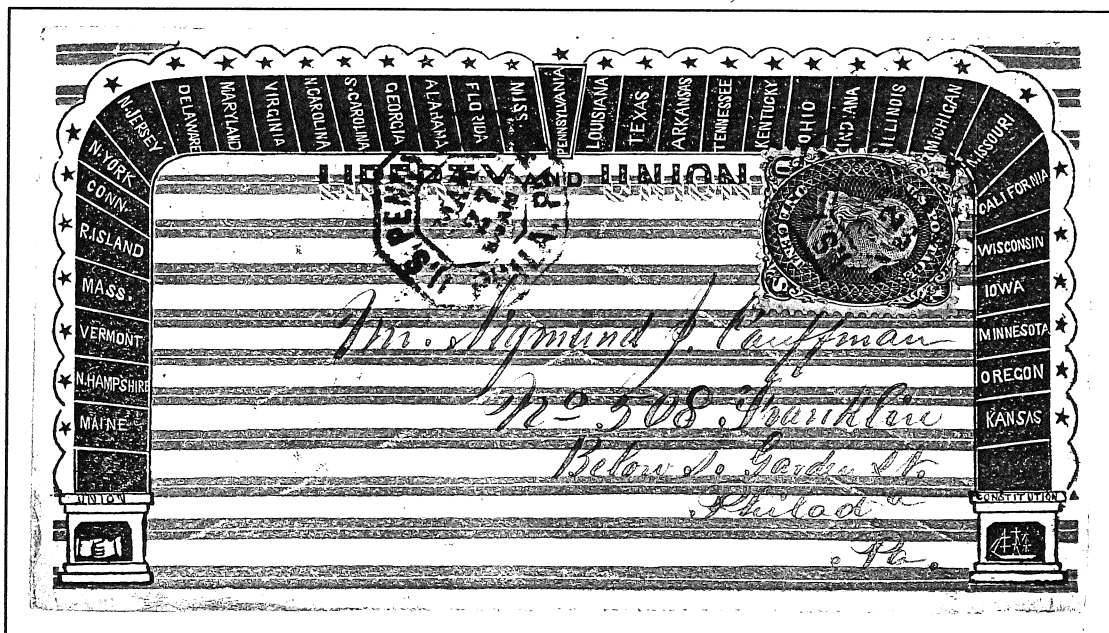
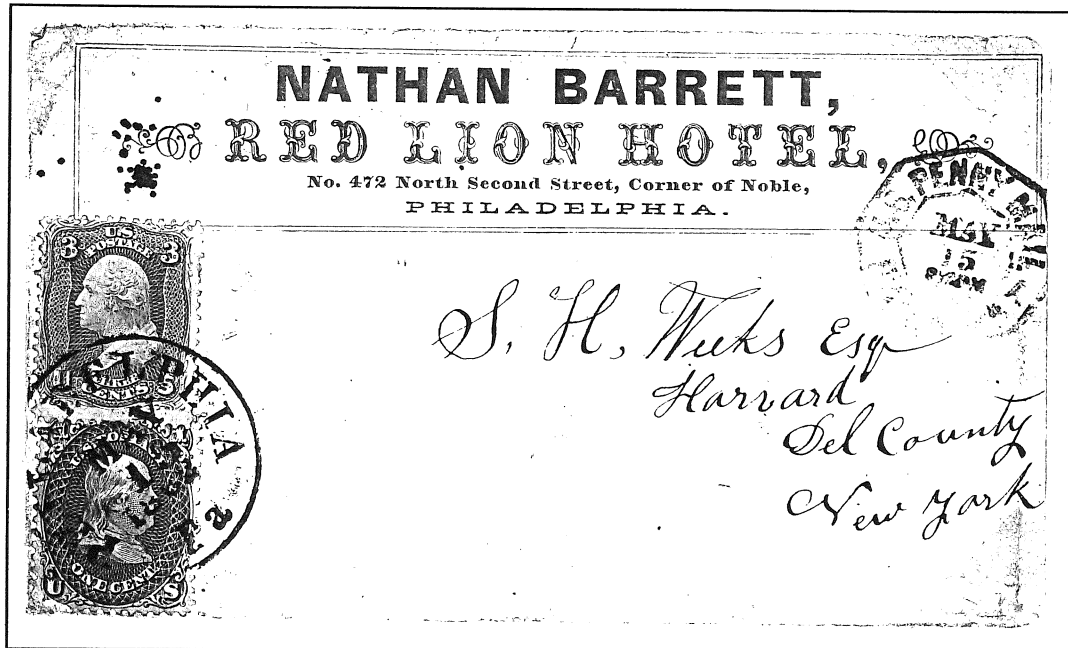
1¢ (Carrier Fee "To the Mails")

+

10¢ (Postage Rate to Canada)

U.S. PENNY MAIL PHILA. PA.

This marking was used from April 1862 to August 1863,
on both City letters and letters "to the Mails".



City letter.