

NINETEENTH CENTURY MICHIGAN
POSTAL HISTORY

LOUIS F. UNGREY

AS RECEIVED BY
THE EXHIBITION PHOTOCOPY COMMITTEE
OF THE
U.S. PHILATELIC CLASSICS SOCIETY, INC.
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NINETEENTH CENTURY MICHIGAN POSTAL HISTORY

A postal history collection that covers towns of Michigan, their settlement, how they got their names, dates post offices were established and ceased operation and first postmasters. It will show classes and types of mail, rates, fancy cancels, touch on the stamps, including color and everything related to philately. This, in the following order:

Territorials, including:

Green Bay, Michigan

Tecumseh, Mic T plus one that isn't

Stampless period

All rates after Act of March 3, 1825

\$2.62½ cent cover of 1845

Varieties of the 5 and 10 cent strikes

The first stamps. Michigans first post office

Marshall, Michigan, grid and manuscript canceled

1853 drop letter and others

Hamburg packet

Inland waterways (3) and railway mail service

Free franks—Hollands first postmaster

The Civil War and new stamps

Patriotics

1869s

Drop letter and six cent rate to England

National Bank Note Company and those following to 1899

Domestic mail including early machine cancels

Short paid, dues

Registered letters—Special delivery

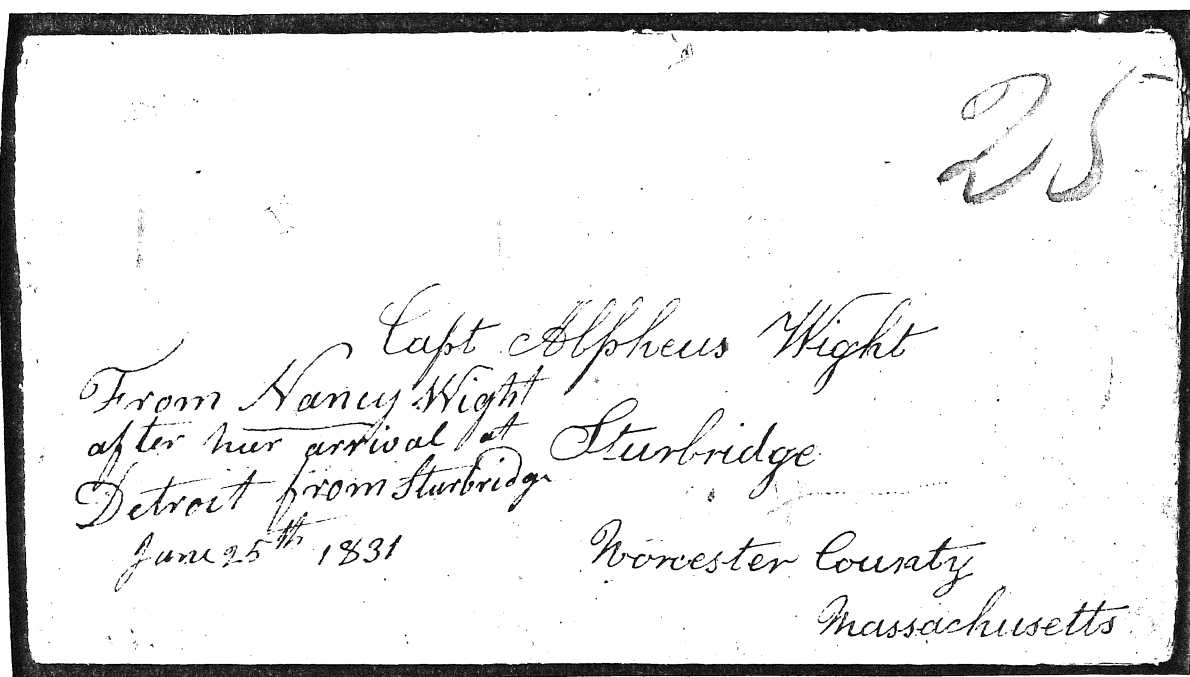
Circular mail

Foreign rates

TERRITORIAL COVER

The first three covers in this collection of Michigan Postal History are from a correspondence of the Captain Alpheus Wight family between 1831 and 1832.

Michigan attained statehood on January 26, 1837 therefore the stampless folded letters are "Territorial Covers".

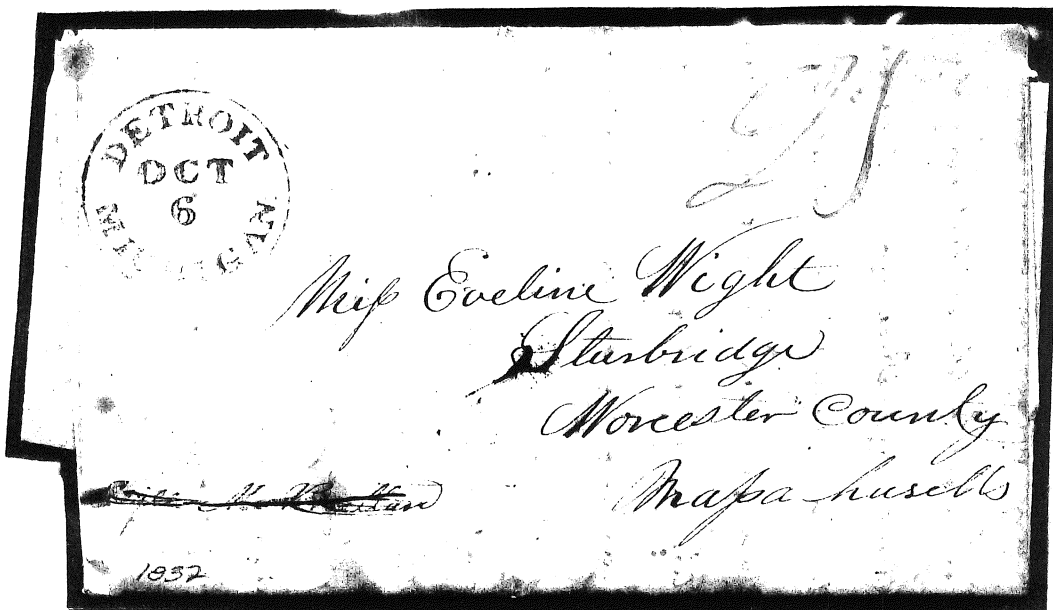


A Detroit, MIC. T (territory) oval cancel in blue with the twenty five cent rate to deliver the letter over 400 miles by Act of March 3, 1825



This letter
from Nancy
and Alpheus
Wight Jr. from
Detroit to
their parents.

This letter
to Eveline
Wight telling
of Nancys
illness in
Detroit. The
letter from
a friend of
the family.



Two Detroit, Mich. territorial cancels. The upper Sept. 8,
manuscript, 1832, the lower Oct. 6 on a letter written Oct. 7th
(evidently wrong date) 1832. The rate of the period was 25
cents as can be seen on both letters.

THE ALPHEUS WIGHT CORRESPONDENCE

This stampless folded letter is a part of the Wight correspondence and was written to Miss Wight by her cousin in Parma, Ohio on September 27, 1827. This, in answer to a letter received by her in January of 1825.

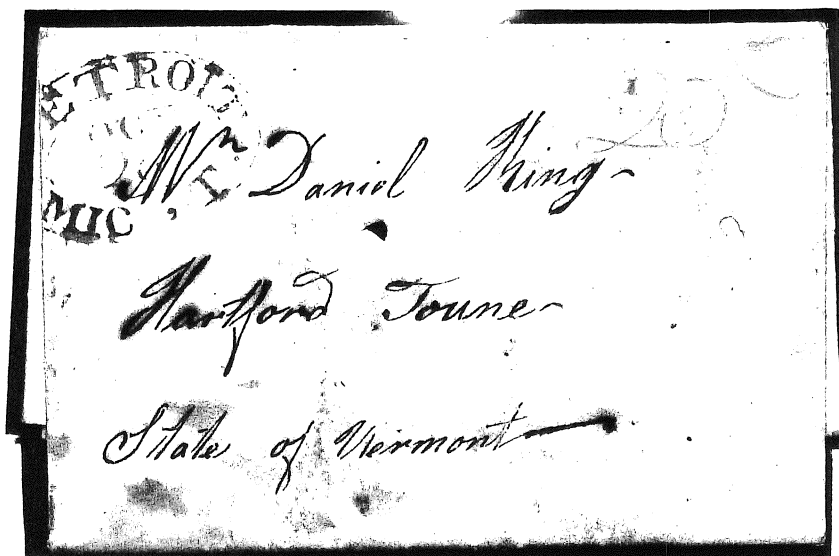


This letter is manuscript canceled, Parma, Ohio, September 28, 1827. The rate, 25 cents in manuscript in upper right hand corner.

This is not a Michigan postal history letter but is related to the previous three letters shown in this collection. To keep the correspondence intact it is kept with the territorial letters and shown in this collection.

TERRITORIAL LETTER

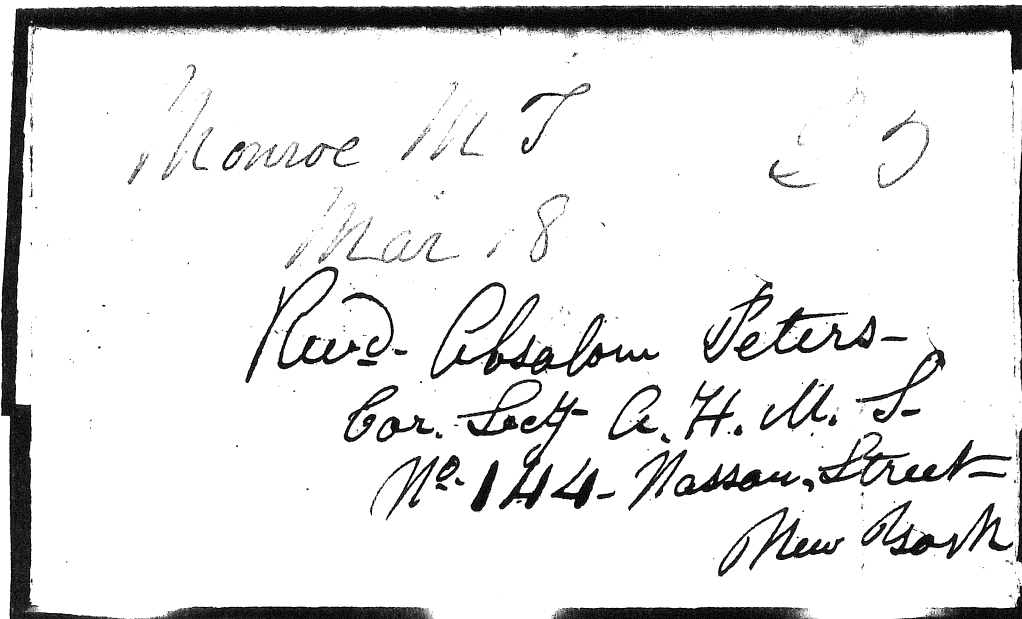
Michigan became a territory effective July 1, 1805 being cut from the Indiana territory. This by act of Congress on January 11, 1805. However on January 1, 1803 the first post office was established in what was later to become the state of Michigan.



The red double line oval was put into use in September of 1820. Detroit MIC , T (territorial) cancel on Oct. 25, 1828. (1828 documented by letter) The manuscript 25 was the rate for delivery to Vermont by act of Congress in effect May 1, 1816. This for delivery over 400 miles.

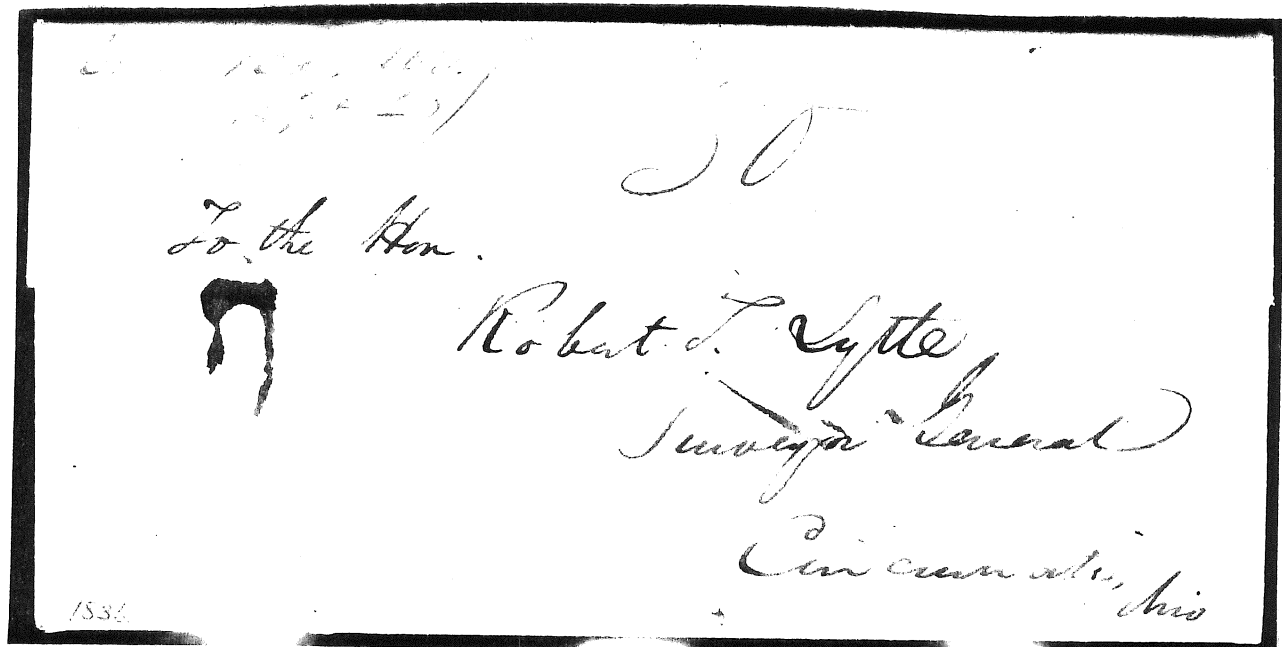
TERRITORIAL COVER

Frenchtown was the third permanent community in Michigan and on November 21, 1815 had a post office, the second in what is now Michigan. A town was platted in 1817 and named Monroe after the newly elected president. Frenchtown became Monroe and Charles Nobel was named postmaster. This letter of March 17, 1831 is before Michigan became a state.



This stampless folded letter, canceled in red, Monroe M T (Michigan Territory) March 18 (1831 documented by date heading) with 25 indicating the rate. This by Act of Congress on March 3, 1825 which repealed all previous Acts and set the rate at 25 cents for all single rate letters over 400 miles.

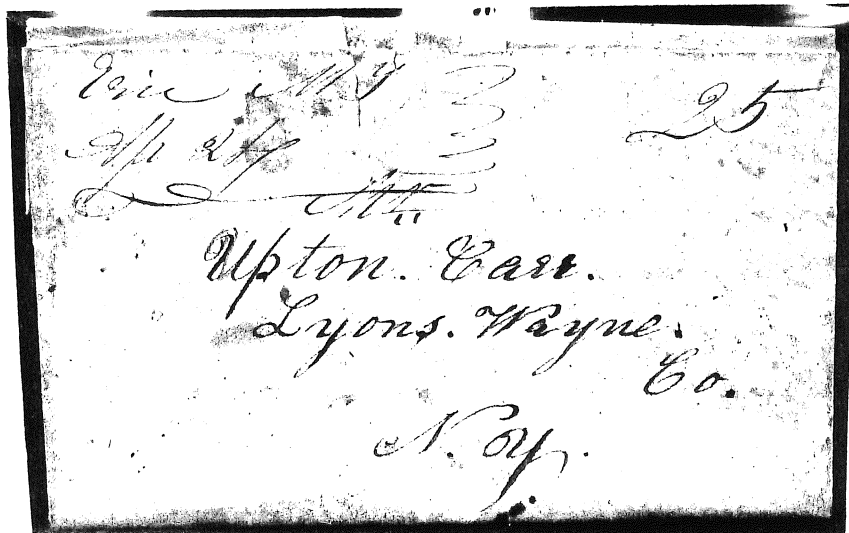
What is now Green Bay, Wisconsin was once a part of the Michigan territory and had its first postmaster on December 16, 1821. The name changed from Green Bay to Greenbay to Menominie to Navarine and back to Green Bay on July 30, 1834 while still a part of the Michigan territory. It became a part of Wisconsin when cut from the Michigan territory on July 4, 1836.



A stampless folded letter, manuscript canceled at Green Bay, M (Michigan) T (territory) Apr. 25 (1836) and addressed to Cincinnati, Ohio. By act of April 9, 1816 in effect May 1, 1816, the rate for single page letters over 400 miles was twenty five cents. The fifty cent rate indicates a double rate letter over 400 miles.

TERRITORIAL LETTER

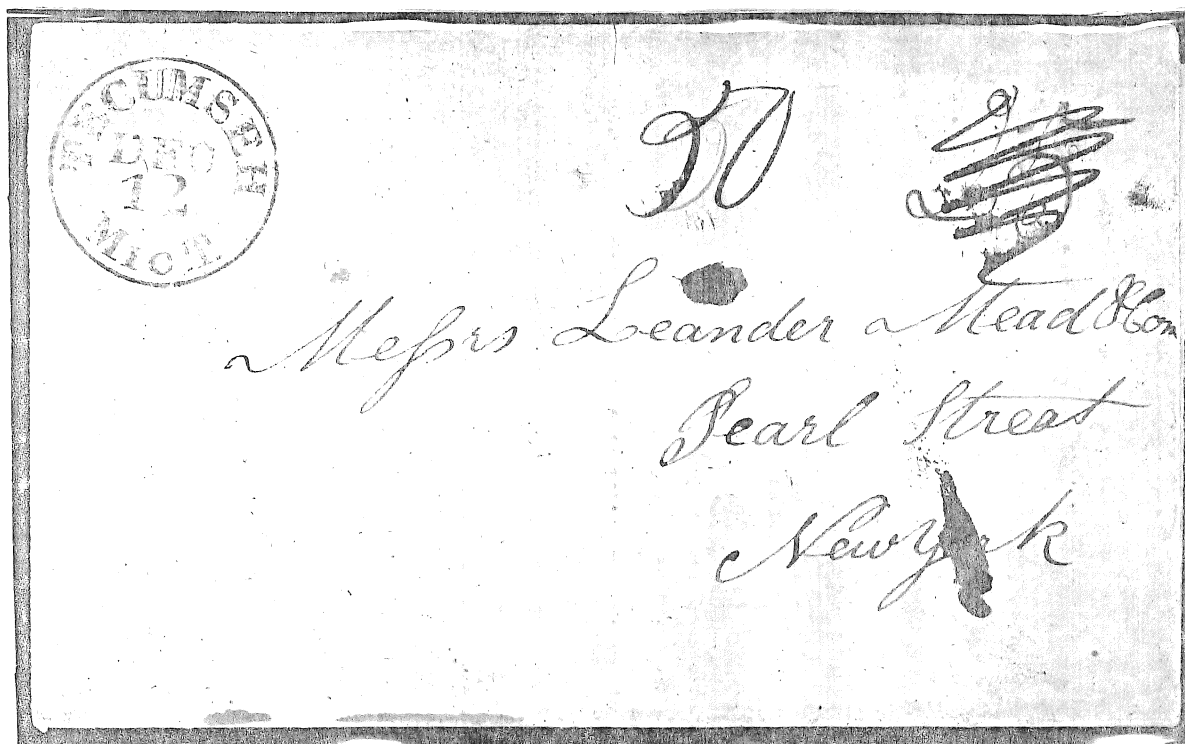
The town of Bay Settlement which was given a post office on April 18, 1827 was short lived. Salmon Keeney who seceded Benoni M. Newkirk who was the first postmaster had the name changed to that of the township. The township, in Monroe county bordered on Lake Erie. Thus, came the town of Erie, Michigan.



A manuscript Erie, M T (Michigan Territory) on April 24 (1836) with a 25 cent rate marking, also in manuscript. This, the zone rate for a single letter, Erie, Mich. to N.Y. between May 1, 1825 and July 1, 1845.

TERRITORIAL CANCEL

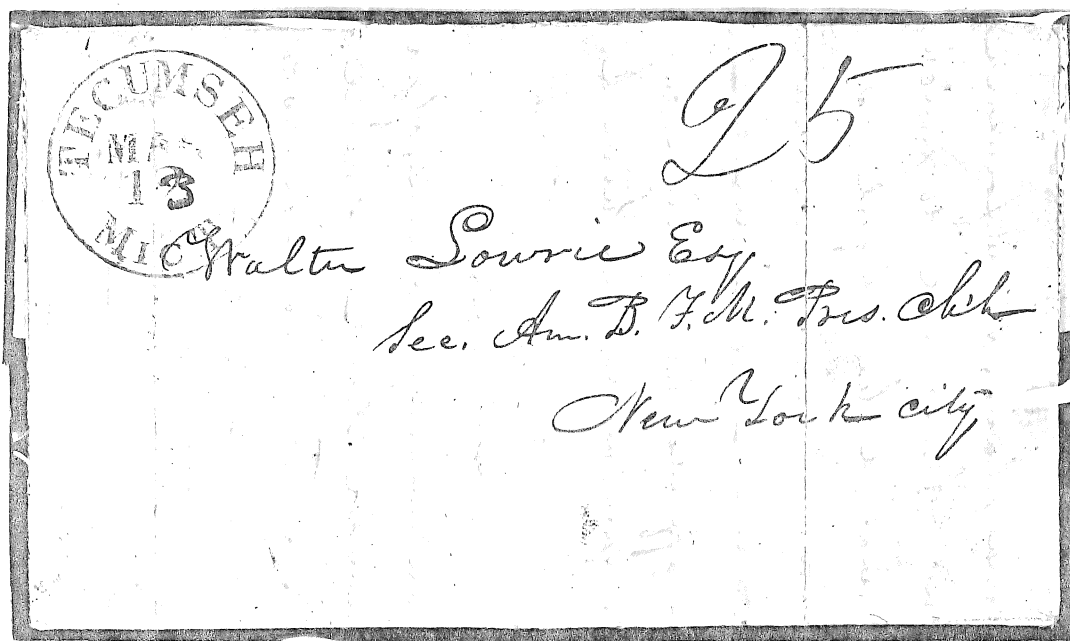
Tecumseh, in Lenawee County was founded in 1824 by Musgrove Evans, a Quaker and others and was named after the famous Shawnee chief Tecumseh. The same year he platted the village and on July 29 became the first postmaster.



The red circle date stamp of Tecumseh, Dec. 12, Mic. T. (1826) verified by letter contents. A 25 cent rate applied, scratched out and 50 cents applied indicating a double rate letter over 400 miles. This by act of March 3, 1825.

A TERRITORIAL THAT ISN'T

Michigan became a state on January 28, 1837 so the territorial cancel here shown was used after statehood.



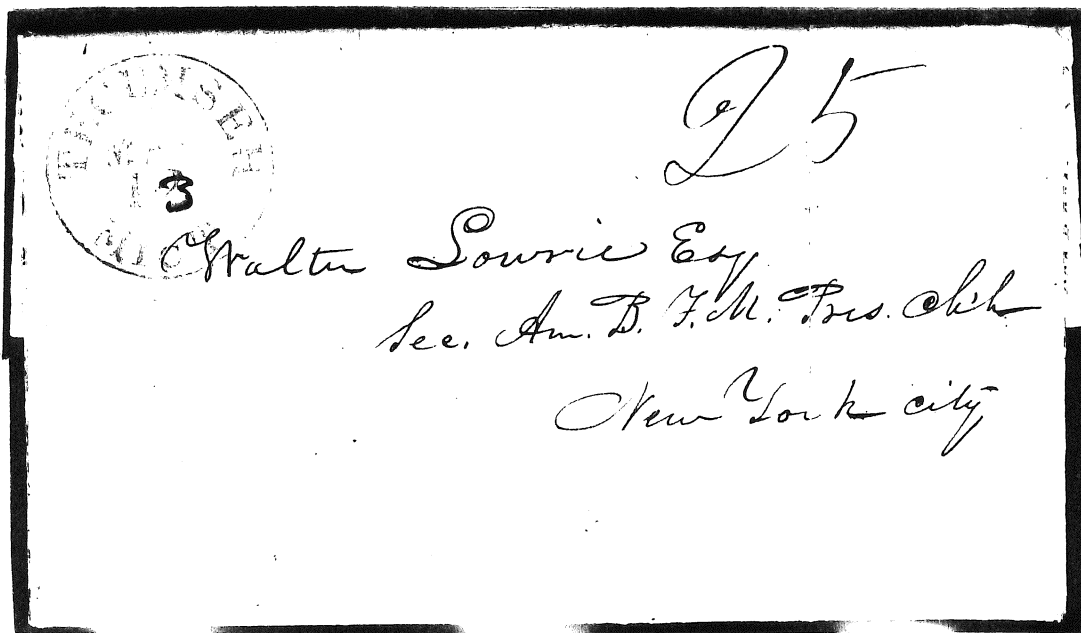
The above stampless folded letter has a Michigan territorial (Mic. T) cancel of March 12 (1838) with a manuscript "3" changing the date to 13. As noted above, the marking device was being used after statehood. The twenty five cent rate in effect on May 1, 1816 for letters over 400 miles.

TECUMSEH, MICH.

Superseded

A TERRITORIAL THAT ISN'T

Tecumseh was founded in Lewanee County in 1824 by Musgrove Evans, a Quaker, and others and was named after the famous Indian Chief. The same year he platted the village and on July 29 became the first postmaster. This was approximately six months after Michigan became a state.



The above stampless folded letter has a Michigan Territorial (Mic. T) cancel of March 12 (1838) with a manuscript "3" changing the date to 13. Michigan became a state on January 28, 1837 so the territorial cancel was used after statehood. The 25 cent rate in effect on May 1, 1816 for letters over 400 miles.

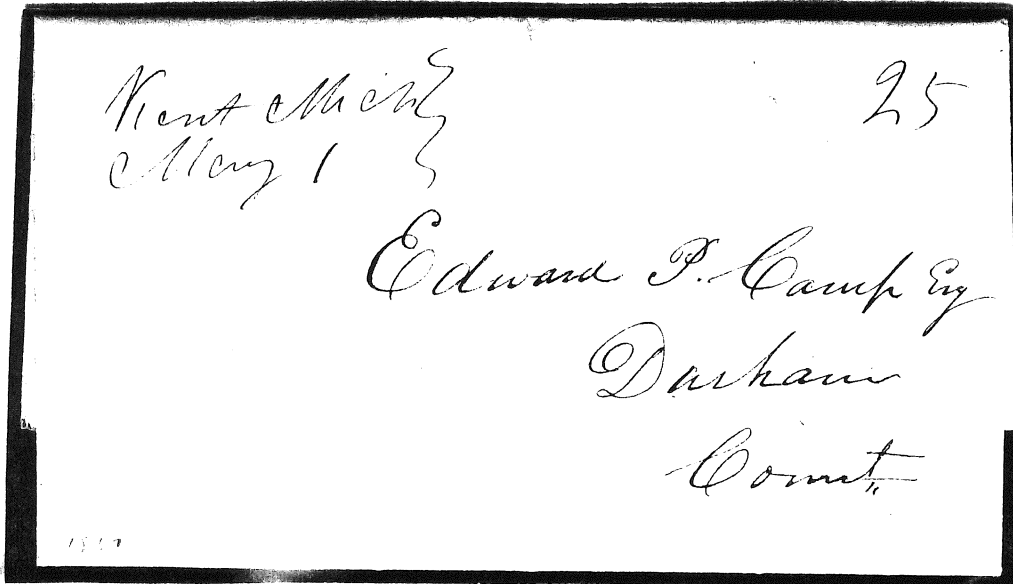
MICHIGAN POSTAL HISTORY

1836-1844

KENT, MICH.

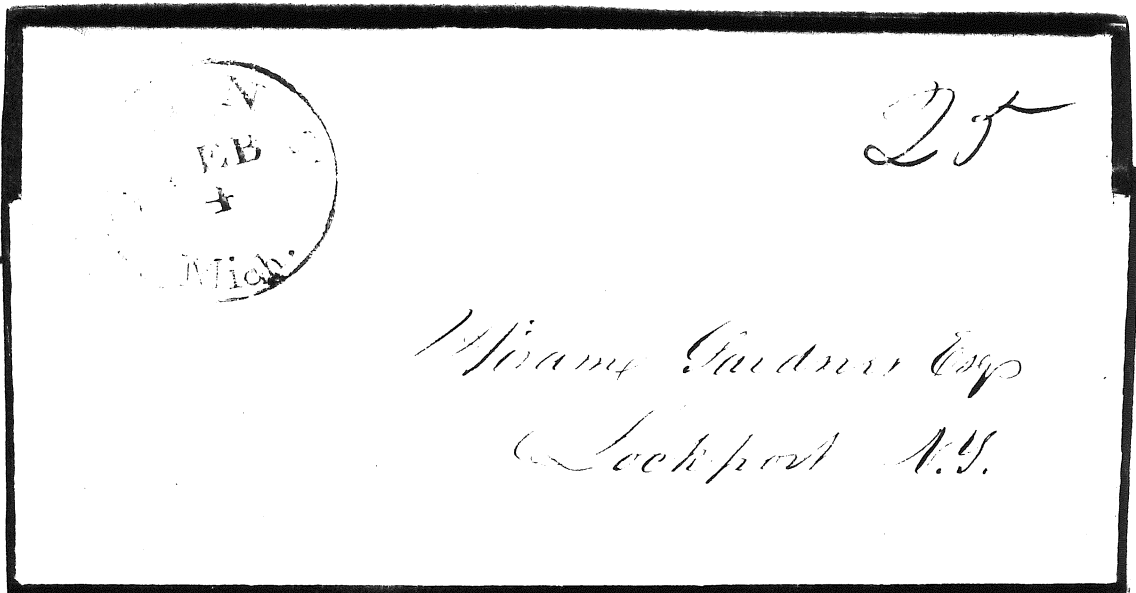
Kent County was organized by an act of Legislature on Mar. 2, 1831, being named after Chancellor Kent of New York. The post office was established in Grand Rapids Dec. 22, 1832.

On Sept. 1, 1836 the name was changed to Kent but on Feb. 8, 1844 the name was changed back again to Grand Rapids. Two twenty five cent rate covers, the single letter rate for over four hundred miles at the time.



A folded letter written in Grand Rapids on May 1, 1837 telling of the sale of a piece of property. The manuscript cancel Kent Mich., May 1 is the cancellation of the time.

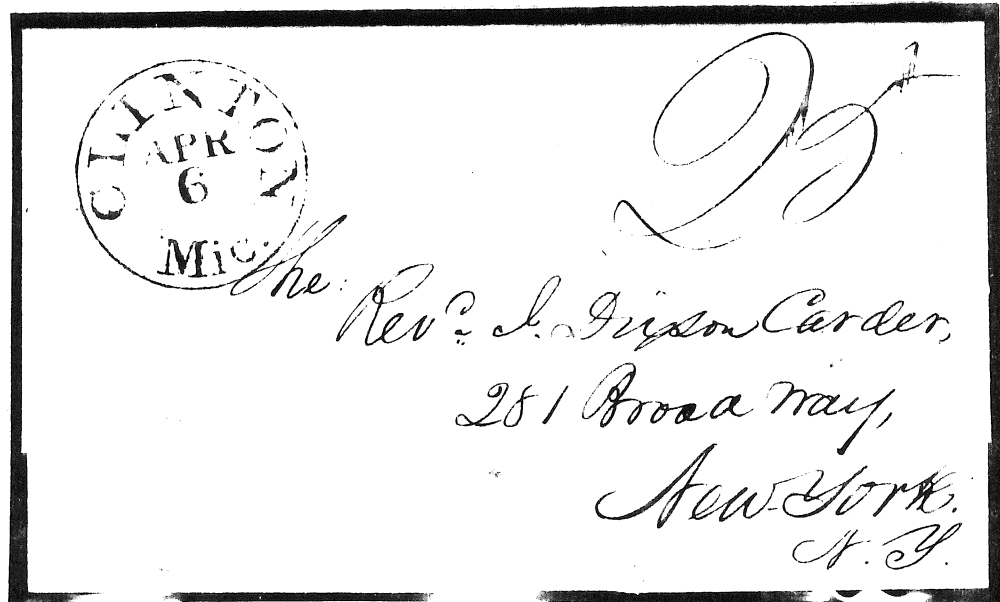
A tax statement from Kent County Grand Rapids on Feb. 1, 1843 to Lockpost New York. Cancelled circle date stamp



Kent, Mich. Feb. 4 (1843) with the 25 cent rate. The Kent Mich cancel the one being used in Grand Rapids at this time.

CLINTON, MICHIGAN

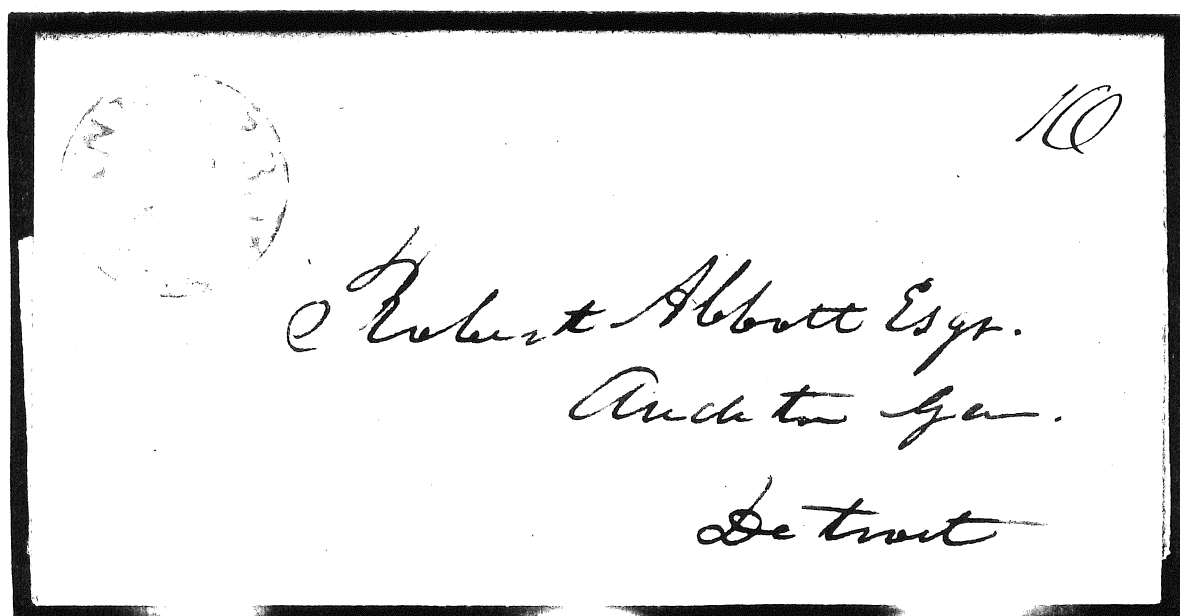
Clinton, Michigan was named after DeWitt Clinton, father of New York state's Erie Canal. Settled in 1830 with Naratio N. Baldwin as the first postmaster on October 8, 1831.



The red circle date stamp of CLINTON, Mic. was in use from 1837 to 1855. Clinton to New York, over 400 miles, thus the twenty five cent rate in manuscript, upper right hand corner.

ANN ARBOR, MICH.

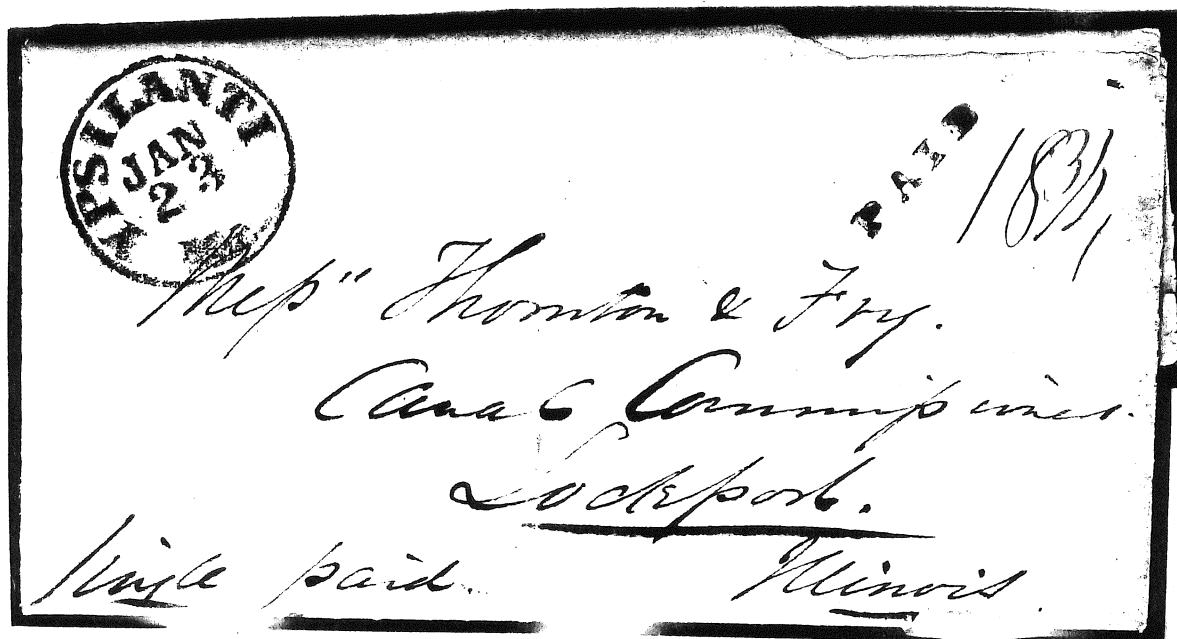
Annarbour as it was originally called was settled in 1823 and John Allen became the first postmaster on December 8, 1824. The Ann of Ann Arbor comes from the wives first names of John Allen and Walker Rumsey, the first settlers.



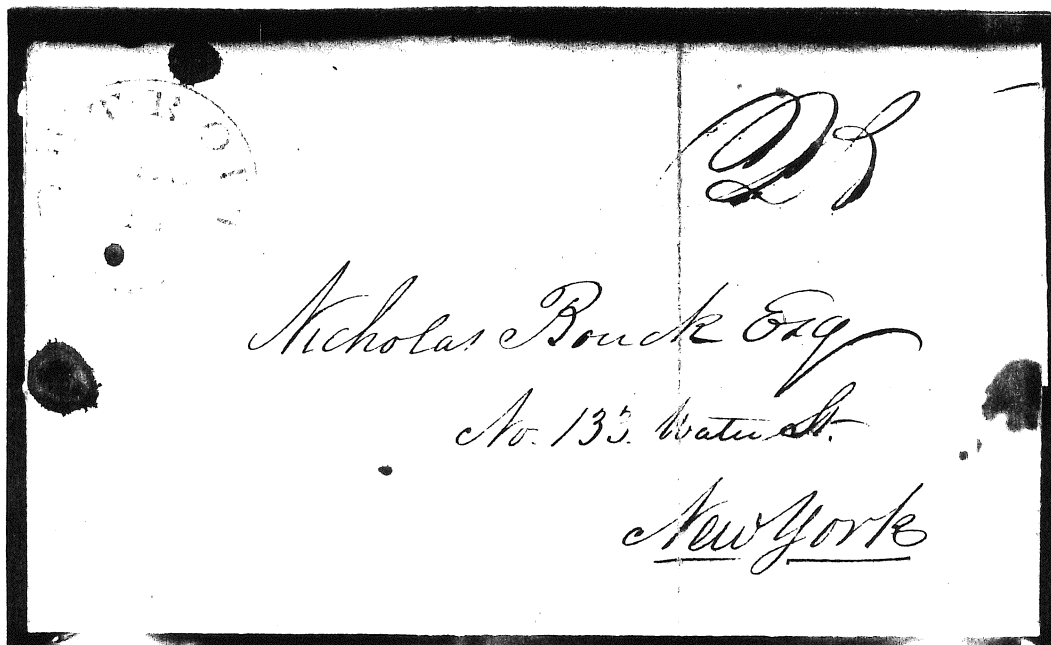
By act of April 9, 1816 in effect May 1, 1816, the single letter rate for a distance of over 30 miles but not exceeding 80 miles was ten cents.

The above stampless folded letter, Ann Arbor to Detroit shows this rate with the manuscript "10".

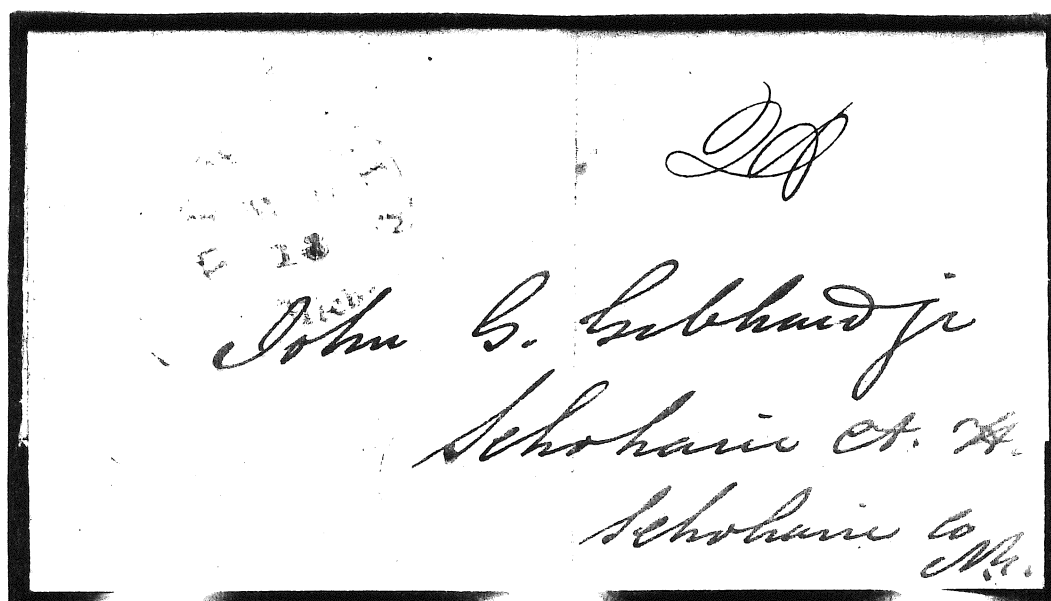
Ypsilanti, in Washtenaw County, got its start from an indian trading post in 1809. Judge Augustus Breevoot Woodard of Detroit platted the village and suggested the name after the Greek war of independence hero General Demetrius Ypsilanti. Isaac Powers became the first postmaster on February 13, 1826.



By act of March 3, in effect May 1, 1825 the zone rate for a single rate letter 150 to 400 miles was raised from $18\frac{1}{2}$ to $18\frac{3}{4}$ cents. The above is a prepaid letter "single paid" by addressee and straight line PAID and $18\frac{3}{4}$ in manuscript applied by the postmaster.



By act of congress effective May 1, 1816, the postal rate delivery of single rate letters over 400 miles was twenty five cents. These two stampless folded letters with circle date stamps of Detroit, Mich. in blue. The upper in Feb. of 1838 and the lower in March of 1845. Both to New York state, over 400 miles so the twenty five cent rate.

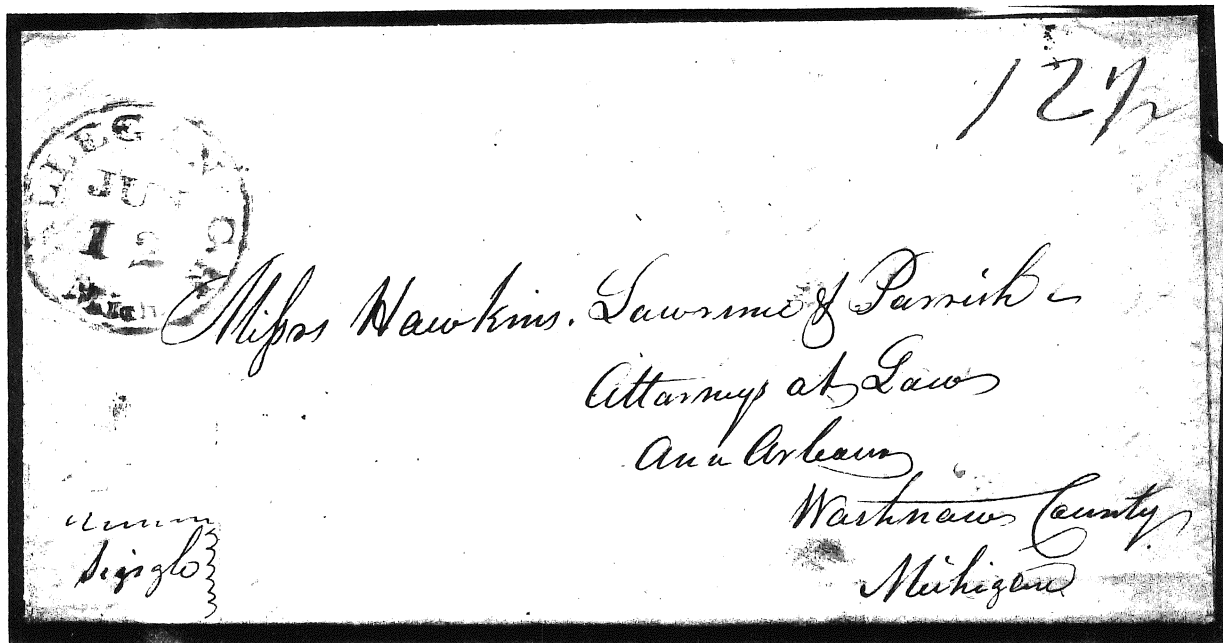


MICHIGAN POSTAL HISTORY

ALLEGAN, MICH.

1838-1847

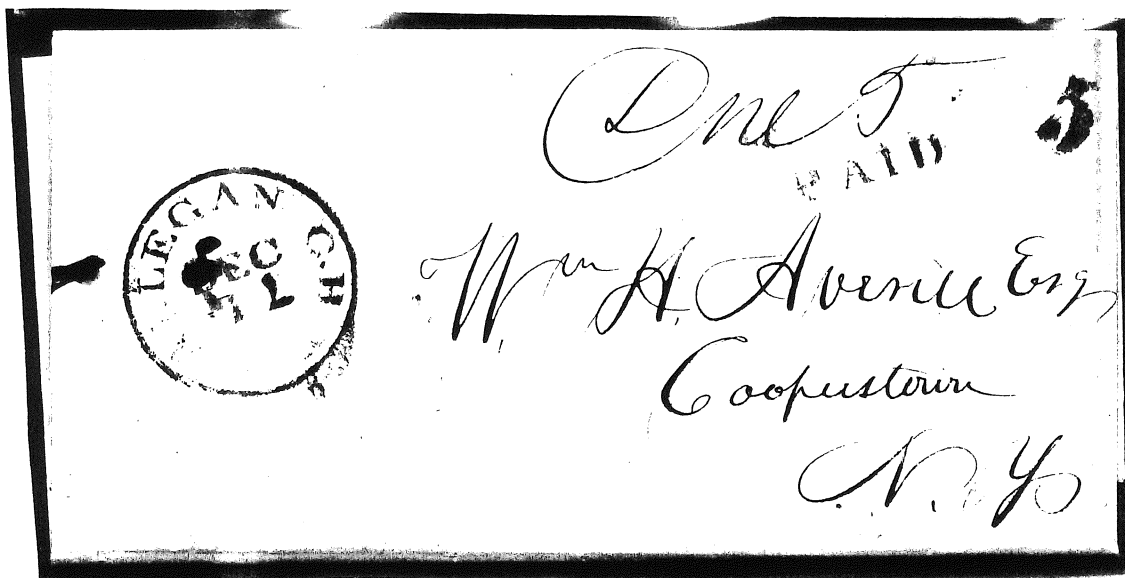
What is now Allegan was purchased from the government in 1833 and in this year on July 24, Samuel Foster became the first postmaster. Except for ten days from March 6, 1835 when transferred to Otsego the post office has been in continuous operation.



The above is an Allegan C.H. Mich. circle date stamp in red on June 12 (1838) paying the 12½ cent rate for delivery between 80 and 150 miles at the time.

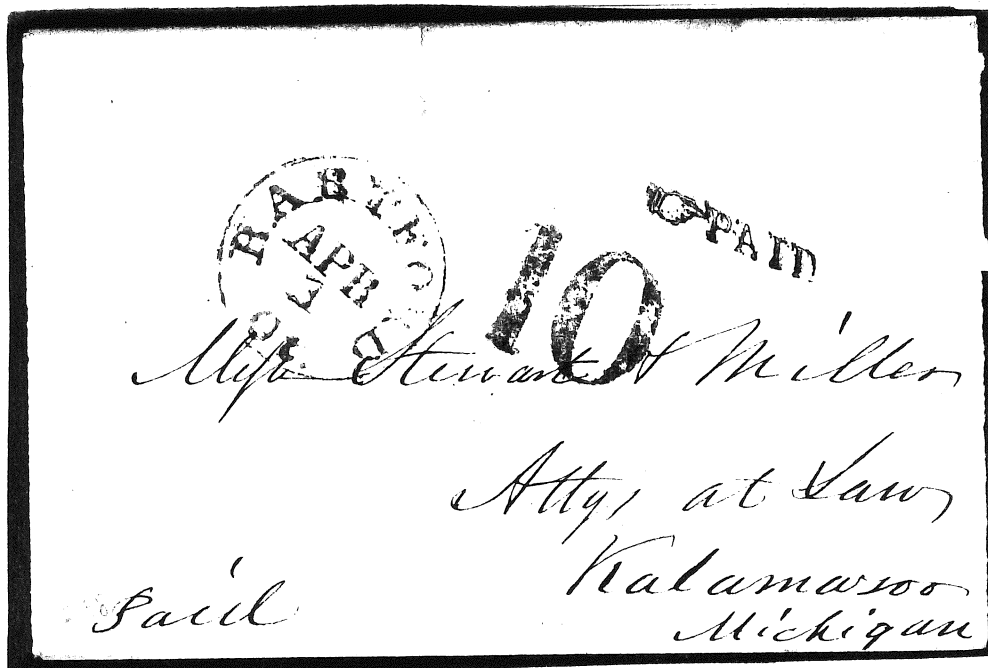
The lower cover has the same circle date stamp in black with a due 5 in manuscript and straight line PAID 5 indicating a partial pay-

ment for the ten cent rate over 300 miles at the time.

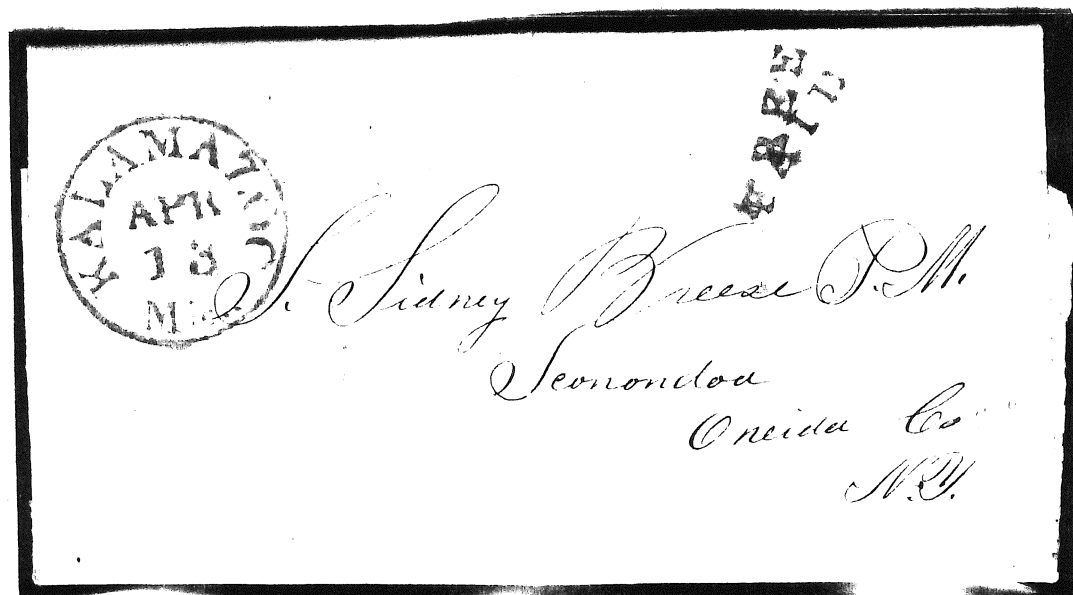


KALAMAZOO

Two pieces related to Kalamazoo, Mich. The stampless folded letter from Kalamazoo and the outer cover to Kalamazoo.

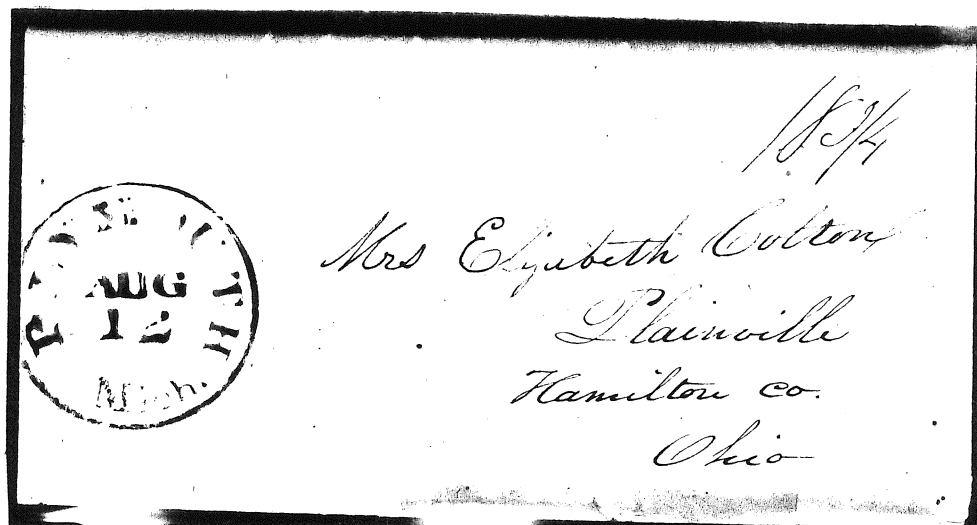


This cover cancelled at Hartford, Ct. PAID 10 with the pointing hand all in red. The cancel of Apr. 3 (1839) and addressed to Kalamazoo, Mich.



Because this cover is addressed to the postmaster in Oneida Co. (county) N.Y. The PAID and FREE were applied along with the Kalamazoo, Mich. Apr. 13, (1843) circle date stamp all in brown.

Some of the early settlers at what was first called Plymouth Corners were decendents of the Pilgrim Fathers. Gideon P. Benton was named the first postmaster on December 27, 1828. At this time the town and post office was named "Plymouth".

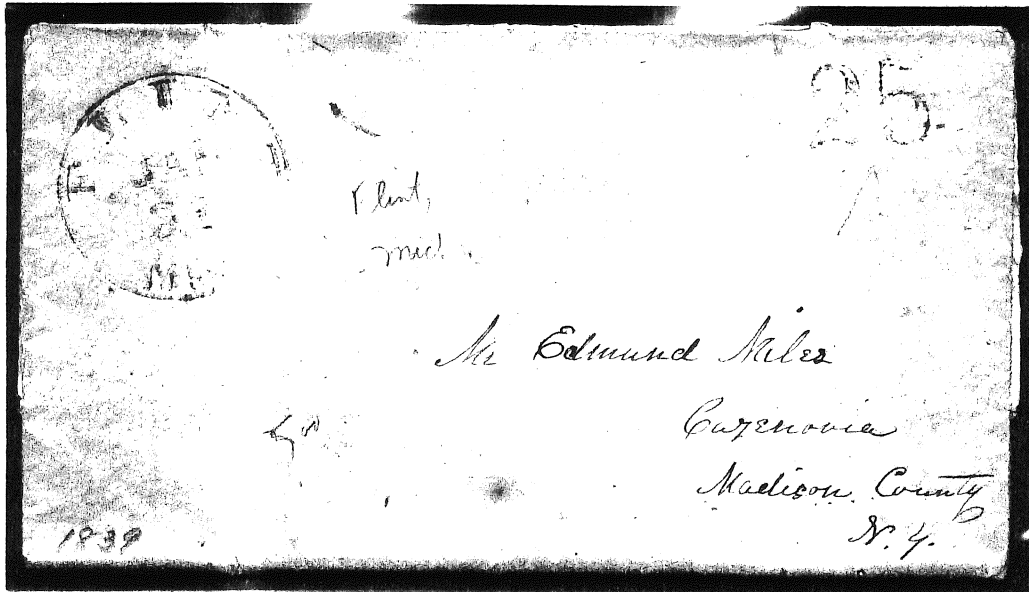


The above single rate letter, so called is a piece of paper $9\frac{3}{4}$ X $18\frac{3}{4}$ inches. Four different people wrote on it and some of the writing is very small. The date of the letter cannot be definately determined. However the 18 $\frac{3}{4}$ rate went into effect on May 1, 1825. The blue 32 mm circle date stamp was in use from 1839 to 1844.

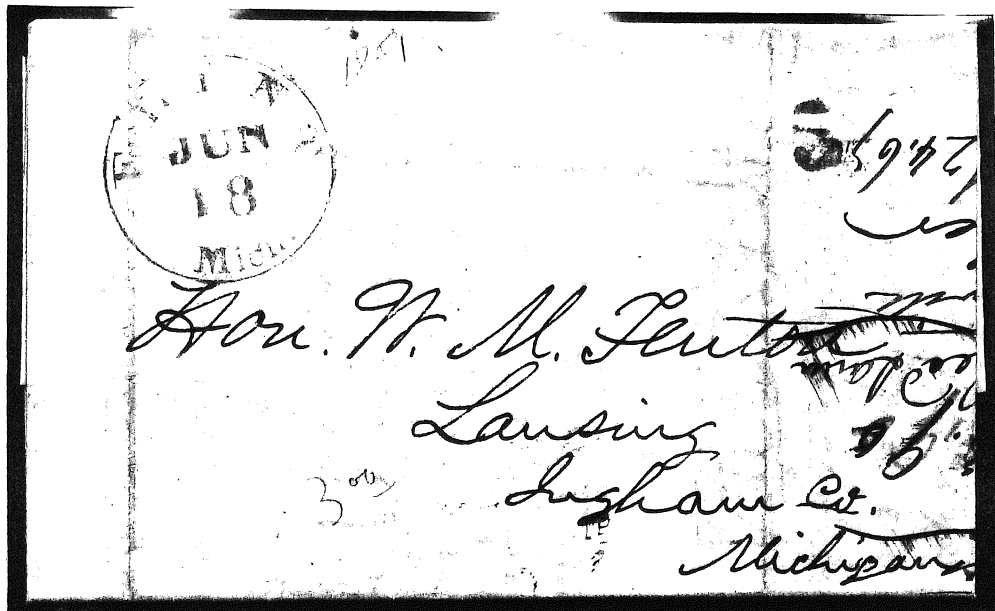
MICHIGAN POSTAL HISTORY
FLINT, MICH.

1839-1851

A pair of stampless folded letters showing the twenty five and five cent rates used during 1839 and 1851.

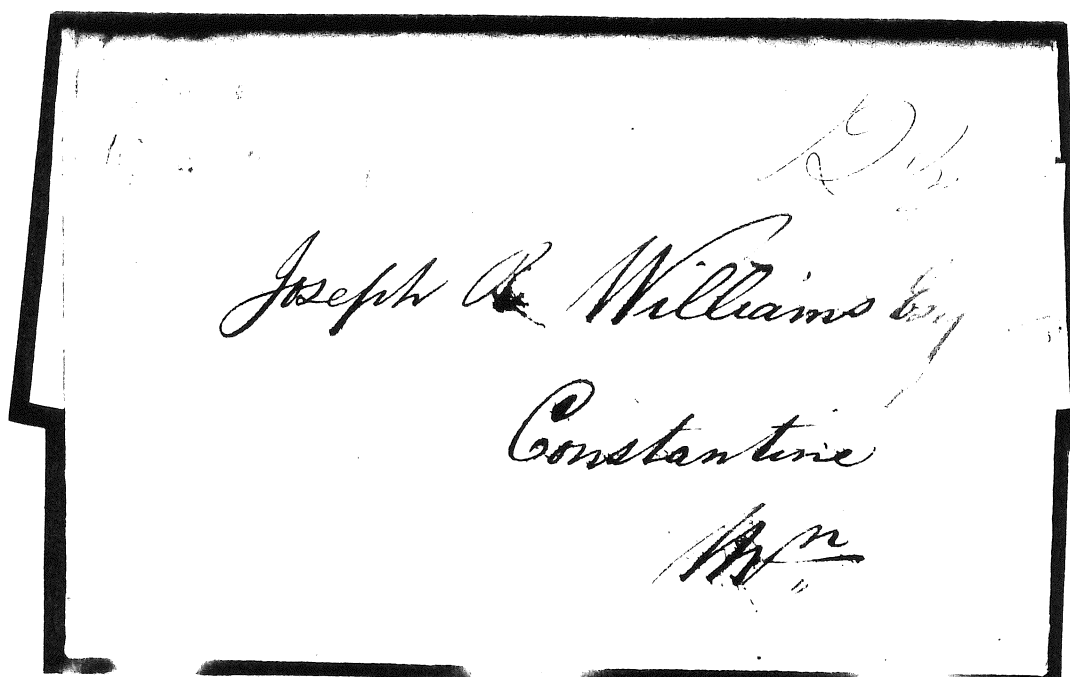


By act of April 9, 1816, the zone rate for single letters over 400 miles was twenty five cents. The circle date red Flint, Mich. Jan. 31 (1839) cancel with the red twenty five reflects this rate.



A June 18, 1851 letter with circle date stamp in red with red "5" paying the postage for delivery of the letter from Flint to Lansing which was the rate under 300 miles. Letter addressed to Hon. W. M. Fenton who was the Lt. Governor of Michigan.

TWELVE AND ONE HALF CENT RATE.

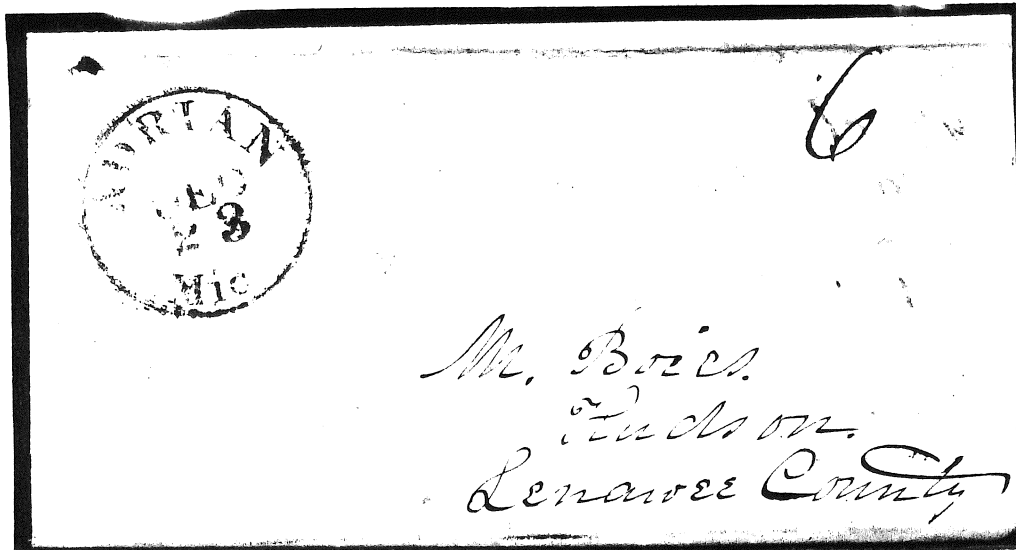


The 30 mm circle date stamp of Monroe, Michigan was in use between 1837 and 1845. By Act of March 3, 1825, the rate was 12½ cents, so indicated in blue, for delivery of single rate letters between 80 and 150 miles, Monroe to Constantine, Michigan.

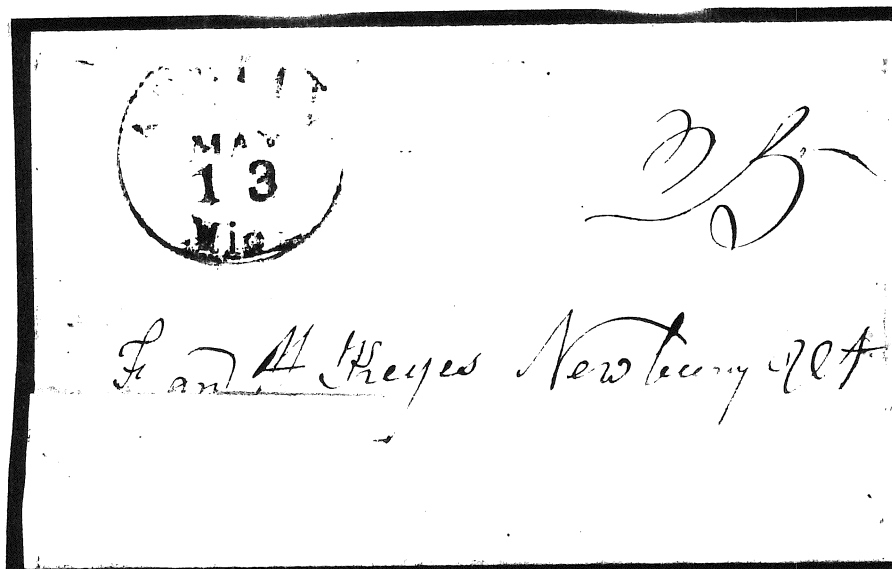
MICHIGAN POSTAL HISTORY
ADRIAN, MICH.

1841-1844

Adrian, Mich. got its name on March 6, 1838 being changed from Logan by the legislature.



A redish brown Adrian, Mich. Dec. 23 (1841 documented by letter) circular date stamp. By act of March 3, 1825 the six cent rate went into effect for delivery under thirty miles. The above letter reflects the six cent rate.

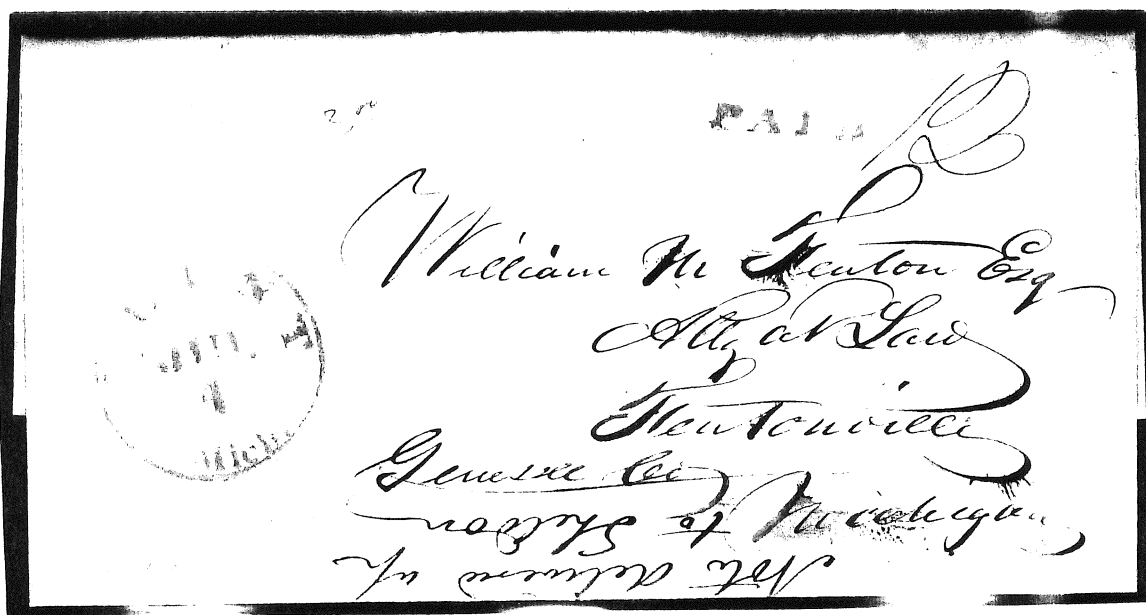


A black circle date stamp on May 13, (1844) with the manuscript 25 cent rate. The letter to Newbury, Vt. which was over four hundred miles, thus the twenty five cents for postage. This by act of March 3, 1825 as above.

FLINT, MICH.

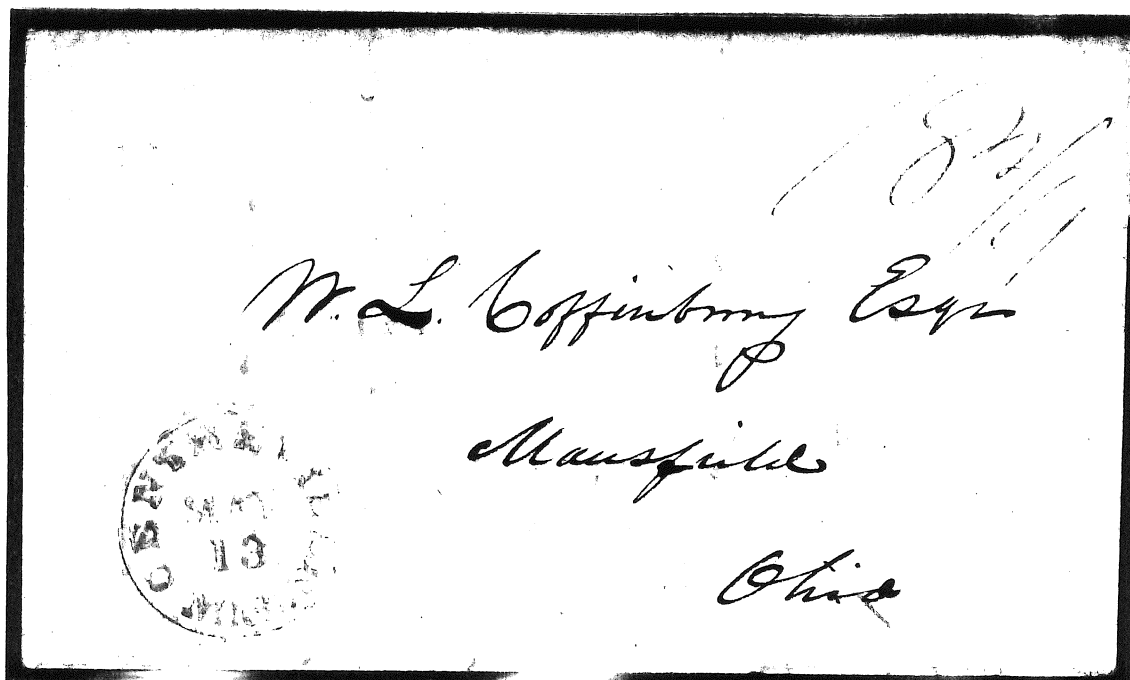
DOUBLE RATE LETTER

By act of April 9, 1816 the zone rate for a single rate letter was changed to six cents for delivery under 30 miles. The manuscript "12" indicates a double rate letter as it speaks of an enclosure.



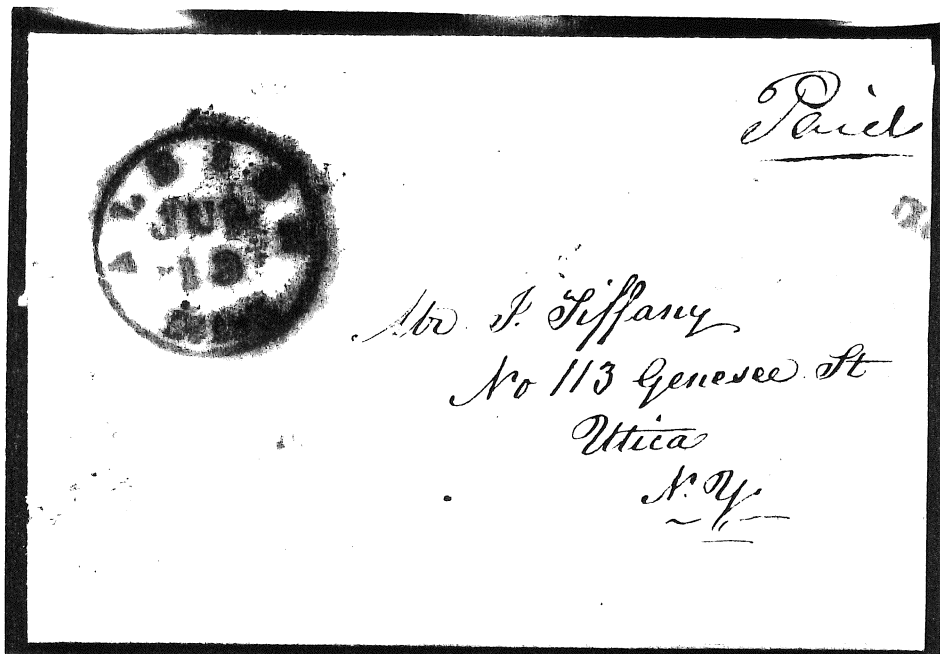
The letter addressed to William M. Fenton at Fentonville, Mich. Wm. Fenton who became lieutenant governor of the state of Michigan purchased the land and plotted the village as Fentonville in 1837. In 1886 the name was changed to Fenton. Robert LeRoy was a partner with Fenton in founding the town and became the first postmaster on June 26, 1837.

Centreville, in St. Joseph County had its first settlers and was platted in 1831. The first postmaster was appointed on March 2, 1833. The village was named for its location in the county.



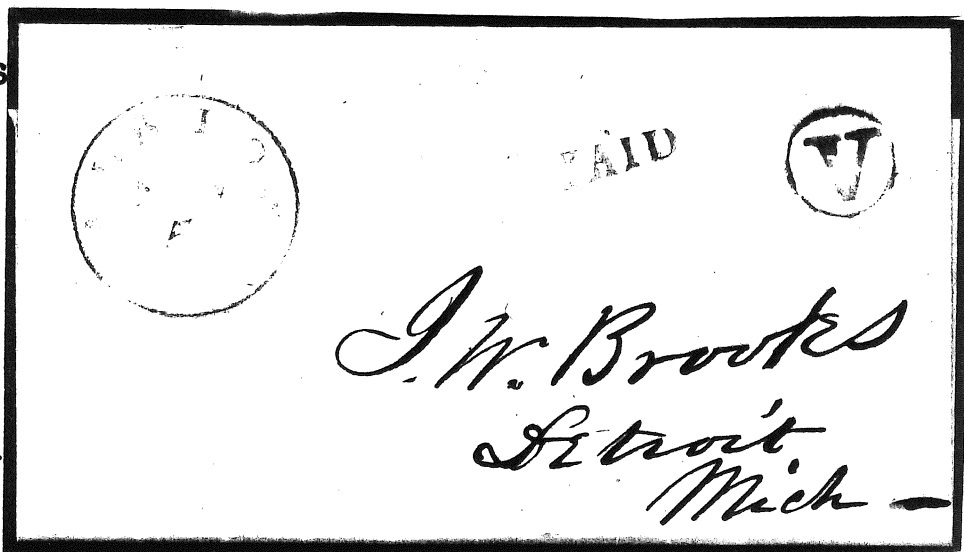
A red brown circle date stamp of Centreville, Mich. on May 13, (1844) on an unpaid letter. The fee to be paid by the receipt upon delivery of the letter. This fee, 18 $\frac{3}{4}$ cents determined by the less than 400 mile delivery service.

Mr. Crowell platted the village of Albion in 1836 and became the first postmaster on May 5, 1838.



Documented by the letter, July 18, 1844, the "Paid" in manuscript indicates a twenty five cent letter paid to Utica, N. Y. A very heavy smudge Albion July 19 Mich. circle date stamp.

On March 3, 1845 the rate was changed to five cents for anything under 300 miles. The straight line PAID and V in circle shows this change. An Albion, Mich. Nov. 5 cancel in brown red matching the PAID "V".



MICHIGAN POSTAL HISTORY

1845

ALLEGAN C.H., MICH.

A black Allegan C. H. (court house) circle date stamp of March 5, 1845. In manuscript 3/7 date Algn. with 2.62½, the postage. To Auditor General State of Mich. Detroit, Mich. Detroit, the capital of Mi. at the time.

3/7 Aug 2.62½

Chas. Hammond

Auditor General of
State of Michigan
Detroit Mich



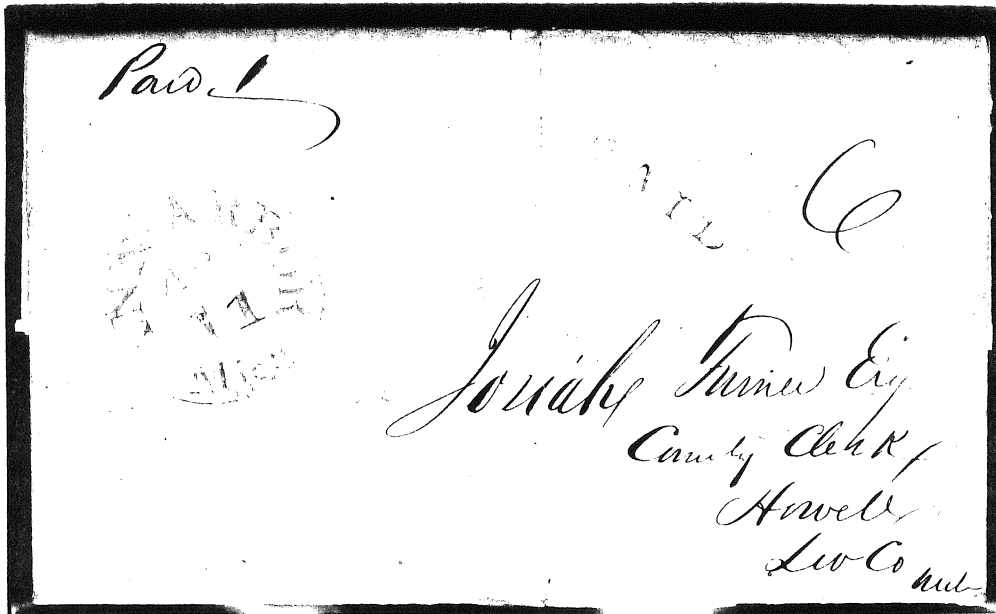
By act of March 3, 1825 and in effect May 1, the rate was increased from 18½ to 18¾ to fit foreign currency. The unusually high rate is fourteen times the single rate letter.

MICHIGAN POSTAL HISTORY

ANN ARBOR, MICH.

1845-1849

The act of April 9, 1816 restored the rates of 1799 and 1810 and reduced the postal rates.



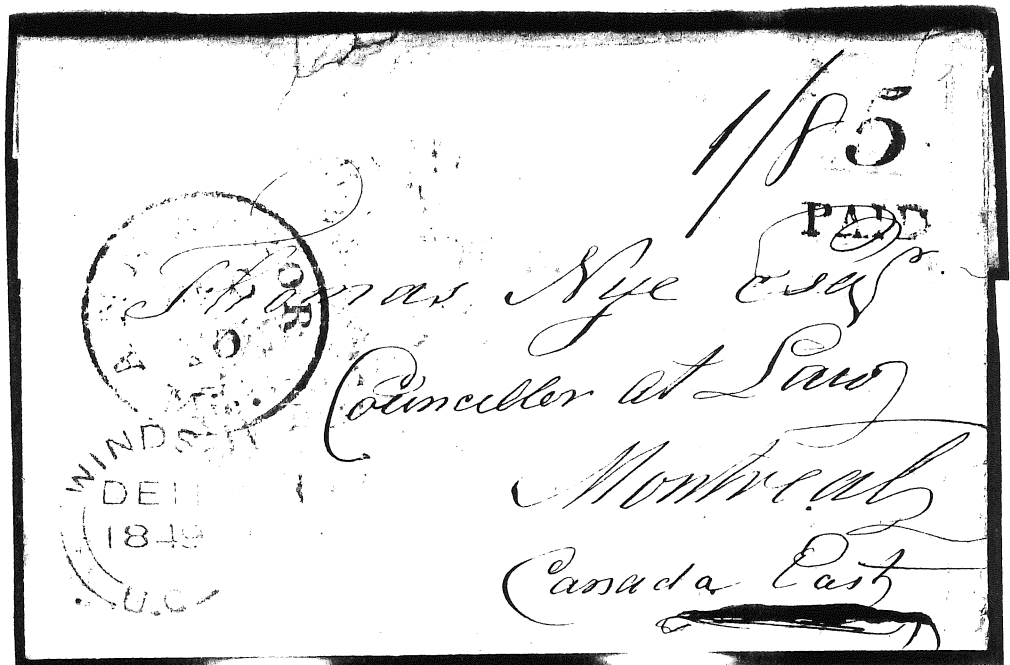
The straight line PAID and manuscript 6 delivered this letter from Ann Arbor to Howell (Mich.) which was under 30 miles.

ACROSS THE BORDER COVER

Another rate change took place by act of March 3, 1845. It would deliver any letter for five cents under 300 miles.

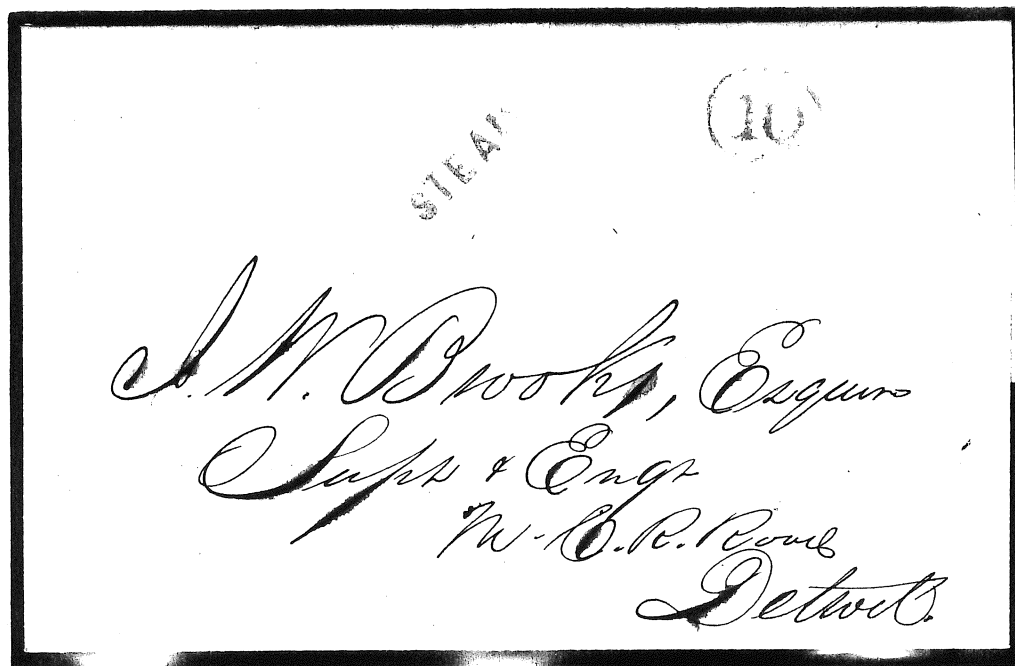
The 5 PAID in blue on this cover delivered the letter only to Windsor U.C. (Upper Canada)

the exchange point for mail between the U.S. and Canada. The $\frac{1}{2}$ the Canadian marking for delivery to Montreal.



INLAND WATERWAY MAIL

As a favor, mail was picked up by boat captains or clerks having no mail carrying contracts and delivered to post offices. Upon delivery, they were marked STEAMBOAT or STEAM.



A cover delivered to the Michigan Central Railroad in Detroit, Mich. The straight line 18 X 4 mm STEAM strike was used in Detroit in the 1840s. The 10 in oval indicates the ten cent rate which was in effect from 1845 to 1851. Thus, the approximate date of the cover is established.

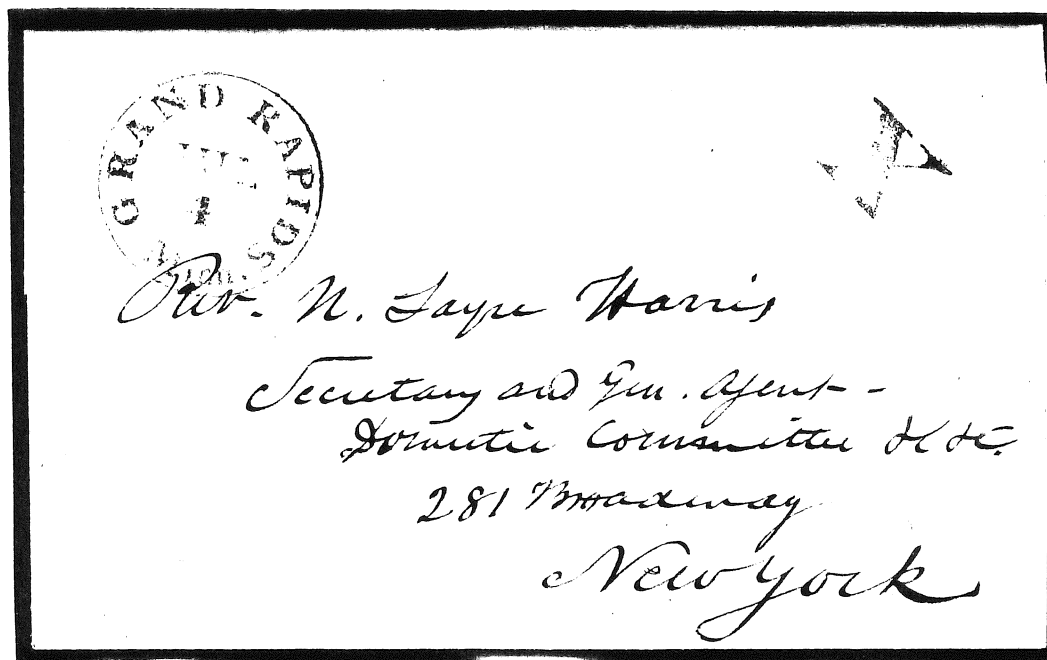
Sault Sainte Marie in Chippewa County was the first European settlement in what is now Michigan. It was named for the rapids (in French, sault) and in honor of the Virgin Mary. When the Stars and Stripes was first raised in 1820, it was called Le Sault de Sainte Marie. It was shortened when Henry B. Griswold became the first postmaster on September 11, 1823 to St Mary. This annuled to Sault Sainte Marie in 1851.



The definite date on the above cover cannot be determined. The ten cent rate in broken circle was in effect from July 1, 1845 to March 3, 1851. The 30 mm circle date stamp of Sault de Ste Marie, Mich coming into use at the end of the rate period. The letter unpaid to Cleveland, Ohio.

GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.

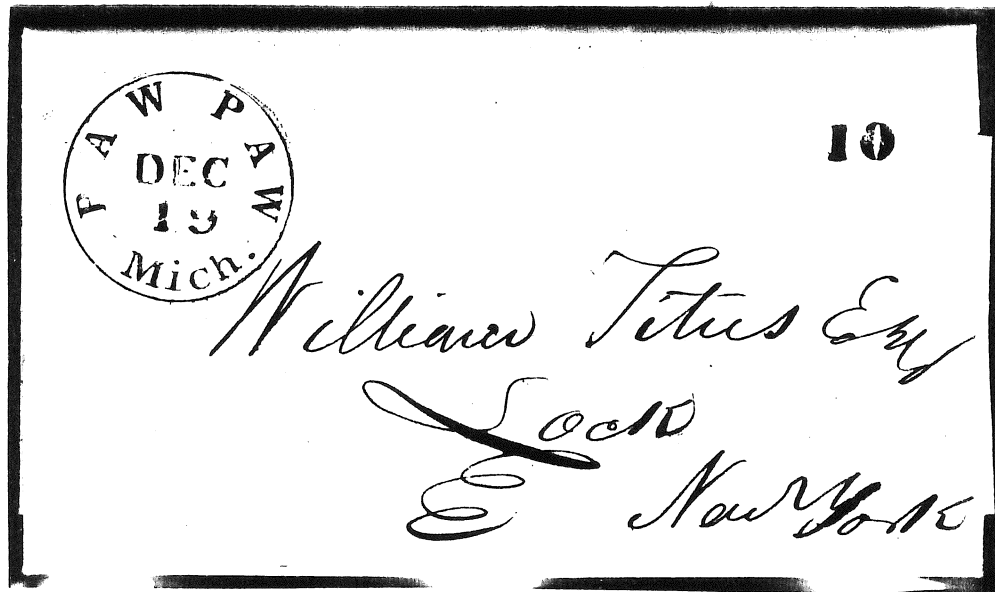
JULY 4, 1846



An unpaid letter, Grand Rapids to New York in 1846. The black 30 mm circle date stamp in use starting in 1845. The roman numeral "X" indicates the ten cent rate in effect July 1, 1845.

PAW PAW, MICH.

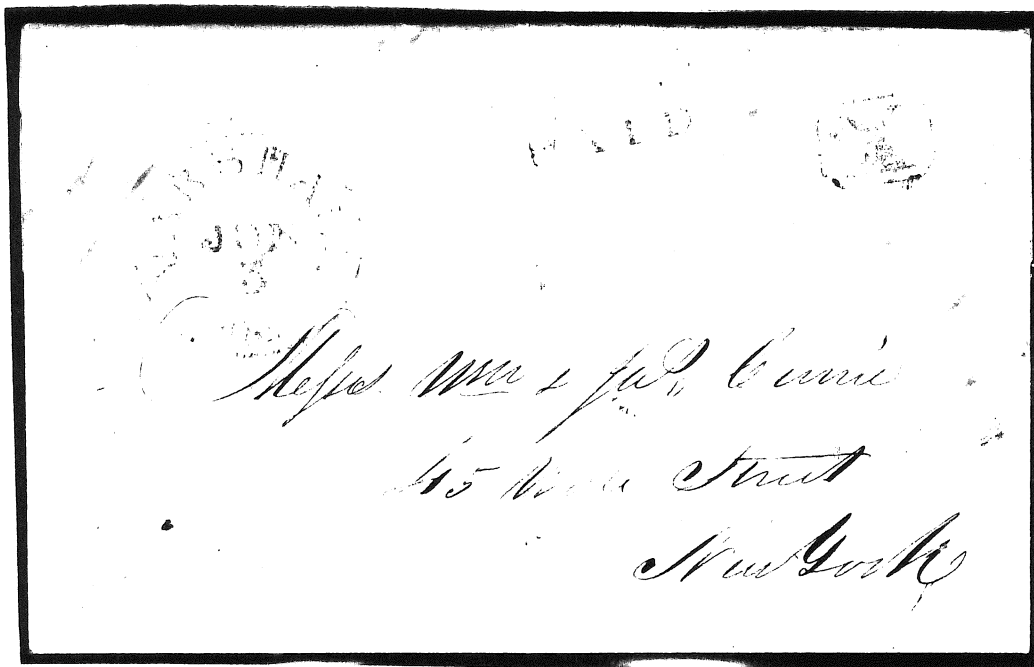
Rodney Hinckley located his farm at Paw Paw in 1832. Peter Gremps built the first store, became the first merchant and on May 7, 1834 the first postmaster. It became the Van Buren county seat in 1838. It was named after the Paw Paw River which the indians had named from the paw paw fruit growing along its bank.



This 30 mm town cancel came into common use in 1845 and is typical of the period. The unpaid letter to New York over 300 miles so the ten cent rate.

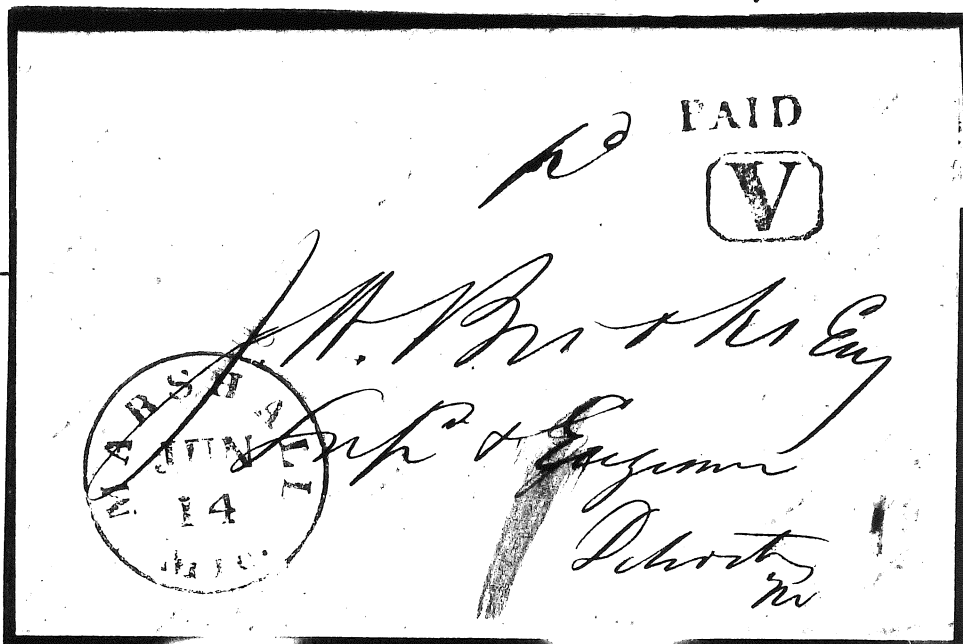
MARSHALL, MICH.

In 1831, Marshall, Michigan in Calhoun County named after U.S. Chief Justice John Marshall was platted. George Ketchum became the first postmaster on October 10, 1831.



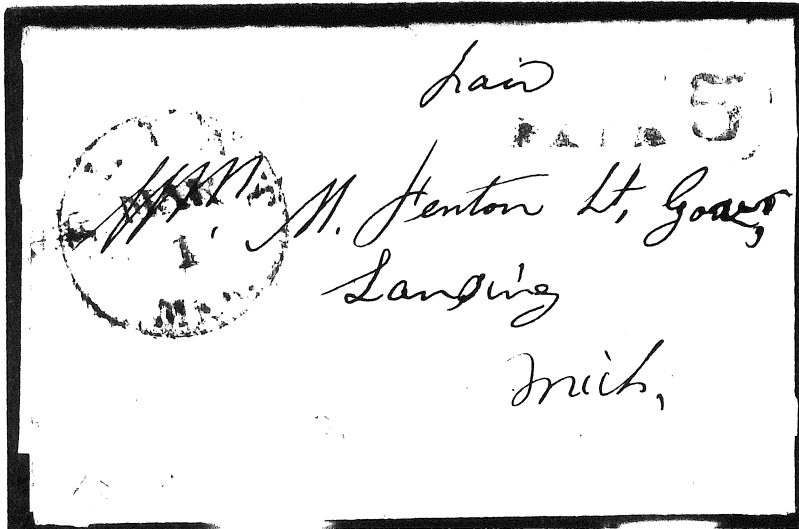
A prepaid letter, straight line PAID from Marshall to N.Y. with the boxed X indicating the ten cent rate in effect July 1, 1845 for one half ounce letters over 300 miles.

The red strikes on the letter below shows the V in a box, the five cent rate for a letter under 300 miles. Again, the straight line PAID but different than the one above indicating prepayment. This, by the same act as the cover above. This outer rim is 2 mm larger than the one above.



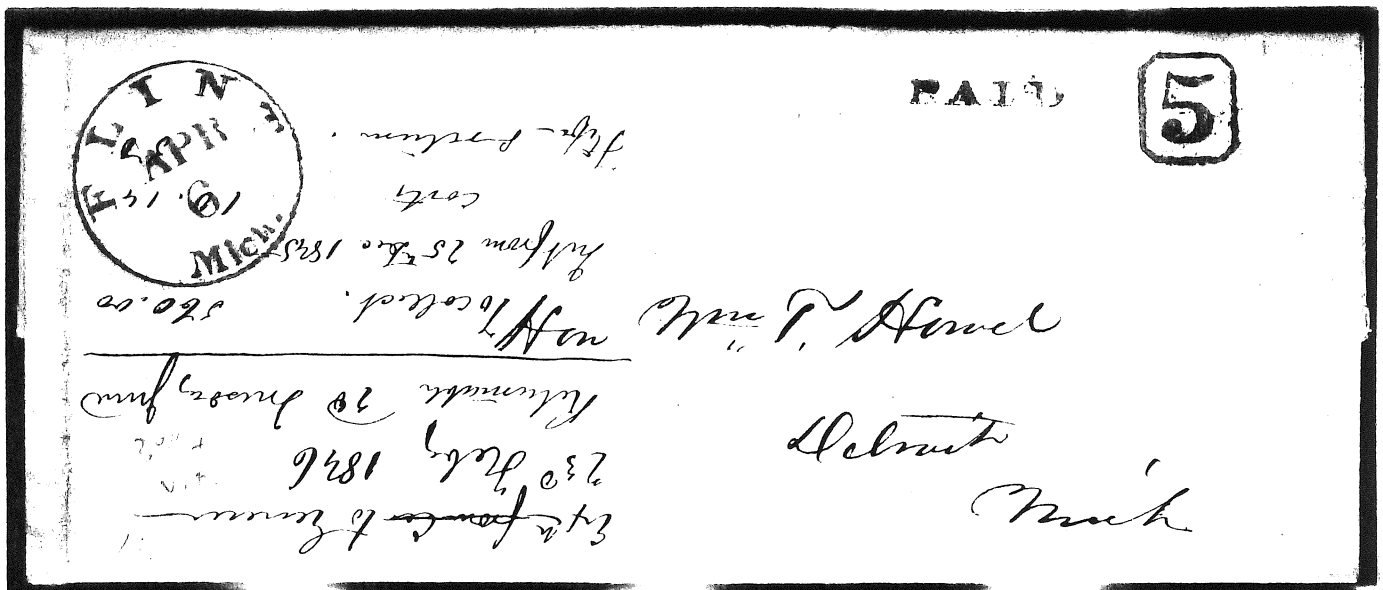
FLINT, MICH.

From 1845 to 1851 the single letter rate was five cents up to 300 miles. The two letters here shown reflects this rate.



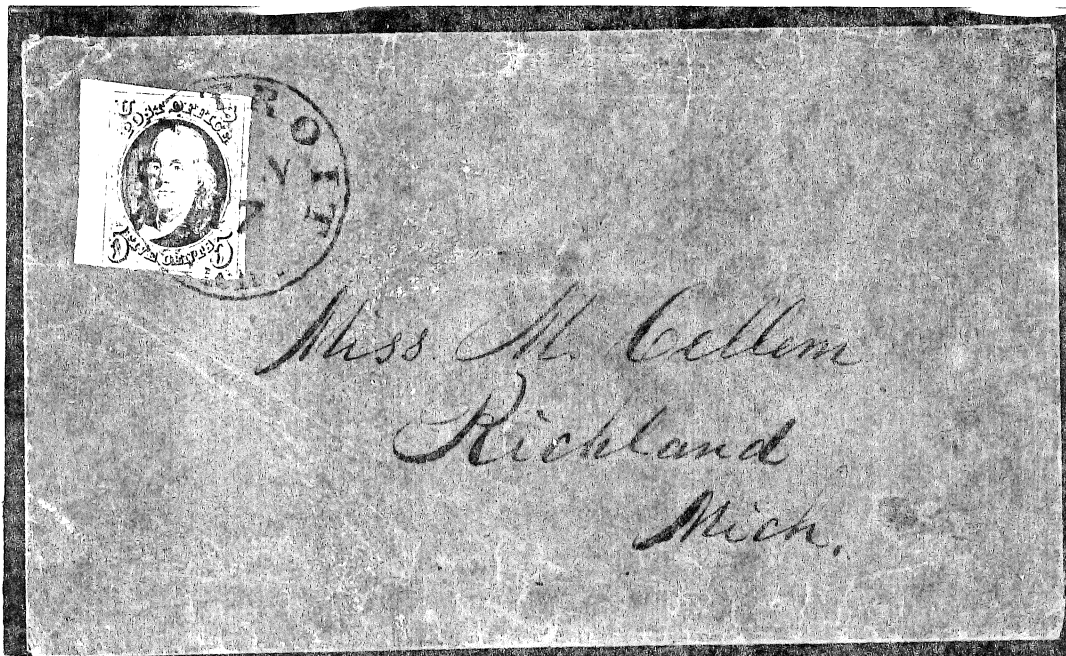
Here are two circle date stamps in red on letters posted three years apart. The straight line "PAID", also in red are identical. The box enclosing the 5 on the left cover is 2MM larger, both ways than on the one below.

Flint to Lansing, above and Flint to Detroit, below. Both under the 300 mile limit for the five cent rate.



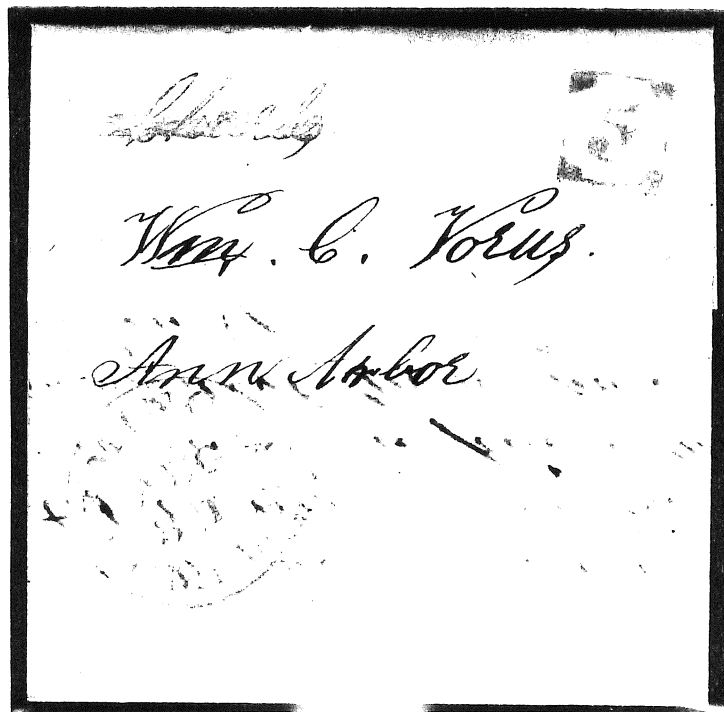
FIRST POST OFFICE IN MICHIGAN

Frederick Bates became the first postmaster in Michigan in Detroit on January 1, 1803.



The Detroit, Michigan circle date stamp canceling the first issued stamp of the United States. The town mark obliterating the stamp was a practice by postmasters until 1860 when it was prohibited by the Post Office Department. The five cent rate paying the postage to Richland, Mich. under 300 miles.

Piety Hill from the preachings of a Methodist preacher didn't stick and the first postoffice was named Bloomfield after the township on March 24, 1821. On April 5, 1838, the office was re-named Birmingham after Birmingham, England. Sidney Dole served as the first postmaster.

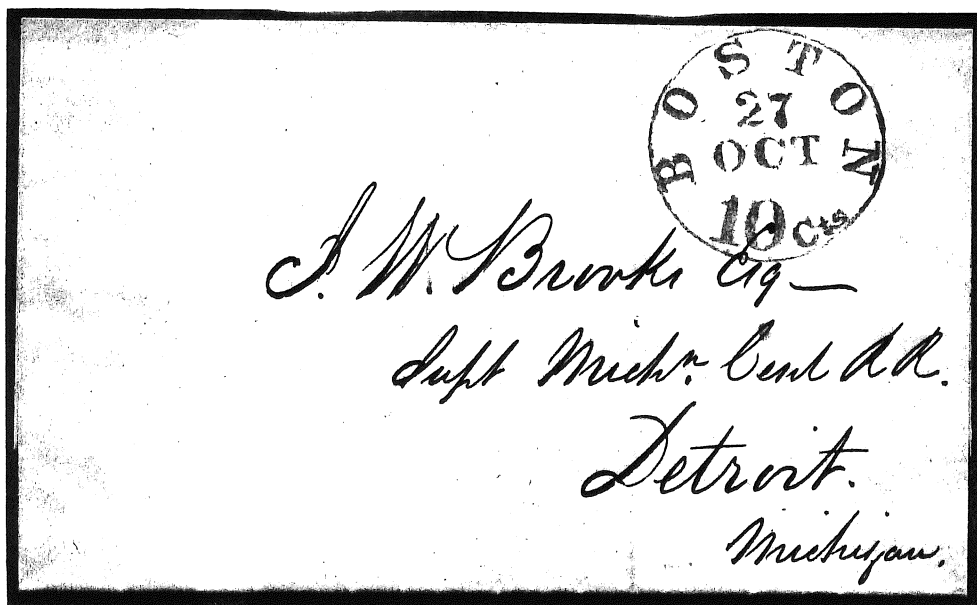
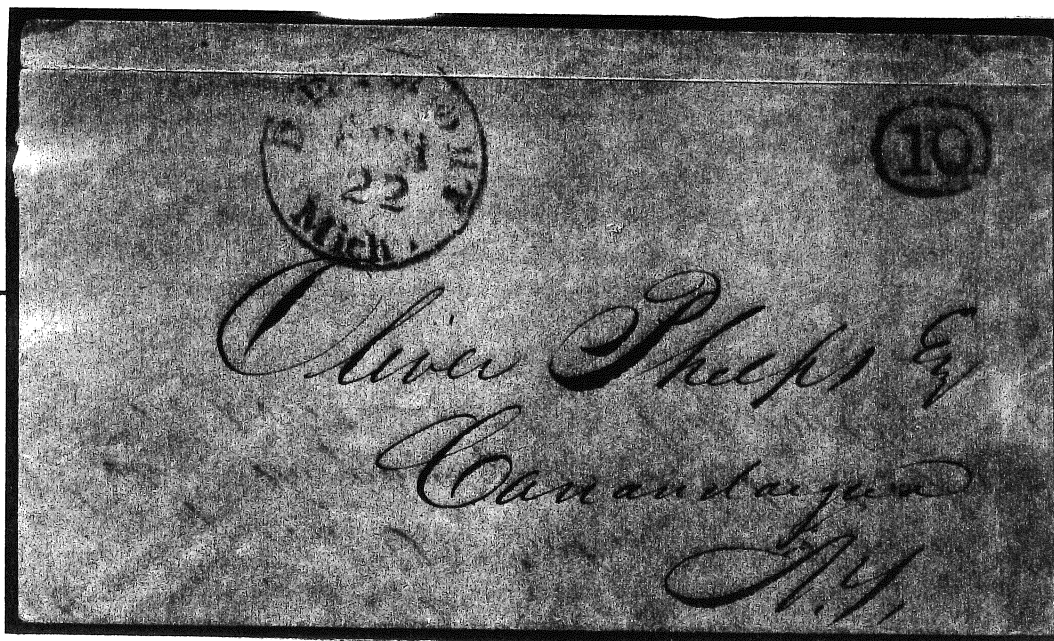


From Birmingham to Ann Arbor, Michigan. An unpaid letter with the five cent rate in a box with shaded corners. A matching blue 30 mm circle date stamp. The five cent rate for delivery under 300 miles. This prepaid or unpaid.

FROM AND TO DETROIT, MICH.

By act of March 3, 1845 in effect July 1, 1845, the zone rate for all one half ounce letters over 300 miles was changed to ten cents. Here are letters of this rate from and to Detroit.

The Detroit Mich. cancel in red with 10 in oval in matching color sending an unpaid letter to N.Y.



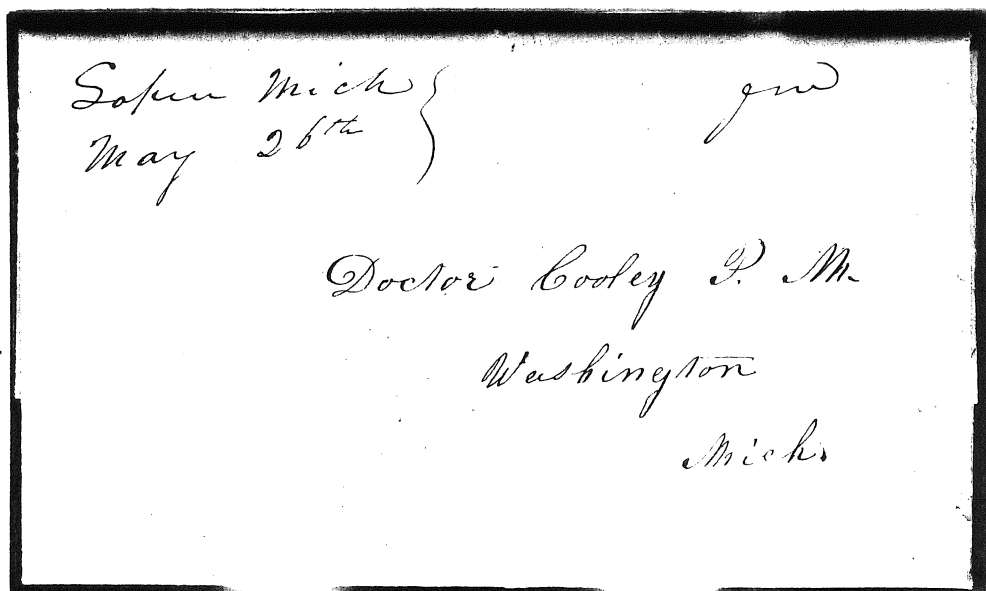
The red ten cent rate in circle sending an unpaid letter to the Supt. of the Mich. Cent. R. R. (rail road) in Detroit, Mich.

MICHIGAN POSTAL HISTORY
WASHINGTON (LAPEER) MICH.

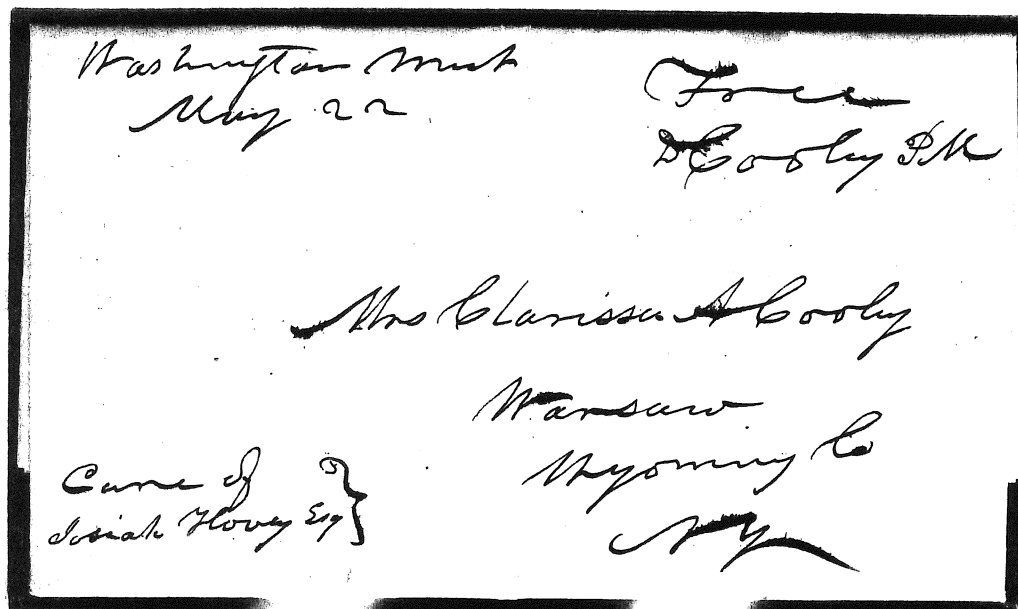
1847-1866

A pair of "Free Frank" stampless folded letters one to and one from Washington, Mich.

A manuscript
 Lapeer, Mich.
 cancel on May
 26th (1847)
 "free" to Dr.
 Cooley, post-
 master of Wash-
 ington, Mich.
 Two day mail
 delivery for
 this letter in
 1847.



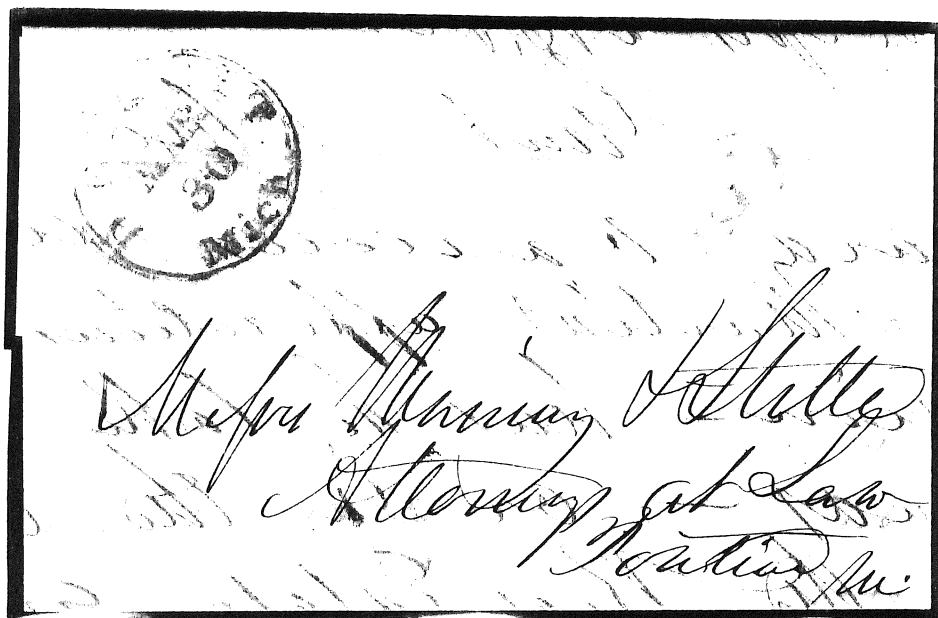
By act of March 2, 1799 letters to a postmaster were sent free, as above. By act of March 3, 1825 all postmasters were granted the free franking privilege, as below.



A "free frank"
 letter from D.
 Cooley, post-
 master, manus-
 cript canceled
 at Washington,
 Mich. on May 22,
 1866 to New York.

Washington, Mich. in Macomb county named after Washington township and the father of our country. Otis Lamb, the first postmaster in 1826.

By act of Congress on March 3, 1845 starting July 1, 1845 the mail rate was reduced to five cents for any letter to be delivered under 300 miles.



An unpaid stampless folded letter canceled in red with the matching 5 in oval in use from 1837 to 1850. Pontiac to Detroit, less than 300 miles.

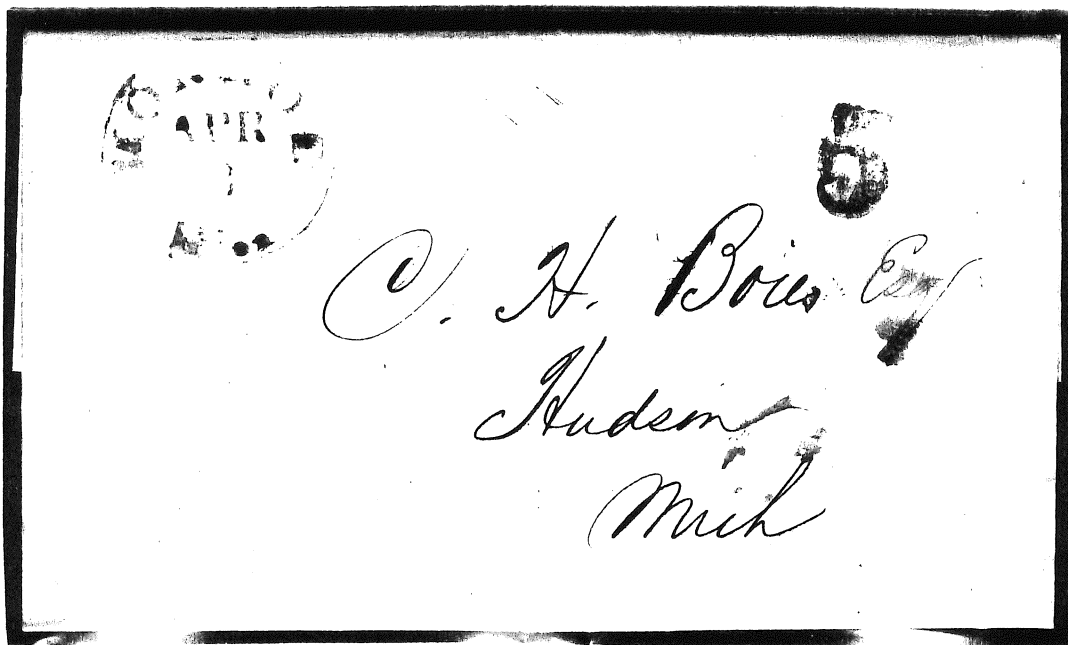
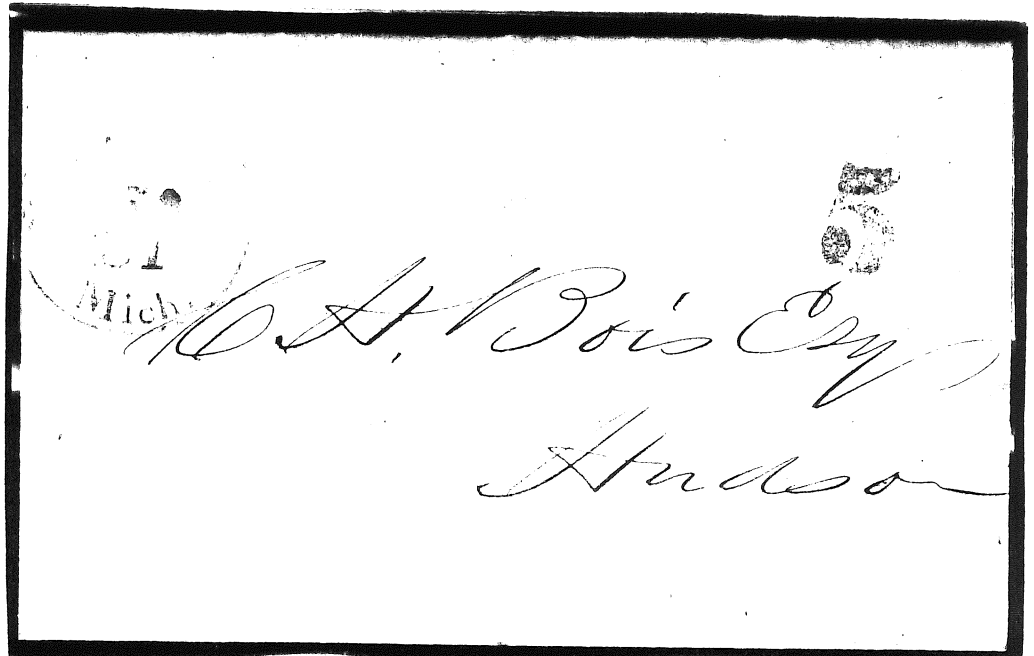
MICHIGAN POSTAL HISTORY
MONROE, MICH.

1848-1851

A pair of stampless folded letters addressed to C. H. Boies in Hudson, Mich. The circle date stamp, Monroe, Mich. on Dec. 31, 1848 and April 3, 1851 both in blue.

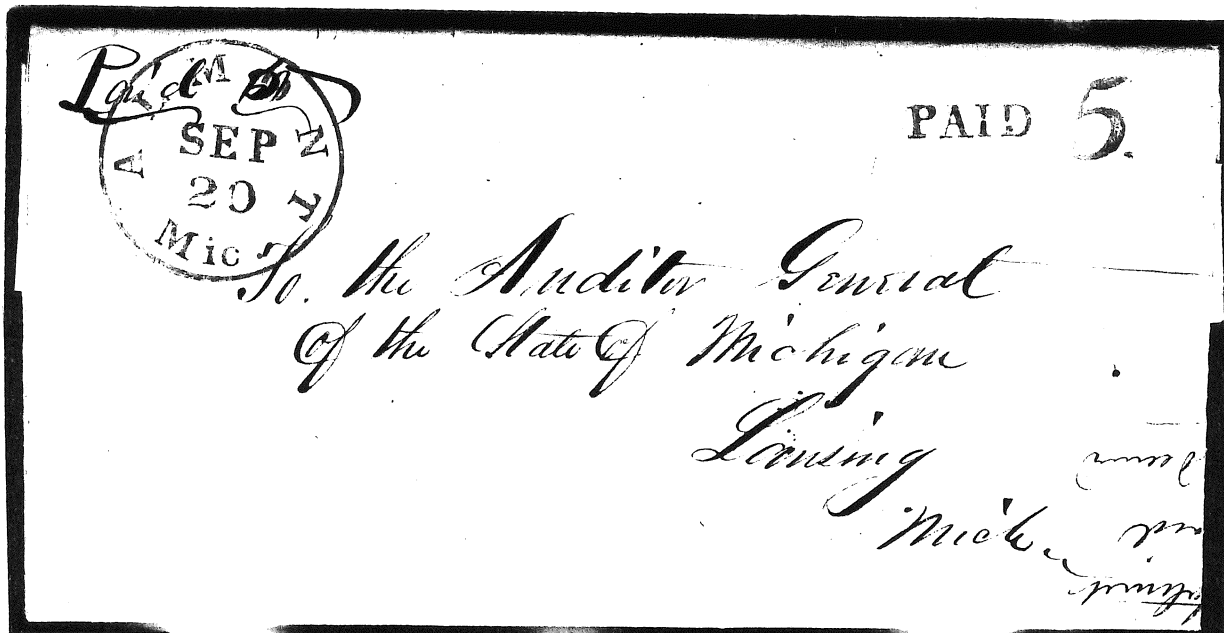
The upper cover is the five cent rate at the time for mail to be delivered under three hundred miles.

The lower cover is the five cent rate for a non prepaid letter which went into effect with the three cent rate on June 30, 1851.

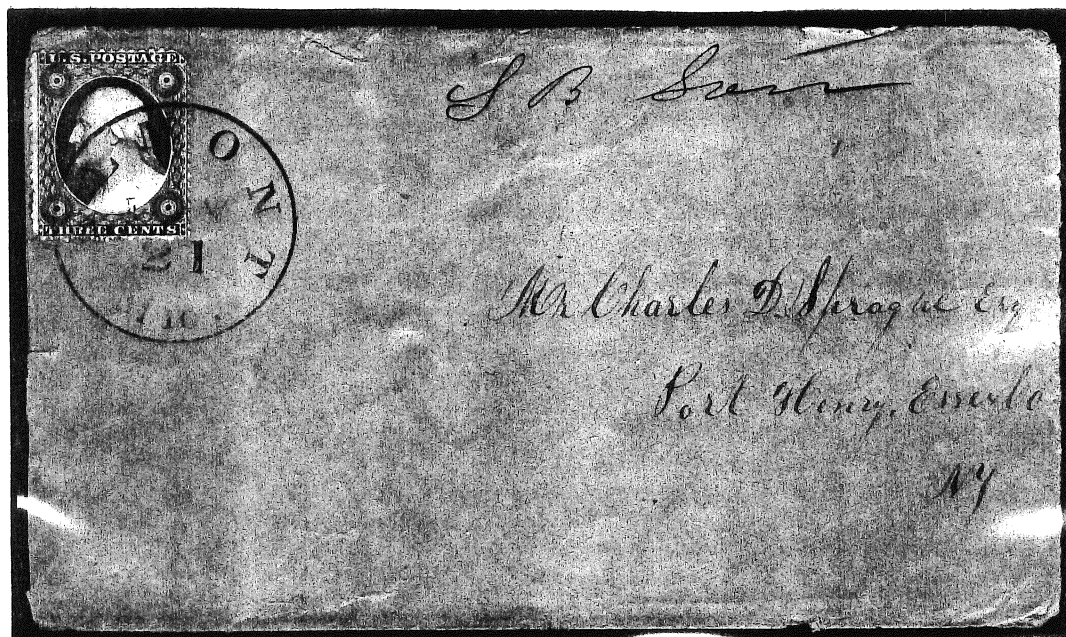


ALMONT, MICH.

The Almont post office came into being on January 5, 1846 when the name was given to the Bristol post office which had been established on January 29, 1835. Dr. Caleb Carpenter was the first Bristol postmaster and was still postmaster when the above letter was mailed. The new name was to honor the Mexican general, Juan Almonte.



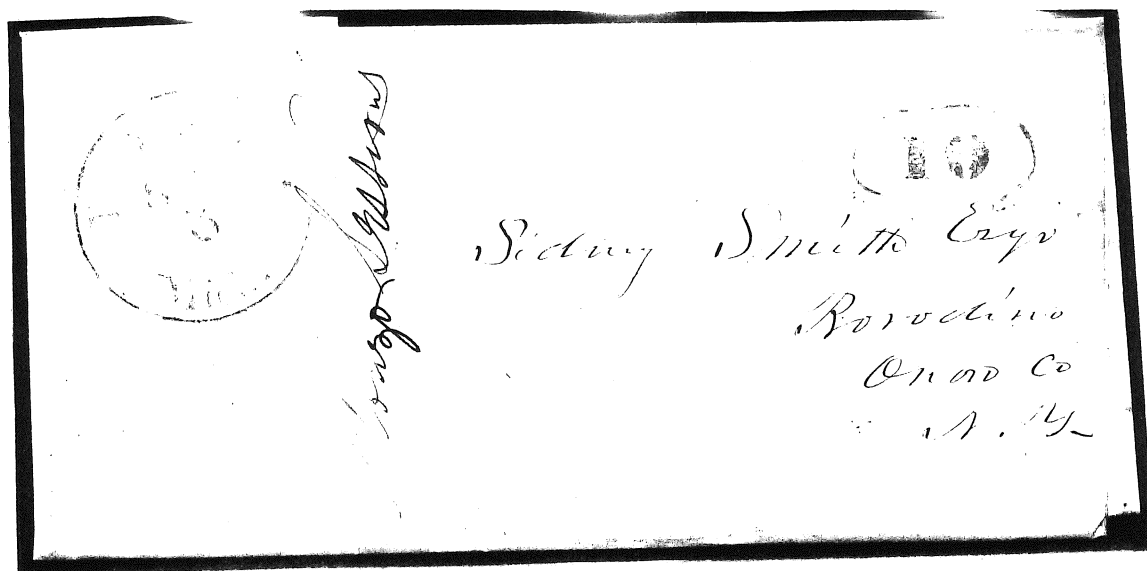
The early Almont circle date stamp in brown with matching straight line PAID 5 paying the single letter rate under 300 miles in effect from 1845 to 1851. The manuscript "paid 5" was put on by the sender and is superfluous to the letter.



From the stampless to the stamp period. The same cancel as above but in black some twelve years later.

IONIA, MICH.

Ionia, in Ionia county was established in 1831 and was named after the ancient Greek province. The post office was established on August 29, 1835. Erastus Yeomans was the first postmaster. The village was platted and recorded in 1841.

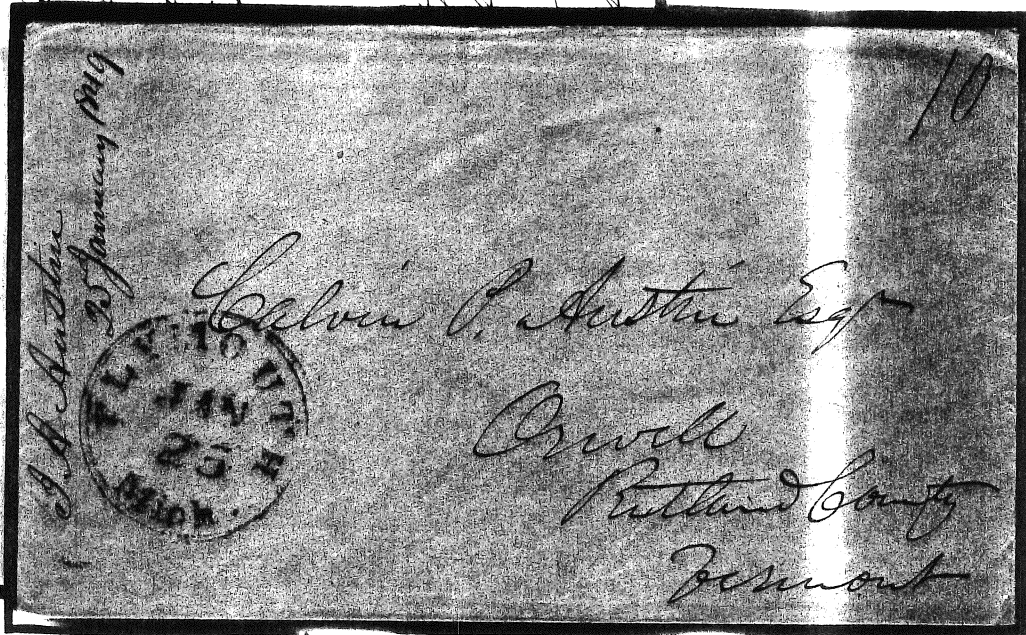


By act of March 3, in effect July 1, 1845 zone rate for one half ounce letters over 300 miles was ten cents. An unpaid letter with the Ionia, Mich. circular date stamp of Sept. 3, 1849 (documented by letter). The 10 in oval, the type used in the Ionia post office between 1846 and 1855.

The ten cent rate went into effect by Act of March 3, 1845. In part it read, "for every single rate letter over 300 miles, ten cents".

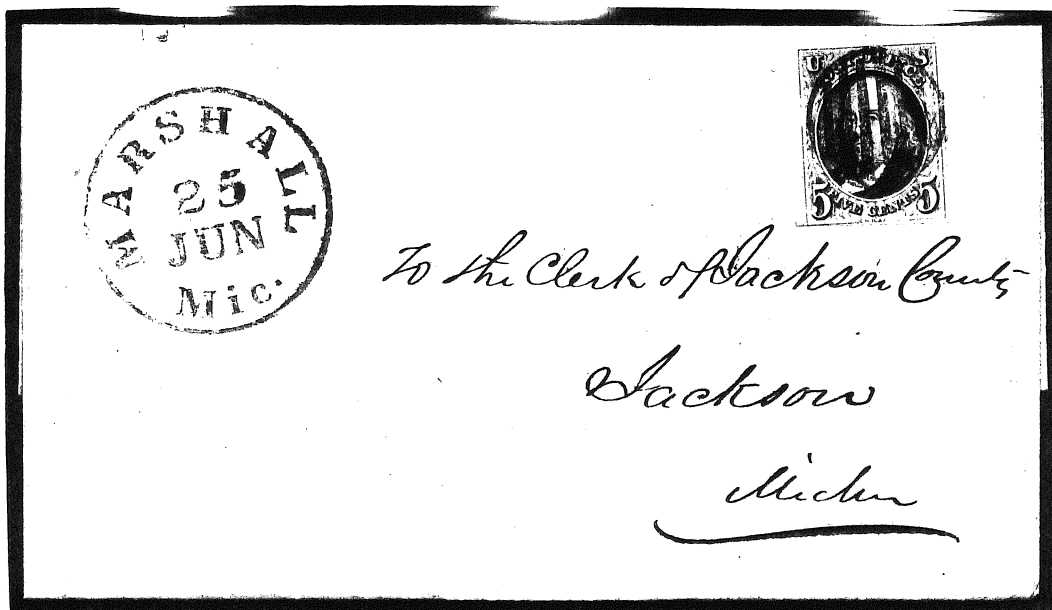
Brother Calvin
Lives of wrote you I was sorry
has been here, says he is faint, movable, & sickly,
but is not in reality, (as I thought)
pretends, says he owns one old horse
which by the laws of this state are
(execution) also one joke of O'Keen (that
the 80 acre lot big - the North 1/2 of
- 13 - which you sold him, & that
junk of his means,
says further, that after hiring in
a year, (as the land you sold him)
situation was not agreeable, that

The letter and cover substantiate the 1849 date for this piece. The circle date stamp of Plymouth, Mich. on January 25 with the 10 in manuscript indicating the rate in the upper right hand corner. A 10 X 16 sheet for a single rate letter.



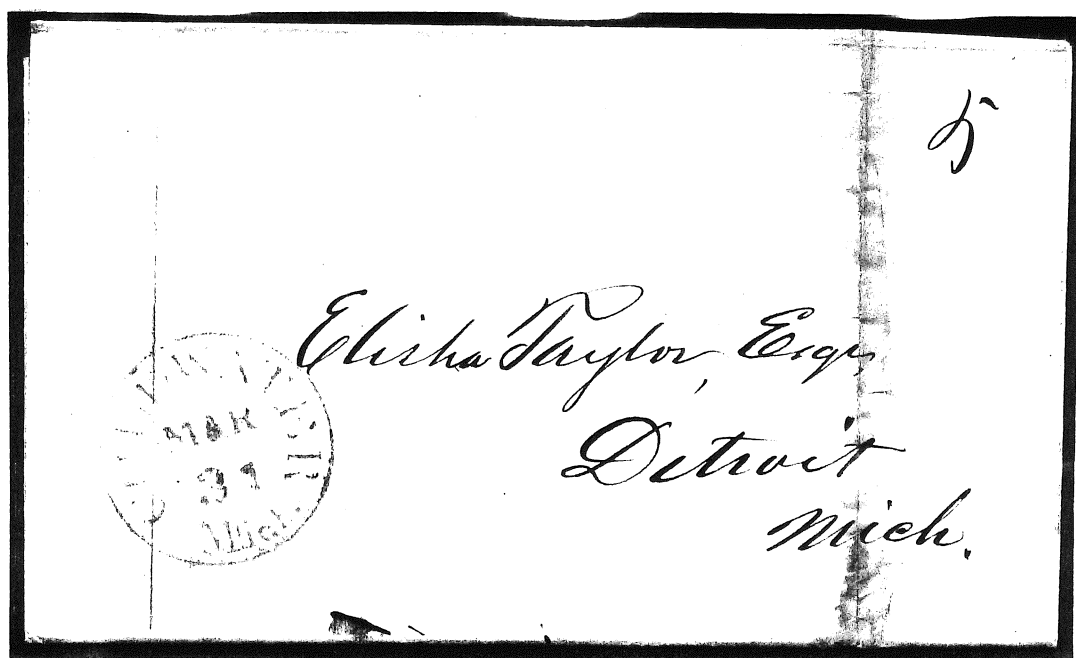
A FRANKED FOLDED LETTER

Marshall, Michigan, named after United States Chief Justice John Marshall in Calhoun County named after Hon. John C. Calhoun, Vice President of the United States was settled in 1830. George Ketchum became the first postmaster on October 10, 1831.



The five cent rate, by Act of March 3, 1845 in effect July 1, 1845 delivering the letter from Marshall to Jackson, Michigan under 300 miles. A red 32 mm circle date stamp with the red grids in circle canceling the first issued stamp by the United States Government. The first stamp was issued on July 1, 1847 (earliest recorded use, July 7, 1847) by Congress Legislation passed on March 3, 1847.

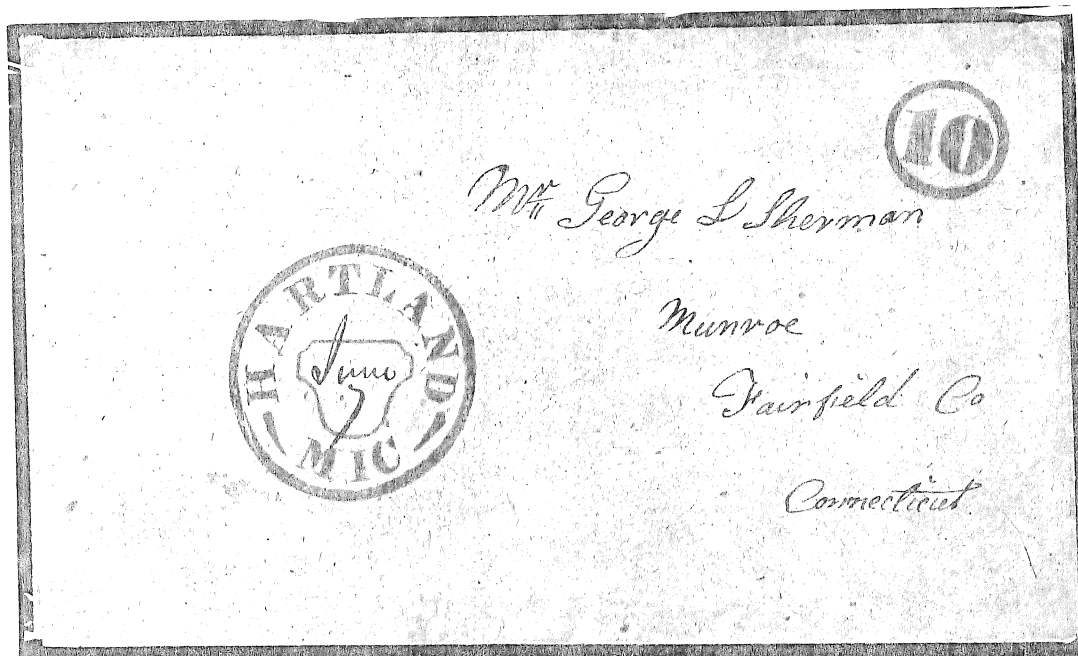
The township of Coldwater in Branch county was named because the Coldwater River flows through it. The original village was laid out in 1832 and was called Lyons. An addition was platted and called Masonville. In 1833 the two combined were named after the township. Harvey Warner became the first postmaster on September 22, 1838.



The red Coldwater, Mich. cancel (ich, small letters) is 30 mm and was used between 1837 and 1851. The manuscript "5" the rate to deliver the letter under 300 miles, Coldwater to Detroit. As the piece is not marked paid, it was sent collect.

SHIELD IN TOWNMARK

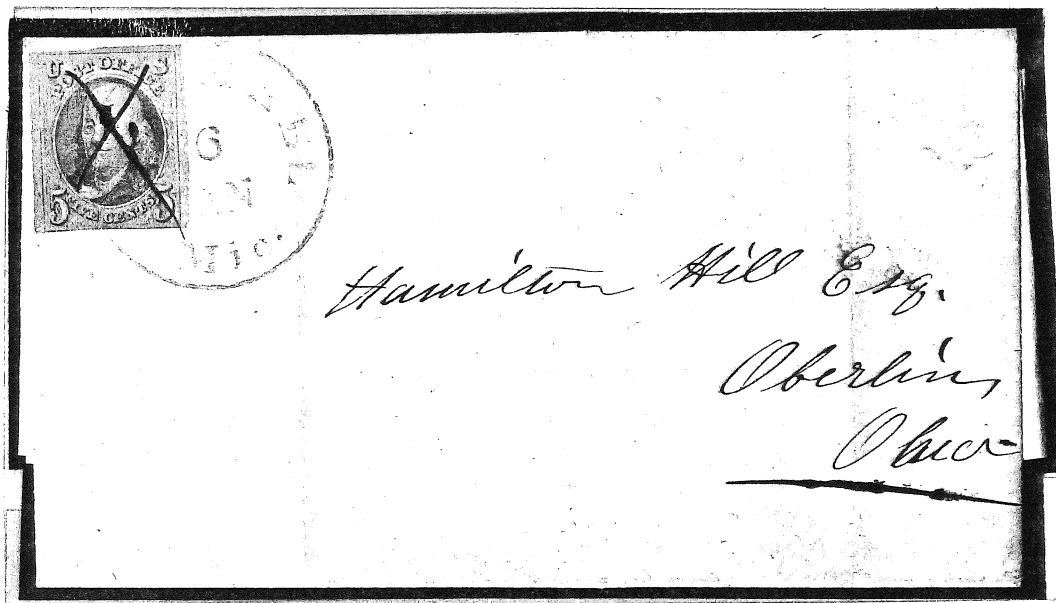
The Hartland post office was established on June 19, 1837. This, the same year Michigan became a state. Issac Parshall was the first postmaster. From 1847 through 1850 Hartland had three unusual and unique townmarks. Here shown is the shield in the center used in 1850.



A brown Hartland, "MIC" townmark with the shield in the center. Using this mark, the postmaster always put the month and day in manuscript in the shield. The ten in circle indicating the ten cent rate for over 300 miles.

ONE OF 1800

On May 16, 1849 G. S. Wright then postmaster of Marshall, Mich. received his first shipment of United States stamps. It included 200 of the ten cent Washington and 600 of the five cent Franklin stamps. In January and October of 1850 he received additional shipments of 600 each of the first issued five cent stamps.

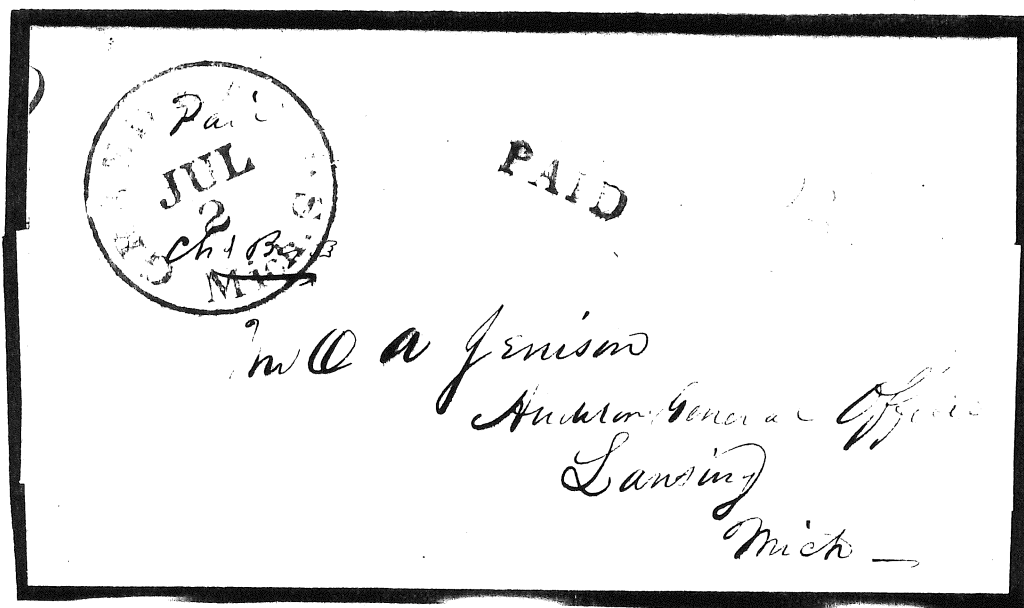


Manuscript obliterations at times as above was still used to cancel the stamp. The circle date stamp identical to the one on the previous cover.

GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.

CHARGE "1" BOX

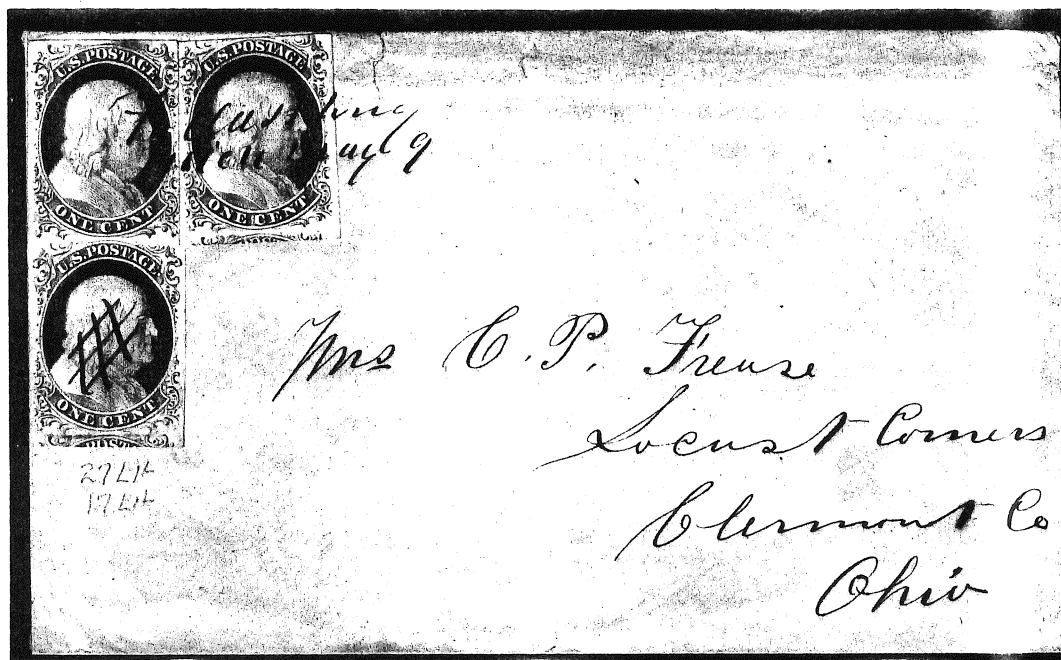
In the 1800s some postmasters had charge accounts for large mail users and would keep track for intermittent payments. The "Ch. 1 Box" in the circle date stamp indicates this was such a letter.



The straight line reddish brown PAID indicates a prepaid letter with the same color circle date stamp. As noted above, the manuscript paid indicates prepayment and charged to Box 1. The Act of March 3, 1851 delivered all prepaid letters under 3000 miles for three cents.

FALLASBURG, MICH.
FALLASSBURG-FALLASBURGH-FALLASBURG

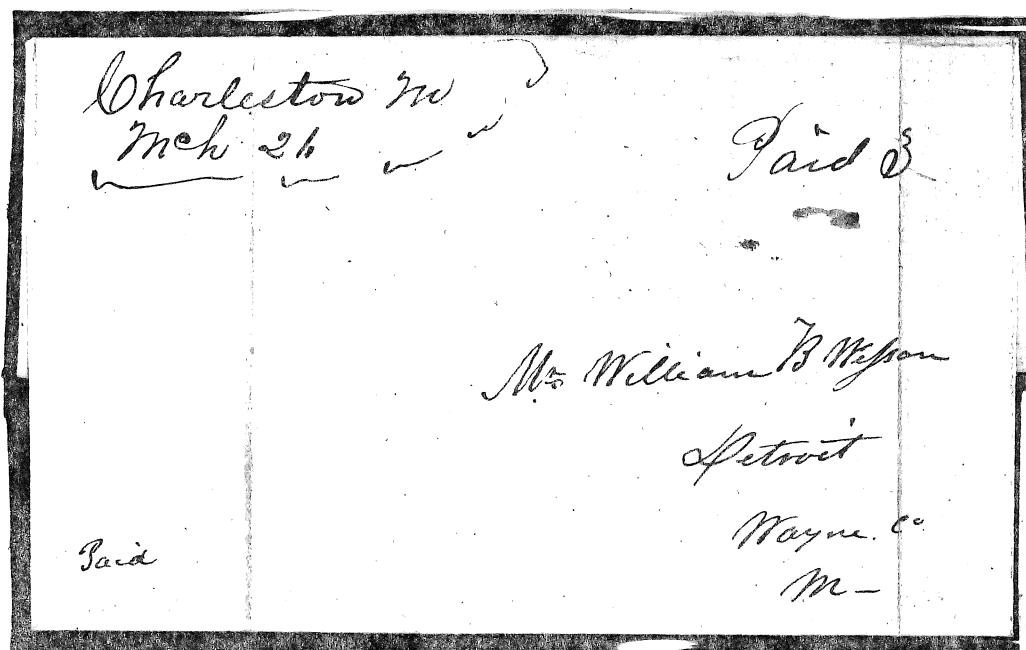
John M. Waters became the first postmaster of Fallasburgh (spelling at the time) on January 21, 1851. The office operated until September 29, 1901. It was closed until December 24, 1900, reopened and closed permanently on April 30, 1901.



The exact date of the above cover cannot be definitely established. The one cent Franklins were in use from 1851 to 1857. The "h" was not officially dropped from Fallasburg until July of 1893.

ONE OF FIVE CHARLESTONS

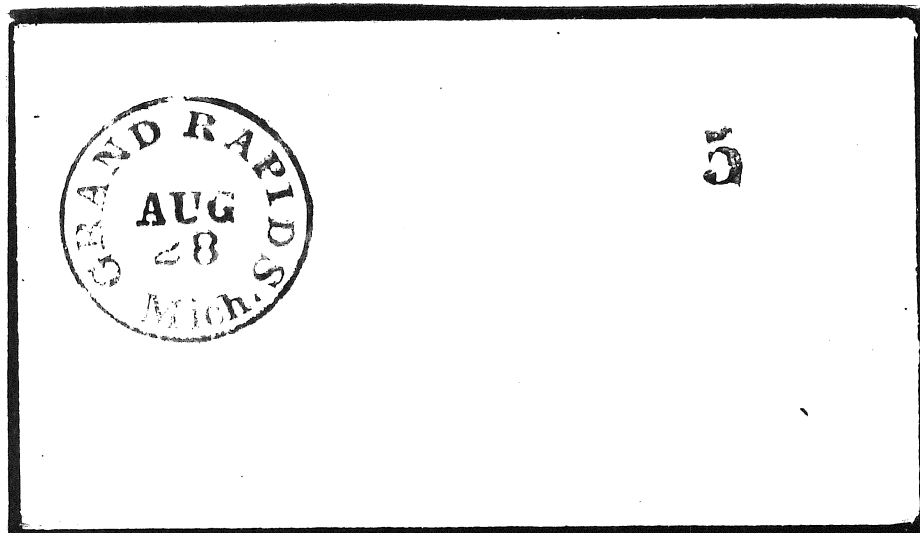
Starting in 1810 and into the 1850s there were five settlements that later became villages or towns named Charleston. As substantiated by the return address this is from Kalamazoo County. The first log cabin built here on the Kalamazoo River was in 1829. Charles M. Nichols became the first postmaster on May 2, 1836. The office was transferred to and renamed Augusta on December 16, 1861.



A manuscript cancel of Charleston, M (Mich.) Mch (March) 21. Also, a "Paid 3". The three cent rate for a prepaid letter by Act of March 3, 1851.

GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.

Two covers cancelled in red in Grand Rapids, Mich. in 1853.

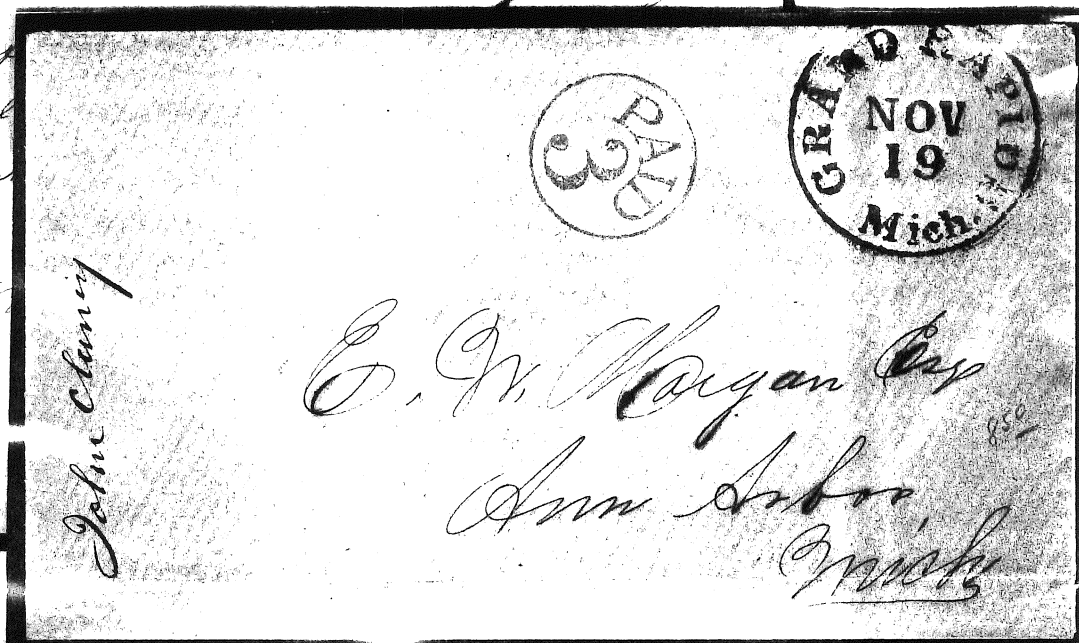


One, a pre-paid and the second the fee to be collected upon delivery. The compulsory prepayment of domestic mail did not take effect until Apr. 1, 1855.

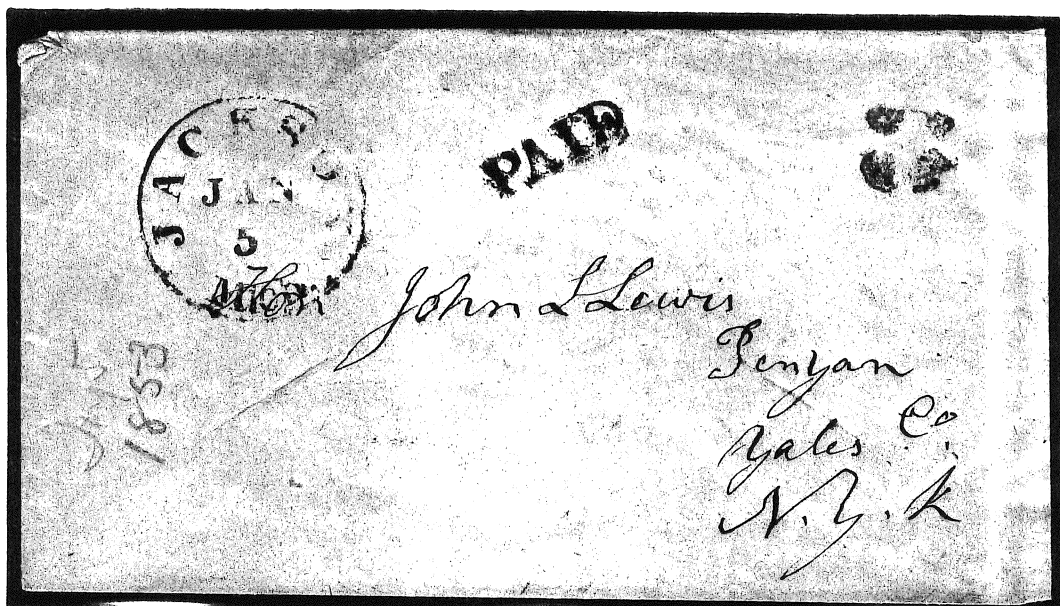
The "5" on the upper cover was because the letter was not prepaid. Therefore the 5 cent rate.

The lower cover prepaid so the circle PAID 3 in red. Both covers delivered in Michigan.

Grand Rapids Nov. 18 1853
Cap
Sir will you please to inform
me of how much land for
Castle line the correct description of
and Castle of
any person to
Castle to me
will
Respectfully



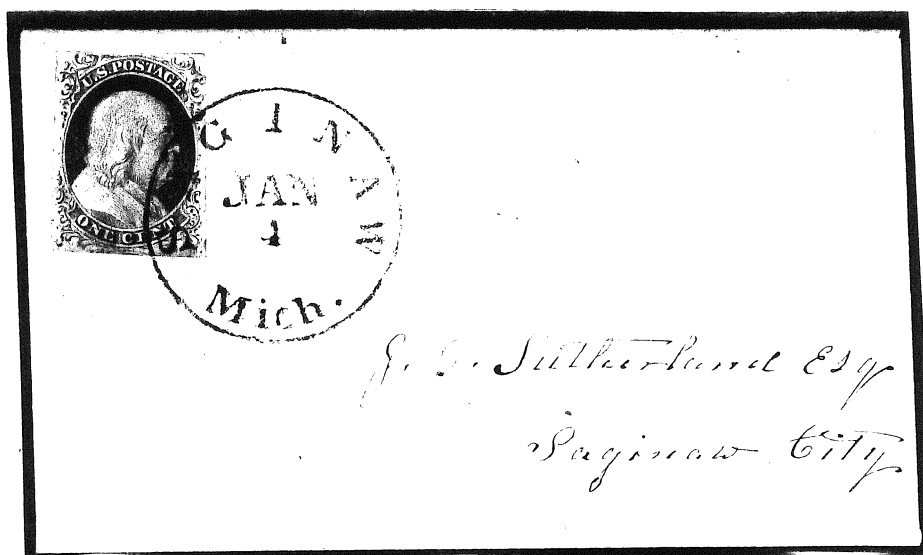
Jackson was named after President Andrew Jackson and went from Jacksonburg, 1827, to Jacksonopolis, August 6, 1835 to Jackson on December 8, 1838. The first post office was established in 1830.



Between July 1, 1851 and March 31, 1855, in addition to distance the postal rate depended on whether the letter was prepaid or sent collect. The above cover was a prepaid letter. This indicated by the straight line PAID and 3, the rate as noted above for delivery to New York state.

DROP LETTER

Fort Saginaw was built in 1822 and Colonel David Standard became the first postmaster of Saganaw (later Saginaw) on October 10, 1831. This famous lumbering town had its first saw-mill in 1834.



The Ben Franklin type four issue of June 8, 1852. It paid the drop letter rate for delivery in the city. This rate in effect from February 1, 1816. The 34 mm town strike in use from 1848 to 1853. The date of issue of the stamp and use of the cancel determines the 1853 usage.

FORWARDED MAIL

From Kalamazoo to Millburg, Mass. and forwarded to Fryeburg, Maine. Sect. 42 by act of March 3, 1855 states it is permissible to forward mail if the necessary postage is added. Upon arrival at Mass. the second stamp, identical to the first was added and the letter forwarded to Maine.

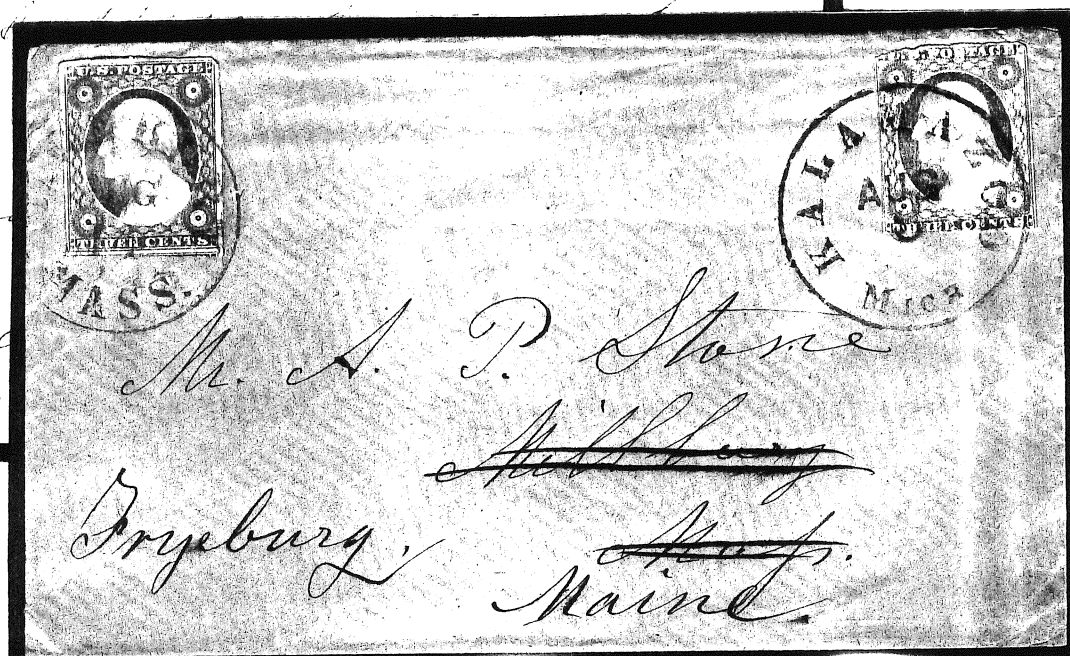
The 32 mm circle date stamp of Kalamazoo, all in capital letters was in use during 1853-1855. Used to cancel the type I Washington issue of 1851. Even with the enclosure the exact year date cannot be determined.

Cal. Aug 9th

Dear Brother

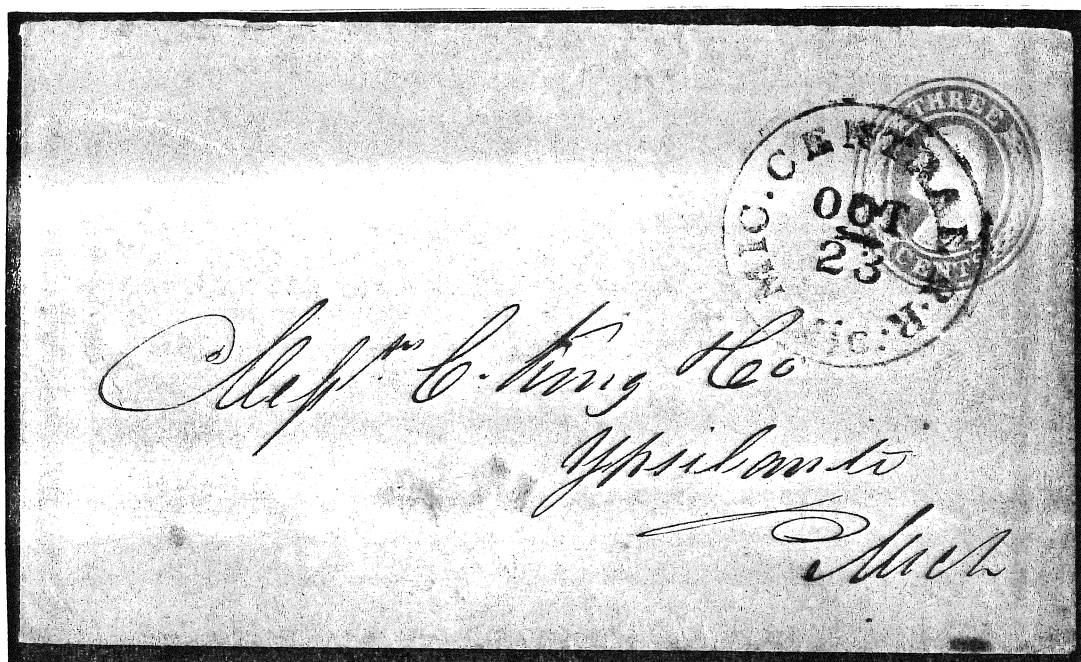
*I enclose
to you a line to James
as the best method of get-
ting it to him. You
which I am very anxious
I should receive*

*at
the
Shaw
to
I
to*



ROUTE AGENT MARKING

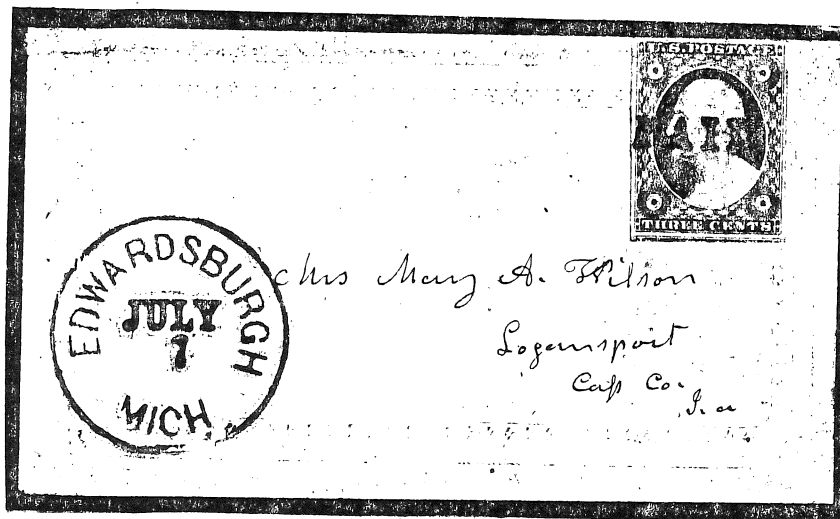
On October 17, 1839 the Michigan Central Railroad was completed into Ann Arbor, Michigan with much celebration. It was chartered on March 28, 1846.



The 34mm Route Agent marking in use in 1854 and 1855 is on the Nisbitt and Co. envelope, buff, die five. It is the diagonally laid paper with the first watermark used by the United States Post Office Department.

EDWARDSBURGH ON EMBOSSED LADY'S COVER

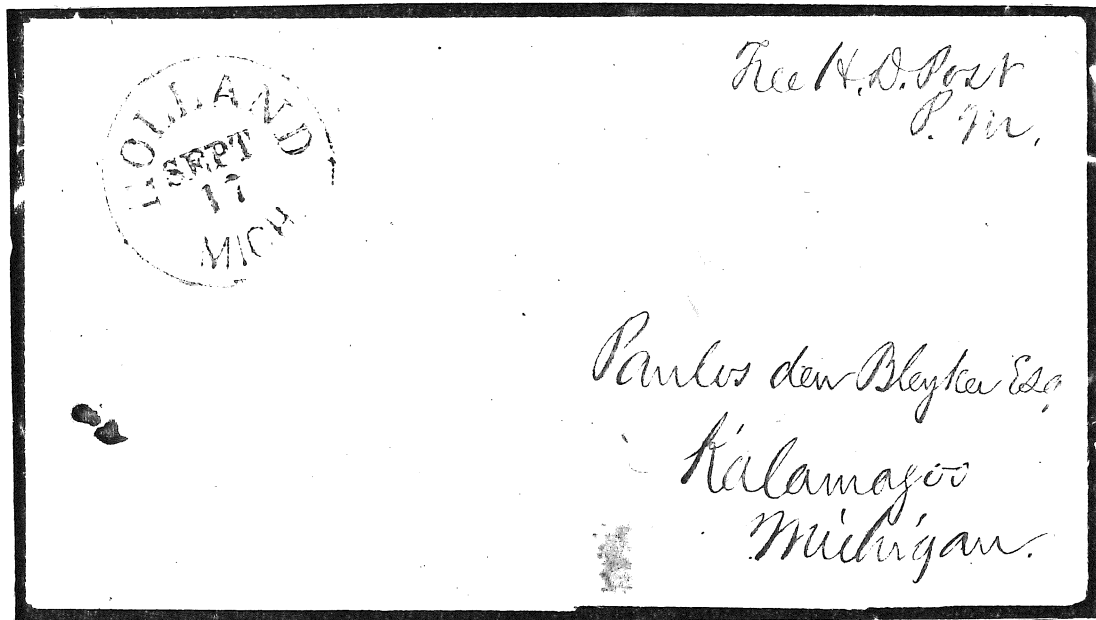
The Saint Joseph post office in Cass County was founded in 1828. It was renamed Edwardsburgh on February 1, 1830 and later closed. It was restored on August 23, 1841 with Henry A. Chapin as postmaster. The spelling was changed to Edwardsburg on December 29, 1845.



An Edwardsburgh, Mich. townmark on a lady's embossed cover franked with the three cent rose red type I Washington which was printed in 1854-55. Thus the misspelled canceling device was still being used nine years after the change in spelling. The straight line PAID used as a canceling device obliterating the stamp.

HOLLANDS FIRST POSTMASTER

Holland, Michigan, Ottawa County was named after the fatherland of those from Rotterdam who settled there in February of 1847. The post office was first called Black River. It was by that stream. This on February 9, 1848 with Henry D. Post as the first postmaster. It was renamed Holland on May 11, 1851.



By act of March 22, 1847 Henry D. Post used his free franking privilege to mail the above letter. Canceled in blue with a circle date stamp. The 1857 documented on the back of the envelope.

TURNED COVER

A practice of the early days was to turn an envelope inside out and use it a second time. This is know as a turned cover.



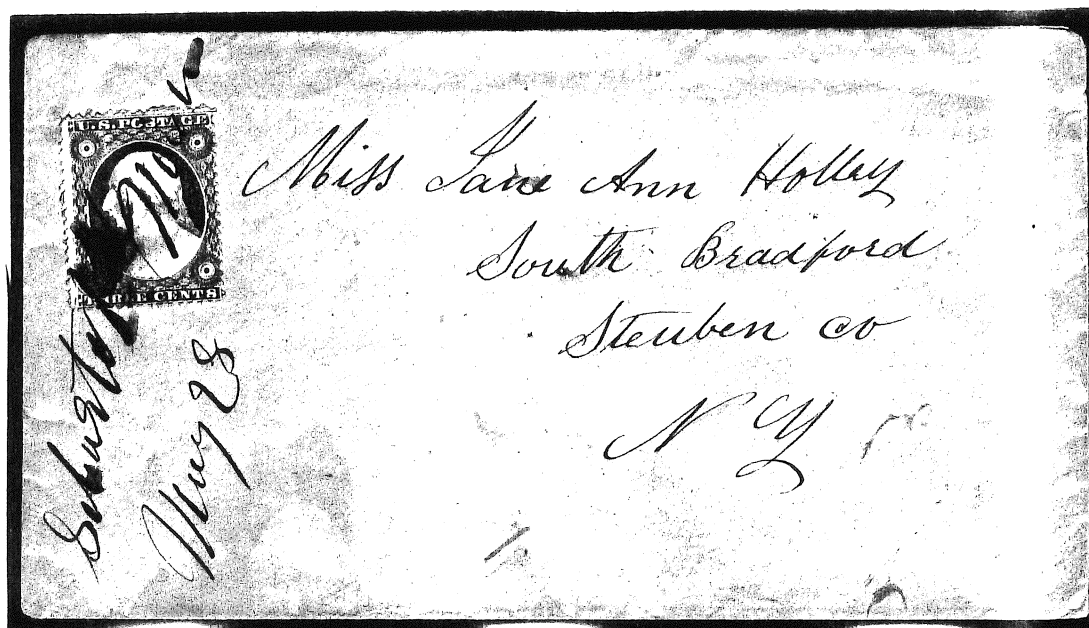
This cover originally was used from Lansing, Mich. to Riga, N. Y. The circle date stamp of Lansing, Mich. on August 20. At Riga, the postmaster turned the envelope inside out for reuse. He used his free franking privelege as seen in the lower left hand corner.

The manuscript 25 in the circle date stamp shows return to Michigan on that date.

SEBASTOPOL, MICH.

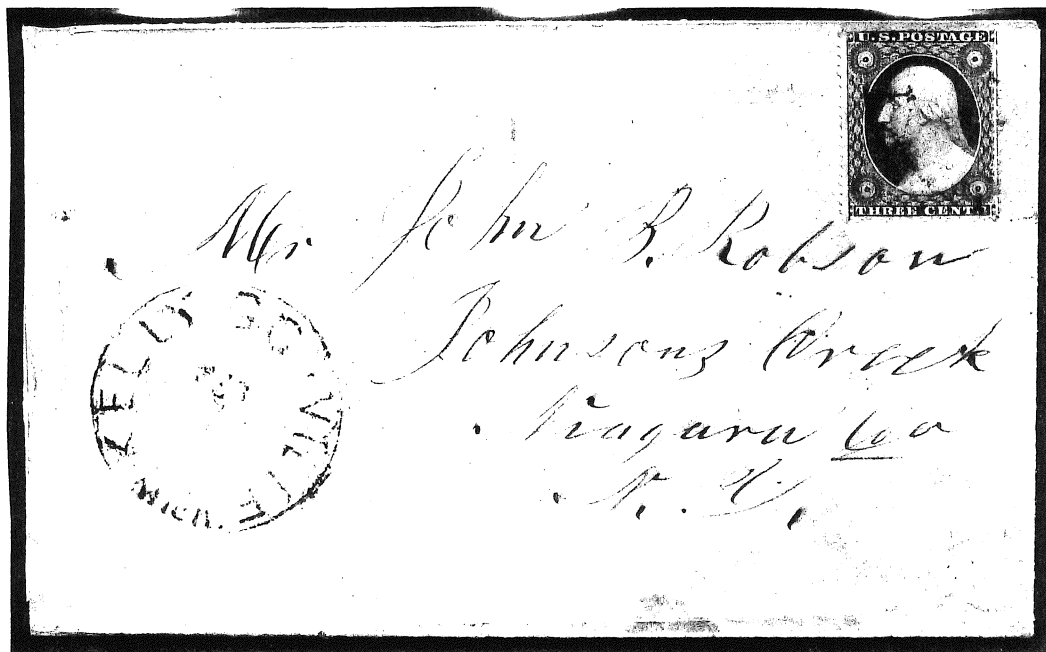
OPERATED MARCH 17, 1855 TO DECEMBER 5, 1859

It is believed the post office of Sebastopol in Ottawa County was named after the Russian city of Sebastopol. (or Sevastopol) It opened on March 17, 1855 with Alexander Ullson as the first postmaster. The office closed on December 5, 1859.



The manuscript cancel of Sebastopol, Mich. on May 28 is on the dull red Washington issue of February 28, 1857. This establishes the cover between May of 1857 and December of 1859.

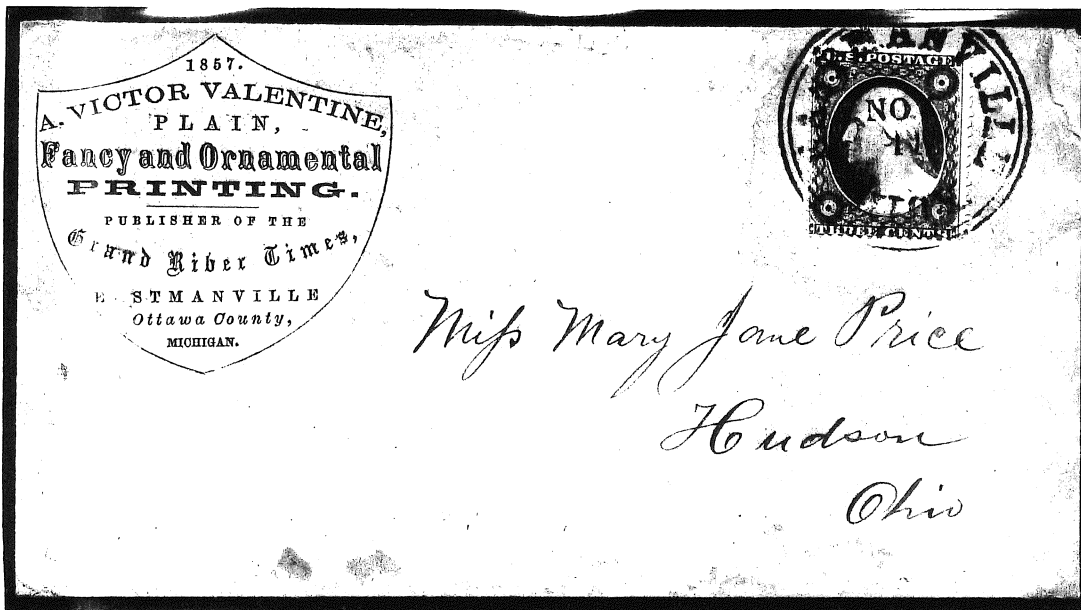
Kelloggsville in Kent County was named for Francis W. Kellogg who located the headquarters for his lumbering firm there. He later served in the state legislature and three terms in Congress. George W. Kellogg became the first postmaster on June 4, 1856. The office was changed to Fishers Station on February 28, 1871.



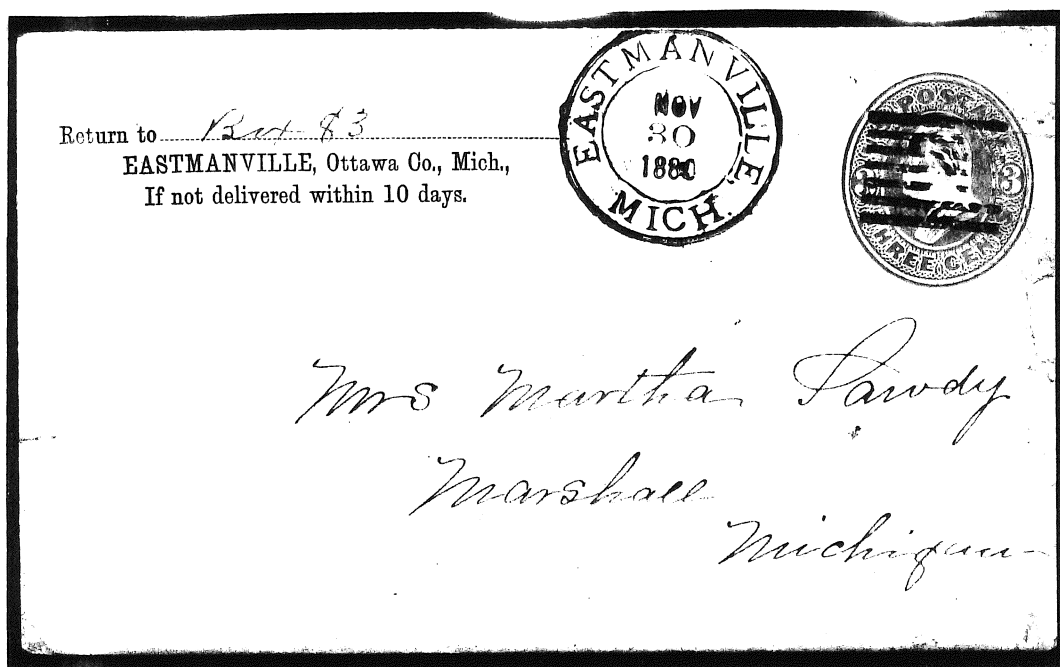
The exact date of this cover cannot be established. The 33 mm circle date stamp with small Mich. letters on the type II Washington puts it in the years as noted above.

MICHIGAN POSTAL HISTORY
EASTMANVILLE, MICH.

1857-1880



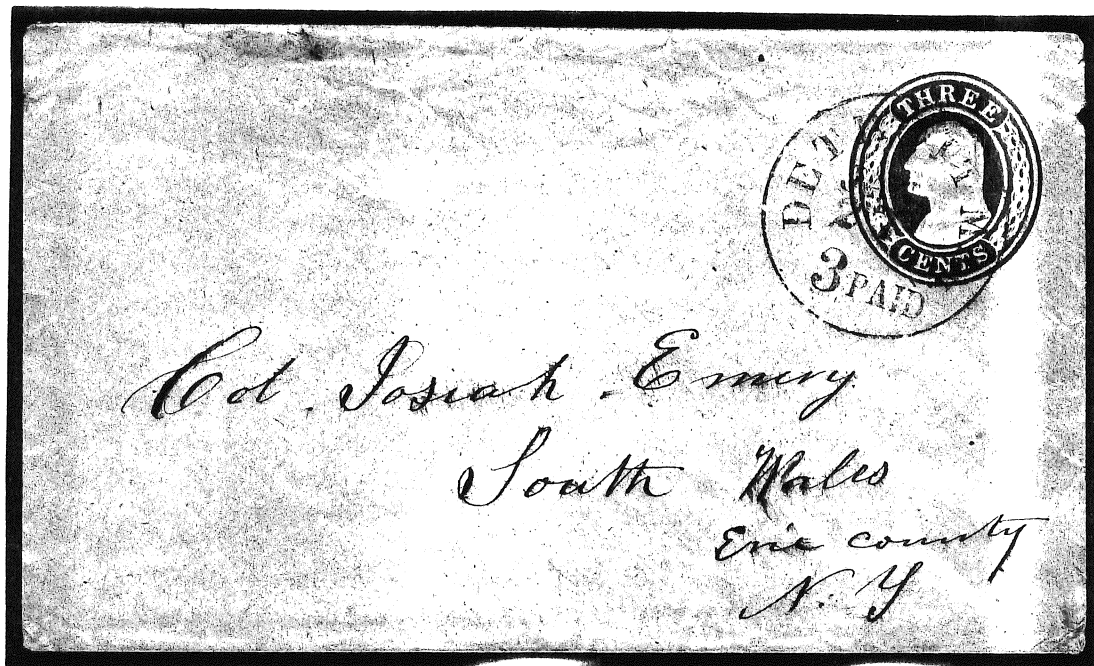
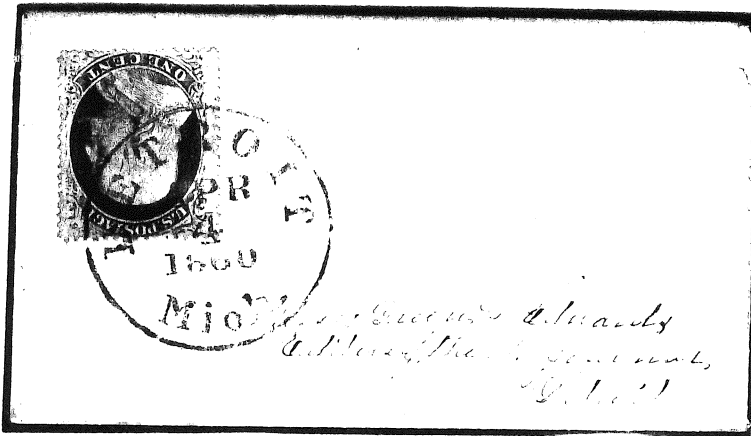
A contrast of Eastmanville, Michigan cancels of 1857 and 1880. The upper a double circle 34 mm outer rim on the type II Washington of 1857. The lower a 29 mm double circle on the die 2 entire of 1874-1886.



DETROIT, MICH.

The 32 mm circle date stamp with the year date used to cancel the stamp was in use in Detroit from 1858 thru 1860. A drop

letter with the one cent rate franked with the Ben Franklin issue of 1857. The type V issue of November 17.



A circle date stamp in use between 1858-1860 with the city and state along with a "3 PAID" in the circle. The three cent die 5 embossed envelope of 1854 paying the postage. The canceling device with the rating mark used as an obliterator on the cover.

GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.

A Washington type II issued July 13, 1857 on a cover to Niagara Co. N.Y. and cancelled with a double circle blue circle date stamp in Grand Rapids Mich. on Nov. 11, (1859) Letter written in Paris, Mich.

Paris, Nov. 6th, 1859.
Much esteemed Friends,

By the way you are to understand that we have not entirely forgotten you, we received your letter in due time. We are well as usual with the exception of Ellen. She has been unwell for 8 or 10 days. we have had the doctor one he thinks. She had the indications of the typhoid fever, we doctor'd her pretty thorough before we had the doctor. her mouth is very sore but it is getting better. Ellen has put some venison steak on to fry. that Jim brought her got them each 2 loaves

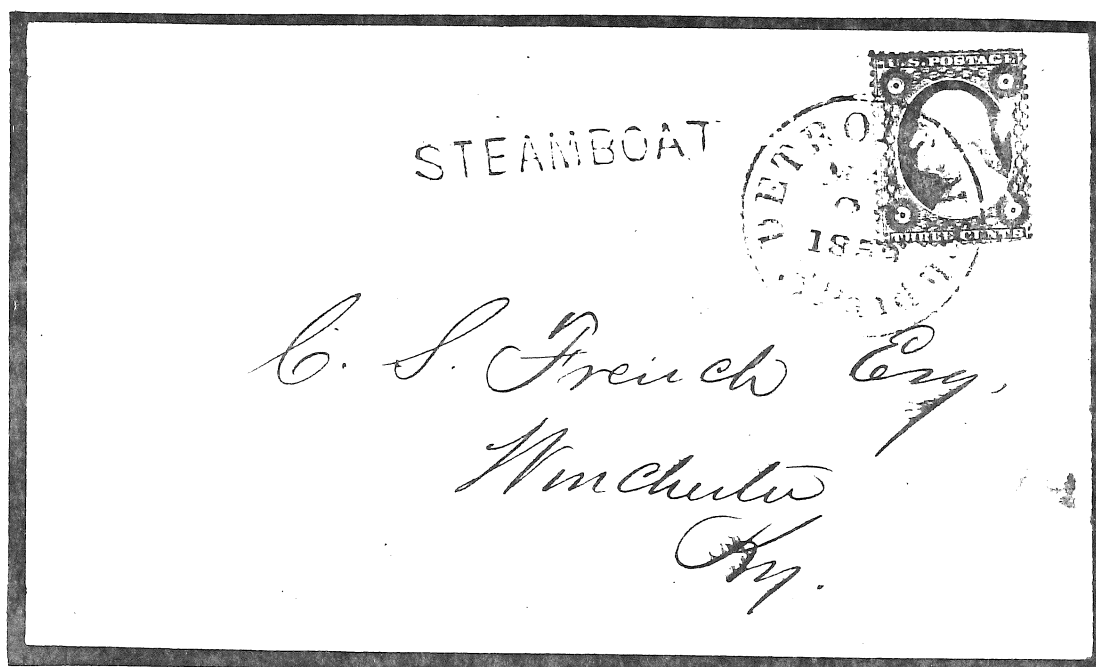


John B. Robson,
Johnson's Creek,
Niagara Co.,
N.Y.

nd of Jim's farm
the 11th
it's horses barn
wagon. 8150.00 in
barrel of coal
ment. Jim has moved
el he can build. we have
a summer of the poles but
wednesday night & snowed

INLAND WATERWAY

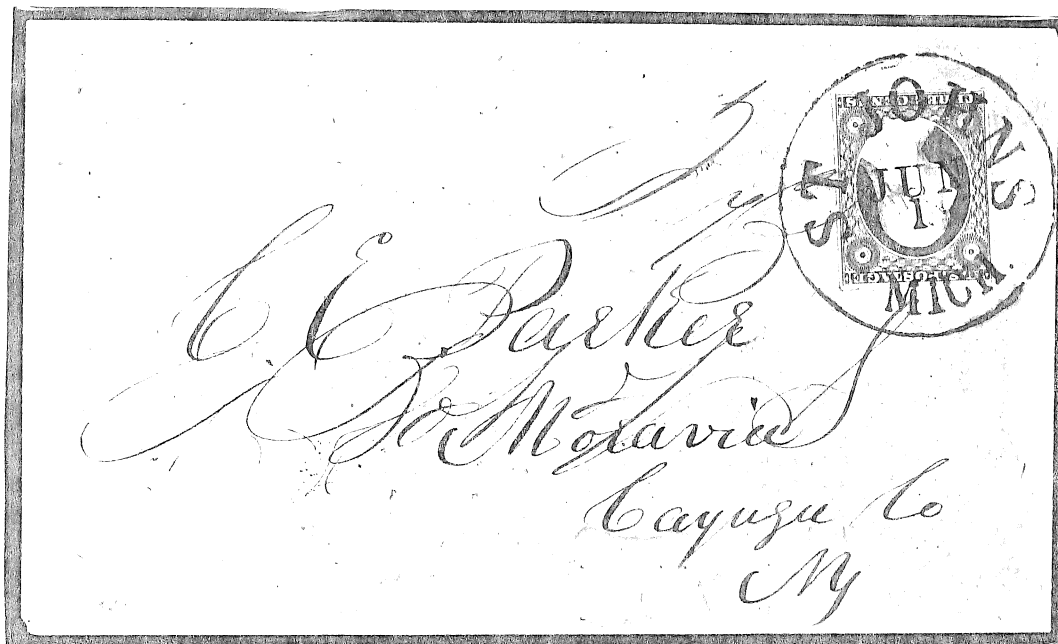
This letter picked up at some port on the Great Lakes for delivery to Detroit. This by a steamboat with no contract for mail delivery.



Upon arrival at Detroit the straight line STEAMBOAT and circle date stamp with "3 Paid" was applied indicating full payment for delivery of the letter to Winchester, Ky. No additional fee was collected on Steamboat letters during this period.

LARGE BALLOON CANCEL

The Bingham post office was moved and became St. Johns on February 6, 1855 and George W. Estes became the first postmaster.



This light buff cover with a St. Johns, Mich. 27mm townmark of June 1 was probably applied in 1859 or 1860. The star in circle obliterator came into use in 1861. The balloon-style postmark on the outer frame lines, top and bottom of the Type I claret issue of 1857.

HAMBURG PACKET

A three cent Washington type II issued July 13, 1857 paying the postage to New York to get the letter into the Hamburg treaty system. By the treaty, the stamp was not necessary. The letter to be delivered to Switzerland.

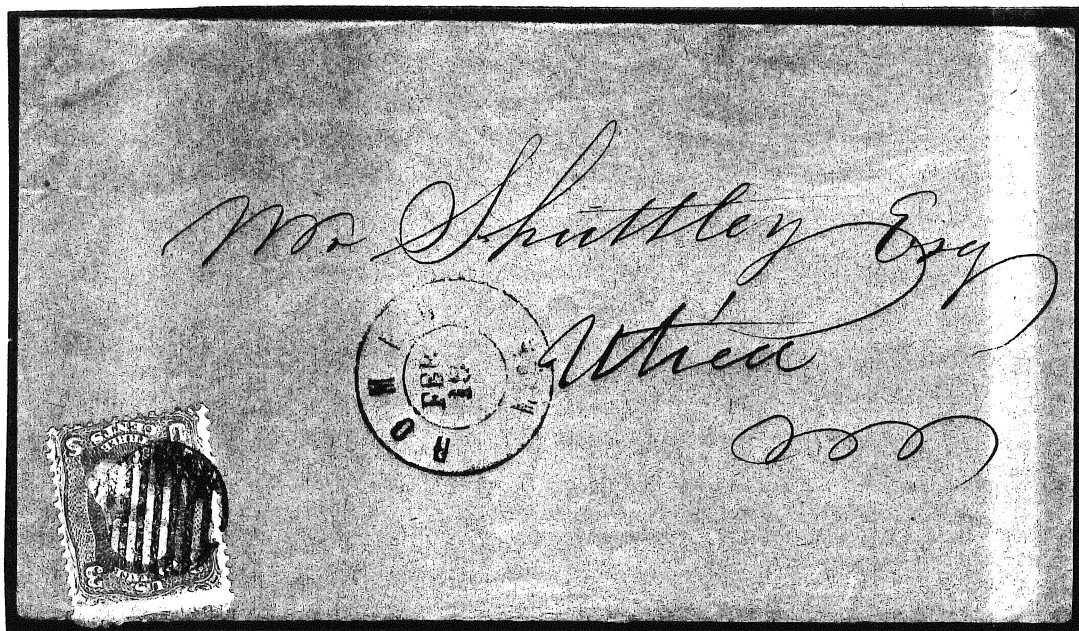


The above cover was canceled at Battle Creek, Mich. on Oct. 15, 1860. The year date of 1830 in the double circle date stamp being incorrect. The New York 24 cent debit marking was applied on Oct. 20. Thus, the manuscript "Due 20 via Hamburg Mail" is also wrong. By Hamburg packet mail to Switzerland via France was 21 cents per one half oz. The octagon strike of Havre (France) struck upon arrival on 2, Nov. 1860. Also, the red debit marking in crayon was applied at this time.

Receiving mark on the back indicates the letter arrived in Zurich on 4, Nov. 1860. Canton Zug as our counties.

ROMEO, MICH.

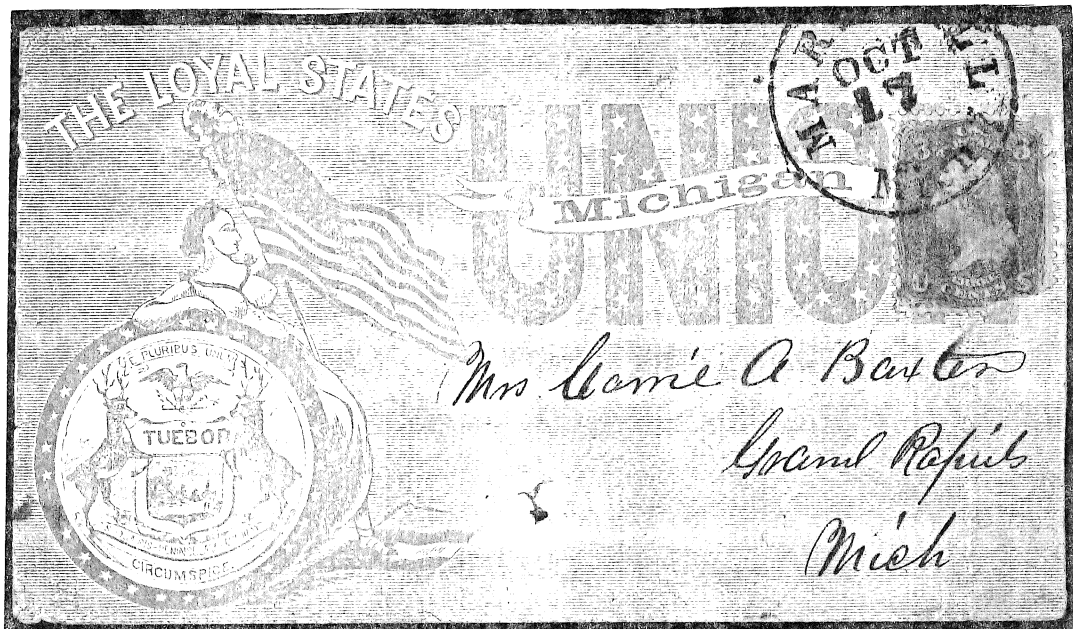
The name, Romeo, was given to Indian Village on November 11, 1830, the year it was platted.



Although it can't be definitely substantiated the above cover is probably 1861. The double circle date stamp with the 26 mm outer and 13 mm inner circle came into use in the early 1860s. The stamp canceled with the bars in a circle issued July of 1861.

CIVIL WAR PATRIOTIC COVER

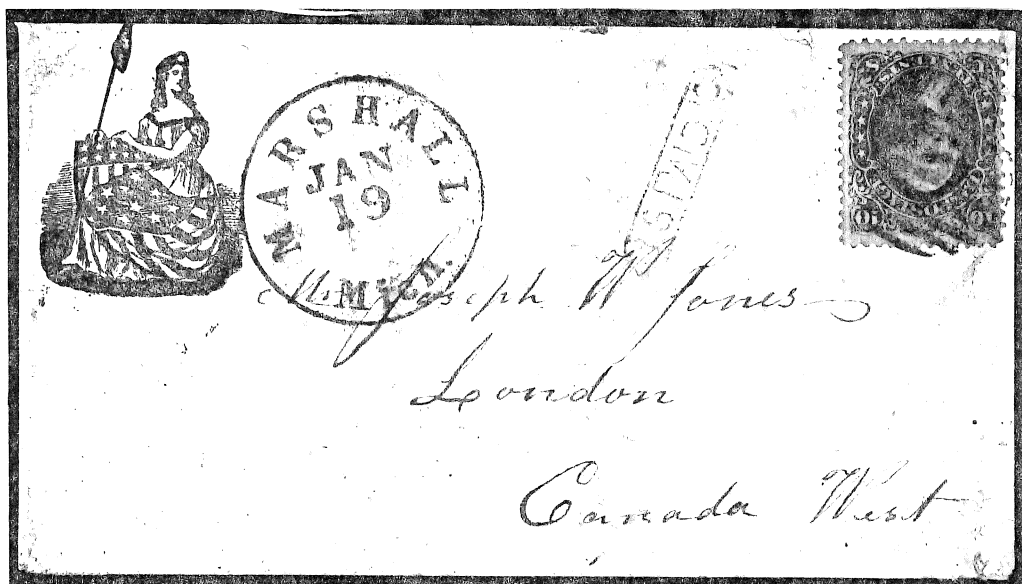
There were many "Loyal States" designs for the nineteen states loyal to the Union. This Michigan Civil War Patriotic Cover is appropriate to start your viewing of a Michigan Postal History collection.



From Marshall to Grand Rapids during the Civil War.

CIVIL WAR PATRIOTIC COVER

Across the border to Canada in January of 1864. This on a patriotic cover of the female design.

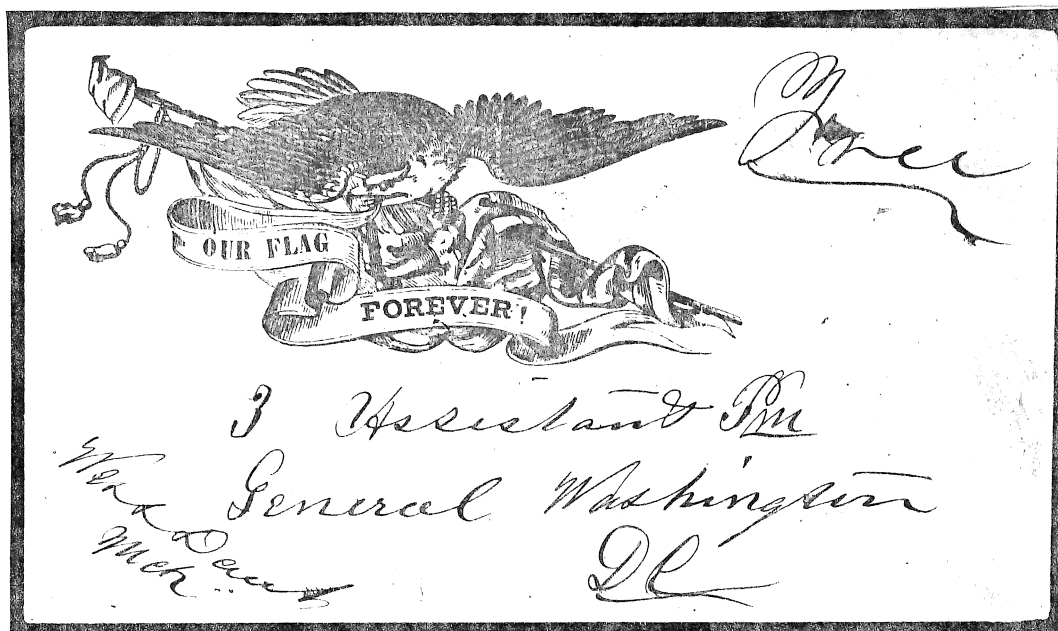


The dark green Washington issue of August 20, 1861 paying the postage from Marshall, Mich. to London, Canada West. This indicated by the U. S. PAID 10 between the bars in red. The 1864 32 mm town strike with the circle of bars obliterating the stamp. A London U.C. (Upper Canada) receiving mark is on the back.

CIVIL WAR PATRIOTIC COVERS



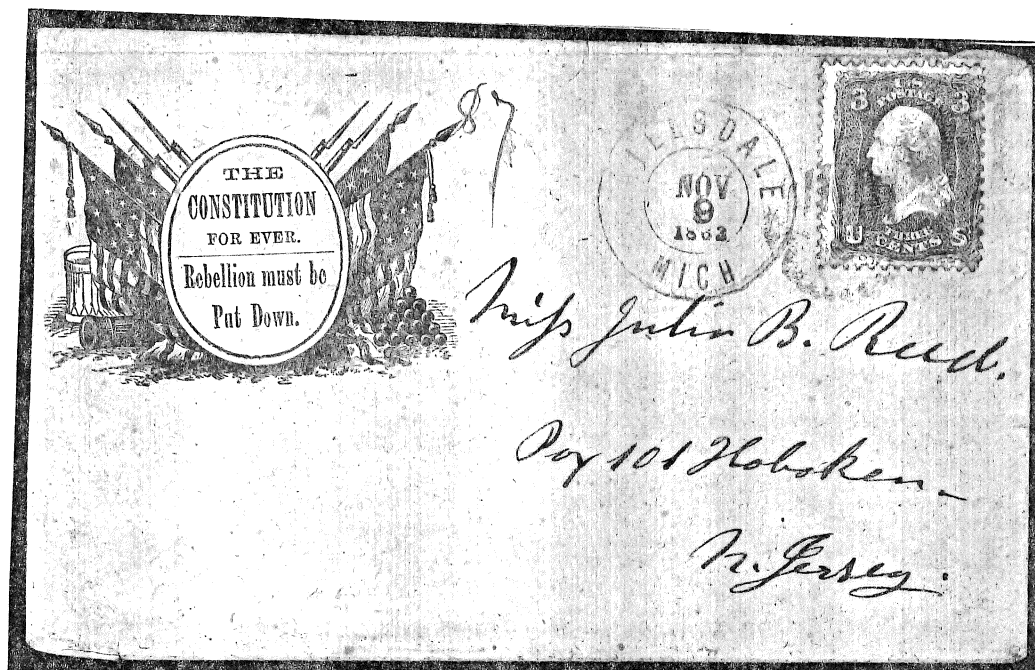
A double circle date stamp with year date at the top. This, a little unusual.



A free frank cover from Wess Dant, the postmaster of Grand Rapids during the Civil War.

CIVIL WAR PATRIOTIC COVER

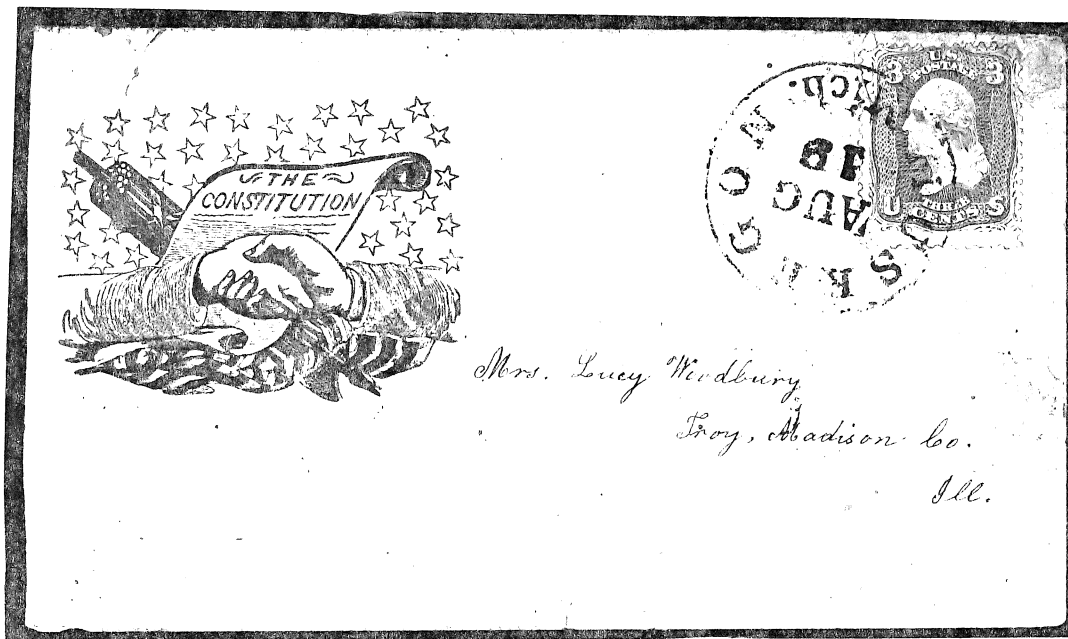
The circle date stamp below is known as the "neat" Hillsdale cancel because of the fine lines used for the circles and letters.



Blue grids in a circle canceling the three cent 1861 Washington. This stamp was issued because of the secession of the mail between the North and the South.

CIVIL WAR PATRIOTIC COVER

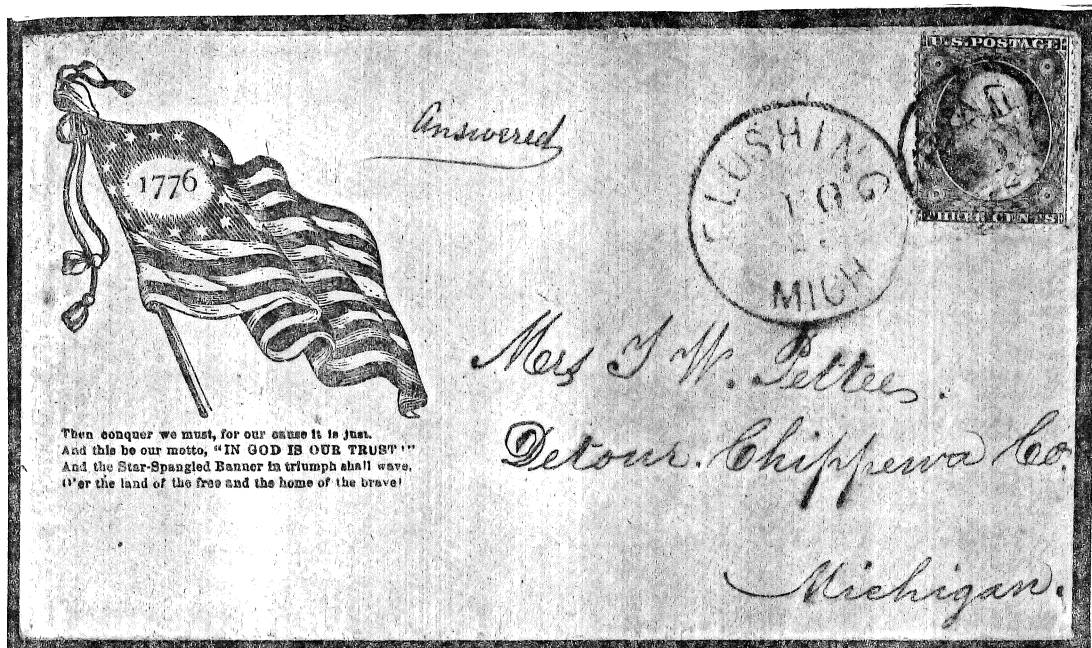
Michigan played a large part in preserving the Union and was patriotic to the cause as can be seen by the patriotic covers in this exhibit.



The large Muskegon, Mich. (ich small letters) circle date stamp on a rose pink variety of the Washington 1861 issue.

CIVIL WAR PATRIOTIC COVER

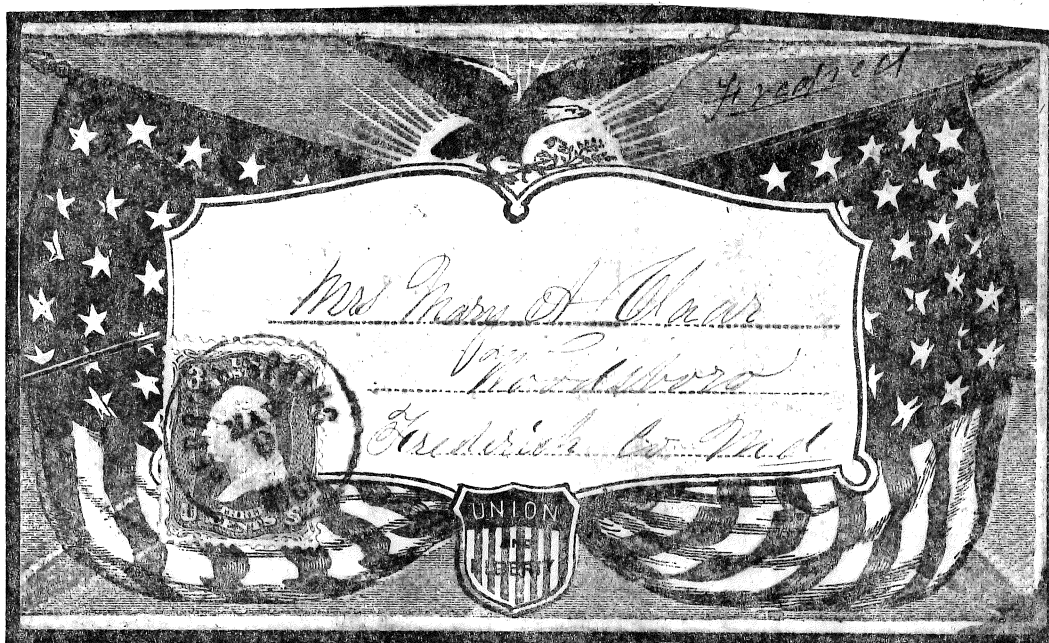
When the exact year date is unknown the Civil War Patriotic covers in this collection will be illustrated as 1861-1865. This, the period of the Civil War.



An earlier patriotic cover as the stamp is the Washington type II of the 1857 issue. A double strike paid 3 in a circle obliterated the stamp. To Detour, Chippewa county in the upper peninsula which did not have a post office during the Civil War.

CIVIL WAR PATRIOTIC COVER

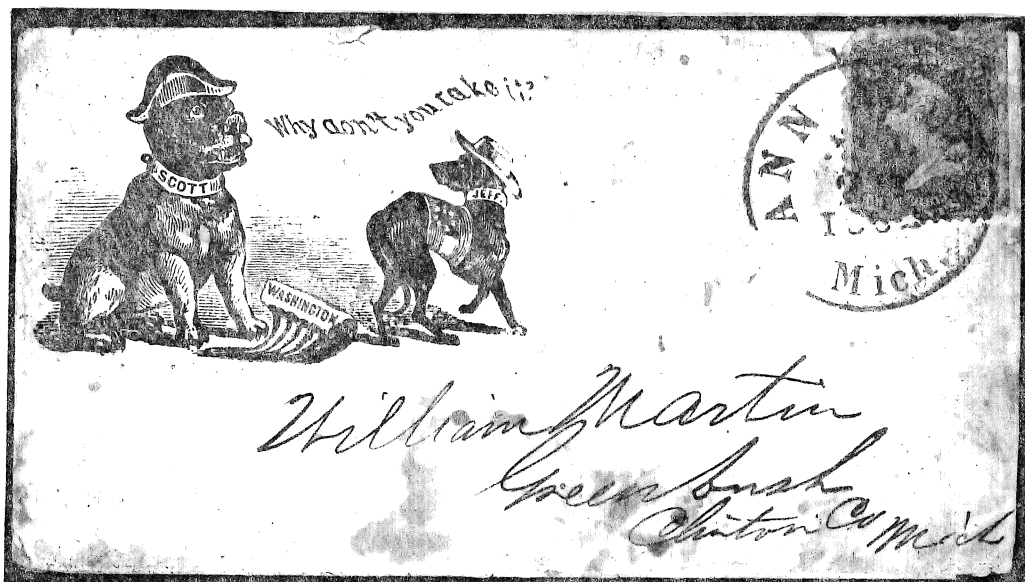
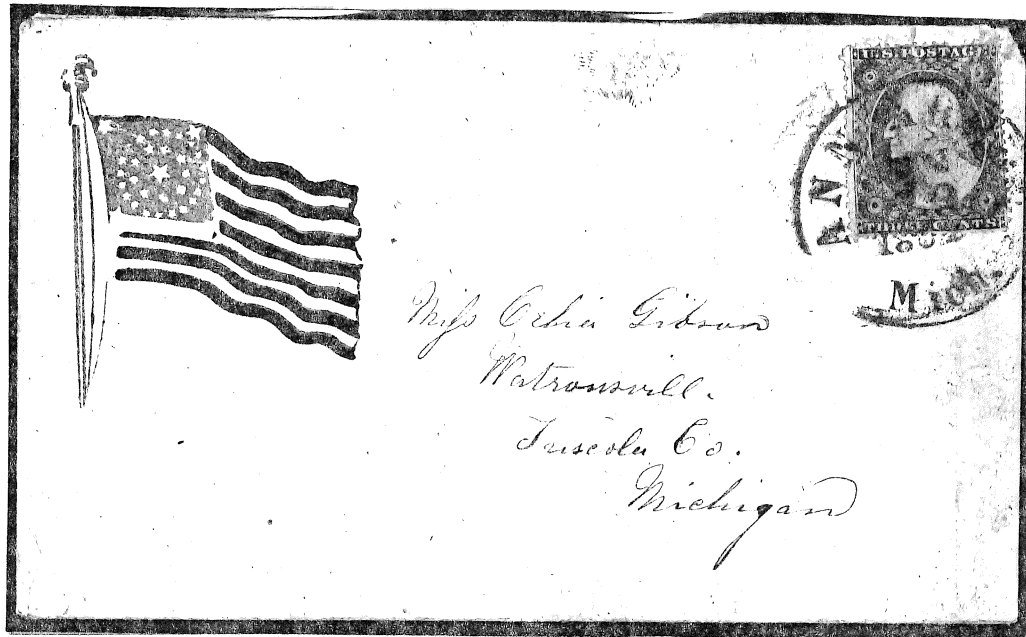
An over all flag design on a Civil War Patriotic Cover.



The 25 mm rim with the town and state in capital letters.
The cancel on the dull red Washington issue of 1861.

CIVIL WAR PATRIOTIC COVERS

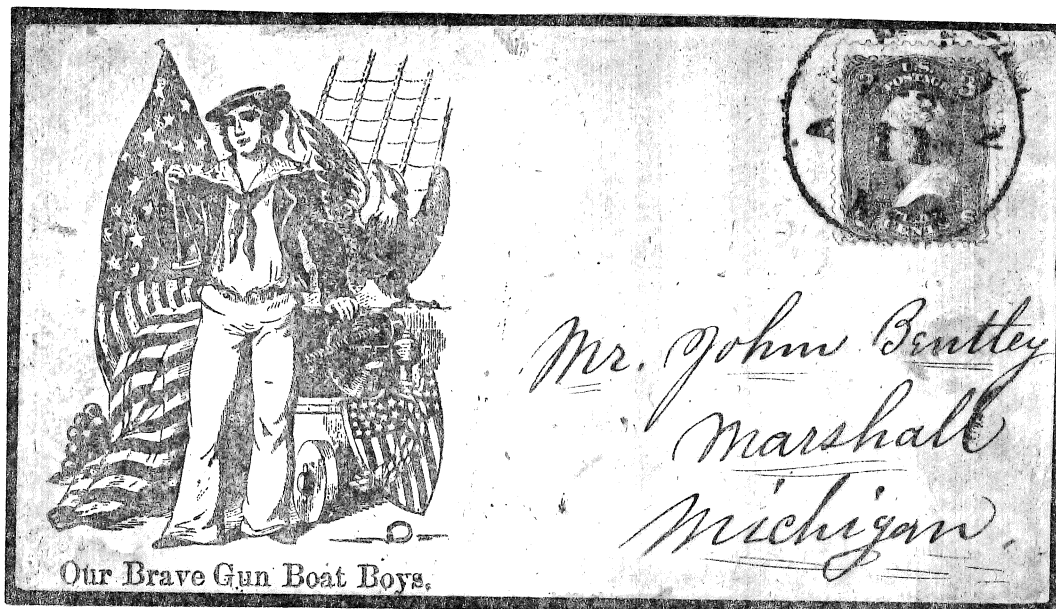
A flag and caricature cover from Ann Arbor, Mich.



The circle date stamp with year date in use in Ann Arbor in 1862. As can be seen by the similar strikes, the outer rim had been broken.

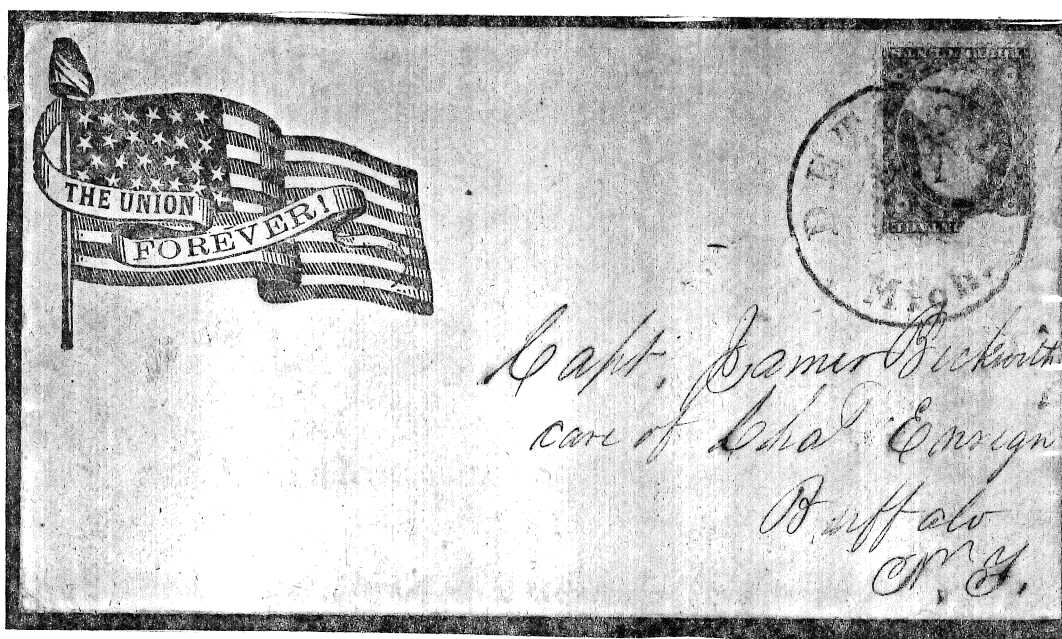
CIVIL WAR PATRIOTIC COVER

"Our Brave Gun Boat Boys" a naval patriotic from Albion to Marshall, Mich.



The circle date stamp of 32 mm with MICH in capitol letters on a dull red Washington of the 1861 issue.

CIVIL WAR PATRIOTIC COVER



The stamp upside down. Is it true this was an expression of love?

MASON, MICH.

BALLOON TOWNMARK

Thomas F. Mason was the president of Quincy Mine on the Hancock and Calumet Railroad in the upper peninsula. The village began as Torch Lake but was changed and named for T. F. Mason above.



The Mason balloon cancel above is 36 mm with the large MICH letters. The postmark was in use between 1861 and 1871. The cover addressed to Lake Superior which is the present town of Ishpeming.

AUSTERLITZ, MICH.

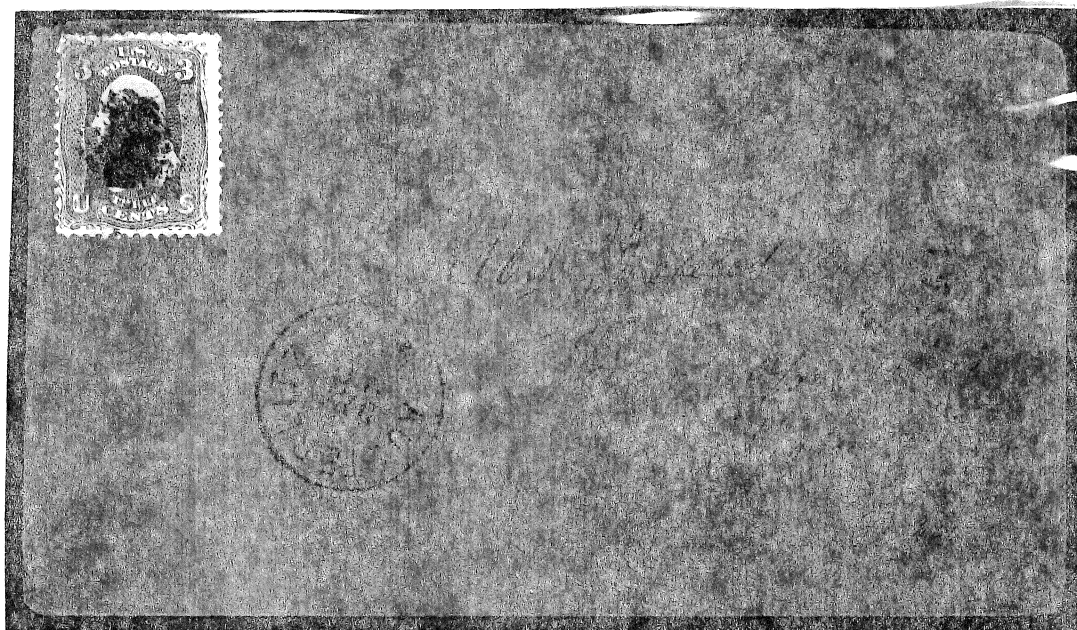
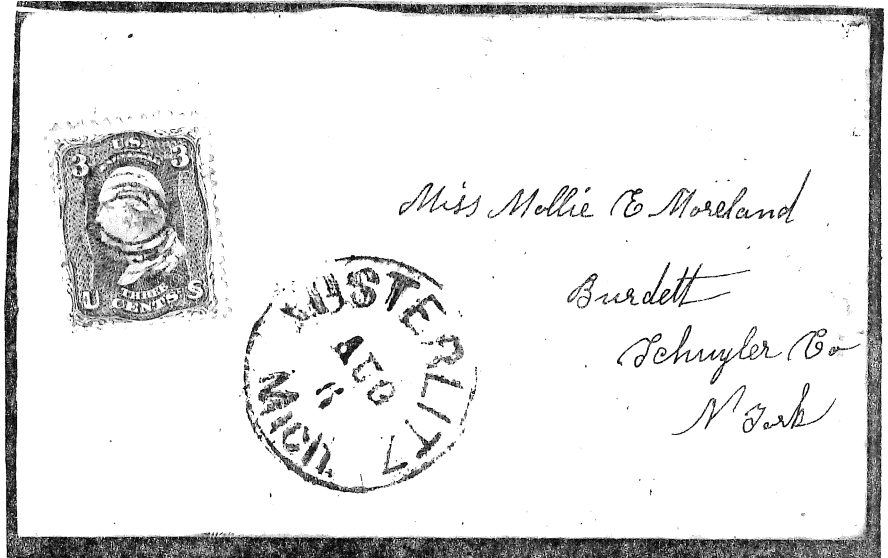
A large flouring mill where the Rogue empties into the Grand River was known as Imperial Mills. This, in Kent County, Plainfield township. It was given a post office as Austerlitz on January 30, 1841, with Zenas G. Winsor as the first postmaster. It operated until September 30, 1910.

A 25 and 30mm circle date stamp of Austerlitz, Mich. with a target, above and smudge cancel below on the 1861 Washington issue.

The exact year of these covers cannot be determined.

The smaller town

mark was more in use in the early 1860s followed by the larger town mark.

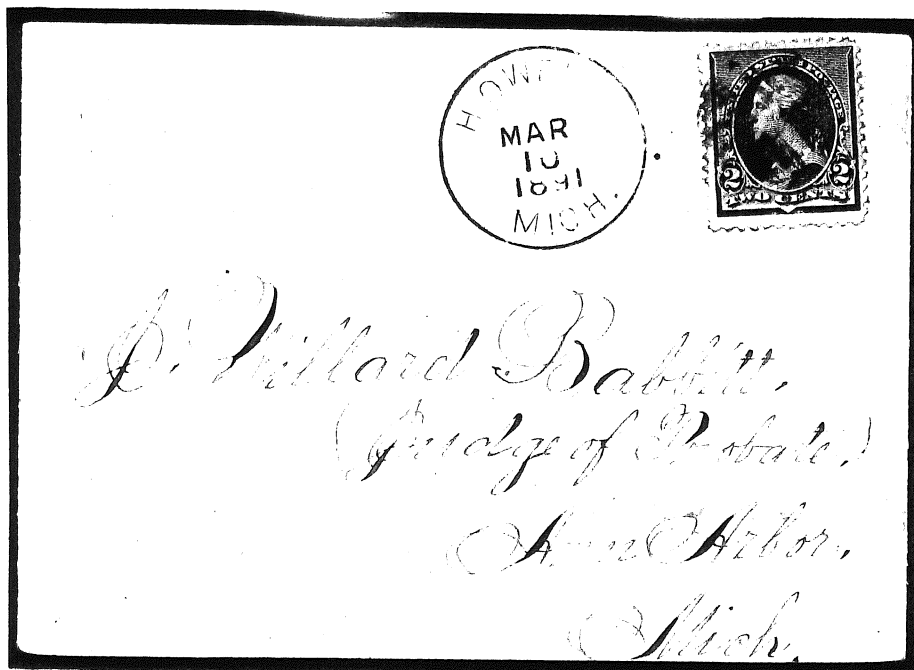
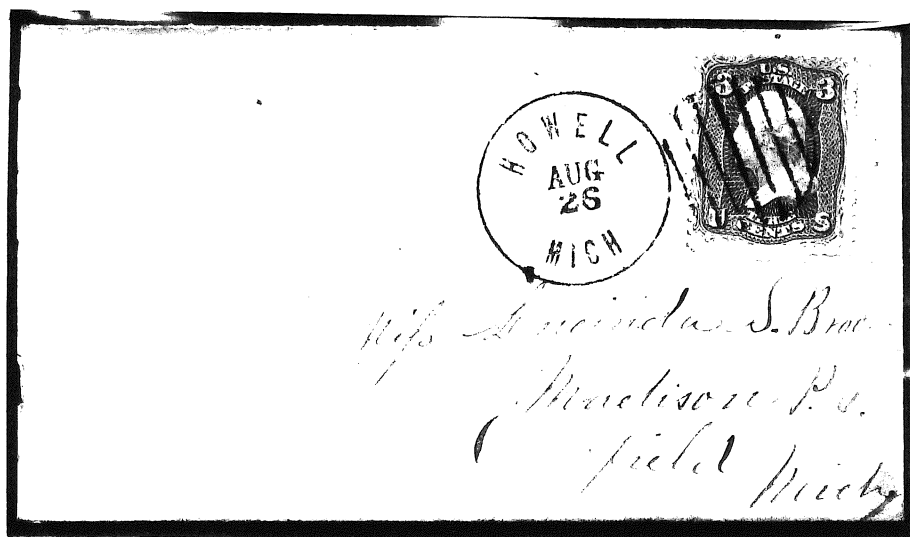


MICHIGAN POSTAL HISTORY

HOWELL, MICH.

1861-1891

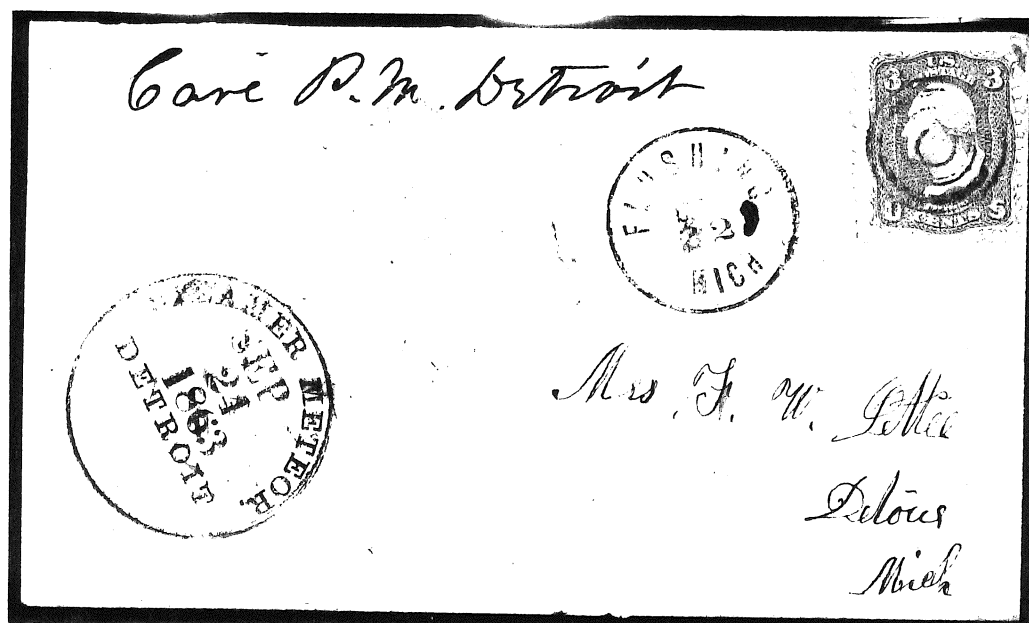
A pair of Howell, Mich. cancels, 1861 and 1891. The 1861 cannot be definitely determined but at this time the 26 mm circle date stamp shown below came into common use in post offices in the state of Michigan. Depending on the income of the post office, the canceling device may or may not have been furnished by the U. S. government. This device normally did not show a year date.



Unlike the cancel above this circle is 27 mm and has the year included in the cancel. The two cent Washington issue of February 22, 1890 reflects the lower postal rate from three to two cents in effect October 1, 1883. A type of "cross roads" obliterates the stamp.

STEAMER METEOR

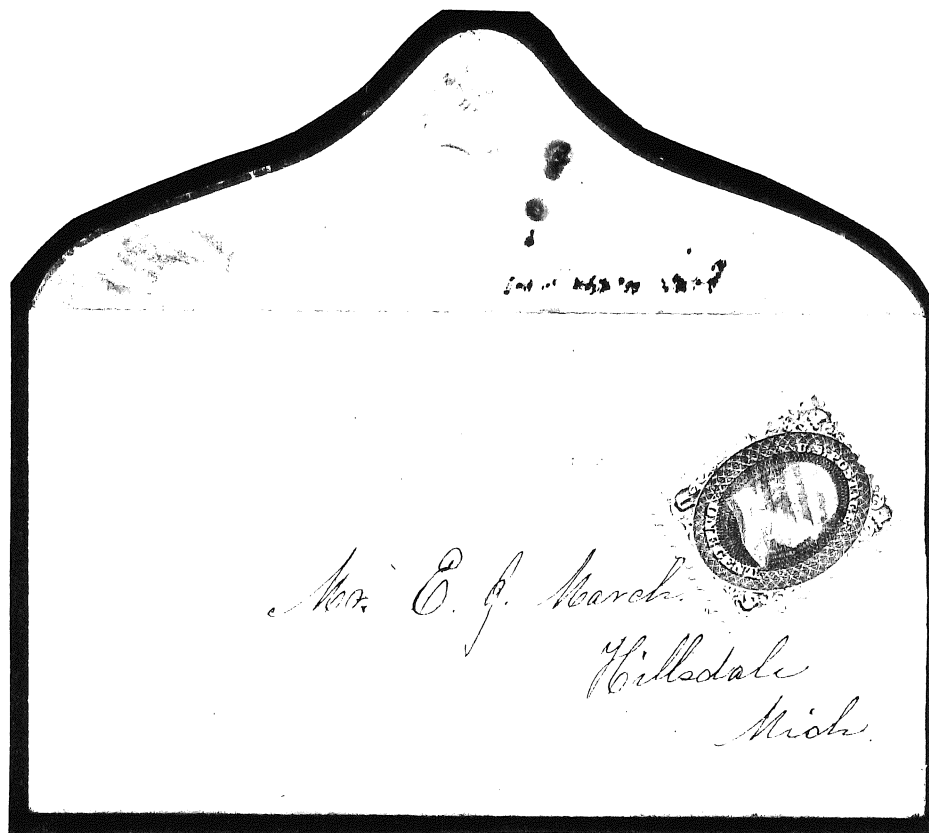
From Flushing to Detroit, Michigan in care of the postmaster by inland waterway on the Steamer Meteor. This, after being carried overland from Flushing to Saginaw.



The circle date stamp of Flushing, Mich. on Sept. 22 indicates the point of deposit into the mail stream. From here, it was taken to Saginaw, a port of the Meteor. When on the ship, the Steamer Meteor strike was applied during delivery to Detroit.

DROP LETTER ON PATRIOTIC COVER

By act of March 3, 1851, the "drop letter" rate was established. This being one cent for a letter dropped at the post office for delivery in the city.



A patriotic cover with Union Shield on the back flap franked with the one cent Franklin issue of August 17, 1861. The double circle HILLSDALE strike in blue with year date, unlike most is the 26 mm strike commonly in use during the Civil War. Back in 1861 138,000,000 of this stamp was printed.

MICHIGAN POSTAL HISTORY

GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.

1863

Two manila
and a yellow
envelope all
franked with
a Washington
of the Aug. 19
1861 series.

All of the
pale brown
red variety.

All three to
the Rem-
ington re-
sidence at

Allens

Prarie in

Hillsdale

Co. Mich.

All with a

target can-
cel on the

stamp with

a circle

date

Grand

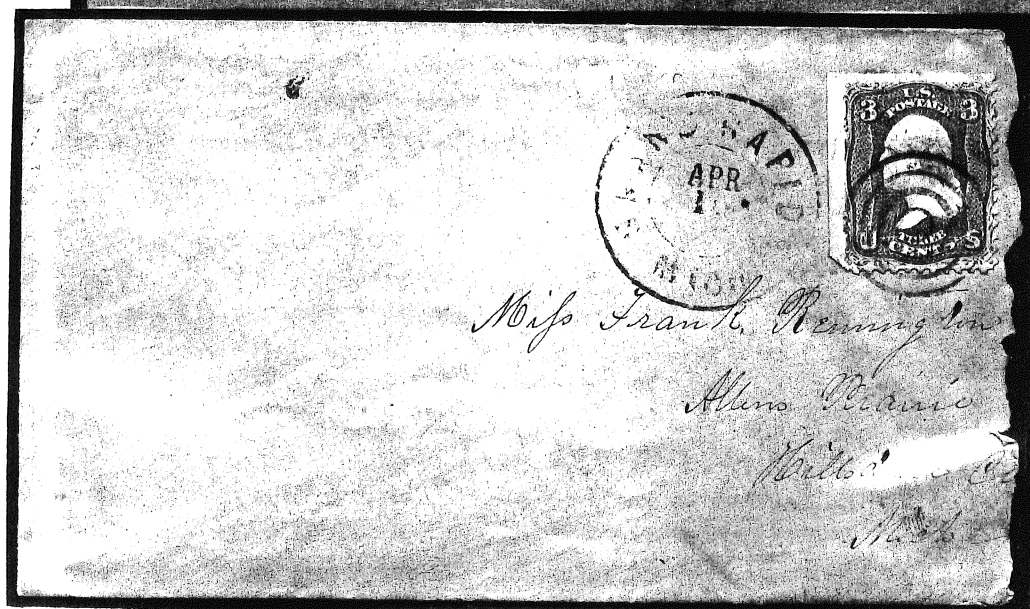
Rapids

Mich.

with

dates in

1863.



IONIA, MICH.

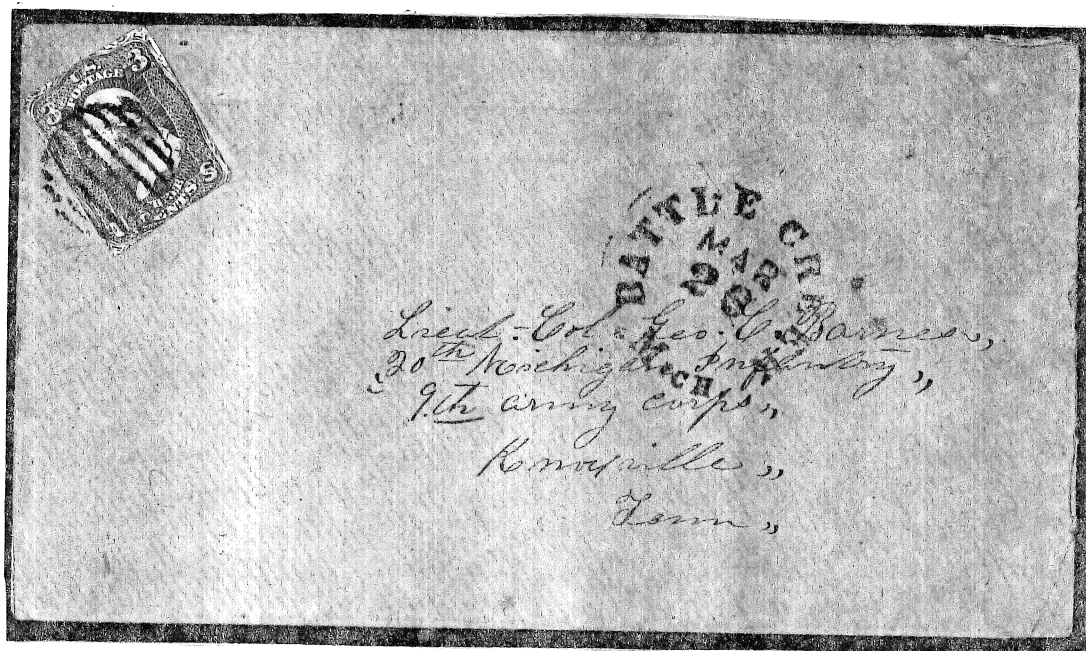
Ionia, Mich. was established in 1831 and named after the ancient Greek province. Ionia was the first post office in Ionia county and was established on Aug. 29, 1835. Erastus Yeomans being the first postmaster.



A pair of double circle date stamps of Ionia, Mich. on Oct. 7, 1863 and Nov. 2, 1864. The four ring bulls eye cancels on the 1861 Washington issue.

UNRIMED CIRCLE DATE STAMP

A Civil War cover to Lieut. Col. George C. Barnes of the 20th Michigan Infantry in Knoxville, Tenn.



The Battle Creek, Mich. townmark without containing circle was used in the early 1860s. The 1861 Washington with all perforations removed is obliterated with a bars in circle cancel.