

OFFICIAL MAIL OF THE U.S. POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT

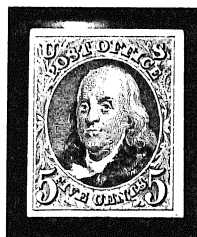
1778 - 1970

FUMIAKI WADA

AS RECEIVED BY  
THE EXHIBITION PHOTOCOPY COMMITTEE  
OF THE  
U.S. PHILATELIC CLASSICS SOCIETY, INC.  
JANUARY 1997

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# Official Mail of The U.S. Post Office Department 1778-1970



The First Postmaster General  
Benjamin Franklin  
took office July 26, 1775

The U. S. Post Office Department is probably the oldest agency of the Federal Government. The General Post Office under the Continental Congress was established almost a year with Benjamin Franklin as the Postmaster General.

Postal Service dates from 1775 under the Continental Congress. The Office of Postmaster General was created in 1879, and has been a member of the President's Cabinet since 1829. The Post Office was not established as an executive department until 1872. It was reorganized in 1971 as the United States Postal Service, an independent agency within the executive branch, effective 1 July 1971.

This collection is a brief postal history of various styles and formats of official mail of the U. S. Post Office and Post Office Department illustrating the development of the service from 1778 to 1970. The exhibit is divided into eleven sections.

Forerunner: Great Britain and British Colonial Free Frank Mail

Chapter-I: Free Frank Mail-Postmasters (1778 - )

Chapter-II: Free Frank Mail-Post Office Dept. (1810 - )

Chapter-III: Confederate States of America - Official Mail

Chapter-IV: Official Stamps' Mail (1873 - )

Chapter-V: Official Stamped Envelopes' Mail (1873 - )

Chapter-VI: Postal Service Envelopes' Mail (1879 - )

Chapter-VII: Penalty Frank Mail (1879 -1970)

Chapter-VIII: Penalty Overprinted Stamped Envelopes' Mail

Chapter-IX: Official Mail in U.S. Possessions.

Chapter-X: Official Air Mail

Chapter-XI: Postal Savings Mail (1910 - 14)

There are two key areas of study:

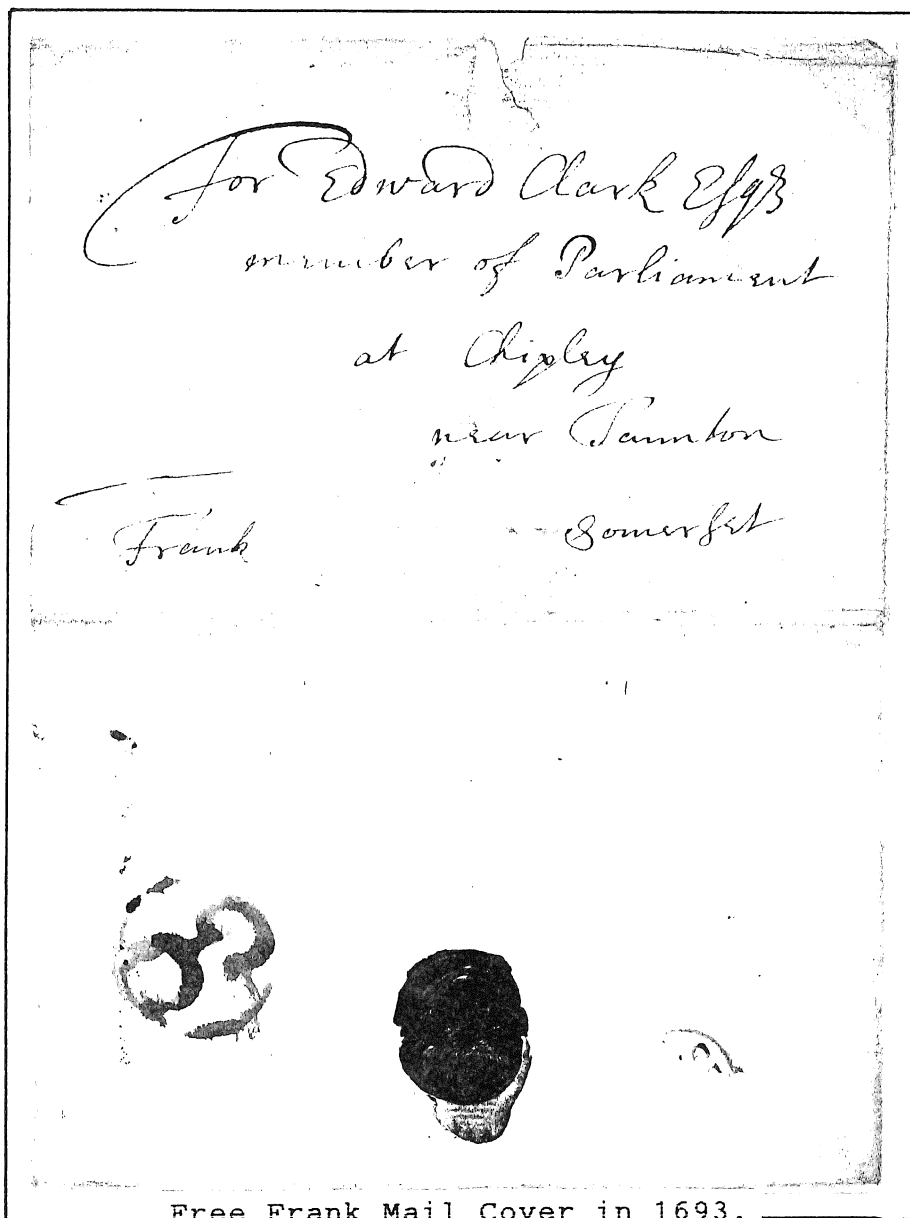
1. The history of the Post Offices' and Post Office Department's official mail styles and formats.
2. The laws, acts and regulations of the official mail.



## FORERUNNER

### 1693 BRITISH FREE FRANK

The franking privilege started in America by being brought from England as part of British mail system. From 1661 until 1764, authority for franking was granted under Royal Warrant from the Crown to the House of Commons and the other branches of the government.



Handstamp  
Circle/ G C



Bishop Mark  
SE(P) 5 (1693)



Free Frank Mail Cover in 1693.  
England/London/Somerset

In 1764, control of the British Post Office revenue passed from Crown to State. Only after 1764 can specific laws and regulations be found in the acts of Parliament relative to the details of free franking letters.

## FORERUNNER

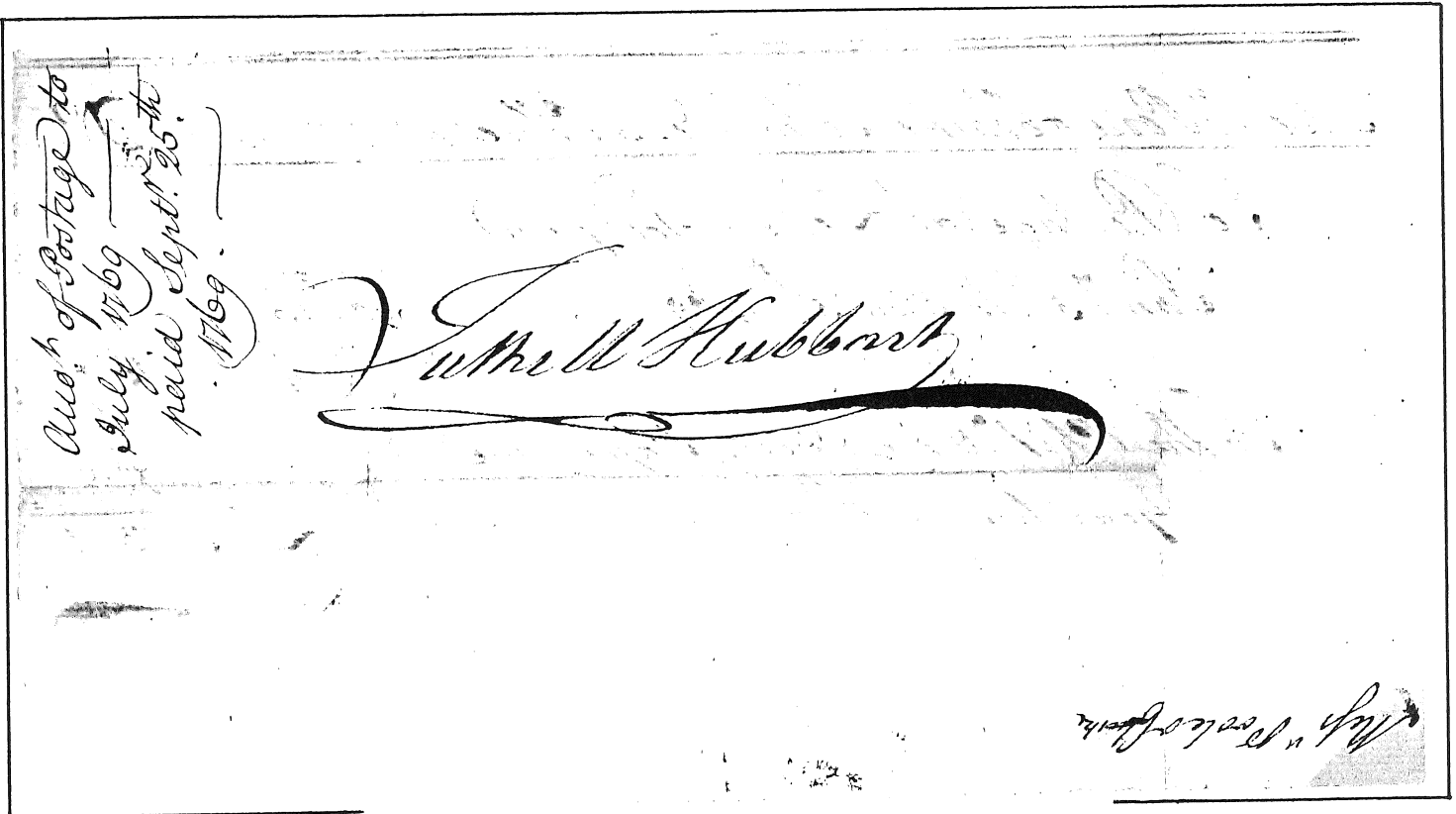
### 1769 BRITISH COLONY

#### Boston Post Office Account

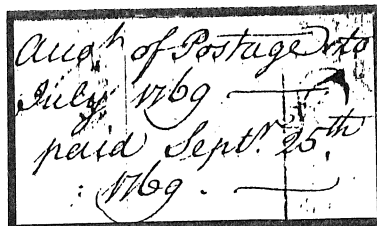
Free franking -- whereby a designated government official could send mail without charge by authority of his signature on the cover -- originated in England in 1652. This usage came to the American colonies with other aspects of British postal system.

A 1769 BOSTON POST OFFICE ACCOUNT

*Messrs. Paine & Clarke To the Post Office at Boston D<sup>r</sup>*



Ms Doc gives postage charge of and newspaper charge (for Philadelphia & New York papers) of; Postmaster's notation on front.



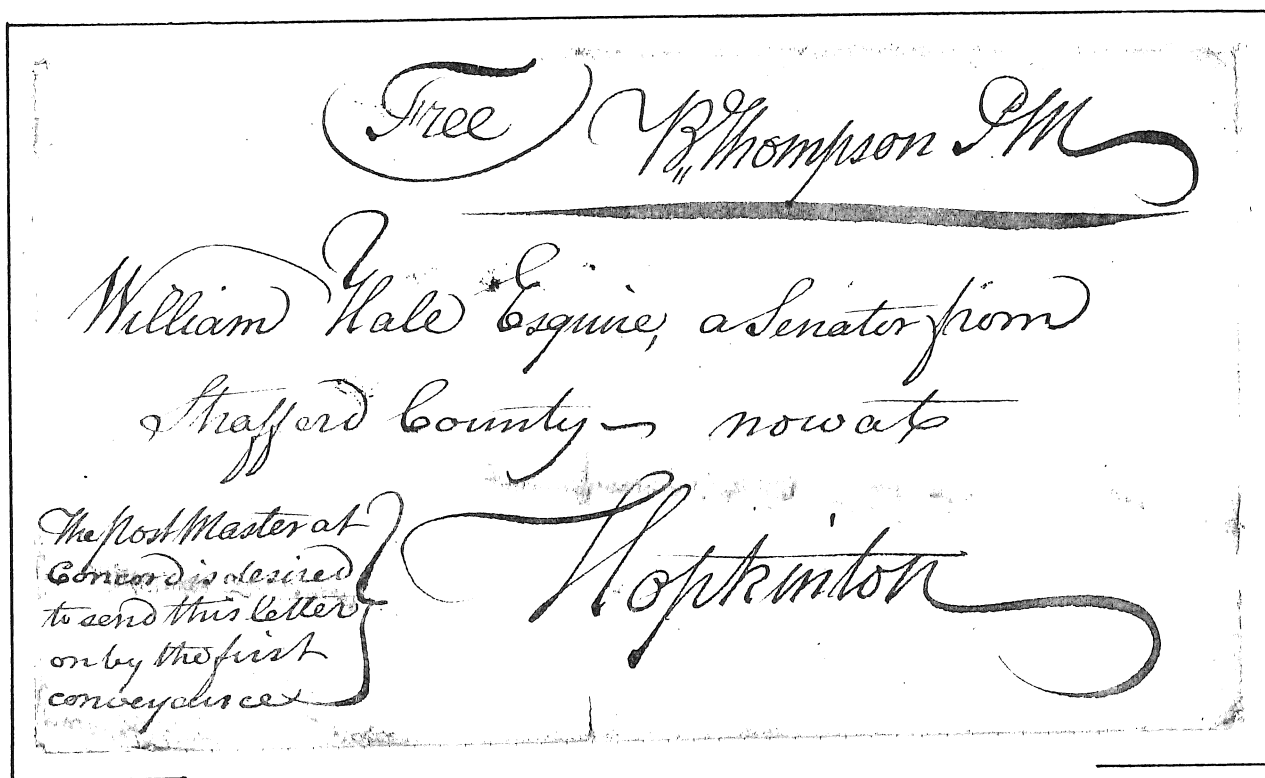
Sept. 25, 1769

## CHAPTER - I FREE FRANK MAIL - POSTMASTERS

### 1778 FREE FRANK - Postmaster

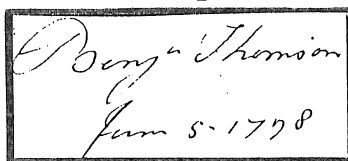
The term FRANK in a postal-history sense, a signature placed on a piece of mail indicating the right to sender it free of charge. Those permitted by law to send their mail without payment of postage, because of their government status, placed their signature together with their title of office and the word FREE on their mail.

Franking Signature of T. B. Thompson Postmaster and manuscript - Free.



Postmaster's Free Frank Mail - Folded letter from postmaster; T. B. Thompson, Concord, New Hampshire, he sent to a State Senator at Hopkinton, Rhode Island on June 5, 1778.

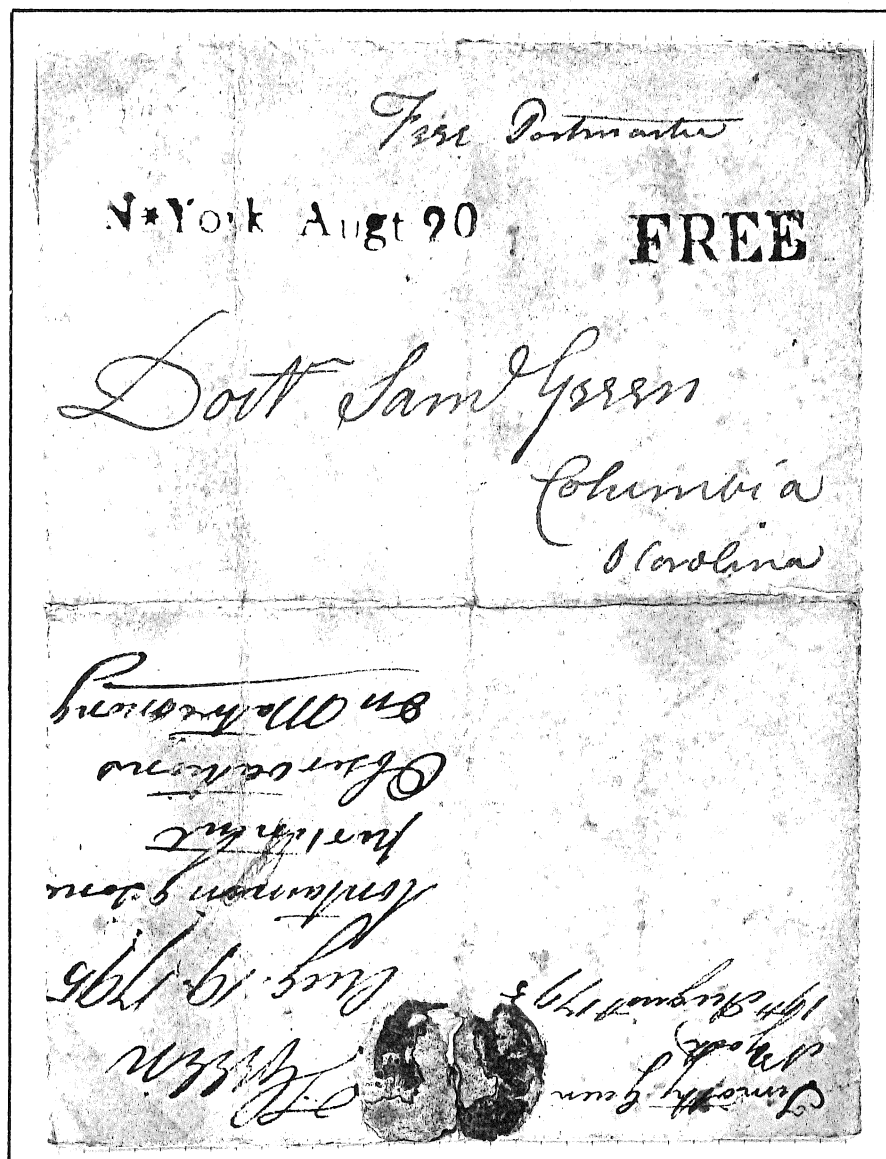
Flap



Manuscript Date  
June 5, 1778

## 1795 FREE FRANK - Postmaster

Postmaster's Free Frank Mail - Folded letter from First Postmaster of the New York Post Office, sent in August 19, 1795, postmarked N\*York Augt 20, and handstamped FREE.



Straightline Postmark

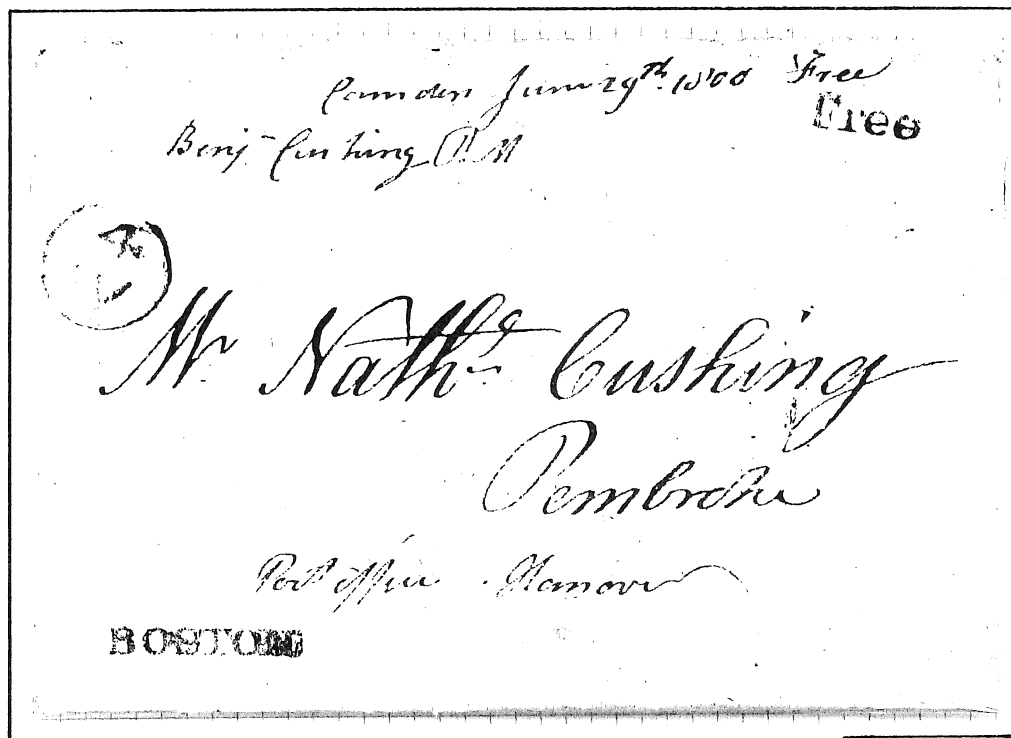
N\*York Augt 20

Handstamp - FREE marking

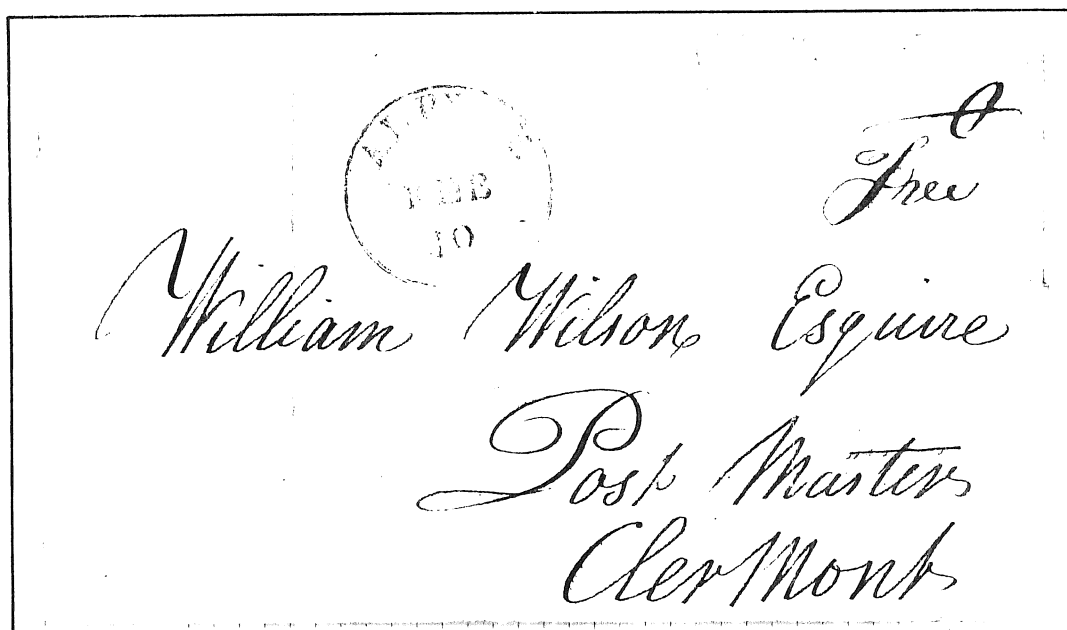
FREE

Straightline postmark was the earliest type used in America.

## 1800-02 FREE FRANK-Postmasters



Postmaster's Free Frank Mail - Folded letter from Postmaster. Franking signature of Postmaster, manuscript date - June 29th 1800, and handstamped - Free & BOSTON.

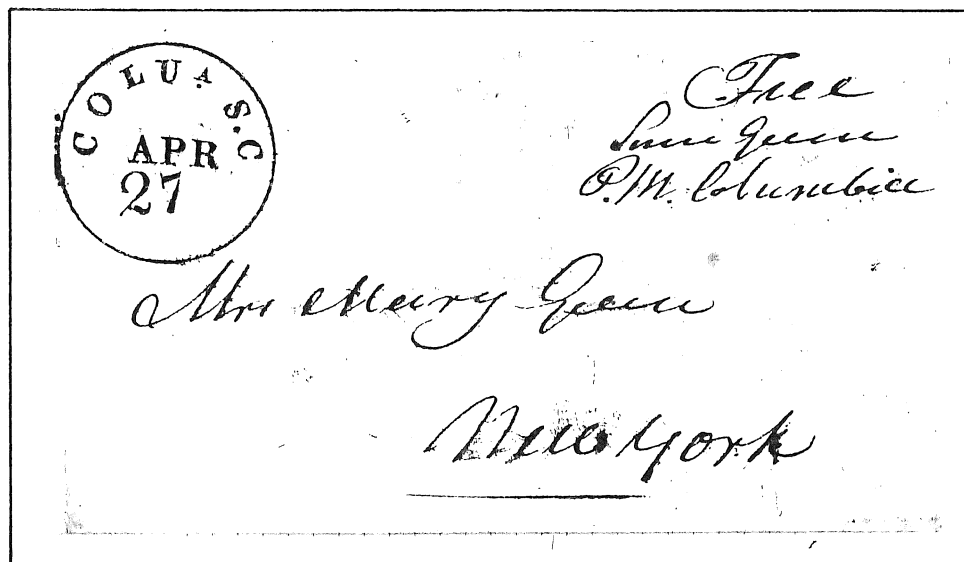


Postmaster's Free Frank Mail - Folded letter from Postmaster. Albany, New York, Postmaster, postmark - Feb. 10 (1802) cancel and manuscript - Free. Addressed to William Wilson Postmaster in Clermont.

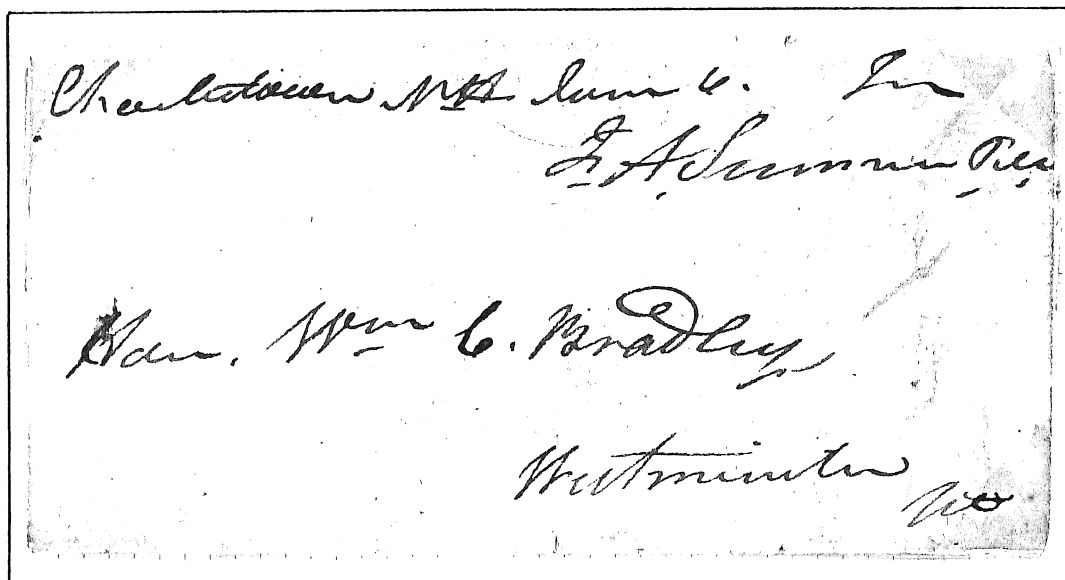
Postmaster franks;

All official business mail was permitted to be franked from 1798 to 1873, even through the brown-out period of 1845-47, and all personal mail less 1/2 oz. from 1798 to 1845 and 1847 to 1863. Postage was to be added over 1/2 oz. limit.

# 1813-14 FREE FRANK-Postmasters

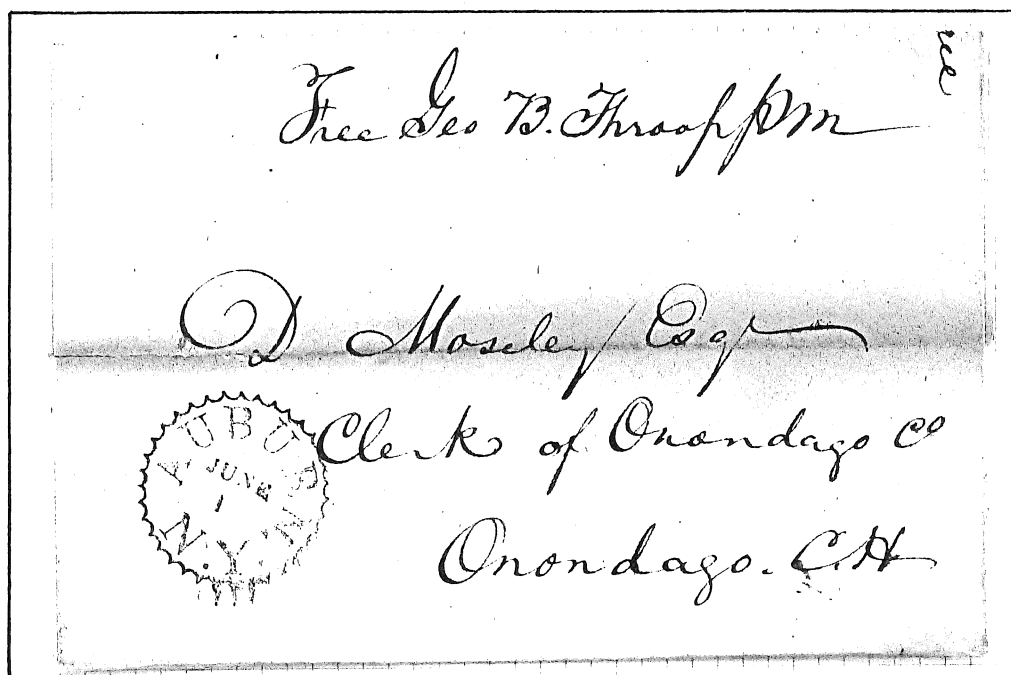


Postmaster's Free Frank Mail - Folded letter from Postmaster. Franking signature of Green Postmaster, manuscript - Free, and postmarked COLUA(Columbia), S. C., APR 27 (1813).

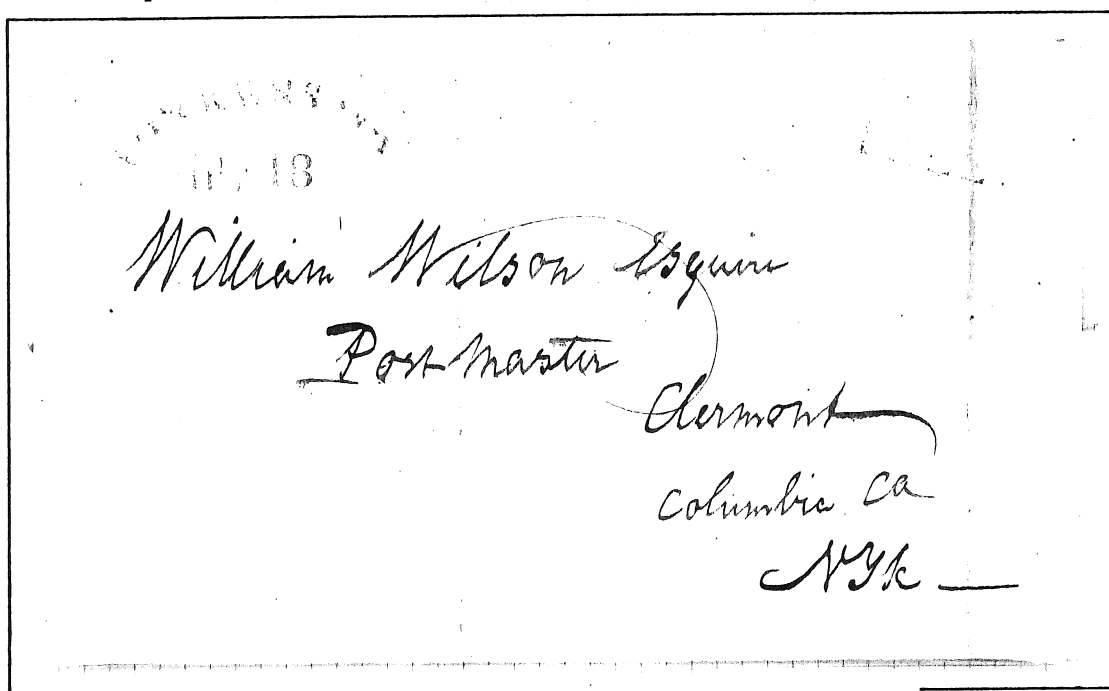


Postmaster's Free Frank Mail - Folded letter from Postmaster. Charlestown, New Hampshire, Postmaster, manuscript - June 6 (1814) cancel. Folded letter recommends a permanent appointment in the United States Army for Captain W. S. Foster. Addressed to General W. C. Bradley.

1821-23 FREE FRANK-Postmasters

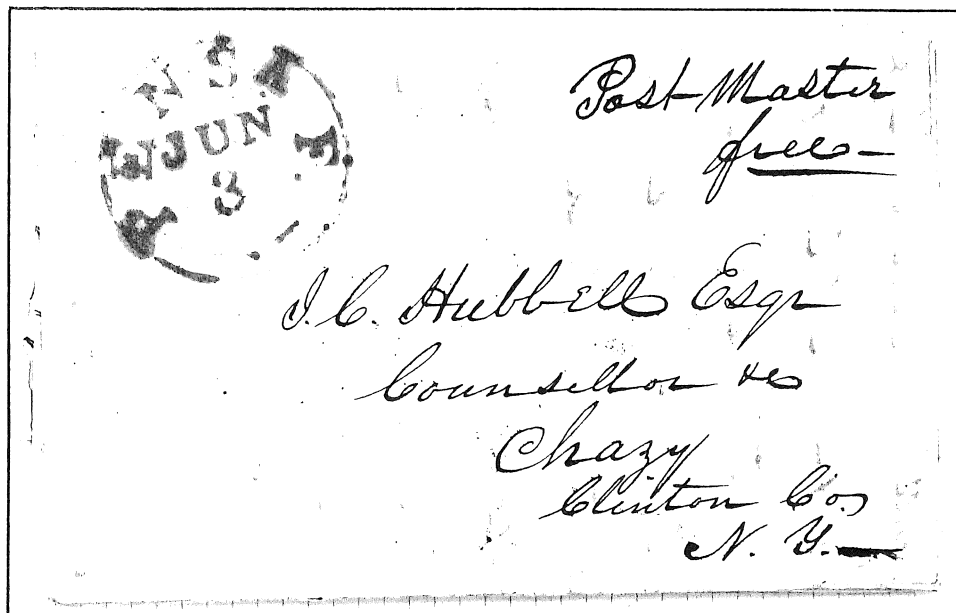


Postmaster's Free Frank Mail - Folded letter from Postmaster; Albany, New York, Postmaster, black postmark JUNE 1 (1821) cancel. Franking signature of Postmaster and manuscript - Free.

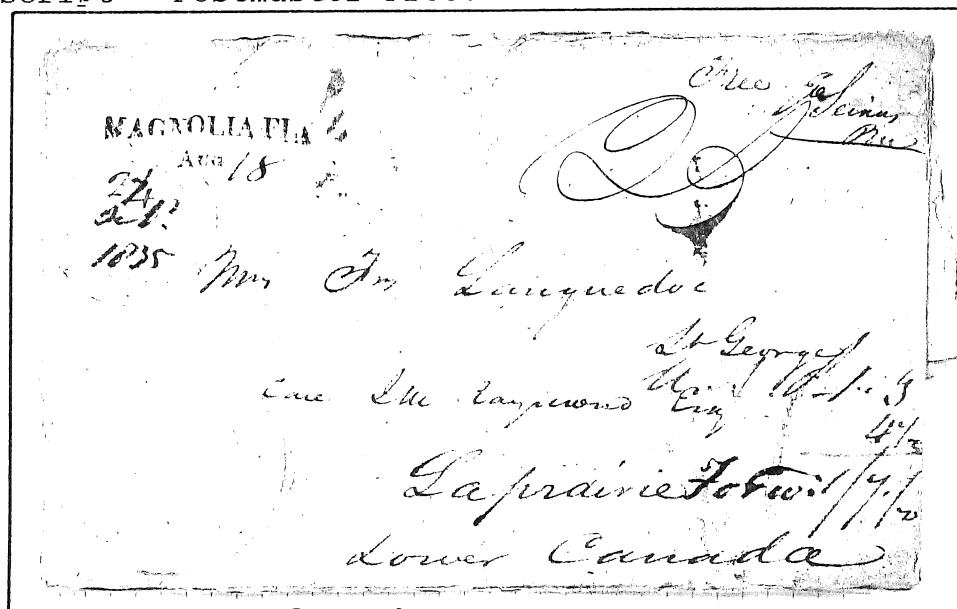


Postmaster's Free Frank Mail; YONKERS, N-Y/ July 18 arc postmark and handstamped FREE on 1823 Florida to Clermont, New York, Postmaster.

# 1827-35 FREE FRANK - Postmasters Fla.Territory



Free Frank Mail of the Postmaster sent in 1827 Florida Territory from man who was Active Naval Store keeper at the Naval Yard and postmarked in black PENSA, F/ JUN 3 (1827). Manuscript - Postmaster Free.

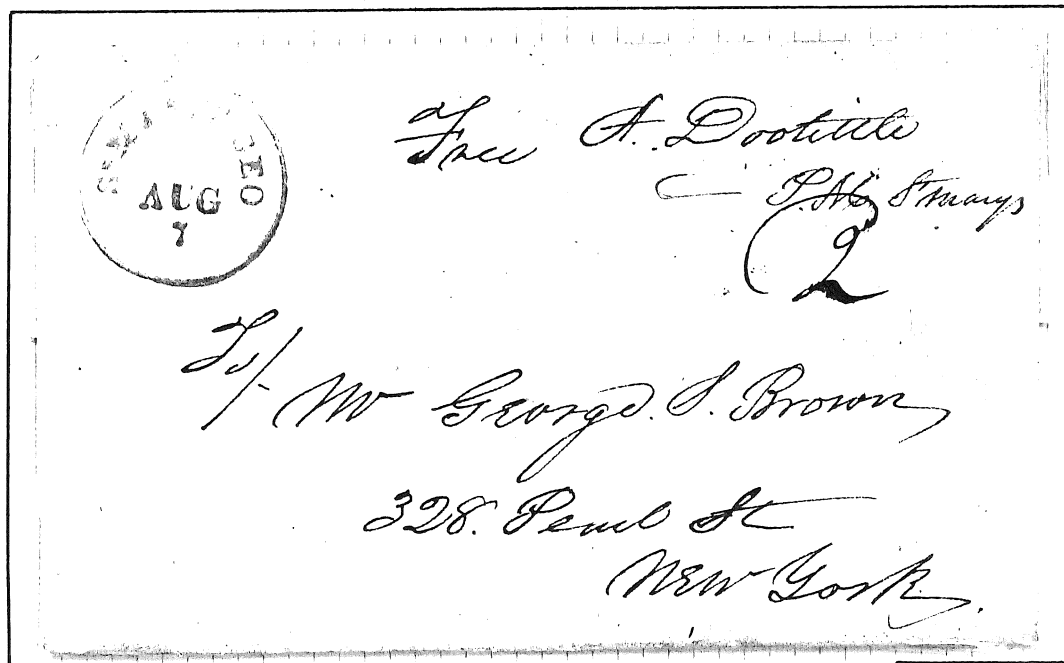


to Canada

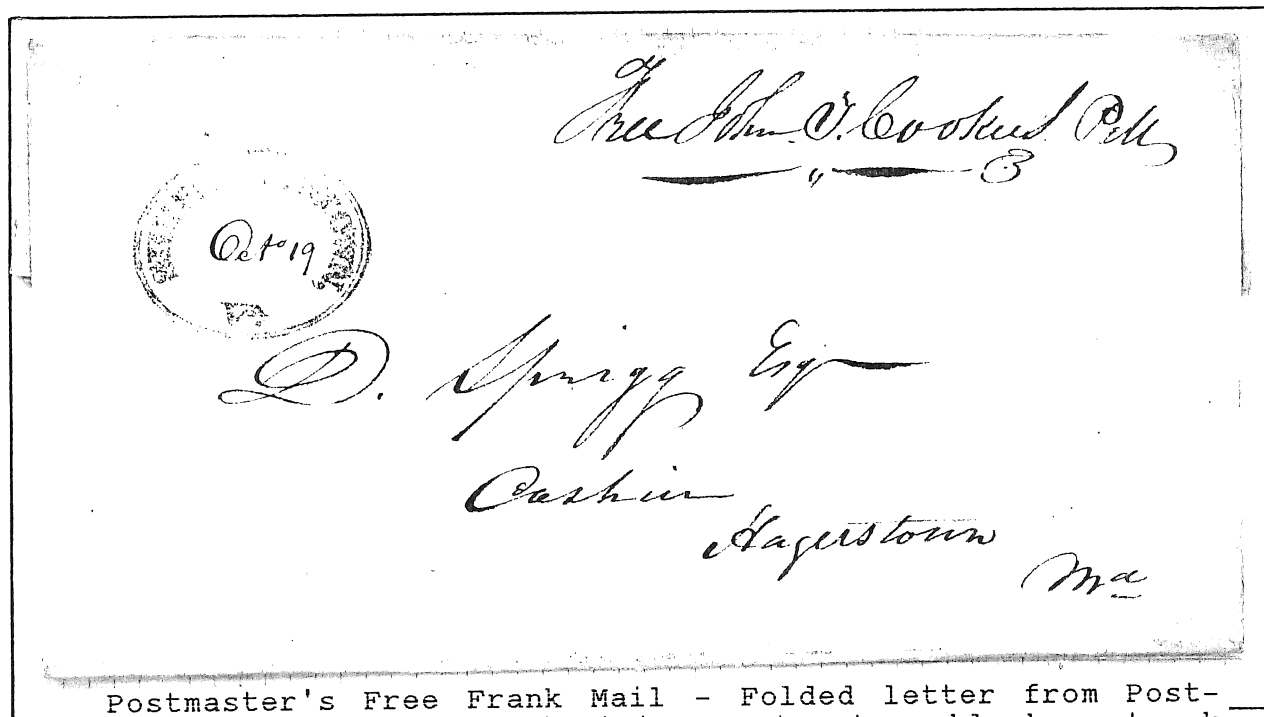
Free Frank Mail of the Postmaster sent in August 18, 1835, address to CANADA, and postmarked in black MAGNOLIA, FLA/ AUG 18 (1835). Postmaster Free Frank - franking signature of Postmaster & manuscript free and foreign postal rate - manuscript 25(cents) rate at right, and two red Canadian postmarks at left (one indistinct, one MONTREAL/ SEP 4 1835).



# 1830-31 FREE FRANK - Postmasters

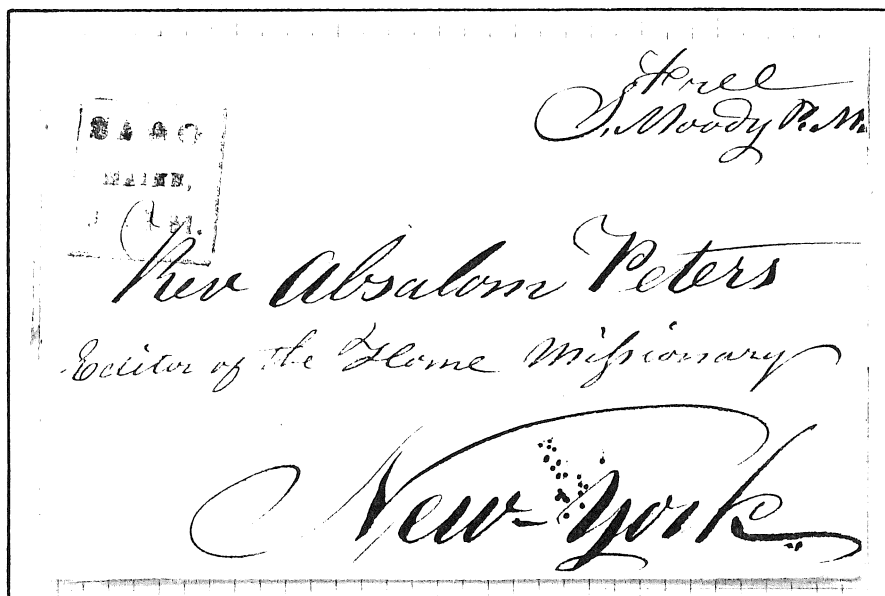


Postmaster's Free Frank Mail - Folded letter from Postmaster, St Mary, Georgia, red postmark AUG 7 (1830) cancel. Franking signature of Alfred Doolittle Postmaster and manuscript - Free.



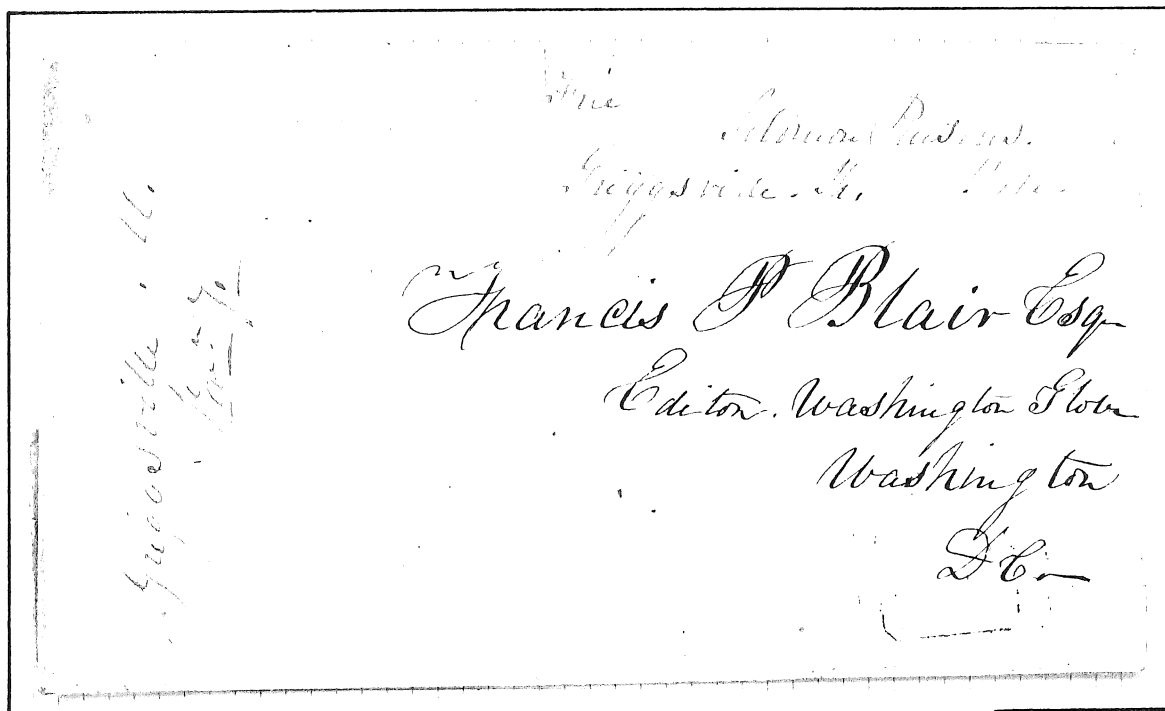
Postmaster's Free Frank Mail - Folded letter from Postmaster, Shepherdstown, Virginia, Postmaster, black postmark SHEPHERDSTOWN, VA cancel. Franking signature of postmaster and manuscript date Oct 19 (1831).

# 1831-37 FREE FRANK-Postmasters



Postmaster's Free Frank Mail - Small holded letter from Postmaster:

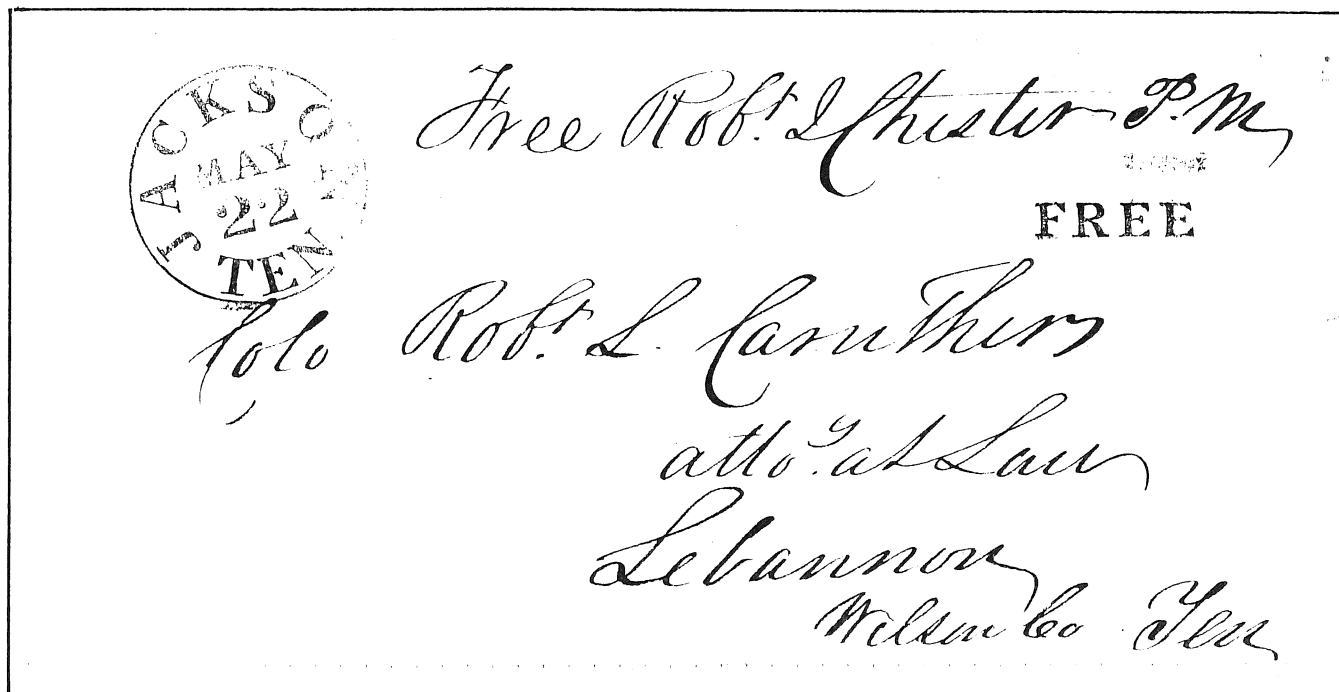
Franking signature of S. Moody, P.M.. manuscript Free, and postmarked in black SAGO, MAINE/ JULY 31 (1831).



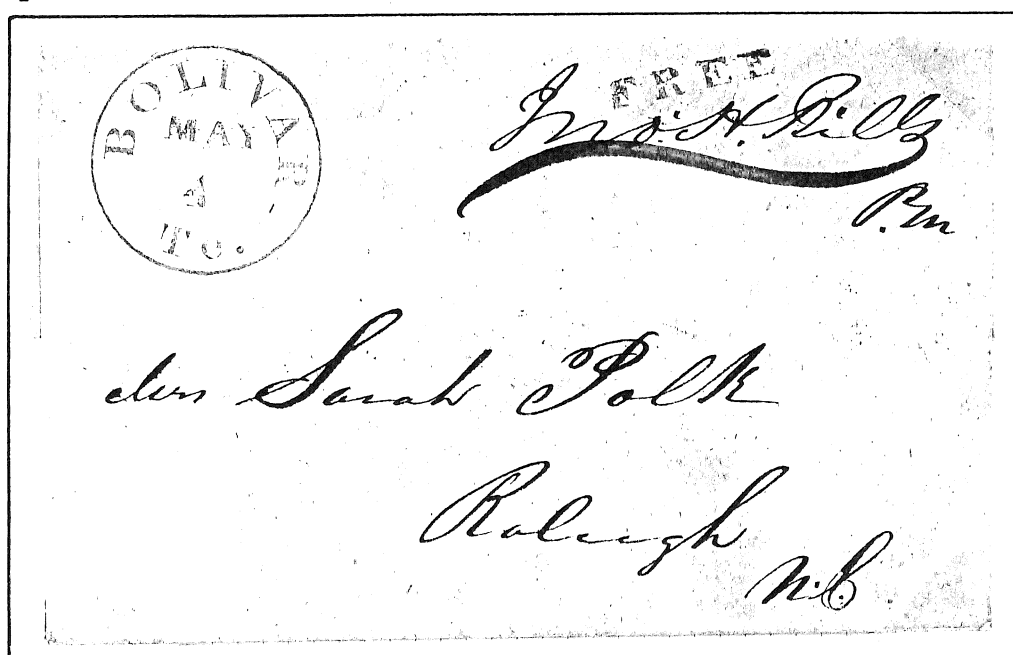
Postmaster's Free Frank Mail - Small holded letter from Postmaster:

Franking signature of Postmaster, manuscript Free.

# 1837-41 FREE FRANK - Postmasters



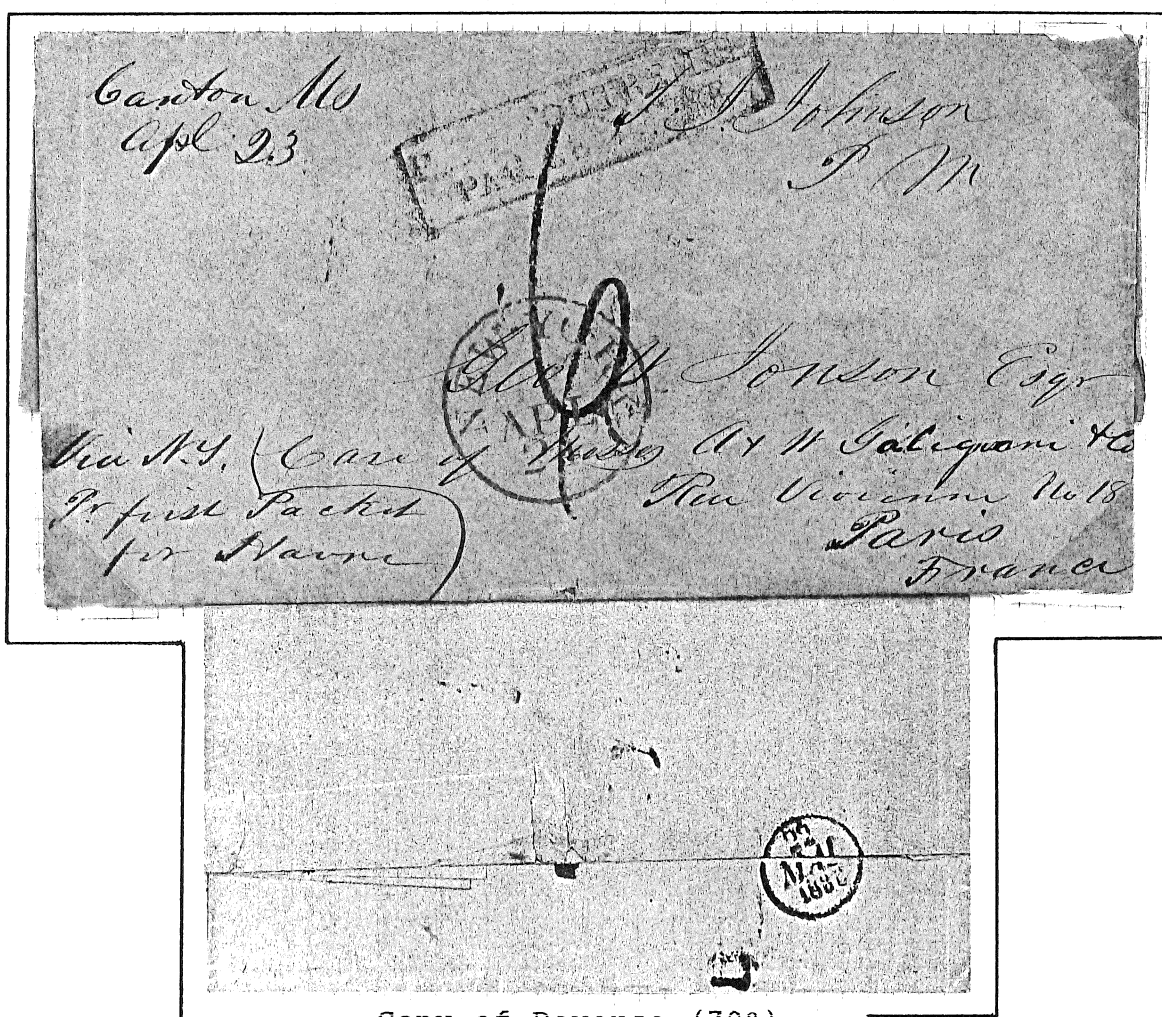
Free Frank Mail of the Postmaster sent in 1837 and postmarked in black JACKSON, TEN(NESSEE)/ MAY 22 (1837). Franking signature of Chester postmaster (1825-35) and handstamped FREE.



Free Frank Mail of the Postmaster sent in 1841 and postmarked in blue BOLTVAR, Te(nnessee)/ MAY 4 (1841). Franking signature of J. H. Bills first postmaster (1823-42) and handstamped FREE.

# 1838 FREE FRANK - Foreign Destination to France

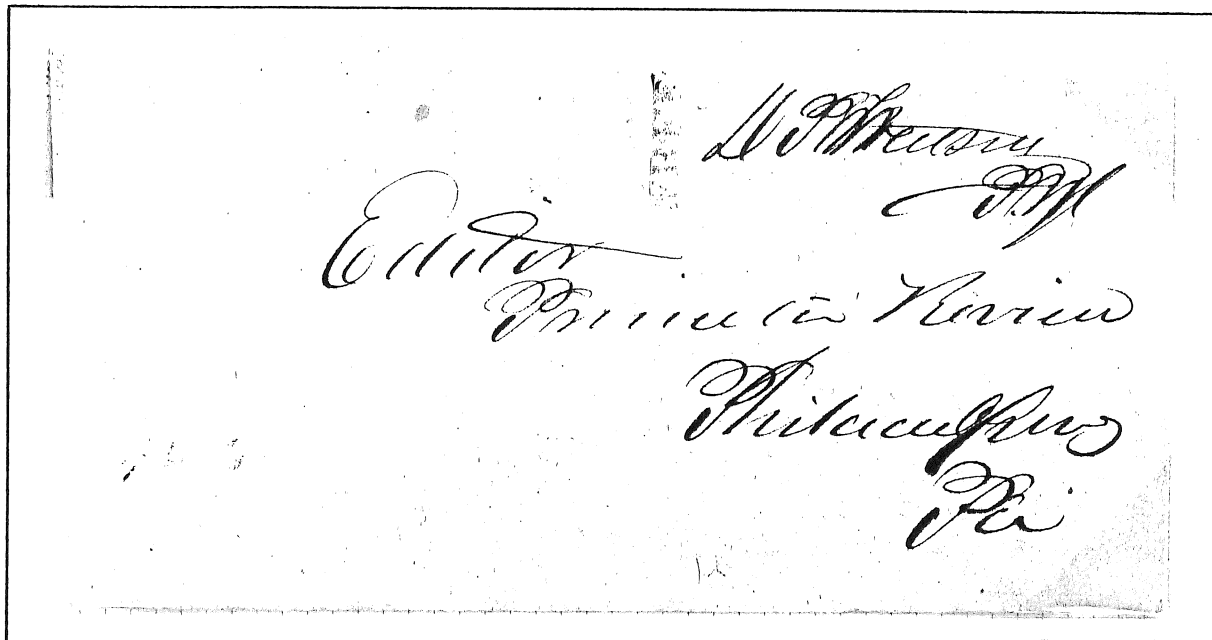
Free Frank Mail of the Postmaster sent in 1838 from Canton, Massachusetts, Via New York City to France.



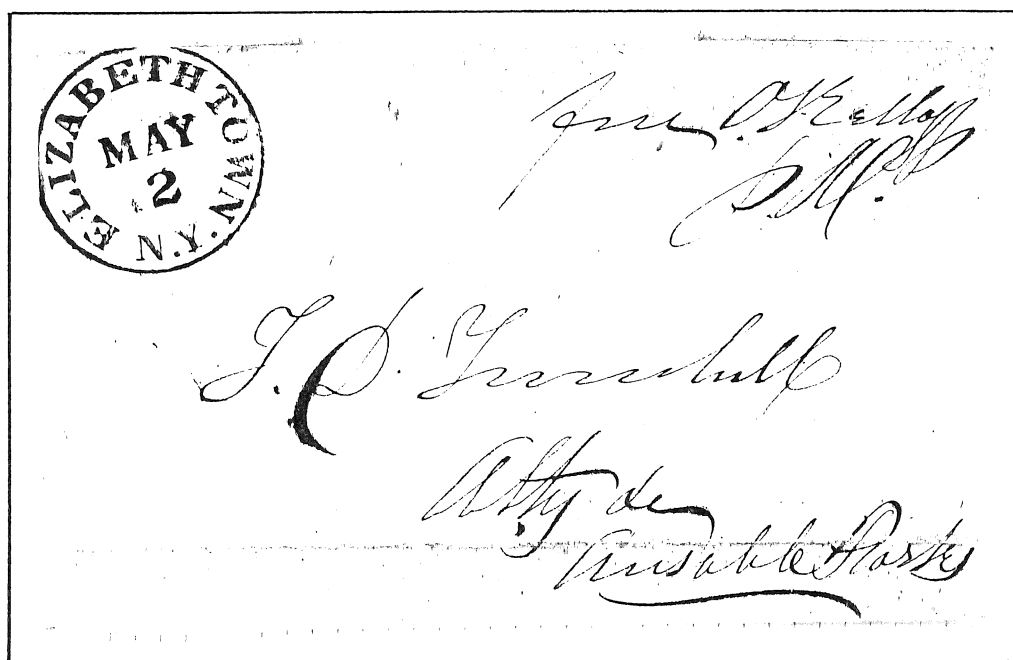
Copy of Reverse (70%)

April 23, manuscript, April 24 red postmark New York. T.J. Johnson, PM(Postmaster). Free to New York. Black Box French marking and blue French receiving mark on reverse, MAY 22, 1838. Lower left manuscript Via N.Y. c/o (care of) first Packet for France. 6 is a charge made in France.

# 1844-45 FREE FRANK - Postmasters



Postmaster's Free Frank Mail - Folded letter from Postmaster sent in 1844. Franking signature of postmaster and handstamped FREE.

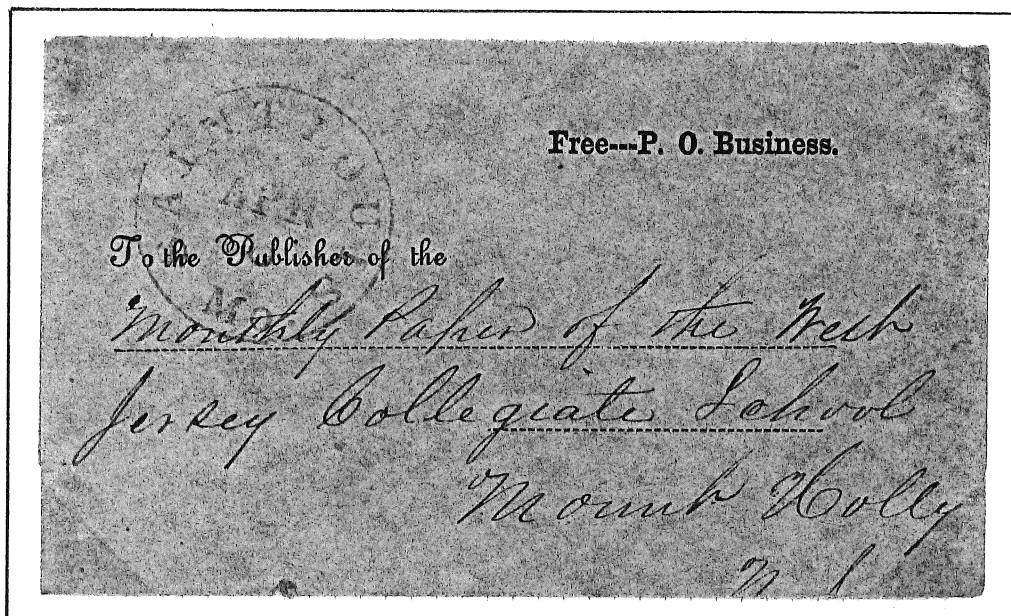


Postmaster's Free Frank Mail - Folded letter from Postmaster Ausable Forks, April 30 to Elizabethtown, New York - then turned and postmarked ELIZABETH TOWN N.Y./ MAY 2 (1845) back to Ausable Forks. Postmaster FREE FRANK of Orlando Kellogg who later became a congressman.

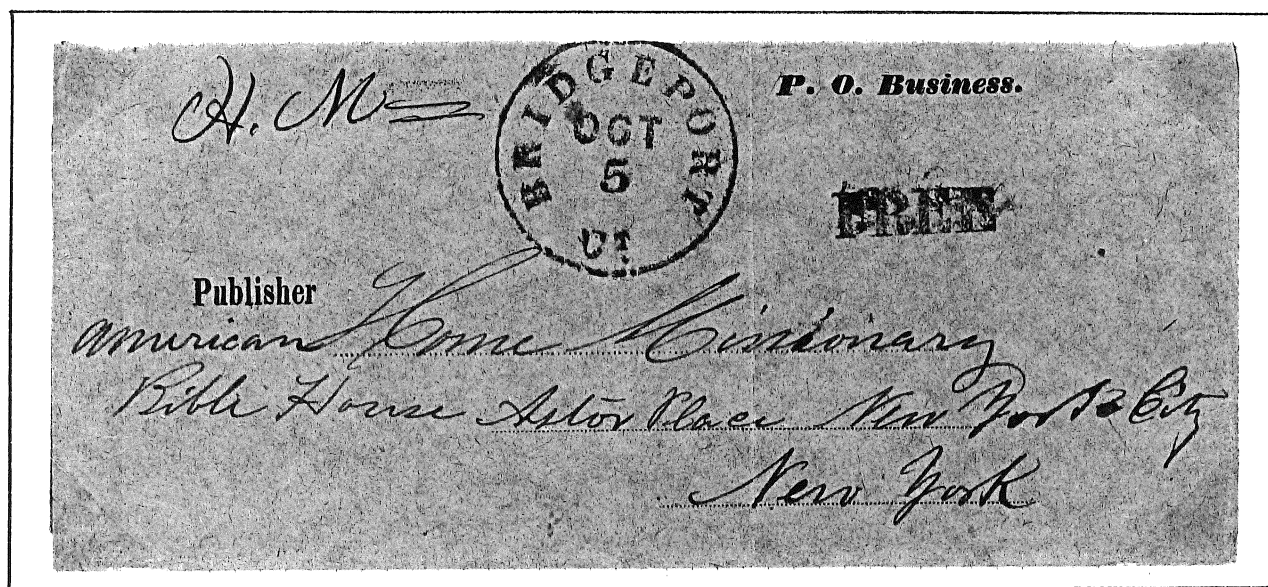
(15)

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## 1851-54 FREE FRANK - Post Offices



Free Frank Official Mail of Saint Louis Post Office in Missouri sent in 1851, postmarked in red SAINT LOUIS Mo/ APR 6 (1851) and printed Free... P.O.Business..



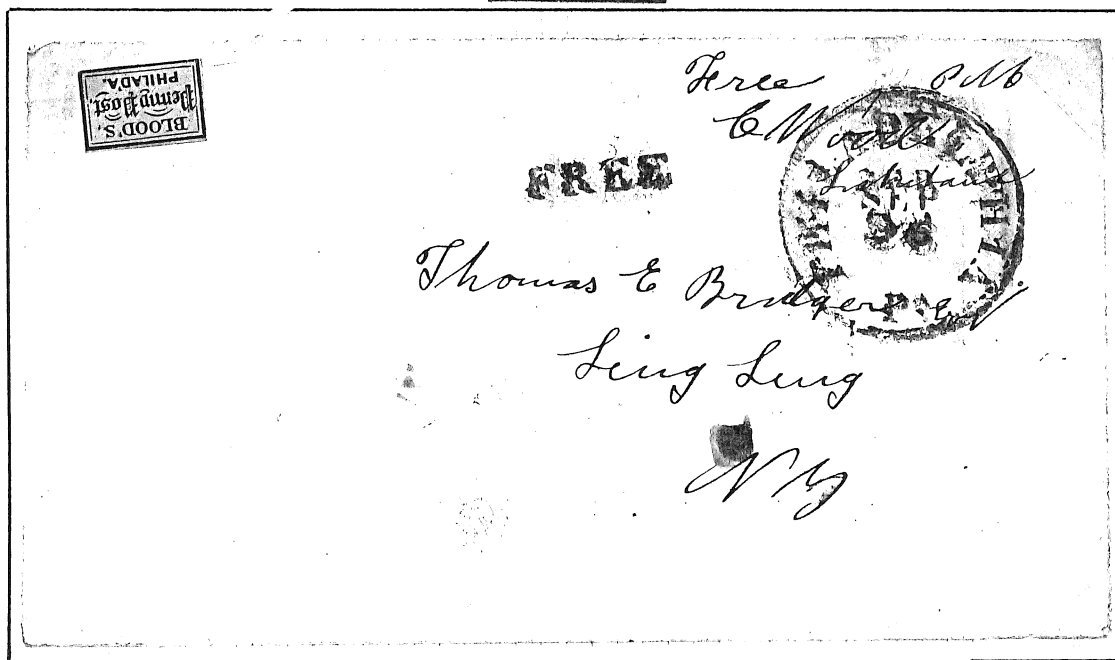
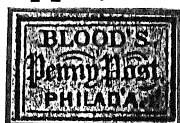
Free Frank Official Mail of Bridgeport Post Office in Vermont sent in 1854, postmarked in black BRIDGEPORT Vt./ OCT 5 (1854), printed P.O. BUSINESS and handstamped FREE.

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## 1854 FREE FRANK-LOCAL POST

Formed by D. O. Blood and W. H. Blood in 1845. Successor to Philadelphia Despatch Post which issued 14 local stamps. The independent mail routes began using stamps in 1844 and were put out of business by Act of March, 1845, which became effective July 1, 1845.

Local Stamp;  
D. O. Blood & Co.  
Copy (125%)

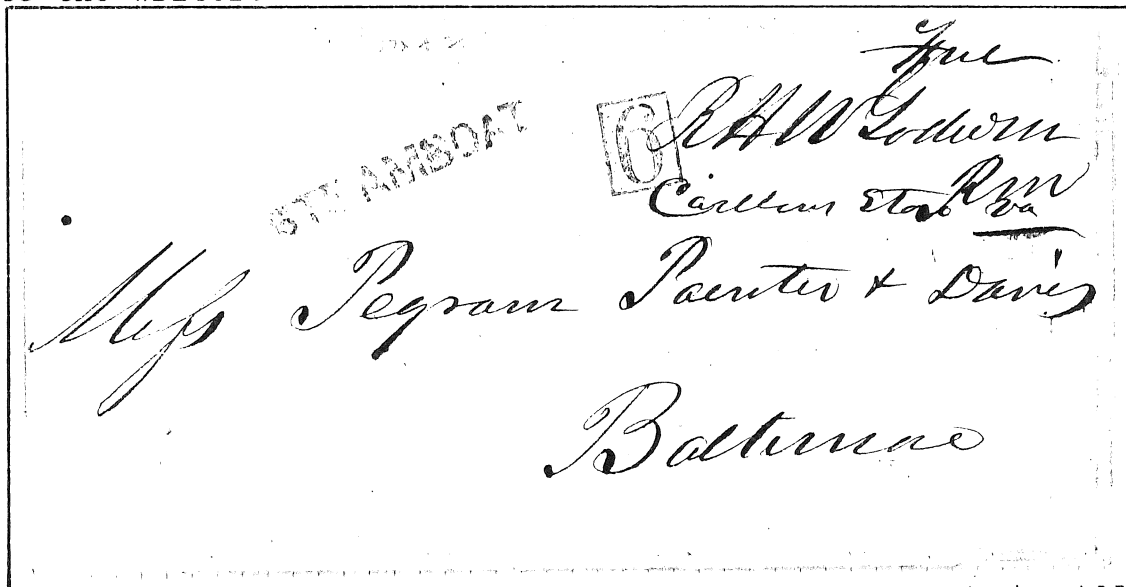


One cent Local Stamp tied on Free Frank Mail of the Postmaster sent in 1854 and postmarked in black PHILADELPHIA PA/SEP 26. Franking signature of the postmaster and handstamped FREE.

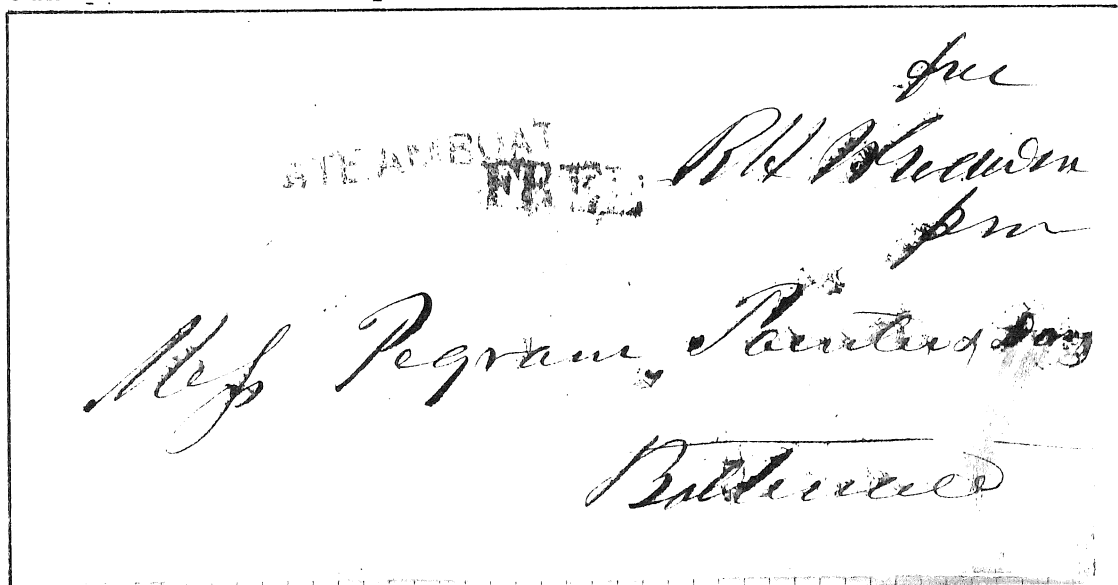
One Local Philadelphia Company, Blood's Penny Post, was to become one of the nation's preeminent and most prolific. The local post dates from 1841. It lasted until dissolution by the government on July 1, 1863 (Act of March 3, 1863), when government free home delivery of city mail commenced. Local posts generally changed 1 cent to delivery a letter to the post office.

## 1856 FREE FRANK-STEAMBOAT MAIL

The mark STEAMBOAT was applied by the receiving post office to letters delivered by the captain or clerk of a steamboat having no mail-carrying contract with the Post Office Department. These letters were picked up somewhere along an island river, lake, bay, or sound route as a favor to the writer.



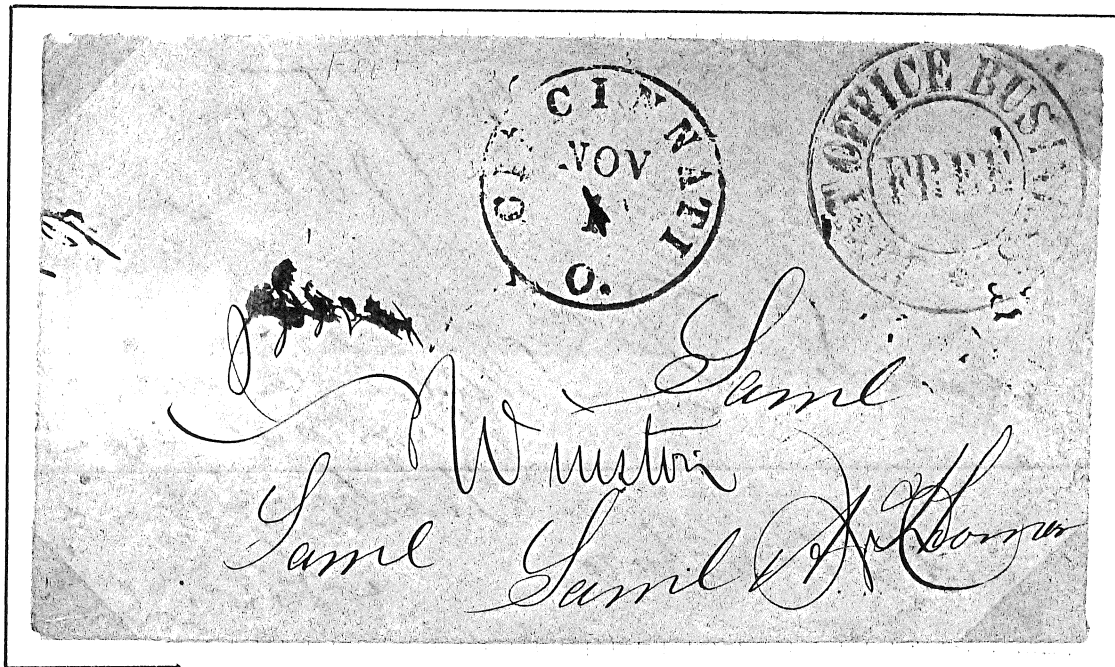
Free Frank Official Mail of the Postmaster sent in 1856 and handstamped STEAMBOAT and boxed 6. Franking signature of R. H. Godwin, Postmaster of CARLTON'S STONE, King and Queen County, and manuscript - Free.



Free Frank Official Mail of the Postmaster sent in 1856 and handstamped STEAMBOAT and FREE. The handstamps are Baltimore original. Franking signature of R. H. Godwin, Postmaster, and manuscript - free. Ex. H. E. Sheppard - Virginia Postal History Collection.

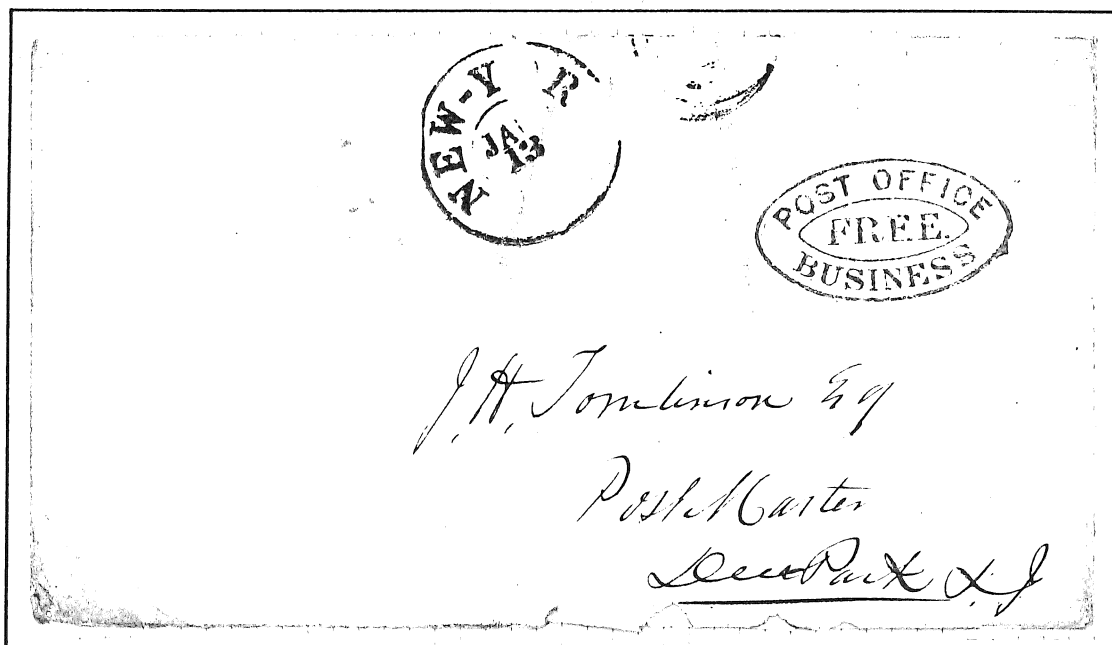


## 1856-57 FREE FRANK - Postmaster Handstamps



Free Frank Official Mail of the Post Office in Cincinnati, Ohio, sent in 1856, postmarked in blue CINCINNATI O./ NOV 1 (1856), handstamped in red double-circle POST OFFICE BUSINESS/ FREE.

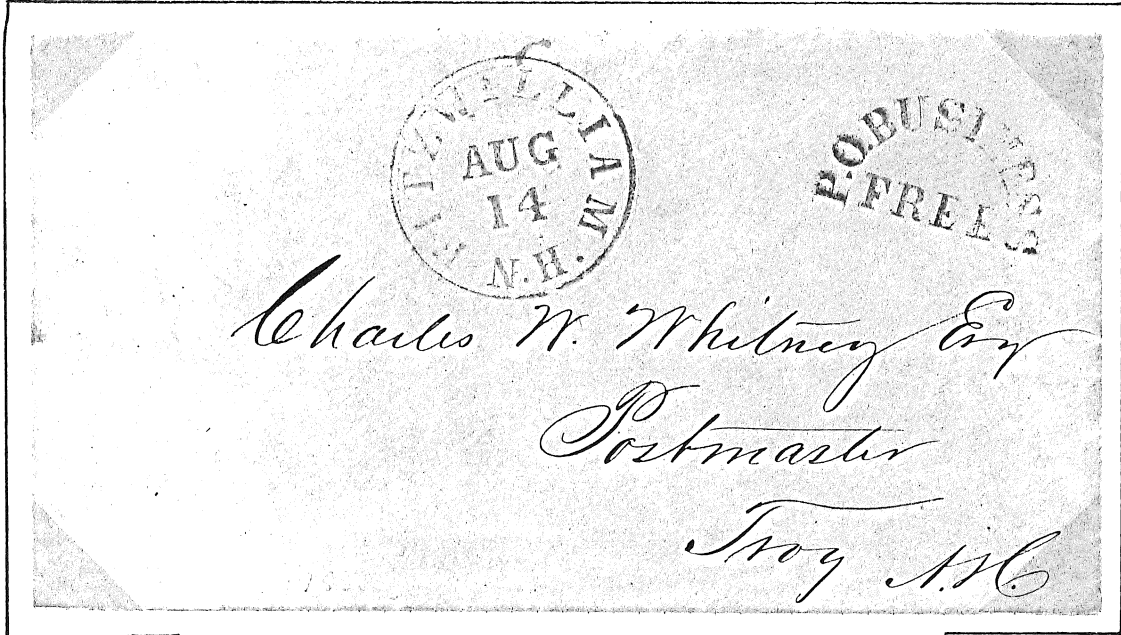
Postmasters' FREE marking were used on covers sent to or from those who had the franking privilege.



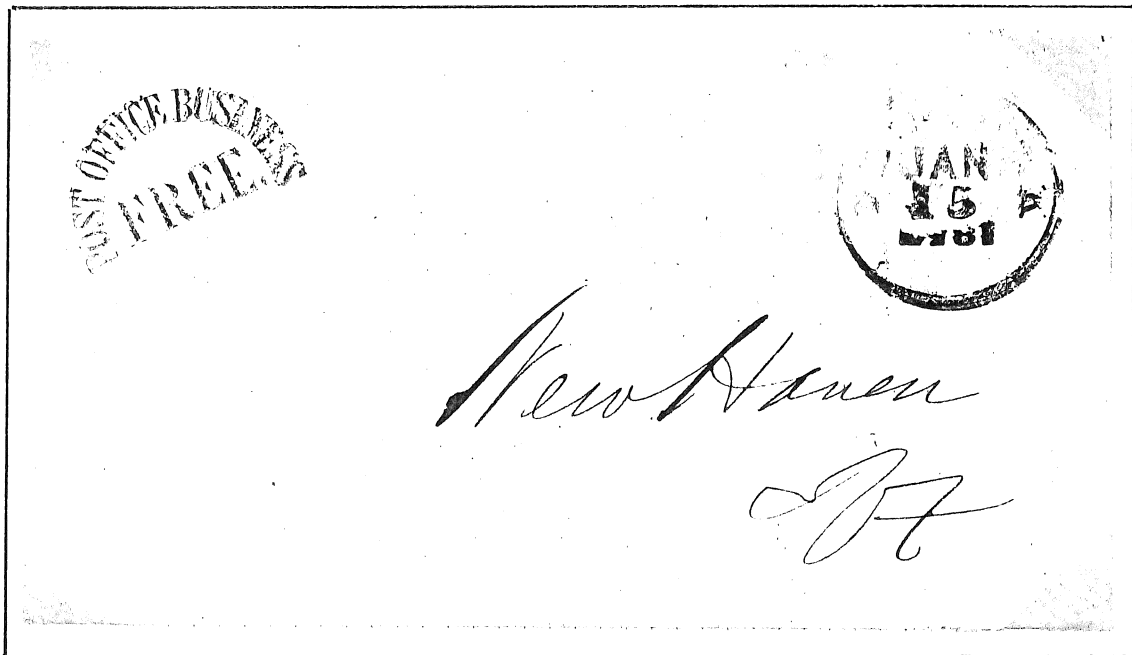
Free Frank Official Mail of the New York Post Office sent in 1857, postmarked in black NEW YORK JAN 13 (1857), and handstamped double-oval POST OFFICE BUSINESS/ FREE.

# 1857-58 FREE FRANK - Postmaster Handstamps

Postmaster Handstamps - POST OFFICE BUSINESS/ FREE  
(rimless semi-circle)



Free Frank Official Mail of the Post Office in Fitzwilliam, NH, sent in 1857, postmarked in dark blue FITZWILLIAM N.H./ AUG 14 (1857), and handstamped rimless semi-circle P.O. BUSINESS/ FREE.



Free Frank Official Mail of the New York Post Office sent in 1858, postmarked in black NEW YORK/ JAN 15 (18)58, and handstamped rimless semi-circle POST OFFICE BUSINESS/ FREE.

# 1857-61 FREE FRANK - Postmaster Handstamps

Postmaster Handstamps - P. O. BUSINESS/ FREE  
(rimmed semi-circle)



- a) Free Frank Mail of the Post Office in Boston, sent in 1857. Handstamped P.O.BUSINESS/FREE in black.
- b) Free Frank Mail of the Post Office in New Haven, CT, sent in 1857. Handstamped P.O.BUSINESS/ FREE in black
- c) Free Frank Mail of the Post Office in Burlington, VT, sent in 1861. Handstamped P.O.BUSINESS/ FREE in red.

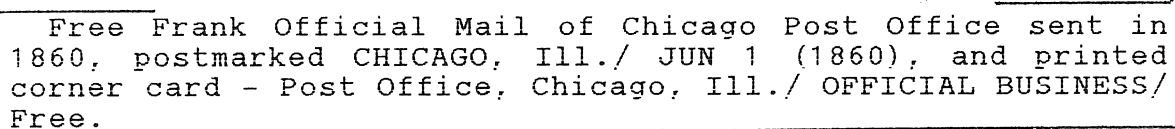
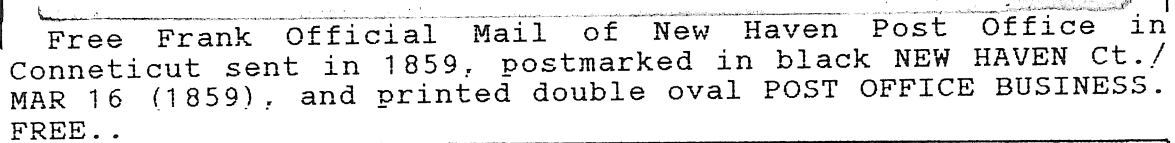
# 1859-62 FREE FRANK - Postmaster Handstamps

- Postmaster - a) POST OFFICE BUSINESS/ FREE (oval)  
Handstamps b) P.O.BUSINESS/ FREE  
c) POST OFFICE BUSINESS/ FREE (box w/cut)



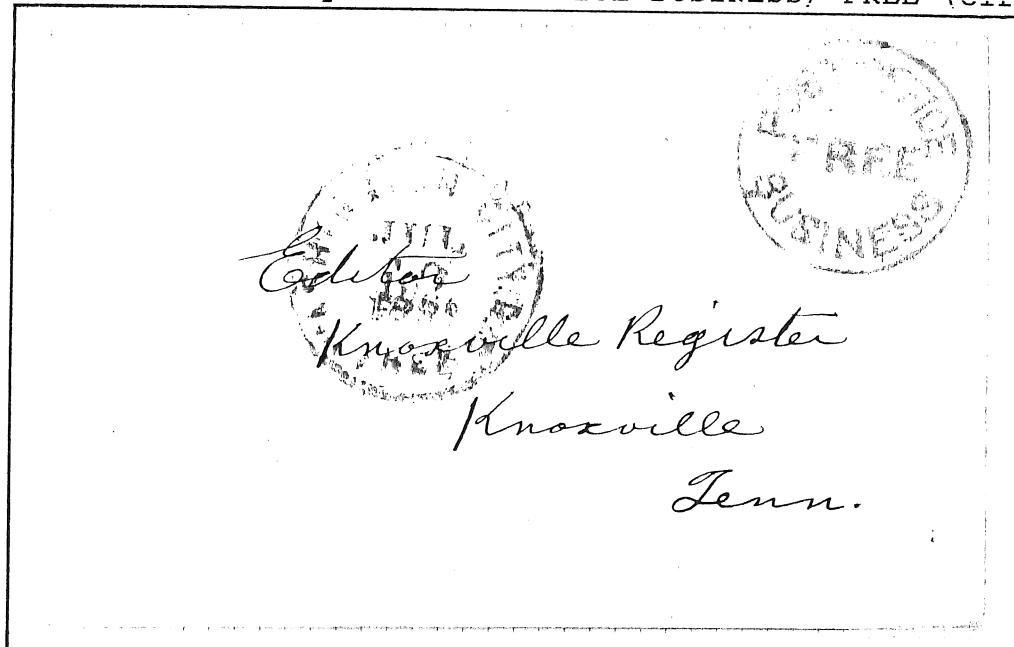
- a) Free Frank Mail of the Post Office in Winchester, NH, sent in 1859.  
b) Free Frank Mail of the Post Office in Roston, sent in 1862.  
c) Free Frank Mail of the Post Office in New York, sent in 1861.

22

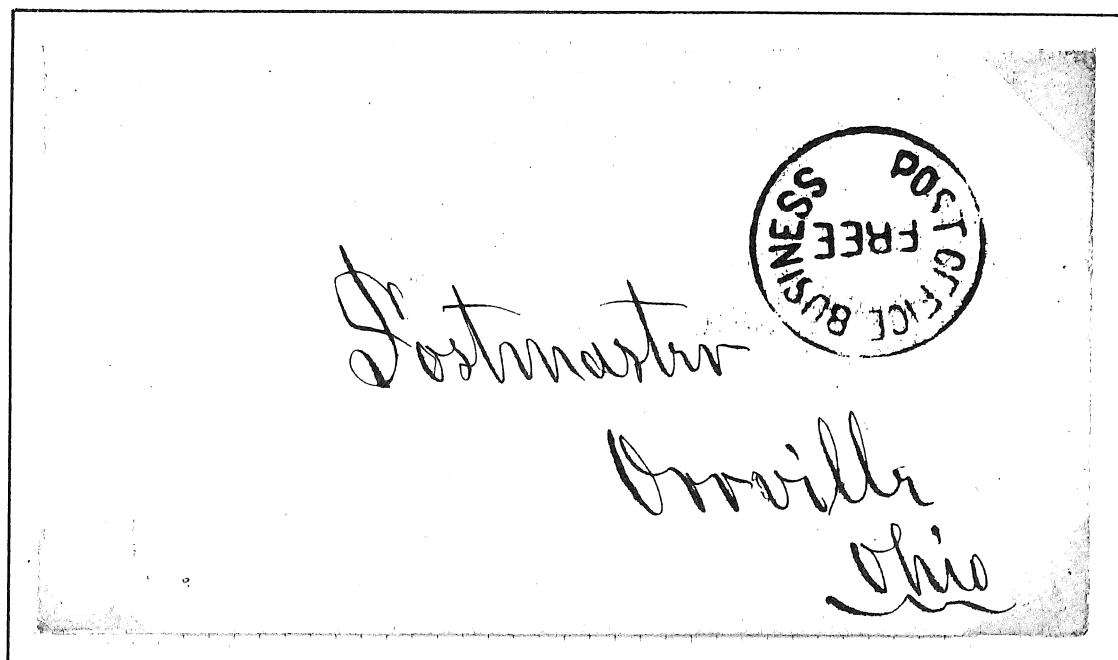


# 1860-62 FREE FRANK-Postmaster Handstamps

Postmaster Handstamps - POST OFFICE BUSINESS/ FREE (circle)



Free Frank Official Mail of Washington City Post Office sent in 1860, postmarked in black WASHINGTON CITY/ JUL 10 (1860) and handstamped circle POST OFFICE/ BUSINESS/ FREE.

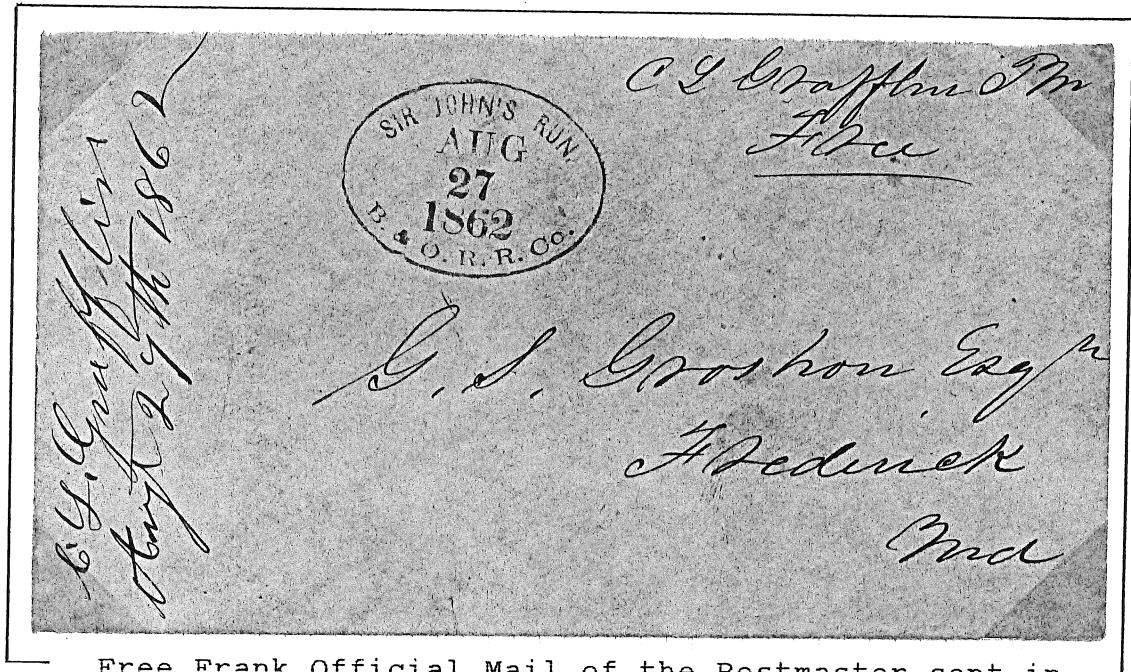


Free Frank Official Mail of the Post Office sent in 1862 and handstamped circle POST OFFICE BUSINESS/ FREE.



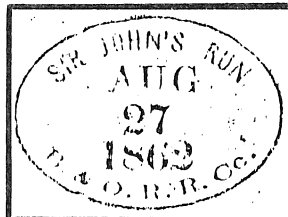
# 1862 FREE FRANK-RAILWAY MAIL

On July 7, 1838 Congress passed an act providing that each and every railroad within the limits of the United States which now is or may hereafter be completed, shall be a post route, and the Postmaster General shall cause mail to be transported thereon. Mail had been carried by rail as early as 1834, but the passage of this act began the real history of the railroad as a factor in communication and the development of the railway mail routes



Free Frank Official Mail of the Postmaster sent in August 27, 1862. Franking signature of the Postmaster and manuscript - Free. Ex. J. W. Thompson - West Virginia and C.S.A. Postal History Collection.

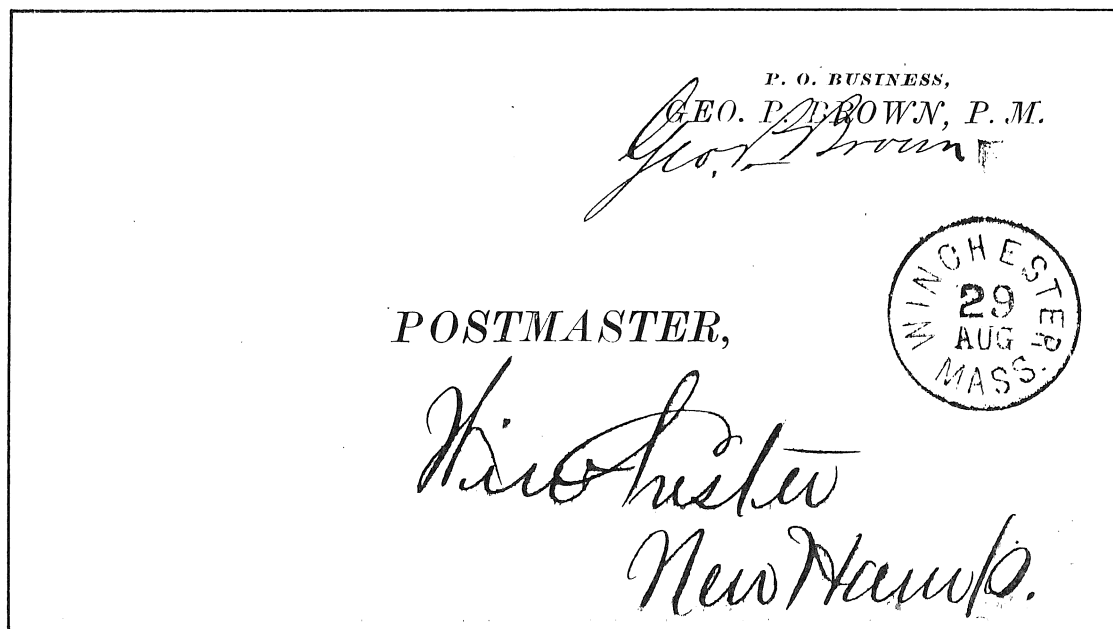
## RAILROAD ROUTE AGENT POSTMARK



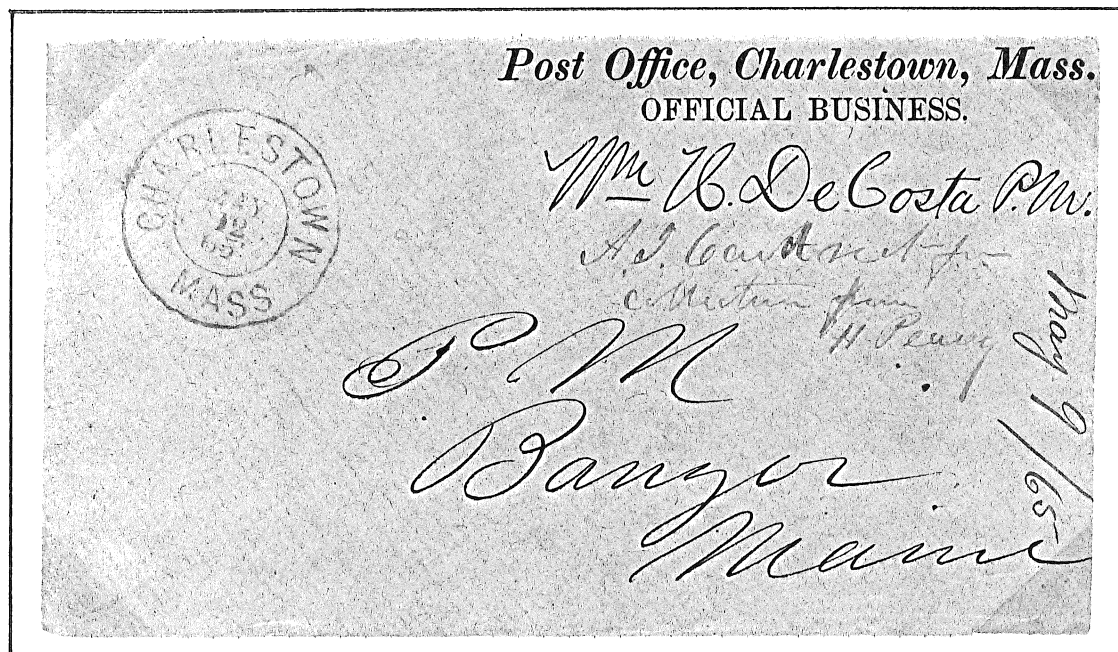
SIR JOHN'S RUN  
AUG 27 1862

B(altimeore). & O(hio). R(ail). R(oad). Co.

# 1862-65 FREE FRANK-Postmasters



Free Frank Official Mail of the Postmaster of Winchester in Massachusetts sent in 1862, postmarked in black WINCHESTER, MASS./ 29 AUG (1862), franking signature of the postmaster- Geo P Brown, and printed P.O.BUSINESS/ GEO. P. BROWN, P.M..



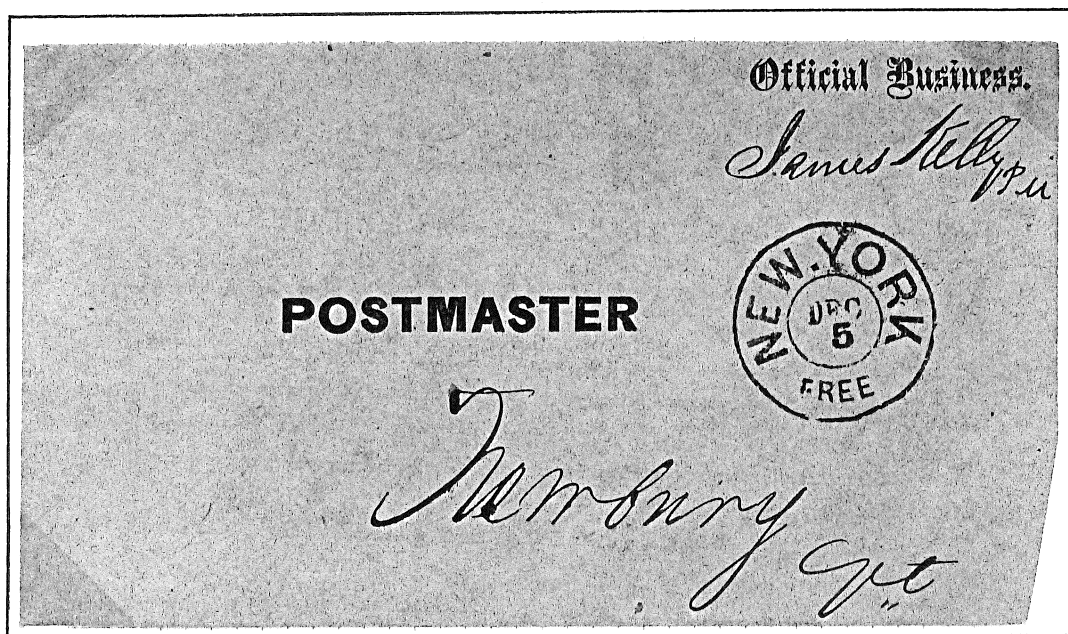
Free Frank Official Mail of the Postmaster of Charlestown in Massachusetts sent in 1865, postmarked in red CHARLESTOWN MASS/ MAY 12, (18)65, franking signature of the postmaster, and printed Post Office Carlestown, Mass./ OFFICIAL BUSINESS.



1865-70 FREE FRANK-Postmasters



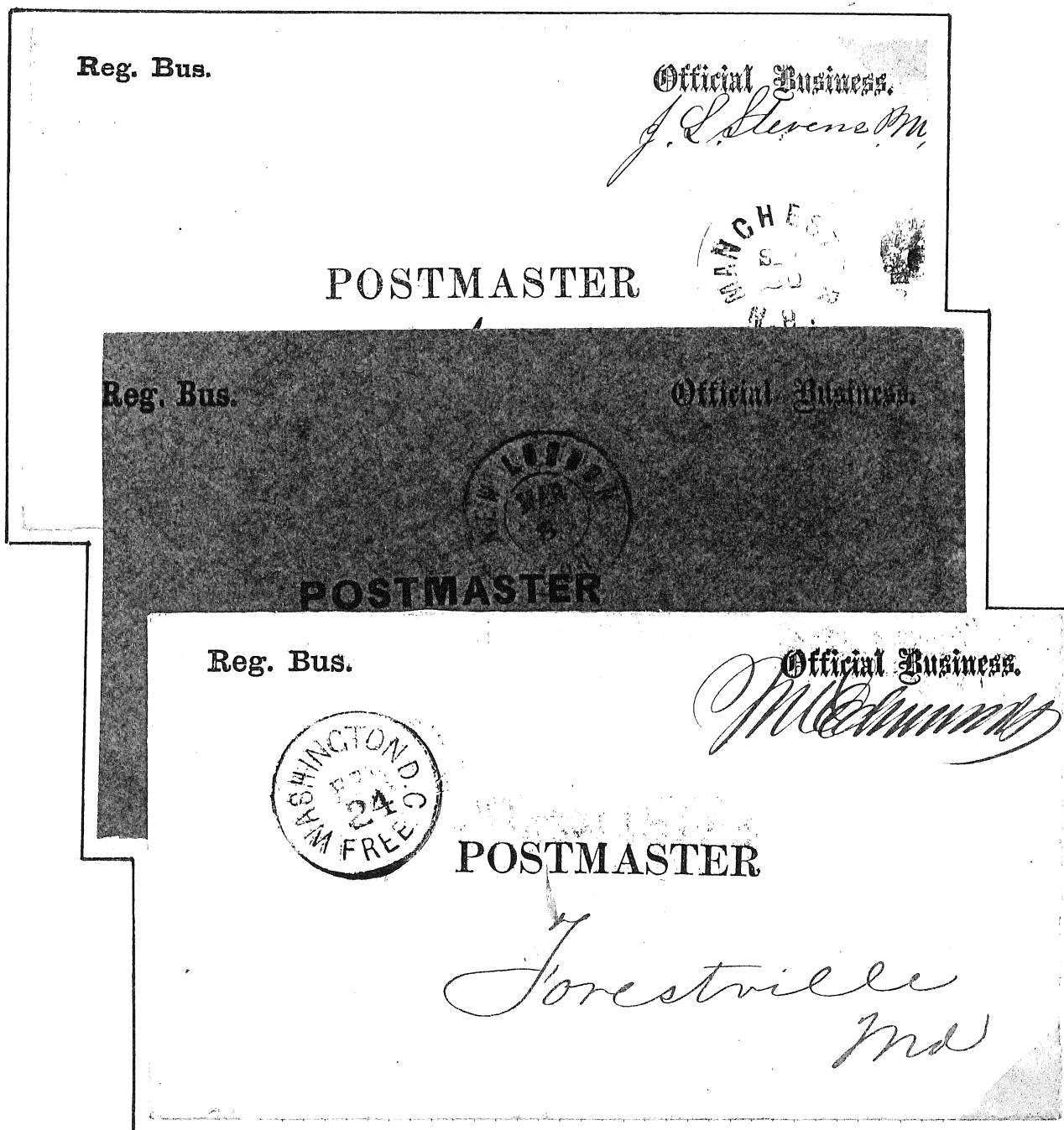
Free Frank Official Mail of Buffalo Post Office in New York sent in 1865, postmarked in blue BUFFALO N.Y./ APR 26 (1865), and printed Post Office Business/ FREE..



Free Frank Official Mail of the Postmaster of New York sent in 1870, postmarked in black NEW YORK/ DEC 5 (1870)/ FREE, franking signature of the postmaster, and printed Official Business..

## 1870-73 FREE FRANK-Postmasters

Post Office Official Business envelopes. Imprinted Official Business, Reg(istration). Bus(iness).., and POSTMASTER.



- a) White envelope, Free Franking signature of the postmaster and postmarked MANCHESTER, N.H./ SEP 30 (1870).
- b) Violet envelope, postmarked NEW LONDON, CON/ MAR (1872)
- c) Yellow envelope, Free Franking signature of the postmaster and postmarked WASHINGTON, D.C./ FEB 24 (1873)/ FREE.

# CHAPTER-II FREE FRANK MAIL - P O DEPT'S

## 1810 FREE FRANK - 7th the Postmasters General

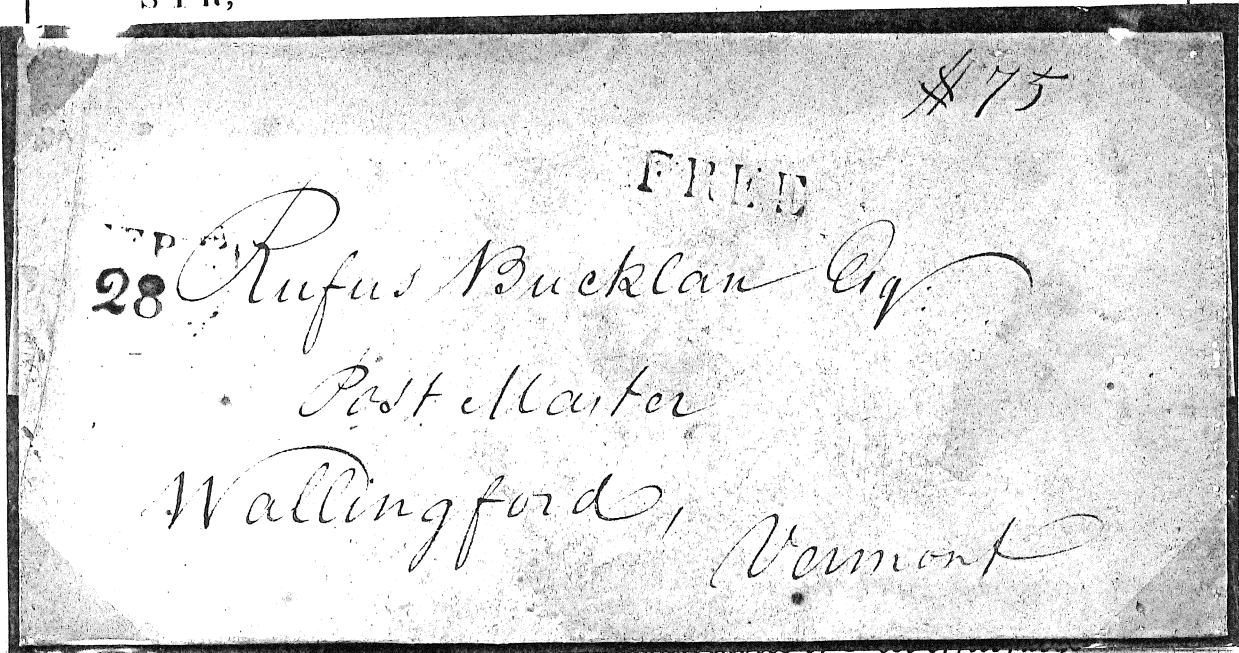
Following the adoption of the Constitution in March 1789, an Act of September 22, 1789, temporarily established a post office and created the Office of the Postmaster General under the Treasury.

The General Post Office, as it was know, did not attain full department status, with the Postmaster General as a cabinet member, until 1829.

General Post-Office,

WASHINGTON CITY, 23<sup>rd</sup> June 1810

SIR;



### THE POSTMASTERS GENERAL

Under the Continental Congress:

Name	State	TENURE	
		Took Office	Left Office
Benjamin Franklin	PA	7/26/1775	
Richard Bache	PA	11/7/1776	
Ebenezer Hazard	N.Y.	1/28/1782	

Under the Federal Constitution:

Samuel Osgood	MA	9/26/1789
Timothy Pickering	PA	8/19/1791
Joseph Habersham	GA	2/25/1795
Gideon Granger	CT	11/28/1801
Return J. Meigs, Jr.	OH	4/11/1814

letters and papers on hand, and stationary.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient,

G. Granger

Gideon Granger, 7th the Postmaster General (1801-14) folded letter free franked, postmarked in SEP 28 (1810)/ WASHINGTON CITY and handstamped FREE.

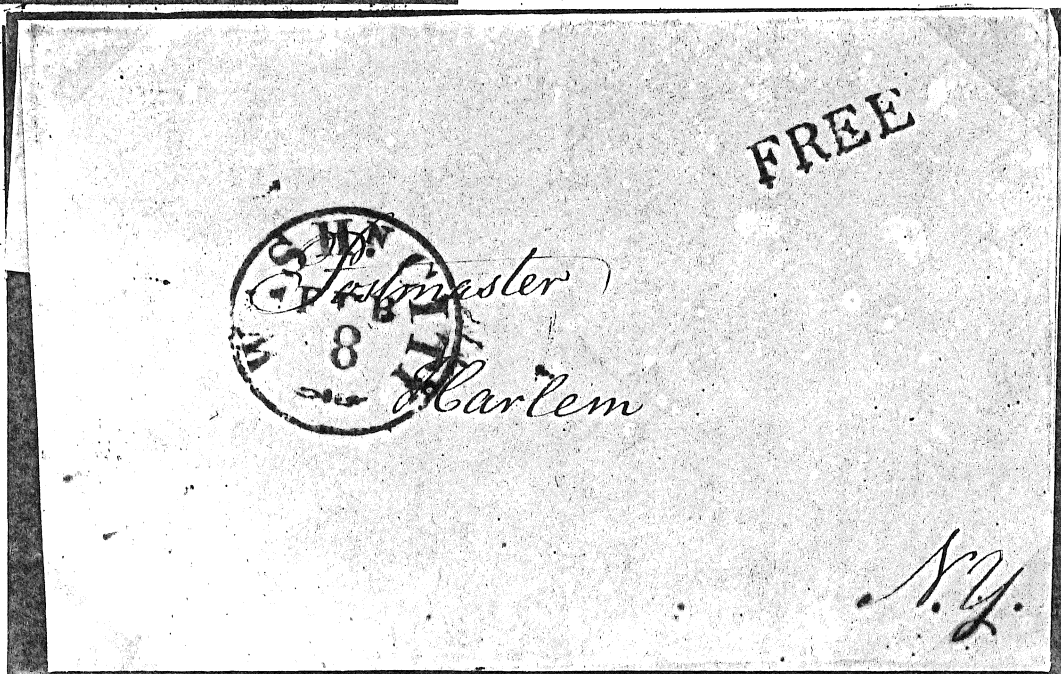
# 1817 FREE FRANK-1st the 2nd Ass't P.M.G.

A second assistant was provided in 1810 by an Act of Congress, the titles of First and Second assistant did not emerge until the 1830's when they became known as the assistant postmasters in charge of the first and second divisions of the Post Office Department.

## THE SECOND ASSISTANT POSTMASTERS GENERAL, 1810-1873

Name	State	Appointed
Seth Pease	CT	1810
Phineas Bradley	CT	1818
Selah R. Hobbie	N.Y.	1829

*General Post Office  
February 7<sup>th</sup> 1817*



*not be allowed.*

*Postmaster*

*Harlem N.Y.*

*I am respectfully  
your Obedt Servt  
Seth Pease  
HKG*

Seth Pesae, first the Second Assistant Postmasters General (1810-18), folded letter free frank mail sent in 1817, postmarked in black WASH. CITY/ FEB 8 (1817) and handstamped FREE.

# 1818 FREE FRANK-8th Postmasters General

Return J. Meigs, Jr. 8th the Postmasters General (1814 - 23) holded letter free frank mail sent to Postmaster at Hurlem in New York, in May 2, 1818.

GENERAL POST-OFFICE,

May 2, 1818.

*Post Master  
Hurlem  
N York*

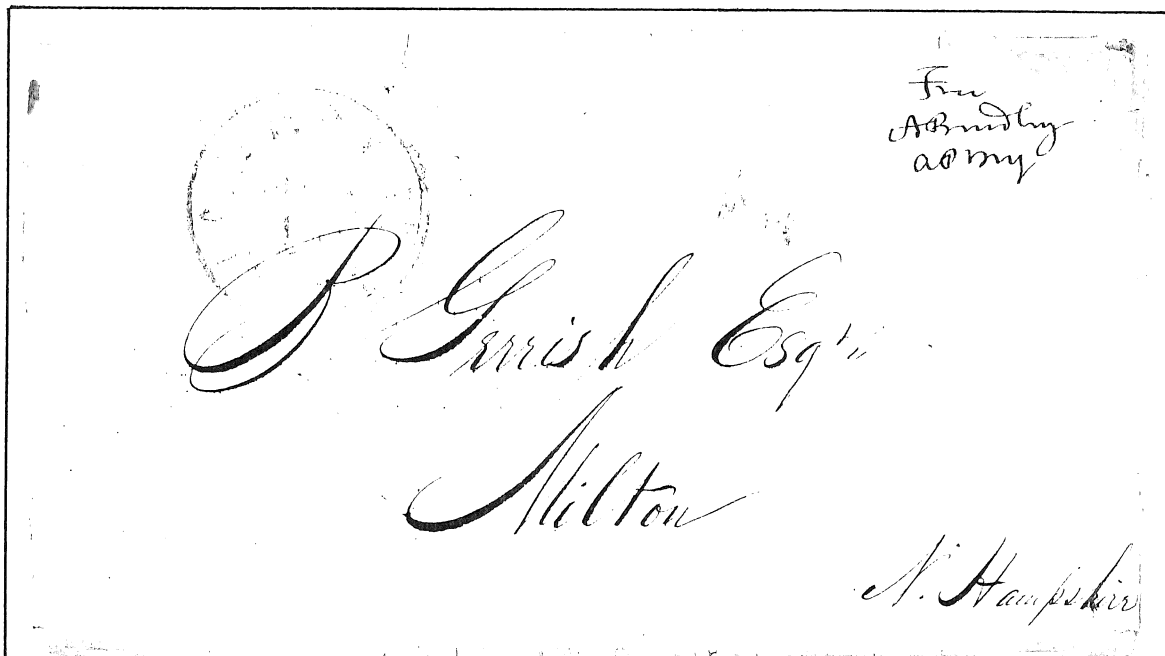
RETURN J. MEIGS, Jr.

Post-master General.

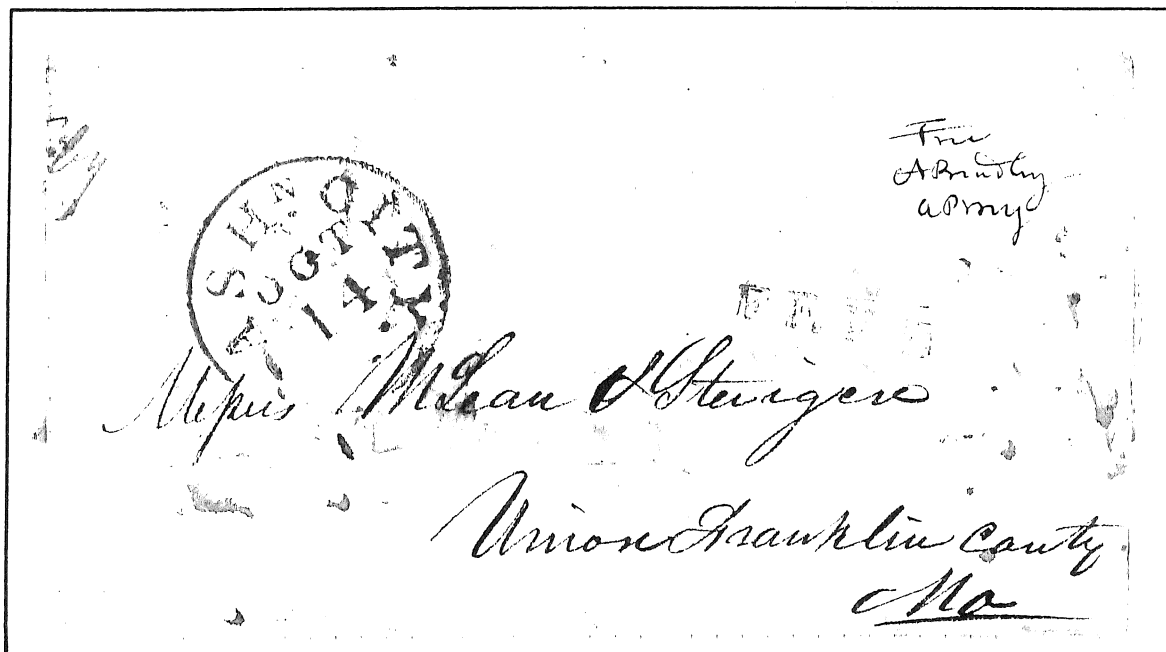
*J. H. Raub Esq.*  
Post-master at *Hurlem*

THE POSTMASTERS GENERAL			
Under the Continental Congress:			
Name	State	TENURE	
		Took Office	Left Office
Benjamin Franklin	PA	7/26/1775	
Richard Bache	PA	11/7/1776	
Ebenezer Hazard	N.Y.	1/28/1782	
Under the Federal Constitution:			
Samuel Osgood	MA	9/26/1789	
Timothy Pickering	PA	8/19/1791	
Joseph Habersham	GA	2/25/1795	
Gideon Granger	CT	11/28/1801	
Return J. Meigs, Jr.	OH	4/11/1814	
John McLean	OH	7/1/1823	

# 1825 - 29 FREE FRANK - 4th the 1st Ass't P.M.G.



Abraham Bradley, the First Assistant Postmaster General (1800-29), free frank official mail of the Post Office Department postmarked in red MAY 16 (1825)/ WASHINGTON CITY,.



Abraham Bradley, Jr., 4th the First Assistant Postmasters General folded letter free franked and postmarked in red OCT 14 (1829)/ WASH(INGTO)N CITY. Franking signature of Abraham Bradley and handstamp - Free,

THE ASSISTANT POSTMASTER GENERAL, 1789-1810  
(FIRST ASSISTANT PMG, 1810-1873)

me	State	Appointed
James Bryson	?	1/28/1782
Nathan Burrall	N.Y.	1789
Charles Burrall	N.Y. (?)	1791
Abraham Bradley, Jr.	CT	1800
Charles K. Gardner	N.J.	1829

# 1830 FREE FRANK-3rd the 2nd Ass't Postmasters General

Selash R. Hobbie, the Second Assistant Postmasters General (1829-36) folded letter free franked and postmarked in red MAY 22 WASHINGTON CITY. A second assistant was provided in 1810 by act of congress, the title Second Assistant did not emerge until 1830.

Post Office Department  
Office of Appointment  
21st May 1830

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Bo  
former jth.  
all Smith Esq PM  
ay, Lincoln Esq PM

P. O. Dept.  
Marshall Smith Esq  
P. M.  
Boothbay,  
Maine.

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this  
with  
mo-  
at  
on

I am for my correspondence.  
your obedient servant.  
S. R. Hobbie

THE SECOND ASSISTANT POSTMASTERS GENERAL, 1810-		
Name	State	Appointed
Seth Pease	CT	1810
Phineas Bradley	CT	1818
Selah R. Hobbie	N.Y.	1829
Robert Johnston	PA	1836
Philo C. Fuller	N.Y.	1841
John A. Bryan	OH	October 1842

# 1832 FREE FRANK- 11th Postmasters General

## POST-OFFICE DEPARTMENT,

Washington, April 26, 1832.

Sir:

I have concluded to establish a Post Office, by the name of *Cincinnati*, in the County of *Hamilton* and State of *Ohio*, and to appoint you Postmaster thereof, in which capacity you will be authorized to act upon compliance with the following requirements:



*Post-Office Dept.*

*George W. Jones, Esq.*  
*Cincinnati*

*care of John Davis & Co. N.*

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

*Wm. T. Barry*

*W. T. Barry*

William T. Barry Postmasters general (1829-35), folded letter free frank mail sent in 1832, postmarked in red WASHINGTON CITY/ APR 30 (1832) and handstamped FREE.

### THE POSTMASTERS GENERAL

Under the Continental Congress:

Name	State	TENURE	
		Took Office	Left Office
Benjamin Franklin	PA	7/26/1775	
Richard Bache	PA	11/7/1776	
Ebenezer Hazard	N.Y.	1/28/1782	

Under the Federal Constitution:

Samuel Osgood	MA	9/26/1789	
Timothy Pickering	PA	8/19/1791	
Joseph Habersham	GA	2/25/1795	
Gideon Granger	CT	11/28/1801	
Return J. Meigs, Jr.	OH	4/11/1814	
John McLean	OH	7/1/1823	
William T. Barry*	KY	4/6/1829	
Amos Kendall	KY	5/1/1835	



(38)

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## 1833 FREE FRANK - Chief Examiner

W. G. Eliot, Chief Examiner of the Examiner's Office -  
Post Office Department folded letter free franked and sent  
in December 14, 1833.

**POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,**

*Examiner's Office,*

*Dec. 14 1833.*

**SIR:**

Herewith you have a memorandum of such errors as have been  
discovered and corrected in your quarterly returns for the quarter ending  
1st JULY, 1833.

Letters concerning the errors, or relating in any respect to the quar-  
terly returns, must be addressed "*Post Office Department, Examiner's  
Office.*"

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

*W. G. Eliot*

*E. M. Hedges* Esq. P. M.

*Chief Examiner.*

*Post Office Department.*

**Postmaster**

*latahoochee*

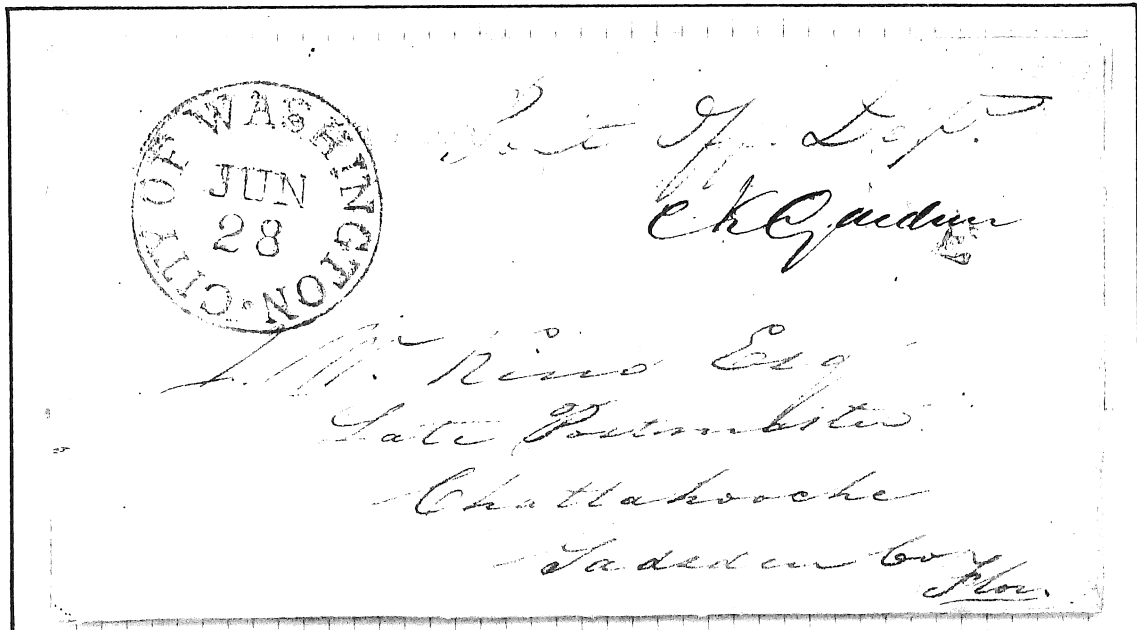
*Gadsden Co.*

*Florida.*

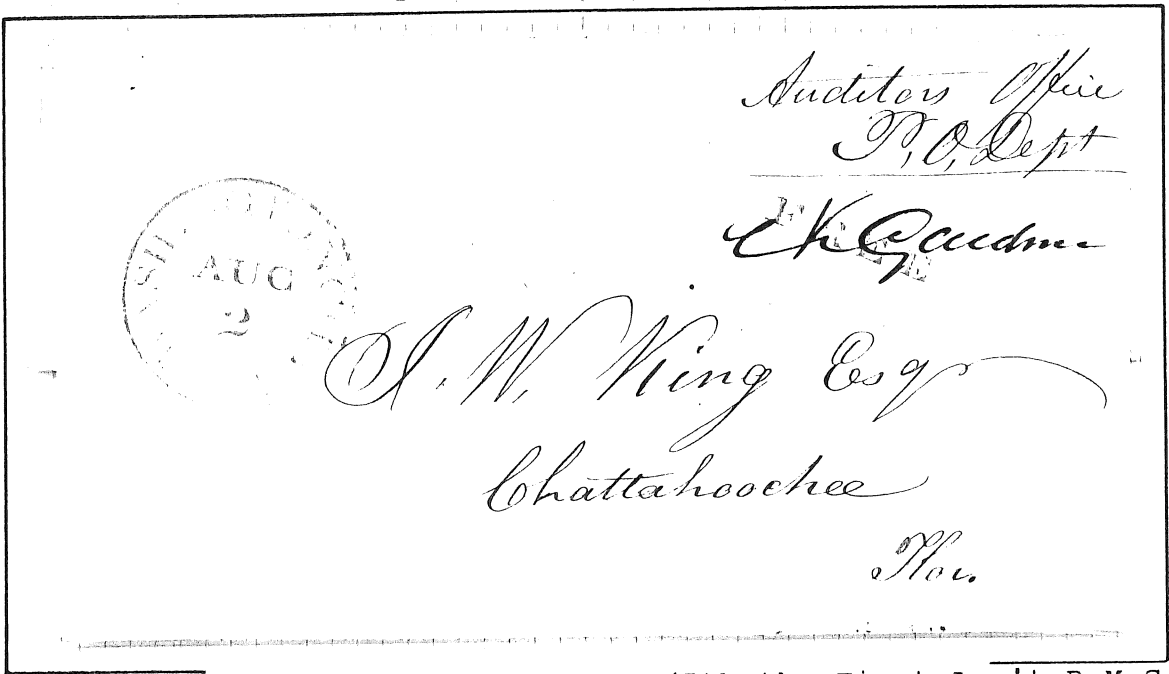
Free Franked Official folded letter;  
Printed - Post Office Department.

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# 1836-37 FREE FRANK- 5th the 1st Ass't P.M.G.



Charles K. Gardner, 5th the First Assistant Postmaster General folded letter free franked and postmarked in red WASHINGTON CITY/ JUN (1836). Franking signature of C. K. Gardner and manuscript - Post Office Dept..

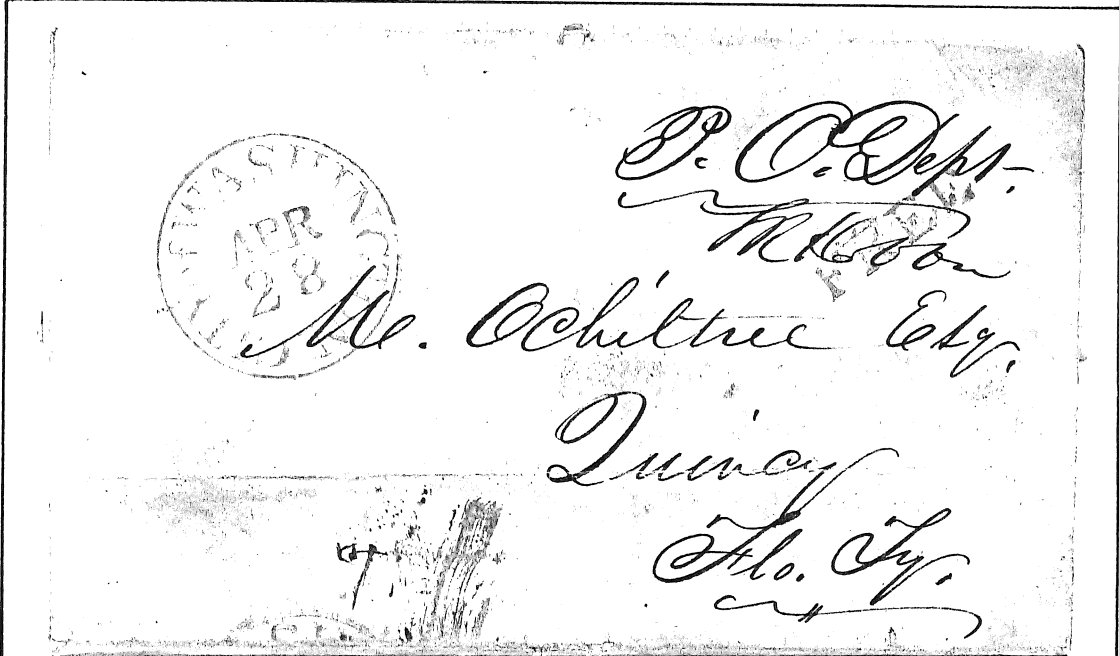


Charles k. Gardner (5th the First Ass't P.M.G.), 1st the Sixth Auditor for the Post Office Department (July 2 1836-1841) folded letter free franked and postmarked in red WASHINGTON CITY/ AUG 2 (1837). Franking signature of C.K.Gardner, handstamp - FREE and manuscript Auditors Office P.O.Dept.

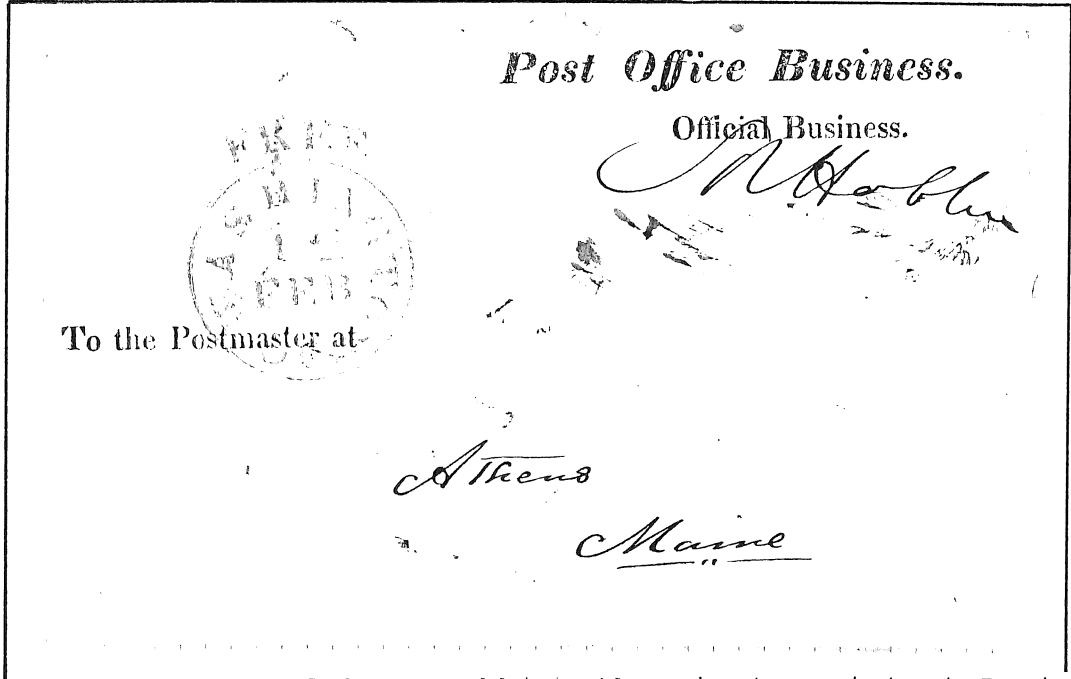
THE ASSISTANT POSTMASTER GENERAL, 1789-1810  
(FIRST ASSISTANT PMG, 1810-1873)

	State	Appointed
es Bryson	?	1/28/1782
athan Burrall	N.Y.	1789
les Burrall	N.Y. (?)	1791
aham Bradley, Jr.	CT	1800
les K. Gardner	N.J.	1829
ah R. Hobbie	N.Y.	1836

1836-47 FREE FRANK-6th the 1st Ass't P.M.G.



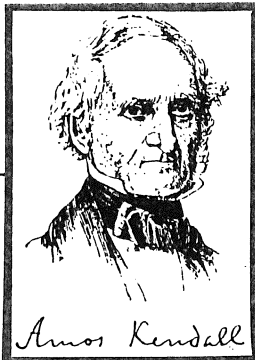
Selah R.Hobbie, 6th the First Assistant Postmaster General (1836-51), holded letter free franked and postmarked in red WASHINGTON CITY/ APR 28 (1836) Franking signature of S. R. Hobbie, manuscript - P.O.Dept. and handstamped in red FREE.



Selah R. Hobbie, the First Assistant Postmaster General folded letter free franked and postmarked in red WASHINGTON D.C./ FREE/ 12 FEB (1847). Franking signature of S.R.Hobbie and printed Post Office Department.

THE ASSISTANT POSTMASTER GENERAL, 1789-1810 (FIRST ASSISTANT PMG, 1810-1873)		
	State	Appointed
es Bryson	?	1/28/1782
athan Burrall	N.Y.	1789
les Burrall	N.Y. (?)	1791
aham Bradley, Jr.	CT	1800
les K. Gardner	N.J.	1829
ah R. Hobbie	N.Y.	1836

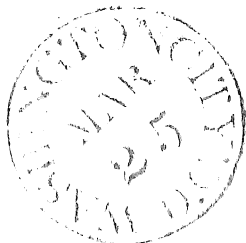
# 1837 FREE FRANK-12th Postmasters General



Franking Signature of Rob(ert). Jonston  
(The Second Assitant Postmaster General  
1836 - 41), manuscript - Post Office Dept.  
and handstamped in red FREE.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,

Washington, March 23, 1837.



Post Office (Dept.  
Rob. Johnston

Hiram W. Brownson, Esq.,

Quinsula

Care of R.M. }  
Boston O. } Portage Co., Ohio,

I am, respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

Amos Kendall

## THE POSTMASTERS GENERAL

Under the Continental Congress:

Name	State	TENURE	
		Took Office	Left Office
Benjamin Franklin	PA	7/26/1775	
Richard Bache	PA	11/7/1776	
Ebenezer Hazard	N.Y.	1/28/1782	

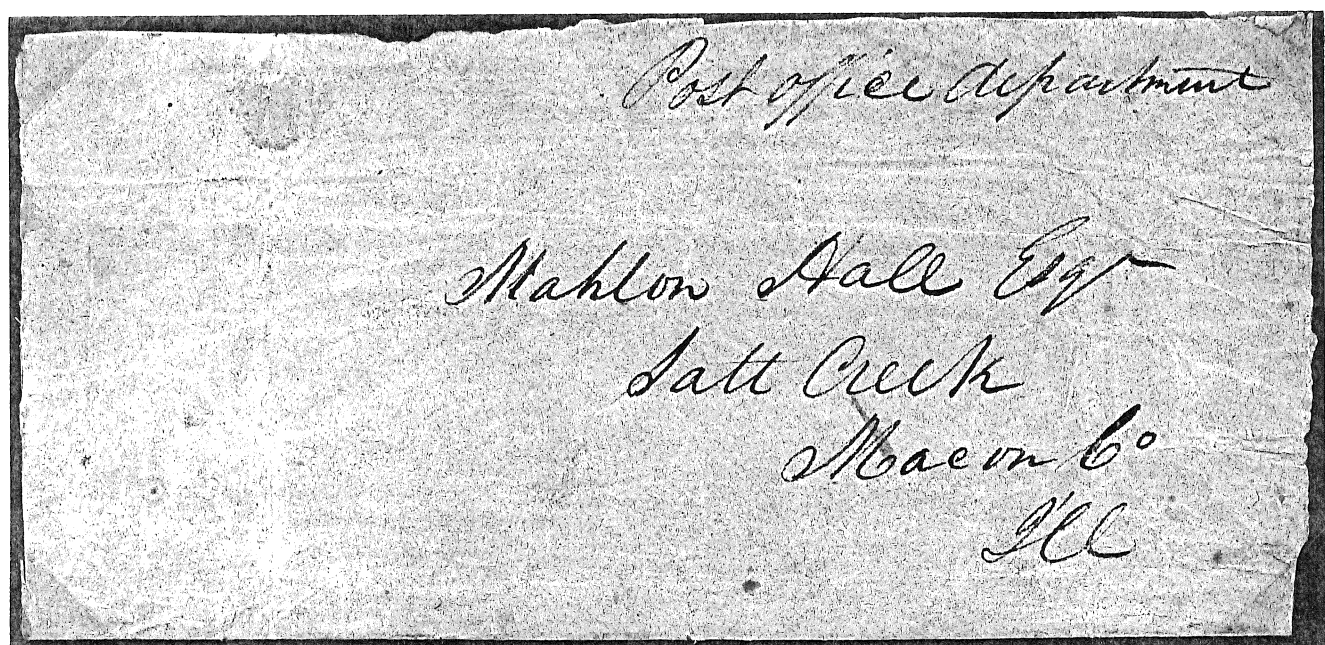
Under the Federal Constitution:

Samuel Osgood	MA	9/26/1789	
Timothy Pickering	PA	8/19/1791	
Joseph Habersham	GA	2/25/1795	
Gideon Granger	CT	11/28/1801	
Return J. Meigs, Jr.	OH	4/11/1814	
John McLean	OH	7/1/1823	
William T. Barry*	KY	4/6/1829	
Amos Kendall	KY	5/1/1835	
John M. Niles	CT	5/16/1840	

Amos Kenedell Postmaster General (1835-40), folded letter and postmarked in red  
WASHINGTON CITY D.C./ MAR 25 (1837).

1837 FREE FRANK

Manuscript-Post Office Department



The Postmaster will forward one Receipt, and when he pays to an Agent, one Order and Receipt, forthwith, to the Auditor for the Post Office Department: in default of which he will not have credit for the payment.

(DUPLICATE.)

To the Postmaster at *Salt Creek* State of *Illinois*  
**PAY** to *Jeremiah Harris* the whole amount due from you to the United States, including the amount accruing during the Quarter ending December 31st, 1836, as shown by your Account Current.

*John T. Temple & Co. Contractors*  
*by Edw. T. Brown*

Contractor.

(DUPLICATE.)

MAIL ROUTE, No. *3131*

Received this *25<sup>th</sup>* day of *January* 183 *6*  
from *Mahlon Hall* Postmaster at *Salt Creek*  
State of *Ill*, *Twenty four* Dollars, *Twenty three* Cents,  
being the amount due from him to the United States, for the Quarter ending December 31st, 1836, as shown by his Account Current, including all previous dues.

*J. Harris*

Free Frank Official Mail of the Post Office Department  
sent in 1837.

instruction from the Post Office Department to the Post-  
master at Salt Creek, Illinois to pay the money which he has  
collected the last three months of 1836 to Jeremiah Harris  
who was sent to collect it.

1839-45 FREE FRANK-4th&9th the 2nd Ass't P.M.G.

P.O. Dept.  
Rob Johnston

FREE

Forest Henry, Esqr.  
Bridgewater  
Windor Co., Vt.

Robert Johnston, 4th the Second Assistant Postmaster General (1836-41) folded letter free franked and postmarked in red WASHINGTON CITY, D.C./ AUG 13 (1839).

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT  
Official Business

Wm Medill

Rufus Bucklin, Esq.  
Wallingford  
Rutland Co.  
Vermont.

SECOND ASSISTANT POSTMASTERS GENERAL, William Medill, 9TH the Secound Assistant Postmaster General (1845) folded letter with stamped POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT/ Official Business and postmarked in red WASHINGTON CITY, D.C. /AUG 20 (1845).

	State	Appointed
Pease	CT	1810
Leas Bradley	CT	1818
h R. Hobbie	N.Y.	1829
rt Johnston	PA	1836
o C. Fuller	N.Y.	1841
A. Bryan	OH	October 1842
. Tyson	PA (?)	1843
L. Miller	VA	1844
iam Medill	OH	1845
iam J. Brown	IN	1845

# 1841 FREE FRANK -1st Chief Clerk in the 1st Ass't PMG's Office

William H. Dundas, the Chief Clerks in the First Assistant Postmasters General's Office (1836-45) folded letter free frank mail sent in 1841, postmarked WASHINGTON CITY D. C./ FEB 12 (1841) and handstamped FREE.

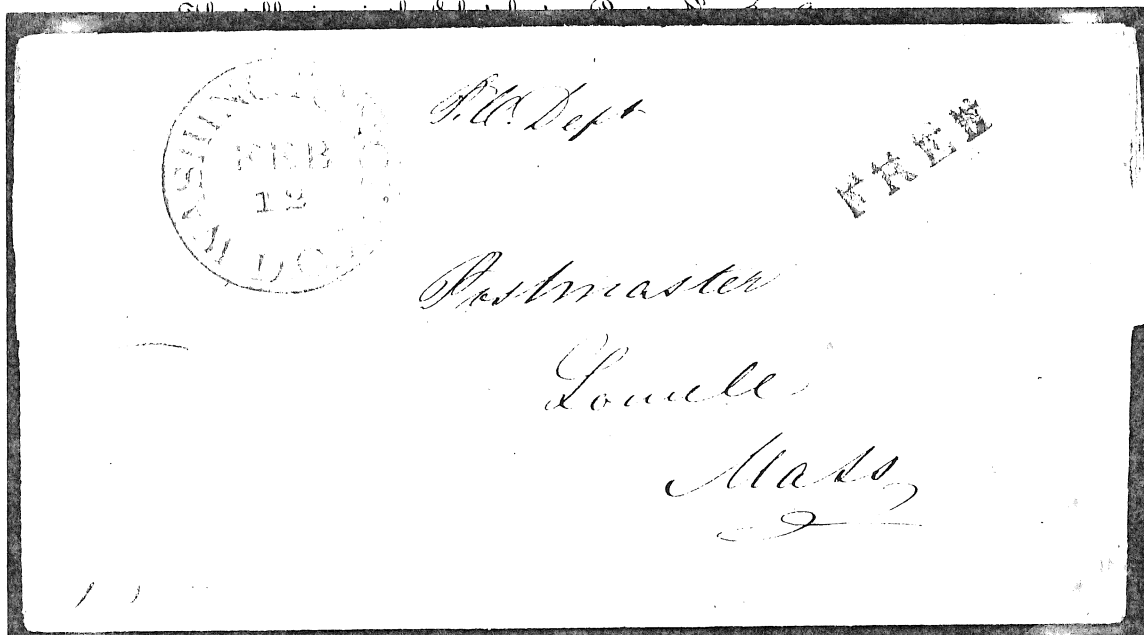
The name of the Chief Clerk in the office of First and Second Assistant Postmasters General's show a strange inter-relationship of name seemingly switching from one to other every few years.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,

CONTRACT OFFICE,

*City 11th* 1841.

SIR:



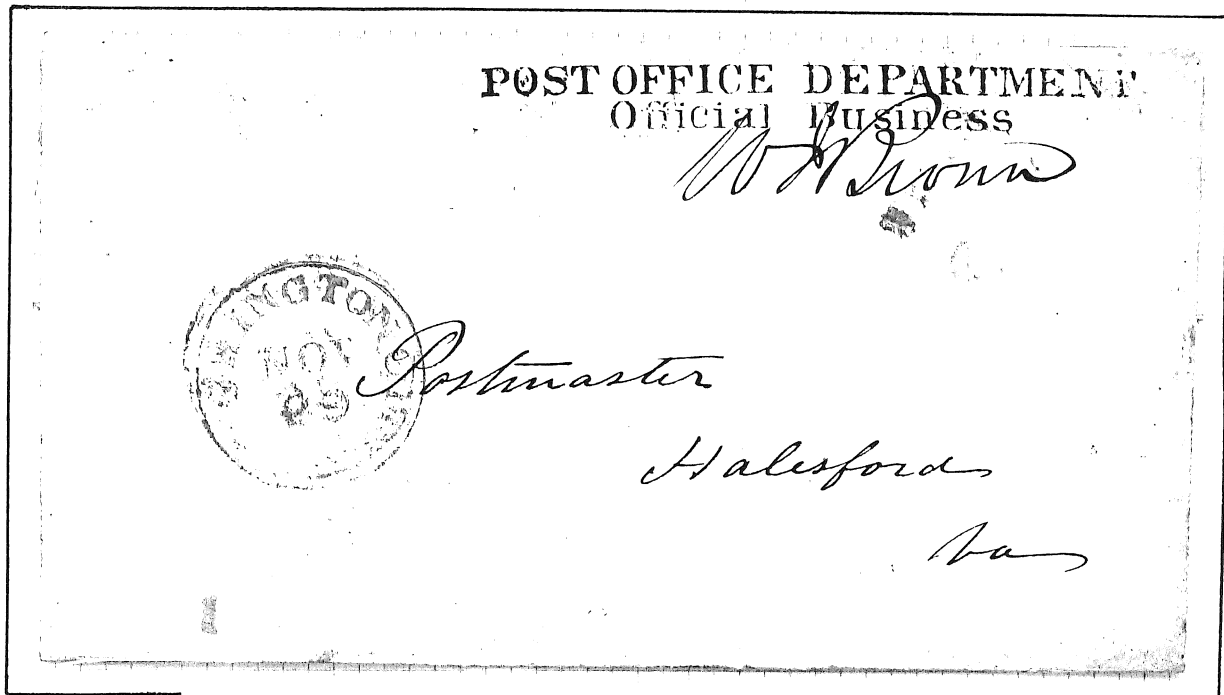
Your obedient servant,

*W. H. Dundas*  
First Assistant Postmaster General.

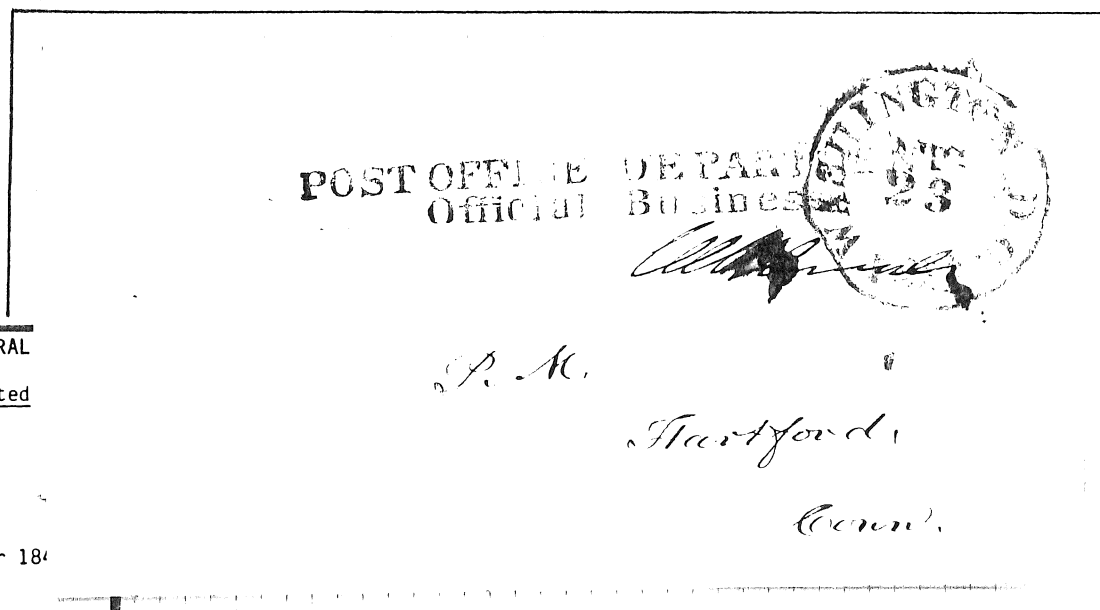
## CHIEF OR PRINCIPAL CLERKS IN 1ST ASS'T PMG'S OFFICE

Name	State	Tenure
William H. Dundas	VA	1836-1845
Samuel Beach	CT	1847
David Saunders	VA	1849
Nicholas Halter	?	1851
Eben L. Childs	N.H.	October 1851
None - 1853-1861		
St. John B.L. Skinner	N.Y.	1861-August 1866
James H. Marr	Md.	1866-1873

1845-54 FREE FRANK- 10th & 12th the 2nd Ass't P.M.G.



William J. Brown, 2nd Assistant Postmaster General (1845 - 1849), folded letter with stamped POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, Official Business and postmarked in red WASHINGTON CITY, NOV 29 (1845).



THE SECOND ASSISTANT POSTMASTERS GENERAL

Name	State	Appointed
Seth Pease	CT	1810
Phineas Bradley	CT	1818
Selah R. Hobbie	N.Y.	1829
Robert Johnston	PA	1836
Philo C. Fuller	N.Y.	1841
John A. Bryan	OH	October 1841
J. W. Tyson	PA (?)	1843
N. M. Miller	VA	1844
William Medill	OH	1845
William J. Brown	IN	1845
Fitz Henry Warren	IA	1849
William H. Dundas*	VA	1852
George W. McLellan	MA	March 1861

William H. Dundas, 2nd Assistant Postmaster General (1852 - 61), folded letter with handstamped POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, Official Business and postmarked in black WASHINGTON, D.C./ AUG. 23 (1854)



# 1849 FREE FRANK-4th Chief Clerk in the 1st Ass't PMG's Office

Imprint - POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT./Official Business.

**POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.**

Official Business.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,

Contract Office, July 9, 1849.

Sir:

The following is the Schedule for route No. 2030, on which  
Messrs. Kearney & Kearney are the Contractors.

Le

Arr

Le

Arr

Mo

**POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.**

Official Business.

To the Postmaster at

*Mr. Tolson*

*Va*

Report to the Department, superscribed "INSPECTION," every failure of the mail to depart as above required, and every failure to arrive at the time above set, when so far behind time as to cause complaint within your delivery, or breach of connexion with any outgoing mail; or whenever, in any case, the mail is run upon a day different from what is specified in the schedule. Also report whenever mail is conveyed in a mode inferior to that above specified.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

*Nicholas Halter*

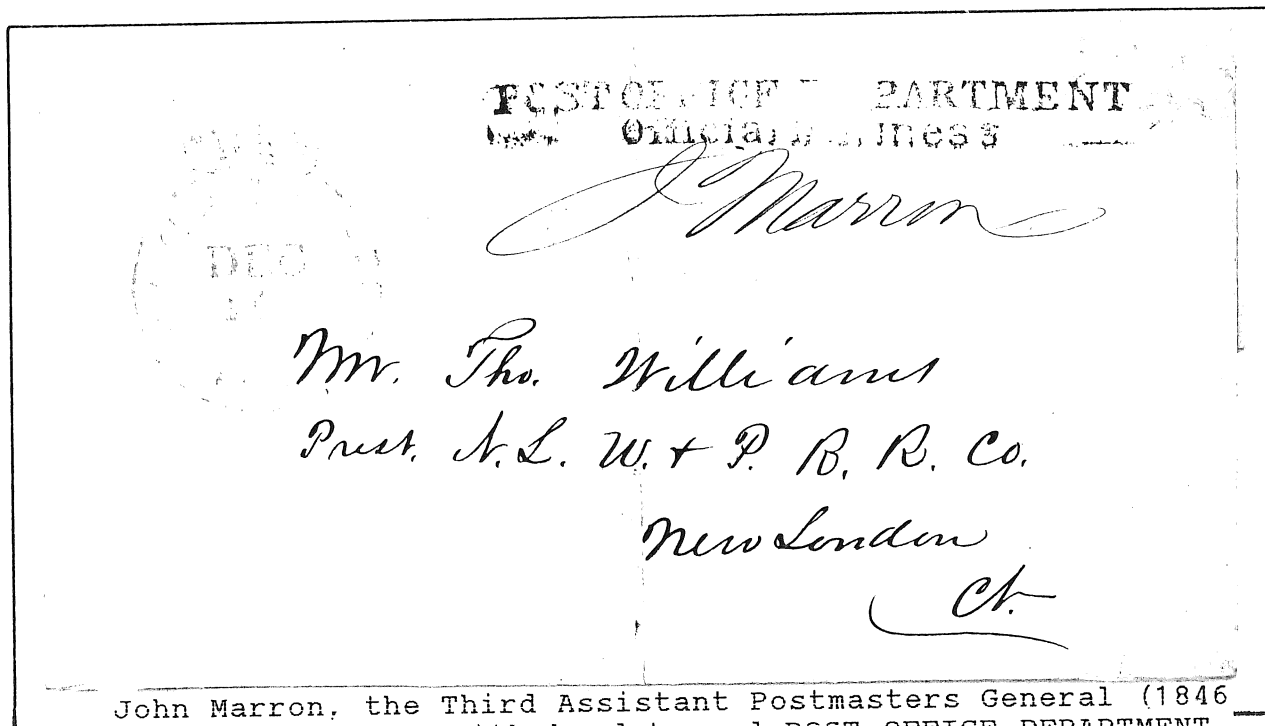
for 1st ASSISTANT POSTMASTER GENERAL.

Nicholas Halter, Chief Clerk in first Assistant Postmaster General's Office (1849 - 51), folded letter and postmarked in red WASHINGTON, D.C./10 JULY.

## CHIEF OR PRINCIPAL CLERKS IN 1ST ASS'T PMG'S OFFICE

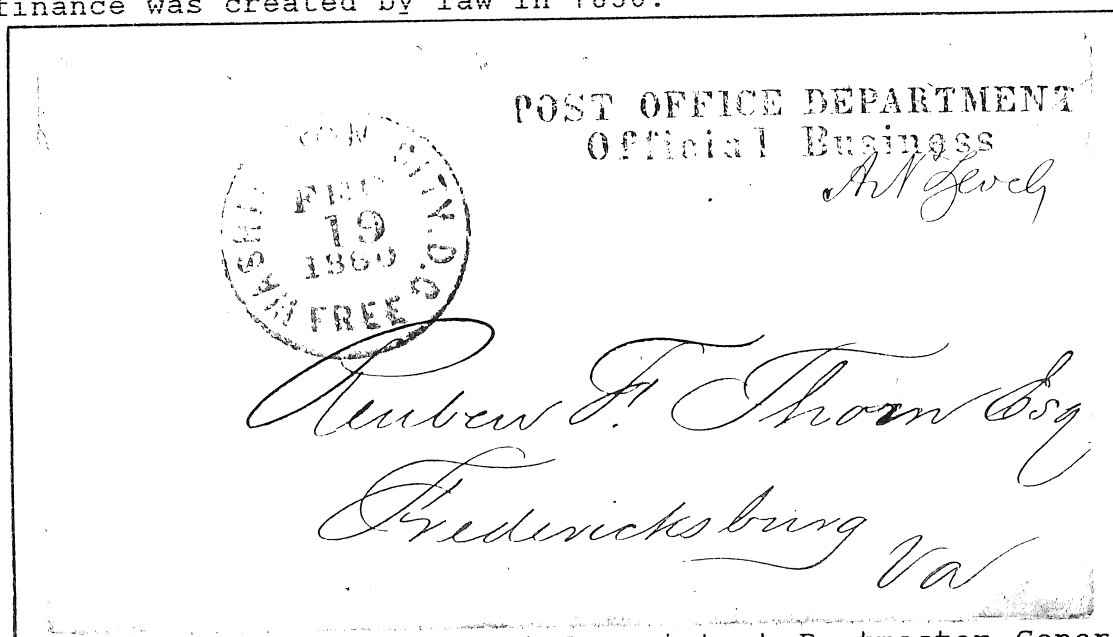
Name	State	Tenure
William H. Dundas	VA	1836-1845
Samuel Beach	CT	1847
David Saunders	VA	1849
Nicholas Halter	?	1851
Eben L. Childs	N.H.	October 1851

1850-60 FREE FRANK- 4th & 5th the 3rd Ass't P.M.G.



John Marron, the Third Assistant Postmasters General (1846-59) holded letter with handstamped POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, Official Business and postmarked in red WASHINGTON, D.C./ DEC 10 (1850)/ FREE.

A Third Assistant Postmasters General's post to handle finance was created by law in 1836.

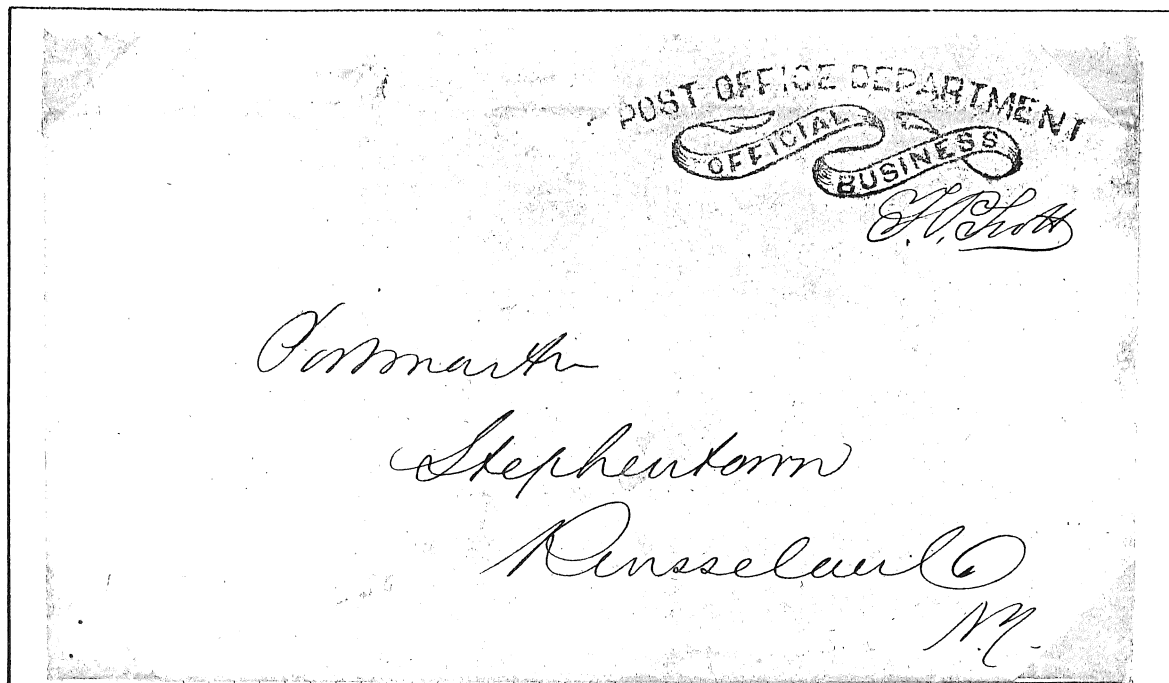


A. N. Zevely, 5th the Third Assistant Postmaster General (1859-69), letter free franked and postmarked in black FEB 19 1860/ WASHINGTON, D.C./ FREE.

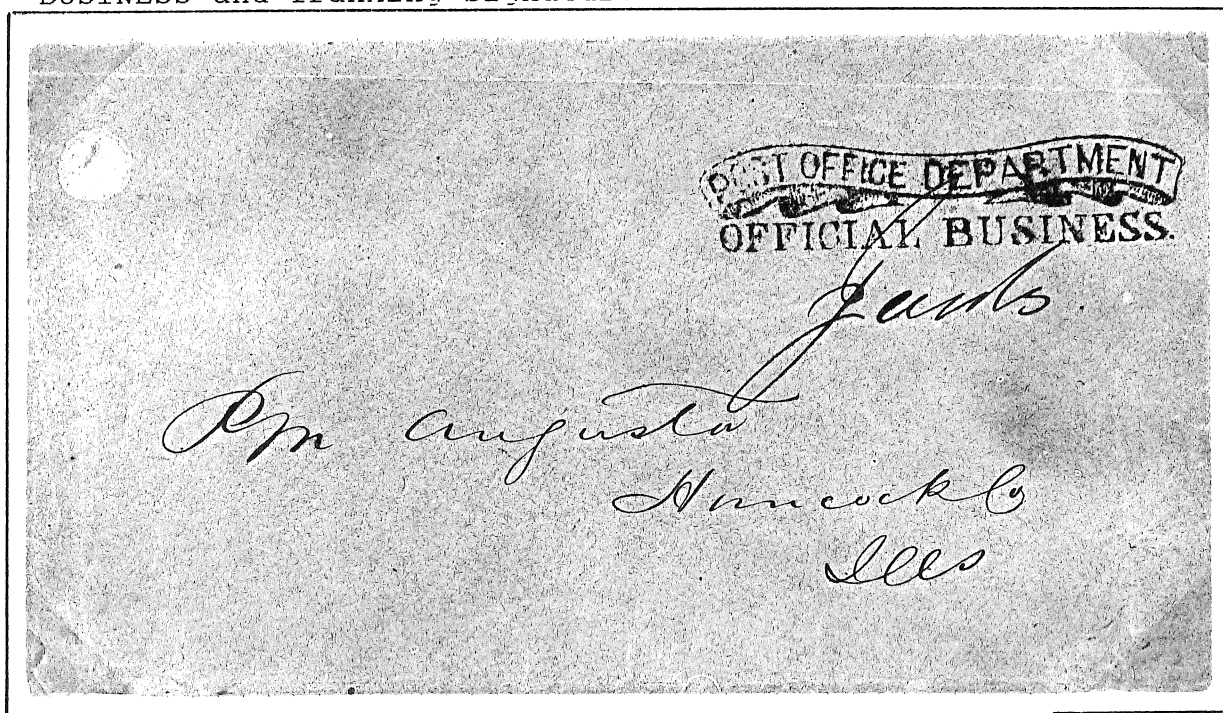
THE THIRD ASSISTANT POSTMASTERS GENERAL, 1836-1873

Name	State	Appointed
Daniel Coleman	N.C.	1836
John S. Skinner	MD	1841
W.M. Miller	VA	1845
John Marron*	GA	1846
A. N. Zevely	N.C.	1859

1852-60 FREE FRANK-P.O.D.



Free Frank Official Mail of the Post Office Department sent in 1852, handstamped POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT/ OFFICIAL BUSINESS and franking signature of E. F. Phott.



Free Frank official Mail of the Post Office Department sent in 1860, and handstamped POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT/ OFFICIAL BUSINESS..

1854 FREE FRANK-9th the 1st Ass't P.M.G.

Horatio King, the First Assistant Postmaster General  
(1854-61), free frank official mail of the Post Office  
Department post-marked in black MAY 23 1854/ WASHINGTON  
CITY, D.C..

Post Office Department,

Official Business.



*Show of how to notify  
editors of other papers*

*Slatorsville  
Tompkins Co. N.Y.*

*U. S. Dep't. of Post Office May 22, 1854*

*Sir. In answer to the above, I inform you that to the  
same publisher & in relation to the same subscribers, you  
need give the notice but once.*

*Respectfully, &c.*

*Postmaster,  
Slatorsville  
Tompkins Co.  
N.Y.*

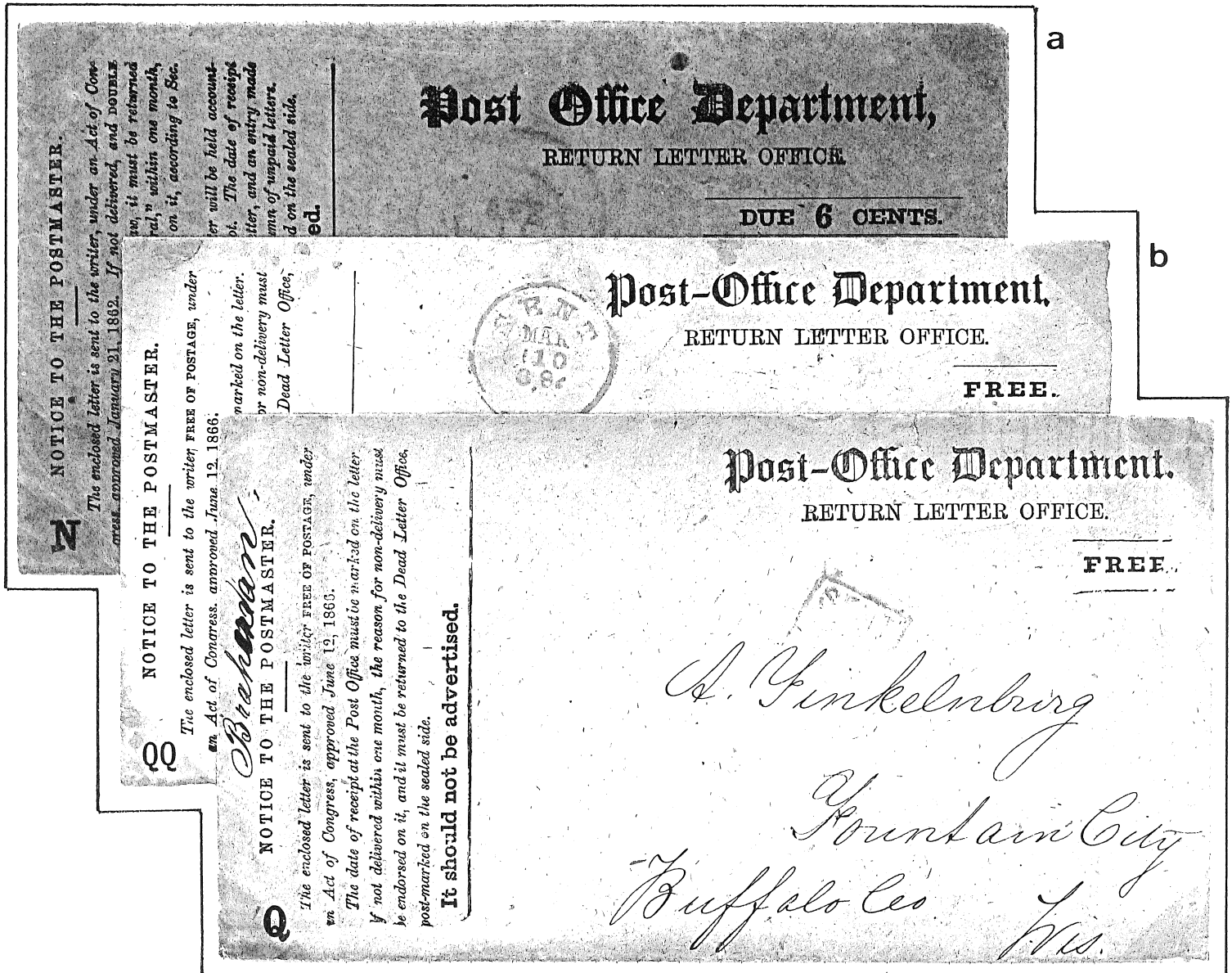
*Horatio King  
First Asst. P.M.G.*

THE ASSISTANT POSTMASTER GENERAL, 1789-1810  
(FIRST ASSISTANT PMG, 1810-1873)

Name	State	Appointed
James Bryson	?	1/28/1782
Jonathan Burrall	N.Y.	1789
Charles Burrall	N.Y. (?)	1791
Abraham Bradley, Jr.	CT	1800
Charles K. Gardner	N.J.	1829
Selah R. Hobbie	N.Y.	1836
Solomon D. Jacobs	TN	1851
Selah R. Hobbie*	N.Y.	1853
Horatio King	ME	1854
John A. Kasson	IA	March 1861

# 1863-69 FREE FRANK-RETURN LETTER OFFICE

Free Frank Official Business Mails of the Return Letter Office of the Post Office Department sent in 1863 - 69.



Under act of Jan. 21, 1862, single weight letter, double postage to be collection, Due 6 cents. (cover-a)

In 1866, the fee for returning undeliverable letters through the Dead Letter Office was discontinued. On FREE envelopes, letters or numerals in lower left corner believed to indicate clerk processing identification. (cover-b & c)

1849-61 FREE FRANK 5th & 8th Chief Clerks of the P.O.D.

Post Office Department,  
Official Business.

To Mr.

*Wm* *Cott* *Donaldson*  
*Danville*  
*Columbia County*

William H. Dundas, Chief Clerk Of the Post Office Department (1846-51) folded letter free franked and postmarked in red July 12, (1849) WASHINGTON CITY, to DANVILLE (Postmarked DANVILLE, Pa/JUL 16) Pennsylvania and forwarded to DONALDSON.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,  
OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

Postmaster of

*Fremont*  
*Care of P.M. at* *West Chester Co.*  
*New York* *New York*

Thomas P. Trott, 8th Chief Clerk of the Post Office Department (1861-62) folded letter free franked and postmarked in black WASHINGTON, D.C. AUG 25 1861.

CHIEF CLERKS OF THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT

Name	State	Tenure
Andrew Coyle	PA	1819-1827(?)
Abdiah B. Brown	N.J.	1829-1834
W.S. Loughborough	KY	1835
John S. Marron	GA	1837
William H. Dundas	VA	1846-1851
John Oakford	PA	1853
Benjamin F. Clements	TN	1859-March 1861
Thomas P. Trott	CT	March 1861
William A. Bryan*	VA	April 1862-1864

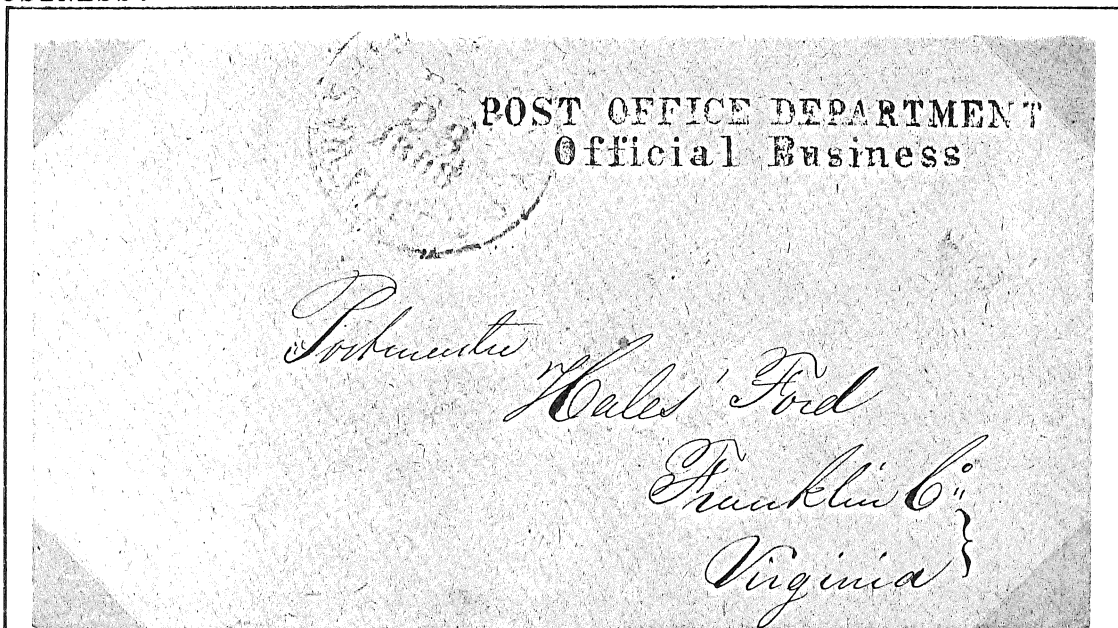
1850-53 FREE FRANK-P.O.D.



Post Office Department.  
OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

*Mr. John E. Mason  
Pigeon Grove  
Essex Co  
Mass*

Free Frank Official Mail of the Post Office Department  
sent in 1850 and postmarked in black WASHINGTON CITY, D.C.  
JAN. 28 1850. Imprint Post Office Department./ OFFICIAL  
BUSINESS.



Free Frank Official Mail of the Post Office Department  
sent in 1853 and postmarked in black WASHINGTON CITY, D.C.  
JUN. 28 1853. Imprint Post Office Department./ Official  
Business.

9

# 1857 FREE FRANK—Chief Clerk of the P.O. Dept.

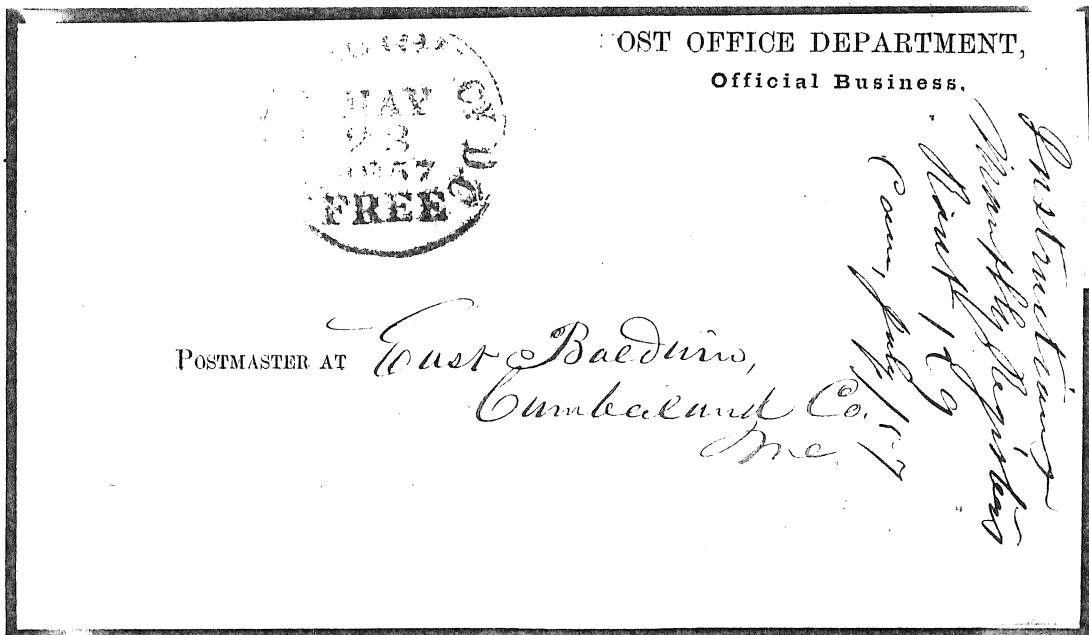
The Post Office Department, with from one to three Ass't Postmaster General, didnot always have a Chief Clerk, per se. who occasionally served as Postmaster General to frank mail.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,  
Official Business.

Post Office Department,

INSPECTION OFFICE,

May 22<sup>d</sup> 1857.



ating the  
pted the

Postmaster  
ned at their  
conveyance,  
e time pre-

will forward

quired by  
s author-  
ved WET,

Route No. 129 East Baedwin to  
Dennard 3 to 4 miles  
Service to begin 1<sup>st</sup> July

John Oakford  
Chief Clerk.

## CHIEF CLERKS OF THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT

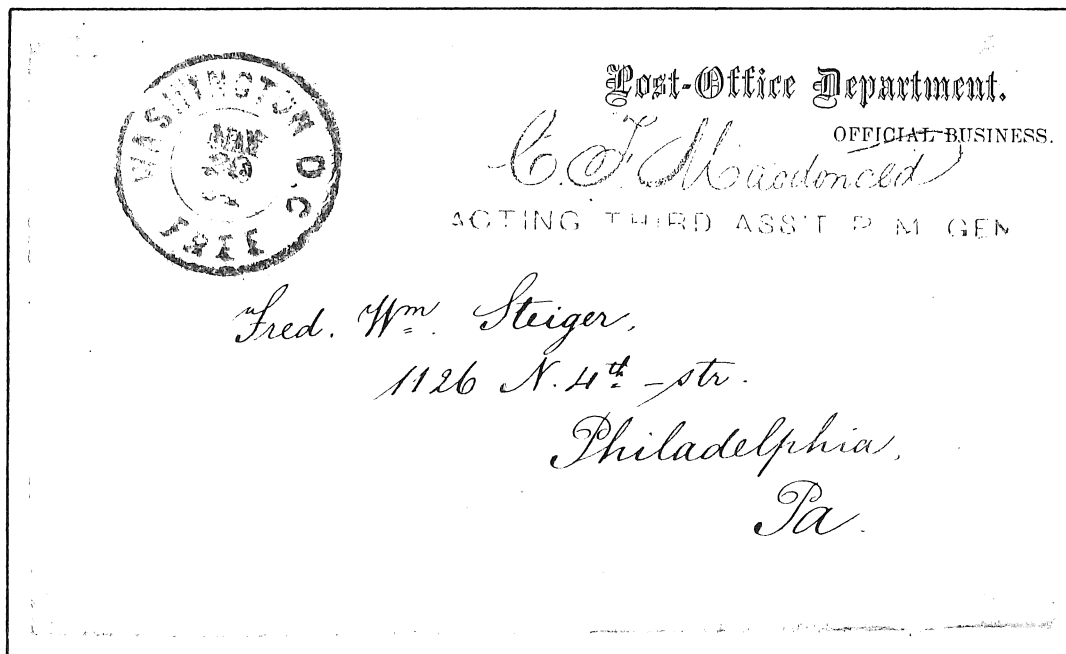
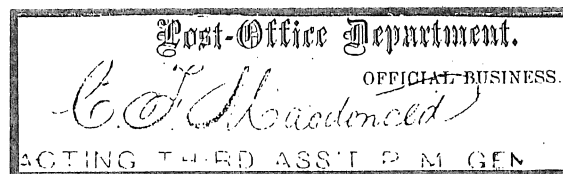
Name	State	Tenure
Andrew Coyle	PA	1819-1827(?)
Obadiah B. Brown	N.J.	1829-1834
P.S. Loughborough	KY	1835
John S. Marron	GA	1837
William H. Dundas	VA	1846-1851
John Oakford	PA	1853
Benjamin F. Clements	TN	1859-March 1861

John Oakford Chief Clerk of the Post Office Department (1853-59), folded letter and postmarked in black WASHINGTON, CY, D.C./ MAY 23 1857/ FREE.



# 1864 FREE FRANK - 7th Chief Clerk in the 3rd Ass't PMG Office

Imprint  
Post-Office Department.  
OFFICIAL BUSINESS.  
Handstamp  
C.F. McDonald  
ACTING THIRD ASS'T P M GEN



C. F. McDonald, Chief Clerk in the 3rd Assistant Postmaster General's Office (1861-1864) corner, and postmarked in black FREE and WASHINGTON, D.C., MAY 20, (18)64.

The name of Chief Clerks in the Offices of the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Assistant Postmaster General's show a strange inter-relationship of names seemingly switching from one to the other every few years.

CHIEF CLERKS IN THE 3RD ASS'T PMG'S OFFICE		
Name	State	Tenure
Robert Johnston	PA	1836
Joseph Perry	MA	1837-1839
Thomas B. Addison	MD	1841-1843
Samuel Beach	CT	1845
Nicholas Halter	?	1847
Thomas Trott	CT	1849-1851
None - 1853-1861		
C. F. McDonald	MA	1861-August 1864
William M. Ireland	PA	August 1864-1873

1873  
FREE FRANK  
STAMP &  
ENVELOPE  
AGENCY

Free frank official mail of  
Post Office Department/ 3rd  
Assistant Postmaster General/  
Stamp & Envelope Agency/ Official  
Supplies sent in 1873.

Tied official seal-  
POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT



Copy of Reverse (50%)

Official Seals began to appear  
1872. They do not express any  
value, having no franking power.

**Post Office Department.**

STAMP & ENVELOPE AGENCY,

OFFICE SUPPLIES,

By order of the Postmaster General:

Agent.

*L. M. Ford*

*Westfield*

County,

*Dupe*

*Mun*

**POSTMASTER AT**

Postmasters and Route Agents  
During this Package, ARE REQUIRED TO  
KEEP A COMPLETE RECORD OF THE NUMBER,  
PRESS, DATE OF ITS RECEIPT, TO WHOM  
DELIVERED, DATE OF SUCH DELIVERY, &c  
COPIES FOR THE SAME MUST BE TAKEN  
WHEN PRACTICABLE. THEY WILL PROVIDE A  
RECEIPT SPECIALLY FOR THIS PURPOSE.

RESPECTFULLY,

*E. W. Barber,*

THIRD ASSISTANT P. M. GENERAL.

# 1876 FREE FRANK STAMP & ENVELOPE AGENCY

Free frank official mail of the  
Post Office Department/ 3rd Assistant  
Postmaster General/ Stamp &  
Envelope Agency/ Office Supplies  
sent in 1876.

Tied official seal-  
U.S. POSTAGE STAMP AGENCY

POSTMASTERS RECEIVING THIS PACKAGE  
NOTE ITS CONDITION.

If showing signs of having been tampered with, report the same and return this package to 3d Asst. P. M. General, at Washington, D.C. This package should be opened at the end.

Copy of Reverse (50%)

Printed signature of E.W.Barber  
in the Assistant Postmaster  
General (1873-).

THE THIRD ASSISTANT POSTMASTERS GENERAL, 1836-1873

Name	State	Appointed
Daniel Coleman	N.C.	1836
John S. Skinner	MD	1841
N.M. Miller	VA	1845
John Marron*	GA	1846
A.N. Zevely	N.C.	1859
W.H.H. Terrell	IN	1869
E.W. Barber	MI	1873

Post Office Department.

STAMP & ENVELOPE AGENCY,

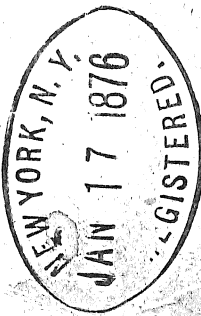
OFFICE SUPPLIES,

By order of the Postmaster General :

Agent.

*Geo. W. Barber*

County,



POSTMASTER AT

Postmasters and Route Agents  
HANDLING THIS Package, ARE REQUIRED TO  
KEEP A COMPLETE RECORD OF THE NUMBER,  
ADDRESS, DATE OF ITS RECEIPT, TO WHOM  
DELIVERED, DATE OF SUCH DELIVERY, &C.  
RECEIPTS FOR THE SAME MUST BE TAKEN  
WHEN PRACTICABLE. THEY WILL PROVIDE A  
BOOK SPECIALLY FOR THIS PURPOSE.

RESPECTFULLY,

*E. W. Barber,*

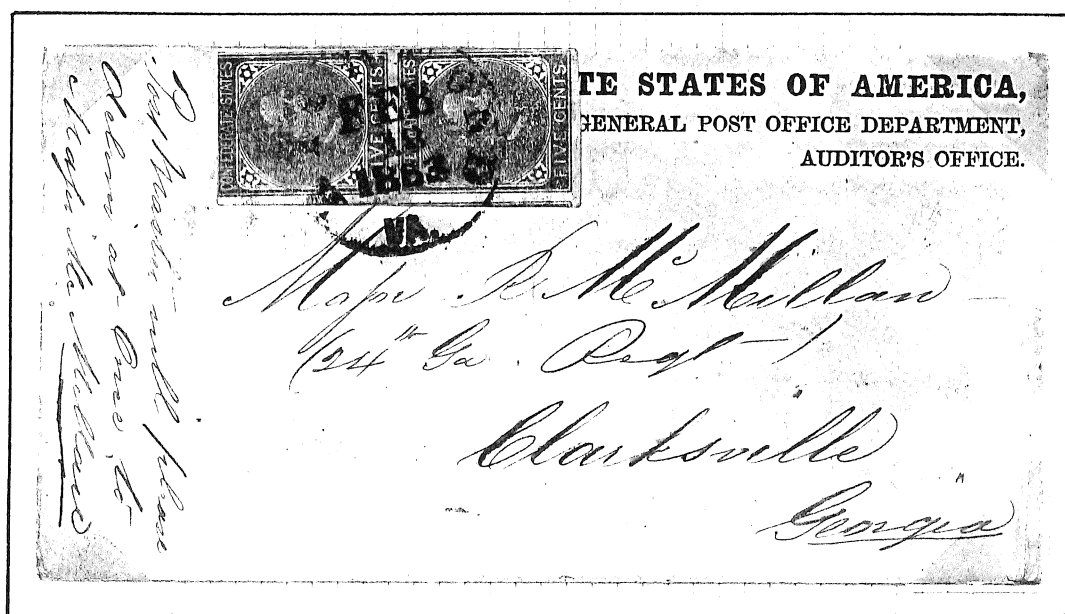
THIRD ASSISTANT P. M. GENERAL,

## CHAPTER-III C.S.A. OFFICIAL MAIL

### 1863 CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA OFFICIAL MAIL

The Post Office Department of the Confederate States of America was established on February 21, 1861, by an act of the Provision Congress of the Confederate States.

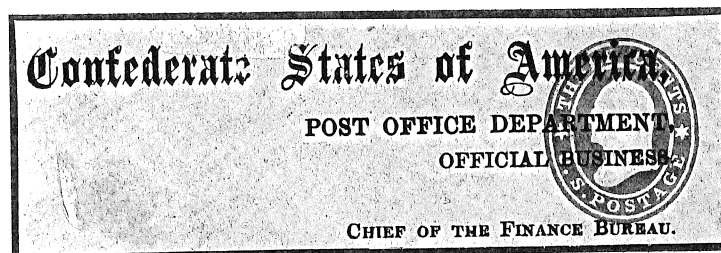
The Confederate postal laws did not provide the franking privilege for any mail except official correspondence of the Post Office Department. Such letters could be sent free only when enclosed in officially using them. These envelopes were prepared and issued for Post Office Department use.



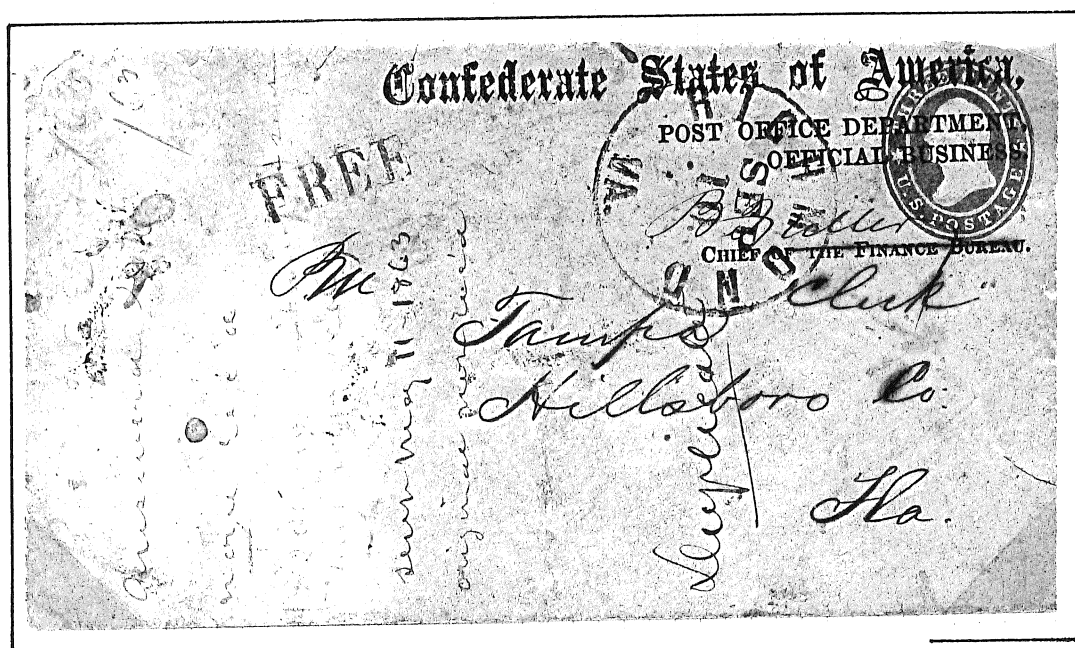
Pair of 5 cents stamp tied on from official mail of the Auditor's Office - the Post Office Department of the Confederate States of America sent in 1863 and postmarked RICHMOND VA./FEB 18 1863. Envelope first used at Richmond, Virginia on 1862 using a pair of 5 cents De La Rue & Co 5 cents stamps locally printed by Archer & Daly. The semi-official envelope also printed by De La Rue & Co is of the Confederate Treasury Department.

10 cents letter rate 500 miles,  
10 cents per half oz.

## 1863 C.S.A. FREE FRANK



3 cents postal stamped envelope overprinted - Confederate States of America, / Post Office Department, / OFFICIAL BUSINESS. CHIEF OF THE FINANCE BUREAU.



Free frank Official mail of the Chief of the Finance Bureau - the Post Office Department of the Confederate States Of America sent in 1862, postmarked in black RICHMOND VA, / SEP 10 (1862) and handstamped FREE.

The imprints were on United States envelopes of 1853 - 61 issue, and also on commercial envelopes of various sizes and colors. When officially signed and mailed, they were postmarked, usually at Richmond, Virginia, with printed or handstamped FREE.

1863 C.S.A.  
FREE FRANK

Imprinted - Confederate States of  
America, / POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, /  
OFFICIAL BUSINESS, / CHIEF OF THE  
APPOINTMENT BUREAU., and frank-  
ing signature.

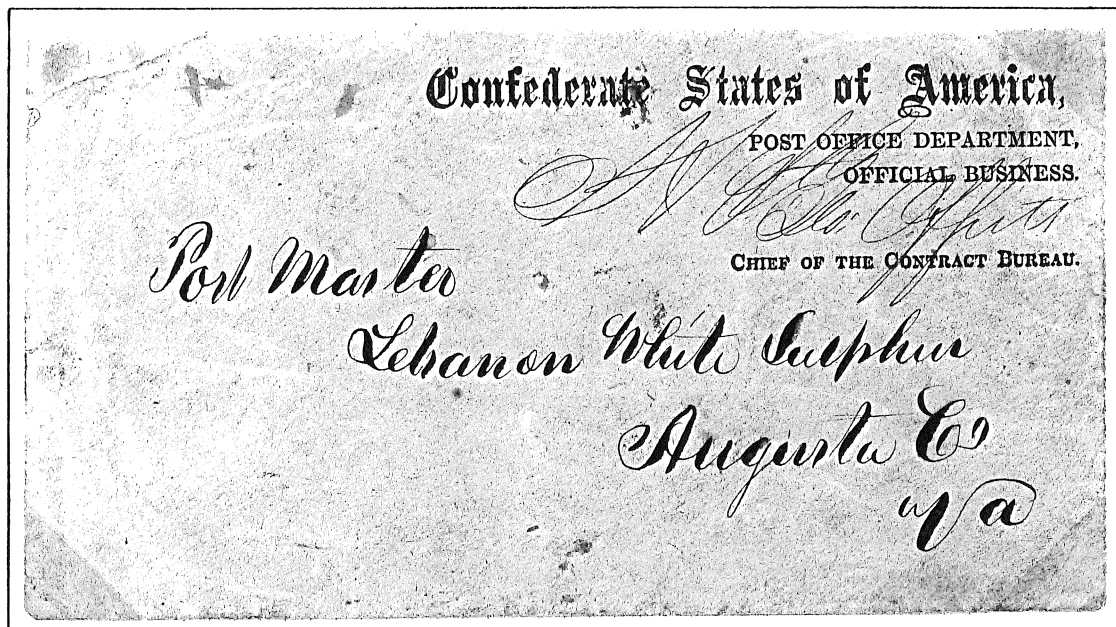
Confederate States of America,  
POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,  
OFFICIAL BUSINESS,  
CHIEF OF THE APPOINTMENT BUREAU.

S. Harmon  
Mills Ridge  
Gloged Cove

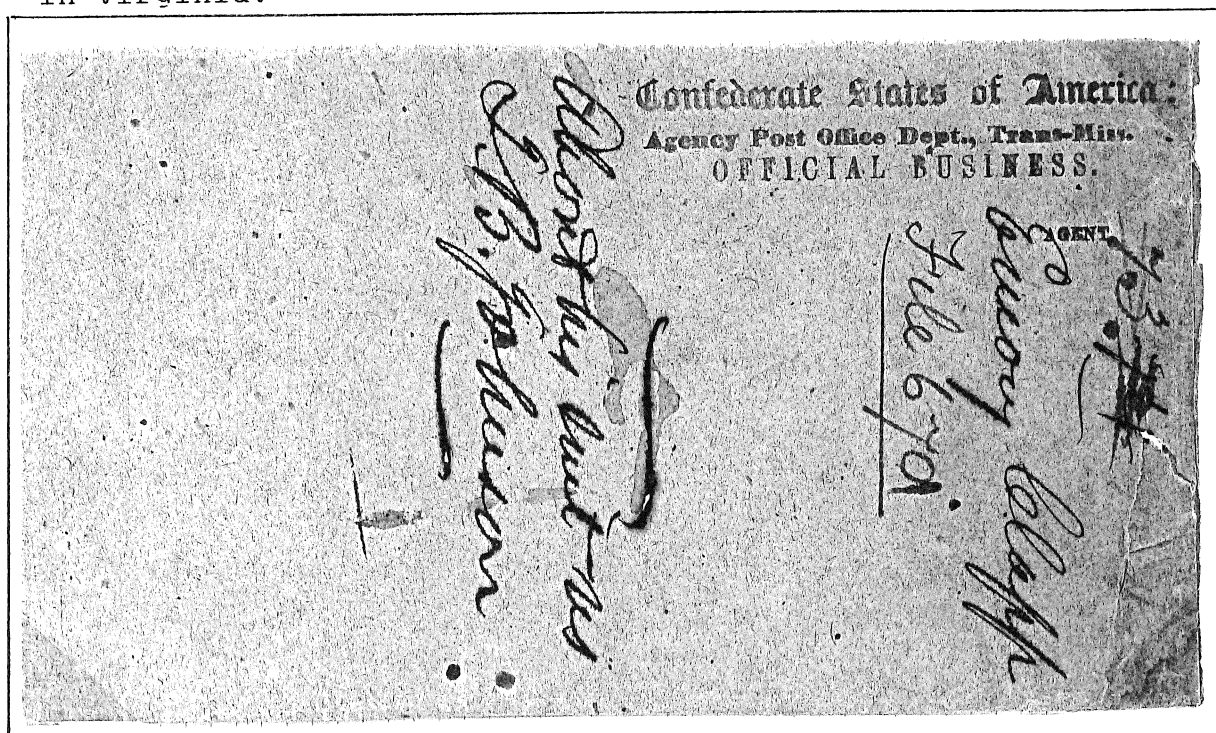


Free Frank Official Mail of the  
Post Office Department of the Con-  
federate States of America sent  
in 1863, and postmarked RICHMOND  
VA. / JAN 7 1863.

# 1864 C.S.A. FREE FRANK



H. St Geo Offutt, the Chief of the Contract Bureau, free frank official mail of the Post Office Department of Confederate States of America sent in 1864 to the Postmaster in Virginia.



Confederate States of America:/ Agency Post Office Dept., Trans-Miss/ OFFICIAL BUSINESS. printed imprint on envelope at top right. Ex. J. W. Thompson West Virginia and C.S.A. Postal History Collection.



## CHAPTER - IV OFFICIAL STAMP'S MAIL

### OFFICIAL STAMPS

**1873**

Official stamps were authorized by Act of Congress, approved March 3, 1873, abolishing the franking privilege. These stamps were supplanted on May 1, 1879, by penalty envelope and on July 5, 1884 were declared obsolete.



1 cent



2 cents



3 cents



6 cents



10 cents



12 cents



15 cents



24 cents



30 cents



90 cents

In 1873, the franking privilege was abolished. The Post Office Department's executive branch and Post Office was given official postage stamps (1 cent, 2 cents, 3 cents, 6 cents, 10 cents, 12 cents, 15 cents, 24 cents, 30 cents, and 90 cents) for their official mail.



## 1852 CARRIER'S OFFICIAL STAMP'S MAIL

The term Carriers stamps is applied to certain stamps of the United States used to defray delivery to a post office on letters going to another post office, and for collection and delivery in same city (local letters handed only by the carrier department).

The Official stamps prepaid the fees of official letter carriers who were appointed by the Postmaster General and were under heavy bond to the United States for the faithful performance of their duties.



One cent carrier's official stamp tied on Local Carrier Official Mail of the Post Office at kim-berton, Pennsylvania sent in 1852 and postmarked PHILADELPHIA, PA/ APR 4 (1852)/ 5CTS.

Ex. The Unicover Corporation Museum Collection.

1873 NON-OFFICIAL STAMP USAGE

Overprinted  
OFFICIAL BUSINESS.  
Stamp & Envelope Agency.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS.  
Stamp & Envelope Agency.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS.  
Stamp & Envelope Agency.

POSTMASTER,

COUNTY OF

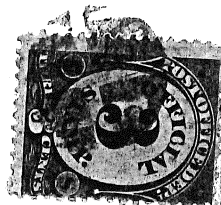
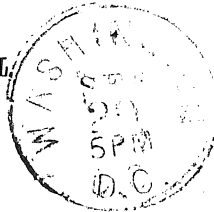
STATE OF



3 cents regular postage stamp tied on official mail from the Stamp & Envelope Agency in New York to the Postmaster of County of Cumberland, Maine, postmarked in black NEW YORK/SEP 11 10:30AM.

1874-77 OFFICIAL STAMP - 3 cents

Post Office Department,  
OFFICE OF THE THIRD ASSISTANT P. M. GENERAL,  
OFFICIAL BUSINESS



Postmaster,

Post Office Department,

Office of Second Assistant P. M. General,

OFFICIAL BUSINESS



Postmaster

Post-Office Department.

RETURN LETTER

APR 5 PM



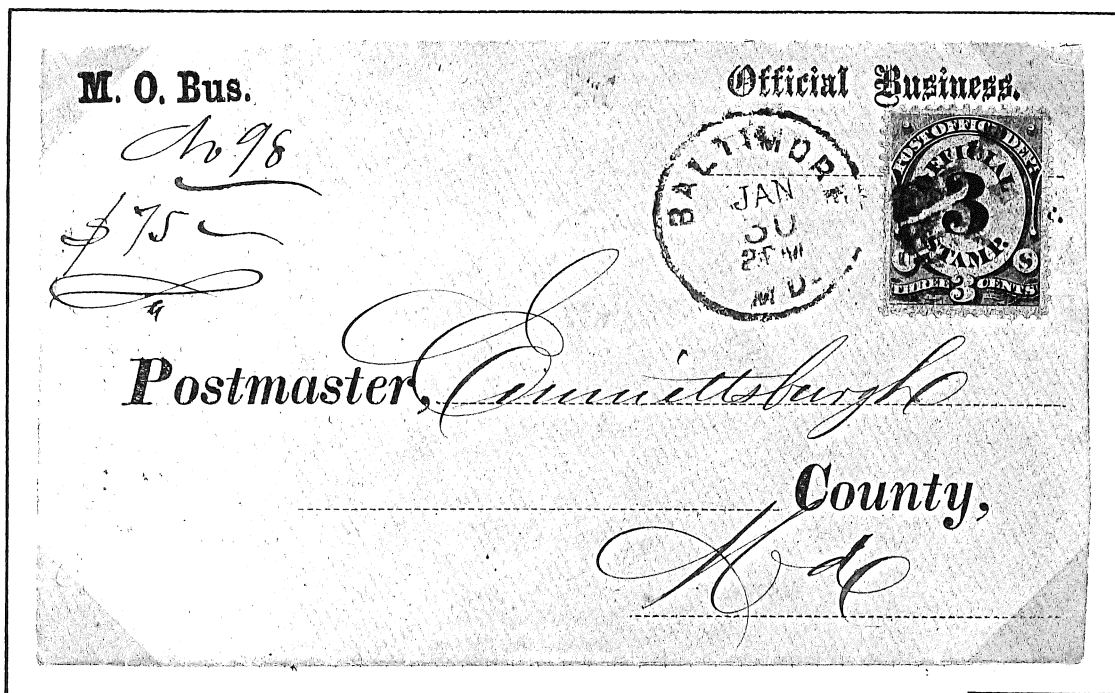
Postmaster

Carrier's Harbor

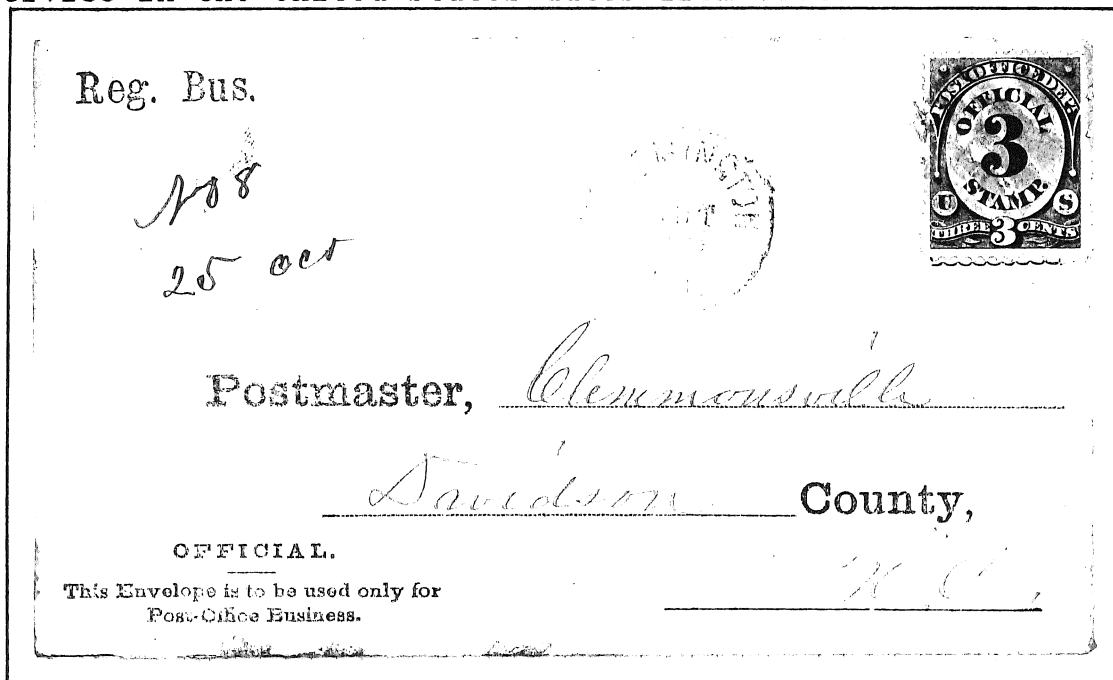
Me

Post Office Department - Office of the Third Assistant Postmaster General, Office of the Second Postmaster General, and Return Letter Office official business envelopes bearing a 3 cents Post Office Department official stamps.

# 1875 OFFICIAL STAMP-3 cents



Money Order Business envelope bearing 3 cents Post Office Department Official Stamp, circa 1875. Domestic Money Orders service in the United States dates from 1864.



Registered Business envelope bearing 3 cents Post Office Department official stamp, circa 1875.

69

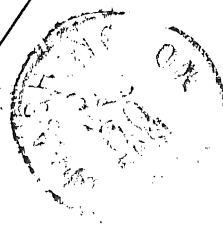
1874

OFFICIAL STAMP

6 cents

Double weight  
because of enclosures

Envelope from free  
franking period.



Post Office Department,  
OFFICE SUPPLIES.  
ORDER OF THE POSTMASTER GENERAL.

For Third Assistant P. M. General.  
Postmaster

Millville  
Orleans County,  
N.Y.

Post Office Department - Office  
Supplies/ The Third Assistant Post-  
master General official business  
envelope bearing 6 cents Post Office  
Department official stamp and post-  
marked in WASHINGTON, D.C./ DEC 10  
5PM (1874).

1875 OFFICIAL STAMP-6cents

Imprint - Post Office Department/  
OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

Post Office Department,  
OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

Post Office Department,  
OFFICIAL BUSINESS.



*James I. Knowlton*  
*Receives Correspondence*  
*Shirley & Co. Inc.*

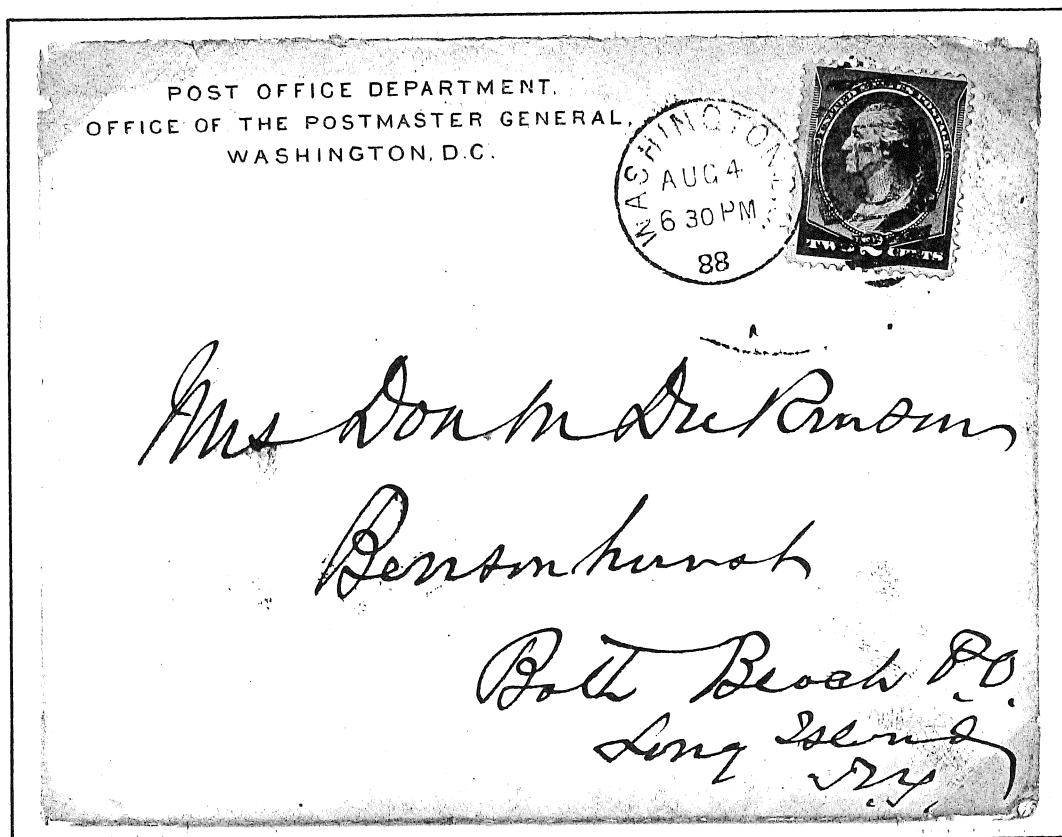
Envelope from free franking period.  
Postmark: WASHINGTON, D.C./ DEC 21 (1875)

Post Office Department - official business envelope  
bearing a 6 cents Post Office Department official stamp  
sent in 1875.

6 cents postage rate was double  
weight rate. The rate at the time  
was 3 cents per half ounce.

# 1888 NON-OFFICIAL STAMP USAGE

Post Office Department/ Office of the Postmaster General  
envelope bearing 3 cent regular postage stamp and post  
marked WASHINGTON, D.C./ AUG 4 6:30PM (18)88.



Copy of Reverse (70%)  
Received Postmark:  
BROOKLYN, NY RECVD, / AUG 5 8:30 (18)88