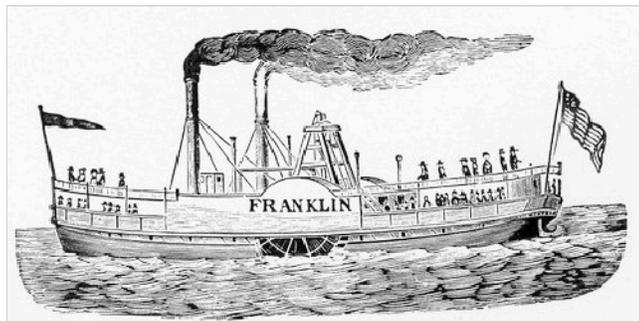


# LAKE CHAMPLAIN

Whitehall B free

Steam-Packet Franklin



The "Steam-Packet Franklin, Captain R.W. Sherman, Lake Champlain" packet marking illustrated below is known used on letters dated between 25 October 1831 (this earliest known use is shown with the port of Burlington material herein) and 24 October 1835. It is a private marking intended to serve as advertising and it is the first Name-of-Boat marking used on an inland waterway in the United States.



A handwritten signature in red ink that reads 'R W Sherman'.

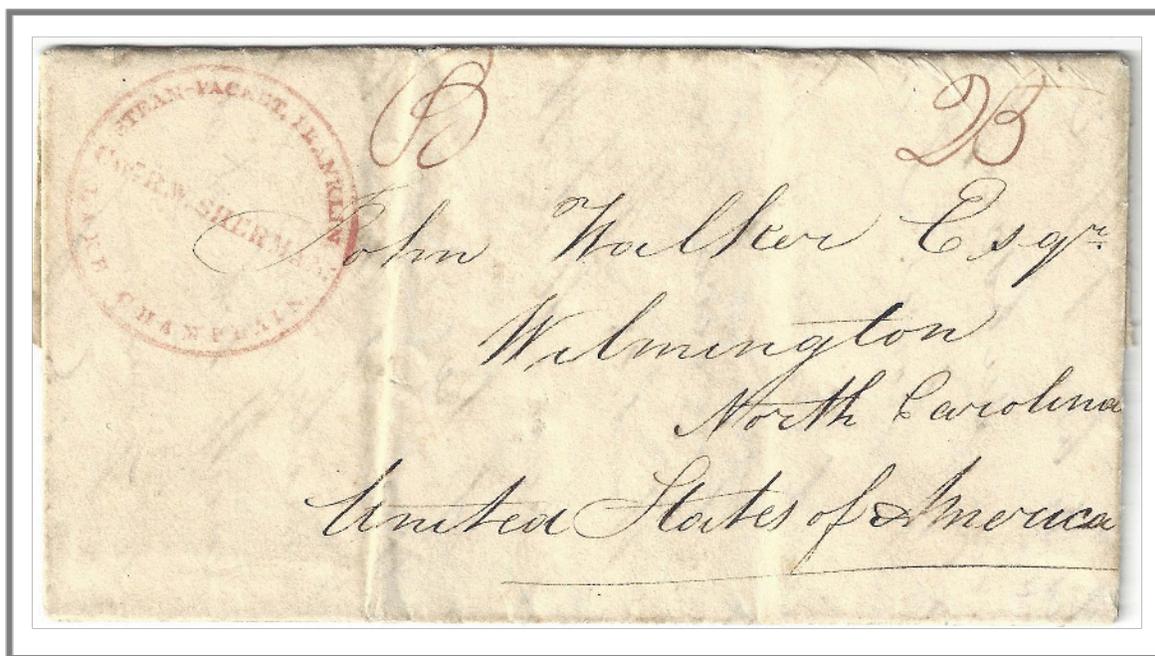


7 November 1831, Port Kent, VT, via Whitehall, to Auburn, NY  
Free, C.B. Watson, P.M., Port Kent frank, steam-Packet Franklin packet handstamp  
"B free" in manuscript applied at Whitehall, NY when it entered the US mails  
**earliest reported use of the Packet Franklin handstamp on letter via Whitehall**

# LAKE CHAMPLAIN

Whitehall, 1832

Steam-Packet Franklin



5 March 1832, Berwick-Upon-Tweed, **England** carried privately to Montreal, **Canada** via St. Johns, then on Steam-Packet Franklin to Whitehall, NY and to Wilmington, NC (May 1832) manuscript "B" of Whitehall, manuscript 25¢ due for over 400 miles distance **only reported Packet Franklin handstamp on inbound trans-Atlantic mail**



(August 1832) Lake Champlain to **Glasgow, Scotland**, endorsed "per pkt from New York" Steam-Packet Franklin handstamp, via Whitehall, NY and to New York City "New York to Liverpool, 1 September 1832" directive, Ship Letter Liverpool backstamp **only reported Packet Franklin handstamp on outbound trans-Atlantic mail**

# LAKE CHAMPLAIN

Whitehall, 1832 / 1835

Onboard Franklin



PFC

16 October 1832, onboard the Franklin at Whitehall to Hartford, CT  
Steam-Packet Franklin handstamp, posted without fee paid to the Captain  
16 October 1832 Whitehall postmark, "PAID" handstamp and 18¾¢ due rate



24 October 1835, Rouses Point, NY, bootlegged via St. Johns, to **Montreal, Canada**  
Steam-Packet Franklin packet handstamp, entered Canada mails at Montreal with "1d" due  
***latest reported use of the Packet Franklin handstamp***

# LAKE CHAMPLAIN

Whitehall, 1835

STEAM•BOAT

This "STEAM•BOAT" entry marking was used at the Whitehall post office from 1835 until 1851. Atypically, Whitehall did not postmark transit mail received from steamers. The 1851 use shown later in this exhibit proves that the marking was applied at Whitehall.

STEAM•BOAT



3 September 1835 Rouses Point, NY to Little Falls, NY  
entered the mails at Whitehall, NY with their "STEAM•BOAT" handstamp, 18¾¢ due rate  
*earliest reported use of a steamboat handstamp at Whitehall*

LAKE CHAMPLAIN STEAM BOATS.—THE beautiful boats on this far-famed lake, were thoroughly overhauled and repaired during the winter, and at the commencement of navigation the present season, exhibited all the freshness and neatness of new vessels. They ply regularly every day between Whitehall and St. Johns; though we have seen no handbill of any sort or advertisement in any newspaper, from which we could learn the regular days of the boats leaving either place.

The Franklin is still commanded by the gallant Admiral of the lake, R. W. Sherman, and besides being one of the most popular, has been one of the most fortunate steamers on the American waters. She has a low pressure engine from Alkire's establishment; and has made her passages daily for seven years; during which time she has never lost a trip, nor met with an accident nor had a man injured on board. Her passages during this period number more than 1500. It is superfluous to say

one word in commendation of Com. Sherman; his praise is in the mouth of hundreds who have made the fashionable tour of the lakes and the Canadas. We know not whether he be single or married; but the ladies are captivated with his urbanity and politeness, and the matter of his present engagement must be kept a profound secret.

The Phoenix is a first rate boat, built under the direction of Harrington, of the Eagle Hotel, Buffalo, one of the three most princely landlords in the country. It is fitted up in first rate style, and can furnish every thing for the comfort and gratification of the passengers; but has had the ill luck to lose her former commander, our friend Lathrop. Report says, however, that in the person of Capt. Dan Lyon, the public have as nearly a fac similitude of his predecessor as could easily be found.

Newspaper account at start of the 1835 steamboat season on Lake Champlain. It mentions daily service from St. Johns to Whitehall utilizing two steamboats, the Franklin and the Phoenix.

# LAKE CHAMPLAIN

Whitehall, 1837 / 1838

STEAM•BOAT



19 May 1837 Riviere Du Luc, **Canada**, prepaid 9d, via Whitehall, to South Berwick, ME  
22 May 1837 Montreal transit, Whitehall "STEAM-BOAT" handstamp, 18¾¢ due rate



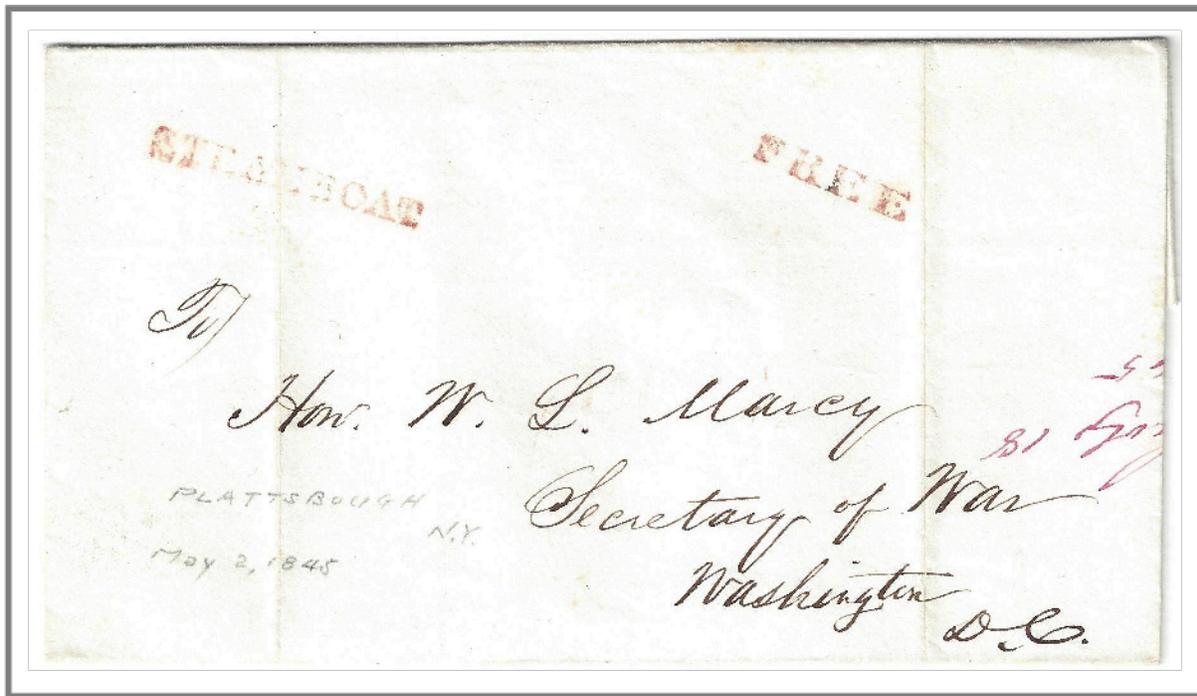
Letter to Rev.  
Thomas H.  
Gallaudet,  
the pioneer  
educator of  
the deaf in  
America.

3 September 1838 Quebec, **Canada**, prepaid 11d, via Whitehall, to Hartford, CT  
endorsed "To be paid through," Whitehall "STEAM-BOAT" handstamp, "PAID" and 18¾¢ rate

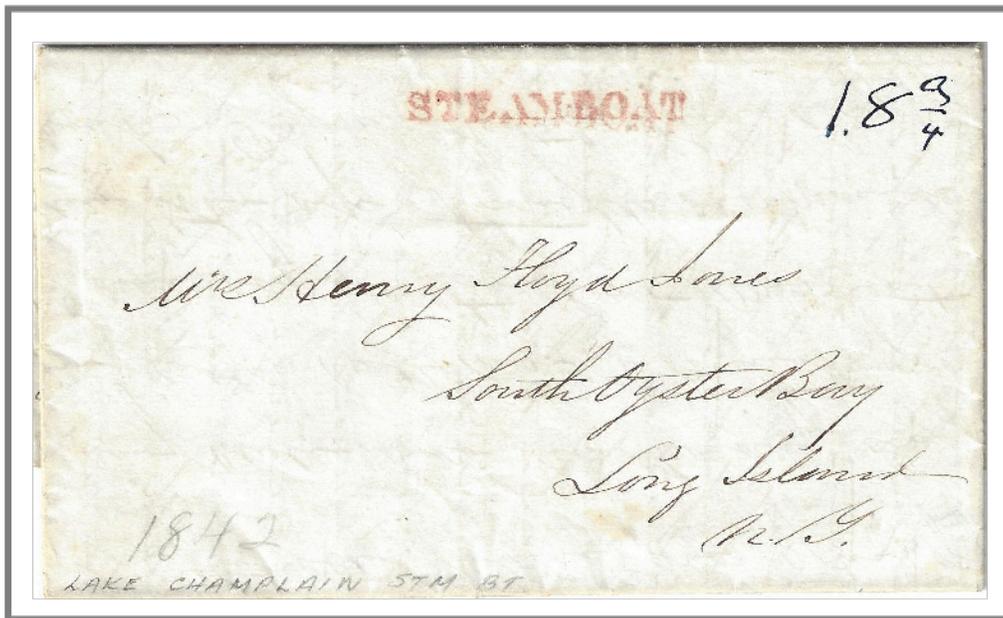
# LAKE CHAMPLAIN

Whitehall, 1845 / 1842

STEAM•BOAT



2 May 1845 Plattsburgh, NY to Sec. of War W.L. Marcy, Washington, DC  
Whitehall "STEAM-BOAT" and "FREE" handstamp



18 September 1842 onboard "Steamer Burlington" to South Oyster bay, NY  
Whitehall "STEAM-BOAT" handstamp, and manuscript 18<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>¢ due rate

Steamer  
Burlington  
Friday, Sept. - New weather is so cold that  
you may write me by Tuesday mail. P.S.

# LAKE CHAMPLAIN

Whitehall, 1848

STEAM•BOAT



(top cover) 26 August 1848 unknown origin point, via Whitehall, to Troy, NY  
Whitehall "STEAM•BOAT" handstamp, 5¢ due rate for distance under 300 miles

(bottom) 18 October 1848 Montreal, **Canada**, via Whitehall, to New York City  
Whitehall "STEAM•BOAT" handstamp, 10¢ due rate for over 300 miles



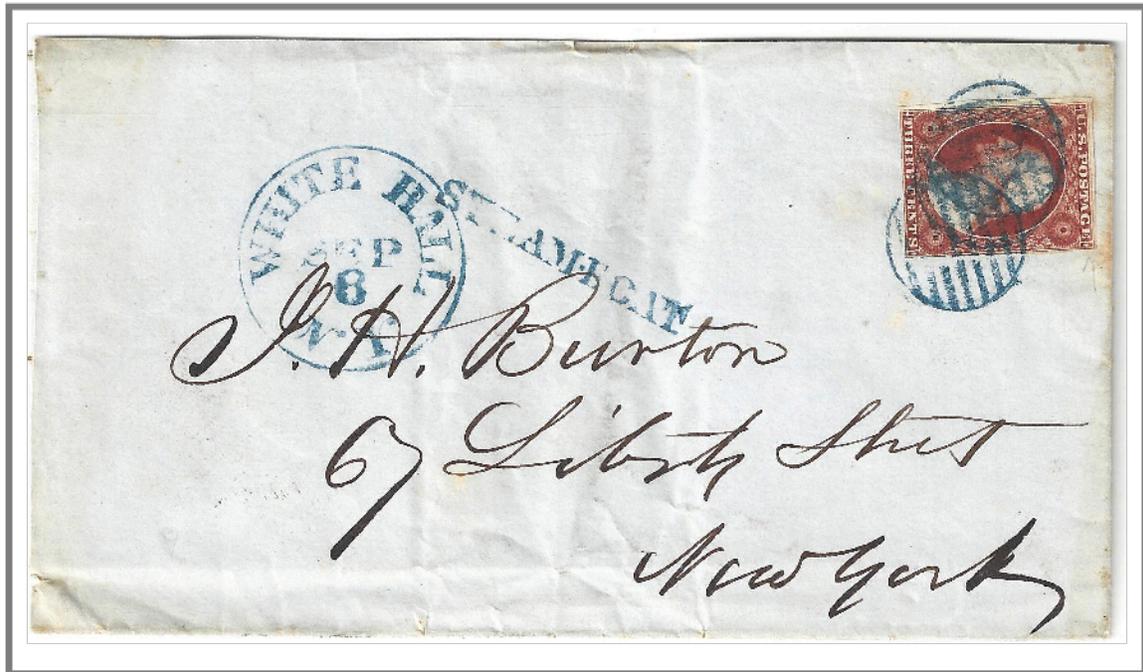
PFC

5 July 1848 Montreal, **Canada**, via Whitehall, to New York City  
Whitehall "STEAM•BOAT" handstamp, 10¢ prepaid for over 300 miles  
*only recorded cover used from Canada bearing the 10¢ 1847 and Whitehall "STEAM•BOAT" handstamp*

# LAKE CHAMPLAIN

Whitehall, 1851 / 1856

STEAM•BOAT



5 September 1851 St. Albans, VT, via Whitehall, to New York City  
6 September 1851 Whitehall postmark, "STEAM-BOAT" handstamp, prepaid 3¢ 1851 issue  
**this letter "proves" that the "STEAM-BOAT" handstamp was applied at Whitehall**

*Steamer Canada  
Plattsburgh N.Y. May 7 1856*



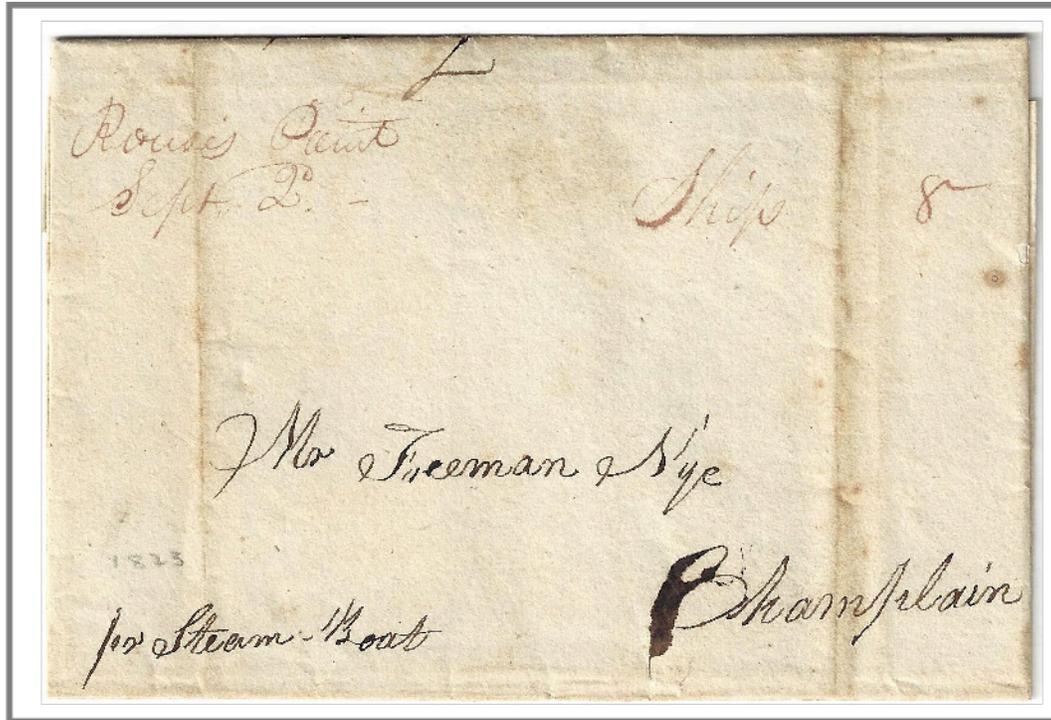
7 May 1856 onboard "Steamer Canada" at Plattsburgh, via Whitehall, to Fairhaven, VT delivered  
8 May 1856 Whitehall postmark received directly to Whitehall post office, prepaid 3¢ 1851 issue

# LAKE CHAMPLAIN

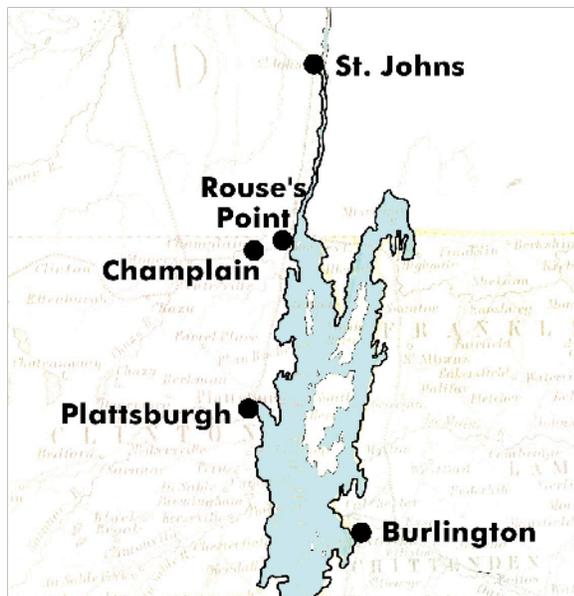
Rouses Point, 1823

Rouses Point Ship

Rouses Point  
Sept. 2<sup>o</sup> - Ship 8



24 August 1823 Burlington, VT by steamer to Rouses Point and then by land to Champlain, NY  
2 September 1823 Rouses Point manuscript postmark and "Ship 8" due rate  
rate was calculated as 6¢ distance to 30 miles + 2¢ ship fee  
**the earliest reported ship postmark on Lake Champlain**  
**the only reported ship postmark of Rouses Point**



At this date, Lake Champlain steamboats offered two types of service. The local feeder routes and the main non-stop daily route from St. Johns, Canada to Whitehall.

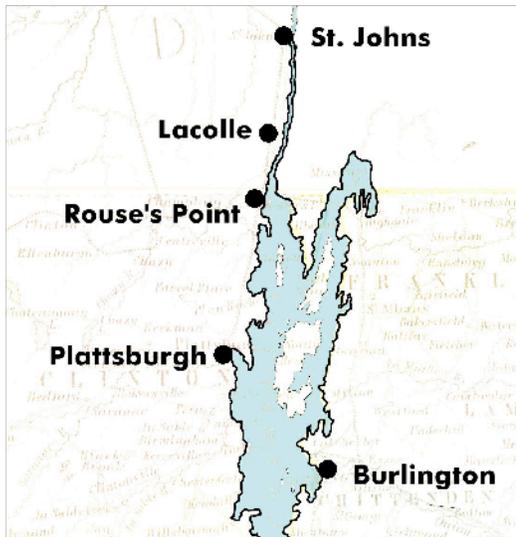
The letter above would have been carried from Burlington, via Plattsburgh to Rouses Point and may have included additional stops along the way. This could account for the delay between date of letter and date of Rouses Point postmark.

Rating as a ship letter is incorrect under the Post Office Acts of 1810 and 1815 because the letter is of domestic origin.

# LAKE CHAMPLAIN

Rouses Point, 1833

Rouses Point Boat



*Boat*

*B*  $\frac{10}{12}$



25 April 1833 Burlington, VT, via Rouses Point, VT, to Lacolle, Canada  
manuscript "Boat" endorsement of Rouses Point and "B 10 + 2 = 12" due at right  
29 April 1833 Rouses Point, NY manuscript postmark overwrites the "Boat" endorsement  
charge box notation, 12¢ total (10¢ distance rate [corrected from 6] plus 2¢ captain fee)  
evidently the recipient and had arranged to have mail picked up at the Rouses Point office

*the earliest reported manuscript "Boat" marking on Lake Champlain*

# LAKE CHAMPLAIN

Rouses Point, 1834

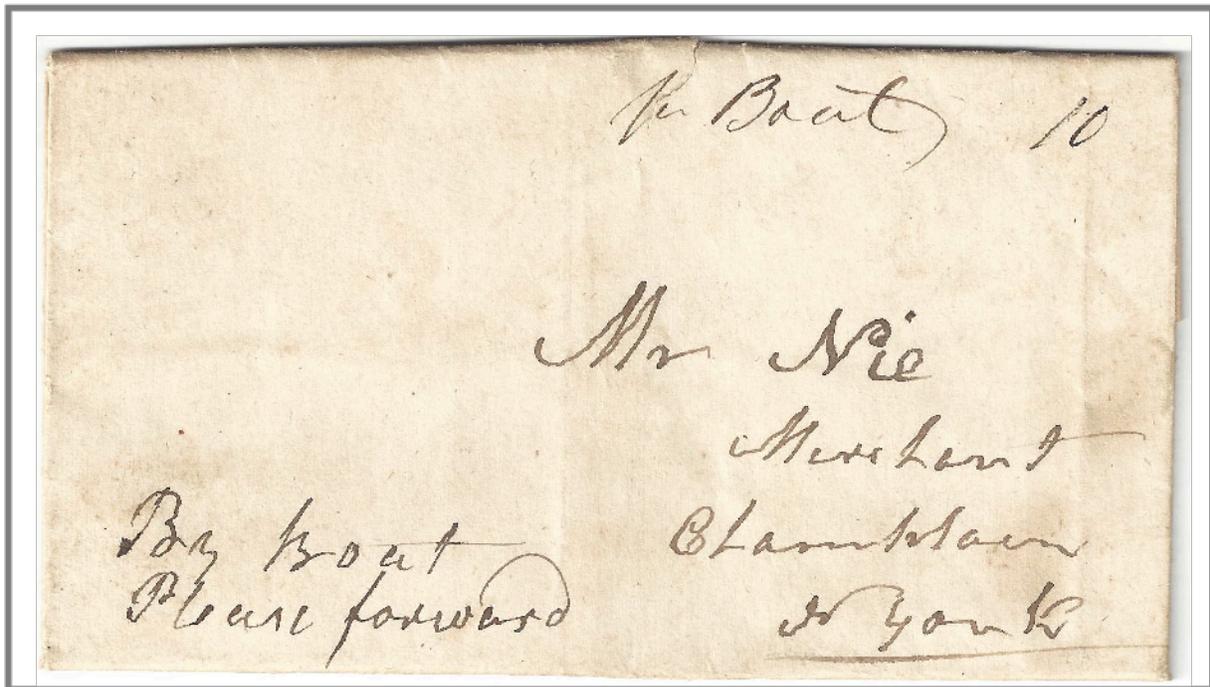
Rouses Point Boat



5 November 1834 Charlotte, VT, via Rouses Point, to Chazy, NY  
endorsed per "Capt. Lyon, St. Bt. Winooski" at left

7 November 1834 "Rouses Pt Bt NY" postmark and Boat endorsement, 10¢ due land rate

In 1834 the steamer Winooski began ferry service between Burlington and Port Kent, NY.



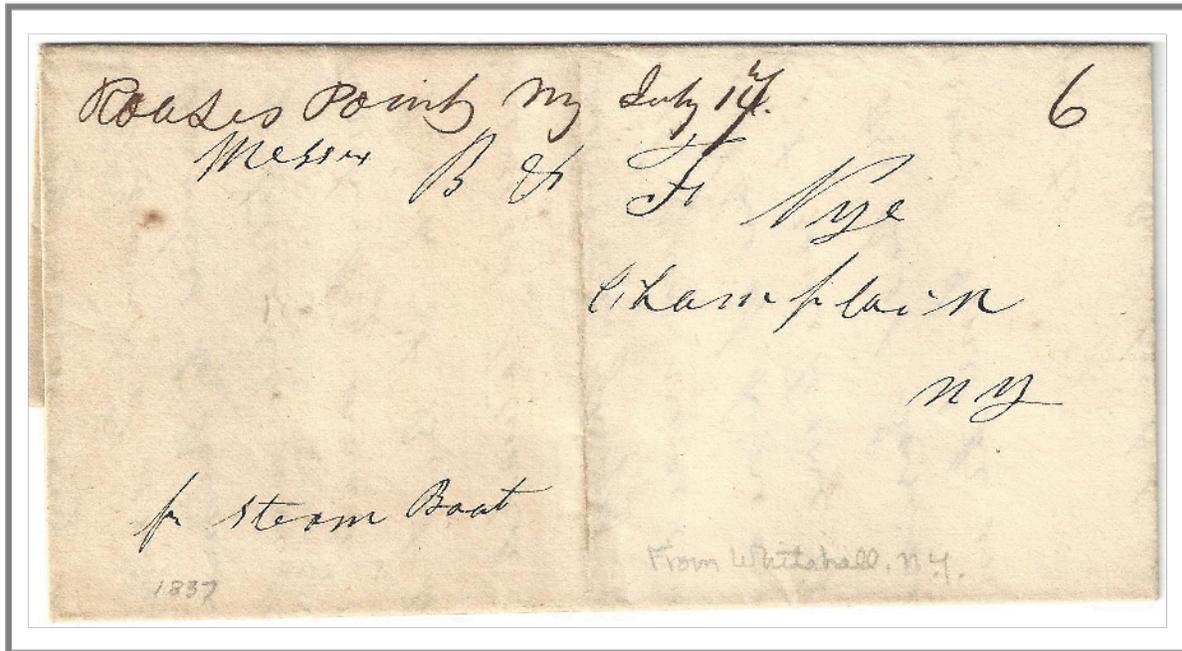
17 May 1834 Grand Isle, VT, via Rouses Point, to Champlain, NY  
Rouses Point post office "Per Boat" entry endorsement and 10¢ due rate

# LAKE CHAMPLAIN

Rouses Point, 1837 / 1840

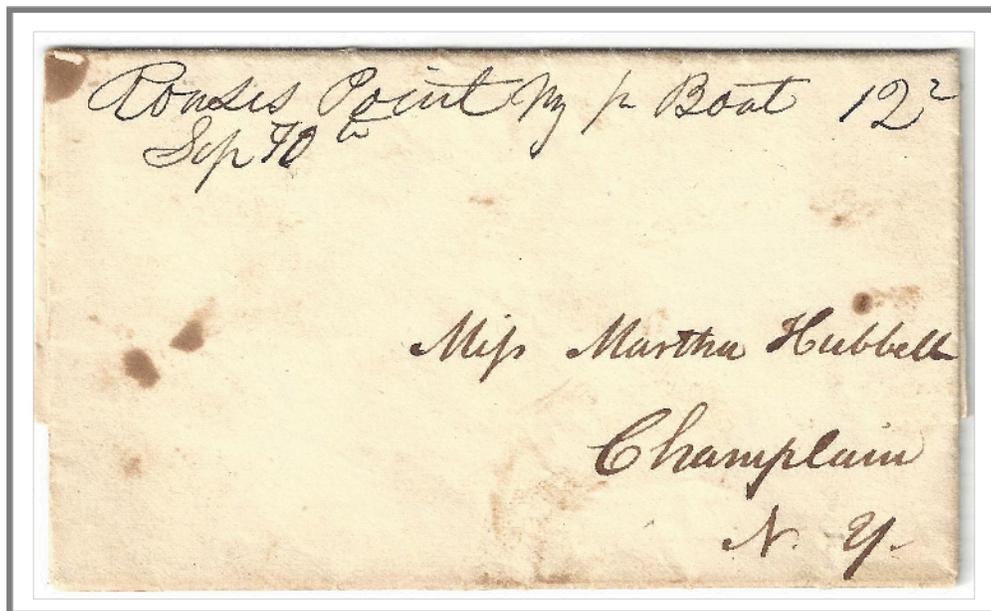
Rouses Point Boat

This pair of single weight letters entered at Rouses Point for delivery in Champlain but were rated differently. The first entered as having originated onboard a steamer and was rated for distance from entry to Champlain. The lower letter entered as having originated at Burlington and was rated for distance between Burlington and Champlain.



14 July 1837 Whitehall, NY via Rouses Point, to Champlain, NY  
sender endorsed per "Steam Boat" at left

14 July 1837 Rouses Point, NY postmark and 6¢ due under 30 miles rate to Champlain



8 September 1840 Burlington, VT via Rouses Point, to Champlain, NY

10 September 1840 Rouses Point, NY "Pr Boat" combination postmark and boat endorsement  
postmark and 12½¢ due, water + land distance rate to Champlain

# LAKE CHAMPLAIN

Rouses Point, 1844 / 1845

Rouses Point Steamboat



22 October 1844 Peru, NY, via Rouses Point, to Champlain, NY  
22 October 1844 Rouses Point, NY postmark, "Steam Boat" endorsement and "12½" due rate  
correctly rated 12½¢ due for 80 to 150 mile distance



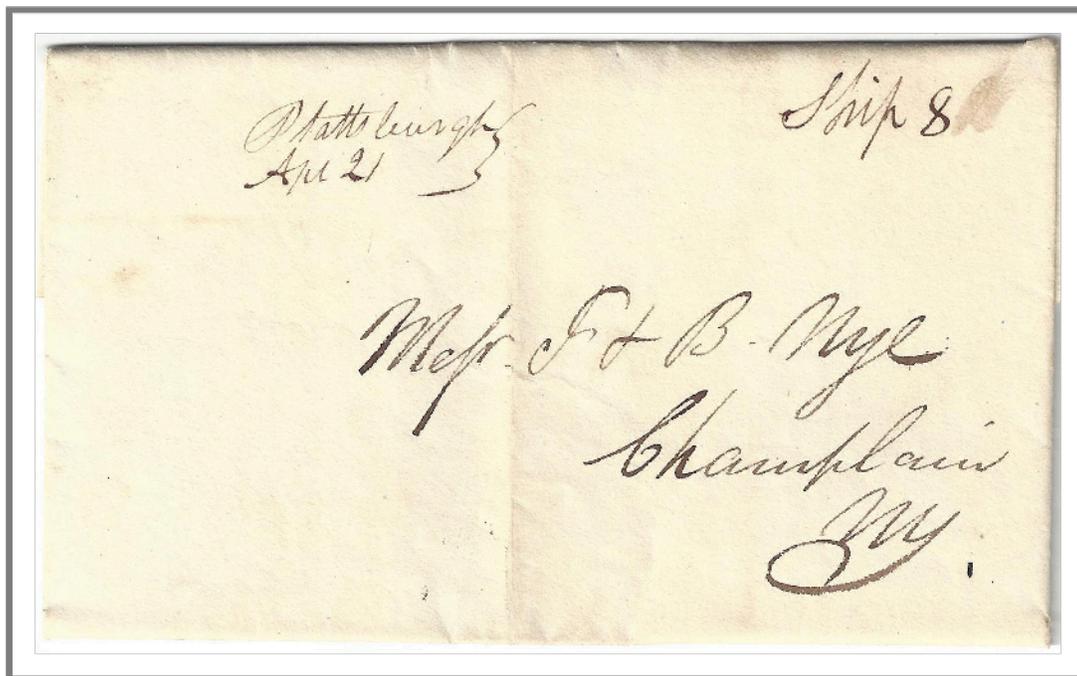
30 April 1845 Whitehall, NY, "via Rouses Point" to Champlain, NY  
Rouses Point "Steam Boat" endorsement and "10" due rate  
10¢ due rate would be correct for 30 to 80 mile distance from Rouses Point to Champlain

# LAKE CHAMPLAIN

Plattsburgh, 1825

Plattsburgh Ship

Plattsburgh Ship 8  
Apr 21



15 April 1825 Montreal, **Canada**, printed circular by steamer to Plattsburgh  
21 April 1825 Plattsburgh manuscript postmark and "Ship 8" due overland rate to Champlain  
rate was calculated as 6¢ distance to 30 miles + 2¢ ship fee  
***the earlier of two reported printed circulars from Canada that entered as ship letters***

MONTREAL, APRIL 15th, 1825.

SIR,

WE have never in the course of a twenty years business, had occasion to address you so often during a few weeks as for eight weeks past; our last printed Circular was dated the 9th inst. and gave English dates to the 20th Febr'y. in three days afterwards we had newspaper advices from England to the 5th March, and on the 13th inst. we wrote a few lines to many of our country customers, mentioning that Ashes had again rather improved in England, but we had not so correctly ascertained the extent of speculations in that and many other articles, as we now have, by our numerous English letters received this day: by the extracts of the subjoined letters you will notice a most unaccountable rise in Ashes in London, which had in some measure extended itself to Liverpool; the very latest dates however from London mention that the fever had in some measure subsided, and Ashes had declined and very dull: altho' all the late news combined does not seem to have any very sensible effect here; yet we are induced to hold more firmly, and at higher prices—two days ago we anxiously exerted ourselves to sell 500 Brls. Pots and Pearls, the former at 32s. and the latter at 34s. but we could not succeed—to day we should be inclined to hold Pots at 32s. 6d. a 33s. and Pearls 34s. 6d. a 35. and at these rates, if we can find purchasers, we think it prudent to sell, as the quantity already accumulating is large and will be immense by the month of June, if we can believe what many of our country friends say. The Grain market wore rather a more favourable aspect, and we are not without hopes that the Ports would open for Colonial Grain and Flour in May.....Our navigation is now clear to Quebec, and we hope to see ere long business more animated than at present.

Yours,

HORATIO GATES & Co.

This circular was carried privately from Montreal to catch a steamer at St. Johns that operated direct to Plattsburgh. The local service steamer did not stop at Rouses Point or the mail would have been entered at that port.

# LAKE CHAMPLAIN

Plattsburgh, 1827

SHIP



7 May 1827 Montreal, **Canada**, printed circular by steamboat to Plattsburgh  
19 May 1827 Plattsburgh handstamped postmark and "SHIP" handstamp  
8¢ due overland rate to Champlain, (6¢ rate under 30 miles + 2¢ ship fee)  
**two reported printed circulars from Canada that entered as ship letters**

SIR,  
Our last printed Circular was dated the 10th March, with a postscript of the 15th, and we have now, via Quebec, received numerous letters from the great commercial cities of the United Kingdom, of various dates from the 14th March down to the 13th April, and we are therefore induced again to issue a circular to apprise you as nearly as possible of any changes likely to affect country produce in the Canada markets.

MONTREAL, May 7th, 1827.



29 July 1827 letter dated Rouses Point by steamer to Plattsburgh  
Plattsburgh "SHIP" handstamp and 6¢ due for port of entry delivery

# LAKE CHAMPLAIN

Plattsburgh, 1832 / 1834

Plattsburgh Ship



14 August 1832 St. Johns, **Canada** by steamer to Plattsburgh, by land to Grand Isle, VT  
23 August 1832 Plattsburgh handstamped postmark and manuscript "Ship 12" due  
(10¢ distance rate for 30 to 80 miles + 2¢ ship fee)



10 June 1834 Grand Isle, VT by steamer to Plattsburgh, then overland to Champlain  
16 June 1834 Plattsburgh handstamped postmark and manuscript "Ship 8" due  
(6¢ distance rate for under 30 miles + 2¢ ship fee)