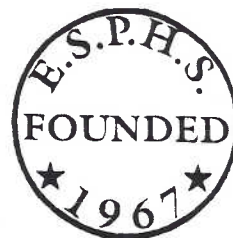


The

JOURNAL of



New York State Postal History

Volume 29

Spring 1996

Dr. Louis Call
President

Martin Margulis
Editor

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SARATOGA COUNTY, NEW YORK

SARATOGA SPRINGS

by John A. Lange, Jr.

Saratoga Springs was formed as a town on April 17, 1816. It contained what later became the village of Saratoga Springs. The fame of the local mineral water springs drew many settlers to the area and there was some competition between "Saratoga" and the nearby town of Ballston Spa. On April 17, 1826 Saratoga Springs was incorporated as a village by an act of the legislature.

While Saratoga Springs was at times described as a township, a town and a village, and presently a city, the records indicate that the first post office was established April 8, 1802. It still exists. The population in 1819 for Saratoga Springs was 1909 and 2233 for the larger entity of Saratoga. In 1827, the population was around 2000 for the village. A map of the village of Saratoga Springs in 1812 is shown on the following page.

With this size of town, roughly comparable to Ballston Spa (its nearby mineral springs competitor), one would think that some stampless covers in the 1802-1815 era would have survived. Yet, the earliest reported is in 1816 (in the collection of George Bernadt). The writer's earliest SFL is dated March 18, 1820. So, if SFLs exist earlier than this, they are surely gems in the writer's view.

There are five types of markings denoting the name "Saratoga Springs." These are:

1. Manuscript town markings through 1825, the latest in the writer's collection being Dec. 27, 1825.
2. Small 21/22 mm circular townmark used between 1822-1825.
3. Complete circle, 26mm dia. used between 1825-1830 . . . The writer's earliest is October 27, 1825.
4. Broken circle, 25 to 25½ mm dia. used between 183?-1837. In 1838, Bernadt reports the outer rim gone.
5. Circular townmark, 32 mm dia., used between 1838-1850s. This marking has several subdivisions as noted in Bernadt's book.

A most desirable item to have, and the writer would surely like to see one, would be an early 1838 broken-circle 25/25½ mm townmark with the outer rim completely gone. The writer's collection contains a cover dated Jan. 1 (1838?) which just has a trace of the rim.

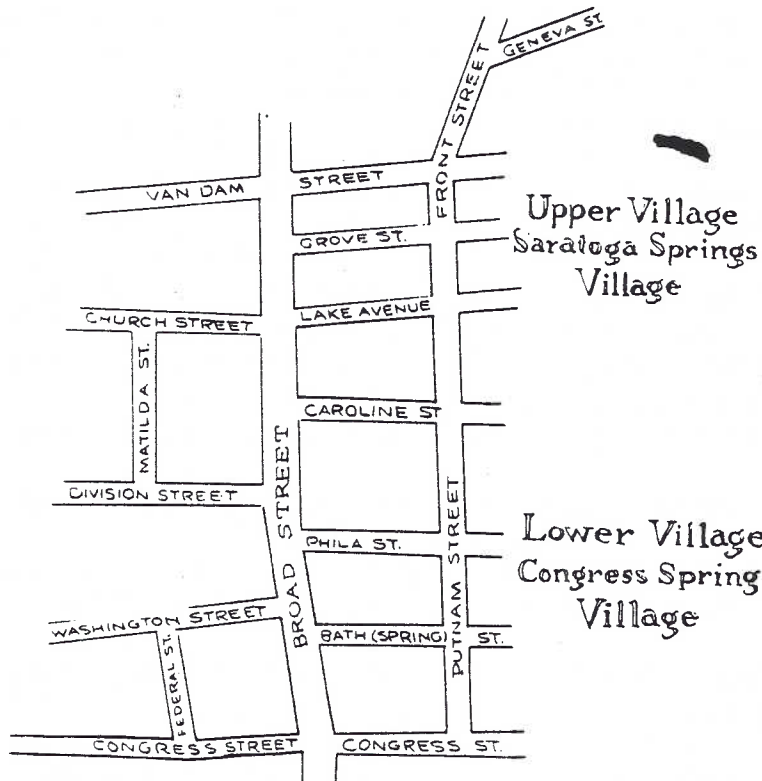
Straight-line and oval town markings have not been reported and presumably do not exist for Saratoga Springs.

References:

1. Postal Markings of New York State 1792-1856, Bernadt, 1993
2. American Stampless Cover Catalogue, Vol. I, Fourth Ed., Phillips, 1985
3. History of Saratoga Co., New York 1609-1878, Sylvester, reprinted 1979, page 514
4. Our County and Its People - A Descriptive and Biographical Record of Saratoga County, New York, the Saratogian, 1899 reprinted in 1984, pages 584 and 203
5. Saratoga County Heritage, Dunn, 1974, page 608
6. Story of Old Saratoga, Brandow, 1919, page 528
7. Saratoga - Queen of Spas, Swanner, 1988, page 304
8. New York Postal History: The Post Offices and First Postmasters from 1775 to 1980, Kay & Smith, 1982, page 555

Village of Saratoga Springs in 1812

As Laid Out by Gideon Putnam



SARATOGA SPRINGS STAMPLESS COVERS 1820-1855

This study includes:

1. Different rates within the same time period caused by distance differences, single vs. double sheet letters, and letters to foreign destinations, e.g. 6¢, 10¢, 12½¢, 18½¢, and 25¢ which existed between 1816 and 1825.
2. Different rates caused by postal law changes, e.g. 18½¢ to 18¾¢, May 1, 1825.
3. Marking varieties:
 - a. Manuscript towns, rates, paid, single, double, free, forwarded, charge boxes
 - b. Circular townmarks¹: 22/22mm, 26mm complete circles, 25/25½mm broken circles, 32 mm (this one in red, blue and black)
 - c. PAID (various sizes) 12½x4, 19½/20x4, 12x3 and 22x5mm.
 - d. Rates, FREE, 1, PAID 1, 2, 3, PAID 3, 5, 6, PAID 6, 10, 12½, 18½, 18¾, 20, 24, 24¾, 25, 28¾, 37½, 48
 - e. Hotel mail markings

4. Usages: Prepaid, collect, cross border mail - paid to the lines, early and late uses, FREE, letters to and from a Postmaster, congressional franks, single and double letters, charge box mail, forwarded, steam boat, turned cover, express usage with Boyd's express in New York City, printed mail (circulars), drop letters and foreign mail.

¹ Straight-line and oval town strikes do not exist for Saratoga Springs.

References:

Primary

Postal Markings of New York State 1792-1856, G.J. Bernadt, 1993.

Secondary

American Stampless Cover Catalogue, Vol. I, Fourth Edition, Phillips, 1985.

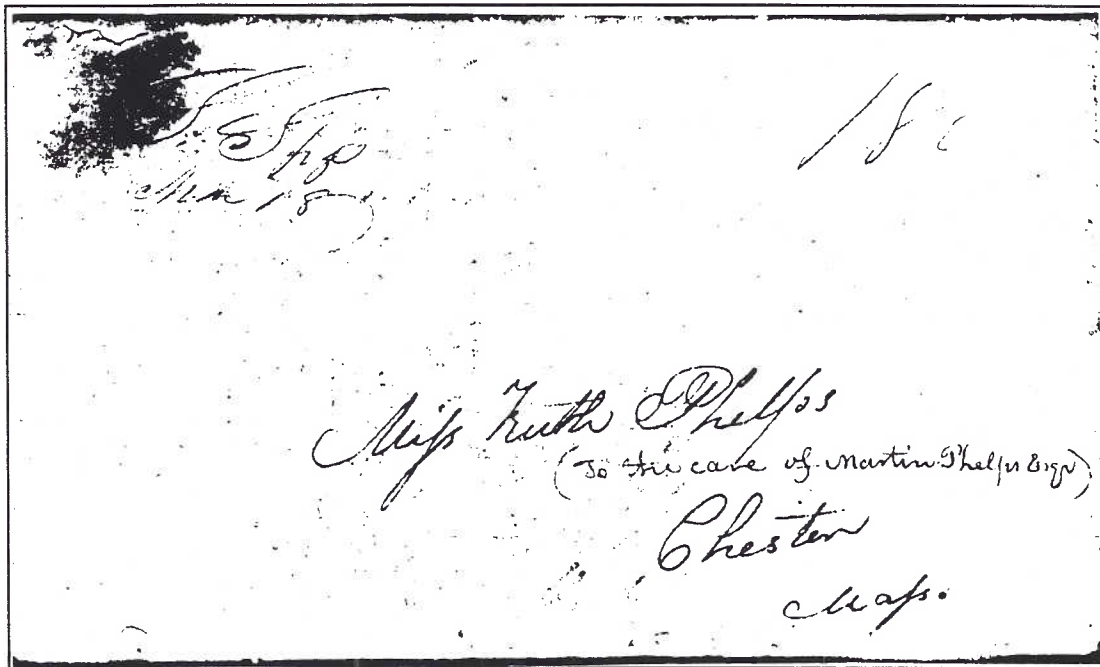
United States Letter Rates to Foreign Destinations, rev. ed., Starnes, 1989.

North Atlantic Mail Sailings 1840-75, Hubbard & Winter, 1988.

History of Letter Post Communication Between the United States and Europe 1845-1875, Hargest, 1971.

Charge Markings on Stampless-Era Covers, R.B. Graham, Linn's, Feb. 20, 1989.

Collect Letter - 1820

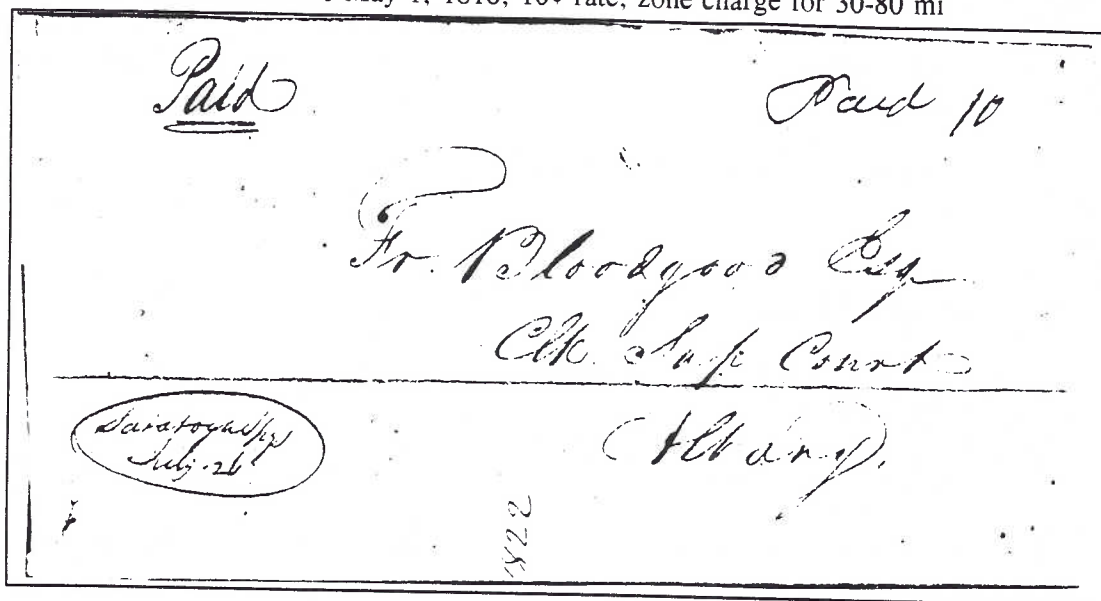


"S. Spg" in mscr., folded letter with internal heading of "Saratoga Springs March 16, 1820 Thursday" and mscr. 18½ denoting the 150-400 mi. rate for a single letter. The 18½¢ rate existed between May 1, 1816 and April 30, 1825.

*Saratoga Springs began to function as an independent post office in March of 1820. This is a very early cover.

*Saratoga Co. Heritage, p. 476.

Act effective May 1, 1816; 10c rate, zone charge for 30-80 mi

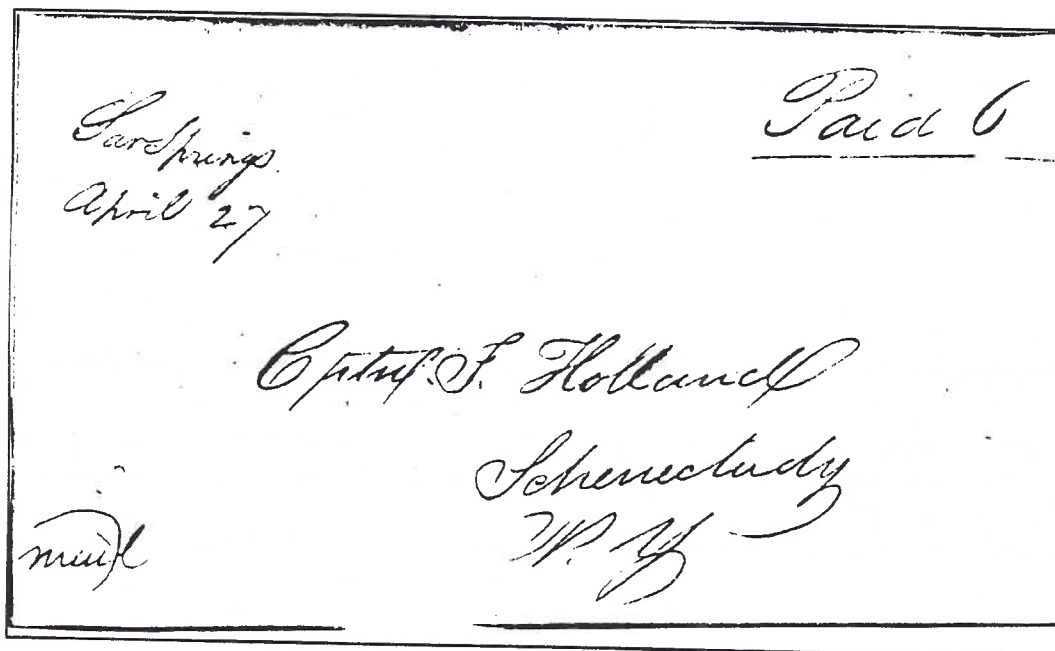


1821-1822 Legal document

Very early manuscript town mark in a small magenta ink oval, together with ms. "PAID" and "PAID 10."

The exact date of usage cannot be proved with certainty, in any event it was prior to July 26, 1822 because:

- The heading of the letter states in part - Verdict taken June 25, 1821."
- The case was entered on "your Calendar of Cases as of 25 June 1821-July 1, 1822"
- The filing date of July 26, 1822

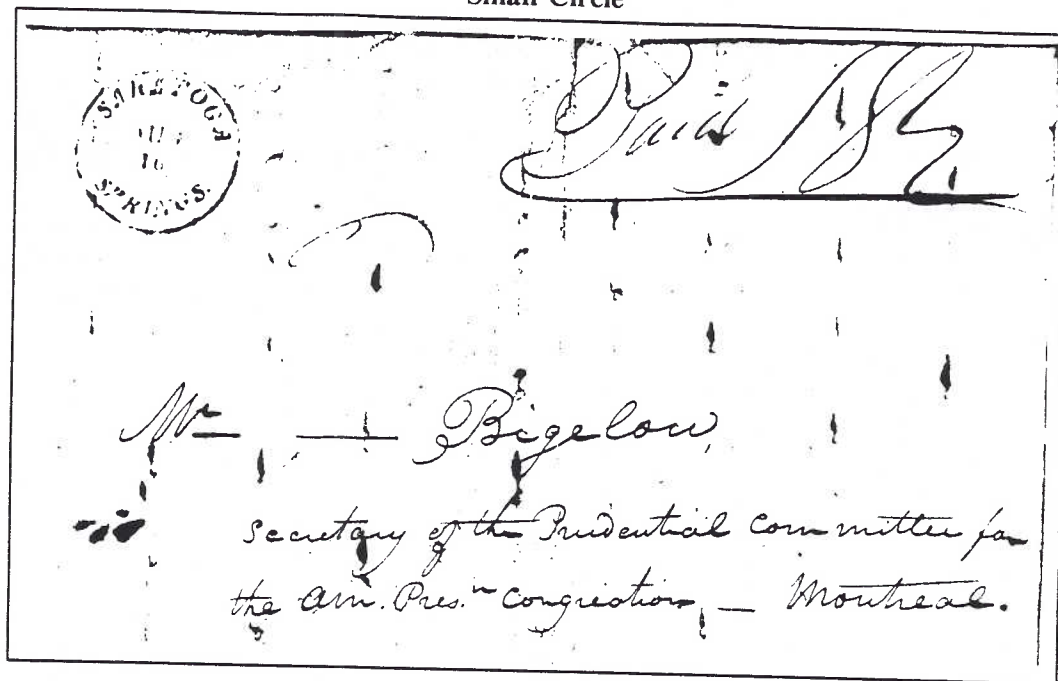


1822 Prepaid Letter

6c - Zone rate for not over 30 miles, single letter

This rate was effective between May 1, 1816 - April 30, 1825

Small Circle



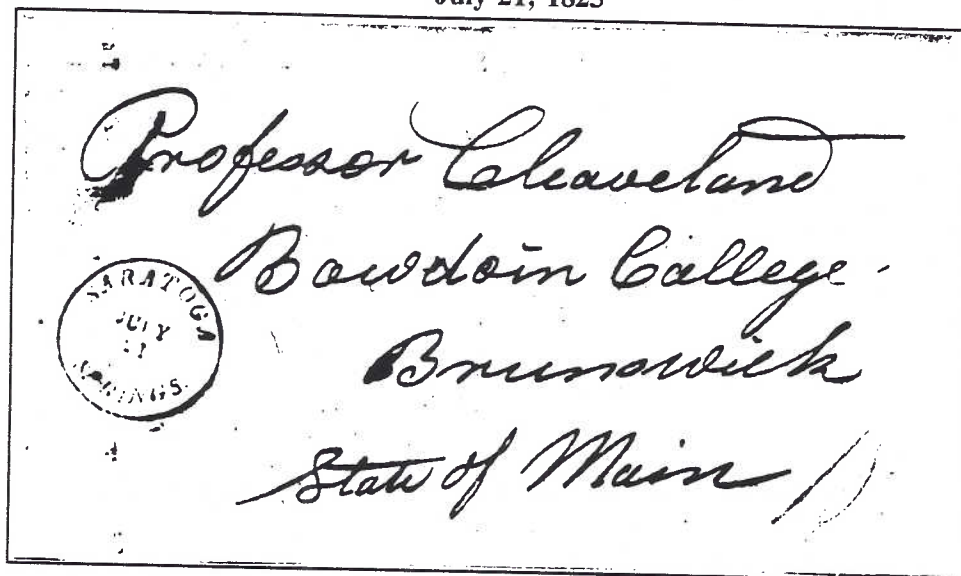
1823 Cross-Border Mail to Canada "PAID TO THE LINES"

21/22 mm. circular orange town mark known only in the 1822-1825 period

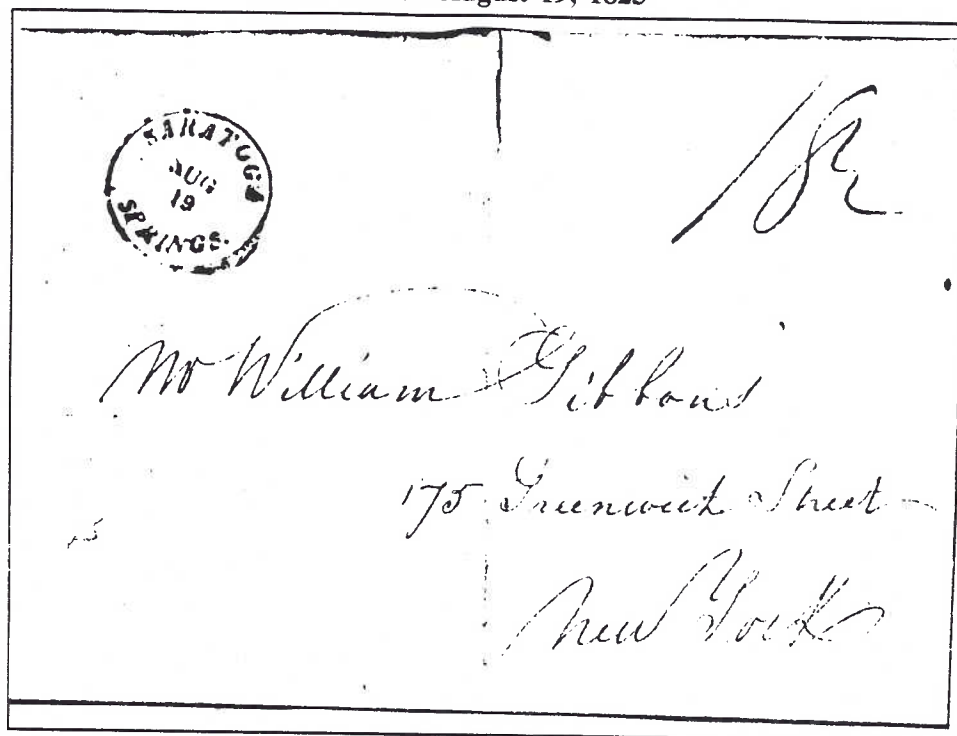
It was not possible, until 1851, to fully prepay a letter in U.S. funds to Canada. The sender could prepay the letter to the Canadian border, but the recipient would have to pay the Canadian portion of the postage.

The black mscr. "PAID 18-½" represents the charge for a single letter traveling 150-400 mi and is the U.S. portion to the border. The red mscr. "6" is the Canadian charge of 6 pence for over 60 mi. between the border and Montreal. These distances were the postal route distances, not "as the crow flies."

July 21, 1823



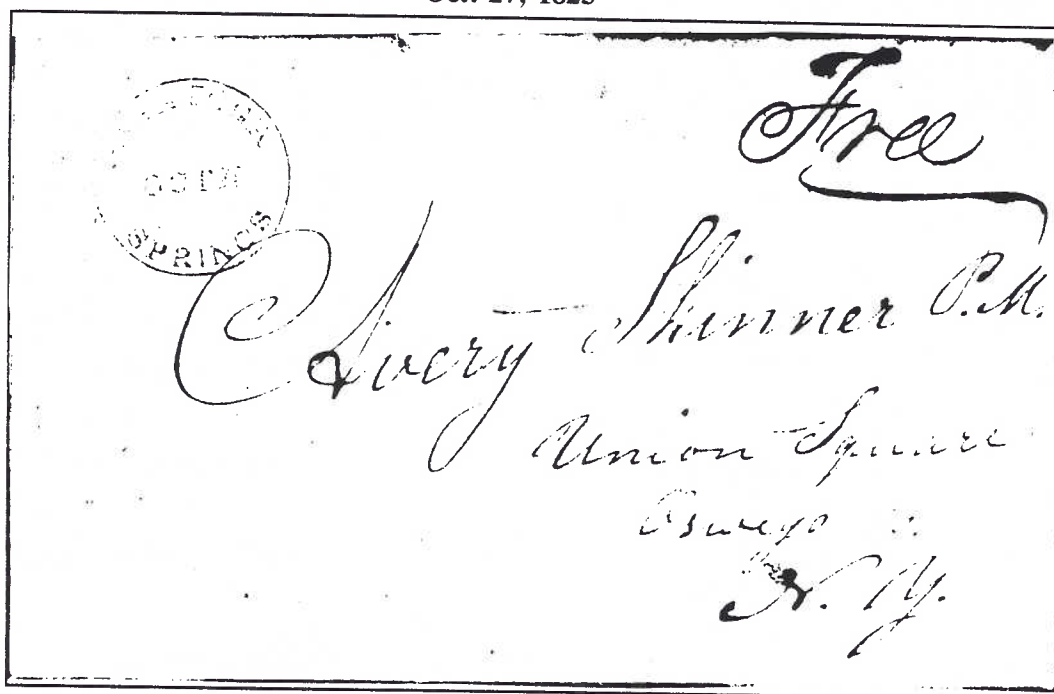
Small Circle - August 19, 1823



18½¢ Single letter
rate for 150-400
miles 1816-1823

21/22 mm.
townmark used in the
1822-1825 period

Oct. 27, 1825



Earliest known
use of the 26
mm. dia. circular
townmark

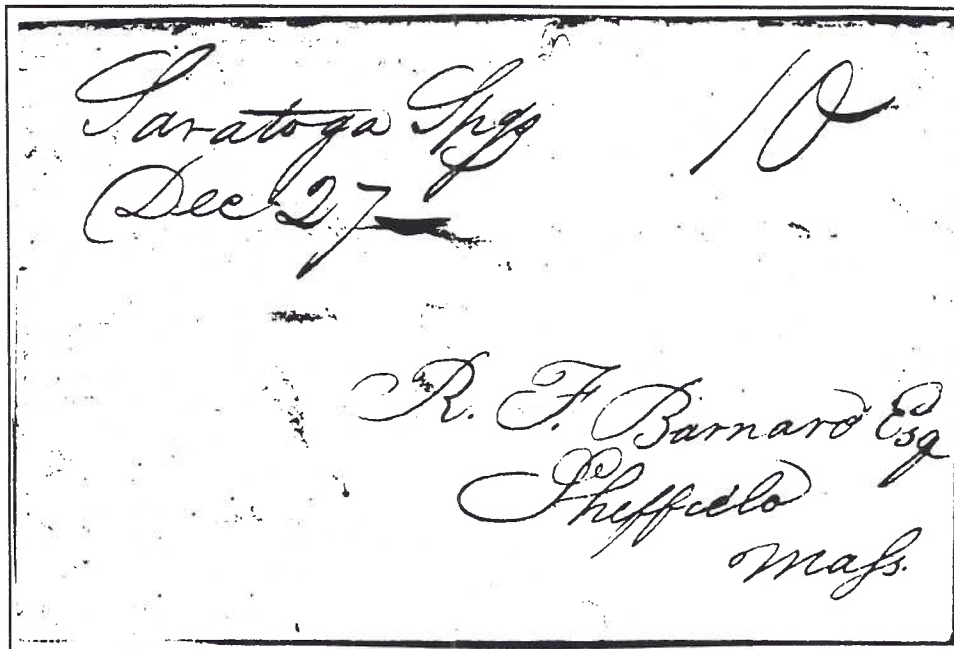
Orange-Red
Complete Circle

As noted in two stampless cover catalogues,^{1,2} the previously identified period of use for the 26 mm. dia. circular townmark was 1826-1830. This cover, internally dated, documents usage in 1825, so the span can now be refined to 1825-1830.

¹ Postal Markings of New York State 1792-1856 by George Bernadt, 1993

² American Stampless Cover Catalogue, Vol. I, editor David G. Phillips, 4th ed. 1985

1825 - Late Usage of the Saratoga Springs Manuscript Marking



10c Zone Rate Single
letter 30 to 80 mi. (1816-
1843)

The markings of Saratoga Springs were:*

- Entirely manuscript until 1822
- A mixture of mscr. & circular handstamps between 1822-1825
- Circular handstamps after 1825

So, use of a manuscript marking for Saratoga Springs as late as Dec. 27, 1825 surely represents late usage.

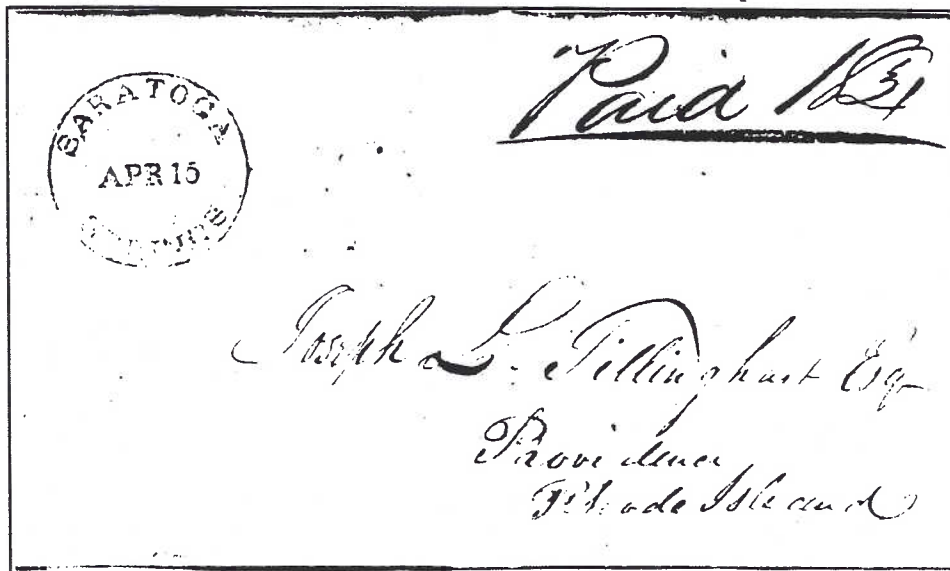
*Postal Markings of New York State by George Bernadt - 1993

April 15, 1826 - Red 26 mm. dia. Townmark - Complete Circle

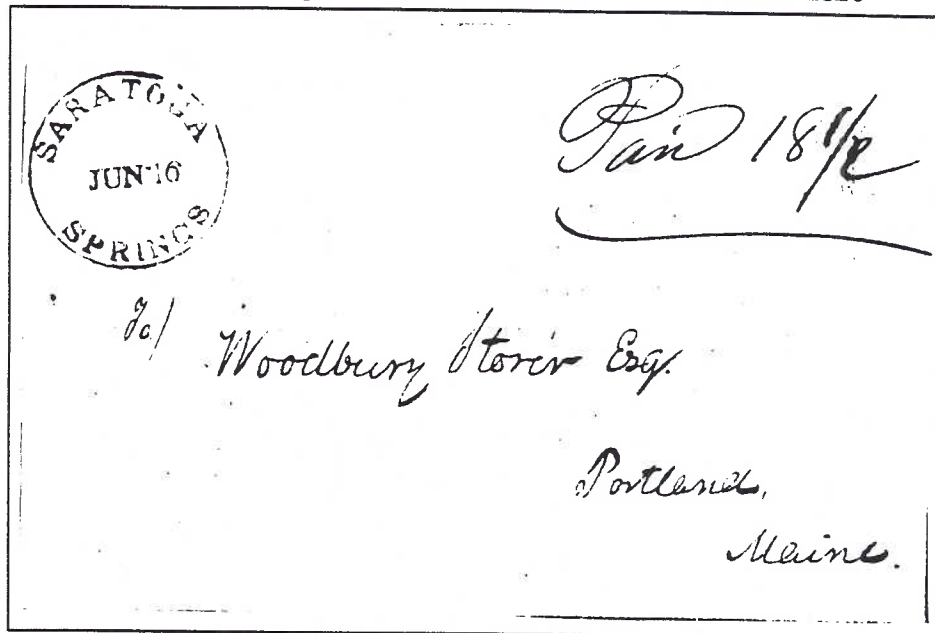
A prepaid letter - 18¼c
(three Spanish reales) -
150-400 mi.

Saratoga Springs was incorporated as a village two days later, April 17. This is a letter from John Ford, first proprietor of the famous United States Hotel, telling a patron of improvements made - "A first rate Grand Piano Forte (the underlining is his), with bagatella and billiard tables for ladies' amusement."

The first United States Hotel was erected in 1824. Mr. Ford continued as manager to 1830, when it was sold. During his management, it became one of the most celebrated hotels in the world.



June 16, 1826 - Illegal Use of the 1816-1825 18½¢ Rate in 1826



Red 26 mm Complete Circle

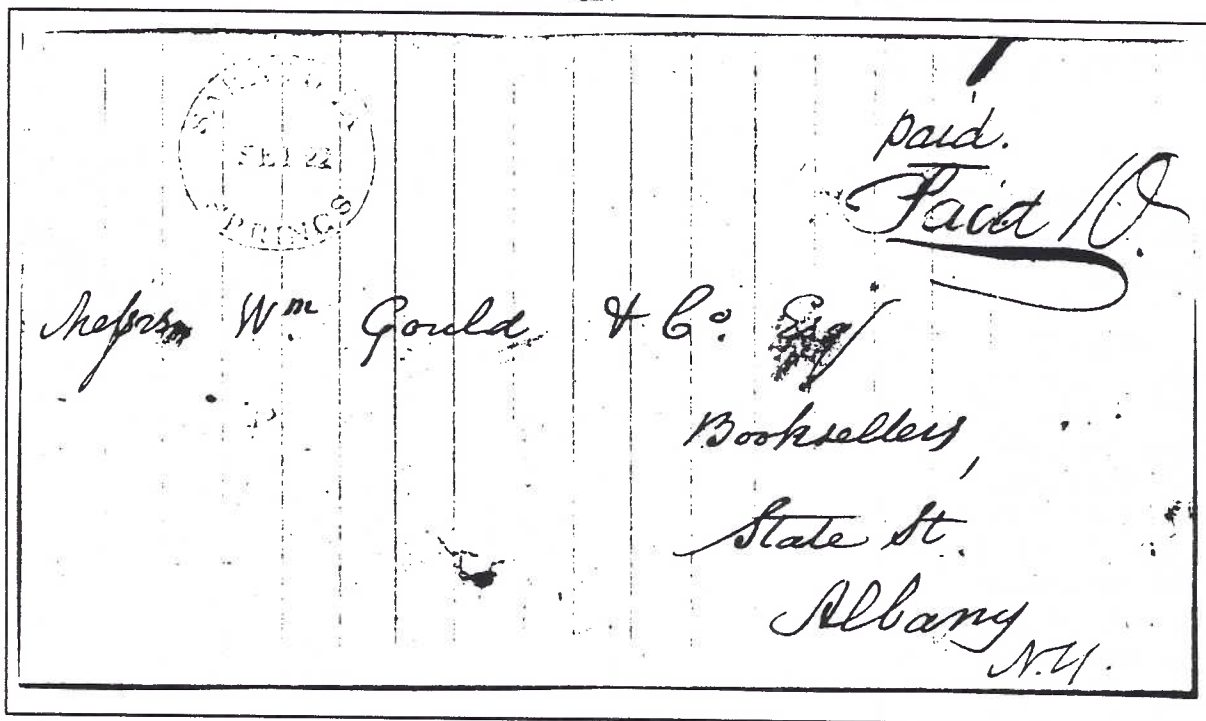
The zone rate for a single letter traveling 150-400 miles was 18½¢ from 1816 through April 30, 1825. The rate changed on May 1, 1825 to 18¾¢ to fit the available currency. One Spanish reale was worth 12½¢ and the Spanish medio real coin as well as the British 3 pence coins were each valued at 6¼¢ U.S. currency.

The internal dating June 15, 1826 clearly shows an 1826 date.

Close examination of the "18½" shows faint evidence

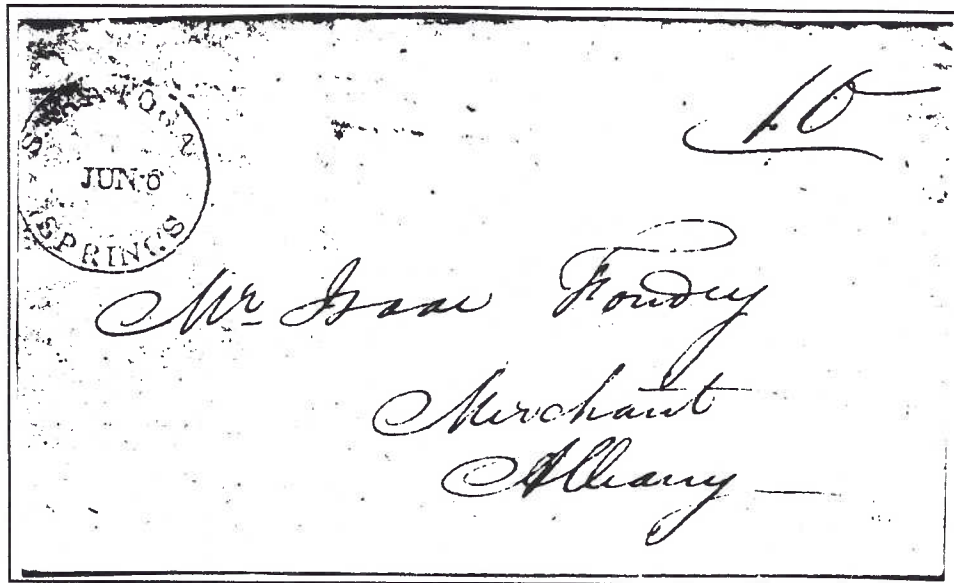
of a now blurry "3" and, with speculation, the remains of a "4" wiped away. Then, a "½" in a darker shade was added over the "¾." Though "2" can be confused with "4," there is no mistaking the "1" in "½" for a "3." Perhaps, because the letter was prepaid and the sender did not have 18¾¢ -as an accommodation- the sender was allowed to pay 18½¢ instead of 18¾¢. This could be done by using one reale (12½¢) plus 6¢ in U.S. currency.

1827



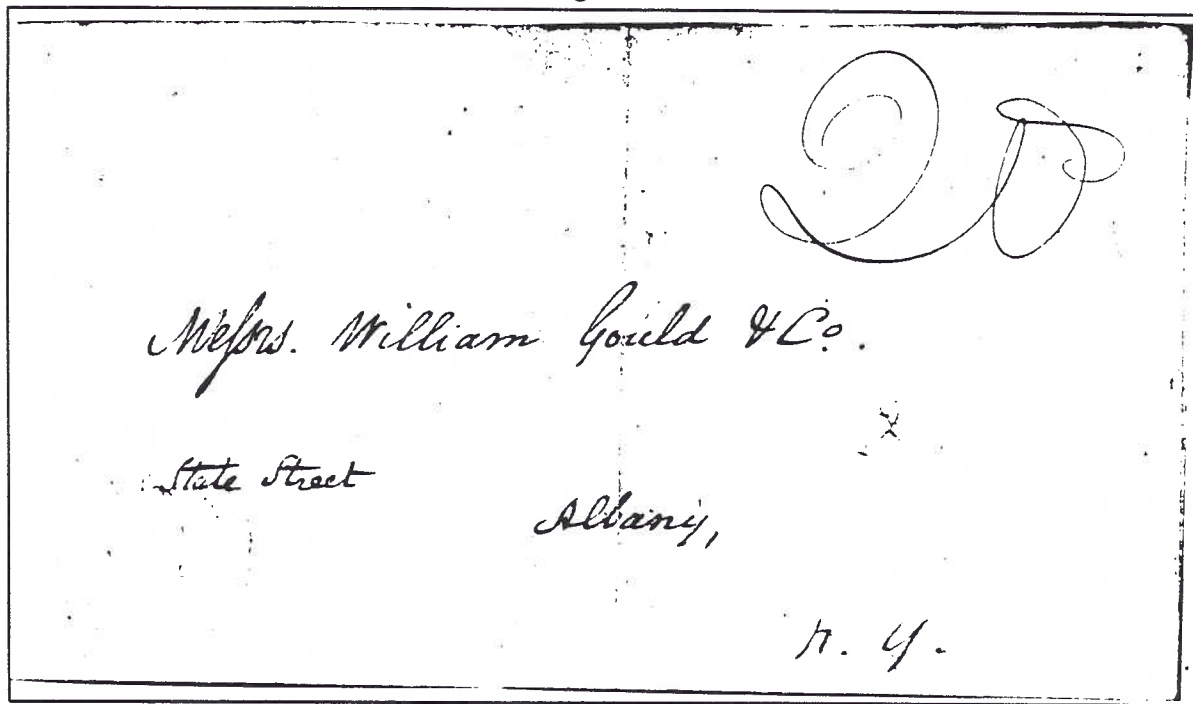
Red 26mm. cds. and manuscript "PAID 10" - 30-80 mile zone rate. This folded letter is written on ruled paper - very early for this. Contents are an order for the heaviest available paper "as I shall tar it for covering my new office roof."

Circa 1828 - Red Strike
Single Letter, 10¢ Zone Rate for 30-80 miles.

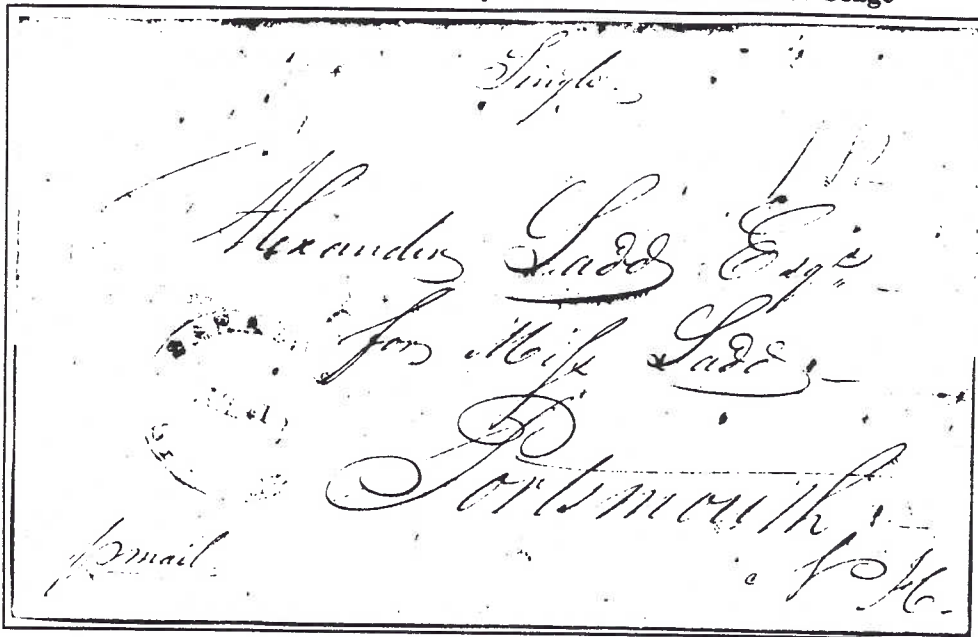


26mm COMPLETE CIRCLE, a quite scarce marking. The "complete circle" closed between "Saratoga" and "Springs" on both sides. The "broken circle" is open these areas. The "complete circle" strike was used 1825-1830.

1829 - Orange Strike
Double Letter - Twice the single letter rate or 20¢ for 30-80 mi.



1831 - Broken Circle - Early Use in the First Year of Usage



The Broken Circle strike (no rim at sides) measures 25 to 25½mm. depending on the strike, yet there are no discernable differences in the shape of the circle or the letters inside. It is the successor to the 26mm. strike of 1825-1830, and because of the size difference, is definitely not a worn version but an entirely different handstamp.

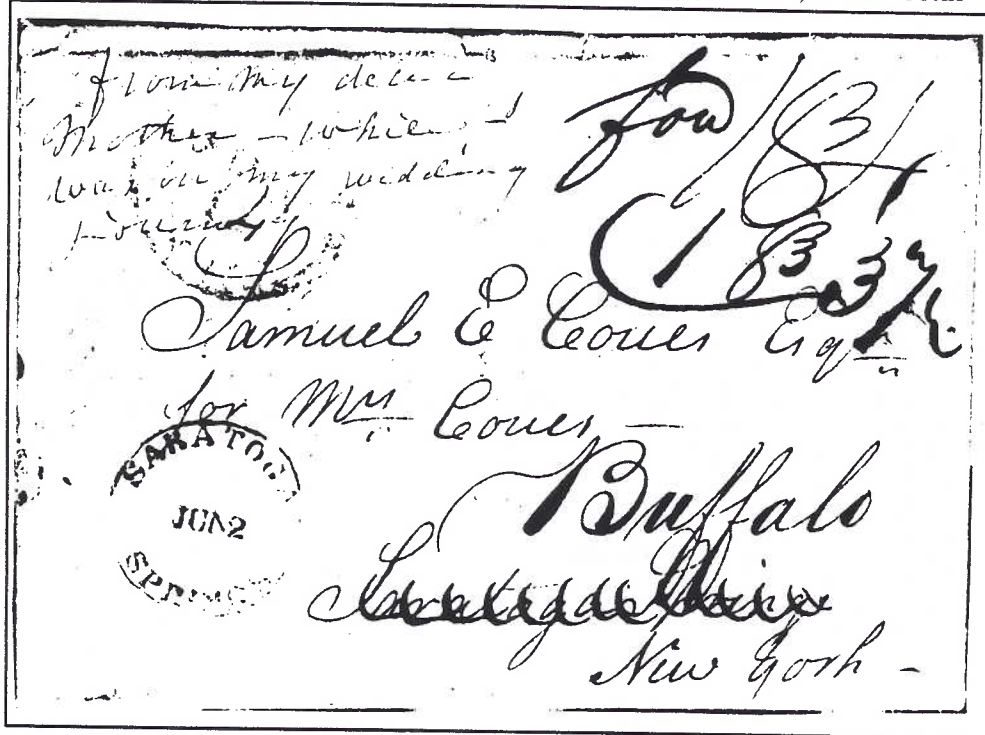
Markings:

- 18¾ - Rate for 150-400 mi. for a single letter (¾ written as 2)
- Single - Single folded sheet of paper, written by the sender
- pmail - per mail, written by the sender

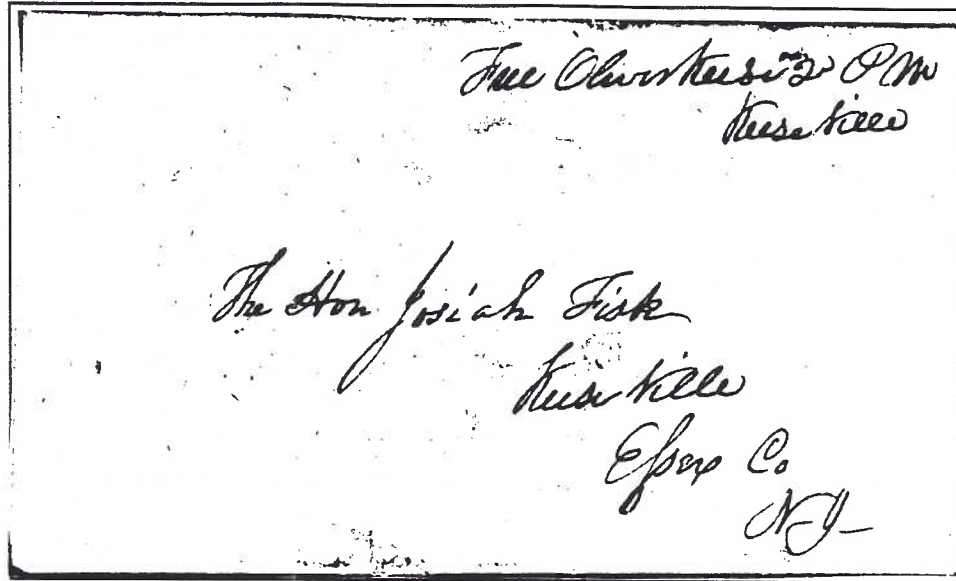
1833 25mm Broken Circle Townmark - Forwarded Letter, 37½¢ Total

This letter was originally sent to Saratoga Springs. The originating townmark is indistinct and there is no internal town indication, but an 18¾¢ rate for a 150-400 mile distance did apply (red 18¾¢). The letter was forwarded to Buffalo (again, 150-400 mi.) from Saratoga Springs with the black "fdw" and black "18¾" added in Saratoga Springs.

The recipient had to pay both charges, i.e. 37½¢. This could be done with a payment of 3 reales since one reale was equivalent to 12½¢.



Use of a Postmaster's Free Frank at Other Than His Own Post Office
May 14, 1833



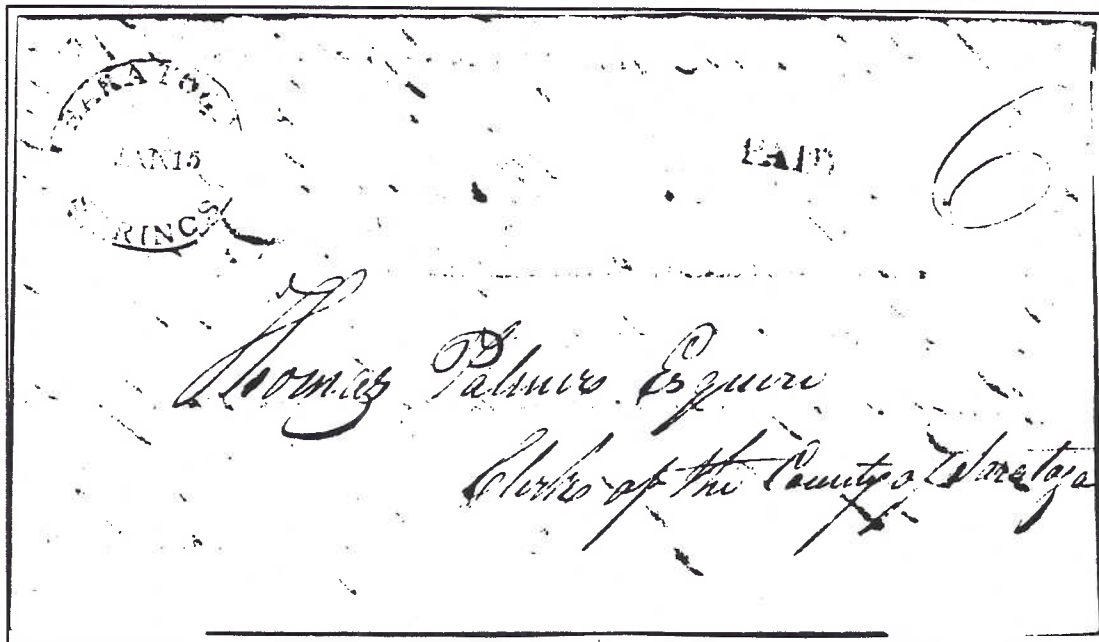
The contents and dateline of this letter was written at Saratoga Springs.

Oliver Keese 2nd was the first postmaster of Keeseville, Essex County, N.Y. Use of a postmaster's frank at other than his own post office is unusual.

In spite of the fact that there are no town strikes on the outside, it is concluded this letter traveled in the postal system because:

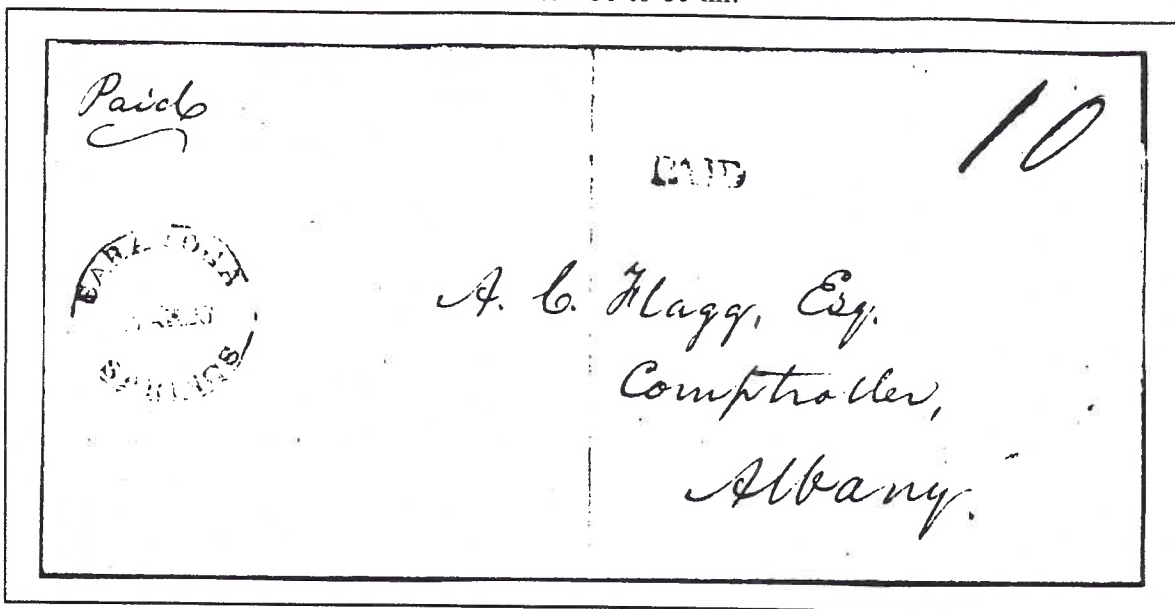
a) A postmaster was entitled to free mail; b) The word "free"; c) Mr. Keese identified himself as a postmaster; d) Why go outside the mail service when using it was free?

12½ x 4mm "PAID" Used with the 25½mm Broken Circle Townmark

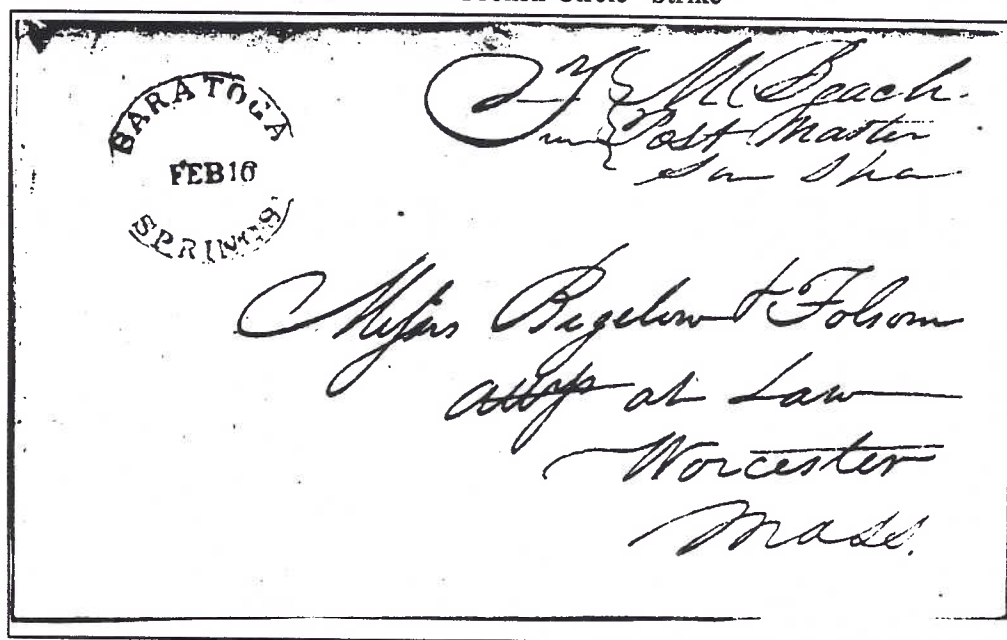


6c Rate Not over 30mi.

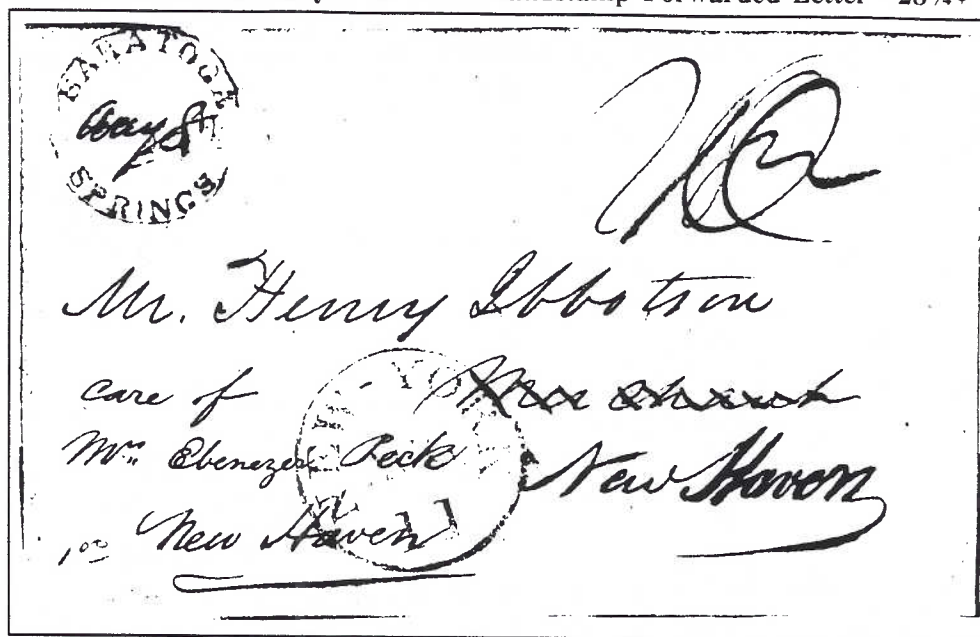
1833 - 12½ x 4mm "PAID" Used with the 25½mm Broken Circle Townmark
10¢ Rate - 30 to 80 mi.



1834 Postmaster's Free Frank
Red 25mm "Broken Circle" Strike



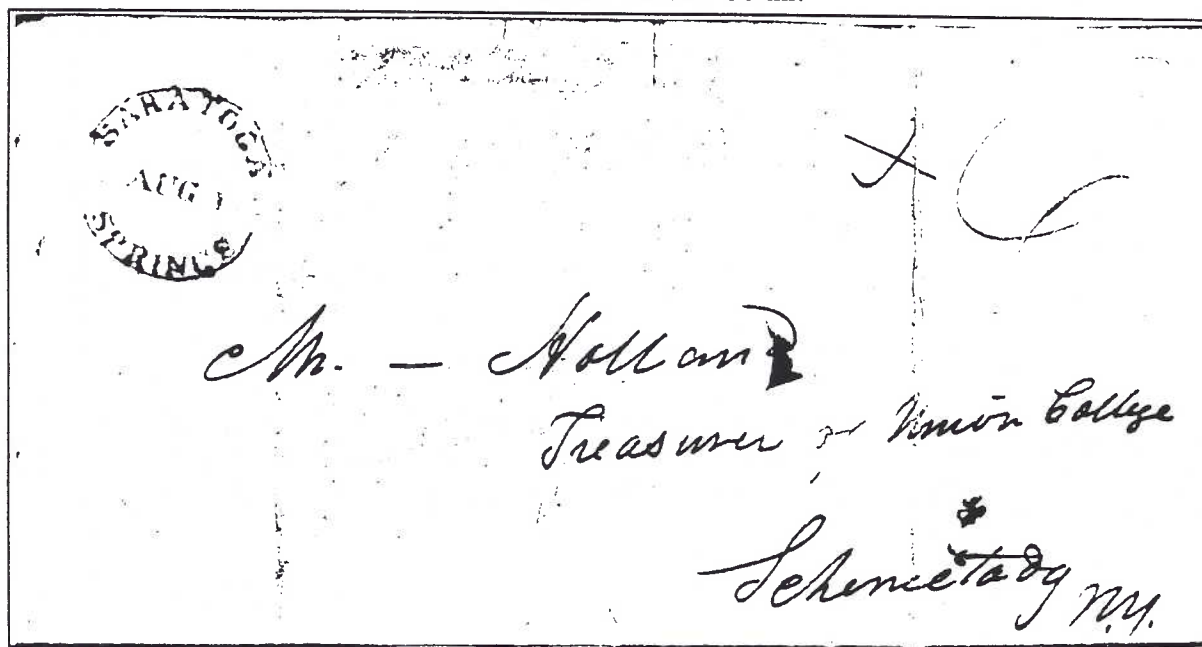
1834 Month and Day Omitted in Handstamp Forwarded Letter - 28¾¢



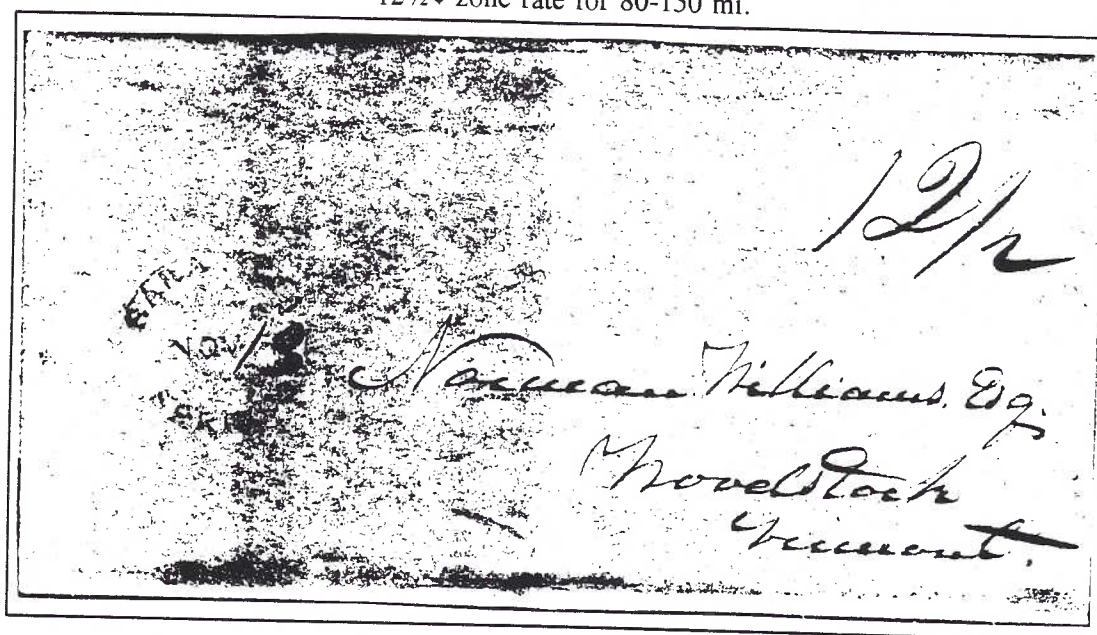
Month and Day omitted: The common practice, when using the broken-circle handstamp, was to have the month and day inserted in the middle. This was probably accomplished by use of a variable interior slug. In this case "Aug. 8" was written in manuscript, a scarce practice with this handstamp.

Forwarded letter: This letter was originally sent to New York, a distance of 150-400 miles, thus the 18¾¢ rate (in black) manuscript. The letter was then forwarded to New Haven, a distance of 30-80 miles and an additional charge of 10¢, making the total charge to the recipient 28¾¢.

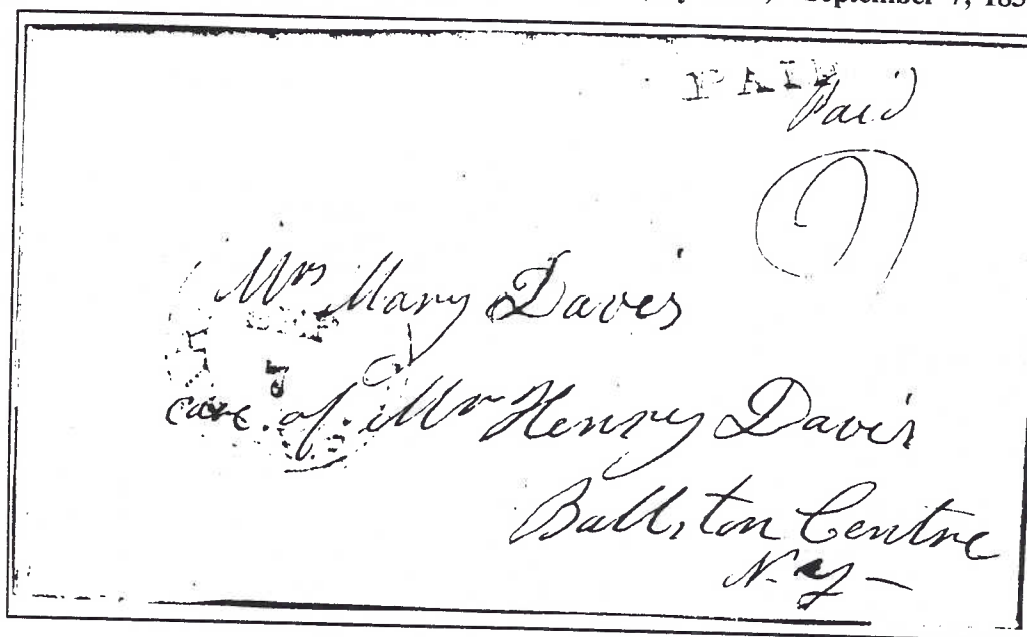
1835 25mm. Broken-Circle Strike
6¢ zone rate for not over 30 mi.



1835 25mm. Broken-Circle Strike
12½¢ zone rate for 80-150 mi.

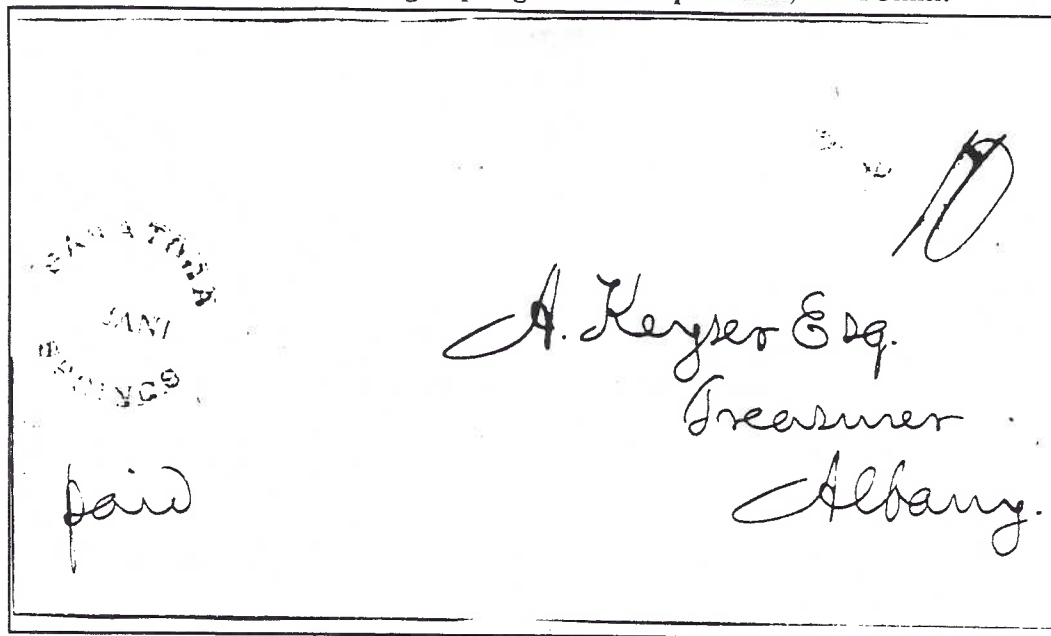


Earliest Reported Use -32mm. dia. Townmark (any color) - September 7, 1837



Orange-red circular 32mm. circular town strike, prepaid, 6¢ zone rate for up to 30 mi. Also, very early use of the 19½ x 4mm. PAID marking. Both earlier than the 1838-1843 listing noted in Postal Markings of New York State 1792-1856 by Bernadt, 1993. Also earlier than the period noted in the American Stampless Cover Catalog.

Smallest of the Saratoga Springs handstamp PAIDS, 12 X 3mm.



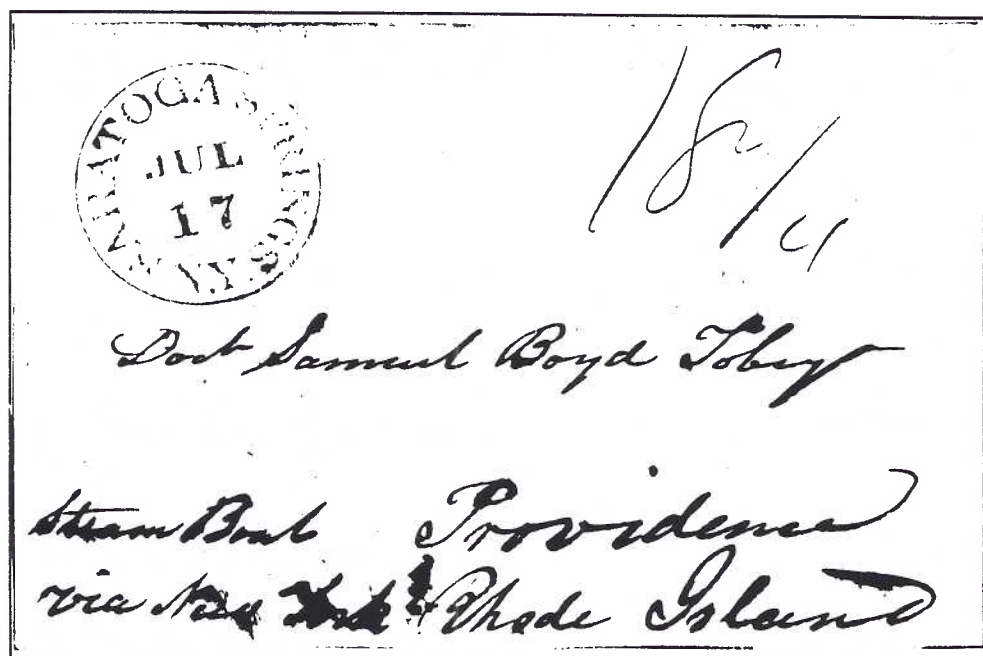
Probable Use: 1838

The PAID handstamp markings known for Saratoga Springs are 12 x 3mm (this one), 12½ x 4mm, 19⅞/20 x 4mm and 22 x 5mm.

The townmark is of the broken circle variety, determined not from the diameter of the rim or absence at the sides, but the orientations of the portions of the rim which remain - to the letters. The rim is reported¹ to have disappeared entirely in 1838. This cover is postmarked January 1 is evidence that the rim is nearly gone.

¹Postal Markings of New York State 1792-1856, (1933), Bernadt, p. 5.

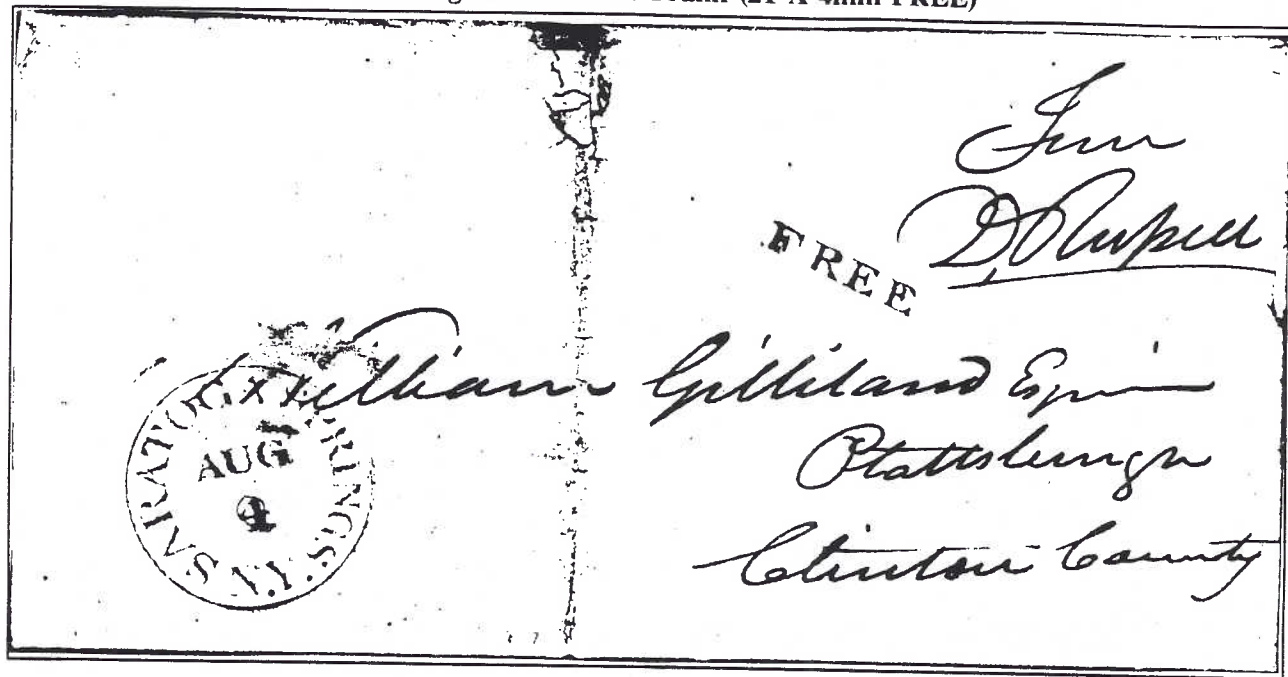
1838 Steamboat Mail -Via New York



The notation in the lower left corner indicates that the writer wanted faster service than could be obtained by an overland route. The probable route to New York was using a steamboat and HUDSON RIVER MAIL but using POUCH MAIL, for which Hudson River Mail markings do not exist.

It is an open question whether the remainder of the trip from New York to Providence was over land or ocean-going steamboat.

1838 Congressional Free Frank (21 X 4mm FREE)



Members of Congress were entitled to FREE MAIL and took advantage. The franking had to be by written signature of the franker, in this case, Rep. David A. Russell. It was also required that the title of office held be inscribed by the franker (not done in this case).*

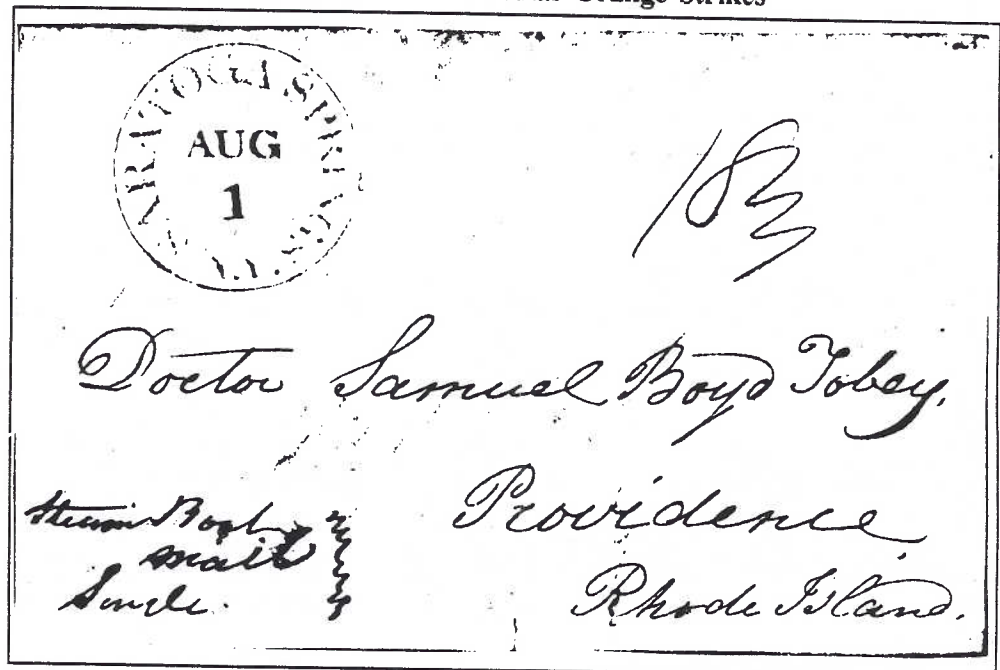
Mr. Russell was a member of the House of Representatives and elected as a Whig. He served three terms in Congress from Mar. 4, 1835 through Mar. 3, 1841. The enclosure, a "double letter" of two sheets, speculates on who will be the candidates for Governor & Lt. Governor of New York next fall.

The 21 x 4mm FREE marking is scarce in this time period, the manuscript usage being preferred.

*Ref.: History of the "FREE FRANKING" of Mail in the United States by Edward Stern, 1936, p.2.

1838 32mm Circular Orange Strikes

18¾c 150-400 mi.
Sent part of the way
via Steam Boat.

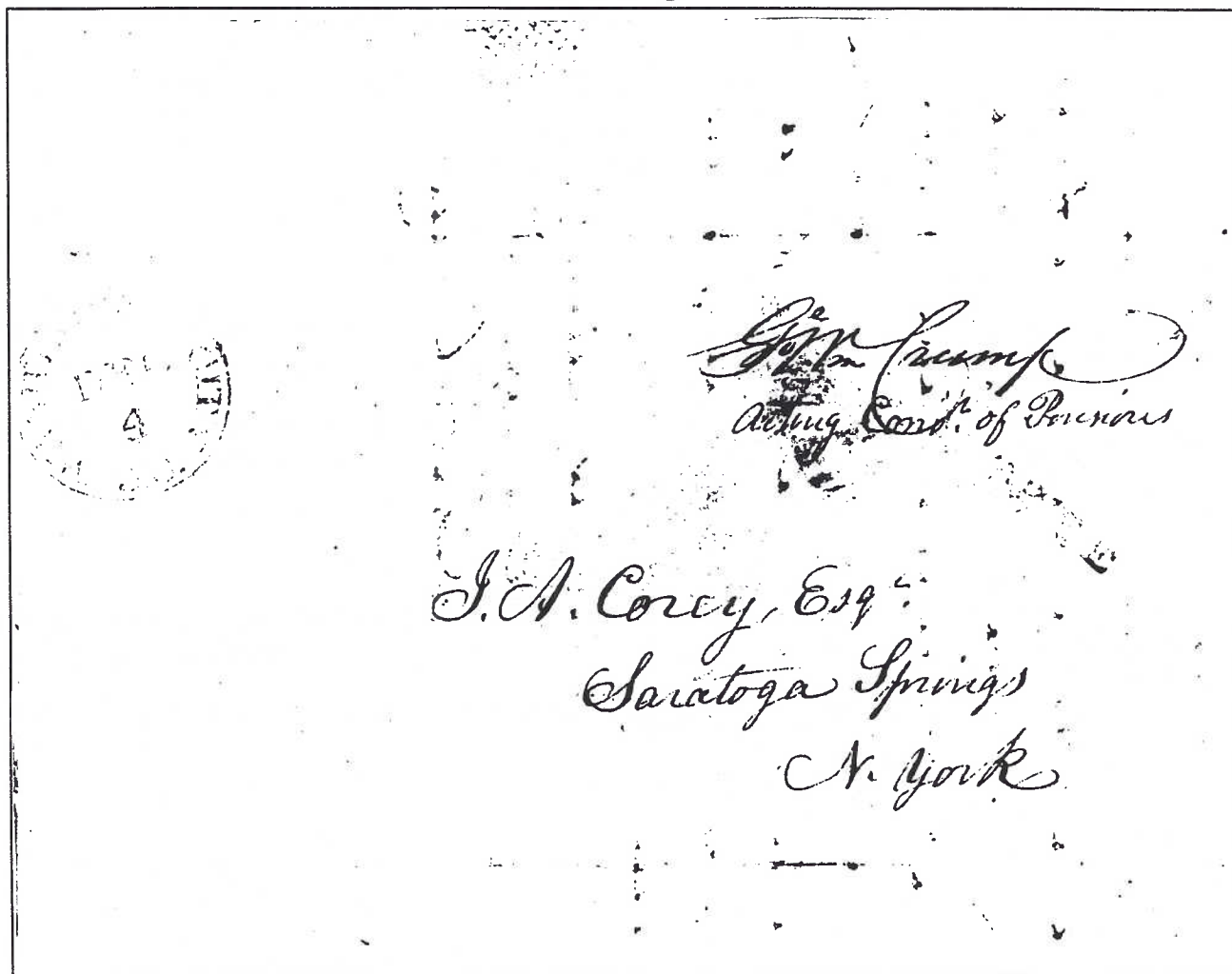


Turned Cover

This cover consists of a single sheet of paper, folded and used twice as two letters. Both concern the application of Jonathan Rouse for a Revolutionary War pension. Rouse claimed that he served over four months in 1778. The acting Commissioner of Pensions, Geo. M. Crump, signer, confirmed service of twenty-one days but advised more satisfactory proof might be had in the office of the comptroller of New York.

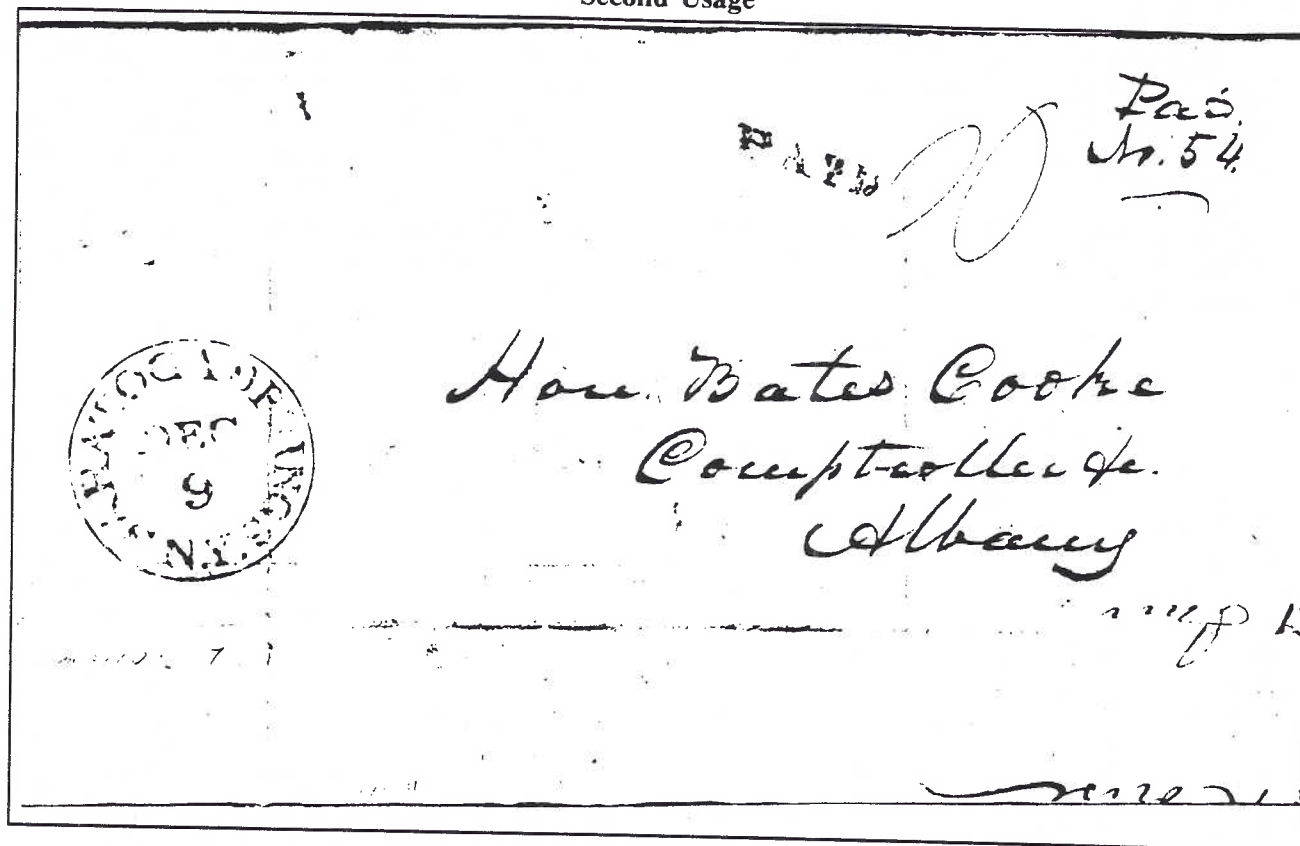
The pension was discouraged as the writer of the second letter noted when he wrote to the comptroller, "I infer that you are in possession of facts showing that Jonathan Rouse is not entitled to a pension under any circumstances."

First Usage



Dec. 4, 1839 - FREE letter. Orange "WASHINGTON CITY DC" 30mm postmark with 3mm letters and large date. Late and scarce use of this handstamp as it is listed only for 1837.

Second Usage

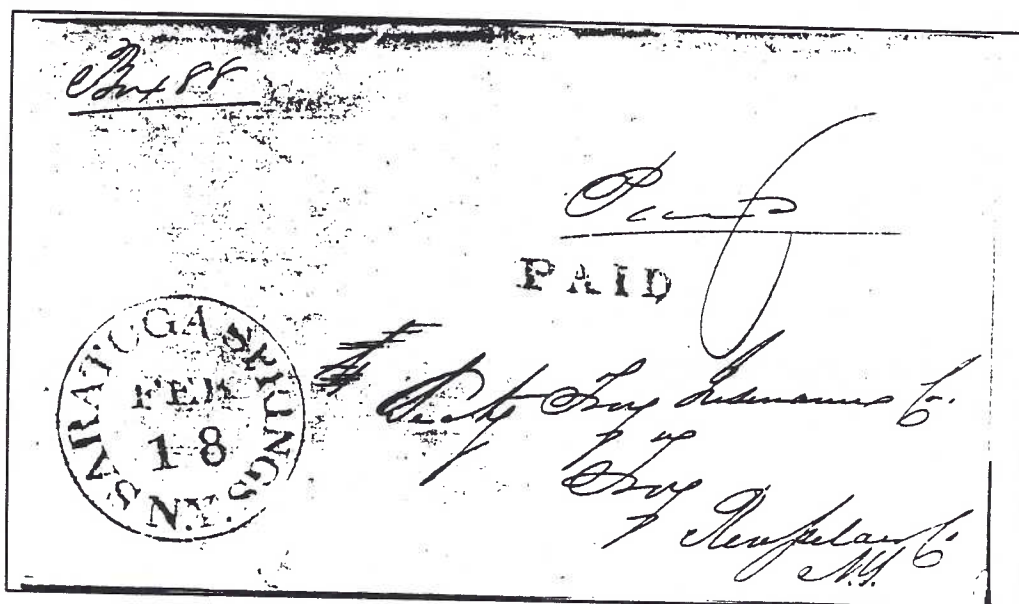


Dec. 9, 1839 - Prepaid letter with 32mm postmark in red and slanted red PAID. The upper right marking is a charge account No. maintained with the local postmaster. 10¢ zone rate, 30-80 mi.
20 x 4mm PAID CHARGE BOX MAIL "Pat No. 54"

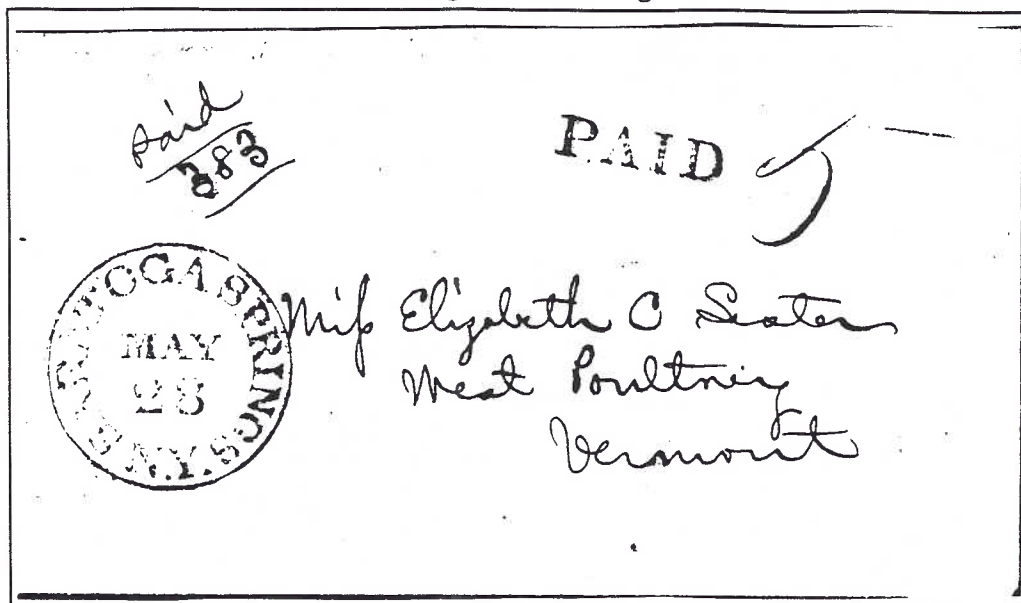
Charge Box Markings

Many business found it expedient to prepay their mail (outgoing) and made arrangements with local postmasters to do so on designated mail. It was a risk that the postmasters took as an accommodation to their customers.

1840
20 x 4mm PAID
in red



Charge Box Markings



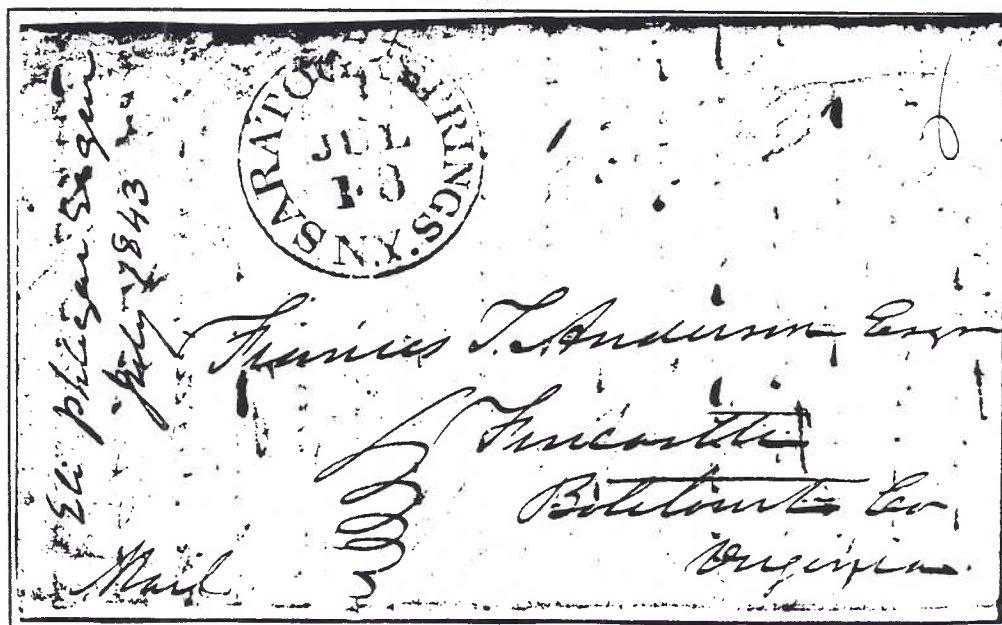
ca. 1845
22 x 5mm PAID
in blue

July, 1843

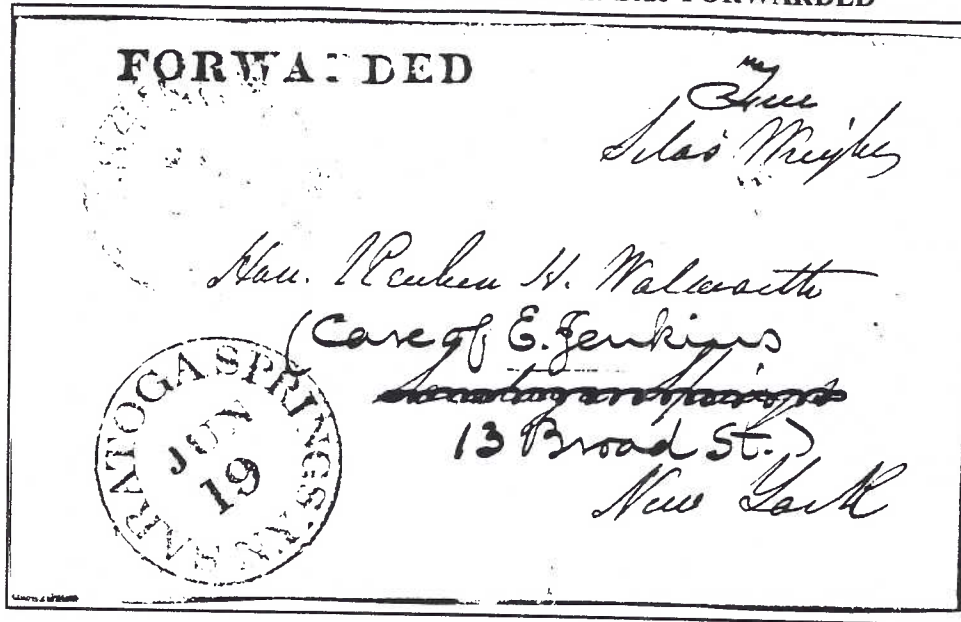
32mm. circular
blue town strike.
This stampless folded
letter was sent to
Fincastle, Botetourt,
Va., a small town
about 10 miles north
of Roanoke, Va.
"As the crow flies,"
this is a distance of
about 430 mi., thus
the zone rate for
"over 400 mi." ap-
plied. This was 25c
which is written in
manuscript at the top.
The significance of
the additional 6c,
also in ms is hazy, as this represents a zone rate of not over 30 miles; this letter should have traveled the entire distance for 25c

This is a fascinating letter describing the "cure" of the spring waters which involved drinking nine or ten tumblers per day and a hot (100-110°F) bath every day. "I followed the Doctor's prescription for weeks - instead of getting better, I found my stomach getting weaker and more critical." No wonder, the other part of the diet was bread and once in a while an egg. The letter also mentions being introduced to John Q. Adams.

1843



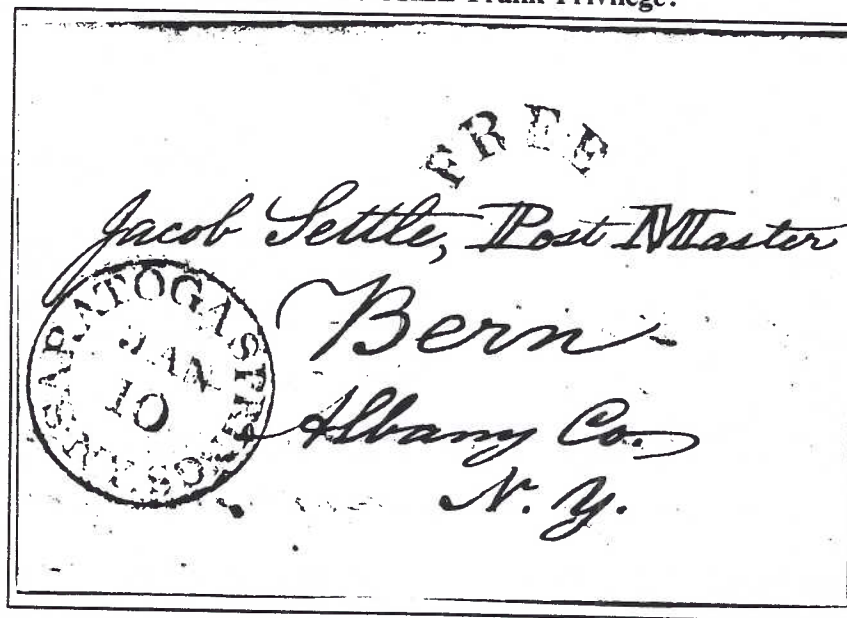
Congressional Free Frank & 26½mm. Blue FORWARDED



June 19, 1844

Saratoga Springs 32mm June 19 circular strike and "FORWARDED" both in sky-blue. Origin of folded letter sheet is Washington DC (31mm orange circular strike) franked "FREE," also in orange. Silas Wright (senator from N.Y.) addressed to Hon. Rueben Walworth, informing him of the U.S. Senate vote confirming him as a judge. Walworth was the last chancellor of N.Y. An item of interest.

The ARC 12 x 26mm FREE Marking - 1845
Misuse of the FREE Frank Privilege?



This letter was written by a minister. The contents have absolutely nothing to do with post office business, but are personal. Still, this was perfectly legal. Postmasters could send and receive free mail, providing only a single letter sheet was involved. It was an inducement to become a postmaster because the financial remuneration was small.

AUCTION FIND

by Maris Tirums

I purchased a "lot" of scruffy looking covers at the Schenectady Stamp Club's members' auction held in April 1994. The packet contained about 50 covers, many had business corner cards, but all-in-all, the covers were tattered, slightly dirty, and the postage was paid with the most ordinary stamps of the time. The covers were almost all addressed to a business in Fort Hunter operated by one R.E. Warner.

My bid was placed because I had noticed a few corner cards that were of a little interest to me among the covers, and when no one else showed any interest, I took the lot for a token 75 cents. Thus, the covers wound up costing less than 2 cents a piece. The enjoyment in examining my purchase would surely be worth the cost even if there was nothing "good" among the covers.

At this point, I would like to describe the contents of one of the covers which, in my opinion, made it an "auction find." As a postal history item, this cover has nothing to recommend it - but as a glimpse into the past, I found it interesting indeed.

The envelope was mailed to Mr. Warner from the E.J. Moschell General Insurance Company of Canajoharie, New York. The machine cancellation reads *CANAJOHARIE AUG 2 1913* tying a 2 cent red Washington regular issue stamp. The envelope was roughly opened at the right side, but the stamp is intact. Handwritten on the left side of the envelope is *Permit Electric lights*.

The envelope contained two pieces of paper, both of which are illustrated here. The first is a handwritten note to Mr. Warner which reads as follows:

Mr. R.E. Warner

Fort Hunter, N.Y.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed find Electric light permit which is for your policy covering furniture. The policies covering on buildings and merchandise each have a clause attached or included permitting electric lights.

Yours truly,

/EJ Moschell/

The second enclosure is a preprinted form which grants the insured permission to use electricity for light, heat or power, but which goes on to state that:

...it being understood and agreed that this insurance excludes any loss or damage to dynamos, excitors, lamps, switches, motors or other electrical appliances or devices as may be caused by electrical currents, artificial or natural...

This permit was necessary was still considered a new technology in 1913, and experiences showed that

fire was one of the hazards that accompanied electric lights. Thus we see such quaint restrictions on its use.

The concern displayed by the insurance company has to be put in proper perspective, however, as a bit of information I recently read in a contemporary article shows. A recent study on the causes of fires in the United States found that the most frequent type of fire was electrical, causing 23% of all fires. Other common causes are tobacco smoking (18%), overheated materials (8%), and hot surfaces such as stoves and furnaces (7%).

R. E. Warner, Insured

N. Y. Standard.

Clause Forbidding The Use Of Electricity.

This entire policy shall be void if electricity is used for light, heat or power in the above described premises, unless written permission is given by this Company hereon.

Referring to the above:

Permission is hereby given for the use of electricity for light, heat or power, it being understood and agreed that this insurance excludes any loss or damage to dynamos, excitors, lamps, switches, motors or other electrical appliances or devices such as may be caused by electrical currents, artificial or natural, and will be liable only for such loss or damage to them as may occur in consequence of fire outside of the machines themselves.

Attached to and forming part of policy No. *36918* of the EMPIRE CO-OPERATIVE FIRE INSURANCE CO.

Date *July 29, 1913*

EJ Moschell

Agent.

JUDSON BURNANS, PRESIDENT.

W. D. COLCLOUGH, SECRETARY AND GENERAL MANAGER.

JOHN R. BECKER, TREASURER.

SCHOHARIE AND OTSEGO MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

TERRITORIAL DISTRICT

SCHOHARIE, OTSEGO, MONTGOMERY, CHENANGO, BROOME, SARATOGA AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES

Canajoharie
~~COBLESKILL~~, N. Y.,

Aug. 21/1913

Mr. R. E. Warner

Fort Hunter N.Y.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed find Electric light permit which is for your policy covering Furniture. The policies covering on buildings and merchandise each have a clause attached or included permitting Electric lights.

Yours truly,

E. J. Moschell

E. J. MOSCHELL
GENERAL INSURANCE
CANAJOHARIE, N. Y.



*Permit
Electric light*

Mr. R. E. Warner,

Fort Hunter,

N.Y.

(over)

MUSEUM OF POSTAL HISTORY

by Martin Margulis

While making an effort to get rid of excess material in my den, I came across two letters from Mr. Joseph H. Cohen, curator/historian of the Museum of Postal History which is at 421 8th Avenue, Room 3023. The museum is open on Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Mr. Cohen can be reached at 212-330-3291.

The museum has a library and a collection of badges, mailboxes, etc.—anything having to do with the posts. A better source of information on the operations of the New York Post Office is Mr. Cohen, who goes back almost 50 years. He worked on the pneumatic tubes which moved the city's mails until 1953. In that year the tubes were replaced by trucks.

I did research at the museum for a year or so in the mid 1980s and wrote a number of articles on what I found in the archives. Most of it was written for LaPosta and the USCC newsletter. For some reason it didn't seem to fit in to what was being done for the old Bulletin.

When I was at the museum, they had a complete run of the Post Masters Reports from the first issue. They also had a number of Directories of Manhattan businesses. The reports hold a wealth of information about post office operation from the mid 1870s on, i.e. they list the over 200 sub (financial) post offices in the city by name, location and number.

The museum also has maps showing the branch post office districts long before but including, present day zip code areas. Combined with the books they make it possible to trace the location of the branches over time. Some branches, almost all in rented locations, moved quite often in response to customer needs.

I believe that the museum has the only collection, unfortunately pasted down, of every N.Y.S. 1938 Air Mail Week cover. Middletown, New York had the dubious distinction of having its participation in this event denied because of the condition of its airfield. However, there are hundreds of covers which were flown and you might be interested in those covers from villages you collect. You could do counties also.

From 1900 on, more or less, there are copies of correspondence between New York City and Washington of many post office firsts. For example the first air mails. Talk about micro management, what these show is unbelievable. Washington had rules to cover almost every aspect of every situation. The New York City post master had practically no flexibility at all. It is a classic example of wasting time and money to save a couple of cents. The New York officials had about as much autonomy as robots.

As I said before, I spent almost a year and a half at the museum going through the files and literature. If I had been a more disciplined researcher, I could have made still more use of the resources, but I was turning out articles every few months and I had no place to publish all the information I could find. I did find proof that the elevated trains were used to carry mail, especially the Third Avenue line, as the files contained copies of the correspondence and contracts between the city post office and the line.

The museum is a gold mine for the researcher especially if used along with the material in the Forty-Second Street library and the library of the New York Historical Society.

Those who are interested in mail badges, post boxes and the like, will also have a field day at the facility. Some of the interest was, and possibly still is, displayed downstairs in the post office part of the building which is located at 421 Eighth Avenue, Room 3023. The library is on the fifth floor. Phone ahead, as Mr. Cohen is a fount of information about the city's post office (Manhattan).

NEW YORK MANUFACTURING COMPANY

by Kenneth Hall

- 1812 An act was passed by the Legislature of New York on June 12, 1812, authorizing the establishment of a manufacturing company to produce iron and brass wire and cotton and wool "hand cards." Hand cards were a device used in the preparation of wool and cotton for yarn. The name of this company was the New York Manufacturing Company.
- 1813 One section of the act stated that by the first of November 1813, the corporation was required to expand by the purchasing of machinery and equipment. It also required them to establish a "Bank of Deposit and Discount."
- 1814 In 1814 the N.Y.M.C. was extended banking privileges and begin printing their own bank notes. These notes were printed in one, two, three, six, eight, ten and twenty dollar denominations. The one, two, three, and six dollar notes had vignettes of historical events on them, while the eight, ten, and twenty dollar notes had manufacturing vignettes. It is believed that these notes show the earliest known use of an historical event as a vignette on U.S. paper money. The events that were illustrated on the notes were the Naval Battles of the war of 1812.
- 1815 Financing the War of 1812 was a major problem for the State of New York. A considerable amount of money was borrowed on the personal credit of the Governor, Daniel D. Tompkins. After the war, Tompkins had great difficulty straightening his accounts. He and Archibald McIntyre, comptroller of the state, quarreled about it for years afterwards. Mr. McIntyre was given authority to borrow funds wherever he could.
- The State applied for a loan (amount unknown) to the N.Y.M.C. in January 1815. They were refused and James Boggs, president of the N.Y.M.C. personally wrote a letter to Mr. McIntyre, comptroller of the state, stating that they would be unable to honor the state's request for a loan.
- 1818 Between 1815 and 1818 the demand for their manufactured items almost ceased, while the demands on banking increased. Finally in 1818, the N.Y.M.C. ceased manufacturing, dissolved its corporate title and became the Phenix Bank of New York. Mr. Boggs continued as president until he retired in 1834.

It is believed that James Boggs was born in Nova Scotia somewhere around 1780. He lived in Philadelphia prior to 1806. On April 29, 1806 he married Caroline Broome. In 1808 he founded the firm Boggs and Livingston, Auctioneers. His partner was his brother-in-law. In 1815 it became Boggs and Thompson, and in 1830 it was Boggs, Sampson and Thompson. Also in January 1815, Mr. Boggs was elected president of the New York Manufacturing Company, and one of his first duties as president was to refuse the state of New York a loan. Mr. Boggs retired in 1834 and died at home in 1835.

N. York Manufacturing Company
New York 26 January 1815

Archibald McIntyre, Esq
Comptroller of the State

Sir

Your letter of the 10 inst. was duly received, and has been laid before the Board of Directors.


However desirous of aiding the State, as they have already done the Corporation of this City, they have decided that it would not be convenient now to make such a loan.

In the absence of Wm. Greene, I advise you of the determination of the Board and will only add, that it would have afforded me pleasure to give you a different answer, if your request could have been complied with.

With great respect. I am Sir
Your most OB Servant
James Boggs Pres


ONE ONE

The President *and Directors*
of the New York *Manufacturing Co.*
 promise to pay *or bearer* **ONE** Dollar
 at their *Banking House* in the City of *New York*
 on demand. New York 18__

Cash  Pref.


TWO **2**

The PRESIDENT *& DIRECTORS*
of the New York *Manufacturing Co.*
 promise to pay **TWO** dollars to *or bearer*
 at their *Banking House* in the City of *New York*
 on demand. New York 18__

Cash  Pref.


THREE **3**

THE President *& Directors*
of the NEW YORK *MANUFACTURING CO.*
 promise to pay *or bearer* **THREE** Dollars
 at their *Banking House* in the City of *New York*
 on demand. New York 18__


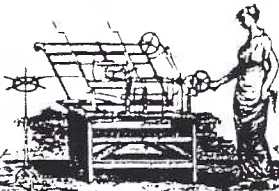

Cash  Pref.

SIX **6**

The PRESIDENT *and DIRECTORS*
of the New York *Manufacturing Co.*
 promise to pay at their *BANK* in the City of *New York*
Six Dollars to *or bearer* on demand.
 New York 18__

Cash  Pref.


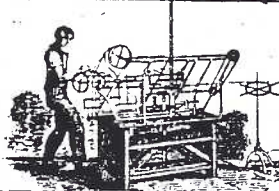

TWENTY

POST NOTE

THE President and Directors
 of the NEW YORK MANUFACTURING Co.
 Promise to pay _____ or order
 TWENTY Dollars at their Bank
 New York _____ 18__
 Cash _____ Pay


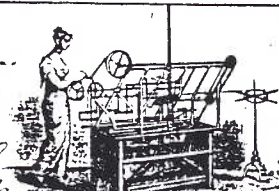

TEN

TEN

The President and Directors
 of the New York Manufacturing Co.
 Promise to pay TEN dollars to
 or bearer at their Banking House in the City of New York
 on demand.
 New York _____ 18__
 Cash _____ Pay

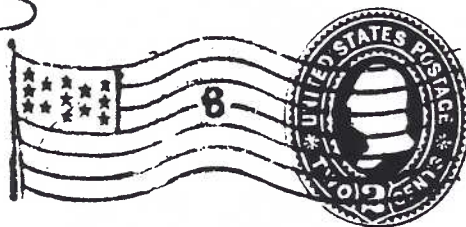
EIGHT

EIGHT

The President and Directors
 of the New York Manufacturing Co.
 Promise to pay _____ or bearer on demand
 EIGHT dollars at their Banking House in the City of New York
 on demand.
 New York _____ 18__
 Cash _____ Pay

PHENIX NATIONAL BANK
OF THE
CITY OF NEW YORK.



Mr D. D. Muir
 Lincoln
 1st Nat Bank

Archibald W. Apture Esq.
Comptroller
Albany.



James Boggs, Esq. & Manufacturing
Company.
Jan: 26. 1875

