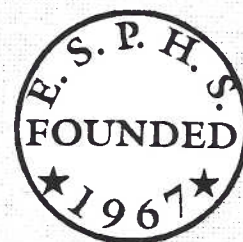


The

Journal of

New York State Postal History



Volume 29

Autumn 1997

Stephen K. Matte
President

Martin Margulis
Editor

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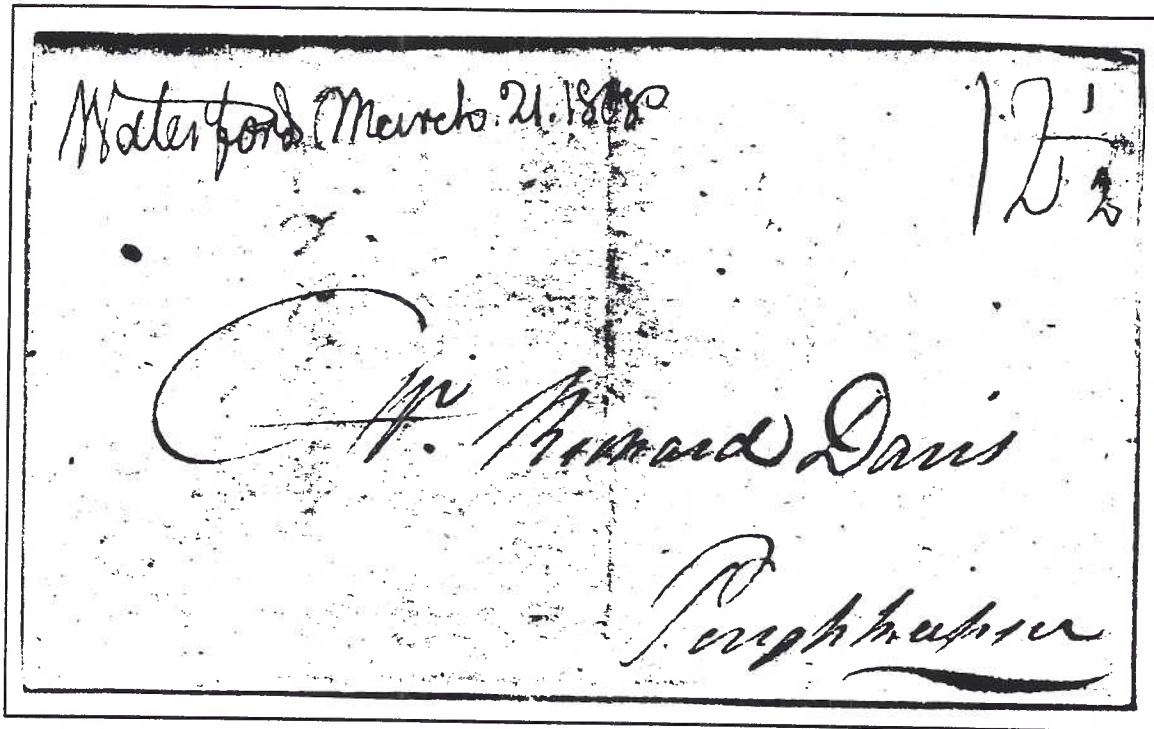
Dues are \$10.00 per year. There is a \$1.00 fee charged on joining, making the amount:

- \$11.00 for applications dated March through August.
- \$16 for applications dated September February (1½ year term).

SARATOGA COUNTY, NEW YORK

WATERFORD

by John A. Lange, Jr.



March 21, 1808

Manuscript 12½ denoting the zone rate for 90-150 miles. The Act of March 2, 1799 specified this charge.

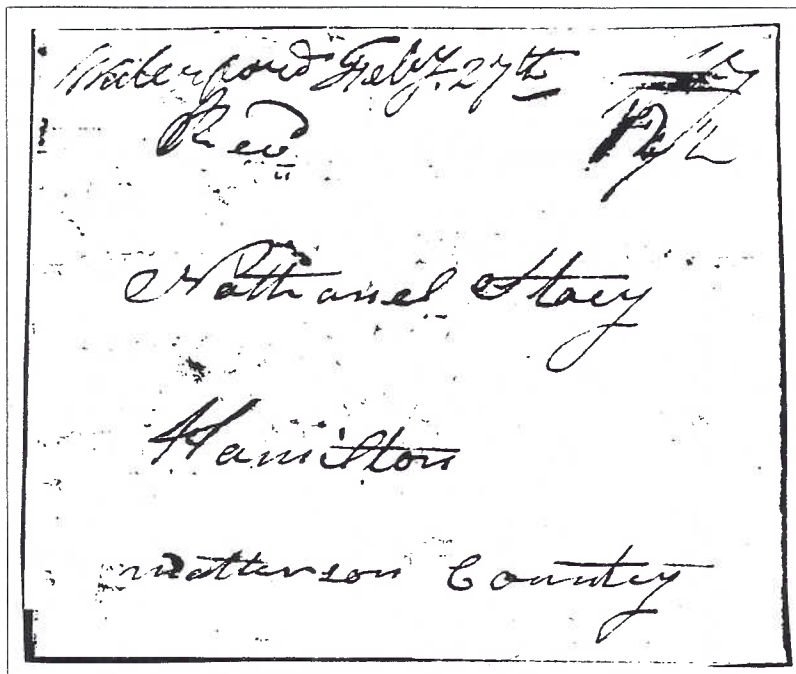
The Waterford post office was established in 1797. The earliest listed ms. from Waterford as listed in the publication Manuscript Post Offices of New York State, 1973* edition issued by the Empire State Postal History Society is 1818. This stampless folded letter is ten years younger.

*1984 edition now lists this as earliest reported cover.

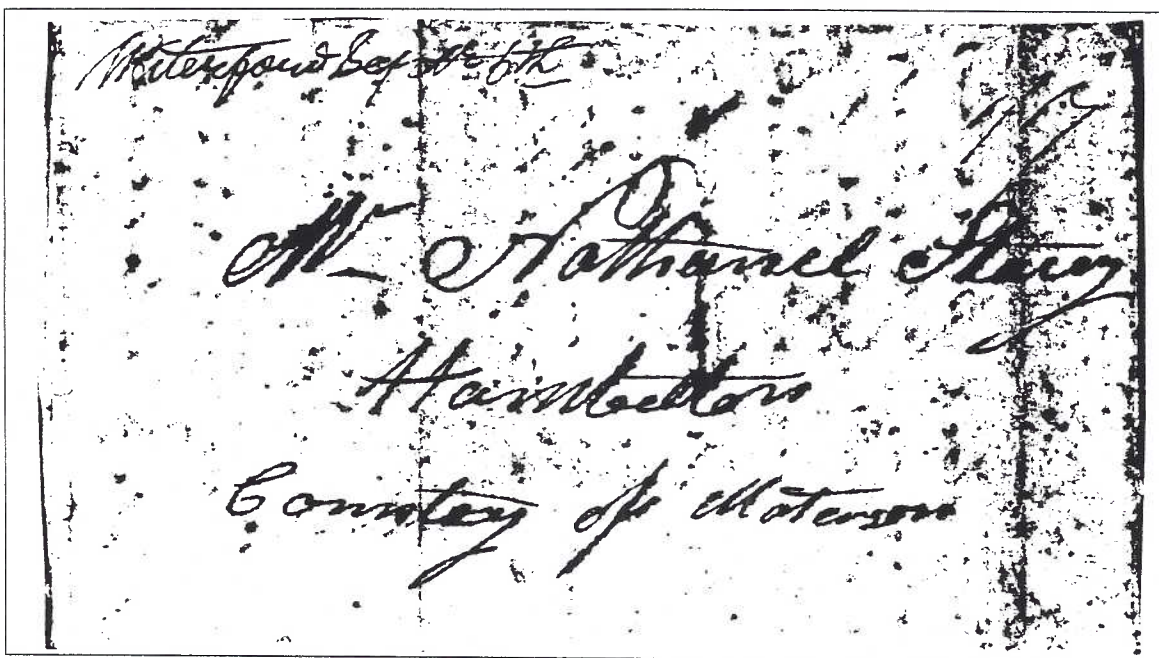
This cover is not internally dated. However, notice that "12½" has been superimposed over "17."

The obliterated "17" is the clue to the probable era of usage because the 17 cent rate (150 to 300 miles for a single letter) was in effect only between 1799 and 1816.

If only the 12½ cent rate were present, the time of usage could not have been determined closer than 1799-1845.

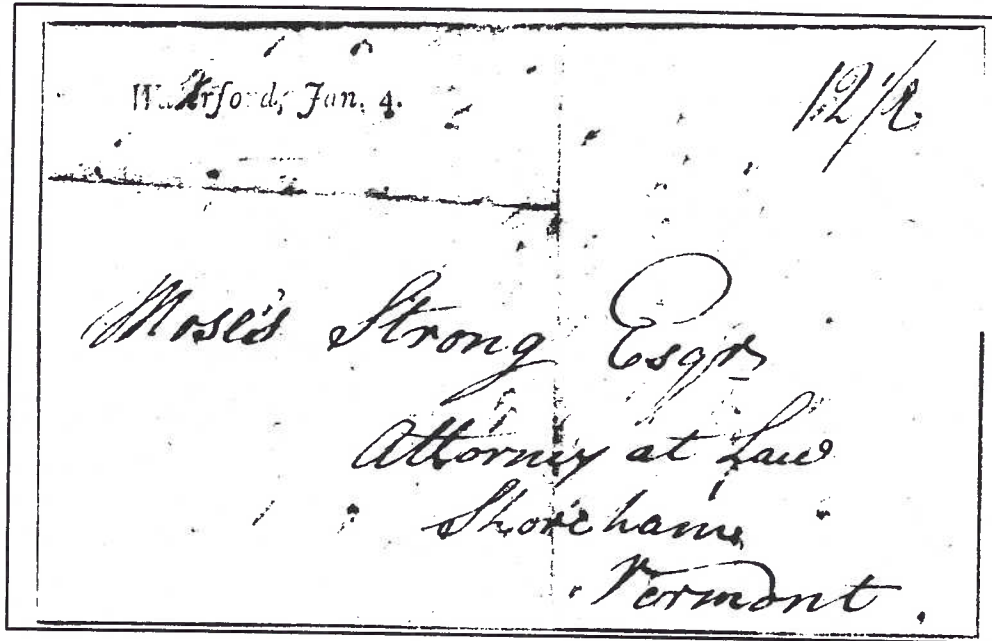


1799-1816 Usage



1811

1810



Straight-line handstamp $13\frac{1}{2} \times 4\frac{1}{2}$ mm in black italics, a rare marking, unlisted in the 1985 edition of the ASCC.

Internal dating of this folded letter sheet clearly shows the 1810 year date in two places.

The postal charge was $12\frac{1}{2}\text{¢}$, this being the zone rate at that time for a single letter (sheet) traveling a distance of 90-150 miles.

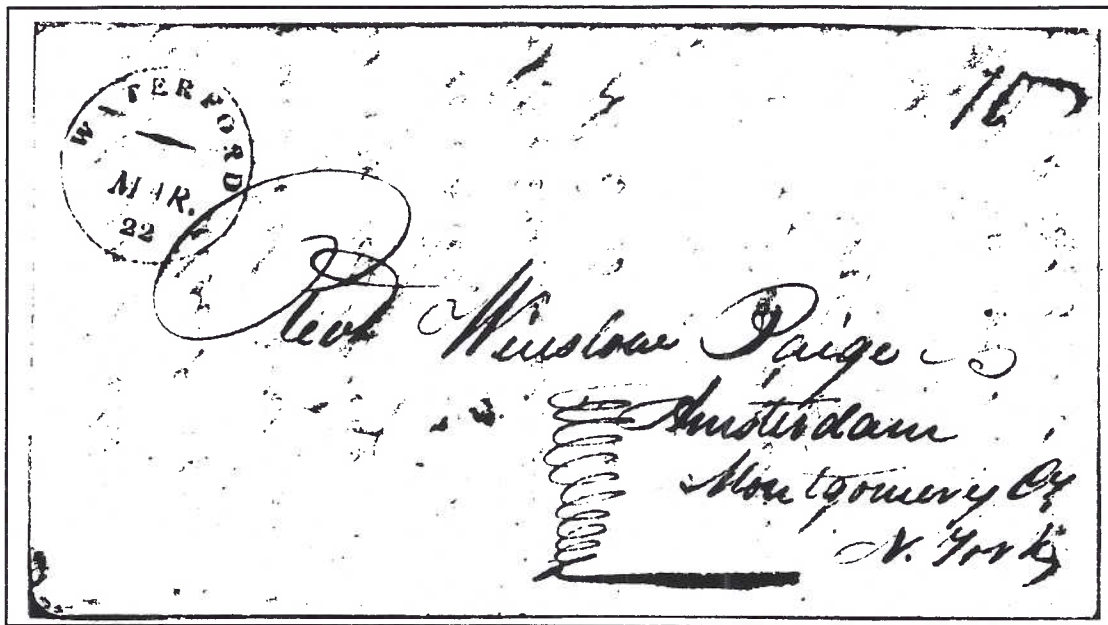
The recipient paid the postage charge. One possible way was to use two Spanish or Mexican $\frac{1}{2}$ reales pieces, worth $6\frac{1}{4}\text{¢}$ each.

1810

Known only in 1810

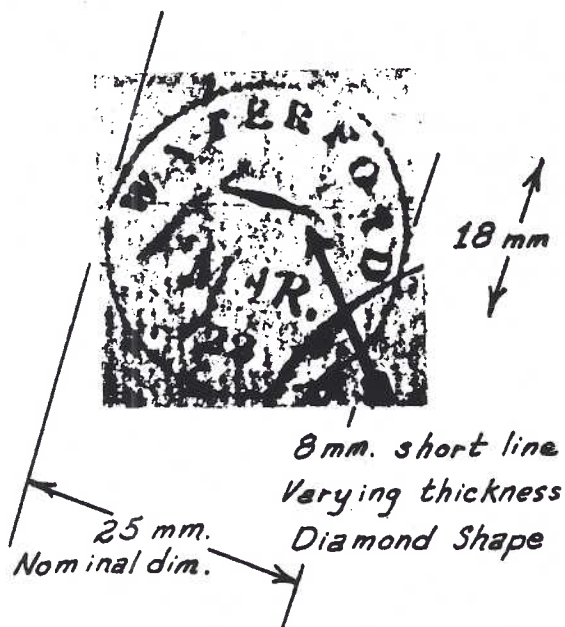
TYPE I HANDSTAMP

10¢ Rate - 40 to 90 miles



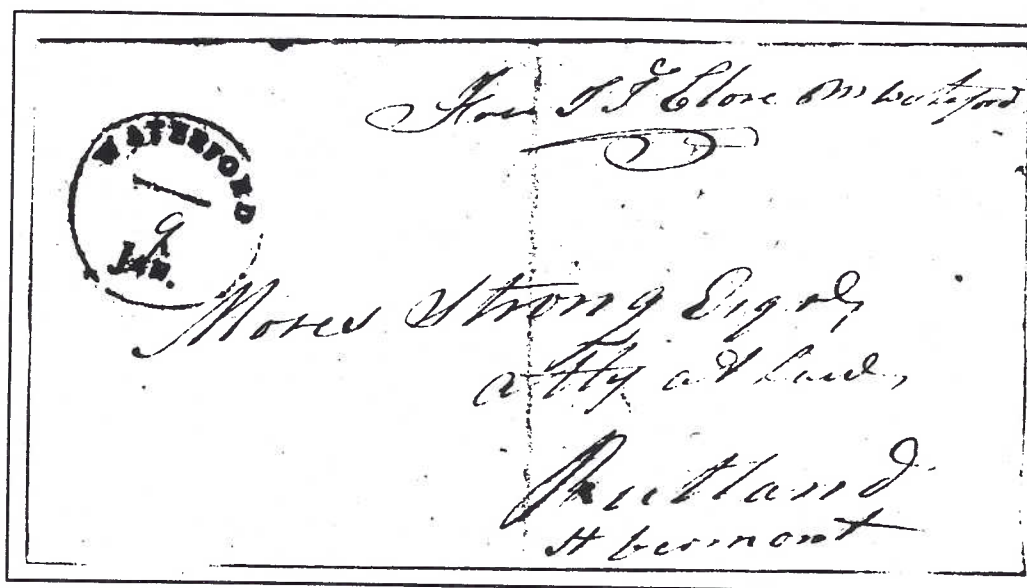
The characteristics of this handstamp which differentiate it from the Type II variety are:

- The "circle" is a nominal 25 mm in diameter with a slight oval shape. The diameter at approximately right angles is 26½ mm. (Type II is 26 mm.)
- The letters "WATERFORD" are spaced far apart, occupying about half of the circle circumference. This occurs in a vertical space of 18 mm. (Type II uses 10½ mm.)
- The "ornament" near the center is 8 mm long and is diamond shaped. (The Type II "line" near the center is 11 mm long with uniform thickness."



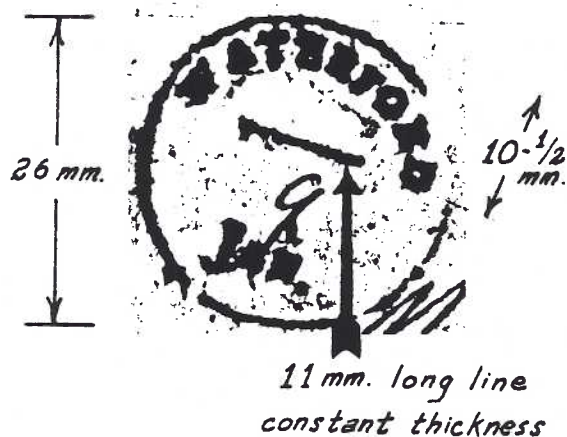
1811

TYPE II HANDSTAMP



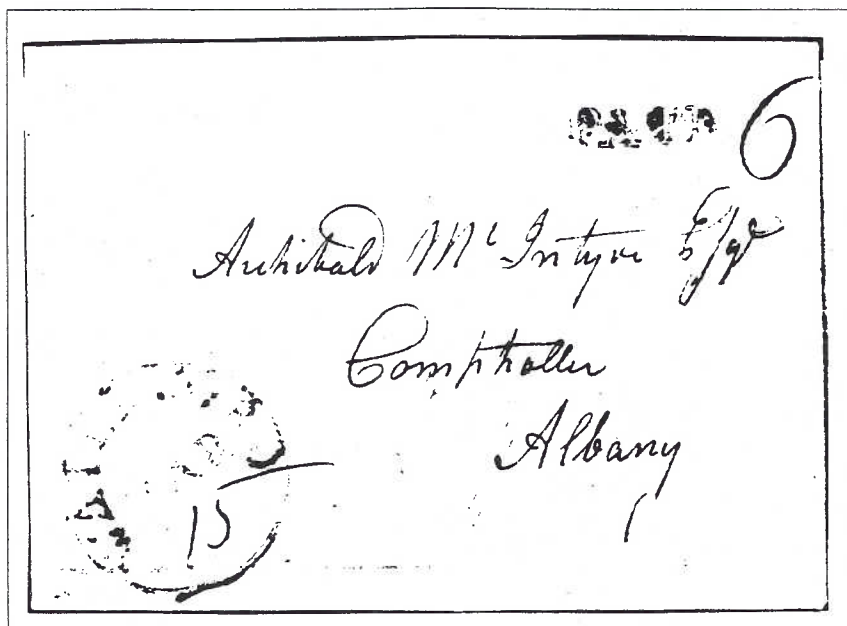
This handstamp differs in several respects from the Type I variety, proving that two completely different handstamps existed in 1810-1811:

- The circle diameter is 26 mm. (Type I is 25 mm.)
- The letters "WATERFORD" are crowded together, forming a short arc. The letters occupy less circumferential distance in a vertical space of $10\frac{1}{2}$ mm. (Type I uses 18 mm.)
- The "line" or "ornament" near the center is 11 mm long and has uniform thickness; the "line" is directed towards the bottoms of the letters "W" & "D." (The Type I "line" is an 8 mm long diamond-shaped ornament.)



1820

Red PAID indicating prepayment of the 6¢ rate for a distance under 30 miles.

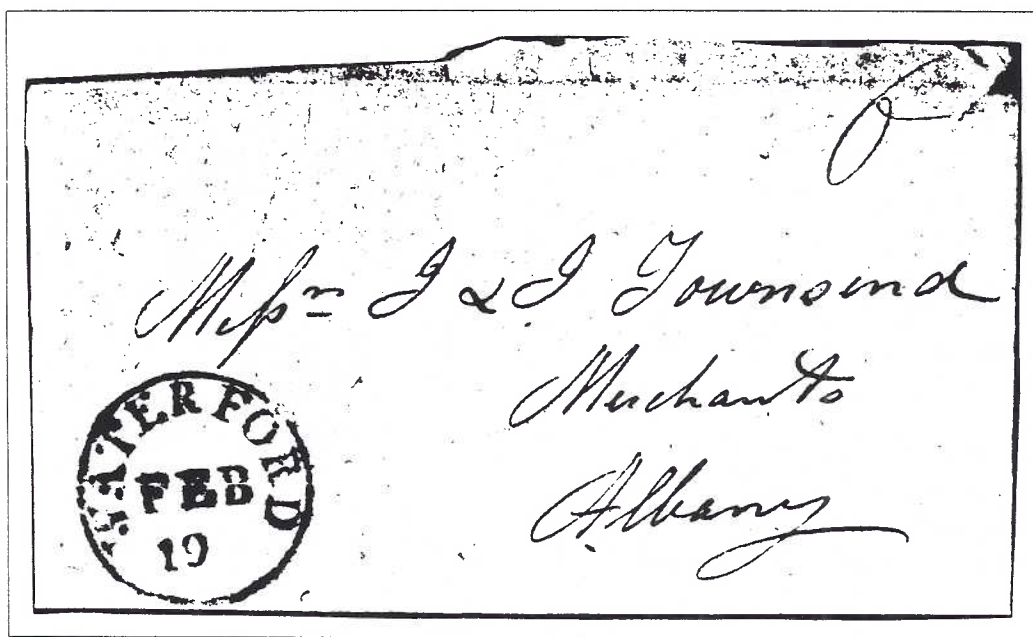


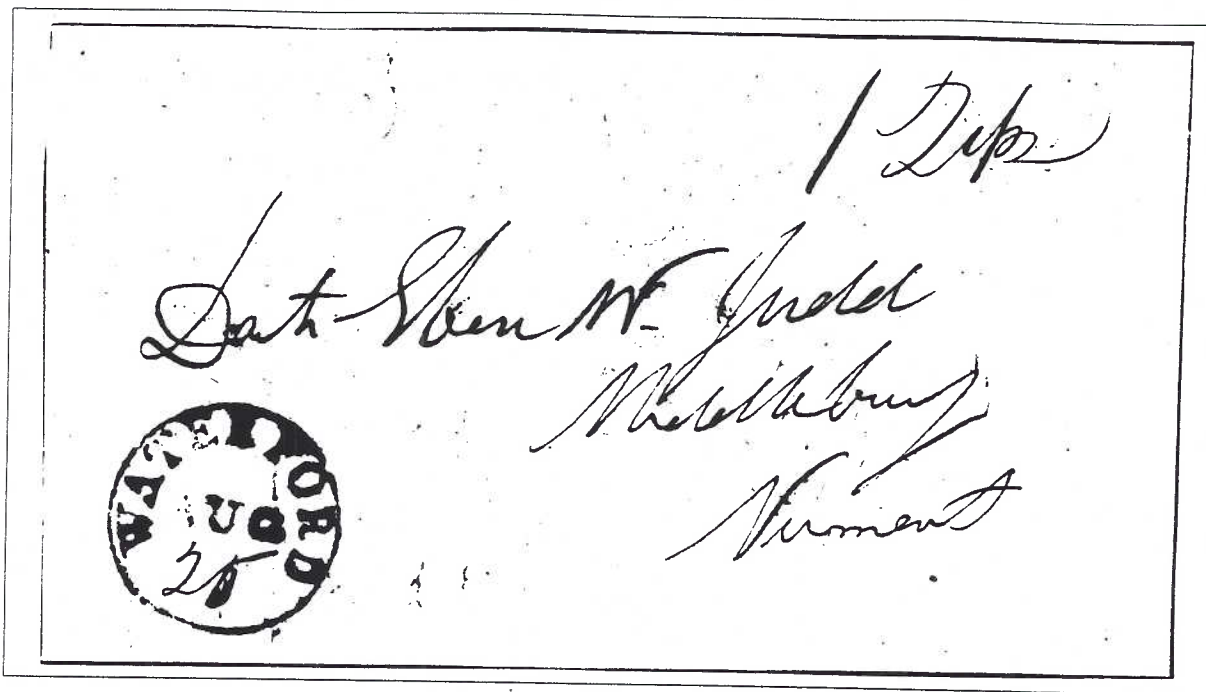
Red 30 mm circular cancel - with no N.Y. within circle.

1822

6¢ rate not prepaid.

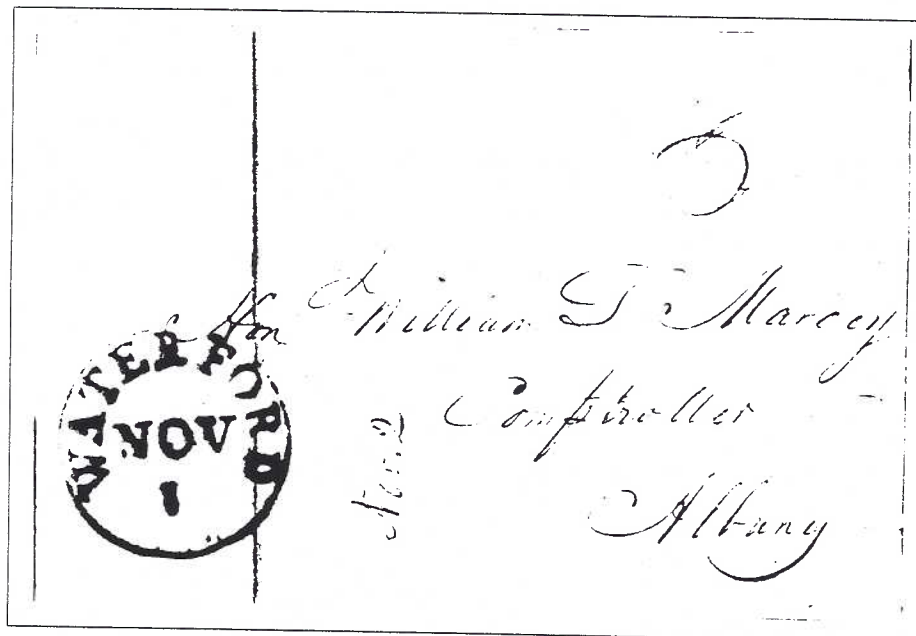
Date of month included in handstamp.





1820

Bright Red 30 mm diameter circular cancel with remnants of blotting sand. 12½¢ rate, 80 to 150 miles. Act of April 9, 1816.



Nov. 1, 1826

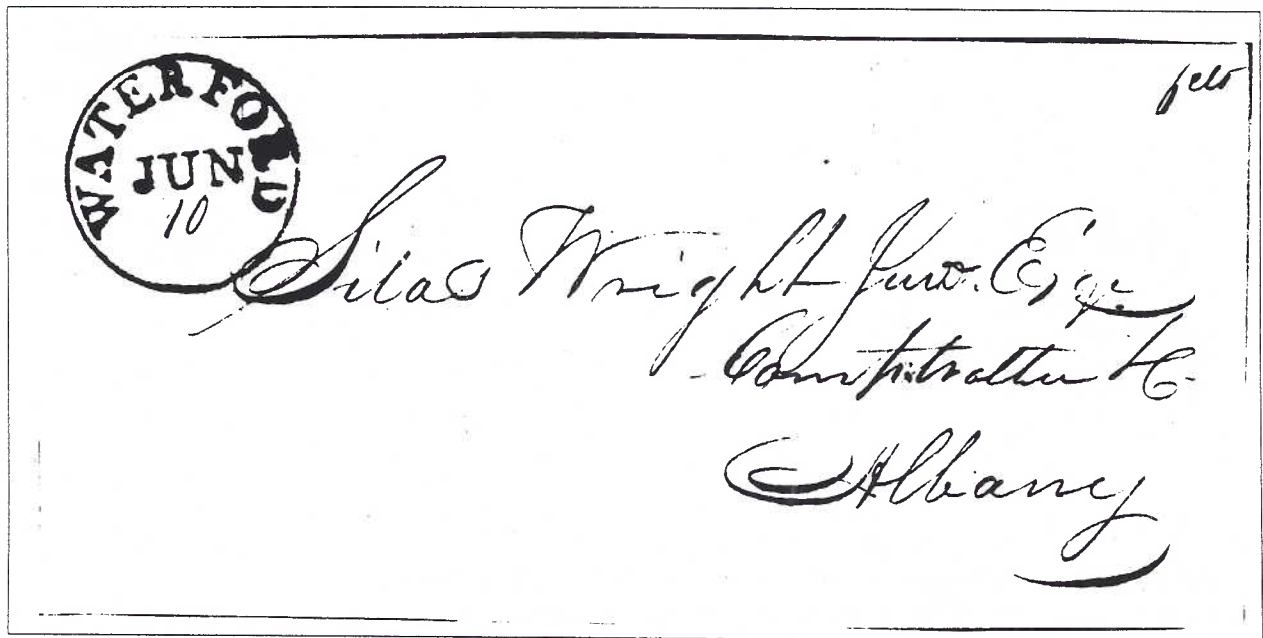
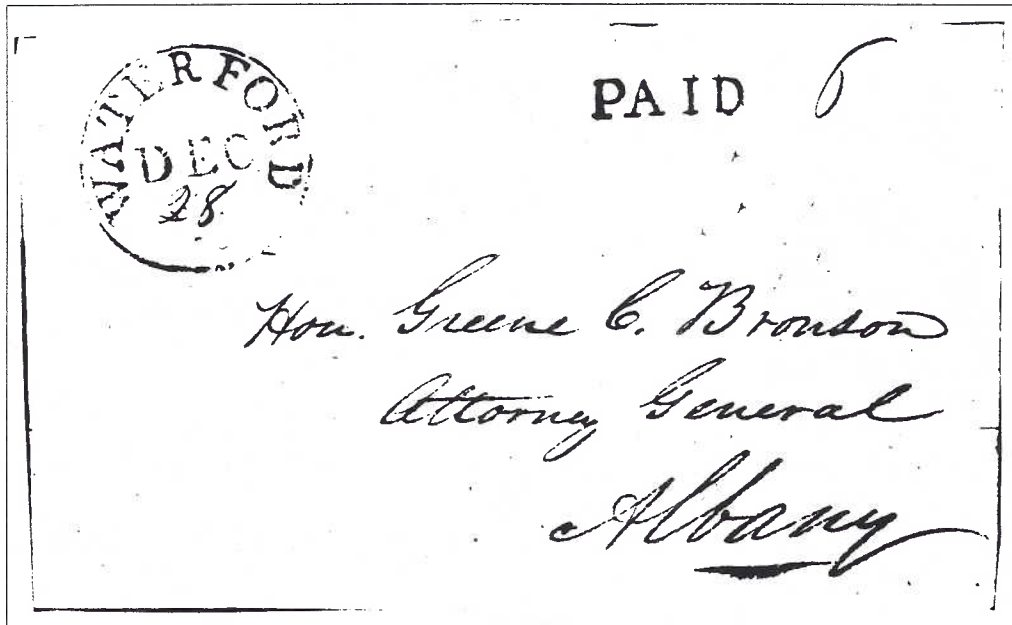
6¢ rate - single weight letter - not over 30 miles. Act of April 9, 1816, effective May 1, 1816. This rate stayed in effect until July 1, 1845. Red, 30 mm town strike. No "N.Y."

Erie Canal Letter

The Erie Canal was finished in 1825 with the first Buffalo - New York City trip occurring October 26-November 4, 1825. This stampless folded letter reports receipts at Troy, N.Y. for the month of October 1826, a sum of \$5,675.21.

1829

30 mm orange-red circular strikes. 6¢ rate for under 30 miles. Covers illustrate a prepaid letter (top) and not prepaid (bottom).

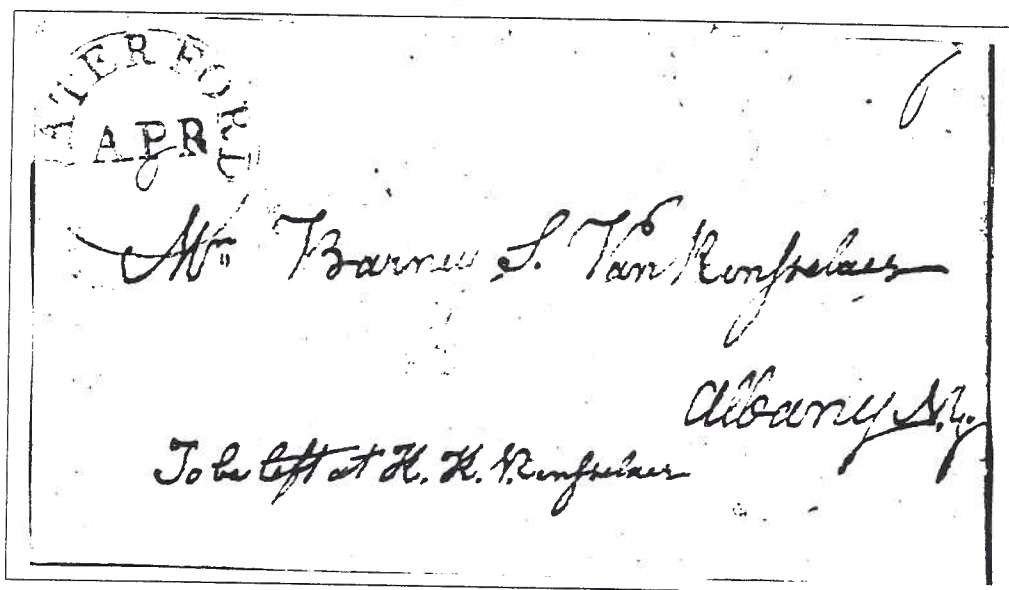


April 6, 1830

30 mm. dark red circular town strike. There are two unusual features of this Waterford town marking.

First: The color. Brighter reds are known before and after, in fact they are almost orange. This color is close to a faded carmine rose red, a very scarce Waterford shade.

Second: The size of the strike. There is no straight line "N.Y.," so it cannot be early usage of the 30 mm 1831-48 marking. The thinness of the circle makes accurate measurement possible, i.e. it is not the 29 mm strike reported for 1827 nor obviously is it the 25 mm strike used between 1830 and 1832. It does appear to be the same strike listed as occurring (in the American Stampless Cover Catalogue) between 1815-26 and thus represents very late usage of that marking. 6¢ rate for under 30 miles. Not prepaid.

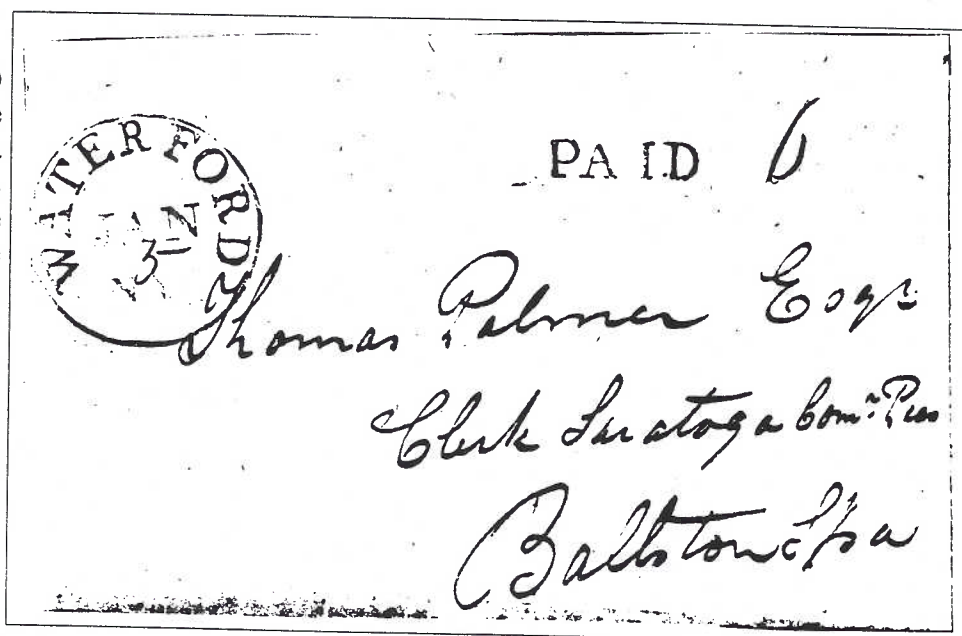


1830

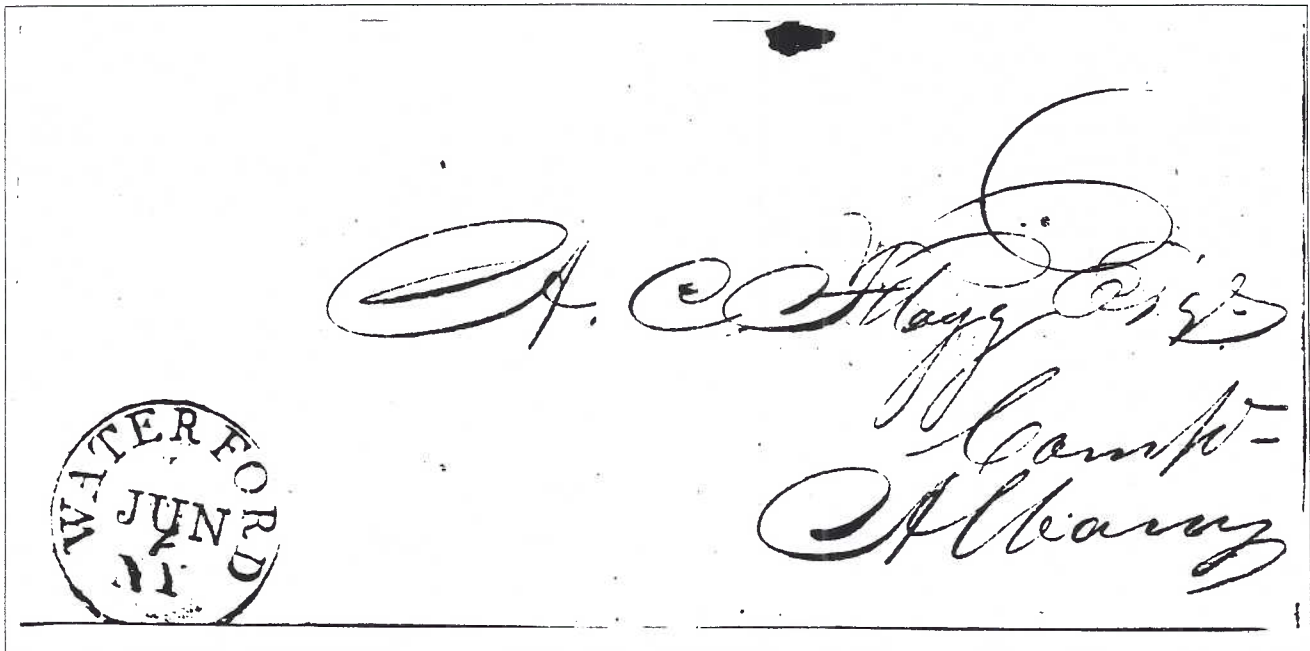
6¢ rate for under 30 miles. 20 x 4½ mm "PAID"

This cover has a 30 mm reddish orange circular town strike with a "straight line" N.Y. This marking is noted in the 1985 edition of the American Stampless Cover Catalogue as occurring between 1831-1848.

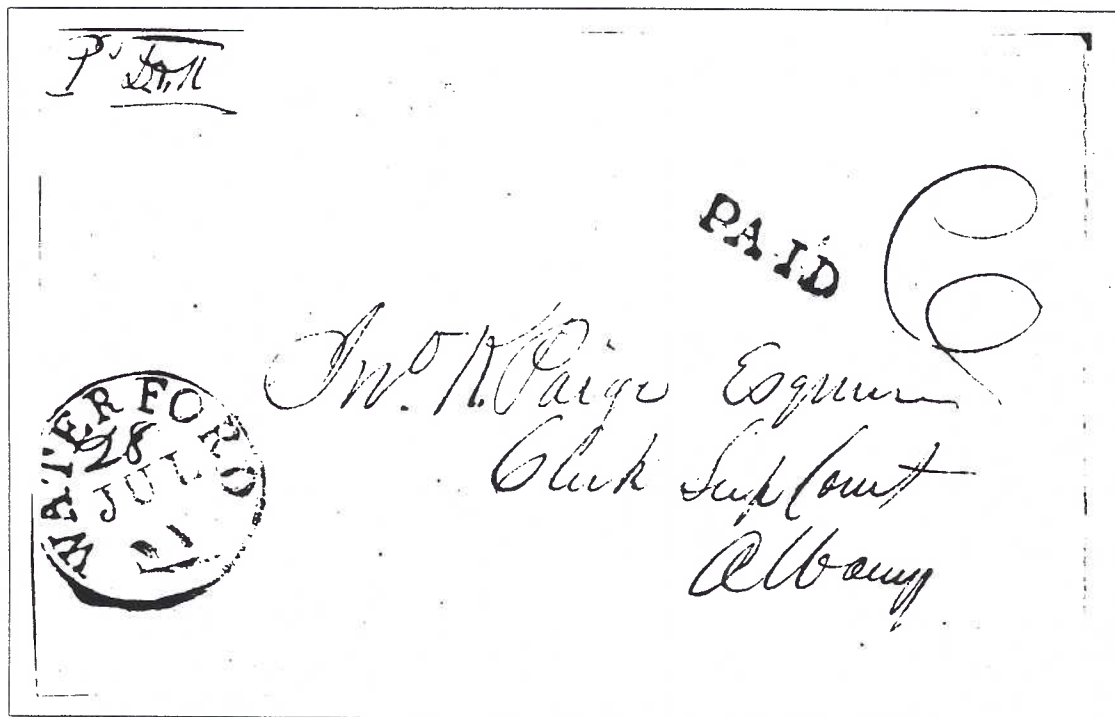
The dated contents, and strike, proves that the marking was in existence a year earlier.



1833-34
ms. 6¢ rate for less than 30 miles



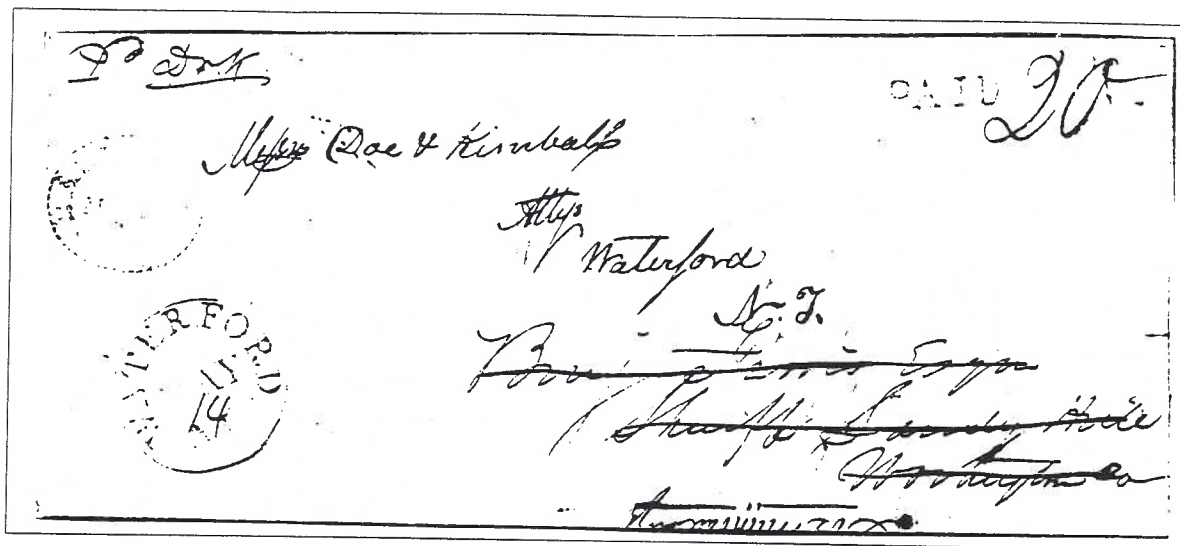
1833



1834

Red "PAID" & 1834 red 30 mm circular town strike. ms. 6¢ rate

May 14-23, 1835

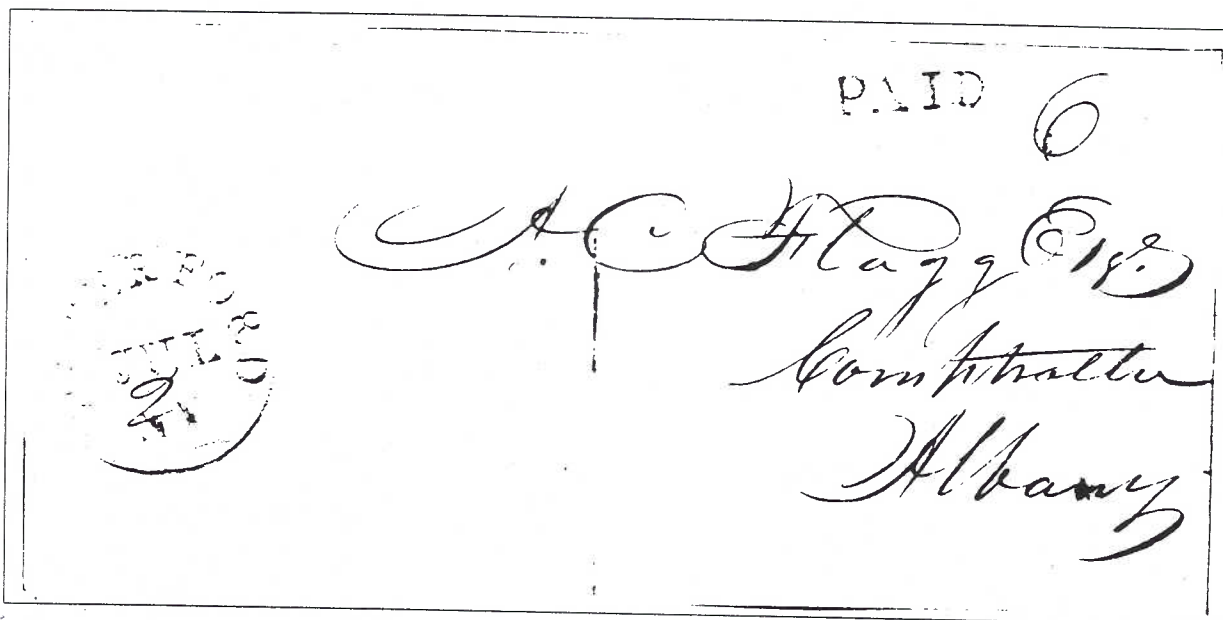


This "round trip" cover went through the mail twice:

First usage: From Waterford, May 14. Red 30 mm circular pink. (1831-1848) and red "PAID"

Second usage: From Sandy Hill in Washington County, May 23. Red dotted oval pink (1832-35) and ms. "20" which was twice the zone rate for single letters, 30-80 miles.

The multiple rate was used on letters of more than one sheet and of one ounce or over in weight.



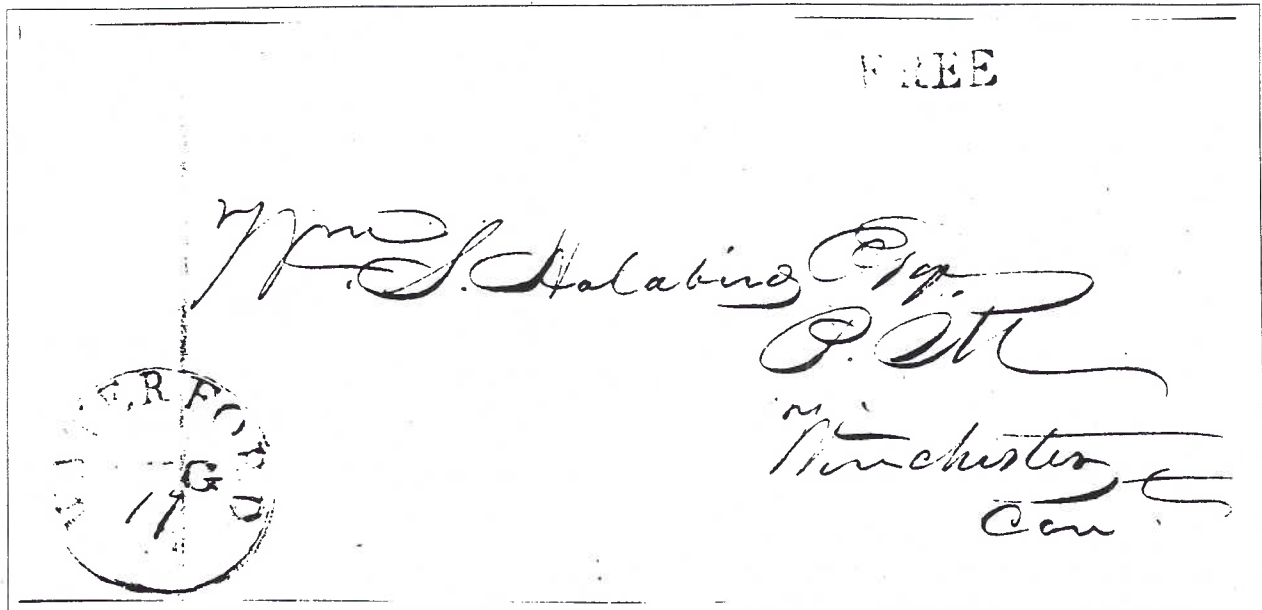
1835

Dull claret 30 mm circular strike and "PAID" with ms. "6."

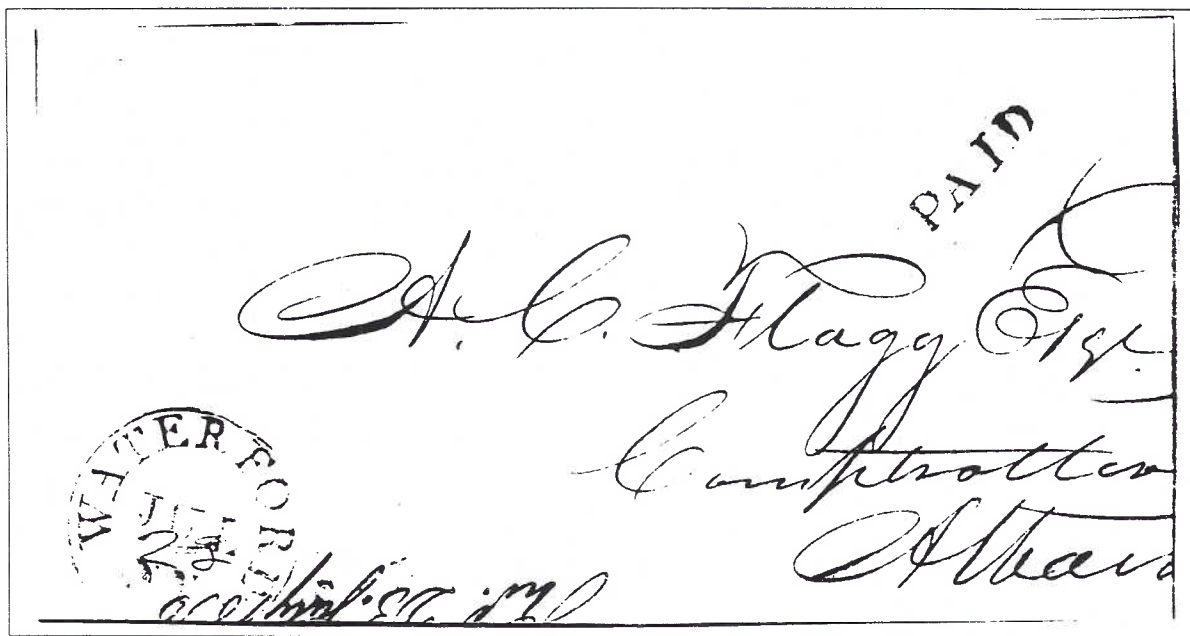
The Waterford red strikes varied in color from a bright orange-red to a nearly violet shade (dull claret). This shade is the darkest of the "reds."

1836

30 mm red circular strike and auxiliary markings
18 x 4½ mm FREE



Free letter because recipient was a postmaster

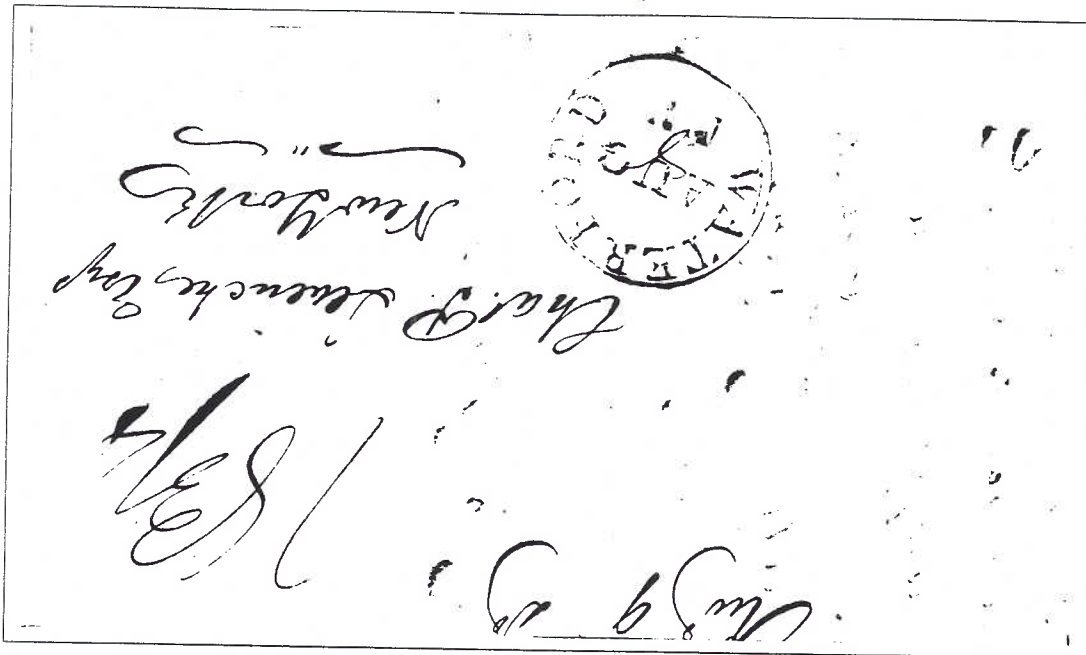


19½ x 5 mm PAID
Prepaid 6¢ rate (not over 30 miles)

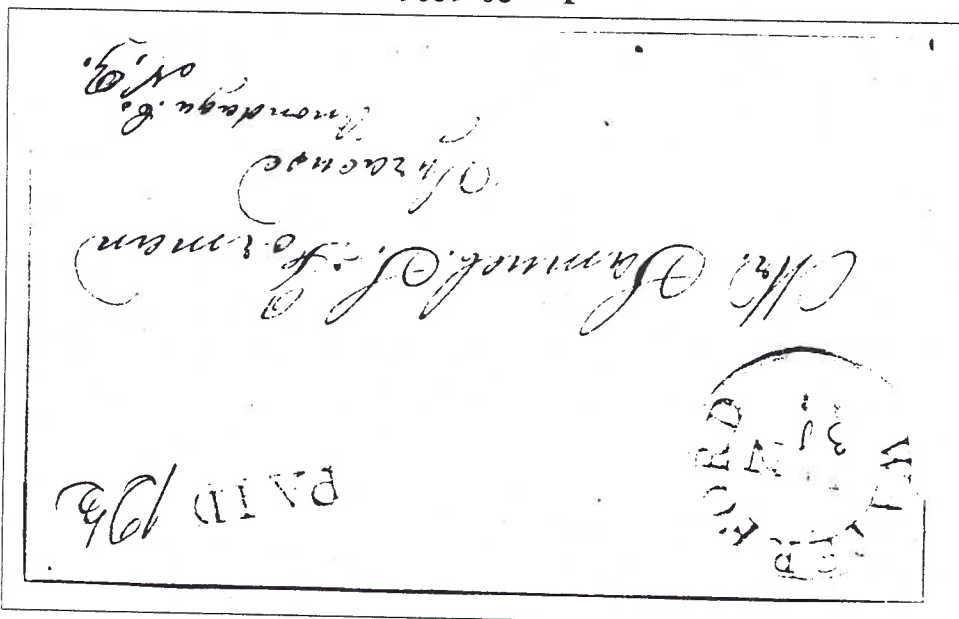
Ms. 18 $\frac{3}{4}$ ¢ rate, 150-400 miles

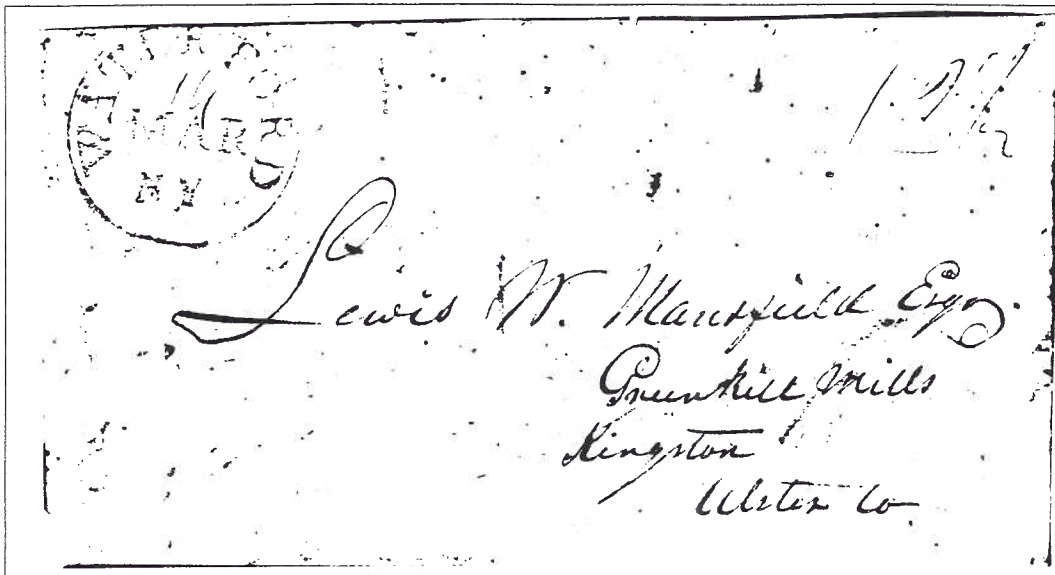
Red circular town strike

August 8, 1836

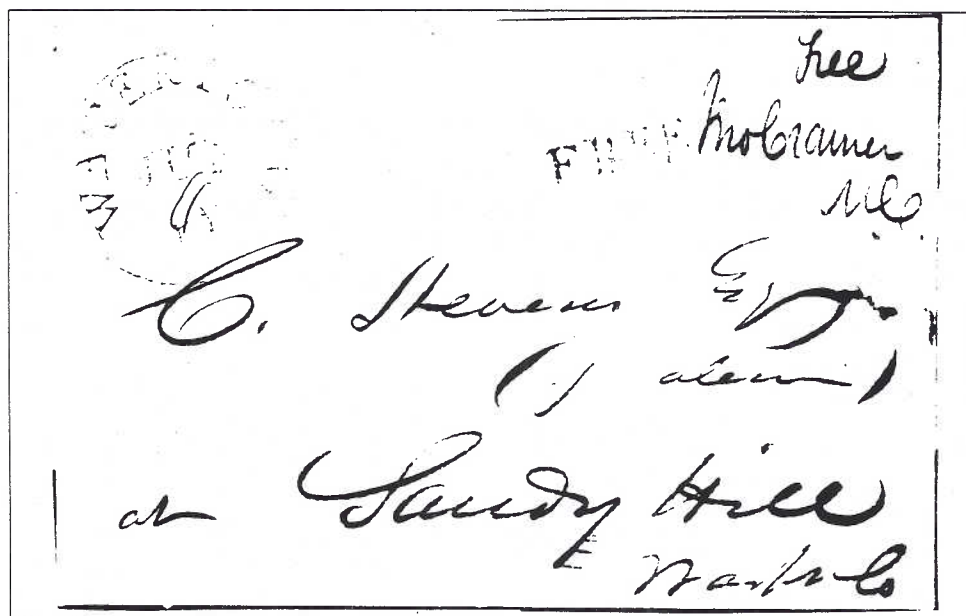


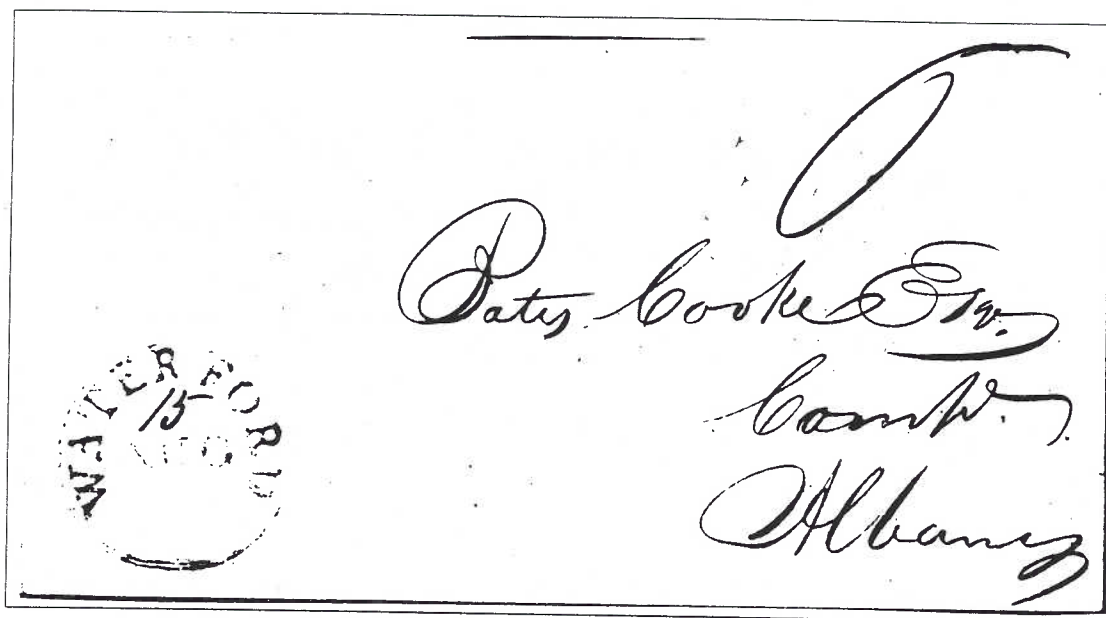
Jan. 30, 1836
Red circular town strike Red "PAID" Ms. 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ rate, 80-150 miles
Letter to the Treasurer of the Third Great Western Turnpike Road
Co. requesting dividend - also reply at bottom, dated Feb. 9, 1836
enclosing check.





March 14, 1838



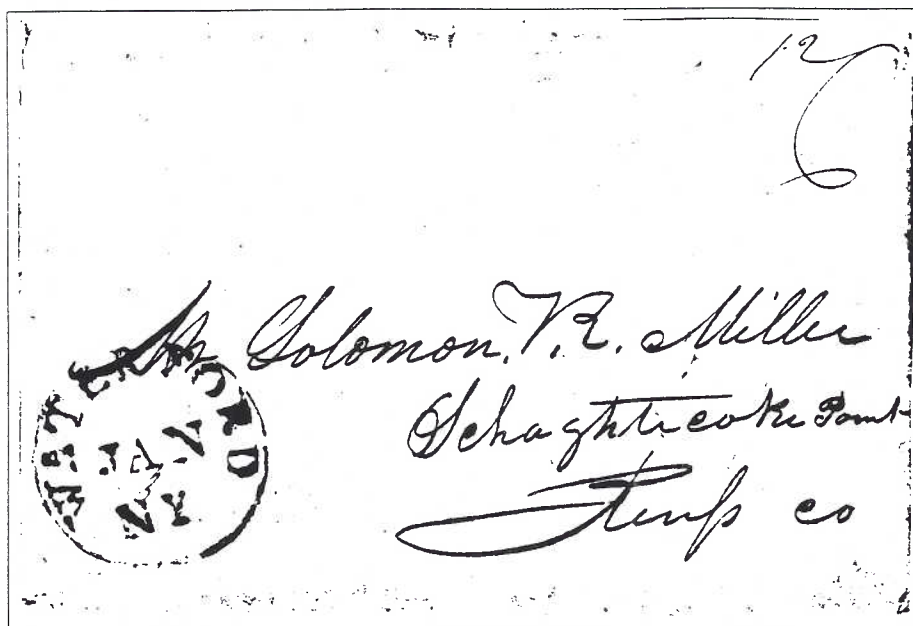


1839 or 1840

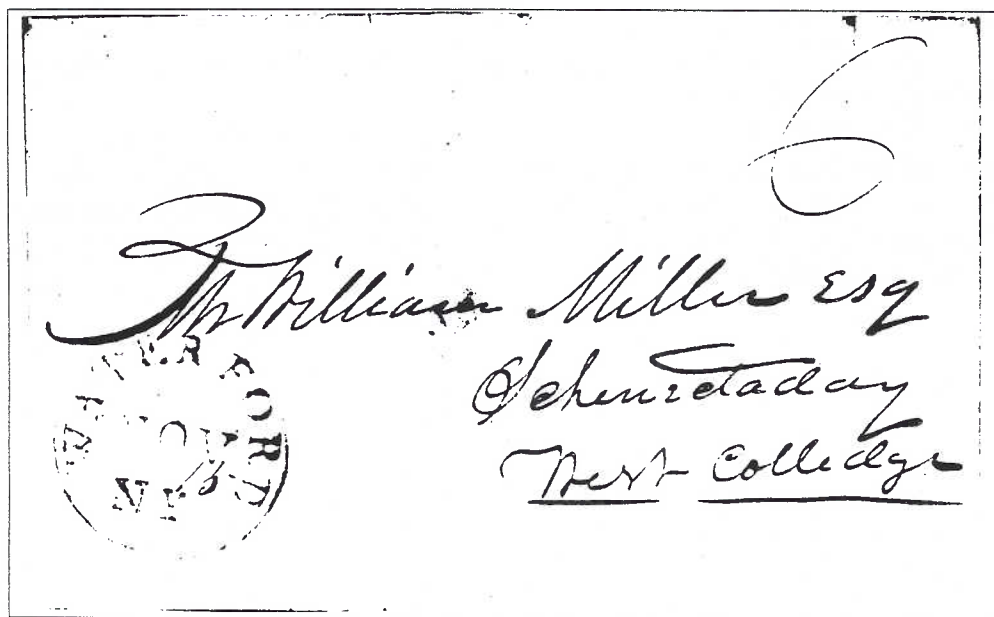
Brown 30 mm. Diameter circular town strike without "N.Y."

This cover is undated and without enclosure. Nevertheless, the period of use can be identified as 1839-1840.

The addressee, Bates Cooke, was Comptroller of the State of New York during 1839-1840 as attested by a group of 14 stampless folded letters covering the period of March 4, 1839 through December 30, 1840. Numerous A.E. Flagg Comptroller letters exist which are dated in both 1838 and 1841 (as well as other years), but none in 1839 or 1840, thus covering the Comptroller periods on each side of Bates' incumbency.



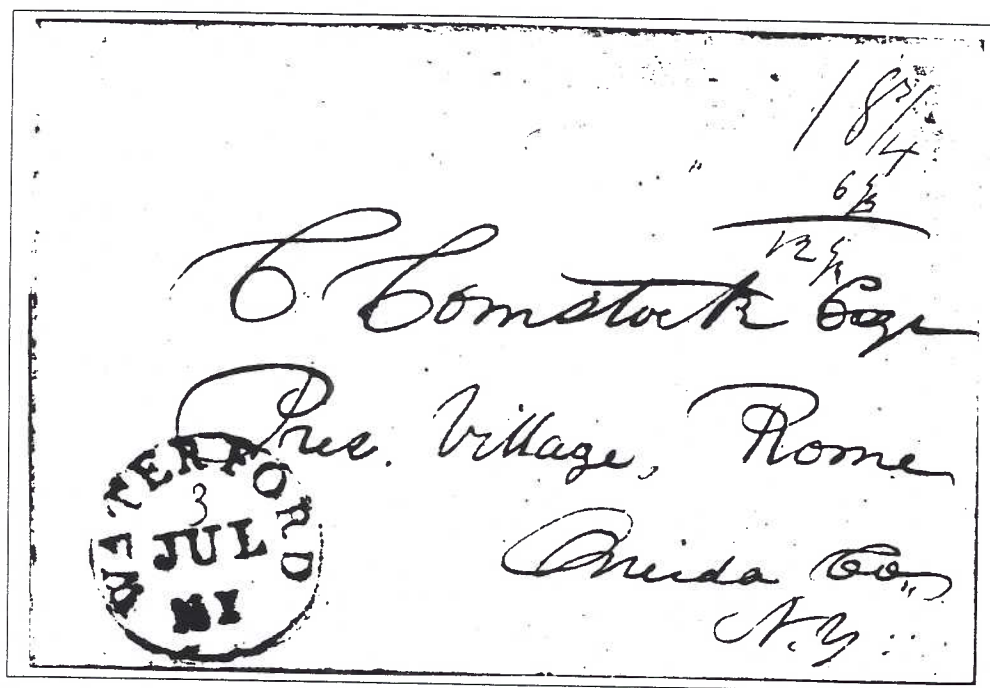
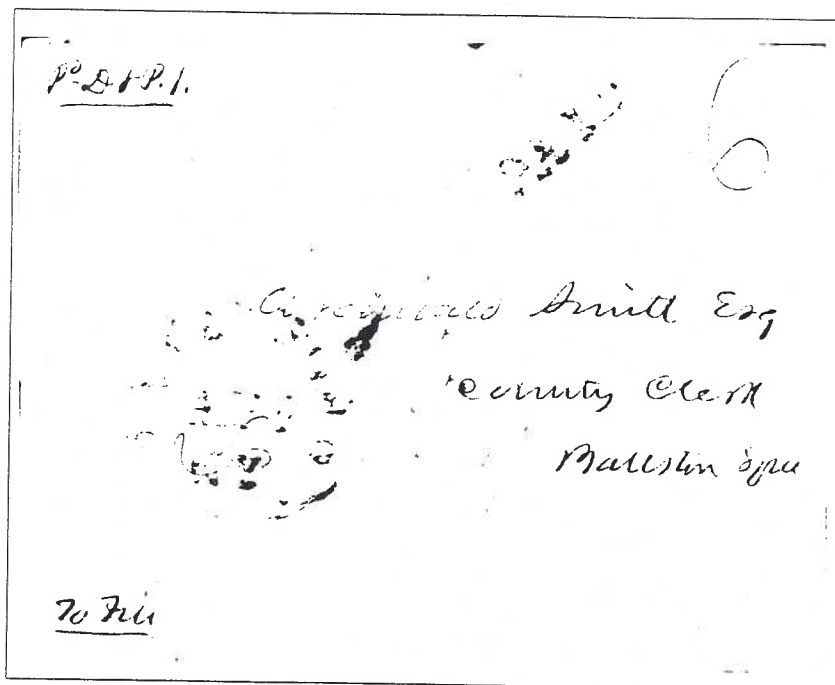
These green Waterford postmarks are not listed in the Stampless Cover Catalogue. The lower cover has an internal dating of 1842, the upper cover is undated.



1842

31 mm Orange Circular Stamp

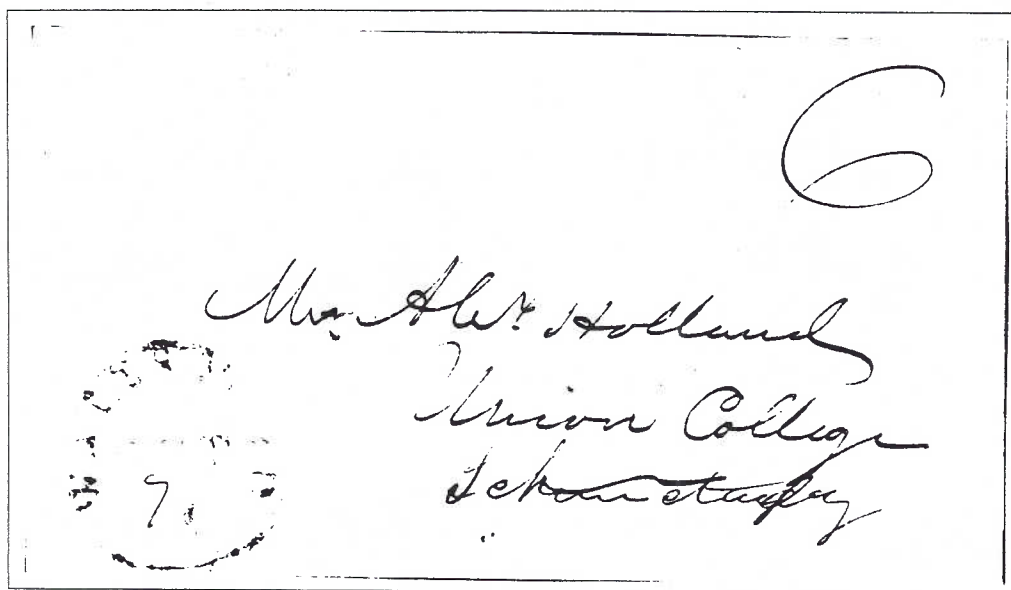
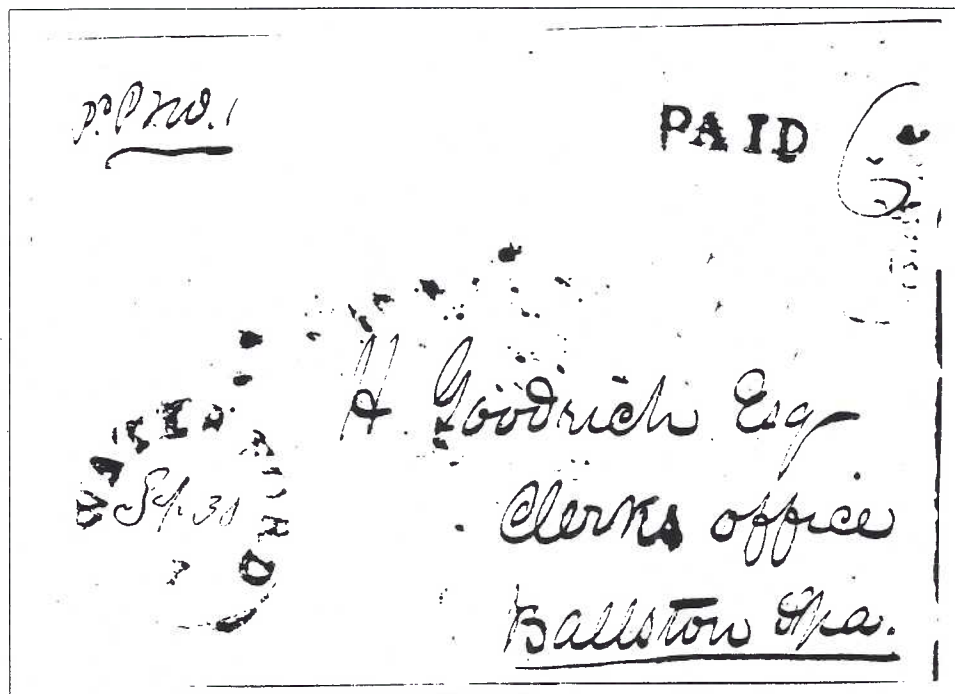
6¢ rate for not over 30 miles

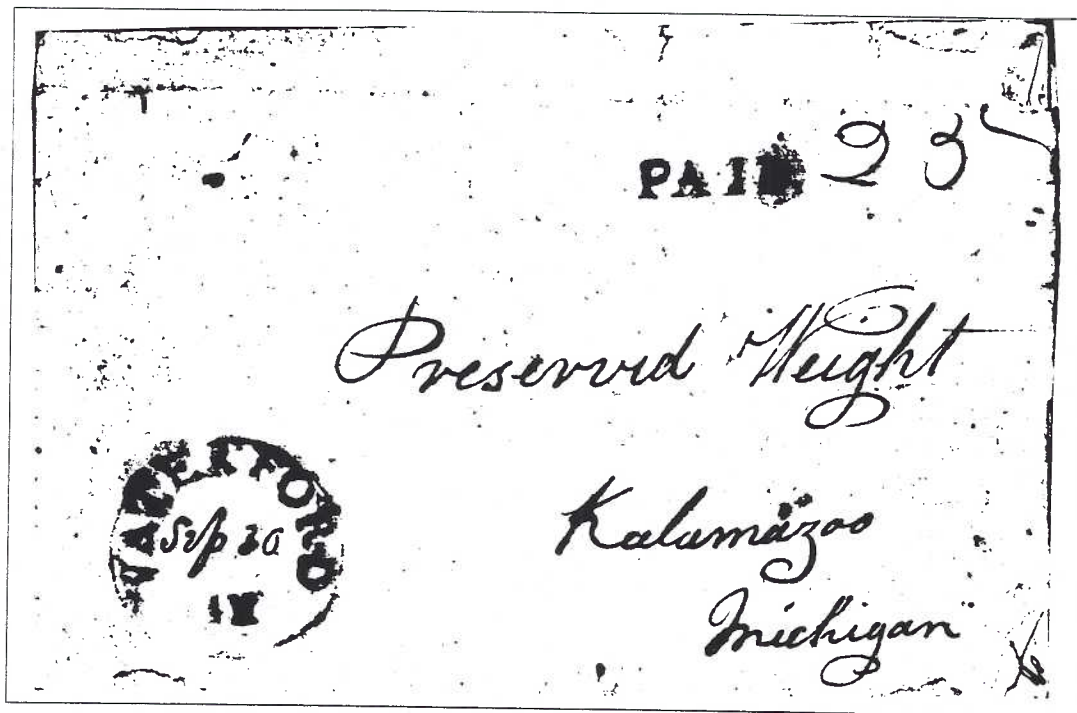


Corrected Rate - 1843

12½¢ was the correct rate for 80 to 150 miles. Probably changed upon receipt in Rome (different color of ink).
31 mm Orange Red circular strike.

1843



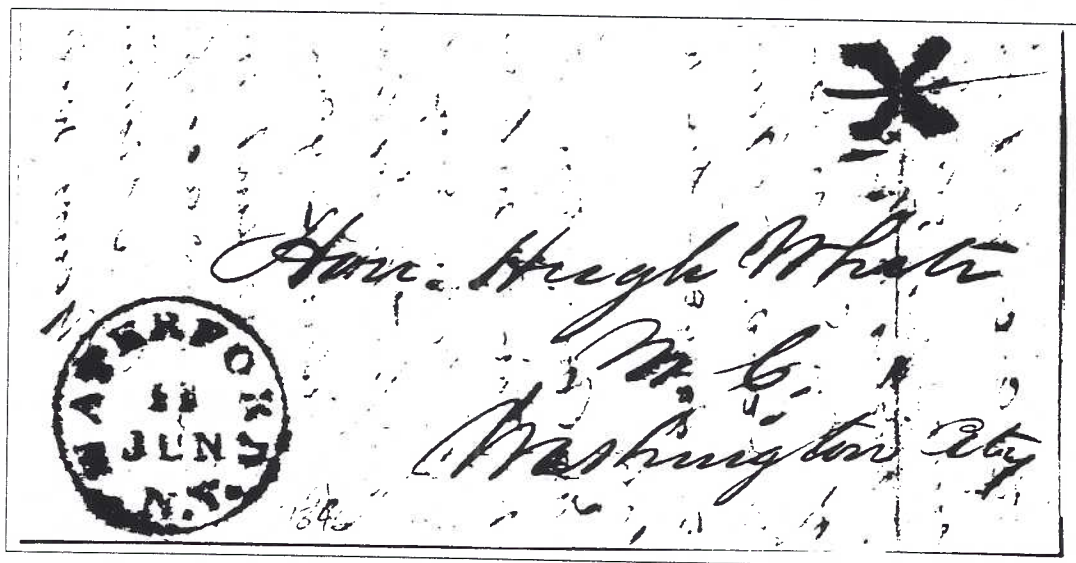


September 30, 1844

"Preserved Weight" is the name of a person, not an entity. This stampless folded letter, written by Benj Weight to Preserved, advises him a barrel will be sent to him and Benj advises in part:

"You must allow me once more to warn you about getting into debt for it is the misfortune of the majority of the first settlers of every new country to loose their farms and improvements to pay a debt which was made principally to keep up appearances. Pride, fashion, popularity and extravagance, are the principle causes of bankruptcy..."

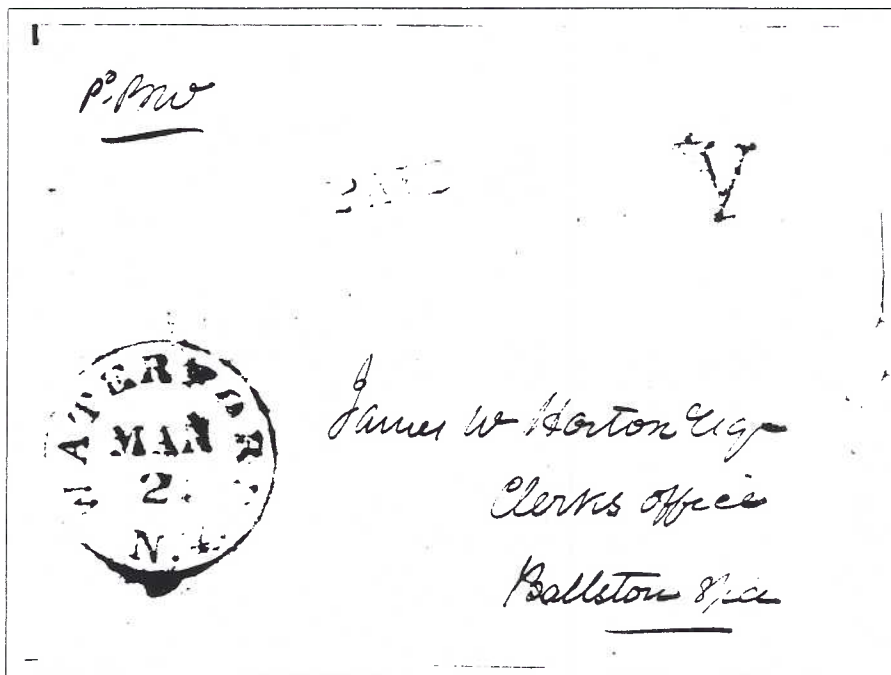
A prepaid letter, the 25¢ rate applying for distances over 400 miles. Red 30 mm circular strike.



15 x 13 mm

Day above
Month

1846 - Roman numeral "X" signifying the 10¢ rate for distances over 300 miles.

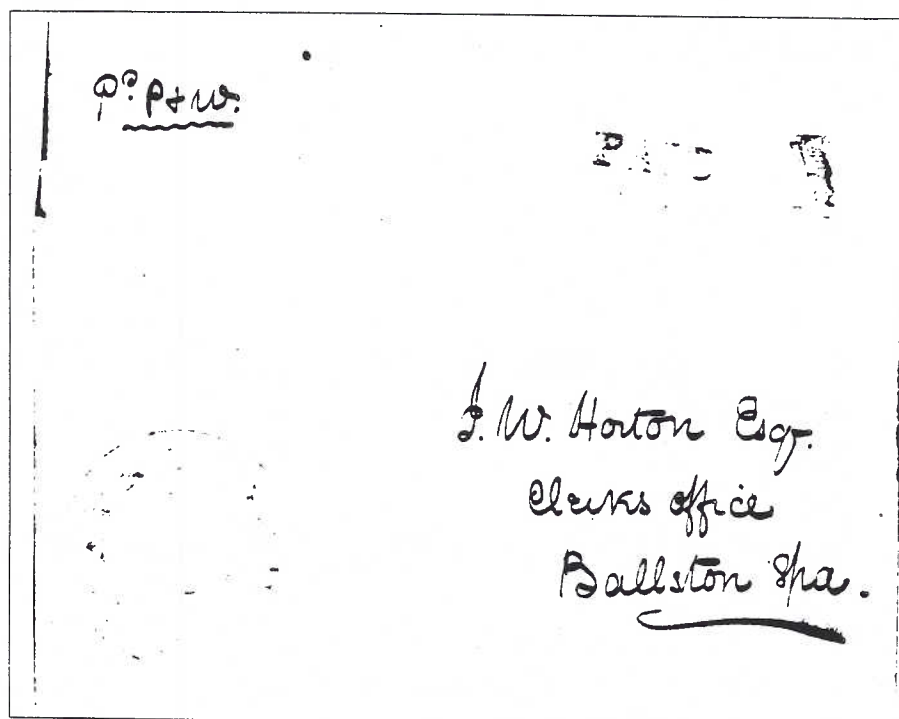


March 2, 1846

Month above Day

Orange-Red Strikes

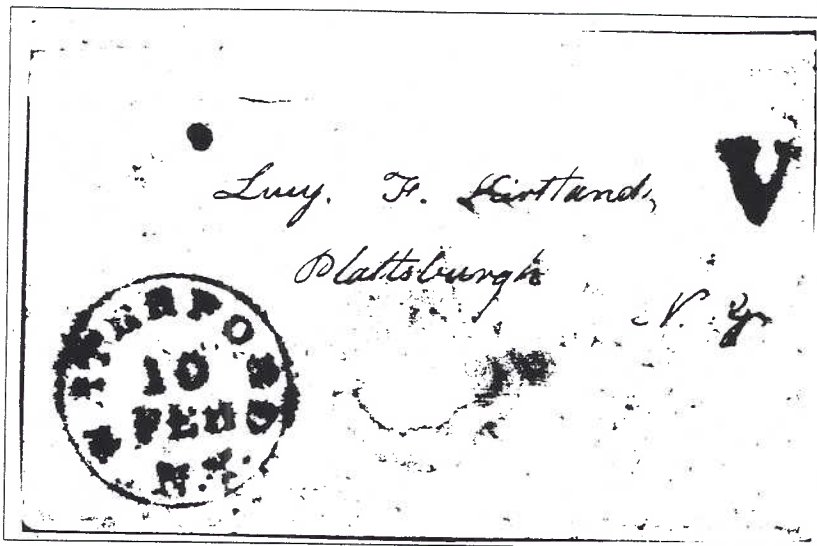
30 mm circular town strikes, "PAID" and Roman numeral "V" Prepaid letters



November 3, 1846

Day above Month

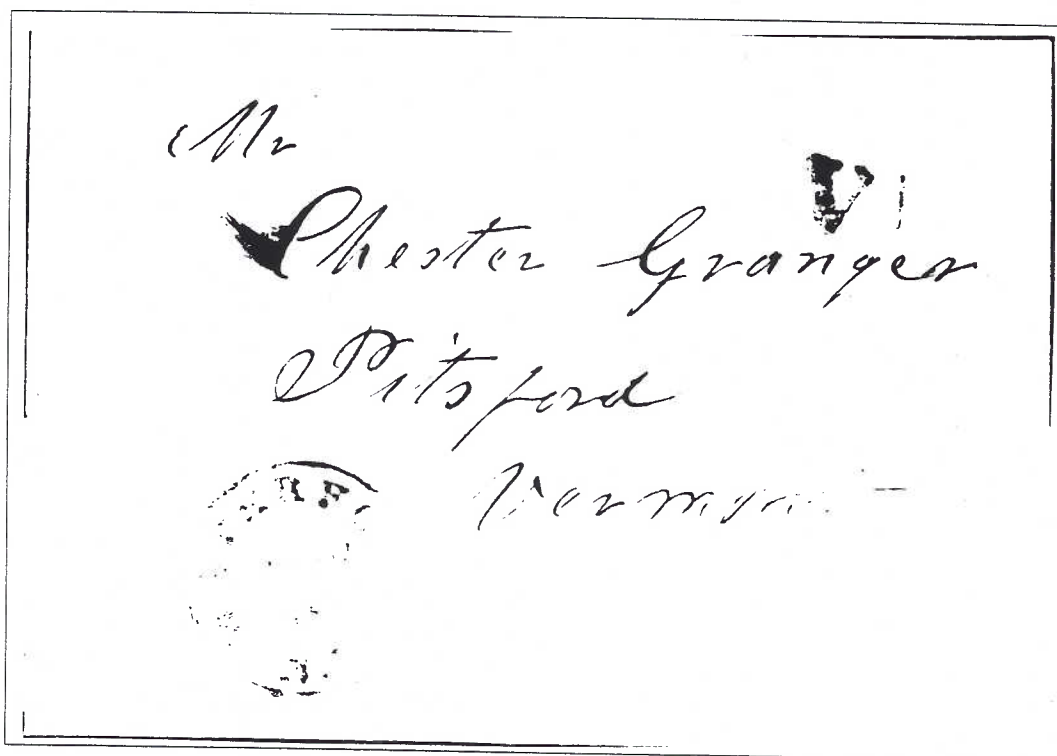
Orange strikes



Circa 1846

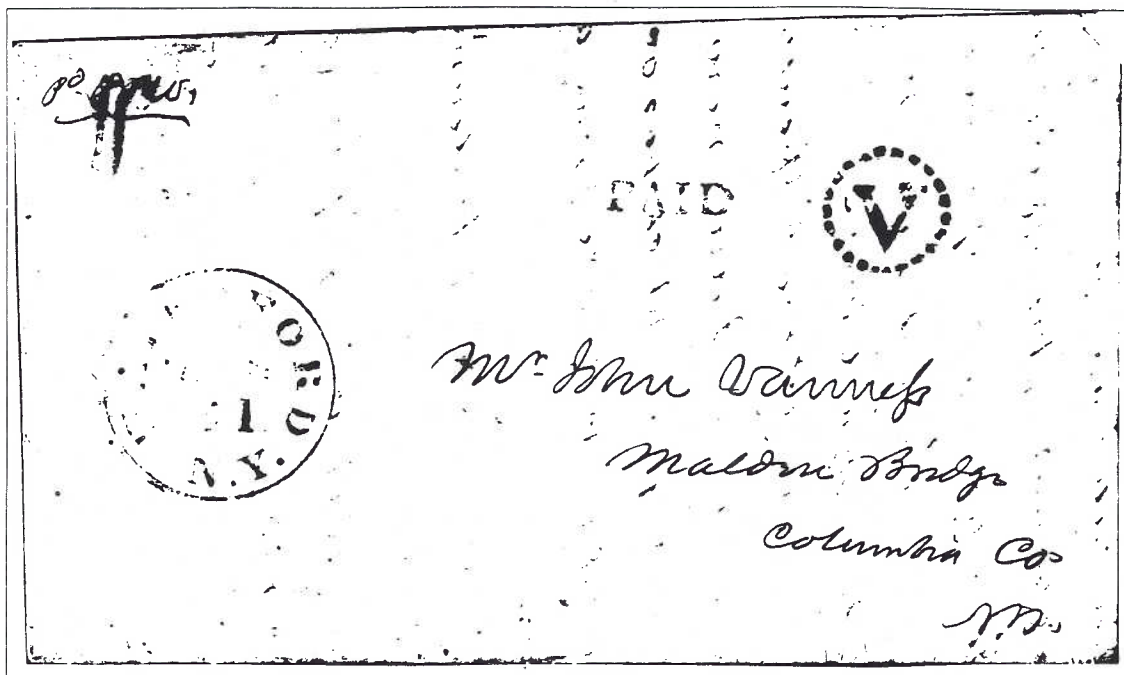
11-12 mm high "V"

This "V" is similar to but larger than the "V" on the bottom cover.



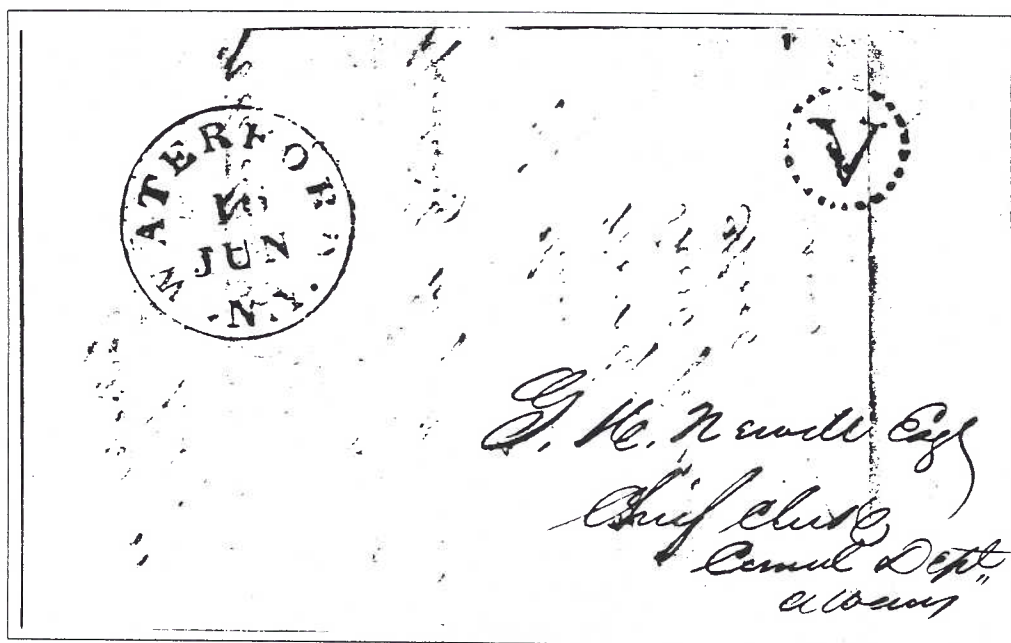
November 8, 1847

10 mm high "V"



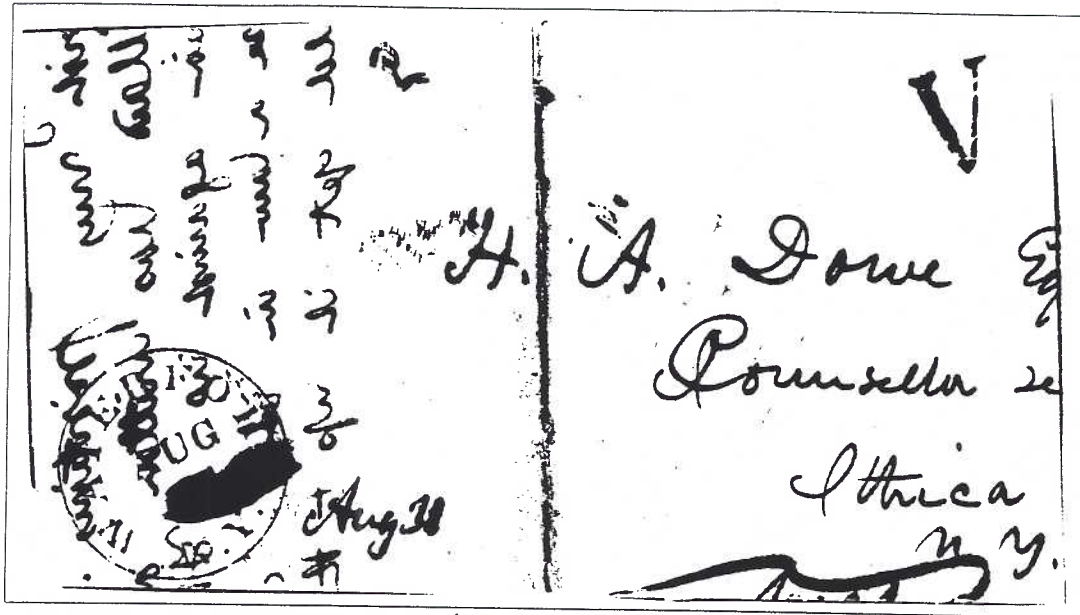
August 31, 1847

"V" in 16 mm diameter circle of dots, in one case accompanied by a "PAID."
 An unlisted strike, probably used for a short time.
 "V" is 9 mm high.



June 16, 1847

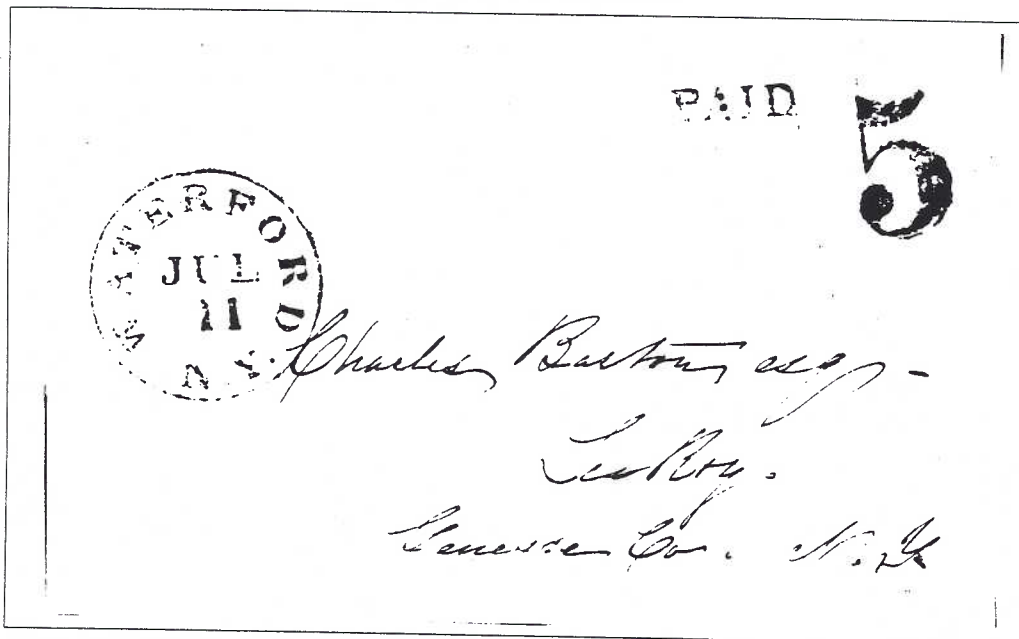
1848



This is the largest of the Waterford "V's," 10 x 15 mm

1849

Large curved 5, 8 x 19 mm

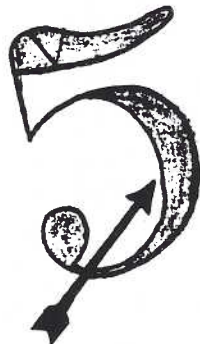


Single letter rate for under 300 miles. This rate was effective from July 1, 1845 through June 30, 1851. The "PAID" marking indicates the sender paid the postage.

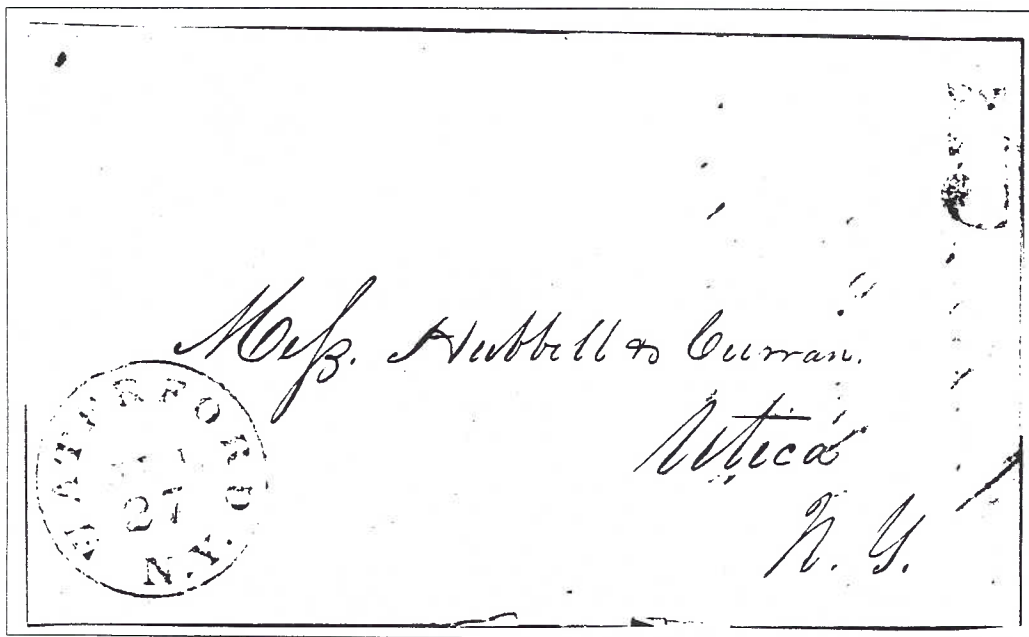
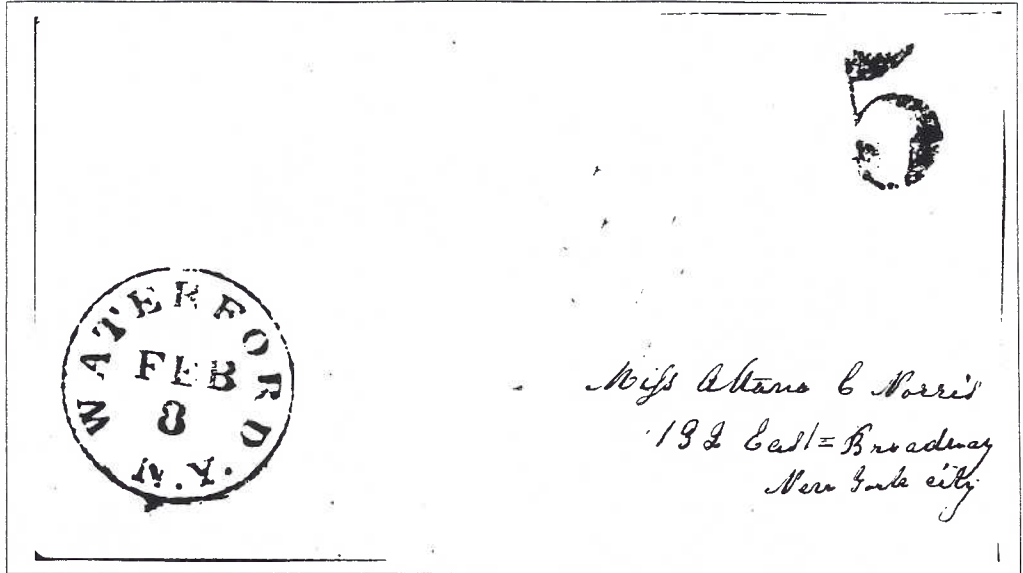
Handstamp "5"

1845-1855 period, Single Letter Rate, not Prepaid

Two very similar, yet different handstamps



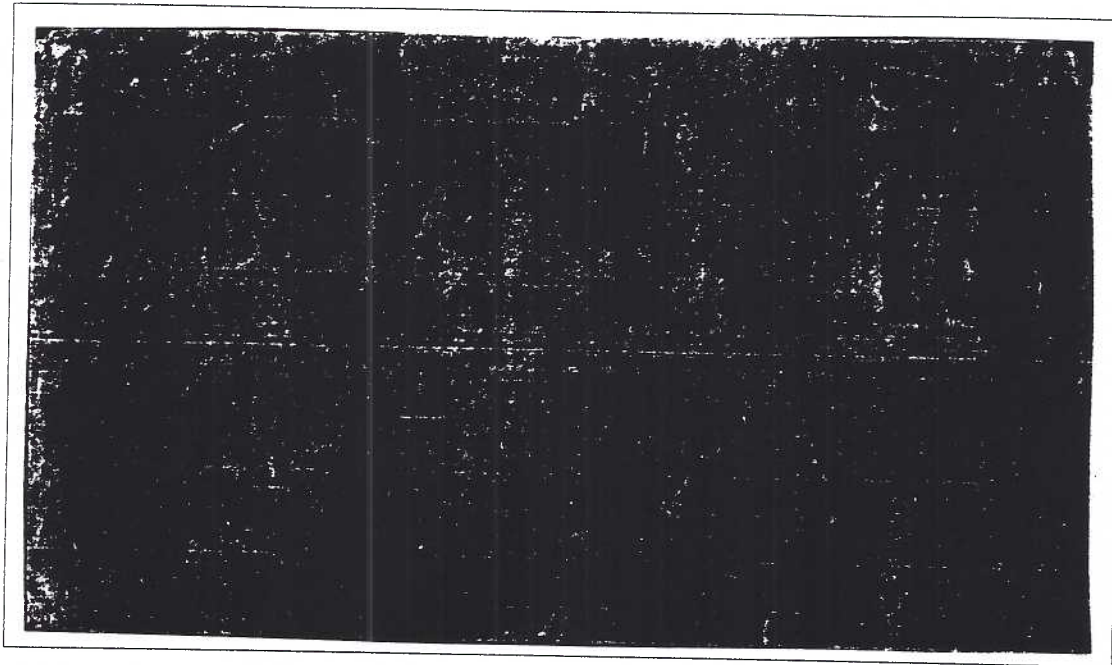
Curved



Straight

1850

1845-1855 Period
Double Letter Rate, Not Prepaid
Handstamp "10" over "5"



This cover is without enclosure, so a definite year date cannot be established. The probability is, however, somewhere between 1852 and 1855 because buff colored envelopes did not come into general use prior to this.

The cover was addressed to Mechanics Falls, a straight line distance of 150 miles.

The "10" represents a double letter rate, un-prepaid. The reasoning for this conclusion is the following:

7. The 10¢ rate for single rate letters prior to 1845 only applied to 30-80 mile distances; this is a 150 mile + distance.
8. The Act of March 3, 1845 specified a 5¢ rate for under 300 miles; therefore this had to be a double weight letter if mailed prior to June 30, 1851. No "PAID" marking is present, indicating un-prepaid status.
9. The Act of March 3, 1851, effective June 30, 1851, noted that the single letter rate for distances 3000 miles or less, if not prepaid, was 5¢ or for double weight (rate) letters, the charge was 10¢.

ULSTER COUNTY CHRONICLES: FROM HUNGARY WITH ASSIST

by Maris Tirums

The first two decades of the 20th century were the hey-day of the picture postcard. Postcards portraying everything imaginable were produced in very large quantities, and used throughout the world. The nature of picture postcards compelled many people to save them rather than toss them away, and today the market for picture postcards is comprised of vast stocks of material.

Collectors for picture postcards sprang up right from the beginning. International exchanges of cards, whether privately initiated or started through clubs established to promote such exchanges, were not uncommon. Miss Mary Crosby of Kingston, New York was a postcard devotee, and the illustrated card was saved by her to survive to this day.

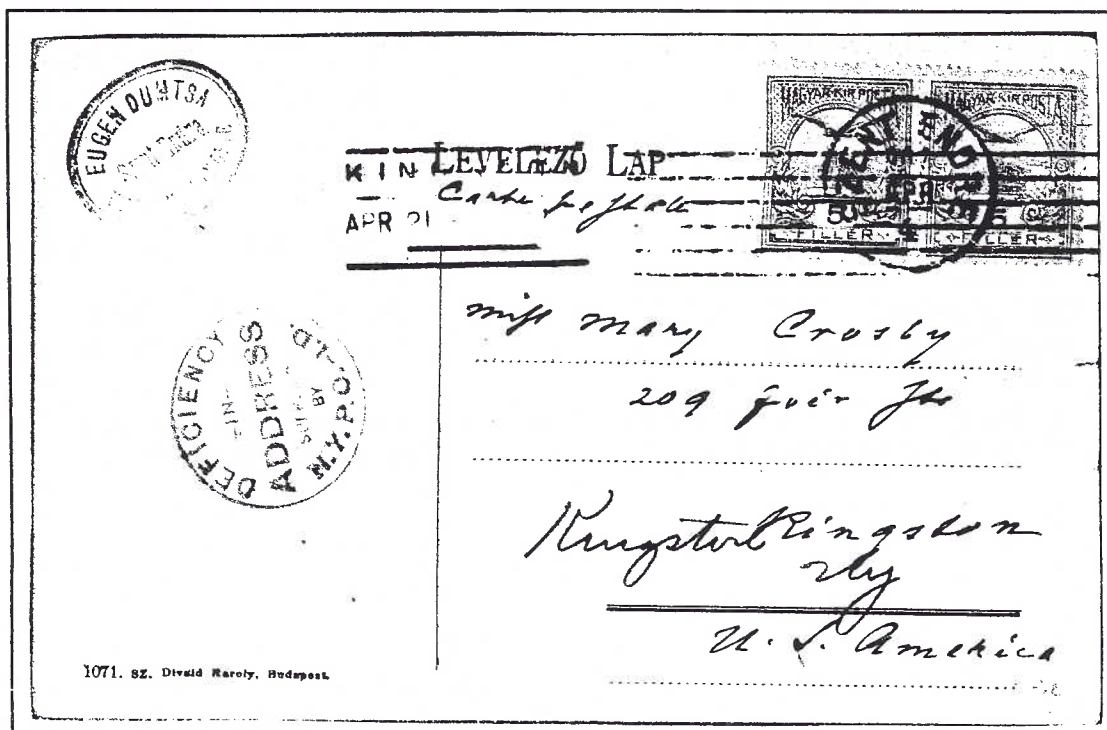
The postcard was mailed by Eugen Dumtsa of Hungary. The cancellation reads **SZENT ENDRE 1907 APR 4**. The picture side of the card is a black and white photo view of a town square and church in Szent-Endre; there are no postal markings on the picture side of the card.

While Mr. Dumtsa's handwriting is fairly good, he made the blunder of not designating the addressee's state in the address, so the card was routed to staff at the New York City post office whose apparent duties included deciphering illegible or incomplete addresses.

The city in the address was recognized as "Kingston, New York," and this was written on the card in red ink. Also, an interesting circular handstamp, found in the left center of the address side, was applied: **DEFICIENCY-IN-ADDRESS SUPPLIED BY N.Y.P.O.-I.D.**

In Kingston, the card was postmarked with a poorly inked receiving machine cancellation, **KINGSTON / N.Y. / APR 21 '07**. While the year is totally illegible in the machine cancel, it can be assumed to be 1907. This type of machine cancellation was used in Kingston from 1904 through about 1908.

One final feature of this postcard deserves mention. The Hungarian name for postcard was printed in the top middle of the address side as "**LEVELEZO LAP**." Since the card was mailed between nations, U.P.U. convention called for it to be identified in the French language, so Mr. Dumtsa wrote by hand "**Carte postale**" under the printed inscription.



NEW YORK STATE POSTAL HISTORY

- * by Want List (or by County)
- * Annual Price Lists

Last Price List: Number 11, November 1996
Copy for SASE
or send your FAX number

WANTED: Monroe, Livingston, Ontario Counties

EXCELSIOR POSTAL HISTORY

P.O. Box 3525
Glendale, AZ 85311-3525
(602) 931-5741

3/5

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Ads may be placed in the ESPHS Bulletin and the Journal of NYS Postal History. Rates are shown below.

Ads should be submitted in "camera ready" condition. The editors reserve the right to exercise discretion in the placement of ads, and occasionally, whether to skip an issue. Purchase of 4 consecutive ads entitles the advertiser to receive a 5th insertion for free.

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\$15.00 for one ad
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\$32.00 for five ads

Quarter page: Dimensions 3½" x 4½" (90x115 mm)
\$5.00 for one ad
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