

The

# Journal

of



## New York State Postal History

Volume 36

Spring 2002

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President

*Martin Margulis*  
Editor

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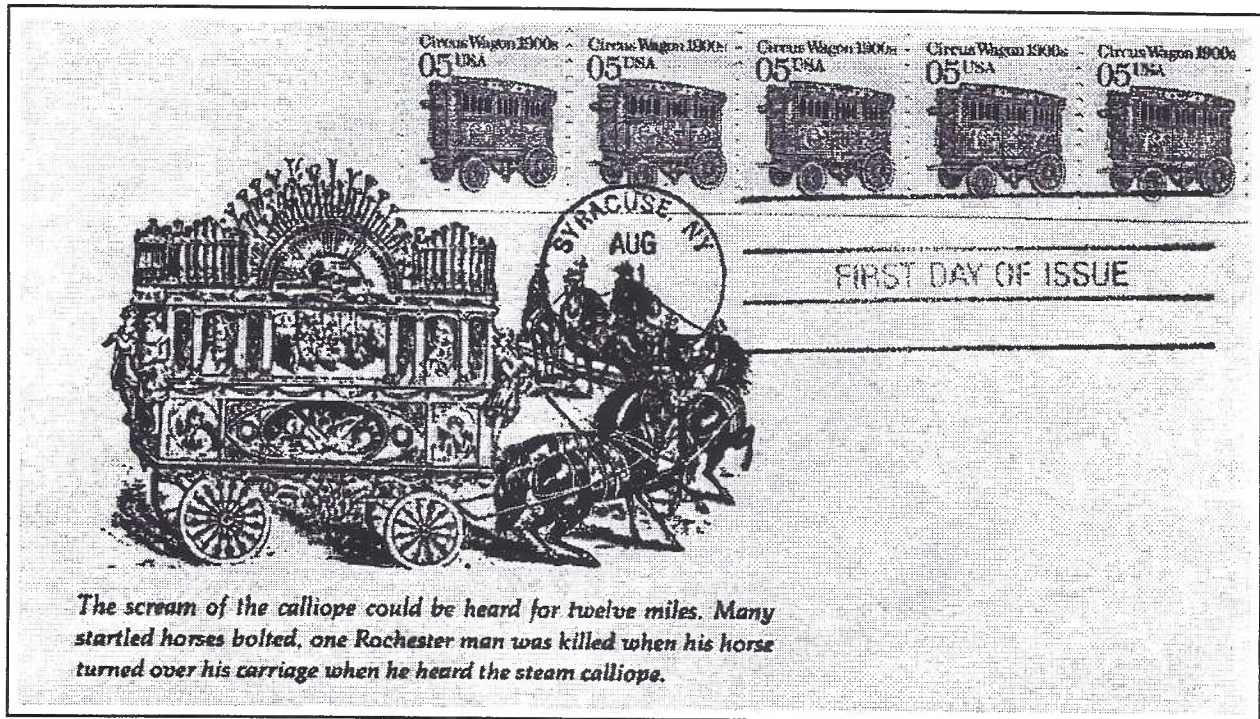
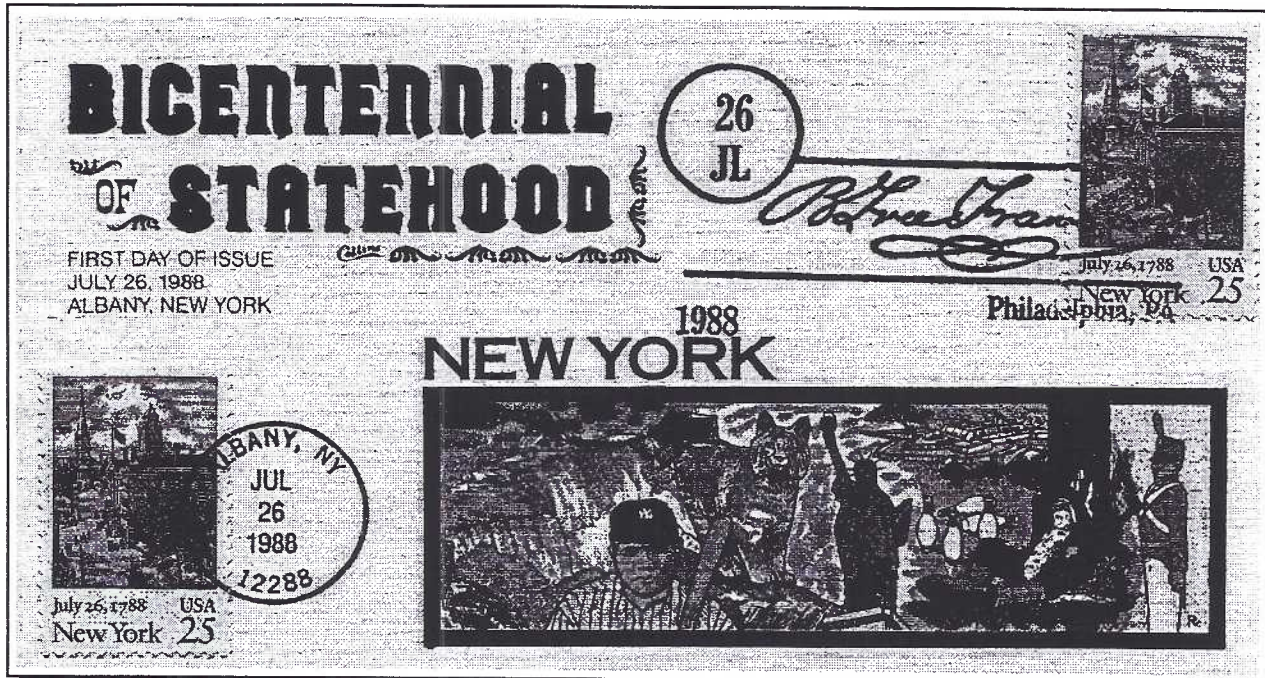
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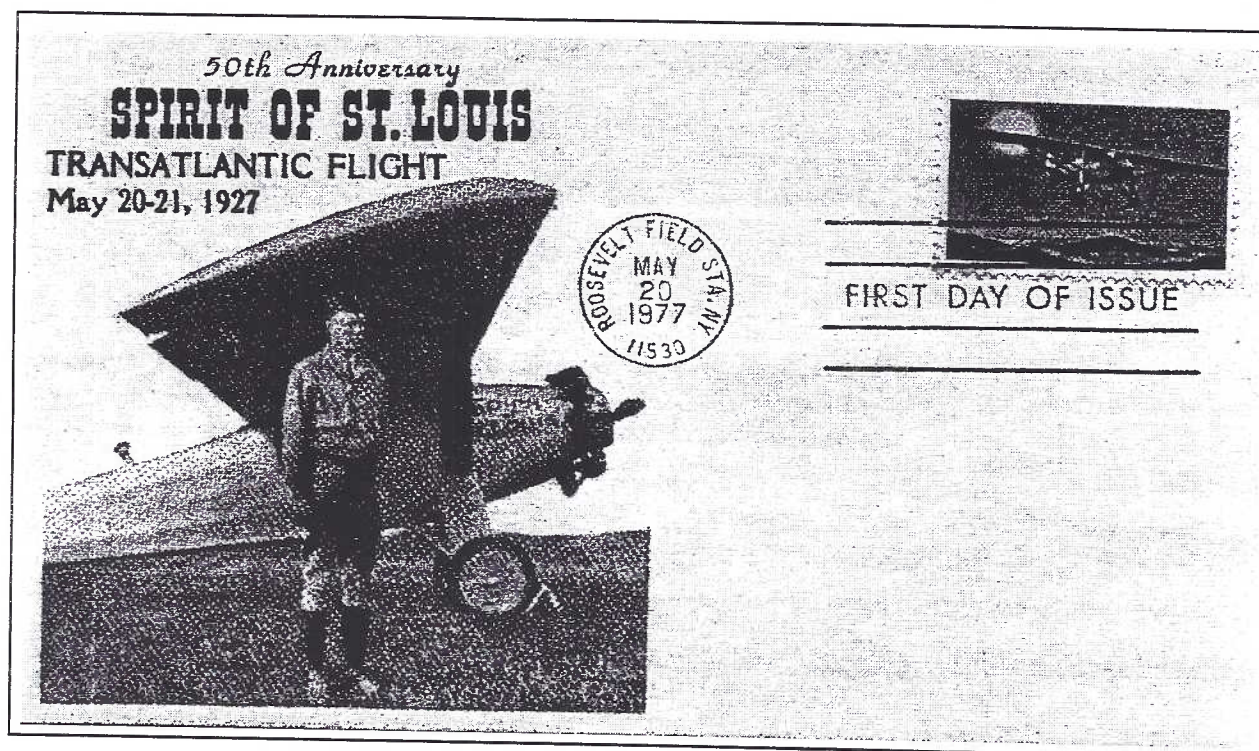
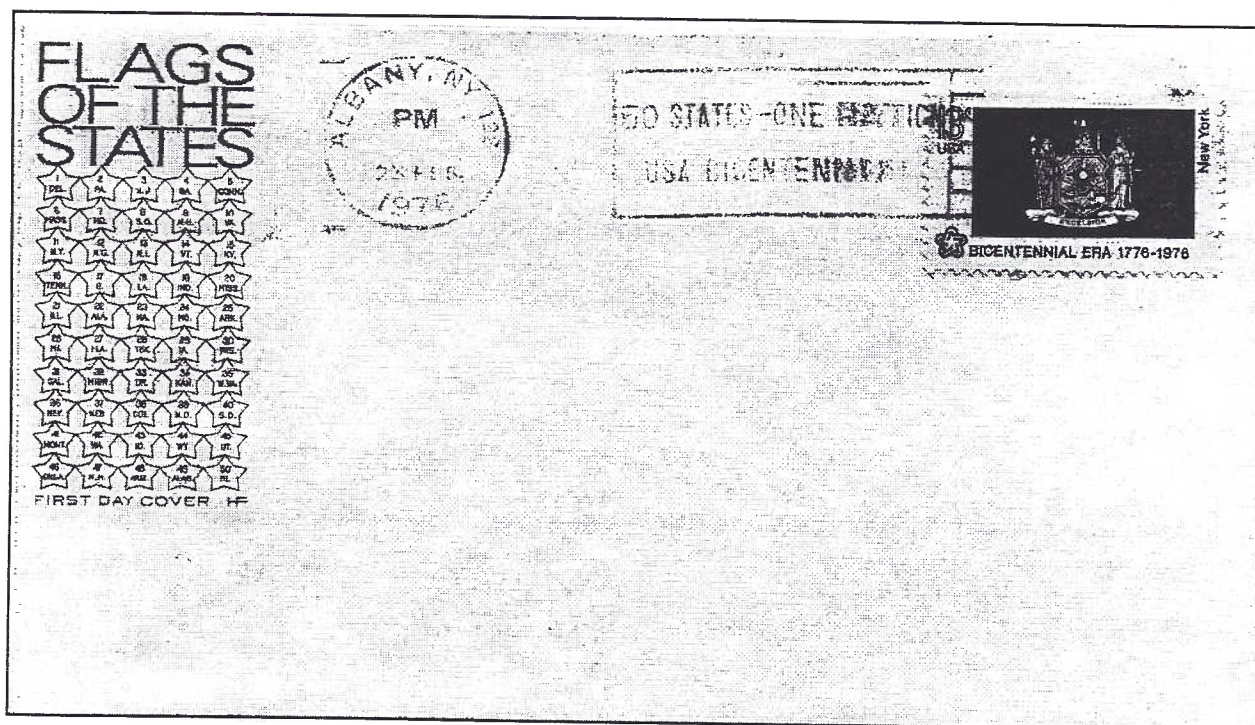
Dues are \$10.00 per year. There is a \$1.00 fee charged on joining.

# FIRST DAY COVERS

by Martin Margulis  
Austin, Texas

From time to time I purchase FDCs to use in the Journal. Here are four which I have had waiting to be used. Their time has come.—M. M.





# SARATOGA SPRINGS STAMPLESS COVERS, 1816 - 1855

by John A. Lange, Jr.  
Ballston Spa, New York

Saratoga Springs stampless covers are a major component of the writer's collection of Saratoga County, N.Y. stampless covers. In today's times, Saratoga Springs is identified with horse racing, but in the stampless period it was the presence of the "springs" which attracted attention and tourism.

Saratoga Springs was organized on March 7, 1788 but the first post office did not come into being until April 8, 1802. The 1836 edition of the *Gazeteer of New York State* indicates that it is a "post village, 6½ miles from Ballston Spa, 36½ from Albany, 181 from New York, incorporated in 1827, on an elevated, dry, and sandy plain, salubrious and fertile . . . about 250 dwellings. This village is built chiefly upon one broad street, and the numerous large houses for the accommodation of visitors, give it an imposing appearance... The amusements here, during the season, consist of the pleasures derived from a continual succession of company, from promenades, music, dancing, loitering in the music rooms and library, and from excursions by the railroad and otherwise to the neighboring lakes, and over the adjacent country."

The book *Saratoga County Communities-An Historic Perspective* states in part, "Business at the new hotels in the Lower Village was lively for a time; but within a few years, Ballston Spa proved stiff competition as a popular summer resort and watering hole. In the early 1800s Saratoga Springs was characterized by a rather sober atmosphere, while Ballston Spa was sparkling and gay . . . However, in 1819, Saratoga Springs was made a special township with the right to govern itself. Rid of outside influences, the city was free to develop as it pleased. Much new building ensued.

About 1823, Dr. John Clarke came to Saratoga Springs and through his enterprise, contributed substantially to the establishment of tourism based on the mineral springs." Thus, it wasn't until the early 1820s that the town really began to grow. That's a plausible reason for the scarcity of covers from this period.

Unlike its neighbor, Ballston Spa, Saratoga Springs didn't use straight-lines or ovals as townmarks (at least none have ever been reported). The 21/22mm CDS of 1822-25 is relatively scarce as is the 26mm Complete Circle CDS of 1825-1830. The 25½mm Broken Circle CDS (different from the 26mm CDS) seems to be more available and it is reported between 1831-1837. The rarest markings are the two different handstamp sixes of the 1850s which were used for double weight letters and for transcontinental usage. A probable reason for their scarcity is that the 3¢ 1851-57s were available and used more.

This study includes:

1. Different rates within the same time period, e.g. 6¢, 10¢, 12½¢, 18¾¢, and 25¢ existing 1825-1845
2. Different rates caused by postal law changes, e.g. 18½¢ to 18¾¢ on May 1, 1825
3. Marking varieties:
  - a. Manuscript: town, rates, paid, single, free, charge boxes
  - b. Circular townmarks<sup>1</sup>: 21/22mm, 26mm complete circle, 25/25½mm broken circles, 32mm (this one in varying shades of orange and red, blue and black.
  - c. PAID (various sizes) 12½ x 4mm, 19½/20 x 4mm, 12 x 3mm and 22x 5mm
  - d. RATES: FREE, 1, PAID 1, 2, 3, PAID 3, 5, 6, PAID 6, 10, 12½, 18½, 18¾, 20, 24, 24¾, 25, 28¾, 37½, and 48
  - e. Hotel Mail and FORWARDED
4. Usages: prepaid, collect, cross-border mail - paid to the lines early and late uses, free, letters to and from a Postmaster, congressional frank, single, double and triple rate 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

References:

- Primary - *Postal Markings of New York State, 1792-1856*, Bernadt, 1993
- Secondary - *American Stampless Cover Catalog, Vol. I*, Fifth ed., 1997 and *Vol. II*, Fourth ed., 1987, Phillips
- 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 box markings on stampless-era cover," R.B. Graham, *Linn's*, February 20, 1989

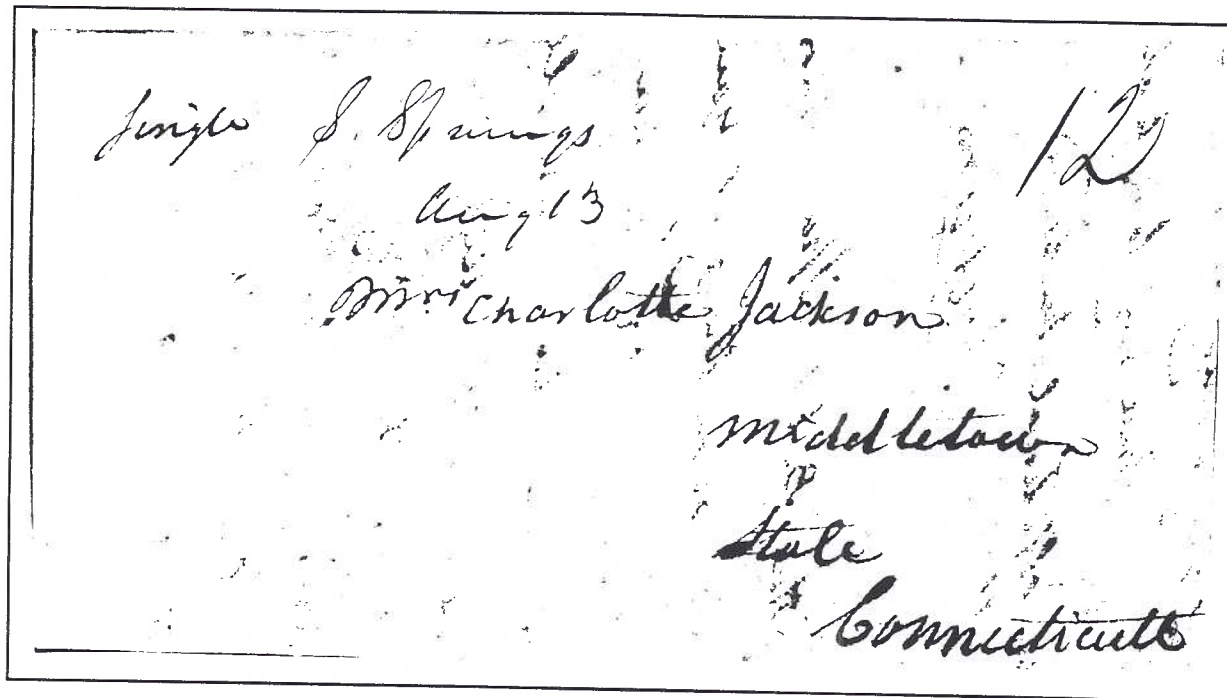
## Earliest Reported Cover

August 13, 1816

The Saratoga Springs post office was established on April 2, 1802. This is the earliest reported surviving cover.

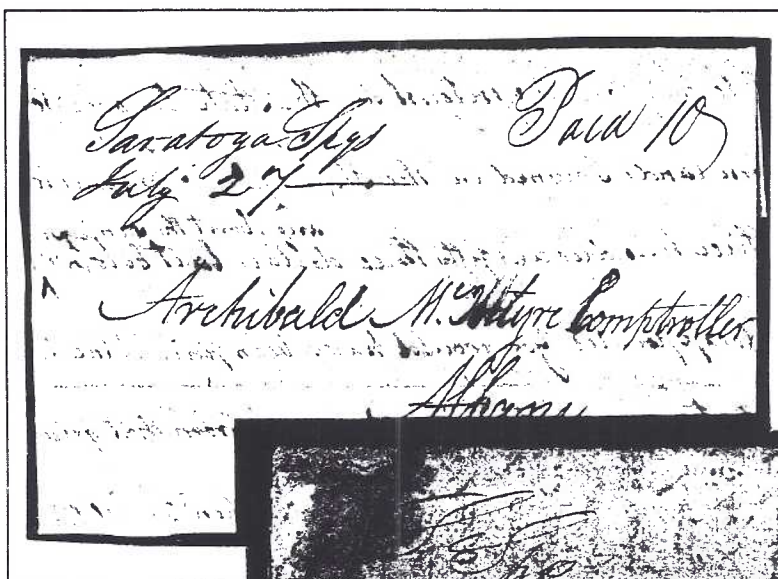
"Single" "S. Springs" and "12" black manuscript markings.

12½¢ zone rate for a single letter, 80-150 mi. This rate for these distances existed March 31, 1816 - June 30, 1845.



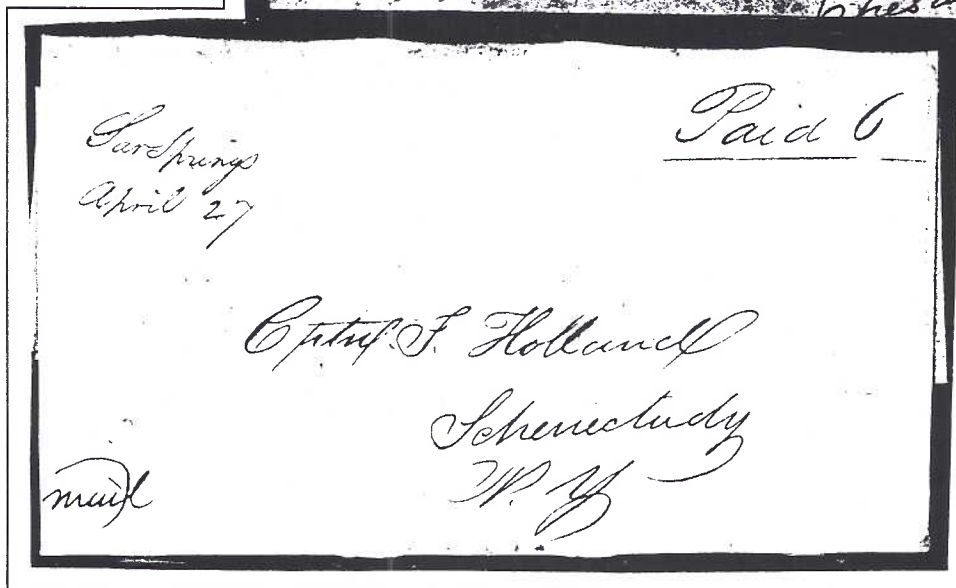
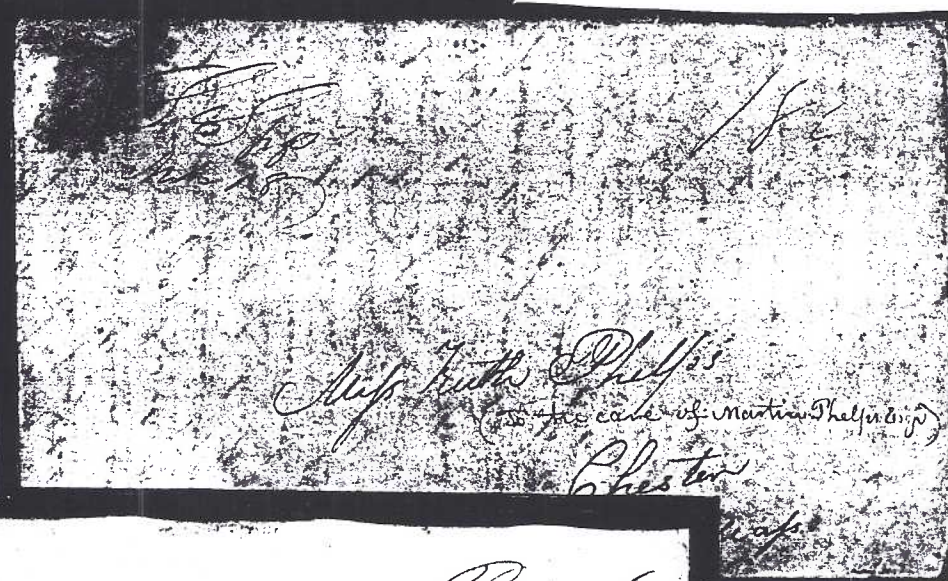
<sup>1</sup>Straight-line and oval town strikes do not exist for this town.

# Manuscript Town Markings of Saratoga Springs



**1819**  
10¢ 30-80 mi.

**1820**  
18½¢ 150-400 mi.



**1822**  
6¢  
Not over 30 mi.

Manuscript town markings were used exclusively thru 1821.

Between 1822-1825 the 21-22mm CDS predominates with only occasional use of the ms.

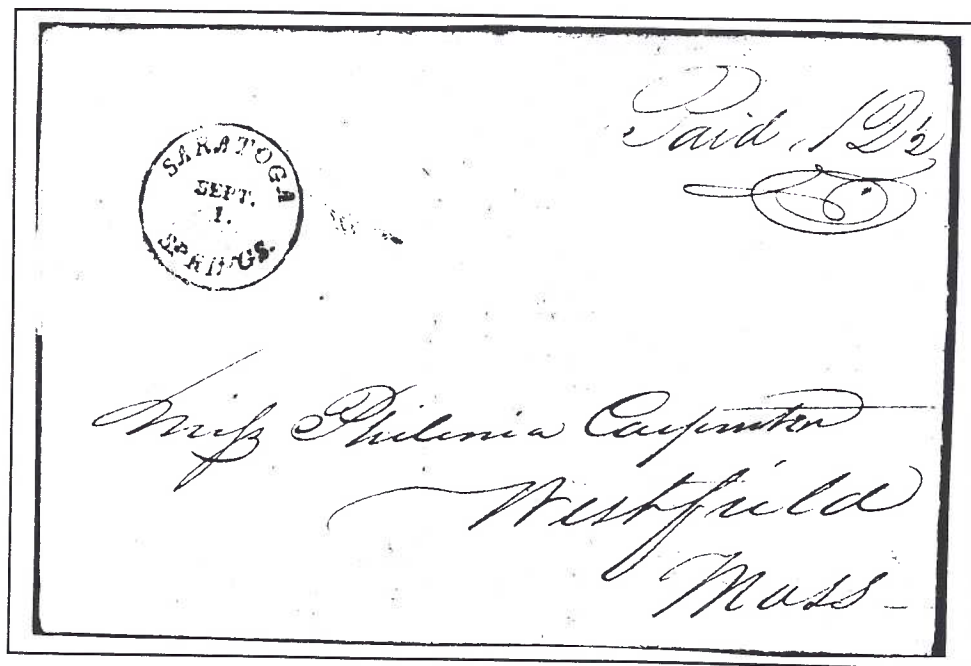
## Saratoga Springs

21/22 mm. dia. CDS

Red

Prepaid  
12½¢

80-150  
miles



**September 1, 1822**

First year of usage

This small circular date stamp (CDS) is known from 1822-1825. It is described in the ASCC as being 22mm. Bernadt uses 21/22mm. Each of the six examples in the writer's collection measures 21½mm in two perpendicular directions.<sup>1</sup> The Bernadt choice of 21/22 mm is used here.

Red, dark Red, Orange and Black colors exist, apparently in sequence.

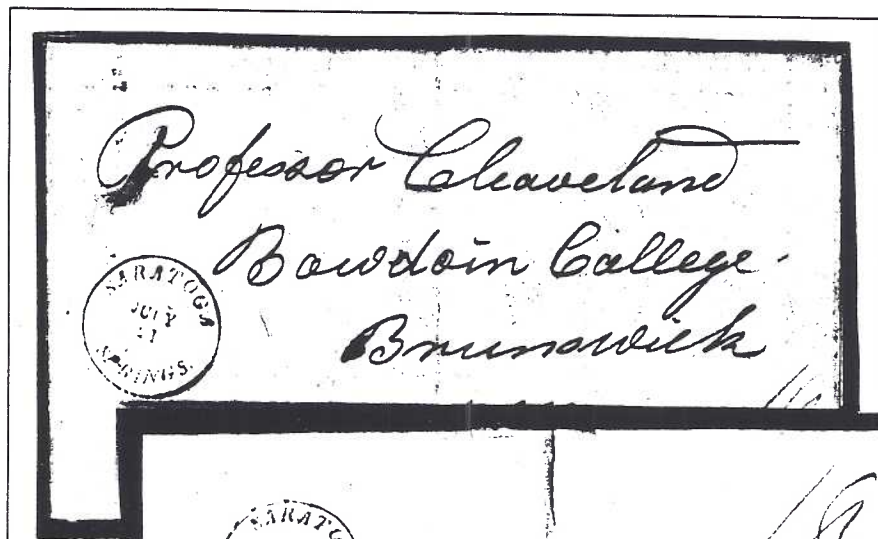
The month and day are part of the imprint in all of the covers except for 1824 where that date is in manuscript.

---

<sup>1</sup>Between A T of SARATOGA and I of SPRINGS, 21½mm.  
Between the two open spaces at the sides, 21½mm.

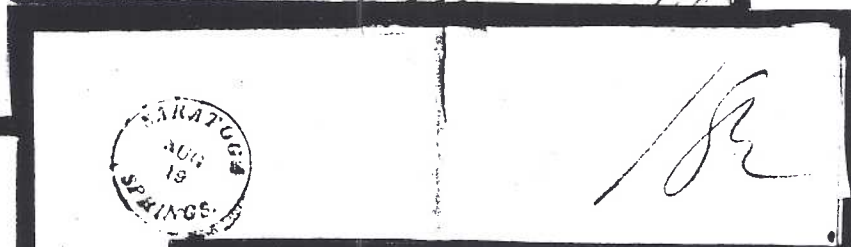
Saratoga County, N.Y.  
Saratoga Springs

21/22 mm. dia. CDS



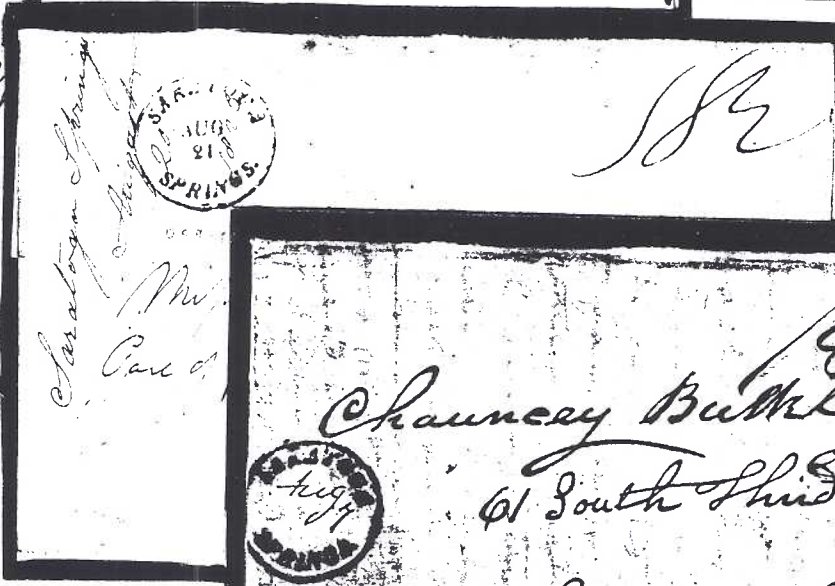
All 18½¢ Rate  
80-150 miles  
Dark Red  
July 21, 1823

This strike is  
known in the period  
1822-1825



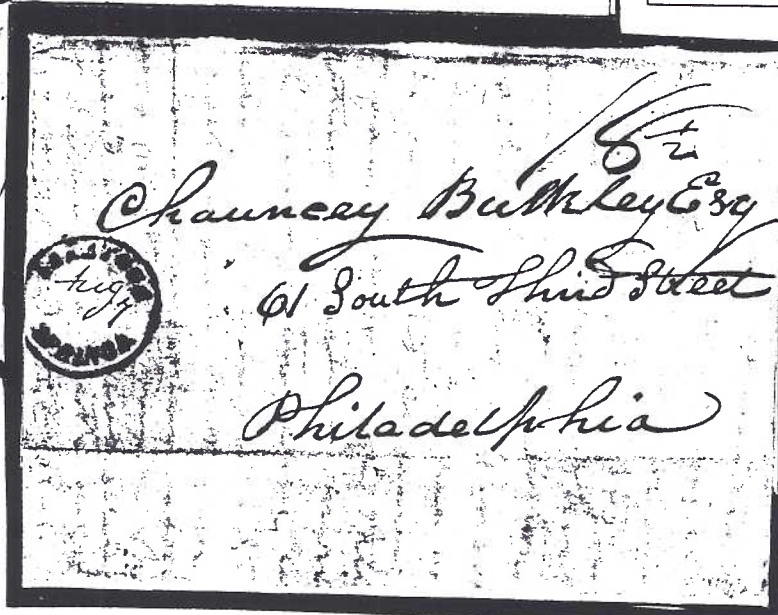
Orange with  
Reddish tint

August 19, 1823



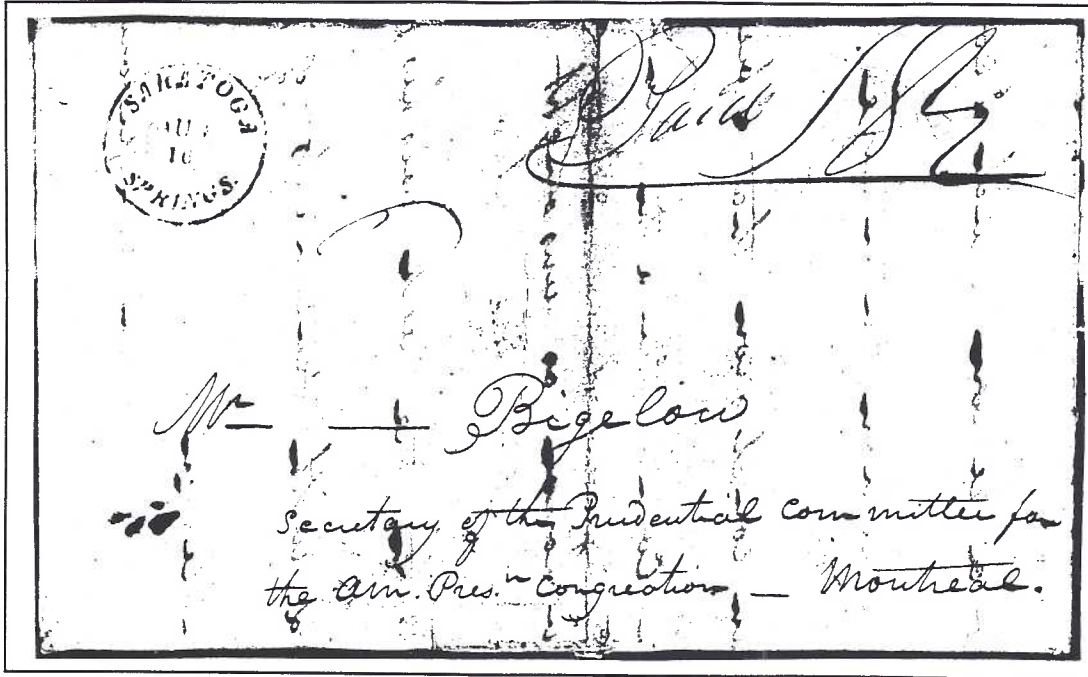
Orange  
August 21,  
1823

Black  
August 7, 1824  
Month & day in  
manuscript



Saratoga County, N.Y.  
Saratoga Springs

Small Circle



1823

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

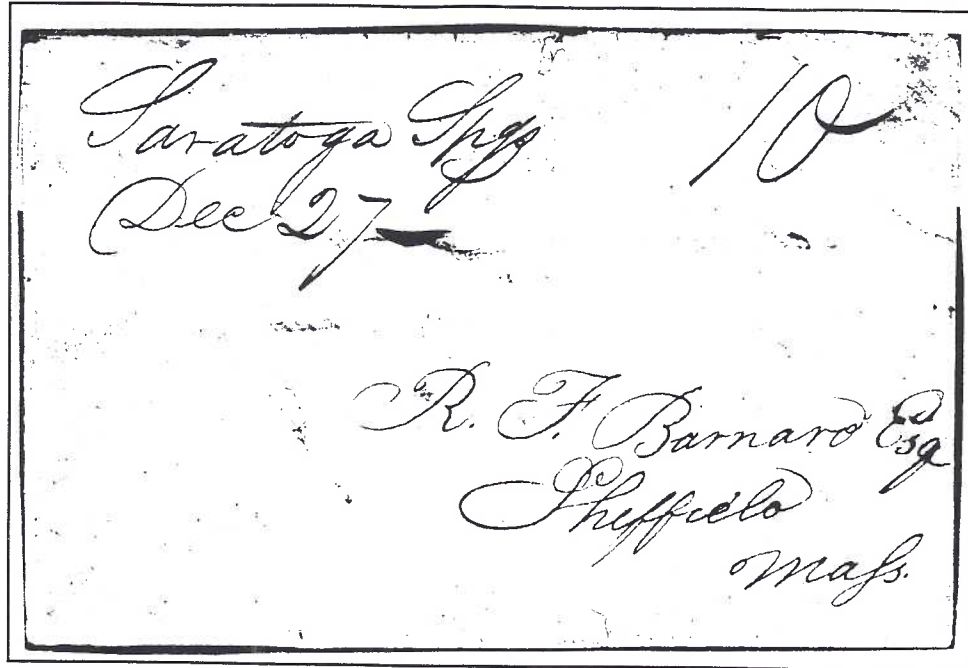
21/22mm. Circular orange town mark known only in the 1822-1825 period.

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 18½" represents the charge for a single letter traveling 150-400 mi. and is the U.S. portion to the border. The red mscr. "6" 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."

**Saratoga County, N.Y.  
Saratoga Springs**

10¢ Zone Rate Single Letter  
30 to 80 mi.  
1816-1845



**1825**

**Late Usage of the Saratoga Springs Manuscript Town Marking**

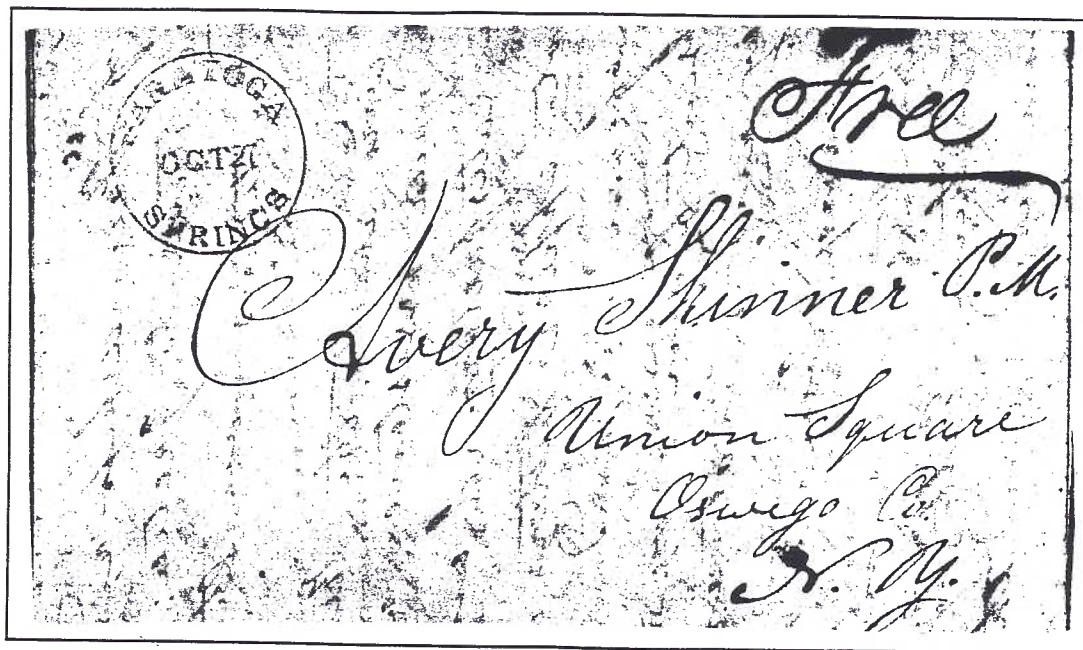
The town markings of Saratoga Springs were:\*

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

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

\* *Postal Markings of New York State* by George Bernadt, 1993

Saratoga County, N.Y.  
Saratoga Springs



Oct. 27, 1825

Earliest Known Use of the 26mm Dia. Circular Townmark  
Orange-Red  
Complete Circle

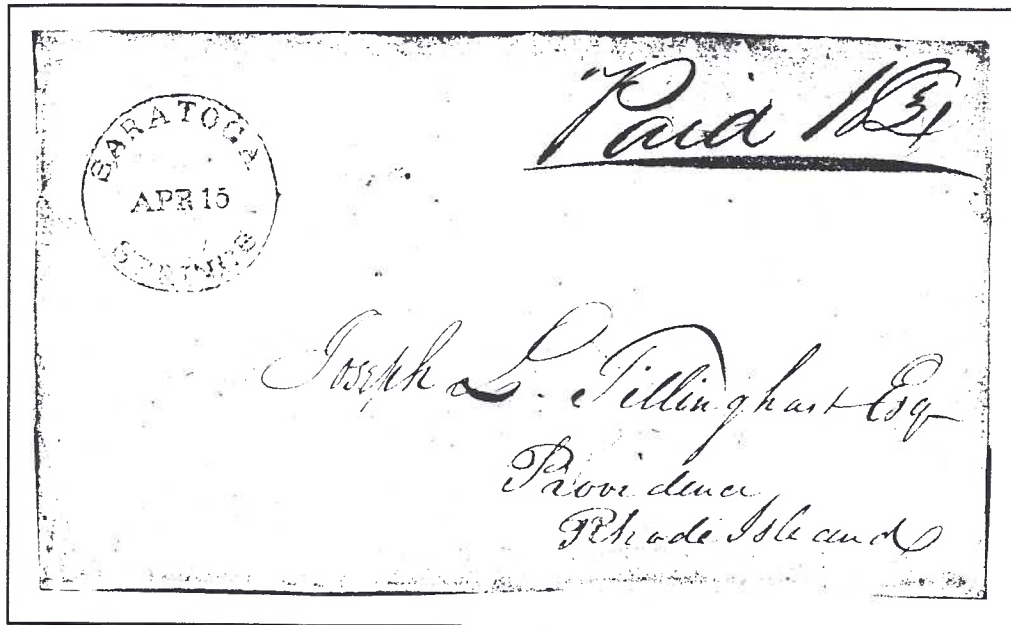
As noted in two stampless cover catalogues,<sup>1,2</sup> the previously identified period of use for the 26mm dia. circular townmark was 1826-1830. This cover, internally dated, documents usage in 1825, so the span can now be refined to 1825-1830.

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<sup>1</sup> *Postal Markings of New York State 1792-1856* by George Bernadt, 1993

<sup>2</sup> *American Stampless Cover Catalog, Vol. I*, editor David G. Phillips, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. 1985

Saratoga County, N.Y.  
Saratoga Springs



April 15, 1826

Red 26mm. dia. Townmark - Complete Circle

A prepaid letter - 18¾¢ (1½ Spanish reales)  
150 to 400 miles

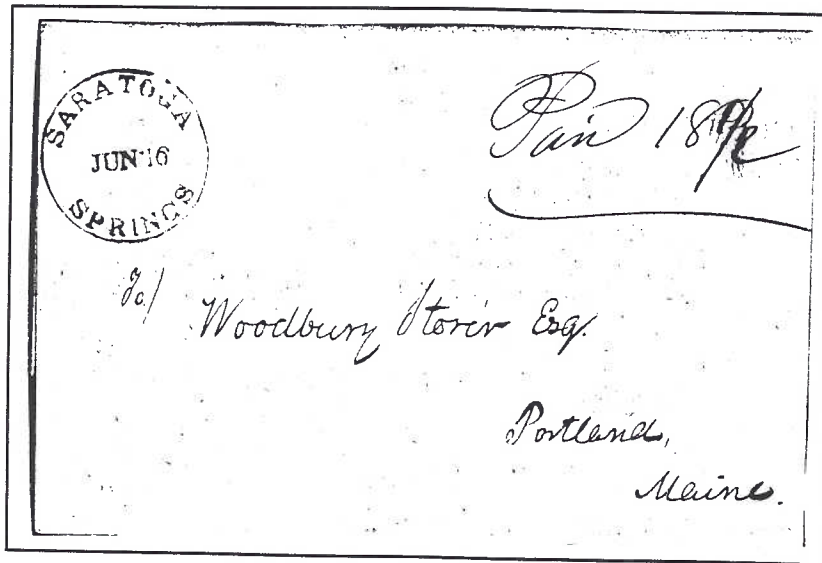
Saratoga Springs was incorporated as a village two days later, April 17. This is a letter from John Ford, first Proprietor of the famous United States Hotel, telling a patron of improvements made -- "A first rate Grande Piano Forte (the underlining is his), with bagatelle and billiard tables for ladies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

**Saratoga County, N.Y.  
Saratoga Springs**

**Red 26mm Complete Circle**

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



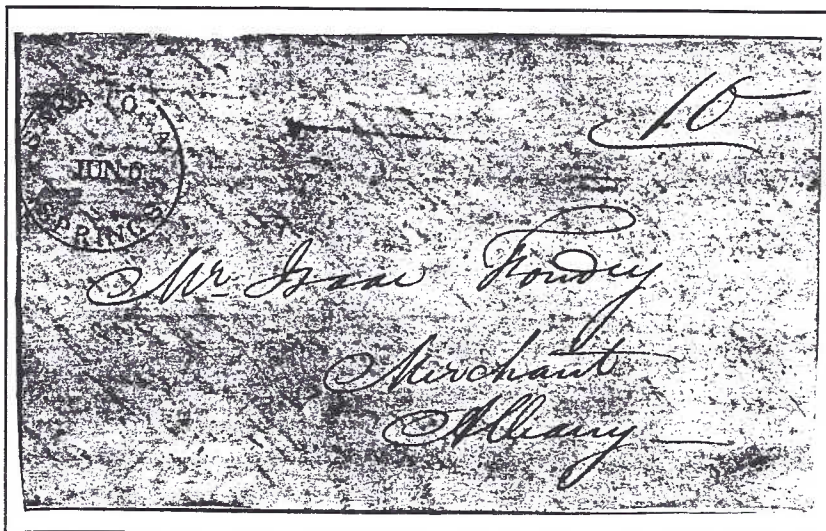
The zone rate for a single letter traveling 150 - 400 miles was 18½¢ from 1816 thru Apr. 30, 1825. The rate changed on May 1, 1825 to 18¾¢ to fit the available currency. One Spanish reale was worth 12½¢ and the Spanish medio real coin as well as the British 3 pence coins were each valued at 6¼¢ U.S.

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" as in *℄*, 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.

Saratoga County, N.Y.  
Saratoga Springs



Circa 1828

Red Strike

Single Letter, 10¢  
Zone rate for 30-80 mi.

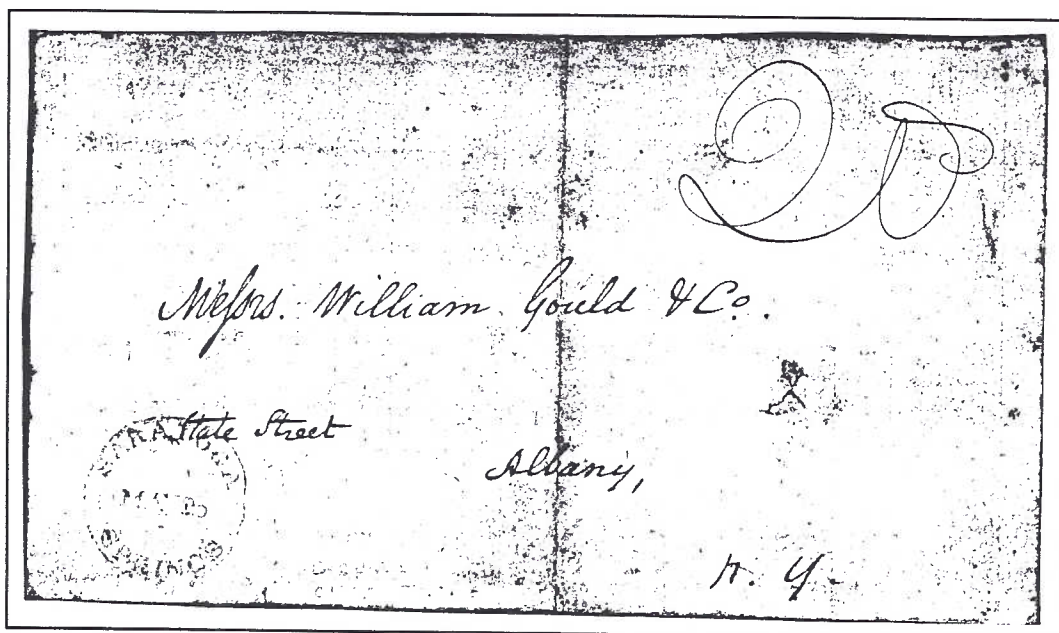
26mm Complete Circle, a quite scarce marking. The "complete circle" is closed between "Saratoga" and "Springs" on both sides. The "broken circle" is open in these areas. The "complete circle" strike was used 1825-1830.

1829

Orange Strike

DOUBLE  
LETTER

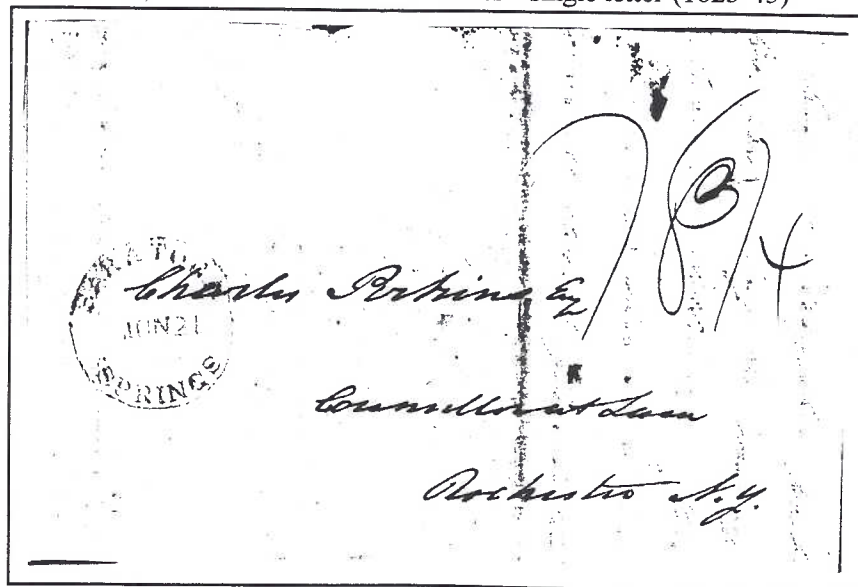
Twice the single  
letter rate or 20¢  
for 30-80 miles.



Saratoga County, N.Y.  
Saratoga Springs

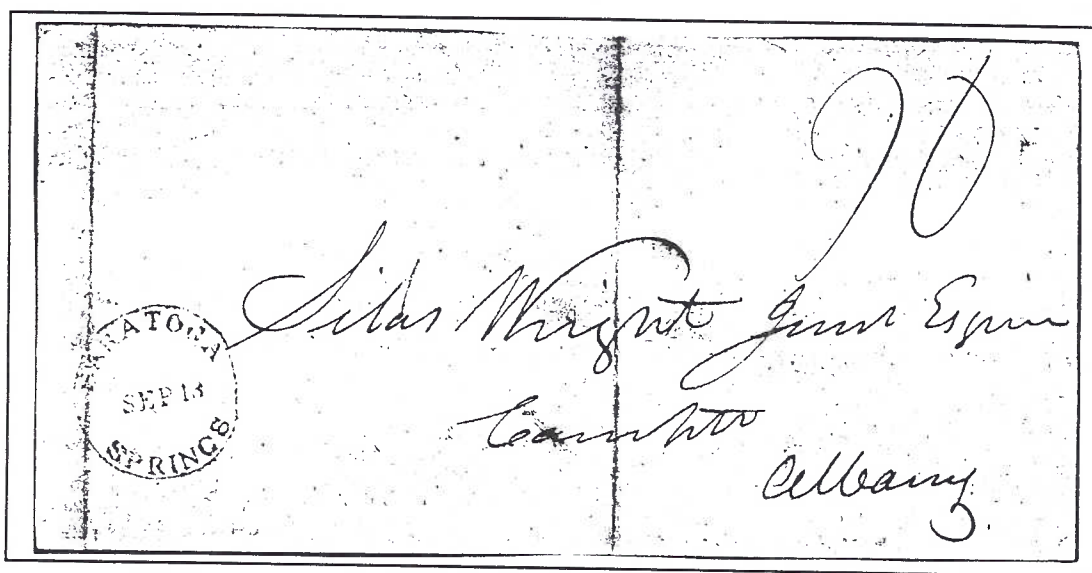
Orange Red

18 $\frac{3}{4}$ ¢ Zone Rate for 150-400 miles - single letter (1825-45)



1829 - 26mm. Complete Circle (1825-1830)

Orange

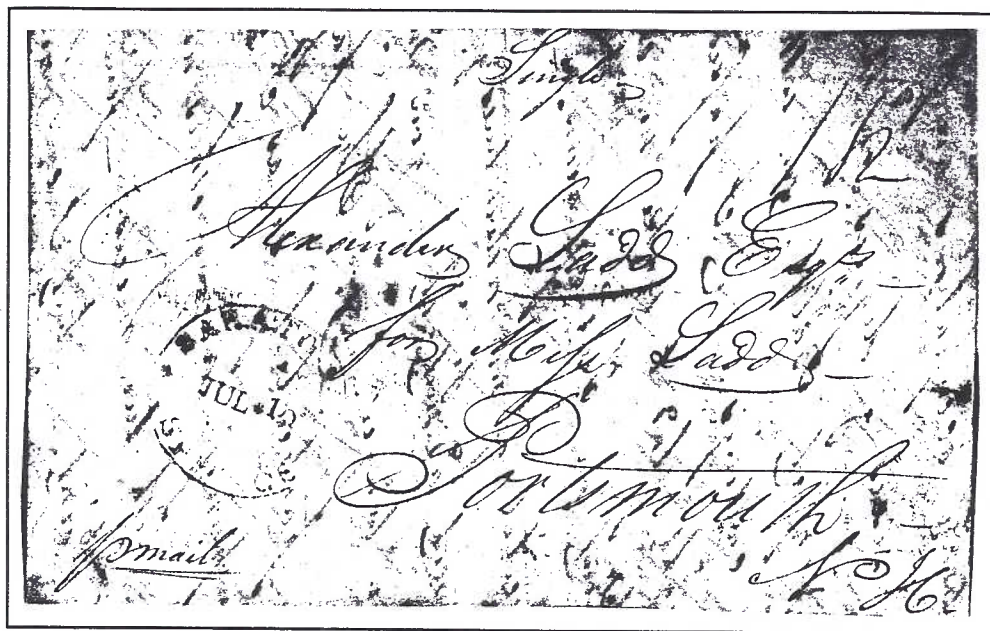


10¢ Zone rate for 30 - 80 miles - single letter - Rate existed 1816-1845

**Saratoga County, N.Y.**  
**Saratoga Springs**

1831

### Broken Circle - Early Use in the First Year of Usage.

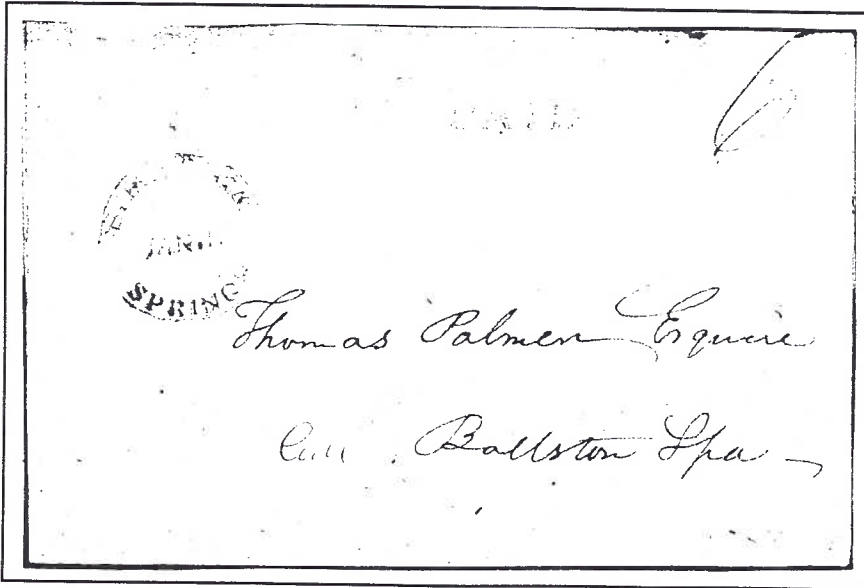


The Broken Circle strike (no rim at sides) measures 25 to 25½ mm. depending on the strike, yet there are no discernable differences in the shape of the circle or the letters inside. It is the successor to the 26mm strike of 1825-1830, and because of the size difference, is definitely not a worn version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

Saratoga County, N.Y.  
Saratoga Springs



Jan. 17, 1832

19½ x 4mm Red "PAID"  
Early use of this size  
handstamp

6¢ Rate - Not over 30  
miles for a single letter

A prepaid letter

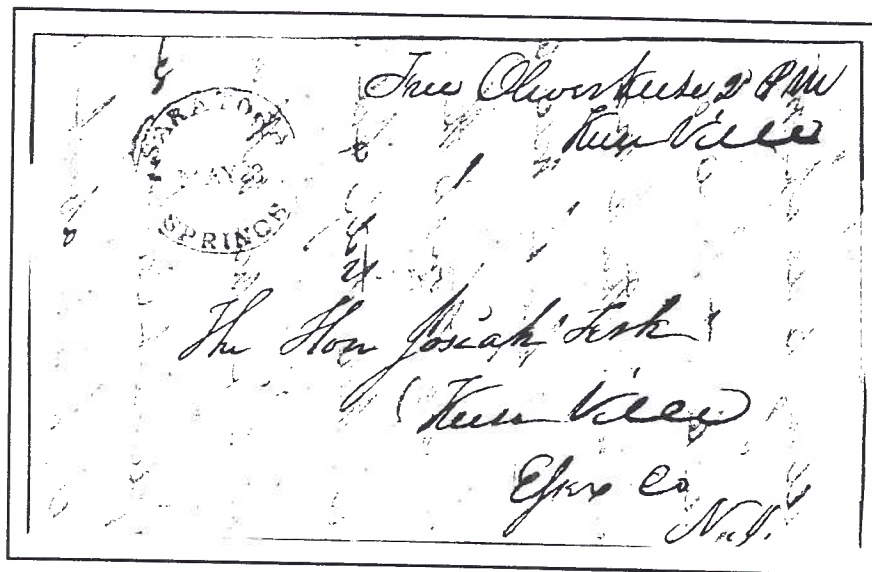
25½ mm Red "Broken Circle" - 1832 Usage

May 23, 1832

Postmaster's  
FREE FRANK

Ms. Free Oliver Keese Jr.  
Postmaster of  
Keeseville, Essex Co.

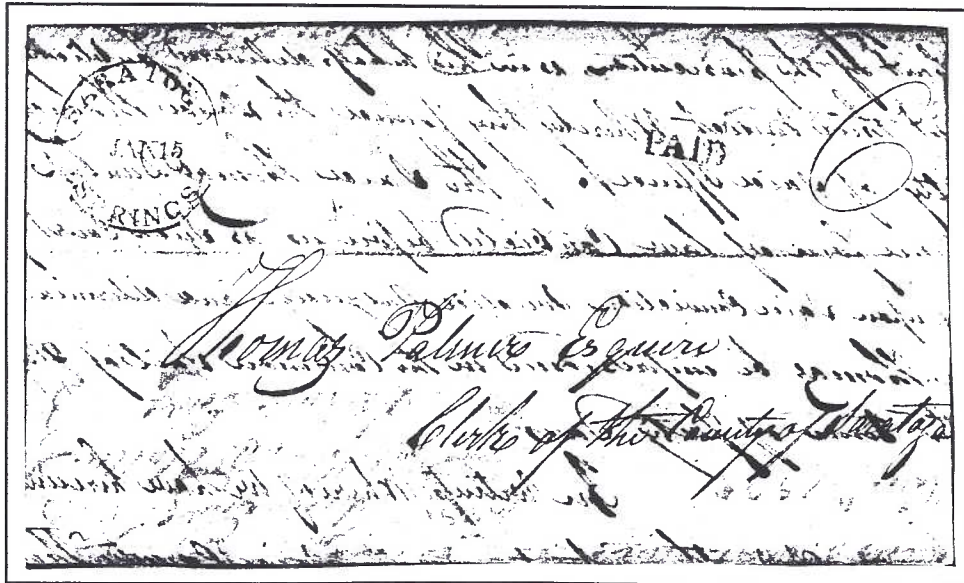
Normal Rate: 12½¢  
80 - 150 miles for a  
Single letter



Saratoga County, N.Y.  
Saratoga Springs

6¢ Rate

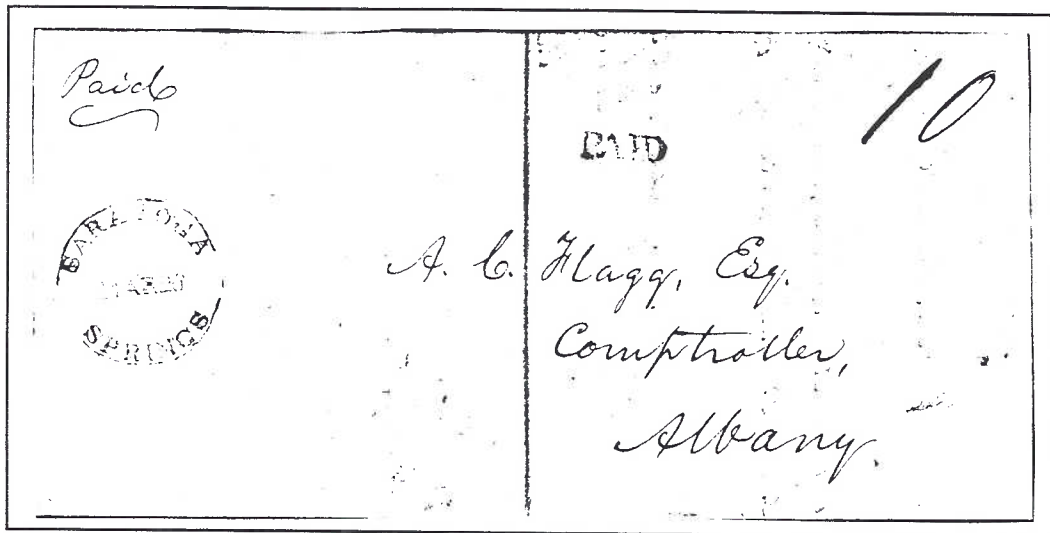
Not over  
30 mi.



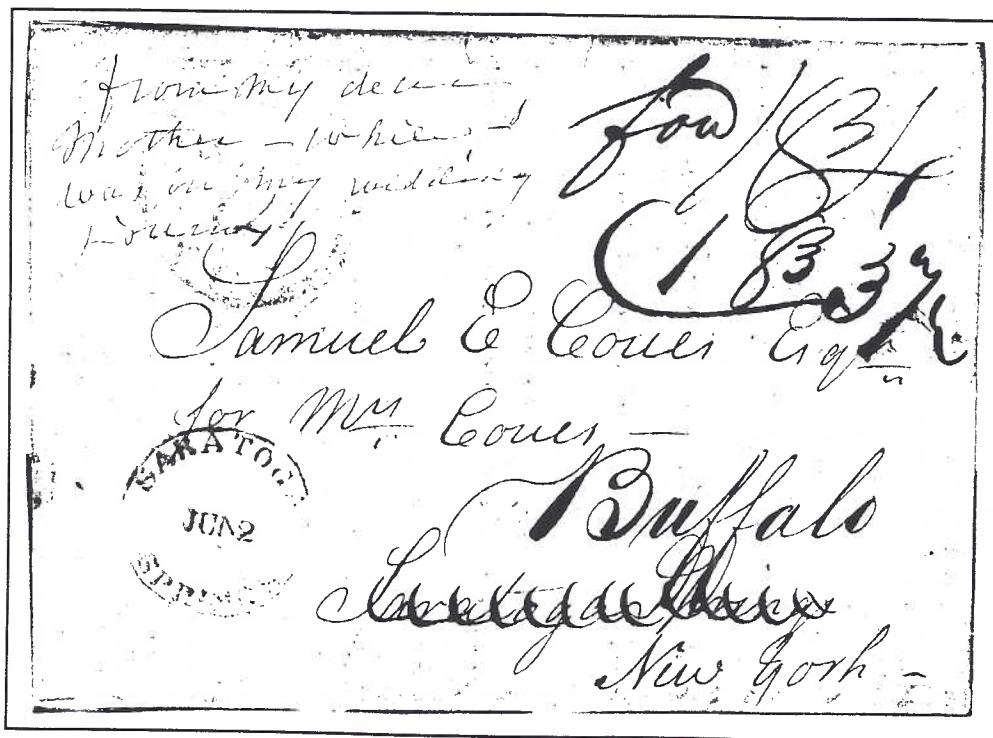
12½ x 4mm 'PAID' used with the 25½mm Broken Circle Townmark

1833

10¢ Rate - 30 to 80 mi.



**Saratoga County, N.Y.  
Saratoga Springs**

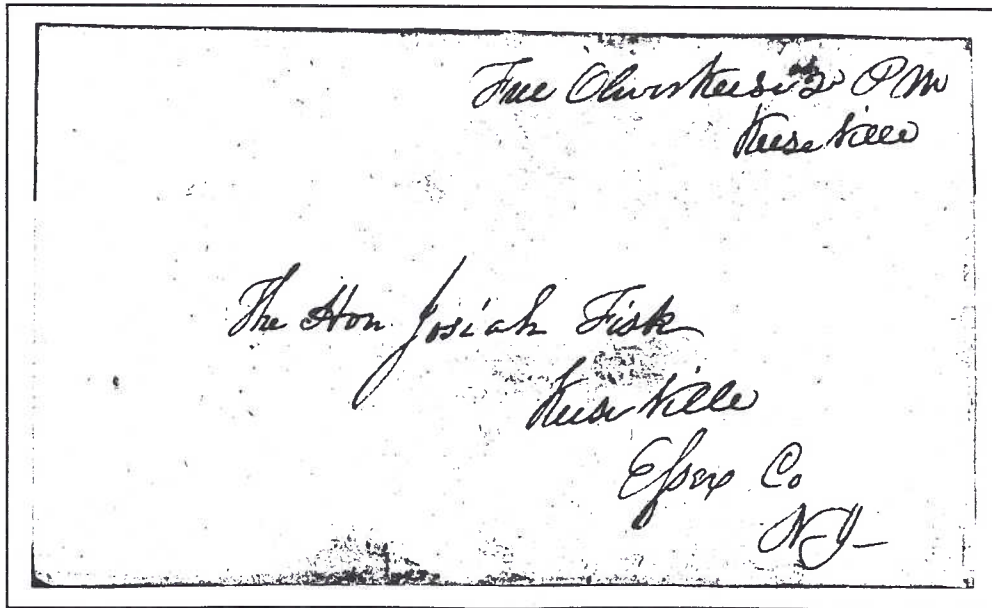


**1833  
23mm Broken Circle Townmark  
Forwarded Letter — 37½¢ Total**

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 to 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¢.

**Saratoga County, N.Y.  
Saratoga Springs**



**Use of a Postmaster's Free Frank  
At Other Than His Own Post Office**

May 14, 1833

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

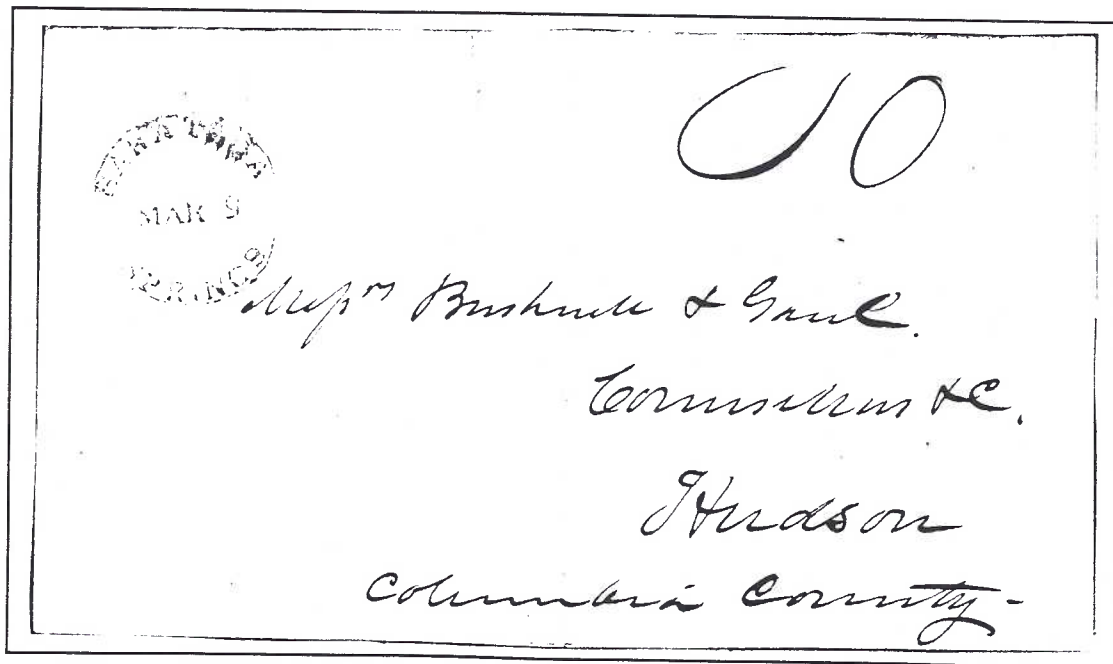
Oliver Keese 2<sup>nd</sup> was the first postmaster of Keeseville, Essex County, N.Y. Use of a postmaster's frank at other than his own post office is unusual.

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:

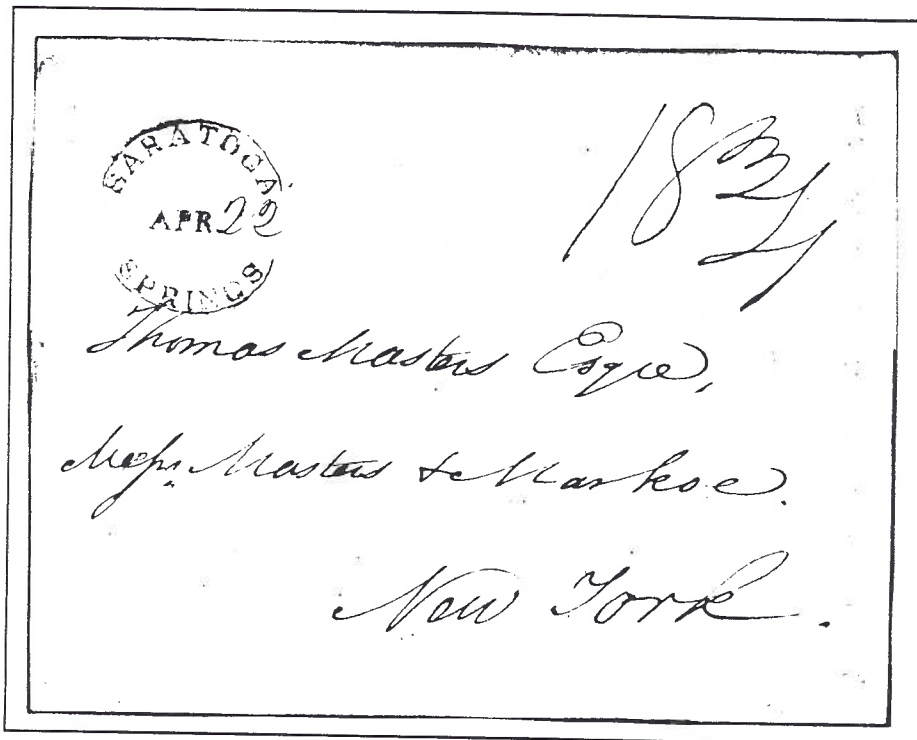
- a. A postmaster was entitled to free mail.
- b. The word "free."
- c. Mr. Keese identified himself as a postmaster.
- d. Why go outside the mail service when using it was free?

Saratoga County, N.Y.  
Saratoga Springs

Townmarks  
before this date  
have the



day of the month inserted as part of the handstamp.

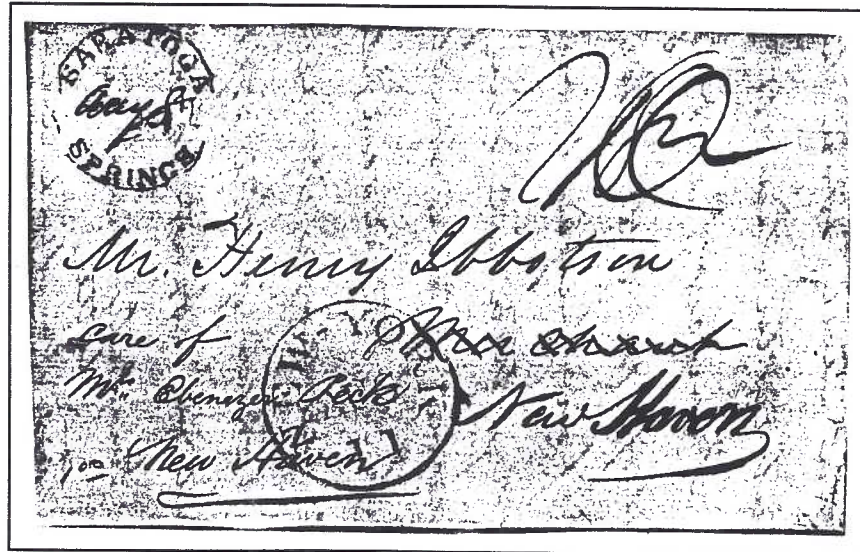


1834 - 25½mm "Broken  
Circle"

Handstamp change - Day  
inserted as a slug - Day inserted  
in ms.

Townmarks after this date have  
the day of the month inserted in  
manuscript.

Saratoga County, N.Y.  
Saratoga Springs



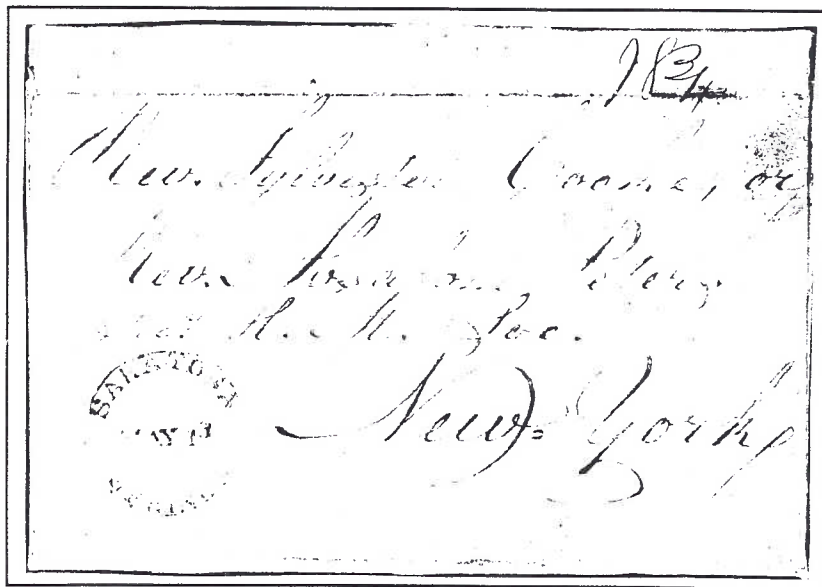
1834

Month and Day Omitted in Handstamp  
Forwarded Letter — 28 $\frac{3}{4}$ ¢

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 18 $\frac{3}{4}$ ¢ 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 28 $\frac{3}{4}$ ¢.

Saratoga County, N.Y.  
Saratoga Springs



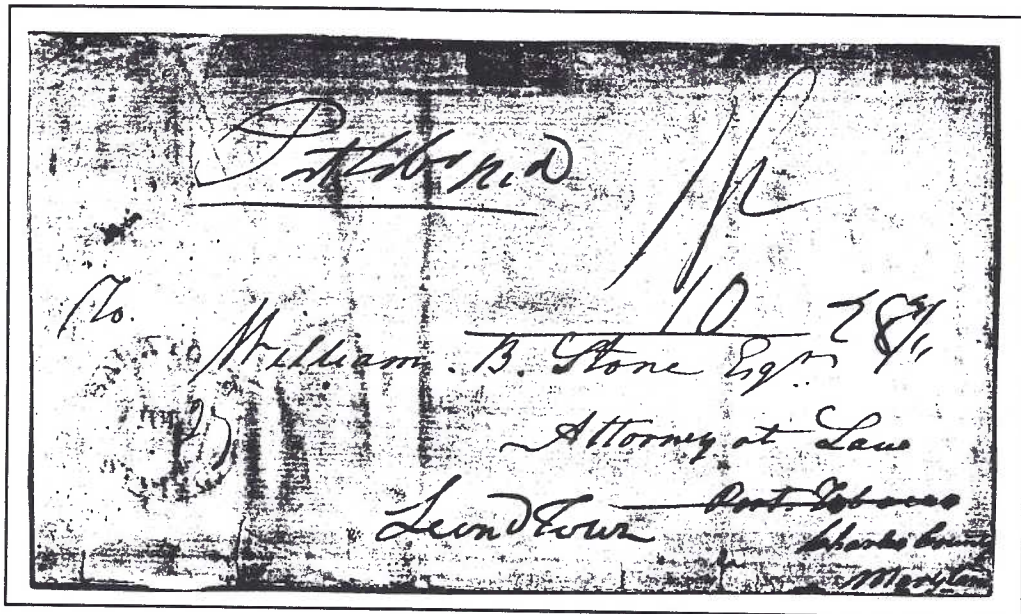
Orange-Red Townmark

18 $\frac{3}{4}$ ¢ Zone Rate  
Single Letter Charge  
150 to 400 miles

1835 - 25 $\frac{1}{2}$ mm "Broken Circle"

Orange Townmark

28 $\frac{3}{4}$ ¢ Paid by recipient  
(18 $\frac{3}{4}$ ¢ for original 150-  
400 mile destination plus  
an additional 10¢ for  
forwarding). The ms  
18 $\frac{3}{4}$  was written in  
Saratoga Springs and the  
10 and 23 $\frac{3}{4}$  were written  
at the first destination,  
Port Tobacco.



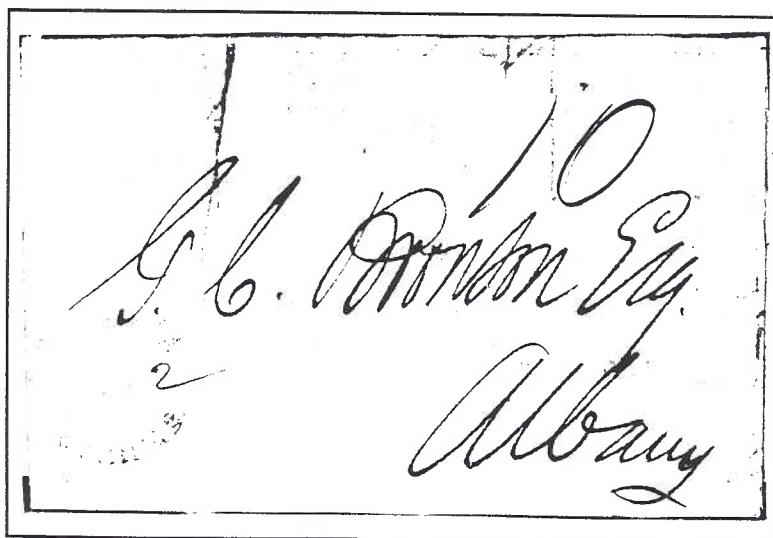
Saratoga County, N.Y.  
Saratoga Springs

August 2, 1835

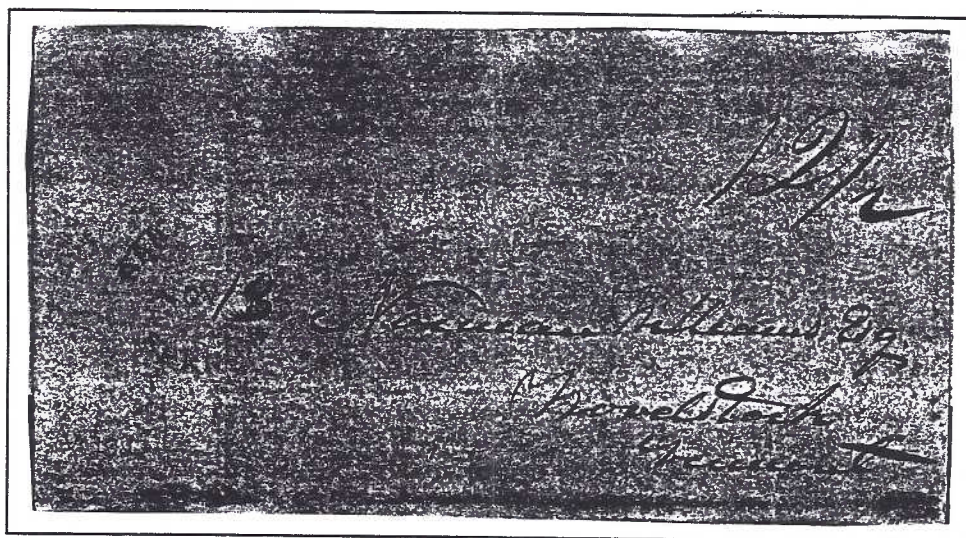
Orange Townmark

10¢ Rate for 30-80 miles  
Single Letter

Note the gradual disappearance of the outer  
rim - earlier rims are stronger.



1835 — 25½mm “Broken Circle”



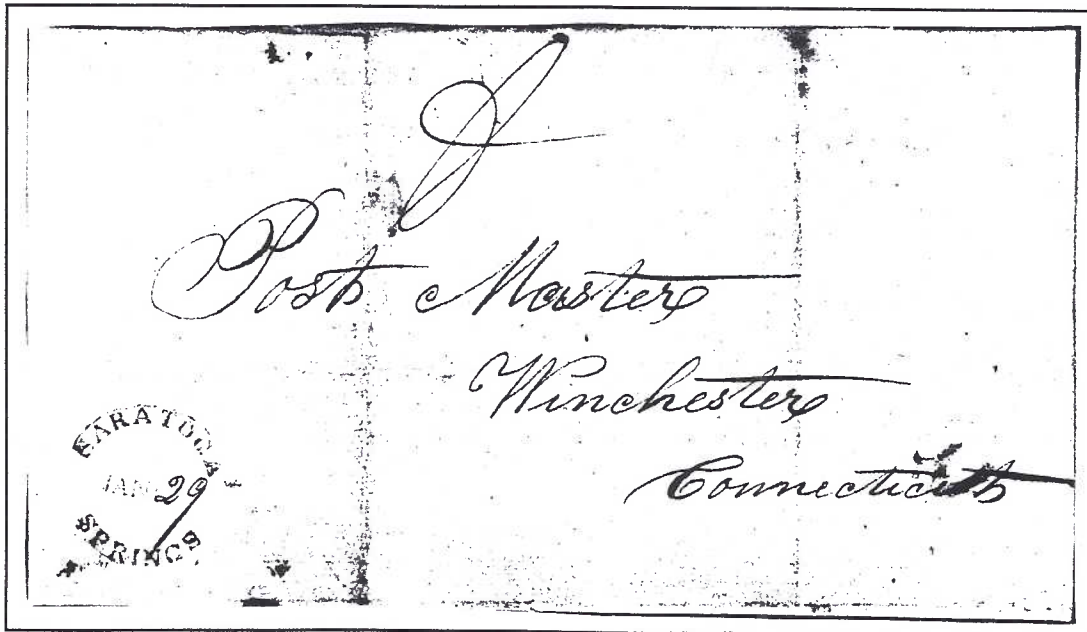
November 13, 1835

Orange Townmark

12½¢ Rate  
for 80-150 miles

Single Letter

Saratoga County, N.Y.  
Saratoga Springs



Jan. 29, 1836 — 25½mm “Broken Circle”

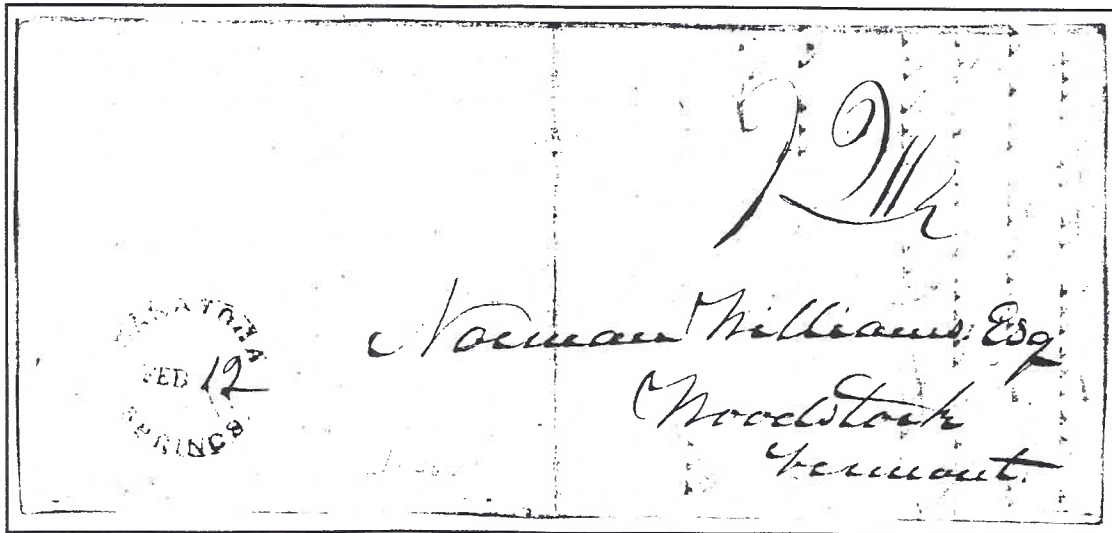
Letter Between Postmasters ms. “f” - FREE

1. Jan. 28, 1836: letter from Saratoga Springs, N.Y. Postmaster to Winchester, Conn. PM enclosing a letter from the Postmaster General (requests signed receipt) plus a dead letter and requests payment of postage.
2. Jan. 31, 1836: Received
3. Feb. 3, 1836: Returned to the Saratoga Springs PM, the Postmaster General letter plus 56¼¢ (probably 3x18¾¢). This would be 4½ Spanish Reales (One Reale = 12½¢)

Orange Townmark

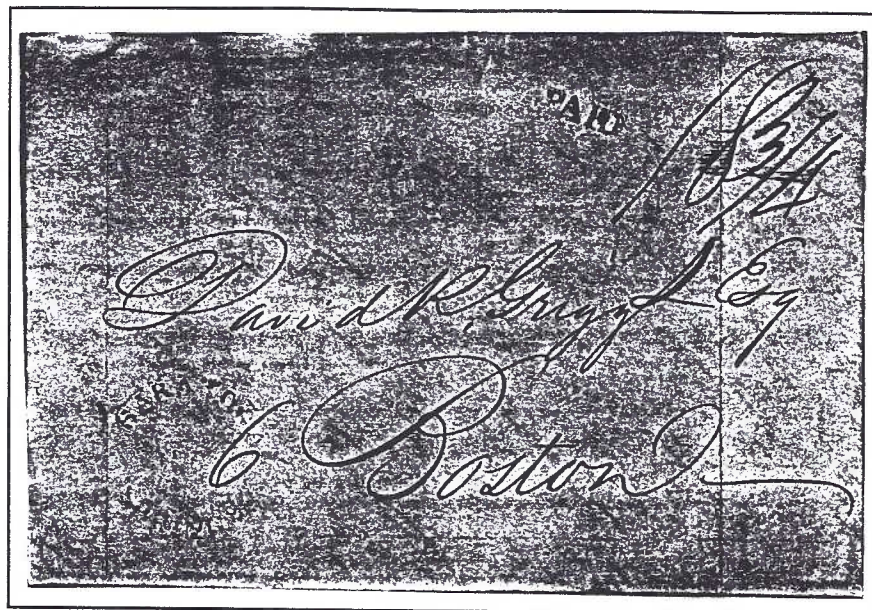
Saratoga County, N.Y.  
Saratoga Springs

Orange-Red  
12½¢ — 80 to 150 mi. — Feb. 12, 1836



1836 — “Broken Circle”

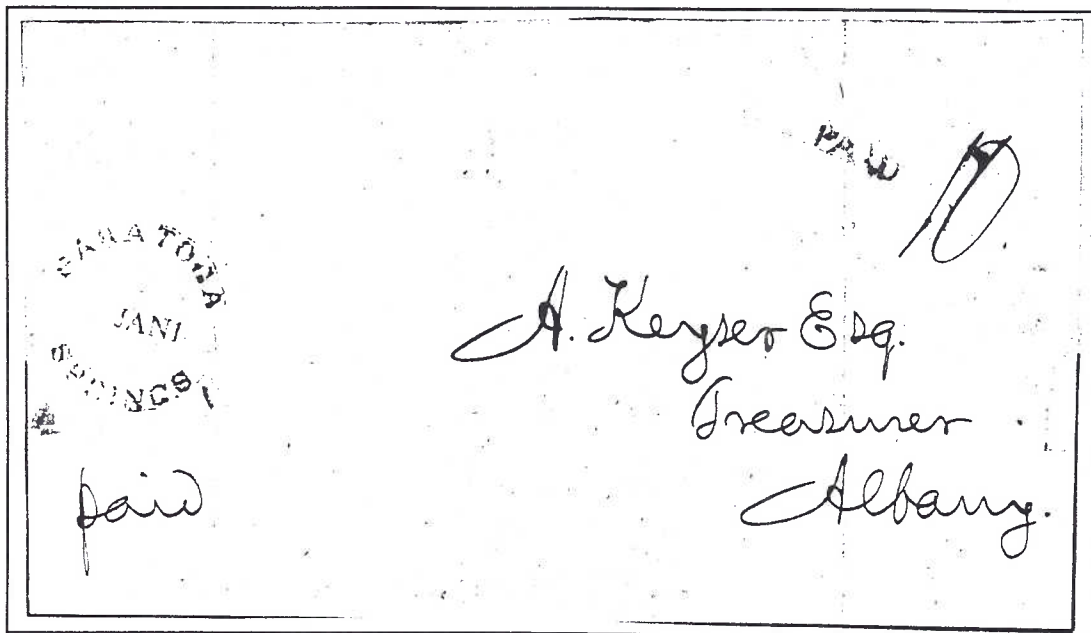
The outer rim has nearly disappeared, originally 25½mm — now more like 25mm



Orange to Orange-Red  
13¾¢ — 150 to 400 mi. — 12½ x 4mm PAID  
Aug. 6, 1836

**Saratoga County, N.Y.  
Saratoga Springs**

**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, 19⅛/20 x 4mm and 22 x 5mm.

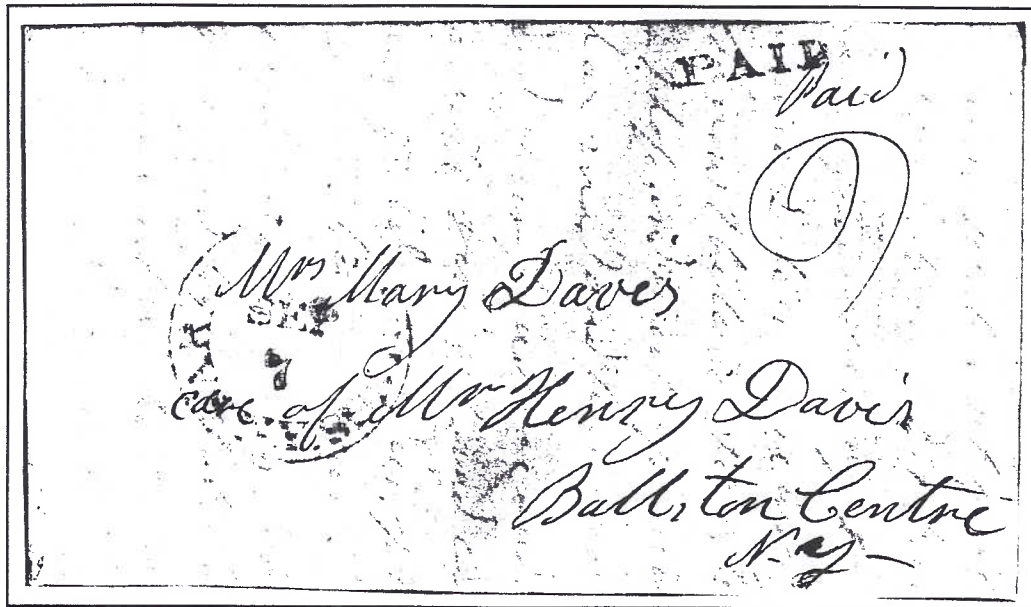
The townmark is of the broken circle variety, determined not from the diameter of the rim or absence at the sides, but the orientations of the portions of the rim which remain - to the letters. The rim is reported<sup>1</sup> to have disappeared entirely in 1838. This cover is postmarked Jan. 1 is evidence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

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<sup>1</sup> *Postal Markings of New York State 1792-1856*, (1933), Bernadt, p. 5

Saratoga County, N.Y.  
Saratoga Springs

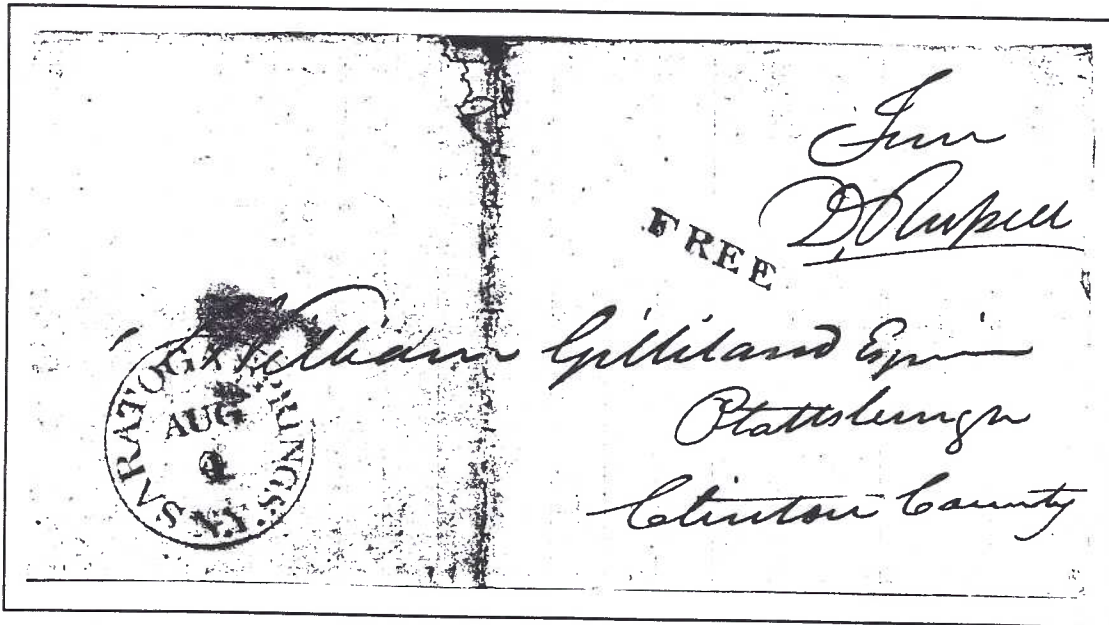
Earliest Reported Use — 32mm dia. Townmark (any color)  
September 7, 1837



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*.

Saratoga County, N.Y.  
Saratoga Springs

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).<sup>1</sup>

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 and Lt. Governor of New York next fall.

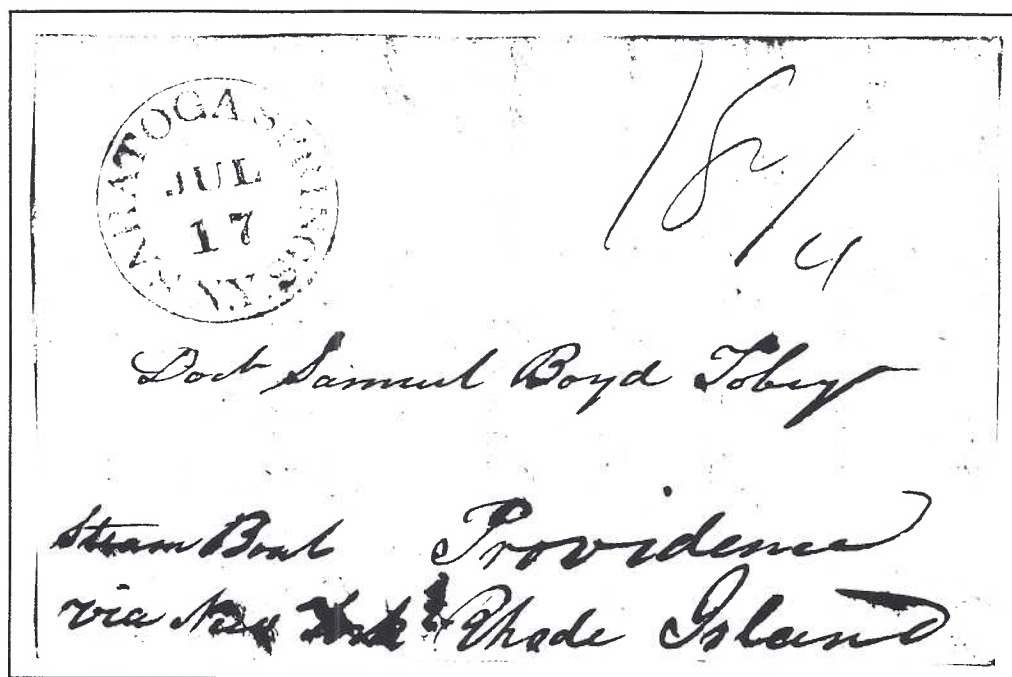
The 21 x 4mm FREE marking is scarce in this time period, the manuscript usage being preferred.

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<sup>1</sup> History of the "FREE FRANKING" of Mail in the United States by Edward Stern, 1936, p. 2

Saratoga County, N.Y.  
Saratoga Springs

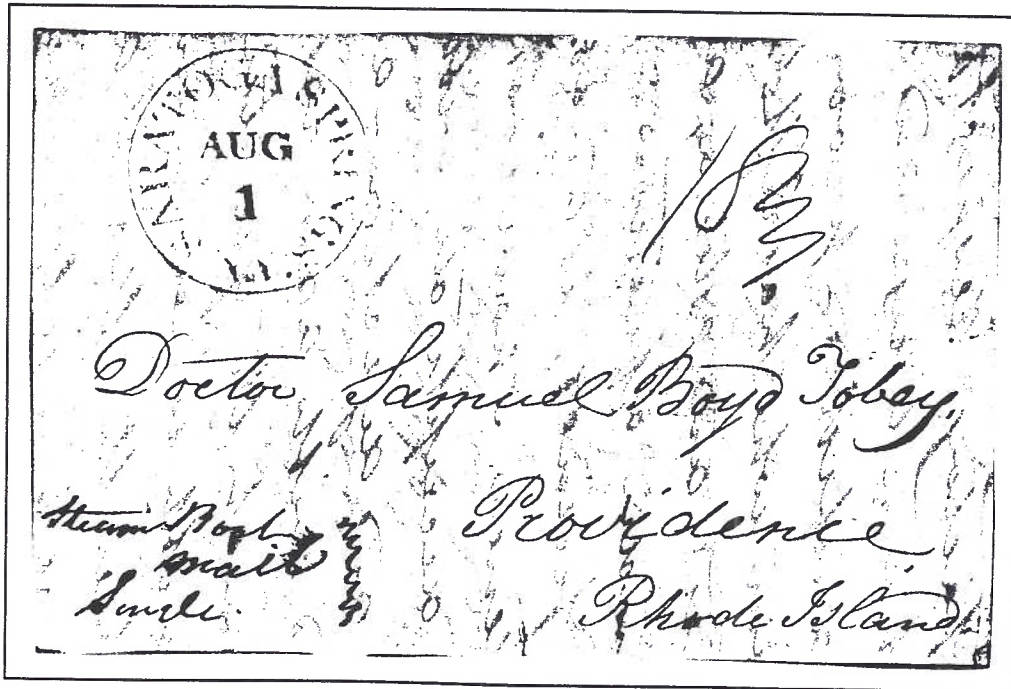
1838  
Steamboat Mail - Via New York



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 overland or ocean-going steamboat.

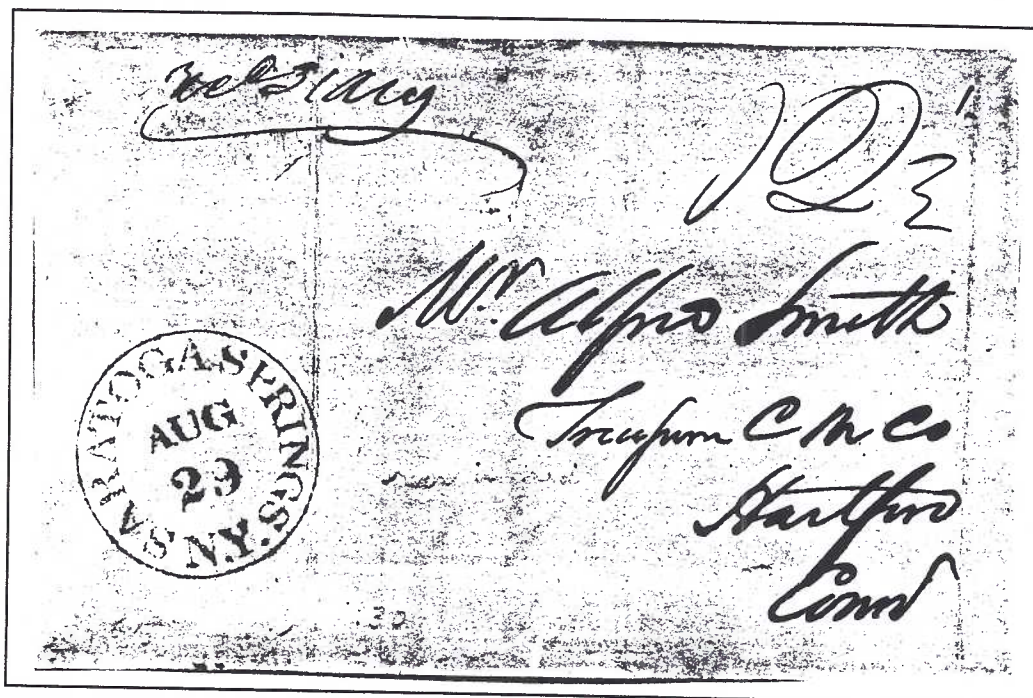
Saratoga County, N.Y.  
Saratoga Springs



Upper cover: 18¾¢  
150 - 400 mi. Sent part of the  
way via Steam Boat.

1838  
32mm Circular Orange Strikes

Lower cover: 12½¢  
Zone rate for 80 to 150 mi.



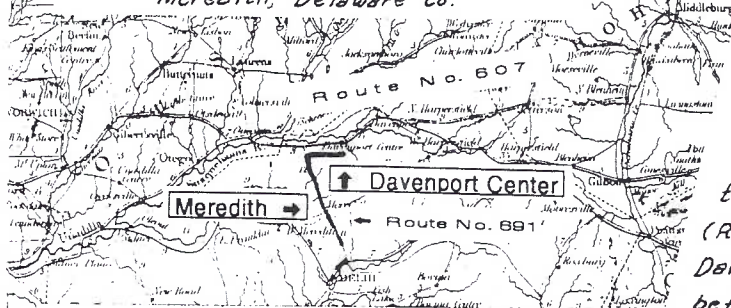
SARATOGA COUNTY, N.Y.  
SARATOGA SPRINGS



Nov. 8, 1840

Red 32 mm. Circular Date Stamp  
12½¢ Rate, Single letter, 80-150 mi.

Saratoga Springs, Saratoga Co. to  
Meredith, Delaware Co.



This letter left Saratoga  
Springs at 10am, Sunday, Nov. 8,  
1840 by railway (Route No. 545)  
arriving in Schenectady about noon.

It left Schenectady at Midnight  
that same day by stagecoach  
(Route No. 607) and arrived at  
Davenport Centre Monday, Nov. 9  
before 6pm.

Mail from Davenport via Meredith to Delhi was once per week, so the letter  
stayed in Davenport Center until Wednesday when it left at 1pm by post rider or  
coach (Route No. 691). The letter arrived in Meredith the afternoon of Nov. 11, 1840 (Wed).

Source: Postal Route Gazetteer, Part I: New York State 1839

Route No. 545: Saratoga Springs via Ballston, Schenectady to Albany, daily

Route No. 607: Schenectady via ... Schoharie ... Davenport Centre to Oneonta  
Monday, Wednesday and Friday

Route No. 691: Davenport Centre via Meredith to Delhi - Every Wednesday.

Pa<sup>d</sup>.  
No. 54



Hon. Bates Cooke  
Comptroller &c.  
Albany

imp 1

929



John F. Campbell  
acting Comptroller of Pensions

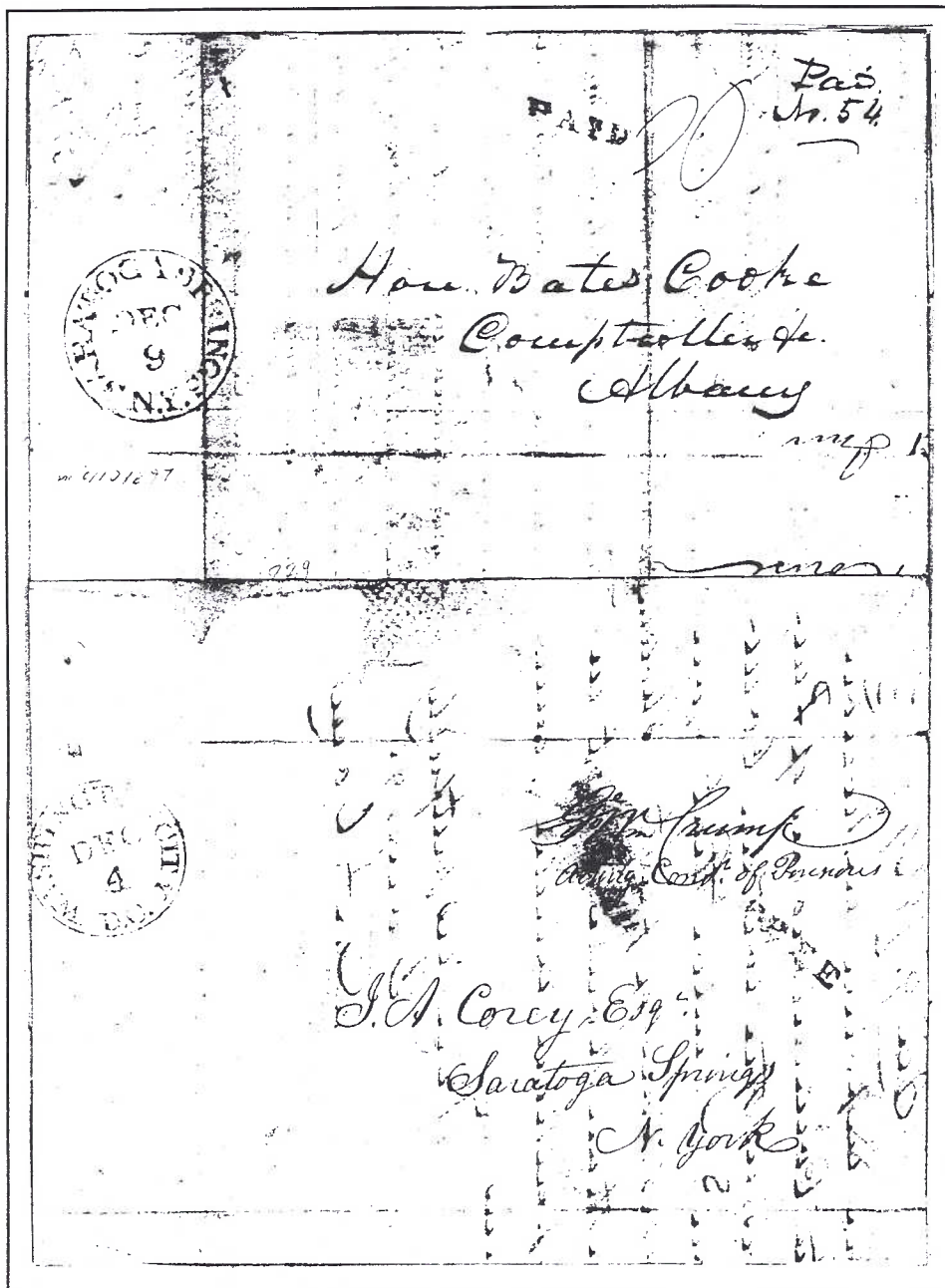
J. A. Corey, Esq.  
Saratoga Springs  
N. York

# Saratoga County, N.Y. Saratoga Springs

## 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 N.Y.

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."



### ← Second Usage:

Dec. 9, 1839 - Prepaid letter with 32mm postmark in red and slanted red PAID. Also ms. PAID. The upper right marking is a charge account No. maintained with the local postmaster. 10¢ zone rate, 30-80 miles.

**20 x 4mm PAID Charge Box Mail "Pat No. 54"**

### ← 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.

**Saratoga County, N.Y.  
Saratoga Springs**

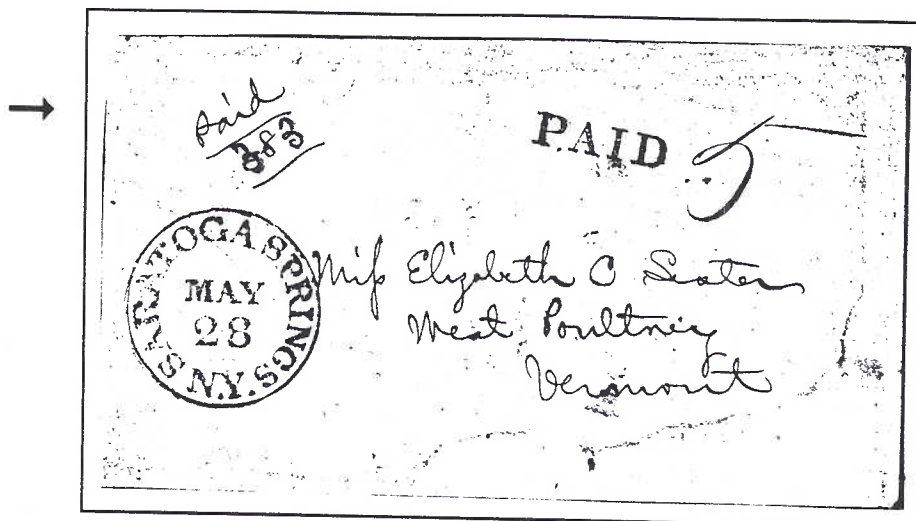


1840

20 x 4mm  
PAID  
in red

**Charge Box Markings**

Many businesses 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.



ca. 1845

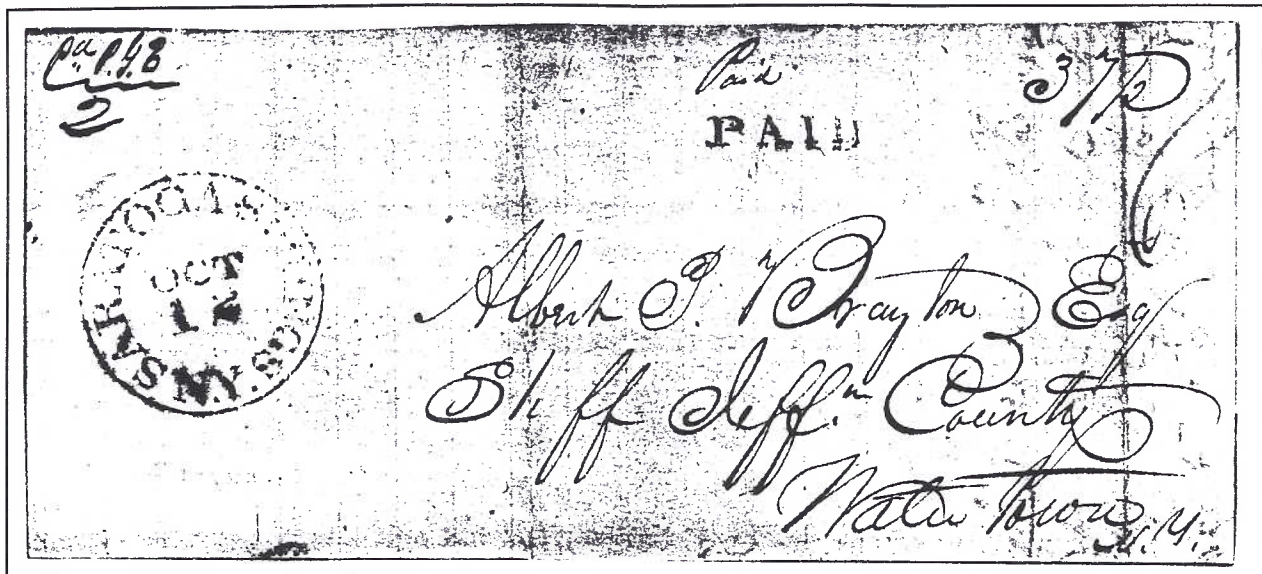
22 x 5mm  
PAID  
in blue

**Saratoga County, N.Y.  
Saratoga Springs**

**Triple Rate Letter  
&  
Charge Box Mail**

32mm O-R CDS

20 x 4mm O-R PAID

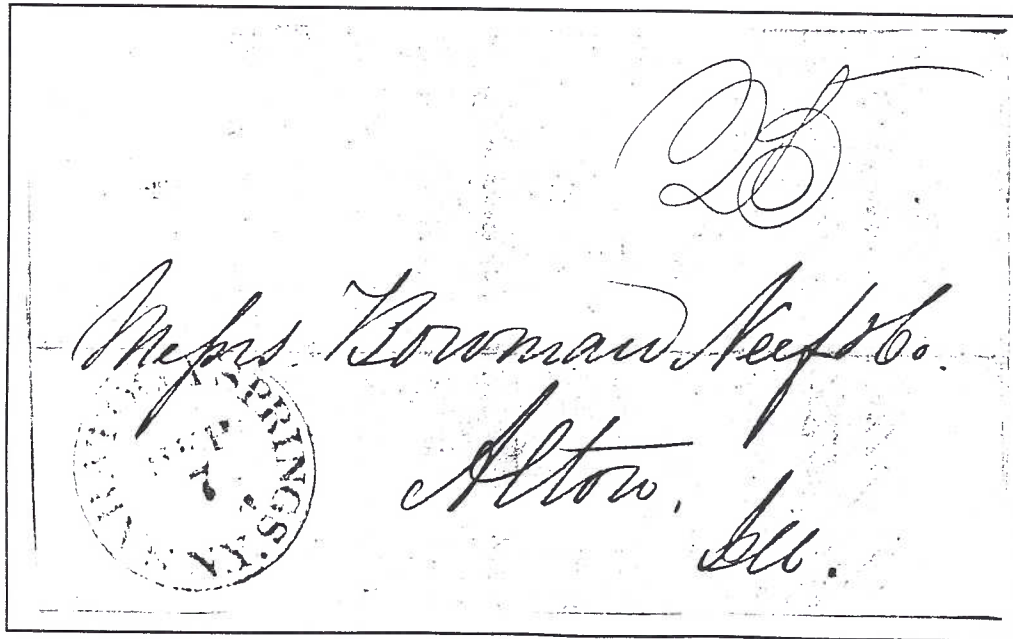


**Oct. 12, 1841**

The rate for a "single letter" i.e. one sheet of paper, was  $12\frac{1}{2}\text{¢}$  for a distance of 80 - 150 miles (Saratoga Springs to Watertown). This sender, a lawyer, enclosed other documents resulting in the triple charge of  $37\frac{1}{2}\text{¢}$  (3 Spanish Reales).

As noted in the upper left hand corner, the notation of  $\frac{\text{ps PGE}}{2}$  meant that the sender P.G. Elsworth had a prepaid account with the Saratoga Springs postmaster (#2) from which the  $37\frac{1}{2}\text{¢}$  was deducted. This was a favor by the postmaster; the practice was tolerated by the post office department but wasn't official.

Saratoga County, N.Y.  
Saratoga Springs



Sept. 7, 1841

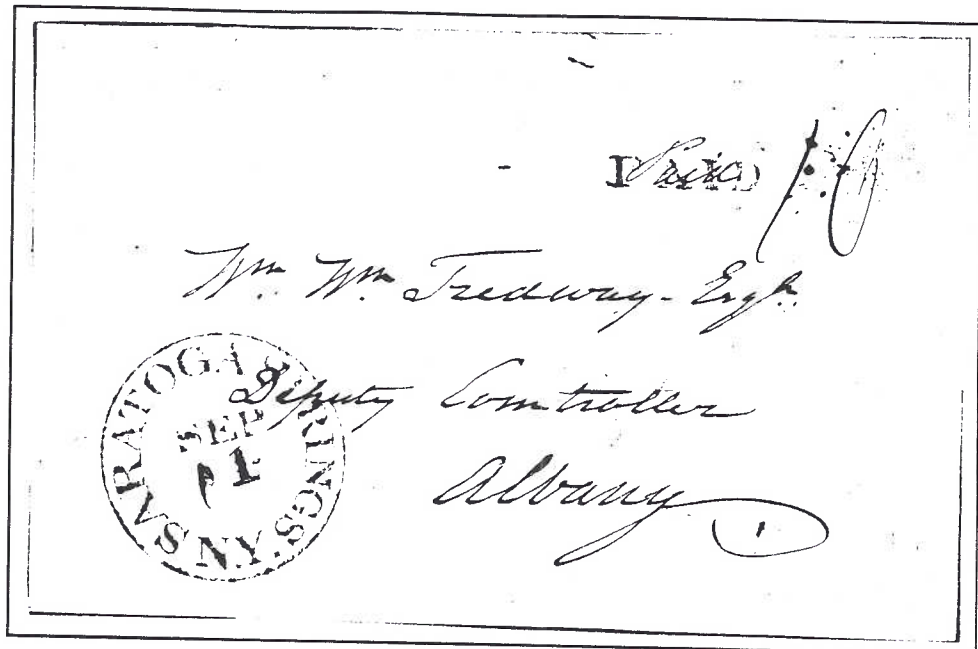
25¢ Rate  
ms. Blue

Single Letter

Over 400 mi.

Collect Letter

1841 - 32mm Orange Red Townmark



Sept. 11, 1841

10¢ Rate  
ms. Blue

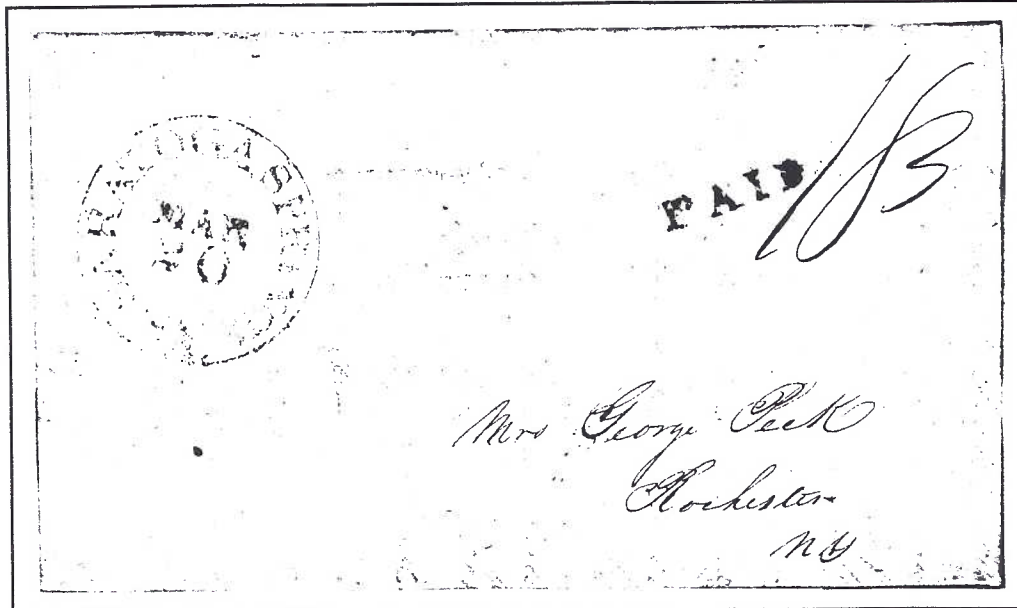
Single Letter

30-80 miles

20 x 4mm  
PAID  
(Prepaid Letter)

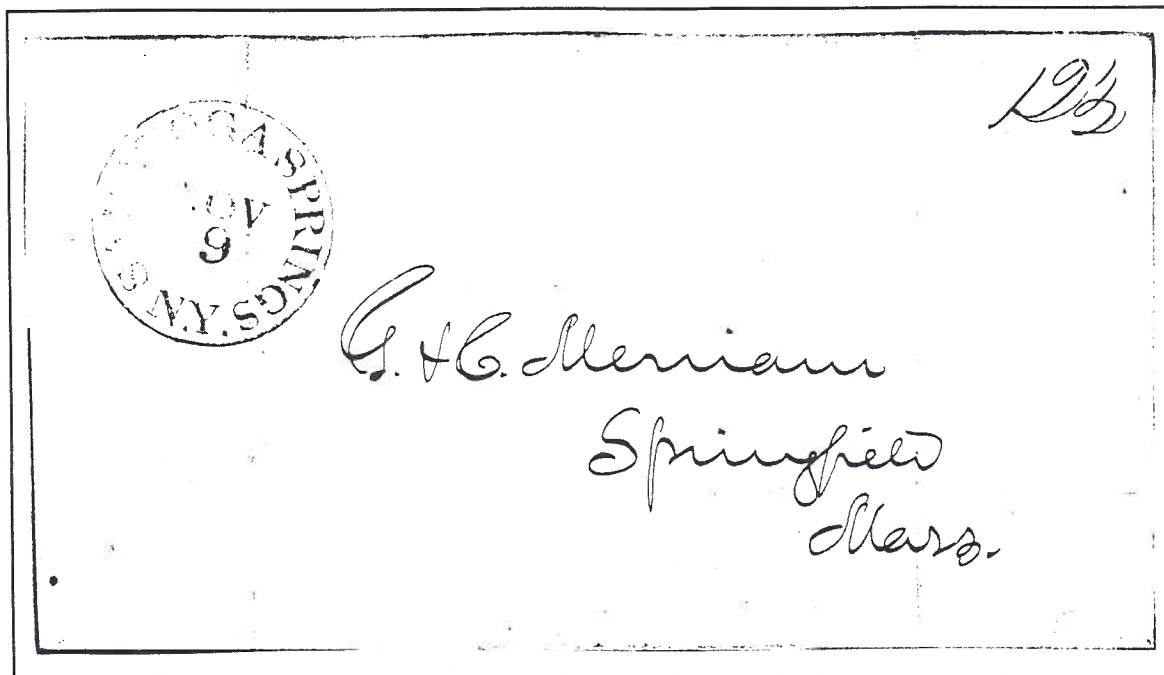
**Saratoga County, N.Y.  
Saratoga Springs**

4 x 19½mm "PAID"



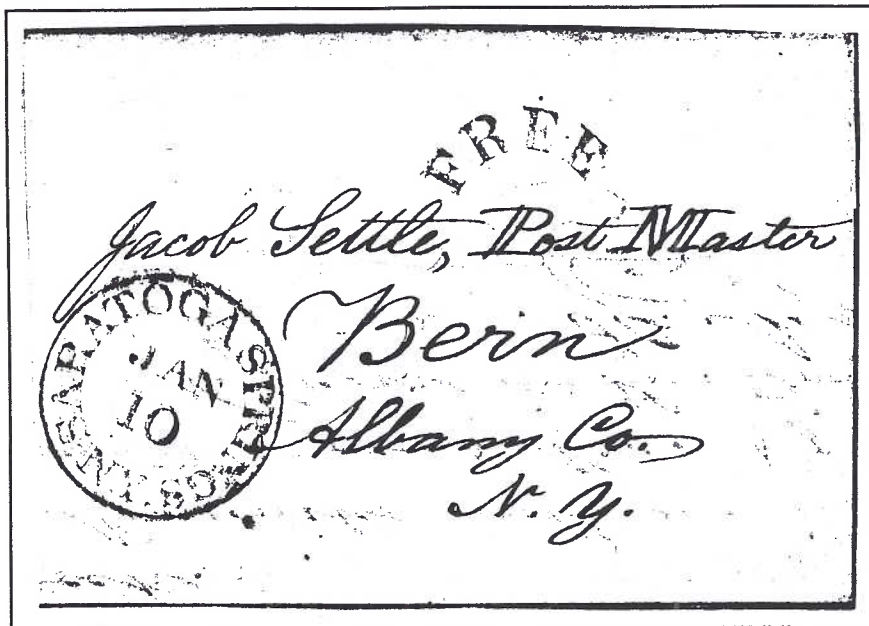
32MM Red strike - Prepaid letter - 1842 - 18¾¢ zone rate, 150/400 mi.

Both Red and Blue cancelers were used in the early 1840s. They were used for the same rates; Blues seem to be scarcer than Reds.



32mm Blue town cancel - 1842 - 12½¢ zone rate, 80 to 150 mi.

Saratoga County, N.Y.  
Saratoga Springs



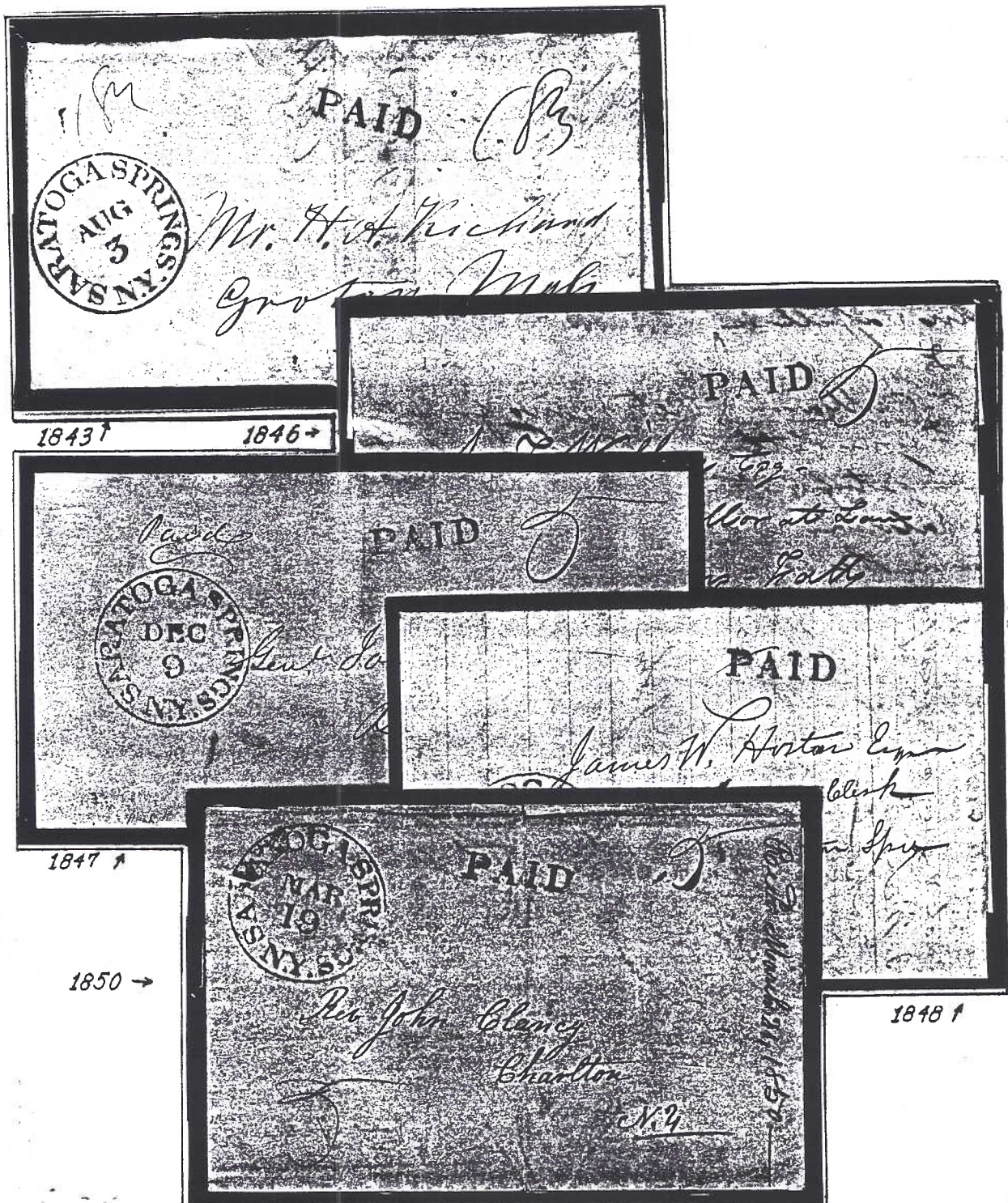
The ARC 12 x 26mm FREE Marking - 1845  
Misuse of the Free Frank Privilege?

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.

# Saratoga County, N.Y. Saratoga Springs

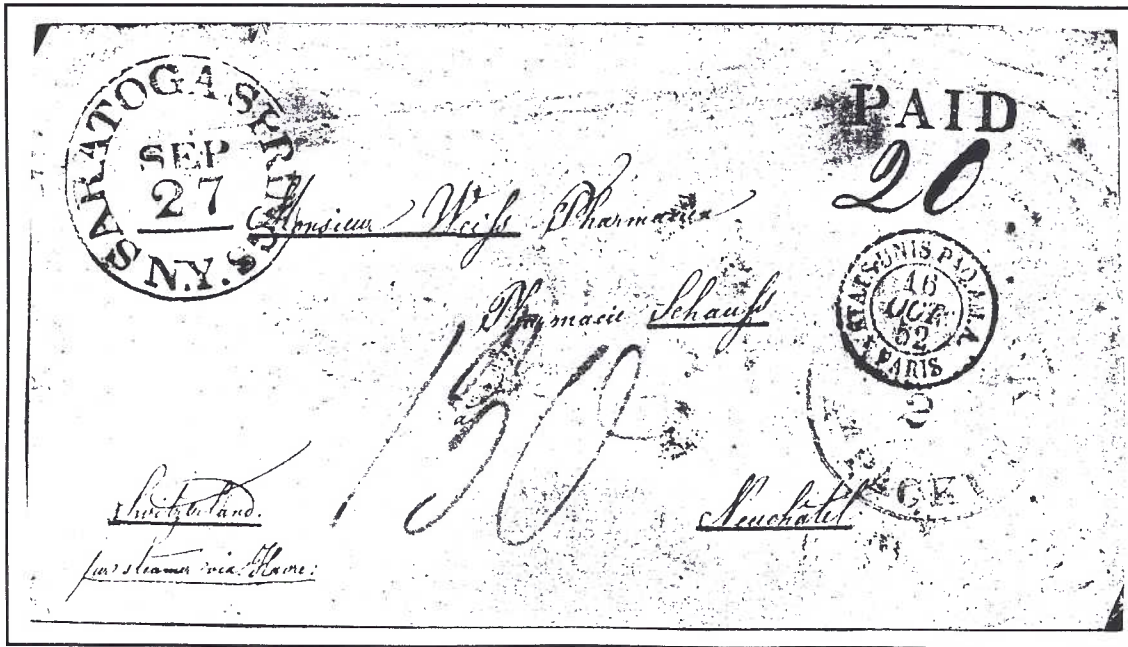
## The 22 x 5mm PAID of Saratoga Springs

The 22 x 5mm PAID is considerably larger than the 19½ x 4mm PAID of 1837-1842 which it superceded. Covers in the writer's collection with this PAID span a period of Aug. 1, 1843 through Sept. 27, 1852.



**Saratoga County, N.Y.  
Saratoga Springs**

**Mail to Switzerland - 20¢ - ½ oz. Rate**



**1852**

Travel Route: Saratoga Springs to New York to Liverpool, England to Havre, France to Paris to Switzerland.

1. The red 32mm dia. strike "A<sup>m</sup> Packet 2" applied in New York establishes that the letter was sent on an American packet ship on the second day of the month.
2. There were three American packet lines operating in 1852, the Ocean Line, the Havre Line and the Collins line. Of these, the only sailing date that fits, is the Collins Line steamer "Pacific" sailing from New York on Oct. 2 and arriving in Liverpool on Oct. 13, 1852.<sup>1</sup>
3. The ms. marking at lower left: "Switzerland per steamer via Havre"
4. The pre-treaty red 21mm Paris marking (type C)<sup>2</sup>
5. There are three additional markings on the back: (a) Red 23mm single circle "CH4XC1X-1852," a probable payment by Great Britain to France for transit through France, (b) Bluish green double circle, 22mm dia., illegible markings and (c) approx. 22mm dia. red circle, illegible markings.<sup>3</sup>

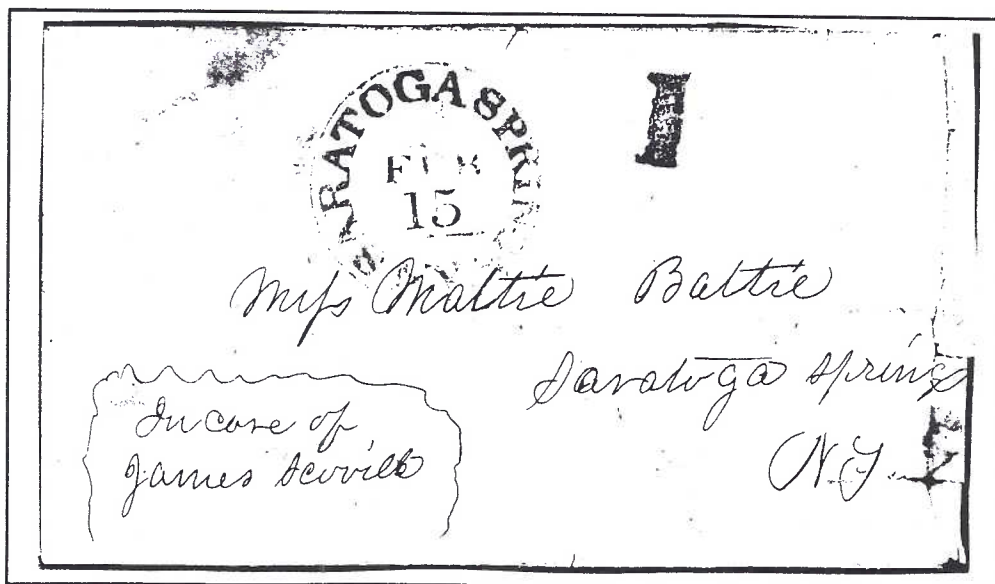
<sup>1</sup>North Atlantic Mail Sailings 1840-75, 1988, Hubbard and Winter, p. 101

<sup>2</sup>History of Letter Post Communication between the United States and Europe, 1971, Hargest, p. 41

<sup>3</sup>United States Letter Rates to Foreign Destinations, 1989, Starnes, p. 40

Saratoga County, N.Y.  
Saratoga Springs

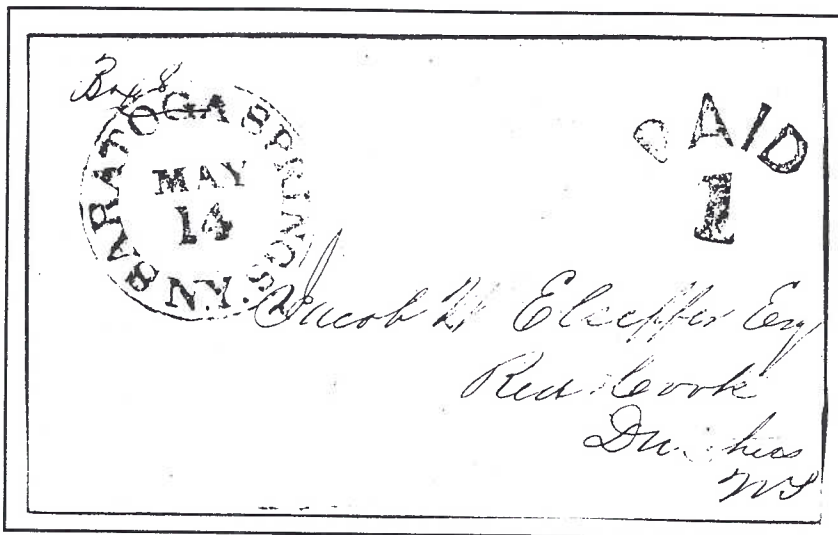
ca. 1852 — 1¢ Drop Letter Rate



A local letter, staying in Saratoga Springs. The charge for a drop letter was 2¢ until July 1, 1851 when it was reduced to 1¢. The single letter rate was for ½ oz.

May 14, 1852 — Printed Matter Rate

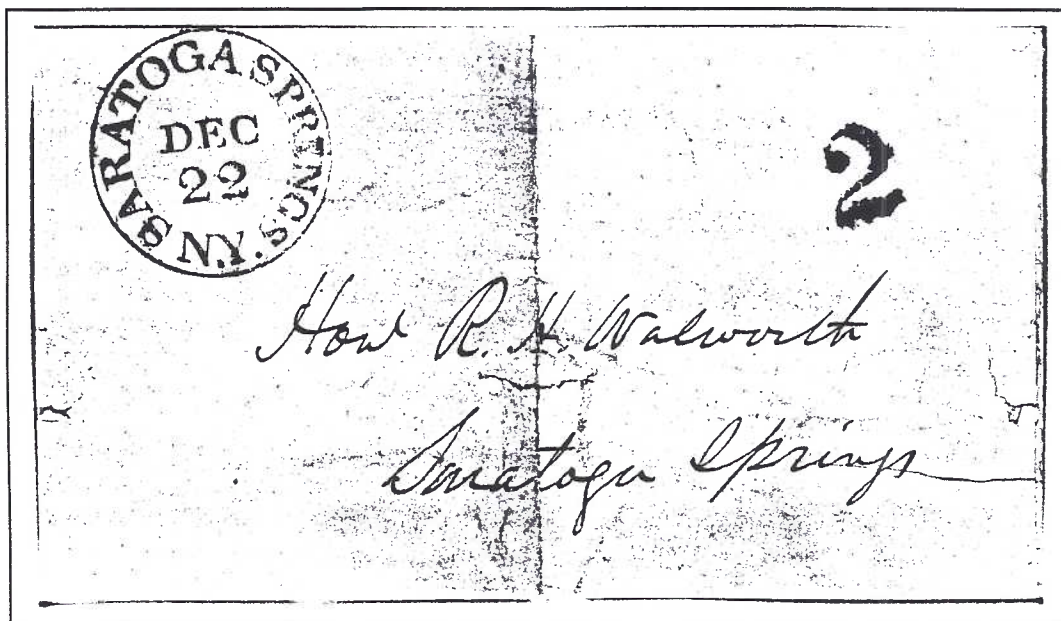
"PAID"  
in arc with  
attached "1"



Fancy handstamp PAID 1, the 1¢ rate applying to printed matter except newspapers. Although (after June 30, 1851) this was the same rate as a drop letter, this folded sheet represents entirely different usage. The rate of 1¢ only applied when the item was prepaid. Otherwise, the rate would have been 2¢.

The circular is a notice of a name change for the Franklin Fire Insurance Co. Circulars were rarely saved, this is a scarce marking.

Saratoga County, N.Y.  
Saratoga Springs

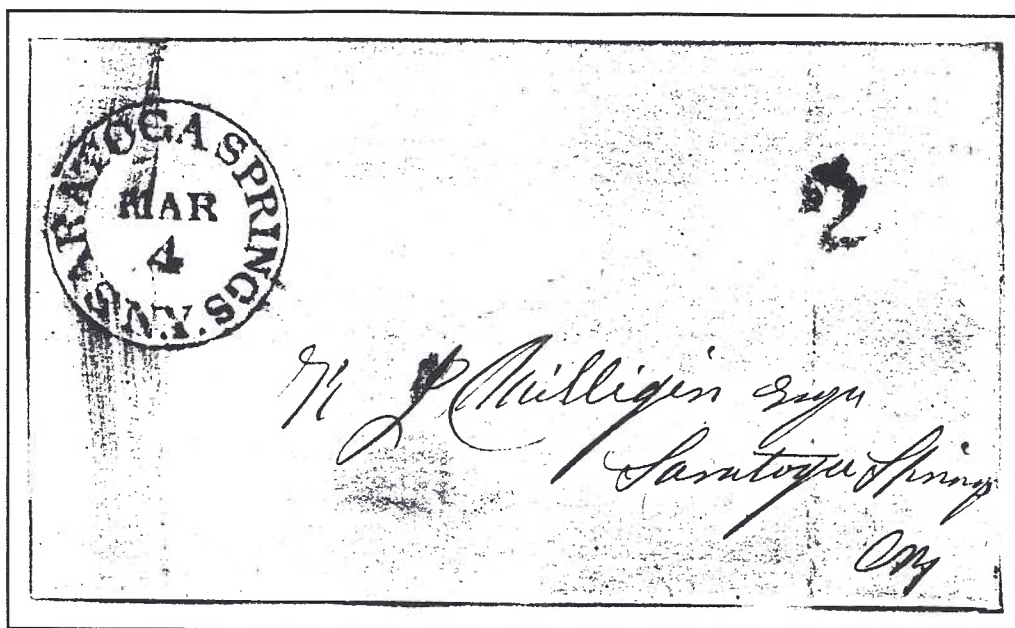


9 x 11½mm "2"

Dec. 2, 1849 — 2¢  
Drop Letter Rate

This letter didn't leave Saratoga Springs. It was "dropped" in the post office by the sender and then delivered to the addressee.

The "DROP LETTER" rate was the "local" charge for a ½ oz. letter and was applicable between July 1, 1845 and June 30, 1851.



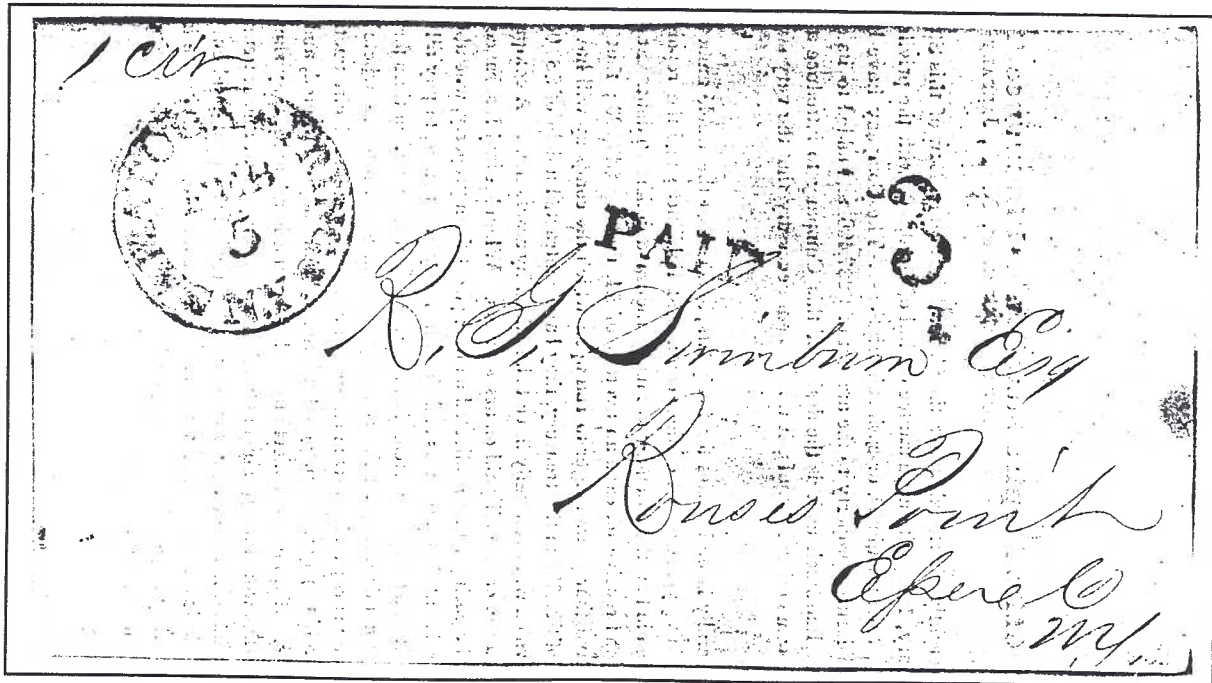
7 x 11mm "2"

March 4, 1850  
2¢ Drop Letter Rate

The DROP letter is a letter "dropped" in a post office by the sender and then delivered by the post office within the area served by that post office.

This letter originated in Troy, N.Y. The usual charge would have been five cents, which was the zone rate for a half ounce letter sent up to 300 miles. Presumably, this letter was privately carried to Saratoga Springs, thus saving the sender three cents.

**Saratoga County, N.Y.  
Saratoga Springs**



**1847-1855 Period**

**3¢ Circular Rate**

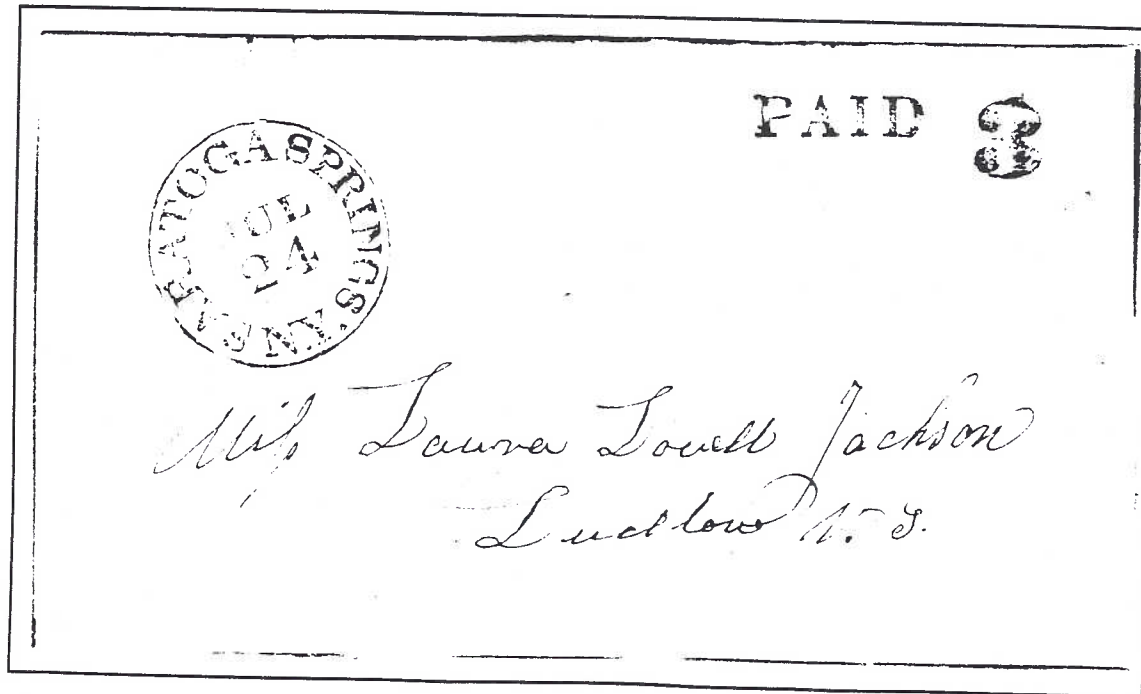
**8 x 14½mm "3"**

Although this printed circular does not have a year date, the period of usage can be identified as occurring between July 1, 1847 and Dec. 31, 1855 because of the following:

- a. Prior to July 1847, the circular rate was 2¢ per sheet.
- b. Between July 1, 1847 and Dec. 31, 1855, the circular rate was 3 per sheet when prepaid
- c. After Dec. 31, 1855, circulars were required to be prepaid with stamps.

The written material in this circular covers two full size pages but the circular was printed as one sheet, thus qualifying for the 3¢ rate.

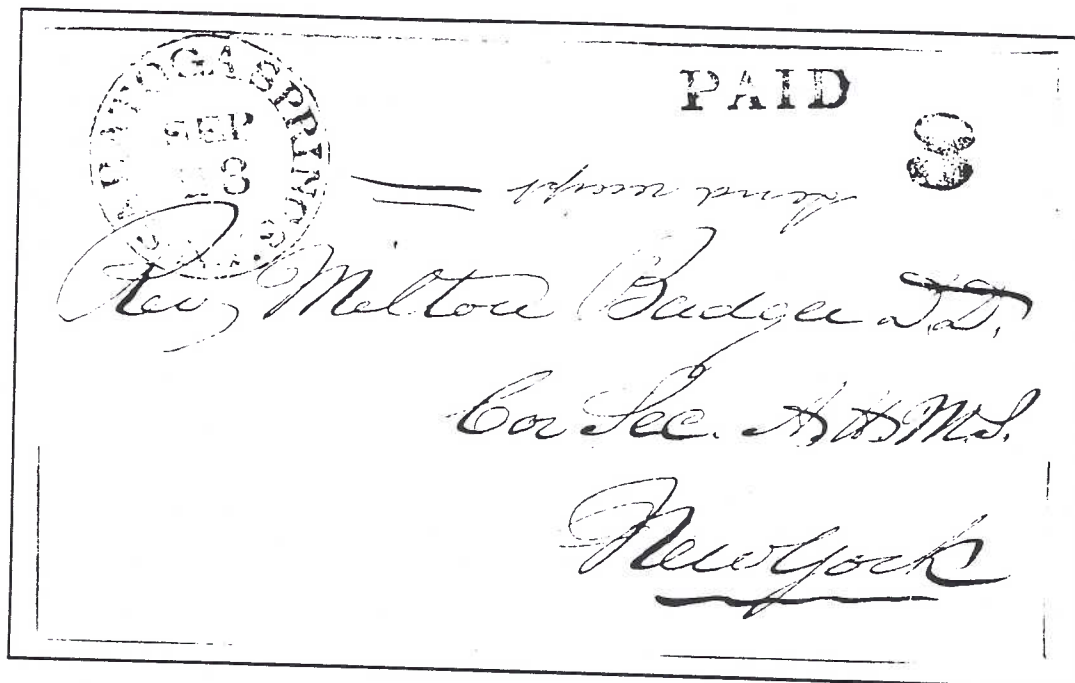
Saratoga County, N.Y.  
Saratoga Springs



Prepaid Letter — Early concurrent use with stamps

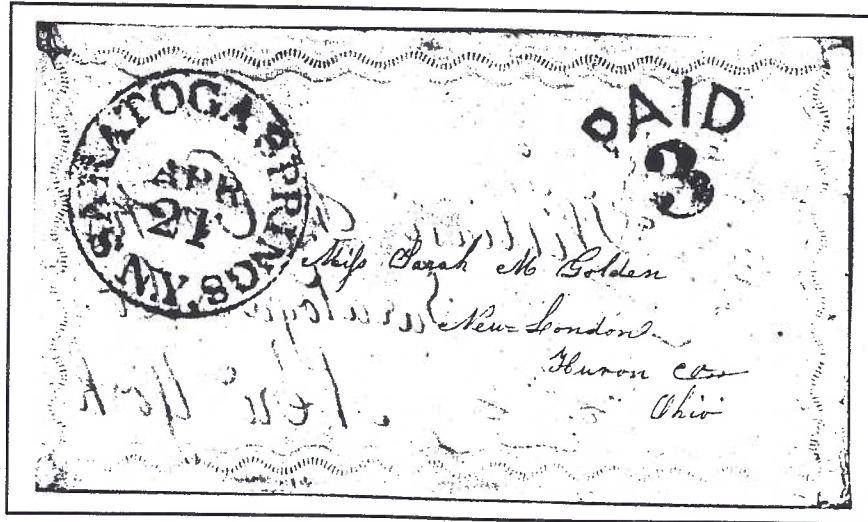
9 x 10mm "3"

1851 Usage ~ ½ oz. rate, 3000 mi.



Saratoga County, N.Y.  
Saratoga Springs

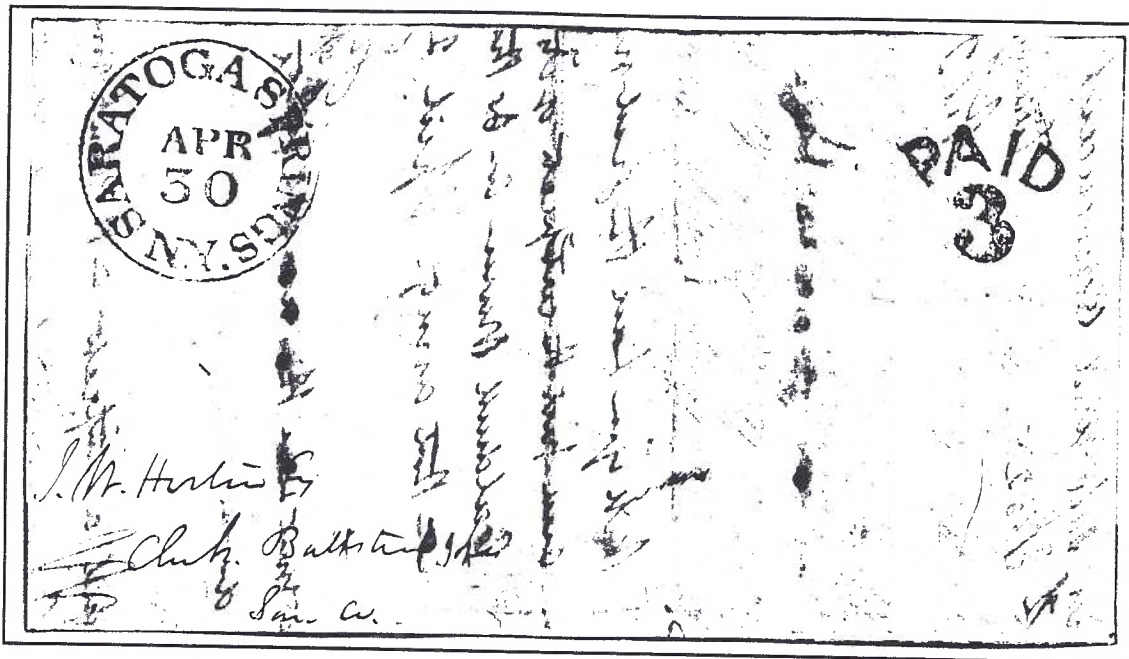
PAID 3  
20½mm x 19mm



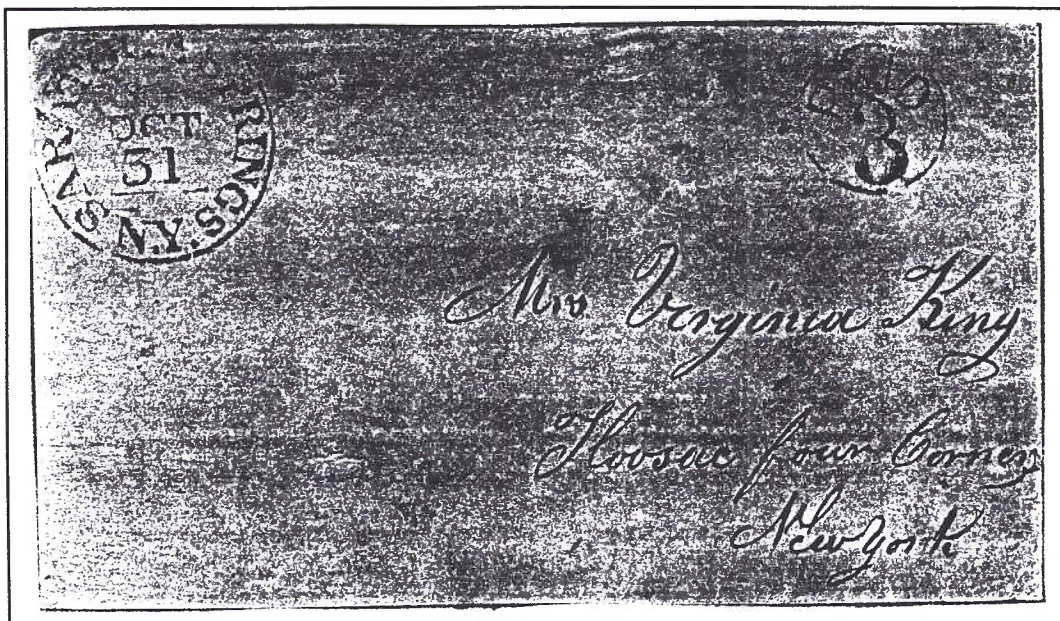
ca. 1852  
1852-1855

"PAID" in arc with Attached "3"  
Prepaid - Concurrent Use with Stamps

1852  
Usage



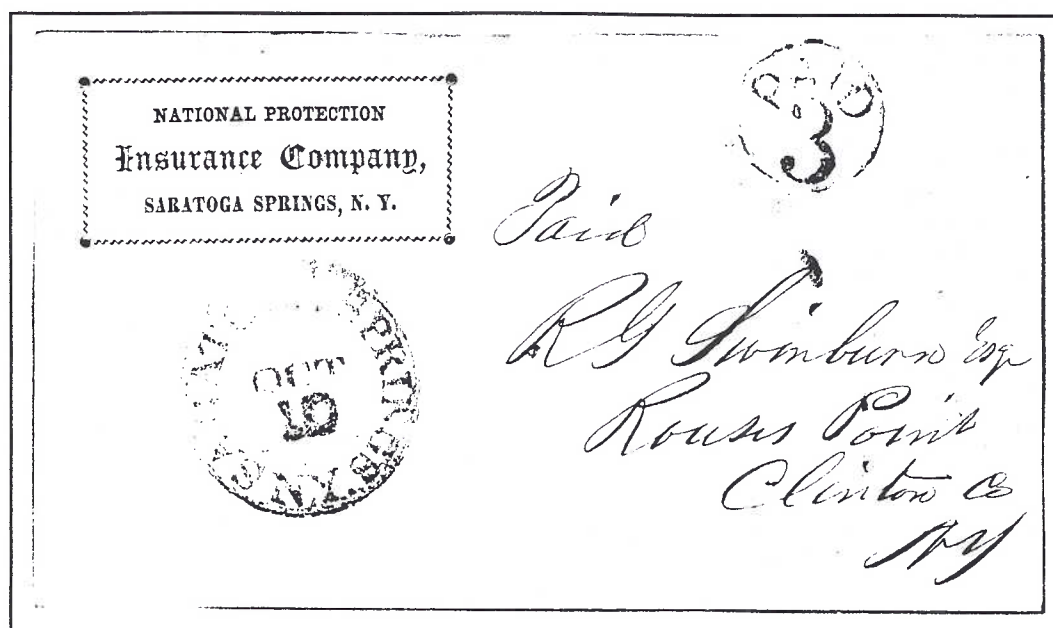
Saratoga County, N.Y.  
Saratoga Springs



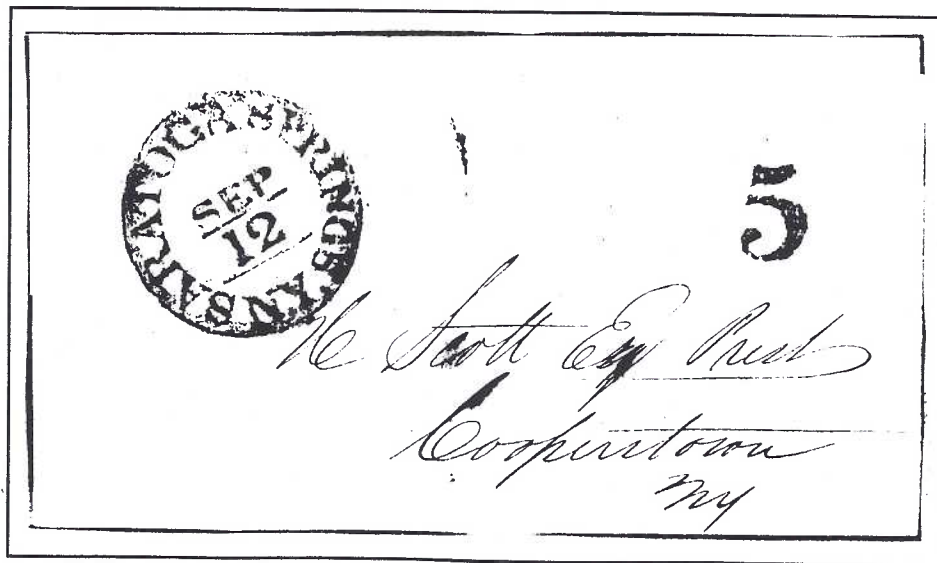
1851-1855 Period

Black 20mm Circle Around "PAID 3"

Both covers were prepaid at the 3¢ rate. Neither has an enclosure, but both were mailed sometime between July 1, 1851 and Jan. 1, 1856. This is because the 3¢ rate didn't exist prior to July 1, 1851 and use of stamps was compulsory after Jan. 1, 1856.



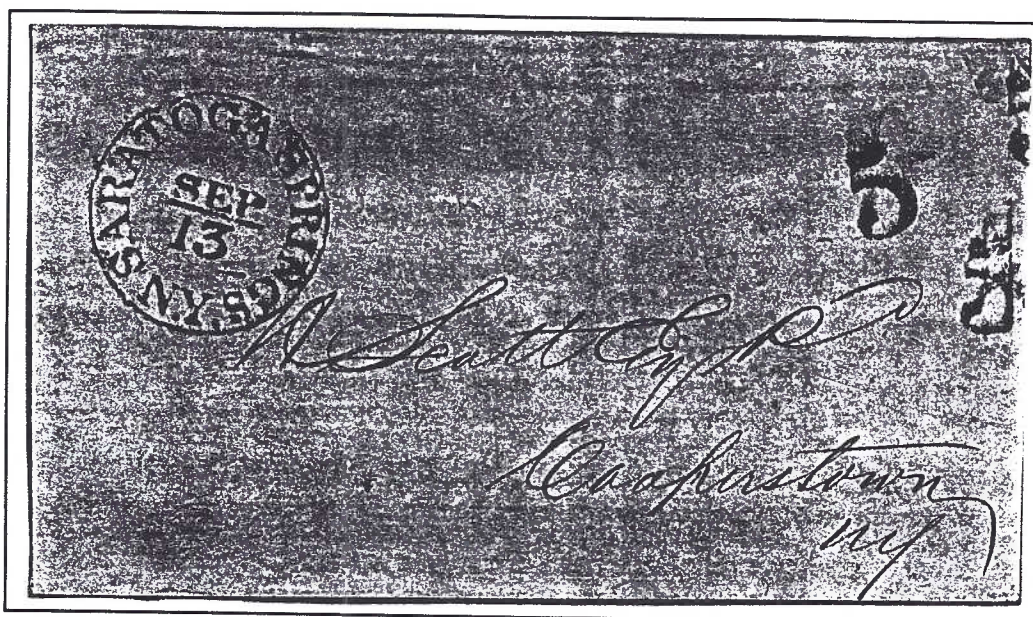
Saratoga County, N.Y.  
Saratoga Springs



Sept. 12, 1854

32mm black town circle with Month and Day underlined (the underlining reported only for 1852-1855).

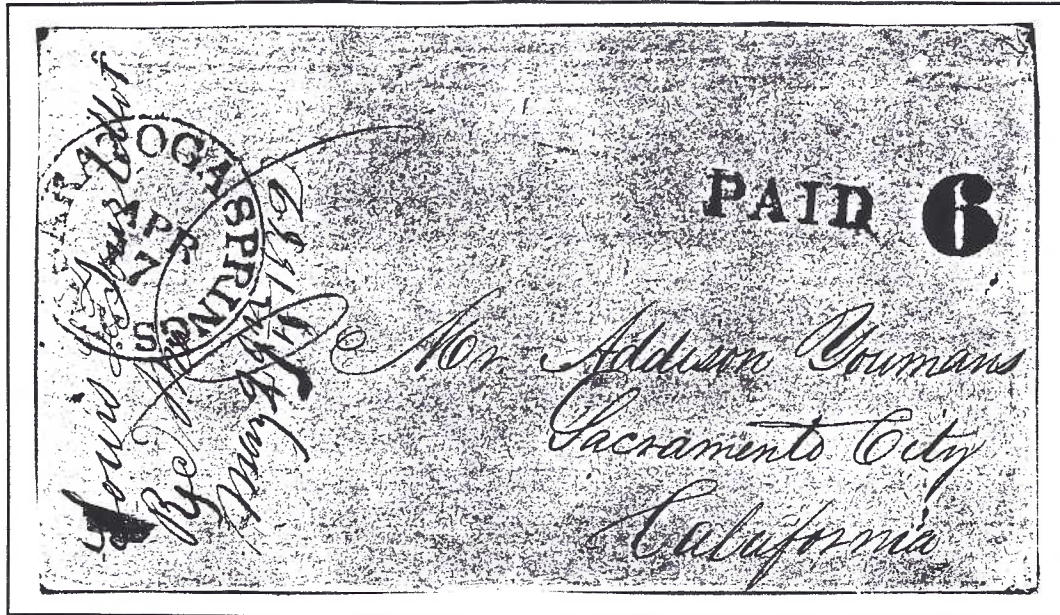
9 x 12½mm black 5 (a scarce marking in the 1850s; manuscript 5s were usually used);  
5¢ collect, 3¢ prepaid.



Undated, 1851-1855

Saratoga County, N.Y.  
Saratoga Springs

10 x 10½mm "6"



April 17, 1852  
Single Letter Rate for ½ oz.  
**Distances Greater than 3000 mi.**  
(Act of March 3, 1851, effective June 30)

This letter is prepaid as indicated by the "PAID" handstamp. If it had not been prepaid, the rate would have been 10¢ and the recipient would have had to pay the postage.

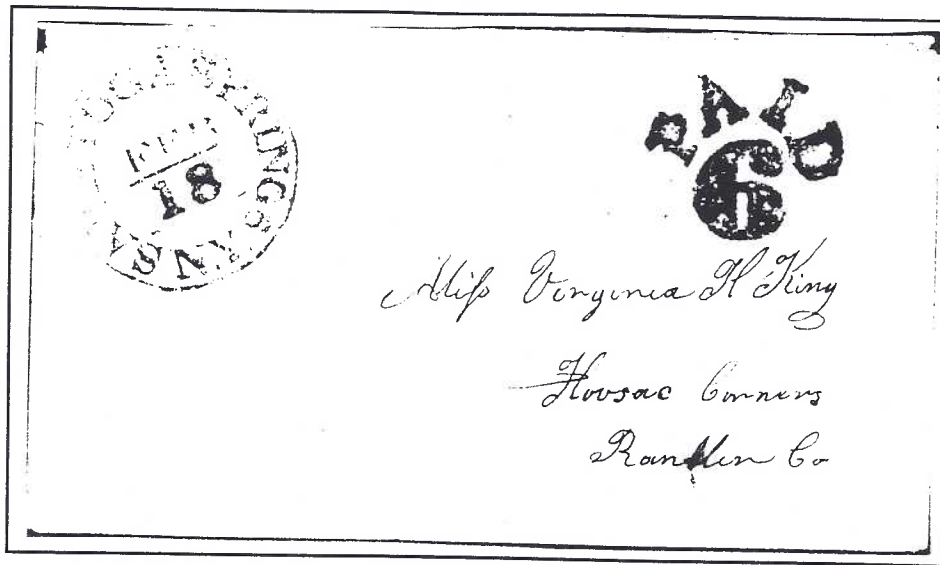
The "6" handstamp is rarely found on Saratoga Springs letters in the 1851-1856 period because the 3¢ 1851 stamp was usually available and used. Use of stamps did not become mandatory until 1856.

**Saratoga County, N.Y.  
Saratoga Springs**

**13 x 13½ mm "6"**

**"PAID" in Arc with Attached "6"**

32mm Black  
circular town  
strike with lines  
above and  
below the day  
of the month.



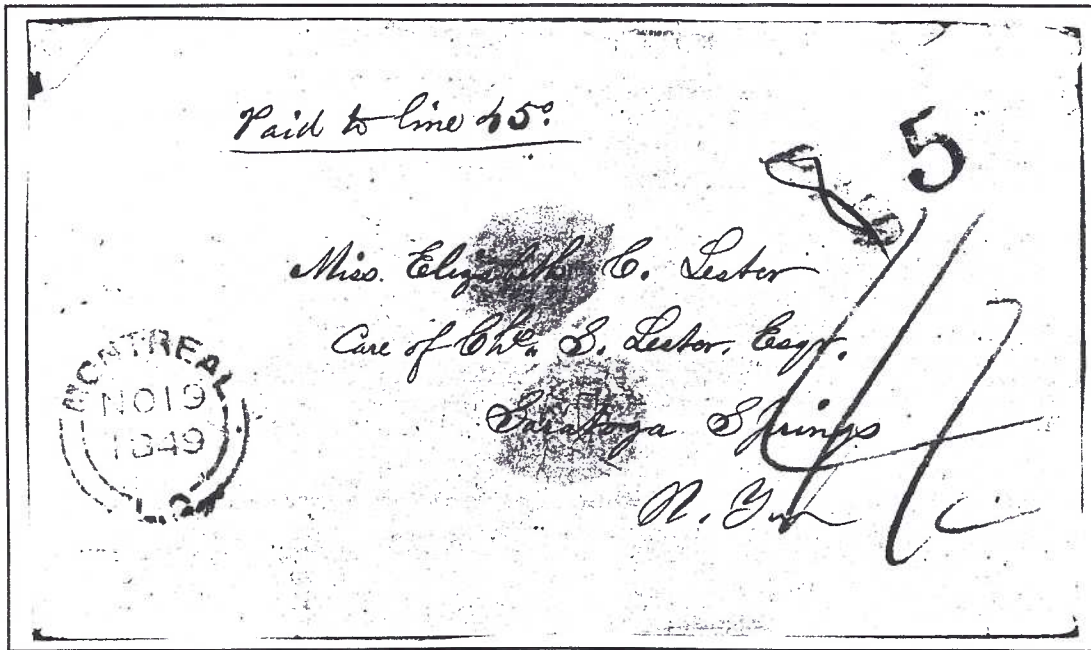
**1835-1855 Period  
Double Letter Rate, ½ -1 oz.**

**Distance Not Exceeding 3000 Mi.  
(Act of March 3, 1851 effective June 30)**

The envelope (and its former contents) were prepaid as noted by the PAID portion of the PAID 6 handstamp.

The lines above and below the day "18" were only used in the 1850s.

**Saratoga County, N.Y.  
Saratoga Springs**



Nov. 19, 1849

**Cross-Border Mail Canada to the United States**

Letters between the United States and Canada were rated by the distance from the point of origin to the U.S.-Canada border and then from the border to the destination. These rates were separately determined—thus the phrase “Paid to the Lines” applicable to this cover.

Postal Markings

Canadian<sup>1</sup>:

- “MONTREAL L.C. NO 19 1849” Red 25mm double-arc handstamp
- “Paid to line 45°” in ms. This was an unusual method of saying “Paid to the Lines” but accurate. The U.S. - Canadian border coincided with 45° latitude.
- “4½” Very large ms (4½ Canadian pence). Rate: ½ oz. letter, up to 60 miles.
- “PAID” italic red handstamp indicating pre-payment to the border.

United States

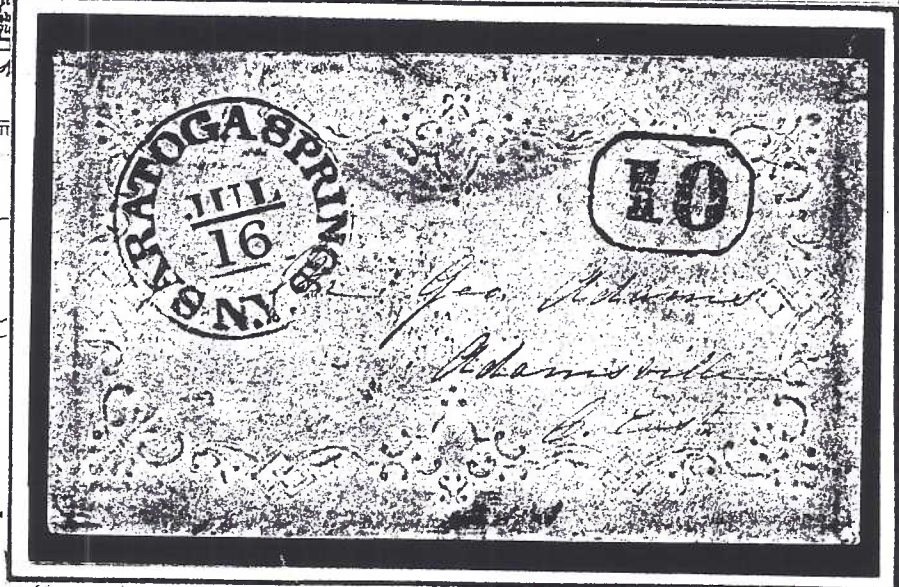
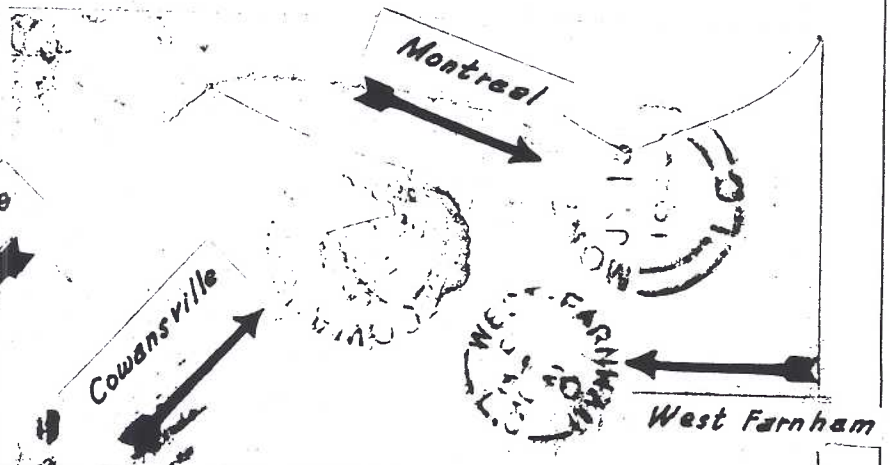
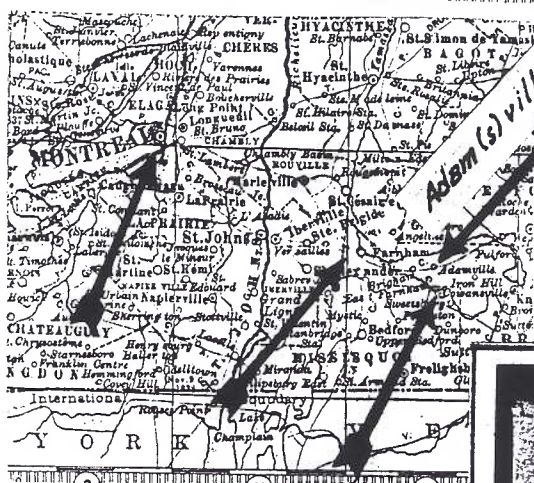
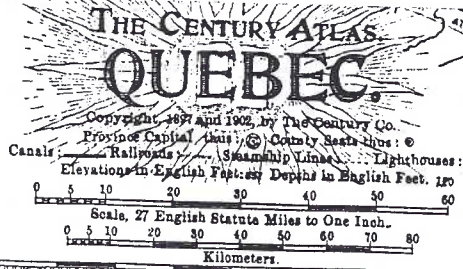
- Partial black ms obliteration over the Canadian “PAID.” (Conversion of a paid letter to an unpaid letter, probably at the exchange office).<sup>2</sup>
- “5” Blue 7½ x 10mm handstamp, 5¢ rate, ½ oz., up to 300 mi. Payable by recipient.

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<sup>1</sup> “If between May 15, 1849 and April 5, 1851 inclusive, the letter could be prepaid or not at all, that is partial payment was not permitted.” Yet, that was the case here; otherwise, the PAID marking would not be crossed out. (Boggs, p. 52)

<sup>2</sup> USPCS Chronicle, Nov. 1998, p. 264

# Saratoga County, N.Y. Saratoga Springs



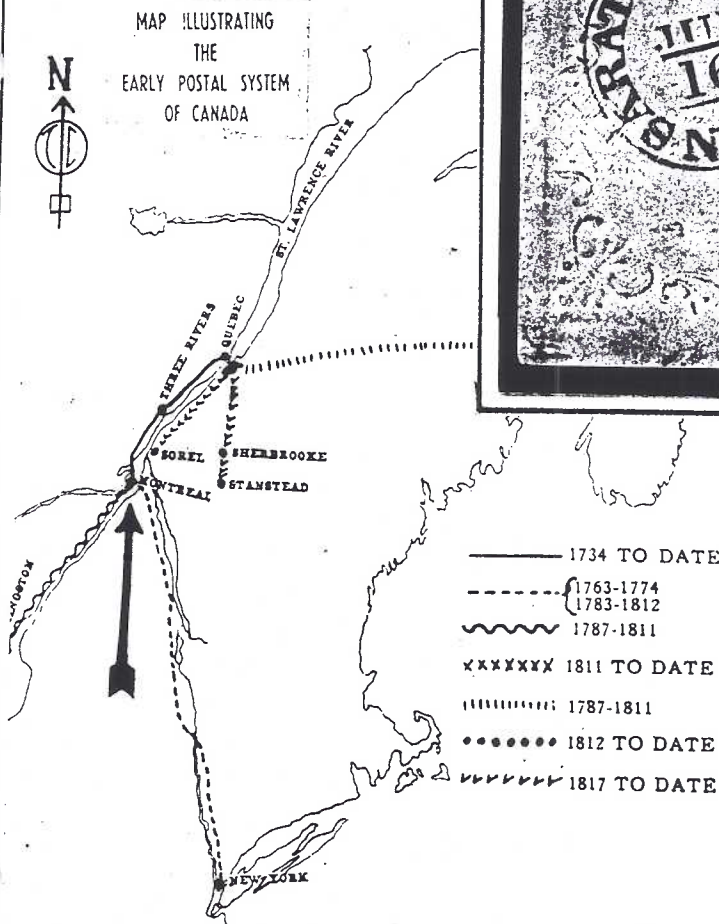
## 1851-1855 Period Cross-Border Mail to Canada

Black 32mm dia. circular townmark  
Black 21 x 15mm truncated rectangle

### Travel Route:

1. Saratoga Springs to Montreal (Albany/Montreal route)
2. Montreal to West Farnham
3. West Farnham to Cowansville
4. Cowansville to Adam(s)ville

Unpaid Mail - recipient paid the fee of the Canadian equivalent of 10¢.

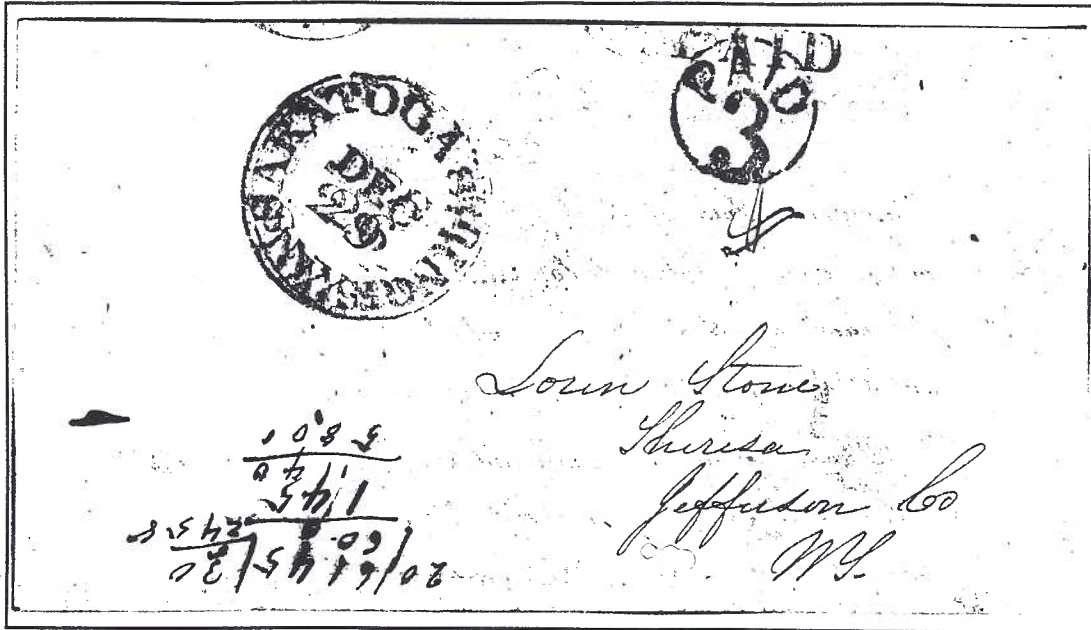


Saratoga County, N.Y.  
Saratoga Springs

19-20mm  
PAID 3  
in circle

22 x  
5mm  
PAID

32mm  
Black  
CDS



Dec. 29, 1855

**Late Usage of a Stampless Cover**

Act of March 3, 1855: "And from and after the first day of January, eighteen hundred and fifty six, the Postmaster General may require postmasters to place stamps upon all prepaid letters upon which such stamps may not have been placed by the writers."

This cover was mailed on Saturday, Dec. 29, 1855. The use of stamps became mandatory three days later on Tuesday, Jan. 1, 1856.

*From the Editor . . .*

We are rapidly running out of material for the "Journal." If we are to continue publishing we must have more material. We also need more contributors.

For too long we have depended on a few of our members. We need some new blood. While I like long articles or pictures of exhibits, I would be happy to accept medium-sized or short articles.

I would like to acknowledge the contributions of John Lange, Bill Hart, Maris Tirums, and some other members. Please join these members in supporting your Journal.

Thank you, Martin Margulis

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10/10

**MANUSCRIPT DATA STILL NEEDED!**

Just because the Master Supplement has been published doesn't mean that there is no more work to be done. Please look over your copy (what do you mean, you haven't ordered one yet?) and send new towns, dates, or corrections to the editor. If you have suggestions about forms, they will be considered for the next edition. **WE URGENTLY NEED DATA ABOUT MULTI-COUNTY OFFICES!** Your contribution is appreciated.

*Send Data To:*

**Douglas Penwell  
P.O. Box 3525  
Glendale, AZ 85311-3525  
(623) 931-5741**

## **WANTED: SARATOGA COUNTY, NY**

*Better grade stampless covers wanted for exhibition purposes from these towns:*

Ballston, Ballston Centre, Ballston Spa, Ballston Springs, Barkersville, Batchellerville, Bemus Heights, Birchton, Burnt Hills, Charlton, Clifton Park, Concord, Conklingville, Corinth, Coveville, Crescent, Day, Deans Corners, Dry Dock, Dunning Street, East Day, East Galway, East Line, Edgecombs Corner, Edinburgh, Elnora, Fortville, Galway, Gansevoort, Grangerville, Greenfield, Grooms Corners, Hadley, Hagedorns Mills, Half Moon, Jonesville, Ketchums Corners, Malta, Maltaville, Mechanicsville, Middle Grove, Milton Center, Moreau, Mosherville, North Galway, North Greenfield, Northumberland, Pope's Corners, Porters Corners, Providence, Quaker Springs, Rexford Flats, Round Lake, Saratoga, Saratoga Springs, Schuylersville, South Ballston, South Galway, South Glens Falls, South Greenfield, Stillwater, Victory Mills, Vishcers Ferry, Waterford, Wayville, West Charlton, West Day, West Greenfield, West Milton, West Providence, Wilton

*Send on approval or a photocopy with price to:*

**John A. Lange Jr.**

373 Root Road  
Ballston Spa, NY 12020  
(513) 882-6373

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## **WANTED — EXHIBIT LEVEL COVERS**

- A. Covers to or from Post Offices in Staten Island
- B. New York City, pre-1900
- C. NYC/NYS airmail covers, pre-1946 (no FF covers please)
- D. Pacqueboat covers from or to New York City
- E. Ship Covers from or to Central or South America to, from or through NYC
- F. Covers to or from Austin, Texas

*Please send photostats of covers with price wanted*  
DO NOT SEND ACTUAL COVERS

**Martin Margulis**

4159 Steck #113  
Austin, TX 78759-8511

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