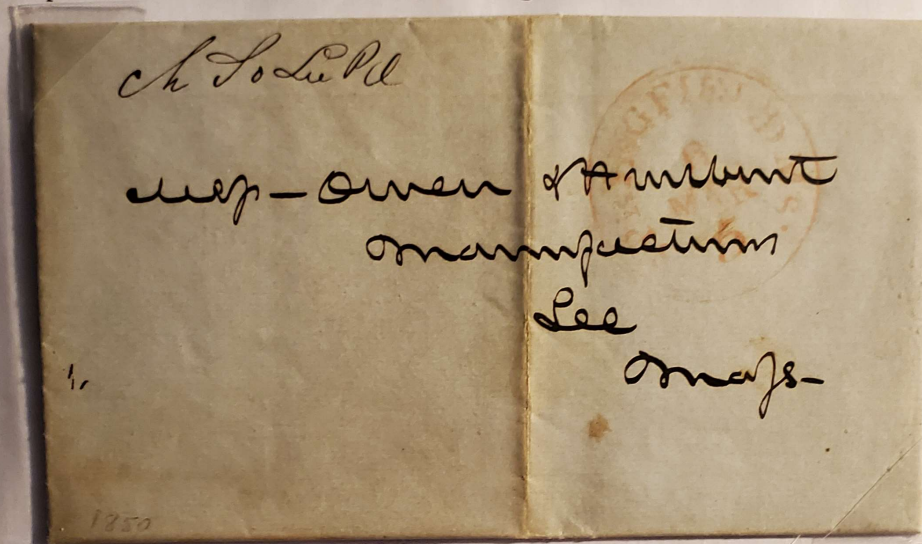


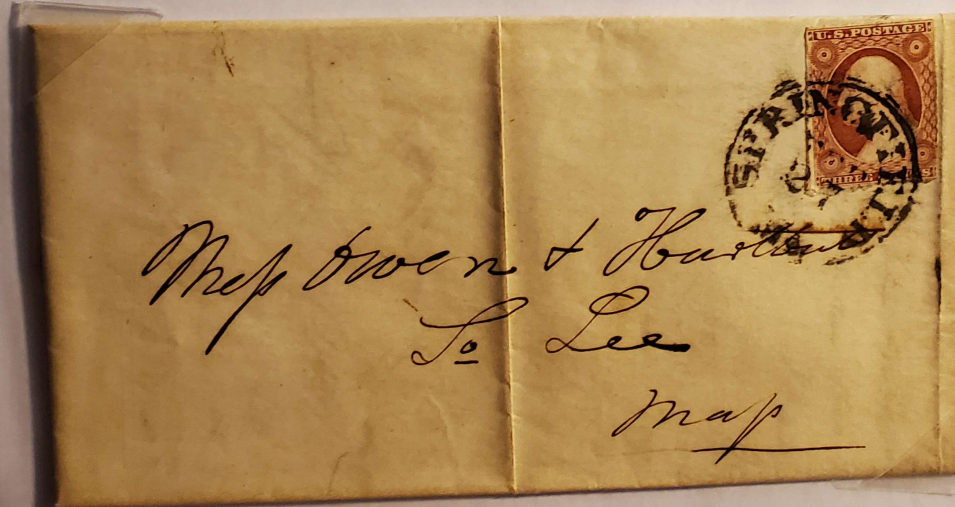
2.8 Automatic Ruling Machinery

(Below) SFL to South Lee Mass. Red Springfield Ms. MAR 8 (1850) 33mm CDC with integral rate '5 cents for mail travelling less than 300mi. Missent to Lee, and manuscript "Ch. So. Lee PO." the forwarding fee.



Content: "Our machinists disappointed us in the time he had to have the <ruling> machine done. We left it at . . . the railroad depot and hope it will come safe to . . . you." D&J Ames, patent-holders, Springfield, Mass. March 7th, 1850.

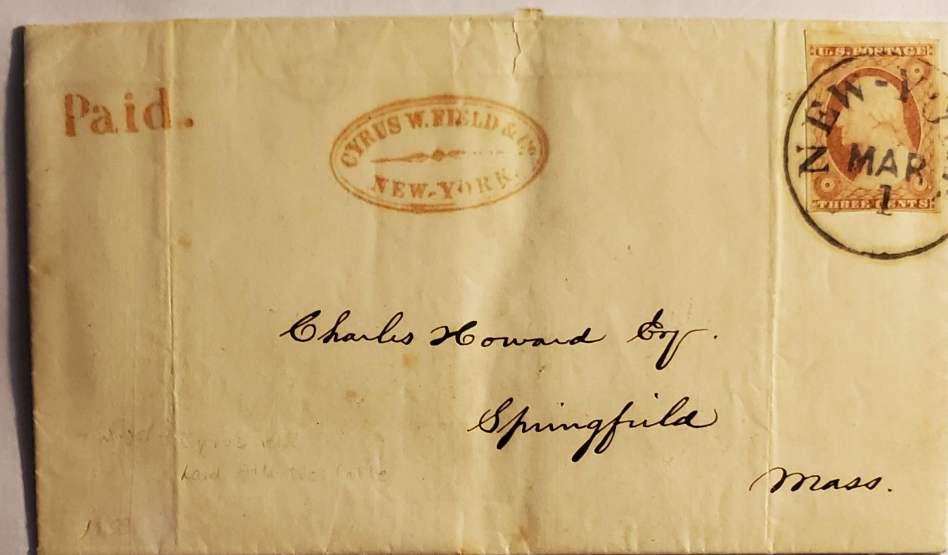
(Below) SFL to South Lee Mass. Black Springfield Ms. 27 Feb (1852) 30mm CDC. Franked by 3-cts 1851 Ty. II (brownish carmine).



Content: "We should be happy to sell you one of our bill (scoring) paper ruling machines." D&J Ames, patent-holders, Springfield, Mass. February 23, 1852.

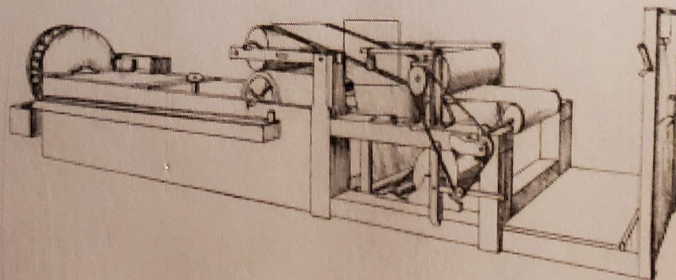
2.9 The Great Paper Machine Patent Trial of 1833

(Below) SFL to Springfield, Mass. Black New York Mar 1 (1853) 30mm CDC. Franked by 3-cts 1851 Ty, II (brownish carmine). Red oval "Cyrus Field & Co." merchant stamp with matching "Paid." (Note: This merchant marked commercial correspondence "Paid" to inform the recipient the letter was not sent with postage due.)



Content: "In looking over my old books, I find that I have a judgment against you and Mr. Wells Lathrop occurring in the Supreme Court of Hampden Co. Mass. September 3 1850 <for> \$2,656.73." Cyrus W. Field, Paper Dealer, NYC. March 1, 1853. (also see 7.9)

(Historical Note: In 1829 the firm of Howard & Lathrop erected a new paper mill in South Hadley, Mass. adjacent to that of John Ames. The newcomers then hired away an Ames foreman to build for them a copy of the patented Ames cylinder-wire machine. Ames promptly sued, later prevailing in the first patent lawsuit ever to reach the U.S. Supreme Court.)



Artist's concept of the Gilpin cylinder-wire machine from the Great Paper Machine Trial of 1833. During the trial Joshua Gilpin claimed that John Ames had infringed upon his earlier patent of 1817.

2.10 Didot Chain-Mould Paper Machine

(Below) International SFL to New York. Red boxed Madras GPO Jul 6 1854 with matching crescent "India Paid." Red London tombstone "PAID" July 22 1854 with red manuscript lines cancelling India paid marking.

Forwarded to Liverpool and carried by Collins Line SS *Atlantic*, departing July 26, and arriving NYC on August 5. Black N.Y Exchange Office marking 21" integral with N. York Am. Pkt. Aug. 6 CDC. Pencil manuscript "R-6 Box" indicates recipient received notification within his post box.



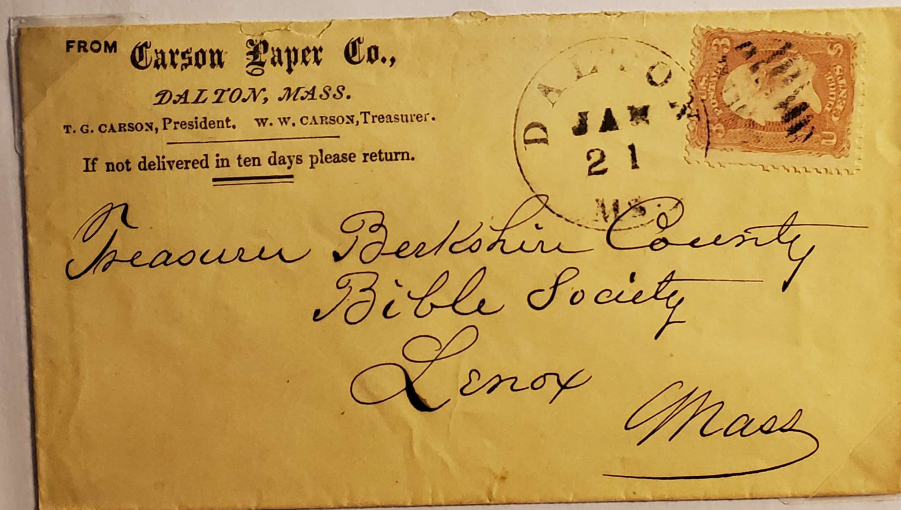
Content "I have established here paper mills & manufacture paper & therefore further request you furnish me with a diagram and state the cost & charges for a <chain mold> paper-making machine." C Yanneat Chelty, paper-maker, Madras, India. July 6, 1854.

(Historical Note: Hoe & Co. only made printing machines, but was also a point of contact for paper machines. The French "Didot" paper machine described in the letter was developed in the 1820s but proved commercially unsuccessful.)

Chapter 3: Lee, Mass.--Papertown USA

Berkshire County, Massachusetts, borders the Hudson River along with New York. Between 1804 and 1840 some 40 paper mills were established in the region, largely serving the needs of New York City. The region was the largest producer of paper in the country, if not the world, and the town of Lee was dubbed "Papertown USA." Postal history of the industry centers around Lee and surrounds including South Lee and Dalton.

(Below) Envelope to Lenox, Mass. Black Dalton, Ms. Jan 20 (1866) 30mm. CDC. Franked by 3-cent 1861 (1865-66 dull red).



Corner card of Carson Paper Co., one of the most widely known manufacturers of stationery paper in the U.S.

3.1 Early Bookbinding of Spelling and Geography Books

(Below) SFL to South Lee Mass. Red Sheffield, Mass. Dec 11 (1827) 27mm CDC with matching 'PAID.' Manuscript '6' (cents) for mail travelling less than 30 mi. Missent and forwarded to South Lee using old 'LEE MASS' straightline cancel. Manuscript '6' (cents) postage due.

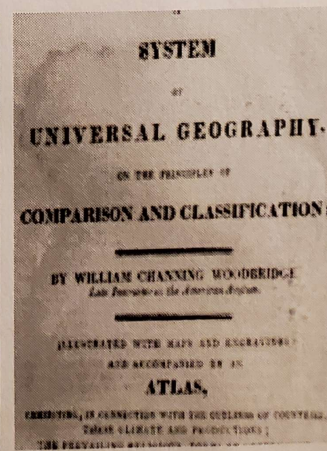
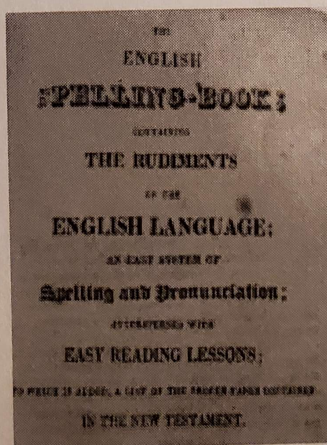
(Note: The South Lee PO was established in October of 1826 with Thomas Hurlbut as postmaster. Consequently, after a short grace period, the postmaster of Lee began charging letters that were missent to Lee instead of South Lee.)



Content: "If you could send me by stage . . . 2 doz. Bentley Spelling Books and ½ doz. Woodbridge Geography & Atlas." George Kellog, bookseller, Sheffield, Mass. December 9, 1827.

(right) Front plates of Bentley Spelling book and Woodbridge Geography & Atlas (Google books).

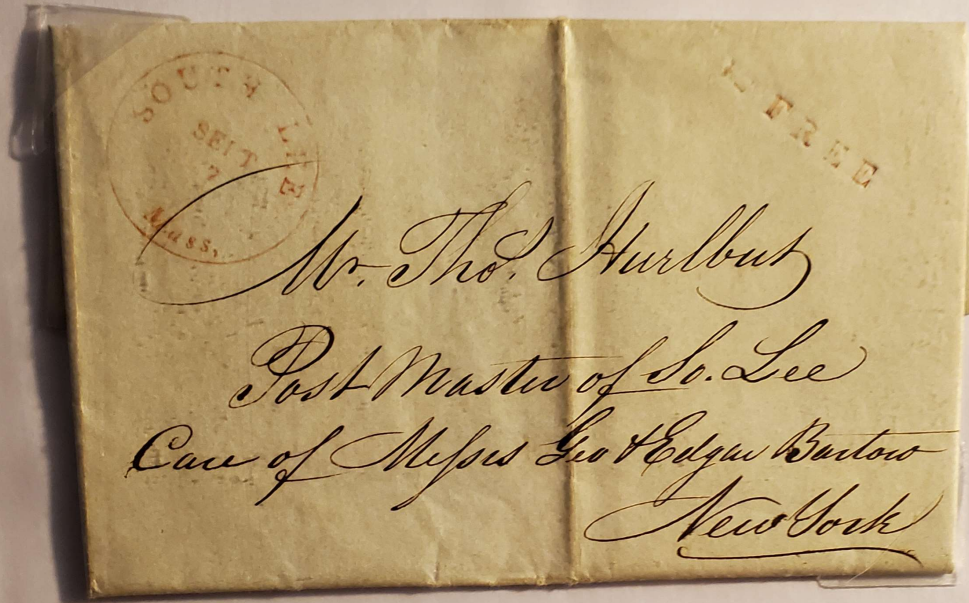
(Historical note: Some paper mills did bookbinding in winter months when streams were frozen over and papermaking came to a halt.



3.2 Shipping Paper to NYC by Hudson Towboat Barnes Line

(Below) SFL to New York. Red South Lee Mass. Sept 7 (1838) 30mm CDC. Matching fancy 'pointing hand FREE' (3-cts postmaster privilege).

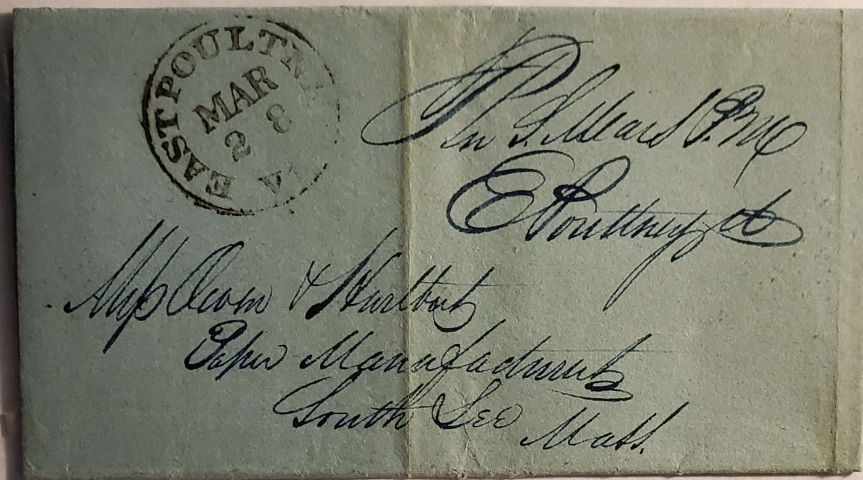
(Note: Post office regulations prohibited the passing of any Free mail between partners in a business where one or the other was a postmaster.)



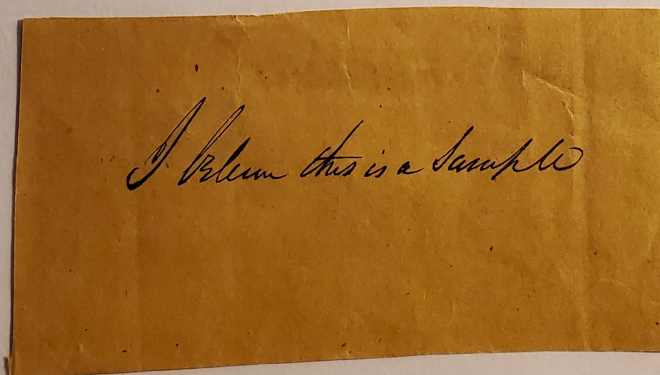
Content: "We sent today by Mr. Powers 3 cases of paper (the same laid) to be shipped by Hudson Towboat Barnes Line to our care NY . . ." C. M Owen, Principal of Owen & Hurlbut, Paper-makers of So. Lee, Mass. September 9, 1838.

3.3 Early Production of Manila Wrapping Paper

(Below) SFL to South Lee Mass. BLACK EAST POULTNEY Vt. MAR 28 (1839) 30mm CDC. Blue manuscript franking 'S. Mears P.M. E. Poultney Vt.' (3-cts postmaster privilege).



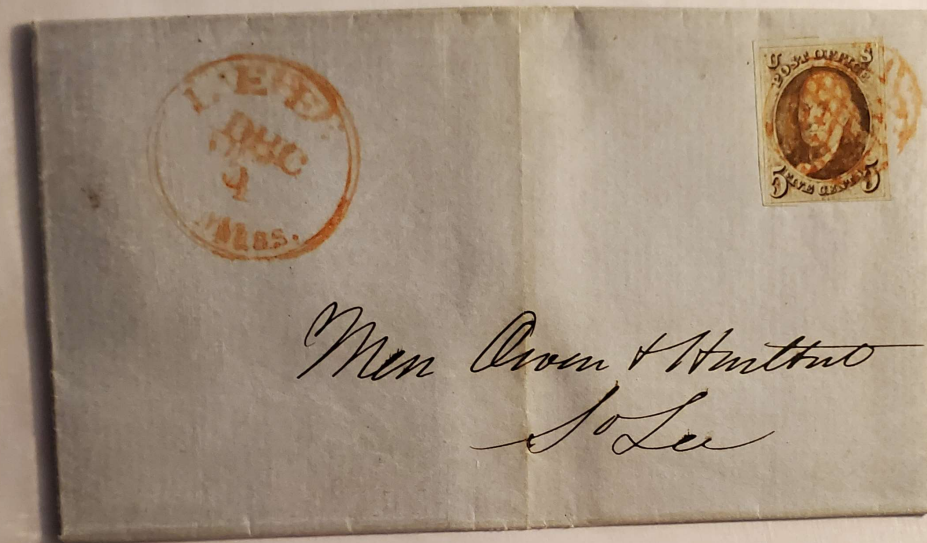
Content: "Understanding you make a very fine article of wrapping paper . . . We enclose you the same and wish you to <send> me 3 or 4 different packages rolled up with rolls by mail." S. Mears P.M., East Poultry, Vt. March 28, 1839.



(Historical note: Manila wrapping paper was invented in the U.S. in 1838, source: **Rag Paper Manufacturing in the U.S. 1801-1900.**)

3.4 Green Textile Dye (Copperas) in Paper-Making

(Below) SFL to South Lee Mass. Red Lee Mas. Dec 4 (1850) 30mm CDC. Franked by 5c 1847 (3rd issue red brown) cancelled by red 7 bar grids. (Note: This is one of only two known to date 5-cts. 1847 uses from Lee Mass.)



"We hand you above bill of the cast copperas." Platner & Smith, papermakers, Lee, Mass. 12/4/1850.

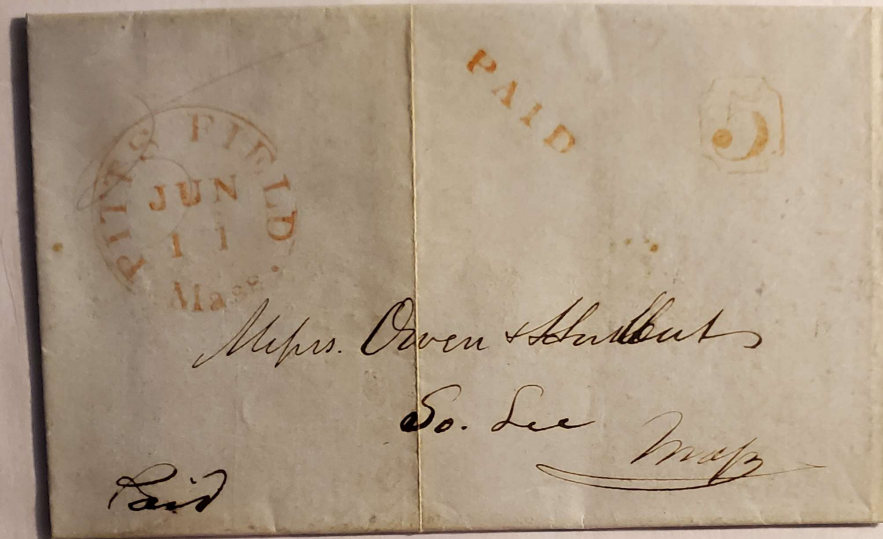
(Historical Note: Note: Copperas is a green textile dye also used in paper-making at this time.)

(right) Platner & Smith ream label, (circa 1850)



3.5 Double Foolscap Used for Newspaper Publishing

(Below) SFL to South Lee Mass. Red Pittsfield Mass. Sep 26 (1849) 32mm CDC with matching 'PAID.' Manuscript '5' (cents) rate for mail travelling less than 300 mi..

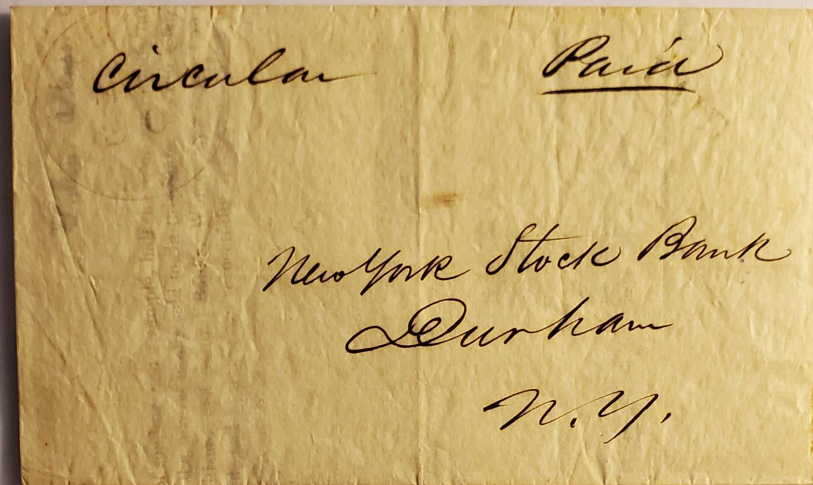


Content: "Please send me two reams double foolscap worth say \$2.75 per ream single. Send by rail via West Stockbridge & charge my account." Charles Montigue, editor **Pittsfield Eagle**, Pittsfield, Mass. June 10, 1849.



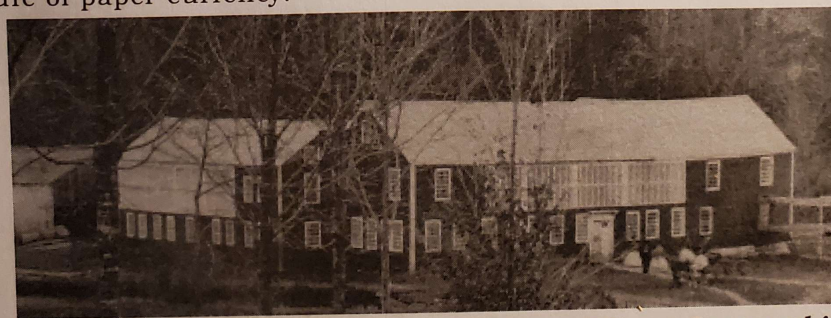
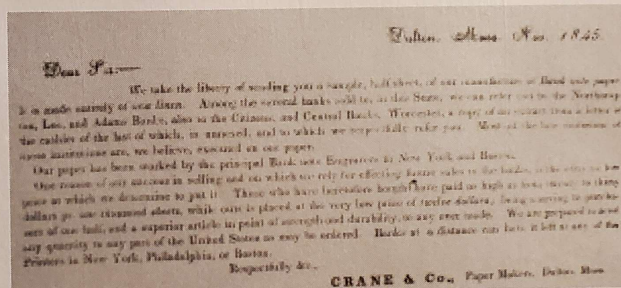
3.6 Circular Made of Banknote Paper

(Below) Circular to Durham, N.Y. Manuscript "Circular" and "Paid." Green Dalton Ms May 20 (1848) CDC and matching "PAID".



(above) Rare circular made entirely of linen currency paper also containing silk fibers used as security measure against counterfeiting.

(right) Enclosure describing price and availability of Crane's "Bank-Note" paper used in the manufacture of paper currency.

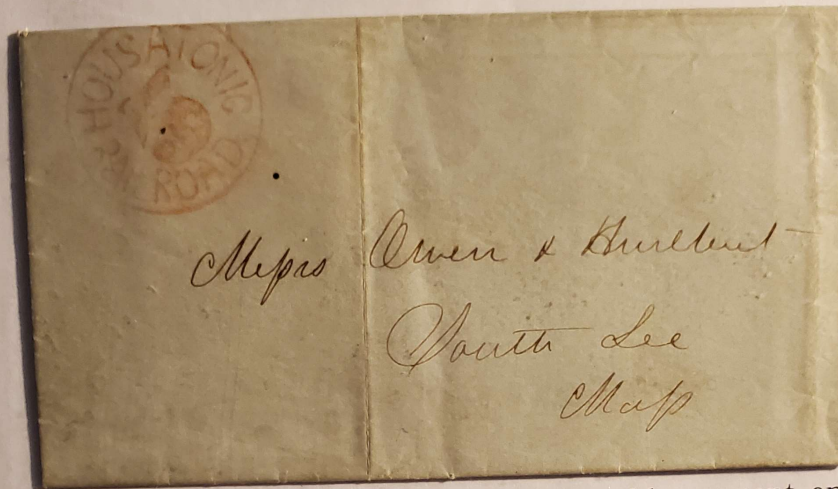


Photograph of Old Red Mill (from **175 Years of Crane Papermaking**)

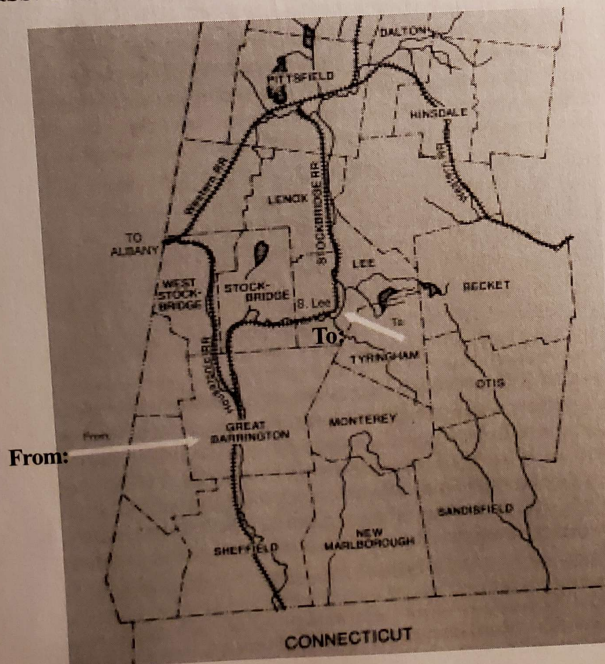
U.S. POSTAGE STAMP PAPER was manufactured here in 1857 and 1858.

3.7 Order for Paper sent via Housatonic Railroad

(Below) SFL to South Lee Mass. Red Housatonic Railroad 30mm CC w/ integral '5' (cent) rate for mail travelling less than 300mi. Posted at Great Barrington railroad station (December 21, 1848).



Content: "Please forward us at the earliest possible moment one ream white ruled foolscap." Cushing & Bryant, Paper Merchants, Great Barrington Mass. Dec 21, 1848.



(left) Map of western Massachusetts identifying railroads of Berkshire County in the mid-19th century. The Housatonic railroad is shown running from border of Connecticut through to Albany N.Y.

(Note: A letter posted at Great Barrington railroad station and addressed to Lee would enter the mails at the West Stockbridge post office.)

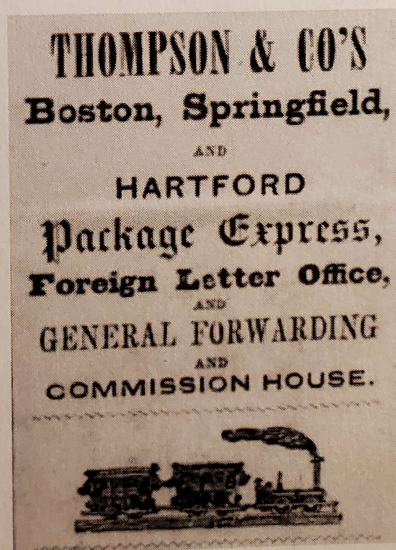
3.8 Sending Payment by Thompson & Co.'s Express

(Below) Express letter to South Lee, Mass. Money letter sent by Thompson's Express from Huntington, Mass. for delivery to express office in Pittsfield, Mass. Rated 26-cents and "Paid." Franked by orange Thompson's & Co.'s Express label.



Content: "I now forward to you by express forty six dollars which you will please pay on my account." Tobias Kyle, Huntington, Mass., November 25, 1855.

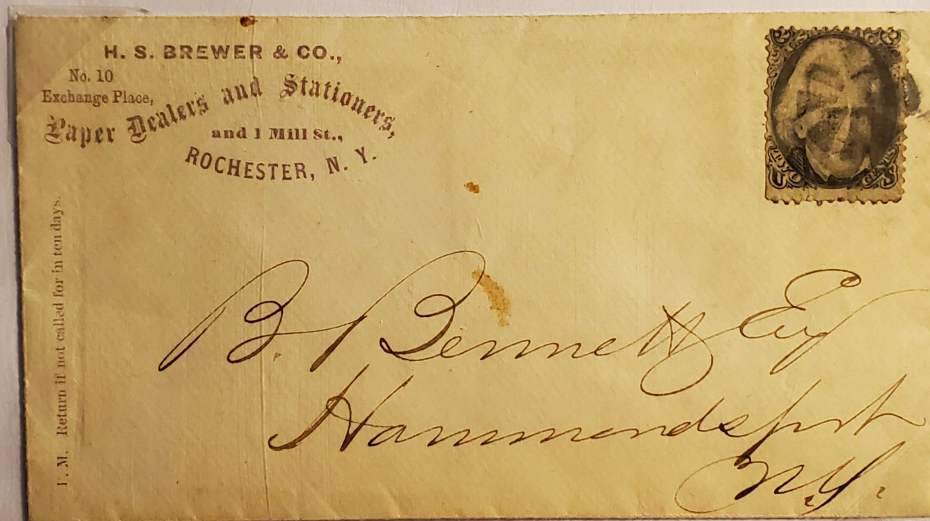
(right) Thompson & Co.'s Express Advertisement appearing in *Boston Directory for 1852* (Google books)



Chapter 4: Erie Canal & Eastern States

Inland waterways and canals were the most efficient means of long distance transportation during the 1830s and 1840s. Most paper mills in the U.S. were located on the east coast, consequently a good deal of mail of the paper industry can be found going up and down the Erie Canal and its environs.

(Below) Envelope sent by local delivery in Hammondsport, N.Y. Carrier rate letter. Franked by 2-cts black 1863, Cut cork killer.



Corner card of "Paper Dealers and Stationers, No. 10 Exchange Pl. and 1 Mill St." H.S. Brewer & Co., Rochester, NY., undated local delivery.

(right) Advertising for H.S. Brewer & Co. published in the *Rochester Directory of 1878* (Google books)

H. S. BREWER & CO.

HAVE
THE BEST STOCK
OF
BLANK BOOKS
IN THE CITY, AT
The Lowest Prices.
DAY BOOKS,
JOURNALS,
CASH BOOKS,
LEDGERS,

And Everything in the Line of

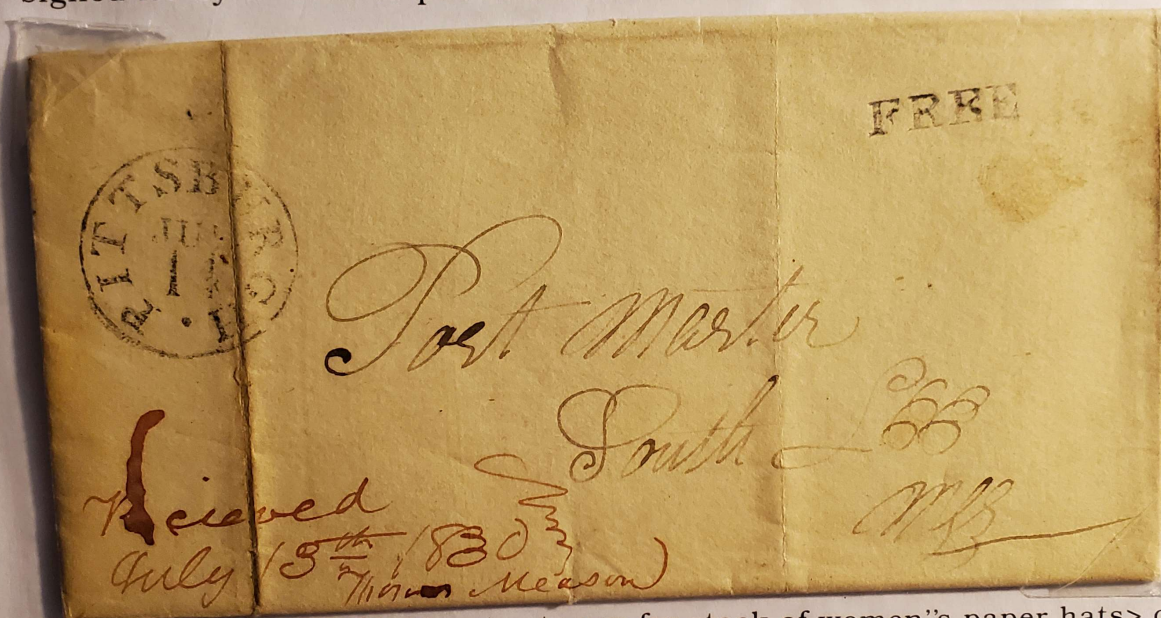
BLANK WORK.

ALSO,
FANCY STATIONERY,
BUSINESS STATIONERY,
AND
LADIES' STATIONERY
OF
EVERY DESCRIPTION.
10 Exchange Place
AND 1 MILL STREET.

4.1 Paper Hats sold by Backwoods Travelling Salesman

(Below) SFL money letter to South Lee Mass. Black Pittsburgh Jul 14 (1830) 29mm CDC. Matching 'FREE' (3-cts. postmaster privilege). Money letter (\$100 banknote enclosed) with magenta manuscript endorsement, "Received July 13th, 1830" Thomas Meason."

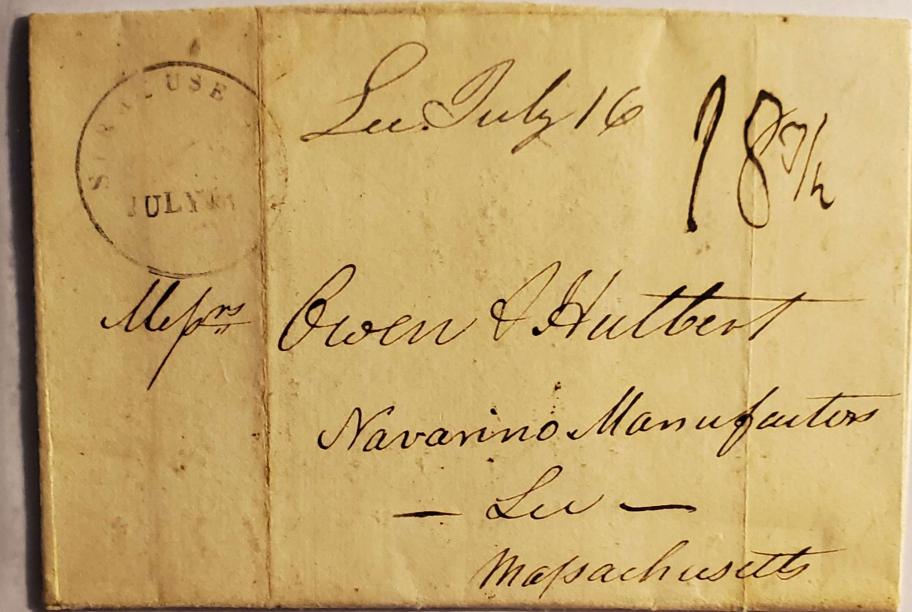
(Note: There was no registry system in 1830. Instead, this money letter was signed for by a clerk or postmaster at the nearest distribution P.O.)



"I herein enclose \$100.00 note <to pay for stock of women's paper hats> on the H.S. Bank that I exchanged for at the branch at this place." Rodney Hill, traveling salesman, Pittsburgh, Pa. July 13, 1830. (See 4.2)

4.2 Order from the Paper Mill of Womens Paper Hats

(Below) SFL to South Lee Mass. Black Syracuse N.Y. July 14 (1830) 30mm CDC. Manuscript '18 3/4' (cents) for mail travelling between 150 and 400 mi. Missent and forwarded to South Lee per manuscript 'LEE July 16.'



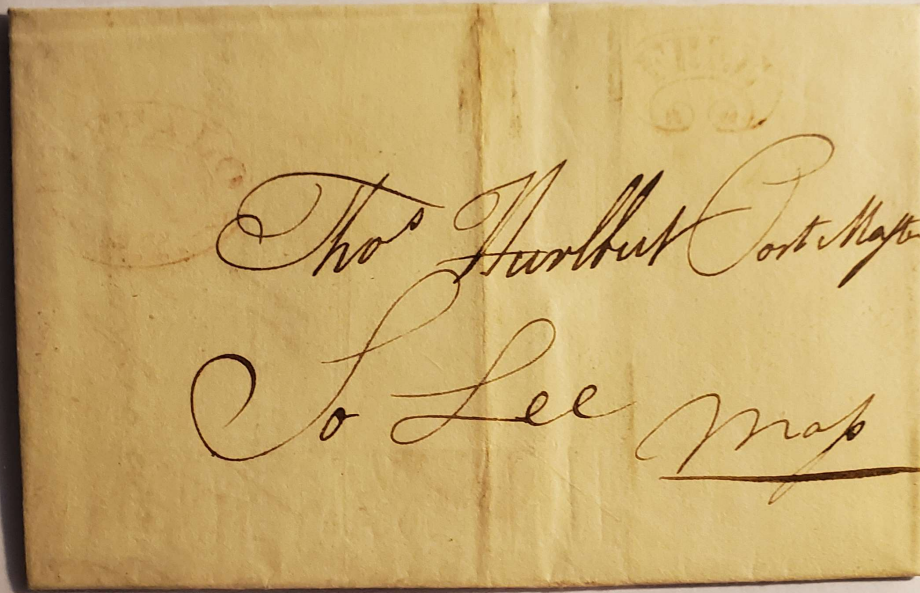
Content: "Gentlemen, I am wishing to learn what you can afford me a quantity of the best Narvarino Hats (black and white)." Charles Wallridge, Merchant, Syracuse, N.Y. July 13, 1830. (See 4.1)

(right) Illustration of a 19th century navarino hat. These were a style of women's headdress that could be made of cloth or paper. (source, "Bonnets of the 1830" in the book, *Jane Austen's Cousin*)



4.3 Duties on Paper Returning from Canada

(Below) SFL to South Lee Mass. Red Buffalo NY (1831) 34x22mm oval.
Matching red seashell 'FREE' (3-cts postmaster privilege).



Content: "I left the both <paper stock> our the other side (in Canada) not wishing to run the risk of smuggling it across knowing that I could not pay the duties without a great sacrifice." Alvin Ingersoll, Sales Agent of Owen & Hurlbut, Buffalo, N.Y., January 24, 1831.

(Historical note: Alvin Ingersoll had travelled up the Erie Canal to Buffalo, and then crossed over the border to Canada. Source, **Rag Paper Manufacture in the U.S. 1801-1900**)