

NEW HAMPSHIRE STAMPLESS COVERS THROUGH 1857

NEW HAMPSHIRE POSTAL HISTORY begins with the Colonial settlement at Portsmouth on the harbor at the mouth of the Piscataqua River. With stampless covers this exhibit traces the development of post offices in New Hampshire from 1743 through 1857.

The display is generally in chronological order. Emphasis is on post markings, both manuscript and handstamp. The covers include examples of different postal rates during the period, including the "War Rates" of 1815-16 and "restored" rates of 1816. The exhibit does not attempt to illustrate all rates.

I. COLONIAL TO STATEHOOD PERIOD 1743-1788

The maritime designation for the Portsmouth region was Piscataqua, which in abbreviated form was used as postmark on early Portsmouth letters. The officer at the marine terminal doubled as postmaster. Portsmouth remained the only New Hampshire post office until 1791. Mail was carried to other New Hampshire towns by private or provincial carriers.

This exhibit includes earliest reported Piscataqua marking (1743) and earliest reported Portsmouth marking on ship letter (1762).

IA. Manuscript Colonial Postmarks 1743-1770

IB. Congressional Post "Free" Frank 1776

IC. Confederation Period - Portsmouth Straight Lines 1783-1788

II. EARLY STATEHOOD PERIOD 1788-1814

By the turn of the century 30 new post offices had been established in New Hampshire. Most early markings were manuscript.

IIA. Portsmouth, Hanover, Concord, Dover Handstamps 1788-1803

IIB. Manuscripts of Early Post Offices 1799-1814

IIC. Portsmouth & Hanover Dotted Ovals 1813-1814

III. DIVERSITY IN TOWNMARKS 1815-1845

New Hampshire post offices proliferated growing to 375 in 1840.

A number of offices were short-lived for which few examples of postmarkings survive.

IIIA. Postmarks of War Rate & Restored Rate Period 1815-1816

IIIB. Manuscript, Early Circle, and Straight Line Postmarks 1816-1822

IIIC. Golden Age for Variety and Color in NH Postmarks 1822-1845

Postmasters often used distinctive handstamps.

IV. AFTER RATE SIMPLIFICATION IN 1845 HANDSTAMP RATE MARKS BECAME COMMON

Townmark handstamp varieties persisted through the 1840's giving way

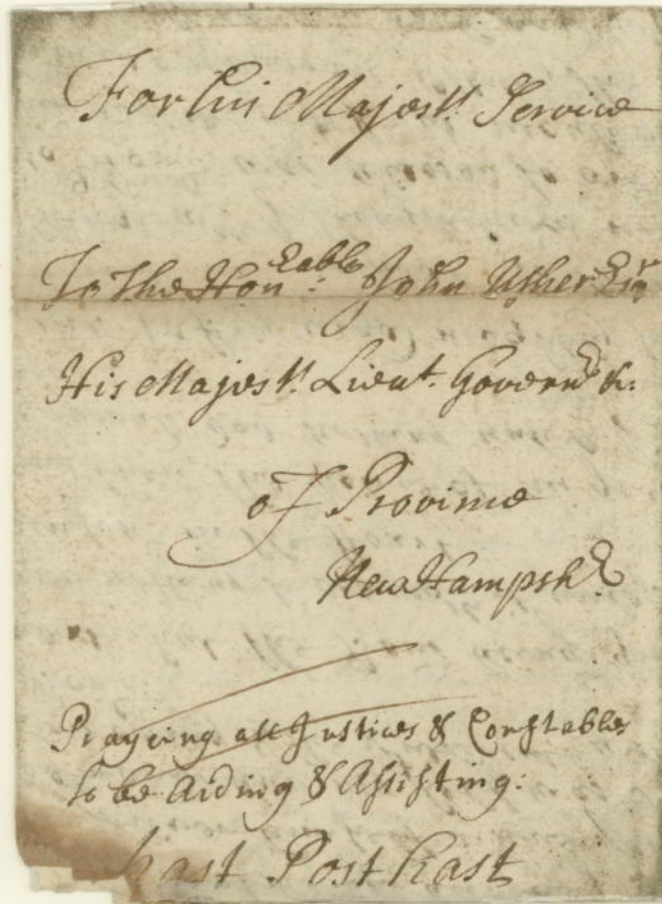
to hard metal circular marking devices by the 1850's, often provided by the Government.

IVA. Circles, Arcs, Straight Lines and Ovals 1845-1851

IVB. Circle Postmarks and Rate Marking Varieties 1851-1857 and uses to foreign destinations.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

STAMPLESS COVERS THROUGH 1857



For his Majestys Service

To the Hon^{able} John Usher Esq

His Majestys Lieut. Govern^r &c.

of Province
New Hampshire

Praying all Justices & Constables
to be Aiding & Assisting:

Haste Post Haste

1695 letter headed "New Castle (NH) Decembr 10"
to Lieut. Governor John Usher in nearby Portsmouth.

"For his Majestys Service" denotes official mail carried without further franking.

"Praying all Justices and Constables to be Aiding & Assisting"
and "Haste Post Haste" tell of an urgent message.

Letter concerns posting bond for Wm. Partridge, Provincial Treasurer,
who is departing on sudden notice for England.

History shows he did so to secure appointment as Lieut. Governor for himself,
in which endeavor he succeeded.

(Adams: "Annals of Portsmouth" pp 101-6)

I. COLONIAL TO STATEHOOD PERIOD 1743-1788

I.A. Manuscript Colonial Postmarks 1743-1770



"Pescq t" (Piscataqua) manuscript marking on unpaid letter headed Portsmouth
Feb'ry 17 ~ 1743.

Earliest recorded letter postmarked Piscataqua.

Letter rated 8 pennyweights of silver (3sh 4d local currency). Correct postage for
single letter to Philadelphia from "Tables of the Posts" under Parliamentary Act of 1710.
(Approx. 2dwt per 100 miles)

Burlington,(New Jersey) important terminus northeast of Philadelphia.
Single letter rate to Burlington 7dwt.

To Psh Dwt gr
A. 16
James Wadsworth Jun. Esq.
at
Durham
In
Connecticut,
In favour of }
Capt. Ledyard } 1s. 7d.
via N. London }

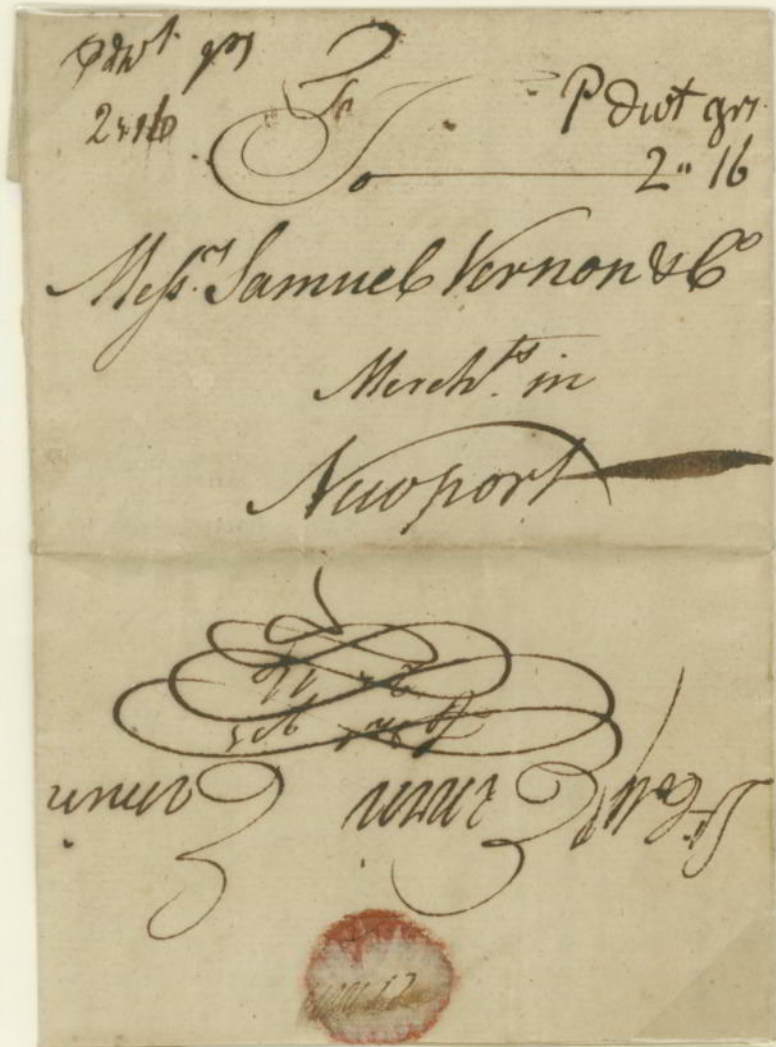
Portsmouth town mark on unpaid ship letter of May 8th 1762 headed "Port of St. Ann's in the Island Grandterra", part of Guadeloupe. Sent "favour of Capt. Ledyard via N. London", but went to Portsmouth.

Early example of "P" for Portsmouth marking, previously unrecorded with "Sh" (Ship Letter) designation. Piscataqua markings are also known used at this time.

Proper rate for a ship letter: 16 grains silver postage at port plus 4 pennyweights to Durham.

The 1sh 7d notation at lower left is currency equivalent due. (Small paper repair right edge.)

Eleazer Russell was Portsmouth Postmaster and Naval Officer until 1775. Portsmouth postmarks appear to be in his hand based on comparison with his 1746 handwritten diary in the collection of the New Hampshire Historical Society.




Unpaid letter Portsmouth to Newport dated June 5th 1767.
" P " for Portsmouth town mark.

Letter rated 2dwt 16gr silver for over 100 thru 200 miles.
Parliament had reduced rates in 1765.

Local currency equivalent due of a shilling is noted at the top.

On His Majesty's
 Service
 The Selectmen of
 New Castle
 New Hampshire
 Treasurer's Warrant

1770 Treasurer's Warrant for taxes from Portsmouth to Selectmen of New Castle
 Free "On His Majesty's Service"



PROVINCE OF NEW-HAMPSHIRE.

GEORGE JAFFREY, Esq;
 Treasurer and Receiver-General
 within His MAJESTY'S Province
 of New-Hampshire.

To the SELECT-MEN of *New-Castle*
 in the Province aforesaid Greeting

IN Pursuance of ACTS of the GENERAL-ASSEMBLY of the
 Province of New-Hampshire, for the assessing, levying and col-
 lecting the Taxes granted to His Most Excellent MAJESTY, with-
 in said Province; and for the Apportioning and Payment thereof
 into the Treasury of said Province.

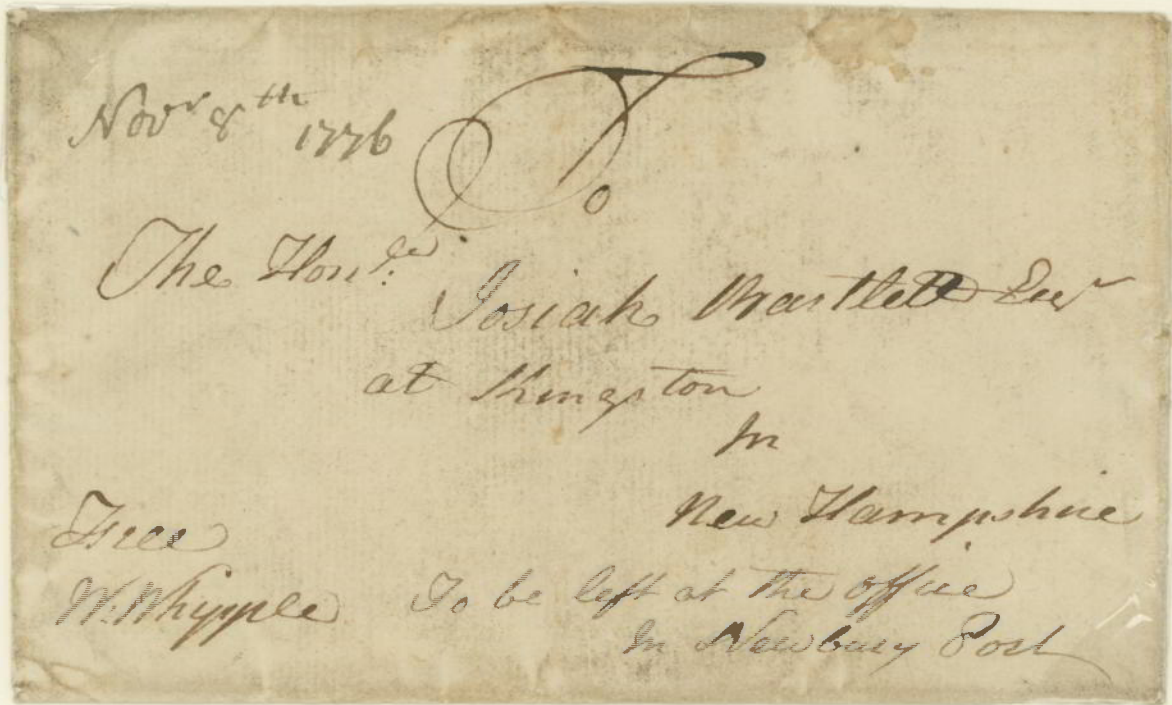
THESE are therefore in His MAJESTY'S Name, to Will and
 Require you, reasonably to assess the Polls and Estates with-
 in said *New-Castle* liable by Law to be Taxed,
 the Sum of *Seven Pounds, Seventeen Shillings*
three pence, three Farthings
 in Lawful Money, and to pay said Sum into the Treasury of said
 Province, on the *5th* Day of the *Month of August* next.

HEREOF FAIL NOT, as you will Answer your Neglect, at the
 Peril of the Law.

GIVEN under my Hand & Seal at Portsmouth the *Eleventh*
 Day of August, in the Tenth Year of the Reign of our Sovereign
 Lord GEORGE the Third by the Grace of GOD, of Great Britain,
 France and Ireland, KING, Defender of the Faith, &c. and in the
 Year of Our Lord CHRIST, 1770.

Geo. Jaffrey Treasr

IB. Congressional Post "Free" Frank - 1776



Free frank of William Whipple on 1776 cover from Philadelphia addressed to fellow signer of Declaration of Independence Josiah Bartlett at Kingston, New Hampshire.

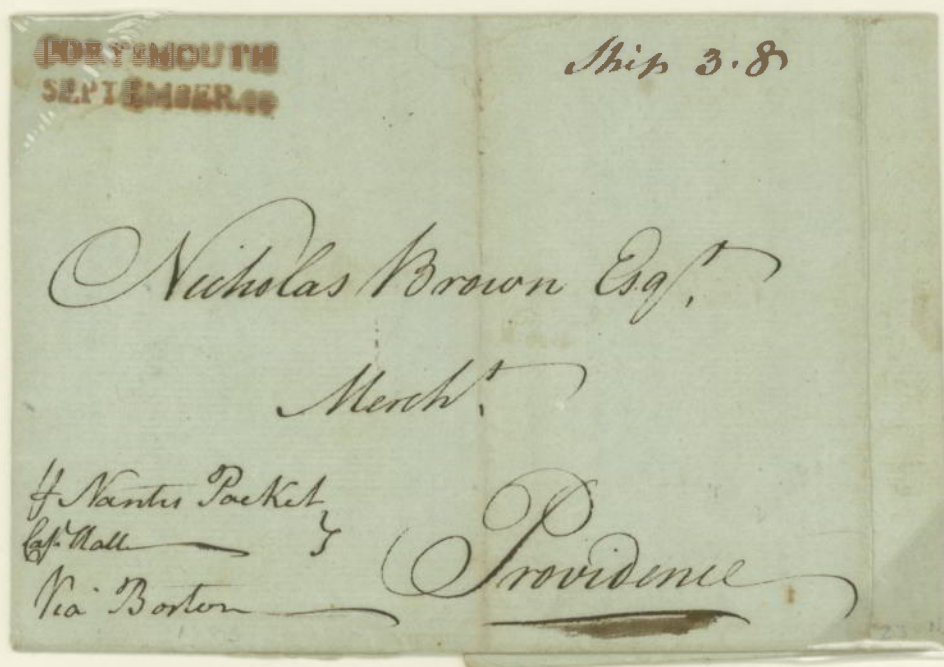
Both were New Hampshire delegates to Second Continental Congress and had free frank privilege while Congress was in session.

Cover directed "to be left at the office in Newbury Port". This Massachusetts seaport town near the New Hampshire border was closest post office to Kingston at that time. Office established at Kingston in 1797.

With British occupation of New York, the Congressional Post from Philadelphia to New England went north by way of Easton PA, Fishkill NY and Hartford CT thus circumventing interception.

I.C. Confederation Period-Portsmouth Straight Lines 1783-1788

Ship Letters



Unpaid 1783 letter headed Nantes (France) entered mails in Portsmouth. This type marking used 1783-1785. Known only in red.

Rated 3dwt 8gr; 16gr ship fee + 2dwt 16gr postage for over 100 thru 200 miles.



Same type postmark on 1784 unpaid letter to Hartford.

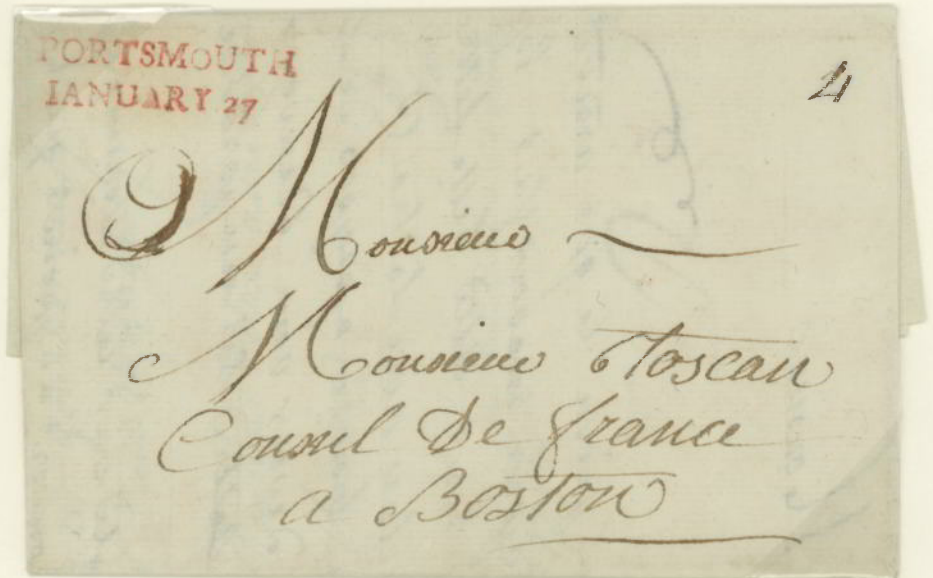
Rated 4dwt: 16gr ship fee + 3dwt 8gr for over 200 thru 300 miles.

1786 Unpaid Letters



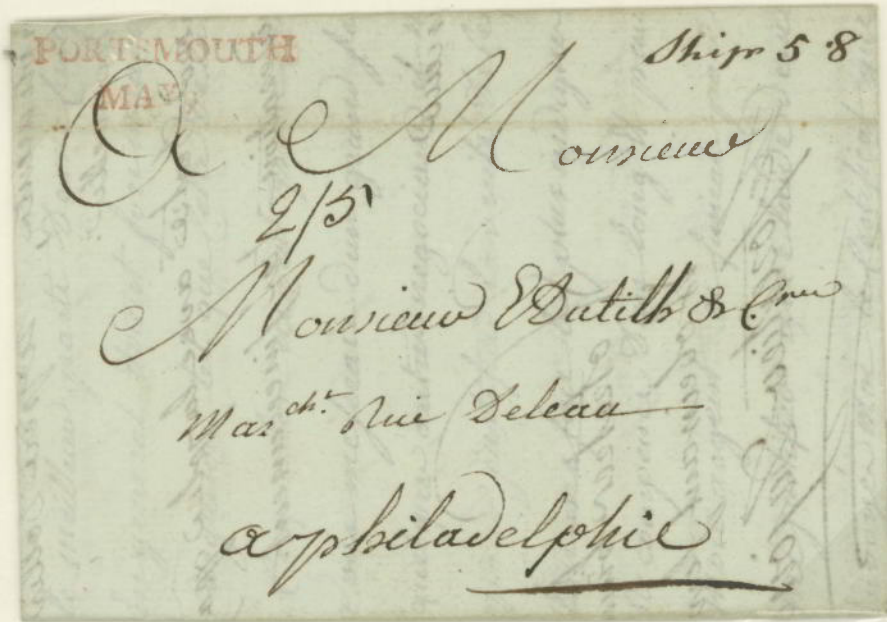
Single Letter. This Straight line known used in red 1785 - 1787. Slightly longer than earlier type.

Rated 2dwt for distance from 60 thru 100 miles.



Double rate letter to Boston.
Small "o" in PORTSMOUTH Variety.

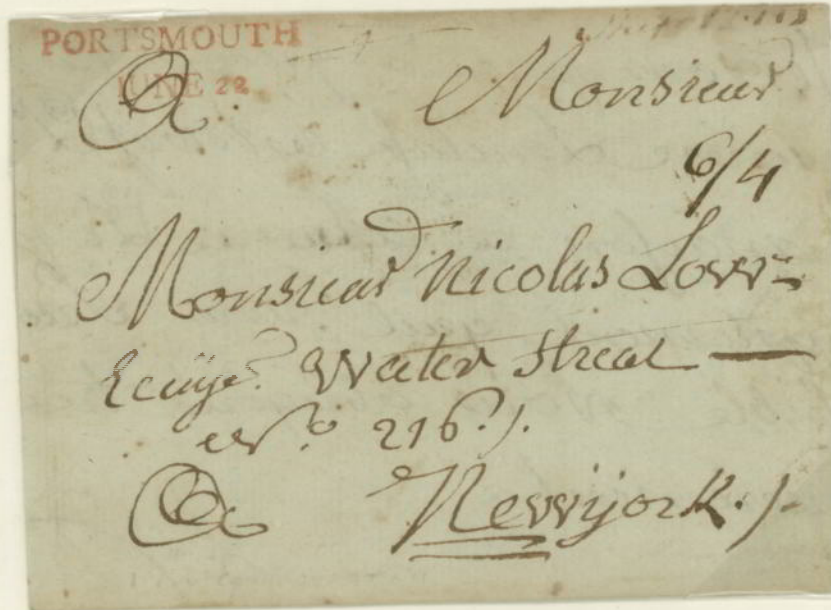
Letters From France via Portsmouth



Letter headed "Lorient 5 Fevrier 1787 Triplicata".

Rated 5dwt 8gr = 16 gr ship fee + 4dwt 16gr inland postage to Philadelphia, over 400 but not exceeding 500 miles. Local currency equivalent due, 2sh 5d.

Ship/2.16



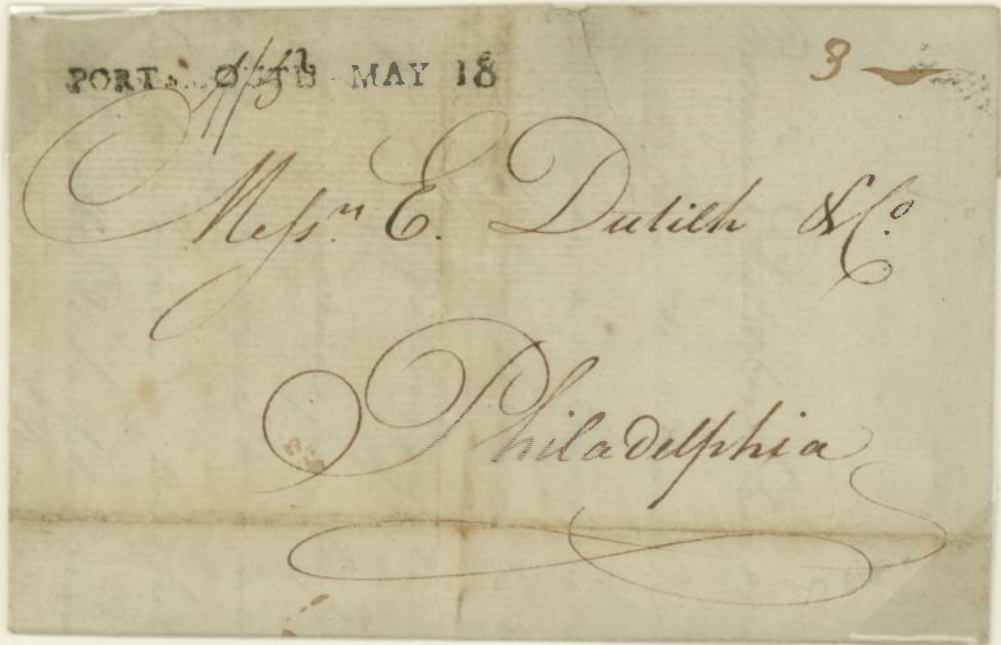
Letter from Nantes dated "10 Fev. 1787".

Rated 12dwt 16gr = 16gr ship fee + 12dwt, triple inland postage rate of 4dwt for distance over 300 but not more than 400 miles to New York. Local currency equivalent due, 6sh4d.

II. EARLY STATEHOOD PERIOD 1788-1814

II A. Portsmouth, Hanover, Concord Handstamps 1788-1803

Portsmouth Straight Lines - 1788

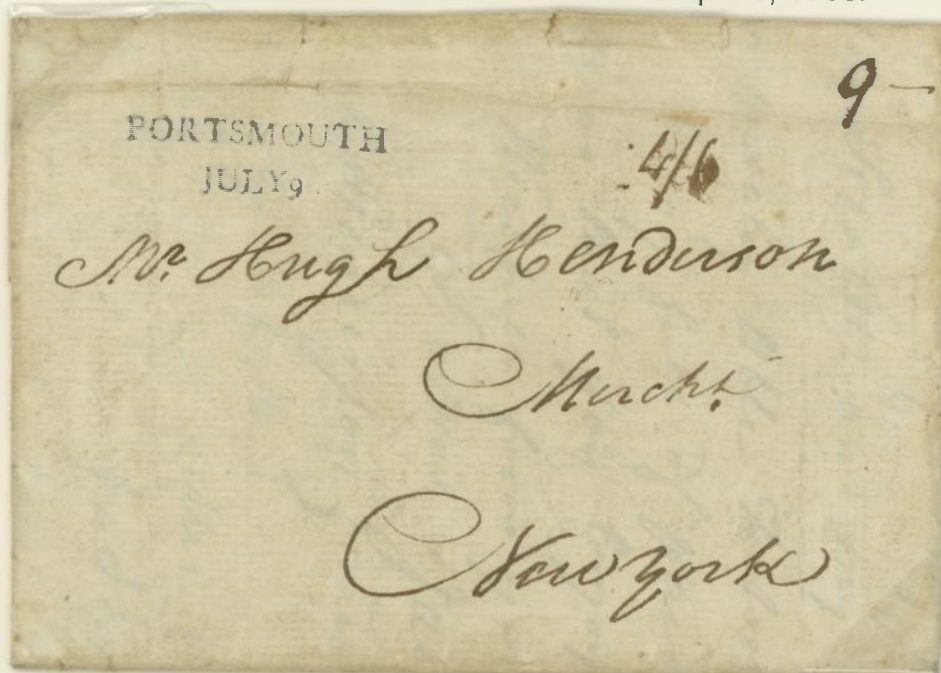


Same as red postmark on previous cover from France. Known used in black 1788-1790.

Unusual with month and day following townmark.

Rated 3dwt to Philadelphia based on distance not exceeding 400 miles. Local currency equivalent notation of 1sh5d.

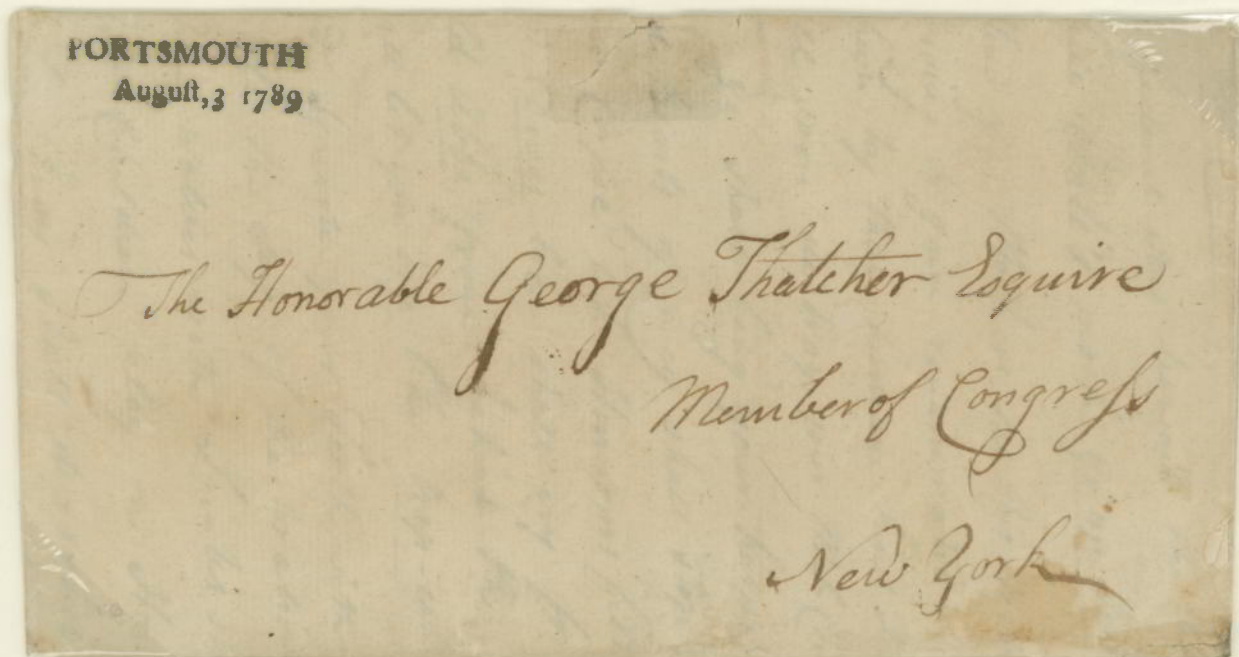
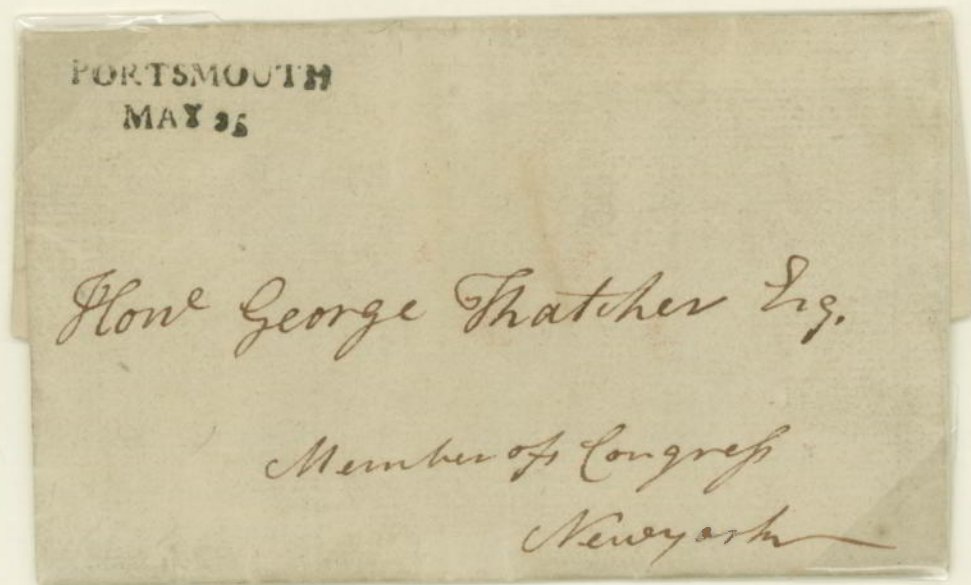
Congress had reduced rates effective April 5, 1788.



Triple rate; 3x3dwt for distance over 300 thru 400 miles. Local currency 4sh6d.

II A. PORTSMOUTH 1789

Free to member of Congress under Ordinance of 1782

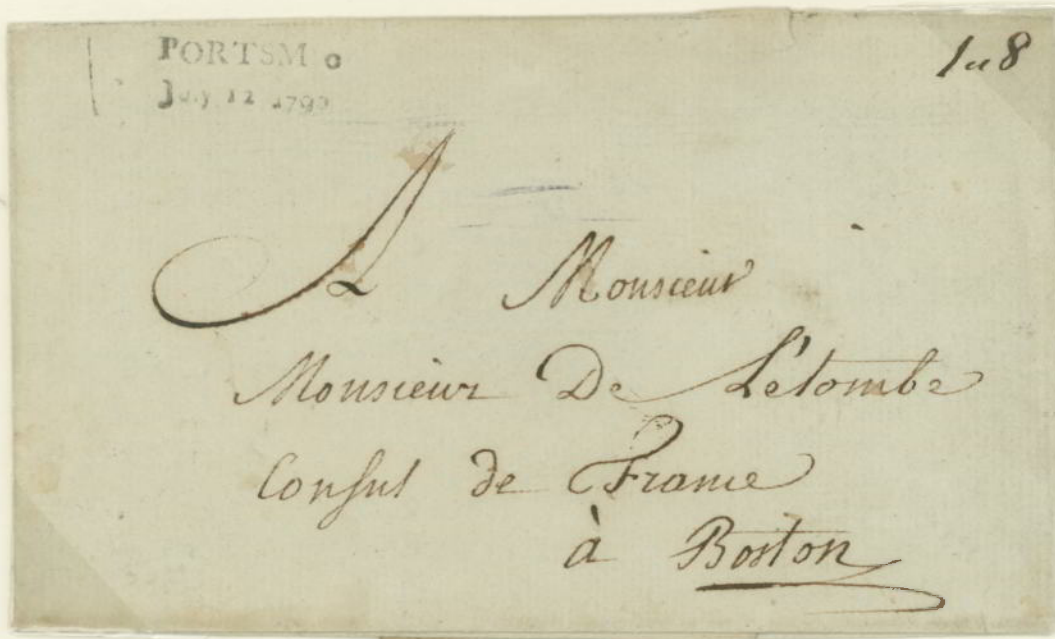


Shorter straight line variety has year date. Known used only in 1789.

Letters from District of Maine, carried outside mails then posted in Portsmouth.
George Thacher, Massachusetts Congressman 1789 - 1801.

IIA. PORTSMo - 1790

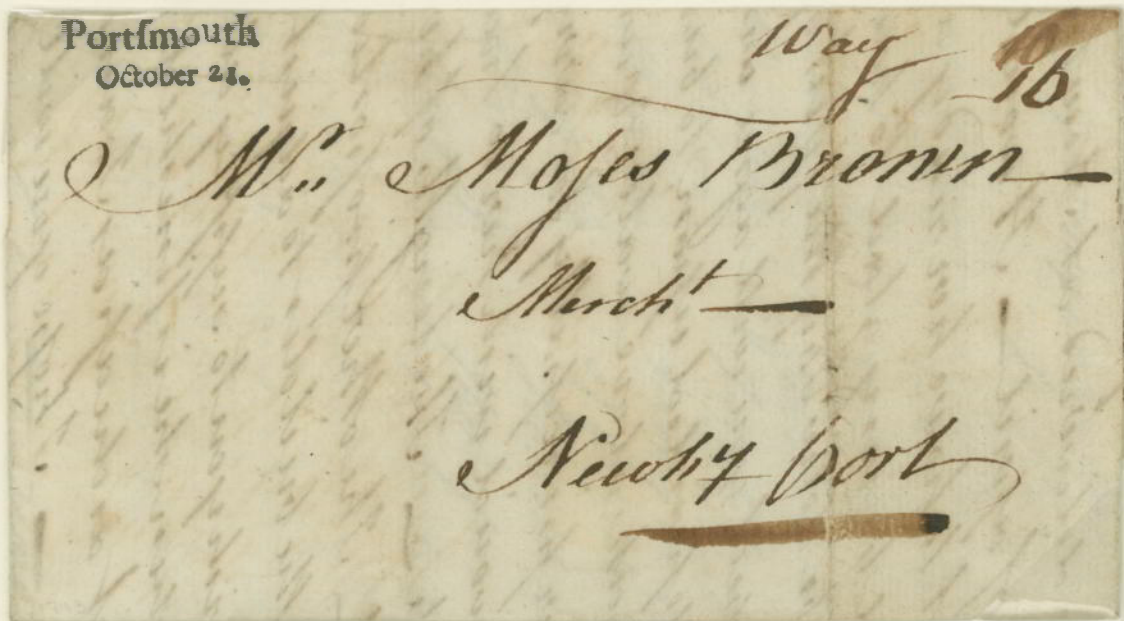
Known used only in 1790



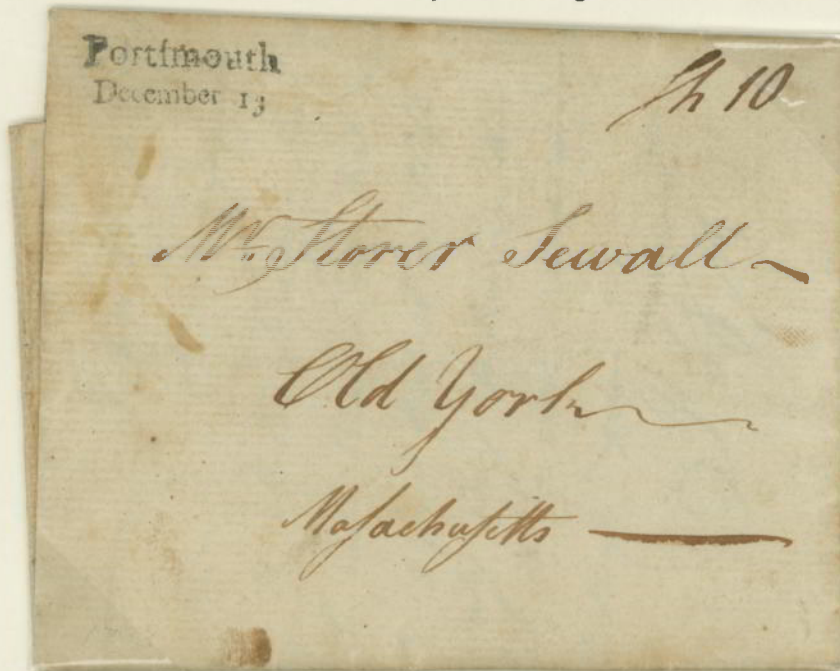
Rated 1dwt 8gr due for distance over 60 but not exceeding
100 miles under Congressional Resolution of 1787.

II A. Portsmouth with Old-Style "S". - 1793

Known only in black. Used 1792-1797.



Way letter with enclosure headed Scarborough (Me.) Oct 14, 1793 delivered to Portsmouth and forwarded October 21st.
Initially rated as single sheet for distance not over 30 miles, 6c + 4c way = 10c.
Rerated as two sheets: 2 x 6c + 4c way = 16c due.
Act of May 8, 1794 clarified way fee charges and set rate at 2c.

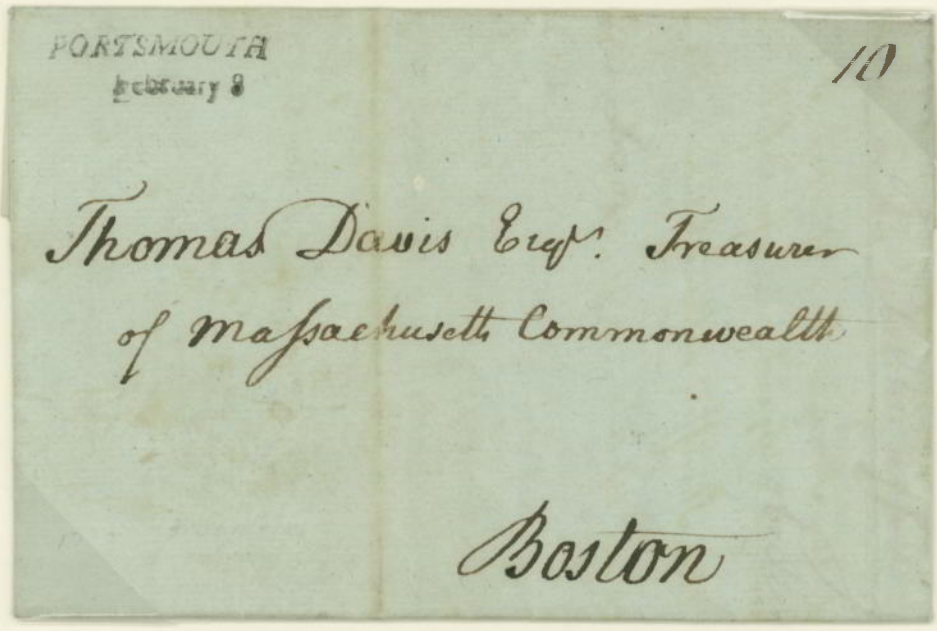


Ship letter dated November 18, 1793 from Petersburg Virginia to "Old York Massachusetts", seacoast town of York in District of Maine.

Rated 10c; 4c ship letter fee + 6c for distance not over 30 miles.

II.A. Small PORTSMOUTH in *Italics* - 1793 & 1797

Recorded used into 1797 only in black



Letter headed "York 6th Feb 1793", carried from District of Maine outside mails to Portsmouth. Early date for this postmark.

Rated 10c for distance over 60 thru 100 miles under Congressional Act of 1792.

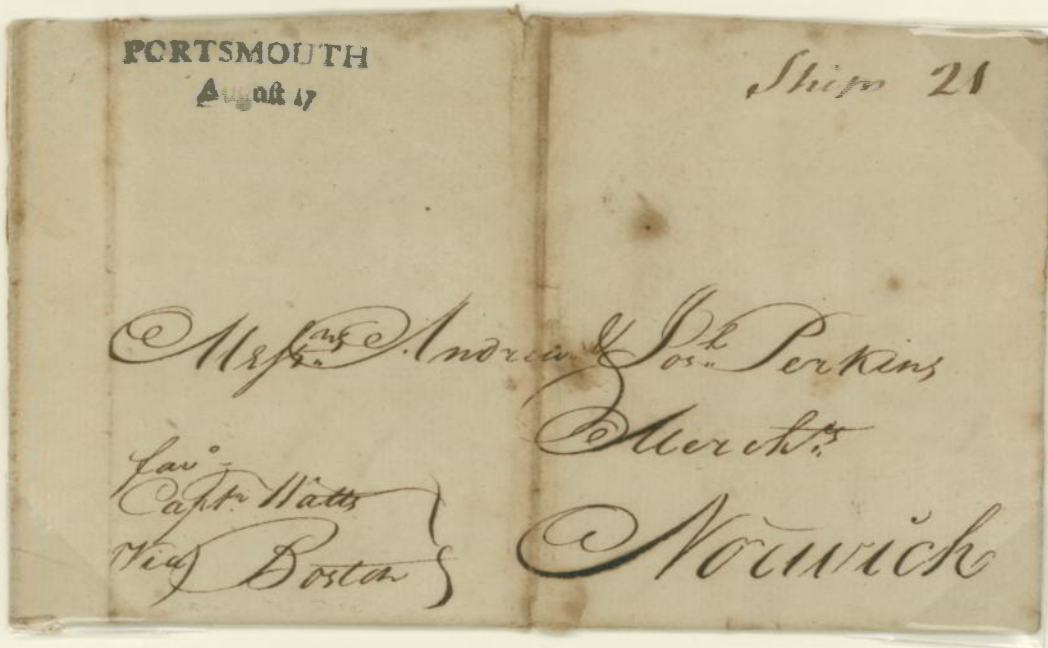


Ship letter from St. Petersburg, Russia dated 30th October 1796 and subsequently forwarded from London "6 Dec 96". Entered mails at Portsmouth April 1797.

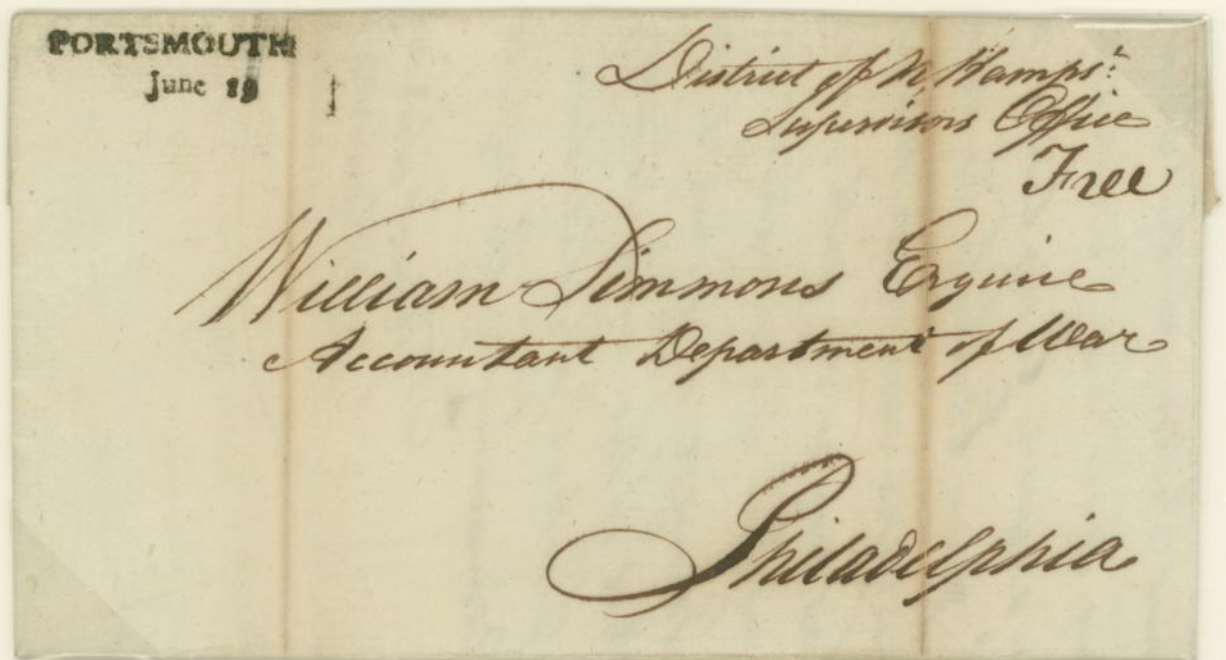
Rated 16c : 4c ship fee + 2 x 6c for double rate letter going a distance not over 30 miles.

II A. Portsmouth Straight Lines

Type known used only in 1796



Ship letter headed Demerara (Br. Guiana) July 22, 1796
"fav of Capt. Watts via Boston" but came into Portsmouth.
Docketed "rec'd Aug 23 1796"

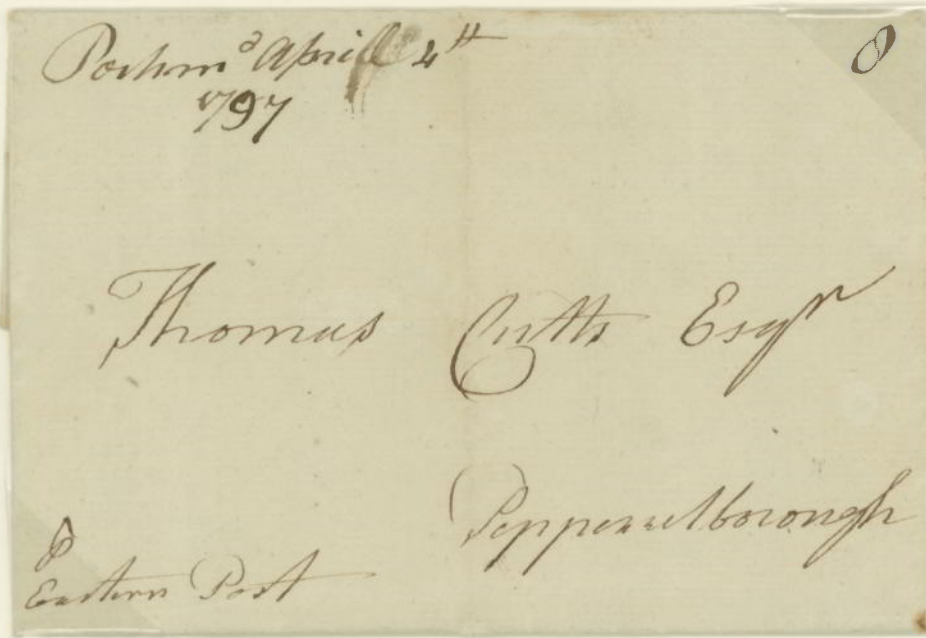


Early example of free frank use by "Accountant Dept. of War
who received privilege by Act of May 27, 1796.
Letter headed June 29, 1796 and docketed "Rec'd July "

Similar to 1789 postmark with year date

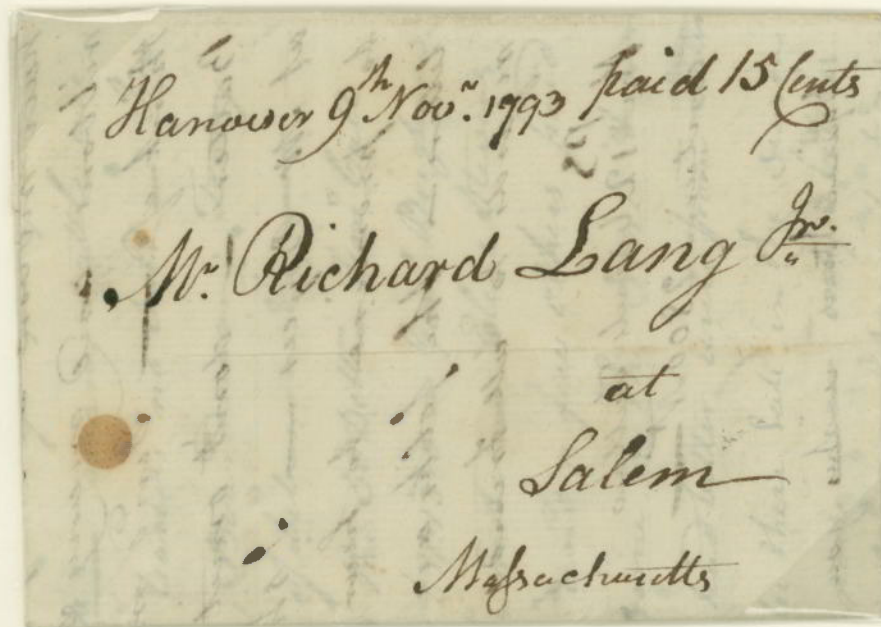
II A. Portsmo and Hanover Manuscripts

Both offices used handstamps early; Manuscripts unusual



Letter datelined "Portsmouth April 4, 1797" addressed to Pepperelborough (District of Maine). "P. Eastern Post".
8c postage due for distance of 30 to 60 miles.

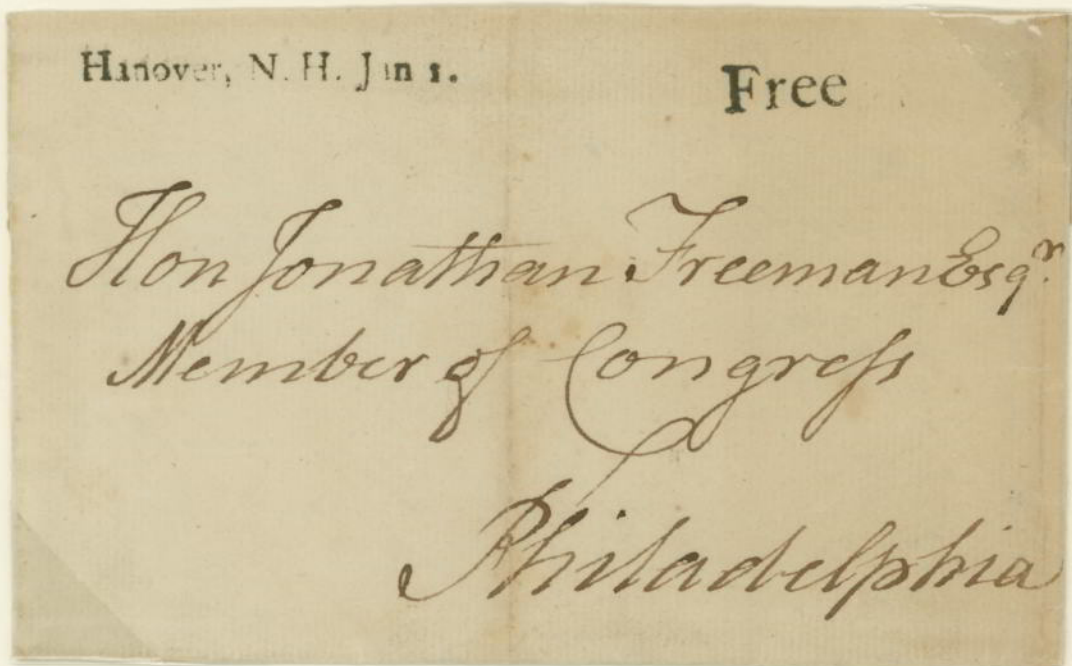
Eastern Post Road extended northeast along coast of Maine to Machias.



Hanover post office in Grafton County established June 12, 1792.
Letter postmarked "9th Nov r. 1793".
Postage "Paid 15 cents" for distance of 150 thru 200 miles.

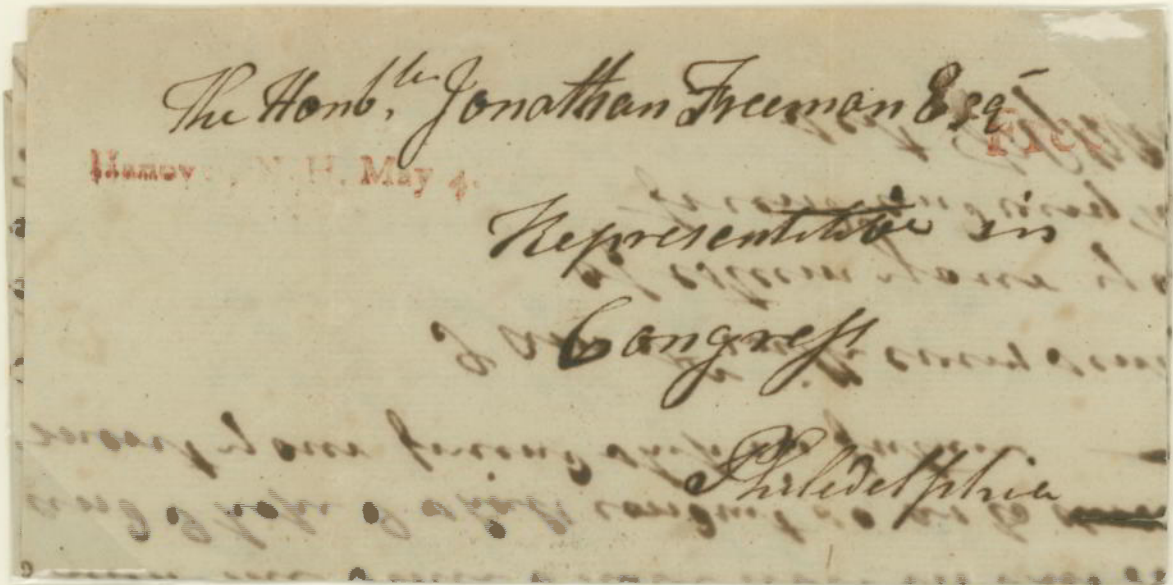
II A. Hanover Straight Lines

First Hanover handstamp - Used 1797-1800



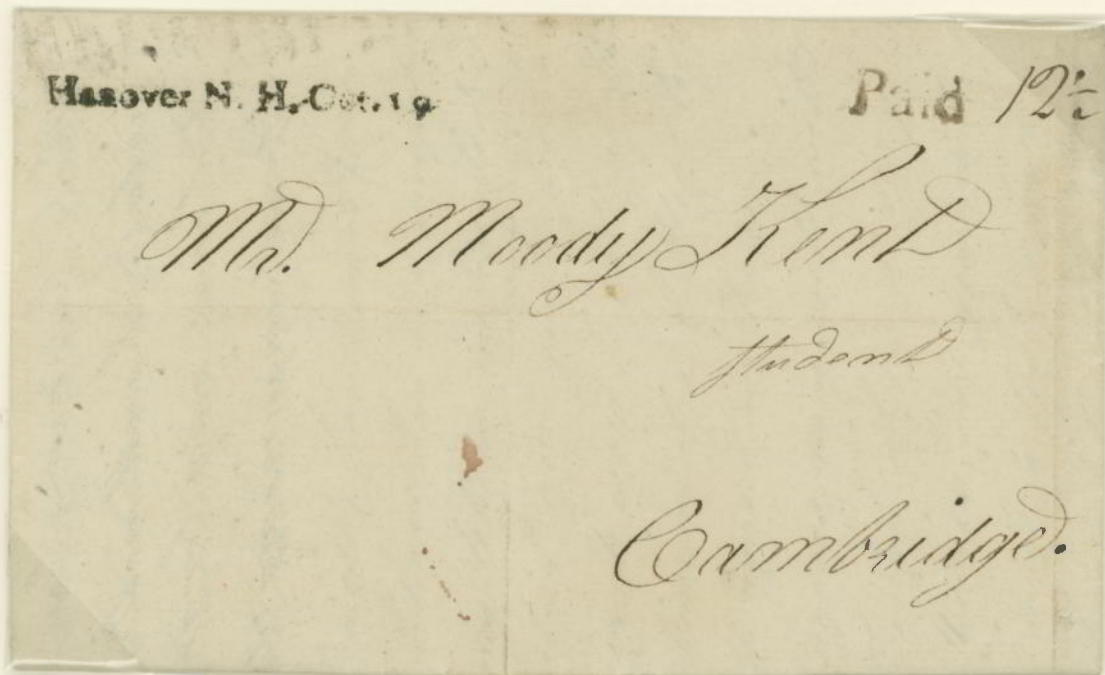
Example in black on free franked letter.
Post office established in Grafton Co. June 1792.

Hanover, N.H. May 4.



Free frank in red on May 1798 letter to Representative Freeman.

II A. Hanover



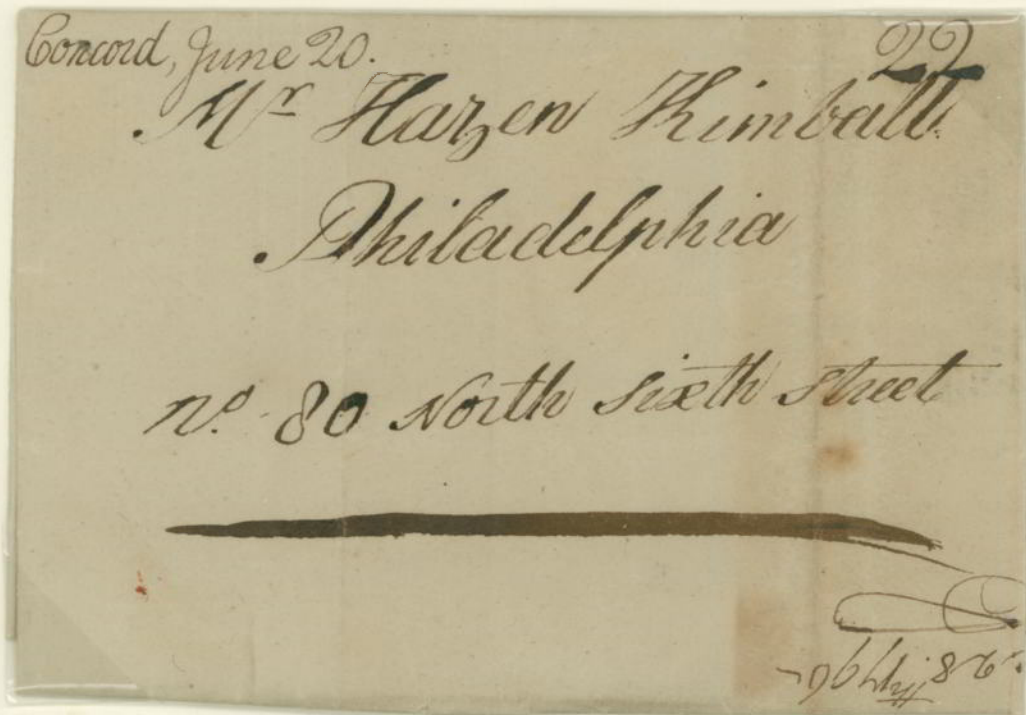
Paid letter dated 1799 to Cambridge (Mass.).
Postmark heavily struck and missing coma.
Rated 12 1/2c for distance over 100 thru 150 miles.



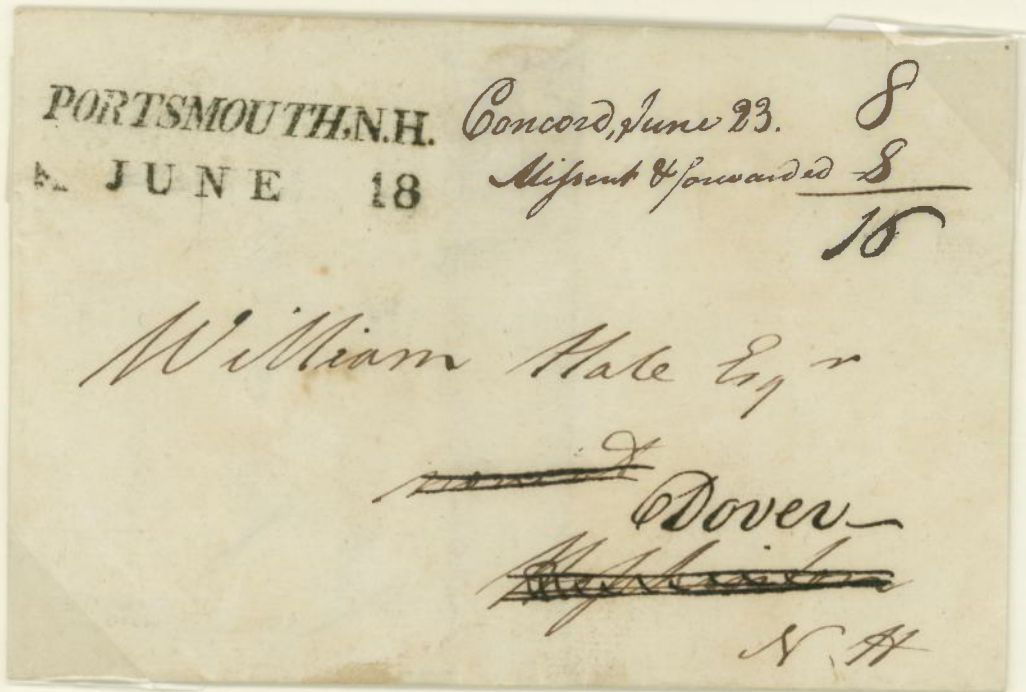
First oval townmark used only in 1803.
Straight line "Free" frank reflects extension of privilege
to postmasters in 1799.

Letter headed Oct. 15 to Moses Dow, Magistrate of Grafton Co.
begins: " I am very glad your trap has caught the fox" and goes on to
ask certain subpoenas be issued.

II A. Early Concord Manuscript Markings

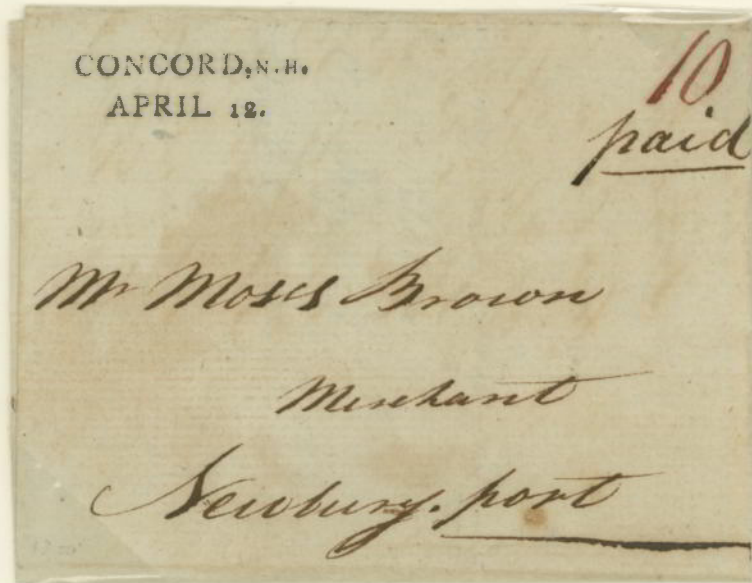


Unpaid letter to Philadelphia dated June 18, 1796.
Rated 22c for distance over 350 miles thru 450 miles.
Concord office in Rockingham County established 1791.



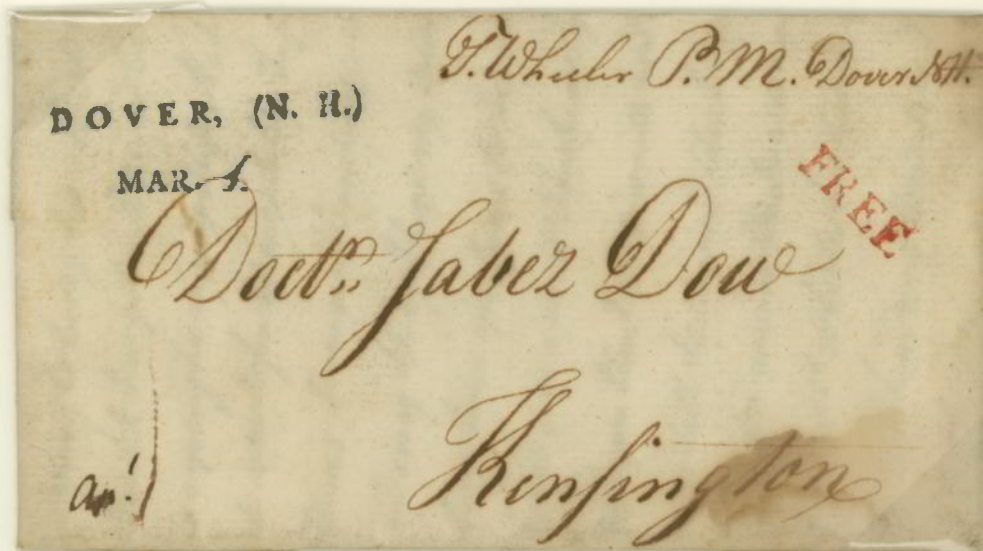
June 1798 Letter from Portsmouth addressed to Hopkinton N H
which had no postoffice until 1810 but was serviced by Concord.
Marked "Missent & Forwarded" and readdressed to Dover.
Originally rated 8c for a distance up to 60 miles.
8c added to forward for total due of 16c.

II A. Concord and Dover Straight Lines



Postmark known used only in 1800.
Paid letter headed "Henniker April 5th 1800" entered mails at Concord.
Rated 10c for distance from 40 to not over 90 miles.

Concord office established in 1792 in that part of Rockingham County that became Merrimack County in 1823.

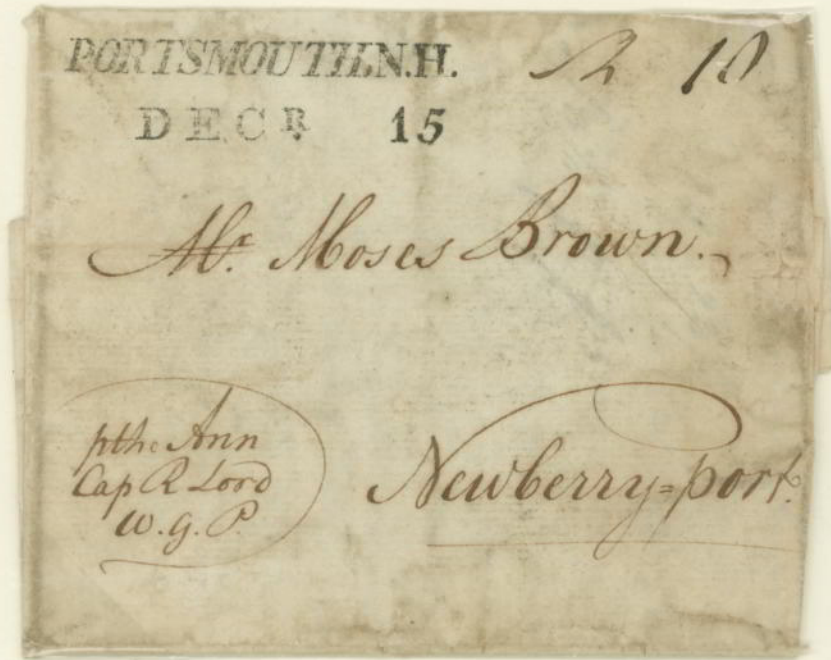


Free frank of John Wheeler who became Dover Postmaster in December 1801.
Undated letter by his wife to her family mentions that letters to Mr. Wheeler
may come free since he is now Postmaster.

Dover Post Office in Strafford Co. established in 1791.

II A. Portsmouth Straight Lines in Italics

Known used 1797-1812



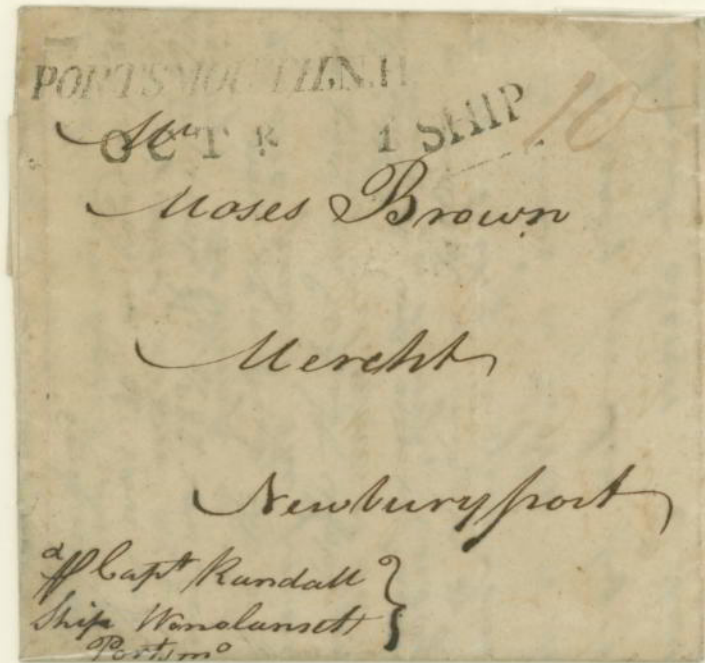
Ship letter headed "Rotterdam 17 October 1797" to Newburyport
 "Pth Ann Cap R. Lord W.G.P."(Whom God Protects)

Rated 10c due: 4c ship fee + 6c postage for single letter sheet going not over 30 miles.
 Should have been rated 16c, double inland postage, for enclosed second sheet of
 Rotterdam commodity prices.

PRICE CURRENT.
 Rotterdam *17 Oct. 1797*

Sugars pr. q^{r} .		Martinico.	
French St. Domingo.			
White sorts	\$ 27 32	\$ 26 1/2	31 1/2
Clayed	22 26 1/2	21 1/2	26 1/2
Brown	18 25	17	21 1/2
Surinam		\$ 18	22 1/2
Demerary		14	20
Esquebo		16 1/2	19 1/2
English		17 1/2	22 1/2
St. Thomas & St. Croix		22	27
Brasil powdered		19	22 1/2
— Muscovades			
with 11 pCt. ext. ded.			
Havana White			

II.A. Ship Letter from St. Petersburg Russia

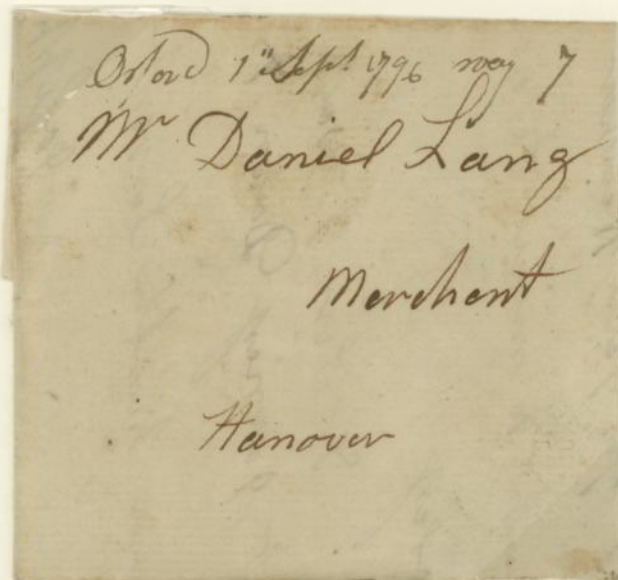


Letter dated July 18, 1800. Forwarded from Portsmouth "Oct ' R 1".
Rated 10c due; 2c ship fee + 8c postage to Newburyport.

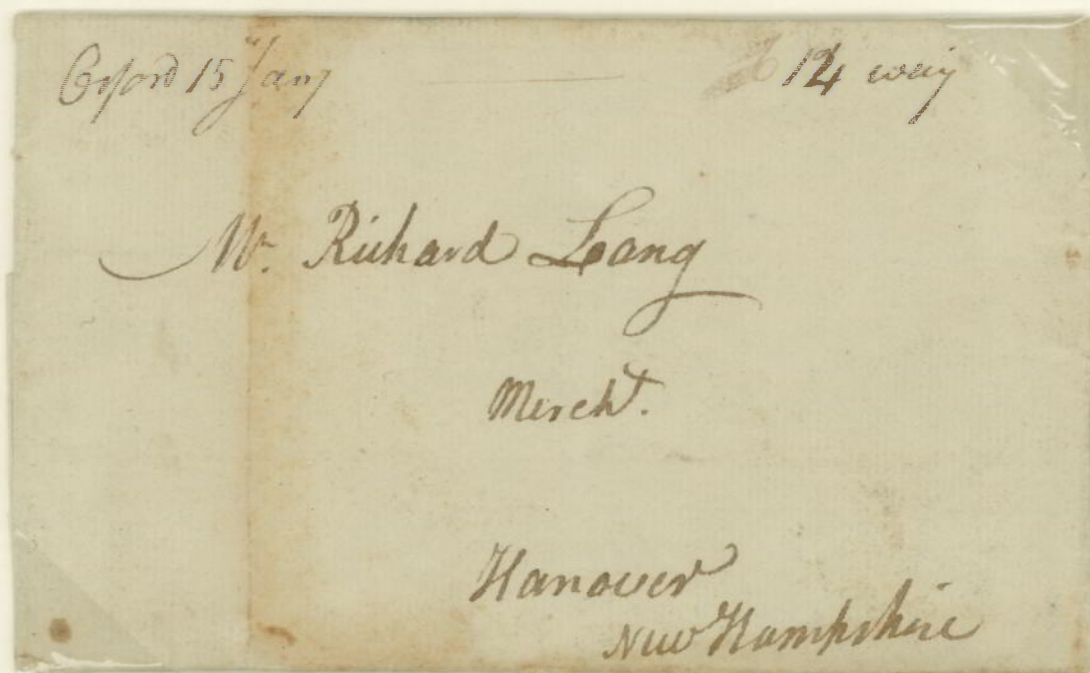
Writer, Wm. Picket describes sale of wood and purchases of various commodities for Mr Brown's account including iron, tallow and candles.
"I expect to be ready for sea by the 25th ins't if no disappointment occurs".

II B. Manuscripts of Early Post Offices 1796 - 1814

Orford Way Letters



Letter postmarked "Sept 1796"
Rated 7c: 6c postage due + 1c way fee.
Distance to Hanover less than 20 miles.
Orford office in Grafton Co. established in October 1794.



Double rated way letter postmarked 15 Jan' y (1798).
Correct postage for a double letter $2 \times 6c = 12c + 2c$ way fee = 14c

II B. Amherst to "Ohio Country"

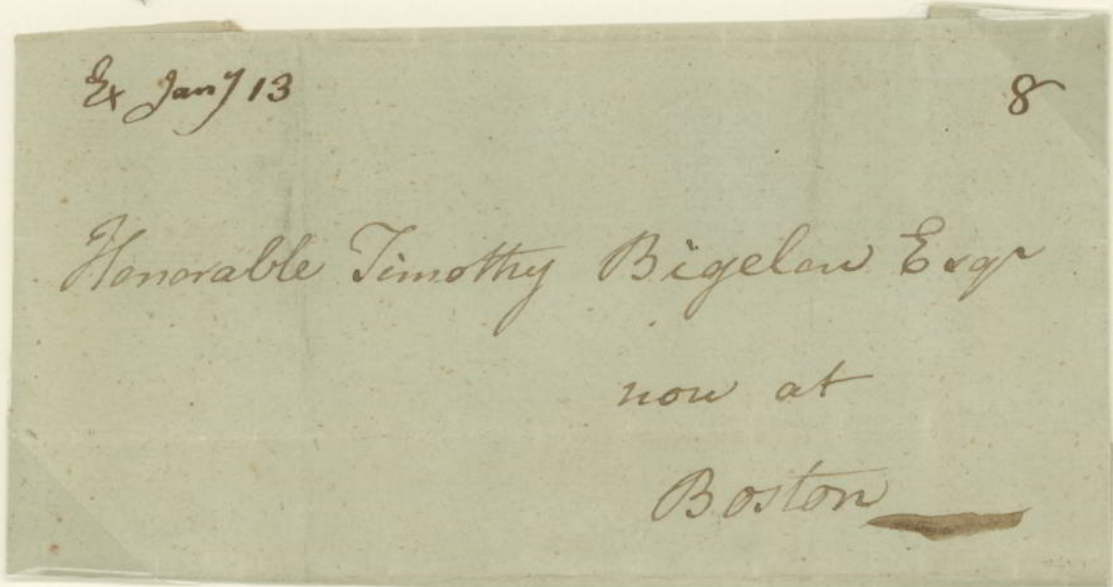


Unpaid 1799 letter with manuscript post markings from Amherst to Marrietta, (Northwest Territory).

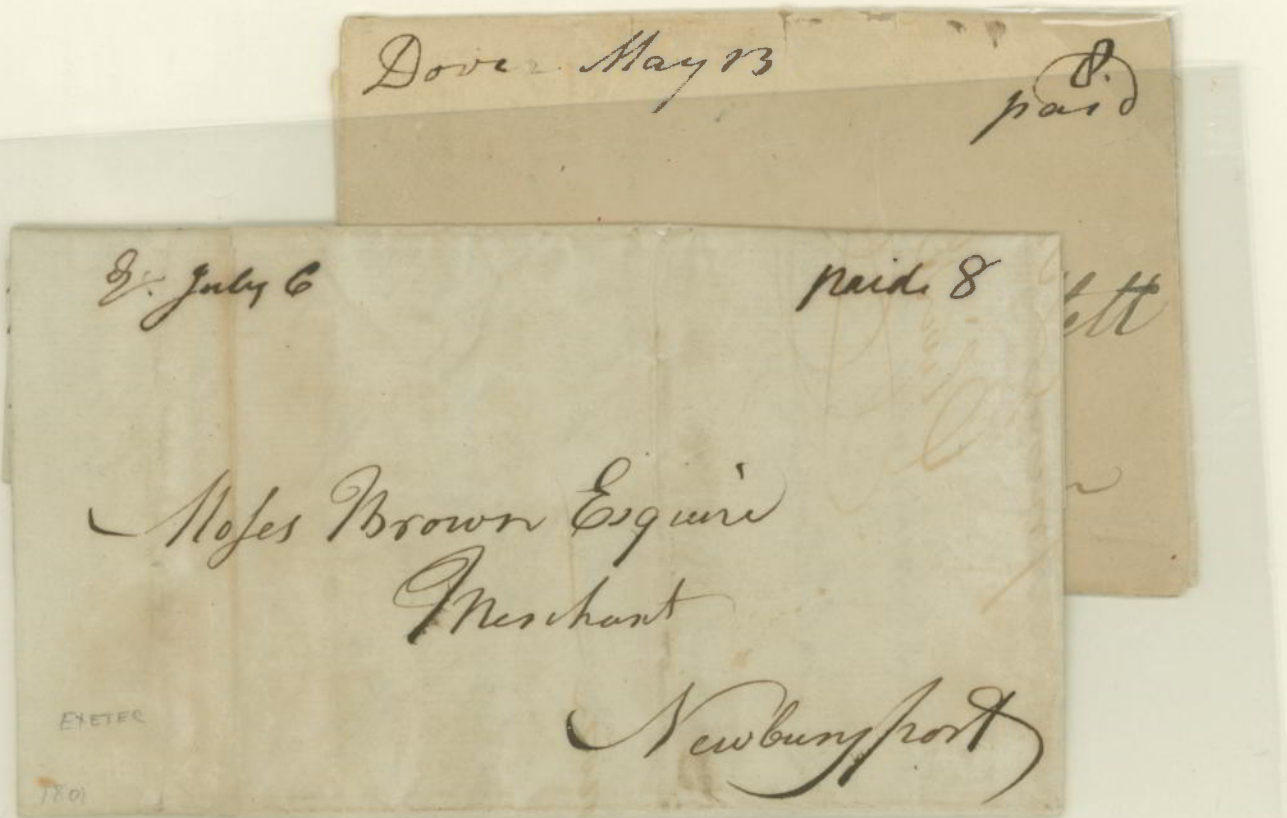
Amherst post office established 1792.

Rated 25c for distance over 500 miles under Act of March 2, 1799.

II B. Exeter and Dover



Exeter manuscript postal markings on 1798 unpaid letter
rated 8c for a distance not over 60 miles.
Exeter post office in Rockingham Co. established Oct. 12, 1792.

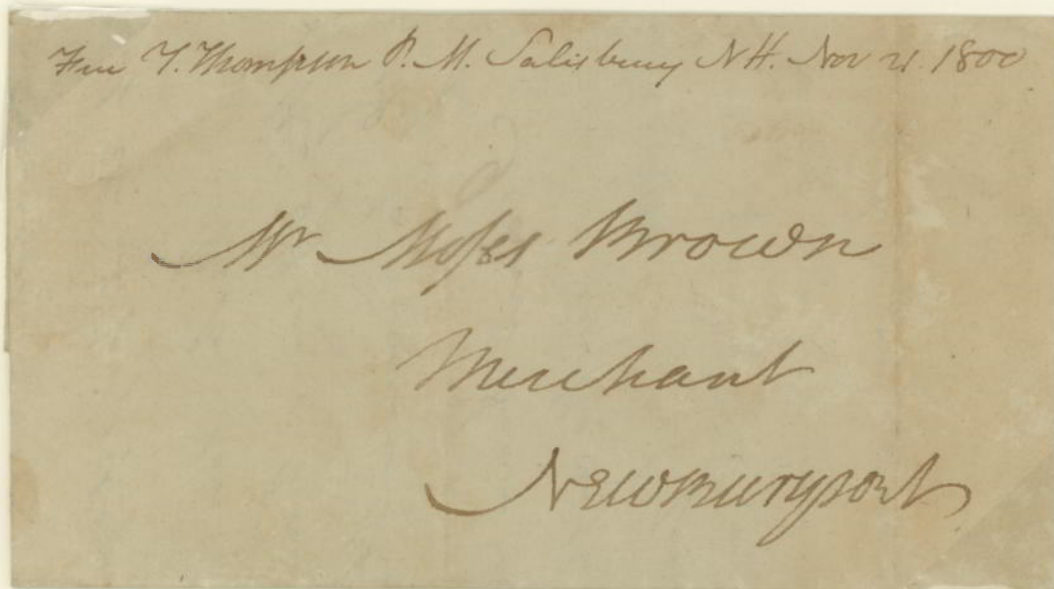


II.B. Postmaster "Free" Franks - 1800

By Act of March 1799 postmasters given free frank privilege.

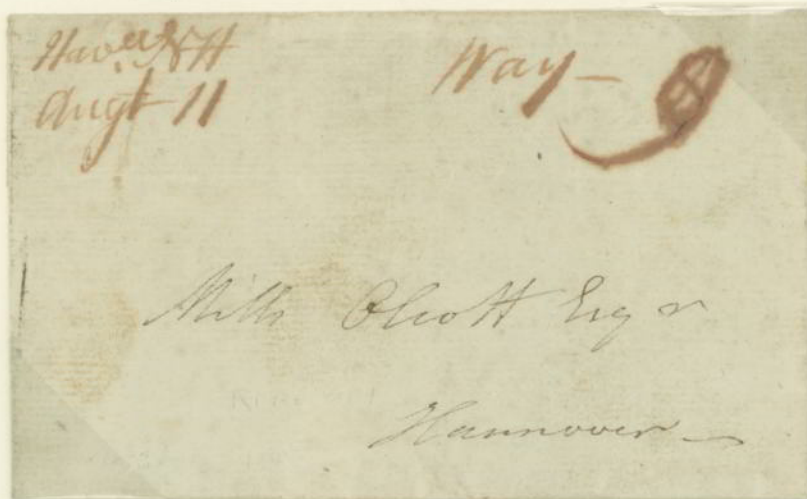


Letter of March 29, 1800 from Edmund Webster,
first Postmaster at Chester.
This Rockingham County post office established in 1794.



1800 Letter from Thomas Thompson, first Postmaster
at Salisbury in Hillsboro County.
Office established in 1798.

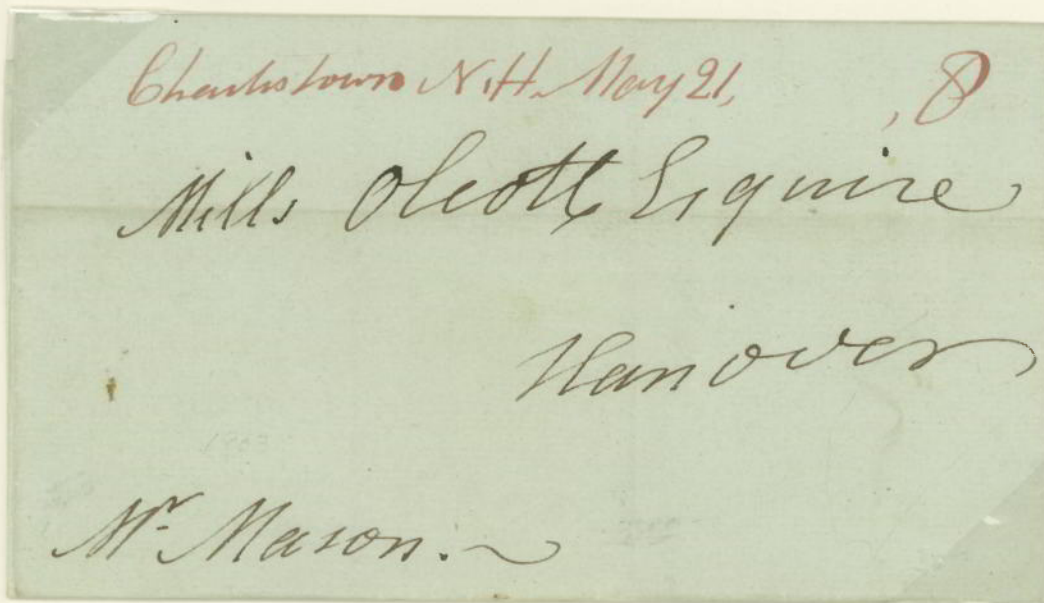
II B. Haverhill and Charlestown



1802 Haverhill way letter.

Post office in Grafton Co. was founded Nov. 25, 1794.

Unpaid letter originally rated 8c for the distance to Hanover then overwritten 9c to account for 1c way fee due.

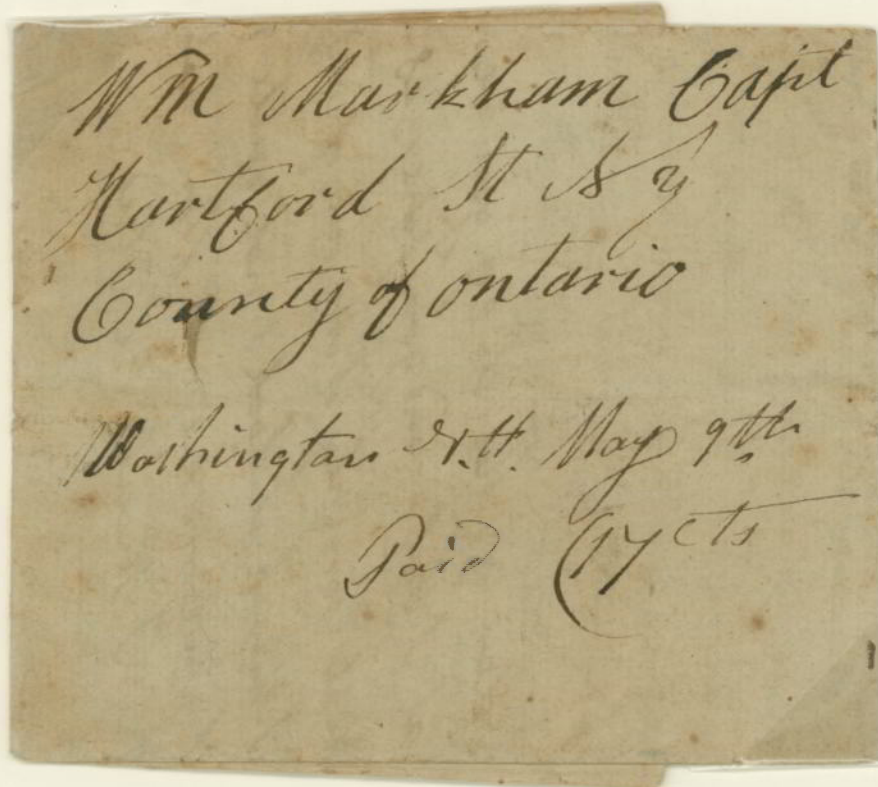


Unpaid letter of May 21, 1803. Early example of Charlestown manuscript postmark.

Post office established June 12, 1792 in that part of Cheshire County that became Sullivan County in 1827.

Rated 8c for distance not over 40 miles.

II B. Washington

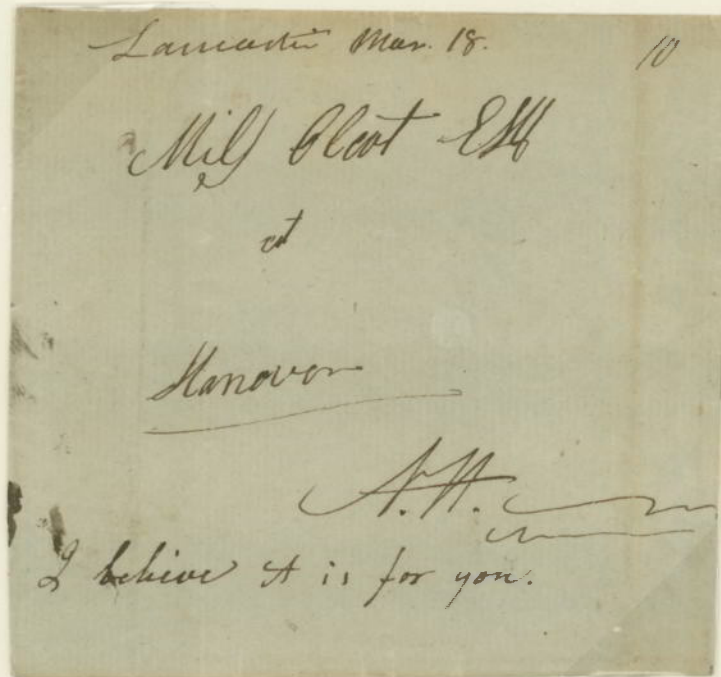


Wm Markham Capt
Hartford St N Y
County of ontario
Washington N.H. May 9th
Paid 17cts

Early Washington manuscript post marking on paid letter
of 1804 to "Hartford St NY".
Rated 17c for a distance not over 300 miles.

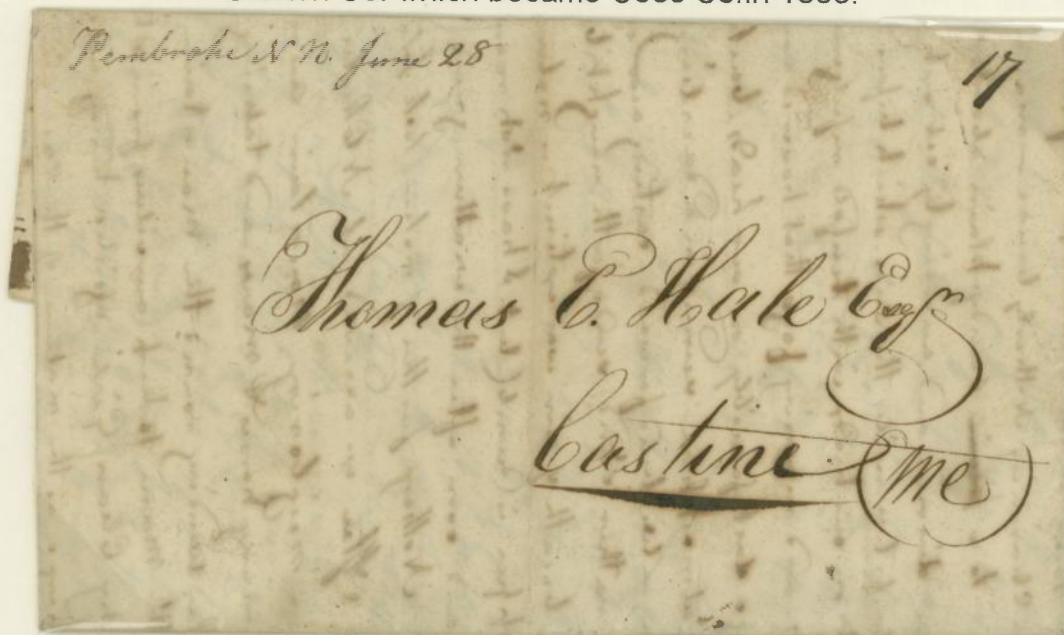
Post office founded 1802 and located in part of Cheshire Co.
which became Sullivan Co. in 1827.

II B. Lancaster and Pembroke



Lancaster manuscript post markings on 1808 letter rated 10c due for distance to Hanover.

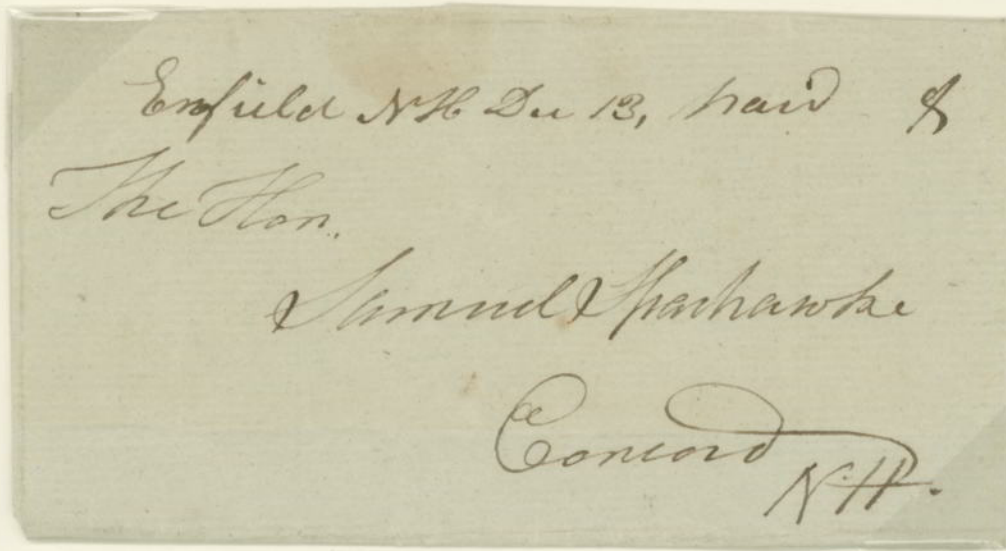
Lancaster post office established Sept. 3, 1802 in part of Grafton Co. which became Coos Co. in 1805.



Early Pembroke manuscript post markings on unpaid letter to Castine, Maine headed June 27th 1808. Rated 17c for distance over 150 thru 300 miles.

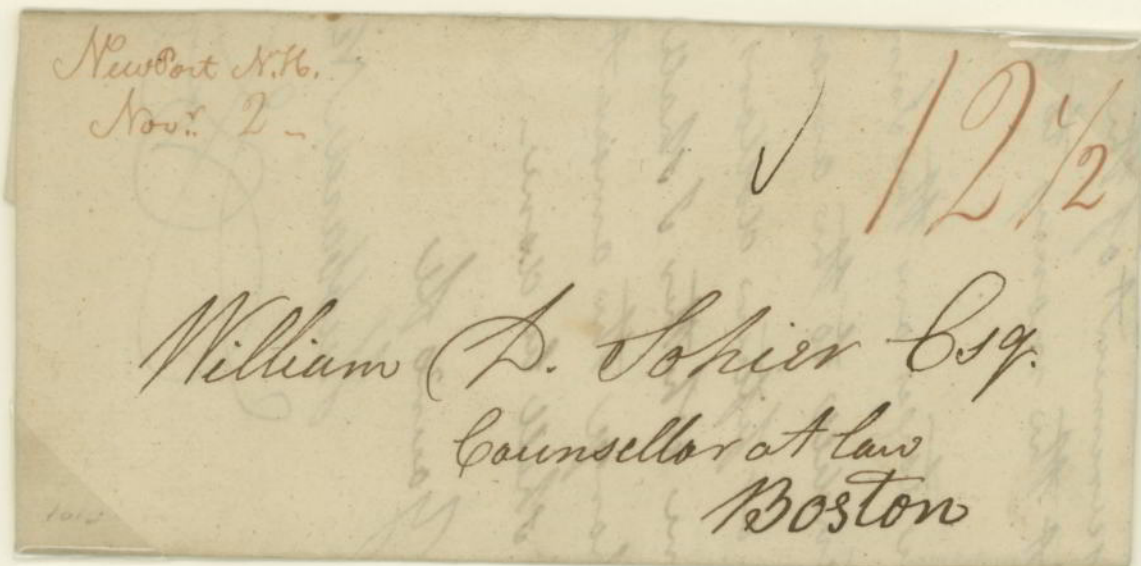
Pembroke post office was established July 1, 1805 in that part of Rockingham Co. which became Merrimack Co. in 1823.

II B. Enfield and Newport



Enfield paid letter dated December, 13 1813
Post office in Grafton Co. founded in 1806

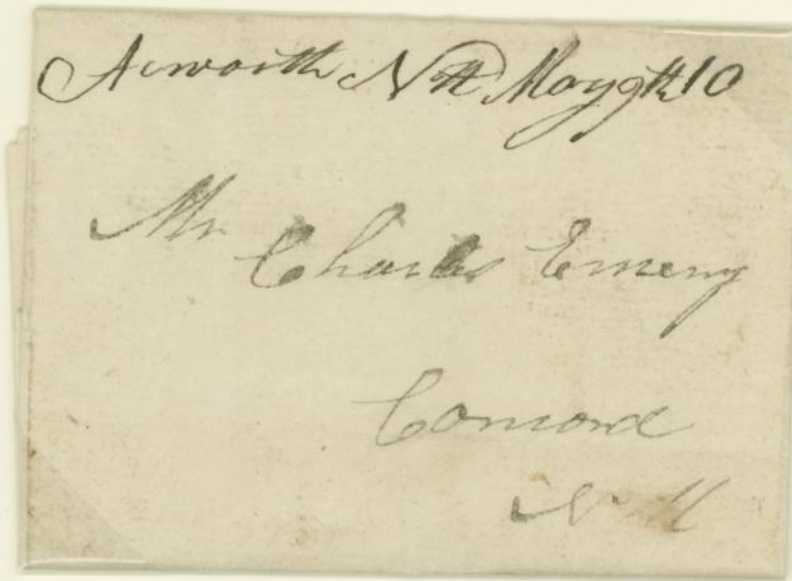
Rated 8c for distance not over 40 miles.



Early Newport manuscript postmark on 1813 letter posted Nov. 2nd.
Newport office established Oct. 1812
in that part of Cheshire Co. that later became Sullivan Co.

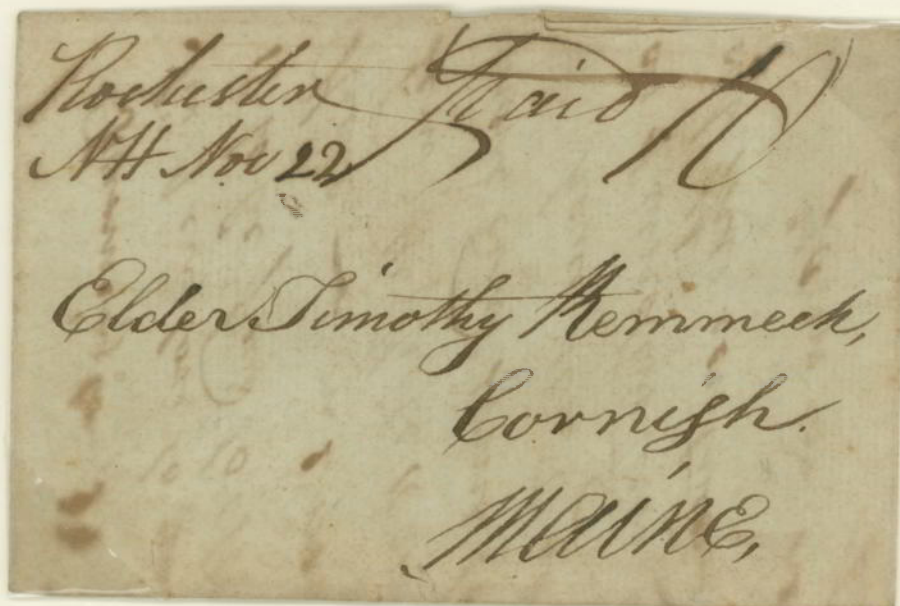
Rated 12 1/2c for distance over 90 miles.

II B. Acworth and Rochester



Letter headed "Lemster May 6th 1811" entered mails at nearby Acworth in what is now Sullivan County.

Acworth post office established March 1811.



Early Rochester manuscript post markings on paid 1814 letter. This post office in Strafford Co. established March 26, 1812.

Letters rated 10c for a distance of 40 to 90 miles.

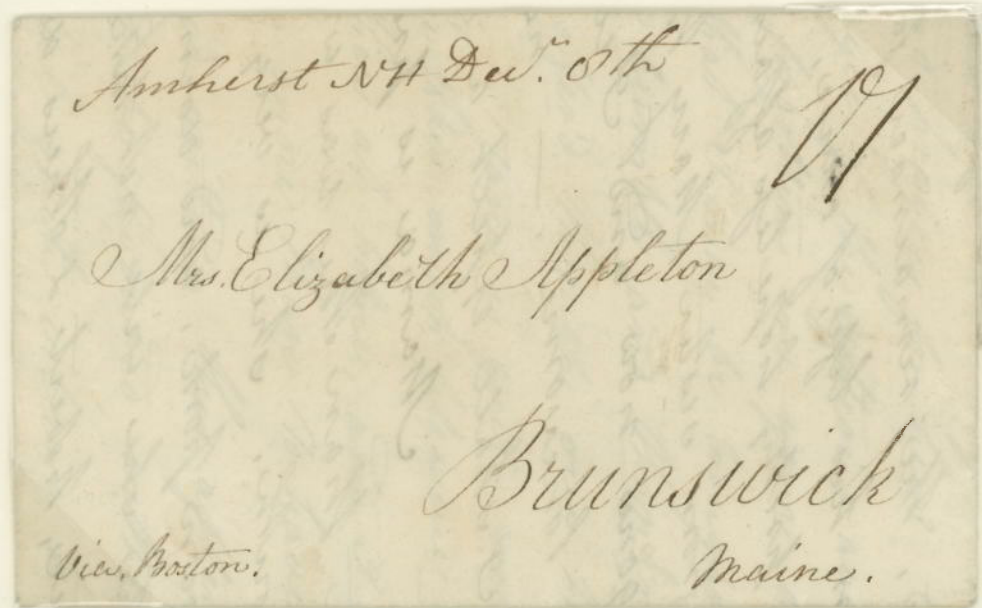
II B. Manuscripts - Dover and Amherst



Dover markings on 1812 paid letter to Hanover via Boston during winter month.

Dover postmarks were predominantly manuscript until the 1820's.

Rated 25c, double rate for over 90 thru 150 miles.



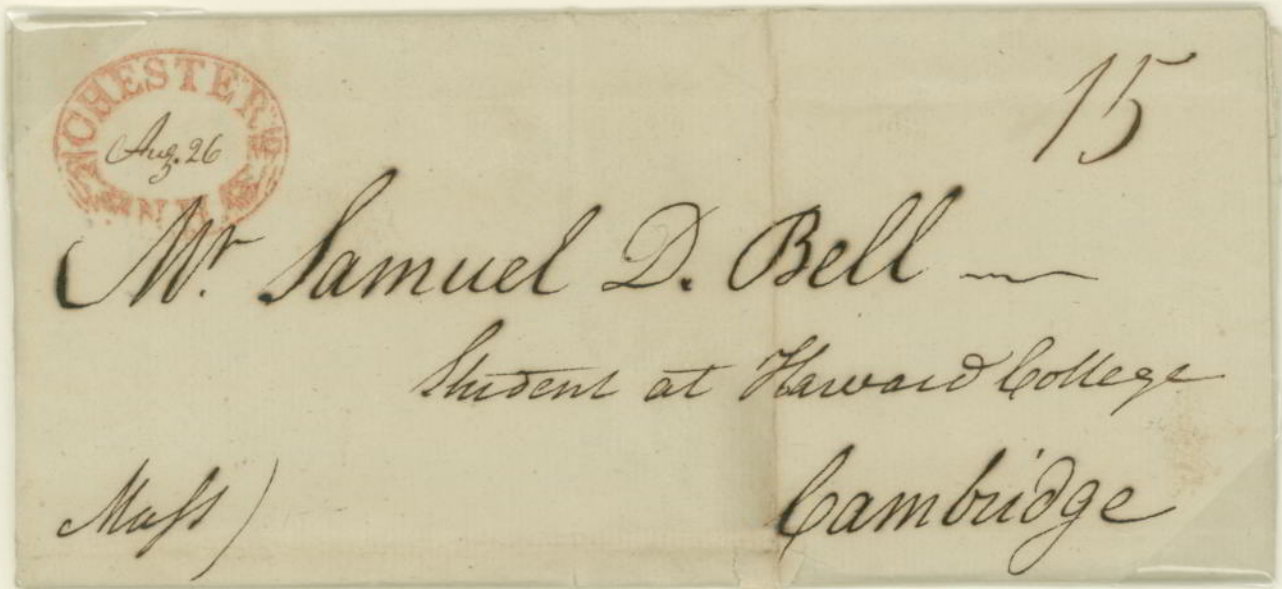
Amherst markings on 1813 unpaid letter to Brunswick, Maine via Boston in December.

Rated 17c for 150 thru 300 miles.

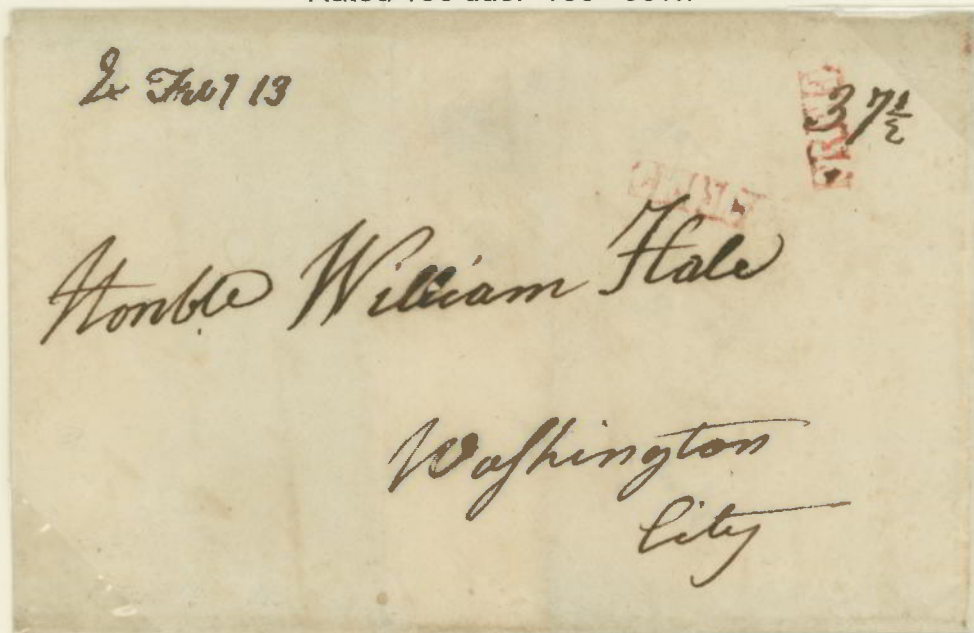
III. DIVERSITY IN TOWN MARKS 1815 - 1845

III A. Postmarks of War Rate & Restored Rate Period 1815 - 1816

War Rates - Feb 1, 1815 thru Mar 30, 1816
50% Surcharge under Acts of 1799 and 1810



Chester oval on 1815 war rate cover from this Rockingham Co. office.
Rated 15c due: 10c +50%.

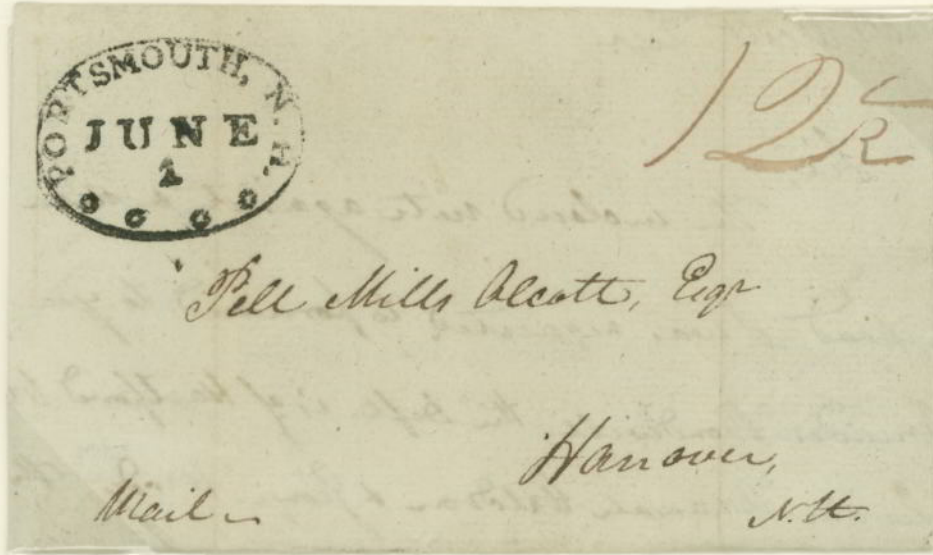


"Ex" (Exeter) manuscript on 1815 letter initially rated
37 1/2c : 25c + 50%
Corrected at destination with straight line "Free" marking
since letter is for delivery to sitting member of Congress.

II C. Portsmouth & Hanover Dotted Ovals 1813-1814

Portsmouth Dotted Ovals

Used 1812-1823 in black, green and red.

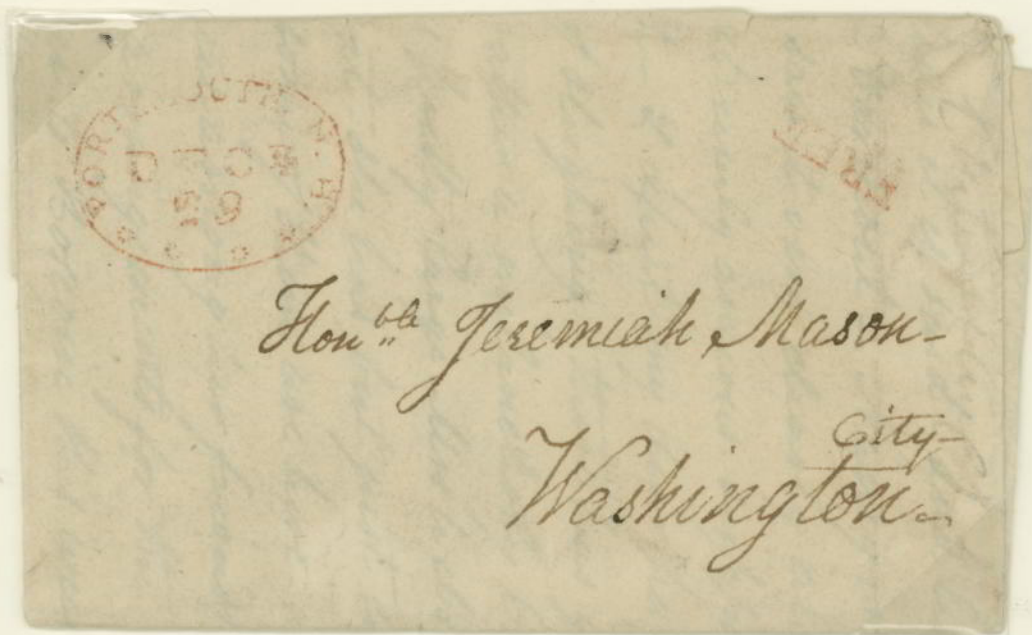


1813 unpaid letter rated at 12 1/2c to Hanover.



1 1/2oz unpaid packet posted 1813 and rated 48c;
4 X 8c letter rate for first ounce, 16c for the 1/2 oz.

II C. Portsmouth Ovals with Free Franks



1813 free franked letter to Senator Mason from wife Mary.

Letter describes great fire in Portsmouth and that the family of fellow NH Senator Daniel Webster is staying with the Masons, since their house had been destroyed.



1814 letter to William Hale member of Congress 1809-11, 1813-17.

II.C. Hanover Dotted Ovals



Early example of Hanover black dotted oval with all manuscript date on 1813 unpaid letter to Worcester, Mass. Marking recorded used as late as 1819.

Rated 12 1/2c for distance not over 150 miles.



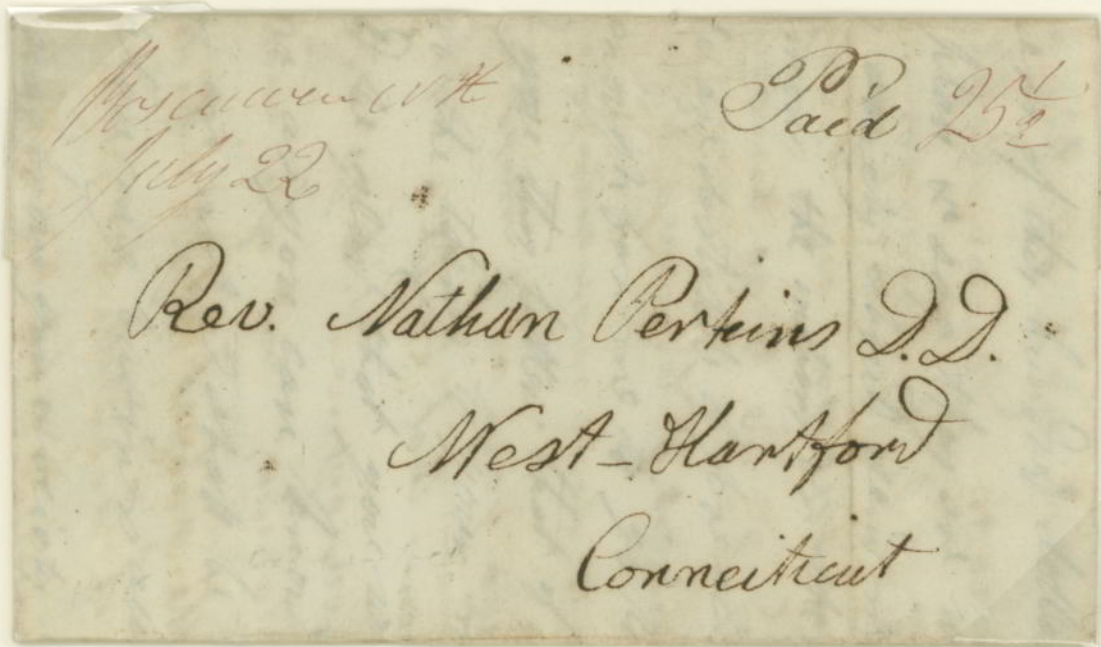
1814 letter with "FREE" frank to postmaster at Hopkinton (NH)

III A. War Rate Period

Walpole Way and Boscawen



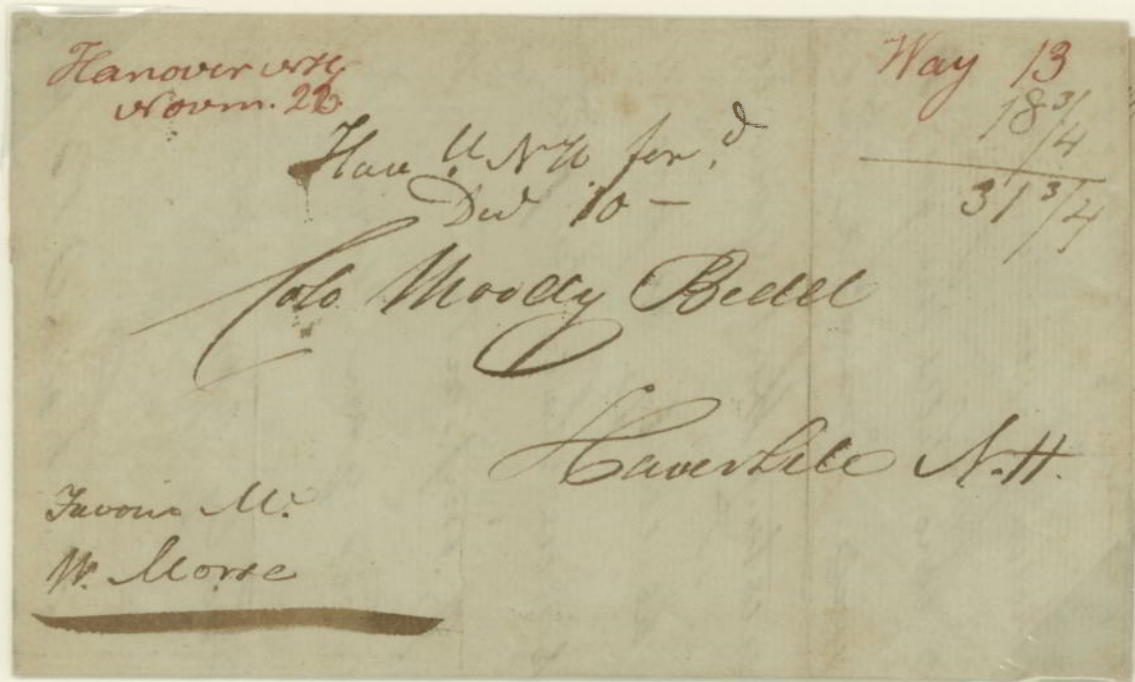
Manuscript Walpole, date and Way postmarkings on single unpaid way letter to Boston during the war rate period.
Rated 19 3/4c: 12 1/2c + 50% + 1c way fee



Boscawen manuscript on 1815 paid letter to West Hartford.
Boscawen office established 1805 in what is now Merrimack County.
Rated 25 1/2c: 17c + 50% war rate premium

III A. War Rate Period

Hanover Forwarded Way Letter



Letter headed Boston Nov 19, 1815 addressed to Colonel Moody Bedel at Haverhill NH. According to contents it was carried outside the mail by a Mr Morse who was on his way to Lebanon NH, not far from Haverhill.

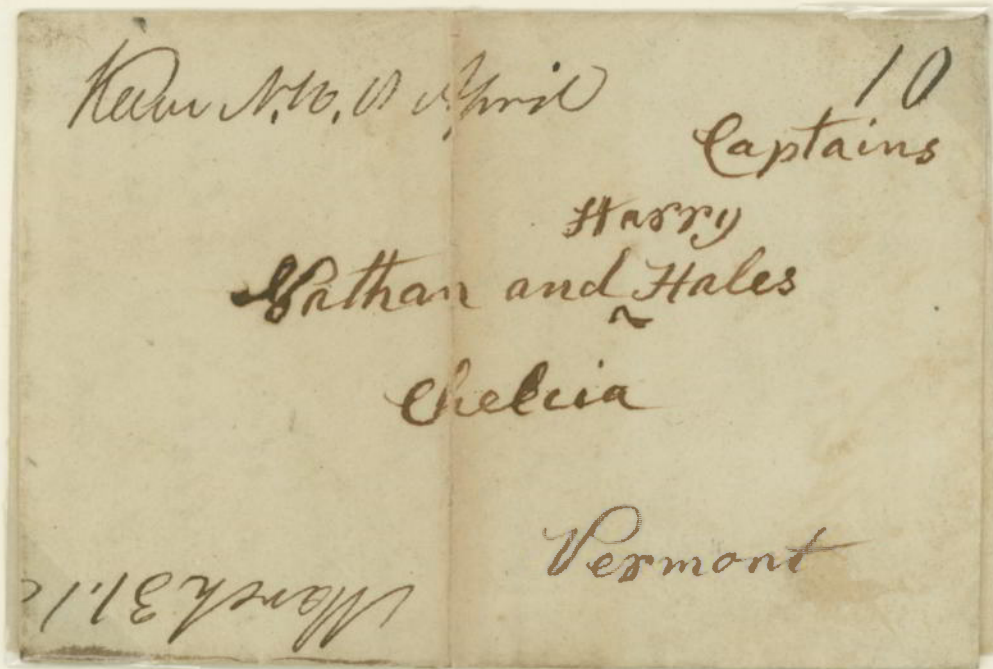
Entered the mail as an unpaid way letter at Hanover.

Rated 13c at Hanover: 8c + 50% war rate surcharge + 1c way fee.
Held at Haverhill until Dec 10, then forwarded with additional charge of 18 3/4c:
12 1/2c + 50% for distance between 90 and 150 miles.

No forwarding address.

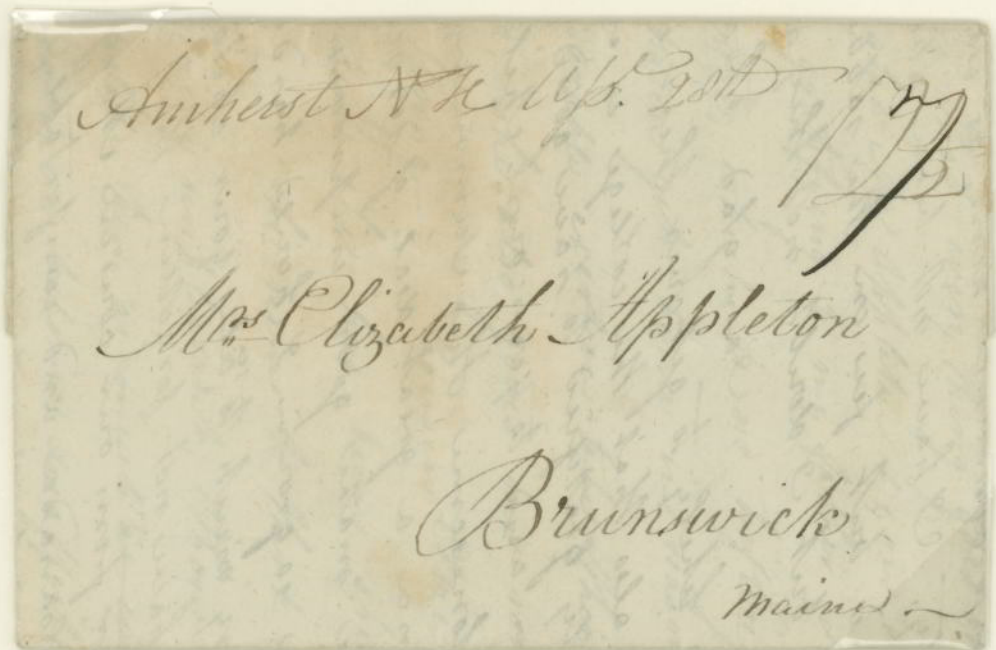
Possibly letter forwarded with others and a due bill, which would explain missing address. Forwarding rate correct for distance to Boston where writer was anxious to have Colonel Bedel appear at a court proceeding.

III A. Restored Rate Period - Mar 31 thru Apr 30, 1816



Keene manuscript on unpaid letter headed March 31, 1816.

Rated 10c for distance to Chelsea VT, under Acts of 1799 & 1810.

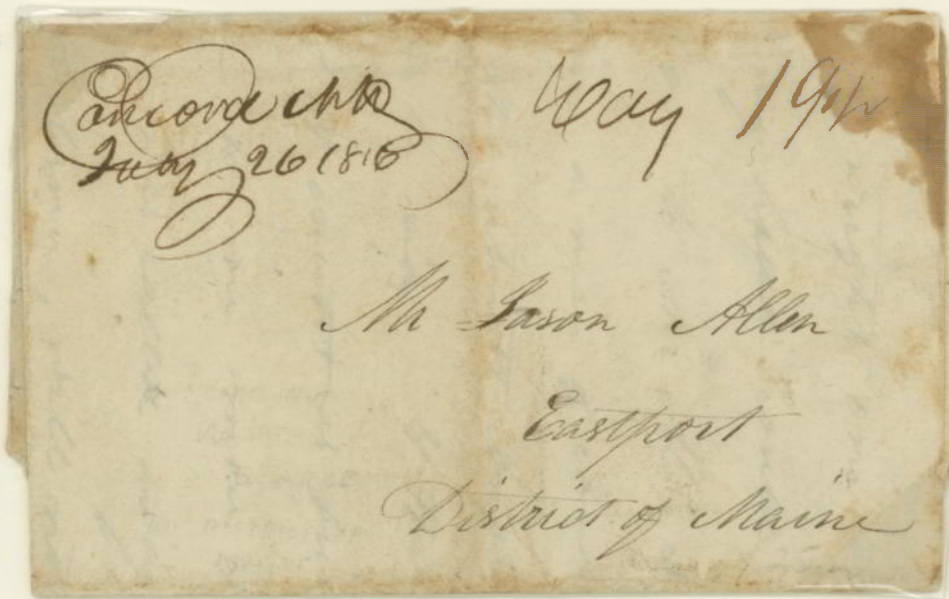


Amherst manuscript of April 28th on 1816 unpaid letter.

Rated 17c for 150 thru 300 miles.

III B. Manuscript, Early Circle & Straight Line Postmarks 1816-1822

New Rates May 1, 1816



"Concord NH" and "Way" manuscript markings on unpaid way letter Dated July 26, 1816.

Rated 19 1/2c; 18 1/2c + 1c way fee for distances over 150 thru 400 miles.

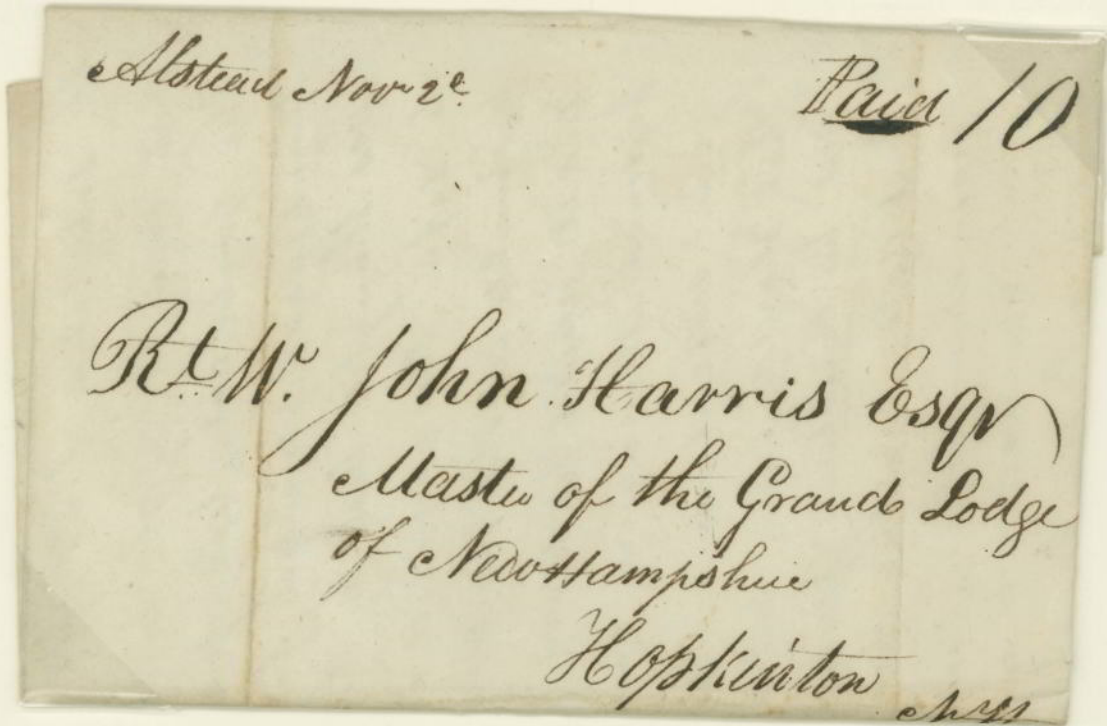


Letter dated Dec. 13, 1816 to George Trout Postmaster at Durham (NH) on matters of Post Office business.

Endorsed "Free"

III B. Alstead and Epsom Manuscripts

Rates under Act of April 1816.



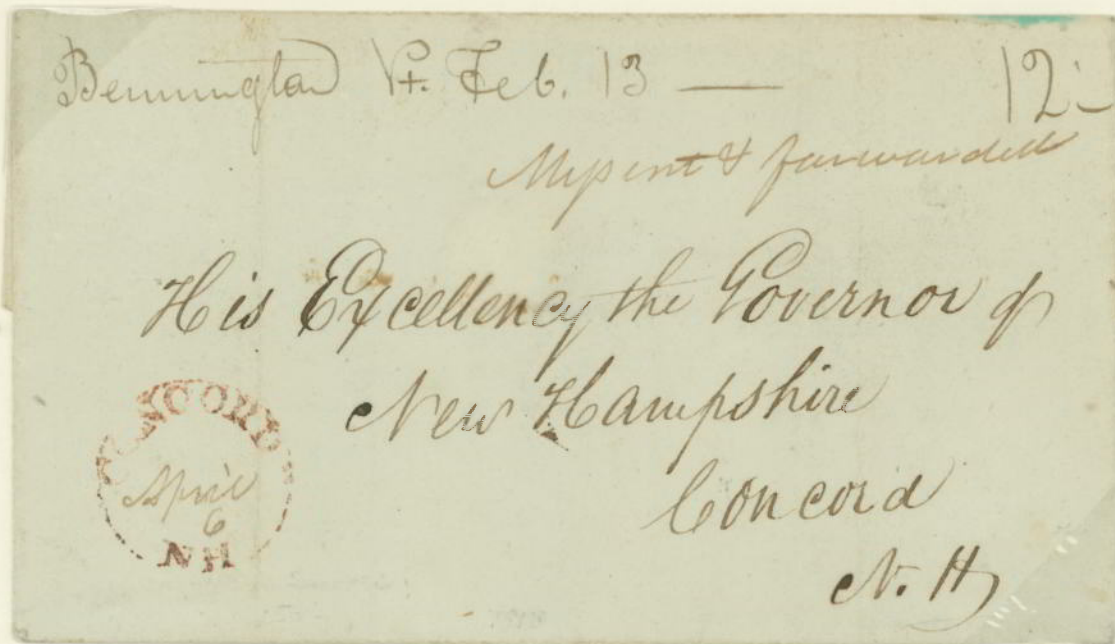
Letter dated Nov. 20 1818 to Hopkinton NH.
Rated 10c for distance from 30 to 80 miles.
Alstead post office in Cheshire Co. opened in April 1813.



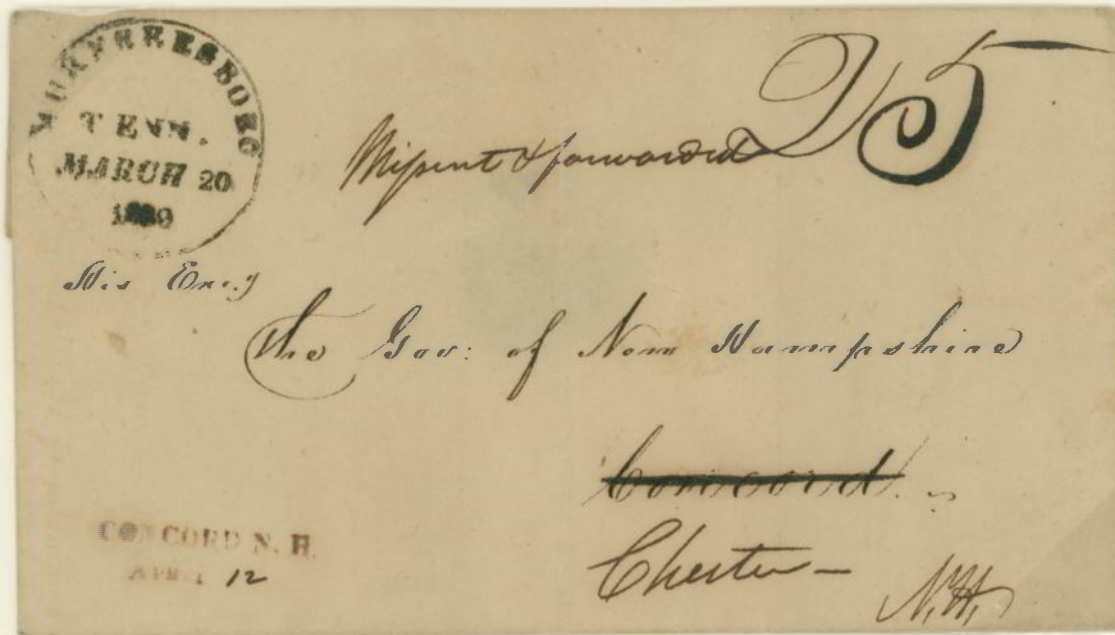
Epsom manuscript on March 1820 letter to Monmouth, Maine.
Rated 18 1/2c for a distance from 150 thru 400 miles.
Epsom post office in Rockingham Co. established in October 1800.

IIIB. Concord Dotted Circle & Straight Line

Used as Forwarding Marks



1818 letter from governor of Vermont to governor of New Hampshire. Postmarked "Feb 13" but held at Concord until April 6th. Marked "Missent & forwarded" with following note on reverse: "These letters were put up with other letters and forgotten. The Postmaster at Concord regrets that they should have been detained in his office".



1819 letter from Murfreesboro Tennessee to Governor of New Hampshire. Rated 25c due for original distance over 400 miles. Marked "Missent & forwarded" with no added postage.

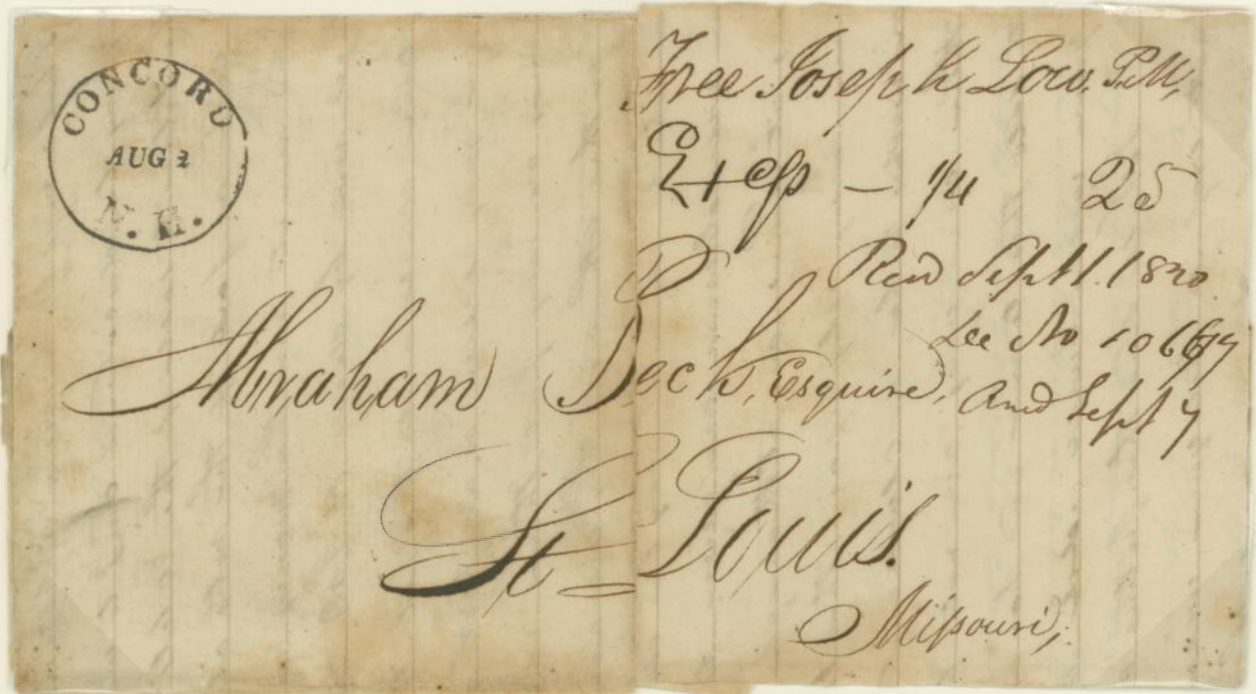
III B. Early Concord Solid Circle Handstamps



Previously unreported in blue or black.

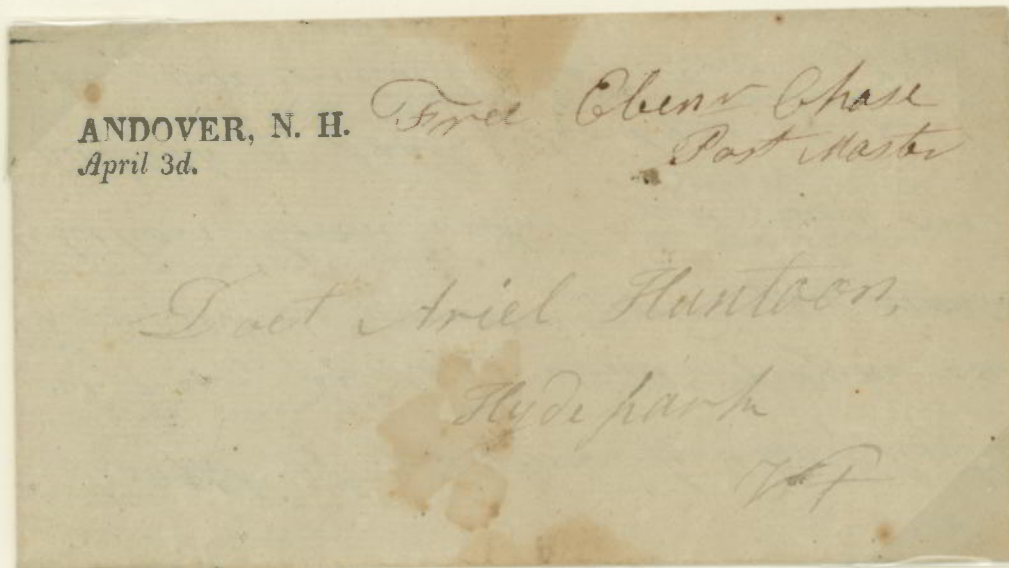
"Free" frank on 1820 letter to postmaster at Kingston.

Blue marking on 1824 letter rated 10c due for distance from 30 thru 80 miles.



Black handstamp on 1820 free franked letter to St. Louis. Rated 25c due for 1/4 oz. excess as postmaster free frank privilege extended to only the first 1/2 oz.

IIIB. Andover Straight Line with Postmaster Free Frank



Undated letter to Vermont. Apparently sent from Andover April 3, 1817.
Postmaster Ebenezer Chase only served from
July 1, 1816 to October 1, 1817.

Postmark previously unreported.
Andover post office in Hillsboro Co. established 1810.

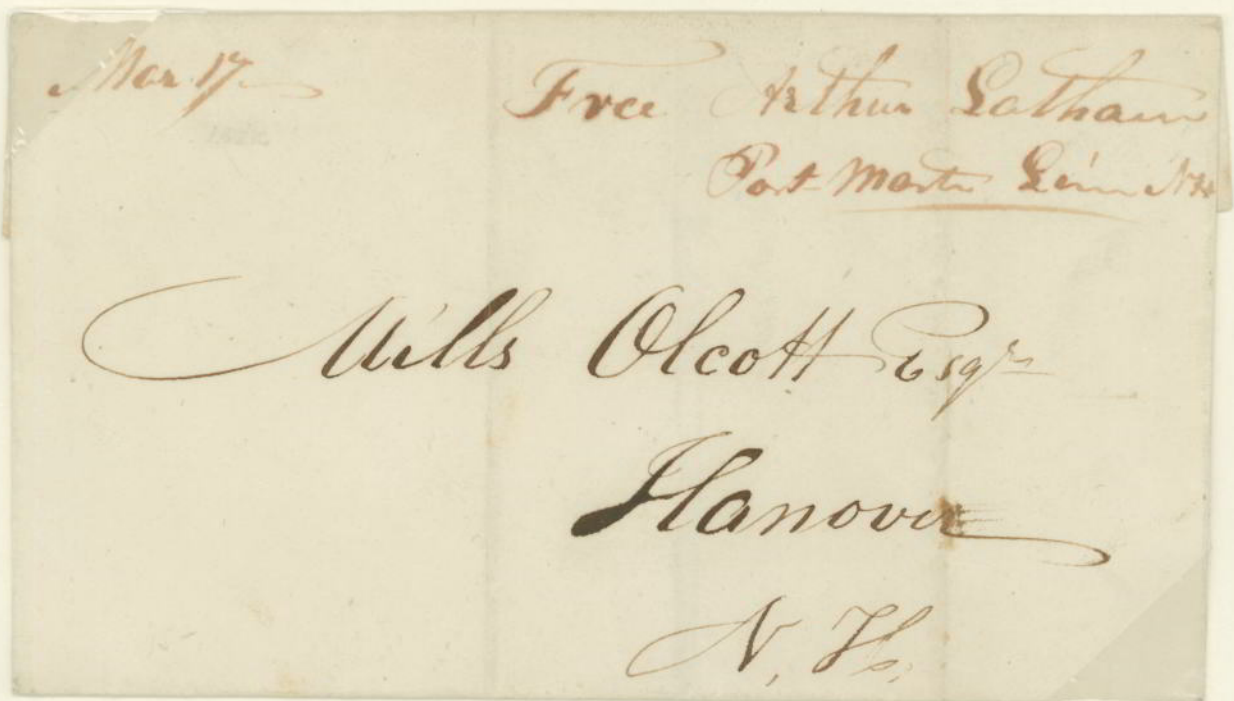
III B. Manuscripts - Small Offices

Lime / Lyme



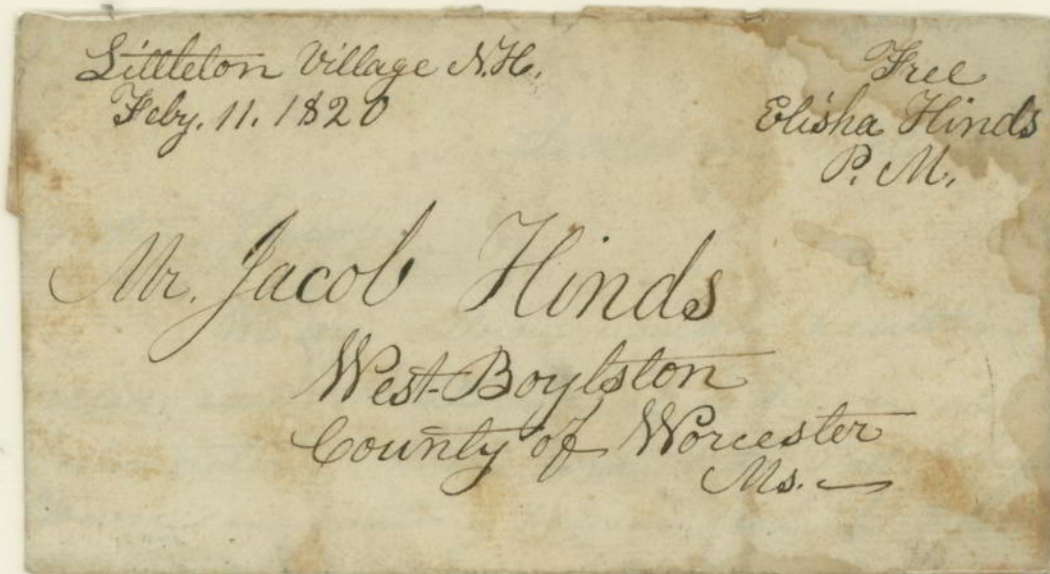
Old "Lime" manuscript postal markings on 1818 paid letter.
Lime post office in Grafton Co. established 1812
and name changed officially to Lyme in 1814.

Rated 6c for distance of 14 miles to Hanover



Free frank of Arthur Latham, first postmaster at Lyme, on letter
of March 17th 1822. Note continued use of old spelling.

III B. Small Offices - Littleton Village and Dublin



Littleton Village postmaster Elisha Hind's free frank on letter of "Feb. 11, 1820", three days after establishment of office in Grafton County. Letter conveys news of his appointment as postmaster to his brother. Littleton Village office name changed to Glynnville in 1825, predecessor to present day Littleton post office.



Dublin manuscript markings on 1821 unpaid letter addressed to South Bridgewater Mass.

Rated 12 1/2c for the distance and apparently paid. Letter forwarded to Boston with S. Bridgewater handstamp and 6c due.

Dublin post office in Cheshire County established 1817.

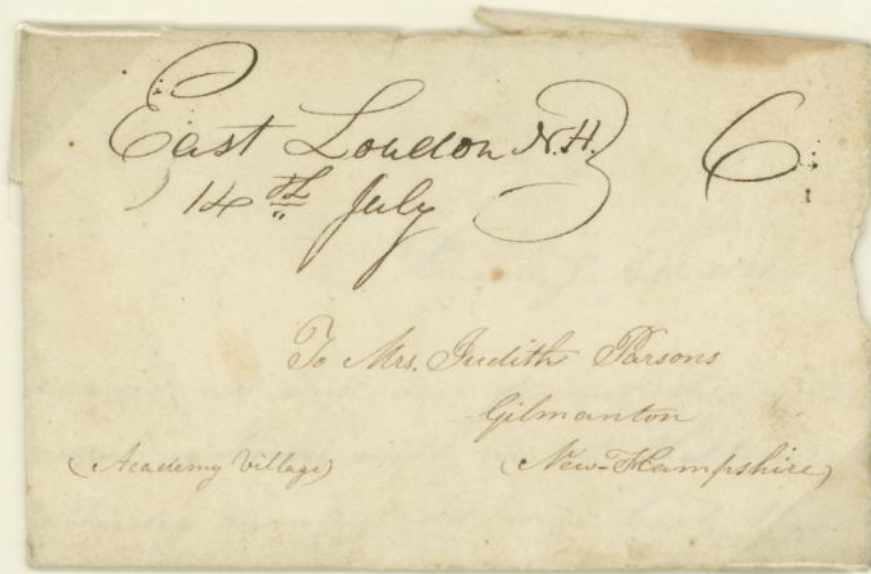
III B. Small Discontinued Offices - Loudon and East Loudon



Loudon manuscript on paid letter dated 1822.
Previously unreported

First Loudon post office, Rockingham Co.,
established 1811; became East Loudon in 1828.

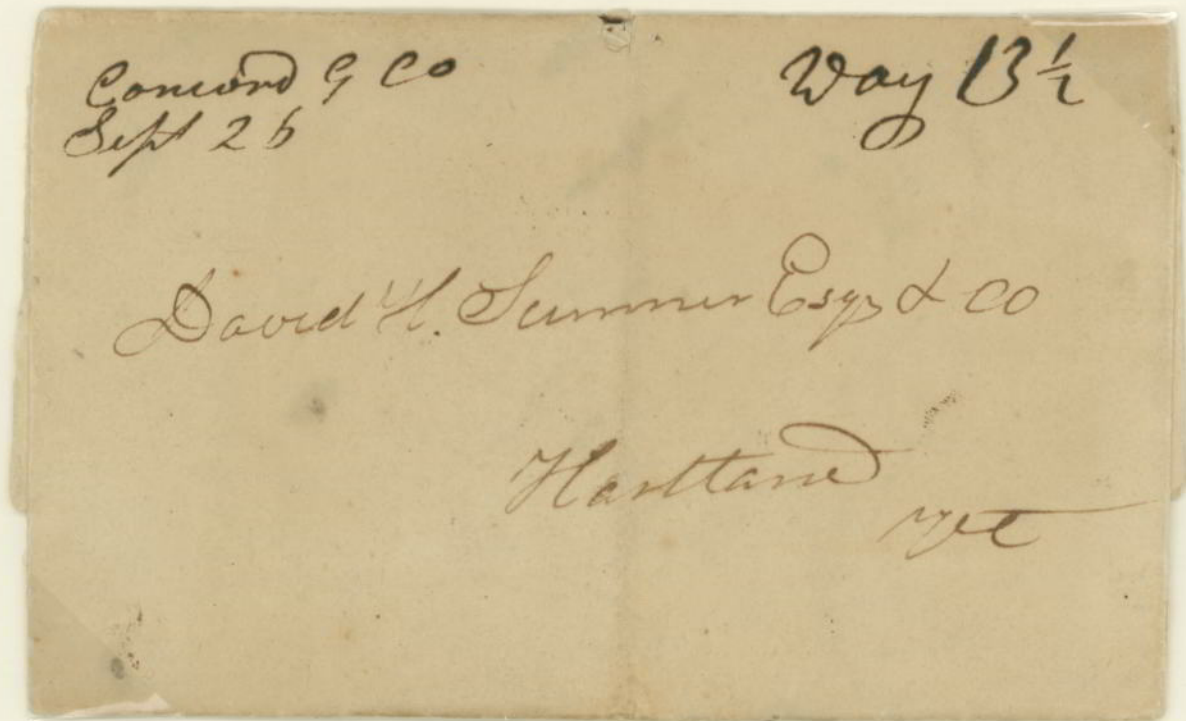
Rated 10c to Chester



East Loudon manuscript on 1828 letter.
Office established June 24, discontinued August 15, 1828.
Previously unrecorded.

Rated 6c to Gilmanston for not over 30 miles

III.B. Manuscripts - The Other Concord NH



" Concord G. Co " manuscript marking on 1822 unpaid way letter.
Two recorded.

Concord post office in Grafton Co. established 1819.
Name changed to Lisbon July 20, 1824 avoiding confusion with Concord,
the state capitol, in what is now Merrimack Co.

Rated 13 1/2c: 1c way fee + 12 1/2c for not over 150 miles.

III C. Golden Age For Variety and Color in NH Postmarks 1822-1845

Postmasters often used distinctive handstamps



Fancy stencil-like Francestown circular townmark on 1824 unpaid letter. Opinion leans to this being a handstamp rather than true stencil marking.

Recorded used only in 1824.

Rated 25c = double rate for not over 150 miles.

Francestown, Hillsboro County, founded 1772 and post office opened 1801.
Town named in honor of Frances Deering, wife of Royal Governor John Wentworth,
whom he married in 1769 10 days after her first husband's death.
Tribute completed in 1774 with founding of nearby Deering.

III C. Exeter Plain Box - Used 1823-1824



1824 "PAID" letter to Portland, Maine.

Rated 10c for over 30 thru 80 miles.



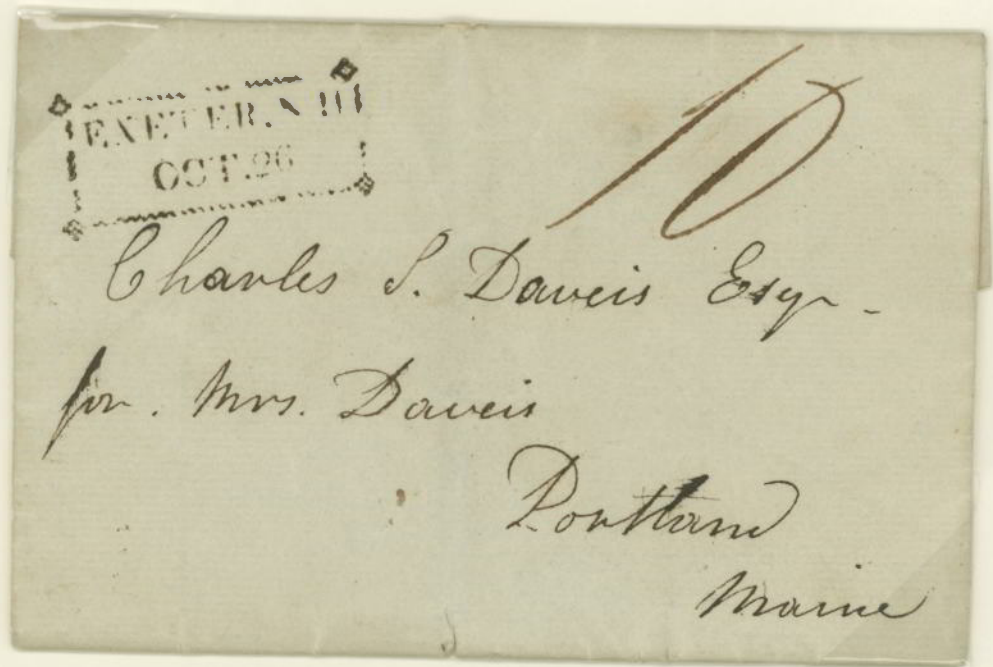
Unpaid 1824 letter

Rated 12 1/2c for more than 80 miles thru 150 miles.

III C. Exeter Wavy Lined Box Postmark- Used 1824-1828

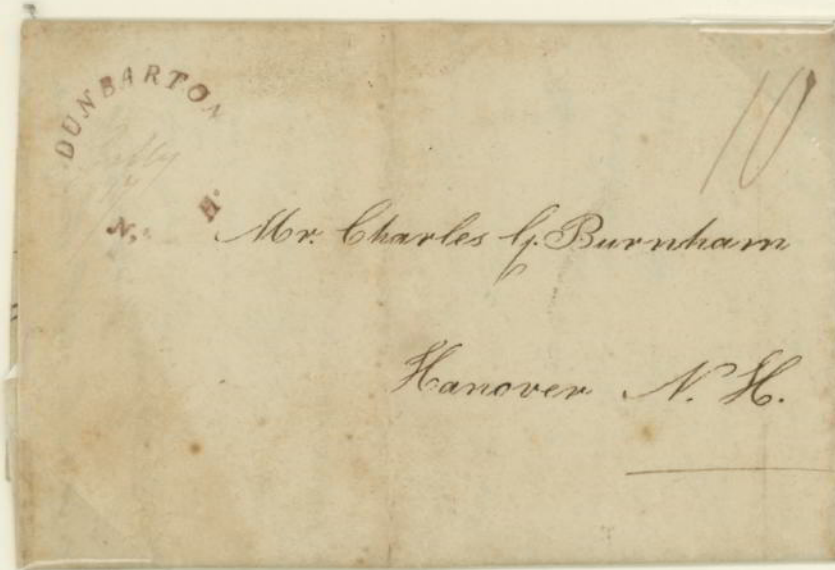


Red handstamp on unpaid 1826 letter.
Rated 12 1/2c for distance over 80 miles thru 150 miles.



Magenta handstamp on unpaid 1826 letter.
Rated 10c for distance not over 80 miles to Portland.

III C. Early Circle Postmarks



Dunbarton circle handstamp with no outer ring and manuscript date on 1826 unpaid letter.

Dunbarton office established 1817 in part of Hillsboro County that later became Merrimack County. Discontinued 1902.



Magenta Exeter markings on 1828 paid letter to Peterborough.

Early use of circular handstamp at Exeter.

Both letters rated 10c for distance not over 80 miles.

III C. "DUBLIN. N.H." Straight Line



1827 unpaid letter to South Bridgewater Massachusetts.

Previously unrecorded handstamp

Rated 12 1/2c over 80 thru 150 miles.

III C. Portsmouth Plain Red Ovals - Used 1818-1828



Ship letter headed London Jul 22 1825 to Portsmouth via Boston.
Finally forwarded from Portsmouth to Saco Oct 16th.

Rated 12c due on arrival Boston; 2c ship fee + 10c to Portsmouth.
10c added to forward to Saco for total of 22c due.

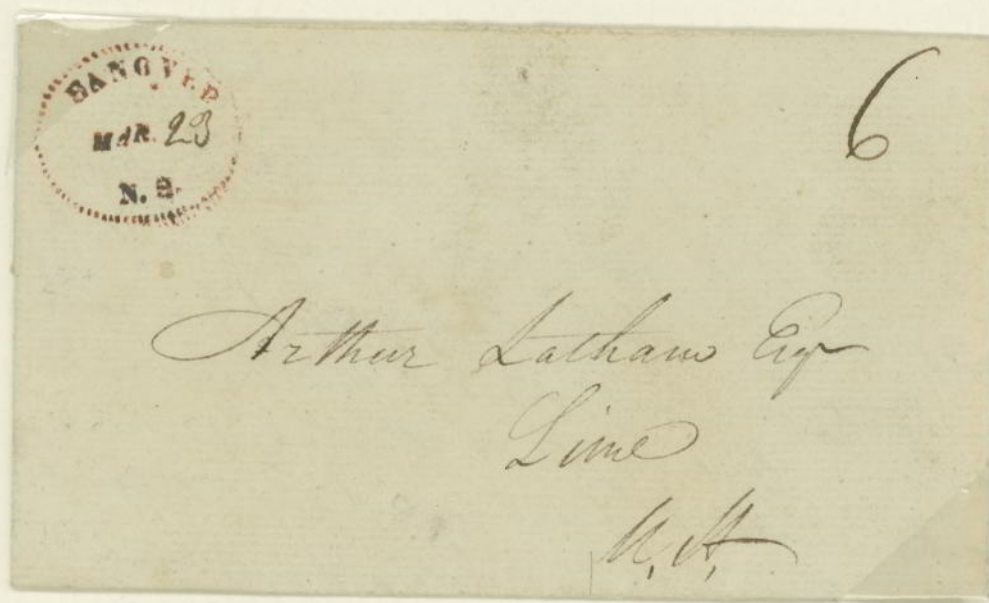


1827 Free franked letter.

Writer senator Levi Woodbury, who later would hold cabinet posts under Jackson and Van Buren before being appointed to the Supreme Court.

III C. Hanover Postmark Varieties

Dotted Ovals - Used 1821-1825

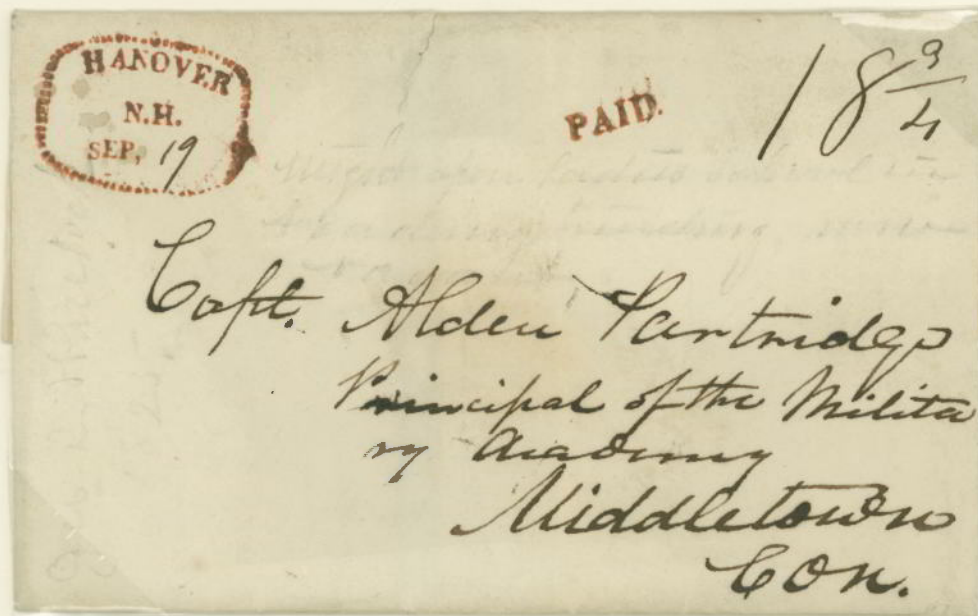


Red dotted oval handstamp with manuscript day date used on unpaid 1822 letters.

Rated 18 1/2c for distance to Hartford and 6c to Lime (Lyme).

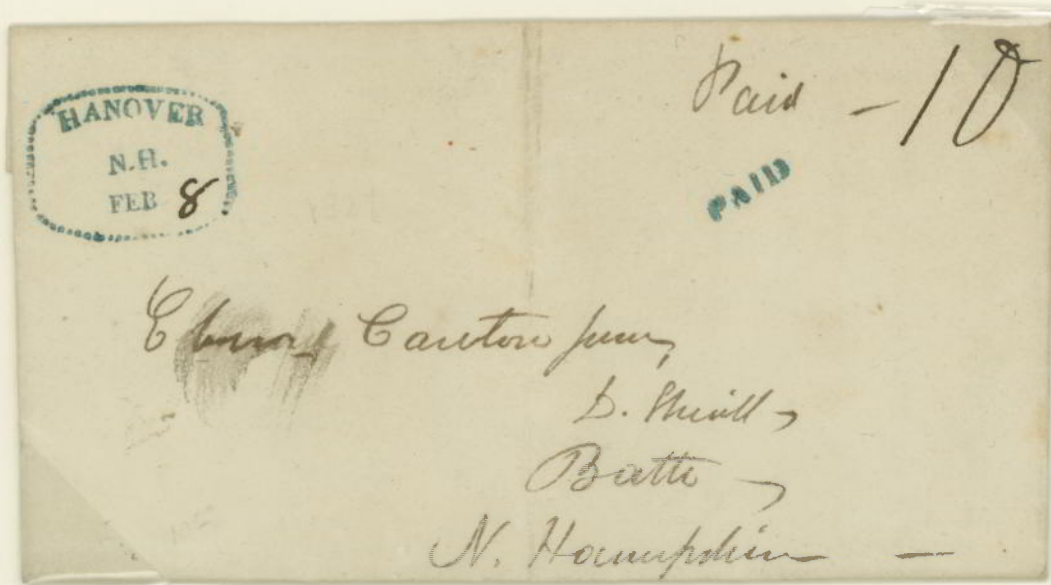
III C. Hanover Postmark Varieties

Dotted Square Ovals - Used 1825-1827



1825 letter with straight line PAID.

Rated 18 3/4c under Act of March 1825
for a distance over 150 but not exceeding 400 miles.

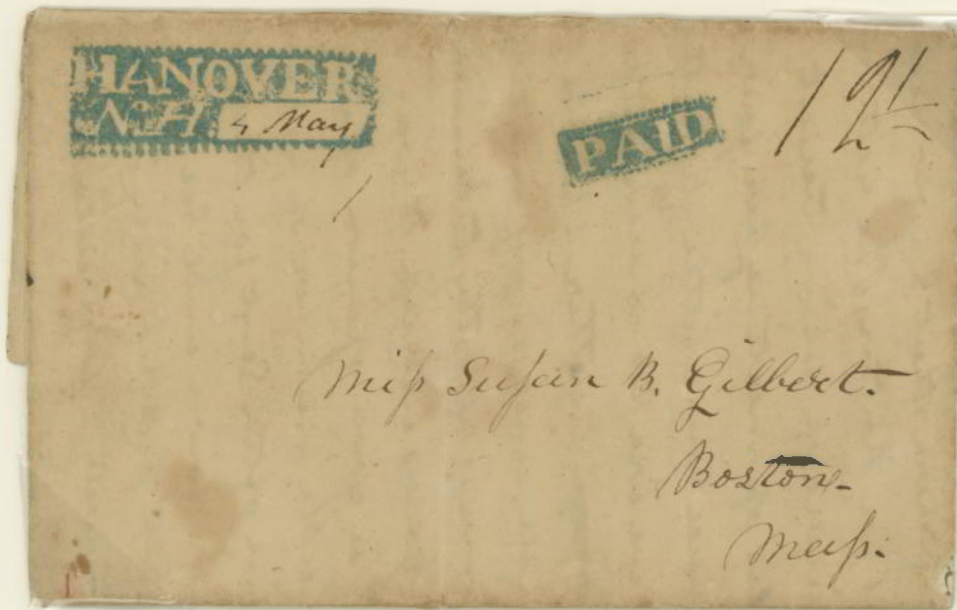


Paid letter headed "Feb 8 1827".
Previously unreported in blue or used in 1827.

Rated 10c for distance of 30 to 80 miles.

III C. Hanover Postmark Varieties

Negative Box with Matching PAID



Postmark on 1827 letter to Boston. Known used 1821-1827.

Rated 12 1/2c for distance over 80 thru 150 miles.



Townmark applied on 1827 forwarded letter.
Salem, Mass. manuscript crossed out (post office of origin).

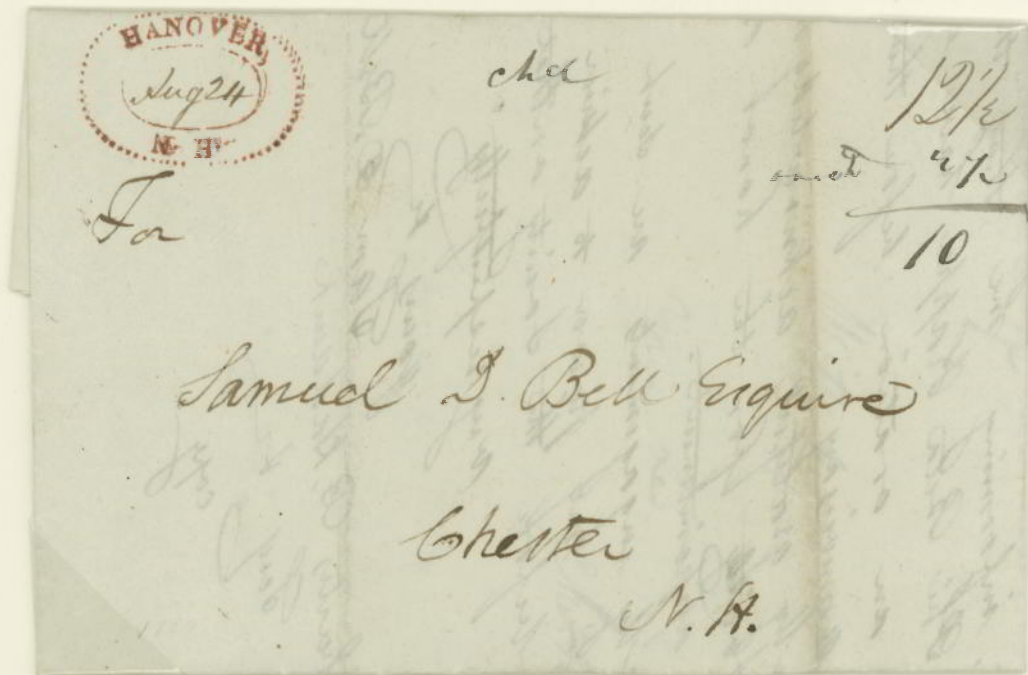
Rated 12 1/2c to Hanover and apparently paid there

III C. Hanover Postmark Varieties

Double Ovals - Used 1827-1830



Blue townmark with manuscript date on 1828 unpaid letter.

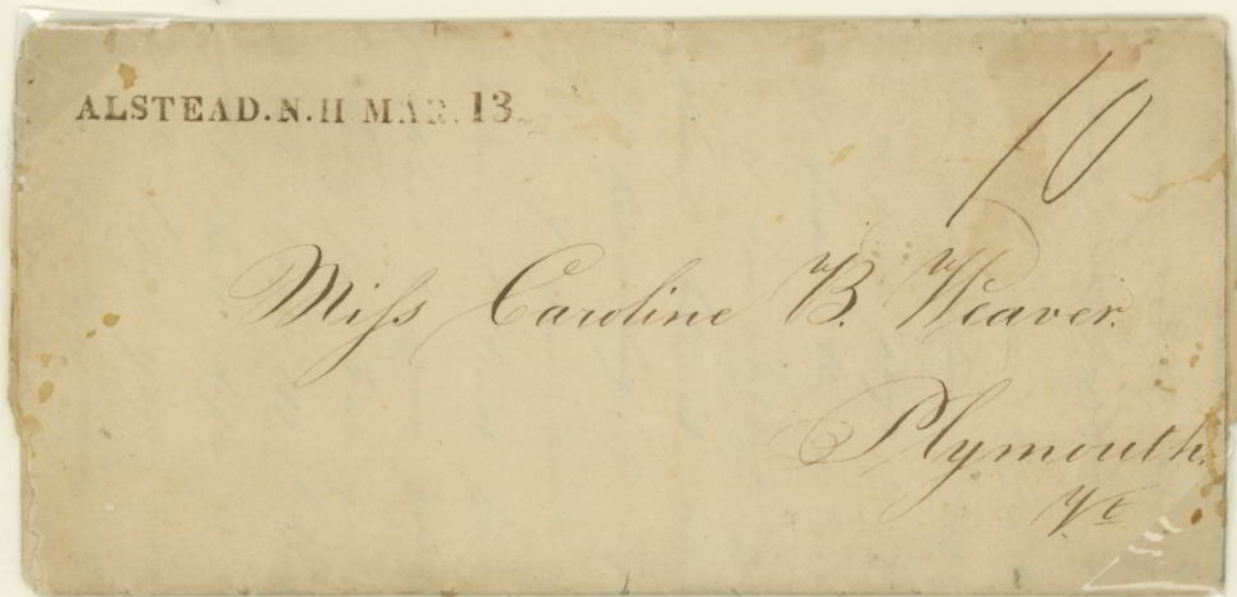


Red oval with manuscript date on 1829 unpaid letter.

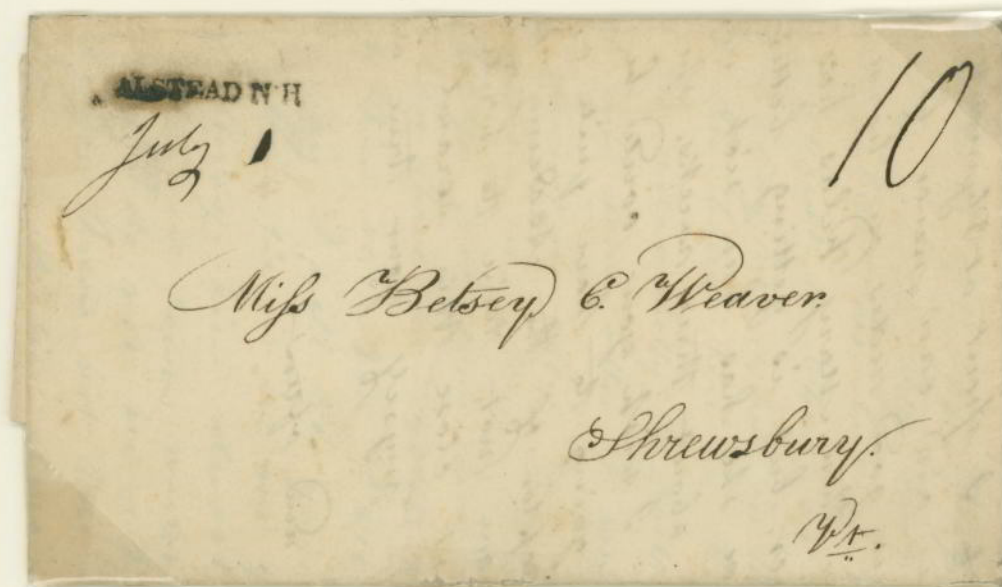
Originally rated 12 1/2c due for a distance over 80 thru 150 miles.
Marked "ovrch 2 1/2" and changed to 10c, correct rate for over 30 thru 80 miles.

Apparently charged, "chd", to addressee's account.

III C. Alstead Straight Lines



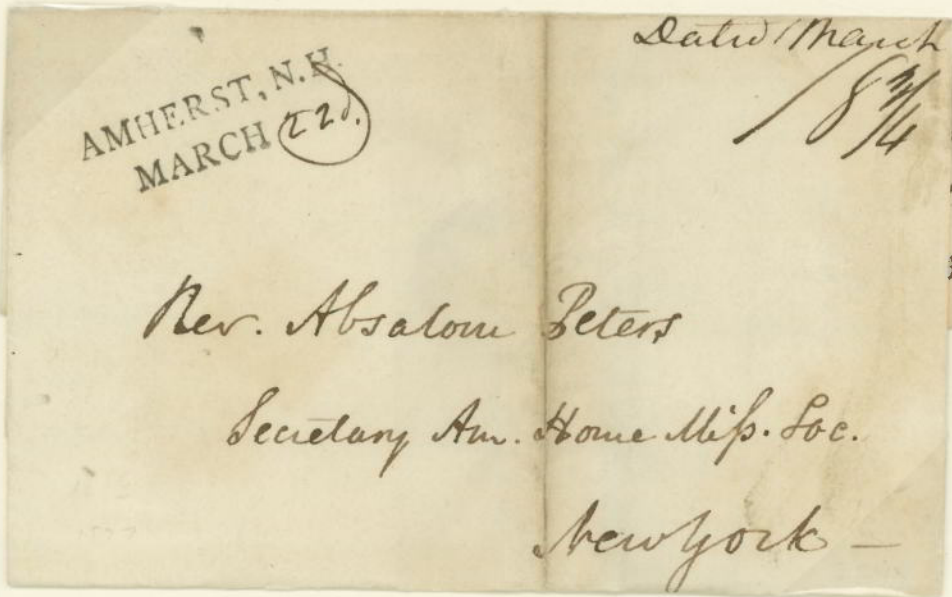
Example of earliest handstamp townmark for Alstead.
Unpaid letter from this Cheshire Co. office



Large brown Alstead on 1829 unpaid letter.
Early use for this handstamp.

Both letters rated 10c for over 30 thru 80 miles.

III C. Amherst Straight Lines



Example of earliest Amherst handstamp on 1827 unpaid letter.

Rated 18 3/4c for over 150 thru 400 miles.

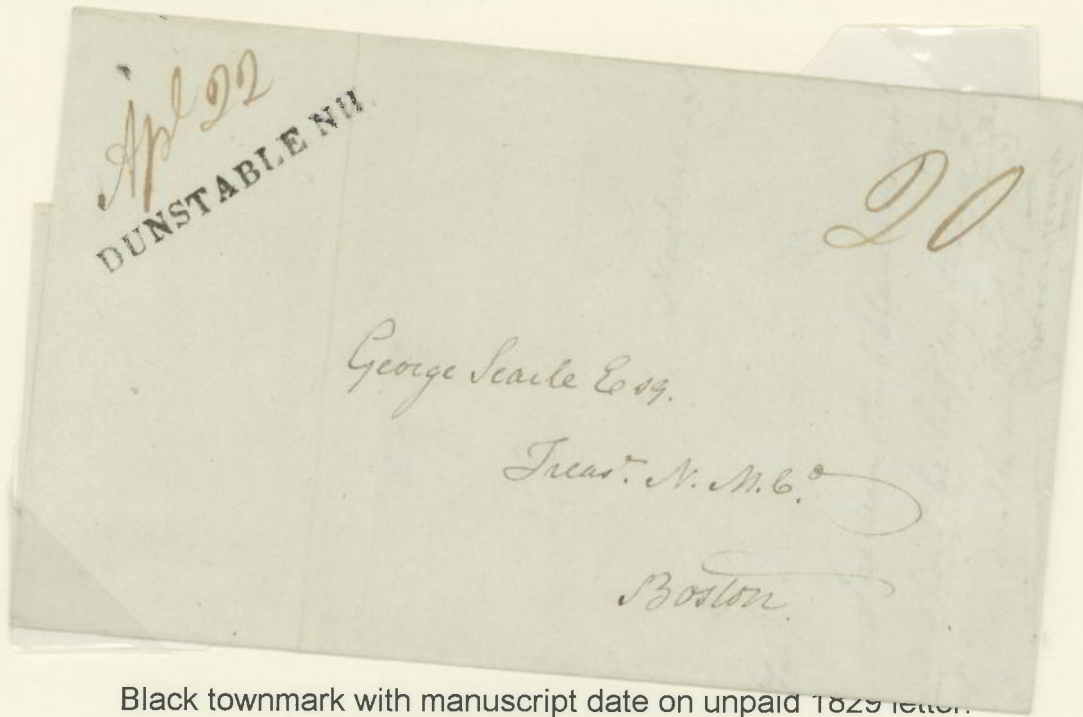


Smaller straight line on 1829 letter.

Recorded used 1828-29.

Rated 10c due for distance over 30 thru 80 miles.

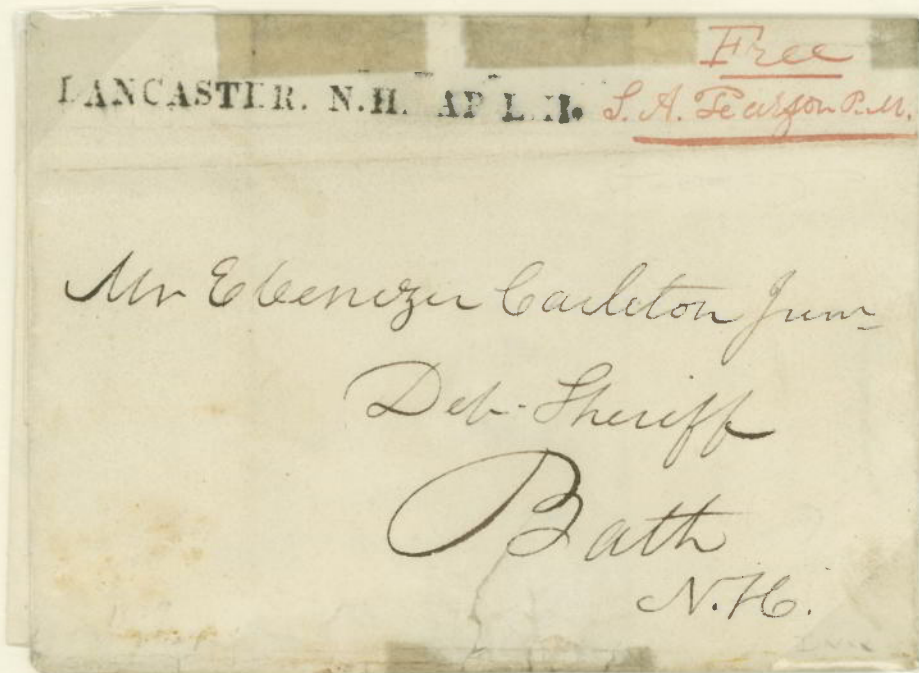
III C. Dunstable & Lancaster Straight Lines



Black townmark with manuscript date on unpaid 1829 letter.
Reported used only in 1829.

Dunstable in Hillsboro Co. became Nashua in 1837

Rated 20c; Double rate for distance not over 80 miles to Boston.



Black townmark on 1829 single letter with red PM free frank.
Marking known used 1828-1829.

Lancaster post office in Coos County established 1802.

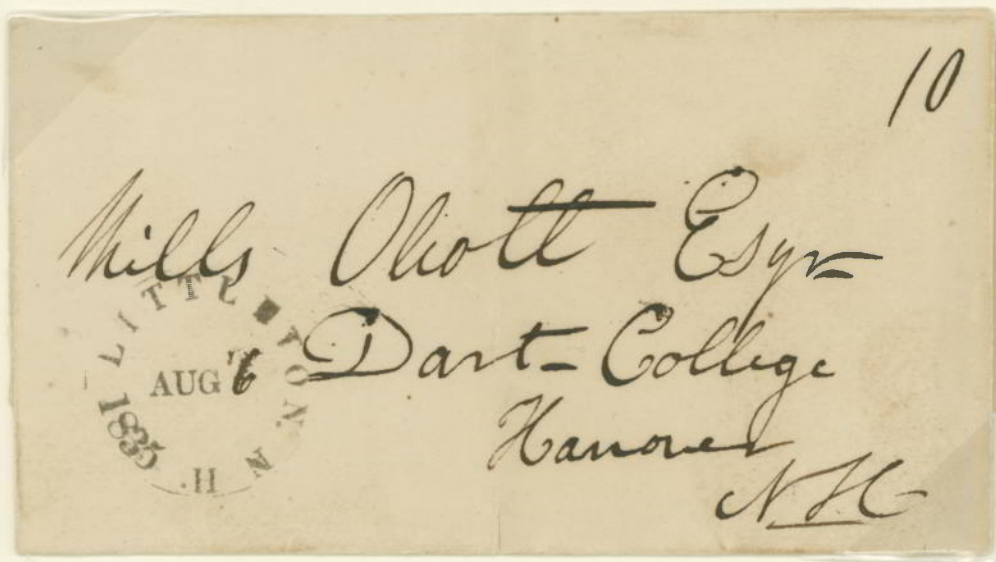
III C. Postmaster Free Frank of 1830



Ornate free frank of Phillip Carrigain first postmaster at
North Chichester in Merrimack County.

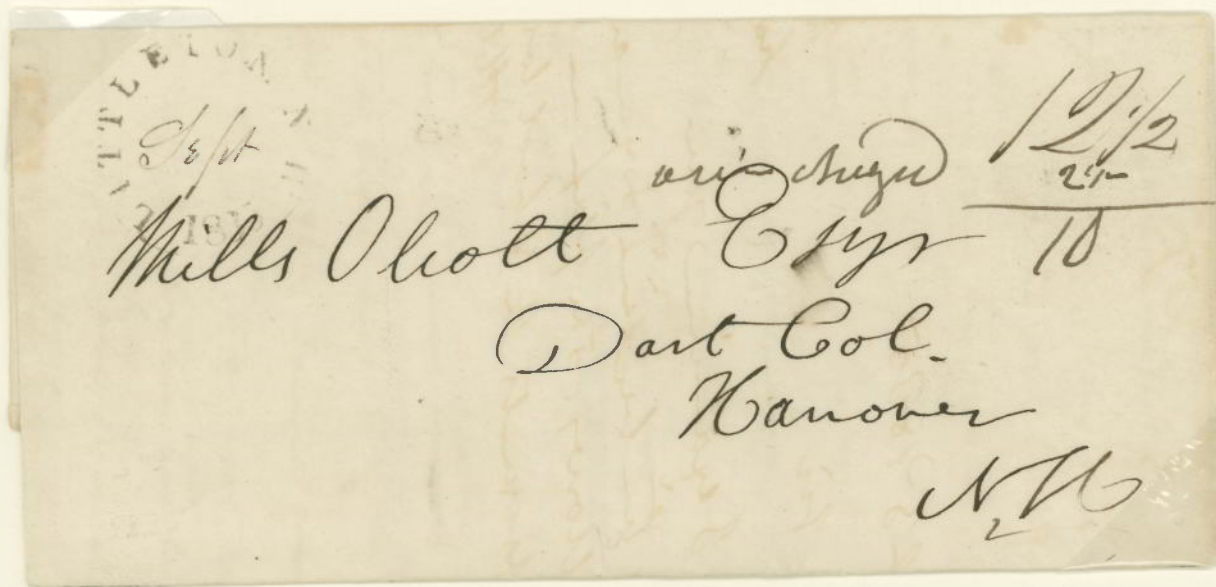
Carrigain famous as cartographer
for first really accurate map of New Hampshire

III C. Littleton Circle with 1835 Year Date



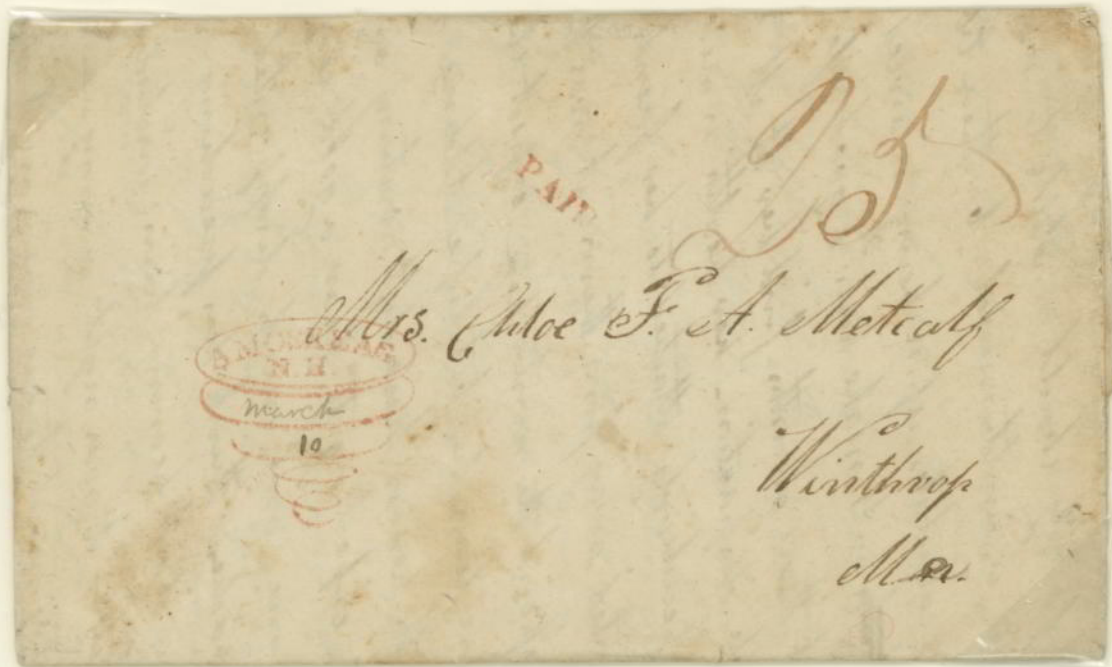
Only year this type marking used at Littleton.

Unpaid letter rated 10c for 60 miles distance to Hanover.



Incorrectly rated 12 1/2c.
Marked "Overcharged 2 1/2c" and corrected to 10c.

III C. Amoskeag Horn of Plenty



Red fancy handstamp and straight line PAID on 1828 letter.
Similar but less common than horn of plenty marking used at Augusta, Maine.

Amoskeag post office in Hillsboro Co. established Dec 15, 1826
and discontinued permanently in 1901.

Rated 25c, double rate, for distance over 80 thru 150 miles.

III C. New Boston Straight Line in Italics

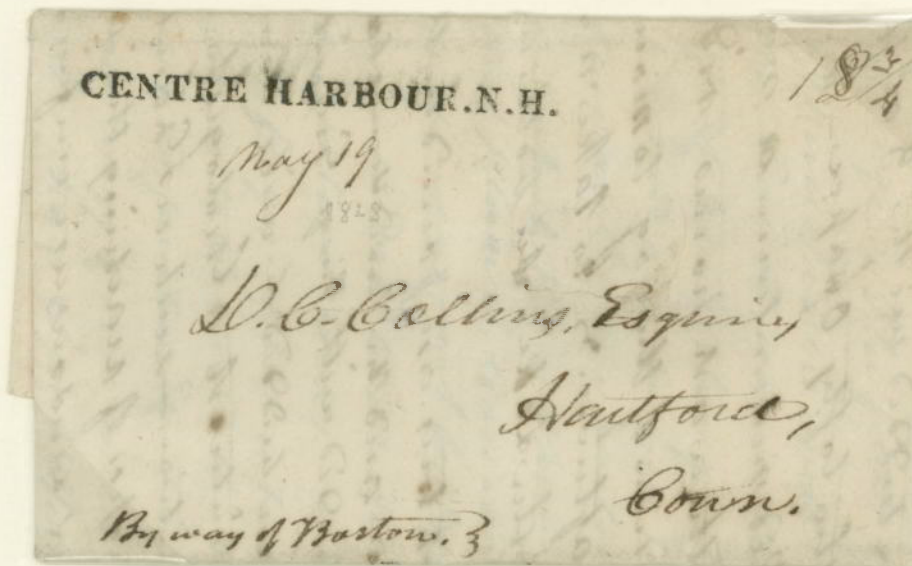


Red townmark and PAID markings on 1828 letter to Massachusetts.

Previously unrecorded handstamp for this Hillsboro County office.

Rated 20c; Double rate for distance over 30 thru 80 miles.

III C. Centre Harbour Straight Line



1828 unpaid letter from this Lake Winnepesaukee town.
Spelling changed to Centre Harbor in 1838 and Center Harbor in 1893.

Previously unrecorded handstamp.

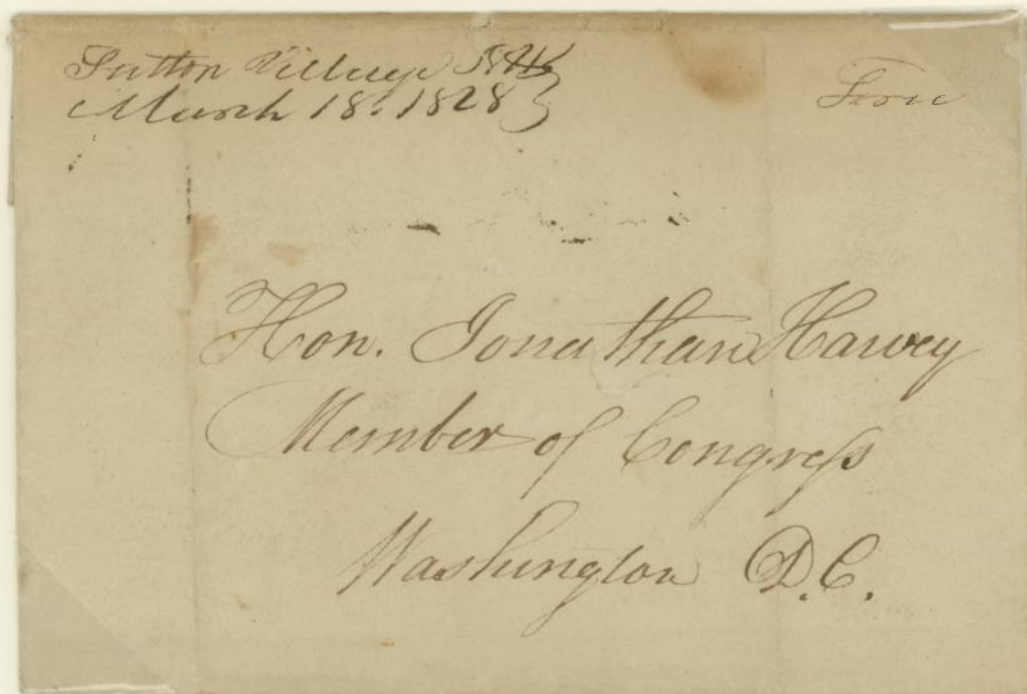
Rated 18 3/4c for distance over 150 miles thru 400 miles.

III C. Manuscripts from New Small Post Offices



"Sandbornton Centre N.H." in red on 1829 unpaid letter.
Only known example.

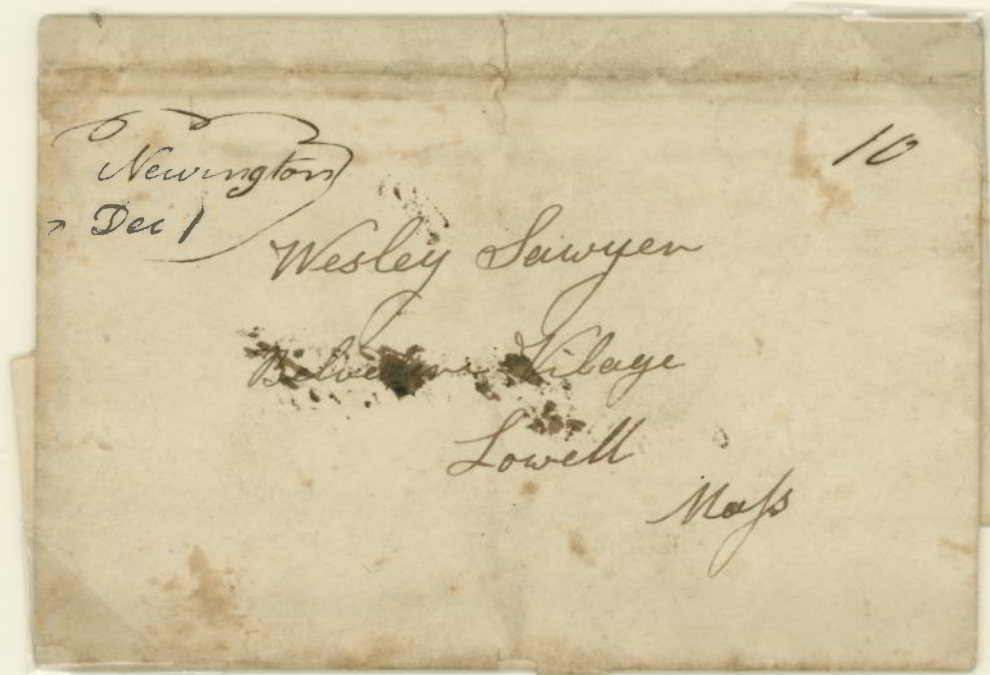
Post office in Strafford Co. established 1829; discontinued 1830.
Rated 12 1/2c for over 80 thru 150 miles.



Sutton Village markings on 1828 free frank letter.
Post office in Merrimack Co. established 1826.
Name changed to Sutton 1840.

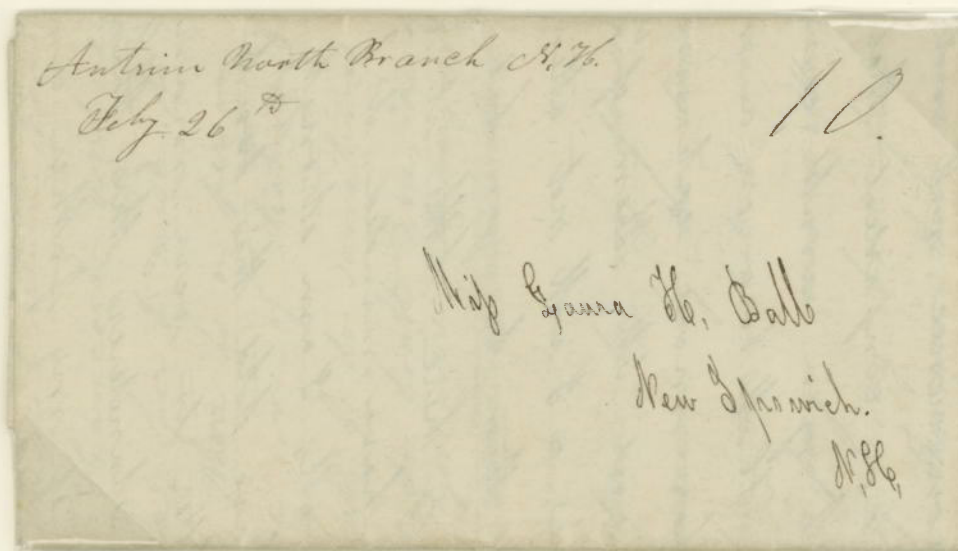
Rated free to member of Congress

III C. Manuscripts from New Small Offices



Newington marking on 1829 letter.
First Newington post office in Rockingham Co. opened 1828, discontinued 1834.
Townmark previously unrecorded this early.

Rated 10c for over 30 thru 80 miles.



Antrim North Branch post markings on 1833 unpaid letter.
Predates by 4 years accepted date for establishment of this Hillsboro Co. office.

North Branch discontinued 1901.

III C. West Deering Manuscript with "Way" Marking



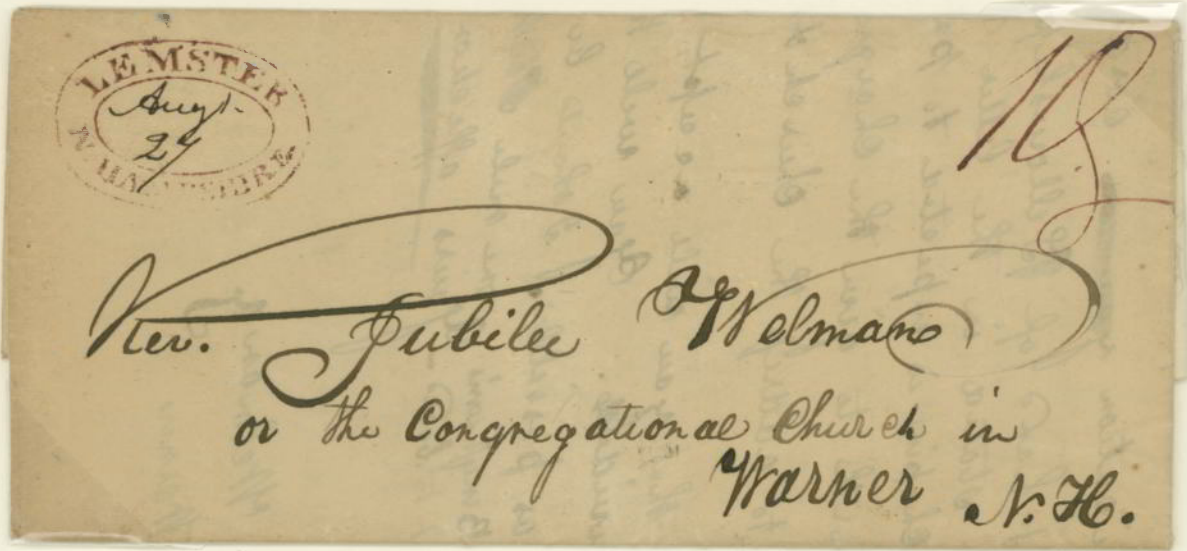
West Deering townmark on 1833 unpaid way letter.

Previously unreported.

This Hillsboro County office established 1823 and closed in 1844.

Rated 11c = 1c way fee + 10c for over 30 thru 80 miles

III C. Lempster Town Postmarks



Lempster double oval postmark on 1928 unpaid letter.
Previously unreported in red.

Rated 10c for distance of 30 thru 80 miles.

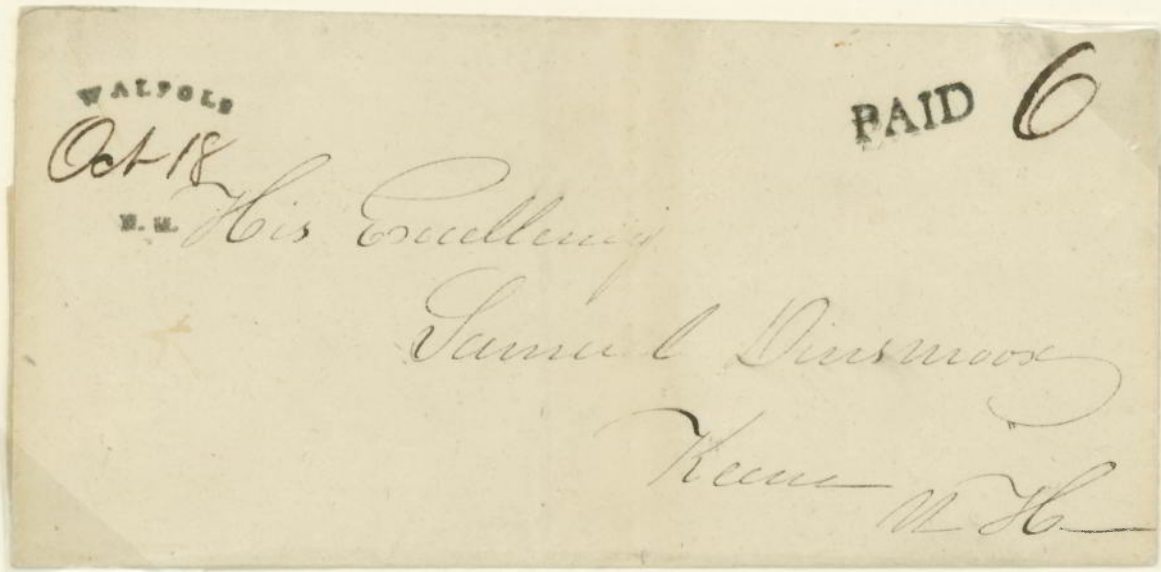
Lempster post office in Sullivan Co. established 1814.



Fancy stencil on 1834 unpaid letter to Governor Dinsmoor.

Rated 6c for distance not over 30 miles.

III C. Walpole Curved Townmark



Undated paid letter to Governor Dinsmoor
who served as Governor from 1831 to 1834.

Rated 6c for 19 mile distance to Keene.

III C. PORTSMo.(Portsmouth) Red Circles



Example with PAID on 1830 letter. Recorded used in 1829-1833.

Rated 12c, double rate, for distance not over 30 miles.

SHIP LETTER
LIVERPOOL



1831 ship letter to England with US postage PAID.
"Ship Letter Liverpool" backstamp.

Rated 18 3/4c for US postage to New York
8 pence due for British ship letter and inland postage charge.

III C. Exeter Red Octagon Rosettes - Used 1829-1832



PAID 1831 letter rated 10c for the distance not over 80 miles.



Unpaid letter sent to Philadelphia "SEP. 6" and docketed "Rec'd on Sep. 9 1830".

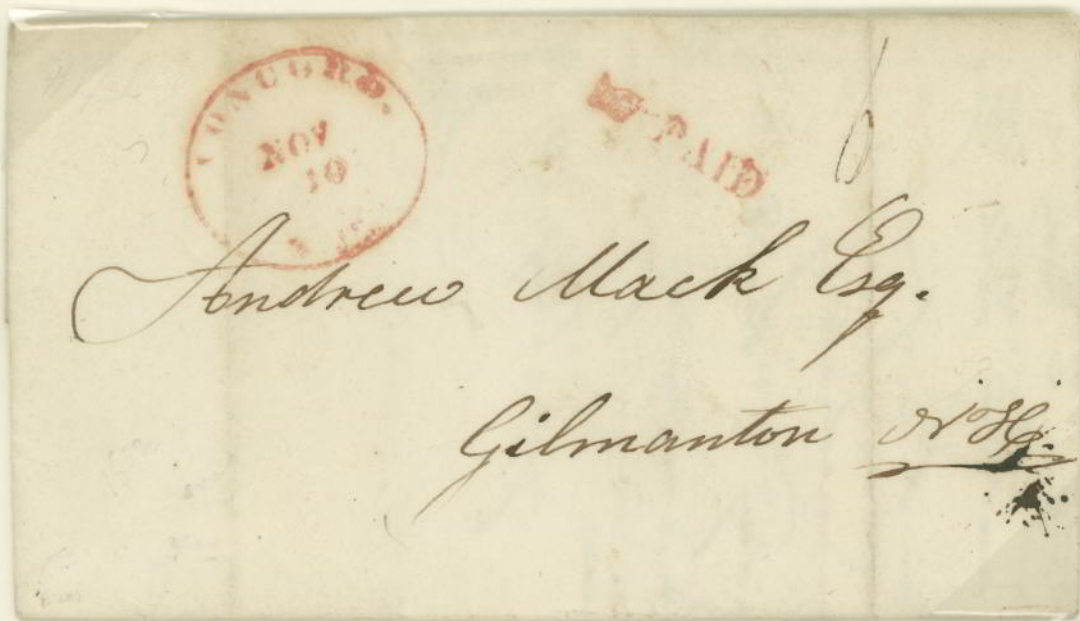
Rated 18 3/4c for over 150 thru 400 miles.

III C. Hillsborough Serrated Circle & Concord Oval



Unpaid 1831 letter to Indiana.
Hillsborough office in Hillsboro Co. established 1802.

Rated 25c for over 400 miles.



Concord oval with pointing hand PAID on 1832 letter
Reported only in red and used 1832-33.

Rated 6c for not over 30 miles.

III C. Dunstable Circles



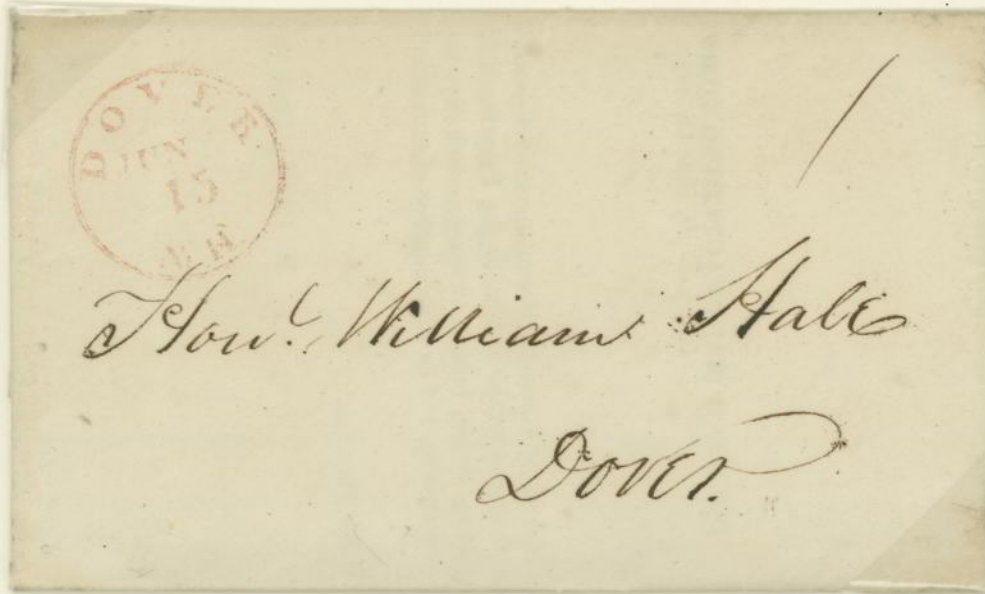
Early circle on 1831 unpaid letter. Used in black 1829-1831.

Rated 12 1/2c for over 80 thru 150 miles



Large circle with PAID on 1834 letter. Known in red 1834-1836.
Unreported in black.

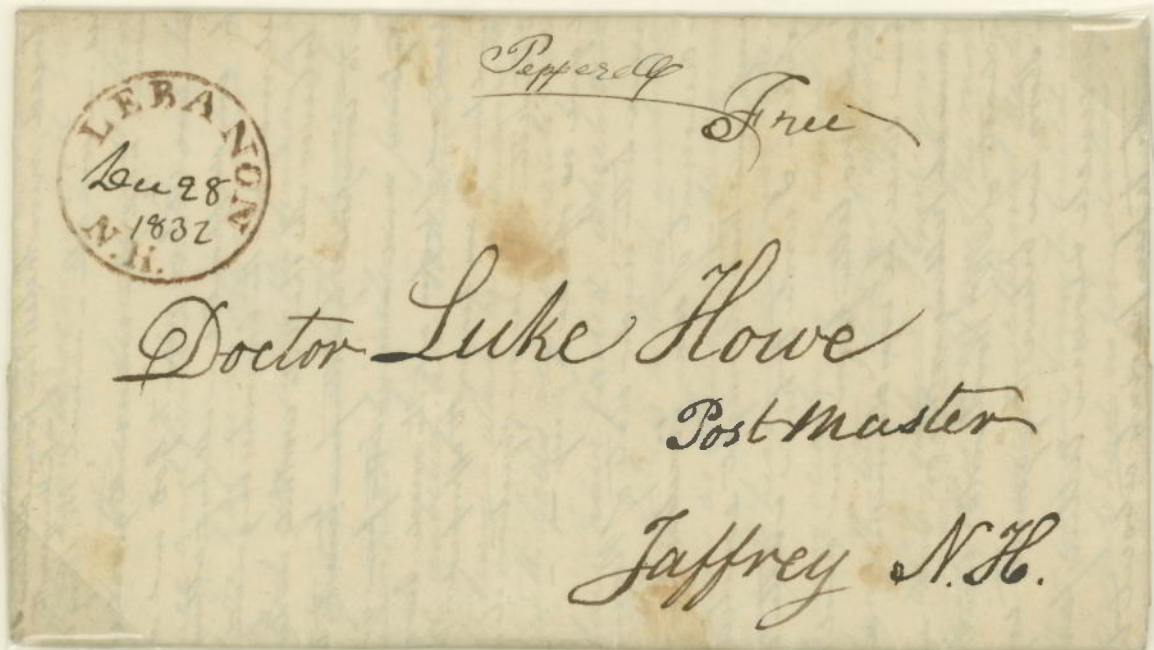
III C. Early Circle Postmarks for Dover and Lebanon



Dover double line circle on 1832 letter to Dover.

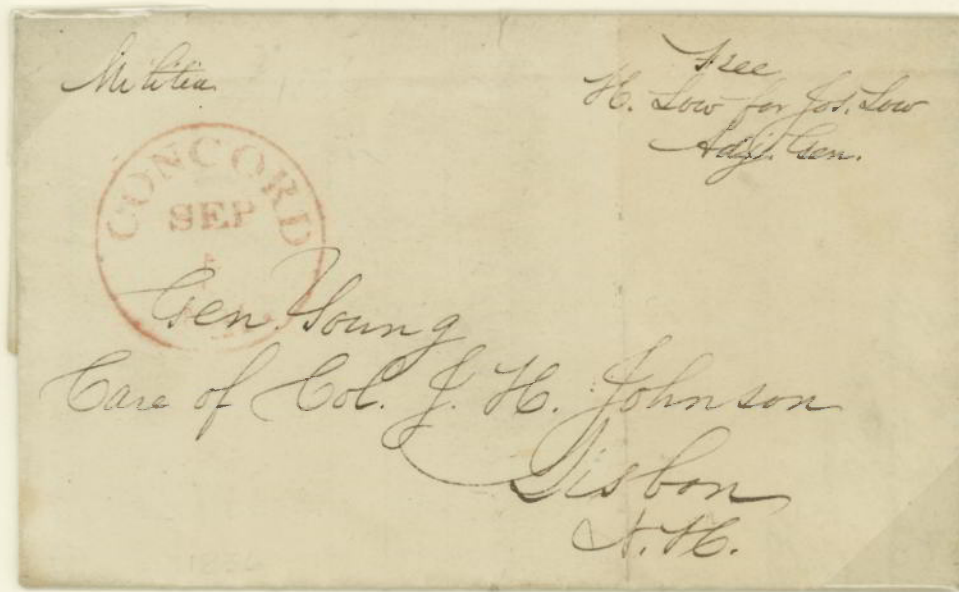
Rated 1c due: Under Act of 1825.

Local letters "not to be carried by post" charged 1c to the recipient.



First circle handstamp used at Lebanon on 1832 letter.
Sent "Free" to postmaster

III C. Militia Free Frank



Concord townmark on 1836 letter franked "Free H. Low for Jos. Low Adj. Gen."

Joseph Low as Adjutant General of the New Hampshire Militia had free frank privilege for official mail directed only to a Brigadier or Major General of his staff.

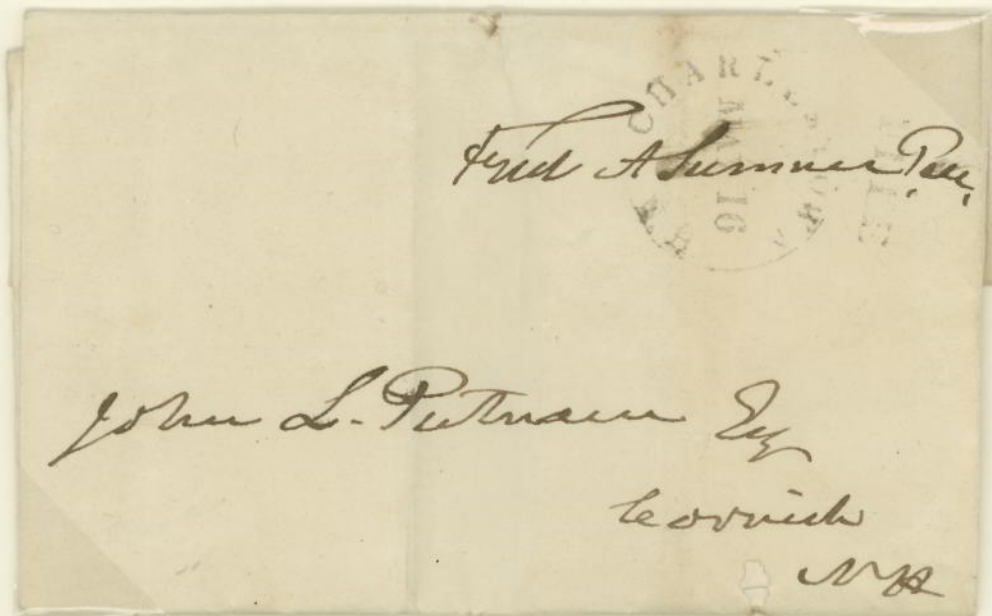
Letter in violation. It does not bear Joseph Low's signature as strictly required by Sec. 40 of Act of 1825.

III C. Claremont and Charleston Attached Rate Markings



Unpaid 1832 letter with circle and attached 10. Attached rates in black and red are known used from Claremont 1832-1833.

Rated 10c for over 30 thru 80 miles.

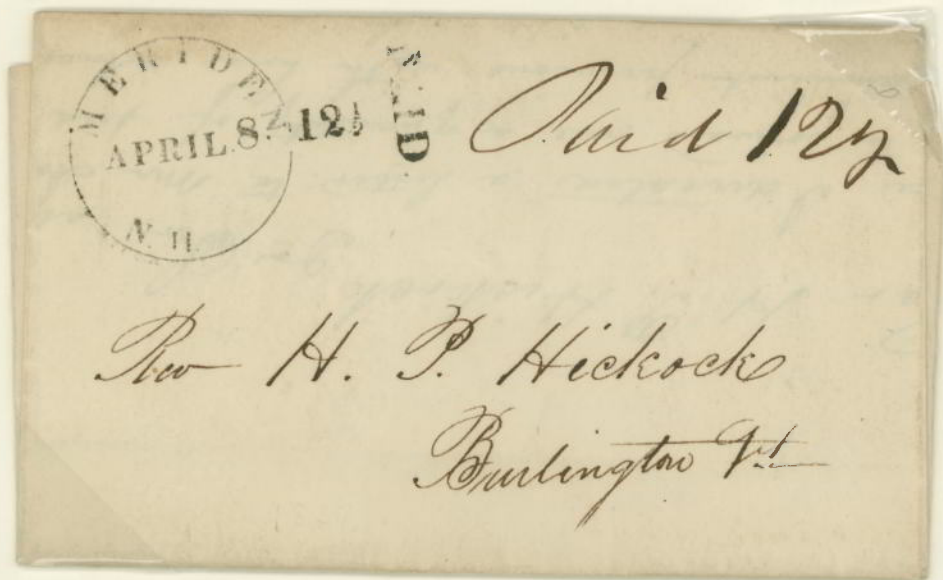


Charleston circle with attached "Free"
Used by postmaster Sumner in 1834.

III C. Meriden Attached Rate Markings



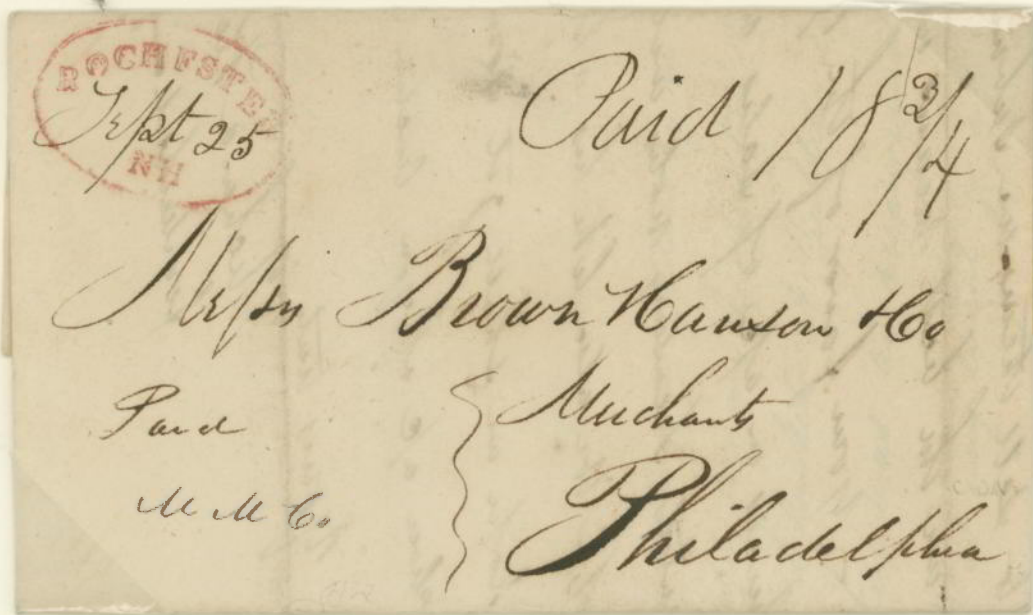
Circles with attached 6's, the rate for a distance not over 30 miles.



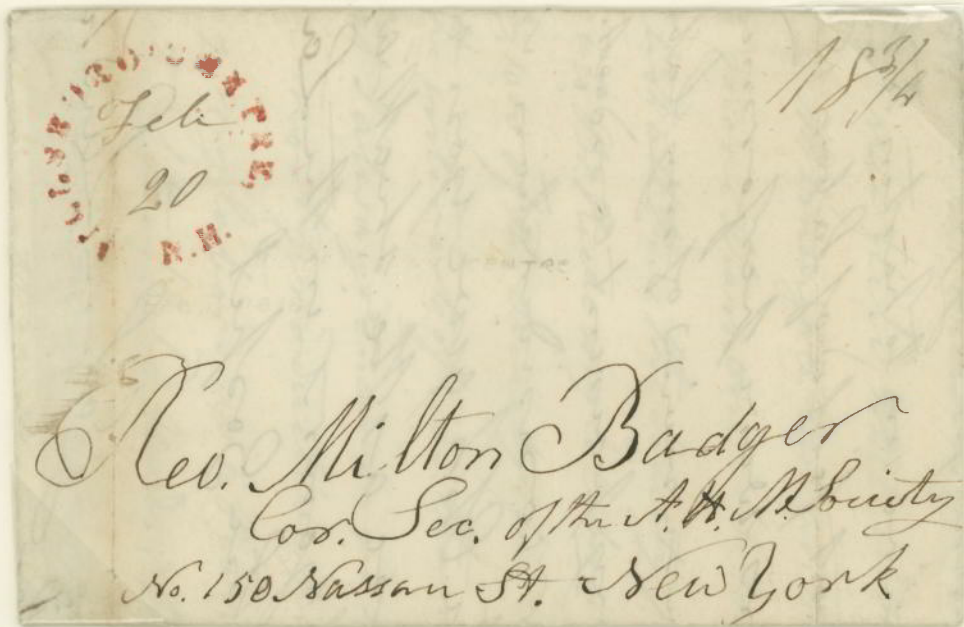
Circle handstamp with attached rate 12 1/2 PAID on 1837 letter. Attached rate townmarks from Meriden are known used 1832-1844.

Rated 12 1/2c for distance from 80 thru 150 miles

III C. Rochester Oval & Hillsboro(ugh) Circle (No Outer Ring)



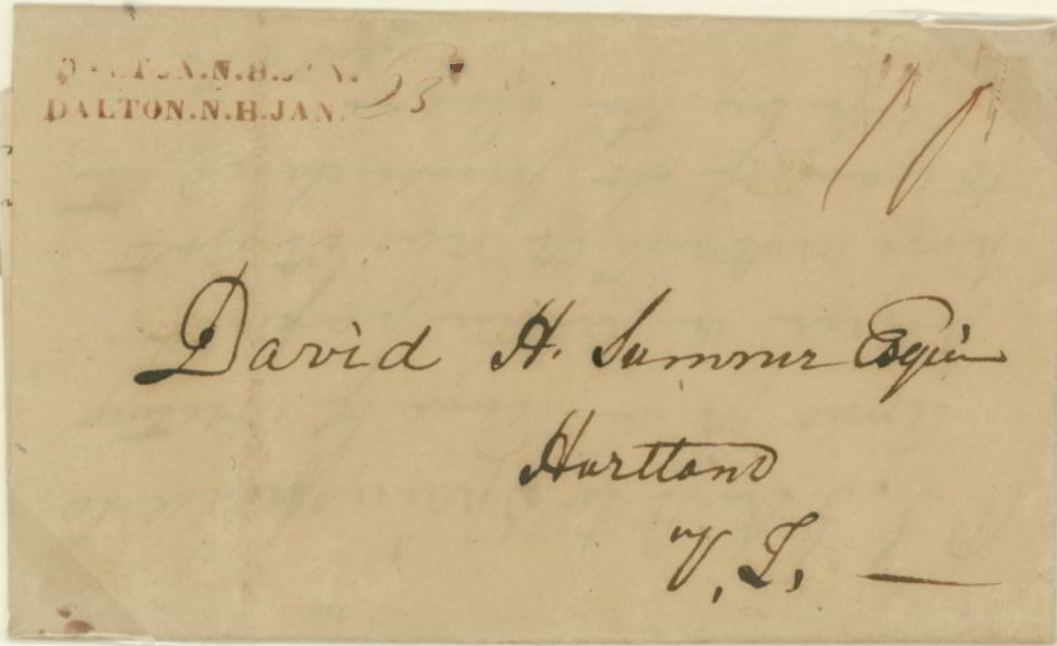
Oval townmark with manuscript date and "Paid" on 1837 letter. Notation at left "Paid MM Co" refers to writer Mechanics Mfg. Co.



Circle townmark with no outer ring on 1838 unpaid letter. Previously unreported in red, known in black.

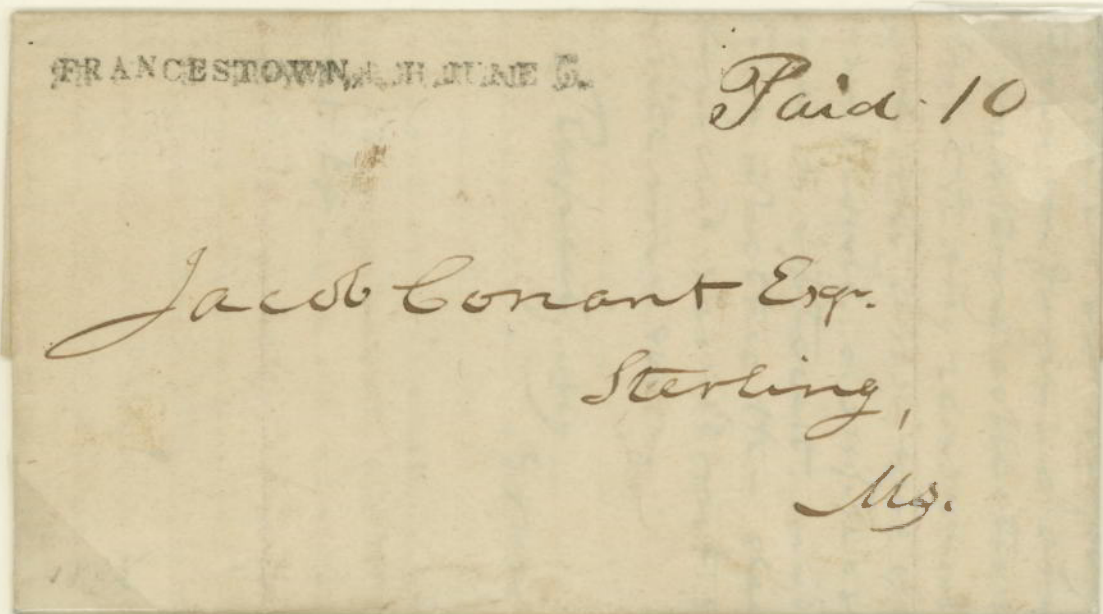
Both letters rated 18 3/4c for distance over 150 thru 400 miles.

III C. Dalton & Frankestown Straight Lines



Dalton double strike on 1836 unpaid letter.
Marking only recorded used in 1836.

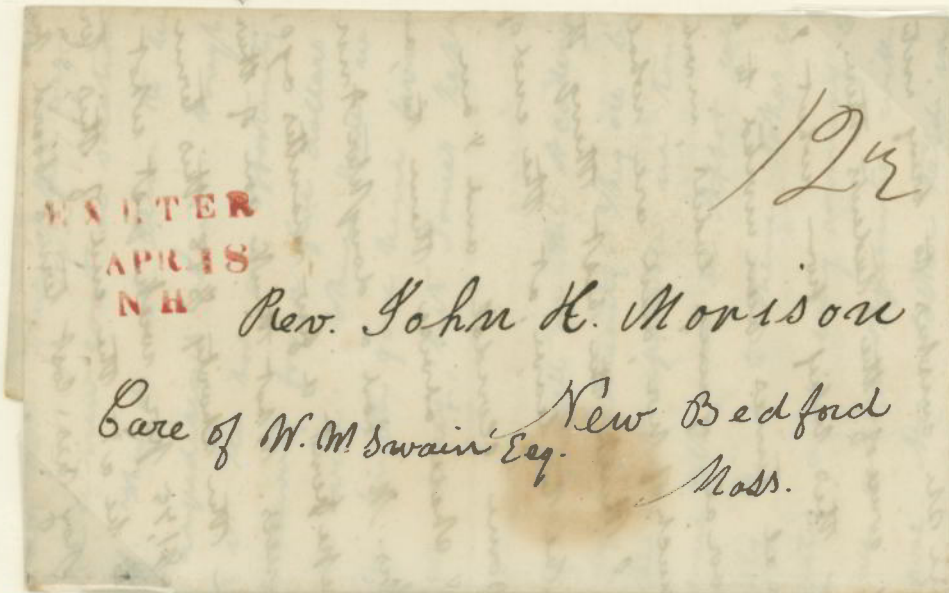
Post office established in Coos Co. in 1805; discontinued 1906.



1838 paid letter. Postmark only recorded used in 1838.

Letters rated 10c for over 30 thru 80 miles.

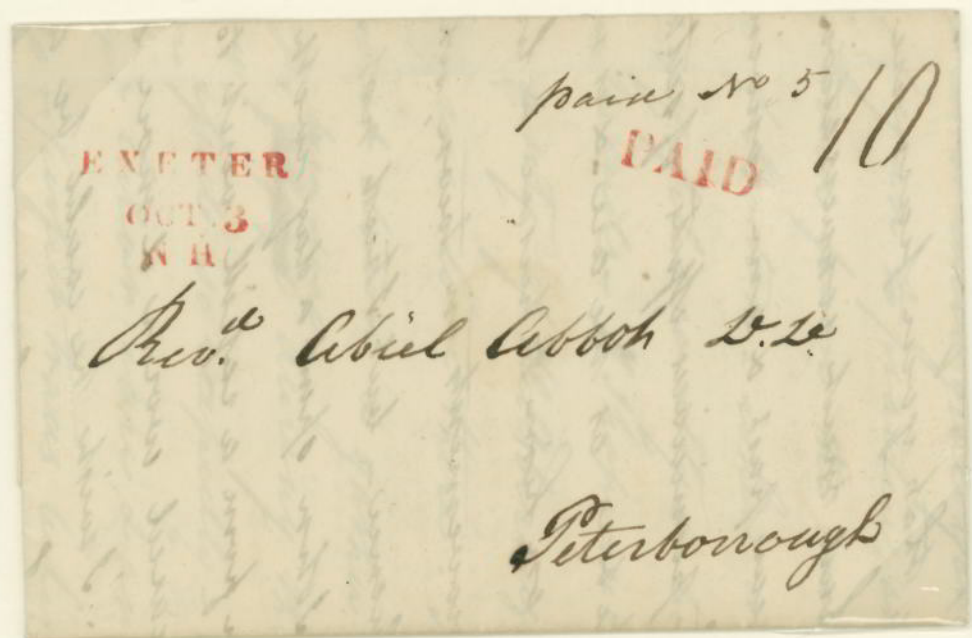
III.C. Exeter Straight Lines - Used 1836-1838



Unpaid 1838 letter. These postmarks recorded in red only.

There are small size variations.

Rated 12 1/2c for not over 150 miles to New Bedford.



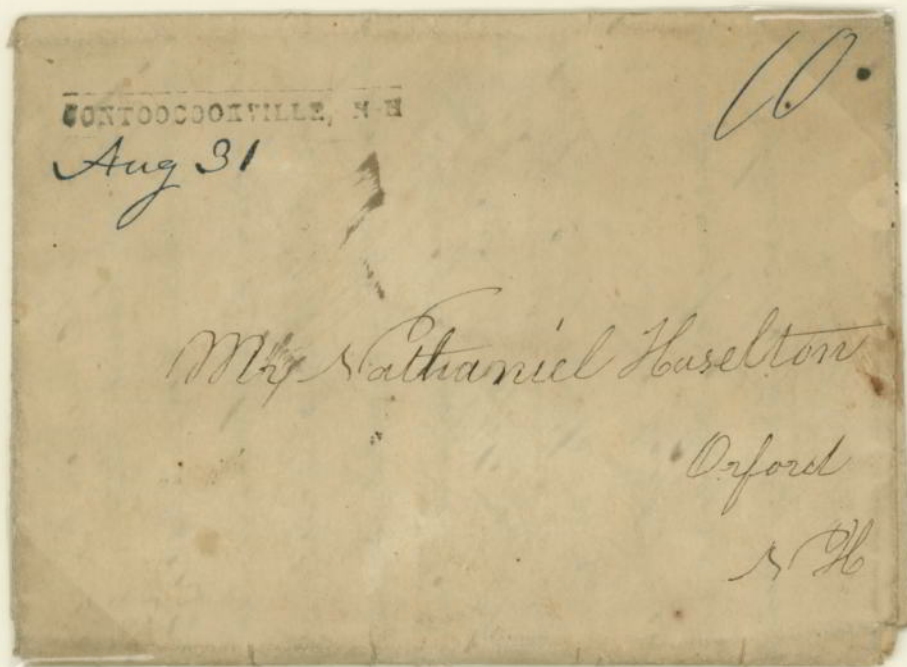
1838 letter with straight line PAID marking. Manuscript "paid No 5" identifies sender for postmaster record.

Rated 10c for not over 80 miles.

III C. Candia and Contoocookville Postmarkings



Unusual Candia manuscript marking on 1841 letter with Postmaster "Free" frank.
Candia office established 1815 in Rockingham Co.



Contoocookville Straight line on unpaid 1840 letter
Office in Merimack Co. opened 1831 and discontinued 1879

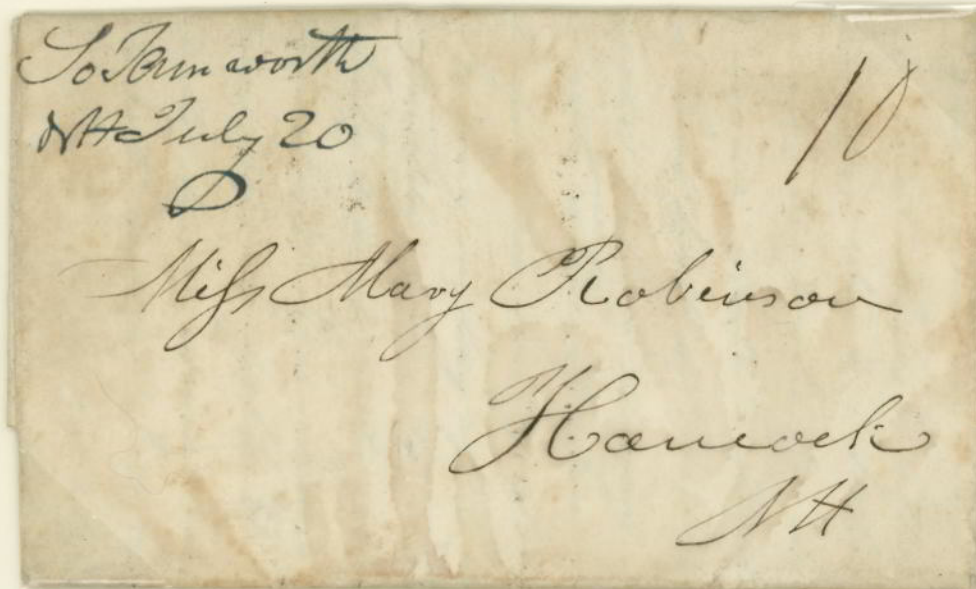
III C. Manuscripts Previously Unrecorded - Discontinued Offices



North Pelham postmark on 1839 paid letter.

Hillsboro County post office established 1836; discontinued 1840.

Rated 6c for not over 30 miles.



Unpaid 1842 letter from first South Tamworth office. This Carroll County post office established 1817; discontinued 1844.

Rated 10c for over 30 thru 80 miles.

III C. "Hillsboro. Bridge" Oval

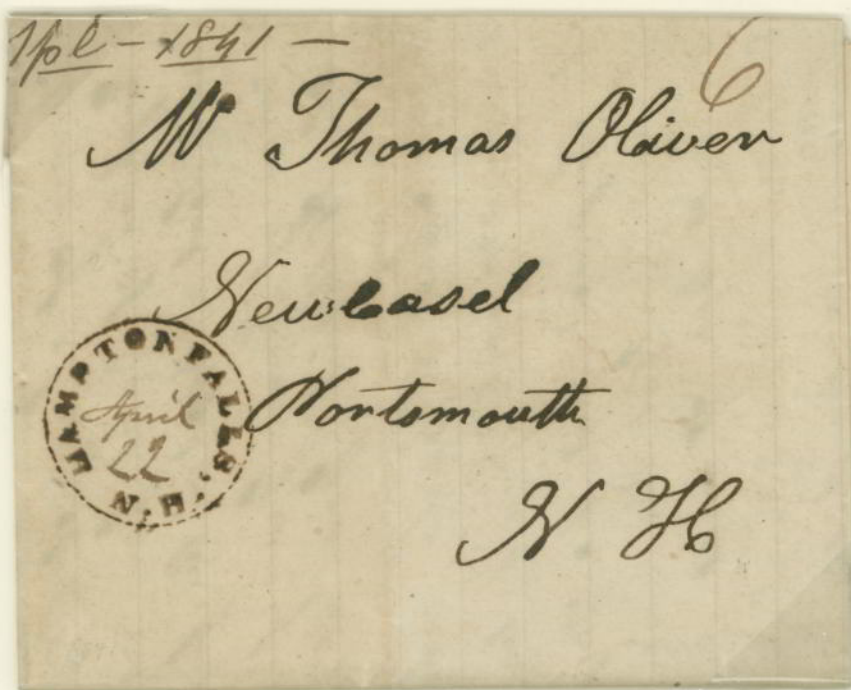


Paid letter to Concord c.1842.

Hillsborough Bridge post office in Hillsboro Co. established 1827.
Name changed to Hillsboro Bridge in 1894 and office discontinued 1908.

Rated 6c for a distance not over 30 miles.

III C. Hampton Falls and Derry Circles



Hampton Falls dotted circle handstamp on 1841 unpaid letter addressed to "Newcasel" Portsmouth. New Castle, near Portsmouth, did not have a post office until 1850.

Rated 6c for distance not over 30 miles.



Green Derry townmark on 1840 unpaid letter. Office established in Rockingham County in 1827.

Rated 6c for the distance just under 30 miles to Concord.

III C. Bristol Box Straight Lines



1842 unpaid letter. Marking recorded in red and black used 1831-1842.
Bristol post office in Grafton Co. founded 1820.

Rated 10c for over 30 thru 80 miles.



Earlier red impression on 1834 unpaid letter.
Note corner ornaments intact.

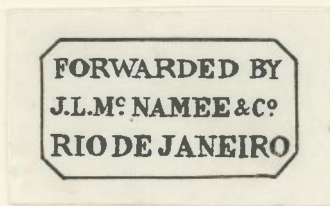
Rated 12 1/2c for over 80 miles thru 150 miles.

III C. Portsmouth Circle and Forwarding Agent Marking



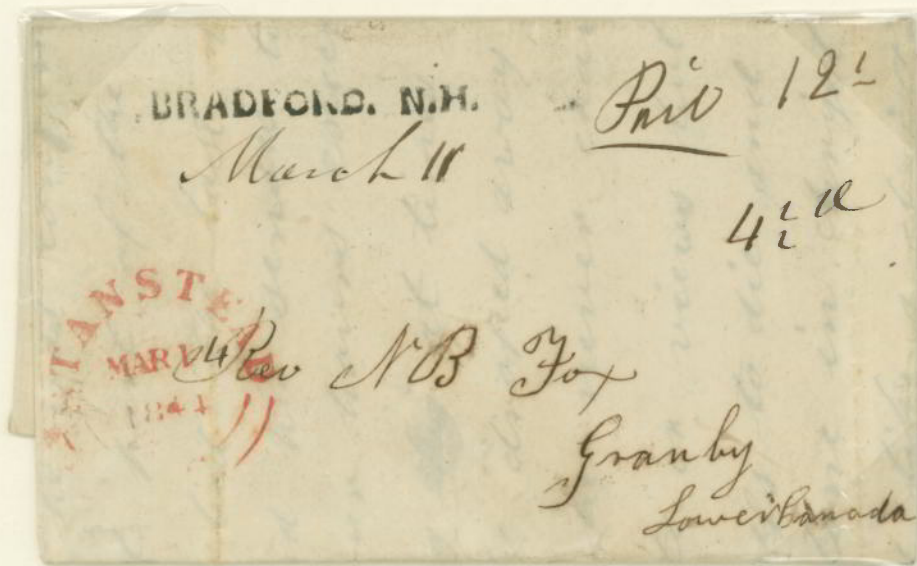
Townmark with straight line PAID on 1841 letter.
Addressed to "U.S. Frigate Potomac Rio de Janeiro".
Sent in "care of Birkhead & Pierce , Baltimore", Who in turn
forwarded it through agents " J . L. McNamee & Co." in Rio.
Docketed "Rec d Dec r 26th '41"

Rated 25c for over 400 miles to Baltimore.



Backstamp

III C. Bradford Straight Line to Canada
Used 1835-1845 in black



1844 letter to Canada with red circle handstamps of the Canadian exchange office at Stanstead, Lower Canada.

Backstamp shows received Stanstead March 13th and markings on face show forwarding to Granby March 14th.

Rated US 12 1/2c Paid to the border and 4 1/2d due Canadian.

III C. Littleton Circle to England

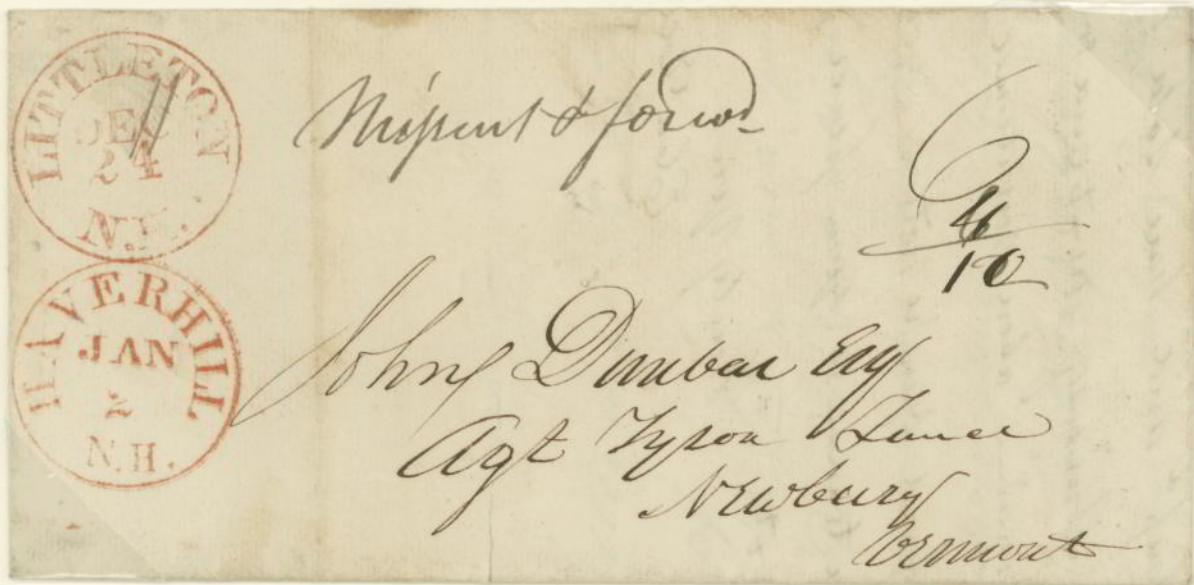


Red postmark and PAID on 1842 letter to England
with black Liverpool ship letter handstamp.

Paid 12 1/2c inland postage to Boston. 1sh due for British
ship letter and postage charges.

(small "7" in upper right corner probably identifies sender's account to postmaster)

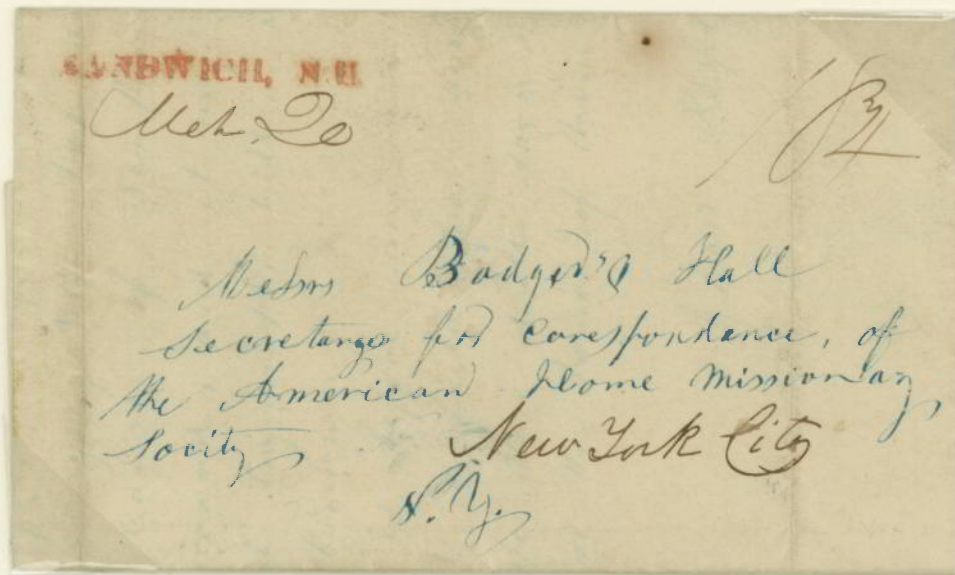
III C. Littleton & Haverhill Circles - Missent & Forwarded



Unpaid 1843 letter addressed to Newbury, Vt. Missent to Haverhill on NH side of Connecticut River. Forwarded to Newbury.

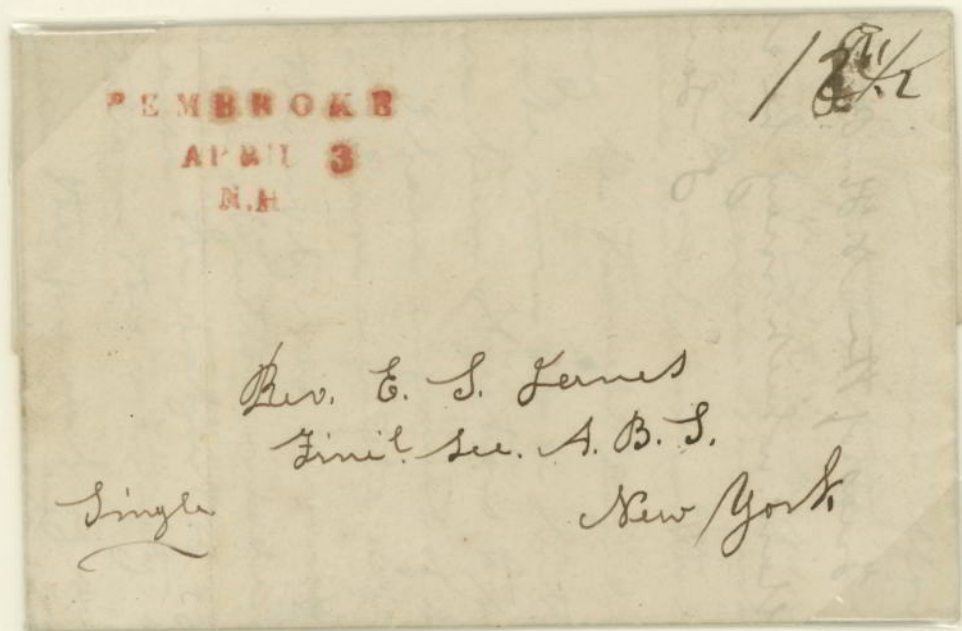
Initially rated 6c. Then 6c added as forwarded letter.
Finally corrected to 10c for the distance of just over 30 miles from Littleton to Newbury.

III C. Sandwich & Pembroke Straight Lines



1843 unpaid letter to New York. Known in red used 1841-1843.
Post office in Carroll County established 1812.

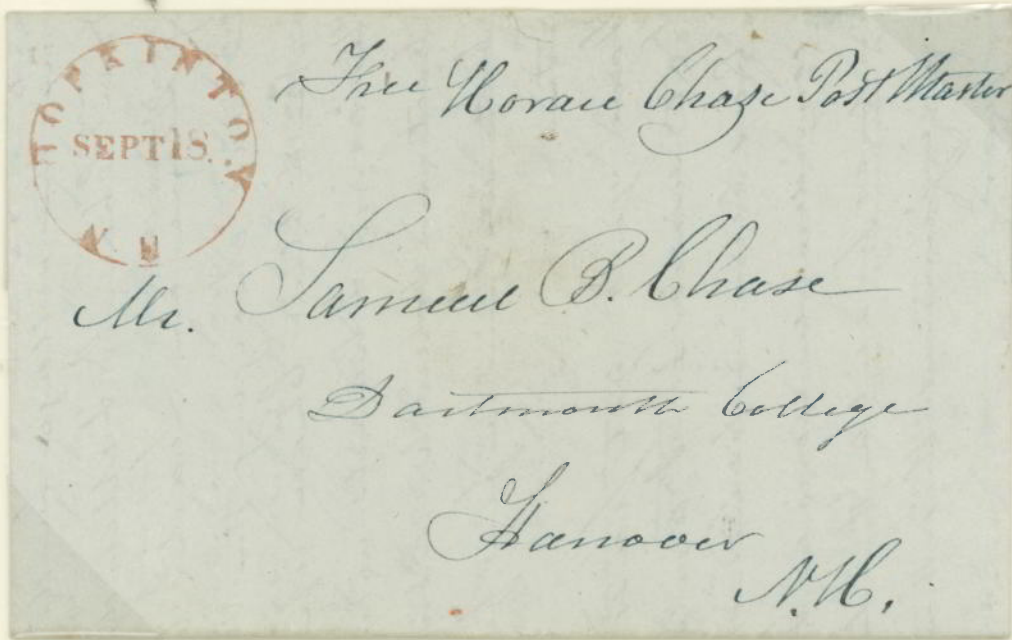
Rated 18 3/4c for over 150 miles thru 400 miles.



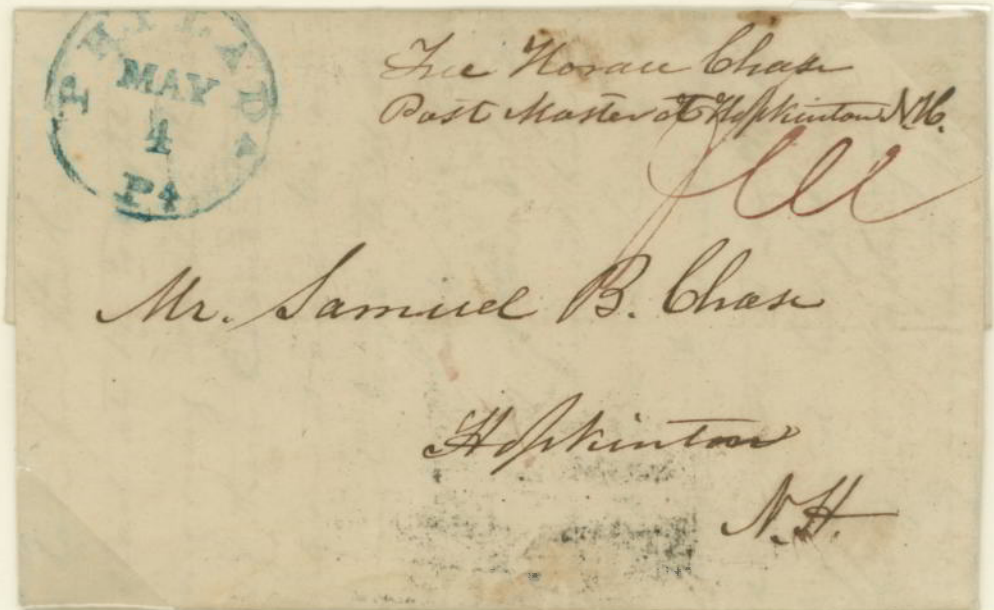
Unpaid 1841 letter. Postmark known in red and blue used 1839-1847.

Rated 12 1/2c then rerated 18 3/4c, the correct postage for
a single letter going a distance of 150 to 400 miles.

III C. Hopkinton Circle & Postmaster Free Frank Usage



Circle townmark on 1843 letter. Free frank of postmaster Horace Chase.
Hopkinton post office in Merrimack County established 1810.



Letter of 1840 shows postmaster Chase's use of free frank
privilege while visiting Philadelphia.
Backstamp of Jones Hotel from whence it was posted.

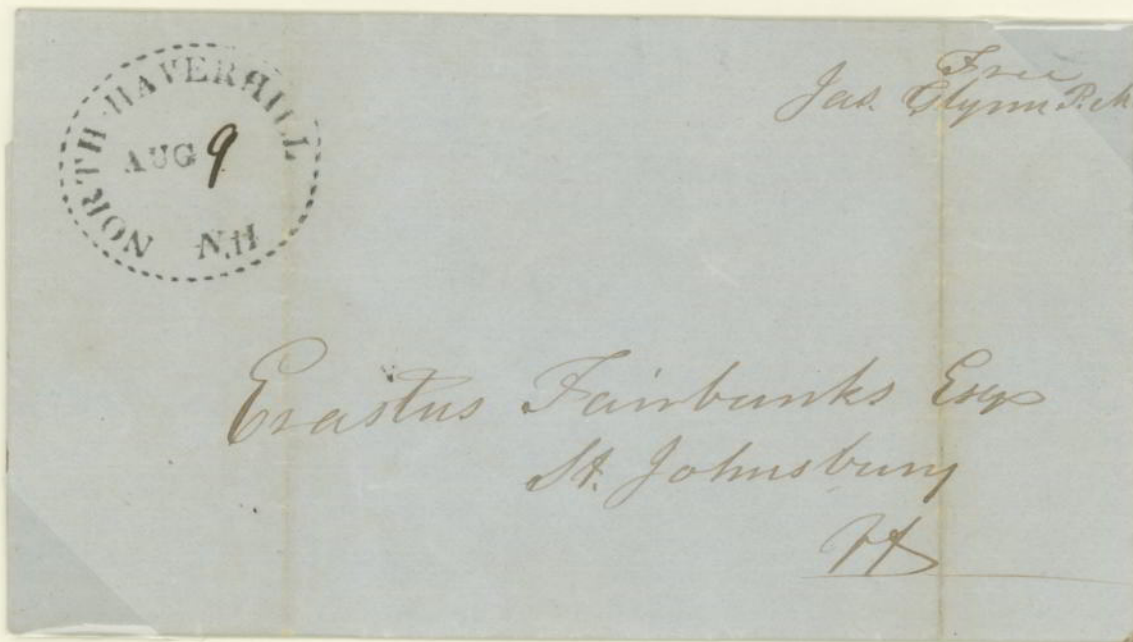
Letter in part describes ordeal of trip to Philadelphia.

III C. North Haverhill Dotted Ovals



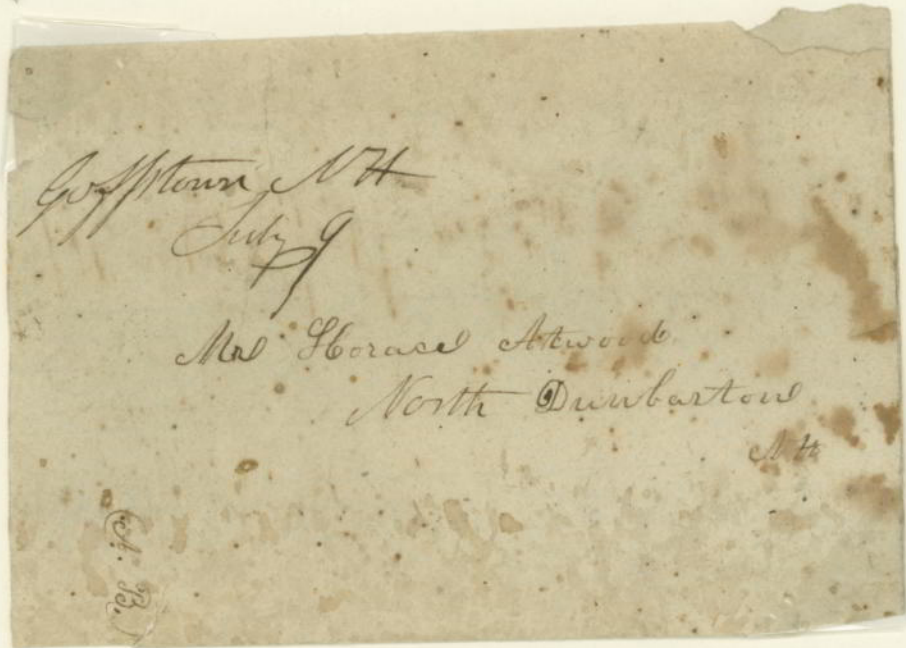
Red oval on 1843 unpaid letter to Bath. Used 1837-1843.

Rated 6c for no more than 30 miles.



Black oval on 1849 letter with postmaster free frank.
This late type oval slightly smaller than earlier example
and known used 1847-1850 in red and black.

III C. Goffstown Manuscript on Newspaper Wrapper

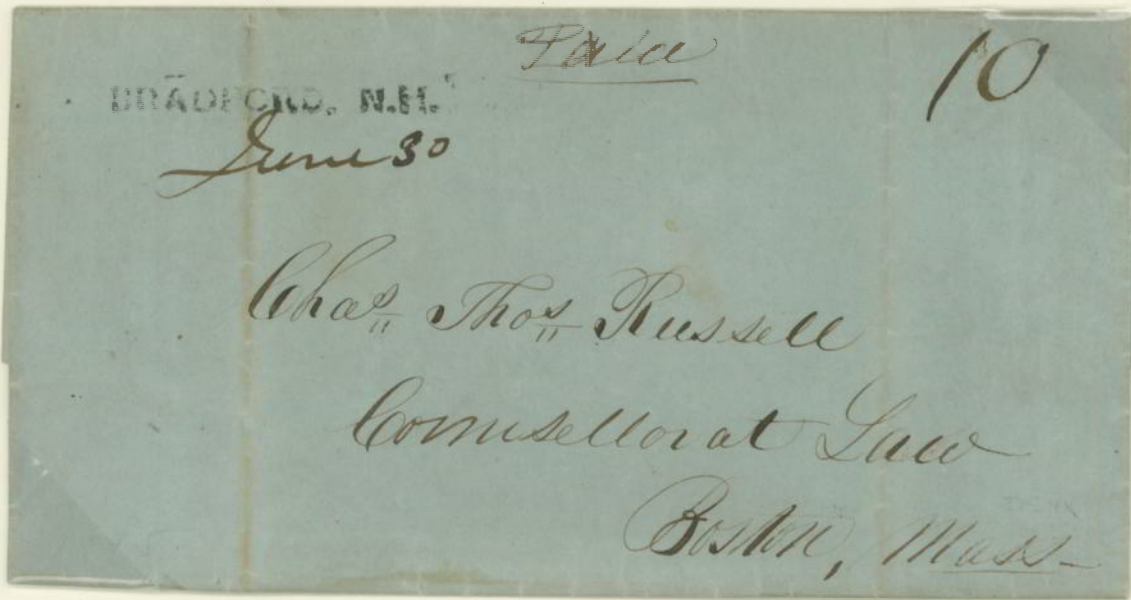


Marking of July 9 (1844) on wrapper with copy of "Manchester Democrat" addressed to North Dunbarton NH.

Newspapers charged 1c for not over 100 miles or any distance within a state.



III C. Bradford & Brentwood Straight Lines - Old & New Rates



1845 paid letter dated June 30, last day of old postage rates.
Late usage for this type Bradford handstamp.

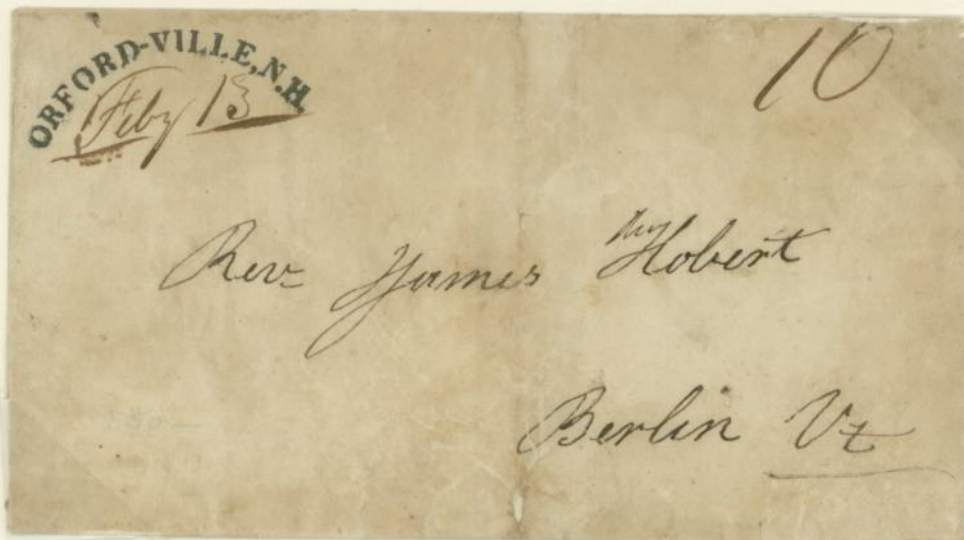
Rated 10c for distance over 30 thru 80 miles.



Unpaid letter dated August 4th 1845.
Townmark known used only in 1845 by this Rockingham Co. office.

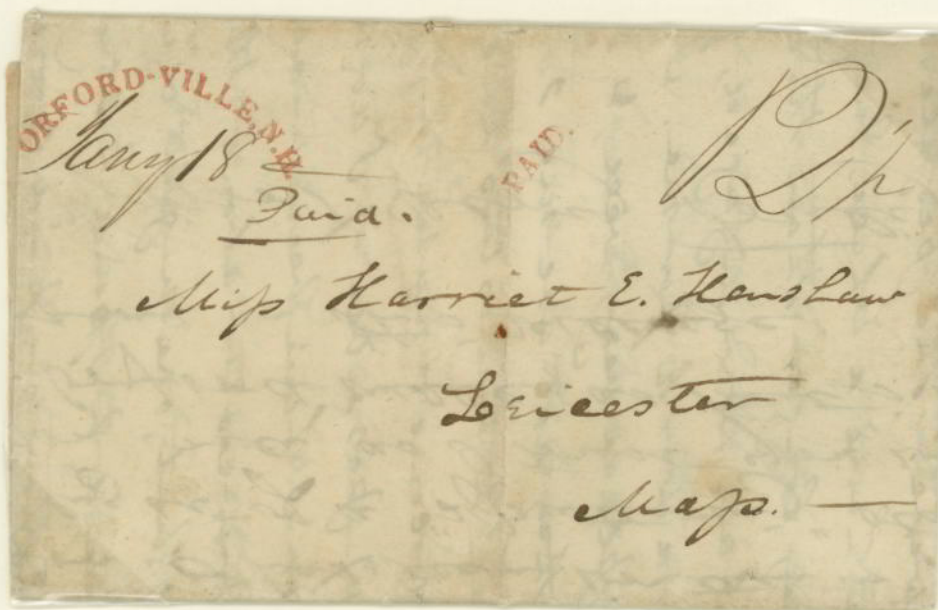
Rated 5c for distance not over 300 miles in accord with new rates
effective July 1, 1845.

III.C. Small Orfordville Arcs



Flat arc town mark on 1843 unpaid cover to Vermont
Only recorded example in black.
Post office in Grafton Co. established 1840.

Rated 10c for distance from 30 thru 80 miles.

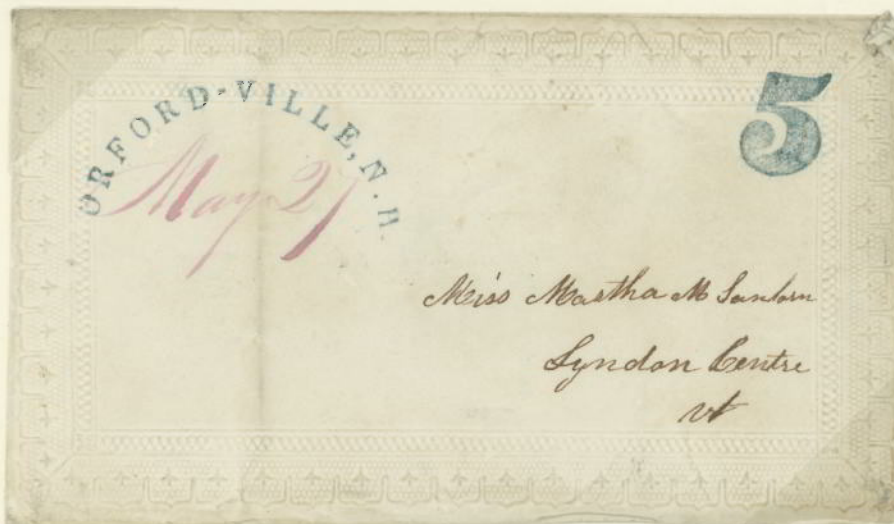


Same arc handstamp in red used on paid letter dated January 1844.
Only recorded example in red

Rated 12 1/2c to Massachusetts.

IV. AFTER RATE SIMPLIFICATION IN 1845
HANDSTAMP RATE MARKS BECAME COMMON

IV.A. Circles, Arcs Straight Lines and Ovals 1845 - 1851



Larger Orfordville Arc in blue on unpaid 1850 ladies' envelope.
Rated 5c for not over 300 miles.

Under new postal regulation effective 1845
rates determined by weight and distance only.
Multiple sheet letters in envelopes in common use by 1850.



Large red arc on 1848 paid letter

Large red and blue Orfordville arcs are known used in 1844 - 1852.

IV A. Paper Mill Village



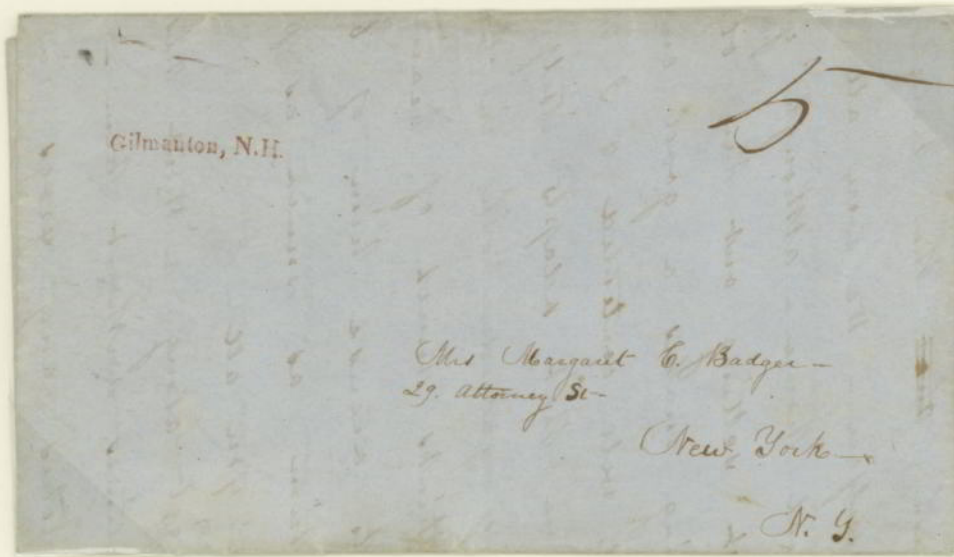
Unpaid 1846 letter with red circle postmark and small numeral 5. Combination recorded used only in 1846. This Cheshire Co. post office discontinued in 1866.

Rated 5c for not over 300 miles under new postal regulations effective July 1, 1845.

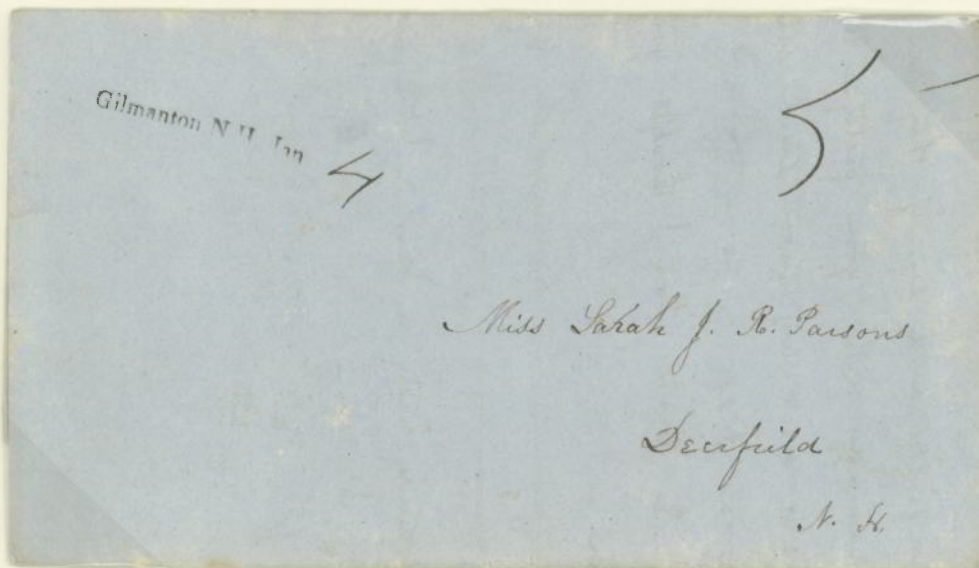


Unpaid 1847 letter with green postmark and large numeral 5. Recorded used in green 1845-1852.

IV A. Gilmanton Straight Lines - Used 1846-1847



1846 letter
Gilmanton office in Belknap County established in 1800.



Same in black with month and manuscript day date on 1847 letter.

5c due for distance not over 300 miles

IV A. Lake Village Circles with No Outer Ring



1848 unpaid letter. Lake Village post office in Belknap County established 1843, discontinued 1891.

Rated "X", 10c for distance over 300 miles.



1849 unpaid letter.

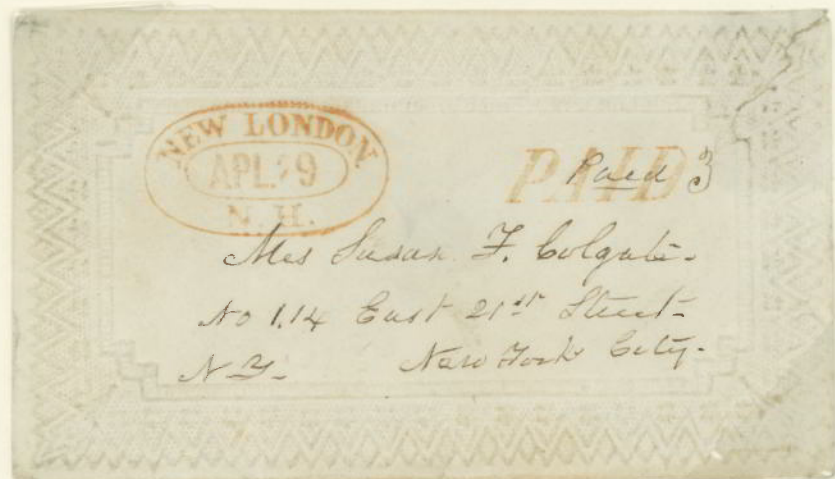
Rated "V", 5c for distance not over 300 miles.

IV A. New London Double Ovals - Used 1850-1855
Known in black, orange and blue



Unpaid 1851 envelope with blue 5 in circle
New London post office in Merrimack Co.

Rated 5c for distance not over 300 miles.



Orange postmark with straight line PAID
and manuscript "paid 3" in hand of writer.

Rated 3c for prepaid letter effective with new rates June 30, 1851.

IV A. Dover Forwarding Marks



Letter mailed from New York August 30, 1850 addressed to Fairhaven, Mass. went to Dover. "Missent & Forwarded" handstamp applied with Dover townmark of August 31st.

Rated 10c for distance over 300 miles.
No additional postage required on missent letter.



Letter c. 1850 posted at West Halifax, Vt. addressed to Dover. Readdressed Lawrence, Mass. Dover circle date stamp applied with "Forwarded" marking and "10" rate.

Rated 5c due at W. Halifax for distance not over 300 miles.
Rerated 10c due as forwarded letter.

IV.A. Seabrook Manuscript & Concord Forwarding Marks



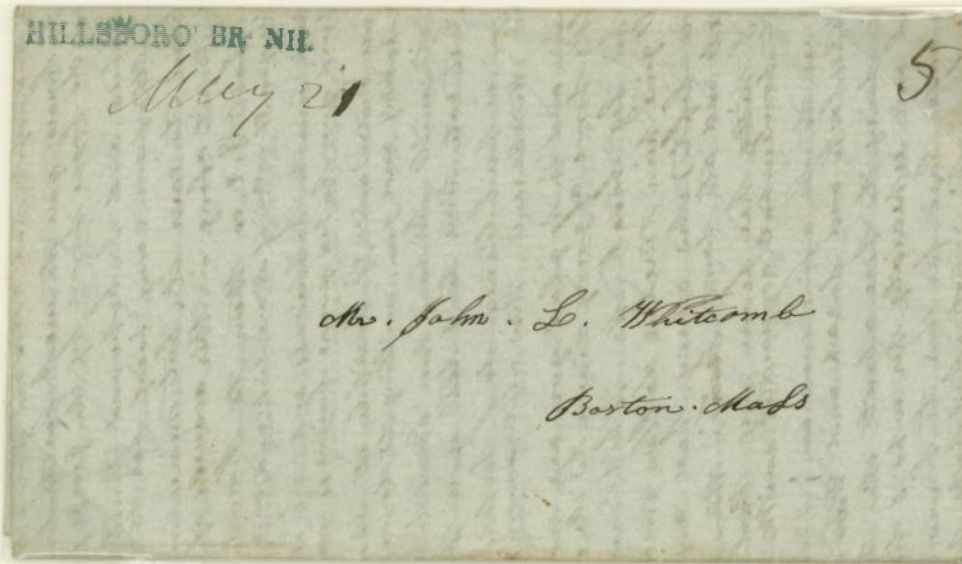
Seabrook manuscript on unpaid envelope addressed " Treasurer Rockingham County NH".
Sent to Concord, state capitol, then addressed and forwarded to Exeter.
Concord blue circle postmark added with double 5's and 10.

Letter inadequately addressed and treated as forwarded letter rather than missent.

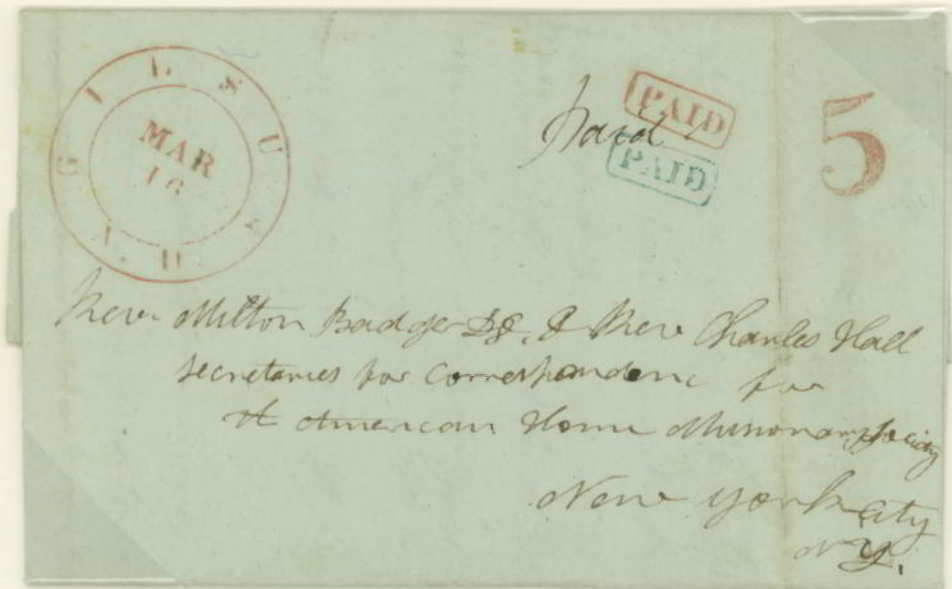
Rated 5c postage (over manuscript 5) + 5c forwarding fee = 10c.

This Concord postmark used 1845-1856.

IV A. Hillsboro Bridge & Gilsum Circle



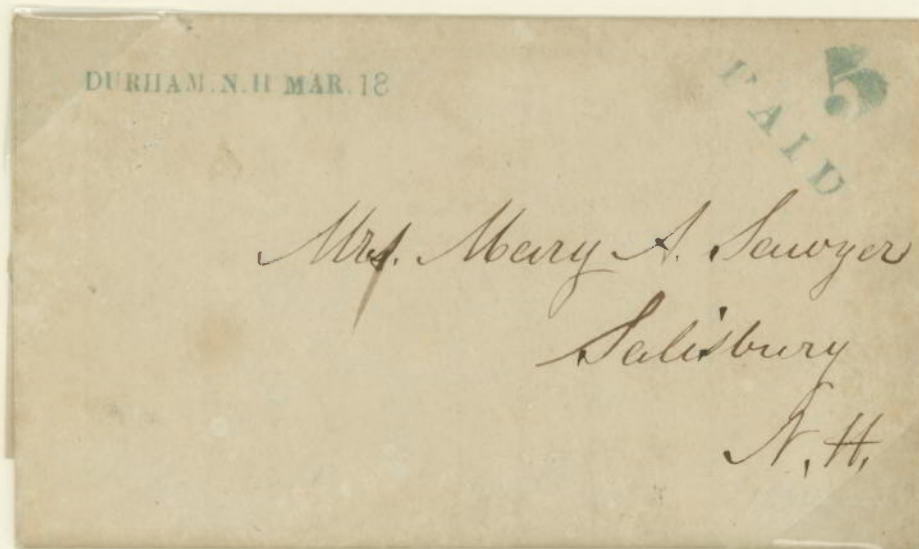
Hillsboro Br (Bridge) straight line on 1849 unpaid letter to Boston.



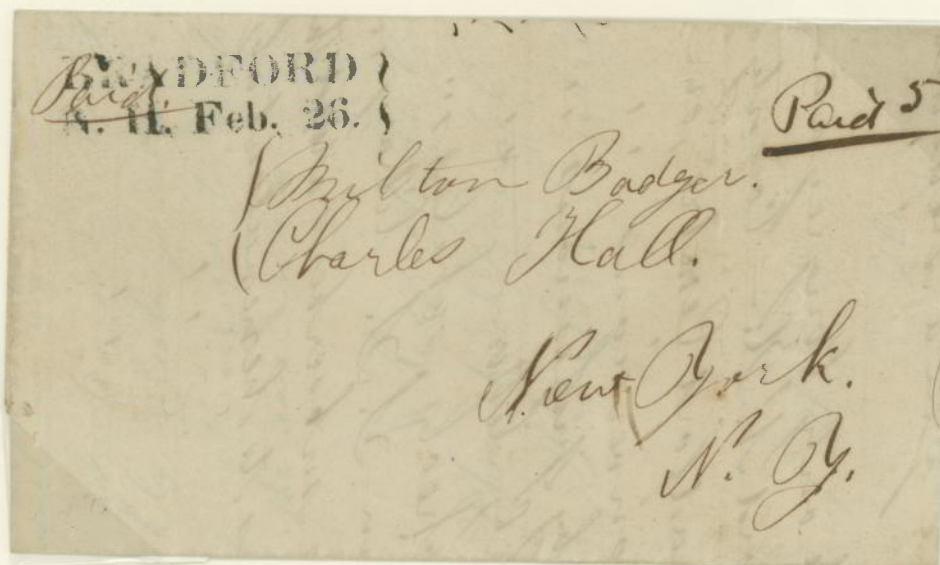
Gilsum double circle on 1847 paid letter to New York.

Letters rated 5c for distance not over 300 miles.

IV A. Durham & Large Bradford Straight Lines



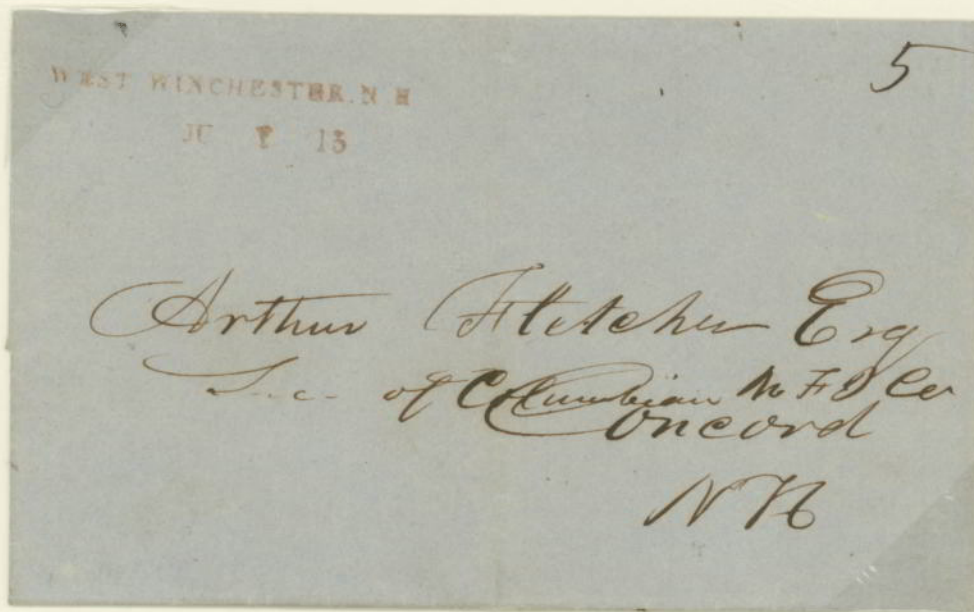
1850 letter with "PAID" and "5" handstamps .
Townmark known used 1850-52 in blue and black by this Stratford County office.



Large Bradford postmark with bracket on 1850 paid letter.
Known used 1849-50.

Letters rated 5c for not over 300 miles.

IV A. West Winchester & Jackson Straight Lines



1848 unpaid letter from West Winchester.

Post office in Cheshire Co. established 1833; discontinued 1854.



Undated letter to East Cambridge Massachusetts. Only recorded example.
Most likely 1845-51 period when folded letter sheets were still in common use.

Jackson office established 1830 in part of Coos county which became Carrol Co. in 1840.

Both Letters rated 5c due for distance not over 300 miles.

IV.A. North Charlestown



1851 unpaid letter.

North Charlestown handstamp with no outer ring previously unrecorded.

This post office in Sullivan Co. established 1827.



North Charlestown straight line town mark used in 1851.

One of two examples recorded.

Rated 10c due: Double rate for distance not over 300 miles.

IV A. Manchester Circle with Drop Rate Marking



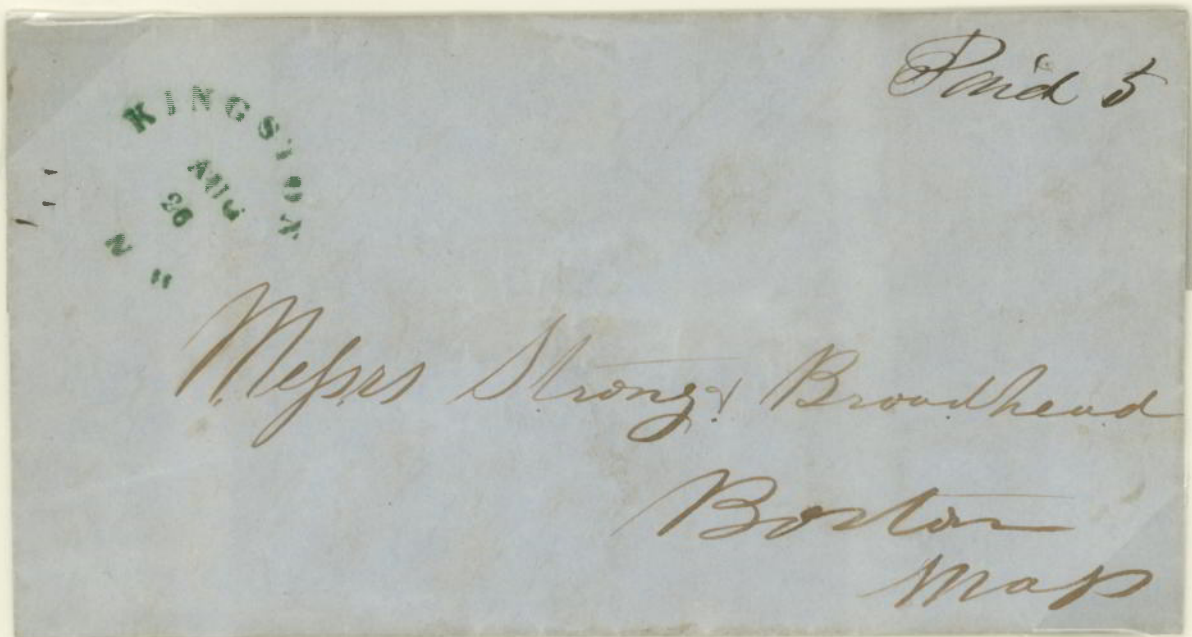
Valentine cover with "Feb 14" date and "2" rate marking in red.
This Manchester marking used in 1840's and early 1850's.

Rated 2c due, drop letter rate under act of 1845.
Rate reduced to 1c June 30, 1851.

IV A. Green Circles



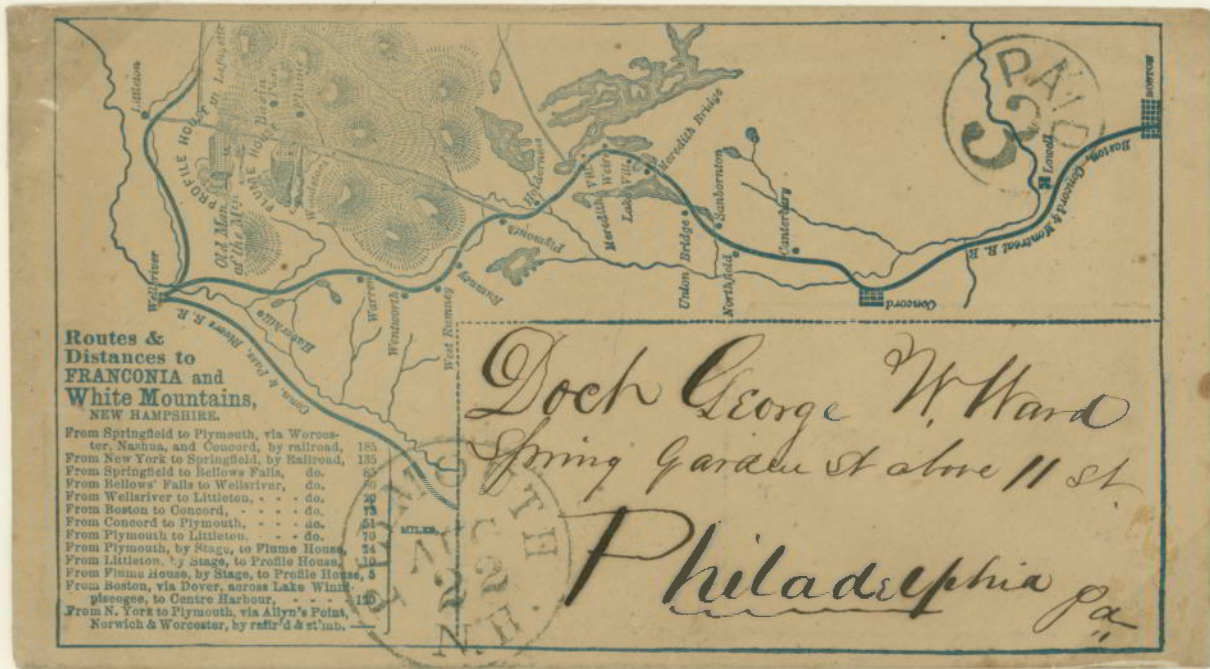
Holderness handstamps on town tax assessment document dated June 2nd 1851.



Kingston postmark with no outer ring on 1850 paid letter.

Letters rated 5c due for distance not exceeding 300 miles.

IV.A. Plymouth Prepaid to Philadelphia



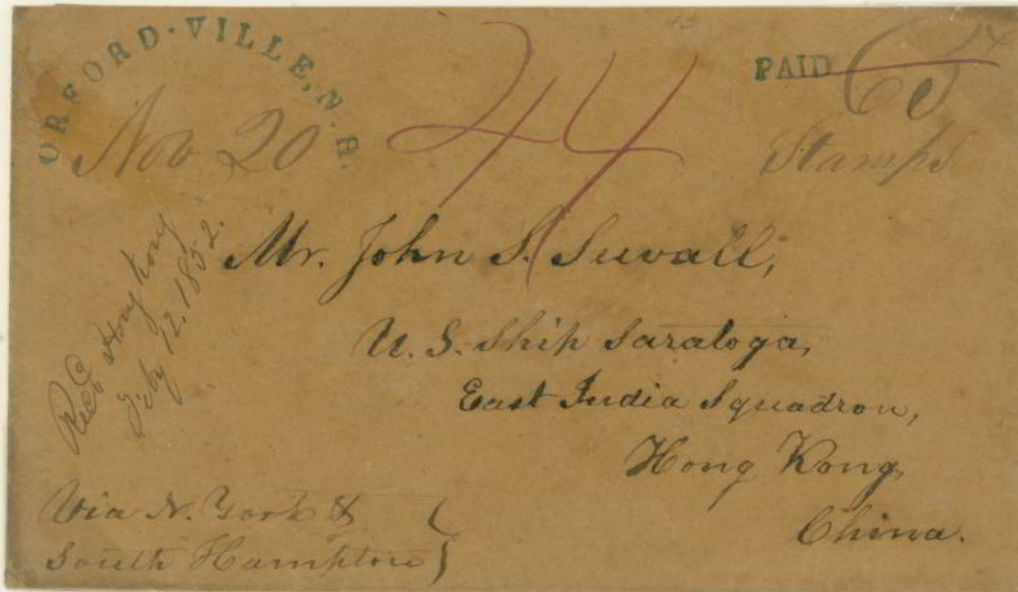
Illustrated envelope of early 1850's Showing routes and distances to Franconia and White Mountains.

Prepaid rate of 3c for distance not exceeding 3000 miles.

Printed reverse shows "Pemigewasset House" hotel at Plymouth.



IV A. Orfordville Arc to China



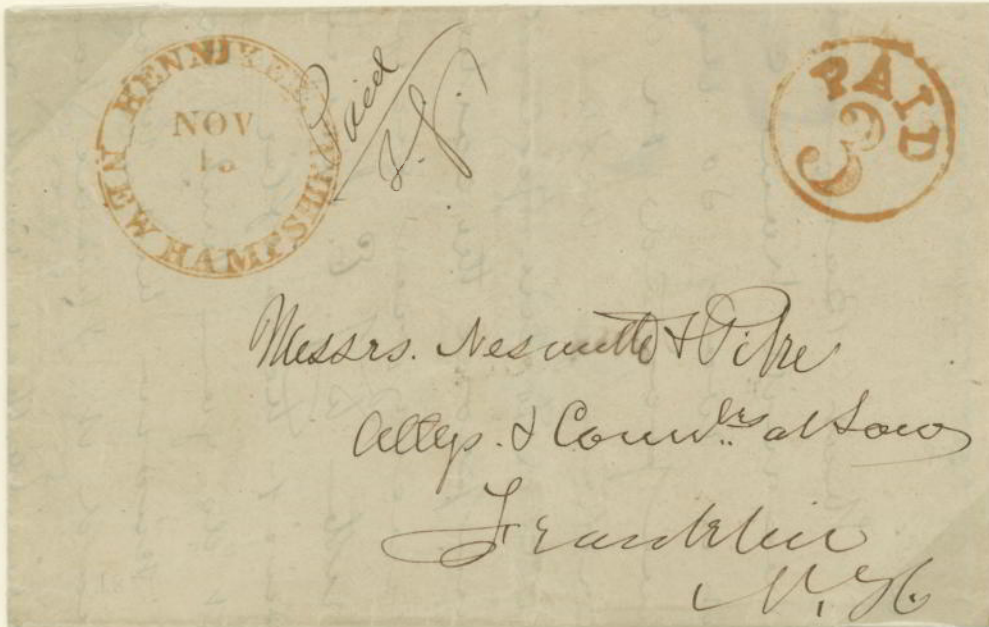
Blue arc and PAID on 1851 letter addressed "via New York and Southhampton".
Letter went US packet to England and British mails to Hong Kong.
Received Hong Kong 12 FE 1852 backstamp.

Rated 65c; 5c US inland postage + 16c US ship + 44c credit to Great Britain (in red).

IV B. CIRCLE POSTMARKS AND RATE MARKING VARIETIES 1851- 1857

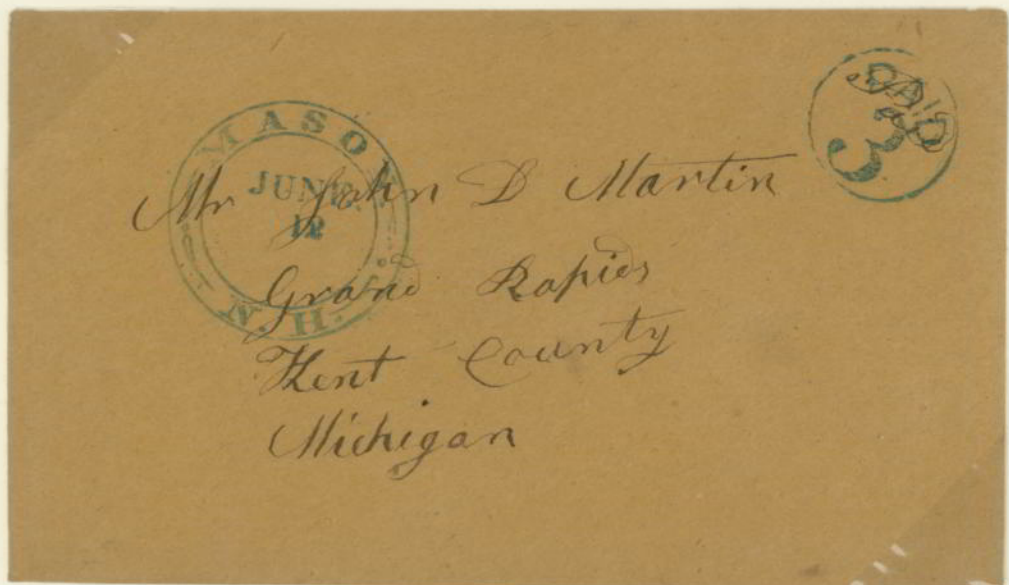
Prepaid letter rate 3c effective June 30, 1851; unpaid letter 5c.

Double Circles with "PAID 3" in Circle Rate Markings



Henniker townmark on letter dated Nov 13, 1851.

Post office established 1811 in part of Hillsboro County which became Merrimack County in 1823.



Blue Mason townmark on envelope. Known used 1852-53.

Mason post office in Hillsboro County established 1828.

IV B. Portsmouth & Meriden Circles to California

Postmasters without 6c handstamp improvise rate designation.



"PAID 3" in circle struck twice on Portsmouth cover to Mission San Jose, California.

Prepaid 6c for distance over 3000 miles to California by Act of 1851.



Handstamp "PAID" with manuscript "6".

IV B. Meriden Circles to Sandwich Islands

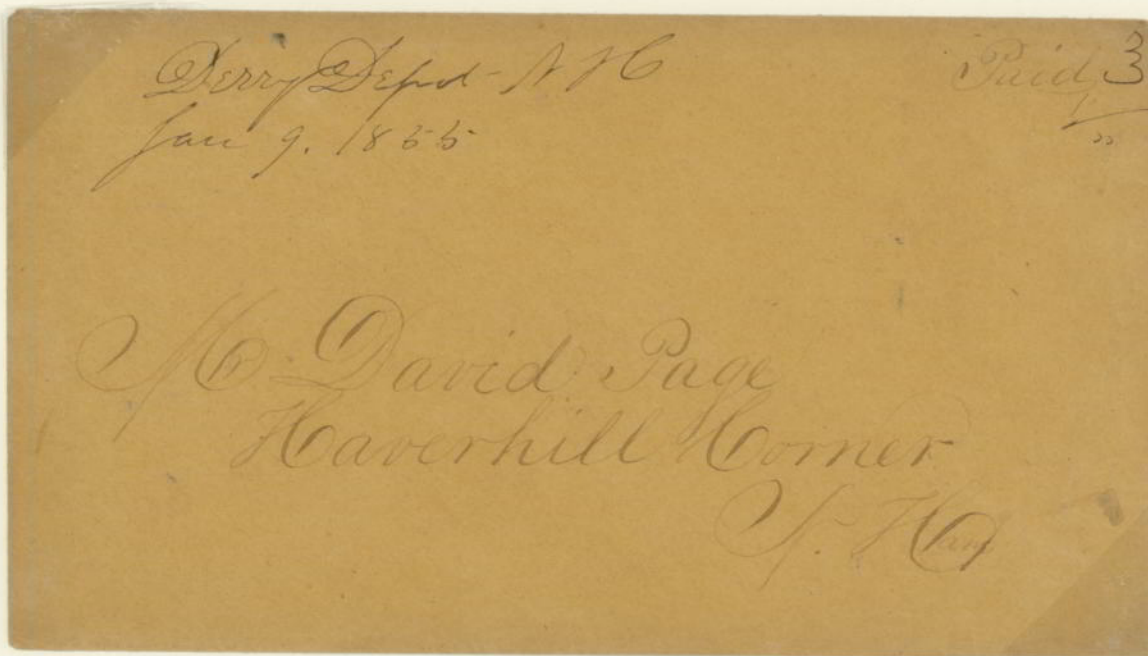


Meriden circle and "PAID" markings on 1852 letters to missionaries in Sandwich Islands. First letter of May 1852 overpaid 4c for letter traveling from west coast by private vessel. Inland postage rate of 6c prepaid correct on second letter. Red crayon 5 represents amount due on arrival in Hawaii.

In 1852 San Francisco postmaster was under special instructions on how "to make up and despatch such mails to the Sandwich Islands, China, and New South Wales". New compilation of Postal Laws and Regulations to cover changes under Act of 1851 was just published April 1852. In May postmaster at Meriden may have been confused by 10c rate from west coast by British packet to such destinations as China.

The Gulicks had seven children, six of whom became missionaries.

IV B. Small Post Offices



Derry Depot open only 4 1/2 months; Sept. 1854 to Feb. 1855.

Shaker Village
with PAID 3 in
Double Circle
Known used 1851



IV B. Walpole & Concord Circles with 1c Rates



"1" in circle for 1c drop rate on ladies envelope dated 1853.

This rate marking for Walpole previously unreported.

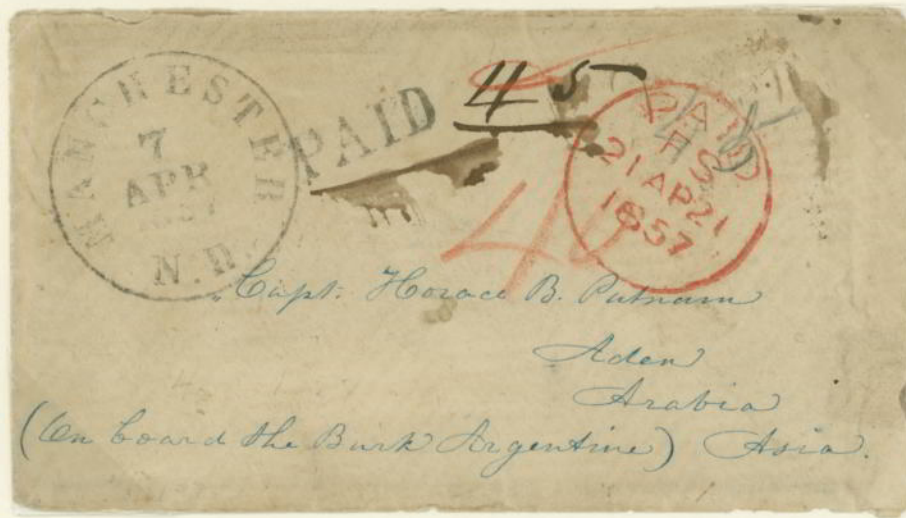


Concord " 1 PAID " in circle townmark on printed circular.

Rated 1c as prepaid printed matter of not more than 1 oz. for a distance not over 500 miles under Act of 1851.

Circular dated Nov.1, 1851 from New Hampshire Secretary of State concerns recommended amendments to the state constitution.

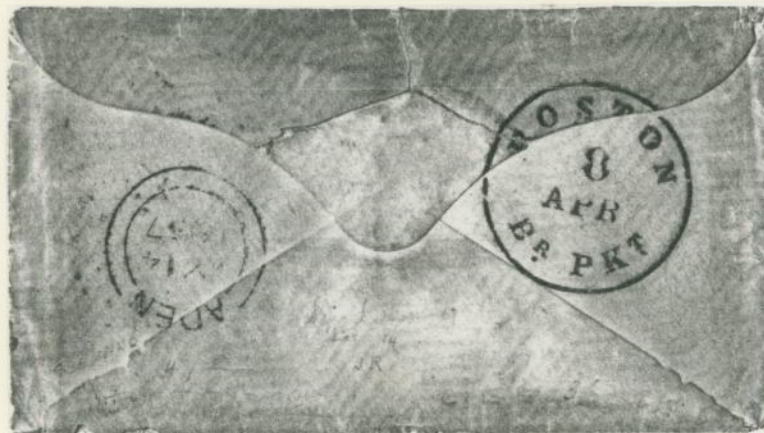
IV B. Manchester Circle to Aden



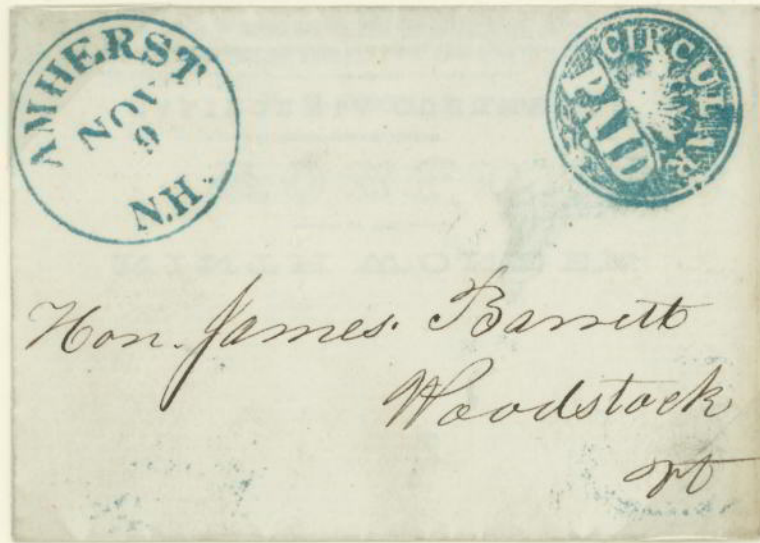
1857 letter to Aden, Arabia. Boston "Br. PKT" backstamp of April 8th.
British foreign mail marking in red dated April 21, 1857.
Aden receiving mark on back dated May 14th.

Rated 45c ; 5c US + 40c credit to Great Britain

British Cunard Lines packet Europa departed Boston April 8th
and arrived Liverpool April 20th.



IV B. Amherst Circle on Circular



Negative "Circular PAID" in circle on 1857 advertisement.
Act of January 2, 1857 required all printed matter to be prepaid.
Rate: 1c up to 3 ounces anywhere in US.

Postmaster's ad for "Cucumber Seeds".

NINTH WONDER
— OF THE —
W O R L D .
— OR, —
CALIFORNIA CUCUMBER .

The subscriber has raised, the past season, eight California Cucumbers, whose united length is **Thirty and one sixth Feet**. Plant at the same time as the common Cucumber. They yield bountifully, and make the best of Pickles when small. By enclosing to me **Ten Cents in Cash or Postage Stamps**, I will forward by return of mail Ten Seeds.

N. H. GEORGE, Postmaster.
Amherst, New-Hampshire, Nov. 3, 1857.

IV B. Hillsboro Bridge & Manchester Circles with 3 Paids



Ladies cover to Nashua. No year date. Postmark known used 1854-55.



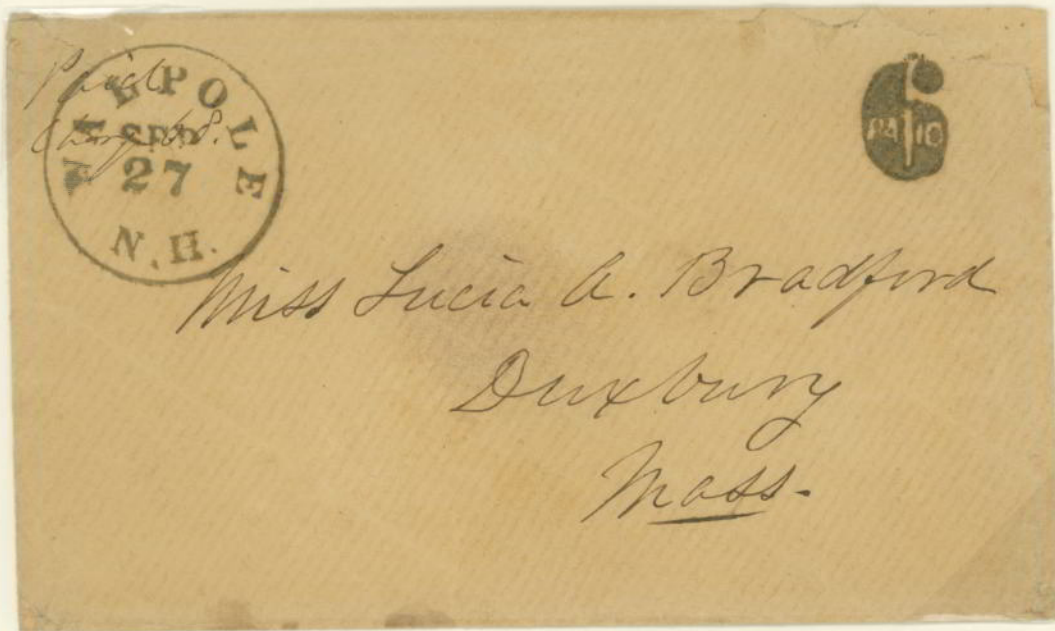
Blue Manchester on ladies cover. Known used 1852-1853.

IV B. Negative PAID in 3 and 6



Westmoreland Depot Markings known only in blue and used in 1853.

Centre-Sandwich markings known used 1852-54 in blue & black.



Walpole negative PAID in 6 used to show double rate. Most uncommon.

IV B. 3c Prepaid Rate Marking Varieties



Postmasters had distinctive ways of showing the 3c prepaid rate under the Act of 1851.

IV B. Alton Straight Line



1853 paid letter to Woodstock, NH.

Initially handstamped as 5c due. "5" crossed out and rerated with "Paid 3 cts" in circle.
Correct rate for prepaid letter.

Alton post office established 1818 in part of Strafford County
that became Belknap County in 1840.

IV B. Portsmouth & Amherst Circles with Franklin Pierce Free Frank



Presidential free frank.

Only US president from New Hampshire (1853-1857).

Portsmouth circular date stamp, type used 1849-1858, with straight line "FREE" handstamp. Known used in blue and red in early years.



Free frank on 1842 letter.

Not recognized by postmaster. Charged 10c for distance to Gilford.

Pierce was a member of the US Senate during the 27th Congress but resigned February 28, 1842. Consequently, he was not eligible for the franking privilege on August 17th of that year even though Congress was in session on that date.

IV B. Concord and Portsmouth Circles with Rate Markings to England



Paid 1855 letter to England. Liverpool packet receiving handstamp "PAID IN AMERICA" dated Dec 16th 1855.
Rated 24c; 5c US + 19c credit to Great Britain (in red)

British packet mail from Boston by Cunard packet "Canada" departed Boston Dec. 5th; arrived Liverpool Dec. 16th.



Portsmouth to Liverpool England August 6, 1855
"Collin's Steamer via New York 8 August" on front.
Paid 24 to Liverpool; 21c for U.S and sea passage plus 3c credit to Great Britain.
Backstamp "Boston Aug 7 Am Pkt".

This letter carried on steamer Atlantic. Arrived Liverpool Aug 19.
American Collins line operated North Atlantic mail steamers 1850 -1858.

IV B. Lyme Circle to Canada



Unpaid 1855 letter to Canada. Red foliate US exchange marking.
Circular backstamps of Montreal office "AP 11 1855" and Chatham "AP 17 1855".

Rated 10c US = 6d Canadian due.

IV B. Concord Circles to Canada
Duplicate Letters 1855



Duplicate letters to assure receipt was common practice.
Blue Concord circular stamp has "3 PAID" partially obliterated by "10"
on first envelope and is obliterated by straight line "PAID" on second envelope.

Red foliate US exchange mark.
St. Johns L.C. marking in red suggests these letters
passed thru US exchange office at Burlington, Vermont.
Both backstamped Chambly L.C "JA 31 1855".

Rated 10c; Letter rate to Canada