

# THE HELIOGRAPH



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**SPRING 1993 ISSUE    VOLUME 7, NO. 2**



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# THE HELIOGRAPH

## VOLUME 7 NUMBER 2 (Whole Number 26)

### Spring 1993

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**Dane S. Claussen,**  
Editor

Editorial Staff:

**Robert Bechtel, Alex Lutgendorf  
& Eugene Nelson**

Contributing Editors:

**James Bruns and Thomas Todsen**

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Figure 1

## The Florence, Arizona, POW Camp

By Robert B. Bechtel

On January 27, 1942, on about 400 acres west of highway 89 and north of the Gila River near the town of Florence, Ariz., the US government began construction on the largest prisoner of war camp in the state (Figure 1). The first prisoners began arriving on May 6, 1943. All of the original prisoners were Italian and they brought with them their own culture, forming choirs and even building their own chapel out of volcanic rock. The peak population reached about 7,000 before Italy surrendered on Sept. 8, 1943. Soon after this, the Italians were moved out and Germans moved in. By December 1945, 13,000 German prisoners were at Florence.

Arther E. Gomes, a former guard at the camp, described his reaction to the German's arrival as causing the hair to stand up on the back of his neck as he saw goose-stepping Germans march in. "They were professional soldiers," he said. Gomes followed the fate of the camp after its closing in 1945 when it evolved into the Institute of Educational Rehabilitation, then into a state hospital annex, an honor camp for the Bureau of Prisons, and finally, a mobile home and RV park called Florence Gardens, which it is today. Only two of the original buildings still stand and these are used for storage.

The camp's postal history is rich with cancel types but these are listed under the post office at Coolidge, Arizona, despite the proximity to Florence. (See R. Bechtel, Arizona Statehood Postmark Catalog, 1989). The types are numbered following the previous 10 types from Coolidge as follows:

Type 11: August 7, 1942 to March 1, 1946

Type 12: March 20, 1943 (no later date known)

Type 13: July 28, 1944 to March 25, 1946

Type 14: August 5, 1943 to August 24, 1944

Although the post office is listed as having begun business on July 6, 1942, the earliest cancel of record is August 7 and this is considered the first day letters were cancelled (Figure 2 is a postcard marked with this date and the notation: "Camp delayed in opening."). In addition, even though the last day of record is given as March 15, 1947, the last known cancel is on August 24, 1944 and this is an error with the spelling INTERNMENT. The post office was officially called the Internment Branch of Coolidge.

Figures 3 to 6 show the various cancels. Cancel Type #12 is the rarest because only one example is known. The camp also provided a rather long list of corner cards. This is a term used to describe the return address, especially when printed.

### Corner Cards from Florence POW Camp:

Florence Internment Camp, US Army

Post Intelligence Officer

Supply Division

Camp Exchange

Office, Post Engineer

Camp Canteen

American Red Cross, Office of Field Director

Headquarters, Prisoner of War Camp

Security Division

Officers' Mess Fund

Supply and Service Division

341st MPEG Co. (Military Police Emergency Group)



323rd MPEG Co.  
613 MPEG Co.  
Headquarters, Detachment SCU 1920

The base officially closed March 15, 1947 and, according to Gomes, the buried remains of the last POWs who died were transferred back to

Italy and Germany by 1950. Many Italians did not want to return to their native country and the few escapees were found trying to merge into American life.

Cancels from the Florence camp are worth from \$10 to \$25 and are an unusual souvenir of World War II.

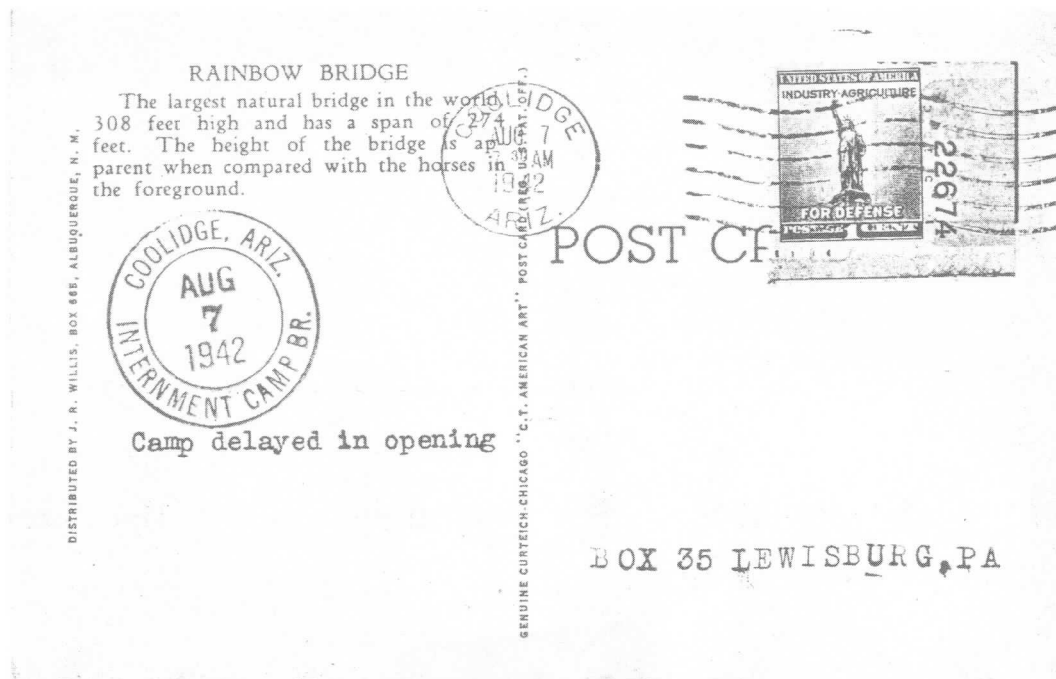


Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6



WAR DEPARTMENT

P/W Camp, Papago Park  
Provost Marshal Office  
Phoenix, Arizona.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS



PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID  
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, 9900

WAR SAVINGS  
Bonds and Stamps

FRANK B. WALLACE

~~1134 W. CULVER~~

~~PHOENIX ARIZONA~~

741 E. Dahl  
Phoenix  
Ariz.

9211/2 1st St  
Cinderella  
Mar 1944

3935 6th St.  
Arlington, Va

Figure 7



## 1943 Letter from Papago Park POW Camp

HEADQUARTERS SCU 1982  
P/W Camp, Papago Park  
Phoenix, Arizona

30 November 1943

SUBJECT: ESCAPED PRISONER OF WAR  
TO FRANK B. WALLACE

1. As you have undoubtedly read in your daily papers, A Prisoner of War Camp has been established at Papago Park. The reason for this letter to you is to solicit your cooperation with the Military Authorities so that in case of an escape of a prisoner of war, you will know what to do, whom to call, and what information will be necessary if the escaped prisoner comes to your attention or on your property.

2. The following telephone numbers are emergency numbers for this use only:-

Highway Patrol.....3-1149  
Papago Park (Extension 7 & 79).....4-7141

3. All coats, shirts, blouses and jackets worn by prisoners will be marked across the back with the letter P-W six (6) inches high and in the like manner on the front of each sleeve between the elbow and shoulder with the letters four (4) inches high. Trousers will be marked in the same manner with letters four (4) inches across the back immediately below the belt, and on the front

of each leg immediately above the knee. The heel of each shoe is marked with two (2) V's on the inner circle.

4. This Camp may house German Prisoners, they may be Italians or Japanese. If any stranger who does not speak the English language or speaks it brokenly and who cannot identify himself, comes to you, we would appreciate it greatly if you would notify us at once. There may not have been an escaped Prisoner from this Camp, but he may have escaped from one of the work camps in this vicinity. So you can readily (sic) see that any information given by you may mean the apprehension of an escaped prisoner, or an alien enemy of this country.

5. The information necessary for us to arrive at your place must be as follows: (a) Your name

(b) House number or Rural Route Box

(c) National, State or Country Highway by number

(The name of the road on which you live)

6. Any further information or explanation of this letter would be furnished you gladly, through the mail or in person or by a personal call to the Provost Marshal Office at Gate No. I, SCU 1982, Papago Park.

For the Commanding Officer:

L.M Hebblethwaite  
Captain, Infantry  
Provost Marshal



## The Rev. Horace S. Bishop, Postmaster, Fort Fillmore, New Mexico

By Thomas K. Todsen

In 1858, the Rev. Horace S. Bishop, a minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church, moved from a church in Elizabethtown, New Jersey, to the one in Stapleton, Staten Island, New York. While there, in evidence of his restlessness, he asked his cousin, William D. Bishop, who later headed the U.S. Patent Office, to look into the possibility of being appointed a chaplain in the Army or Navy. On learning the probability was low, he turned to Bishops Baker and Janes, who headed the Methodist Episcopal Missions, and by February 1859, was on his way West to take over the mission field in west Texas and New Mexico. From St. Louis, he and his companion, the Rev. D. Tuthill, took the Overland Mail Co. stage west.

The next we hear of Rev. Bishop is on April 7, 1859, when James A. Lucas of Mesilla, New Mexico (he was later appointed Secretary of State of the Confederate Territory of Arizona by Lt. Col. Baylor) introduced him to Major Simon Hart of Franklin (now El Paso), Texas, preliminary to Rev. Bishop's preaching in Franklin. As a result of that preaching, we know of at least one person pledging to forego "ardent spirits." After 10 days in Franklin, the Rev. Bishop returned to Mesilla and pursued his mission activities there.

In the meantime, Bishop had heard from his cousin in Washington that he would probably be appointed Army chaplain at Fort Fillmore, New Mexico. This appointment was effective April 30, 1859. From this vantage point, Bishop did everything he could to start a school in Mesilla. He bought property and had a building put up

there (Samuel G. Bean, brother of the notorious Roy Bean, was the contractor). Bishop was appointed postmaster of Fort Fillmore on August 24, 1859. According to the Post Office Department, he held the position until February 14, 1863.

Bishop worked with many of the people who were trying to get the part of New Mexico south of the 34th parallel declared the Territory of Arizona. Among these were Dr. L.S. Owings of Mesilla, named governor under a provisional constitution approved in convention April 1860, Samuel Bean named marshal, and James Lucas, named Secretary of State. He headed a committee that arranged for a block of silver ore from the Stephenson Silver Mine to be sent to Washington as a contribution from Arizona to be put in the Washington Monument.

Sometime about August 1, 1860, Bishop went back East on leave. Before he left, he apparently initiated an investigative board into the activities of Maynard and McGrorty, the sutlers at Fort Fillmore. As a result, both of these individuals were displaced, by order from Washington. In October, by which time he was apparently filling a pulpit in Bound Brook, N.J., he applied for a six-month extension on his leave, which was granted.

Toward the end of his leave, with Secession by the Southern states a fact, Bishop queried Army Headquarters about returning to Fort Fillmore. The reply, dated June 28, 1861, was that all regularly Army troops had been ordered out of New Mexico, and whether Fort Fillmore would ever again be garrisoned was unknown. The official Army record shows Bishop's last day as chaplain of Fort Fillmore was July 26, 1861, the



day the U.S. Army abandoned the post. It was occupied by Confederate troops the next day. Since Fort Fillmore was essentially destroyed before it was abandoned and was never regarrisoned, the post office there was discontinued in fact the same day. The Rev. Bishop continued to fill various pulpits in northern New Jersey and southeastern New York from then until his death in 1898.

An interesting sidelight relating to the Confederate occupation of Mesilla concerns Samuel Bean. Bean, in contracting to finish the school building that the Rev. Bishop was having erected in Mesilla, was told by Bishop that he could draw on the \$80 that he had deposited with Thomas Bull. On his withdrawing \$33.50 from Bull, Bean was told there was no more money. Bean then appealed to the local citizens and received a donation of \$20 cash plus lumber worth about \$10 from a Mr. Cochran. This was sufficient to complete the building.

After the Rev. Bishop went back East and was later told that Fort Fillmore was no longer garrisoned because of the Confederate takeover, Mr. Cochran brought suit in the local Probate Court to recover his \$30. The Rev. Bishop was

sued as "Agent, Mesilla College." Since there was no way that Bishop could have returned to Mesilla in time to defend against the suit (if he would even have been allowed to do so), the school building was forfeited. In the same newspaper of July 13, 1861, it was reported that many other suits had been brought against Union sympathizers who had left the area, such as Mr. Catlett, who owned and operated the stage line from Mesilla to Pinos Altos. In a later letter, Major J.T. Sprague, erstwhile President of the Stevenson Mining Co. near Mesilla, lamented his loss of his investment in the mines as a result of Confederate confiscation. Thus, there seems to have been a consistent pattern of takeover of the properties of those who had left because they sided with the North against secession.

### References

Correspondence from the estate of the Rev. Horace S. Bishop, 1858-1861.

Record of Appointment of Postmasters--New Mexico.

Historical Register and Dictionary of the Army, 1789-1903.

Mesilla Times, 1860-1862.

## Getting the Message Through: Clandestine Mail and Postage Stamps

By Mark Sommer

In the Art of War, Sun-Tzu wrote, "If an army has been deprived of its morale, its general will also lose his heart." In both World War II and, more recently, the Vietnam War, intelligence services used postage stamps to undermine the morale of the enemy.

### Nazi Germany

During World War II, Germany issued propaganda postage stamps in an effort to demoralize the British. Two of these imitated British postage stamps. In one, instead of showing the head of the British king, the Germans pictured Soviet leader Stalin under the inscription, "This is a Jew(i)sh War." The other stamp bore the inscription, "SSSR Britannia" and Stalin's face, suggesting that the Soviet Union was really running the British government.

Germany also printed stamps for Subhas Chandra Bose's "Azad Hind" (Free India) organization. The Azad Hind organization opposed British control of India and sided with the Axis powers during the war. Azad Hind propaganda stamps show militant Indians fighting for their independence, allegories of India breaking the chains of bondage, and other scenes designed to stimulate an uprising against British rule.

### The Allies

Not to be outdone by the Axis, the British Psychological Warfare Branch and the American Office of Strategic Services (OSS) also forged German postage stamps and issued propaganda seals. These forgeries served to defraud the German postal system, but more important, they

conveyed propaganda. The most well known of these stamps was produced by the OSS. IT resembled the German 12-pfenning Hitler-head stamp but showed Hitler as a skull representing death. The stamps were inscribed "Futsches (Finished) Reich" rather than "Deutsches Reich." The British Psychological Warfare branch had printed a false stamp that had Himmler's, rather than Hitler's face on it. This propaganda stamp was an attempt to divide Nazi leaders by suggesting that it was Himmler's ambition to oust Hitler and make himself dictator.

### Operation Cornflakes

Operation Cornflakes was devised by Morale Operations (MO), branch of the OSS, to bring subversive propaganda to the German breakfast table. The plan was to infiltrate the German postal system, disrupt their services, and defraud the system. This operation is described in a 1945 pamphlet, "The Story of Cornflakes, Pig Iron and Sheet Iron." Pig iron and sheet iron refer to two programs in which propaganda was air-dropped behind German lines. Forgeries of 6- and 12-pfenning stamps were an integral part of Operation Cornflakes.

After considering a variety of plans, MO decided to begin with dropping two Hungarian mailbags carrying subversive propaganda into Hungary. Flying from Italian airfields, U.S. Army Air Force planes twice dropped mailbags filled with propaganda in 1944. The next phase of the operation, however, was much more sophisticated.

After Hungary, MO turned its eyes toward Germany and planned to drop German mail sacks into Germany itself. With the growing disruption





of the German transportation system itself by mid-1944, MO believed that mail was inevitably misdirected and scattered about the country, and assumed that any German, upon discovering mail sacks at a recently bombed rail terminus or along a track, would turn them over to postal authorities for delivery to the proper destination. To capitalize on this confusion, MO planned to drop the propaganda-filled mail sacks alongside destroyed mail trains. As simple as this plan appeared, it required careful preparation to be successful.

In the early stages of cornflakes, most of the problems were research and production, rather than operational. First, MO personnel had to learn as much as possible about the German postal system. They interviewed former German mail clerks at POW camps, especially about methods of packaging and labeling the mail

sacks. They also studied the latest German regulations. The information was cross-checked to clarify the smallest detail.

After considerable experimentation, MO workers forged 6- and 12-pfenning stamps and printed them in Rome. Although they had their own printing facilities, they used a printing firm that had printed stamps for various Latin American countries. In addition to forging the stamps, they had to produce a large quantity of German mail sacks and sack labels.

In August 1944, the German postal system had undergone a thorough reorganization which created new postal districts and changed old cancelling devices. Each district now had a special number. This meant that MO now had to find post-August 1944 cancellations. It took weeks of searching in Rome to find enough cancellations to copy.

A fighter group of the 15th Air Force, stationed in Italy, would execute the operation. This particular group had a reputation for successful low-altitude attacks on German rail traffic in southern Germany and Austria. The Americans prepared special bombs, packed them with mail sacks, each containing about 800 letters. These bombs were designed to explode 50 feet above the target, allowing the released mail bags to reach their "targets" untorn and undamaged.

For the operation, the 15th Air Force's fighters modified their normal tactical procedures. They would look for a train with a rail car attached moving north from southern Austria. The fighters would then attack the train, destroying two or more cars and demobilizing the train. In the confusion, bombs containing the mail sacks would be dropped around the train, to be found in the debris.

For each mission, MO workers carefully coordinated the postal cancellations. They prepared and predated the cancellations in Rome and stamped them on envelopes just before the flight. The forged stamps would be "cancelled" from a town or city along the targeted rail lines. Thus, the "mail" dropped from the fighters would seem to have come from one of those locations, making for a realistic scenario.

MO set up an entire department to handle production of everything necessary for Cornflakes, with the exception of the postage stamps. More than two million addresses and names were taken from the telephone books of such cities as Hamburg, Vienna, Dresden, Berlin, and Stuttgart. Workers used telephone books because it was impossible to get such a quantity of names and addresses elsewhere.

A staff of typists addressed more than 15,000 envelopes a week. Meanwhile, MO agents hand addressed some of the envelopes to provide a plausible mixture with each mailbag. Other personnel stuffed the envelopes and affixed the stamps.

Shortly after Cornflakes was underway, German postal officials announced a drastic change in their regulations: Henceforth, only business and official mail would be permitted through the German postal system. In response, MO reproduced envelopes from German industrial establishments in Linz, Munich, Vienna and Berlin. When printed, these envelopes conformed to the new regulations.

Between February and April 1945, the U.S. Air Force flew 10 operations. In these missions,

more than 120 mail sacks, with over 50,000 pieces of mail, had been dropped around targets inside Germany. As much as three-fourths of the mail either came to the attention of the addressees, or at the very least to German postal officials.

Following Germany's surrender in Italy, the first interrogations of prisoners revealed that German troops did, indeed, receive these items through the German mails. About 90 percent of the prisoners believe the material either originated in Germany or came into the country from Switzerland. Prisoners reported seeing the letters as far north as the Baltic ports. Mailing these letters resulted in investigations of entire units by German counterintelligence. Some of the people involved received court marshals.

### The French Resistance

Another British plan was to forge stamps to transmit information to the French Resistance. Each of these stamps differed in some tiny detail from the original; otherwise, it was identical to the casual observer. If French Resistance fighters received a letter with a British-forged stamp, it was regarded as official instructions. If they received instructions with an authentic French stamp on the envelope, they viewed them with caution since the Germans controlled the French postal system.

Kept as one of the more guarded secrets of the Second World War, the forged stamps allowed the French Underground and the British to communicate right under the noses of the German occupiers. Few in Britain knew that the stamps being dropped by parachute along with weapons, supplies, and information were different from regular French stamps.

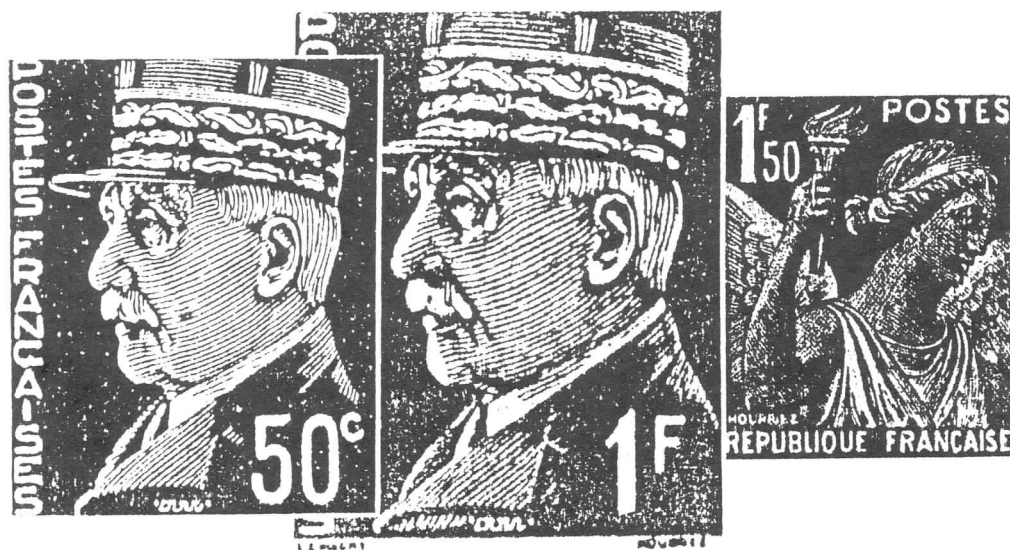
French underground soldiers, however, found the differences to be the difference between life and death. The following examples show the not-so-apparent differences between the legitimate and the forged stamps:

50 Centime Green: Marshal Petain's right eye has an extra eyelid, showing as a tiny white dash. This is missing on the original.

1 Franc Rose Red: The artist's name in the lower left-hand corner has letters of equal size on the original. On the British reproduction, the "M" and the "Y" of the name "Le Magny" are slightly shorter.

1 Franc 50 Centimes Red Orange: The torch consists of three simple unencumbered white lines on the original version; on the British version, the bottom line has a series of tiny notches





under it.

### In Vietnam

In more recent times, the CIA created bogus stamps in connection with the Vietnam War. Similar to the World War II operations, the intent was to demoralize the enemy and to defraud the North Vietnam government out of much needed funds. However, the bogus stamp operation in Vietnam had another twist. According to an article in the March 20, 1982, Washington Post, former CIA agent Philip Liechty discovered the stamp scheme by accident in the course of other work for the agency.

There continues to be conflicting information surrounding the stamp involved. Indeed, the Post report mentions the stamp production as a relatively minor incident in an alleged CIA operation aimed at documenting communist support of the Vietnam War. At the outset of the Vietnam War, the Viet Cong was considered to be a loyalist group from South Vietnam with no connection with the North. Allegedly, the CIA attempted, through this bogus stamp operation, to establish evidence of the Viet Cong's connection with North Vietnam.

The stamp in question is one of a number of stamp issues attributed to the National Front for the Liberation of South Vietnam--the Viet Cong. Leichty reportedly claims the stamp production was a highly professional job. The article continues, "the very professionalism required to produce the multicolor stamp was meant to indicate that it was produced by the North Vietnamese

because the Viet Cong would not have had such capabilities." By making the stamp look like it had been printed in North Vietnam, the CIA could, thereby, produce proof that the North was supporting the Viet Cong.

A full-color enlargement of the stamp was pictured on the cover of Life magazine on February 26, 1965, two days before the Johnson administration published its "White Paper" on the fighting in North Vietnam, called "Aggression from the North," the Post article said.

The original stamp was reported in the March 1964 issues of three philatelic publications: the American Philatelist, Philately magazine, and the Japanese philatelic magazine Yushu.

It would have been a major triumph for the CIA if they had printed the stamps as a propaganda device and were able to attribute production to the North Vietnamese. Even Asian newspapers reported the stamps and credited them to North Vietnamese sources.

Unfortunately, that possibility raises more questions. Another stamp of the same value was produced and publicized at the same time by most media reports. It shows a devastated village scene.

Because of the contemporary media coverage and documentation, it is likely that the CIA stamps, if, indeed, any were planned, were propaganda forgeries of an issue already in existence.

The stamps in question were apparently issued in late 1963, although no specific date is known. They were regarded for years as "local



postage" for use by the Viet Cong in occupied areas of South Vietnam and did not appear in stamp catalogs as legitimate post issues until the late Seventies.

The status of the Viet Cong stamps remains in some doubt, although copies of the issues to not appear to be scarce. Stamp catalog editors apparently were satisfied with the postal use of the stamps, and thus have afforded them the catalog status.

Two issues, consisting of five stamps, were released by the Viet Cong in late 1963. The first marked the third anniversary of the National Front for the Liberation of South Vietnam, while the other two may have been released separately to mark the same anniversary, but depicted war scenes.

### Summary

Propaganda stamps are currently found in other countries of the world, such as Angola and Namibia. Propaganda stamps are also issued by the African National Congress of South Africa. The Polish Solidarity labor union issued propaganda stamps that ridiculed the government of General Jaruzelski. Some of these propaganda stamps are occasionally affixed to letters to embarrass the government. They also serve as revenue-raising items for the Movement. Recently, questions have arisen concerning which issues were actually produced by Solidarity and which may or may not have been issued as anti-Solidarity propaganda by the Polish government to divert funds to their own coffers.

Success is questionable in some of these ventures, but some of them have proven to be

quite successful, as demonstrated by the World War II operations. Also, I believe there is no reason this method of achieving political objectives could not be used again. Of course, it would take special planning, and require someone with a philatelic background to help "legitimize" the stamps.

The information presented here is merely an overview for the non-stamp collector and should not be construed as original research nor as a definitive study on my part. For anyone interested, numerous research articles by those more intimate with this study have been published in various philatelic journals.

*Mark Sommer has a bachelor's degree in from Yeshiva University and a master's degree in International Relations from Fairleigh Dickinson University. He was an independent philatelic consultant before teaching in the Social Sciences Department at Touro College in New York City and at Mercy College in Dobbs Ferry, New York, where he teaches English as a Second Language.*

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# ACROSS THE CONTINENT

ORGANIZED MAIL ACROSS THE NORTH AMERICAN CONTINENT BEGAN IN THE 1830'S WHEN BETTER COMMUNICATION BECAME DESIRABLE TO THE PACIFIC WHALERS, HAWAIIAN MISSIONARIES, AS WELL AS THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AND OREGON SETTLERS. THE BIG FLOW, OF COURSE, BEGAN WITH THE DISCOVERY OF GOLD; THE "EARLY" PERIOD ENDED, PRACTICALLY SPEAKING, IN JULY, 1869, A SHORT TIME AFTER THE COMPLETION OF THE TRANSCONTINENTAL RAILROAD.

THIS THESIS IS CONCERNED WITH THE STUDY OF THE RATES AND ROUTES OF GOVERNMENT MAIL, EXPRESS COMPANY MAIL AS WELL AS PRIVATE MAIL AND COMBINATIONS THEREOF. IT ESSENTIALLY SPANS 1847 - 1869 WITH A FEW APPROPRIATE EARLIER AND LATER ITEMS.

SECTION I	INTRODUCTION - FORERUNNERS U.S. TRANSCONTINENTAL 40 CENT RATE - PANAMA	1843 - 1851
SECTION II	U.S. 6 CENT PREPAID, 10 CENT UNPAID RATE VIA NICARAGUA	1851 - 1855
SECTION III	U.S. 10 CENT RATE THE BUTTERFIELD OVERLAND ROUTE THE TRANSCONTINENTAL PONY EXPRESS	1855 - 1863 1858 - 1861 1860 - 1861
SECTION IV	U.S. 3 CENT RATE	1863 - 1869
SECTION V	FOREIGN ORIGINS AND DESTINATIONS FROM THE PACIFIC SIDE PACIFIC OCEAN, BRITISH COLUMBIA, SOUTH AMERICA JAPAN, CHINA, HAWAII	1850 - 1871 1838 - 1869
SECTION VI	FOREIGN ORIGINS AND DESTINATIONS FROM THE ATLANTIC SIDE: GREAT BRITAIN, THE EASTERN CANADAS GERMANY, FRANCE AND OTHER EUROPEAN NATIONS	1849 - 1869 1849 - 1870

MAJOR CITIES AND PLACES ARE GIVEN WITHOUT THEIR STATE OR COUNTRY.  
THROUGHOUT THE COURSE OF THIS THESIS, THE FOLLOWING WORDS / NAMES MAY BE ABBREVIATED:

GENERAL POST OFFICE  
GREAT BRITAIN  
GREAT BRITAIN POST OFFICE  
NORTH GERMAN UNION  
POST OFFICE  
UNITED STATES  
UNITED STATES POST OFFICE

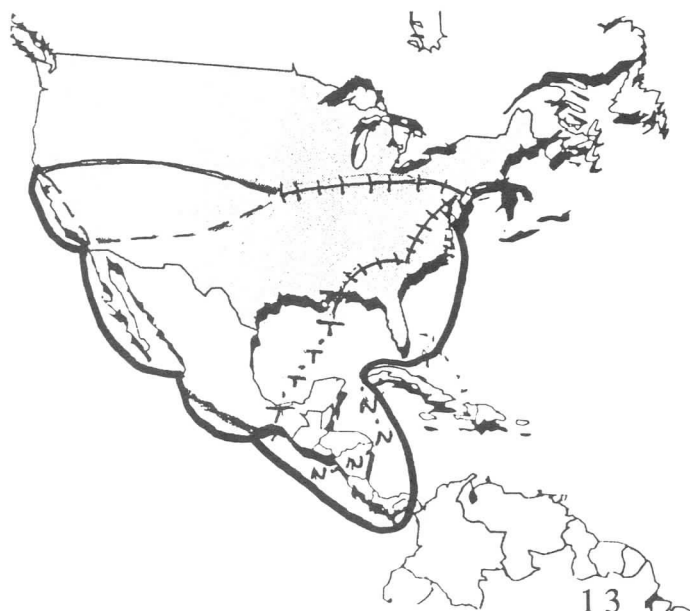
ARRIVE  
LEAVE  
MANUSCRIPT  
PROBABLY  
RECEIVED

GPO  
G.B.  
GBPO  
NGU  
PO  
U.S.  
USPO

ARR  
LV  
M/S  
PROB  
REC

COLLINS LINE  
CUNARD LINE  
EMPIRE CITY LINE  
EMPIRE CITY PACIFIC LINE  
HOWLAND AND ASPINWALL'S ATLANTIC LINE  
GEORGE LAWS PACIFIC LINE  
NEW YORK & CALIFORNIA STEAMSHIP COMPANY  
NY & CAL  
NICARAGUA STEAMSHIP COMPANY  
NORTH GERMAN LLOYD  
PACIFIC MAIL STEAMSHIP COMPANY  
UNITED STATES MAIL STEAMSHIP COMPANY

COLLINS  
CUNARD  
EMPIRE  
EMPIRE PAC  
H & A  
LAW  
NIC SS  
NGL  
PMSS  
USMSS

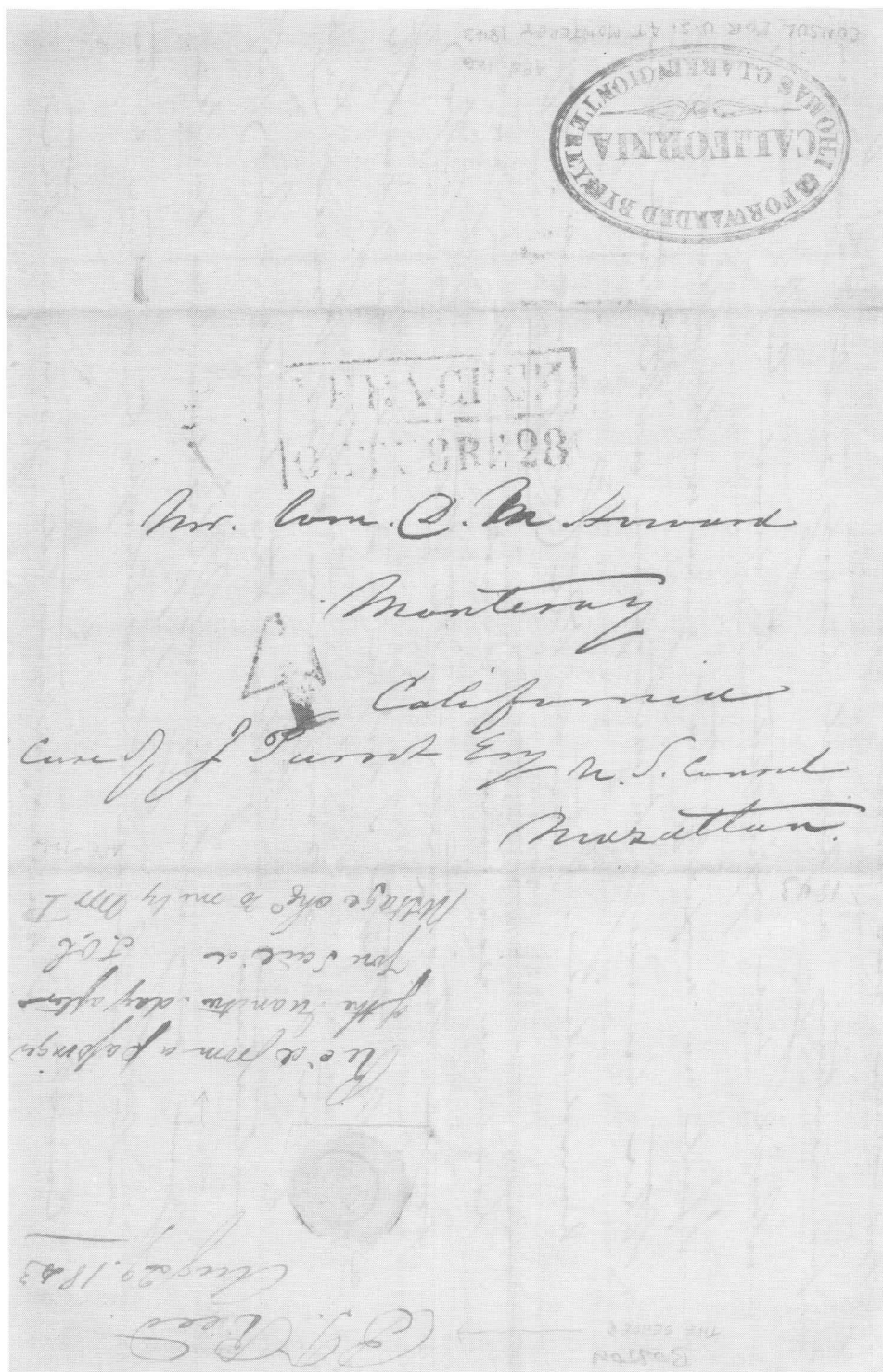


## Exhibit of George J. Kramer

- VIA PANAMA
- N -** VIA NICARAGUA
- T -** VIA TEUHANTEPEC
- - -** BUTTERFIELD OVERLAND ROUTE
- CENTRAL OVERLAND ROUTE
- ||||** PERTINENT RAILROAD ROUTES

BOSTON TO MONTEREY, CALIFORNIA - TWO FORWARDERS

AUGUST 27, 1843



BOSTON	NEW ORLEANS PROBABLE	VERA CRUZ OCTOBER 28
MEXICO MAIL	OVERLAND	MAZATLAN
J. H. PARROT, U.S. COUNSEL, MAZATLAN		BY SHIP
THOMAS O. LARKIN, FORWARDER, MONTEREY		ADDRESSEE

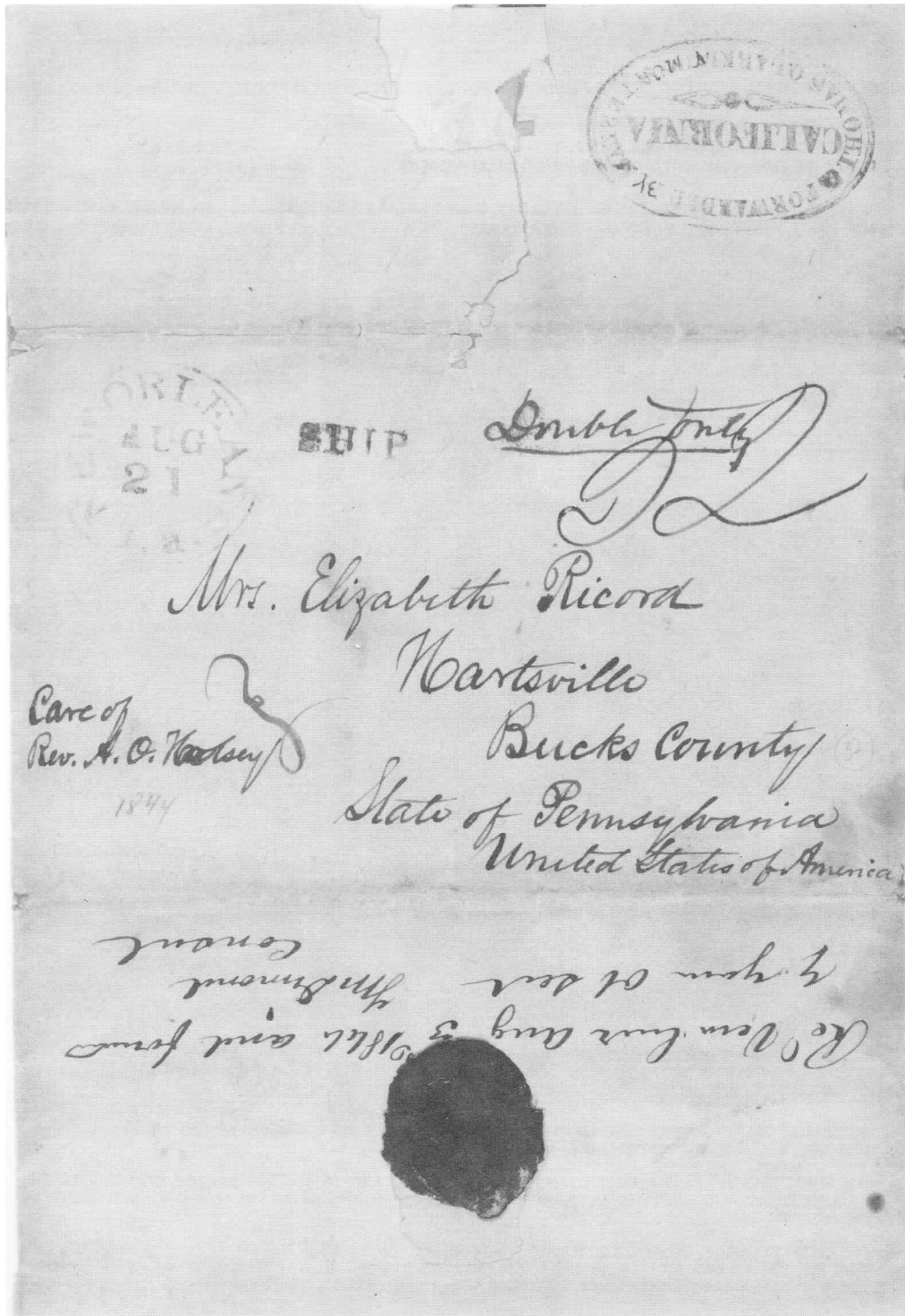
THIS LETTER WAS PRIVATELY CARRIED TO VERA CRUZ;  
"4" REALS PAID THE MEXICAN INLAND POSTAGE.

M/S "REC'D FROM A PASSENGER OF THE JAUNITA DAY AFTER YOU  
SAIL'D. T. O. L. POSTAGE CHARGED TO ME BY MR. P (ARROT) ."



## MONTEREY, CALIFORNIA TO PENNSYLVANIA - TWO FORWARDERS

CIRCA JULY, 1844



CALIFORNIA	THOMAS O. LARKIN, FORWARDER, MONTEREY
J. M. DIMOND, U.S. COUNSEL, MAZATLAN AUGUST 3	OVERLAND - VERA CRUZ
BY SHIP	NEW ORLEANS AUGUST 24
U.S. MAIL	PENNSYLVANIA

CARRIED PRIVATELY TO THOMAS O. LARKIN, U.S. COUNSEL AND FORWARDER, MONTEREY.  
 25 CENTS WAS THE U.S. RATE FOR OVER 400 MILES. THIS LETTER WAS RATED  
 50 CENTS PLUS 2 CENTS TO PAY THE SHIP FEE FROM VERA CRUZ TO NEW ORLEANS.

THE U.S. 1845 POSTAL ACT SET THE FOLLOWING PREPAID AND UNPAID DOMESTIC POSTAGE RATES PER 1/2 OUNCE:

UNDER 300 MILES  
OVER 300 MILES

5 CENTS  
10 CENTS

THE U.S. 1847 POSTAL ACT ADDED THE FOLLOWING PREPAID AND UNPAID POSTAGE RATES PER 1/2 OUNCE:

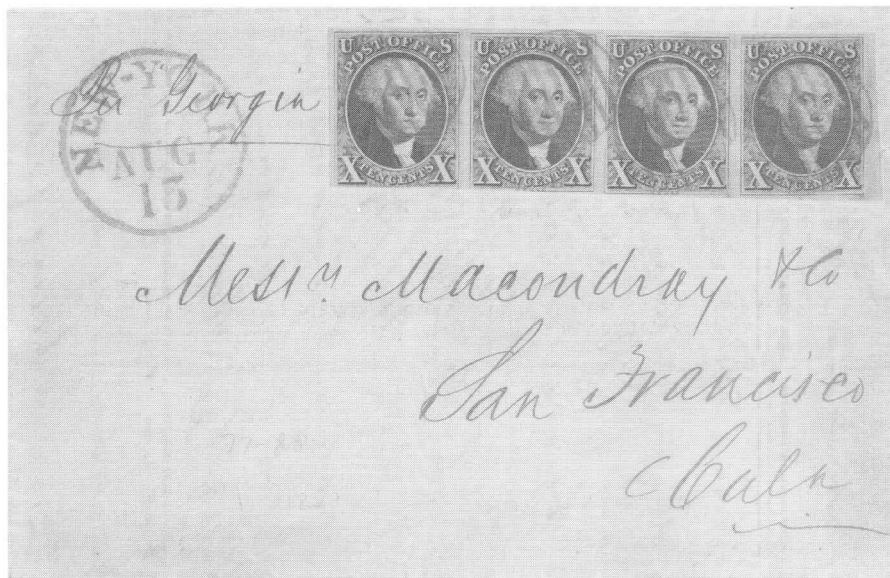
EAST, TO OR FROM CHAGRES (PANAMA EAST SIDE)  
EAST, TO OR FROM PANAMA ACROSS THE ISTHMUS  
EAST, TO OR FROM ASTORIA, OREGON OR CALIFORNIA

20 CENTS  
30 CENTS  
40 CENTS

CORRESPONDENTS WERE NOT REQUIRED TO USE POSTAGE STAMPS ON THEIR LETTERS. AS SOME EARLY TRANSCONTINENTAL MAIL DID NOT REACH THE ADDRESSEE., MUCH OF IT TO AND PARTICULARLY FROM THE WEST COAST WAS STAMPLESS AND UNPAID.

#### 40 CENT RATE PAID BY STAMPS

AUGUST 13, 1850



USPO NEW YORK - POSTMARK "AUGUST 15"  
PANAMA - CHAGRES

LV NEW YORK  
SAN FRANCISCO (M/S REC. SEPT 23)

NOTE: THE ONLY SHIP THAT ARRIVED IN SAN FRANCISCO ABOUT SEPTEMBER 23 AS PER THE M/S NOTATION WAS THE PMSS "PANAMA" WHICH LEFT FROM PANAMA SEPTEMBER 1.

THE FIRST SHIP THAT LEFT NEW YORK FOR CHAGRES AUGUST 15 OR THEREAFTER WAS THE H & A "PHILADELPHIA" WHICH ARRIVED IN CHAGRES SEPTEMBER 6 (5 DAYS AFTER THE "PANAMA" HAD LEFT FROM THE PACIFIC SIDE).

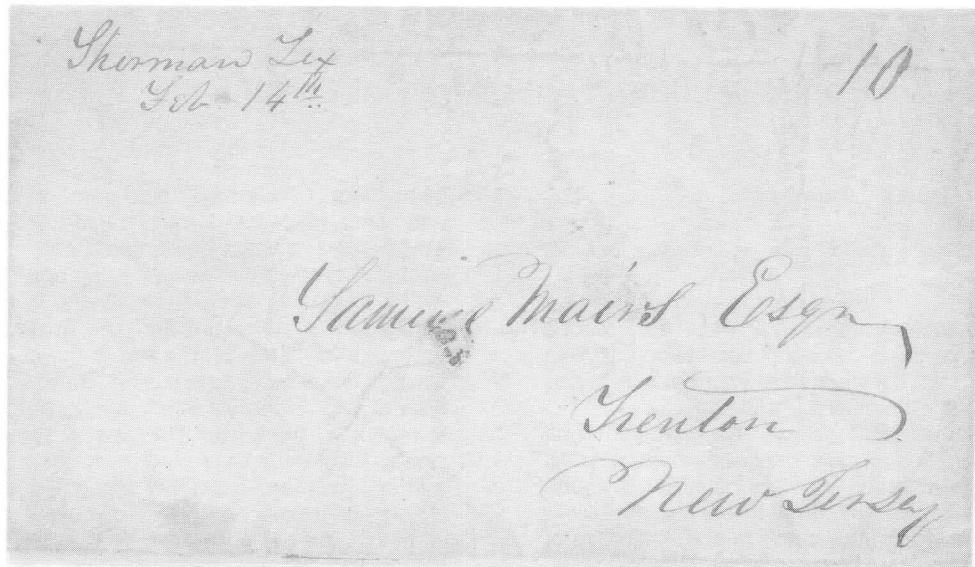
THE PMSS "GEORGIA", TO WHICH THIS LETTER IS DIRECTED, DID LEAVE NEW YORK AUGUST 13, THE SAME DAY THAT THE LETTER WAS WRITTEN; IT ARRIVED IN CHAGRES AROUND AUGUST 22, IN PLENTY OF TIME TO MAKE THE "PANAMA" ON SEPTEMBER 1. THE CONTENTS ARE OF AN IMPORTANT BUSINESS NATURE.

THIS WRITER WOULD CONCLUDE THAT THE NEW YORK POSTMASTER MISDATED THE POSTMARK AND THAT THIS LETTER LEFT NEW YORK AUGUST 13 ON THE "GEORGIA".

THE STAMPS ARE POSITIONS 77 THRU 80 R.

"I AM OFF FOR CALIFORNIA" !

FEBRUARY 14, 1849



SHERMAN, TEXAS

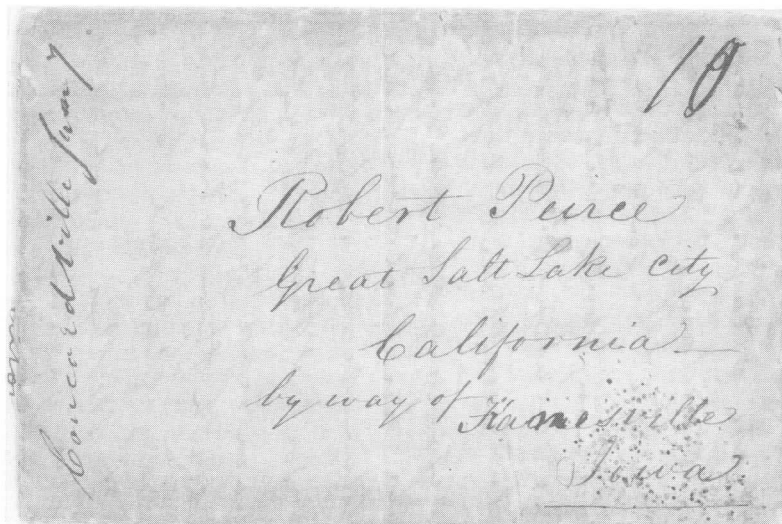
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY

PREVIOUSLY UNRECORDED, THIS IS THE EARLIEST MANUSCRIPT POSTMARK OF SHERMAN, TEXAS. RATE: 10 CENTS UNPAID.

"I WILL START THE FIRST DAY OF APRIL NEXT AND TAKE THE ROUTE THROUGH BY THE EL PASO - THE DISTANCE FROM THIS POINT TO THE SOUTHERN EXTREMITY OF THE SIERRA NEVADA OR SNOW MOUNTAINS WILL BE OVER 850 MILES & WE WILL MAKE THIS IN ABOUT 40 DAYS. ... HAS THE GOLD MANIA SPREAD PRETTY GENERALLY AT THE NORTH? IT HAS BECOME SOMEWHAT OF AN EPIDEMIC IN THIS PART OF THE COUNTRY. MANY WILL COME BACK RAGGED THAT START WITH HIGH EXPECTATIONS ... THE POET HAS SAID 'WESTWARD THE TIDE OF EMPIRE' ..."

### GREAT SALT LAKE CITY, CALIFORNIA

JUNE 7, 1850



CONCORDVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA - "BY WAY OF KANESVILLE, IOWA" - GREAT SALT LAKE CITY, CALIFORNIA

THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND UTAH TERRITORY WERE CREATED SEPTEMBER 9, 1850. RATE: 10 CENTS UNPAID.

AT THE TIME, GREAT SALT LAKE CITY HAD ALREADY BEEN ESTABLISHED AS A POST OFFICE IN CALIFORNIA. AS NO TRANSCONTINENTAL MAIL CONTRACTS HAD BEEN AWARDED, ALMOST ALL MAIL MOVED ON WAGON TRAINS; SOME WAS CARRIED VIA KANESVILLE, IOWA BY IMMIGRANTS GOING TO THE GOLD FIELDS OF CALIFORNIA OR BY CONVERTS TO THE MORMONS. FROM MARCH 5, 1849, THIS VALLEY WAS KNOWN UNOFFICIALLY AS PART OF THE STATE OF DESERET.



## Contents of the "I am off for California" letter

Sherman, Grayson County, Texas  
February 20th, 1849

Dear Brother:

I wrote to you some month or so ago giving you general accounts of matters + things, and as it will be but a short time I can have the pleasure of corresponding with you from this place I am determined to improve it by giving you another "effusing craniological." (poetic)

Well Sam--I am off for California--I will start the first day of April next from this place and take the route through by the El Paso--This distance from this point to the southern extremity of the Sierra Nevada or Snow Mountains will be over 850 miles & we will make this in about 40 days or perhaps less. If we had one of your Jersey Rail Roads instead of our pack mules and horses we could pass the distance I presume in a couple of days but we of the back woods country have to put up with inconveniences of this sort.

I think this will be an opening in that country for some speculation in land matters--then on a great number of old Spanish grants located some 50 or 75 years since that have been nearly a dead letter to the owners, but now since the acquisition of that territory by Uncle Sam they as a matter of course have become valuable. These can be purchased sometimes at a song and as they "never diminish in number in the lapse of years," owing to the prolific nature of the Spanish & Mexican character. I presume, there will be hundreds of these claims brought to light that James K. Polk never dreamed of when treating for the country. Such was the Alvarado Claims decided on in the U.S. Supreme Court some 1 or 2 years ago & such large(?) numbers of the Louisiana grants. It is on the principle that a man's vested right can never be taken from by any revolutions, legislative action or the like--California was pretty in existence over that--every man settling in any part of the public domain should be entitled to four Leagues and they generally had what we would call Scrip given to them for that amount. These Leagues were generally run off in a square & the lines marked &c. Well since that time the country has been nearly abandoned--their premises left and again become a wilderness and their claims considered of no value for the Mexicans in that respect are like Indians. Their lands among themselves are of no value to them except they live upon it--well it's my opinion that then will hundreds of these claims come to life in California that were never dreamed of before the acquisition. I am pretty well acquainted what constitutes a title in the Federal Courts and I intend to go by the way of Sonora or after arriving return if the Country suits. Lands here in Texas are of less value now that I have ever

seen them. I have lately sold some at 30 cents per acre and some am selling lower, as good as any of your Jersey lands--Trenton valleys or rather Delaware Valleys not excepted. I don't intend selling much of it at these prices. I'll wait a few years and see the issue. We have had a very disagreeable winter so far. The grass however is now springing up in the prairie and in the course of a week or two will be perfectly green. Well, Sam, what's to be the upshot of Old Zachary's administration? Is it to be abolition think you? I think from the tone of some of the abolition prints, they think they have their man at least. That assumed question, Sam, I'm afraid will split or sever the Union yet--it does no good to discuss it to a Southerner or in my opinion any body else. What is the news from Argyle now-a-days? I have not heard from those diggins(?) since the reception of your last letter I believe in October last. I have an idea of going North next fall on my returning--if I come back by water I am certain to do it.

I mailed the last letter I received from you at Bonham some 3 weeks since. I wish you on the reception of this to write to me at San Francisco, California. I will send you a letter from Pueblos Los Angeles or in English Angel Rock on my way out. We will probably pass through that place on our way out or near enough to send a letter at all events. I want to be in San Francisco about the first of June. Has the gold mania spread pretty generally at the North? It has become somewhat of an epidemic even in Texas. There are numbers going from this part of the country & I think pretty generally throughout the Southern States.

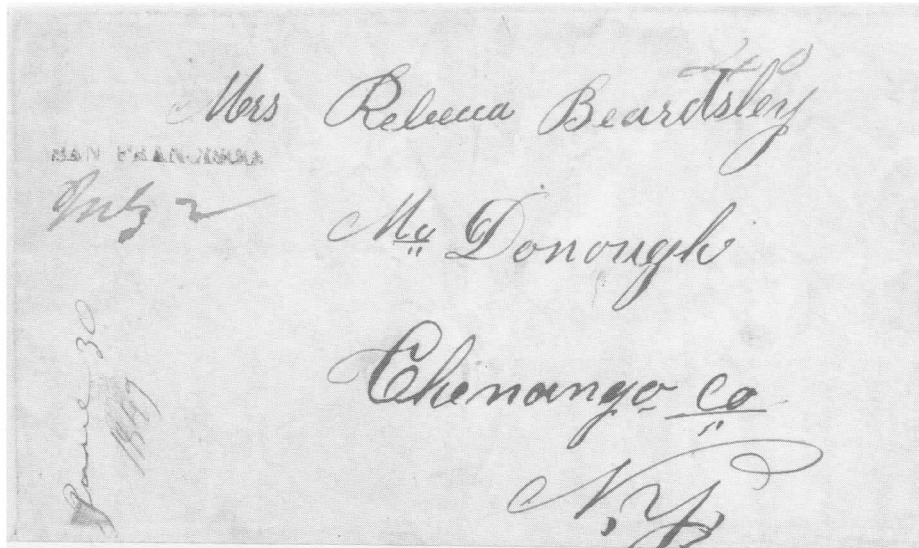
In my humble opinion, many will come back ragged that start with high expectations. Well there's something exciting in floating with the current & the tide appears to set pretty surely in that direction at present. The poet has said "Westward the tide of Empire wends it's way when it hinges(?) up against the Pacific"--which way think you will it tend it's course? Probably South.

Sam, don't neglect to write to me as above directed on the receipt of this haram scam document. I've wrote too much to trouble you with but I go on the principle that you like to read letters as well as myself for nothing gives me more pleasure than to receive one of your letters. As the Scotchman says, "it gans(?) me great." Well I must cease, wishing you every happiness and pleasure till life's warm blood shall cease to flow & afterwards every enjoyment which is allotted to the most pure & best of morals in the regions of celestial bliss.

As ever your affectionate brother, Jas. H. Mains  
Samuel Mains  
Trenton  
New Jersey

## STRAIGHTLINE MARKINGS 40 CENT RATE

THE THREE MOST IMPORTANT CITIES DURING THE EARLY GOLD RUSH DAYS IN CALIFORNIA WERE  
SAN FRANCISCO, BENECIA AND SACRAMENTO; THEIR FIRST PRINTED POSTAL MARKINGS WERE STRAIGHTLINE.



SAN FRANCISCO  
JUNE 30, 1849

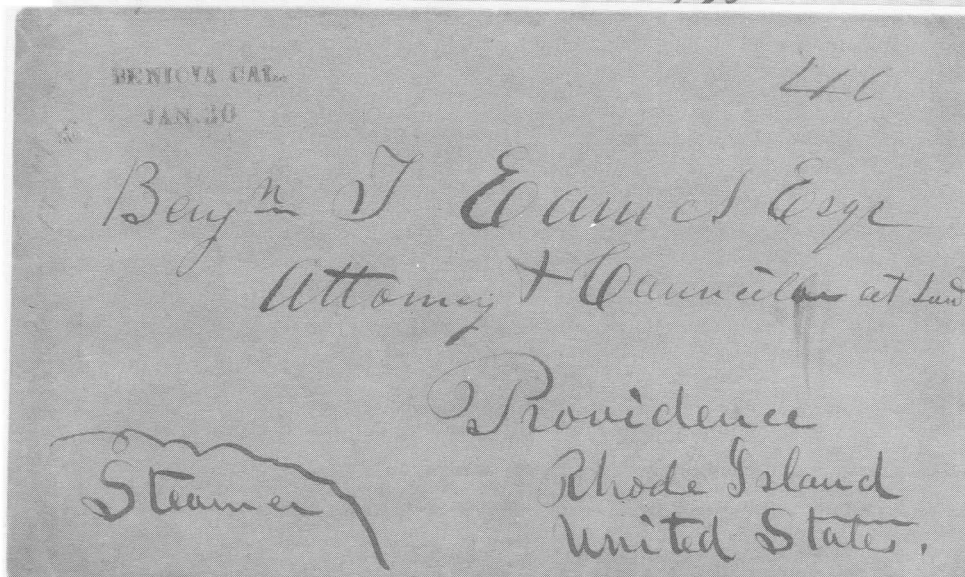
LV SAN FRANCISCO JULY 2  
PER PMSS "OREGON"

ARR PANAMA JULY 21

LV CHAGRES JULY 28  
PER USMSS "FALCON"

ARR NEW YORK AUGUST 17

CHENANGO CO. NEW YORK



BENECIA  
JANUARY 30, 1850

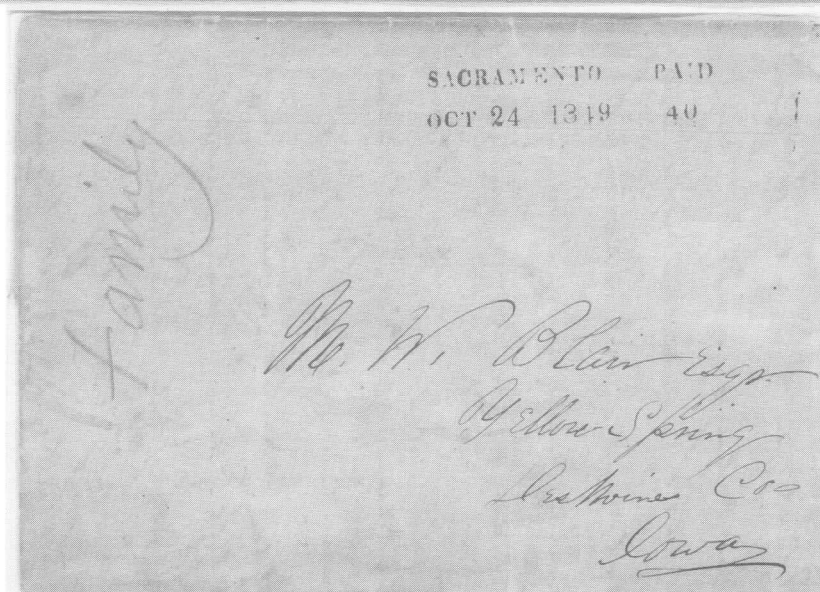
LV SAN FRANCISCO FEBRUARY 1  
PER PMSS "PANAMA"

ARR PANAMA FEBRUARY 23

PROBABLE LV CHAGRES MARCH 13  
PER USMSS "OHIO"

ARR NEW YORK MARCH 25

PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND



COLD SPRING, WEAVER CREEK  
SACRAMENTO  
OCTOBER 24, 1849

LV SAN FRANCISCO NOVEMBER 1  
PER PMSS "CALIFORNIA"

ARR PANAMA NOVEMBER 22

LV CHAGRES NOVEMBER 28  
PER EMPIRE "CRESCENT CITY"

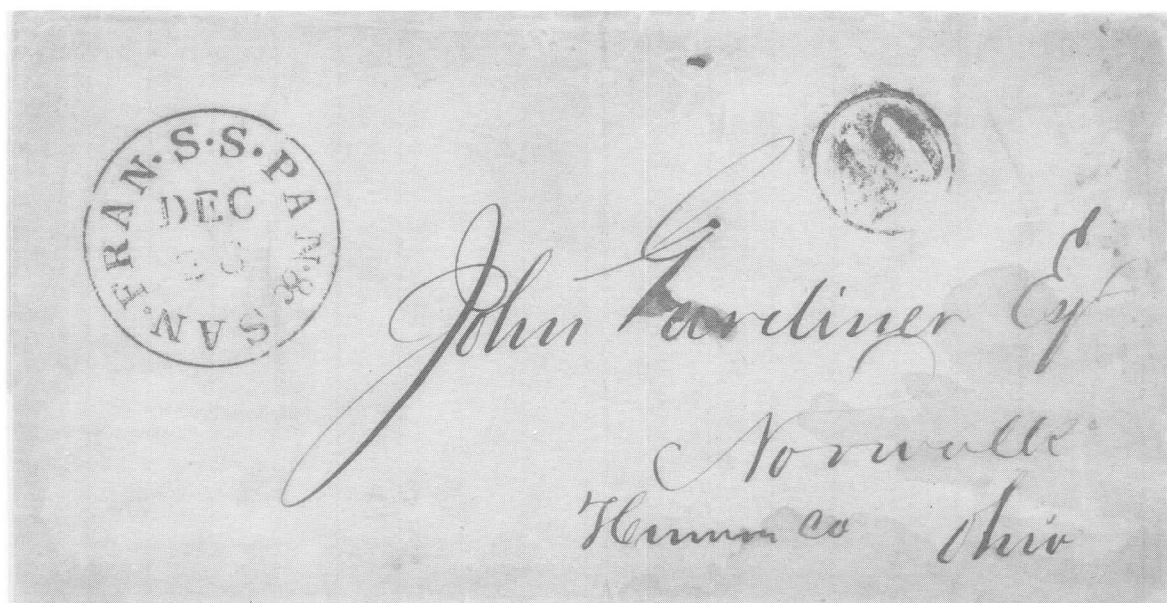
ARR NEW YORK DECEMBER 7

YELLOW SPRING, IOWA

# ROUTE AGENT MARKING

PAN·& SAN FRAN·S·S·

JULY 24, 1850



M/S "SACRAMENTO JULY 24" - LV SAN FRANCISCO DECEMBER 15 PER PMSS "CALIFORNIA"  
 TAKEN ON BOARD DECEMBER 26 - ARR PANAMA JANUARY 3, 1851  
 LV CHAGRES JANUARY 8, 1851 PER H & A "CHEROKEE" - ARR NEW YORK JANUARY 24  
 NORWALK, OHIO

RATED 40 CENTS

ALTHOUGH WRITTEN JULY 24, THIS LETTER WAS NOT GIVEN TO ROUTE  
 AGENT BANNISTER MIDGETT UNTIL DECEMBER 26 ON BOARD SHIP.

THE MARKING WAS TO BE APPLIED BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT ROUTE AGENT UPON  
 MAIL RECEIVED ON BOARD THE SAN FRANCISCO TO PANAMA CITY STEAMSHIP RUN.

MARKINGS ARE KNOWN SEPTEMBER 12, 1850 - JUNE 29, 1852





STEAMER COLUMBUS MAIDEN MAIL VOYAGE

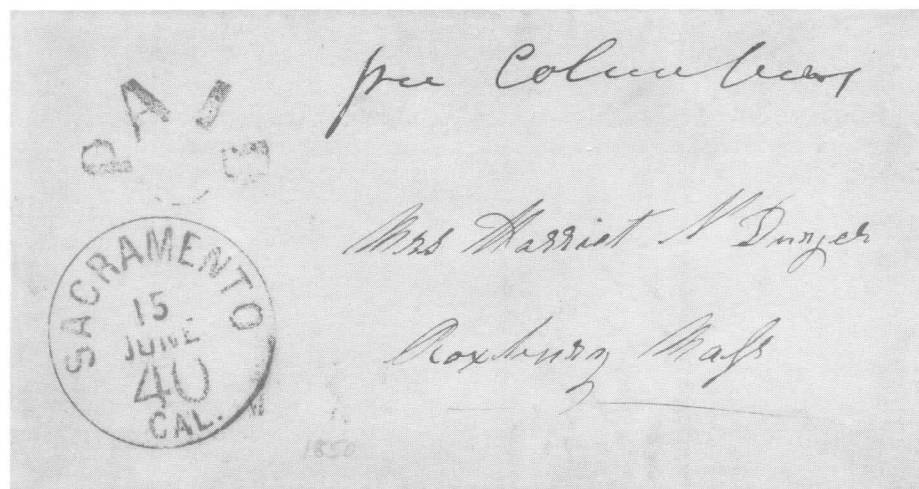
ALL THREE COVERS WERE ON THE LAW "COLUMBUS" JUNE 18, 1850 - ARR PANAMA JULY 6  
LV CHAGRES JULY 13 PER EMPIRE "CRESCENT CITY" - ARR NEW YORK JULY 22

THE 460 TON "COLUMBUS" WAS NOTED FOR STOPPING AT VARIOUS PORTS NOT COVERED BY OTHER STEAMERS.



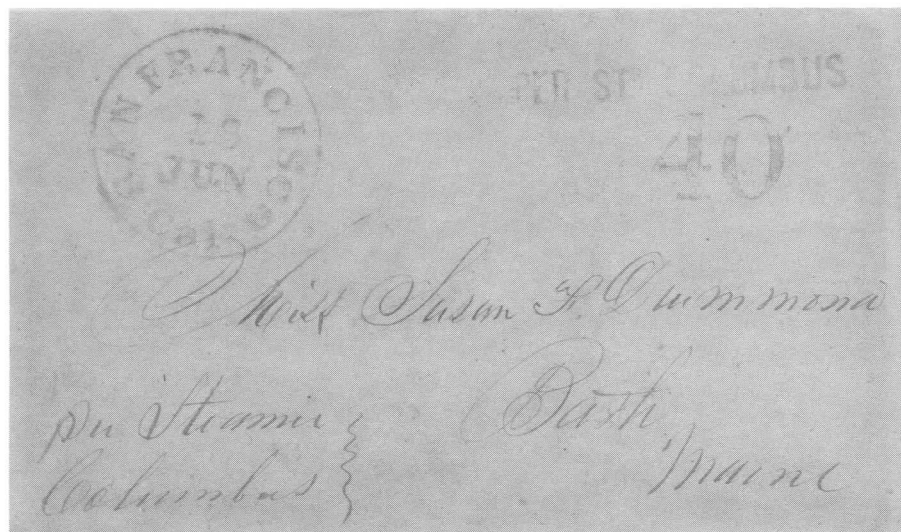
TO MIDDLETOWN, CONNECTICUT

MS "24TH JULY / 50"



TO ROXBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

THIS POSTMARK WAS USED FOR ABOUT FOUR MONTHS



TO BATH, MAINE

FIRST DAY USE OF THIS POSTMARK





## Contents of the 80 cents double rate letter of January 30, 1851

Sacramento City  
January 30th 1851

My Ever Dear Wife

I wrote the letter enclosed in this before I went to Diamond Springs & expected there Mr. Beckham would take them both to you as he was talking of starting home to morrow, but he has now abandoned the idea till the first of March & consequently I have to send the letter by mail, which I regret as you will not receive them so soon. I might have sent one by Mr. Dukes had I have known that Mr. Beckham would not go as I saw him on my way to Diamond Springs, but he had gone when I returned to the City. The mines I think will yield pretty well again. This summer, at any rate, I will try them awhile till my stock get fat & if I have a pretty good pile by that time, which I think I shall have I will come right home. I will try and make my arrangements to send you some money by Mr. Beckham who will get there before the 20th April, but I repeat if the money does not get there that soon, it will soon be on the way & the 10 per cent is a mere nothing as money is worth so much more here. California is still rich in Gold & predict that great discoveries will be made this season, but oh! I do long to be at home & can't stay away much longer. Farewell my loving & beloved wife--I forgot to say John is well & hearty & well satisfied. Yrs. devotedly, JML

Editor's Note: In an enclosed letter to his "Mama," the same writer closes it with: "Farewell my beloved Mother, may your prayers for your unworthy son be returned in double blessings on your own head, prays Your Most Affectionate Son, JM Langhorne.

## LETTER SHEET PRICES CURRENT,

PREPARED EXPRESSLY FOR

THE DAILY ALTA CALIFORNIA.

San Francisco, October 1, 1850.

<b>Ashes</b> — $\Phi$ lb. .... 15@20	Pots. .... 25	Pearls. .... 25	<b>Bread Stuffs</b> —	Chile Flour, 200 lb sacks, 18.00	Do. do. 100 lb. .... 9.50	Do. do. 50 lb. .... 5.00	Van D. Land, in sacks, 14.00@15.00	Sweet Western. .... 12.00	Gallego, Haxalls. .... 14.00	Buckwheat, prime, 1 bbls. 7.00	Corn Meal in bbls, sweet, 11.00	Do. .... half bbls. .... 6.00	Navy Bread, prime, $\Phi$ lb. .... 5.5	Pilot Bread. .... do. .... 10	Crackers. .... 17@20	Rice, India. .... 3@5	Do. Carolina. .... 8@9	Corn. .... 5	Split Peas. .... 15	Barley. .... 8@8 1/2	Beans, Amer. .... 12 1/2@15	Do. Chile. .... 22 1/2	Oats. .... 6	Hay. .... 3@4	<b>Building Materials</b> —	Bricks. .... 20.00@25.00	Do. Eng. .... nom.	Do. fire. .... nom.	Do. face. .... nom.	Lime, (Thompson). .... nom.	Do. (Colonial) $\Phi$ bbl Nom.	Cement, $\Phi$ bbl. .... 5.00	Lumber, by cargo, assorted, $\Phi$ M. .... 4	Planed, $\Phi$ M. .... 60@65.00	Timber. .... 30.00	Plank, $\Phi$ M. .... 50.00	Do. 3 inch, for planking. .... 85.00@90.00	Do. 1 1/2 to 2 inch, clear. .... 90.00	Cedar, for furniture. .... 80@100	Shingles. .... 5.50	Lathes. .... Nom.	Nails. .... 5 1/2@6	Paling, $\Phi$ 100. .... 5.00	Window Glass, best, $\Phi$ 100. .... 5.00	Sashes, $\Phi$ pair. .... 3.00	Houses. .... Nominal.	<b>Candles</b> —	Sperm. .... 62 1/2	Do. patent. .... 65	Mould. .... 17@25	Adamantine. .... 45	Solar. .... 40	<b>Cigars</b> —	Common. .... 10.00@12.00	Havana. .... 30.00@35.00	Super. .... 50.00@75.00	<b>Coal</b> —	Liverpool, orrel. .... 20.00	Sydney. .... 16.00@17.00	Cumberland. .... 20.00	Anthracite. .... 25.00	<b>Cordage</b> —	American, small. .... 42 1/2	Do. large. .... 32	Bale Rope, $\Phi$ lb, small. .... 32	Corks, $\Phi$ M. .... 10.00	Do. Claret. .... 15.00	China Fancy Goods. .... Dull.	<b>Dry Goods</b> —	Cloths & Cassimere's 25 $\Phi$ ct adv	Ladies wear in moderate dem	Clothing, 30@50 $\Phi$ ct adv	Boots. .... 35@50 $\Phi$ ct adv	Boots, heavy 75 $\Phi$ ct advance	Shoes. .... 50@60 $\Phi$ ct adv	4-4 Brown Sheetings .... 12 1/2	4-4 Bleached. .... 12@18	7-8 Drills. .... 12	Bed Ticking. .... 18	Cotton Sail Duck. .... 30@40	Blankets, white, $\Phi$ pair, 3.00@7.00	Do. colored, $\Phi$ pr. 4.00@8.00	Prints, com. .... 10	Do. medium. .... 12	Do. fine. .... 15@18	Do. 9-8. .... 13@20	9-8 Muslins. .... 15@20	9-8 Lawns. .... 15@25	Red Flannel Shirts, $\Phi$ doz. .... 30.00	Blue Flannel Shirts. .... 20.00	Red Flannel, med. qual. 30@35	Do. .... twd. .... 40	White Flannel. .... 30@40	Navy Bread, prime, $\Phi$ lb. .... 5.5	Floor Baise. .... 1.00@1.25	Hose, $\Phi$ doz. .... 3.00@3.00	Lines, in half ps. .... 5.00@6.00	Hats. .... Wanting.	Caps. .... Dull.	China Fancy Shawls and Silks and Hdkfs. moderate dem.	<b>Drugs &amp; Dyes</b> —	Alcohol, per gall. .... 1.50@1.75	Arsenic, $\Phi$ lb. .... 6@7	Arrow Root, $\Phi$ lb. .... 25	Balsam Copaiva, $\Phi$ lb. .... 50	Brimstone, crude. .... 15	Bark, Peruvian $\Phi$ lb. .... 1.00	Camphor, raff'd. $\Phi$ lb. .... Dull.	Cream Tartar, $\Phi$ lb. .... 50@50	Corks, Vial $\Phi$ gro. .... 50	Corks, Bottle $\Phi$ 1,000. .... 12.00	Calomel. .... 2.50@3.00	Castor Oil, $\Phi$ gal. .... 3.00	Castor Oil, qts $\Phi$ doz. .... 7@9.00	Olive Oil, of G. Maury, or Bordeaux, $\Phi$ doz. .... 6.50	Emery Corn. .... 50	Emery Flour. .... 60	Gum, $\Phi$ lb. .... 50	Iodine, $\Phi$ lb. scarce. .... 10.00	Lime Juice, in dem. $\Phi$ gal. .... 1.50@2.00	Magnesia, Calcined. .... 60	Morphine, $\Phi$ oz. .... 8.00	Opium, $\Phi$ lb. .... 6.00@7.00	Oil Peppermint Eng. .... 4.00	Oil Cloves, and oth. $\Phi$ lb 4@6.00	Potash, Am. .... 30@40	Quinine, $\Phi$ oz. .... 3.50	Quicksilver. .... 1.00@1.12	Rhubarb, $\Phi$ lb. .... 2.00	Sugar Lead, common. .... 1	Saleratus. .... 1	Seidlitz Powders, $\Phi$ doz. 3.50	Soda, sup. carb. $\Phi$ lb. .... 15@20	Sarsaparilla, $\Phi$ doz. .... 15@20	Trusses, ea. .... 6.00@12.00	Vitrol Oil, $\Phi$ lb. .... 30@40	Wax, white, $\Phi$ lb. .... 60	Do. yellow. .... 35	<b>Fruits</b> —	Brandy Fruits, pts. .... nom.	Do. do. qts. .... nom.	Preserved Plantains, $\Phi$ lb. .... 12 1/2	Preserves, pts. .... nom.	Do. qts. .... nom.	Ginger in jars, case of 6. .... 7.50	Raisins, $\Phi$ box. .... 6.50	Curants, $\Phi$ lb. .... 12 1/2	Almonds. .... 15@30	Dried Peaches. .... 22 1/2	Dried Apples. .... 22 1/2	Dried Prunes. .... 20	Walnuts. .... 7	Tomato Catsups, $\Phi$ doz qts. 7.50	English Sauces, do. .... 6.00	<b>Groceries</b> —	Brown Sugar. .... 12 1/2@15	Peanuts. .... 15	Loaf, white. .... 10@20	Crushed, white. .... 10@20	Coffee. .... 20@22	Do. ground. .... 35	Pepper. .... lb. .... 20	Allspice. .... 60	Nutmegs. .... 1.50@1.75	Cloves. .... 42 1/2	Do. ground. .... 75	Cinnamon. .... 75	Chocolate, American. .... 18@20	Do. Spanish. .... 32@35	Mustard, Eng. in 1/2 lb bot. 6.00	Do. do. whole " 8.00	Do. Ground. .... 60	Do. Amer. 6.00 doz. 1 lbs. 12	Ginger. .... 18	Starch. .... 18	Pickles, in half gal. .... nom.	Lemon Syrup. .... 8 1/2@9	Do. super. .... 20.00	Do. sparkt. .... 22.00	Champ. Cider in cases. .... 5.00	Alc, Byass and other approved brands, $\Phi$ doz. .... 5.50@6.00	Porter. .... 25.00@30.00	Alc in bbls. .... 5.50@6.00	Do. in cases. .... 5.00	Cherry Cordial. .... 15.00	<b>Preserved Meats, &amp;c.</b> —	Preserved Meats $\Phi$ lb. .... 25.00	Do. Oysters, qts. $\Phi$ doz. 12.00@14.00	Do. Lobsters. .... Dull.	Preserved Clams. .... Dull.	Cotton Shirts. .... 10.00@18.00	Linens do. .... 30@50	Woodware. .... plenty.	Ship Chandlery. .... demand.	Wrapping Paper in demand.	Good do. .... 75 $\Phi$ ct advance.	Crockery. .... 5.00	Glassware. .... do. .... do.	Oil Cloths. .... plenty	Carpeting, sales at. .... 80@1.35	Colonial Lumber is dull ex-	cept Timber.	Furniture, for houses and offices has become abundant, and prices low.	Looking Glasses. .... plenty.	Window Glass, 12x15, 16x24. .... 10.00@15.00 per 100 ft.	Room Paper. .... Dull.	4-4 Matting, China, $\Phi$ ps. .... 12.00	6-4 Matting, China, $\Phi$ ps. .... 16.00
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**Bread Stuffs.**—Since our last, the holders of flour have maintained themselves, and still further advanced their prices

Chas Kimball Esqr

Bath

Maine

U.S.A.

LV SAN FRANCISCO OCTOBER 1 PER PMSS "CALIFORNIA"  
LV CHAGRES OCTOBER 26 1/2

ARR PANAMA OCTOBER 22  
ARR NEW YORK NOVEMBER 7 1/2

(THREE SHIPS LEFT CHAGRES FOR NEW YORK OCTOBER 26 1/2)

RATED 80 CENTS DOUBLE WEIGHT.

Young Hyson, common. .... 30  
Do. do. superior, 75@80  
Souchong, common. .... 50  
Do. fine. .... 70@75  
Oolong, fine. .... 75  
Gunpowder. .... 1.00  
Imperial. .... 1.00  
**Tobacco**—  
Kentucky Leaf. .... nom.  
Spanish. .... nom.  
Manufactured No. 1. 45@55  
Do. No. 2. 32@40  
Do. No. 3. 20@25  
Fine Chewing. .... in demand.  
**Miscellaneous Articles.**  
Oars, pair. .... 5.00@6.00  
Oakum. .... wanted  
Pails,  $\Phi$  doz. .... 10.00  
Brooms. .... 10.00  
Brushes. .... 4.50  
Hemp. .... demand.

**Pickles and Preserves** plenty and dull.

**Sugar**—Brown keeps steady, while white has declined materially.

**Teas** are scarce, and an arrival would meet a good market.

**Furniture**—plenty and dull.

Since our last, or rather for the past week the sales of Merchandise have been to a very fair extent, particularly for the interior. The money market is very close, which checks speculation. The assortment of Merchandise is good. We anticipate a further improvement in trade. As a material consequence of a close money market, Real Estate is dull.

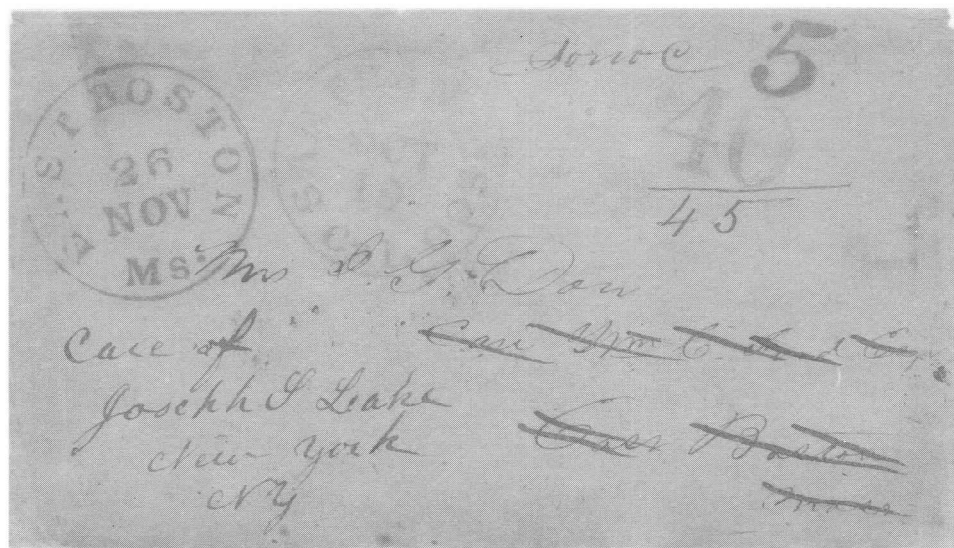
The rate of interest is higher—money bringing from 5 to 7 per month.

**Gold Dust** 16 to 16 1/2.

Recent arrivals show a large amount of Merchandise, injured by being insufficiently protected for the voyage.

## FORWARDED

OCTOBER 19, 1850



LV SAN FRANCISCO OCTOBER 19 PER LAW "COLUMBUS"  
 LV CHAGRES NOVEMBER 13<sup>1</sup> PER USMSS "PACIFIC"  
 LV HAVANA NOVEMBER 18 PER USMSS "OHIO"  
 USPO NEW YORK EAST BOSTON  
 FORWARDED NOVEMBER 26

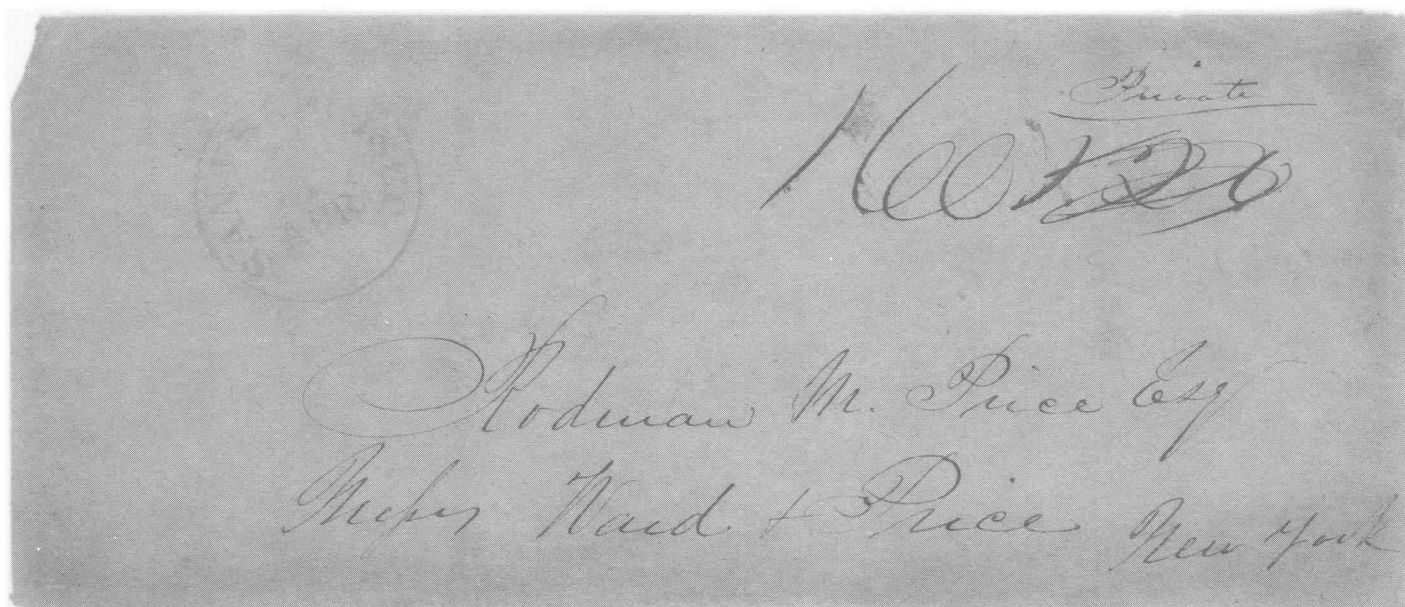
ARR PANAMA NOVEMBER 7  
 ARR HAVANA NOVEMBER 16  
 ARR NEW YORK NOVEMBER 23  
 MRS. B.G. DOW NOT THERE  
 "CARE OF JOSEPH L. LEAKE NEW YORK"

RATE: 40 CENTS COLLECT; THE USPO IN EAST BOSTON ADDED 5 CENTS FORWARDING FEE.

THE ATLANTIC PORTION OF THIS CARRIAGE IS MOST UNUSUAL IN THAT THE ONLY POSSIBLE COMBINATION WAS VIA HAVANA.

## QUADRUPLE RATE

APRIL 1, 1850 OR 1851



LV SAN FRANCISCO APRIL 1, 1850 PER PMSS "CALIFORNIA"  
 LV CHAGRES MAY 12 PER USMSS "FALCON"

OR

LV SAN FRANCISCO APRIL 1, 1851 PER PMSS "TENNESSEE"  
 LV CHAGRES APRIL 29 PER USMSS "CRESCENT CITY"

(NO YEAR DATE IS GIVEN)

ARR PANAMA APRIL 23  
 ARR NEW YORK MAY 24

ARR PANAMA APRIL 19  
 ARR NEW YORK MAY 9

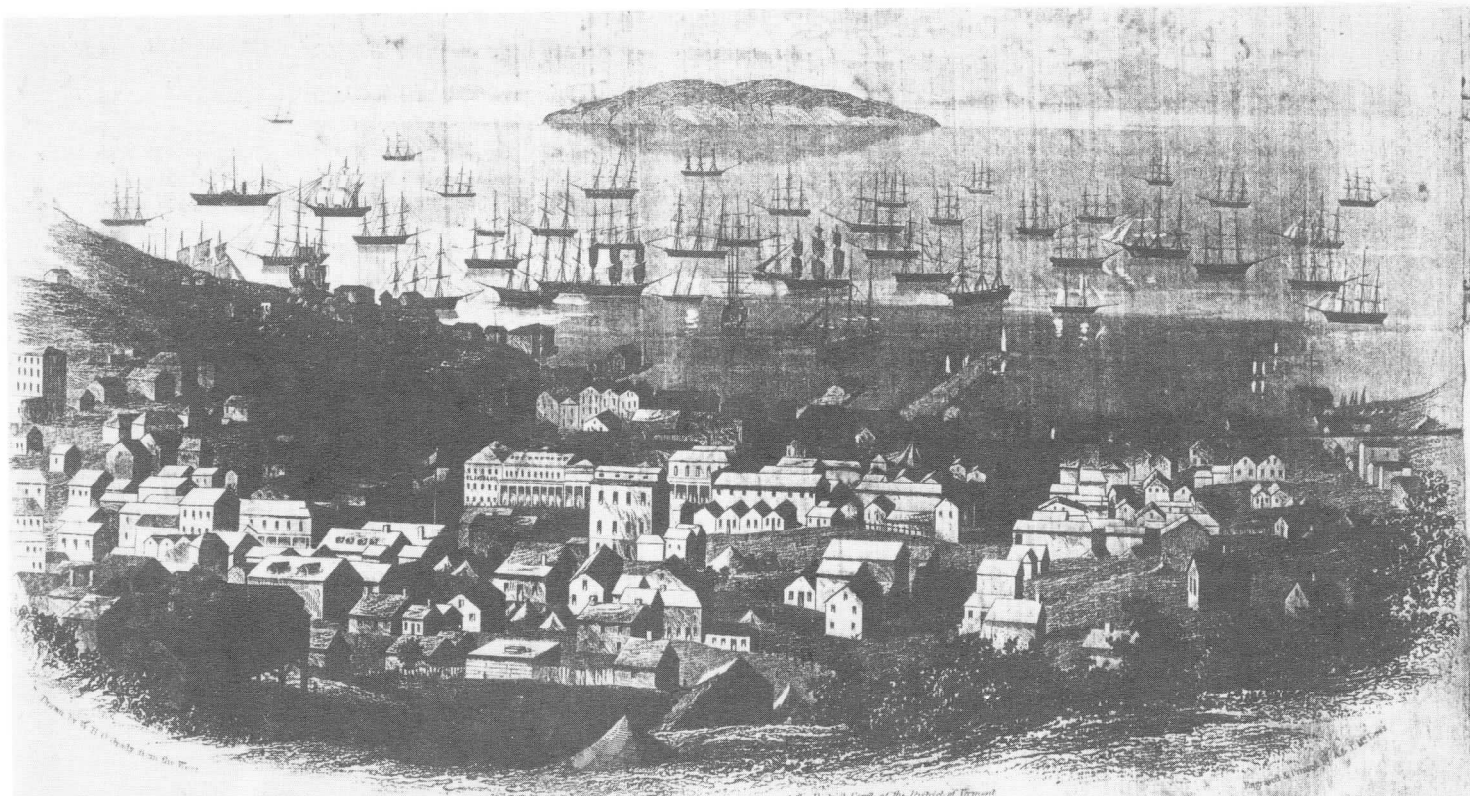
THIS COVER WAS ORIGINALLY RATED \$1.20 BUT WAS RERATED \$1.60



## ILLUSTRATED SAN FRANCISCO LETTER

LV SAN FRANCISCO SEPTEMBER 1 PER PMSS "OREGON"	ARR PANAMA SEPTEMBER 19
LV CHAGRES SEPTEMBER 25 PER USMSS "GEORGIA"	ARR NEW YORK OCTOBER 6
OR - LV CHAGRES SEPTEMBER 25 PER H & A "CHEROKEE"	ARR NEW YORK OCTOBER 5
OR - LV CHAGRES SEPTEMBER 26 PER EMPIRE "EMPIRE CITY"	ARR NEW YORK OCTOBER 5
ELIZABETHTOWN, NEW YORK	M/S "RECD OCT 8TH / 50"

NOTE: THE LAW "REPUBLIC" ALSO LEFT SAN FRANCISCO SEPTEMBER 1 BUT DID NOT REACH PANAMA UNTIL SEPTEMBER 24;  
THEREFORE, ITS MAIL COULD NOT POSSIBLY REACH CHAGRES IN TIME FOR ANY OF THE ABOVE NEW YORK SAILINGS.  
IT IS ALSO MOST UNUSUAL TO NOTE THREE POSSIBLE SAILINGS FROM CHAGRES AT THE SAME TIME. RATE: 40 CENTS UNPAID



Engraved according to Act of Congress in the year 1850 by J. B. G. in the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the District of Vermont

San Francisco - Sept 1<sup>st</sup> 1850

Byron Pond Esq  
Elizabethtown  
Essex County

New York

Recd Oct 8th/50

a very good boy, I thought  
above is intended as a  
San Francisco as drawn by C. Wady  
was taken from a hill in  
of Young Dodge, another  
artist stood when he drew  
the hill on the left & the sink  
in etc. The buildings are many

## Contents of the illustrated San Francisco letter

San Francisco, Sept. 1st, 1850

Dear Byron,

As you have always been a very good boy, I thought I would send you a picture--The above is intended as a likeness of the famous city of San Francisco as drawn by O'Grady, a Burlington boy, last fall. It was taken from a hill in the rear of the city near the residence of Young Dodge, another Burlington boy & where second of them reside. I've (?) seen San Francisco & been where the artist stood when he drew the above, would at once recognize it. The hill on the left & the side from the left to the right are very accurate. The buildings are many of them natural though two fires swept away many that have been replaced by larger & better buildings & many of them brick. A little to the left of the centre of the sheet you will see the American Flag. It stands in the grant plaza of the City. Look a little below the flag to the right you will see El Dorado on the end of a three story building. There now stands a beautiful brick building occupying the same ground, which rents for \$12,000 per month. That section of the city was all cleared out by the last fire in June. The building at the right with piazza in front is the Parker House. Now a wood building is going up there of great size to be protected by the brick walls of the El Dorado & the walls of a very large brick building now being built at the right. In the first story of the El Dorado & building south are five gambling saloons. Splendid halls. Some of them over 100 feet in length. I counted 70 lamps in one of those had like those in Mr. (?) Hall. Some larger & some smaller, all used to light the hall & move too light at. You can imagine then something of the size of the room. Here thousands assemble evenings to win or lose. (?) of silver & gold lie heaped upon the tables & fortunes are won & lost in a night. It is all done quietly & to appearances coolly no brawling & fighting. People well clad & well behaved to appearance are the winners, losers & spectators. Liquors of all kinds are temptingly arranged in a splendid bar on one side of each hall. Beautiful girls tend many of the tables & deal out pies, cakes & liquors. Others tend the rolet (sic) table. Others, still, gamble. In many of those halls will be found fine music--viz piano, violin, horn &c. Others have fine singing. Every allurements is held out that imagination can invent to get people to gather & (?) them to buy & gamble--spend their money. The city has a great many such places, I have noted the most conspicuous. Further as to description, the island in the distance in natural. I think though a little too distant on the paper. The position of the shipping is right though now at least fifteen times if not twenty times as much shipping lies in front of the city. It is a perfect swamp of spars & rigging for a mile along in front of the city.

Time does not permit me to be more explicit in description. The mail will close soon for the steamer leaves to-day for Panama. I have been sick the week past or I should have written before & sent you a better shaped letter, more studied & better addressed. I feared I should not be able to write, at all, but am now better, about well. I wrote Father yesterday in the forenoon for yesterday's mail. A mail went yesterday & I did not know till I dropped it into the office that a mail would go today. Through a friend, I got hold of this sheet last evening to write you. Safford is here. I came across him soon after I arrived. He is very well & and as fat as a cute & I should think from appear-

ance very steady. He is in business but how well he is doing I cannot say, but he is dutiful & happy. I was out yesterday morning after some medicine & talked while he ate. He had none but good dishes set before him. In this city most people eat at restaurants & lodge elsewhere. He & I have come to the conclusion that he had better get together about \$10,000 & go east with it where it will be worth more. We have not discussed my case yet. I feel very much at home conversing with him. The climate agrees with him very well. I unexpectedly came across Judge Hopkins here, but had sent by Barrett Alenburth letter to Sacramento City where I had been informed he was then holding court. Safford told me yesterday morning that Hopkins has received the letter & he have seen it & heard part of it. Safford & Hopkins both wondered what Elizabeth it was that could not spare Alenburth? I answered that I thought it must be Elizabeth -town. O well. I guess so, said Safford. A mistake in Hopkins. Hopkins is quite a coon. A fine clever fellow. He says he made Alenburth a great offer. A young lawyer(?) from Washington County took his place. He & young Pierpoint are together & Hopkins says they have done \$5,000 business since he left business. A little more about the city & business--common day laborers get \$5 per day & costs to live say \$1.50 per day. Mechanics get from \$8 to \$12 per day. The lawyers I am told are generally doing well who attend to business. I have been in Court 2 or 3 days. Business goes on familiarly much of New York in it. I think it a good place to practice law. All things new & unsettled. Lawyers charge in proportion to California prices. What we would charge \$5 for at home here they would charge from \$30 to \$40 for. A person cannot readily get into business now on account of the great influx from the States but a little delay & patience will bring it around. We landed two weeks ago last Thursday & I do not think it any great delay. I did not expect to jump into business & great profits as soon as I got ashore. I wanted information first. I have waited patiently till last evening when I nearly completed the terms of a partnership (law) with a lawyer from Oneida County. His partner Bushnell was from N. York City but health became poor & left yesterday for home. I think the opening favorable indeed for me. I count it among the good fortune that has attended me ever since I left home. I will write more particularly about business & climate in my next. I would have put twice as much in this sheet if time had permitted. I thought I would not let the opportunity slip. I have inquired our (name). Warren the young man that came out with him says he will be down from the mines in five days to the City. Barrett is at Sacramento City doing well. I have heard from him several times. The (?) matter is settled between me and Barrett since (?) can take up the Chattel Mortgage. I owed C.H. Richards Westport \$250 & expected Mr. (name) to pay it but in my haste I forgot all about it. I have just seen Millington. He came in since I commenced this letter. He has been gone 2 months (?) better but thin & emaciated not the same man. He is doubtless gaining none & says he thinks of going back to the mines. Remember me most kindly to all. Kiss all the girls for me. I cannot name them all. In my next I will be more explicit. Shall have time. All sorts of stories from the mines. Some down fortunate, many sick & penniless. Write. Your old friend, William Higby.

# PALMER & Cos EXPRESS

NOVEMBER 15, 1850



SAN FRANCISCO, NOVEMBER 15  
LV SAN FRANCISCO NOVEMBER 15 PER PMSS "TENNESSEE"  
LV CHAGRES DECEMBER 9 PER H & A "CHEROKEE"

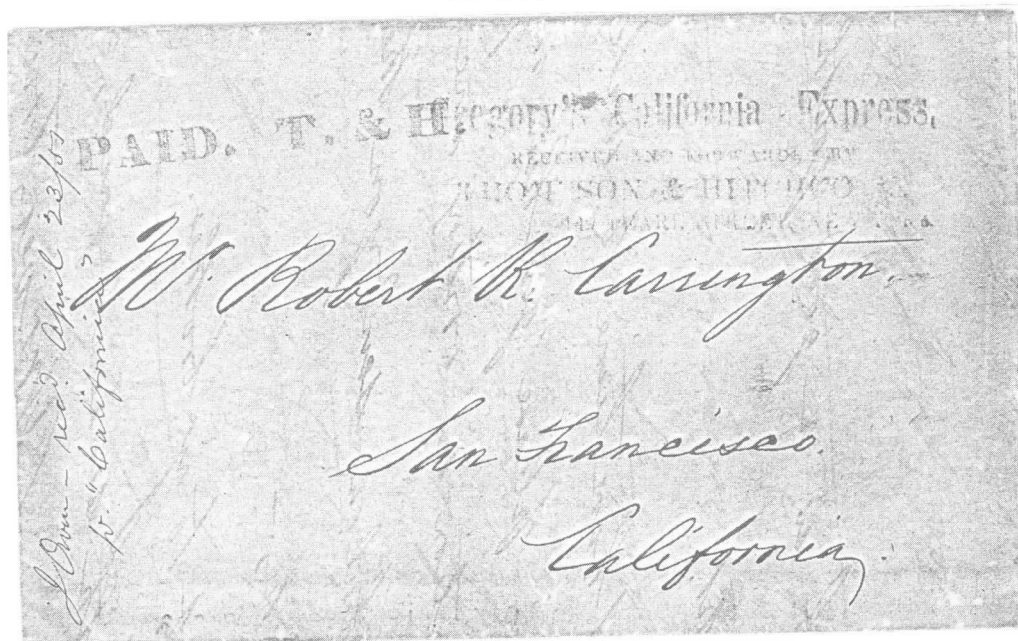
PALMER & COS EXPRESS  
ARR PANAMA DECEMBER 1  
ARR NEW YORK DECEMBER 20

PALMER & COS EXPRESS OPERATED BETWEEN NEW YORK AND SAN FRANCISCO FROM MARCH 1850 FOR LESS THAN ONE YEAR.

BOTH COVERS WERE PRIVATELY CARRIED ENTIRELY OUT OF THE MAILS

# GREGORY'S CALIFORNIA EXPRESS

MARCH 2, 1851



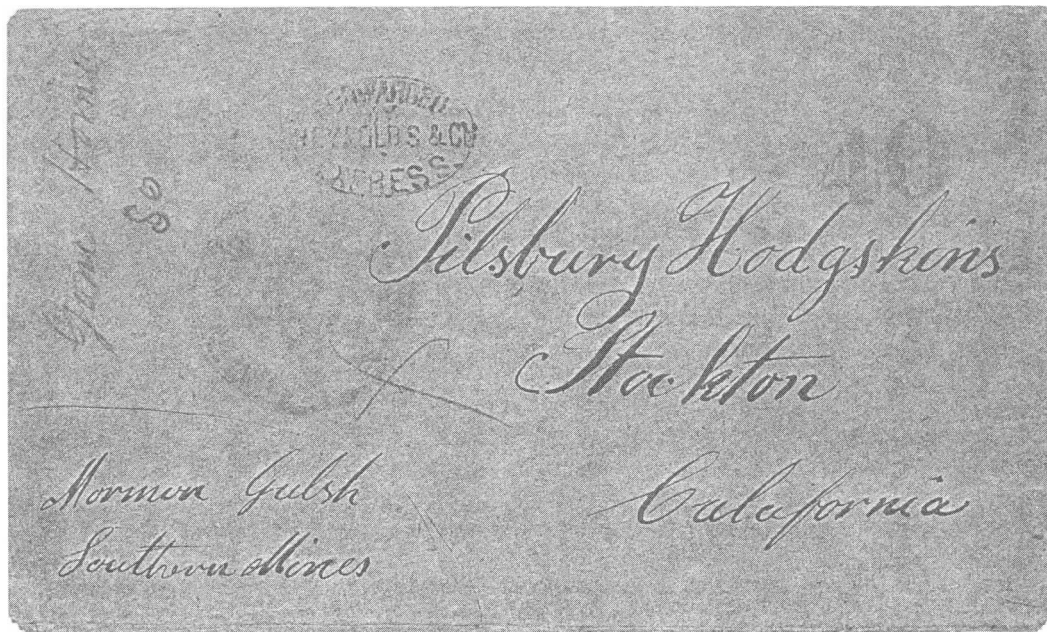
NEW YORK, MARCH 2 - THOMPSON AND HITCHCOCK, AGENTS FOR GREGORY'S EXPRESS  
PROB LV NEW YORK MARCH 13 PER EMPIRE "EMPIRE CITY" - ARR CHAGRES MARCH 27±  
LV PANAMA APRIL 2 PER PMSS "CALIFORNIA" - ARR SAN FRANCISCO APRIL 23

THOMPSON AND HITCHCOCK WERE JOSEPH GREGORY'S NEW YORK AGENTS FROM MID 1850 UNTIL OCTOBER, 1852.



40 CENT RATE CONTRACT MAIL - REYNOLDS &amp; CO., FORWARDER

MAY 24, 1851



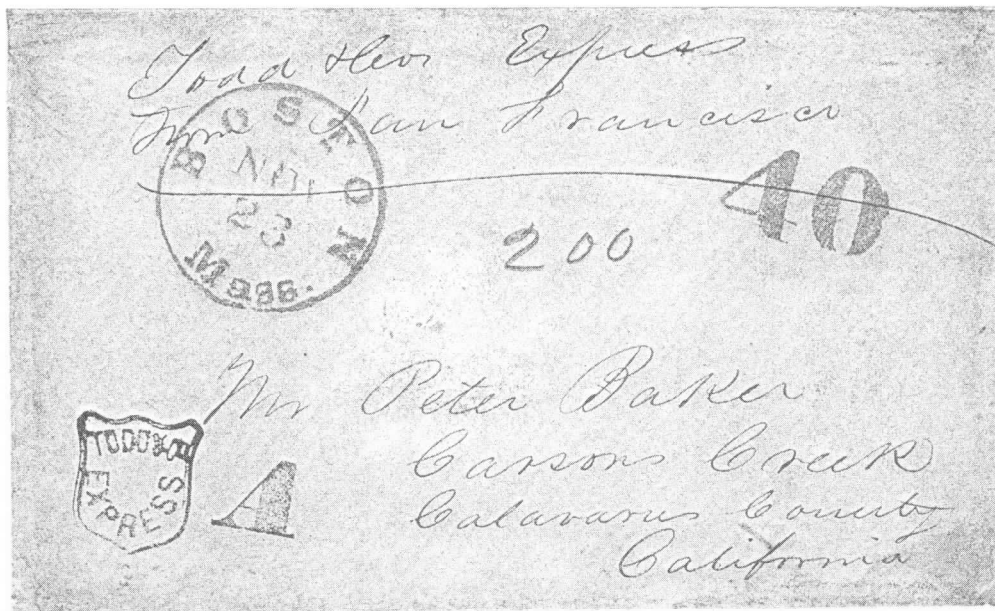
USPO BOSTON, MAY 24  
 LV NEW YORK MAY 28 PER USMSS "CRESCENT CITY"  
 LV PANAMA JUNE 16 PER PMSS "NORTHERNER"  
 REYNOLDS & CO., STOCKTON

NEW YORK  
 ARR CHAGRES JUNE 9±  
 ARR SAN FRANCISCO JULY 7  
 "MORMON GULSH"

REYNOLDS & CO. OPERATED AROUND THE SOUTHERN MINES FROM JANUARY 1850 UNTIL THE FALL OF 1851.  
 THE ADDRESSEE, WHOSE NICKNAME WAS "CHIPS", WOULD LATER BECOME A REKNOWNED EXPRESSMAN FOR WELLS, FARGO.

## (A.H.) TODD &amp; CO., FORWARDER

NOVEMBER 23, 1850

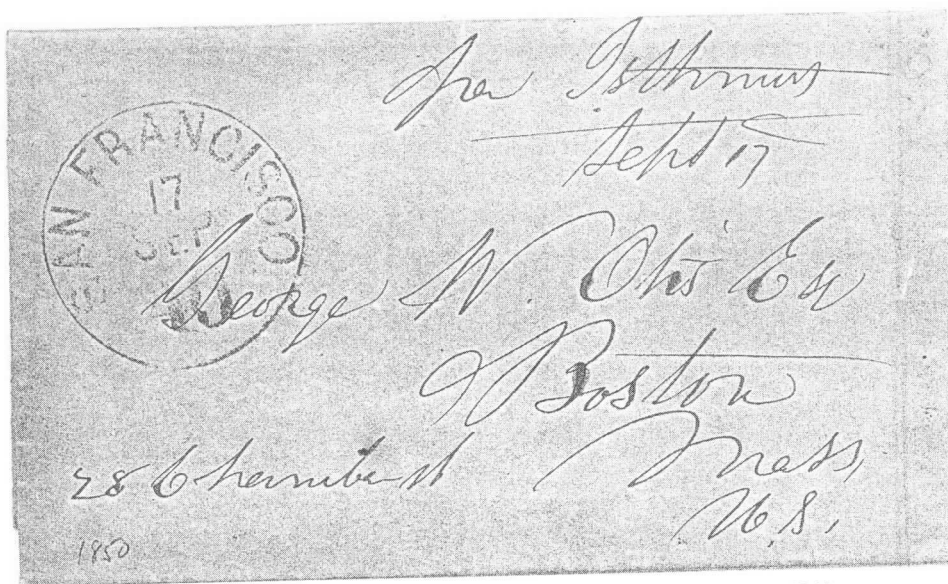


USPO BOSTON, NOVEMBER 23  
 LV NEW YORK NOVEMBER 26 PER H & A "CHEROKEE"  
 PROBABLE LV PANAMA DECEMBER 17 PER PMSS "TENNESSEE" - (A.H.) TODD & CO.  
 NEW YORK  
 ARR CHAGRES DECEMBER 6 ±  
 ARR SAN FRANCISCO JANUARY 8, 1851  
 CARSONS CREEK

A.H. TODD & CO. OPERATED FROM SAN FRANCISCO TO THE SOUTHERN MINES FROM JULY 13, 1850 UNTIL NOVEMBER 1851.

## SODOM AND GOMORRAH

SEPTEMBER 17, 1850

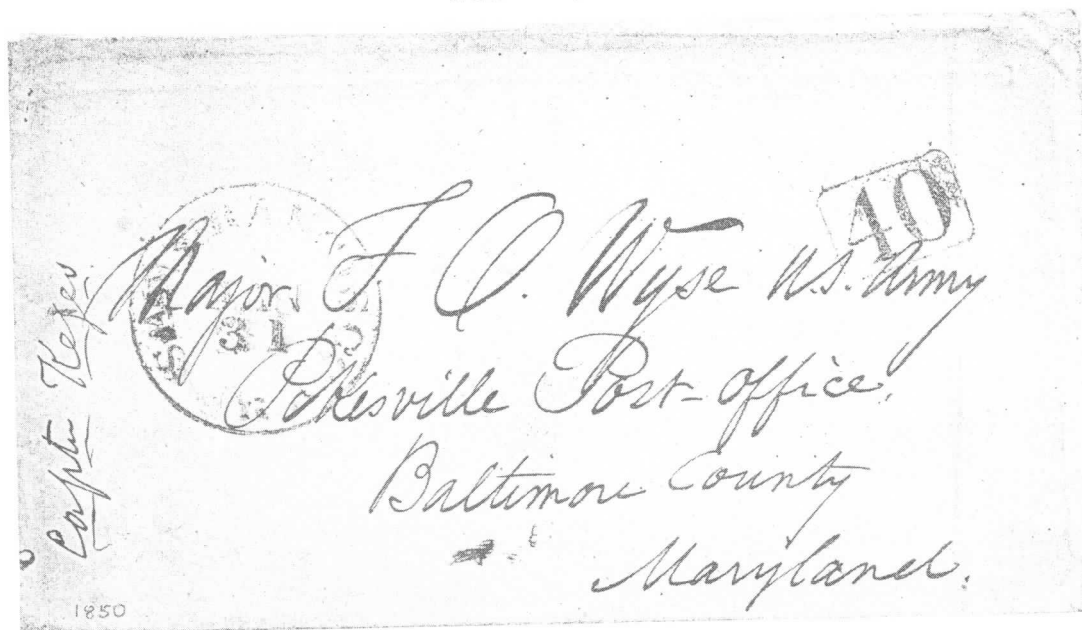


LV SAN FRANCISCO SEPTEMBER 17 PER LAW "ISTHMUS" - ARR PANAMA OCTOBER 10  
 LV CHAGRES OCTOBER 15± PER USMSS "FALCON" - ARR NEW YORK OCTOBER 27

"WE HAVE ONCE AGAIN ESCAPED THE FLAMES. A FIRE BROKE OUT ABOUT 5 THIS MORNING NEAR PORTSMOUTH SQUARE . . . IT DOES SEEM AS IF THE CURSE OF HEAVEN WAS UPON US. THE WORK OF DAYS AND MONTHS IS SWEEPED OFF IN AS MANY SECONDS. I THINK WE MIGHT BE CALLED SODOM & GOMORRAH OF MODERN DAYS. - THERE CERTAINLY IS EVIL ENOUGH HERE."

## SOLDIER WANTS TO GO HOME

JANUARY 26, 1850



SAN FRANCISCO PO JANUARY 31  
 ARR PANAMA FEBRUARY 23  
 ARR NEW YORK MARCH 25

LV SAN FRANCISCO FEBRUARY 1 PER PMSS "PANAMA"  
 PROBABLE LV CHAGRES MARCH 13 PER USMSS "OHIO"  
 PIKESVILLE PO, MARYLAND

SENDER WANTS TO TRADE COMMANDS WITH THE ADDRESSEE. "I HAVE NOT HAD LEAVE FOR SIXTEEN YEARS. . . GEN SCOTT IS WELL DISPOSED TOWARDS ME, . . . AND HE WILL NO DOUBT CONSENT TO OUR TRANSFER & THEN . . . SAIL FOR CHAGRES BY THE NEXT STEAMER EVEN THOUGH YOU MAY NOT HAVE TWO DAYS TO PREPARE YOURSELF. BRING A GOOD SUPPLY OF GOOD CLOTHING - THIN CLOTHING TO WEAR ON THE WAY THROUGH THE TROPICS, AND THICK CLOTHING TO WEAR HERE WHERE NO SUMMER CLOTHING IS NEEDED. BRING A LARGE SUPPLY OF SHIRTS AND SHOES, AND ONE PAIR OF THICK BOOTS AS HIGH AS THE KNEES. . . DON'T BRING ANYTHING TO SELL, BUT BRING ALL THE MONEY IN LARGE GOLD PIECES. \$50 FOR EXPENSES ON THE ISTHMUS, AND A FEW NICE THINGS TO EAT ON THE WAY OVER. IF YOU CAN ARRIVE HEAR WITH A LITTLE CAPITAL IN CASH. . . YOU CAN INCREASE IT ASTONISHINGLY.

San Francisco Sept. 17. 1850

Dear Mother,

I write simply to say that we have once more escaped the flames, a fire broke out about 5 this morning, near Portsmouth square, & destroyed two or three squares. - the loss of property however is much less, than the last fire of 14 June, this not having been in the business portion of the town. - cannot as yet say how much, it does seem as if, the curse of Heaven was upon us, - it seems almost disastrous. the work of days & months is swept off in as many seconds. I trust we have not lost much if any, I think we might <sup>be excepted</sup> the Sodom & Gomorrah of modern days. - there is certainly evil enough here. I am well. but rather tired just now. we had a glorious rain on Sunday

good by,

James,

Frank Dyer called to see me this morning, in good health, but guess he has not made his fortune, quite yet.

Yours



# Editor's Message

As many of you know, starting in the summer each year, The Postal History Foundation's Education Department conducts exhibiting classes for any youth who would like to prepare an exhibit for ARIPEX, held in January. During the summer, the classes meet either in the Foundation or local libraries. In September, the classes meet one Saturday morning a month from 9 a.m. to noon. The children choose a topic that interests them and then they pick material from the Foundation's Education Department stock. The children are taught how to look up the stamps in the Scott catalogs and then to use the encyclopedias for information. Particular philatelic information about the stamps is taught, and then so is the currently correct style of preparing a title page and plan page. This takes some kids many hours per page. If the youths can use a computer, they are encouraged to do so. Some take the material to school to use the school's programs with the help of their teachers. Every attempt is made to make the experience a valuable one, both philatelically and educationally. This year, 21 youths from the Phoenix and Tucson areas participated in the program and prepared 30 frames of exhibits. The exhibits were first shown at ARIPEX '93 in Tucson. In May, the youths were invited to exhibit at The Mega Show in New York. The ASDA, like ARIPEX, hired an extra judge only for the children's exhibits. From there, the exhibits went to ROMPEX, a sentimental favorite of mine as it was there that I first exhibited as a youth. One of the youths won the Junior Grand Award in New York. Both show committees treated these Postal History Foundation students with the respect usually give to adult exhibitors; the prizes are beautiful, and each youth received a Palmares and a show program. Award ceremonies for them also will be held at The Foundation in Tucson, and in Phoenix soon, if not already as of when you receive this Heliograph. The parents of all of the youths were to be invited to these ceremonies. And of course, all of the kids are being encouraged to either improve their exhibits for next year, or start a new one. Thanks to all Postal History Foundation volunteers and contributors who have directly or indirectly supported this program!

I also want to thank all of you who have directly or indirectly given me feedback on the first issue of The Heliograph under my editorship. I do apologize for the one obvious factual error: in Robert Bechtel's article on World War II relocation camps, it incorrectly stated that Gold Star Mothers had a son *serving* in the military; this should have said "son who had died in the armed forces." I knew better, so I feel all the sillier for the error.

In this issue of The Heliograph, we begin something that is unusual to say the least in our hobby, and which is a practice I hope will spread: the serialization of an outstanding exhibit. In this case, it is George Kramer's mindblowing, "Across the Continent"--transcontinental mail primarily from the 1847-1869 period. The Postal History Foundation's interest in recording and disseminating certain exhibits was first brought to my attention several years ago, when then Executive Director Doug Kelsey said that the then Western Postal History Museum should photograph my exhibit, "U.S. Newspapers and Philately, 1850-1925." (So much for my contributions to philately: to date, my exhibit still has not been copied for the Foundation, APRL or the Classics Society, and in fact, it hasn't even been publicly shown in more than five years!) Thus it occurred to me that if one of the Foundation's roles is to preserve exhibits, no better way exists to simultaneously record and disseminate one than by serializing it our journal. (We are fully aware that with several other articles per issue, that it will require about three years to publish an exhibit, and longer if we serialize more than one at a time.) Either one of George's exhibits seemed like excellent candidates, but we settled on the transcontinental covers because his telegraphs cover exhibit already has been photocopied by and for the U.S. Philatelic Classics Society; "Across the Continent" is not currently available from USPCS, APRL or anywhere else except in these pages. We hope you find it as educational and interesting as we do--Dane S. Claussen.