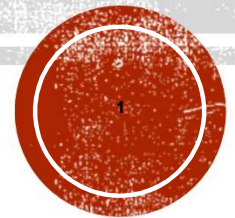


YOU'VE GOT MAIL!

CHESTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

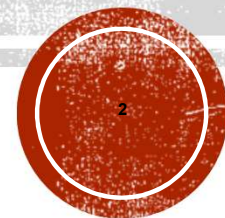
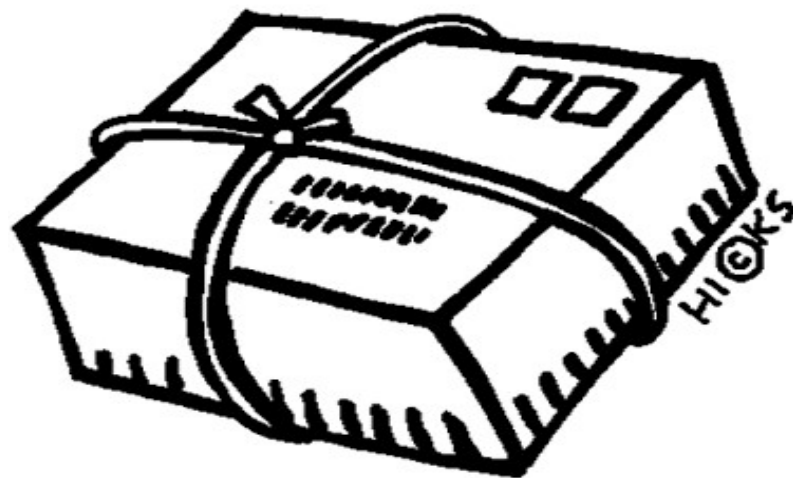
DECEMBER 16, 2017



YOU'VE GOT — A PACKAGE!

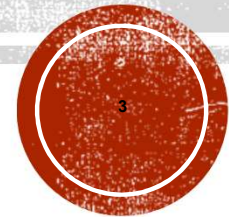
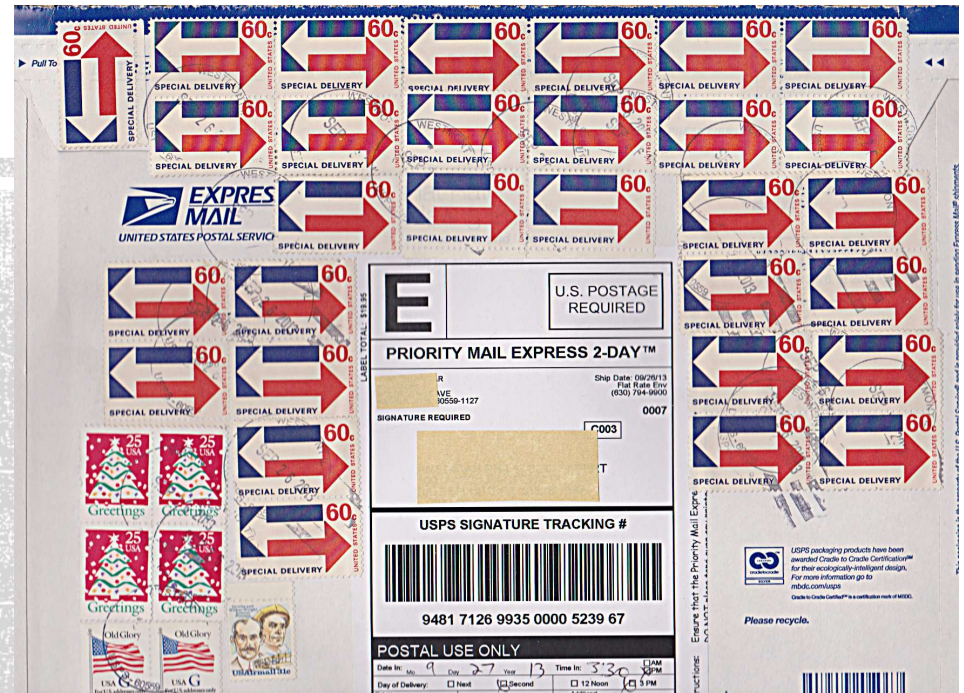
AN ORIGINAL RESEARCH LECTURE

BY ROBERT G. RUFÉ — PRESIDENT, BRANDYWINE VALLEY STAMP CLUB



HISTORY, BACKWARDS...

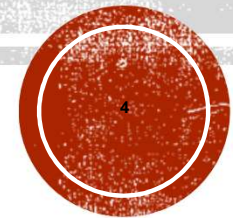
21ST CENTURY:



HISTORY, BACKWARDS...



20TH CENTURY:
EXPRESS MAIL — OCTOBER 9, 1977
PRIORITY MAIL — JANUARY 7, 1968
AIR PARCEL POST — SEPTEMBER 1, 1948
SPECIAL HANDLING — APRIL 15, 1925
PARCEL POST — JANUARY 1, 1913



19TH CENTURY ??? ~ 1790 — 1890

WHAT ABOUT PACKAGES IN THE 19TH CENTURY?

EARLIEST CHESTER COUNTY ITEM FOUND:

(FOR THIS PROGRAM)



Actual Postal Piece in
Nearby Exhibit Frame

5 March 1907 – From Chester, PA, Station 2 – Destination Unknown

Duplex datestamps on piece of linen wrapper

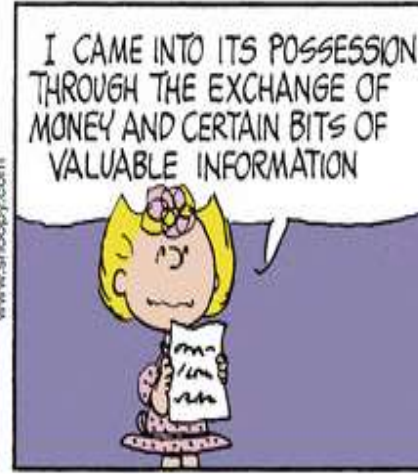
THE FIRST LETTER...



Start an Exhibit!



Provenance...

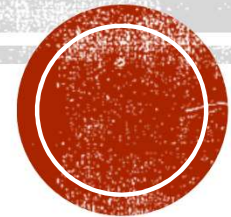


How we find "stuff"...



Best in Show!

LETTERS ARE OK,
BUT PACKAGES ARE SPECIAL!



PREHISTORIC MAIL - FOOT TRAVEL...



The Incans used the Incan trail to carry messages long distances through high elevations by foot.

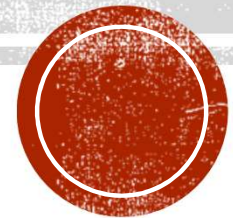
17TH CENTURY: HORSEBACK...

By the time Thomas Witherings established the first public mail system in 1635, the bulk of the mail was carried on horseback and by ship. However, both inner city and rural mail delivery often involved foot travel.

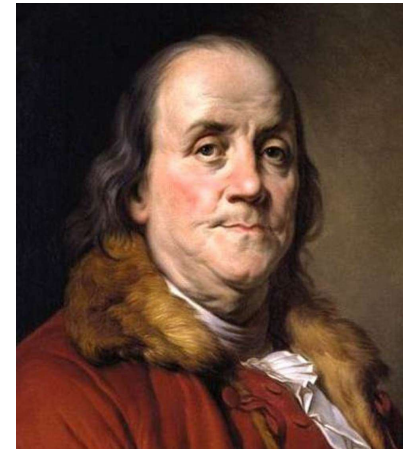
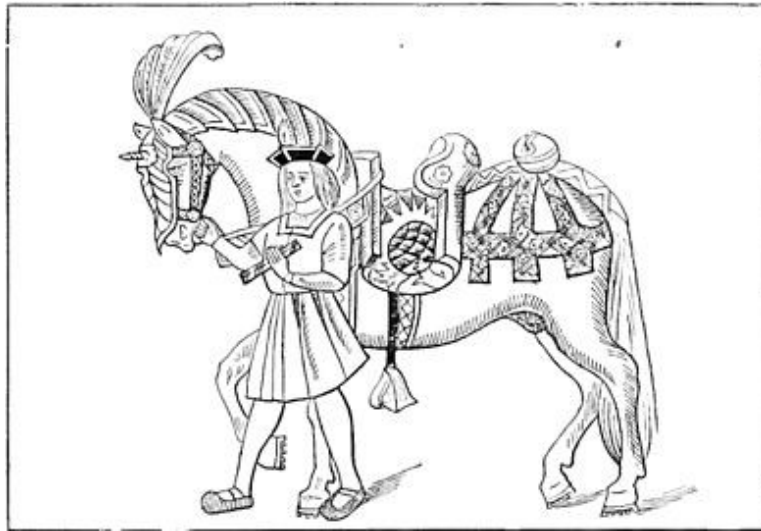


In 1814, a mail system was established in Namibia between the missionary stations and the outside world. This made use of natives who carried the mail on the end of sticks, with their provisions on another end.

These brave Namibians, presumably attacked and eaten by lions, often went missing along with their mail bag on their two-week journey by foot between Windhoek and Walvis Bay.



FIRST – A LITTLE U.S. HISTORY.



In 1775, Benjamin Franklin was appointed as the first U.S. Postmaster General. Mr. Franklin had experience at the job, as he had served as deputy postmaster general of the colonial mail system.

FIXING RATES OF POSTAGE ON DOMESTIC MAIL MATTER:

The act of February 20, 1792, 1 Stat. 232, effective from June 1, 1792, **was the first**, after the adoption of the Constitution of the United States, fixing rates of postage on mail matter.

DETAIL:

“For every single letter conveyed not exceeding **30 miles, 6 cents**; over 30 miles and not exceeding 60 miles, 8 cents; ... over 450 miles, 25 cents; and every double letter, double said rates; every triple letter, triple said rates;... etc.

“PACKETS”:

“... and every packet weighing 1 ounce avoirdupois to pay at the rate of four single letters for each ounce, and in that proportion for any greater weight.”



FIXING RATES OF POSTAGE ON DOMESTIC MAIL MATTER

NEWSPAPERS (1792):

All newspapers conveyed by mail for any distance not more than 100 miles, **1 cent**; over 100 miles, $1\frac{1}{2}$ cents.

In May 1794, the rates of February 20, 1792, were reenacted, but fixed, from June 1, 1794, the rate for single newspapers sent from one place to another in the same State at 1 cent each; and for magazines and pamphlets, 1 cent per sheet for not exceeding 50 miles; $1\frac{1}{2}$ cents for over 50 miles and not exceeding 100 miles; and 2 cents for any greater distance.



NEWSPAPERS DOMINATED THE EARLY MAILS

NEWSPAPERS FACTOID:

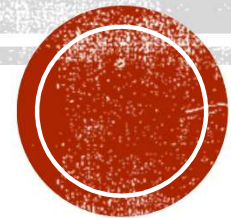
...the total volume of newspapers ... was enormous. In 1800, the postal system transmitted 1.9 million a year; by 1820, 6 million; by 1830, 16 million; by 1840, 39 million. In absolute terms, these totals probably constituted no more than 10% of the total number of newspapers printed in any given year.

NEWSPAPER SUBSIDY:

In 1794, newspapers generated a mere 3 percent of postal revenue, while making up fully 70 percent of the weight.* Forty years later, little had changed. In 1832, newspapers generated no more than 15 percent of total postal revenue, while making up as much as 95 percent of the weight..

NEWSPAPER DOMINANCE OF THE MAILS:

* On a typical day, reported the New Hampshire mail contractor turned senator Isaac Hill, the incoming mail at the Washington post office contained one tidy packet of letters and twenty-one enormous sacks of newspapers, each of which weighed between 150 and 200 pounds.



THE CHANGING RATES OF POSTAGE ON DOMESTIC MAIL MATTER

“PACKETS” — FIRST MENTION OF LIMITATION (1799):

Act of March 2, 1799 (1 Stat. 734, 738-740): Any packet which weighs more than 3 pounds shall not be accepted for mailing.

Each rate reenactment either verified previous structure, or more often, made modifications in rates and conditions.



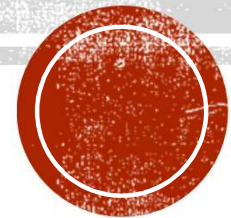
FIXING RATES OF POSTAGE ON DOMESTIC MAIL MATTER

CHRONOLOGY - CHANGING RATES ...

Act of May 1, 1816: Single sheet up to 30 miles - 6¢.

Act of July 2, 1836: Employment of Carriers authorized - 2¢ per letter.

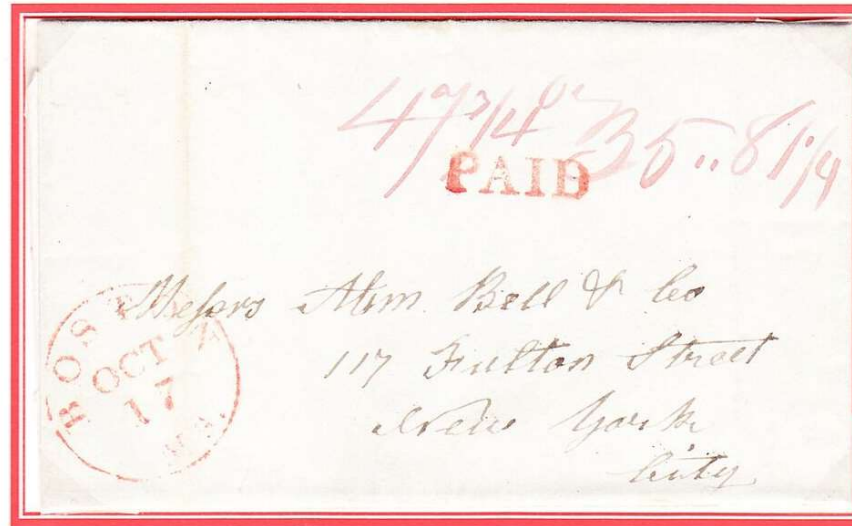
Act of March 3, 1845: Single letter up to 300 miles 5¢; over 300 mi. 10¢.
Double, treble and quadruple weights and rates available.



Throughout these rate periods – “Any packet which weighs more than 3 pounds shall not be accepted for mailing.”

QUESTION - WHAT IS A PACKET? A BUNDLE OF LETTERS?

Only ¼ oz. Under the Limit



Boston to New York, NY

October 17, 1839

Rate is 75¢ per oz.:



The rate of \$35.81¼ was for a letter weighing 47¾ oz. sent 150-400 miles. This letter appears to have been on top of a large bundle sent to New York for the Oct. 19th sailing of the Transatlantic Steamship Company Ship *Liverpool*.

It is believed to be an example from Boston of a “freight money” letter, with the payment included in the letter rather than collected by the postmaster and noted on the outside.

Unchanged since 1792:



Per Sec. 13 of the Act of Mar. 3, 1825:

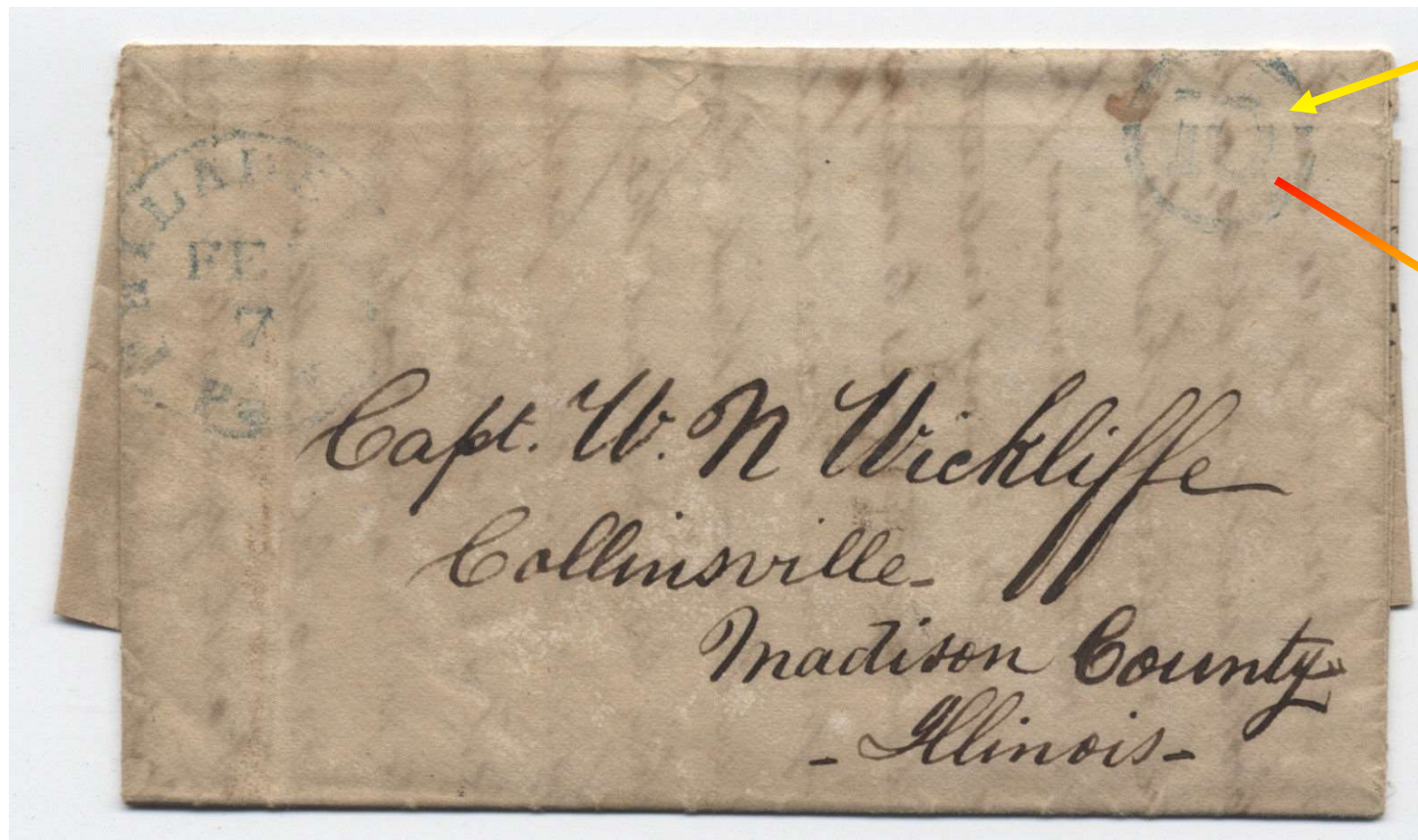
“No postmaster shall receive, to be conveyed by the mail, any packet which shall weigh more than three pounds.”

Courtesy – Mark Schwartz, fellow lecturer for this exhibit.

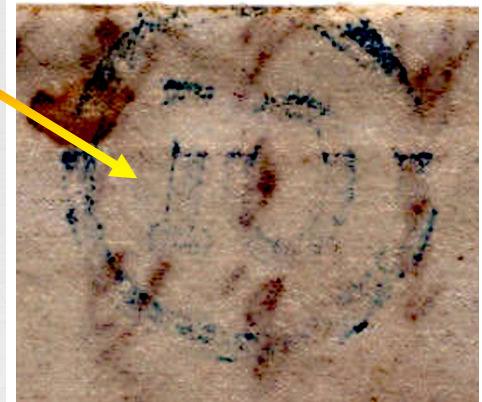
NOT QUITE A PACKET...

JUST A BIG, HEAVY, SINGLE SHEET STAMPLESS LETTER!

1846 Philadelphia, PA to Collinsville, IL: Single letter over 300 mi. 10¢.



Cancel
Enhanced



(Actual Letter in
Nearby Exhibit Frame)

Sent from "The Washington House" in Philadelphia by C.F. Ruff

NEXT QUESTION – WHAT IS AN ENVELOPE?

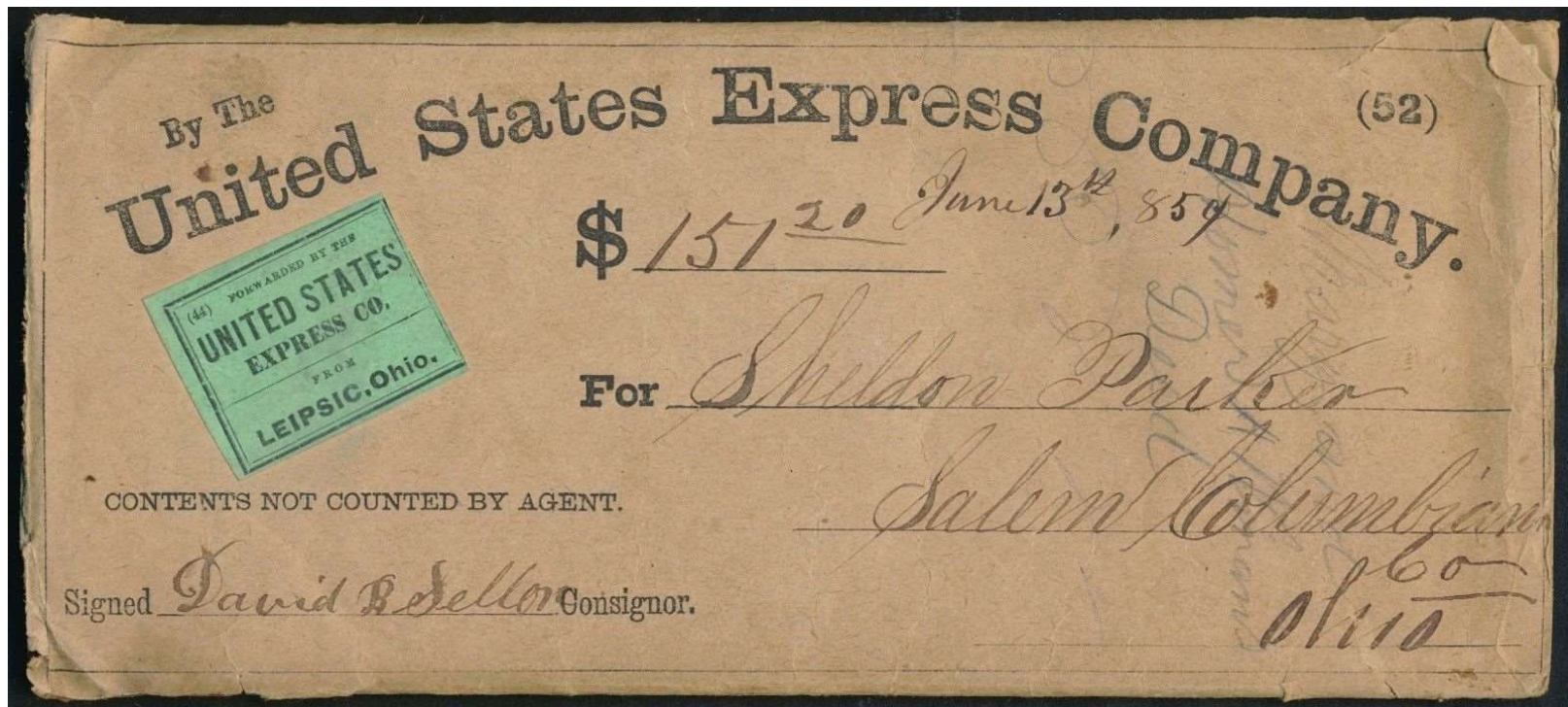
With the **Penny Black in 1840**, came the Jacob Perkins printing process to produce wrappers, diamond-shaped blanks sold as a sheet of 12, to be cut by the purchaser, and known as Mulready stationery, because the illustration was created by the respected artist William Mulready (the envelopes were withdrawn when the illustration was ridiculed and lampooned).

Rowland Hill also installed his brother Edwin as The Controller of Stamps, and it was he with his partner **Warren De La Rue** who patented the machine for mass-producing the diamond-shaped sheets for conversion to envelopes in **1845**.



WHAT IS A PACKET? A HEAVY “ENVELOPE?”

An old style “envelope” containing important papers? Here is an 1854 example from a **private express company**:



The Express Companies carried most of these oversize pieces.

CHRONOLOGY - CHANGING RATES ...

ACT OF MARCH 3, 1847 - THE FIRST U.S. STAMPS!



Also March 3, 1847: Newspapers sent by mail subject to postage.

Act of March 3, 1851: Prepaid letters up to 3000 miles - 3¢; not prepaid - 5¢;

Bound books may be sent through the mail.

First mention of books.

BOOKS... A "PACKAGE?"

CHRONOLOGY – THE FIRST MEDIA MAIL ! ...

Act of August 30, 1852:

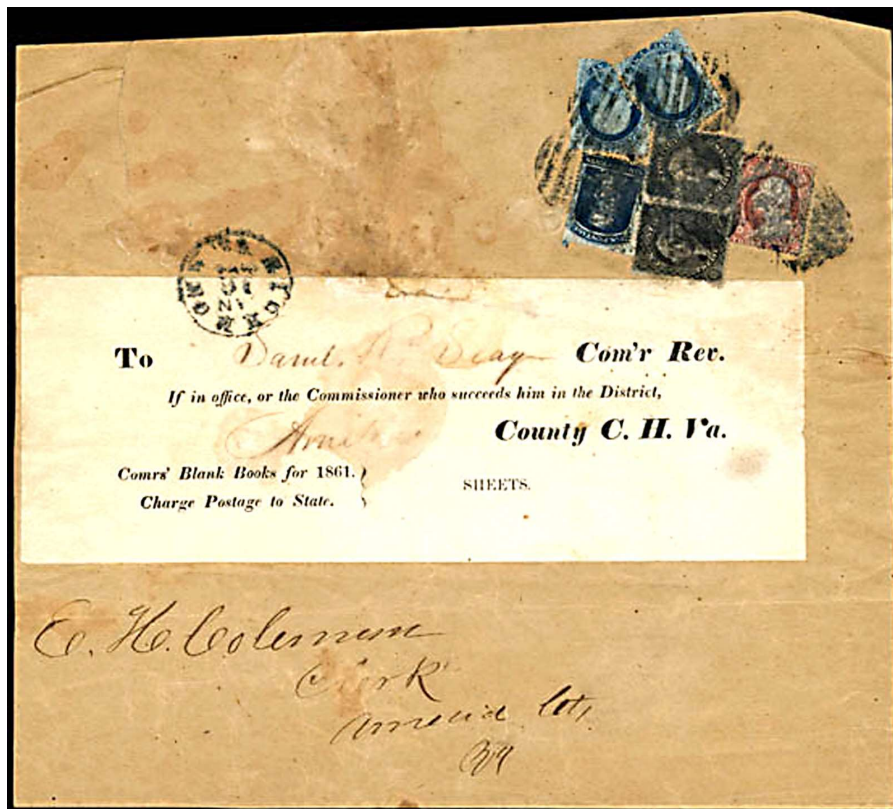
“**Books, bound or unbound, not weighing over 4 pounds,** shall be mailable matter and chargeable with postage at 1 cent an ounce for all distances under 3,000 miles; 2 cents for all distances over 3,000 miles, to which 50 per cent shall be added unless prepaid.”

(This act was the first making the **prepayment of postage on domestic letters compulsory** and provided that, for the **greater security of valuable letters**, the Postmaster General may establish a uniform plan for their registration at a **registration fee** of 5 cents each.)



PRINTED MATTER EXAMPLE LATE IN 1852 RATE PERIOD ...

PARCEL BUNDLE OF COMMISSIONER'S BOOKS



Richmond VA, January 16, 1861
circular date cancel on large package
front addressed to Saml. R. Seay of
Amelia County Court House, VA,
printed endorsement "Comrs' Blank
Books for 1861. Charge Postage to
State." One cent per ounce - \$1.19 for
119 oz., or ~7½ lbs. (??)

With 2017 P.F. certificate.
Scott No. 39: \$225,000 on cover
Realized \$13,000+ on Dec. 13, 2017

Courtesy – Schuyler Rumsey Philatelic Auctions.

FIXING RATES OF POSTAGE ON DOMESTIC MAIL MATTER

CHRONOLOGY – THE FIRST MERCHANDISE LISTING ! ...

Act of February 27, 1861:

“Maps, engravings, lithographs, photographic prints on rollers or in paper covers; books, bound or unbound, photographic paper, and letter envelopes*, shall be deemed mailable matter, and charged with postage by the weight of the package, (still) not to exceed 4 pounds, at the rate of 1 cent an ounce or fraction thereof, to any place under 1,500 miles, and at the rate of 2 cents an ounce or fraction thereof over 1,500 miles, to be prepaid by postage stamps..”

*Cards, ... weighing at least 8 ounces; and seeds or cuttings in packages not exceeding 8 ounces shall be charged with postage at the rate of 1 cent an ounce or fraction thereof, to any place in the United States under 1,500 miles; over 1,500 miles, 2 cents an ounce or fraction thereof to be prepaid by postage stamps.

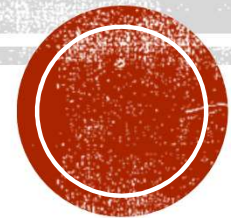


FIXING RATES OF POSTAGE ON DOMESTIC MAIL MATTER

CHRONOLOGY — CLASSES ESTABLISHED IN 1863 ...

Act of March 3, 1863: 1st Class letters; 2nd Class newspapers; 3rd Class ...
“all other mailable matter, including book manuscripts and corrected proof sheets.”

The Postmaster General may provide for the delivery by such carriers of small packages other than letters or papers, and not exceeding the maximum weight of mailable packages.



No postmaster shall receive to be conveyed by mail any **packet or package** which shall weigh more than **4 pounds**, except books published or circulated by order of Congress.

CHRONOLOGY – MERCHANDISE ADDITION ...



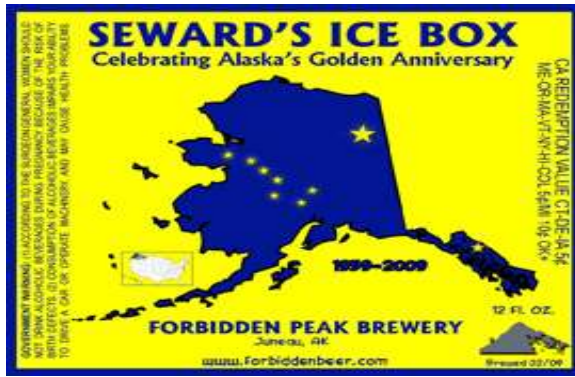
THE CIVIL WAR !

Act of January 22, 1864:
Clothing of wool, cotton, or
linen, in packages not
exceeding 2 pounds each,
addressed to any
noncommissioned officer or
private in the Army.



Clothing may be transmitted at the rate of 8 cents for every 4 ounces or fraction thereof, under such regulations as the Postmaster General may prescribe; postage to be prepaid.

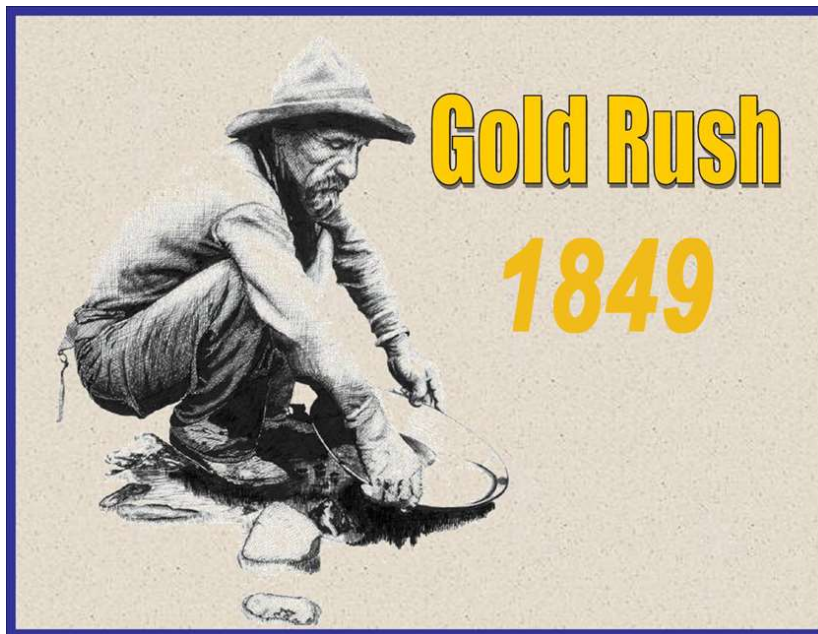
HISTORY NOTE...



The United States purchased Alaska from the Russian Empire on **March 30, 1867**. When newcomers arrived they wrote letters and requested mail service as a way to connect to their friends, family, and business associates in other areas of the world. The sudden and dramatic **population growth overwhelmed Alaska's postal service.**

CHRONOLOGY – MERCHANDISE ADDITION ...

ORE SAMPLES ...



Act of June 8, 1872:
Postage on mailable matter of the **third class** shall be at the rate of 1 cent for each 2 ounces or fraction thereof, **except that double these rates** shall be charged for **books, samples of metals, ores, minerals, and merchandise.**

Packages of **woolen, cotton, or linen clothing** not exceeding 2 pounds in weight may be sent by mail to any noncommissioned officer or private in the Army, if prepaid at the rate of 1 cent for each ounce or fraction thereof (formerly 2 cents per ounce).

PRINTED MATTER EXAMPLE FROM 1872 RATE ...

PARCEL OF LEGAL DOCUMENTS?



ca 1880 Jeffersonville, IN to Philadelphia: Parcel front for printed matter mailed at the low rate of 1c per 2 ounces, or 10c per bound volume of documents. It is franked with two pairs of the 30c War Department stamp. The addressee was a well-known Philadelphia collector* of coins, medals, and numismatic literature who worked for John Wanamaker, the department store magnate who later became Postmaster General. One of five recorded 30c War Department covers, and the only one bearing more than one 30c stamp. (* Bio available on internet)

Courtesy – Frajola Postal History Message Board Cover No. 14786.

CHRONOLOGY – MERCHANDISE ADDITION ...

SEEDS, BULBS, SCIONS (!) & MORE...



Act of January 9, 1873:

Amends the act of 1872, so as to authorize the transmission by mail of **packages of seeds, cuttings, bulbs, roots, and scions of any weight**, for each of such packages, **not exceeding 4 pounds (formerly 8 ounces)**, at a rate of postage of **1 cent for each 2 ounces (formerly 2 cents per ounce)** or fractions of an ounce.

Of Note... the Act of June 8, 1872: Provided for the Postal Card at 1 cent each.

FIXING RATES OF POSTAGE ON DOMESTIC MAIL MATTER

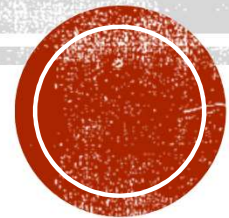
CHRONOLOGY – FOURTH CLASS MAIL ADDED IN 1879 ...

Act of March 3, 1879: Repeals all former laws relating to the classification, ... (and creates) Fourth Class - Merchandise.

“Fourth-class matter shall embrace all matter not embraced in the first, second, or third class, **which is not in its form or nature liable to destroy, deface, or otherwise damage the contents of the mail bag, or harm the person of any one engaged in the postal service...** “

Rate – 1 cent per ounce; 4 pound limitation.

All packages subject to examination.



FIXING RATES OF POSTAGE ON DOMESTIC MAIL MATTER

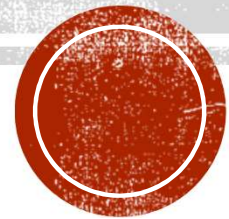
CHRONOLOGY – SPECIAL DELIVERY STAMP/SERVICE ADDED IN 1885

Act of March 3, 1885: A special stamp of the value of 10 cents, attached to a letter in addition to the lawful postage thereon, ...shall be regarded as entitling such letter to immediate delivery...

Every article of mailable matter upon which the special-delivery stamp provided for by the act of March 3, 1885, 23 Stat. 387, shall be duly affixed, shall be entitled to immediate delivery...

Special Delivery service available **7 a.m. to midnight.**

Same date – 1st Class Rate reduced to 2 cents per ounce.



1888 PARCEL TAG EXAMPLE FOR MACHINERY...

MACHINERY: LESS THAN 4 LBS.



ca. 1888 - Paterson, NJ, to London

Parcel tag bearing two 1879 15c red orange, Scott No. 189, and 1887 2c green, Scott No. 213, tied by PATERSON N.J. oval cancels, paying 32-times the UPU fourth-class 1 cent per ounce rate to London, England. Blue "Merchandise of Salable Value (N.Y.)" handstamp.

Courtesy – Frajola Postal History Message Board Cover No. 07127.

POSTAL LAWS FAVORED INTERNATIONAL PARCEL MOVEMENT

RICHARD JOHN COMMENTARY:

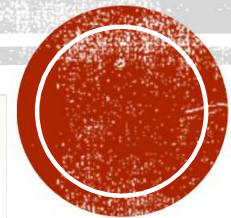
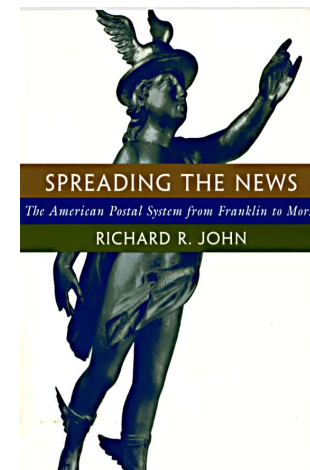
In the United States, ... it was far easier in the early republic to transmit a parcel from the United States to Great Britain than it was to transmit it fifty miles into the interior of the United States.

BRITISH PARCEL POST INNOVATION DECADES AHEAD OF U.S.

In Great Britain, (parcel) transmission was well established by 1815 and was commonly regarded as a lucrative branch of the business.

BOOKS SOLD “IN THE NEWSPAPERS” TO GAIN THE SYSTEM!

“Predictably, given (U.S. postal) constraints, enterprising printers of all kinds quickly adapted their publications to a newspaper format, leading in short order to the publication of religious newspapers, agricultural newspapers, reform newspapers, and even literary newspapers that reprinted entire novels for transmission at the low newspaper rate.”



1889 PARCEL WRAPPER EXAMPLE

CONTENTS UNKNOWN!



Postmark: Oct. 23, 1889
Chicago, IL to Hamburg, Germany

Remnant of a parcel wrapper with a total of 35 stamps, totaling 72 cents in postage (10 x Scott No. 212, 21 x 213, and 4 x 216). “Hard to tell if the franking is complete; on further inspection a couple of stamps have been replaced.”

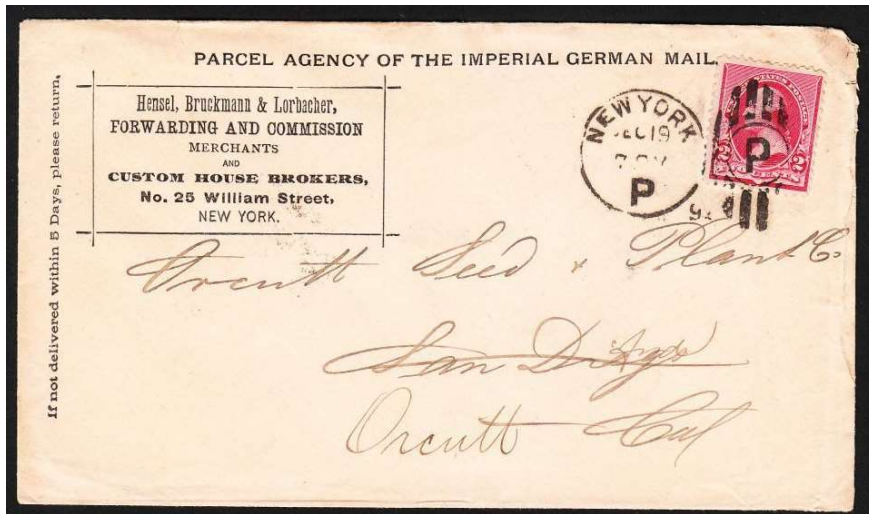
72¢ equivalent to 4 ½ lbs.

Courtesy – Frajola Postal History Message Board Cover No. 20047.

MERCHANDISE TO AND FROM GERMANY:

1898 Payment to Bavaria.

1892 Shipping Notice to Orcutt, CA.



The sender, Hensel, Bruckmann & Lorbacher, are still in business freight forwarders.

Above Cover in Nearby Exhibit Frame;
\$28.25 on eBay, Sept. 2017.

Courtesy – Robert Siegel Auction Galleries;
Realized \$11,000 October 24, 2017

CHRONOLOGY – RATE REDUCTION ...

SEEDS, BULBS & MORE...



Act of July 24, 1888: Rate of postage on seeds, cuttings, bulbs, roots, scions, and plants **reduced to 1 cent for each 2 ounces** or fraction thereof (same rates and weights as 1873, now Fourth Class).

Fourth Class domestic weight **limitation still at 4 lbs.** throughout the period.

NEXT QUESTION – WHEN WERE CARDBOARD BOXES AVAILABLE?

Paperboard was invented in England in **1817**. Pleated paperboard was patented in **1856**, and used in England as a liner for tall hats. The advent of flaked cereals increased the use of **lightweight cardboard** boxes (Kellogg, Battle Creek). **Corrugated boxboard** was patented on 20 December **1871**, and subsequently used as a shipping material.

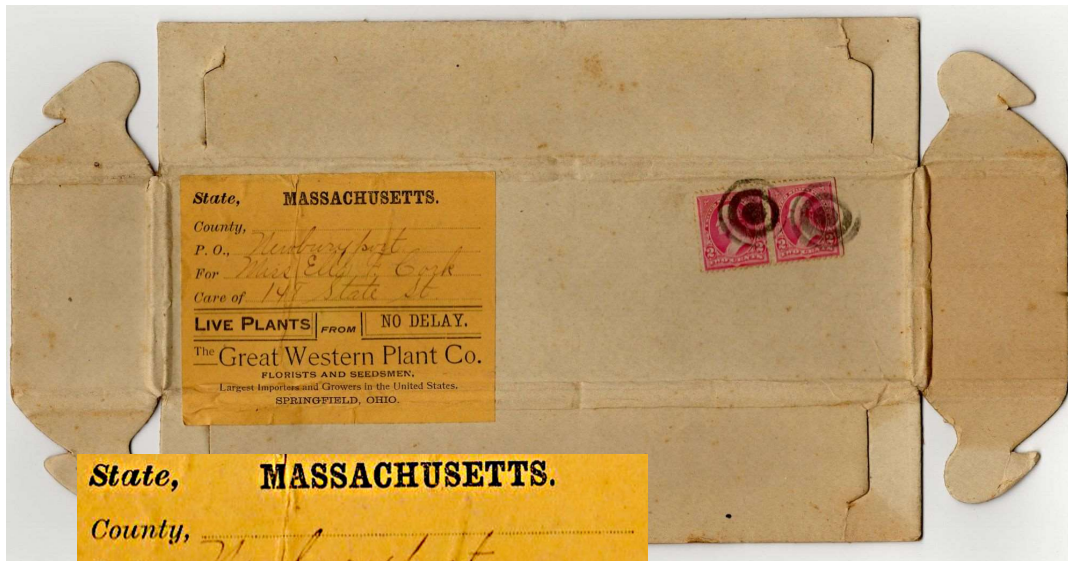
The first **corrugated cardboard box** manufactured in the US was in **1895**, and began to replace wooden boxes and crates for the shipment of merchandise of all weights and sizes.



The **availability of packaging** fostered the demand for Postal Regulations which would allow the shipment of merchandise through the mails. **Progress came lowly!**

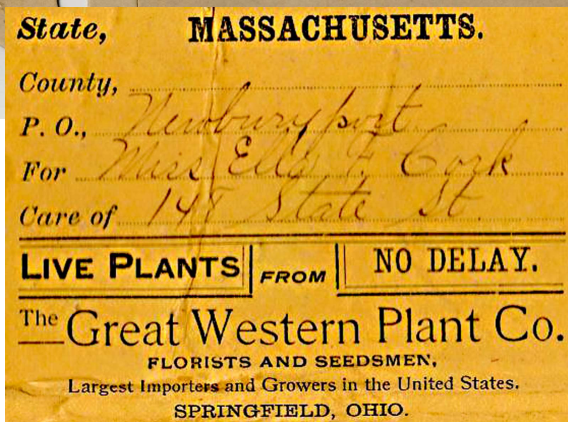
1896 SPECIAL FOURTH-CLASS RATE FOR PLANTS...

PLANTS & PLANTING MATERIAL



ca. 1896 Springfield, OH to
Newburyport, MA

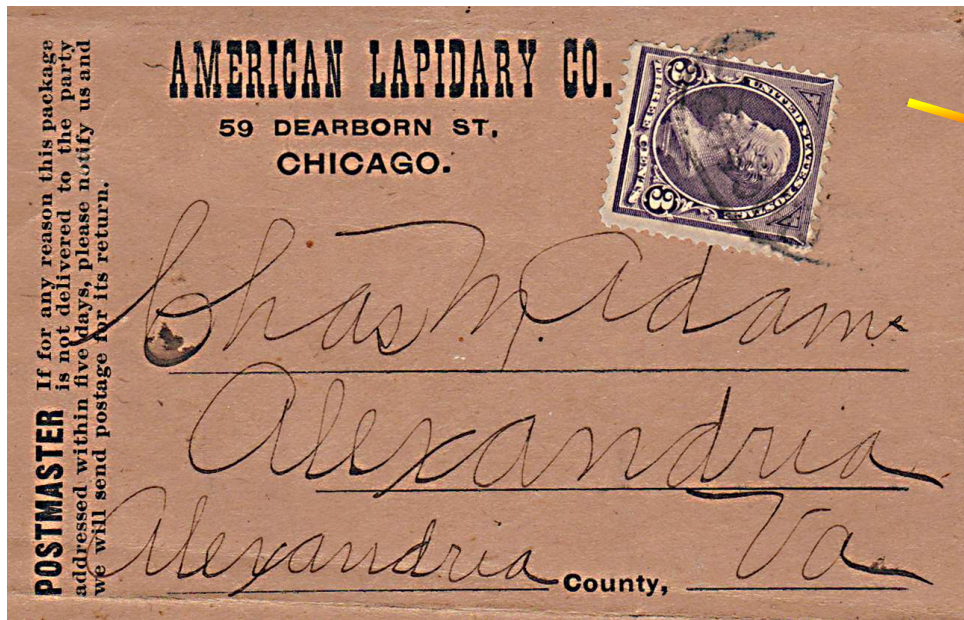
Pair of 2c First Bureau issue Washington head stamps (Scott No. 248//267 types) paid four cents postage for an up to eight ounce mailing at the 1c per two ounce special fourth-class rate for plants and planting material. “Unusual to find complete shipping boxes of this type mail.”



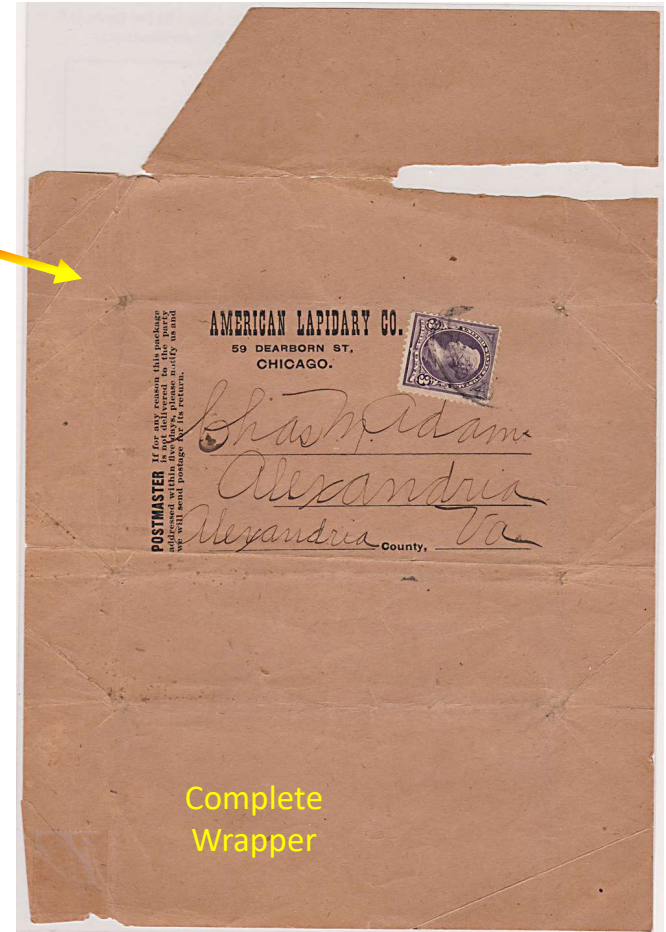
Courtesy – Frajola Postal History Message Board Cover No. 24947.

PRECIOUS STONES? ONLY 3 OZ.

1894 Chicago to Alexandria, VA – 596 miles: Any distance, 1¢ per oz.



(Actual Wrapper in
Nearby Exhibit Frame)



GETTING PACKAGES FROM THE CITIES TO RURAL AMERICA ...

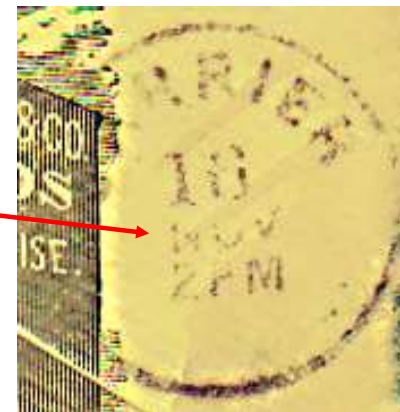
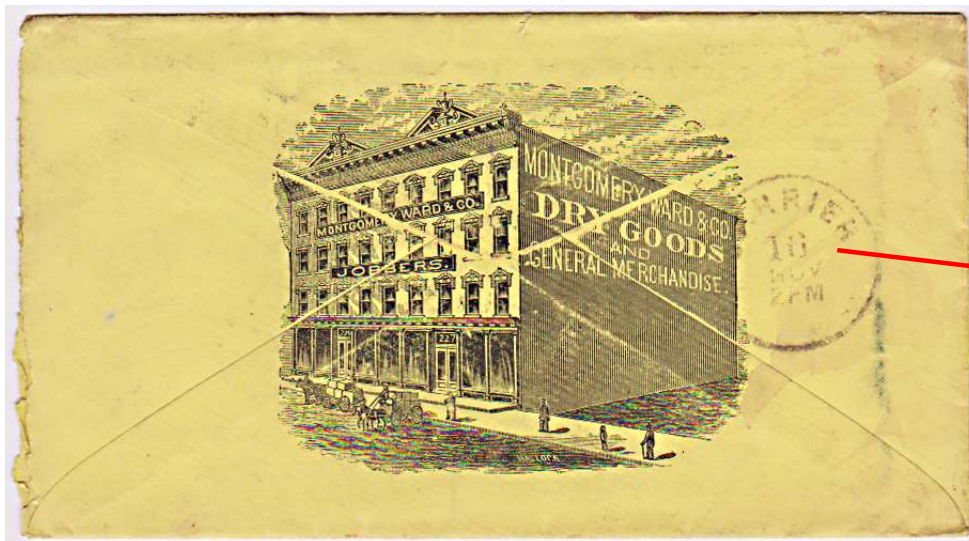
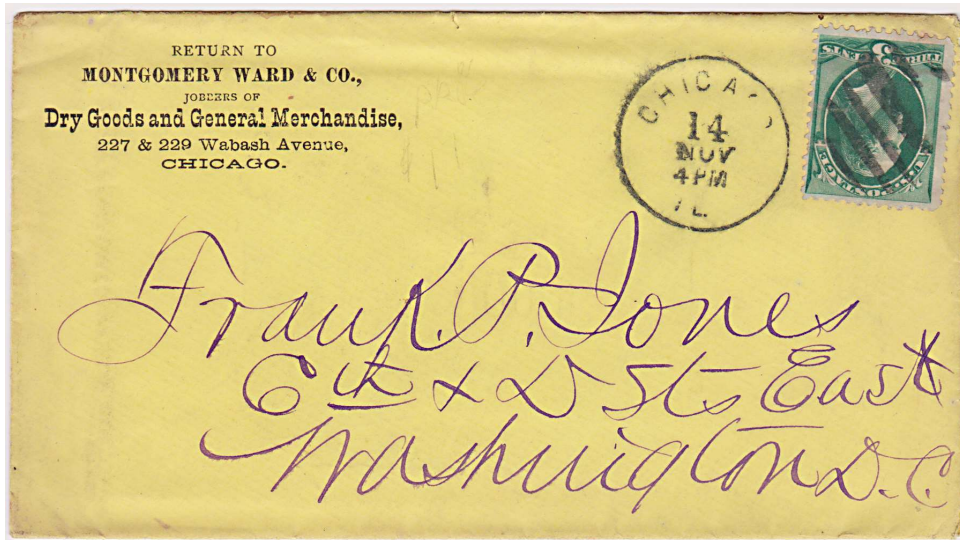


Rural Free Delivery (RFD) began in 1896 as an experiment limited to a few West Virginia towns. Its popularity helped push for expanded tests, and it was made a full-fledged service in 1902.

FROM THE DEPARTMENT STORE TO THE COUNTRY...

MONTGOMERY WARD

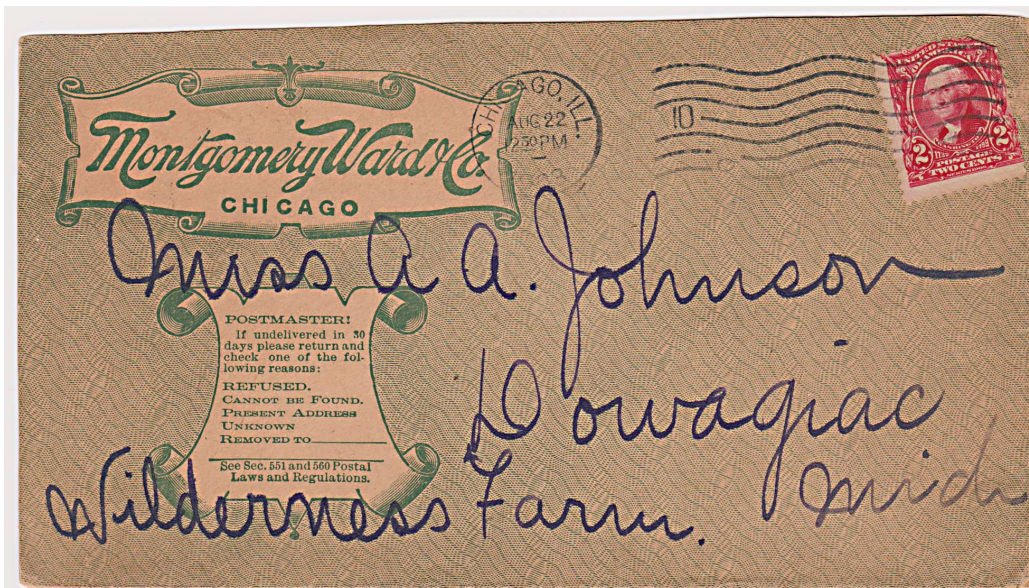
This first mail-order store printed a one-page catalog in 1872. The mail-order catalog later became the one of the most important books in the farmhouse, second only to the Bible. The catalog was often called "The Homesteaders Bible" or the "Wish Book".



CARRIER, OK?
(Carrier Mills, IL?)
Source: City Distance Tool

(Actual Cover in
Nearby Exhibit Frame)

MONTGOMERY WARD (CONTINUED) ...

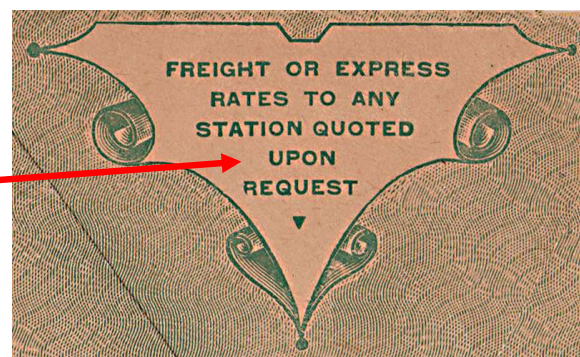
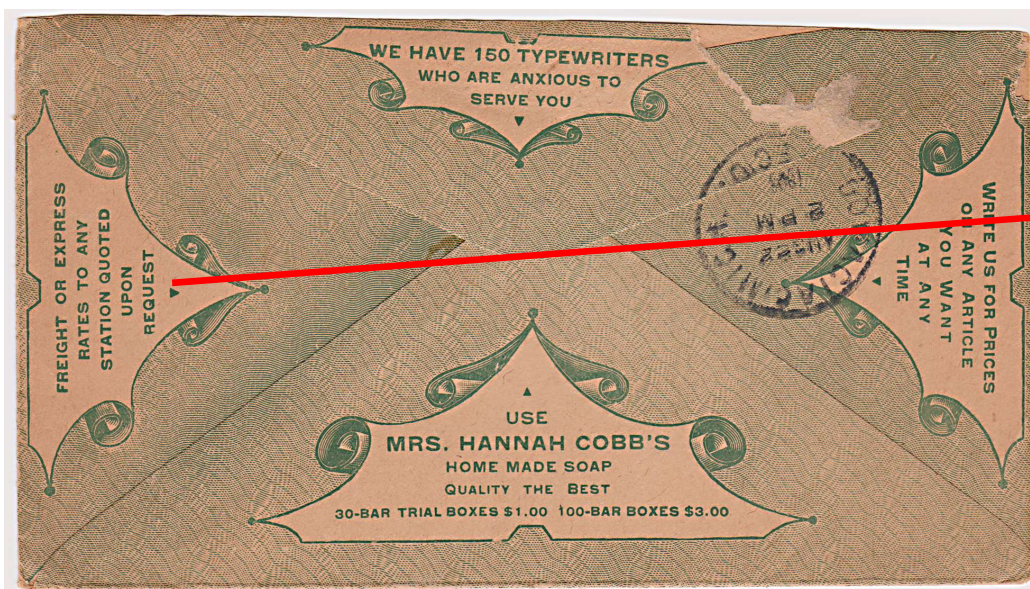


FANCY AD COVERS!

This 1908 cover sent by Montgomery Ward to the Wilderness Farm!

Dowagiac - rural western Michigan.

“Freight or Express Shipping!”



(Actual Cover in Nearby Exhibit Frame)

MONTGOMERY WARD (CONTINUED) ...



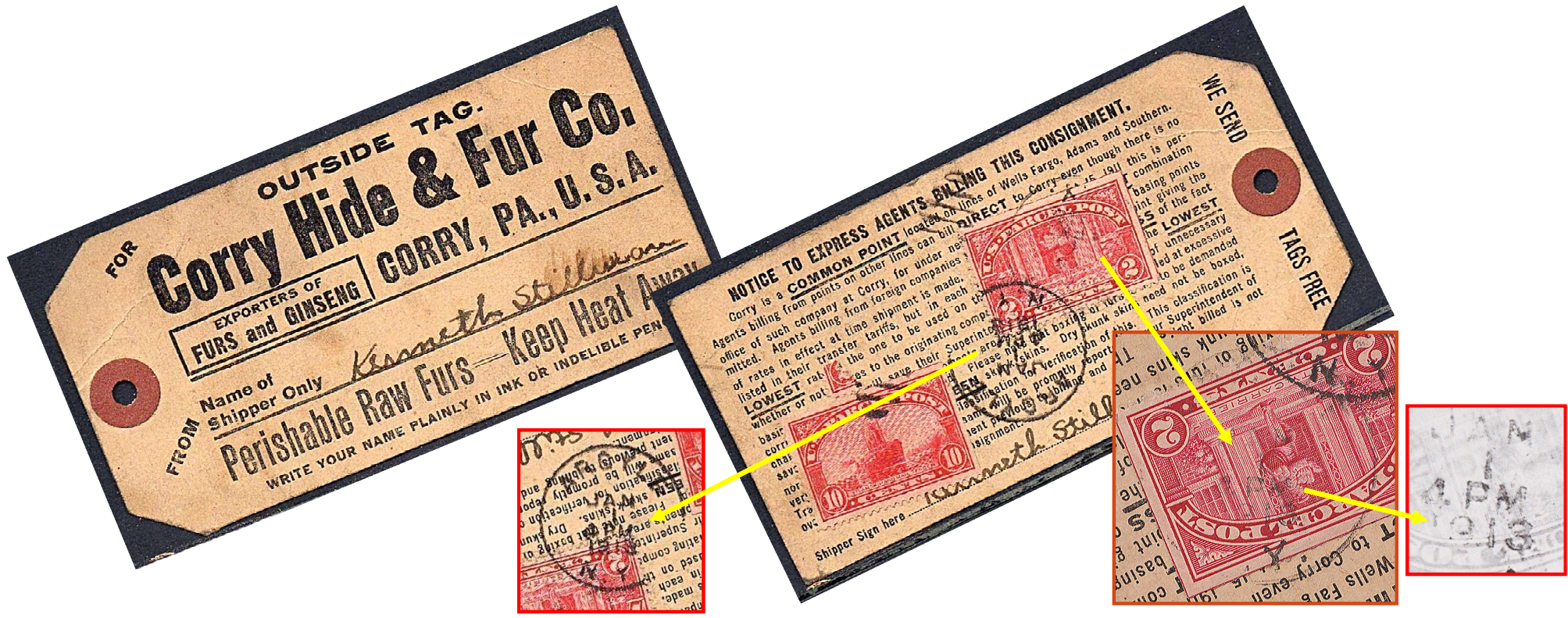
This tag, dated 1925, is franked with high value “ordinary” stamps. Such stamps on pre-1913 mailing pieces are scarce and valuable.

Consumer demand for merchandise from city stores led to the introduction of Parcel Post in 1913.

Rural demand for access to city markets for farm products also led to the introduction of Parcel Post in 1913.

GETTING PACKAGES FROM RURAL AMERICA TO THE CITIES...

MOVING FUR PELTS FROM THE WILDERNESS TO THE FACTORY



Getting mail from the country to the cities did not really materialize until the Parcel Post Act of 1913 took effect. It was an immediate success, but that's a whole 'nother story, outside today's time period.

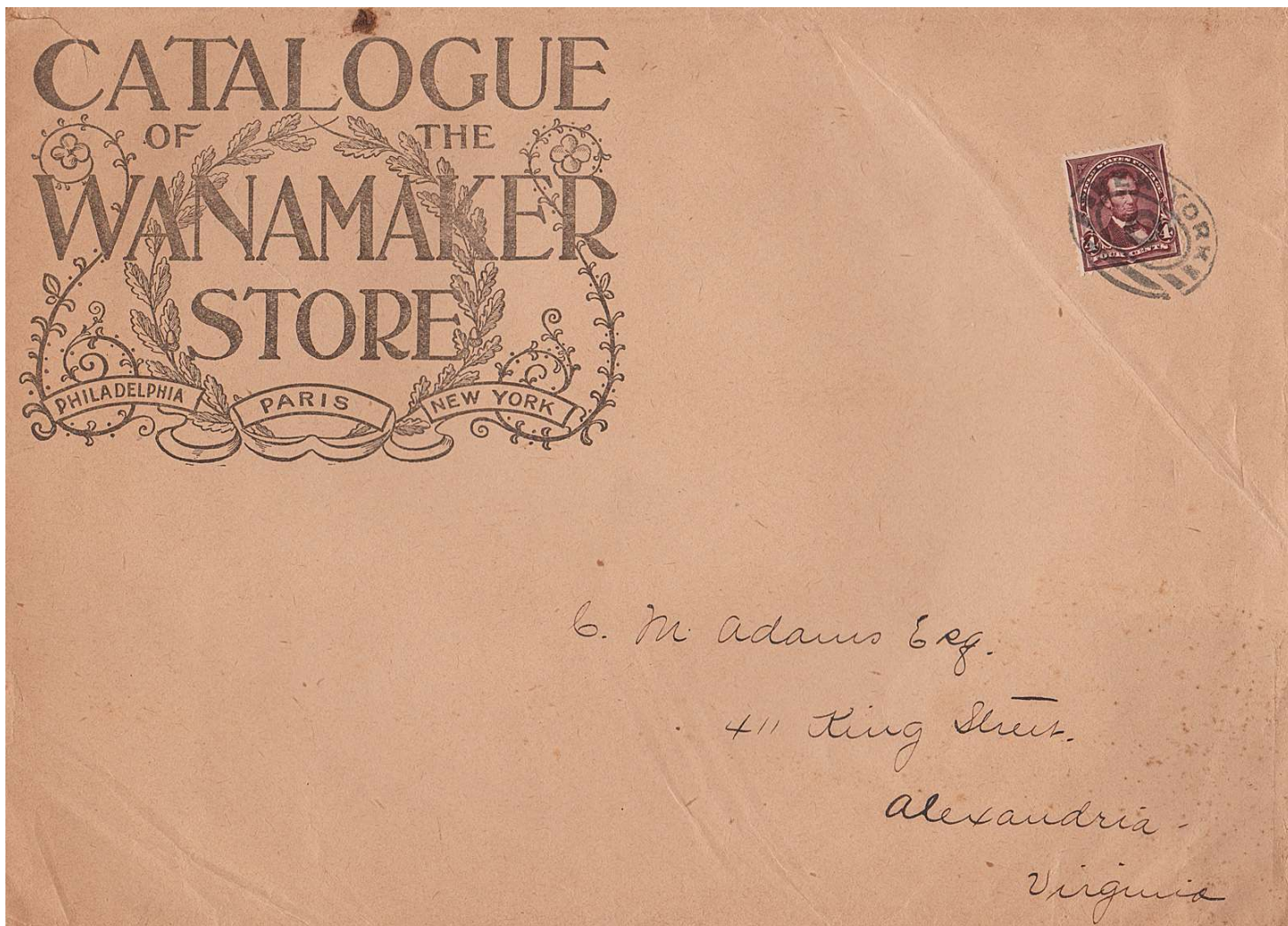
A CHESTER COUNTY RELATIONSHIP?

THE CLOSE OF THE 19TH CENTURY BROUGHT DEMAND
FOR MERCHANDISE ACROSS THE COUNTRY
FROM BOTH THE FARM AND THE CITY

NOTHING CLOSER TO HOME THAN JOHN WANAMAKER!



NEXT QUESTION – DID WANAMAKER HAVE A POSTAL CONNECTION?



Catalog envelope is in the current exhibit.

WANAMAKER WAS AKIN TO THE BEN FRANKLIN OF HIS DAY

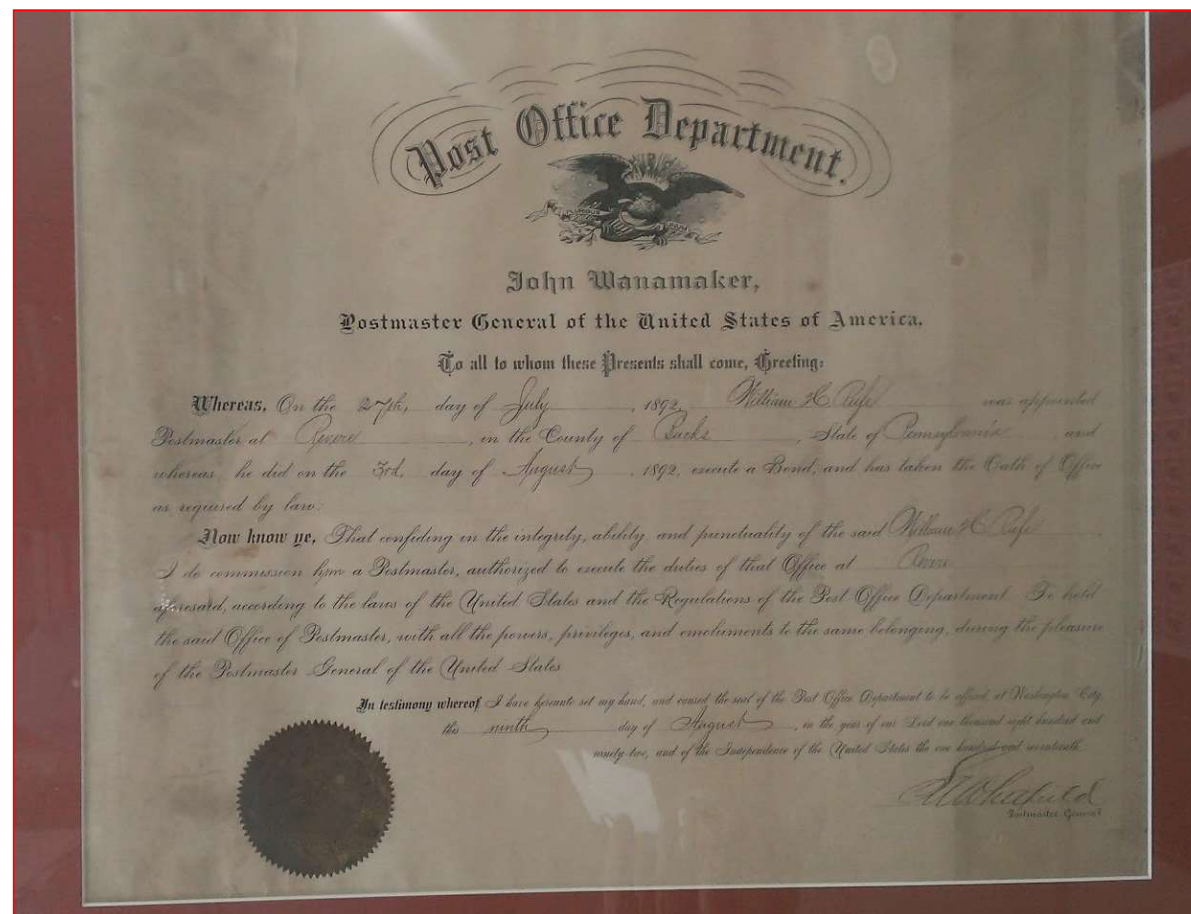
PMG:

1887-1891



Wanamaker was credited by his friends with introducing the first commemorative stamp.

12/14/2017



John Wanamaker appointed my grandfather Postmaster at Revere, PA, on 27 July 1892. Certificate is in the current exhibit.