

FOREIGN MAIL - FRANCE

June 30, 1859

Lancaster to Paris

This letter to Paris, France via the Vanderbilt European Line steamer "Ocean Queen" departed New York on July 2 and arrived at Havre, France on July 15th and was transferred to the Paris post office the same day. Manuscript "15" in red ink and the black "PAID" was applied in Lancaster to indicate the prepaid amount.



The letter contains a Lancaster June 30, 1859 CDS

Postage would have been 3 cents inland postage to Philadelphia, ship fees of 9 cents, and 3 cents French inland postage to Paris. The circular red marking is "Philadelphia Paid 3 July 1", the U.S. credit to France of 3 cents. The octagonal blue marking reads "15 Jul 59 Havre". This was the French entry mark at Havre. Two backstamps indicate that Paris accepted the letter on July 15 and the letter apparently was picked up on July 16, 1859.

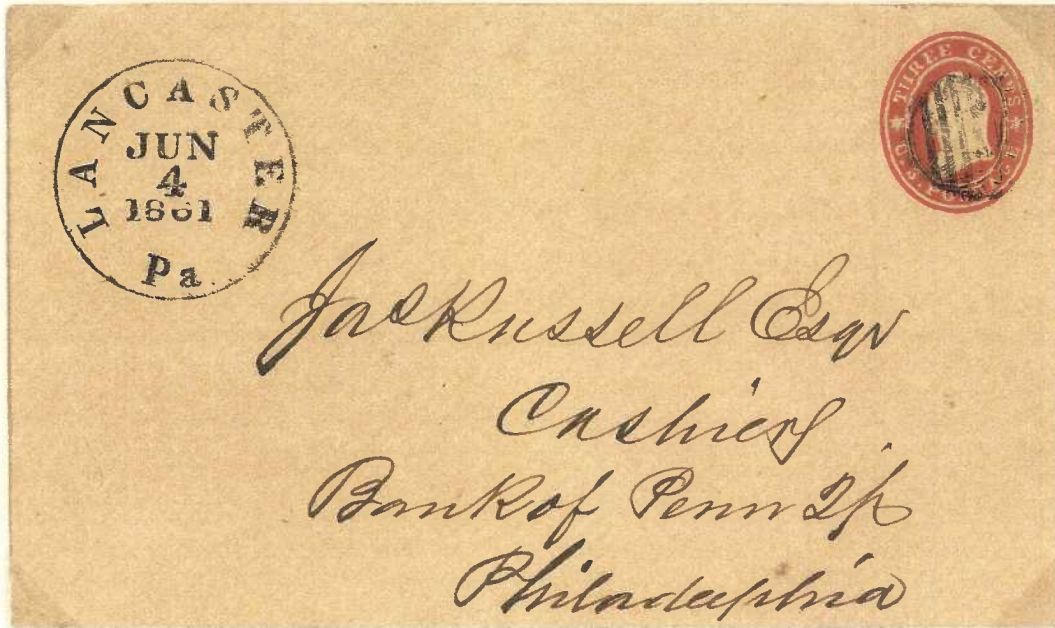
CHANGE OF TOWNMARK

Townmark handstamp probably changed July 1, 1861

1851 Rate: 3 cents/1/2 oz.

June 4, 1861

3 cent red, buff, stamped envelope



July 26, 1861

3 cent red, buff, stamped envelope



Circular grid handstamp

LANCASTER, PA.
(1861-)

Double Circle
26mm/14mm rings
Probable first day of use July 1, 1861

Reported colors: Black
Reported postal marking: FREE
Length of use: unknown (1864?)

TOWNMARKS

Act of 1851: 3 cents under 3000 mile
Prepayment compulsory

Nov. 9, 1861

3 cent 1861 Washington issue



First use of 1861 stamp was Aug. 19, 1861. This is early use of this issue

March 12, 1862

3 cent 1861 issue



Embossed seal reads "Fulton Hall Association Seal" and bears an impression of the Fulton Opera House, which is still in use today.

PATRIOTIC COVERS - DUAL TOWNMARK

These covers postmarked with two different handstamps
Apparently both townmarks were used for a period

Feb. 13, 14, 1861

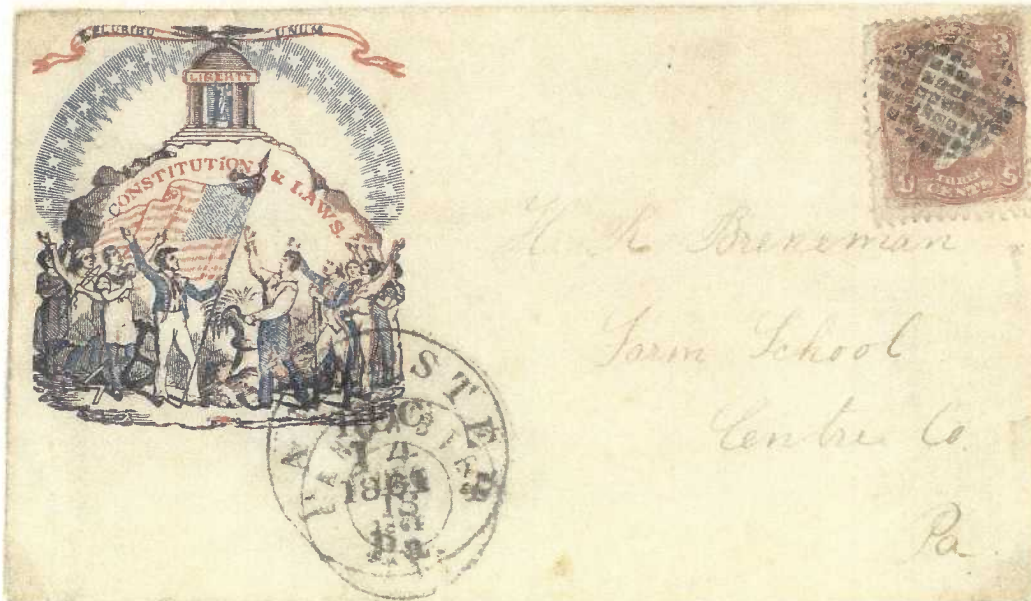
Rate of 1851:3 cents under 3000 miles



"Loyal to the Union. Pennsylvania"

Dec 13, 14, 1861

3 cent issue with grid handstamp



"Constitution & Laws"

FOREIGN MAIL - WEST AFRICA

Aug. 27, 1861

30 cent orange and 3 cent rose

The Lancaster Postmaster collected 33 cents for this letter to Corisco Island, West Africa, using a CDS and PAID and so noting the total collected by the manuscript "33". The 33 was crossed out at New York and replaced by "28" showing the U.S. credit to the U.K. for sea and foreign transit. This letter was sent on the British Packet "Persia" sailing Aug. 28th from New York arriving Queenstown, Ireland Sept. 7. The letter was delivered to Corisco via the British inland service. The transatlantic fee was 16 cents and the British transit postage to the African coast was 12 cents.



The enclosed letter, to a cousin, includes historic and philatelic references. It starts: "...The other week we had a little variety, in the shape of a storm stay at Wheatland. We had gone over to make a call on Miss Lane (Harriet Lane, niece, White House hostess and First Lady for President Buchanan) and such a violent storm came that we were obliged to stay all night and part of the next day. The heads of the house were all exceeding kind...The war department have just issued a proclamation calling upon those who have arms to hold themselves in readiness to march to the defense of the capital as it is again menaced by the southerners, every one seems to think it is their design to attack it. Some think there is danger of it being taken...I have just been wondering what to do about sending this letter, if I send it to the Mission Rooms it will have to go unpaid for I cannot enclose old stamps as they are worthless in New York and I have no new ones to send..."

"To prevent the fraudulent use of a large quantity of the remaining stamps in the hands of postmasters of the disloyal states" the 1857 stamps were demonetized in 1861. The stamps on this cover are the new design, first known usage was Aug. 19 and 20, 1861. The stamps on this Aug. 25, 1861 cover are among the earliest used.

FORWARDED and DUE 3

March 27 & 28, 1863

1856 Rate: 3 cent under 3000 miles

This cover was posted at Philadelphia on March 27, 1863. The letter was sent to Lancaster in error. The Lancaster address was corrected (note the darker ink) and forwarded to Columbia, Lancaster County, on March 28th. The 3 cent dull red 1861 stamp paid the postage from Philadelphia to Lancaster. The "Due 3" was for the additional postage to Columbia from Lancaster which the recipient would pay.



H. M. North was an Attorney and Cashier of several Columbia Banks for many years, thus many postal history covers from this era were addressed to him.

This cover represents a classic example of the use of "FORWARDED" and "DUE 3" postal marking by the Lancaster Post Office.

FOREIGN MAIL - SWITZERLAND

June 17, 1862

21 cent French Mail Rate



The 21 cents French mail rate paid in Lancaster with U.S. adhesives.

The Lancaster Postmaster stamped PAID and in red pen "21".

Sent to New York and placed in French mail.

Letter went by British packet, the U.S. entitled to 3 cents.

The New York datestamp shows a 18 cent credit to France.

Carried by the Cunard steamship *Persia* from New York on June 18, arriving at Queenstown on June 27, 1862.

Entered France June 29 at Calias.

Backstamp indicates letter arrived at Bern, Switzerland on July 2, 1862.

FOREIGN MAIL - FRANCE

Jan. 5, 1865

5 cent red brown and 10 cent green issue

This cover left Lancaster with a 1865 townmark and the amount paid "15" in red crayon.

The cover was given a 12 cent Jan. 4 PAID postal marking in New York, showing a 12 cent credit to France. A Jan 2 - 18 cent mark is also present but was an error. The correct postage under the

French Treaty was:

U.S. inland 3 cent

Sea transit 6 cents

British Treaty 3 cents

French inland 3 cents



The letter was transported on the French Liner "Lafayette", departing New York Jan. 4th and arriving Havre Jan. 18. A red French "Havre" and a red "PD" receiving mark are on the cover .

The reverse has a blue Paris receiver.

FOREIGN MAIL: FRANCE

January 3, 1862

Double rate letter paid by a 1861 adhesive. Lancaster postmaster applied "PAID" handstamp and a "30" in magenta ink. Letter sent to N.Y. prepared for French mail. 12 cent credit to France as noted on exchange office datestamp. Letter carried by American service on Inman steamship "Edinburg" from N.Y. on Jan. 4 arriving Liverpool Jan. 16. Entered France at Calais on Jan 18, 1862 then delivered to Paris.



January 4, 1864

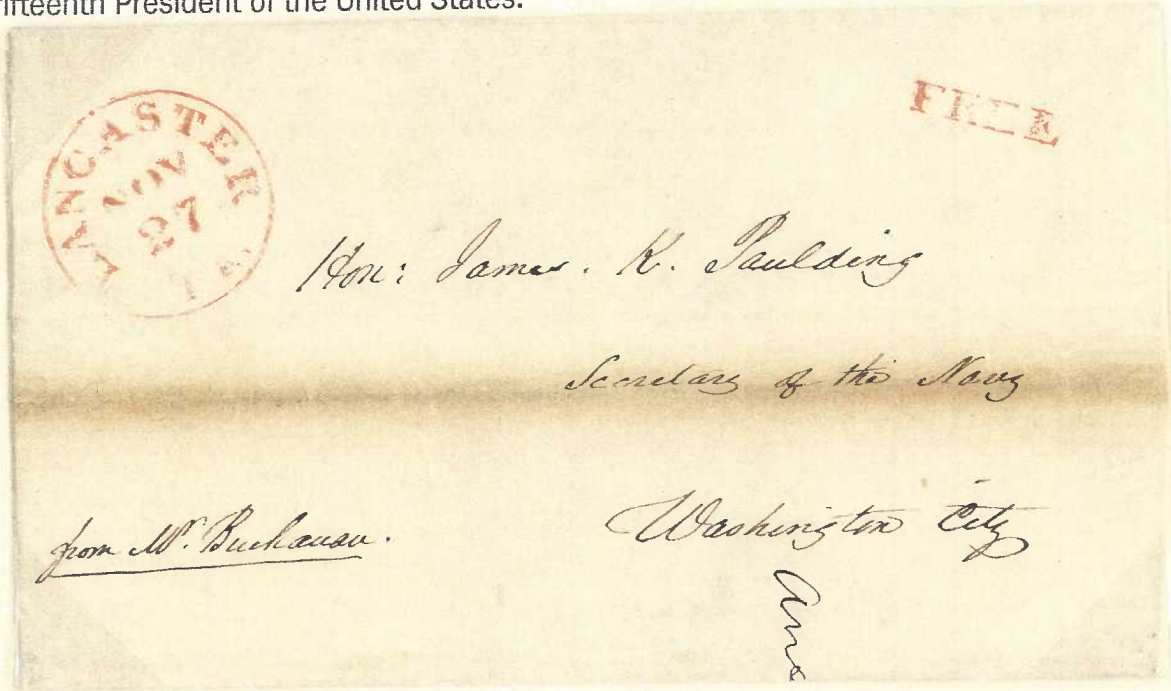
Letter again to Paris two years later. Lancaster datestamp, "PAID" and circular grid on 30 cent adhesive. The letter was routed to New York where the N.Y. exchange office handstamped a 24 cent credit to France, then it was prepared in the French mail bag and sent to Boston to go on board the steamer. This letter went on the British Cunard steamship "Asia" leaving Boston Jan. 6 and arriving Queenstown Jan. 17. Entered France at Calias on Jan. 19 and transferred to Paris the same day.



FREE FRANK

Nov. 27, 1840

These letters from James Buchanan, while serving in the U.S. Senate (1834-1845) illustrates the Free Franking privileges of elected officials. Many such covers are signed in the upper right corner; however, this particular cover bears the notation "from Mr. Buchanan". James Buchanan became the fifteenth President of the United States.



Letter signed by James Buchanan

Aug. 1, ()

This letter from the same time period is Free Franked with James Buchanan's signature



FREE FRANK / MARY DICKSON, PM

TURNED COVER

July 26, 1842 Philadelphia, Pa.

July 27, 1842 Lancaster, Pa.

This Free Franked cover was sent from Philadelphia, Pa. on July 26, 1842 (blue circular date stamp and FREE marking) to the Postmaster of Lancaster requesting information. M. Dickson immediately answered the request, reversed the sheets, handstamped and Free Franked the letter and returned it to the attorney on July 27, 1842, thus producing this beautiful example of a dual postal marked turned cover.



Research on Mary Dickson resulted in some interesting facts about the early Lancaster Post Office. In 1797 Dr. George Moore was appointed Postmaster of Lancaster. When her husband became ill, Ann Moore assumed some of his duties and upon his death in 1809 was appointed Postmaster. Ann Moore was one of the first women appointed to office in the federal government. Mary Dickson was the wife of William Dickson, founder of the Lancaster Intelligence. (Common for the time, the post office may have been at his printing and newspaper business) William died in 1823 and in 1829 upon the retirement of Ann Moore, Mary Dickson was appointed Lancaster's second woman Postmaster serving until 1850. It was during this twenty-one year term that she free franked the above letter and it became postal history.

1 CENT DROP LETTER RATE

A drop letter was a local letter taken to the post office for pick up at the same post office. All mail was picked up at the post offices in the early 1800s. There was no delivery service, with the exception of the 2 cent carrier which was established by the Act of 1836.



The above letter does not have a year date. The 1 cent rate was in effect from May 1, 1825 to July 1, 1845 when it was increased to 2 cents. The above town-mark was first used in 1839. This letter was posted between 1839 and 1845.

2 CENT CARRIER RATE

The Act of 1836 provided a 2 cent carrier rate. "For the delivery of each letter by carrier, the person to whom delivery is made shall pay not exceeding 2 cents...and such receipts shall constitute a fund for the compensation of the carrier."

FOLLOWING ARE EXAMPLES OF THE TWO KNOWN CARRIER RATE MARKINGS "2"

May 1_ ()



Other covers with the day above the month in Lancaster handstamp appear in 1851. This cover may be of this era.

2 CENT CARRIER RATE - TYPE 2

Oct. 4, 1845



Sept 21, 1844
&
Oct. 25, 1844



2 cent CARRIER and TURNED COVER

The above letter from Mr. Grubb of Lancaster was mailed using the prevailing 6 cent rate to Mr. Pennypacker of Durlack, Lancaster County on September 21, 1844. Mr. Pennypacker answered on October 25, 1844, using the same letter posting it from Lancaster for delivery in Lancaster

This cover has two addresses, two townmarks and two rate markings

TURNED COVER

Act of 1825: 18 3/4 cents 150 to 400 miles
Act of 1845: 5 cents/ 1/2 oz. under 300 miles

May 26, 1845 / July 6, 1845

This interesting example of a "Turned Cover" and rate change was sent from Corsica, Pa. (Jefferson Co.) on May 26, 1845 to Lancaster, Pa. The rate was 18 3/4 cents as per the Act of 1825. Turned covers (using the same letter for a response) were common in the South during the Civil War. Earlier covers, such as this one, are unusual but not rare.



On July 1, 1845 the Act of 1845 went into effect. The new rate was 5 cents for under 300 miles. This letter was an offer to buy a parcel of land. Rather than recopy the letter, Mr. Bryan resent the letter to Mr. Smith, an attorney, for 5 cents on July 6, 1845.