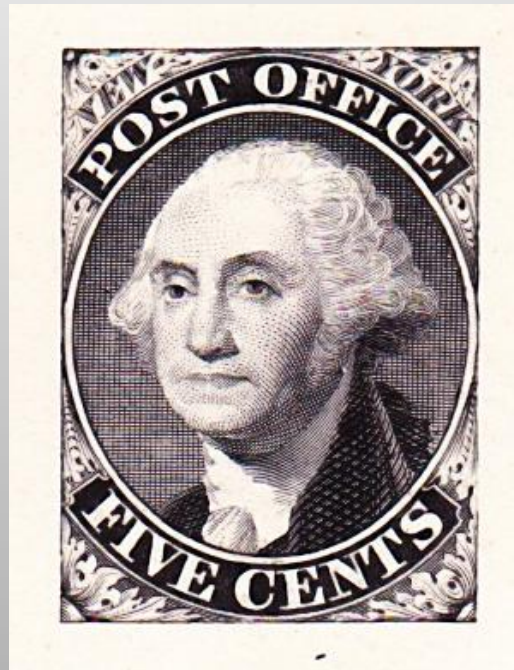


# You're Going the Wrong Way

New York Provisionals Sent From Cities Other than NY



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CCHS  
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# The Back-Story

- Through the 1830s and early 1840s, sending a letter could be very expensive.
- Beginning in 1839, independent companies began carrying the mail much more cheaply, putting great pressure on the Post Office..
- In March 1845, Congress reduced and simplified postal rates to 5¢ per ½ oz. for a letter sent up to 300 miles, and 10¢ for a letter sent over 300 miles.
- But Congress did not authorize the printing of postage stamps.

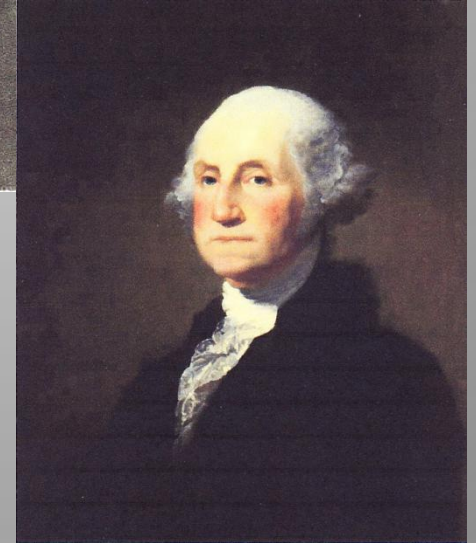
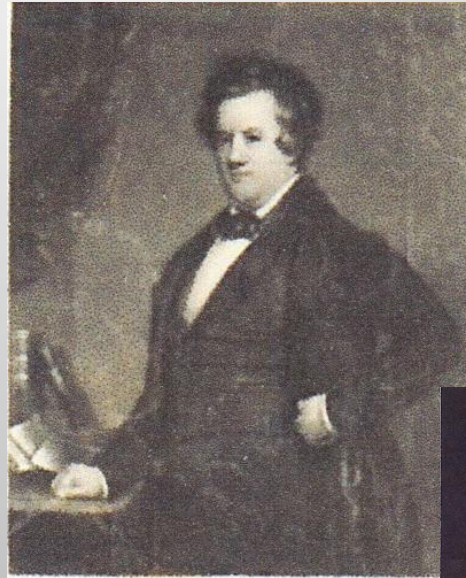
# Postmaster Creativity

Since stamps were not prohibited, postmasters of several cities and towns decided to have them printed privately, as a benefit to them and a convenience for their customers.

- ❖ Alexandria, Va.
  - ❖ Annapolis, Md.
  - ❖ Baltimore, Md.
  - ❖ Boscawen, N.H.
  - ❖ Brattleboro, Vt.
  - ❖ Lockport, N.Y.
  - ❖ Millbury, Mass.
  - ❖ New Haven, Conn.
  - ❖ New York, N.Y.
  - ❖ Providence, R.I.
  - ❖ St. Louis, Mo.
- Most of these stamps are quite scarce or even rare
  - The New York stamp, however, was broadly used, not only within the U.S. but also to the rest of North America and most of Western Europe.

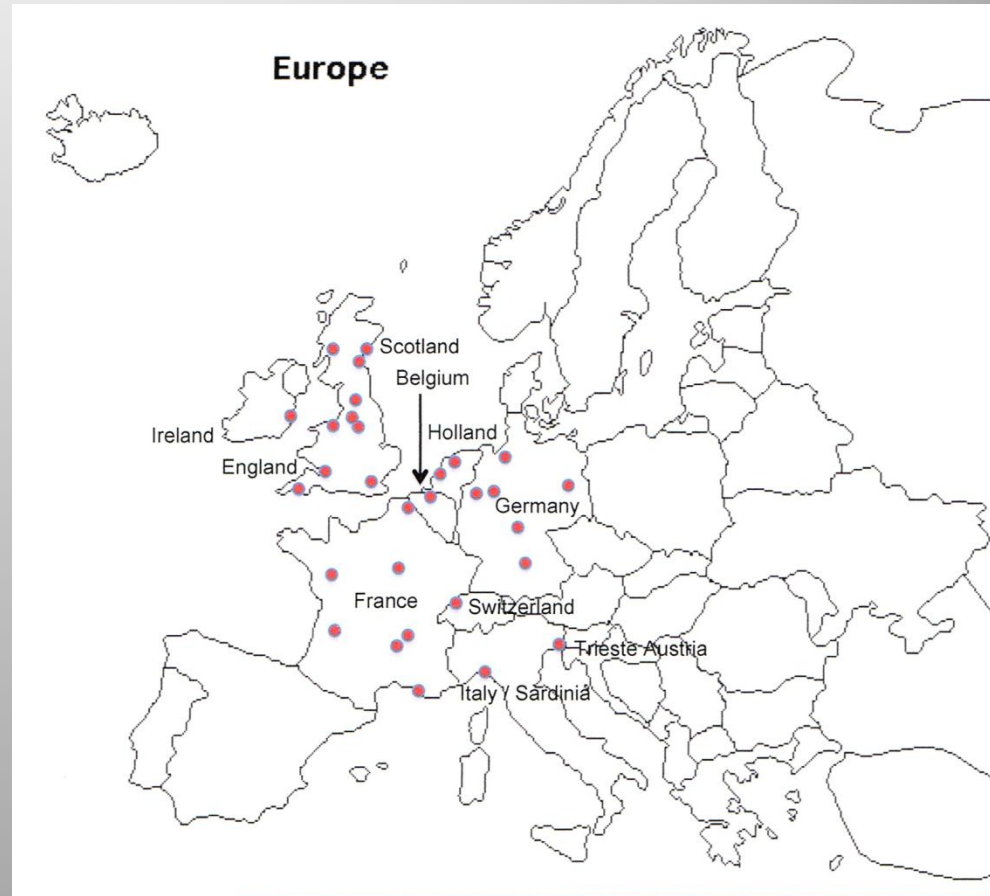
# The New York Postmaster

- Robert Hunter Morris was the postmaster from 1845-1849.
- In 1845, after Congress had reduced rates but not authorized stamps, he contracted with Rawdon, Hatch & Wright to design and print the stamps, using an image of George Washington



Gilbert Stuart  
1797

# The Broad Use of the NY Provisional



# The Broad Use of the NY Provisional

- The New York Postmaster Provisional was used on letters sent to almost every (then) state in the country and to several foreign countries (including Canada, Mexico and Puerto Rico).
- More than 95% were sent **from** New York City.
- Expecting that some letters bearing his stamp would be mailed from other post offices, he sent several of them a letter enclosing a stamp.
- He wrote that if they see such a letter, to treat it as an unpaid letter and that he would account for it when it reached his post office.

# Use from Cities Outside New York

**TABLE 1:  
NEW YORK POSTMASTER PROVISIONAL COVERS  
ORIGINATING OUTSIDE NEW YORK CITY**

Date	Stamps	Origin/destination	Census	References
Aug 9, 1845	1	New Hamburg NY/NYC	20296	PFC 585881
Aug 12, 1845	1	New Hamburg NY/NYC	20301	Siegel 1188; PFC 265953
Aug 20, 1845	1 + 6LB5	New Hamburg NY/NYC	20315	Figure 5
Sep 2, 1845	1	New Hamburg NY/NYC	20335	PFC 44135
Sep 6, 1845	1	New Hamburg NY/NYC	20339	Figure 4
Sep 17, 1845	1	Jersey City/Norwich, CT	20354	Figure 11
Sep 30, 1845	1	Boston/NYC	20359	Siegel 1216; PFC 504541
Oct 16, 1845	1	New Hamburg NY/NYC	20372	
Oct 18, 1845	1	Boston/NYC	20374	PFC 47004
Oct 20, 1845	1	Boston/NYC	20376	Siegel 679; PFC 177790
Nov 8, 1845	1	Boston/NYC	20960	Figure 1
Nov 11, 1845	2	Albany/NYC	20387	Figure 7
Nov 12, 1845	3	Boston/NYC	20388	Figure 3
Nov 15, 1845	1	Washington DC/NYC	20395	PFC 142392
Nov 15, 1845	1	Albany/NYC	20391	
Dec 5, 1845	1	Washington DC/NYC	20415	Figure 6
Apr 11, 1846	1	Boston/NYC	20522	Siegel 544; PFC 18873
Apr 28, 1846	2	Philadelphia/Montreal	20532	Figure 9
May 18, 1846	1	Sing Sing, NY/NYC	20560	Figure 10
May 25, 1846	1	Philadelphia/NYC	22160	Figure 8
Jul 12, 1846	2	Charleston, SC/NYC	20684	Figure 13
Feb 2, 1847	1	Baltimore/NYC	20737	Figure 12
Mar 7, 1847	1	Boston/NYC	20856	

Date	Stamps	Origin/destination	Census	References
Mar 24, 1847	1	Boston/NYC	20870	Siegel 950
Apr 17, 1847	1	Boston/ NYC (piece)	20833	Siegel 905; PFC 286859
May 12, 1847	1	Albany/Syracuse	20798	
Aug 5, 1847	2	Hamilton, Canada/NYC	20803	Figure 14
Jan 31, 184?	2	Boston/NYC	20835	PFC 42433
Feb 20, 184?	3	Boston/NYC	20843	PFC 89258
Mar 1, 184?	3	Boston/ NYC (piece)	20851	HRH Erivan 1
Mar 18, 184?	1	Boston/NYC	20864	Siegel 999; PFC 218428
Apr 7, 184?	2	Boston/NYC	20879	Siegel 948
Apr 13, 184?	2	Boston/NYC	20882	
Jul 26, 184?	1	Boston/NYC	20910	Siegel 755; PFC 22939
Aug 12, 184?	1	Boston/NYC	20917	Siegel 999
Aug 13, 184?	1	Boston/NYC	20918	Siegel 1262; PFC 155768
Oct 24, 184?	1	Boston/NYC	20951	PFC 42443
Nov 4, 184?	1	Washington DC/NYC	20956	Siegel 759; PFC 32387
Nov 9, 184?	1	Boston/ NYC (piece)	20961	
Nov 11, 184?	2	Boston/ NYC (piece)	20962	
? ? 184?	1	Boston/NYC	20994	Siegel 500
? ? 184?	1	Boston/ NYC (piece)	20995	Rumsey 31; PFC 474277;
? ? 184?	1	Boston/NYC	20996	Siegel 948; PFC 265731
? ? 184?	1	Boston/NYC	23128	

"Date" column shows the date the cover entered the mails; information not known is indicated by a question mark. "Stamps" column shows the number of New York Provisional stamps on the cover. "Census" number refers to the cover identification number in the on-line census of New York Postmaster Provisional covers maintained by the U.S. Philatelic Classics Society (USPCS.org). "Reference" column will lead to an image of the cover.

# Covers Sent from Boston

- 25 of the total of 44 uses from outside New York.
- Cover below dated November 8, 1845, from Boston to Howland & Aspinwall
- AC connected initials, pos. 19
- Marked 5c due at Boston; marked PAID in NYC





# Covers Sent from Boston

- Strip of three below is one of only three known
- Cover below dated Feb. 1, 184?
- Marked 15c due at Boston; marked PAID in NYC



# Covers Sent from Boston

- The cover below is one of the most iconic provisional covers sent from outside of NYC. Triple rate sent due 15c, marked PAID in NYC
- Bottom right corner margin pair signed ACM connected; unsigned single.



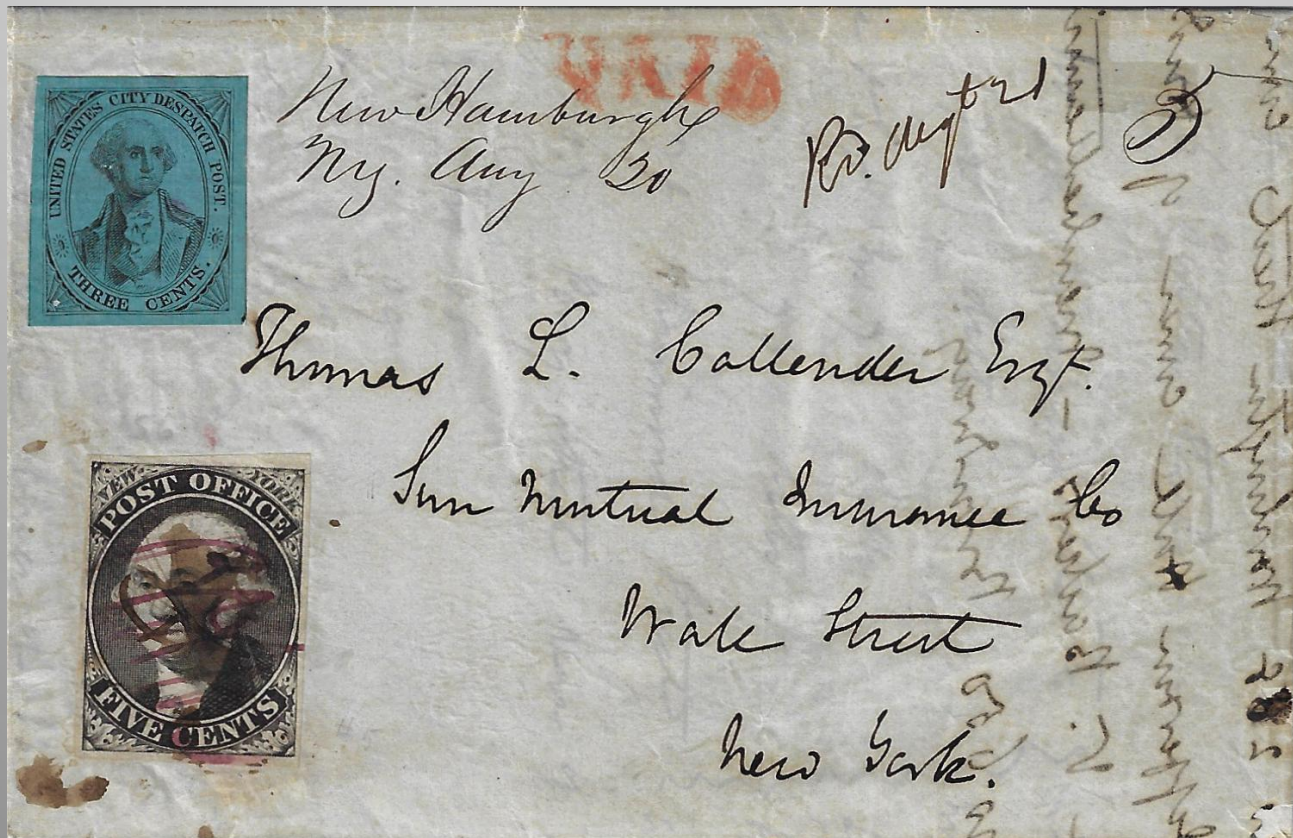
# from New Hamburg NY

- James Lenox relocated from NYC, where his new townhouse was being built, to his Netherwood estate at New Hamburg, a major Hudson River port.
- Postmarked New Hamburg, NY, Sept 6, and marked due 5. PAID applied in NYC.
- All Lenox covers were initialed “RHM” (Robert Hunter Morris)



# Covers Sent from New Hamburg NY

- Postmarked New Hamburg, NY, Aug 20, and marked due 5. PAID applied in NYC.
- Accompanied by a New York City Despatch Post stamp (one of two known)



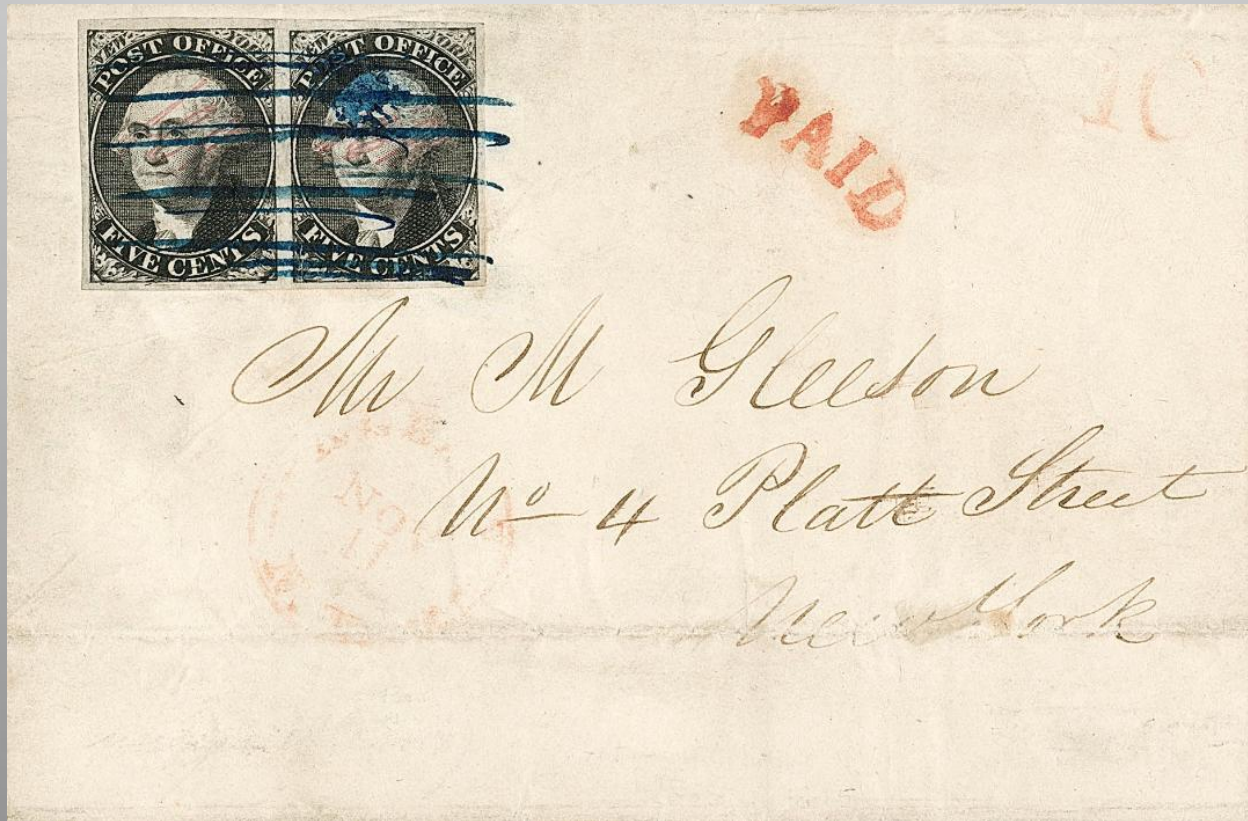
# from Washington DC

- Postmarked Washington, Dec. 5, 1845, and marked due 5. PAID applied in NYC.
- The U.S. in octagon that cancels the stamp indicated that it was carried to the address by the NY City Despatch Post.
- Two other covers were sent from Washington, on Nov. 15 and Dec. 5, 1845, and Nov. 4, year unknown.



# from Albany, NY

- Three are known. Two sent to NYC (Nov. 11 and 15, 1845) and one to Syracuse.
- The Nov. 11 cover below is franked with a pair of Provisionals, struck with a faint Albany CDS at lower left and red “10” at upper right. Struck with red curved PAID at NYC.



# from Philadelphia, PA

- Two covers known. One to NYC and one to Canada.
- The cover below is a new discovery, with an “integrated 5” Philadelphia May 25 (1846) struck in Philadelphia and a red curved PAID added in NYC.



# from Philadelphia, PA

- The cover below is regarded as one of the most important Provisionals sent from outside NYC.
- Franked with a margin pair of NY Provisionals and postmarked with an "attached rate" Philadelphia CDS, it was marked PAID as it passed through the NYC PO on the way to Montreal. It was marked 4½d due from the addressee.





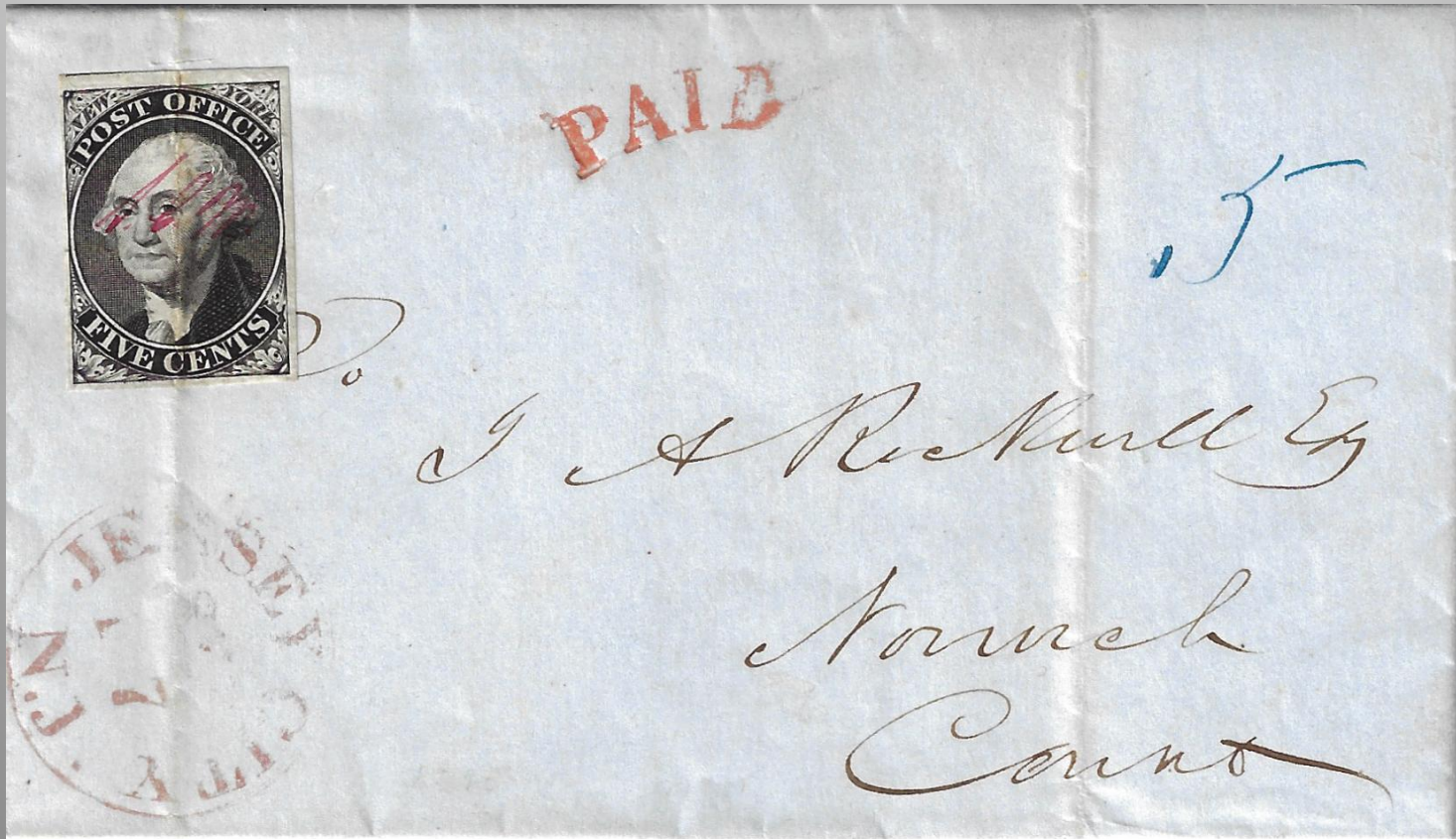
# from Sing Sing, NY

- The lone cover reported sent from Sing Sing (to New York City). Posted on May 18, 1846.
- Not marked for postage due but it did receive the red curved PAID of the New York PO.



# from Jersey City, NJ

- This cover was datelined at NYC and apparently taken by ferry and posted at Jersey City on Sept. 17, 1845.
- Struck with the red curved PAID as it passed through the New York PO on its way to Norwich, Conn.



# from Baltimore, Md.

- The only cover sent from Baltimore franked with a NY Provisional.
- Dated Feb. 2, 1847, and posted on a train from Baltimore, rated 5c due by a route agent who marked it with the BALTIMORE RR handstamp.
- Struck with the red curved PAID when it arrived at the NY PO.



# from Charlestown, SC.

- The only Provisional cover sent from more than 300 miles from NY.
- Posted Dec. 7 (1846) with a Charleston CDS and “10” due handstamp.
- Struck with the red curved PAID when it arrived at the NY PO.
- The cover was restored to expertly add about an inch at the right.



# from Hamilton, Ontario

- Another of the icons of NY Provisional postal history
- One of originally three from Canada; the others were accidentally destroyed
- Posted Aug. 15, 1847, **after** they stopped being sold at the NY PO, with a 4½d prepayment to the U.S. border.
- Struck with Hamilton's red PAID, but not with the curved NY marking



