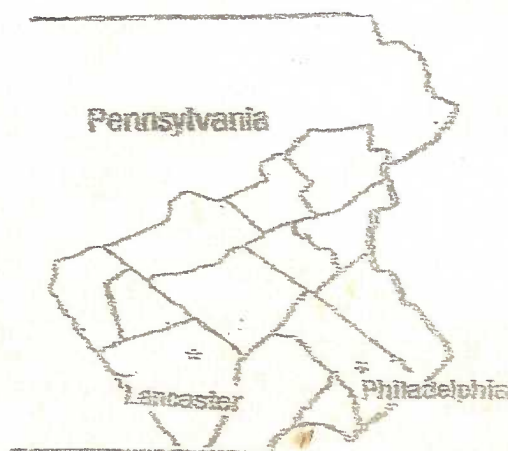


POSTMARKS OF LANCASTER, PENNSYLVANIA 1757-1899

Background: Located in the lower southeast section of Pennsylvania, Lancaster was the largest inland town in the colonies, but had to rely on the postal facilities in Philadelphia where letters for settlers in the "back country" were advertised to be picked up. First references to a post office in Lancaster was in 1753 on a document "printed by S. Holland at the post office in King's Street." Samuel Holland published the Lancaster Gazette at that address. By 1756 advertised letters were being held at the post office in Lancaster. The town was fortunate to have one of the first turnpikes (Philadelphia to Lancaster and West) where post riders were gradually replaced by stage coaches to carry the mail. Records of Lancaster postmasters prior to 1790 are lost. In that year there were seventy-five post offices in the US, ten in Pennsylvania of which Lancaster was one.



Objective: This exhibit is a study of the reported markings, rates and usages of Lancaster city from 1757 to 1899. All know postmarks of the 1785-1899 period appear in this exhibit. Also several pre-1785 Parliamentary and Colonial Post covers are exhibited. When enclosed letters reflect philatelic or historical interest, an attempt is made to highlight the same in an effort to excite the philatelic and general viewer.

Order of Exhibit: The exhibit follows the time line of reported townmarks. The townmarks are printed in blue for easier identification.

I	Pre 1798	VI	1839-1854
II	1798-1800	VII	1854-1855
III	1801-1820	VIII	1858-1862
IV	1820-1832	IX	1861-1865
V	1832-1838	X	1865-1899

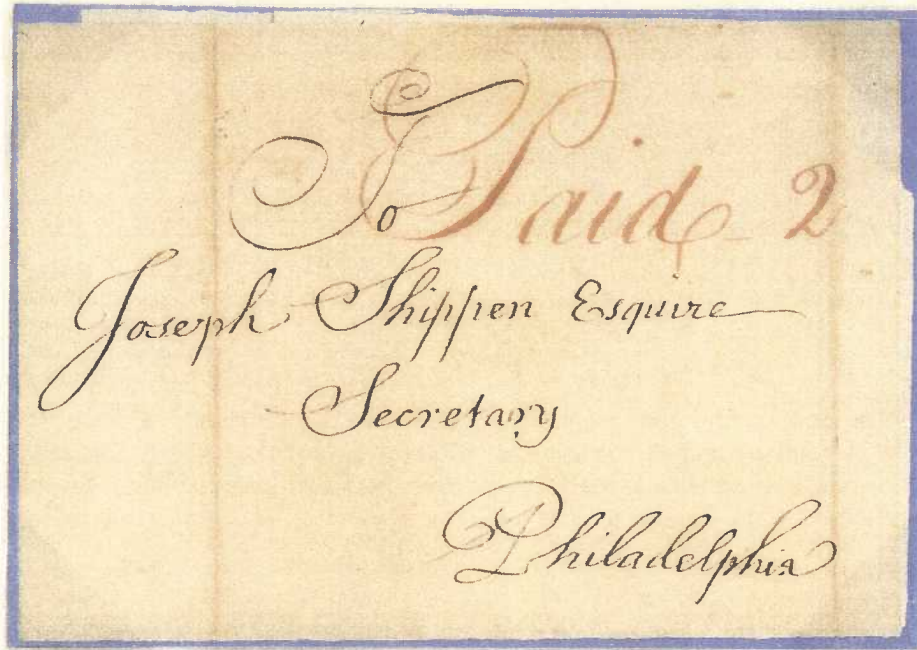
Noteworthy

material: Material matted in blue is of special philatelic or historic interest

PRE-1798

PARLIAMENTARY POST: 1757
Lancaster, Pa. to Philadelphia, Pa.

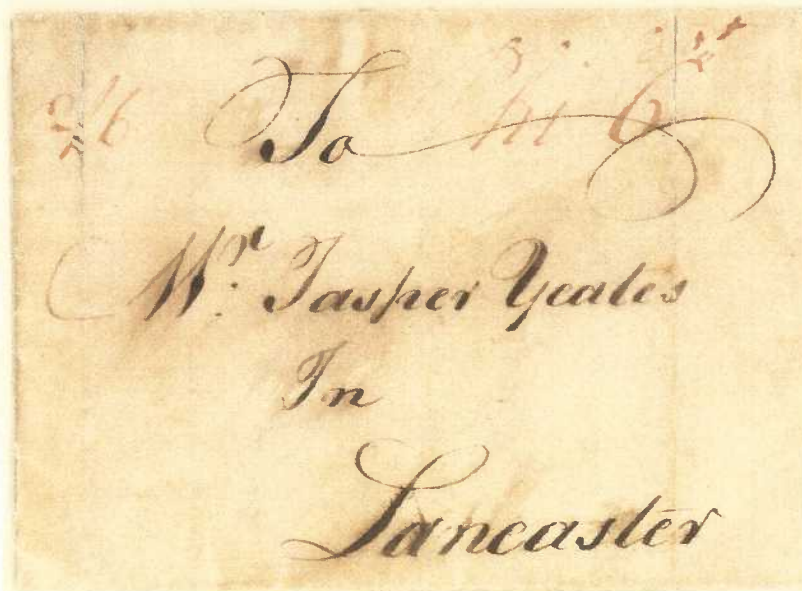
Queen Anne Act of 1711
Rate: 2 dwt.(6 pence) 60-100 miles



Postal Inscription "Paid 2" in Benjamin Franklin's hand. The cover contained a Postmaster appointment now in a museum archives. (Ex. Siskin)

POST - Sep. 24, 1766
Philadelphia, Pa. to Lancaster, Pa.

6 dwt. changed to 2sh 6d

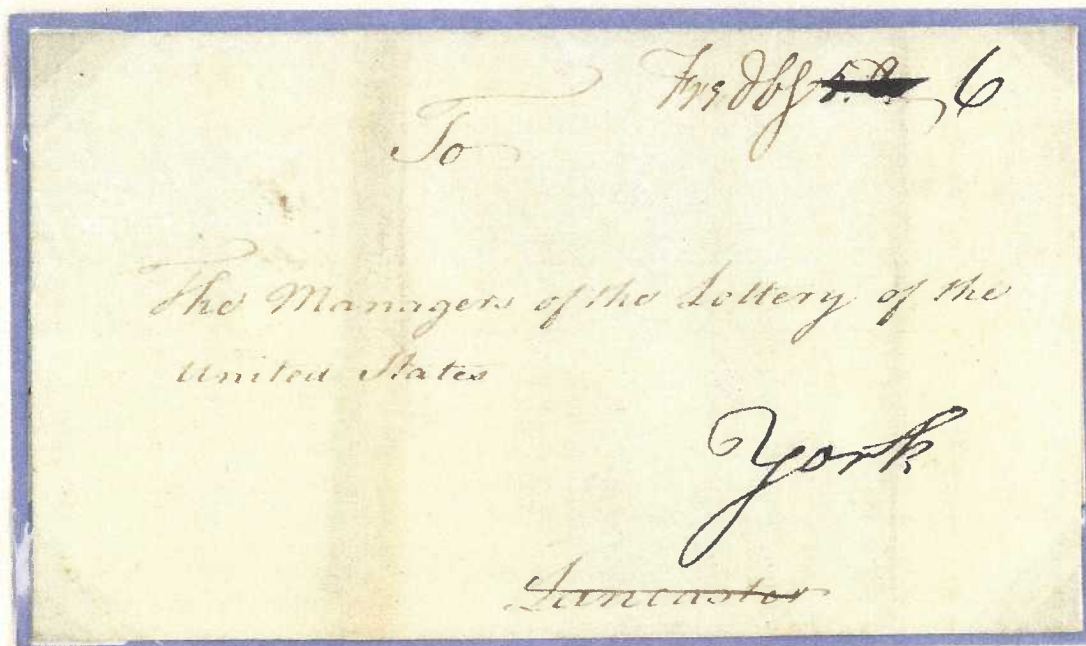


Red "Phi" postmark with 6 dwt rate - Lancaster red manuscript "2/6" applied to charge 2sh 6d in local currency. (Ex. Siskin)

FORWARDED MAIL - Lancaster, Pa. to York, Pa.

Fredericksburg, Va. - May 4, 1778

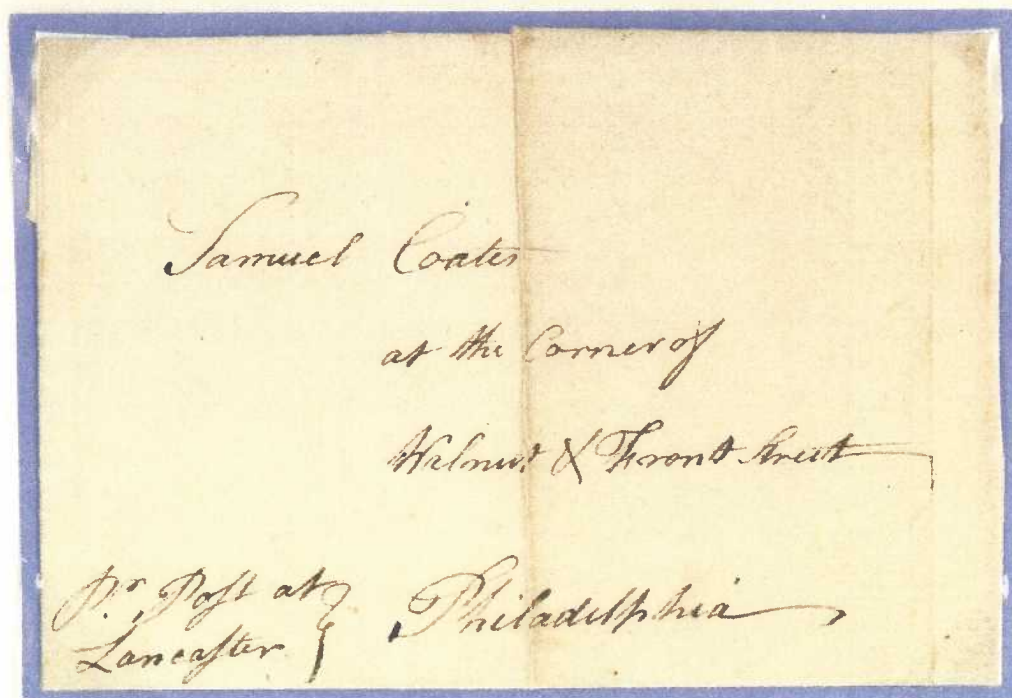
Rate: 5.8 dwt. (5 dwt. 8 grains) plus 16 grains
to forward. Changed to 6 dwt.



This letter posted at Fredericksburg, Va. was forwarded to York in order to reach the moving seat of Government. (Ex. Siskin)

PR.POST AT LANCASTER

May 26, 1785 - The directional marking "pr. Post at Lancaster" was added by the letter writer to indicate that it was to travel "per post at Lancaster"



The absence of a rate marking was common during the Colonial era.

La 2
(1766-1768)

Reported Markings: Pd, Way
Red Manuscript

August 1771

Queen Anne Act of 1711
Rate: 2dwt 60-100 mile

2dwt rate to John Steinmetz in Philadelphia. Receiving notation indicates the sender was
"William Betts Let. Lancasr. Augt 1771"



(Ex - Historical Society of Pennsylvania)

Only known copy with this unlisted "Way" marking. One of four known "La2" markings.
Contents of this cover are in the archives of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania

A "Way" marking indicates that a letter was received by a mail carrier between post offices. During this period all mail was delivered to and picked up at post offices. The carrier, usually a mounted rider or a stagecoach or freight company was under contract by the post office to deliver the mail. Usually a 1 cent fee was added to the postage at the post office. Sometimes the fee was not collected either because the carrier was paid in cash or did not ask for a fee.

LANCASTER, PENSYLA.

(1798-1800)

24 mm circle

No outer ring

No year date

Reported markings: manuscript, FREE

Reported colors: Black (1798)

Red (1799-1800)

TOWNMARKS: 1798 & 1799 HANDSTAMPS

Aug. 1, (1798)

1792 rate: 10 cents 60 to 100 miles



All reported 1798 townmarks are in black

Nov. 18, (1799)

FREE - State Business

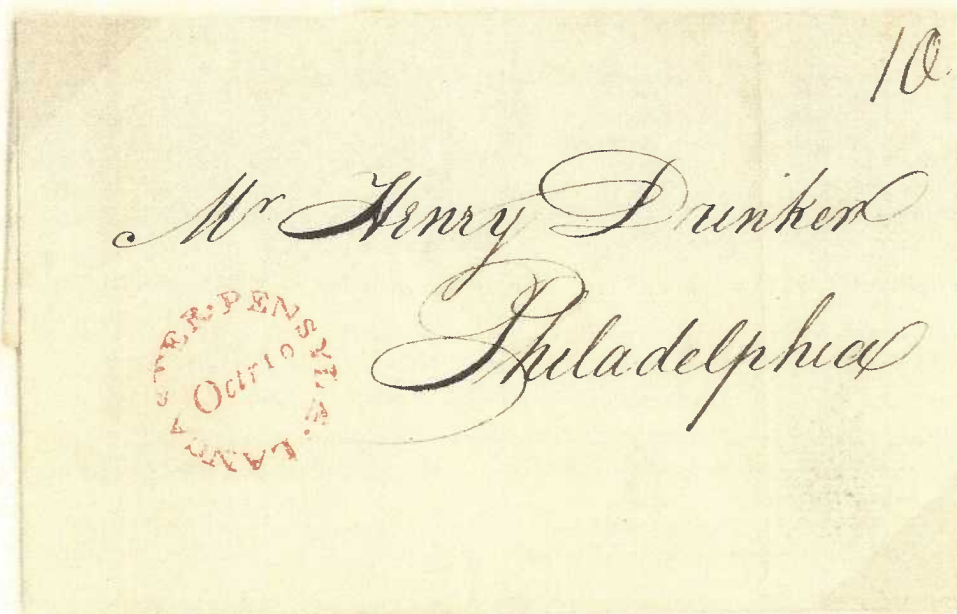


Letter discusses a Commissioners meeting to be held in Lancaster

TOWNMARKS: 1800

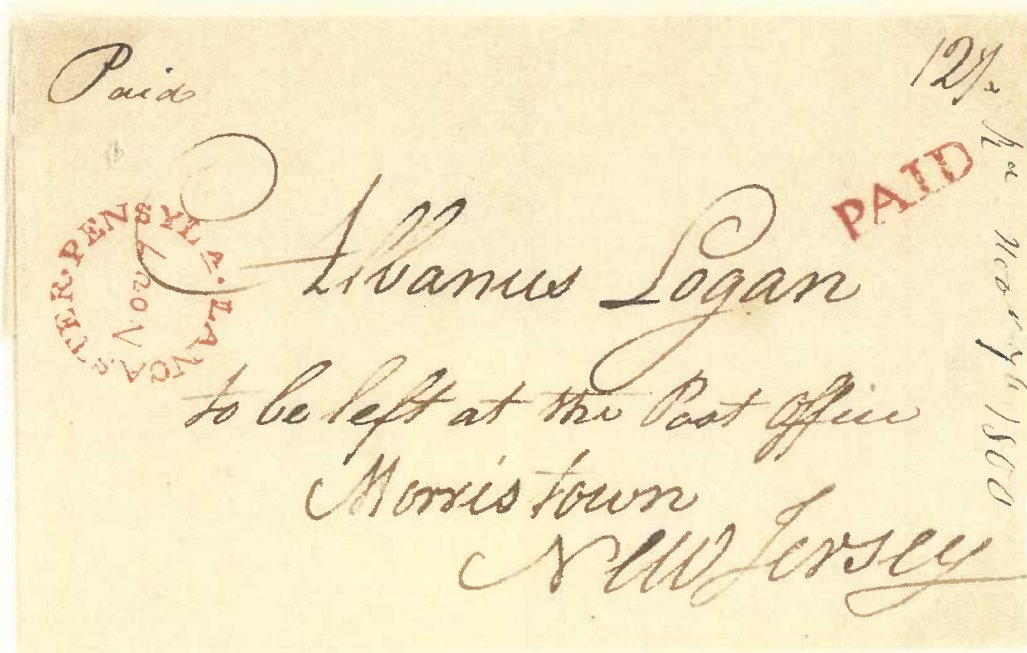
Oct. 10, (1800)

1799 rate: 10 cents 40-90 miles



Nov. 7, (1800)

1799 rate: 12 1/2 cents 90-150 miles



Postmaster: Dr. George Moore

LANCAR. P.
(1801-1820)

28 mm circle

"R" High

No year date

Reported postal marking: PAID

Reported colors: Red

TOWNMARKS: Printed Date

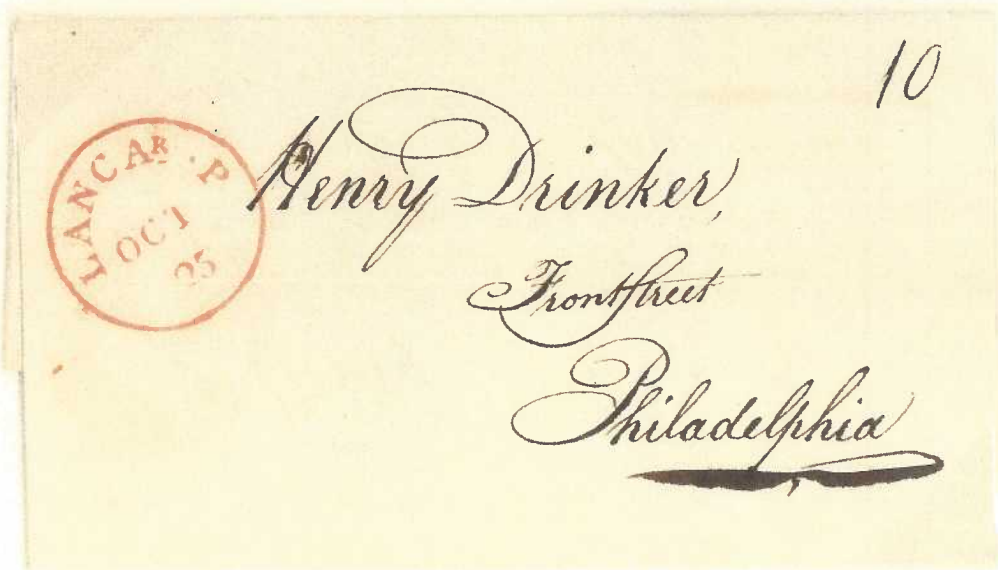
Feb. 6, (1804)

1799 rate: 12 1/2 cents 90-150 miles



Oct. 25, ()

1799 rate: 10 cents 40-60 miles



Many early examples of this townmark show a printed date. Later examples show manuscript month and or day.
Probably the day and month inserts were lost as time passed.

TOWNMARKS: Printed Date

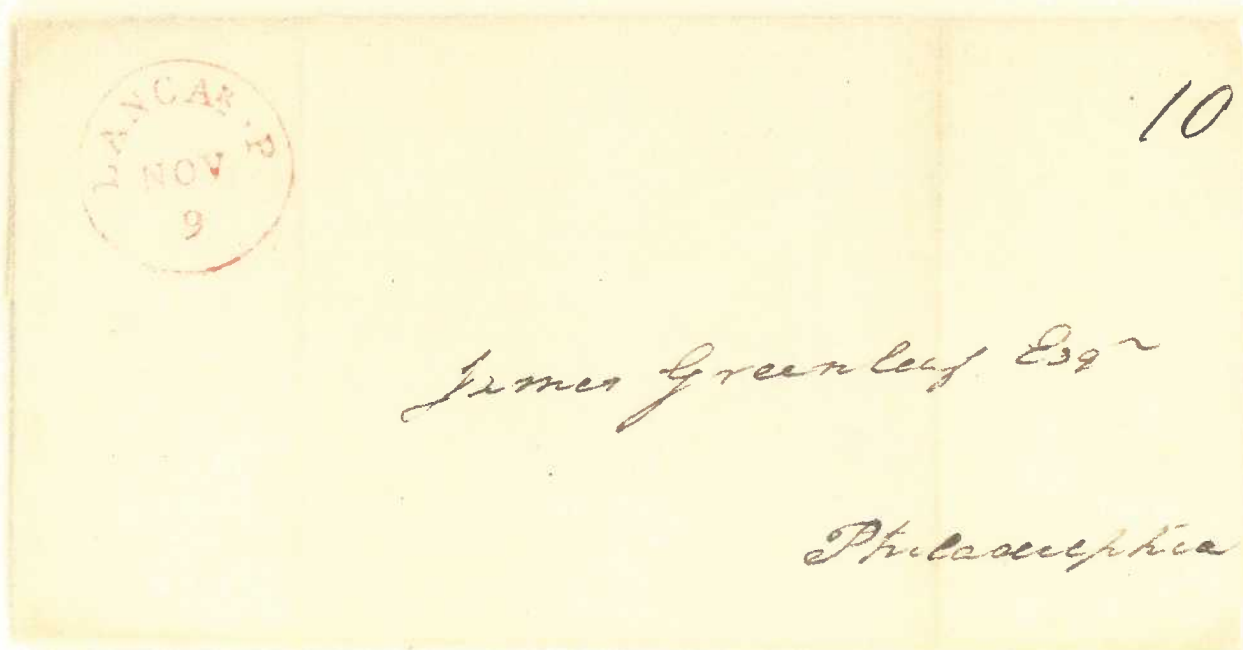
April 23, 1804

1799 Rate: 17 cents - 150-300 miles



Nov. 9, 1808

1799 Rate: 10 cents - 40-90 miles

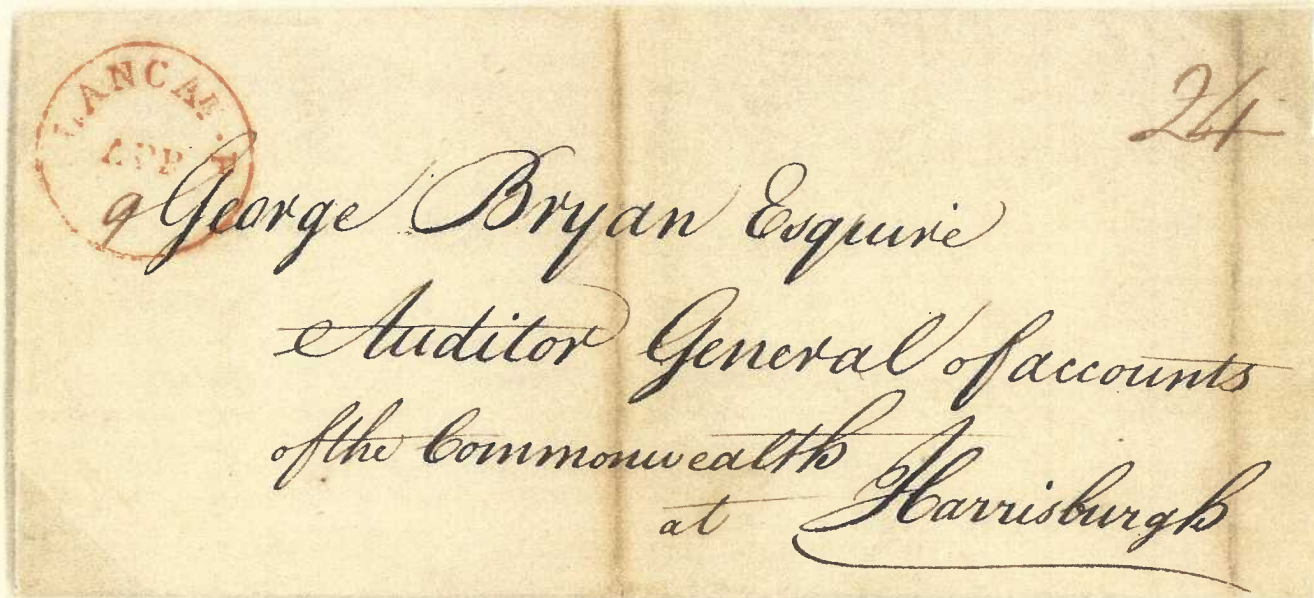


Two well defines examples of this townmark

TOWNMARKS: Printed Month, Manuscript Day

April. 9, 1812

1799 rate: 8 cents/sheet, not over 40 miles



This 24 cent rate is explained in the first sentence of the letter.

"I enclose to you herewith a copy of the Act making appropriations to defray certain expenses of the government."

Two additional sheets made the postage three times the single rate.

Jan. 8, 1812

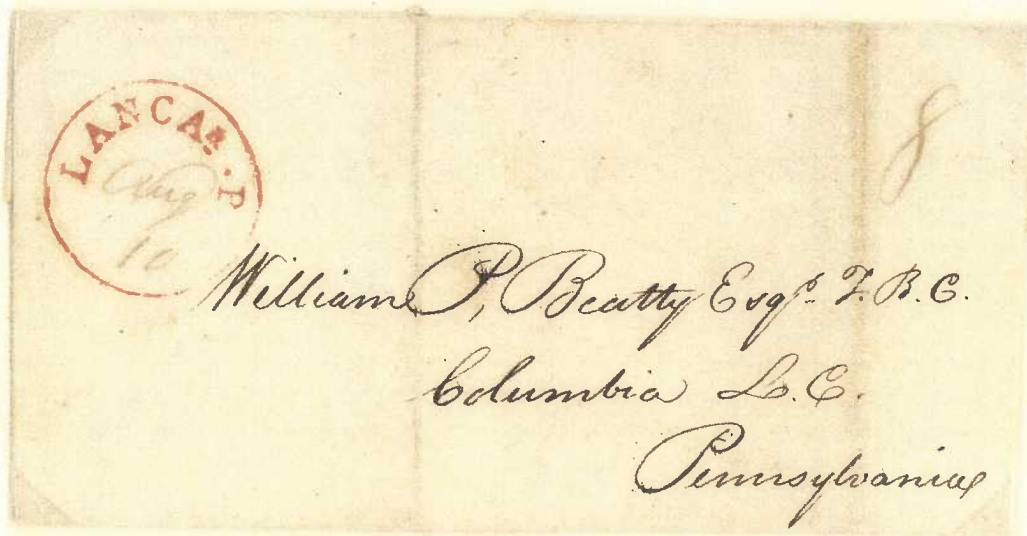
1799 rate: 10 cents/sheet, 40-90 miles



TOWNMARKS: Manuscript Month & Day

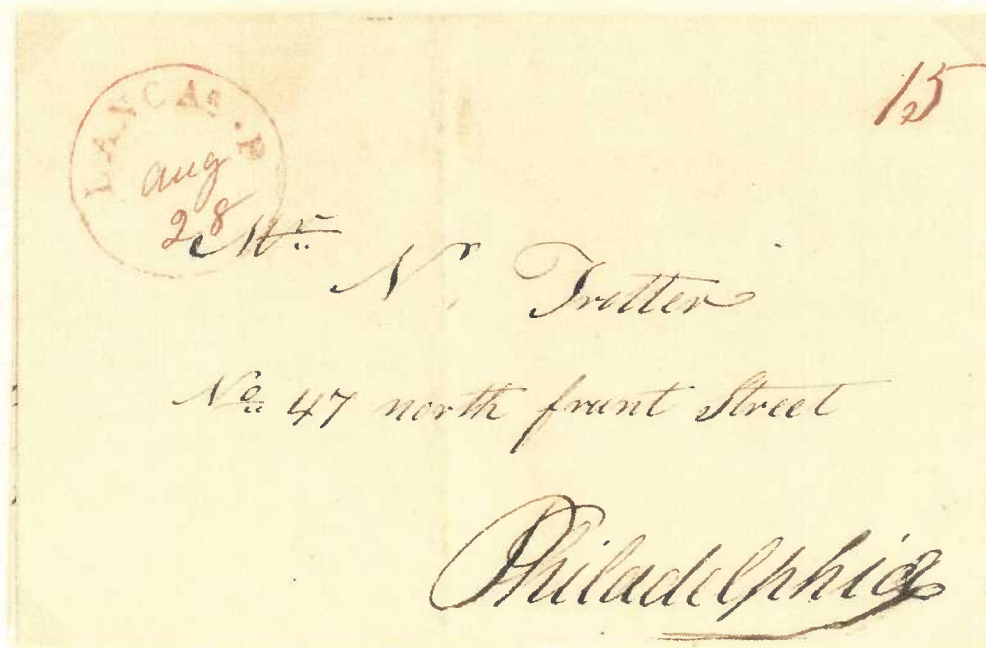
Aug. 10, (1814)

1799 rate 8 cents under 40 miles



Aug. 28, 1815

Act of 1814: 15 cents/sheet, 40-90 miles



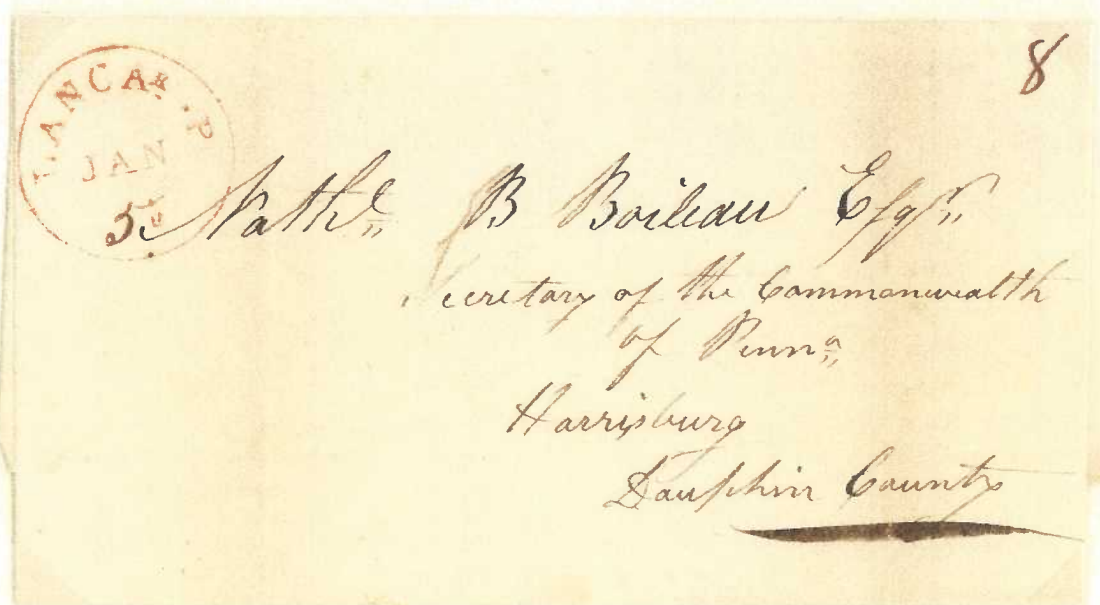
War Rate: Act of 1814 increased the rates of 1799 fifty percent effective Feb. 1, 1815

Above was charged 10 cents plus 50%=15 cents. Act repealed March 31, 1816

TOWNMARKS: 1815 Handstamps

Jan. 5, 1815

1799 Rate: 8 cents less than 40 miles



8 cent rate not prepaid

Forwarded Mail

April 2, 1812 Doylestown, Pa.

1799 rate: 10 cents 40 - 90 miles

April 4, 1812 Lancaster, Pa.

8 cents to 40 miles



Manuscript townmark from Doylestown to Lancaster at 10 cent rate.
Forwarded from Lancaster to Harrisburg at 8 cent rate, indicated in red.

LANC. PA
(1820-1832)

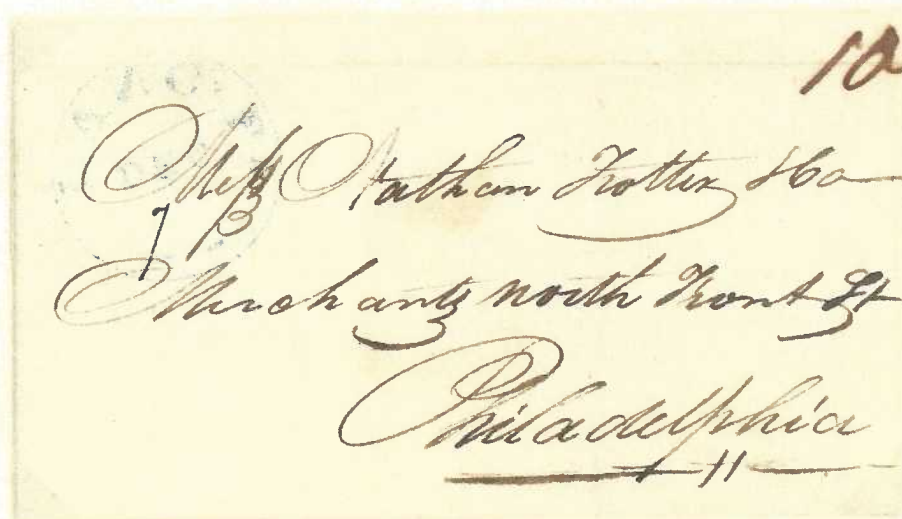
"N" Reversed
30 mm Circle/ Fleuron
No year date

Reported marking: PAID
Reported colors: Black, Blue, Red

TOWNMARKS: Blue

Dec. 7, 1820

1816 rate: 10 cents 30-80 miles



All 1820 townmarks are blue

July 8 (over 7), 1820

1816 rate: 2 sheets = 20 cents



All this type townmark have manuscript date

TOWNMARK: 1821 Blue

May 29, 1821

1816 rate: 10 cents 30-80 miles



The above letter from George B. Porter, Inspector, 1st Brigade, 4th Division, Lancaster Militia requests information as to the procedure to vote for Majors in the Brigade.

"On Public Service" is a notation allowing the sender to be reimbursed for the postage while performing government business. "Single" refers to single letter sheet thus the 10 cent rate.

Auxiliary mark "PAID"

Jan. 29, 1820

1816 rate: 10 cents/sheet 30-80 miles

PAID - Prepaid by sender



Letter from Sarah Yeates, sister of Jasper Yeates, a prominent Lancaster Attorney, and Mother of Kitty Hand, the wife of General Edward Hand. The letter states that there is enclosed two checks which would explain the 20 cent double sheet rate.

TOWNMARKS: Oxidation

Aug. 27, 1826

1825 rate: 10 cents 30-60 miles

Postmaster (1809-1829) Ann Moore



Brilliant red townmark as above is difficult to find without oxidation which produces darker, almost brown color as seen in bottom example.

June 10, 1832

1825 rate: 6 cents less than 30 miles.

Postmaster (1829-1850) Mary Dickson



Ann Moore and Mary Dickson were two of the earliest women to be appointed Postmasters