

## 40 CENT RATE TO CALIFORNIA

May 23, 1849

Act of Aug. 14, 1848 - "Letters to and from or to places on the Pacific in California, from or to any on the Atlantic coast shall be charged with 40 cents postage"

This well worn but illustrative letter demonstrates not only the 40 cent rate to and from California, but more importantly it reflects the 1849 conditions in Lancaster.



The letter to Mr. Henry Good, who recently migrated to California on a business adventure, is from his friend William Pinkerton, who still resides in Lancaster.

The letter mentions that Mr. Pinkerton "is acting as a correspondent during your sojourner in California" in that Mr. Good's letters are being published in the Lancaster Newspapers.

Additionally the letter inquires about several other friends who left for California but have not been heard from. It continues discussing old friends and the ladies, acquaintances of Mr. Good, who "often" express their good wishes. "Lancaster is quite a healthy place at present, though the cholera is all around us in Philadelphia and Baltimore, and a report today of several cases as close as Columbia and Harrisburg." Mr. Pinkerton ends by saying that he has a strong desire to be with the crowd in California, which he knows is a jolly one.

## Carrier Rate

There was no home delivery of mail at this time other than by Carrier

Feb. 24 over 25, (1849)

dely 2

1845 Rate: 5 cents less than 300 miles



The above letter was mailed from Lancaster to the Harrisburg post office  
from where it was delivered to the individual at a local hotel.

As provided for by the Act of 1836, a 2 cent delivery charge was added to the  
5 cent postage to be collected from the recipient.

This cover demonstrates a second usage of the Carrier rate.  
The post office can deliver incoming mail.  
The other situation is mail taken to post office and  
requested to be delivered.



## FORWARDED MAIL

Feb. 23, (1851)

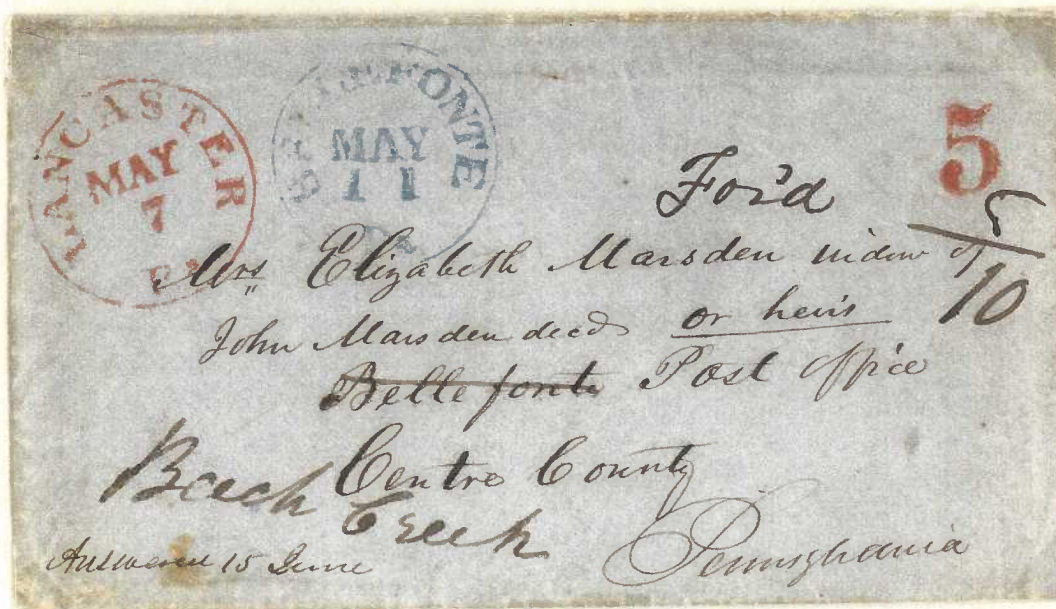
Act of 1845



Sent from Lancaster to Warrenton, N.C. (10 cents over 300 miles) 5 cents added to forward to Ridgeway, N.C. (less than 300 miles) 15 cents collected from recipient.

May 7, (1853)

Act of 1851



Sent from Lancaster on May 7th to Bellefonte, Pa. (5 cents red postmark) Forwarded to Beach Creek, Pa. Manuscript "For'd" and "5". Total due 10 cents.

Letter from an Attorney trying to locate a heir due a "very handsome sum due Revolutionary War soldiers and their widows or heirs from the United States Government".

Missent and Forwarded

OCT. 20, 1840 York Pa.

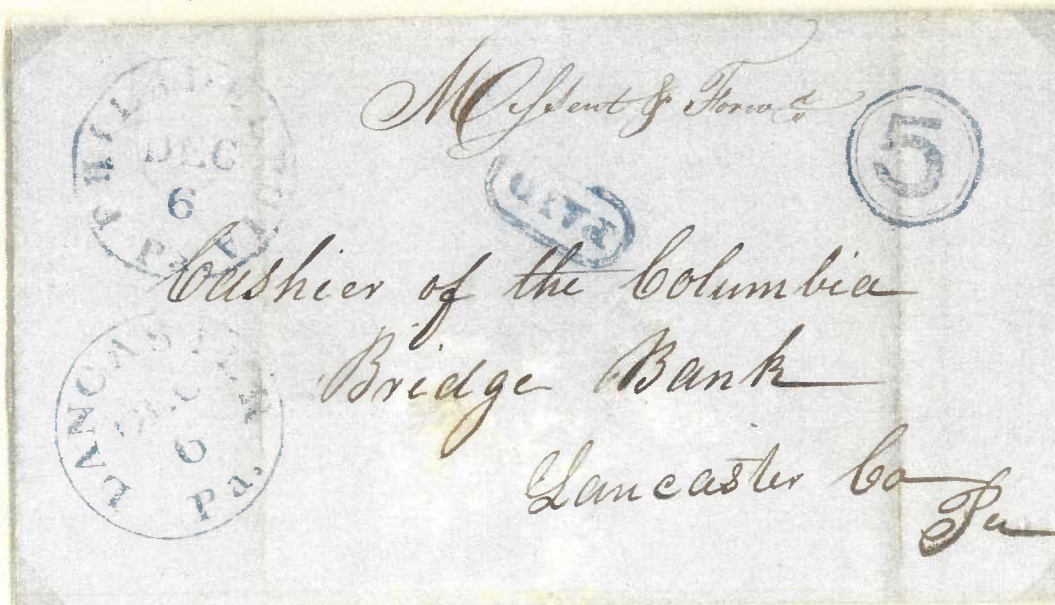
1825 Rate: 6 cents under 30 miles  
Manuscript 6



Missent to Lancaster, Postmarked Lancaster Oct. 21 and forwarded to Columbia.

Dec. 6, 1845 Philadelphia, Pa.

1845 Rate: 5 cent less than 300 miles  
Phila. 5 cents and PAID notation



Addressed to Lancaster Co. instead of Columbia. Postmarked Lancaster same day (Dec.6) and forwarded.



## REGISTERED MAIL - PHILADELPHIA R

There were no official postal regulations for registered mail until 1855. The Philadelphia Post Office applied a "R" to incoming valuable mail beginning in Oct. 1845 until Sept. 1851. Two different types of the blue "R" are seen on registered mail, large and small as seen below.

Feb. 22, 1848

First used Oct. 1845

LARGE "R"



May 25, ( )

Known use: Oct. 1849 to Sept. 1851

SMALL "R"



Small "R" usually has a control number such as the 13 on the above example

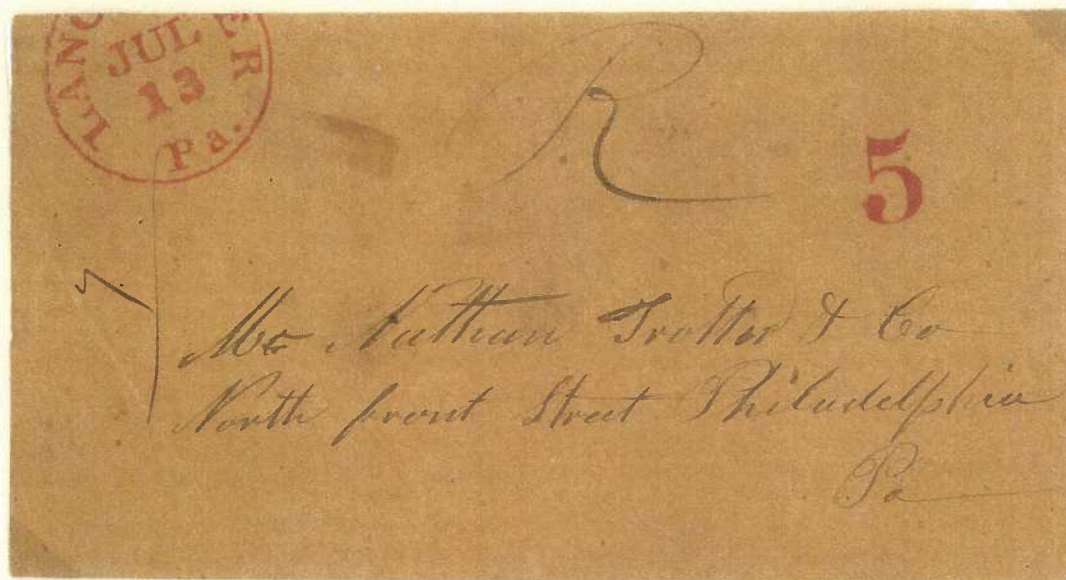
## REGISTERED MAIL - LANCASTER MANUSCRIPT R

PRIOR TO THE FIRST REGISTERED MAIL IN 1855, THERE WERE NO OFFICIAL METHODS TO ASSURE THE SAFETY OF MONEY OR VALUABLES SENT THROUGH THE MAILS. POSTMASTERS COULD NOTE VALUABLE MAIL ON WAYBILLS TO PROTECT AGAINST LIABILITY AND THE POST OFFICE, ALTHOUGH STATING SUCH MAIL SENT AT OWNERS RISK, WOULD INVESTIGATE AND PROSECUTE ANY REPORTS OF LOST OR STOLEN MAIL.

### LANCASTER APPLIED MANUSCRIPT "R"

July 13, (1851)

Act of 1851: 5 cents not prepaid under 3000 mi.



THIS 1851 COVER WITH A LANCASTER TOWNMARK AND "5",  
HAS A MANUSCRIPT "R" and "Z" CONTROL NUMBER.

PHILADELPHIA APPLIED A SMALL OR LARGE BLUE "R" HANDSTAMP AND RECORDED INCOMING MAIL.

OTHER POST OFFICES USED MANUSCRIPT OR "R" HANDSTAMPS.

A NOV. 18, 1852 or 1853 WITH A LANCASTER APPLIED RED "R" HANDSTAMP AND A MANUSCRIPT "19"  
HAS ALSO BEEN REPORTED.



.Valentine - Feb. 14 Townmark

This ornate cover and enclosed Valentine is a prime example of the 10 cent postage that was applied due to the fact that the weight exceeded 1/2 oz (but was less than 1 oz.) Act of 1845





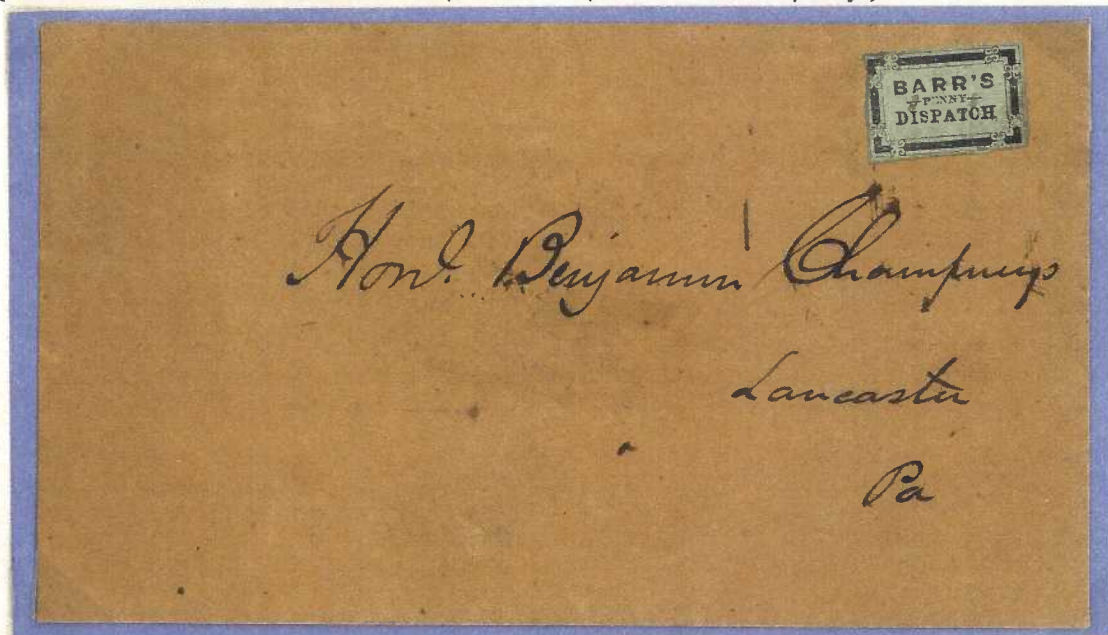
## BARR'S PENNY DISPATCH

1855 LOCAL POST

Manuscript Cancel

Established by Elias Barr in Lancaster to receive and deliver letters to and from the post office and within the city at a time when there was no carrier service. Stamps were produced in two colors, green with black and red. The stamps could be purchased at the jewelry store of Zahm & Jackson for one cent each. Mail could be deposited at boxes Barr placed in the city. Barr's Penny Dispatch and other local posts were forced out of business when the post office established carrier service.

This first cover was delivered to Benjamin Champneys after being deposited in a box in the city without entering the postal system. The local was canceled with two pen strokes (on either side of "penny").



PF Certificate #0293965 (8/1995)

This lower cover was picked up from the customer then delivered to the post office by Barrs. The sender would have paid 4 cents (1 cent to Barrs and 3 cents to the post office) to send the letter to Waynesboro.



PF Certificate #0289288 (4/24/95)



LANCASTER, Pa.

(1858-1862)

32mm Circle

Reported marking: FREE

Reported colors: Black

**TOWNMARKS**

March 15, 1859

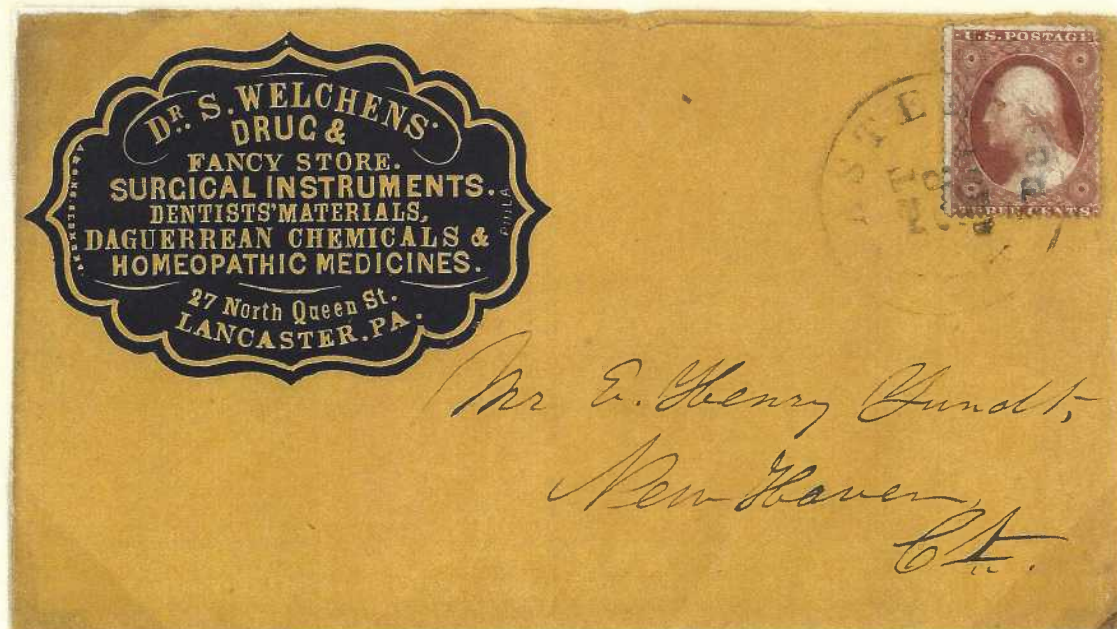
3 cent 1857 issue

Act 1855/6: 3 cents prepaid w/ stamps



Oct. 28, 1858

1857 3 cent issue





TOWNMARKS - POSTMASTER FREE FRANK

Nov. 15, 1860

FREE



Evidence under the postmark that a stamp had been applied and removed.

December 20, 1862

FREE

Free Frank by A.F. Groff P.M., Owings Mills, Md. - Addressed to A.E. Groff Owings Mills, Md.  
Postmarked Lancaster, Pa.



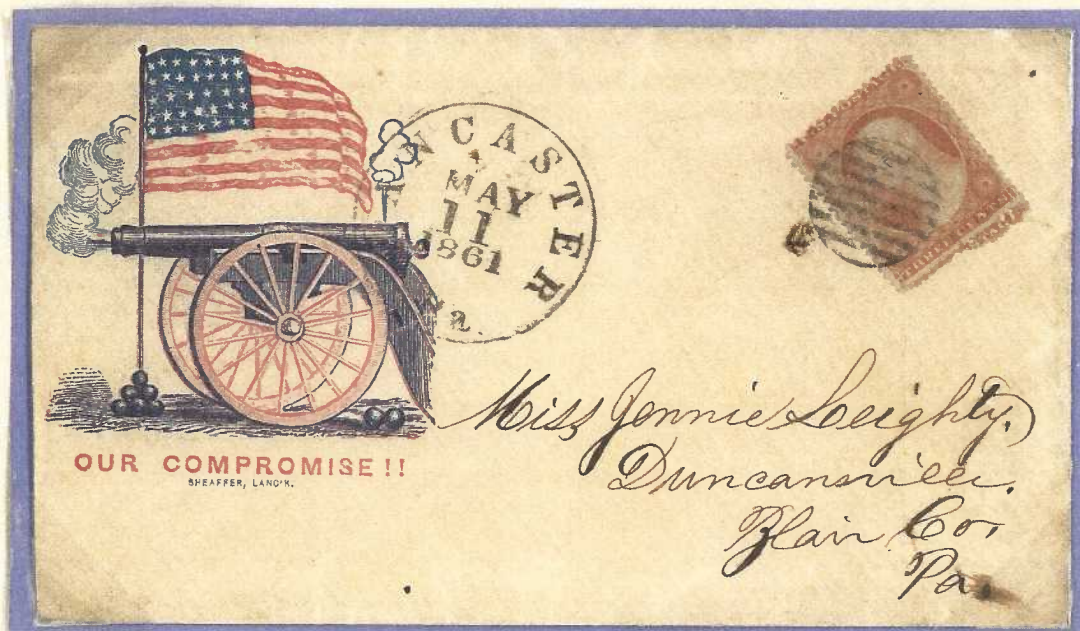
This cover was either a self addressed franked envelope sent by Postmaster A.F. Groff to the Lancaster Postmaster with correspondence that needed a response or student writing home from a local college using Father's Postmaster Free Frank privilege. Who was A.E. Groff?



CIVIL WAR PATRIOTICS

1855 Rate: 3 cents under 3000 miles prepaid  
3 cent dull red 1857 issue

May 11, 1861



"OUR COMPROMISE!!" by Sheaffer, Lanc'r

Contents of the six page enclosed letter is an interesting account of life in Lancaster at the time.

May 5, 1863



"OUR GLORIOUS NAVY FOREVER!"

Only recorded example of this "Star of the West" with the Border State Loyal all over design.



## BALLOON COVER - John Wise, Aeronaut

May 12, 1859

Act of 1855 3 cents/ 1/2oz.

THIS COVER ALTHOUGH NEVER CARRIED ON A BALLOON FLIGHT, IS AN EXAMPLE OF THE ILLUSTRATIVE IMPRINT USED BY JOHN WISE TO PROMOTE HIS FLIGHTS ON CORRESPONDENCE ESPECIALLY TO FELLOW AERONAUTS.

THIS IS ONE OF ONLY A FEW SUCH COVERS TO SURFACE AND SURVIVE.



Cover addressed to Mons. Carlinecourt, a pseudonym for fellow Aeronaut Professor Thaddeus Lowe.

John Wise was born in Lancaster, Pa. Feb. 24, 1808. Studied Theology under Muhlenberg, but was drawn to Astrology.

First ascension in his own designed balloon on May 2, 1835. A year later he made the first of several Lancaster flights. During his career he suggested aerial bombing of Vera Cruz during the Mexican war and that the mails be carried by balloon.

July 2, 1859 (six weeks after above cover) Wise and three companions set a world balloon record of 809 miles in less than 20 hours that held until 1908, but the mail pouches had to be dropped into Lake Erie to gain altitude. On Aug. 16, 1859 the balloon "Jupiter" carried 123 letters and 23 packages from Lafayette, Indiana 30 miles before being forced down. The mail continued on by train. The seven cent airmail stamp of 1959 commemorates this accomplishment.

At age 71 John Wise came out of retirement to make his last ascension. Wise and his passenger was last seen over Lake Michigan. His balloon and the body of his passenger were later recovered, but John Wise was never found.



## PRESIDENTIAL FREE FRANK

WASHINGTON CITY, D.C.

April 22, 185(8)

James Buchanan 15th President 1857-1861



Signature frank of President Buchanan

Wax seal on reverse "SEAL OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES"

LANCASTER, PA.

March 16, 1861

Free Frank



President Buchanan turned the Presidency over to President Lincoln on March 4, 1861.

This letter to Boston twelve days after returning to private life at his home "Wheatland"

## PATRIOTIC COVERS 1861

May 31, 1861

FREE J. Patton MC



Patriotic cover from member of Congress.

Note that the address on above is the same as the address on the letter in the previous panel

Also note that it appears that both envelopes were written by same person?

Did Jennie send self addressed envelopes when corresponding?

May 31, 1861

FREE from D.S.S. Camp



Magee cover

Both covers postmarked May 31, 1861 at Lancaster