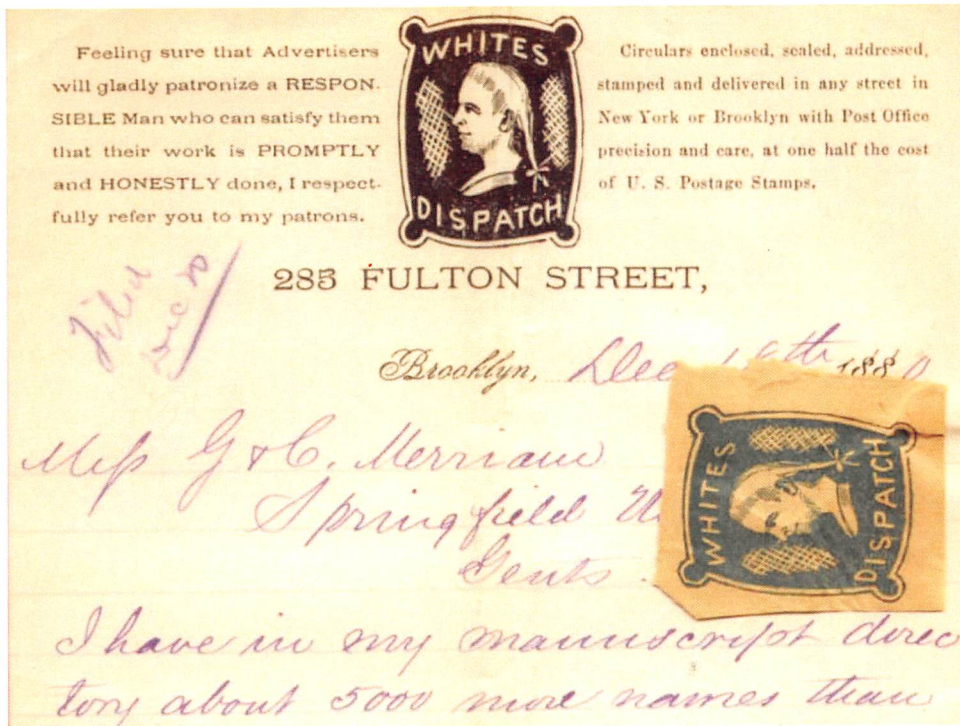


THE PENNY POST

Official Journal Of The Carriers And Locals Society



A newly discovered George W. White business letter dated December 18, 1880.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

THE CHEAP POSTAGE MOVEMENT IN THE U.S.
 A WELLS & COMPANY AND HALE & COMPANY COVER
 WHITE'S BROOKLYN AND MANHATTAN DISPATCH
 BLOOD'S PART 5: 15L5
 AND MORE



Public Stamp Auction

Carriers and Locals Society Auction #25

Thursday, January 23, 2014

To our Auction Manager, Alan E. Cohen

Tel: (212) 280-7865 Fax: (212) 280-7864

Email: alanecohen@mindspring.com

THE PENNY POST

VOL. 22 NO. 1

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CONTENTS

Editor's Message.....	Pages 2-3
Auction Review of Siegel Sale 1063 by Larry Lyons	Page 4
The Cheap Postage Movement in the United States by Dale Forster	Pages 5-12
Wells & Company and Hale & Company – Another Look at a Well-Known Cover by William W. Sammis.....	Pages 14-15
White's Brooklyn and Manhattan Dispatch by William W. Sammis.....	Pages 17-20
Blood's Part 5: 15L5 by Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD	Pages 22-60

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Editor's Message

By
Larry Lyons

Happy New Year

I want to wish a very Healthy and Happy New Year to everyone. Perhaps 2014 will be a great time to start a new collecting interest hopefully in the field of carriers, locals and eastern expresses. It is a year to commit to attending a philatelic show. It is time to help a fellow collector with information. It is time to make trades, sell material at the C&LS auctions and acquire new items. 2014 should be a year to make new friends and thank old friends for their friendship. It is a new year to enjoy collecting.

Build the Future of the C&LS

Please introduce one person to our field. Building a great C&LS starts with the addition of a single member. Spread the word. We are only a few short of 200 members. This year we will gain more speed and go over this benchmark. Spread the word about the enjoyment and educational value of being a C&LS member. *The Penny Post* has won 23 gold medals in literature and five reserve grand awards since its inception in 1990. *The Penny Post* and its Editor have won the coveted Diane D. Bohreit Award for Excellence in Literature three times (1994, 2009 and 2011).

Appreciation

I wish to thank the section editors for their contributions and hard work. Special thanks to Alan Cohen and John Bowman for being my constant critics and proofreaders for the last fourteen years and counting and thanks to David Snow for joining this group two years ago. David is also commended for doing good work as our Ad Manager. I wish to extend a special thank you to Alan Cohen for being our Auction Manager. We have had 24 auctions with the 25th one taking place in January 2014. The Society would not be able to continue without the commissions generated from these sales. Special thanks to Scott Trepel for his efforts in our field and for being our patron saint in memory of Richard Schwartz.

In This Issue

I am keeping my promise to my friend, Vern Morris, to publish his research work on Bloods. Part 5 of this series of articles is on the 15L5 running messenger stamp of 1846 with "City Despatch" under the messenger. John Bowman has graciously allowed me to hold his Boyd's article until the next issue to allow the Blood's article to appear intact instead of dividing it into two issues of *The Penny Post*. Thanks to John and thanks to Vern for his research.

We have two articles from my friend, Bill Sammis. One is about White's Brooklyn and Manhattan Dispatch. This is a company on which little is known but a business letter from George W. White dated December 18, 1880 recently surfaced and formed the basis for this new research. Bill's second article is another look at a well-known express cover of Wells & Company and Hale & Company. Bill offers us his explanation and opinion on a manuscript notation on the cover which reads

“Agent of the american letter mail co.” Special thanks to Bill, one of our eastern express mavens, for expressing his research to us.

We have an article written by Dale Forster entitled “*The Cheap Postage Movement in the United States.*” This article has a focus on the early public pressures for low postal rates. These outcries showed public favor for the private local posts and the Independent Mail Companies. Special thanks to Dale Forster for his insightful article. John Bowman’s next Boyd’s article has some companion early history before 1845 but you will have to wait for the next issue of *The Penny Post* to read it. It will be a follow-up refresher on the subject.

In our October 2013 Issue

My Assistant Editor, John Bowman, has given me a note to tell you that the Don Johnstone autobiography which appeared in the previous issue of *The Penny Post* was in fact written 18 years ago. This clarification adds some perspective on the article. John meant to include this note before the article.

Mission Statement

The purpose of *The Penny Post* is to present original research articles in the fields of United States Carriers, Local Posts and Eastern Expresses. Forgeries in these areas are also researched. Articles are reviewed and assistance is provided by the Editor’s section heads who comprise the editorial board.

I hope you enjoy this issue of *The Penny Post* and Happy Collecting in 2014. If you want to enhance the enjoyment of our hobby experience see the suggestions in the first paragraph of this *Editor’s Message*.

ADVERTISERS IN THIS ISSUE

	Page
Daniel F. Kelleher Auctions	13
Schuyler Rumsey Philatelic Auctions	16
Stanley M. Piller	21
Available	Inside Front Cover
Eric Jackson	Inside Back Cover
Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, Inc.	Back Cover

Auction Review

Siegel Sale 1063, December 20, 2013

By
Larry Lyons

This recent Siegel sale contained more carrier and local post material than we have seen in quite some time. There were some 84 lots largely from the collection of Dr. John L. Robertson. Prices were varied as is the case found throughout philately. The pony express section is immune to declines and was very strong in this sale which featured 14 examples. A \$2.00 red pony express stamp (143L1) in Lot 1835 brought a hammer of \$42,500 against an estimate of \$30-40,000. Lots 1839-1841 were single used examples of 143L4, 143L5 and 143L6. The hammer prices were \$11,000, \$12,000 and \$9,500 respectfully against catalogue values of \$1,750, \$6,000 and \$1,250. These realizations of 2 to 7 times catalogue value are probably a result of new collector interest.

Carriers

The carrier section featured 47 lots. It is the opinion of this reviewer that the estimates were on the low side but the realizations predominately fell in the estimated ranges. This indicates the auction houses' correct assessment of the market prices for this material. Beautiful examples on valentines fetched very strong prices.

Locals

Most stamps of high quality sold very well. For example Lot 1768 which was beautiful used example of Floyd's brown stamp (68L2), sold for \$2,300 against a catalogue value of \$1,000. The green Floyd's stamp in the following lot only fetched \$750 despite their being only about 10 known examples off cover. Lot 1787 was a Ricketts & Hall stamp (127L1) with five reported examples off cover and only two off cover stamps showing the outer perimeter. A very rare stamp. The catalogue value is \$9,000 based on the Golden sale (1999) realization for this exact stamp. This time it hammered for \$3,250. Lot 1798, a used Whittelsey's Express stamp (146L1) hammered for \$3,250 against a catalogue value of \$6,000. There are six recorded used examples and this one has a couple of minor thin spots. This is a beautifully appearing example which brought \$5,250 in the Golden sale (1999) and \$3,000 in the Kuphal sale (2006).

Lot 1761 was a Clark & Hall stamp on a cover with some stains and faults. There are five recorded examples all on covers. This one has a provenance back to Ferrary and Lilly. The sale price was \$5,500 which is only 29% of the catalogue value of \$19,000. New collectors and old collectors need to realize that the usual holding time in collections can be 10-15 years or more. Only three of the five examples of this stamp have seen public auction in the last 15 years.

Conclusions

There is great interest in high quality carrier and local stamps. Superior and appealing covers always receive strong competitive results. We are seeing renewed interest in our field and perhaps this sale will bring other collections to market. The buyers are ready.

The Cheap Postage Movement in the United States

By
Dale Forster

The 1830s post office reform movement in England is well documented. Rowland Hill advocated a reduction in postal rates and a more efficient delivery system to increase post office revenues and its bottom line. Hill's 1837 Postal Reform pamphlet advocated a Uniform Penny Postage and the printing of "frank stamp wrappers" (postal stationery) and "a bit of paper ... covered at the back with a glutinous wash" (adhesive stamp). He also advocated compulsory prepayment by sender, a revolutionary idea at the time which would eliminate the inefficiencies of undeliverable and refused letters. Apparently the British Post Office had little if any serious competition from the private sector. **Figure 1** illustrates the cover of Hill's second edition of his 104 page pamphlet "Post Office Reform: Its Importance and Practicability."¹

The situation in the United States was a little different. The Articles of Confederation ratified by the 13 original states in 1781 gave the federal government the exclusive right to establish post offices and to deliver mail. When the Constitution was ratified in 1788, however, the enabling clause in Article 1, Section 8 stated only that "Congress shall have the power ... to establish post offices and post roads." At various times since 1788 efforts have been made to assert a government exclusive right to carry mail, but no amendment has changed the Constitution's original language in regard to establishment of post offices and post roads. As early as 1839 William Harnden had established an Independent Mail Company, Harnden's Express, and was carrying and delivering letters, newspapers and parcels at reduced rates, both by railroad and by steamboat on the eastern seaboard. Commodore Vanderbilt was soon carrying letters on his steamships. The post office, maintaining that they had a postal monopoly, sued Vanderbilt, but Vanderbilt prevailed.²

In December 1839 the New York Penny Post, a private local post delivering letters to street addresses within New York City was established. The proprietor has not been positively identified, but the late Calvet Hahn has given seven reasons he believed the owner was Barnabas Bates.³ Bates was born in England and had worked as assistant postmaster at the New York post office from about 1834 to 1838. None of Hahn's seven reasons is conclusive, but the fact that the name "Penny Post" was used,

-
- ¹ A copy of Hill's first "Private and Confidential Edition" exists in the British Post Office Archives. The second 1837 edition is rare and the third edition, also printed in 1837, is scarce. See also James Grimwood Taylor's article, "Postal Reform and the Birth of the Postage Stamp", *American Philatelist*, Sept 1989 and *Stamp Mail*, Nov 1990.
 - ² Peter J. Ferrara, "Free the Mail: Ending the Postal Monopoly", 1990. See also: George Priest, "The History of the Postal Monopoly in the United States", *Journal of Law and Economics*, April 1975, pages 33-80. See also: Richard R. John, "The Political Economy of Postal Reform in the Victorian Age", *Smithsonian Contributions to History and Technology*, 2010.
 - ³ Calvet Hahn, "The First New York Local", *The Penny Post*, July 2000, page 43.

POST OFFICE REFORM;

ITS

IMPORTANCE

AND

PRACTICABILITY.

BY ROWLAND HILL.

"The facility of frequent, punctual, and quick communication, which the institution of the Post Office was calculated to secure, may be justly classed among the elements of profitable commerce. It is essential to the purposes of government, and subservient to all the ends of national policy."
Eighteenth Report of the Commissioners of Revenue Inquiry, 1829.

"The principle of the Post Office at its establishment, as is distinctly laid down in the 12th Charles II., was to afford advantage to trade and commerce. The direct revenue to be derived from the Post Office was not the primary consideration."—*Report on the Post Office, by Lord Loether.*

"We have sufficiently informed ourselves on this subject to be satisfied that an alteration in the present system is absolutely necessary."—*Fourth Report on the Post Office, by the present Commissioners of Inquiry.*

SECOND EDITION.

LONDON :

PUBLISHED BY CHARLES KNIGHT AND CO.,
22, LUDGATE STREET.

1837.

Figure 1. Second Edition of Rowland Hill's Postal Reform Pamphlet (author's collection).

although the rate was three cents, makes a British connection likely. It seems strange that advertising for the New York Penny Post does not include the name of the founder or owner, but Bates had friends at the post office and may not have wanted his name connected with a private post whose legality might be challenged. Bill Sammis has found a reference in New York's Jamestown Journal newspaper of 26 February 1840 that Barnabas Bates, "formerly of the post office" had recently taken out a \$10,000 loan from the Manhattan Van Buren Bank. It seems likely this loan provided seed money for his local post. The New York Penny Post used only a handstamp and most of its mail was sent collect - two possible reasons why it was not a financial success. Its successor, Grieg's City Despatch, printed adhesive stamps which prepaid its service and was more successful, being taken over by the New York post office in August 1842.

Whereas the founder of the New York Penny Post kept a very low profile, the 1844 founder of the American Letter Mail Company, an Independent Mail Company in the Boston area, denied the legality of any post office monopoly. Lysander Spooner, a self-educated lawyer and avowed anarchist, was a supporter of cheap postage who directly challenged the concept of a postal monopoly. In 1844 Spooner published a 20 page pamphlet "The Unconstitutionality of the Laws of Congress Prohibiting Private Mails"⁴ which begins: "To the Public: The American Letter Mail Company present the following exposition of the grounds on which they assert their right to establish mails and post offices, in competition with those of Congress." The Federal Government proceeded to sue Spooner; when the results of the lawsuit were inconclusive the government notified railroads and steamboat companies that, if they carried American Letter Mail Company mail, they would not be eligible for government mail contracts. Not surprisingly the American Letter Mail Company lasted less than two years, but that did not stop Spooner's activism. When the Postal Act of 1845 lowered postal rates and attempted to put Independent Mail Companies out of business, Spooner claimed credit for the lower rates and continued his crusade against government monopolies.

Unquestionably the competition from the Independent Mail Companies was responsible for the 1845 Postal Act. That act not only lowered postal rates, but also prohibited private companies from carrying letter mail over government post roads which included railroad and steamship routes. Section 9 of the 1845 Act provided "It shall not be lawful for any person or persons to establish any private express or expresses for the conveyance, nor in any manner to cause to be conveyed, or provide for the conveyance or transportation by regular trips, or at stated periods or intervals, from one city, town, or other places in the "United States mail," except newspapers, pamphlets, magazines and periodicals." The 1845 Act went on to detail penalties for offenders who established expresses and penalties for transportation companies which carried private express mail. "United States mail" in the act was interpreted to be letters only and did not include parcels and shipment of goods. Therefore the previous Independent Mail Companies soon morphed into parcel expresses. Even

⁴ Reprinted by the Cayman Press, Cupertino, California, 1974. Lysander Spooner has become a rock-star among libertarians who have reprinted much of his writings. See also the series by John Bowman and Gordon Stimmel, "American Letter Mail Company", *The Penny Post*, April and October 2006 and July and October 2007.

letters accompanying goods were considered legal to be carried by private posts, as was mail carried free of charge. The 1845 Postal Act, therefore, was not successful in eliminating private posts in spite of lawsuits by the government to uphold a postal monopoly. Current parcel delivery companies like Fed Ex and UPS have prospered, although the government post office still maintains it has an exclusive right to carry letters.⁵

Both before and after the 1 July 1845 postal act, the movement for cheap postage continued. In New York, Barnabas Bates was involved with the Cheap Postage Association which advocated in support of passage of the 1845 Act. The New York Daily Tribune of 19 Feb 1845 reported the following Bates' resolution passed at a committee meeting: "Resolved, that the information just received from England showing an increase of \$400,000 in the revenue of 1844 over that of the previous year, which already furnished a net amount of \$4,000,000, proves conclusively the effect of cheap postage there, and furnishes sufficient ground of confidence in regard to its effect in the United States." In the Boston area Lysander Spooner continued to advocate for lower postal rates and in 1850 a Philadelphia Cheap Postage Committee was formed, elected officers and met at the Merchants' Exchange. The Philadelphia North American newspaper of 23 March 1850 reported on a local meeting where Barnabas Bates attended and gave an impassioned plea for a further reduction in postal rates.

In England a movement was underway championing Ocean Penny Postage. A number of British printers produced Ocean Penny Post advertising envelopes.⁶ Some of these British envelopes, probably imported by cheap postage organizations, are known used in the United States. In New York, Barnabas Bates designed his own illustrated envelope with the plea, "We ask of Congress Cheap Inland and Ocean Postage." **Figures 2 and 3** show examples of Bates' envelope, one used at the three cent letter rate, the other at the penny circular rate. Unfortunately the circular enclosure, probably further detailing Bates' agenda, has not survived. Bates must have sent some envelopes to cheap postage advocates in England; an example of his envelope used from England is illustrated in Bodily, Jarvis and Hahn, page 237. Bates' envelopes have on the reverse the printed imprint of D. Felt & Hosford, Stationers, 50 Wall Street.

Rowland Hill had been employed by the Treasury Department in 1839 for a three year term after assurance he had the power to institute the reforms outlined in his 1837 pamphlet. When his term expired, a new government was in place and Hill was out at the Treasury. Although he was employed by a railroad for better pay than at the Treasury, he returned as an advisor to the Post Office in 1846 to turn the money order business around into a profitable enterprise. He was treated well by British citizenry and the post office; in 1860 the Queen conferred upon Hill the honor of Knight Commander of Bath.⁷

5. James I, Campbell Jr, Study on Universal Postal Service and the Postal Monopoly, Appendix C.", George Mason University, 2009, pages 63-88 "Cheap Postage and Private Expresses Acts of 1845 and 1851".

6. For a listing see Bodily, Jarvis and Hahn, "British Pictorial Envelopes of the 19th Century", Collectors Club of Chicago, 1984, pages 218-237.

7. For histories of Rowland Hill's career see: Geo. Birkbeck Hill, "Life of Rowland Hill and History of Penny Postage. Vol. I and II, De La Rue & Co., London, 1880 and Ellen C. Smyth, "Sir Rowland Hill, the Story of a Great Reform", T. Fisher Unwin, London, 1907.

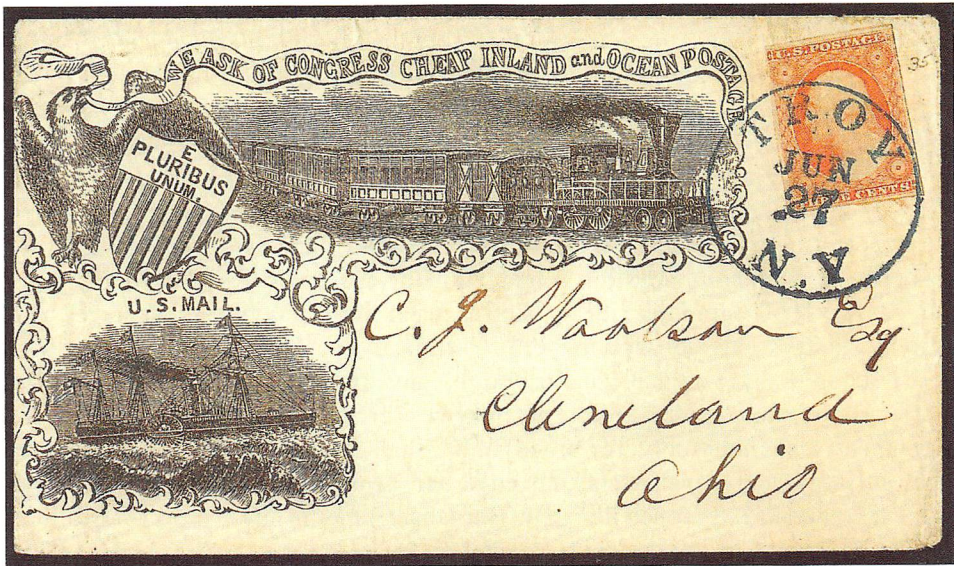


Figure 2. Barnabas Bates Cheap Postage Envelope used at letter rate (courtesy of Siegel Auctions).



Figure 3. Barnabas Bates Cheap Postage Envelope used at penny circular rate (Gordon Eubanks Collection).

In the United States, a postal act effective from 1 July 1851 further lowered domestic postal rates. Then an 1855 postal act lowered rates further, eliminating the distance differential for transcontinental mail. More importantly the 1855 act made prepayment compulsory for domestic mail, eliminating the inefficiencies of refused mail. Both acts were opposed by the Postmaster General, but Congress was onboard the cheap postage band-wagon. Cheap postage associations in major east-coast cities applauded and claimed to be directly responsible for passage of these acts.

The government post office continued to have balanced budgets or small deficits in spite of predictions of fiscal doom by the Postmaster General.

Reformers Spooner and Bates, however, had financial problems. In Boston, Lysander Spooner compared his plight with the well-paid Rowland Hill and had produced an 1850 pamphlet titled "Who Caused the Reduction of Postage? Ought He to be Paid?"⁸ This self-serving effort refers to the situation in England: "The English people, by voluntary contribution, gave to Rowland Hill, a munificent testimonial of their gratitude for his services in reducing postage. The English government also honorably rewarded him. Shall Mr. Spooner go unrewarded?" Apparently Spooner's plea went unheeded and he would die virtually penniless in May 1887. In 1851 Spooner had sent Barnabas Bates in New York the following letter:⁹

*Boston March 6, 1851
Barnabas Bates Esq.*

Sir.

I saw a notice lately to take the responsibility of the mail service of the country, giving large bonds for the faithful performance of the duty to.

From this fact I inferred that there was probably a large company in New York who wished to engage in the business - If there should be such a company, I should like, for a proper compensation, to take the risk of testing the constitutionality of the laws which prohibit private mails.

I would establish a mail from New York to Boston, simply to bring the question to a decision.

As you may wish for some evidence of the probable success of the experiment, I send you a pamphlet (prepared for another purpose) containing a copy of the argument I published seven years ago on "The Unconstitutionality of the Laws of Congress prohibiting Private Mails." - also the opinions of Hon. Rufus Choate, Hon. Franklin Dexter, Hon. Simon Greenleaf, Hon. B.F. Butler, and others as to the merits of that argument.

I have so much confidence of success that I should be willing to take the risk of any judgments that might be obtained against me, provided I could be properly compensated in case of success.

If you feel any interest in the matter, I should be happy to hear from you. If you feel none, please excuse the liberty I have taken in addressing you.

*Very Respectfully
Your Obedient Servant
Lysander Spooner*

⁸. Lysander Spooner, "Who Caused the Reduction in Postage? Ought He to be Paid?" Wright & Hasty's Press. Boston, 1850. (Reprinted by the Online Library of Liberty, "The Shorter Works and Pamphlets of Lysander Spooner.")

⁹. <http://www.lysanderspooner.org/letters/BASP030651.htm>

If Bates replied to the above letter, his response has apparently not survived. We do know that no serious private challenge to the post office monopoly resulted from Spooner's letter. The post office continued to maintain it had a postal monopoly, but Pacific Coast express companies were blatantly challenging that assertion. Following the discovery of gold in California, express companies first went to gold camps not served by the post office, but competed successfully with the post office after establishment of post offices in the mining towns. The private expresses were so popular and were carrying so much letter mail that politically it became impossible to put them out of business. Congress did what they could, passing the 1852 "Stamped Envelope Exception" to the postal monopoly¹⁰ which required express companies to pay government postage by using postal stationery envelopes. Financially this would be a boon to the post office which would sell hundreds of thousands of postal stationery envelopes to Wells Fargo and other western express companies without having to provide any letter-carrying service. Western express companies continued carrying letters until 1895, but were required to pay government postage even though their letters seldom entered the government mail. This stamped envelope exception was not often used by the eastern parcel expresses which continued not to be required to pay government postage on shipments of goods.

In New York, the Cheap Postage Association believed Barnabas Bates was entitled to be compensated for his efforts to lower postal rates and they endeavored to raise money for him. Philadelphia's Cheap Postage Committee joined in that effort. **Figures 4 and 5** illustrate an 1855 circular sent by Stait's Despatch attempting to raise money for Bates. Note the attached label. Forgeries or reprints of Stait's labels are known¹¹. It is not known how much money was raised by this money-raising effort, but it is safe to say that Rowland Hill in England was much better compensated than Bates.

Today's government post office is facing severe challenges from declining revenues and unfunded pension liability. Email, mass media and the ability to pay bills online all seem to guarantee that postal revenues will continue to decline. In that context the controversy over the legality of an exclusive government postal monopoly seems less important. The importance of cheap postage as a vital means of communication also seems less important. Today would a private company even wish to challenge the postal monopoly, given the declining letter volume?

The author thanks Cliff Alexander, John Bowman, Gordon Eubanks and Bill Sammis for their assistance.

¹⁰. James I. Campbell, Jr., "Study on Universal Postal Service and the Postal Monopoly, Appendix C.", George Mason University, 2009, "Stamped Envelope Exception", pages 100, 101.

¹¹. See Larry Lyons, "William B. Stait and the Eagle City Post", *The Penny Post*, July 2000, pages 4-16.

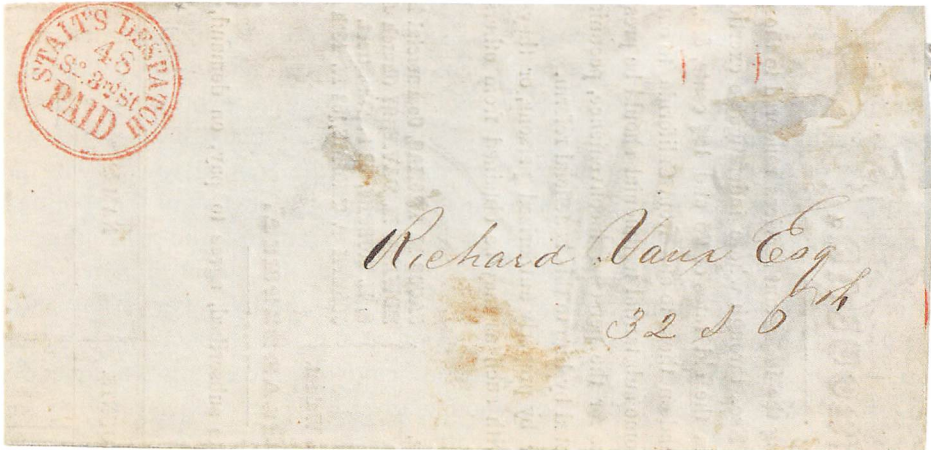


Figure 4. Circular delivered in Philadelphia by Stait's Express (author's collection).

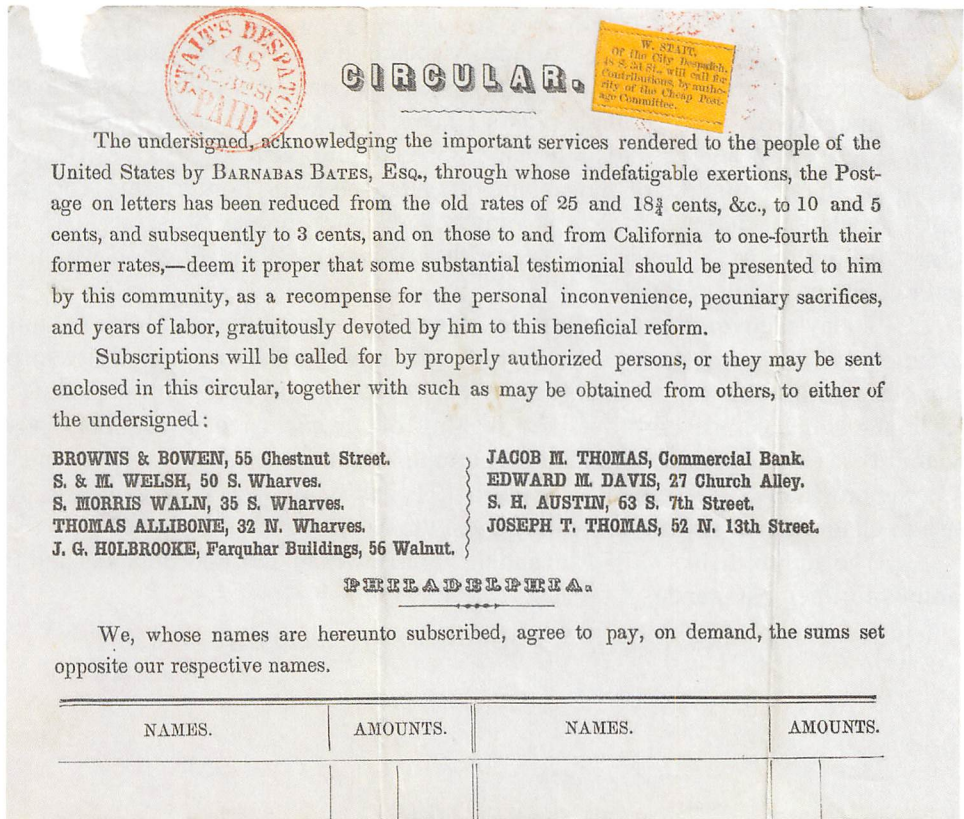
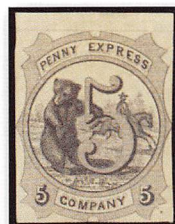
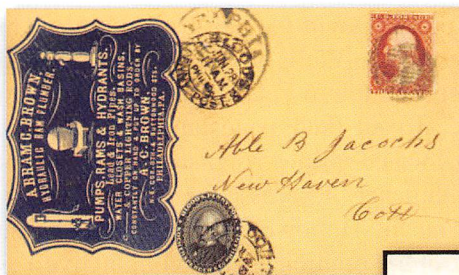
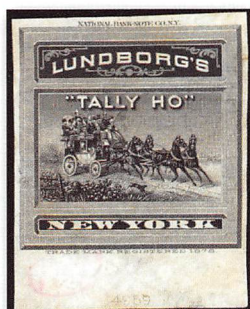


Figure 5. Contents of Figure 4 circular.

We are your best choice
when you consider selling your
specialized collection of Locals.



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AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE OR
CASH ADVANCE FOR AUCTION
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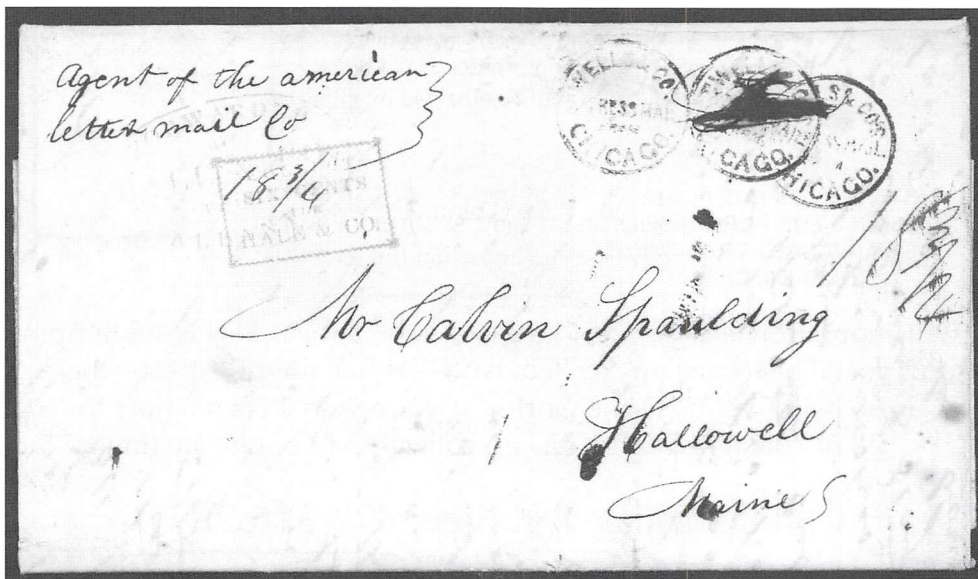


Wells & Company and Hale & Company Another Look at a Well-Known Cover

By
William W. Sammis

The **Figure 1** cover was sold in 1999 by Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries as part of their sale of the David Golden Collection¹. This August 25, 1844 cover traveled from Chicago where Wells & Co. Express triple rated the cover, each strike of their handstamp representing 6 ¼ cents due to be collected². Hale & Co. received the letter at Albany, affixed their handstamp and carried the letter on to Boston. Hallowell, Maine is located below Augusta on the Kennebec River. Hale & Co. used Carpenter's Kennebec Express for transportation from Boston; Glazier, Masters & Smith being the Hallowell agent. (Though unmarked by the Kennebec Express this cover is, in my opinion a triple conjunctive.)

Both R.A. Siegel and Mike Gutman in his magnum opus *Hale & Co. Independent Mail Company 1843-1845*³ mentions the manuscript notation in the upper left hand corner of this cover: "Agent of the american letter mail co.". I would like to offer an explanation for this notation as well as an opinion.



**Figure 1. Wells & Co. – Hale & Co. conjunctive cover August 25, 1844
Chicago to Hallowell, Maine.⁴**

¹ Robert A. Siegel, Sale 817, Lot 1307.

² Trepel, Scott R. "Understanding Independent Mail Mixed Frankings", *The Penny Post* 11/4:3-10.

³ An unsolicited testimonial: If you haven't as yet purchased a copy of this wonderful book...why not! Even if you don't collect Hale & Co. *per se* you will refer to this book OFTEN; in fact buy two, as you will likely wear out your first copy.

⁴ Image courtesy R.A. Siegel Archives.

The sender added the notation in question because he or she was aware of the fact that the addressee, Calvin Spaulding, was the agent for American Letter Mail Company at Hallowell, Maine. An advertisement dated July 26, 1844 was taken out in the *Maine Cultivator and Hallowell Gazette* reading as follows:

CHEAP POSTAGE

The American Letter Mail Company

Will forward letters to and from the principal cities and many towns in the New England and Middle States, viz:

To and from Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Albany, Utica, Syracuse, Rochester, Buffalo, Worcester, Lowell, Providence, Dover, Eastport, Portland, Hallowell, &c. &c., by the most rapid conveyance, and letters delivered by Penny-Post-men in advance of the mails.

POSTAGE, 6 1-4 CENTS.

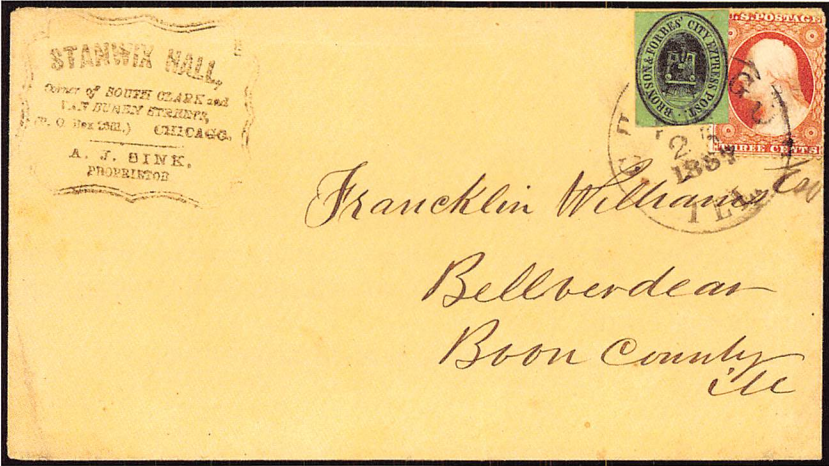
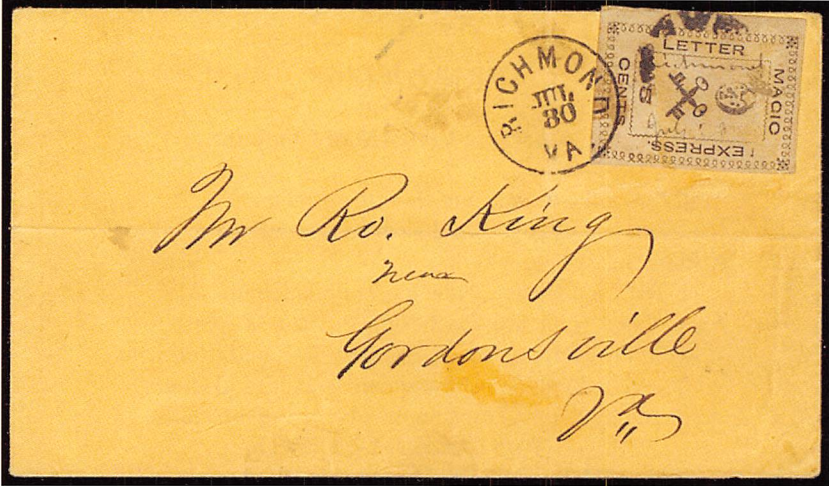
Office in Hallowell at C. Spaulding's Bookstore, where the mail closes every Monday, Tuesday Thursday and Saturday mornings at 9 o'clock.

Further particulars may be obtained by inquiring as above.

Additionally the sender annotated the cover "Free" in the upper right hand corner. This, in my opinion, was in the hope that the letter would access the network of the American Letter Mail Company and be accorded free transit. This did not happen. Wells & Company, having a conjunctive arrangement in place with Hale & Co. (bitter rivals of Lysander Spooner's American Letter Mail Company) triple rated the letter and crossed out the "Free".

As always I invite correspondence at [cgs13@cornell.edu](mailto:cds13@cornell.edu).

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White's Brooklyn and Manhattan Dispatch

By
William W. Sammis



Figure 1. A cutout, possibly from a cornercard envelope, saved in the files of a White's Dispatch prospective customer.

A most interesting lot that recently sold on eBay has conclusively proved that a company that was previously thought to be bogus was in fact legitimate. **Figure 2** shows a letter dated December 18, 1880 sent by the owner, George W. White, to the well known and longstanding booksellers, G&C Merriam, located in Springfield, Massachusetts. G&C Merriam apparently had been using the Post Office Department to distribute their advertising circulars in the New York City metropolitan area. George White was making the case that he could do a better job. The letter reads (some punctuation added):

Brooklyn, Dec. 18th 1880

Gents:

I have in my manuscript directory about 5000 more names than are in the Elite directory of this city. I will enclose, seal, address and deliver (better than the U.S. did it for you, as my men brought in a handful of your circulars which were thrown at the houses addressed + were a litter on the sidewalk) 5 or 10 M of your "Webster Adv" at the rate of 1 cent each + refer you to some of our largest advertisers here (Brooklyn) + in N.Y. (City) who know my responsibility.

Yours truly Geo' W. White

P.S. I can distribute 30 M to good names in Bklyn + 60 M ditto in N.Y.

Feeling sure that Advertisers will gladly patronize a RESPONSIBLE Man who can satisfy them that their work is PROMPTLY and HONESTLY done, I respectfully refer you to my patrons.



Circulars enclosed, sealed, addressed, stamped and delivered in any street in New York or Brooklyn with Post Office precision and care, at one half the cost of U. S. Postage Stamps.

233 FULTON STREET,

Brooklyn, Dec 18th 1880

*Mr J & C. Merriam
Springfield Vt
Cents.*



I have in my manuscript directory about 5000 more names than are in the Edits directory of this city

I will enclose seal address and deliver (better than the U.S. did it for you, as my men brought in a handful of your circulars which were thrown at the houses addressed & were a litter on the sidewalk) 5 or 10 M of your "Webster Adv" at the rate of 1 cent each & refer you to some of our largest advertisers here & in Vt. who know my responsibility

Yours truly G. W. White

G.W.

I can distribute 30 M to good names in Bklyn & 60 M ditto in N.Y.

Figure 2. George W. White's business letter dated December 18, 1880.

White's letterhead gives further particulars with regard to his business plan. It reads:

*WHITES DISPATCH
285 FULTON STREET,*

Feeling sure that Advertisers will gladly patronize a RESPONSIBLE Man who can satisfy them that their work is PROMPTLY and HONESTLY done, I respectfully refer you to my patrons.

Circulars enclosed, sealed, addressed, stamped and delivered in any street in New York or Brooklyn with Post Office precision and care, at one half the cost of U.S. Postage Stamps.

Of particular interest is the woodblock image that White used to promote his business. It appears in brown on his letterhead and as a green on buff cutout (**Figure 1.**) preserved with the December 18, 1880 business letter. There is a notation on the letter indicating that G&C Merriam filed the letter on December 20th (1880). I speculate that the cutout image was saved from the envelope received by G&C Merriam and that White had imprinted it on his business envelopes as a cornercard. I do find it interesting that on his letterhead White states that he would **stamp** envelopes as part of the circular preparation process. Did he intend to use an adhesive, possibly modeled after his woodblock image, and was the green cut square example intended as a sample for G&C Merriam, or was he referring to mailings that he would prepare that were destined for P.O.D. service to which he would affix federal postage? Maybe future finds will answer these questions.

Figure 3 shows the listing copies that are found in the *Lyons Identifier*, Volume III.¹



Black on White



Green on Buff



**Green on Buff
Mirror Image**

Figure 3. Listing copies as found in the *Lyons Identifier*.

¹ Larry Lyons, *The Identifier For Carriers, Locals, Fakes, Forgeries and Bogus Posts of the United States*, Vol. III, page 1196.

The period Brooklyn city directories confirms White's presence and also the likelihood that his circular preparation and delivery company was not in business for long; this despite his stated ability to deal with piece counts running to sixty thousand.

"Lain's Brooklyn City & Business Directory 1880-1881":

White George, White's Dispatch, 285 Fulton

CIRCULARS ADDRESSED:
White G. 285 Fulton

White's letterhead was printed for potential use during the decade of the 1880s: "188__", however his Dispatch only appeared in the directory cited above. Not to worry; Mr. White had another profession to fall back upon and this appears to have been necessary.

George White is listed as a hairdresser in the 1879-1880 Brooklyn City Directory. In the same 1880-1881 directory that listed his Dispatch he is also advertised as both a hairdresser and in the "Hair & Hair Goods" directory section, all at the same 285 Fulton Street (Brooklyn) address. By 1882, when his Dispatch had presumably failed, he had moved on to 33 5th Avenue, Brooklyn in the business of "hairgoods". (Coincidentally my wife infrequently visits a hair salon on Fifth Avenue in Manhattan. As postal historians we may have wished Mr. White more success with his Circular Dispatch however, based upon my personal experience, he may in fact have been moving up in the world.)

Thanks to editor Larry Lyons and as always I invite correspondence at cds13@cornell.edu.

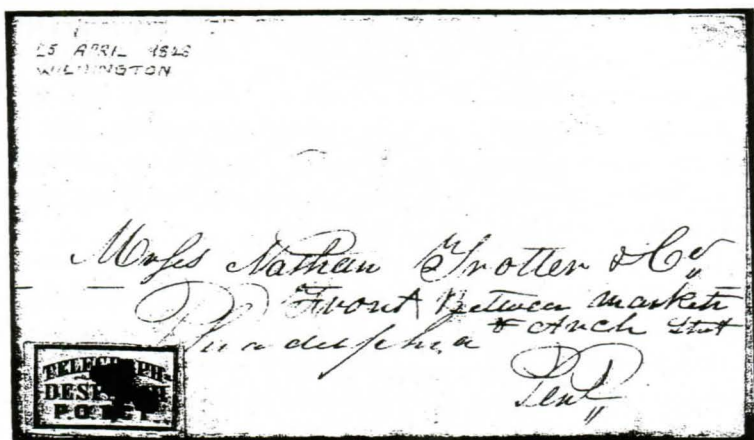
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Blood's Part 5: 15L5

By

Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD

In 1838 Daniel Blood arrived in Philadelphia, and became employed by the Public Ledger newspaper as a clerk.¹ The Public Ledger was located on the southwest corner of Third and Chesnut[sic] Streets, in the heart of the business district of Philadelphia. By 1844 the newspaper was surrounded by numerous express companies, and the only private Philadelphia local post, The Philadelphia Despatch Post (City Despatch) was directly across the street, on the northwest corner, at 93 Chestnut. Four doors further west was the American Letter Mail Co. at 101 Chestnut Street. On the northeast corner of Third and Chestnut was Harnden & Co, and two buildings further east was Adams & Co., at 85 Chestnut Street.

On June 30, 1845 Daniel Blood purchased the Philadelphia Despatch Post, the last day before "Armageddon" for Independent Mails, resulting from the Act of 1845 becoming effective. Daniel Blood accepted considerable risk as the federal government monopolized postal routes throughout the country. The first electric telegraph was also under construction in nearby Pennsylvania. Although perhaps onerous and foreboding, this important decision was one that Blood probably never regretted, and emblematic of his vision and courage.

Blood wisely secured a prime office location, several doors south of the Public Ledger at 48 South Third Street, above the historic Girard Bank. His new company was positioned across the street from the Philadelphia post office which occupied the first floor of the magnificent Merchants Exchange Building.

On the first day of business, Blood reassured the public all outstanding pre-paid 15L3 stamps were valid.² Moreover, Blood & Co. promptly sold identical striding messenger adhesive stamps, different in only a small way by manuscript validation, cataloged 15L4 by Scott.

Daniel Blood's residence was at 108 South Second Street^{3,4} several doors south of Robertson's first office at 83 South Second Street near Walnut, across the street on the west side.⁵ During 1843 Blood must have walked past the Philadelphia Despatch Post office on many, many occasions on his way to and from work. In 1844 the Philadelphia Despatch Post of course moved to 93 Chestnut⁶ (directly across from the Public Ledger) where Daniel Blood regularly came and left work.

¹ W.Otis Blood, Sr, "Recollections of Blood's Despatch Post," *The Penny Post*, Vol. 5, No. 2, April 1995, page 5.

² Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, "Bloods Part 4: 15L4," *The Penny Post*, Vol. 21, No. 4, October 2013, Whole No. 85, pages 1, 2.

³ *McElroy's PHILADELPHIA DIRECTORY for 1844*, page 26, 7th Edition, Philadelphia: Ashmead 1844.

⁴ *McElroy's PHILADELPHIA DIRECTORY for 1845*, page 30, 8th Edition, Philadelphia: Ashmead 1845.

⁵ Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, "Bloods Part 1: 15L2," *The Penny Post*, Vol. 21, No. 1, January 2013, Whole Number 82, pages 26, 27.

⁶ Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, "Bloods Part 3: 15L3," *The Penny Post*, Vol. 21, No. 3, July 2013, Whole No. 84, pages 37, 38.

For two years Blood was in very close proximity and sight of the Philadelphia Despatch Post on a very frequent basis. A quotation from a famous movie goes “we begin by coveting what we see everyday.”⁷ Soon after the business transaction, Blood moved his residence further south on Third Street at Queen Street, **Figure 1**,⁸ and therefore lived in Southwark.

15L5 “Black on Grayish”

The 15L3 and 15L4 adhesive stamps provided the template for a personalized striding messenger stamp design. By incorporating the namesake “D.O. Blood & Cos.” moniker arching above the gargantuan messenger in full stride over the Philadelphia post office, Scott catalog 15L5 was created, **Figure 2**. The fifth local post stamp issued in Philadelphia was the first one without a manuscript validated marking.

15L5 Description Census

1. September 17, 1845; folded letter; outbound New York; uncanceled; blue Clarke 59a Philadelphia cds, blue numeral 5 in double circle handstamp. To: “Walker R Jones Esqre / Atlantic Ins Company / Wall street New York”. Wolffers sale April 29, 1992 lot 419; Siegel sale 925 November 15, 2006, lot 1298. Ex Judd.
2. October 13, 1845; (folded letter); outbound to New York; “dots” cancel; (blue) Philadelphia cds, (blue) numeral 5 in double circle handstamp, twice one faint. To: “Hon H Richards Esq (136 Front Street, New York)”. Lowe Basel sale March 1, 1973, lot 1642. Ex Hollowbush.
3. November 5, (1845); folded letter; outbound to New York State; manuscript “W” cancel; blue Clarke 60a Philadelphia cds, blue numeral 10 in double circle handstamp. To: “Mr Charles Ellet Jr /Rochester / New York”. Stimmel collection.
4. February 25, 1846; folded letter; local delivery; red PAID handstamp cancel, tied by address. To: “R.Shoemaker /S W corner of 2nd & Green sts / Phila” (Northern Liberties District). Siegel sale 868 November 14, 2003, lot 2063. August 10, 2010 PFC 489177. Morris collection.
5. March 27, 1846; folded cover sheet; local delivery; red PAID handstamp cancel, tied. To: “Joseph H. Dulles, Esq. / Care Sec. of the / “Pennsylvania Bible Society”, / Philadelphia.” Bowman collection.⁹

⁷ Thomas Harris, *The Silence of the Lambs*, Hannibal Lecter.

⁸ *McElroy's PHILADELPHIA DIRECTORY for 1846*, page 29, 9th Edition, Philadelphia: Ashmead 1846.

⁹ Julio H. Rae, *Rae's Philadelphia Pictorial Directory and Panoramic Advertiser*, 1851, Philadelphia; www.brynmawr.edu/iconog/panos/panotab2

6. May 6, 1846; folded letter; local delivery; manuscript "X" cancel; Blood's Type 5 PAID handstamp (black). To: Unknown. Lowe March 1, 1973, lot 1646.
7. May 23, 1846; folded cover sheet; outbound to New York; uncanceled; (blue) Clarke 57a Philadelphia cds. To: "Mess^{rs} Brower & Nelson / Merchants / New York". Siegel sale 417 September 26, 1972.
8. May 26, 1846; folded letter; local delivery; uncanceled, attached by wax wafer. To: "Samuel H. Perkins Esq / Walnut St, below 5th Av / Present". Spink USA sale 144 August 15, 2013, lot 376. March 18, 2013 PFC 511132.
9. June 22, 1846; folded letter; outbound to Massachusetts; manuscript "X" cancel; blue Clarke 57a Philadelphia cds, manuscript "10". To: "Messrs Lagill Perkins & Co / Bridgewater / Mass". Siegel sale 927 December 20, 2006, lot 1059, Richardson. Morris collection.
10. November 11, 1846; folded letter; local delivery; uncanceled; manuscript "PAID". To: "John Lisle Esq / No 160 Arch street / Philadelphia".¹⁰
11. December 19, 1846; circular; local delivery; manuscript "X" cancel; damaged stamp. To: Jeremiah Willets / 5th below Noble" (Northern Liberties District). Sammis collection.
12. 1846; folded letter; local delivery; uncanceled; red Blood's Type 4 "2Cts" handstamp twice. To: "Rob^t Smethurst / Esq / 51 North Sixth Streets". November 28, 2007 PFC 459207. Morris collection.
13. Jan 18, 1847; folded letter; local delivery; manuscript "X". To: "Geo Follin Esq. / Prest. Bk. of Commerce / Chesnut & 2nd". Wolffers sale 168 April 29, 1992, lot 420.
14. January 26, 1847; folded letter; local delivery; manuscript "X" cancel. To: "George M. Cooper Esqr / No 3 N. Front St / Phil^a." Siegel sale 868 November 14, 2003, lot 2062; Siegel sale 1002, December 13, 2010, lot 4060. Ex Hollowbush, Schwartz.
15. February 4, (1847); envelope; local delivery; manuscript "X" cancel; red Blood's Type 4 "2Cts" handstamp on reverse. To: "George Jenkins Jr / No 38. Sansom Street." Siegel sale 417 September 26, 1972, lot 1596. Morris collection.

¹⁰ On the 700 block by deduction from other addresses.

16. February 25, 1847; folded letter; local delivery; manuscript "X" cancel. To: "Madam Sigoigne / N^o 7 Locust St above 6th / opposite Washington square / Philad^a". Harmer-Shau sale 85 July 11, 2010, lot 916. Morris collection.
17. March 6, 1847; folded letter; local delivery; manuscript "X". To: "John Lendhall Esq / Navy Yard" (Southwark District). Corwin collection.
18. April 2, 1847; folded letter; local delivery; manuscript "X" cancel. To: "W^m S. Perot, Esq / 247 Pine". Spink USA sale 144 August 15, 2013, lot 377. March 18, 2013 PFC 511133.¹¹
19. April 8, 1847; folded Pennsylvania Railroad Co. circular; local delivery; manuscript "X" cancel. To: "Geo. W. Carpenter Esq". Siegel sale 830 November 15, 2000, lot 438, Hall.
20. April 14, 1847; folded cover; local delivery; manuscript "X" cancel. To: "Mssrs Rowley Ashburner & Co / Merchants / South Wharves. / Phila". Siegel sale 797 December 12, 1997, lot 1931A. February 10, 1998 PFC 323195.¹²
21. April 15, 1847; folded Pennsylvania Railroad Co. circular; local delivery; manuscript "X" cancel. To: "G. W. Carpenter Esq". Siegel sale 927 December 20, 2006, lot 1066, Richardson.
22. April 1847; folded Pennsylvania Railroad Co. circular; local delivery; manuscript "T" cancel. To: "Geo. W Carpenter Esq". October 19, 2012 PFC 507686
23. May 4, 1847; folded letter; local delivery; "dots" cancel. To: "Saml. H. Perkins Esq. / Att^y & Counselor. / 141 ½. Walnut S^t. / Philad^a." Ex Pearson. Morris collection.
24. May 5, 1847; envelope; outbound to Spring Garden District; manuscript "X" cancel; blue Clarke 71a Philadelphia cds tied, blue Clarke 57a Philadelphia cds. To: "Henr J Hutchins Esquire / North 12th Street first house below / Spring Garden Street / Philadelphia" (Spring Garden District). January 18, 2000 PFC 348837. Morris collection.
25. May 14, 1847; folded RR circular; local delivery; "dots" cancel. To: "Geo W. Carpenter" and pencil "Market n 8th". Siegel sale 927 December 20, 2007, lot 1068, Richardson; Regency November 21, 2008, lot 2290. July 30, 2008 PFC 467529.

¹¹ 700 block of Pine Street after 1854 renumbering.

¹² *McElroy's PHILADELPHIA DIRECTORY for 1847*, page 297, 10th Edition, Philadelphia: Ashmead 1847; lists address at "5 & 6 South Wharves" which was near Market Street.

26. May 20, 1847; folded letter; local delivery; dots cancel. To: "Mafrs Rosingarten & Dennis / Schl 7th & Vine Sts / Philadelphia" (Spring Garden District). Corwin collection.¹³
27. June 16, 1847; folded letter; local delivery; "dots" and penstroke cancel. To: "M^r Abraham L. Pennock / Care of / Msr^s Pennoch & Bilb / 231 Market Street / Philadelphia". Bowman collection.
28. July 9, 1847; folded letter; local delivery; "dots" cancel tied; black on pink Blood's advertising label. To: Unknown "XXXXXXXXX Esq / XXXXXXXXXXX / XXXXXXXXXXX". R.Kaufmann sale 58 May 13, 1989, lot 842. Stimmel collection.
29. July 14, 1847; folded Pennsylvania Railroad Co. circular; local delivery; "dots" cancel. To: "Geo. W Carpenter Esq^r". Siegel sale 723 April 27, 1990, lot 444; Bennett sale 324 December 8, 2007, lot 1254. January 11, 2008 PFC 460111.
30. July 27, 1847; folded letter; local delivery; "dots" cancel. To: "Geo. W. Carpenter / Esq^r"; and "N E Corner 8 & market". Siegel 817 November 15, 1999, lot 499, Golden.
31. August 20, 1847; folded cover; local delivery; "dots" cancel. To: "Mr^s Mary Simpson / Care of Stephen Simpson Esq / Schuylkill 4th n Chesnut St / Philadelphia.". Ex Needham, Sloane. Stimmel collection.
32. October 20, 1847; folded letter; local delivery; "dots" cancel; To: "Lindsay & Blakiston / N.W. corner of Chesnut & 4th St / Philadelphia". Mohrmann sale October 15, 1973, lot 140.
33. October 27, 1847; folded cover; local delivery; manuscript "X" cancel. To: "To / M^r. Edward Whelen / Broker. / South. 3rd Street". Frajola January 28, 1984, lot 141. Shachat collection.¹⁴
34. November 11, 1847; folded cover; local delivery; manuscript "X" cancel; black on yellow Blood's advertising label. To: "Mr J. Mickley / Market st below 10th". Siegel sale 791 June 25, 1997, lot 354, Myeresburg. July 29, 1997 PFC 317260. Alexander collection.

¹³ *McElroy's PHILADELPHIA DIRECTORY for 1855*, page 476, 18th Edition, Philadelphia: Ashmead 1855; confirms at "NW 16th and Vine, which was on the Spring Garden District side of Vine Street.

¹⁴ *McElroy's PHILADELPHIA DIRECTORY for 1849*, page 401, 12th Edition, Philadelphia: Ashmead 1849; listed at 9 South Third Street.

35. February 24, 1848; folded cover; local delivery; “dots” cancel. To: “W. H. Smith Esq. / Sugar refiner / Vine bel. 3rd St / Philada” (Northern Liberties District). Siegel sale 830 November 15, 2000 lot 440, Hall. March 28, 2001 PFC 365950. Morris collection.¹⁵
36. December 7, (1850); folded letter; local delivery; “single dot” cancel. To: “Cornelius & Co. / Chestnut St”.¹⁶ Rumsey sale 35 November 17, 2009, lot 1965. June 10, 2009 PFC 476841. Morris collection.
37. 1850; pamphlet; local delivery; Blood’s Type 9 handstamp cancel; auxiliary Blood’s Type 9 handstamp. *From*: “Twenty Second Annual Report / House of Refuge / of Philadelphia”. Siegel sale 830 November 15, 2000, lot 441, Hall. May 31, 2001 PFC 367360. Morris collection.
38. Undated; folded letter; outbound to Maryland; manuscript “X” cancel; (blue Clarke 71a) Philadelphia cds tied 1847 five cent Scott 1. To: “Mr C Morfit (Esq / Pikesville / Baltimore Co / Md)”. Siegel sale 285 March 31, 1965, lot 649.
39. Undated; valentine envelope; local delivery; uncanceled. To: “Miss U. M^cAllister / PennSquare near / Market”. Stimmell collection.
40. Undated; folded letter; local delivery; red PAID handstamp cancel. To: “M^r W^m H. Addams / South 3rd St / Philadelphia / P^a”. Park Bernet sale May 5, 1941, lot 1026, Knapp.
41. Undated; folded letter sheet; local delivery; red PAID handstamp cancel. To: “Miss Emily T Townsend / 101 Arch St / Philadelphia”.¹⁷ Siegel sale 830 November 15, 2000, lot 439. March 28, 2001 PFC 365949. Morris collection.
42. Undated; envelope; local delivery; manuscript “X” cancel. To: “David S. Brown Esq.” and pencil “38 So Front”. Stimmell collection.
43. Undated; folded cover; local delivery; smeared pen stroke tied. To: “Campbell Morfit Esq} / N^o 21 Vine St / Philadelphia” (Northern Liberties District). McCusker sale 316, lot 188.¹⁸

¹⁵ *McElroy’s PHILADELPHIA DIRECTORY for 1849*, page 350, 12th Edition, Philadelphia: Ashmead 1849; listed the north side of border in the Northern Liberties District.

¹⁶ On the 300 block of Arch after the 1854 renumbering.

¹⁷ *McElroy’s PHILADELPHIA DIRECTORY for 1849*, page 74, 12th Edition, Philadelphia: Ashmead 1849; listed at 176 Chesnut Street which was the 700 block of Chesnut according to Rae’s Panorama.

¹⁸ McElroys lists the odd numbered streets on the north side, and for Vine Street border in the Northern Liberties District.

44. Undated; envelope; local delivery; manuscript "X" cancel; valentine enclosure. To: "Miss. M. Eber, / N 187 Chesnut St". Siegel sale November 15, 2007, lot 1297, Kuphal. April 21, 2008 PFC 463564. Morris collection.
45. Undated; envelope; local delivery; manuscript "X" cancel. To: "The Misses Espy, / Schuy^l 6th St below Walnut St. / Phil^a". Harmer-Rooke sale October 30, 1939, lot 1998, Brown. Stimmell collection.
46. Undated; envelope; local delivery; faint manuscript "X" cancel. To: "Miss. Elizabeth Haines / No. 217 Arch St." Rumsey sale 35 November 17, 2009, lot 1964.
47. Undated; folded letter; local delivery; manuscript "X" cancel. To: "Messrs Lindsay & (Blakiston) / n.w. Corner of (Chesnut & 4th St); Siegel sale 294 January 6, 1966, lot 200; Siegel sale 820 January 18, 2000, lot 918. Ex Gibson.
48. Undated; folded cover; local delivery; manuscript "X" cancel. To: "Miss Mary C. Young. / No 145 South Sixth St / Philadelphia". Siegel sale 954 April 10, 2008, lot 3133.¹⁹
49. Undated; folded cover; local delivery; manuscript "X" cancel. To: "Geo W Carpenter Esq". Gronowski collection.
50. Undated; folded letter; local delivery; uncanceled. To: Unknown "Mr. C. Sch ---- / Varnis ---- / N.4 -- / b—" Siegel sale 764 December 13, 1994, lot 1609.
51. Undated: printed advertisement; local delivery; "dots" and pen stroke cancel; partial black on green Blood's advertising label. To: "James S. Smith Esquire / South 4th St. / below Walnut. / Philad^a.". Siegel sale 927 December 20, 2006, lot 1067, Richardson.
52. Undated; folded letter; local delivery; "dots" and penstroke tied; damaged stamp. To: "Mr Henry Trotter Esq / 35 Chesnut St". Nutmeg sale 167, lot 5948.
53. Undated; damaged folded letter; local delivery; manuscript "X" cancel; manuscript "PAID"; black on dark blue Blood's advertising label. To: "Hon^r Judge Cambell / No 269 Pine St". Stimmell collection.

¹⁹ *McElroy's PHILADELPHIA DIRECTORY for 1846*, page 185, 9th Edition, Philadelphia: Ashmead 1846; listed Frederick W. Young at 145 South 10th St. After renumbering the address, *McElroy's PHILADELPHIA DIRECTORY for 1858*, page 756, 21th Edition, Philadelphia: Ashmead 1858; at 243 S. 10th.

54. Undated; (folded cover); local delivery; manuscript “X” cancel; To: Unknown “-----ell”. Siegel sale 285 March 31, 1965, lot 646.

(A) January 8, 1845; folded cover; outbound Massachusettes; originated in Rio de Janeiro; dot cancel; (blue) Clarke 60a Philadelphia cds, (blue) SHIP, (blue) numeral 12 in double circle handstamps. To: “Messrs Wm. Appleton & Co / Boston / U.S.”. Siegel sale 417 September 26, 1972, lot 1595.

(B) May 7, (1850-51); envelope; outbound; blue Clarke 73 Philadelphia cds, twice. To: “Thomas Lloyd Halsey Esqr. / Providence / Rhode Island”. Siegel sale 965 December 3, 2008, lot 1087, Geisler. Ex Hyzen.

Excluded Covers

Two covers have been excluded from the 15L5 census. Census letter (A) was an incoming ship letter from Rio de Janeiro, handstamped at the first United States port of call by the Philadelphia postmaster with a blue handstamp “numeral 12 in octagon,” double the usual numeral 6.²⁰ The ship’s captain was compensated and obligated to deliver the sealed mail bag to the postmaster, and accordingly not allowed to distribute letters to private individuals or businesses. Of course, neither would the postmaster engage a private post. Philadelphia blue “numeral 12 in octagon” by definition precluded service by Blood & Co. Furthermore, the dateline is not compatible with 15L5 service. January 8, 1845 was six months prior to the formation of DO Blood & Co. on June 30, 1845!

Census letter (B) is a far outlier devoid of mitigating factors. Blue Philadelphia circular datestamp, Clarke Type 73, has been recorded between October 26, 1849 and May 31, 1851.²¹ May 7th is consistent with either 1850 or 1851, and therefore a far outlier, well over one standard deviation. The 15L5 stamp was not cancelled, which warrants some caution. Outbound service was not compatible with Blood & Co. evidence based 15L5 business model at that time. Following June 1, 1846 *no dated* 15L5 covers entered the outbound mail. Neither does any salvaging collateral evidence exist such as Bloods labels, Bloods stationary, or contents mentioning Blood & Co.

15L5 Photographic Census

All 54 examples have been photographed, and posted on the Carriers and Locals Society website. Five are partial photographs, lacking a complete address (census numbers 2, 6, 47, 50, and 54). The full name and geographical location of two (census number 2 and 47), however, have been obtained from other correspondence, and given in parenthesis. The address of another was curiously mutilated and crossed out (census number 28).

²⁰ Tom Clarke, *A Catalog of PHILADELPHIA POSTMARKS, 18th Century to Present, Part II*, pages 12-46; 1990, Clarke.

²¹ Tom Clarke, *A Catalog of PHILADELPHIA POSTMARKS, 18th Century to Present, Part II*, pages 18-19; 1990, Clarke.

The images of 40 are in color, whereas 14 are black and white (census numbers 2, 6, 7, 10, 13, 17, 26, 30, 32, 38, 40, 47, 50, and 54).

15L5 Cover Data Base

Table 1 is the 15L5 Data Base. Assuming a 4% survival rate,²² 54 surviving examples suggests an original population in the order of 1350. Of 54 examples, 37 are dated. Excluding 2 far outliers, 35 dated covers are sufficiently clustered in a Bell shaped curve peaking in early 1847.

15L5 Cover Type

Table II summarizes the various cover types bearing a 15L5 stamp. The great majority of 54 recorded examples are typical folded letter cover sheets. However, seven were envelopes (census number 15, 24, 39, 42, 44, 45, and 46), two of which were valentine envelopes (census number 39 and 44).

Seven circulars were recorded (census number 11, 19, 21, 22, 25, 29, and 51), although none from Harnden & Co.²³ One was a pamphlet (census number 37), but none were wrappers.

15L5 Service Time

Confirmed service time has been obtained from the thirty seven *dated* genuine covers. The service *period* of 15L5 can be viewed in many different ways.

The year with greatest volume by far was 1847, **Figure 3**. The earliest recorded 15L5 was September 17, 1845, **Figure 4**. Latest dates are typically difficult. One reasonable outlier was February 24, 1848, **Figure 5**, whereas given no 1849 examples, two 1850 far outliers were too extreme. The latest recorded 15L5 cover definitively handled by Blood & Co was December 7, 1850. **Figure 6a** (census number 36) was internally dated “Saturday December 7th,” which according to the perpetual calendar was 1850. Furthermore, the letter contents, **Figure 6b** credibility refer to ‘Blood’s Despatch,’ a name not much used before 1848. The other (census number 37) was an 1850 year dated pamphlet. Thirty five clustered dated covers span almost 29 months. The 15L5 timeline of dated evidence is demonstrated by bar graph in **Figure 7**.

The broadest view of 15L5 longevity began even weeks earlier with a yet unidentified August 27, 1845 un-photographed cover, reported only once in the philatelic literature,²⁴ and not included in **Table I**. *The far extremes of possible 15L5 service were August 27, 1845 until December 7, 1850, more than 5 years 3 months.*

To the contrary, a narrow time period restricted to striding messenger stamps, defines the probable 15L5 end point at the sale of the next striding messenger stamp type. The earliest recorded Scott catalogue 15L6 was an early far outlier on June 30, 1846. *Therefore, September 17, 1845 earliest 15L5, until June*

²² Calvet M. Hahn, “The Beginning of Adhesive Postage In The U.S.,” *The Penny Post*, Vol. 5, No. 4, October 1995, page 22.

²³ Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, “Bloods Part 3: 15L3,” *The Penny Post*, Vol. 21, No. 3, July 2013, Whole No. 84, pages 48, 57.

²⁴ Robson Lowe, “Philadelphia Local Posts,” *The Chronicle* Vol. 28, No. 2, Whole No. 90, May 1976, page 86.

30, 1846 earliest 15L6 was only nine and one third months. The earliest 15L6 in cluster was almost a year later on August 7, (1847).

Moreover, the earliest “tied” 15L5 (the most certain 15L5 starting date) was seven weeks later than September 17th on November 5, 1845. The philatelic range for sale of 15L5 striding messenger stamps “tied” may start as late as November 5, 1845 until the 15L6 early outlier on June 30, 1846, less than eight months.

The most restrictive lifespan construct of 15L5 service is the “exclusive period,” when 15L5 stamps were the only stamps sold and serviced by Blood & Co., including all stamps and not restricted to striding messenger stamps. The preceding 15L4 stamps had lingered until the latest recorded on December 15, 1845. Although 15L6 may have begun by June 30, 1846, even earlier was a 15L7 on March 12, 1846. The data supports philatelic *15L5 service exclusivity less than three months, from December 16, 1845 after the latest 15L4, until March 11, 1846, before the earliest 15L7*. During this totally exclusive period, only one 15L5 example has been identified, dated February 25, 1846 (census number 4) shown in **Figure 8**.

Of the numerous possible philatelic constructs of 15L5 lifespan, the most reasonable period from dated evidence in **Table I** is **September 17, 1845 until February 24, 1848**. This philatelic period of 29.3 months has been chosen for the 15L5 analysis.

Two 1850 covers were well outside of the data base cluster, by more than one or two standard deviations (census number 36 and 37), and probably had been lost and misplaced stamps. Uncancelled stamps may also be understandably viewed with some reservation. Important mitigating factors, however, include contemporary auxiliary markings. Countless Philadelphia circular datestamps have been classified by Tom Clarke into respective time periods. Blood Handstamp Types have also been similarly classified. Both Clarke and Blood Handstamp Types may be helpful to support or refute questionable covers. An uncancelled stamp does not necessarily exclude service by Blood & Co.²⁵

The latest dated *outbound* 15L5 was tied to a June 22, 1846 cover (census number 9), shown in **Figure 9**. Including adjacent districts, the next twenty eight dated covers were local letters only.

15L5 Service Location

Final destinations of 15L5 covers were identified in **Table III**. Of 54 examples, the final geographical destination of 50 is known, approximately 93%. Four destinations are entirely unknown (census number 6, 28, 50, and 54), and listed in the data base as address “Unknown.”

Only seven of 50 known destinations, or 14%, were *outbound* “To the Mails,” collected from Blood’s boxes, and delivered to the Philadelphia post office to enter inter-city mail. Of these 7 examples only five are dated, all prior to July 1846. A sixth example (census number 24) was handed over to the Philadelphia post office on May 5, 1847 “outbound” to nearby Spring Garden District, **Figure 10**. An

²⁵ Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, “Bloods Part 4: 15L3,” *The Penny Post*, Vol. 21, No. 4, October 2013, Whole No. 85, pages 19, 29.

undated seventh cover in combination with an 1847 five cent general issue must have been after July 1, 1847.

Of the 50 known destinations, 43 were local deliveries, 86%. Of the 43 local door deliveries, 37 were in the City of Philadelphia, **Figure 11**. Blood & Co. also delivered 6 to adjacent districts, 5 of which had no post office (census number 4, 11, 17, 35, and 43). Census number 26, however, was strangely delivered by Blood & Co. to the forbidden Spring Garden side of the Vine Street boundary. Although Blood & Co. might have considered both sides of the Vine Street boundary in the old city, local authorities undoubtedly did not. This destination was technically in a district which had its own post office. Was Blood & Co pushing the edges of its territory on May 20, 1847? Because the city of Philadelphia renumbered all addresses in 1854, the Pennsylvania Historical Society has assisted and verified all prior address locations in this series of articles.

None of the 54 covers had been inbound, or “bootlegged” outside of the government mail system, and hand carried to Philadelphia for local delivery by Blood & Co.

Correspondence

For any given philatelic census, one addressee may have received more than one item. Two 15L5 covers were addressed to Perkins (census number 8 and 23). Two were addressed to Lindsay & Blakiston (census number 32 and 47). Campbell Morfit may have received two covers (census number 38 and 43), but in different locations.

Most notable, however, were seven addressed to George Carpenter (census number 19, 21, 22, 25, 29, 30, and 49), on the northeast corner of Eighth and Market. For simplicity, the map in **Figure 11** represented an entire correspondence by the earliest respective census number only, but in larger font. George Carpenter was the eminent chemist and druggist of Market Street,²⁶ and a Director for the Philadelphia Rail Road.²⁷ Carpenter received numerous circulars via Blood & Co. informing Board Directors of upcoming meetings. Blood & Co. promoted their service to deliver business and billing notices.

15L5 Cancel Types

The data base of 15L5 cancellations are summarized in **Table IV**. Seven of the 54 were not cancelled (census number 1, 7, 8, 10, 12, 39, and 50), whereas 47 covers were cancelled. *Only 5 were cancelled by handstamp*, 4 with red “PAID” (census number 4, 5, 40, and 41), demonstrated in **Figure 8**. Red PAID has appeared very infrequently, but listed in every census of this series. The fifth handstamp was Blood’s Type 9, appearing on one of the two 1850 far outlier (census number 37), **Figure 12**.

Manuscript cancels were by far the most common, appearing in one form or another on 42 covers, 89% of all cancelled covers, and 78% of the entire 15L5 data base. The most frequent manuscript form was “X” on 25 examples, figure 9. One

²⁶ *National Gazette*, October 6, 1832, page 2.

²⁷ *North American and United States Gazette*, January 17, 1852, Volume LXX, Issue 18352.

manuscript “W” and one “T” were probably unintended variations of “X.” One example was a single penstroke, half an “X.” Eleven were cancelled by a group of “dots” best demonstrated in figure 5. Three were cancelled by a combination of dots and penstroke. *May 1847 appears to be the conversion time from manuscript “X” to “four dots.”* Prior to May 1847, the great preponderance of 15L5 stamps show “X” cancels. Beginning in May 1847 the great preponderance were cancelled by a “group of dots”. The author submits that for 15L5 the four corners of the “X,” endpoints of each penstroke, were the deminimus vestiges remaining as four dots. Manuscript “X” cancel was abbreviated to four dots. A June 16, 1847 cover demonstrated a mixture, one penstroke and two dots, **Figure 13** (census number 27).

15L5 Cover Auxiliary Markings

Auxiliary markings provide additional postal information regarding handling and delivery. However, they were not intended to cancel stamps and prevent reuse. Auxiliary markings may also be either manuscript or handstamp. More than one marking may appear on a given cover. The many and various auxiliary markings on covers bearing a 15L5 stamp are listed in **Table V**.

Only 24% of the 15L5 covers include an auxiliary marking, 13 of 54 recorded covers. Of the 13, three covers were manuscript (census numbers 9, 10, and 53), and eleven covers bear handstamp markings. One cover was in each group (census number 9). Philadelphia post office handstamps appeared on 7 covers (census number 1, 2, 3, 7, 9, 24, and 38), whereas Blood’s handstamp markings appeared on only 4 covers (census number 6, 12, 15, and 37).

15L5 Tied to Cover

Precious few 15L5 stamps are tied to their cover, demonstrated in **Table VI**. Of the 54 recorded in the data base, *4 are tied with certainty*, only 7%! Two of the four were by Philadelphia post office circular datestamp (census number 3 and 24) shown in **Figure 10**. The other two were tied by Blood & Co., either red PAID handstamp or manuscript penstroke (respectively census number 5 and 43).

Two other examples might *possibly have been tied* by a “group of dots” cancel (census number 28 and 52), even though the requisite continuous marking across the stamp onto the cover does not exist. Since the “group of dots” configuration by its nature is not a continuous marking, a firm assertion is much more difficult, and at best a stretch. The dots cancel, however, was indeed common during the latter half of 15L5 service.

Notices

Blood & Co. promoted themselves for delivery of collection bills, business notices, advertisements, and printed circulars, **Figure 14**. Circulars or printed notices with 15L5 totaled 7 of 54, for 13% of the data base. Several circulars were in the Carpenter correspondence.

Envelopes

Pre-folded envelopes became commercially available in 1845. **Figure 15** is an early envelope newspaper advertisement.²⁸ Envelopes with 15L5 have been recorded as early as February 4, 1847 (census number 15). Unfortunately, most philatelic envelopes do not include the dated original letter contents.

15L5 for Valentines

Figure 16 (census number 34) is a fancy valentine envelope. The backflap was sealed by a 15L5 uncanceled stamp, but its valentine enclosure is missing. **Figure 17** (census number 39) is a very large envelope with cancelled 15L5 stamp. The enclosed valentine is the earliest fancy lace valentine handled by Blood & Co. known to the author.

Blood Advertising Labels

Colorful labels appeared by July 1847. **Table VII** identified advertising labels on four 15L5 covers. Each label promoted Blood & Co. business prowess and competitive advantage. The earliest recorded 15L5 cover was July 9, 1847, shown in **Figure 18**. The earliest label on any Blood & Co. cover known to the author is a stampless cover with black Blood Handstamp Type 4 from July 2, 1847.²⁹

Government Combinations

Combination of any Blood & Co. stamped cover with general issue postage stamp was not possible until July 1, 1847, the first date federal prepayment stamps were available for intercity service. Combination with 15L5, however, was unlikely since the data does not include dated outbound covers beyond June 1846, one year earlier.

Table I, however, includes a 5 cent 1847 tied to cover by Philadelphia circular datestamp (census number 38). This intriguing example unfortunately has not been examined in public for almost 50 years. A small black and white photo from an old auction catalogue shows only the top portion of the cover. The 15L5 stamp is not tied, and is only faintly cancelled by pen stroke. Its date is unknown. The auction catalog description references a Maryland destination, and “Blue ‘Philada, Pa. 5cts’ on cover,” consistent with Clarke Type 71a, which were recorded between January 7, 1847 and July 19, 1848.³⁰ While Scott 1 is tied, the untied lightly cancelled 15L5 may have been added years later. This cover has been included in

²⁸ *North American and Daily Advertiser* newspaper; August 5, 1845.

²⁹ Bill Sammis' email communication on October 5, 2013.

³⁰ Tom Clarke, *A Catalog of PHILADELPHIA POSTMARKS, 18th Century to Present, Part II*, pages 18, 19; 1990, Clarke.

the census, nonetheless, since the auction catalog unusual description of a “Bloods Tress on flap,” **Figure 19.**^{31,32}

Forbidden

Several districts adjacent to the City of Philadelphia had no post office, requiring residents to inconveniently travel elsewhere. Southwark and Moyamensing immediately south of the old city were adversely affected, as was Northern Liberties north of the city. *The Act of March 3, 1845 did not preclude Philadelphia private posts from business in Southwark, Moyamensing, and Northern Liberties.* Evidence of 15L5 service to these districts has been confirmed. **Table III** identified four covers delivered by Blood & Co. in Northern Liberties (census numbers 4, 11, 35, and 43), and one in Southwark (census number 17).

Two other districts immediately north of the City of Philadelphia, to the contrary, had their own United States post office. The District of Kensington established a post office on April 20, 1826,³³ and the District of Spring Garden on December 14, 1831.³⁴ Private service from the old city into these districts was therefore forbidden by the Act of 1845, at the risk of functioning like an Independent Mail Company, all of which recently closed.

The previous article considered the temptation for Blood & Co. to serve remote areas of a large district such as the Spring Garden. Spring Garden District bordered Philadelphia from 6th to 24th Street and the Schuylkill River. Stets³⁵ suggested that a post office may have existed in the far west of Spring Garden District, near 24th and Callowhill Street. However, *confirmation* by a reliable source has yet to be found. Two post office locations in the eastern portion of Spring Garden District have recently been identified very close to Callowhill Street. Callowhill ran east to west from the Delaware to the Schuylkill Rivers, several blocks north of and parallel to the city boundary of Vine Street.³⁶ A post office at “Ridge road near James”^{37,38} was one block north of 11th and Callowhill Streets. By 1837 this location was apparently replaced by a post office at 8th and Callowhill Streets,^{39,40,41} closer to the City of Philadelphia and un-served Northern Liberties.

³¹ Siegel sale 285, lot 649, March 31, 1965.

³² www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/tress

³³ John L. Kay & Chester M. Smith, Jr, *Pennsylvania Postal History*, page 331. Lincoln Mass.: Quarterman Publications, Inc., 1976.

³⁴ John L. Kay & Chester M. Smith, Jr, *Pennsylvania Postal History*, page 334. Lincoln Mass.: Quarterman Publications, Inc., 1976.

³⁵ Robert J. Stets and John L. Kay, *Independent Post Offices of Philadelphia County 1800-1867*, page 39, The Associated Stamp Clubs Of Southeastern Penna & Delaware, 1979.

³⁶ *McElroy's PHILADELPHIA DIRECTORY for 1845*, page 424, 8th Edition, Philadelphia: Ashmead 1845.

³⁷ DeSilver, *Philadelphia Directory and Strangers Guide, 1830*, “List of Institutions, Public Buildings” page 2.

³⁸ DeSilver, *Philadelphia Directory and Strangers Guide, 1835 & 1836*, “List of Institutions, Public Buildings” page 7, Philadelphia, 1835, Robert DeSilver.

³⁹ *A. McElroy's PHILADELPHIA DIRECTORY for 1837*, “List of Institutions, Public Buildings,” Philadelphia, Rackliff & Jones, 1837.

The data base identified two 15L5 covers addressed to the District of Spring Garden, both of course collected by Blood & Co. in the old city. Both were May 1847. The private post properly delivered figure 10 (census number 24) to the Philadelphia post office in recognition of a government post office in the Spring Garden District. Sadly, the total cost of transporting this letter less than two miles was at least seven, and possibly as much as nine cents! Two cents was prepaid by sender for Blood & Co. collection, 5 cents due from recipient for inter-city government mail, and possibly an additional 2 cents from the recipient if a Spring Garden carrier was necessary and available for door delivery. Had the address been comparably located in the far reaches of Northern Liberties, the total cost for private post collection to final destination door delivery would have been only two cents!

The second example to Spring Garden was census number 26. This address was an unnumbered location on the Vine Street boundary line. The addressee was a manufacturing company located at “NW 16th and Vine,”⁴² on the northern side of Vine, technically in the Spring Garden District, and the domain of the federal postal service. An isolated case inappropriately delivered by Blood & Co. Perhaps Blood & Co. “didn’t know any better,” and took some license rationalizing the address was ambiguous. **Table III** lists these two Spring Garden items as separate line items because of differing modes of handling and transportation to Spring Garden.

In early March 1848 a Blood & Co.’s newspaper advertisement, **Figure 20** clarified Blood & Co delivery service did *not* include Spring Garden or Kensington. By the end of March 1848, however, the public was indeed informed that several Blood & Co *collection* boxes had been established in the eligible districts of Northern Liberties and Southwark, **Figure 21**. While respectful of the postal laws, Blood & Co. was otherwise unfettered. **Figure 22** sketch map depicts the eligible zones for Blood & Co., or any private post, to conduct business to and from the old city. The original Stets map has been modified and improved to show the correct location of the Spring Garden post office during the second quarter of the nineteenth century.^{43,44}

Volume - Time Analysis

Excluding two late far outliers, 52 of 54 genuine 15L5 covers cluster between September 17, 1845 and February 24, 1848, for almost 30 months. The original 15L3 striding messengers totaled 37 covers over 18 months. Only 16 “provisional” 15L4 covers remain from 4 months. Total volume is clearly greatest

⁴⁰ *McElroy’s PHILADELPHIA DIRECTORY for 1845, “List of Public Institutions”, 8th Edition*, page 439, Philadelphia, Ashmead, 1845.

⁴¹ *McElroy’s, PHILADELPHIA DIRECTORY for 1849, 12th Edition*, page 452, Philadelphia, Edward & John Biddle, 1849.

⁴² *McElroy’s, PHILADELPHIA DIRECTORY for 1855*, page 424, 18th Edition, Philadelphia: Ashmead 1855.

⁴³ Robert J. Stets and John L. Kay, *Independent Post Offices of Philadelphia County 1800-1867*, page 39, The Associated Stamp Clubs Of Southeastern Penna & Delaware, 1979.

⁴⁴ Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, “Bloods Part 4: 15L4,” *The Penny Post*, Vol. 21, No. 4, October 2013, Whole No. 85, pages 23, 24, 25.

for 15L5. The philatelic lifespan for each striding messenger also varied considerably.

Figure 23 analyzed volume over time. At bottom, a numerical entry in the “Total Covers” row divided by the respective number from the “Months” row determined the amount in “Covers per Month” in the bottom row. Total volume over time is inversely proportional to lifespan.

The higher the “Total Cover” survivors, the higher is the “Covers per Month.” The longer the philatelic lifespan of “Months,” the lower is the “Covers per Month.” Simple math, but other factors are pertinent. *Due to its great longevity 15L5 stamps overlapped several other Blood & Co. stamp types.* “Exclusivity” is defined as a period when Blood & Co. was selling and handling only one stamp type. Exclusivity had not been considered in the preceding article, because a clear break between 15L3 and 15L4 occurred at the sale of The Philadelphia Despatch Post to Daniel Blood. **Figure 7** revealed the “15L4 exclusive period” as only several weeks in late summer, prior to the first 15L5 on September 17, 1845. Although the longest 15L5 lifespan was mentioned as well over 5 years, the “exclusive” period was less than 3 months, because Blood & Co. was servicing several stamp types during most of the 15L5 period. Since 15L3 and 15L4 did not overlap, volume over time was a useful index of business activity. After mid-September 1845 volume over time is more useful as an index of work type rather than for total business activity.

Volume by work type can be determined from **Figure 23**. Of 52 clustered covers, 50 have known geographical destinations. Outbound mail accounted for only 7, whereas 43 were local deliveries. How different and opposite from 15L4 covers which were overwhelmingly outbound.⁴⁵ *Unlike 15L4 service, the primary task of 15L5 soon became almost entirely local door delivery.*

Statistical analysis also depends upon study design. Far outliers were excluded because they would seriously distort 15L5 time period without any meaningful impact upon business activity.

Compared to the two preceding striding messenger stamps, 15L5 accounted for the greatest absolute total, the greatest absolute number of local deliveries, and the greatest volume per time of local deliveries. To the contrary, 15L5 was the lowest absolute number of outbound letters, and by far the lowest outbound covers per month rate, virtually disappearing after June 1, 1846.

Similar to predecessor 15L4 stamps, no privately carried “inbound” letters were identified.

Theory

Evidence based data suggests a change in Blood & Co. business model in June 1846. Beyond then no dated 15L5 outbound covers have been identified, and only one undated out of state example.

One year later in June 1847, Blood & Co’s usual 15L5 manuscript “X” cancel appears to have morphed into a “group of dots.” A transformative example was on June 16, 1847 (census number 27) showing aspects of both, one penstroke

⁴⁵ Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, “Bloods Part 4: 15L4,” *The Penny Post*, Vol. 21, No. 4, October 2013, Whole No. 85, pages 17, 18, 27, 28.

and two dots. At about the same time colorful advertising labels began to appear on some covers.

Summary

On July 1, 1845 DO Blood & Co. was one of only three private posts in the county dedicated solely to local mail delivery. Daniel Blood has just purchased the Philadelphia Despatch Post from Robertson, and reassured the public that outstanding 15L3 stamps were valid. Moreover, Blood & Co. sold the same adhesive stamps, but manuscript validated “D.O.Blood & Co.,” catalog 15L4. By mid-September, Blood & Co. prepared a new striding messenger stamp from the same template, printed with the namesake moniker “D.O. Blood & Cos.” across the top. Blood & Co.’s inaugural issue, 15L5 (Figure 2), was the first private post stamp in Philadelphia without manuscript validation.

Fifty four genuine 15L5 stamps on cover have been identified, including two 1850 far outliers. Census letter (A) was excluded as an impossible service type and date. Letter (B) was a highly unlikely uncanceled very far outlier without Blood & Co. collateral support. Excluding two 1850 far outliers, the most reasonable 15L5 philatelic lifespan determined from dated evidence is a period of 29.3 months, almost **30 months from September 17, 1845 until February 24, 1848**. The peak volume year was 1847. During the first nine months of 15L5 service, more than half of the 9 recorded covers were letters delivered by Blood & Co. across Third Street to the Philadelphia post office, outbound “to the Mails.”

After June 1846 the overwhelming majority of 15L5 covers were local door deliveries. Only two of the 45 remaining examples were delivered to the post office, one of which destined for nearby Spring Garden. The other special example was addressed out of state and combined with a tied 1847 five cent general issue stamp. Unfortunately, this example has not been seen in almost 50 years, and has no known specific date.

The data base of 54 recorded covers reveals the great majority were cancelled by various manuscript markings. Five were handstamp cancelled. Only 4, to perhaps at most 6, of the 47 cancels tied the stamp to the cover. Seven of 54 stamps were uncanceled.

During June 1847 the typical manuscript “X” cancel became abbreviated to a “group of four dots,” as the deminimus four end point vestiges of “X.” An evolutionary link was a June 16, 1847 cover (census number 27), comprised of a single penstroke and two dots.

By 1847 envelopes, pamphlets, and valentines with 15L5 were handled by this historic Philadelphia private post. Business was promoted in newspapers, advertisements, and by colorful labels with slogans.

D.O. Blood & Co respected the postal Act of 1845, and avoided postal service in Spring Garden and Kensington. Spring Garden was especially tempting given a long boundary line with the old city. Two very revealing 15L5 examples were census number 24 and 26, both collected by Blood & Co in the old city and addressed to Spring Garden. Census 24 destination was well inside Spring Garden, and properly delivered to the Philadelphia post office for inter-city mail, albeit exceedingly short range. Census 26, however, was addressed to an unnumbered

location on the Vine Street boundary, without clear indication of district, and delivered by Blood & Co., but nonetheless to Spring Garden. A test for the Philadelphia postmaster and The Act of 1845.

By early March 1848 newspaper advertisements clarified that Blood & Co would not deliver letters to Spring Garden or Kensington. Later that month, however, advertisements pronounced that Blood & Co. had planted their flag in Northern Liberties, Southwark, and Moyamensing by the establishment of collection boxes there!

On July 1, 1845 Daniel Blood had purchased the historic first and only private post ever in Philadelphia. For two years prior to the sale, Blood had lived near, worked near, and certainly walked passed on many occasions the Philadelphia Despatch Post office. A bold decision on the day the long arm of the Federal Government became much stronger, and while the new electric telegraph was under construction nearby in Pennsylvania.⁴⁶

During 1846 and 1847 Blood & Co. specialized their postal service. They also extended their own reach into the nearby districts of Northern Liberties and Southwark, and even tested the edges of Spring Garden. For over two and one half years, business volume was maintained and local delivery flourished. Against tremendous odds, Blood & Co. not only survived, but thrived, and for a long time to come.



⁴⁶ Vernon R. Morris, Jr., MD, "Bloods Part 4: 15L4," *The Penny Post*, Vol. 21, No. 4, October 2013, Whole No. 85, pages 25, 26.



Figure 1. Map of central old Philadelphia. “B1” and “B2” represent Daniel Blood’s residence: “B1” was the first location until 1846, after which Blood moved to “B2” in Southwark. Private post locations are “R1”, “R2” and “3”: “R1” was Robertson’s first office; “R2” was Robertson’s second office; “3” was Blood’s first office above the Girard Bank. “A”, “B”, and “C” show important institutions and newspapers: “A” is Independence Hall; “B” is the Philadelphia post office; “C” is the Public Ledger newspaper.

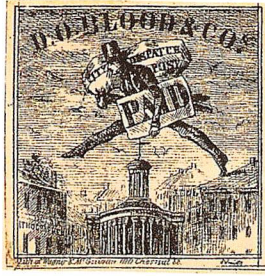


Figure 2. Uncancelled 15L5 adhesive stamp was the first “striding messenger” not requiring a manuscript validation control marking.

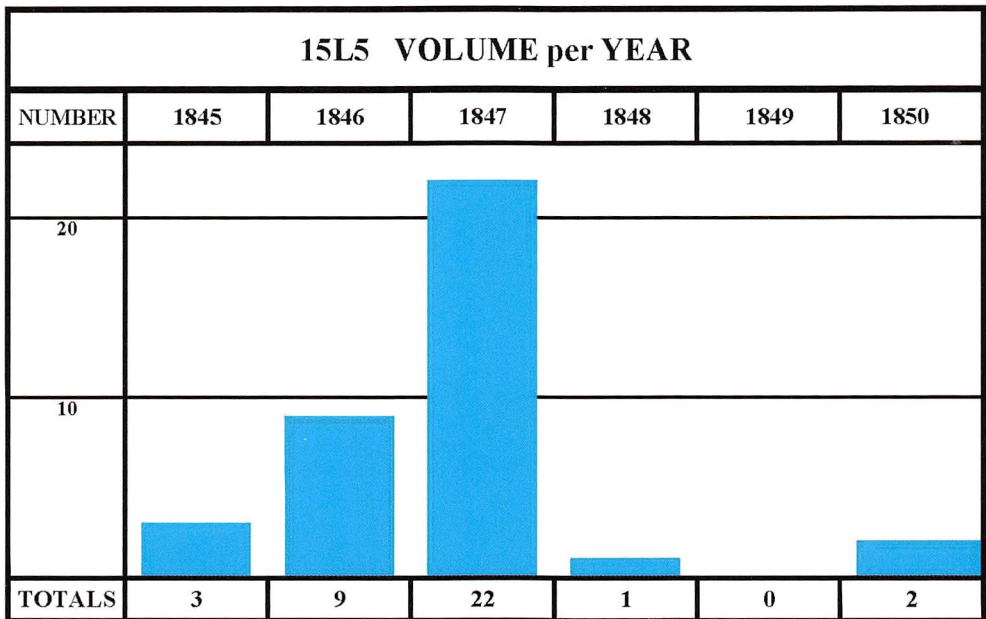


Figure 3. Volume of covers per year demonstrates 1847 by far the greatest.



Figure 4. The earliest recorded 15L5 cover was September 17, 1845, addressed to New York.

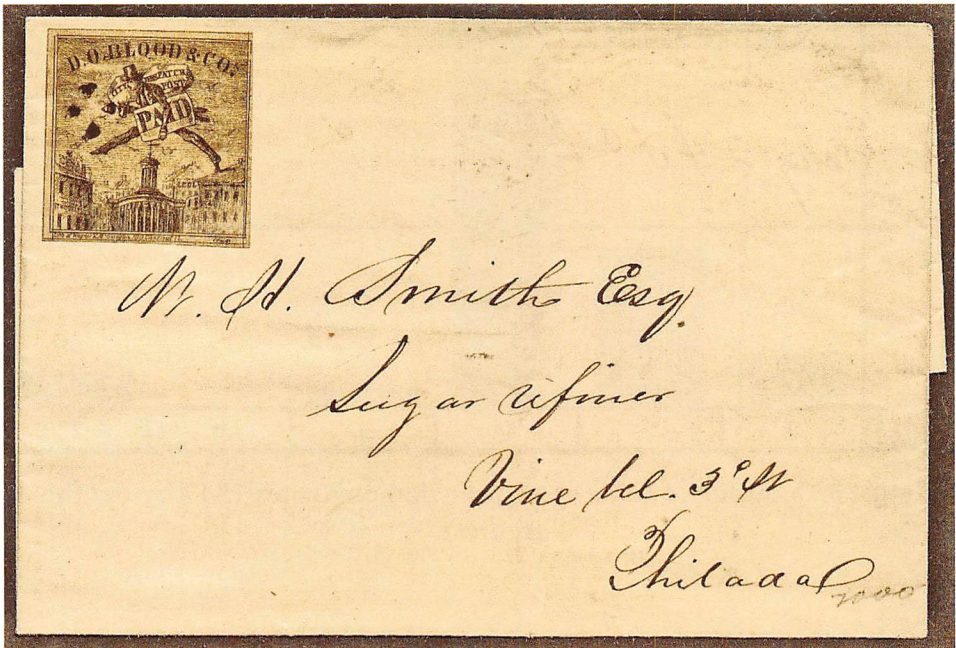


Figure 5. The latest recorded is a reasonable outlier dated February 24, 1848, addressed to Vine Street border and cancelled by a “group of dots,” and census number 35.



Figure 6a.

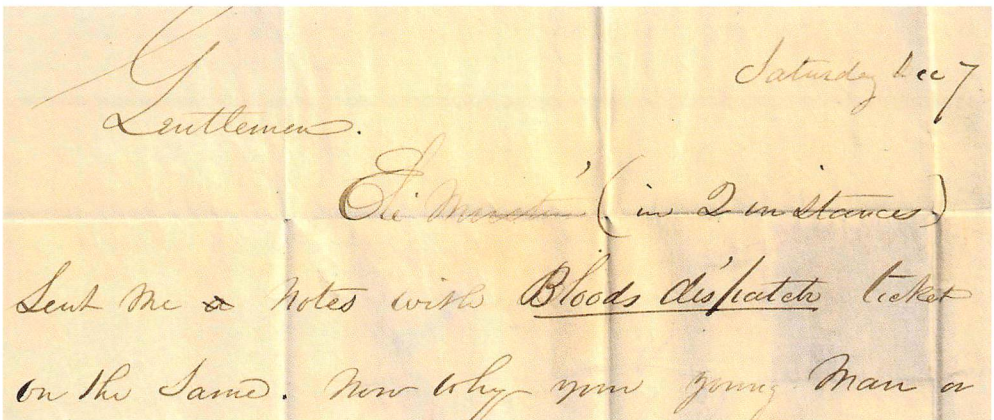


Figure 6b.

Figure 6. The latest 15L5 handled by Blood & Co. was a far outlier and cover shown in Figure 6a. The letter contents in Figure 6b reveal a “Saturday Dec 7” date which matches 1850, and supported further supported by the company name “Bloods Dispatch.”






D.O. BLOOD & CO.						
Year	1845	1846	1847	1848	1849	1850
15L4						
15L5						
Company Existence						

Figure 7. Reasonable service time for each stamp is represented in light blue. “Exclusive” sale and service for a single stamp is represented in red. The important dates for 1845 are August 5th beginning of 15L4, September 17th beginning of 15L5, and December 15th end of 15L4. Important dates in 1846 are March 12th beginning of 15L7. Important for 1848 is the end of 15L5 on February 24th. Important date in far outlier 15L5 on December 7th.



Figure 8. The only 15L5 cover during three months of exclusive service. Census number 4 is one of four examples cancelled by red PAID handstamp.



Figure 9. The latest dated outbound 15L5 cover on June 22, 1846, cancelled by manuscript "X," number 9.

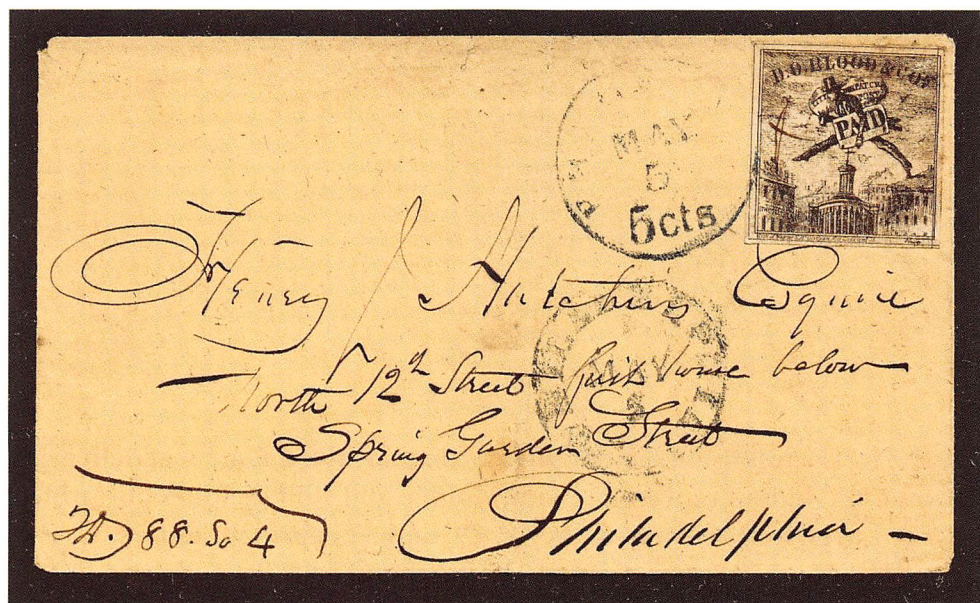


Figure 10. The only 15L5 of seven outbound covers delivered by the post office in Spring Garden District, was dated May 20, 1846, census number 24, and tied by Philadelphia circular datestamp.

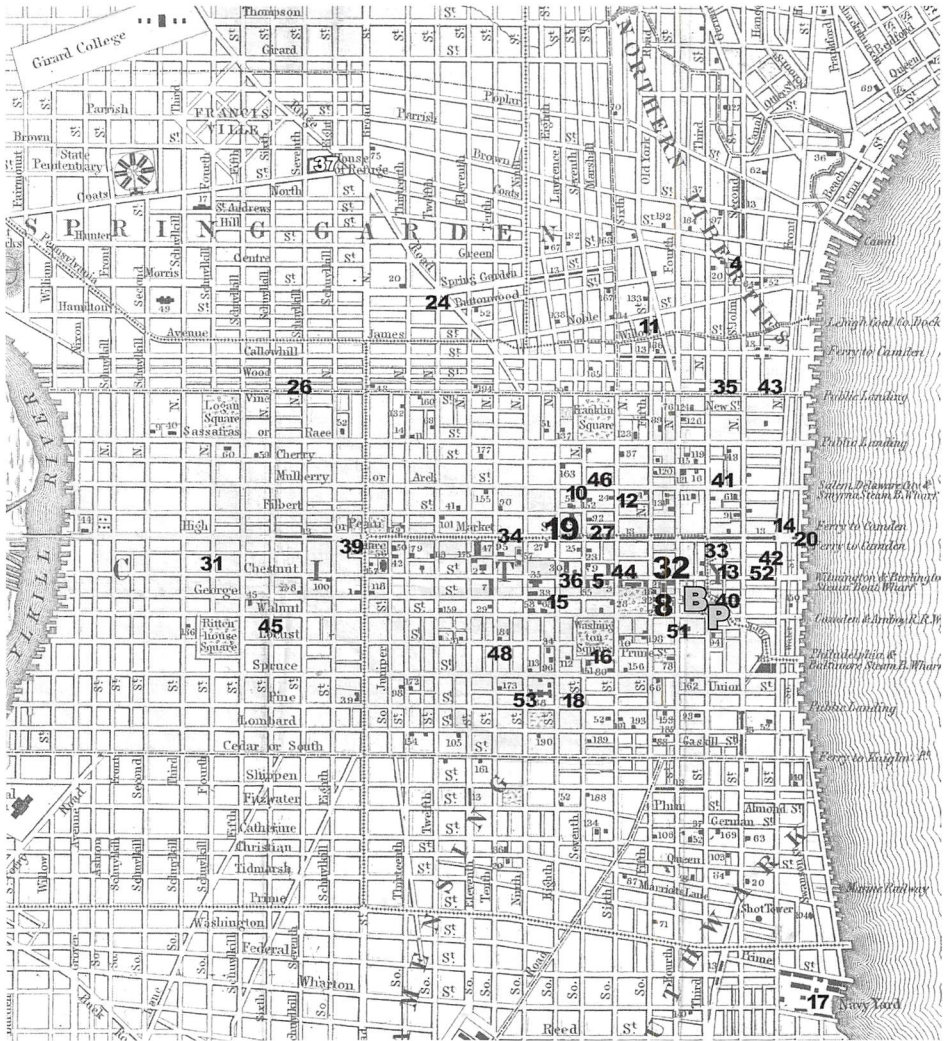


Figure 11. Locations on contemporary map of Blood Co. local deliveries. “B” and “P” letters represent Blood’s office and Philadelphia post office. Large font census number 8, 19, and 32 represent letters to known correspondence. White number “37” represents an origin rather than destination address.

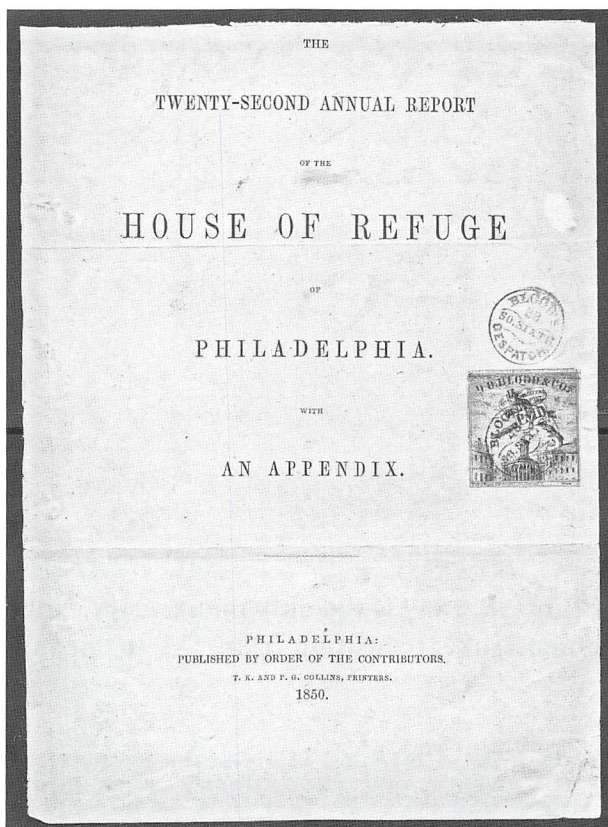


Figure 12a.



Figure 12b.

Figure 12. A far outlier on 1850 Annual Report shown in Figure 12a is census number 37. Figure 12b is an enlargement of the unique 15L5 Blood Handstamp Type 9 cancel.

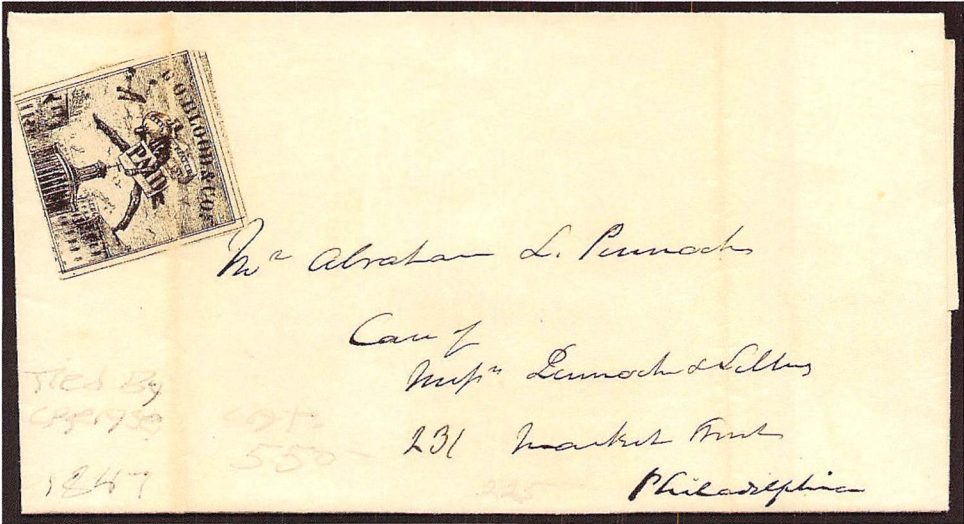


Figure 13. The June 16, 1847 is the only manuscript cancel showing two dots and one penstroke, transition from “X” to “group of 4 dots.”

BILLS FOR COLLECTION—Can be so convenient, cheap and expeditiously sent through **BLOOD'S DESPATCH**, that it is astonishing that many will still waste the time of themselves and clerks in running about presenting them.
 A single person can, through **BLOOD'S DESPATCH**, do One Hundred Errands in a day, for as many different persons, in all parts of the city. (d27 tmt)

Figure 14. Bills for Collections by Blood messengers advertised in December 27, 1847 newspaper.

Letter Envelopes.—A correspondent of a New York paper suggests that a great many young women could support themselves handsomely by cutting and folding letter envelopes. They are sold at 1s to 2s per dozen, and one active person may make a good many dozens in a day. Under the new post office law they will come into general use, and there will be an immense consumption of them.

Figure 15. The *North American and Daily Advertiser* newspaper advertisement for new letter envelopes.

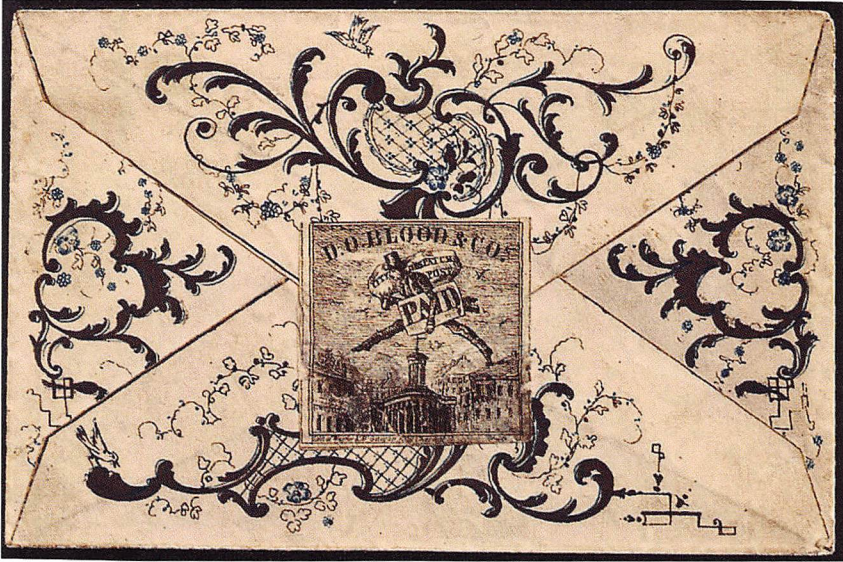


Figure 16a.



Figure 16b.

Figure 16. An undated fancy valentine envelope bearing uncanceled 15L5 stamp. Figure 16a is reverse, and Figure 16b is the front.

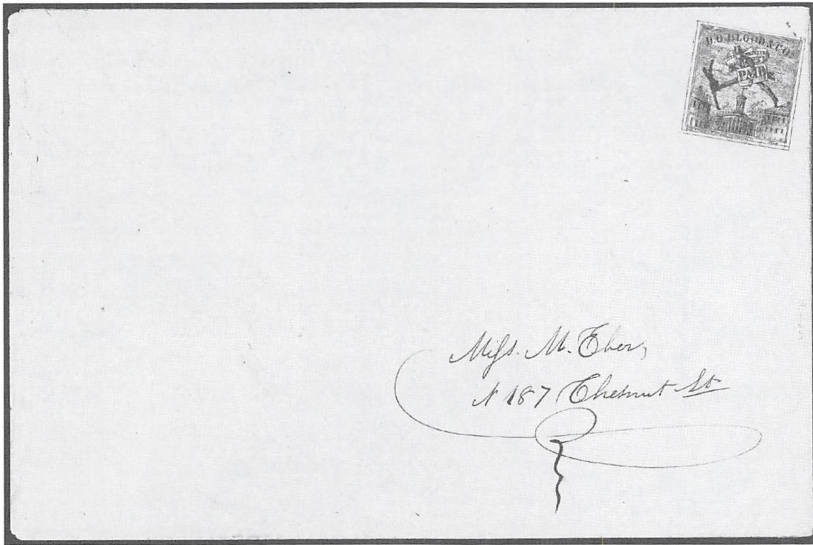


Figure 17a.

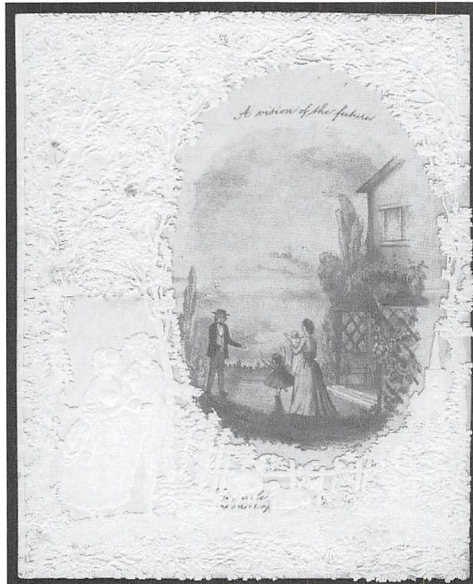


Figure 17b.

Figure 17. Undated envelope bearing 15L5 stamp in Figure 17a, and fancy lace valentine enclosure in Figure 17b.

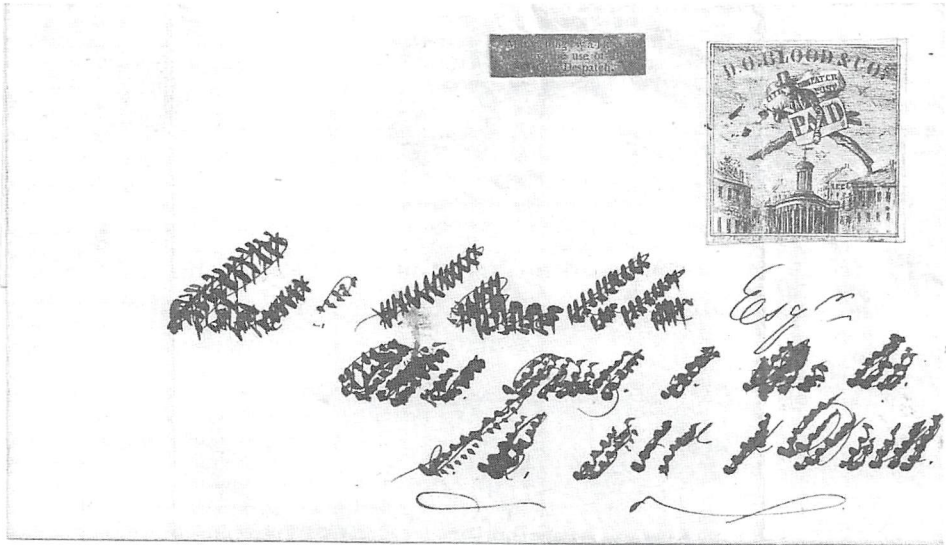


Figure 18. A very early 15L5 cover with pink Blood & Co. advertising label from July 9, 1847.



Figure 19a.


649  (3c) **Black on Grayish (15L5)**. Large margins, ms. cancel, 5c Red Brown (1). Large margins, tied by Blue "Philada, Pa. 5cts" on cover with Blood's Tress on flap, used to Maryland, ink has eaten thru cover in one minor spot, otherwise Very Fine, A Very Rare & most Attractive cover, Combination unlisted in Scott (Photo) E. X

Figure 19b.

Figure 19. The unique 15L5 in combination with 1847 5 cent has not been seen in 50 years, shown in Figure 19a. Important mitigating evidence comes from Figure 19b auction catalog Siegel sale 285, lot 649.

AN ERROR.—Some suppose "BLOOD'S DESPATCH" only takes letters to the Post office. This is a mistake. Letters are taken to all parts of the city and districts, except Kensington and Spring Garden, at the low rate of TWO CENTS each.

Figure 20. Advertisement in the Public Ledger on March 1, 1848 clarifying that Blood & Co does *not* deliver to Kensington or Spring Garden.

THE PROPRIETORS OF BLOOD'S DESPATCH, for the purpose of greater accommodation to the public, are extending their BOX STATIONS to the newly built portions of the City and Districts, and Boxes will now be found at the Drug Store in PORTER STREET, below FIFTH, Northern Liberties; corner of FIFTH and WASHINGTON STREETS, Southwark; corner of SCHUYLKILL Third and Lombard Streets, Schuylkill Fifth and Lombard Streets, and SCHUYLKILL Sixth and Pine Streets.

Figure 21. Public Ledger advertisement on March 29, 1848 clarifying that Blood & Co had established collection boxes in Northern Liberties and Southwark.

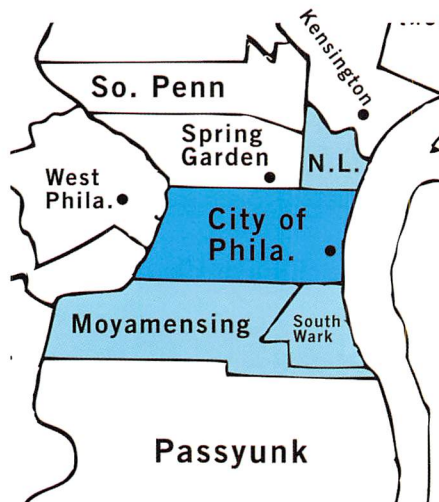


Figure 22. Modified Stets sketch map circa 1847 revealing government post offices by black dot. Municipalities in blue allowed service by Blood & Co. Blood & Co principal office was in the old City of Philadelphia which is dark blue. Three districts in light blue were served by Blood since they had no post office.

15L3, 15L4, 15L5 VOLUME per TIME									
Covers	Total Volume			Outbound			Local Delivery		
	15L3	15L4	15L5	15L3	15L4	15L5	15L3	15L4	15L5
4									
3									
2									
1									
0									
Total Covers	37	16	52	12	12	7	24	3	43
Months	17.75	4.3	29.3	17.75	4.3	29.3	17.75	4.3	29.3
Covers per Month	2.09	3.72	1.77	0.67	2.79	0.24	1.35	0.70	1.47

Figure 23. Volume over Time reveals that for Striding Messengers stamps to date, 15L5 accounted for the greatest absolute number of covers, the greatest absolute number of local deliveries, and the highest volume per time of local deliveries. To the contrary, 15L5 was the lowest absolute number of outbound letters, and by far the lowest rate of outbound covers per month.

Table I: Data base of 15L5 on cover includes 54 genuine examples, and 2 counterfeits.

	DATE	COVER	15L5	15L5 CANCEL	TIED	BLOOD'S LABELS
1	September 17, 1845	folded letter	-	uncancelled	no	
2	October 13, 1845	(folded letter)		dots	no	
3	November 5, (1845)	folded letter		manuscript "W"	Phila cds	
4	February 25, 1846	folded letter		red PAID handstamp	no	
5	March 27, 1846	folded letter		red PAID handstamp	red PAID	
6	May 6, 1846	folded letter		manuscript "X"	no	
7	May 23, 1846	folded letter		uncancelled	no	
8	May 26, 1846	folded letter	wafer attached	uncancelled	no	
9	June 22, 1846	folded letter		manuscript "X"	no	
10	November 11, 1846	folded letter		uncancelled	no	
11	December 19, 1846	circular	damaged stamp	manuscript "X"	no	
12	1846	folded letter		uncancelled	no	
13	January 18, 1847	folded letter		manuscript "X"	no	
14	January 26, 1847	folded letter		manuscript "X"	no	
15	February 4, (1847)	envelope		manuscript "X"	no	
16	February 25, 1847	folded letter		manuscript "X"	no	
17	March 6, 1847	folded letter		manuscript "X"	no	
18	April 2, 1847	folded letter		manuscript "X"	no	
19	April 8, 1847	circular		manuscript "X"	no	
20	April 14, 1847	folded cover		manuscript "X"	no	
21	April 15, 1847	circular		manuscript "X"	no	
22	April 1847	circular		manuscript "T"	no	
23	May 4, 1847	folded letter		dots	no	
24	May 5, 1847	envelope		manuscript "X"	Phila cds	
25	May 14, 1847	circular		dots	no	
26	May 20, 1847	folded letter		dots	no	
27	June 16, 1847	folded letter		dots and penstroke	no	

Table 1. cont'd.

AUXILIARY MARKINGS	ADDRESSEE	OUTBOUND	
blue Clarke 59a Philadelphia cds blue numeral 5 in double circle	Walker R Jones Esqre / Atlantic Ins Company/ Wall Street New York	NEW YORK	1
(blue) Philadelphia cds (blue) numeral 5 in double circle, twice	Hon H Richards Esq (136 Front Street, New York)	NEW YORK	2
blue Clarke 60a Philadelphia cds blue numeral 10 in double circle	Mr Charles Ellet Jr / Rochester / New York	NEW YORK	3
none	R. Shoemaker / S W corner of 2nd & Green sts / Phila	Northern Liberties District	4
none	Joseph H. Dulles, Esq. / Care Sec. of the / "Pennsylvania Bible Society" / Philadelphia		5
(red) Blood's Type 5 "PAID" handstamp	Unknown		6
(blue) Clarke 57a Philadelphia cds	Messrs Brown & Nelson / Merchants / New York	NEW YORK	7
none	Samuel H. Perkins Esq / Walnut St, below 5th Av / Present		8
blue Clarke 57a Philadelphia cds manuscript "10"	Messrs Lagill Perkins & Co / Bridgewater / Mass	MASSACHUSETTES	9
manuscript "PAID"	John Lisle Esq / No 160 Arch street / Philadelphia		10
none	Jeremiah Willetts / 5th below Noble	Northern Liberties District	11
red Blood's Type 4 "2Cts" handstamp	Robt Smethurst / Esq / 51 North Sixth Streets		12
none	Geo Follin Esq. / Pres Bk of Commerce / Chesnut & 2nd		13
none	George M. Cooper Esqr / No 3 N. Front St / Phila		14
red Blood's Type 4 "2Cts" handstamp	George Jenkins Jr ' No 38. Sansom Street.		15
none	Madam Sigoigne / No 7 Locust St above 6th / opposite Washington Square / Philada		16
none	John Lendhall Esq / Navy Yard	Southwark District	17
none	Wm S. Perot, Esq / 247 Pine		18
none	Geo. W. Carpenter Esq		19
none	Mssrs Rowley Ashburner 7 Co / Merchants / South Wharves. / Phila		20
none	G. W. Carpenter Esq		21
none	Geo. W Carpenter Esq		22
none	Saml. H. Perkins Esq. / Atty & Counselor / 141 1/2 Walnut St. / Philada		23
blue Clarke 71a Philadelphia cds blue Clarke 57a Philadelphia cds	Henr J Hutchins Esquire / North 12th Street first house below Spring Garden Street / Philadelphia	SPRING GARDEN DISTRICT	24
none	Geo. W. Carpenter Esq Market n 8th		25
none	Mafrs Rosengarten & Dennis / Schl 7th & Vine Sts / Philadelphia	Spring Garden District	26
none	Mr Abraham L. Finnach / Care of / Msr Pinach & Bilb 231 Market Street / Philadelphia		27

Table 1. cont'd.

	DATE	COVER	15L5	15L5 CANCEL	TIED	BLOOD'S LABELS
28	July 9, 1847	folded letter		dots	(dots)	Pink Blood's advertising label
29	July 14, 1847	circular		dots	no	
30	July 27, 1847	folded letter		dots	no	
31	August 20, 1847	folded letter		dots	no	
32	October 20, 1847	folded cover		dots	no	
33	October 27, 1847	folded cover		manuscript "X"	no	
34	November 11, 1847	folded cover		manuscript "X"	no	Yellow Blood's advertising label
35	February 24, 1848	folded letter		dots	no	
36	December 7, (1850)	folded letter		single dot	no	
37	1850	pamphlet		Blood's Type 9 handstamp	no	
38	Undated	folded cover		manuscript "X"	no	
39	Undated	valentine envelope		uncancelled	no	
40	Undated	folded letter		red PAID handstamp	no	
41	Undated	folded letter		red PAID handstamp	no	
42	Undated	envelope		manuscript "X"	no	
43	Undated	folded cover		smeared pen stroke	pen stroke	
44	Undated	valentine envelope		manuscript "X"	no	
45	Undated	envelope		manuscript "X"	no	
46	Undated	envelope		faint manuscript "X"	no	
47	Undated	folded letter		manuscript "X"	no	
48	Undated	folded cover		manuscript "X"	no	
49	Undated	folded cover		manuscript "X"	no	
50	Undated	folded letter		uncancelled	no	
51	Undated	printed ad		dots and penstroke	no	Green Blood's advertising label
52	Undated	folded letter	damaged stamp	dots and penstroke	(dots)	
53	Undated	folded letter	damaged cover	manuscript "X"	no	Blue Blood's advertising label
54	Undated	(folded cover)		manuscript "X"	no	
A	January 8, 1845	folded letter		dots	no	
B	May 7, (1850-51)	envelope		uncancelled	no	

Table 1. cont'd.

AUXILIARY MARKINGS	ADDRESSEE	OUTBOUND	
none	Unknown		28
none	Geo. W. Carpenter Esqr		29
none	Geo. W. Carpenter Esqr N E Corner 8 & market		30
none	Mrs Mary Simpson / Care of Stephen Simpson Esq / Schuylkill 4th n Chesnut St / Philadelphi		31
none	Lindsay & Blakiston / N.W. corner of Chesnut & 4th St / Philadelphia		32
none	Mr. Edward Whelan / Broker / South 3rd Street		33
none	Mr J. Mickley / Market st below 10th		34
none	W.H. Smith Esq / Sugar refiner / Vine bel. 3rd St / Philada	Northern Liberties District	35
none	Cornelius & Co. / Chesnut St		36
Blood's Type 9 handstamp	Twenty Second Annual Report / House of Refuge / Philadelphia		37
1847 5 cent stamp tied by Phila ods	Mr C Morfit (Esq / Pikesville / Baltimore Co. / Md)	MARYLAND	38
none	Miss U. McAllister / Penn Square near / Market		39
none	Mr Wm H. Addams / South 3rd St / Philadelphia		40
none	Miss Emily T Townsned / 101 Arch St / Philadelphia		41
none	David S. Brown Esq. (pencil) 38 So Front		42
none	Campbell Morfit Esq / No 21 Vine St / Philadelphia	Northern Liberties District	43
none	Miss M. Eber / N 187 Chesnut St		44
none	Misses Espy / Schuyl 6th below Walnut St. / Phila		45
none	Miss. Elizabeth Haines / No. 217 Arch St.		46
none	Messrs Lindsay & (Blakiston) / n.w. Corner of (Chesnut & 4th St)		47
none	Miss Mary C. Young / No 145 South Sixth St / Philadelphia		48
none	Geo W Carpenter Esq		49
none	Unknown; (Mr. C. Sch -----)		50
none	James S. Smith Esquire / South 4th St. / below Walnut. / Philada		51
none	Mr Henry Trotter Esq / 35 Chesnut St		52
manuscript "PAID"	Honr Judge Cambell / No 269 Pine St		53
none	Unknown; (-----ell)		54
(blue) Clarke 60a Philadelphia ods	Messre Wm. Appleton & Co / Boston / U.S.	MASSACHUSETTES	A
(blue) numeral 12 in double circle; (blue) SHIP			
blue Clarke 73a Philadelphia ods	Thomas Lloyd Halsey Esqr. / Providence / Rhode Island	RHODE ISLAND	B

Table II. Cover types or printed matter bearing a 15L5 adhesive stamp.

15L5 COVERS		
Total	Cancel Type	Census Number
30	Folded Letter	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,12,13,14,16,17,18,23, 26,27,28,30,31,35,36,40,41,47,50,52,53
9	Folded Cover Sheet	20,32,33,34,38,43,48,49,54
7	Envelope	15,24,39,42,44,45,46
7	Circular	11,19,21,22,25,29,51
1	Pamphlet	37
54	All Types	

Table III. Summary of 15L5 address destinations grouped by Blood & Co, at top, and government post office at bottom.

15L5 ADDRESS		
Total	Location	Census Number
37	Philadelphia Old City	5,8,10,12,13,14,15,16,18,19,20,21,22, 23,25,27,29,30,31,32,33,34,36,37,39, 40,41,42,44,45,46,47,48,49,51,52,53
4	Northern Liberties District	4, 11, 35, 43
1	Southwark	17
1	Spring Garden District	26
1	Spring Garden District	24
4	New York, NY	1, 2, 3, 7
1	Massachusettes	9
1	Maryland	38
4	Unknown	6, 28, 50, 54
54	All Locations	

Table IV. Summary of 15L5 cancel types.

15L5 CANCEL		
Total	Cancel Type	Census Number
25	Manuscript "X"	6,9,11,13,14,15,16,17,18,19,20,21,24 33,34,38,42,44,45,46,47,48,49,53,54
1	Manuscript "T"	22
1	Manuscript "W"	3
1	Single pen stroke	43
11	Dots	2,23,25,26,28,29,30,31,32,35,36
3	Dots and Pen stroke	27,51,52
4	Red "PAID" handstamp	4,5,40,41
1	Blood's Handstamp	37
7	Uncancelled	1,7,8,10,12,39,50
54	Total	

Table V. Summary of 15L5 auxiliary markings identified on thirteen covers, grouped at top by government handstamps, middle by Blood & Co. handstamps, and bottom as manuscript.

15L5 AUXILIARY MARKINGS		
Total	Handstamp Type	Census Number
3	Philadelphia (Clarke 57a) cds	7, 9, 24
1	Philadelphia (Clarke 59a) cds	1
1	Philadelphia (Clarke 60a) cds	3
1	Philadelphia (Clarke 71a) cds	24
2	Philadelphia cds	2, 38
2	Numeral 5 in Double Circle	1, 2
1	Numeral 10 in Double Circle	3
0	Numeral 2 in Double Circle	0
2	Blood's Type 4 Handstamp	12, 15
1	Blood's Type 5 Handstamp	6
1	Blood's Type 9 Handstamp	37
2	Manuscript "PAID"	10, 53
1	Manuscript "10"	9
41	None	4,5,8,11,13,14,16,17,18,19,20,21,22,23 25,26,27,28,29,30,31,32,33,34,35,36,39 40,41,42,43,44,45,46,47,48,49,50,51,52,54
18	All Types (13 covers)	1,2,3,6,7,9,10,12,15,24,37,38,53

Table VI. Summary of 15L5 stamps tied to cover by cancel and/or auxiliary marking.

15L5 TIED to COVER		
Total	Marking Type	Census Number
2	Philadelphia CDS	3, 24
1	Red "PAID" handstamp	5
1	Pen stroke	43
2	<i>Possibly tied</i> by dots	28, 52
6	All Types	

Table VII. Four 15L5 covers are recorded with Blood & Co. advertising label.

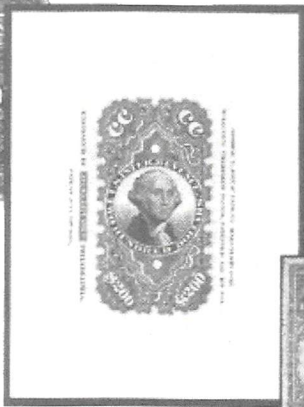
15L5 ADVERTISING LABELS		
Total	Label Color	Census Number
1	Pink	28
1	Yellow	34
1	Dark Green	51
1	Dark Blue	53
4	All Types	

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