

OREGON TERRITORIALS

In 1847, the United States Post Office signed a contract to initiate mail delivery by ship from New York, via Panama, "to Astoria touching at Monterey, St. (sic) Francisco, and such other places on the coast at the Postmaster General may direct." In the same act, post offices were authorized at Astoria and Oregon City, the first post offices established west of the Rocky Mountains.

It would be 1849, however, before the Pacific Mail Steamship Company began service from Panama up the west-coast. When the ship California brought the first government mail from the east, the California gold-rush had changed the post office's priorities. San Francisco became the primary port of call for PMSC steamships and Astoria was at the end of a branch line from San Francisco. So it is not surprising that, although Astoria and Oregon City post offices were authorized in 1847, the first dated government mail seen from these offices is from 1849.

The Oregon Territory had been created on August 14, 1848, and included what would become the states of Oregon, Washington, Idaho and part of western Montana. In 1849 additional post offices were opened at Portland and Salem - in 1850 and thereafter additional Oregon Territorial Post Offices were opened. The map on the previous page shows the location of territorial post offices represented in this exhibit. Covers are shown chronologically by date of post office opening with current county locations in parentheses.

On March 2, 1853, the Washington Territory was created out of the Oregon Territory, so mail originating at post offices north of the Columbia River before March 2, 1853 is considered to be Oregon Territorial Mail. Oregon achieved statehood 150 years ago on February 14, 1859, bringing an end to the territorial period.

POSTAL RATES

Until June 30, 1851

Transcontinental letter rate, ½ oz.	40 cents
West-coast rate, ½ oz.	12½ cents (see next page)
Unsealed circulars to 1 oz.	3 cents

July 1, 1851 - March 30, 1855

Transcontinental rate prepaid, ½ oz.	6 cents
Transcontinental rate unpaid, ½ oz.	10 cents
West-coast rate prepaid, ½ oz.	3 cents
West-coast rate unpaid, ½ oz.	5 cents

Sept 30, 1852 to statehood

Unsealed circulars, prepaid up to 3 oz.	1 cent
Unsealed circulars, unpaid up to 3 oz.	2 cents

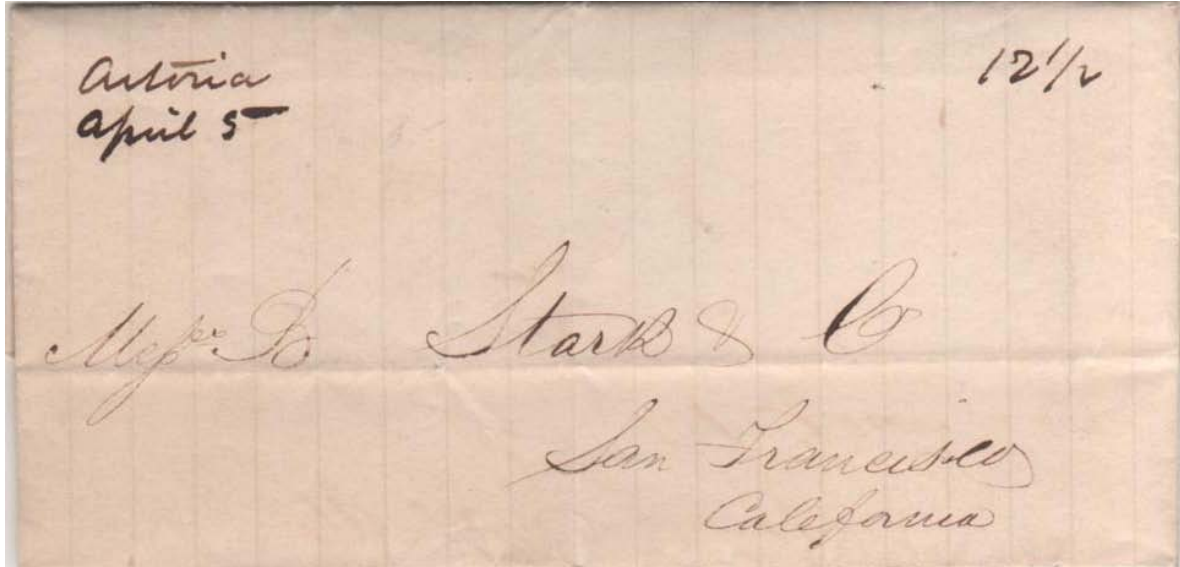
April 1, 1855 to statehood (all mail must be prepaid)

Transcontinental rate, ½ oz.	10 cents
West-coast rate, ½ oz.	3 cents

OREGON TERRITORIALS

ASTORIA (Clatsop)

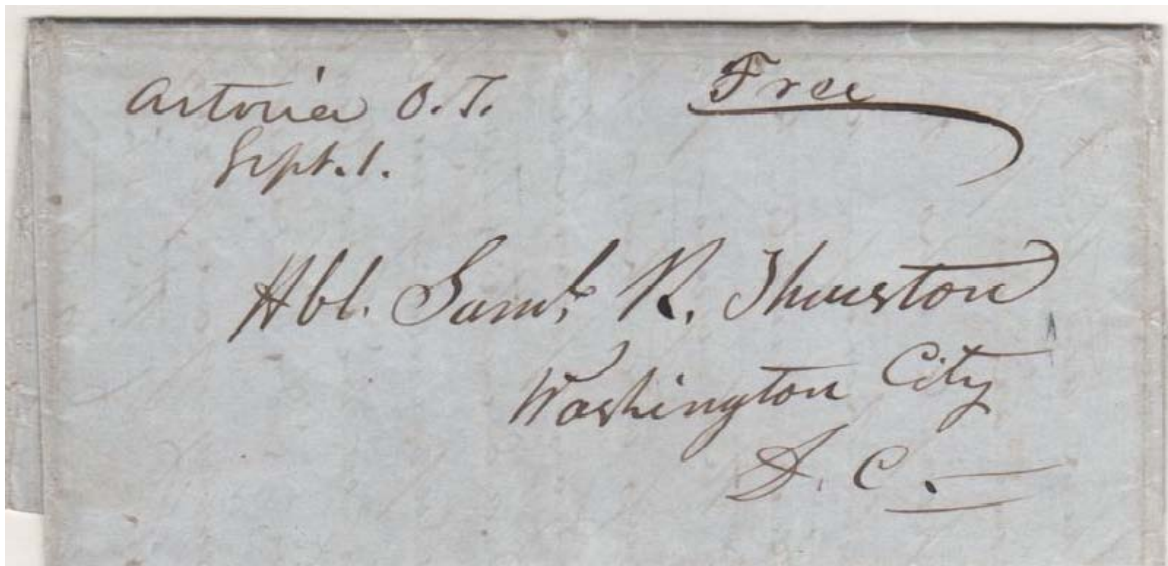
EST. 9 MARCH 1847



FIRST POSTOFFICE WEST OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS

John Shively, first postmaster - No covers reported until 1849

April 5, 1850 - Only recorded 12½ cent west-coast rate from Oregon



1 September 1850 - Free mail to Territorial Representative in Washington D.C.
Letter from William Gray, missionary, complains about evils of alcoholic beverages.

OREGON TERRITORIALS

ASTORIA (Clatsop)

EST. 9 MARCH 1847



23 Feb 1851, first handstamp, earliest recorded use
40 cents transcontinental rate (to June 30, 1851)
By ship via San Francisco and Panama to New York



9 Aug (1851 or 1852), first handstamp
Mailed onboard Columbia River steamboat, marked "Way 6"
5 cent collect rate to San Francisco plus 1 cent way fee retained by ship captain

OREGON TERRITORIALS

ASTORIA (Clatsop)

EST. 9 MARCH 1847



34 June 1853, second handstamp, double 6 cent prepaid transcontinental rate
California Miner's Envelope "WRITING HOME" published by J.M. Hutchings, San Francisco
Steamship via San Francisco and Panama

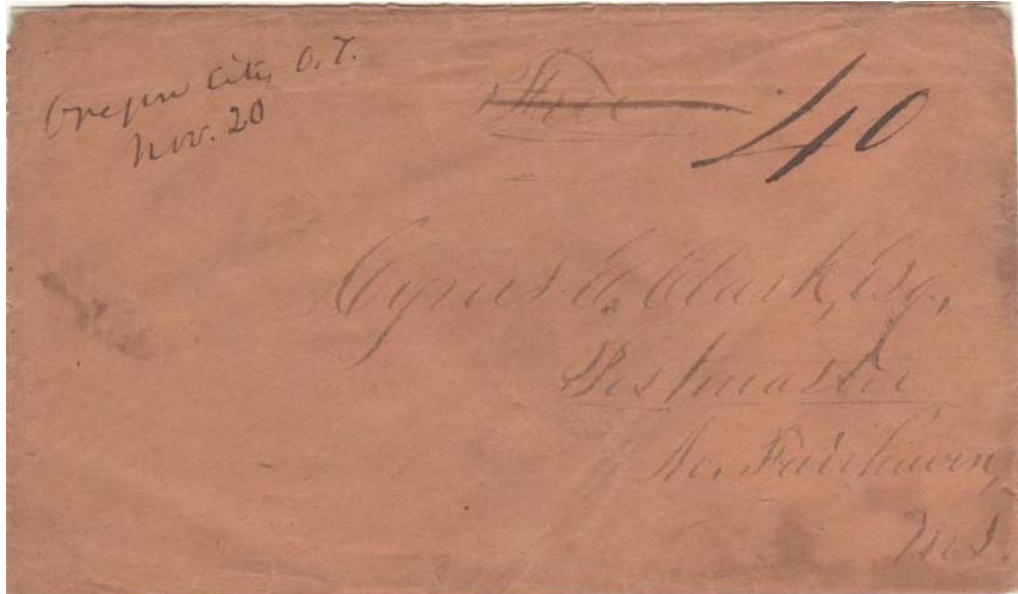


11 July 1854, second handstamp, "Due 5"
Prepaid transcontinental rate was 6 cents - here prepaid only 3 cents
Addressee charged half the 10 cent collect rate - Via Panama steamship

OREGON TERRITORIALS

OREGON CITY (Clackamas)

EST. 29 MARCH 1847



20 November (1848?) - earliest recorded use of manuscript cancel

Latest manuscript cancel recorded is 20 October 1849

Earliest handstamp cover is 29 October 1849 with no later manuscript cancels recorded

40 cent collect transcontinental rate - Steamship via Panama



1 March 1850, first handstamp, straight-line PAID

40 cent prepaid transcontinental rate - Steamship via Panama

OREGON TERRITORIALS

OREGON CITY (Clackamas)

EST. 29 MARCH 1847



Letter headed Table Rock City (near Jacksonville),
"Paid 50" Dugan's Express charge for overland carriage to Oregon City
24 August 1852 Oregon City handstamp and "10" for collect transcontinental rate



Aug 11 (inverted) in Oregon City handstamp, circa 1853
5 for collect rate to Canyonville in Douglas County

OREGON TERRITORIALS

OREGON CITY (Clackamas)

EST. 29 MARCH 1847



23 July (circa 1853) Oregon City handstamp in blue ink
Double 6 cent prepaid transcontinental rate
Steamship via San Francisco and Panama to New York



22 May (circa 1853) Oregon City handstamp
Straight-line PAID handstamp and 6 in manuscript for prepaid transcontinental rate

OREGON TERRITORIALS

OREGON CITY (Clackamas)

EST. 29 MARCH 1847



26 June (circa 1858) Oregon City handstamp
3 cent Nesbitt envelope for prepaid rate to Deer Creek (now Roseburg)



20 Feb 1858 Oregon City handstamp
24 cents paid in stamps for rate to Ireland

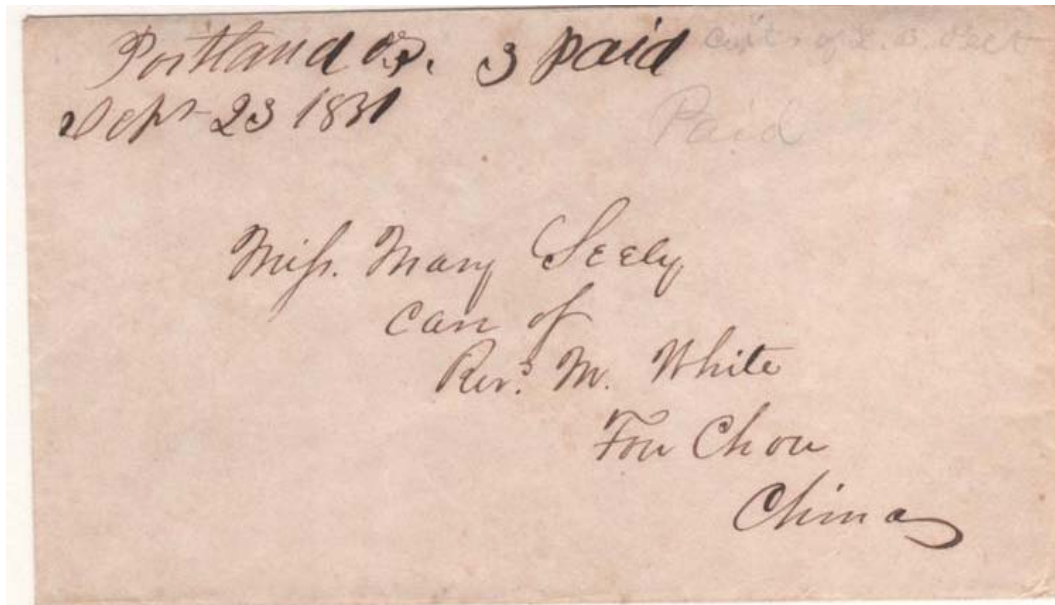
OREGON TERRITORIALS

PORTLAND (Multnomah)

EST. 8 NOVEMBER 1849



Letter headed "Cowlitz River, 21 Nov 1847", carried privately to Portland "Portland O.T., 23 Nov '49" in handwriting of first postmaster, Thomas Smith "40 Paid" for transcontinental rate - EARLIEST RECORDED PORTLAND



"Portland O.T., Sept 23, 1851" in handwriting of second postmaster, Edwin Comfort "3 Paid" for rate to San Francisco, private ship to Canton and Foo Chou, China EARLIEST RECORDED OREGON TERRITORIAL TO A FOREIGN DESTINATION

OREGON TERRITORIALS

PORTLAND (Multnomah)

EST. 8 NOVEMBER 1849



9 Feb 1852, first Portland O.T. handstamp "Free" to Territorial Governor, Joseph Lane Steamship via San Francisco and Panama



5 April 1852, first Portland O.T. handstamp "2" for collect drop letter to Benjamin Stark
No carrier delivery to Portland street addresses until 1880s

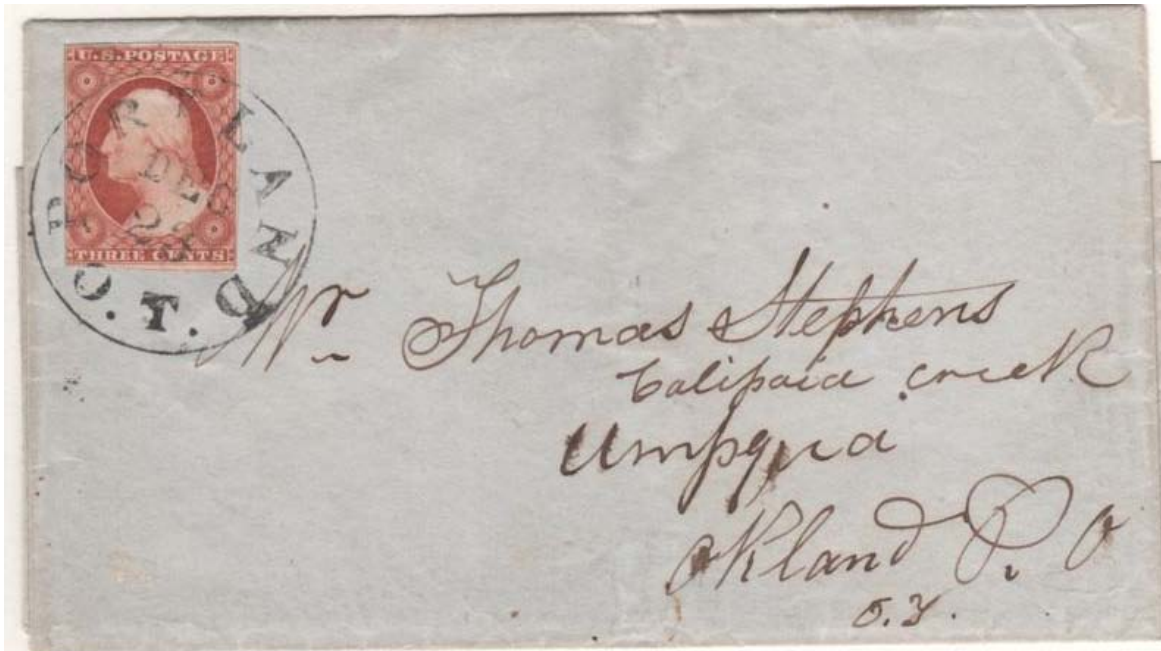
OREGON TERRITORIALS

PORTLAND (Multnomah)

EST. 8 NOVEMBER 1849



11 Nov (circa 1853), second Portland O.T. handstamp
PAID 3 in cash for local west-coast rate to Oakland O.T.



23 Dec (circa 1853), second Portland O.T. handstamp
3 cent stamp for local west-coast rate to Oakland O.T.

OREGON TERRITORIALS

PORTLAND (Multnomah)

EST. 8 NOVEMBER 1849



19 Jan 1853 second Portland O.T. handstamp in black ink
6 cents paid in stamps for prepaid transcontinental rate



13 Sep 1853 second Portland O.T. handstamp in red ink
Red ink was used in Portland for a few months in late 1853
6 cents paid in stamps for prepaid transcontinental rate

OREGON TERRITORIALS

PORTLAND (Multnomah)

EST. 8 NOVEMBER 1849



15 Jan (circa 1854), second Portland O.T. handstamp
"5" handstamp for west-coast collect rate to Salem O.T.



16 Dec (circa 1854), second Portland O.T. handstamp
"PAID 6" handstamp for prepaid transcontinental rate to Connecticut

OREGON TERRITORIALS

PORTLAND (Multnomah)

EST. 8 NOVEMBER 1849



3 March 1858, second Portland handstamp
"PAID 10" for prepaid transcontinental rate (1 April 1855 - 30 June 1863)

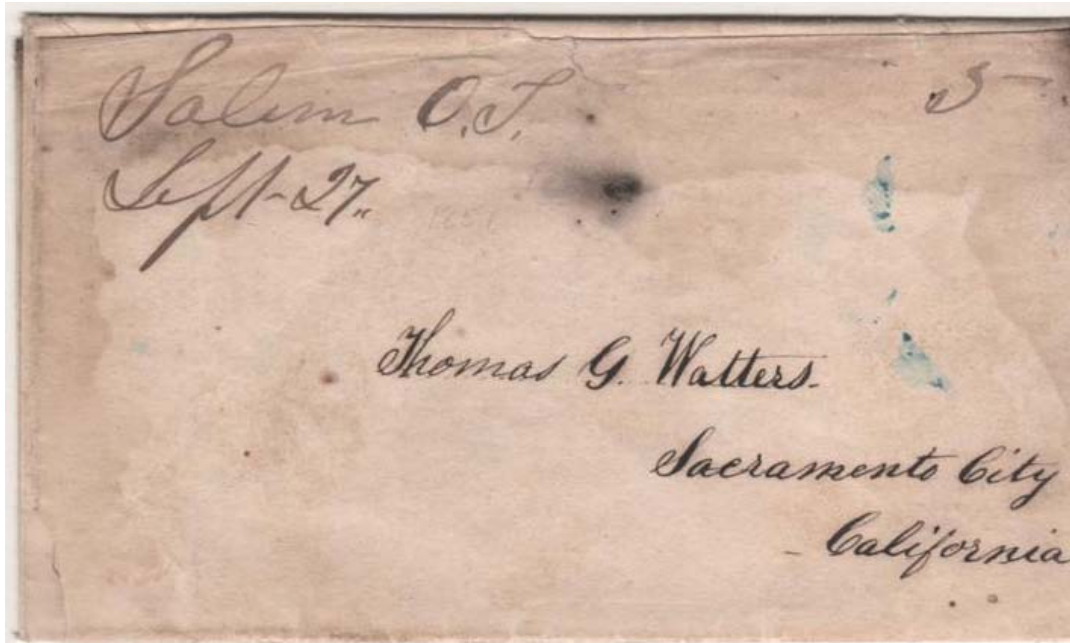


24 Jan 1859, third Portland O.T. handstamp (smaller letters and year-date)
10 cent adhesive for transcontinental rate to Connecticut
This handstamp continued to be used after statehood until August 1859

OREGON TERRITORIALS

SALEM (Marion)

EST. 8 NOVEMBER 1849



27 Sept (1851), Salem O.T.
"5" in manuscript for collect west-coast rate to Sacramento City



17 Dec 1850, Salem O.T.
"40" in manuscript for transcontinental rate to Iowa

OREGON TERRITORIALS

SALEM (Marion)

EST. 8 NOVEMBER 1849



29 Aug (circa 1853), first Salem handstamp
"5" handstamp for collect west-coast rate to Portland O.T.
Both steamboats and stagecoaches were operating between Salem and Portland by 1851



18 Aug (circa 1853), first Salem handstamp
3 cent adhesive for prepaid west-coast rate to Portland

OREGON TERRITORIALS

SALEM (Marion)

EST. 8 NOVEMBER 1849



24 Nov 1853, first Salem handstamp
"10" handstamp for collect transcontinental rate



25 March (circa 1853), first Salem handstamp
Corner pair of 3 cent adhesives for 6 cent prepaid transcontinental rate

OREGON TERRITORIALS

SALEM (Marion)

EST. 8 NOVEMBER 1849



9 Nov (circa 1854), first Salem handstamp
"PAID" handstamp for 1 cent prepaid printed circular rate
Invoice for subscription from Asahel Bush, editor of Salem Statesman



1 May (circa 1854), second Salem handstamp with "5" at bottom
Two "PAID 3" handstamps for prepaid 6 cent transcontinental rate
This Salem handstamp was designed to be used for unpaid local mail - misused here

OREGON TERRITORIALS

SALEM (Marion)

EST. 8 NOVEMBER 1849



14 Sep (circa 1857), first Salem handstamp
10 cent stamp for transcontinental rate to New Hampshire

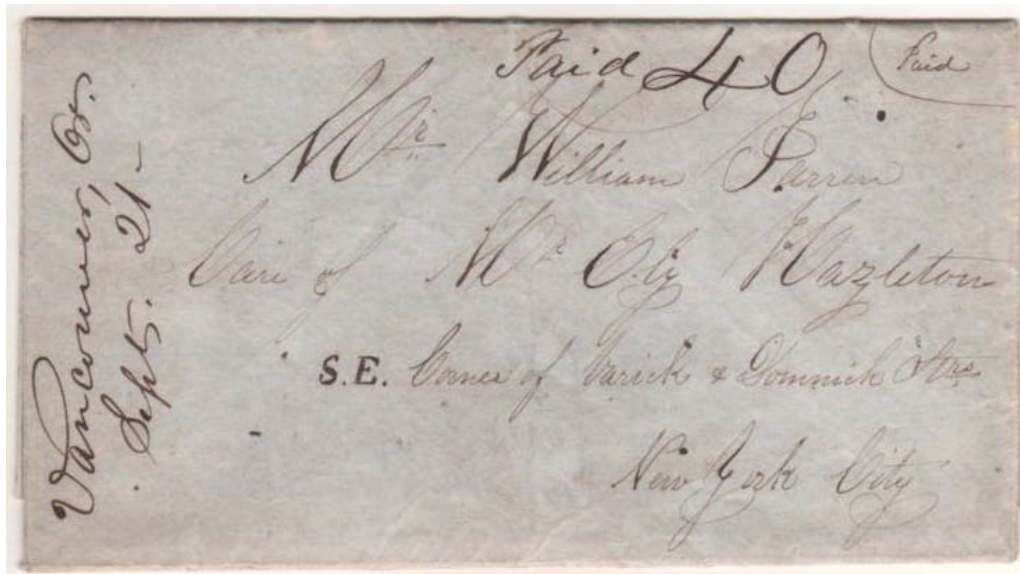


1858 use from England "Via United States" to Salem O.T.
1/2 pence rate to west-coast overpaid because there was no 1/2 pence stamp
"PAID" handstamp applied at San Francisco

OREGON TERRITORIALS

VANCOUVER (Clark)

EST. 8 JANUARY 1850



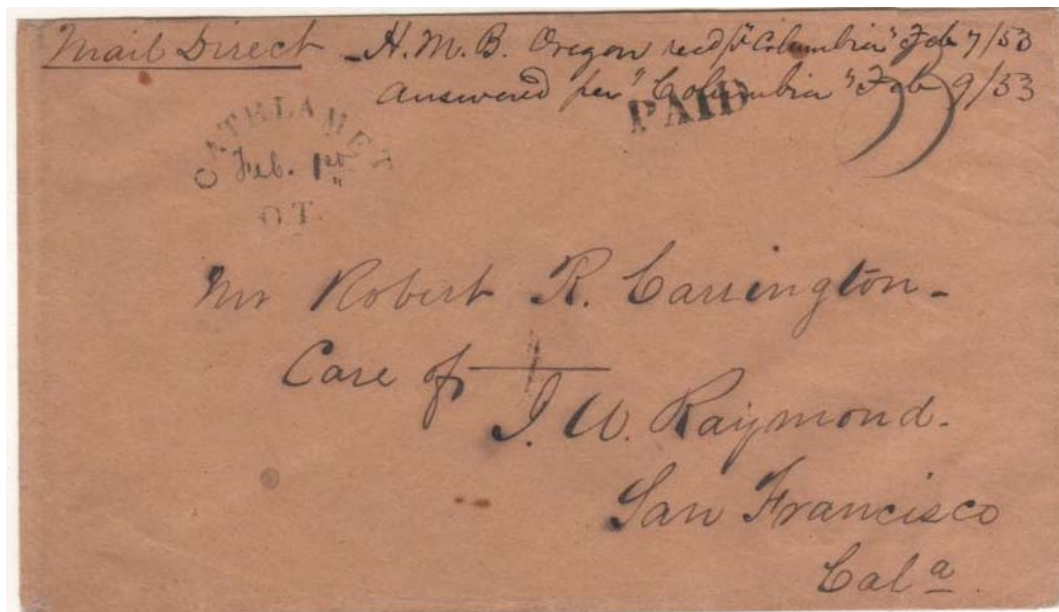
21 Sept 1850, Vancouver Or - name changed to Columbia City 12 Dec 1850

"Paid 40" in manuscript for transcontinental rate

Earliest recorded postal cover from what would become Washington Ter. in March 1853

CATHLAMET (Wahkiakum)

EST. 8 AUGUST 1851



1 Feb 1853, Cathlamet O.T. handstamp with manuscript date

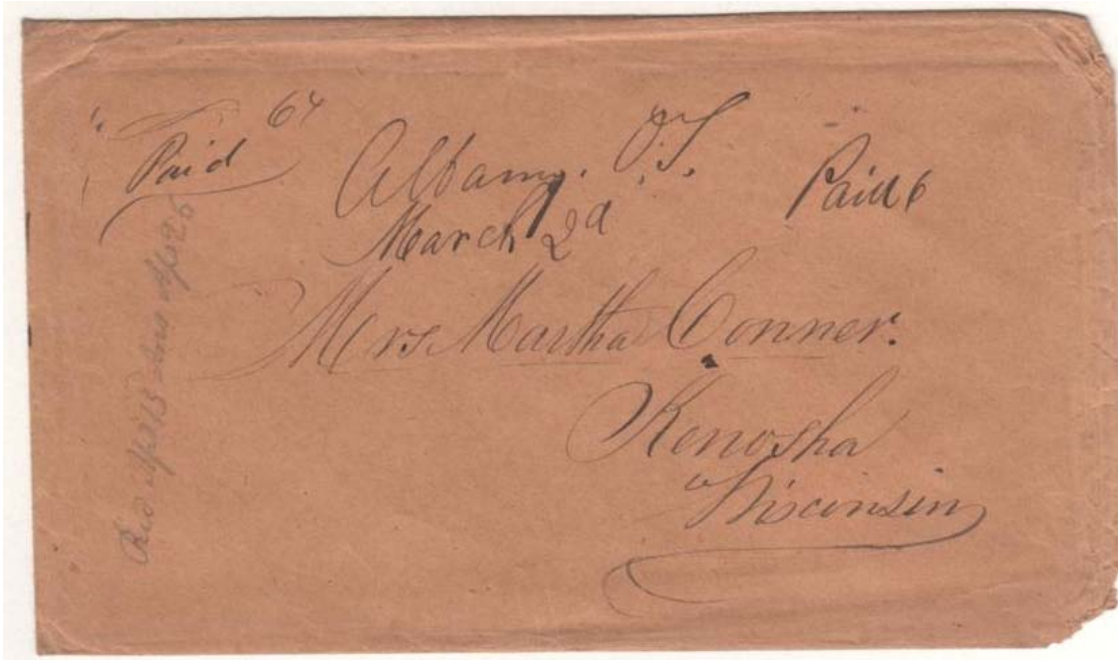
"PAID 3" for local rate to San Francisco

Cathlamet, on the north side of the Columbia, became part of W.T. in March 1853

OREGON TERRITORIALS

ALBANY (Linn)

EST. 8 JANUARY 1850



2 March (1853), Albany O.T. in manuscript
"Paid 6" in manuscript for prepaid transcontinental rate to Wisconsin

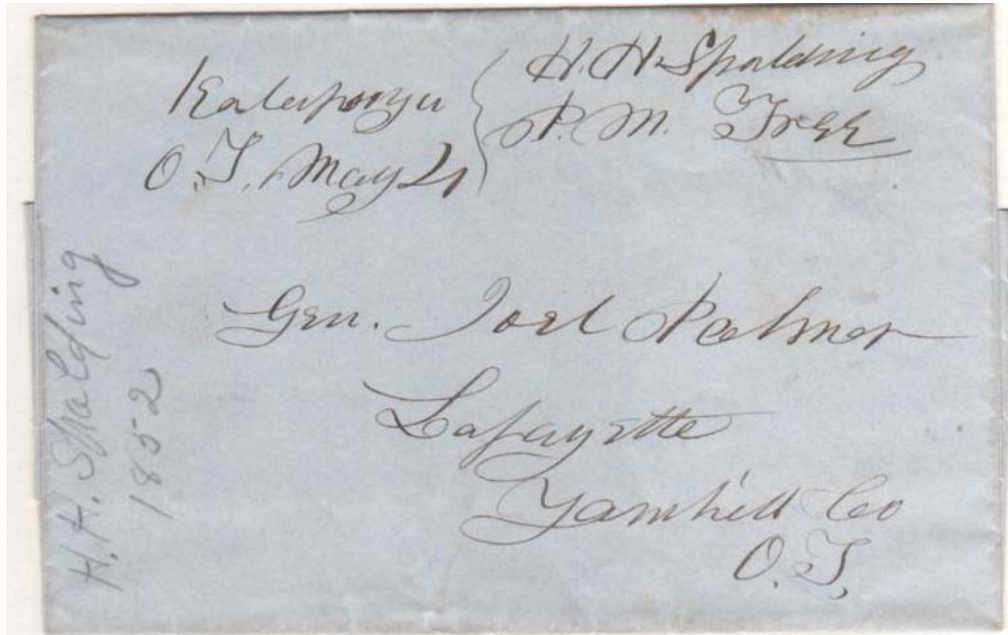


6 Dec (1853), Albany OGN handstamp - earliest recorded use
"PAID 6" handstamp for prepaid transcontinental rate
Kenosha, Wisconsin and "Ford 5" for collect forwarding to New York

OREGON TERRITORIALS

CALAPOOYA (Linn)

EST. 8 JANUARY 1850



4 May (1852), "Kalapooya O.T." in manuscript (post-office officially Calapooya)
Free-frank of postmaster H.H. Spalding - Post-office discontinued 18 May 1859

MARYSVILLE (Benton)

EST. 9 SEPTEMBER 1850



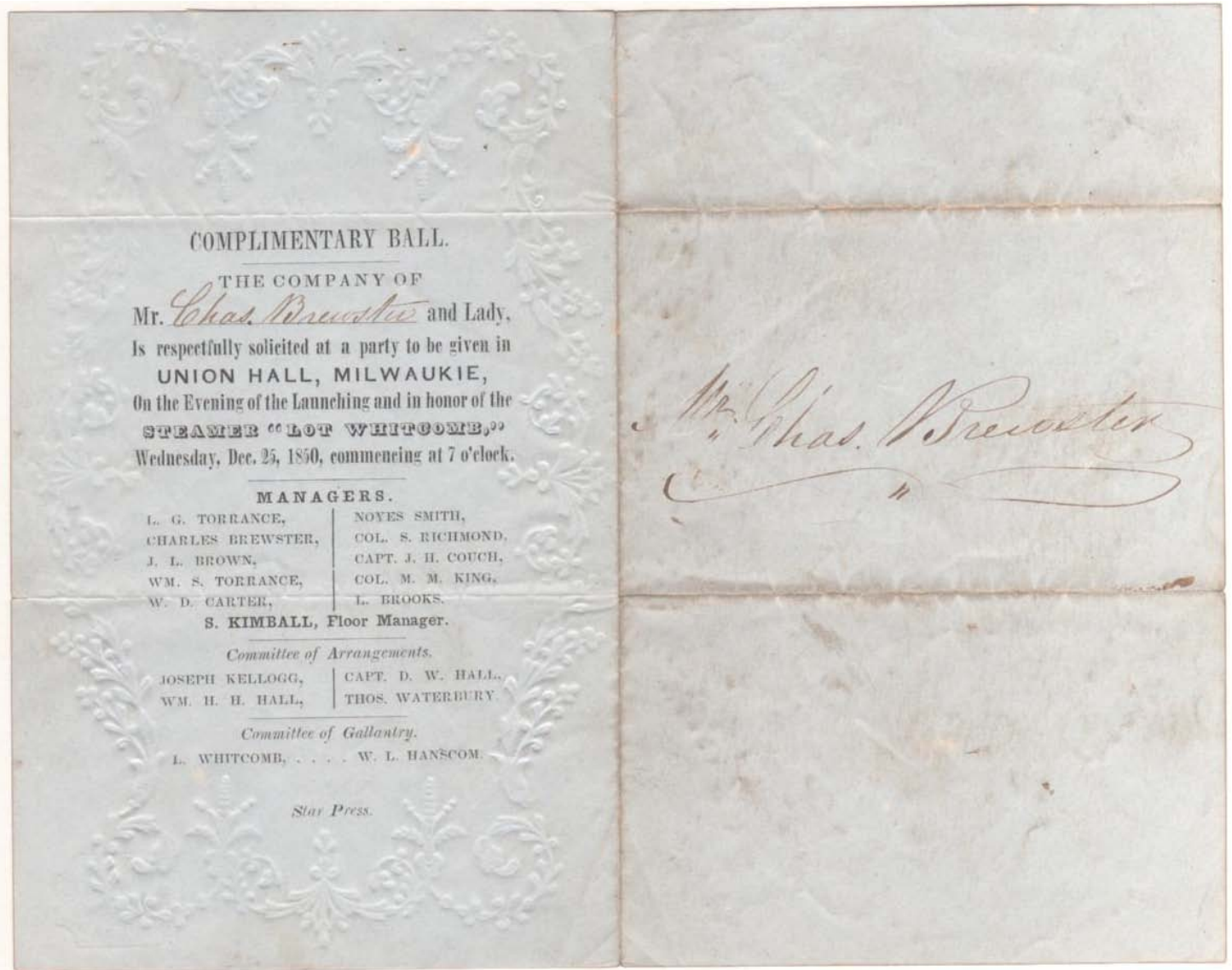
20 July (1853) Marysville Oregon handstamp (earliest recorded use)
"Paid 6" for prepaid transcontinental rate to Minnesota
Marysville became Corvallis on 18 February 1854

OREGON TERRITORIALS

MILWAUKIE (Clackamas)

EST. 1 FEBRUARY 1850

Lot Whitcomb, founder of Milwaukie, became its first postmaster. He hoped Milwaukie would become the dominant city of the northwest with the help of his state of the art steamboat, the Lot Whitcomb, which he would launch on Christmas Day, 1850. The Milwaukie Star newspaper printed the below invitation to Whitcomb's party celebrating the launching.



Invitation dropped in Milwaukie post office - No evidence of postage paid
Unlisted in Oregon Imprints, George Belknap's book on early Oregon printing

OREGON TERRITORIALS

MILWAUKIE (Clackamas)

EST. 1 FEBRUARY 1850



6 cent prepaid in cash for transcontinental rate to Vermont
Letter from Wm. H. Hall, purser of the steamship Lot Whitcomb

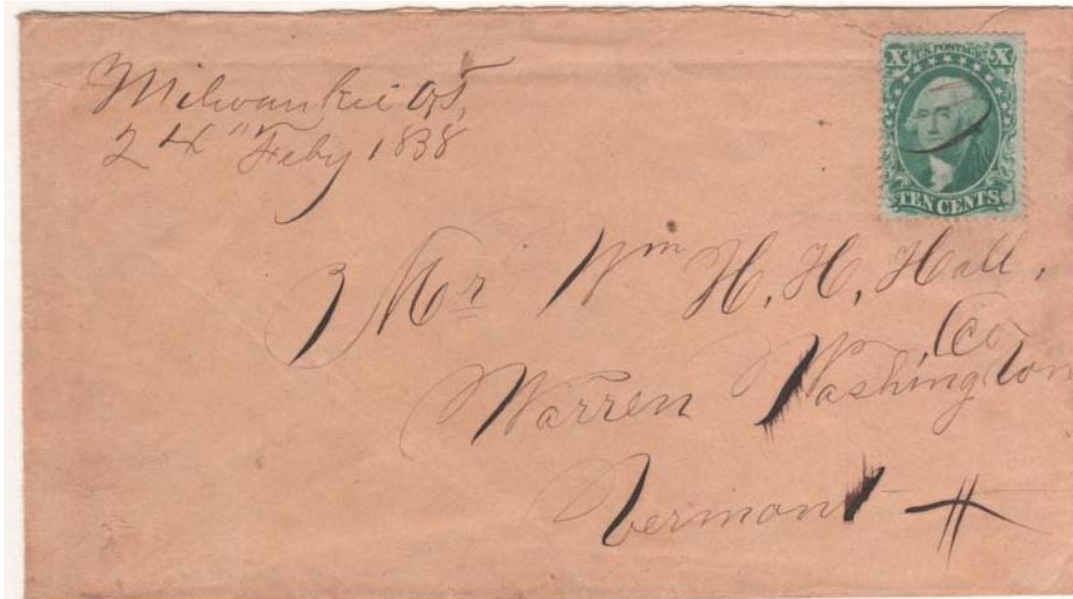


3 cent stamps for 6 cent transcontinental rate to Illinois

OREGON TERRITORIALS

MILWAUKIE (Clackamas)

EST. 1 FEB 1850



"24 Feby 1858, Milwaukie O.T." in manuscript
10 cent transcontinental rate - Milwaukie did not introduce a handstamp until 1887

CHAMPOEG (Marion)

EST. 9 APRIL 1850

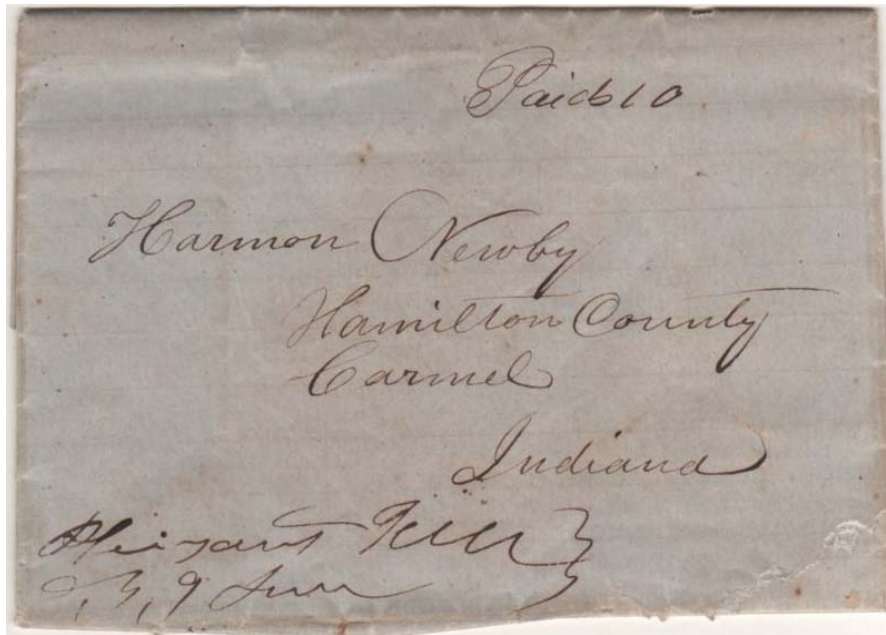


Champog and Champoeg are both names used for the town of Marion, Oregon.

OREGON TERRITORIALS

PLEASANT HILL (Lane)

EST. 9 APRIL 1850



"9 June (1855), Pleasant Hill O.T." in manuscript
"Paid 10" in manuscript for transcontinental rate to Indiana



"15 Aug (1856), Pleasant Hill O.T." in manuscript
3 cent stamp for postage to Calapooya O.T.

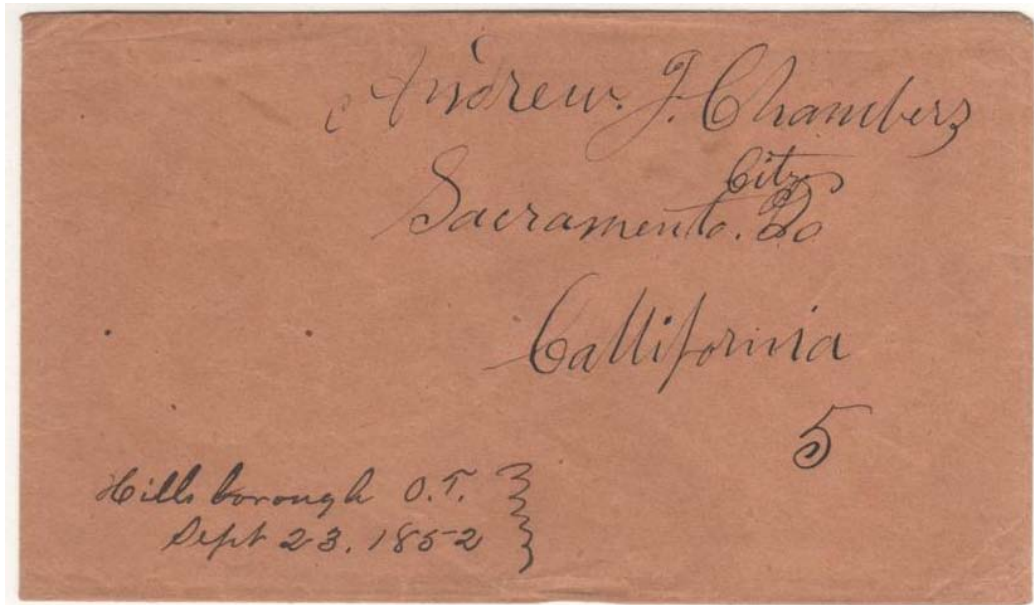
OREGON TERRITORIALS

HILLSBOROUGH (Washington)

EST. 5 AUGUST 1850



15 Oct 1850, Hillsborough Wash. Co. Oregon
"Free" to Territorial Representative in Washington D.C.
Earliest recorded western handstamp with county name



"23 Sept 1852, Hillsborough O.T." in manuscript
"5" for collect west-coast rate to Sacramento City
Name shortened to Hillsboro on circular datestamp first used in 1865

OREGON TERRITORIALS

OLYMPIA (Thurston)

EST. 28 AUGUST 1850



"19 Sept 1851, Olympia O.T." in manuscript
"5 cents" in manuscript for collect west-coast rate to Salem O.T.
Olympia became part of the Washington Territory when it was created in March 1853



"15 Feb (1852), Olympia O.T." in manuscript
6 cents in stamps for transcontinental rate to Illinois

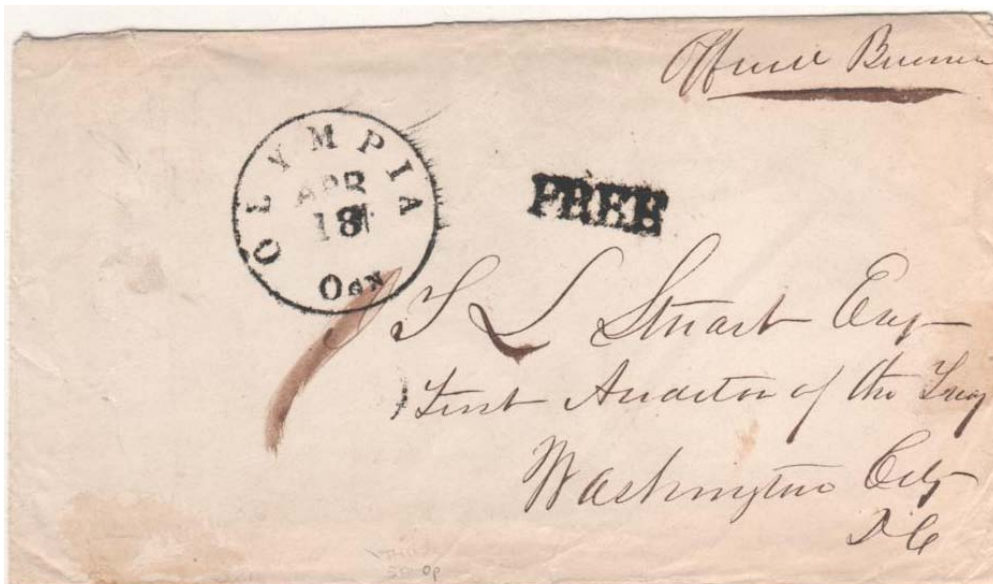
OREGON TERRITORIALS

OLYMPIA (Thurston)

EST. 28 AUGUST 1850



"6 July 1852, Olympia O.T." in manuscript
6 cent prepaid transcontinental rate to Indiana

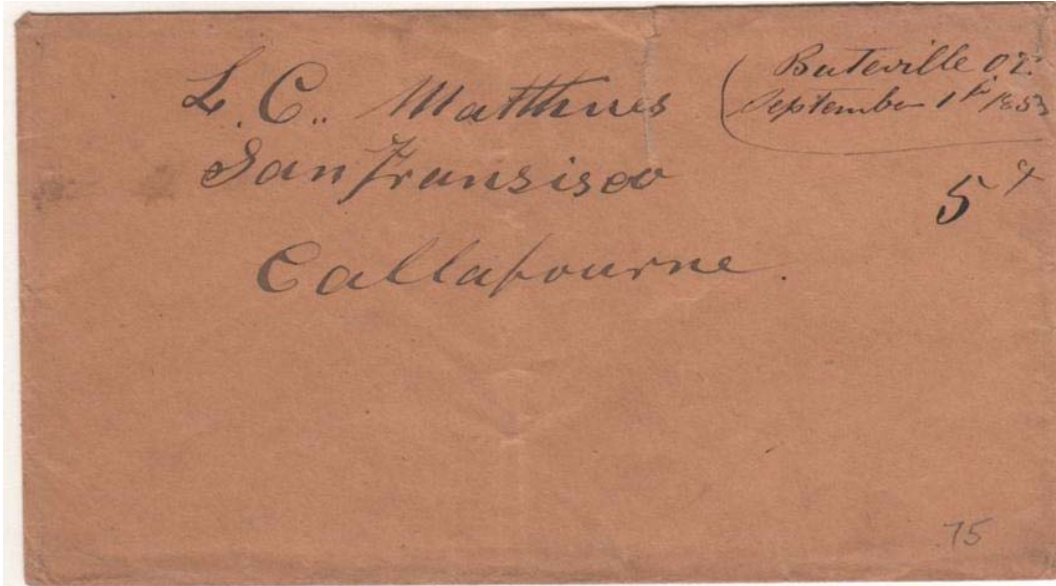


"18 April (circa 1853) Olympia OGN" handstamp, "FREE" for official business
This handstamp continued to be used after Washington Territory was created in March 1853

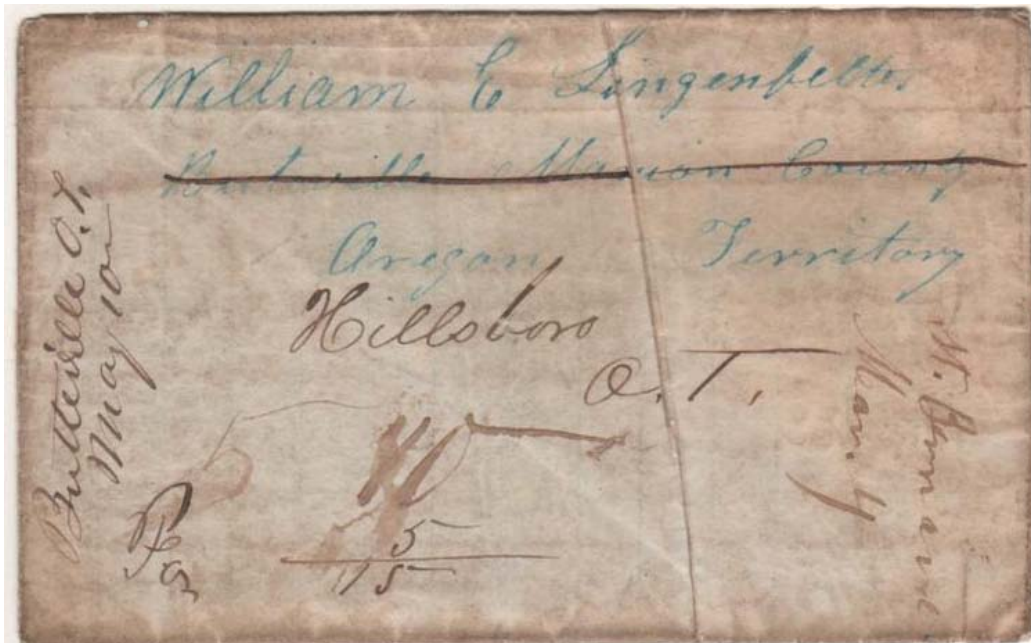
OREGON TERRITORIALS

BUTTEVILLE (Marion)

EST. 9 SEPTEMBER 1850



"September 1, 1853, Buteville O.T." - name misspelled with one "t"
5 cent collect west-coast rate to California - Post-office discontinued in 1905



Incoming letter from east forwarded at "Butteville O.T., May 10 (1854)" to Hillsboro O.T.
15 cents due - 10 cent transcontinental rate plus 5 cents for forwarding

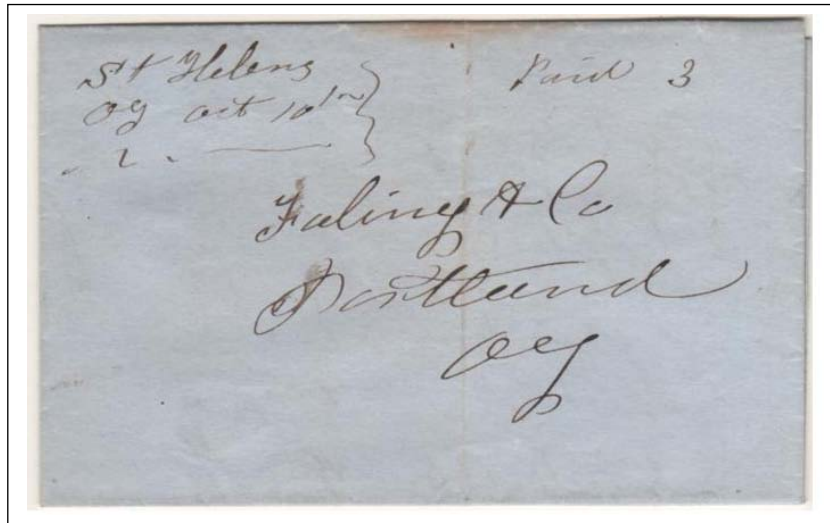
OREGON TERRITORIALS

SAINT HELENS (Columbia)

EST. 4 NOVEMBER 1850

25 July (1853)
St. HELEN'S
(first handstamp)

5 cent collect rate to
Gov. Curry at Salem



10 Oct (1853)
St Helens (ms)

Paid 3 local rate
to Portland O.T.

1st July (1854)
Milton (no post office)
"Per Adams & Co.
Express"

10 July 1854
SAINT HELEN
(second handstamp)

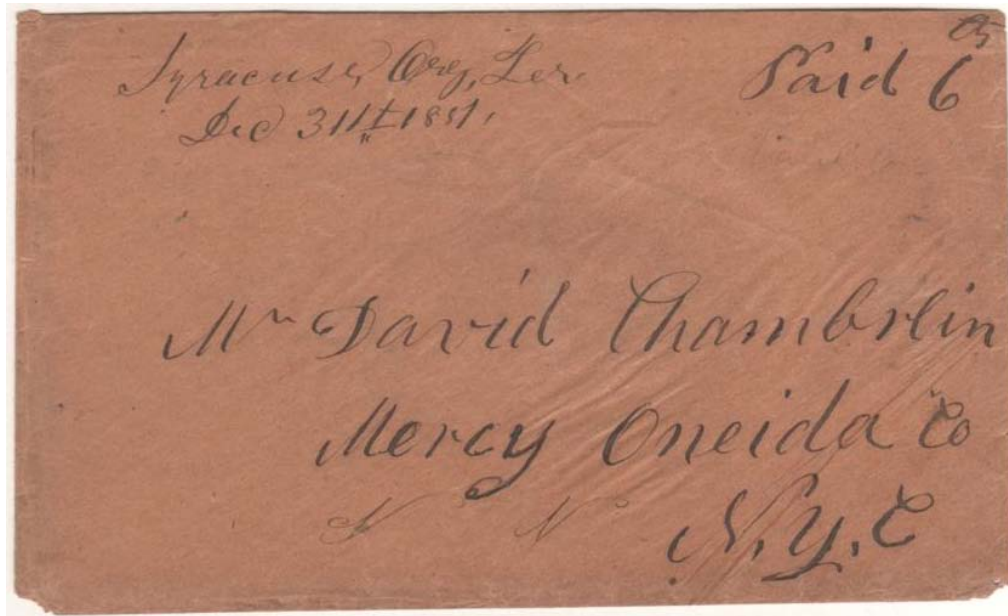
5 cent collect rate to
San Jose California



OREGON TERRITORIALS

SYRACUSE (Linn)

EST. 4 OCTOBER 1850



31 Dec 1851, Syracuse Oreg. Ter. (manuscript)
PAID 6 for transcontinental rate to New York - Post-office discontinued in 1852

LEXINGTON (Clatsop)

EST. 28 NOVEMBER 1850

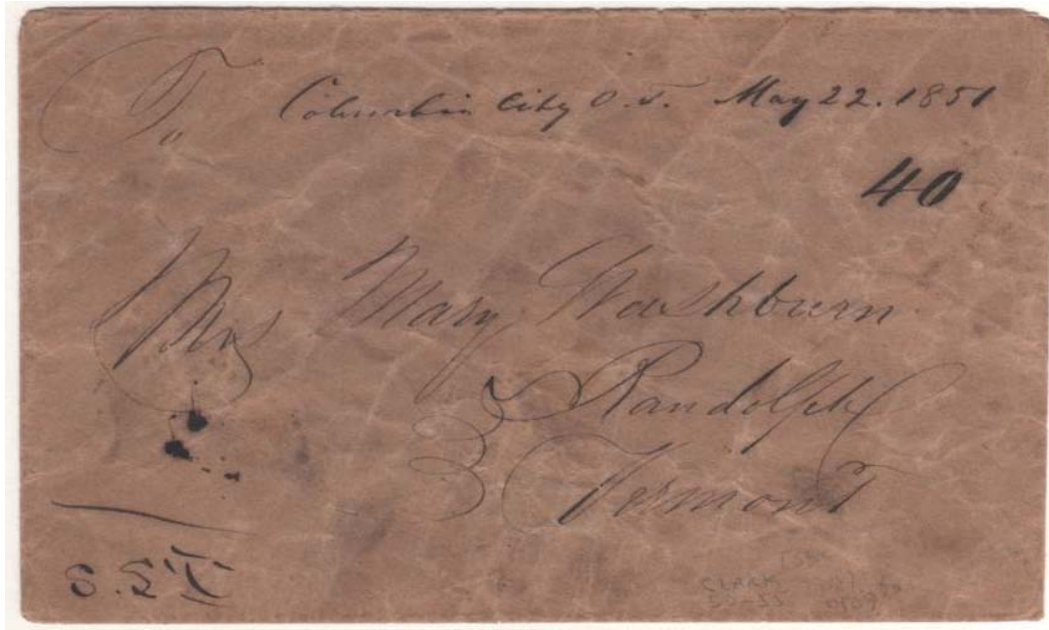


10 April (1852) Lexington O.T., Paid 3 for west-coast rate to Tualatin O.T.
"Missent & Forwarded" applied at HILLSBOROUGH WASH. Co. OREGON
Post-office discontinued in 1857 - Warrenton post office opened in 1892

OREGON TERRITORIALS

COLUMBIA CITY (Clark)

EST. 12 DECEMBER 1850



22 May 1851, Columbia City O.T. - 40 cent transcontinental rate to Vermont
Columbia City became part of Washington Territory in March 1853
Post-office name changed to Vancouver on 10 Dec 1855



1 April 1853, Columbia City O.T.
Paid 6 for prepaid transcontinental rate to Illinois (from July 1, 1850)

OREGON TERRITORIALS

COLUMBIA CITY (Clark)

EST. 12 DECEMBER 1850



8 Mar (1854), Columbia City O.T. handstamp
10 cent collect transcontinental rate to Illinois



24 Sep (1855), Columbia City O.T. handstamp
3 cent prepaid rate to Steilacoom W.T.
Handstamp began use after Washington Territory was created in March 1853

OREGON TERRITORIALS

YONCALLA (Douglas)

EST. 14 MARCH 1851



12th April 1851, Yoncalla (O.T) - Earliest recorded date
Free, Jesse Applegate PM - Sent to Judge Deady at Lafayette O.T.



8 May 1853, Yoncalla O.T.
5 cent collect west-coast rate to San Francisco

OREGON TERRITORIALS

YONCALLA (Douglas)

EST. 14 MARCH 1851



13 Sept 1851, Yoncalla O.T. (also Oct 13 - evidently delayed at post office)
Six cents in stamps (1851 orange-brown shade) for transcontinental rate to Connecticut
One of the earliest uses of adhesive stamps from the Oregon Territory



10 July 1853, Yoncalla O.T. - "Via Portland"
Six cents in stamps for transcontinental rate to Connecticut

OREGON TERRITORIALS

LAFAYETTE (Yamhill)

EST. 14 MARCH 1851



22 Jul (1856) Lafayette O.T. handstamp
10 cent transcontinental rate to Illinois (1 April 1855 - 30 June 1863)



23 Feb 1858, Lafayette O.T. in manuscript
3 cent domestic rate to Portland
Handstamp device apparently lost or damaged

OREGON TERRITORIALS

LACKEMUTE (Polk)

EST. 14 MARCH 1851



28 Jan 1851, Luckiamiute O.T. - post-office officially Lackemute, discontinued in 1874
40 in manuscript for transcontinental rate to Ohio (until 30 June 1851)

NORTH YAMHILL (Yamhill)

EST. 14 MARCH 1851

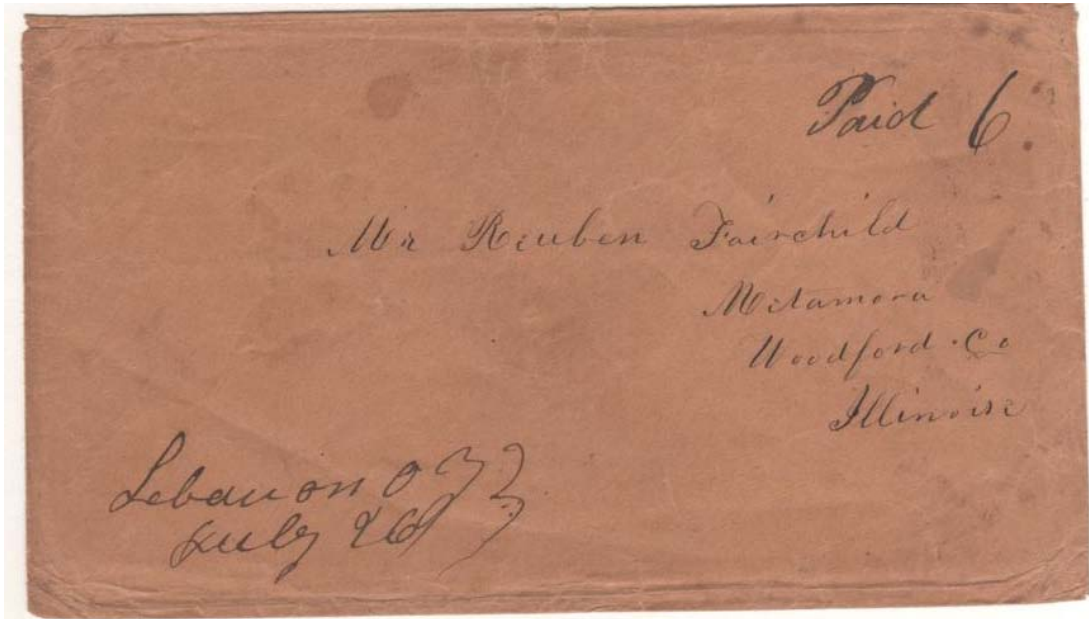


D 21 1858, North Yamhill O.T.
10 cent Nesbitt envelope for transcontinental rate to Massachusetts

OREGON TERRITORIALS

LEBANON (Marion)

EST 5 JUNE 1851



26 July (1853), Lebanon O.T. - Post-office discontinued in 1858

Paid 6 cents in cash for transcontinental rate to Illinois

This is not the Lebanon in Linn County which opened a post office in 1859



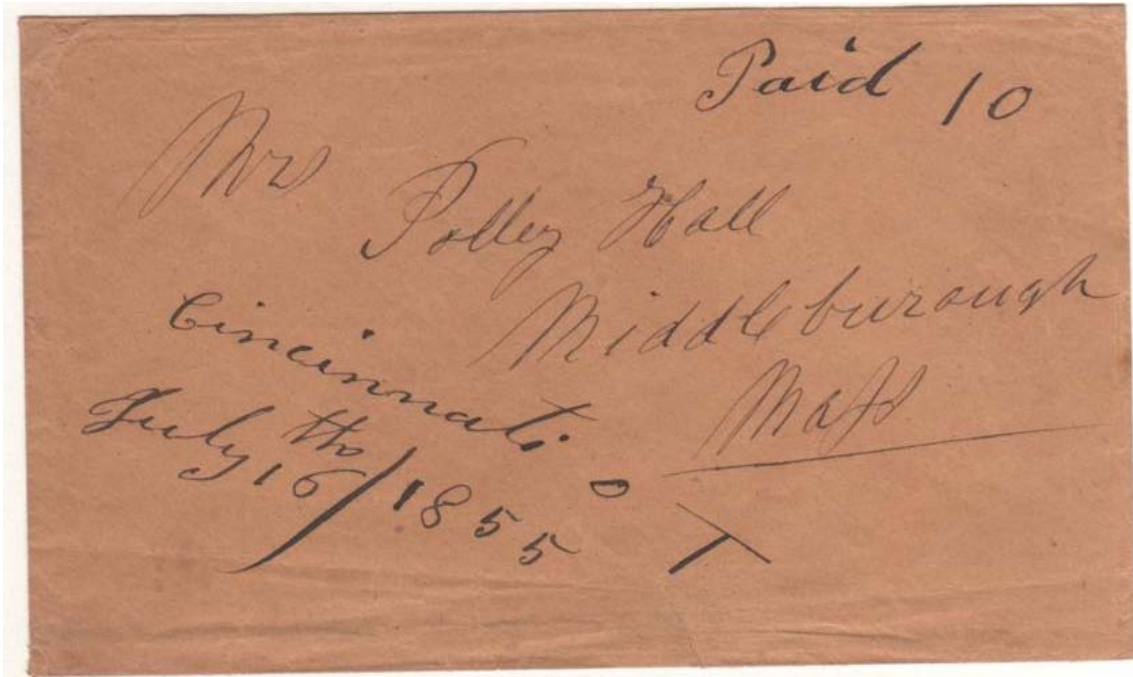
26 Sept (1853), Lebanon O.T. in manuscript (letter dated 25 Sept 1853)

Paid 6 cents in stamps for transcontinental rate to Tennessee

OREGON TERRITORIALS

CINCINNATI (Polk)

EST. 5 JUNE 1851



16 July 1855, Cincinnati O.T. in manuscript - name changed to Eola in 1856
Paid 10 in cash for transcontinental rate to Massachusetts

DAYTON (Yamhill)

EST. 5 JUNE 1851



1 Sept (1857), Dayton O.T. in manuscript - Letter dated 25 Aug 1857 at Fort Yamhill
10 cent rate to Ohio - "Capt. Russell in command, (Phil) Sheridan is second"

OREGON TERRITORIALS

UMPQUA CITY (Douglas)

EST. 26 SEPTEMBER 1851



26 Aug (1856 or 1857) Umpqua City O.T. first handstamp - Post office discontinued in 1869
10 cent Nesbitt envelope for rate to Kentucky - Stamp canceled with year-date

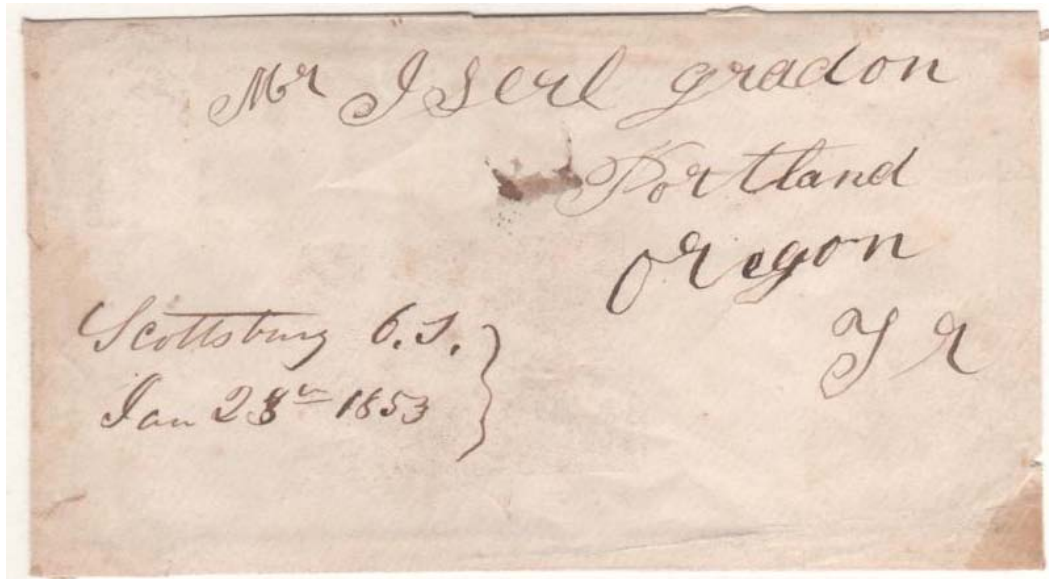


21 Mar (1858) Umpqua City O.T. second handstamp
10 cent transcontinental rate to Washington D.C.

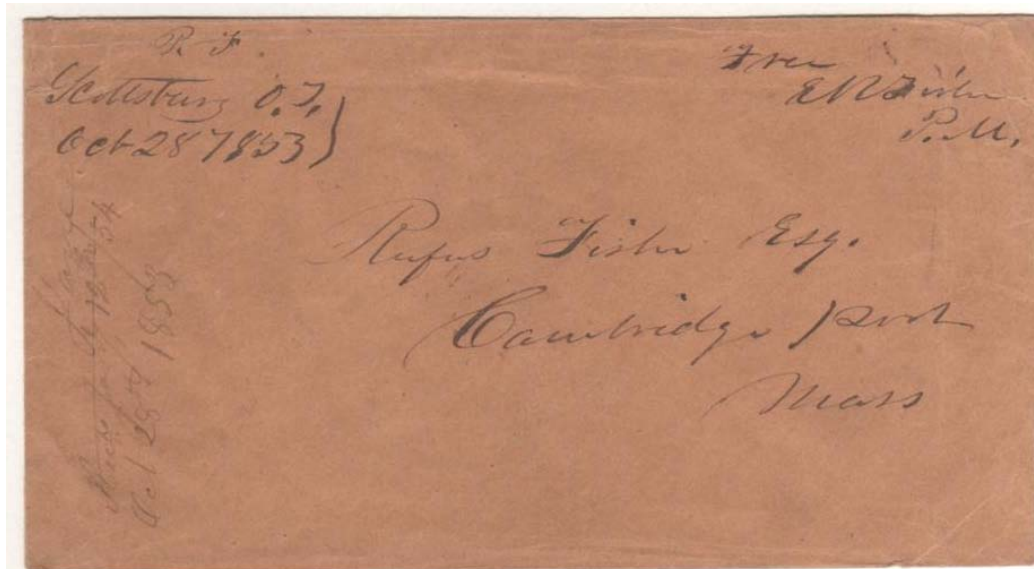
OREGON TERRITORIALS

SCOTTSBURG (Douglas)

EST. 8 OCTOBER 1851



28 Jan 1853, Scottsburg O.T. - Earliest recorded date
No rate indicated, possibly printed matter to Portland O.T.?

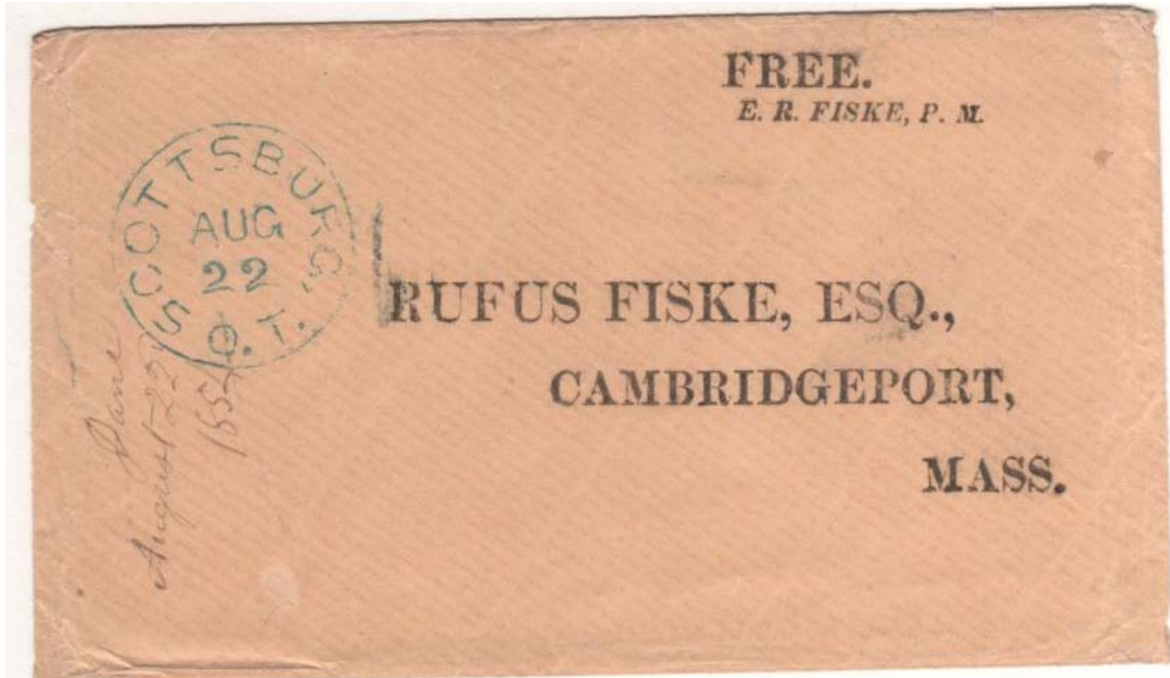


28 Oct 1853, Scottsburg O.T.
Free to Massachusetts for postmaster, E.R. Fiske

OREGON TERRITORIALS

SCOTTSBURG (Douglas)

EST. 8 OCTOBER 1851



Free to Massachusetts for postmaster, E.R. Fiske



Paid 6 in cash for transcontinental rate to Connecticut
Postmaster got lazy and did not use month and day slugs in device

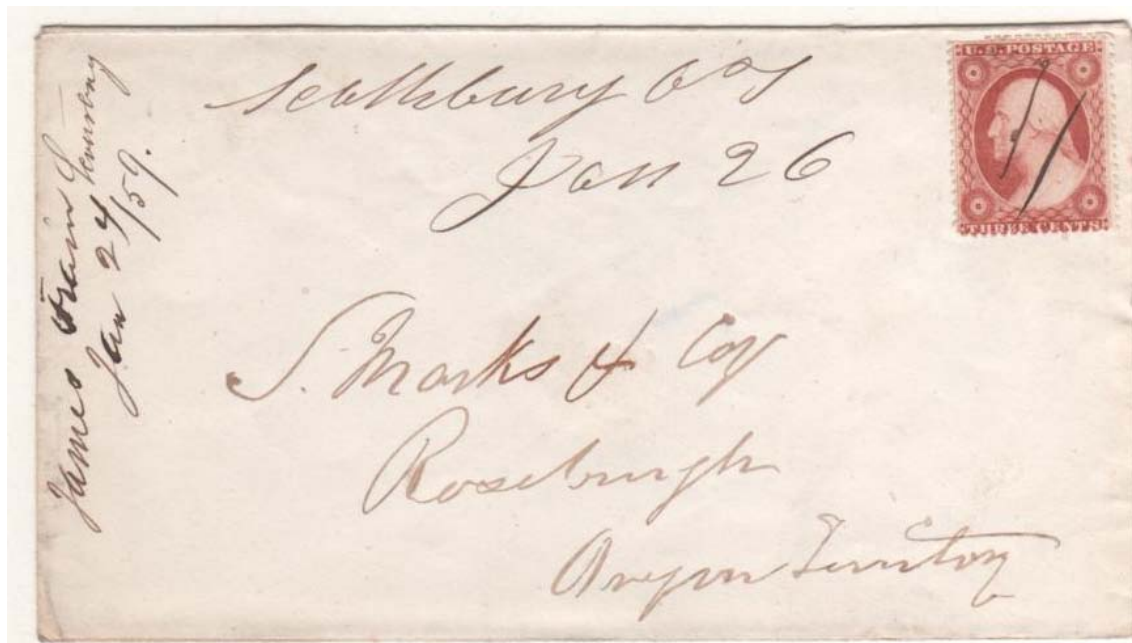
OREGON TERRITORIALS

SCOTTSBURG (Douglas)

EST. 8 OCTOBER 1851



25 March (circa 1853) Scottsburg O.T. handstamp in black
6 cents in stamps for prepaid transcontinental rate to Connecticut

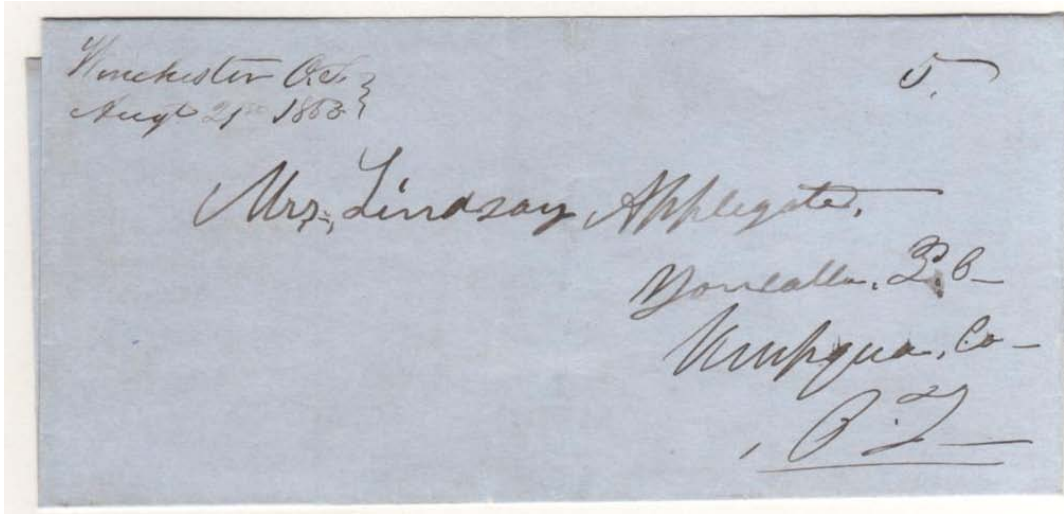


26 Jan 1859, Scottsburg O.T. in manuscript - Was handstamp lost or damaged?
3 cent rate to Roseburgh O.T.

OREGON TERRITORIALS

WINCHESTER (Douglas)

EST. 3 NOVEMBER 1851



21 Aug 1853, Winchester O.T. in manuscript
5 cent collect rate to Yoncalla O.T.



25 Aug (circa 1857), Winchester O.T.
10 cent transcontinental rate to New York

OREGON TERRITORIALS

DALLES (Wasco)

EST. 5 NOVEMBER 1851



11 April 1853, Dalles O.T. in manuscript - Name changed to Wascopum on 3 Sep 1853
6 cent prepaid transcontinental rate

CASCADES (Skamania)

EST. 5 NOVEMBER 1851

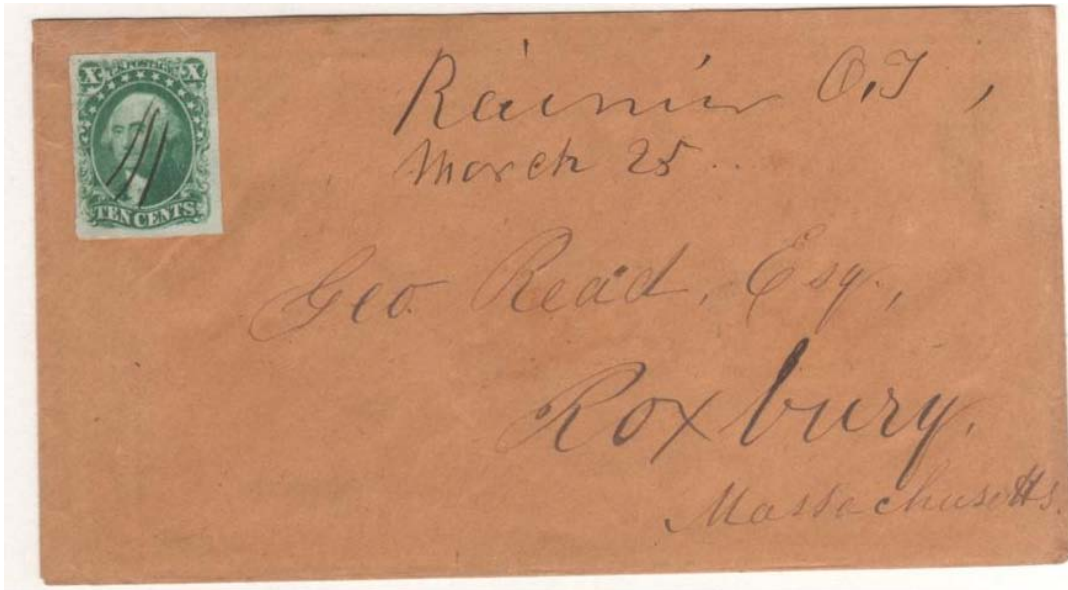


14 Sep 1852, Cascades in manuscript - Post-office discontinued in 1907
5 cent rate to Dalles - Justin Chenoweth had steamboat mail contract from Cascades to Dalles
North side of Columbia near Bonneville Dam - Became Washington Ter. in March 1853

OREGON TERRITORIALS

RAINIER (Columbia)

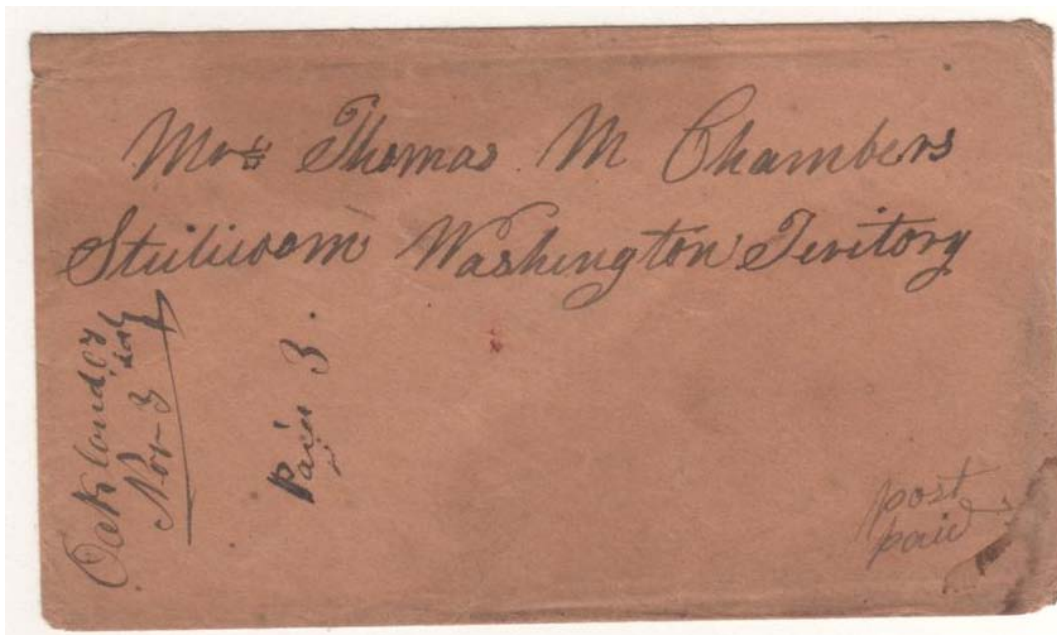
EST. 6 JANUARY 1852



25 March (1856), Rainier O.T. - Letter 23 March 1856, Cowlitz
10 cent transcontinental rate to Massachusetts

OAKLAND (Douglas)

EST. 21 FEBRUARY 1852



3 Nov (circa 1854) Oakland O.T. in manuscript
Paid 3 in cash for local rate to Steilacoom, W.T.

OREGON TERRITORIALS

SPRING VALLEY (Polk)

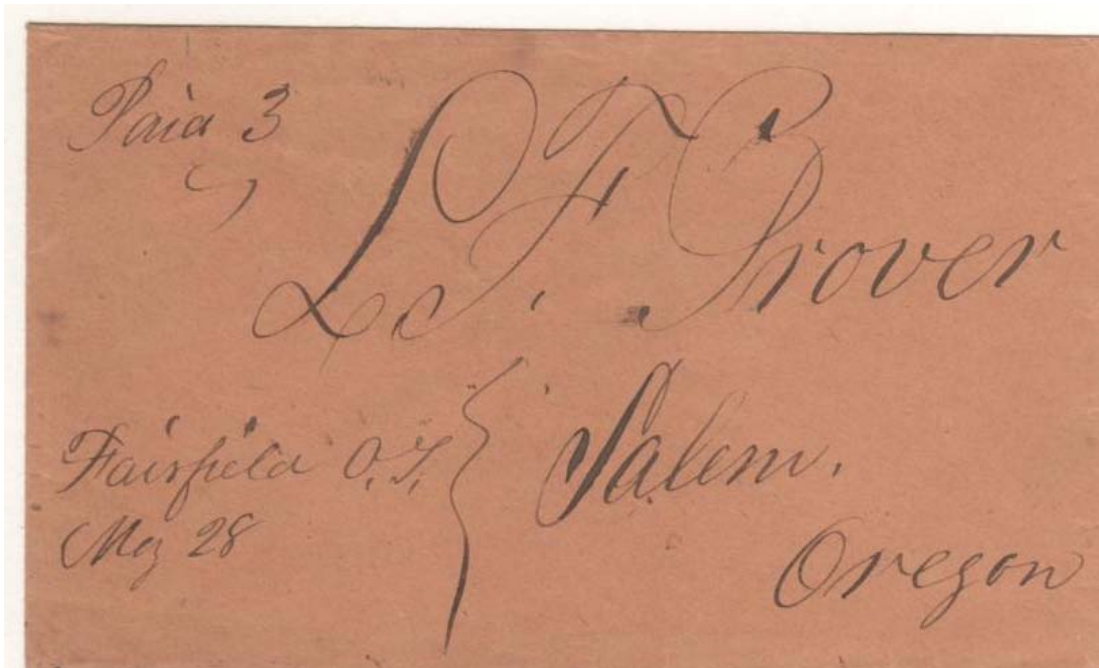
EST. 5 MARCH 1852



21 July (circa 1853), Spring Valley O.T. - Post-office discontinued 1 Sep 1855
6 cent prepaid transcontinental rate to Ohio

FAIRFIELD (Marion)

EST. 24 MARCH 1852

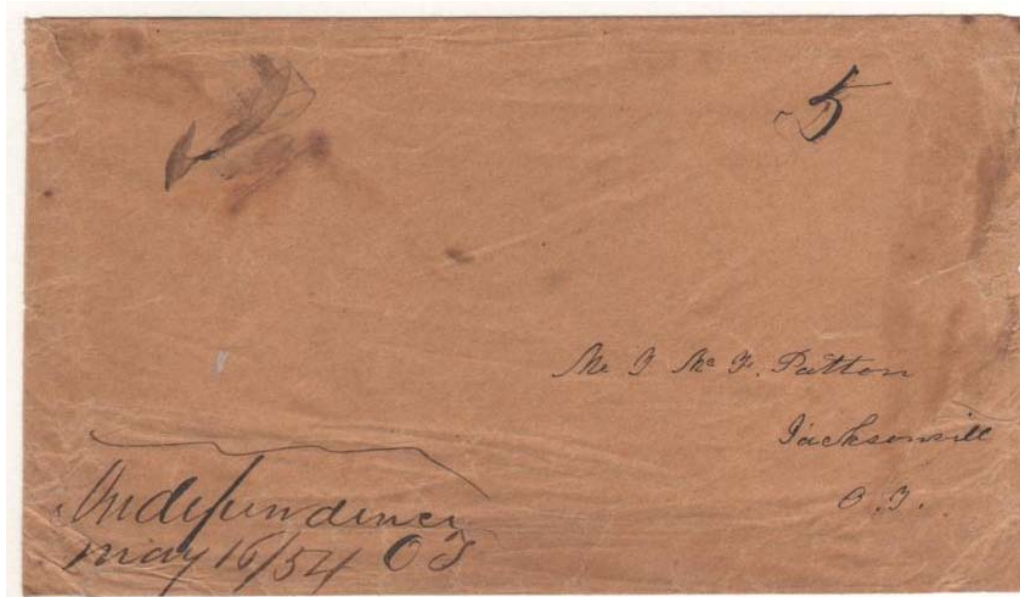


28 May (circa 1855), Fairfield O.T. - Post-office discontinued in 1902
3 cents paid in cash for local rate to Salem

OREGON TERRITORIALS

INDEPENDENCE (Polk)

EST. 3 APRIL 1852



16 May 1854, Independence O.T. in manuscript
5 cent collect local rate to Jacksonville O.T.

STARR'S POINT (Benton)

EST. 22 APRIL 1852



1 July (circa 1857), Starr's Point O.T. handstamp - Discontinued in 1874
3 cent local rate to Olympia W.T.

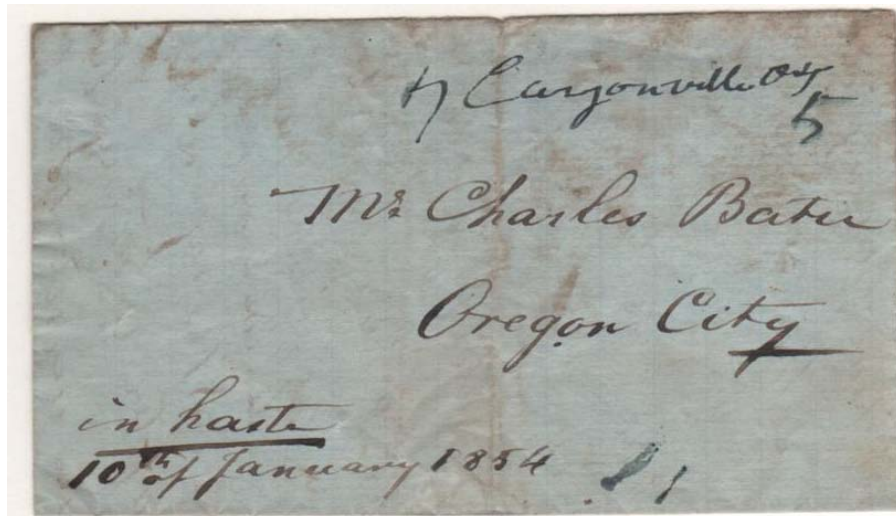
OREGON TERRITORIALS

NORTH CANYONVILLE (Douglas)

EST. 6 JULY 1852



6 Aug (1853) Canyonville O.T. (post-office officially North Canyonville) - Letter SF, 6 July 1853
Adams Express SF, Cram Rogers Express Jacksonville handstamps
Col(lect) 1.00 for express fee, 5 cent collect local rate from Canyonville to Steilacoom W.T.

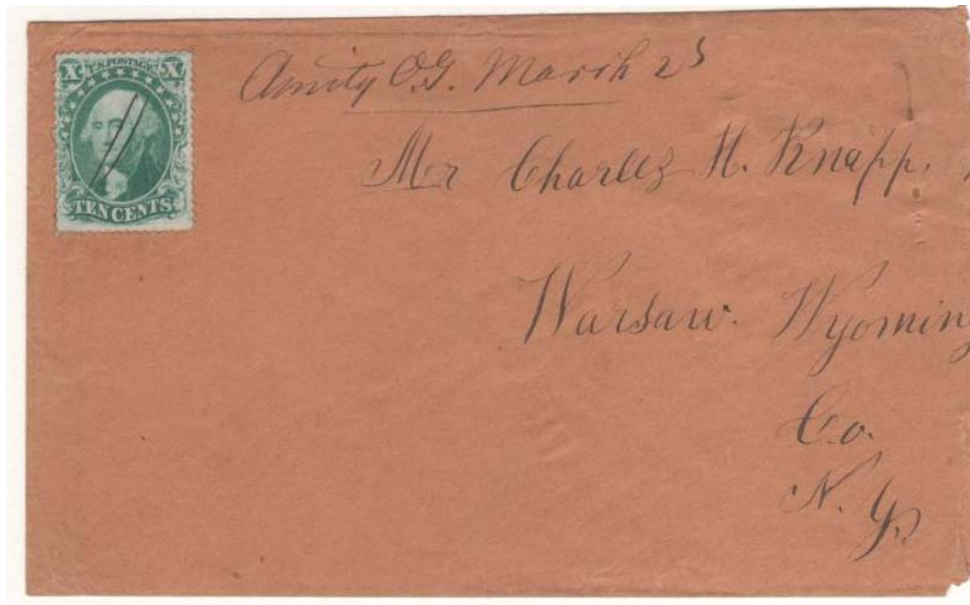


10 Jan 1854, N Canyonville O.T. in manuscript
5 for local collect rate to Oregon City
North Canyonville post-office officially changed to Canyonville in 1892

OREGON TERRITORIALS

AMITY (Yamhill)

EST. 6 JULY 1852



25 March (1858), Amity O.T. in manuscript
10 cent transcontinental rate to New York

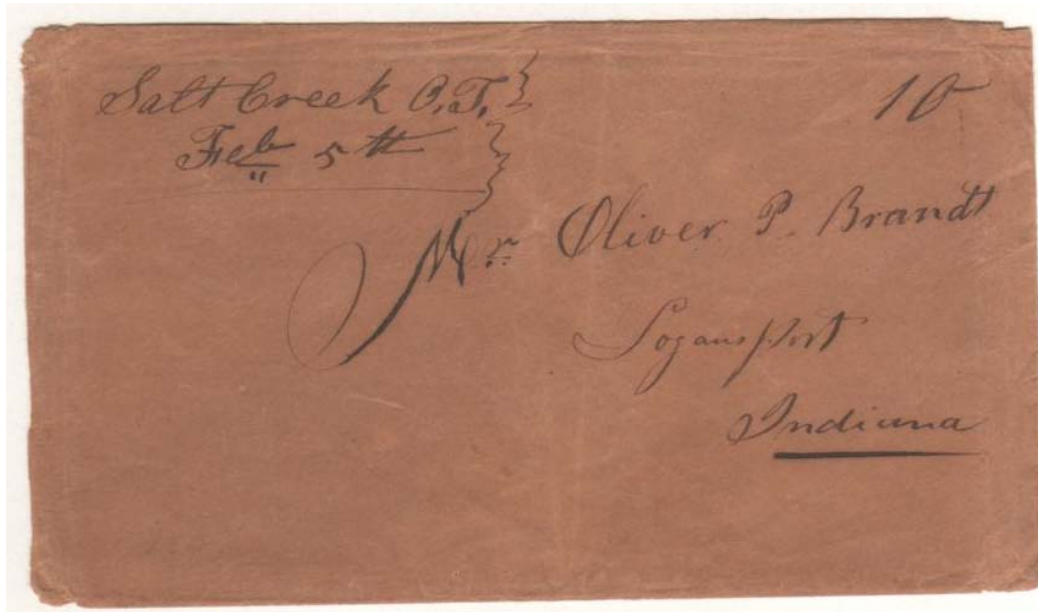


1 Feb (1859), Amity O.T. in manuscript - Two weeks before statehood
10 cent transcontinental rate to New York

OREGON TERRITORIALS

SALT CREEK (Polk)

EST. 6 JULY 1852



5 Feb (1853), Salt Creek O.T. - Discontinued in 1903
10 cent collect transcontinental rate to Indiana

DALLAS (Polk)

EST. 22 OCTOBER 1852

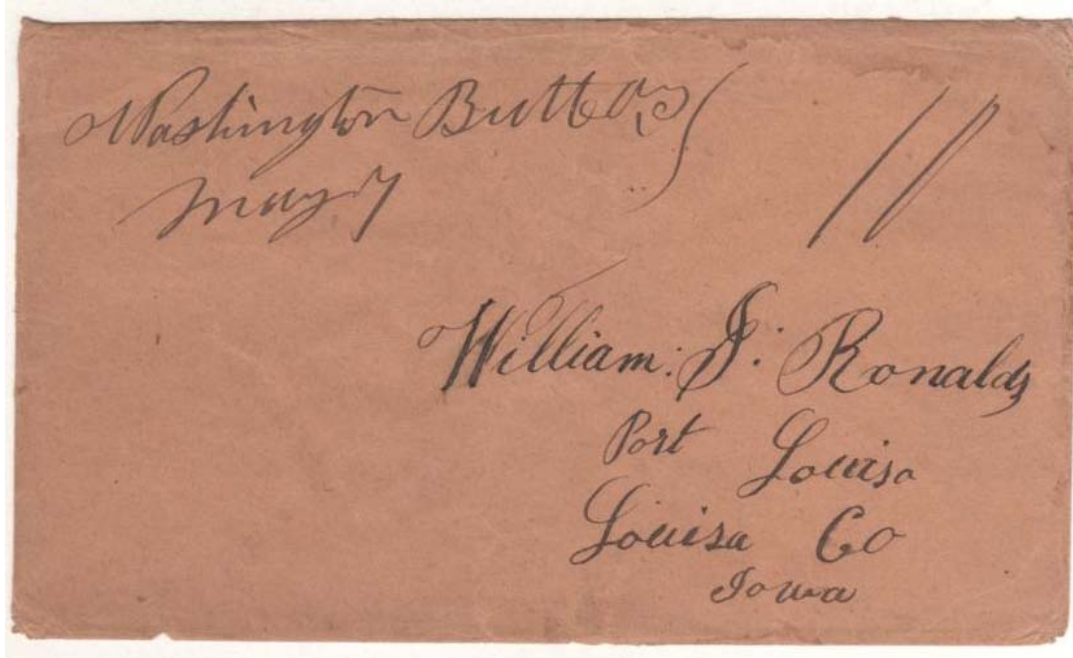


12 Nov 1855, Dallas O.T. in manuscript
Paid 10 in cash for transcontinental rate

OREGON TERRITORIALS

WASHINGTON BUTTE (Linn)

EST. 30 JULY 1852



7 May (circa 1854), Washington Butte O.T. - Name changed to Lebanon in 1859
10 cent collect transcontinental rate to Iowa

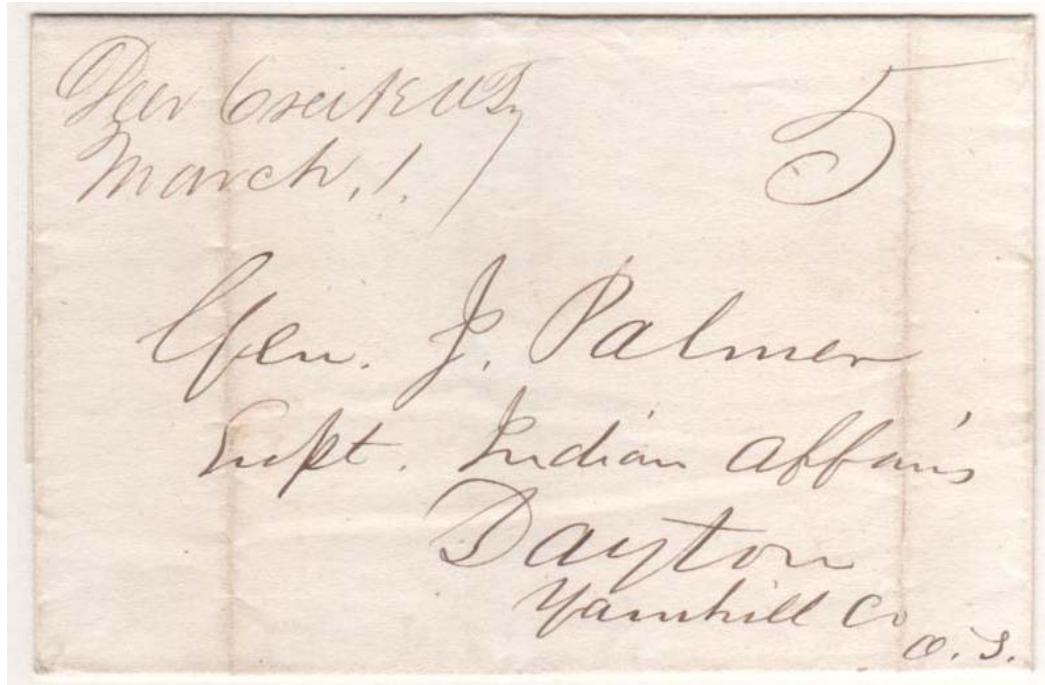


27 Nov (1858), Washington Butte O.T. handstamp - Letter 26 Nov 1858
3 cent Nesbitt envelope for local rate to Olympia W.T.

OREGON TERRITORIALS

DEER CREEK (Douglas)

EST. 28 SEPTEMBER 1852



1 March (circa 1854) Deer Creek O.T. - Name changed to Roseburg(h) in July 1857
5 cent collect rate to Joel Palmer at Dayton O.T.

LETTERS From 1856
To Jacksonville

Rates.				PAID HERE.								Free.
Unpaid.				By Stamps.				In Money.				
Cts.	No.	Dolla.	Cts.	No.	Dolla.	Cts.	No.	Dolla.	Cts.	No.		
				2		12				2		
				1		7						
				9		27						

DEER CREEK OREGON
DEC 7 1856
48

P. M.

7 Dec 1856, Deer Creek Oregon, Collins handstamp
Registry receipt for mail to Jacksonville O.T.

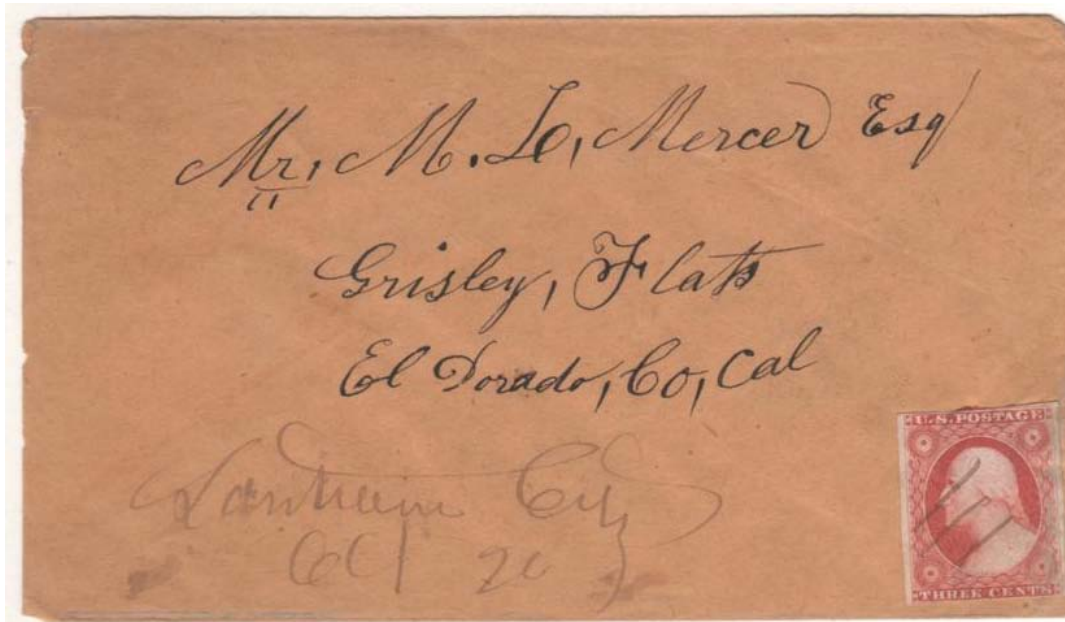
OREGON TERRITORIALS

SANTIAM CITY (Marion)

EST. 16 OCTOBER 1852



18 July (1853) Santeam City O.T. handstamp (officially Santiam City)
5 cent collect local rate to Salem O.T. - Post-office discontinued in 1861



20 Oct (circa 1855) Santiam City (O.T.) - Across river from former site of Syracuse O.T.
3 cent prepaid rate to Grisley (Grizzly) Flats California

OREGON TERRITORIALS

CORVALLIS (Benton)

NAME CHANGED FROM MARYSVILLE 18 FEB 1854

28 Aug (1854)
CORVALLIS OREGON,
handstamp carved in
wood with reversed "S",
10 for collect trans-
continental rate to NH

Red ink used in
first year only



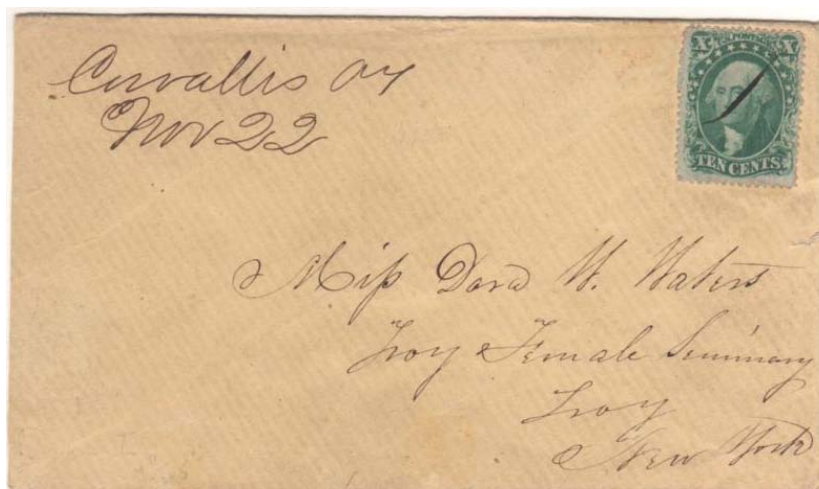
23 July and 30 July (1855)
CORVALLIS handstamps
in black ink

No rate markings for invoice
for Asahel Bush's Oregon
Statesman newspaper
(probably 1 cent prepaid for
bulk mailing of printed matter)

Corvallis was Territorial
Capitol in 1855 and Spectator
moved there temporarily

22 Nov (1858)
Corvallis O.T. in ms.,
handstamp not known
after Feb 1857

10 cent rate to NY



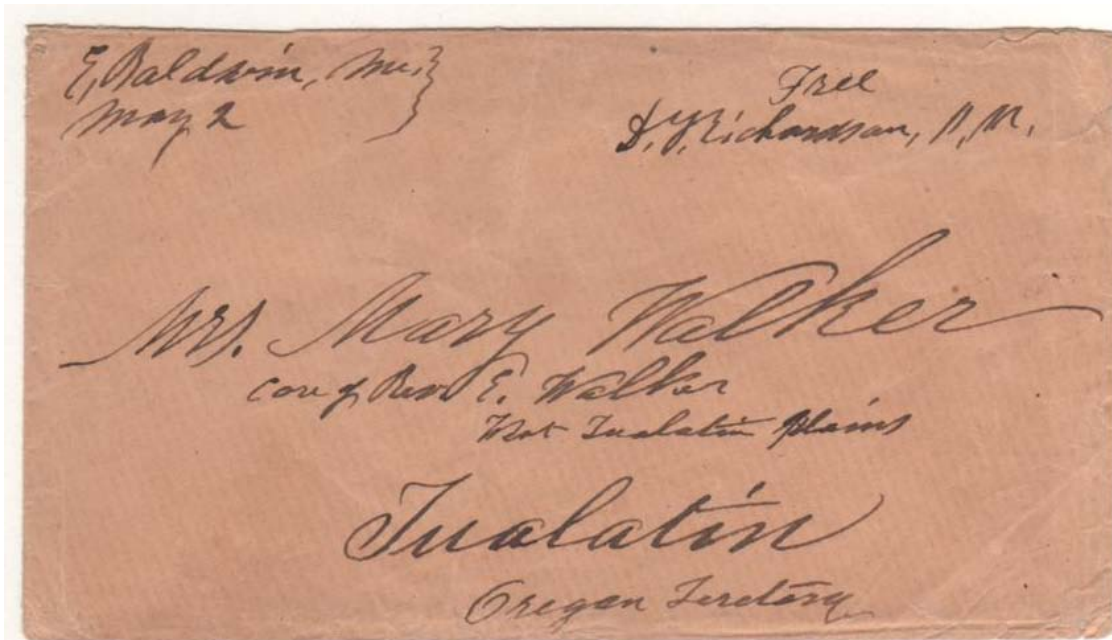
OREGON TERRITORIALS

TUALATIN (Washington)

EST. 6 JANUARY 1853



27 Dec 1858, Tualatin O.T. in manuscript
3 cent local rate to Lafayette O.T.

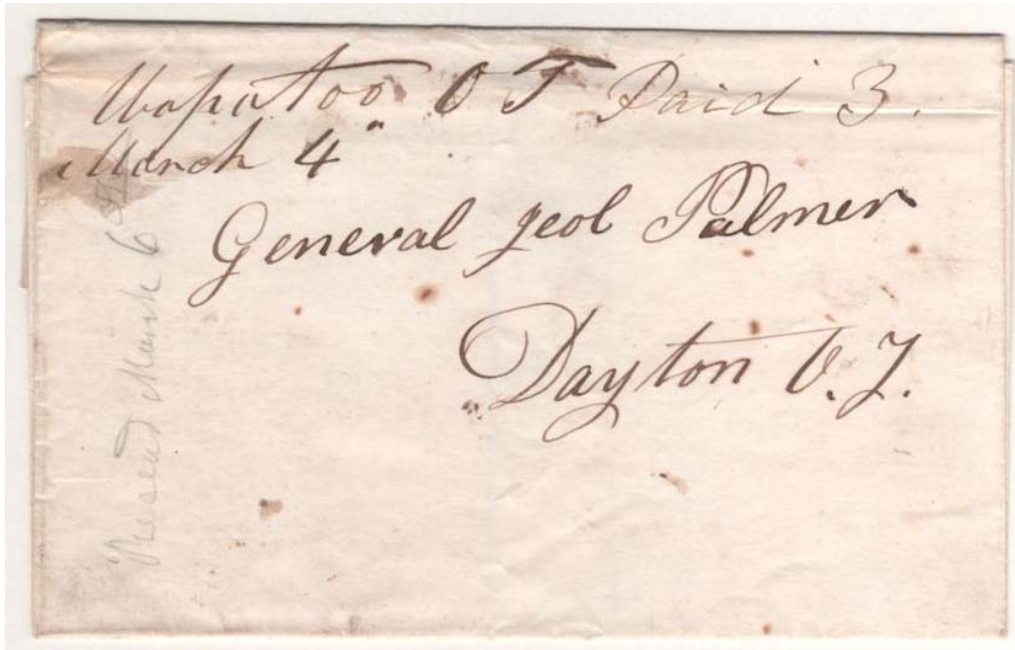


2 May (circa 1854), East Baldwin, Maine - Free, D. Richardson, P.M.
Incoming to Tualatin, Oregon Territory
Addressee Mary Walker was formerly a missionary near Spokane WA
She and husband, Elkanah Walker, were transferred after the Whitman Massacre

OREGON TERRITORIALS

WAPATOO (Washington)

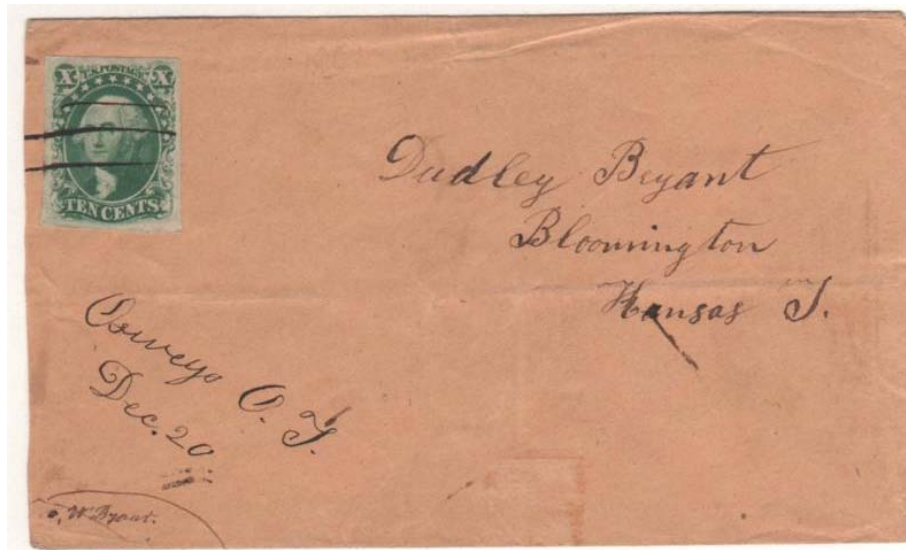
EST. 14 JULY 1853



4 March (1854), Wapato O.T. - Paid 3 in cash for prepaid local rate to Dayton O.T.
Wapato post-office was discontinued in 1865

OSWEGO (Clackamas)

EST. 31 DECEMBER 1853



20 Dec (circa 1856), Oswego O.T. - Now Lake Oswego
10 cent transcontinental rate to Kansas Territory

OREGON TERRITORY

EUGENE CITY (Lane)

SKINNERS UNTIL 3 SEPTEMBER 1853



16 Feb (1854), Eugene City (O.T.) in manuscript - Earliest recorded use
10 for collect transcontinental rate to Texas



11 April (1855), Eugene City O.T., first handstamp
10 in circle handstamp for collect transcontinental rate to Connecticut

OREGON TERRITORY

WASCOPUM (Wasco)

DALLES UNTIL 3 SEPTEMBER 1853



9 July (circa 1856), Wascopum O.T., Paid 3 in cash for rate to California
Became The Dalles in 1860

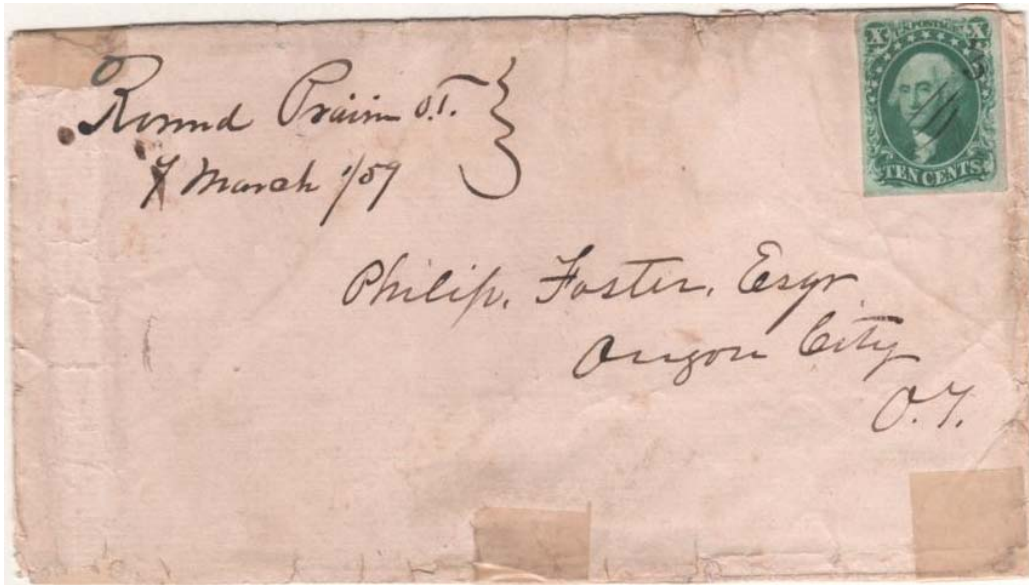


8 May 1858, Olympia (letter heading) - 10 August 1858, Wascopum O.T.
Forwarded from Wascopum back to Olympia with 3 cent stamp

OREGON TERRITORIALS

ROUND PRAIRIE (Douglas)

EST. 22 NOVEMBER 1853



7 March 1857, Round Prairie O.T.
To Philip Foster at Oregon City O.T.

MUDDY (Yamhill)

EST. 29 MAY 1855

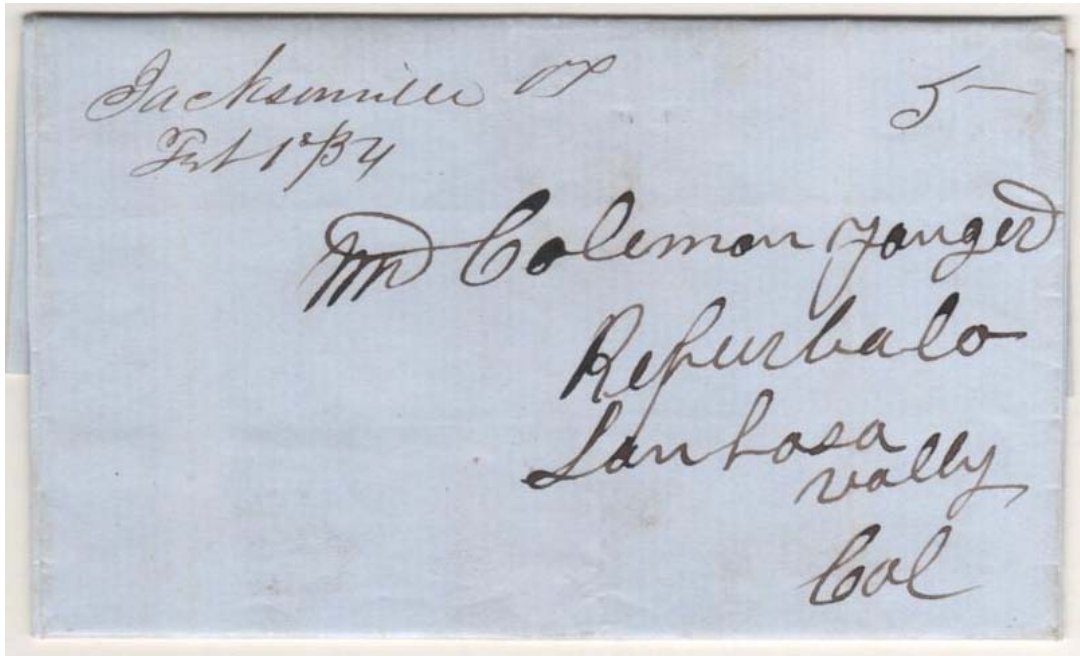


9 November 1857, Muddy O.T. - to Corvallis O.T.
Discontinued 29 April 1869, name changed to Bellevue

OREGON TERRITORY

JACKSONVILLE (Jackson)

EST. 18 FEBRUARY 1854



1 Feb 1854, Jacksonville O.T. - Before official opening date for post-office
5 in manuscript for collect rate to California



6 November (1854), Jacksonville O.T. ms. - Double 6 cent transcontinental rate to Ohio
J.M. Hutchings' "The Expressman" Anthony & Baker design illustrated miner's envelope

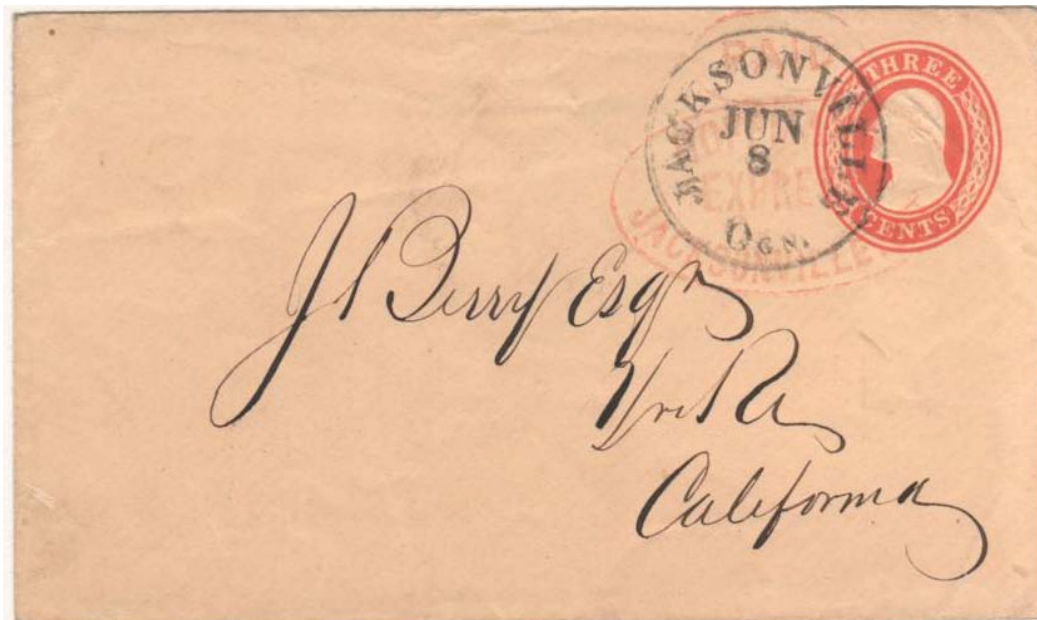
OREGON TERRITORY

JACKSONVILLE (Jackson)

EST. 18 FEBRUARY 1854



Ms. 28 Oct (circa 1857), Jacksonville Ogn handstamp
PAID and ms. 10 for transcontinental rate to Wisconsin



19 Aug (1858) Jacksonville Ogn handstamp - Via San Francisco and New York to Germany
10 cents for U.S. postage to New York - European postage collected in Germany

OREGON TERRITORY

JACKSONVILLE (Jackson)

EST. 18 FEBRUARY 1854



6 Dec (1854), Jacksonville Ogn handstamp
6 cent prepaid transcontinental rate to Boston
Anthony & Baker "In a tight place" miner's envelope printed in San Francisco



Hoffman's Express Jacksonville O.T. red handstamp and Paid in oval
William Hoffman (C.C. Beekman's father-in-law) had an express for a short time in 1858

OREGON TERRITORY

JACKSONVILLE (Jackson)

EST. 18 FEBRUARY 1854



6 JUNE 1855, ECCUS ENGLAND HANDSTAMP - VIA NEW YORK AND CALIFORNIA
One shilling 2½ pence west-coast rate to Jacksonville, Gold River Valley, O.T.

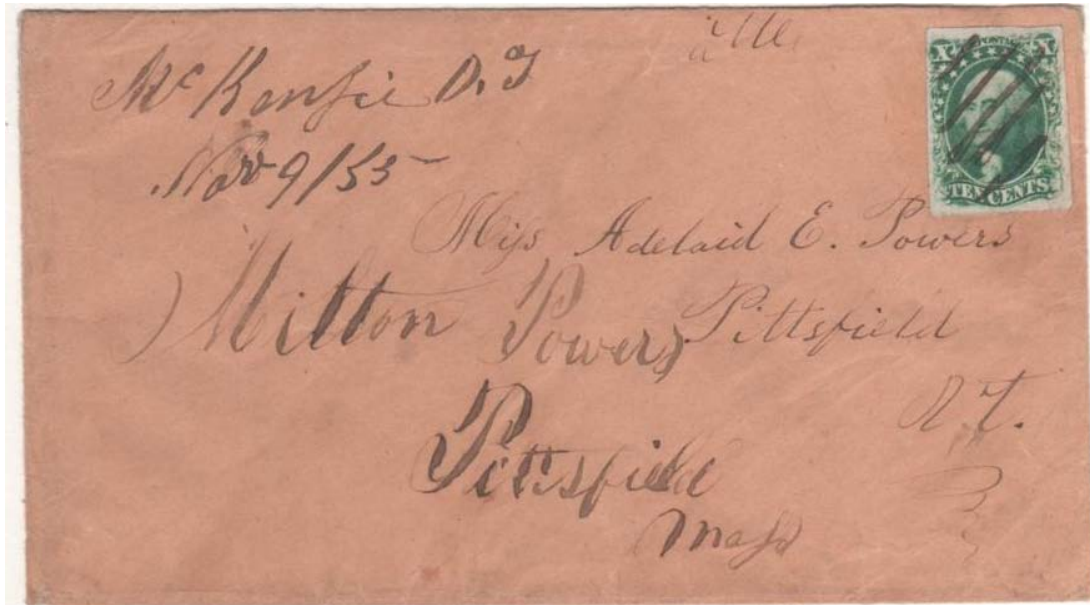


28 July 1857, Carlisle Pennsylvania to Jacksonville O.T.
Underpaid for 10 cent transcontinental rate - "Due 4", no penalty charged

OREGON TERRITORY

McKENZIE (Lane)

EST. 21 JANUARY 1854



9 Nov 1855, McKenzie O.T. in manuscript
10 cent transcontinental rate to Massachusetts - Post-office closed in 1859

UNION POINT (Linn)

EST. 18 FEBRUARY 1854



5 July 1857, Union Point O.T in manuscript
3 cent rate to Yreka California - Post-office closed in 1859

OREGON TERRITORY

EUGENE CITY (Lane)

SKINNERS UNTIL 3 SEPTEMBER 1853



3 Oct (1856), Eugene City O.T. first handstamp
29 cents west-coast rate to England - 3 handstamp for credit to England



6 April (circa 1857) Eugene City O.T. second (larger) handstamp
10 cent transcontinental rate to Washington D.C.

OREGON TERRITORIALS

SANDY (Multnomah)

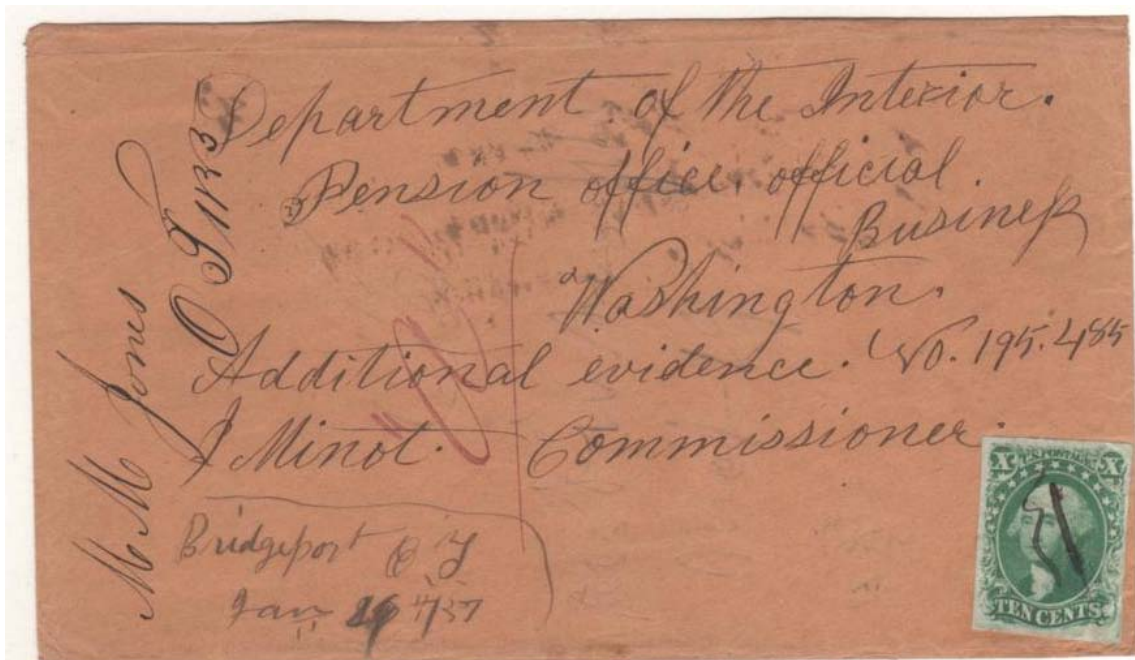
EST. 1 JUNE 1854



5 April (circa 1858), Sandy O.T. in ms. - Near present-day Troutdale, not today's Sandy
3 cent rate to Whittier Island W.T. - Post-office closed in 1868

BRIDGEPORT (Polk)

EST. 1 JUNE 1854



4 Jan 1857, Bridgeport O.T. in ms. - Post-office closed in 1874
10 cent transcontinental rate to Washington D.C.

OREGON TERRITORIALS

OCEOLA (Washington)

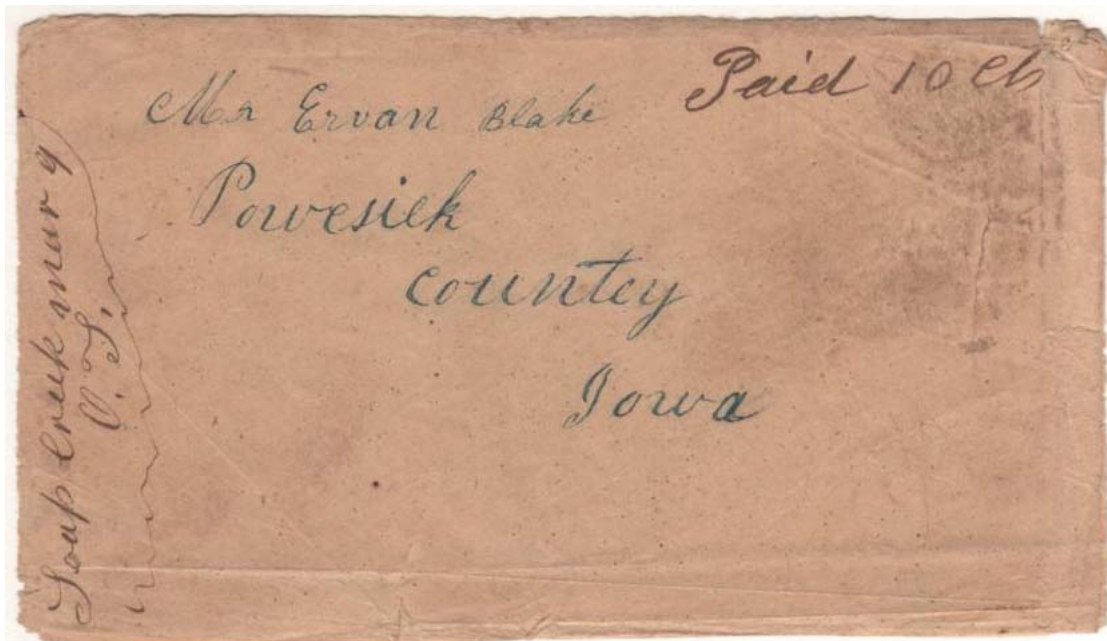
EST. 24 JUNE 1854



23 Oct 1854, Oceola O.T. - Post-office closed in 1865
3 cent rate to Territorial Governor George Curry in Salem O.T.

SOAP CREEK (Benton)

EST. 4 NOVEMBER 1854

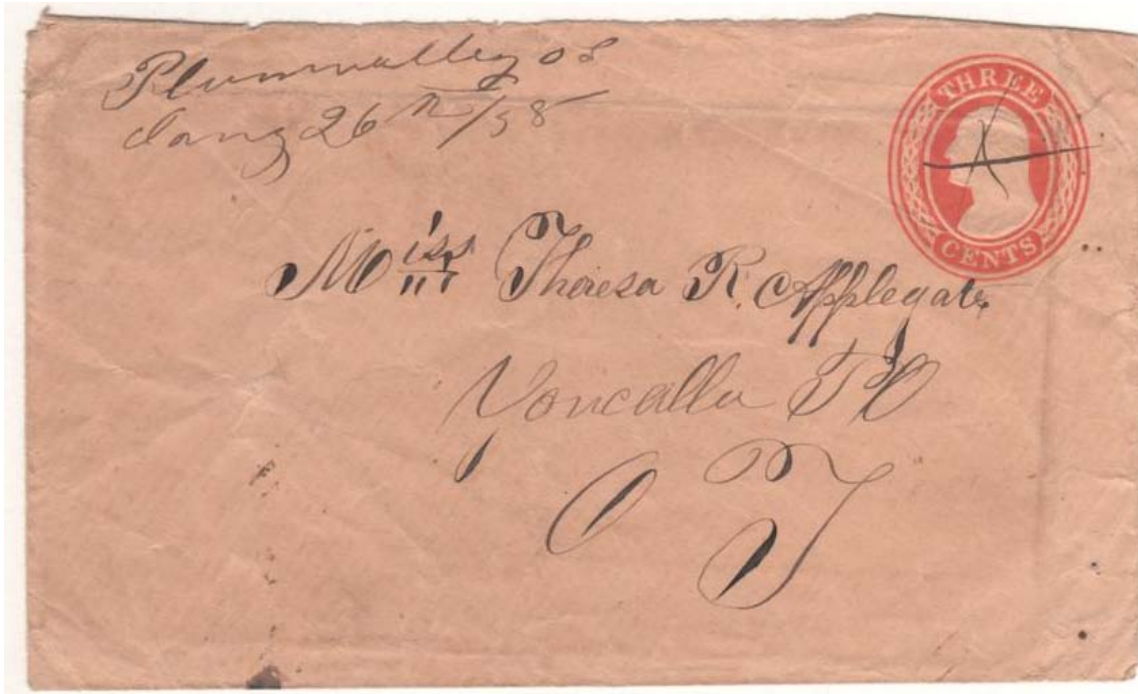


9 Mar (circa 1856), Soap Creek O.T. in manuscript - Name changed to Tampico in 1857
Paid 10 cts in cash for transcontinental rate to Iowa

OREGON TERRITORIALS

PLUM VALLEY (Polk)

EST. 30 NOVEMBER 1854



26 Jan 1858, Plum Valley O.T. in manuscript - Post office closed in 1863
3 cent Nesbitt envelope for local rate to Yoncalla O.T.

PINE (Linn)

EST. 3 JANUARY 1855

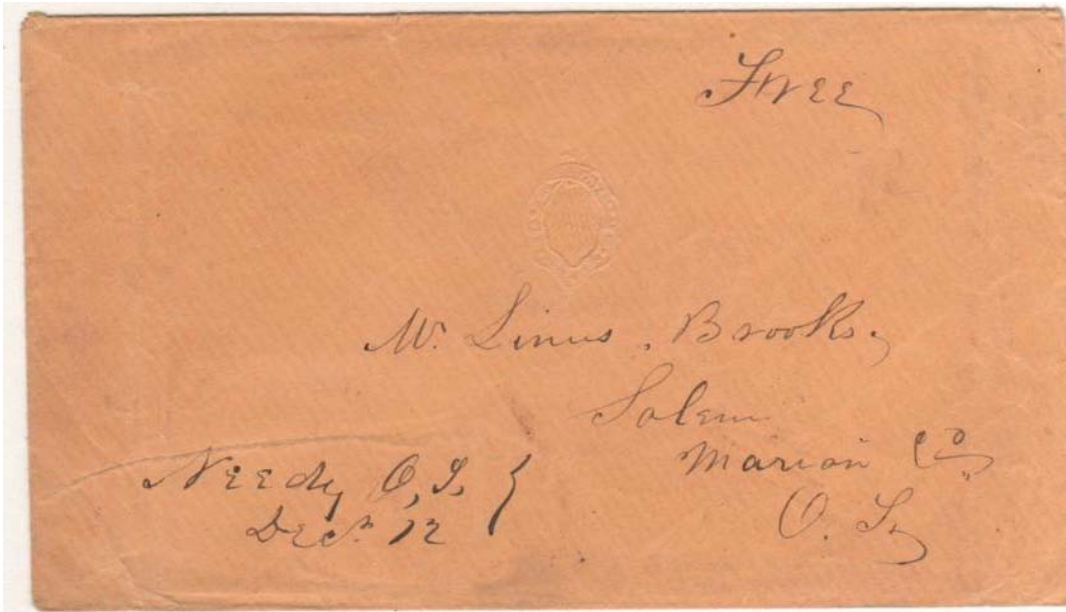


18 July 1857, Pine O.T. in manuscript - Post-office closed in 1887
10 cent transcontinental rate paid with stamps

OREGON TERRITORIALS

NEEDY (Clackamas)

EST. 16 FEBRUARY 1855



12 Dec (circa 1857), Needy O.T. in ms. - Post-office closed in 1903
"Free" to Salem O.T., presumably sent by postmaster but not endorsed by him

OTHELLO (Lane)

EST. 28 MARCH 1855



8 March (1856), Othello O.T. - Post-office closed in 1859
10 cent transcontinental rate to Kentucky

OREGON TERRITORIALS

COTTAGE GROVE (Lane)

EST. 3 MARCH 1856



4 Dec (circa 1857), Cottage Grove O.T. in manuscript
3 cent rate to "Hillborough O.T."

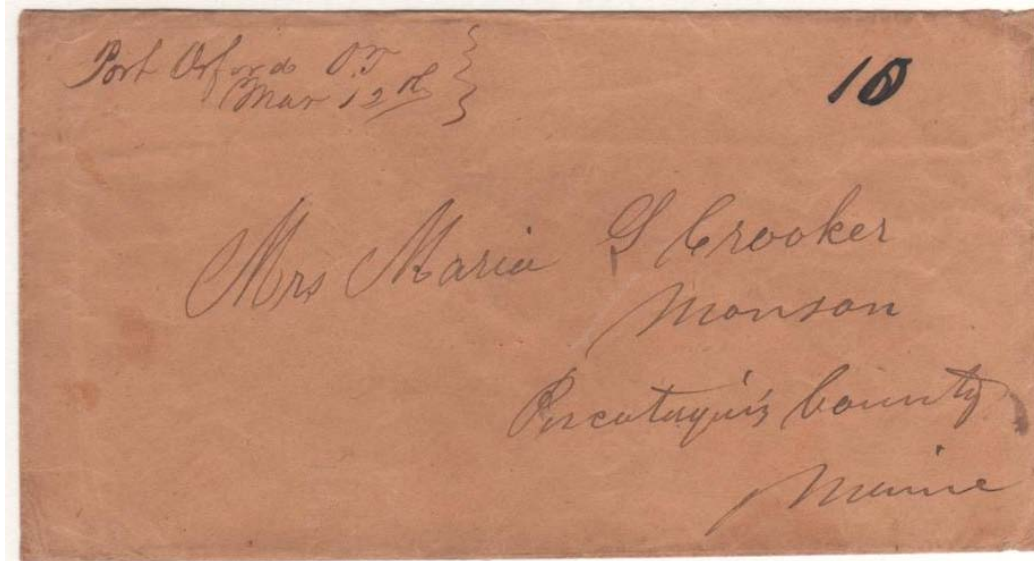


12 Feb (1859), Cottage Grove O.T. in manuscript - 2 days before statehood
3 cent rate to "Hillsborou O.T." - Sender not yet aware of new spelling "Hillsboro"

OREGON TERRITORIALS

PORT ORFORD (Curry)

EST. 27 MARCH 1855



12 March (1854), Port Orford O.T. in ms.- Letter headed Coquille Mines March 3, 1854
10 cent collect transcontinental rate - Post-office establishment date appears to be incorrect



30 May (circa 1855), Port Orford O.T. in ms.
10 cent transcontinental rate from 1 April 1855

OREGON TERRITORIALS

PORT ORFORD (Curry)

EST. 27 MARCH 1855



26 June (1855), Port Orford O.T. in ms. - It is believed a coin was used to make this marking
PAID 10 for transcontinental rate to Illinois



11 May (1856), Port Orford O.T. "balloon" handstamp
10 cent stamp placed over 3 cent Nesbitt indicia for transcontinental rate

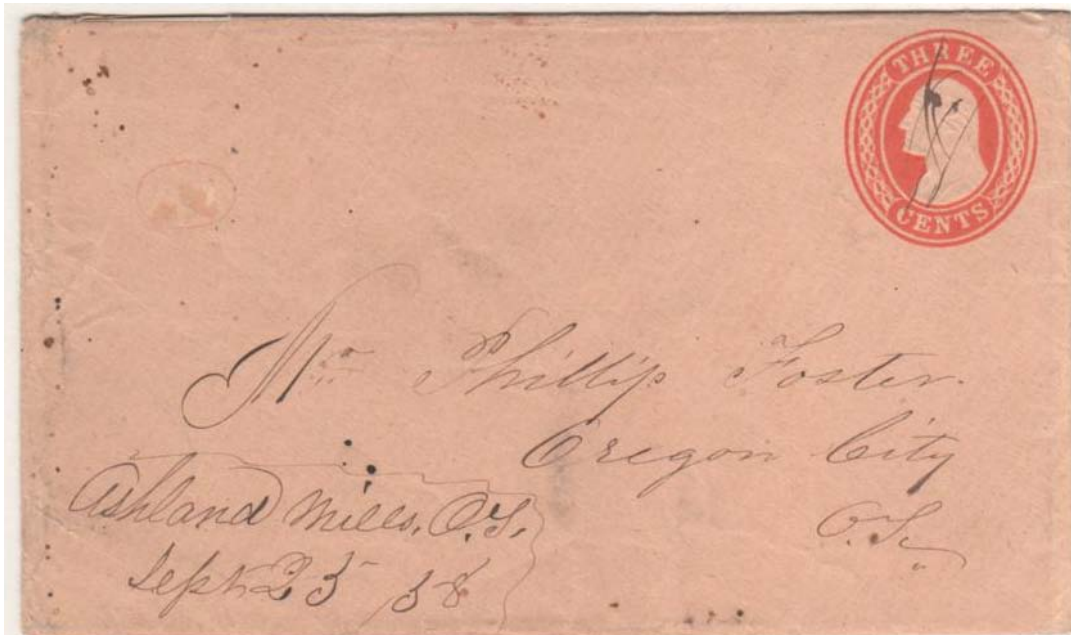
OREGON TERRITORIALS

ASHLAND MILLS (Jackson)

EST. 17 MAY 1855



31 Dec (1857), ASHLAND MILLS O.T. handstamp - Name shortened to Ashland in 1871
6 cent double local rate to Yoncalla O.T.

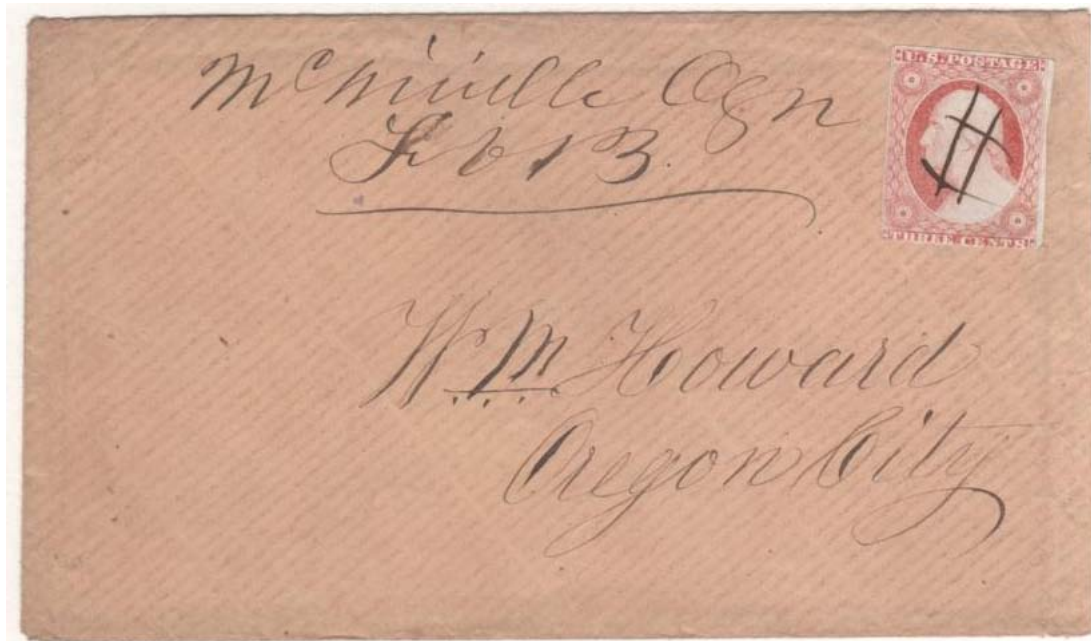


25 Sep 1858, Ashland Mills O.T. in ms., handstamp possibly lost
3 cent Nesbitt envelope for local rate to Oregon City O.T.

OREGON TERRITORIALS

McMINNVILLE (Yamhill)

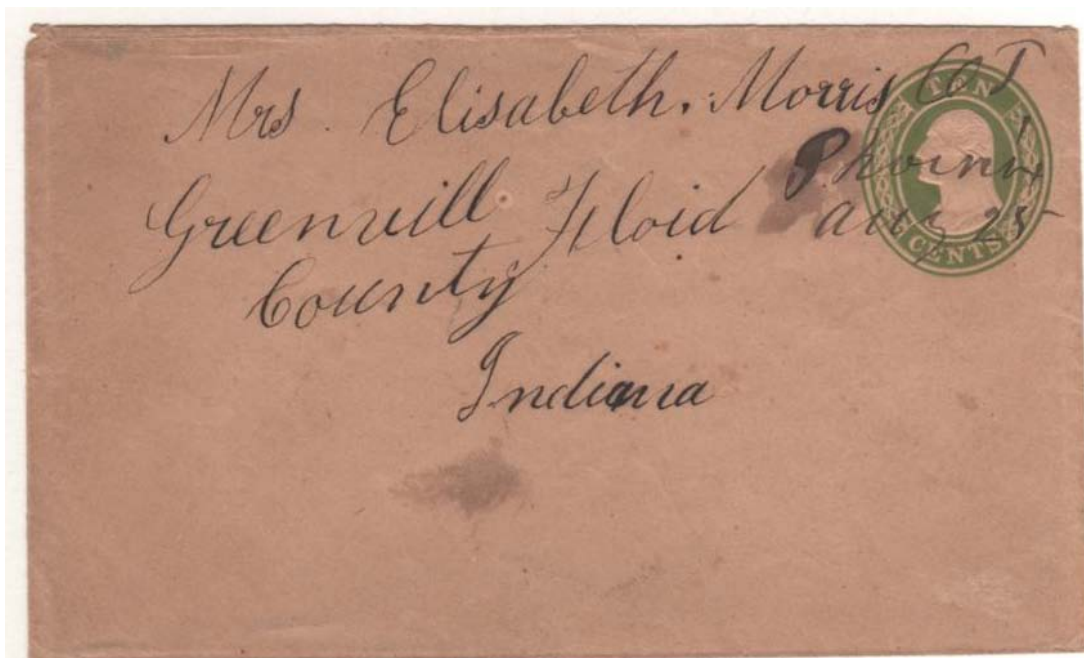
EST. 29 MAY 1855



"13 Feb (1857), McMinville Ogn" in manuscript, post-office officially "McMinnville"
3 cent local rate to Oregon City O.T.

PHOENIX (Jackson)

EST. 3 JANUARY 1857



25 Aug (1858), Phoenix O.T. in ms.
10 cent Nesbitt envelope for transcontinental rate to Indiana

OREGON TERRITORIALS

ROSEBURG (Douglas)

EST. 16 JULY 1858



(no day or month indicated) ROSEBURG O.T. handstamp
Deer Creek post-office name changed to Roseburg (or Roseburgh) from 16 July 1858

This is the largest exhibit of pre-statehood Oregon Territory letters ever Dale shown. It has been made possible by the Pacific Northwest Postal History Society and the following individuals:

Bates, Rex
Beith, Bill
Boardman, Tim
Deer, Charles
Forster,
Helmer, Bill
Himber, Dorlon
Klein, Lucien
Long, Dick
Mader, Scott
Mader, Howard (deceased)
Maddux, Larry
Snow, David