

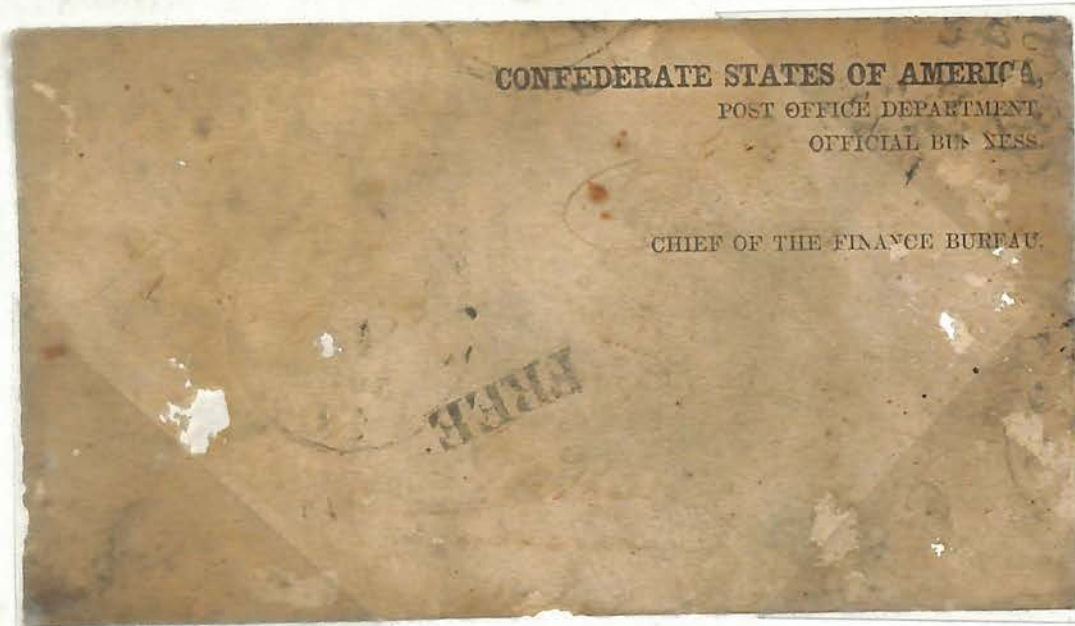


The Confederate States of America adapts.

With the rebellion of the Southern States, the Provisional Congress, in 1861, passed legislation that the Postmaster General, his clerks, and the auditor of the Treasury could transmit free of postage all Official Business mail. This needed to be so labeled and have a counter signature.

A critical element of this legislation provided a penalty of \$300 for false endorsement. This introduced the Penalty concept to government mail that would be adopted, down to Amount of the penalty, after the Civil War. The Postmaster General, of the United States, who would so establish this feature would be a Rehabilitated Confederate Officer.

The Confederate States preprinted both captured U.S. Postal Stationery, and Blank Envelopes, with an appropriate text.



The above cover was salvaged from an old general store attic in Northumberland, Virginia. It was addressed to the Postmaster, Burgess Store, Northumberland, VA which was faded and insect damaged. Black light permits some identification. The Countersignature is that of Jno. L. Harnell. This printing occurs on Stationery as well as blank envelopes.

General Post-Office,

WASHINGTON CITY,

Aug. 31.. 1813.

SIR,

This serves to acknowledge the receipt of your
accounts for the last quarter ending 1. July and
twenty one
dollars, which are to your credit in the books of this office.

I am, Sir,

Yours respectfully, &c.

21 DOLLARS.

for ASSISTANT POST-MASTER GENERAL.

H. Bestor
Clerk.

C. Baldwin Esq.

Post-master at

It is not intended that the amount of the quarterly balances should be remitted by post-masters who have not heretofore been in the practice of remitting. They will be drawn for as usual.

also 35. cents

3
08
31

GENERAL POST-OFFICE, WASHINGTON CITY.

July 31st 1812.

SIR,

This serves to acknowledge the receipt of your accounts
for the quarter ending July 1st last, and
Sixteen dollars and thirty seven
cents, which are to your credit in the books of this office.

I am, Sir,

Yours respectfully, &c,

16 DOLLARS, 37 CENTS. for ASSISTANT POST-MASTER GENERAL.

Harvey Bester
Clerk.

C. Baldwin Esq.

Post-master at

IT is necessary that the accounts be rendered agreeable to INSTRUCTION XI, and all the articles, &c. therein mentioned, sent in ONE BUNDLE.

The account current, cash and contingent receipts, must be put in with the transcripts.

The blanks must be filled with the name of the post-office, (and state,) and the post-master's name appear on the account current, transcripts, &c.

20 Dolls.
SIR,

GENERAL POST-OFFICE, WASHINGTON CITY, July 13. 1816.

This serves to acknowledge the receipt of your accounts for the quarter ending 1st July, and

Twenty Six Dollars,

which are to your credit in the books of this office.

Yours, &c. For Assistant Post-master General.

Esq.

W. H. Beard

Post-Master,

Clerk.

Post-Master,

Newton
G. L.

General Post-Office.

1816
July 13


~~~~~  
P. Dolls.  
~~~~~  
SIR,

GENERAL POST-OFFICE, WASHINGTON CITY, April 24. 1816.

This serves to acknowledge the receipt of your accounts for the quarter ending 1st April, and
Thirty Dollars,
which are to your credit in the books of this office.

Yours, &c. For Assistant Post-master General.

Esq.

Post-Master,

W. H. Beard
Clerk.

Post-Master,

Benjamin B. B.

General Post-Office.


~~~~~  
24 Dolls.  
~~~~~

SIR,

GENERAL POST-OFFICE, WASHINGTON CITY, January 14, 1817

This serves to acknowledge the receipt of your accounts for the quarter ending 31st December 1816,
and _____
which are to your credit in the books of this office.

Twenty four Dollars,

Yours, &c. For Assistant Post-master General.

Calist Baldwin Esq.

Post-Master,

W. H. Beard
Clerk.

Post-Master,

Saml. D. Brown
Ct.

General Post-Office.

General Post-Office,

WASHINGTON CITY,

July 7th. 1807

S I R,

Your letter of the
your Post-office accounts, for the quarter ending the 1st Instant
last, and

Fourteen — dollars, twenty Six cents, is
received: the latter is placed to your credit in the books of this
office.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient,

For

Assistant Post-Master General.

David Shoemaker Clk

Caleb Baldwin Esq.

Post-master at Newtown C^t —

NOTE—The proper periods for closing accounts, are on the last days of March, June, September, and December in each year.

GENERAL POST-OFFICE.

WASHINGTON CITY.

the
Jan'y 30 1810

Sir,

Your letter of the
with your Post-Office account, for the quarter ending the
1st Inst ————— last, and
Eleven ————— dollars twenty ————— cents
is received; the latter is placed to your credit in the books
of this Office.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient,

for ASSISTANT POST-MASTER GENERAL.

11 DOLLARS, 20 CENTS.

Caleb Baldwin Esq.

D. Thormaker CLK.

Postmaster at Newtown C.

NOTE. THE proper periods for closing Accounts, are on the last days of March, June, September, and December in each year. Cash, and contingent Receipts, ought always to be carefully inclosed in the Account Current; minding to advise us by letter or note in the margin of Account Current the sum actually sent.

General Post-office,
WASHINGTON CITY, *October 15* 180 *6*

Sir,

YOUR letter of the
your Post-office accounts, for the quarter ending the *1 Instant*
last and
Eleven dollars, cents, is
received: the latter is placed to your credit in the books of this office.

I am, Sir,

your obedient,

Assistant Post-master General.

11 DOLLARS. — CENTS.

Caleb Baldwin Esq.

Post-master at *Newtown* *6th*

GENERAL POST-OFFICE, WASHINGTON CITY July 8 1819.

SIR, This serves to acknowledge the receipt of your accounts for the quarter ending 1st July 1819.

I am, Sir, Yours,

RETURN J. MEIGS, Jun.

Post-Master General.

July 8th
1819

35.50
11.14
24.35

General Post-Office.

Post-Master,

Washington,
D.C.

GENERAL POST-OFFICE.

WASHINGTON CITY. *April 13th* 1810

Sir,

Your letter of the
with your Post-Office account, for the quarter ending the
1st Ins ————— last, and
Twelve ————— dollars Six ————— cents
is received; the latter is placed to your credit in the books
of this Office.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient,

for ASSISTANT POST-MASTER GENERAL.

12 DOLLARS, 6 CENTS.

Caleb Baldwin Esq.

D. Shoemaker Clk.

Postmaster at Newtown C^t —

NOTE. THE proper periods for closing Accounts, are on the last days of March, June, September, and December in each year. Cash, and contingent Receipts, ought always to be carefully inclosed in the Account Current; minding to advise us by letter or note in the margin of Account Current the sum actually sent.

John Adams- The Post Office moves to Washington.

General Post-Office,

WASHINGTON CITY,

Aug 1 1803.

Sir,

Your letter of the
with your post-office accounts, for the quarter ending the
~~30 June~~ last, and Six
dollars Seventy five cents, is received; the latter is placed
to your credit in the books of this office. Should any
material errors be discovered in your accounts when they are
examined, you will be notified of them.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient,

Abraham Bradley Jr.
Asst. Postm. Genl.

Postmaster
Newtown Ct.

DOLLARS 6⁷⁵

Caleb Baldwin Esq.
Post-Master at Newtown Ct.

In 1800 the Offices of the General Post office moved to Washington, D.C. as Adams's Postmaster General Joseph Habersham operated elsewhere. To accomplish this 1st Assistant Postmaster General, **Abraham Bradley, Jr.**, supervised the move. This lawyer served in this post until replaced by President Andrew Jackson in 1829. He would serve 4 Postmasters General. He developed the first Post Maps for wide distribution and posting.

This cover bears no franking or Postmark as it was internal. This is typical of this period.

Cover face shown reproduced 100%.

W. W.
U.S.P.

Post Office Department,

APPOINTMENT OFFICE,

Washington, D. C., Dec. 30th, 1874.

Sir:

The Postmaster General has discontinued the pay and services of W. L. Harding, Mail Route Messenger between Richford and Newport, Vt. to take effect from and after Dec. 31st 1874,

Very respectfully, &c.

J. W. Marshall
First Asst. P. M. General.

W. L. Harding Esq.,
Mail Route Messenger,
Newport,
Vt.

Internal routine forms...

Among the two Dozen form letters send from The General Post Office to Newton's Postmaster between 1803 and 1819 this is the only cover with any indication of franking, a simple "FREE".

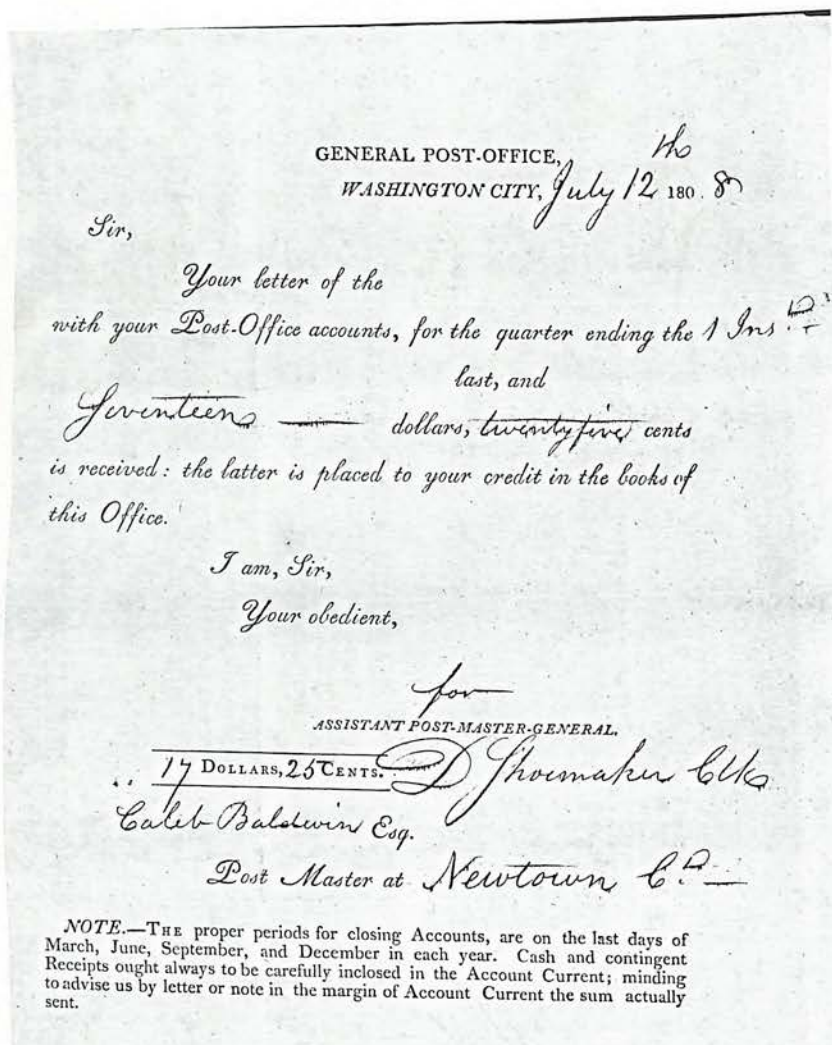
As The PMG Thomas Jefferson Appointed, Gideon Granger had Several clerks besides Bradley.

At Right:
1808 form letter at 60%.

Below:
The cover with "FREE"
Red stamp applied at the
General Post Office.

**This was Printed Post
Office Stationery in 1808.**

Watermark: E PATTERSON in sheet



OFFICIAL BUSINESS and the Post Office mail

1850

By 1850 there were 18,417 Post Offices in the United States. President Zachary Taylor's Postmaster General was Vermont senator Jacob Collamer. When Taylor died in office July 9, 1850, President Fillmore nominated his law partner Nathan K. Hall on July 20th. On July 23rd he took office which he held until he got an appointment as a Federal Judge. He was replaced by Samuel Hubbard a congressman from Connecticut.

Throughout this time the Assistants continued in their offices. The First Assistant Postmaster General, Selah Hobbie, that signed this letter was replaced in 1851 only to return after the Administration changed in 1853.

The printed form of the letter and Printed "POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT/ Official Business" still required the signature of the chief clerk William H. Dundas who served from 1846 to 1851 in that office.



The Washington, D.C. MAY 20
With the outside **FREE** of this
Size (32-32.5 mm) was used only in
1850. The incorporation of the
FREE in the postmark began in 1831
and was used on official mail into the
1870's. Outside the circle **FREEs** were
in use only between 1845 and 1850.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.
CONTRACT OFFICE.
#12 70 50 May 11 1850.
SIR: Your bid of \$ 2744.50 upon Route No. 5178.
from London Ky. to Campbellsville Tenn.
has been accepted by the Postmaster General. Contracts will be forwarded in due time. Service
is to commence on the first of July next.
You will request the Postmasters at the ends of the route to transmit a certificate of the
date of commencement of service.
Respectfully, your obedient servant,
W. H. Dundas
First Assistant Postmaster General.

Mr. John W. Roberts
Livingston Tenn.

I origin the a last exception to 'general'
was this the 12 day of June 1850
J. W. Roberts

1840



U.S. Army

B

Printed
Bank Form

Eli Beatty Esq
Cashier
Hagerstown
Md

Civil War Era OFFICIAL BUSINESS The other George McClellan

The Second Assistant Postmaster General under Lincoln was George W. McClellan of Massachusetts. He served until 1869 and was not the Civil War general, George B. McClellan.

The September 20, 1865 FREE cancel provides a clear used date and the signature appears to be stamped rather than signed.

This was typical of this busy era in Post Office activity which led to many standardized forms and envelope styles.



Philad. 6th June 1833

To the Hon^{ble}
Mr. C. Sumner Secy of the Treas^y of the U. S.
Washington

Dear Sir,

I have the pleasure to hand you, the enclosed
Certificate for a reduction of duties on Silks imported by Benjamin
Blacklocks himself in the Ship Pacific from Canton, amounting
to the sum of One Hundred & sixty Seven dollars & 20 cts, which
I will thank you to have remitted to me.

I remain My Dear Sir

Your Very Obedt^t Servant
Matthew P. Ralston

FREE- To as well as From...

Provisions of the Free Frank system allowed constituents to communicate with some Government offices free of Postage. In some form this remained in force after many other "Free" franking uses were discontinued.

Mail addressed to the Register of Copyrights was transmitted free of prepayment well through the 20th Century.

Civil War Patriotic addressed to the Third Assistant Postmaster General. This design, or a variation, was used by a number of Patriotic envelope printers.



By the Civil War the use of envelopes had largely replaced the sealed, folded letter. Prepayment of Postage by weight allowed a more private form of correspondence and envelopes could be Pre-printed with Government Office information in quantity on envelope stock. The introduction of Postal Stationery also contributed to this envelope usage.

UNITED STATES.

DRAFT No. *487* POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

To the Postmaster at

At sight, Pay to

or order,

Dollars

100

and charge to account of this Department.

7 Octob 183*7*

Charged

Postmaster General.

197 Dollars. *83* Cts.

C. H. Adams

Auditor P. O. Department.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS and the Post Office mail

1847

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT/ OFFICIAL BUSINESS -was a sufficient frank
The 1847 letter below to a Postal Officer in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania regarding a name
change was not signed, but the Washington, DC postmark incorporated the FREE part.
This is an early Printed **OFFICIAL BUSINESS** imprint on Post Office Stationary.



The small outside the
Circle FREE can be
Compared to the cover
That follows.

The letter from the
2nd Assistant PMG
is reduced at the right.

Post Office Department
Appointment Office
Nov 11th 1847

Sir:

Yours of the 5th instant, relative
to a change of name for the office
at "Conewago" has been submitted
to the Postmaster General, and he
instructs me to say, that, the ^{name} of said
office having been changed from
"Arundtsville", only about 18 months,
at the solicitation of those interested,
he is unwilling to restore the old
name - More particularly because
a new edition of Post offices has
recently been printed in which
the office is known as "Conewago".

I have the honor to be
Very Respectfully

Hon. Moses McLean
Gettysburg Pa

W. J. Brown
2nd Asst. PMG

Stampless Wrapper stamped: NAVY DEPARTMENT
No indication of Postage
either paid or an
amount but a
Clear PHILADELPHIA
AUG 7 (1872)

