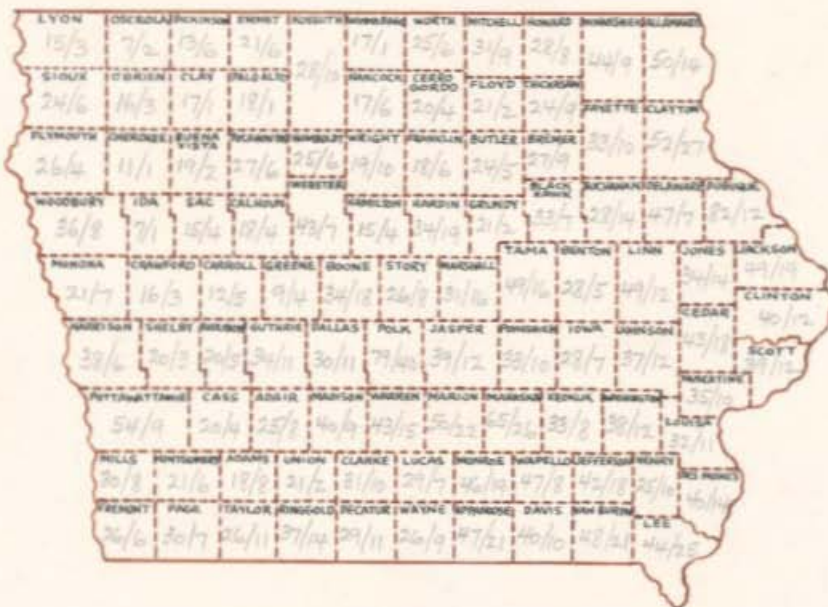




IOWA D.P.O.'s

A representative exhibit of a collection of at least one **Discontinued Post Office** cancellation from each of Iowa's ninety-nine counties, with pertinent historical information.



Iowa's first post office was **Dubuques Mines**, established 27 May 1833; changed to present-day Dubuque 24 Jan 1837. Since that time 4,077 post offices have been established, of which 1,023 are still in service. Our DPO-collection commenced in 1952. Not until 1965 were we able to complete our goal of at least one from each county, Cherokee Co. being the final acquisition. Many miles were travelled, many hours of searching, and much correspondence completed to achieve our goal. An effort has been made to show examples of as many as possible of the first post offices of the counties rather than examples of later years which might be more attractive from a philatelic point of view. The above map identifies the respective counties and the number of DPO-cancels we have related to the total possible. We are always anxious to add new items to our collection, or furnish information from our records regarding Iowa's DPOs. As the years pass the task becomes increasingly difficult. Postal History is both exciting and challenging.

GOVERNOR ROBERT LUCAS



President Van Buren asked General Henry Atkinson to serve as Governor of the new Territory of Iowa but the general refused the proffer and the appointment was given to Robert Lucas of Ohio. Lucas, who was born in what is now Shepherdstown, Virginia, now West Virginia, on April 1, 1781, moved to the Northwest Territory in 1800 and lived in the Scioto Valley of Ohio. After service in the War of 1812 he served in both houses of the Ohio legislature and then served two terms as governor of Ohio. A vigorous Democrat, he served his party as chairman of the First Democratic National Convention in 1832 & was distinguished as a stalwart supporter of Andrew Jackson, having the honor of renominating "Old Hickory" for president in 1832. Appointed Governor of the Territory of Iowa by Van Buren in July of 1838, he served until he was removed from office by

President Harrison in 1841. He made his home at Plum Grove near Iowa City and took an active part in politics until his death on February 7, 1853. In private life he was distinguished for his work in favor of railroads & temperance.

Because of a delay in his appointment, Lucas did not reach Burlington until August 15, 1838, and in the meantime William B. Conway, who had been appointed Secretary of the Territory by the President, had discharged the duties of Governor from the time he arrived on July 3rd, as was provided in the Organic Act. Conway, a native of Pennsylvania, was a practical and



ambitious politician. When Governor Lucas arrived he found Conway had already divided Iowa into three sections, to each of which he had assigned one of the three Justices named by the President--Charles Mason, Joseph Williams and Thomas S. Wilson. Lucas felt that Conway had been too officious and friction developed.

Governor Lucas, an earnest and hard-working man devoted his first official efforts to a tour of the Territory. He seems to have met most of the important citizens and to have made a very good impression upon them. Then he issued a call for a general election to be held the 10th of September & selected Burlington as the temporary capital.

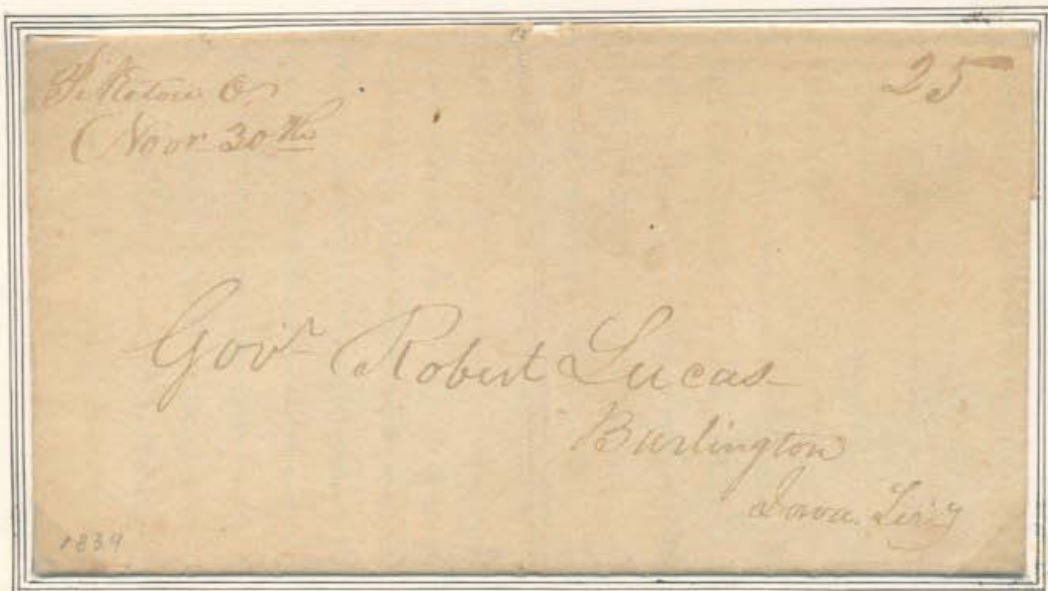
The First Legislative Assembly of Iowa met at Burlington on November 12 and in his first message the 57-year old, richly experienced and highly opinionated Governor adopted an unfortunate tone that revealed his intense convictions as well as his positive methods. Lucas seemed somewhat paternal and proprietary---as if he regarded the legislators as young and inexperienced men who needed the leadership and wisdom of an older and wiser man---himself. The Governor had an absolute veto power and he did not endeavor himself to Iowans when he exercised his veto freely, usually accompanying his veto message with a sharp rebuke.

On the preceding page is a letter written by a Mr. P. C. Gallagher, of the General Land Office, Washington, in behalf of his friend, Mr. John G. Miller, for consideration in the appointment of a Secretary of the Territory of Iowa.

Lucas had just been appointed Governor and apparently received this particular letter just prior to his departure for Burlington where he arrived August 15, 1838.

BELOW is a letter written by Gov. Lucas' nephew, advising of events in Ohio. Current prices of land, stock and grain are quoted. An earlier letter is mentioned, sent in September, to which he had no reply, which sought advise regarding the disposition of the Governor's Ohio land.

In the letter below, he describes the "land depression" & of the difficulty of procuring \$5.00 per acre.

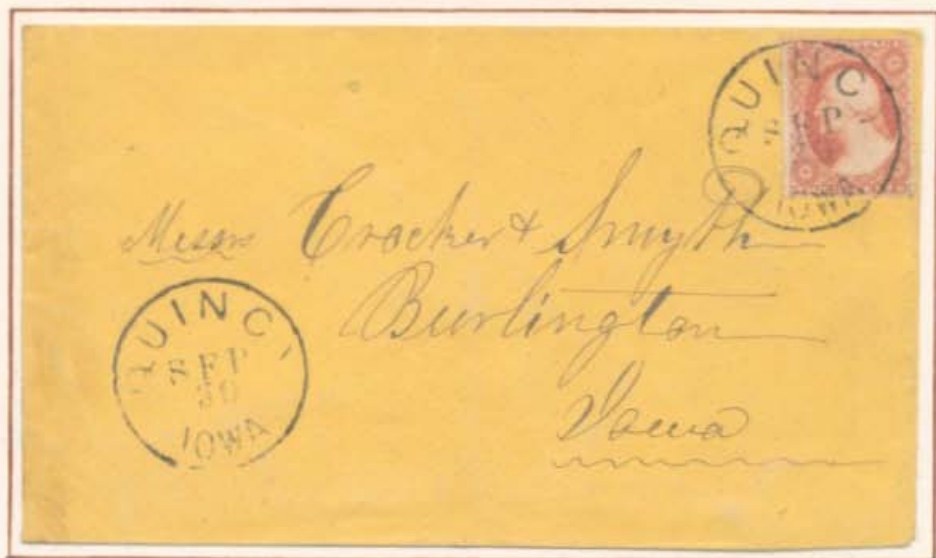




Adair County



Organized in April, 1855. First county seat at Summerset, afterwards changed to Fontanelle, then later to Greenfield. Of 30 post offices 5 are still in service. First post office was Wah-ta-wah, established 22 Jul 1851, discontinued 19 Sep 1854. Its only postmaster, William Alcorn, was one of the first settlers. The first settler in the county was Thomas A. Johnson, who came in 1849. He was first postmaster of the first Adair post office, established 10 Jan 1854 and finally discontinued 31 Dec 1873 when site & name changed to Avondale. This stampless letter, from that office April 29, 1855, is the earliest known from Adair County. Written by John Ireland, J.P. who requests copies of laws enacted by the Acts of 1853. Arbor Hill, Avondale, Berea, Canby, Hebron, Holadays and Stanzell are the other offices from which we have examples.



Adams County

Settled in 1851, organized in April, 1853. Quincy was the first county seat. There have been 24 post offices, of which 7 are still in service. Quincy was the first post office, established 19 Sep 1853, discontinued 30 Sep 1903. Briscoe, Carl, East Nodaway, Hayes, Iveyville, Queen City and Shinn are the other offices from which we have examples.



Allamakee County

Established in 1847, organized Jan. 15, 1849. Columbus was first county seat, 1848-1854, then Waukon until 1861, Lansing until 1867, since when Waukon has been the county seat. First post office was Tom Corwin, 14 May 1849 to 18 Mar 1852, Stephen Holcomb postmaster; changed to Bunker Hill until 17 Mar 1855, to Ion then until discontinued 14 May 1906. Only 7 of its 57 post offices are in service.



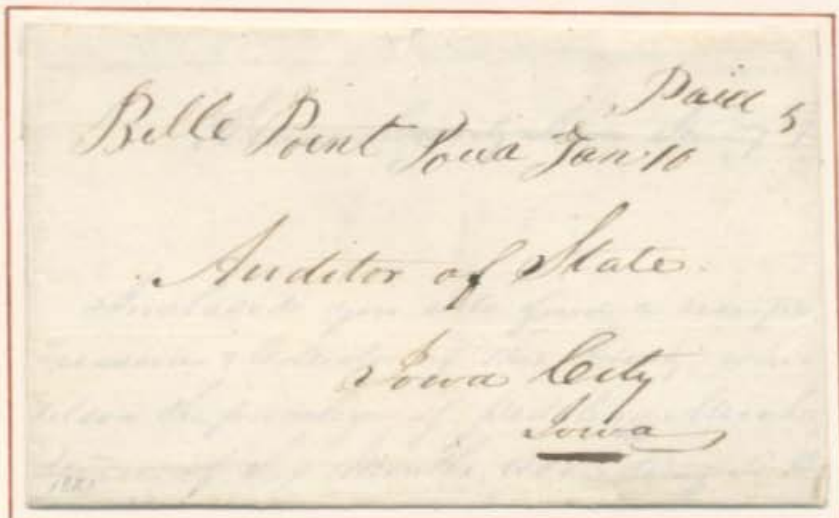
Appanoose County

Established 17 Feb 1843, organized 3 Aug 1846. County seat was originally named Chaldea, but out of admiration for Governor Senter of Tennessee, it was changed to Senterville (Legislature changed "S" to "C"). George W. Perkins was one of the very early settlers, was the first postmaster of this earliest post office, established 6 Nov 1846, changed to Centerville 7 Apr 1847. Of its 57 post offices, 10 are in service.



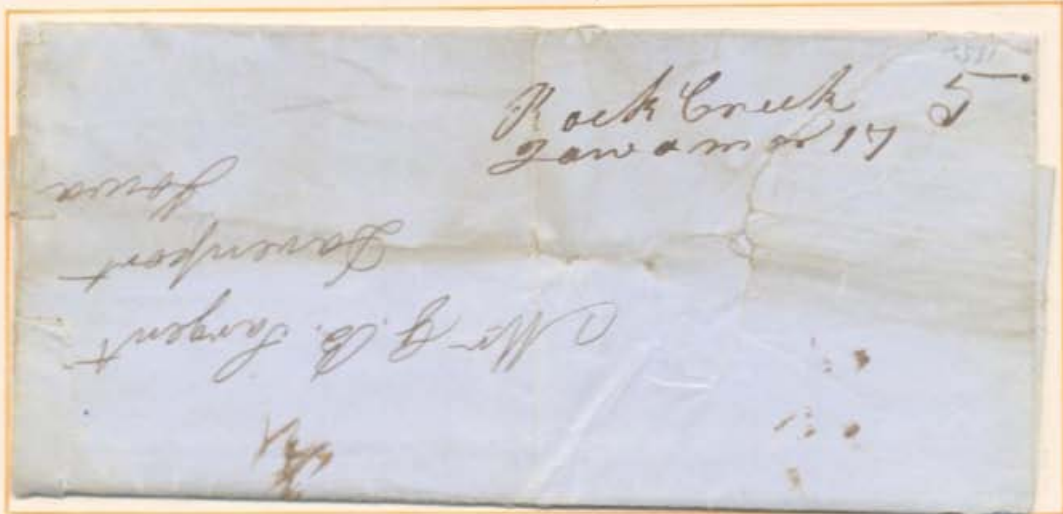
Benton County

Established Feb. 17, 1843; organized Mar. 1, 1846. County seat, Vinton, was selected in the spring of 1846, first named Fremont. Vinton was first post office, established 1 Oct 1846. Stephen Holcomb, first postmaster, had earlier served Tom Corwin (Allamakee) post office. Marysville was second post office, established 21 Sep 1848; changed to Urbana 27 Nov 1857; still in service.



Boone County

Established Jan. 13, 1846; organized 1849. Present county seat, Boone, was first called Boonesboro. Earliest post office was Belle Point, established 27 Nov 1849 preceding even that of Booneville (dateline of this letter) and Boonesborough (alternate spelling of county seat). Reuben S. Clark, Commissioner's Clerk, writer of this letter, was one of the early settlers of Elk Rapids, near this office.



Cedar County

Established Dec. 21, 1837; organized 1838. A struggle for the county seat between Rochester and the more centrally located Tipton was finally determined in favor of Tipton in 1852. **Rock Creek** was first post office, established 8 Jan 1839, changed to Rochester 20 Mar 1854 (this letter datelined "Rochester" March 17, 1852).



Cerro Gordo County

Established 1851; organized Aug. 7, 1855. Mason City has been county seat except for a few years, in the Sixties, when it was moved to Livonia, a townsite laid out just east of the present city of Clear Lake. **Clear Lake City** post office was one of four of first post offices in the county, established on 5 Sep 1855, the others being Masonville (Mason City), Owen's Grove, and Shell Rock Falls (Rock Falls).



Cherokee County

Established Jan. 15, 1851; organized August, 1857, in the summer following Indian trouble, with Cherokee as county seat. It was also the first post office, established 20 Jan 1859. De Leon postoffice was established 16 Jun 1884, discontinued 16 Feb 1887. Acquisition of this item completed our collection of at least one discontinued post office cancel from each of Iowa's ninety-nine counties.



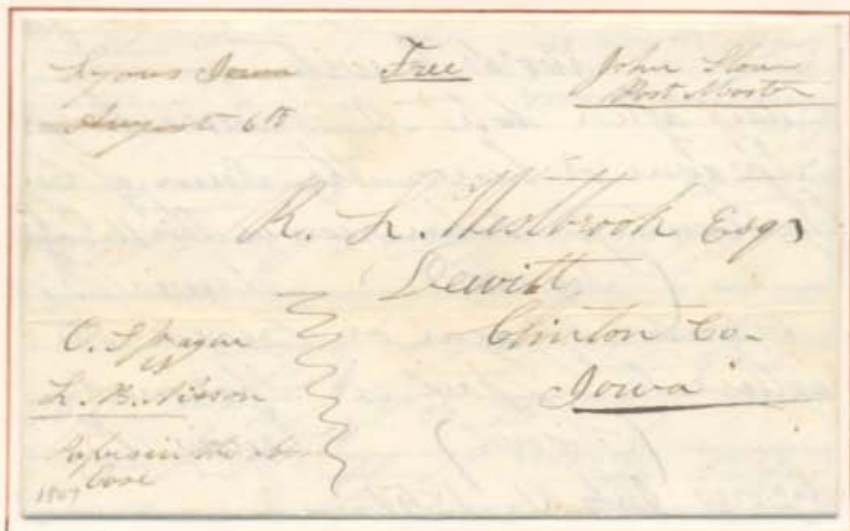
Chickasaw County

Established Jan. 15, 1851; organized August, 1853. County seat, New Hampton, but first term of court was held at Bradford in June 1854, where first postoffice was established 7 Jan 1852; discontinued 20 May 1899.



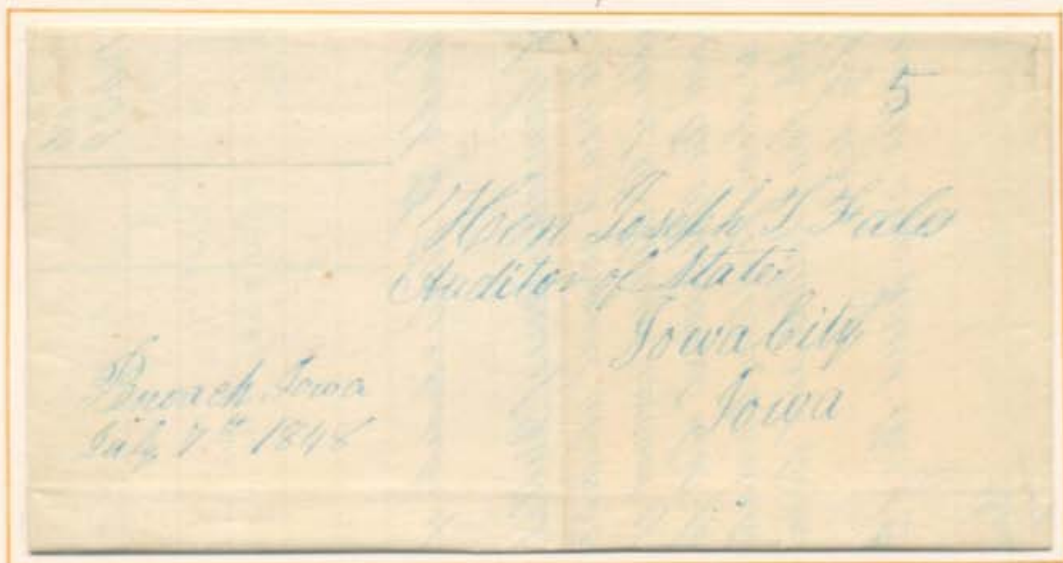
Clayton County

Established Dec. 21, 1837; organized 1838, with **Prairie LaPorte** (Guttenburg since 1847) as the county seat; then Jacksonville from 1843-56; finally Elkader. First post office from which we have an early example, was Millville, established 4 Jun 1838, followed by **Prairie LaPorte** 5 Dec 1838 which was changed to Jacksonville 12 Dec 1843 and finally to Garnaville 27 May 1846. (Note Territorial seal at left).



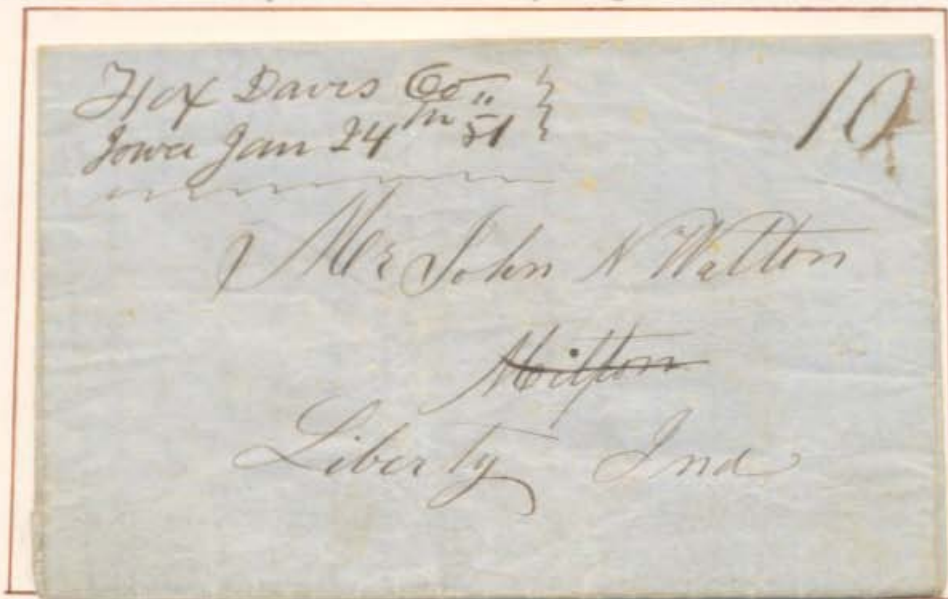
Clinton County

Established Dec. 21, 1837; organized Mar. 1, 1840 with county seat at Camanche; a year later changed to Vandenburg (now DeWitt) until 1870s and finally to Clinton. **Lyons** post office, fourth in county, established 6 Dec 1839, discontinued 13 Jan 1913, now a station of Clinton Postoffice. (Note Postmaster's Free-frank).



Dallas County

Established Jan. 13, 1846; organized Mar. 1, 1847. County seat and first post office was **Penoach** (changed to Adell, later Adel), established 18 Nov 1847; changed name 18 Dec 1849. Examples of double "l" spelling of Adel are scarce.



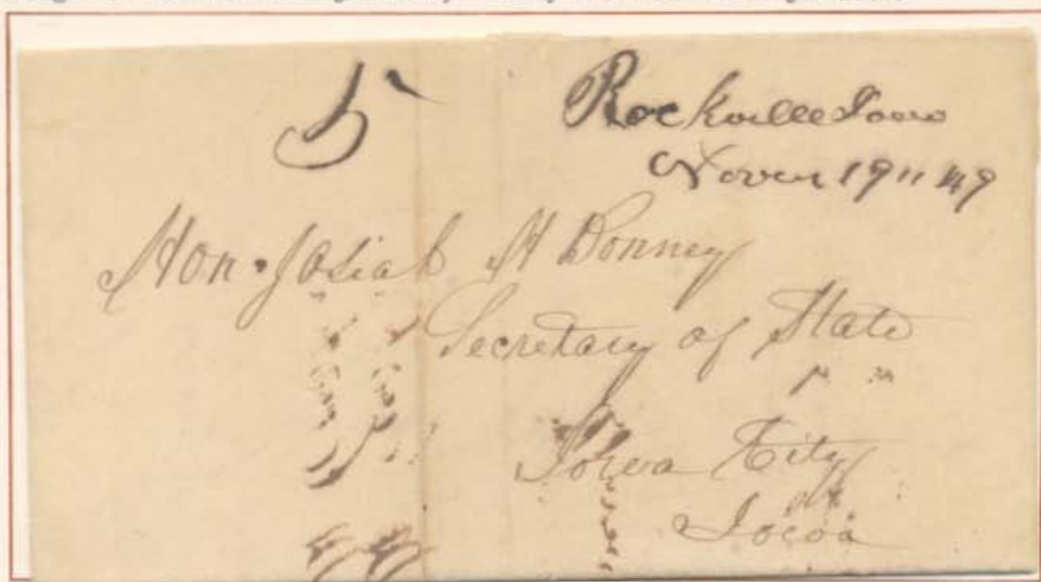
DAVIS COUNTY

Established Feb. 17, 1843; organized Mar. 1, 1844 with county seat at Bloomfield. **Fox** was first postoffice in county, 15 Dec 1842, first in Van Buren County until 26 Aug 1844; changed to Stringtown 21 Feb 1853; discontinued 26 Jul 1866.



Decatur County

Established Jan. 13, 1846; organized Apr. 1, 1850. First county seat, 1851, was Decatur; changed 1853 to a more centrally located town, then named Independence, later becoming Leon. First post office was **Nine Eagles**, established 5 Nov 1849, changed to Pleasanton 21 Jun 1870, finally discontinued 19 Jun 1964.



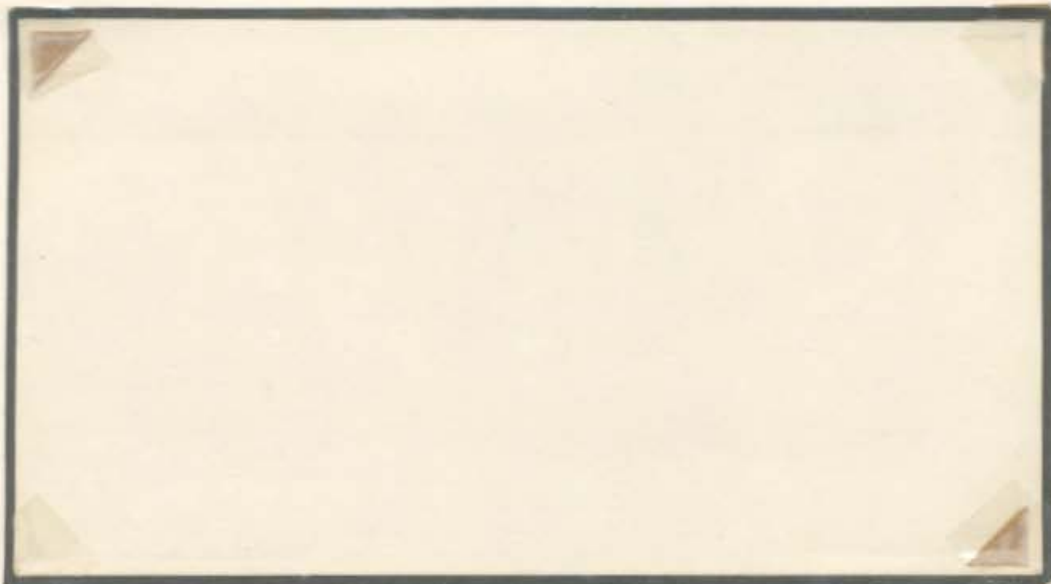
Delaware County

Established Dec. 21, 1837; organized Dec. 20, 1839. First county seat at Delhi in 1842; now at Manchester. First post office was Delhi, established 14 Mar 1844 of which we have early examples. Second was **Rockville**, 15 Jun 1846 to 11 May 1898.



FORT DES MOINES (No. 1)

Post Office established September 28, 1835 in Clark County, Missouri, the fourth in what is now the State of Iowa. First Postmaster was Charles A. Carter. Second Postmaster was Jacob Huner, appointed April 6, 1837 in Des Moines County, Wisconsin Territory. Third Postmaster was Henry S. Austin, appointed March 28, 1838 during Wisconsin Territorial period, when name of office was changed to Montrose, Lee County. He continued in office when Iowa Territory was effected July 4, 1838 until July 27, 1839.





Fremont County

Established 1847; organized 1850. County seat, Sidney. Earliest settlement in the county was made in the southern part, considered then to have been south of the Missouri-Iowa line. **McKissack's Grove** was one of the earliest, its post office (1 Oct 1849) preceded only by Austin (Hamburg) and Gaston (Percival).



Hancock County

Established Jan. 15, 1851; organized 1858. First county seat was Ellington, but later moved to Concord, and with the building of the railroad and the town of Garner it was moved again. **Upper Grove** was the first settlement, also served as temporary county seat; its post office was established 25 Jan 1858, now Goodell.



Hardin County

Established 1851; organized 1853; county seat, Eldora. First post office was at Eldora, 16 Nov 1853, still in service. **Rocksylvania** dated from 21 Feb 1856 to 22 Jan 1857, when it was changed to Iowa Falls. But it was first Rockwood, from 2 Jun 1855. This is the only example reported to date.



Humboldt County

Established and organized 1857. Its county seat, Dakota City, was established in 1857 but the town was laid out in 1856 by two early settlers, McKnight and Bergh, Its post office, first in the county, was named **Dakotah**, established 19 Feb 1853, while a part of Webster Co., as Dakota; discontinued 1 Nov 1854; reestablished 20 Feb 1855 in Humboldt Co., Charles Bergh, postmaster; now Dakota City (1 Nov 1924)



Polk County

Established Jan. 13, 1846; organized Mar. 1, 1846. County seat, Fort Des Moines (now Des Moines). Of its 94 post offices 15 are still in service. **Raccoon River** was the first, established in Marion Co. 13 Dec 1845, changed to Fort Des Moines, 31 Dec 1846 and finally Des Moines 30 Jul 1857. Josiah Smart, Indian Agent, was appointed postmaster but he declined; Dr. T. E. Brooks assumed duties 2 Mar 1846.



Pottawattamie County

Established 1847; organized 1848. County seat, Council Bluffs, which was earlier known as Duck Hollow, Miller's Hollow, and Kanessville, named after Col. Thomas L. Kane of Pennsylvania. It was the center of Mormon settlement. Its post office was **Kane**, established 17 Feb 1848, changed to Council Bluffs (#2) 10 Dec 1852. A starting point for explorers, hunters, trappers and emigrants into the Northwest.

**Jackson County**

Established Dec. 21, 1837; organized 1837. First county seat was Bellevue, then Andrew, and finally Maquoketa. Earliest settlers located their cabins along the Mississippi. Deventersville (13 Jul 1838-18 Jul 1840) was earliest post office followed by Belleview (14 Nov 1839) and **Tete de Mort** (6 Dec 1839-24 Mar 1852) acquiring name of nearby river -- "Head of death" (French), from Indian battle.

**Jasper County**

Established Jan. 13, 1846; organized Mar. 1, 1846; county seat, Newton. First settlement was near Tools Point (Monroe) in 1843. **Parkersburgh** was one of early post offices, established 28 Dec 1848; changed to Point Pleasant 22 Oct 1851 and back to Parkersburgh 27 May 1852 until its discontinuance 23 Mar 1855.



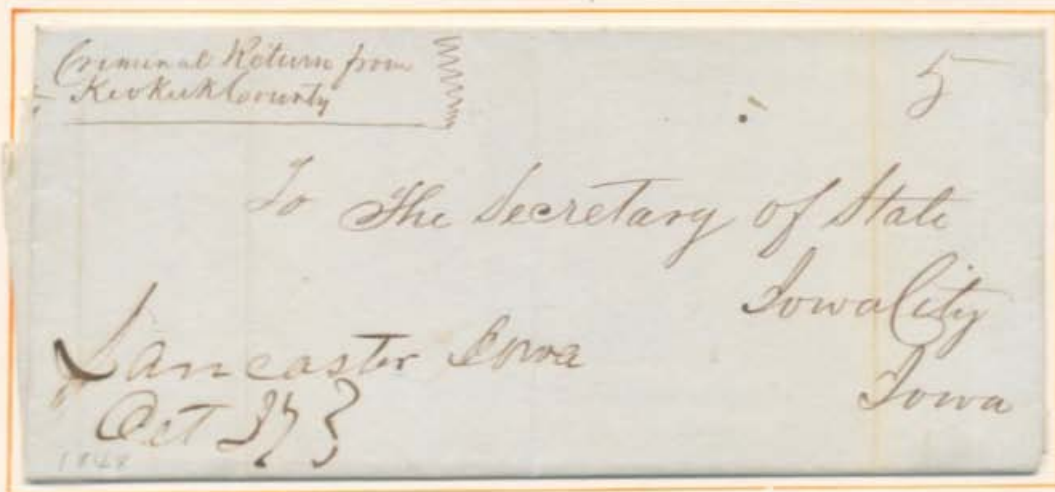
Johnson County

Established Dec. 21, 1837; organized July 4, 1838. **Napoleon**, laid out by Philip Clark and John Gilbert in 1838, was the first county seat, until Oct. 7, 1839 and was the first post office 2 Mar to 14 Nov 1839 before being changed to Iowa City. Note that this letter is postmarked "December 6 1839"; only example known to date.



Jones County

Established Dec. 21, 1837; organized Aug. 1838. County seats have been Edinburg, Newport, and in 1847 Lexington (now Anamosa). Monticello, laid out in 1853, tried vainly to become county seat. **Edinburgh** (30 May 1840-28 Apr 1847; 27 May 1856 - 8 Aug 1873) was first called Jonesville (23 Jan-30 May 1840).



Keokuk County

Established Feb. 17, 1843; organized Mar. 1, 1844. First county business held at Richland, but county seat established at Sigourney, the earliest post office in the county (24 Dec 1844). **Lancaster** was the third in the county, established 21 Oct 1847; discontinued 31 Oct 1904. Other DPOs in our collection include Butler, Coal Creek, Ioka, Ioka Station, Nassau, Pekin and Springfield, from this county.



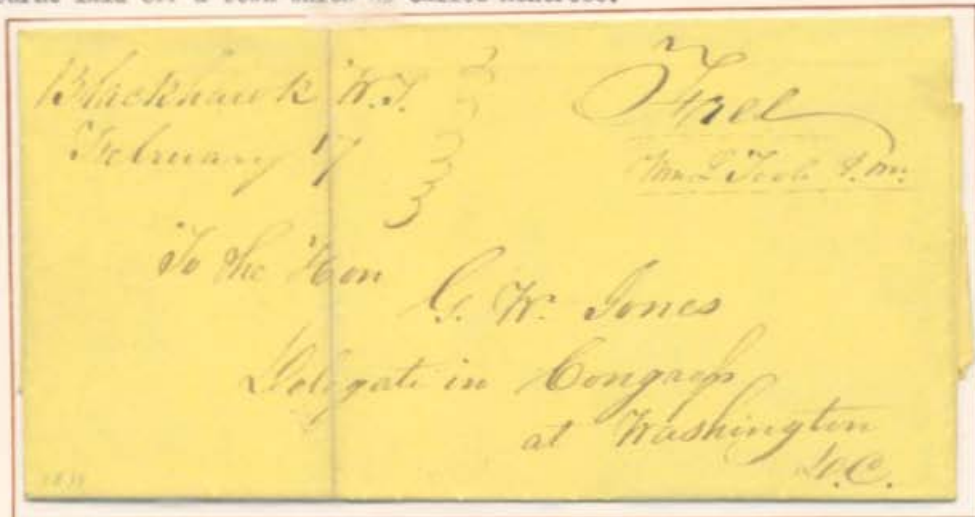
Kossuth County

Established 1851; organized 1855. County seat, Algona. Ambrose A. and Asa C. Call located there in 1854, figuring importantly in growth of county. William H. Ingham came in January 1855, in 1862 organized "Border Brigade" to protect settlers from possible Indian outrages. As first postmaster of **Kossuth Centre** (27 Dec 1858 to 15 Oct 1877) he wrote this letter, using his free franking privilege, in 1860.



Lee County

Established Dec. 21, 1836. County seats: Fort Madison and Keokuk. **Fort Des Moines** was the earliest post office (28 Sep 1835-28 Mar 1838) where troops were stationed from 1834 - 1837, first under Lt. Col. S. W. Kearney, later Col. R. B. Mason, with three companies of U. S. Dragoons. When they removed to Ft. Leavenworth, Mr. D. W. Kilbourne laid off a town which he called Montrose.



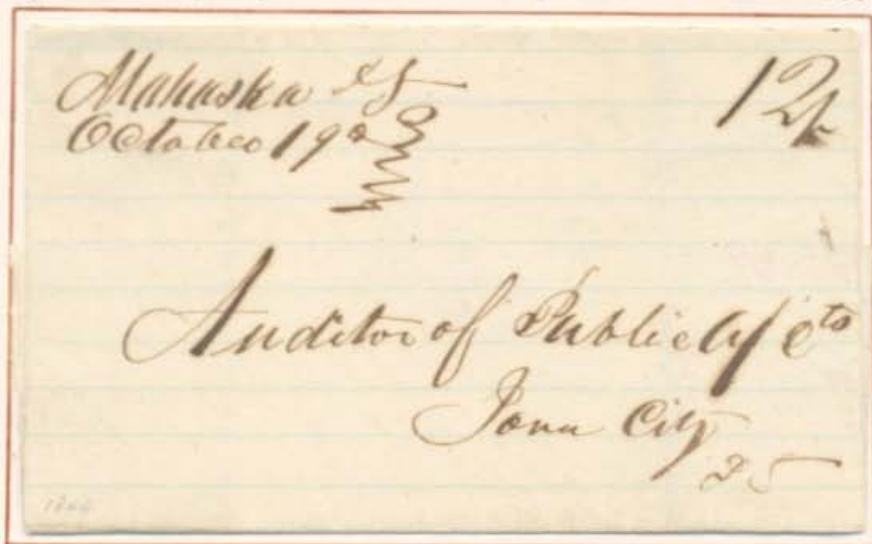
Louisa County

Established Dec. 7, 1837; organized 1837. County seat, Wapello. This was a county loved by the Indian tribes. Squatters built their cabins while Indian rights were still existent. Immediately after the Black Hawk War treaty settlers came in, and William L. Toole was one. He founded **Black Hawk**, earliest postoffice (27 May 1837) which became Toolesborough (9 Nov 1839 to 31 Dec 1903).



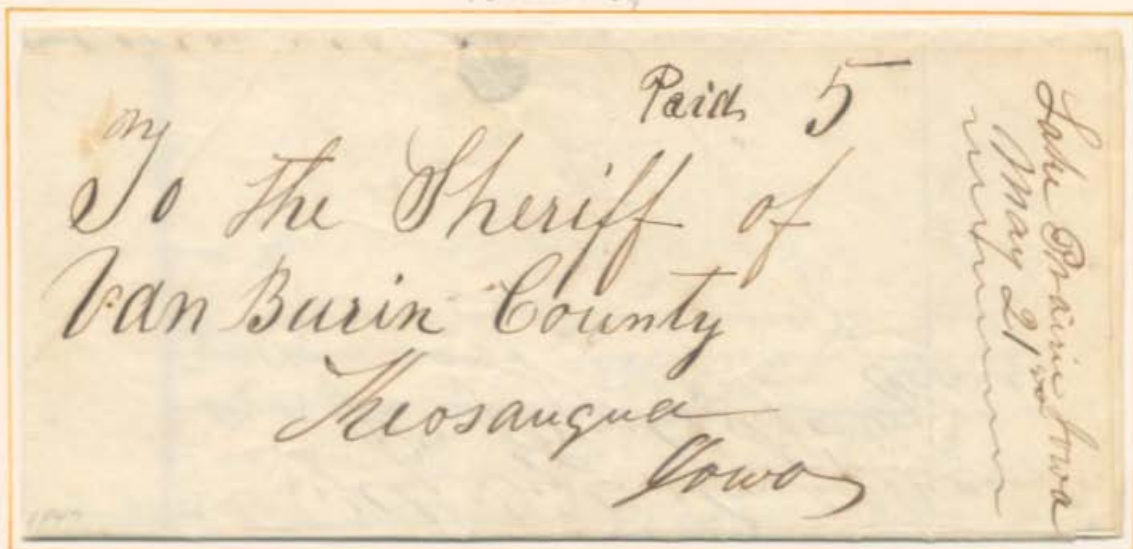
Madison County

Established Jan. 13, 1846; organized 1849. County seat, Winterset, earliest post office, which was first **Montpelier** (25 Oct 1848-27 Jul 1849), then Independence to 21 Sep 1849, back to Montpelier until 30 May 1850 when it became Winterset. First postmaster, Alfred D. Jones, later became first postmaster of Omaha City, Neb. Ty.



Mahaska County

Established Feb. 17, 1843; organized Mar. 1, 1844. County seat, Oskaloosa, located by the County Commissioners at the "Narrows" when by a vote of those present it was named **Mahaska**. Before commencing the Commissioners' books, William D. Canfield proposed that the name be changed to that originally intended, Oskaloosa. Its post office operated briefly, 19 Jun to 19 Oct 1844. Note "Last Day" cancel!



Marion County

Established June 10, 1845; organized Aug. 4, 1845. County seat, Knoxville. First post office was **Lake Prairie** (13 Dec 1845 in Mahaska Co., 14 Jul 1846 in Marion Co.) which was changed to Fella 18 Nov 1847. Of its 64 post offices 14 are still active. We also have a postmaster-franked stampless of Elm Grove (15 Jul 1846-22 Aug 1853)



Marshall County

Established Jan. 13, 1846; organized 1849. Marietta first county seat, 1851, then Marshall (now Marshalltown). Joseph and William Davison were the first white settlers, 1847 while in the succeeding year the Fergusons, Coopers and others located on **Timber Creek**, first post office (13 Jun 1850-16 Jan 1882); changed to Ferguson.



W. G. CLARK.
Albia, Monroe County.



Monroe County

H
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Y

Established and organized Aug. 1, 1846. W. G. and John Clark were two of the early settlers who came in 1843. They were elected to county offices when, as Kishkekosh County, the county seat was established at Albia (first Princeton) which postoffice was known as **Clarksville** (15 Jan 1846-24 May 1847) and Monroe Center before it became Albia 31 May 1848. Fortunately this letter-front and portion of a stampless were saved for us because of our known interest in Iowa postal history; a one only!



Muscatine County

Established Feb. 6, 1836; organized Jan. 1837. County seat, Muscatine, changed in 1849 from **Bloomington**. Its postoffice was established 25 Sep 1837, during Wisconsin Territory, changed to Muscatine 26 Jun 1849. Of its 46 post offices 11 are in service. We also have early covers of Iowa, Overmans Ferry and Wyoming.

Post Office Department
Appointments Office
Sep. 7 '47

Sir

I have the honor to inform you
that, the Department, has received a communication
from B. W. Clark Esq. at Clarke Ferry, informing of the
death of Silas Webster Esq. at Moscow, Wisconsin
Co. Wisconsin Territory.

As no person has been recommended
to fill the vacancy, the Postmaster General will esteem it
a favor, if you would name a person for appoint-
ment.

Mr. Clark's letter is dated the 7th July,
and no other communication on the subject has been received.

Very respectfully

Your Obedt. Servant

Robt Johnston

2^d Asst. M. Gen.

Hon. G. W. Jones
of N. Y.
N. Y.



Sioux County

Established 1851; organized 1860. County seat, Orange City, named after House of Orange which had ruled Holland. First county seat, and first post office was at **Calliope** (3 Feb 1862-28 Oct 1863; 16 Nov 1869-31 Jan 1911) until 1872. This is an excellent example of County-type cancels used in 1880s.



Story County

Established Jan. 13, 1846; organized 1853. County seat, Nevada; also first post office in county, established 14 Jan 1854. Another of the earliest, **Iowa Centre** (31 Aug 1858-15 Aug 1913) was first called Goshen, 28 Sep 1854.



Van Buren County

Established Dec. 7, 1836; organized 1838. County seat, Keosauqua, which was first known as **Portoro** (24 Jan 1838-7 Feb 1840), then changed to Van Buren until 9 Oct 1844 when it became Keosauqua. We have early examples of all three post offices. Of its 58 post offices 11 are still in service. An important early river port.



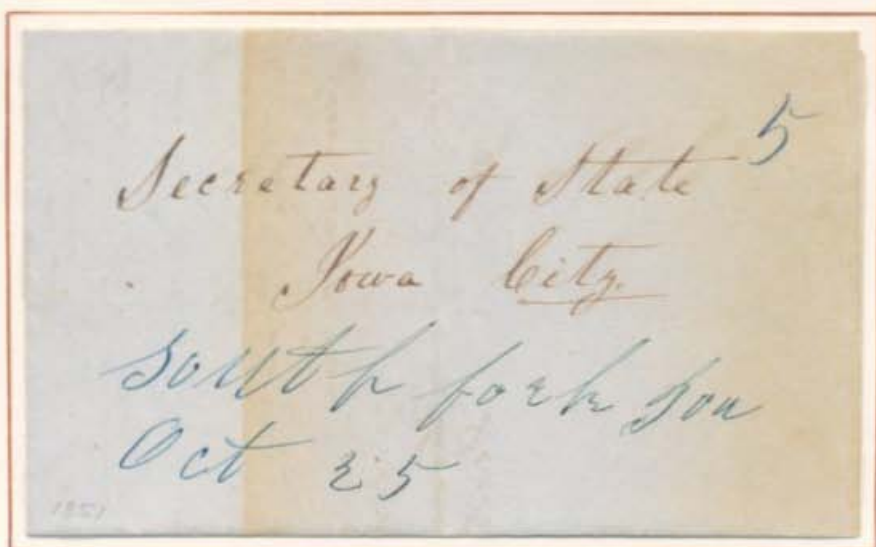
Wapello County

Established Feb. 17, 1843; organized Mar. 1, 1844. County seat, Ottumwa, which was originally named Lewisville, but the settlers chose to use the Indian name meaning "Rapids" or "Tumbling Water". **Sac & Fox Agency** established 23 Dec 1843, changed to Agency City 14 May 1849 and finally Agency 14 Jun 1883. One of Iowa's rare cancels.



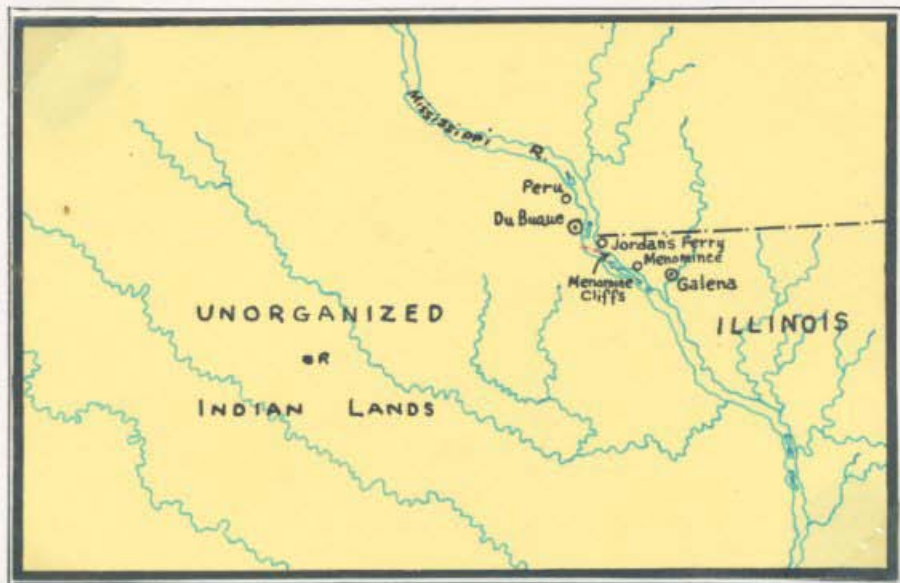
Washington County

Established and organized 1839 (first as Slaughter Co.). County seat, Washington. First post office was Slaughter (2 Mar 1839), changed to Washington (1 Aug 1839). James Watters (above frank) was first postmaster of **Wassonville** (5 Nov 1849) which was changed to Daytonville 24 Jun 1875, then to Wellman 27 Oct 1879.



Wayne County

Established Jan. 13, 1846; organized 1851. County seat, Corydon. **South Fork** was the first post office (4 Dec 1849-26 Apr 1862) of which Benjamin Barker was postmaster. He also, with J. F. Stratton, platted the first town site of Corydon.



Map showing location of ferry across Mississippi River at Menomine Cliffs.

The original document (opposite page) constitutes the license granted A.C. Ransom for the operation of a ferry across the Mississippi River, at the Menomine Cliffs near Jordans ferry in Jo Daviess County, Illinois. It was situated just below DuBuque, which was just then being established in that unorganized territory west of the Mississippi River which was the next year to become a part of Michigan Territory. Peru had been settled, above DuDuque five miles, and this lead-mining region promised to grow rapidly. There was therefore a great need for a ferry at this point. Mr. Ransom operated this ferry until March, 1834, at which time he assigned his license to Jehu B. Stuart and Samuel L. Clifton (see reverse of license).

"State of Illinois :
Jo Daviess County :

The people of the State of Illinois,
To all who shall see these presents, Greetings,

Whereas the County Commissioners of said County at the June term of said Court, on application of A. C. Ransom have established a ferry across the Mississippi River at the Menomine Cliffs near Jordans ferry in said County, and the said A. C. Ransom having complied with the requisitions of the law in such cases made and provided. Now, therefore, Know Ye, that the said A. C. Ransom is here by licensed to keep a ferry at the said place according to Law.

By order of Court.

Witness W. B. Green, Clk.
with the seal of said County
hereunto affixed this 4th day
of September A. D. 1833.
/s/ W. B. Green, Clk.

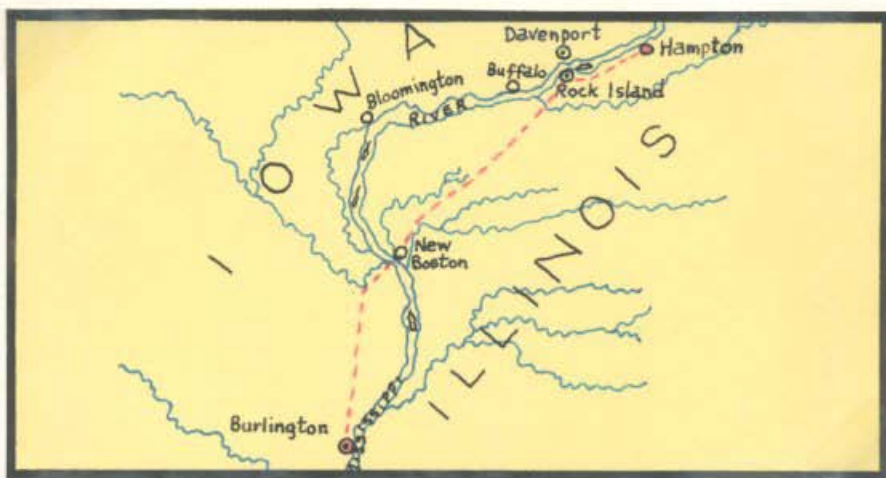
** SEAL **

District Court of the Second Judicial District
of the Territory of Wisconsin
County of Dubuque, to-wit

On the first day of May Eighteen Hundred and
thirty seven, appeared in open Court George W. Jones
and William W. Correll, and severally acknowledged
themselves to owe, ^{and be indebted to} to the United States of America
one hundred dollars, each to be lived upon their
several goods and chattels, lands and tenements if
default be made in the following condition

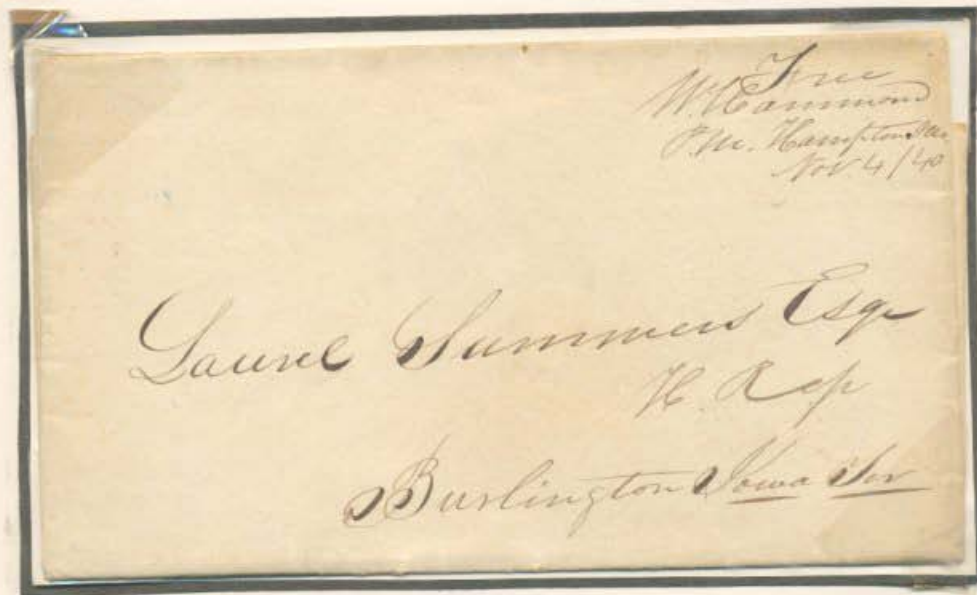
The condition of the obligation their recognizance
is, that ~~if~~ Whereas the said George W. Jones
has had the day been licensed by the Court, to keep
a ferry across the Mississippi River at the
town of Dubuque, extending one half mile
northward and one half mile southward from
the landing place in said town. Now therefore
if the said George W. Jones shall faithfully
keep and attend the ferry ~~across~~ for which
said license was granted, with a sufficient and
safe boat, ^{or boats with as many sufficient and safe boats} and so many men to work the
same as may be necessary during the several
hours in each day and night, and at such sewage
rates as the District Court holden in and for the
County of Dubuque shall from time to time order
and direct and ^{attest} shall at all times when called
upon during the term of one year for which the said
license is granted, when called upon if the river is
passable convey the mail or other public express
across the said ferry, then the recognizance to be

Ferry license, for one year from May 1, 1837, granted George W. Jones for the operation of boats to convey mail and public express across the Mississippi, from the landing at Dubuque, W.T., privilege extending one-half mile northward and one-half mile southward.

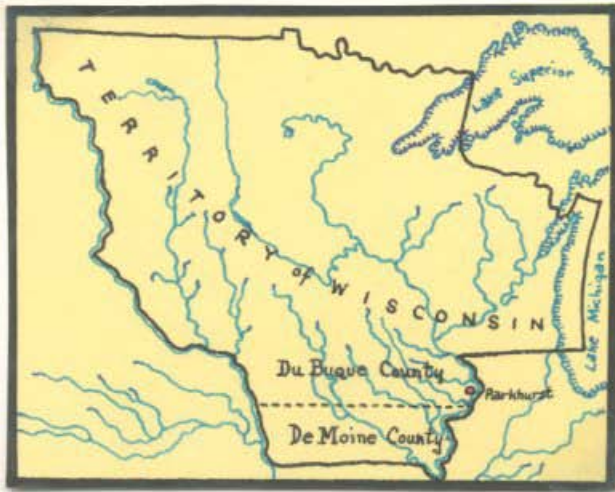


Hampton, Ill^s to Burlington, I.T., Nov. 4, 1840.

This letter is written & franked by Postmaster Horace Hammond who is interested in behalf of the citizens, that a charter be granted to make possible a dam & ferry at their village. One of the first public ferries across the Mississippi in that region was established by Capt. Benjamin W. Clark at Buffalo. It was considered the most noted above St. Louis, being the gateway open to many of the original settlers of Scott, Muscatine, Cedar, Linn and Johnson counties. Crude flat-boats were the first means of crossing the emigrants, with their teams and wagons. Then came the ferries, which were licensed and abided by Legislative regulations. They could not be established less than two miles apart and were usually licensed for a period of one year.



Iowa Postal History



Received at Parkhurst (DuBuque Co.), W. T. in September, 1837.

The area within which the State of Iowa was formed was governed under various territories before it achieved its statehood on Dec. 28 1846. It was included in the Louisiana Purchase from 1803-1804; next in the District of Louisiana from 1804-1805 under the Governor and Judges of Indiana Territory; then in the Territory of Louisiana, 1805-1812; in the Territory of Missouri, 1812-1821. It was under no governmental jurisdiction from 1821-34, but was being settled after the Black Hawk Treaty of 1832. It was a part of the Territory of Michigan, 1834-36, the Territory of Wisconsin, 1836-38. Demoine and DuBuque were the 2 counties (as shown on the map above). Parkhurst was one of the early towns along the Mississippi, its post office known as Berlin. It is now a part of the town of LeClaire.



HAMPTON ILLS PM. 5c

Discoveries via Postal History Studies

FATHER MARQUETTE'S DISCOVERY OF IOWA ON JUNE 17, 1673, IS PICTURED BELOW. DISCOVERY OF POSTAL HISTORY RELATED TO IOWA DATES FROM MAY 27, 1833, ESTABLISHMENT DATE OF POST OFFICE AT DUBUQUE'S MINES, THEN IN MICHIGAN TERRITORY. DEPICTED ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ARE EXAMPLES OF THE MANY FACETS OF THIS STUDY WHICH MAY BE ENJOYED BY COLLECTORS.

PAGE 1 - A SUGGESTED METHOD OF PICTURING AND DESCRIBING A GIVEN AREA'S POSTAL AND GENERAL HISTORY. PAGE 2 - LIST OF POST OFFICES, DATES OF OPERATION AND FIRST POSTMASTER, FOR READY REFERENCE, ALSO AN INVENTORY OF ONE'S COLLECTION. PAGE 3 - EXAMPLES AND HISTORY OF A POSTOFFICE WHOSE NAME AND LOCATION WAS CHANGED. PAGE 4 - VALIDATING LOCATION OF A POSTOFFICE BY USE OF A BUSINESS MAP ON REVERSE OF A LETTERHEAD. PAGE 5 - ACTUAL LETTER, WITH ENDORSEMENTS, POINTING UP IMPORTANT ROLE OF POSTMASTER IN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS. PAGE 6 - SPECIAL EVENTS CREATED NEED FOR LETTERHEADS AND ENVELOPES MUCH PRIZED BY COLLECTORS TODAY. PAGE 7 - EARLY RIVER MAIL IS AN EXCITING STUDY OF STILL ANOTHER CHAPTER OF POSTAL HISTORY. PAGE 8 - RURAL FREE DELIVERY CANCELLATIONS DIFFER FROM OTHER TYPES, WERE USED BUT A FEW SHORT YEARS AROUND 1900. PAGE 9 - A FANCY AGENT-CANCEL INVITES A STUDY OF IOWA'S RAILROAD SYSTEM. PAGE 10 - RARE POSTAGE USES FROM IOWA OFFICES. PAGE 11 - A SAD STORY WITH A HAPPY ENDING...AN OFFICIAL MOURNING COVER, WITH PRESIDENTIAL AUTOGRAPH, BECAME A PART OF OUR COLLECTION AS AN AWARD FOR SERVICES RENDERED IN PRESERVING VALUABLE PAPERS. PAGE 12 - OFFICIAL POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT INSTRUCTIONS TO POSTMASTER OF A NEWLY ESTABLISHED OFFICE. PAGE 13 - USE OF CORRELATIVE MATERIAL SOMETIMES MAKES UNNECESSARY FURTHER DESCRIPTION OF A RARE COVER. PAGE 14 - COVERS SUFFER IN ACCIDENTS AS DO PEOPLE; A NECESSARY DISPLAY IN THE TALE OF OUR AIRMAIL SERVICE. PAGE 15 - COLLECTORS DO WELL TO STRIVE FOR CHOICE EXAMPLES OF A BY-GONE ERA. PAGE 16 - THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT THE BEAUTY OF PATRIOTIC COVERS THAT REKINDLES THE ACCOUNTS OF "THOSE WARS"; PAGE 17 - A REAL APPRECIATION FOR HISTORY OF OUR COMMUNITIES IS ENHANCED BY THE INVESTIGATION INITIATED BY THE ACQUISITION OF SUCH DIFFERENT CANCELLATIONS FROM THE SAME POSTOFFICE.

IF THIS REVIEW HAS BEEN OF INTEREST, MAY WE SUGGEST YOU JOIN THE RANKS OF POSTAL HISTORIANS, OR AT LEAST BECOME ALERT TO THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACQUISITION OF SUCH MATERIAL FOR COLLECTOR FRIENDS.



FATHER MARQUETTE DISCOVERS IOWA, JUNE 17, 1673
(From Photo Owned by Dr. John H. Bailey)

G. F. HARWOOD

OTIS FOREMAN

OFFICE OF HARWOOD & FOREMAN,
Attorneys at Law, and Solicitors in Chancery, Collectors,
Conveyancers, Real Estate Agents, etc., etc.

Craig, Mitchell Co., Iowa, June 15th 1888

Governor Willard

Dear Sir

Nathaniel W

Mop - a Resident of Stanton Township
in this County is desirous of an appoint-
ment, as Notary Public -

We know him to be in
all respects ~~to be~~ well qualified to discharge
the duties of the office. And we believe
the public convenience of his locality
will be promoted by his appointment.

Should you deem it expedient to favor
him with a Commission we shall be pleased
to oblige.

You will please direct if granted
to Doran P. Office - Mitchell Co

Very truly

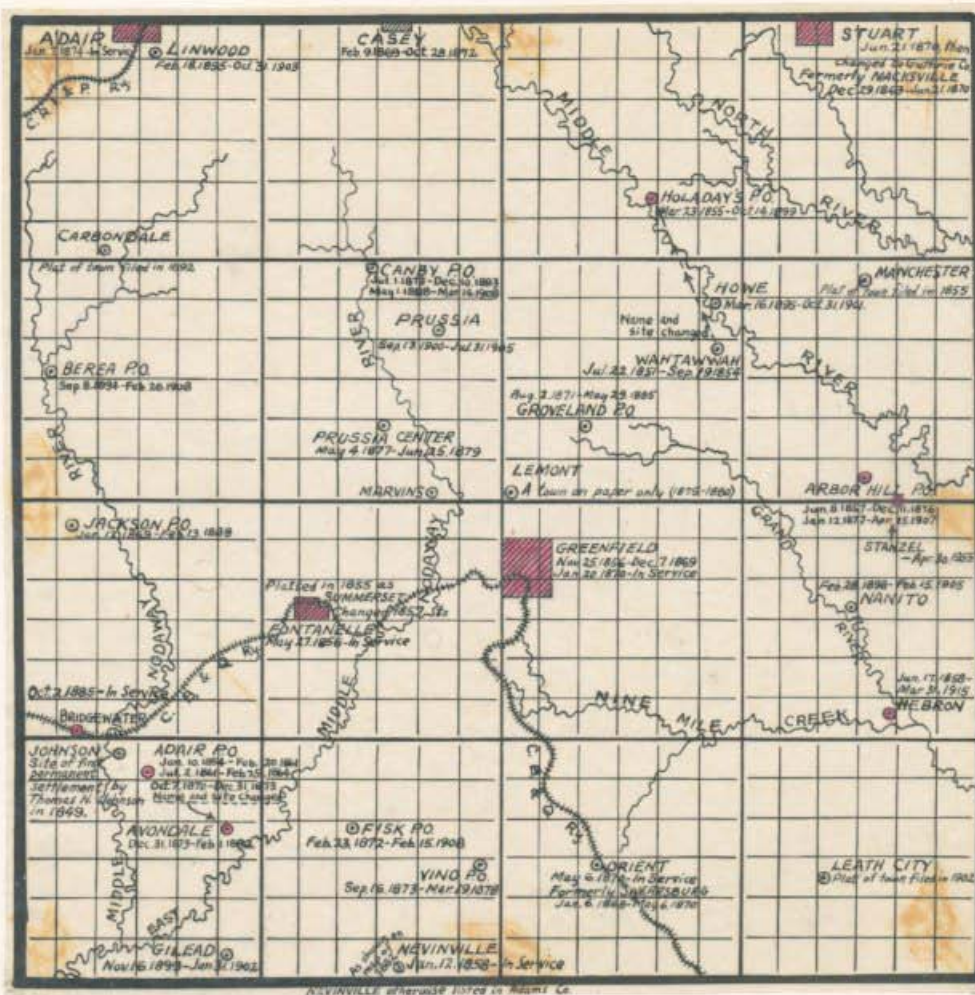
Yours

Harwood & Foreman

O. Saville

I concur in the
above recommended





ADAIR COUNTY

Established January 15, 1851. Organized March 5, 1855. County Seat, Greenfield. Population 1854, 150; 1930, 13,891. Adair County lies in the third tier of counties from the southern boundary and in the third tier of counties east of the Missouri. It was a part of the original county of Du Buque and a small part of the first Keokuk County, now extinct. The Third General Assembly established Adair County on January 15, 1851 along with half a hundred others. It was named in honor of General John Adair of South Carolina a soldier in the Revolutionary and Indian Wars, an officer in the War of 1812, commanding Kentucky Rifleman under General Jackson at the Battle of New Orleans, and Sixth Governor of Kentucky.

While Adair County lacks any important rivers, it is a maze of small streams & creeks which drain toward both Mississippi and Missouri Rivers. This divide between the two great river systems passes through the town of Adair at an elevation of 1442 feet above sea level, Greenfield, 1367 feet and Orient, 1334 feet.

Iowa Postal History

ADAIR COUNTY

POSTOFFICE	ESTABLISHED	DISCONTINUED	FIRST POSTMASTER
*Adair	10 Jan 1854	20 Feb 1861	Thomas N. Johnson
Reestablished	2 Jul 1861	25 Feb 1864	
Reestablished	7 Oct 1870	31 Dec 1873	
Name changed to Avondale; site changed			
*Adair	7 Jan 1874	In Service	John E Moran
*Arbor Hill	8 Jun 1857	11 Dec 1876	Daniel A Bowman
Reestablished	12 Jan 1877	15 Apr 1907	
Name changed to Arborhill 26 Feb 1895			
*Avondale	31 Dec 1873	1 Feb 1882	Wm. H. Grow
Formerly Adair			
Berea	8 Sep 1894	26 Feb 1908	Harry J Maxwell
*Bridgewater	2 Oct 1885	In Service	Albert Wolford
Canby	1 Jul 1873	10 Dec 1883	George C Lawry
Reestablished	1 May 1888	14 Mar 1908	
Casey	9 Feb 1869	28 Oct 1872	Robert H Marshall
Changed to Guthrie County			
Corning	1 Sep 1858		Llewellyn Ragnet
Changed to Adams County			
Drakes	17 Jan 1857	5 Aug 1857	John H Hill
Easton	28 Feb 1879	26 Oct 1881	Mr. Catharine Clark
Fisk	23 Feb 1872	15 Feb 1908	George H Wulford
*Fontanelle	27 May 1856	In Service	James C Gibbs
Gilead	16 Nov 1899	31 Jan 1902	Leslie Johnson
*Greenfield	25 Nov 1856	7 Dec 1869	Matthew Clark
Reestablished	20 Jan 1870	In Service	
Groveland	2 Aug 1871	29 May 1885	Henry F Hodges
*Hebron	17 Jun 1858	31 Mar 1915	Charles Wilson
*Holaday's	23 Mar 1855	14 Oct 1899	George M Holaday
Howe	16 Mar 1895	31 Oct 1901	Edwin O Smith
Jackson	12 Jan 1869	13 Feb 1889	David E Bancroft
Linwood	18 Feb 1895	31 Oct 1903	Henry L Manion
Macksville	29 Dec 1869	21 Jun 1870	David C Tomlinson
Formerly in Guthrie County; name changed to Stuart			
McKinley	5 Apr 1899	15 May 1901	Lewis E Thompson
Nanito	28 Feb 1898	15 Feb 1905	Henry A Buck
Orient	6 May 1870	In Service	Thomas H Thatcher
Formerly Swearsburg			
Prussia	13 Sep 1900	31 Jul 1905	Wm. W. McCreight
Prussia Centre	4 May 1877	25 Jun 1879	Henry J Thompson
*Stanzell	7 Sep 1951	30 Apr 1955	C. Ruby Newton
Stuart	21 Jun 1870		David C Tomlinson
Formerly Macksville; now in Guthrie County			
Swearsburg	6 Jan 1868	6 May 1870	Thomas H Thatcher
Changed to Orient			
Vino	16 Sep 1873	19 Mar 1878	John A Dennis
Wah-Ta-Wah	22 Jul 1851	19 Sep 1854	Wm. Alcorn

* Indicates covers in my collection

Iowa Postal History

G. F. KILBURN,
 Attorney at Law,
 AND
 Treasurer and Recorder
 -OF-
 Adair County, Iowa.

Particular attention given to the
 collection of claims, payment of taxes
 for non-residents, investigation of
 titles, and investing of money, &c.

Treasurer's Office, Adair County.

Fontanelle, Iowa, Nov. 18th 1864.

J. M. Sheffer Esq.
 Treasurer Adair Co. Agric.
 Socy. Fairfield, Ia. Dear Sir:

Enclosed I send
 you report of the Adair County Agric.
 Socy for 1864.

I would like to know whether the
 Reports for 1863 are out & if so
 whether there has been any provision
 made for distributing them to the
 County Societies.

Yours truly

G. F. Kilburn
 Sec. Adair Co. Agric.
 Socy.

Adair (Adair County)



changed to Avondale



Post office established 10 Jan 1854, in section 10, Washington Township, by Thomas N. Johnson, first postmaster. Continued to 20 Feb 1861; reestablished 2 Jul 1861 to 25 Feb 1864; and again 7 Oct 1870 to 31 Dec 1873; when its name and site was changed to Avondale, some 2½ miles southeast, with William H. Grow as first postmaster. It was finally discontinued 1 Feb 1882. Within a week of the discontinuance of the first Adair post office, a new one by that name was established, on 7 Jan 1874, in sections 3 and 4, Summit Township, in the far northwest corner of the county; it is still in service. Its first postmaster was John E. Moran. Commissioners met on 24 Apr 1855 at Adair Post Office and selected "Summerset" as county seat of Adair County.





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If not called for in 10 days, return to
~~J. G. CROCKETT~~
~~112 S. Market Street.~~
~~Ottumwa~~ - ~~Iowa~~



Mrs S. G. Allender
Sigourney
% C. E. Fry
Iowa

OPENS SEPT. 15TH.
CLOSES OCT. 10TH, 1891.

Ottumwa Coal Palace.



Ottumwa, Ia.,

Oct 8, 1891

Gen. Geo Greene
Adjutant Genl.

Dear Sir

Your obedient servant
A Emerig
Capt Col.

THE COAL PALACE

The citizens of the busy manufacturing city of **Ottumwa** originated the idea of a **Coal Palace**. That city lies in a great coal producing region, has extensive water power and has developed important manufacturing industries. It planned for an annual exhibit of its productions in its Coal Palace. It may be thought by some that there could be no beauty developed from the dark, smutty black diamonds, but cultured architectural and decorative skill works out new forms of beauty often from very crude materials. The Coal Palace was made winsome in architectural design, and while it may not have been so richly or gorgeously beautiful as the **Corn Palace*** it was made serviceable by its fine exhibits of the products of the fields, the orchards, gardens, mills, shops, and mines of the growing city and the region surrounding it, and Ottumwa is deservedly known as one of the Palace Cities of the State. (A Hand Book Of Iowa-1893-Iowa Columbian Commission).

* Originated at Sioux City, Iowa, about 1884, first of the Iowa "Palaces".



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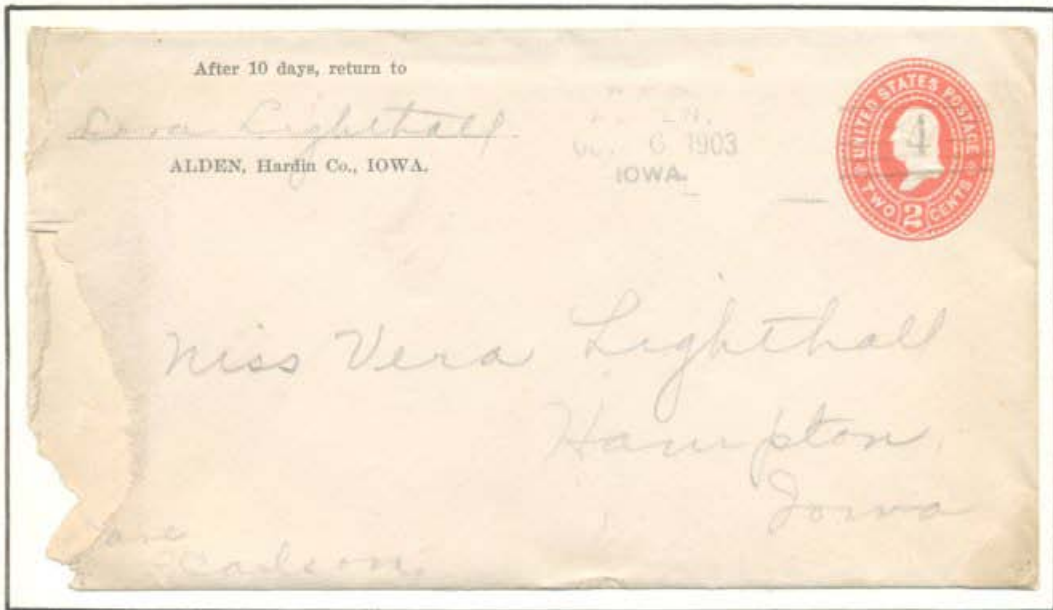




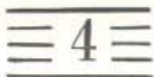
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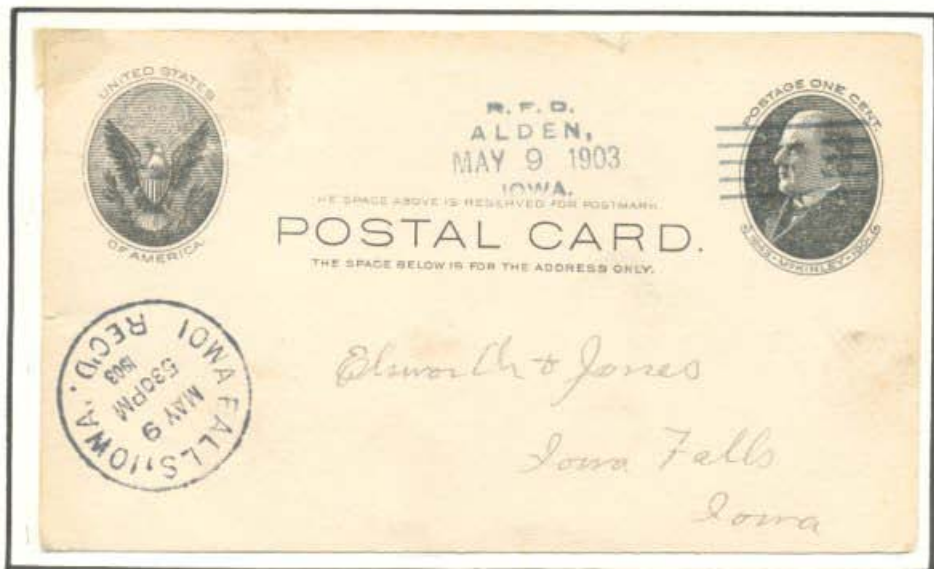
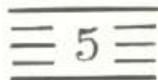
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R. F. D.
ALDEN,
MAY 9 1903
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EAST.

J. W. Hayward, wholesale and retail dealer in Farm Machinery of all kinds, making leading operations of the following makes of goods: J. I. Case, Price Co., Caldwell Wagon, J. I. Case, Tractors, March 1. Case, Harvesters, Mower and Reapers, Harrow, Blower and Mower, Wood & Deering Mowers, Champion and Barlow Plow, Case & Thompson Cultivator, Packer Sowing Wagon, &c. All goods fully warranted. Office and warehouses corner 6th and Williams, opposite the 10th north.

J. W. Hayward, wholesale and retail dealer in Farm Machinery, opposite Court House, Fort Dodge, Iowa.

A. S. E. Reynolds will build a fine three story brick block corner Market and Sixth sts., and occupy it with a wholesale and retail Grocery and Provision Store.

John Hain, County Auditor office in Court House.

CORNER BLOCK AND JAIL.

S. G. Waller, Schlar and Dealer in Grain; office in First National Bank.

John Kempher, proprietor of Pleasant Valley Water Mill, five miles southeast of Fort Dodge, on Des Moines river.

Boarding House, American Express Co. Office.

Food, Frost, Carpenter and Builder, and manufacturer of Sash, Doors, Blinds and Mouldings, corner Leary and Walnut streets.

A. H. Leighton, store corner Market and Leary etc., dealer in Hardware, Tinware and Cutlery. Steam Fittings constantly on hand, and work done on short notice.

SIXTH STREET.

W. G. Sebring, Ft. Dodge, Iowa, Insurance, Land Loan and Passage agent. Drafts sold to all parts of Europe. Office in Law block.

Wessens & Johnson, Real Estate and Insurance. Office, corner Fifth and Market, up stairs. References: Preston Keen & Co., Chicago, Illinois; National Shoe and Leather Bank, N. Y.; Merchants' National Bank, Ft. Dodge.

Crail Coal Company, Mines on line of M. & St. L. R. R., seven miles southeast of Fort Dodge; office in Law block.

Gus. T. Peterson, Attorney at Law and Justice of the Peace. Office on Public Square, over R. P. Farling's store.

Chesney & Gibson, Druggists, Books and Stationery.

G. M. Hull & Son, Wagons and Fancy Dry Goods &c. in E. Lincoln, Model Grocery Store.

Brick Block under Contract.

Brick Block under Contract.

E. G. Larson, Merchant Tailor and Clothier.

Mechanics National Bank, Webb Vincent, President; E. H. Rich, Cashier.

Dry Goods.

J. Herman, Clothing, Fur and Hosiery Goods, Hats, Caps, &c.

First National Bank; L. Blenden, President; E. D. G. Morgan, Cashier.

E. E. Prusia, wholesale and retail Hardware; will occupy August 1st.

D. M. Crosby, Boots and Shoes, will occupy August 1st.

L. W. Schaffner, Jeweler Clocks, Silverware, Cutlery, &c., &c.

M. I. Lathrop & Co., Groceries and Provisions

Meat Market.

D. M. Crosby, Boots and Shoes

Edison.

C. H. Crosby, Bakery and Restaurant.

D. Sweet, Hats, Caps, Clothing and Merchant Tailoring.

C. Lauterbaum, Furniture and Undertaking.

Charles E. Jones, Fresh and Salt Meats, Poultry, &c.

Cris, Dry Goods, Groceries, Boots, Shoes, &c.

C. Hain, Dry Goods, Clothing, Boots and Shoes.

R. J. Bennett, Wholesale Tobacco and Cigars.

Barnes & Hipsley, Books and Stationery.

Post Office.

Geo. W. Barnett, Attorney at Law and Dealer in Real Estate, over Post Office.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY - FORT DODGE, IOWA

A TYPICAL EXAMPLE OF ONE OF MANY METHODS MERCHANTS & OFFICIALS USED IN THE LATE 19TH CENTURY TO ADVERTISE THEIR BUSINESSES AND TOWNS, THIS BUSINESS DIRECTORY ON THE REVERSE OF A LETTERHEAD OF THE COUNTY AUDITOR OF WEBSTER COUNTY, IOWA AIDS AND ABETS OUR POSTAL HISTORY RESEARCH BY DEFINITELY LOCATING THE SITE OF THE FORT DODGE POST OFFICE IN 1881. - MARKET STREET BETWEEN FIFTH & SIXTH STREETS.



NORTH.

FIFTH STREET.

Office of L. E. Chapin, dealer in Lumber, Laths, Shingles, Sash, Building Paper, &c.

J. W. Leisinger's Photo graphic and Fine Art Gallery. All pictures in the photographic art executed in first-class style. Corner Market and Public Square.

C. D. Koch, wholesale and retail dealer in Harness and Saddles and Saddlery.

E. D. G. Morgan, Land Agent, Ft. Dodge, Iowa.

E. M. Deanning, Livery and Sale Stable. Horses and carriages for sale at all times.

FOURTH STREET.

Colby Bros., Livery, Feed and Sale Stable.

A. H. Johnson, proprietor of Fort Dodge Butter Tub Factory and Feed Mill; wholesale Buyer and Shipper of Butter, Eggs and Poultry; the largest and best Butter Tub Factory in the Northwest; capacity 1,000 tubs per day; factory corner of Market and Second sts.

Hardware.

E. W. Crawford, Drug 'st.

C. M. Washell, Boots and Shoes.

Hides.

Office.

Candy Factory, Soap, etc.

J. M. Berry & Co. Dry Goods, Carpets and Groceries.

Proprietor Opera House.

John Gros, Groceries.

A. S. E. Reynolds, Groceries and Provisions.

John Wollinger, Stoves, Tin and Hardware.

Printing Office, Up Stairs.

SIXTH STREET.

Occasional Horse.

Day Coach.

R. O. Larson, Merchant Tailor and Clothier.

Occasional Horse.

Day Coach.

Occasional Horse.

Day Coach.

Occasional Horse.

Day Coach.

Occasional Horse.

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Day Coach.

Occasional Horse.

Day Coach.

Occasional Horse.

Day Coach.

SOUTH.

Fort Dodge House, E. H. Winans, Proprietor. Good Barn and Wagon Yard. First-class accommodations at farmers' prices. The best of table and rooms on first floor. Corner Fifth and Walnut streets.

Laundry.

Arnold & Schmecker, Flaming Mill. All kinds of Food for sale. Foot of Walnut and Market streets, below Illinois County, Ireland.

O'Connell & Springer, Attorneys at Law, Office, corner Market and Sixth streets, up stairs, Fort Dodge, Iowa.

STREET.

Fred. Thompson, maker of Wagons and Carriages, and General Repairer in Woodwork, and General Blacksmithing.

Fundry.

John F. Duncombe, Attorney and Counselor at Law. Office No. 1 Law Block.

Fort Dodge, Webster county, Iowa, with a population of 4,500, is located on the Des Moines river, 90 miles from Des Moines and 198 miles from Dubuque, and 200 miles from Minneapolis and St. Paul; it is surrounded with a rich agricultural country, with hundreds of acres of the best coal fields in the State. Her educational advantages are of the highest standard, and church privileges unsurpassed by any town of its size in the West. This city is fast becoming one of the great railroad centers of Iowa, having direct through lines North, South, East and West, making it one of the most desirable places for manufacturing in the State. Persons looking for farm property or town homes, will consult their own interest by visiting this place before locating elsewhere.

A Board of Trade is organized, and is in active operation.

Two Hors, Restaurant and Boarding House.

Lambert & Sons, wholesale Butter and Eggs.

Edison.

Edison.

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MAP OF THE BUSINESS PORTION OF FORT DODGE, IOWA. Population, 4,500.

Issued by United States Commercial Map Company.

Copyright applied for.

Fort Dodge, Webster County, Iowa, _____ 188

Hon D K Powers
Register of State Land office
Des Moines

Dear Sir

I received a circular from the Governor some days ago asking for information for your office, concerning the unsold school lands of the 16th Sec the 500,000 acre grant and the mortgage school lands. I do not think that I thoroughly understand what I am to furnish. We have no lands of the 500,000 acre grant nor any mortgage school lands ^{left unsold} in this County as I understand it. We have some lands of the 16th Sec which I will officially certify to you if that be all that is necessary.

You will confer a favor on me if you will be kind enough to answer
Respectfully
John Haire
Co Auditor

TURBULENCE' BLAMED

Probing Iowa Airliner Crash

By Robert H. Spiegel.
(Times Staff Writer.)

MASON CITY, IA.—Civil aeronautics board officials Monday began an investigation of the crash of a Braniff International Airways DC-3 in a pasture 18 miles south of here Sunday evening in which 11 of the 19 persons aboard were killed.

The eight other persons aboard the airliner were injured, two critically.

The plane, northbound from Memphis, Tenn., to Minneapolis, Minn., plunged to earth on the Harold Markwardt farm 4 1/2 miles south of the village of Swaledale during a violent wind, rain and hail storm.

The Dead.

The dead, as listed by Braniff headquarters in Dallas, Tex.:

FICKERING.

Flight Capt. William A. Fickering, 40, Parkville, Mo.

First Officer William B. White, 31, Minneapolis, Minn., formerly of Sioux City and Mason City.

J. C. Johnson, 39, Belleville, Ill.

Milton L. Schoenberg, 47, Denver, Colo.

Dr. Walter L. Werner, 36, Albuquerque, N. M.

Myer Lesig Roberts, 45, Nowata, Okla.

Mary Ann Helm, 19, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. O. E. Helm, Vinton.

Mrs. Goldie Raskin, 40, Omaha, Neb.

Mrs. Sarah Wolfson, about 65, of Omaha, mother of Mrs. Raskin.

Mrs. Logan Urtin, 67, Vinton.

Mrs. Leo Belle, St. Joseph,



One Iowa man who viewed the crash said he thought the plane was forced down by severe air turbulence during a storm.

He said he also thought that the plane was carrying 19 people to the crash site.

The flight originated in Mem-

The Des Moines Register

The Newspaper Iowa Depends Upon

DES MOINES, IOWA, MONDAY MORNING, AUGUST 23, 1954.—TWENTY PAGES

Braniff Airliner Hits Power Line Near Mason City

Falls on Farm in Storm; 8 Injured

The Register's Iowa Bureau

MASON CITY, Ia.—A Braniff airliner crashed 15 miles southwest of Mason City late Sunday, leaving 11 persons and injuring eight. Two of the dead were from Vinton, Ia.

The plane, due in Mason City from Watauga at 9 p. m., was reported to have hit a power line south of Struble during a storm, rain, hail and wind.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

THE WHITE HOUSE
OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE



REGISTER
OR
INSURE
VALUABLE MAIL

Mr. Charles A. Rawson,
Des Moines, Iowa.

Edna C. Rawson

Mourning Covers

So named because of their black border in respect to the memory of the deceased, by members of the immediate family. Both stationery and envelope were usually matched. Wide border was used immediately following death, then diminished according to the months elapsed, until one year later, which concluded the official mourning period.

THE FRANKING PRIVILEGE.

Mr. Editor:

The sheets published in this State, which are engaged almost exclusively in advocating free trade in whiskey and negroes, seem intensely horrified at the seeming abuse of the above privilege by your humble servant, while giant wrongs stalk unrebuked before their eyes, and under their very noses, unnoticed, so long as perpetrated by the rats that infest the national treasury, or the hirelings that do the bidding of a debased Administration.

I am opposed to the existence of the franking privilege, and will go as far as any one in its repeal, and if that question comes up in Congress while I am a member, you will find my vote recorded in favor of its repeal.

The franking privilege is no security nor safety against the thieves and corrupt officers of the State, with a few honorable exceptions. My frank placed on a letter is a sure guarantee that it will be opened at some post office in this State. In Lucas county is one of those places, whence came the effusion of the sick Know Nothing, of the Burlington Gazette, an official of the Administration who either instigated the Postmaster or did rob the mail of the letter, and publish the same in the above named paper on the morning of the election. Their baseness recoiled upon themselves as both Lucas and Des Moines counties returned freemen for office-holders.

While it is asserted to be all wrong in Thorington to send Know Nothing documents, and that it is abusing the franking privilege, and while they steal his letters, publish them and utter falsehoods about them, not one word is uttered in condemnation of the incumbents of the post office at Chicago, where thousands of dollars are stolen with the most open and barefaced effrontery. This is apparently all right, as the pro-slavery and whiskey organs are perfectly mum on the subject. They wink at the stealing of Thorington's letters, and their conduct observed toward his documents, and keep silent about the thousands of letters destroyed and made way with and the hundreds of dollars stolen from the department, but at the same time heap upon Thorington every abuse for franking letters to the Know Nothings, although he has the legal right, and notwithstanding Judge Douglas floods Illinois through the same privilege, Gen. Jones, Iowa, and Dr. Olds, Ohio, with his professional notices, and notwithstanding they send pounds where Thorington sends ounces.

The franking privilege is greatly abused and corruptly used by Thorington in the estimation of these correctors and guardians of the dear people's liberties and morals when at the same time they read column after column of the wholesale trampling under foot and the violation of the dearest rights of

free born citizens—the right to the pursuit of happiness, to life, to liberty and an honest expression of opinion—and that is all right; Kansas is in the hands of our friends they reason, we won't say one word about it, but Thorington must not frank letters to the Know Nothings!

Read what the "Cedar County Advertiser" of the 12th inst., over the signature of "Jordan," and in the editorial columns of the week previous, says about Pardee Butler. How many papers in this State devoted to the slave propagandists, and free trade in whiskey, will notice in the same manly style, the treatment of a fellow citizen, one who has earned his bread by the sweat of his brow in Iowa, a citizen of their adopted State; nature's nobleman, an honest and honorable man. Mark his treatment in Kansas and his manly bearing and fearless independence. He had a right to claim the protection of the press of Iowa, and yet these sheets say nothing about that matter, and at the same time waste their thunder upon Thorington for franking documents to the Know Nothings!

The article copied from the Union of Keosauqua, into the Banner of the 14th inst., editorial and all, speaks of freemen entering our Councils and becoming slaves, "being schooled in falsehood and all kinds of political frauds and trickery." This effrontery is only equalled by their Kansas legislature, where by their laws they would make freemen slaves. After such cool and deliberate stifling of the freedom of speech, the seizing of property unlawfully, the desecration of all legal, civil, religious and political rights, they should not mention freedom without blushing. Freedom occupies a pinnacle so high, that to them it would require something more than the effulgent light of the sun to see her in her fair robes!

They condemn the franking privilege—Does not the slavery propagandist abuse it! Have you no favorites in your ranks that ever overstep the bounds of moderation in its use? One would think not from the silence of your organs. Now act honorably for once in your lives, if but to try the novelty of it. Raise your standard, advocate repeal or modification, I do not care which, and I will join in the effort and do what I can to attain the object.

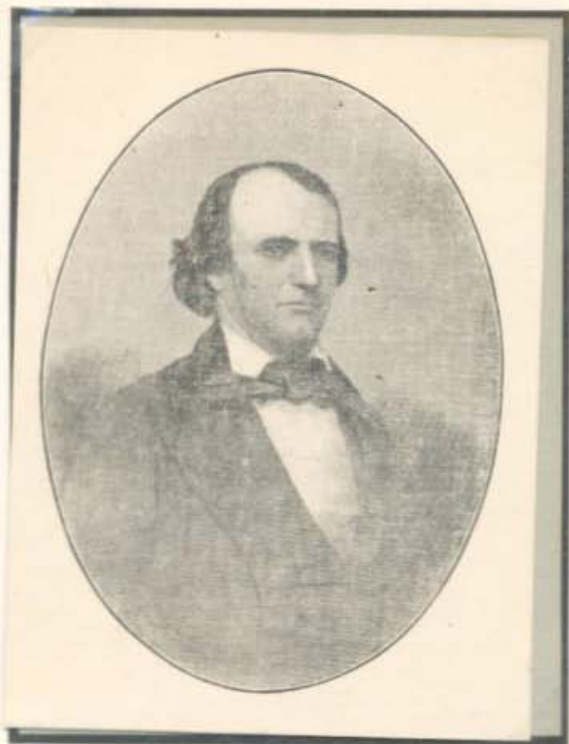
I shall be entitled to the franking privilege until the 1st of December, 1857, unless the law is altered; during that time I shall not pay one cent of postage upon any document or letter I may send or receive, that I may be entitled to send or receive free. I know my legal rights and the crusade against me by the political slave propagandists of Iowa will not deter me from using them. I shall not yield to, or favor their tyrannizing over freemen and the free institutions of the North. I shall not favor free trade in whiskey and negroes. I shall not pander to the

prejudices or passions of our foreign citizens, nor proscribe any religious denomination, Catholic or Protestant. Those gentlemen who are so loud in their praise of the one, and so sensitive about the other, if treated to-morrow, would be found disfranchising the one and desecrating the property of the other, much sooner than those whom they are warning this class of our citizens against. As to Slavery, I shall not interfere with it where it constitutionally exists. The people of this congressional district have elected me to the 34th Congress by a majority of over 1800. I feel honored by their flattering vote. No vile assault upon my private character, contemptible insinuations or base intimations, from these political hirelings shall deter me from doing my duty and my whole duty. I am a freeman, represent freemen, and from their black republicanism I shall turn a deaf ear. I know of no threats, assaults, abuse, or attacks, personally, morally or politically that shall make me falter in representing a confiding constituency. When I am assailed as a Know Nothing, and it becomes necessary in my judgment to address them or their lodges, I shall do so. I have no secrets to withhold from them or the world where the rights of man and property, religion or morals, are concerned. I have some ten weeks to spare before the meeting of Congress, and if they are anxious I will part with a portion of that time, in posting the voters of Iowa with regard to the beautiful tools the Administration is working with in this State to guard and protect the rights and liberties of its people.

In conclusion, Mr. Editor, I wish for two thousand copies of your paper that contains this article, and to enable the Sag Night post masters in Iowa to know definitely what they are stealing and perjuring themselves for. I intend sending and franking them to the Lodges in Iowa. I think my brother Know Nothings can get along with one copy to the dozen members.

As to the post master at this place, I regret to subject him and his efficient deputy to the tax of mailing them, yet they must attribute the extra labor to their own friends. I include them in the honorable exceptions mentioned above. When Know Nothingism ceases to be republican in this State, I shall cease to affiliate with it. In the mean time the more its opponents stir this matter the worse it will be for them. Their old system of attacking upright, honest deportment, and glossing over deformities in their own household, has had its day; the people have opened their eyes and the sooner they make their will the better, as the handwriting is on the wall and the idea of November, 1856 are approaching.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your ob't servant,
JAMES THORINGTON.



Pictured above is James Thorington, Member of Congress from Iowa.

Below is the envelope, mailed from Davenport, Iowa on or about Oct 6 1855, which contained the blistering editorial (appearing on the second page) by Mr. Thorington, in answer to those who would criticize him for his use of the franking privilege in sending Know Nothing documents, such as the one shown on the first page following.



Free
James Thorington
M.C.

Hon. E. Mayne
Keosauqua
Van Buren County
Iowa

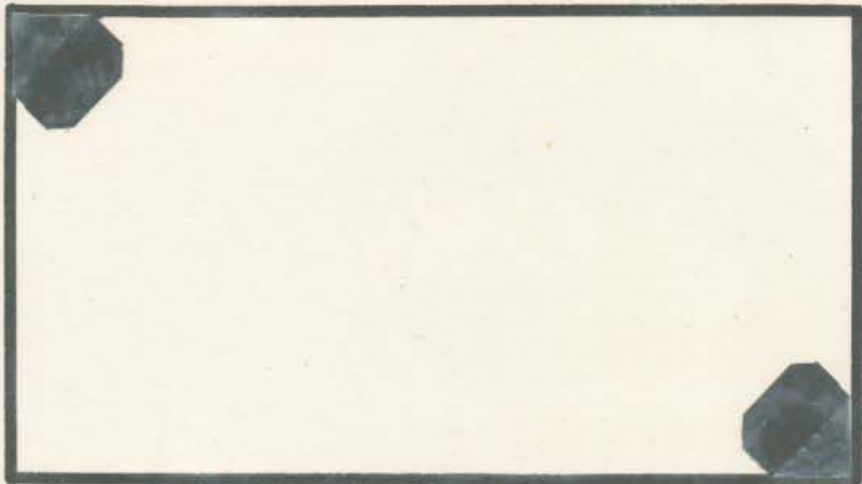
JULIEN HOUSE,

CHASE & GRANT, PROPS.

Dubuque, Iowa, Feb. 27th 1883

My dear Lou

They finally arrived last night at 7.30 and
 went to the theater without sending a word
 if it had not been for Montyiff's sister
 who asked me to take her to the theater
 I should have gone to bed, finally I saw
 Mr. Montyiff, who asked me to sing in
 Carmen, so to make it short, and
 commence on Monday. I depicted the
 part, and here the way they do Carmen
 curtain goes up, and like a fool I
 come, sing my song, then I wait
 for Carmen, who then walks in
 a little bit of recitative comes, then off
 I go. The critics have no names but
 here, the paper consequently speaks of
 no one, but here, after good deal of
 red tape, I saw Mr. Montyiff in his
 room, he commenced by complaining
 of paying my despatches in answer
 to his, then of my going to Waltham
 instead of joining the company



EARLY IOWA ADVERTISING COVERS

ABOVE: HOTEL ADVERTISING COVER OF THE JULIEN HOUSE, DUBUQUE, IOWA POSTMARKED 1856, WHICH HOTEL CONTINUES TO OPERATE TODAY. THESE EMBOSSED, RICH-COLOURED ENVELOPES WERE TRULY "WORKS OF ART."

BELOW: BUSINESS ADVERTISING COVER OF THE PERCUSSION MATCH & WRITING INK MANUFACTORY OF A. H. BURHANS & CO., VALLEY STREET, BURLINGTON, IOWA POSTMARKED 1857. CHOICE EXAMPLES OF SUCH COVERS ARE DIFFICULT TO ACQUIRE, ADD MUCH TO THE VALUE OF STAMPS NORMALLY FOUND THEREON.

