

THE WESTERN MAILS

Detroit 30<sup>th</sup> April 1803

Mr. S<sup>r</sup>. Abbott & Masswell

Dear Sirs

We wrote you by the Mackinac  
Express which we flatter ourselves has come  
to hand, nothing particular has occurred

FORT DEARBORN AND  
THE BEGINNING OF CHICAGO

Historic letter written on April 30th, 1803 by Robert & James Abbott, the agents of the American Fur Company at Detroit. It is addressed to "Abbott & Maxwell/Merchants" at Mackinac Island in Lake Huron via the "Schooner Thames". They write: "The Cincinnati Mail arrived here two days ago and brings accounts of a Garrison being immediately erected at Chicago. Capn. Whistler is to have command of the Garrison and will leave this in a few days with his Compy which consists of 80 men to go and erect the Garrison." Captain John Whistler arrived at the mouth of the Chicago River, on Lake Michigan, via the U.S. Schooner *Tracy* on the Fourth of July, 1803. The site selected for what was to be the first Fort Dearborn had been ceded by the Indians in the treaty of Greenville, in 1795. For about one hundred and thirty years the site had been known as *Chicago* and had been occupied at various times by fur traders and Indians. When Whistler and his command arrived there were only three rude huts and about two thousand Indians to welcome him. The first fort was burned by the British during the War of 1812.

Mr. Secret Indian Agent at this post this  
what should we can obtain payment  
of Mr. Thier's debt, who has informed us  
that regular acct<sup>s</sup> must be made out by him

THE WESTERN MAILS

Chicago. 18<sup>m</sup> October 1823

Cher Mr

Mabey est arrivé de St Louis quel que passé  
avec tout le article que J'ai fait demander qui me  
fourni un bon assortiment.

J'ai pris des arrangements avec Mr  
Craft pour la Devine a la roche qui a été le desir de Mr

Comme un fumier Coqui quel est pour ipari un  
mois. — nous sommes de charge du si'sant Jouis que nous  
avons supporté trop Longtemps a notre malheur.

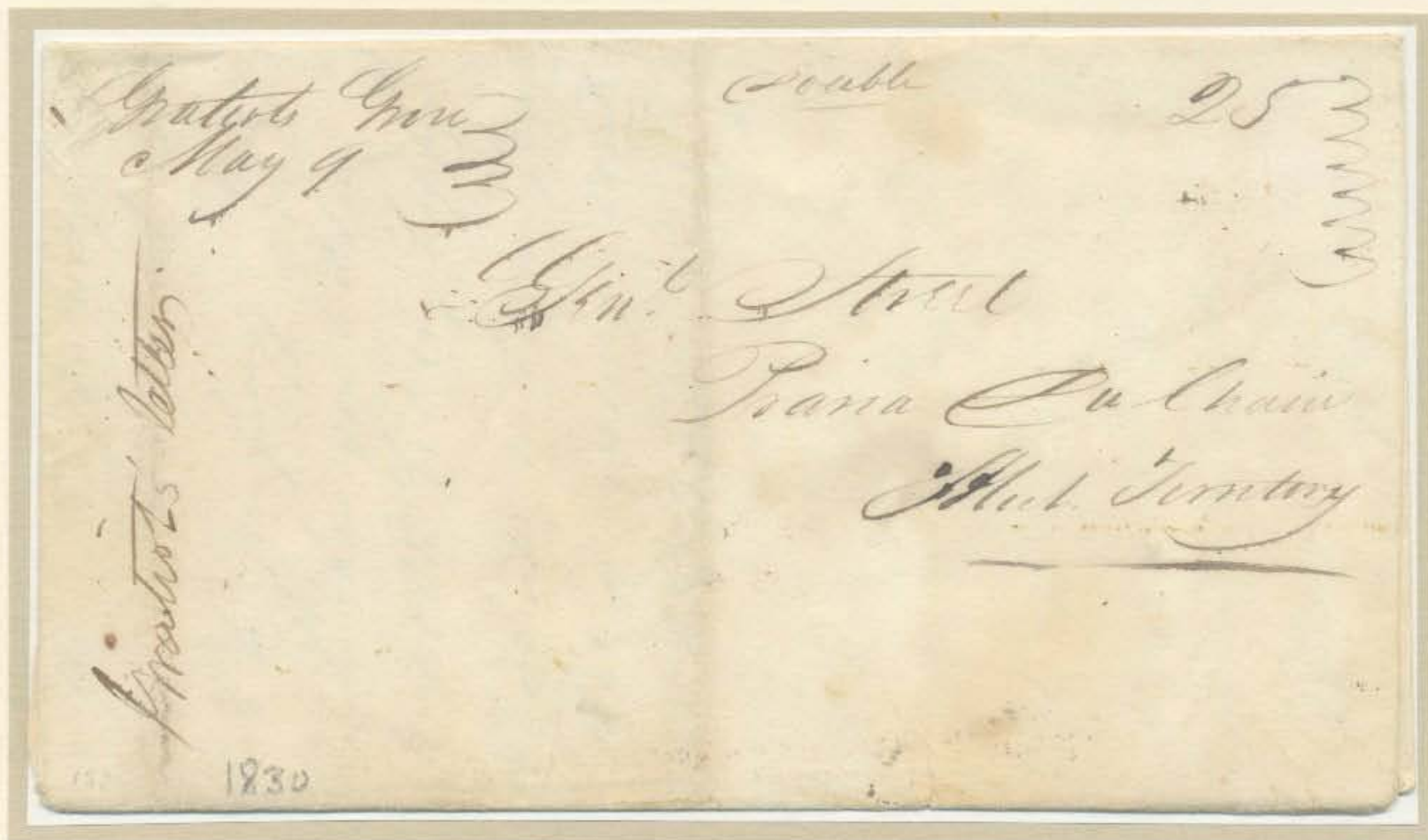
par l'aide du Capt Norton le quel  
vous lui avez beaucoup d'obligations.

Je suis a madem Stuart  
Croyez moy votre tr obly servit  
J B Beaubien

Chicago 1823

Jean Baptiste Beaubien, the American Fur Company agent at Chicago, writes to Robert Stuart, the agent at Michilimackinac (Mackinac Island), on October 18, 1823. The letter is in relation to the fur trade: "I gave Mr. Crook [Ramsey], A.F.C. seven hundred piastres to settle all accounts with James Kinzie." Interesting to note the use of Spanish piastres at Chicago. The letter was carried "Pr Ship Michigan Capt Norton" up Lake Michigan to Mackinac Island. Beaubien was one of the founders of Chicago. The village of Chicago was first platted by James Thompson in 1830 — seven years after this letter was written.

THE WESTERN MAILS



Gratiots Grove May 9th(1830)

Genl. Street

Indian Agt. Der Sir On a repeated call of the Rock River Indians I am induced to take the liberty of adressing you on their behalf. Scarcely a week passes but what I am visitted by numbers of them. It appears that some whites who make it their business to gav them alarm. As to the disposition of the government towards them they tel me that the government intends to push them on the west shores of the Mississippi amongst the Sous & Fox tribes and that it would be better for them to (move) to the Portage (Wisconsin) where they would be protected both from the whites and their great Father the President and such it appears is the language held to them by som of their traders. What can be their object for so doing I am at a loss how to account for it. They have runners from Chicagon and also from the Portage that give them very regulary such news - Could you Sir send them a messinger - I am of opinion that it would hav a tendancy to pacify their uneaseness. They talk of paying a visit in two months from this time - I have promised them that I should accompany them - I also enclose to you their letter and as you will discover by the synis (signs) they are the principal Cheifs of three villages.

Henry Gratiot"

Postmarked at "Gratiots Grove May 9"(1830). Addressed to Joseph M. Street the Indian Agent at Prairie du Chien, Michigan Territory.

Gratiots Grove was then in the Michigan Territory, in present day Lafayette Co. Wisconsin, near the Illinois boundary. The post office was established February 20, 1828 and discontinued on December 21, 1846.

Henry Gratiot was the sub-agent to the Winnebagos and played an important part in the Black Hawk war in 1832. See General Atkinson's letter to Gratiot, regarding the recovery of the Hall sisters following the massacre at Indian Creek, in this exhibit.

THE WESTERN MAILS



**RED - BIRD,**

A WINNEBAGO

THE WESTERN MAILS

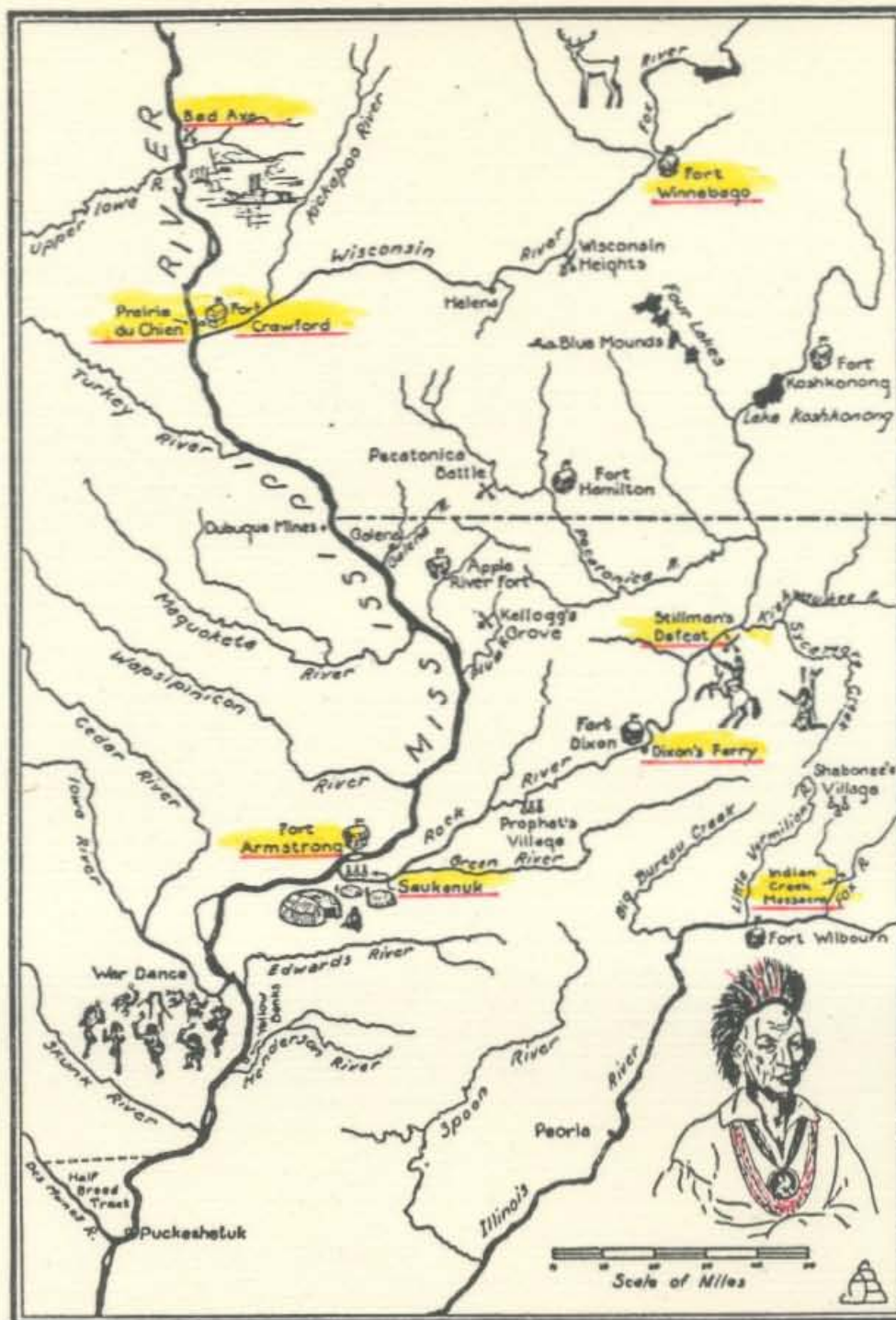
Green Bay M.T.  
Sept 23.



SURRENDER OF RED BIRD

Historic letter written by John H. Kinzie, Indian agent, fur trader and member of the American Fur Company. He writes from the Ouisconsin [early spelling for Wisconsin] Portage on September 4, 1827, describing the surrender of Red Bird and his band, for the murder and scalping of two white men and a child at Prairie du Chien. Kinzie writes: "Yesterday about noon we had the pleasure of seeing Mr. the Red Bird & associate (the Sun) accompanied with about 116 men of their nation, coming to deliver themselves up to Maj. Whistler .... He (Red Bird) was certainly the best looking Indian in the nation. He was dressed in Sloux dress of white leather, had a piece of square scarlet cloth over his brest & an ornamental pipe stem with feathers & painted green etc across his brest .... The Winnebagos gave to the commanding officer 9 horses so that he might not ill treat the prisoners while in confinement ... A Winnebago express from Genl. Atkinson, arrived here last evening — he is on his way up the Ouisconsin [river] 60 miles, with 13 companies. There are 5 keel-boats, besides other boats — some come by land. The nation is alarmed much. They [Indians] don't know what to make of this." Red Bird died in prison, the following year, of a crushed and broken heart. The Red Bird affair helped stir up the Indians and bring on the Black Hawk War. The letter is postmarked at Green Bay, M.T. [then Michigan Territory] where it entered the mails.

## THE WESTERN MAILS



### THE BLACK HAWK WAR 1832

The war began on May 14, 1832 with the defeat of a Brigade of State Militia, under command of Brig. General Isaiah Stillman, at what is known to history as the battle of Stillman's Run. SEE letter by Lt. G. H. Crosman June 10, 1832. It all ended with the defeat of Black Hawk at the battle of Bad Axe on August 1, 1832.

Encroachment by settlers on Indian lands and reservations was one of the principal causes for the wars that followed. From Bad Axe to Spirit Lake - New Ulm - Killdeer Mountain - Sand Creek - Little Big Horn - Nez Perce and Chief Joseph, to the tragic end on December 29, 1890 on a creek called Wounded Knee in the Dakota Territory. Sixty years of blood and tears for all concerned.

**NARRATIVE**  
OF THE  
CAPTIVITY AND PROVIDENTIAL ESCAPE OF  
**MRS. JANE LEWIS,**  
(Wife of James Lewis,)

Who, with a son and daughter, (the former in his 16th,  
and the latter in the 10th year of her age) and an  
infant babe, were made prisoners within a  
few miles of Indian Creek, by a party of  
Indians of the tribes of Sacs and  
Foxes, commanded by

**BLACK HAWK.**



All who have perused the narrative of the capture  
of the two sisters (Misses Frances and Almira Hall,  
by a party of said tribes, in May, 1832, ought not fail  
to peruse the narrative of the unfortunate Mrs. Lewis,  
whose captivity, although of prior date, was much lon-  
ger, her sufferings much greater, and her escape more  
miraculous than that of the two young ladies.





## THE WESTERN MAILS

### BLACK HAWK WAR - STEAMBOAT MAIL

"Foot of the Ills Rapids - June 22 1832

D Father we arrived here three days ago all pretey well - We start in the morning for Rock River. We just recd intelligence by express that Genl Dodge & Co killed eleven Indians - Whiteside & Co kild. four - James Stevanson [Stephenson, Major Galena, Rangers] had a skermish with the Indians - lost three men and himself badly wounded if not mortally - S Snider [Adam W. Snyder, Capt. Mounted Vol.] had a skermish, and lost three men - not known if killed any Indians. I apprehend we shall not find the Indians in large body - and the only way left to expel the Inds - is to devide the army in small band - from 100 to 200 men by addapting course, they will be able to hunt up the Inds [in the] groves - and the timbers bording on small creeks - what course Genl Atkinson will adopt I can not tell - but I hope and still think he will persue the proper course. I will go with the army as far as the head of Rock River - I believe the campain will close in four weeks and if no accident happens [to] me I will return home as soon as time will let me. P Menard"



NOTE: Peter Menard was the son of Pierre Menard, fur-trader, merchant, statesman, who led the first company of trappers to the Three Forks of the Missouri in 1801. Peter was a private in the 3rd Reg., 3rd Brigade, Illinois Mounted Volunteers. He had been mustered in at Ft. Wilbourn, near Peru, ILL., on the illinois River, June 21, 1832 - one day before this letter was mailed. It was carried down the Illinois River to St. Louis where it entered the mail as per postmark on June 26.

## THE WESTERN MAILS

### BLACK HAWK WAR 1832

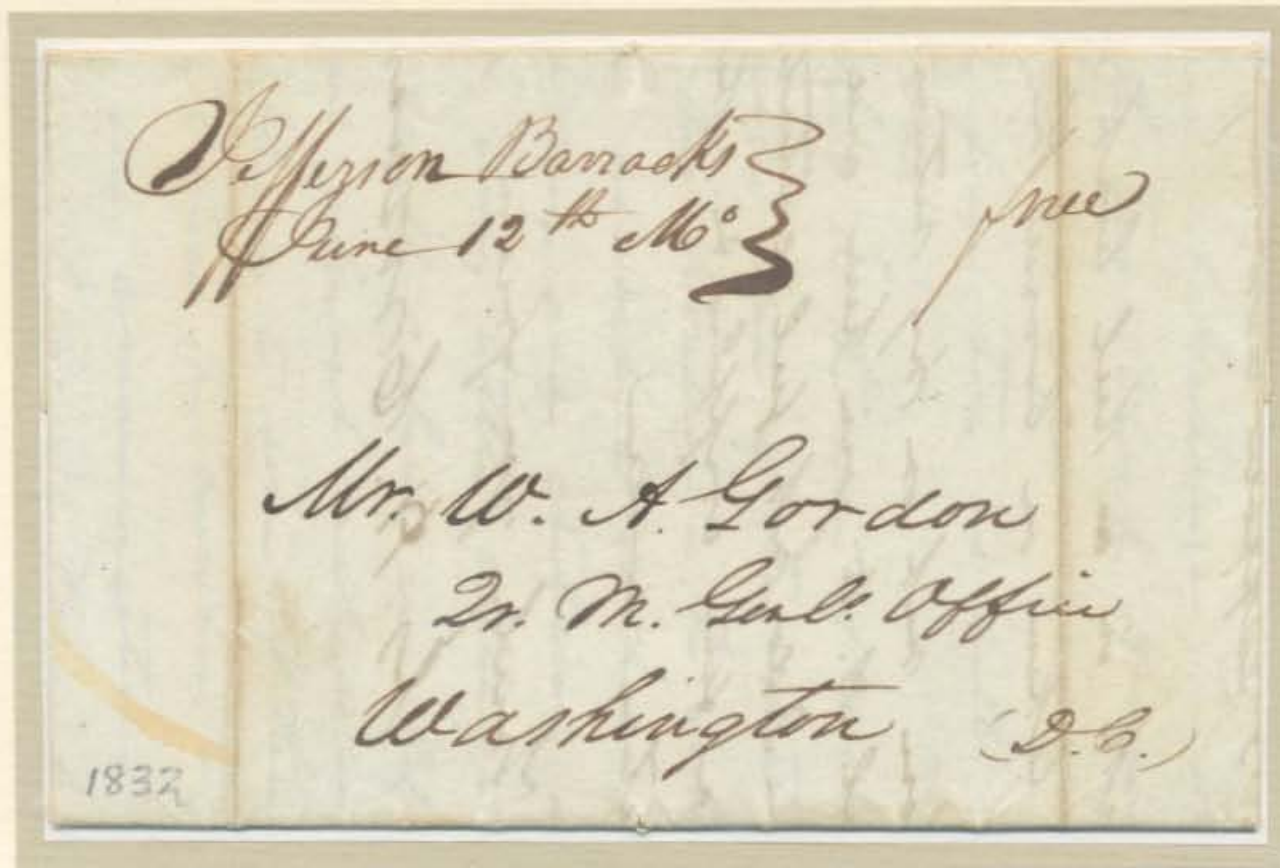
"the whole frontier is in a blaze of excitement and alarm"

Lt. George H. Crosman writes to Wm. A. Gordon, in the Quarter Master General's Department, on the defeat of Maj. Stillman of the Illinois state militia and the outbreak of the Black Hawk War.

"Jefferson Barracks 10 June 1832. Dr. Sir, In my last letter I mentioned something about the Indian hostilities and the expedition sent against them expressing my belief that fighting would take place. - I was mistaken - the blow has been struck and the whole frontier is in a blaze of excitement and alarm. The papers will have informed you of the disastrous and disgraceful defeat of the Militia under Maj. (Isaiah) Stillman and of some of the murders &c of the Sacs. The Militia 2,000 has dispersed and gone home and the Gov. (John Reynolds) of Ill. has called out 3,000 men who are to meet this day at Hennepin on the Ill. River and there to be inspected and placed under command of Genl. (Henry) Atkinson who is now there for the purpose of organizing them &c. Col. (William) Davenport with the two light companies of our Regt. is ordered from the Platte Cant. Leavenworth will reach here to-morrow on their way to Hd. Qrs. - Genl. (Hugh) Brady with his command has ere this joined the Camp at Dickson's (Dixon's) ferry and about 1,000 Menomies and Sioux were daily expected at Galena to cooperate with our Troops so that a brilliant campaign may be expected unless another Maj. Stillman should again spoil it. I have just returned from Galena lead mines where I had taken a large supply of arms and ammunition for the people of that section of country who were represented as being unprovided with the means of defence. - Our old acquaintance I. Stevenson (little Steve) of Ill. is a Col. of Militia mounted and is stationed at Galena. - The town is picketed and provided with two Block Houses mounting (the guns I took there) two 6 pdrs. and four swivels. - Martial Law is in force there as well as at several other frontier towns. Nothing in the way of description can give you an adequate idea of the distress poverty and wretchedness on this frontier: - the inhabitants have deserted their farms almost to a man leaving everything behind but their women and children and are huddled together at every little village from this to Rock Island in small cabins and Block Houses without provisions and almost naked. - A supply of provisions has been issued to some of them by the A.C.S. (Acting Commissary of Subsistence) of our Troops but then the number to be fed is constantly increasing and communications to some of these little squads is nearly or quite cut off. - One must see these things with his own eyes to know the extent of their misery. On our way down the River from Galena we were so unlucky as to lose our Boat the "Java" on the lower Rapids - She struck a rock and went down in two minutes - No lives were lost altho we had upwards of a hundred souls on board including my guard of ten men whom I took with me as an escort to the arms &c as it was thought we might possibly be attacked - The water was shoal when our boat sunk otherwise many must have been lost as it was in the middle of the River, a short distance below the first Indian village - What a chance for the Sacs? But it would have been a losing business to them if they had attempted anything against us even this for we were all well armed. - We saw several canoes of them reconnoitering I suppose but they soon disappeared. We left the wreck in a Keel boat which came off to us and were taken on board the Enterprise Steamer next day. I expected to have met on my return here instructions from Genl. Atkinson to join him and I am now waiting their arrival. - I do not feel contented to remain here in command of a few cripples &c when my Regt. is in the field on active service. Truly yr. friend G.H. Crosman."

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THE WESTERN MAILS



BLACK HAWK WAR 1832

JEFFERSON BARRACKS. Folded letter, on the outbreak of the Black Hawk War, by Lt. George H. Crosman under date of June 10, 1832. SEE opposite page for content of the letter.

In 1830 the government made a treaty with the Indians in council at Prairie du Chien, whereby the Sauk and Fox gave up their lands in Illinois and were ordered to move to the west side of the Mississippi river in what was then the Iowa Country. Chief Keokuk and his band complied but Black Hawk refused to leave his village at Saukenuk near Fort Armstrong. Later when threatened by force, he did move over but it was too late for them to plant corn. Running out of provisions, the Indians crossed the river one night to get some of the corn they had left behind. They were fired on by the settlers and forced to leave. Black Hawk had been assured by Neapope, the medicine man of his tribe, that the Chippewa, Winnebago, Pottawattamie and the British would join him in a war on the whites. Although, Keokuk pointed out the folly of depending on help from the British and other tribes. Black Hawk crossed the Mississippi in April of 1832 and proceeded up the Rock River. On reaching the Prophet's village he learned that General Samuel Whiteside of the Illinois volunteers as well as General Atkinson with U.S. regulars was in pursuit and that the Winnebagos would not support him and that the coming of the British was a myth. At the mouth of Sycamore Creek he decided to negotiate a surrender and go back and plant corn in Iowa. Under a flag of truce one of his men was killed in cold blood and the battle of Stillman's Run ended in the route and defeat of the volunteers. This easy victory excited and inflamed the Indians to wage war on the whites which may never have happened if it had not been for Stillmans actions.

## THE WESTERN MAILS

Head Quarters night writing (Wab. Sept.

Dixons Ferry 27<sup>th</sup> May 1832

Sir. In the attack of the Sac Indians on the settlements, on a branch of Fox river. the 22<sup>nd</sup> inst, fifteen men women and children were killed, and two young women were taken prisoners. This heart-rending occurrence should not only call forth our sympathies, but urge us to relieve the survivors.

You will therefore proceed to the Turtle village, or send some one of confidence and prevail on the head chief and braves of the Winnebagos there to go over to the hostile Sacs and endeavor to ransom the prisoners. Offer the Winnebagos a large reward to effect the object - \$500, or 1000 for each.

I Expected to have heard from you before this

Very respectfully your ob. Servt

H. Atkinson

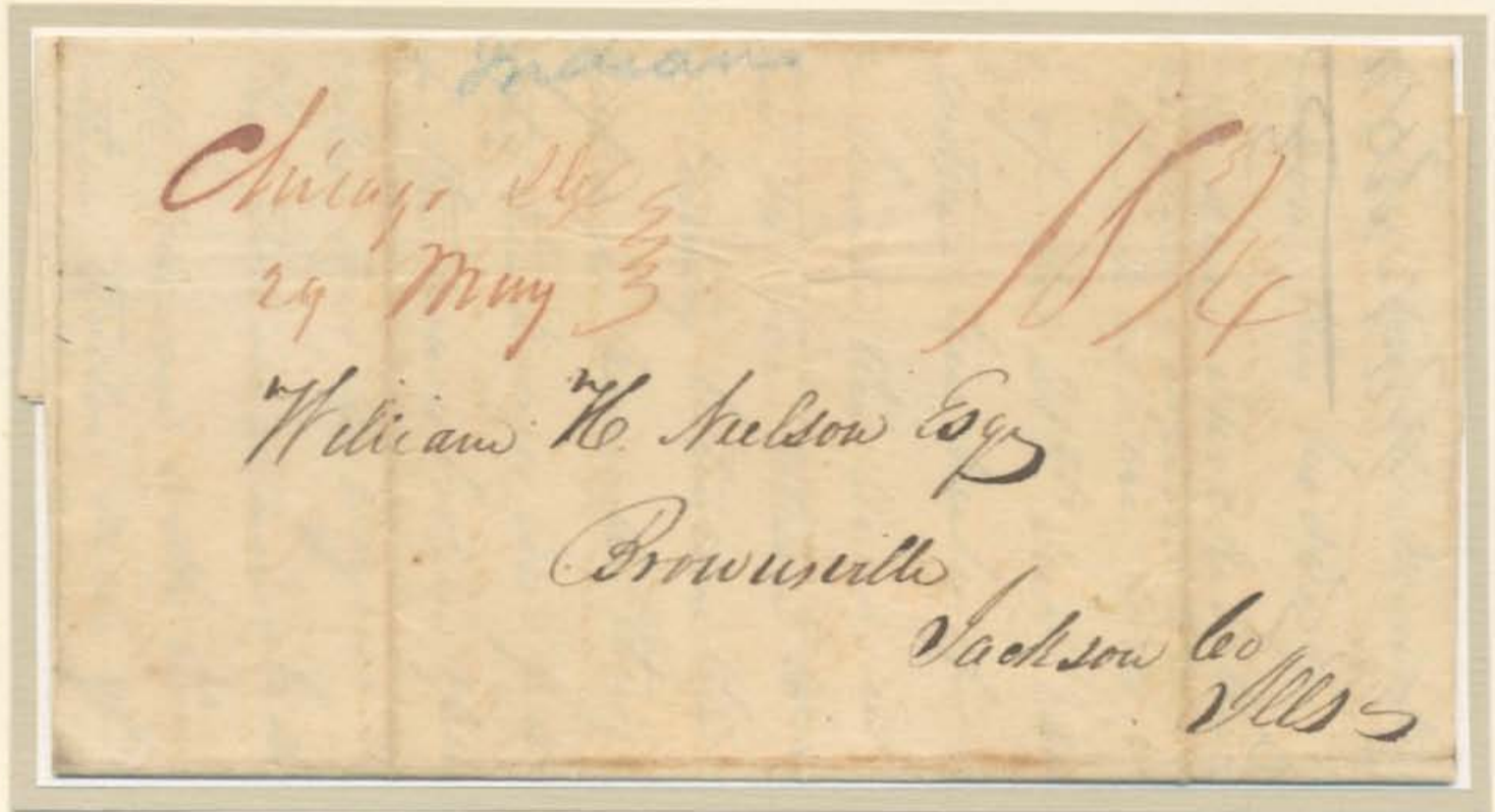
To Gen. ins. ay

### CAPTIVITY OF THE HALL SISTERS

Historic letter written from "Dixons Ferry 27th May 1832," by General Henry Atkinson to the Indian Agent, Henry Gratiot: "In the attack of the Sac Indians on the settlements, on a branch of Fox river [Indian Creek], the 22nd. inst, fifteen men women and children were killed, and two young women [Hall sisters] were taken prisoners .... You will therefore proceed to the Turtle [Indian] village, or send someone and prevail on the head chief and braves of the Winnebagos there to go over to the hostile Sacs and endeavor to ransom the prisoners. Offer the Winnebagos a large reward to effect the object — \$500, or 1000 for each." Letter carried on "public service" to "Henry Gratiot/Sub Agent for the/Winneagos/Gratiots Grove."

THE WESTERN MAILS

Chicago Ill  
29 May 3



EARLIEST POSTMARK OF CHICAGO & THE BLACK HAWK WAR

This folded letter bears the earliest postmark of Chicago in private hands — "Chicago 29 May," 1832. It is written by Richard J. Hamilton who was with the party sent to the relief of the settlers in the Fox River Valley. The following is his eye witness account of what they found on Indian Creek: "At the house of a Wm. Davis on Indian Creek on the morning of the 22nd .... we witnessed one of the most shocking sights that could possibly be presented to the human senses. There were three families assembled at Davis' house for security, consisting of seventeen persons men, women and children, fifteen of whom we found laying in the house and around it, all shot, speared, tomahawked and scalped with the exception of an infant and woman who were not scalped but were much mangled, and the cruelty perpetrated upon the bodies of the slain was enough to have shocked the senses of even a savage. Two were missing supposed to be prisoners both young girls. The massacre was committed on the evening of the 21st .... We buried the dead in the best possible manner .... this country is completely desolate the houses and farms abandoned and most of the houses broken open .... and some of them burned." The two girls mentioned above were the Hall sisters and they were eventually recovered from their Indian captivity

## THE WESTERN MAILS

### Black Hawk War 1832

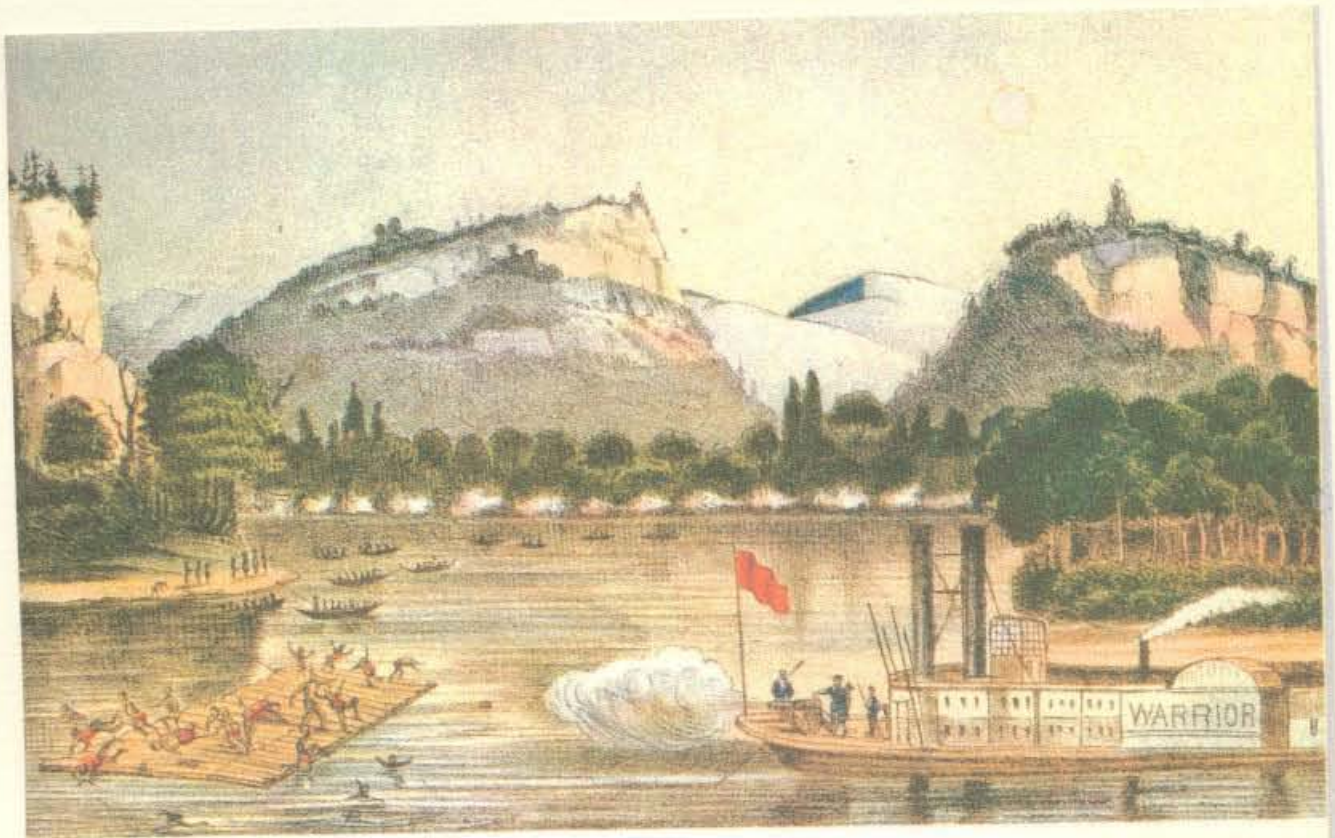


Black Hawk

**BATTLE OF BAD AXE** The folded letter shown below was written by Lt. Edgar M Lacy from Fort Winnebago on August 9, 1832. It was probably carried to Fort Mackinac, Michigan Territory, by a military schooner on Lake Michigan. Here it was placed in the U.S. mails, rated 25¢ for over 400 miles plus 2¢ ship fee, and forwarded to Fort Niagara. Lacy reports the news of the battle of Bad Axe: "Our Indian War is about over. Yesterday evening a gentleman arrived with information that Gen. Atkinson had overtaken Black Hawk and his party on the Mississippi river about 36 miles above the mouth of the Ouisconsin [river]. The Indians were about to cross. The Army consisting of about eighteen hundred discovered them about four miles from the river and drove them to the Mississippi where they made a stand. One of short duration, however, for in a few minutes all save twenty were scalped. They were met on the river by a steamboat [Warrior] loaded with provisions — fortunately there was a six pounder on board loaded with grape — and the first shot killed 23. Twenty made their escape — B. Hawk & his son among them. The poor wretches were in miserable condition. More than half starved. Gen. Atkinson has retired down the river to Rock Island, where he will hold a treaty with the Winnebagos and the Sacs who have heretofore remained quiet.

B. Hawk will doubtless be demanded [to surrender] and so will some Winnebagos who have been engaged with the Sac & Foxes." The battle lasted three hours with the Indians losing 150 killed and 120 taken prisoner. Twenty-seven whites lost their lives. Black Hawk surrendered and the following year he was returned to his people. He died on October 3, 1838 and was buried on the banks of the Des Moines River in Wapello County, Iowa.





Steamboat Warrior Repulses Black Hawk at Bad Axe

MISSISSIPPI RIVER FERRY LICENSE



License issued September 4, 1833 to A. C. Ransom for the operation of a ferry across the Mississippi river at Menomine Cliffs by the District Court of Jo Davies County, Illinois. It was situated near Jordan's Ferry, just below Dubuque's Mines, the important hub of activity in the lead-mining region. Peru had also been settled, five miles above Dubuque, and this unorganized area was soon to become part of Michigan Territory. Iowa's first post office had just been established at Dubuque's Mines, on May 27th, so this ferry was an important link between Galena. Ransom transferred his rights, title and interests March 22, 1834 to Jehu B. Stuart and Saml. L. Clifton.

State of Illinois  
Jo Daviess County

The people of the State of Illinois.

To all who shall see these presents Greeting,

Whereas the County

Commissioners of said County at the same term of said Court on application of A. C. Ransom have established a ferry across the Mississippi River at the Menomine Cliffs near Jordan's 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 hereby licensed to keep a ferry at the said place according to Law—

By order of Court.

Notary N. B. Green Clerk—

with the seal of said County hereunto affixed this 4<sup>th</sup> day of September A. D. 1833.

N. B. Green Clerk



Black Hawk Purchase Dec, 4<sup>th</sup> 1836

Dear Brother after my respects to you I will in-  
form you that I arrived here on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of Dec<sup>r</sup>  
in good health with the exception of a slight cold  
I will now proceed to give you some account of my  
passage here - we left Wheeling, Va. on the 8<sup>th</sup> Nov  
we grounded on petticoat sloop Nov 9<sup>th</sup> Nov 10<sup>th</sup> a whole  
came a board and the devil was raised - the knight from  
being Nov 11<sup>th</sup> whose put a show with great reluctance  
out part of the crew - 12<sup>th</sup> a man murdered at  
Cincinnati - 13<sup>th</sup> Baltimore Steam Boat sink no  
lives lost - 14<sup>th</sup> Sander head blow out at the 3000  
Island - Island first late land but is subject to being  
washed by the Mississippi, Congress, land,  
we arrived at St Louis, in good health on board of the  
pavilion from Wheeling - we here shift on board  
of the in Indian Council to Peoria (as it was impos-  
sible to get up the Mississippi we arrived at Peoria on  
the 21<sup>st</sup>, we here remained three days for want  
of transportation to Normalth here I met  
with Jesse Leppies the flower of Dumbell  
he appeared very glad to see me and his family  
were all in fine health and spirits, after dis-  
Mississippi in a dugout all though it was very  
full of ice, here I met with a Mr. Nager who  
knew our Mother and I went with him home  
here I got a first rate supper and good lodging  
~~free~~ ~~fast~~ ~~fast~~

I sta  
rive  
I love  
The  
past  
aft  
In  
to

Mr Joseph McLeary

Warren Township

Jefferson County

Ohio

New Boston  
Dec 6 1841

April 13<sup>th</sup> 1837 (7)

Far West Wisconsin Territory, Louisa County  
Dear sir

Having a wish to renew a correspondence which from neglect or some other cause has for some time ceased to exist between us I now resume my pen to address you with hopes that through the medium of the Post our intercourse will be more frequent we are all in good health Elizabeth has been unwell for some time past but she is now in tolerable health her complaint was of a bilious nature Abram John and family are well and well content with their situation they live one fourth of

SAN FRANCISCO **Marriott**

Louisa Co. Iowa

Estb. Dec 7, 1836

Or April 1837

Wapello Co. Seat.

Estb. 8/15/1837

Black Hawk May 21, 1837

Grand View May 2 1838

55 Fourth Street, San Francisco, California 94103  
(415) 896-1600 Fax Number: (415) 777-2799

and gains claims with me here  
winter and the spring is more backward  
of produce is and has been through  
was worth 16 Dollars per barrel per  
percent. corn meal from \$1.50 to  
is a prospect provision will be  
in a short time the emigration  
territory surpasses all credibility and  
the best information much greater  
reports that there will be danger  
the Indians this Summer I have been  
of all their movements since I  
among them and can see nothing that would  
of that kind there is a war  
between the Sauks and Foxes of the  
the Sioux on the other which if gov-  
ernment will not interfere is certain to involve  
all the Indian tribes in the contest as far as the <sup>perhaps</sup> Rockwood

Mr George M'Henry

Warren Township

Jefferson County

Ohio

New Boston Ill

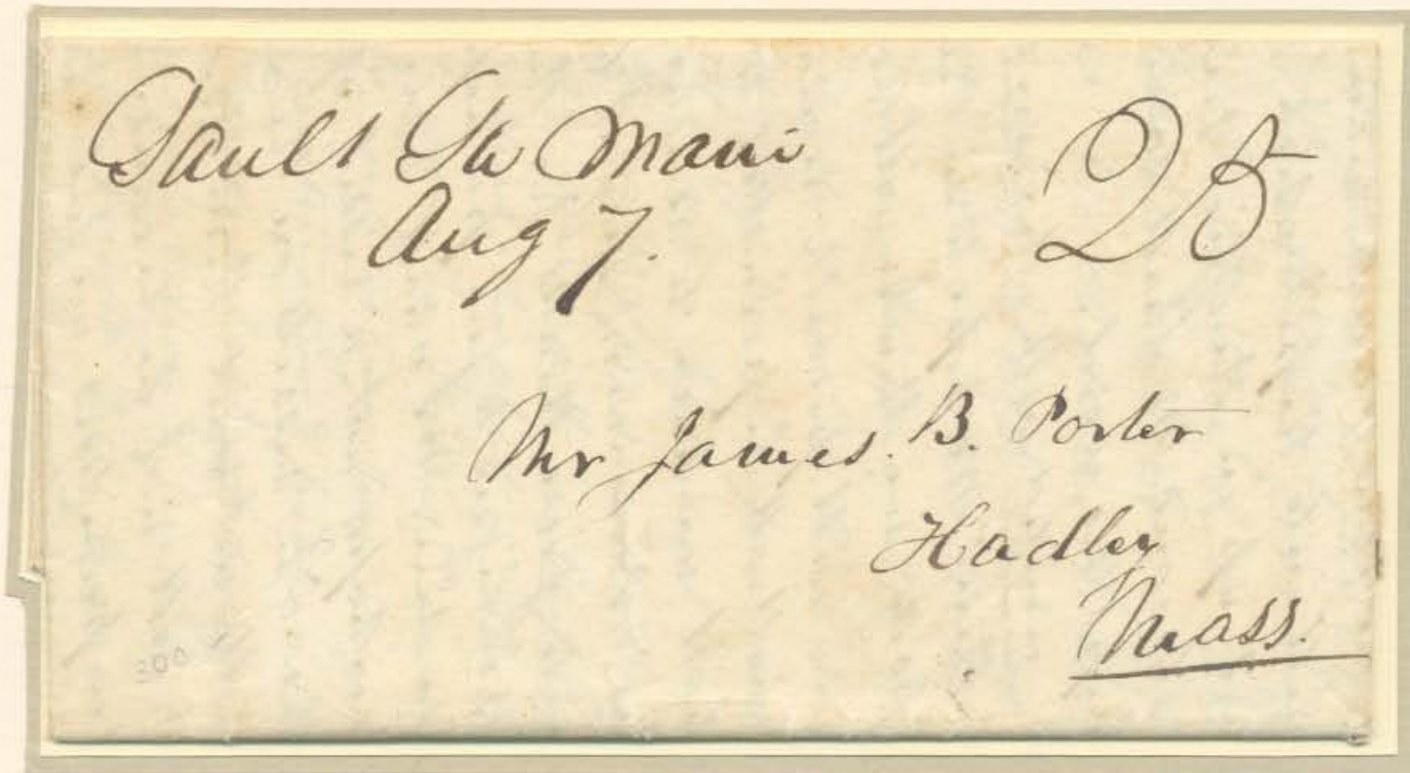
Apr 18

1837

25-

1837

*Cholera Strikes on the Great Lakes  
During the Black Hawk War*



Sault St. Marie Aug 4, 1832

The letter reads:

"I parted with the officers & soldiers who were ordered to Chicago, with feelings of most lively interest. I prayed with them & gave them the word of final counsel, as they were paraded on the wharf previous to embarking. I never looked upon any body of soldiers with such interest. I felt that the officers & many of the men were prepared to die, & hoped if we are not allowed to meet again in life, we may yet pass a happier eternity together. They were detained near a fortnight at Mackinac, before a boat came to carry them to C [Chicago]. While there Br Clary wrote me that a steamboat with troops had reached them bringing cholera, seven deaths had occurred in three days, & that if we would keep this plague from us we must keep strict quarantine. We had previously tried to purify streets & houses, & had observed the day previous as one of fasting & prayer, . . . . We immediately established rigid laws of non-intercourse & set our guard. The boat which brought the disease to Mc. proceeded to Chicago; but in three days threw 51 soldiers into the Lake & left the rest sick at C. Who can stand when the Lord rises up?

Hundreds of soldiers it is said died on the River St. Clair.

Sat. eve' July 1st, a steamboat came marching up before our settlement. It threw the place into great consternation. She was looked upon as a deathship. The arrival of a boat has till now been looked upon as the most joyful event in the year. They have never had but one a year I think. But now how changed. She was ordered to stop, cast anchor in the stream, & to send no one ashore upon penalty of a salute from the guns of the forts. They yielded very reluctantly. They reported "no cholera," had about 200 troops, 20 officers, two or three clergymen, on board, all of whom under other circumstances, we out-landish people should have heartily welcomed. They lay still thro' the sabbath, had preaching on board, & left us in rather bad humor Monday morn' . . . . Black Hawk & his forces disbursed to a swamp; probably nothing to be done but to starve him out; unless the Lord makes base his arm for the Indian's by sweeping off the soldiers thro' cholera. The Lord will do right."

The balance of the letter deals with other reports of cholera on the Lake amongst the traders, and of the conversion of the Indians.

**Winfield Scott**  
**Black Hawk War**

Head Qrs. North Western Army  
Chicago, July 18, 1832

Sir

I have retained the two men who brought me your letter of the 11th expecting the return of two sent with the original of which the enclosed is a copy. As the latter have not returned I begin to apprehend they may not have reached you.

Since I wrote to you on the 12th all my intelligence from Detroit has been disastrous. The detachments of Lieut. Colonels Cummings & Twiggs, & that of Major Payne, have suffered dreadfully from cholera & were, on the 13th encamped—the second & third near Fort Gratiot, the first below Detroit. The steamers, *Clay* & *Superior*, refused to proceed with infected troops. The *Penn*, I know, took on board two companies of artillery left by the *Shelden Thompson* at Gratiot, & stood on, the 11th, to take up the two companies of the 5th Infantry from Mackinaw. Major Thompson's two companies had marched out of Fort Gratiot & encamped 22 miles below, to give place to Twiggs & Payne's battalions. It does not appear that the infection had seized Major Thompson's command, but he had not been able to obtain transportation. Repeated orders have been sent below to separate the well from the *sick* & to proceed with the former to this place by water or land. I learn, also, that death & panic have stopped navigation above Detroit, & that all our medicines & hospital stores, & many other essential supplies, were shifted from a steamer, to the Schooner *Napoleon*, which is in the river below Huron, without master & crew. Reiterated orders have been sent below for forwarding by land—particularly medicines, hospital stores, tents & surgeons. We have only Dr. Decamp for duty here. Dr. Macomb being sick.

I still hope for the arrival of a few healthy troops in the *Penn*, & Major Thompson's command may be up by land in 15 or 17 days.

The moment I can collect a small force of regulars, un-infected, & *unsuspected* of infection, together with a surgeon, medicines & tents, I shall call to my aid a company of Indiana volunteers, encamped 33 miles south, & much to the theatre of active operations, or I shall, after waiting a reasonable time for healthy regulars, march, if need be with the volunteers alone. You shall, of course, be advised of my approach. Wagons & horses will certainly be here by the 25th instant—but the pack saddles are below with the tents, etc., etc.

We have lost from the four companies of artillery, about 53 men & two officers (Lieuts Gustavus Brown & McDuffie) by cholera. About 27 out of 55 sick men are convalescent, & all the sick officers, except Dr. MaComb. But few new cases have occurred in three or four days past & not one out of the Fort, since our arrival, either in Major Whistler's command, or among the citizens.

What a calamity has come upon the expedition! ??? our grief of heart in the general disappointment of the government & country.

Prosecute your own plans till I can come up with you. Discharge any portion of the mounted men, whom you cannot conveniently subsist, at your discretion, but remember it may be necessary to send a detachment to meet me & cover my approach. I have called for 400 mounted volunteers to protect our depots here, & to serve as escorts. This call was made yesterday, to the Governor of Michigan. The force may reach this by \_\_\_\_\_ of August. I shall not wait for it, but hope to set out to join you with a greater or lesser force about the 26th instant—unless some further act of Providence shall stay me.

I have the honor to remain,  
With great respect  
Your Ob't Ser't

*Winfield Scott*

P.S. The United States Rangers, when raised are ordered to report to me, but I have heard nothing of them. Has Genl Dodge received the package from the War Department appointing him major of this corps? I sent it by the Express to you from Detroit.

W. S.

Brig. Genl H. Atkinson  
U.S.A.  
Comg etc: etc: etc: etc:

Winfield Scott  
Black Hawk War

Sir:

Head Quarters, North Western Army  
Chicago, July 18, 1832.

I have retained the two men who brought me your letter of the 11th expecting the return of two sent with the original of which the enclosed is a copy. As the letter have not returned I begin to apprehend they may not have reached you.

Since I wrote to you on the 12th all my intelligence from Detroit has been disastrous. The detachments of Lieut. Colonels Cummings & Twiggs, & that of Major Payne, have suffered dreadfully from cholera & were, on the 13th encamped - the second & third near Fort Gratiot, the first below Detroit. The steamers, Clay & Superior, refused to proceed with infected troops. The Pearl, I know, took on board two companies of artillery left by the Sheldon Thompson at Fort Gratiot, & stood on, the 11th, to take up the two companies of the 5th Infantry from Mackinac. Major Thompson's two companies had marched out of Fort Gratiot & encamped 22 miles below, to give place to Twiggs's & Payne's battalions. It does not appear but the infection had seized

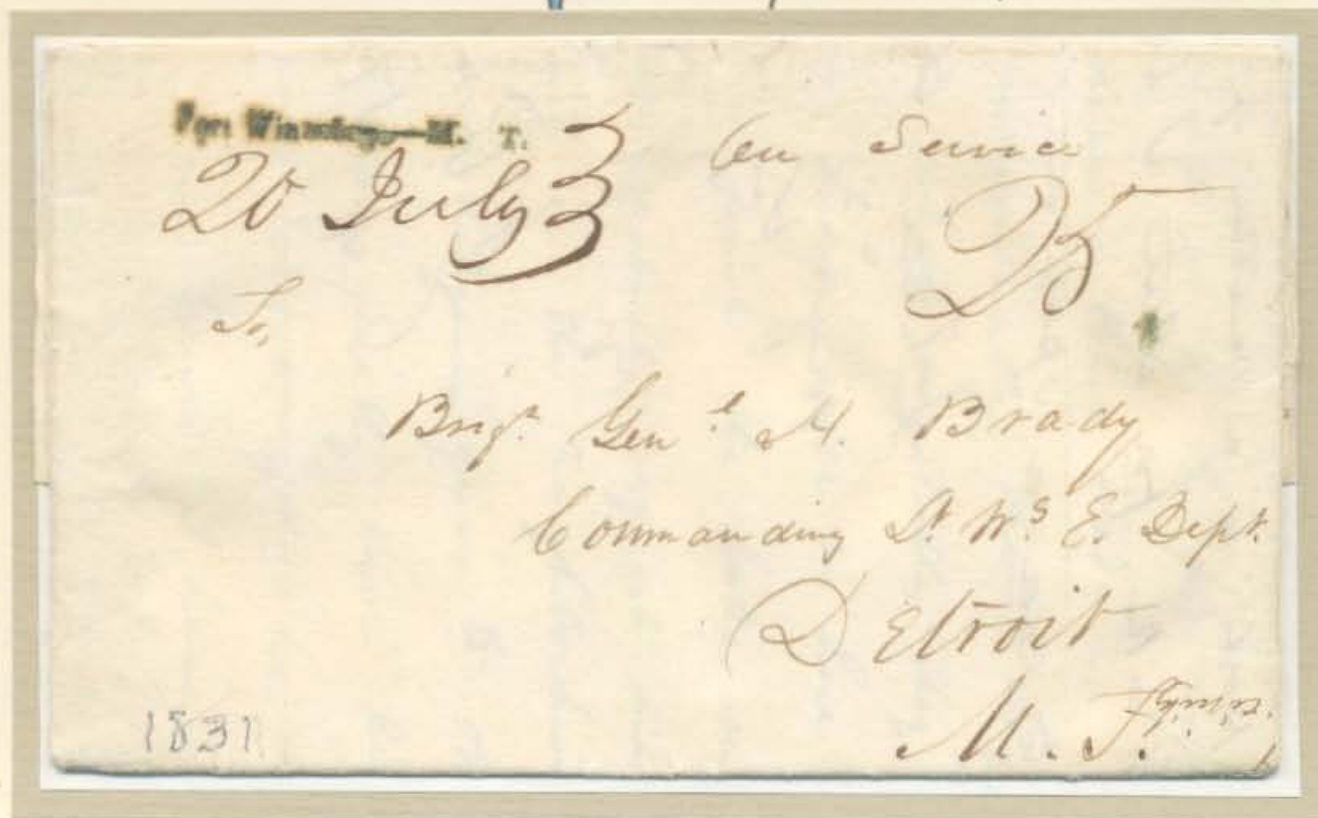
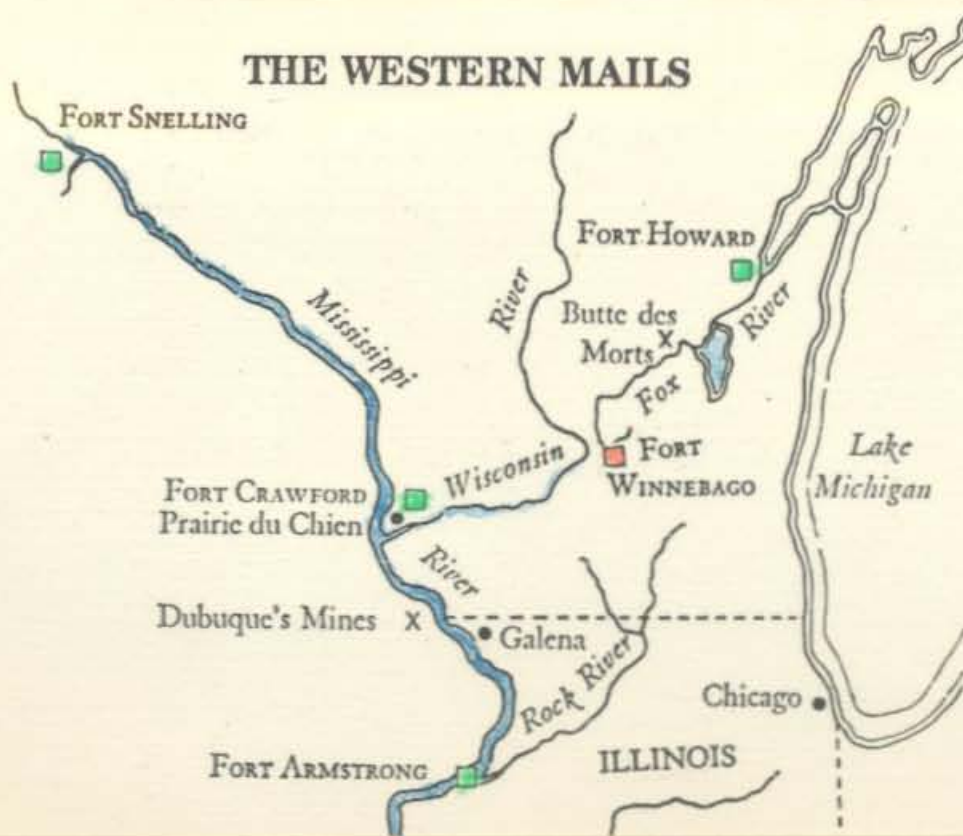
**"Fort Wolcott  
Nov 25th 1802"**



Letter written by Capt. Lewis Howard, Artillery to William Linnard. Linnard was the Military Agent in Philadelphia. Howard advises Linnard that on Gaston Point there is no public property except "four 32 pounders (dismounted)." Also the circular Battery was built on such "bad materials, (and the workmanship I believe very bad)" that the tides and winds will undermine the Battery. The cover is postmarked NEWPT. R.I. and Public Service 34 in manuscript.

Fort Wolcott on Goat Island in the center of Newport Harbor was started in 1798. Troops were finally withdrawn on May 22, 1836.





#### FORT WINNEBAGO

FORT WINNEBAGO was constructed by troops under the command of Major David E. Twiggs during the years 1828-31. It was located in the Winnebago country, at the portage between the Wisconsin and Fox rivers, about half way between Fort Howard on Green Bay and Fort Crawford at the confluence of the Wisconsin and Mississippi rivers, in what was then the Michigan Territory. As a military post it played an important part in the Black Hawk War. In 1845 the post was closed and the troops were withdrawn for service in the Mexican War.

The POST OFFICE was established on February 10, 1831 with John H. Kinzey as postmaster and discontinued in 1861. The cover shown above bears the earliest recorded postmark as well as the only known straight line handstamp - July 20, 1831. The letter is written by Captain Joseph C. Plympton, 5th Infantry, commanding. It is a "Detailed report of encroachment of the whites upon Indian lands in the vicinity of the Fort". Most of the "whites" were contractors, trappers and traders. The cover was 57 days in transit, via Chicago and Fort Wayne to Detroit, arriving on Sept. 15th.

THE WESTERN MAILS

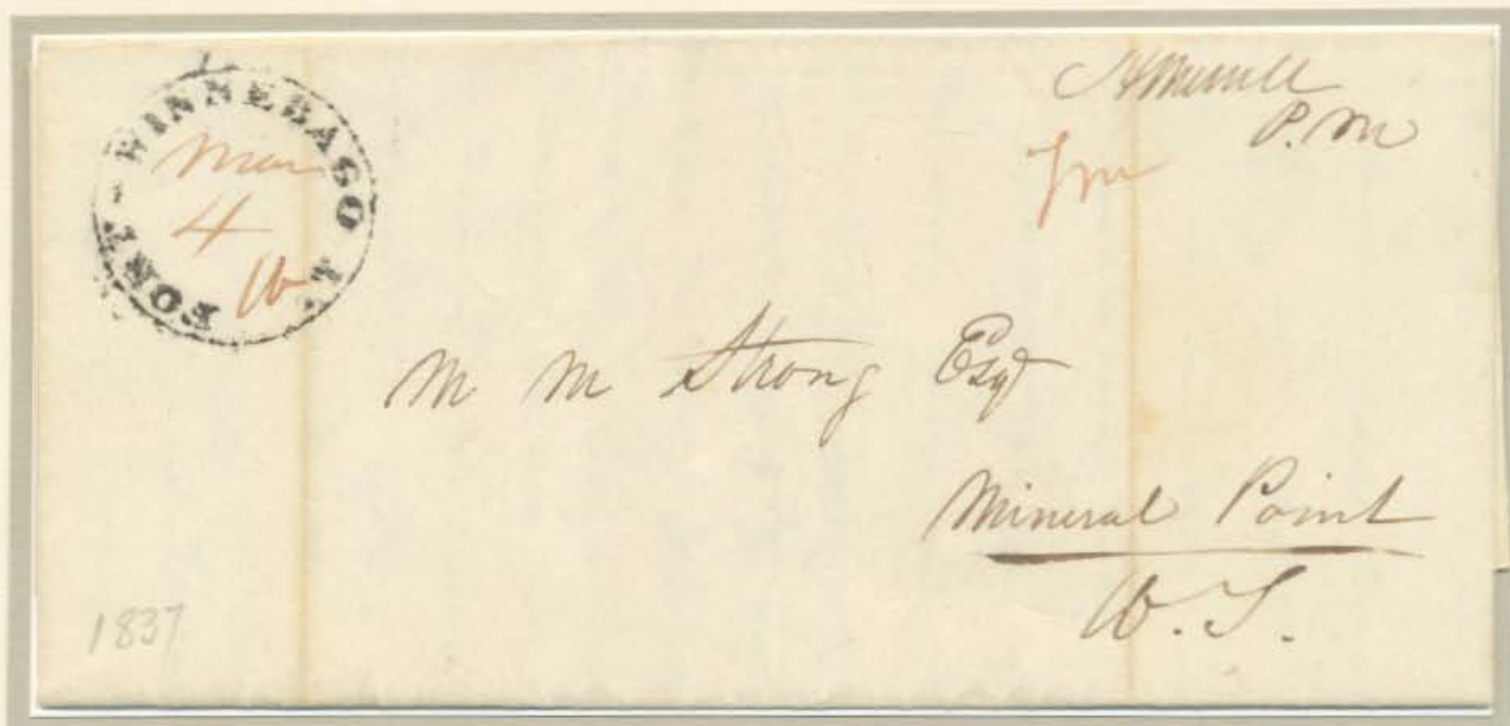


The cover shown above bears the earliest strike of the Type II postmark - Mar 16 1832. With the formation of the Wisconsin Territory on July 4, 1836, the postmaster altered the Type II postmark by cutting out the "M" and and penned in a red "W" as on the cover BELOW. This is the only example known and the earliest use of a hand-stamp for this post office under the Wisconsin Territory. - Mar 4, 1837. It bears the Free Frank of H. Merrill the postmaster.

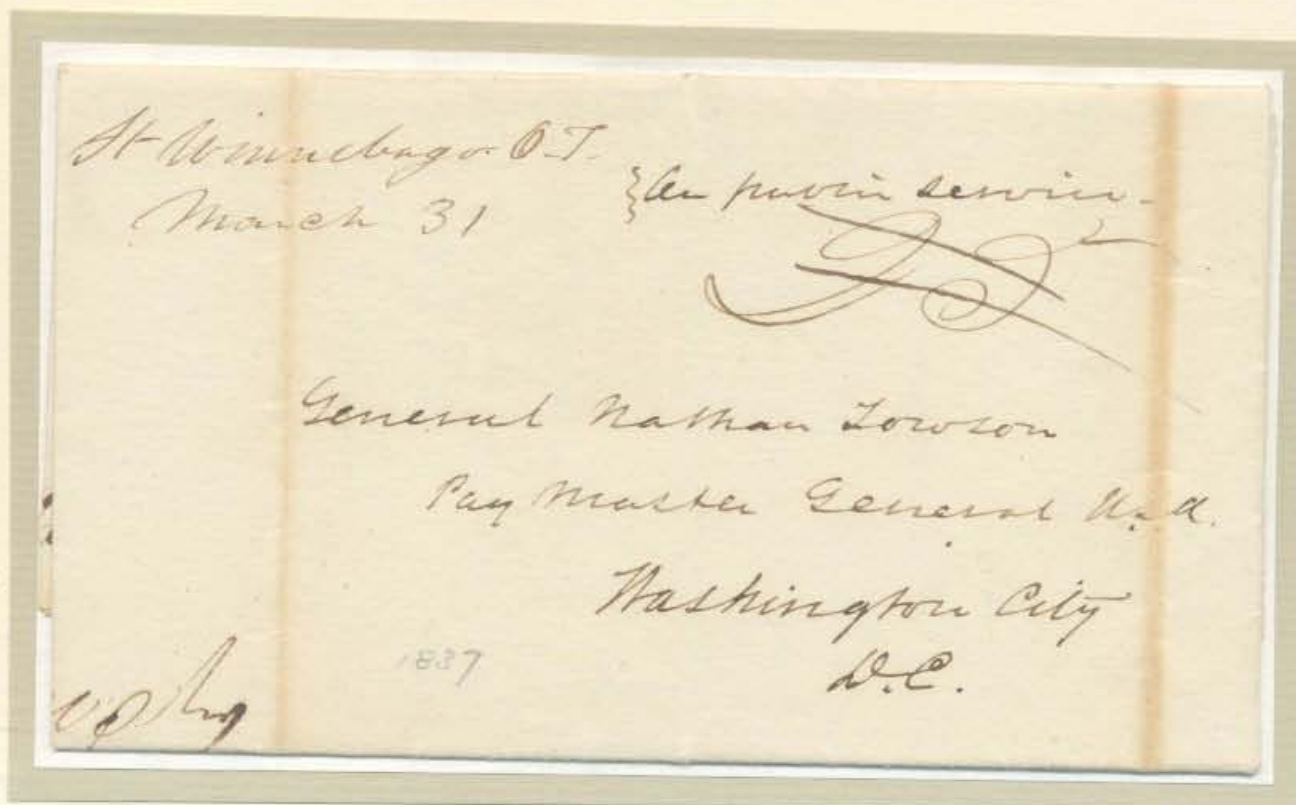
FORT WINNEBAGO.

James Gardner, a soldier stationed at the fort, writes to his Aunt on March 4, 1832: "I have had to mount another guard since I commenced this letter. For my own part I feel estranged from all the world destined to spend my best days in the wilderness surrounded by Savages - who would not hesitate on the least Provocation to bury their tomahawks in us - but they are rather afraid of the long knives as we are termed. We have not been disturbed by them yet at this Post - but at Rock Island and Prairies du Chien\* they have committed depredations on Indians that were under the protection of the American Flag and likewise on several families who were residing on the Frontiers - Several Chiefs have been taken and are about to atone with their lives for their barbarities." He then tells about the murder of an officer, by a private who had been put under restraint, at Green Bay. Also about the extreme cold weather - 32 below zero. It would be only two and a half months, after this letter was written, that the Black Hawk War began - May 13, 1832.

\*On the night of July 31, 1831 a large party of Sauk & Foxes attacked a sleeping village of Menominee Indians and massacred 25 who were sleeping off a drunken debauch. This was only one of many incidents that led to the Black Hawk War.



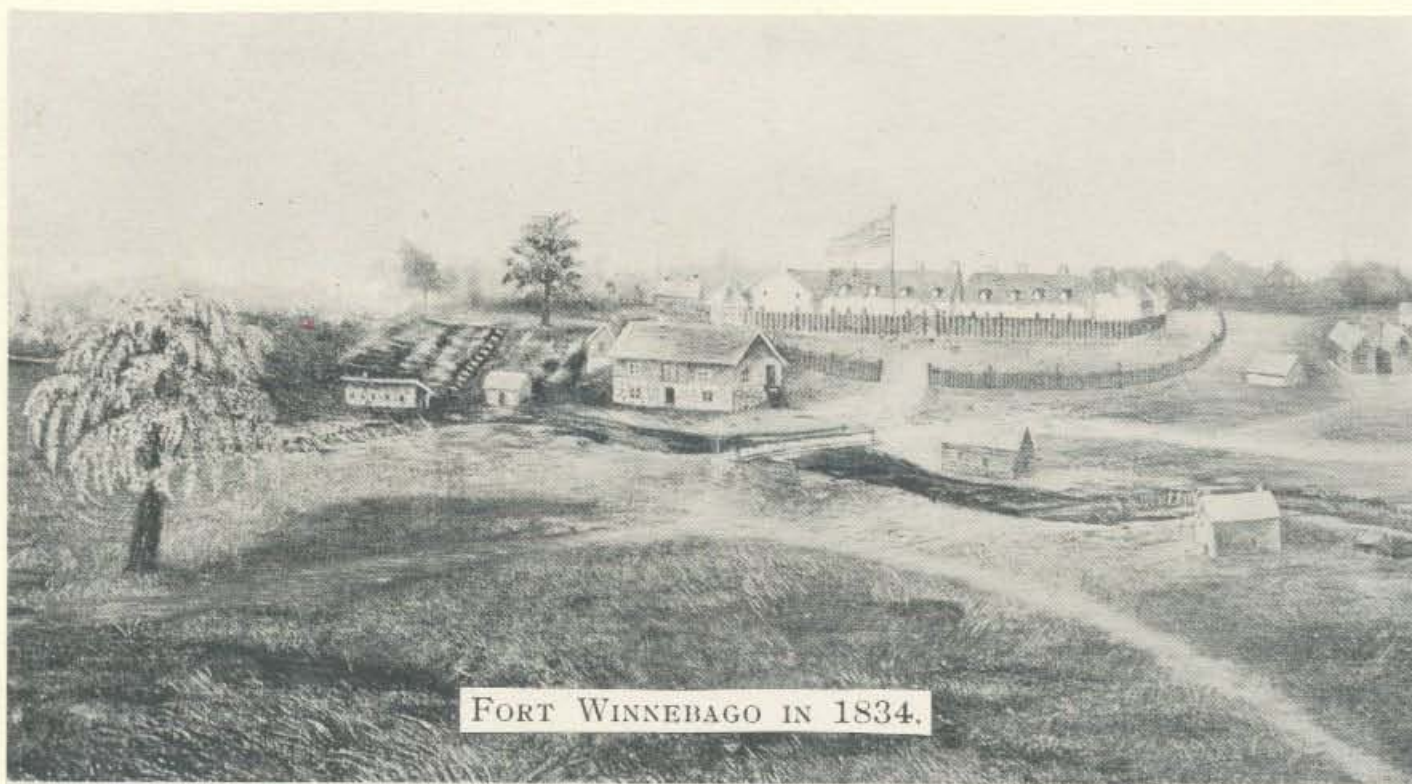
## THE WESTERN MAILS



### OUISCONSIN TERRITORY!

Fort Winnebago O.T. March 31, 1837. The use of the "O" in the territorial designation, up to this time, had never been determined - only that it was "inexplicable". The following historical explanation will have to serve until a more definitive comes along. The early French spelling was OUISCONSIN, which was probably derived from the Algonquin name for the river that bears the name today - WISCONSIN. See Webster's New World Dictionary. Father Louis Hennepin was the first to use OUISCONSIN when he ascended the river in 1680.

The postmaster at Fort Winnebago may have been a history buff and wanted to be a little different.

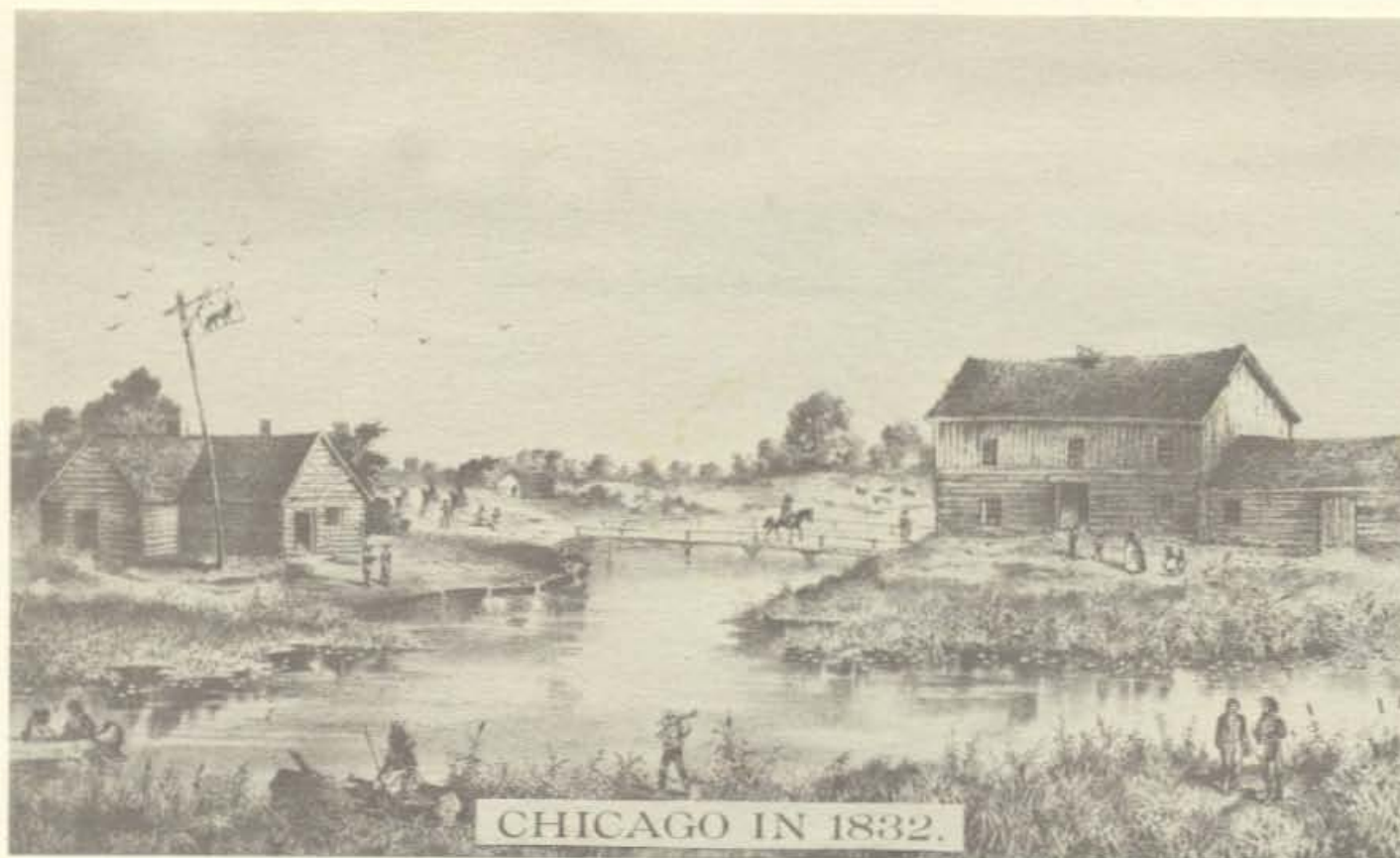


## THE WESTERN MAILS



### CHICAGO, DECEMBER 30, 1833

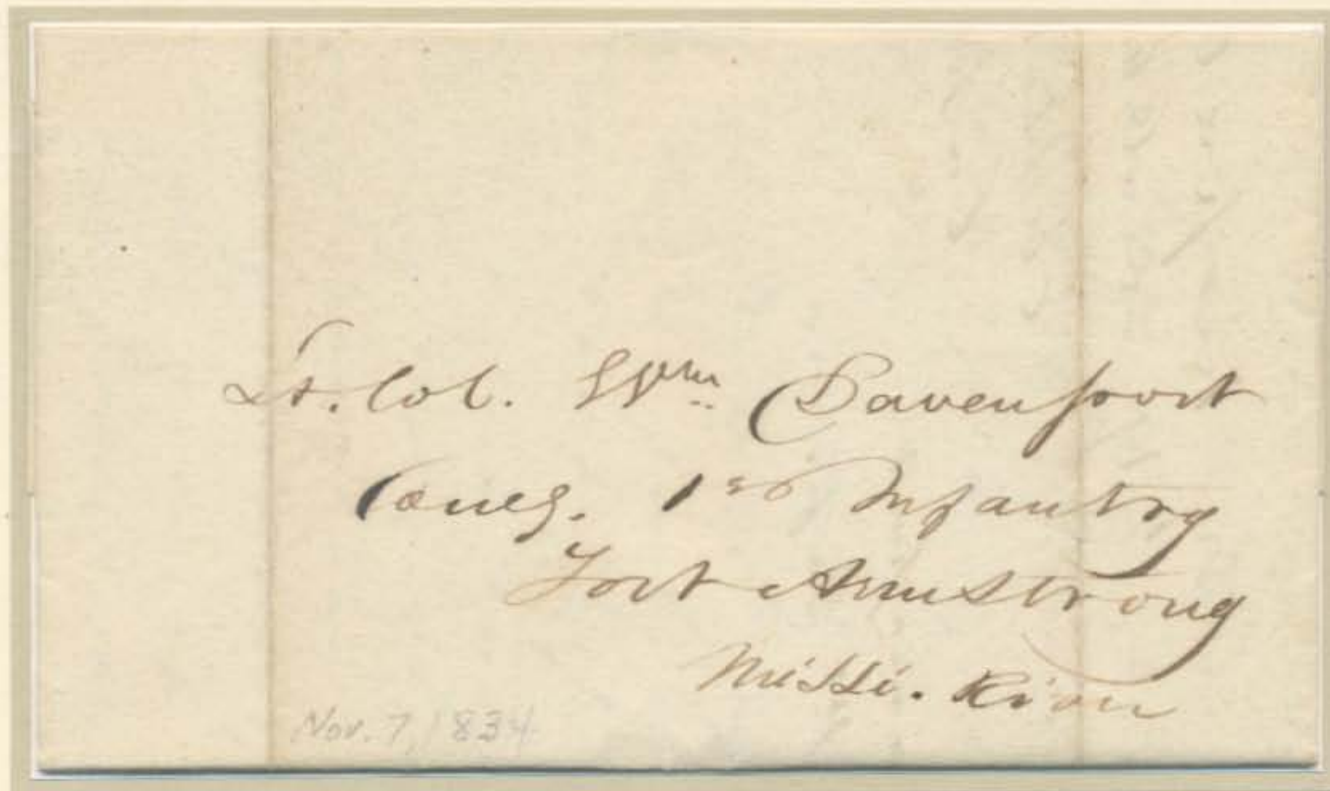
The cover shown above bears a very early usage of Chicago's first handstamped postmark. In 1833 the entire white population was about 200, although there were many Indians. Chicago's first post office was established on March 31, 1831, in the old Kinzie house, across the Chicago River from Fort Dearborn, with Jonathan N. Bailey as postmaster. The log building, on the left, in the picture below, was a tavern where General Winfield Scott had his headquarters during the Black Hawk War.



## THE WESTERN MAILS

FORT CRAWFORD, M. T. Nov. 7, 1834.

Dear Col: I had not time to write by Capt Jouett [Wm.R.] who I presume before this time had reported to you. Rolette [Joseph, Agent of American Fur Co.] told me the murderers of the Winnebagos went down the river & my time was entirely taken up in hastening the party in pursuit. There is some reason to believe however that the rascals have taken a westerly direction. They killed ten - 3 or 4 women & the rest children. Lieut. Lamotte [Joseph H. La Motte] & Pegram [G.H.] went up to the scene of the murders & returned a few moments after Capt. J. left us & the account they gave of appearances on the Island was shocking in the extreme. The Sacs lost one man however. The little boy who first brought news of the massacre said that he fired at the party before running & thought he saw one fellow reel. It turned out that he shot the rascal through the heart. I have seen the boy today (about 12 years old) & he is decked out with the usual badges of a "brave" and is in possession of the Sac's rifle - tomahawk - blanket. I say Sac but I understand he was a Fox - known I believe by the manner of trimming the hair. The Winnebagos were paid their Annuity last week & were making preparations to go west & join the Sioux of Wapasha band who had invited them to hunt in company this winter. But this Massacre has changed their plan, at least for the present & they are flocking in from every quarter, evidently & shamefully alarmed. Rolette says this affair will cost "the Company" [American Fur Co.] \$5000, for that the hunts are broke up. 12.M. An Express has just arrived from Cassville saying that Sac & Foxes are in that neighborhood - that ten more were seen yesterday crossing the river [Mississippi] & are believed to have gone up Turkey river. Capt I has passed them & I have ordered another party in pursuit. I regret the necessity of sending off so many detachments but believe I should be wanting in my duty if every means are not resorted to which offer any hope of taking the rascals, who it seems are throwing the whole country into confusion. I have ordered Lieut Pegram with this last detachment at his own request. He will not go below Turkey river unless in following a trail.....E.A.Hitchcock Capt 1st Infy"



St. Col. Wm. Davenport  
Capt. 1st Infantry  
Fort Armstrong  
Missi. River  
Nov. 7, 1834

### MASSACRE OF THE WINNEBAGOS BY THE SAC & FOX 1834.

Although the government made a peace treaty with the Indians in 1833, it did not prevent the Indians from fighting each other. The action as described above took place on an Island near Fort Crawford on Nov. 6th. Ten braves were killed as well as the women and children. Letter was carried to Fort Armstrong by Captain Jouett.

## THE WESTERN MAILS

"FORT CRAWFORD MICHIGAN TERRITORY  
Jany. 15, 1835"

Captain Ethan Allen Hitchcock writes to Captain Richard Backe, under the above date, about an officers life on a frontier military post and the Indian problems on the upper Mississippi; "Dear Bache Before I dine I will acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2<sup>d</sup> Nov, and am the more disposed to lose no time because the said letter has made a long journey since it must have passed this post more than a month ago, for you directed it to Fort Snelling from which place we have only a monthly mail. Although late in reaching me your letter has given me news & among the items most affecting is the fate of poor Armstrong [Capt. Robert, died Oct. 10, 1834]. I had seen an account of his death but no surmise of its immediate cause. Mordecais return was also news & sundry other particulars which you have doubtless forgotten & may have thought but little about when writing, but at this distant station almost everything is hidden from us - the newspapers misrepresent everything - and a free off hand letter from a friend is invaluable. The first thought on receiving one is - he has not forgotten me - & then I proceed to devoure the contents. If I have not written to you from this place which I think, by the way I must have done, you must impute it to having nothing to write about except I give way to a growing disposition for philosophizing. I have but little duty, am abundantly supplied with comfortable quarters & good books and being for the most part relieved from the forms & restraints of society I constanly find myself in trains of thought which appear new to me. I seem to feel separated almost from myself as well as from my former companions & think I look at life with a new vision. I know it is an error of solitude to beget such notions, but being sensible of this I give myself credit for it & of course by this very fact gain great accessian to my self confidence and positively I have moments when, if having reached a goodly number of years has been the means of giving me these views of life & of things I am almost content to wear the remarkably high forehead which begins to distinguish your old chum. My brother, when I was in Mobile gave me a very beautiful gun and when I came here I thought I would make use of it, but after two or three attempts I laid the gun aside & for more than four months I have not touched it. My friends here gave me two dogs to encourage me : my neglect of them has made me a stranger to them & the soldiers have completely got possession of them. If you see Capt Vail [Jefferson, died October 25, 1835], you may tell him Moustache is well taken care of by his friend Miles [Dixon S., Lt., Lt. Col. Mexican and Civil War, died of wounds at Harpers Ferry Sept. 16, 1862] & that the other dog Fox was shot a week since to keep him from freezing to death. Although I don't hunt I am on the ice frequently with a very superior pair of skates. This very day a snow storm is likely to destroy this source of exercise. We have had no very cold weather this winter, tho the thremometer having shown the mercury not lower than 4° below zero. We hear it has been very mild also at Rock Isd. Fort Armstrong], but at Fort Snelling it has been very cold. **The Indns towards the whites are perfectly quiet, but those restless Fox Indns. have within a few months killed two parties, one of Menomonee's & one of Winnebago's, but the Fox chiefs declare that these acts have been performed by headstrong young men, who will not be controled & they have given proof of a disposition to preserve peace by delivering the young men to the Indn. Agents to be dealt with by our laws. Three of the murderers (warriers, according to their sence of things) are confined here & several are at Rock Isl. Some Winnebago's came in to see the prisoners & satisfy themselves they were realy in custody. Col. Taylor [Zachary] was absent & I was Com[anding post] - I would not make a spectacle of the prisoners, but suffered two Winnebago's to see them, that they might give testimony the the Nation. When the Foxes came into presence the Win. held out their hands and when they were asked why they shook hands with the murderers of their friends, they answered "They are in chains". It reminded me of the account Socrties gives of the German tribes & I have since heard of several incidents of likr character. Col. Taylor & Capt McRee [Samuel, Col. Mexican War, died July 15, 1849] have both spoken kindly of you to me & would send their regards if they knew I was writing to you: the other officers of the post I believe you are not acquainted with. We have five compis.**

THE WESTERN MAILS

Fort Snelling M. T. Jan. 15. 1835

Dear Bache

Before I dine (I will acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2<sup>d</sup> Nov,) and am the more disposed to lose no time because (the said letter has made a long journey since it must have passed this post more than a month ago, for you directed it to Fort Snelling from which place we have only a monthly mail) although late in reaching me your letter has given me news of among the items most affecting is the fate of poor Armstrong. I had seen an account of his death but no surmise of its immediate cause. Mordecai's return was also news & sundry other particulars which you have doubtless forgotten & may have thought but little about when writing, but at this distant station almost everything is hidden from us - the newspaper misrepresent everything - and a free off hand letter from a friend is invaluable. The first thought on receiving one is - he has not forgotten me - & then I proceed to do...

here & 8 or 9 offrs. - 3, with families. There are two or three visitable families outside of the garrison, but I depend chiefly upon my interior resources for pastime. And so we are saddled with both Sullivan & Mapes! What will the Senate say to the first? If he has the character imputed to him by the Senate a year ago I should hope the Army would be the last place for him - But I'dont vex myself at the close of my letter. Let your next letter (& don't put off writing till you forget it) be directed to this place instead of Fort Snelling. Your warm friend/E.A.Hitchcock"

"Capt Hitchcock/Ans. Feb. 20/Rec. Feb. 20"

\*\*\*\*\*

Folded letter postmarked "Prairie du Chien M.T./Jany 19" rated 25 cents to Capt R. Bache/U.S.Army/Washington D.C. - 1835.

And so we are saddled with both Sullivan & Mapes?  
What will the Senate say to the first? If he has the  
Character imputed to him by the Senate a year ago I  
should hope the Army would be the last place for him  
But I must now myself at the close of my letter

F. E. R. 12500

Private to General M. A.  
July 19 1835

Capt W. Bache  
U. S. Army  
Washington  
D. C.

Pr.  
Chas. H. M.  
No. 20.



U. S. Army  
1835 - Jan 15

1835

Let your next letter (if don't put off writing till  
you forget it) be directed to this place instead of  
Fort Snelling. Your warm friend  
Ed Hitchcock



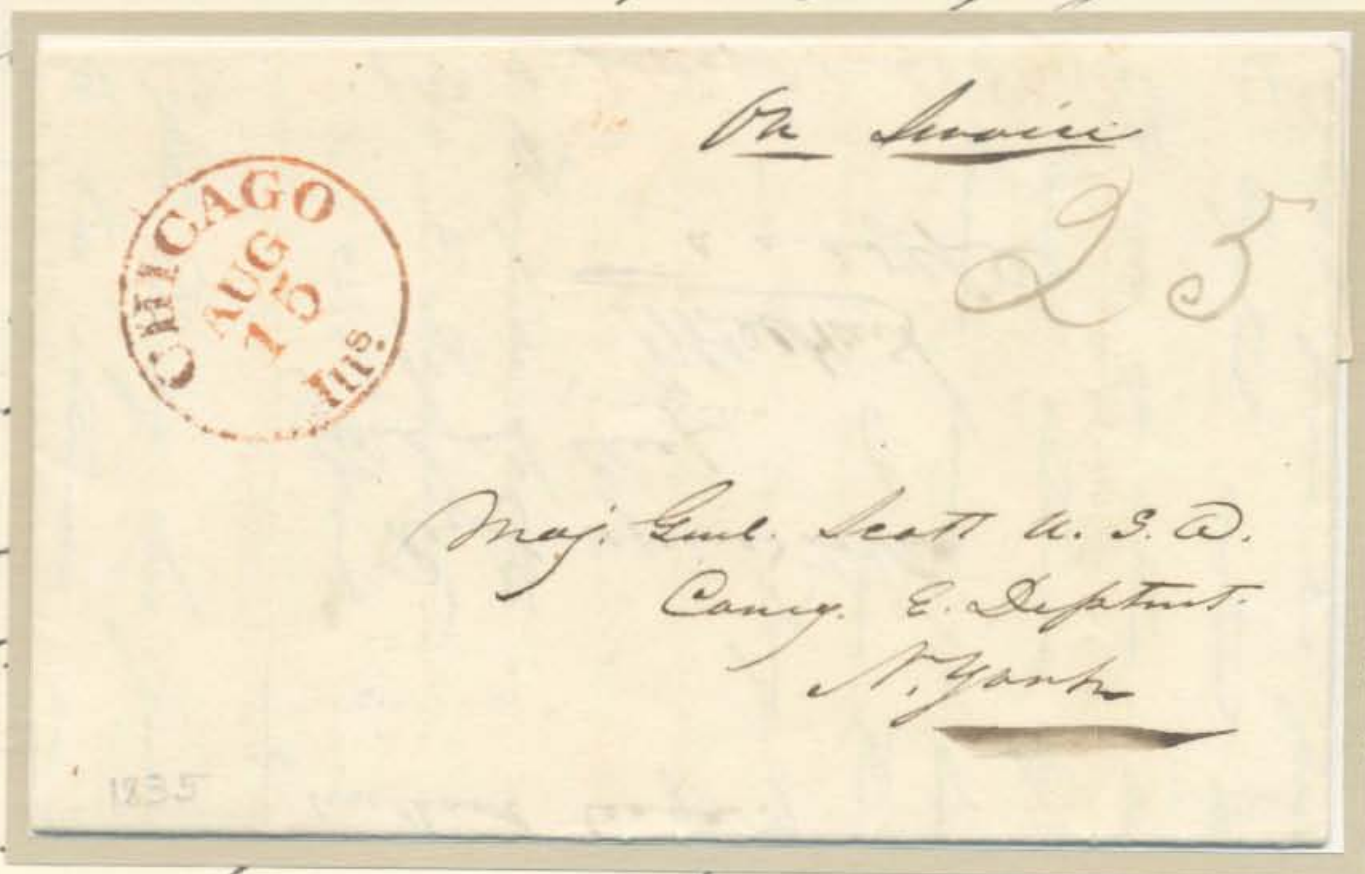
THE WESTERN MAILS

Fort Dearborn

14<sup>th</sup> Aug 1835

Sir

By reference to The Post Return of Fort Dearborn for July 1835. it will appear that Capt. Baxley is reported absent without leave - a leave of absence for 30 days granted him



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axley

informed me that he wished to leave the post with my permission to apply for 30 additional

FORT DEARBORN 1835. The commanding officer reports that Captain Joseph Baxley has not returned after an authorized leave of absence of 30 days, following the close of his "trial" and while "awaiting sentence". It could not have been too serious because Baxley resigned on December 14, 1839, some four years later. Fort Dearborn mail was handled by the Chicago post office as per the postmark.

absence for nine months (which I forwarded to the Head Quarters of the Regt.) and immediately left the


THE WESTERN MAILS

160 West Indiana St  
Chicago Oct 21<sup>st</sup> 1871

Dear Nellie

A cow kicked over a lamp in a stable on the corner of De Koven & South Jefferson streets Sunday morning Oct 8<sup>th</sup> that fire is burning yet in the Grand Coal heaps along the river - First it burned over 150 acres on the west side then crossed the river two blocks south of the Washington St Tunnel burning about 450 acres on the South side - You remember the Academy of Sciences, that is gone 3600 buildings destroyed including 1600

Jameson & Morse,  
**PRINTERS**  
12 & 14 La Salle Street.



**FIRE ALARM STATIONS.**

**SOUTH DIVISION.**


- 2 State and South Water streets.
- 3 Clark and South Water streets.
- 4 Wells and South Water streets.
- 5 Lake street and Michigan Avenue.
- 6 Tremont House, Dearborn and Lake streets.
- 7 Lake and Market streets.
- 8 A. D. Titcomb Engine House, Dearborn st.
- 9 Long John Engine House, La Salle street.
- 10 Randolph and Wells streets.
- 11 Madison street and Wabash Avenue.

**GREAT CHICAGO FIRE 1871**

Letter written from Chicago Oct. 21, 1871, just 13 days after the fire started on Oct. 8th. It gives a vivid description of the great conflagration and destruction created by the terrible winds that sent a wall of fire through the heart of Chicago. The rumor that "A cow kicked over a lamp in a stable" began and is now legend beyond recall. "The excitement is beyond description. A perfect sea of fire nearly seven miles long — the roar of the flames, the screams of the multitude, the rushing to places of safety, all together constituted one of the greatest panics this country has ever known." Since the Post Office was completely destroyed, this cover was most-likely postmarked at the temporary office set up in the Wabash Avenue Methodist Church on October 24, 1871.

and Dec 10<sup>th</sup>

Chicago  
OCT 24 1871



Carmina  
J. Page Co  
Miss Nellie W. Furman

THE WESTERN MAILS

SHAWNEETOWN.  
ILL.  
MARC 25.



SHAWNEETOWN, ILLINOIS straight line postmark March 25, 1820. Cover below originated at Pittsburgh Dec. 12, 1843 and was forwarded by the postmaster at Shawneetown to Galena, Illinois. The "D.P.O." in the SHAWNEETOWN POSTMARK stands for Distributing Post Office. SEE list below. J. Stickney was the postmaster.

DISTRIBUTING POST OFFICES IN THE UNITED STATES.

The following is a list of *Distributing Offices*, as established from the first day of July, 1851:



le.	Columbus, -	-	Ohio.
Mass.	Cleveland, -	-	do.
I.	Toledo, -	-	do.
Conn.	Detroit, -	-	Mich.
Y.	Indianapolis, -	-	Ind.
do.	Vincennes, -	-	do.
do.	Shawneetown, -	-	Ill.
do.	Chicago, -	-	do.
enn.	St. Louis, -	-	Mo.
lo.	Louisville, -	-	Ky.
lo.	Maysville, -	-	do.
id.	Nashville, -	-	Tenn.
C.	Memphis, -	-	do.
a.	Montgomery, -	-	Ala.
lo.	Tuscumbia, -	-	do.
lo.	Natchez, -	-	Miss.
lo.	Vicksburg, -	-	do.
lo.	New Orleans, -	-	La.
C.	Grand Ecore, -	-	do.
lo.	Little Rock, -	-	Ark.
C.	Napoleon, -	-	do.
a.	Keokuck, -	-	Iowa.
o.	Galveston, -	-	Texas.
o.	San Francisco, -	-	Cal.
hio.	Astoria, -	-	Oregon.

TRANS-ATLANTIC U.S.-GERMAN MAILS

1

GREENVILLE, S.C. to Goettingen, Germany May 9, 1848. Posted at Charleston, S.C. on the 19th, with arrival at New York May 28th. June 20th departed for Europe on the Ocean Line steamer "HERMANN", which arrived in Bremerhaven on July 6th. Letter arrived at Goettingen on July 8, 1848.

For postage rates see opposite page for covers shown on this page. All research on covers is by Richard F. Winter.



2

FRANKLIN, LA. to Goettingen Feb. 22, 1850. Departed New York on the Cunard Line steamer "CANADA" on March 20th, with arrival at Liverpool April 1st. Thence to London on the 2nd. Departed England by ship, with arrival at Bremen April 5th and at Goettingen, Germany the next day April 6, 1850.

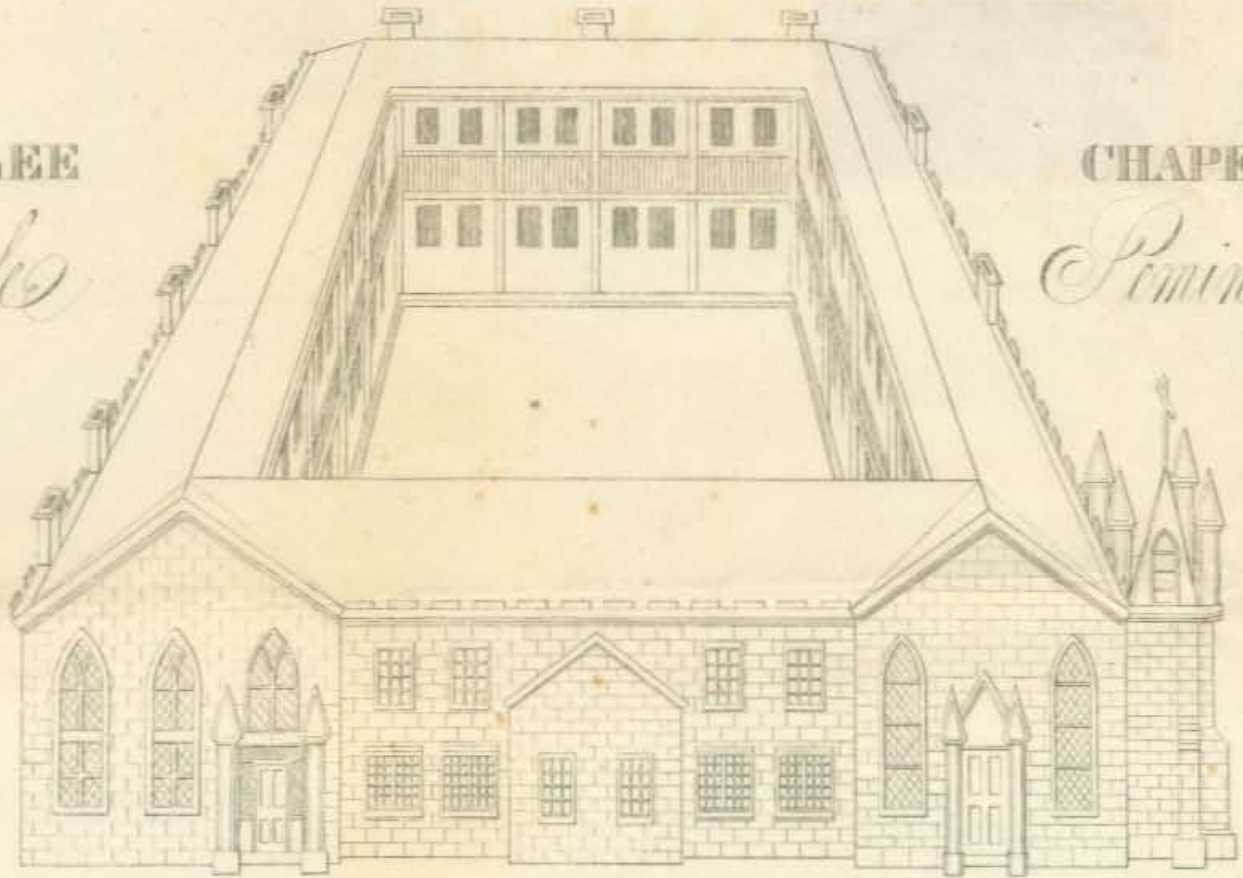
3

Franklin, La. to Goettingen, Germany June 21, 1850. Departed New York July 6th on the Collins Line steamer "PACIFIC", which arrived at Liverpool July 17th. Thence to London the next day. From England by ship to Hamburg and overland to Bremen, with arrival in Goettingen on July 23, 1850.

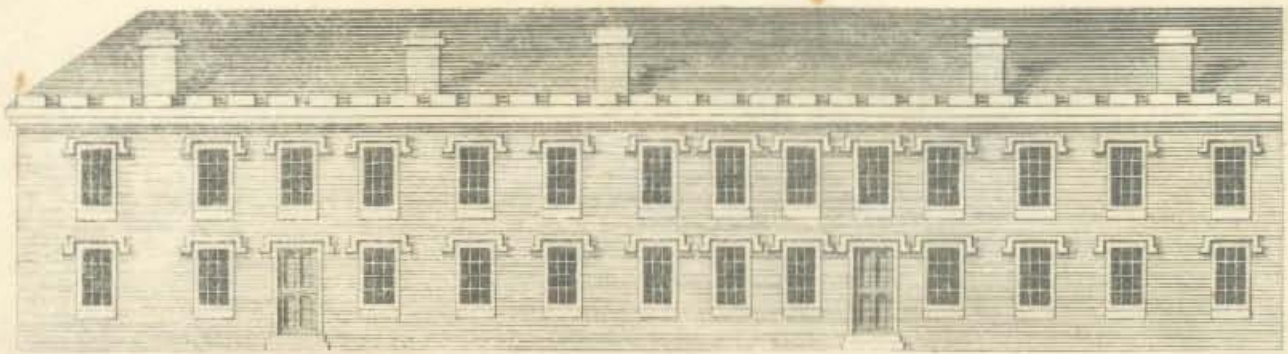


JUBILEE  
*Females*

CHAPEL &  
*Seminary*



*Plan of the whole when completed.*



*West View now being built.*

ROBIN'S NEST, ILL.  
MAY 26

P. Chase TREE.

P. M.

Wardens & Vestry of St. Andrew's Ch.  
Apphinton  
W Hamp<sup>d</sup>

1842

THE WESTERN MAILS

*Cassville Mich Ty  
July 17th 1829*

*F. P. Hawley P.M.*



AMERICAN POSTAGE.  
FERRIAGE  
FORWARDED



U.S./CANADIAN ACROSS THE LINES 1829



CASSVILLE, MICHIGAN TERRITORY

CASSVILLE, GRANT COUNTY, WISCONSIN post office was established on April 26, 1828, in what was then the Michigan Territory, thence to Wisconsin Territory July 4, 1836 and still operates. Cover shown bears the earliest recorded postmark "Cassville Mich Ty July 17th" 1829, plus the "Free" frank of postmaster "F.P. Hawley". Also the manuscript routing "Via of Franklin Vt.", in lower left corner. The Canadian post office then applied the Ferriage handstamp to collect U.S. postage on letters sent or received and then stamped it "FREE" in red. Hawley is writing his brother the postmaster at Frelighsburg, Lower Canada.

THE WESTERN MAILS



PENSACOLA FLORIDA TERRITORY

Cover above bears the second handstamp for this office. It was first used during the American Military Occupation - 1821 to March 29, 1822 - and the territorial period to 1823. This cover may be the earliest territorial usage recorded - June 24, 1822? SEE Robert Barrie letter in this collection for the Type I postmark during the British period - 1763/1784. Cover below bears the first circular post mark of PENSACOLA Jan'y 30th [1827]. It is also the only known example of this rare postmark.



THE WESTERN MAILS

DOUBUQUES MINNES.  
FEB  
15  
M.T.

FREE

Hon. G. W. Jones  
H. B.

FREE

2m

DOUBUQUE  
MAY  
11  
M.T.

Hon<sup>ble</sup> Geo. W. Jones  
House of Representatives  
Washington City

DOUBUQUE  
FEB  
2  
M.T.

Chas D. S.

Hon. Theophilus Crawford  
Putney  
Vermont



THE WESTERN MAILS

*John Plumble Junr. Sinipee, Wis.  
Free*

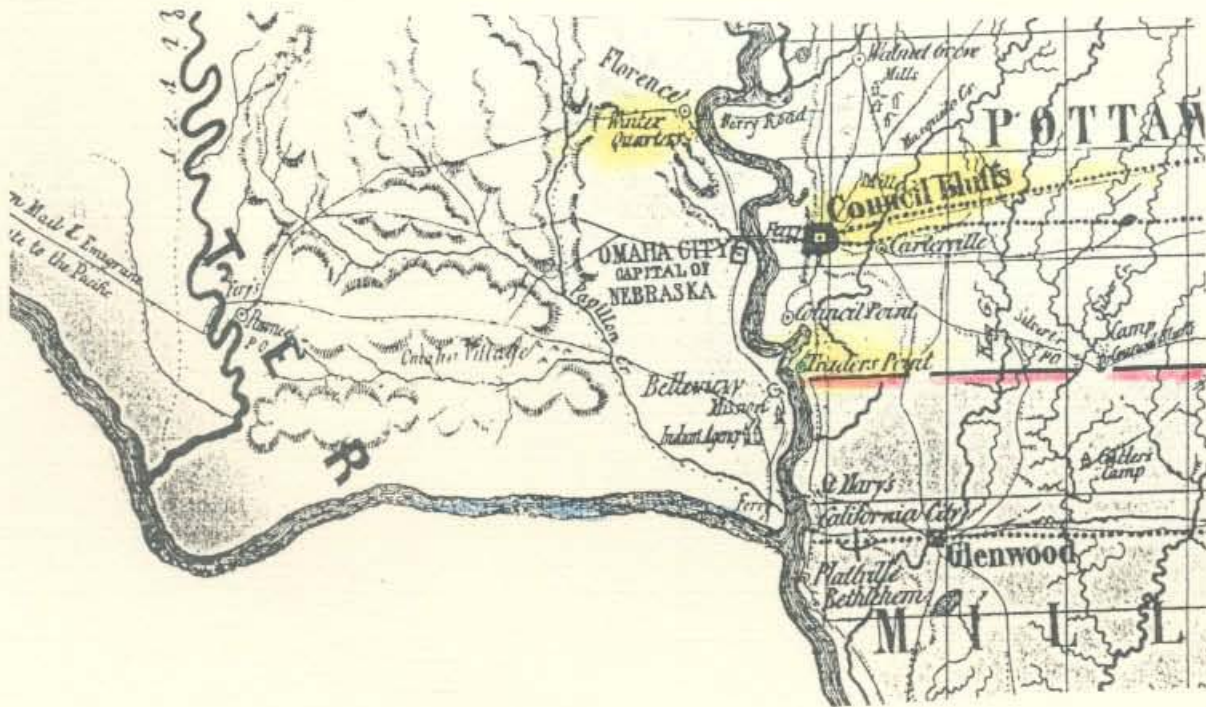
Sinipee W.T. (Jan. 30, 1839; Ms; Free John Plumble Junr.  
P.M. [ms]; Red) On cover with Feb. 1, 1839 DUBUQUE/  
WT postmark . . . . .  
Sinipee Wis (Oct. 10, 1839; Ms; Free John Plumble Junr.  
P.M. [ms]; Red) On cover with Oct. 13, 1839 DUBUQUE/  
IT postmark . . . . .

John Plumble Jr., 1809-57, is historically one of the most important mid-western postmasters in the stampless period. He came to Dubuque in 1836 and by the summer of 1836 owned and promoted the "paper" town of Sinipee, six miles above Dubuque on the Wisconsin side of the Mississippi River. He undoubtedly sought the postmastership of the short lived Sinipee post office (Oct. 5, 1838 to Feb. 3, 1841) in order to secure the franking privilege as an aid to his well known work as the country's first promoter of a transcontinental railroad. Plumble is even better known as a pioneer photographer. While in the East lobbying for railroad funds in 1840, he became fascinated with the new art of daguerreotype and by 1846 owned galleries in Washington D.C., Boston, Philadelphia, Paris and Liverpool, as well as several floating galleries on the Mississippi River. In 1972 six of his 1846 daguerreotypes, found at an Alameda, Ca. flea market, were identified as the earliest known photographic images of the White House, U.S. Capitol Building and the General Post Office.



SINIPEE, WISCONSIN TERRITORY. Post Office established October 5, 1838 and discontinued February 3, 1841. See above for the listing of this post office which is taken from the American Stampless Cover Catalog, Vol. I.

THE WESTERN MAILS



NEBRASKA \* COUNCIL BLUFFS \* TRADERS POINT

See map for the location of this Post Office, which was located in the southwest corner of Pottawattamie County, Iowa, on the Missouri River. Post Office was established as NEBRASKA May 30, 1849. Then changed to COUNCIL BLUFFS ON May 30, 1850 and then to TRADERS POINT Dec. 10, 1852. Discontinued Dec. 15, 1854. Present-day COUNCIL BLUFFS is located about 6 miles due north as per map above. Cover shown is the only recorded use as COUNCIL BLUFFS/IOWA July 11 (1851). One recorded as NEBRASKA, but no recorded use from TRADERS POINT.



Nebraska P.O. 30 May 1849 - Joseph Y. Pendleton  
 Council Bluffs 30 May 1850 - Joseph T. Pendleton  
 Traders Point 10 Dec 1852 - Joseph F. Pendleton - Disctd 15 Dec 1854  
 Kane P.O. (Kanesville) 7 Feb 1848 - Evan M. Greene  
 Council Bluffs 10 Dec 1852 - Moses H. Hathaway

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COUNCIL BLUFFS, IOWA

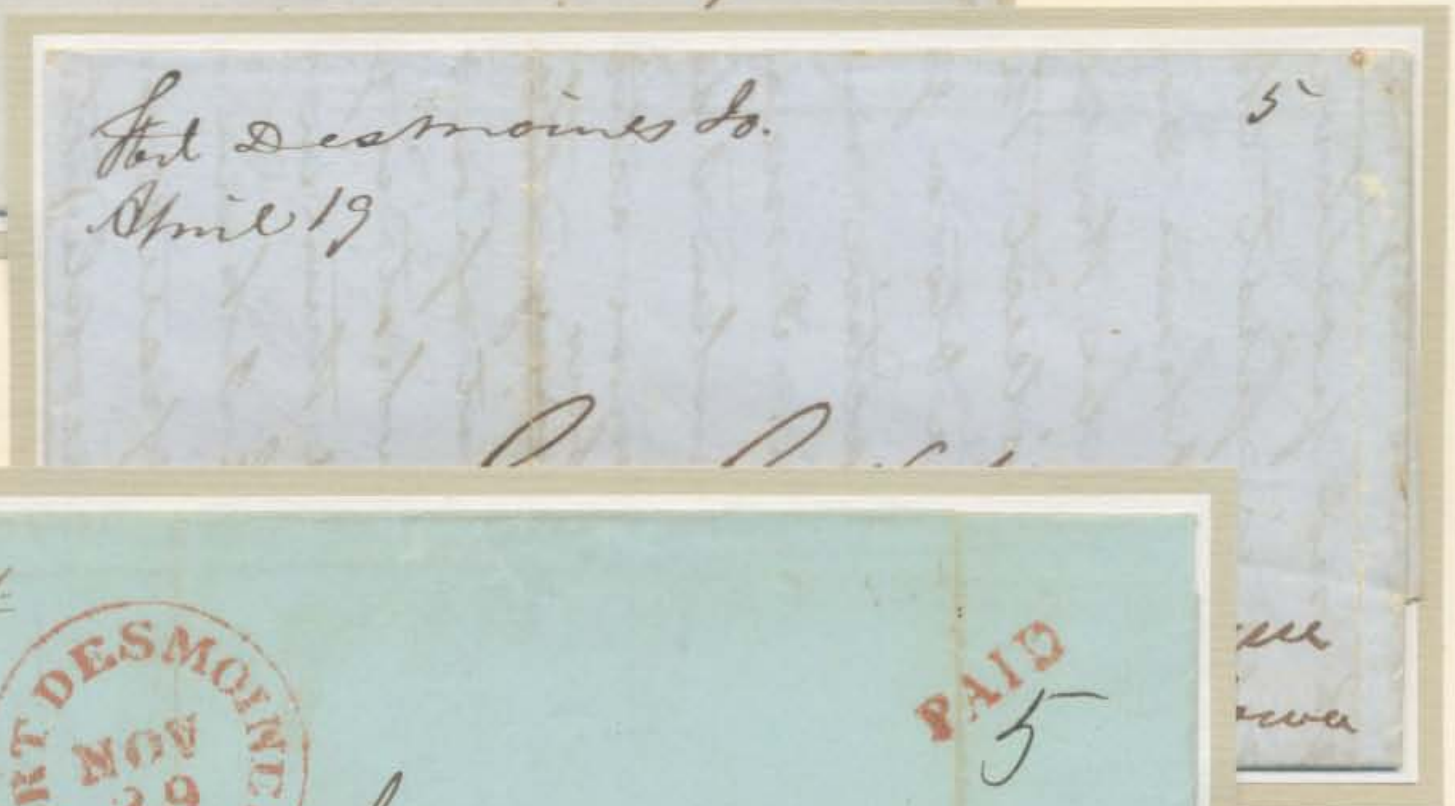
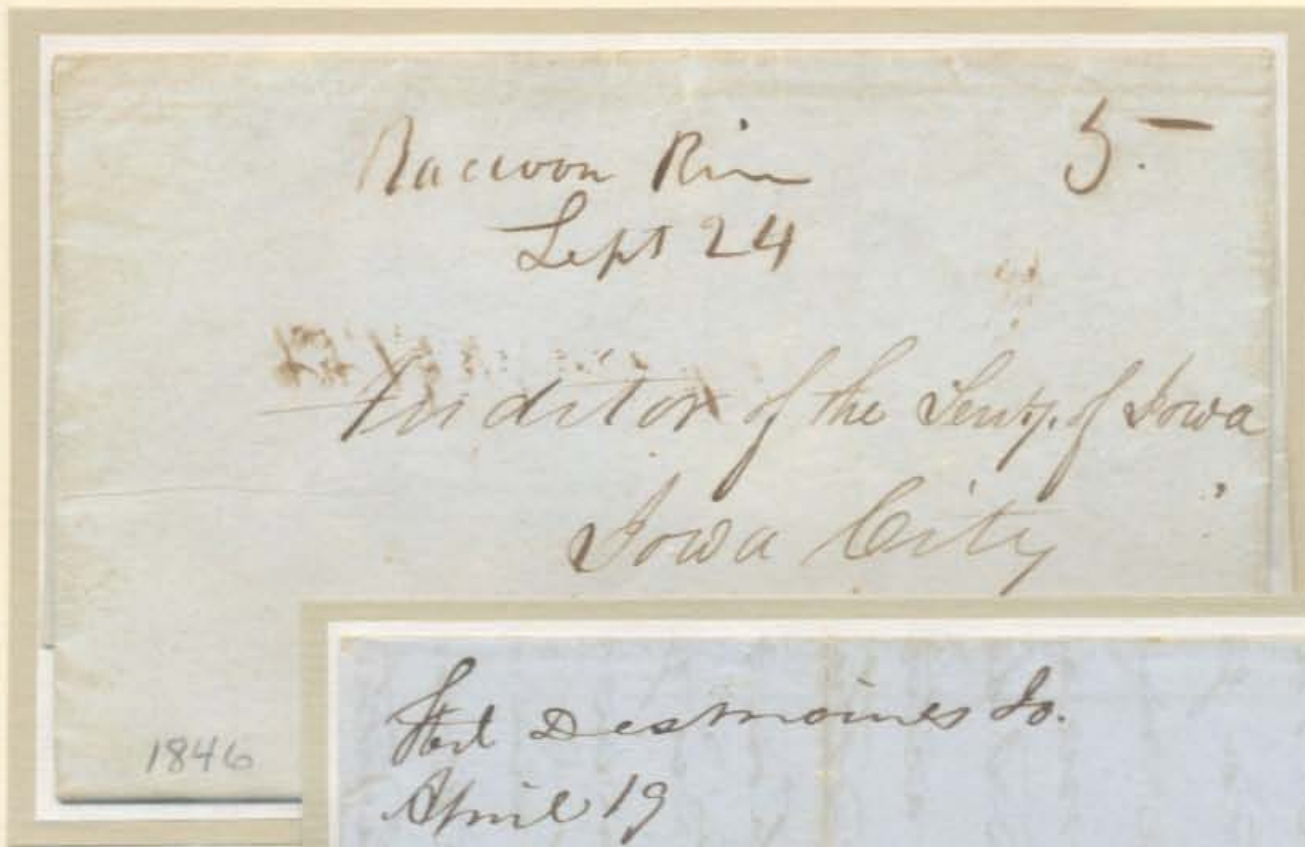
Present day Council Bluffs was established as **KANE**, at what was then the Mormon settlement of Kaneshville, on Feb. 17, 1848. The name was changed to **COUNCIL BLUFFS**, as it is today, on Dec. 10, 1852.

Cover above is datelined "Loupe fork May 17th 53" and was postmarked at **KANE IOWA MAY 30** and rated 5 cents. Loupe Fork was located at the junction of the Loupe River with the Platte River in Nebraska, about 65 miles AL west-northwest of Council Bluffs. The writer is on his way to California which he expects to reach in August.

Cover below bears the type I postmark **COUNCIL BLUFFS IOWA MAR 18** - no year date but 1850's.



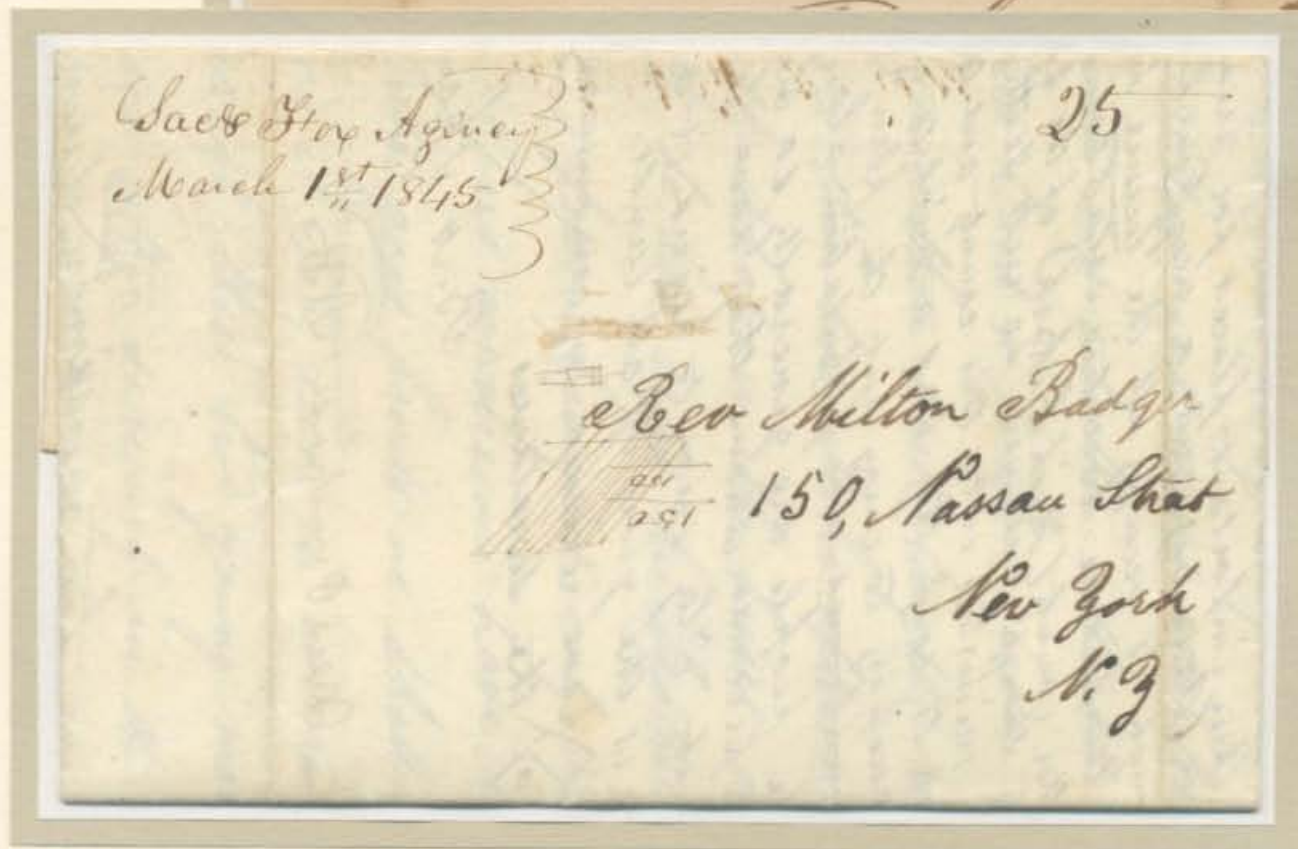
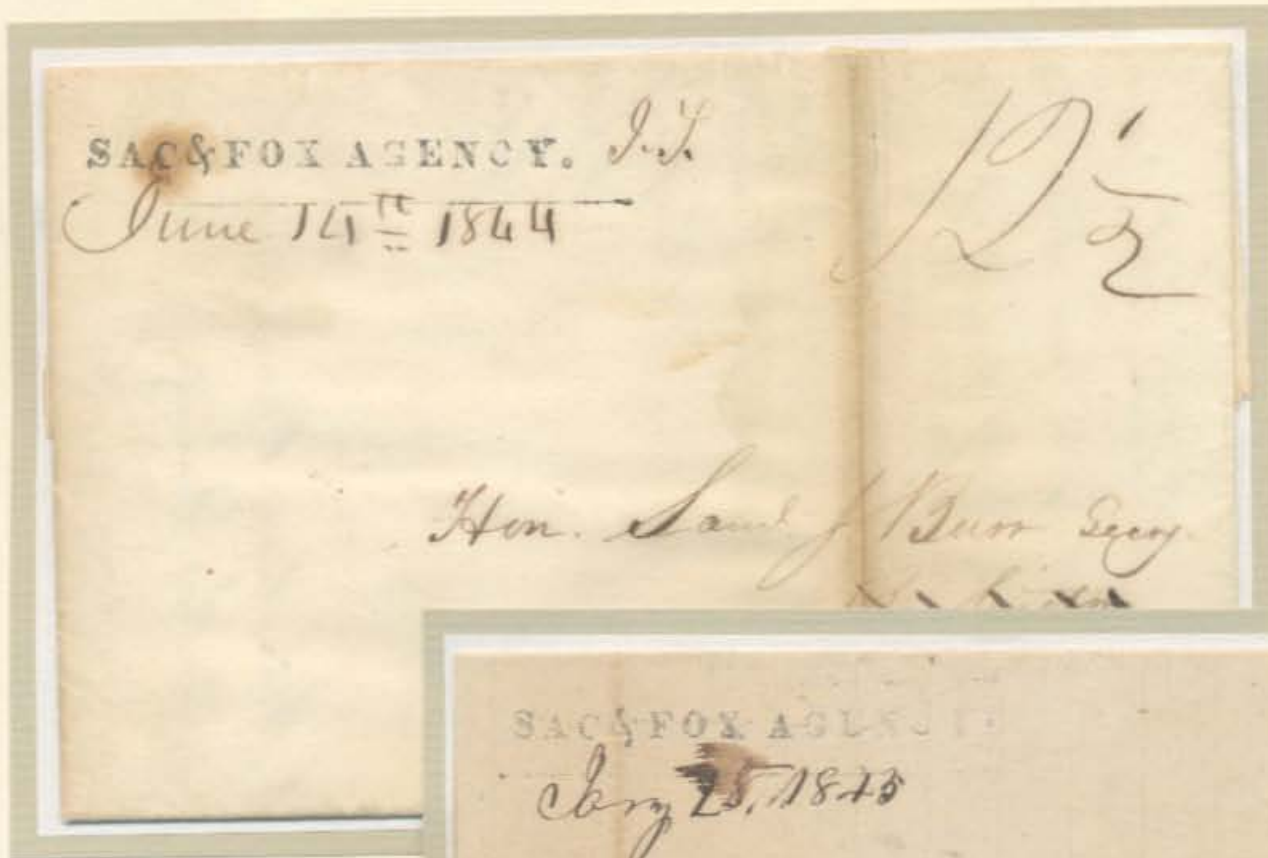
THE WESTERN MAILS



RACCOON RIVER, IOWA TERRITORY.

In 1842 the Army established a post at the forks of the Raccoon and Des Moines rivers under the name Fort Raccoon. On Dec. 13, 1845 a post office was established at the fort under the name RACCOON RIVER. The name of the post was then changed to Fort Des Monies by the War Department and then on Dec. 31, 1846 the post office was renamed FORT DES MOINES. On July 30, 1857 it was again changed to DES MOINES as it is today. The top cover is the latest of only two known to bear the postmark RACCOON RIVER - Sept 24, 1846. The other two covers were used April 19, 1848 and NOV 29, 1849.

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SAC & FOX AGENCY, I.T. The post office was established on Dec. 23, 1843, at the Indian Agency, which had been built in 1838 and abandoned in 1843. The name was changed to Agency City May 14, 1849 and then to Agency June 14, 1883. Top cover bears the type I postmark and the one below type Ia without the manuscript designation "I.T."

THE WESTERN MAILS

Fort Des Moines

In the 3 April  
Houl.

Free

George W. Jones

Fort Des Moines  
Dec 4th

Free  
Master  
F. M.

Wm. G. Jones

House Representative

Fort Des Moines, Ia.  
Oct 29 1837

L. J.

Miss Julia Reese  
Reeseville

Essex Co.  
N. Y.

MICHIGAN - WISCONSIN & IOWA TERRITORIES

FORT DES MOINES NO. 1. Located on the Mississippi river about 7 miles above its confluence with the Des Moines River in what is now IOWA. The fort was established in the winter of 1834-35 in what was then Des Moines county, Michigan Territory. The post office was established Sept. 28, 1835 and the name was changed to MONTROSE Mar. 27, 1838. On July 4, 1836 it became part of the newly formed territory of Wisconsin and on July 4, 1838 it became Lee Co., Iowa Territory. The military abandoned the fort June 1, 1837, but the post office continued to operate as Fort Des Moines, until the name change to Montrose. Top cover above was used during the Michigan period - "3 April" 1836. The two below during the Wisconsin period - "Dec 4th" 1836 and "Oct 29" 1837. The bottom letter is datelined "Montrose (formerly Ft. Des Moines) Wisconsin Territory Oct 29, 1837". SEE Montrose in this collection.

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Keokuk I. T.  
July 19<sup>th</sup>

25-

1844  
Rev<sup>d</sup> Milton Badger



10

Rev<sup>d</sup> Charles Hall

Home  
Society  
Van Street  
New York



1846  
Rev. Charles Hall  
Corresponding Secretary of the  
American Home Missionary Society  
No. 150 Nassau Street  
New York



10



1847  
Rev. B. M. Willcox  
The Am. Bapt. Home Missions  
New York

KEOKUK, IOWA  
TERRITORY

The post office was established in LEE County on June 24, 1841. Covers shown bear the only type of the territorial postmark, other than the manuscript postmarks. Bottom cover is statehood use of the territorial postmark.