

*The Minnesota Territory*

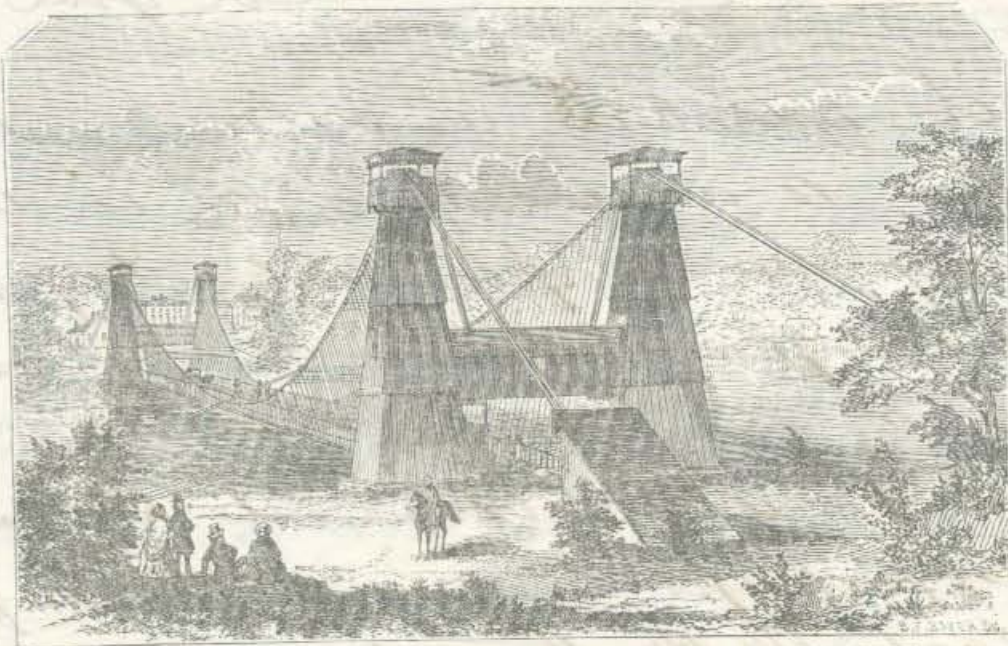


**STEAMBOATS ON THE UPPER MISSISSIPPI**

**WAR EAGLE** Sidewheeler of 155 tons, built at Cincinnati in 1845 for the Mississippi and St. Croix River trade. Cover shown is for merchandise shipped from St. Louis June 2, 1845, to the sutler at Fort Snelling. The B/L is signed for by the captain of the War Eagle, A. C. Momfort.

**KATE CASSEL** Sternwheeler of 164 tons, built at California, Pennsylvania in 1854. The boat was abandoned in 1864. Cover shown was probably written onboard the Kate Cassel and dropped off at HASTINGS, M. T. on the way up or down from Saint Paul.





SUSPENSION BRIDGE BETWEEN ST. ANTHONY AND MINNEAPOLIS, MISSISSIPPI RIVER.

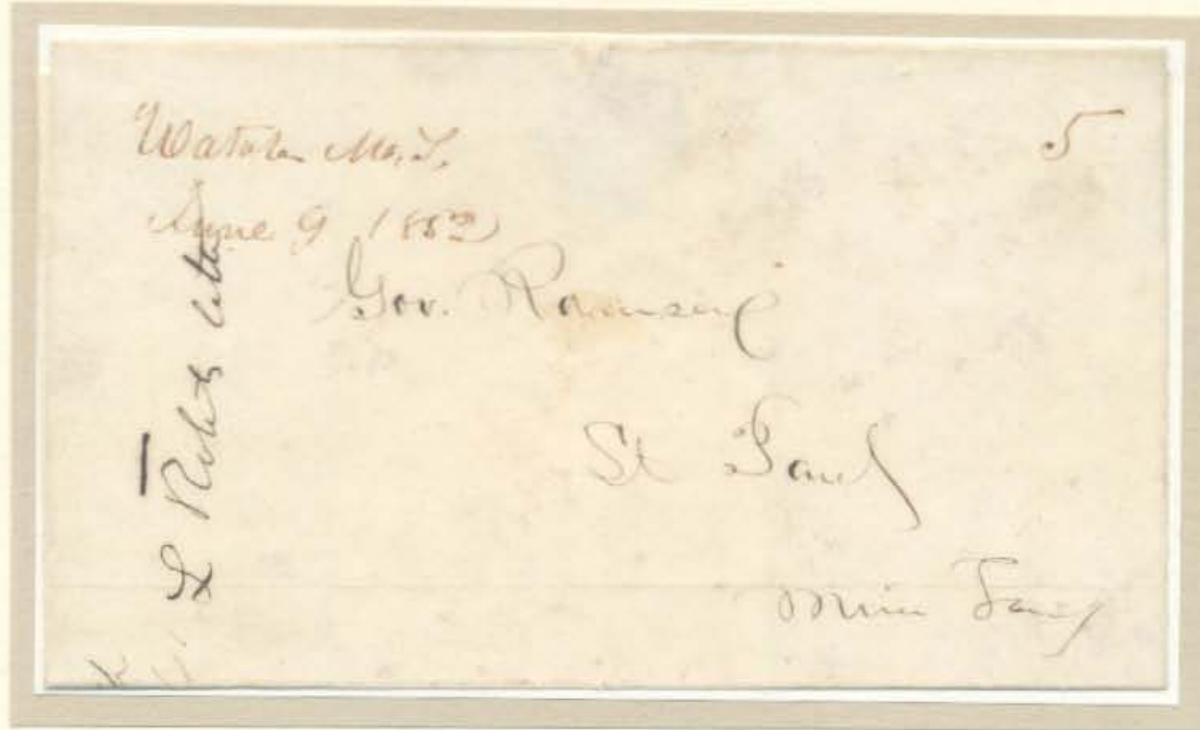
Monticello VT July 19, 57

My Dear Sister C

I am undoubtedly  
more indebted to others of the home  
circle than to you but as it affords  
me more pleasure to heed as above  
I will make you a medium so  
far at least as you shall wish  
to unfold

The sabbath is near with all its blessed  
influence to lead from earth to heaven;

The Minnesota Territory



Watab Minn. T.  
June 9 1852

**WATAB** The Post Office was established on March 24, 1852 in Benton County. It was discontinued on July 28, 1885 and then re-established on April 9, 1891. By 1885 the village had almost disappeared and on March 15, 1914 the Post Office was finally discontinued.

Watab was originally founded as an Indian trading post in 1848 but the village was not organized until 1858. The name is from the Chippewa word for the long and slender roots of the tamarack and jack pine, which the Indians dug up, split into threads and used in making birch bark canoes.

The two covers shown were used in June of 1852 and May of 1853.



The Minnesota Territory

Fort Gaines May  
June 23 }



**FORT GAINES** Post Office was established on October 22, 1849 in what was then called Indian Country - no county had been established. The fort was built the same year as the Post Office. It was named for Genl. Edmund Pendleton Gaines and then changed to Fort Ripley on September 8, 1851.

The folded letter shown above is from a missionary to the Indians. Of interest is the following observation: "These heathen seem bent on their own distruction. They cling to their heathanism & religion of their ancesters like a dying man to the shores of time. For two days and two nights past we have heard the drum and the chant of the scalp dance exalting over the enemy - a Sioux who has been reported as having been killed recently". The letter is datelined "Cass Lake Mission May 25, 1850" and was postmarked at Fort Gaines on June 23, 1850.

35

Annual ESTIMATE of Clothing and Camp and Garrison Equipage, for Company A.  
 6<sup>th</sup> Regt. of Infantry, Stationed at Fort Gaines, N. J. under the  
 command of Captain A. B. S. Todd, 6<sup>th</sup> Infantry, for the year  
 ending October 31<sup>st</sup> 1851, and for the Ordnance Sergt. at that post, for the same period.

✓ 1 Caps, complete, for Ord. Sergt.	✓ 56. Boots, prs. of,
✓ 1. Pompons, for Ord. Sergt.	✓ 99. Stockings, prs. of,
Horse hair plumes,	✓ 6 Leather stocks,
✓ 18 Forage caps, (1 for Ord. Sergt.)	✓ 3. Great coats, 4 Skaps
Letters,	✓ 38 Blankets,
✓ 1. Sergeants' uniform coats, Ord. Sergt.	✓ 1 Knapsacks, for Ord. Sergt.
Privates' do. do.	✓ 1 Haversacks, do do do
Musicians' do. do.	Canteens,
✓ 1. Sergeants' epaulettes, prs. Ord. Sergt.	✓ 1 Bedsacks, doubles.
Corporals' do. do.	✓ 6. Axes, handles
Shoulder straps, do.	Spades,
✓ 1 Sashes, for Ord. Sergt.	Camp kettles,
✓ 1 Sergeants' wool jackets, Ord. Sergt.	Mess pans,
✓ 17. Privates' do. do.	Hatchets,
✓ 10. Sergeants' wool overalls, (2 for O. Sergt.)	✓ 2. Drums, Snare Sets
✓ 38. Privates' do. do.	✓ 2 Drum sticks, cords
✓ 4. Sergeants' cotton jackets, (1 for Ord. Sergt.)	✓ 12 Drum heads, (7 batteries, 5 Snare)
✓ 2. Privates' do. do.	Files,
✓ 9. Sergeants' cotton overalls, (3 for O. Sergt.)	✓ 1 Bugles, mtlle 2x, mouth piece
✓ 11. Privates' do. do.	Wall tents, flies, poles, and pins,
✓ 6 Sergeants' cotton shirts,	Common tents, poles, and pins,
✓ 29. Privates' do. do.	Garrison flags,
✓ 52. Flannel shirts,	Recruiting flags,
✓ 15. Drawers,	Haliards,

QUARTER MASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE,

Washington City, May 13<sup>th</sup> 1851

*W. J. Phelps*  
 Quarter Master General.

*The Minnesota Territory*

*Fort Ridgely }  
July 18/57 }*



**FORT RIDGELY** This fort was established on April 29, 1853 on the north side of the Minnesota River, near the south end of the Sioux Indian Reserve, in Nicollet County. It served as a military post until 1867.

The Post Office was established January 7, 1854 and was discontinued June 30, 1903. Cover shown was used July 18, 1857.

Fort Ridgely played an important part in the great Sioux uprising of 1862, which was the beginning of the thirty years war for the western plains, that had its ending in the tragedy at Wounded Knee, Dakota Territory in December 1890.

Red River Sett.  
July 12<sup>th</sup> 1854



**FORT RIPLEY** Post Office was established as **FORT GAINES** on Oct. 22, 1849 and then changed to **FORT RIPLEY** on September 8, 1851 in honor of Genl. E.W. Ripley. **WHY THE CHANGE?** At the time Winfield Scott was the ranking General in command of the U.S. Army and a bitter opponent of Gaines. Fort Ripley remained an active military post until July of 1878. The Post Office is still in operation in Crow Wing County.

The folded letter shown above originated at the Red River Settlement (now Winnipeg) on July 12, 1854. It was carried privately to Fort Ripley where it entered the U.S. mails on July 26th. See other Red River covers in this exhibit.





FORT RIPLEY M.T. Cover above bears the Type II postmark of which no usages are known during the territorial period. Cover below bears the Type I postmark. There is no indication where the cover was missent & forwarded from. On the reverse there is a circular handstamp which reads ALAEXANDER. It originated at Fort Ripley and passed through the St. Paul post office, as per postmarks, on its way to Minnesota City on the Mississippi river.





The Minnesota Territory



HELD FOR POSTAGE

LITTLE FALLS M.T. Unique use of an illegal "cut-out" of a 3¢ Nesbitt envelope, from the Minnesota Territory. On its arrival in Chicago it was **HELD FOR POSTAGE**. Apparently it was held until the LITTLE FALLS postmaster sent money or the 1856 3¢ stamp, which was applied and postmarked at **CHICAGO MAR** - probably the 5th, and then forwarded to its destination.

Cover below is another example of such illegal use from SAINT LOUIS MO. In this case it was forwarded 5 cents collect. Most of the Nesbitt envelope stamps were cut to shape and most were cancelled. Not many were HELD FOR POSTAGE. There is no year date on either cover.



*The Minnesota Territory*



WASIOJA Post Office established in Dodge County June 18, 1856 and discontinued March 31, 1911. Cover above bears the only known use of the Type I postmark during the territorial period - December 11, 1857. Cover below is the only known usage after statehood - December 28, 1859.



The Minnesota Territory



**STOCKTON** The Post Office was established on September 8, 1855 in Winona County. It was discontinued on September 30, 1959 and then reopened on October 1, 1959 as a rural branch of the Winona Post Office.



**HOKAH** Post Office was established on January 11, 1856 in Houston County. It was named for the Indian word Hokah, which means Root, for the Root River on which it is located.

Excelsior  
Minnesota Ter. }  
Jan 9th }



**MINNESOTA TERRITORY**  
**EXCELSIOR** Post Office established in Hennepin Co., on Lake Minnetonka, January 7, 1854. Middle cover bears the Type I postmark - Dec. 9, 1851. Cover below bears Type II used on Dec. 24, 1860 - after statehood.

EXCELSIOR  
DR 9th  
M.T.



EXCELSIOR  
AUG 13  
MT

The Minnesota Territory



GLENCOE Post Office was established on March 20, 1856 just 19 days after the formation of McLeod County. It was founded by Martin McLeod who named it after an historic valley in Scotland. Glencoe is the County Seat.

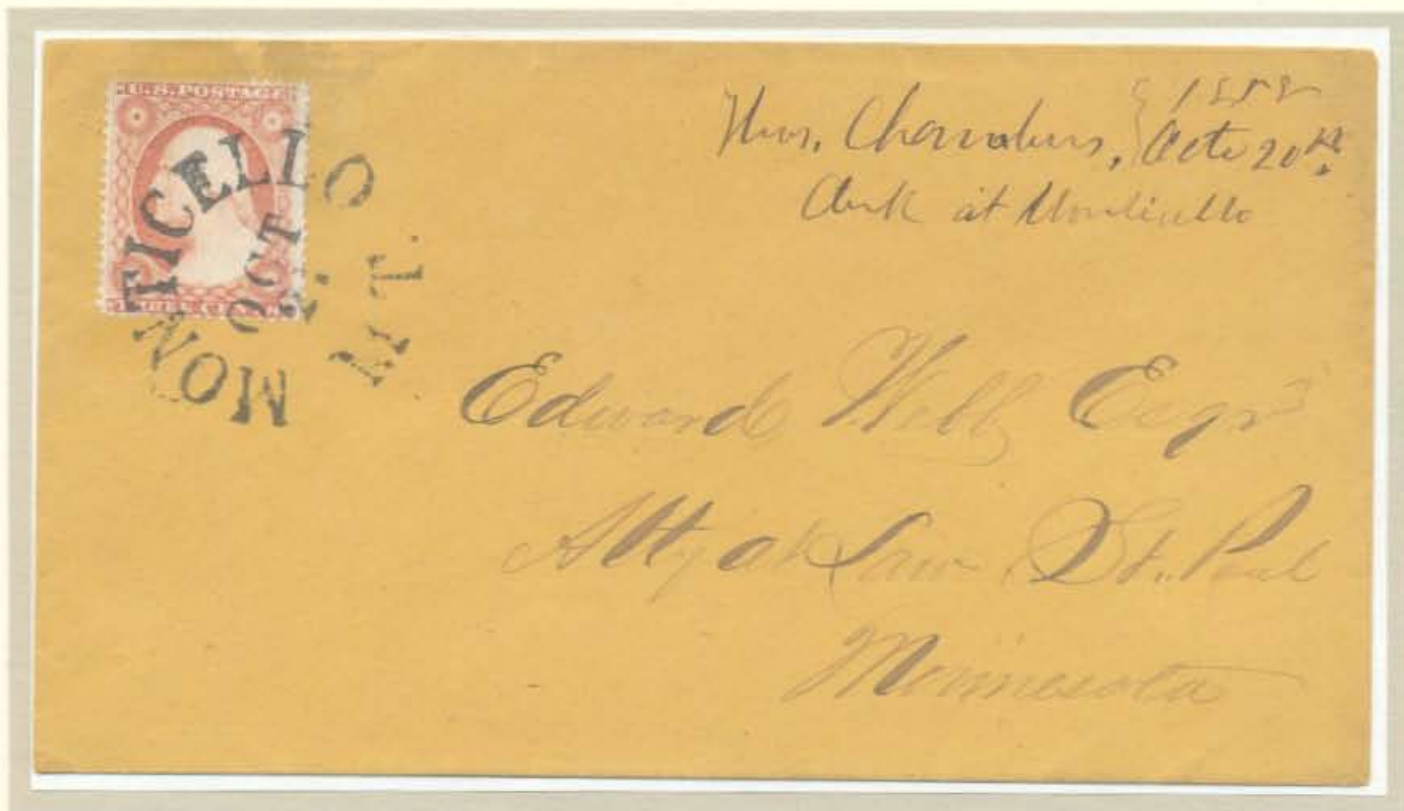
The cover shown below bears the identical postmark as the one above, with the exception that the M.T. was cut out and replaced with *Min.* to indicate the change to statehood.



The Minnesota Territory



**MONTICELLO** The post office was established on August 16, 1855 in Wright County. It was probably named after the Thomas Jefferson home in Virginia.





BRANTFORD M. T. The Post Office was established in Sherburne County on January 23, 1857 and was discontinued on July 24, 1871. No year date.

Elm Creek, M. T. Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> /57

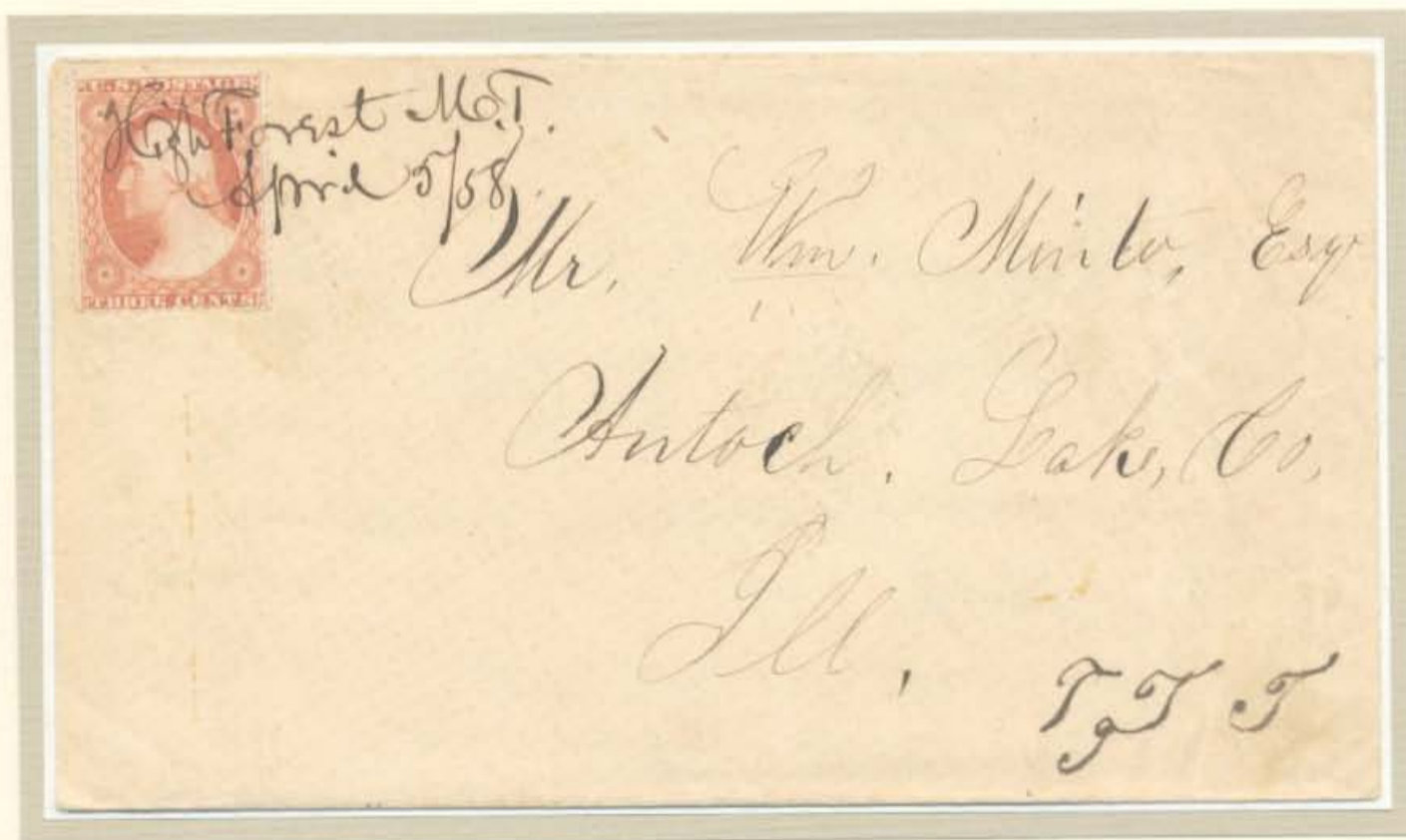


Elm Creek, M. T. Feb. 13th /57, was established in Hennepin County on July 19, 1855 and the name was changed to CHAMPLIN, as it is today, on March 6, 1858. Cover was forwarded by the FOXCROFT, MAINE post office as per the postmark tying the 3 cent stamp of the 1851 issue.



Waterford M.T.)  
March 18<sup>th</sup>

**WATERFORD** The Post Office was established on December 20, 1854 in Dakota County. It was discontinued on February 29, 1904. The cover shown was used on March 18, 1856



**High Forest M.T. / April 5/58.** The Post Office was established as PLEASANT VALLEY on September 6, 1855 in Mower County. The name was changed to HIGH FOREST in Olmstead County on August 11, 1856 and was discontinued July 31, 1902.





ORONOCO M.T.. The Post Office was established on December 19, 1854 in Wabasha County. It was changed to Olmstead County in 1855. The village was named for the Oronoco River in South America.

The Minnesota Territory



**LAKE CITY, M.T.** The post office was established on October 4, 1856 in Wabasha County. It is located on Lake Pepin which is a part of the Mississippi River. The cover shown above is prepaid, at the ten cent rate in the stamps of the 1857 issue, to Canada



**NEW ULM, M.T.** The post office was established on June 20, 1856 and is the seat of Brown County. The cover shown was used, as per postmark, on "FEB 11" 1858 and is the only recorded handstamp, during the territorial period, from this office. The town was founded by German colonists from the city of ULM, GERMANY - thus the name NEW ULM. It was one of the sites of the Sioux Uprising in 1862. The town was burned and plundered with a great loss of life.

The Minnesota Territory



**FOREIGN MAIL.** Cover above originated in Geneve, Switzerland April 18, 1857, addressed to "Chakopee Scott County Minitora Territory. Cover below from FRIEDLAND, MECKLENBURG/STRELITZ, GERMANY, February 24, 1856, to NEW ULM, BROWN COUNTY MINNESOTA TERRITORY. It was carried in the Prussian closed mail from Bremen to New York via U.S. Packet.



The Minnesota Territory



**ELKHORN** Post Office was established on August 16, 1855 in Fillmore County. It was discontinued on December 28, 1863. The name was then changed to HAMILTON and continued until it was discontinued on May 14, 1904.

*Elkhorn T  
June 26th*



*The Minnesota Territory*



**SHA-K'PAY** The Post Office was established under this name on November 25, 1853 in Scott County. On April 13, 1857 the name was changed to SHAKOPEE.

This was the site on an Indian trading post founded in 1851 by Thomas A. Holmes. It was named for the Sioux Chief Shakpay, who was the second in succession to bear this name, which means "six". His son, Little Six, was hung at Fort Snelling on November 11, 1865 for his participation in the Sioux massacres of 1862.

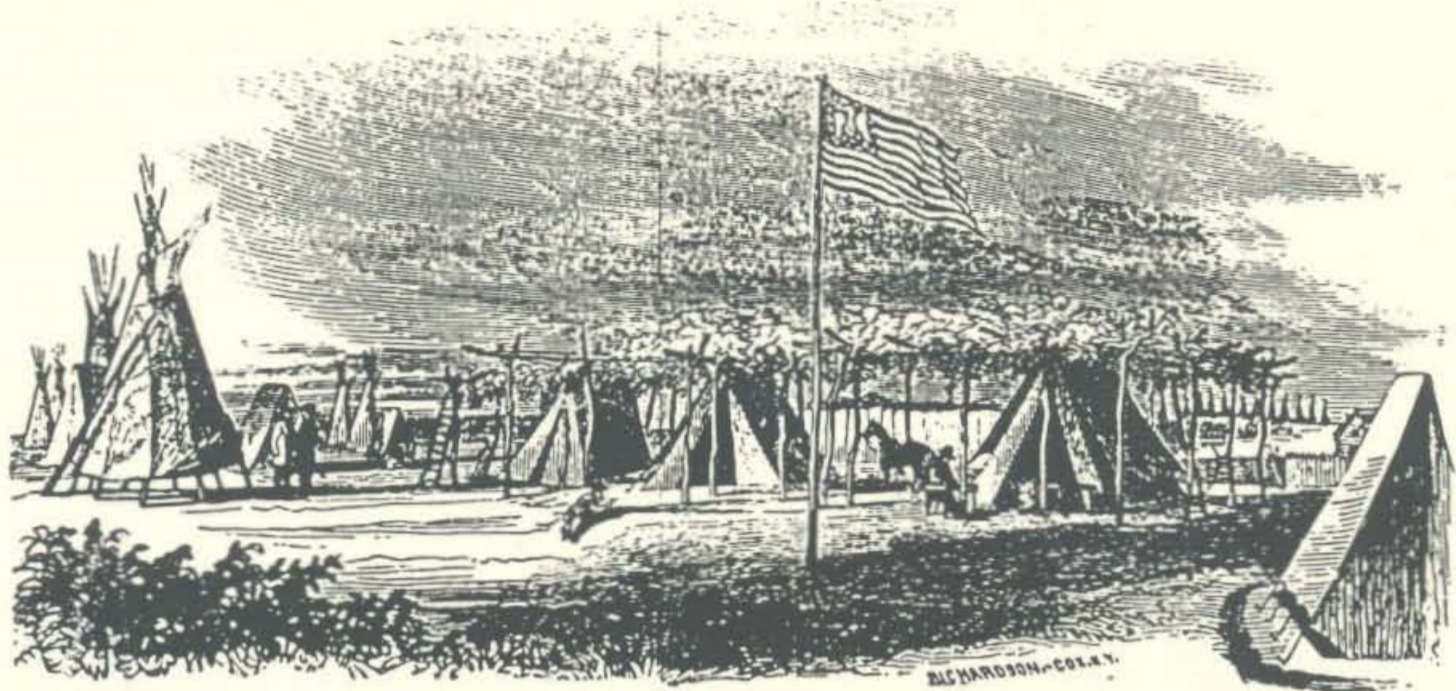
*The Minnesota Territory*



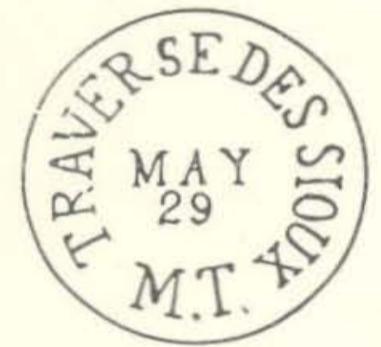
**SHA-K'PAY M.T.** Post Office was established in Scott County on November 25, 1853. The name was changed to **SHAKOPEE** on April 13, 1857. Cover above was postmarked on January 18, 1856. Cover below was postmarked in manuscript **Shakopee M.T. July 23 - 1855**, almost 2 years before the name change. The stamps on both covers are from the 1851 issue.



*The Minnesota Territory*



TRAVERSE DES SIOUX



**TRAVERSE DES SIOUX** The Post Office was established on April 8, 1852 in Wabasha County. On March 5, 1853 it became part of the newly formed Nicollet County. It was discontinued on May 27, 1873.

The name means "crossing of the Sioux" and marks an historic ford of the Minnesota River which was used by the Indians for several hundred years. A fur trading post was located at this site by Louis Provencal in about 1812 and he continued to occupy it for some thirty-eight years. It was here that the famous treaty of Traverse des Sioux was held in 1851. The village was abandoned for Saint Peter about three miles away and it is now a state park.

Pictured above is the treaty site as it looked at the time of the treaty in which the Dakota and Sioux Indians gave up most of southern Minnesota for a few pennies an acre.

# MINNESOTA



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The Minnesota Territory

Geneva, M.T.  
July 26<sup>th</sup>

Geneva Freeborn Co. M.T.  
July 26<sup>th</sup> 1857 -  
J. O. Crosby  
Dear Sir,

Geneva, M.T.  
July 26<sup>th</sup>



J. O. Crosby Esq  
Yamaville  
Clayton Co Iowa

*E. C. Stacy - Geneva M.T.  
R.D. Feb 5 1857  
Mts. G. Cr. " 1000 "  
And " 28 "*

from Geo. or B. Oak Grove in Mitchell Co.  
When I got there the man who owned

**GENEVA** The Post Office was established on November 21, 1856 in Freeborn County. It was named by Edwin C. Stacy, the first Postmaster, in remembrance of Geneva, New York.

The letter was written by Stacy in regards to money due Crosby: "We have a P.O. here called Geneva, Freeborne Co. M.T. ... I have been to Dodge Co. and find the man you handed me the note against *Independently poor!*"

*The Minnesota Territory*



**NININGER** The post office was established on November 26, 1856 in Dakota County. It was discontinued on February 15, 1889.

This was the hometown of one of the great reformers of the nineteenth century — Ignatius Donnelly. He began his political career as a liberal Republican, became a Democrat and then joined the newly formed Populist Party. He was author, orator, newspaper editor, legislator, and a Lt. Governor of Minnesota. Donnelly died on the first day of the twentieth century and the town of Nininger virtually died with him.



*The Minnesota Territory*



**ST. ANTHONY FALLS** The Post Office was established on October 1, 1849 in what was then St. Croix County, Wisconsin. On October 27, 1849 it became part of the newly formed Ramsey County until March 4, 1856 when it became part of Hennepin County. St. Anthony Falls was merged with Minneapolis by legislative act on February 28, 1872 and the Post Office was discontinued on July 5, 1873.

The village of St. Anthony Falls was located at and named for the Falls of St. Anthony. This sixteen foot cataract, the only major drop in the Mississippi River, was discovered in 1680 by the explorer-priest Father Louis Hennepin and named for the Franciscan friar St. Anthony of Padua. The U.S. Army built a saw and grist mill at the falls in 1823 during the construction of Fort Snelling. The west side of the river was part of the military reserve while the east side was owned by Franklin Steele. Steele platted the site in 1849 and thus St. Anthony got going before Minneapolis.

Cover shown bears the Type I handstamp used January 7, 1851. It also comes in blue.



JULY 23, 1851

ST. ANTHONYS FALLS, M. T. The cover above bears the Type II postmark with the apostrophe "S". It is the earliest use of the 3 cent 1851 stamp from the Minnesota Territory.

Cover below bears the Type III postmark in which the 'S' has been cut out. Otherwise it would be the same as Type II. Both types are scarce. Type II comes in red only and Type III in both red and black.



AUGUST 16, 1852



The Minnesota Territory



**ST. ANTHONY'S FALLS** The two little mourning covers (the letter edged in black) on this page bear Type III of the territorial handstamp. One in blue - the other in black.



The Minnesota Territory



**ST. ANTHONY'S FALLS** This is Type III and comes in black, blue and red. The cover shown below originated at College Hill, Ohio and was prepaid to St. Anthony Falls. Here it was forwarded prepaid to Swan River, Minnesota.



The Minnesota Territory



**ST. ANTHONYS FALLS** The covers on this page bear the Type IV handstamp. Note printed address on the corner card of the cover shown below - "Upper Town/ St. Anthony".



The Minnesota Territory



Eng. and Publ. by J. E. Whitney.

ST. ANTHONY FALLS,  
West of Hennepin Island, 1853.

Scott & Fulton, Pre., Chicago

Minneapolis Sept 3/55

My own dear Mary

Although I have not rec'd a letter since writing you I will redeem my pledge to write once in two weeks & I would to have you do the same. I have written my brother that our trunks have come. All is right now. I went down the river 5 miles to see last week all the week. Oh! I had a nice time I assure. It was a nice romantic place and as I work on the 10 hour system now I had leisure to enjoy it. I walk every morning and evening. The banks are as bold on the Mississippi, steep & rough

ST. ANTHONY'S FALLS Type III postmark on 3¢ Nesbitt envelope which contains an illustrated letter sheet showing the falls. In it the writer describes a visit to Minnehaha Falls and composes a poem about the falls. The letter is dated at Minneapolis, Sept. 3, 1855.



*The Minnesota Territory*



FALLS OF ST. ANTHONY—WEST OF HENNEPIN ISLAND.

*St. Anthony Sunday June 25  
Friend Carey  
St. Louis  
and will try and make a visit to you*



**ST. ANTHONYS FALLS** Cover bears a Type IV postmark dated August 3, 1857. It contains an illustrated letter sheet of the falls showing the wooden suspension bridge in the background.

# DEMOCRATS, ATTEND!

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All democrats, good and true, who are interested in the Post Office at St. Anthony, are requested to meet at the School House, in Lower Town, **FRIDAY EVENING** next, at half past 6 o'clock for the purpose of recommending some suitable person for Post Master.

(BY ORDER OF THE PRECINCT COMMITTEE.)

**D. STANCHFIELD, Chairman.**

**Feb. 15, 1853.**