

## *The Minnesota Territory*

Exploration and the international fur trade brought the first white man to what is now the State of Minnesota.

In 1680 Father Louis Hennepin stood at the only major cataract in the Mississippi River and named it for St. Anthony of Padua. In a true sense St. Anthony Falls became the cradle of Minnesota history with the establishment of Fort Snelling and the cities of St. Paul and Minneapolis. At various times Minnesota was under the flags of France, England and Spain. With the Louisiana Purchase, it became part of the territories of Louisiana and Indiana. At one time or another Missouri, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Iowa, and what are now the states of North and South Dakota were all part of the Minnesota Territory.



*St. Anthony Falls as it probably looked in Father Hennepin's time.  
— In the Morning of its Glory —*

The Minnesota Territory was formed on March 3, 1849 and became a state on May 11, 1858. This was a unique period in the postal history of our nation because of the emergence of the envelope and the adhesive postage stamp. Thus we have an interesting and colorful combination of folded letters and envelopes with or without postage stamps as well as the late usage of the territorial postmarks on patriotic covers of the Civil War.

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**ST. PAUL** This folded letter bears the Type I handstamp dated January 13, 1850 which comes in both red and black. It originated at "Long Prairie Dec. 28, 49", and it was carried to St. Paul by a Mr. Lowry and placed in the Post Office. He was on his way to Washington with three Indian chiefs.

The writer is Maria the sister of Henry Oscar Houghton, the founder of the Houghton Mifflin Publishing Company, and to whom the letter is addressed.

To quote Maria in part: "We are now two hundred miles above Red Wing - rapidly approaching as you see the Queens dominions (Canada) - The Indians at Red Wing were all away on their winter hunt (thus no Indians to teach) - We are now among the Winnebagoes and engaged in the same school - the Winnebagoes are much in advance of the Sioux and other tribes - You will find our location on the map as far north as 46 north latitude on Long Prairie River - The Indians declare the country is nothing but a large lake and that is the cause of the bad roads". Then on January 1, 1850 she adds "Happy New Year to you - a beautiful day of eighteen fifty has dawned upon us" and then closes with "Our Post Office address is St. Paul, Minesota Tery - It is one hundred fifty miles from Long Prairie".

The Minnesota Territory



5

Fort Snelling -  
May 29<sup>th</sup> 1853

My Dear Wife.

We arrived late last night at St. Paul - and came up the river to Fort Snelling this morning. I will write you tomorrow (Sunday).



1853

5

Ms. George J. Fuller  
Care of Col. Long, U.S.A.  
Louisville  
Ky.

SAINT PAUL Cover shown bears the Type II handstamp and is rated 5 cents collect.

The writer is George Fuller, U.S. Army Engineer, who has just arrived at Fort Snelling to take part in a survey of the fort and the military reserve. 1853.

The Minnesota Territory



5



**SAINT PAUL.** Cover originated at Dayton, Ohio to Martin McLeod in St. Paul, M.T. Here it was forwarded to Lac qui Parle 5 cents collect. This postmark comes in black, red, green and dark blue. (See all 4 in this exhibit.) McLeod was a pioneer fur trader with the Indians representing the American Fur Company. He came to the Minnesota country in 1836 and was in charge of trading posts successively at St. Croix, Traverse des Sioux, Big Stone Lake, Lac qui Parle and Yellow Medicine.

The Minnesota Territory



**SAINT PAUL** The two covers on this page bear the Type II handstamp which comes in black, red and green. It also comes with or without the U.S. Paid 3 with stars. This little paid handstamp is known only in black or red.





TEN CENT 1847 USED FROM THE MINNESOTA TERRITORY.

After 140 years the first cover bearing an 1847 stamp from the Minnesota Territory has been found. Post Office records shown that on February 4, 1851 the postmaster at Saint Paul received and signed for 200 five cent and 900 ten cent stamps of the 1847 issue. Eight days later J. Ridgway Jenks posted the above cover bearing a ten cent 1847 stamp. It is tied by the type II postmark of SAINT PAUL MIN. TER. FEB 12. There is no year date but the time frame makes it 1851. The 1847 issue was declared invalid on July 1, 1851. This is also the earliest known use of an adhesive postage stamp from the Minnesota Territory.

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Jenks was the brother of Governor Ramsey's wife. He operated a drug store in partnership with Dr. David Day. See following page for cover bearing the corner card of DAY & JENKS. Also note top cover above bearing the cornercard of JENKS & OGDEN to whom the cover is in care of. A local usage by BLOOD'S PENNY POST Philad JAN 17 1859.

The Minnesota Territory



SAINT PAUL. The two covers on this page are from the same correspondence as the "10¢ 1847" cover on opposite page. Cover ABOVE bears a 3¢ orange brown (Scott #10), canceled by a red PAID, and the Type II postmark struck in red. No year date but probably 1851. Cover BELOW bears a corner card of DAY & JENKS. It is prepaid with the 3¢ stamp of the 1857 issue and and tied by the Type III postmark - SAINT PAUL Min./AUG 7 1860.



## The Minnesota Territory



### THE ONLY KNOWN 1847 COVER ADDRESSED TO THE MINNESOTA TERRITORY

The cover shown above originated at "GOSHEN N.Y. JUL 6" 1849 and is the earliest known use of a adhesive postage stamp INTO the Minnesota Territory. No usage of the 1847 stamps FROM Minnesota are known although 200 five cent and 900 ten cent stamps were receive from Washington by the St.Paul postmaster on February 4, 1851. For many years a rumor has persisted that there is a 5 cent used on cover from St.Paul, but it has never surfaced - only that someone told someone that they had been told that there was one. The day may come when such a cover with a five cent or a ten cent stamp will show up. It is possible!

Alexander Wilkin, to whom the cover is addressed, came to St.Paul, following his service as a captain in the Mexican war, in 1849. At various times he was engaged in a law practice and at one time was the U.S.Marshall for Minnesota. In 1851 to 1853 he was secretary of the territory and in 1855 he went to the Crimea to study the Crimean war. In 1861 he organized the first company of the First Minnesota regiment and in 1862 he became the colonel of the Ninth Minnesota in the Civil War. Wilkin was killed in the battle of Tupelo, Mississippi on July 14, 1864. Wilkin county was named for Alexander Wilkin.



The Minnesota Territory

"Chronicle & Register" Print, St. Paul.

ST. PAUL,  
TERRITORY OF MINNESOTA,  
January 14 - 1851

To:

I have the agreeable duty of informing you of your election as a member of the "Minnesota Historical Society."

The primary object of this Association is the collection and preservation of a Library; Min-

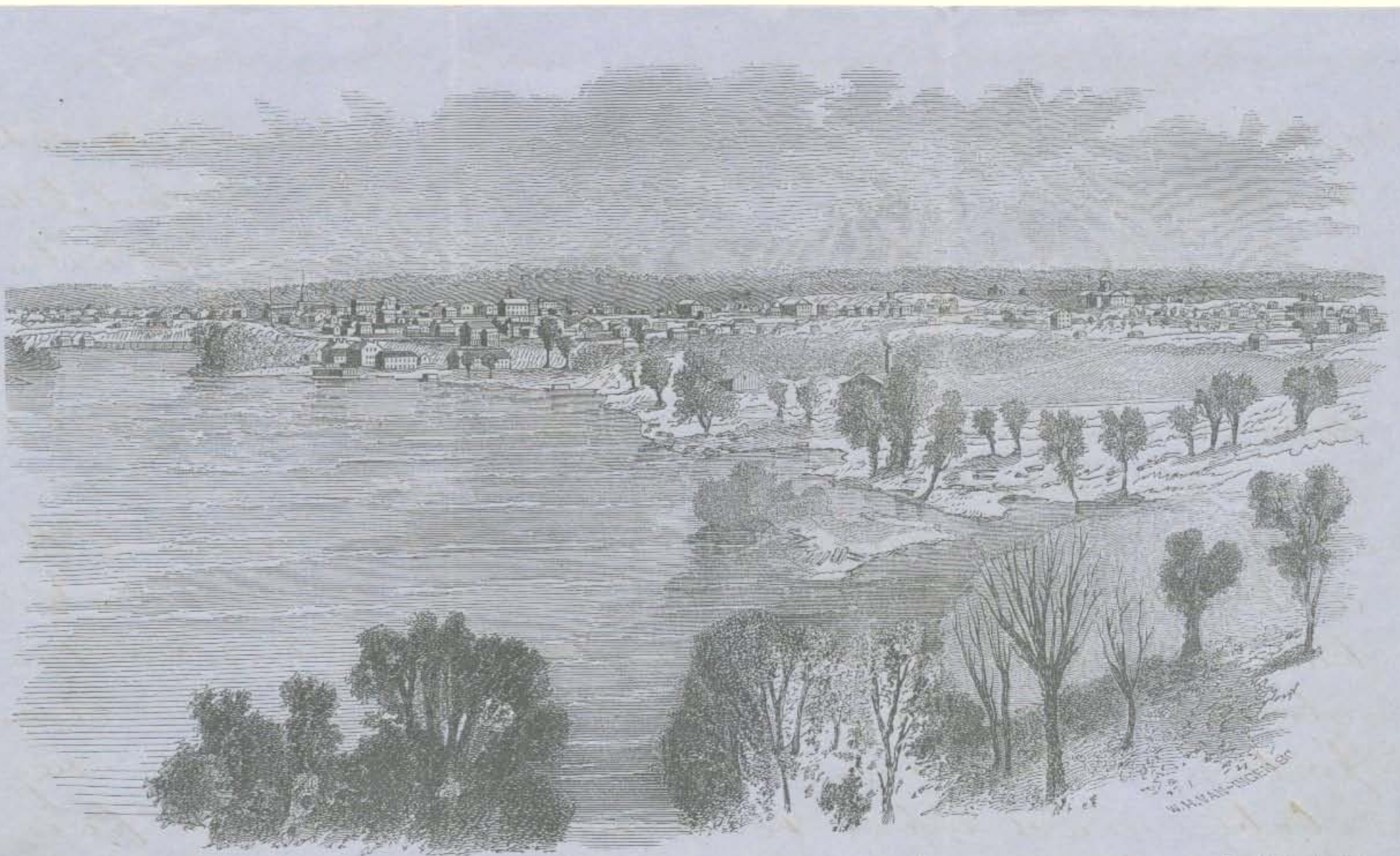


10

Alfred S. Cloyd M.D.  
Philadelphia  
Penn a

J. S. Smith  
Sec'y of the Minnesota Hist'l Society.

Alfred S. Cloyd M.D.  
Phila. Pa



Eng. and Pub. by J. E. Whitney.

CITY OF SAINT PAUL.

August, 1853.

Scott & Fulton, Prs., Chicago.

St Paul Nov 14<sup>th</sup> 1855

Cousin George

The Newspaper you sent duly  
to hand, I have found it impossible to write  
to you as many persons  
another letter.  
I of our  
are now  
in St Paul  
have a Cousin  
ellow, also  
my, I have  
Parr (in  
free) with

S. A. P. 15 1855 M. T.

George A Davis Esq  
No 23 Boylston St  
Boston  
Mass

# NOTICE

Of the establishment of the Land Office for the **CHIPPEWA LAND DISTRICT**, in the **TERRITORY OF WISCONSIN**.

**TREASURY DEPARTMENT,**

**GENERAL LAND OFFICE,**

*April 7th, 1848.*

IN pursuance of the first section of the act of Congress, entitled "An act to create an additional land district in the **TERRITORY OF WISCONSIN**, and for other purposes," approved March 3, 1847, I do hereby declare and make known, that the land office for the district created by said act is established at the "**FALLS OF ST. CROIX RIVER**," in said Territory; the site this day designated by the **PRESIDENT** of the United States.

Given under my hand at the City of Washington this seventh day of April, Anno Domini one thousand eight hundred and forty-eight.

By order of the President:

**RICHARD M. YOUNG,**

*Commissioner of the General Land Office.*

*C. A. Whitney Esq. has been nominated for Register, and Gen. Samuel Leech of Quincy Ill. for Receiver - These nominations are still pending before the Senate - April 13/48 - R. M. Young*

The Minnesota Territory



**SAUK RAPIDS** When Minnesota became a state on May 11, 1858 the Postmaster altered the territorial cancel by cutting out the *T* and leaving the *M* to denote statehood. See cover below.



The Minnesota Territory

Clear Water M.T.  
Sept 5

Clear Water M.T.  
Sept 5

Mrs Solon S Peet

Hambinton

Wayne Co

Penna



**CLEAR WATER** This Post Office was established on January 11, 1856 in Wright County. The name was changed to one word - CLEARWATER - on December 1, 1895.

Cottage Grove  
Apr 15<sup>th</sup>

Free of P.P. Furber P.M.

Cottage Grove Free P.P. Furber P.M.  
Apr 15<sup>th</sup>

P.P. Furber

H. Stevens Esq

J. Anthony

1853

**COTTAGE GROVE** This Post Office was established on December 19, 1849 in Washington County. The cover shown bears the official frank of its first Postmaster P.P. Furber.

*The Minnesota Territory*



**CENTRAL POINT** Post Office was established on October 22, 1855 in Goodhue County. It was discontinued August 7, 1860.



The Minnesota Territory

Zumbrota. M. T.  
Dec 15



ZUMBROTA The Post Office was established on June 15, 1857 in Goodhue County. It received its name from the Zumbro River on which it is located. The Sioux name for this river was Wazi Oju. See Wasioja in this exhibit.

3



The Minnesota Territory



Claremont,  
N.H. May 9

**CLAREMONT** The Post Office was established on January 24, 1856 in Dodge County. Named for Claremont, N.H., whence several of its settlers came, including George Hitchcock, its first Postmaster.

Some of the early Postmasters used Minnesota or abbreviations thereof and left out the word "territory".





The Minnesota Territory

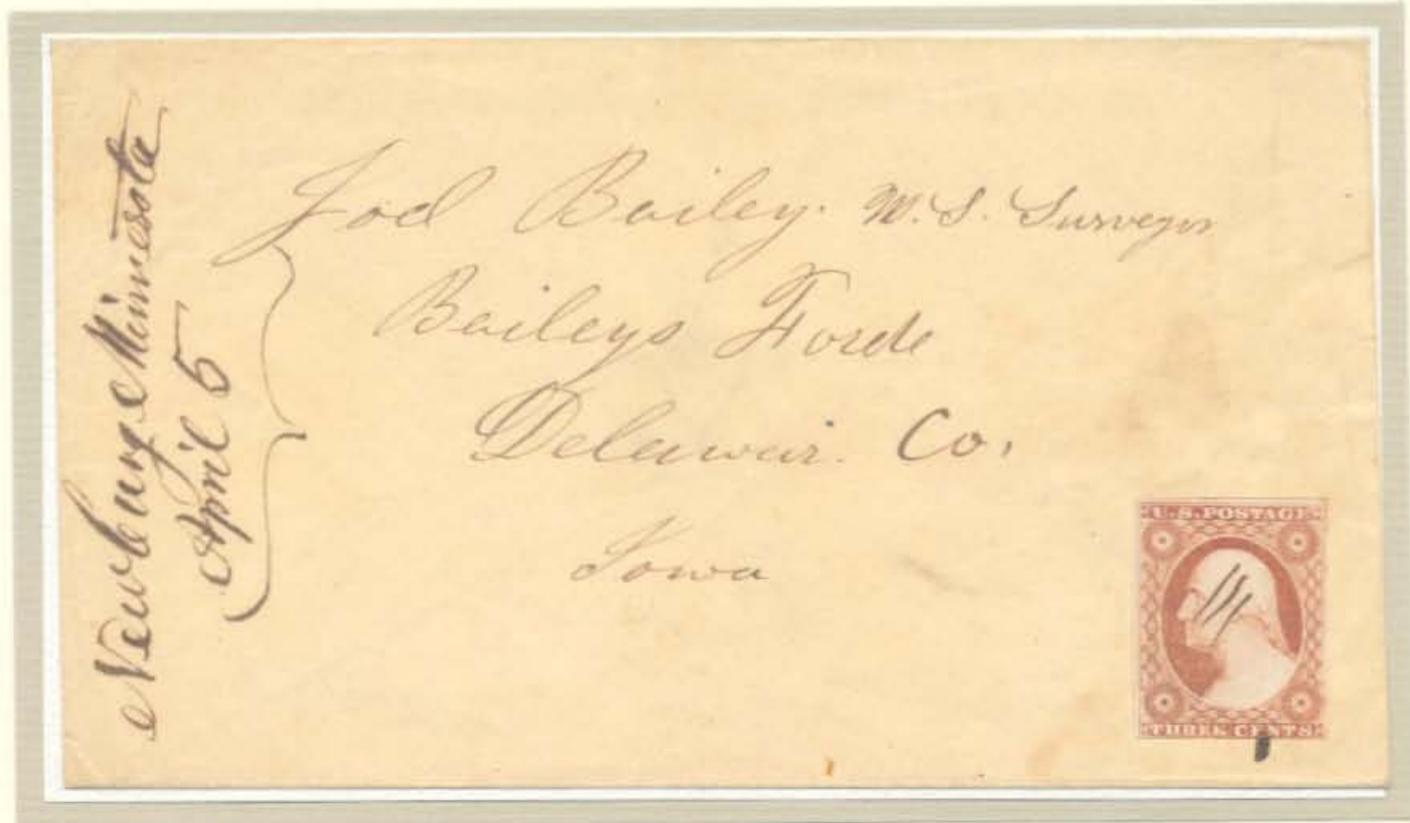


**MINNEISKA** Post Office established as **Mount Vernon** on October 22, 1852 in Wabasha County. The name was changed to **MINNEISKA** on March 5, 1856.

**NEWBURG** The Post Office was established on July 19, 1855 in Fillmore County. In 1859 the spelling was changed to **NEWBURGH** and then changed back to **NEWBURG** in 1895. It was discontinued on June 30, 1902.

There is no year date on the cover, but it could very well be territorial usage.

*Newburg Minnesota  
April 5*



The Minnesota Territory

Silver Creek M. T. Nov. 27.

SILVER CREEK Post Office was established on January 30, 1856 in Wright County. It was discontinued on December 23, 1863. Named for the creek that runs through the village.

Silver Creek M. T. 26<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1856.

Dear Father,

I know you have been expecting a letter from me for a long time; & I have been intending, every day, to write. But each day I have found ten fold more than I could do, which seemed absolutely necessary to be done, to be in any tolerable readiness to meet the severe winter, which all here seem to be expecting. So I have not taken time to write, but hope soon to have time to perform that, & all other duties I have been constrained to omit.

Silver Creek M. T. Nov. 27.



Mr. Benj. F. Wood  
Westminster  
Mass.

1856

l  
b.  
you  
D.  
on  
the  
hered  
water

The Minnesota Territory

Wilton - Waseca Co. Minn.

Sept 10<sup>th</sup>

(1859)

Mr Stewart - Dear sir - you will doubtless be surprised at receiving a communication from such a source - and also at its contents, but the enclosed article which I take from a copy of the St Paul weekly <sup>Register & Democrat</sup> ~~Register~~ has induced me to ask a boon of you notwithstanding we

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me, I by procuring twenty

five dollars

upon credit (which we expected to

be able to

in finishing the

outside of it.

Hard times then coming upon us effectually precluded

the possibility of making any further improvements or even getting the means



Mr A. T. Stewart.

Blake St. New York.



**WILTON** The Post Office was established on June 4, 1856 in Steele County. On February 27, 1857 it became part of the newly formed Waseca County. It was discontinued on July 27, 1881.

Alexander T. Stewart, to whom the letter is addressed, was one of New York's richest merchants. During his life he gave vast amounts of money to charity. People from all walks of life wrote to him for help - money, loans, and whatever else he might have. He responded to many and this letter is the plea of a Minnesota pioneer for such help.

another of our clothing has been worn out - the same of household comforts & conveniences - without the means of procuring more -

The Minnesota Territory



*Pine Island, N.Y.  
Feb 23/58*

**PINE ISLAND** Post Office was established on September 12, 1856 in Goodhue County. It was called Wa-zee-wee-ta by the Indians and was a favorite wintering spot where they were protected from the winds and storms by the tall pines.



**PRESTON** The Post Office was established on March 1, 1856 and is the Seat of Fillmore County. It was settled in 1853 by John Kaercher and named after his millwright, Luther Preston. Preston was also the first Postmaster.

The Minnesota Territory

Marine Mills  
Dec 10<sup>th</sup> 1858



**MARINE MILLS** Post Office was established on April 25, 1848 in St. Croix County, Wisconsin Territory. On October 27, 1849 it became part of the newly formed Washington County. The name was changed to MARINE ON SAINT CROIX on March 22, 1917 and it is presently in operation.

About 1838 the Marine Lumber Company of Marine, Ill. began lumber operations on the St. Croix River - thus the name MARINE MILLS.



*The Minnesota Territory*



**MARINE MILLS** Post office was established on April 25, 1848 in St. Croix County, Wisconsin Territory. On October 27, 1849 it became part of the newly formed Washington County. The name was changed to Marine on Saint Croix on March 22, 1917 and it is presently in operation.

About 1838 the Marine Lumber Company of Marine, Ill. began lumber operations on the St. Croix River — thus the name Marine Mills.



**OWATONNA** The post office was established on August 16, 1855 and is the Seat of Steele County. The name is derived from the Sioux word meaning "Straight River".

The Minnesota Territory



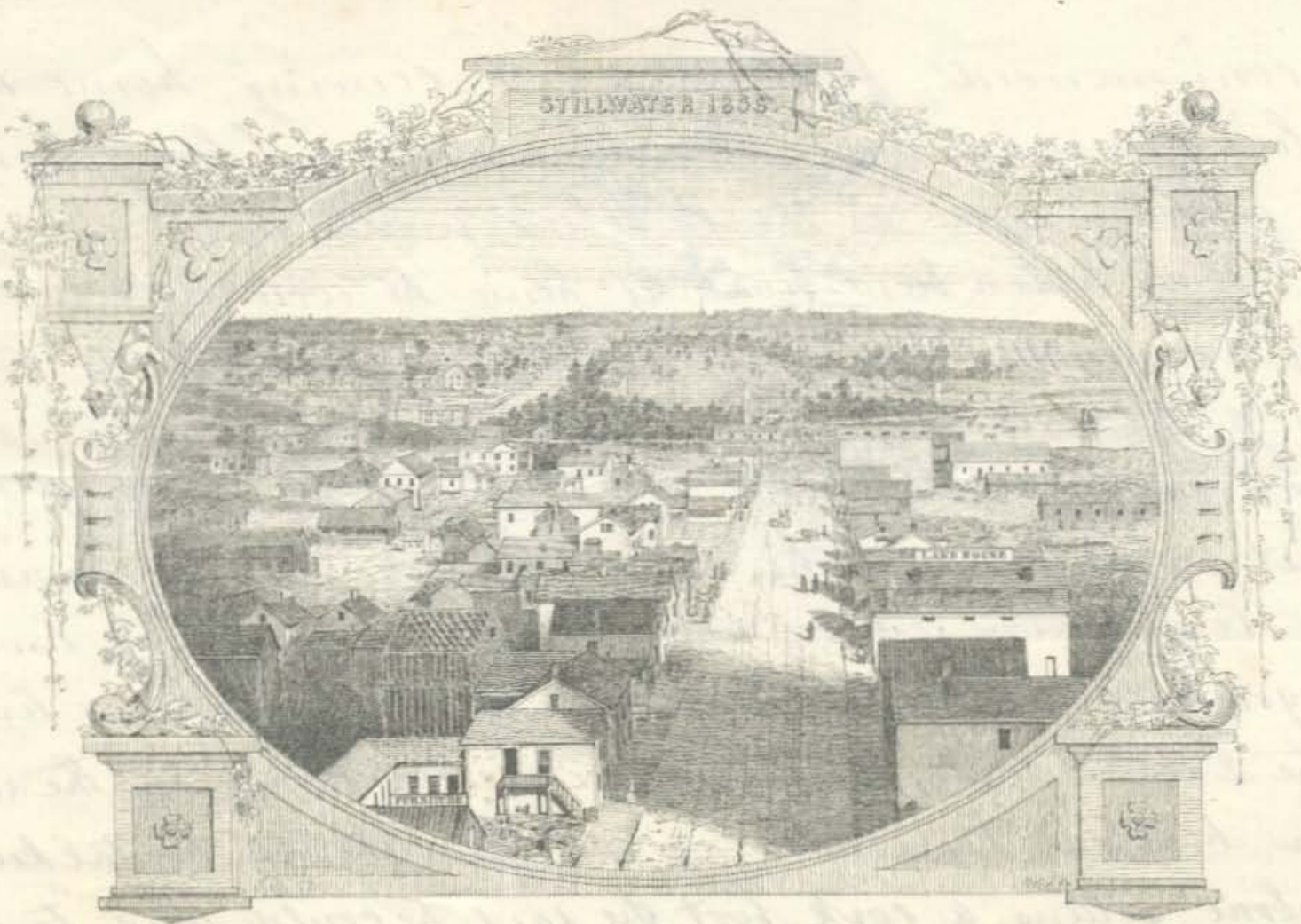
**STILLWATER** The Post Office was established on January 14, 1846 in St. Croix County, Wisconsin Territory. Then on December 18, 1850 it became the Seat of Washington County in the newly organized Territory of Minnesota.

The cover shown above was used on July 29, 1848, just 61 days after Wisconsin became a state and about seven months before Minnesota became a territory. Stillwater was located on the St. Croix River and was an important lumber and steamboat center. Note postmark which reads: "Stillwater Wis/ July 29".

*Stillwater Wis  
July 29.*



The Minnesota Territory



50  
The  
fall after your uncle was through on the river to come  
and see you but there it is just as he said to me after he  
was hurt there was no use to make any calculations ahead  
for any thing for he never had such a good prospect ahead  
as he had this spring he left home on Thursday in better  
health than he had for years and it seemed that he  
was growing younger his health was so good for  
the last two years that he was like a new man altogether  
on the next wednesday I received a telegraph dispatch  
to come to him immediately for he was hurt I went to him  
as soon as steam would ~~bring~~ <sup>take</sup> me I never knew his  
foot was off until he told me himself the first week  
that I was with him he was as happy and contented  
as could be but as soon as the fever set in then



Stillwater Min - Dec - Feb 17. 1851

Dear Uncle

I have not forgotten you even though I have not written you since I have entered the Ministry. I have had an increased correspondence and a greatly increased of daily duties I think that it would be comparatively a easy matter to perform the duties of a regular pastor - but it is not an easy matter to perform the duties of a Western Missionary

I have written a long letter to our friend Mr Willett and have said many things to him which you will be able to learn from him - I have told him that I intended visiting the East

I have commenced a Church  
I have not  
of the  
it can  
position  
Presbytery  
thing for  
I have  
I don't  
to them

Stillwater Min  
Feb 11 3

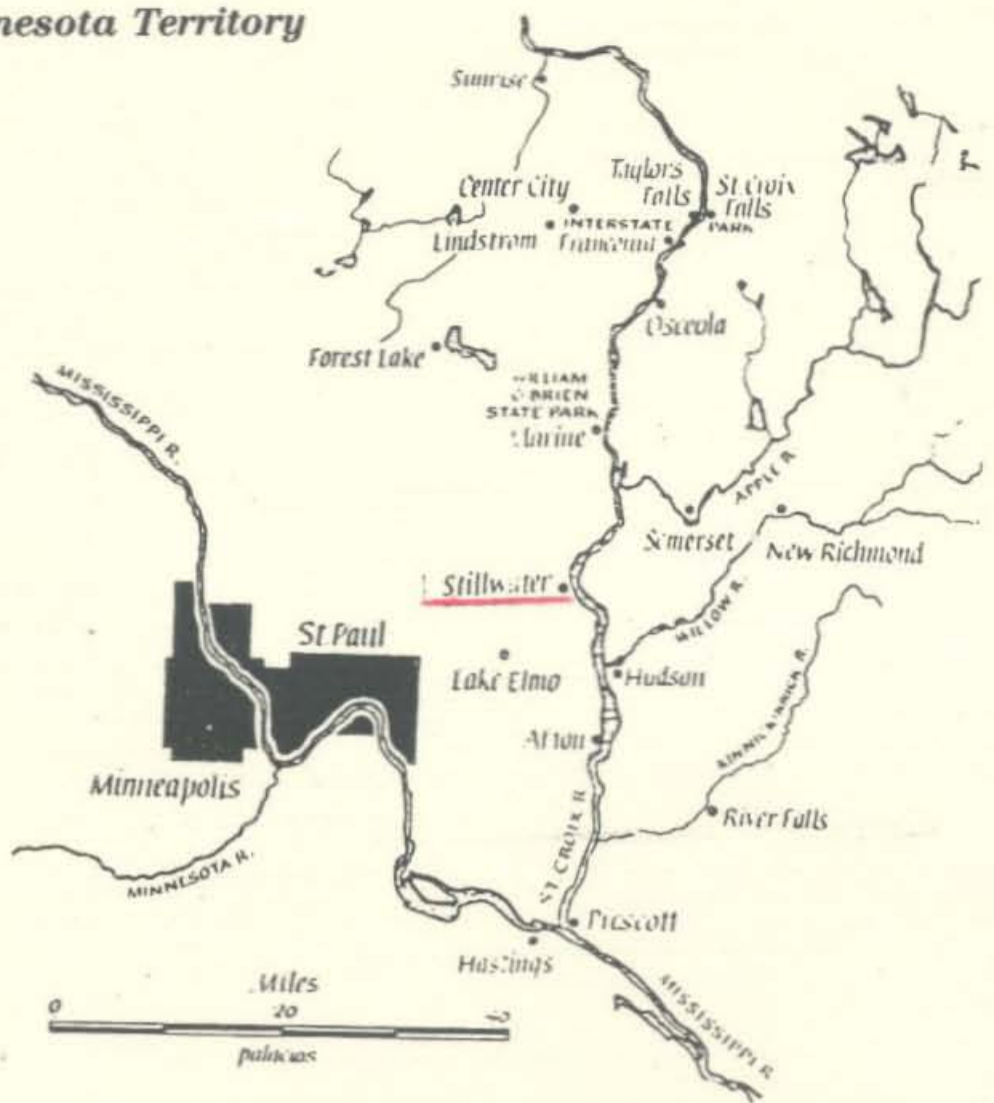
10

Daniel Safford Esq  
Split Rock  
Essex Co

New York

1851

The Minnesota Territory

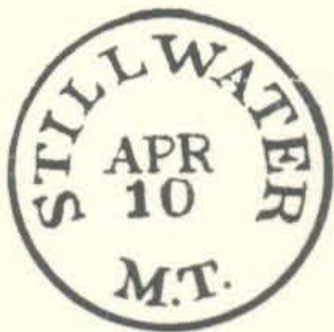


**ST:LLWATER** The maps shown above locate Stillwater as well as the St. Croix, Minnesota and Mississippi rivers.  
 The cover shown was used on September 16, 1852.

*The Minnesota Territory*



LE SUEUR Post office was established on August 4, 1852 in Dakota County. When Le Sueur County was formed on March 5, 1853 it became the County Seat of that county. It was named for a French fur trader and explorer, Pierre Charles Le Sueur.

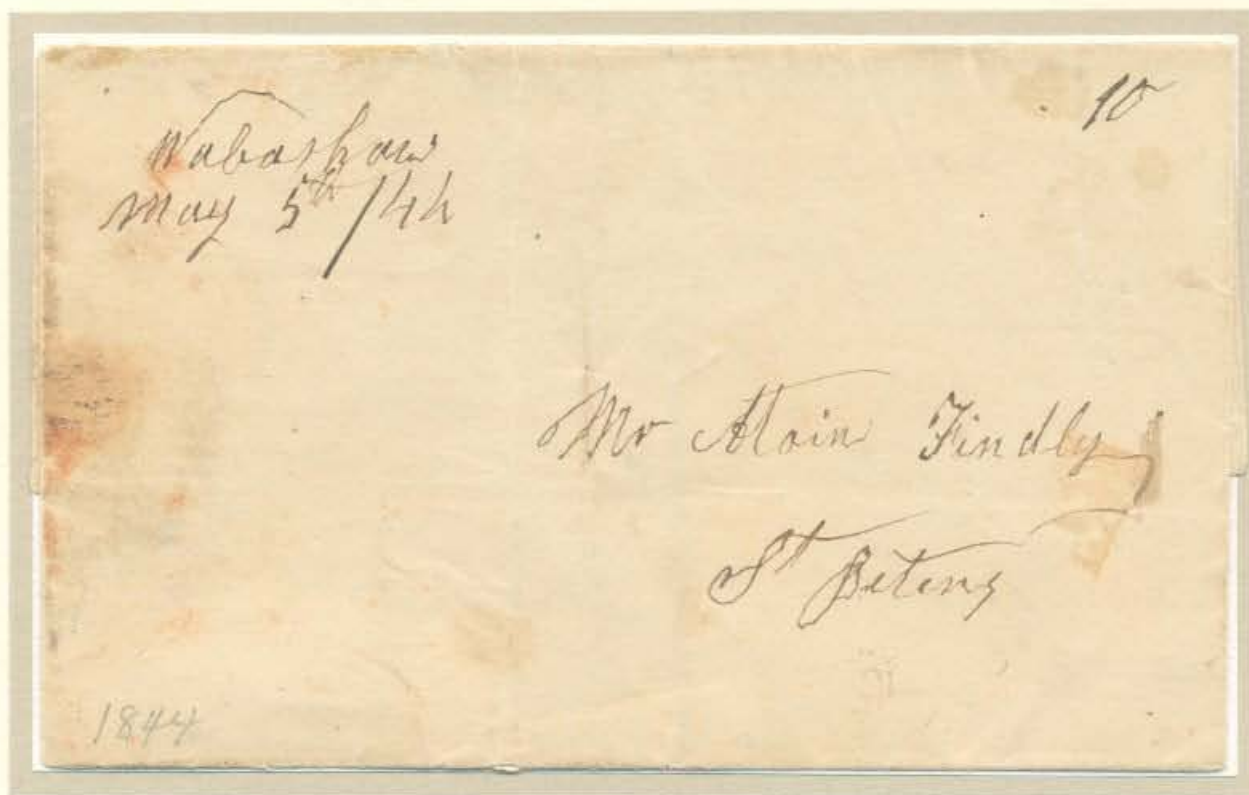


TWENTY FOUR CENT RATE TO GREAT BRITAIN

**STILLWATER** The post office was established on January 14, 1846 in what was then St. Croix County, Wisconsin Territory. On December 18, 1850 it became the Seat of Washington County in the newly organized Territory of Minnesota. Stillwater is located in the beautiful valley of the St. Croix River and was an important lumber and steamboat center.

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Wabashaw  
May 5<sup>th</sup> /44



**WABASHAW** During the territorial days the name was spelled Wabashaw but sometime before 1875 the Post Office changed the spelling to **WABASHA** - as it is today. The Post Office was established on December 15, 1842 in what was then the Iowa Territory. It was discontinued on July 27, 1844 and then on March 9, 1848 it was re-established as **Nelsons Landing** in what had become the Wisconsin Territory. On January 22, 1850 the name was changed back to **WABASHAW** in the newly formed Minnesota Territory and it became the Seat of Wabasha County.

Its name comes from a hereditary line of Sioux chiefs who bore the name Wapashaw which was corrupted to Wabashaw and finally to WABASHA.

The cover shown above was used on May 5, 1844 when Wabashaw was only a trading post and Indian village. The cover below was used on July 6, 1857 and both covers have the spelling as WABASHAW.



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**ROCHESTER** The Post Office was established on March 9, 1855 and is the Seat of Olmsted County. It was named for the city of Rochester, New York and is the home of the world famous Mayo Clinic.



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ROCHESTER M.T. MAR 17, 1858. Cover bears the Type II postmark.

Little Canada Minn  
 May 21<sup>st</sup>



Little Canada Minn May 21. Post Office was established in Ramsey County on April 17, 1852 and discontinued on April 10, 1876. There is no year date so it may or may not be territorial use.

(No. 8.)

Post Office Department,

CONTRACT OFFICE, July 11 1857.

Sir:

The Postmaster General has changed the  
name of the Post Office heretofore  
called High Island, in the County of  
Sibley, and State of Minnesota,  
to New Auburn and appointed

I Scanlanburg Postmaster.  
It is on mail route No. 1402 from Fairbault  
to Breckinridge

Respectfully, your obedient servant,



POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT,  
Official Business.

Postmaster at

Breckinridge

Davis

Minnesota Ter

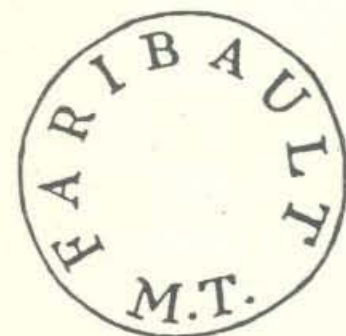
The Minnesota Territory



Type I



**FARIBAULT** During the territorial period the Postmaster used two handstamp cancels as represented by the covers on this page. The one above is Type I, the one below is Type IIa which is the same as Type II without the date in the center.



Type IIa



Type II





MINNEAPOLIS M.T. Post Office established in Hennepin, County on January 7, 1854. Both covers bear the Type II postmark and are prepaid with the stamps of the 1851 issue. No year dates, but likely territorial usage.



The Minnesota Territory



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

*Minneapolis April 1856*

*Dear Cousin*



*W. B. Briggs Esq  
West Kill N.Y.*



**MINNEAPOLIS** The Seat of Hennepin County was founded in 1849 by Col. John H. Stevens. The Post Office was established on January 7, 1854.

The name was compounded from Minnehaha and the Greek word "polis" meaning city.

*come here and preempt 160 acres we furnish  
ing the money to pay for it beside helping to  
build &c. He immediately decided to sell in*

The Minnesota Territory



**MINNEAPOLIS** Two covers addressed to the Minnesota Territory. Origin of the cover shown above is not clear, but on arrival at the Minneapolis Post Office it was canceled and forwarded to Northwood, Minnesota "fwd 3".





VIEW OF MINNEAPOLIS, OPPOSITE ST. ANTHONY, MINNESOTA.

H. J. McLeod  
Minneapolis, May 16, 1862

Dear Cousin -

Minneapolis

May 16/62

I have just finished the job of securing your titles in St Cloud. I got all we bought except 2/3 of one lot, which we shall also get by & by - The bill of expenses I send you, also a statement of our work. I feel pained to be obliged to make these expenses for you, but it is just what I am compelled to do to protect myself and what all here to do who are able. As you will see most of the expenses I have made grow out of the \$200 loan to Boffending and which I sold to Mr. Yennart for St Cloud Lots. The trade turns out to be a good one, one by which you are better off today by \$1500 or \$2000 than you would have been if I had not made it. The Lots in St Cloud are A. No 1 and will increase rapidly in value. It is not too high to say that they are worth \$200 each

The Minnesota Territory

Steamer Equator May 17<sup>th</sup>

Friend Ell

Your letter was duly received some two weeks ago but I have not had time now to answer it until this afternoon and I ought to be in some different business this afternoon but I do not know when I shall get another opportunity to write if I do not improve this one, Well here I am bound out on Salt River Minnesota River

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to  
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ula  
much

Oliver W. Barnes Esq.

**LE SUEUR** The Post Office was established on August 4, 1852 while in Dakota County. Then with the formation of Le Sueur County in 1853, it became the County Seat until it was succeeded by Le Sueur Center in 1876.

The letter shown was written on board the Steamer EQUATOR on May 17, 1857 by the clerk of the boat. They were on their way up the Minnesota River: "We are now started on a trip to the Upper Indian Agency called Red Wood. It is over four hundred miles by river and not quite two hundred miles from St. Paul by land - we have Eighty Soldiers on board and their supplies and the balance of our load is Indian Goods - there are a few ladies on going up for a pleasure trip - we shall do all in our power to please them."

**STEAMER EQUATOR** A side-wheeler of 61 tons. Built at Beaver, Pa. in 1853 for the Upper Mississippi, St. Croix and Minnesota River trade. It was wrecked in a great storm on Lake St. Croix in April of 1858.

up and back, we have eighty soldiers on board and their supplies and the balance of our load is Indian Goods there are a few ladies on going up for a pleasure trip. we shall

The Minnesota Territory

My Dear Sir,

(Dec 8/10 1855)

[Our place has not yet been christened (or named)]

To Mr. Ingraham in  
the letter from  
the 1st of Dec.

I wrote you a long time since, & when I little thought of being here now, but my return journey having been strangely delayed by causes not then fore seen, nor in my power to have prevented altogether had they been foreseen, it has become proper that I should write again, that you may be advised of my whereabouts. - With the circumstances in disease my journey you were

deavoured not to  
suffering, seeking  
up, physical and  
no longer resist  
the disease, yet  
as acquainted to  
a few other per  
son & suffering  
to my sickness I  
had well nigh be

Paid 3 c  
Fairbault No 5  
Dec 13 d

Henry Ingraham Esq

Rockland

Lincoln Co  
Maine

Paid

shaped my health & strength - and at length when the over-whelm-  
ing misfortune came, which stripped me of all my property -  
the earnings of a life time - and, I must confess, at the same

Other  
writing  
in  
margin

Paid 3 c  
Fairbault No 5  
Dec 13 d

FARIBAULT Post Office was established on June 29, 1853 and is the Seat of Rice County. It is named for Alexander Faribault, one of the early fur traders with the Indians.

Physicians in different parts of the country - and they all con-  
-curred in the opinion that medicines alone could do but little good - that  
immediate withdrawal from all professional labours,  
a change of scenes & objects of thought were demanded  
by my case - that a paralysis of the entire left side,  
a general prostration, and apoplexy must be expected

Other  
writing  
in  
margin

The Minnesota Territory



CONCORD, M. T. Post Office was established on August 8, 1856 and discontinued August 31, 1906. No yeardate on the two covers shown. Located in Dodge County.





**PALESTINE MIN SEP 9.** The P.O. was established in Hennepin County on July 18, 1855. The name was changed to **OSSEO** on September 18, 1856, as it is today. Although the name changed, the style and size of the two postmarks shown are very much the same! Dates of usage 1856/1857.

