



Cross Border Mail Between the United States and Canadian Maritime Provinces

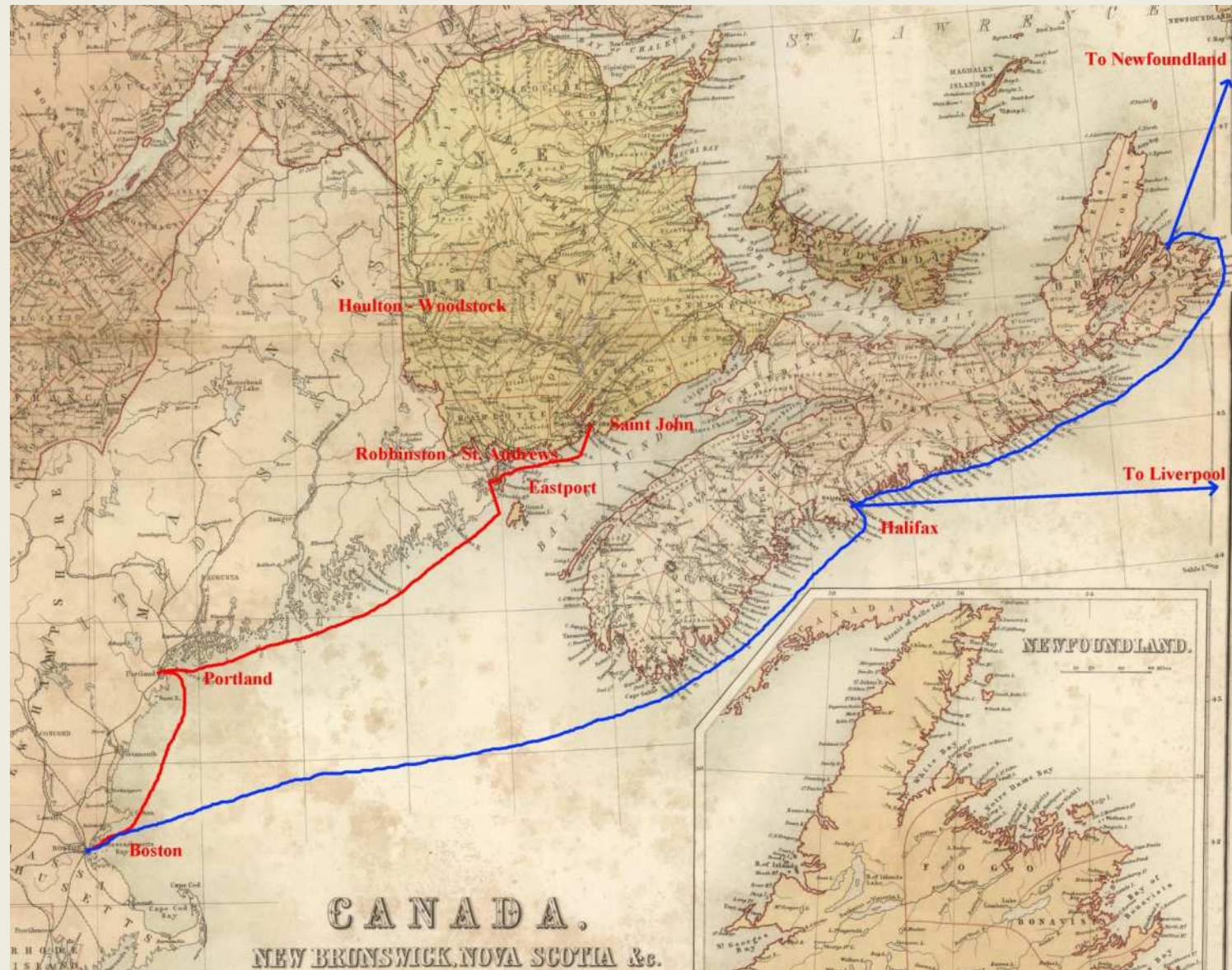
David D'Alessandris

November 5, 2020

Overview of Presentation

- I. Prior to 1817
 - Primarily Ship Mail, limited use of Falmouth Packets
- II. 1817 to 1851
 - Land Route Established, Cunard Line Service, Private Steamboat Expresses
- III. 1851 to Confederation
 - Postal Treaty, USPOD Takes-Over Steamboat Express Business
- IV. Mail to and from Third Countries

The Maritime Provinces



I. Prior to 1817

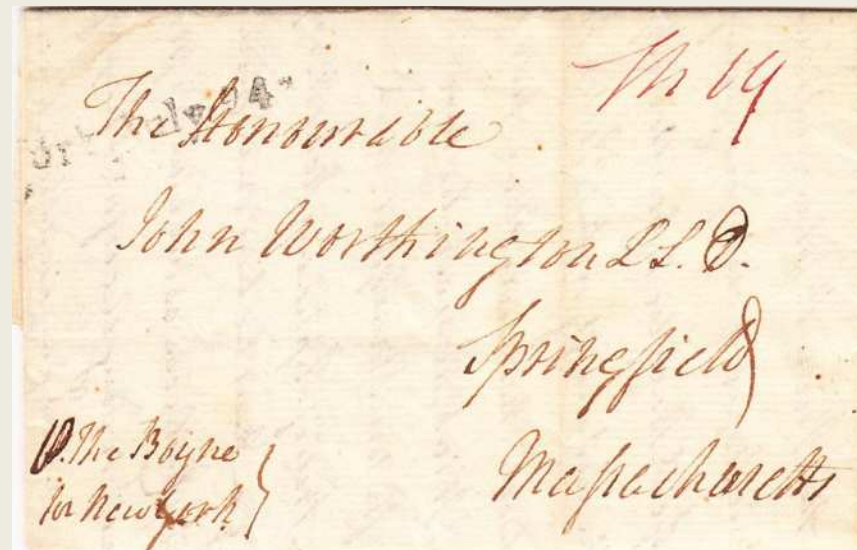
- Ship Letters
- Falmouth Packet
- Carried Out of the Mails
- Mail Interrupted by Revolutionary War
- Mail Interrupted by War of 1812

Ship Letters



Boston

August 5, 1792

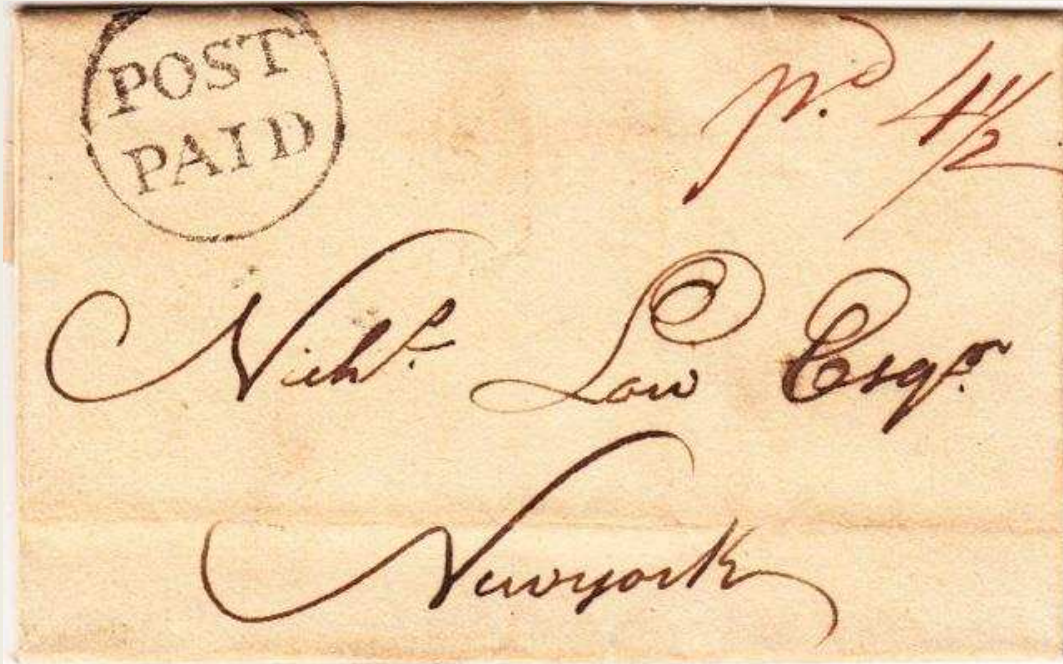


New York

July 24, 1793

- Same correspondence originating in Saint John, NB
- Cover via Boston rated Sh[ip] 14¢ due (10¢ for distance of 61 to 100 miles to Springfield + 4¢ ship fee)
- Cover via New York rated Sh[ip] 19¢ due (15¢ for distance 150 to 200 miles to Springfield + 4¢ ship fee)

Falmouth Packet



Verso (not enlarged)

Halifax

May 6, 1796

- Paid 4½d Nova Scotia Currency [4d sterling]
- Falmouth Packet *Princess Royal* to New York
- Addressed to port of arrival, no US postage assessed

Carried Out of the Mails

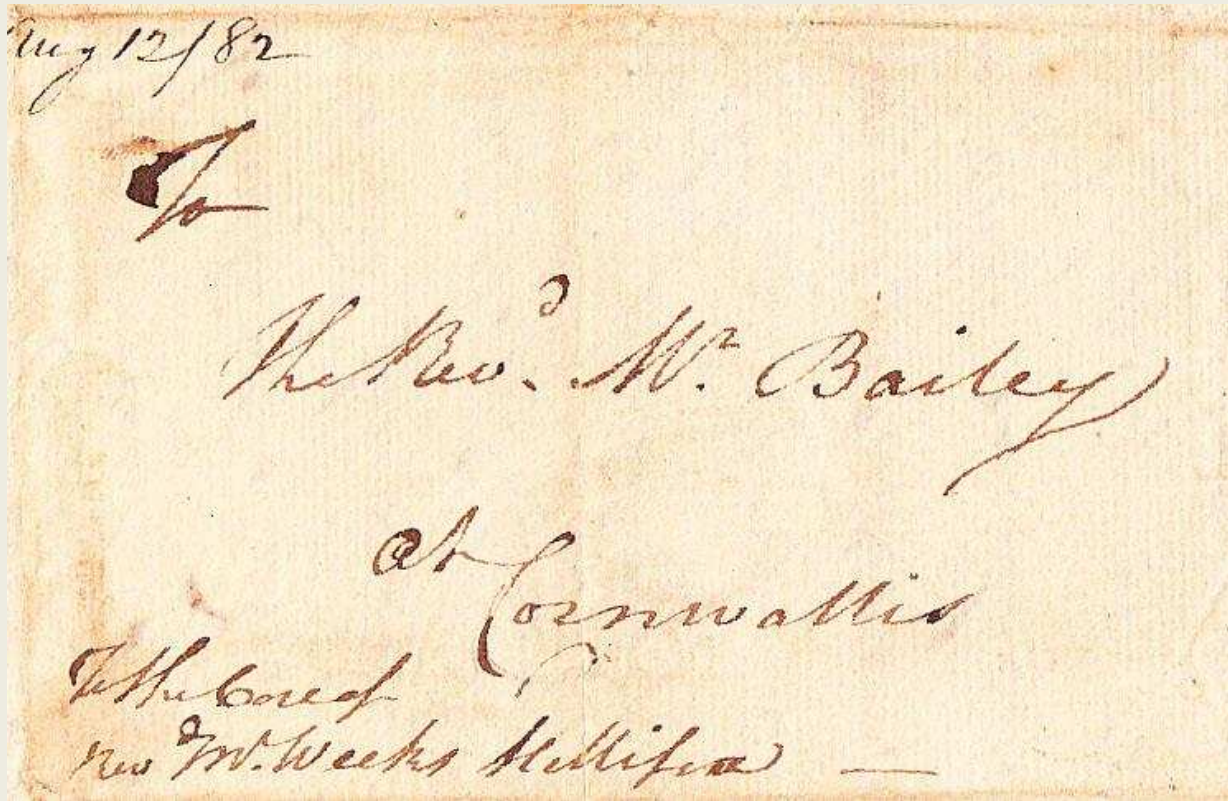


New York

March 6, 1805

- Paid 25¢ for distance over 500 miles
- Robert Pagan likely collected letter at Schoodick, ME (Robbinston) no Post Office in St. Andrews at this time
- Addressee Beverley Robinson was loyalist who lead burning of New London and son of Beverley Robinson allied with Benedict Arnold

Revolutionary War From Occupied New York



New York City dateline

August 12, 1782

- Mails censored during British occupation (letter reports “perfect tranquility” in New York)
- Likely carried by military mail for favor of clergy (c/o Mr. Weeks in Halifax – both Bailey and Weeks were members of Loyalist clergy)

War of 1812 Occupied Castine / Eastport



Saint John, NB

January 10, 1815

- Castine, Maine, January 2, 1815 dateline
- Rated 9d (distance of 101 – 200 miles) to Halifax + 1d local charge



Lubeck, ME

October 14, 1817

- Moose Island, NB (Eastport) October 12, 1817
- Rated 12½¢ (distance of 80 – 150 miles)
- Eastport occupied until July 1818
- American mail routed through Lubeck

II. 1817 - 1851

- First Land Postal Route via Robbinston, ME and St. Andrews, NB
 - Additional Exchange office at Houlton, ME
- Falmouth Packet Replaced by Cunard Line
- Expresses Operate on Boston to Saint John Steamboats

Land Mail

- US Postage to/from Exchange Office plus BNA Postage to/from Exchange Office
- Letters FROM the US
 - US Postage Paid or Unpaid
 - BNA Postage Always Due
- Letters FROM BNA
 - BNA Postage Always Paid
 - US Postage Paid or Due
- BNA Exchange Office Postmasters were deputy US Postmasters

US Postage Unpaid



New Hartford, NY

March 21, 1839

- Postage $18\frac{3}{4}\text{¢}$ due to Robbinston exchange office (150 – 400 mi.) converted to $11\frac{1}{2}\text{d}$ A[merican] P[ostage]
- Additional 9d BNA due from St. Andrews = 1 shilling $8\frac{1}{2}\text{d}$ due (rate should be 7d based on distance)

US Postage Paid to the Lines



Philadelphia, PA

June 20, 1850

- US Postage 10¢ paid to Robbinston exchange office (over 300 miles) (“paid to lines”)
- 11½d BNA due (201 – 300 miles) from St. Andrews exchange office

BNA Postage Paid to the Lines



Amherst, NS

March 21, 1850

- 11½d BNA paid to St. Andrews exchange office (201 – 300 miles)
- US Postage 10¢ due (over 300 miles) from Robbinston exchange office

US Postage Paid from BNA



Fredericton, NB

September 23, 1842

- 7d BNA paid (101 – 200 miles) P[rovincial] P[ostage] to Woodstock exchange office
- US Postage 12½¢ paid (80 to 150 miles) A[merican] P[ostage] from Houlton exchange office

California Mail

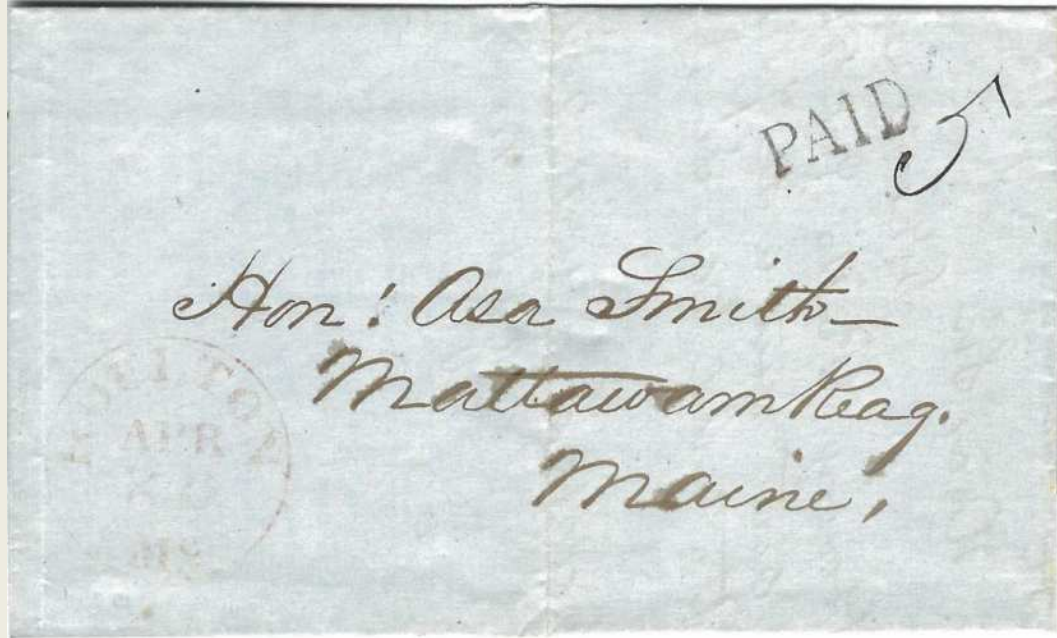


San Francisco, CA

August 1, 1849

- Paid 40¢ to Robbinston exchange office
- BNA Postage 11½d due (201 to 300 miles)
- Received Truro, NS (Sept. 21) – 52 days transit

Mail Originating At BNA Exchange Office



Woodstock, NB

April 27, 1847

- Paid 5¢ for distance under 300 miles to Mattawamkeag, ME (No BNA postage)

Cunard Line

- Liverpool to Boston Sailings Called at Halifax
July 1840- December 1867
- Liverpool to New York Sailings Called at Halifax
January 1848 – September 1850
- US-Halifax Mail Never Covered by Postal Treaty
- US Postage to/from port paid by US
correspondent
- Packet Postage + BNA inland to/from Halifax
paid by BNA correspondent

Cunard Line – Single/Double



Halifax, NS

June 16, 1845

- 1 shilling packet postage due (rated by weight) Halifax to Boston
- 39½¢ due = double 18¾ (rated by number of sheets and distance (150 – 400 miles)) Boston to New York + 2¢ ship fee

Cunard Line



New York

June 29, 1846

- 5¢ U.S. postage (under 300 miles)
New York to Boston
- 1 shilling sterling packet postage due



Philadelphia, PA

January 22, 1850

- 10¢ U.S. postage (overpaid)
Philadelphia to New York
- 4d sterling packet postage due,
marked as 4½d NS currency
- Packet rate reduced Sep. 20, 1849

Cunard Line – Retaliatory Rate



Halifax, NS

August 23, 1848

- 1 shilling packet postage paid
- 24¢ retaliatory charge equal to US Packet Postage plus 5¢ (under 300 miles) to New York

Boston – Saint John, NB Steamboats

- Boston – Portland – Eastport – Saint John
- Early Service Ship / Steamboat Mail
 - *S.S. Royal Tar*
 - *S.S. North America*
- Postal and Package Expresses
 - Hale & Co. / Gunnison's Express
 - Favor's Express

S.S. Royal Tar



Portland, ME

June 24, 1838

- Operated only in 1836
- Saint John, NB origin
- Rated $18\frac{3}{4}\text{¢}$ due based on distance from Eastport, ME to Boston



S.S. North America



Boston dateline

August 7, 1841

- Rated 4½d due as ship letter
- *North America* advertised that it would carry ship letters for 12½¢ (not marked)

FOR EASTPORT, SAINT JOHN, N. B., AND WINDSOR, N. S.

EVERY SATURDAY, AT 8 O'CLOCK, P. M.

The substantial Steam Ship NORTH AMERICA, Captain Mayne, will leave the end of Long Wharf on SATURDAY, at 8 o'clock, P. M., for the above places. She will carry a mail bag, and charge 12½ cents for each single letter.

Persons wishing to send for their friends, can do so by paying their passage here.

Fare to Saint John,..... \$12 and found. " " Lastport,..... \$10 " "

Deck passage half price, not found.

All freight taken on board must be consigned to some House in Saint John, and must be accompanied by Invoice.

For freight or passage apply on board, or to CHARLES R. GIBBONS, Commission Merchant, 69 Long Wharf.

F&Ss

Boston Post, April 17, 1841

Hale & Co. / Gunnison's Express



Bradford, MA dateline

October 26, 1844

- Paid 6¼¢ Hale Independent Mail Stamp
- Carried to Saint John by Gunnison's Express
- 7d due Saint John, NB to Annapolis, NS

**HALE & CO'S
INDEPENDENT MAIL ARRANGEMENT.—**
POSTAGE 6 1-4 CENTS—29 francs for \$1.
 J. W. HALE, Resident Partner, New-York,
 W. B. KIMBALL, Resident Partner, Boston.

The subscriber has been appointed Agent for the above Express at PORTSMOUTH, N. H. and will attend to the transmission and reception of all **LETTERS** that may be entrusted to his care to and from the following places, viz :

Philadelphia,	Norwich,	East Thomaston,
Albany,	Worcester,	Belfast,
New-York,	Boston,	Bucksport,
Rochester,	Lowell,	Frankfort,
Troy,	Topfield,	Hampden,
Buffalo,	Danvers,	Camden,
Utica,	Manchester,	Bangor,
Providence,	Salem,	Eastport,
New Bedford,	Nahant,	Lubec,
Springfield,	Newburyport,	Calais,
Hartford,	Portland,	St. Andrews, N. B.
New-Haven,	West Thomaston,	St. John's, N.B.
Northampton,		

Particular attention to Foreign Letters.
 Office at Brackett Hutchings' store, No. 4 Market-st. Portsmouth.
 July, 1844. **CHARLES E. BLUNT.**

Portsmouth Journal, July 25, 1844

Favor's Express



Boston

July 11, 1850



verso

- Saint John, New Brunswick origin
- Carried by Favor's Express to Boston
- Rated 10¢ due (over 300 miles) Eastport to New York

III. 1851 to Confederation

- Postal Agreement Sets Combined Rate
- Land Mail, Cunard Line Continue
- US Route Agents On Steamboats to Saint John
- Attempts to Establish a Halifax – Boston Mail Treaty Mail Route
- NB & NS Confederate With Canada in 1867
- PEI Joins Canada in 1873

July 6, 1851 Postal Arrangement

- 2¢ / 1d between adjacent exchange offices (rate added in 1852)
- 10¢ / 6d for distance up to 3,000 miles from exchange office
- 15¢ / 9d distance over 3,000 miles (eliminated August 1864 for New Brunswick)
- Paid or Unpaid but partial payment not recognized
- No accounting between countries (each country kept what it collected)
- 6¢ paid / 10¢ unpaid effective 1868

2¢/1d Line Office Rate



Houlton, ME

July 13, 1862

- Paid 2¢ to Woodstock, NB at Line Office Rate

10¢/6d Rate



Philadelphia, PA

December 1861



Andover, NB

August 4, 1855

- Covers paid at the 10¢ / 6d rate for distances up to 3,000 miles from the exchange office

15¢/9d Rate



San Francisco, CA

May 1, circa 1854



Amherst, NS

January 31, 1860

- Covers exchanged at the 15¢ / 9d rate for distances over 3,000 miles from the exchange office

Partial Payment Not Recognized



Philadelphia, PA

May 19, 1856

- Paid 5¢ equal to British Open Mail rate
- Missed May 21 sailing of Cunard Line *America* from Boston
- Sent overland and treated as entirely unpaid, due 10¢



Sherbrooke, NS

May 1855

- Paid 3d / rated 10¢ due
- “all or none”

6¢ Paid / 10¢ Unpaid



Boston

April 18, 1873



Georgetown, PEI

January 29, 1872

- Covers exchanged at the 6¢ paid 10¢ unpaid rate

Printed Matter



Boston

June 19, 1861



Saint John, NB

May 1865

- No combined rate, must be paid to the lines, with circular rate postage collected from recipient.

Cunard Line



New York

October 15, 1861

- Kingston, Jamaica origin
- Paid 5¢ equal to British Open Mail rate
- 5d currency [4d stg.] packet postage due



Antigonish, NS

January 20, 1860

- 5d currency [4d stg.] packet postage + 3d inland paid
- 5¢ due

Boston – Saint John Express Mail

- “Steamboat Letter Carriers” (Route Agents)
 - First appointed in 1845, but only domestic service
 - Most were expressmen that continued to operate package expresses
- In July 1853 service extended to Saint John
- Loose letters handed to steamboat letter carriers on the docks received Express Mail markings

Miss Moffat
 care of Major Wm B Zachary
 Fredericktown
 Va

OCT 21 1862

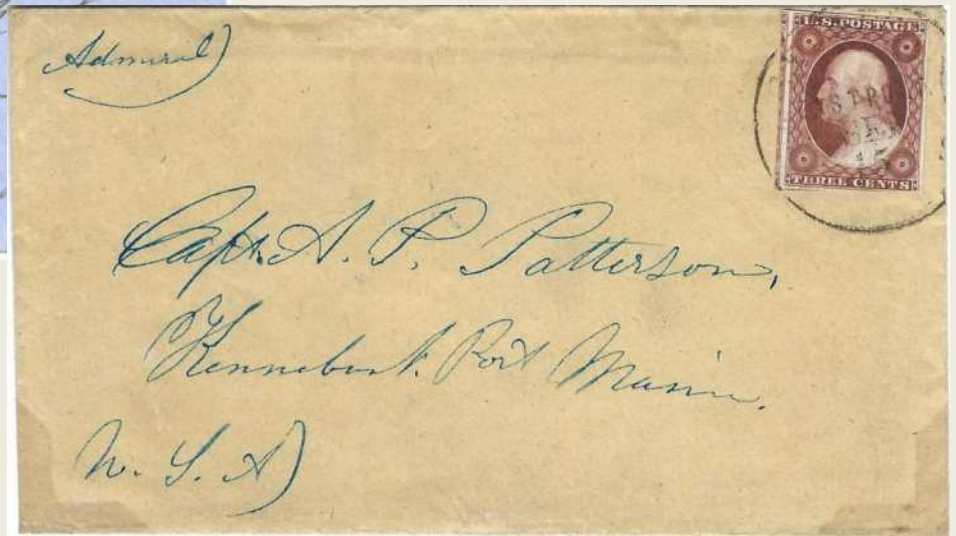
UNITED STATES

PAID

10 CENTS

Admiral
 C. S. M.

October 30, 1855



September 15, 1856

- Saint John dateline
- Enters mails at Eastport so paid 3¢

U.S. Express Mail St. John



verso

U.S. Express Mail Saint John, NB

May 26, 1856

- Loose letter handed to USPOD route agent at dock in New Brunswick
- Favor's Express Steamer Admiral, route agent marking on back

Halifax – Boston Treaty Mails

- Cunard service not covered by postal treaty, so there were attempts to provide treaty service
- *Sir John Harvey*
 - 3 contract sailings in 1853
 - 4 covers recorded
- Boston and Colonial Steamship
 - Service initiated in 1864
 - Boston – Halifax – Strait of Canso – Charlottetown, PEI

Sir John Harvey



Halifax

February 15, 1853

FOR HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA,
The new and splendid steamship **SIR JOHN HARVEY**, built expressly for this Line, and furnished in elegant style for the accommodation of passengers, will leave the end of Long wharf, Boston, for Halifax, every **SATURDAY** at 3 P.M., and leave Halifax every **TUESDAY** at 3 P.M. for Boston.

Shippers are particularly requested to send Bills of Lading with their goods in all cases, and no freight taken after 3 o'clock on the day of leaving. For further information, apply to **CLARK, JONES & CO.** Fort Hill wharf, Boston; and **B. WIER & CO.** Halifax; or to the Captain on board.

jy30 Cabin passage, \$10; Second Cabin do, \$5.

- Three contract sailings, one of four recorded covers
- Nova Scotia “scroll” exchange office marking

Boston & Colonial Steamship



New York

August 6, 1865

- Endorsed “p Steamer Commerce from Boston”
- Boston was not listed as exchanging mail with Halifax in PL&R



IV. Mail To/From Third Countries

- BNA Mail
 - Canada
 - Closed Mail via Boston (Cunard Line)
 - Closed Mail via Portland (Boston-St. John Steamboats)
 - Red River Colony
 - British Columbia / Vancouver Island
 - Newfoundland
- Non-BNA
 - Great Britain
 - St. Pierre et Miquelon
 - Hawaii
 - Puerto Rico

Closed Mail via Boston



Halifax

December 27, 1858



Montreal, CE

June 3, 1867

- Rate was 4d stg. packet + 2d stg. inland = $7\frac{1}{2}$ d currency = $12\frac{1}{2}$ ¢
- (no US postage)

Closed Mail via Portland



Halifax

May 13, 1856

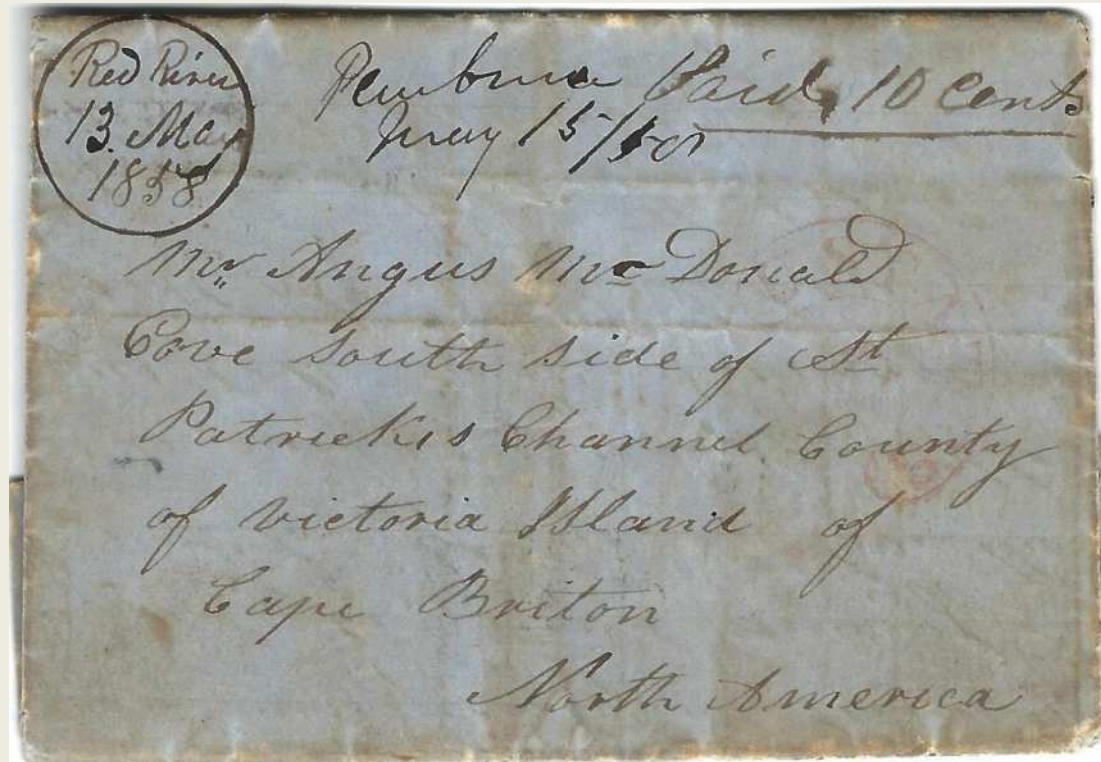


Quebec, CE

July 19, 1866

- Charged ordinary BNA domestic rate of 3d / 5¢ (no US postage)

Red River Settlement



Red River Settlement

May 13, 1858

- Red River Settlement [now Winnipeg, MB], paid 1d [2¢] to Pembina
- Paid 10¢ treaty rate Pembina to Victoria Island, NS

British Columbia & Vancouver Island

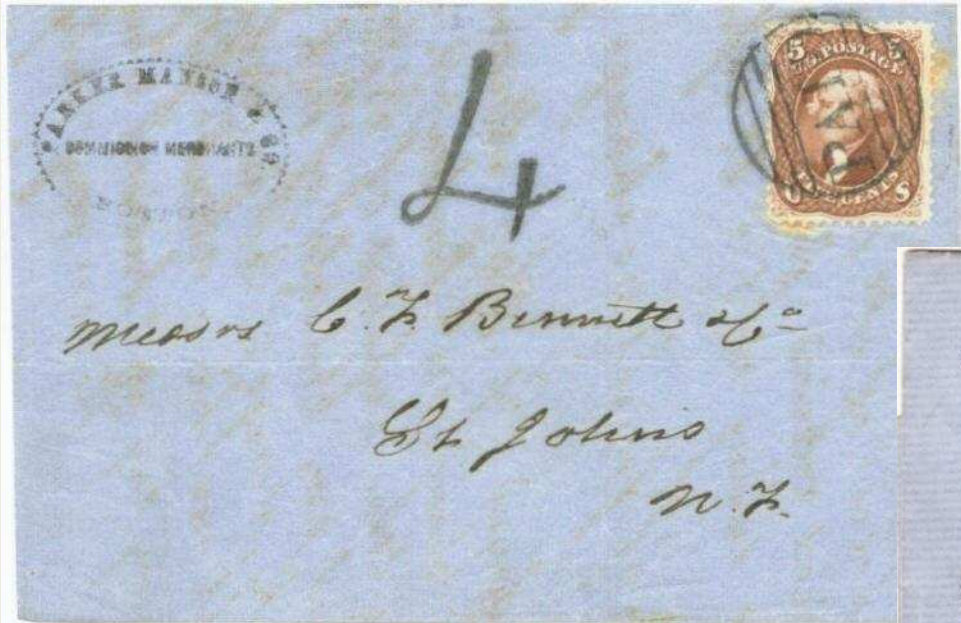


San Francisco

February 8, 1861

- 2½p BC&VI pays postage to San Francisco
- 15¢ US postage (applied in BC) to Halifax, NS

Newfoundland



Boston

June 1863



St. Johns, NL

February 29, 1860

- 4d stg. packet postage paid by BNA correspondent
- 5¢ paid by US correspondent

Great Britain via US



Oxford, GB

April 1854



Saint John, NB

March 11, 1859

- By Cunard Line via New York
- Rate was additional 2d stg. if sent via the United States
- 1 s 5½ d cy. [1/2 stg.] until August 1854 when reduced to 10d cy. [8d stg.]

Saint Pierre et Miquelon



New York

June 29, 1858

- paid 5¢ equal to British Open Mail rate
- 10d packet postage due Boston to North Sydney, CB
- 10d = 1 Fr. due, plus 25 centimes for French packet



Saint Pierre

August 24, 1865

- Carried by French packet to North Sydney, CB [likely paid 25 ct]
- 10¢ treaty rate to Boston
- Nova Scotia stamps likely applied in Saint Pierre

Hawaii



Honolulu, Hawaii

December 15, 1866

- 5¢ Hawaii postage to San Francisco
- 15¢ US postage overpays the 10¢ rate to New Brunswick plus 2¢ ship letter fee

Puerto Rico



San Juan, Porto Rico

March 26, 1865

- paid 1 shilling per RMSP to St. Thomas and then Cunard Line from St. Thomas to Halifax
- 10¢ US postage to Boston