

UNITED STATES INTERVENTION IN MEXICO: 1846-1848

(MEXICAN-AMERICAN WAR)

MARK BANCHIK

AS RECEIVED BY

THE EXHIBITION PHOTOCOPY COMMITTEE

OF THE

U.S. PHILATELIC CLASSICS SOCIETY, INC.

JUNE 2006

UNITED STATES INTERVENTION IN MEXICO: 1846 - 1848

(MEXICAN - AMERICAN WAR)

Purpose: Demonstrate development and function of mail services in and around areas of military activity during the Mexican American War period. United States, Mexican, and British Agency material will be used to explore how mail services evolved in response to continuously changing needs.

Evolution and development of United States provisional agencies at *Point Isabel, Brazos, Tampico* and *Vera Cruz* is presented. Examples of relevant markings (including many earliest & latest known dates), mail to and from military, commercial activity, and co-existing Mexican, British and Spanish services illustrate the story of the mail service during this period.

Background: Military activity began early 1846, with General Zachary Taylor's march to the Rio Grande (Rio Bravo del Norte), along with concurrent Naval blockade of Mexico's Gulf and Pacific ports. Taylor's forces then continued through Northern Mexico until early 1847 and the Battle of *Buena Vista*. A small group detached itself southeast towards *Tampico* during December 1846 - January 1847. Other U.S. forces went via *New Mexico* to *California* and *Chihuahua* with some rejoining Taylor at *Buena Vista*.

General Winfield Scott began forming his invasion force early 1847 to take *Vera Cruz* and *Mexico City* using a combination of Taylor's experienced troops and new recruits. Landing at *Vera Cruz*, the march to *Mexico City* occupied March through July 1847. Intermittent Naval activity also took place at Pacific ports, such as *Mazatlan*.

Material is presented in sequence corresponding to historical and military events. Specialized postal mark and rate studies are included where offices with unique markings were established.

Order Of Exhibit:

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| Frame(s): 1 | <u>NORTHERN CAMPAIGN (TAYLOR)</u>
Forerunners – Recruitment, Troop Training, Texas, and Journey to Mexico
Point Isabel and Brazos Marking study |
| 2, 3 | Postal Activity by “ Order of Battle ”
<i>Brownsville, Matamoros; Reynosa; Camargo; Mier; Monterrey, Saltillo, Monclova; Parras; Saltillo; Buena Vista, 1848 Retreat and Zacatecas</i> |
| 4 | <u>WESTERN/PACIFIC EXPEDITIONS</u>
<i>New Mexico, California, Chihuahua, and Military Government</i>
<i>Mazatlan - Blockade (1846) and Occupation (1848)</i> |
| 5 | <u>TAMAULIPAS EXPEDITION/TAMPICO</u>
<i>British Postal Agencies, Spanish Mails</i>
<u>GULF COAST/TABASCO</u> |
| 6 | <u>CENTRAL CAMPAIGN (SCOTT)</u>
Journey to and Occupation of Vera Cruz; Specialized Marking Study |
| 7, 8 | Postal activity by “ Order of Battle ” (date of initial military activity)
Outbound, inbound, official documents (field press), U.S. and Mexican mails
<i>Jalapa; Perote; Puebla; Rio Frio; Mexico City, Toluca, Cuernavaca</i>
British Postal Agency, Continuing commercial activity
End of Occupation/Retaliatory Rates from <i>Tampico & Vera Cruz</i> |

Note: Condition is variable - especially on inbound items to military serving in Mexico due to rough conditions, extended distances and lack of storage space.

Lithographed Bounty Letter Sent To Postmasters

After having been abolished in 1833, Congressional Bounties to raise and re-enlist men were resumed in 1847 for the Mexican War. "There may be many persons in your neighborhood whose facilities for information are limited and whose only means for obtaining a knowledge of their just rights will be through this medium ..." That the postmaster may conduct such an agency postage free to him is emphasized in two places.

Private

Dr Sir.

Enclosed please find our Circular containing the late Law of Congress, granting Bounty Lands for services in the late wars. You will confer an especial favor on us, by posting it in a conspicuous place in your Post Office, that it may meet the eyes of those included in the provisions of the Act.

There may be many persons in your neighborhood, whose facilities for information are limited, and whose only means of obtaining a knowledge of their just rights, will be through this medium. Will you call their attention to our Advertisement?

We would respectfully suggest, that if you will exert yourself to obtain for us, the Agency of such Claims coming under your notice, have the papers prepared according to the accompanying Instructions, duly authenticated, and mailed to our address, under your official frank, all such cases shall have our immediate and personal attention before the Departments, by which arrangement, the Bounty can be obtained much sooner, than can possibly be effected by any other medium.

And for each and every case reaching us, through your aid and influence, we will allow you Fifty per cent. Commission on the amount of fees received. The warrant when issued we mail to you, and from your hands the owner receives it on payment of our fee. You then deduct your Commission and remit us the remainder when requested. The fees for obtaining a warrant for 160 Acres, is ten dollars, and for an 80 or 40 Acre warrant, five dollars.

You will observe with the Instructions, a joint Power of Attorney. The blank immediately preceding our name should be filled up with yours, authorizing yourself and us, to act for the Claimants, jointly.

Postmasters, and others, having balances due them by the Departments, can have the same collected and forwarded, by sending us a statement of their demands.

Your personal interest in this, makes it postage free to you. Hoping it may meet your views, and secure your co-operation,

We remain Respectfully Yours.

To the Postmaster,

Sam^l M Knight.
Chas. Tucker.

PRELUDE TO WAR

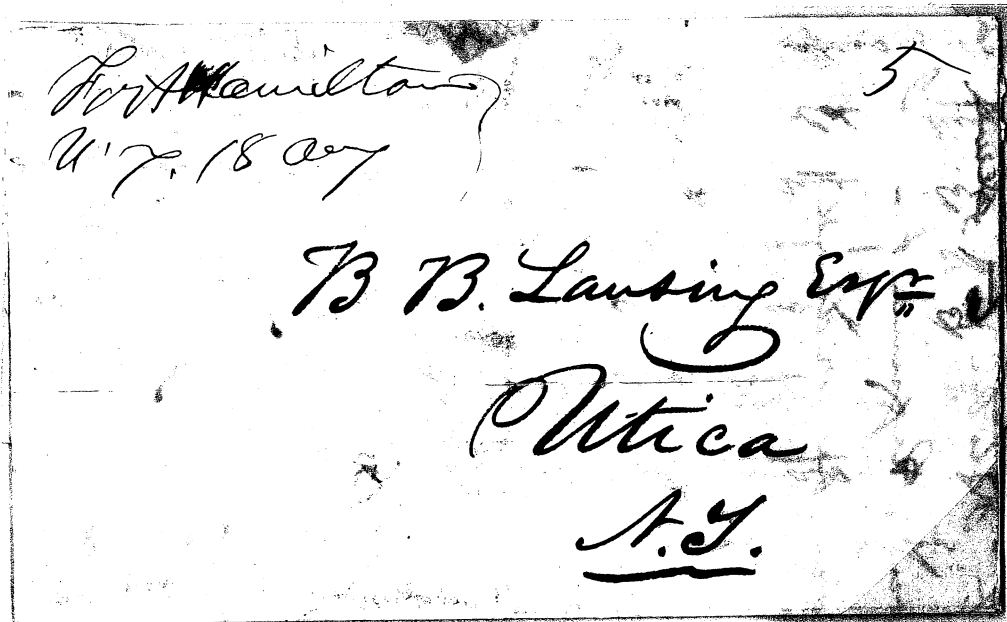
INITIAL DEPLOYMENT

Discord between the United States and Mexico increased with advancing 'Anglo' settlement in Texas. Once Texas achieved U.S. statehood, military conflict between the two countries seemed unavoidable. As tensions rose, President Polk ordered General Zachary Taylor to mobilize a military force for Texas, arriving off Corpus Christi on 26 July 1845.

Fort Hamilton, NY
16 August 1845

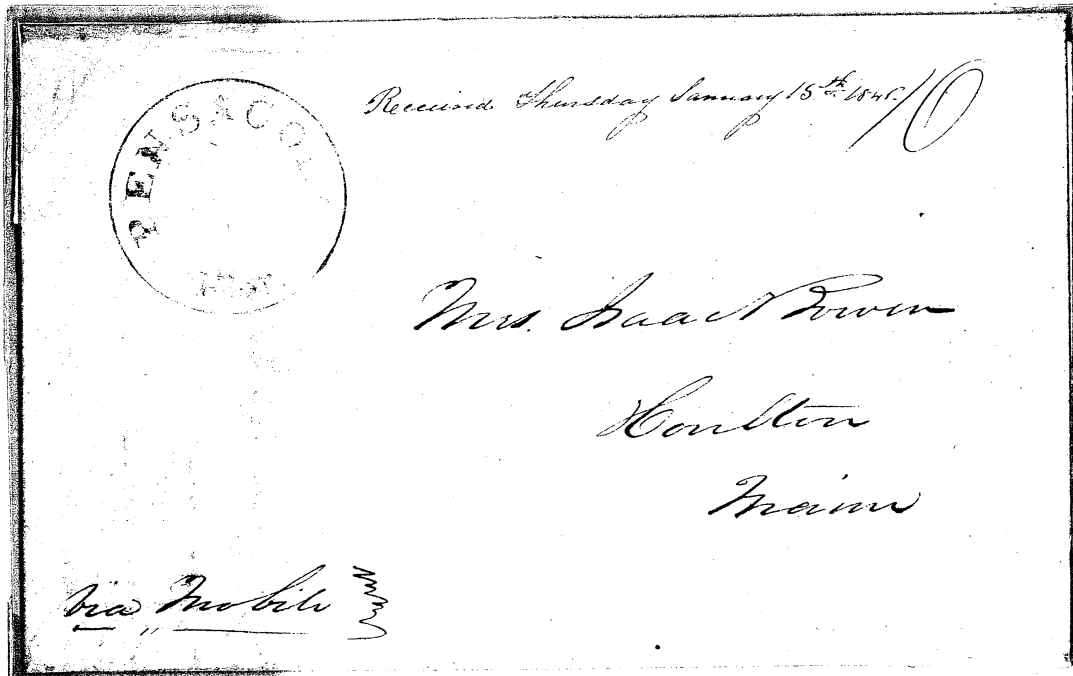
5c <300 mile rate

5c <300 miles
10c >300 miles
(Rates effective
1 July 1845)



"The light company of artillery at Fort Hamilton has been ordered to Texas."

Naval forces based at Pensacola under Commander Conner shifted to Galveston, and began patrolling the Mexican Gulf coast late 1845/early 1846.

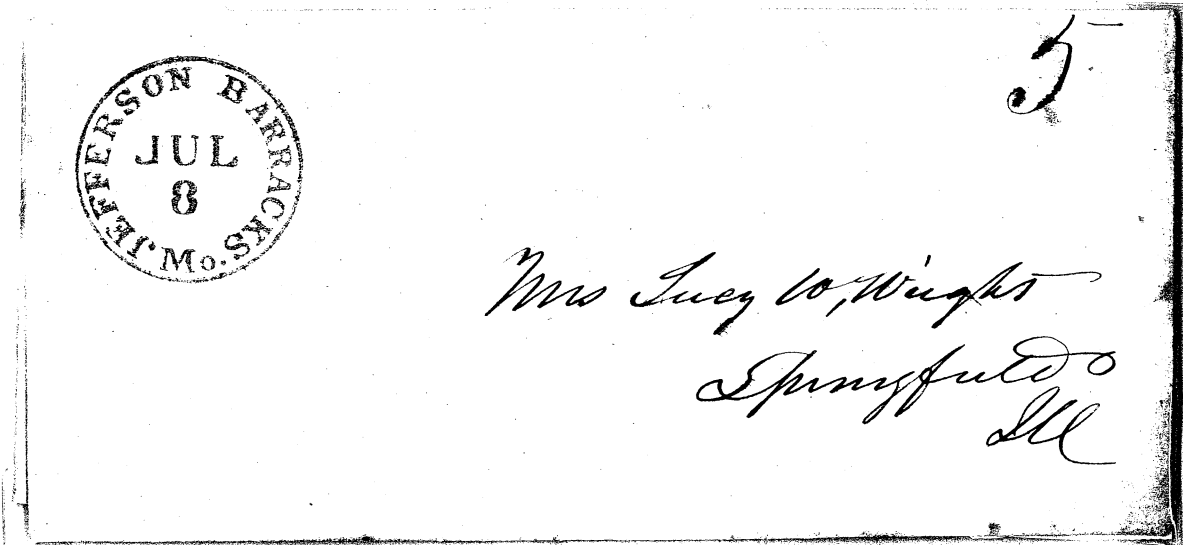


Pensacola, Florida
28 December 1845

Via Mobile

10c >300 mile rate

Initial 12 month volunteers called out under Act of May 13th, 1846.
Many were from the midwestern states of Illinois, Indiana and Kentucky



Jefferson Barracks Missouri, 8 July 1846
Green CDS
5c (collect) for <300 miles



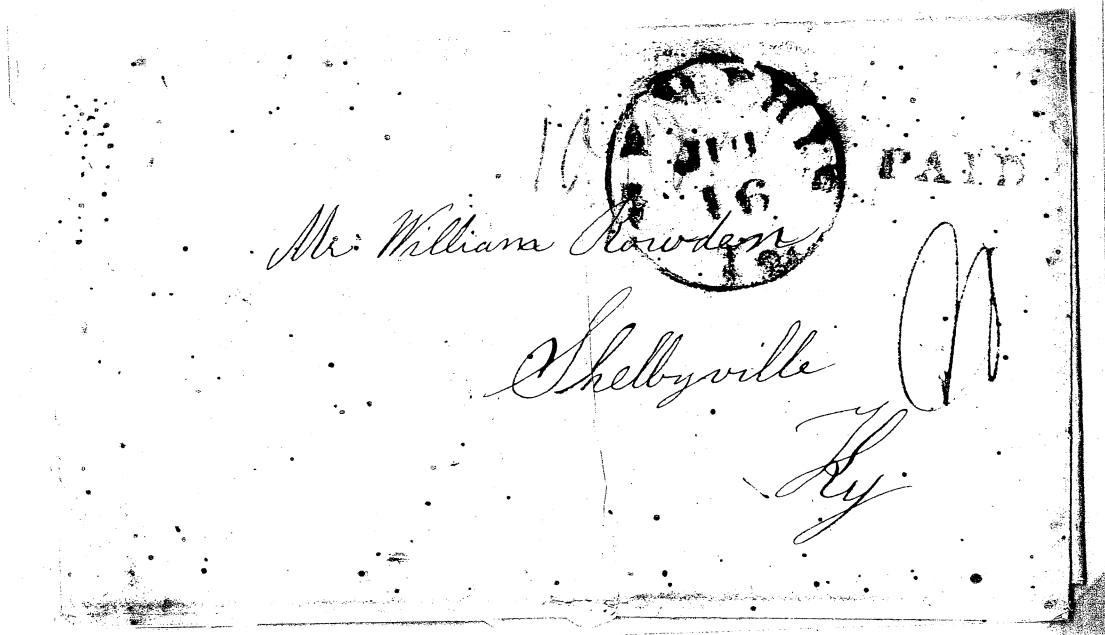
Jefferson Barracks, 27 October 1846
Black CDS
10c (collect) for >300 miles
Corrected to 5c for <300 miles + 2c 'ADVERTISED NOV' = 7c

Postal clerks were not always certain of official distances between offices

PRELUDE TO WAR

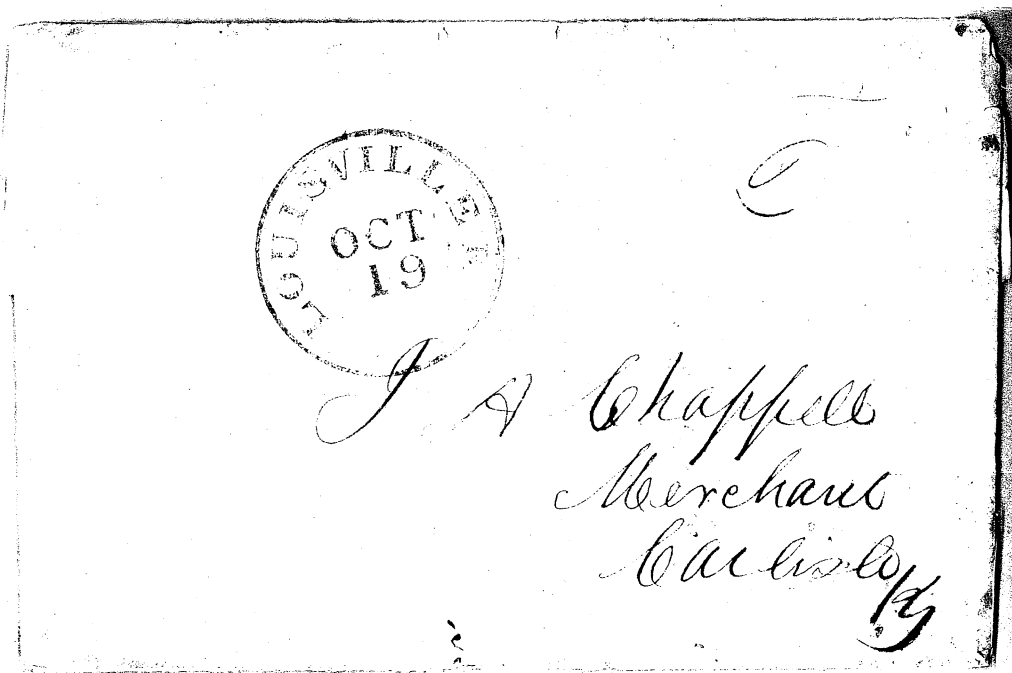
TROOP TRAINING

Initial 12 month volunteers called out under Act of May 13th, 1846.
Many were from the midwestern states of Illinois, Indiana and Kentucky



Camp near Little Rock, 15 July 1846
Memphis, 16 July 1846
20c (PAID) for >300 miles, double weight
Prepayment not required, not commonly done as there was no assurance letter would actually arrive at destination

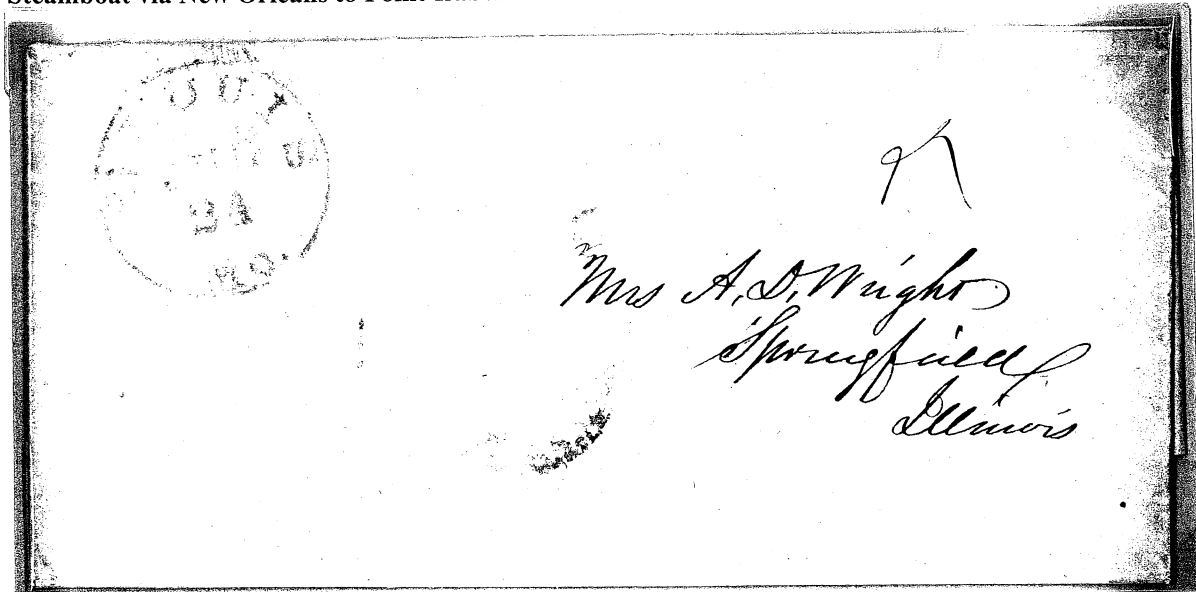
Additional recruits were needed to replace those not re-enlisting after first year



Camp Butler (Kentucky), 17 October 1847
Louisville, 19 October 1847
5c (collect) for <300 miles

Replacement troops for those not re-enlisting, or lost to injury and disease

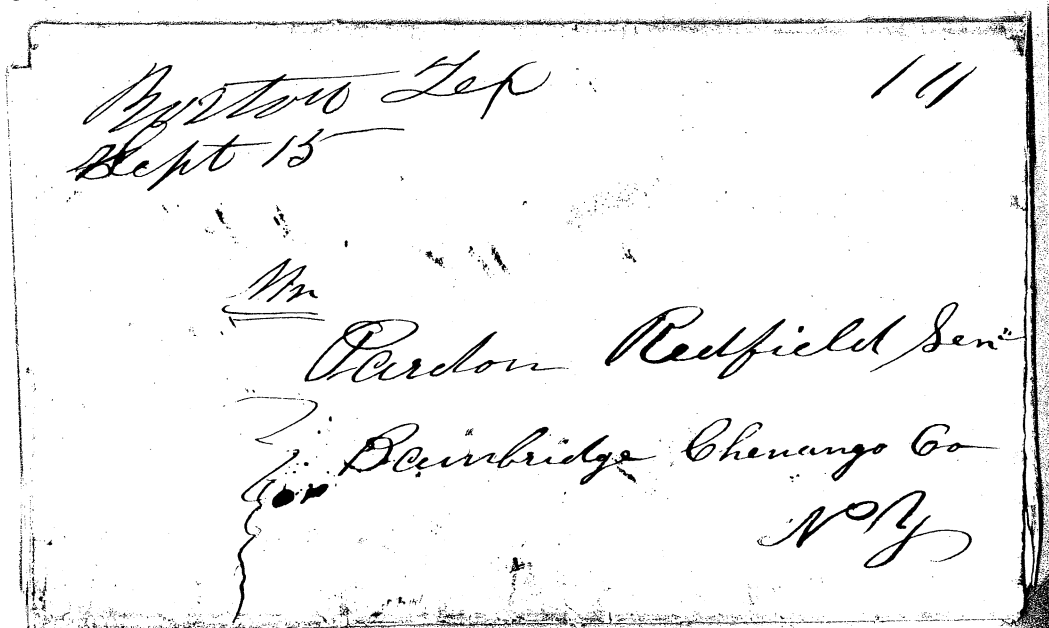
Steamboat via New Orleans to Point Isabel



Jefferson Barracks, 22 July 1846
 St. Louis, 24 July 1846
 5c (collect); <300 miles

Departed 23 July for New Orleans, estimated journey to Point Isabel 12 days

Overland march across Texas



Morisville, Buioe Co. (sic) Texas, 14 August 1846
 (Ms) Boston Tex, 15 September 1846
 10c (collect)

Describes journey to Mexico; anticipates 20 day march to San Antonio at 20 miles per day

PRELUDE TO WAR

TROOP ASSEMBLY/TRAINING

As diplomacy faltered in mid 1845, Taylor was ordered to set up a base camp in Texas at Corpus Christi. Naval units were also ordered to patrol the Texas/Mexican Gulf coast

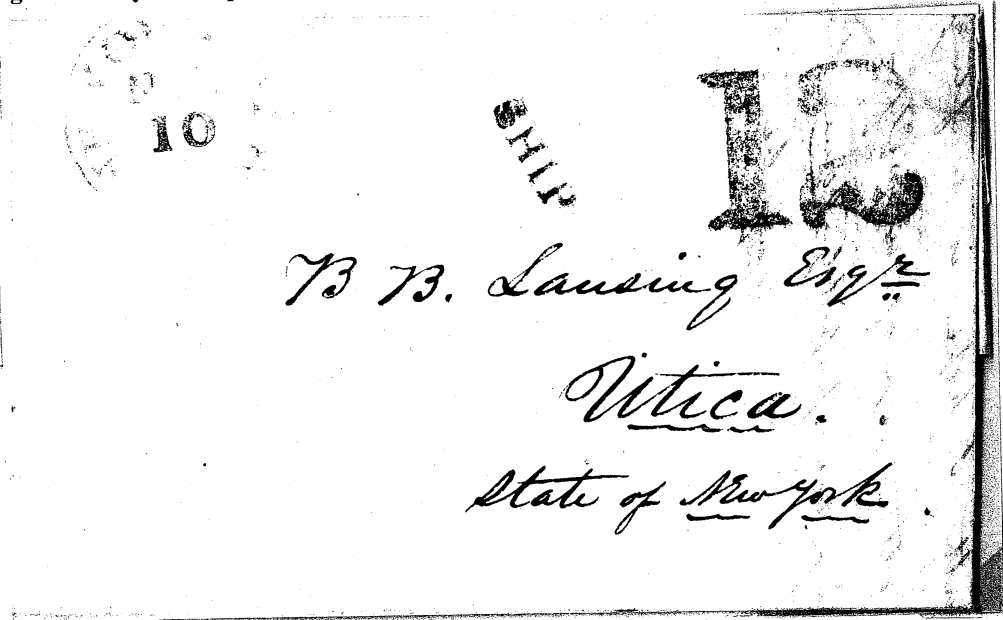
Regular Army at Corpus Christi, Texas

Camp at Corpus Christi
~1 November 1845

Via New Orleans
10 November 1845

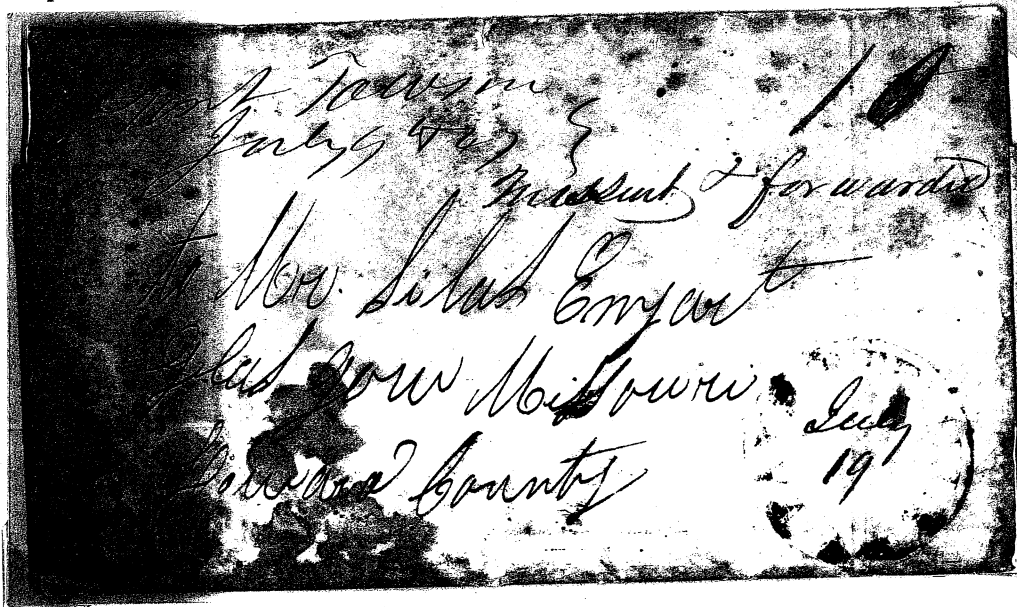
10c for >300 miles
2c ship letter
12c due

"We are hutted here for the winter, ... all talk of war is ended...."



Replacement troops for the "1846" group completing their 1 year term of enlistment mid 1847 needed to be enlisted, trained, and transported to the war zone.

Replacement Troops training in Indian Territory



Fort Towson
(Choctaw Nation/
Indian Territory)
9 July 1847

"Missent & forwarded"
Fayetteville
19 July 1847

'5' manuscript
'10' overwritten

Rerated from
5c <300 mile rate to
10c >300 mile rate

Arkansas Volunteers about to depart (overland) for San Antonio
Name changed from Fort Towson to Doaksville 11 November 1847

RATES

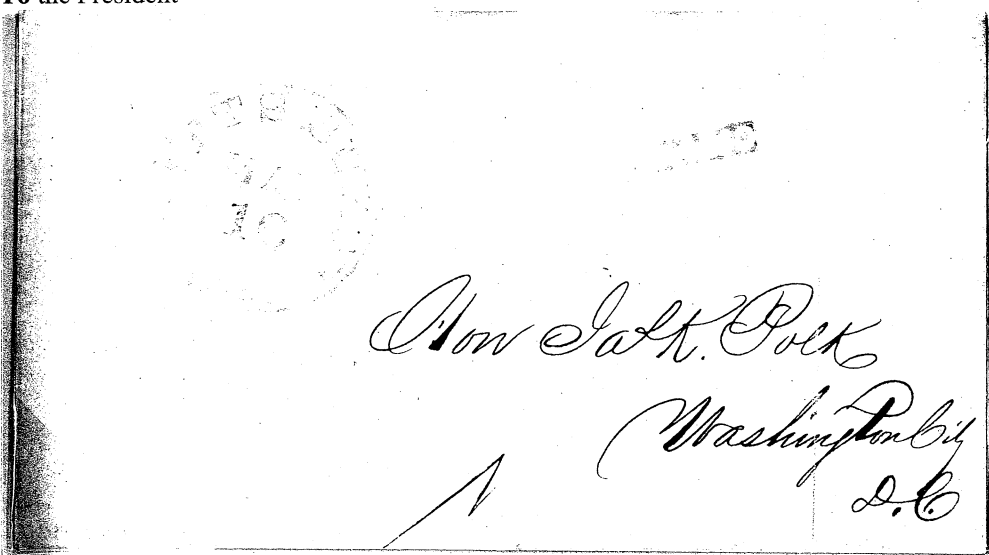
PRESIDENTIAL FREE FRANK

Mail addressed To and From the President of the United States carried without payment of postage

To the President

Pittsburgh, Pa
10 March 1847

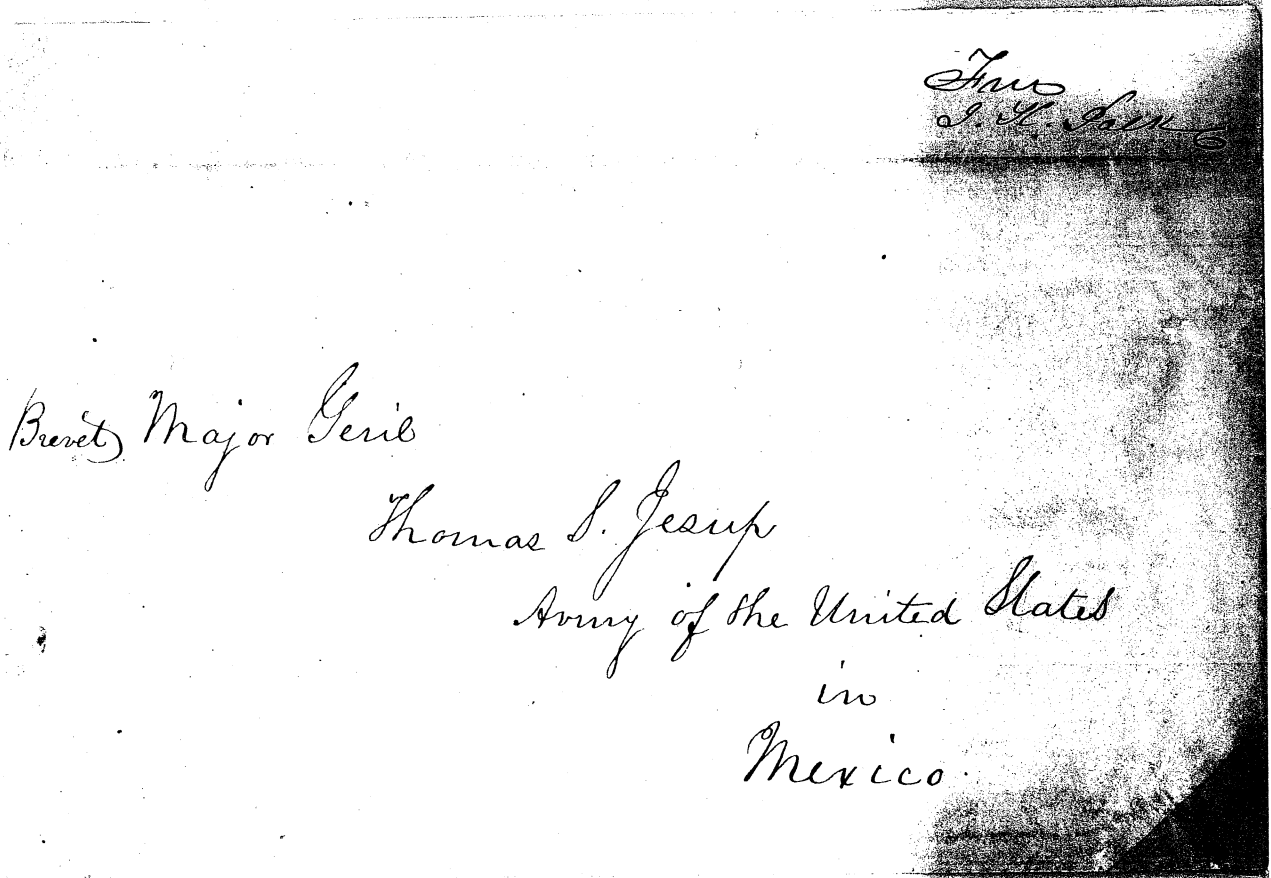
"FREE"



J.(ames) K. Polk
Manuscript Free Frank

From the President

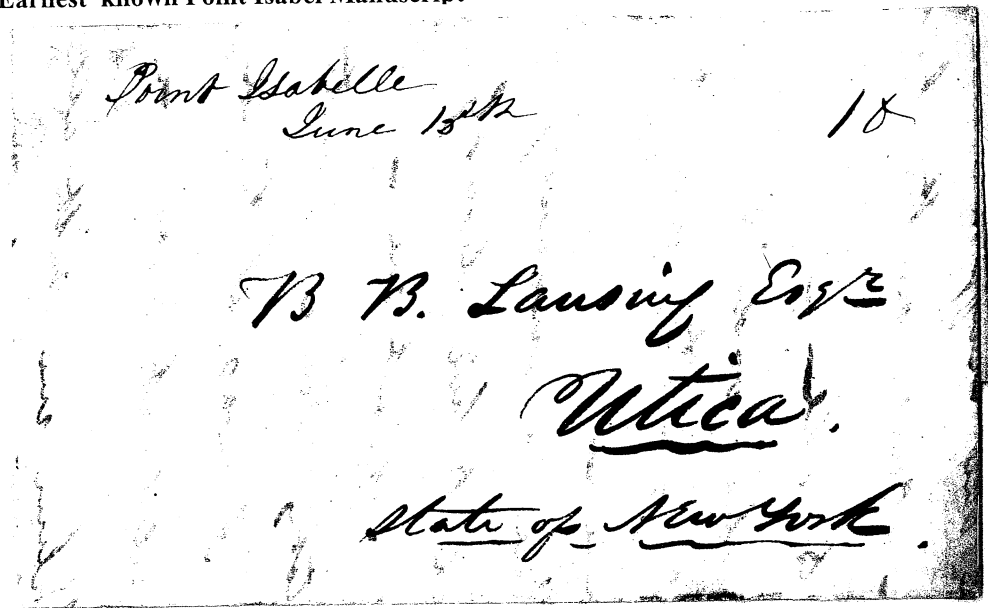
(Washington, D.C.)
8 December 1846



Army Quartermaster General Thomas S. Jesup inspected situation in Northern Mexico late 1846

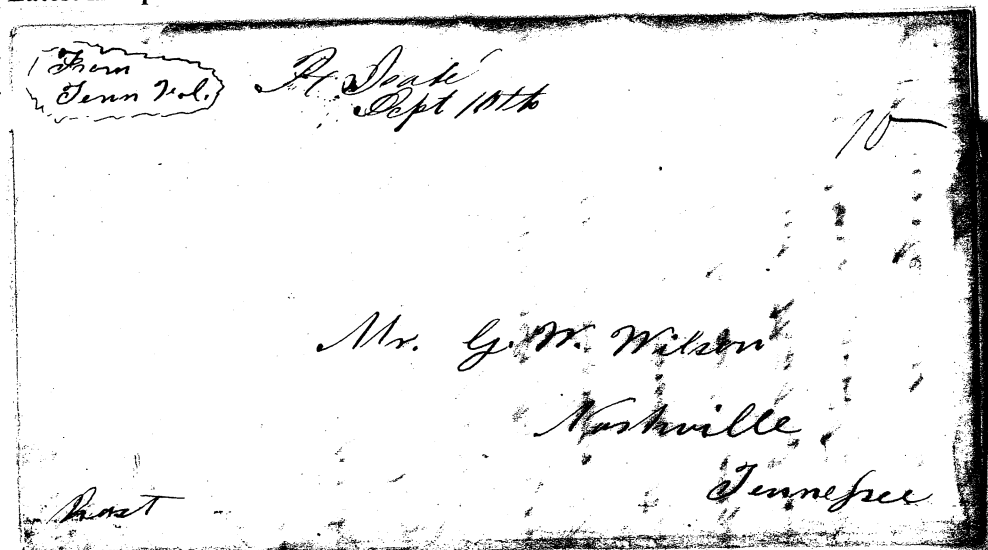
First Provisional Post Office Established July 1846 at Point Isabel
Mails lightered aboard ship, entered mail stream at New Orleans

Earliest known Point Isabel Manuscript



Fort Brown, 10 June 1846
Point Isabelle (sic) , 15 June 1846
10c (collect) for >300 miles

Latest first period Point Isabel Manuscript



Camp near Camargo, 2 September 1846
via River Steamer to
Point Isabel , 10 September 1846

First Point Isabel manuscript period from 15 June through 10 September 1846.

Additional manuscript period from 24 October through 5 November 1846 while waiting for replacement of Type I with Type II Point Isabel handstamp.

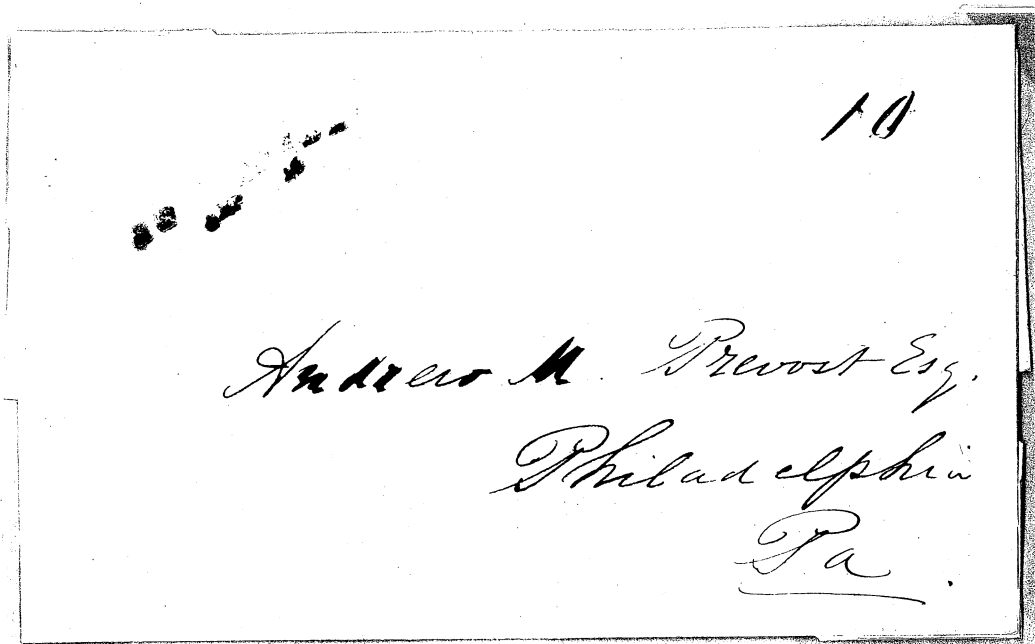
POINT ISABEL

TYPE I HANDSTAMP

Earliest and Latest known usages

Camargo, 11 & 12
September 1846

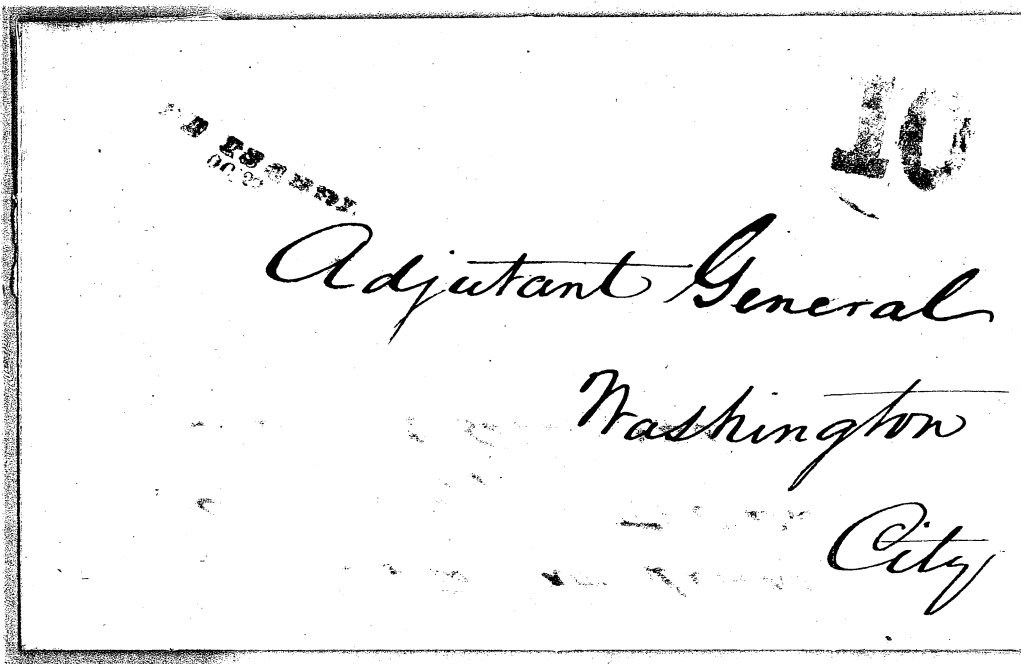
Point Isabel
16 September 1846



First Point Isabel handstamp device in use for only about 3 weeks. Removed from service due to rapid degradation. Most examples very indistinct with illegible dates. Fewer than 10 examples known.

Camp Belknap
12 October 1846

Point Isabel
22 October 1846



Earliest known
Example of '10'
(cent) Ratemark
in war zone

10c (collect)
>300 Mile
rate as of
3 March 1845

POINT ISABEL CANCELLATIONS

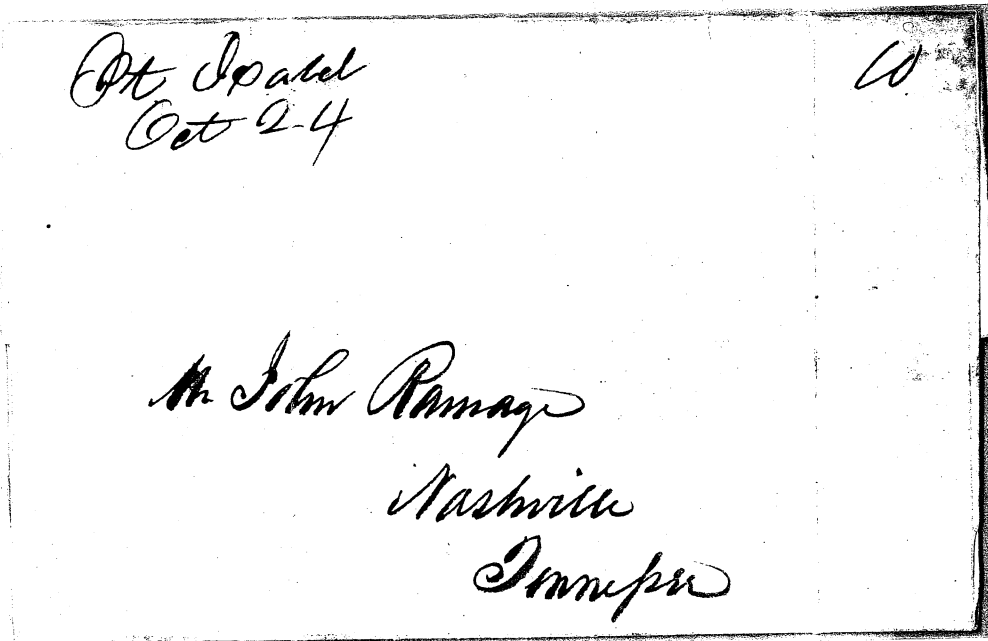
<u>TYPE</u>	<u>PERIOD OF USE</u>
Manuscript Period I.	15 June - 10 September 1846
Handstamp I	16 September - 22 October 1846
Manuscript Period II	24 October - 5 November 1846
Handstamp II	6 November - 19 December 1846
Handstamp III*	25 December 1846 - 24 March 1847

*Most frequently encountered type

Second Manuscript (Inter Handstamp I & II) Period: 24 October-5 November 1846

Camargo
15 October 1848

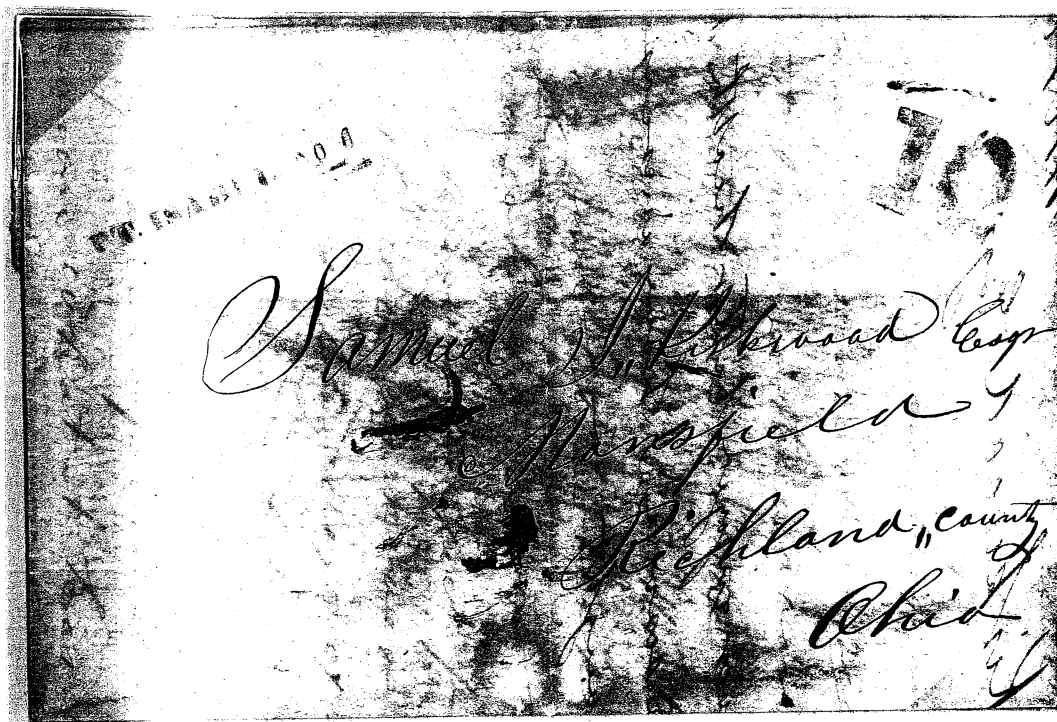
Point Isabel
24 October 1846



Type II Point Isabel Handstamp

6 November– 19 December 1846

Large '10' ratestamp associated with this marking, most examples are poorly struck and illegible.



Camargo
30 October 1846

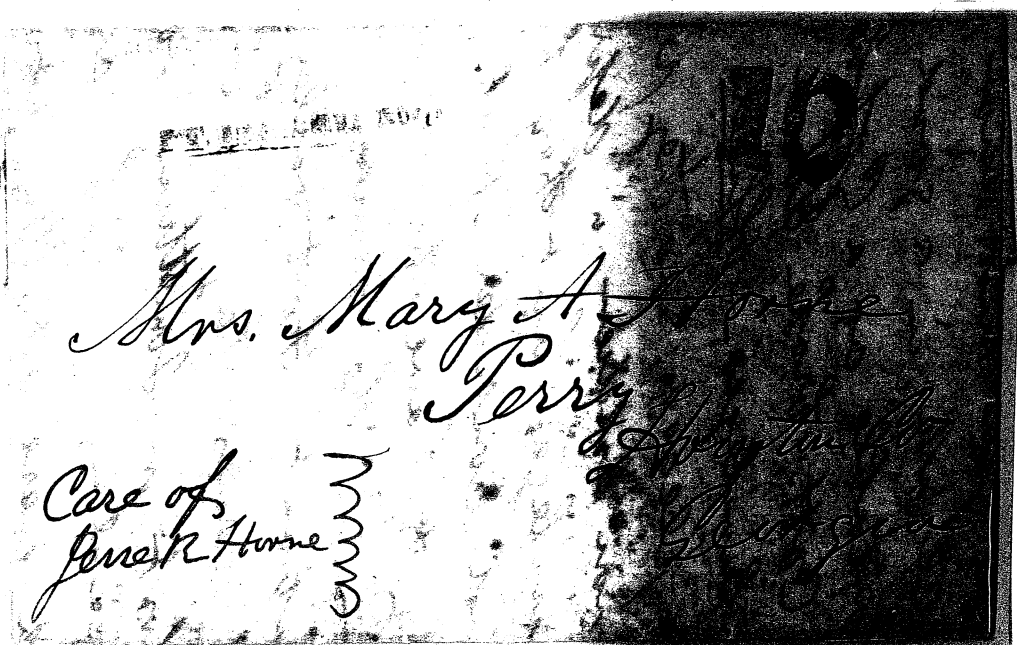
Point Isabel
6 November 1846

Via river steamer from Camargo to Point Isabel (60 miles by road, 120 miles via River)

PT ISABEL No 26

Point Isabel Type II Handstamp
6 November – 19 December 1846

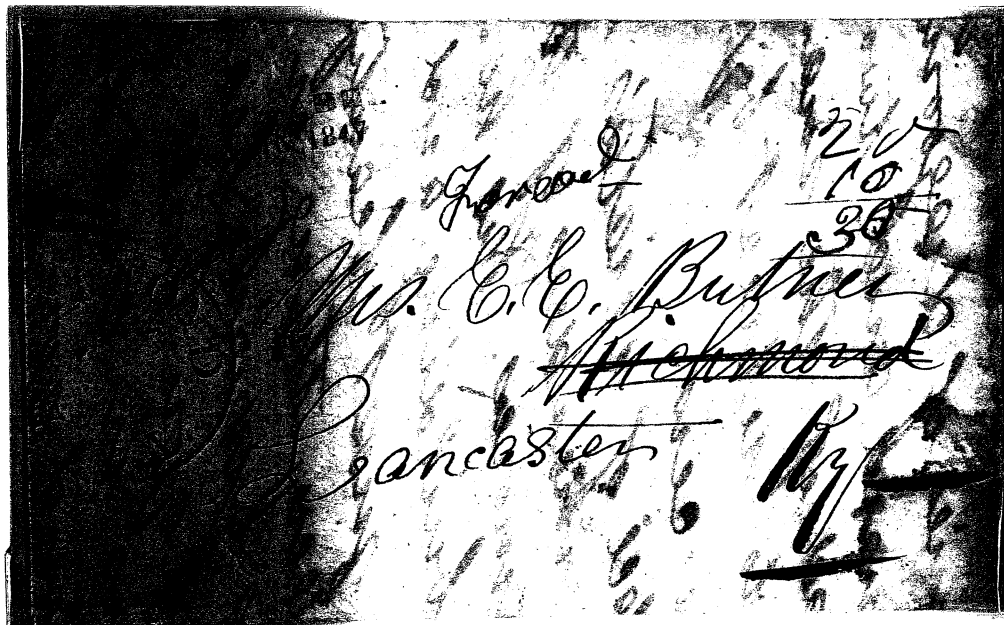
Monterrey, 13 November 1846
Point Isabel, 26 November 1846
Large "10" Ratestamp



Manuscript and Large '10'
Ratemarks used during time
period for this Handstamp

Type III Point Isabel Handstamp
25 December 1846 – 24 March 1847

**P'T. ISABEL
JAN. 16. 1847**



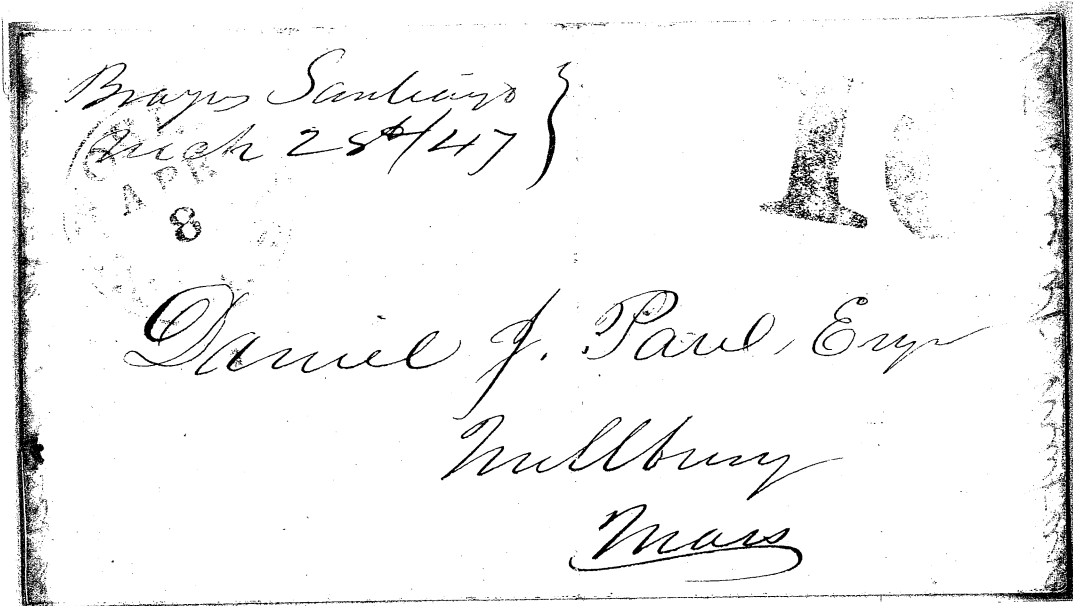
Monterrey, 5 January 1847
Point Isabel, 16 January 1847

"20" ms. (1/2 – 1 oz., Double weight)
"10" cents forwarding (<300 miles)
30 c due

Manuscript and Small '10'
Ratemarks used with this Handstamp

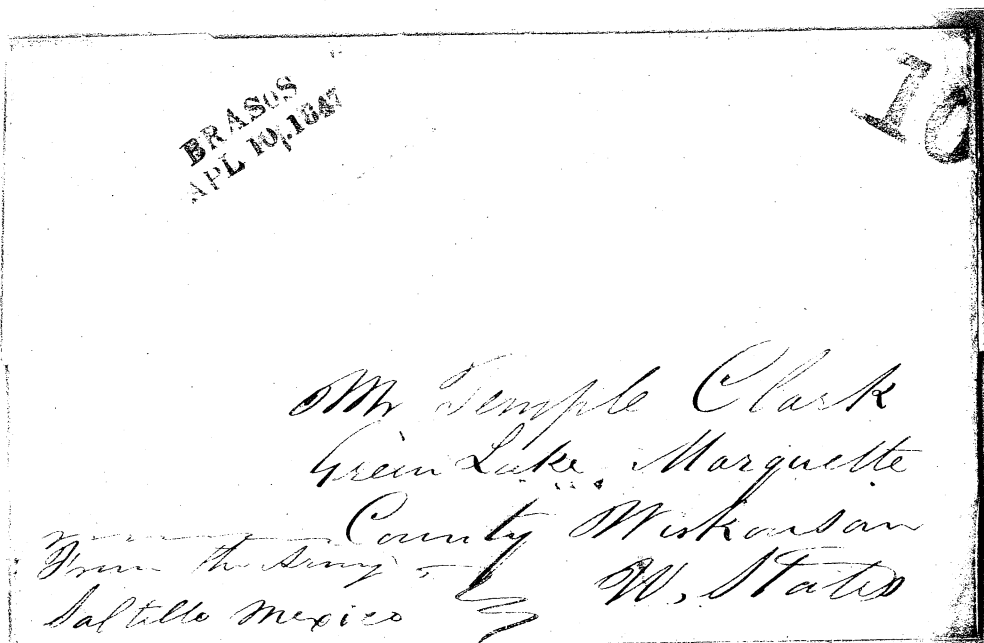
Office moved from Point Isabel to Brazos (Island) end March 1847 for better port conditions.

Brazos (BRASOS) Type I Handstamp
31 March – 15 April 1847



Brazos Santiago, 28 March 1847
New Orleans, 8 April 1847
"10" cents, >300 mile rate

Immediately prior to arrival of Handstamp



Buena Vista, 20 March 1847
Brazos, 10 April 1847

7 examples of Type I Handstamp documented

NORTHERN CAMPAIGN

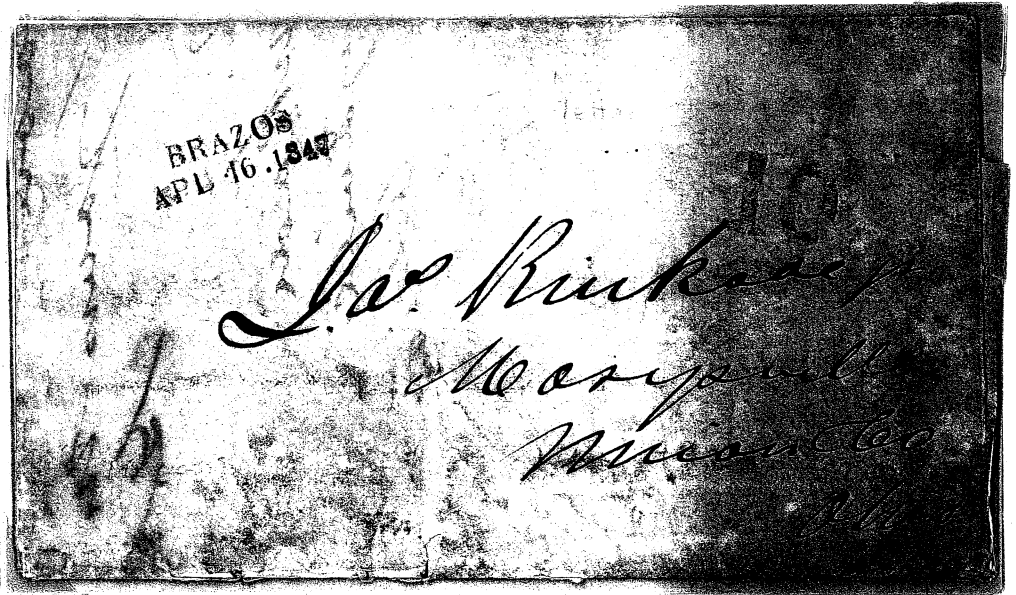
BRAZOS
JUNE 29, 1847

BRAZOS HANDSTAMP

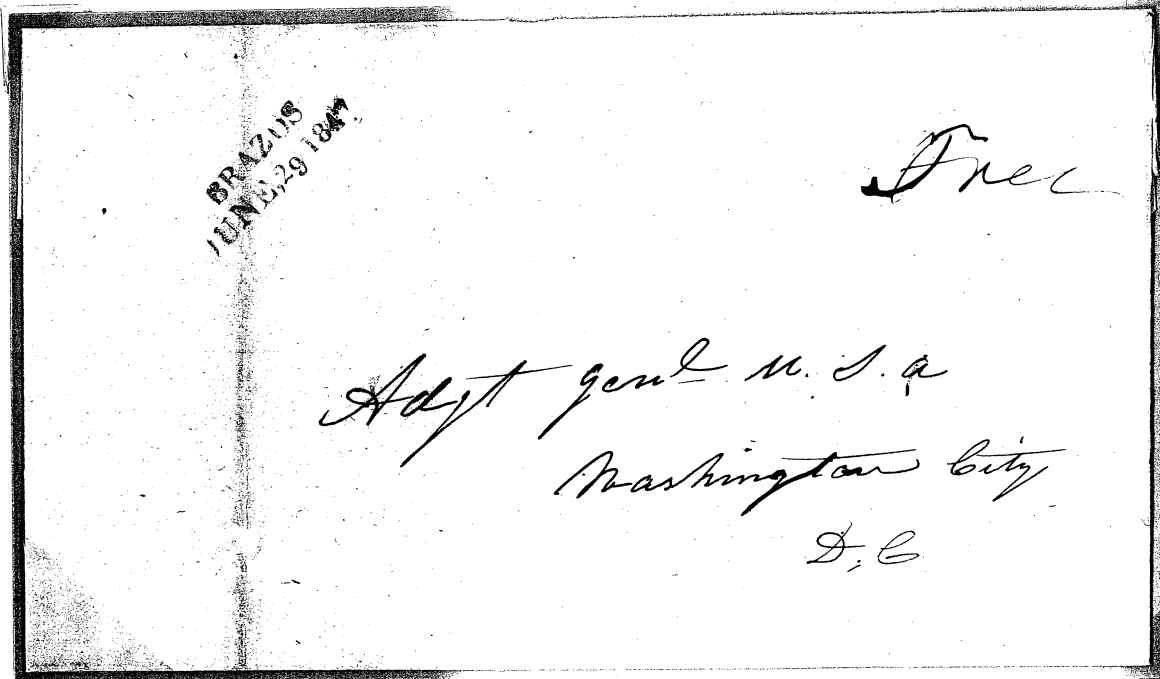
Brazos Type II Handstamp
16 April - 29 June 1847

Saltillo, 27 March 1847
19 day transit from Saltillo to Brazos
Brazos, 16 April 1847 (Earliest use)

10c (collect) for >300 miles



Brazos, 29 June 1847
(Latest use)



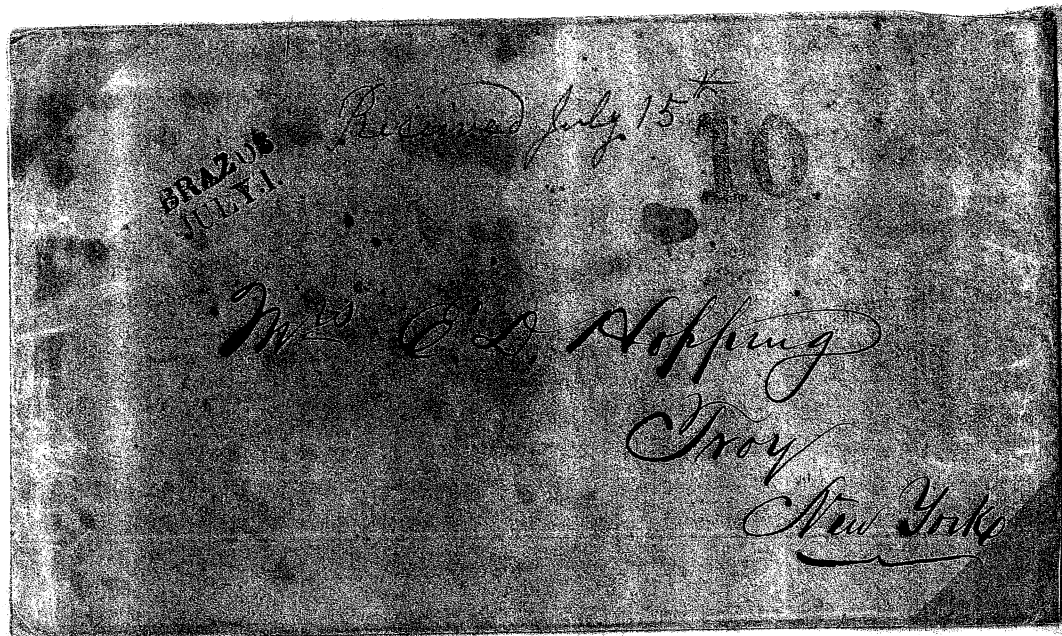
"Free" (Official Business)

BRAZOS CANCELLATIONS

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>PERIOD OF USE</u>
Manuscript	Through 30 March 1847
Handstamp I	31 March - 15 April 1847
II	16 April - 29 June 1847
III *	1 July 1847 - 16 April 1848
IIIa	January - February 1848
IV	18 April - End of Intervention

*Most frequently encountered type, Several spelling variations known

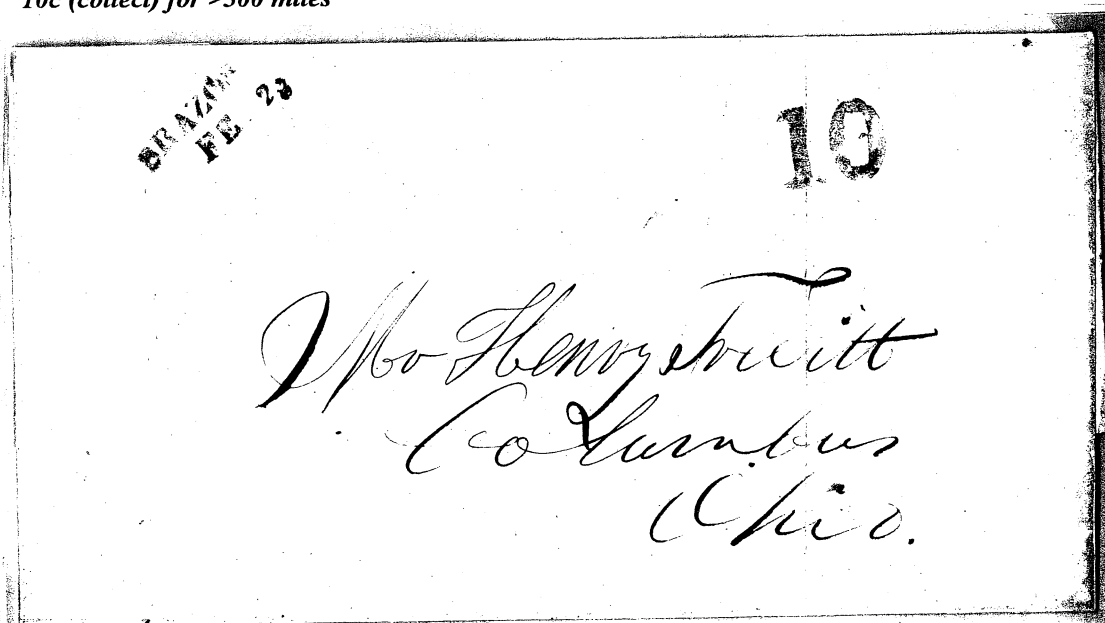
Brazos Type III Handstamp
1 July 1847 - 16 April 1848



Matamoros, 26 June 1847
Brazos, 1 July 1847 (Earliest use)

Written by General Hopping to his wife

10c (collect) for >300 miles



Camargo, 21 February 1848
Brazos, 23 February 1848
Late use, weak 'S' of BRAZOS

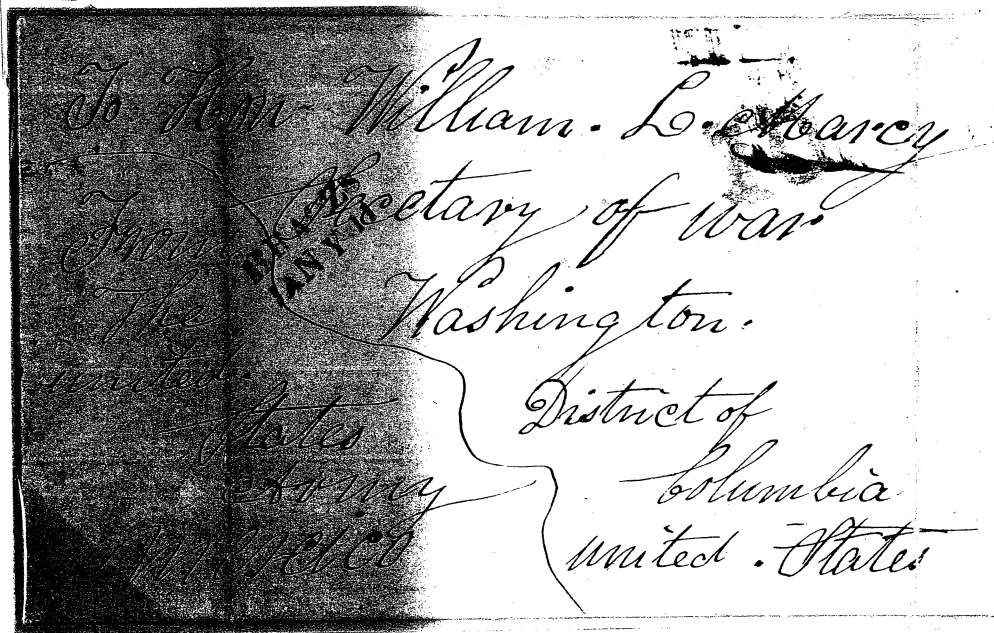
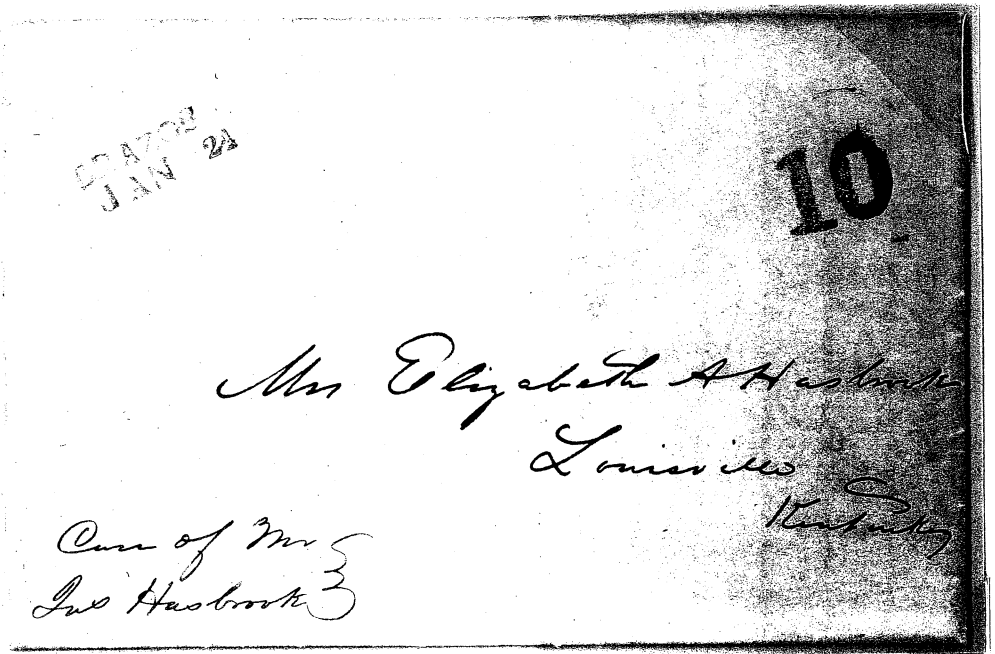
Handstamp in use for 9 1/2 months, several variations and errors known.
Device progressively degraded until unusable by mid April 1848

NORTHERN CAMPAIGN

BRAZOS HANDSTAMP

Buena Vista, 7 January 1848

Brazos, 24 January 1848
Round 'O' of BRAZOS



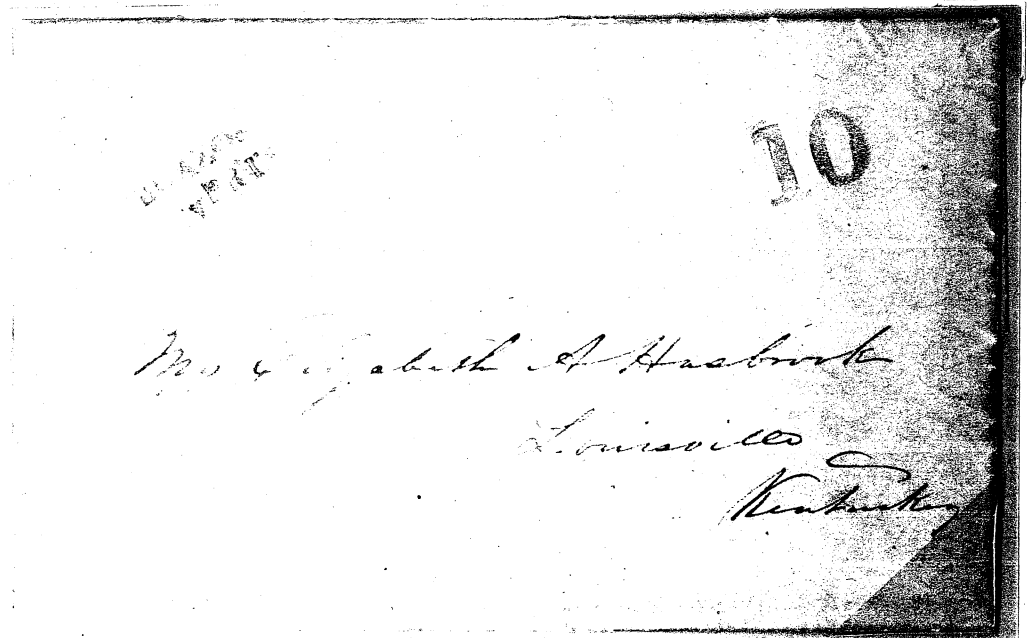
Buena Vista, 20 December 1847

Brazos, 11 January 1848
"BRAZOS" Variety
Known only 11 January

Saltillo, 25 March 1848

Brazos, 8 April 1848
Inverted 'A' of APRIL
Weak 'S' of BRAZOS

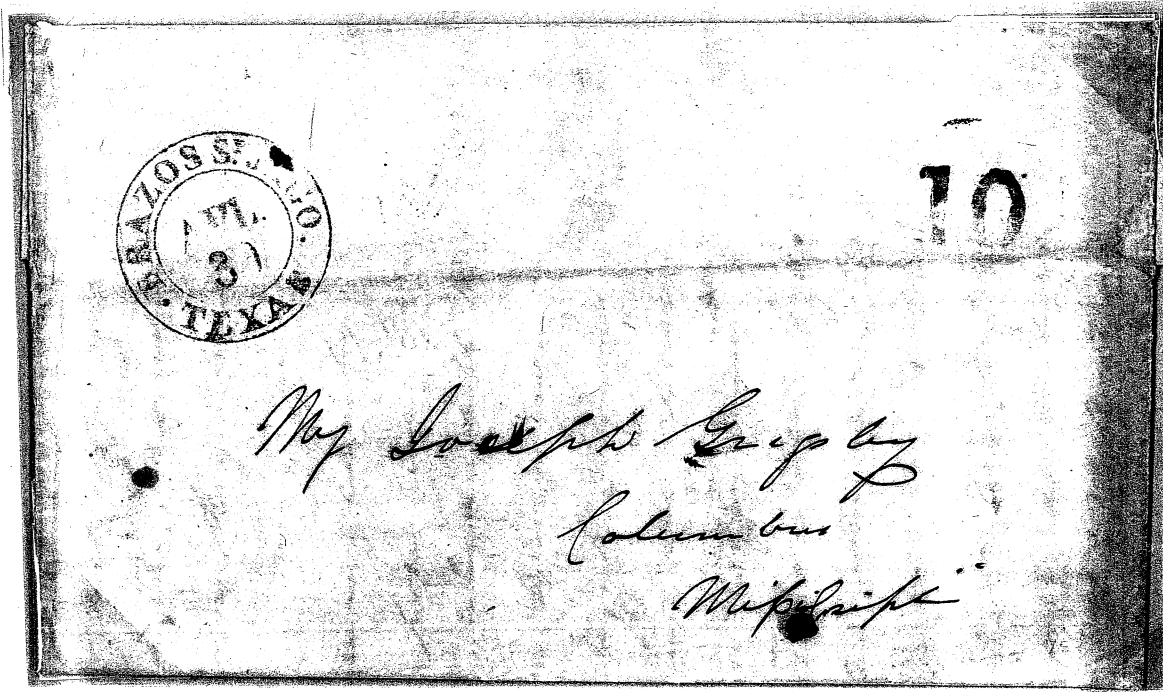
Terminal degradation
of handstamp device



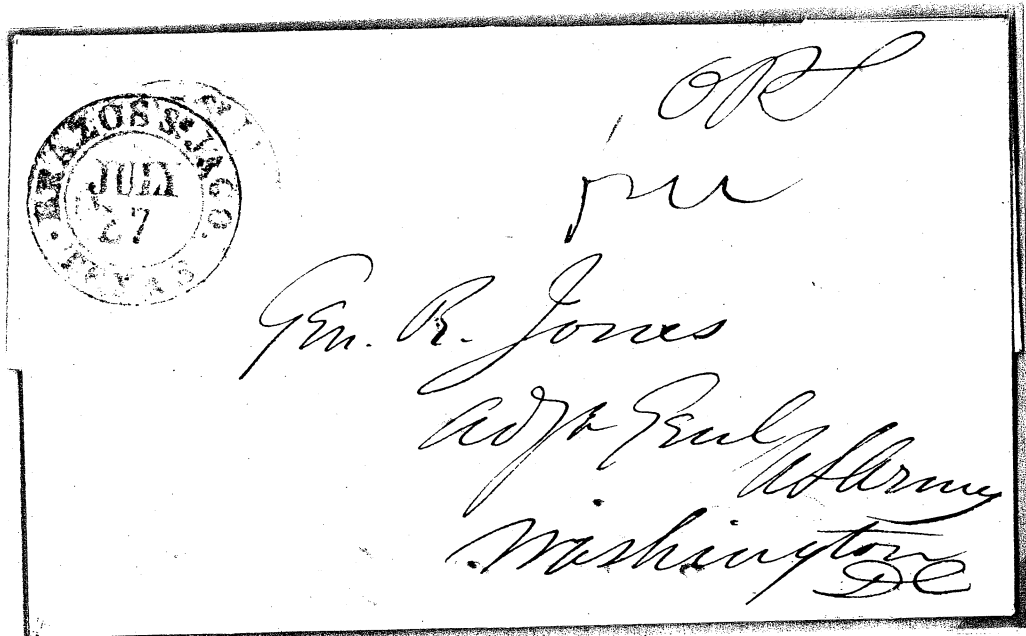
NORTHERN CAMPAIGN

BRAZOS HANDSTAMP

Brazos Type IV Handstamp
18 April - 27 July 1848



Cedras, 15 April 1848
Brazos, 30 April 1848 Blue CDS
Small "10" cents, >300 mile rate



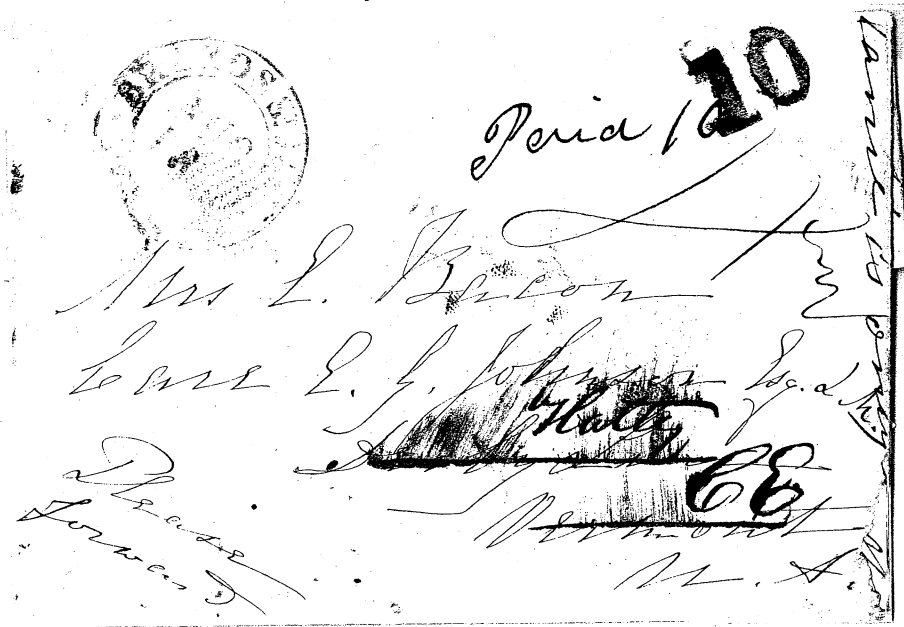
Matamoros, 16 July 1848
Brazos, 27 January 1848
"ops" (On Public Service), "free"

Latest known military use from war zone

Brazos became civilian post office after war

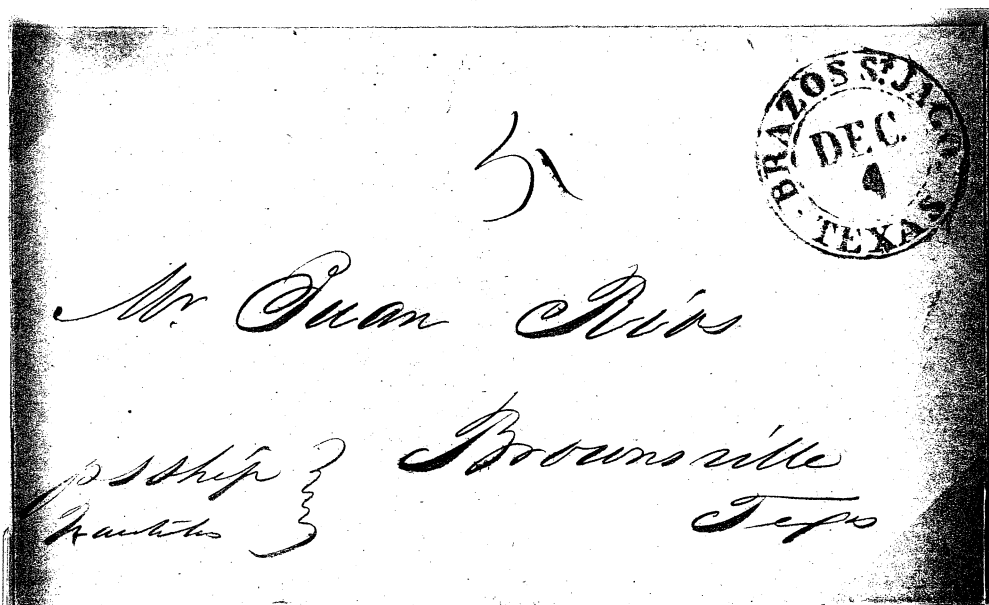
Brazos Type IV marking continued in use for several years after military activities ended

Matamoros, Mexico to Hatley, Canada via Brazos



Matamoros, 8 August 1848 (immediately post war)
 Brazos, 8 August; rated 10c
 Derby Line, Vermont; forwarded, 'Paid 10'
 Stanstead (Canada), 5 September
 Hatley, 6 September 1848 arrival

Brazos 30 November 1851 via Steamship 'NAUTILIS'



5 cent (<300 mile) rate from Brazos to Brownsville

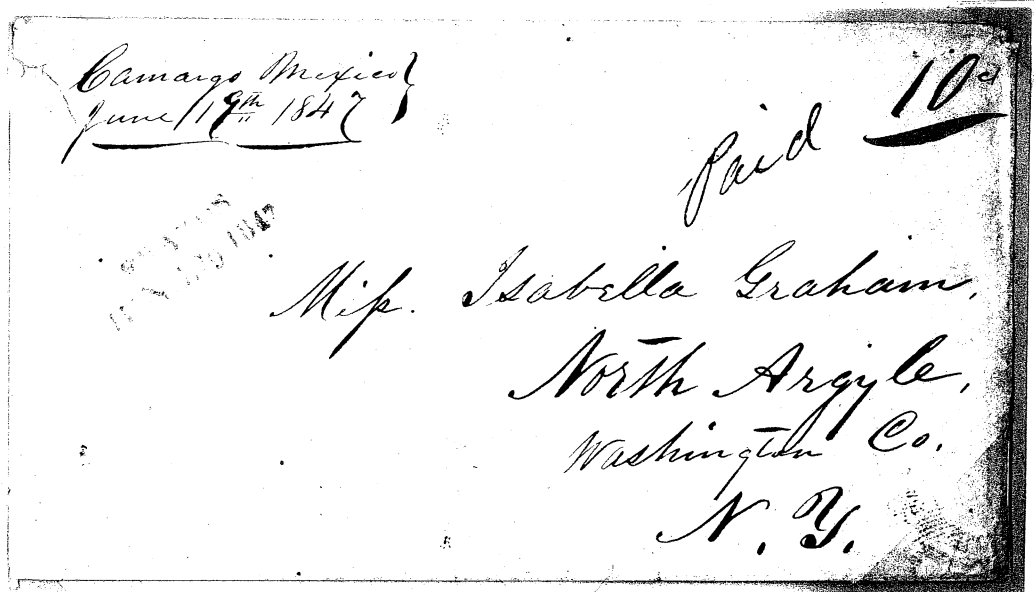
Tradespeople (i.e. sutlers) as well as assorted "hangers-on" accompanied the men of the army.

Point Isabel and Brazos used the same rate markings.

Camargo, 19 June 1847
 Brazos, 29 June 1847

"Paid 10c" manuscript
 10c (prepaid) for >300 miles

Vast majority of mail sent
 Collect as soldiers often had
 little cash money, and there
 was no assurance that letter
 would arrive at destination.



"20" manuscript
 20c >300 miles
 Double weight
 (1/2 - 1 oz.)

Manuscript, and large & small '10' handstamps were used
 at Point Isabel, only small '10' handstamp used at Brazos.

'Paid' manuscript used at both offices.

POINT ISABEL/BRAZOS RATE MARKINGS

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>PERIOD OF USE</u>
Manuscript '10'	Through 24 October 1846
Manuscript 'Paid'	Throughout Intervention Period
Manuscript '20'	Throughout Intervention Period
Large '10' Handstamp	22 October - 22 December 1846
Small '10' Handstamp*	22 December - End of Intervention

*Most frequently encountered type, Several spelling variations known

NORTHERN CAMPAIGN

RATE MARKINGS

PT. ISABEL NO 12

C. P. S.

10

To Brig. Gen. R. Jones
Capt. Genl. A. S. C.
Washington
D. C.

Camargo
6 November 1846

Point Isabel Type II
12 November 1846

Large '10' Ratestamp

Manuscript,
Large '10' and
Small '10'
Ratemarks used
At Point Isabel

Point Isabel Type III
5 January 1847

Small '10' Ratestamp

PT. ISABEL
JAN 5 1847

10

For
Maj. Frances Byrne
Columbia
Alabama

Brazos Santiago
26 September 1847

Brazos Type III
30 September 1847

Small '10' Ratestamp

BRAZOS
SEPT 30

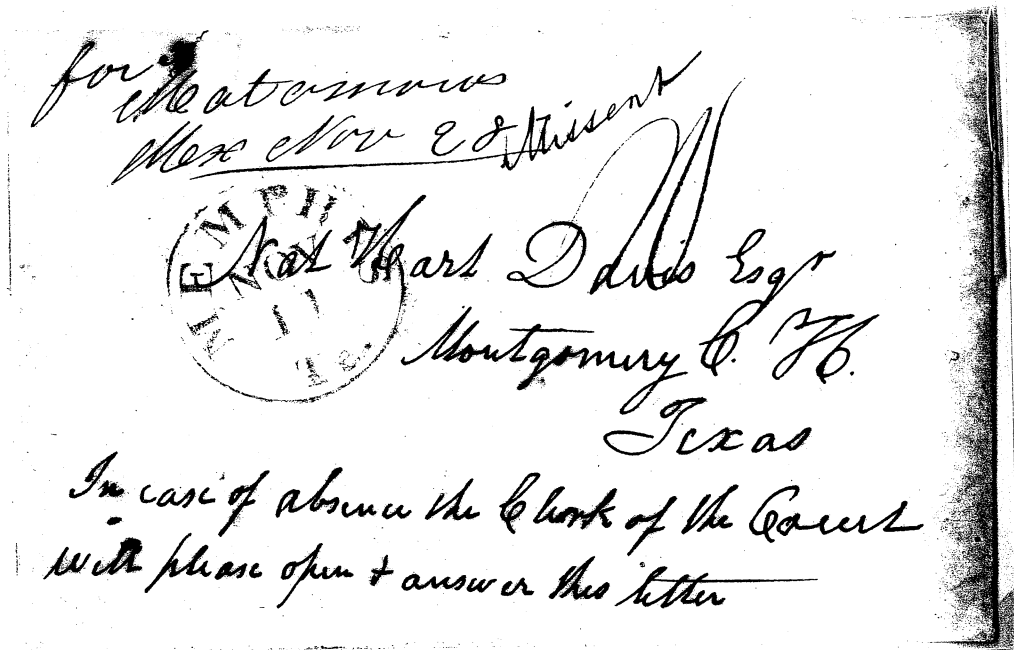
Mrs. Sarah M. Clutter
Wheeling
Virginia

Manuscript and
Small '10'
Ratemarks used
At Brazos

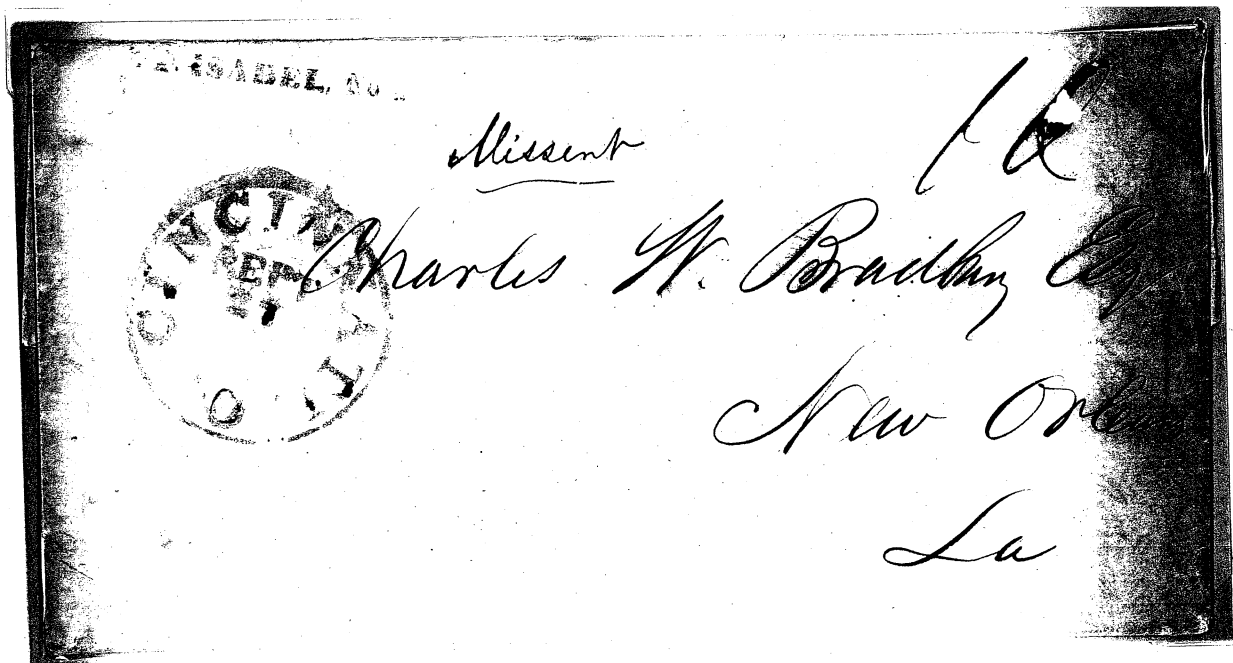
NORTHERN CAMPAIGN

MISROUTING OF MAILS

Inbound mail to Northern Mexico was usually routed via New Orleans and Point Isabel.
As volume increased, mishaps were bound to occur.



Memphis Tennessee, 11 November 1846
Addressed to Montgomery Court House, Texas
"Missent" to and "For"[warded] from Matamoros 28 November



Cincinnati Ohio, 27 September 1846
Addressed to New Orleans
"Missent" to Point Isabel, -- November 1846
Returned to New Orleans

NORTHERN CAMPAIGN

FORT BROWN (BROWNSVILLE)

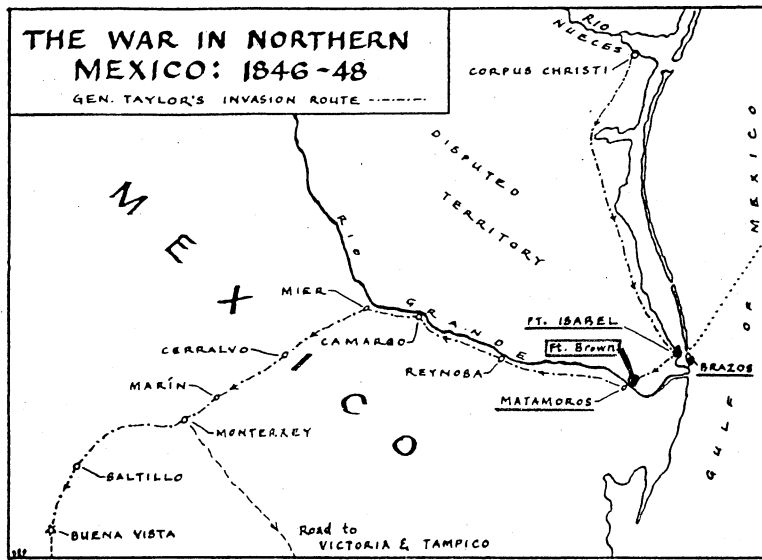
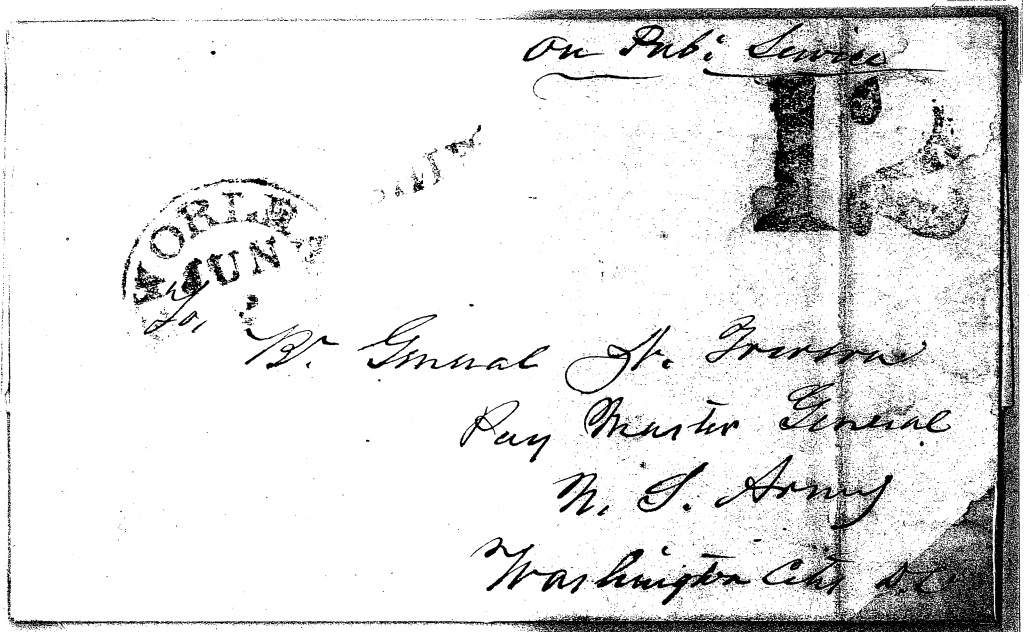
Established on North Bank of Rio Grande opposite Matamoros as Fort Taylor 28 March 1846
 Renamed Fort Brown in honor of Major Jacob Brown who died of wounds received in battle 9 May 1846

Fort Brown, 18 May 1846
 (Earliest known use as "Fort Brown")
 New Orleans, 2 June 1846

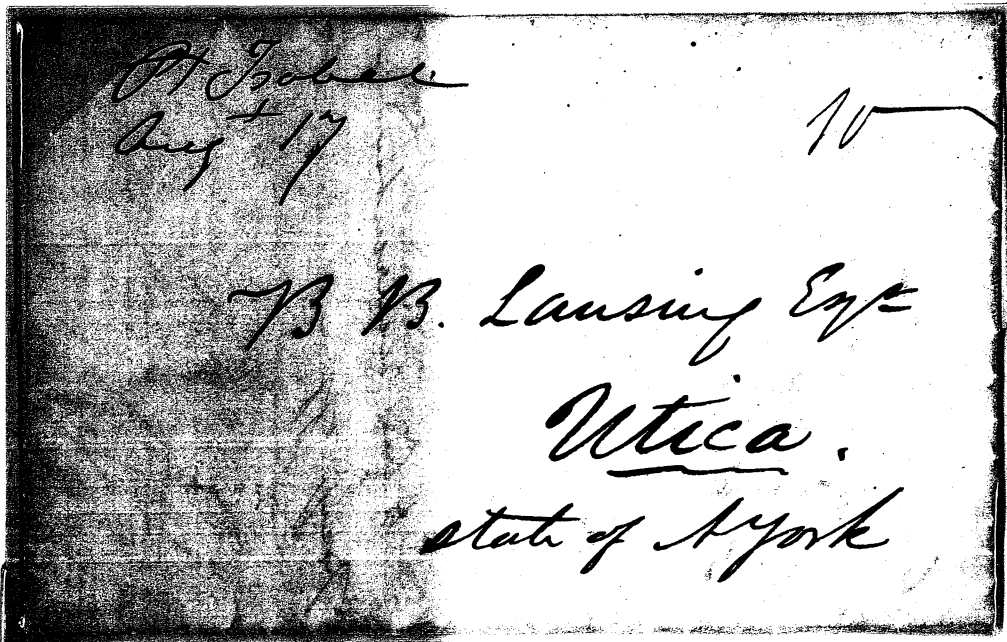
10c for >300 miles
2c ship letter
12c due

Mails sent via New Orleans prior
 To offices at Point Isabel/Brazos

Contents describe 8 May battle and
 occupation of Matamoros, first action
 on territory south of Rio Grande.



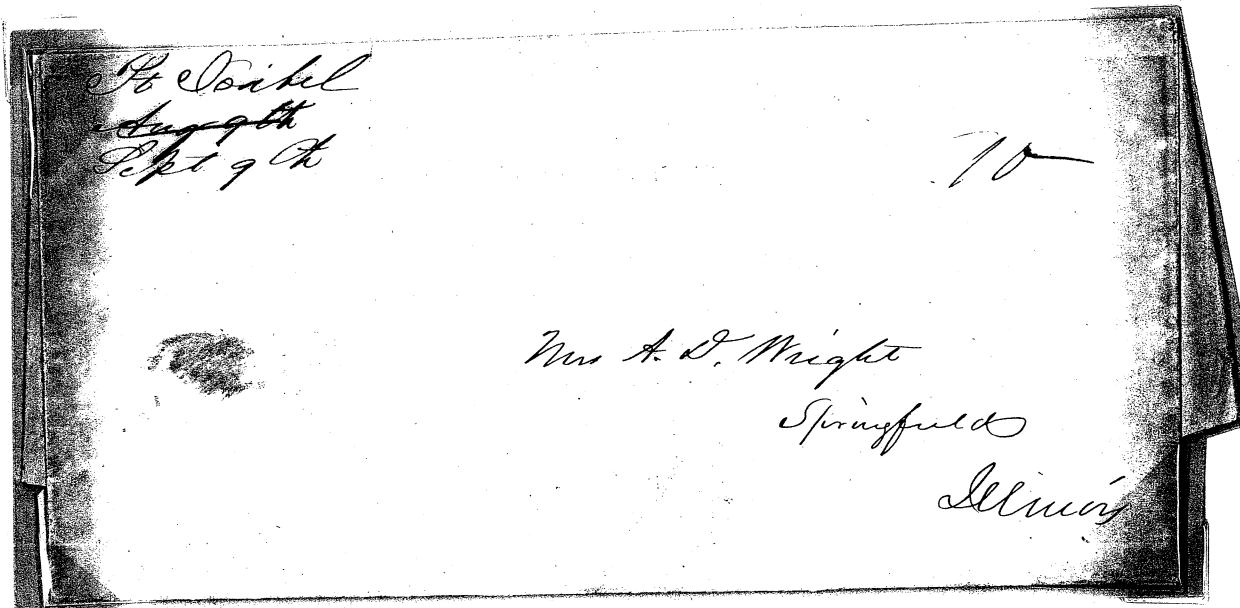
**Order of Battle;
 Northern Campaign**



Fort Brown, 15 August 1846
Point Isabel (manuscript) + "10"
 17 August 1846

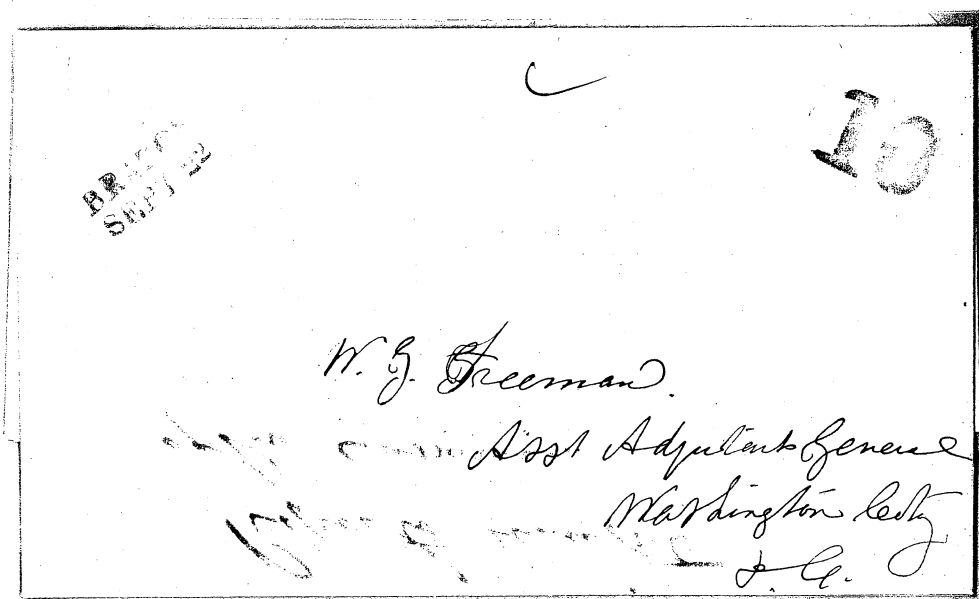
10c >300 mile rate

Several camps located along Rio Grande (Rio Bravo del Norte) in Fort Brown/Matamoros area



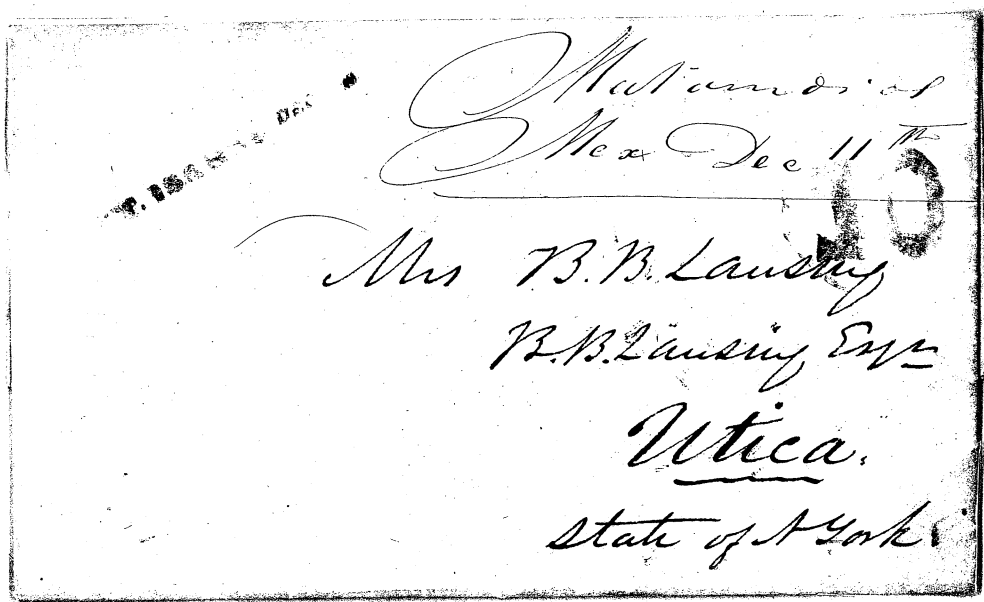
Camp Patterson, 6 September 1846
(On Rio Grande near Matamoros)
Point Isabel (ms.), 9 September 1846

10c for >300 miles (collect)

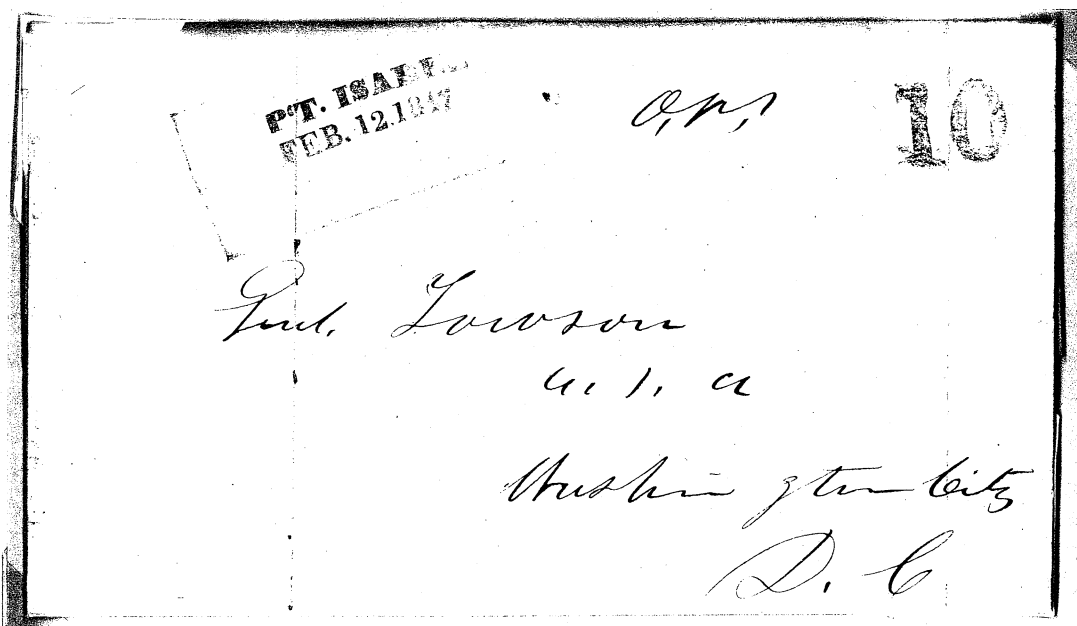


Camp Sabinito, 19 September 1847
(North of Brownsville near Palo Alto)
Brazos (Type III Handstamp), 22 September 1847

Several camps located along Rio Grande (Rio Bravo del Norte) in Fort Brown/Matamoros area

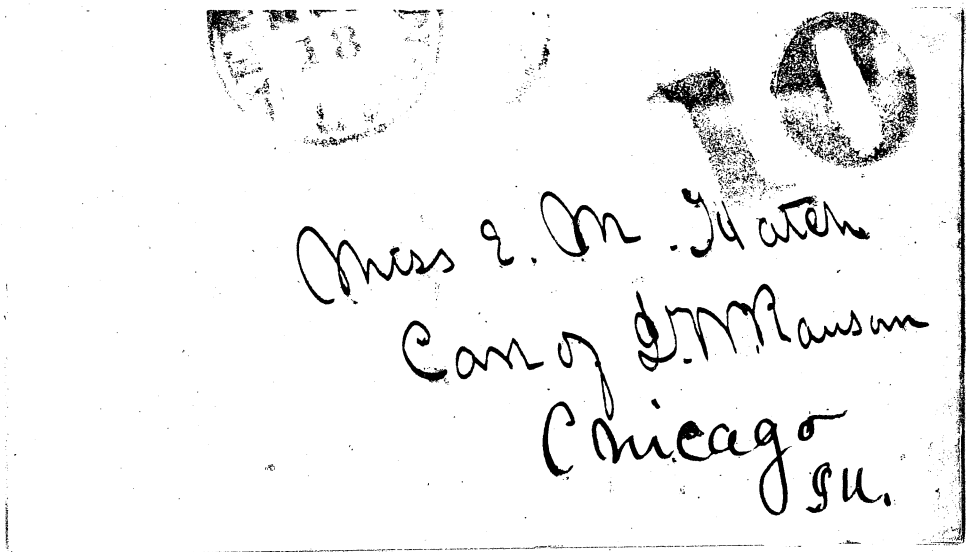


Fort Brown, 11 December 1846
 Matamoros (ms.), 11 May 1846
 Point Isabel (Type II Handstamp), 16 December 1846
 10c for >300 miles (collect)



Ord. Depot, Fort Polk (Point Isabel), 10 February 1847
 Point Isabel (Type III Handstamp), 12 February 1847
 O.P.S. (On Public Service), 10c for >300 miles postage not collected

Occupied by Taylor after battles of 17 & 18 May 1846

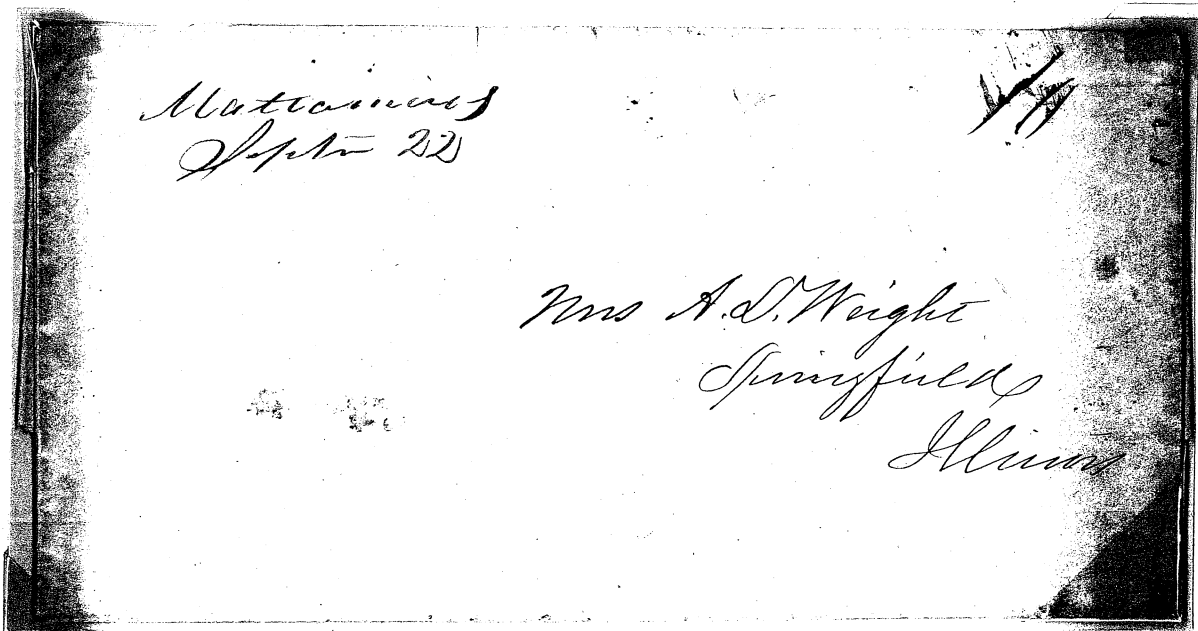


Near Matamoros, 10 May 1846

via New Orleans 18 May; 10c collect

Mails sent via New Orleans prior to setting up of Point Isabel provisional post office

"Fought and won 2 battles, taken many prisoners and their ammunition...."



"Steamer off Matamoros," 21 September 1846

Matamoros, 22 September manuscript cancel

Matamoros often used manuscript with and without corresponding Point Isabel/Brazos postmark.

"...On the way to Camargo, then Monterey, then Saltillo.... Many men sick...."

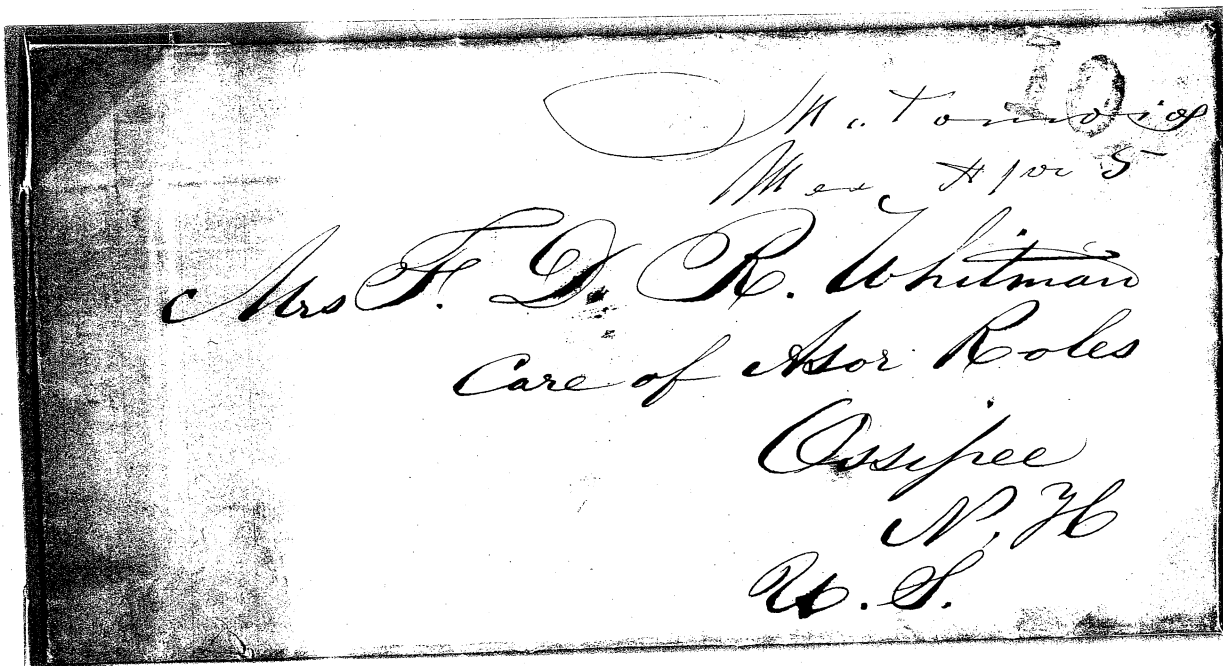
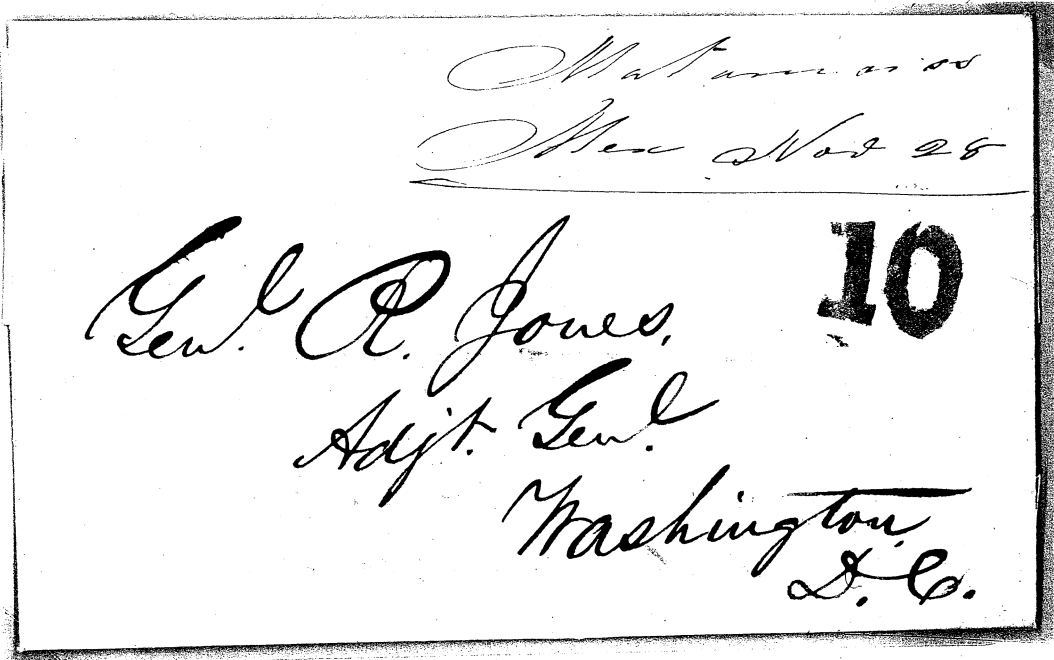
Occupied by General Taylor 18 May 1846

Matamoros,
27 November 1846

28 November 1846
Manuscript

Large '10' [cents]
(>300 miles)

Rate mark applied
at Point Isabel



Matamoros,
4 April 1847

5 April 1847
Manuscript

Small '10' [cents]
10c >300 mile rate

Rate mark applied
at Brazos

Mail from Matamoros known with two distinct Matamoros manuscripts, large and small '10' [cent] rate stamps, with and without Point Isabel and Brazos handstamps.

(See "Tamaulipais Expedition" pages for additional examples)

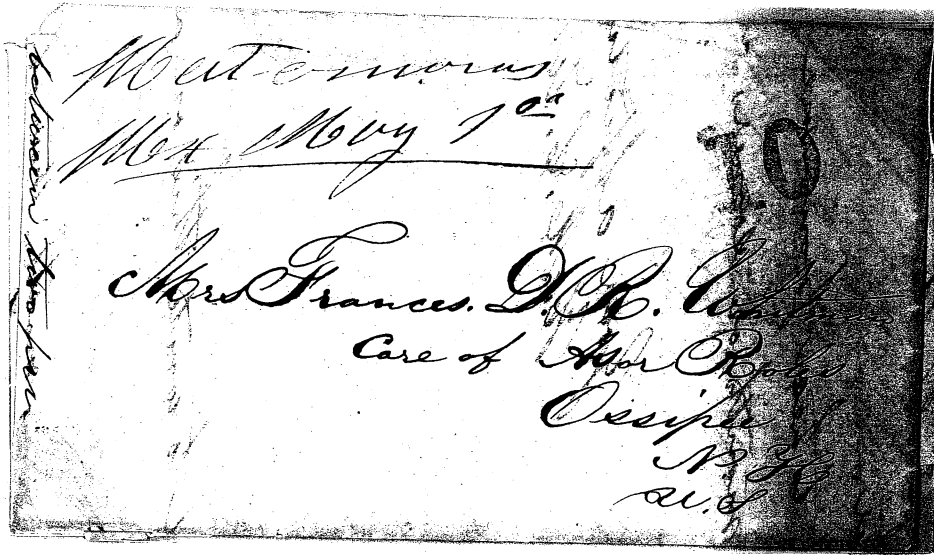
Second Manuscript Type

Matamoros,
20 April 1847

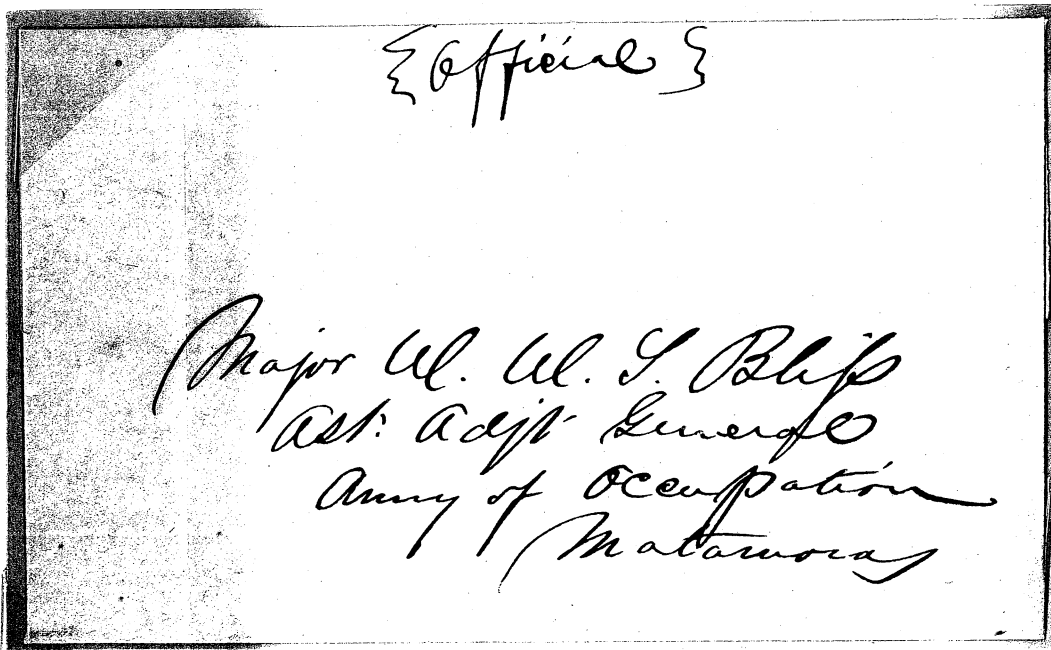
1 May 1847
Manuscript
(latest use)

Small '10' [cents]
(>300 miles)

Rate mark applied
at Brazos



Official [U.S. Army] Inbound



No Postal Markings,

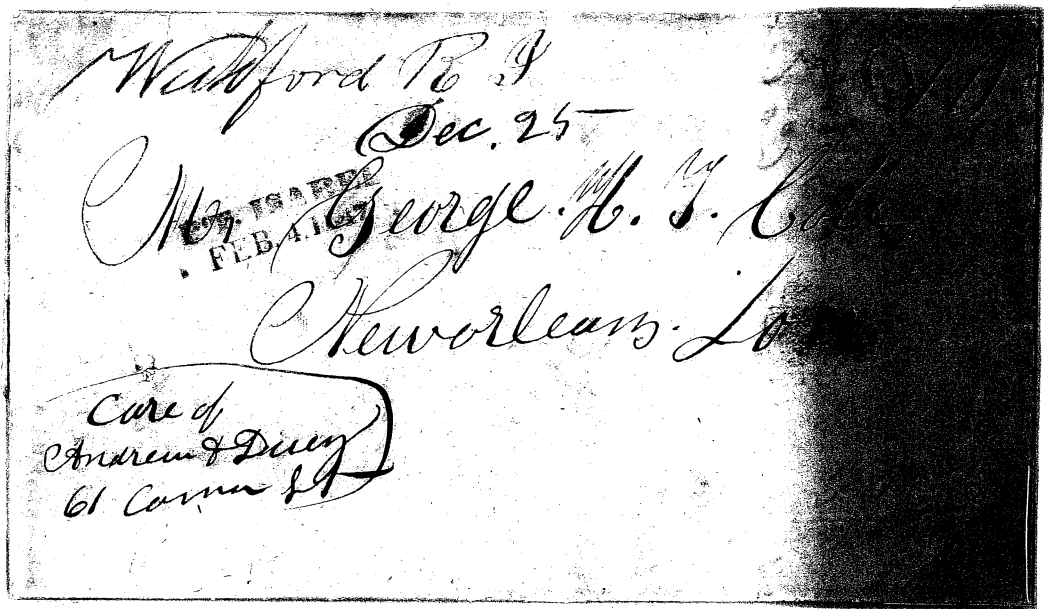
May have been carried
as part of larger Packet
or in a Military pouch.

Occupied by Taylor 6 June 1846
Located on the Rio Grande (Rio Bravo del Norte) West of Matamoros

Inbound via Point Isabel

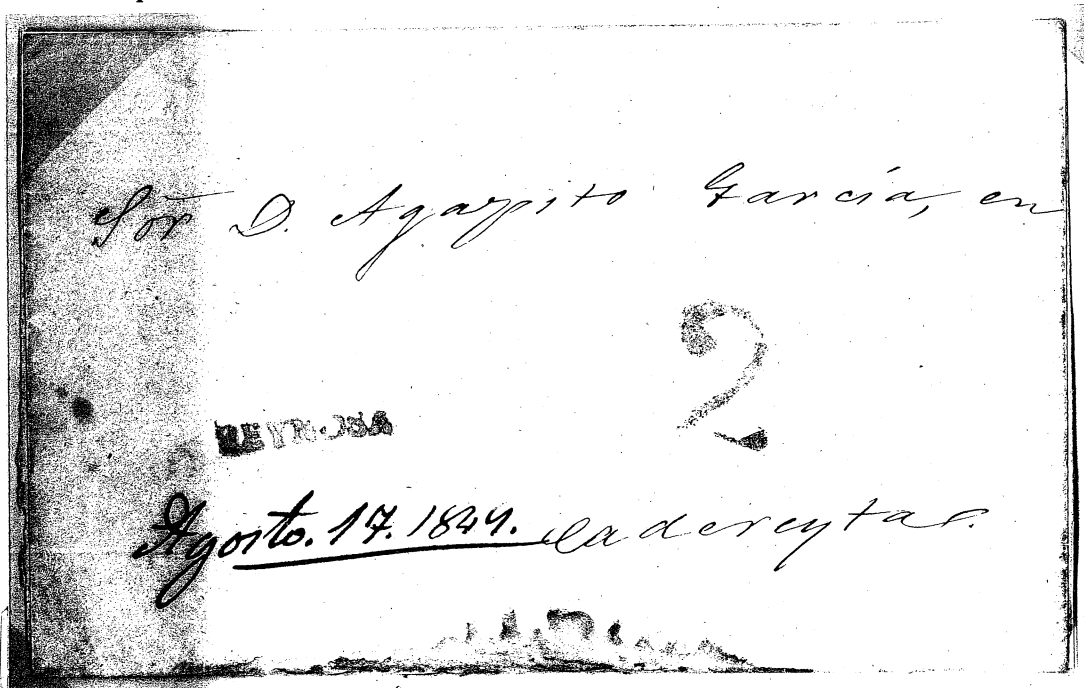
Rhode Island,
25 December 1846
to New Orleans

Forwarded via
Point Isabel
(Type III Handstamp)
4 February 1847
to Trader at Reynosa



10c (>300 miles) paid at Rhode Island,
10c additional [forwarding] charged at Point Isabel
20c (due)

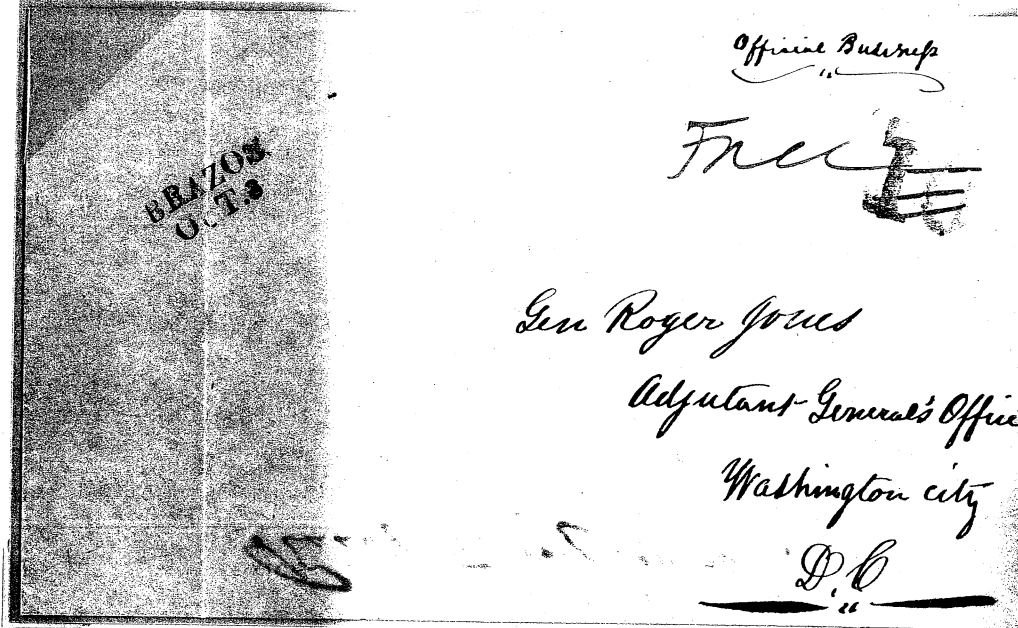
Post Occupation Mexican Mails



Reynosa to Cadereyta, (On road to Monterrey), 17 August 1849
2 Reales (due)

After the war, Reynosa resumed to it's status as a backwater, far from the
Mexico City – Puebla/San Luis Potosi – Vera Cruz axis of influence

Official Business



Reynosa, 27 September 1847
To Adjutant general of the Army

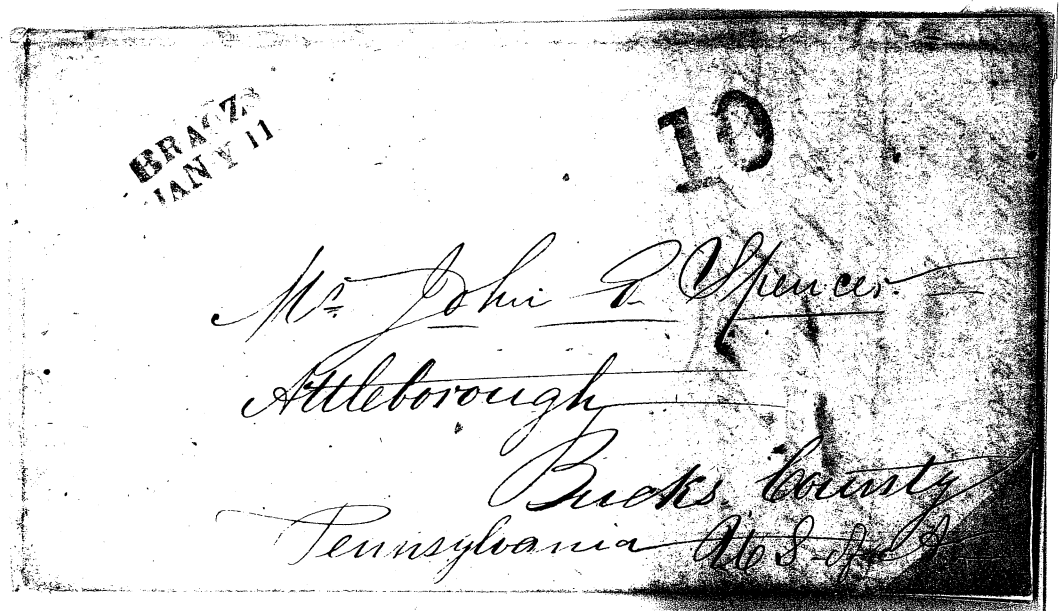
Brazos Type III handstamp
3 October 1847

Endorsed 'Official Business' and 'Free'
'10' (cents) crossed out

BRAOZS Handstamp Variety

Reynosa, 5 January (1848)

Brazos
Type III (variety) Handstamp
11 January (1848)



10 cents (collect)
For >300 miles

This Handstamp variety known only 11 January 1848

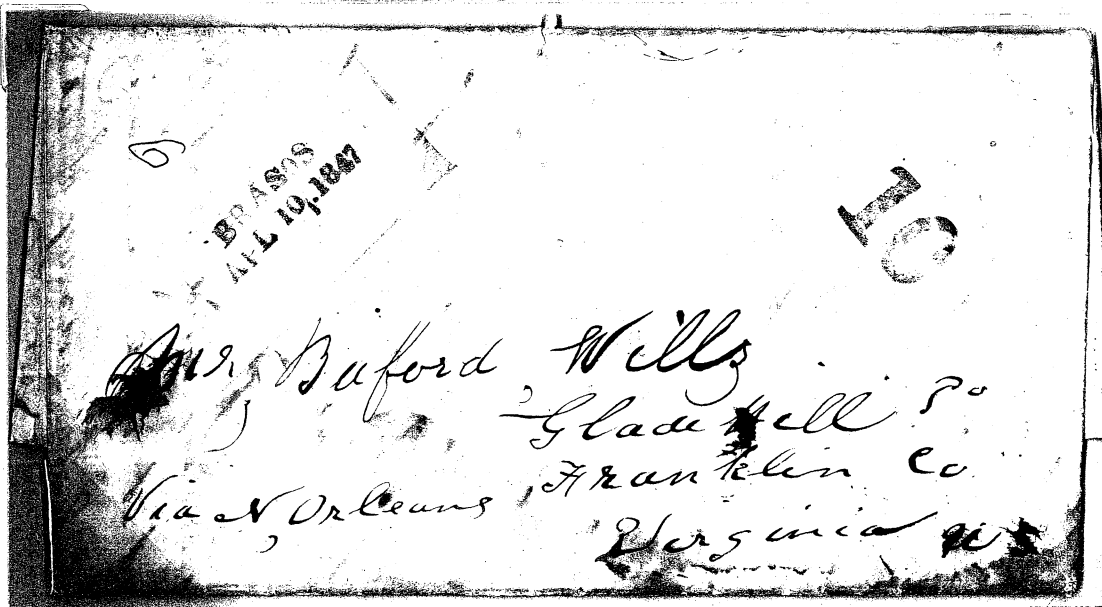
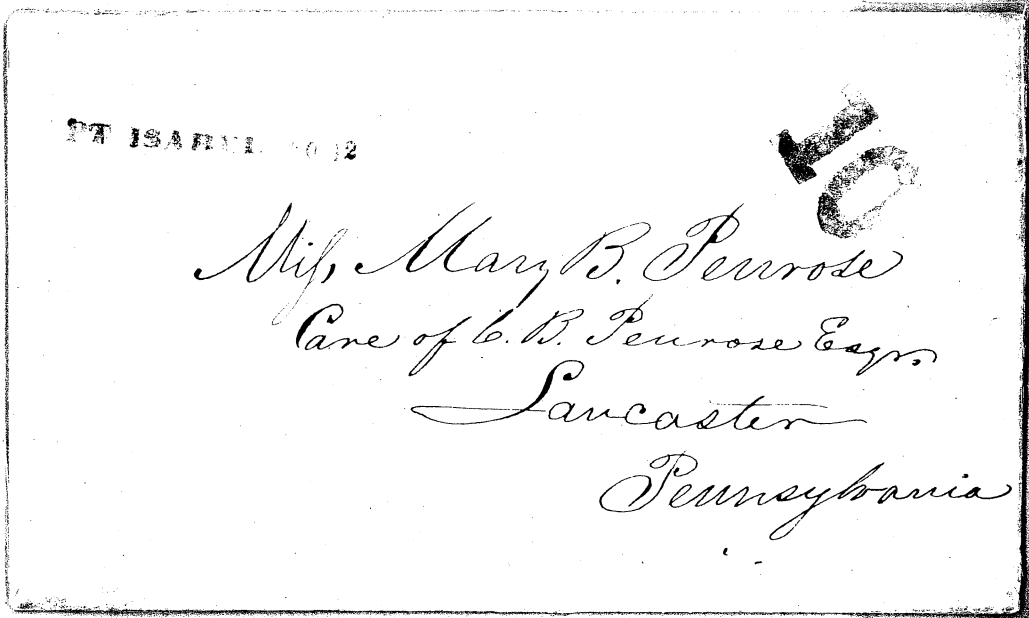
Occupied 14 July 1846

Camargo
(Camp Brady)
1 November 1846

Point Isabel
12 November
Type II Handstamp
(2 week transit)

Large '10' [cents]
Ratestamp

Type II Handstamp
Often indistinct or
Deformed.



Camargo
2 April 1847

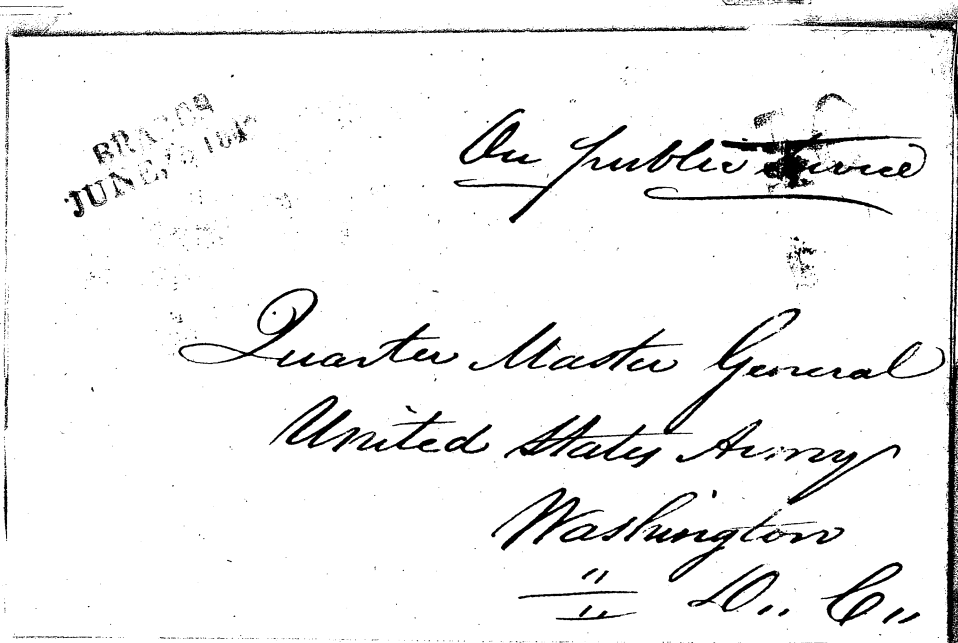
Brazos
10 April 1847
Type I
(BRASOS)
Handstamp
(Note frame)

Small '10'
Ratestamp

Camargo
7 June 1847

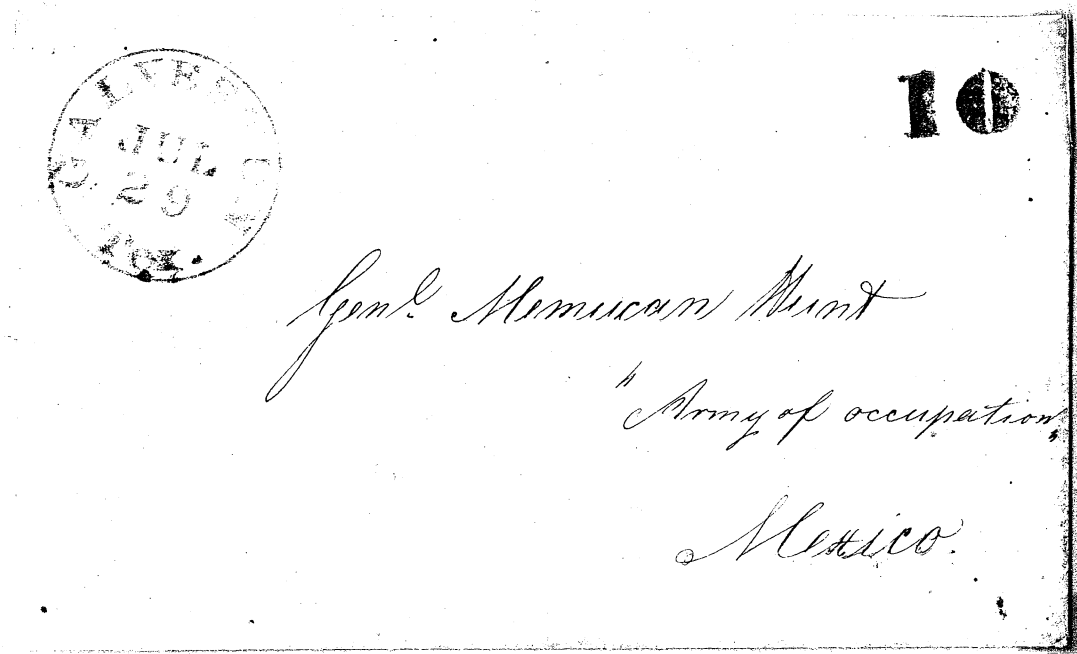
Brazos
15 June 1847
Type II
Handstamp

Small '10'
(Crossed out)
"On Public
Service"



Inbound

Collect

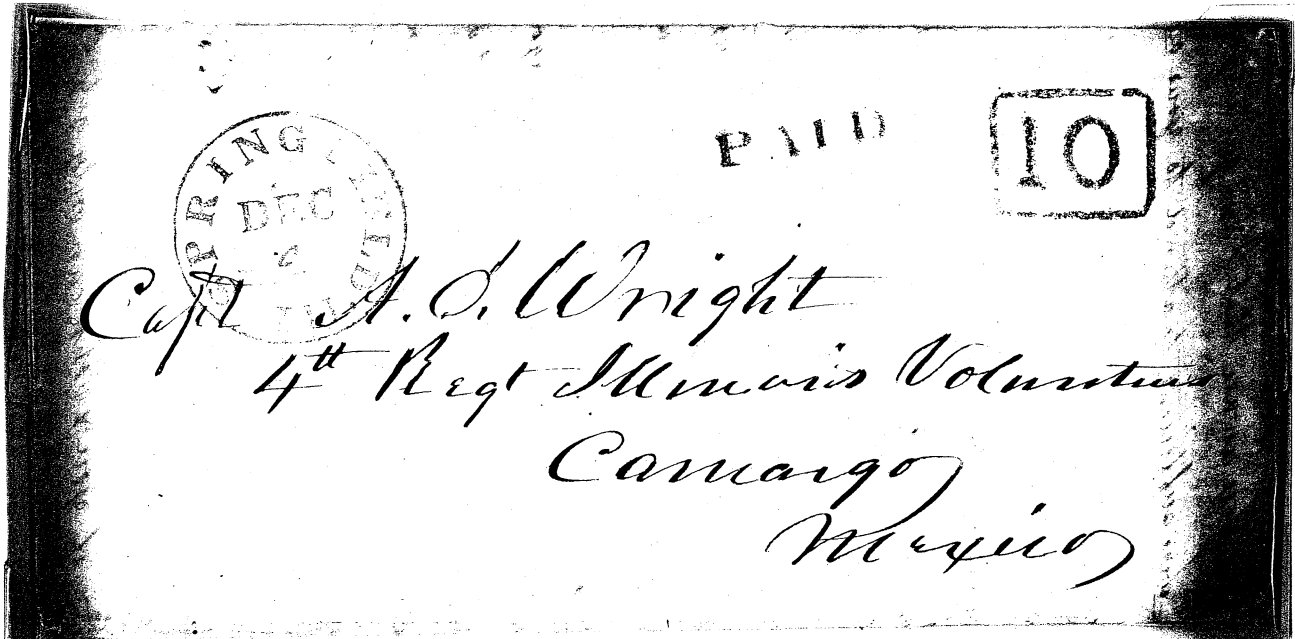


Galveston Texas, 29 July 1846

Postage charged until Act of 3 March 1847 authorized free postage to troops serving in Mexico.

Many Texans volunteered in Mexico, with their own (Texas Rangers), or other units.

Prepaid

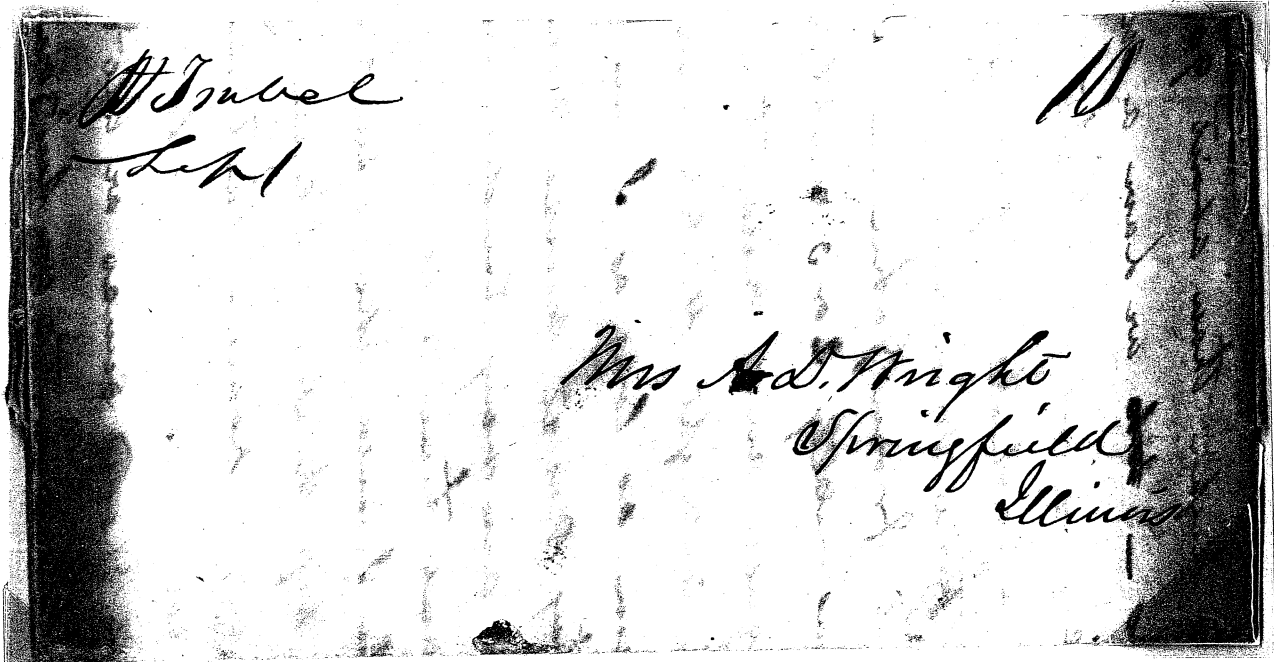


Springfield Illinois, 4 December 1846

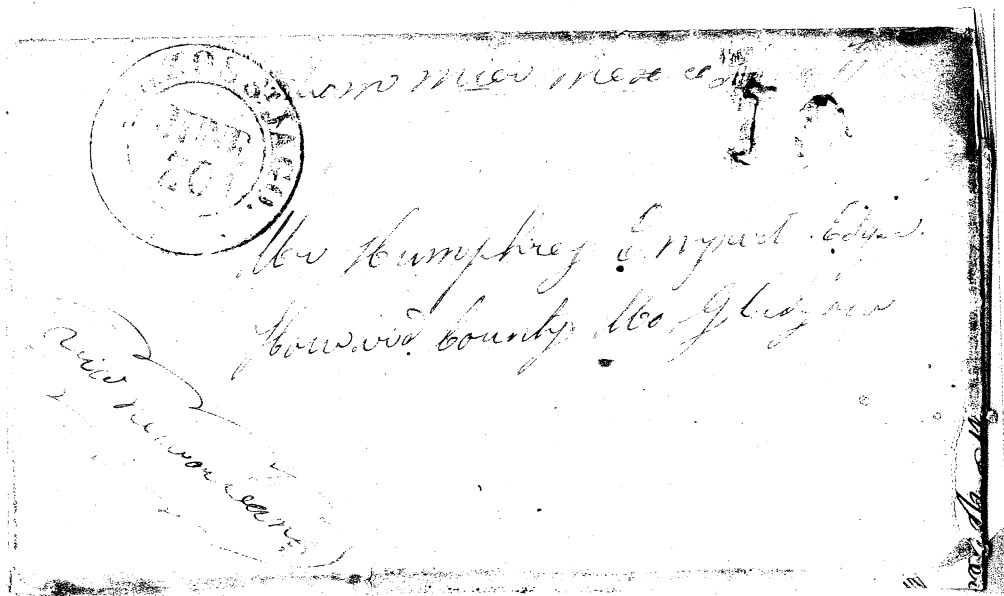
Soldiers preferred that mail be sent prepaid as cash was scarce.

Illinois Volunteers served in Northern Mexico from mid 1846 through mid 1847.

Mier Occupied by Taylor 18 August 1846
Located on the road between Rio Grande (Rio Bravo del Norte) and Monterrey



Camp Rio Grande (near Mier), 25 August 1846
Via river steamer to
Point Isabel (manuscript), 1 September 1846



Mier, 11 June 1848
Brazos (Type IV, blue), 11 June 1848

Mentions peace, anticipates disbanding within 1 month, though orders not yet arrived.

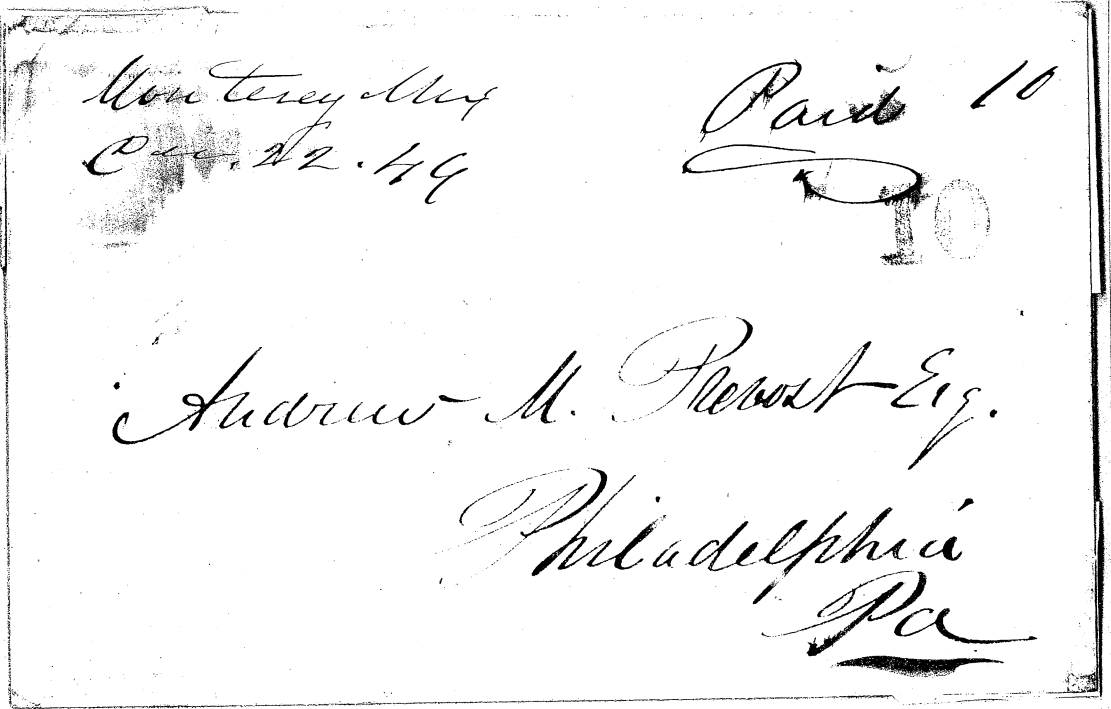
NORTHERN CAMPAIGN

CERALVO

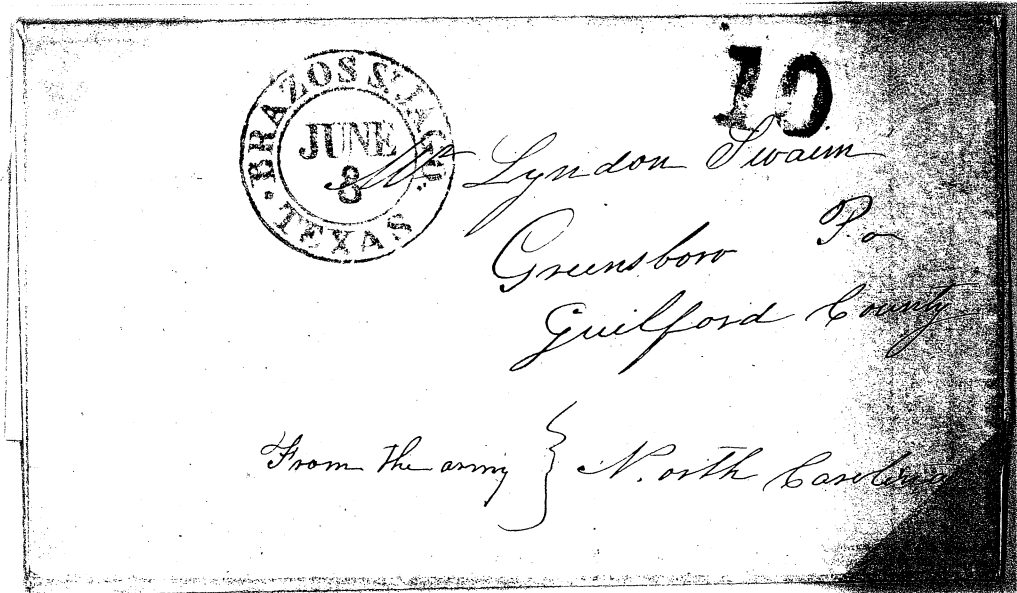
Camp 13 miles
West of Cralvo
17 December 1846

Monterrey ms.
22 December 1846
with "Paid 10"

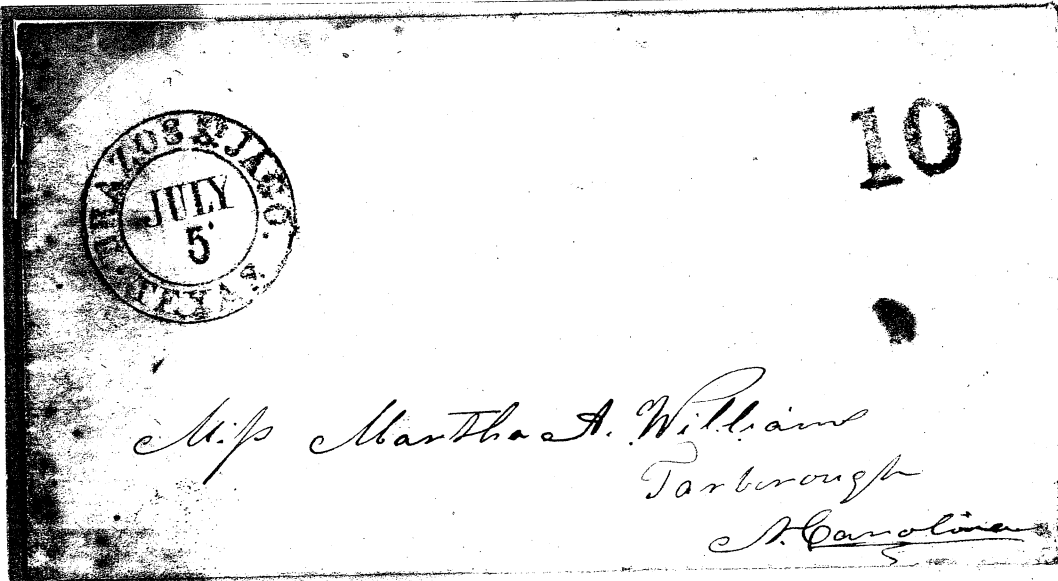
Small '10'
ratestamp
applied at
Point Isabel



Ceralvo, 30 May 1848
Brazos, 8 June 1848
(Blue) Type IV



Ceralvo, 25 June 1848
Brazos, 5 July 1848
(Black) Type IV



"The Mississippi Regiment
Passed here yesterday on
Their way home.... I expect to
be home by August first."

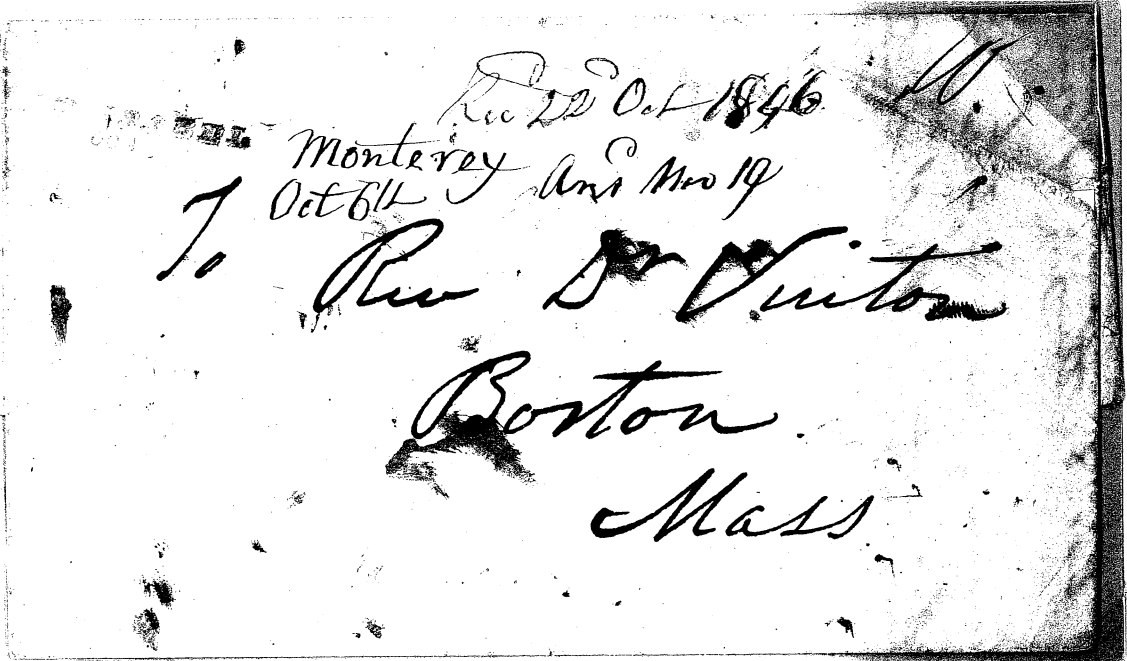
Taylor's base of operations for Northern Mexico
Occupied after battle ending 25 September, City under quarantine through mid October 1846

Point Isabel Type I Handstamp

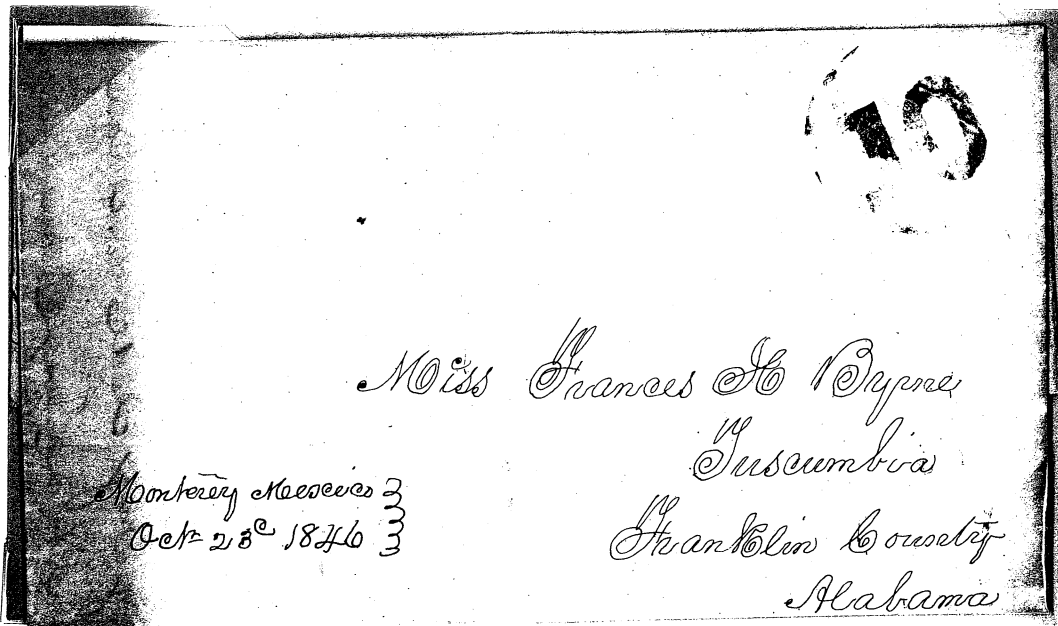
Monterrey
24 September 1846

Point Isabel Type I
4 October 1846

Manuscript '10'
(Ratestamp not yet
Introduced)



Inter Handstamp Period



Monterrey
12 & 25 October 1847

Inter Handstamp Period
(Between Devices I & II)

Large '10' Ratemark
Applied at Point Isabel

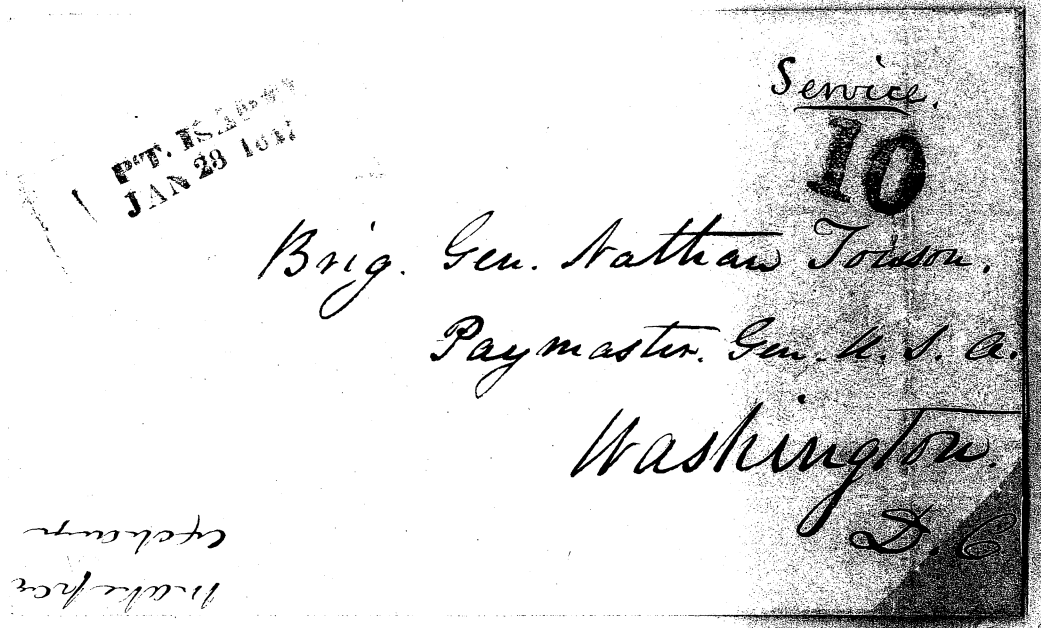
Monterrey served as Taylor's Headquarters. Several camps housed many troops and assorted 'hangers on'. It's importance decreased after early 1847 as military activity shifted south towards central Mexico and Vera Cruz.

Point Isabel Type III Handstamp

Monterrey
11 January 1847

Point Isabel
28 January 1847
Type III
Handstamp

10c (on service)



Brazos Type I Handstamp

Monterrey
24 March 1847

Brazos
10 April 1847
Type I
(BRASOS)
Handstamp



Provisional Post office shifted from Point Isabel across to Brazos by 31 March 1847. The Brazos 'BRASOS' Type I Handstamp is represented by fewer than 10 examples.

O.S.
10

H. H. Wilkinson Esq
Cashier
New Orleans Canal & N. Co
New Orleans La

Camp
Near Monterrey
13 November 1846

Point Isabel Type II
26 November 46

"O.P.S."
Large '10' indicates
amount debited
as per Executive
Brown Out

Monterrey to Buenavista
"HdQrs Army of Occupation"
Undated Official Message
(March - May 1847 period)

No Postal Markings

Monterrey
26 May 1847

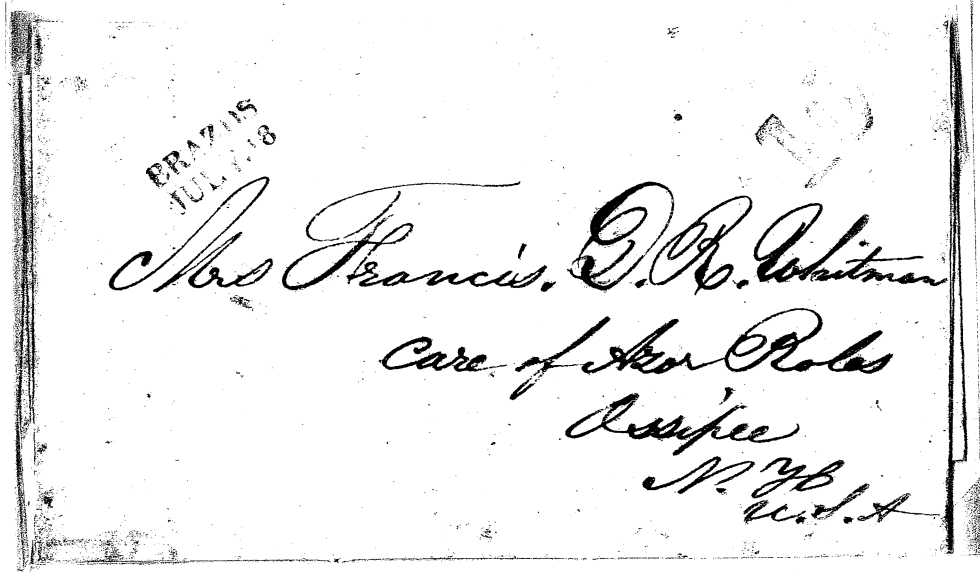
Brazos Type II
Handstamp
9 June 1847

10 c postage
+10c Forwarding
=20c Collect

BRAZOS
JUN 9 1847

For 10/18
20

E. J. Saunders Esq
New York
No. 10 Broadway



Monterrey
3 July 1847

Brazos Type III
18 July 1847

Small '10' Ratemark

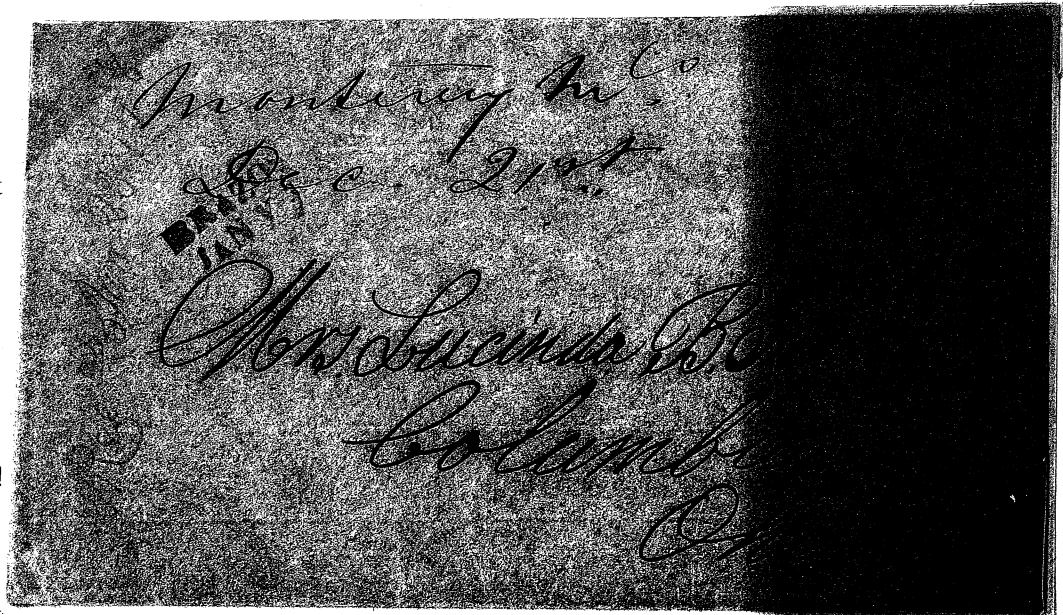
General Hospital
(at) Monterrey
20 December 1847

Monterrey Manuscript
21 December 1847

Brazos, Type III
3 January 1848

Small '10' Ratemark

More troops felled by
illness than enemy fire!

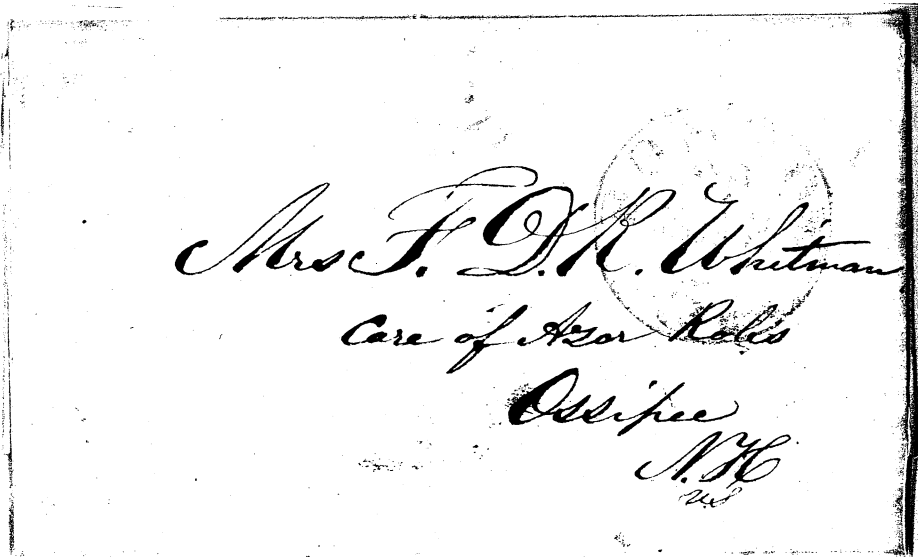


Monterrey
12 August 1847

Boston
22 September 1847

5c postage
(<300 miles: Boston
to New Hampshire)

Carried out of mails,
entering U.S. mails
at Boston.

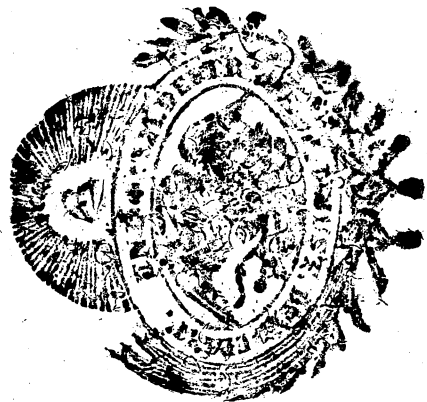


Oct 30 1848

Dr. Cadarita Jimenez

deinst^a de la Ciudad de

*De Oficio.
Cadarita*



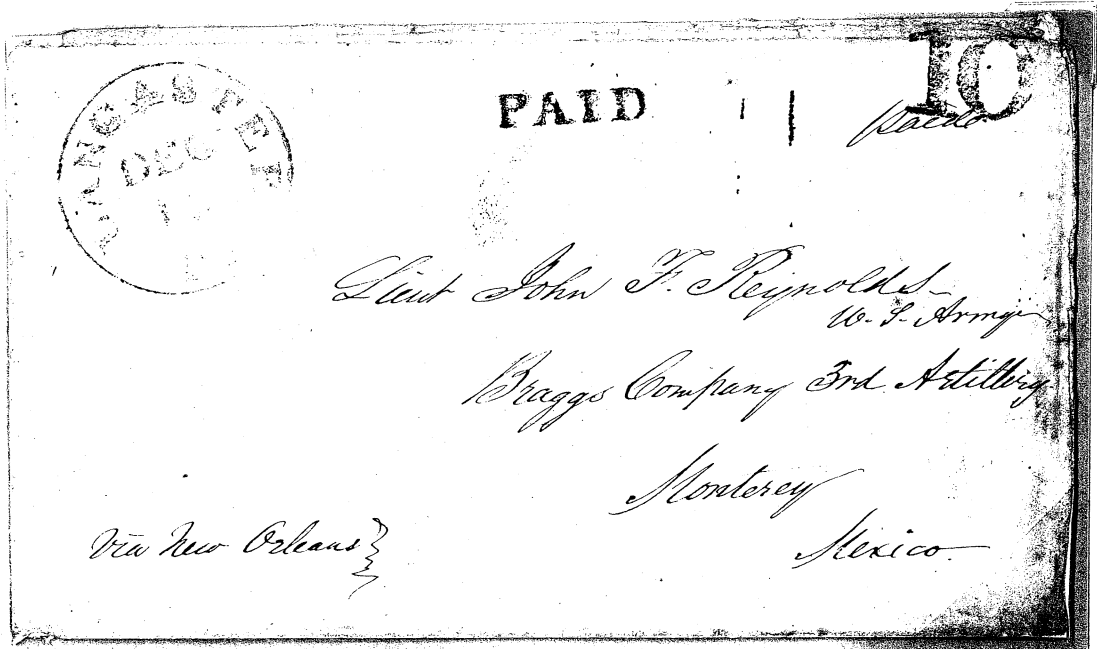
FRANCO

Cadarita Jimenez

Prior to Act of 3 March 1847

Lancaster,
Pennsylvania
12 December 1846

Prepaid 10c



Baltimore,
Maryland
25 January 1847

Prepaid 10c

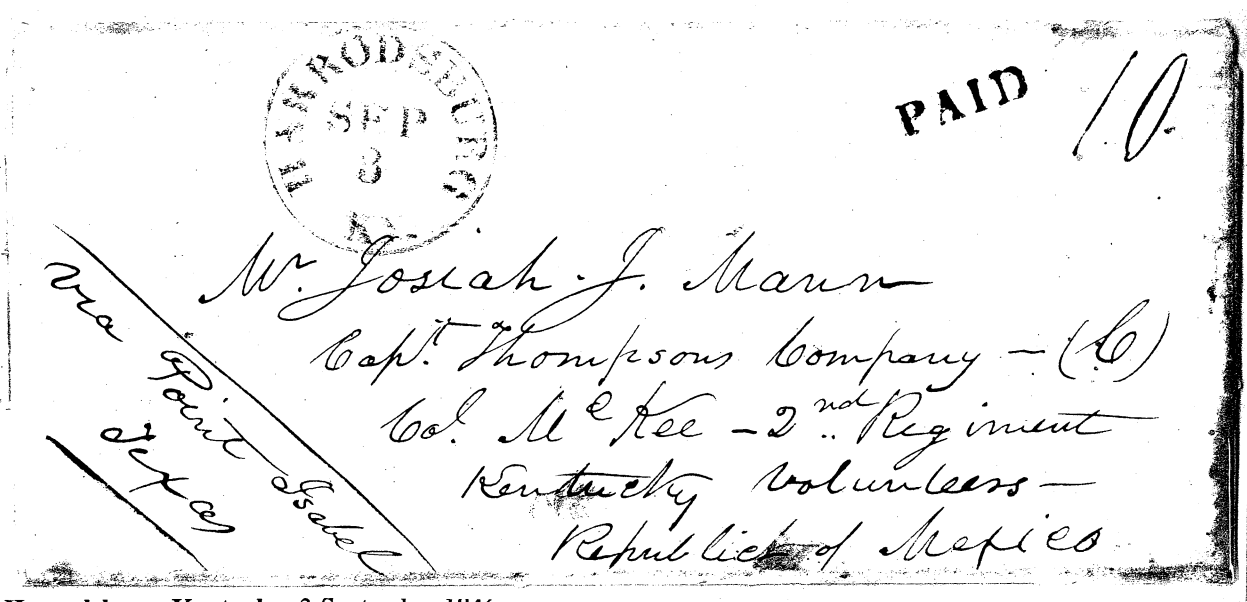
Contrary to then current general practice, both items were sent prepaid (10c U.S. domestic rate for >300 miles) as soldiers often did not have enough available cash to pay for collect letters.

Prior to Act of 3 March 1847, all mail to and from the military was charged postage. After that date, mail to those serving in Mexico was carried without charge. However, mail from the military to the U.S. was carried at regular rates. Inbound Naval mail did not qualify for the free concession except when specifically addressed to Mexico.

Inbound to Monterrey/Salttillo Area

Inbound mail to Northern Mexico was usually routed via New Orleans and Point Isabel

Prepaid

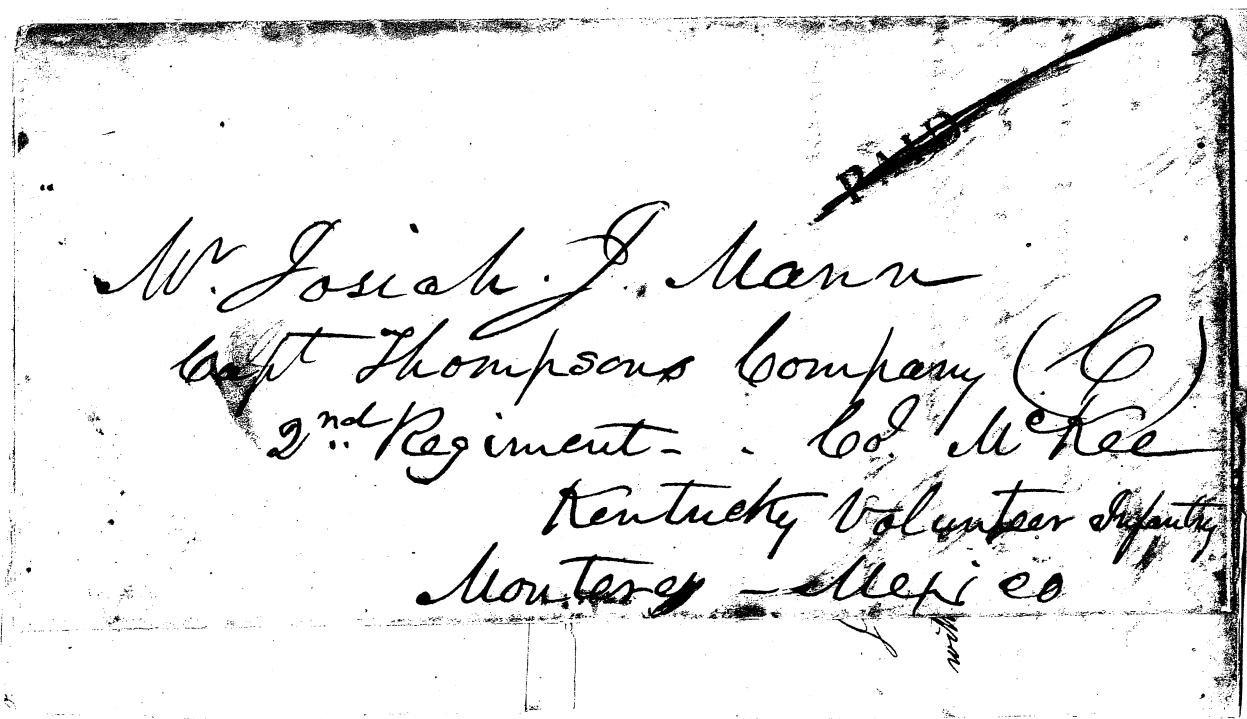


Harrodsburg, Kentucky, 3 September 1846,

Monterrey Arrival 5 January 1847

12 Month volunteers called out under act of 13 May 1846, serving from June 1846 - May 1847.
Kentucky volunteers served at Monterrey November 1846, & Saltillo February 1847.
(Col. McKee killed at Buena Vista 23 February 1847)

Free (Act of 3 March 1847)



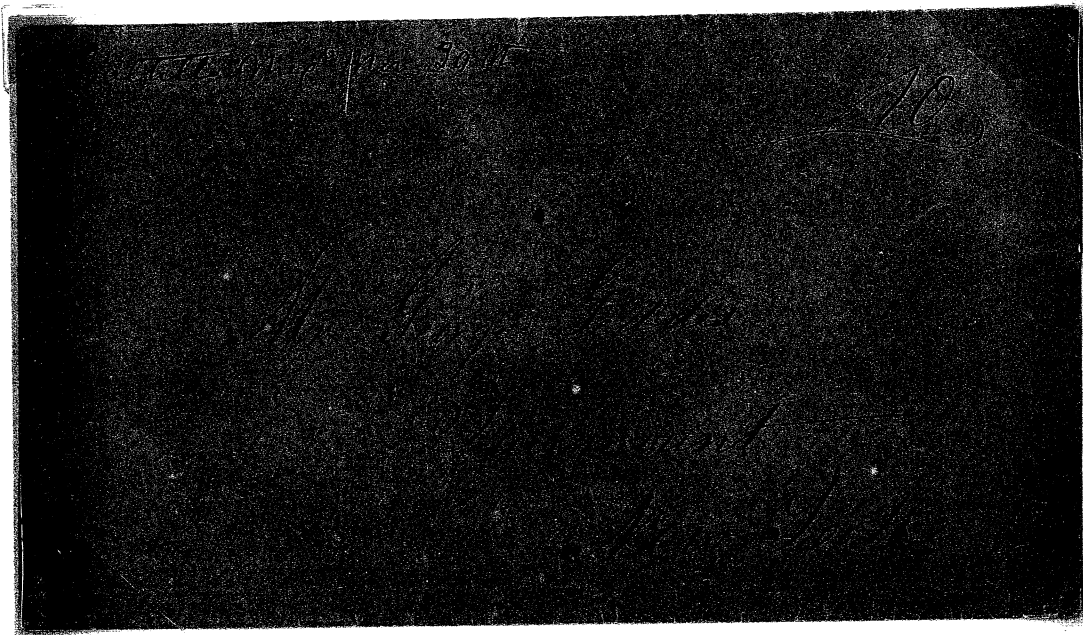
March/April 1847 to Monterrey/Salttillo

Waived 10c for > 300 mile rate

Did not apply to Naval personnel, suttlers, or other assorted non-soldiers.
Soldiers often did not have enough cash money on hand to claim their mail!

Occupied 16 November 1846 by General Taylor

Envelope, Saltillo Manuscript



Saltillo
30 November (1846)

No Point Isabel
Transit markings

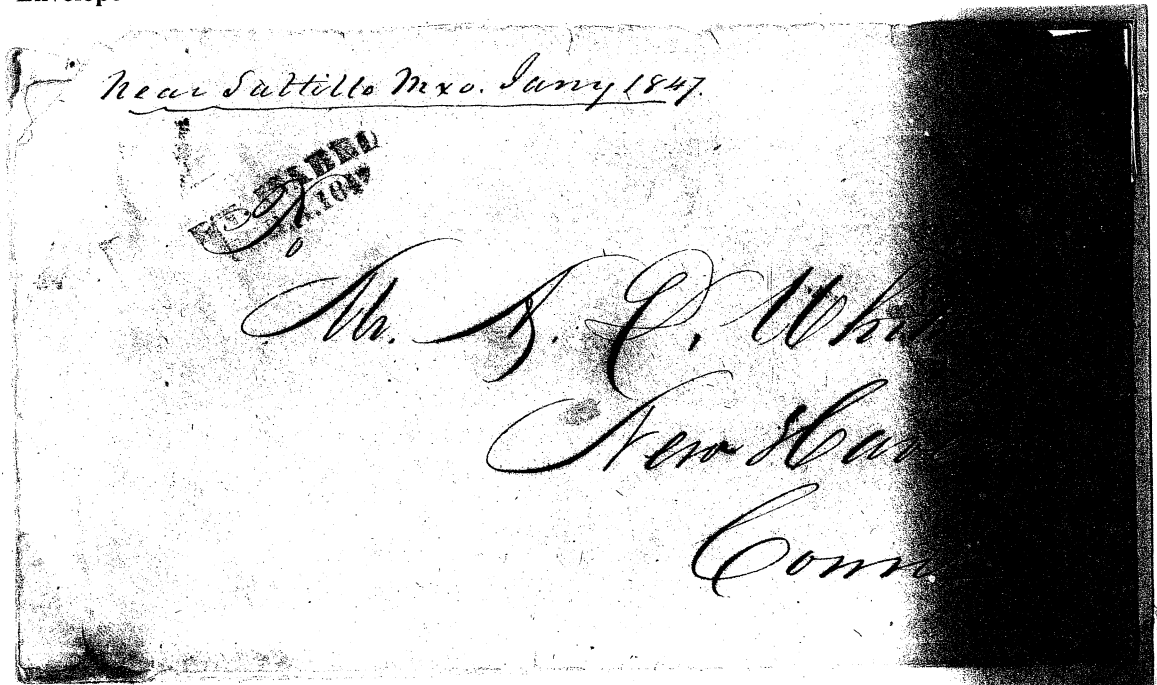
Manuscript '10' [cents]

Envelope

"Near Saltillo Mxo.
Jany 1847."

Point Isabel
Type II
1 February 1847

Small '10' Ratemark
Up to 1/2 oz.,
>300 miles



Envelopes much less common then folded letters during this period

Camp at La Encantada
10 May 1847

Brazos Type II
29 May 1847

Manuscript '20' Rate
1/2 - 1 oz., >300 miles

20

MS. 08
MAY 1847

Hon, Chester Ashley,
Little Rock

Kansas,

Camp at Arispas
13 December 1847

Brazos Type III
2 January 1848

Small '10' Ratemark
Up to 1/2 oz.,
>300 miles

BRAZOS
JAN 2

10

Miss Martha A. Williams
Tomball
N. Co.

Card of
to Williams

Saltillo (Manuscript)
3 January 1848

Brazos Type III
13 January 1848

'20' cents
1/2 - 1 oz., <300 miles:

20

Saltillo, Mex Saltillo
Jan 13 1848

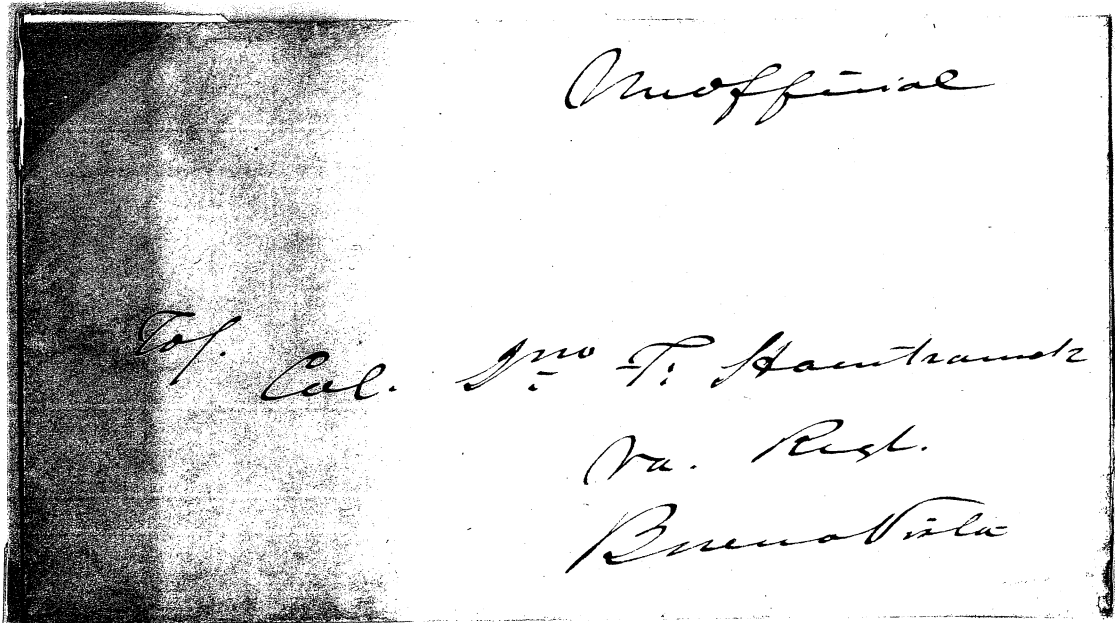
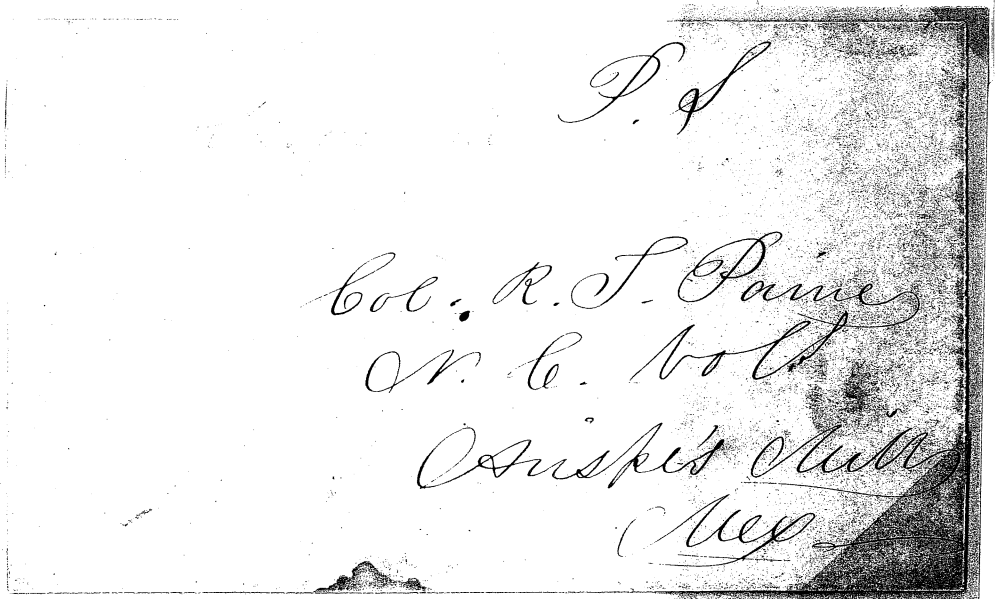
Captian Gilman, Palatka
Grassy Creek, BO
Nancy County
N. Carolina

Official Inbound

Military Courier
No Postal Markings

Col. Robert Trent Paine
(Commanding Officer
North Carolina
Volunteers)

Usually Endorsed
"Official", "P. S."
(Public Service)
or "O. P. S."
(On Public Service)
indicating no postage
paid or due.



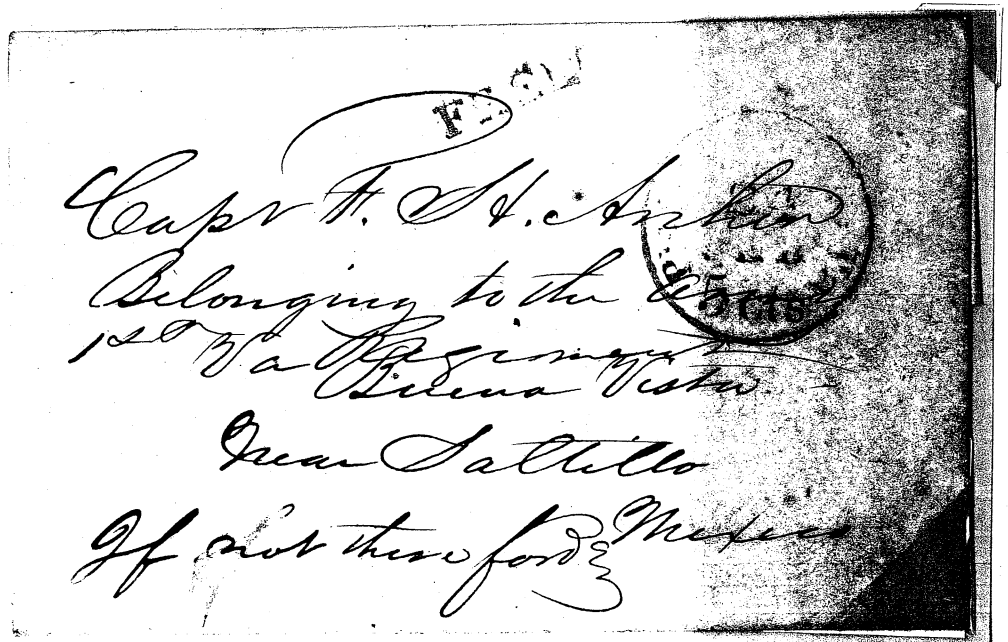
Official to
Buena Vista

No Date

Petersburg Virginia
21 February 1848

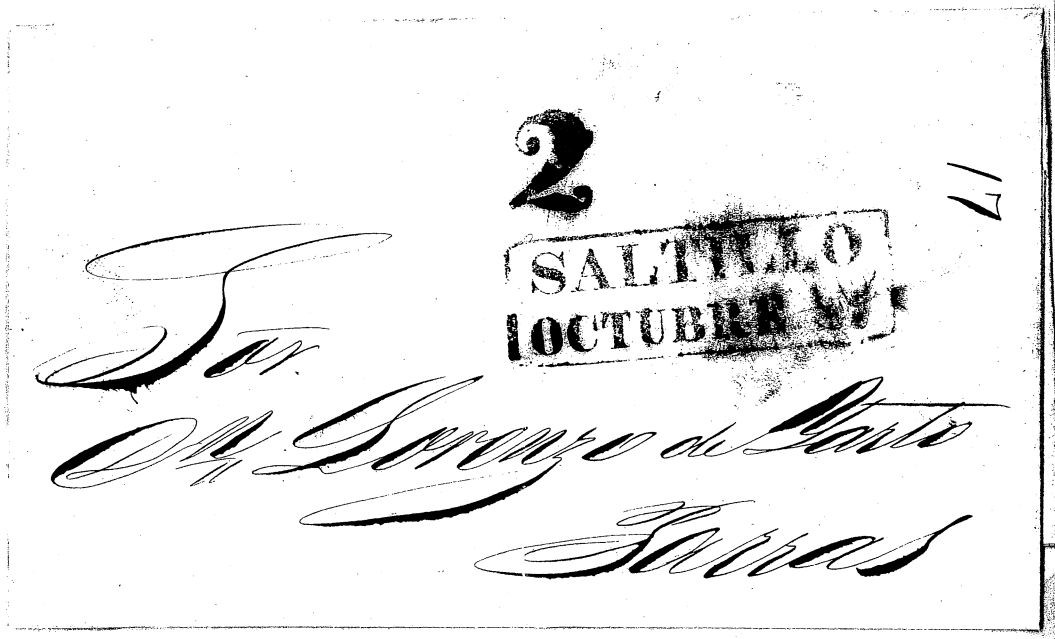
"5 cents"/"FREE"
Otherwise:
10c for >300 miles

Postage not required
(Act of 3 March 1847)



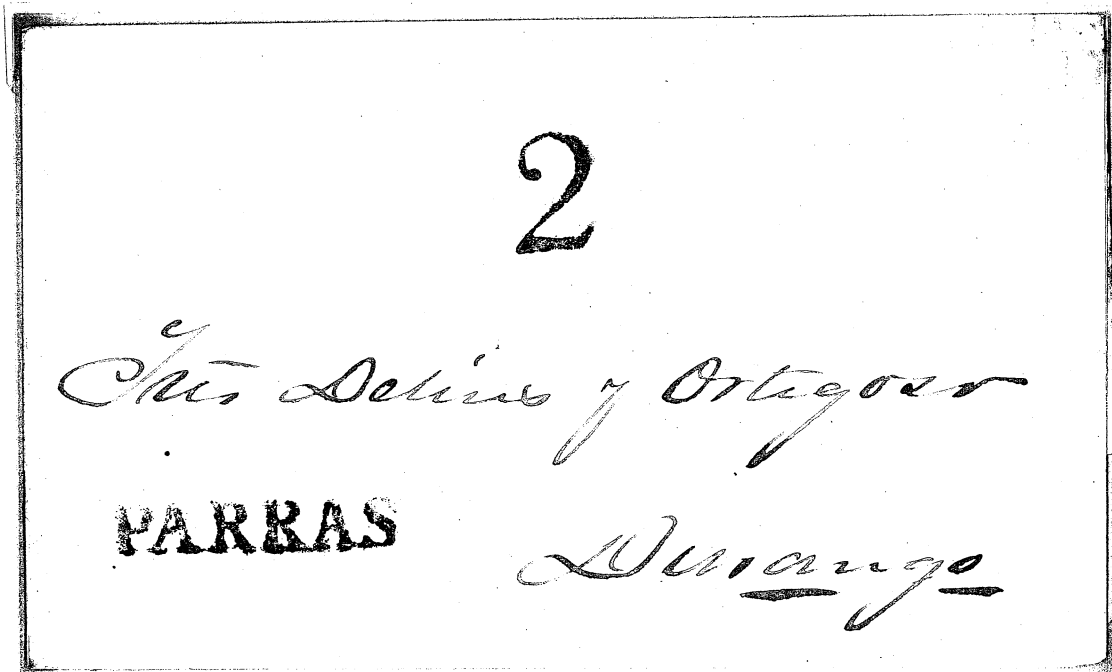
Saltillo Occupied by Taylor 16 November 1846
Parras Occupied by Worth 5 December 1846

Inbound from Saltillo to Parras Immediately Pre-occupation



Saltillo, 27 October 1846
2 Reales (collect)

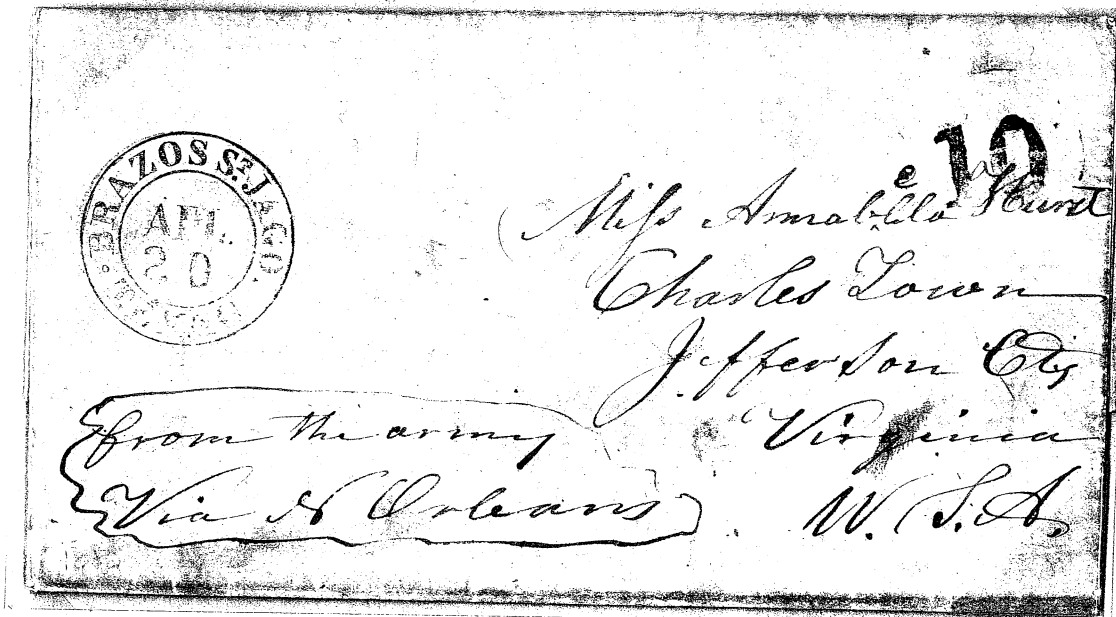
Mexican Civil Mail



Parras, 9 August 1847
2 reales (collect)

Occupied by General Worth 5 December 1846

U.S. Soldier's Mail



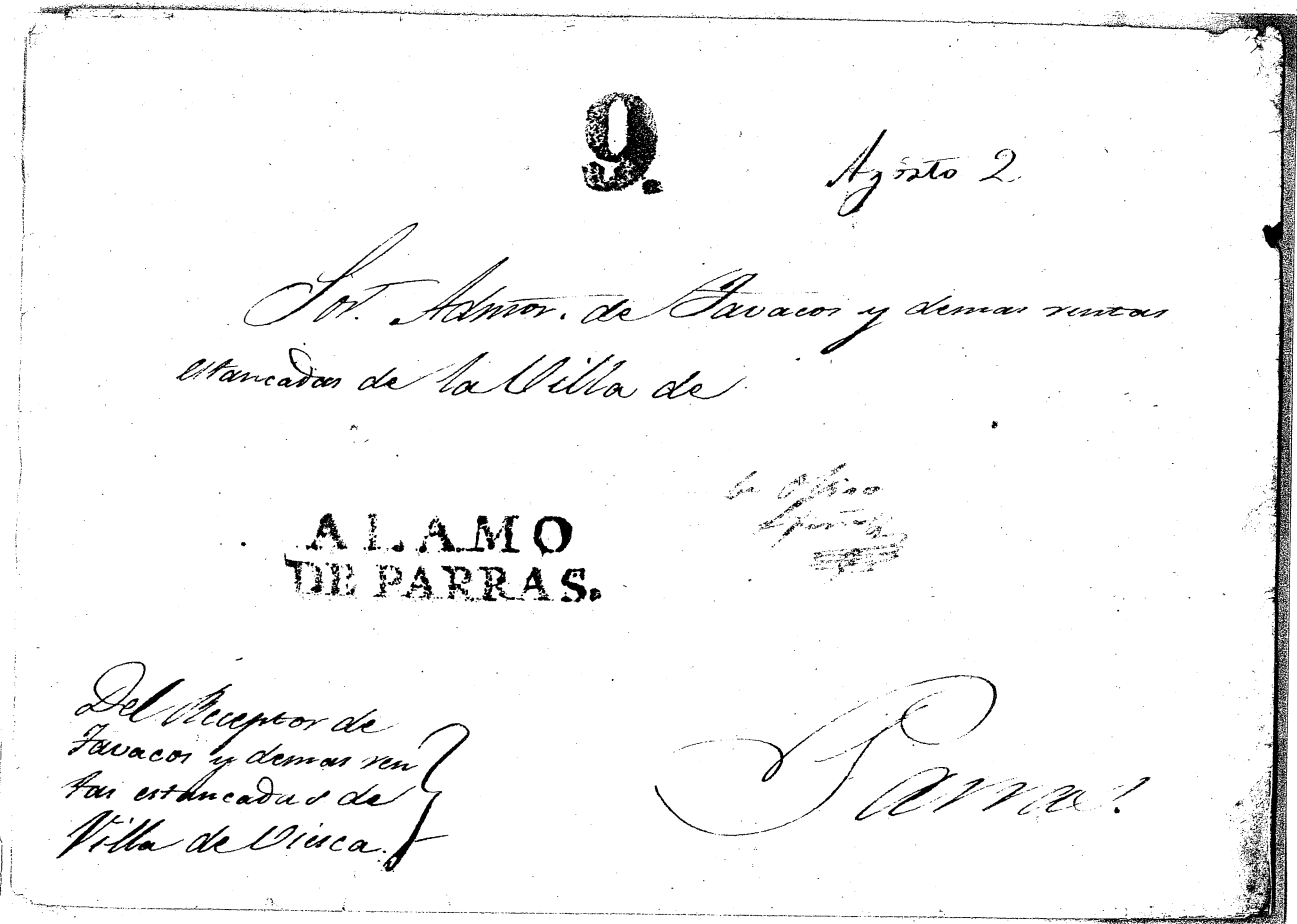
Parras
3 April 1848

Blue Brazos
Type IV CDS
20 April 1847

Blue Handstamp
'10' [cents]

U.S. soldier
awaiting
end of war,
anticipating
Journey home.

Official (Local Government) inbound Letter



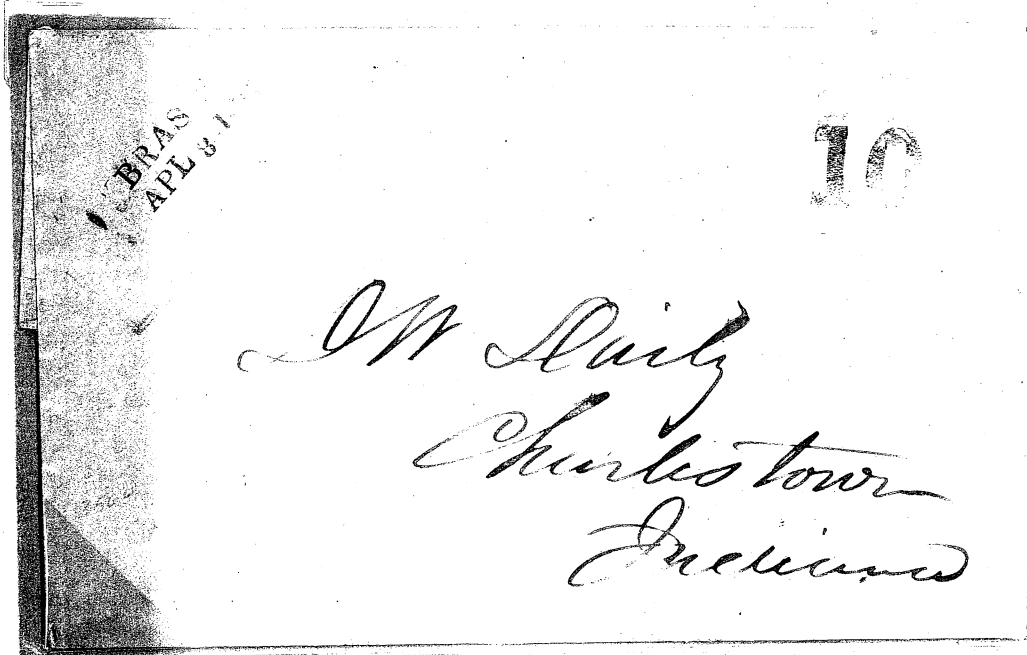
Alamo de Parras (Villa de Viesca)
2 August 1847

9 Reales Rate
(2 - 2 1/4 oz,
> 45 miles)

NORTHERN CAMPAIGN

BUENA VISTA

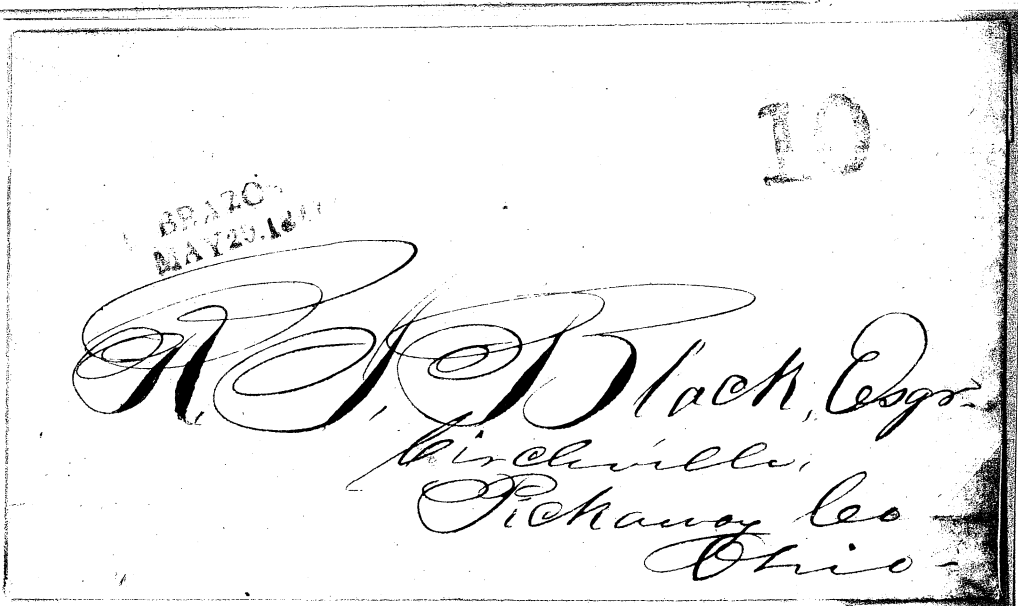
Battle of Buena Vista: 22 -23 February 1847
Marked end of active hostilities in Northern Campaign



Buena Vista
15 March 1847

Brazos (BRASOS)
Type I Handstamp
8 April 1847

In use for less then 2 weeks,
Fewer then 10 examples known



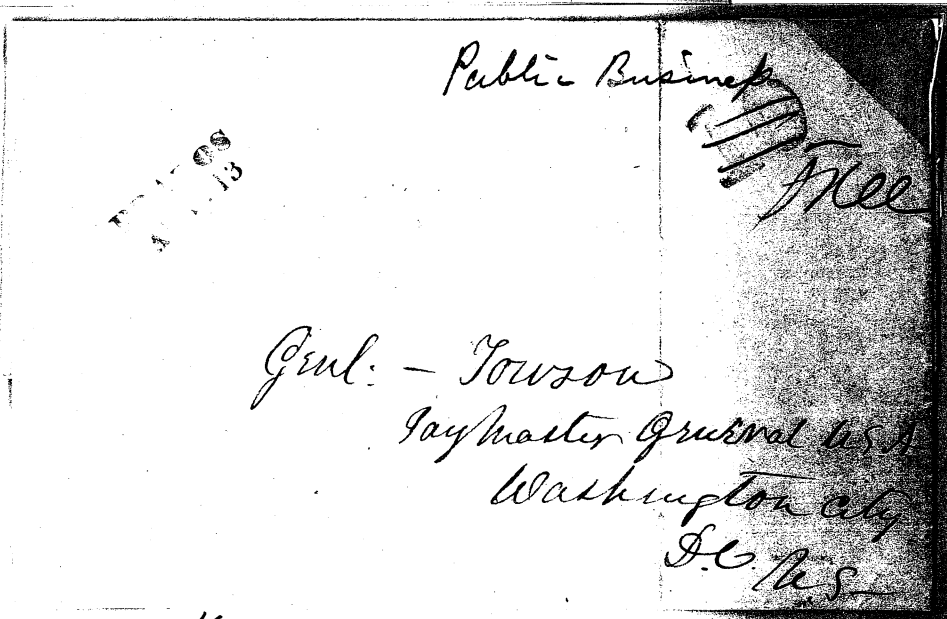
Brazos type II
Handstamp

Rate:
10 cents for
< 300 miles

Buena Vista
1 August 1847

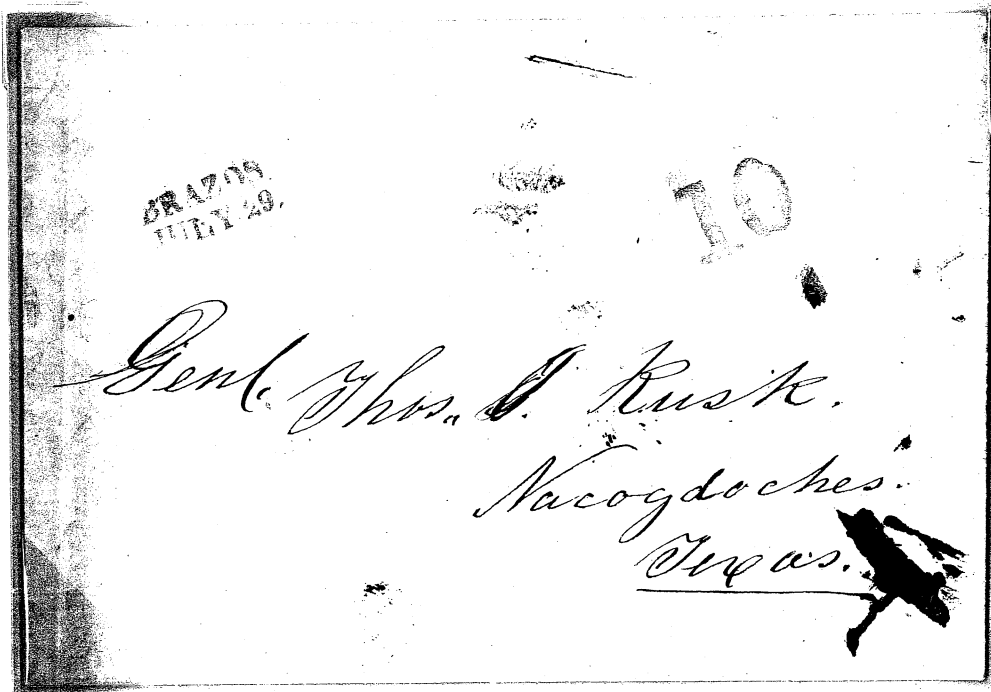
Brazos Type III
Handstamp
13 August (1847)

"Public Business/Free"
'10' crossed out
For official business



Texas was one of several States to raise a volunteer force for service in Mexico

To Texas



"Texas Rangers,
Camp Encantada
near Buena Vista"
15 July 1847

Brazos Type III
29 July 1847

Small '10' [cents]

To General (Senator)
Thomas Rusk reporting
Death of Officer due
To illness.

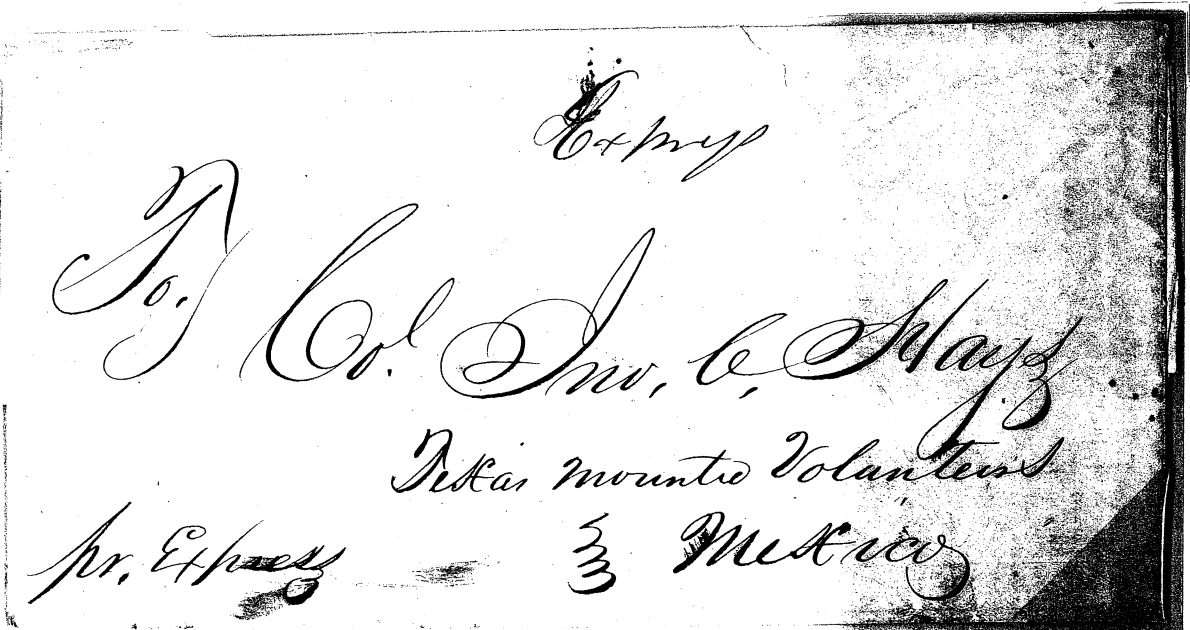
Inbound from Texas

San Antonio
23 August 1847

To Texas Mounted
Volunteers in
Mexico

"pr. Express"
(Military messenger)

No Postal Markings



Texas Volunteers (Rangers) served throughout Northern Mexico, especially Saltillo area.

NORTHERN CAMPAIGN

ZACATECAS

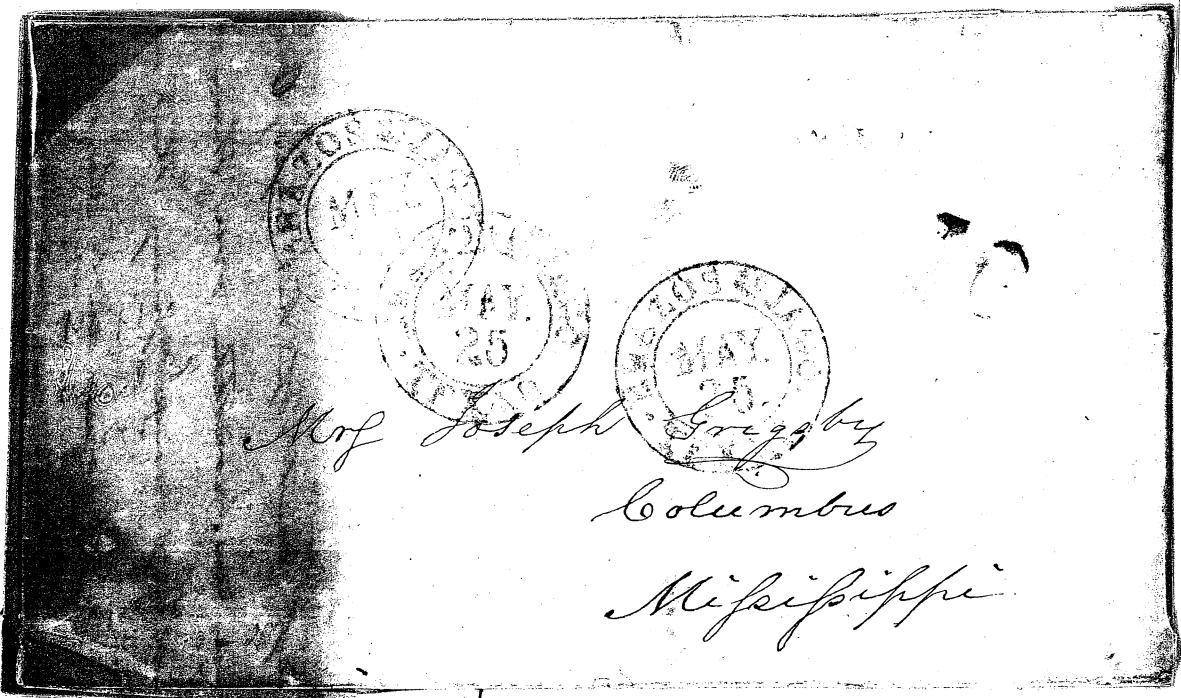
Military activities for Northern Campaign essentially ended after Battle of Buena Vista. Return home of 1 year volunteers, transfer to Central Mexico, or recovery from illness were the lot for many.

Headquarters, Mississippi Regiment at Mazapil
14 March 1848

Brazos, 12 April 1848
Note deformed "APRL"
(End of life for this device,
Replaced by Type IV a few days later)

Small "10" Ratestamp

Troops left Buena Vista on 2 March for journey home



Mississippi Regiment at Cedras, 30 April 1848
Brazos Type IV Handstamp (Blue CDS)
25 & 31 May 1848

WESTERN EXPEDITION

NEW MEXICO

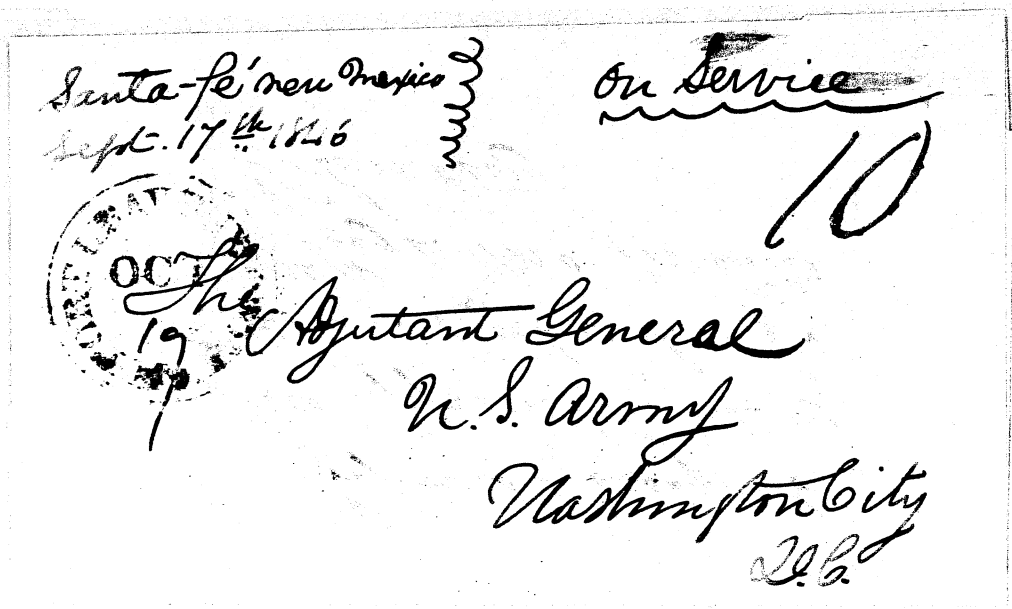
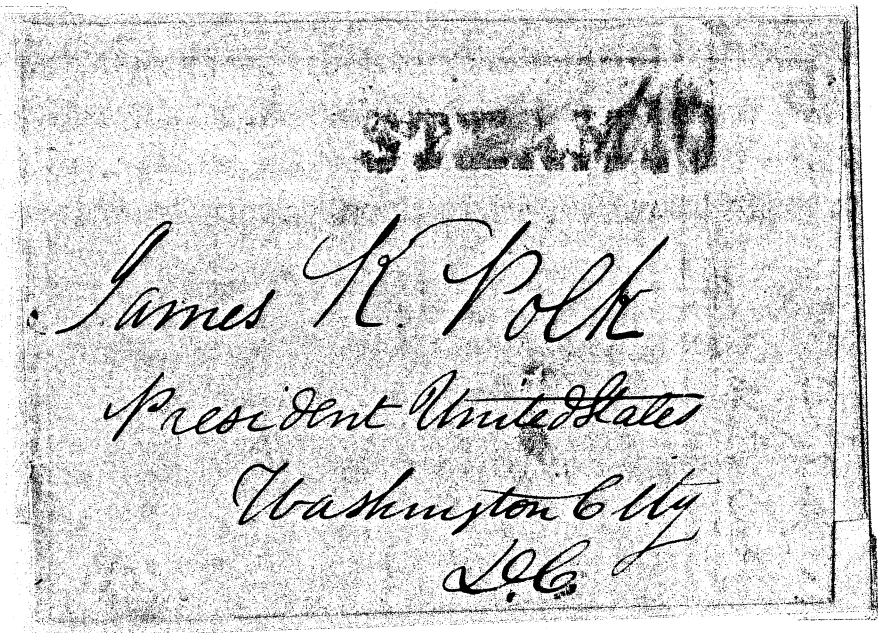
Colonel Stephen W. Kearny and the Army of the West departed Fort Leavenworth late June, occupying Santa Fe 18 August 1846

Proclamation annexing New Mexico 22 August 1846

Camp near Santa Fe
26 August 1846.

Via military train
to St. Louis ,
Entering mails
(STEAM 10);

Washington, DC.
3 Oct. 1846 arrival



Santa Fe
17 September 1846

Via Fort Leavenworth
(19 October 1846), and St.
Louis;

Washington, D.C.
2 November 1846 arrival.

Forces split into 3 main groups under separate commanding officers:

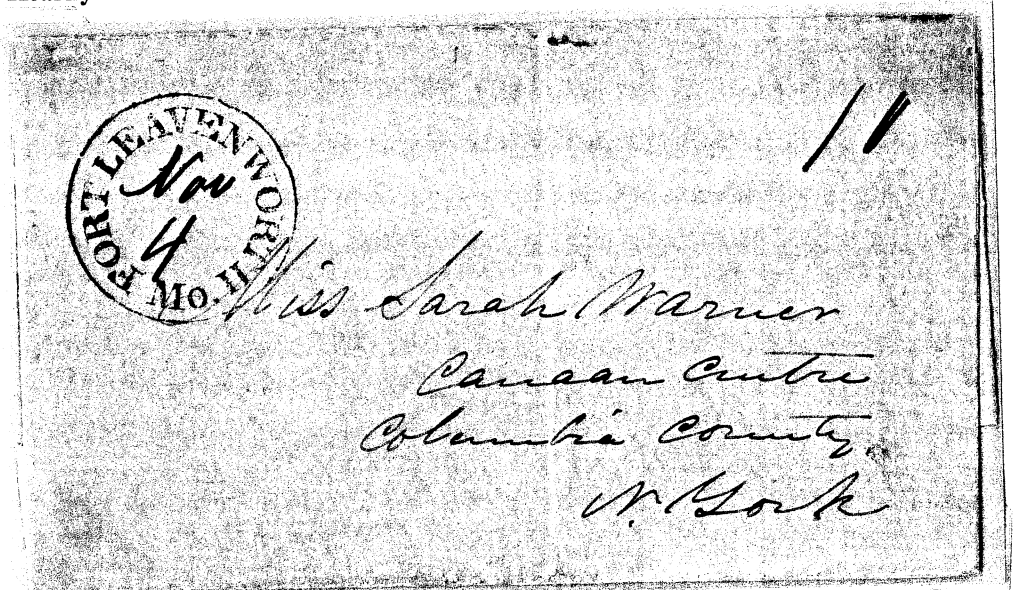
- Kearny to California (25 September 1846)
- Donaphin to Chihuahua early October (rejoined Taylor's forces at Saltillo, Mexico)
- Price (arrived Santa Fe 2 October) remained in New Mexico

Kearny's column to California

120 miles from Santa Fe
(near Socorro, N.M.)
2 October 1846

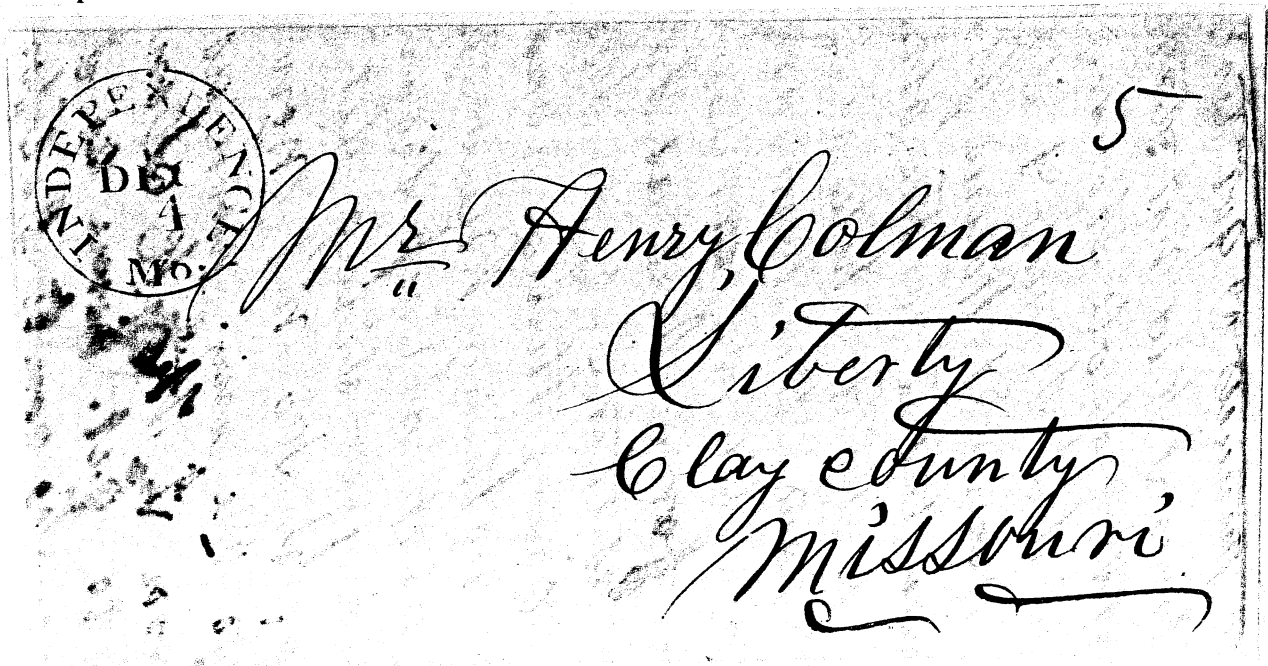
Entered mails at
Fort Leavenworth
4 November 1846

10c (>300 mile) rate
From Ft. Leavenworth
To New York



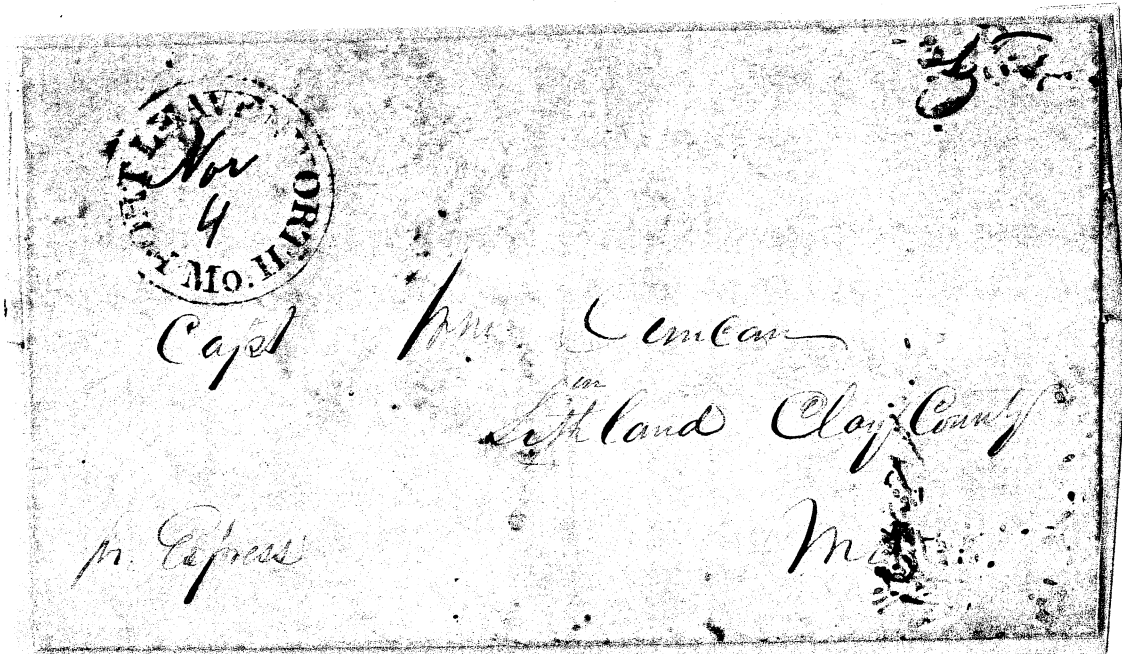
Force to California originally consisted of 300 dragoons and small wagon train. Majority of troops returned to Santa Fe 6 October (with this letter) while remainder continued onwards to California.

Donaphin's column to Chihuahua

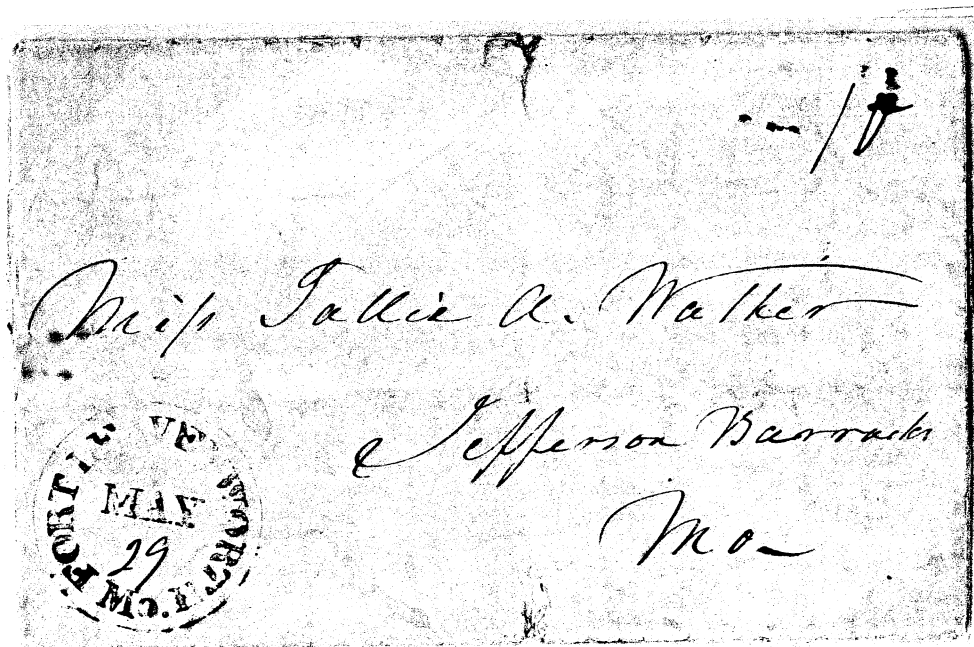


Southwest of Santa Fe, 19 October 1846
5c (<300 mile rate) charged from
Independence to Clay County, Mo. (about 30 miles)

Forces under *Price* remained in New Mexico for remainder of war period.



Santa Fe, 6 October 1846 via military express
Entered mails at Fort Leavenworth 4 November 1846
5c rate from Ft. Leavenworth to Clay County, Mo. (30 miles)



Santa Fe, 29 April 1847
10c from Ft. Leavenworth (29 May 1847) to Jefferson Barracks
(>300 miles) near St. Louis

Military and civilian trains traveled the Santa Fe trail carrying troops, mail and supplies almost monthly. The journey usually required several weeks to over a month.

MILITARY GOVERNMENT

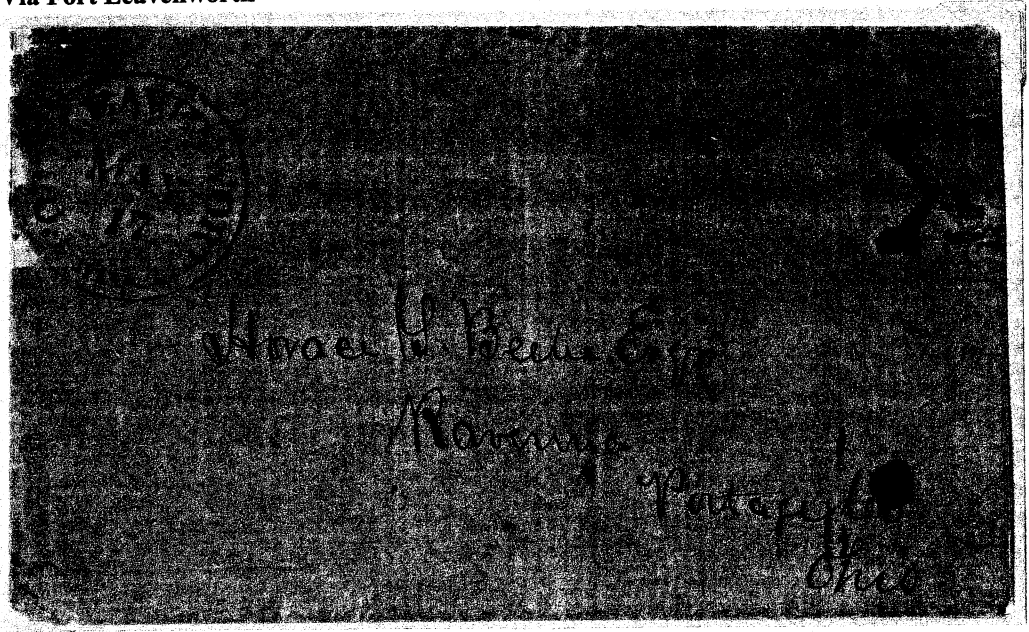
NEW MEXICO

Area Under Military Government through Mid 1850
Post Office at Santa Fe officially established 1 October 1849
Civilian Postmaster appointed Spring 1850

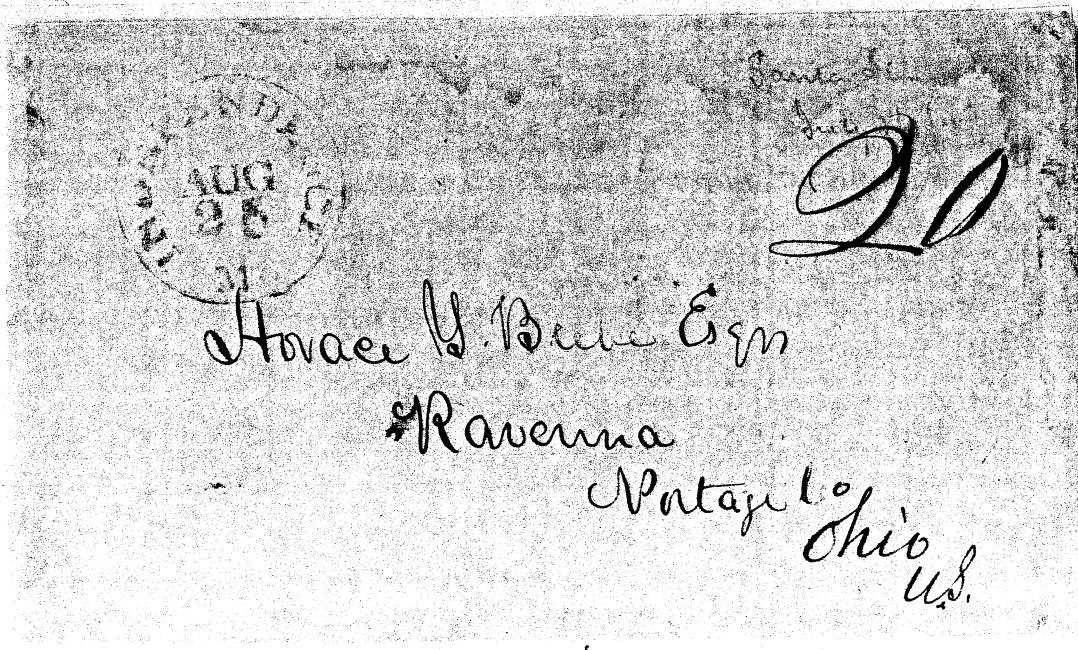
Via Fort Leavenworth

Santa Fe, circa April 1849
Fort Leavenworth, 17 May 1849
Via Military Express

10c Single Rate from Mo. To Ohio
'X' rate marking known used 1849



Via Independence, Missouri

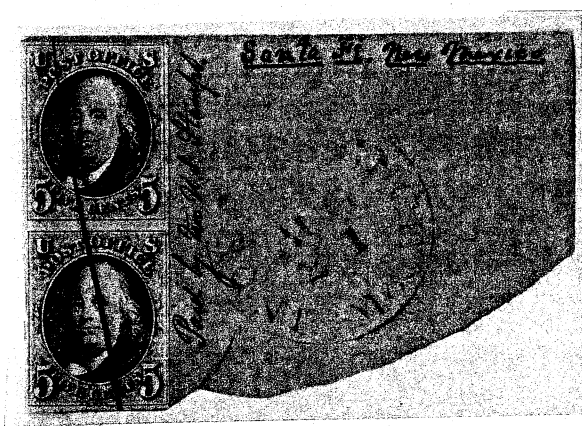


Santa Fe, 16 July 1849
Independence Missouri
25 August 1849

(Green CDS used mid 1849)
20c Double rate

Mail from New Mexico carried over Santa Fe Trail to Fort Leavenworth or Independence, Mo. by military express, entering U.S. mail system (prior to establishment of U.S. Post Office early 1850).

One of two '1847' issue items known used from Santa Fe



Santa Fe, mid July 1849
Independence Mo., 25 August 1849
(Green CDS used mid 1849)
10c Single rate

*From same correspondence as covers on
previous page: Note docketing above ms. '20'.*

Third Printing (March 1849)
Probably carried privately into Santa Fe
As no stamps were officially sent there

WESTERN EXPEDITION

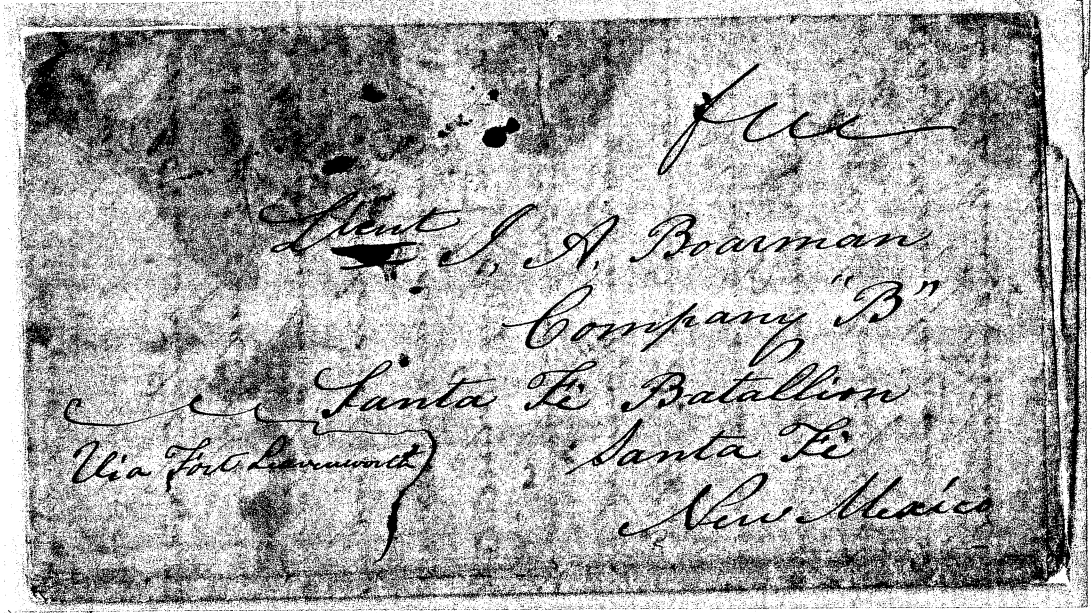
INBOUND

Inbound to Santa Fe via Fort Leavenworth

St. Genevieve, Mo.
22 November 1847

7 Dec. Postmark

Via Mails to
Fort Leavenworth
then wagon train
over Santa Fe Trail
to destination

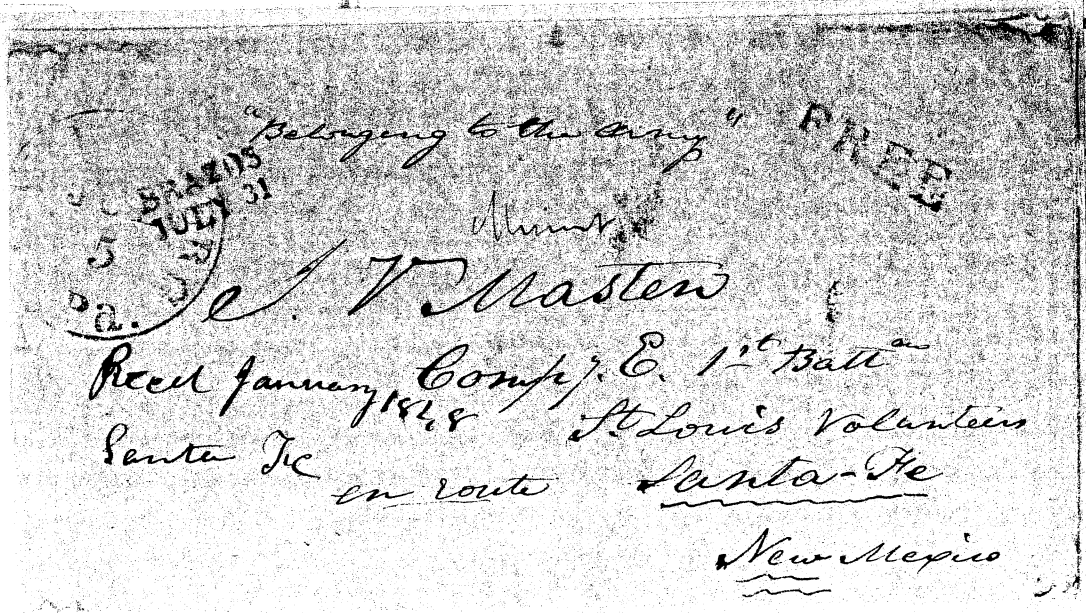
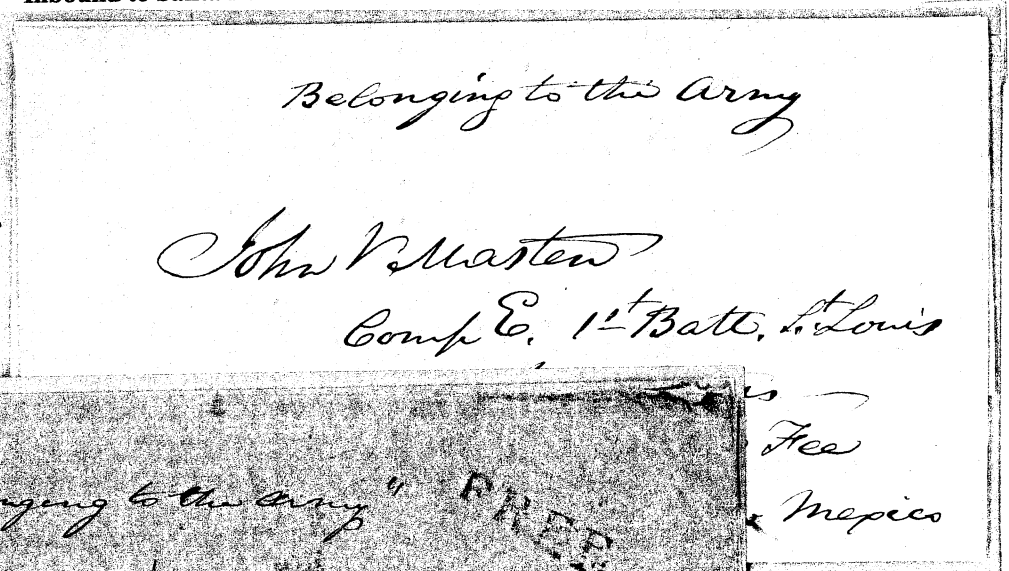


Inbound to Santa Fe via Brazos

Harrisburg Penn.; 5 July 1847
Brazos (forward); 31 July 1847
Santa Fe arrival; January 1848

'Free' per act of 3 March 1847

Routed to Army in Mexico
Instead of New Mexico.
"Missent" (ms) by mistake
to Brazos (Texas)



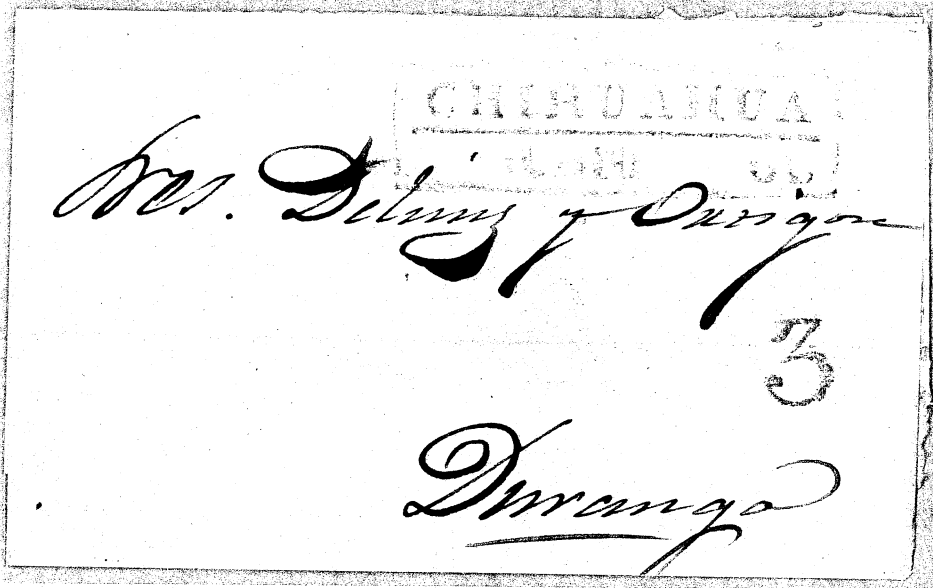
Original folded letter
sheet placed inside
envelope after ad-
dressing, but prior to
mailing.

Occupied by Donaphin from 1 March through 28 April 1847

After departure US Forces from area, but prior to peace treaty

Chihuahua
20 June 1847

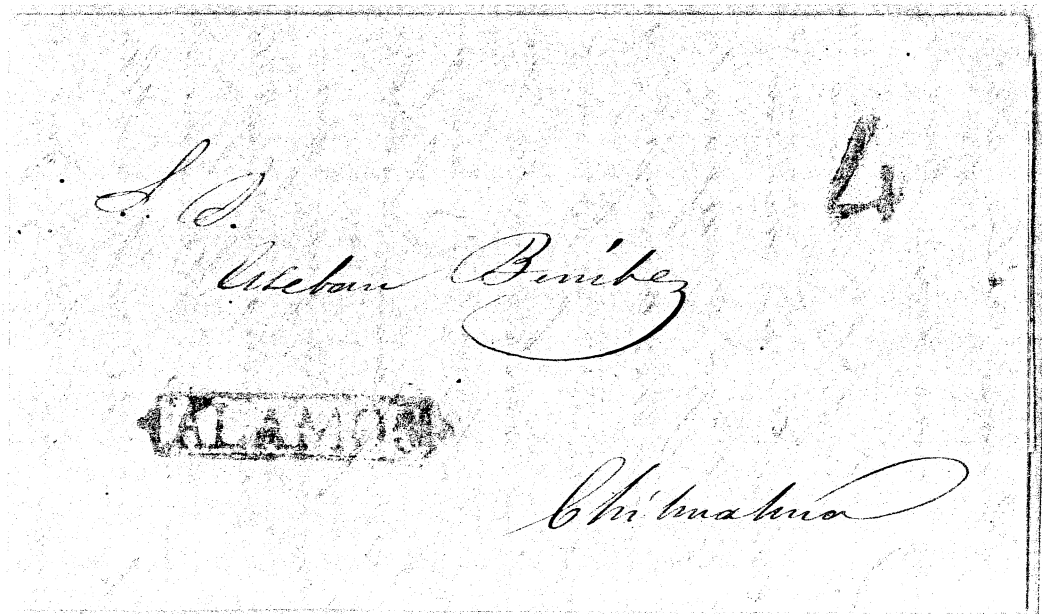
3 Reales due
1/2-3/4 oz,
>16 leagues
(~45 miles)



Inbound to Chihuahua

Alamos
25 June 1847

4 reales due
3/4-1 oz
>16 leagues



United States military activity in Alta California discussed by writer.

PACIFIC BLOCADE

MAZATLAN

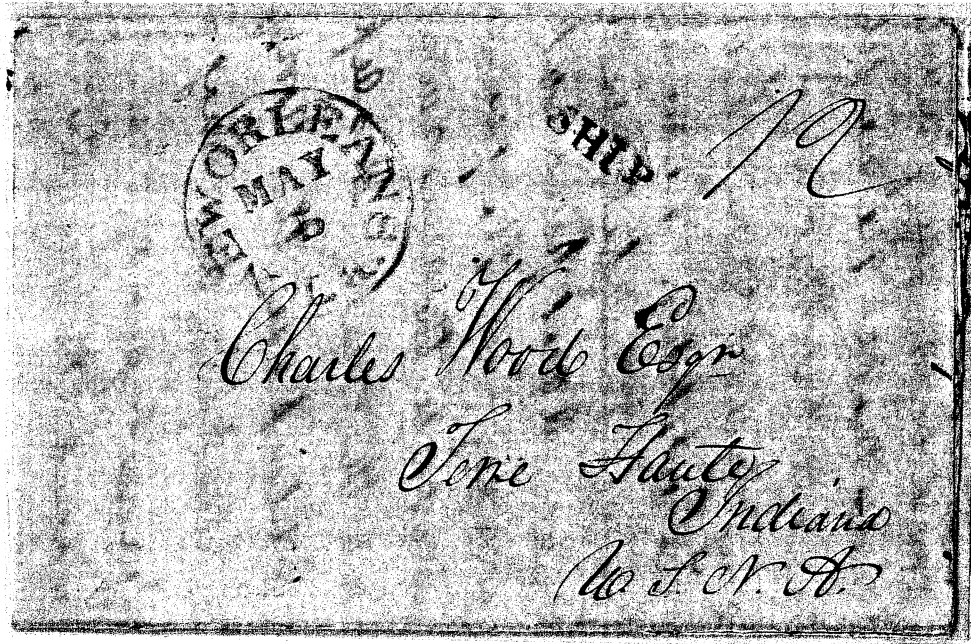
Variable U.S. blockade in place from early 1846 through 17 June 1848.
U.S. Naval landings/temporary occupations occurred
September 1846, February, and December 1847.

U.S. Sailor (Blockade duty at Mazatlan)

Mazatlan
31 March 1846

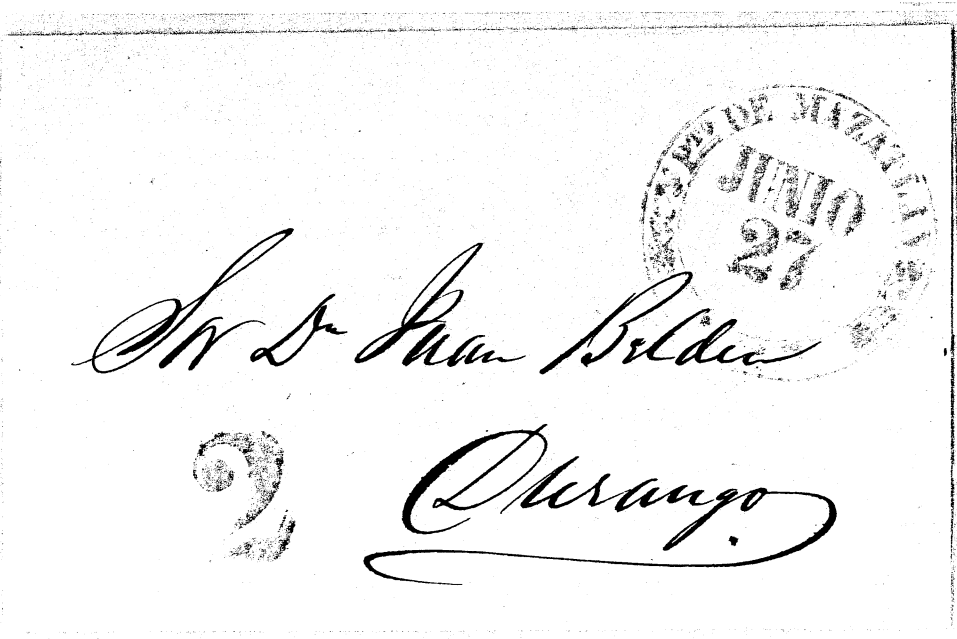
Entered mails at
New Orleans
5 May 1847
(5 week transit)

10c postage
+2c "SHIP"
12c rate



"...since 9th of December [1845] we have been anchored in this place."

Mexican Civil Mail



Mazatlan
27 June 1847

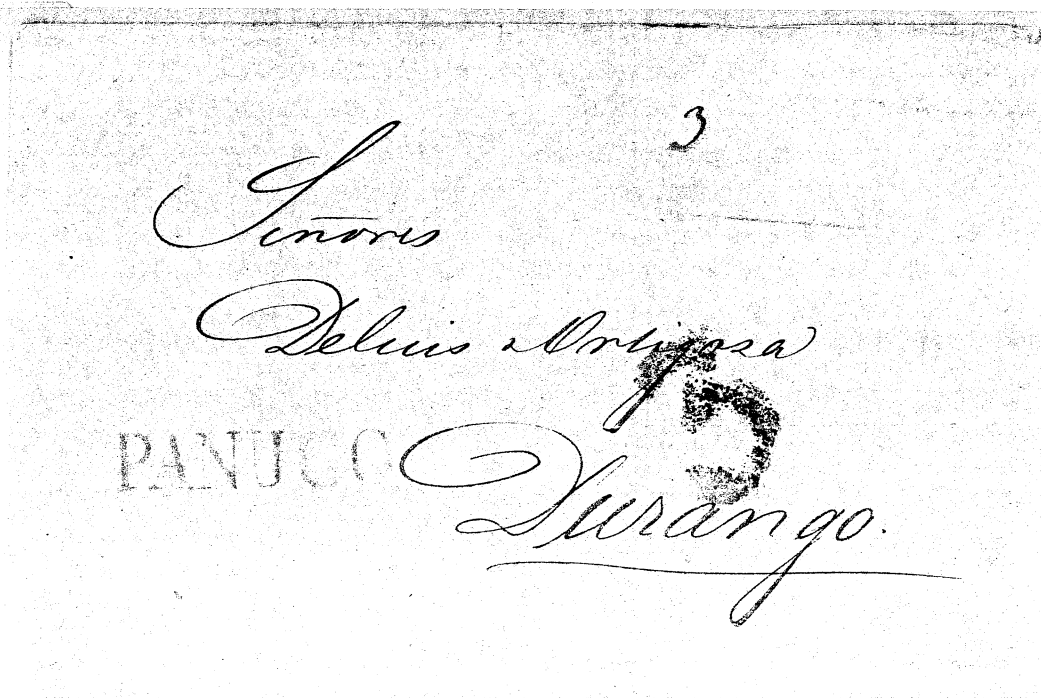
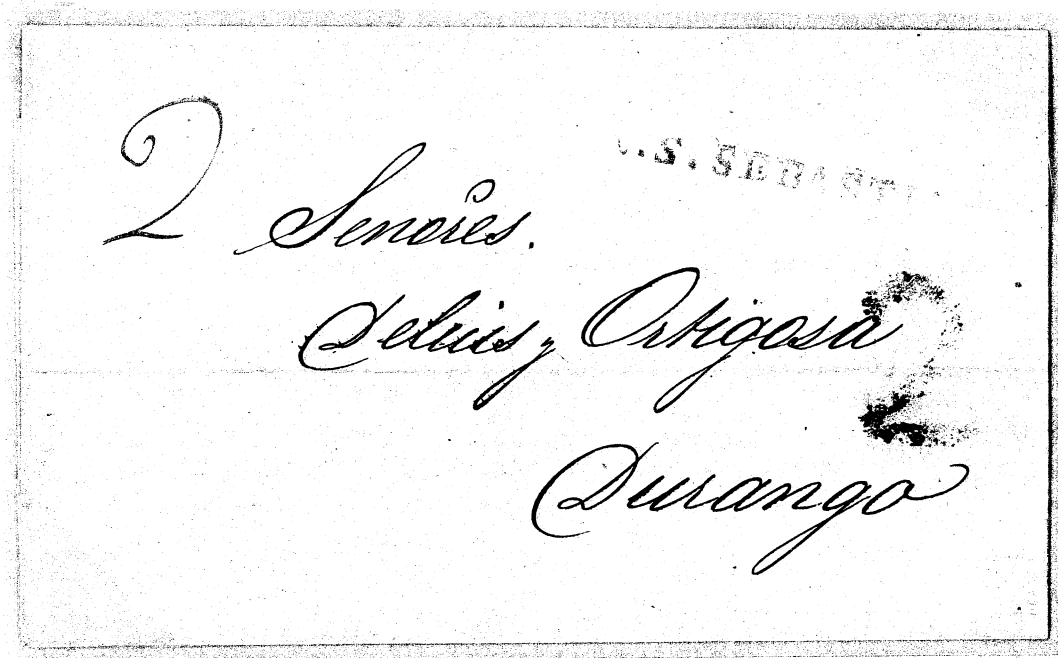
2 Reales [due]
Single letter
Rate to Durango

Mexican Civil Mail

Mazatlan
21 November 1847

Entered mails at
San Sabastian,
(Coastal town
South of Mazatlan)

2 Reales [due]
(Single Letter rate)



Mazatlan
8 January 1848

Entered mails at
Panuco,
(25 miles inland
from Mazatlan)

3 Reales [due]
1/2 - 3/4 oz.
Rate to Durango

Mail from Mazatlan entered Mexican mails at outlying locations during U.S. Occupation

PACIFIC PORTS

SAN DIEGO

San Diego occupied by U.S. Naval forces 29 July 1846.
U.S. ships have called at San Diego from early 1800's.

Mexican Mails

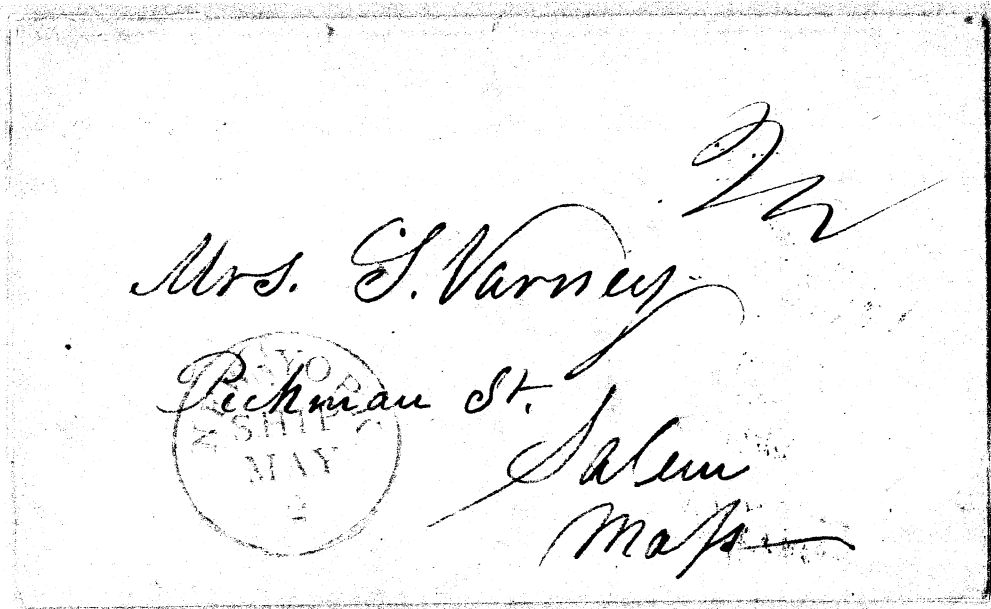
Port San Diego
2 March 1841

Forwarded at
Mazatlan by
W.W. Scarborough
11 March 1841

2 Reales (ms)
*Single rate/
Second distance*

Vera Cruz
3 April 1841

New York
2 May 1841

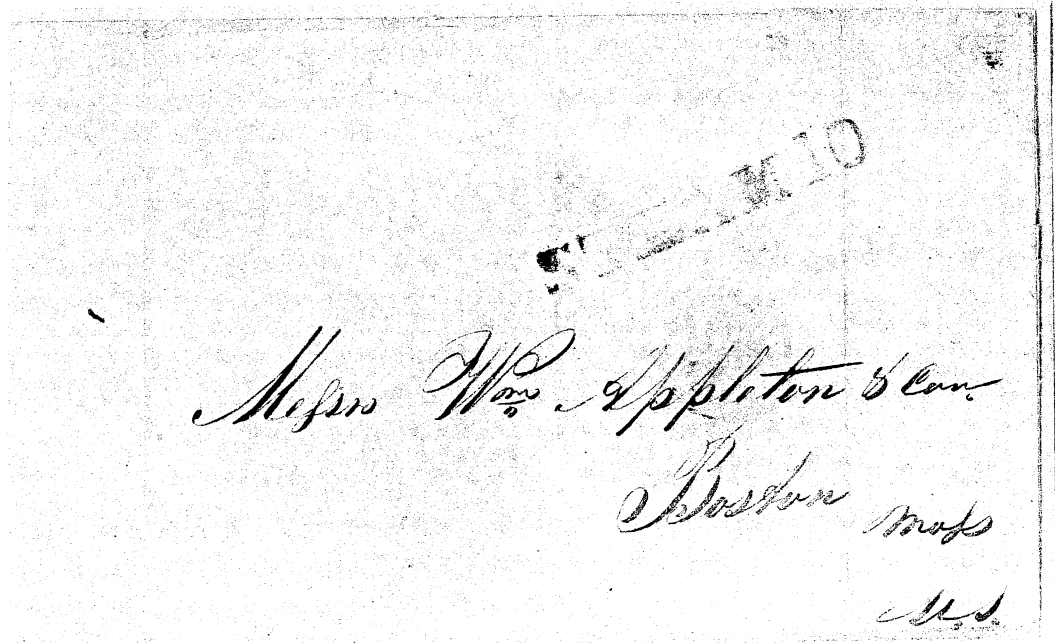


*Early Ship letter to Boston from Mexican Pacific Port of San Diego
(stopping point on voyage to Hawaii)*

U.S. Mails

San Diego
20 May 1847

Overland to
St. Louis
(STEAM 10)
then steamer
to Boston.
(via Gulf?)



San Diego still Mexican territory at this time. Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ceding Alta California not yet ratified.

PACIFIC PORTS

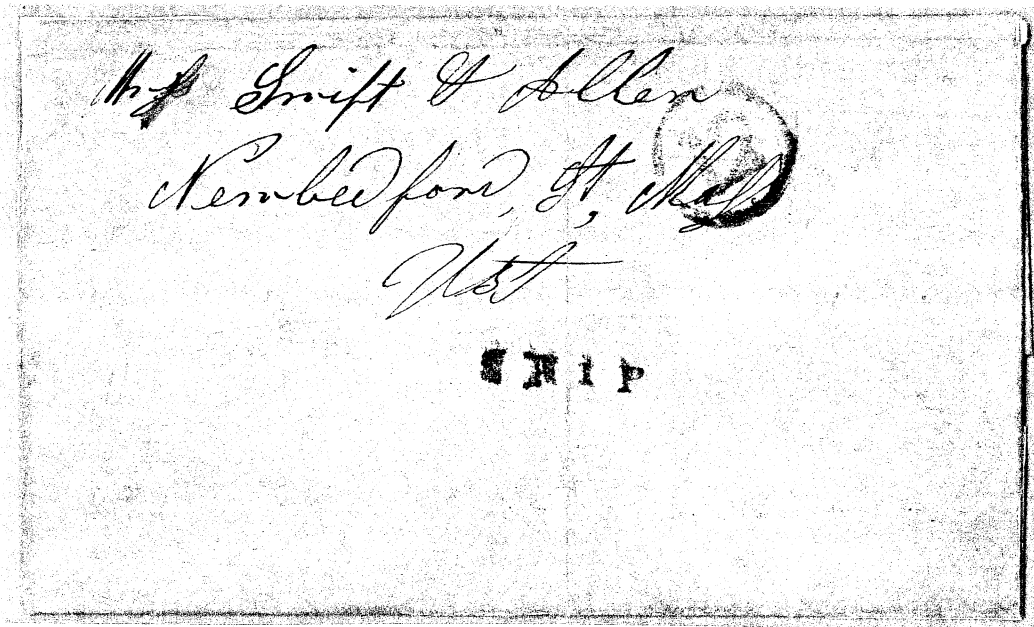
Whaling ship letter carried across Mexico from Pacific to Atlantic ports.

Hawaii – Mazatlan – Vera Cruz – New Bedford

Oahu
26 October 1846
Ship
'GRATITUDE'

Vera Cruz
30 January 1847
'FRANQUEDO'

"SHIP" & "12"



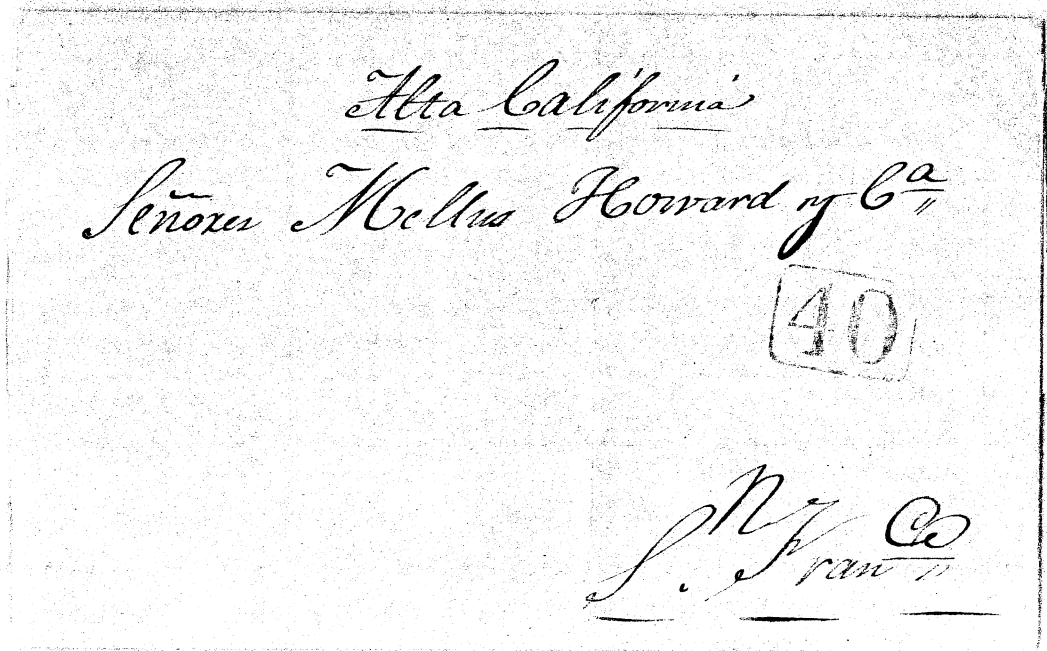
Oahu to Mazatlan out of mails, privately forwarded across Mexico to Vera Cruz where it entered mails (1 Real local postage paid) , then via mails to New Bedford. 2 known cross Mexico Whaling covers during war period.

12c (10c postage + 2c ship) (Mexican postage unspecified: 1 Real local postage from port to ship)

Pacific Steamer

San Blas
20 April 1849

40c rate
per Section 7,
Act of 3 March
1847 (all letters
to/from other-
Pacific ports)



Probably carried on early voyage of Pacific Mail Steamship Company [PMSS] vessel *SS California* which received 10 year Panama - San Francisco US mail contract effective 1 October 1848. Little commercial mail exists from this period.

Territory of Alta California ceded by Mexico to United States: 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.

MEXICAN MILITARY MAIL

Northern Campaign Area – Rio Grande to Cadereyta

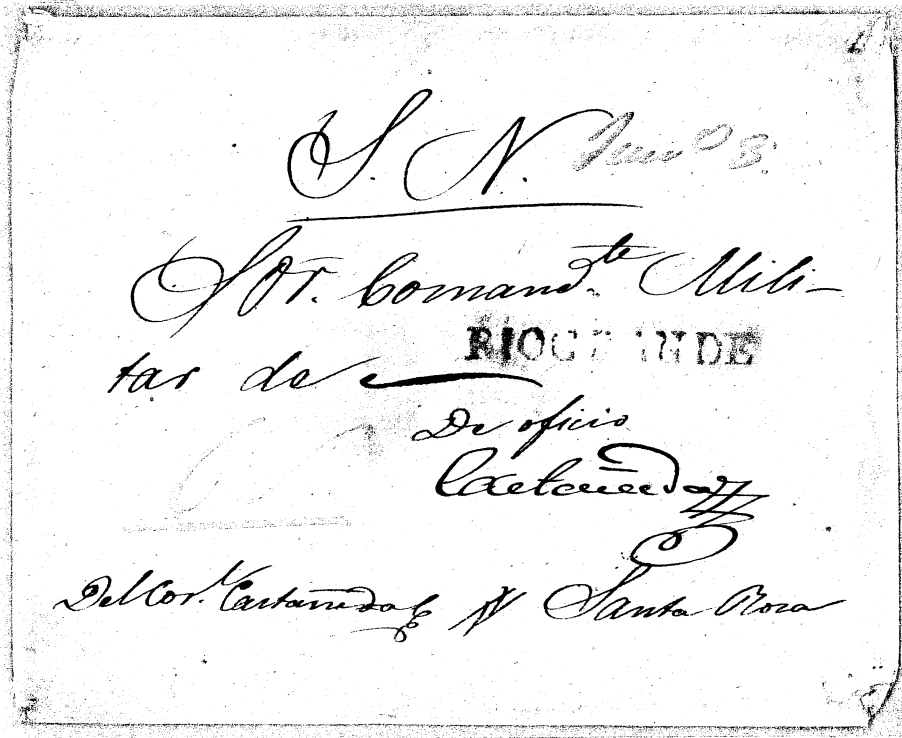
Rio Grande
(Saltillo/Zacatecas)
8 June 1846

To area Military
Commander at
Cadereyta
(near Monterrey)

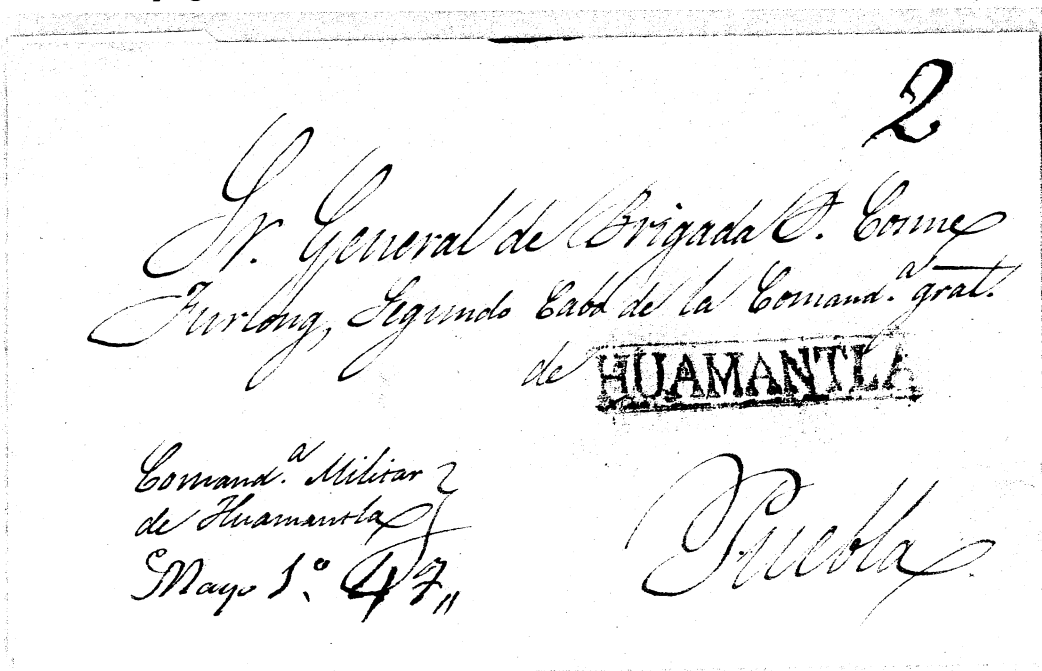
"S. N."
(Servicio Nacional)
[National Service]
No postage required

6 Reales debited
(1 1/4 – 1 1/2 oz)

Probably contained
Several documents
or Sheets of paper.



Central Campaign Area – Inbound to Puebla



Huamantla
(near Puebla)
1 May 1847

No Payment required
2 Reales debited

From Military
Commander at
Huamantla to
General at Puebla

Puebla occupied 15 May 1847 (2 weeks later) by U.S. forces.

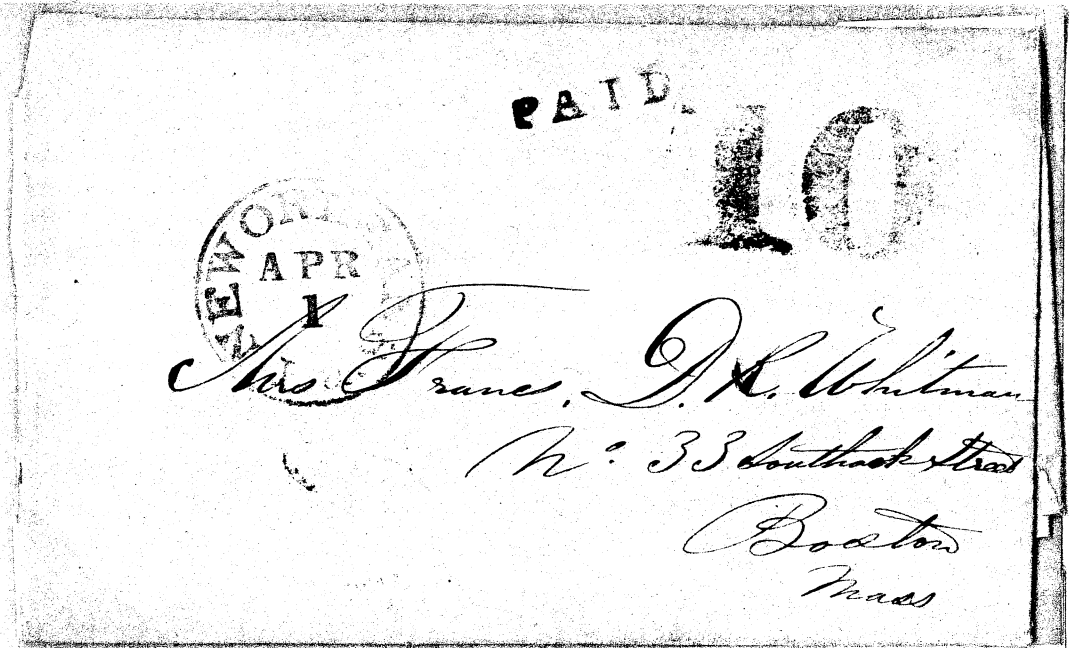
DISPERSAL OF NORTHERN FORCES

By Spring 1847, military activity in the North of Mexico was at a standstill. Many troops who had enlisted for one year in 1846 were eligible for mustering out. Others were recovering from illness, accident, or war wounds in various hospital locations. Some were relocated to other theaters – the **Tamaulipais Expedition to Tampico** (December 1846), and the **Vera Cruz/Central Mexican Campaign** (from February 1847).

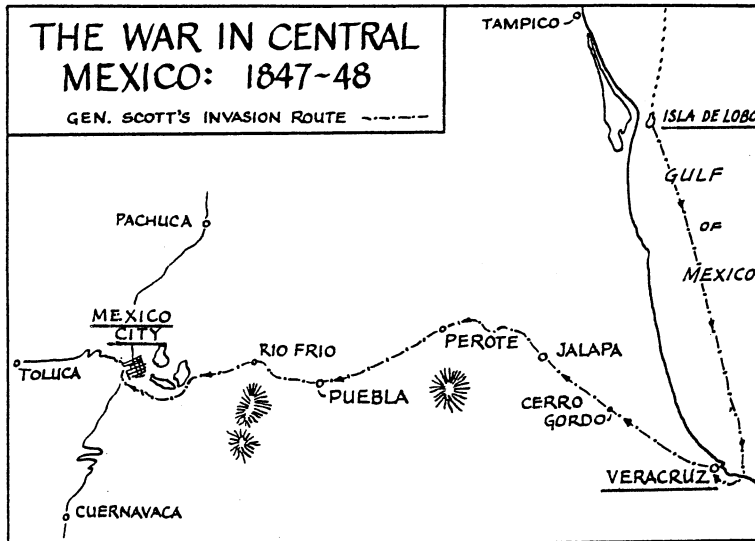
New Orleans
1 April 1848

"PAID 10"

Soldier recovering in hospital at New Orleans from wounds and illness contracted in Mexico.

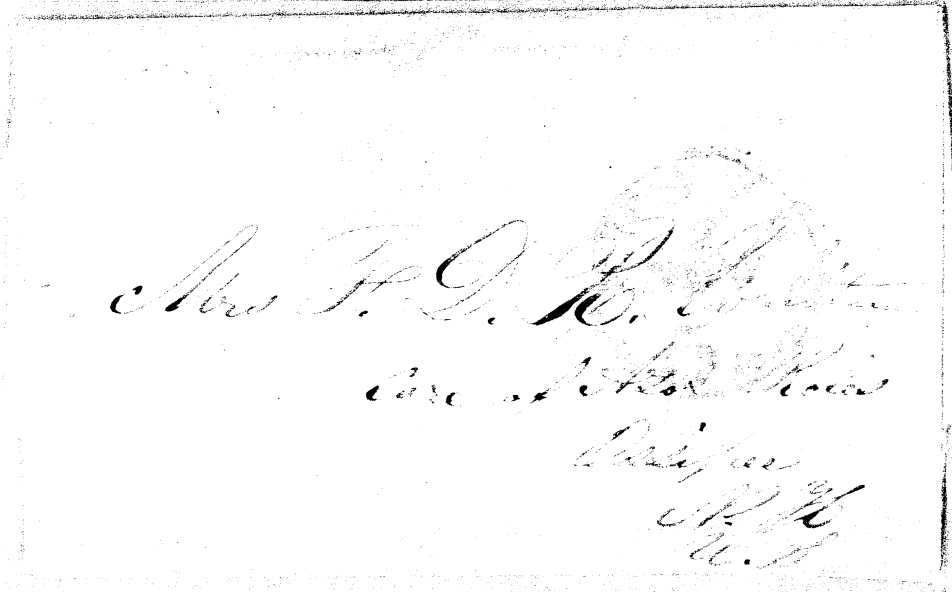


Sea Journey to Vera Cruz from Brazos via Isla de Lobos



CENTRAL CAMPAIGN
ORDER OF BATTLE

(BRAZOS)
to
VERA CRUZ
to
MEXICO CITY
(including Cuernavaca, Pachuca & Toluca)



Palo Alto (North of Brownsville)
17 September 1847

Boston, 2 November 1847

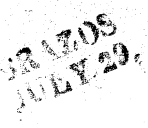
Carried out of mails from Point Isabel to Boston, 5 cent rate from Boston to New Hampshire (<300 miles).

"on way from Monterrey to Vera Cruz...."

col

MILITARY HOSPITAL

NEW ORLEANS



 Recd - Aug - 5th 47
 Ans. Aug - 8th
 Surgeon R. L. Wood
 U.S. Army
 New Orleans
 Barracks

Brazos
 29 July 1847
 General
 (later President)
 Zachary Taylor
 to (Son-in-law)
 Military Surgeon
 At New Orleans

10c [collect]

More troops felled by illness then from Enemy fire!


Annapolis, Maryland
24 June 1848

Inbound Newspaper
Wrapper Band


"For the Army/Free"


No postage required by
Act of 3 March 1847
Which was in effect
through August 1848
(3 months after end
of hostilities)

[Prevailing rate: 3c for
single copy of newspaper
not mailed by publisher]



 For the Army
 Free
 1848
 Doctor Thomas A. McParlin U.S.A.
 New Orleans
 Louisiana
 Newspaper
 W.A.M.C.P. 3





 Mrs. F. D. [unclear] [unclear]
 n: 3 Rollins Place
 Boston
 Mass

New Orleans
16 May 1848

Soldier recovering
in hospital at New
Orleans from wounds
and illness contracted
In Mexico.

TAMAULIPAS EXPEDITION

DEPARTURE

Troops from Northern campaign departed *Monterrey, Camargo, and Matamoros* on about 13 December 1846 for Tampico, meeting up at *San Fernando* for joint march via *Ciudad Victoria*

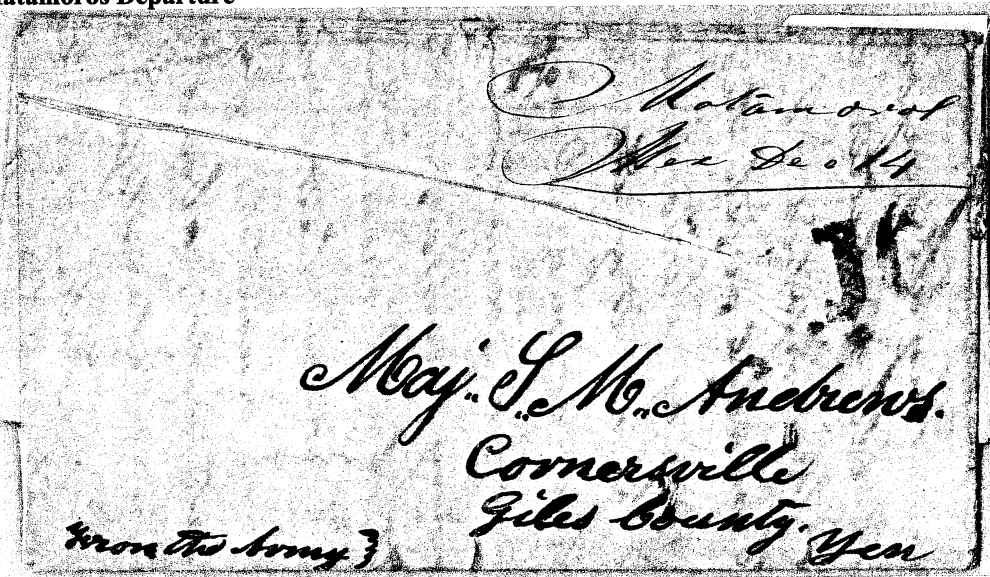
Matamoros Departure

Matamoros
14 November 1846

Via Point Isabel
(ratestamp)

10c for >300 miles

General Patterson
reviewing troops
who are about to
march for Tampico



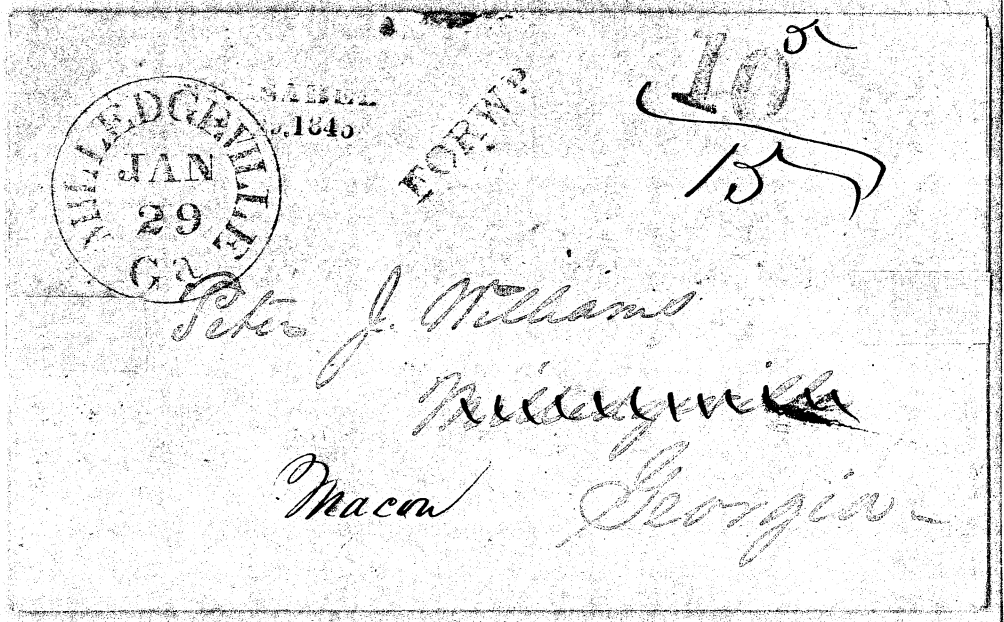
Monterrey Departure

Monterrey
13 December 1846

Point Isabel Type III
29 December 1846

10c postage (> 300 mi.)
+5c forward (<300 mi.)
=15c due

"We leave in a
few minutes for
Victoria...."



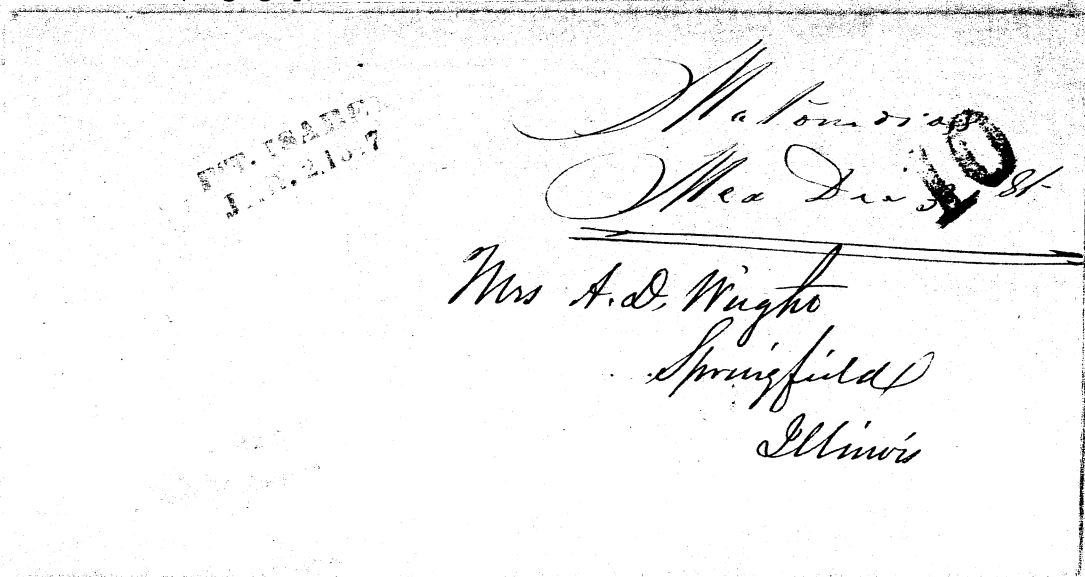
San Fernando (Staging up)

San Fernando
27 December
1846

Matamoros (Ms.)
31 December
1846

Point Isabel
Type III
2 January 1847

Forces from the
three starting
points staged at
San Fernando for
joint march on
Ciudad Victoria



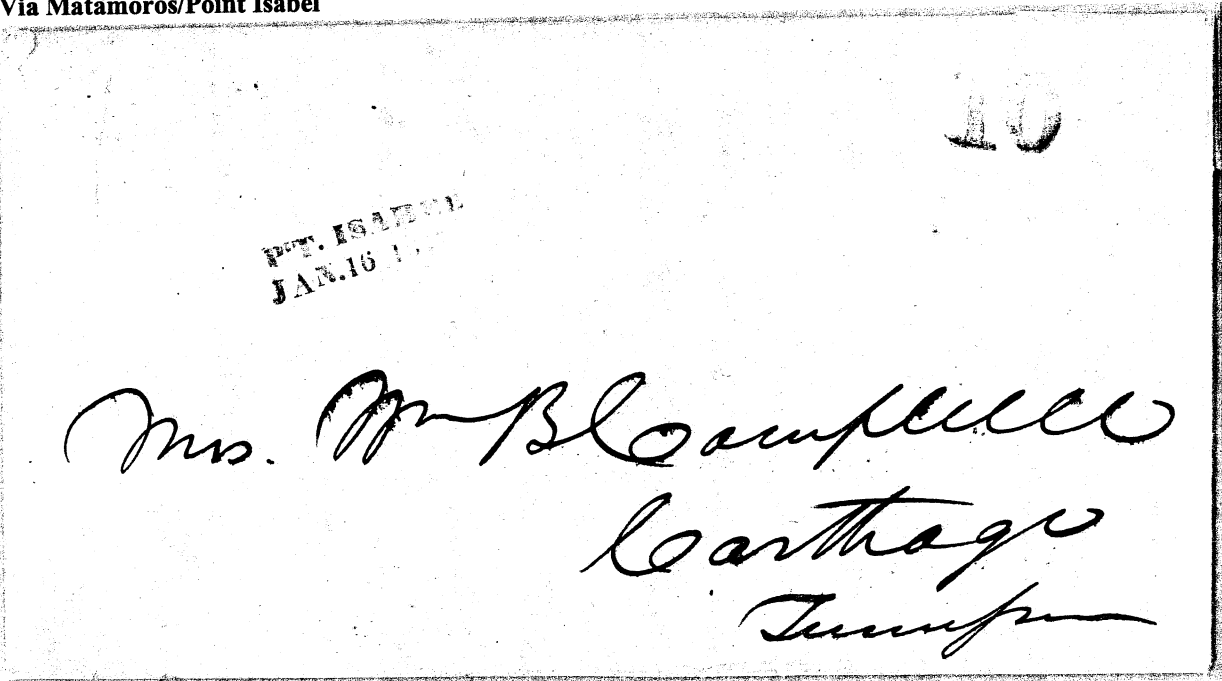
Ciudad Victoria (capital of Tamaulipas State) occupied 29 December 1846; evacuated 13 January 1847.
While most troops returned to Matamoros, some continued onwards to Tampico as reinforcements.

Via Matamoros/Point Isabel

Ciudad Victoria
30 December
1846

Point Isabel
Type III
16 January 1847

10c > 300 miles



Most mail routed via Matamoros/Point Isabel as Tampico
not completely secured by U.S forces until late January 1847

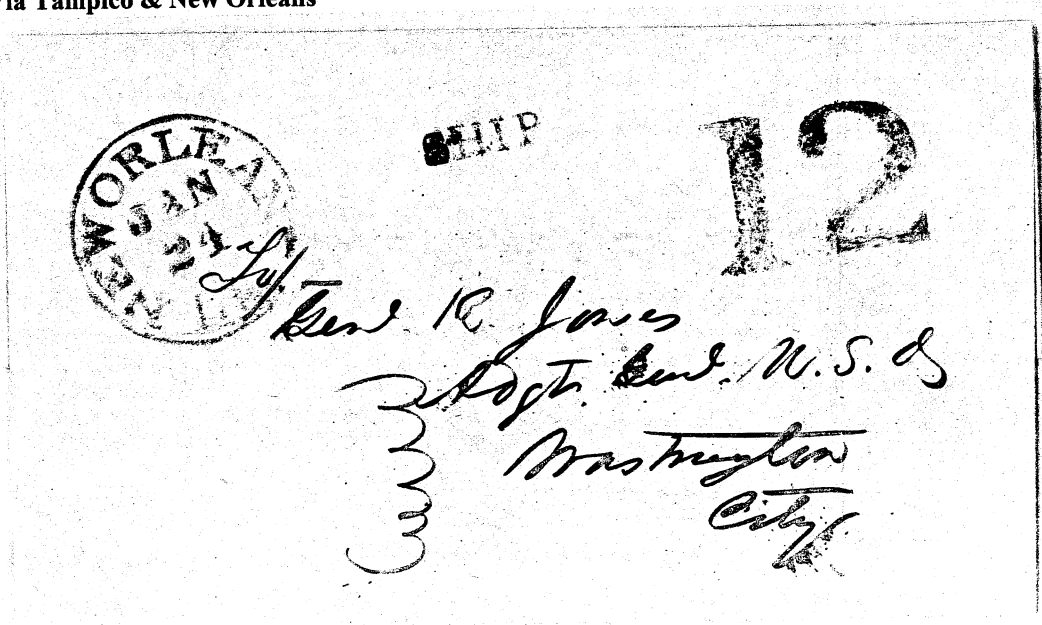
Via Tampico & New Orleans

Ciudad Victoria
8 January 1847

New Orleans
24 January 1847

10c postage
+2c "ship"
=12c collect

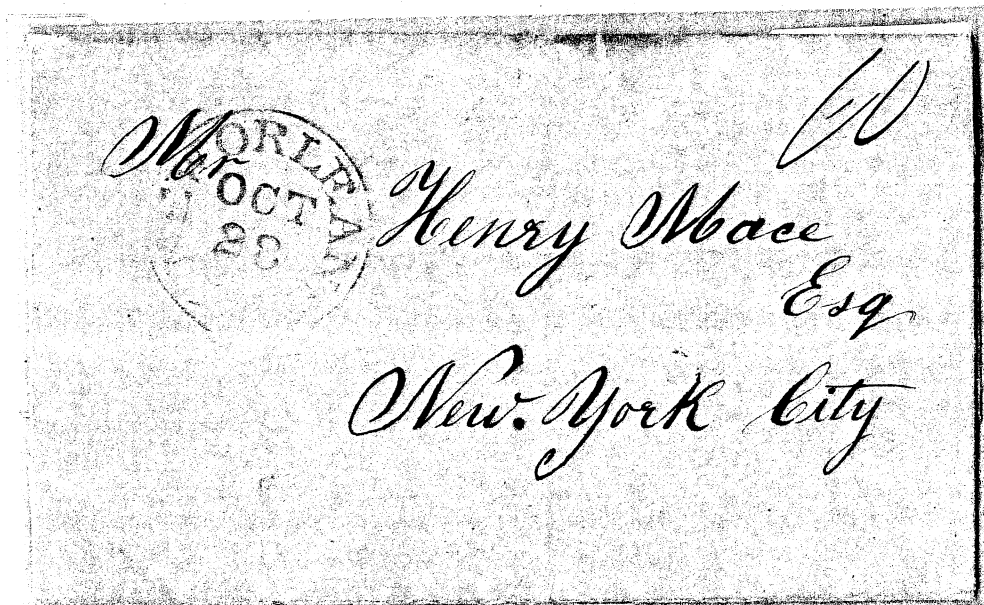
General Pillow
Writing to Army
Adj. General



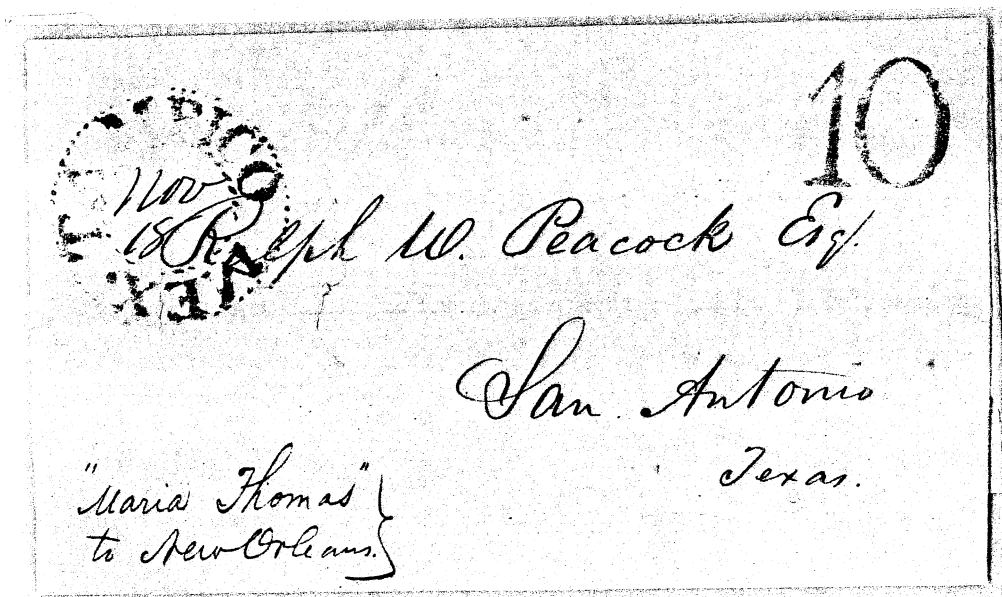
CENTRAL CAMPAIGN

TAMPICO

Initial occupation 14 November 1846 by Navy, Army reinforcements arrived 23 January 1847 from Matamoros and Monterrey via Victoria (Tamaulipas Expedition)



**Tampico, 20 October 1847; No Tampico handstamp, manuscript '10' rate marking
Via New Orleans to New York**



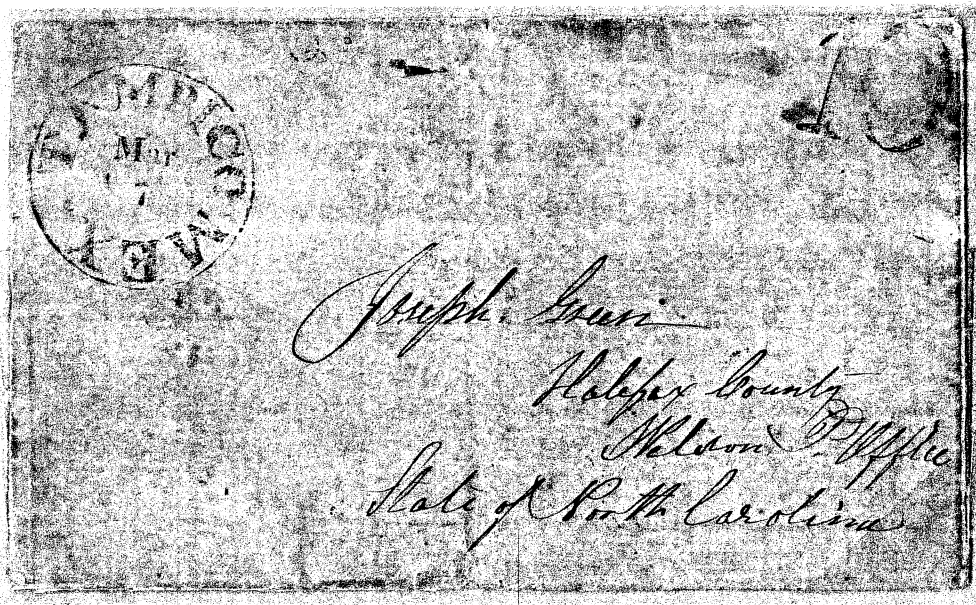
**Tampico, 18 November 1847
Ship "Maria Thomas" via New Orleans to San Antonio
Only other known example of this postmark is in blue, 26 October 1847**

Bimonthly U.S. Mail Steamship route established between Tampico and New Orleans under authority of Article 3, Act of 3 March 1847.

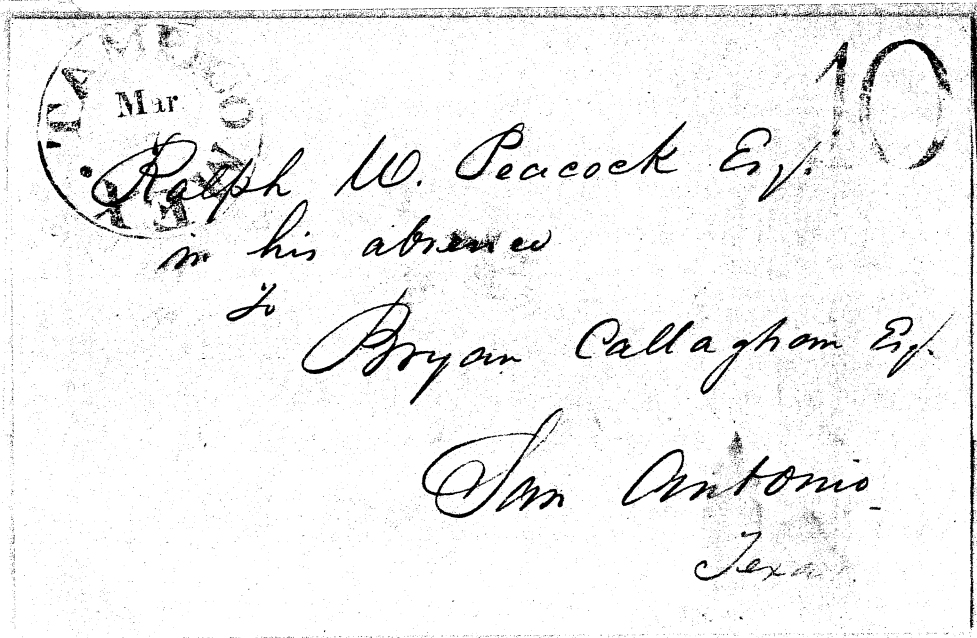
TAMPICO HANDSTAMP & RATE MARKINGS		
TYPE		KNOWN DATES OF USE
Dotted Double Circle	Postmark	26 October - 18 November 1847
Solid Single Circle	Postmark	7 March - 7 April 1848
Large '10' (cents)	Ratemark	26 October 1847 - 7 April 1848

Solid Single CDS

Soldier's Correspondence



Commercial Use



Tampico, 7 March 1848
'10' (cent) ratestamp (>300 mile rate)

4 known Tampico single solid CDS's

Turned Cover

Tampico — Senatobia, Mississippi — Tampico

Tampico,
7 April 1848
(side displayed)

'10' ratestamp

Senatobia
(manuscript)
-- April
(inside)

'FREE'
manuscript

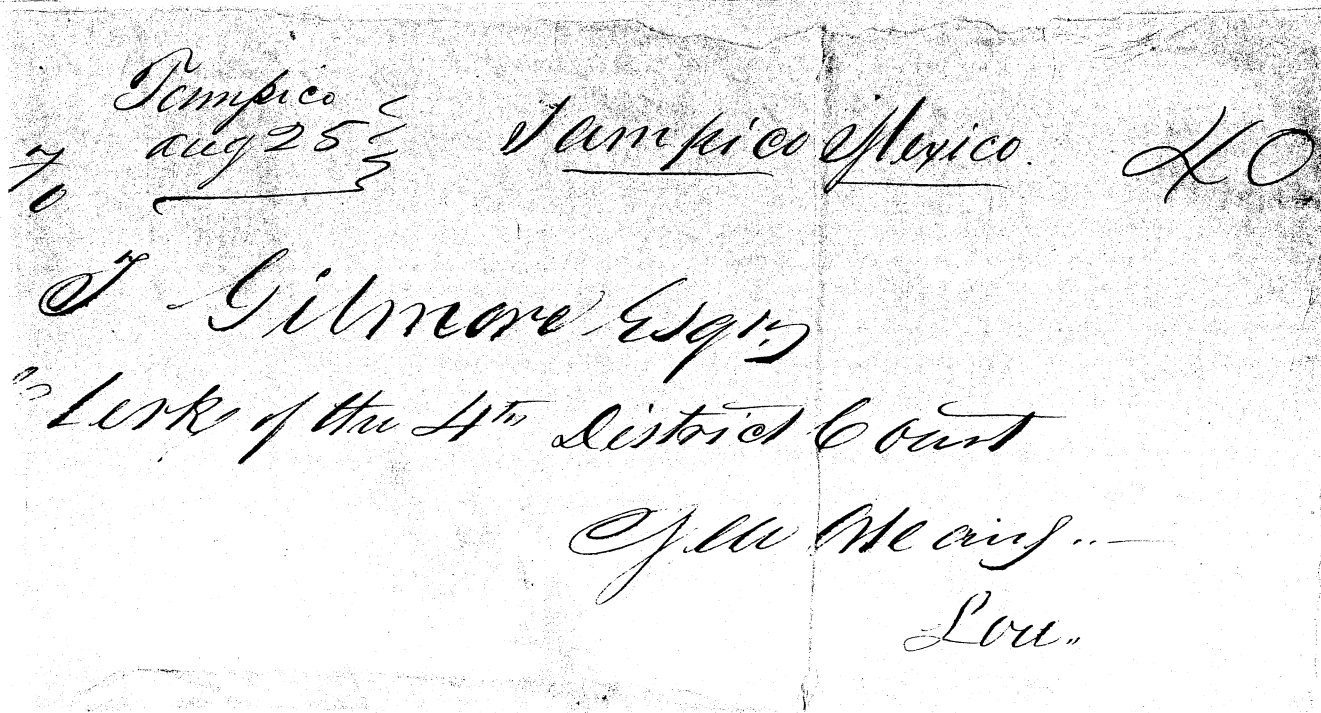


"Excuse me as I am out of envelopes as you can perceive. WB"

Discovery copy of Inbound Soldier's mail to Tampico

One of 4 known Tampico single solid CDS's

Tampico Manuscript (Discovery Copy)



Tampico (ms)
25 August 1847

Partial OLS/
Wrapper

4x (40c) rate

Contained deposition from soldier at Tampico to 4th District Court at New Orleans

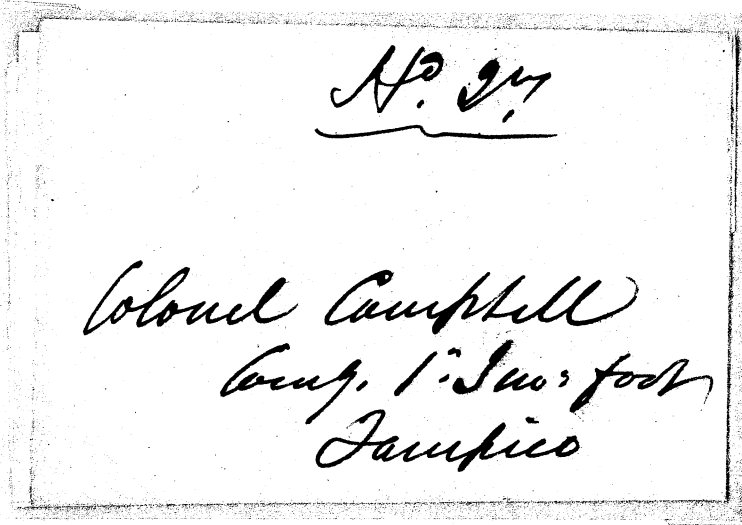
CENTRAL CAMPAIGN

TAMPICO INBOUND

Official Correspondence

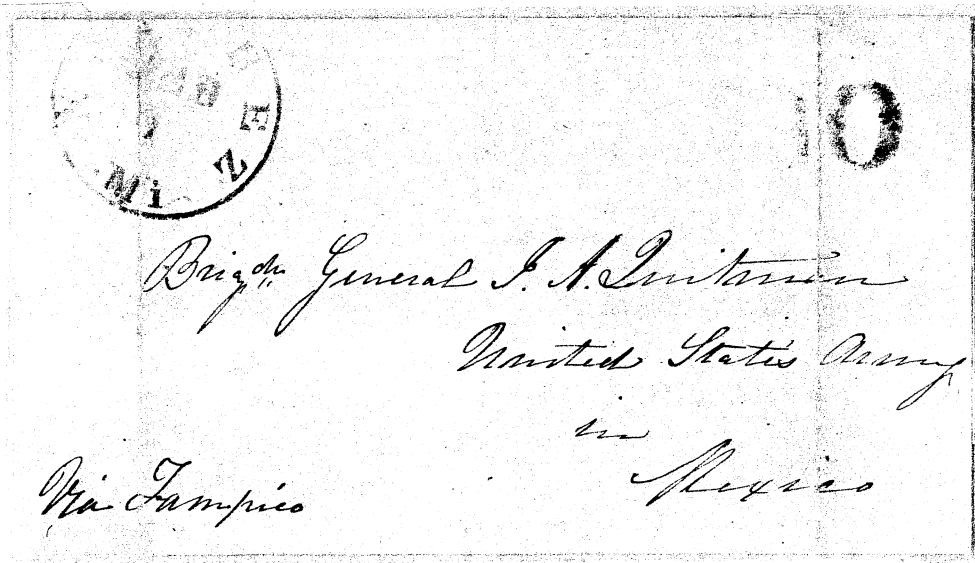
No Date/ ? Local Use

From Headquarters to
Commander 1st Tennessee
Foot Regiment at Tampico



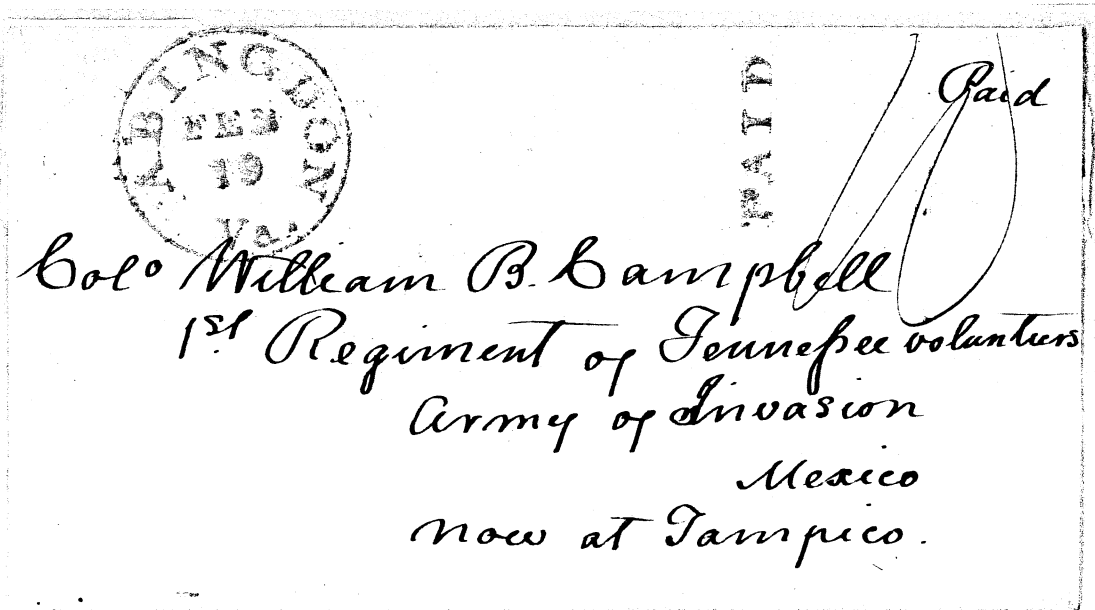
Natchez Mississippi,
1 February 1847

Postage for
>300 miles:
10c (collect)



Abingdon, Va.
19 Feb. 1847

10c "PAID"



Recipients preferred prepaid letters because they often did not have money to pay for postage. Senders preferred to send letters collect as there was no assurance that they would arrive.

GULF CAMPAIGN

PORT BLOCKADE

In place from early 1846 through end of intervention period;
British Mail Steamers allowed unimpeded passage through blockade

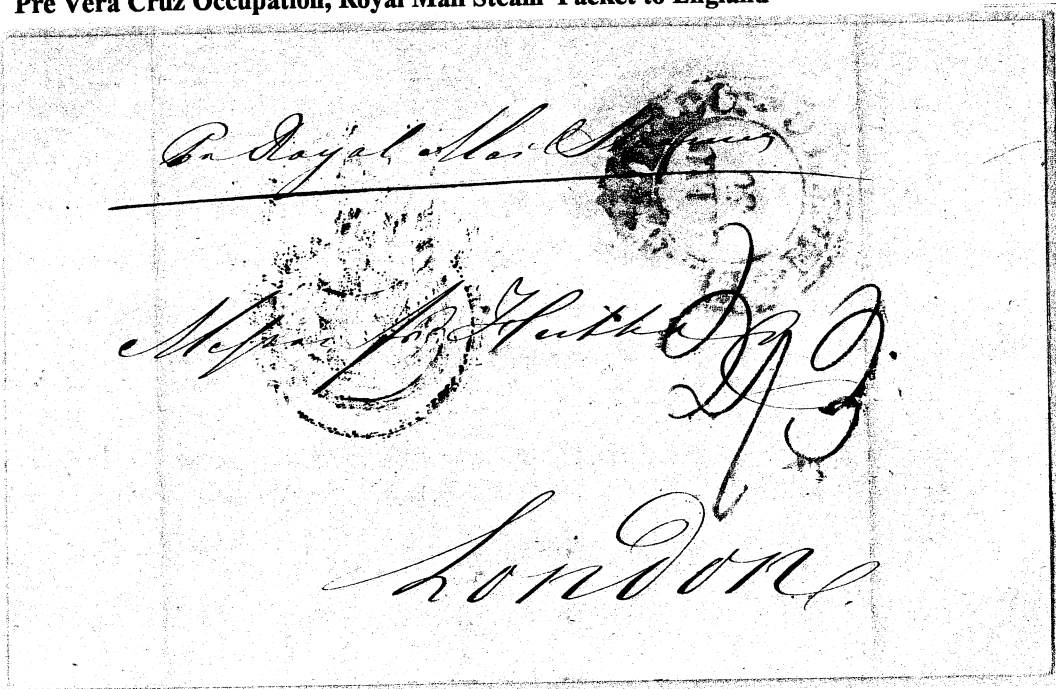
Pre Vera Cruz Occupation, Royal Mail Steam Packet to England

Mexico City
(Mexican Post)
30 July 1846

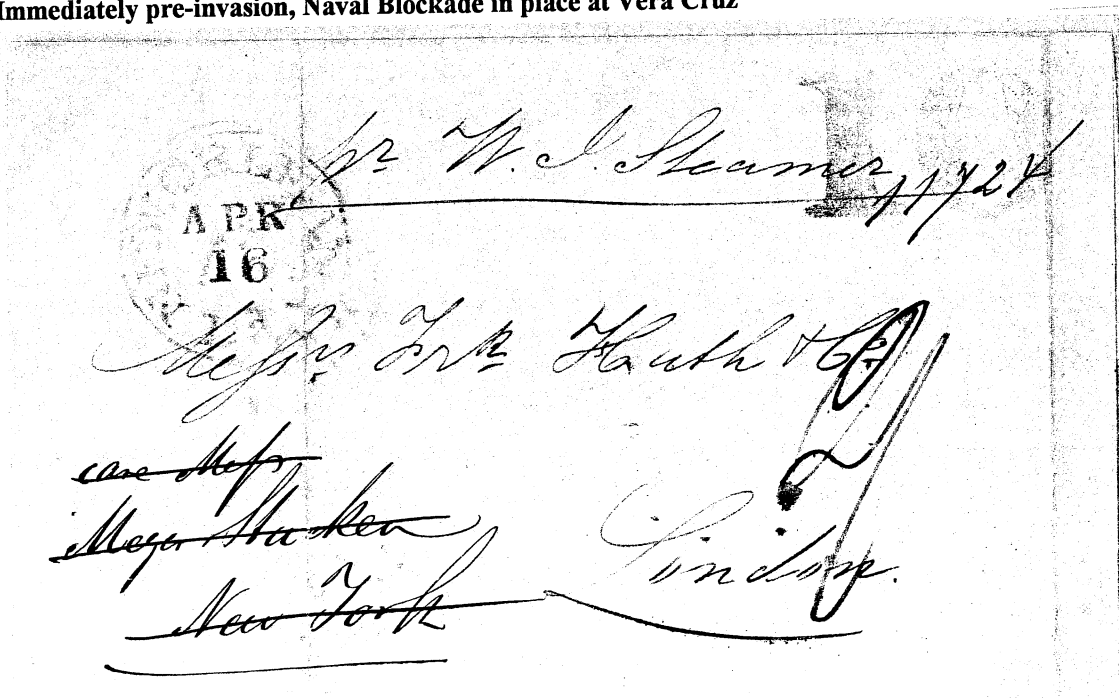
Vera Cruz
(British Agency)
1 August 1846

London
5 September 1846

2/3 Single rate



Immediately pre-invasion, Naval Blockade in place at Vera Cruz



Tabasco
8 February 1847

Vera Cruz
(Mexican Office)
28 February 1847

New Orleans
(U.S. Post Office)
16 April 1847
10c [collect]

Forwarded at
New York by
Meyer & Strickland
2/- North Atlantic
Packet rate

Arrival London
14 May 1847

GULF CAMPAIGN/TABASCO

COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY

Commercial activity continued, even in the presence of military action and occupation

Duplicate letters often sent via different routes to increase chances of delivery.

Varied Postal Agencies and forwarding Agents were employed.

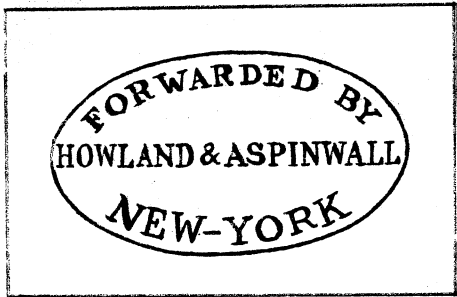
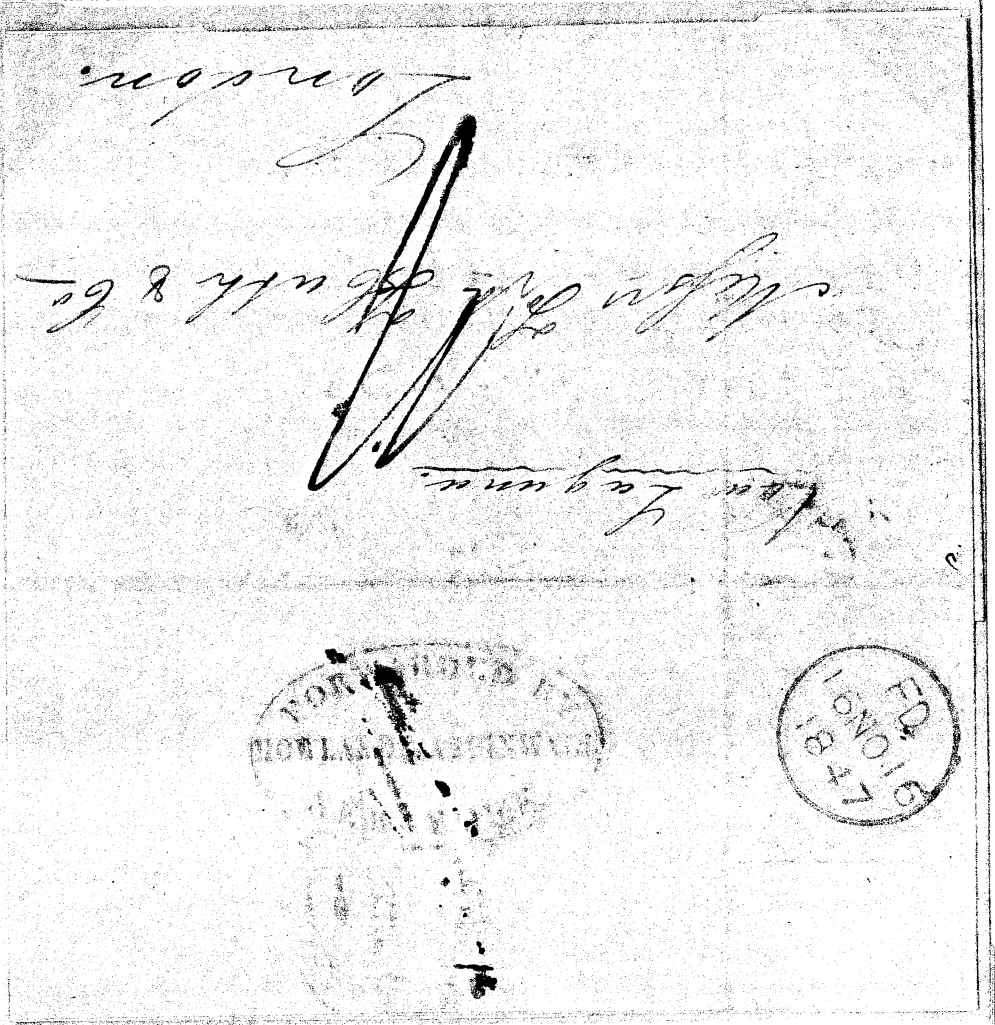
Forwarded via British Mails

Tabasco
10 September 1847

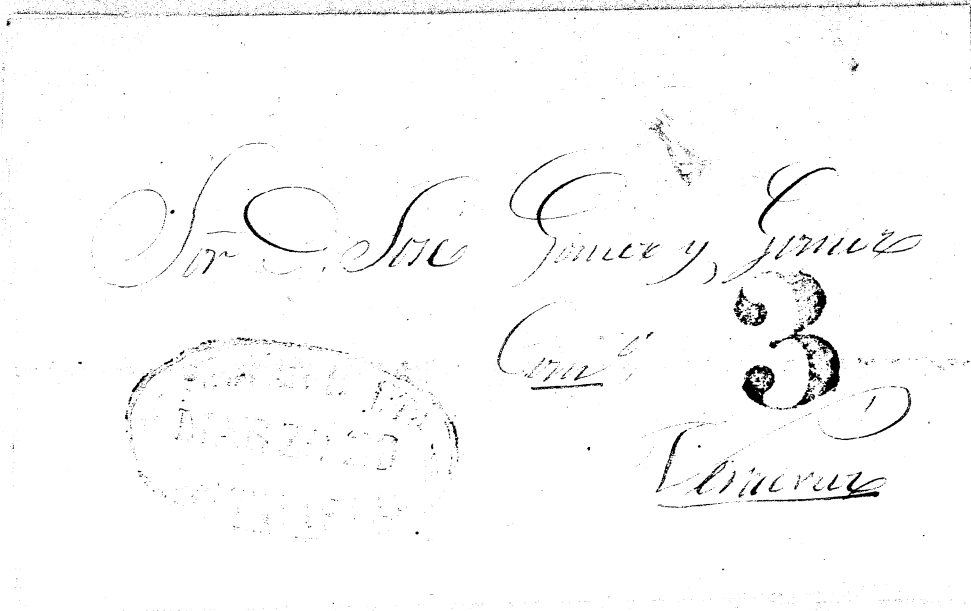
Via Laguna (Yucatan)
Forwarded at New York
(Howland & Aspinwall)

London arrival
16 November 1847

Rated 2/- (Single weight,
New York to London)



Mexican Mails



Tabasco
29 March 1847

Vera Cruz surrendered
to General Scott
29 March 1847

Reply (Vera Cruz)
As per docketing
12 May 1847

3 Reales collect
(Mexican postage)

GULF CAMPAIGN

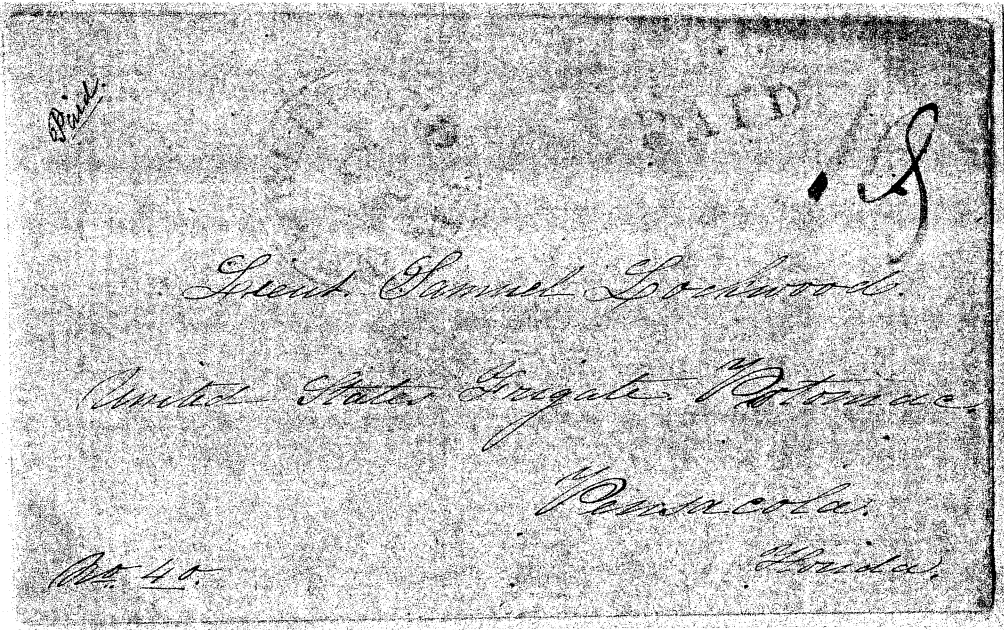
MOSQUITO FLOTILLA

Inbound from New Bedford, Mass. to Lieutenant Samuel Lockwood, initially serving on the U.S. Frigate *Potomac*, Later Commanding Officer on United States Naval Steamer *Scourge*

Stationed off Tabasco

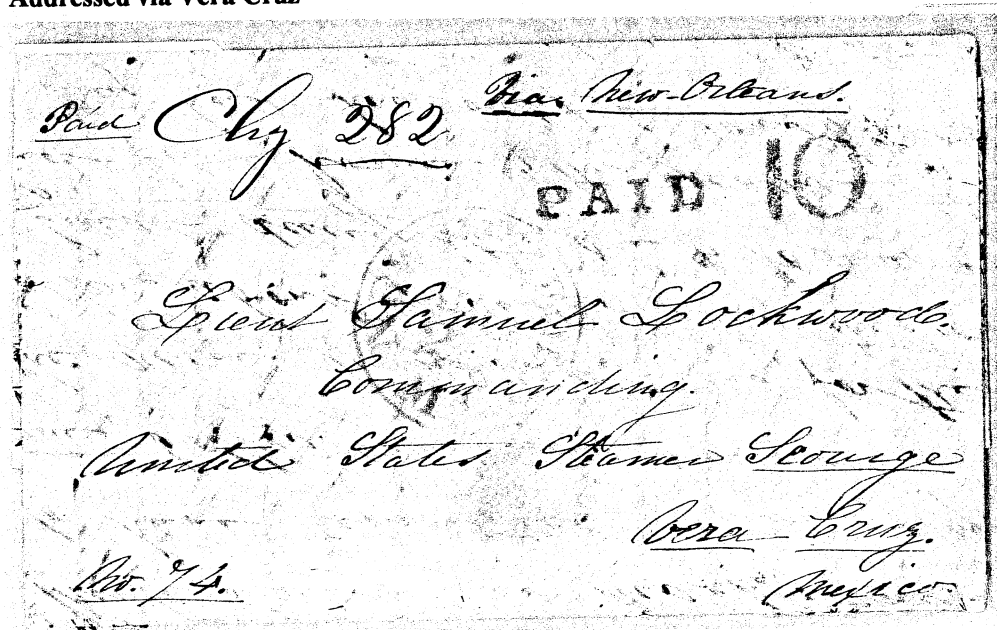
New Bedford
4 January 1847

Prepaid 10c



Addressed via Vera Cruz

New Bedford
25 August 1847



Prepaid 10c
>300 miles

Not sent as "FREE" even though addressed to Vera Cruz.

Free mail to troops under Act of 3 March 1847 only allowed for troops serving in Mexico. It did not often apply for Naval forces as their mail was often addressed via New Orleans, Pensacola, or another non-Mexican port. At times, mail addressed via Mexico was allowed without charge.

Occupied by Mosquito Flotilla 12 May 1847

Duplicate Letters

"An American force of 1000 men is expected to make an attack on this place..."

Forwarded via Vera Cruz

Tabasco
10 May 1847

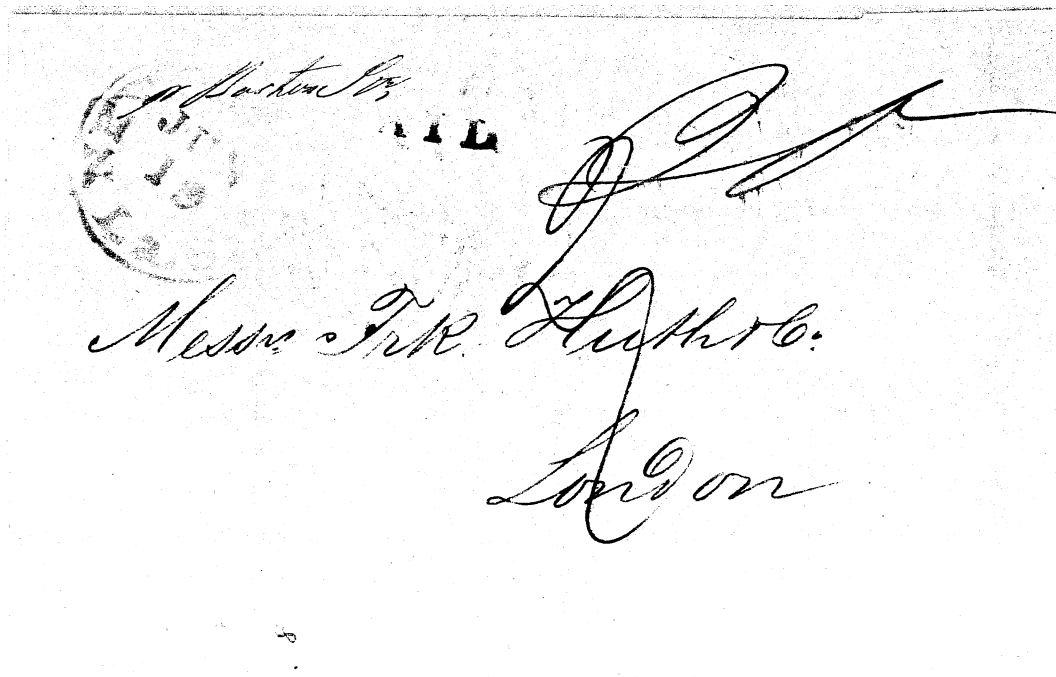
Forwarder at
Vera Cruz
(Mexican Post)

Vera Cruz
(British Agency)
2 July 1847
4/6 double rate

London
Arrival
5 August 1847



Duplicate via New Orleans



Tabasco
10 May 1847

New Orleans
19 June 1848
20c double rate

Via Boston
(North Atlantic)
Steamer
2/- double rate

London
Arrival
13 July 1847

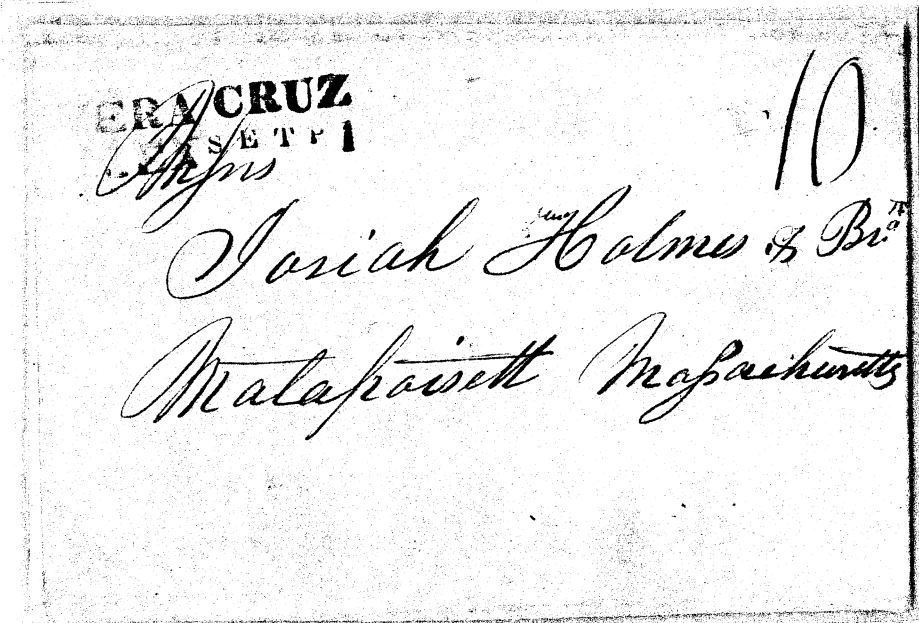
GULF CAMPAIGN

MOSQUITO FLOTILLA

Naval forces (Mosquito Flotilla) under Commander Conner enforced blockade of Mexican Gulf Coast ports from mid 1846 onwards. They were also active in occupying ports south of Vera Cruz including Alvarado, Anton Lizardo and Tabasco

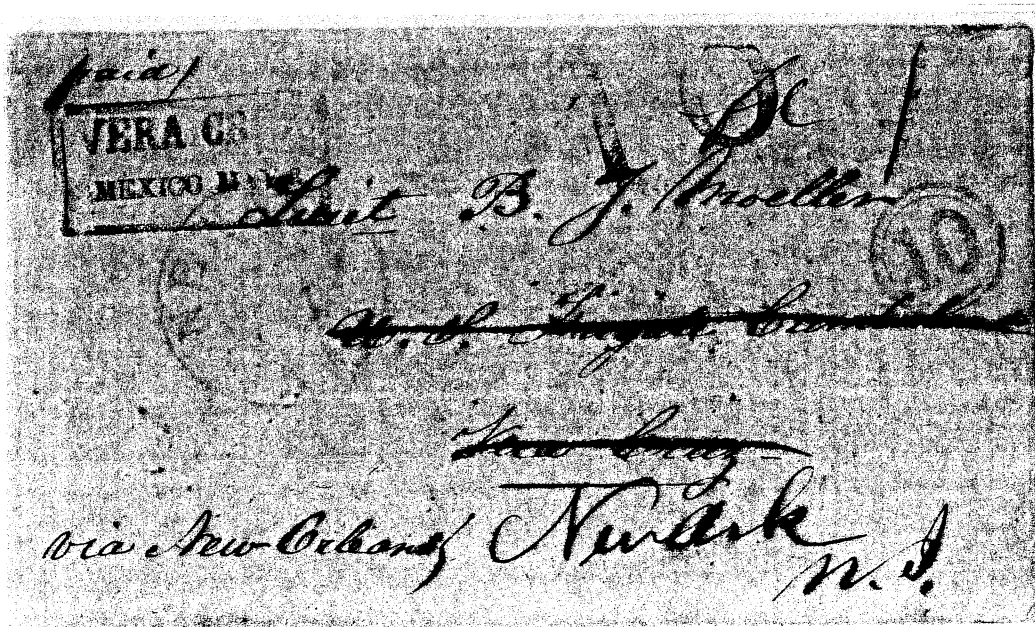
Anton Lizardo
29 August 1847

Vera Cruz
Type I Handstamp
"SETP" error
1 September 1847



Waiting at Anton Lizardo with cargo of coal, many are sick and dying (yellow fever)
10c >300 mile rate

Inbound/Returned



Newark, New Jersey
31 December 1847

Vera Cruz
8 May 1848
Type VIII Handstamp

Naval forces left Mexican waters mid May 1848
US Frigate Cumberland served as fleet flagship

Ms "paid" & "PAID 10" at Newark
Navy did not qualify for Free inbound mail!
Large "10" and "free" applied at Vera Cruz

BRITISH POSTAL AGENCY

TAMPICO

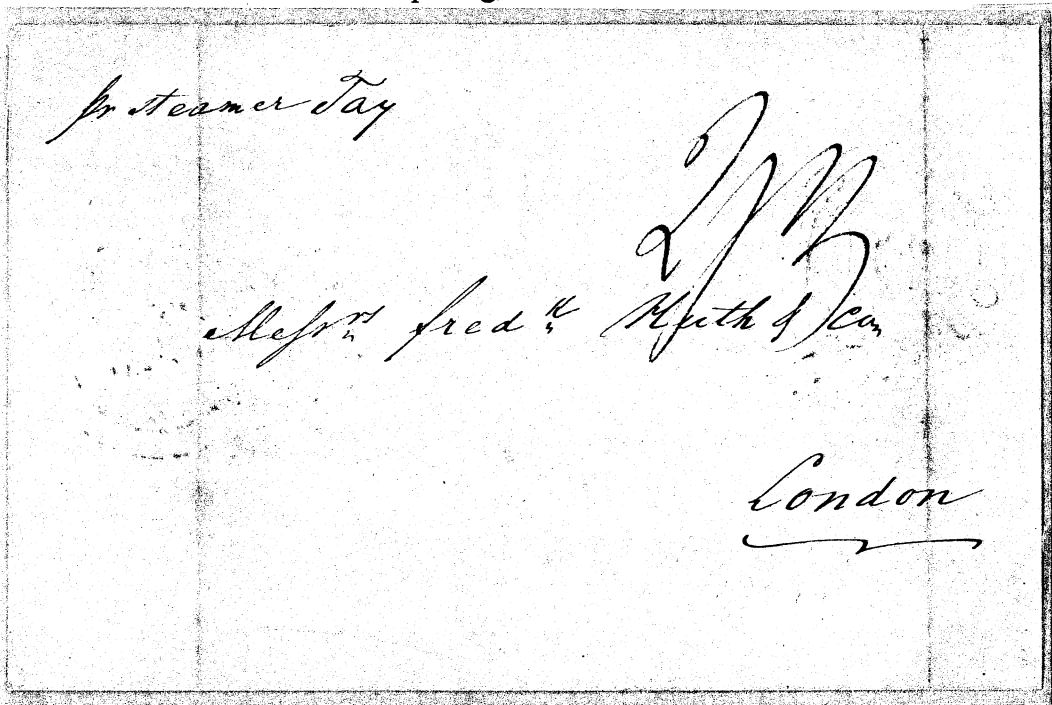
U.S. Navy under Commander Conner Blockaded Tampico from mid 1846,
British vessels allowed free passage into and out of Port.

**Tampico
British Agency
25 May 1846**

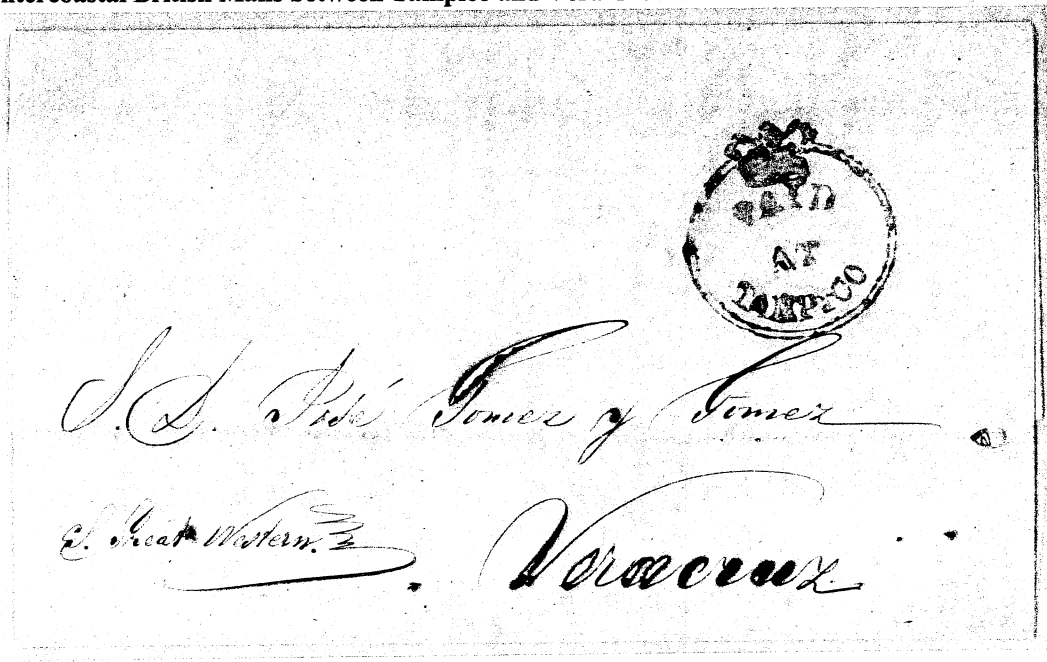
**“pr (RMSC)
Steamer Tay”**

**London arrival
5 July 1846**

**2/3 Single rate
to England**



Intercoastal British Mails between Tampico and Vera Cruz



**Tampico
British Agency
21 July 1847**

“PAID AT TAMPICO”

**Via RMSP Steamship
GREAT WESTERN**

Royal Mail Steam Packets (RMSP) provided monthly service between **Havana, Vera Cruz and Tampico** with onward connections to England.

BRITISH AGENCIES HANDSTAMP & RATE MARKINGS

<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>PERIOD OF USE</u>
Tampico	Double Circle Datestamp	Throughout Intervention Period
	Crown “PAID”	“
	Ms. 2/3 & 4/6 (ratemarks)	“
Vera Cruz	Double Circle Datestamp	Throughout Intervention period
	Crown “PAID”	“
	Ms. 2/3 & 4/6 (ratemarks)	“

BRITISH STEAMER

TAMPICO

U.S. Navy under Commander Conner Blockaded Tampico from mid 1846,
British vessels allowed free passage into and out of Port.

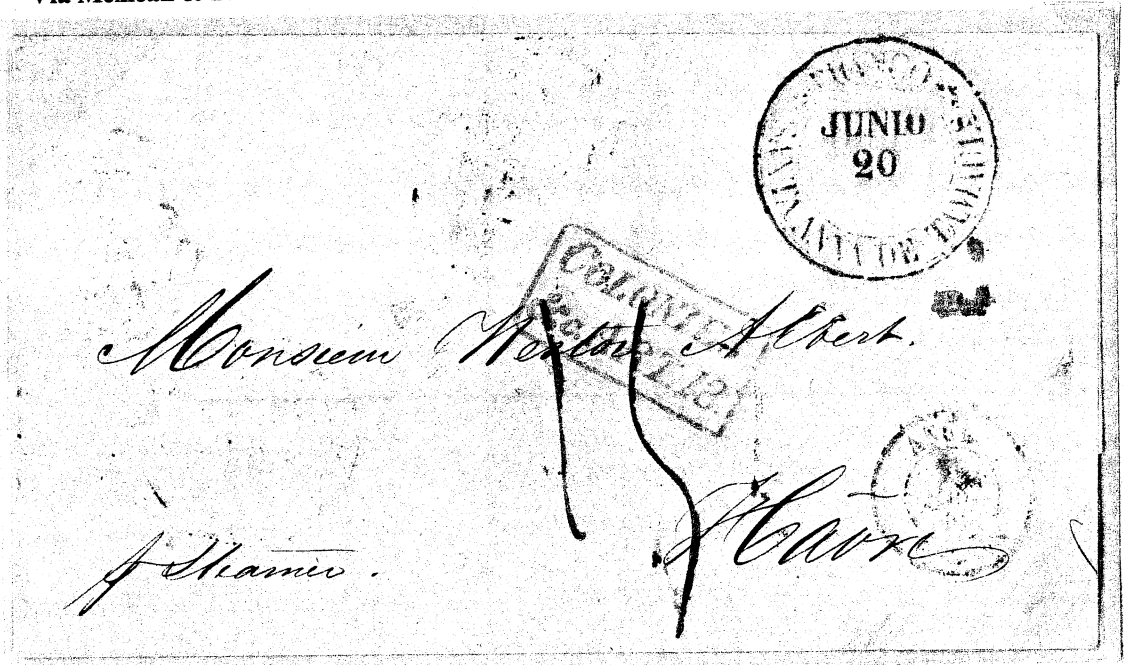
Via Mexican & British Mails to France

Tampico
[Mexican Post]
20 June 1846

British Agency
20 June 1846

Calais, 7 August

Le Havre arrival
8 August



*Local Postage to British Vessel in Port: 1 Real [Reverse] (Prepaid)
12 decimes/10 grams due (France)*

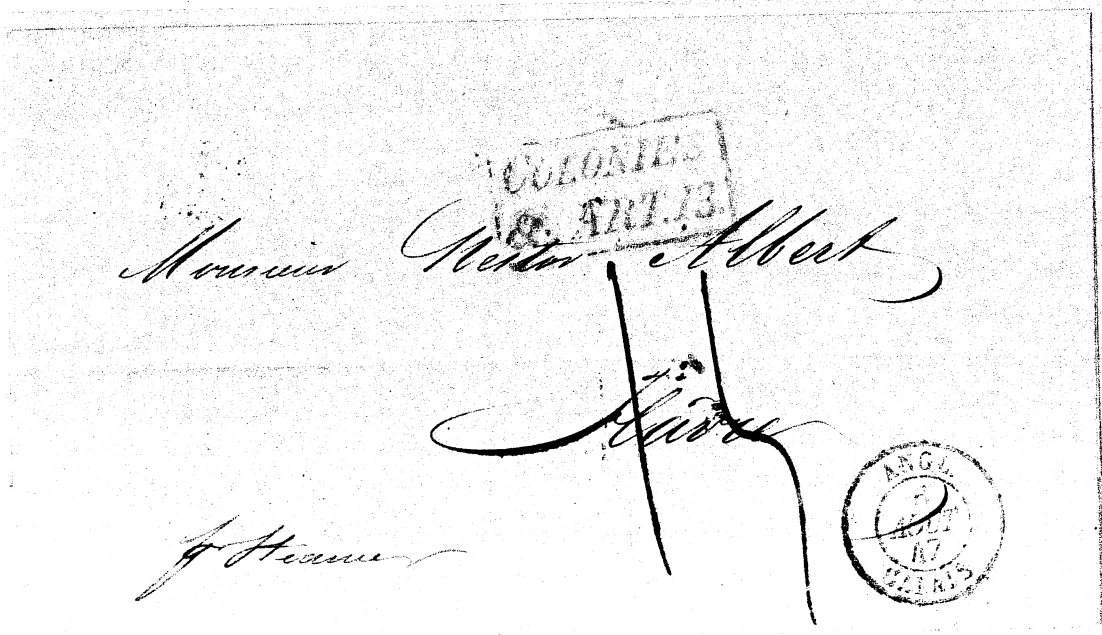
British Mails to France

Tampico
(British Agency)
24 June 1847

London, 5 August

Calais, 6 August

Le Havre arrival,
7 August



*No local (Tampico) payment markings
12 decimes due on delivery*

Mexican and British Postal Systems

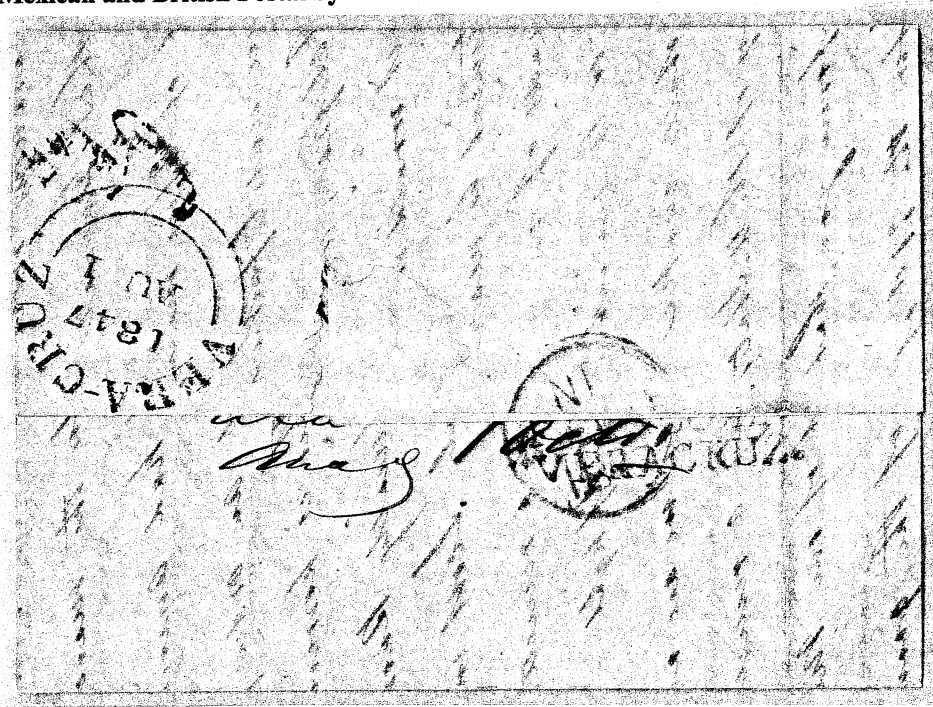
Vera Cruz
(Mexican Post)
1 August 1847

Vera Cruz
British Agency
1 August 1847

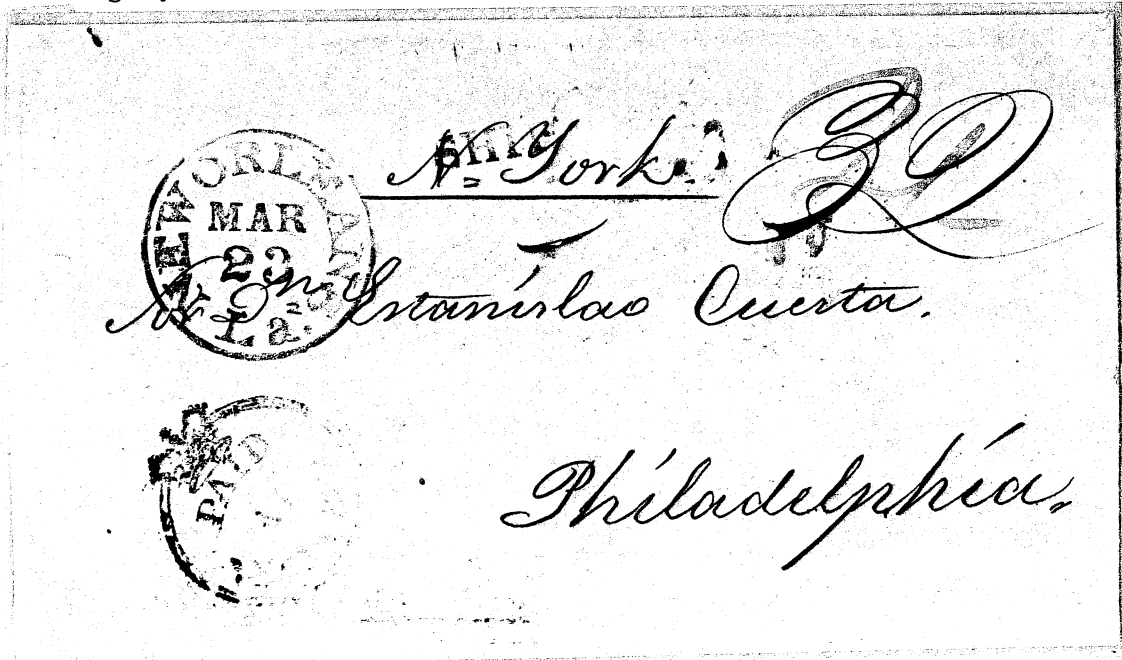
London arrival
6 September 1847

(1 Real Local rate)
"FRANCO EN
VERACRUZ."

2/3 Single rate
to England



British Agency and U.S. Mails



Mexico City
13 March 1848

Vera Cruz
British Agency
21 March 1848

"PAID AT VERA CRUZ"
2/-

New Orleans
U.S. Mails
23 March 1848
Re-rated 32 cents

Mexico City to Vera Cruz by Courier (British Legation)
Vera Cruz to New Orleans by British Mails
New Orleans onwards by U.S. Mails (SHIP)

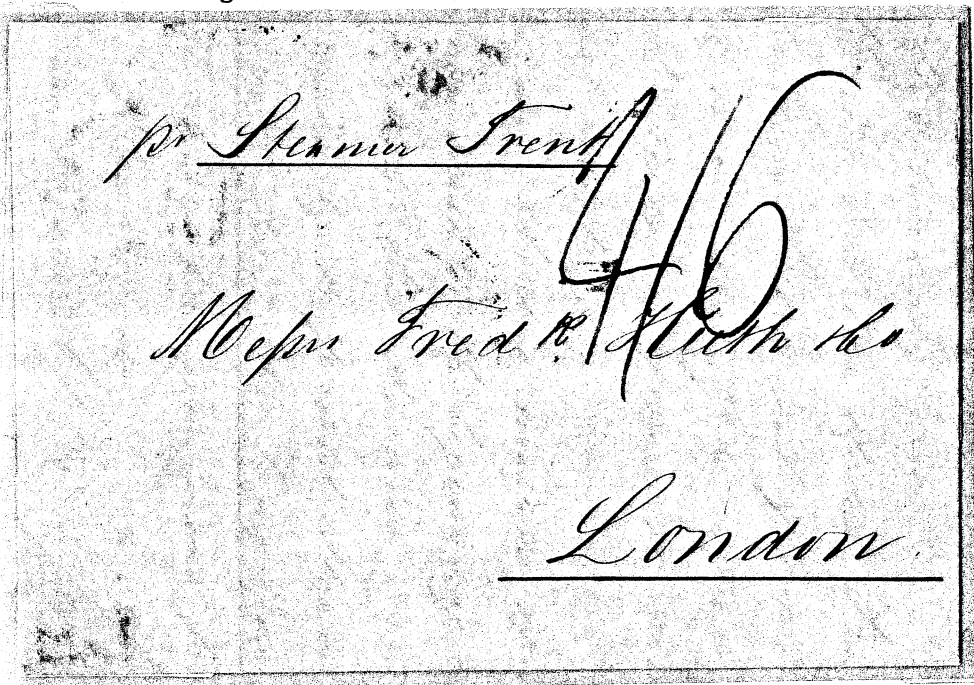
Prepaid to 2/- to New Orleans, Re-rated as 32c to Philadelphia

Double Rate to England

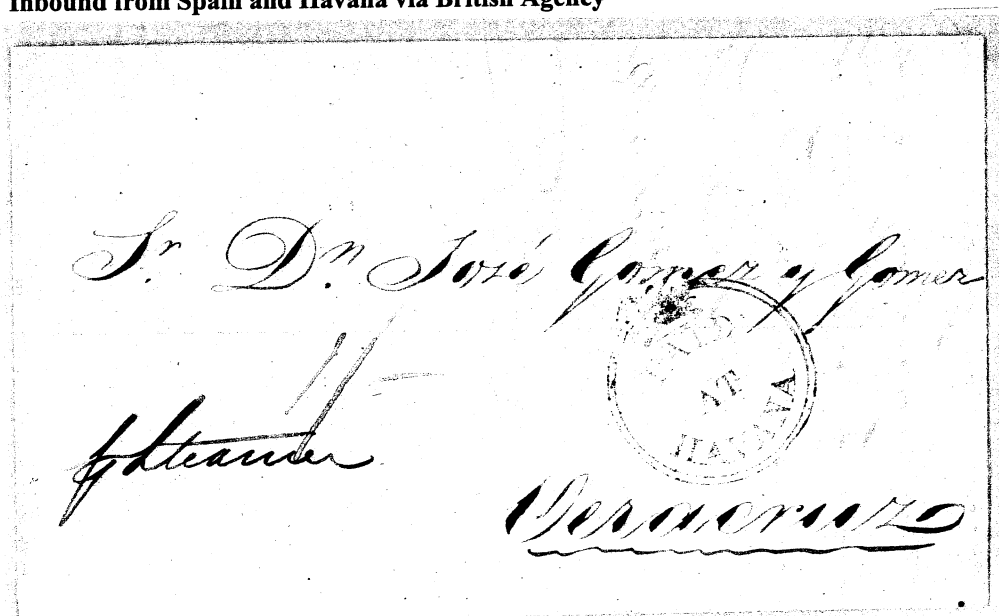
Vera Cruz
British Agency
15 June 1848

London arrival
25 July 1848

4/6 Double rate
to England



Inbound from Spain and Havana via British Agency



Cadiz
9 July 1847

Havana
British Agency
8 September 1847

"PAID AT HAVANA"
1/-

Vera Cruz
Arrival
15 September 1847

Carried either outside the mails, or in a larger packet from Spain to Havana,
Entered British mails at Havana.

Spanish mail service between Havana and Vera Cruz was provided on an irregular basis by
La Compania Empresa de Correos Maritimos, a poorly capitalized private company.

Mexico - Havana - Spain

Mexico City
27 October 1847

Carried out of the
Mails to Havana

Entered Spanish
mails at Havana
5 Reales collect

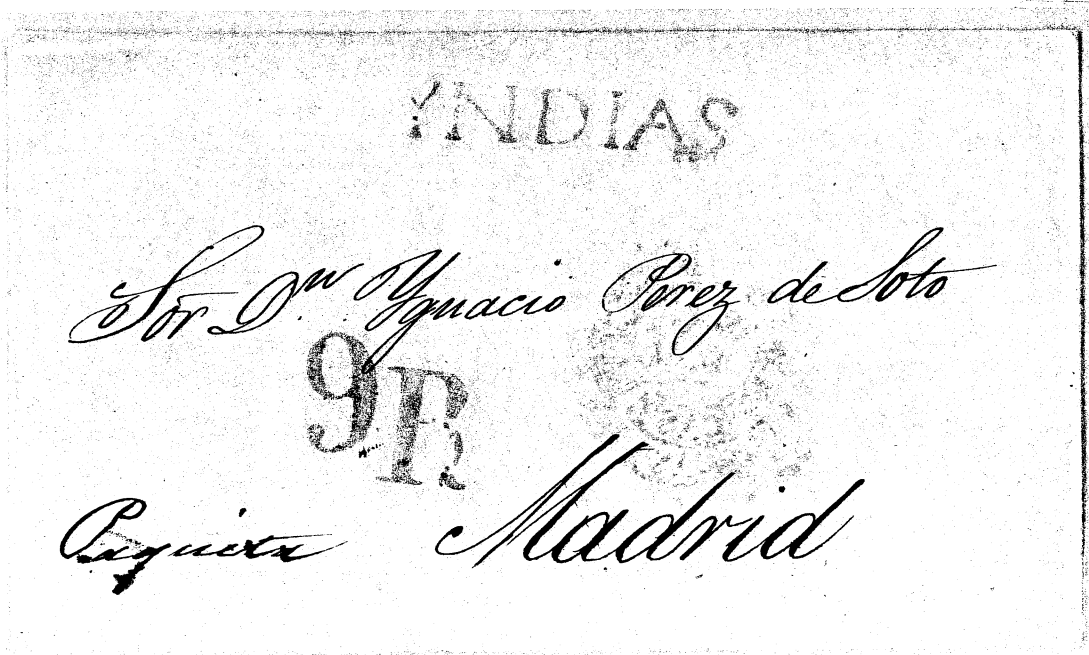
Cadiz arrival
12 February 1848



Mexico City
13 April 1848

Via Havana
9 Reales collect

Madrid arrival
6 July 1848

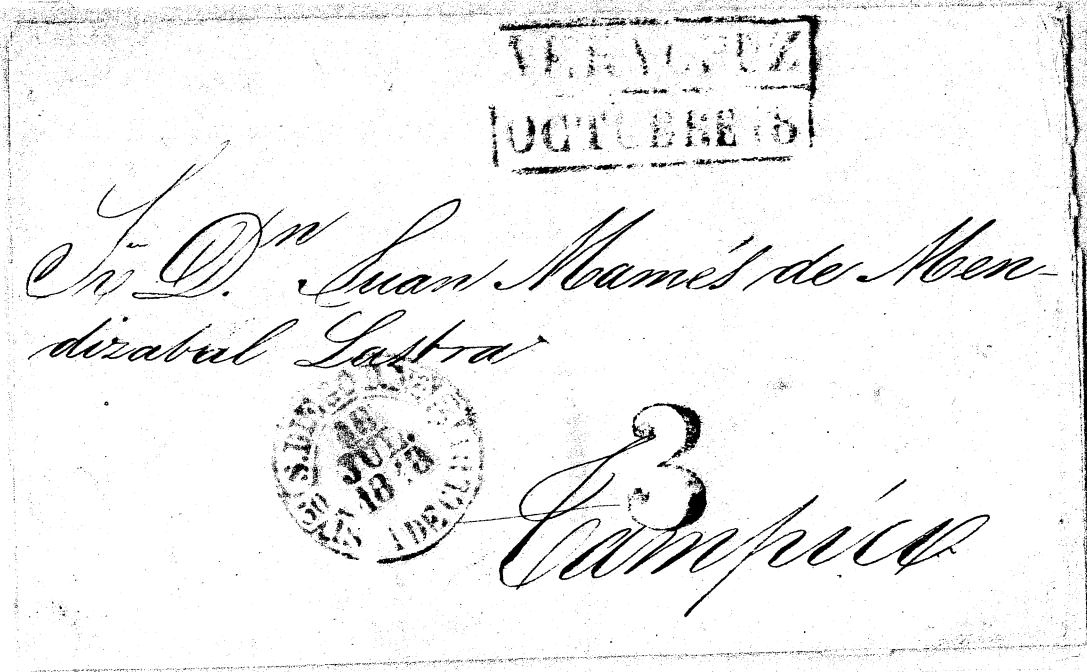


Carried out of the mails between Mexico and Cuba as there was no regularly
scheduled Spanish mail service between Havana and Vera Cruz

Cuba - Vera Cruz - Tampico Via Spanish and Mexican Mails

Inbound to Tampico via Vera Cruz immediate post occupation period

Spanish mails between Havana and Vera Cruz



San Diego de Nunez,
18 July 1848 (Red CDS)
[Spanish Mails]

Havana
(Transit; 20 July)

Vera Cruz,
18 October
(3 month transit/delay)
[Mexican Mails]

Tampico
Arrival late October

Rated 3 Reales (due)
Vera Cruz - Tampico

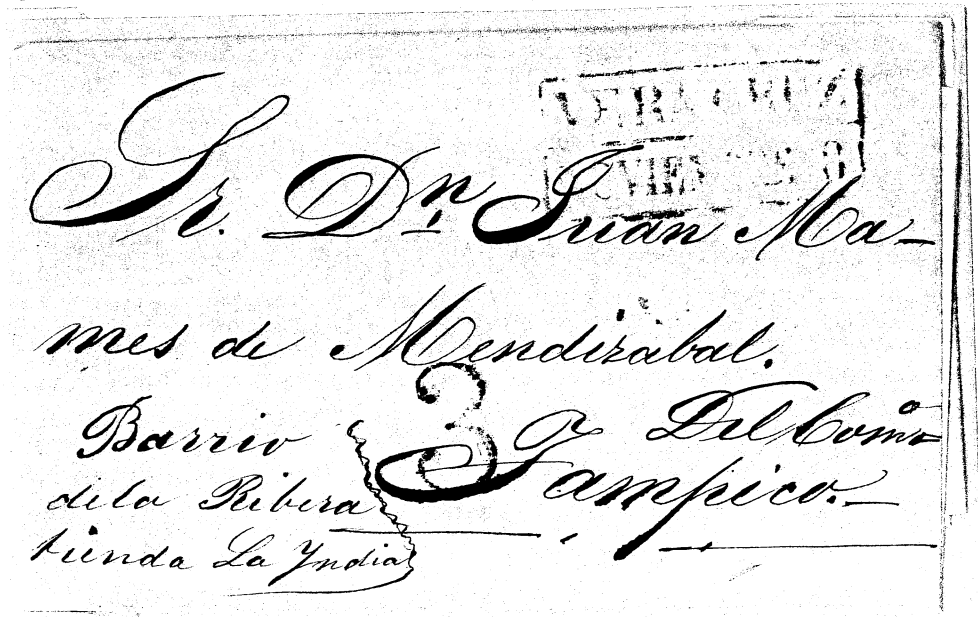
Carried outside the mails between Havana and Vera Cruz

Havana,
27 October 1848
[Private Carriage]

Vera Cruz,
6 November
(10 day transit)
[Entered Mexican Mails]

Tampico,
Arrival mid November

Rated 3 reales (due)
Vera Cruz - Tampico

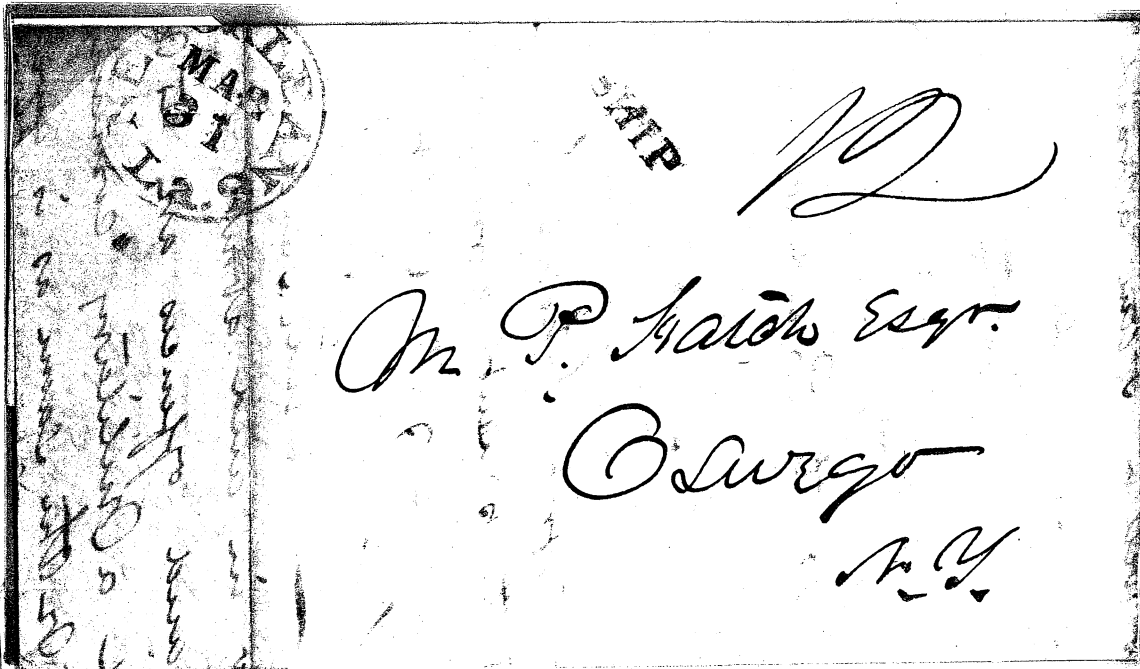
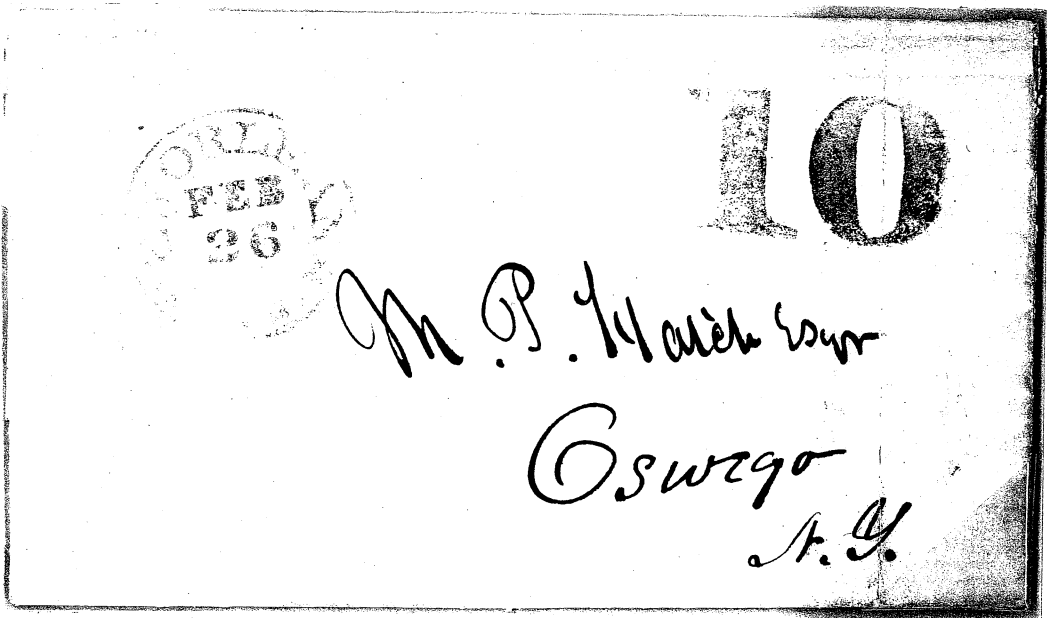


Sea Voyage to Vera Cruz from Brazos via Lobos Island (Isla de los Lobos)
Initial forces redeployed from Northern Campaign February – March 1847

Brazos Island
17 February 1847

Carried back on
same ship, and
entered mails at
New Orleans,
26 February 1847

10c Postage



"Ship Diadem"
4 March 1847

*"We sailed from Lobos
Island yesterday...."*

Carried to **New Orleans**
(31 March 1847) on non-
mail vessel, charged 2c
additional 'SHIP' fee.

10c Postage
2c Ship fee
12c collect

Troops assembled at Brazos, staged at Lobos Island in preparation for siege of Vera Cruz

CENTRAL CAMPAIGN

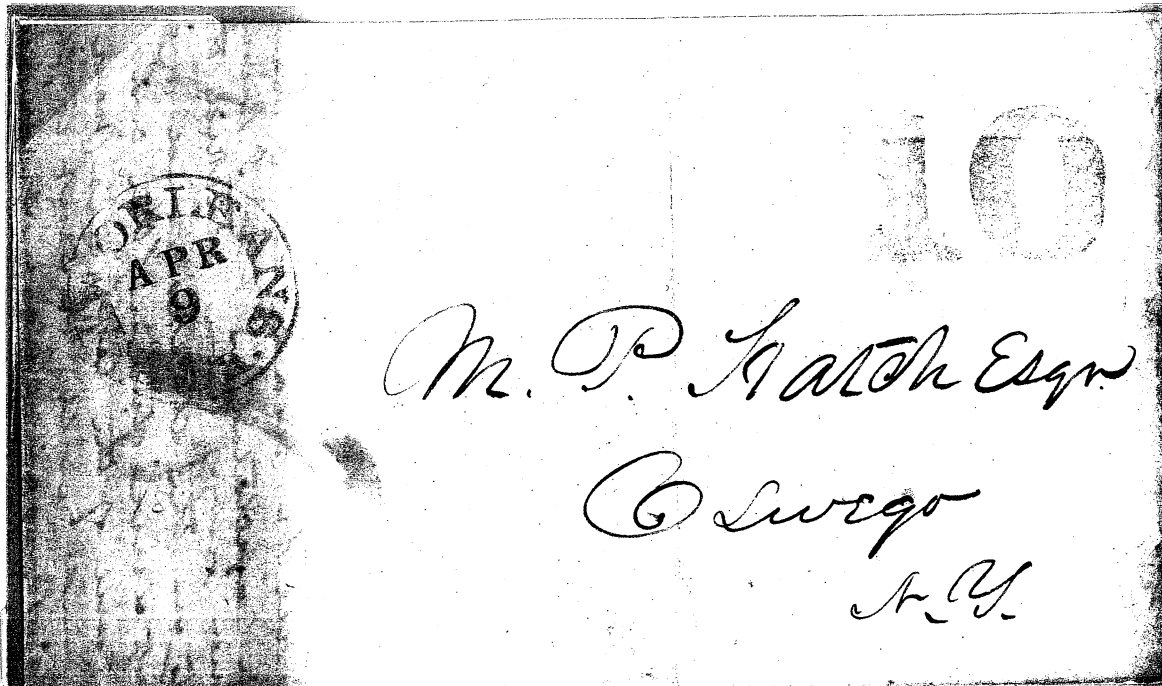
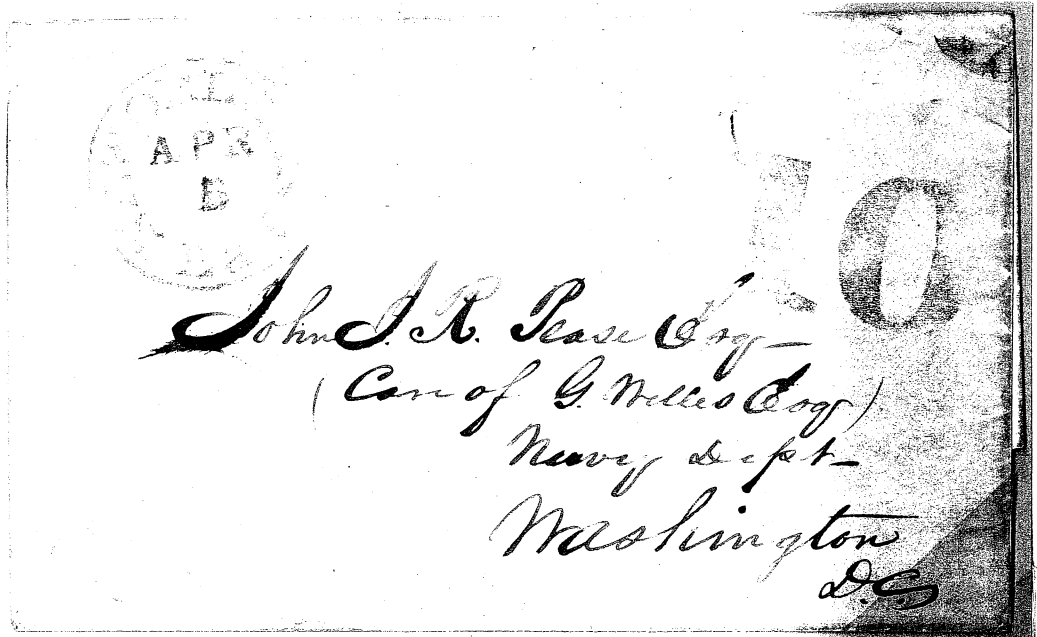
SIEGE OF VERA CRUZ

City surrendered after siege to General Winfield Scott on 29 March 1847

Vera Cruz
17 March 1847

Entered mails at
New Orleans,
5 April 1847

*Siege in place,
Negotiations with
Mexican Military
Commander for
surrender of Port
defenses in progress*



**“Camp Washington
near Vera Cruz”**
25 & 30 March 1847

*Describes battle and
surrender of Vera Cruz,
possible occupation and
further military plans.*

Mails via New Orleans
as Vera Cruz Post Office
not yet set up.

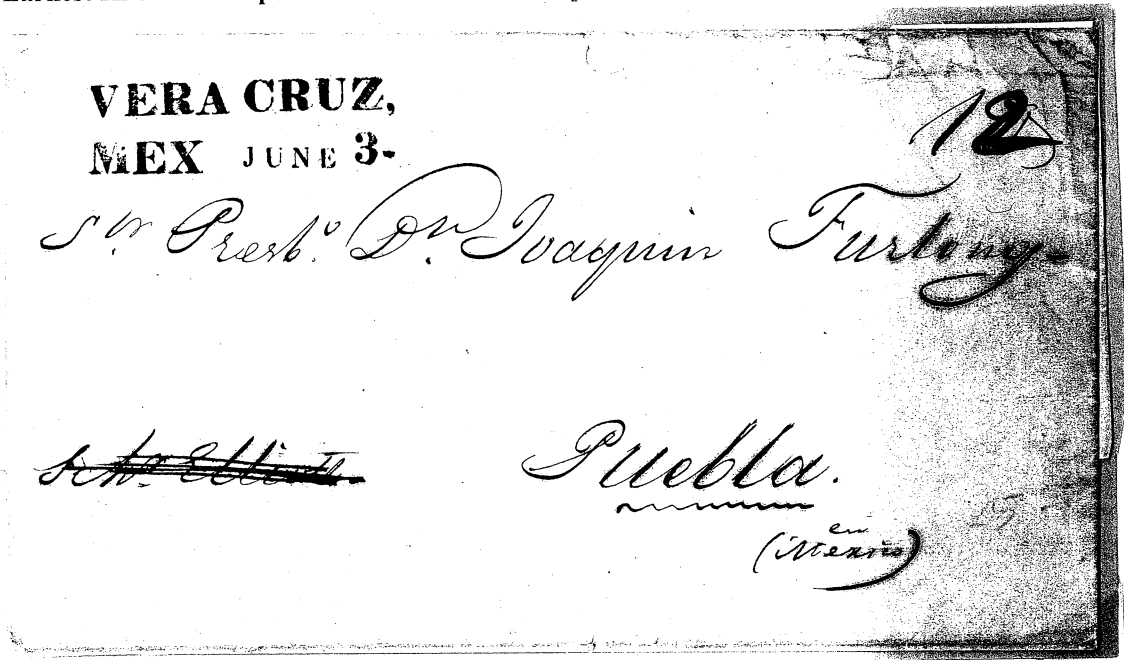
Troops encamped on beach enforcing siege of Vera Cruz

Earliest Known Example – Vera Cruz Handstamp

New York
15 April 1847

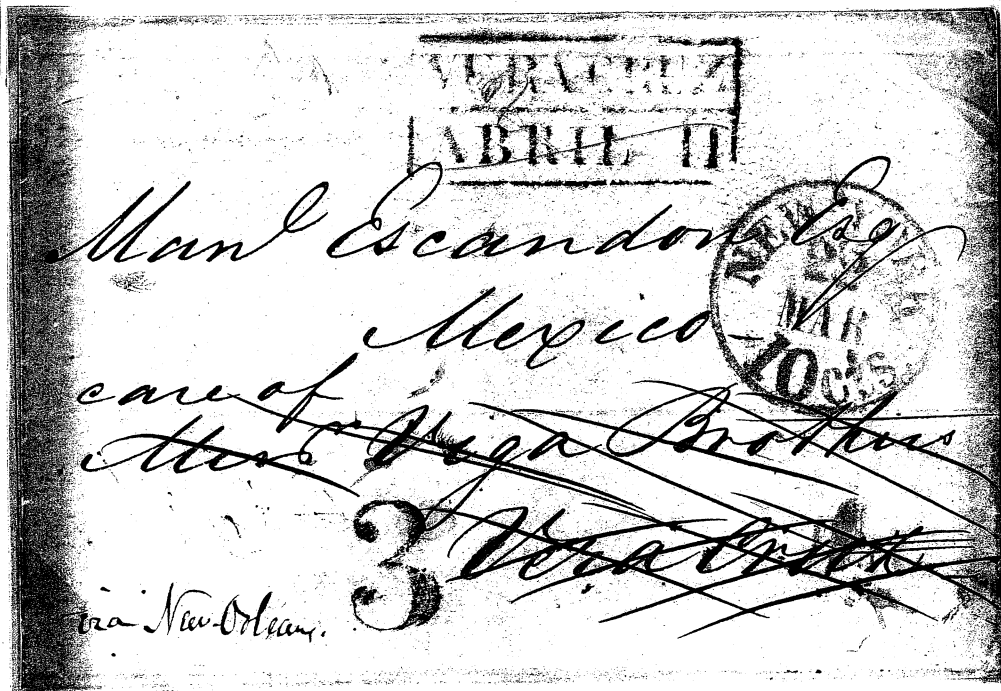
Vera Cruz
Type I
3 June 1847

10c Postage
2c (Ship)
12c Collect



Inbound to Mexican General at Puebla; notes General Scott's plan to march for Jalapa, then on to Mexico City. Notes U.S. desire for maintaining commercial activity in Vera Cruz.

Commercial Inbound (Forwarded) From New York via Vera Cruz



New York
22 March 1848

10c (collect) >300 miles

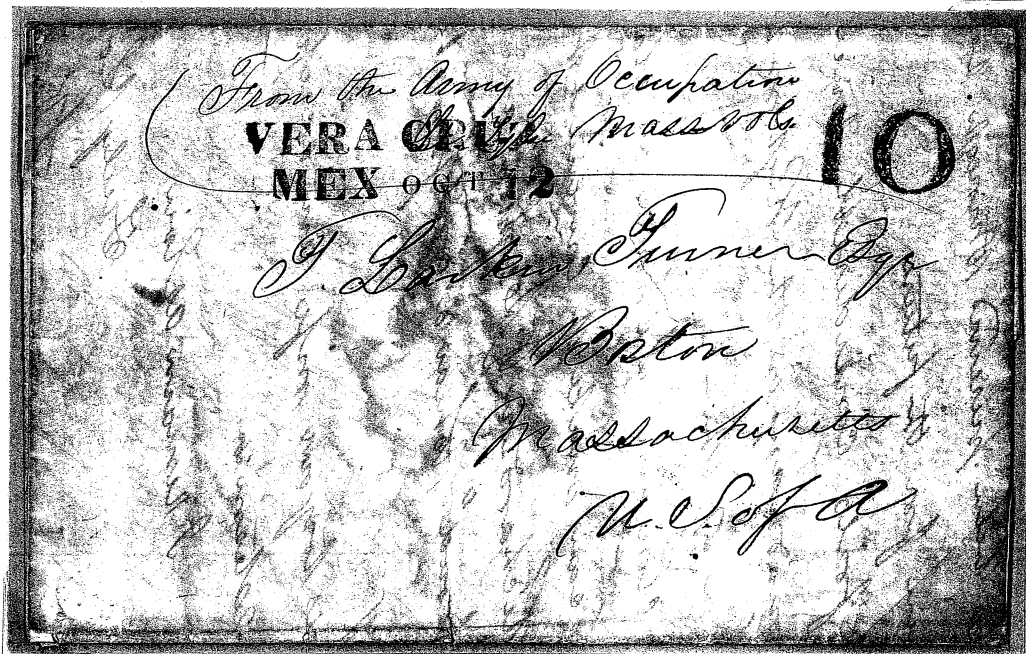
Arrived Vera Cruz
(Via New Orleans)
11 April 1848

Forwarded by
Vega Bros.
22 April 1848
To Mexico City

3 Reales collect

VERA CRUZ
MEX OCT 12

Type I Vera Cruz Handstamp
3 June - 12 October 1847



Camp near Vera Cruz, 8 October 1847

10c >300 mile rate

Device made of movable printers type from local newspaper
Used with several Vera Cruz rate marks:
Manuscript, Small '10', Large '10'

Several sources (including autobiography of U.S. Grant) note that mail service through Vera Cruz was intermittent, or batched. This helps explain gaps in handstamp dates, and large quantities known for other dates.

When communications between the interior and Vera Cruz were difficult, mails could be sent via Tampico, especially during October 1847. Items were occasionally carried privately, or directly on board ship, bypassing the Vera Cruz Post Office. The British Agency also handled significant quantities of commercial mail. Infrequently, small amounts went via Spanish mails

VERA CRUZ HANDSTAMP MARKINGS

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>KNOWN DATES OF USE</u>
I	3 June - 12 October 1847
II	29 October - 16 November 1847
III/a	18 October 1847
IV	16 November 1847 - 7 January 1848
V	14 January - 25 February 1848
VI	3 March - 9 March 1848
VII	20 - 26 March 1848
VIII *	7 April - 26 May 1848
IX	9 June - 5 July 1848

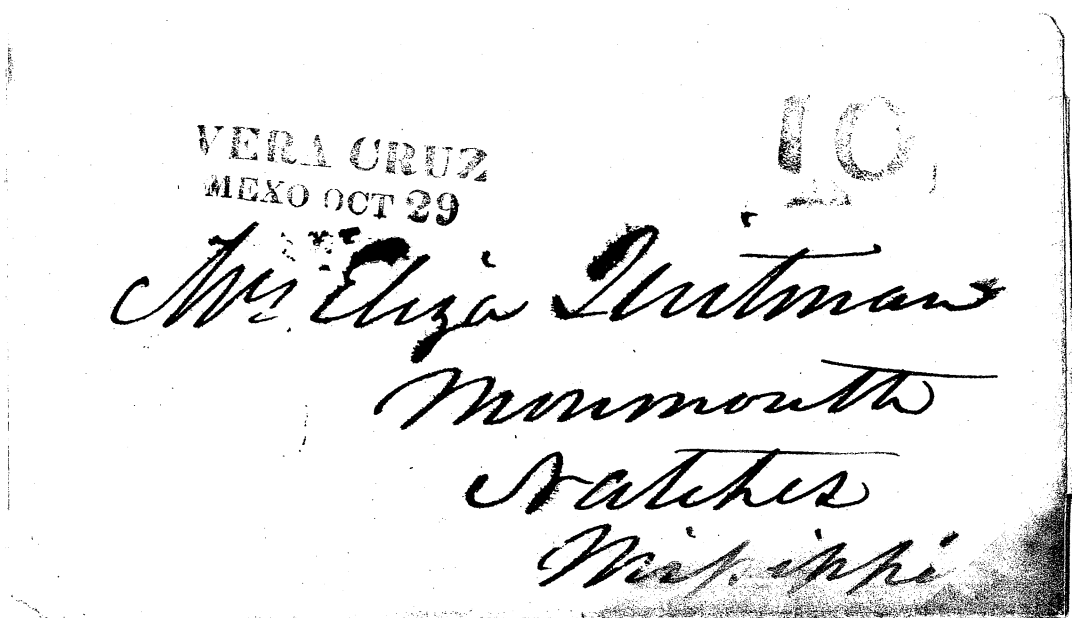
*Most frequently encountered type

VERA CRUZ

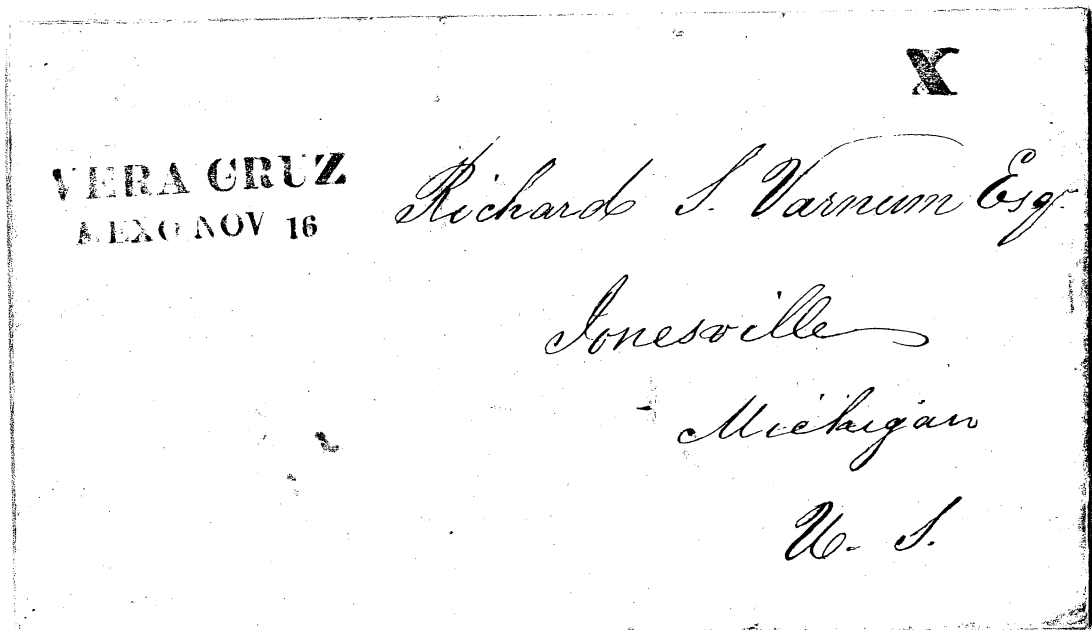
TYPE II HANDSTAMP

VERA CRUZ
MEXO OCT 29

29 October - 16 November 1847



29 October 1847
small '10' ratestamp
Written by General Quitman



16 November 1847
Roman 'x' ratestamp

16 November is the only date known when two Vera Cruz postmark types (II & IV) were used simultaneously

VERA CRUZ

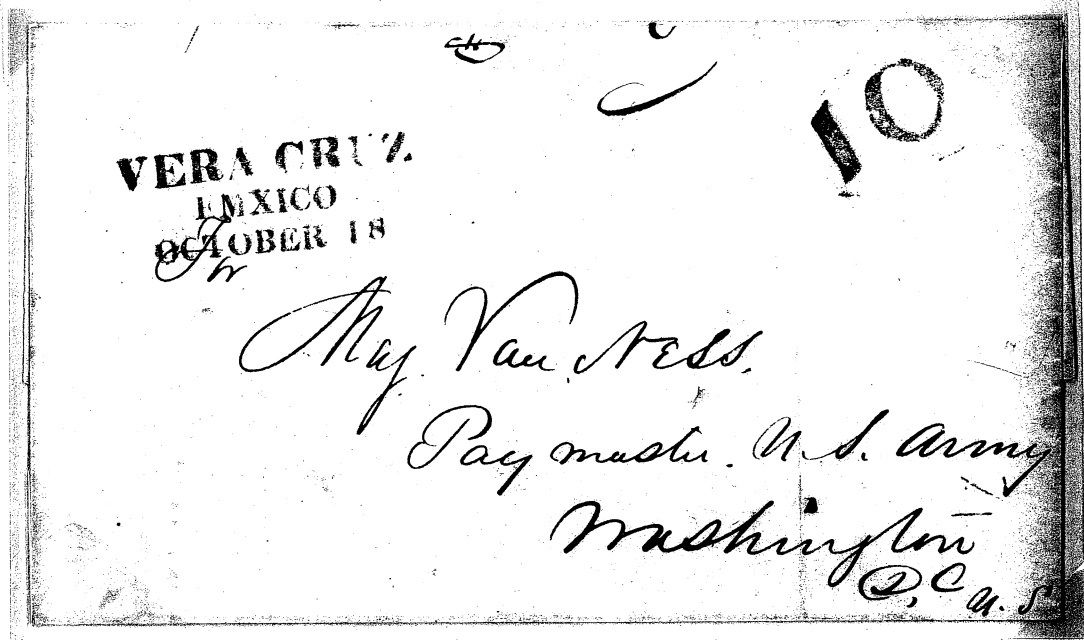
VERA CRUZ

TYPE IIIa HANDSTAMP

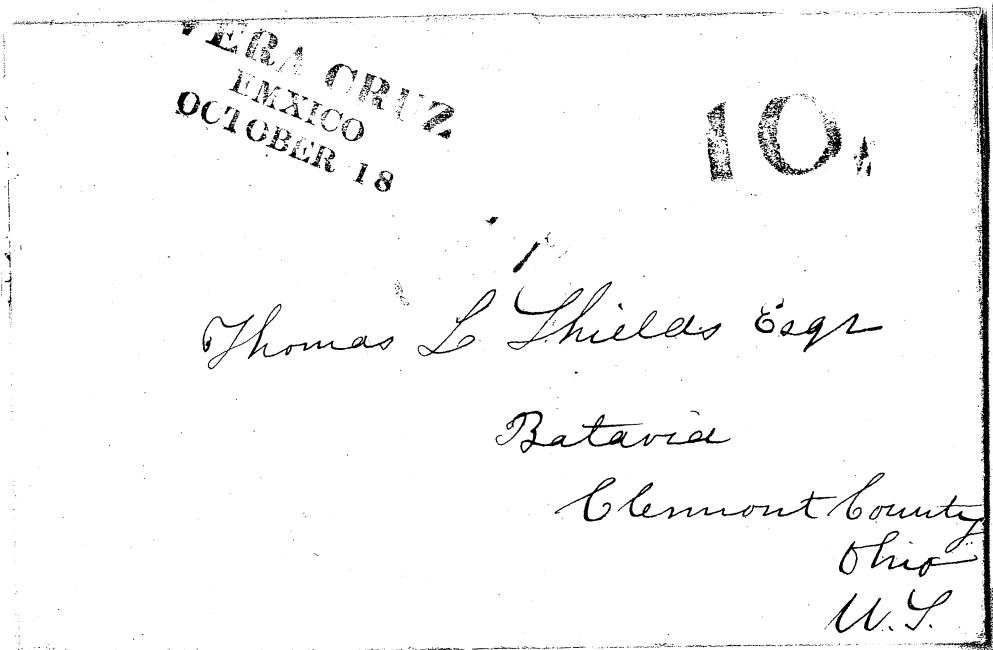
EMXICO

OCTOBER 18

'EMXICO' Error, Known only 18 October
3 examples known

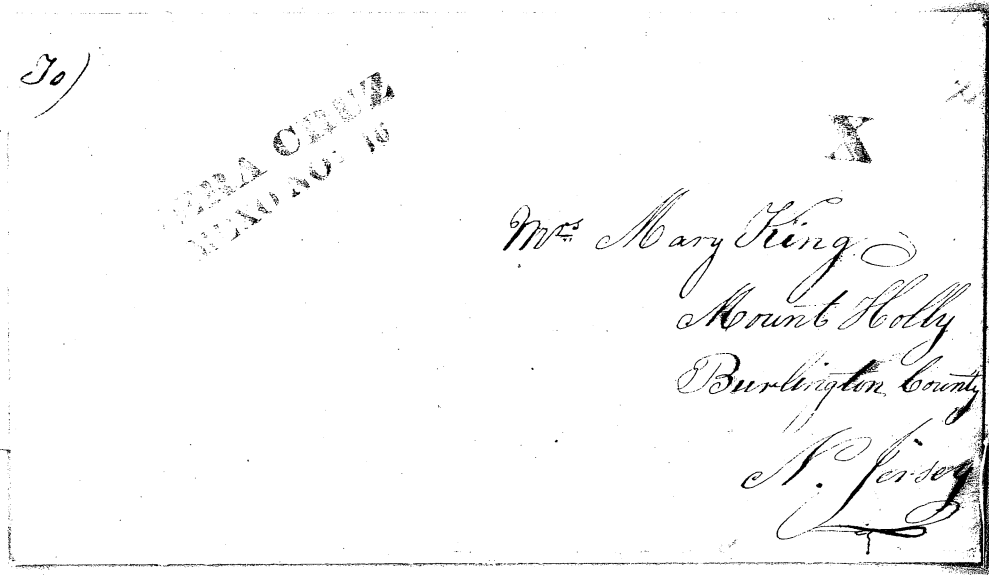


Official Use to Army paymaster
small '10' ratestamp
(10c: Up to 1 ounce, more then 300 miles)



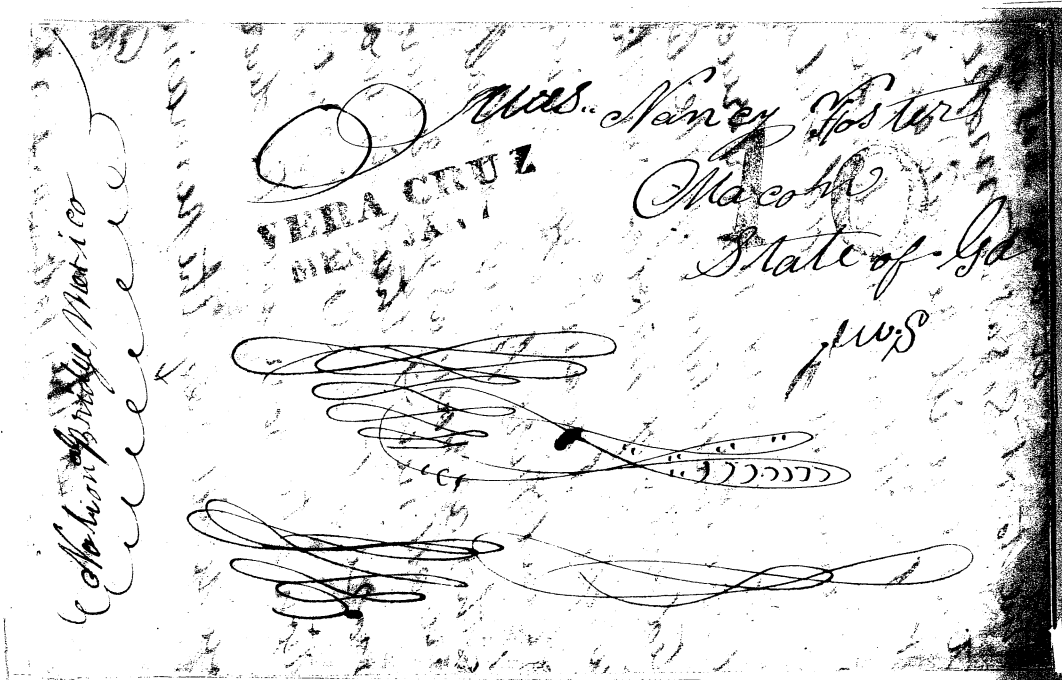
Camp near Vera Cruz, 11 October 1847
Personal letter home
small '10' ratestamp

16 November 1847 - 7 January 1848



Puebla, 9 July 1847
Vera Cruz, 16 November 1847 (Early use), Roman 'x' Ratestamp

A large quantity of mail from the Puebla area dated June & July 1847 was delayed in transit, reaching Vera Cruz mid November 1847.



National Bridge, 2 January 1848
Vera Cruz, 7 January 1848 (Late Use), Large '10' Ratestamp

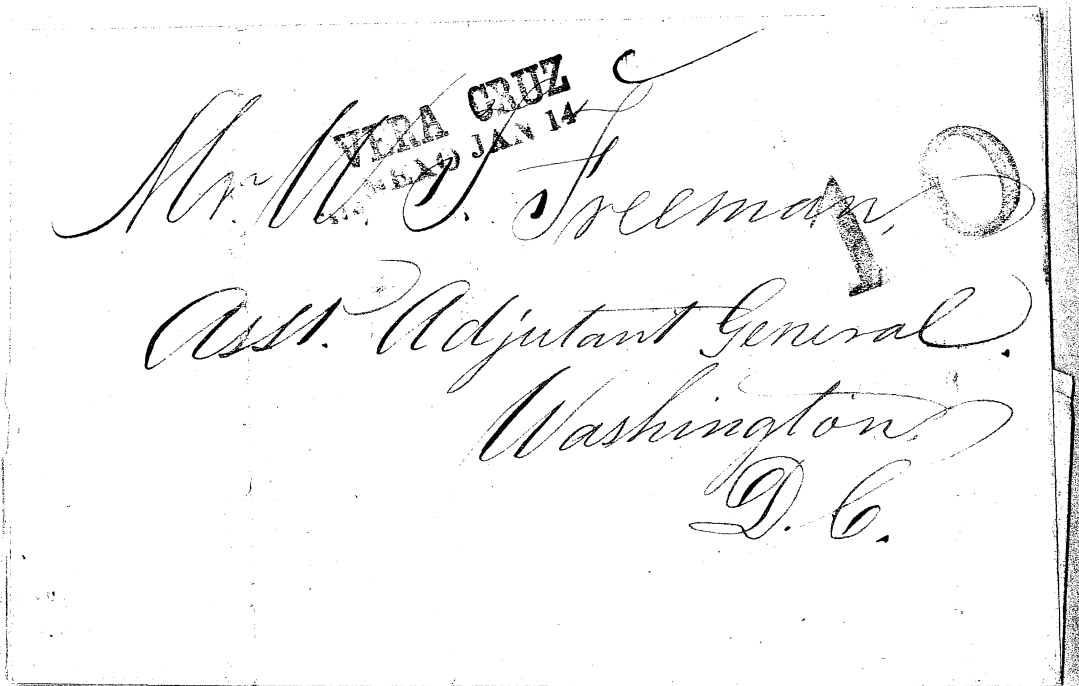
Known with Roman 'x', Small '10' & Large '10' Ratemarks

VERA CRUZ

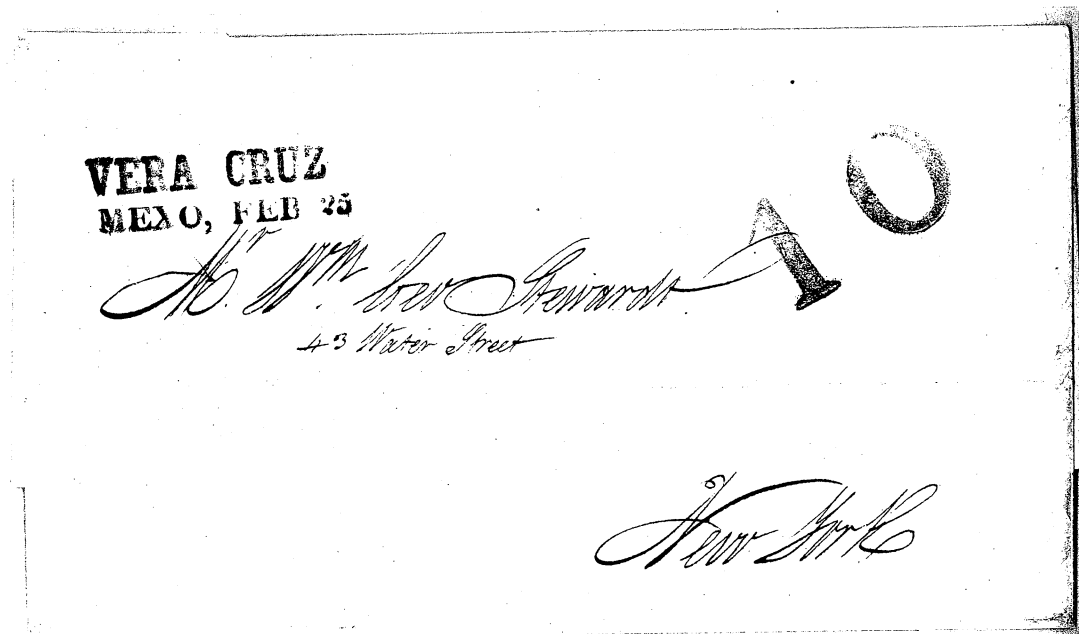
VERA CRUZ
MEXO, FEB 25

TYPE V HANDSTAMP

14 January - 25 February 1848



Jalapa, 11 January 1848
Vera Cruz, 14 January 1848



Vera Cruz, 25 February 1848 (Late Use)
Commercial letter to New York (17 March arrival) via New Orleans

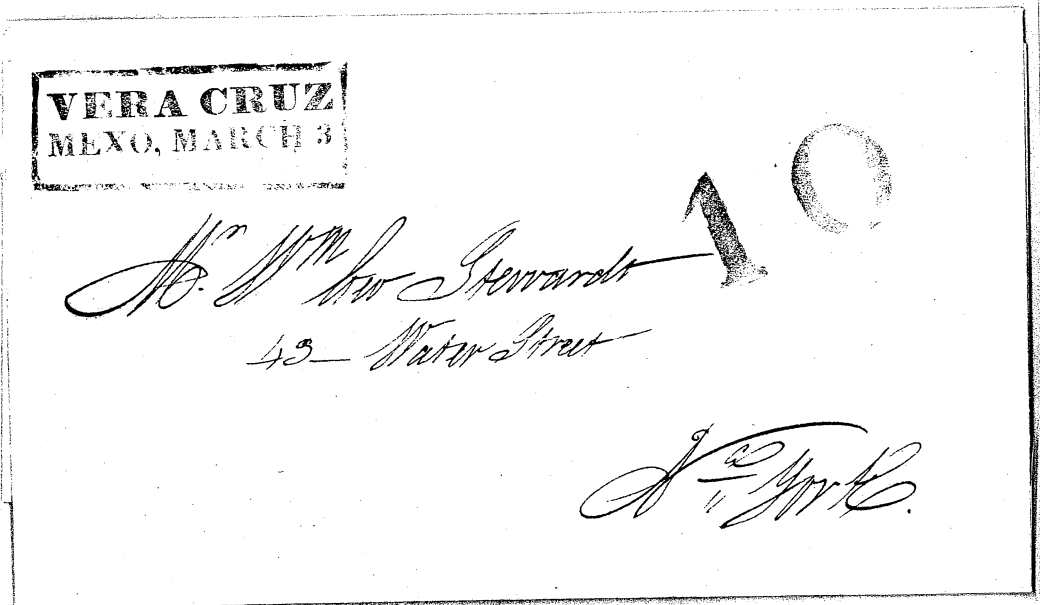
Large '10' Ratestamp
Last 'Unboxed' Handstamp, Earliest and Latest Usages

VERA CRUZ

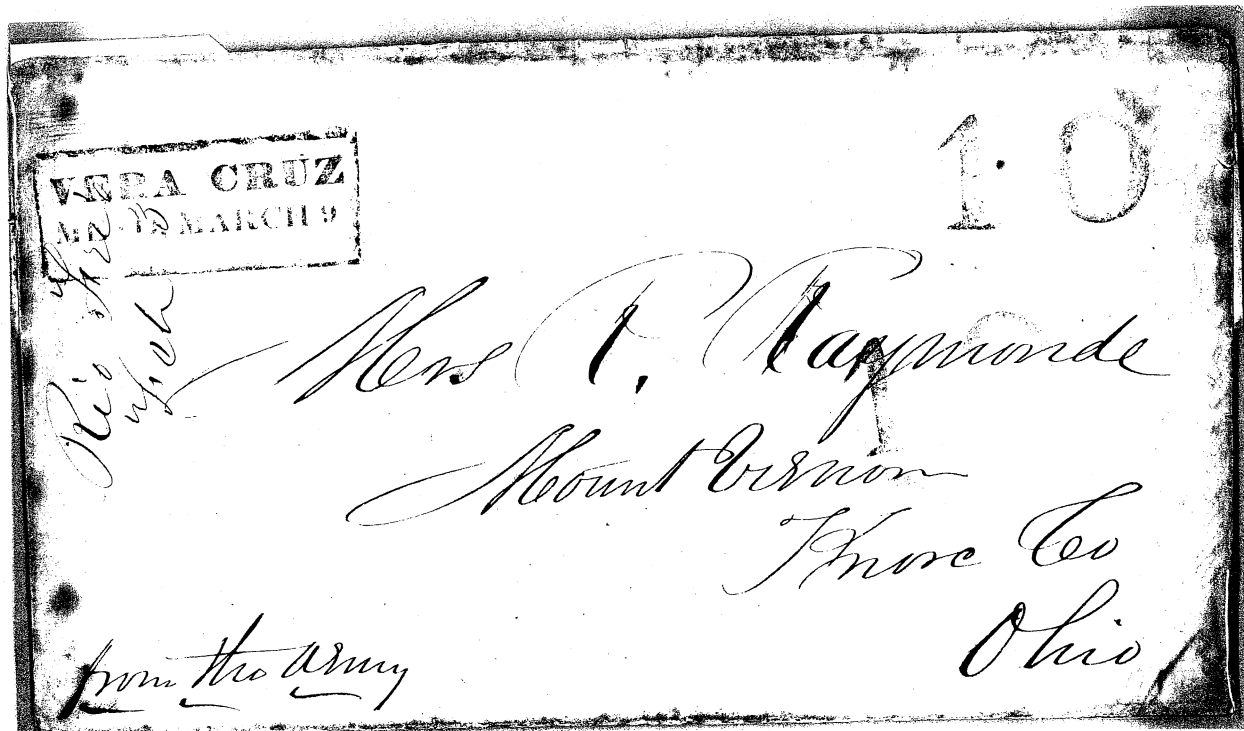
VERA CRUZ
MEXO, MARCH 9

TYPE VI HANDSTAMP

3 - 9 March 1848



Vera Cruz, 22 & 29 February 1848 (Commercial/Duplicate Letter)
Vera Cruz, 3 March 1848 (Early Use)



Rio Frio, 3 February 1848 (Delayed Transit to Vera Cruz)
Vera Cruz Post Office, 9 March 1848 (Late Use)

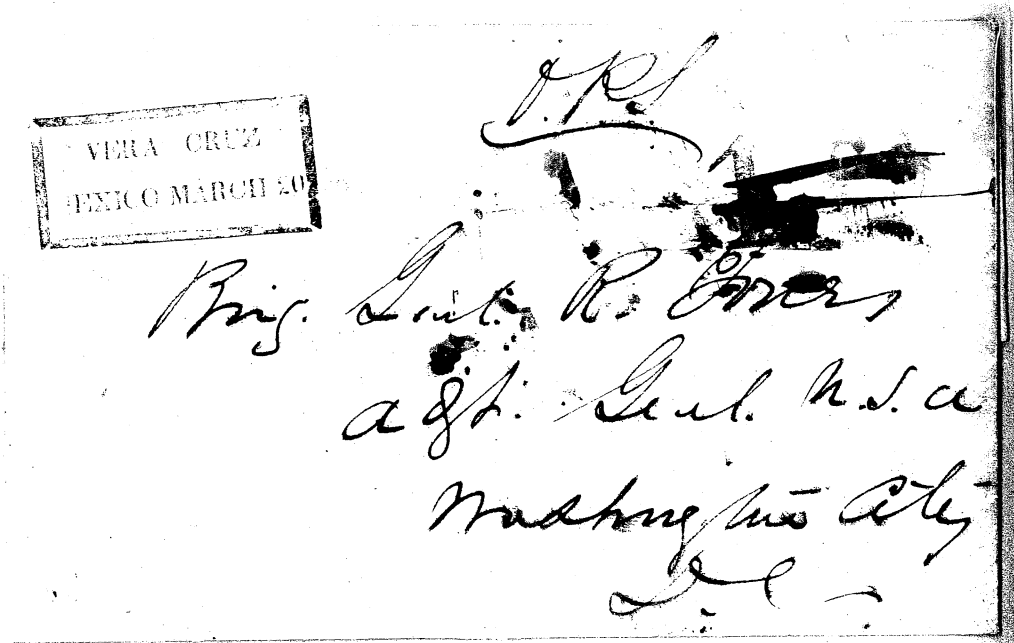
Large '10' Ratestamp
This, and all subsequent Vera Cruz Handstamps Outlined, or 'Boxed'
Earliest and Latest Uses

VERA CRUZ

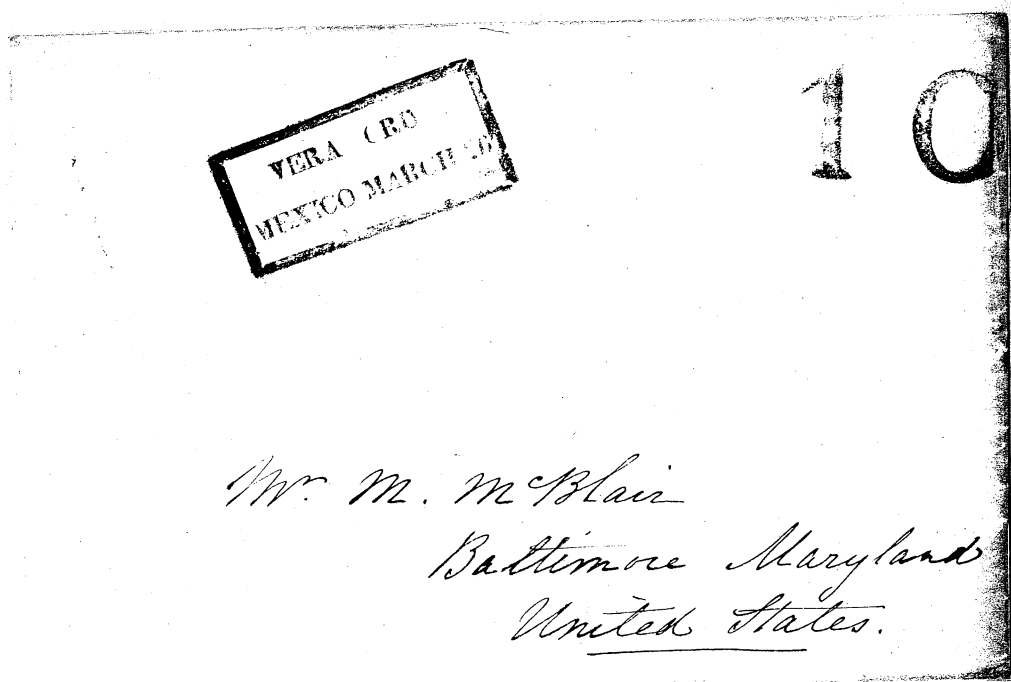
VERA CRUZ
MEXICO MARCH 20

TYPE VII HANDSTAMP

20 - 26 March 1847



Vera Cruz, 20 March 1848 (Official Letter)
Vera Cruz, 20 March 1848 (Early Use)
'10' Crossed out, Endorsed "O.P.S." (On Public Service)



Guahcoales (sic) River, 13 March 1848 (Mosquito Squadron)
Vera Cruz Post Office, 9 March 1848 (Late Use)

Note loss of 'Z' in VERA CRUZ which led to retirement of handstamp

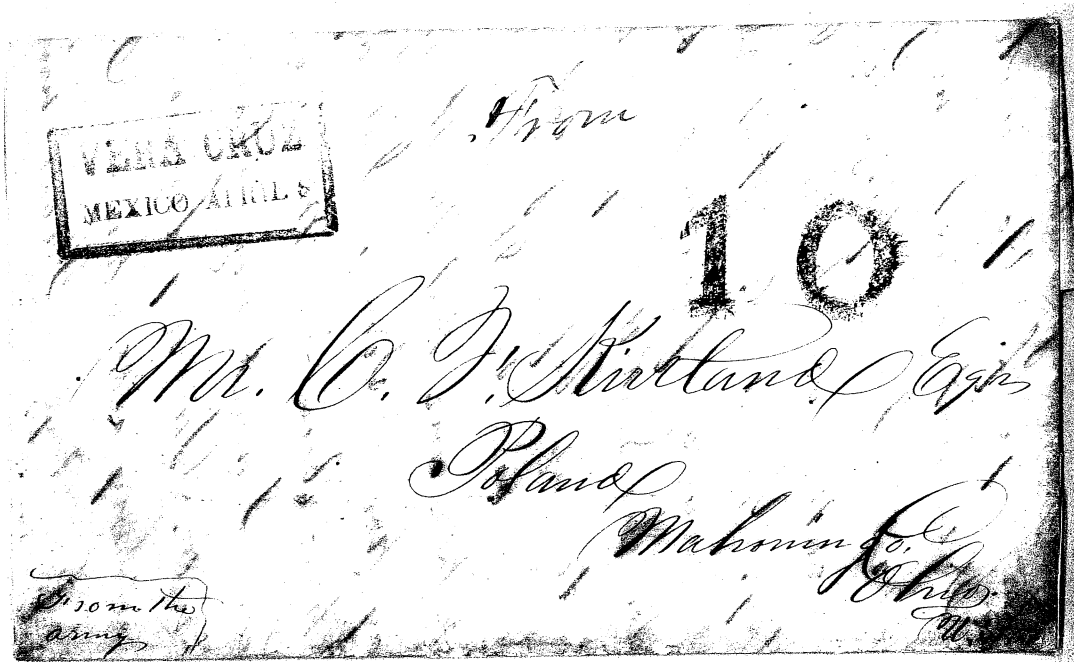
Large '10' Ratestamp
Earliest and Latest Uses

VERA CRUZ

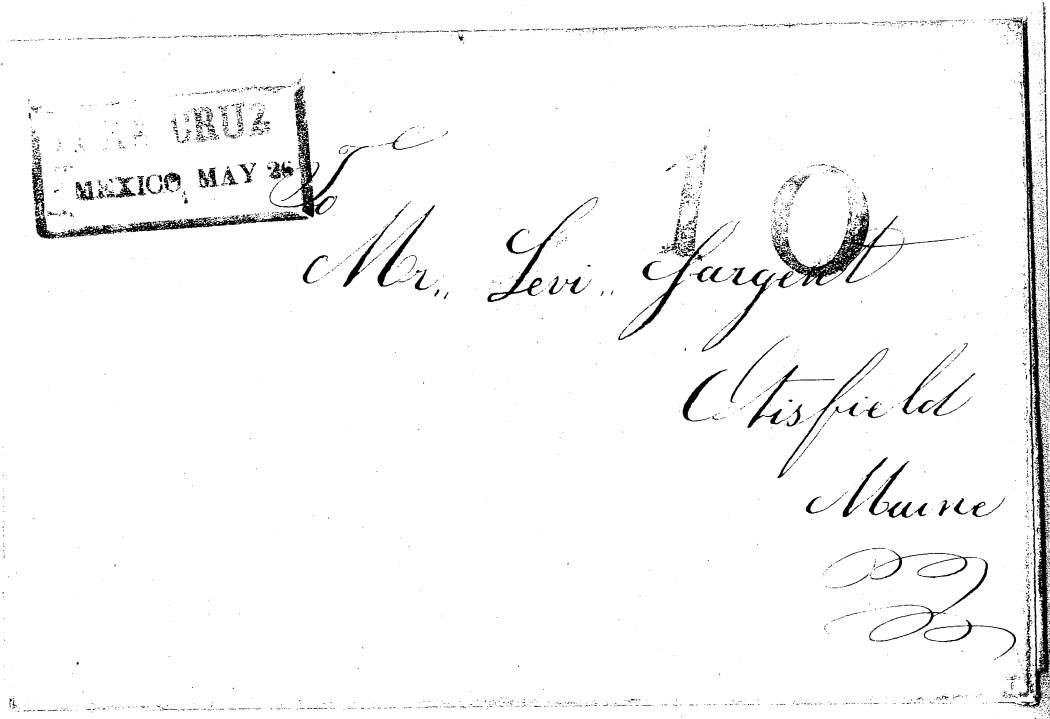


TYPE VIII HANDSTAMP

8 April - 26 May 1848



Jalapa, 22 March 1848
Vera Cruz, 8 April 1848 (Early Use)



Mexico City, 13 March 1848
Vera Cruz Post Office, 26 May 1848 (Late Use)

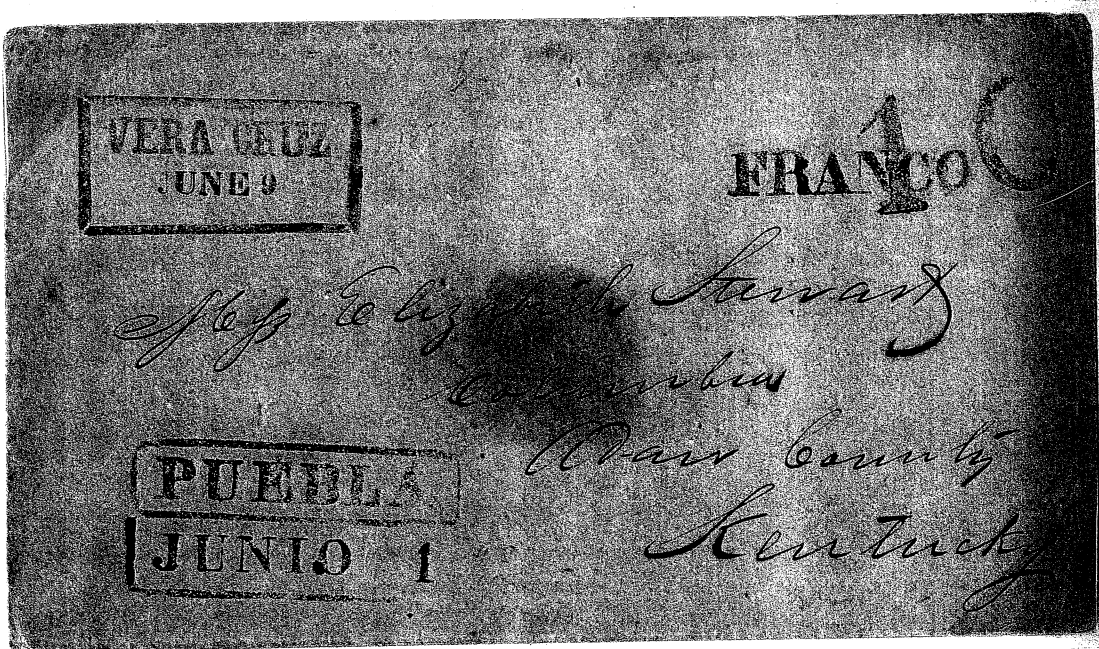
Large '10' Ratestamp
Earliest and Latest Type VIII Uses
(Most often encountered Vera Cruz marking)

VERA CRUZ

VERA CRUZ
JULY 5

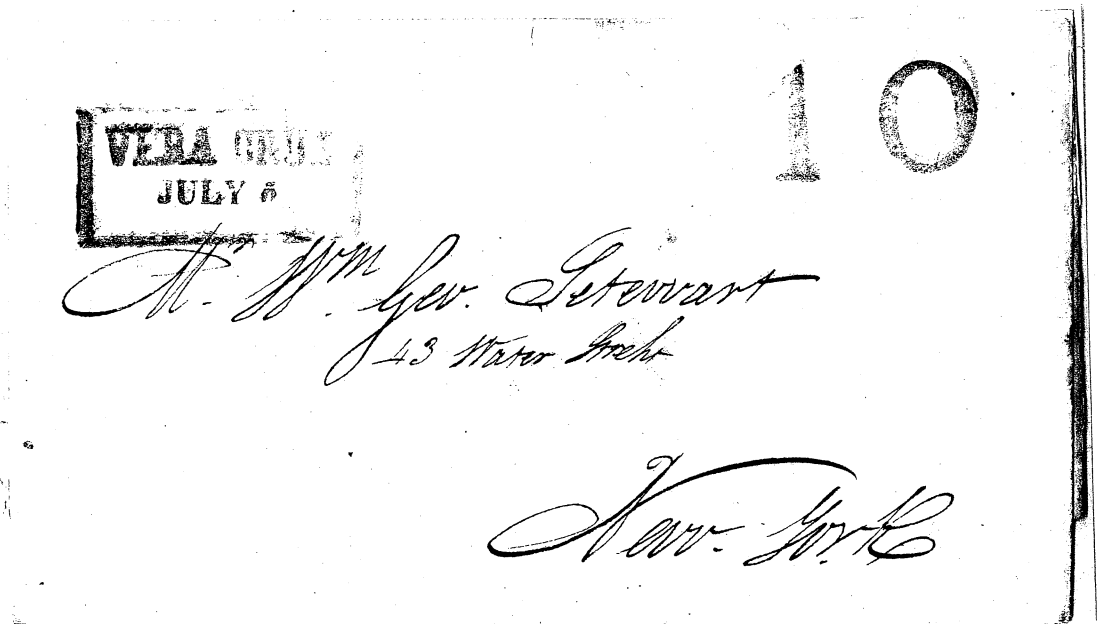
TYPE IX HANDSTAMP

9 June - 5 July 1848



Puebla [Mexican Post] (Prepaid-"FRANCO") 1 June 1848
Vera Cruz, 9 June 1848

After Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ratified on 25 May, cooperation between U.S. and Mexican officials became more frequent



3 July 1848 (Postmarked Vera Cruz 5 July) Commercial letter to New

Last Vera Cruz occupation handstamp; similar to type VIII with 'MEXICO' removed

CENTRAL CAMPAIGN

VERA CRUZ RATEMARKS

Rates set by Act of 3 March 1845 effective 1 July 1845:

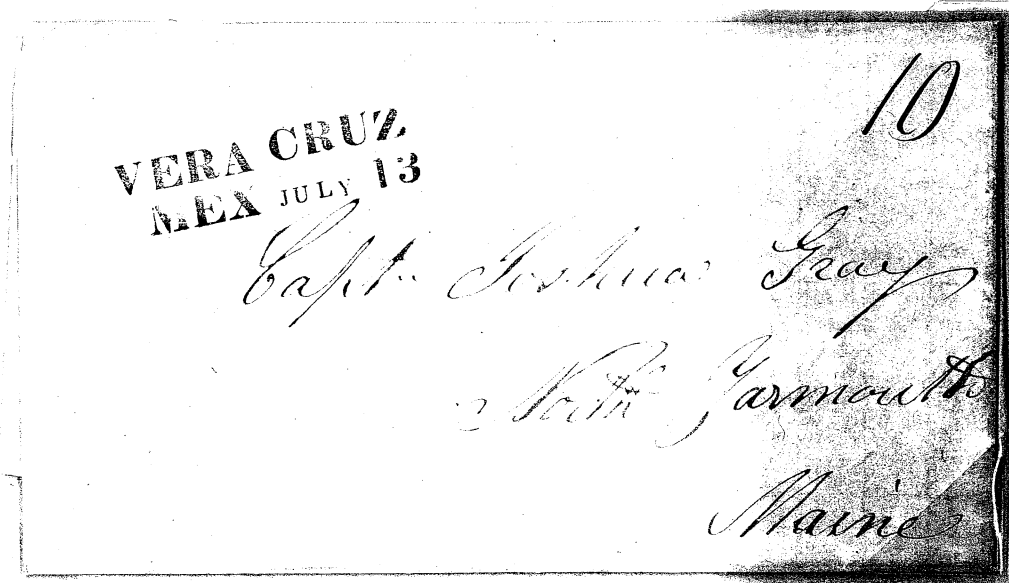
Letters: 5c (up to 300 miles), 10c (>300 miles) per 1/2 ounce (Forwarding additional)

Newspapers: 3c per copy (mailed by individuals), Advertising: 2c

Collect, Single Weight

"10"

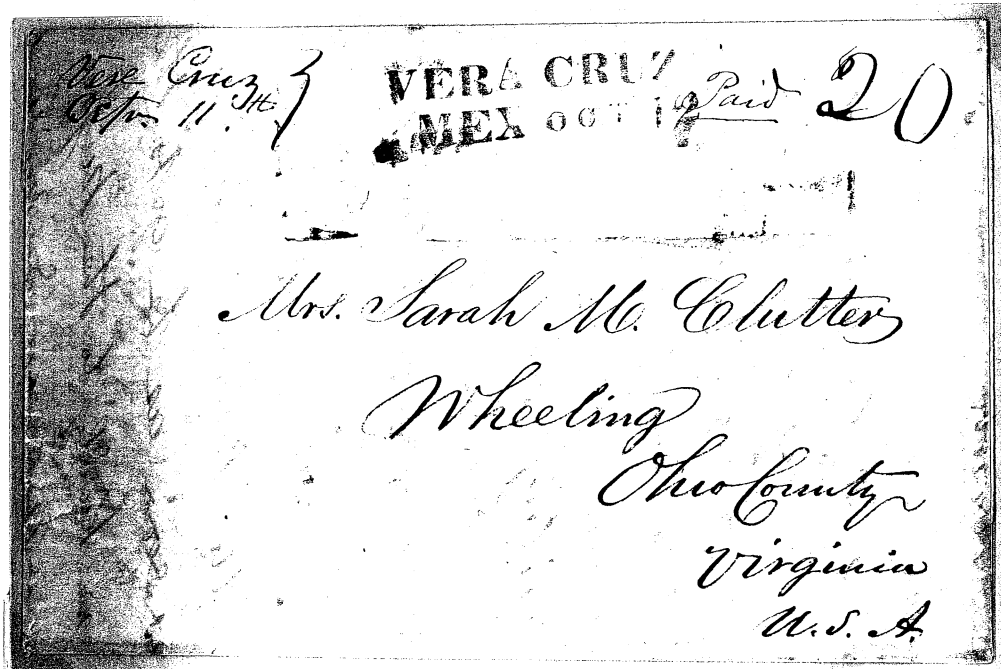
Up to 1/2 oz., >300 miles



Prepaid, Double Weight

"Paid 20"

1/2 - 1 Oz., >300 miles



Vast majority of mail sent collect as there was no assurance it would arrive, and cash money was scarce

VERA CRUZ RATE MARKINGS

TYPE

- Ms. 3; 20 (cents)
- Ms. 10 (cents)
- "Paid" + Rate (cents) Ms.
- Small '10' (cents) Handstamp
- Roman 'X' (cents) Handstamp
- Large '10' (cents) Handstamp*

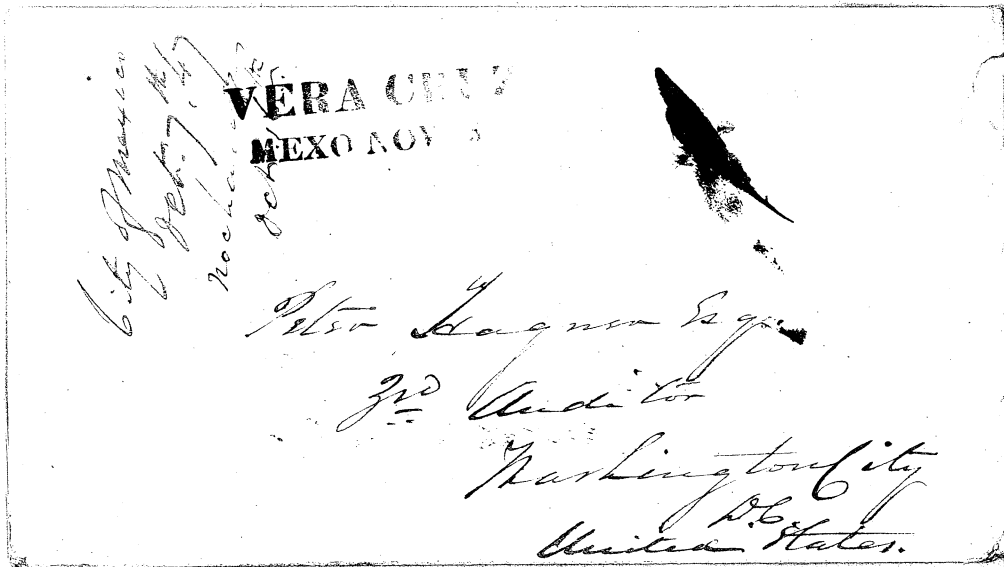
KNOWN USE PERIOD

- Throughout Intervention Period
- Through late September 1847
- Throughout Intervention Period
- 3 October - 16 December 1847
- 5 November - 29 November 1847
- 17 December 1847 - 5 July 1848

*Most frequently encountered type

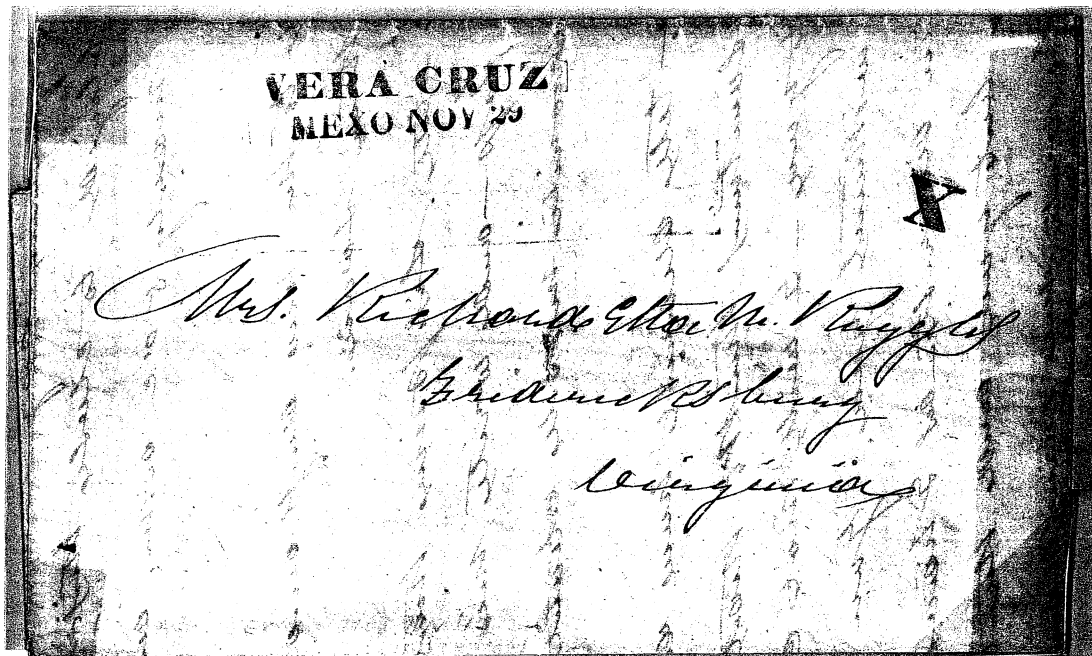
3 - 29 November 1847

Mexico City, 16 October 1847
Vera Cruz, 3 November



Earliest Known Use of ratestamp; official business

Mexico City, 24 November 1847
Vera Cruz, 29 November



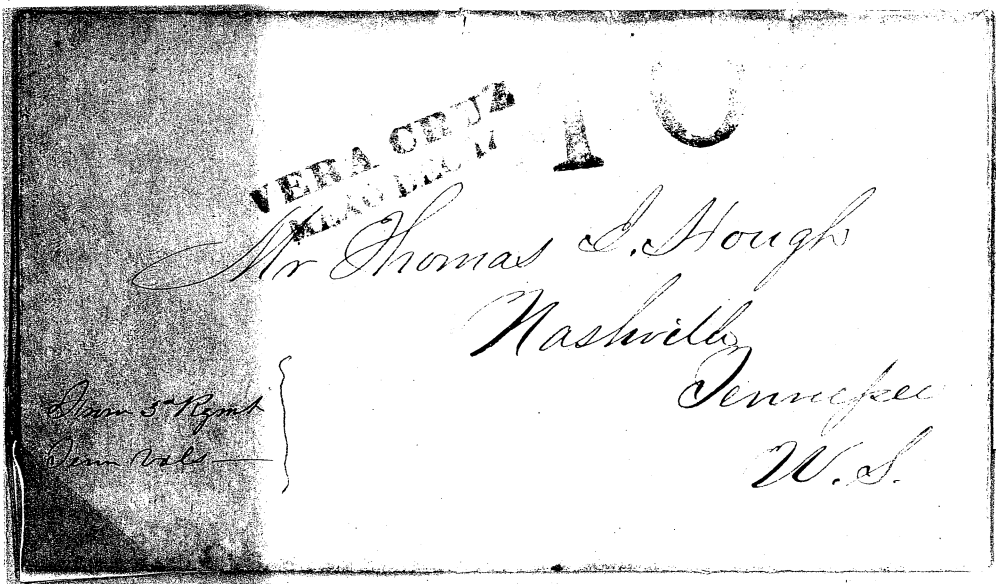
Latest Known Use of ratestamp
(From General D. Ruggles)

Associated with Vera Cruz Types II & IV Handstamps

VERA CRUZ

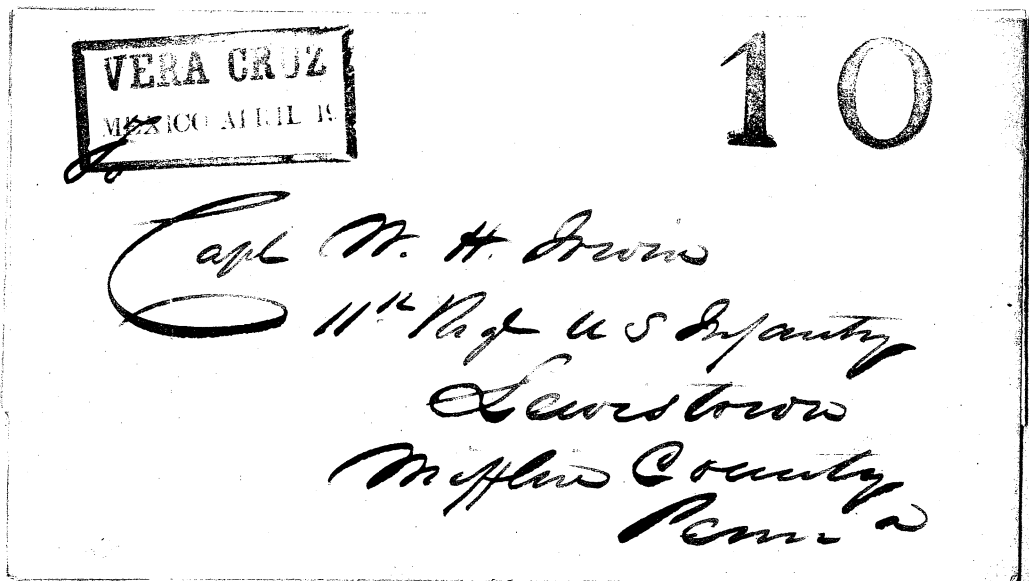
LARGE '10' RATEMARK

17 December 1847 - 5 July 1848

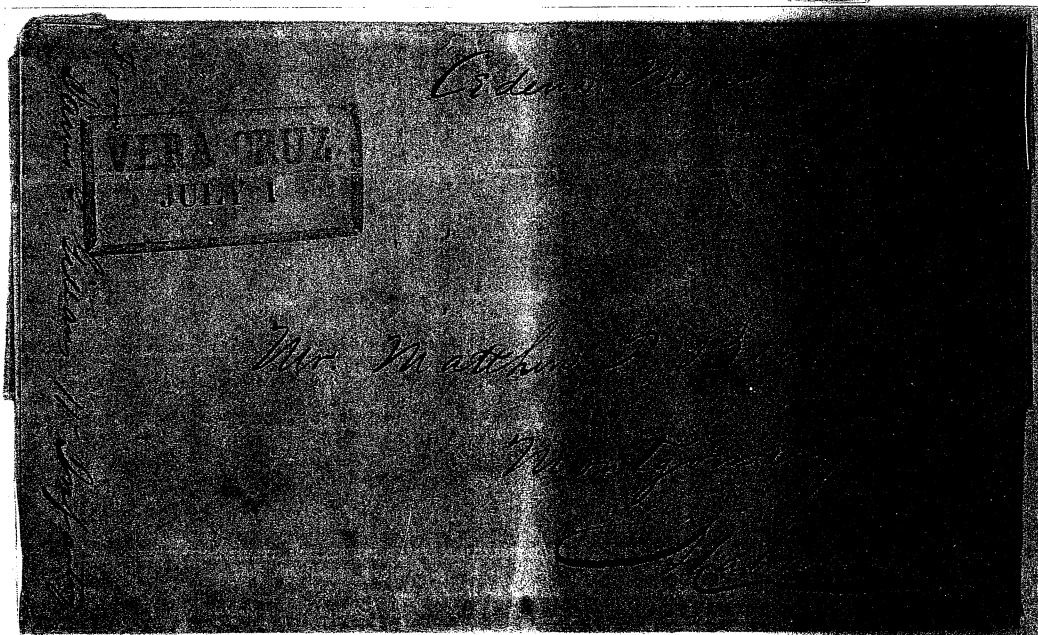


Vera Cruz
17 December 1847 (EKU)
Type IV Handstamp

Vera Cruz
19 April 1848
Type VIII
Handstamp



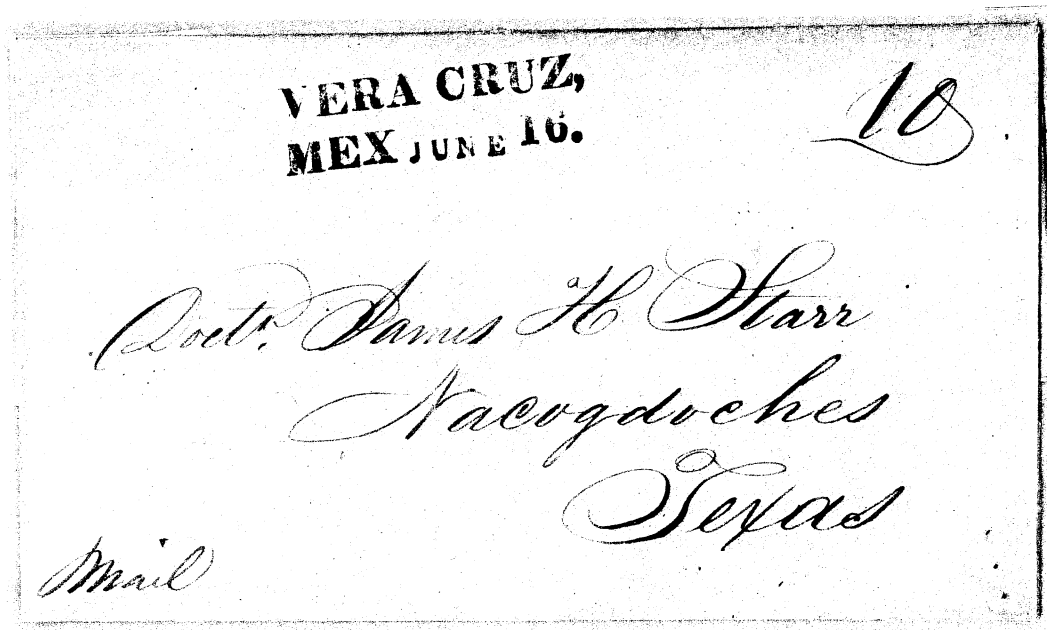
Vera Cruz
1 July 1848
Type IX
Handstamp



Associated with Vera Cruz Types IV through IX Handstamps; most common ratemark

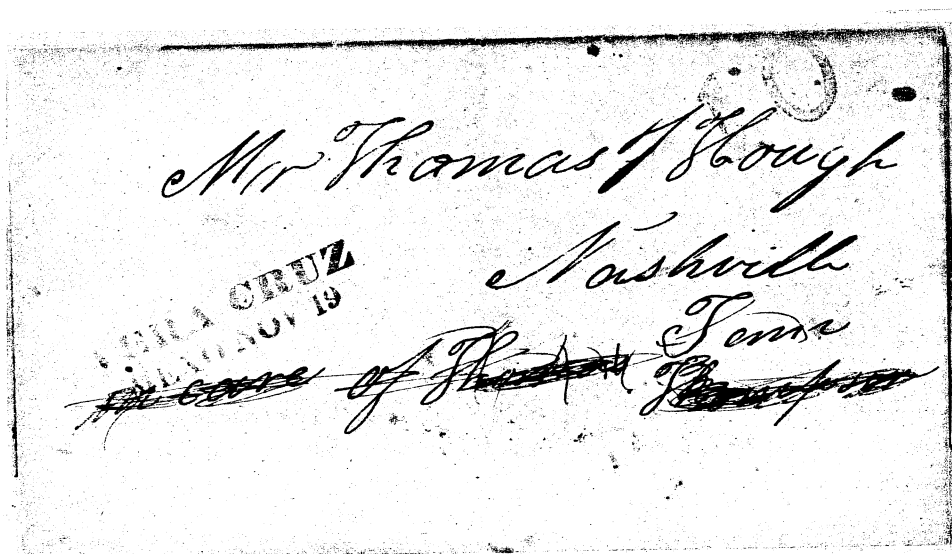
Vera Cruz served as Headquarters, and supply base for Scott's thrust towards Mexico City

All Handstamp types, and rate markings are known used from troops at Vera Cruz

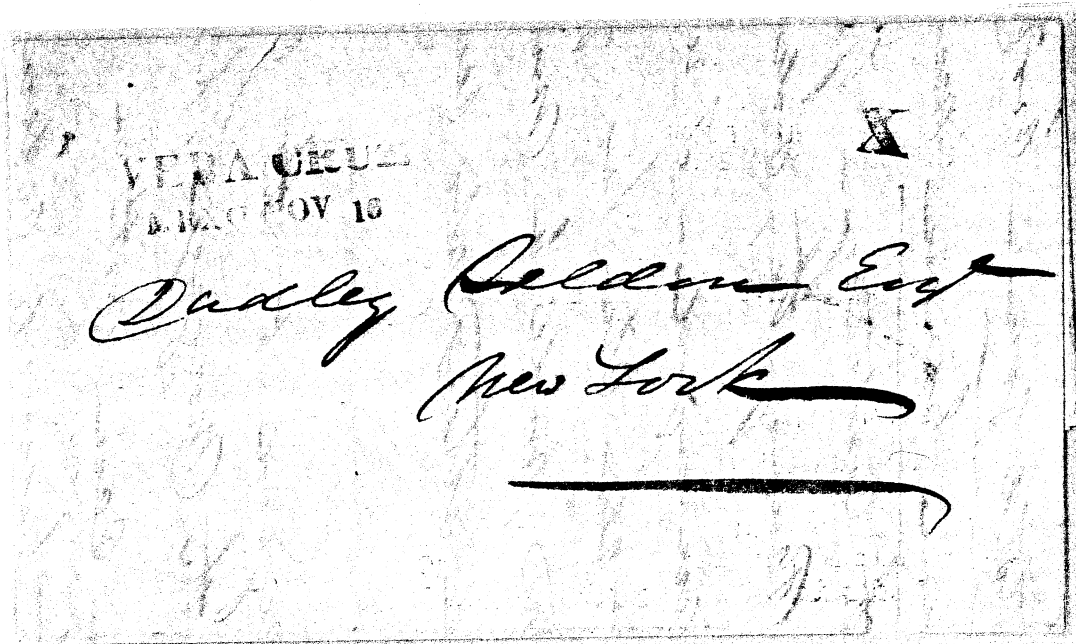


Vera Cruz Type I Handstamp
16 June 1847

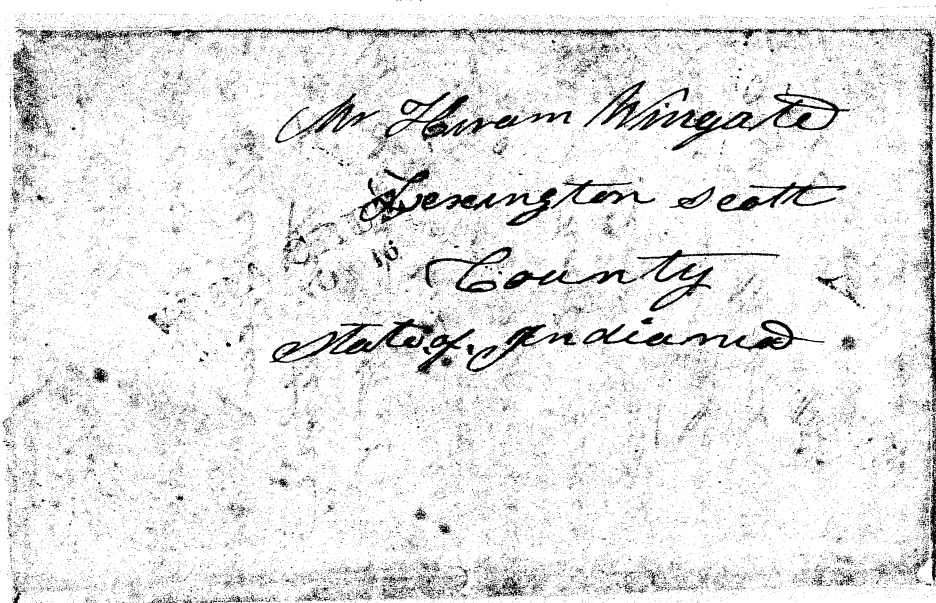
Manuscript '10' for >300 miles
Addressed to *James H. Starr* at Nocogdoches, Texas



Vera Cruz Type II Handstamp
19 November 1847
Small '10' rate handstamp



Mexico City, 26 October 1847
 Vera Cruz (Type II Handstamp), 16 November 1847
 Roman 'X' ratemark (10c collect)



Puebla, 13 June 1847
 Vera Cruz (Type IV Handstamp), 16 November 1847

A quantity of mail was waylaid for several months between the interior and Vera Cruz

Type II Vera Cruz Handstamp
 Type IV Vera Cruz Handstamp

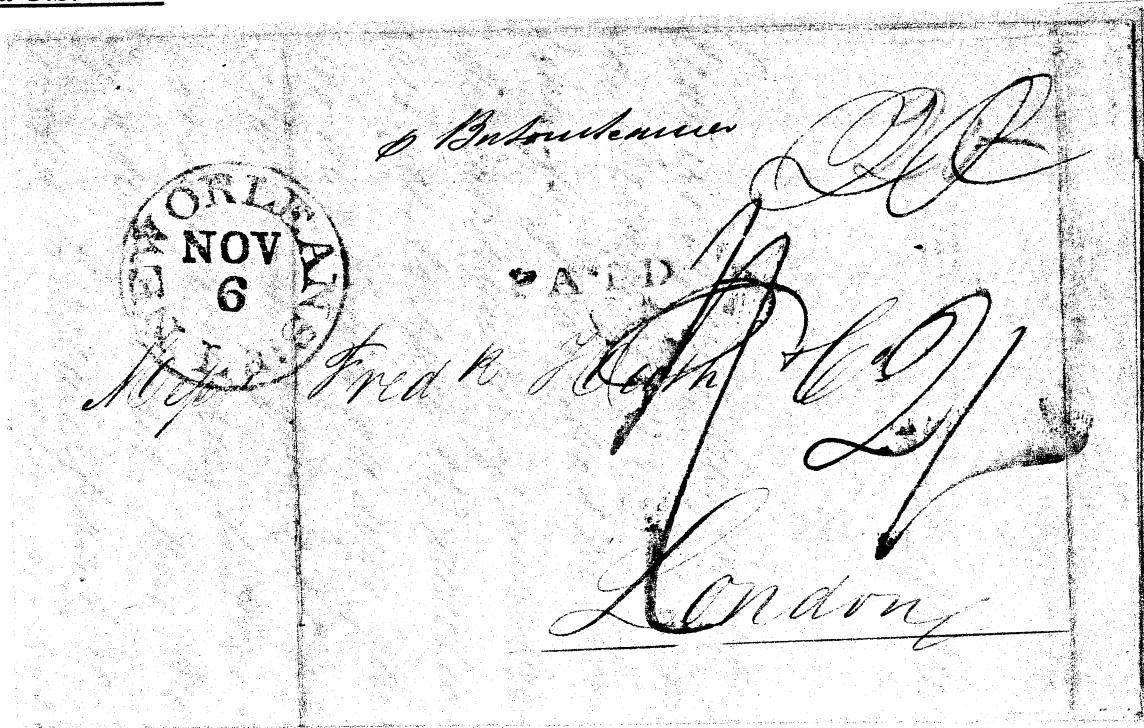
29 October – 16 November 1847
 16 November 1847 – 7 January 1848

16 November is the only date when two Vera Cruz
 postmark types (II & IV) were used simultaneously

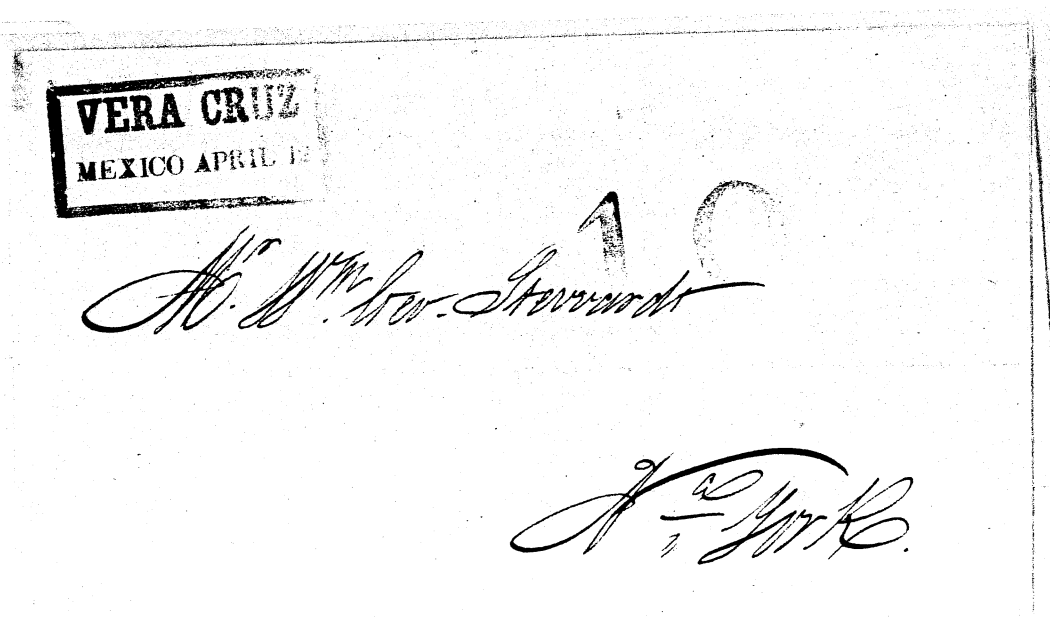
Commercial activity continued throughout Occupation period

U.S. (via New Orleans) and British mails were most commonly used

Via U.S. Mails



Vera Cruz, 1 November 1847
 New Orleans, 6 November 1847 (Forwarder: SCHMIDT & Co.)
 London, 30 November 1847 arrival (via Boston Steamer)
 'PAID' 20c, 2/-



Vera Cruz (Type VIII Handstamp), 12 April 1848
 New York, 6 May 1848 (via New Orleans)
 Large '10' ratemark

Bypassing Vera Cruz Post Office

Written at Vera Cruz, Posted on board ship

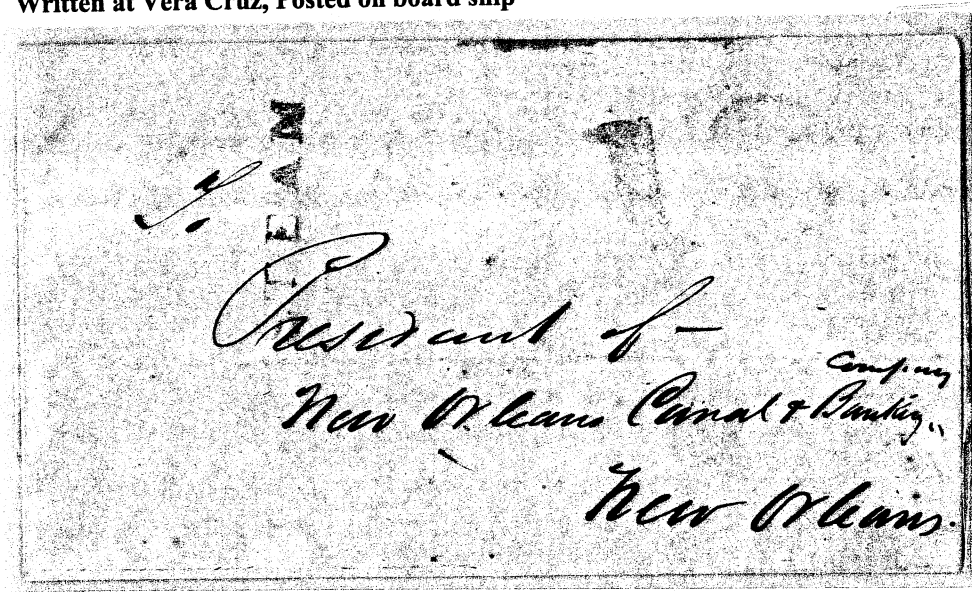
Vera Cruz
5 June 1847

Placed directly on
Board ship in port

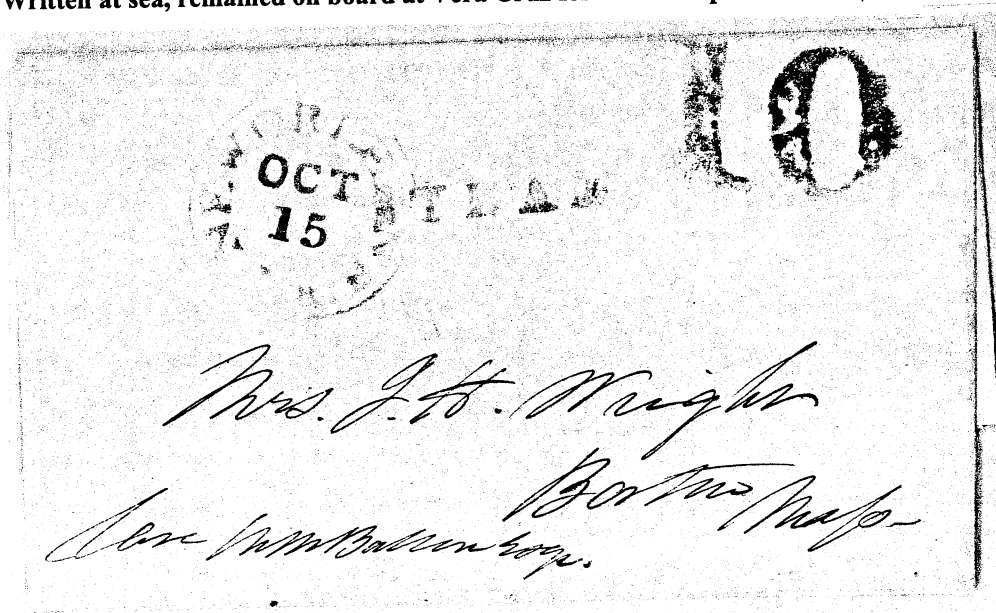
New Orleans
"STEAM"
& "10",
No Datestamp

10c > 300 mile
Letter rate

(If entered into
U.S. Mails at
New Orleans:
2c local rate)



Written at sea, remained on board at Vera Cruz for return trip to New Orleans



"Ship American"
3 October 1847

Letter remained
on board ship,
Entered mails
at New Orleans
15 October 1847

10c > 300 mile rate
No additional 'SHIP'
Charge.

The Vera Cruz Post Office was in operation from 3 June 1847. It could be bypassed by placing items directly on board ship, carrying letters outside the mails, or writing while on board ship.

Rate Comparisons

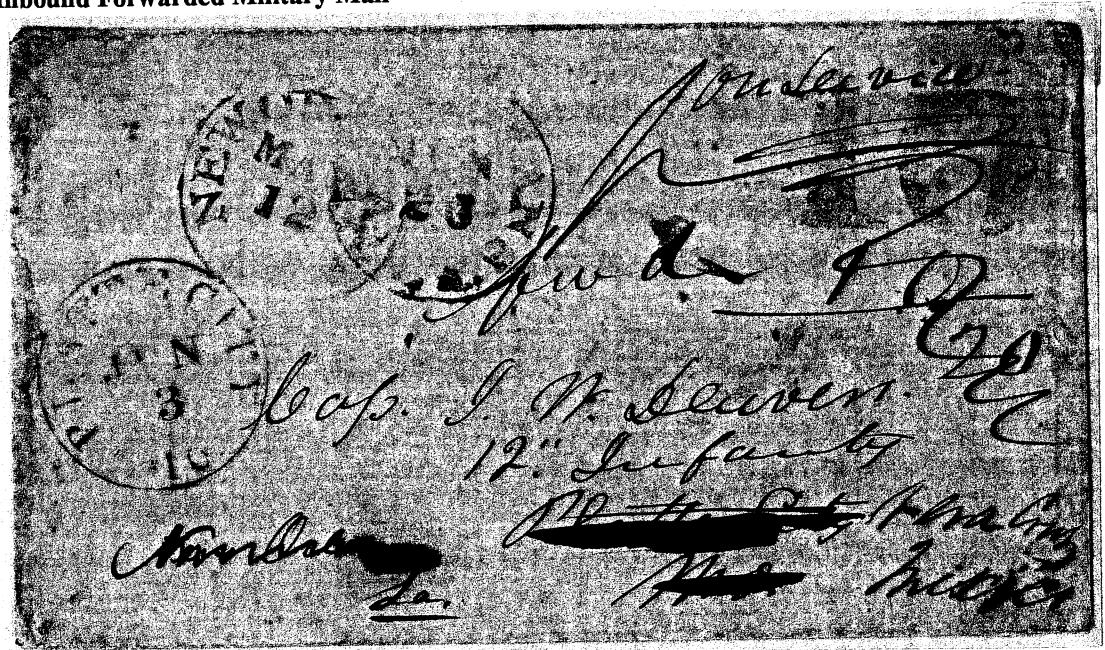
Inbound Forwarded Military Mail

New Orleans
12 May 1847
10c [collect]
> 300 miles

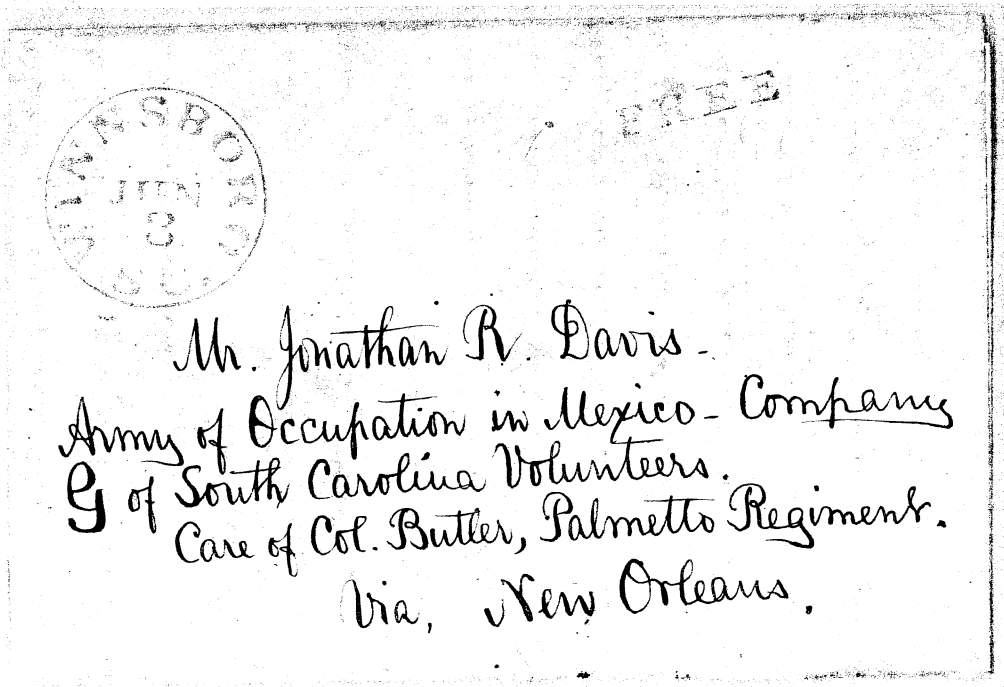
Platt City, Missouri
(Training Camp)
3 June 1847
Additional 10c due
(forwarding) = 20c

New Orleans (Transit)
26 June 1847
"On Service"
Forwarded to Vera Cruz

All charges cancelled
(Act of 3 March 1847:
Free postage to troops
Serving in Mexico)



Inbound/Free



Winnsboro, S.C.
3 June 1847

No postage
required

Free postage under Act of 3 March 1847 valid only for troops serving in Mexico,
not those in training, aboard ship, or assigned elsewhere.

INBOUND OFFICIAL

CENTRAL CAMPAIGN

Washington, D.C.
7 April 1847

"FREE"

Adjutant-General's Office
Official Business
J. Thomas
L. H. G.

1st Lieut (E. J. B.) C. Baynton
1st Artillery,
New Cross
Mexico

Handstamp "Adjutant Generals Office"
Signature: L[orenzo] Thomas A.A.G.
(Assistant Adjutant General)

Official mail bearing appropriate endorsements carried free of charge.

CENTRAL CAMPAIGN

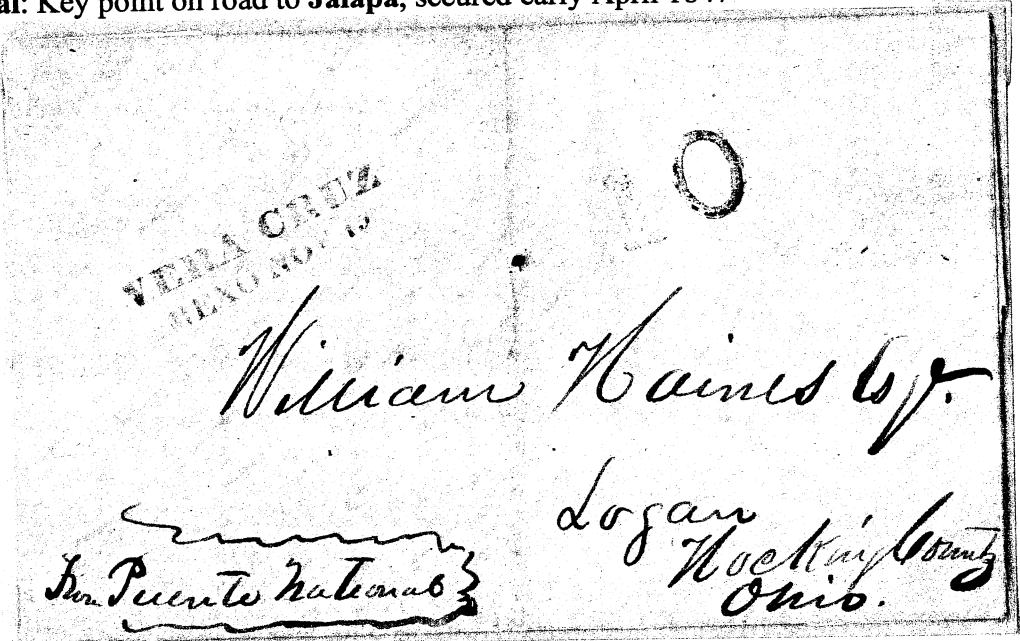
PUENTE NACIONAL to JALAPA

Puente Nacional: Key point on road to Jalapa, secured early April 1847

Puente Nacional
17 November 1847

Vera Cruz
19 November 1847
Type IV
Handstamp

Small '10'
Rate mark

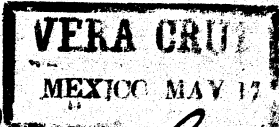


Puente Nacional
2 May 1848

Vera Cruz
17 May 1848
Type VIII
Handstamp

Large '10'
Rate mark
(crossed out for
Official Business)

Official business



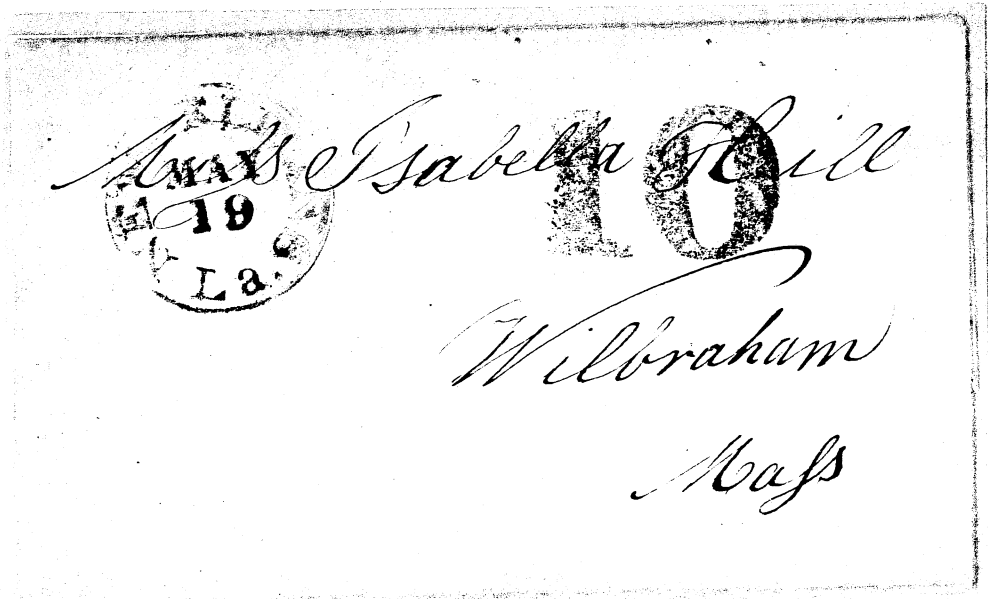
Brig: General R. Jones U.S.A.
Ajyt: General
Wash. D.C.

**Jalapa (74 miles from
Vera Cruz) occupied**
18 April 1847

Jalapa
28 April 1847

Via
New Orleans
19 May 1847

Posted just after
Occupation yet
prior to opening
of Vera Cruz
Post Office



EL GENERAL EN JEFE

De los Ejércitos de los Estados-Unidos de America,

ALA NACION MEGICANA!



MEGICANOS: Los últimos sucesos de la guerra y las providencias que en consecuencia ha dictado vuestro gobierno, me ponen en el deber de dirigirme á vosotros para demostraros verdades que ignorais, porque os las ocultan maliciosamente. No quiero que me creais por mis palabras, aunque tiene derecho para que lo crean el que jamas ha faltado á ella, sino que juzgueis de estas verdades, por los hechos que están á la vista y á la calificación de todos vosotros.

Cualquiera que fuera el origen de esta guerra que mi nacion se vió obligada á emprender por causas imprescindibles, que entiendo desconoce la mayor parte de la nacion megicana, lo consideramos como una fatalidad, porque siempre lo es una guerra para las dos partes beligerantes, y la razon y la justicia se ponen en duda, si no se desconocen enteramente por ambos lados, creyendo cada cual que él las tiene.—La prueba de esta verdad la teneis los megicanos lo mismo que nosotros; pues en Méjico, así como en los Estados-Unidos, ecsistieron y ecsisten dos partidos opuestos, que desean la paz el uno y la guerra el otro. Pero los gobiernos tienen deberes sagrados de los que no pueden prescindir, y muchas veces estos deberes imponen por conveniencias nacionales un silencio y una reserva que algunas veces desagradan á la mayoría de los que hacen la oposicion por miras puramente personales ó particulares, y que no deben considerar los gobiernos, suponiendo que la nacion tiene en ellos la confianza que merece un magistrado que ella misma eligió.

Razones de alta política y de interes continental americano comprometieron los sucesos apesar de la circunspeccion del gabinete de Washington, que deseando ardientemente poner un término á todas sus diferencias con Méjico, no perdonó recursos de cuantos fueron compatibles con su decoro y dignidad para llegar á tan deseado fin; y cuando alimentaba la mas lisonjera esperanza de obtener por medio de su franca esplicacion y del razonamiento sometido al juicio y cordura del virtuoso y patriótico gobierno del general D. J. Herrera, la desgracia menos esperada hizo desaparecer aquella grata esperanza, y á la vez obstruyó todos los caminos que pudieran conducir á una transacion honrosa para las dos naciones. El nuevo

mo los continentales americanos, y eligió ademas las influencias estrañas mas opuestas á estos intereses y mas funestas para el porvenir de la libertad megicana y del sistema republicano que los Estados-Unidos tienen un deber de conservar y proteger. El deber, el honor y el propio decoro nos puso en la necesidad de no perder un tiempo que violentaban los hombres del partido monárquico, porque era preciso no perder momento, y obramos con la actividad y decision necesarias en casos tan urgentes, para evitar así la complicacion de intereses que podrian hacer mas dificil y comprometida nuestra situacion.

De nuevo en el curso de la guerra civil fué derrocado vuestro gobierno del general Paredes, y nosotros no pudimos menos que creer que esto seria un bien, porque cualquiera otro personal que representara al gobierno seria menos iluso, á la vez que mas patriota y mas prudente, si habia de atender al bien comun considerando y pesando todas las probabilidades, su fuerza, elementos, y sobre todo la opinion mas general respecto de resultados positivos de la guerra nacional. Nos equivocamos nosotros, como acaso se equivocaron los megicanos tambien, al juzgar de las intenciones verdaderas del general Santa-Anna, á quien ellos llamaron y nuestro gobierno permitió regresar.

En este estado, la nacion megicana ha visto cuales han sido los resultados que todos lamentan, y nosotros sinceramente, porque apreciamos como es debido el valor y la noble decision de los desgraciados que van al combate, mal conducidos, peor dirigidos, y casi siempre violentados por el engaño ó la perfidia.

Somos testigos, y como parte afectada no se nos tachará de parciales, cuando hemos lamentado con admiracion, que el heróico comportamiento de la guarnicion de Veracruz en la valiente defensa que hizo, fué infamado por el general que acaba de ser derrotado y puesto en vergonzosa fuga por un número muy inferior al de las fuerzas que mandaba en Buena-Vista: que este general premió á los pronunciados en Méjico, siendo promovedores de la guerra civil, y ultrajó á los que singularmente se acababan de distinguir resistiendo mas allá de lo que podia esperarse, con una decision admirable.

Por último, el sangriento suceso de Cerro-Gordo ha puesto en evidencia á la nacion megicana

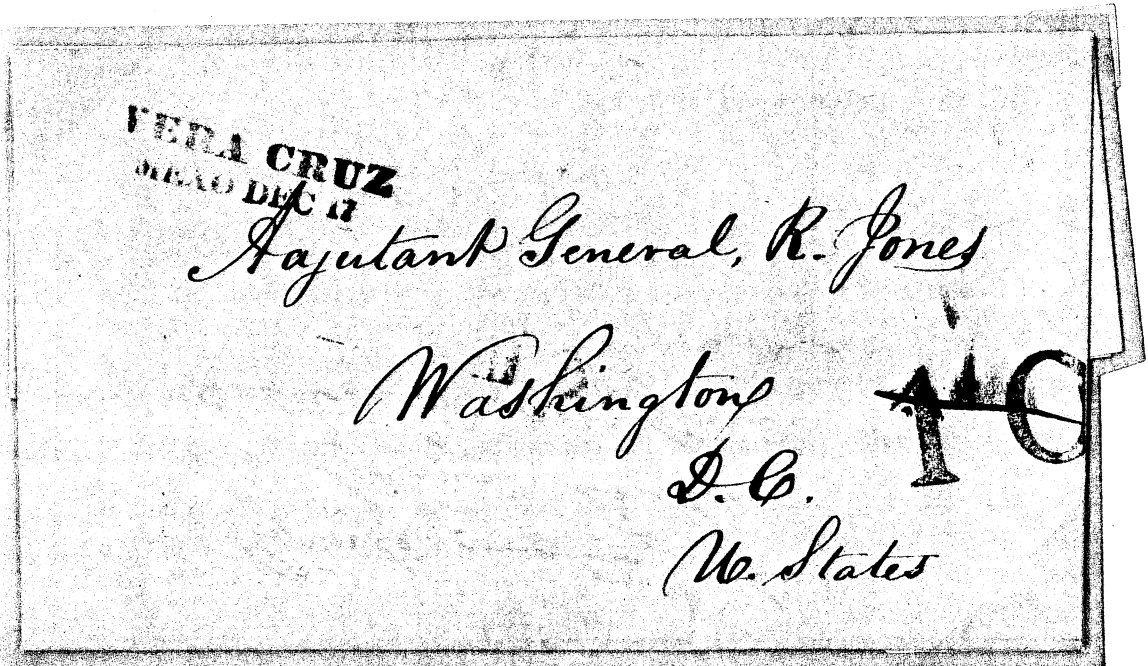
Dated Jalapa, 11 May 1847;

Describes out terms and conditions for United States Occupation of central Mexico

Jalapa
24 November 1847

Vera Cruz
17 December 1847
Type IV
Handstamp

Large '10'
Ratemark [EKU]
Crossed out for
Official Business



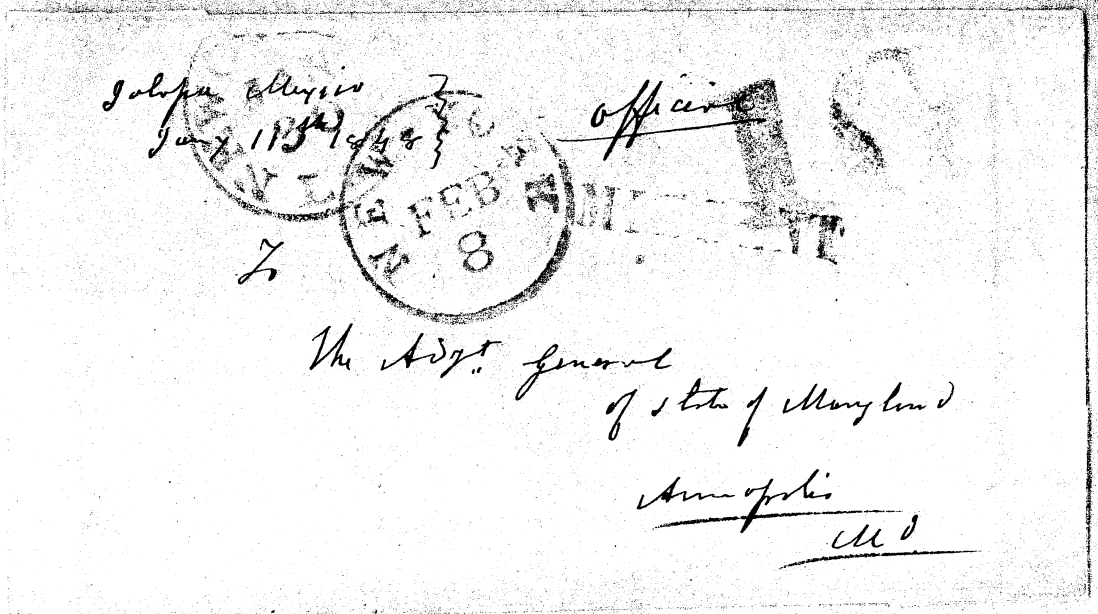
Bypassing Vera Cruz Mail Office

Jalapa
11 January 1848

Via New Orleans
30 January 1848
10c collect

New York
8 February 1848
'MISSENT'

'Official' but
Not entitled to
Free postage

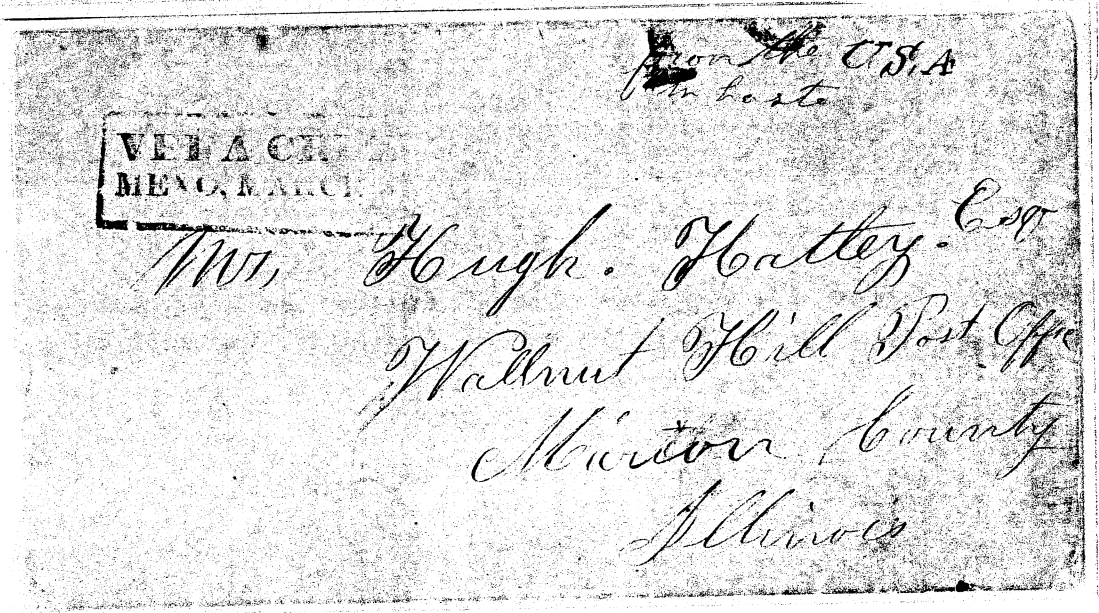


Military Trains carrying mail often attacked and delayed.

Some mail arrived at Vera Cruz after long delays in transit

Jalapa
24 January 1848

Vera Cruz
3 March 1848
Type VI
Handstamp

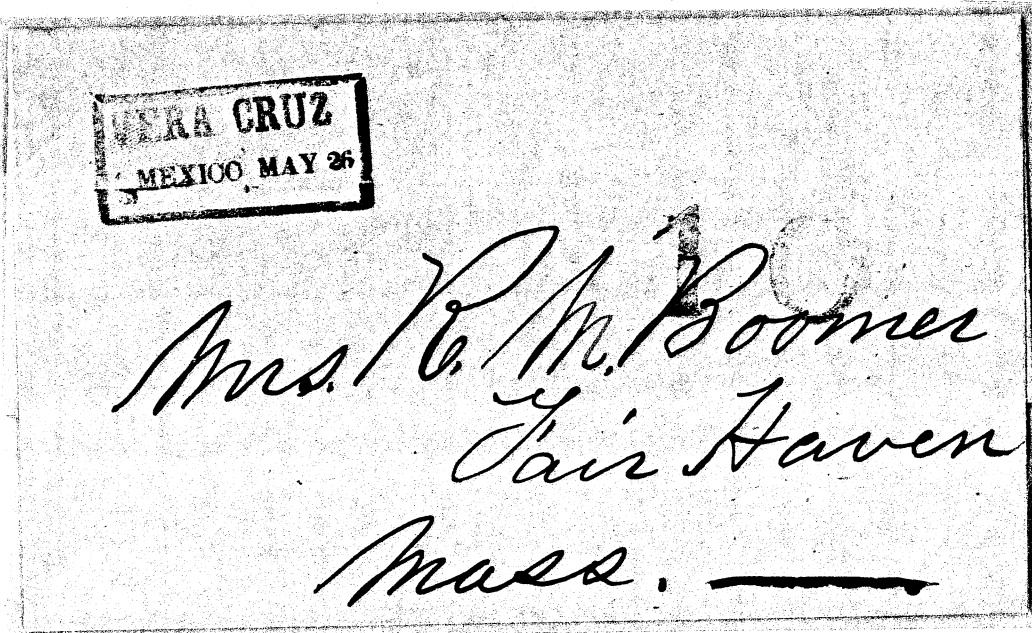


CENTRAL CAMPAIGN

JALAPA

Jalapa Hospital
18 May 1848

Vera Cruz
25 May 1848
Type VIII
Handstamp

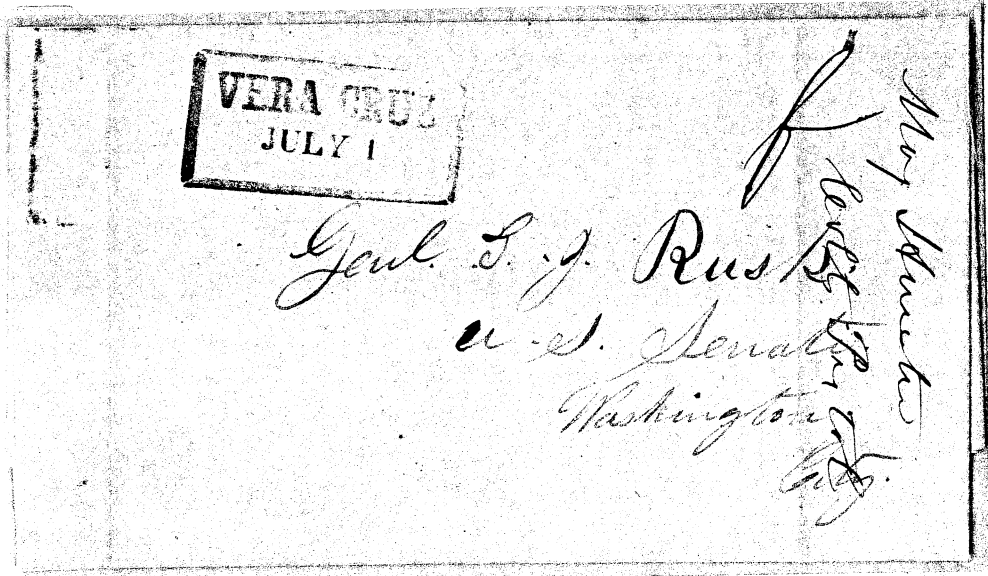


Jalapa
15 June 1848

Vera Cruz
1 July 1848
Type IX
Handstamp

Troops waiting for
final evacuation
in cooler climate
then Vera Cruz.

'f' for free
(official mail)



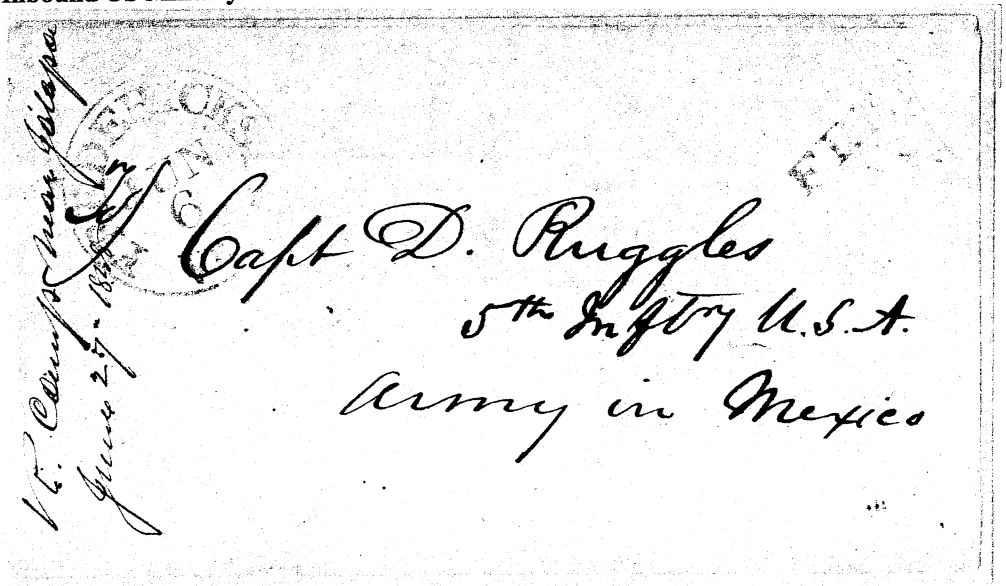
Inbound US Military Mail

Fredricksburg, Virginia
6 June 1848

"FREE" postage to Army
troops in Mexico allowed
for 3 months beyond
end of hostilities

Jalapa arrival
27 June 1848
Arrived During final
evacuation from Mexico

Troops waited in the
uplands at Jalapa instead
of Vera Cruz to avoid
disease (i.e. yellow fever)



CENTRAL CAMPAIGN

JALAPA

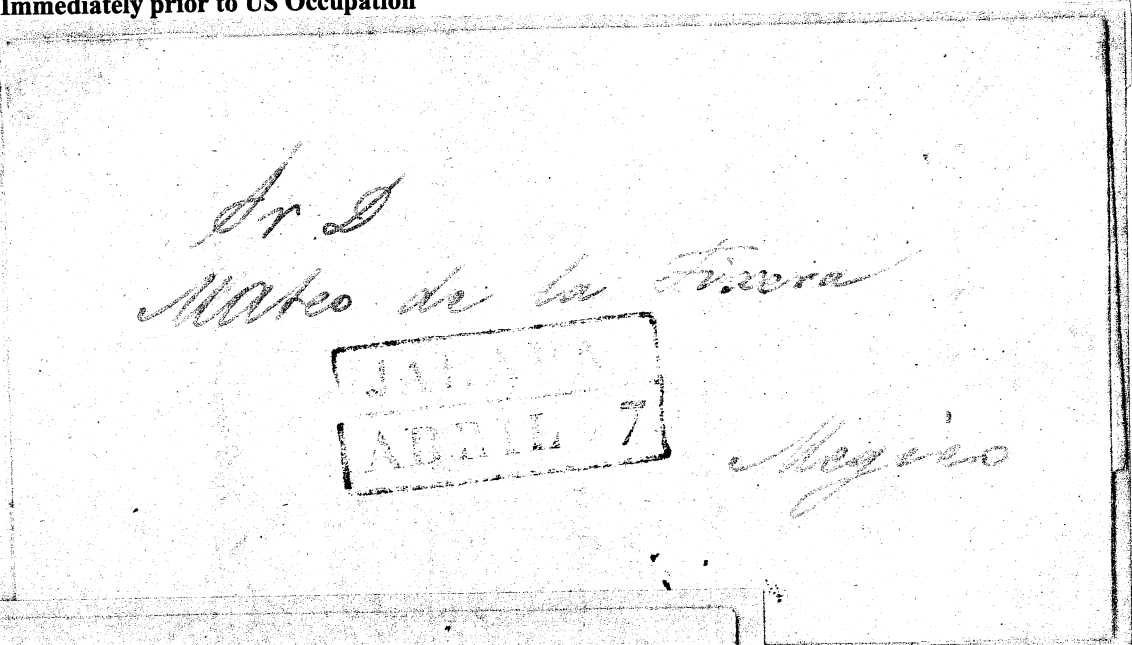
Mexican Mails

Mexican mail system continued to function in parallel with US system

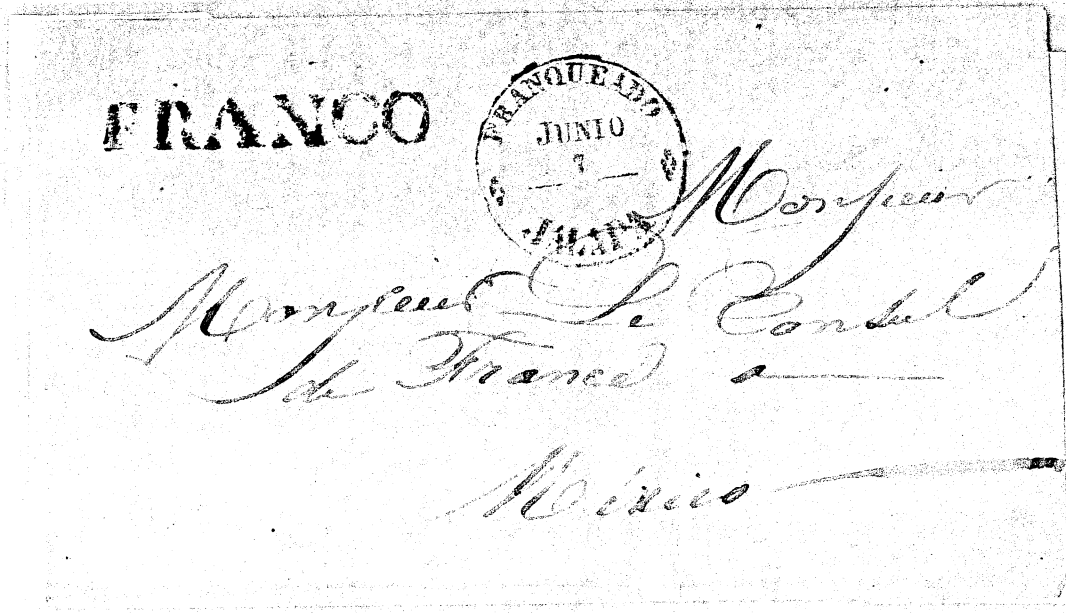
Immediately prior to US Occupation

Jalapa
7 April 1847

2 Reales
Collect



Late Intervention Period



Jalapa
4 June 1848

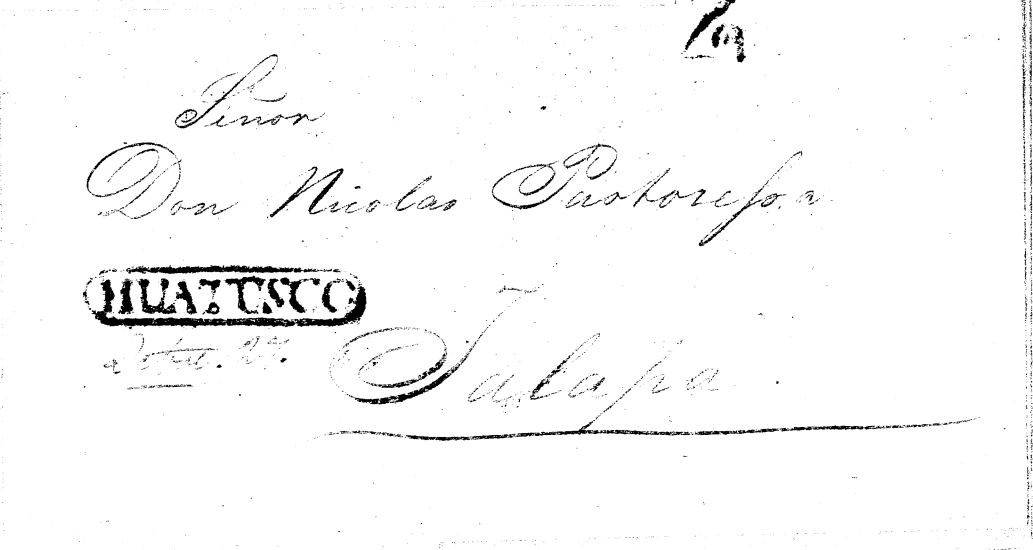
To French Consul
At Mexico City

Prepaid

Inbound

Huatusco
27 December 1847

2 Reales (collect)
Up to 1/2 oz.,
Over 45 miles



2

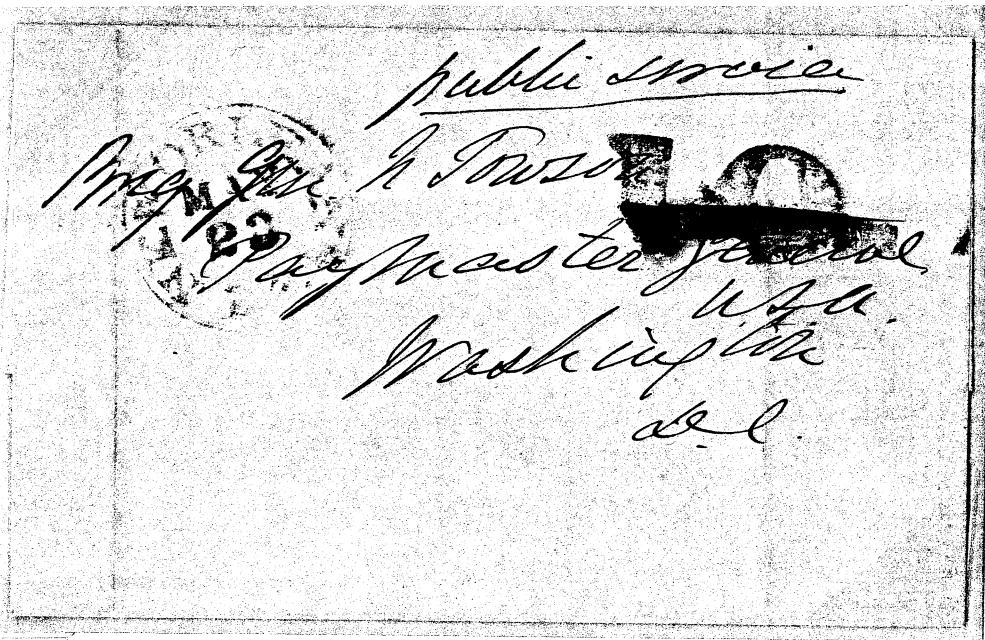
Occupied 22 April 1847

Pre Vera Cruz Office

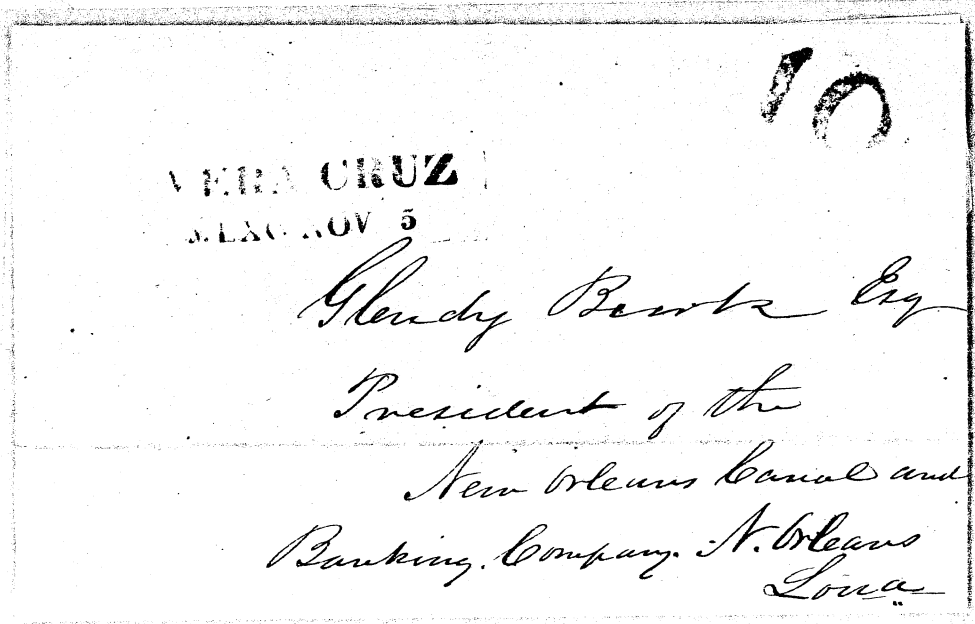
Perote
30 April 1847

New Orleans
22 May 1847

Large '10'
Crossed Out,
"Public Service"



Vera Cruz Markings began early June 1847



Perote
29 October 1847

Vera Cruz
Type II Handstamp
5 November 1847

Small '10' Ratemark

Prior to Vera Cruz markings (from June 1847 onwards), all Central Campaign mail bears New Orleans or other U.S. domestic markings.

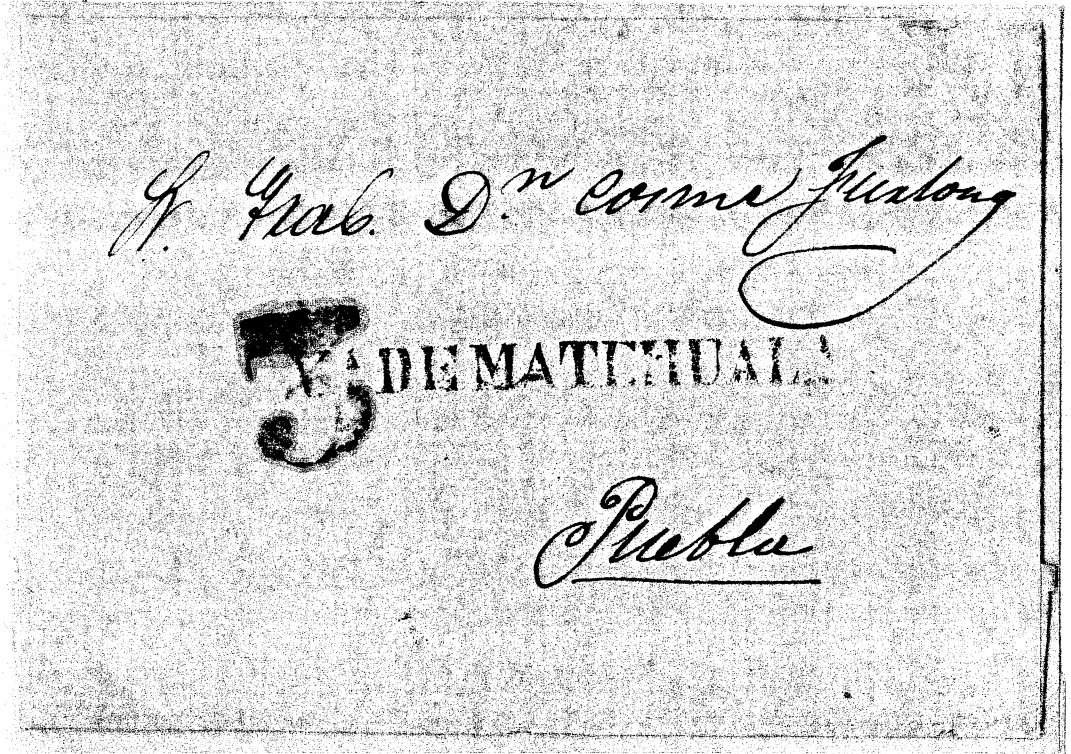
Occupied by Scott 15 May 1847
Mexican and U.S. Official Mail

Inbound Mexican Military Mail (immediately pre-occupation)

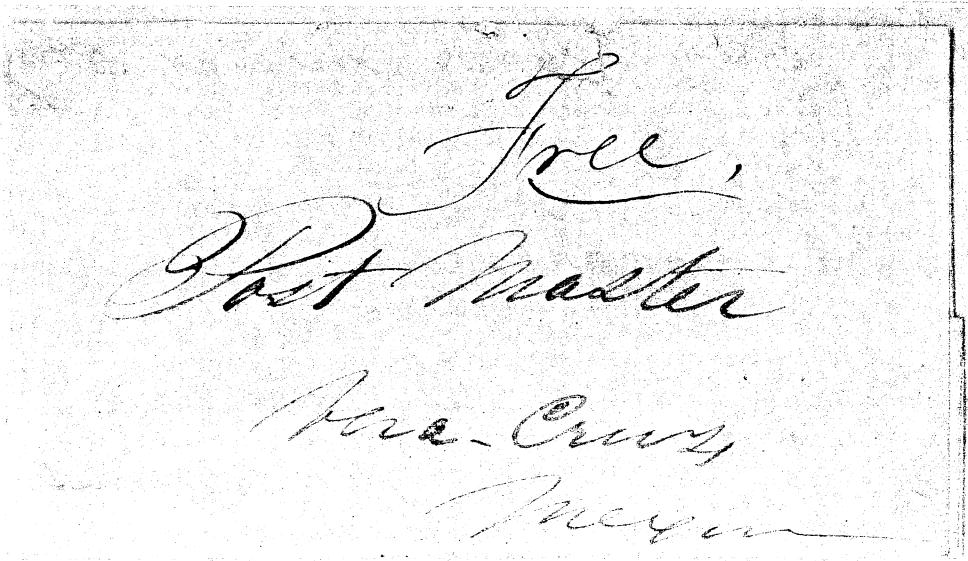
Matehuala
(San Luis Potosi)
20 April 1847

3 Reales 1/2 - 3/4 oz. Rate

Mentions Command,
military preparation and
activity, and defense.



U.S. Postmaster official letter



Puebla, 1 August 1847

"Free"

From E. F. Howard, Postmaster of the Army to U.S. Postmaster at Vera Cruz:

"We are sending a small mail by a Mexican who has agreed to deliver our letters at Vera Cruz at two dollars a letter & bring what letters in your office back for us. Let him have what belongs to me. Do them up in a snug package. We expect Gen. Pierce tomorrow or next day, & after his arrival the armies (sic) move for Mexico."

Field Printed Broadside dated day after Occupation of Puebla by United States forces

Cuartel general, Puebla mayo 16 de 1847.

1. ° Se avisa por este, que la ciudad de Puebla está ocupada militarmente y se halla bajo la proteccion de las fuerzas de los Estados-Unidos.

2. ° Durante dicha ocupacion, á menos que las circunstancias de la guerra obliguen á hacer otros reglamentos necesarios, las autoridades de todas clases continuarán en el ejercicio de todas sus funciones, segun están arregladas y prescritas por las leyes vigentes, tomando en su conocimiento todas las causas civiles y criminales que pueden promoverse entre los mexicanos; y se manifiesta claramente, que en todos los casos que el soldado ó acompañante del ejército sea el delincuente, será juzgado por las autoridades de los Estados-Unidos.

3. El General que manda, segun las instrucciones del General en jefe, garantiza tanto por si, como por su oficialidad y soldados, una proteccion inviolable y verdaderamente respetuosa á la Santa Iglesia; al clero y á sus propiedades; y cualesquiera persona de su mando que olvidando el honor y la moral, llegue á faltar á esta garantía, será castigado severamente.

4. ° Todo lo que fuere necesario para el uso de las fuerzas ocupantes y para las fuerzas en mayor número que se acercan, será facilitado ó mandado facilitar por el Sr. Prefecto ó autoridades civiles á quien corresponda, disponiendo se entregue á los agentes autorizados del ejército, cuartel maestro, comisario principal ó dependientes suyos, no obstante las órdenes dadas en contra por las autoridades que hayan evacuado sus puestos: el ecsigir esto es un derecho de guerra que será rigurosamente egecutado, y la única escepcion al ejercicio de este derecho; segun la practica establecida, es el pagar religiosamente todo lo que sea pedido.

Por orden del Señor General Worth,

W. W. Mackall.

A. A. G.

CENTRAL CAMPAIGN

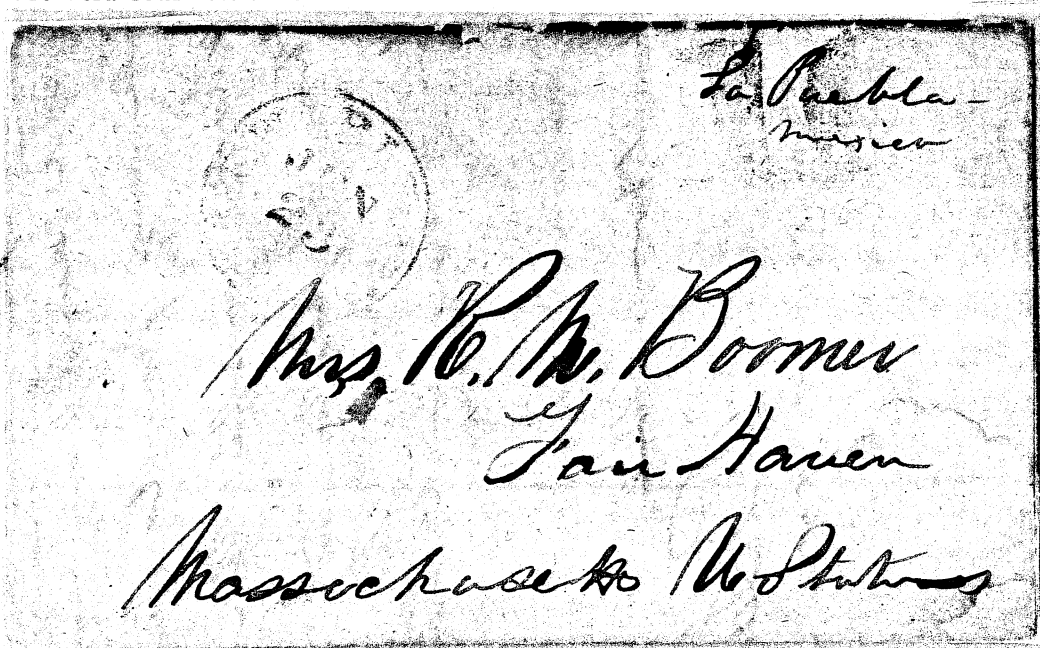
PUEBLA

Mail Handling: Varied routes and methods were employed for mail transport

Pre-Vera Cruz Post Office via U.S. mails/ New Orleans

Puebla
("La Puebla")
3 June 1847

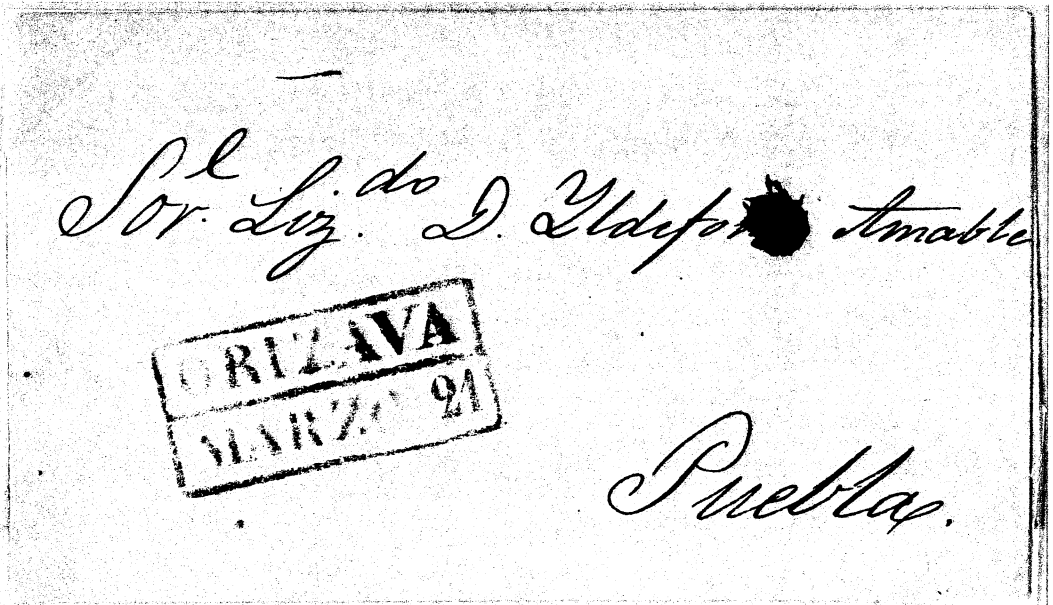
New Orleans
23 June 1847
(Earliest known
Vera Cruz mark
3 June 1847)



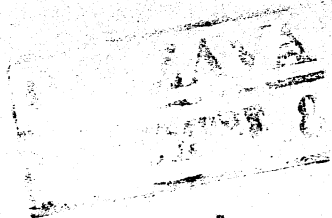
Vera Cruz to Puebla via Mexican mails/Orizava

Vera Cruz
16 March 1848

Carried outside of
mails to **Orizava**
(21 March 1848)
then via Mexican
mails to **Puebla**



Orizava to Vera Cruz



Orizava
8 November 1847

10 November
Arrival at
Vera Cruz

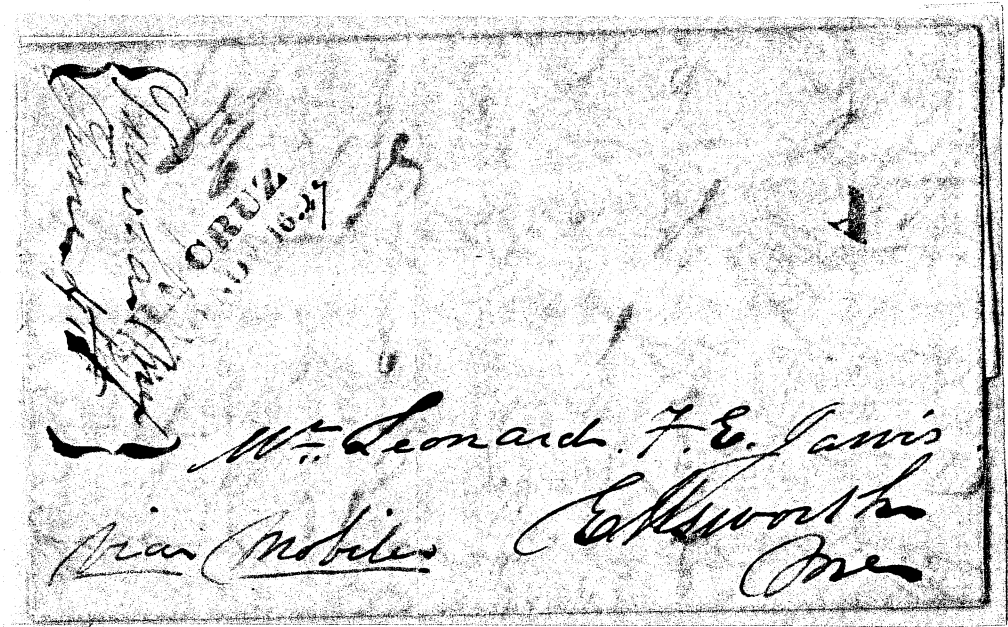
Large quantities of mail from Puebla area delayed for 5 months in transit to Vera Cruz.

Puebla
4 June 1847

Vera Cruz
Type IV Handstamp
16 November 1847

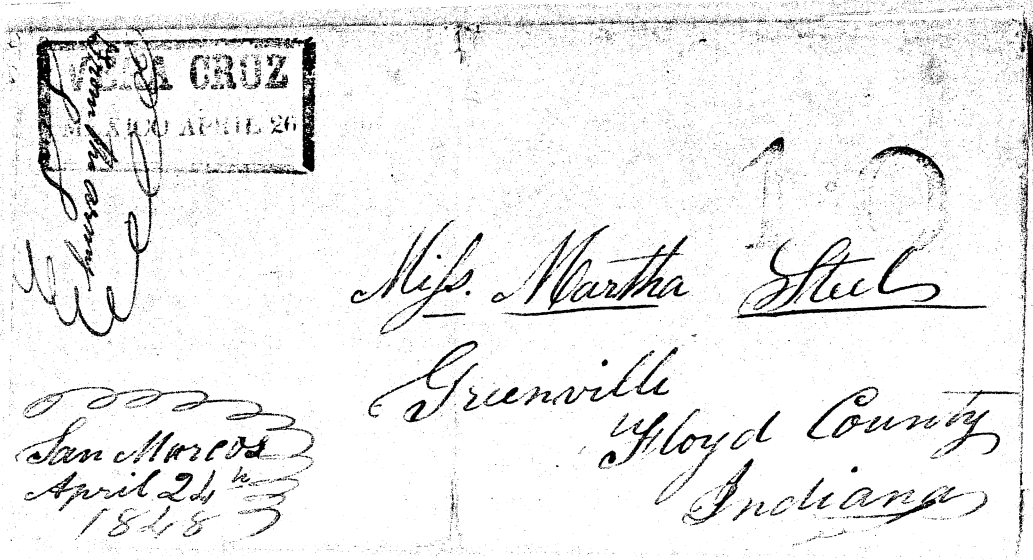
Roman 'X' Ratemark

Some items entered
via Mobile instead
of New Orleans



After initial United States occupation, Santa Anna retook Puebla for a short period. In addition, there were no eastbound military trains from Puebla to Vera Cruz from late August through early November 1847.

Military activity in Puebla area



**San Marcos,
(near Puebla)**
24 April 1848

Vera Cruz
Type VIII
Handstamp
26 April 1848

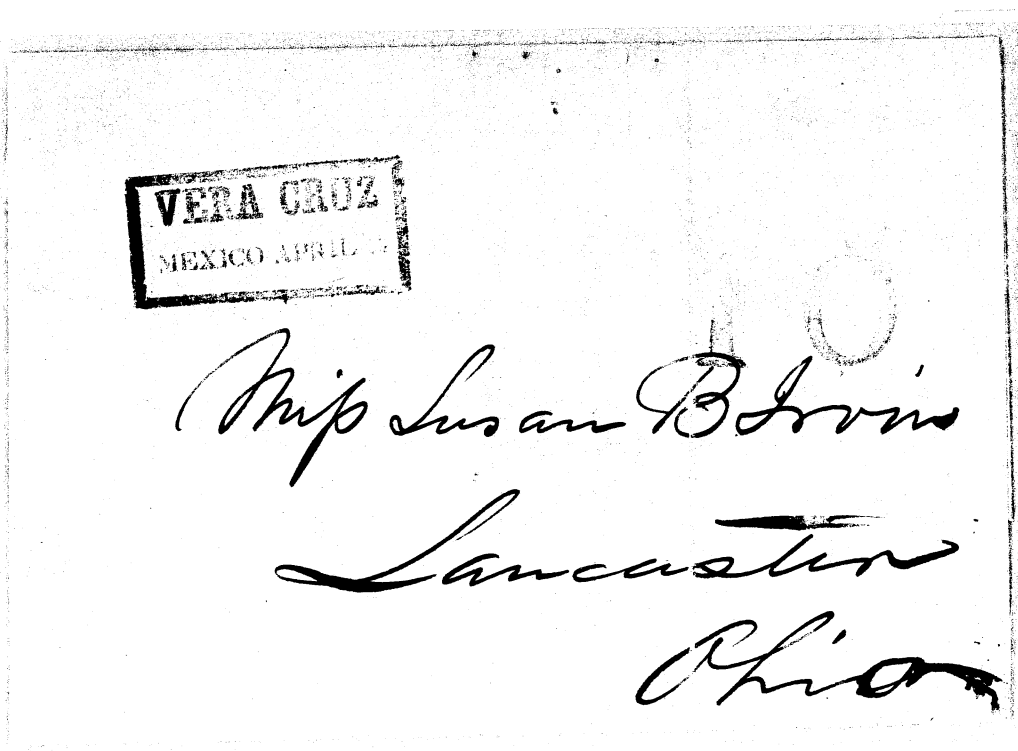
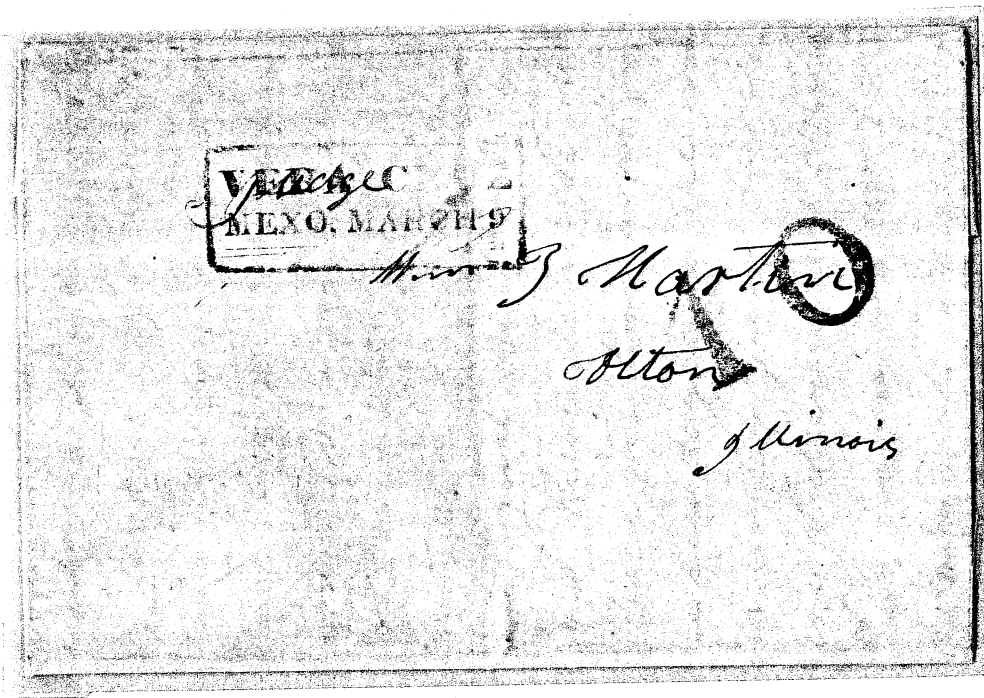
Large '10' Ratemark

Located on Road Between Puebla and Mexico City

Rio Frio
28 January 1848

Vera Cruz
Type VI Handstamp
9 March 1848
(Latest Use)

Large '10' Ratemark



Rio Frio, HQ Ohio Regt.
7 April 1848

Vera Cruz
Type VIII Handstamp
7 April 1848

Large '10' Ratemark

Once a separate village, now a suburb of Mexico City

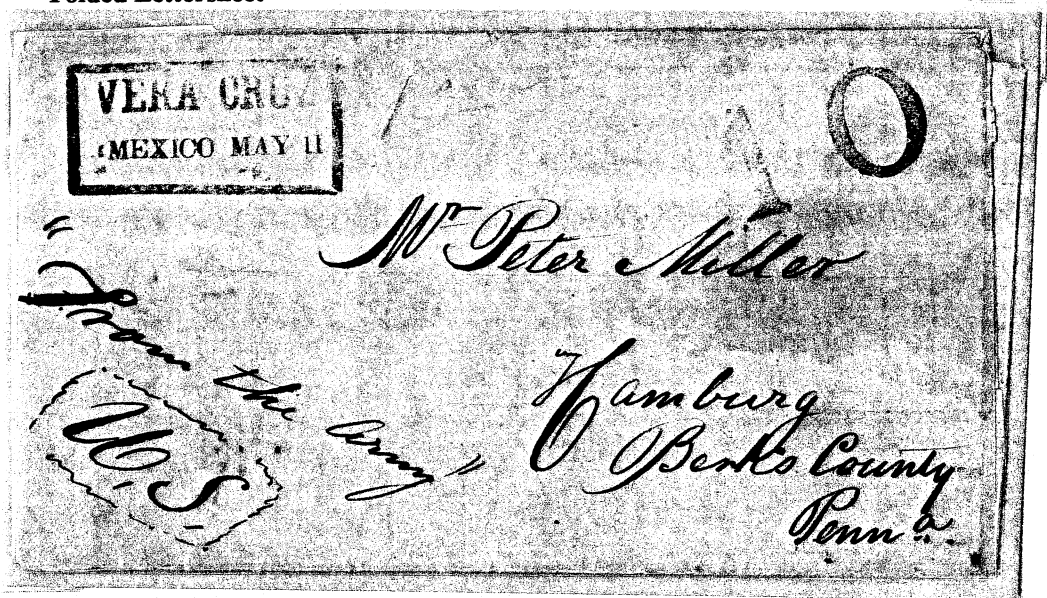
Folded Lettersheet

San Angel
8 May 1848

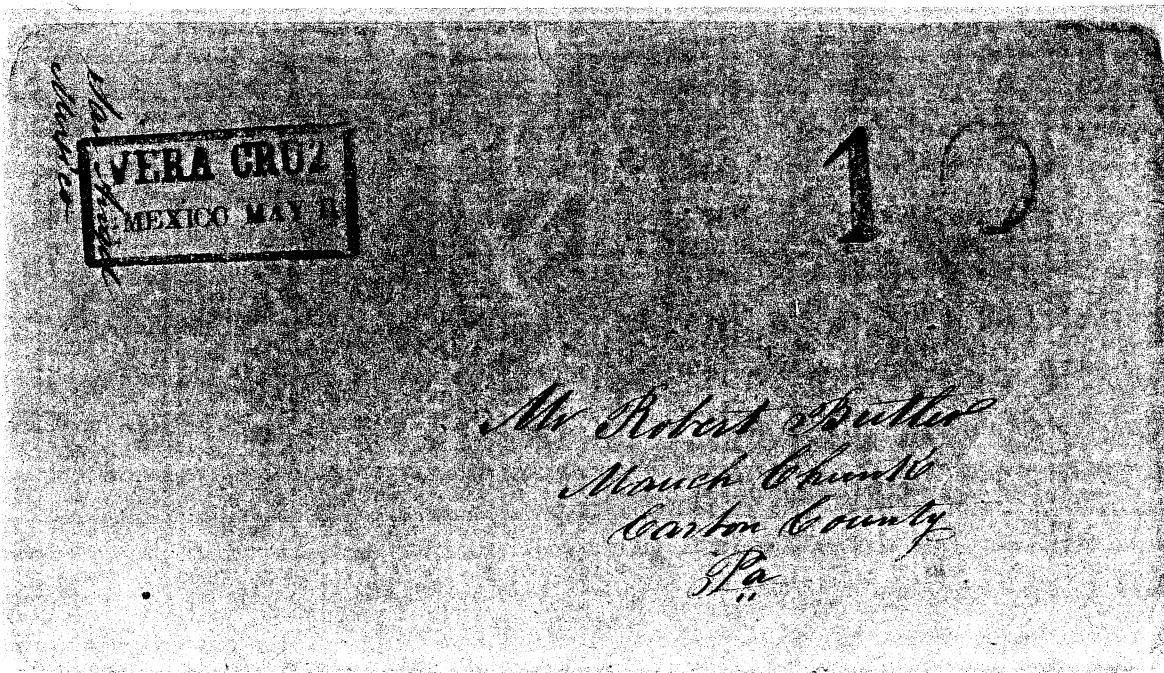
Vera Cruz
Type VIII Handstamp
11 May 1848

3 day transit
to Vera Cruz

Large '10' Ratemark



Envelope



San Angel
7 April 1848

Vera Cruz
Type VIII Handstamp
11 May 1848

Large '10' Ratemark

Most correspondence consisted of folded lettersheets.
Occasionally, factory made envelopes were available.

CENTRAL CAMPAIGN

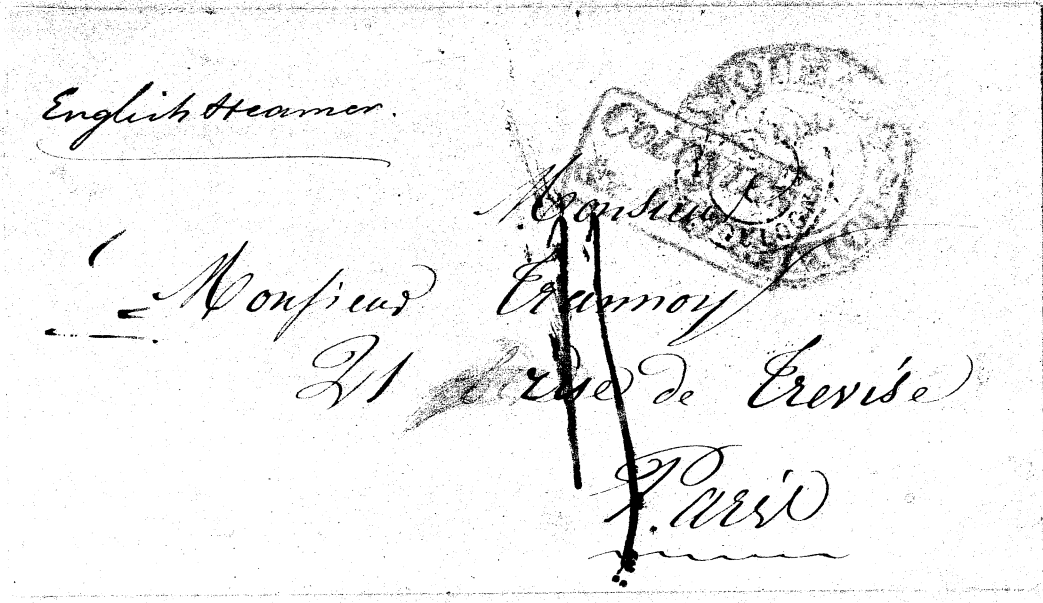
MEXICO CITY

After the successive occupation of population centers along the road from Vera Cruz to the highlands, U.S. Forces arrived in the vicinity of Mexico City early summer 1847. They spent several weeks on the outskirts consolidating position, and preparing for siege before entering the city proper. During these times, civilian and commercial activity continued, though at a lesser pace than before the intervention.

**Mexico City Via Vera Cruz To France,
Last British mail sailing from Vera Cruz (during U.S. blockade) prior to invasion**

Mexico City, 29 January 1847

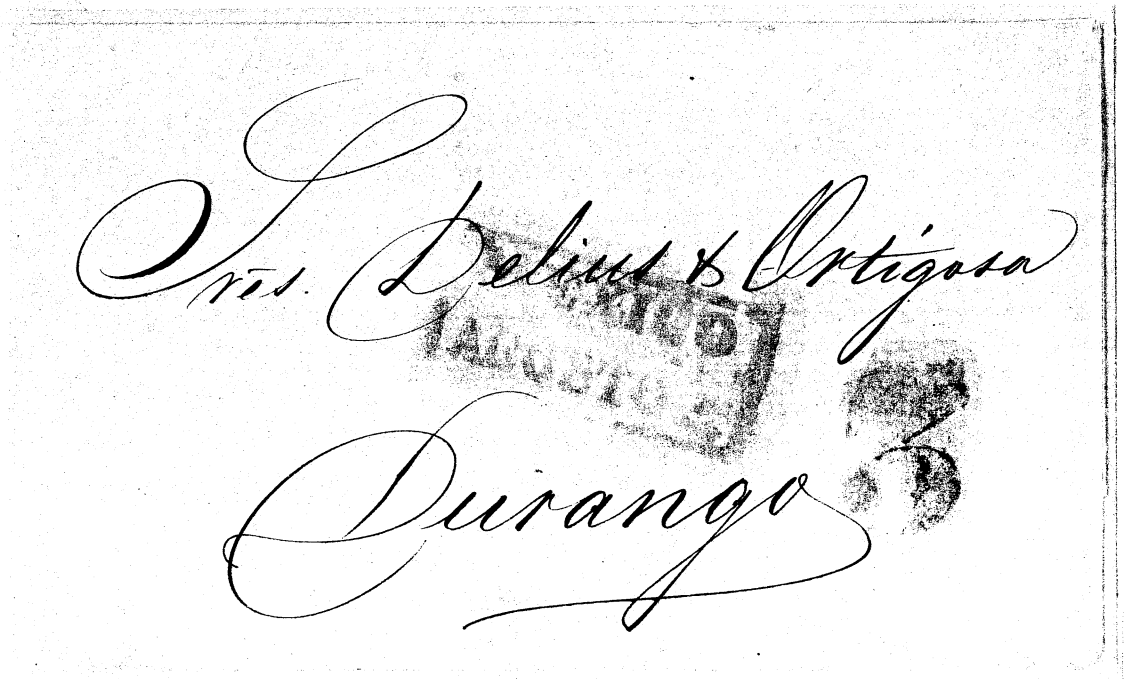
Via Vera Cruz, 1 February,
London, 10 March
Paris arrival, 12 March



Mexico City to Durango

Mexico City, 31 August 1847

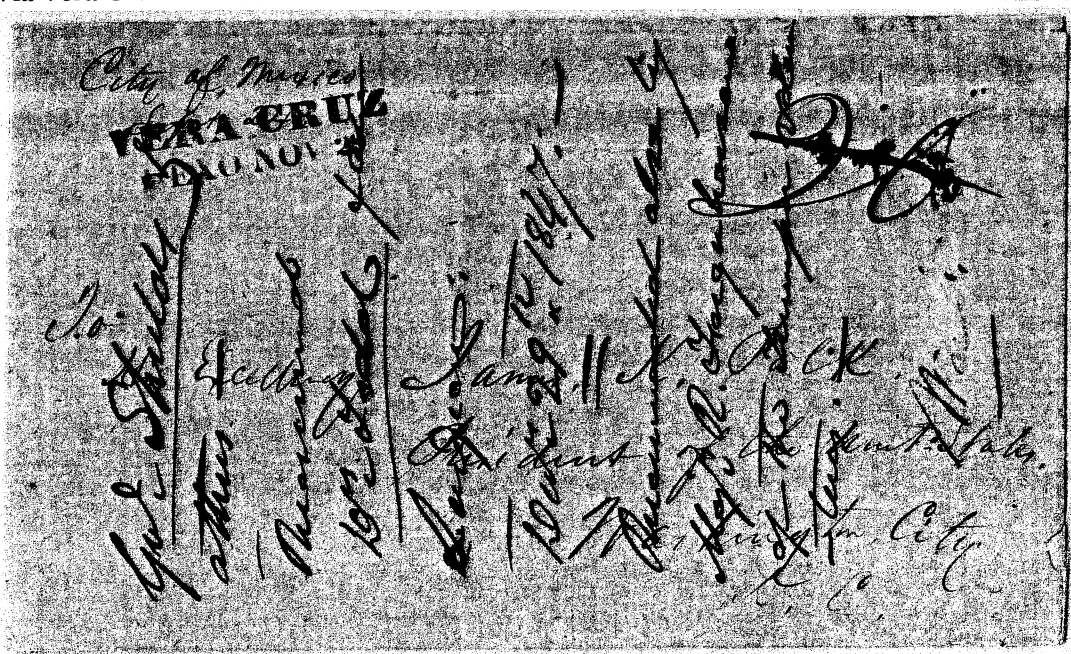
3 Reales (1/2 - 3/4 oz) rate



U.S. Forces entered the Mexican Capital on 14 September 1847

During September and October 1847, there was a 6 – 8 week period in which no mail was sent via Vera Cruz.. Some items were carried privately, entering the mails at Tampico, New Orleans, or even carried to their destination. Other items reached Vera Cruz after a 2 month delay.

Via Vera Cruz To President Polk

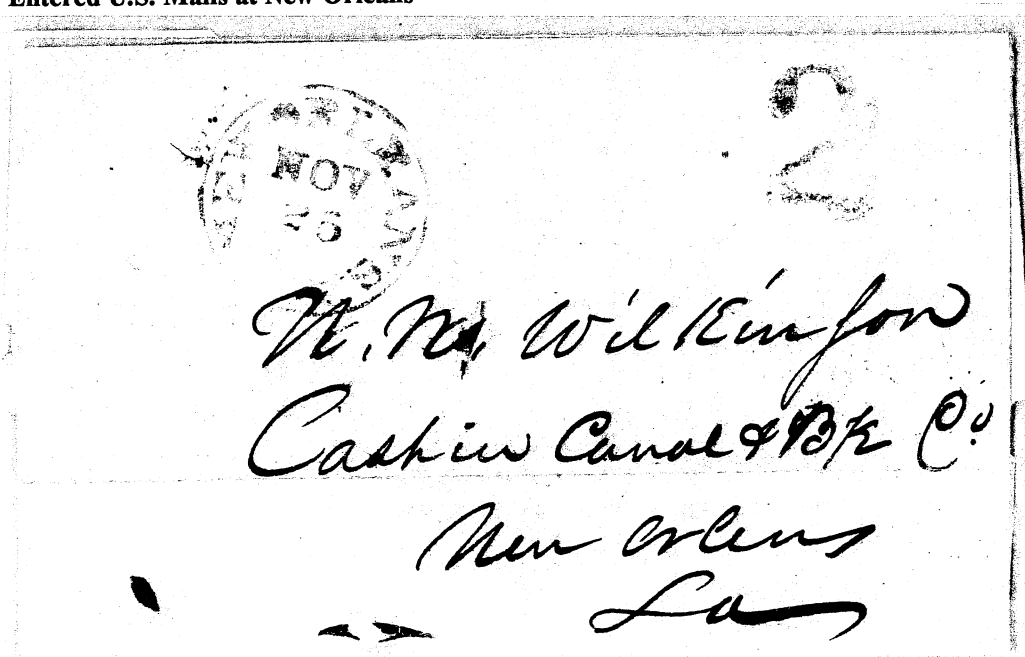


Mexico City, 24 September 1847

Vera Cruz (Type IV Handstamp), 29 November 1847

20c double weight rate (crossed out.); Mail to and from President did not require payment

Entered U.S. Mails at New Orleans



Mexico City, 25 October 1847

New Orleans arrival, 25 November

2c Local (New Orleans) Delivery rate

CENTRAL CAMPAIGN

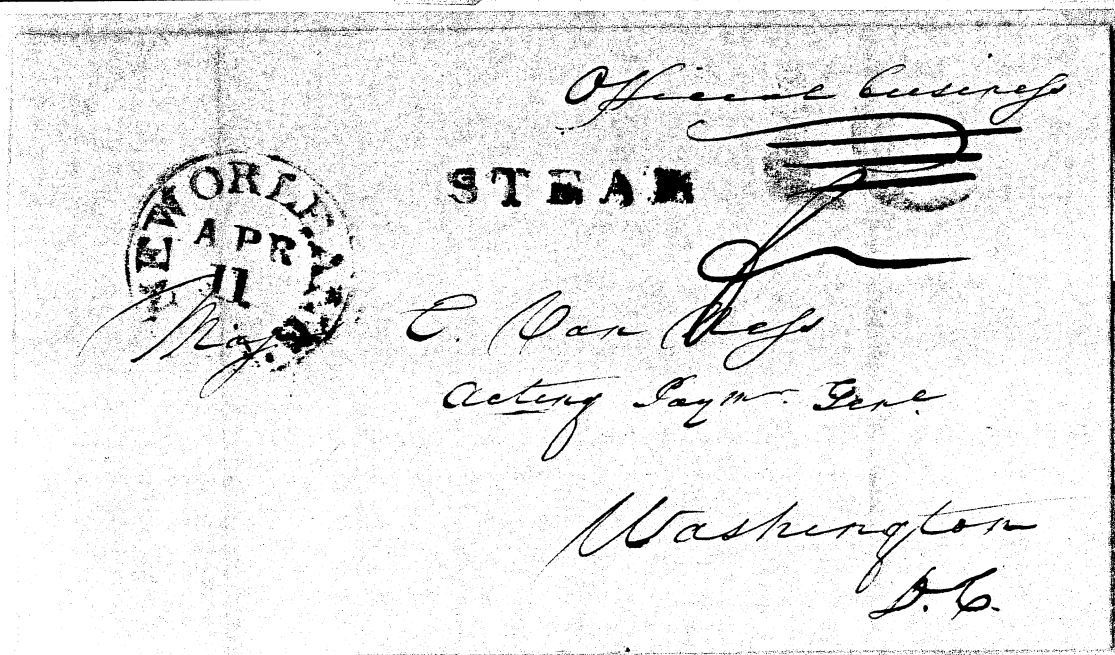
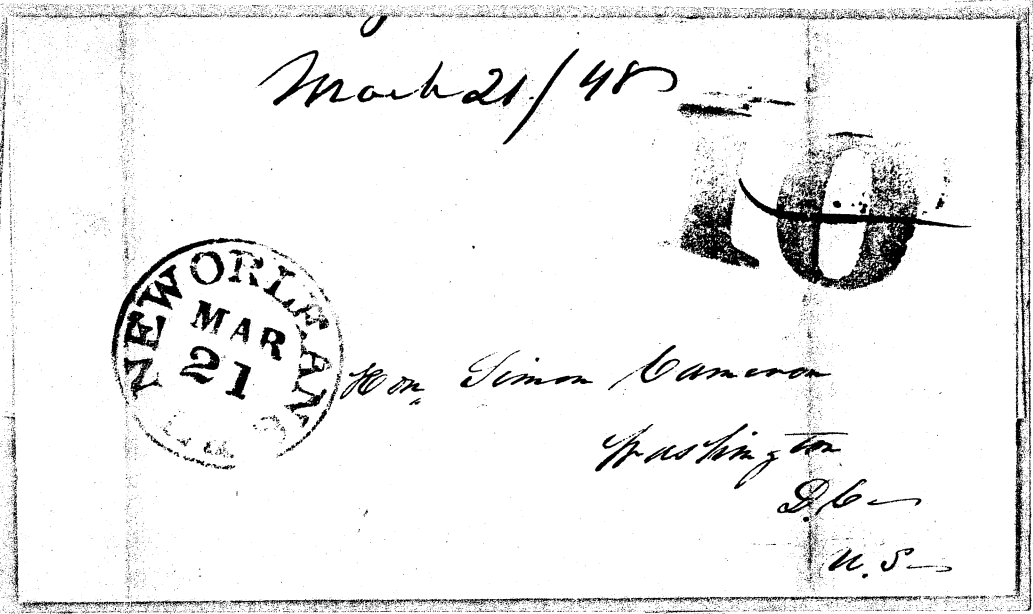
MEXICO CITY

Via New Orleans

Mexico City
28 February 1848

Entered Mail at
New Orleans
21 March 1848

Mail from Mexico City again
bypassed Vera Cruz during
March and April 1848.



Mexico City
5 March 1848

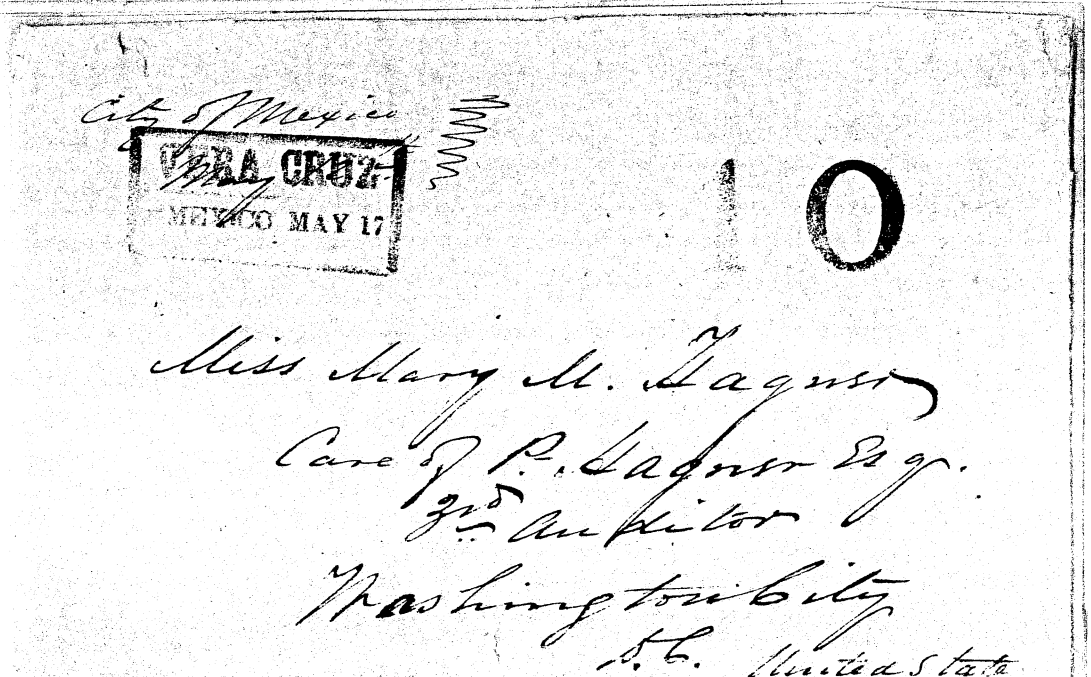
New Orleans
11 April 1848

"Official Business"
'10' crossed out,
Re-rated as "free"

Mexico City
12 May 1848

Vera Cruz
(Type VIII)
17 May 1848

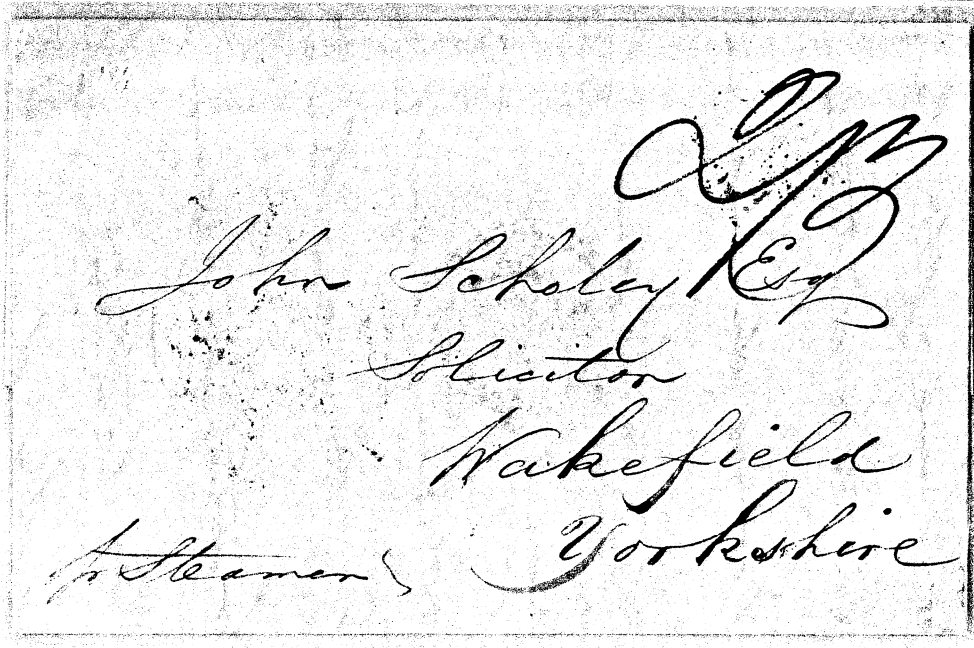
10c rate for
>300 miles



Civilian Mails

United States authorities allowed Mexican and British mails to operate without interference throughout the occupation period.

Mexico City (British Agency) Via Vera Cruz To England



Mexico City,
13 May 1848

Via Vera Cruz
16 May 1848

London
21 June 1848

2/3 Single rate

Mexico City (Mexican Mails) to San Luis Potosi

Mexico City
18 November 1847

3 Reales [due]
(1/2 - 3/4 oz rate)

Seat of Government
Temporarily moved
To San Luis Potosi
during occupation
Of Mexico City



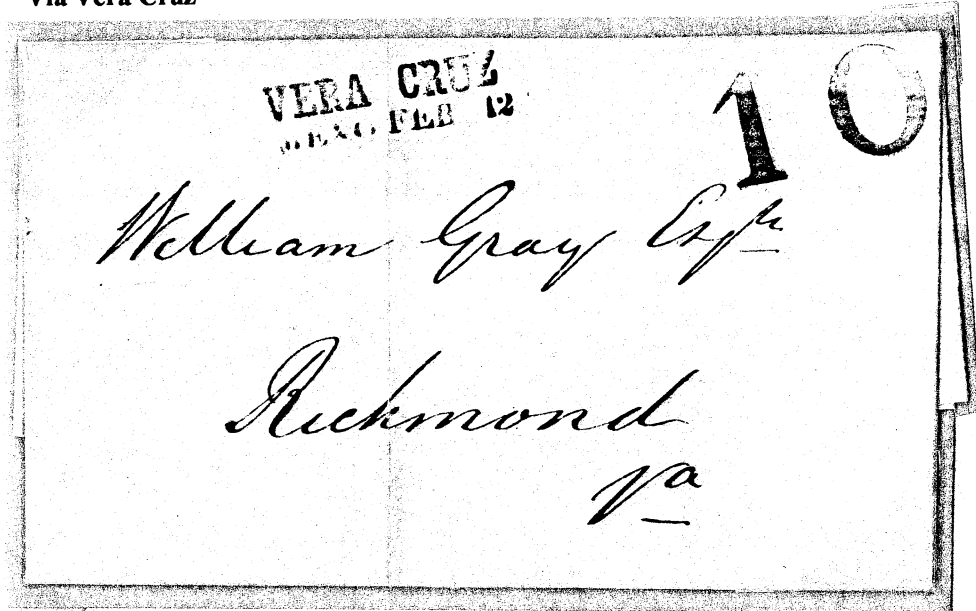
Commercial Correspondence – Duplicate Letters

Via Vera Cruz

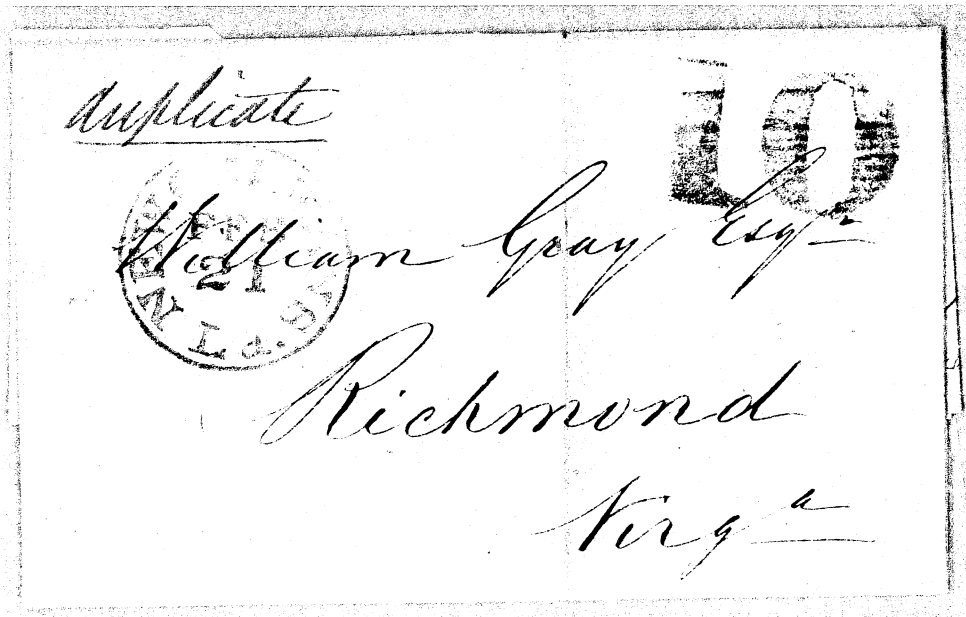
Mexico City
8 February 1848

Vera Cruz
Type V Handstamp
12 February 1848

Large '10' Ratemark



Via New Orleans



Mexico City
8 February 1848

New Orleans
21 February 1848

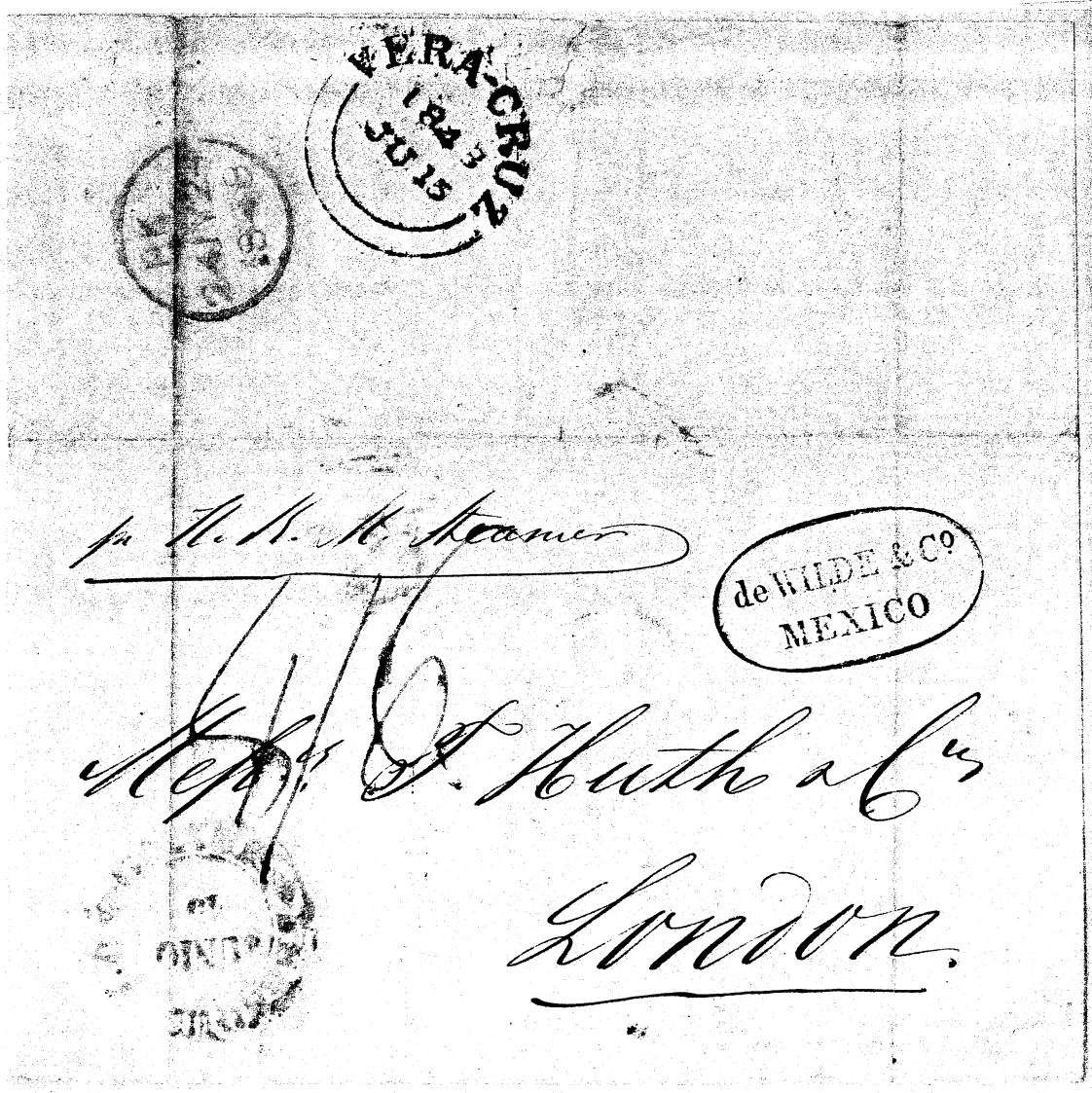
'10' Ratemark

Endorsed
"duplicate"

Duplicate correspondence often sent by separate routes/services in effort to ensure receipt.

Letters confirm financier August Belmont supplying Scott's Army with specie (for payment of expenses and salaries) as majority of transactions were settled with gold and silver coinage.

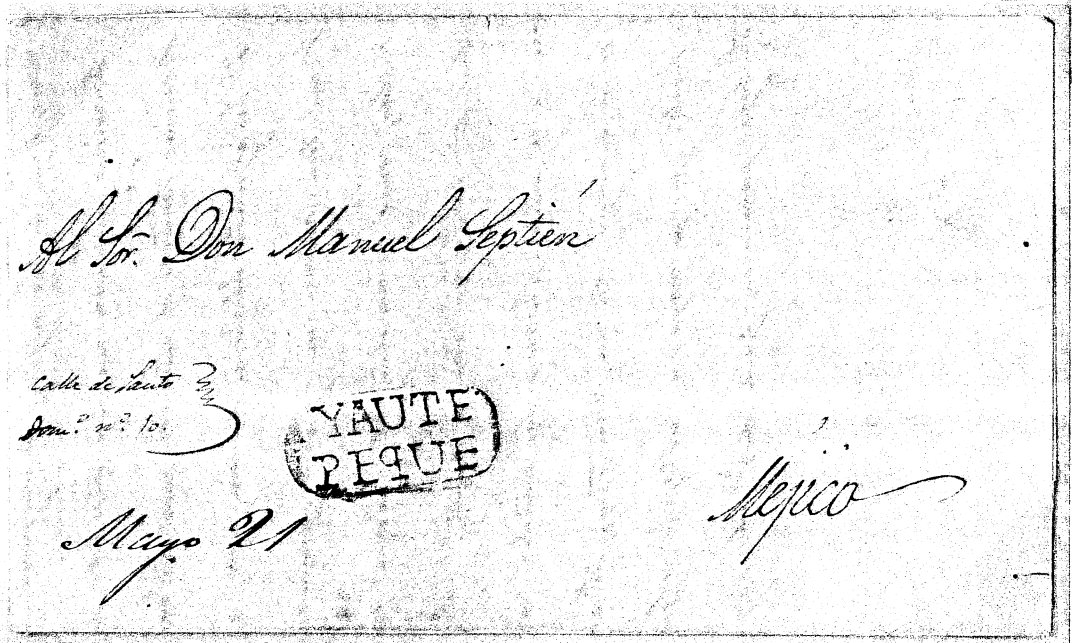
British Agency also continued service during Occupation period
For items addressed to United states and Foreign Destinations



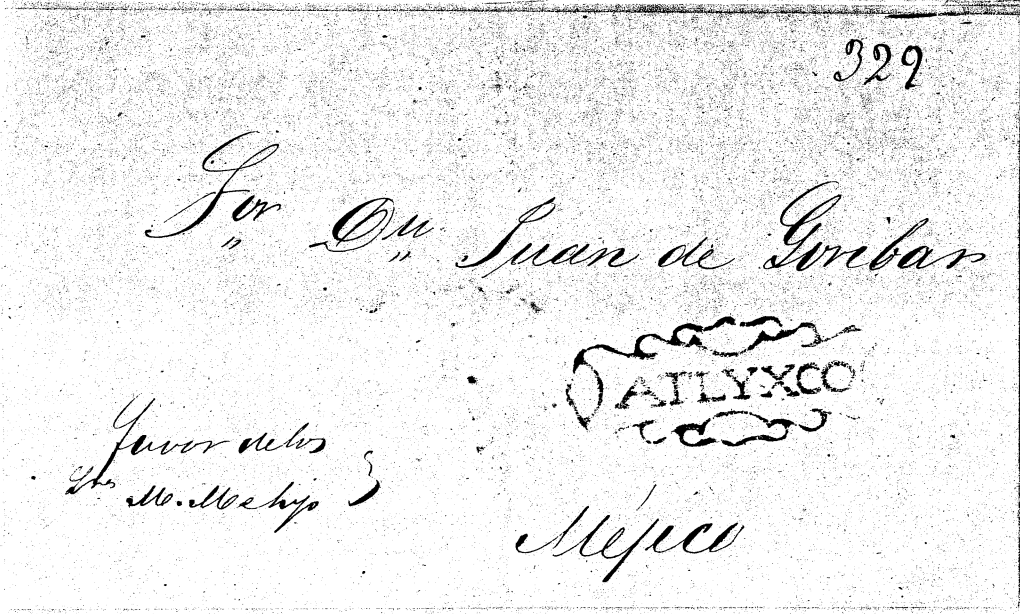
Mexico City (Mexican Post Office), 13 June 1848
Vera Cruz (British Agency), 15 June 1848
London arrival, 24 July 1848
4/6 shilling double rate

Mexican Civil Mail services continued to operate during Occupation period

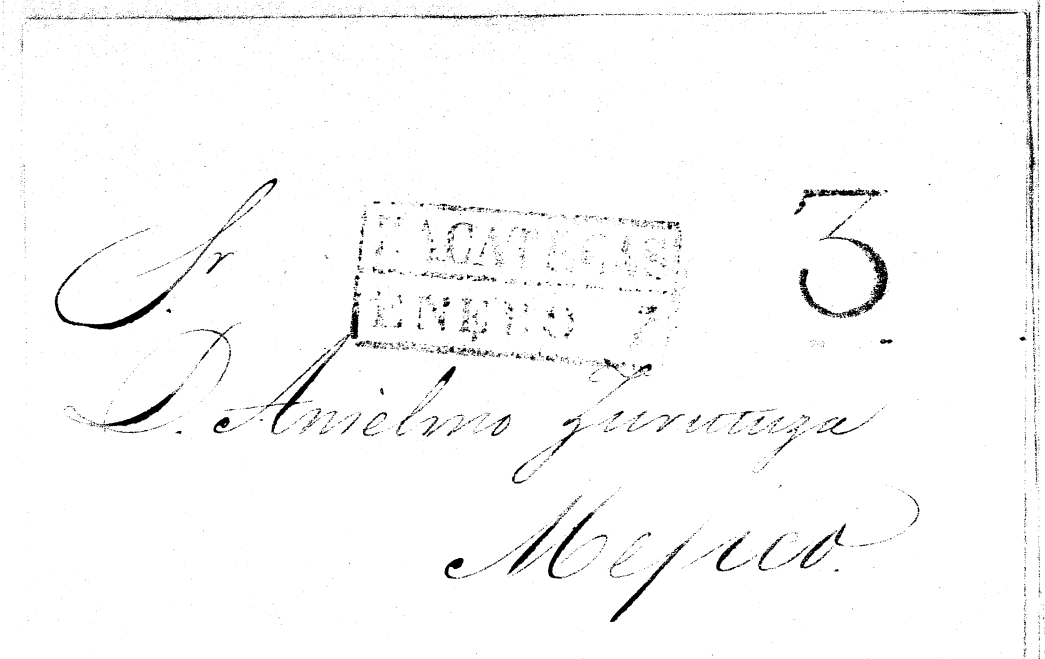
Inbound from Atlixco,
(State of Puebla)
East of Capital



Inbound from Yautepec,
(Chalco District, State of Mexico)
South-east of Capital



Inbound from Zacatecas,
(Zacatecas State)
North of Capital



Inbound

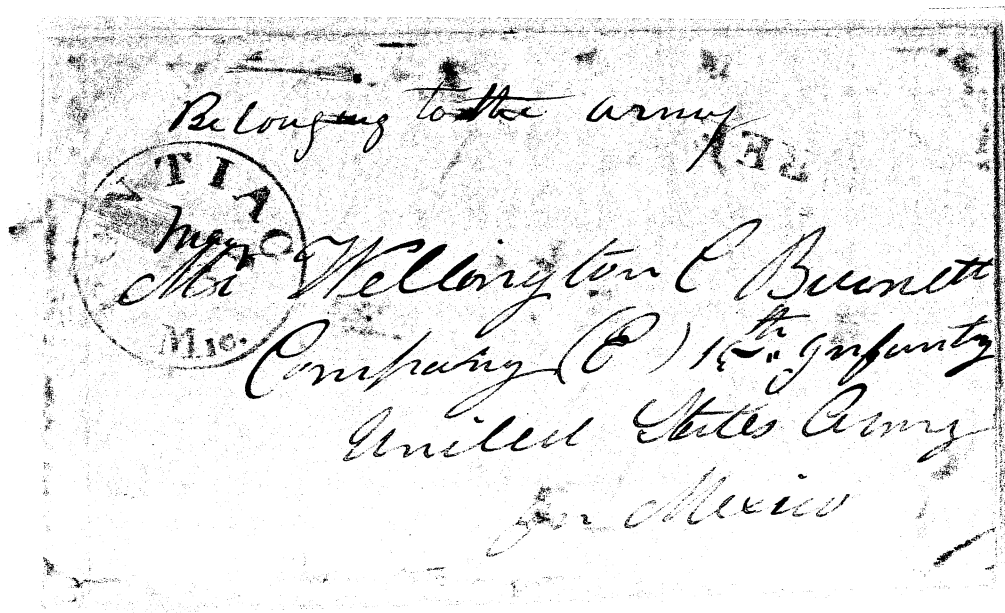
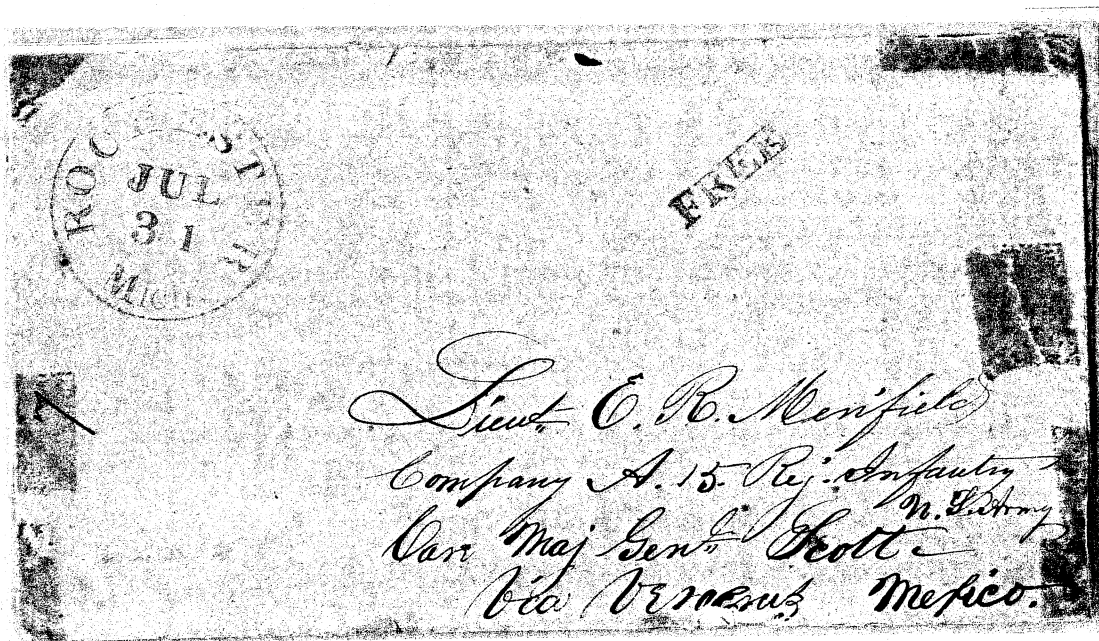
Few inbound items to troops in Mexican War survived due to general battlefield conditions, limited baggage allotment, rough handling, and prolonged journeys back to home!

Rochester, Michigan
31 July 1847

Via Vera Cruz to
Mexico City

"FREE" under Act of
3 March 1847

15th Infantry involved
With initial occupation
Of Mexico City.
(6 Week Transit)



Pontiac, Michigan
3 May 1848

Free transport of mail
To soldiers in Mexico
allowed for duration of
war plus 3 months
(through August 1848).
[Act of 3 March 1847]

CENTRAL CAMPAIGN

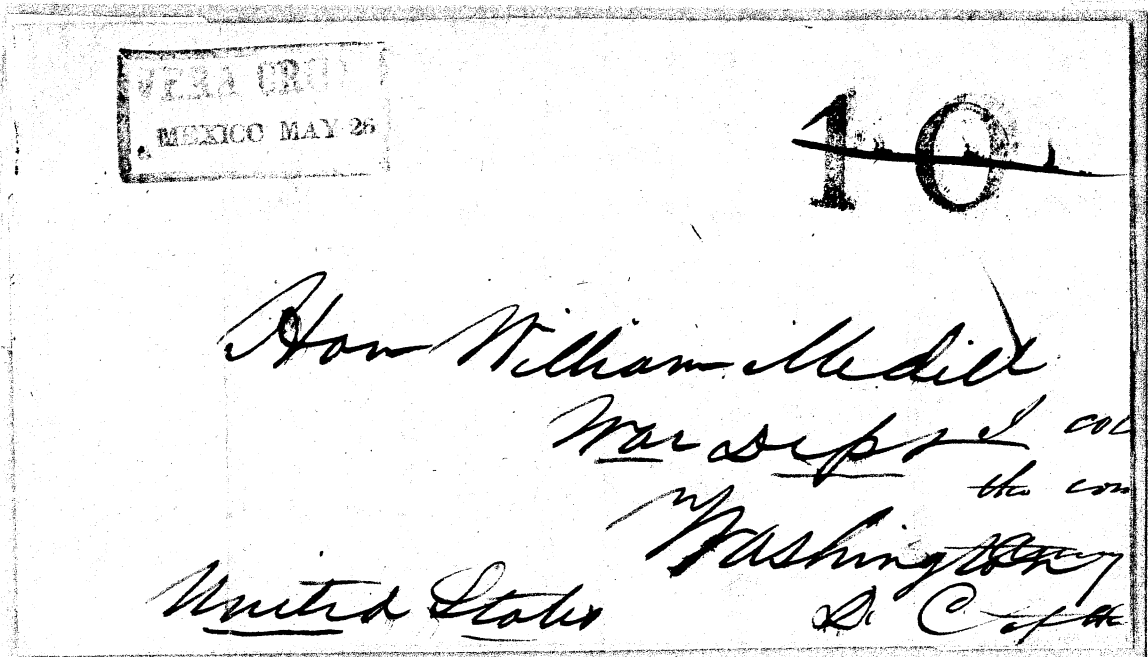
MEXICO CITY AREA

U.S. forces were active in areas North, South, and West of Mexico City through mid 1848

Cuernavaca

South of Mexico City

Forces stationed there from late December 1847

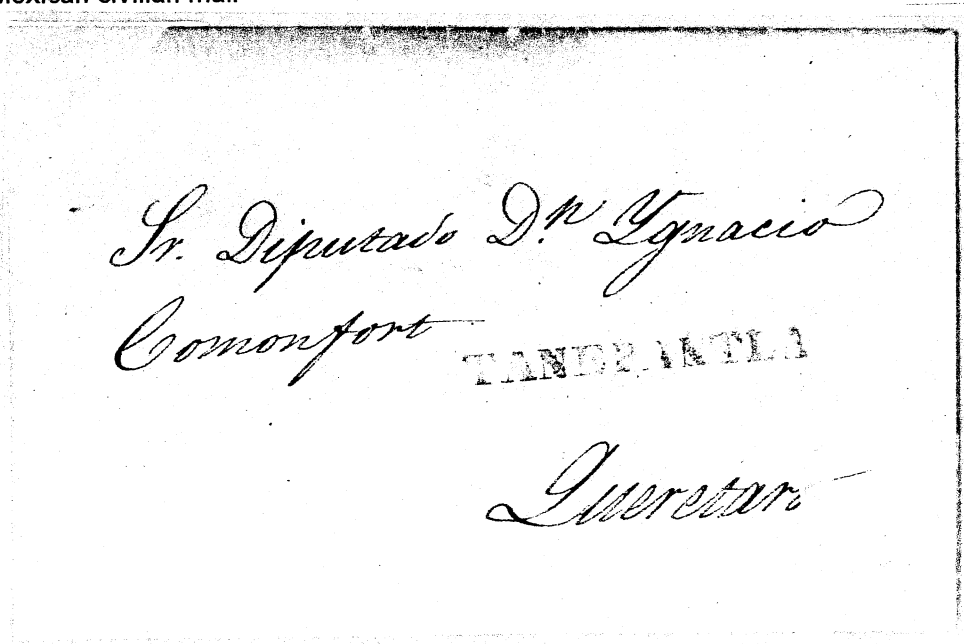


Headquarters 15th Infantry (at Cuernavaca), 17 May 1848

Tlanepantla (10 miles north of Mexico city)

(now a suburb)

Mexican civilian mail

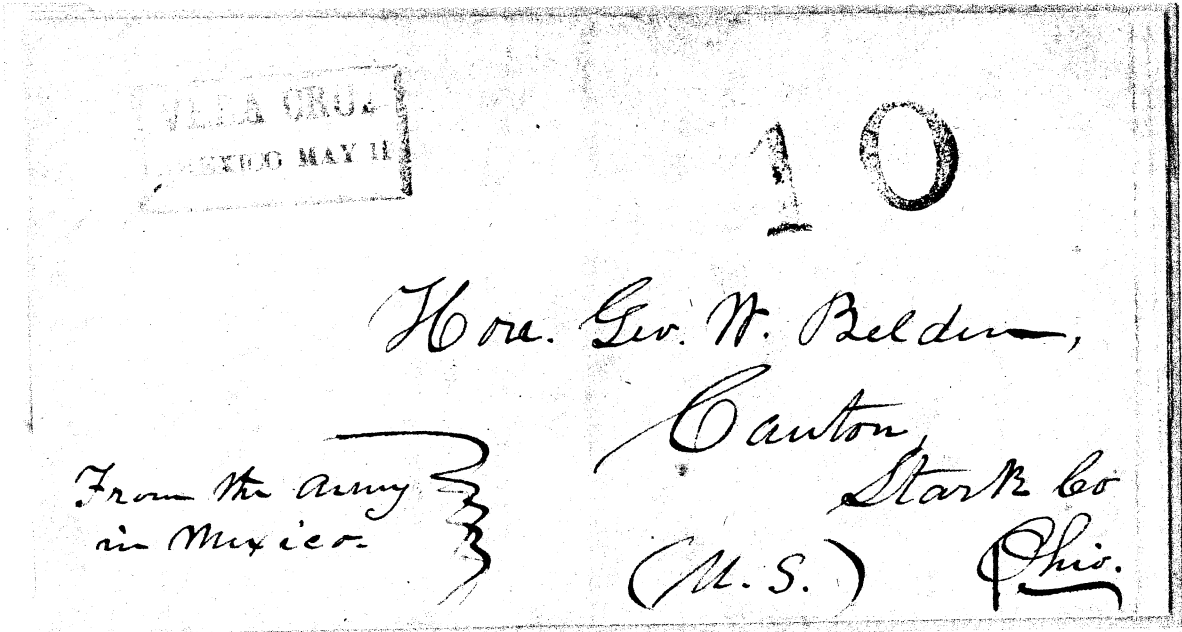


Tlanepantla, 21 December 1847

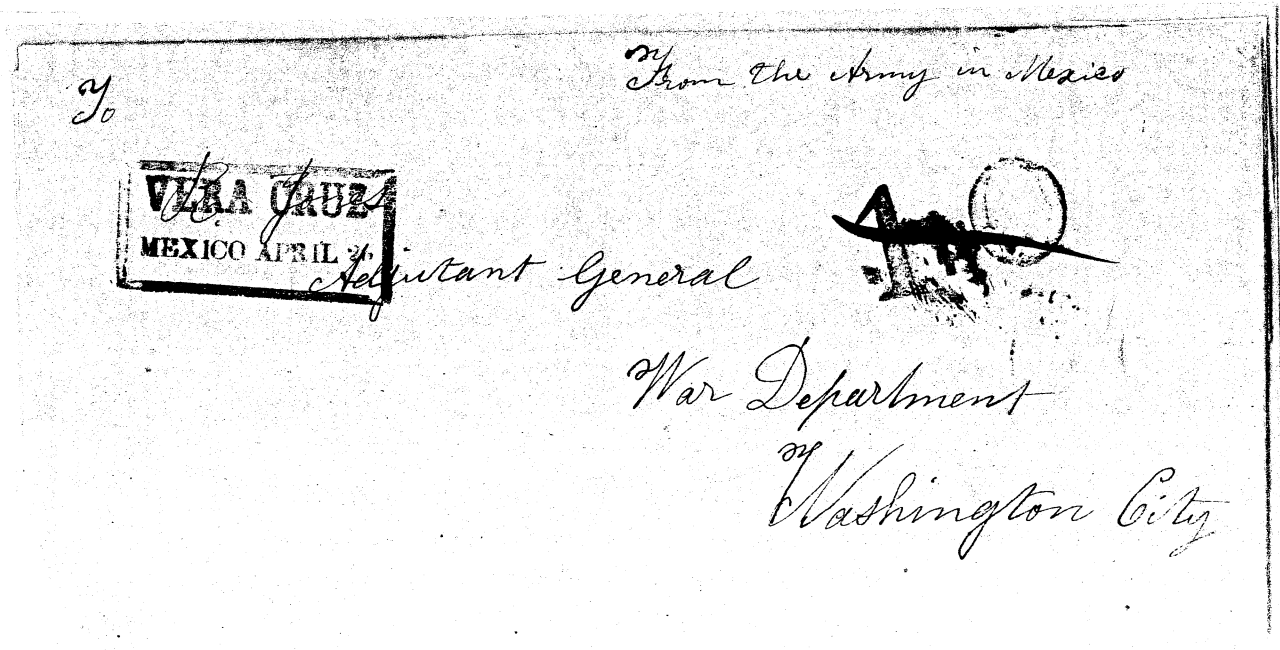
Writer complains to his brother that U.S. troops are combing family estates for deserters. Addressee is future President of Mexico.

Occupied late December 1847

Located 65 Km. West of Mexico



Toluca, 27 April 1848
 Vera Cruz, 11 May 1848 (Type VIII Handstamp)
 10c U.S. domestic rate (>300 miles)



Toluca, 20 April 1848
 Vera Cruz, 26 April 1848
 Official Mail, no cash postage due

Mexican Civil Mail

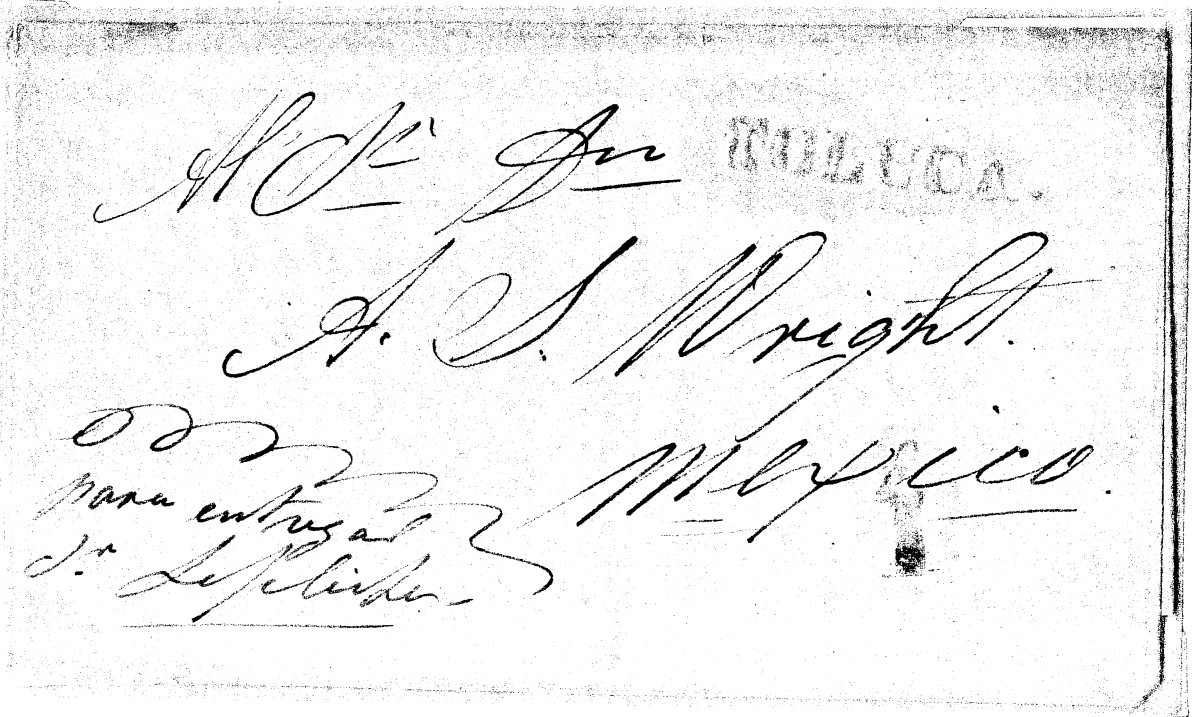
Located 65 Km. West of Mexico City;
United States and Mexican mail services often co-existed with each other

Through the lines: Toluca to Occupied Mexico City (Toluca occupied December 1847)

Toluca,
20 August 1847

1 real (collect)
single sheet

U.S. mining
Engineer notes
increasing
difficulty in
face of war
conditions.

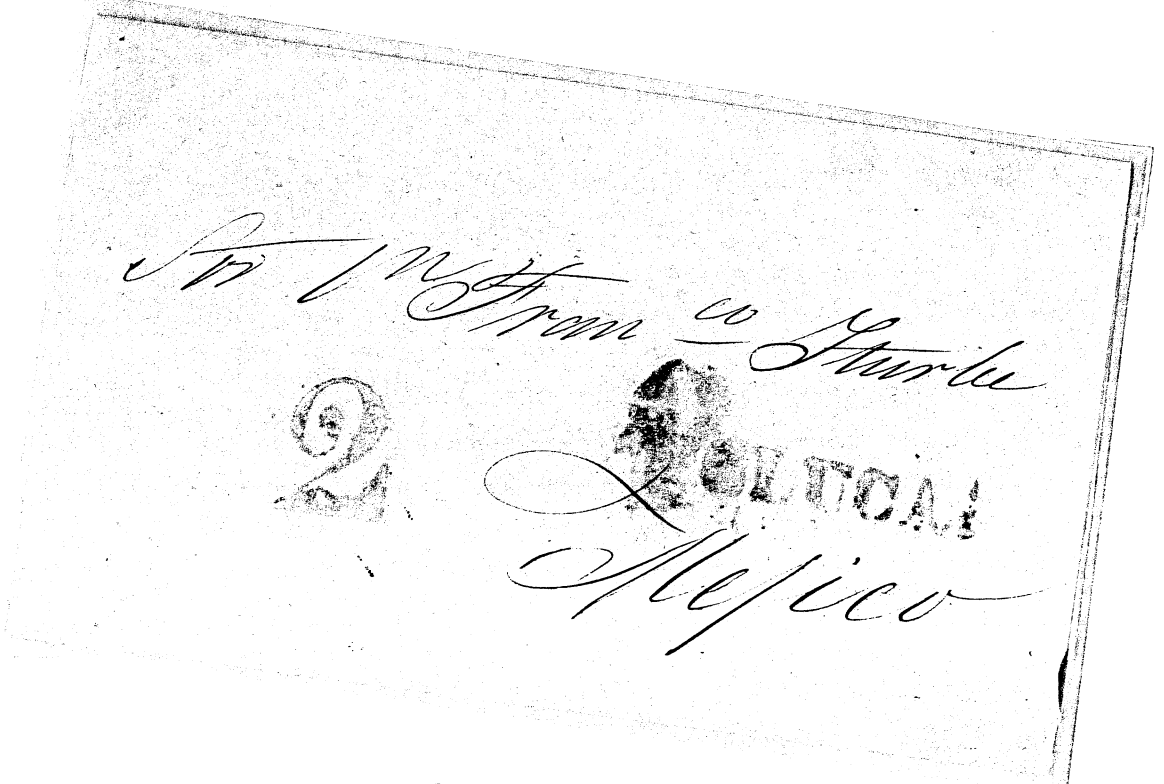


Toluca Occupation Period

Toluca
16 January 1848

2 Reales (collect)
(1/2 - 3/4 ounces)

Note Mexican
Postage rates
for civilian mail

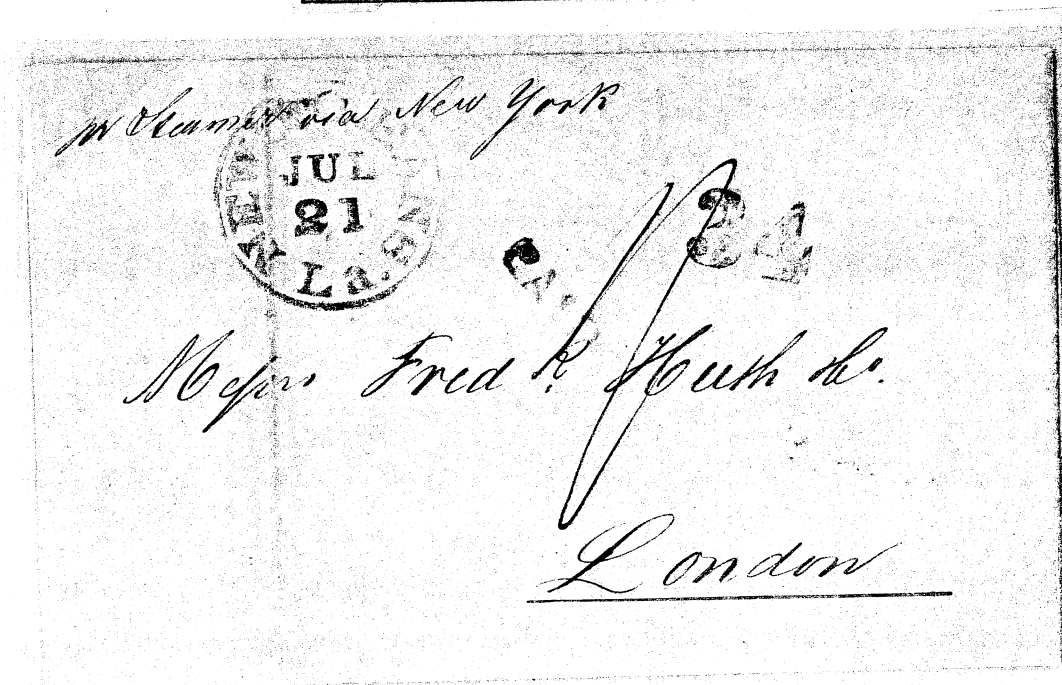


United States Forces departed Vera Cruz in a staged withdrawal through mid-July 1848

The *Retaliatory Rate* period between United States and Great Britain began 3 July 1848

United States to Great Britain

(items from British Agencies to the United States were also affected)



Vera Cruz, 11 July 1848 (via 'Great Western')
New Orleans, 21 July 1848 (Forwarder, entered U.S. mails)
London arrival, 16 August 1848

'PAID' 34c [U.S.], due 2/- [G.B.]

“The customs house will probably be delivered today to Mexican authorities....”

POSTWAR

RETURN TO PREWAR RATES

After hostilities ended, postal rates reverted to their prewar status.
Rates from Mexico to the United States varied depending on route and service provider.

Mexico to United States

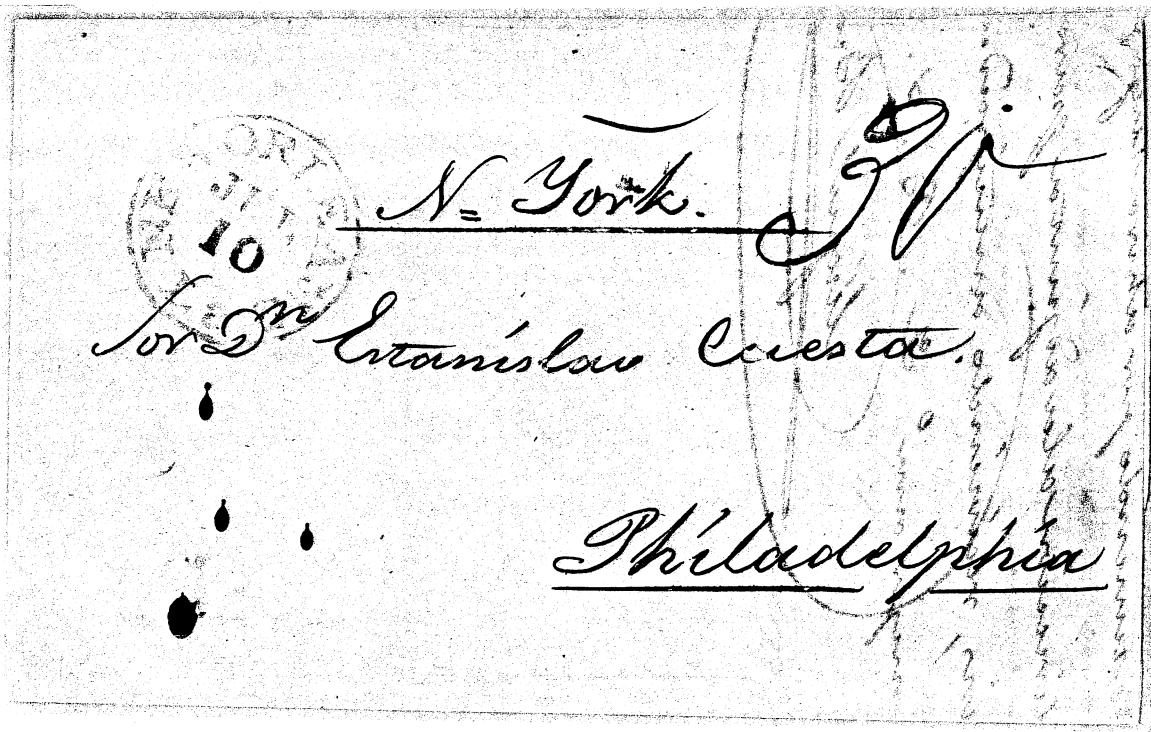
Mexico City
27 June 1848

**Via New Orleans
And New York to
Philadelphia**

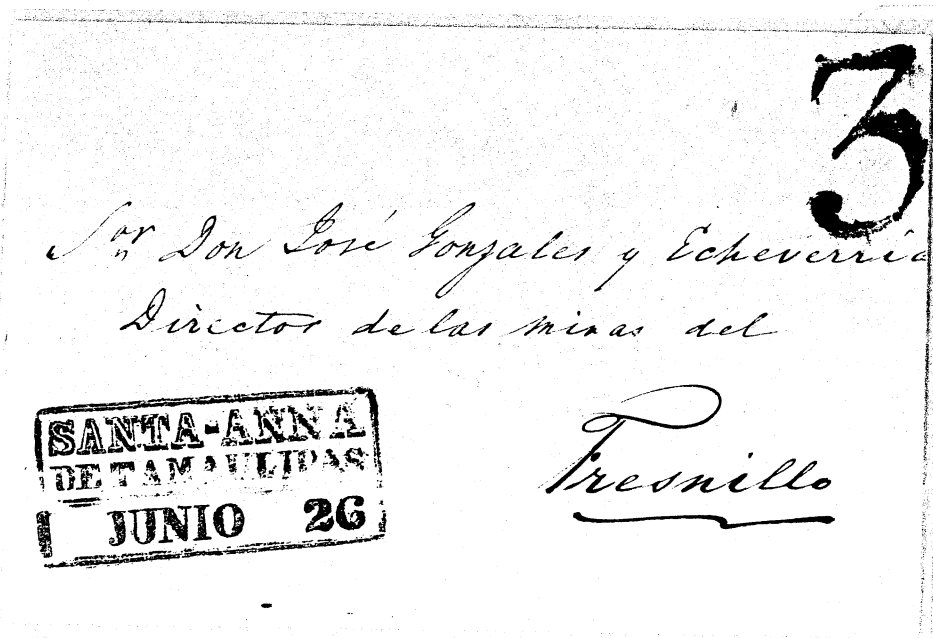
'30' cents collect

*Rate previously
10c via U.S. office
at Vera Cruz, and
New Orleans,*

*Alternate: 2/- via
British Agency.*



Internal Mexican mail



Tampico
26 June 1848

3 Reales single/ >45 mile
(15 Leagues) rate

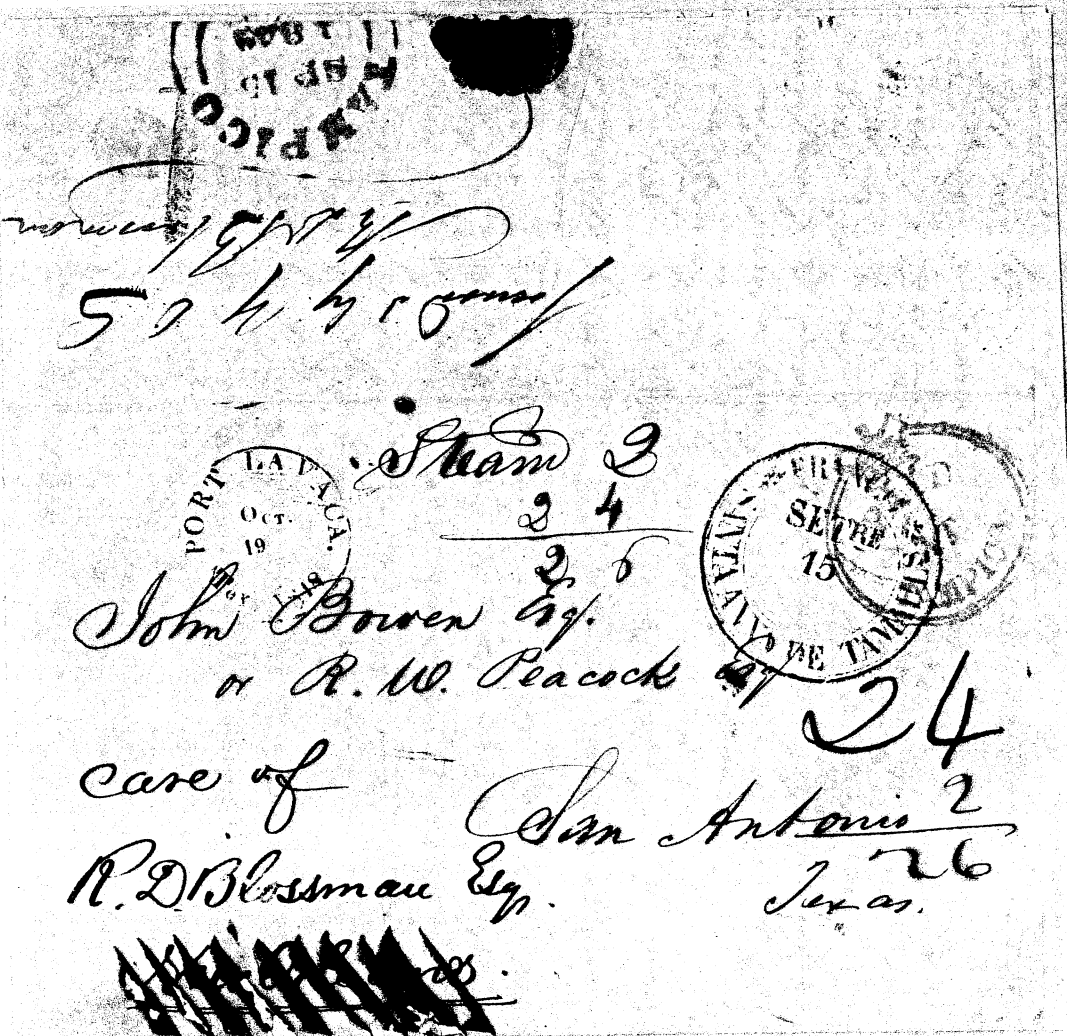
Formally 10 cents from
U.S. agency

CENTRAL CAMPAIGN

RETALIATORY RATES

The *Retaliatory Rate* period between United States and Great Britain began 3 July 1848 as activities in War Zone were winding down.

British Agencies to United States



Tampico
(Mexican & British Offices),
15 September 1848

New Orleans (forwarder)
[R.D. Blossman, Esq.]

Port La Vaca, 19 October 1848

To San Antonio

Paid at Tampico,
due 24c (2/- 'equivalent'?)
+2c 'Steam' = 26c U.S.

Discovery Example:

Retaliatory Rate cover
from British Agency direct
to U.S. Gulf Destination
(bypassing New York)

Vera Cruz
(Mexican &
British Offices)
15 November 1848

New Orleans
(U.S. Post)
21 November 1848

New York
1 December 1848
Forwarded to
Baltimore

1/- Paid at
Vera Cruz

34c plus 5c
(Forwarding) =
39c due [U.S.]

