



U.S. Philatelic Classics Society

Volume: 35 Number: 2 Year: 1983 Chronicle: 118

Article: Ritcherdson's Missouri Express Company

Author(s): Thomas J. Alexander

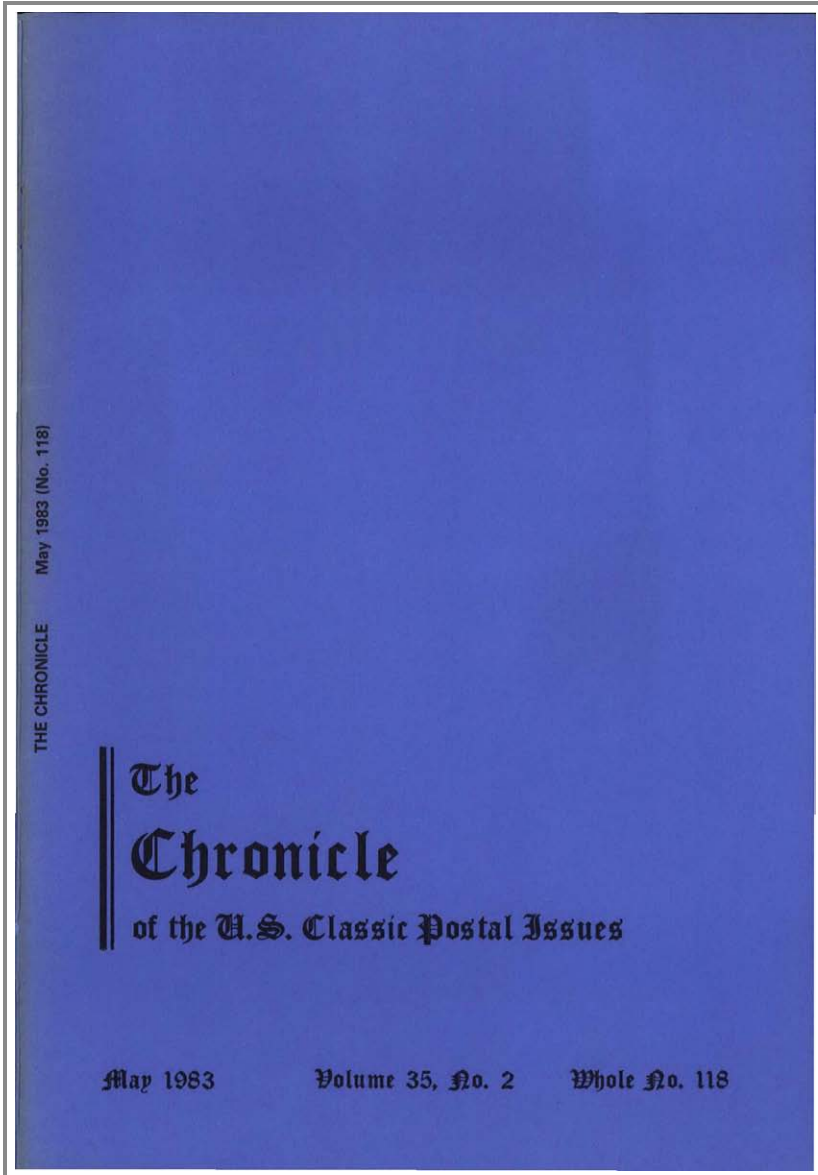


Table Of Contents

items marked with * cannot be viewed as an individual PDF document

[Click here to view the entire Volume: 35 No: 2 Chronicle: 118](#)

	<u>Starting Page</u>
Front Cover (1 page)	Front Cover
Display Advertisement (1 page) Advertiser: Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, Inc.	Inside Front Cover
Display Advertisement (1 page) Advertiser: Richard C. Frajola Inc.	73
Display Advertisement (1 page) Advertiser: Jack E. Molesworth, Inc.	74
Masthead (1 page)	75
Display Advertisement (1 page) Advertiser: John W Kaufmann	76
Table of Contents (1 page)	77
In Memoriam	
In Memoriam, George E. Hargest, August 26,1906 - February 5,1983 (2 pages) <i>Susan M. McDonald</i>	78
Guest Privilege	
The Alexandria Postmaster's Provisional Stamps (6 pages) <i>Philip T. Wall</i>	80
Once More, with Feeling (1 page) <i>Philip T. Wall</i>	85
Display Advertisement (1 page) Advertiser: Philatelic Restoration Workshop	85
Prestamp and Stampless Period	
First Standardized Postmarks of the District of Columbia (5 pages) <i>Richard B. Krakaur, Thomas E. Stanton</i>	86
A Delaware River Marking (2 pages) <i>Frederick A. Valentine</i>	91
Review: "Opinions: Philatelic Expertizing - An Inside View" (1 page) <i>Herbert Bohren</i>	92
Display Advertisement (1 page) Advertiser: Leonard H. Hartmann	93
U.S. Carriers	
The Carrier Stamps Of the United States - Philadelphia (5 pages) <i>Elliott Perry, Robert B. Meyersburg</i>	94
Classified (1 page)	98
Display Advertisement (1 page) Advertiser: Simmy's Stamp Co. Inc.	99
1847 Period	
1847 Covers from Pennsylvania (3 pages) <i>Creighton C. Hart</i>	100
Update of New York State Postmarks (1 page) <i>Creighton C. Hart</i>	102
Display Advertisement (1 page) Advertiser: Jacques Schiff, Jr. Inc.	103
1851-61 Period	
Yeardated Postmarks of New York State in The Prestamp Period (4 pages) <i>Calvet M. Hahn</i>	104
Ritcherdson's Missouri Express Company (2 pages) <i>Thomas J. Alexander</i>	107
Salt Lake City Straightline (1 page) <i>Thomas J. Alexander</i>	108
1861-1869 Period	
Review: "The Salt Lake City Post Office (1849-1869)" (2 pages) <i>Thomas J. Alexander</i>	108
1851-61 Period	
Five Cent Plate One Double Transfer (1 page) <i>Stanley M. Piller</i>	109
Gasport, New York, Flag Obliterator (1 page) <i>Thomas J. Alexander</i>	109
1861-1869 Period	
The 10¢ 1861 Type I Stamp on Cover (6 pages) <i>William S. Weismann</i>	110
Transient Printed Matter Rates, 1860 - 63: the Star Die Wrappers (4 pages) <i>Richard B. Graham</i>	115
The 1861 3¢ Lake (1 page) <i>Robert B. Meyersburg</i>	118
Display Advertisement (1 page) Advertiser: Richard B. Graham	118

Display Advertisement (1 page) Advertiser: Edelman's	118
Display Advertisement (1 page) Advertiser: Richard Wolfers Inc.	119
1869 Period	
10¢ 1869 Covers in the Pan - American Mails - Inbound Covers (4 pages) <i>Michael Laurence</i>	120
Display Advertisement (1 page) Advertiser: Andrew Levitt, Inc.	123
Bank Note Period	
Rare Banknote Stamps at Auction (4 pages) <i>Richard M. Searing</i>	124
Review: "The Fresno and San Francisco Bicycle Mail of 1894" (2 pages) <i>Richard B. Jordan</i>	127
Display Advertisement (1 page) Advertiser: Earl P. L. Apfelbaum Inc	129
Railroad Postmarks	
Georgia Railroad Manuscript Markings (4 pages) <i>Douglas N. Clark</i>	130
A Correction for the Record (2 pages) <i>Charles L. Towle</i>	133
Display Advertisement (1 page) Advertiser: George Alevizos	134
Display Advertisement (1 page) Advertiser: William A. Fox Auctions, Inc.	135
Display Advertisement (1 page) Advertiser: Chicago Classic Covers	135
Display Advertisement (1 page) Advertiser: Randolph L. Neil	135
Display Advertisement (1 page) Advertiser: New England Stamp	135
Foreign Mails	
More on 16¢ Credit Covers (2 pages) <i>James C. Pratt</i>	136
Review: "United States Incoming Steamship Mail 1847 - 1875" (2 pages) <i>Susan M. McDonald</i>	137
The Cunard Line's Mail Packets on the North Atlantic 1860 - 1869 (2 pages) <i>Walter Hubbard</i>	138
The Cunard Line's Mail Packets, 1860 - 1869: Sailing Lists (2 pages) <i>Walter Hubbard</i>	139
Display Advertisement (1 page) Advertiser: Four Star Philatelics, Inc.	141
The Cover Corner	
Answer to Problem Cover in Issue No. 117 (1 page) <i>Scott Gallagher</i>	142
Problem Covers for This Issue (2 pages) <i>Scott Gallagher</i>	142
Display Advertisement (1 page) Advertiser: Greg Manning Company Inc.	144
Display Advertisement (1 page) Advertiser: Harmers of New York Inc.	Inside Back Cover
Display Advertisement (1 page) Advertiser: Raymond H. Weill Co	Back Cover

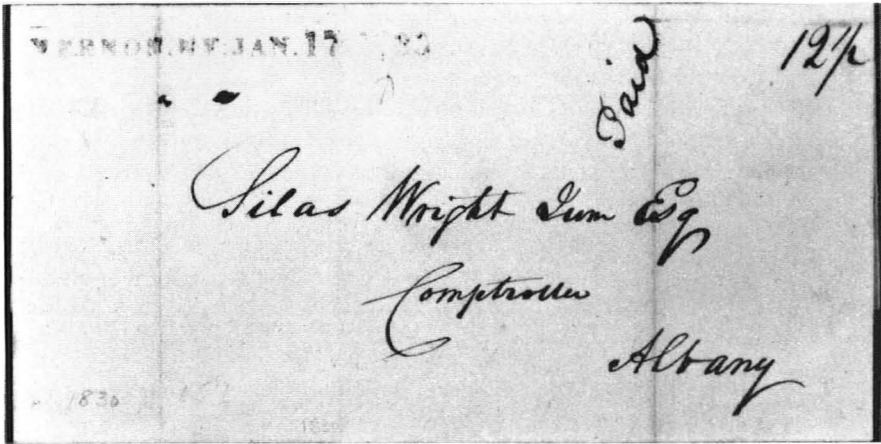


Figure 14. Black 32x2½mm. VERNON. NY. JAN.17 1830 and ms. Paid 12½¢ rate. Recording example of this unique yeardated town. Other examples of this year do not have yeardates.

N.H., in 1789 and 1792 and at Richmond, Va. in 1794 through 1799.

Thus far, the earliest examples from New York state come from Albany and the Otsego county town of Cooperstown. The 1796 Cooperstown yeardated straightline is apparently unique and not reported in the catalogs. The Albany marking has just the last two digits of the year added to the straightline. It is catalogued in 1798 but I also record it on a 1796 cover, which is the only non-1798 example I know of.

In addition to the two towns just listed, I record the following New York towns with yeardated straightlines on stampless covers: Black Rock (1827-8), Ft. Covington (1830-32), Gardnersville (1831), Hagamans Mills (1852), Little Falls (1822), Middlefield (1830), Pleasant Valley (1829), Scarsdale (1861), Schuylers Lake (1831-3), Schuylerville (1841-2) and Vernon (1830). In a number of cases there are several varieties of each and the markings are known in red and black. Some varieties are very rare and command high prices because they are errors or unusual markings in some other respect, *e.g.*, the only six-line county marking.

The only New York straightline yeardate reported in the 1851-61 period is the Hagamans Mills which is known both stampless and with adhesives. It is illustrated in the revised *Simpson's U.S. Postal Markings 1851-61*.

(To be continued)

RITCHERDSON'S MISSOURI EXPRESS CO.

The February issue of the *Chronicle* illustrated a cover bearing a label of this company and evidence on its face that express charges had been paid in addition to the U.S. postage.

Mr. Jerry Schwimmer has provided the editor with an extensive review of this company, including an article by C. Corwith Wagner that appeared in the February-April, 1954, issue of *Western Express*. The company apparently originated in early 1853 as Ritcherdson's Daily Express, which carried packages between St. Louis and Alton, Illinois. In 1855 Ritcherdson's Missouri River Express was organized to operate by boat between St. Louis and St. Joseph, stopping at major river towns along the way. The boat originally used was the *Polar Star*. Later that year the name was again changed, to Ritcherdson's Missouri Express, the name which appears on the label previously illustrated. One reason for the name change was the use by the firm of the new Pacific Railroad Company trains to carry their packages as far west as Hermann, Missouri. Towns on the Missouri River beyond that point continued to be serviced by river boat. The last mention of the company that Mr. Wagner could find in the *Missouri Republican*, published in St. Louis, was on April 28, 1857.

Mr. Schwimmer has a freight receipt printed by the company (dated at Jefferson City, January 15, 1857) for a package to be delivered to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas Territory. The

printed advertisement on the receipt indicates that its routes had been extended north along the Missouri River to include points in Kansas Territory, Kearney City, Nebraska City, Omaha City and Council Bluff City.

In his early article, Mr. Wagner took the view that this express had never carried mail, and did not operate outside of Missouri, since neither mail nor non-Missouri destinations were mentioned in the advertisements he had seen. It now appears that mail was carried, and that the express operated at least as far north and west as the mouth of the Platte River.

SALT LAKE CITY STRAIGHTLINE

Among the many interesting covers contained in the recent Robert A. Siegel sale of the balance of the Haas Collection was the one shown in the accompanying illustration. As the lot description indicated, this is the earliest recorded use of this straightline handstamp, being dated July 1, 1851. There is one other cover known with this date, which is also rated 10¢ due. In that case, the "X" is formed by two strikes of a "V", one inverted.

At first glance, it would appear that this is also the first day of the new July 1, 1851, rates. The old rates, which expired on June 30, 1851, had been 5¢ for a distance less than 300 miles, 10¢ for a distance over 300 miles, 12½¢ for intra-California mail, and 40¢ for mail to or from the Pacific Coast. No distinction was made between prepaid and collect mail.

The new rates, effective July 1, 1851, were 3¢ prepaid and 5¢ collect for distances up to 3,000 miles; 6¢ prepaid and 10¢ collect for greater distances.



Straightline postmark of Salt Lake City, July 1, 1851. The rate is not what it seems.

What rate did this unpaid cover bear? The distance between Salt Lake City and Ohio was less than 3,000 miles if the letter was carried overland by the Woodson contract. It surely was not carried to San Francisco for transmission by the mail steamers. It does not appear to be double weight.

The explanation lies in the fact that the notice of the new rates (enacted on March 3, 1851) did not arrive at Salt Lake City until after the July 1 mail for the east had been dispatched. In *The Salt Lake City Post Office*, Les Whall reports that the *Deseret News* of July 9, 1851, gave the first notice of the new postage rates (p. 66). Therefore, the monthly eastbound mail dated July 1 was sent at the old rate of 10¢ for distances over 300 miles. Later unpaid letters with this townmark addressed to the east are all rated the proper 5¢.

Review: The Salt Lake City Post Office [1849-1869]. By Les Whall, Crabtree Press, Salt Lake City, Utah (1982). Paper bound, 202 pages. Price \$6.00 postpaid from the author, 990 West Foxglove Drive, Salt Lake City, Utah 84107.

This book is recommended to anyone interested in the early mails carried over the California Trail as well as those interested in Salt Lake City and Utah generally. Its chapters