

WESTERN FRANKS

The Arguments of the Days of 1849. -

The term Western Frank is understood to mean the Frank used by private letter carrying concerns, operated entirely or in part West of the Rocky Mountains, including Brit. Columbia & Mexico, with branches extending to China, Australia and the Hawaiian Islands.

Franks were divisible into 1- handstamped 2- typeset or engraved 3- adhesive
This publication deals only with the first two -
Overland telegr. line was completed on Oct. 26. 1861.

First U.S. Express between Boston & New York Wm. F. Hurd in Den. Penn
in Reading Mass in 1812 established the first express in Feb, 1839
(first July 14. 1845.) (started Sept to Phila in Nov. 1840, took D.
Brighton Jr as partner and started office in England, France, Scotland,
Ireland, Germany.

Geo Hatfield Co, Geo O. Bartlett - winter 1843-4 N.Y. to Phila -
bought Hurd's and ran for a few months H. B. Ph. M. ch. 1847

First Expr. between San Fr. and Independence, Mo was started Apr. 1. 1848
as is proved by a chronicle contained in The Herald of San Francisco for 1848
The name of the Expr. was "California Star Express" and the passage was
guaranteed to be accomplished in 60 days" Postage for a single letter was 50 cts.
Note that this Expr. ran before California was formally ceded to the U.S.