

According to "Mekeel's Complete Catalogue" of 1895, p. 446, two hand-stamps are known:

1-dot

I) Inscription, ^{in four lines} enclosed in a shield, ^{with truncated corners at left and right} "Berford & Co., Letter and Package-Express, California." Red on ordinary buff envelopes. ^{and Franklin}
Left, upper corner.

Type II



Color - Black.

Handst

II) Three-line inscription: "BERFORD & CO'S; - PAID; - EXPRESS." in a large transverse double-lined oval, 49 x 32 m. Color black and blue ink on ordinary buff envelopes. ^{Franklin Right, upper corner.}

- 1) On ordinary envelopes. White ¹⁸⁰ - 3/4 red. 20t. - in Coll
- 2) Black on 1853 - 3/4 red - buff - 3 - 5a E² 21a
- Advs. Md. 12 - 1892: " 3 - 5 - E - 15j

A CALIFORNIA PIONEER DEAD.
The Founder of the first Stage Line Passes Away.
 NEW YORK, March 12.—Richard George Berford, one of New York's oldest citizens, died to-day of paralysis. In 1841 he founded the Pittsburg Chronicle. In 1842 he organized the first horse express, carrying President Harrison's message from Washington. In 1843 he had charge of the Adams Express Company's first office west of the Allegheny mountains, carrying packages by stage or canal boat in iron-covered chests.
 In 1849 he went to California and started the first stage line from San Francisco to San Jose and the first express to the mines in the north and south and to the Atlantic States. In 1851 Berford reduced the postage of letters from New York to San Francisco from 40 to 3 cents. His age was 73 years.

Went out of business probably 1858
 Alpha Expr. com. with Berford & Co in 1857
 At times com. with smaller expr. such as Anthony's North, etc.
 With. states. The B & Co. frank from 1850-8 from 1850 to 1858 one of the rarest.

III) A single lined oval - 26 x 36 m - with three line inscription: "BERFORD & CO'S - CALIFORNIAN - EXPRESS." Color Black.



On plain white letter sheet - dated Feb'y 9, 1853