

# WESTERN EXPRESS

RESEARCH JOURNAL OF EARLY WESTERN MAILS

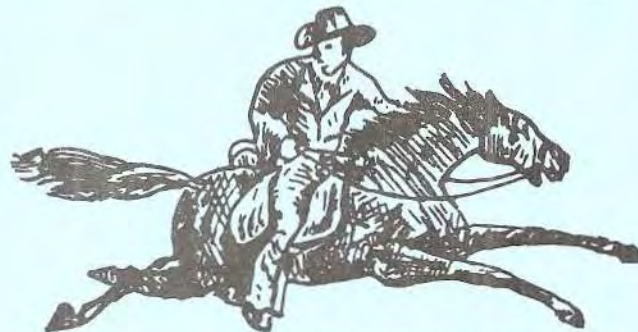
(ISSN 0510-2332)

No. 139  
VOL. XXXIV, No. 4

Quarterly Publication of the  
WESTERN COVER SOCIETY  
Unit No. 14—American Philatelic Society

OCTOBER 1984

Express  
Ocean Mail  
Overland  
Post Offices



Territorial  
Statehood  
Postal Rates  
Postal History

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Annual Dues in Society: Patron \$30.00; Sustaining \$20.00; Regular \$15.00

Advertising rates, per issue: Full page \$50.00; half page \$25.00; quarter page \$15.00

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## EDITOR'S ARENA

**OCTOBER WESTERN EXPRESS** This October issue comes to you early so that your Editor can get away to Melbourne to attend AUSIPEX 84, which International Show is being held in that Victoria capital September 20-30.

**CATALOGUE OF 19th CENTURY CALIFORNIA POSTMARKS** In the report of the 1983 annual meeting at the Jack Tar Hotel, it was announced that a Committee had been formed to update information on early California postmarks. This issue of *Western Express* carries the first fruits of that venture; a catalogue of the postmarks of Humboldt County for that period This illustrated listing is the work of members John Williams and Richard Helbock—and they are to be congratulated on this outstanding first of a series.

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

## NEW MEMBERS

#838 — William A. Adent  
5813 So. Washington Avenue  
Whittier, CA 90601  
(Collects Pony Express, Stage Coach and Wells Fargo)

## DECEASED

#364 — Paul C. Rohloff

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Normandy Beach, N.J. 08739

Leon Hyzen  
2100 S. Ola Vista  
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## CALIFORNIA TOWN LISTINGS

By John H. Williams

It has been over a year now since we have pondered this project. Finally, this issue carries our first effort at a county listing. Bear in mind, this is a trial. We now need to determine what format is best and the most desirable numbering system.

Questions to answer are these:

1. Should listing be cut off at 1900 or extend to possibly 1935?
2. Rarity scale?
3. List every postoffice whether or not a cancel is known, and indicate "No known cancel" for those missing cancels?
4. What numbering system? Could we simply list for example HUM-1, HUM-20, and let the tracing do the rest: Leaving approximately 20 digits between each town would allow ample room for initial listings and additions.
5. Is an elaborate numbering system necessary if every postmark is traced?
6. How about stampless covers? It might be interesting to list known rates, i.e., 12½, 40, 3, 5, 6 and 10 plus foreign rates.

As some of you know, I have been busy this last year gathering examples of cancels. My effort has been semi-successful. Northern counties have been doing well. Central and Southern counties leave something to be desired. As a matter of fact, some are zero. I have sent Xerox copies of what I have to several collectors asking for copies of what we are missing. This seems to be better than asking someone to Xerox their entire collection. I also

asked that our copies be returned. I'm about to wear out my Xerox machine and just don't have time to make many copies. I'm sure that every collector has some very special cancels that we are not likely to have. A Xerox of these would be greatly appreciated.

As you may imagine this is a very time consuming project. Tracing cancels takes time and must be done in a way that allows reformatting and insertions. Unfortunately, I am not blessed with an abundance of experience and could use some suggestions in this area.

Please feel free to pick our Humboldt listing apart. All suggestions or comments will be taken as constructive. At any rate, this is an example of what can be done. I think it is rather nice. Even though my name is on it, Mr. Helbock did the work. I only supplied some examples and suggestions. Many thanks to Bill for a super job.

Current plans are to publish each county in **Western Express**. This allows a chance for corrections and additions. Once all counties are completed, we want to publish the entire work in book form.

Anyone wishing to contribute and who would like a set of copies for a particular county or counties, please let me know. If you would like to take on a county, tracings and all, we will provide copies of what we have and any help possible. We will also provide our grateful thanks. Unless you wish otherwise, all contributors will remain anonymous.

## THE 19th CENTURY CALIFORNIA POSTMARK CATALOG

### Part I: Humboldt County

By John Williams and Richard Helbock

It was decided at a special meeting of the Western Cover Society held in conjunction with WESTPEX 1983 to begin a project which would eventually lead to a catalogue of 19th century California postmarks. Similar catalogues already exist for postmarks of the territories of Alaska, Arizona and New Mexico, and a catalogue of 19th century Oregon postmarks is well underway. Because of the very large number of post offices in California, and the current collector preference of concentrating in only one county or a small group of counties, this project is seen as a long-term effort involving the energies of many collectors and students of postal history. We, the authors of this portion of the catalogue, volunteered to take a first step by cataloging the 19th century postmarks of Humboldt County. After over a year of sporadic effort, we present herewith our first published listing. We do not consider this listing complete. Far from it, and we urge those of you with knowledge of unlisted towns, types, and date extensions to contact us directly or in care of WESTERN EXPRESS. Further, we do not argue that our format and methodology is necessarily the best possible for the task. We have merely adopted these from existing catalogues in an effort to maintain some consistency. Suggestions along these lines would be appreciated and welcomed.

### THE CATALOGUE FORMAT

Each Humboldt County post office from which a postmark is known dated 1900 or earlier is listed in alphabetical order along with its official dates of operation. Beneath each listed post office, we give its known postmark types in chronological order based on the earliest recorded example. For each postmark we list a number, the classification code, earliest and latest known dates of use, the number of examples recorded by us, and, where present, the type of integral cancellation (killer) used with the postmark. We have not attempted to list killers which were not an integral part of the postmarking device. Most, but not all, of the listed postmarks have been illustrated. Our catalogue to date illustrates 163 different postmarks from 65 different Humboldt County post offices.

### THE POSTMARK CLASSIFICATION

The system used for this project has been modified from that developed by Dr. Sheldon H. Dike in his NEW MEXICO TERRITORIAL POSTMARK CATALOG, and later used in the ARIZONA TERRITORIAL POSTMARK CATALOG and POSTMARKS OF TERRITORIAL ALASKA. Changes in the Dike system have been made only where necessary to encompass the broader range of postmark styles used in California, and to account for differences in state abbreviations.

## 19th CENTURY CALIFORNIA POSTMARKS (Continued)

The Dike classification system consists of six elements:

1. The Basic Design
2. The State Abbreviation
3. Additional Design Features
4. The Date Type
5. Printing Style
6. Size

## The Basic Design

Represented by a letter, or group of letters, followed by a number, the Basic Design is the first element of the code. Letters describe the shape of the postmark, for example, "C" for circle, "OV" for oval, "OC" for octagon and so forth. The number which follows the letter(s) gives the exact form of the postmark shape, i.e., single-circle, double oval, etc. The Basic Design elements are as follows:

- C0 - circular design, but no outline (rimless circle)
- C1 - single plain circular outline
- C2 - single toothed, or geared, circular outline
- C21- double-circle outline
- C22- double-circle outline, outer circle toothed or geared
- C31- double-circle; one inner, one outer, lettering between
- C32- double-circle; outer circle toothed or geared
- C41- double-circle outline plus inner circle
- C42- double-circle outline plus inner circle, outer circle toothed or geared
- C51- double-circle outline plus double inner circle
- C61- triple-circle outline

- OV1 - single plain oval outline
- OV21- double-oval outline
- OV22- double-oval outline, outer oval toothed or geared
- OV31- double-oval; one inner, one outer
- OV41- double-oval outline, plus inner oval
- OC1 - single plain octagonal outline
- OC4 - single octagonal outline with stretched shape
- OC21- double-octagonal outline
- OC22- double-octagonal outline, outer octagon toothed

- M - manuscript
- SL - straight-line with no border
- SLB - straight-line with border described in "Notes"
- REG - registry marking used as the sole postmark
- EX - express marking
- F - Fancy marking described in "Notes"

The State Abbreviation element consists of just one letter representing one of the various postmark abbreviations of California. This letter appears in the code immediately following the Basic Design

key. Letters assigned to the known abbreviations of California are as follows:

- A - CA
- B - CAL
- C - CALA or CAL'A
- D - CALIF
- E - CALIFORNIA

Where the state abbreviation is followed by an apostrophe ('), it means that the state abbreviation follows the town name in a clock-wise, or left to right, manner in the postmark dial.

## 19th CENTURY CALIFORNIA POSTMARKS (Continued)

Additional Design Features are represented within the postmark code by a number identifying the particular feature. Such features are not present in the majority of postmarks, and hence in the typical coding no number follows the state abbreviation letter. The following numbers have been assigned to these additional design features:

- 1 - county name at bottom of postmark
- 2 - county name in straight-line within postmark
- 3 - county name at top of postmark
- 9 - postmaster's name within postmark
- 10 - with Maltese crosses
- 11 - with stars or asterisks
- 12 - with "birds" ( )
- 13 - with decorative lines
- 14 - with plusses (+)
- 20 - with "5"

Where more than one Additional Design Feature is present, each will be keyed, and the numbers separated by a comma.

The Date Type is represented by a letter and a number. These keys are as follows:

- A1 - MD (month, day)
- A3 - MY (month, year)
- M1 - MDY in manuscript
- M2 - MD in manuscript
- N1 - MDY in any order arranged vertically
- N2 - MDY with only last two digits of year

- N3 - Type N1, but w/year missing
- N4 - Type N1, but w/day missing
- N5 - (MD)Y w/year in outer circle and MD on same line
- N9 - Type N1 where month is given by a number
- T1 - MDYT (time) in any order arranged vertically
- T2 - Type T1, but w/bar replacing time, or time missing
- T3 - Type T1 with year missing
- T4 - MDYT with time in outer circle
- T6 - (MD)TY w/month & day on same line
- T7 - (MD)TY w/year outside circle
- T8 - (MD)TY w/only last two digits of year given
- T9 - (MD)TY w/year in outer circle

Printing Style is represented in the code by a series of letters (B, R, or I), indicating the style of print used in the name of town, state, county (where present), postmaster (where present), and date respectively. The letters indicate whether the print is Block-style (san-serif), Roman, or Italic. A single letter indicates that all words are in the same type style. A letter followed by an apostrophe (') means that lower case letters are present.

The Size of the postmark is given in millimeters immediately following the Print Style element. Impressions of a postmarking device are known to vary somewhat in size dependings upon the age (wear) of the device, force or angle with which struck, viscosity of ink and so forth. For circular and octagonal styles the measurement is the outer diameter of the dial, and for ovals the measurement is the outer diameter of the long axis.

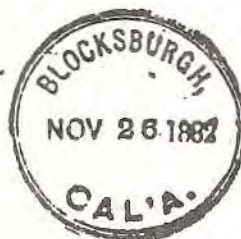
## 19th CENTURY CALIFORNIA POSTMARKS (Continued)

TOWN TYPE	NO.	NOTES	POSTMARK CODE	EARLIEST DATE	LATEST DATE	EXAMPLES KNOWN	INTEGRAL TYPE
ACORN (1891-1904)	1.		C1BN1BBR27	4 Apr 94	13 Apr 96	2	
ALLIANCE (1892-1920)	1.		C1BN1BBR27	9 Aug 93	17 Jun 96	3	
ALTON (1889-1965)	1.		C1BN1BBR27	15 Jul 93	2 Apr 95	6	
ARCATA (1860-Date)	1.		C1BA1BBR26	20 Mar 63	17 Sep 67	2	
	2.		C1BA1BBR24	25 Mar 81?		1	
	3.	(1)	C1BA1BBR27.5	7 Mar 36	27 Aug 89	3	
	4.		C21BN1RRB32.5	21 Jun 86	12 Jul 87	4	
	5.		C1BT1B23	27 Oct 94		1	
	6.		C1BT1B28	5 Aug 95		1	
	7.		C1BT3B28.5	1 Nov 98		1	
BAYSIDE (1886-Date)	1.		C21BS1B32	8 Feb 88	28 May 94	3	
BEATRICE (1884-1955)	1.		M	24 Mar 37		1	
	2.		C1BN1BBR27.5	24 Feb 94	14 Aug 94	3	
BLOCKSBURGH (1877-1893)	1.		C1BN1RRB24	22 Jun 78	6 Nov 78	2	
	2.		C41CN1B30	10 Feb 82		1	Target
	3.		C21CS1B33	26 Nov 82		1	Target
	4.		C1BN1B28	9 Jun 84			
BLOCKSBURG (1893-Date)	1.		C1BT1B29	30 Apr 95	95	2	
	2.		C1BN1B28	14 Nov 97	26 Oct 99	2	Oval bar grid
BLUE LAKE (1878-Date)	1.		C1B11N1BBR29	8 Jul 81	7 Jan 88	2	
	2.		C1BN1B27.5	27 Feb 85	4 Jan 86	2	
	3.		C1BN1B28	4 Jun 88		1	
	4.		C1BN1BBR27.5	19 Dec 93	29 Oct 96	4	
BRICELAND (1889-1962)	1.		C1BN1BBR28	26 Mar 96		1	
BRIDGEVILLE (1877-Date)	1.		M	15 Oct 77		1	
	2.	(2)	C1BN1B27	13 Nov 94	29 Jul 96	3	
BUCKSPORT (1852-1863)	1.		M	4 May 55	4 Aug 61	6	

19th CENTURY CALIFORNIA POSTMARKS (Continued)



*Beatrice Cal 3/24*



*Bridgerville Oct 15 77*

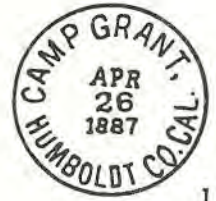


## 19th CENTURY CALIFORNIA POSTMARKS (Continued)

TOWN TYPE NO.	NOTES	POSTMARK CODE	EARLIEST DATE	LATEST DATE	EXAMPLES KNOWN	INTEGRAL KILLER
CAMP GRANT (1868-1895)						
1.		C1BN1BBBR27	26 Apr 87		1	
2.		C1BN1BBR28	30 Jan 94		1	
CAPETOWN (1879-1937)						
1.		C1BN1R27	1 Aug 82		1	
2.		C1CN1B34	11 Feb 90		1	Circ. bar grid
3.		C1BN1BBR27.5	27 Apr 93		1	
CHINA FLAT (1878-1915)						
1.		C21BN1RRB27.5	10 May 85		1	
2.		C21BN1B30	5 Feb 93		1	
3.		C21BN1RRB34	24 May 94		1	Star in circle
4.	(3)	C1BA1BBR28	10 May 95?		1	
5.		C1BN1B27.5	5 Jan 00		1	
DARK CANYON (1878-1882)						
1.	M		31 Jan 82		1	
DOWS PRAIRIE (1877-1903)						
1.	M		3 Feb 83		1	
2.		C1BN1B28	8 Dec 83		1	
3.		C1BN1BBR28	5 Mar 94		1	
DYERVILLE (1890-1933)						
1.		C1BN1BBR27.5	25 Mar 95	7 Jul 95	4	
EAL (1889-1900)						
1.		C1BN1BBR27	2 May 93	20 Jul 96	5	
EEL RIVER (1857-1874)						
1.	M		8 Jan 59		1	
2.		C31BA1BBR26.5	29 Mar 6?		1	
ENGLEWOOD (1880-1891)						
1.		C21BN1RRB28	28 Sep 86		1	
2.		C1BN1B28	8 Apr 87		1	
3.		C1BN1BBR27	5 Jan 91		1	

19th CENTURY CALIFORNIA POSTMARKS (Continued)

*Buck's Point, Cal.  
May 4 1855 - Buck's Point Aug 4/64*



*Dark Canyon 181 82 Dows Prairie Cal Feb 3 -1883*



*Eel River, Cal. Jan 9. 1859*



## 19th CENTURY CALIFORNIA POSTMARKS (Continued)

TOWN TYPE	NO.	NOTES	POSTMARK CODE	EARLIEST DATE	LATEST DATE	EXAMPLES KNOWN	INTEGRAL KILLER
EUREKA (1853-Date)							
	1.		M	18 Nov 53		1	
	2.	(4)	C21B3A1R32.5	25 Mar 57	13 Nov 58	4	
	3.		C1BA1BBR26	14 Apr 63		1	
	4.		C1BA1BBR24.5	21 Mar 70?		1	
	5.		C1BA1BBR26.5	30 Mar 77	1 Nov 79	5	
	6.		C1BT1B28	12 Aug 89	28 Nov 95	9	"Bull's eye"
	7.		REG	90		1	
	8.		C1BT1B28	6 Aug 90	24 May 94	4	
	9.		REG	2 May 91	20 May 91	2	
	10.		C1BT6B25.5	24 May 97	4 Aug 98	4	Ovate grid/"1"
	11.		REG	8 Sep 97	6 Dec 97	2	
	12.		C1BT6B26	6 Jun 00		1	Ovate grid/"1"
FALSE CAPE (1870-1879)							
	1.		M	8 Jan 78	6 Feb 78	3	
FERNDALE (1862-Date)							
	1.		C1BA1BBR25	4 Sep 69		1	
	2.		M	3 Feb 79		1	
	3.		OC1BN1BBR25	16 Feb 83		1	
	4.		C1BA1BBR25	2 Mar 88		2	
	5.		C1BT1B28	24 Jan 93	23 Jun 99	6	
	6.		C1BN1BBR27	22 Jun 96		1	
FIELDS LANDING (1889-Date)							
	1.		C1BN1BBR28	6 Mar 95		1	
FORTUNA (1888-Date)							
	1.		C21CS1B34	3 Jan 89	30 Jan 89	2	
	2.		C1BA1BBR26	14 Jan 90		1	
	3.		C1BN1B27	11 Oct 94	24 Dec 97	6	
	4.		C1BN1B28	8 Sep 98	19 Sep 98	4	
FRANK (1892-1903)							
	1.		C1BN1BBR27.5	22 Dec 94		1	
FRESHWATER (1886-1964)							
	1.		C1BN1BBR28	11 Nov 94	16 Oct 00	2	
	2.		C1DS1RRB30	20 Jan 98		1	Star in star

19th CENTURY CALIFORNIA POSTMARKS (Continued)

*Eureka Cal  
Nov 18<sup>th</sup> 1853*

1



2



EUREKA  
HUMBOLDT,  
CALIFORNIA



*False copy, Cal.  
Feb 6-79.*

1



1

*Ferndale Feb 3  
1879*

2



3



4



5



6



1



1



2



3



4



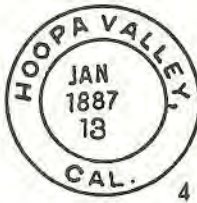
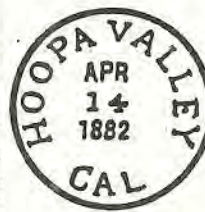
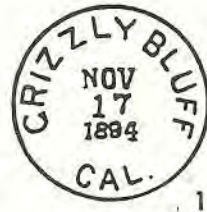
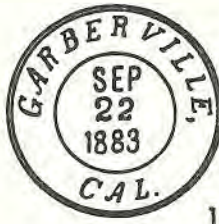
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## 19th CENTURY CALIFORNIA POSTMARKS (Continued)

TOWN TYPE	NO.	NOTES	POSTMARK CODE	EARLIEST DATE	LATEST DATE	EXAMPLES KNOWN	INTEGRAL KILLER
FRUITLAND (1890-1934)							
	1.		C1BN1BBR28	25 Jun 96		1	
	2.		C1BM2B27	22 Jan 98		1	
GARBERVILLE (1874-Date)							
	1.		C41BN1IIB30	22 Sep 83		1	
	2.		C1BN1BBR27	7 Oct 91	1 Apr 96	2	
GRIZZLY BLUFF (1890-1933)							
	1.		C1BN1BBR27.5	17 Nov 94	25 Feb 96	3	
HARRIS (1882-1974)							
	1.		C1BN1BBR27	29 Jan 88		1	
	2.		C1BM1B27.5	24 Aug 93		1	
HOOPA (1895-1900)							
	1.		C21B11N1B34	18 Nov 96		1	
HOOPA VALLEY (1861-1895)							
	1.		M	15 Aug 65		1	
	2.		C1BN1RRB29	6 Dec 80		1	
	3.		C21BN1RRB28	14 Apr 82	22 Dec 83	3	
	4.		C41BN1IIB30	2 Mar 85		1	
	5.		C31BN1B27	19 Jan 87	8 Jun 87	3	
	6.		REG	21 Dec 91		1	
	7.		C1BN1B29	16 Jan 93	10 Apr 95	2	
HYDESVILLE (1861-Date)							
	1.		M	10 Jun 67	20 Aug 64	2	
	2.		OC1BN1RRB29	9 Jul 79	22 Oct 85	5	
	3.		C21DS1RRB37	28 Jun 87		1	Star
	4.		C21E13S1RRB32	5 Sep 93		1	
	5.		C1BN1BBR27.5	19 May 94		1	
	6.		C1BT1B28.5	22 Sep 99		1	
IAQUA (1880-1903 & 1909-1920)							
	1.		M	26 Apr 87	18 Nov 94	2	
	2.		C1BN1BBR27.5	3 Apr 96	4 Sep 99	3	
KLAMATH (1887-1915)							
	1.		C2BN1RRB28	14 Apr 93	26 Mar 96	3	
KNEELAND (1880-Date)							
	1.		M	7 Jun 84		1	
	2.		C1BN1B28	23 Jun 96		1	
KORBEL (1891-Date)							
	1.		C1BN1BBR27	18 Nov 91	10 Aug 93	2	
	2.		C1BN1B28	27 Mar 99		1	
LARIBEE (1888-1899)							
	1.		C1BN1BBR28.5	5 Jan 94	28 Oct 94	3	

19th CENTURY CALIFORNIA POSTMARKS (Continued)



*Hydesville Cal  
Aug 29/64*



*Laguna Nov 18, 1894*

1



2



1

*Presidio Cal  
June 7 94*

1



2



1



2



1



1

## 19th CENTURY CALIFORNIA POSTMARKS (Continued)

TOWN TYPE	NO. NOTES	POSTMARK CODE	EARLIEST DATE	LATEST DATE	EXAMPLES KNOWN	INTEGRAL KILLER
LOLETA (1898-Date)						
1.		C1BN1B28	16 Aug 98	5 Sep 00	2	
MAD RIVER (1872-1877)						
1.	(5)	C1BN1B28	3 Mar 84		1	
MAPLE CREEK (1886-1909 & 1910-1923)						
1.		C1BN1BBR27	7 Jun 91		1	
MARTINS FERRY (1861-1862 & 1865-1891)						
1.		C1BN1B27	18 Jun 86		1	
ORICK (1887-Date)						
1.		C31BN1B27	13 Jun 88	1 Oct 88	2	
2.		C1BN1BBR27.5	4 Apr 95	10 May 95	2	
ORLEANS (1857-Date)						
1.		M	31 Mar 65	30 Sep 75	2	
2.		C1BN1BBR24.5	19 Jan 77		1	
3.		C1BN1B27.5	2 Sep 86		1	
4.		OC4BS1RRB37	1 Aug 89	14 Nov 89	2	
5.		C1BN1B28	1 Jun 95	13 Oct 97	4	
PEPPERWOOD (1887-1892 & 1901-1965)						
1.		C1BN1BBR28	31 May 89	16 Dec 89	2	
2.		C1BA1BBR28	12 Jul 97		1	
PETROLIA (1865-Date)						
1.		M	13 Mar 66		1	
2.		C1BA1BBR25.5	28 Feb 72?		1	
3.		C21E13S1B34	25 Feb 84	29 Apr 85	2	
4.		C1BN1BBR27.5	8 Jan 94		1	
5.		C1BN1B28	4 Jul 98	8 Dec 99	3	
PHILLIPSVILLE (1883-1912 & 1948-Date)						
1.		M	29 Aug 89		1	
2.		C1BN1BBR28	6 Dec 93	28 Apr 96	3	
PORT KENYON (1886-1899 & 1903-1913)						
1.		C41BN1RR'RB34	86	89	3	
2.		C1BN1BBR28.5	2 Feb 94		1	
3.		C1BN1B28	14 Oct 96		1	
RIO DELL (1876-Date)						
1.		M	4 Jul 83		1	
2.		C21B13S1RRB30	28 Jun 87		1	
3.		C21BS1RRB30	1 May 88	19 Mar 89	3	Wheel of fortune
4.		C1BM2B27.5	1 Jun 97		1	
5.		C1BN1BBR28	23 Apr 95		1	
6.		C31BN1RRB31	4 Apr 97		1	

19th CENTURY CALIFORNIA POSTMARKS (Continued)



1



1



2

*Orleans Cal  
Mar 31, 1881*

1



2



3



4



5



*Pepperwood  
Feb 13/65*

1



2



3



2

*Phillipsville Cal Aug 28, 189*

1



1



2

*Rio Dell  
Cal Aug 4*

1



2



3



4

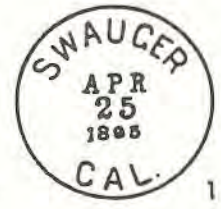
## 19th CENTURY CALIFORNIA POSTMARKS (Continued)

TOWN TYPE	NO. NOTES	POSTMARK CODE	EARLIEST DATE	LATEST DATE	EXAMPLES KNOWN	INTEGRAL KILLER
ROHNERVILLE (1874-1959)						
	1.	ClBA1BBR24.5	30 Jan 74		1	
	2.	ClB'1N1BBB'B28	3 Jun 79	19 May 81	4	
	3.	ClB'1N1BRBR29	28 Feb 84	29 Jan 89	4	
	4.	ClBT1B28.5	7 Feb 93	7 Nov 98	5	
SCOTIA (1888-Date)						
	1.	ClBN1BBR27.5	26 Mar 90	20 Dec 93	4	
	2.	C21BS1B34	19 Dec 95	6 Apr 96	2	Star in circle
	3.	ClBN1B28	28 Sep 96	14 Nov 97	2	
SCRIBNER (1889-1894)						
	1. (6)	ClBN1BBR27	16 Jun 90	18 Oct 93	2	
SHELTER COVE (1892-1933)						
	1.	ClBN1BBR27.5	3 Sep 98		1	
SLIDE (1876-1888)						
	1.	M	5 Jun 78	23 Jul 87	3	
	2.	C21BS1RRB30	12 Nov 84	16 Jan 85	2	
SWAUGER (1888-1898)						
	1.	ClBN1BBR27.5	25 Apr 95	16 Oct 97	3	
TABLE BLUFF (1861-1901)						
	1.	M	15 Mar 75	13 Sep 81	2	
	2.	C31B11N1RRB32	14 Aug 77		1	
	3.	C41BS1RRB37	10 Aug 81		1	
	4.	C41BN1BRR30	2 Oct 82	3 Jan 89	3	
THORN (1888-1923 & 1951-1961)						
	1.	ClBN1B28	10 Nov 99		1	
TRINIDAD (1851-Date)						
	1.	M	24 Apr 57		1	
	2.	ClBA1BBR25.5	25 Mar 78	1 May 85	5	
	3.	ClBN1BBR27.5	19 Jun 94		1	
	4.	ClBN1B28	23 Nov 98		1	
UNION TOWN (1852-1860)						
	1. (7)	M	21 May 53		1	
	2. (8)	OV1B2A1BBBR43	18 Apr 57	12 Nov 56	2	
	3. (9)	C31B3A1BRRR36	3 May 58	7 Dec 57	3	
UPPER MATTOLE (1871-1943)						
	1. (10)	C31BN1R25	19 Nov 78		1	
	2.	ClBN1RRB29	10 Apr 88		1	
	3.	C21EN1RRB28	24 Jul 88	11 May 89	4	
	4.	ClBN1BBR27.5	5 May 93		1	

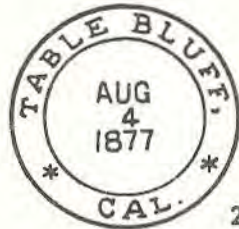
19th CENTURY CALIFORNIA POSTMARKS (Continued)



*Slide Cal 6-5-98*



*Table Bluff, Cal. (Mar. 15)*



*Trinidad Cal April 24<sup>th</sup> 1857 } Raid*



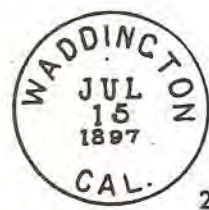
*Union H.B July 21. 1853 Cal*



19th CENTURY CALIFORNIA POSTMARKS (Continued)

TOWN TYPE	NO. NOTES	POSTMARK CODE	EARLIEST DATE	LATEST DATE	EXAMPLES KNOWN	INTEGRAL KILLER
WADDINGTON (1891-1940)						
1.		C1BN1B27	25 Oct 92		1	
2.		C1BN1BBR27.5	25 May 94	22 Nov 99	3	
WEITCHPEC (1858-1860 & 1891-1962)						
1.		C1BN1BBR28	4 Nov 99		1	
YAGER (1880-1932)						
1.		M	7 Oct 88	31 Mar 93	2	

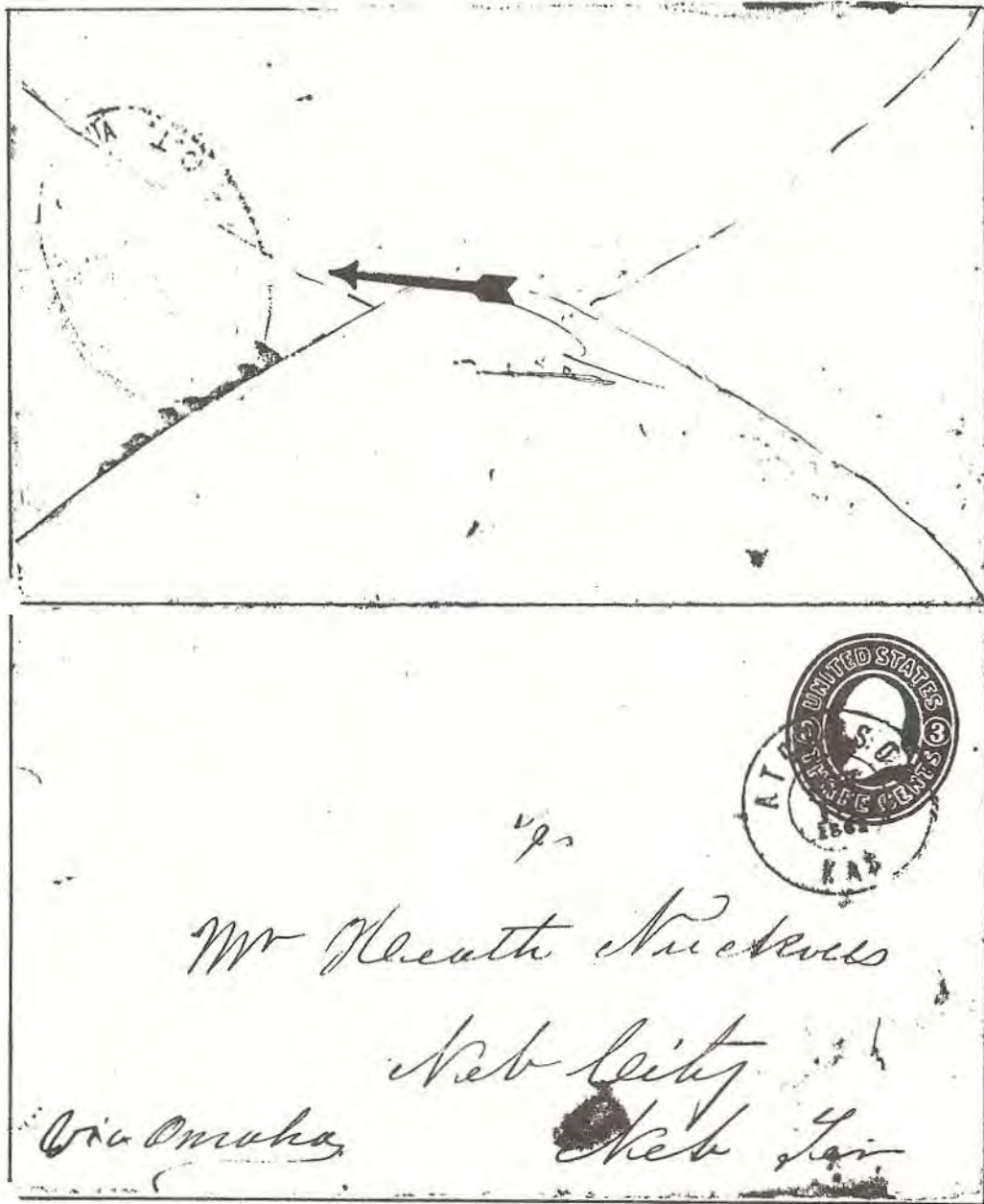
- NOTES: (1) Killer is often carved cork with negative "A" as illustrated.  
 (2) Two known examples have date type M1.  
 (3) Note large gap between "FL" and "AT".  
 (4) Postmark reads "EUREKA H BAY".  
 (5) PO not listed as officially in operation on this date.  
 (6) Latest listed is date type A1.  
 (7) Manuscript reads "Union HB".  
 (8) Postmark reads "UNIONTOWN/H.B."; latest listed has date type M1.  
 (9) Postmark reads "H B CAL/UNION TOWN".  
 (10) Post office name spelled "UPPER MATOLE".



*Yager Cal  
 Wash 21/93*

DENVER C.T.

By Floyd E. Risvold

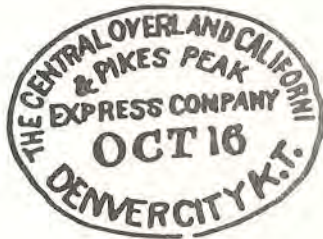


The cover shown with this article was acquired with several others from the Nuckolls correspondence some 25 years ago. A few years later, quite by accident, the faint marking of the C.O.C. & P.P. Express Company was discovered when the

envelope was dropped and fluttered to the floor upside down. Because the impression was so faint, and on the back of the envelope, it had never been noticed before. However, the writer was told that this marking was known although it was very rare.

## DENVER, C. T. (Continued)

According to David L. Jarrett, in his book *COLORADO TERRITORIAL AND PRE-TERRITORIAL POSTMARKS*, the oval handstamp THE CENTRAL OVERLAND CALIFORNIA/ & PIKES PEAK/ EXPRESS COMPANY/ DENVER CITY K.T. (Type I above) was in use during the 1860-1861 period. The earliest recorded use was May 31, 1860 and the latest September 12, 1861.



TYPE I



TYPE II

The handstamp illustrated above as Type II appears on the reverse of a three cent pink Nesbitt envelope of the 1861 series. This newly discovered handstamp, according to Jarrett, "was made from a different handstamp device and is not a modification of the 'Californi' DENVER CITK K.T. marking since that device survives at the Colorado Historical Society."

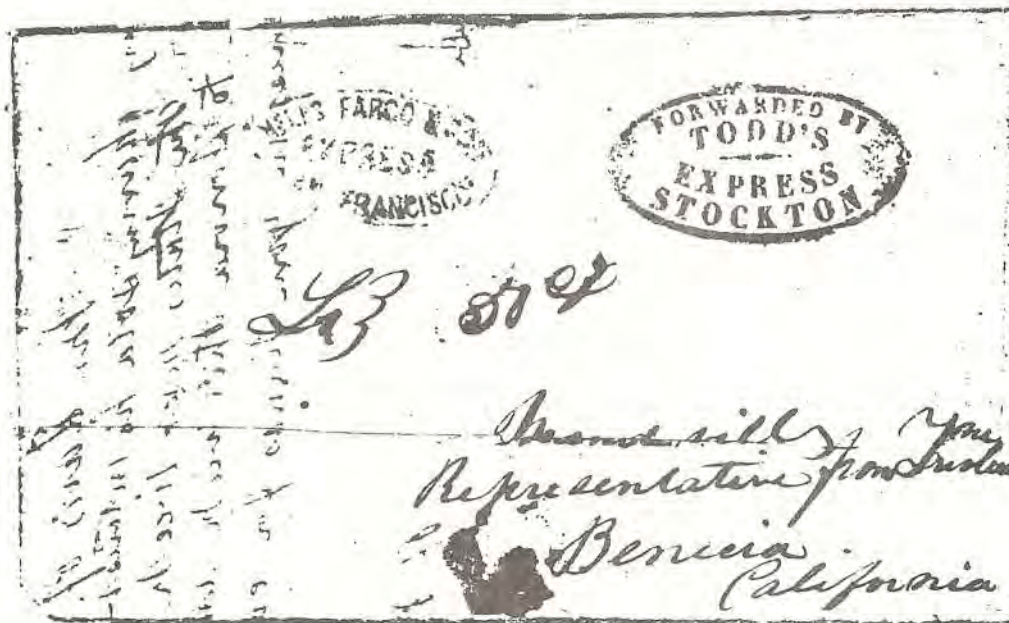
The main difference between the two markings is that in type II the word CALIFORNIA is spelled with the A and the town is apparently DENVER C.T. and NOT DENVER CITY K.T. Although the marking has been faintly struck, the letter before the C.T. is the R of the word DENVER which is followed by a period. This spacing arrangement, along with the added A to CALIFORNIA, would not permit the word CITY, which apparently was dropped.

The enclosure with the envelope was written at Central City, Colorado Territory on November 10, 1861. It was apparently carried by the C.O.C. & P.P. Express Company to Atchison, Kansas where it entered the U.S. mails as per postmark "Nov. 18, 1861"—just 67 days after the latest known usage of the DENVER CITY K.T. marking (Type I). In the letter the writer mentions the C.O.C. & P.P. Express office as being near by and describes the burning of Nevada City: "We have had a very destructive fire in Nevada City, the fire originated in the Pineries on head of fall river and from thence it extended to the hill on North side of Nevada Gulch. It caught in the heart of the Town and burnt every house except two on North side of Nevada Gulch — that is from two buildings above Morton's Hall down to nearly the mouth of the Gulch. It also burnt up 65,000 or 70,000 feet of Lumber for you. The fire then run over towards Eureka Gulch and down 'Capital Hill' nearly to Central City. The fire fell like rain in Central City for about three hours. Every person thought that our town would burn."

The writer will be pleased to hear from anyone who might have similar markings of both Type I and II with dates of usage. (4801 Upper Terrace, Edina, Minnesota 55435.)

THE OLD GRAY COVER —  
SHE AIN'T WHAT SHE USED TO BE!

By George Jay Kramer



The above folded letter is clearly the earliest dated cover to have been carried by Wells Fargo & Co. — May 10, 1852.

Question: Is it the earliest Wells Fargo & Co. cover?

Printed articles have sporadically appeared for at least 56 years as to its pros and cons.

The problem: Wells Fargo & Co. records show incorporation to be March 18, 1852. Its alleged first western agent, Samuel P. Carter, arrived in San Francisco on the *Oregon* June 27, 1852. Wells Fargo & Co.'s alleged agent, Reuben W. Washburn, arrived in San Francisco on the *Tennessee* July 10, 1852 and issued its first exchange on July 13, 1852. And yet, the dateline is unquestionably May 10, 1852.

C. A. Todd operated his express between Stockton and the southern mines to San Francisco from April 27, 1852—until he was bought out by Wells, Fargo & Co., September 1, 1853. Therefore, he could theoretically have carried this cover in 1852 or 1853. He did carry this cover from Stockton to the Wells, Fargo & Co. office in San Francisco. They, in turn, carried it to James W. Mandville, Toulume County Assemblyman, in Benicia.

In 1928, William R. Parker maintained that Wells, Fargo & Co. admitted an office had been established on Montgomery Street, San Francisco March 18, 1852. Present bank officials deny this statement. Mr. Parker most certainly was referring to Wells and Co., which had an office on the corner of Clay and Montgomery Streets. This company was owned by Thomas Wells — no relation to Henry Wells and William Fargo.

A *Stamps* magazine article of December, 1965 written by A. Jay Hertz, states the date of March 18, 1852 is mentioned in the District Court of the Third Judicial District of Washington Territory at New Tacoma: *Wells, Fargo & Co. vs. The Northern Pacific Railroad Co.* He cited the same incorporation date in the case of *Wells Fargo & Co. vs. Oregon and California Railroad Co.* as well as *Wells, Fargo & Co. vs. Railway and Navigation Co.* However, Mr. Hertz neglected to mention that these cases were of 1883-1884 and the incorporation date was normal introductory testimony. Moreover, the incorporation occurred in New York State. As a steamer took approximately one month, Samuel Carter did not leave the east until the end of May, 1852.

THE OLD GRAYCOVER (Continued)

*Stockton May 18 1852*

*Dear Sir*

*Mr Davis of the Fort Washington  
Company having sold his interest in his claim will  
leave for the States next week he wishes for you  
to return to Sonoma this week as he wishes to leave  
his business in your hands for collection*

*Yours respectfully*

*J Norman  
of Brown, Clark*

Colville's San Francisco Directory 1856 stated:  
"Wells Fargo & Co.—established business in Cali-  
fornia, July 13, 1852."

A recent scrutiny of the California Blue Book  
Legislative Manual or State Roster April, 1924 by  
Robert J. Chandler revealed the following:

1) The state legislature first met at Benicia from  
February 4, 1853 - May 19, 1853.

2) The addressee, James W. Mandville, demo-  
cratic assembly representative first came to the  
Legislature in 1853.

This writer would conclude that the sender of  
the letter erred in marking the year date 1852, and  
thus, this, the earliest dated cover, can no longer  
be considered the earliest Wells, Fargo & Co. cover.

WELLS FARGO & CO.'S CALI-  
FORNIA EXPRESS—  
Capital \$900,000.  
New York.

This Company, having completed its organization,  
as above, is now ready to undertake a general EX-  
PRESS FORWARDING, AGENCY AND COM-  
MISSION BUSINESS; the purchase and sale of  
Gold-dust, Bullion and Bills of Exchange; the Pay-  
ment and Collection of Notes, Bills and Accounts; the  
Forwarding of Gold-dust, Bullion and Specie; also,  
Packages, Parcels, and Freights of all descriptions,  
in and between the city of New York and the city of  
San Francisco, and the principal cities and towns in  
California; connecting at New York with HARRDEN'S  
Express for Philadelphia and the South.

All FREIGHT for our EXPRESS from Philadel-  
phia, should be left at Harnden's Express Office, Nos.  
41 and 43 South THIRD Street.

We have established OFFICES and faithful Agents,  
in all the principal cities and towns throughout the  
Eastern, Middle and Western States, and California;  
energetic and faithful Messengers, furnished with iron  
chests for the security of treasure, and other valuable  
packages, accompanying each Express upon all our  
lines, as well in California as in the Atlantic States.  
Our Express is sent by every MAIL STEAMER, in  
charge of one of our own faithful Messengers, through  
to destination, going and coming with the regularity  
of the United States Mail.

Shippers will bear in mind the fact, that by a special  
arrangement with the Pacific Mail Steamship Co., our  
Express Freight takes precedence of all other, thereby  
avoiding the risk of detention on the Isthmus.

All Packages must be made Water Proof, and not  
exceed 125 lbs. weight, or 54 cubic feet measurement.

SAMUEL P. CARTER, for many years connected  
with the American Express Company, at Albany, and  
E. W. WARREN, late of the Bank of Syracuse,  
have been appointed principal Agents in California.

WELLS FARGO & CO.  
No. 16 Wall St., New York.

JeCa 1m1

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**Better WELLS FARGO EXPRESS Covers**

Especially desire covers from small mining towns of the Western States — California, Arizona, Nevada, Idaho, etc. — bearing Wells Fargo Company cancellations such as UNIONTOWN H.B., BEAR VALLEY, OPHIR, YANKEE JIMS, etc.

I will pay top price for covers that I can use. If I feel that your asking price is LOW in relation to a cover's value to me, I will let you know accordingly so that we may reach an accommodation that is optimally beneficial to you in all respects. I am able to furnish excellent philatelic references should you so desire.

Please send a DESCRIPTION (or Xerox/photograph) of any cover(s) that you consider appropriate, priced as you desire, and I will be happy to reply as quickly as practical. PLEASE DO NOT SEND THE ACTUAL COVERS themselves on initial contact.

**IN ADDITION**

I am also interested in covers of LANGTON'S EXPRESS (Langton's Pioneer Express, Langton & Bros. Express, etc.), PACIFIC EXPRESS and ADAMS EXPRESS. Again, as above, I especially desire covers with appropriate express company cancellations from the small mining towns, such as MONTE CRISTO, TIMBUCTOO, DOTANS BAR, CHEROKEE, MONTEZUMA, COOKS BAR, etc.

May I please hear from interested individuals pertaining to the above — and thank you for your consideration of same.

**JIM BLAINE**

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