

## GREIG'S CITY DISPATCH

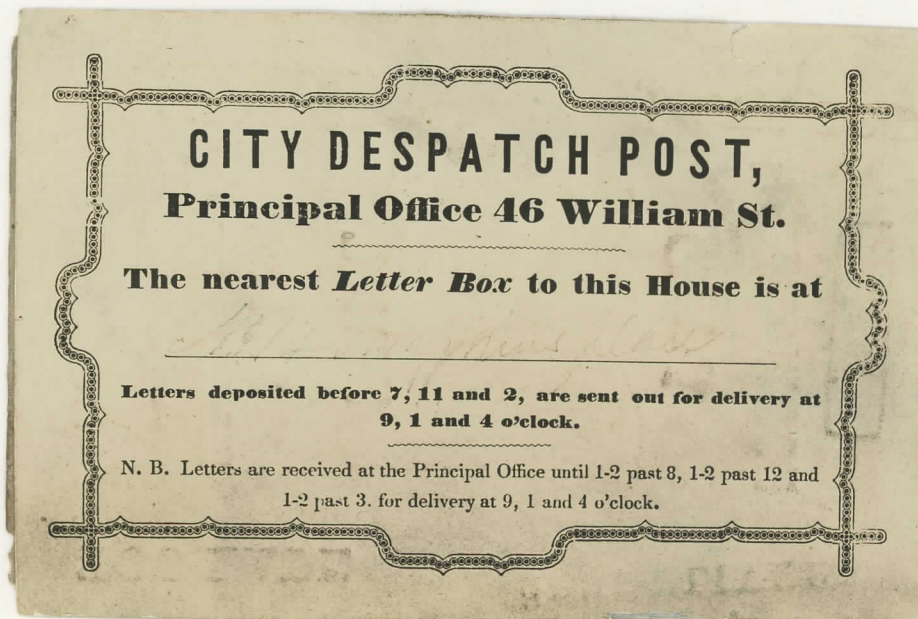
The New York Penny Post had not thrived because collect mail was often undeliverable or refused. The prepaid mail alternative was not convenient to the sender who had to take his letters to the Penny Post office on Canal Street. In late 1841, British-born Alexander Greig and Henry Windsor bought the Penny Post. Their idea, undoubtedly based upon Rowland Hill's Penny Black, was to use an adhesive stamp to make prepaid mail more convenient.



Matthew Brady photograph  
of Alexander Greig

Original business card for  
City Despatch Post

(both pieces illustrated in  
Henry Needhams's 1917  
article "City Post, NY City"  
in The Philatelic Gazette)



## NEW-YORK CITY DESPATCH POST.

**Principal Office, 46 William Street.**

THE necessity of a medium of communication by letter from one part of the City to another, being universally admitted, and the Penny Post, lately existing, having been relinquished, the opportunity has been embraced to re-organize it under an entirely new proprietary and management, and upon a much more comprehensive basis, by which DESPATCH, PUNCTUALITY, and SECURITY, — those essential elements of success, — may at once be attained, and the inconvenience now experienced be entirely removed.

The Proprietors of the "City Despatch Post" enter upon the undertaking with an earnest impression of its responsibilities, and with a full determination so to perform the required duties as to merit the confidence and support of their fellow-citizens. They have engaged the most efficient and trustworthy Assistants and Letter Carriers, and no expense will be spared to bring the whole advantage of a well considered system into active operation.

The following is a brief outline of the plan.

### BRANCH OFFICES.

Letter Boxes are placed throughout every part of the City in conspicuous places; and all letters deposited therein, not exceeding two ounces in weight, will be punctually delivered three times a day, at 9, 1, and 4 o'clock, at three cents each: option being given, either to free the letter, in the manner shown in the following regulations, or leave the postage to be collected of the party to whom the letter is addressed.

### POST-PAID LETTERS.

Letters which the writers desire to send free, must have a free stamp affixed to them. An ornamental stamp has been prepared for this purpose, and may be procured at the Principal Office as above, or at those stores which will be advertised in the daily papers as having authority to sell them. The charge will be 36 cents per dozen, or \$2 50 per hundred: the reduction of price for the larger quantity being made with a view to the accommodation of those parties sending a considerable number of circulars, accounts, &c. Parcels not exceeding 1 lb. in weight will be charged a proportionate rate.

### ➔ **NO MONEY MUST BE PUT INTO THE BOXES.**

ALL LETTERS INTENDED TO BE SENT FORWARD TO THE GENERAL POST-OFFICE FOR THE INLAND MAILS, MUST HAVE A FREE STAMP AFFIXED TO THEM.

LETTERS AND NEWSPAPERS ADDRESSED TO THE EDITORS OF THE PUBLIC PRESS, WILL BE DELIVERED FREE.

### UNPAID LETTERS.

Letters not having a free stamp, will be charged three cents, payable by the party to whom they are addressed, on delivery.

### REGISTRY AND DESPATCH.

A Registry will be kept for Letters which it may be wished to place under special charge. Free stamps must be affixed to such Letters for the ordinary postage, and three cents additional be paid, (or an additional free stamp be affixed,) for the Registration: but all such Letters must be specially deposited at the Principal Office.

A special "Despatch" will be expedited with any Letter or Packet, not exceeding one pound in weight, (to an address within the limits,) at 12½ cents a mile, upon application at the Principal Office.

The advantages offered by this undertaking are,

**FIRST.** The secure and prompt transmission of all Registered Letters containing any special notice or matter by which means legal evidence may be obtained of the due delivery of the same; and the immediate despatch of any letter or small package requiring instant delivery.

**SECONDLY.** The certain and expeditious delivery of MERCANTILE LETTERS and CIRCULARS, of INVITATIONS and REPLIES, (either under free stamp or unpaid,) and every description of COMMERCIAL, PROFESSIONAL, and SOCIAL Correspondence; thus bringing the most distant parts of the City in effect near to each other, and providing the means of constant intercourse at a very moderate charge.

ALEXANDER M. GREIG, AGENT.

### STRONGLY RECOMMENDED BY

Messrs. PRIME, WARD & KING,  
*Provided it does not infringe the Post-Office Act.*  
J. W. & R. LEAVITT.  
MOSES TAYLOR.  
J. PRESCOTT HALL.  
E. K. COLLINS & Co.  
HALL BROTHERS.  
W. G. BULL & Co.  
AUSTEN, WILMERDING & Co.  
BROWN, BROTHERS & Co.

Messrs. GOODHUE & Co.  
JAMES Mc CALL & Co.  
JNO. J. PALMER,  
President Merchants' Bank.  
JNO. HAGGERTY & SONS.  
CRIPPS & Co.  
SMITH, THURGAR & Co.  
WADSWORTH & SMITH.  
ADAMS, PETRIE & Co.  
D. C. & W. PELL & Co.  
W. C. PICKERSGILL & Co.

Messrs. JOHN J. AUDUBON, F. R. S. S.  
of London and Edinburgh, &c. &c.  
L. M. HOFFMAN & Co.  
W. F. & F. C. HAVEMEYER, Jr.  
BELKNAP & DURFEE.  
WARREN & BRINTNALL.  
E. D. MORGAN.  
MORRIS EARLE.  
YOUNGS, RITER & Co.  
JOHN JOHNSON'S SON.  
SPOFFORD, TILESTON & Co.

➔ **The Limits of the Despatch Post will extend to Twenty-First-street.**

## GREIG'S CITY DESPATCH

Reprinted Die Proof

Printed in about 1935



George Sloane purchased the cracked die from a descendant of Alexander Grieg. He printed an unknown number of proofs showing the die crack across Washington's head.

GREIG'S CITY DESPATCH

March and April 1842 Collect Usages

31½ mm Datestamp with N.Y. Upright



18 March 1842

Carmine-red datestamp



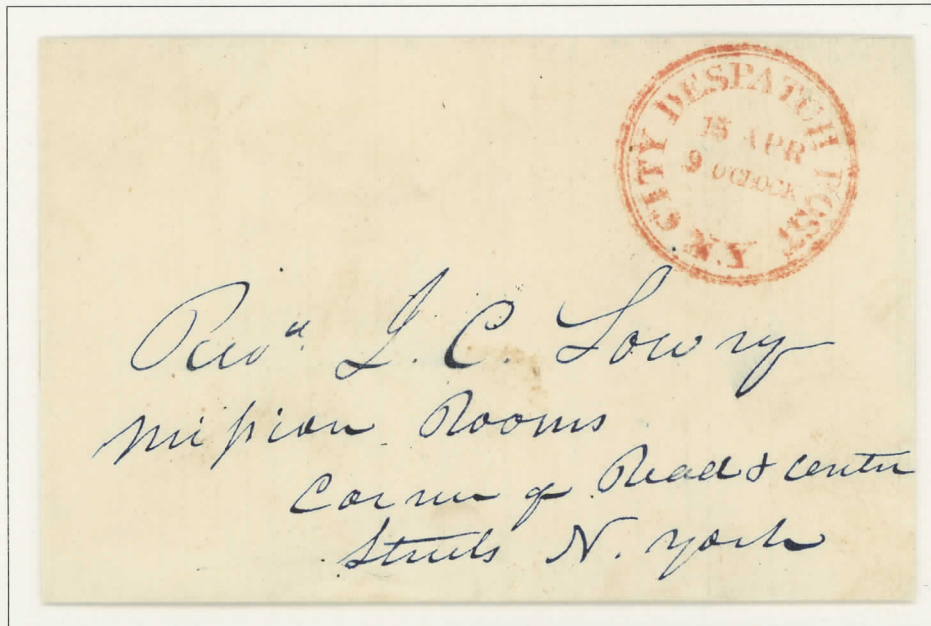
4 April 1842

Carmine-red datestamp

GREIG'S CITY DESPATCH

April and May Collect Usages

Orange-red Datestamp



15 April 1842

Earlier than recorded for orange-red ink



31 May 1842 – carried privately from Troy New York

Orange-red datestamp

Howard's Hotel had a collection box for customers and was a depository for out of town mail carried privately into New York. The hotel used a blue oval handstamp.

**GREIG'S CITY DESPATCH**

**June 1842 Usages**

**Prepaid and Collect Usages**



Small boxed FREE device was usual cancel from late February until August 1842



13 June 1842 ("J" of JUNE missing)

Octagonal boxed FREE ties stamp



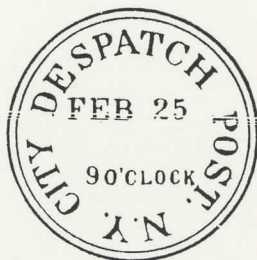
June 23, 1842

Day after month in device

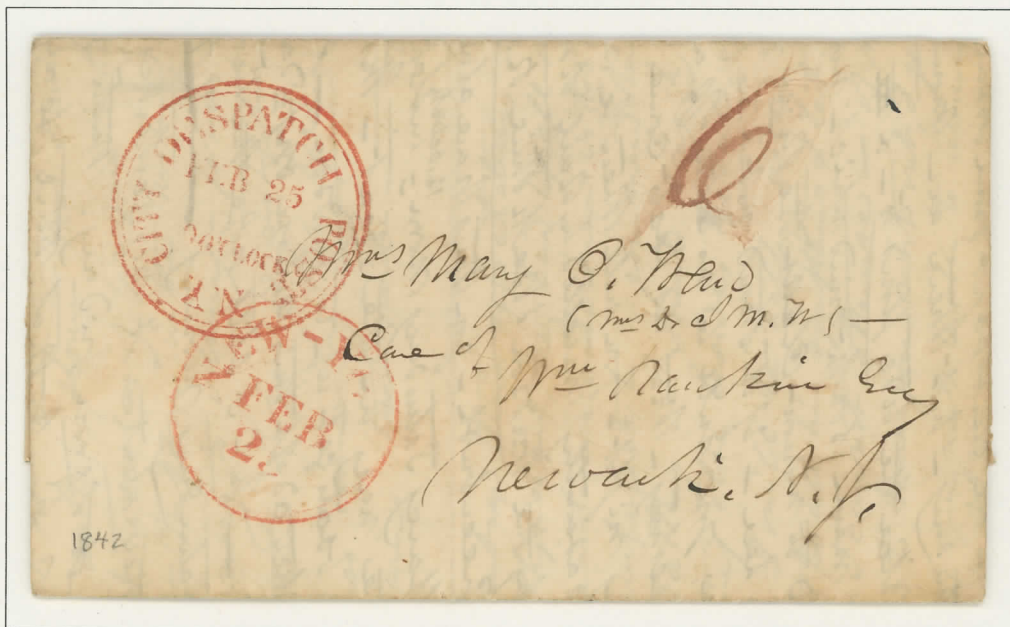
# GREIG'S CITY DESPATCH

First Month

First Datestamp



34 mm datestamp with NY inverted at bottom was withdrawn in late February 1842. Below cover is the latest known usage.



25 Feb 1842 – To the mails usage – 6 cents collected from addressee in Newark

To the mails usages required prepayment of the three cents City Despatch local postage. Greig did not use a paid handstamp on covers prepaid in cash, probably because it might be confused with the collect post office charge. 6 cents was the government postal charge for less than 30 miles.