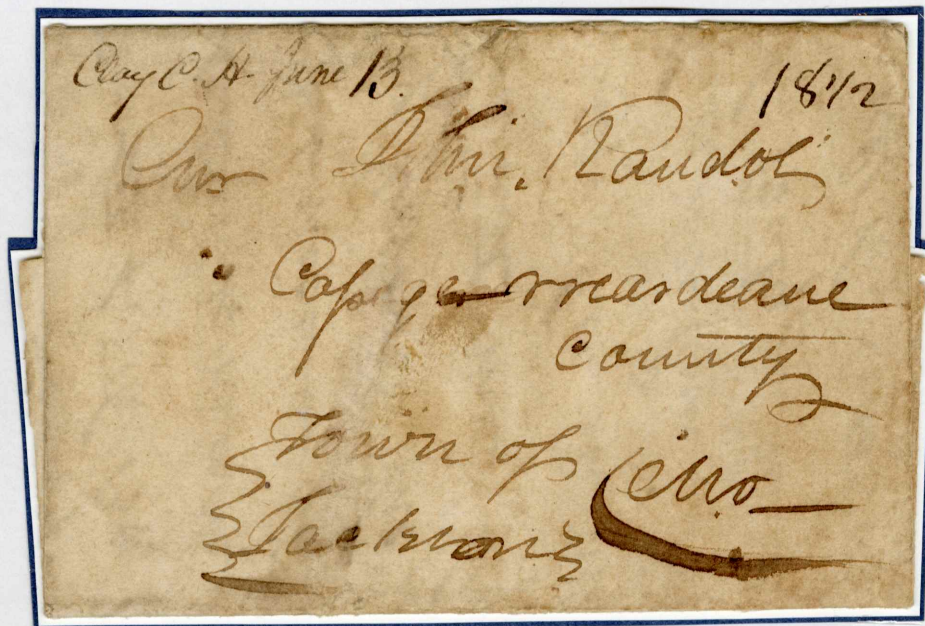


LIBERTY

CLAY COURT HOUSE

1824



Clay County, Missouri, was organized in 1822. The county seat of the new county and was initially called Clay Court House. The post office, which was also established in 1822, used that designation in its townmark during its first four years of existence, although the name "Liberty" was in common use at least from 1823.

Prior to the Platte Purchase, which extended the western border of Missouri to the Missouri River, Liberty was the principal settlement on the border of Unorganized Territory and north of the great bend of the Missouri River. A considerable amount of mail from the West was carried privately or by military express for entry into the mails at Liberty.

This is one of two recorded covers bearing the Clay Court House manuscript townmark in private hands.

LIBERTY

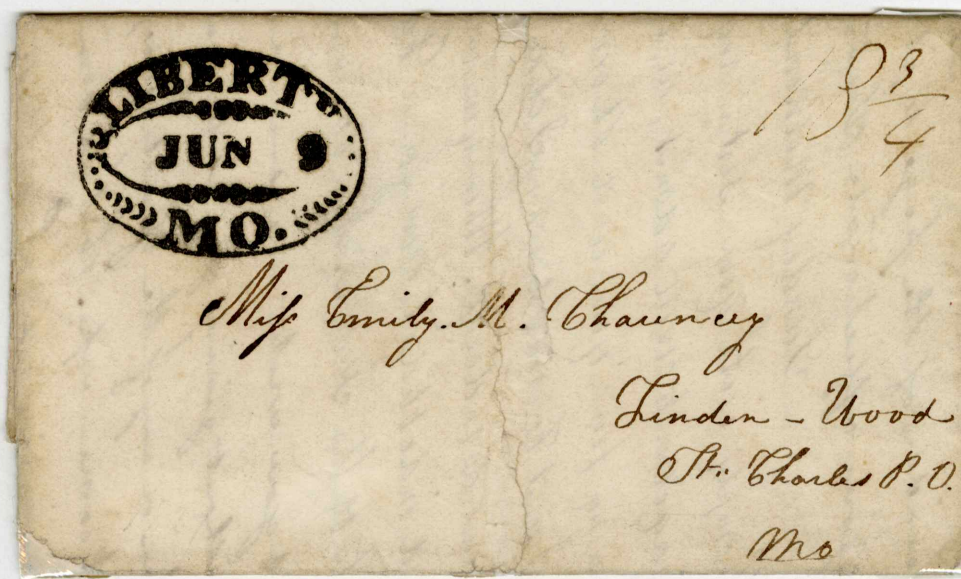
MANUSCRIPT TOWNMARK

1831

Ann Pepper or 25
Maryann Reed
Urbana Ohio. Champaign
County
Liberty Mo
Oct 15 1831

LIBERTY

FIRST HANDSTAMP TOWN MARK



This fancy oval was used from 1834 to 1837. It is usually struck in black, though two examples are known struck in red.

LIBERTY

SECOND HANDSTAMP TOWNMARK



Mr. S. B. Green

Parrit Monrow County



B

Miss Emily M. Chauncey

Gilead

Calhoun County

Ills



FREE

Hon. Thos. Butler King

St. Representatives

Washington

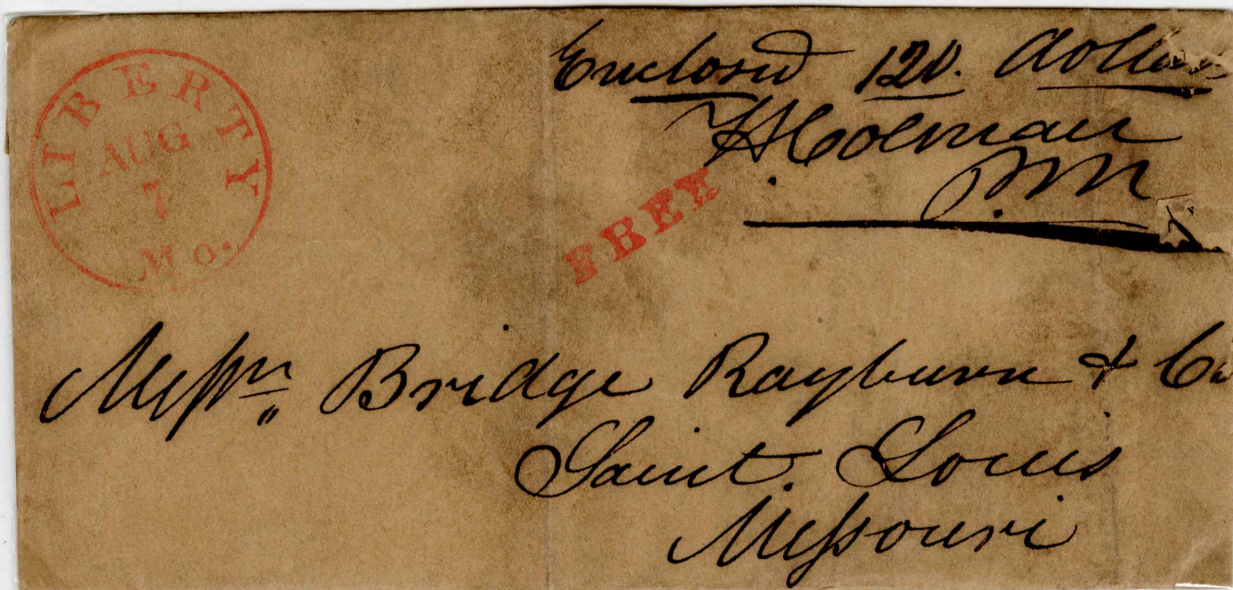
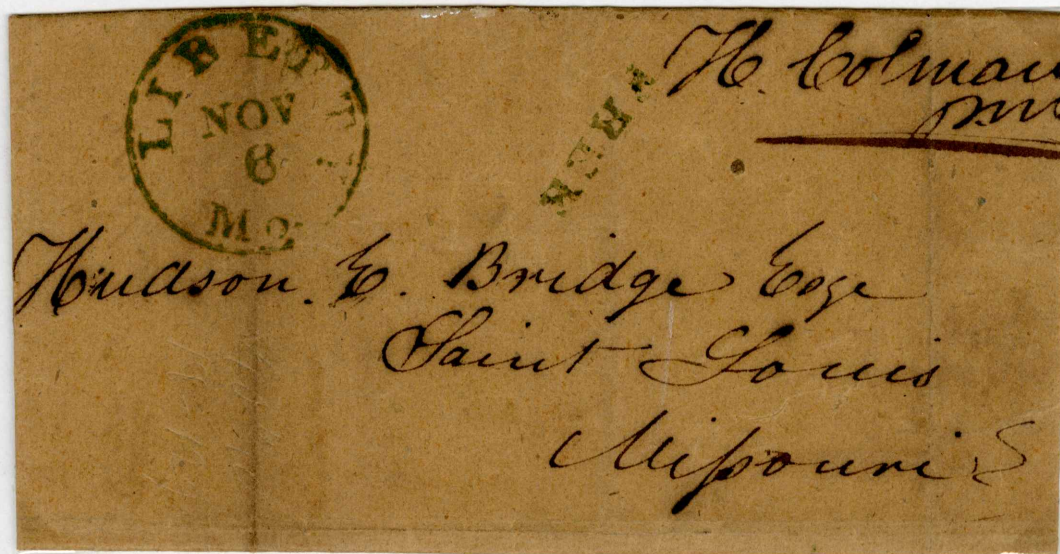
D.C.

The second handstamped townmark is struck in red, black and green.

LIBERTY

HENRY COLEMAN

POSTMASTER



Henry Coleman was postmaster at Liberty from 1837 to 1846. These covers, franked by him as postmaster in 1844 (top) and 1842 (bottom), illustrate his use of the frank in his private business.

L I B E R T Y

C L A Y S E M I N A R Y

1 8 6 4



The only recorded example of this handstruck Clay Seminary corner card.

The Liberty postmaster was apparently unaware that the postage rate to California (and throughout the United States) had been reduced to 3 cents the year before this cover was mailed. Carried over the California Trail during the uprisings of the plains Indians in 1864.