

NEW YORK CITY
POSTMASTER PROVISIONAL



Here, two five cent stamps prepay the ten cent over-300 miles rate from New York City to Circleville, Ohio. Throughout the life of these stamps the New York clerks struck the red arc PAID marking on mail leaving town to notify receiving postmasters, who might not know the function of the stamps, that the rate had been paid.

The stamps are cancelled with the distinctive red square grid that was continued in use after the 1847 U.S. postage stamps made their appearance.

NEW YORK CITY POSTMASTER PROVISIONAL

In 1845 the Postmaster General began authorizing selected postmasters on the east coast to issue their own stamps for local use. He believed that such authority did not require the approval of Congress, as the production of national postage stamps would. At least in the case of New York City this also appears to have been a test of the idea of using postage stamps rather than relying on individual postal markings to indicate the postal rate on each cover mailed. New York was the first city to prepare and use a postmaster provisional stamp.

Robert Morris, the city's postmaster, selected Rawdon, Wright, Hatch & Edson, which had some previous experience in the production of stamps and the added advantage of being located in the city, to engrave and print the five cent stamp.



This is the third pre-1847 stamp produced by the firm of Rawdon, Wright, Hatch & Edson. Its normal practice in producing the early stamps was to select a die made for its banknote business and convert this to the central vignette of the stamp.

This cover is dated 4 February 1847 and bears the New York City square grid purchased by Morris specifically to cancel this stamp, and which was later used to cancel 1847 stamps entering the mail at New York City.

The following two pages show banknotes produced by Rawdon, Wright which contain the separate George Washington engraving used as the stamp vignette, as well as the completed stamp.

REGENCY PHILATELIC AUCTIONS, LTD.

Lot 2

USA
(9X1F) 1845 NEW YORK 5c BLACK, SPERATI FORGERY DIE
September 2000 s230831

INVOICE

LTD.

SMAN

54

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D PRICE

0.00

2.00

2.39

3.00

REPRODUCTION INTERDITE



Jean de J...

NEW YORK POSTMASTER PROVISIONAL

THE DESIGN



Morris employed the engraver of the City Dispatch Post stamps, Rawdon, Wright & Hatch, to design and print the New York stamps. The central vignette was a bust of Washington that existed as a stock die used by the engraving firm in the production of bank notes.

The stamp shown here is position 29, unused with original gum and bearing the authenticating initials ACM with AC joined.

NEW YORK POSTMASTER PROVISIONAL

RAWDON, WRIGHT, HATCH & EDSON

Memphis, No. 1075, 1st August 1857.

The **FARMERS AND MERCHANTS BANK** OF MEMPHIS, TENN.

Will pay **THREE DOLLARS** on demand to the bearer at their Banking House.

W. Clark Cash, J. M. Cook Pres.

Bank of Wright, Hatch & Edson, New York.

STATE OF GEORGIA, No. 50, 18.

OF THE **Bank of Augusta**, Promise to pay **Fifty Dollars** on demand to the bearer. August 18.

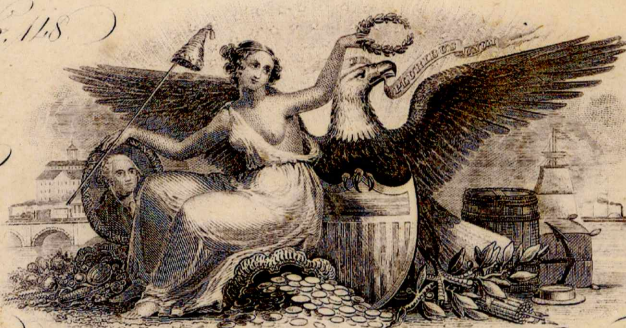
Cash, Pres.

Bank of Wright, Hatch & Edson, New York.



No. 118

Main St.



Randolph, Wright, Hatch & Edson

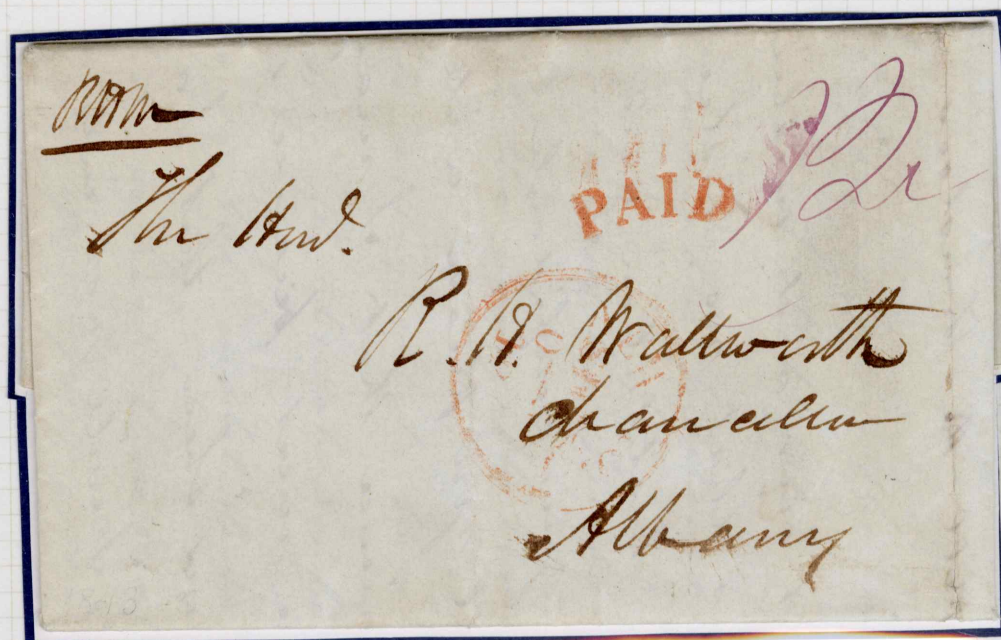
Bank Note **ENCRAVERS** and Printers
South East corner of 1st & Main Streets
Cincinnati Ohio July 1st 1851.
Geo. T. Jones Agent



ROBERT H. MORRIS

MAYOR

NEW YORK CITY



This letter, dated October 12, 1843, is to Chancellor R. H. Walworth. It is from Robert H. Morris, who was then the Mayor of the city. It concerns his perceived conflict of interest in naming any Trustee of the Sailors Snug Harbor to also be an officer of that organization, since the Trustees "are intended as Watchers and Inspectors over all the business proceedings of the institution: If the Trustees are appointed Officers, the vigilance of such Trustees is lost: their personal interest as officers must destroy their vigilance as Trustees."

Although the letter is marked "Private" Morris has written his name on the face of the address leaf to notify the Chancellor who it is from and has prepaid the postage, indicating that it is not being sent as official mail of the Mayor.

POST OFFICE,

New York,

1847

Mr
Brookfield
Vermont -

Dear Sir

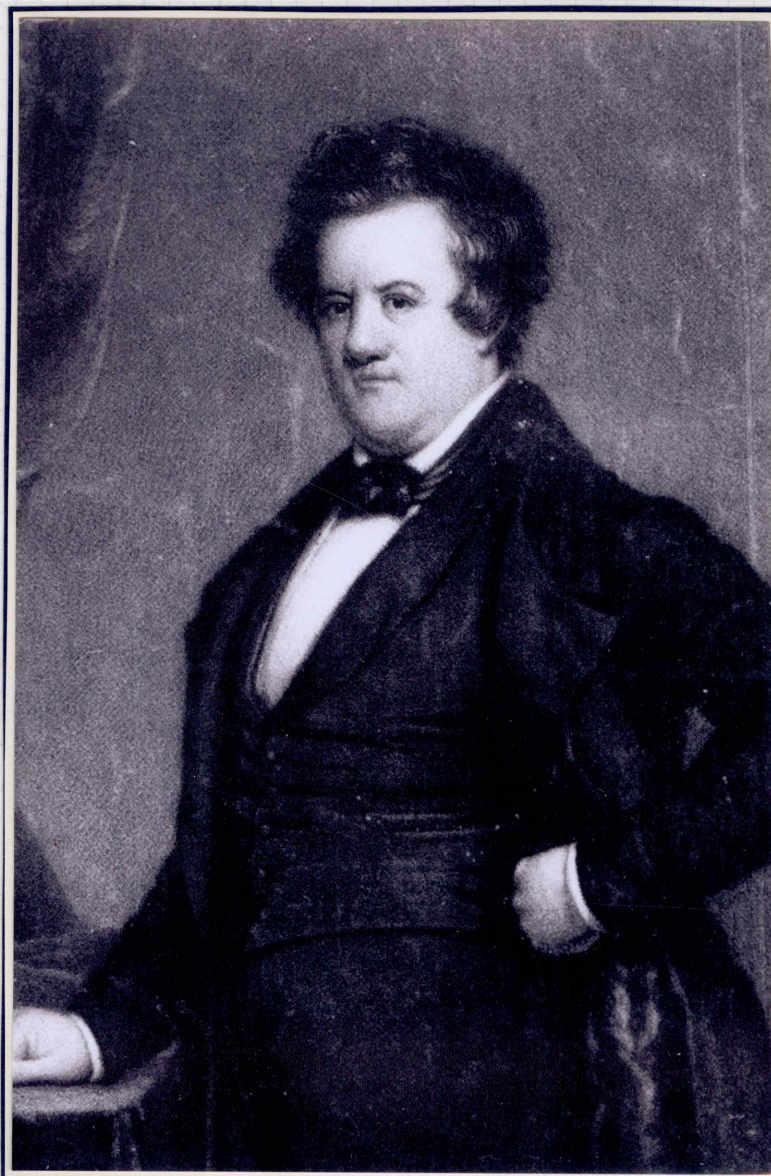
Please inform me
by return mail whether there
is a letter in your office
addressed to "Mrs Louisa B
Foot"; said to have been
mailed at this office about
the 29th Jan -

If such letter is found
you will oblige the writer
by directing it to West
Brookfield, Mass

Yrs
Wm Morris

Wm Morris

ROBERT H. MORRIS



An attorney, Morris (1802-1855) became the mayor of New York City for three successive one year terms, from 1841 through 1843. He was appointed postmaster of the city in 1845 by President James K. Polk and held that office until being replaced by a new President, Zachary Taylor.

Morris arranged for and issued the New York Postmaster Provisional stamp, as well as its predecessor, the New York Postmaster Provisional envelope. He also received the first of the 1847 postage stamps from the Third Assistant Postmaster General John Marron, who delivered them personally to Morris on July 1, 1847.

He was the postmaster of the most important city in the Union and in effect became an unofficial Assistant Postmaster General for the New England area.

New York March 20. 1847

J. W. Brown, Esq

Assistant P.M. General,
Darius,

We beg to submit for
your approval, the enclosed designs, which we have
prepared for the New Stamps for the Post Office
Department -

In accordance with your suggestion
we have substituted the Head of Franklin for that
of Gen. Jackson, ^{which} ~~as~~ ^{our} Mr. Rawdon was required
to use by the Post Master General; should the
P.M.G. still desire the Head of Jackson, it can
be used -

These designs being mere sketches in
India ink and pencil, do not of course appear
as perfect as they will do when engraved,

In order that there may be no delay
in getting the stamps ready for use, in case of
their adoption, we are now executing Steel
Dies after these designs, which will be finished as
early as is consistent with their being done in the
most perfect manner.

Very Respectfully Sir
Your Obedt. servants
Rawdon Wright Hatch & Edson

NEW YORK CITY

1845

POSTAL RATES

ROBERT H. MORRIS, POSTMASTER

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NEW YORK POST OFFICE.

1845

ROBERT H. MORRIS, POSTMASTER.

Location.

The Post Office is situated in Nassau Street, extending from Liberty to Cedar. Entrance from Cedar and Nassau Streets. Mails received and delivered on Liberty Street.

The Branch Office is situated at the corner of East Broadway and Chatham Square.

Office Hours.

From 8 A. M. to 7 P. M.

SUNDAY.

From 9 to 10 A. M., and from 12½ to 1½ P. M.

Rates of Postage.

LETTERS.

Single Letters, 300 miles or under,	5 cents.	Over 300 miles,	10 cents.
Double " " " "	10 " "	" " " "	20 " "
Treble " " " "	15 " "	" " " "	30 " "
Quadruple " " " "	20 " "	" " " "	40 " "

Drop Letters for delivery only, 2 cents.

Advertised Letters to be charged with the cost of advertising the same, 4 cents each, in addition to the regular postage.

PRINTED MATTER.

All Newspapers of the size of 1900 square inches or less, may be sent by the Editors or Publishers thereof, to all subscribers or other persons within 30 miles from the place of printing, free of postage.

Newspapers of the size aforesaid, sent beyond 30 miles from the place of printing, and not more than 100 miles, 1 cent each—over 100 miles, 1½ cents each. Within the State where published, any distance, 1 cent.

The Annual Revenue for each year, at the port of New York, since 1830, and the Annual Value of Imports for the same period.

YEAR.	DUTIES ACCRUED.	VALUE OF IMPORTS.
1830.....	\$15,012,553 29.....	\$38,656,064
1831.....	20,096,136 60.....	57,291,727
1832.....	15,070,124 30.....	50,995,924
1833.....	13,039,181 18.....	60,944,044
1834.....	10,183,152 64.....	76,875,365
1835.....	14,468,116 04.....	89,304,108
1836.....	17,114,305 22.....	118,886,194
1837.....	9,487,598 60.....	68,374,558
1838.....	10,494,055 34.....	77,214,729
1839.....	13,970,332 99.....	97,078,687
1840.....	7,557,441 36.....	56,845,924
1841.....	10,802,119 47.....	75,268,015
1842.....	10,013,122 87.....	52,415,555
1843.....	11,300,407 76.....	50,308,526
1844.....	21,318,408 33.....	75,778,295
1845.....	18,155,733 62.....	69,083,740

Court of General Sessions of the Peace in and for the City and
County of New York.

Hon. Frederick A. Tallmadge, *Recorder of the City of New York and
the presiding Judge of said Court.*

Terms,—1st Monday in each month. By the Recorder, with two Aldermen.

John M'Keon, *District Attorney.*
Henry Vandervoort, *Clerk.*
Alfred A. Phillips, *Deputy Clerk.*

Court of Special Sessions of the Peace in and for the City and
County of New York.

Held Thursdays and Fridays, at 9 o'clock, A. M. By the Recorder and two Aldermen, without a jury.

Henry Vandervoort, *Clerk.*

Superior Court.

Hon. Samuel Jones, *Chief Justice.*
Thomas J. Oakley, } *Associate Justices.*
Aaron Vanderpool, }
Jesse Oakley, *Clerk.*
Michael Weyant, } *Deputy Clerks.*
Geo. T. Maxwell, }
Leonard G. Hoffman, *Crier.*

First Monday of each month—continues four weeks.

Common Pleas.

Hon. Michael Ulshoeffer, *First Judge.*
Daniel P. Ingraham, } *Associate Judges.*
Charles P. Daly, }
James Conner, *Clerk.*

Third Monday of each month—continues four weeks.

Marine Court.

Thomas J. Smith, } *Justices.*
William D. Waterman, }
Nelson J. Waterbury, }
Abraham Asten, *Clerk.*

Every day except Sundays.

Loan Commissioners.

Prosper M. Wetmore,
Nathaniel Jarvis.

United States Court,

Southern District of New York, comprising the following Counties :—
Columbia, Dutchess, Greene, Kings, New York, Orange, Putnam, Queens,
Richmond, Rockland, Suffolk, Sullivan, Ulster, and Westchester.

OFFICERS OF THE COURT.

Samuel Nelson, *Associate Justice of U. S. Supreme Court, and
Judge of the Circuit Court.*

Samuel R. Betts, *Judge of the District Court.*

Alexander Gardiner, *Clerk of the Circuit Court.*

James W. Metcalf, *Clerk of the District Court.*

Benjamin F. Butler, *U. S. District Attorney.*

Ely Moore, *U. S. Marshal.*

COMMISSIONERS.

James W. Metcalf,
George W. Morton,
John Nelson,
Alexander Gardiner,
David L. Gardiner.

U. S. COMMISSIONERS TO TAKE AFFIDAVITS, DEPOSITIONS, BAIL, ETC.

The Clerks of the Circuit and District Courts, and their Chief Deputies, are Commissioners ex officio for the City and County of New York ; and the County Clerks of the remaining Counties, comprising the Southern District of New York, are Commissioners ex officio for those Counties.

Court Terms.**U. S. CIRCUIT COURT.**

Equity and Criminal Terms, last Monday in February and July.

General Terms, first Monday in April, and last Monday in November.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT.

General Terms, first Tuesday in each month.

Special Court, every Tuesday.

County Clerk's Office.

James Conner, *County Clerk.*—Residence, 92 Grand st.

Alexander H. Robertson, *Deputy do.* do. 59 Vestry st.

Wm. N. Cook, *Clerk.*

James Nack, *Searcher*,.....do. 229 Church-st.

ROBERT H. MORRIS

POSTMASTER

NEW YORK CITY

POST OFFICE,

New-York, Dec. 24 — 1845

Mr. Fairbanks Esq.

so wall St

Genl.

In answer to
your note of the 18th inst. I have
to inform you that a mail is
made up from this office to
St. Johnsbury, Vt., direct, and
sent in a pouch labelled Manchester
Map - via New Haven & Hartford.
I have written to the P.M. at
St. Johnsbury requesting his opinion
as to the best way of sending his
mail -

Respy. Yours

R. H. Morris

ROBERT H. MORRIS

POSTMASTER

NEW YORK CITY

attended to

POST OFFICE,

New-York,

Jan 29 1846

To the Editor of the *New England Farmer*

Sir,

Boston

Agreeably to the order of the Postmaster General, you

are hereby informed, that the paper addressed to

*112 page Sam Leonard and
Saml. F. Leonard*

is not taken out of this Office.

Yours, Respectfully,

ROBERT H. MORRIS, P. M.

*Reason, Mr Callen
Residence Mr Brown*

New York American. Deud


A January 29, 1846 letter from Postmaster Morris (but not signed by him except in type) to the publisher of the *New England Farmer* that one of its subscribers has not called for the paper and that his current address is unknown.

ROBERT H. MORRIS

POSTMASTER

NEW YORK CITY

*For Post Office copy
R. H. Morris
Postmaster
Pompton
N. J.*



A letter, dated April 12, 1848, to the postmaster at Pompton, New Jersey. Morris says he cannot announce that the Pompton post office has been discontinued on the postmaster's word; he must be informed of that fact by the Department in Washington. The full letter is shown on the next page.

Post Office
City of New York
April 12th 1848

James Lockson Esq
Post Master. Pompton
Morris Co. N. J.

Dear Sir

Yours of the 11th inst stating that
the Post office at Pompton and works
is red.

It will not answer for me to
act as though that office was disbanded
until the Department at Washington in-
form me so.

I will write to Washington upon
the Subject this afternoon.

Truly yours
P. W. North
Jr

New York
May 7th 1853.

G. L. Brown.
Collector
New York.

Mr. Forbairn Locke of
the 8th Ward of this City is an applicant
for the office of Wagoner of Customs &
Mr. Locke is well qualified for the
Position and in every respect deserves
the Appointment - His appointment
would oblige very many Democrats
who are influential and of the True
Stamp - I trust it may be in
your power to favorably consider
this application in so far as which
you will ever oblige

Very Truly Yours
P. P. Morris

May 24
New York

June 24th 1833

The Hon

G. C. Benson

Dear Sir.

John R Morris of the
County of Queens Long Island is
an applicant for the Situation
of Inspector. Mr. Morris has long been
conspicuous by his Democratic fellow
Citizens. Now holds the office of
Justice of the Peace conferred upon him
by the votes of his fellow Citizens. Mr.
M is in all respects worthy of the
appointment he solicits. I trust
it may be in your power to comply
with his request.

Respectfully

Yours

J. R. Morris