UNITED STATES INTERVENTION IN MEXICO: 1846 - 1848

(MEXICAN - AMERICAN WAR)

Purpose: Demonstrate development and function of mail services in and around areas of military activity during the Mexican American War period. United States, Mexican, and British Agency material will be used to explore how mail services evolved in response to continuously changing needs.

Evolution and development of United States provisional agencies at *Point Isabel*, *Brazos*, *Tampico* and *Vera Cruz* is presented. Examples of relevant markings (including many earliest & latest known dates), mail to and from military, commercial activity, and co-existing Mexican, British and Spanish services illustrate the story of the mail service during this period.

Background: Military activity began early 1846, with General Zachary Taylor's march to the Rio Grande (Rio Bravo del Norte), along with concurrent Naval blockade of Mexico's Gulf and Pacific ports. Taylor's forces then continued through Northern Mexico until early 1847 and the Battle of *Buena Vista*. A small group detached itself southeast towards *Tampico* during December 1846 - January 1847. Other U.S. forces went via *New Mexico* to *California* and *Chihuahua* with some rejoining Taylor at *Buena Vista*.

General Winfield Scott began forming his invasion force early 1847 to take *Vera Cruz* and *Mexico City* using a combination of Taylor's experienced troops and new recruits. Landing at *Vera Cruz*, the march to *Mexico City* occupied March through July 1847. Intermittent Naval activity also took place at Pacific ports, such as *Mazatlan*.

Material is presented in sequence corresponding to historical and military events. Specialized postal mark and rate studies are included where offices with unique markings were established.

Order Of Exhibit:

Frame(s): 1 **NORTHERN CAMPAIGN (TAYLOR)**
Forerunners – Recruitment, Troop Training, Texas, and Journey to Mexico
Point Isabel and Brazos Marking study

2, 3 Postal Activity by "**Order of Battle**"
Brownsville, Matamoros; Reynosa; Camargo; Mier; Monterrey, Saltillo, Monclova; Parras; Saltillo; Buena Vista, 1848 Retreat and Zacatecas

4 **WESTERN/PACIFIC EXPEDITIONS**
New Mexico, California, Chihuahua, and Military Government
Mazatlan - Blockade (1846) and Occupation (1848)

5 **TAMAULIPAS EXPEDITION/TAMPICO**
British Postal Agencies, Spanish Mails
GULF COAST/TABASCO

6 **CENTRAL CAMPAIGN (SCOTT)**
Journey to and Occupation of **Vera Cruz**; **Specialized Marking Study**

7, 8 Postal activity by "**Order of Battle**" (date of initial military activity)
Outbound, inbound, official documents (field press), U.S. and Mexican mails
Jalapa; Perote; Puebla; Rio Frio; Mexico City, Toluca, Cuernavaca
British Postal Agency, Continuing commercial activity
End of Occupation/Retaliatory Rates from *Tampico* & *Vera Cruz*

Note: Condition is variable - especially on inbound items to military serving in Mexico due to rough conditions, extended distances and lack of storage space.

Lithographed Bounty Letter Sent To Postmasters

After having been abolished in 1833, Congressional Bounties to raise and re-enlist men were resumed in 1847 for the Mexican War. "There may be many persons in your neighborhood whose facilities for information are limited and whose only means for obtaining a knowledge of their just rights will be through this medium ..." That the postmaster may conduct such an agency postage free to him is emphasized in two places.

Private.

Dr Sir.

Enclosed please find our Circular containing the late Law of Congress granting Bounty Lands for services in the late Wars. You will confer an especial favor on us, by posting it in a conspicuous place in your Post Office, that it may meet the eyes of those included in the provisions of the Act.

There may be many persons in your neighborhood, whose facilities for information are limited, and whose only means of obtaining a knowledge of their just rights, will be through this medium. Will you call their attention to our Advertisement?

We would respectfully suggest, that if you will exert yourself to obtain for us, the Agency of such Claims coming under your notice, have the papers prepared according to the accompanying Instructions, duly authenticated, and mailed to our address, under your official frank, all such cases shall have our immediate and personal attention before the Departments, by which arrangement the Bounty can be obtained much sooner, than can possibly be effected by any other medium.

And for each and every case reaching us, through your aid and influence, we will allow you Fifty per cent. Commission on the amount of fees received. The Warrant when issued we mail to you, and from your hands the owner receives it on payment of our fee. You then deduct your Commission and remit us the remainder when requested. The fees for obtaining a Warrant for 160 Acres, is ten dollars, and for an 80 or 40 Acre Warrant, five dollars.

You will observe with the Instructions, a joint Power of Attorney. The blank immediately preceding our name should be filled up with yours authorizing yourself and us, to act for the Claimant, jointly.

Postmasters, and others, having balances due them by the Departments, can have the same collected and forwarded, by sending us a statement of their demands.

Your personal interest in this, makes it postage free to you. Hoping it may meet your views, and secure your co-operation,

We remain Respectfully Yours.

To the Postmaster.

Sam'l M. Knight
Chas. L. Tucker

Discord between the United States and Mexico increased with advancing 'Anglo' settlement in Texas. Once Texas achieved U.S. statehood, military conflict between the two countries seemed unavoidable. As tensions rose, President Polk ordered General Zachary Taylor to mobilize a military force for Texas, arriving off Corpus Christi on 26 July 1845.

Fort Hamilton, NY
16 August 1845

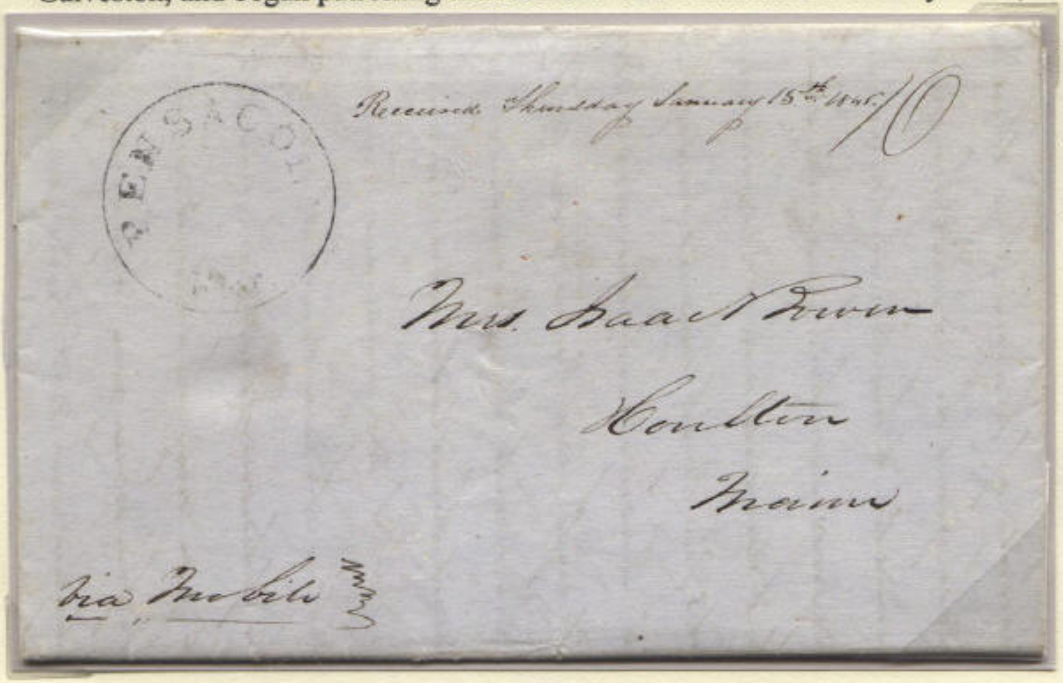
"The light company of artillery at Fort Hamilton has been ordered to Texas."

5c <300 mile rate

5c <300 miles/10c >300 mile
(Rates took effect 1 July 1845)



Naval forces based at Pensacola under Commander Conner shifted to Galveston, and began patrolling the Mexican Gulf coast late 1845/early 1846.

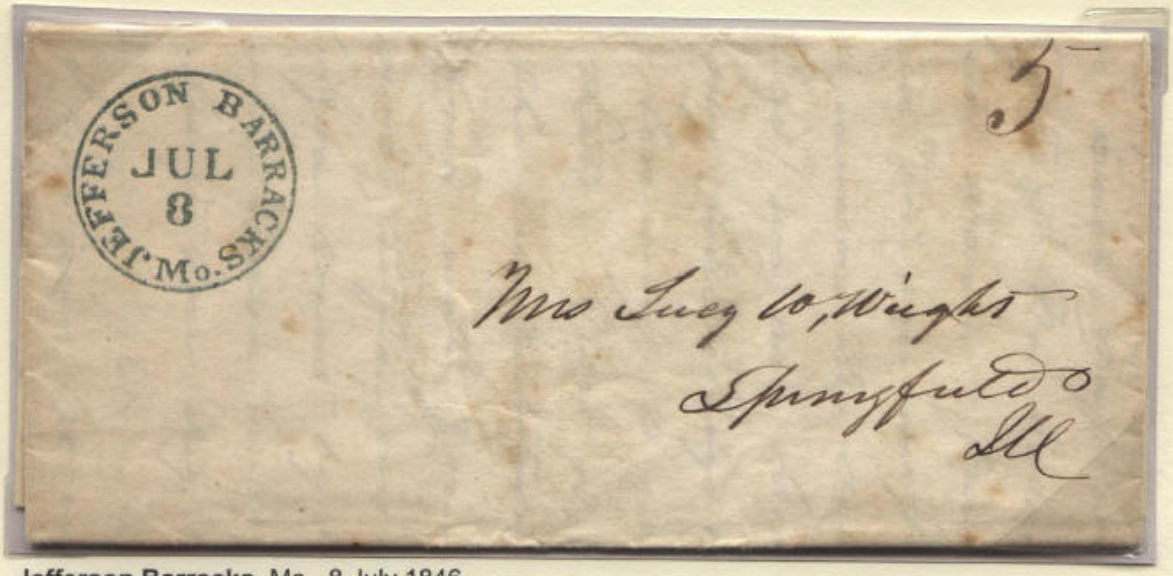


Pensacola, Florida
28 December 1845

Via Mobile

10c >300 mile rate

Initial 12 month volunteers called out under Act of May 13th, 1846.
Many were from the midwestern states of Illinois, Indiana and Kentucky



Jefferson Barracks, Mo., 8 July 1846
Green CDS
5c (collect) for <300 miles



Jefferson Barracks, Mo., 27 October 1846
Black CDS
10c (collect) for >300 miles
Corrected to 5c for <300 miles + 2c 'ADVERTISED NOV' = 7c

Postal clerks were not always certain of official distances between offices

Initial 12 month volunteers called out under Act of May 13th, 1846.
Many were from the midwestern states of Illinois, Indiana and Kentucky
Additional recruits were needed to replace those not re-enlisting after first year.



Camp near Little Rock, 15 July 1846
Memphis, 16 July 1846
Blue CDS and HS
20c (PAID) for <300 miles, double weight
Prepayment not required, not commonly done as there was
no assurance letter would actually arrive at destination



Camp Butler (Kentucky), 17 October 1847
Louisville, 19 October 1847
Blue CDS
5c (collect) for <300 miles

Replacement troops for those not re-enlisting, or lost to injury and disease

Some went by Steamboat via New Orleans to Point Isabel



Jefferson Barracks, 22 July 1846
St. Louis, 24 July 1846
Red CDS, ***5c (collect)***

Departed 23 July for New Orleans, estimated journey to Point Isabel 12 days

Others Marched overland across Texas



Morisville, Buoie Co. (sic) Texas, 14 August 1846
(Ms) **Boston Tex**, 15 September 1846
10c (collect)

Describes march to Mexico; 20 day march to San Antonio at 20 miles per day

As diplomacy faltered in mid 1845, Taylor was ordered to set up a base camp in Texas at Corpus Christi. Naval units were also ordered to patrol the Texas/Mexican Gulf coast

Regular Army at Corpus Christi, Texas

Camp at Corpus Christi
10 November 1845

Via **New Orleans**
10 November 1845

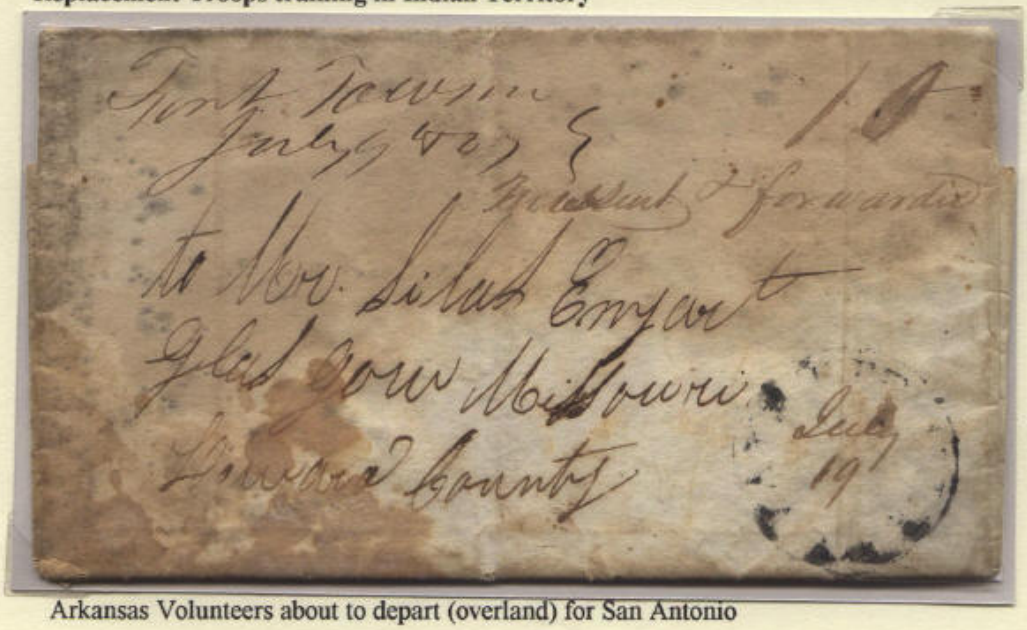
10c for >300 miles
2c ship letter
12c due

"We are hutted here for the winter, ... all talk of war is ended...."



Replacement troops for the "1846" group completing their 1 year term of enlistment mid 1847 needed to be enlisted, trained, and transported to the war zone.

Replacement Troops training in Indian Territory



Fort Towson
(Choctow Nation/
Indian Territory)
9 July 1847

"Missent & forwarded"
Fayetteville
19 July 1847

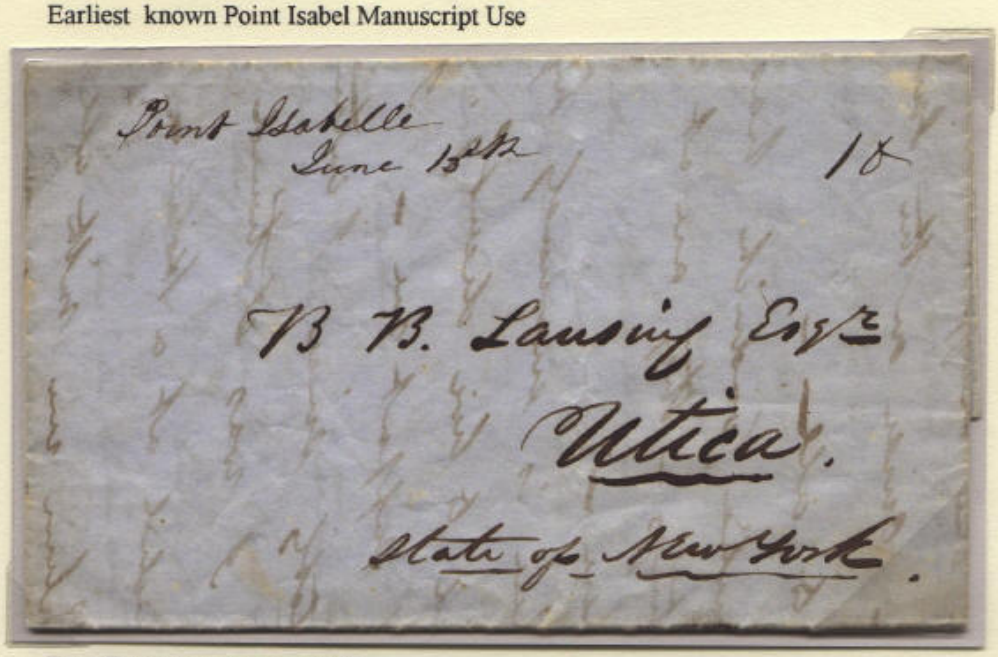
'5' manuscript
'10' overwritten

Rerated from
5c <300 mile rate to
10c >300 mile rate

Arkansas Volunteers about to depart (overland) for San Antonio

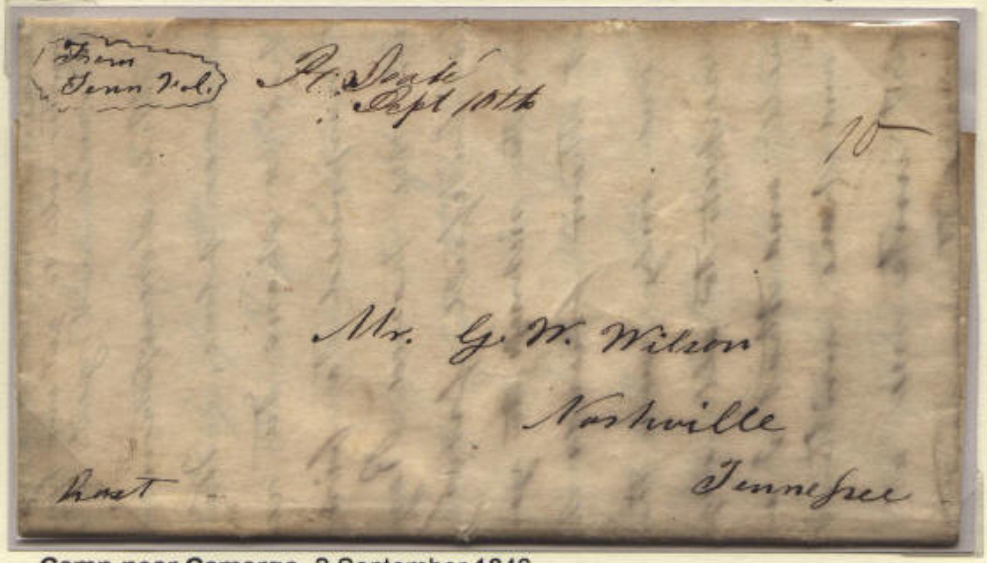
First Provisional Post Office Established July 1846 at Point Isabel
Mails lightered aboard ship, entered mail stream at New Orleans

Earliest known Point Isabel Manuscript Use



Fort Brown, 10 June 1846
Point Isabelle (sic) , 15 June 1846
10c (collect) for >300 miles

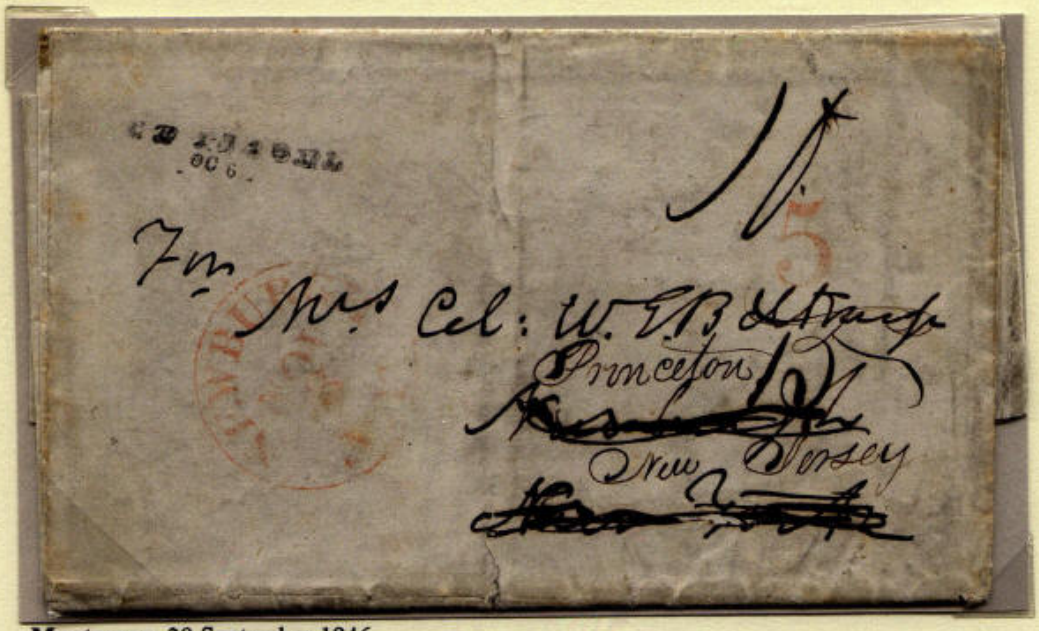
Latest first period Point Isabel Manuscript Use prior to Type I Handstamp



Camp near Camargo, 2 September 1846
via River Steamer to
Point Isabel , 10 September 1846

First Point Isabel manuscript period from 15 June through 10 September 1846.
Additional manuscript period from 24 October through 5 November 1846 while waiting for replacement of Type I with Type II handstamp.

Point Isabel Type I Handstamp



Monterrey, 29 September 1846
Point Isabel, 6 October
Newburg, N.Y., 3 November (Forwarded)
Princeton, N.J.

10c (collect) for >300 miles
5c Forwarding <300 miles
15c due

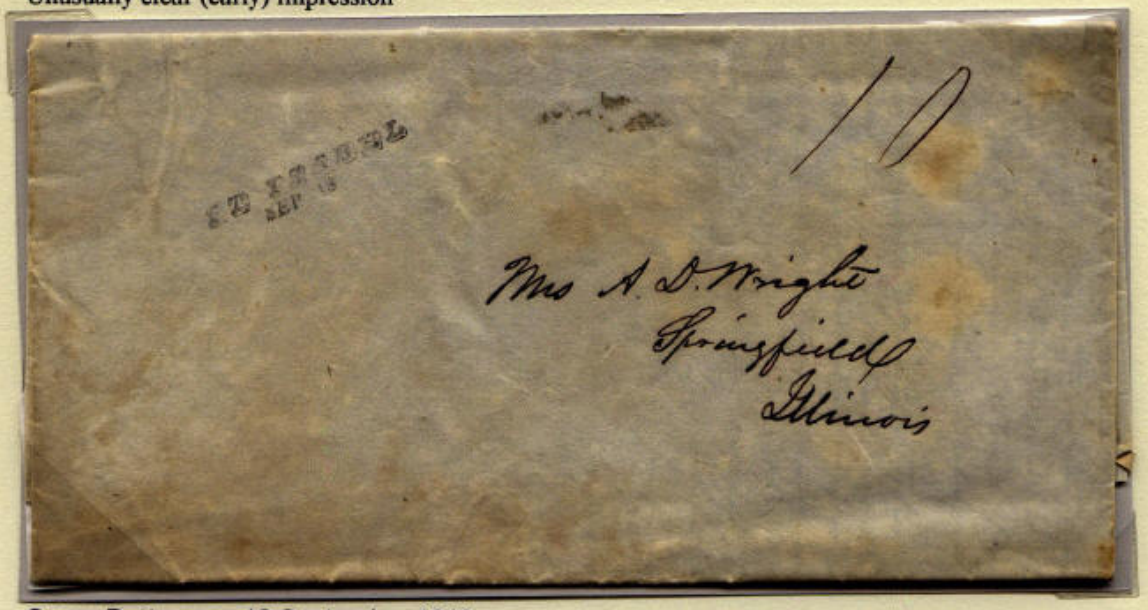
First Point Isabel handstamp in use for only about 3 weeks. Removed from service due to rapid wear. Most examples very indistinct with illegible dates. Fewer then 10 examples known. This example unusually well struck.

POINT ISABEL CANCELLATIONS

TYPE	PERIOD OF USE
Manuscript Period I.	15 June - 10 September 1846
Handstamp I	16 September - 10 October 1846
Manuscript Period II	24 October - 5 November 1846
Handstamp II	6 November - 19 December 1846
Handstamp III*	25 December 1846 - 24 March 1847

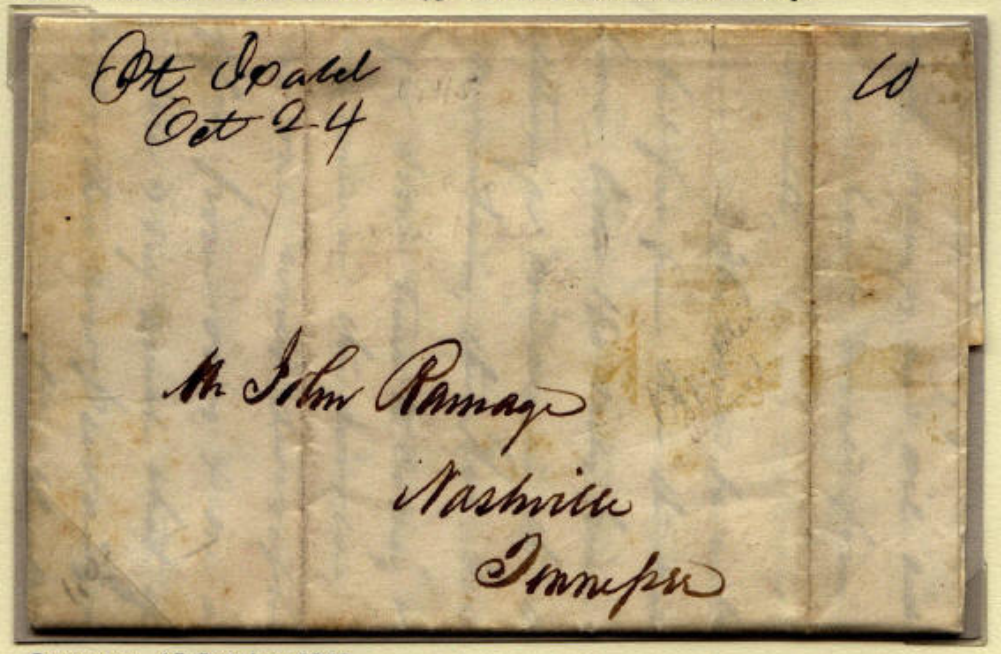
*Most frequently encountered type

Type I Handstamp (16 September – 10 October 1846)
Removed from service after ~4 weeks due to rapid wear
Unusually clear (early) impression



Camp Patterson, 12 September 1846
Point Isabel, 18 September 1846

Second Manuscript Period (24 October – 5 November 1846)
Known used in time period between Types I & II Point Isabel Handstamps



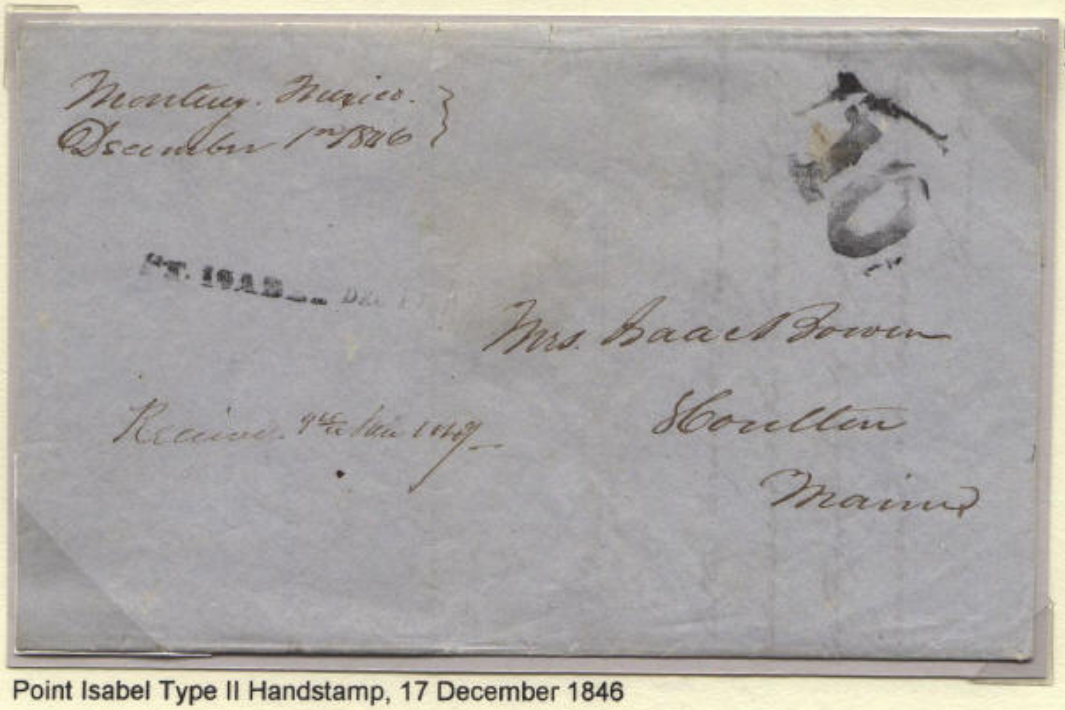
Camargo, 15 October 1846
Point Isabel (ms.), 24 October 1846

Camargo
30 October 1848
via river steamer
to **Point Isabel**

(60 miles by
road, 120 miles
via River steamer
To Point Isabel)



Point Isabel Type II Handstamp, 6 November 1846



Monterrey
1 December 1846

Point Isabel Type II Handstamp, 17 December 1846

Type II Point Isabel Handstamp 6 November– 19 December 1846
Large '10' ratestamp associated with this marking, most examples are poorly struck and illegible.

PT ISABEL No 26

Point Isabel Type II Handstamp
6 November – 19 December 1846

Monterrey, 13 November 1846
Point Isabel, 26 November 1846
*Large **"10"** Ratestamp*



Manuscript and Large '10' Ratemarks used during time period for this Handstamp

Type III Point Isabel Handstamp
25 December 1846 – 24 March 1847

P'T. ISABEL
JAN. 16, 1847



Monterrey, 5 January 1847
Point Isabel, 16 January 1847

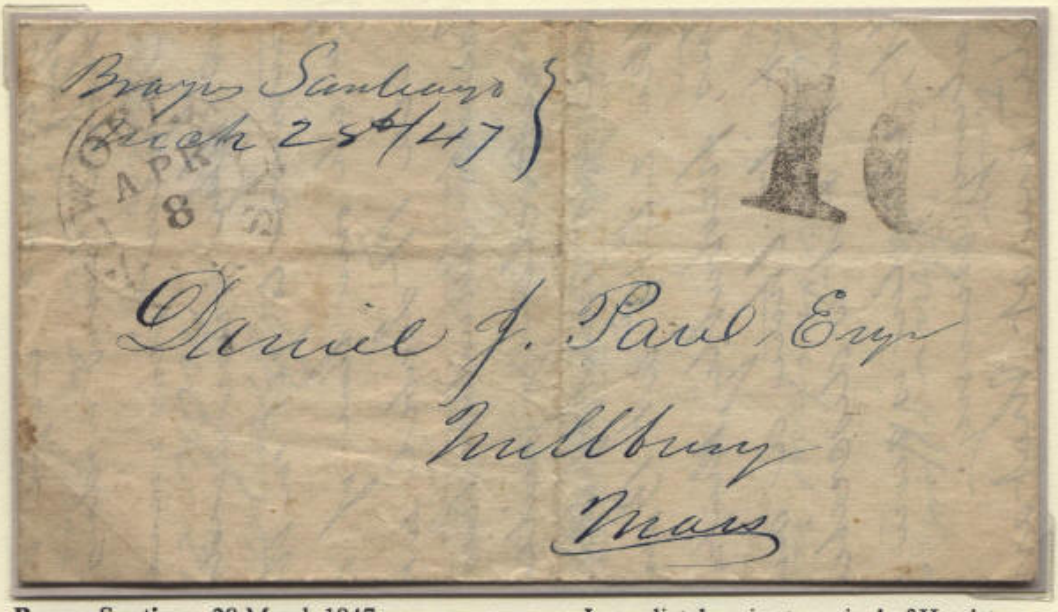
"20" ms. (1/2 – 1 oz., Double weight)
"10" cents forwarding (<300 miles)
30 c due

Manuscript and Small '**10**' Ratemarks used with this Handstamp

Office moved from **Point Isabel** to **Brazos** (Island) end March 1847 for better port conditions.

BRASOS
APL 10.1847

Brazos (**BRASOS**) Type I Handstamp
31 March – 15 April 1847



Brazos Santiago, 28 March 1847
New Orleans, 8 April 1847
"10" cents, >300 mile rate

Immediately prior to arrival of Handstamp



Buena Vista, 20 March 1847
Brazos, 10 April 1847

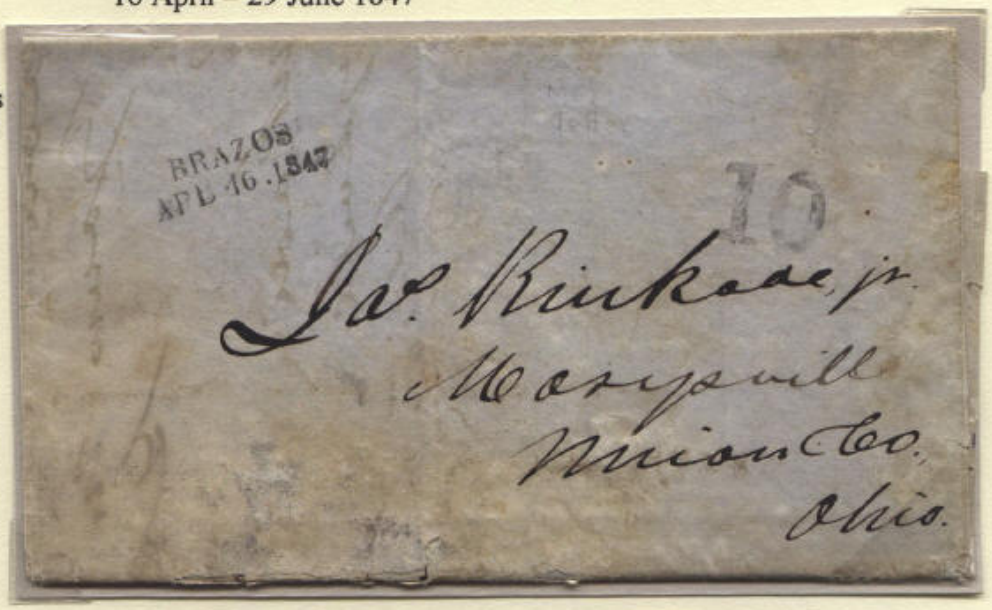
7 examples of Type I Handstamp documented

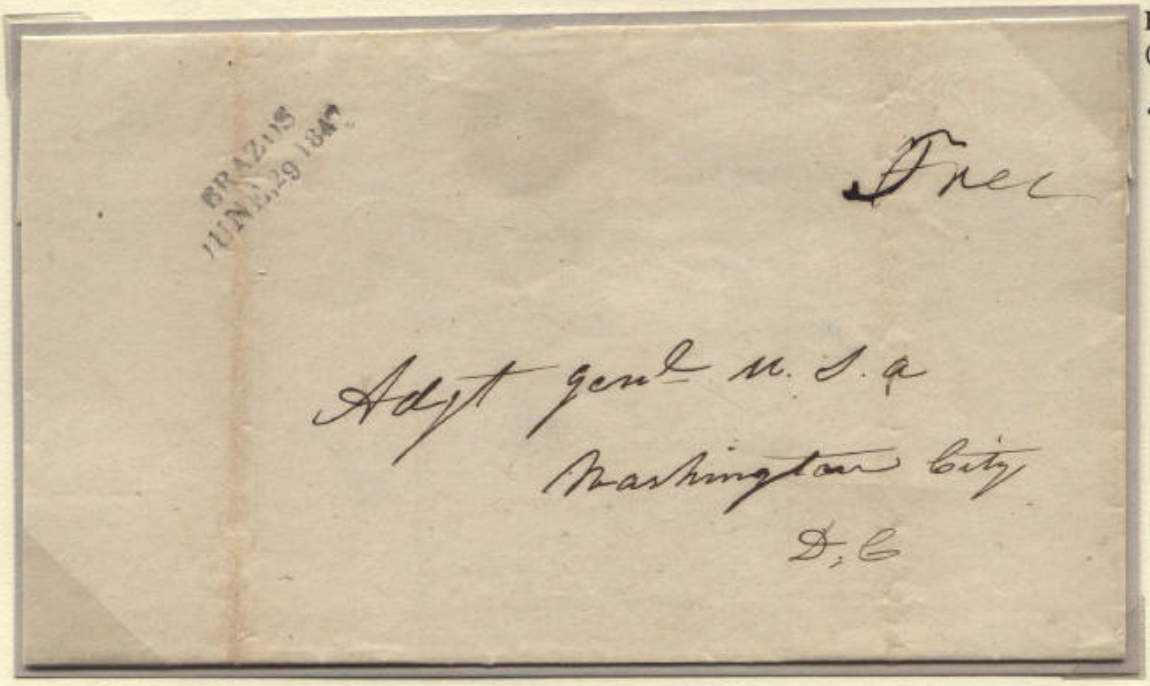


Brazos Type II Handstamp
16 April – 29 June 1847

Saltillo, 27 March 1847
19 day transit from Saltillo to Brazos
Brazos, 16 April 1847 (Earliest use)

10c (collect) for >300 miles





Brazos, 29 June 1847
(Latest use)

"Free" (Official Business)

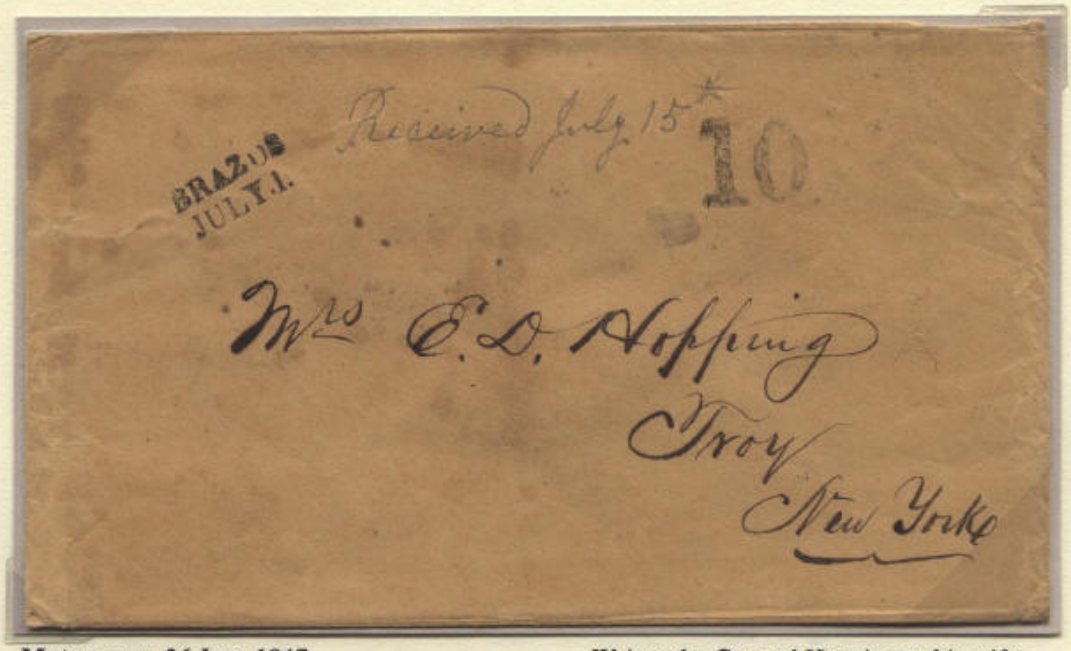
BRAZOS CANCELLATIONS

TYPE	PERIOD OF USE
Manuscript	Through 30 March 1847
Handstamp I	31 March - 15 April 1847
II	16 April - 29 June 1847
III *	1 July 1847 - 16 April 1848
IIIa	January - February 1848
IV	18 April - End of Intervention

*Most frequently encountered type, Several spelling variations known

BRAZOS
JULY.1.

Brazos Type III Handstamp
1 July 1847 – 16 April 1848



Matamoros, 26 June 1847
Brazos, 1 July 1847 (Earliest use)

Written by General Hopping to his wife

10c (collect) for >300 miles

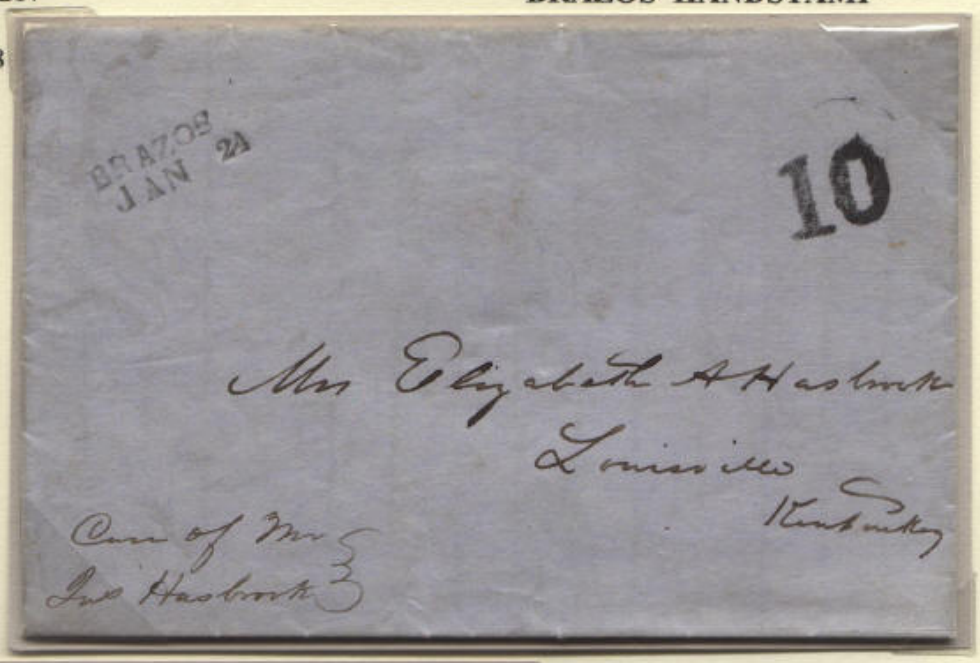


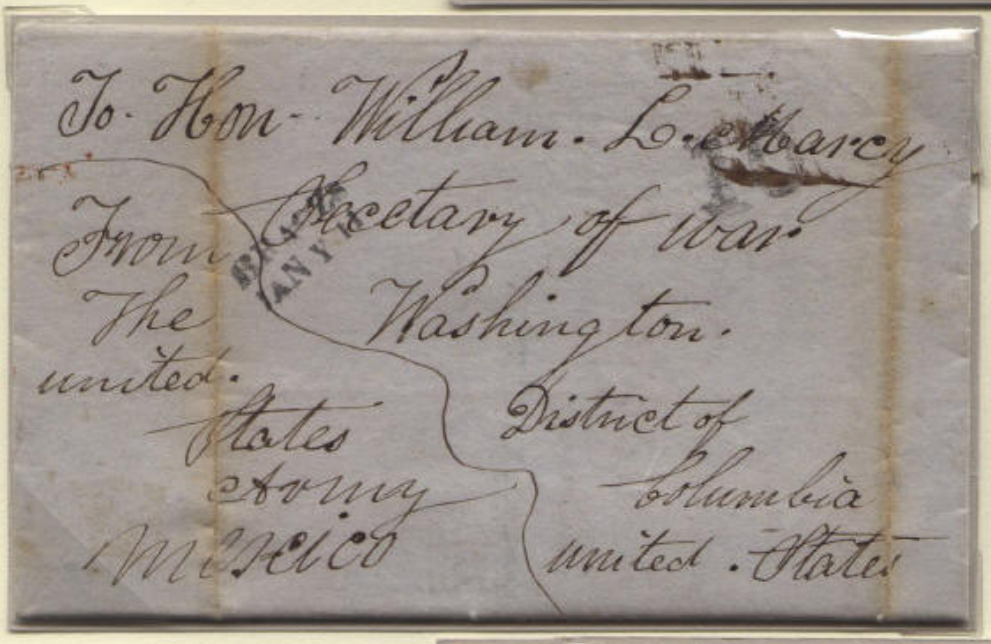
Camargo, 21 February 1848
Brazos, 23 February 1848
Late use, weak 'S' of **BRAZOS**

Handstamp in use for 9 1/2 months, several variations and errors known.
Device progressively degraded until unusable by mid April 1848

Buena Vista, 7 January 1848

Brazos, 24 January 1848
Round '**O**' of **BRAZOS**





Buena Vista, 20 December 1847

Brazos, 11 January 1848
"**BRAOZS**' Variety
Known only 11 January

Saltillo, 25 March 1848

Brazos, 8 April 1848
Inverted '**A**' of **APRIL**
Weak '**S**' of **BRAZOS**

Terminal degradation
of handstamp device



Brazos Type IV Handstamp
18 April – 27 July 1848



Cedras, 15 April 1848
Brazos, 30 April 1848 Blue CDS
Small "10" cents, >300 mile rate



Matamoros, 16 July 1848
Brazos, 27 January 1848
"***ops***" *(On Public Service)*, "***free***"

Latest known military use from war zone

Brazos became civilian post office after war

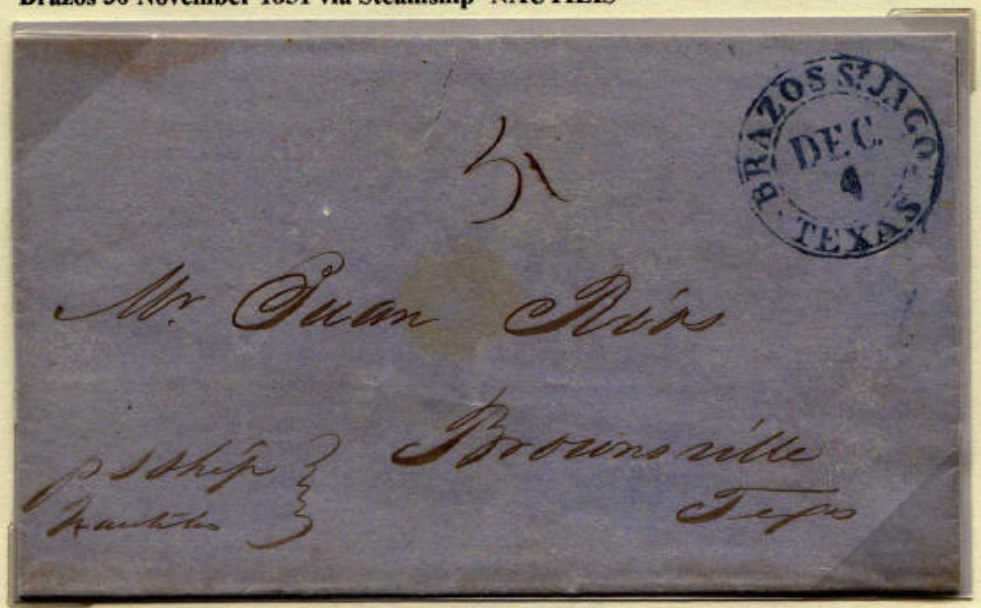
Brazos Type IV marking continued in use for several years after military activities ended

Matamoros, Mexico to Hatley, Canada via Brazos



Matamoros, 8 August 1848 (immediately post war)
Brazos, 8 August; rated 10c
Derby Line, Vermont; forwarded, 'Paid 10'
Stanstead (Canada), 5 September
Hatley, 6 September 1848 arrival

Brazos 30 November 1851 via Steamship 'NAUTILIS'



5 cent (<300 mile) rate from Brazos to Brownsville

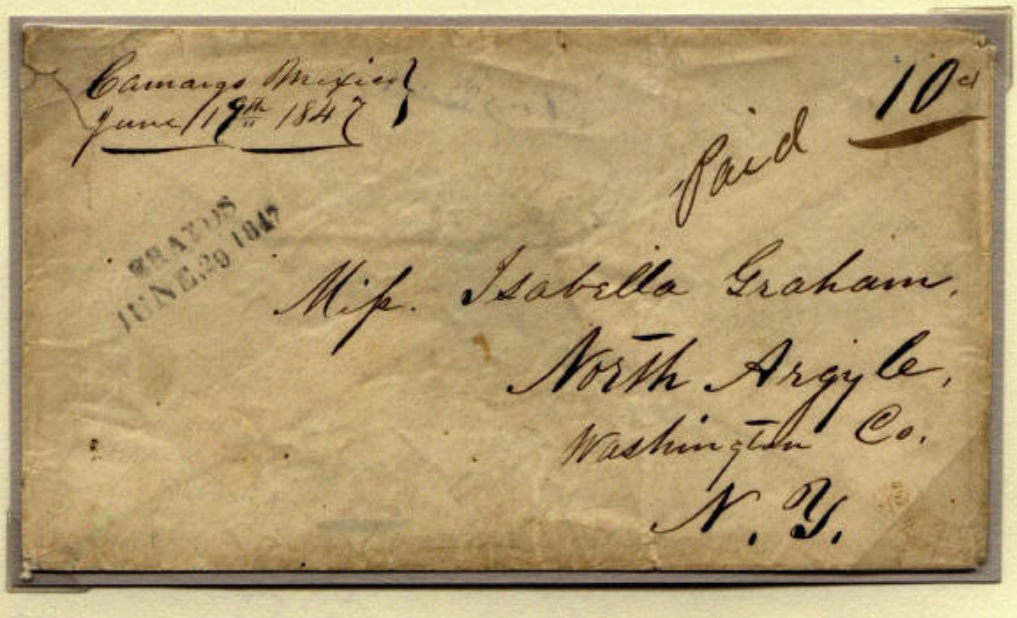
Tradespeople (i.e.sutlers) as well as assorted "hangers-on" accompanied the men of the army.

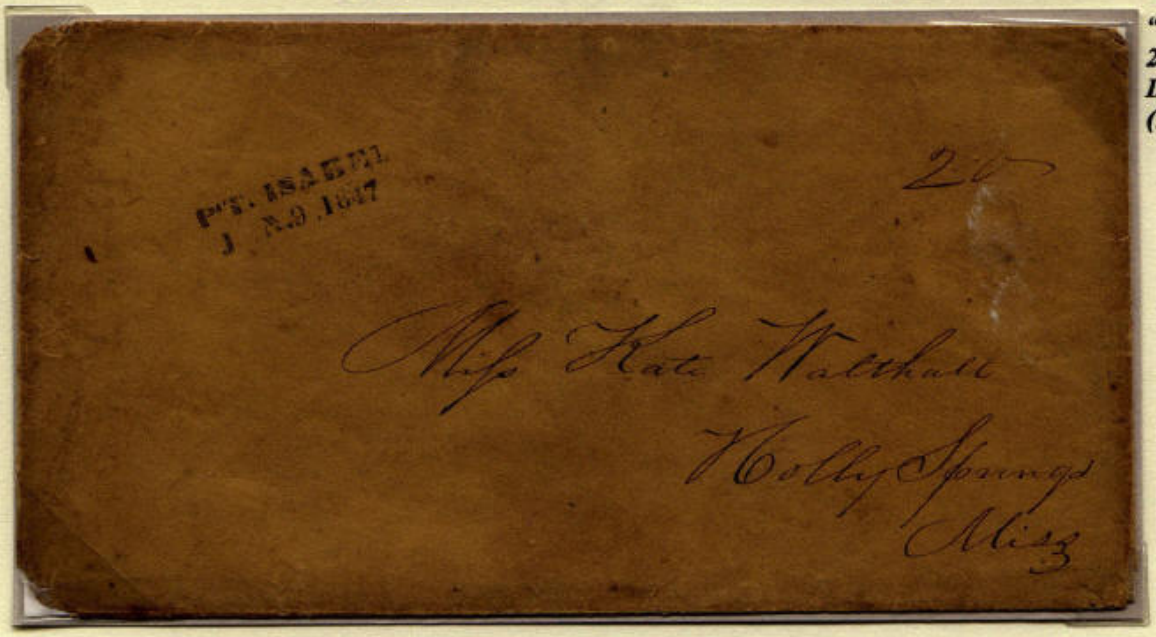
Point Isabel and Brazos used the same rate markings.

Camargo, 19 June 1847
Brazos, 29 June1847

"Paid 10c" manuscript
10c (prepaid) for >300 miles

Vast majority of mail sent Collect as soldiers often had little cash money, and there was no assurance that letter would arrive at destination.





"20" manuscript
20c >300 miles
Double weight
(1/2 – 1 oz.)

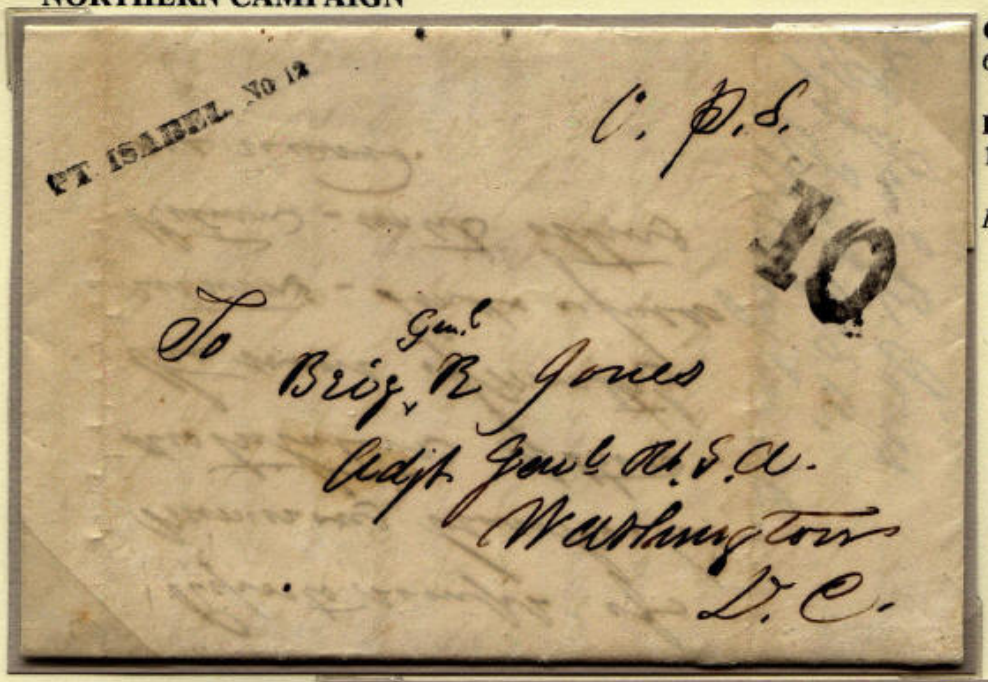
Manuscript, and large & small '**10**' handstamps were used at Point Isabel, only small '**10**' handstamp used at Brazos.

'**Paid**' manuscript used at both offices.

POINT ISABEL/BRAZOS RATE MARKINGS

TYPE	PERIOD OF USE
Manuscript '10'	Through 24 October 1846
Manuscript 'Paid'	Throughout Intervention Period
Manuscript '20'	Throughout Intervention Period
Large '10' Handstamp	28 October - 22 December 1846
Small '10' Handstamp*	22 December – End of Intervention

*Most frequently encountered type, Several spelling variations known



Camargo
6 November 1846

Point Isabel Type II
12 November 1846

Large '10' Ratestamp

Manuscript, Large '10' and Small '10' Ratemarks used At Point Isabel

Point Isabel Type III
5 January 1847

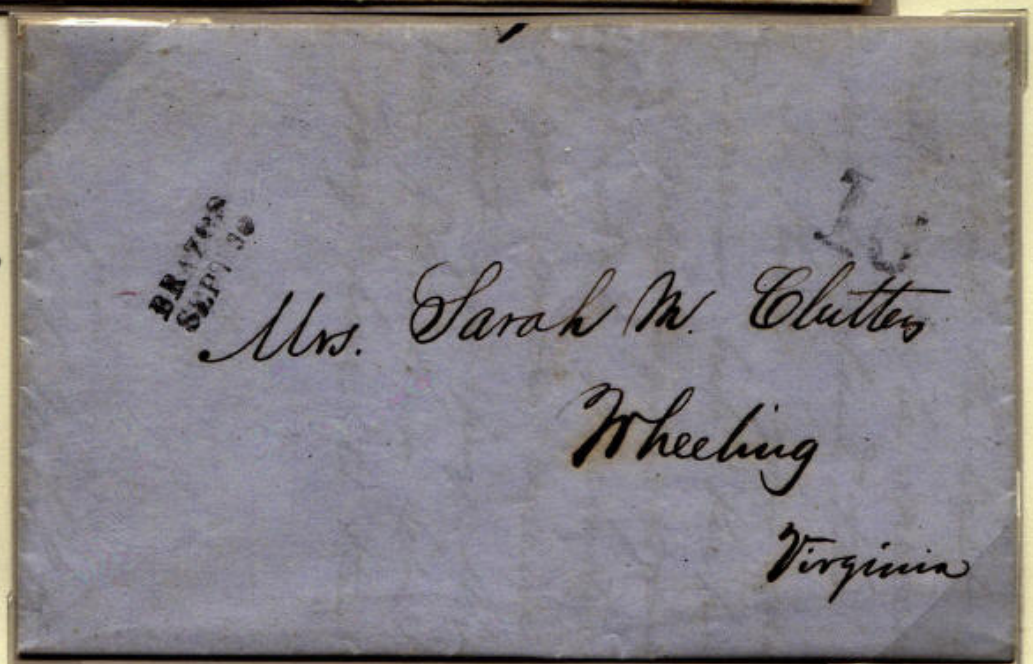
Small '10' Ratestamp



Brazos Santiago
26 September 1847

Brazos Type III
30 September 1847

Small '10' Ratestamp

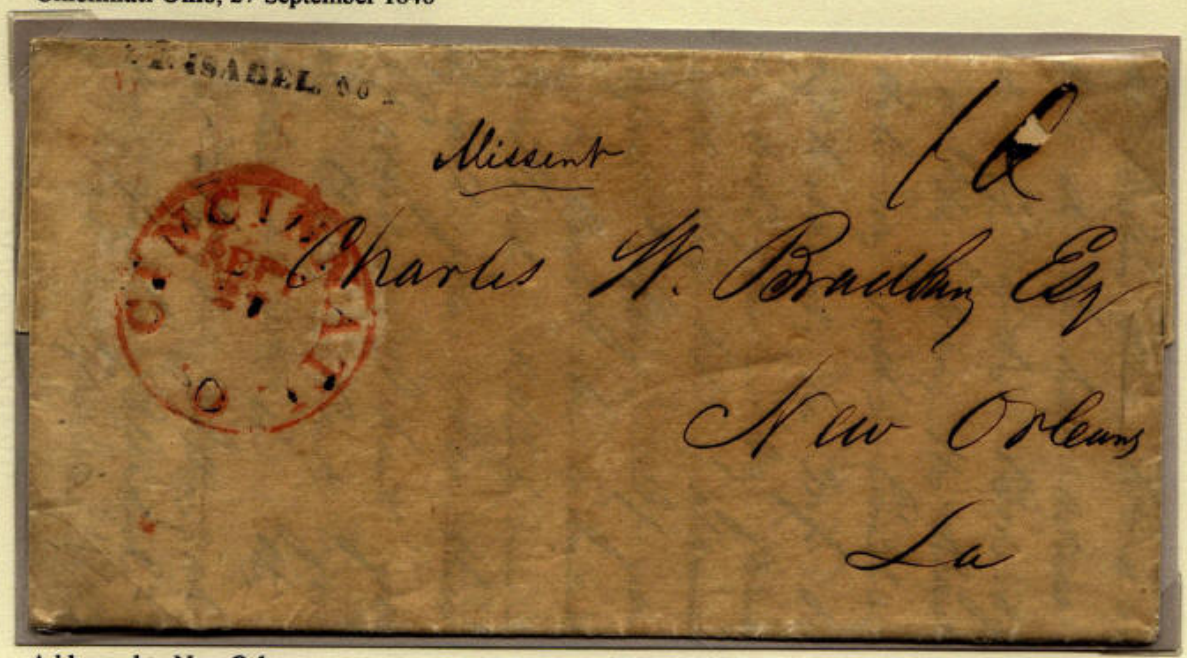


Manuscript and Small '10' Ratemarks used At Brazos

Misrouting of Mail

Inbound mail to Northern Mexico was usually routed via New Orleans. As volume increased, mishaps were bound to occur.

Cincinnati Ohio, 27 September 1846



Addressed to New Orleans
"**Missent**" to Point Isabel, - - November 1846
Returned to New Orleans

Mail to military in Mexico often endorsed "*via New Orleans*" or "*via Vera Cruz*"

Established on North Bank of Rio Grande opposite Matamoros as Fort Taylor 28 March 1846
Renamed Fort Brown in honor or Major Jacob Brown who died of wounds received in battle 9 May 1846

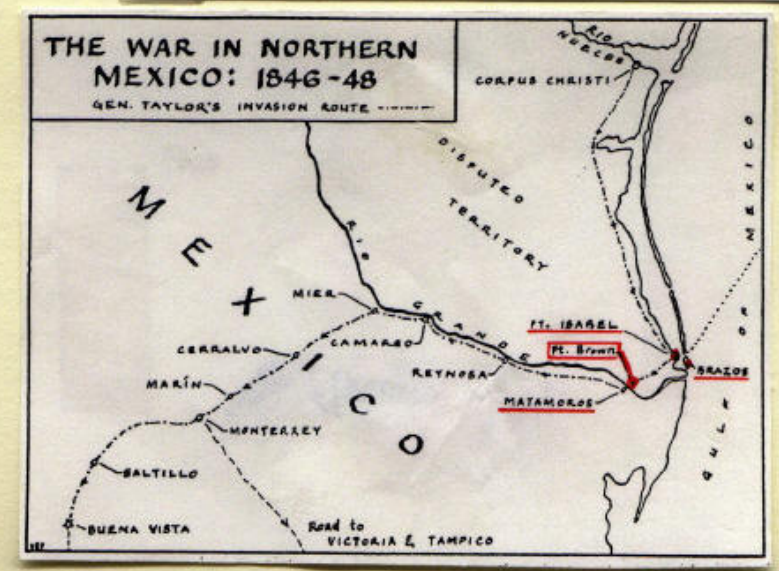


Fort Brown, 18 May 1846
(Earliest known use as "Fort Brown")
New Orleans, 2 June 1846

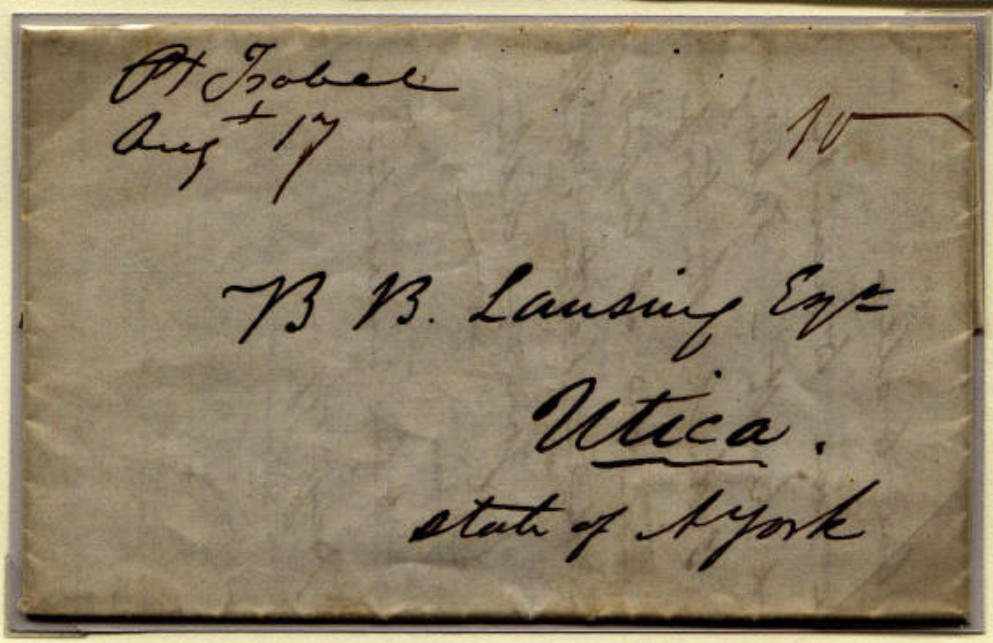
10c for >300 miles
2c ship letter
12c due

Mails sent via New Orleans prior
To offices at Point Isabel/Brazos

Contents describe 8 May battle and occupation of Matamoros, first action on territory south of Rio Grande.



Order of Battle; Northern Campaign



Fort Brown, 15 August 1846
Point Isabel (manuscript) + "10"
17 August 1846

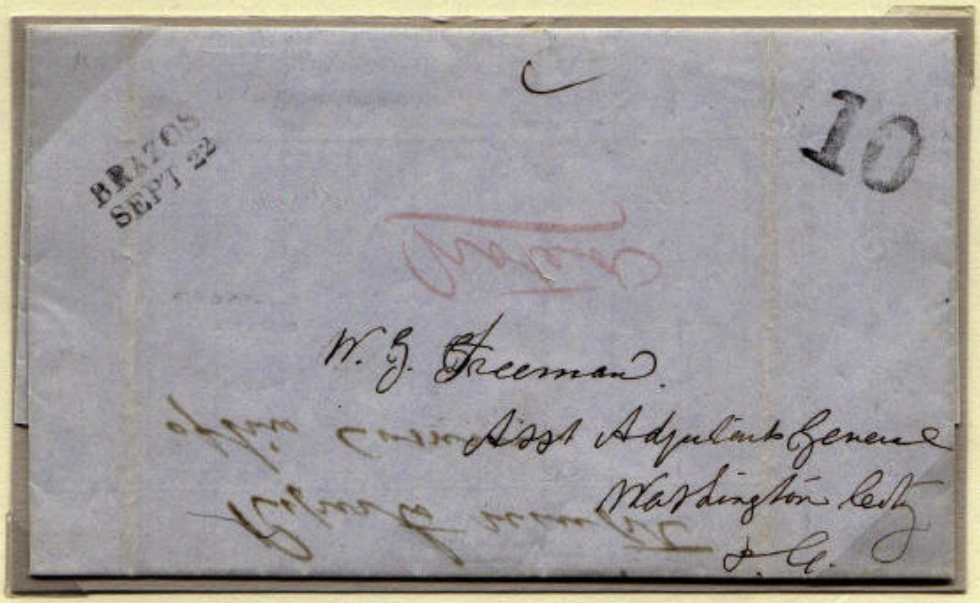
10c >300 mile rate

Several camps located along Rio Grande (Rio Bravo del Norte) in Fort Brown/Matamoros area



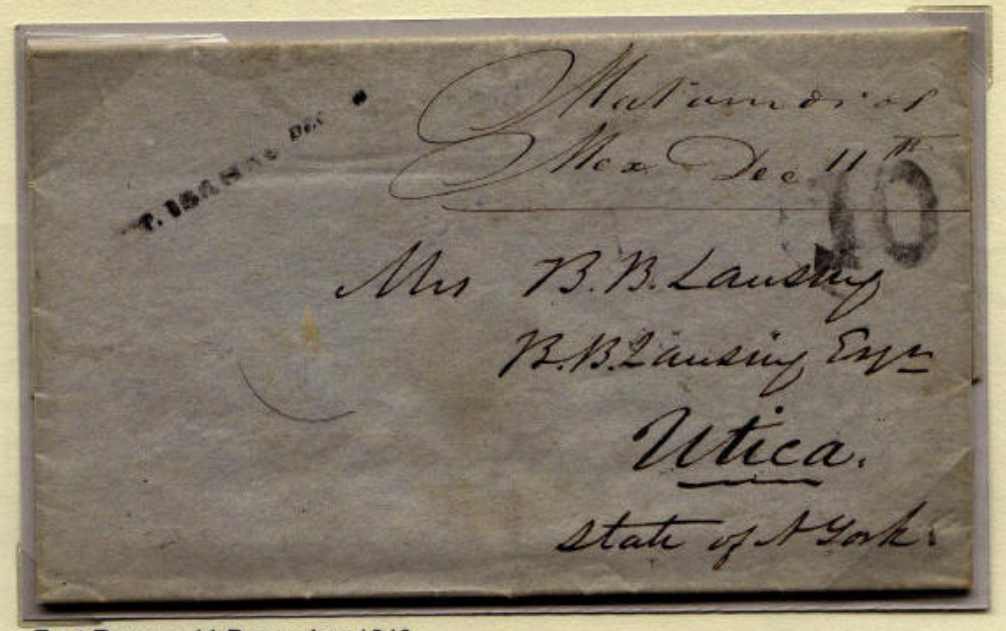
Camp Patterson, 6 September 1846
(On Rio Grande near Matamoros)
Point Isabel (ms.), 9 September 1846

10c for >300 miles (collect)

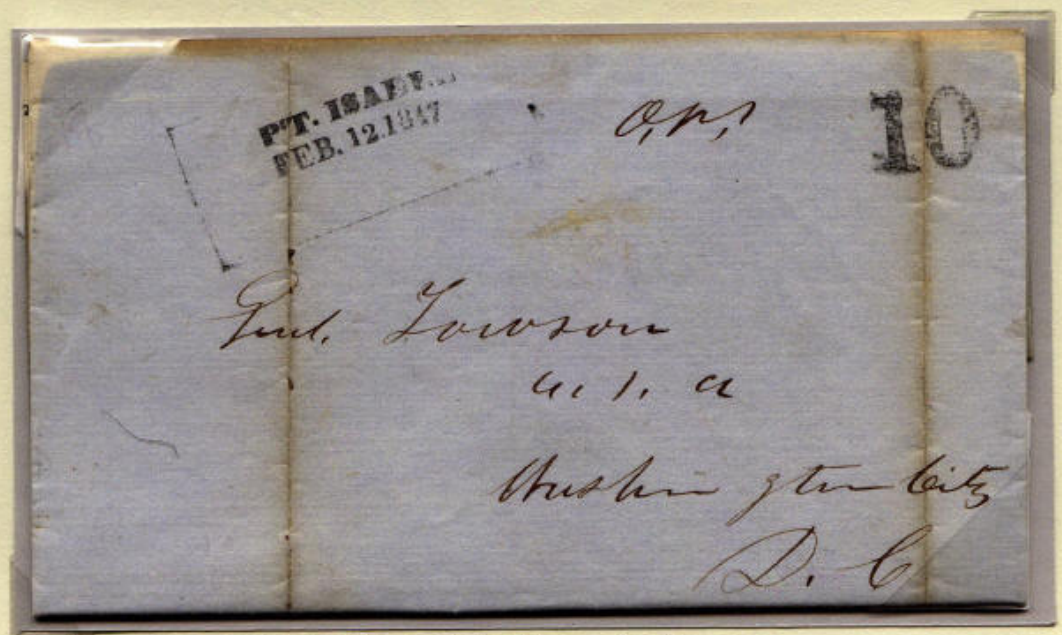


Camp Sabinito, 19 September 1847
(North of Brownsville near Palo Alto)
Brazos (Type III Handstamp), 22 September 1847

Several camps located along Rio Grande (Rio Bravo del Norte) in Fort Brown/Matamoros area



Fort Brown, 11 December 1846
Matamoros (ms.), 11 May 1846
Point Isabel (Type II Handstamp), 16 December 1846
10c for >300 miles (collect)



Ord. Depot, Fort Polk (Point Isabel), 10 February 1847
Point Isabel (Type III Handstamp), 12 February 1847
O.P.S. (On Public Service), 10c for >300 miles postage not collected

Occupied by Taylor after battles of 17 & 18 May 1846



Near Matamoros, 10 May 1846
via New Orleans 18 May; 10c collect
Mails sent via New Orleans prior to setting up of Point Isabel provisional post office

"Fought and won 2 battles, taken many prisoners and their ammunition…."



"Steamer off Matamoros", 21 September 1846
Matamoros, 22 September manuscript cancel
Matamoros often used manuscript with and without corresponding Point Isabel/Brazos postmark.

"…On the way to Camargo, then Monterey, then Saltillo…., Many men sick…."

Occupied by General Taylor 18 May 1846

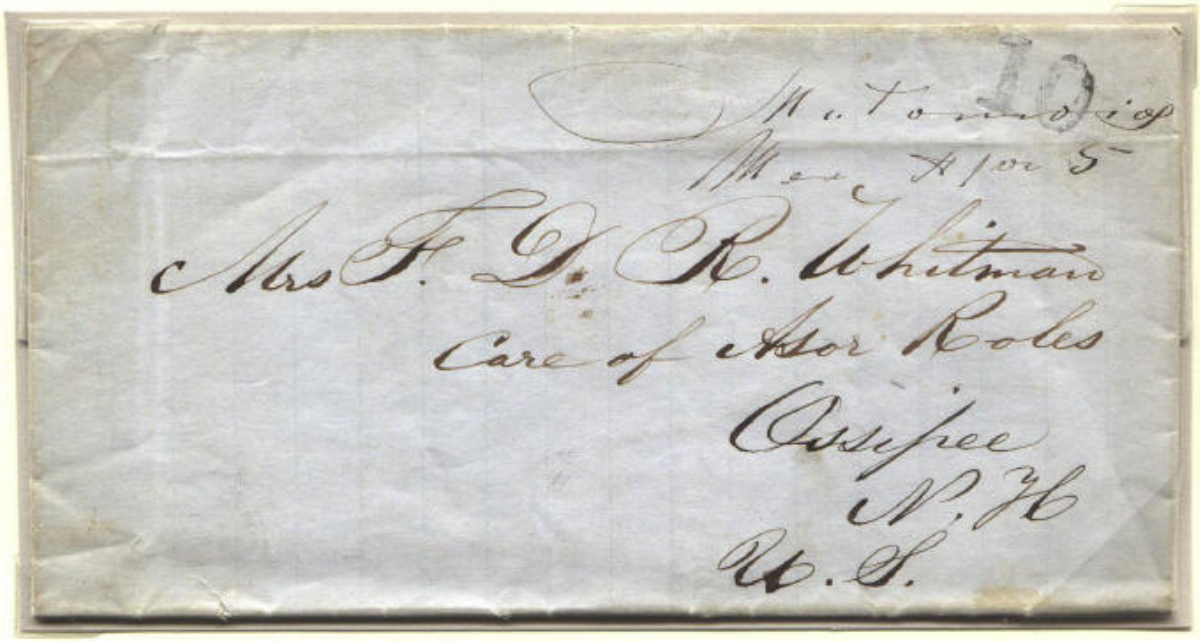
Matamoros,
27 November 1846

28 November 1846
Manuscript

Large '10' [cents]
(>300 miles)

Ratemark applied at Point Isabel





Matamoros,
4 April 1847

5 April 1847
Manuscript

Small '10' [cents]
10c >300 mile rate

Ratemark applied at Brazos

Mail from Matamoros known with two distinct Matamoros manuscripts, large and small '10' [cent] ratestamps, with and without Point Isabel and Brazos handstamps.

(See "*Tamaulipais Expedition*" pages for additional examples)

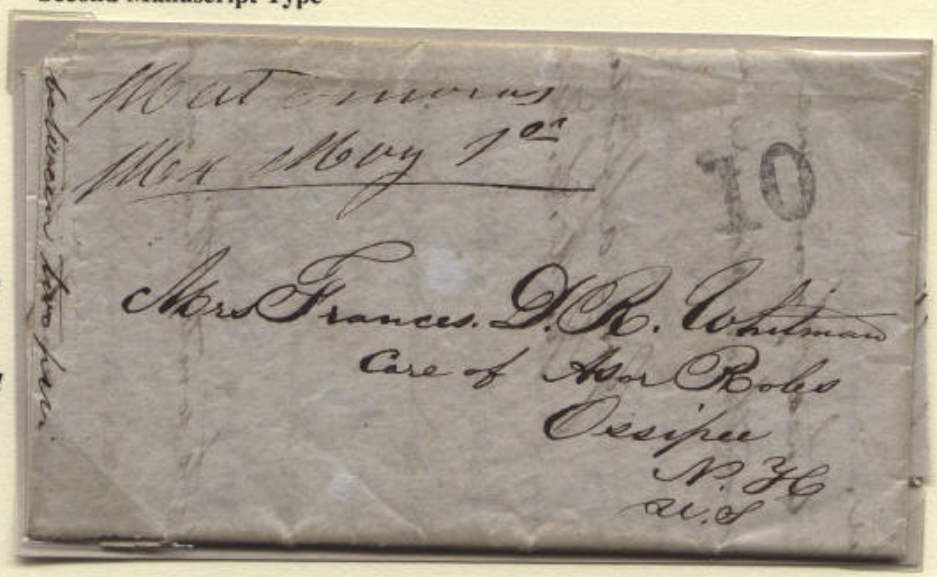
Second Manuscript Type

Matamoros,
20 April 1847

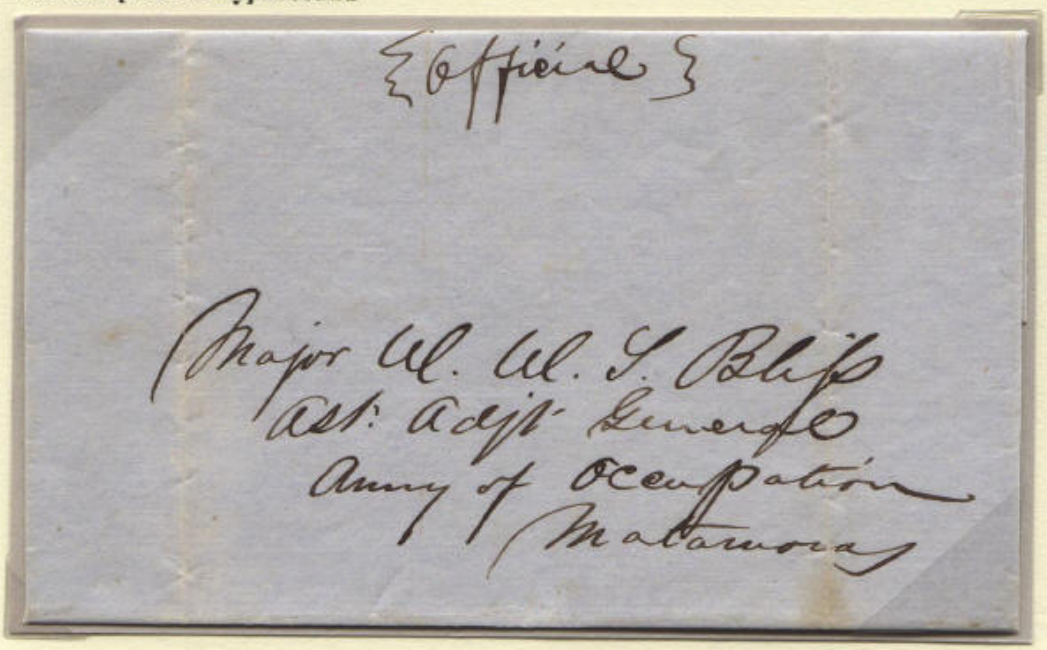
1 May 1847
Manuscript
(latest use)

Small '10' [cents]
(>300 miles)

Ratemark applied at Brazos



Official [U.S. Army] Inbound



No Postal Markings,

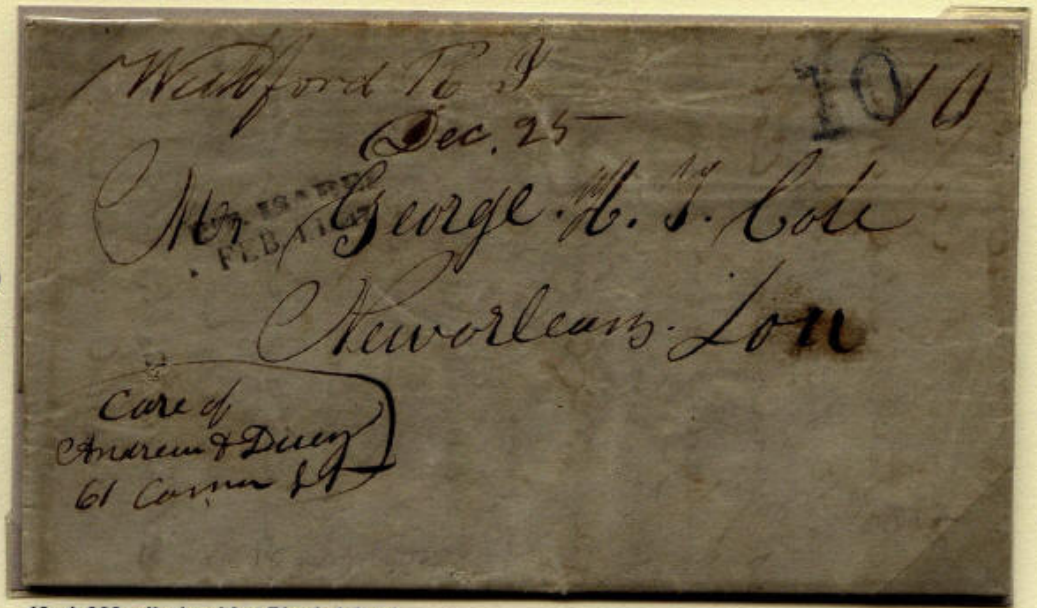
May have been carried as part of larger Packet or in a Military pouch.

Occupied by Taylor 6 June 1846
Located on the Rio Grande (Rio Bravo del Norte) West of Matamoros

Inbound via Point Isabel

Rhode Island,
25 December 1846
to New Orleans

Forwarded via
Point Isabel
(Type III Handstamp)
4 February 1847
toTrader at Reynosa



10c (>300 miles) paid at Rhode Island,
10c additional [forwarding] charged at Point Isabel
20c (due)

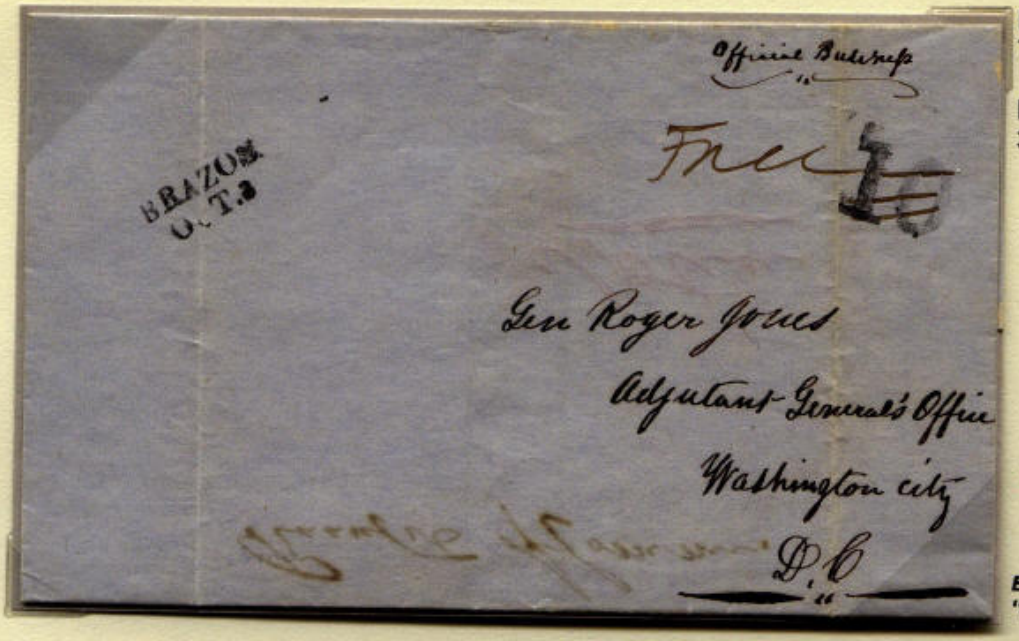
Post Occupation Mexican Mails



Reynosa to Cadereyta, (On road to Monterrey), 17 August 1849
2 Reales (due)

After the war, Reynosa resumed to it's status as a backwater, far from the Mexico City – Puebla/San Luis Potosi – Vera Cruz axis of influence

Official Business



Reynosa, 27 September 1847
To Adjutant general of the Army

Brazos Type III handstamp
3 October 1847

Endorsed 'Official Business' and 'Free' '10' (cents) crossed out

BRAOZS Handstamp Variety

Reynosa, 5 January (1848)

Brazos
Type III (variety) Handstamp
11 January (1848)



10 cents (collect)
For >300 miles

This Handstamp variety known only 11 January 1848

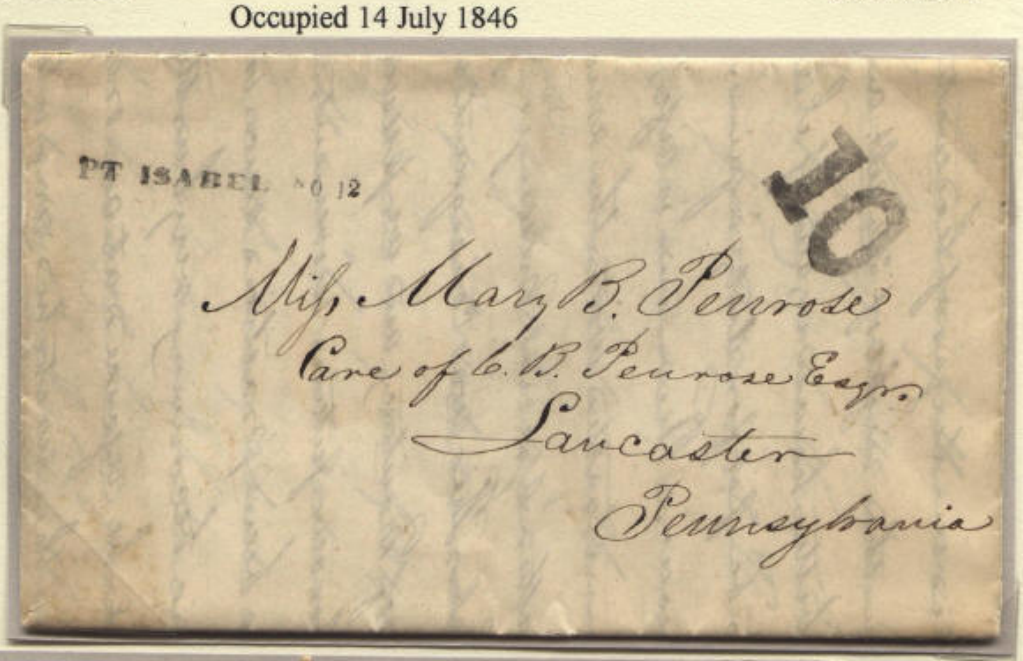
Occupied 14 July 1846

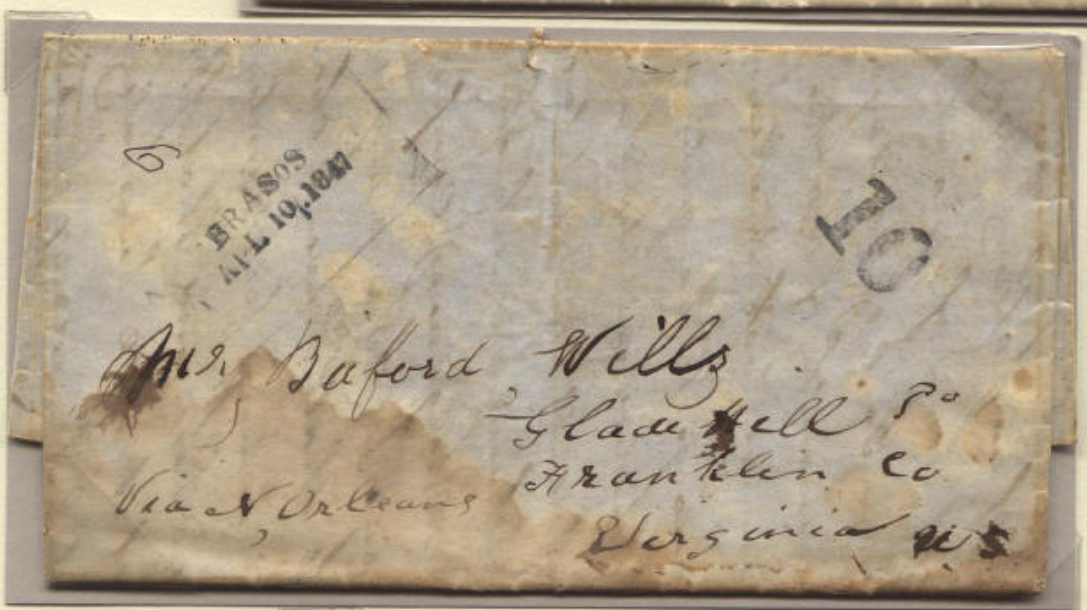
Camargo
(Camp Brady)
1 November 1846

Point Isabel
12 November
Type II Handstamp
(2 week transit)

Large '10' [cents] Ratestamp

Type II Handstamp
Often indistinct or Deformed.





Camargo
2 April 1847

Brazos
10 April 1847
Type I
(BRASOS)
Handstamp
(Note frame)

Small '10' Ratestamp

Camargo
7 June 1847

Brazos
15 June 1847
Type II
Handstamp

Small '10'
(Crossed out)
"***On Public Service***"



Inbound

Collect



Galveston Texas, 29 July 1846
Postage charged until Act of 3 March 1847 authorized free postage to troops serving in Mexico.

Many Texans volunteered in Mexico, with their own (Texas Rangers), or other units.

Prepaid



Springfield Illinois, 4 December 1846
Soldiers preferred that mail be sent prepaid as cash was scarce.

Illinois Volunteers served in Northern Mexico from mid 1846 through mid 1847.

Mier Occupied by Taylor 18 August 1846
Located on the road between Rio Grande (Rio Bravo del Norte) and Monterrey



Camp Rio Grande (near Mier), 25 August 1846
Via river steamer to
Point Isabel (manuscript), 1 September 1846



Mier, 11 June 1848
Brazos (Type IV, blue), 11 June 1848

Mentions peace, anticipates disbanding within 1 month, though orders not yet arrived.

Headquarters,
Camp Rio Grande
(near Mier)
30 August 1846

Mier occupied
18 August 1846

No postal markings,
Carried out of mails



Ceralvo, 30 May 1848
Brazos, 8 June 1848
(Blue) Type IV





Ceralvo, 25 June 1848
Brazos, 5 July 1848
(Black) Type IV

"The Mississippi Regiment Passed here yesterday on Their way home.... I expect to be home by August first."

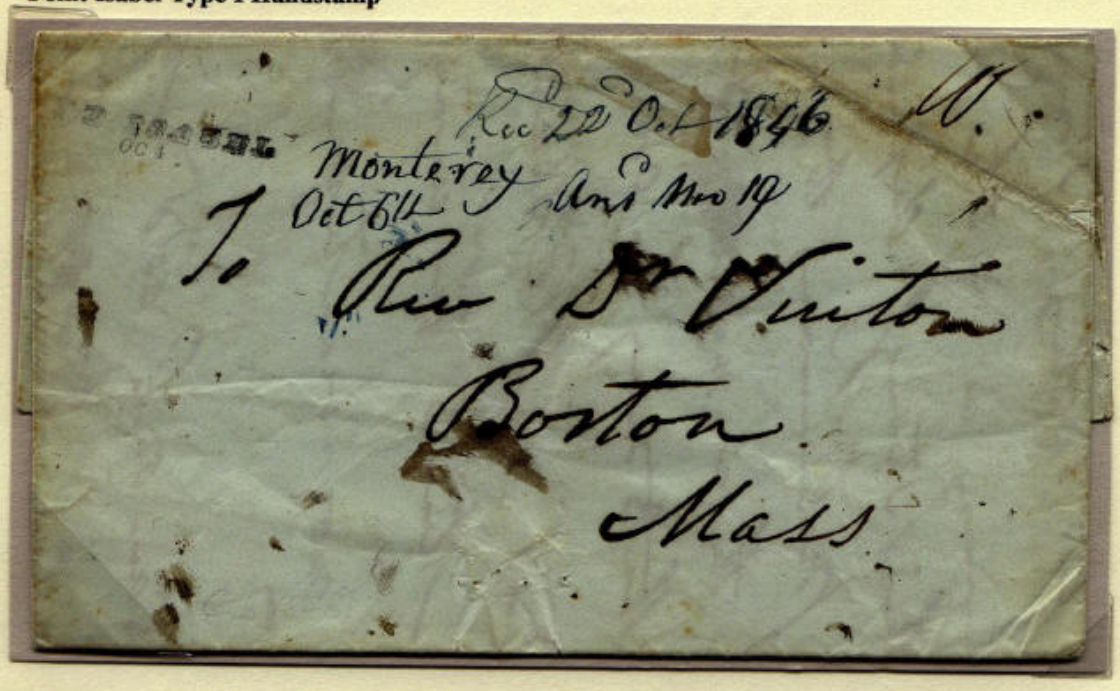
Taylor's base of operations for Northern Mexico
Occupied after battle ending 25 September, City under quarantine through mid October 1846

Point Isabel Type I Handstamp

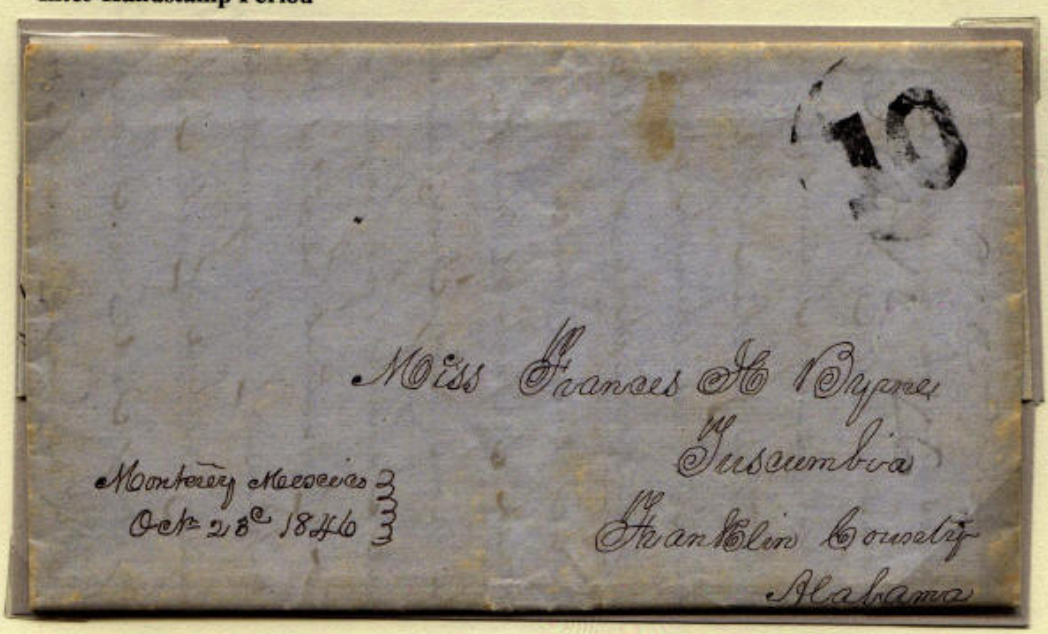
Monterrey
24 September 1846

Point Isabel Type I
4 October 1846

*Manuscript '**10**'*
(Ratestamp not yet Introduced)



Inter Handstamp Period



Monterrey
12 & 25 October 1847

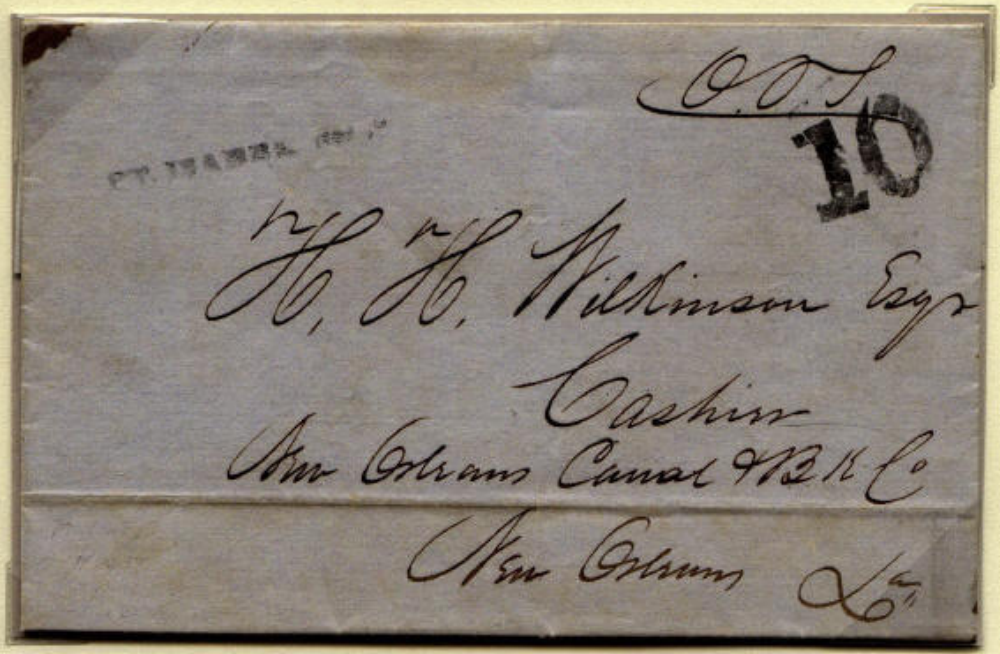
Inter Handstamp Period
(Between Devices I & II)

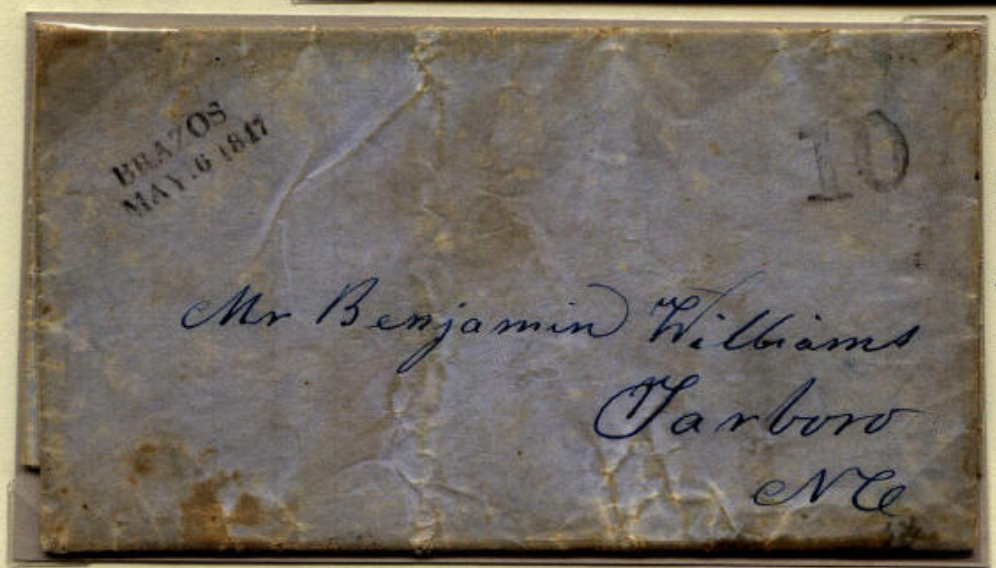
*Large '**10**' Ratemark*
*Applied at **Point Isabel***

Camp Near Monterrey
13 November 1846

Point Isabel Type II
26 November 46

"O.P.S."
Large '10' crossed out
Carried free of postage





Walnut Springs/
Camp Taylor
2 May 1847

Brazos, 6 May 1847
Type II Handstamp

Small '10' Ratemark



Monterrey
26 May 1847

Brazos Type II Handstamp
9 June 1847

10 c postage (>300 miles)
10c Forwarding (>300 miles)
20c Due on Delivery

Monterrey served as Taylor's Headquarters. Several camps housed many troops and assorted 'hangers on'. It's importance decreased after early 1847 as activity shifted towards central Mexico and Vera Cruz.



Monterrey, 14 January 1847
via convoy and river steamer to
Point Isabel (Type III Handstamp), 1 February 1847
10c (collect)



Monterrey, 24 March 1847
Brazos (Type I Handstamp), 10 April 1847

The Provisional Post office shifted from Point Isabel across to Brazos by 31 March 1847.
The Brazos ('**BRASOS**') Type I Handstamp is represented by 7 known examples.



Monterrey
3 July 1847

Brazos Type III
18 July 1847

Small '10' Ratemark

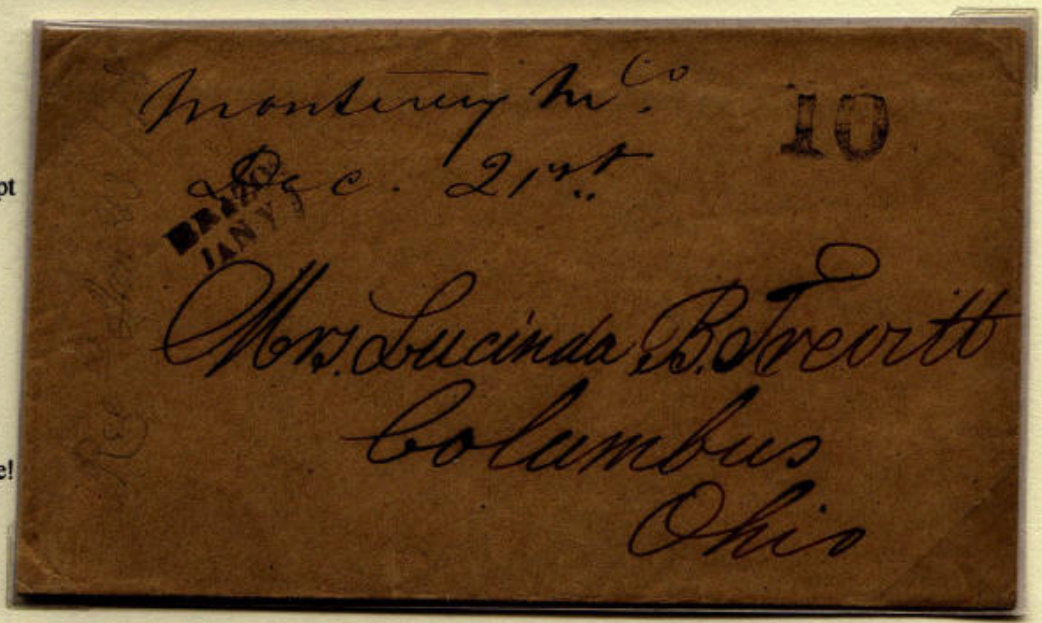
General Hospital
(at) Monterrey
20 December 1847

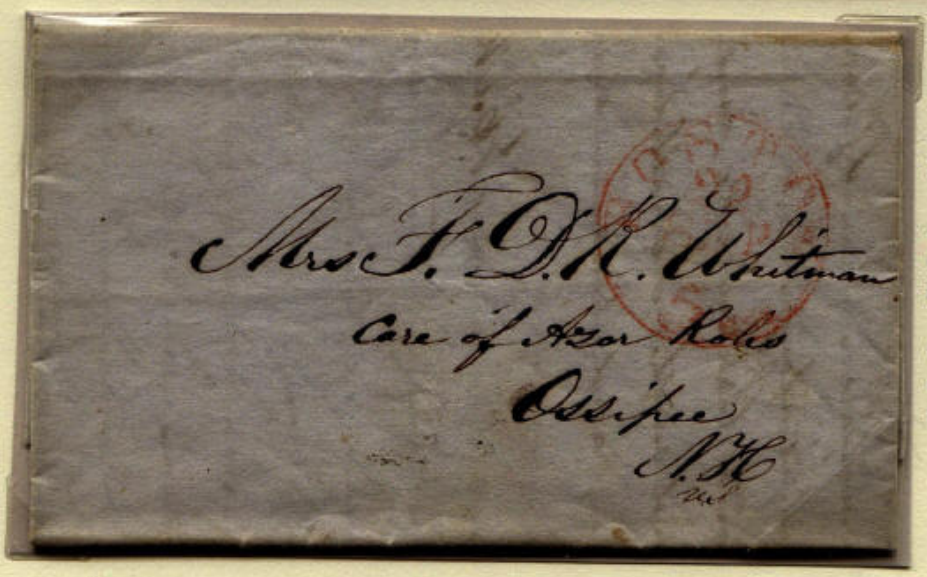
Monterrey Manuscript
21 December 1847

Brazos, Type III
3 January 1848

Small '10' Ratemark

More troops felled by illness then enemy fire!



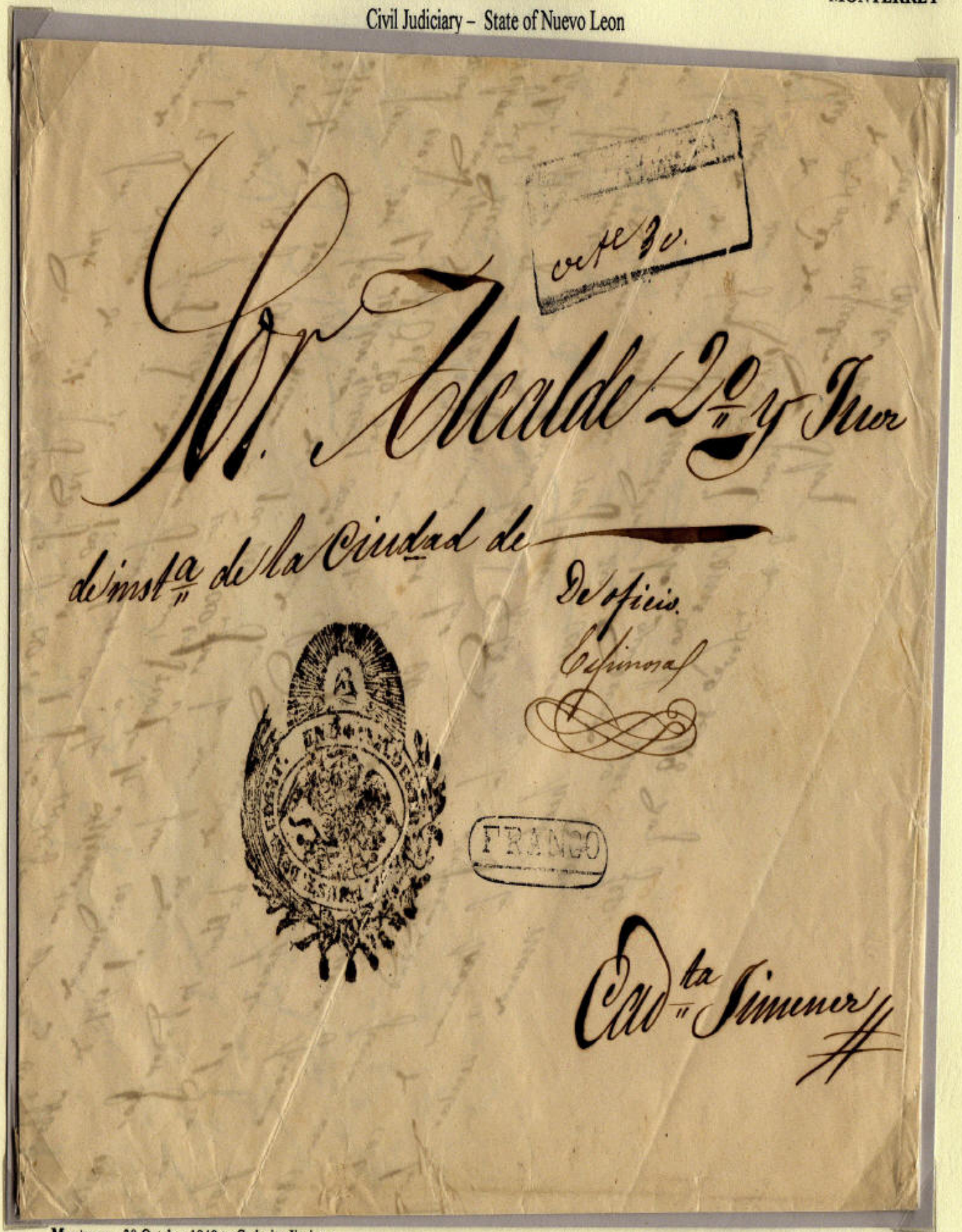


Monterrey
12 August 1847

Boston
22 September 1847

5c postage
(<300 miles: Boston to New Hampshire)

Carried out of mails, entering U.S. mails at Boston.

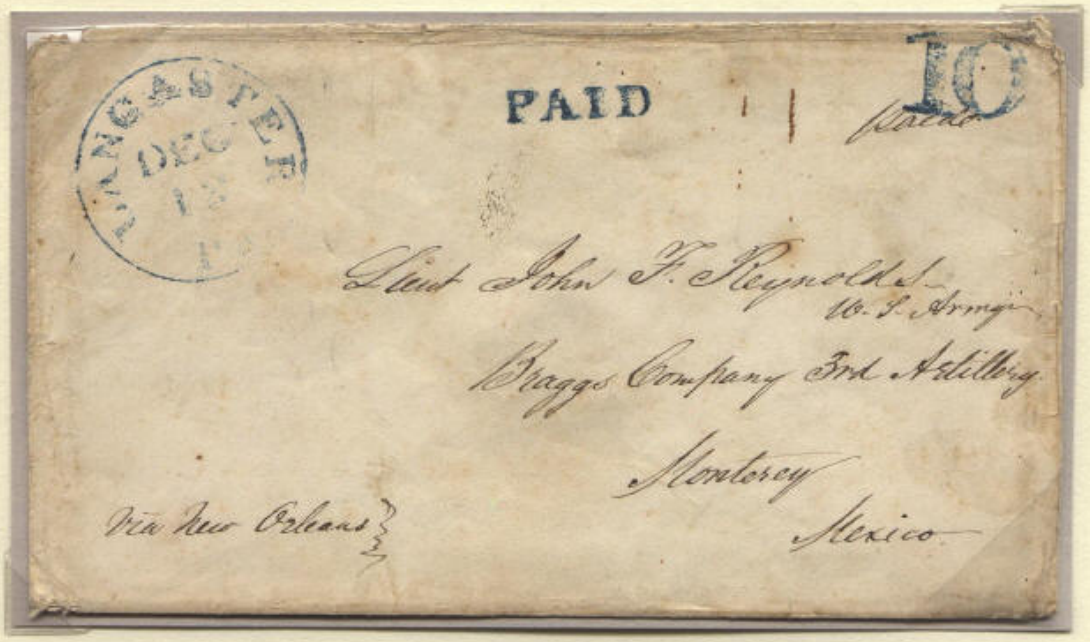


Monterrey, 30 October 1848 to Cadarita Jiminez
Post occupation reassumption of local authority

Prior to Act of 3 March 1847

Lancaster, Pennsylvania
12 December 1846

Prepaid 10c





Baltimore, Maryland
25 January 1847

Prepaid 10c

Contrary to then current general practice, both items were sent prepaid (10c U.S. domestic rate for >300 miles) as soldiers often did not have enough available cash to pay for collect letters.

Prior to **Act of 3 March 1847**, all mail to and from the military was charged postage. After that date, mail to those serving in Mexico was carried without charge. However, mail from the military to the U.S. was carried at regular rates. Inbound Naval mail did not qualify for the free concession except when specifically addressed to Mexico.

Inbound to Monterrey/Saltillo Area

Inbound mail to Northern Mexico was usually routed via New Orleans and Point Isabel

Prepaid



Harrodsburg, Kentucky, 3 September 1846, **Monterrey** Arrival 3 January 1847

12 Month volunteers called out under act of 13 May 1846, serving from June 1846 – May 1847.
Kentucky volunteers served at Monterrey November 1846, & Saltillo February 1847.
(Col. McKee killed at Buena Vista 23 February 1847)

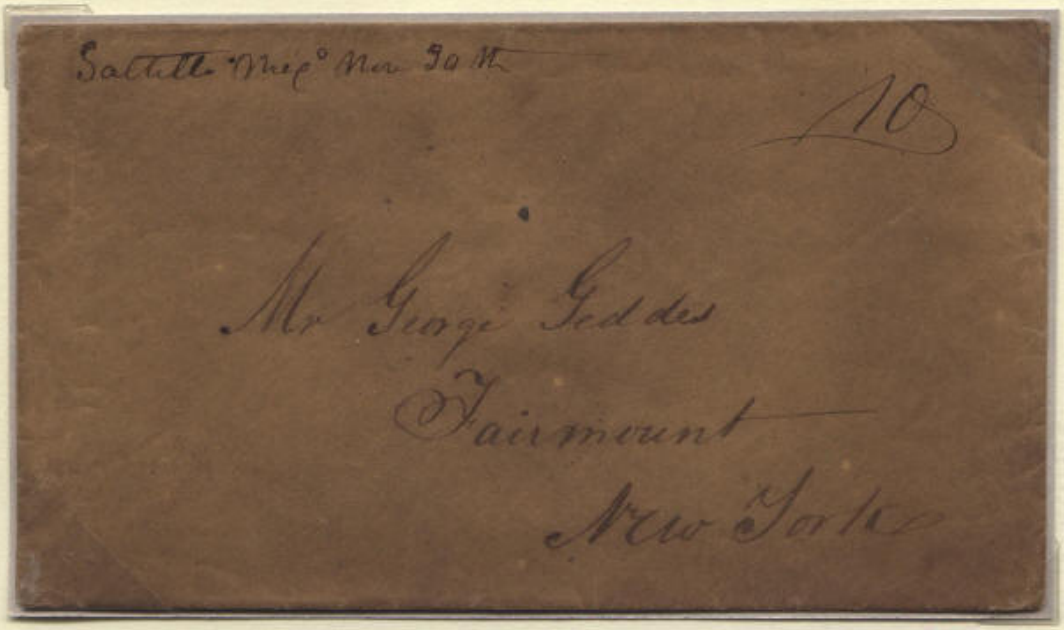
Free (Act of 3 March 1847)



March/April 1847 to Monterrey/Saltillo ***Waived 10c for > 300 mile rate***
Did not apply to Naval personnel, suttlers, or other assorted non-soldiers.
Soldiers often did not have enough cash money on hand to claim their mail!

Occupied 16 November 1846 by General Taylor

Envelope, Saltillo Manuscript



Saltillo
30 November (1846)

No Point Isabel
Transit markings

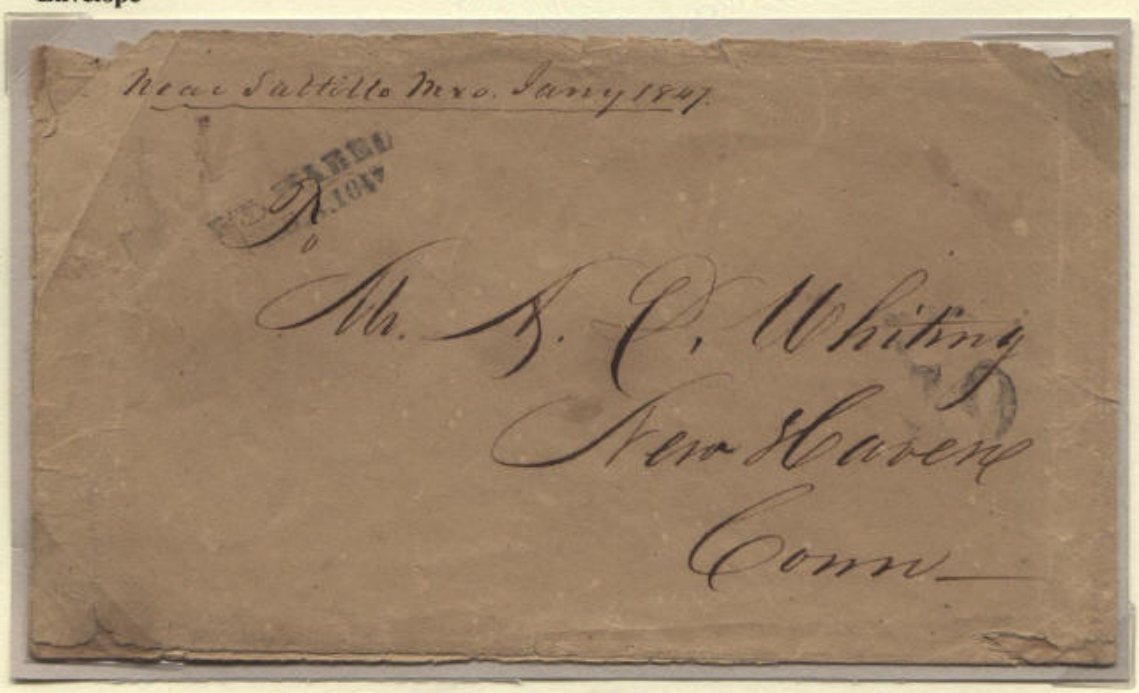
*Manuscript '**10**' [cents]*

Envelope

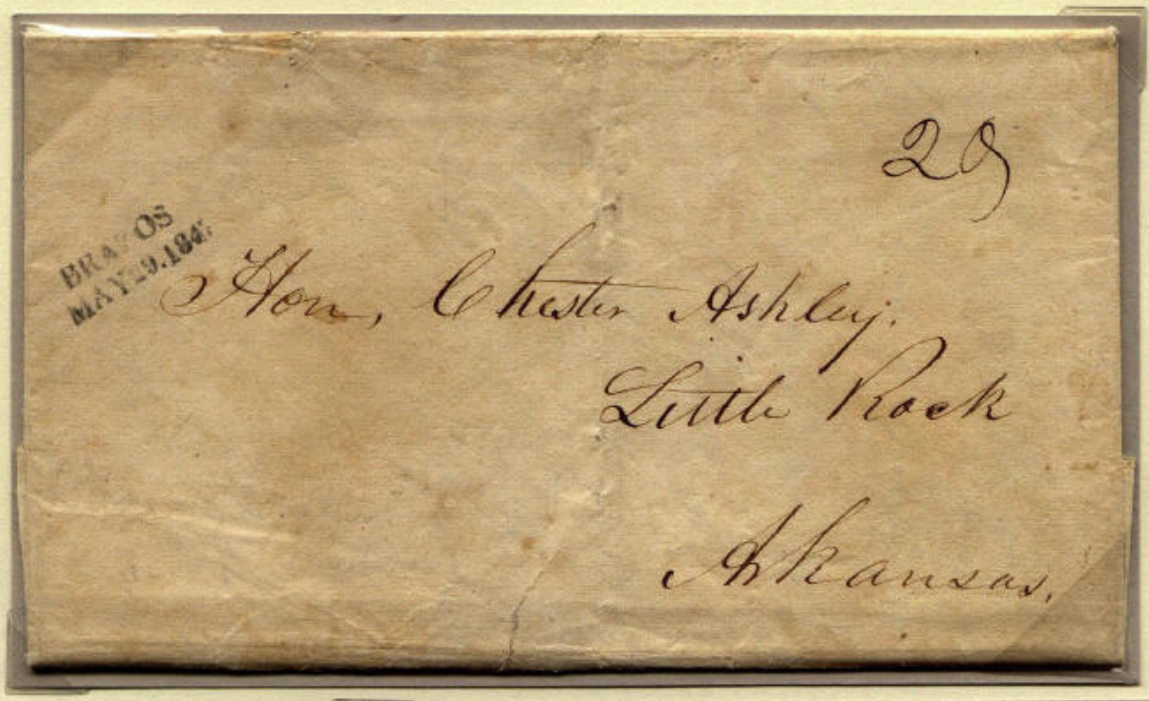
"<u>Near Saltillo Mxo. Jany 1847.</u>"

Point Isabel
Type II
1 February 1847

*Small '**10**' Ratemark*
Up to 1/2 oz.,
>300 miles



Envelopes much less common then folded letters during this period



Camp at La Encantada
10 May 1847

Brazos Type II
29 May 1847

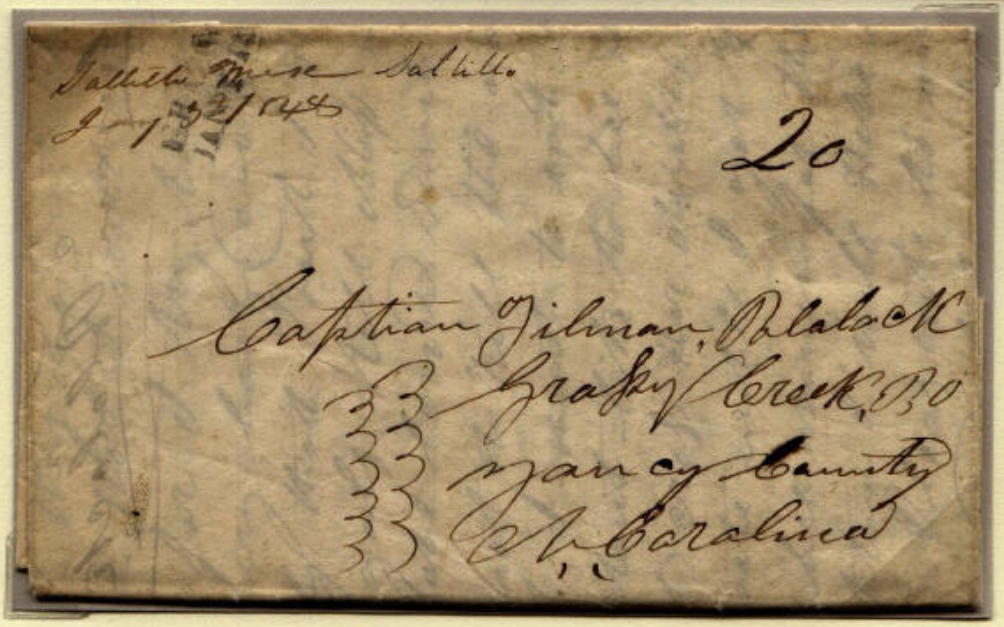
Manuscript '20' Rate
1/2 – 1 oz., >300 miles

Camp at Arispas
13 December 1847

Brazos Type III
2 January 1848

Small '10' Ratemark
Up to 1/2 oz.,
>300 miles





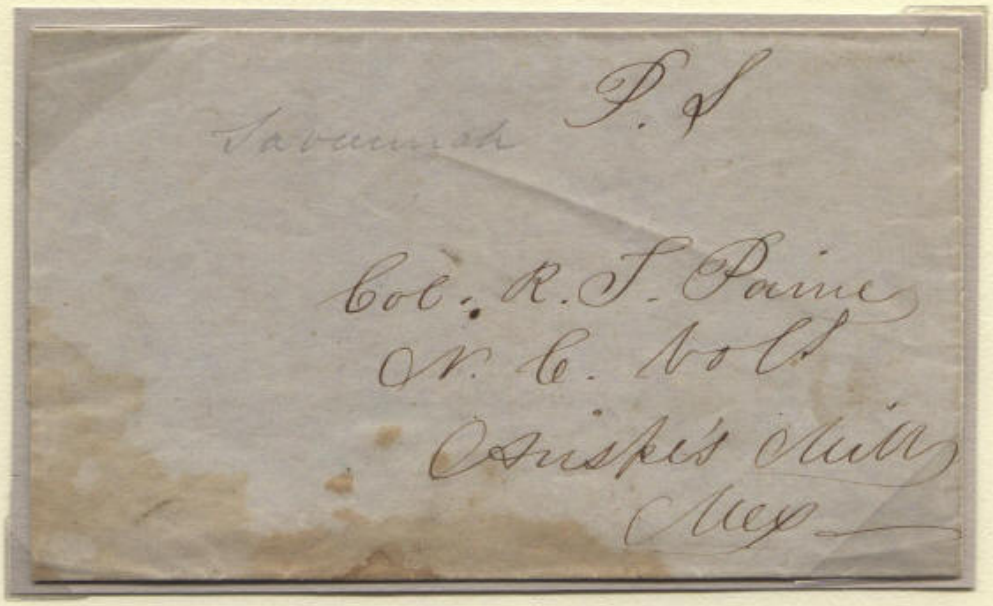
Saltillo (Manuscript)
3 January 1848

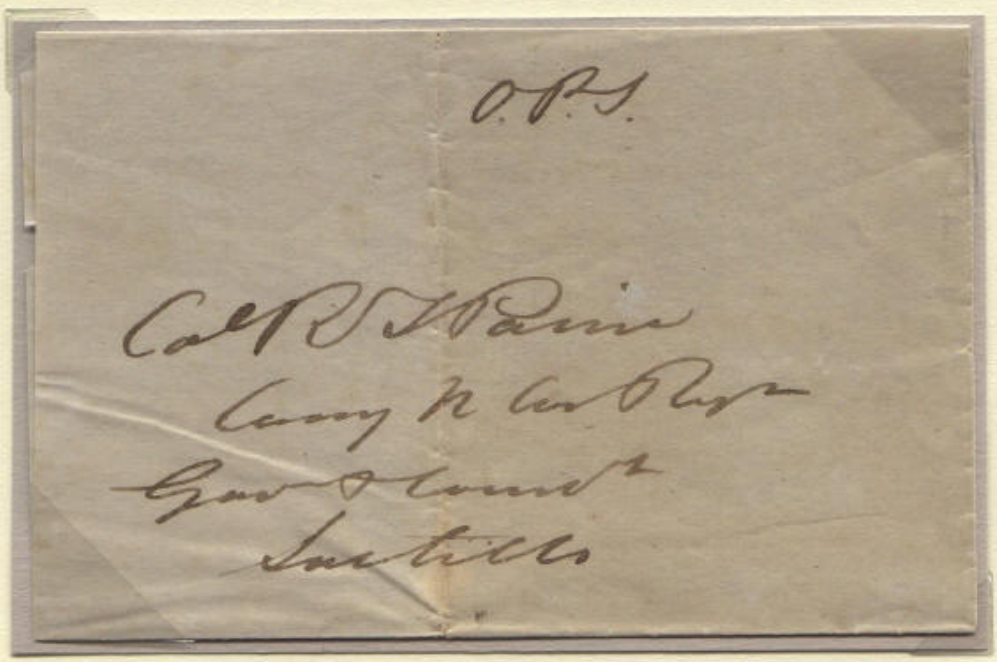
Brazos Type III
13 January 1848

'20' cents
1/2 – 1 oz., <300 miles:

Official – Inbound

Military Courier (No Postal Markings)



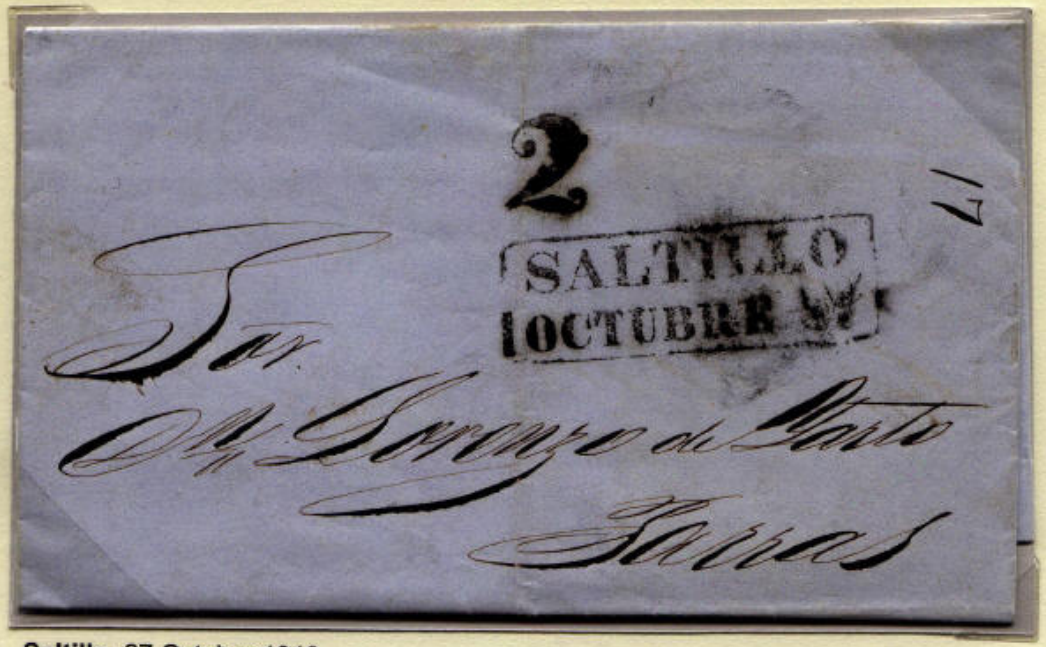


Addressed to *Col. Robert Trent Paine*
(Commanding Officer – North Carolina Volunteers) at Arispas Mills (Saltillo).

Endorsed either "*P. S.*" (Public Service) or "*O. P. S.*" (On Public Service) indicating no postage paid or due.

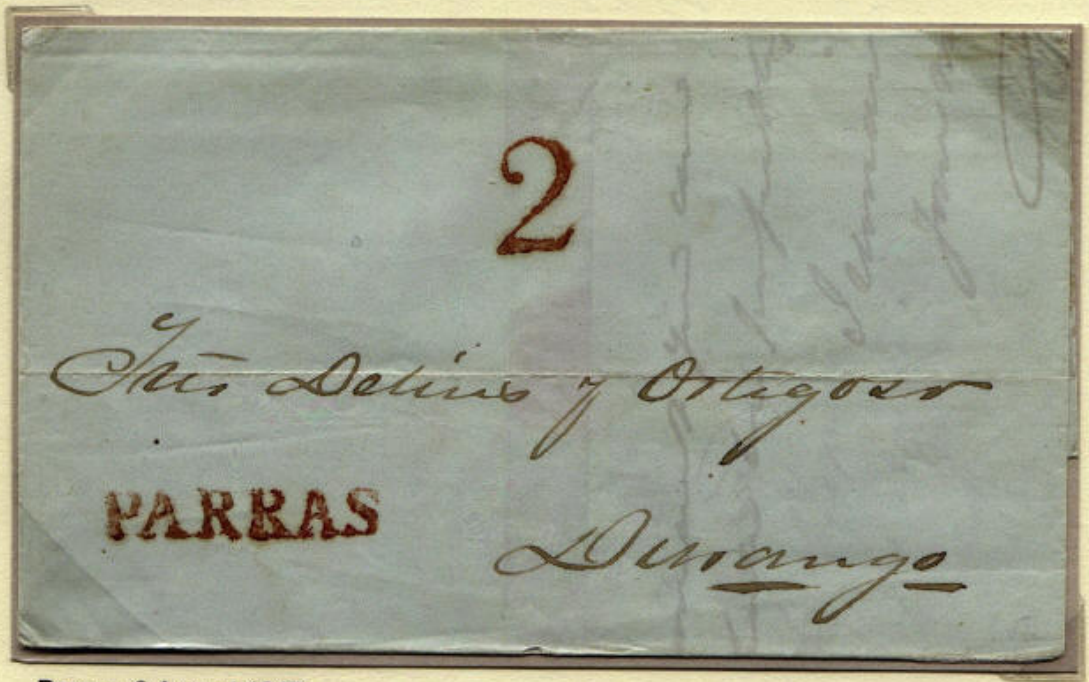
Saltillo Occupied by Taylor 16 November 1846
Parras Occupied by Worth 5 December 1846

Inbound from Saltillo to Parras Immediately Pre-occupation



Saltillo, 27 October 1846
2 Reales (collect)

Mexican Civil Mail



Parras, 9 August 1847
2 reales (collect)

Occupied by General Worth 5 December 1846

U.S. Soldier's Mail



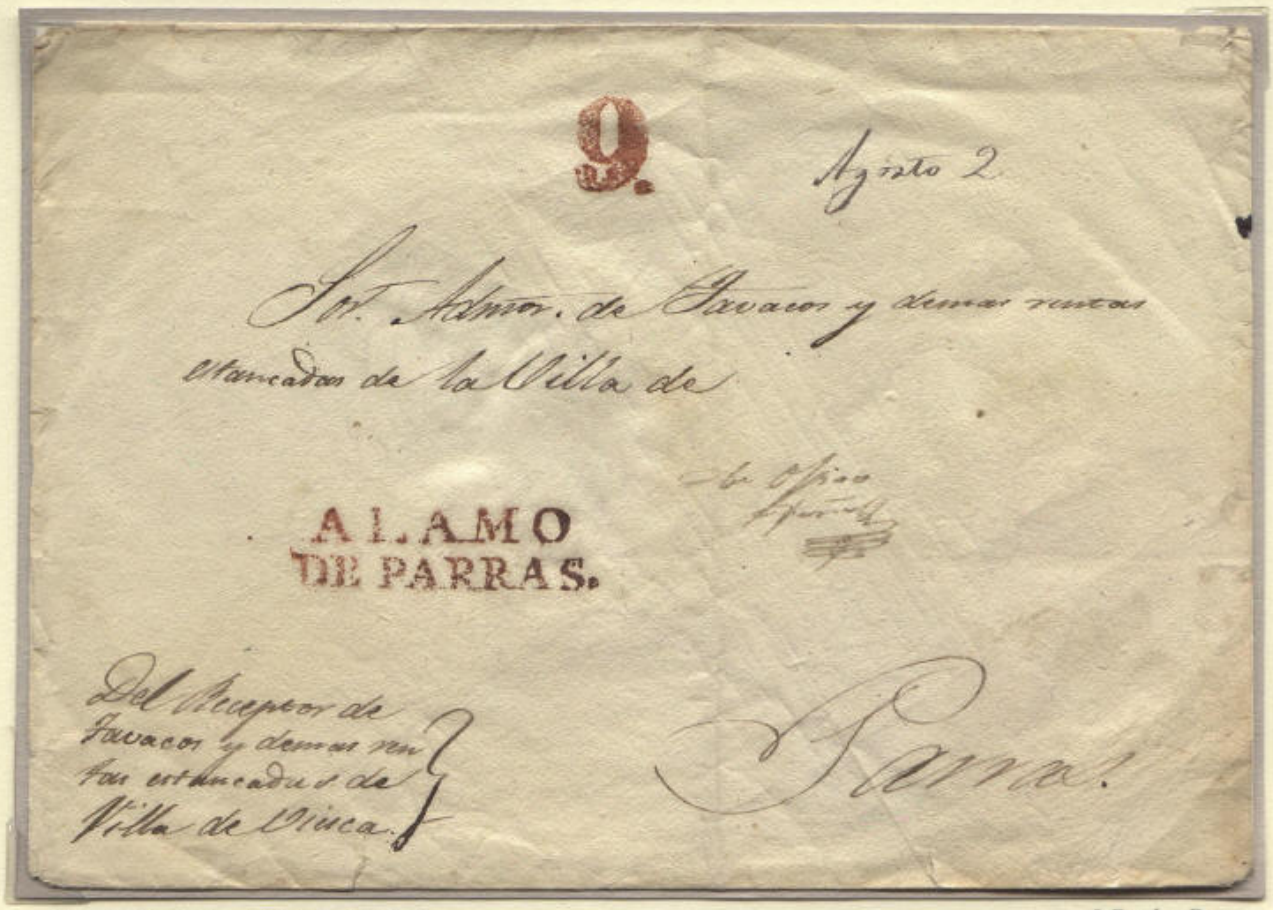
Parras
3 April 1848

Blue **Brazos**
Type IV CDS
20 April 1847

Blue Handstamp '10' [cents]

U.S. soldier awaiting end of war, anticipating Journey home.

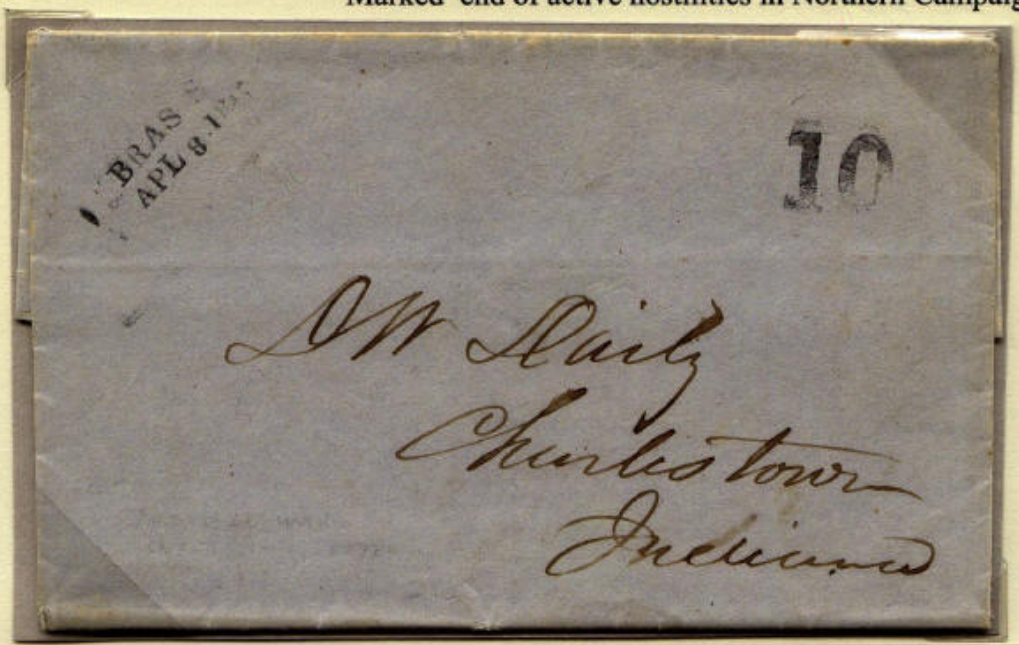
Official (Local Government) inbound Letter



Alamo de Parras (Villa de Viesca)
2 August 1847

9 Reales Rate
(2 – 2 1/4 oz, > 45 miles)

Battle of Buena Vista: 22 -23 February 1847
Marked end of active hostilities in Northern Campaign



Buena Vista
15 March 1847

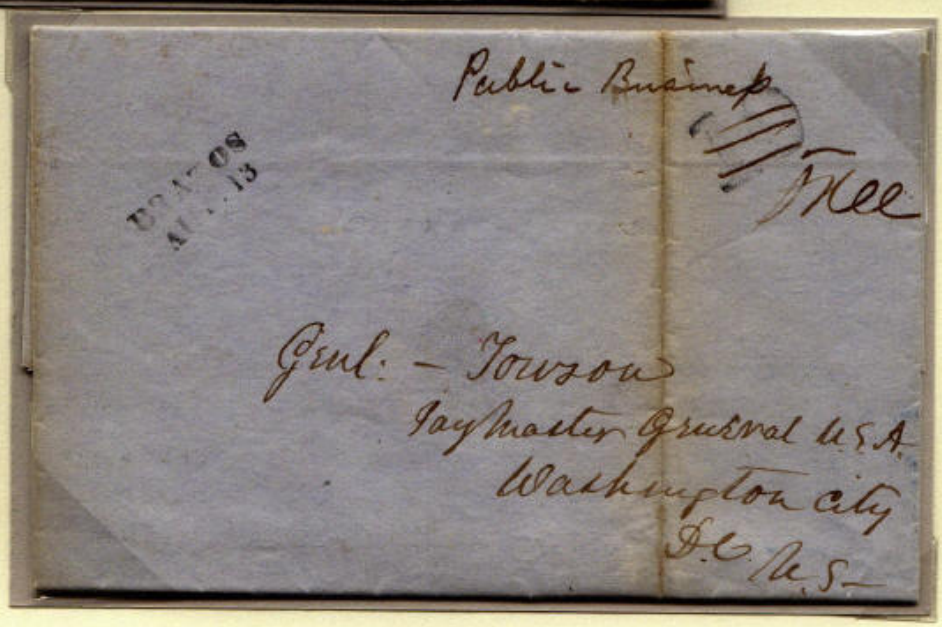
Brazos (BRASOS)
Type I Handstamp
8 April 1847

In use for less then 2 weeks,
Fewer then 10 examples known



Brazos type II
Handstamp

Rate:
10 cents for
< 300 miles



Buena Vista
1 August 1847

Brazos Type III
Handstamp
13 August (1847)

"Public Business/Free"
'10' crossed out
For official business

Texas was one of several States to raise a volunteer force for service in Mexico

To Texas



"Texas Rangers, Camp Encantada near Buena Vista"
15 July 1847

Brazos Type III
29 July 1847

Small '10' [cents]

To General (Senator) Thomas Rusk reporting Death of Officer due To illness.

Inbound from Texas

San Antonio
23 August 1847

To ***Texas Mounted Volunteers in Mexico***

"pr. Express"
(Military messenger)

No Postal Markings



Texas Volunteers (Rangers) served throughout Northern Mexico, especially Saltillo area.

Military activities for Northern Campaign essentially ended after Battle of Buena Vista. Return home of 1 year volunteers, transfer to Central Mexico, or recovery from illness were the lot for many.

Headquarters, Misissippi Regiment at Mazapil
14 March 1848

Brazos, 12 April 1848
Note deformed "APRL'
(End of life for this device, Replaced by Type IV a few days later)

Small "10" Ratestamp

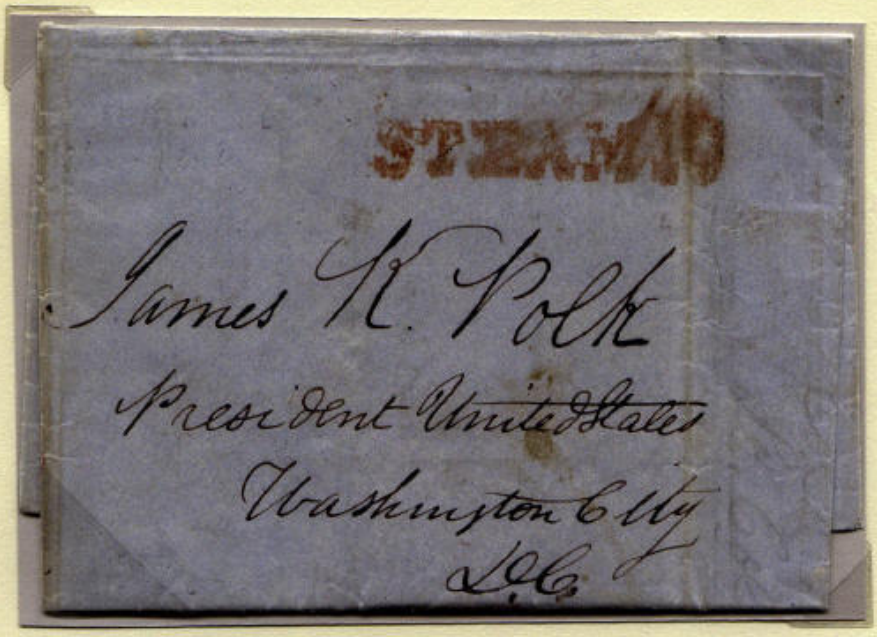


Troops left Buena Vista on 2 March for journey home

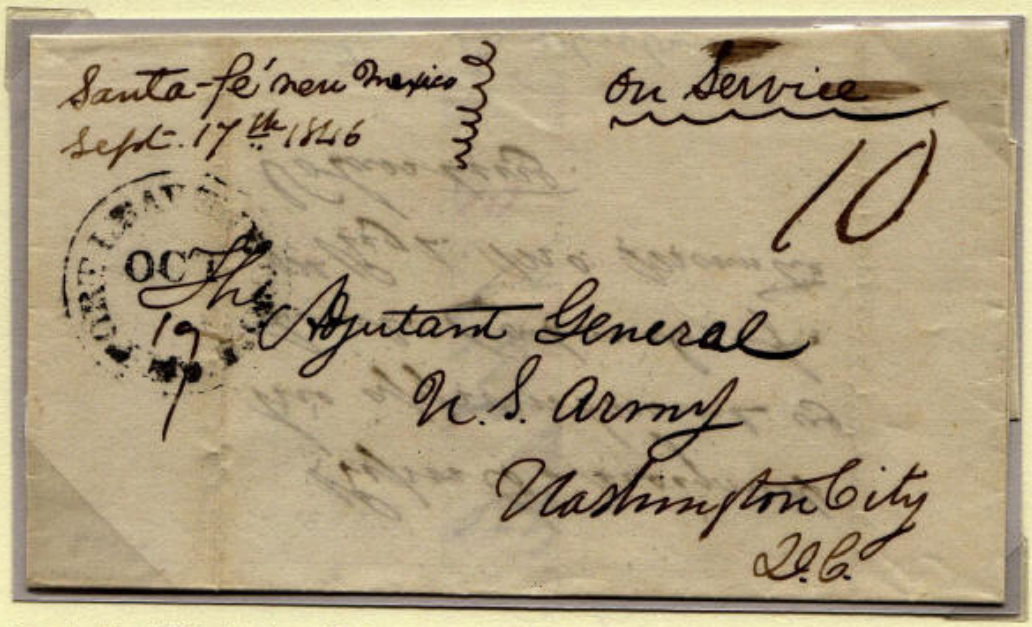


Mississippi Regiment at Cedras, 30 April 1848
Brazos Type IV Handstamp (Blue CDS)
25 & 31 May 1848

Santa Fe occupied by Kearny 18 August 1846



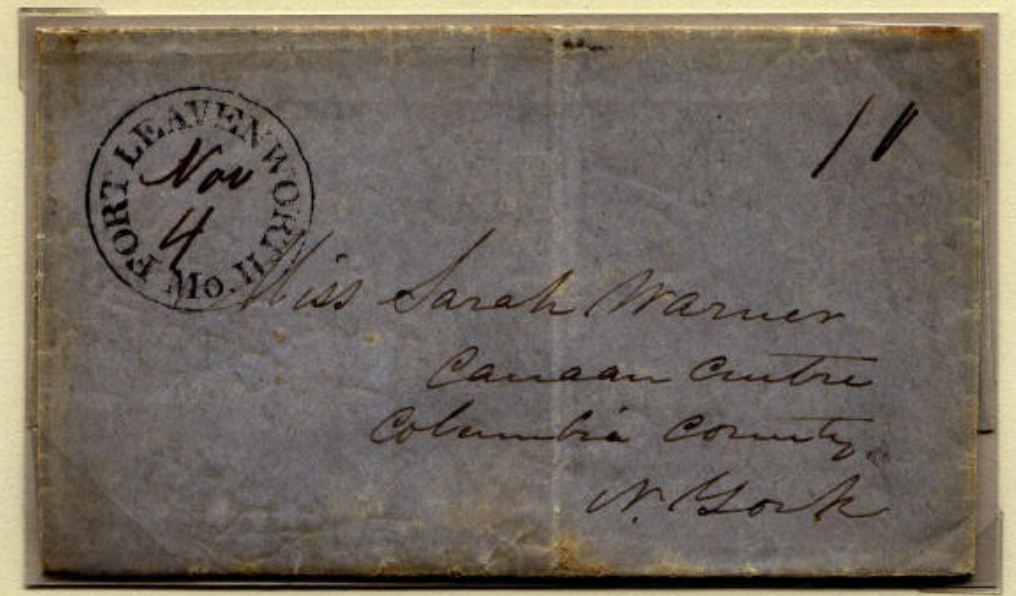
Camp near Santa Fe; 26 August 1846.
Via U.S. Military train to St. Louis (**STEAM 10**); then to Washington, DC. 3 Oct. 1846 arrival



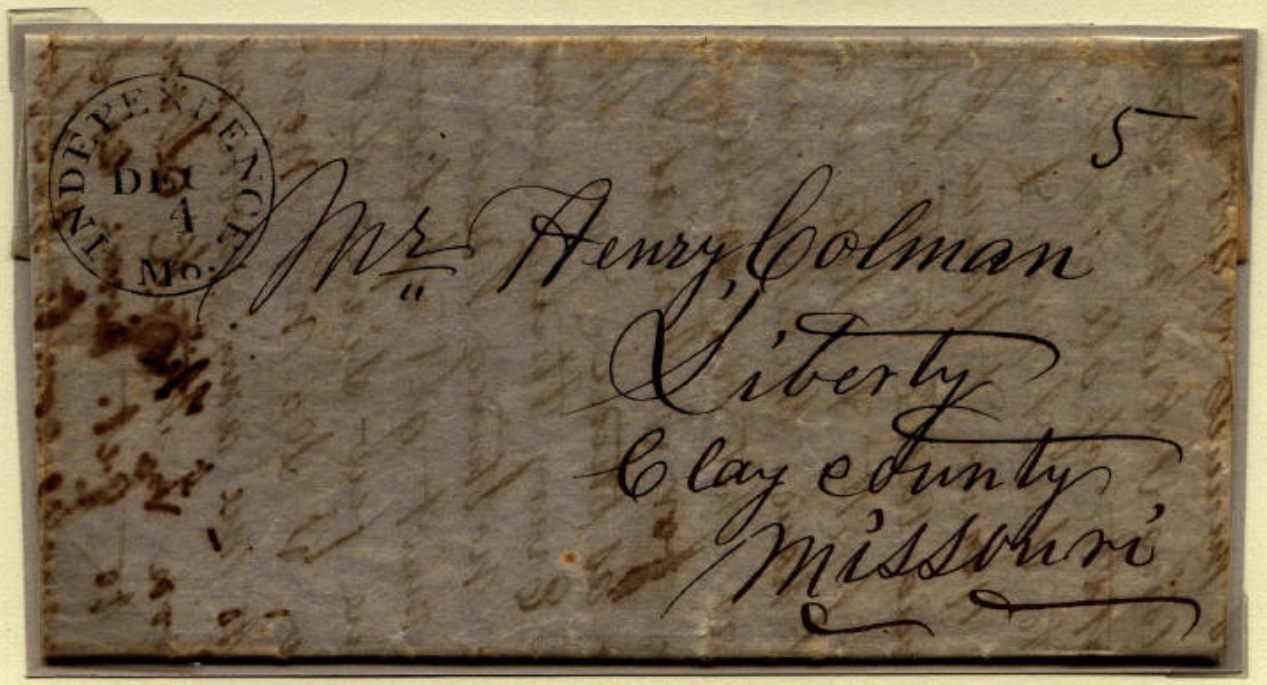
Santa Fe, 17 September 1846
Via **Fort Leavenworth** (19 October 1846), & St. Louis; 2

Forces split into 3 main groups under separate commanding officers:

- ***Kearny*** to California
- ***Donaphin*** to Chihuahua (rejoined Taylor's forces at Saltillo, Mexico)
- ***Price*** remained in New Mexico



(Kearny's Forces) 2 October 1846
En route to California, 120 miles from Santa Fe
via Military Express to Fort Leavenworth

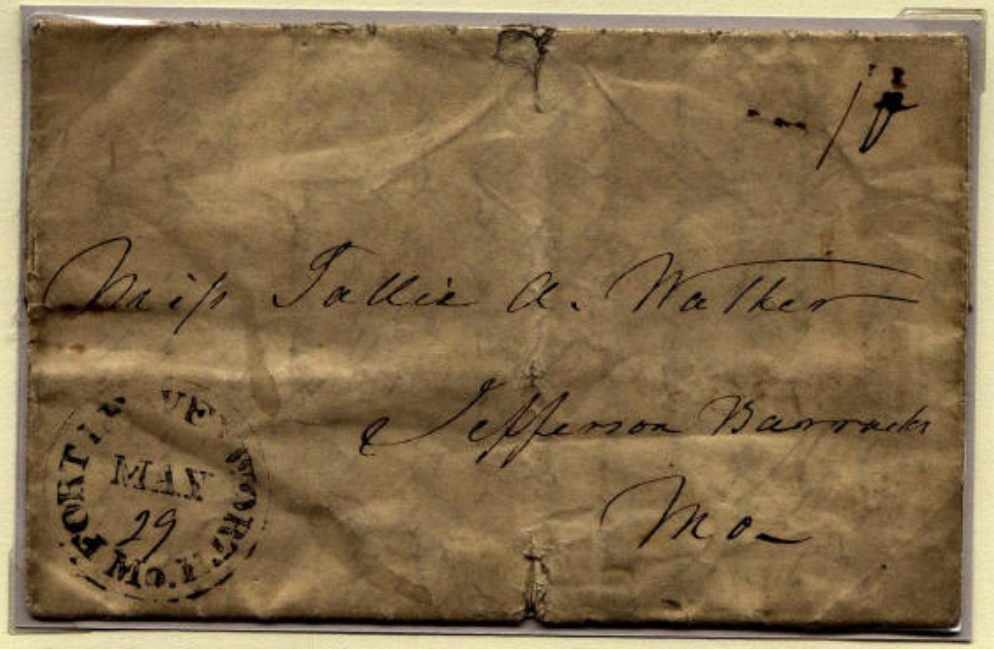


(Doniphin's Forces) 19 October 1846
Southwest of Santa Fe
5c (<300 mile rate) charged from Independence, Mo.

Forces under ***Price*** remained in New Mexico for remainder of war period.



Santa Fe, 6 October 1846
via military express to Fort Leavenworth, Mo. (4 Nov. 1846)
5c rate from Ft. Leavenworth to Clay County, Mo.



Santa Fe, 29 April 1847
10c from Ft. Leavenworth (29 May 1847) to Jefferson Barracks
(>300 miles) near St. Louis

Area Under Military Government through Mid 1850
Civilian Postmaster appointed Spring 1850

Via Fort Leavenworth



Santa Fe, circa April 1849
Fort Leavenworth, 17 May 1849
Via Military Express
10c Single Rate from Mo. To Ohio

Via Independence, Mo.



Santa Fe, 16 July 1849
Independence Mo., 25 August 1849
(Green CDS used mid 1849)
20c Double rate

Mail from New Mexico carried over Santa Fe Trail to Fort Leavenworth or Independence, Mo. by military express, entering U.S. mail system (prior to establishment of U.S. Post Office early 1850).

One of two Known '1847' issue stamps used from Santa Fe

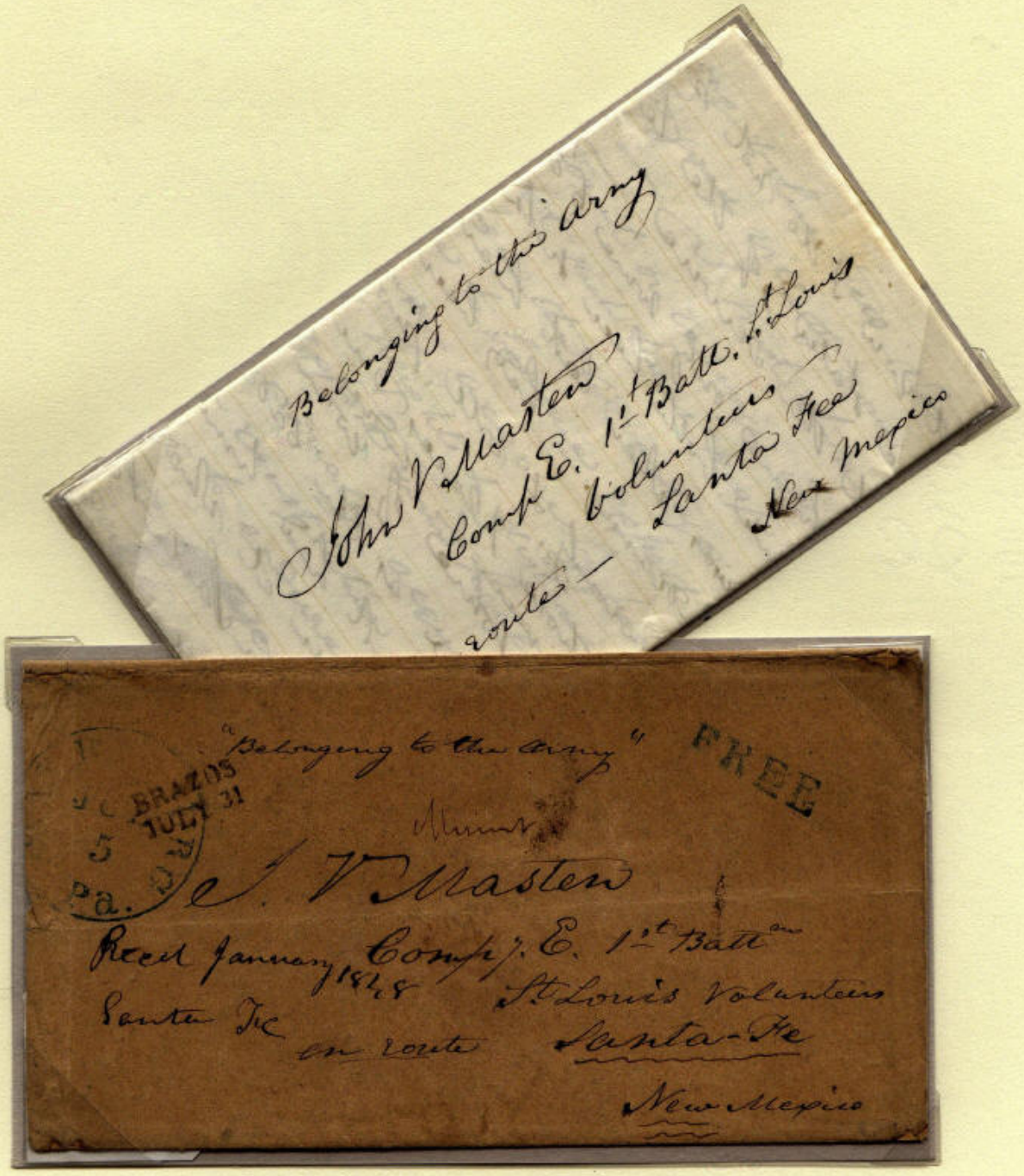


(P.F. Cert)

Santa Fe, mid July 1849
Independence Mo., 25 August 1848
(Green CDS used mid 1849)
10c Single rate

Third Printing, March 1849
Probably carried privately into Santa Fe
As no stamps were officially sent there

Inbound to Santa Fe via Brazos



Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; 5 July 1847
Brazos (transit); 31 July 1847
Santa Fe arrival; January 1848

Original folded letter sheet placed inside envelope after addressing, but prior to mailing.

*Endorsed **FREE** under act of 3 March* 1847

Occupied by Donaphin 1 March through 28 April 1847

Post Occupation Mexican Civil Mail



Chihuahua, 20 June 1847
3 Reales due

Inbound to Chihuahua



Alamos, 25 June 1847
United States military activity in Alta California discussed
4 reales due

Variable U.S. blockade in place from early 1846 through 17 June 1848.
U.S. Naval landings/temporary occupations occurred
September 1846, February, and December 1847.

U.S. Sailor (Blockade duty at Mazatlan)

Mazatlan
31 March 1846

Entered mails at
New Orleans
5 May 1847
(5 week transit)

10c postage
+2c "SHIP"
12c rate



"...since 9th of December [1845] we have been anchored in this place."

Mexican Civil Mail



Mazatlan
27 June 1847

2 Reales [due]
Single letter
Rate to Durango

Mexican Civil Mail

Mazatlan
21 November 1847

Entered mails at
San Sabastian,
(Coastal town
South of Mazatlan)

2 Reales [due]
(Single Letter rate)





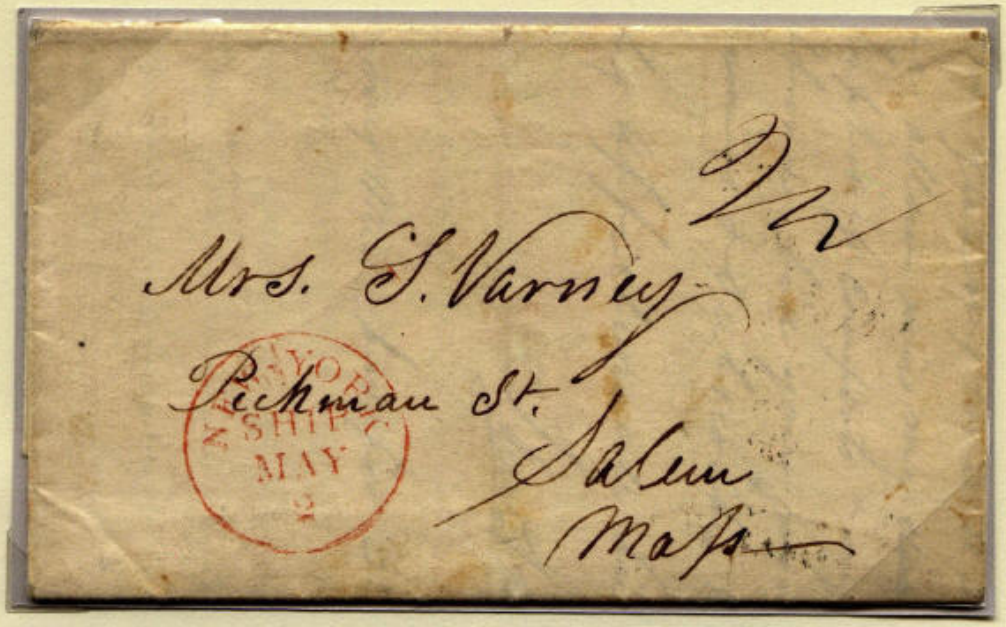
Mazatlan
8 January 1848

Entered mails at
Panuco,
(25 miles inland
from Mazatlan)

3 Reales [due]
1/2 – 3/4 oz.
Rate to Durango

Mail from Mazatlan entered Mexican mails at outlying locations during U.S. Occupation

San Diego occupied by U.S. Naval forces 29 July 1846.
U.S. ships have called at San Diego from early 1800's.



Port San Diego, 2 March 1841 (via Forwarder & Mexican Mails)
Forwarded at **Mazatlan** (*W.W. Scarborough* [ms] 11 March ; **Vera Cruz** 3 April ; **New York** 2 May 1841
Early U.S. Ship letter to Boston from Mexican Pacific Port; Stopping point on way to Hawaii



San Diego, 20 May 1847 (via U.S. mails)
Overland to **St. Louis** (STEAM 10), then via steamer to Boston.

WHALING LETTER via MEXICO

Whaling ship letter carried across Mexico from Pacific to Atlantic ports.

Hawaii – Mazatlan – Vera Cruz – New Bedford

Oahu, 26 October 1846
Ship 'GRATITUDE'



Oahu to **Mazatlan** via sailing ship,
across Mexico to **Vera Cruz** (30 Jan. 1847),
then via ship to **New Bedford**.

Rated 12c: 10c postage + 2c ship.

U.S. Naval forces enforced intermittent blockade of Mexico's Pacific ports from late 1845 through June 1848.

MEXICAN MILITARY MAIL

Northern Campaign Area – Rio Grande to Cadereyta

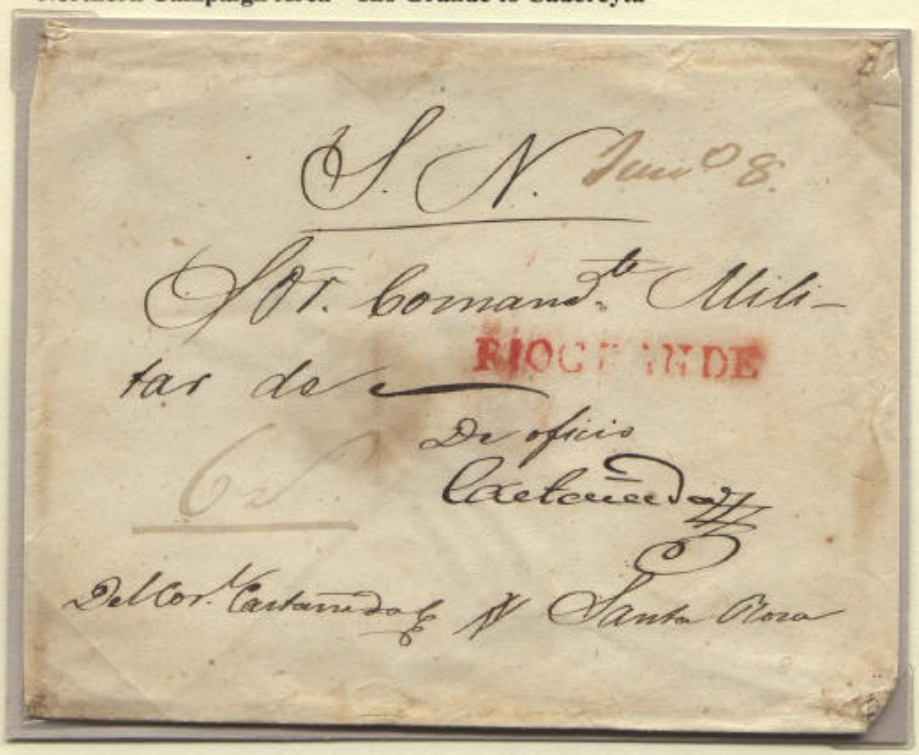
Rio Grande
(Saltillo/Zacatecas)
8 June 1846

To area Military Commander at **Cadereyta** (near Monterrey)

"*S. N.*"
(Servicio Nacional)
[National Service]
No postage required

6 Reales debited
(1 1/4 – 1 1/2 oz)

Probably contained Several documents or Sheets of paper.



Central Campaign Area – Inbound to Puebla



Huamantla
(near Puebla)
1 May 1847

No Payment required
2 Reales debited

From Military Commander at Huamantla to General at Puebla

Puebla occupied 15 May 1847 (2 weeks later) by U.S. forces.

DISPERSAL OF NORTHERN FORCES

By Spring 1847, military activity in the North of Mexico was at a standstill. Many troops who had enlisted for one year in 1846 were eligible for mustering out. Others were recovering from illness, accident, or war wounds in various hospital locations. Some were relocated to other theaters – the **Tamaulipais Expedition** to **Tampico** (December 1846), and the **Vera Cruz/Central Mexican Campaign** (from February 1847).

New Orleans
1 April 1848

"PAID 10"

Soldier recovering in hospital at New Orleans from wounds and illness contracted In Mexico.



Sea Journey to **Vera Cruz** from **Brazos** via **Isla de Lobos**



CENTRAL CAMPAIGN ORDER OF BATTLE

(BRAZOS)
to
VERA CRUZ
to
MEXICO CITY
(including **Cuernavaca, Pachuca & Toluca**)

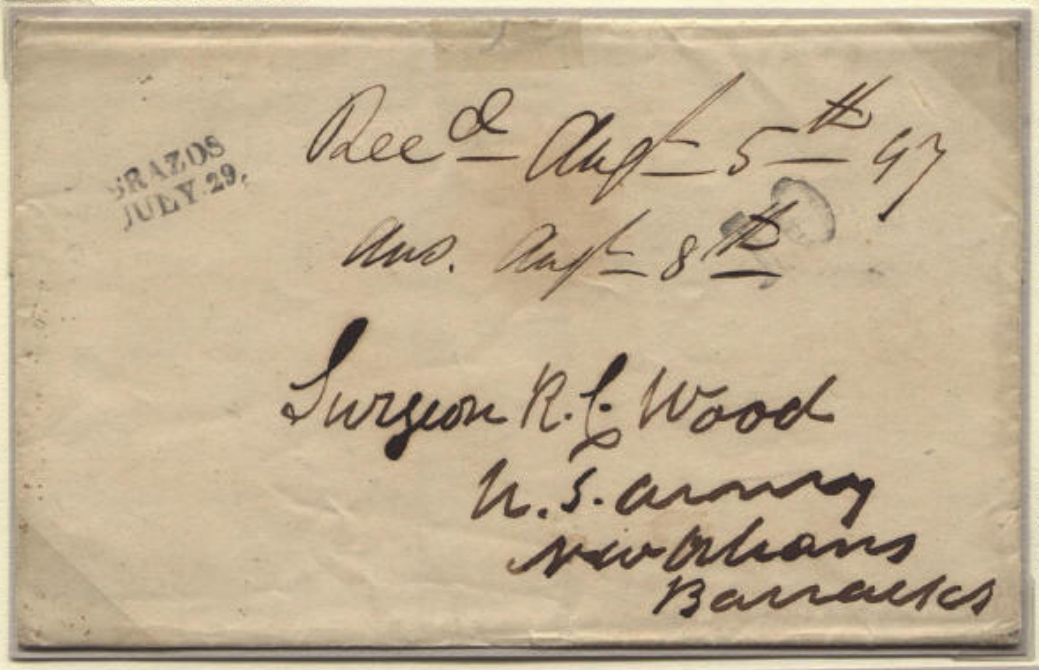


Palo Alto (North of Brownsville)
17 September 1847

Boston, 2 November 1847

Carried out of mails from Point Isabel to Boston, 5 cent rate from Boston to New Hampshire (<300 miles).

"on way from Monterrey to Vera Cruz...."



Brazos
29 July 1847

General
(later President)
Zachary Taylor
to (Son-in-law)
Military Surgeon
At **New Orleans**

10c [collect]

More troops felled by illness then from Enemy fire!

Annapolis, Maryland
24 June 1848

Inbound Newspaper
Wrapper Band

"**For the Army**"

*Carried "**Free**"*
Act of 3 March 1847
Which was in effect
through August 1848
(3 months after end
of hostilities)

[Prevailing rate: 3c]





New Orleans
16 May 1848

Soldier recovering
in hospital at New
Orleans from wounds
and illness contracted
In Mexico.

Troops from Northern campaign departed *Monterrey*, *Camargo*, and *Matamoros* on about 13 December 1846 for Tampico, meeting up at *San Fernando* for joint march via *Ciudad Victoria*

Matamoros Departure

Matamoros
14 November 1846

Via **Point Isabel**
(ratestamp)

10c for >300 miles

General Patterson reviewing troops who are about to march for Tampico



Monterrey Departure



Monterrey
13 December 1846

Point Isabel Type III
29 December 1846

10c postage (> 300 miles)
+5c forwarding (<300 miles)
=15c due

"We leave in a few minutes for Victoria...."

Troops from Northern campaign departed *Monterrey*, *Camargo*, and *Matamoros* on about 13 December 1846 for Tampico, meeting up at *San Fernando* for joint march via *Ciudad Victoria*

San Fernando (Staging up)

San Fernando
27 December 1846

Matamoros (Ms.)
31 December 1846

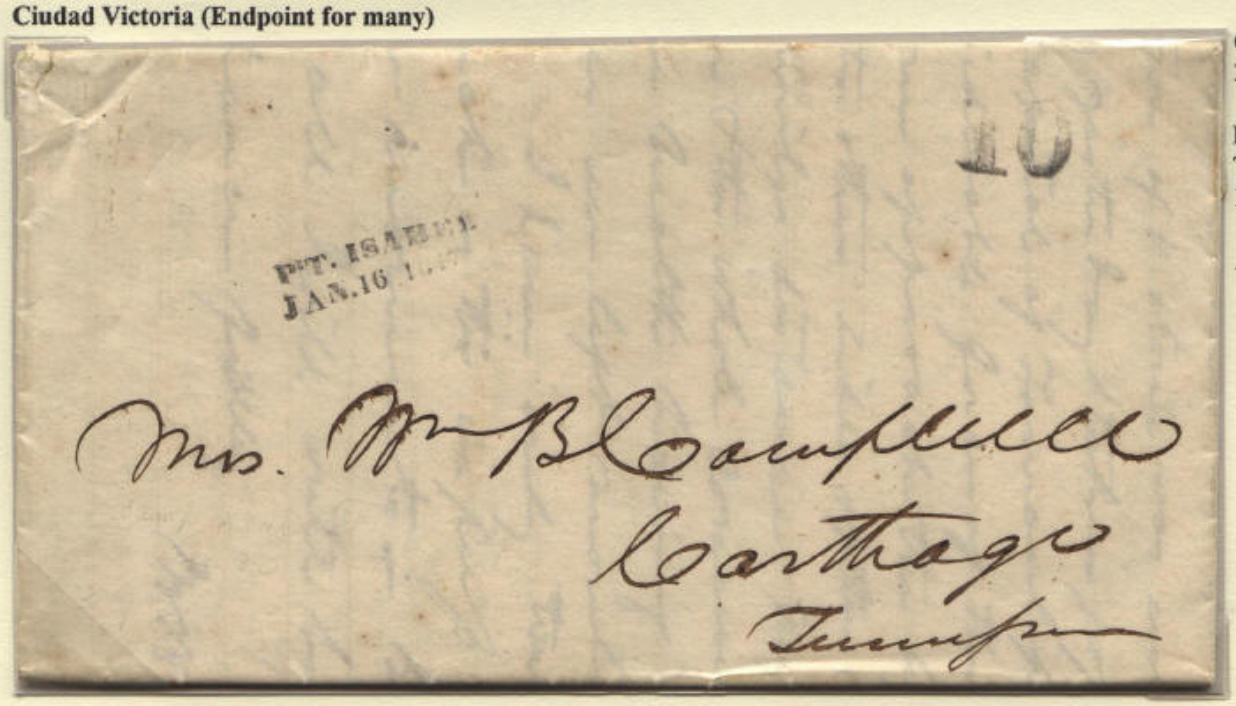
Point Isabel
Type III
2 January 1847

Forces from the three starting points staged at San Fernando for joint march on Ciudad Victoria



Ciudad Victoria (capital of Tamaulipas State) occupied 29 December 1846; evacuated 13 January 1847. Most troops returned to Matamoros, a few continued onwards to Tampico as reinforcements.

Ciudad Victoria (Endpoint for many)



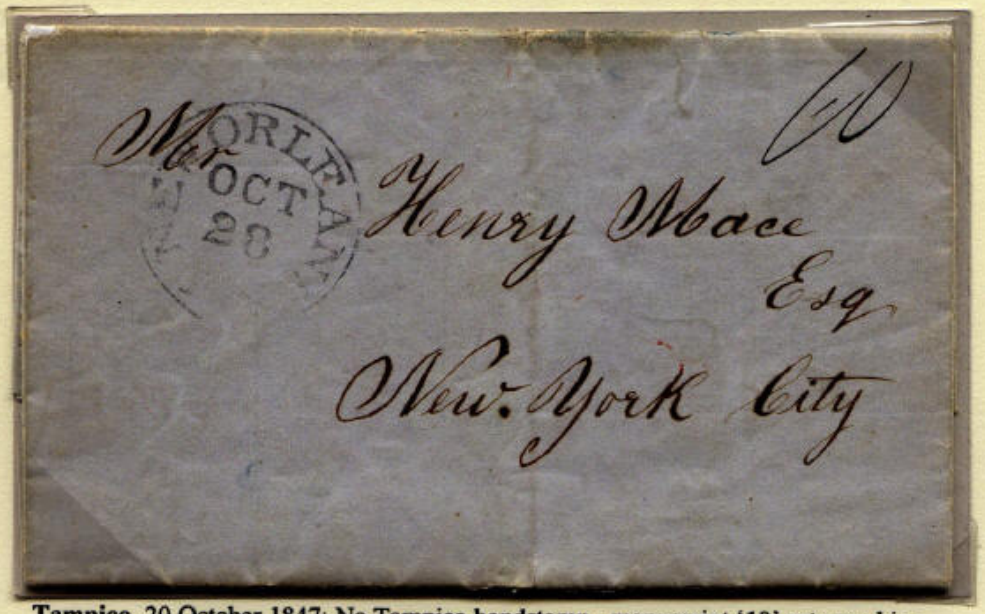
Ciudad Victoria
30 December 1846

Point Isabel
Type III
16 January 1847

10c >300 miles

Mail from Tamaulipas Expedition generally routed via Matamoros and Point Isabel.

Initial occupation 14 November 1846 by Navy, Army reinforcements arrived 23 January 1847 from Matamoros and Monterrey via Victoria (Tamaulipas Expidition)



Tampico, 20 October 1847; No Tampico handstamp, manuscript '**10**' rate marking
Via **New Orleans** to **New York**



Tampico, 18 November 1847
Ship "Maria Thomas" via **New Orleans** to **San Antonio**
Only other known example of this postmark is in blue, 26 October 1847

Bimonthly U.S. Mail Steamship route established between Tampico and New Orleans under authority of Article 3, Act of 3 March 1847.

TAMPICO HANDSTAMP & RATE MARKINGS

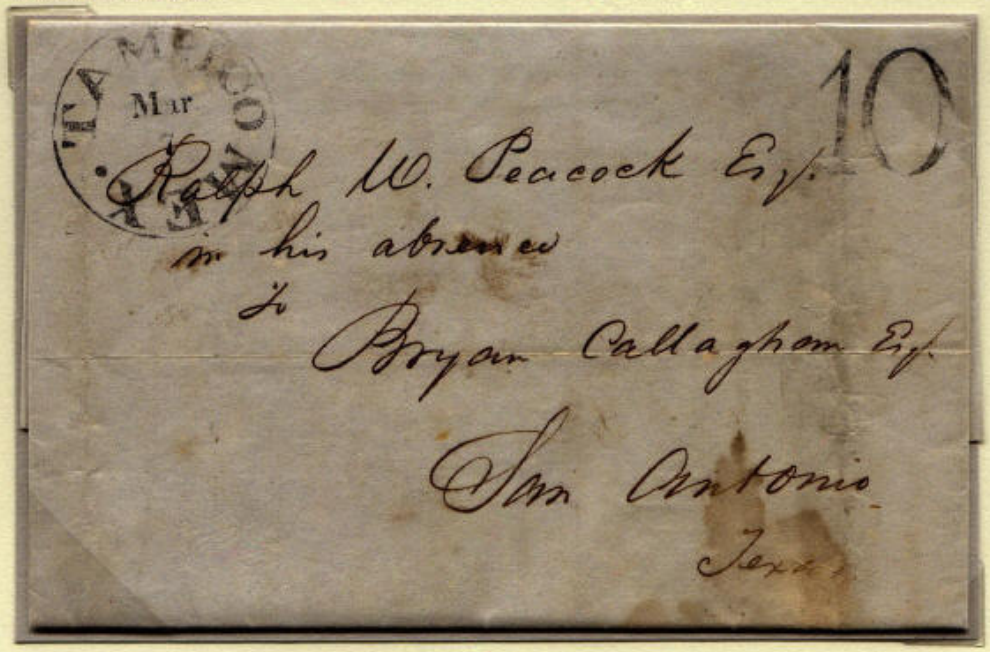
TYPE		KNOWN DATES OF USE
Dotted Double Circle	Postmark	26 October - 18 November 1847
Solid Single Circle	Postmark	7 March - 7 April 1848
Large '10' (cents)	Ratemark	26 October 1847 - 7 April 1848

Solid Single CDS

Soldier's Correspondence



Commercial Use



Tampico, 7 March 1848
'10' (cent) ratestamp (>300 mile rate)

4 known Tampico single solid CDS's

Turned Cover

Tampico — Senatobia, Mississippi —Tampico



Tampico, 7 April 1848 (side displayed)
'**10**' ratestamp

Senatobia (manuscript), - - April (inside)
'**FREE**' manuscript

"***Excuse me as I am out of envelopes as you can perceive. WB***"

Discovery copy of Inbound Soldier's mail to Tampico
One of 4 known Tampico single solid CDS's

Inbound to General Quitman

Via **Tampico**



Natchez Mississippi, 1 February 1847
Postage for >300 miles: 10c (collect)

Via **Vera Cruz**



Natchez Mississippi, 29 April 1847

'FREE' as per act of 3 March 1847
To Military forces engaged in Mexican Campaign

In place from early 1846 through end of intervention period;
British Mail Steamers allowed unimpeded passage through blockade

Pre Vera Cruz Occupation, Royal Mail Steam Packet to England

Mexico City
(Mexican Post)
30 July 1846

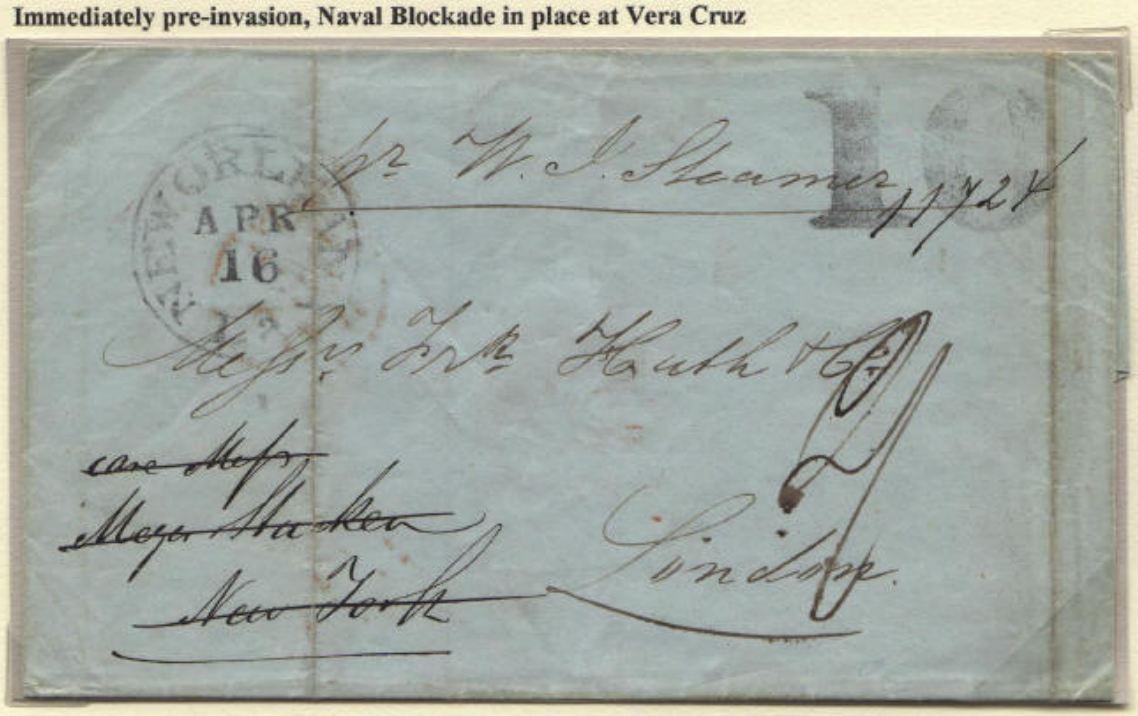
Vera Cruz
(British Agency)
1 August 1846

London
5 September 1846

2/3 Single rate



Immediately pre-invasion, Naval Blockade in place at Vera Cruz



Tabasco
8 February 1847

Vera Cruz
(Mexican Office)
28 February 1847

New Orleans
(U.S. Post Office)
16 April 1847
10c [collect]

Forwarded at
New York by
Meyer & Strickland
2/- North Atlantic
Packet rate

Arrival **London**
14 May 1847

Commercial activity continued, even in the presence of military action and occupation

Duplicate letters often sent via different routes to increase chances of delivery.
Varied Postal Agencies and forwarding Agents were employed.





Tabasco, 10 September 1847
Via **Laguna** (Yucatan)
Forwarded at **New York**
Arrived London, 16 November 1847
Rated 2/- (Single weight, New York to London)

Inbound from New Bedford, Mass. to Lieutenant Samuel Lockwood, initially serving on the U.S. Frigate ***Potomac***, Later Commanding Officer on United States Naval Steamer ***Scourge***

Stationed off Tabasco

New Bedford
4 January 1847

Prepaid 10c



Addressed via Vera Cruz



New Bedford
25 August 1847

Prepaid 10c
>300 miles

Not sent as "FREE" even though addressed to Vera Cruz.

Free mail to troops under Act of 3 March 1847 only allowed for troops serving in Mexico. It did not often apply for Naval forces as their mail was often addressed via New Orleans, Pensacola, or another non-Mexican port. At times, mail addressed via Mexico was allowed without charge.

Occupied by Mosquito Flotilla 12 May 1847

Duplicate Letters

"***An American force of 1000 men is expected to make an attack on this place....***"

Forwarded via Vera Cruz

Tabasco
10 May 1847

Forwarder at
Vera Cruz
(Mexican Post)

Vera Cruz
(British Agency)
2 July 1847
4/6 double rate

London
Arrival
5 August 1847



Duplicate via New Orleans



Tabasco
10 May 1847

New Orleans
19 June 1848
20c double rate

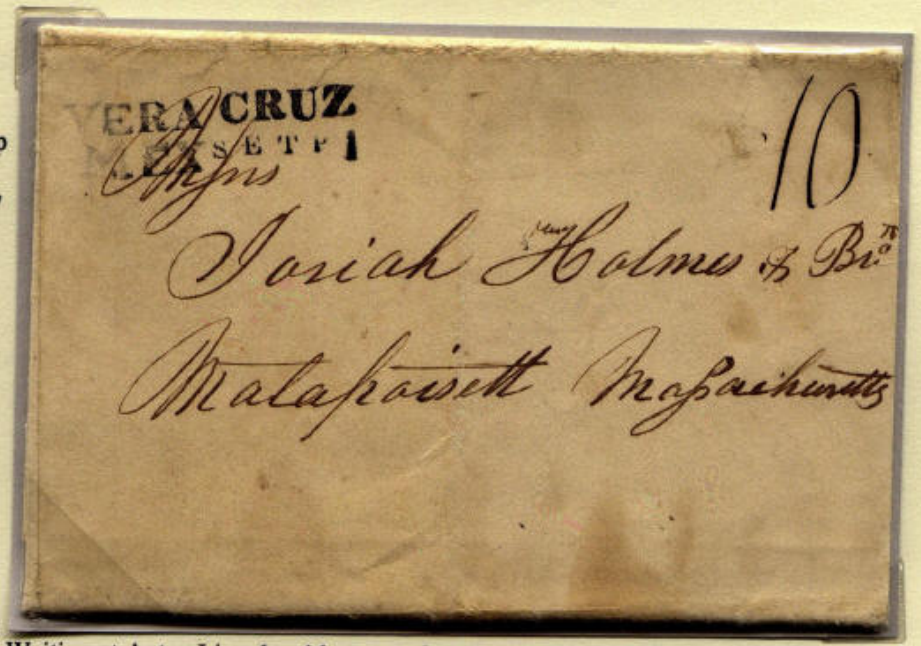
Via **Boston**
(North Atlantic)
Steamer
2/- double rate

London
Arrival
13 July 1847

Naval forces (Mosquito Flotilla) under Commander Conner enforced blockade of Mexican Gulf Coast ports from mid 1846 onwards. They were also active in occupying ports south of Vera Cruz including Alvarado, Anton Lizardo and Tabasco

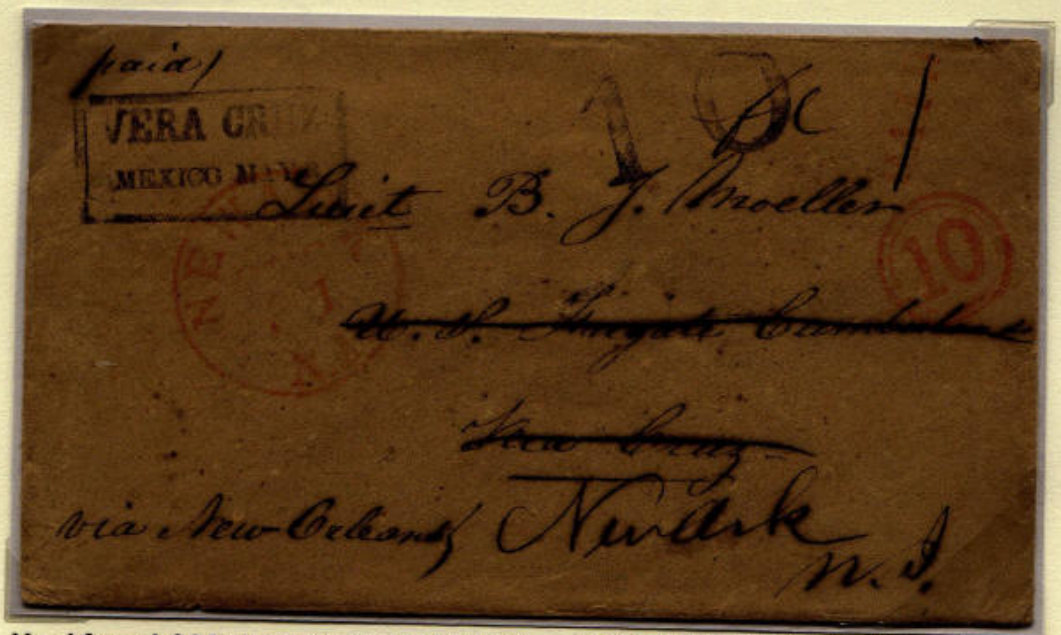
Anton Lizardo
29 August 1847

Vera Cruz
Type I Handstamp
"SE**TP**" error
1 September 1847



Waiting at Anton Lizardo with cargo of coal, many are sick and dying (yellow fever)
10c >300 mile rate

Inbound/Returned



Newark, New Jersey
31 December 1847

Vera Cruz
8 May 1848
Type VIII Handstamp

Naval forces left Mexican waters mid May 1848
US Frigate Cumberland served as fleet flagship

Ms "paid" & "PAID 10" at Newark
Navy did not qualify for Free inbound mail!
Large "10" and "free" applied at Vera Cruz

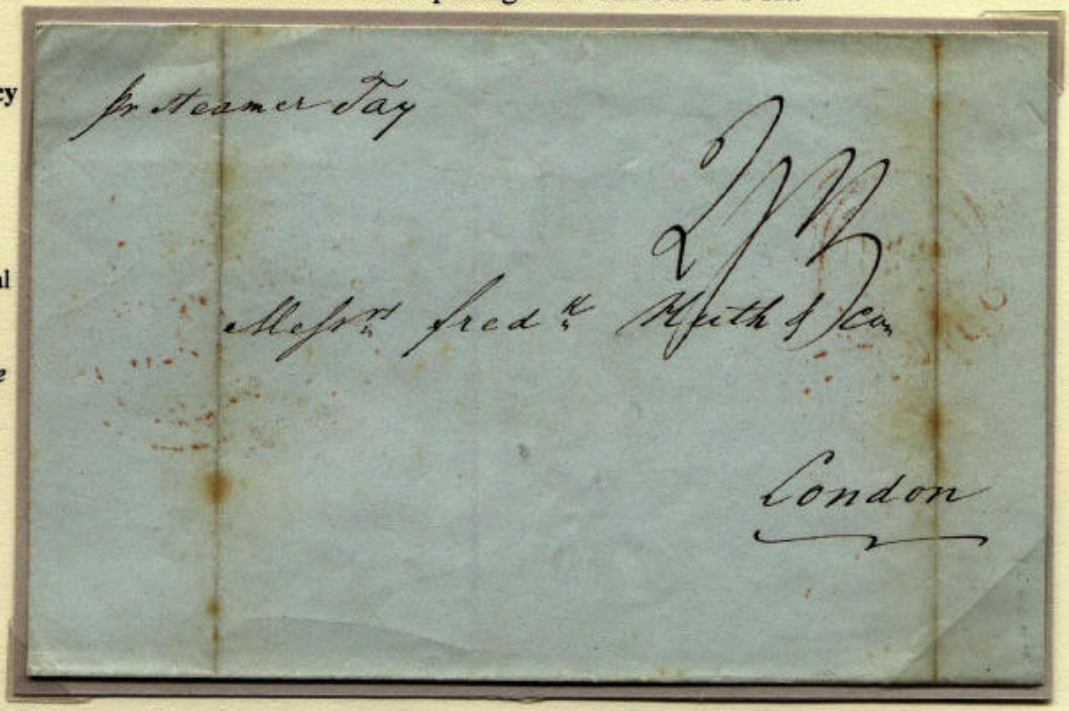
U.S. Navy under Commander Conner Blockaded Tampico from mid 1846,
British vessels allowed free passage into and out of Port.

Tampico
British Agency
25 May 1846

"pr (RMSC)
Steamer **Tay**"

London arrival
5 July 1846

2/3 Single rate to England



Intercoastal British Mails between Tampico and Vera Cruz



Tampico
British Agency
21 July 1847

"***PAID AT TAMPICO***"

Via RMSP Steamship
GREAT WESTERN

Royal Mail Steam Packets (RMSP) provided monthly service between **Havana**, **Vera Cruz** and **Tampico** with onward connections to England.

BRITISH AGENCIES HANDSTAMP & RATE MARKINGS

OFFICE	TYPE	PERIOD OF USE
Tampico	Double Circle Datestamp	Throughout Intervention Period
	Crown "PAID"	"
	Ms. 2/3 & 4/6 (ratemarks)	"
Vera Cruz	Double Circle Datestamp	Throughout Intervention period
	Crown "PAID"	"
	Ms. 2/3 & 4/6 (ratemarks)	"

U.S. Navy under Commander Conner Blockaded Tampico from mid 1846,
British vessels allowed free passage into and out of Port.

Via Mexican & British Mails to France

Tampico
[Mexican Post]
20 June 1846

British Agency
20 June 1846

Calais, 7 August

Le Havre arrival
8 August



Local Postage to British Vessel in Port: 1 Real [Reverse] (Prepaid)
12 decimes/10 grams due (France)

British Mails to France



Tampico
(British Agency)
24 June 1847

London, 5 August

Calais, 6 August

Le Havre arrival,
7 August

No local (Tampico) payment markings
12 decimes due on delivery

Mexican and British Postal Systems

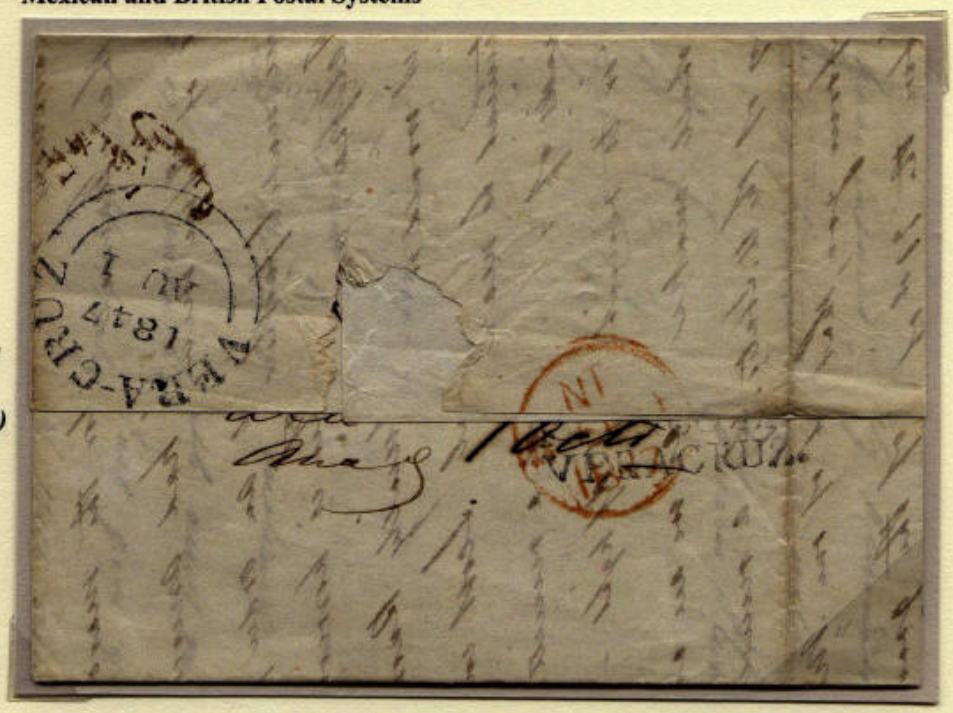
Vera Cruz
(Mexican Post)
1 August 1847

Vera Cruz
British Agency
1 August1847

London arrival
6 September 1847

(1 Real Local rate)
"FRANCO EN VERACRUZ."

2/3 Single rate to England



British Agency and U.S. Mails



Mexico City
13 March 1848

Vera Cruz
British Agency
21 March 1848

"PAID AT VERA CRUZ"
2/-

New Orleans
U.S. Mails
23 March 1848
Re-rated 32 cents

Mexico City to Vera Cruz by Courier (British Legation)
Vera Cruz to New Orleans by British Mails
New Orleans onwards by U.S. Mails (SHIP)

Prepaid to 2/- to New Orleans, Re-rated as 32c to Philadelphia

Double Rate to England

Vera Cruz
British Agency
15 June 1848

London arrival
25 July 1848

4/6 Double rate to England



Inbound from Spain and Havana via British Agency



Cadiz
9 July 1847

Havana
British Agency
8 September 1847

"***PAID AT HAVANA***"
1/-

Vera Cruz
Arrival
15 September 1847

Carried either outside the mails, or in a larger packet from Spain to Havana,
Entered British mails at Havana.

Spanish mail service between Havana and Vera Cruz was provided on an irregular basis by *La Compania Empressa de Correos Maritimos,* a poorly capitalized private company.

British Agency also continued service during Occupation period
For items addressed to United states and Foreign Destinations



Vera Cruz (British Agency), 16 March 1848
London arrival, 21 April 1848
Boulogne, 25 April 1848
Bordeaux, 27 April 1848
'COLONIES & ART. 12' *British-French Accountancy Mark*

Spain – Havana –Vera Cruz
Via
La Compania Empressa de Correos Maritimos

Inbound to Vera Cruz during early occupation period



Lordo, 27 February 1847 (Red CDS) [Spanish Mails]
Havana (Blue 'HAVANA' and 'CORREO MARITIMO No. 2')
Vera Cruz, late May/early June arrival

No Rate Markings

La Compania Empressa de Correos Maritimos did not collect fees on items transported from Havana to Vera Cruz, so there was little incentive to provide prompt service.

3 month transit time from Spain to Mexico, as there were no regularly scheduled mail vessels between Havana and Vera Cruz

Cuba –Vera Cruz – Tampico Via Spanish and Mexican Mails

Inbound to Tampico via Vera Cruz immediate post occupation period

Spanish mails between Havana and Vera Cruz



San Diego de Nunez,
18 July 1848 (Red CDS)
[Spanish Mails]

Havana
(Transit; 20 July)

Vera Cruz,
18 October
(3 month transit/delay)
[Mexican Mails]

Tampico
Arrival late October

Rated 3 Reales (due)
Vera Cruz – Tampico

Carried outside the mails between Havana and Vera Cruz



Havana,
27 October 1848
[Private Carriage]

Vera Cruz,
6 November
(10 day transit)
[Entered Mexican Mails]

Tampico,
Arrival mid November

Rated 3 reales (due)
Vera Cruz – Tampico

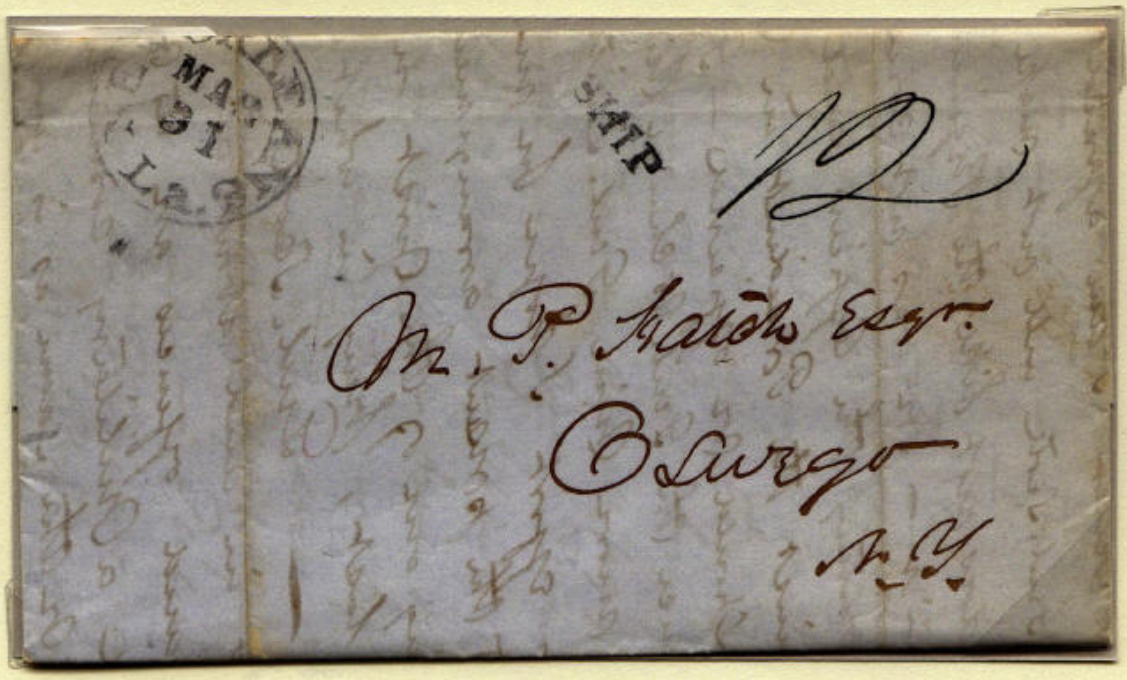
Sea Voyage to Vera Cruz from Brazos via Lobos Island (Isla de los Lobos)
Initial forces redeployed from Northern Campaign February – March 1847

Brazos Island
17 February 1847

Carried back on same ship, and entered mails at **New Orleans,** 26 February 1847

10c Postage





"Ship Diadem"
4 March 1847

*"We sailed from **Lobos Island** yesterday...."*

Carried to **New Orleans** (31 March 1847) on non-mail vessel, charged 2c additional '**SHIP**' fee.

10c Postage
2c Ship fee
12c collect

Troops assembled at Brazos, stagied at Lobos Island in preparation for siege of Vera Cruz

City surrendered after siege to General Winfield Scott on 29 March 1847

Vera Cruz
17 March 1847

Entered mails at
New Orleans,
5 April 1847

Siege in place, Negotiations with Mexican Military Commander for surrender of Port defenses in progress





"Camp Washington near Vera Cruz"
25 & 30 March 1847

Describes battle and surrender of Vera Cruz, possible occupation and further military plans.

Mails via New Orleans as Vera Cruz Post Office not yet set up.

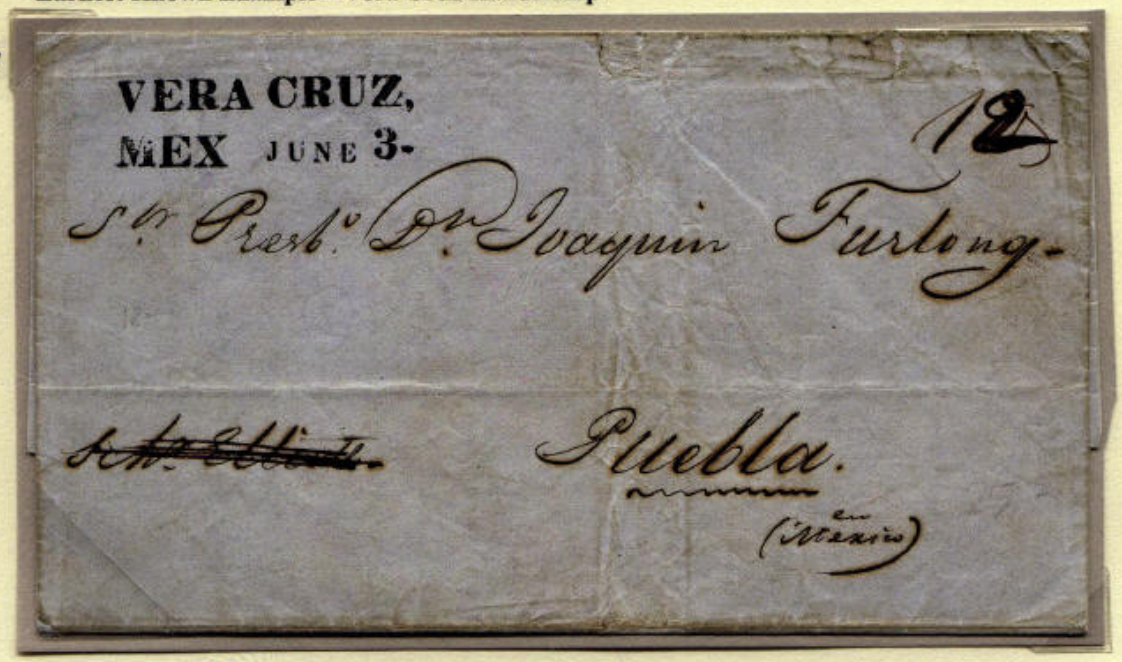
Troops encamped on beach enforcing siege of Vera Cruz

Earliest Known Example – Vera Cruz Handstamp

New York
15 April 1847

Vera Cruz
Type I
3 June 1847

10c Postage
2c (Ship)
12c Collect



Inbound to Mexican General at Puebla; notes General Scott's plan to march for Jalapa, then on to Mexico City. Notes U.S. desire for maintaining commercial activity in Vera Cruz.

Commercial Inbound (Forwarded) From New York via Vera Cruz



New York
22 March 1848

10c (collect) >300 miles

Arrived **Vera Cruz**
(Via **New Orleans**)
11 April 1848

Forwarded by
Vega Bros.
22 April 1848
To **Mexico City**

3 Reales collect

VERA CRUZ
MEX OCT 12

Type I Vera Cruz Handstamp
3 June – 12 October 1847



Camp near Vera Cruz, 8 October 1847 ***10c >300 mile rate***

Device made of movable printers type from local newspaper
Used with several Vera Cruz rate marks:
Manuscript, Small '**10**', Large '**10**'

Several sources (including autobiography of U.S. Grant) note that mail service through Vera Cruz was intermittant, or batched. This helps explain gaps in handstamp dates, and large quantities known for other dates.

When communications between the interior and Vera Cruz were difficult, mails could be sent via Tampico, especially during October 1847. Items were occasionally carried privately, or directly on board ship, bypsassing the Vera Cruz Post Office. The British Agency also handled significant quantities of commercial mail. Infrequently, small amounts went via Spanish mails

VERA CRUZ HANDSTAMP MARKINGS

TYPE	KNOWN DATES OF USE
I	3 June - 12 October 1847
II	29 October - 16 November 1847
III/a	18 October 1847
IV	16 November 1847 - 7 January 1848
V	14 January - 25 February 1848
VI	3 March - 9 March 1848
VII	20 - 26 March 1848
VIII *	7 April - 26 May 1848
IX	9 June - 5 July 1848

*Most frequently encountered type

VERA CRUZ **TYPE I HANDSTAMP**

Vera Cruz Handstamp (second day use) and Newspaper Dateline composed with identical typeface

Newspaper Wrapper Band with contents
The American Eagle, 5 June 1847 Edition

American newspapers published in *Tampico, Matamoros, Mexico City* and *Vera Cruz*.



which prevailed on the occasion, when the good ship moved slowly and majestically across the broad expanse of our glittering waters—when the tear-drop of joy trembled

have existed for them to feed upon; the bamboos of the present day would merely have been as reeds and grass to

ment he had disengaged his lance, and he turned across the body of the prostrate Mississippian.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNCIL.

The American Eagle.

VOL. 1. VERA-CRUZ, JUNE 5, 1847. NO. 22.

Published Semi-Weekly at No. 36 Calle las Damas, right hand side,
BY R. G. W. JEWELL,
Editor and Proprietor.

Terms—Advertisements inserted at the rate
AND FIFTY CENTS per square [8 lines] for the
half that price for the second, third, &c.
The price of the paper is TWELVE AND A HALF
and sent by mail one month for a dollar.

they had placed at the disposal of the country vessels of war, it would be sufficient to

In a late number of the Journal of Health, we find some
the use of eye-glasses, the
from observations made within
rience. The periodical takes
ectacles, which so universally
It says that every time we
of the eye and the object, we
adjustment of the parts; and
nce been produced, it is dif-
tore things to their old basis.
vision, if not humoured by
rectify itself; or if it does
least approximate towards

AMERICA.—Below we give an extract fr
of Dr. Maurice Power, on the occasion of a
Capt. Forbes, by the citizens of Cork. Capt
of the vessel which conveyed provisions to

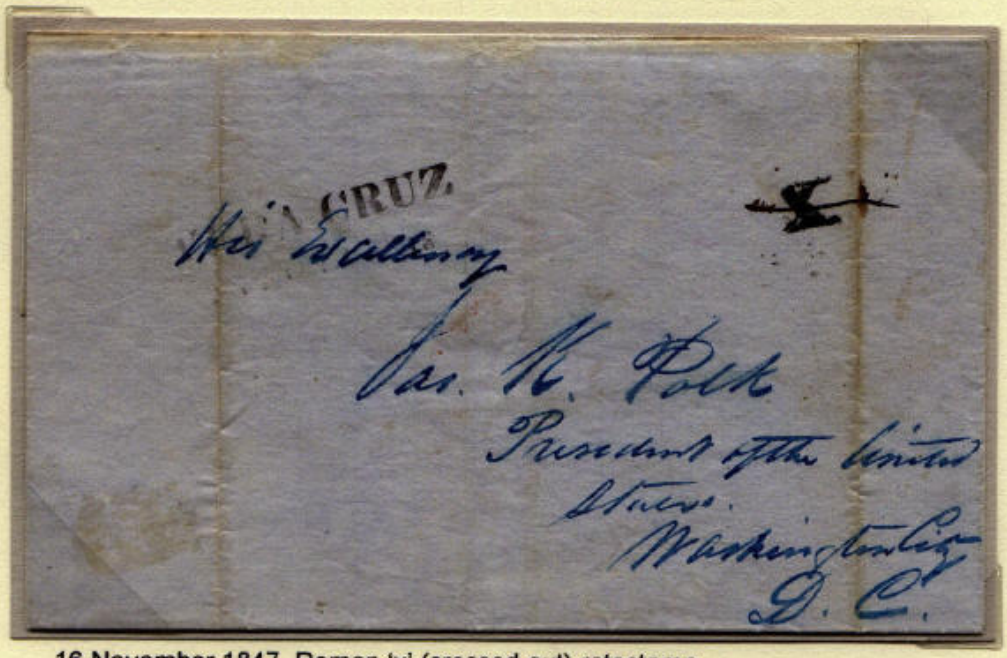
Though letters refer to many newspapers being sent to and from Mexico, very few have survived to date.

[Prepaid] 3c Domestic rate for newspaper not mailed by publisher

VERA CRUZ
MEXO OCT 29



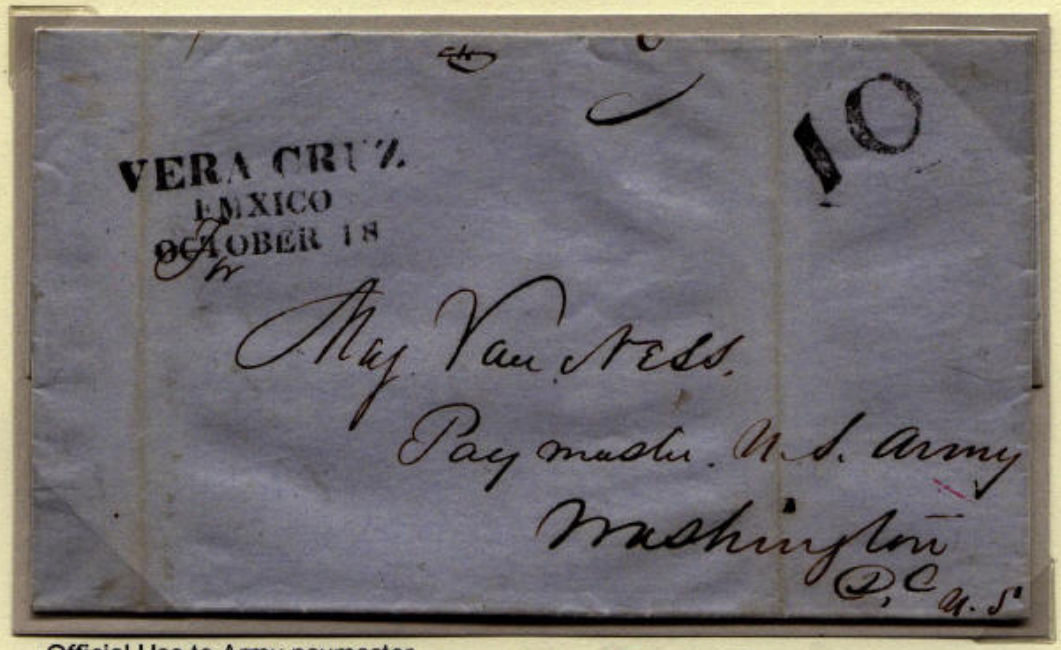
29 October 1847, small '10' ratestamp
Written by General Quitman



16 November 1847, Roman 'x' (crossed out) ratestamp
To President Polk;
Mail to and from the President allowed without payment

Type II Vera Cruz Handstamp 29 October – 16 November 1847
16 November is the only date known when two Vera Cruz postmark types (II & IV) were used simultaneously

VERA CRUZ
EMXICO
OCTOBER 18

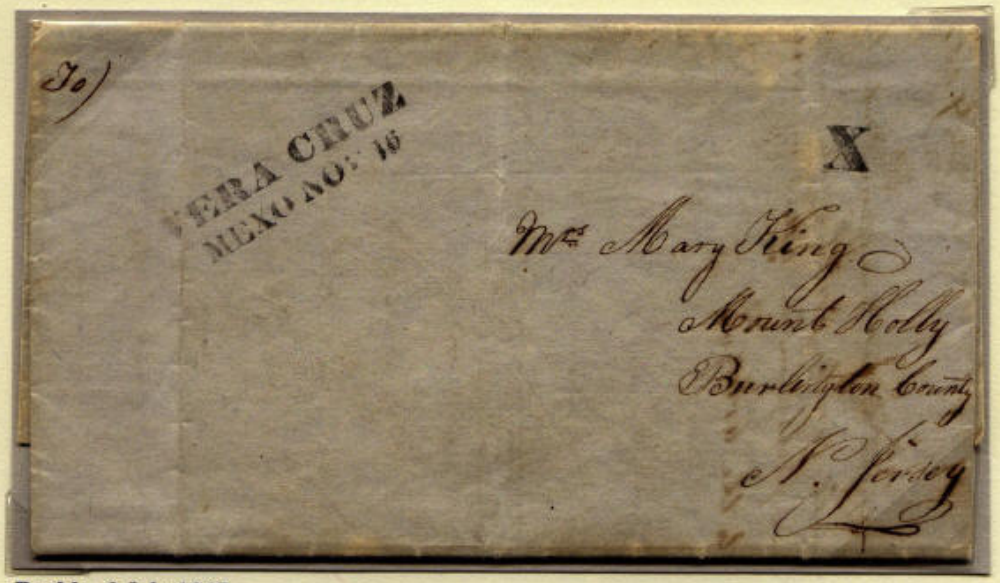


Official Use to Army paymaster
Small '10' ratestamp



Camp near Vera Cruz, 11 October 1847
Personal letter home, small '10' ratestamp

Type IIIa Vera Cruz Handstamp (**EMXICO** error) 18 October 1847
Only known used 1 day, 3 examples known to date.



Puebla, 9 July 1847
Vera Cruz, 16 November 1847 (Early use), Roman '**X**' Ratestamp

A large quantity of mail from the Puebla area dated June & July 1847 was delayed in transit, reaching Vera Cruz mid November 1847.

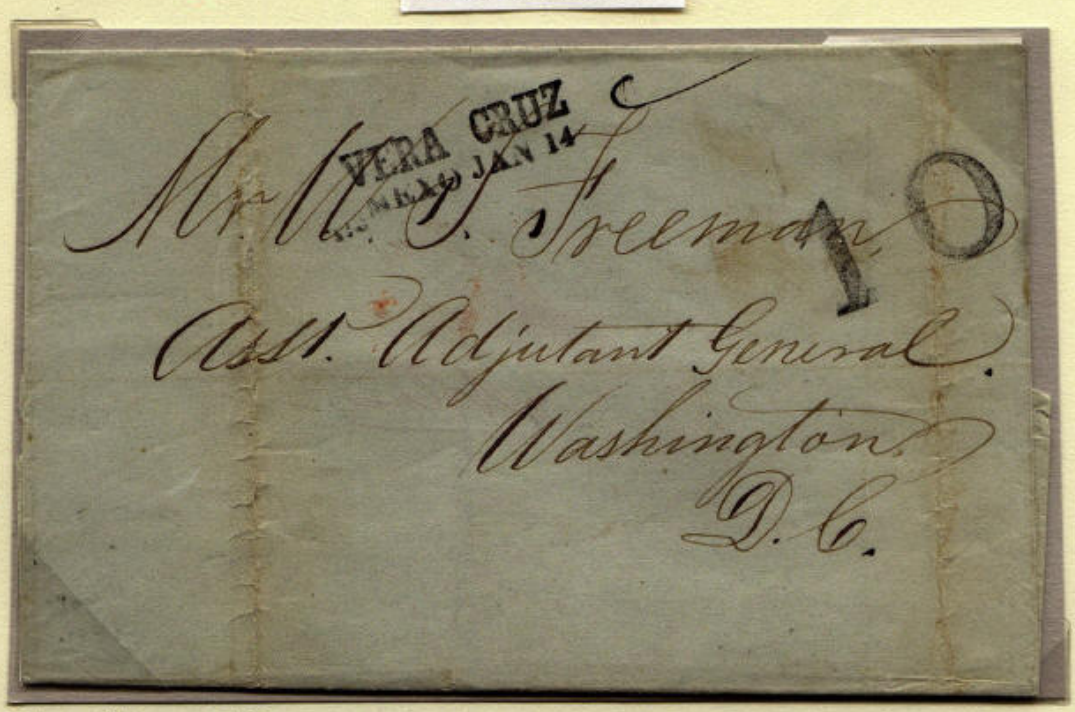


National Bridge, 2 January 1848
Vera Cruz, 7 January 1848 (Late Use), Large '**10**' Ratestamp

Type IV Vera Cruz Handstamp 16 November 1847 – 7 January 1848

Known with Roman '**X**', Small '**10**' & Large '**10**' Ratestamps

VERA CRUZ
MEXO, FEB 25



Jalapa, 11 January 1848
Vera Cruz, 14 January 1848



Vera Cruz, 25 February 1848 (Late Use)
Commercial letter to **New York** (17 March arrival) via **New Orleans**

Type V Vera Cruz Handstamp 14 January – 25 February 1848

Large '**10**' Ratestamp
Last 'Unboxed' Handstamp, Earliest and Latest Usages





Vera Cruz, 22 & 29 February 1848 (Commercial/Duplicate Letter)
Vera Cruz, 3 March 1848 (Early Use)

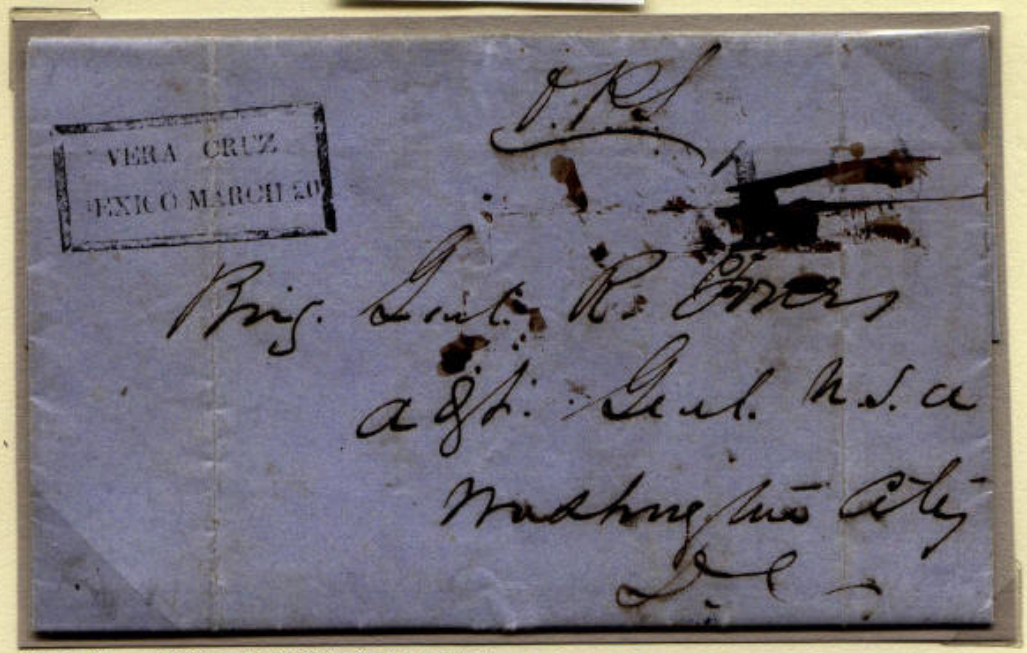


Rio Frio, 3 February 1848 (Delayed Transit to Vera Cruz)
Vera Cruz Post Office, 9 March 1848 (Late Use)

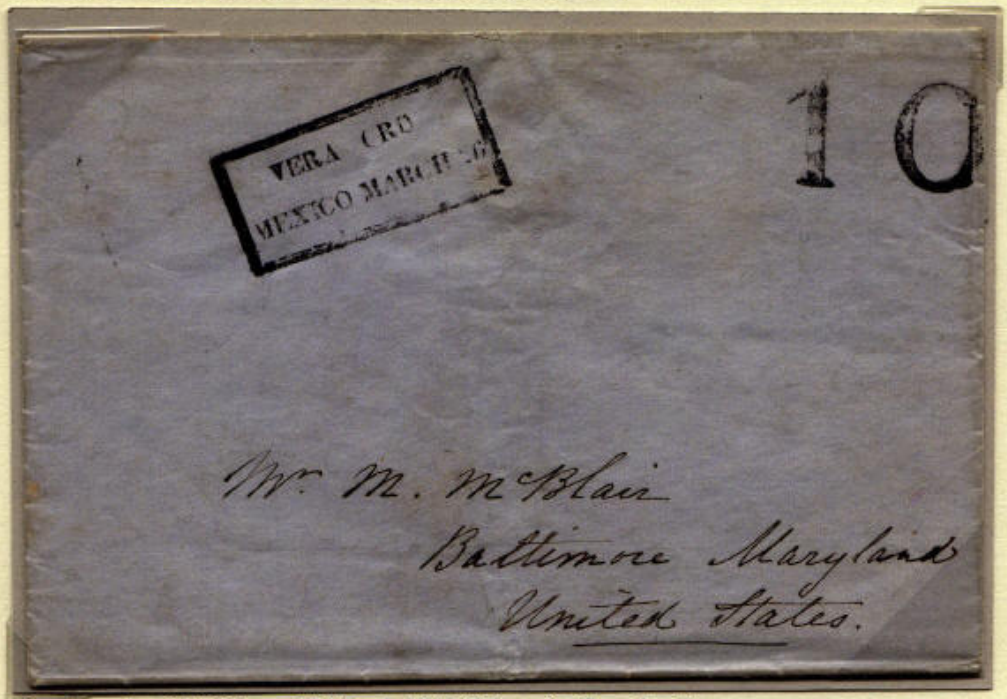
Type VI Vera Cruz Handstamp 3 –9 March 1848

Large '**10**' Ratestamp
This, and all subsequent Vera Cruz Handstamps Outlined, or 'Boxed'
Earliest and Latest Uses





Vera Cruz, 20 March 1848 (Official Letter)
Vera Cruz, 20 March 1848 (Early Use)
*'10' Crossed out, Endorsed "**O.P.S.**" (On Public Service)*



Guaghcoales (sic) River, 13 March 1848 (Mosquito Squadron)
Vera Cruz Post Office, 9 March 1848 (Late Use)

Note loss of '**Z**' in **VERA CRU<u>Z</u>** which led to retirement of handstamp

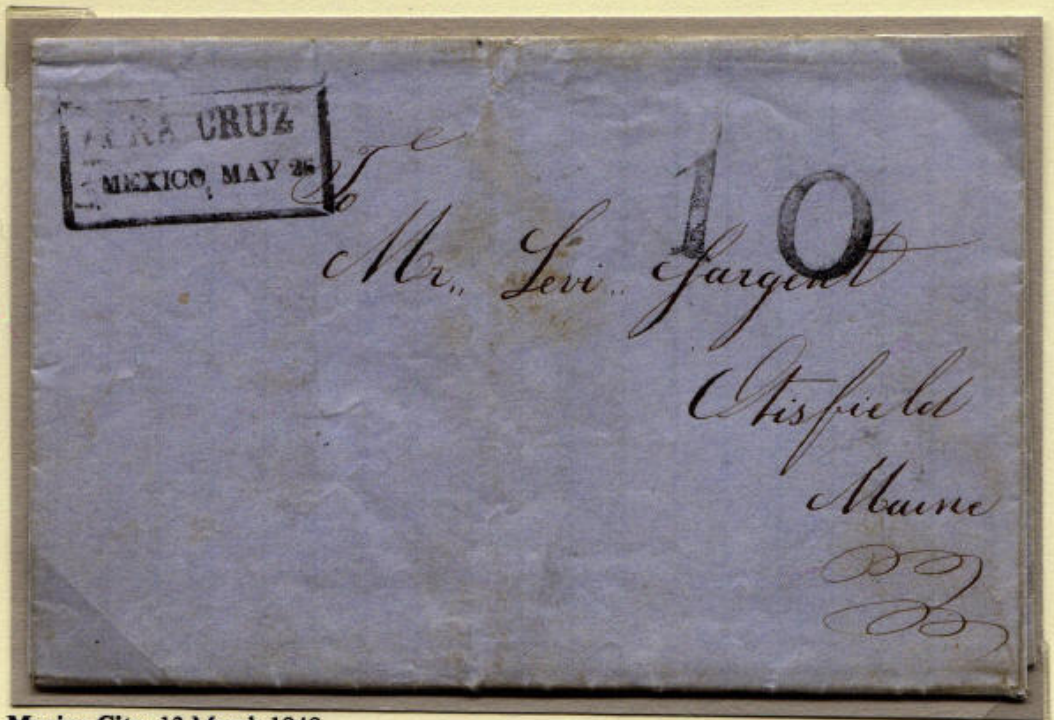
Type VII Vera Cruz Handstamp 20 – 26 March 1848

Large '**10**' Ratestamp
Earliest and Latest Uses





Jalapa, 22 March 1848
Vera Cruz, 8 April 1848 (Early Use)



Mexico City, 13 March 1848
Vera Cruz Post Office, 26 May 1848 (Late Use)

Type VIII Vera Cruz Handstamp 8 April – 26 May 1848

Large '**10**' Ratestamp
Earliest and Latest Uses
Most often encountered Vera Cruz marking

CENTRAL CAMPAIGN



VERA CRUZ HANDSTAMP



Puebla, Mexican Post Office (Prepaid-FRANCO) 1 June 1848

After Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ratification on 25 May, cooperation between U.S. officials and their Mexican counterparts became more frequent

Dual Mexican and U.S. markings during this period unusual.



3 July (Postmarked 5 July) Commercial letter to New York City

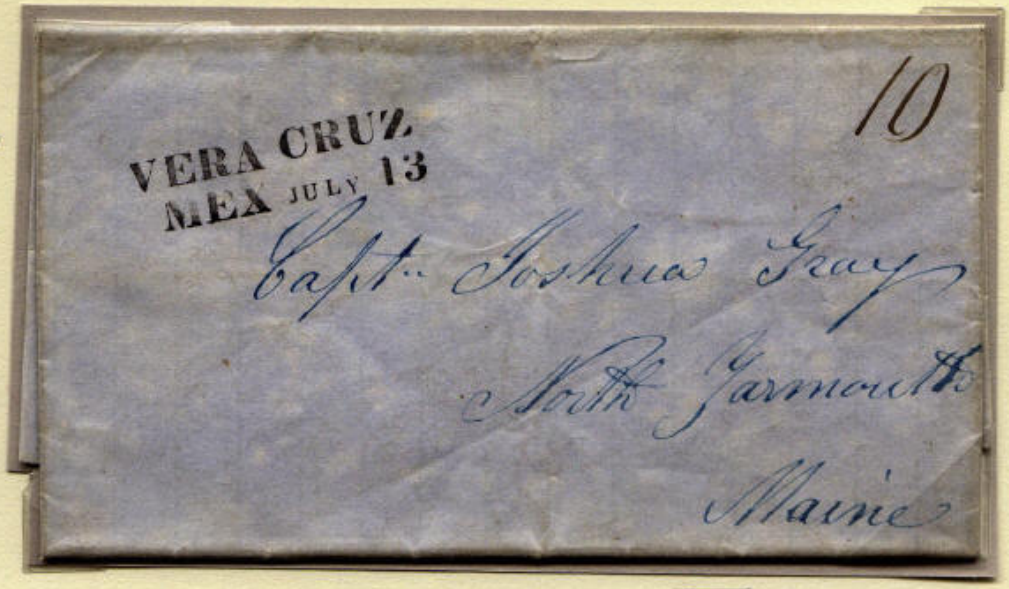
Type IX Vera Cruz Handstamp 9 June - 5 July 1848

Last Vera Cruz occupation handstamp; similar to type VIII with 'MEXICO' removed

Rates set by **Act of 3 March 1845** effective I July 1845:
Letters: 5c (up to 300 miles), 10c (>300 miles) per 1/2 ounce (**Forwarding** additional)
Newspapers: 3c per copy (mailed by individuals), **Advertising**: 2c

Collect, Single Weight

"10"
Up to 1/2 oz., >300 miles





Prepaid, Double Weight

"Paid 20"
1/2 – 1 Oz, >300 miles

Vast majority of mail sent collect as there was no assurance it would arrive, and cash money was scarce

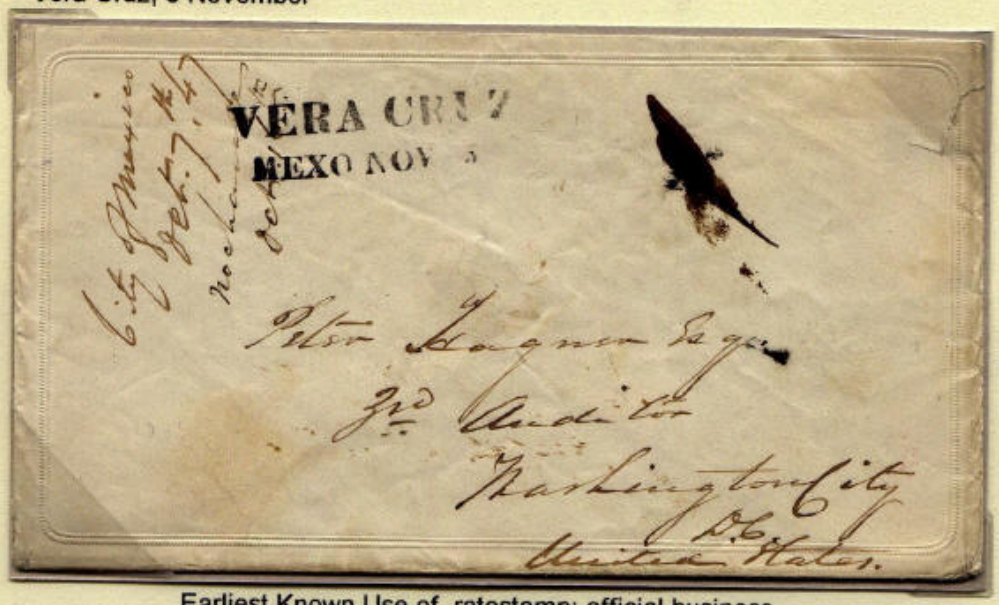
VERA CRUZ RATE MARKINGS

TYPE	KNOWN USE PERIOD
Ms. **3**; **20** (cents)	Throughout Intervention Period
Ms. **10** (cents)	Through late September 1847
"Paid" + Rate (cents) Ms.	Throughout Intervention Period
Small '**10**' (cents) Handstamp	3 October - 16 December 1847
Roman '**X**' (cents) Handstamp	5 November - 29 November 1847
Large '**10**' (cents) Handstamp*	17 December 1847 - 5 July 1848

*Most frequently encountered type

Roman Numeral '**X**' Ratestamp

Mexico City, 16 October
Vera Cruz, 3 November



Earliest Known Use of ratestamp; official business

Mexico City, 24 November
Vera Cruz, 29 November



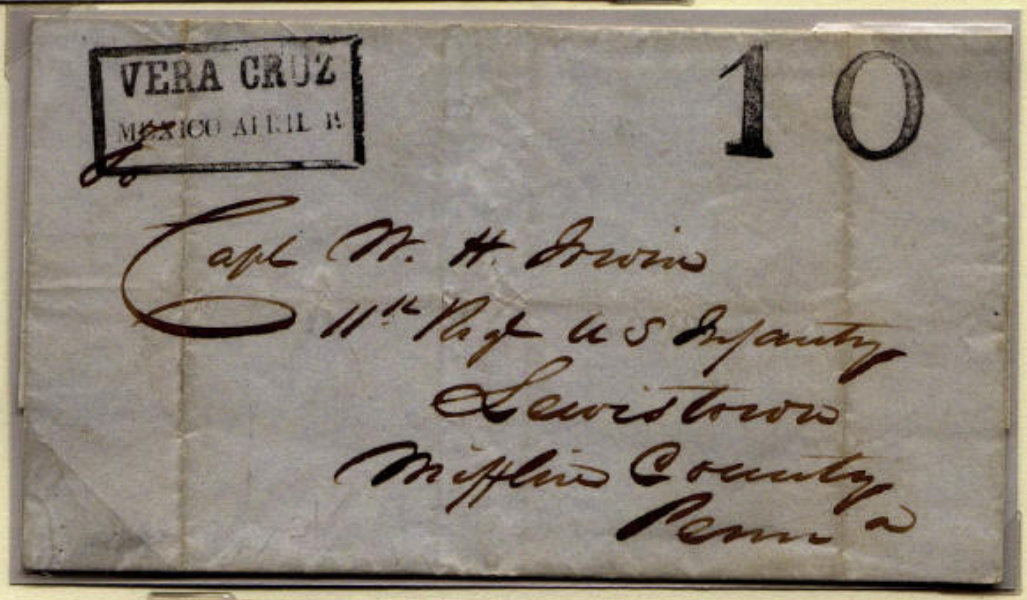
Latest Known Use of ratestamp
(From General D. Ruggles)

3 – 29 November 1847
Associated with Vera Cruz Types II & IV Handstamps

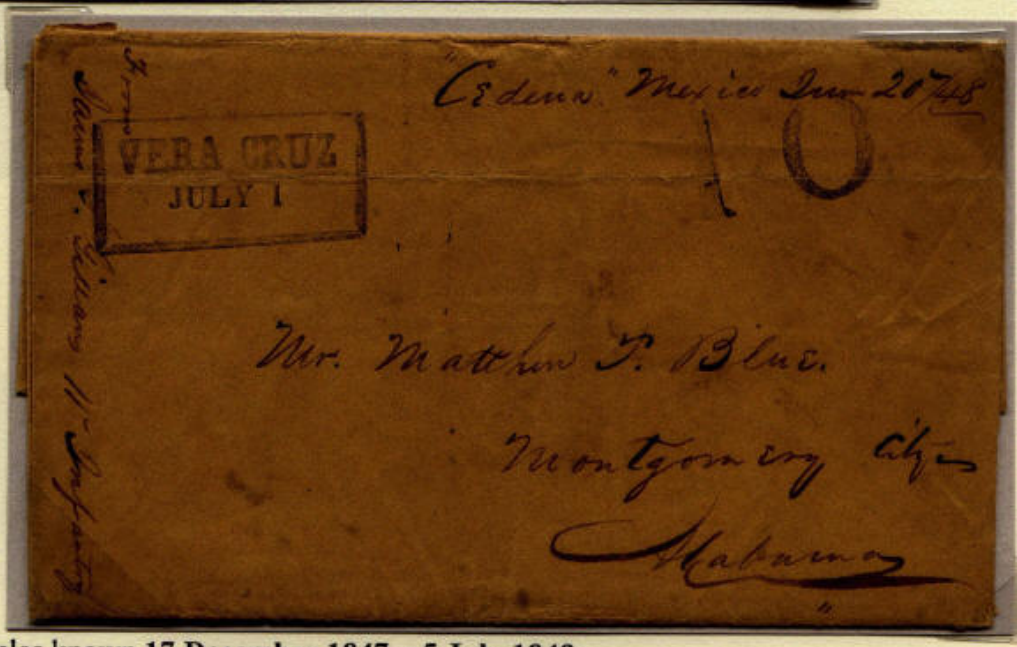
Large '10' Ratestamp



Vera Cruz (Type IV)
17 December 1847



Vera Cruz (Type VIII)
19 April 1848



Vera Cruz (Type IX)
1 July 1848

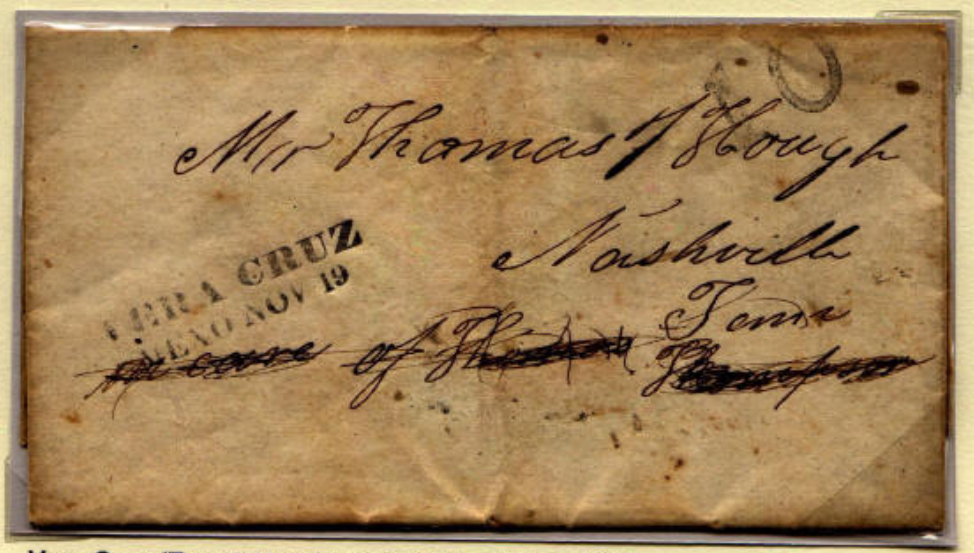
Examples known **17 December 1847 – 5 July 1848**
Associated with Vera Cruz Types IV through IX Handstamps; most common type

Vera Cruz served as Headquarters, and supply base for Scott's thrust towards Mexico City

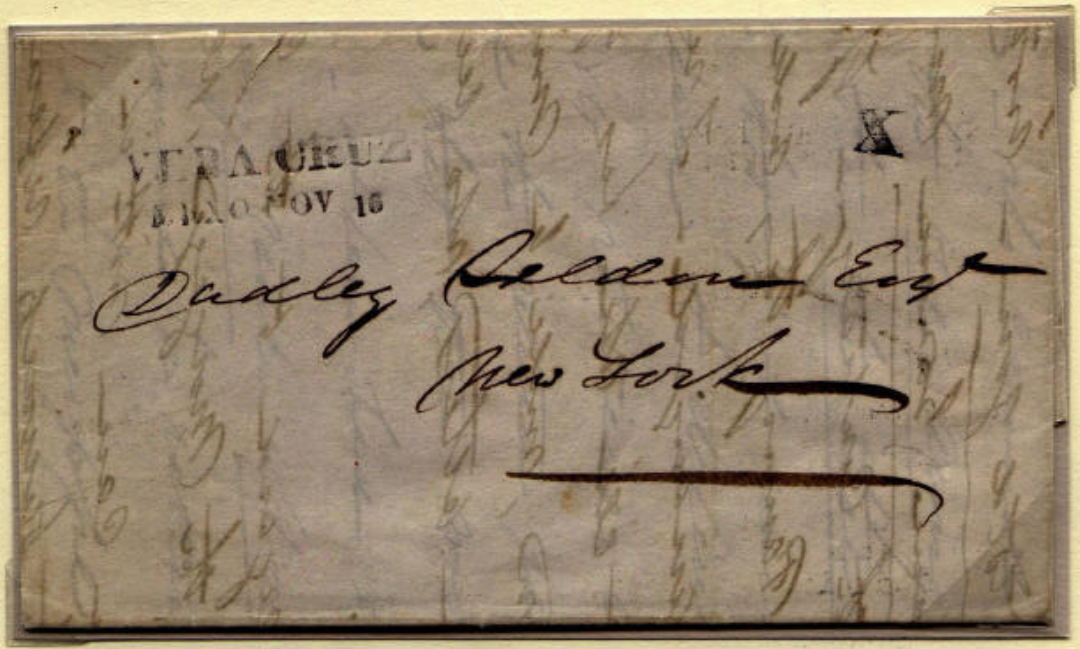
All Handstamp types, and rate markings are known used from troops at Vera Cruz



Vera Cruz (Type I Handstamp), 16 June 1847
Addressed to ***James H. Starr*** at Nocogdoches, Texas



Vera Cruz (Type II Handstamp), 19 November 1847
Small '10' ratemarking



Mexico City, 26 October 1847
Vera Cruz (Type II Handstamp), 16 November 1847
Roman 'X' ratemark (10c collect)



Puebla, 13 June 1847
Vera Cruz (Type IV Handstamp), 16 November 1847

A quantity of mail was waylaid for several months between the interior and Vera Cruz

Type II Vera Cruz Handstamp	29 October – 16 November 1847
Type IV Vera Cruz Handstamp	16 November 1847 – 7 January 1848

16 November is the only date when two Vera Cruz postmark types (II & IV) were used simultaneously

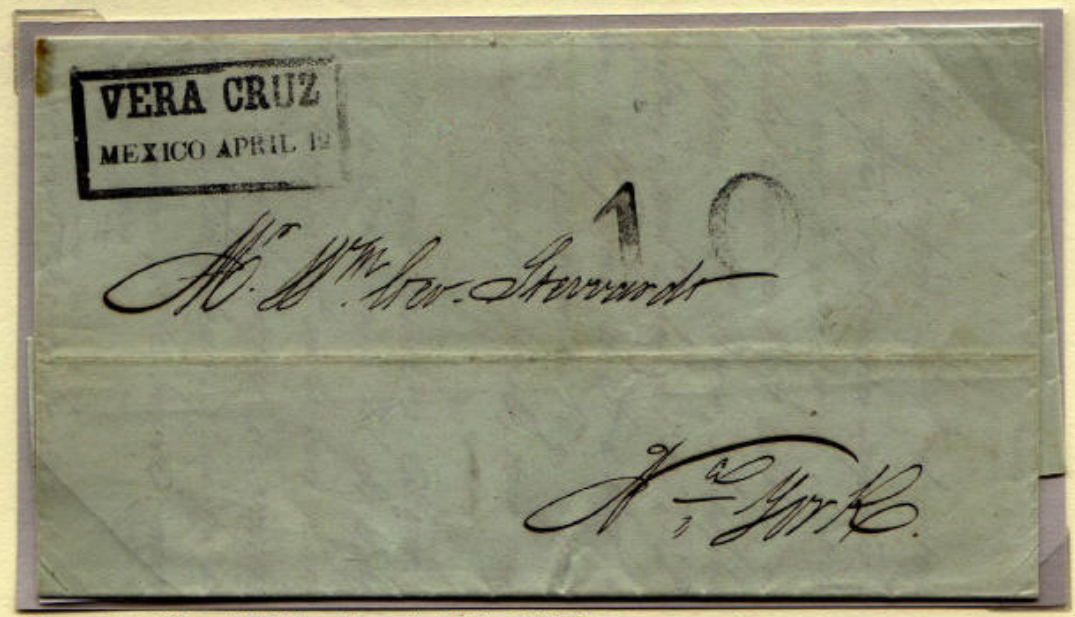
Commercial activity continued throughout Occupation period

U.S. (via New Orleans) and British mails were most commonly used

Via U.S. Mails



Vera Cruz, 1 November 1847
New Orleans, 6 November 1847 (Forwarder: **SCHMIDT & Co.**)
London, 30 November 1847 arrival (via Boston Steamer)
'PAID' 20c, 2/-



Vera Cruz (Type VIII Handstamp), 12 April 1848
New York, 6 May 1848 (via New Orleans)
Large '10' ratemark

Bypassing Vera Cruz Post Office

Written at Vera Cruz, Posted on board ship

Vera Cruz
5 June 1847

Placed directly on
Board ship in port

New Orleans
"**STEAM**"
& "**10**",
No Datestamp

10c >300 mile
Letter rate

(If entered into
U.S.Mails at
New Orleans:
2c local rate)



Written at sea, remained on board at Vera Cruz for return trip to New Orleans



"Ship American"
3 October 1847

Letter remained
on board ship,
Entered mails
at **New Orleans**
15 October 1847

10c >300 mile rate
No additional 'SHIP'
Charge.

The Vera Cruz Post Office was in operation from 3 June 1847. It could be bypassed by placing items directly on board ship, carrying letters outside the mails, or writing while on board ship.

Rate Comparisons

Inbound Forwarded Military Mail

New Orleans
12 May 1847
10c [collect]
> 300 miles

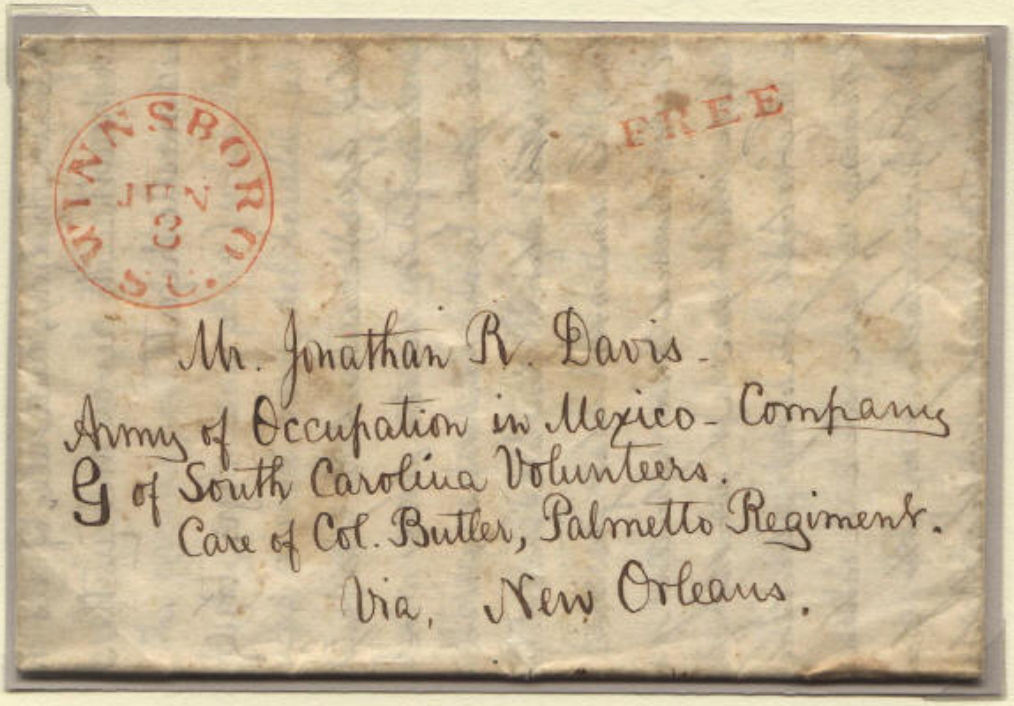
Platt City, Missouri
(Training Camp)
3 June 1847
Additional 10c due
(forwarding) = 20c

New Orleans (Transit)
26 June 1847
"***On Service***"
Forwarded to Vera Cruz

All charges cancelled
(Act of 3 March 1847:
Free postage to troops
Serving in Mexico)



Inbound/Free



Winnsboro, S.C.
3 June 1847

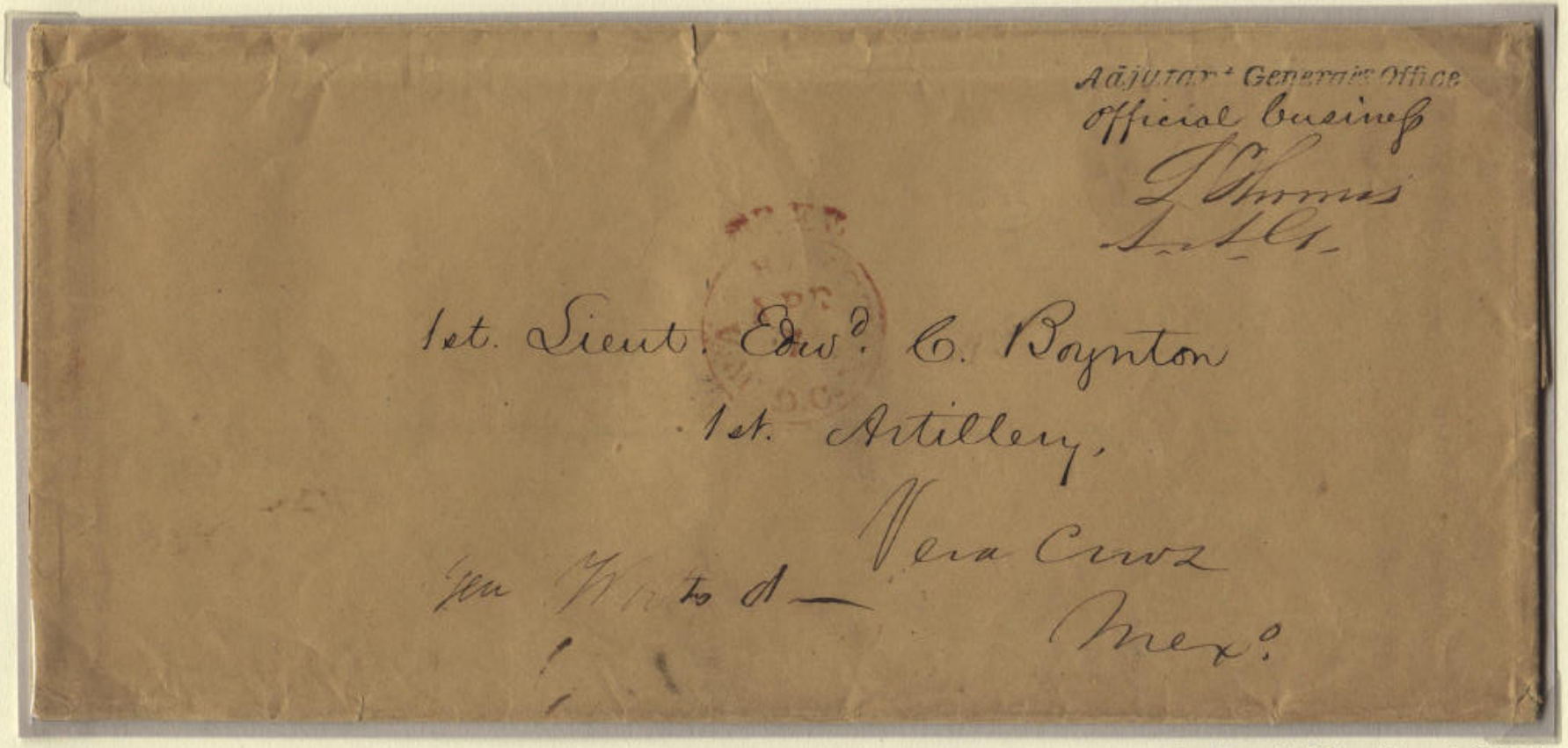
No postage required

Free postage under Act of 3 March 1847 valid only for troops serving in Mexico, not those in training, aboard ship, or assigned elsewhere.

CENTRAL CAMPAIGN **INBOUND OFFICIAL**

Washington, D.C.
7 April 1847

"FREE"



Handstamp "***Adjutant Generals Office***"
Signature: ***L***[orenzo] ***Thomas A.A.G.***
(Assistant Adjutant General)

Official mail bearing appropriate endorsements carried free of charge.

Field Printed Broadside
Addressed [reverse] to Mexican General C. Furlong at **Atlixco** (Puebla)
(no postal markings)

EL GENERAL EN GEFE

De los Egércitos de los Estados-Unidos de America,

A LA NACION MEGICANA!

Megicanos: Los últimos sucesos de la guerra y las providencias que en consecuencia ha dictado vuestro gobierno, me ponen en el deber de dirigirme á vosotros para demostraros verdades que ignorais, porque os las ocultan maliciosamente. No quiero que me creais por mis palabras, aunque tiene derecho para que lo crean el que jamas ha faltado á ella, sino que juzgueis de estas verdades, por los hechos que están á la vista y á la calificacion de todos vosotros.

Cualquiera que fuera el origen de esta guerra que mi nacion se vió obligada á emprender por causas imprescindibles, que entiendo desconoce la mayor parte de la nacion megicana, lo consideramos como una fatalidad, porque siempre lo es una guerra para las dos partes beligerantes, y la razon y la justicia se ponen en duda, si no se desconocen enteramente por ambos lados, creyendo cada cual que él las tiene.—La prueba de esta verdad la teneis los megicanos lo mismo que nosotros; pues en Mégico, así como en los Estados-Unidos, ecsistieron y ecsisten dos partidos opuestos, que desean la paz el uno y la guerra el otro. Pero los gobiernos tienen deberes sagrados de los que no pueden prescindir, y muchas veces estos deberes imponen por conveniencias nacionales un silencio y una reserva que algunas veces desagradan á la mayoria de los que hacen la oposicion por miras puramente personales ó particulares, y que no deben considerar los gobiernos, suponiendo que la nacion tiene en ellos la confianza que merece un magistrado que ella misma eligió.

Razones de alta política y de interes continental americano comprometieron los sucesos apesar de la circunspeccion del gabinete de Washington, que deseando ardientemente poner un término á todas sus diferencias con Mégico, no perdonó recursos de cuantos fueron compatibles con su decoro y dignidad para llegar á tan deseado fin; y cuando alimentaba la mas lisonjera esperanza de obtener por medio de su franca esplicacion y del razonamiento sometido al juicio y cordura del virtuoso y patriótico gobierno del general D. J. Herrera, la desgracia menos esperada hizo desaparecer aquella grata esperanza, y á la vez obstruyó todos los caminos que pudieran conducir á una transacion honrosa para las dos naciones. El nuevo gobierno desconoció los intereses nacionales así como los continentales americanos, y eligió ademas las influencias estrañas mas opuestas á estos intereses y mas funestas para el porvenir de la libertad megicana y del sistema republicano que los Estados-Unidos tienen un deber de conservar y proteger. El deber, el honor y el propio decoro nos puso en la necesidad de no perder un tiempo que violentaban los hombres del partido monárquico, porque era preciso no perder momento, y obramos con la actividad y decision necesarias en casos tan urgentes, para evitar así la complicacion de intereses que podrian hacer mas difícil y comprometida nuestra situacion.

De nuevo en el curso de la guerra civil fué derrocado vuestro gobierno del general Paredes, y nosotros no pudimos menos que creer que esto seria un bien, porque cualquiera otro personal que representára al gobierno seria menos iluso, á la vez que mas patriota y mas prudente, si habia de atender al bien comun considerando y pesando todas las probabilidades, su fuerza, elementos, y sobre todo la opinion mas general respecto de resultados positivos de la guerra nacional. Nos equivocamos nosotros, como acasò se equivocaron los megicanos tambien, al juzgar de las intenciones verdaderas del general Santa-Anna, á quien ellos llamaron y nuestro gobierno permitió regresar.

En este estado, la nacion megicana ha visto cuales han sido los resultados que todos lamentan, y nosotros sinceramente, porque apreciamos como es debido el valor y la noble decision de los desgraciados que van al combate, mal conducidos, peor dirijidos, y casi siempre violentados por el engaño ó la perfidia.

Somos testigos, y como parte afectada no se nos tachará de parciales, cuando hemos lamentado con admiracion, que el heróico comportamiento de la guarnicion de Veracruz en la valiente defensa que hizo, fué infamado por el general que acaba de ser derrotado y puesto en vergonzosa fuga por un número muy inferior al de las fuerzas que mandaba en Buena-Vista: que este general premió á los pronunciados en Mégico, siendo promovedores de la guerra civil, y ultrajó á los que singularmente se acababan de distinguir resistiendo mas allà de lo que podia esperarse, con una decision admirable.

Por último, el sangriento suceso de Cerro-Gordo ha puesto en evidencia à la nacion megicana

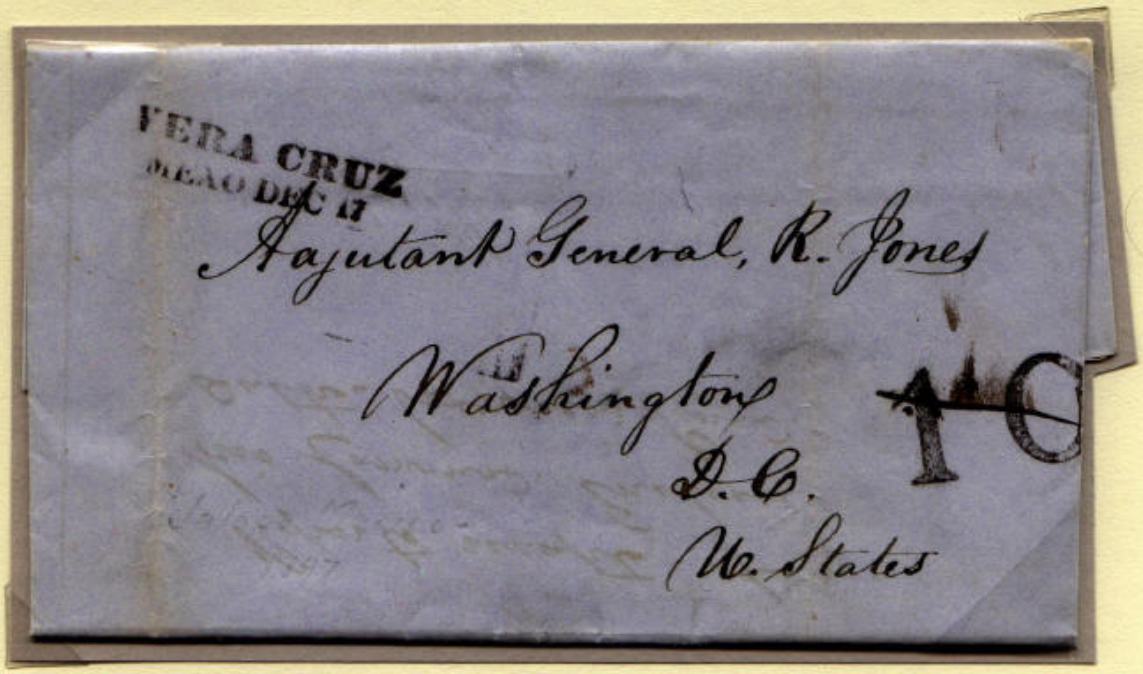
Dated **Jalapa**, 11 May 1847;
Describes out terms and conditions for United States Occupation of central Mexico

Occupied by Scott 18 April 1847

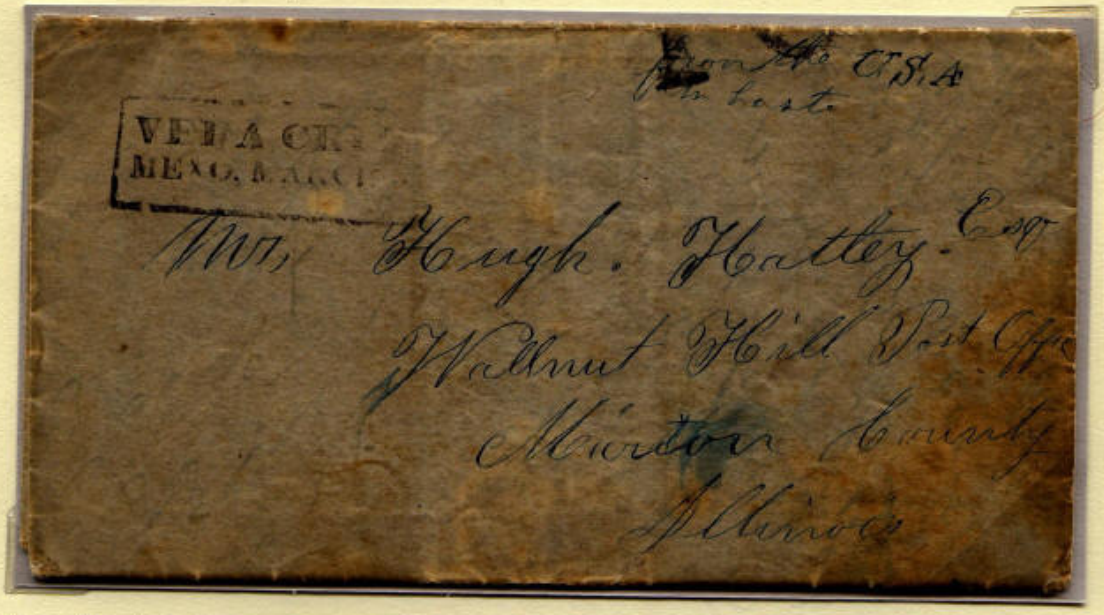
Pre-occupation Mexican Civil Mail



Jalapa, 7 April 1847
(1 1/2 weeks pre-occupation)



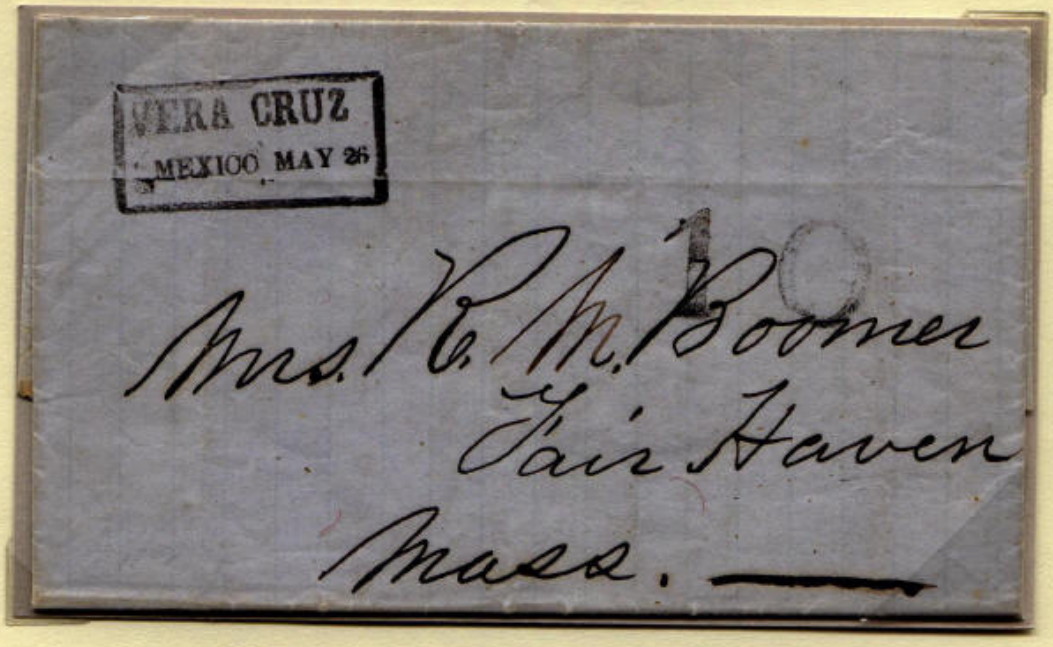
Jalapa, 24 November 1847
Vera Cruz, 17 December 1847 (Type IV Handstamp)
Earliest date for large '10' ratestamp



Jalapa, 24 January 1848
Vera Cruz, 3 March 1848
Type VI Handstamp
Some items 'lost', and delayed

Jalapa Hospital,
18 May 1848

Vera Cruz,
Type VIII Handstamp



Jalapa, 15 June 1848
Vera Cruz Type IX Handstamp)

Troops waiting for final evacuation in cooler climate then Vera Cruz.

'f' for free (official mail)



Inbound Mails

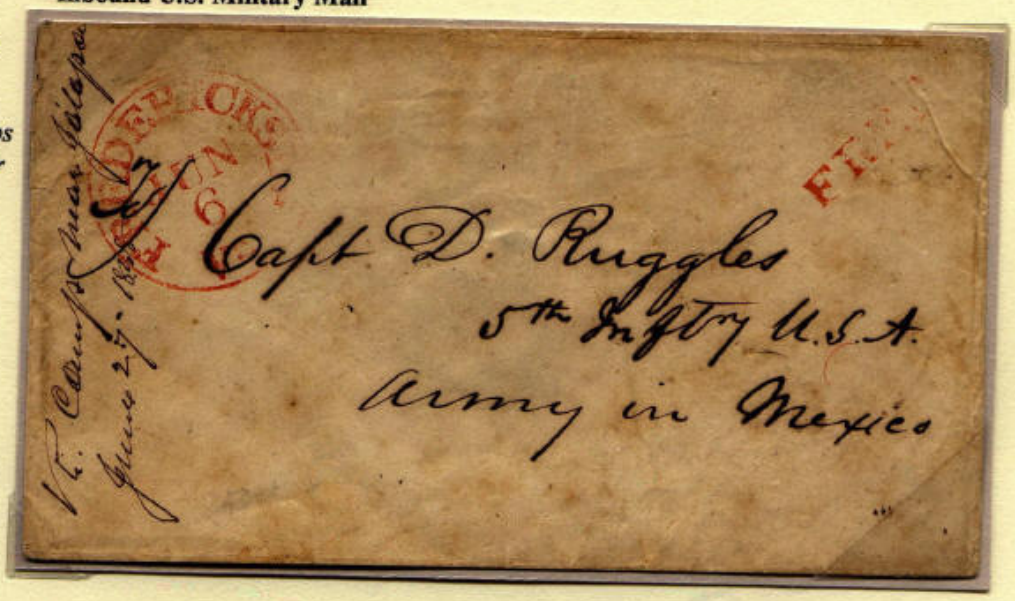
Inbound U.S. Military Mail

Fredricksburg, Virginia
6 June 1848

*"**FREE**" postage to troops allowed for 3 months after end of hostilities*

Jalapa arrival
27 June 1848
Arrived During final evacuation from Mexico

Troops waited in the uplands at Jalapa instead of Vera Cruz to avoid disease (i.e. yellow fever)



Inbound Mexican Mails



Huatusco
27 December 1847

2 Reales (collect)
Up to 1/2 oz.,
Over 45 miles

Occupied 22 April 1847

Pre Vera Cruz Office

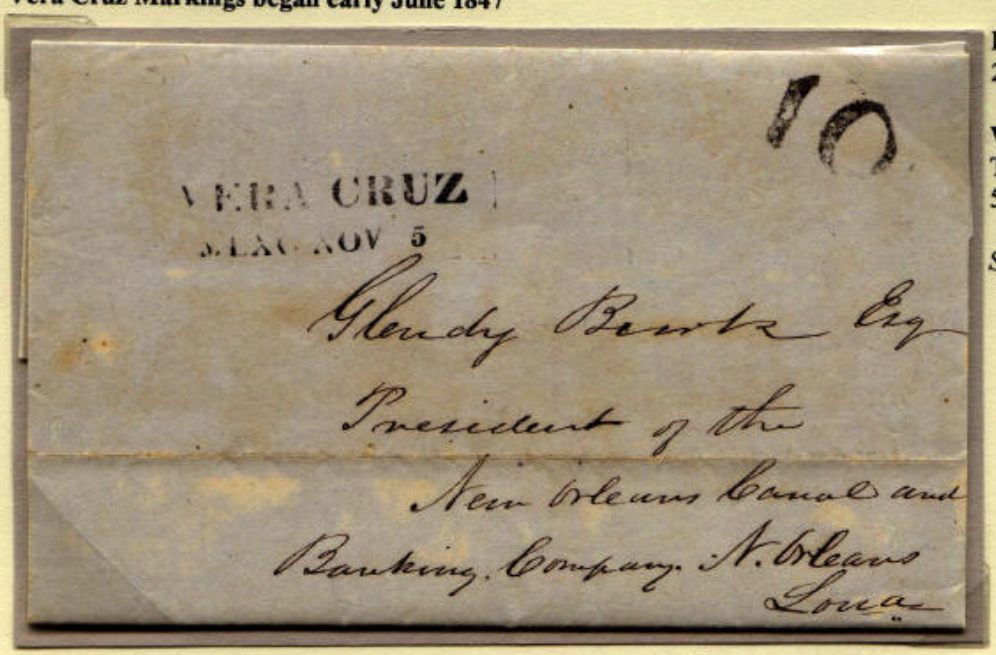
Perote
30 April 1847

New Orleans
22 May 1847

Large '10'
Crossed Out,
"Public Service"



Vera Cruz Markings began early June 1847



Perote
29 October 1847

Vera Cruz
Type II Handstamp
5 November 1847

Small '10' Ratemark

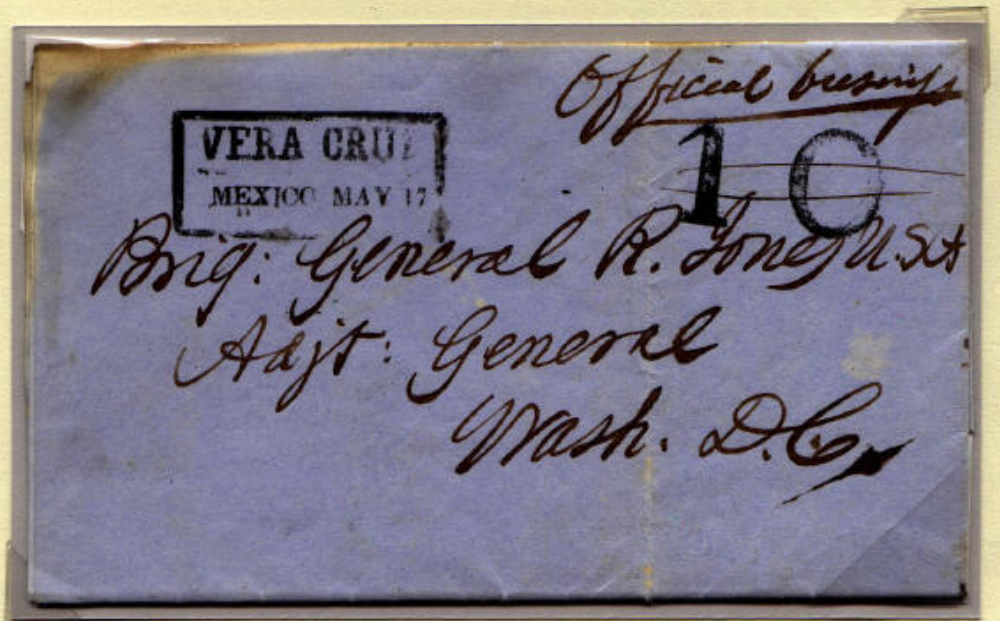
Prior to Vera Cruz markings (from June 1847 onwards), all Central Campaign mail bears New Orleans or other U.S. domestic markings.

Key point on road near Jalapa, secured late April 1847

Puente Nacional
17 November 1847



Vera Cruz Type IV handstamp, 19 November 1847
Small '10' ratemark



Puente Nacional
12 May 1848

Vera Cruz type VII handstamp, 17 May 1848
Large '10' ratemark

Occupied by Scott 15 May 1847
Mexican and U.S. Official Mail

Inbound Mexican Military Mail (immediately pre-occupation)

Matehuala
(San Luis Potosi)
20 April 1847

3 Reales 1/2 – 3/4 oz. Rate

Mentions Command, military preparation and activity, and defense.



U.S. Postmaster official letter



Puebla, 1 August 1847

"Free"

From E. F. Howard, Postmaster of the Army to U.S. Postmaster at Vera Cruz:

"We are sending a small mail by a Mexican who has agreed to deliver our letters at Vera Cruz at two dollars a letter & bring what letters in your office back for us. Let him have what belongs to me. Do them up in a snug package. We expect Gen. Pierce tomorrow or next day, & after his arrival the armys (sic) move for Mexico."

Field Printed Broadside dated day after Occupation of Puebla by United States forces

***Cuartel general, Puebla mayo* 16 *de* 1847.**

1.° Se avisa por este, que la ciudad de Puebla está ocupada militarmente y se halla bajo la proteccion de las fuerzas de los Estados-Unidos.

2.° Durante dicha ocupacion, á menos que las circunstancias de la guerra obliguen á hacer otros reglamentos necesarios, las autoridades de todas clases continuarán en el ejercicio de todas sus funciones, segun estan arregladas y prescritas por las leyes vigentes, tomando en su conocimiento todas las causas civiles y criminales que pueden promoverse entre los mexicanos; y se manifiesta claramente, que en todos los casos que el soldado ó acompañante del egército sea el delincuente, será juzgado por las autoridades de los Estados-Unidos.

3. El General que manda, segun las instrucciones del General en gefe, garantiza tanto por si, como por su oficialidad y soldados, una proteccion inviolable y verdaderamente respetuosa á la Santa Iglesia, al clero y á sus propiedades; y cualesquiera persona de su mando que olvidando el honor y la moral, llegue á faltar á esta garantia, será castigado severamente.

4.° Todo lo que fuere necesario para el uso de las fuerzas ocupantes y para las fuerzas en mayor número que se acercan, será facilitado ó mandado facilitar por el Sr. Prefecto ó autoridades civiles á quien corresponda, disponiendo se entregue á los agentes autorizados del egército, cuartel maestre, comisario principal ó dependientes suyos, no obstante las ordenes dadas en contra por las autoridades que hayan evacuado sus puestos: el ecsigir esto es un derecho de guerra que será rigorosamente egecutado, y la única escepcion al ejercicio de este derecho, segun la practica establecida, es el pagar religiosamente todo lo que sea pedido.

Por órden del Señor General Worth,

W. W. Mackall.

A. A. G.

Delivered locally to Guillermo A. Wyse

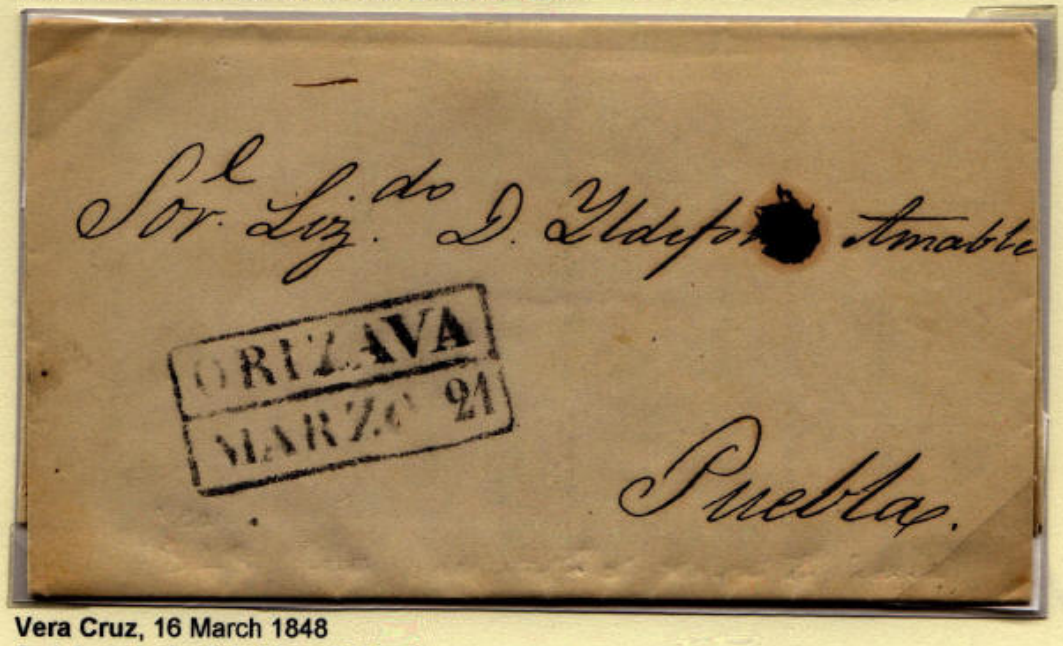
Mail Handling
Varied routes and methods were employed for mail transport

Pre-Vera Cruz Post Office (U.S. Mail)



Puebla, 3 June 1847
via New Orleans 23 June (Earliest known Vera Cruz marking: 3 June 1847)
Some items from Puebla during this time were 'lost' for several months, and bear mid November postmarks

Inbound Mexican Mail from Vera Cruz to Puebla



Vera Cruz, 16 March 1848
Carried outside of mails to Orizava (21 March)
then via Mexican mails to Puebla

Puebla
4 June 1847

Vera Cruz
Type IV Handstamp
16 November 1847

Roman 'X' Ratemark



Batch of mail from Puebla area waylaid for 5 months in transit to Vera Cruz.



San Marcos, near Puebla
24 April 1848

Vera Cruz
Type VIII Handstamp
26 April 1848

Large '10' Ratemark

Located on Road Between Puebla and Mexico City

Rio Frio
28 January 1848

Vera Cruz
Type VI Handstamp
9 March 1848
(Latest Use)

Large '10' Ratemark





Rio Frio, HQ Ohio Regt.
7 April 1848

Vera Cruz
Type VIII Handstamp
7 April 1848

Large '10' Ratemark

Once a separate village, now a suburb of Mexico City

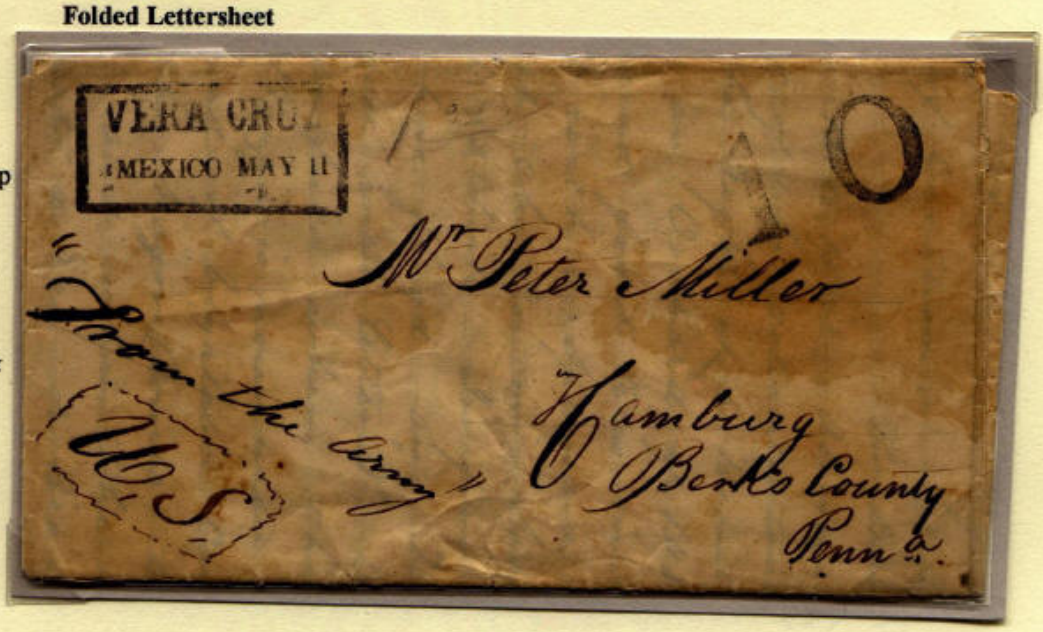
Folded Lettersheet

San Angel
8 May 1848

Vera Cruz
Type VIII Handstamp
11 May 1848

3 day transit
toVera Cruz

Large '10' Ratemark



Envelope



San Angel
7 April 1848

Vera Cruz
Type VIII Handstamp
11 May 1848

Large '10' Ratemark

Most correspondence consisted of folded lettersheets.
Occasionally, factory made envelopes were available.

After the successive occupation of population centers along the road from Vera Cruz to the highlands, U.S. Forces arrived in the vicinity of Mexico City early summer 1847. They spent several weeks on the outskirts consolidating position, and preparing for siege before entering the city proper. During these times, civilian and commercial activity continued, though at a lesser pace then before the intervention.

Mexico City Via Vera Cruz To France,
Last British mail sailing from Vera Cruz (during U.S. blockade) prior to invasion



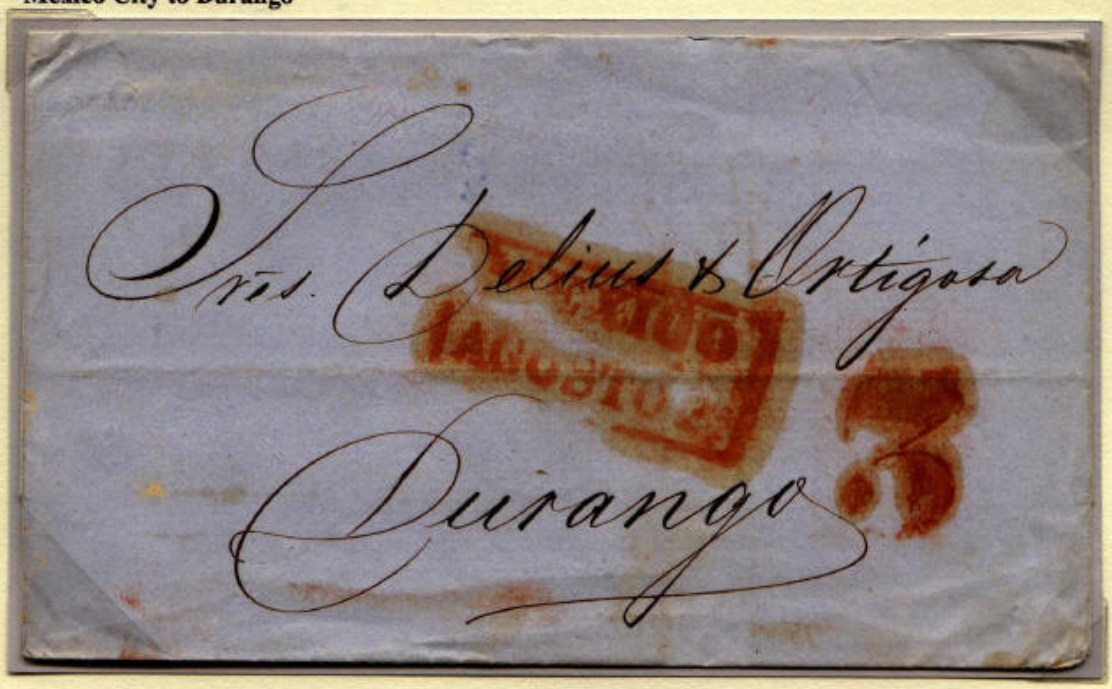
Mexico City, 29 January 1847

Via **Vera Cruz,** 1 February,
London, 10 March
Paris arrival, 12 March

Mexico City to Durango

Mexico City, 31 August 1847

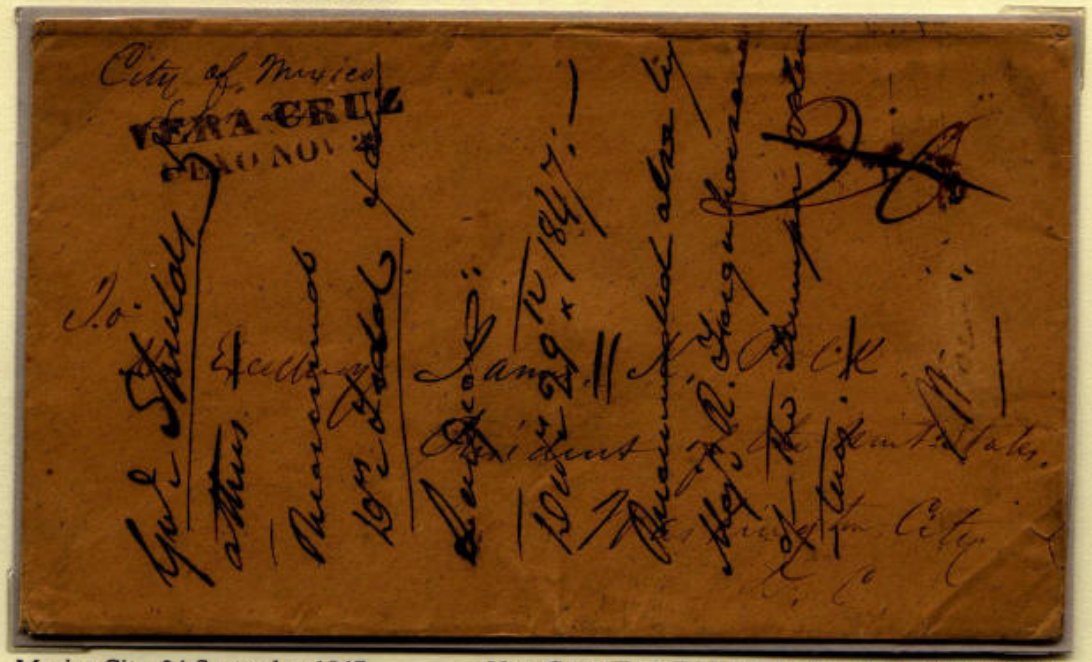
3 Reales (1/2 – 3/4 oz) rate



U.S. Forces entered the Mexican Capital on 14 September 1847

During September and October 1847, there was a 6 – 8 week period in which no mail was sent via Vera Cruz.. Some items were carried privately, entering the mails at Tampico, New Orleans, or even carried to their destination. Other items reached Vera Cruz after a 2 month delay.

Via Vera Cruz To President Polk



Mexico City, 24 September 1847 Vera Cruz (Type IV Handstamp), 29 November 1847

20c double weight rate (crossed out.); Mail to and from President did not require payment

Entered U.S. Mails at New Orleans



Mexico City, 25 October 1847 ***2c Local (New Orleans) Delivery rate***
New Orleans arrival, 25 November

Via New Orleans

Mexico City
28 February 1848

Entered Mail at
New Orleans
21 March 1848

Mail from Mexico City again by-passed Vera Cruz during March and April 1848.





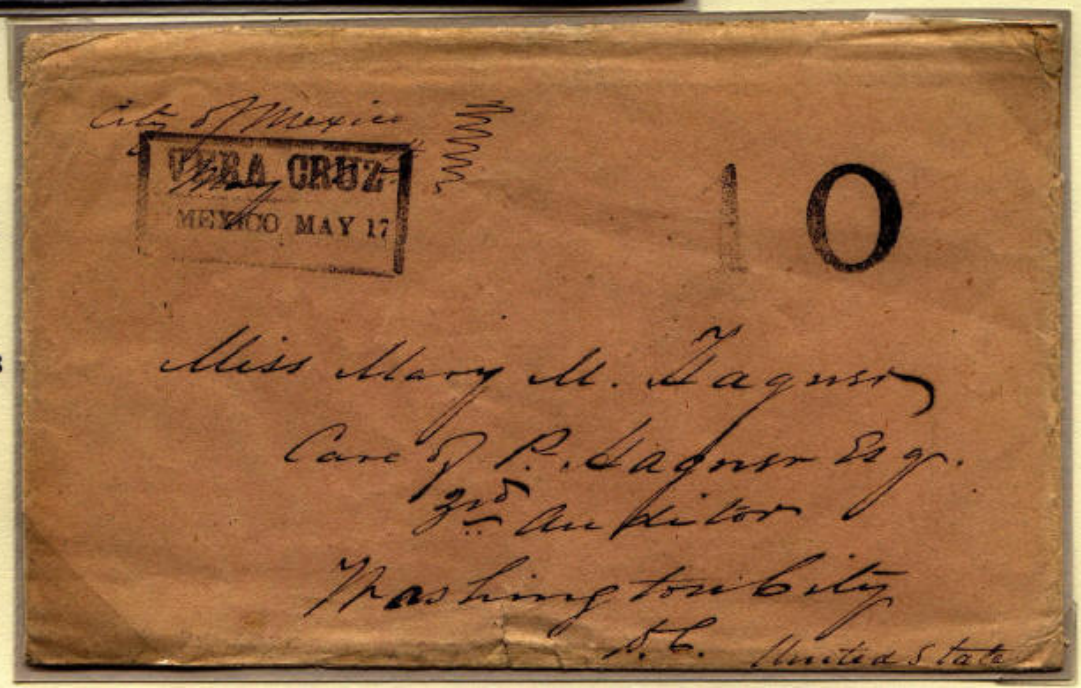
Mexico City
5 March 1848

New Orleans
11 April 1848

Mexico City
12 May 1848

Vera Cruz
(Type IV)
17 May 1848

10c rate



Civilian Mails

United States authorities allowed Mexican and British mails to operate without interference throughout the occupation period.

Mexico City (British Agency) Via Vera Cruz To England



Mexico City,
13 May 1848

Via **Vera Cruz**
16 May 1848

London
21 June 1848

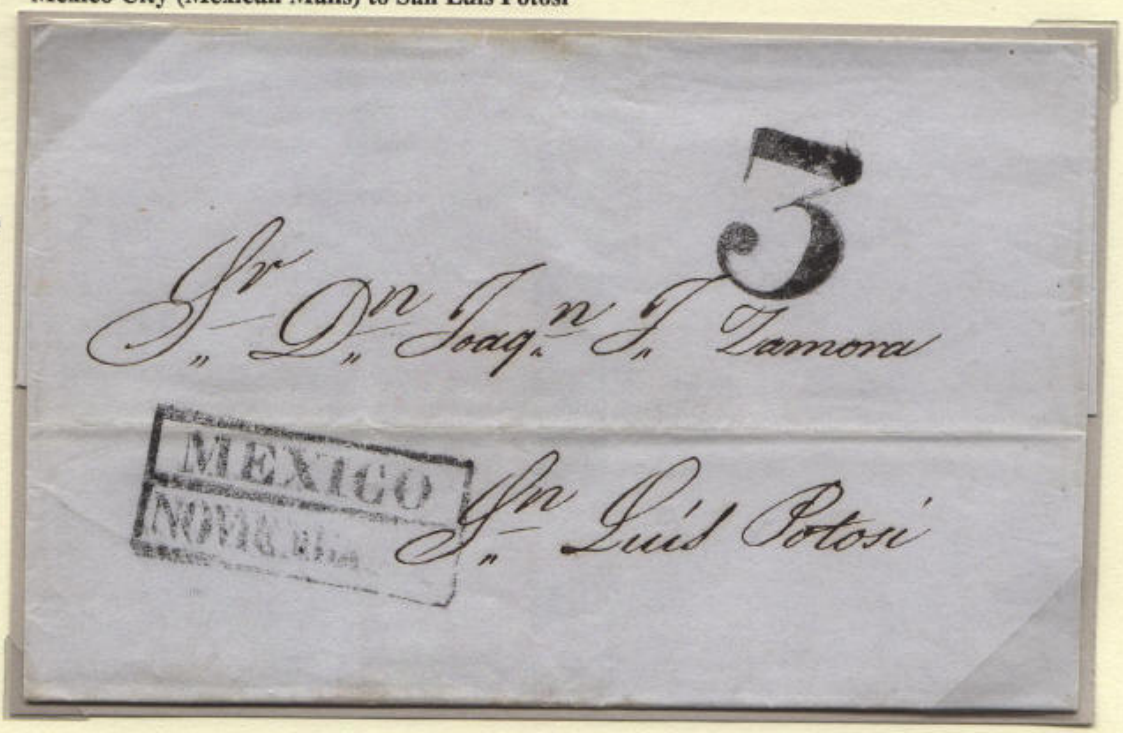
2/3 Single rate

Mexico City (Mexican Mails) to San Luis Potosi

Mexico City
18 November 1847

3 Reales [due]
(1/2 – 3/4 oz rate)

Seat of Government Temporally moved To San Luis Potosi during occupation Of Mexico City



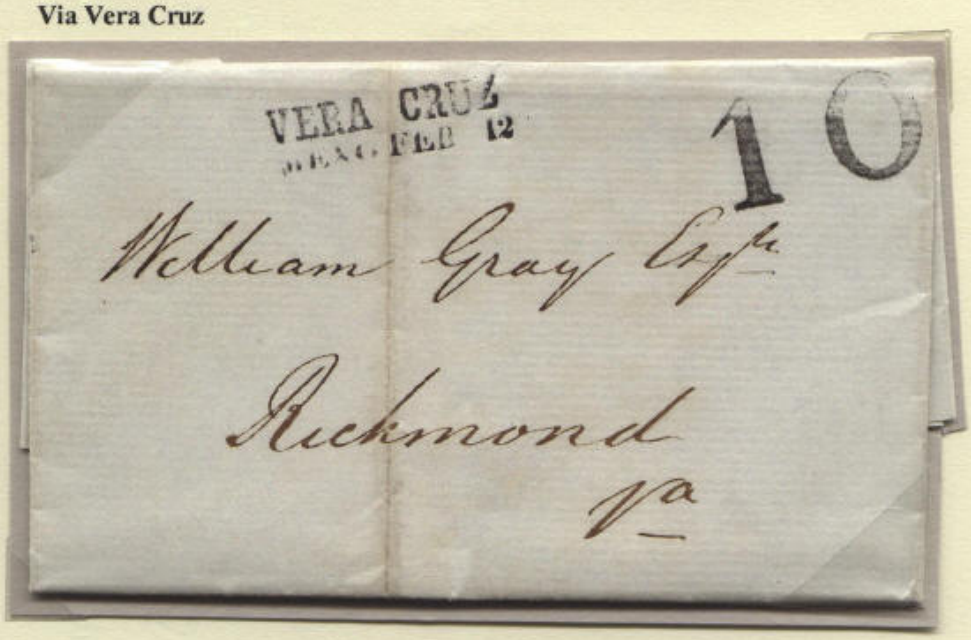
Commercial Correspondence – Duplicate Letters

Via Vera Cruz

Mexico City
8 February 1848

Vera Cruz
Type V Handstamp
12 February 1848

Large '10' Ratemark



Via New Orleans



Mexico City
8 February1848

New Orleans
21 February 1848

'10' Ratemark

Endorsed
"duplicate"

Duplicate correspondence often sent by separate routes/services in effort to ensure receipt.

Letters confirm financier August Belmont supplying Scott's Army with specie (for payment of expenses and salaries) as majority of transactions were settled with gold and silver coinage.

British Agency also continued service during Occupation period
For items addressed to United states and Foreign Destinations

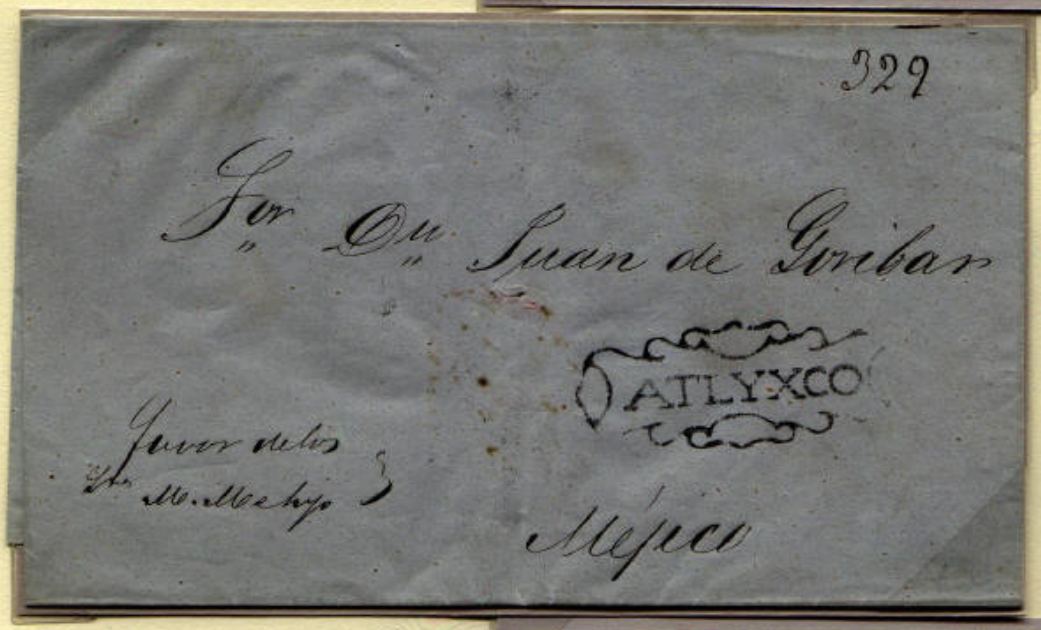


Mexico City (Mexican Post Office), 13 June 1848
Vera Cruz (British Agency), 15 June 1848
London arrival, 24 July 1848
4/6 shilling double rate

Mexican Civil Mail services continued to operate during Occupation period



Inbound from **Atlixco**,
(State of Puebla)
East of Capital



Inbound from **Yautepec**,
(Chalco District, State of Mexico)
South-east of Capital



Inbound from **Zacatecas**,
(Zacatecas State)
North of Capital

Inbound

Few inbound items to troops in Mexican War survived due to general battlefield conditions, limited baggage allotment, rough handling, and prolonged journeys back to home!

Rochester, Michigan
31 July 1847

Via **Vera Cruz** to **Mexico City**

"FREE" under Act of 3 March 1847

15th Infantry involved With initial occupation Of Mexico City. (6 Week Transit)





Pontiac, Michigan
3 May 1848

Free transport of mail To soldiers in Mexico allowed for duration of war plus 3 months (through August 1847). [***Act of 3 March 1847***]

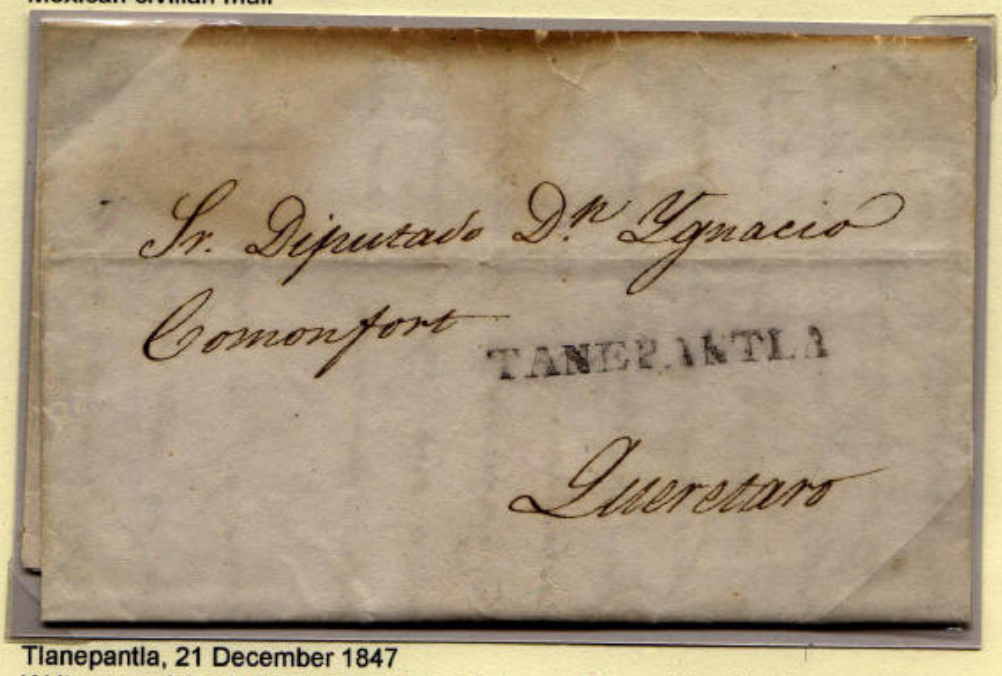
U.S. forces were active in areas North, South, and West of Mexico City through mid 1848

Cuernavaca
South of Mexico City
Forces stationed there from late December 1847



Headquarters 15th Infantry (at Cuernavaca), 17 May 1848

Tlanepantla (10 miles north of Mexico city)
(now a suburb)
Mexican civilian mail



Tlanepantla, 21 December 1847
Writer complains to his brother that U.S. troops are combing family estates for deserters. *Addressee is future President of Mexico.*

Occupied late December 1847

Located 65 Km. West of Mexico



Toluca, 27 April 1848
Vera Cruz, 11 May 1848 (Type VIII Handstamp)
10c U.S. domestic rate (>300 miles)

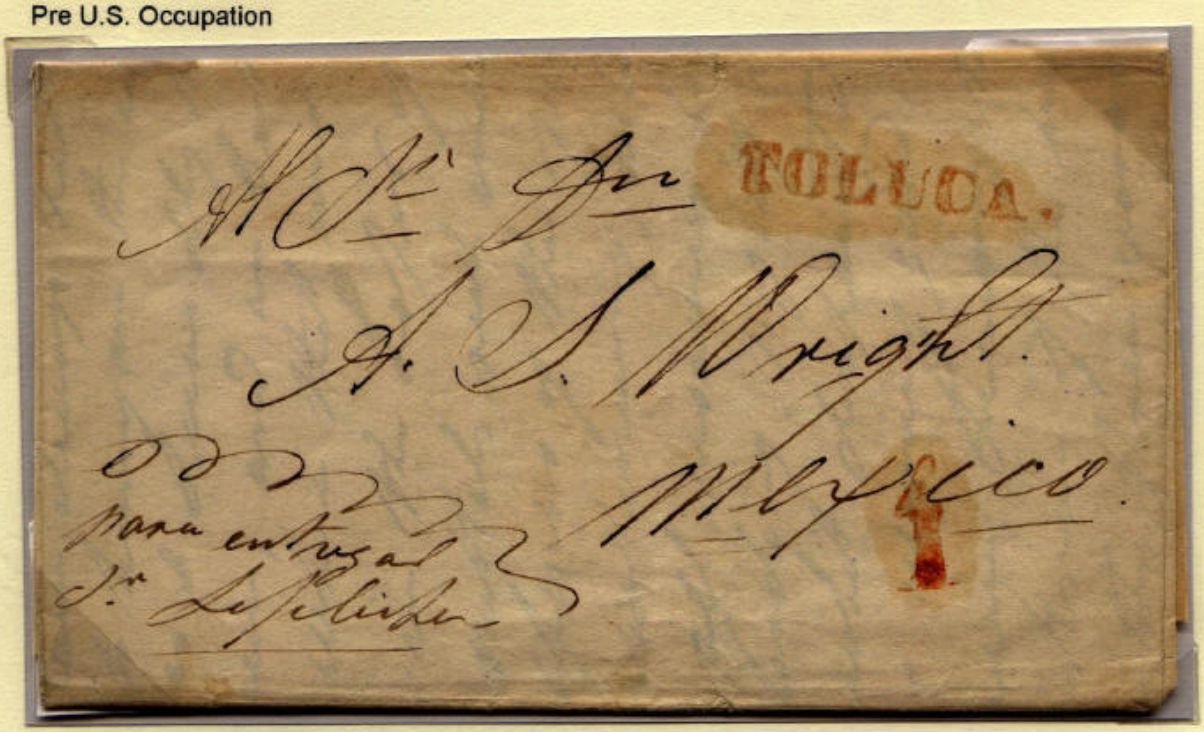


Toluca, 20 April 1848
Vera Cruz, 26 April 1848
Official Mail, no cash postage due

Mexican Civil Mail

Located 65 Km. West of Mexico City;
United States and Mexican mail services often co-existed with each other

Pre U.S. Occupation



Toluca, 20 August 1847
1 real (collect) single sheet
U.S. mining engineer comments on increasing difficulty in face of war conditions.



Toluca, 16 January 1848
2 Reales (collect), 1/2 – 3/4 ounces

United States Forces departed Vera Cruz in a staged withdrawal through mid-July 1848

The ***Retaliatory Rate*** period between United States and Great Britain began 3 July 1848

United States to Great Britain
(items from British Agencies to the United States were also affected)





Vera Cruz, 11 July 1848 (via 'Great Western')
New Orleans, 21 July 1848 (Forwarder, entered U.S. mails)
London arrival, 16 August 1848

'PAID' 34c [U.S.], due 2/- [G.B.]

"The customs house will probably be delivered today to Mexican authorities...."

After hostilities ended, postal rates reverted to their prewar status.
Rates from Mexico to the United States varied depending on route and service provider.

Mexico to United States

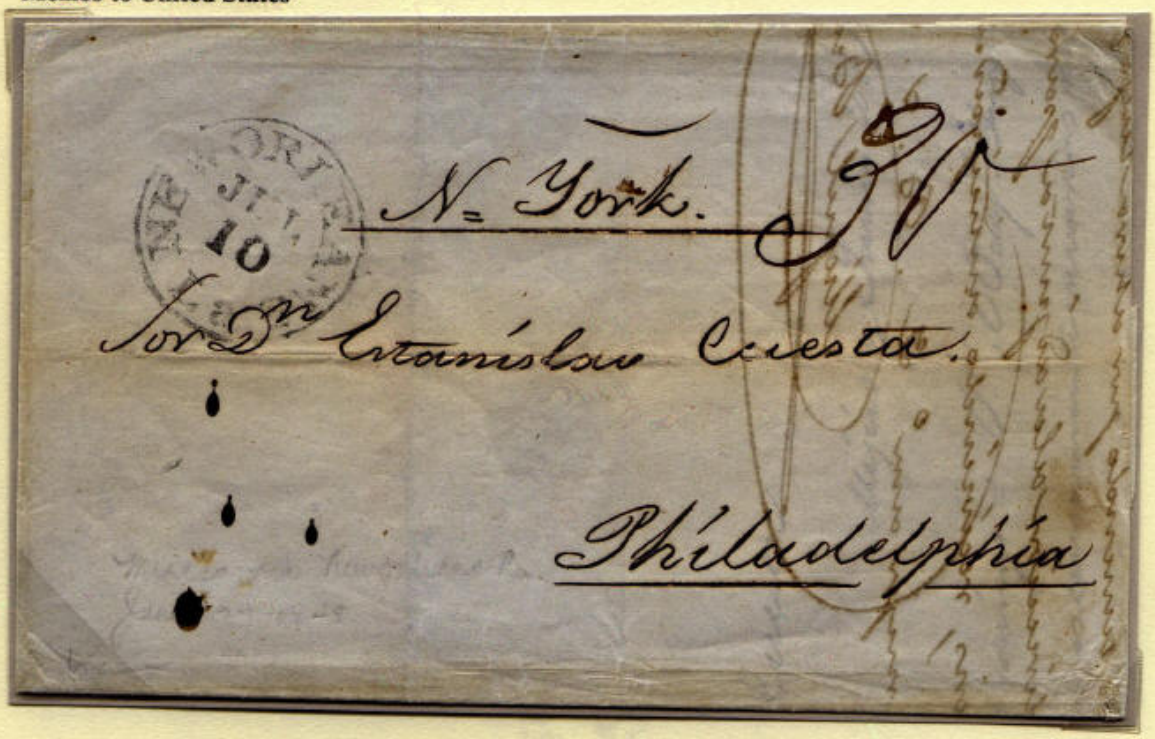
Mexico City
27 June 1848

Via New Orleans And New York to Philadelphia

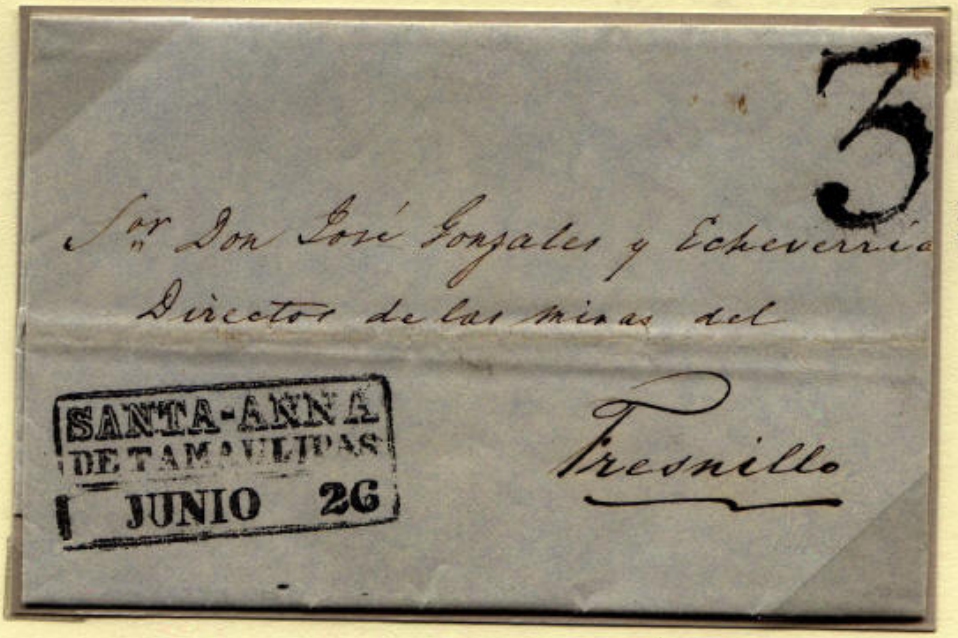
'30' cents collect

Rate previously 10c via U.S. office at Vera Cruz, and New Orleans,

Alternate: 2/- via British Agency.



Internal Mexican mail



Tampico
26 June 1848

3 Reales single/ >45 mile (15 Leagues) rate

Formally 10 cents from U.S. agency

The ***Retaliatory Rate*** period between United States and Great Britain began 3 July 1848

British Agencies to United States



Tampico
(Mexican & British Offices),
15 September 1848

New Orleans (forwarder)
[R.D. Blossman, Esq.]

Port La Vaca, 19 October 1848

To **San Antonio**

Paid at Tampico,
due 24c (2/- 'equivalent'?)
+2c 'Steam' = 26c U.S.

Only known *Retaliatory Rate* cover from British Agency to U.S. Gulf Destination , bypassing New York



Vera Cruz
(Mexican & British Offices),
15 November 1848

New Orleans (U.S. Post),
21 November 1848

New York, 1 December 1848
Forwarded to **Baltimore**

paid at Vera Cruz 1/-,
due 34c+5c(Forwarding)
= 39c [U.S.]