

Free Franking

Warts and All

Free Franking – the beginning

- England 1652 –
- Facilitate the Free Flow of Information and Opinion Among Public Officials
- Later Expanded to Include Constituents

1832 Earl of Dartmouth



Maltese Cross



London June 25 1833

W. C. Dalrymple Esq.

38 Charlotte Square

William Roche Edinburgh



Franklin Colonial Use



Franklin in England



Free Mark

- Listed as number 1 in “The Franking System in the Post Office 1652-1840” by George Brunell, 1936.



Comes the Revolution

- First Continental Congress Adopts the Free Frank – Ordinance of October 18, 1782
- Letters, Packets and Dispatches Free to and from
 - Members and Secretary of Congress
 - Commander-in-Chief of the Armies
 - Heads of Certain Departments

Postal Act of 1789

- Permanently Established the Postal System and Continued Free franking for:
 - President
 - Vice President
 - Postmasters
 - Newspaper Editors
 - Department Heads
- Letters Must Be Signed by Sender
- Constituents Marked Letter “Free”

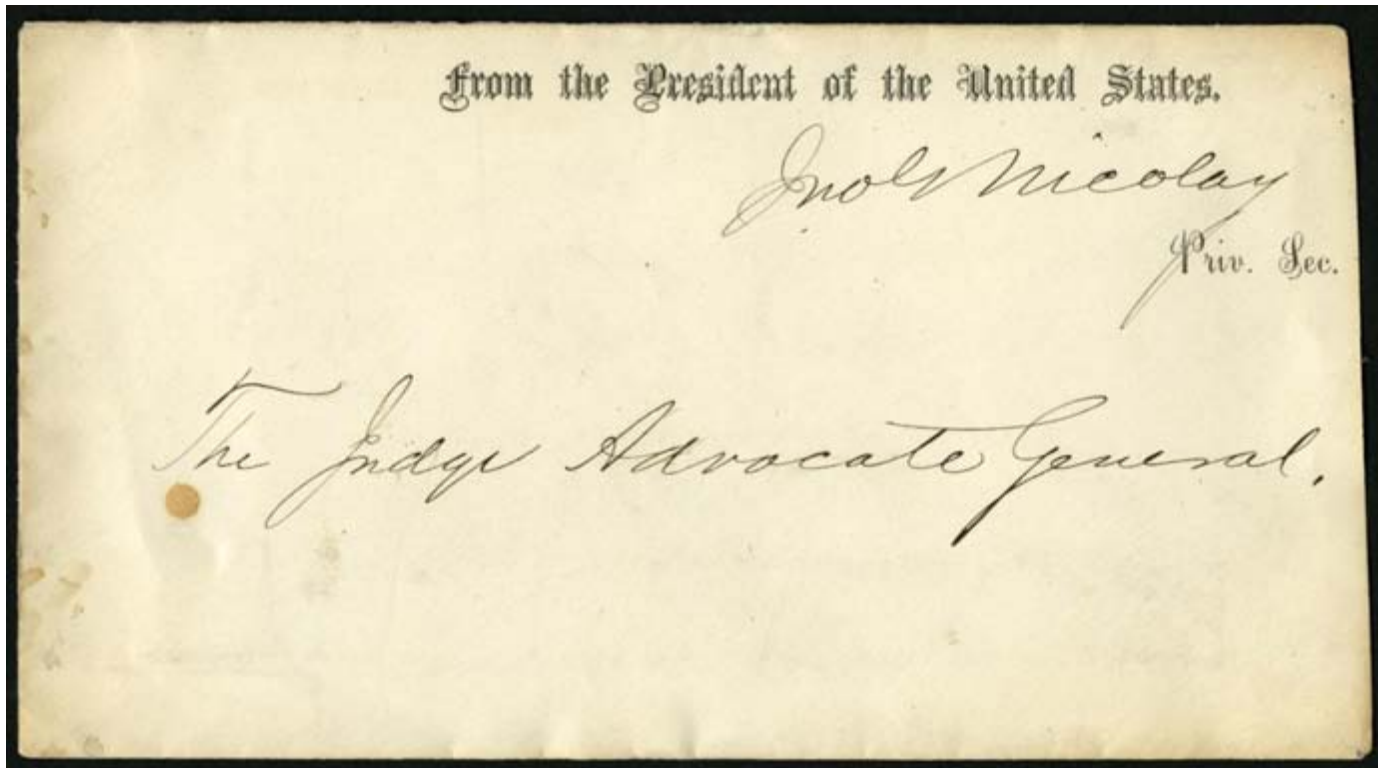
Presidential Use George Washington



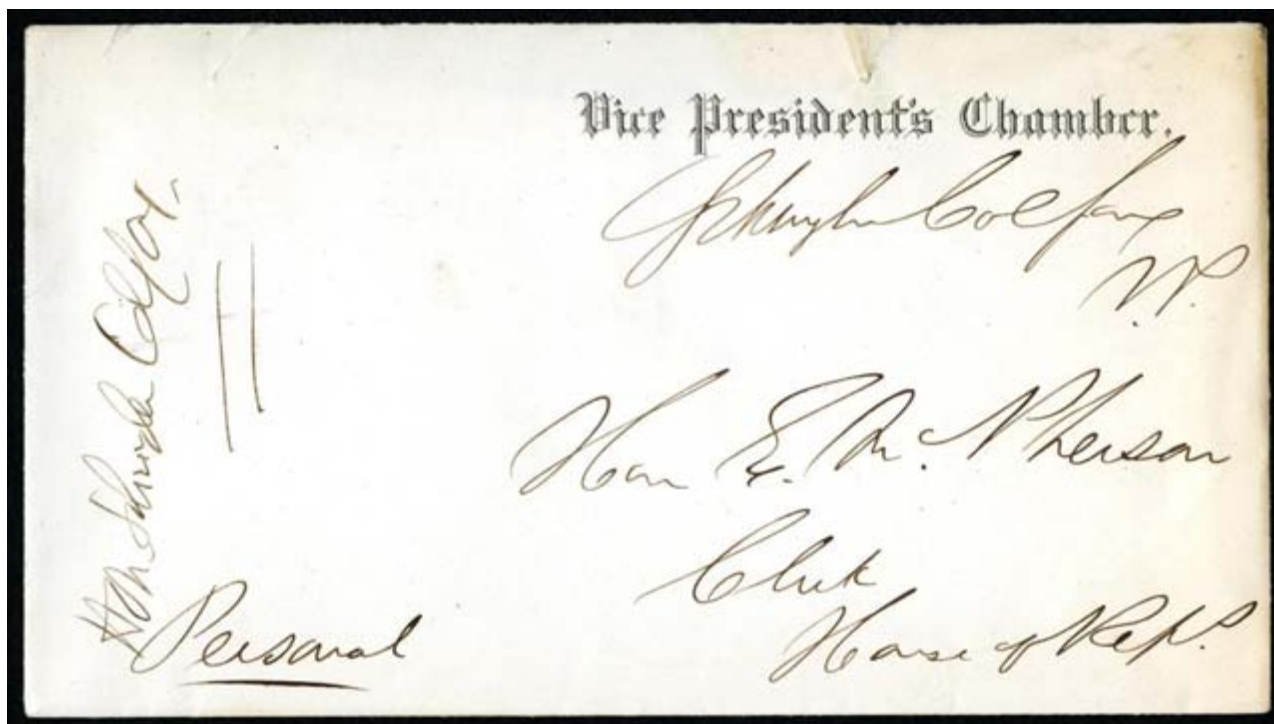
Constituent to President Jackson



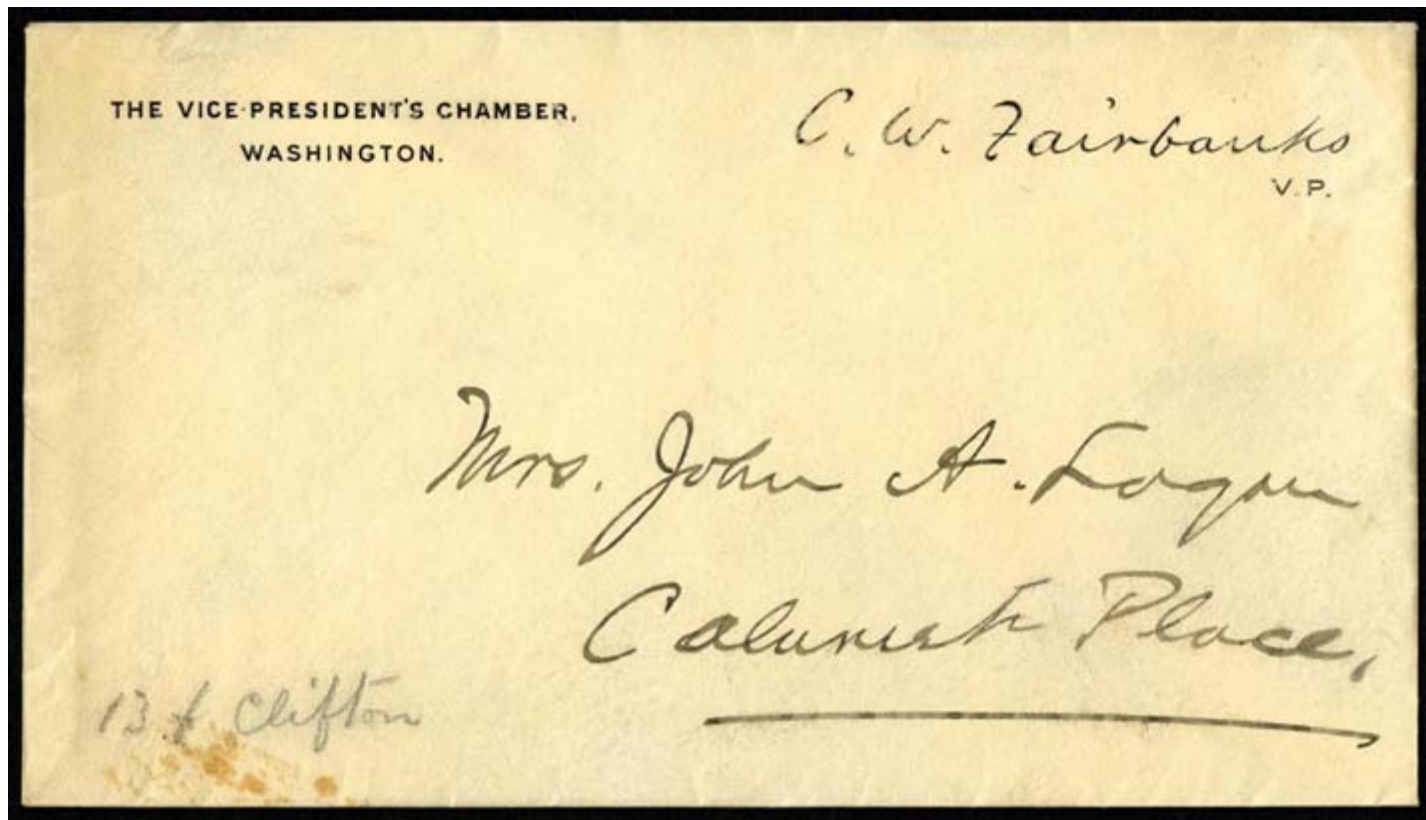
Presidential Use Abraham Lincoln



Vice President Schuyler Colfax



Vice President C. W. Fairbanks



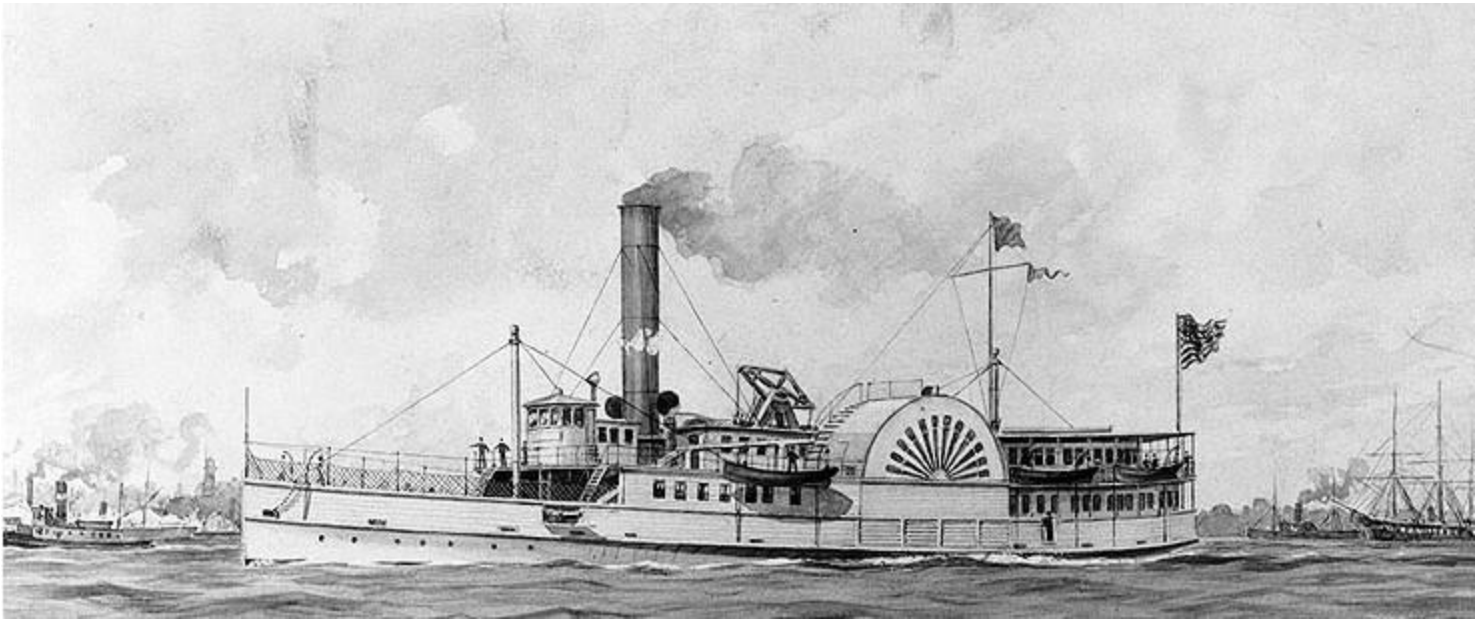
Secretary of War Stanton



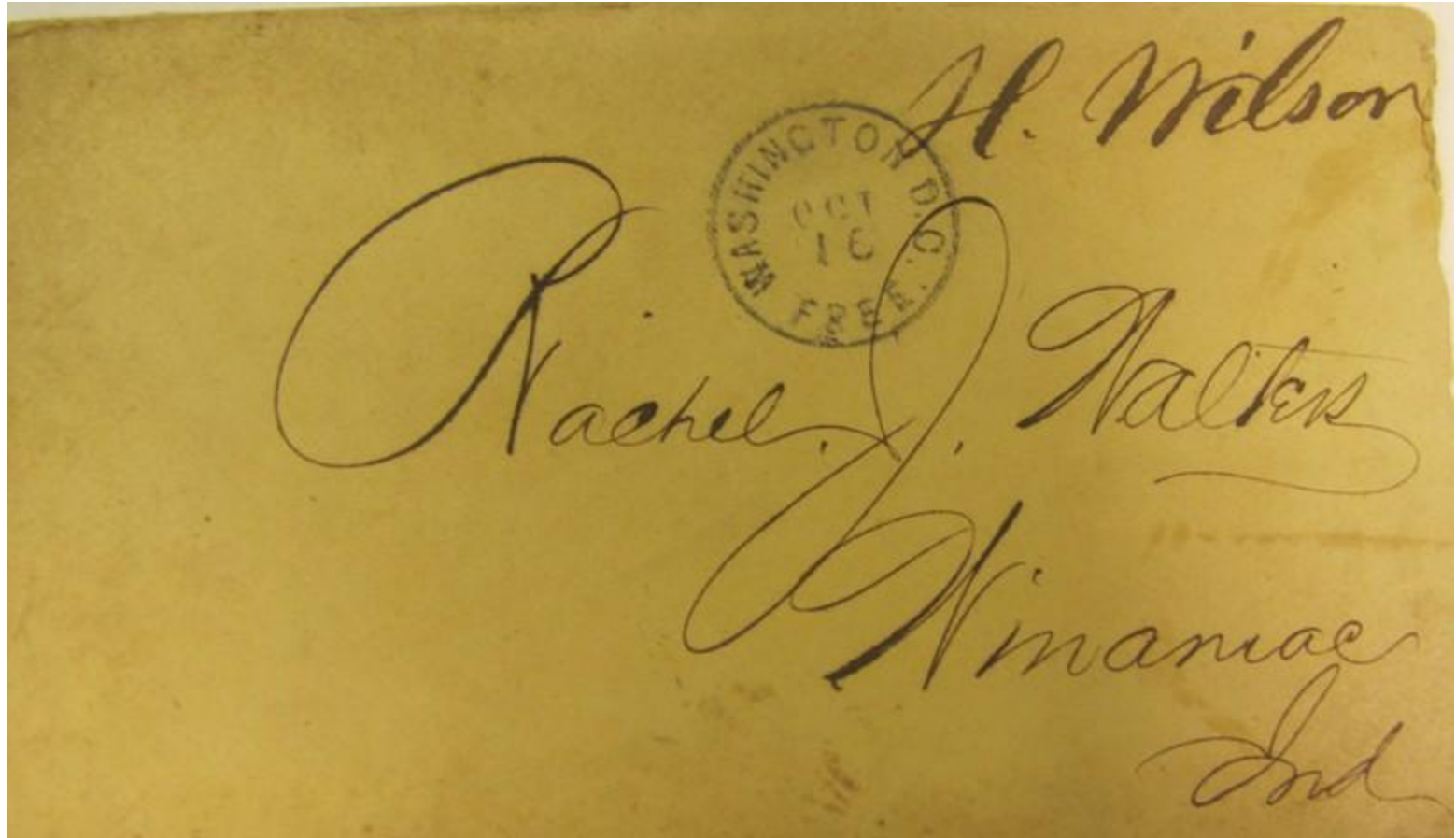
Admiral Dahlgren



USS Philadelphia



KIA



Office of Correspondence with the Friends of the
Missing Men of the United States Army.

Washington, D. C., *22nd* *March*, 1865

Dear Madam

I am in receipt of a communication from *John*
Brown of Crotons Point
Ind. which says David
W. Walters, Co "D" 1st
Caray died at Florence
S.C. February 25th 1865

For further particulars address informant as above.

I am, very truly,

Yours,
Sarah Barton
pe

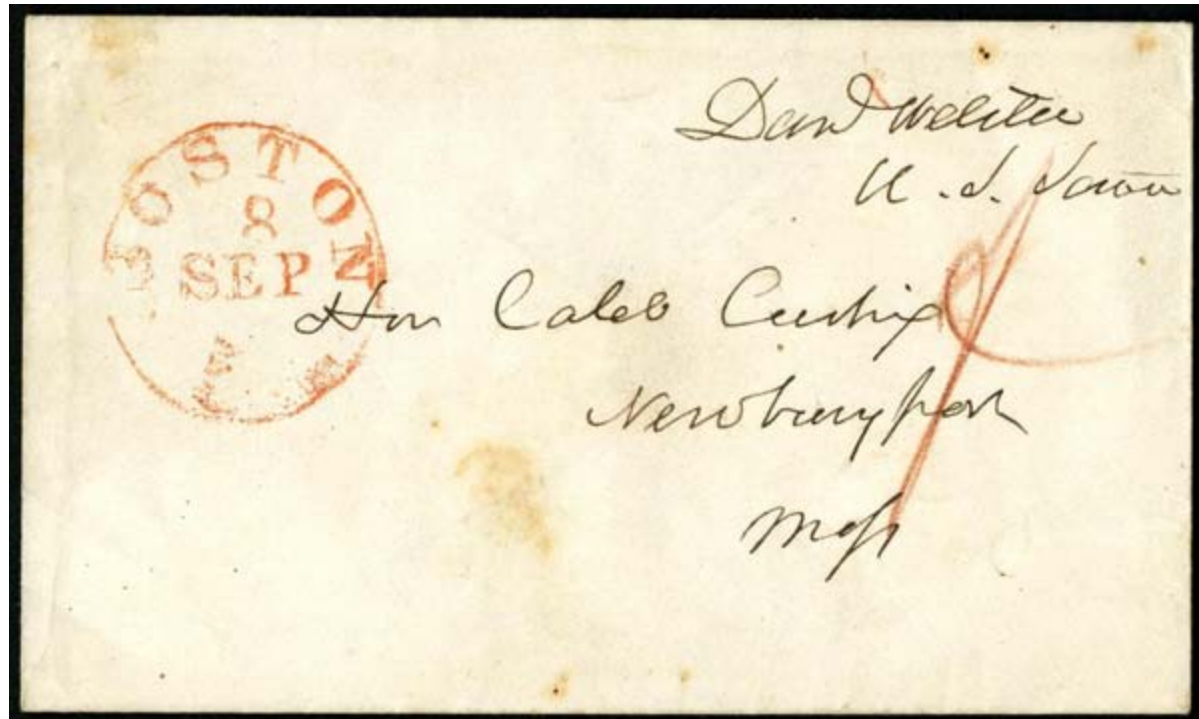
Addressed to Postmaster General Blair



Post Office Free Handstamp



Senator Daniel Webster



Congressman Grenville M. Dodge



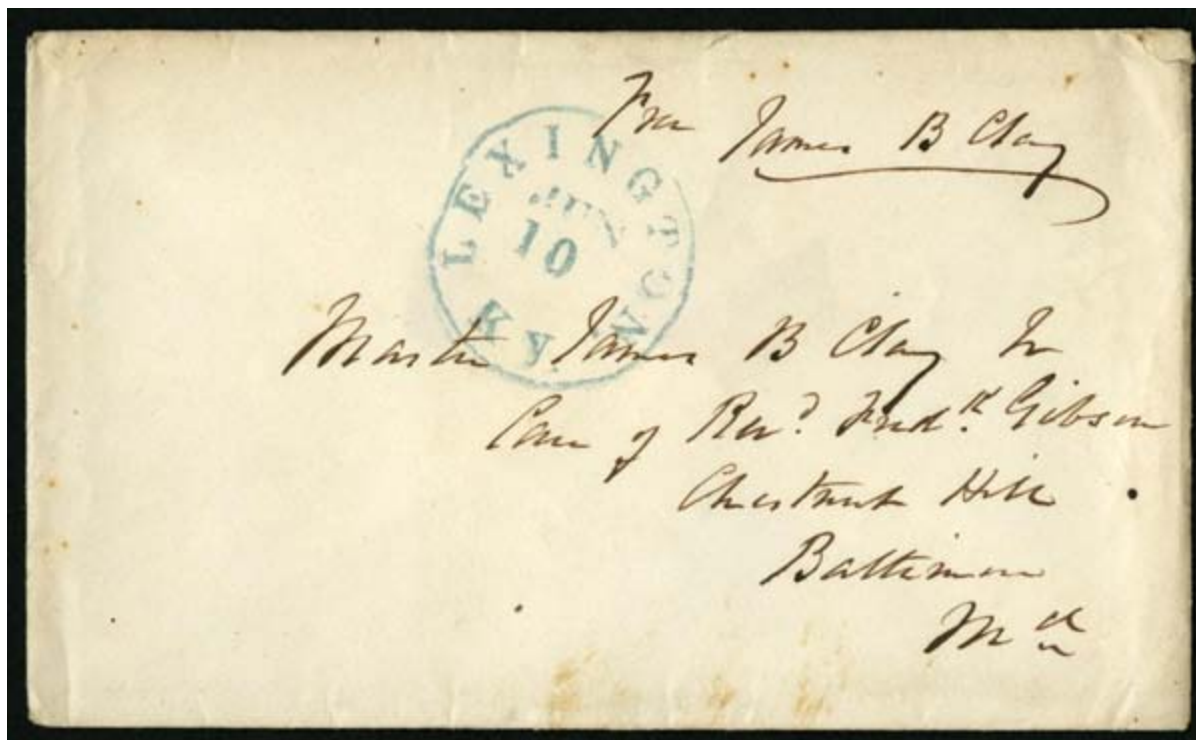
G. M. Dodge
me

Mr Edward M. Phelan

Clerk Hon. Reps
Washington
DC

ma.

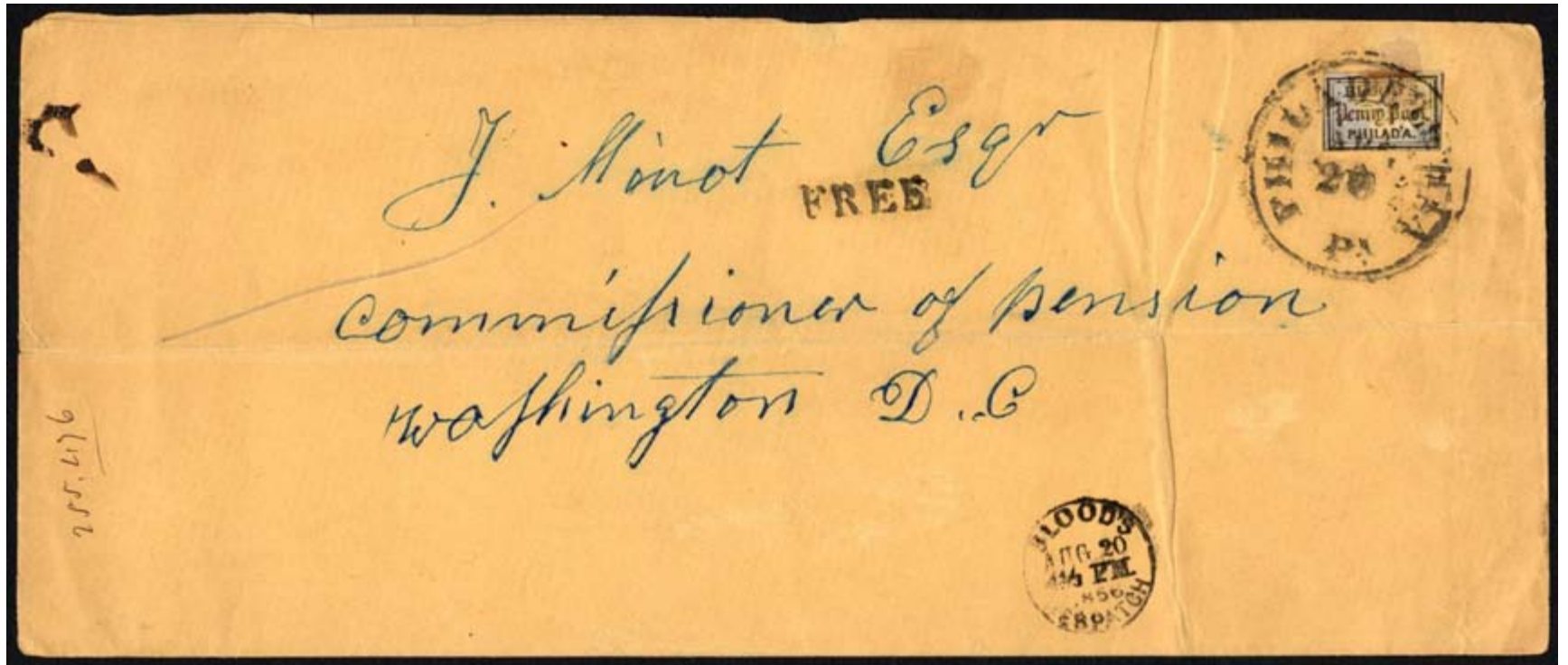
Congressman James B. Clay



Constituent to Senator Morrill



Pensioner Mail



Postmasters Can Make Mistakes



Rare Rate Marking



Consequences of Abuse

- 1872 Election
- Congress Ends Free Franking
- Introduction of Official Stamps
- Penalty Mail 1877
- Official Stamps Abolished 1879
- Free Frank Back 1891



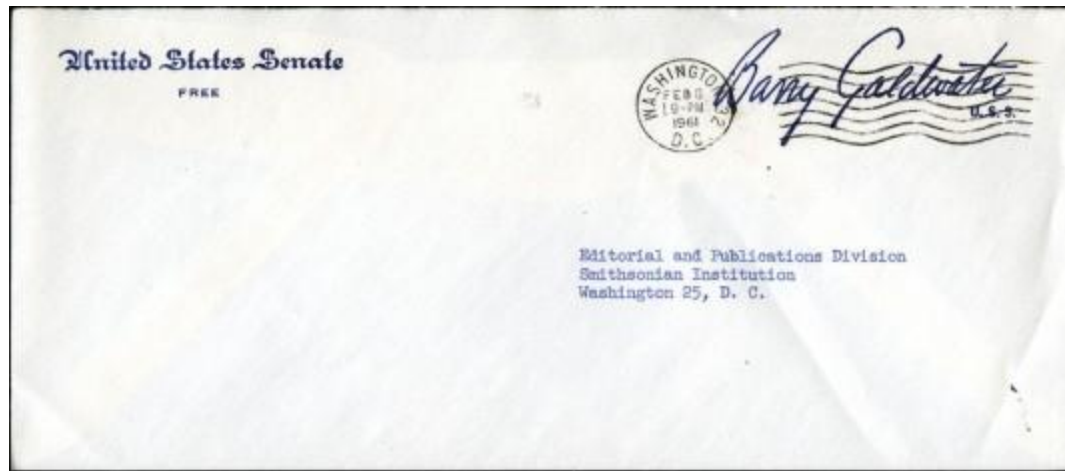
Free Frank Users

- Congress – Members and Selected Officers
- Selected Executive Branch Officials in Wartime
- Military Personnel in Wartime
- Vice President
- Former Presidents
- Surviving Presidential Spouses
- Former Vice Presidents for 90 Days after Term

Free Frank Users - 2

- Spouse of Member Dying in Office for the Duration of the Normal Term of that Member

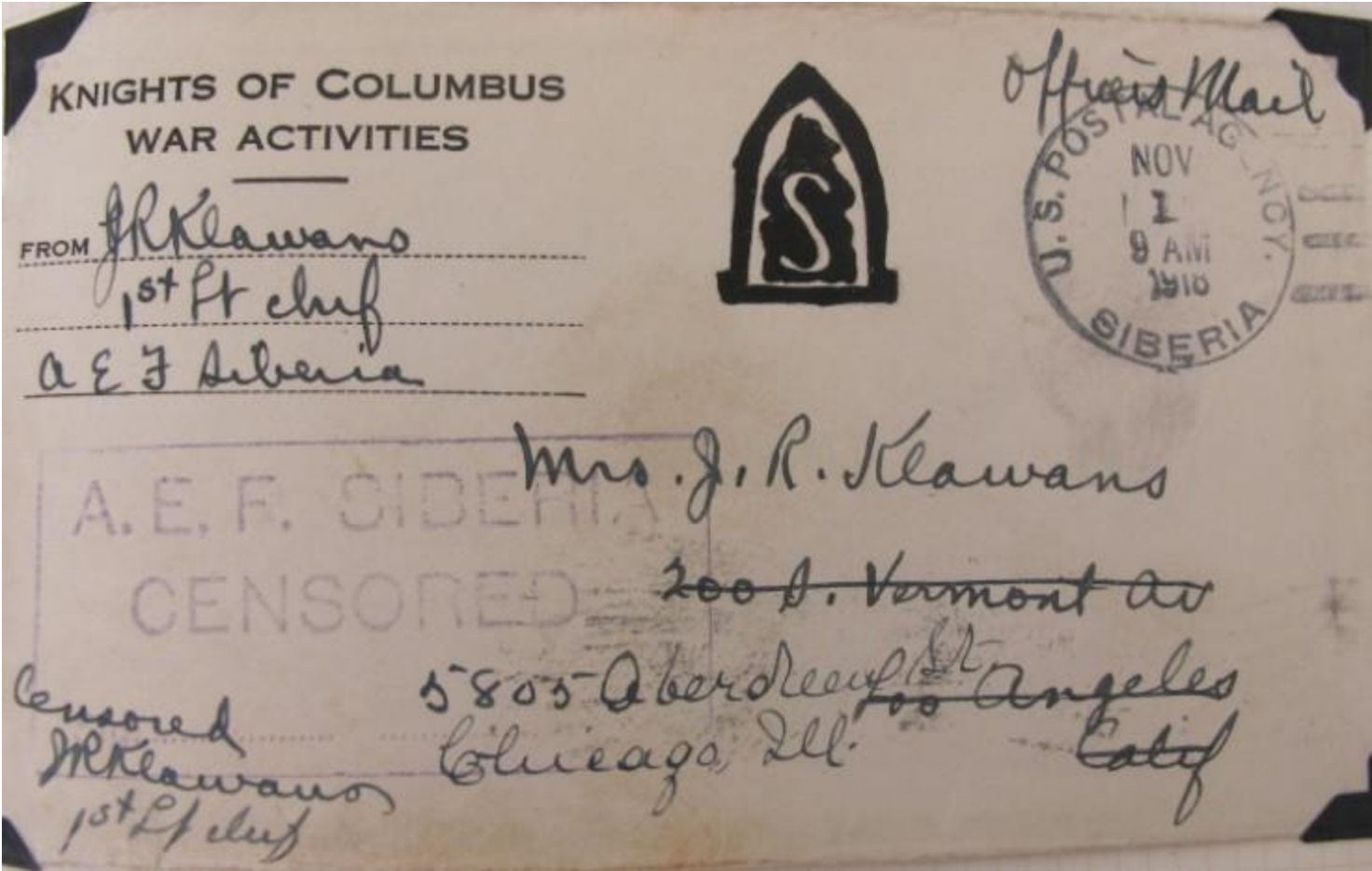
Senator Barry Goldwater



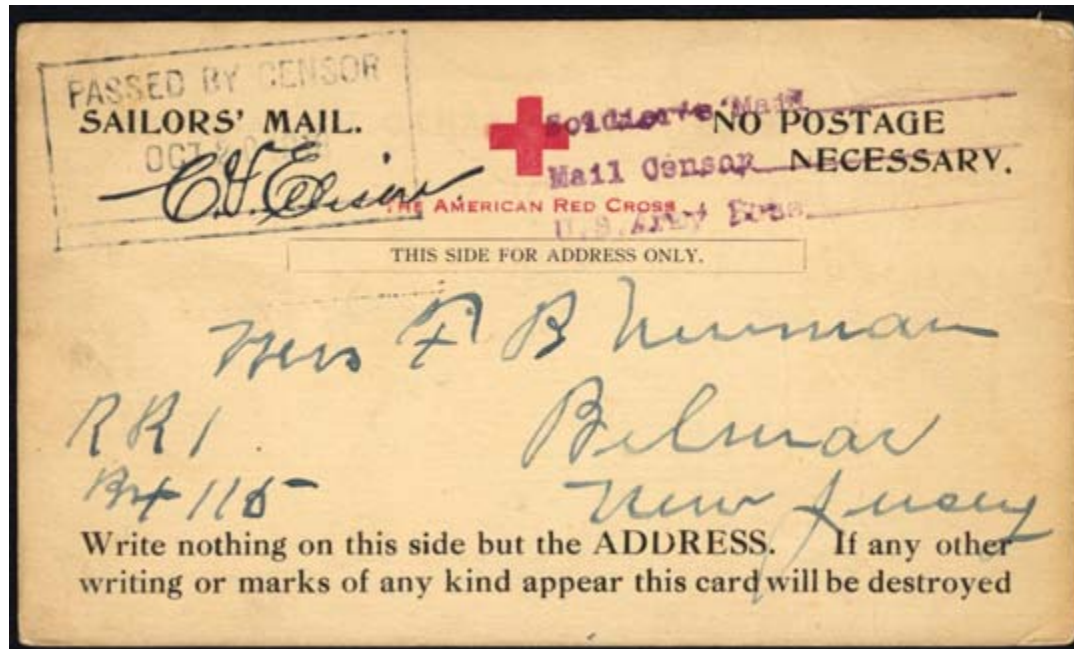
Military Free Frank – Officer's Mail



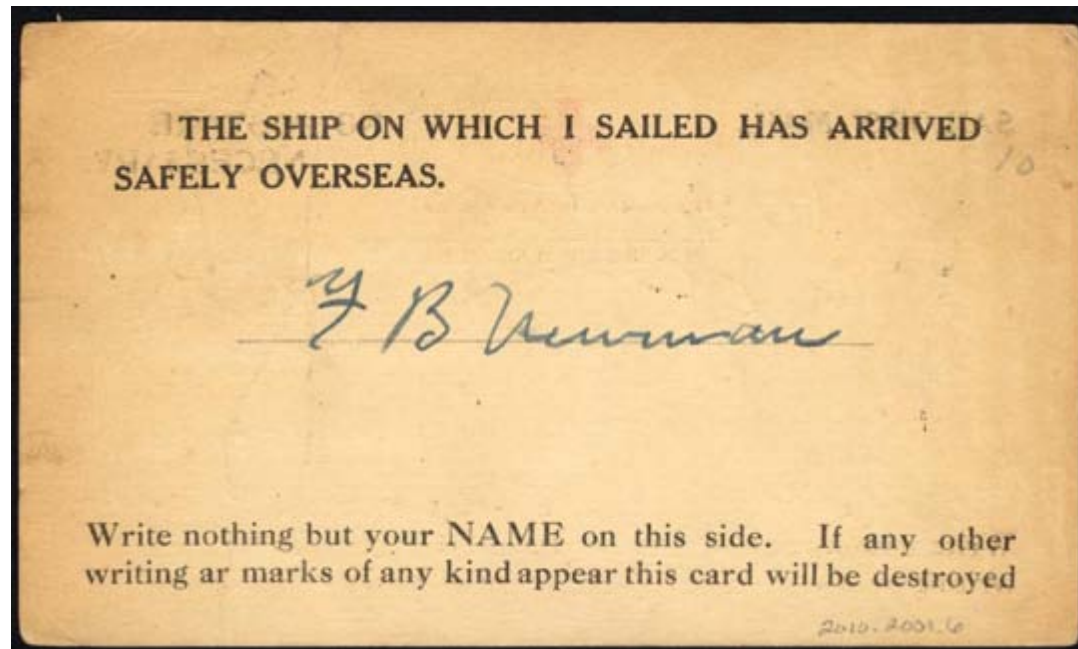
Military Free Frank – Officer's Mail



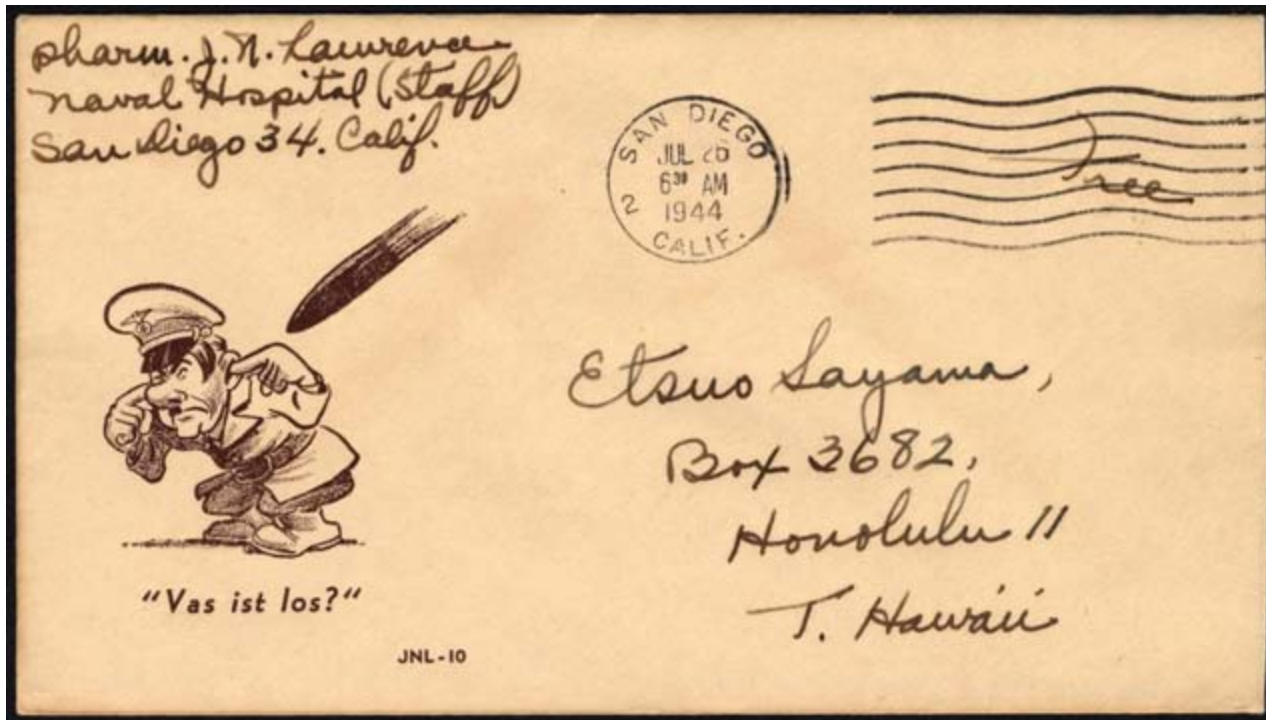
WWI Arrived Safely Card



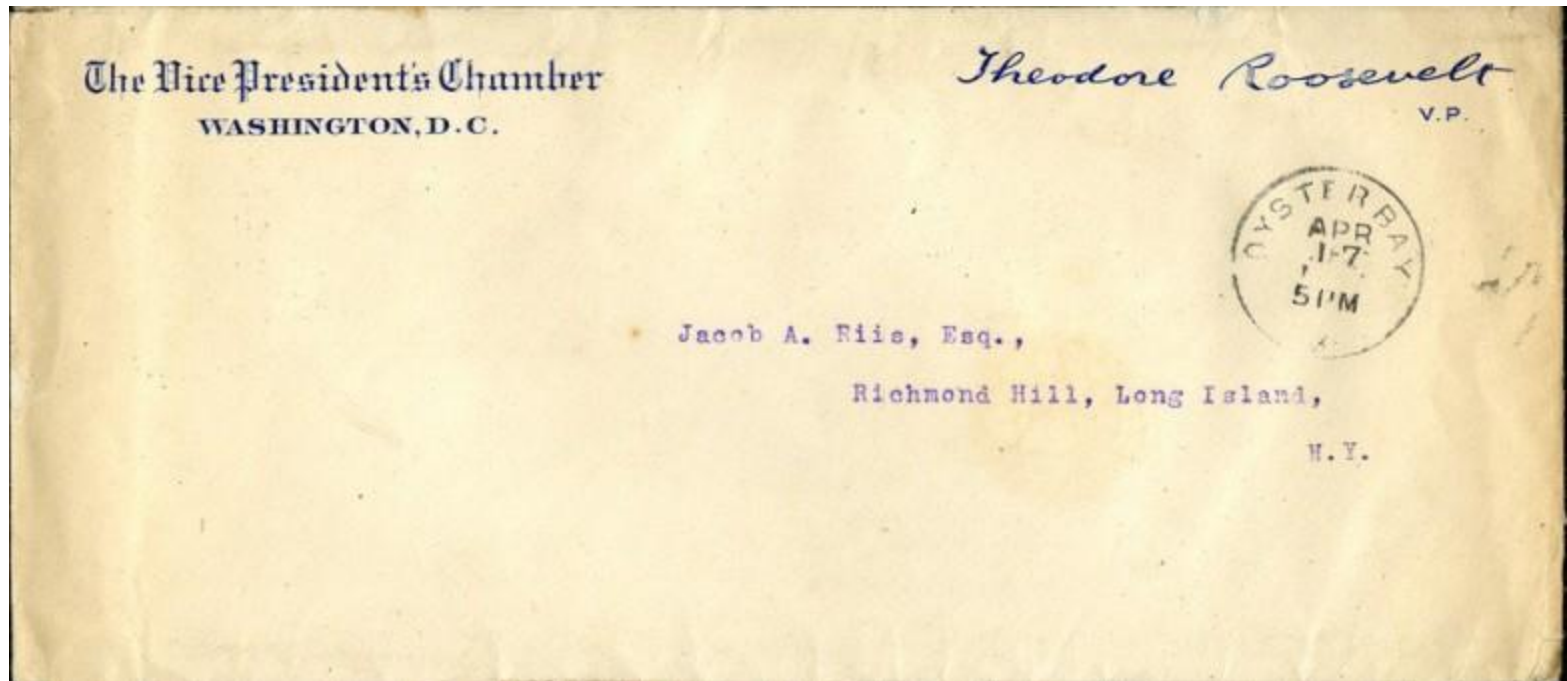
WWI Arrived Safely Message



WWII Patriotic Cachet



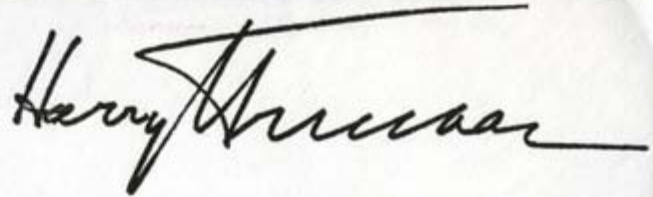
Vice President Theodore Roosevelt



Retired President Harry S. Truman

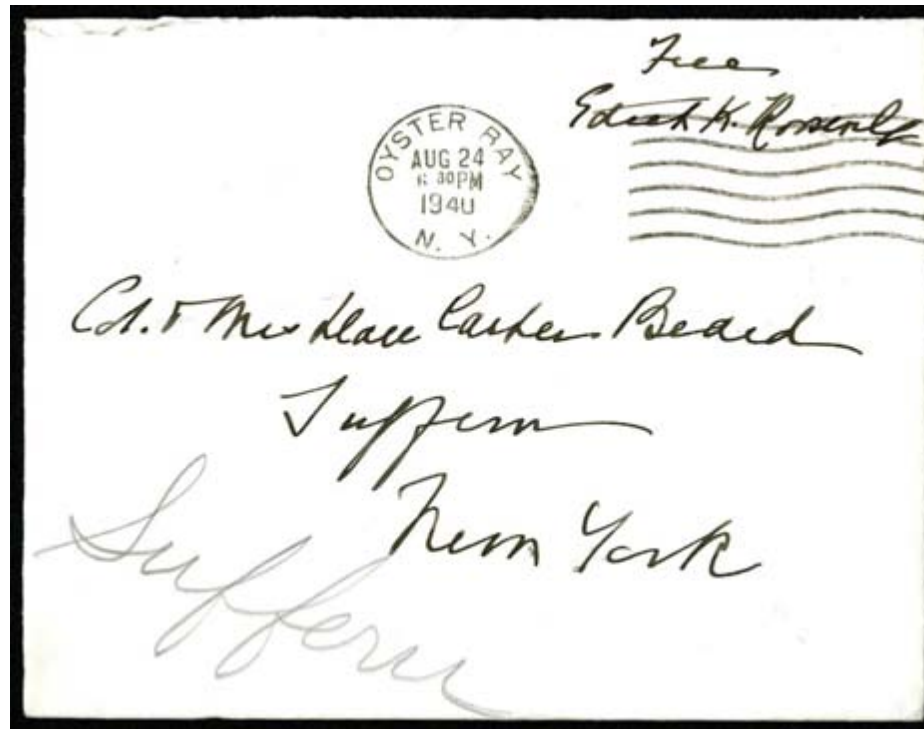
HARRY S TRUMAN
INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI

AIR MAIL

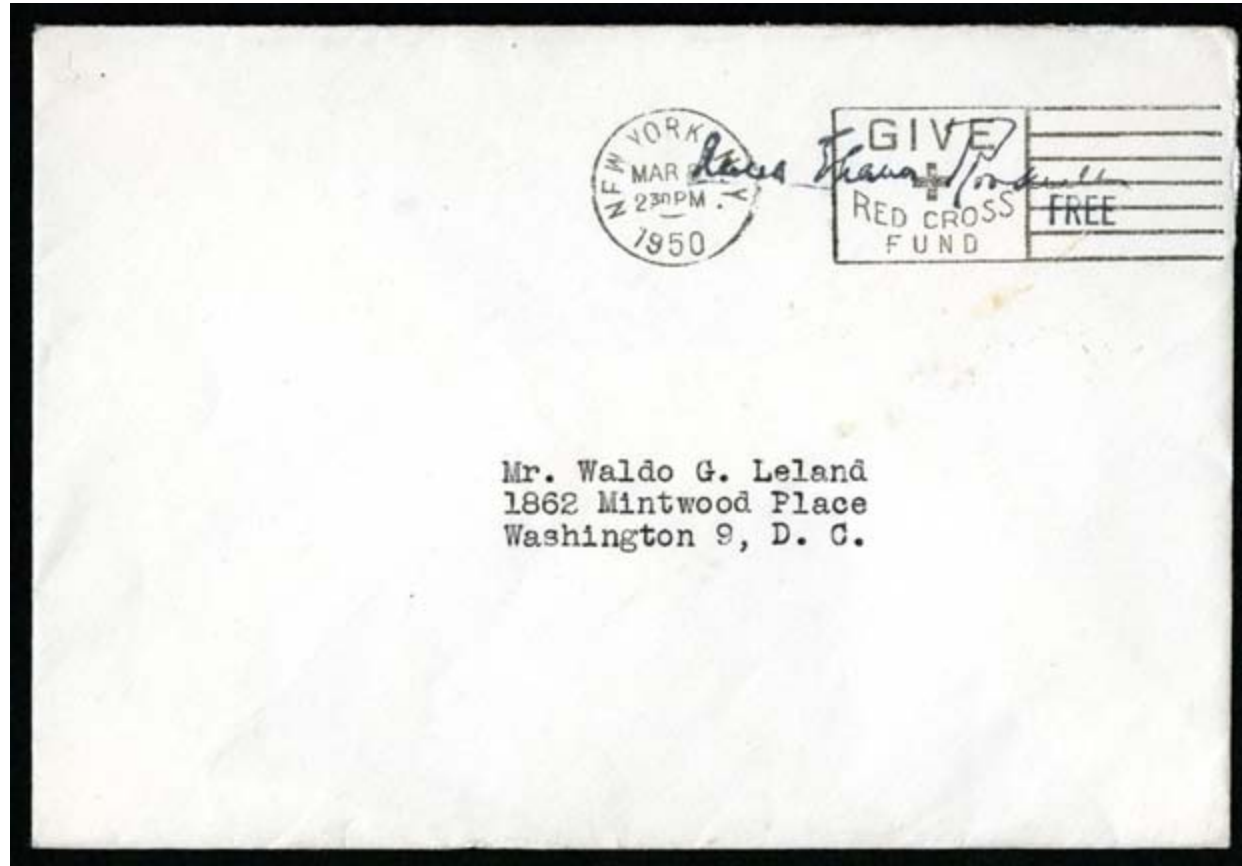
A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Harry S. Truman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent, sweeping initial "H" and a long, horizontal tail stroke.

Honorable Harold H. Burton
Supreme Court of the United States
Washington, D. C.

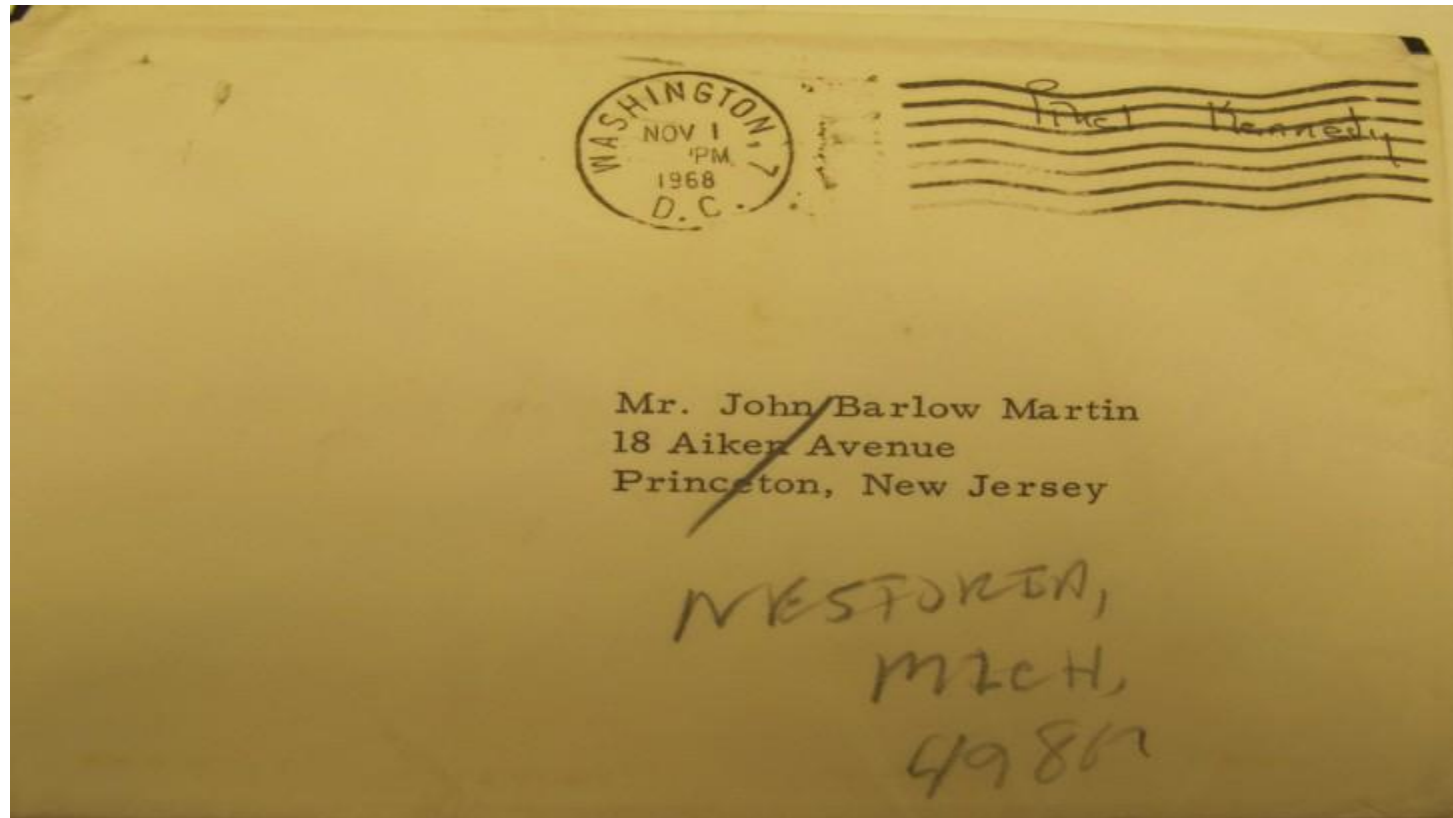
Presidential Widow Edith Roosevelt



Presidential Widow Eleanor Roosevelt

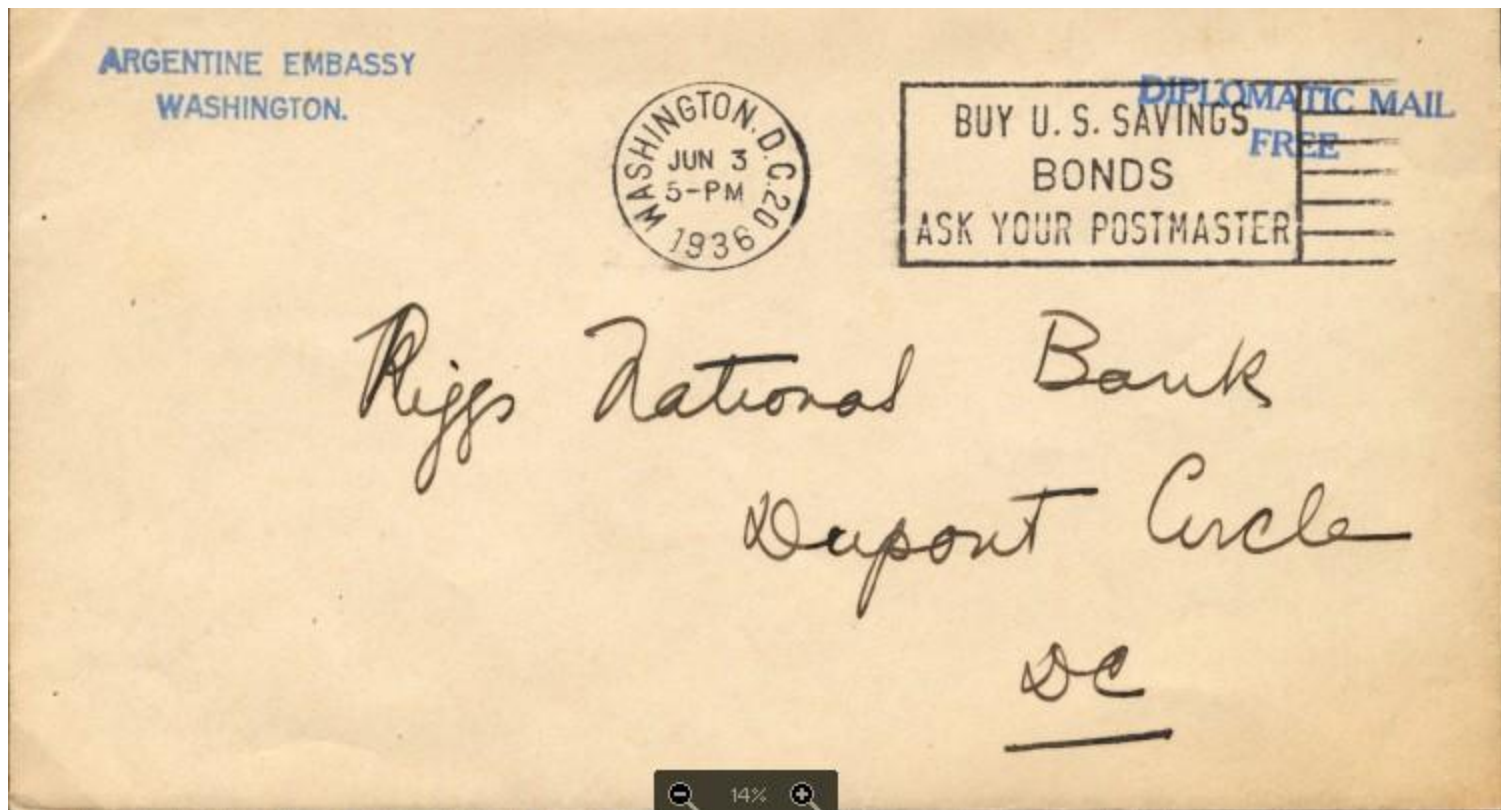


Congressional Widow Ethel Kennedy



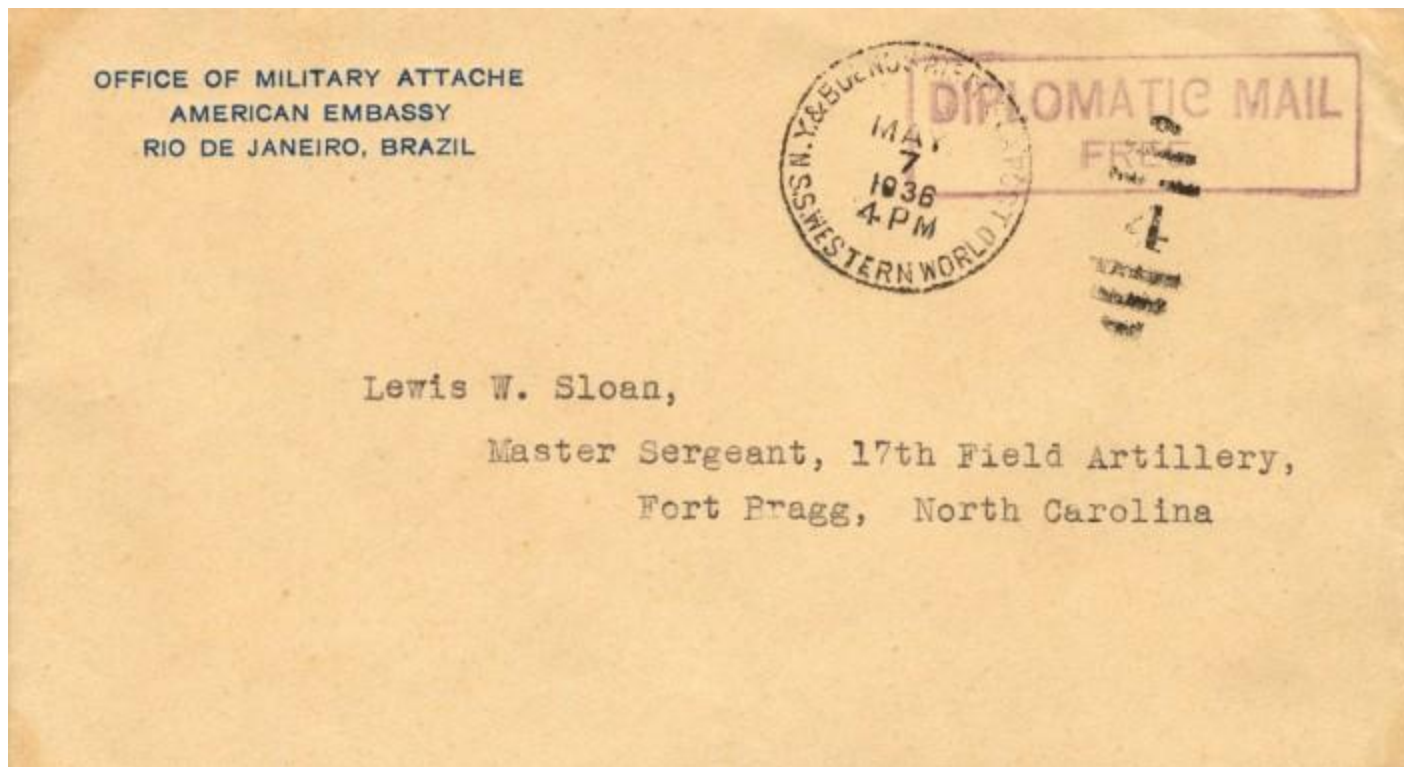
U. S. Diplomatic Use of Free Franking

- Argentine Embassy

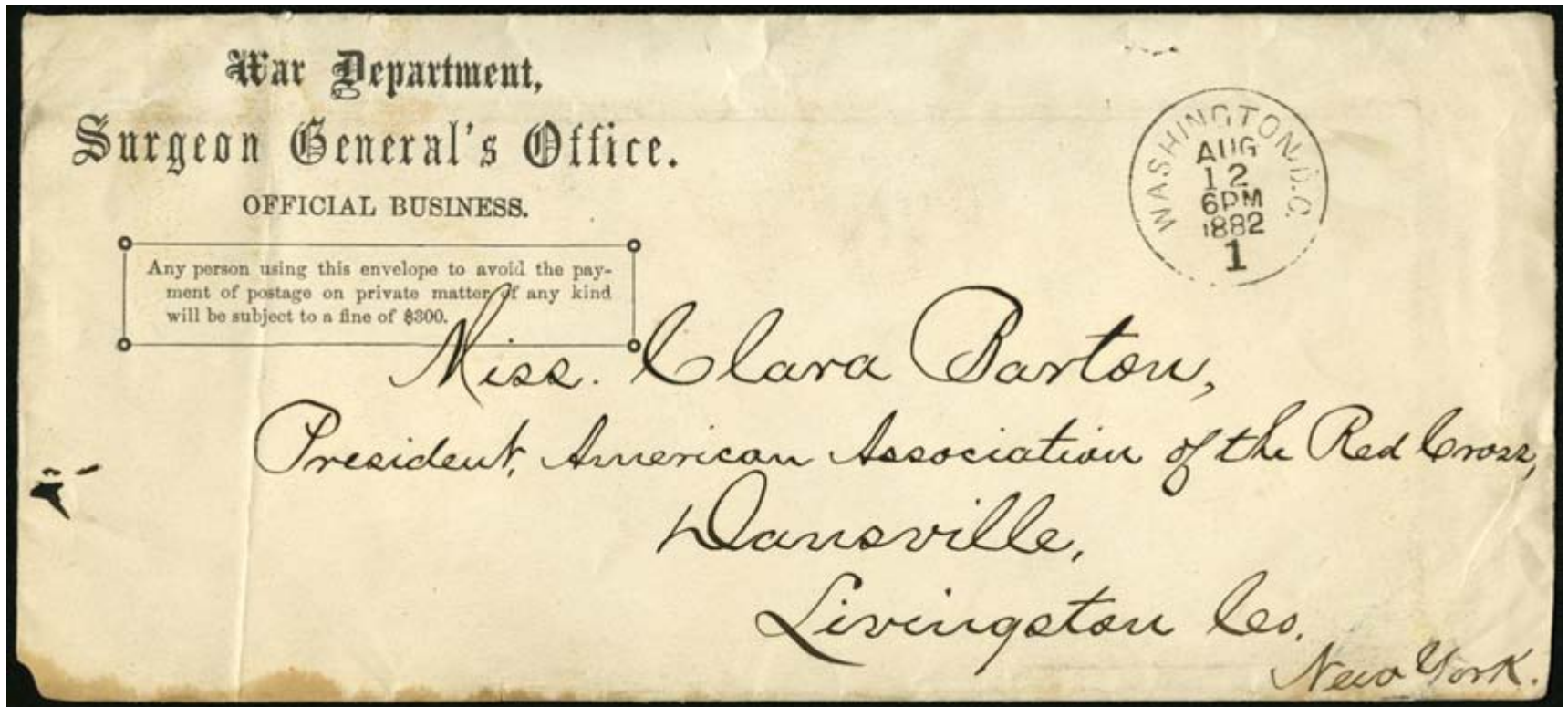


Diplomatic Free Frank

- American Embassy – Rio De Janeiro



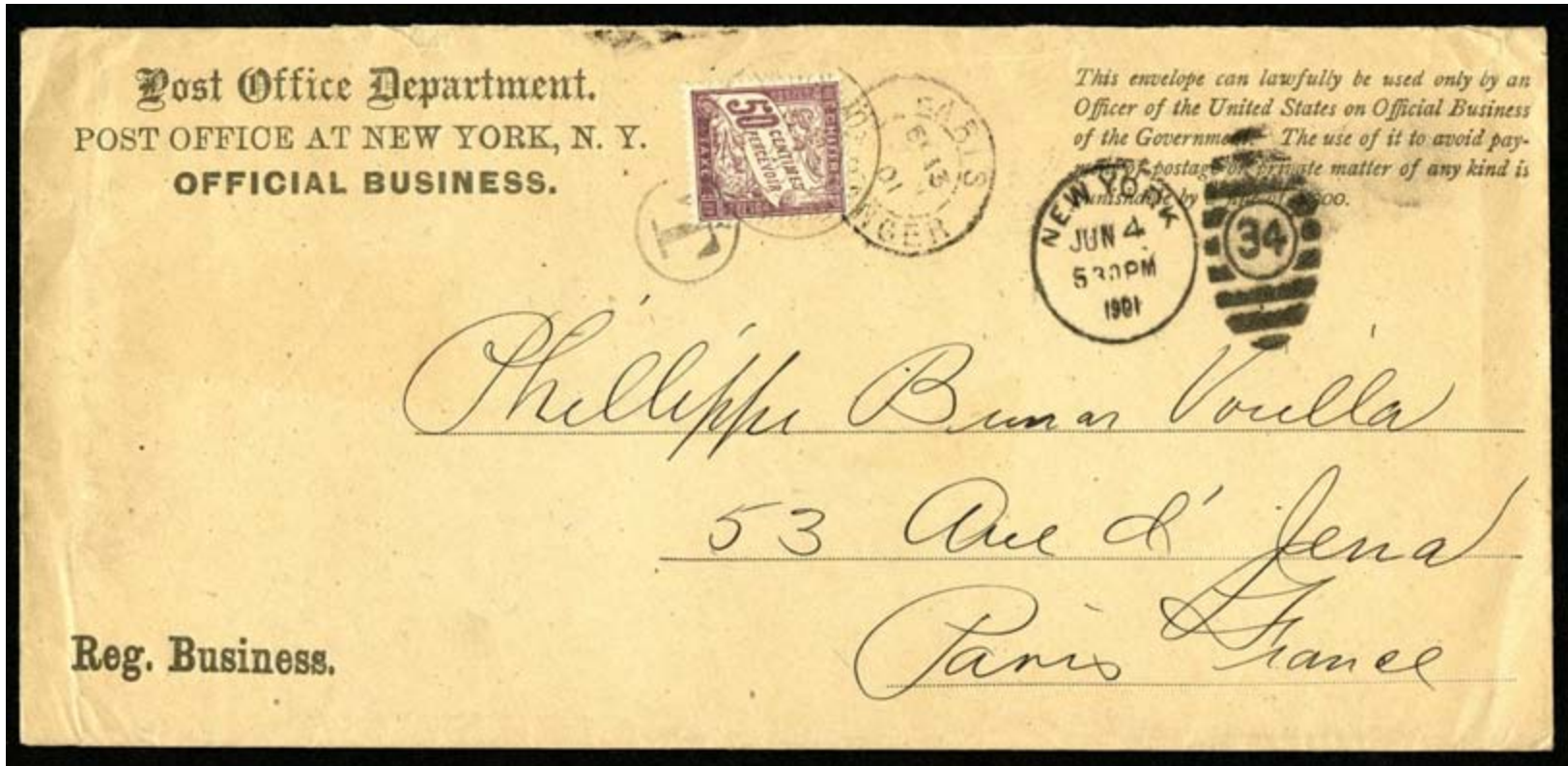
Surgeon General to Clara Barton



Booker T. Washington



Penalty Mail to Foreign Address



Free Frank Control

- Federal Law - Title 39, Part IV, Chapter 32, § 3210 - Franked mail transmitted by the Vice President, Members of Congress, and congressional officials”.
- House and Senate Rules

Aden Mystery Cover



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Bibliography 6

- CRS Report for Congress, *Congressional Franking Privilege: Background and Current Legislation*, prepared by Matthew E. Glassman Analyst on the Congress Government and Finance Division, December 11, 2007
- Title 39, Part IV, Chapter 32, § 3210. Franked mail transmitted by the Vice President, Members of Congress, and congressional officials
- Title 39, Part IV, Chapter 32, § 3212
Congressional Record under frank of Members of Congress