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JANUARY, 1943

SECTION I

COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIST

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SUPPLEMENT

to the

History of The

“Free Franking”

Of Mail

In the United States

by

EDWARD STERN

Entered as second-class matter July 5th, 1927, at the Post Office at Federalsburg,
Maryland, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

The Collectors Club Philatelist

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Section I.

Supplement to the History of the "Free Franking" of Mail in the United States

By EDWARD STERN.

My specialty has long been the collecting of Autographed Free Franks pertaining to the Presidents of the United States, divided into the various capacities held while serving their country. Many served in various executive branches of the government, such as Secretary of State, War, etc.; as Vice-Presidents, or, in greater majority, as Representatives or Senators in Congress. A very limited number were members of the Continental Congress, and Signers of the Declaration of Independence.

Approximately seven years ago I conceived the idea of compiling a "History of the 'Free Franking' of Mail in the United States." This appeared in serial form in *The Collectors Club Philatelist* and was subsequently published in book form by H. L. Lindquist.

As released this study was based solely upon my collection and featured the autographed Free Franked envelopes of members of the Continental Congress, Signers of the Declaration of Independence, Presidents and members of their Cabinets. Also included were the President's widows having the franking privileges. These widows will be the basis for my next supplementary article.

Following the publication of these articles and the book, I was fortunate to have made many very pleasing contacts with families of prominence and descendants of the Presidents, who possessed letters of interest along with the Franks. It has been my good fortune to obtain many of these items—illustrated and described in the following pages.

A "Frank" possesses a very personal contact, as well as a momentous historical value. In my opinion a Presidential Frank is all too frequently misinterpreted. I feel such envelopes, to warrant this designation, must be franked while the President is actually in office, with the proper date and identification.

HISTORY OF THE "FREE FRANKING" OF MAIL IN THE U. S.

Descriptions of Franks Illustrated

PLATE A

Cover #1 **GEORGE WASHINGTON**—Franked while General and Commander-in-Chief, during the Revolutionary War. Addressed entirely in his own handwriting to Major General Artemas Ward who was in command of the Continental Troops—1775-1776. The private seal of General Washington is on the back of the cover. Five other covers franked by George Washington are represented in my collection but this is the only one showing the word "FREE" applied to the cover by means of a die.

Cover #2 **JOHN ADAMS**—Franked "J. Adams" while in private life. A letter is attached and dated January 9, 1802, one year after he was President of the United States. The letter was written by John Quincy Adams who later became President of the United States and is addressed to his brother, Thomas Boylston Adams. Both were sons of the President. The letter was of a personal nature and reads as follows—

Quincy 25, January, I have kept the written letter until this time for the sake of bringing it out home, and now find little or nothing to say in addition excepting that our parents and friends here are well, Boylston Adams was married last week—and by the way speaking of marriages, by the natural transition from cause to effect I may tell you that our friend Quincy has a son born about ten days ago—By way of encouragement to you and to confirm and establish your tottering virtue of patience, I shall add that after a months experience in my office, I find no interruption whatsoever to my learned leisure, no perplexing calls for the obliterated black-letter love. Re imports—I have succeeded in filling my whole time with employment, so that I find none for fretting, and never in my whole life felt more ease and contentment—
N. B. Please to call upon Mr. Ustick, N. 79. 3rd. Street, and pay him for a set of Noshainis'[?] Ecclesiastical History which he sent your father—
let me know the amount, and charge it to my account. J. Q. A.

Cover #3 **JOHN ADAMS**—Franked "John Adams" while Vice President in the cabinet of President George Washington, addressed entirely by the hand of John Adams. Attached is a two-page letter dated March 7th., 1790, and written entirely by his wife Abigail Adams, addressed to The Honorable "Cotton Tufts Esq.", Weymouth, Boston. It has reference to a piece of property much to her liking and was purchased and paid for by the President through the sale of a bill on Holland at 8% discount. Mrs. Adams expressed her regrets and annoyance over the Legislature—the proposed amendments in her mind would destroy all order and overthrow the Constitution. She likewise worried about her son Thomas.

Cover #4 **THOMAS JEFFERSON**—Franked "Th. Jefferson" while he was Secretary of State in the Cabinet of President George Washington—1789-1797.

Cover #5 **THOMAS JEFFERSON**—Franked "Free Th. Jefferson—Monticello—Sept. 5, 1824" while in private life. It was during this time that he was particularly interested in the construction and personal supervision of a university and schools in the state of Virginia. This frank is attached to a letter entirely in his own handwriting and incidentally pertains to the university and is of sufficient interest to reproduce in full—

Sir.

Monticello Sep. 5, 24.

Your letter of August 28 is dated from Richmond, of which name there are 15 post offices in the U. S. A friend however informing me that he thinks Capt. Partridge's school is in Vermont, I hazard my letter to the Richmond of that state and hope it will find you. I take for granted you do not consider anything which passed between you and myself as an engagement on the part of the visitors, or anything more than my individual opinion; and that my mention of the subject to the visitors was only in a conversation, in which they went no further than not to manifest any objection. I still believe that their views are on you, our university will not open till the 1st. of February, and I do not myself see any serious inconvenience in deferring to open our military exercises until the 25th. of August as you request, and that you may safely engage yourself otherwise until that date. You will be pleased however to consider this as my own opinion only, and as no engagement for others. I pray you to accept my respectful salutations.

Mr. D. K. Minor

Th. Jefferson.

It will be observed by the letter that he was not certain of the correct address and as the letter was not delivered it was sent to the Dead Letter Office and later returned to Jefferson (note P. O. Dead Letter cancel).

PRESIDENTIAL FRANKS



PLATE A.

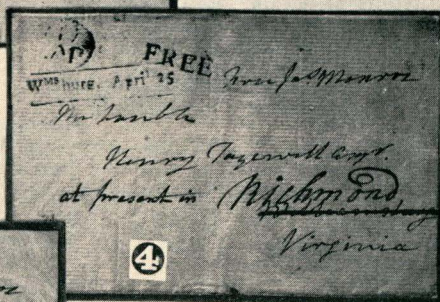
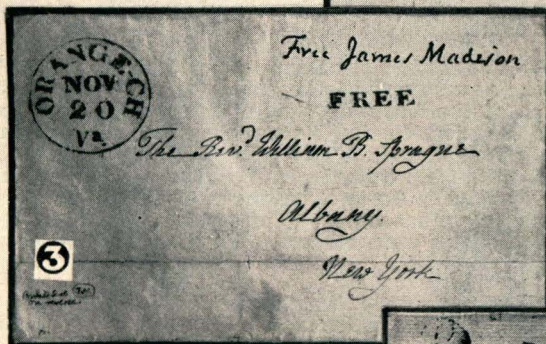
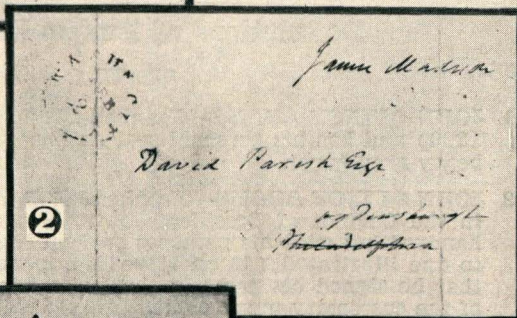
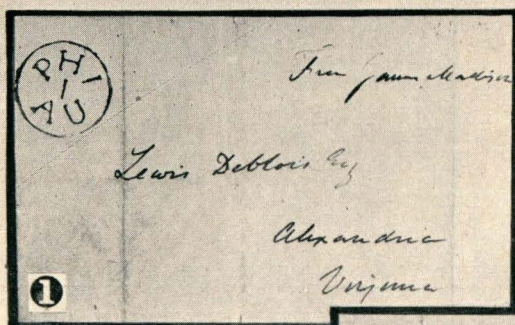
HISTORY OF THE "FREE FRANKING" OF MAIL IN THE U. S.

Descriptions of Franks Illustrated

PLATE B

- Cover #1 **JAMES MADISON**—Franked while a member of Continental Congress, 1774-1779, and postmarked (Philadelphia).
- Cover #2 **JAMES MADISON**—Franked while President of the United States 1809-1817, postmarked (Wash., D. C.), and addressed entirely in his own handwriting.
- Cover #3 **JAMES MADISON**—Franked "Free James Madison" while in private life. Note the marked change in his signature. The cover was addressed by his wife, Dolly Madison, and bears his private wax seal on reverse side (J. M.).
- Cover #4 **JAMES MONROE**—Franked "Free Jas. Monroe" while serving in the Senate. The cover bears an unusual straight-line postmark, "Williamsburg, April 25—1794," and is entirely in his own handwriting, addressed to Henry Tagewell, who was Chief Justice of the High Court, U. S. Senator, and President Pro-Tempore of the Senate. It might be observed that the cover was sent to Williamsburg but forwarded to Richmond.
- Cover #5 **JAMES MONROE**—Franked "Dept. of War, Jas. Monroe," entirely in his own handwriting. He served as Secretary of War in the Cabinet of President James Madison.

PRESIDENTIAL FRANKS



HISTORY OF THE "FREE FRANKING" OF MAIL IN THE U. S.

Descriptions of Franks Illustrated

PLATE C

- Cover #1 **JOHN QUINCY ADAMS**—Franked "J. Q. Adams" while President (1825-1829) and has his personal seal on the back. It is written on a sheet of heavy gray paper.
- Cover #2 **JOHN QUINCY ADAMS**—Franked "J. Q. Adams" while Secretary of State in the Cabinet of President James Monroe (1819), entirely in his own handwriting with his personal seal on the reverse. This cover is similar to one illustrated (#2 on Plate 21) in my book, but it will be observed that he signed his name in the lower left corner of the envelope instead of the customary upper right.
- Cover #3 **JOHN QUINCY ADAMS**—Franked "Navy Department, J. Q. Adams." This is an unusual frank as he never served in the capacity of Secretary of the Navy. A printed notice of the Navy Dept. is attached to the addressed sheet, dated May 29, 1819, at which time he was Secretary of State in the Cabinet of President James Monroe. The cover is addressed to John Carlton, Sailing Master, U. S. Ship Ontario, N. Y. It was probably an important notice and he franked it during the absence of the Secretary of the Navy and his assistants at that time. (The old boy was certainly on the job while perhaps the others were otherwise busily occupied—possibly fishing—E. S.).
- Cover #4 **JOHN QUINCY ADAMS**—Franked "J. Q. Adams" while in private life, dated 1838, and addressed entirely in his own handwriting. Postmarked (Washington) D. C., in red.
- Cover #5 **JOHN QUINCY ADAMS**—Franked "J. Q. Adams," same period as cover #4, but postmark is in green.
- Cover #6 **JOHN QUINCY ADAMS**—Franked "J. Q. Adams". Dated about 1834, addressed entirely in his own handwriting to Charles F. Adams, who was Minister to England, 1861-1868, and postmarked (Philadelphia) in red.

PRESIDENTIAL FRANKS

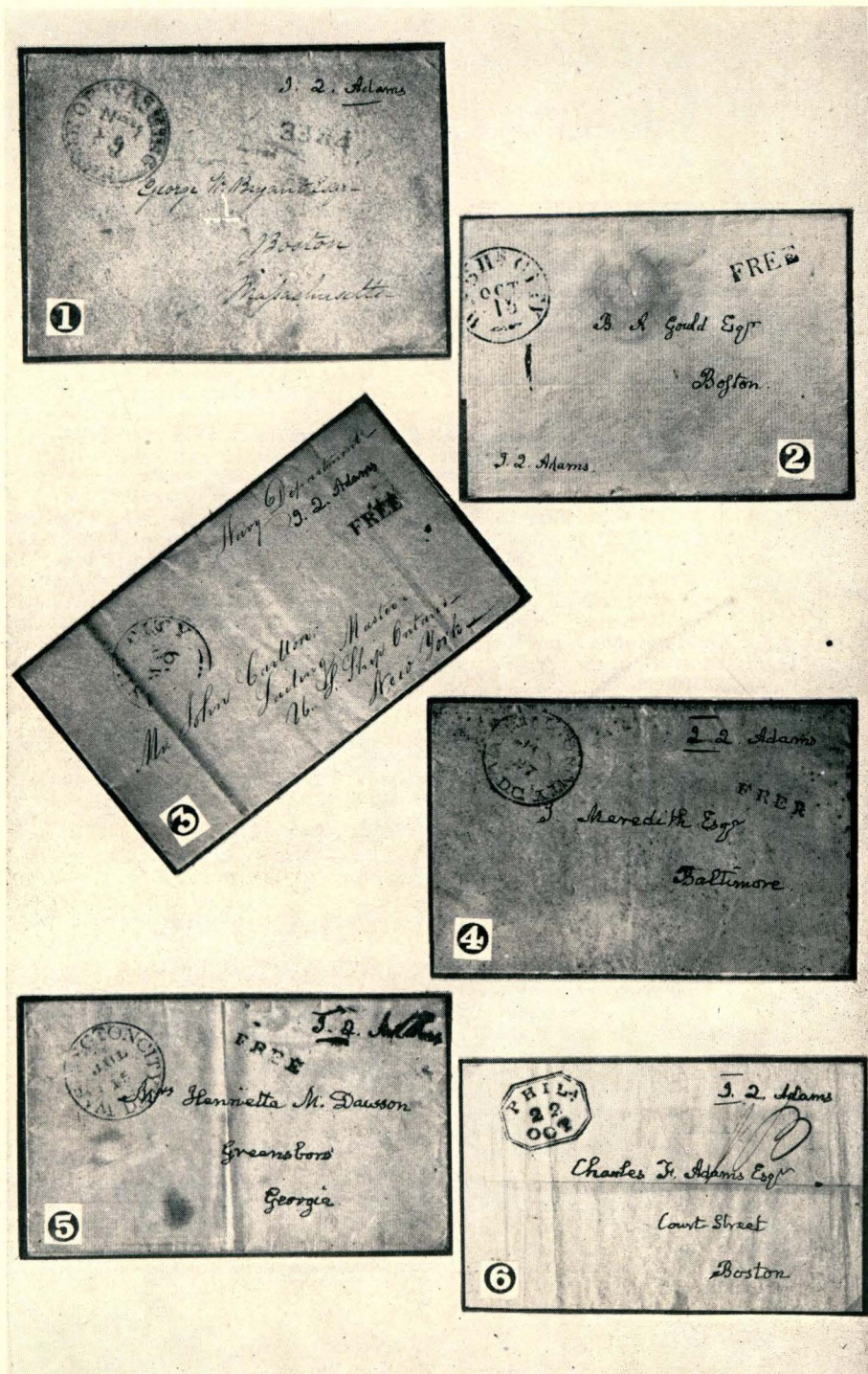


PLATE C.

HISTORY OF THE "FREE FRANKING" OF MAIL IN THE U. S.

Description of Franks Illustrated

PLATE D

Cover #1 **JOHN QUINCY ADAMS**—Franked "J. Q. Adams" while a Member of Congress during the administration of President James K. Polk. The letter is dated March 3, 1847 and was written by Mr. Wm. A. Seaver to his wife. He refers to the envelope being franked by Mr. Adams and requests her to save it as an autograph memento. He also states that he is sending Willie a letter directed and franked by Daniel Webster, U. S. Senator, as shown on this plate. The letter is of extreme interest. A complete copy follows—

Letter #2

Washington, March 3, 1847.

My dearest Wife,

Today in company with Senator Dickinson I have been to see the President. Being introduced by a Senator, I had (with Mr. D.) a "private audience", or in other words, a little quiet chat with his Excellency, and he was very agreeable—quite a clever fellow.

This afternoon I have been mostly in the Senate, when many brilliant things have been said. To-night both houses will in all probability sit all night, and so shall I to see how it ends. Since yesterday afternoon Senator Hannegan and Gen. Houston have had me in charge and treated me like a brother. Gen. H. has almost devoted himself to me. I shall have a great deal to tell you when I get home. I shall start to-morrow. Read this to the folks, and save Mr. Adams' frank as an autograph. I send Willie a letter directed and franked by Mr. Webster.

Ever Yours,

Wm. A. Seaver.

Cover #3 **DANIEL WEBSTER**—Franked while U. S. Senator, addressed to Master Wm. H. Seaver, referred to in the above letter as "Willie".

Letter #4. The letter which was enclosed in Cover #3 to "Willie", sent to him by his father while in Washington. He instructs his son to put away the franked envelope as a little curiosity. A complete transcription is as follows—

Washington, D. C.
March 3 - 1847.

My dear Son,

I write this to tell you that the most eloquent Senator of the United States has just given me an envelope franked in his own handwriting, which you will of course put away to keep as a little curiosity.

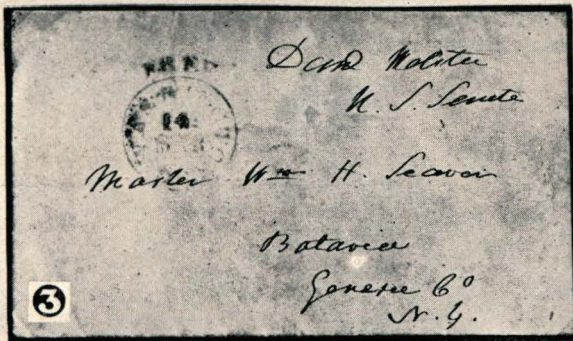
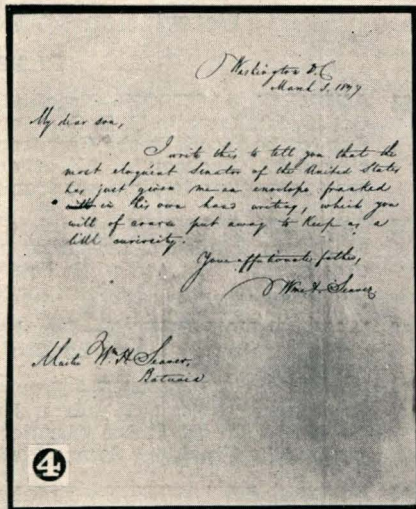
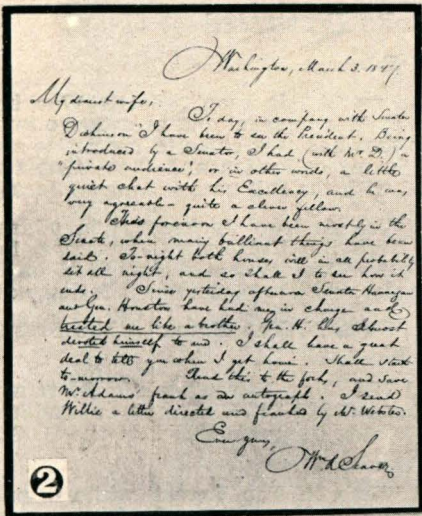
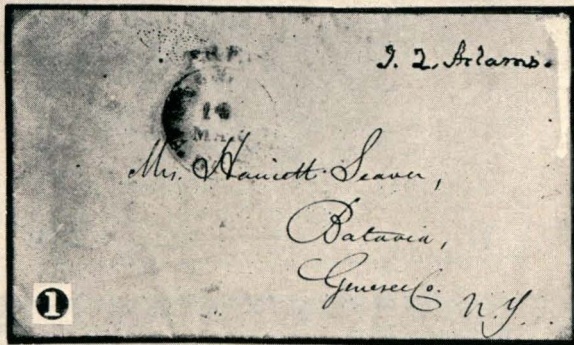
Your affectionate father

Wm. A. Seaver

Master Wm. H. Seaver
Batavia

I consider these two franks and letters among the most interesting items in my collection. Almost one hundred years ago Mr. Seaver, wrote these letters to his wife and son and instructed them to save the envelopes due to the fact that they were franked by J. Q. Adams and Daniel Webster. As can be observed by the illustrations, they are in the finest state of preservation.

PRESIDENTIAL FRANKS



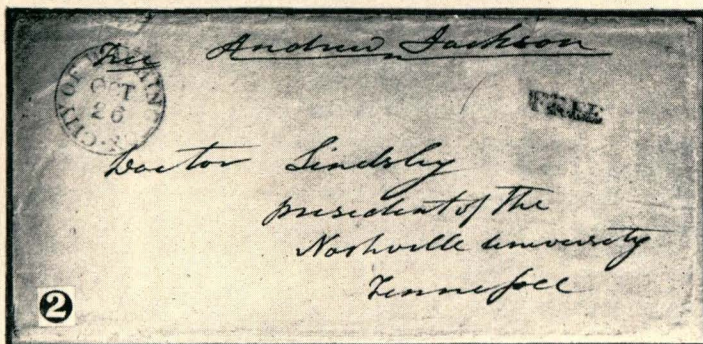
HISTORY OF THE "FREE FRANKING" OF MAIL IN THE U. S.

Description of Franks Illustrated

PLATE E

- Cover #1 **ANDREW JACKSON**—Franked "Free A. Jackson", dated Washington Oct. 8, 1823, while U. S. Senator. This is unusual and of extreme interest due to the fact it is the first frank that has ever come to my notice simply signed "A. Jackson". All others in my collection and those that I have seen from time to time are franked with the full name "Andrew Jackson".
- Cover #2 **ANDREW JACKSON**—Franked "Free Andrew Jackson" and addressed to Doctor Lindsley, President of Nashville University, Tennessee, in his own handwriting and while President. This cover is similar to #5 on Plate 5 in my book, but this is of larger size and shows the usual full signature.
- Cover #3 **MARTIN VAN BUREN**—Franked "Free M. Van Buren" while President, and entirely in his own handwriting.
- Cover #4 **MARTIN VAN BUREN**—Franked "M. Van Buren" while Secretary of State in the cabinet of Andrew Jackson (1829-1837. The cover is addressed to Joseph Story, Judge (Justice) of the Supreme Court of the U. S., appointed by President James Madison.
- Cover #5 **MARTIN VAN BUREN**—Franked "Free M. Van Buren" while in private life (about 1845), addressed entirely in his own handwriting and postmarked in blue (Kinderhook, N. Y., where he was born and died).
- Cover #6 **MARTIN VAN BUREN**—Franked "Free M. Van Buren" similar to cover #5 but postmarked in red.

PRESIDENTIAL FRANKS



HISTORY OF THE "FREE FRANKING" OF MAIL IN THE U. S.

Descriptions of Franks Illustrated

PLATE F

- Cover #1 **MARTIN VAN BUREN**—Franked "Free M. Van Buren" while in private life, addressed entirely in his own handwriting, dated Aug. 15, 1843, and postmarked (Saratoga Springs, N. Y.) in blue.
- Cover #2 **MARTIN VAN BUREN**—Franked "Free M. Van Buren" while in private life, addressed entirely in his own handwriting and postmarked (New York) in red.
- Cover #3 **MARTIN VAN BUREN**—Franked "Free M. Van Buren" while in private life, addressed entirely in his own handwriting to his son at Washington. It is postmarked Philadelphia and bears a Boyd's City Express Post 2c local stamp tied by the postmark.
- Cover #4 **JOHN TYLER**—Franked "J. Tyler" while President, dated about 1845, and addressed to Alexander Gardiner, his brother-in-law.
- Cover #5 **JOHN TYLER**—Franked "J. Tyler" while in private life. Addressed and with letter attached written and dated April 7, 1859 by Julia Gardiner, his second wife. It was written from Sherwood Forest and refers to her child who was convalescing, and also about a contemplated visit to Richmond by the President and herself. It also bears her private seal on the reverse.
- Cover #6 **JOHN TYLER**—Franked "J. Tyler" while in private life and dated April 13, 1858. Apparently Mr. Spaulding wrote requesting an autograph and enclosed an envelope, with stamp attached, for a reply. Mr. Tyler evidently granted his request by sending a letter, THE STAMP WHICH WAS ON THE ENVELOPE WAS REMOVED and free franked "J. Tyler". This is both an interesting and amusing item (who knows perhaps the President might have been a stamp collector. E. S.)

PRESIDENTIAL FRANKS



PLATE F.

HISTORY OF THE "FREE FRANKING" OF MAIL IN THE U. S.

Descriptions of Franks Illustrated

PLATE G

It was my good fortune to acquire, through a surviving member of the Tyler family, a considerable number of the Free Franked Envelopes of John Tyler—both while President and in private life. These franks were attached to valued personal letters which were retained by the family. It was indeed a very kind privilege on their part to allow me to add these envelopes to my collection. Note with particular attention that all of these covers are addressed to the various members of the Tyler family.

- Cover #1 **JOHN TYLER**—Franked "J. Tyler" while President, dated about 1845, and addressed to Alexander Gardiner, his brother-in-law.
- Cover #2 **JOHN TYLER**—Franked "J. Tyler" while President, dated about 1845, and addressed to Mrs. David Gardiner, his mother-in-law.
- Cover #3 **JOHN TYLER**—Franked "J. Tyler" while in private life, addressed entirely in his own handwriting and postmarked (Hampton, Va.).
- Cover #4 **JOHN TYLER**—Franked "J. Tyler" while in private life. The letter attached is dated Sept. 8, 1847, and was written to Mrs. David Gardiner (his mother-in-law), and signed by Julia Gardiner Tyler, his second wife.
- Cover #5 **JOHN TYLER**—Franked "J. Tyler" while in private life, postmarked (Baltimore, Md.), and addressed to Col. David L. Gardiner, his brother-in-law.
- Cover #6 **JOHN TYLER**—Franked "J. Tyler" while in private life, postmarked (Hampton, Va.) and addressed to Mrs. David Gardiner, his mother-in-law.
- Cover #7 **JOHN TYLER**—Franked "J. Tyler" while in private life, postmarked (Richmond, Va.) with the word "way" in manuscript. This letter in all probability was dispatched from Richmond, Va., to Staten Island, N. Y., by boat. Mrs. Margaret G. Beeckman, to whom it is addressed, was his sister-in-law.

PRESIDENTIAL FRANKS



PLATE G.

HISTORY OF THE "FREE FRANKING" OF MAIL IN THE U. S.

Descriptions of Franks Illustrated

PLATE H

Cover #1 **JOHN TYLER**—Franked "J. Tyler" while in private life, dated 1847, and addressed entirely in his own handwriting, postmarked on the cover (Norfolk, Va., and Steamboat). It undoubtedly travelled by boat from Norfolk to Staten Island, N. Y.

Cover #2 **JOHN TYLER**—Franked "J. Tyler" while in private life and very similar to cover #1.

Cover #3 **JOHN TYLER**—Franked "J. Tyler" while in private life and similar to covers 1 and 2 but postmarked (Richmond, Va.).

Note—All of the above 3 covers are addressed to Mrs. David Gardiner, his mother-in-law.

Cover #4 **JAMES K. POLK**—Franked "Free J. K. Polk" while member of Congress, dated Dec. 17, 1838, and addressed entirely in his own handwriting. Postmarked (Washington, D. C.).

PRESIDENTIAL FRANKS

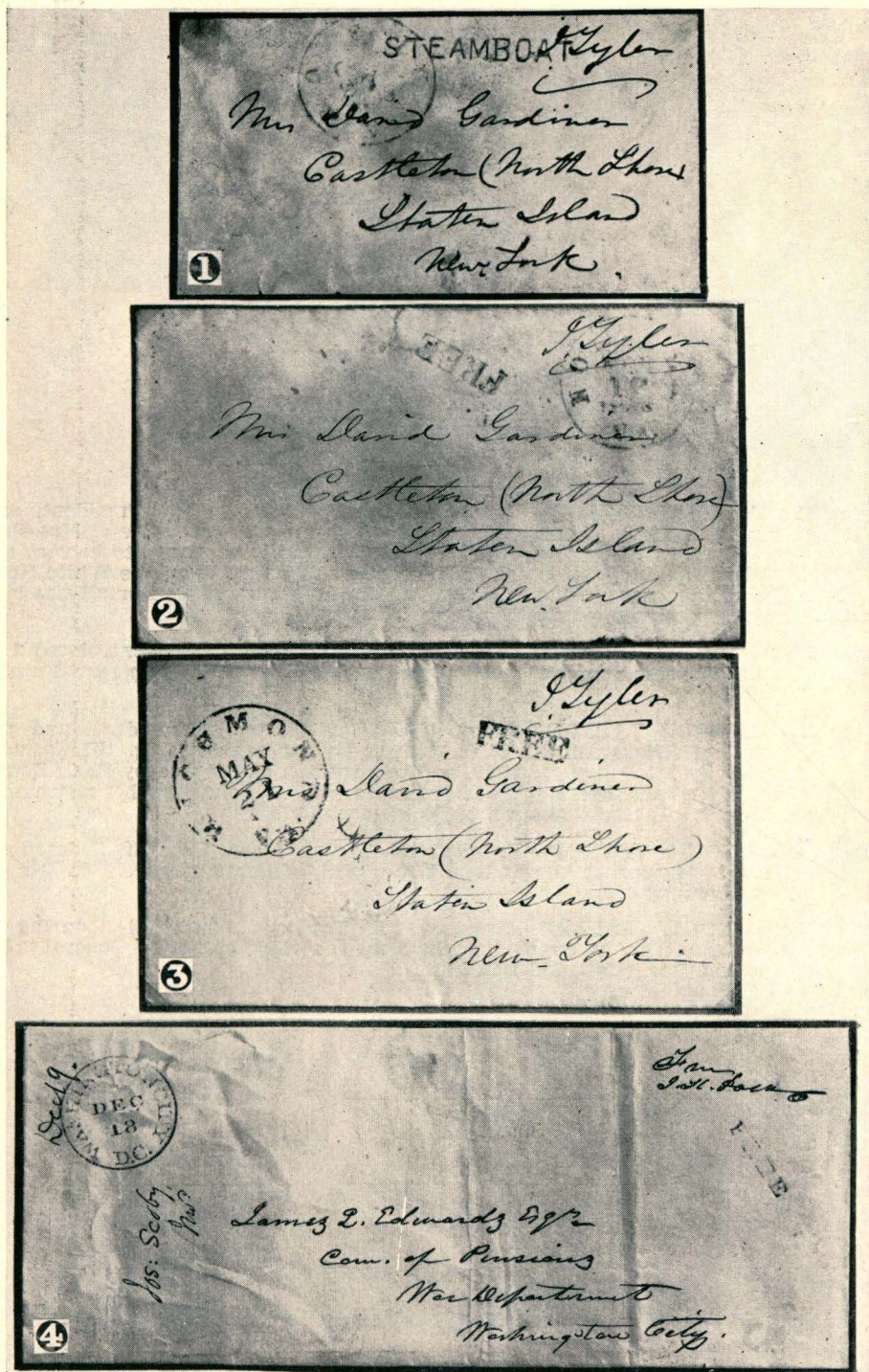


PLATE H.

HISTORY OF THE "FREE FRANKING" OF MAIL IN THE U. S.

Descriptions of Franks Illustrated

PLATE I

- Cover #1 **ZACHARY TAYLOR**—Franked "Free Z. Taylor" while President, dated Sept. 17, 1849. I obtained this superb cover from a relative of Mrs. Sarah E. Kere, to whom it was addressed. Her family happened to be very close friends of the Presidents'. The cover was franked from the White House, where she was staying as a guest of the President. It is a small-size ladies correspondence envelope with pressed fancy Border.
- Cover #2 **ZACHARY TAYLOR**—Franked "Z. Taylor" while President, dated 1849, and addressed entirely in his own handwriting, with his personal seal on the back.
- Cover #3 **ZACHARY TAYLOR**—Franked "Z. Taylor" while President, and postmarked (Niagara Falls, N. Y.) where he was convalescing. The attached letter is dated Sept. 4, 1849, and was written and signed by R. C. Dodd in behalf of the President. It refers to him as being much prostrated by disease. Taylor died ten months later while in office.
- Cover #4 **ZACHARY TAYLOR**—Franked "Z. Taylor, Majr. 7th. Infy." dated Dec. 27, 1814, during the Indian Wars, and addressed entirely in his own handwriting.
- Cover #5 **ZACHARY TAYLOR**—Franked "Z. Taylor" about 1847, during the Mexican War, at which time he held the rank of Major General. It is postmarked (Balt. Md.) in blue.

PRESIDENTIAL FRANKS

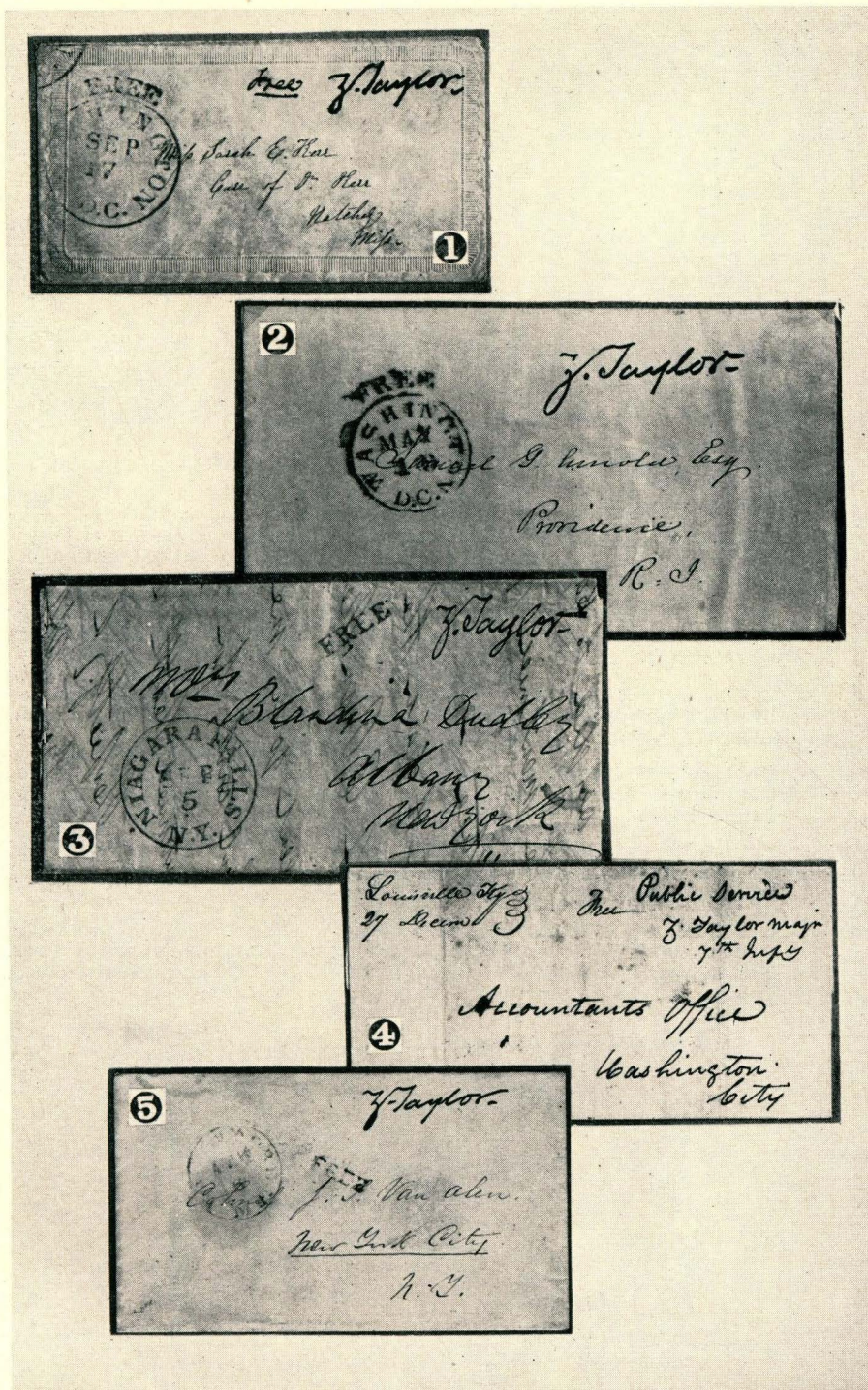


PLATE I.

HISTORY OF THE "FREE FRANKING" OF MAIL IN THE U. S.

Descriptions of Franks Illustrated

PLATE J

- Cover #1 **MILLARD FILLMORE**—Franked "M. Fillmore" while President, dated March, 1851. Postmarked (Washington, D. C.) in red and addressed entirely in his own handwriting.
- Cover #2 **MILLARD FILLMORE**—Franked "M. Fillmore" while President, postmarked (Washington, D. C.) in red, dated Aug. 7, 1850; about one month after he took office.
- Cover #3 **MILLARD FILLMORE**—Franked "Free M. Fillmore V. P." while Vice President under Zachary Taylor, postmarked (Buffalo, N. Y.) in blue, and addressed entirely in his own handwriting.
- Cover #4 **MILLARD FILLMORE**—Franked "M. Fillmore" while in private life, postmarked (Buffalo, N. Y.) in blue and addressed entirely in his own handwriting.
- Cover #5 **MILLARD FILLMORE**—Franked "Free M. Fillmore" while in private life, dated Oct. 5, 1860, postmarked (New York), and addressed entirely in his own handwriting.
- Cover #6 **MILLARD FILLMORE**—Franked "Free M. Fillmore, M. C." while he was a member of Congress in 1837, during the administration of President Martin Van Buren. Postmarked (Buffalo, N. Y.), and addressed entirely in his own handwriting.

PRESIDENTIAL FRANKS



PLATE J.

HISTORY OF THE "FREE FRANKING" OF MAIL IN THE U. S.

Descriptions of Franks Illustrated

PLATE K

- Cover #1 **MILLARD FILLMORE**—Franked "M. Fillmore, M. C." same as Cover 6 on Plate J, with letter attached written entirely in his own handwriting and dated July 26, 1837.
- Cover #2 **MILLARD FILLMORE**—Franked "Free Millard Fillmore" and inscribed "Ex. President of U. S.", entirely in his own handwriting and postmarked (Boston). There are two interesting features in connection with this cover. First—This is the only frank that ever came to my notice where he applied his first name in full, and secondly—this is one of the very rare instances where a President while in private life applied "Ex. Prest of U. S." to a frank. Another instance of this nature was recorded in "History of the 'Free Franking of Mail in the United States'", Frank No. 10 on Plate 10 (Andrew Johnson).
- Cover #3 **FRANKLIN PIERCE**—Franked "Franklin Pierce" while in private life and vacationing in the Bahamas, B. W. I., dated March 17, 1860, and addressed entirely in his own handwriting to Col. J. D. Hoover, Washington, D. C. Mr. Pierce franked the wrapper before realizing it was valueless in a foreign country. He thereupon affixed a penny English stamp in use at that time on the Island. On receipt of the newspaper Col. Hoover forwarded the wrapper to a friend with the following notation—

Dr. Mac.

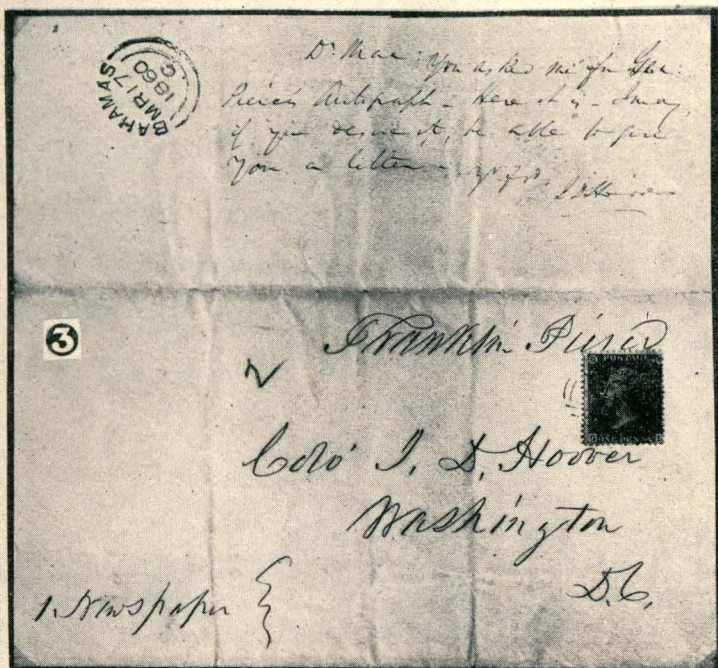
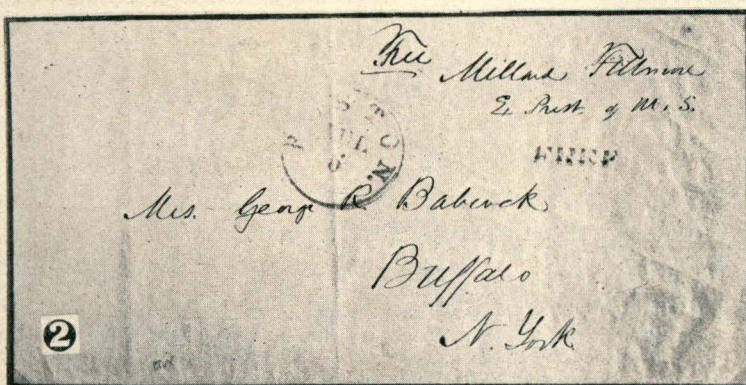
You asked me for Gen. Pierce's autograph. Here it is. I may if you desire it be able to give you a letter.

Yr. Frd.

J. D. Hoover

It will be observed that the date of this letter is March 17—"St. Patricks Day." I have been informed that it was his custom to spend his vacation during that period in the West Indies.

PRESIDENTIAL FRANKS



HISTORY OF THE "FREE FRANKING" OF MAIL IN THE U. S.

Descriptions of Franks Illustrated

PLATE L

- Cover #1 **FRANKLIN PIERCE**—Franked "Free Franklin Pierce" while President, postmarked in black (Washington, D. C.) with the presidential seal on the back. The feature of this cover is the unusual size. It measures $9\frac{3}{4}$ " by $6\frac{3}{4}$ ". This is the largest franked envelope known to me.
- Cover #2 **FRANKLIN PIERCE**—Franked "Franklin Pierce" while in private life, postmarked (Andover, Mass.), dated Dec. 28, 1860, and written entirely in his own handwriting.
- Cover #3 **FRANKLIN PIERCE**—Franked "Franklin Pierce" while in private life (about 1860), postmarked (Boston, Mass.) in red, and written entirely in his own handwriting.

PRESIDENTIAL FRANKS

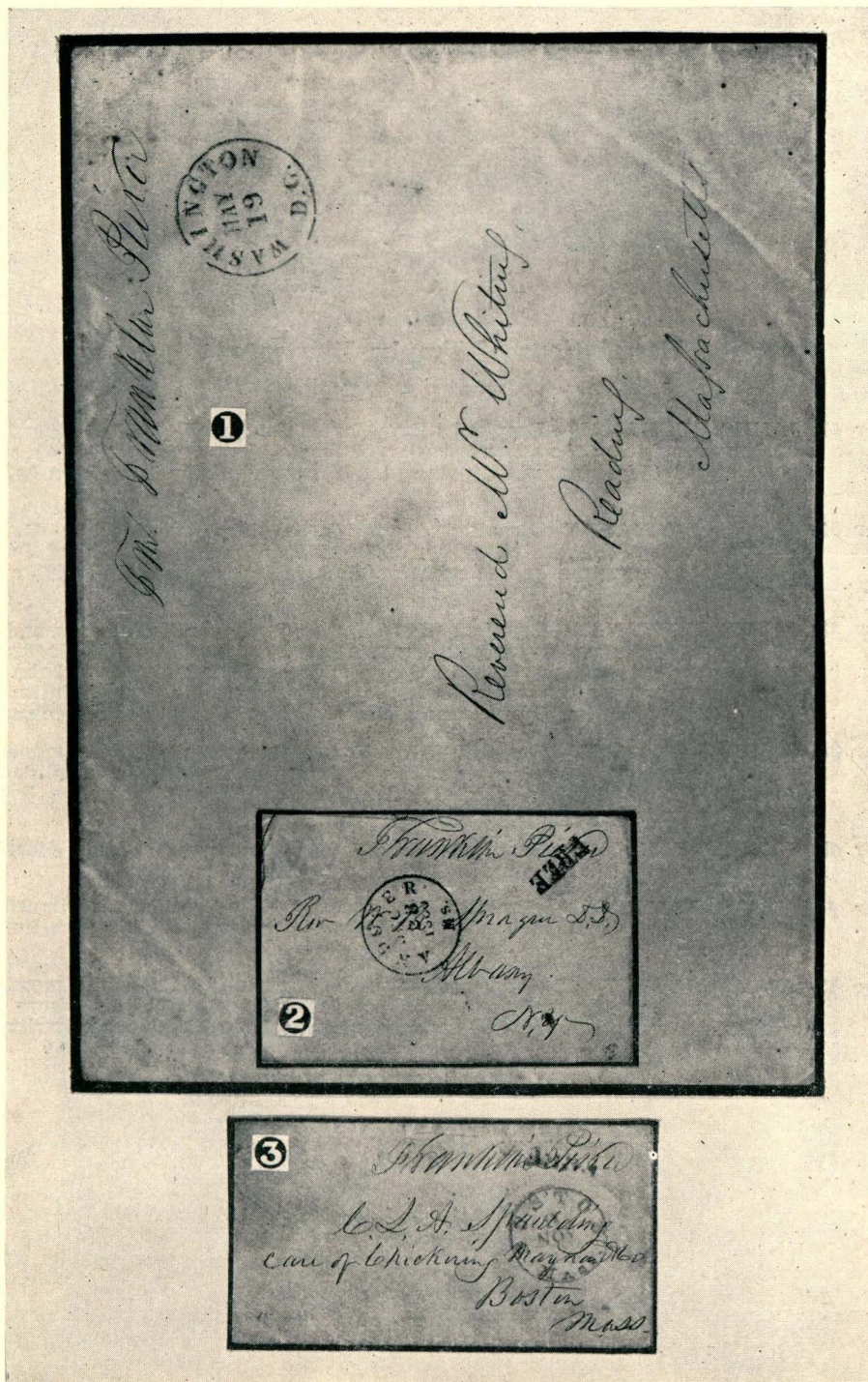


PLATE L.

HISTORY OF THE "FREE FRANKING" OF MAIL IN THE U. S.

Descriptions of Franks Illustrated

PLATE M

- Cover #1 **JAMES BUCHANAN**—Franked "Free James Buchanan" while a member of Congress during the administration of James Monroe (about 1824), and postmarked (Washington City) in red, addressed entirely in his own handwriting.
- Cover #2 **JAMES BUCHANAN**—Franked "Free James Buchanan" while U. S. Senator during the administration of President John Tyler. Dated Jany. 20, 1844, and postmarked (Lancaster, Pa.) in black—entirely in his own handwriting.
- Cover #3 **JAMES BUCHANAN**—Franked "Free James Buchanan" while a member of Congress during the administration of President Andrew Jackson. Letter attached written about 1829 and addressed to Commodore John B. Nicolson, who was connected with the Navy Dept. He was an intimate friend of Washington Irving, who nicknamed him "Jovial Jack Nicolson".
- Cover #4 **JAMES BUCHANAN**—Franked "Free James Buchanan" while a member of Congress during the administration of President Andrew Jackson, dated August 1836, and postmarked (Bedford, Pa.). This is where he lived. It is entirely in his own handwriting.
- Cover #5 **JAMES BUCHANAN**—Franked "Free James Buchanan." Same description as cover #4, but postmarked (Lancaster, Pa.) in red.
- Cover #6 **ABRAHAM LINCOLN**—Franked "A. Lincoln" while President, postmarked (Washington, D. C.) in black, and addressed entirely in his own handwriting.
- Cover #7 **ABRAHAM LINCOLN**—Franked "Free A. Lincoln, M. C." while member of Congress, postmarked in black (Springfield, Ill.). This is where he practiced law, and the cover is addressed entirely in his own handwriting.

PRESIDENTIAL FRANKS

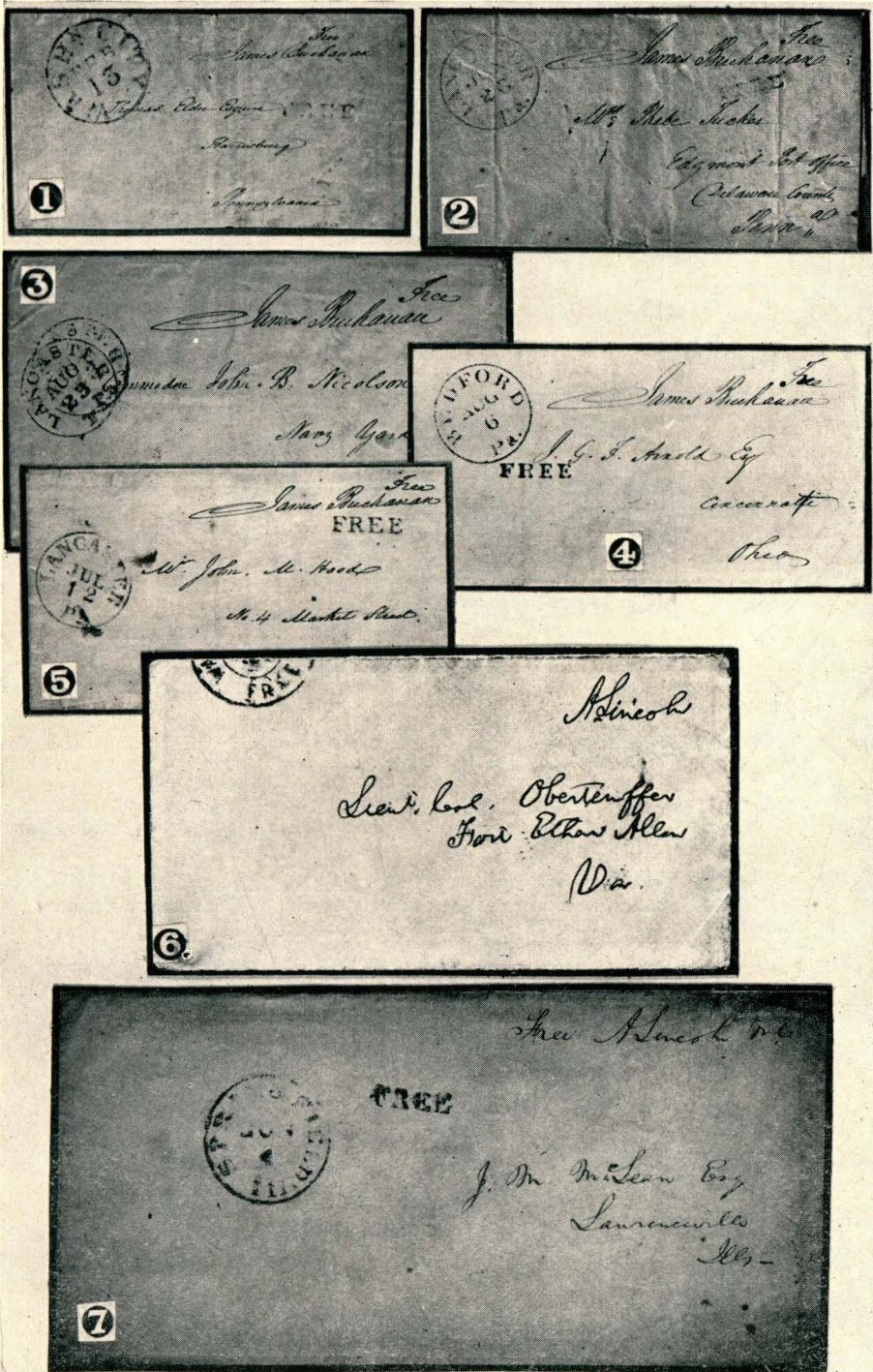


PLATE M.

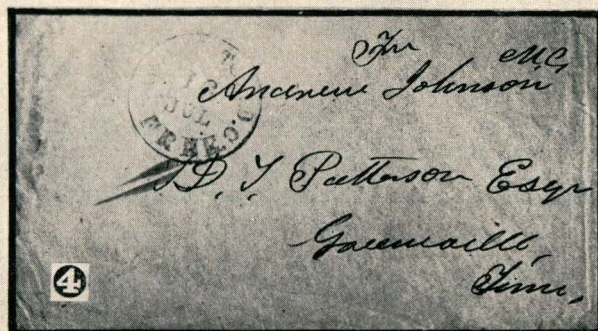
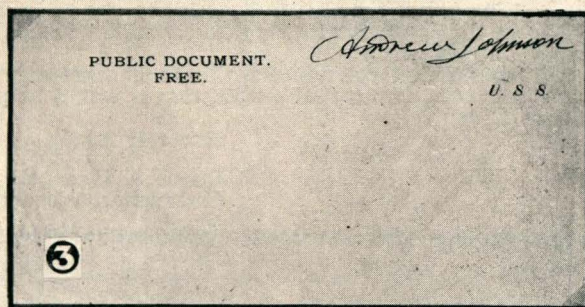
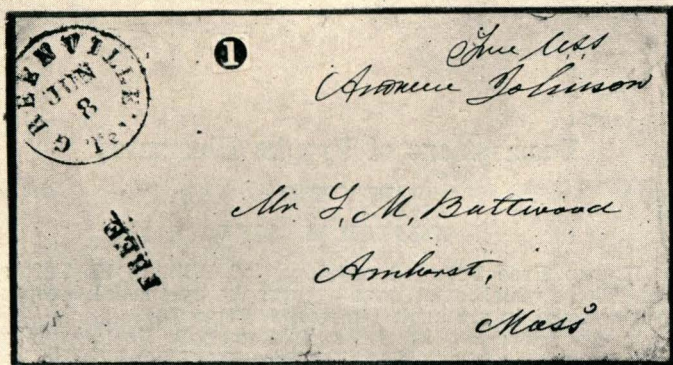
HISTORY OF THE "FREE FRANKING" OF MAIL IN THE U. S.

Descriptions of Franks Illustrated

PLATE N

- Cover #1 **ANDREW JOHNSON**—Franked "Free Andrew Johnson, U. S. S." while United States Senator, addressed entirely in his own handwriting and post-marked (Greenville, Tenn.) in black.
- Cover #2 **ANDREW JOHNSON**—Franked "Andrew Johnson U. S. S." Letter enclosed dated March 15, 1861. Both this cover and letter were fully written and signed by his son who very frequently wrote letters and franked for his father.
- Cover #3 **ANDREW JOHNSON**—Franked "Andrew Johnson." This cover was autographed by Andrew Johnson in 1869 as a special favor to a runner in the Senate. It was preserved for 67 years and was presented to me personally by this runner in 1936. The envelope used was printed "Public Document" and "Free" in the upper left, and "U. S. S." (United States Senate) in the upper right.
- Cover #4 **ANDREW JOHNSON**—Franked "Free Andrew Johnson, U. S. S." while a United States Senator, addressed entirely in his own handwriting and post-marked (Washington, D. C.).

PRESIDENTIAL FRANKS



HISTORY OF THE "FREE FRANKING" OF MAIL IN THE U. S.

Descriptions of Franks Illustrated

PLATE O

WILLIAM H. TAFT

Known Free Franked envelopes of William H. Taft are extremely rare. Those which exist were autographs by special favor, similar to the one illustrated in my book (Cover #2, Plate 12).

It was the desire of James S. Brownell, Postmaster of Woodstock, to acquire one for his collection of Free Franks and the following is a copy of his letter to Mr. Taft.

Woodstock, Vermont 2d. C.
May, 10, 1924

Judge Wm. H. Taft
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Taft—

This office has a collection of Postal Franks of Presidents and Presidents' wives. These with other postal features are used in our education campaign.

It would give me great pleasure to add your frank to this collection. These are being framed and are where the general public can view them. The oldest that I now have is the one of Dolly Madison. It is a feature that adds interest to the educational ones and will be very helpful in this way.

Trusting that you will be able to suggest some one that might have an envelope with your frank, that it would be possible for me to obtain, I am

Sincerely Yours

James S. Brownell
Postmaster, Woodstock, Vt.

Letter #1 Taft's reply to Postmaster Brownell was as follows:

May 14, 1924

My dear Sir:

I have no postal frank, nor has Mrs. Taft. I believe franks do not go to the wives of the Presidents until they become widows, and I am not anxious to hasten that day.

Sincerely yours,
Wm. H. Taft

Cover #2 **WARREN G. HARDING**—Franked "W. G. Harding," while U. S. Senator. The envelope is similar to one illustrated in my book (Cover #4 on plate 12). However the one in my book was autographed by Mr. Harding whereas the one on Plate O bears a stencil, or facsimile, signature.

PRESIDENTIAL FRANKS

