Prologue: ***Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union.*** Established the confederation as 'The United States of America'; a new nation; freedom for all; pre-approved Canada (if it applied for admission); one vote per state; conduct foreign relations; defined a 'Committee of States'. Drafted June, 1776; ratified March 1881.

Building a Nation.... one state at a time.

Purpose: A thematic exhibit showing via philatelic elements the creation and expansion of the various parts and territories into the United States of America.
Scope: This exhibit traces the creation of diverse groups of people into an undivided whole; from territories to 50 states over the course of about 200 years. The date of statehood admission is shown under each state name.
Treatment: This exhibit consists of two interrelated themes. The pages which are titled in blue represent the expansion of the nation. Those titled in orange are the individual states. Please note that the individual states are shown in chronological order! Green has been used for all other titles.
Rarity: Certain covers are rated as to rarity as shown in red which ranges from 10 (only one known from that post office) to 0 (many covers).
Conclusion: The District of Columbia is included as an expansion of the Nation. It is included because it is made up of land which originally belonged to adjacent states and it ties the 50 states into the United States of America.

Maximum card showing *Carpenter's Hall* at opening of **First Continental Congress** Sept. 5, 1774.

Exhibit Plan

Declaration of Independence

Exhibit Page	Event/method of acquisition	Date of Statehood	State involved
01-02	Title & Plan		
03	Colonies prior to revolt		
04-05	Revolutionary War		
06-19	States prior to ratification:		
	Original 13 colonies	12/07/1787	Delaware, Newcastle & Kent-on-Tyne
		12/12/1787	Pennsylvania
		12/18/1787	New Jersey
		01/02/1788	Georgia
		01/09/1788	Connecticut
		02/06/1788	Massachusetts
		04/28/1788	Maryland
		05/23/1788	South Carolina
		06/21/1788	New Hampshire
20	Ratification bringing the Constitution into effect		
21-28	States following ratification:		
		06/25/1788	Virginia
		07/26/1788	New York
		11/21/1789	North Carolina
		05/29/1790	Rhode Island & Providence Plantation
	Claimed by NY & NH		
	Part of Virginia	03/04/1791	Vermont
		06/01/1792	Kentucky
		06/01/1796	Tennessee
29	Northwest Territory		
30		03/01/1803	Ohio
31	Louisiana Purchase		
32-46	*Orleans Territory*	04/30/1812	Louisiana
		12/11/1816	Indiana
		12/10/1817	Mississippi
		12/03/1818	Illinois
		12/04/1819	Alabama
	from Massachusetts	03/16/1820	Maine
		08/10/1821	Missouri
		06/15/1836	Arkansas
		01/26/1837	Michgan
		03/03/1845	Florida
47	Mexican-American War		
		12/29/1845	Texas
		12/28/1846	Iowa
51	Gadsden Purchase		
	Alaska Purchase		
		05/29/1848	Wisconsin
		09/09/1850	California
		05/11/1858	Minnesota
56	Pacific Northwest		
57-78		02/14/1859	Oregon
		01/09/1861	Kansas
	From Virginia/Civil War	06/20/1863	West Virginia
		10/31/1864	Nevada
		03/01/1867	Nebraska
	Jefferson Territory	08/01/1876	Colorado
		11/02/1889	North Dakota
		11/02/1889	South Dakota
		11/08/1889	Montana
		11/11/1889	Washington
		07/03/1890	Idaho
		07/10/1890	Wyoming
		01/04/1896	Utah
	Indian Territory	11/16/1907	Oklahoma
		01/06/1912	New Mexico
	Part of New Mexico	02/14/1912	Arizona
		03/03/1959	Alaska
	Pacific Islands		
		08/21/1959	Hawaii
79-80	District of Columbia		

The Thirteen Colonies

Originally, the thirteen colonies were British colonies in North America, which rebelled against the British rule in 1775. A provisional government was formed which proclaimed their independence on July 4, 1776 and they became the original thirteen United States. The original colonies had been settled between 1607 (Virginia) and 1733 (Georgia)

The British revolutionary colonies were:

- Province of New Hampshire, later New Hampshire
- Province of Massachusetts Bay, later Massachusetts and Maine
- Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantation, later Rhode Island
- Connecticut Colony, later Connecticut
- Province of New York, later New York and Vermont
- Province of New Jersey, later New Jersey
- Province of Pennsylvania, later Pennsylvania
- Delaware Colony, later Delaware
- Province of Maryland, later Maryland
- Colony and Dominion of Virginia, later Virginia, Kentucky and West Virginia
- Province of North Carolina, later North Carolina and Tennessee
- Province of South Carolina, later South Carolina
- Province of Georgia, later Georgia

On September 17, 1787, the representatives met in Philadelphia to write a constitution for the new group. The preamble to the Constitution set the tone of what the representatives wanted to accomplish.

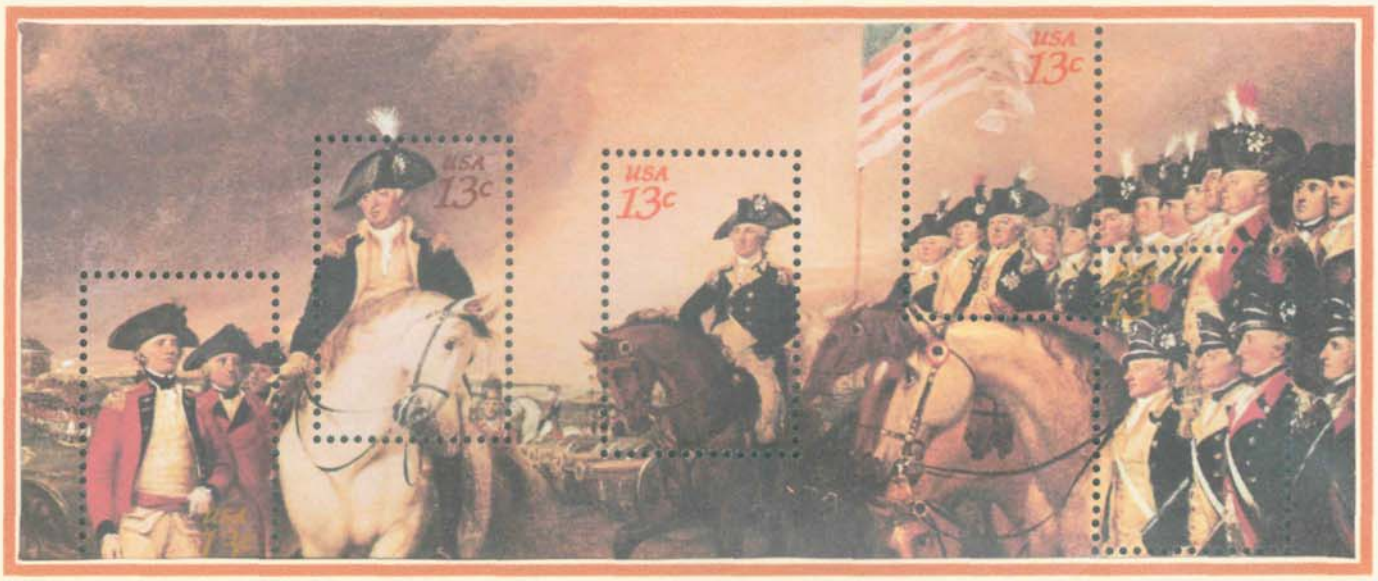
In December of 1788, the original colonies, now states, began to ratify the newly formed Constitution of the United States of America. The document became official with the ratification of the ninth state (New Hampshire).

Revolutionary War

The Revolutionary War began as a civil war between the Kingdom of Great Britain and its thirteen colonies on the North American continent. It became an international conflict when foreign nations joined the colonists who overthrew the British rule.

In 1775, Revolutionaries seized control of each of the thirteen colonial governments, set up the Second Continental Congress and formed an army led by General George Washington.

Throughout the war, the British were able to use their naval power to capture and occupy coastal cities. In early 1778, shortly after an American victory at Saratoga resulting in the surrender of an entire British army, France signed treaties of alliance with the new nation and declared war on Britain. Over the next two years, Spain and the Dutch Republic went to war with Britain. A French naval victory in the Chesapeake lead to the surrender of a second British army at Yorktown in 1781.



General Lord Cornwallis surrendering at Yorktown to end the war.

The Treaty of Paris in 1783 ended the war and established the new nation bounded by Canada to the north, Florida to the south and the Mississippi River to the west. Britain ceded East and West Florida to Spain.

Printing the broadsides,

Proclaiming the declaration,

Informing the public,

Raising the army.

Delaware, Newcastle & Kent-on-Tyne

December 07, 1787

Originally occupied by Algonquian tribes, the Dutch settled Delaware by establishing a trading post near Lewes in 1631. In 1638, a Swedish settlement was made at Wilmington. Later the area was taken over by William Penn and under the governor of Pennsylvania, became known as the 'lower counties'. Delaware voted its independence of Pennsylvania on June 15, 1776; the first state to ratify the new constitution.

Marking 350th Anniversary. Showing settler with two indians, map of New Sweden with ships 'Kalmar Nyckel' and 'Fogel Grip'.

Folded letter, Delaware City to Philadelphia, August 5, 1851, pen cancel

Delaware

Continued

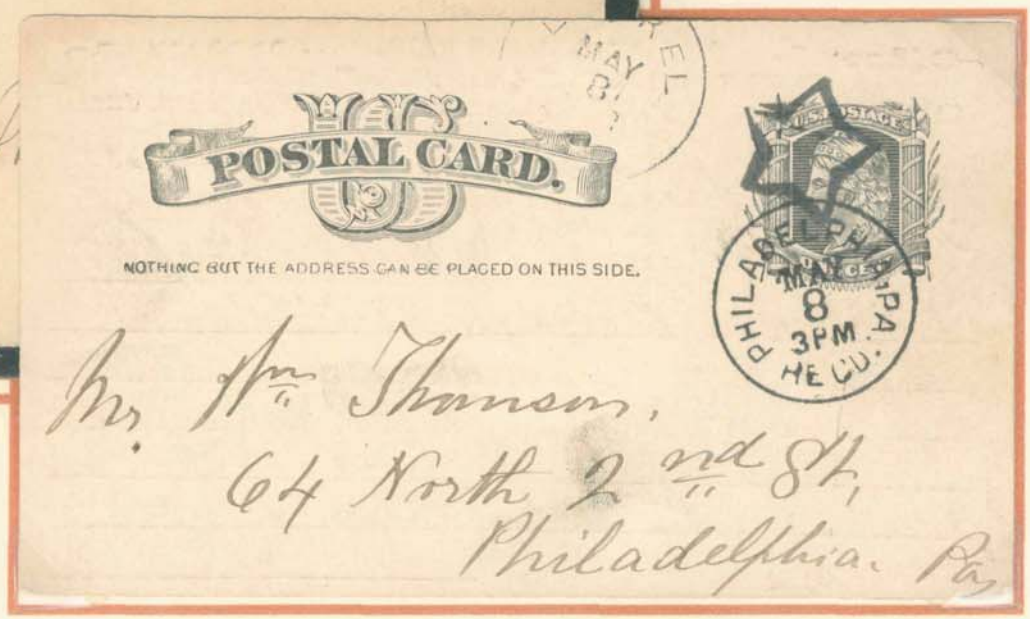
State flag 2 and view of beach.

Ratification

State flag 1

Birds & Flowers

Mourning cover; Wilmington to Bloomfield, OH; Feb. 17, 1904; Rural Free Delivery killer. Two cent rate, per oz., from July 1, 1885 to Nov. 2, 1917.



Laurel to Philadelphia; May 8, 1883; back stamp shows same day delivery; open star killer. UX7a postal card issued Oct. 17, 1881, liberty, 23 teeth below 'ONE CENT'.

Pennsylvania

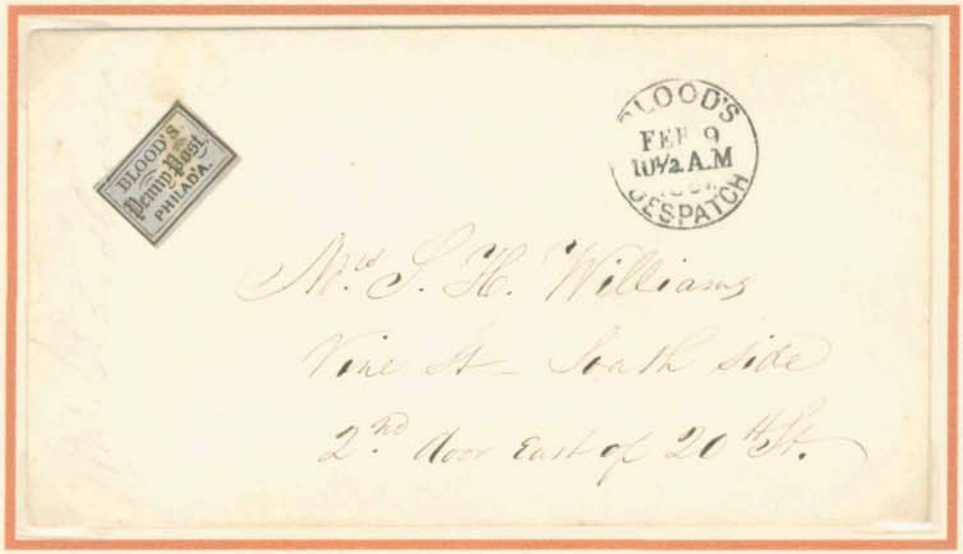
December 12, 1787

In the 1600s, people from Europe began to settle in the Pennsylvania area. In 1681, King Charles II gave the land to William Penn. He named the land Pennsylvania in honor of Penn's father, Richard Penn. William Penn started his own colony in America. Penn was a member of the Society of Friends, also called the Quakers. Settlers of all religious faiths were welcome in the colony.

Ratification

State flag 1

Birds & Flowers



Philadelphia Blood's Local Post, mailed Feb. 9, 1857.

New Jersey

December 18, 1787

In 1664, a British fleet sailed into New York Harbor, and took the land from the Dutch. This part of New Netherlands was renamed New Jersey after the Channel Island of Jersey.

Cousin of the Duke of York taking possession of New Jersey.

Ratification

State flag 1

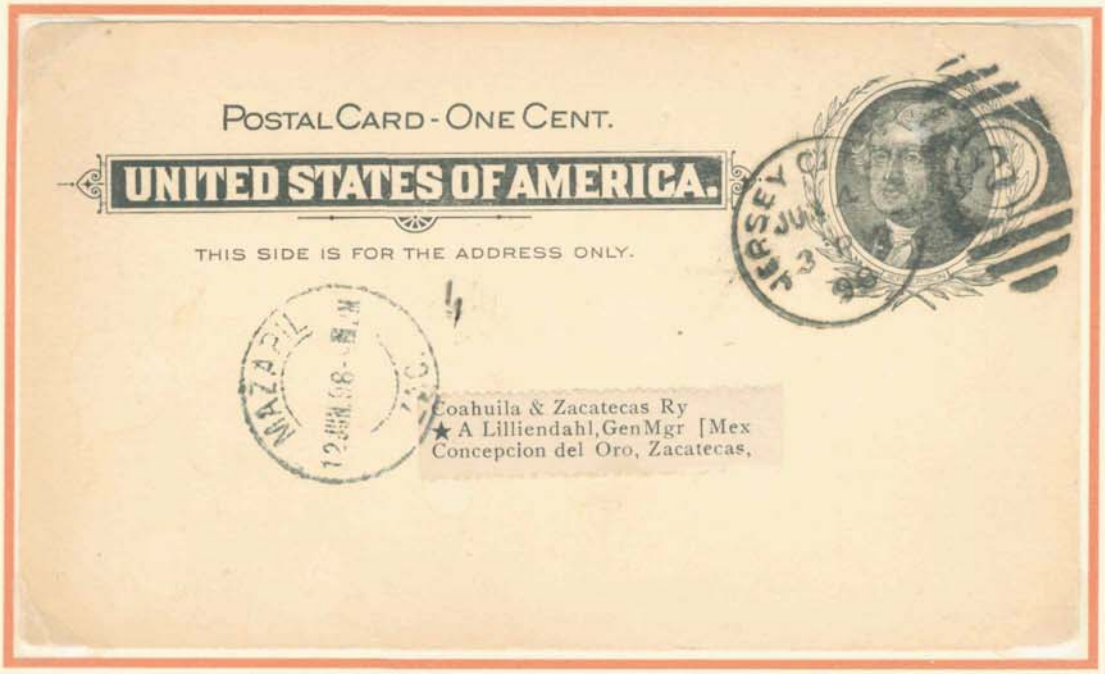
Flemington, N.J. to Switzerland, November 1880; 1/2 oz., UPU rate.

The Duke of York, later King James II gave the region between the Hudson River and the Delaware River to Sir George Carteret and Lord Berkeley. Land grants were made to bring settlers into the area, granting religious freedom to all who came. On March 18, 1673, Berkeley sold his share to the Quakers and New Jersey was divided into East Jersey and West Jersey. On April 15, 1702, they were reunited into New Jersey.

New Jersey
Continued

Birds & Flowers

State flag 2



Postal card issue of 1897 sent to Mexico June 4, 1898 with Mazapil receiving stamp. The '2' in the killer indicating a Jersey City satellite office.

Blue C.D.S., Salem to Smith's Landing;open 1825-1912; November 1, 1864; 3 cents letter rate; July 1, 1863 to October 1, 1883 per 1/2 oz.

Rarity = 3

Georgia

January 02, 1788

The British were concerned about the penetration of the Spanish from Florida and the French from Alabama into the area south of Carolina. By 1670, the conflict between Spain and England over the area intensified so more pressure was applied to populate the area. In 1724, the area was named the Province of Georgia in honor of King George II. In 1732, a group of philanthropists were granted a charter to start a new colony. On February 12, 1733, 133 settlers, under the direction of General Olgethorpe, landed in the area that was to become the city of Savannah.

Atlanta, GA to Charleston, S.C.; March 29, 1881; Corner card advertisement

Ratification

State flag 1 (1956-1991)

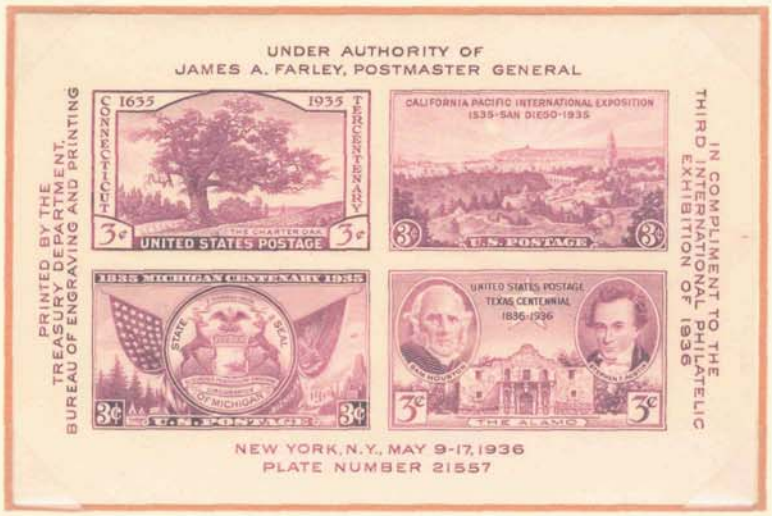
State flag 2 (2004-present)

Birds & Flowers

Connecticut

January 09, 1788

Early in the 1600s the European settlers called the river and the state Connecticut. Connecticut Means Long Tidal River In Algonquin. In 1639 Connecticut adopted the first constitution based on the will of the people. That is why it is called "The Constitution State." To keep people from stealing their constitution it was hid in a large oak tree. Better known even now as the Charter Oak.



Souvenir sheet showing the Charter Oak, May 9 - 17, 1936.

Ratification

Birds & Flowers

State flag 1

State flag 2

Folded letter; New Haven to Philadelphia; April 7, 1821; 18 1/2 cents; 'PAID' in scroll.

West Killingly to Indiana; June 03, 1868; grilled adhesive; post office open 1835-1878. Rarity = 5

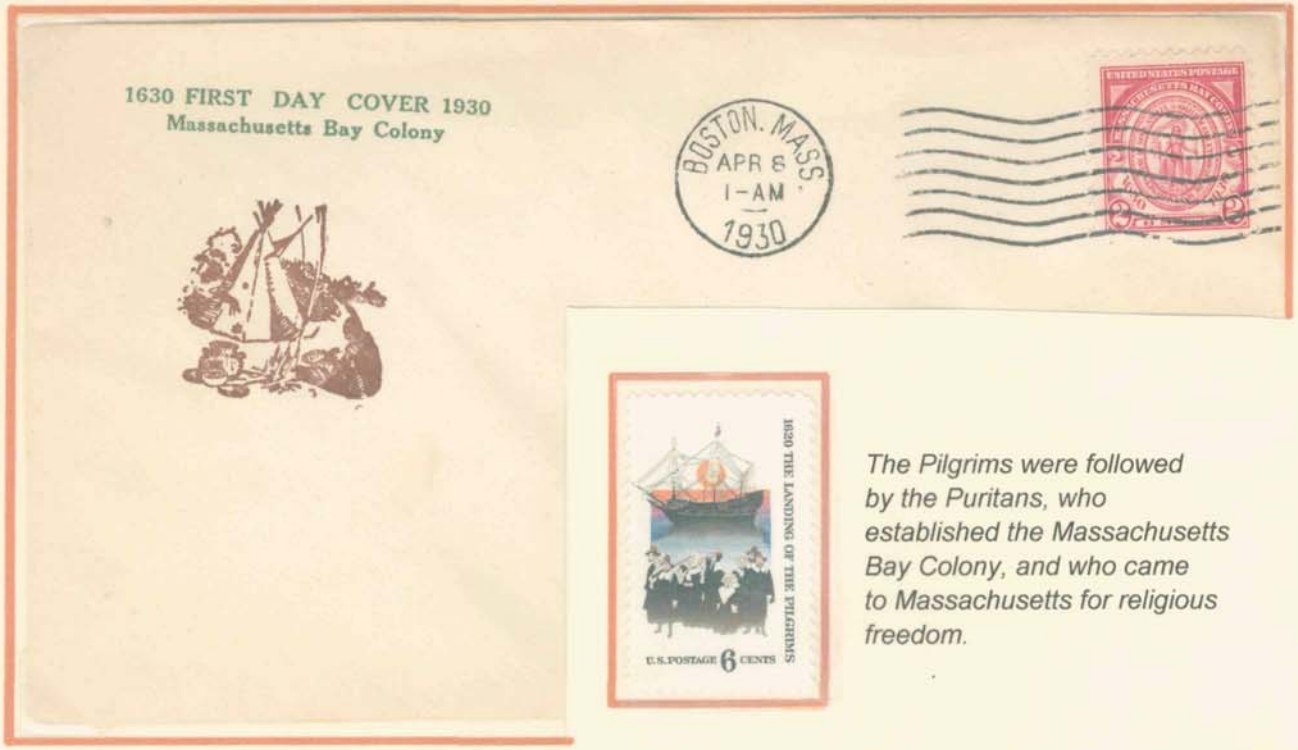
Massachusetts

February 06, 1788

Pilgrims, 1620, at Plymouth Rock

The first European settlers in Massachusetts, the Pilgrims, established their settlement at Plymouth in 1620. This was the second successful permanent English colony in North America, after the Jamestown Colony (See Virginia). Many of the early settlers came from Haverhill, England.

Boston to East Charlemont; May 27, 1848;; grilled adhesive; embossed entire.



The Pilgrims were followed by the Puritans, who established the Massachusetts Bay Colony, and who came to Massachusetts for religious freedom.

State flag 2

Massachusetts

Continued

Massachusetts became a single colony in 1692, the largest in New England.
On March 15, 1820, Maine separated from Massachusetts.
The Massachusetts Constitution was ratified in 1780, while the Revolutionary War was in progress and seven years before the United States Constitution was ratified in 1787. It is the oldest written constitution now in use in the world.

Ratification

State flag 1

Birds & Flowers

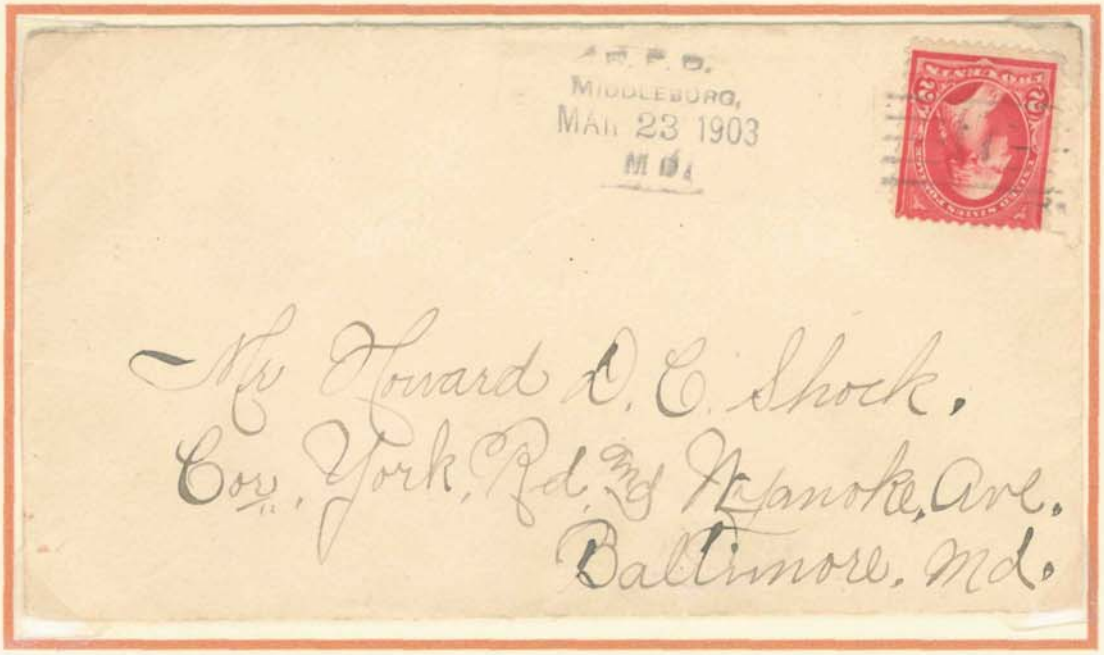
Boston to Newburyport , November 12, 1801, marked 'SHIP' as it went by a cargo vessel 19 cents, pre-paid.

Revenue stamp, collecting a tax on the transfer of stock by the state.

Maryland

April 28, 1788

In 1629, George Calvert, 1st Lord Baltimore applied to Charles I for a new royal charter for what was to become the Province of Maryland. Calvert's interest was to create a haven for Catholics. A Charter for "Maryland Colony" was granted to his son Cecilus Calvert, 2nd Lord Baltimore, on June 20, 1632. On March 25, 1634 Lord Baltimore sent the first settlers into the area. Most were Protestants and tens of thousands were convicts.



Middleburg (1815 - 1913) to Baltimore; Mar.23, 1903; two cents per ounce rate.
Inverted stamp = "I love you". Rural Free Delivery killer.

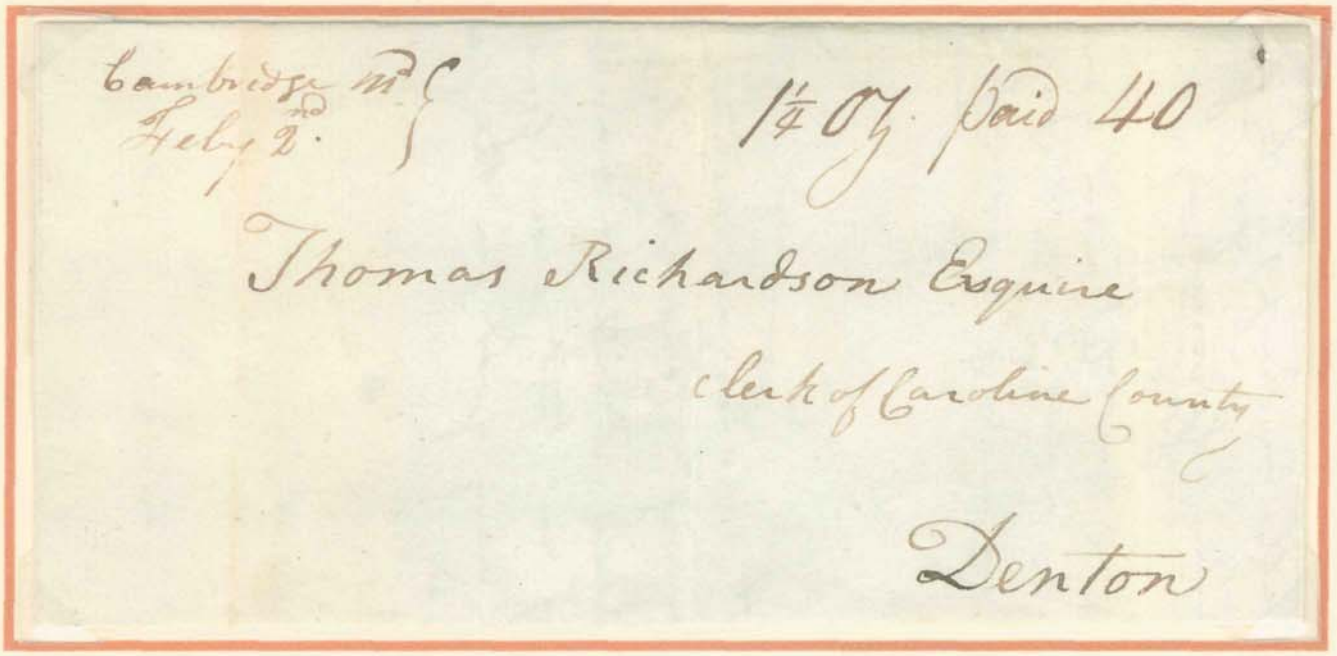
Ratification

State flag 1

State flag 2

Birds & Flowers

Folded letter; St. Jago to Baltimore to New York; March 27, 1861; SHIP 5; rate: two cents for the ship; three cents regular mail; blue CDS.



Cambridge, Maryland; February 2, 1801, scarce 'Paid 40' for 1 & 1/4 oz; five months after rate was set by post office.

South Carolina

May 23, 1788

The original charter for the Carolinas, named after King Charles II, was accepted in 1663. The colony of Carolina was settled by English settlers, mostly from Barbados, sent by the Lords Proprietors in 1670. Most Immigrants were African slaves.

By 1680 Charleston was the capitol.

The formal colony of "The Carolinas" split into two in 1712. South Carolina became a royal colony in 1729.
The state ratified the United States Constitution as the eighth state.

Ratification

State flag

Birds & Flowersc , m

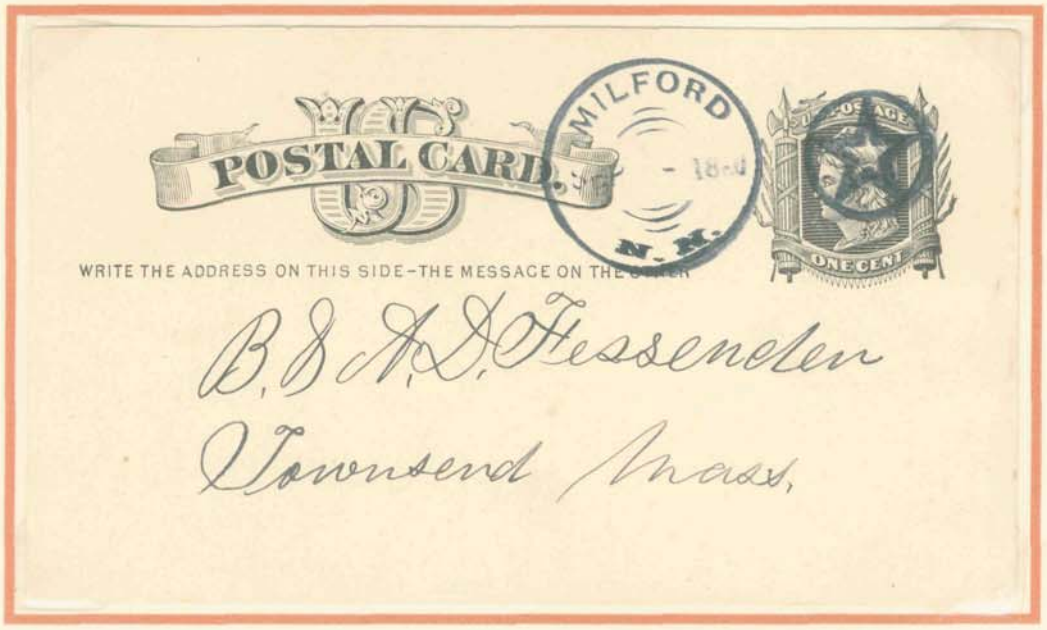
Beaufort, SC to Collinsville, CT April 29, 1868. 'Due 3' Cents because it weighed more than 1/2 oz. Target cancel.

New Hampshire

June 21, 1788

English and French explorers visited the area in 1600-1605. English fishermen settled in Odiorne's Point in 1623. In 1679, it became the 'Royal Province"

It became the first post-colonial sovereign nation in the Americas when it broke off from Great Britain in January 1776.
Named after the county of Hampshire in England, it was the ninth state to ratify the United States Constitution bringing that document into effect.



September 6, 1880 CDS with positive star killer on this postal card issue of 1875.
One cent postal card rate was enacted on June 8, 1872.

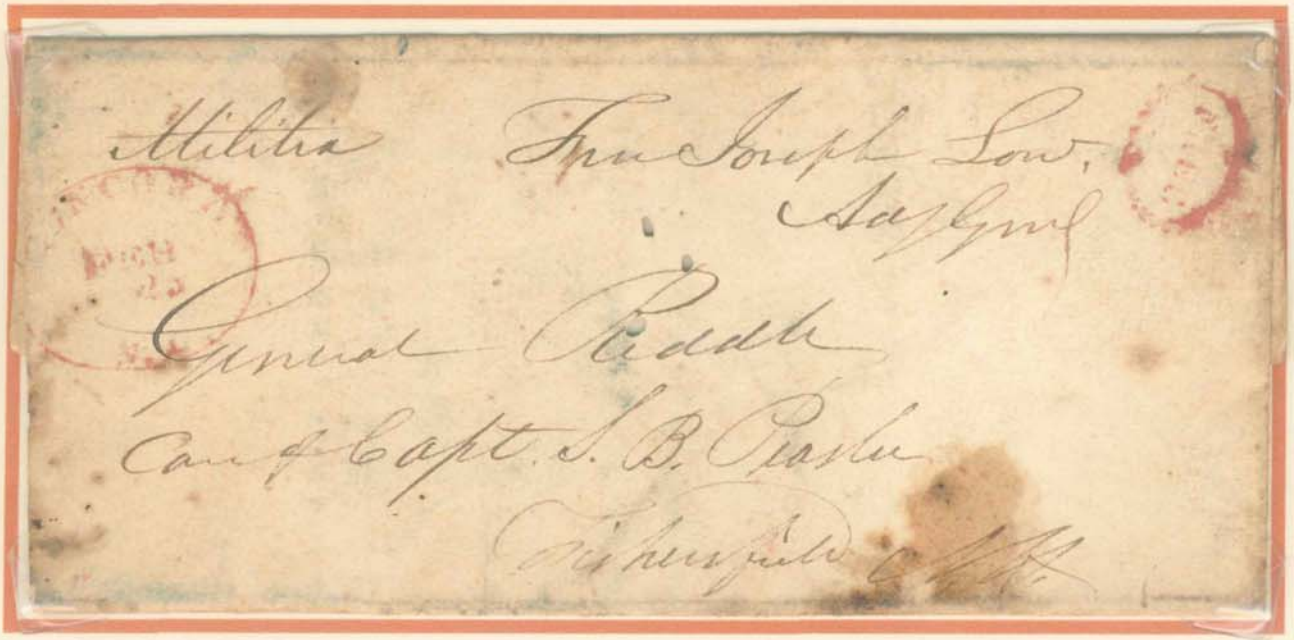
Ratification

State flag 1

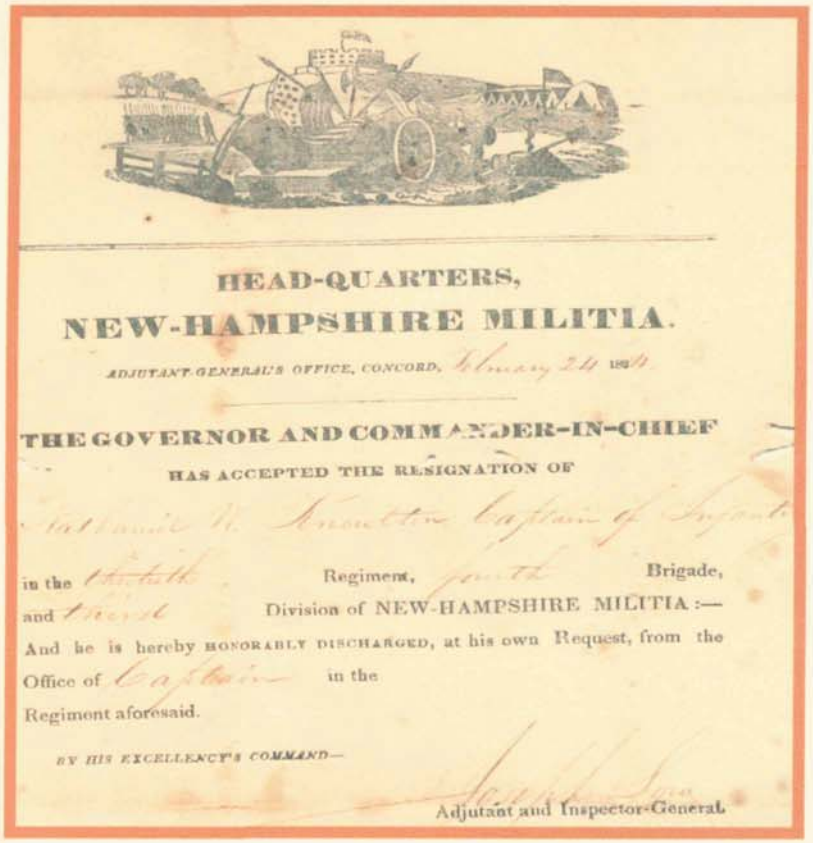
State flag 2

Birds & Flowers

New Hampshire
Continued


Militia
Joseph Low,
Adjt Genl
General Riddle
Capt. S. B. Pearle
Nashua N.H.

Folded Letter; February 24, 1834; Militia; Free; Concord, N.H.



HEAD-QUARTERS,

NEW-HAMPSHIRE MILITIA.

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE, CONCORD, February 24 1834

THE GOVERNOR AND COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

HAS ACCEPTED THE RESIGNATION OF

Nathaniel H. Knowlton Captain of Infantry

in the 1st Regiment, 4th Brigade,

and 1st Division of NEW-HAMPSHIRE MILITIA:—

And he is hereby HONORABLY DISCHARGED, at his own Request, from the Office of Captain in the Regiment aforesaid.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY'S COMMAND—

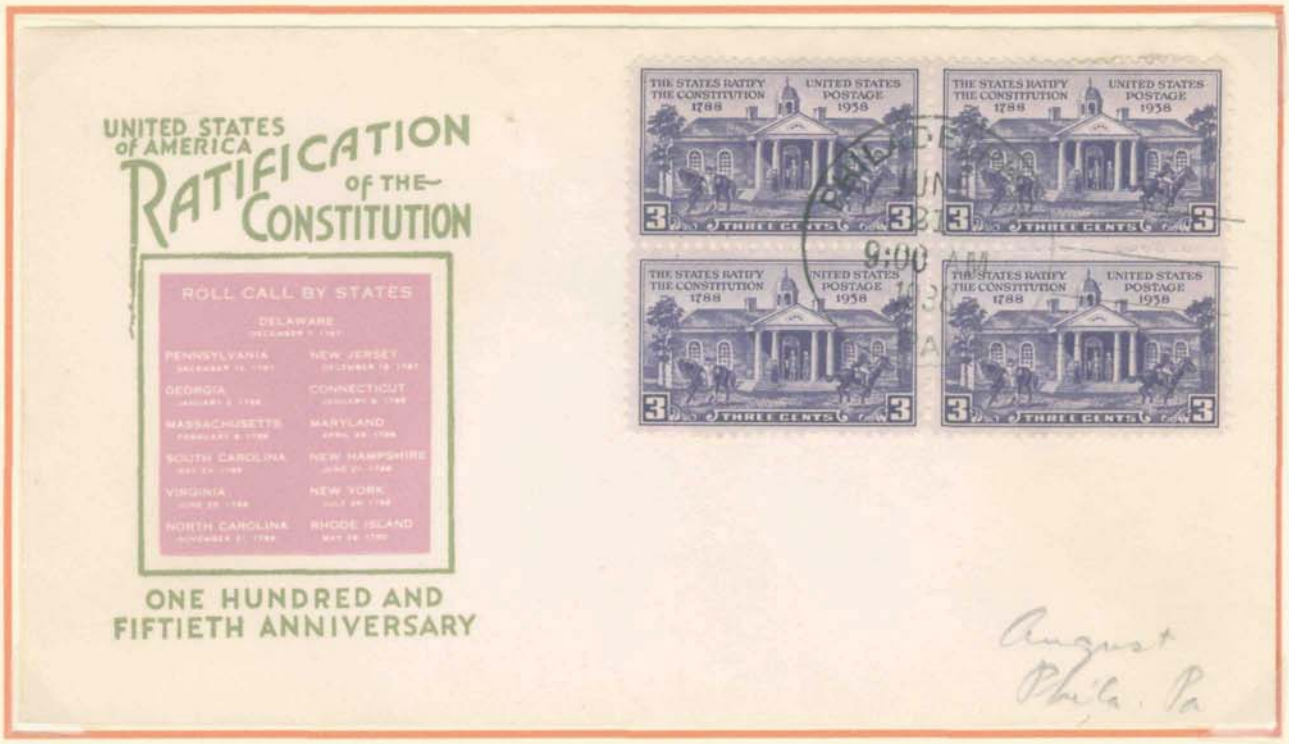
Joseph Low

Adjutant and Inspector-General.

The New Hampshire Militia formed in 1710, was involved in the Revolutionary War and War of 1812. This honorable discharge was sent from Joseph Low, Adjutant to General Riddle, then commander of the militia to be given to Captain Knowlton acknowledging his discharge.
Dated February 24, 1834, it is an early New Hampshire document.
(Honorable Discharge has been scanned.)

Ratification

To be finalized, there had to be at least nine colonies ratifying the proposed constitution. New Hampshire provided that final vote to accept the document.



1938 Commemoration of the ratification of the U.S. Constitution

Ratification Sequiscentenial, 150th anniversary, September 17, 1937.

Virginia

June 25, 1788

In 1583, Queen Elizabeth I of England granted Sir Walter Raleigh a charter to explore and plant a colony in North America north of Florida and included the whole coast from South Carolina to Maine including Bermuda.The London Virginia Company was formed by Charter in 1606 and it financed the first permanent English settlement in the new world at Jamestown, named for King James I; founded on May 13, 1607.

Founding of Jamestown

Settlement of Jamestown

Virginia Dare

Ratification

State flag

Birds & Flowers

Folded letter; RICHMOND to Monroe county, December 15, 1820; thirty-four cents **PAID**.

New York

July 26, 1788

Henry Hudson first claimed the area in 1609. Dutch forts at Fort Orange were built in 1614 and colonized in 1624. British invasion occurred in 1664. New York, named after the Duke of York, James Stuart of England, became an independent state July 9, 1776.

New York to Taunton, Mass; June 8, 1883; forwarded to Canada; 3 Cents due' as charge to cross border; embossed 2 cents issue of 1870.

New York drop letter; one cent pre-paid label prepared by New York PM; delivery in New York City only. Pen cancel.

Ratification

State flag 1

Birds & Flowers

Tax stamps were used to raise revenue as this stock transfer stamp shows.

Buffalo to Albany; March 5, 1848; double oval mustache cancellation but marked 'paid' without amount (assumed to be 3 cents). Addressed to W. Fillemore, future president of the U.S.

August 4, 1837; Cover seen above was free because Congressman Abraham Vanderveer signed the turned cover. Vanderveer, a county clerk in Kings County was misusing his free policy. Vanderveer, born in 1781 and died on July 21, 1839; he was a democrat, served in the 2nd congressional district from March 4, 1837 until March 3, 1839.

North Carolina

November 21, 1789

The first European settlers were British colonists from Virginia in 1655. In 1712 North Carolina became a separate colony and in 1729, a royal colony. Economic growth and prosperity was based on slave labor. Admitted as the twelfth state; declared secession on May 20, 1861 and was not restored to the Union until July 4, 1868.

Greenville, N.C to Raleigh, N.C.; April 6, 1863; Confederate State .

Durham, N.C. to Camden, S.C., April 14, 1934; 1908 booklet pane 3 cents postage plus 10 cents 'Special Delivery'.

Ratification

State flag 1

State flag 2

Birds & Flowers

Rhode Island & Providence Plantations

May 29, 1790

Roger Williams

Having been banished from Boston for heresy in 1631, Roger Williams, a minister, lived among the Narraganset Indians, bought land from them and called it 'Providence Plantation'. Renamed Rhode Island in the official charter of 1665 because it was similar in size to the Mediterranean Island, Rhodes, it became a haven for people persecuted for their religious beliefs. It was admitted as the 13th state.

Bristol to Massachusetts; Sept. 27, 1850; blue '5'; 'PAID'; 5 cents <300 miles.

Bristol to Charleston, S.C., June 3, 1861. On Dec. 20, 1860, South Carolina seceded from the Union; this cover had to cross Civil War lines to be delivered. Masonic emblem with dot center cancellation.

Ratification

State flag

Birds & Flowers

Vermont

March 04, 1791

French explorers arrived in Vermont around 1609 and claimed the land for their country. In 1763, however, England took over the area after the French and Indian War. Two English colonies-New York and New Hampshire-both claimed Vermont as their land. When the English king decided to give Vermont to New York, a group of people who had moved there from New Hampshire fought the claim. These were the famous Green Mountain Boys.

After the Revolutionary War, as the 13 colonies became the United States. Vermont was not one of these colonies. It became a republic of its own and stayed that way for 14 years. Vermont became the 14th state.

150th Anniversary

Birds & Flowers

State flag

Strafford, VT to Washington, DC, February 5, 1872.
Three cent rate enacted July 1, 1863 to October 1, 1883 per 1/2 oz.

Coventry to Sandwich, Mass; Sept. 19, 1863; Civil War; pen cancel;.

Kentucky

June 01, 1792

Generally, there were no major Native Americans in this area, but Shawnees used it as a hunting ground as did the Cherokees. Originally, it was part of Virginia but as settlers moved in from Virginia, North Carolina, Delaware and Maryland, they became one of four U.S. states to be a commonwealth and the 15th star on the Union flag.

200th Anniversary

Birds & Flowers

State flag 1

State flag 2

Territorial cover; Louisville to New Albany, Indiana; July 15, 1872; three cent 1/2 oz. rate; July1, 1863 to October 1, 1883. Cork killer.

Tennessee

June 01, 1796

Hernando de Soto and his Spanish explorers visited the area in 1539 - 1543. At that time the area was inhabited by the Muscogee and Yuchi tribes. European diseases killed most of the Native Americans and the remainder were forced to move south and west. Settlers from nearby areas moved into the area, many of whom came from North Carolina when it ceded the territory to the U.S. government in 1790. Tennessee became the 16th state.

Clarksville to Aalborg, Denmark; mailed February 1, 1895; transit 'New York, Feb. 3, 1895'; 5 cent UPU rate. Danish arrival mark dated February 16.

150th Anniversary

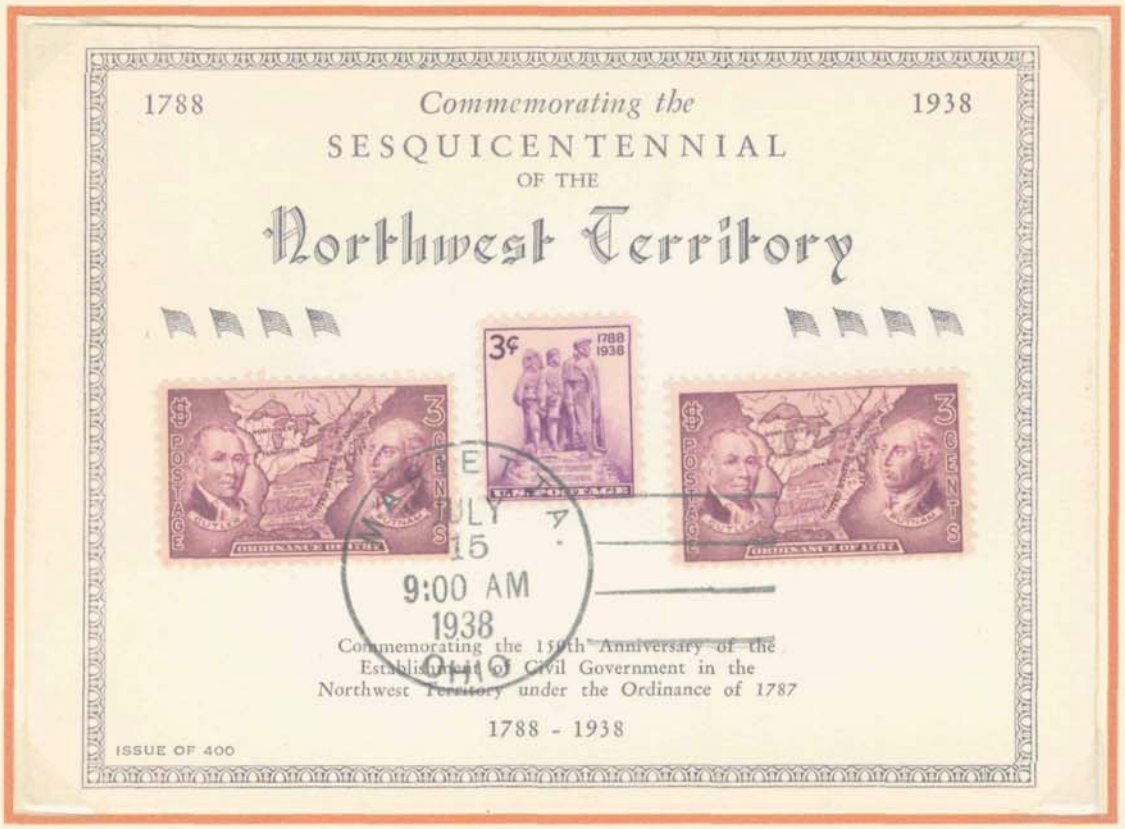
Birds & Flowers

State flag

Northwest Territory

European exploration of the territory began with the French in the 17th century, followed by fur traders. First recorded entry was in 1634 and the area was named New France. France ceded the territory to Great Britain in 1763. Britain ceded the area north of the Ohio River and west of the Appalachian Mountains to the United States at the end of the Revolutionary War.

Virginia, Massachusetts, New York and Connecticut had claims on the territory, but ceded their claims to the United States.



150th anniversary of the Ordinance of 1787. Marietta was the first settlement in the Northwest Territory.

Ohio

March 01, 1803

By 1650, the fur trade brought many trappers into the area. The United States created the Northwest Territory under the Northwest Ordinance of 1787. Under that ordinance any states formed out of that territory would be admitted as a state once the population exceeded 60,000. Thus Ohio was admitted as the seventeenth state.

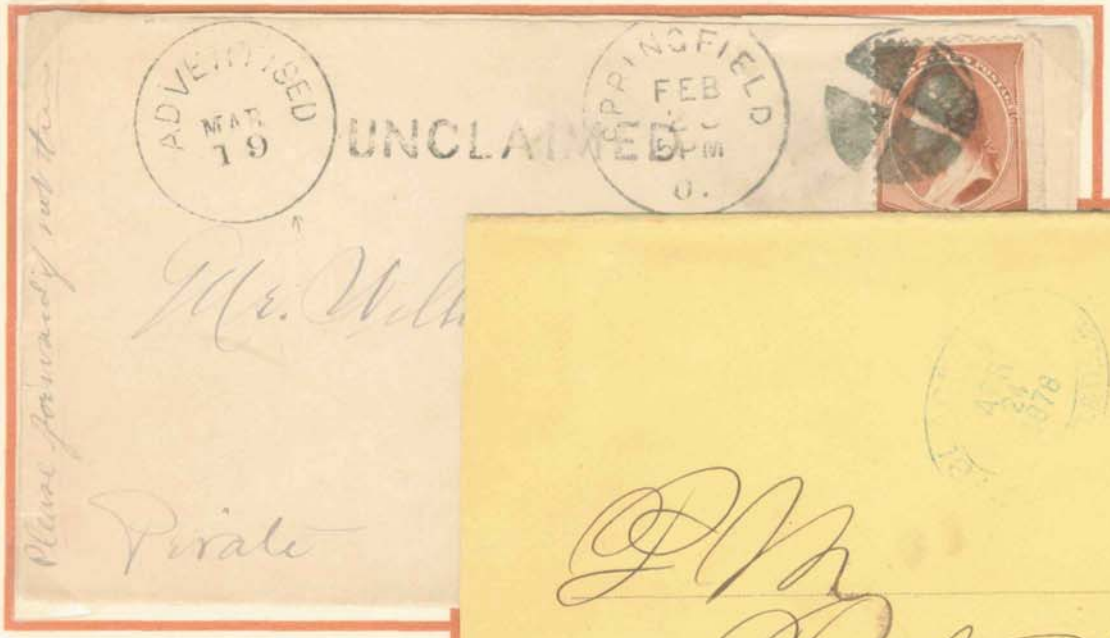
150th Anniversary

Johnny Appleseed

State flag

Birds & Flowers

The Ohio Enabling Act of 1802 required each farmer to plant an orchard as part of its admission to the Union. John Chapman (1780-1845), an itinerant orchardist and preacher provided seeds and nursery stock to the farmers, often free.



Springfield, Ohio, mailed Feb. 23, 1885; undelivered, then advertised; unclaimed, went to dead letter office on April 1; no return address.

Post office official mail, April 24, 1878, showing the Blacklick, Ohio railroad station postmark via the B. & O. Railroad.

Louisiana Purchase

April 9,1682 French explorers traveled on the Mississippi River. Leader Rene Robat Cavelier, Sieur de la Salle erected a cross and a wooden column on which was painted the French coat of arms. La Salle claimed the river and its lands for France; named the territory "Louisiana" in honor of French King Louis XIV.

In 1718, the French founded the town of New Orleans about 100 miles from the Gulf of Mexico. 4 years later, New Orleans became the capital of Louisiana. Spain controlled most of the western lands. From 1754 to 1763 France fought with Great Britain for control of North America. France was defeated and the land west of the Mississippi passed to Spain.

In 1783, Great Britain agreed to give the land between the Mississippi River and the Appalachian Mountains to the United States.

A treaty with Spain gave to France "the colony or Province of Louisiana " giving France control of New Orleans and all the land west of the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains (including lands held by Spain).

In 1803, President Jefferson sent James Monroe to Paris to help Ambassador Livingston negotiate for Louisiana. They purchased the area for fifteen million dollars. The Americans had purchased 827,987 square miles at a price of about four cents per acre.

150th Anniversary of the transfer.

Commemorating the purchase

Jefferson precancel

The purchase doubled the area of the United States. It took more then one hundred years to finally settle the Louisiana territory and divide it into thirteen states which are Louisiana, Missouri, Arkansas, Iowa, Minnesota, Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Wyoming, and Oklahoma.

James Monroe; 5th President of the U.S. (1817-1825) Sec. of State; Sec. of War (1812) Monroe Doctrine (Would not tolerate European interference in U.S.)

1904 Commemoration of the Louisiana Purchase

Louisiana

April 30, 1812

The settlement of Nathitoches was established in 1714 by Louis Juchereau de St. Denis, making it the oldest permanent European settlement in Louisiana Purchase territory. The settlement became a big river port and crossroads, giving rise to vast cotton kingdoms along the river. On November 29, 1803, transfer of the area was made from Spain to France. On March 4, 1804 the area was transferred to the United States. Louisiana became the eighteenth state to join the union.

150th Anniversary

Birds & Flowers

State flags 1 & 2

Cover cancelled on the Ouachita River packet 'Mayflower' mail route, dated July 16, 1889. Embossed envelope issue of 1864.

New Orleans 'turned cover', dated March 14, 1862, with 'due 3' because of overweight. A turned cover was a cover disassembled , refolded and reassembled; then used to save cost of new cover. This cover originally went to Sam Arment, Co.F, 10th Conn Vols, Brashaer City, LA during the Civil War.

New Orleans registered; return receipt to Paris, France, transit 'Received NY, October 2, 1912'; Paris receipt Oct. 29. Registry fee - ten cents; mailing - five cents for 1/2 oz..

Indiana

December 11, 1816

It was claimed as New France until the settlement of the French and Indian War, when it was handed over to the Kingdom of Great Britian and given to the United States after the Revolution. It was part of the Northwest Territory, then the Indiana Territory. It became the 19th state.

Governor of territory
9th U.S. President

150th Anniversary

State flags 1 & 2

Birds & Flowers

Kokomo, Indiana, June 2, 1875; held for postage; went to Washington dead letter office on August 7, 1875.

Mississippi

December 10, 1817

The first Europeans into the territory were with Hernando de Soto in 1540. In 1716, Natchez was founded as the dominant town and trading post. The area was deeded to the British after the French and Indian War in 1763.

The Mississippi territory was organized on April 7, 1798 mostly from territory ceded by Georgia and South Carolina. Some land was purchased from the Native Americans between 1800 and 1830. Mississippi was admitted to the Union on as the 20th state.

Territorial cover from Natchez to Baton Rouge, LA. Jan. 20, 1813 12 1/2 cent rate, of March 2, 1799 carried 1/2oz. single sheet between 100 and 150 miles. Sent during the war of 1812 (June. 20, 1812 to Mar. 23, 1815) to a soldier in the Army.

150th Anniversary

Birds & Flowers

State flag 1

State flag 2

Illinois

December 03, 1818

French explorers Jacques Marquette and Louis Jolliet explored the Illinois River in 1673. As a result of their exploration, Illinois was part of the French empire until 1763, when it passed to the British. The small French settlements continued; a few British soldiers were posted in the area but there were no British or American settlers. In 1778 George Rogers Clark claimed Illinois for Virginia. The area was ceded to the new United States in 1783 and became part of the Northwest Territory. With the growth of the population approaching 60,000, Illinois joined the Union as the 23rd state.

150th Anniversary

State flag 1

Birds & Flowers

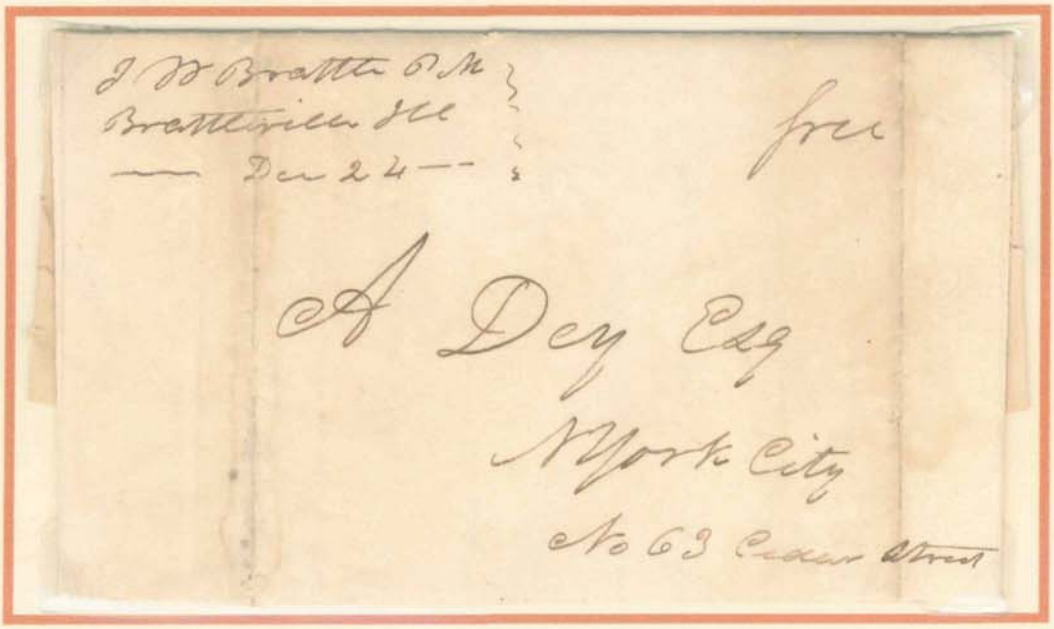
U.S. Letter Sheet, issue of 1886, dated July 18, 1891, from Assumption, Illinois, and received in Grand Rapids, Michigan July 20.

Illinois

Continued

George Rogers Clark was born and raised in Virginia; became the highest ranking officer on the northwestern frontier during the Revolution. He led the capture of Vincennes in 1779. When the British ceded the Northwest Territory to the United States in the 1783 Treaty of Paris, Clark was hailed as the "Conqueror of the Old Northwest".

State flag with view of farm; self adhesive coil.



Folded letter from Post Master, Brattleville, free to New York City, Dec. 24, 1834. Brattleville post office operated only from 1833 to 1839. Rarity = 8.

Alabama

December 04, 1819

The French founded the first European settlement in the state with the establishment of Mobile in 1702. Southern Alabama was French from 1702 to 1763, part of British West Florida from 1763 to 1780, and part of Spanish West Florida from 1780 to 1814.
Northern and Central Alabama was part of British Georgia from 1763 to 1783 and part of the American Mississippi territory thereafter. Its statehood was delayed by the lack of coastline; rectified when Andrew Jackson captured Spanish Mobile in 1814. Alabama became the 22nd state.

Precancel; seventh president of U.S.

Maximum card honoring President Andrew Jackson

150th Anniversary

Birds & Flowers

State flags 1 & 2

Maine

March 16, 1820

The first Europeans came in the 1500s when the British, Portuguese, French, and Spanish all traveled along the northeast coast The British explored the islands and the mainland. They called it "Maine." Maine remained part of Massachusetts until 1820. In 1820, 11 states in the Union allowed slavery, and 11 states did not.. Neither side wanted the other to have more member states. Maine joined the Union as a free state. Missouri was admitted at the same time as a slave state. This arrangement, called the Missouri Compromise, kept the numbers of free states and slave states equal. On March 15, 1820 Maine split from Massachusetts and became the 23rd state.

150th Anniversary

Birds & Flowers

State flag 1

State flag 2

Mailed April 7, 1890 from Dixfield; missent to Westboro instead of Weston.

The three following covers are territorial Northern Massachusetts before the area became Maine Land.

Maine
Continued

Lubec, MA to Castine, Aug. 10, 1818, rated 18 3/4, rerated 12 1/2 as distance is less than 150 miles.

Lubec to Castine, June 14, 1819; 25 cents for double weight

Lubec, MA to Castine, Oct. 18, 1819 which is in Acadia whose post office is the oldest P.O. in continuous operation in the United States.

Missouri

August 18, 1821

As many of the early settlers in Western Missouri migrated from southern states, they brought along enslaved African Americans and a desire to continue the institution of slavery. In the early 1830s, Mormon migrants from northern states and Canada began settling near Independence and areas just north of there. Conflicts over slavery and religion arose between the 'old settlers' (mainly from the South) and the Mormons (mainly from the North and Canada). The 'Mormon War' erupted. By 1839 settlers expelled the Mormons from Missouri. The Missouri Compromise provided that Maine enter the Union as a slave free state so long as Missouri entered as a slave state, to keep the balance even. Missouri entered the Union as the 24th state.

150th Anniversary

Birds & Flowers

State flag 1

State flag 2

St. Louis to Charleston, S.C.; March 20, 1876; cork killer.

Arkansas

June 15, 1836

The first European to reach Arkansas was the Spanish explorer Hernando De Soto at the end of the 16th century. Arkansas is one of several U.S. states formed from the territory purchased from Napoleon Bonaparte in the Louisiana Purchase. The territory was organized on July 4, 1819, and was admitted to the Union as the 25th state and the 13th slave state.

Territorial folded letter, from HEMPSTEAD.Court House, Mailed April 5, 1830, twenty-five cent rate, of March 1, 1816 to March 3, 1845; carried 1/2 oz. letter 400 miles and over. HEMPSTEAD. C H post office open 1820-1839.

Rarity = 7

100th Anniversary

Birds & Flowers

State flags 1 & 2

Michigan

January 26, 1837

Michigan is the only state consisting of two peninsulas and has the longest freshwater shore line in the world. It is named after Lake Michigan which is a French adaption of an Ojibwe word meaning 'large water'.. French *voyageurs* explored and
settled in Michigan in the 17th century. The first Europeans to reach the area were those of the Etienne Brule's expedition in 1622. In 1679, Lord LaSalle of France established Sault Sainte-Marie.
During the war of 1812, the area was captured by the British and nominally returned to Canada. The Treaty of Ghent returned the area to the United States. By the 1830s, Michigan had some 80,000 residents. and after a boundary dispute with Ohio, became the twenty-sixth state to join the Union.

100th Anniversary

Adhesive shows 1835 date in error.

Birds & Flowers

State flag 1

State flag 2

Grand Rapids to Fort Howard, Wisconsin; January 11, 1870; forwarded; 3 cents per 1/2 oz. rate; July 1, 1863 to October 1, 1883.

Florida

March 03, 1845

In 1784, the treaty of Paris returned all of Florida to Spanish control. On October 27, 1810 parts of West Florida were annexed by proclamation by President James Madison as part of the Louisiana Purchase. The United States Army invaded East Florida in 1817- 1818 and on February 22, 1819 a treaty was reached with Spain where the United States acquired Florida and gave up its claims to Texas. Florida entered the Union as the 26th state.

James Madison, Fourth U.S. President Pre-cancel coil

Miami meter cancel

400th anniversary of Florida's settlement

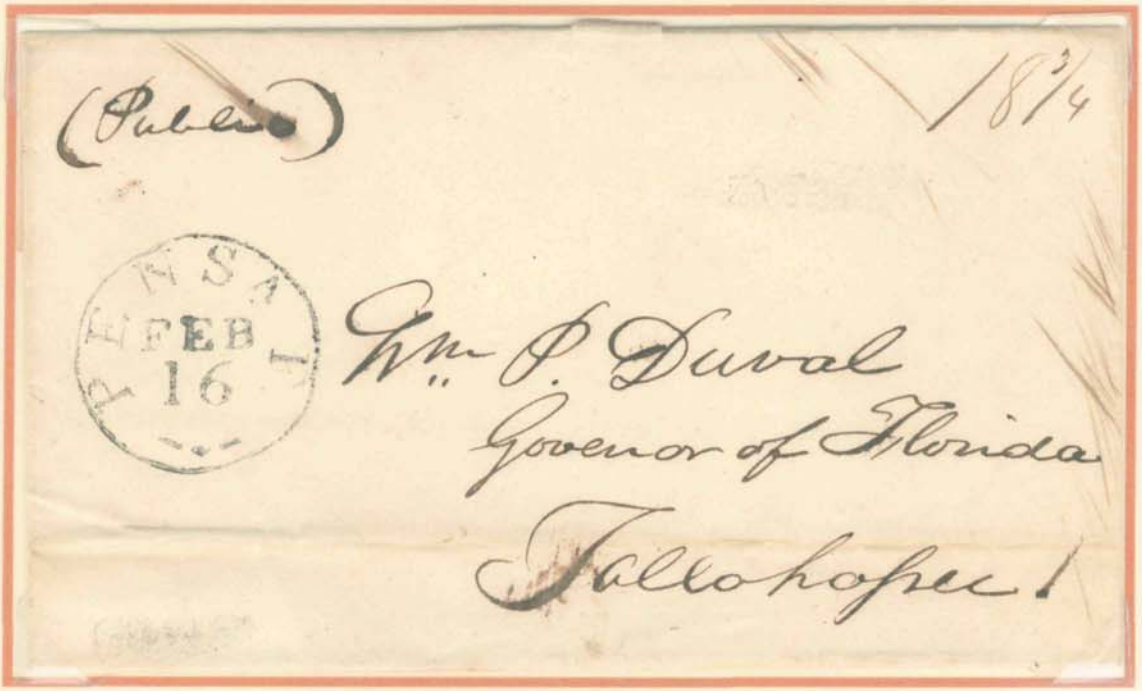
Birds & Flowers

100th anniversary of statehood

State flag 1

State flag 2; view of everglades

Florida
Continued



Folded letter; Pensacola to the governor in Tallahassee; mailed February 16, 1834, while Florida was a U.S. Territory; 18 3/4 cents per 1/2 oz.; rate of March 3, 1825 to carry mail over 150 miles, but less than 400 miles. Mustache in stamp.

Territorial; Tallahassee, FLO[A]; SEqT 8, 1840 to Castine, ME; 25 cents per 1/2 oz. postage for over 400 miles. Tallahassee was chosen for the capitol of the territory as a compromise between East (St. Augustine) and West (Pensacola) Florida. The Leon County post office (Tallahassee) was opened May 13, 1825; Ambrose Crane, Post Master.

Mexican - American War

In 1846, along the banks of the Rio Grande River, part of Mexico, war started between the U.S. and the Mexican army over land claimed by both countries.
Finally, in February 1848, a peace treaty was signed that gave territories that would become Texas, California, Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Utah, Nevada, and Wyoming to the U.S. The major portions of Colorado and Wyoming were obtained through the Louisiana Purchase.
Many officials wanted to push the treaty to include all of Mexico, but others wanted to settle the boundary at the Rio Grande River. U.S. troops even captured Mexico City.

On February 2, 1848 Ambassador Trist signed a treaty at Guadalupe Hidalgo, formally ending the war. In exchange for the above territories, the U.S. paid $15 million to Mexico.

on public service.

Hon: George Sykes, M. C.
House of Representatives
Washington D. C.
U. S. A.

Folded letter from New Orleans, LA; to Washington D.C.; December 7, 1847; soldier's letter to his congressman 'on public service' and approved by his commanding officer asking to be discharged from the US Army during the Mexican American War.

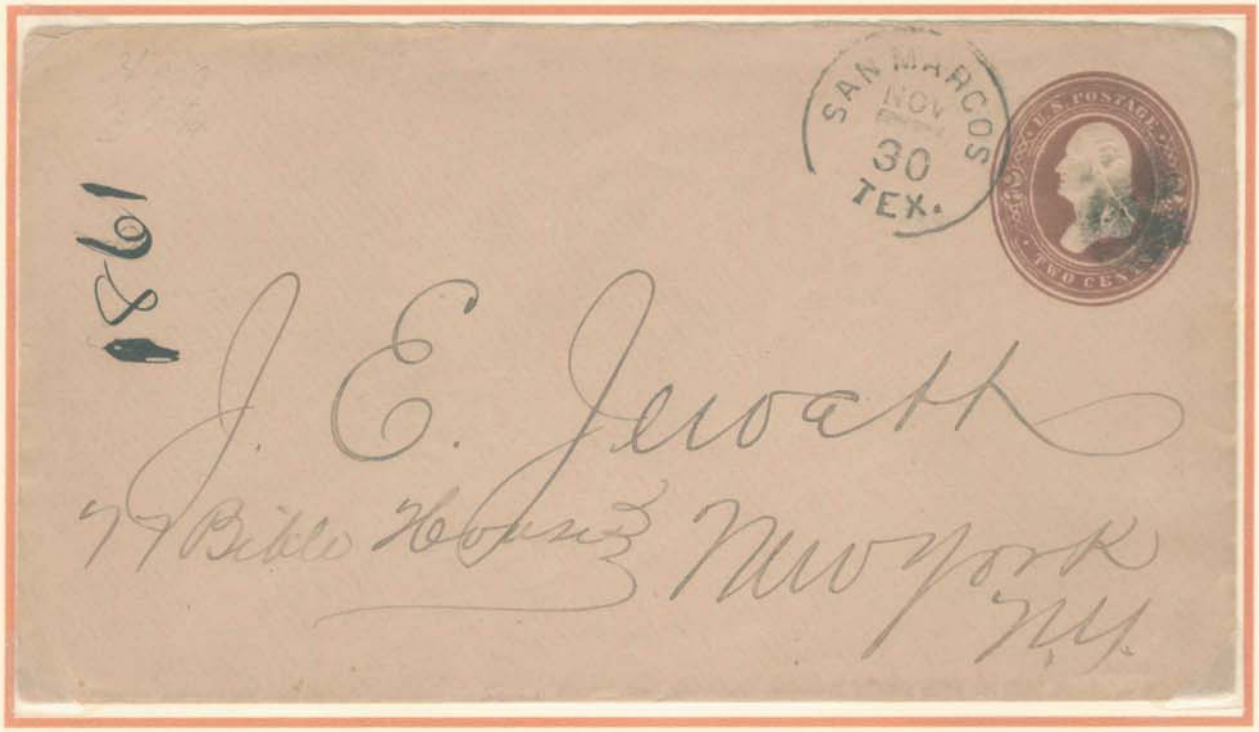
Texas

December 29, 1845

Alonso Alverez de Pineda, creator of the first map of the Gulf coast, made the first European sighting of Texas in 1519. On November 6, 1528, Alvar Nunez Cabeza de Vaca was the first European in Texas. It was claimed as part of New Spain. In 1685 La Salle established the first colony of Fort Saint Louis. Spain constructed missions in Texas in 1716 to convert the natives to Christianity.

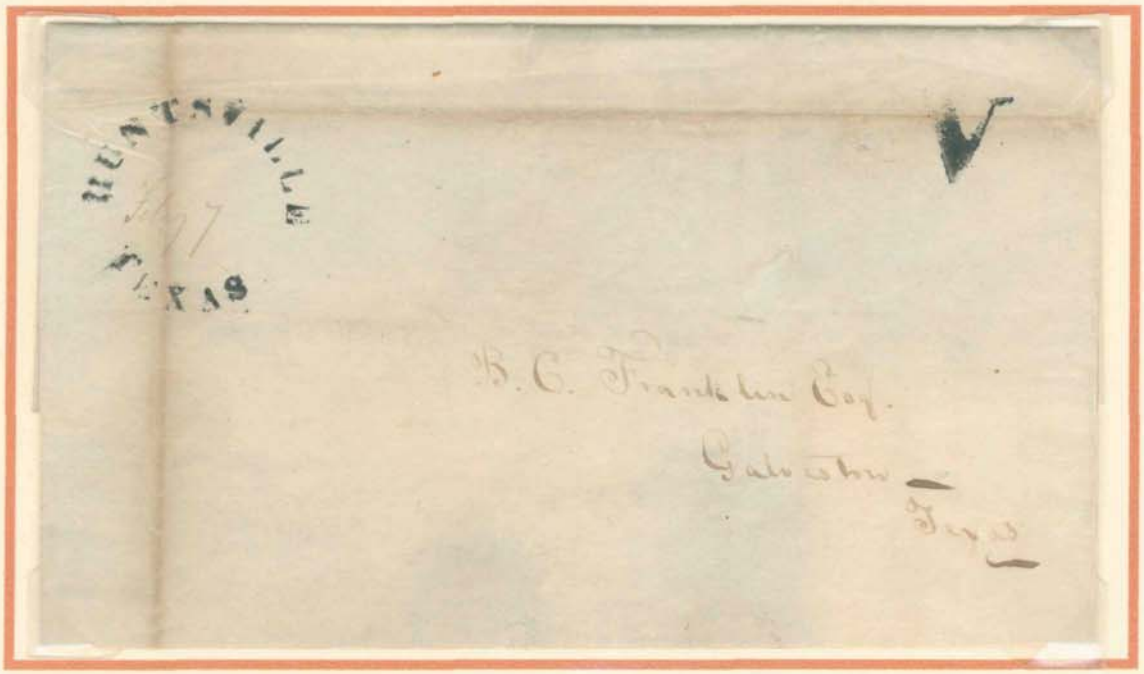
In 1821, the state became a province of Mexico after the Mexican War of Independence. On January 3, 1823, Stephen A. Austin began a colony of Anglo-American families and by 1830, the 30,000 Anglo settlers outnumbered the Tejanos six to one.

In 1836, it became the independent Republic of Texas. It entered the United States as the twenty-eighth state. It is the only state which came into the Union by treaty.



San Marcos November 30, 1886. The backstamp shows the later date. Scarce auxiliary mark. 'Late Arrival Destination' applied at New York.

Texas
Continued



Huntsville to Galveston, TX; Feb. 7, 1848; 5 cent rate, roman numeral V; folded letter from state prison inmate to his attorney.

"Remember the Alamo" was the battle cry when Sam Houston (7th Governor of Tennessee) led the U.S. Army in recapturing the Alamo from Mexican General Santa Ana. He was President of the Republic of Texas before the Republic became a state.

Stephen A. Austin, known as the Father of Texas, led the second (and successful) colonization of the area after Mexico gave up further attempts to recapture the region.

100th Anniversary

Birds & Flowers

State Flag 1

Iowa

December 28, 1846

The first Europeans to explore Iowa were French citizens following the Sac and Fox tribes. The first American settlers officially moved to Iowa in June 1833. Primarily, they were families from Illionois, Indiana and Missouri.

Iowa became a U.S. territory in 1838.

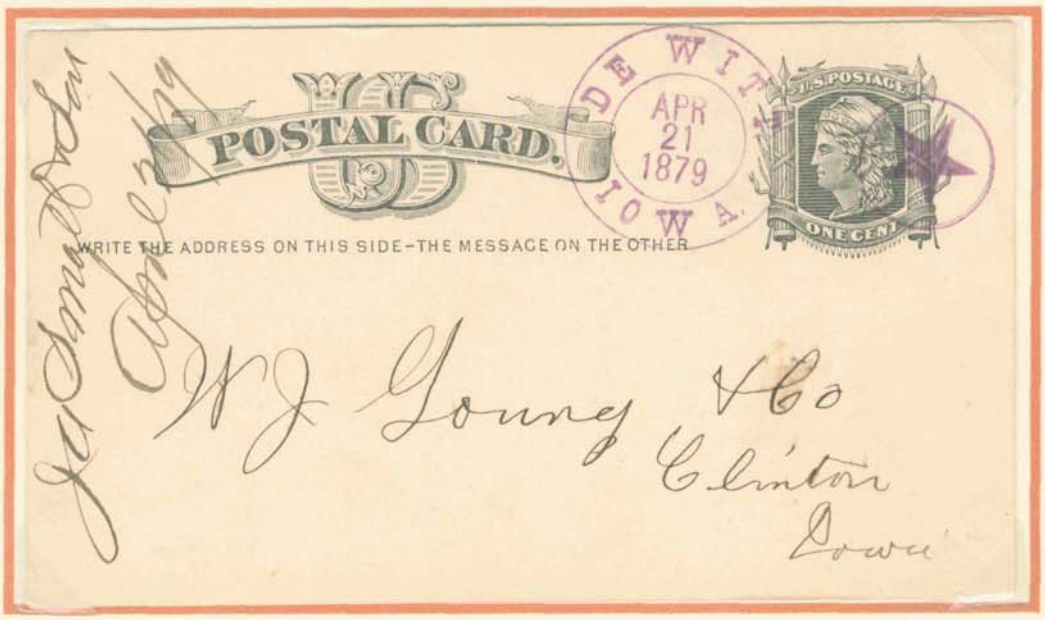
State flag 2 and view of corn field.

Iowa became the twenty-ninth state of the Union.

100th Anniversary

Birds & Flowers

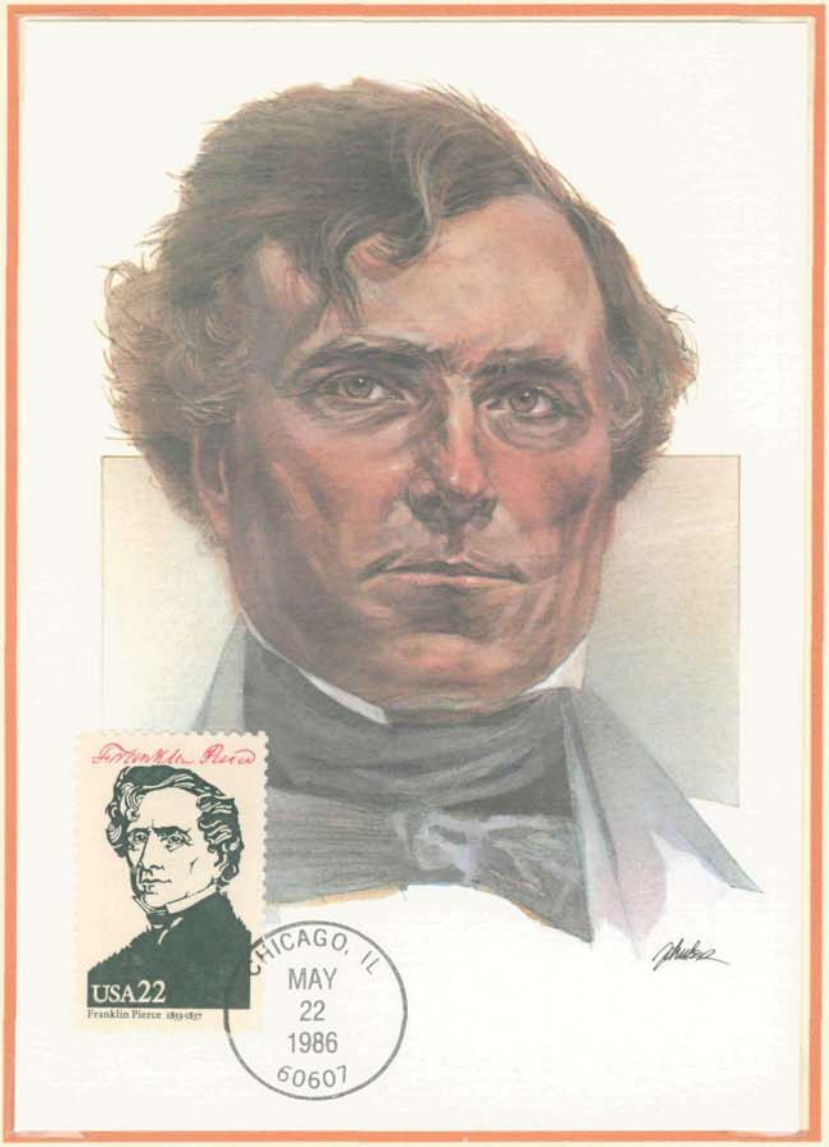
State flag 1



Purple double circular date stamp with positive star killer. Mailed April 21, 1879, forty-eight days after the one cent postal card rate was enacted (March 3, 1879 to February 28, 1925).

Gadsden Purchase, Alaska Purchase.

When gold was discovered in California in 1848, the need for transportation (railroad) to the west was a real need. In May 1853, President Franklin Pierce sent James Gadsden, a railroad specialist, to Mexico to discuss purchase of more land. Mexico agreed to sell a huge triangle of territory across southern Arizona and New Mexico for $10 million to provide a clean path for a railroad to California. Its now known as the Gadsden Purchase.



The 14th president of the US, Franklin Pierce who was also president during the Gadsden Purchase.

The Alaska Purchase was signed March 30, 1867 at four A.M. William H. Seward, U.S. Secretary of State arranged the dealand the U.S. paid $7.2 million for 586,400 square miles or about two cents per acre. It was purchased from Russia which was in need of money because of its Crimean war debt of 1856.

Wisconsin

May 29, 1848

Carmil, Wisconsin Territory to Milwaukie (sic) is less than 400 miles today so this folded letter appears to be over paid at 25 cents but distances were determined by tables in documentation. Mailed January 28, 1840 (date inside letter) but Carmel post office was only open 1894-1902 (per Helbock). Rarity = 5

In 1634, the Frenchman Jean Nicolet was the first European to explore Wisconsin. He founded the Green Bay colony.

Jean Nicolet standing on the shores of Green Bay. Imperforate variety.

The area was mainly colonized by German, Scandinavian, and Swiss settlers. The French transferred the territory to Britain in 1763. The United States acquired the Wisconsin territory after the Revolution in 1783 but it remained under British Administration until the War of 1812.

Following transfer to the U.S., the region became a territory; finally admitted as the 28th state.

Wisconsin

Continued

100th Anniversary

Birds & Flowers

State flag 1

Territorial letter; South Port,, Wis.T. to Troy, NY; March 30, 1848; Rarity =5; transferred to Illinois at statehood; post office open 1857-1875; rate ten cents over 300 miles, enacted March 03, 1845; CDC; paid by octagonal balloon.

January 17, 1852 from Delafield, Wisconsin to Norwalk, Connecticut. 3 cent rate enacted July 1, 1847, unperforated type II.

California

September 09, 1850

The first European to explore the coast of California was Juan Rodrigues Cabrillo, who, in 1542, was a Portuguese sailing for the Spanish Empire. In 1579, the English explorer Francis Drake claimed a portion of the area for England.

Spanish missionaries began setting up small towns and presideos. The first was at San Diego in 1769. Beginning in 1820, trappers and settlers from the United States began to arrive. In 1821, California became independent of Spain. By 1846, the settlers rebelled against the Mexican rule and the California Republic was created. It lasted twenty-five days as the area was invaded by the United States during the Mexican-American War. Under the treaty of Guadeloupe Hidalgo of 1848, California was ceded to the Union. In 1848, the non-native population was estimated at 15,000. Then gold was discovered !

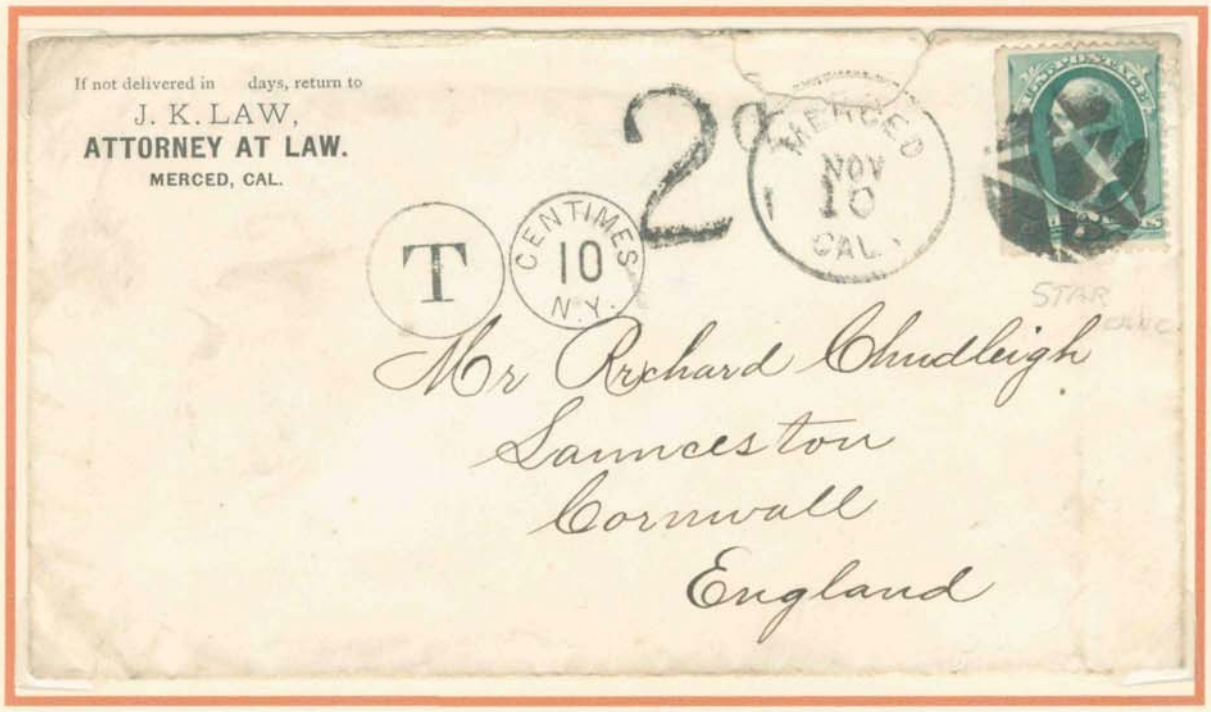
California was admitted as the thirty-first state.

San Francisco; July 30, 1883; back stamped 'PACKET LETTER', August 16th, to Edinburgh, Scotland, then forwarded to Harrogate, England (note the one penny English forwarding adhesive). UPU letter rate - 5 cents per 1/2 oz.

August 16, 1883, receiving back stamp.

California
Continued

State flag 2 and view of Pacific Ocean.



Merced to Cornwall, England, November 10, 1882, underpaid by two cents; two penny charge to addressee; double the deficiency (2d=4 cents); backstamped "Launceston"; November 29.

100th Anniversary

Birds & Flowers

State flag 1

Minnesota

May 11, 1858

In the late 1600s, French explorers led an expedition into Minnesota, and were soon followed by fur traders for French and then British companies. In 1825, Fort Snelling became the first permanent European-American settlement.

In 1825, Fort Snelling became the first permanent European-American settlement.

Minnesota became a U.S. territory in 1849.

By the 1860s large numbers of immigrants, especially Germans and Scandinavians, came to Minnesota; admitted as the 32nd state.

100th Anniversary

150th Anniversary w/ plate number

Birds & Flowers

State flags 1 & 2

Territorial cover; St. Paul to St. Peter; April 23, 1858; year date in CDS; 1 month before statehood.

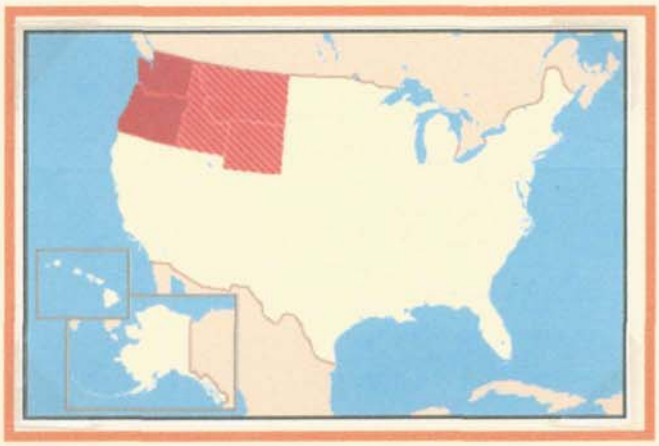
Pacific Northwest

The Pacific Northwest is that land generally between the Pacific Ocean and the Continental Divide in the Rocky Mountains. It covers the area of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, parts of Montana and California.

British captain and part-time pirate, Francis Drake sailed off the coast in 1579. During the 1740s, Imperial Russia sent Vitus Bering to the region. Into the mid 19th century, Russian settlers had established several communities in the area, reaching as far south as Fort Ross, California. George Vancouver charted the Pacific Northwest on behalf of Great Britain during June, 1792. The United States claimed the area as a result of the Lewis and Clark expedition and from the 1810s to the 1840s, it was called the 'Oregon Territory'. The 1846 Oregon Treaty solved most of the border arguments.

Oregon Territory Centennial issued July 14, 1936

Meriwether Lewis, William Clark and Sacagawea on Missouri River. Issued July 28, 1954.



The states shown in dark red are always included while the shaded areas are usually included in the part of the U.S. known as the Pacific Northwest.

John McLoughlin and Jason Lee, pioneers on Oregon Trail, issued August 14, 1948.

M. Lewis (1774-1809) William Clark (1770-1838) Issued May 14, 2004

Oregon Trail (with plate number) Issued February 12, 1993

Oregon

February 14, 1859

James Cook explored the coast in 1778 looking for the Northwest Passage. The Lewis and Clark expedition passed thru the area as part of the Louisiana Purchase. In 1811, John Jacob Astor financed the establishment of Fort Astor at the mouth of the Columbia River as a western outpost of his Pacific Fur Company. The Oregon Trail brought many settlers into Oregon in 1842-1843. The Oregon Territory was officially organized in 1848. Railroads provided access for settlers in the 1880s.
Oregon became the 33rd state to join the Union.

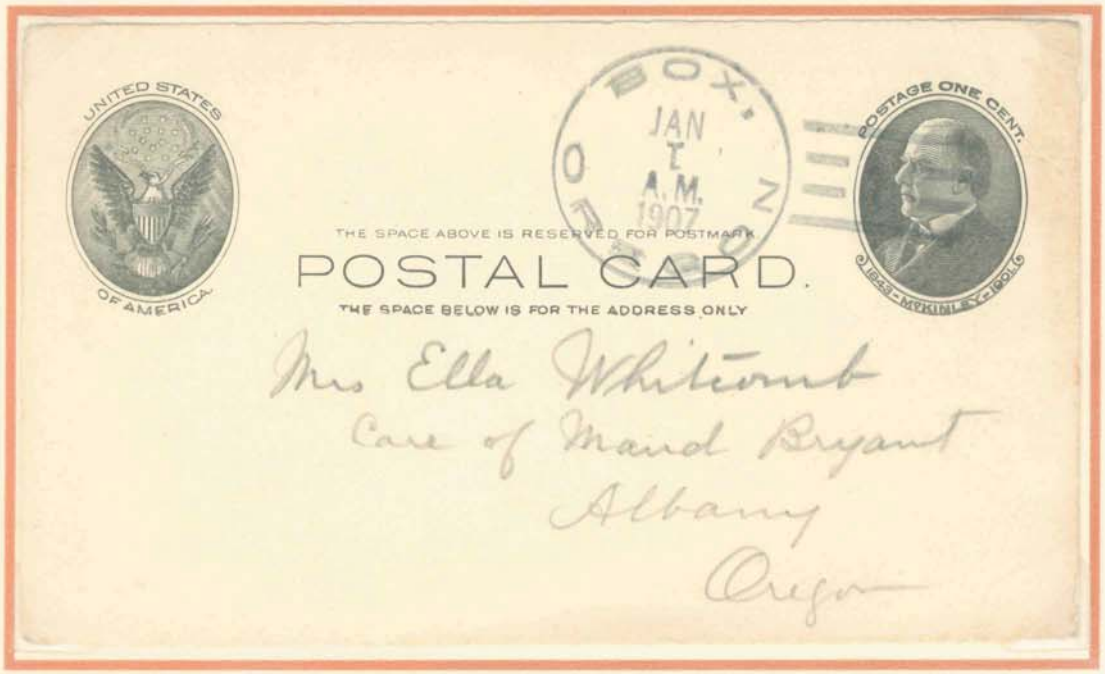
Embossed pre-cancel

100th anniversary of territory

Birds & Flowers

100th Anniversary

State flag



UX18 Postal card, Box, to Albany, Oregon, January 1, 1907,
One cent postal card rate, July 1, 1898 to November 2, 1917.
"1" inverted; post office open 1897-1907. Rarity = 7

Kansas

January 29, 1861

The first European to visit the area was Francisco Vasquez de Coronado, who explored the area in 1541. In 1803, most of Kansas was secured by the United States in the Louisiana Purchase. From 1812 to 1821, Kansas was part of the Missouri Territory. In 1827, Fort Leavenworth became the first permanent settlement of white Americans.

The Kansas-Nebraska Act became law on May 30, 1854, which established the Kansas Territory.

Missouri and Arkansas sent settlers into Kansas to sway votes in favor of slavery. Abolitionists from Massachusetts and other Free-Staters attempted to stop the spread of slavery. Kansas was admitted as a free state making it the thirty-fourth state to enter the Union.

100th Anniversary

Birds & Flowers

State flag 1

State flag 2

Territorial cover ; Leavenworth City to Pittsburgh, PA; June 26, 1858.
Post office open 1855-1871. Rarity = 3

West Virginia

June 20, 1863

In 1671, Governor William Berkeley of the Virginia Colony sent a party into the area. In 1716, Governor Alexander Spotswood also sent an excursion into the area. George Washington surveyed a large portion of the area between 1748 and 1751. A diary kept by the survey team indicates many German settlers. West Virginia was the only state to seceed from a confederate state in the Civil War; following the war, West Virginia was admitted to the Union.

Martinsburg, Virginia,
To Hodgeville. VA.
December 3, 1859

Martinsburgh, West Virginia'
To North Leominster, MA.
October 5, 1864.

100th Anniversary

Birds & Flowers

State flag 1

Territorial cover; Virginia City, Oct. 12, 1863 with carved cork killer, double circular date stamp.

Nevada

October 31, 1864

On March 2, 1861, the Nevada Territory separated from the Utah Territory and adopted its current name, shortened from Sierra Nevada (Spanish for "snowy range").

Eight days prior to the presidential election of 1864, statehood was rushed to the date of October 31 to help ensure Abraham Lincoln's reelection on 8 Nov. Nevada became the 36th state to join the Union.

100th Anniversary of first settlement

100th Anniversary of statehood

Birds & Flowers

State flags 1 & 2

Ione City (now a ghost town) to Stonington, CN; October 1, 1880; three cent embossed envelope; post office open 1865-1882. Rarity = 6

Nebraska

March 01, 1867

On May 30, 1854, the Kansas-Nebraska Act created the Nebraska Territory. In the 1860s, the first great wave of homesteaders poured into Nebraska to claim free land granted by the federal government. Many of the first farm settlers built their homes out of sod because they found so few trees on the grassy land. Nebraska became the 37th state.

100th anniversary of territorial status

Birds & Flowers

State flag

100th Anniversary of statehood

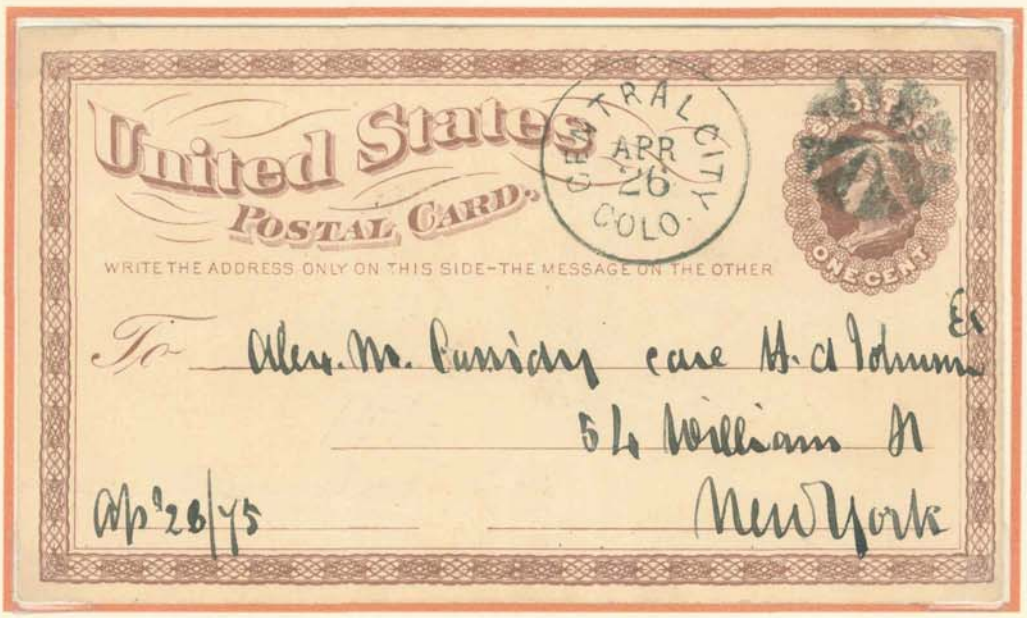
100th anniversary of Fort Kearny

Territorial cover, Nebraska City, double circular date stamp, sent within territory, then forwarded to New Jersey, with 3 cents due.

Colorado

August 01, 1876

The United States acquired a territorial claim with the Louisiana Purchase in 1803. Zebulon Pike led a U.S. Army expedition into the area in 1806. In 1851 Hispanic settlers from Taos, New Mexico, settled the village of San Luis which became Colorado's first permanent European settlement. Discovery of gold and silver brought many settlers. The provisional government of the territory was organized on October 24, 1859. The United States Congress passed an enabling act on March 3, 1875, providing the territory to become a state. Colorado was admitted as the 38th state on August 1, 1876.



Issue of 1873 postal card from Central City, Colorado Territory. to New York, April 26, 1875, Duplex Cork killer.

75th Anniversary

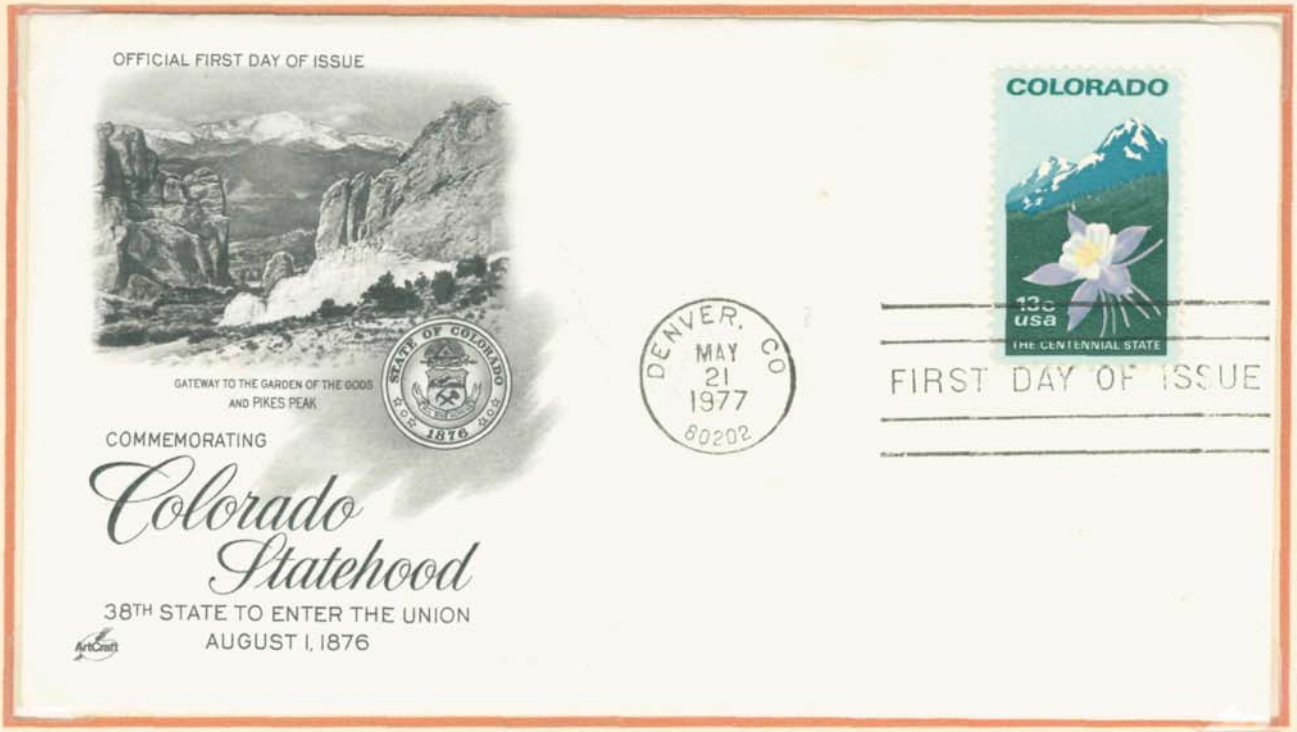
Birds & Flowers

State flag 1

State flag 2; view of Pike's Peak.

Colorado
Continued

Territorial; Mountain City to Keene, N.H.; November 16, 1867; target killer; 3 cent rate per 1/2 oz., July 1, 1863 to Oct. 1, 1883 per Sec. 22; 12 Stat 705. Post office open 1860-1869. Rarity = 5



100th anniversary stamp

North Dakota

November 02, 1889

The first European to reach the area was the French-Canadian trader La Verendrye, who led an exploration party to Mandin Villages in 1738. However, the native tribes were in sufficient contact that by the time that Lewis and Clark entered North Dakota in 1804, they were aware of French and the Spanish claims to their territory.
Dakota Territory was settled sparsely until the late 1800s when the railroads entered the region and aggressively marketed the land. A bill for statehood for North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, and Washington titled the Enabling Act of 1889 was passed on February 22, 1889 during the administration of Grover Cleveland. After Cleveland left office, it was left to his successor, Benjamin Harrison, to sign proclamations formally admitting North Dakota as the 39th state.

100th Anniversary

Birds & Flowers

State flag 1

Missent 1886 Dakota Territorial cover, showing circular date stamp of receiving city (Bristol, Conn).

South Dakota

November 02, 1889

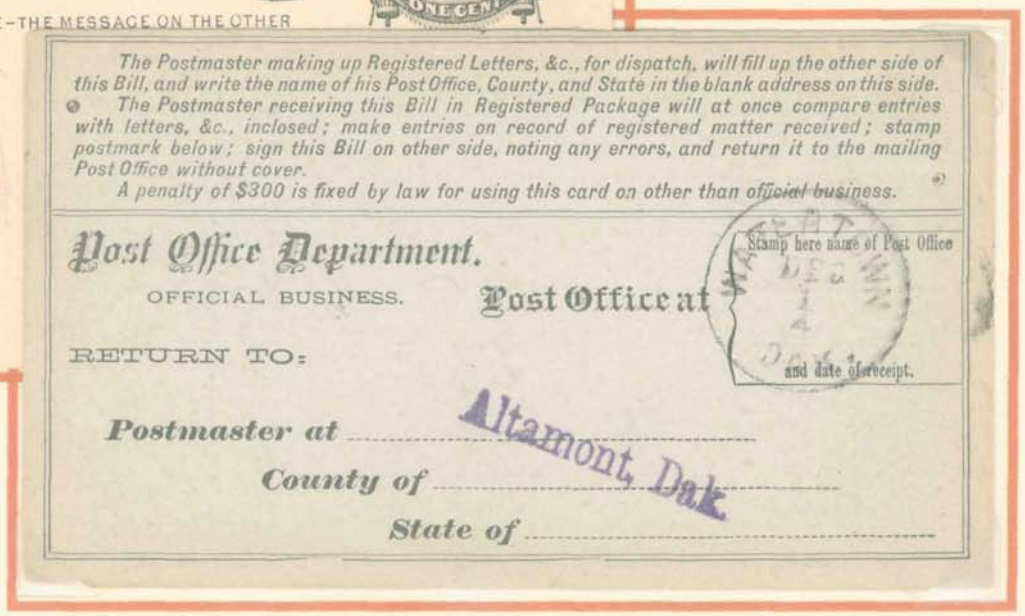
French and other European explorers in the 1700s encountered a variety of groups including the Omaha and Arikara (Ree), but by the early 1800s the Sioux (Dakota, Lakota, and Nakota) were dominant. In 1743, the La Verendrye brothers buried a plate near the site of modern day Pierre, claiming the region for France as part of greater Louisiana. The area became part of the Louisiana Purchase in 1803 and the Enabling Act of 1889, passed on February 22, 1889. It became the 40th state.

100th Anniversary

Birds & Flowers

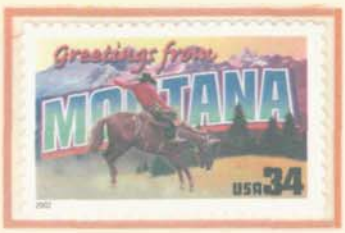
State flag

Territorial postal card; Deadwood to Lead, N.D. October 17, 1880; bank receipt for deposit. Target cancel.


The Postmaster making up Registered Letters, &c., for dispatch, will fill up the other side of this Bill, and write the name of his Post Office, County, and State in the blank address on this side.
The Postmaster receiving this Bill in Registered Package will at once compare entries with letters, &c., inclosed; make entries on record of registered matter received; stamp postmark below; sign this Bill on other side, noting any errors, and return it to the mailing Post Office without cover.
A penalty of $300 is fixed by law for using this card on other than official business.

Post Office Department.
OFFICIAL BUSINESS.
Post Office at
Stamp here name of Post Office and date of receipt.
WATERTOWN
NOV 29
DAK.
RETURN TO:
Postmaster at Altamont, Dak.
County of
State of

Registry Bill used as a return receipt, dated November 29, 1884; Watertown to Altamont, Dakota Territory.



Montana

November 08, 1889

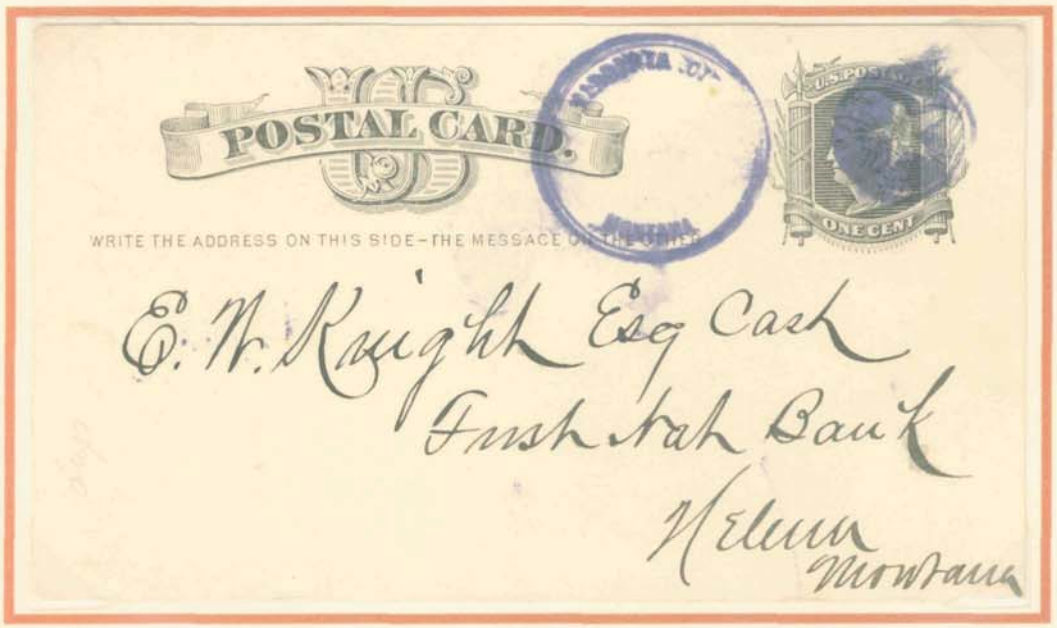
After the Lewis and Clark expedition (1803-1806, Montana became a United States territory on May 26, 1864. Fort Shaw was the first settlement in the territory in the spring of 1867. The Homestead Act of 1862, revised in the early 1900s, encouraged many young couples to settle in the area and take up cattle ranching. It gave the homesteading couple 320 acres provided they stayed three years. Montana became the 41st state in the Union.

100th Anniversary

Birds & Flowers

50th Anniversary w/ plate number

State flag 1 & 2



1880 postal card; territorial Virginia City to Helena, Montana; , with purple negative star killer.

Washington

November 11, 1889

The Spanish Nootka Convention of 1790 opened the area to explorers and trappers. Beginning in 1792, Robert Gray established trade in otter sea pelts. The Lewis and Clark expedition entered the area on October 10, 1805. In 1819, Spain ceded their claims to the territory to the United States and on June 15, 1846, Britain ceded its claims to the U.S. in the Treaty of Oregon. In 1836, Marcus Whitman, a missionary, established several missions along the Oregon Trail, which helped many immigrants become settlers. By 1846, many more settlers ended up in Washington, and on March 2, 1853, Washington Territory was organized. Washington became the 42nd state to join the Union.

Business reply cover from Walla Walla, Feb. 25, 1888; Territorial status, embossed envelope issue of 1884 - 1886.

100th Anniversary

Birds & Flowers

State flag 1

Idaho

July 03, 1890

Created in 1863, the Idaho Territory included parts of the present-day state, Oregon, Washington, and Dakota territories. The first organized communities, within the present borders of Idaho, were established in 1860.
After some trials and tribulation as a territory, including the chaotic transfer of the territorial capital from Lewiston to Boise, disenfranchisement of the large Mormon minority and a federal attempt to split the territory between Washington Territory and Nevada, Idaho as the 43rd state achieved statehood.

100th Anniversary

Birds & Flowers

State flag 1 & 2

Embosed envelope; territorial; Boise City to Minersville, PA; May 17, 1887.

Wyoming

July 10, 1890

Fur trappers were in the area in the late 1700s. John Colter of the Lewis and Clark expedition described the land in 1807. His reports of the Yellowstone country-side were considered to be fictional. Robert Stuart and a party of five discovered South Pass in 1812, which later became the Oregon Trail. In 1850, Jim Bridger located what is known as Bridger Pass, which the Union Pacific Railroad used in 1868.

After the completion of the railroad, settlers arrived and the federal government established the Wyoming Territory on July 25, 1868. The Homestead Act caused many settlers to take advantage of the free land to start small ranches.

Wyoming was admitted into the United States as the 44th state.

Territorial cover Cheyenne, November 21, 1879, CDS duplex cork killer.

50th Anniversary

State flag

Birds & Flowers

Utah

January 04, 1896

Following the assassination of Joseph Smith, Jr., in Carthage, Illinois, in 1844, more than 11,000 Latter-Day Saints, after struggling with neighbors, left with Brigham Young and a regiment of California volunteers and settled in Utah in 1847. On May 10, 1869, the Transcontinental railroad was completed which brought many non-Mormon settlers into the area. When Utah applied for admission to the Union, one of the requirements was that a ban on polygamy be written into its constitution. Statehood was officially granted as the forty-fifth state in the Union.

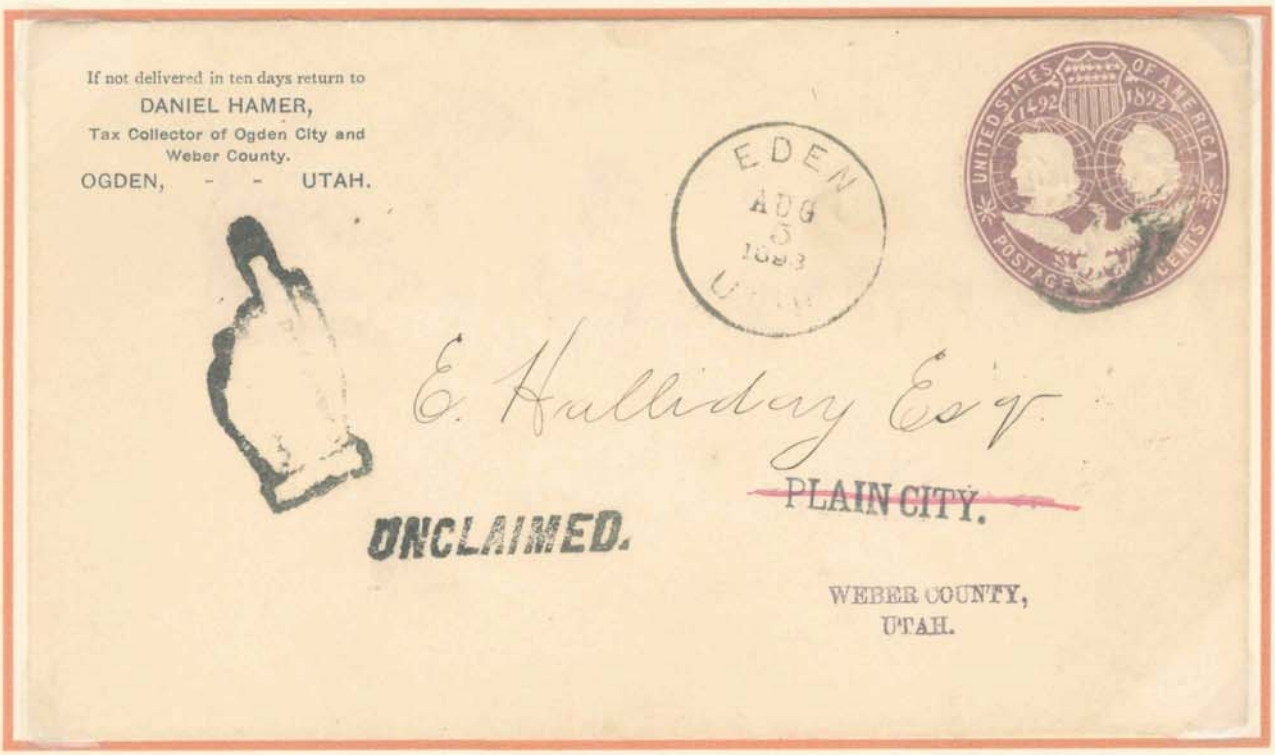
Salt Lake City Meter Cancel

100th Anniversary

75th anniversary transcontinental railroad

Birds & Flowers

State flag



Eden; unclaimed 1893 Territorial; embossed Columbian envelope.

Oklahoma

November 16, 1907

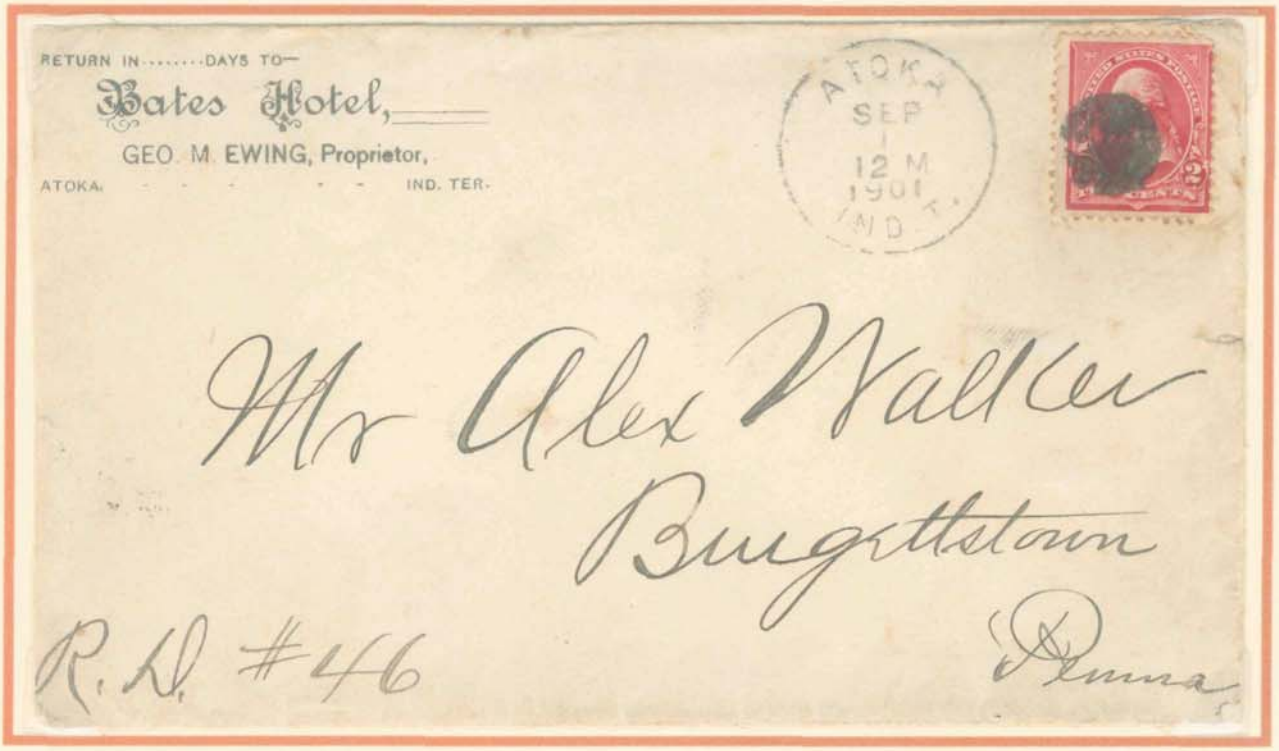
Thousands of Native Americans, including those making up the "Five Civilized Tribes", were removed from their lands in Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, and Tennessee and placed in the Oklahoma territory. Attempts to create an all-Indian state named Oklahoma, and a later attempt to create an all-Indian state named Sequoyah failed.

Native American Centennial

50th Anniversary

Birds & Flowers

State flag



Atoka, Indian Territory to Pennsylvania; September 1, 1901; cork duplex killer.

Oklahoma
Continued

The Indian Territory, also known as the Indian country, was land set aside within the US for use to the Native American Tribes. The general borders were created by the Indian Intercourse Act in 1834. The territory had its roots in the British Royal Proclamation of the year 1763 which limited Caucasian settlement to some Crown lands east of the Appalachian Mountains. Many Native Americans continue to live in Oklahoma, especially in the eastern part.

100th anniversary of The Five Civilized Indian Tribes of Oklahoma

100th anniversary of Statehood

Oklahoma was the 46th state to enter the Union.

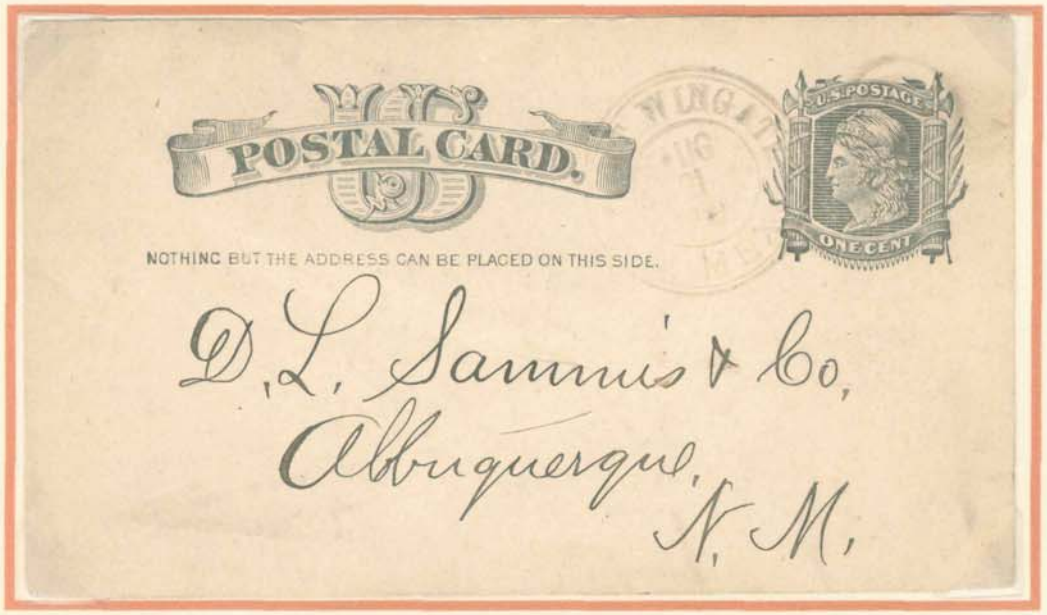
Kingfisher, Oklahoma Territory to St. Louis, MO; April 10, 1884; Embossed Columbian envelope.

New Mexico

January 06, 1912

Pre-canceled plate block.

The first permanent European settlement was founded at the San Juan Colony on the Rio Grande in 1598. In1609, a settlement was established at Santa Fe. As a part of New Spain, the area passed to independent Mexico following the 1810-12 Mexican War of Independence. Traders moved into the area along with small trapping parties and in early 1822, the Santa Fe Trading Company opened a trading post. War, and the Treaty of Guadalupe Hildalgo, Mexico ceded the area to the United States and on September 9, 1850, the Territory of New Mexico was established. The Southern Pacific Railroad built its second transcontinental railroad thru the purchased land in 1881, bringing settlers into the territory. New Mexico became the 47th state.



Issue of September 28, 1875 postal card from Fort Wingate, New Mexico Territory to Albuquerque, New Mexico; August 21, 1876.

50th Anniversary

Birds & Flowers

State flag

Arizona

February 14, 1912

Spanish explorer Corando entered the area in 1540-42. Jesuit Father Kino developed a chain of missions and taught Christianity to the natives. When the U.S. occupied the Mexican Republic, they gave up the northern territories including what was later Arizona. The Arizona Territory was declared by Washington on February 24, 1863; Arizona became the 48th state.

50th Anniversary

State flag

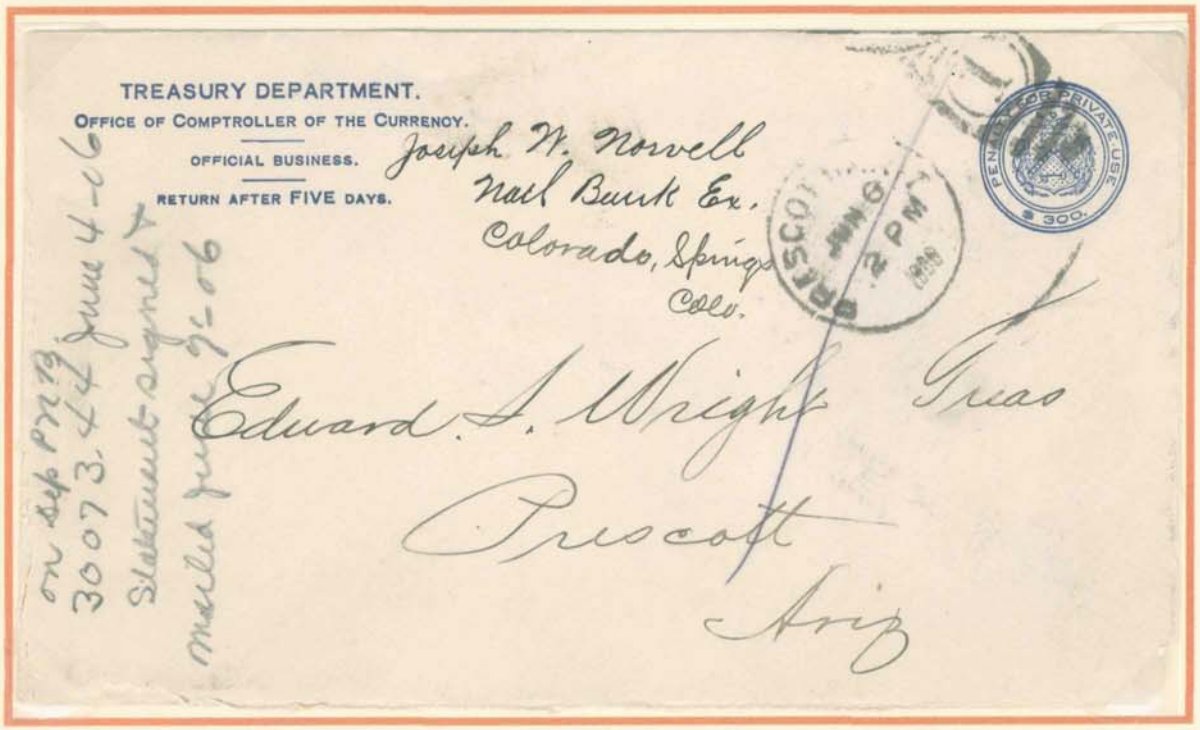
Birds & Flowers

Mailed from Globe, Arizona, September 5, 1899; Territorial cover

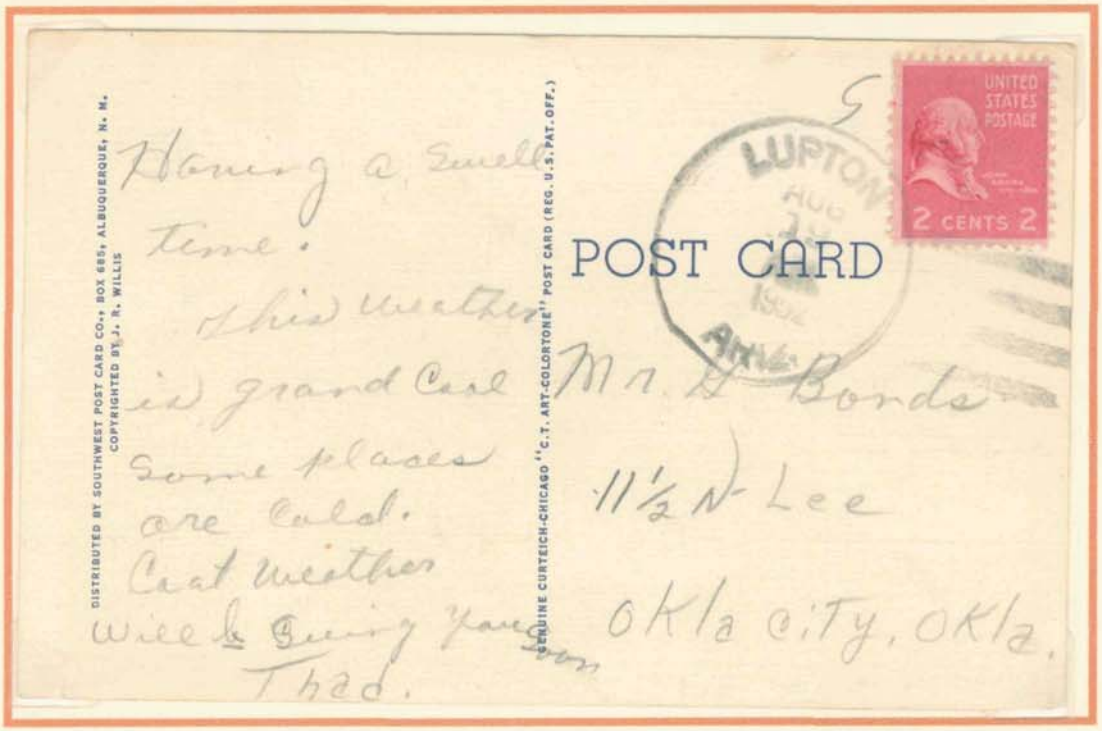
Arizona

Continued

State flag and view of desert; coil; self adhesive.



Territorial cover with receiving stamp on front; Prescot; June 6, 1888.



Lupton, Arizona to Oklahoma City, OK; August 19, 1952. Lupton Post Office was opened in 1917 and closed in 1966. Two cent post card rate January 1, 1952.

Alaska

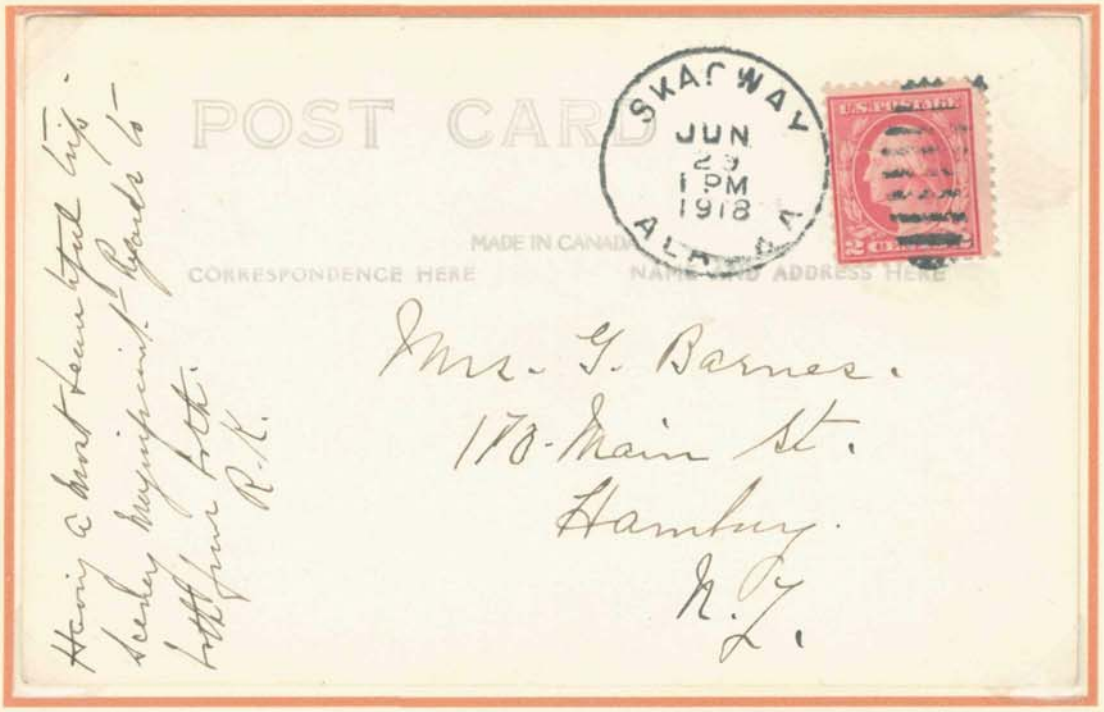
January 03, 1959

The first European contact occurred in 1741 when Vitus Bering led an expedition for the Russian Navy. The first settlement was founded in 1784 and the Russian-American Company promoted immigration during the mid 1800s. In the 1890s, gold rushes brought thousands of miners and settlers into Alaska. It was granted territorial status in 1912. World War II and Japanese occupation of parts of Alaska and its recovery became a matter of national pride. Alaska became the 49th state to join the Union.

100th anniversary of purchase

Birds & Flowers

State flag 1



Post card, Skagway to Hamburg, NY, June 29, 1918, territorial, rate 2 cents per rate change of November 2, 1917.

Alaska
Continued

State flag 2 and breeching whale

Territorial Cover; Air Mail First Flight Cover; Barrow, Alaska; August 15, 1938;

The first adhesive issued as an air mail commemorating statehood that was issued on the date the territory became a state.

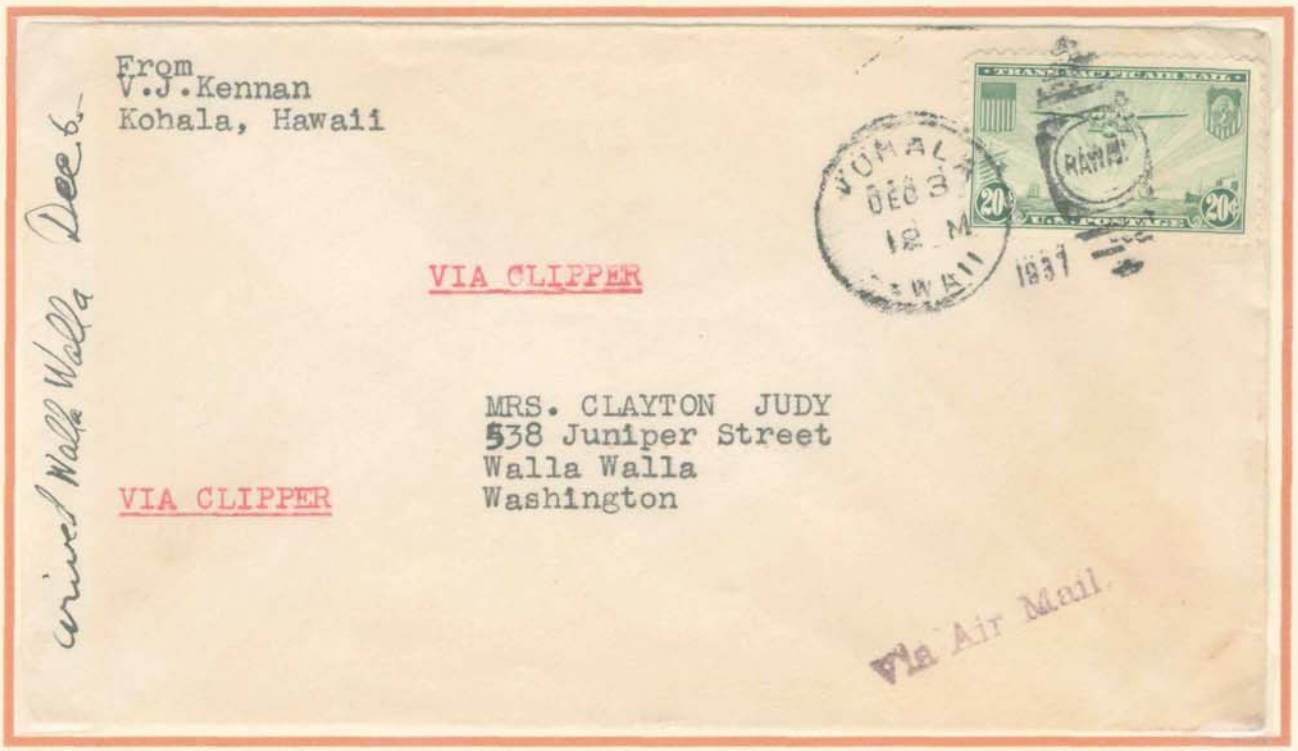
Self adhesive issued to commemorate the 50th anniversary of statehood. Shows Mount McKinley and an Iditarod team.

Hawaii

August 21, 1959

The first recorded European contact with the islands was in 1778 by British explorer James Cook, however, there is substantial evidence of earlier Spanish, and possibly Irish visits to Hawaii. Hawaii is one of three U.S. states that were independent prior to becoming part of the U.S.
The kingdom of Hawaii existed from 1810 until 1893.
It was an independent republic from 1894 until 1898, when it was annexed by the United States, becoming a territory in 1900, and the 50th state.

Last ruler of the Hawai'ian Kingdom.



Kohala to Walla Walla, WA; Territorial; December 3, 1937; airmail.

Hawaii
Continued

State flag 2; island view and flora

Airmail issued on date of admission

Birds & Flowers

State flag 1

Registered Honolulu to Philadelphia; Territorial; February 1, 1901; 2 cents postage; 8 cents registry.

District of Columbia

The initial plan for the "Federal District" was a diamond, measuring 10 miles (16 km) on each side, totaling 100 square miles (259 km), as specified by the United States Constitution. The exact site on the Potomac River was chosen by George Washington and the city was named in his honor on September 9, 1791. It was named the 'District of Columbia' because Columbia was a poetic name for the United States used at the time.

1938 Booklet pane

Line pairs

Scarce right hand plate block printed by American Banknote Company (A) in 1912, imperforate.

District of Columbia also included surrounding towns as shown by Georgetown, DC circular date stamp. Note the received date stamp and the blue general delivery date stamp on this postal stationery.

150th anniversary of the statute atop the capitol building 'Peace'.

District of Columbia

Continued

D.C flag and cherry blossums

Mourning cover; Washington to Tokio(sic), Japan; December 29, 1880. 5 cent UPU Rate.

Commemorating 200th anniversary District of Columbia

Commemorating 150th anniversary Capitol Building

Folded Letter; July 30, 1831; City Of Washington; to Philadelphia; 25 cent rate (over 400 miles.)