

MOURNE MAILS

CO DOWN POSTAL HISTORY TO 1900, MARKS and no marks, ROUTES, RATES AND USAGE, RELATED TO THAT IN IRELAND AND BRITAIN in 18 and 19c.



POST TOWNS - BALLYNAHINCH BANBRIDGE BANGOR CASTLEWELLAN
CLOUGH COMBER DONAGHADEE DOWN DROMORE GILFORD HILLSBOROUGH
HOLYWOOD KILKEEL KILLINCHY KILLYLEAGH LOUGHBRICKLAND NEWRY
NEWTOWNARDS RATHFRILAND ROSTREVOR WARRENPOINT.
SUB-OFFICES & RECEIVING HOUSES - ARDGLASS BRYANSFORD
CARROWDORE CLANDEBOYE COOLSALLAGH DONACLONEY GREENCASTLE
HILLTOWN KATESBRIDGE KILLOUGH LAURENCETOWN MOYALLON
NEWCASTLE OMEATH PORTAFERRY SAINTFIELD SCARVA STRANGFORD
WARINGSTOWN



DOWN

As a backstamp - the twin arc circle. An entire, Downpatrick to Leeds 14 NOV 1841. Also a red Dublin diamond. On face the Penny Red adhesive is cancelled by a Down 'Maltese' Cross.

POST TOWNS

WHERE FULL POSTAL BUSINESS WAS TRANSACTED

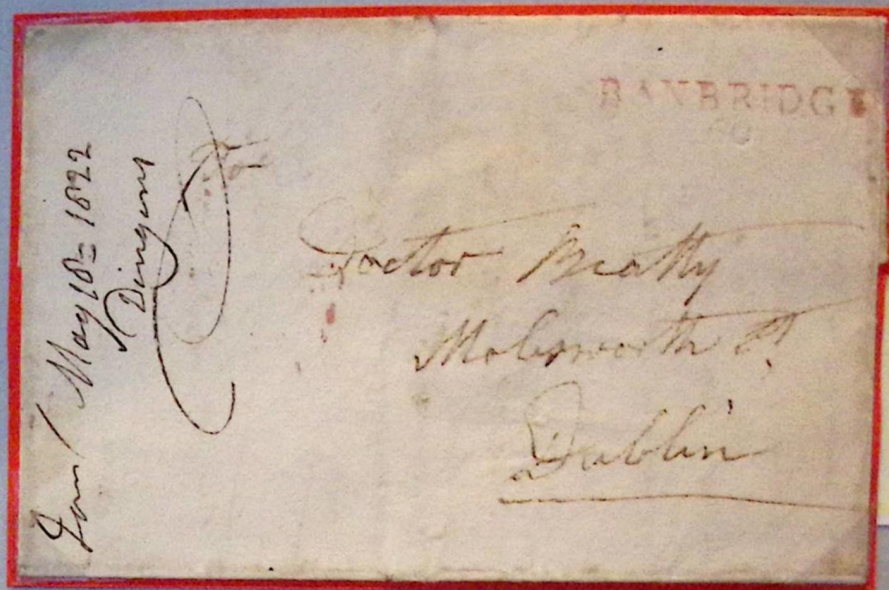
SUB-OFFICES & RECEIVING HOUSES

WHERE LETTERS WERE ACCEPTED BUT FULL POSTAL FACILITIES WERE NOT AVAILABLE. MAIL WAS SENT TO THE POST TOWN FOR CANCELLING ETC.

MAIL COACH ROUTES - from Dublin - NEWRY - BANBRIDGE - HILLSBOROUGH -
Belfast :: Belfast - DONAGHADEE (for the Packet to Portpatrick)::

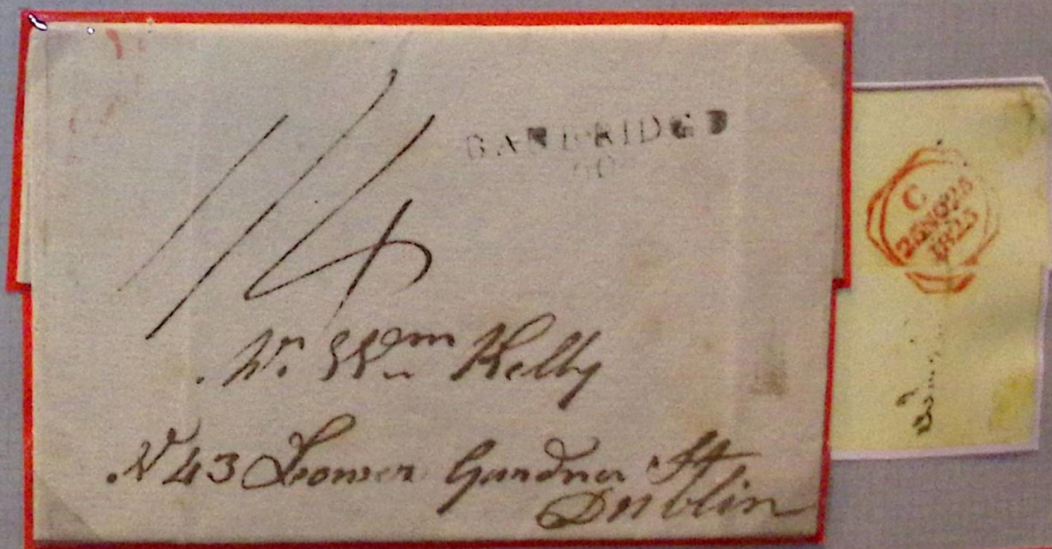
MAIL CARTS - RATHFRILAND - Randalstown (Antrim):: Armagh - Portadown -
HILLSBOROUGH::

HORSE POSTS - NEWRY - DOWNPATRICK - STRANGFORD:: DOWNPATRICK -
NEWCASTLE:: DOWNPATRICK - ARDS - PORTAFERRY:: in 1832::



STRAIGHT LINE MILEAGE

RED 18 MAY 1822 **BANBRIDGE/60** - Irish miles from Dublin, to calculate the post rate, for this Post Town. An early record for this mark. Single sheet rate, 8 pence, manuscript black, thus unpaid at Banbridge and collected in Dublin. Red octagonal arrival back stamp.



And in **BLACK** 24 NOV 1825. double rate of postage for a two sheet letter - one shilling and four pence 1/4. Again ms. black - unpaid. The same Dublin arrival mark, code C, for the office section.

John Fowler Esq
52 Jarvis Street
Dublin

Wm H



BANBRIDGE
27 DEC 1832

BANBRIDGE
27 DEC 1832

STRAIGHT LINE

- Here BANBRIDGE is higher, longer, 55mm. 27 DEC 1832 one would expect to calculate the rate on the cover front but here it is a backstamp, (darkened red). The Dublin arrival mark is on the front - red octagonal PAID, double lined for evening duty. Manuscript pence pre-paid red.

- Here the 60 miles has disappeared 27 DEC 18323 and the BANBRIDGE is 50mm again a backstamp.

Mr. Magennis
about the Abbey
Cineam. &c.
Nov. 4. 1732

DUBLIN
NOV 4

To
The Revd Doct Henry Leslie
Hillsborough near
Down

The small DUBLIN black 'Bishopmark' was the earliest dated postmark.
Here it crosses the flap

use 1730-45.

Dublin to Hillsborough 4 NOV 1732.



Post rate (ms)

8

pence

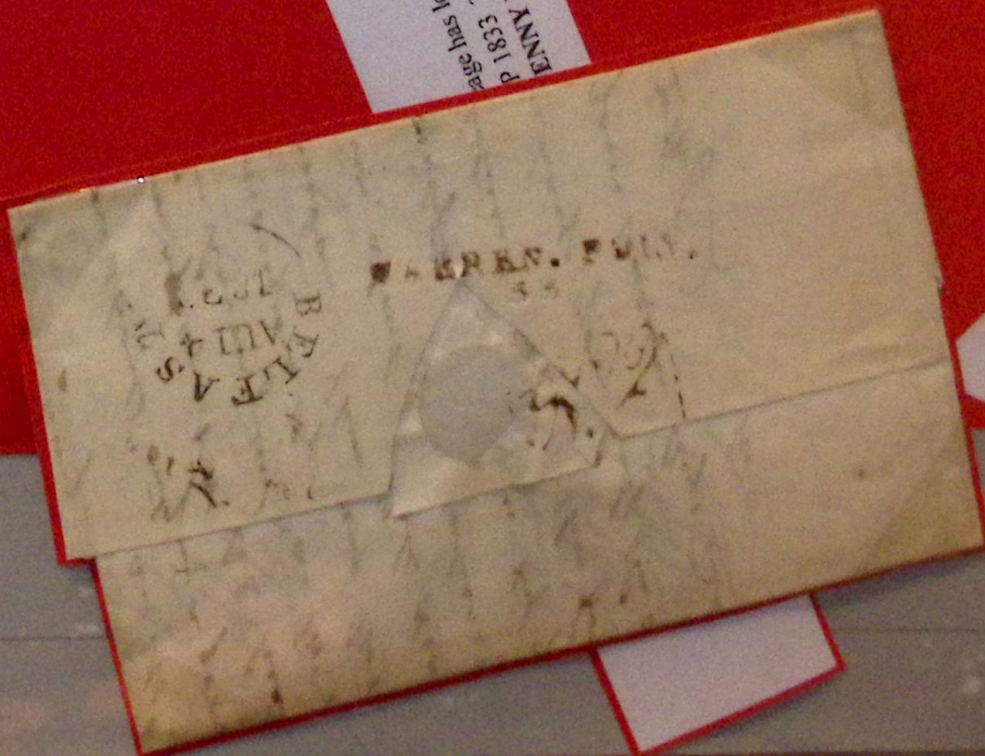
is double for a two page letter - - 4d, above 40 Irish miles from Dublin.

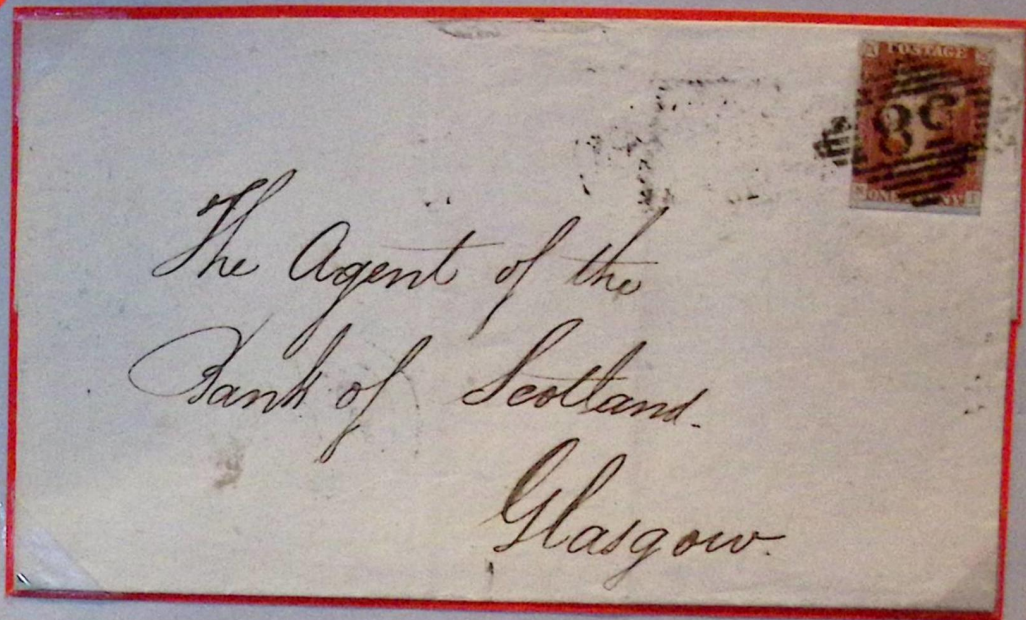


MILEAGE

Designated a sub BALLYNAHINCH/74 straight line, Irish miles from Dublin. 8d
rate one penny rebated under the Assimilation of Currency Act.
Dublin arrival octagonal PAID, A code, afternoon.

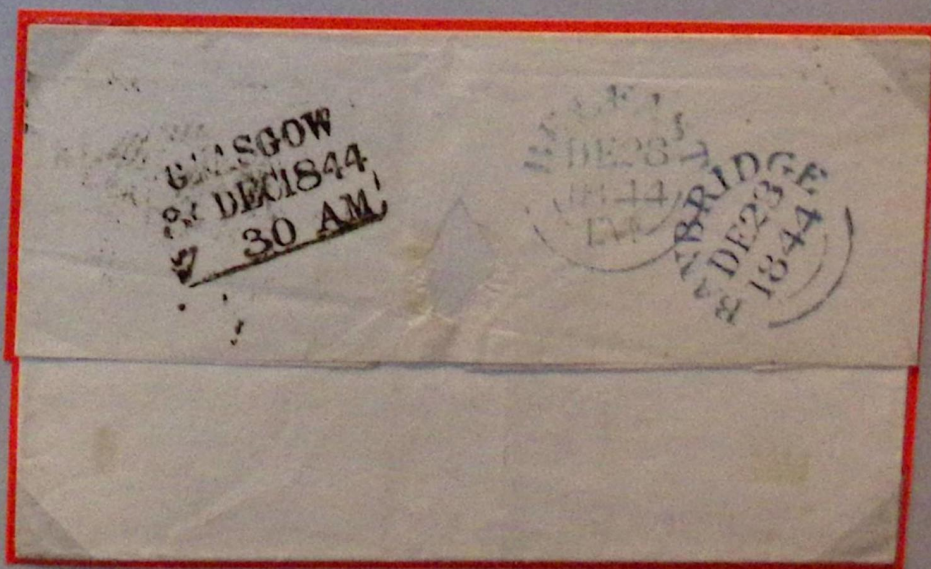
ENNY POST area - on face.
P 1833 The rate is ms black, unpaid.
age has lost the S and gained a stop 5



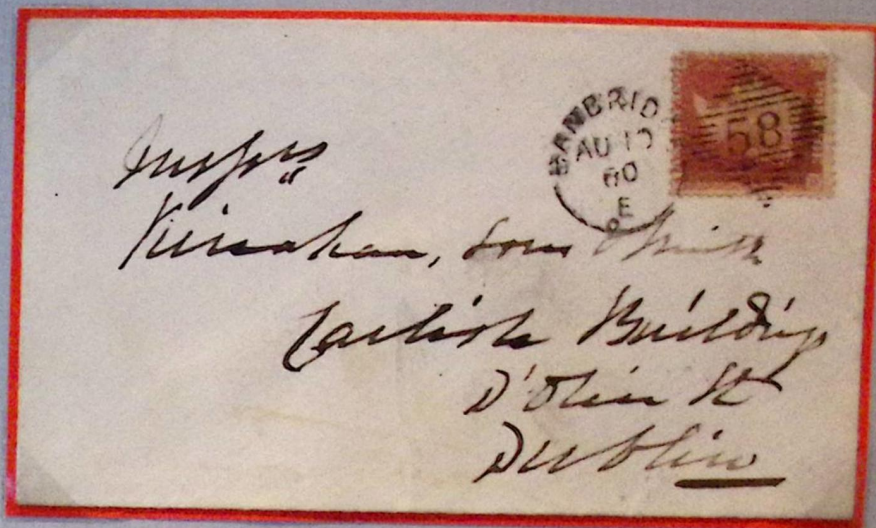


DIAMOND

The "Maltese" Cross cancellations were replaced in May 1844 by barred cancellations. In England and Wales the outlines were circles and ovals. Scots stamps were rectangular. The Irish outline was diamond. Each Post town was allocated a number, loosely alpha-numeric; Banbridge was 58. The mark cancels the 1d red adhesive of 1841. Backstamps :- twin arcs of Banbridge and Belfast - code Mg; with boxed Glasgow.



Similar cover 28 DEC 1844. The backstamps :- twin arcs with the Belfast code EVg = evening; and boxed Glasgow. The front adhesive again cancelled by 58 in diamond of bars.



DUPLEX

Double stamps from April 1857 - DUPLEX. The diamond of bars still cancels the adhesive and the second element is a circle with town name, date. 10 AUG 1860 The mark cancels the 1d red 'Star' of 1854-58, and the code E = evening. Backstamp Dublin single arc, arrival.



BANTAM

The halfpenny red, issued 1st Oct. 1870, was nicknamed 'Bantam', here marked with the Banbridge Duplex 2 NOV 1871, a pair of plate 6. Backstamp circle of Ballymena, arrived the next day. This adhesive was a rate for printed papers, without manuscript internally. This cover appears to be charged 2 pence - a rather small cover to be overweight.

BANBRIDGE
DE 20
1849



1
DE 21
1849
A

L
DE 22
A

BANBRIDGE - TRANS-ATLANTIC

20 DEC 1849 from *Gilford*, put in at LAURENCETOWN, Receiving House for BANBRIDGE and so marked. The rate, one shilling, inclusive of land postage, 5 cents in the U S; was paid by the 1s embossed green adhesive (1847-54), cancelled by Banbridge numeral 58. Destination New York where the curved red PAID and 5 CENTS were applied.

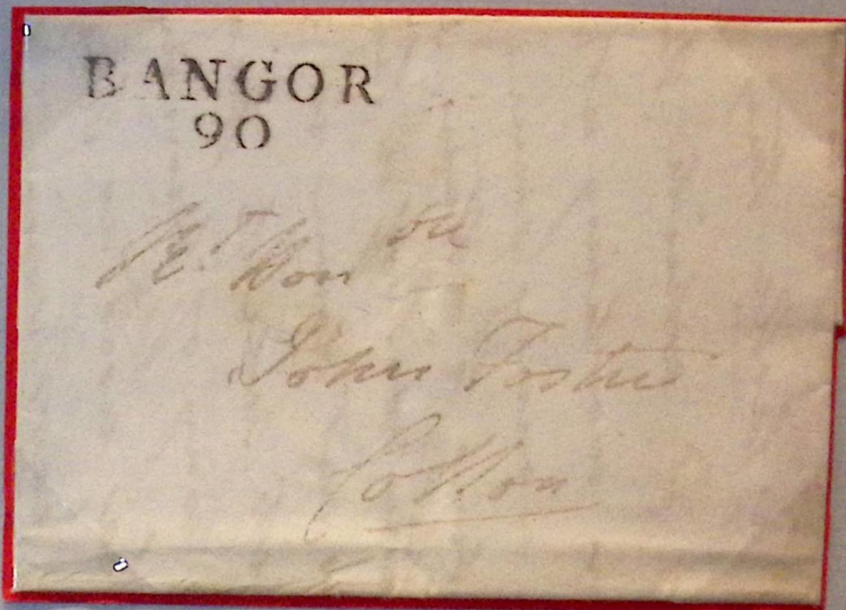
Ms. instruction *Via Royal Mail Steamer*. Backstamps Banbridge twim arc, Dublin red transit circle, code A and Liverpool black octagonal.



BANBRIDGE
B
NOV 27
68

BANBRIDGE - TRANS-ATLANTIC

A campaign had been started for IMPERIAL PENNY POSTAGE and by 1 JAN 1868 a rate of sixpence had been agreed. Here 27 NOV 1868, the 6d lilac adhesive, PL 6 (1867-80) is cancelled by Banbridge 58 barred. Then over struck with NEW YORK PAID ALL accountancy red mark. Backstamp circular Banbridge.



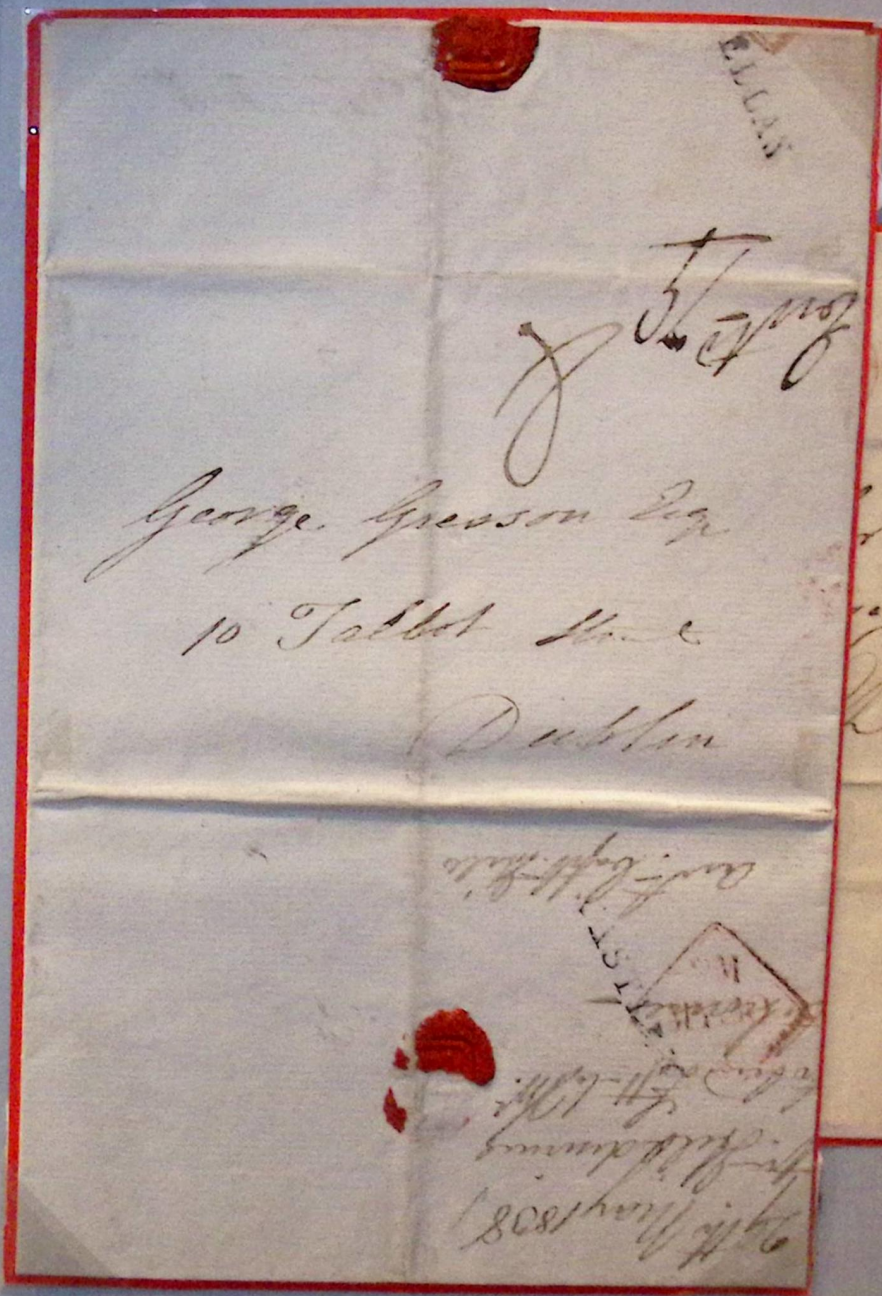
MILEAGE

Ninety Irish miles to Dublin. The Straight line Mileage town mark **BANGOR/90**. c1815, to Collon (Co Louth). There is no paid mark, charge mark, free mark nor manuscript. Although it has the postal mileage mark it may have been carried privately.



D.R

The double ring cancellations gradually replaced the 'Duplex' marks from 1894 onwards. **BANBRIDGE 2 SEP 1896** to Lancaster. The mark combined town ident, cancellation and date/time. The **halfpenny rate, 1870**, for postcards continued until the Great War.



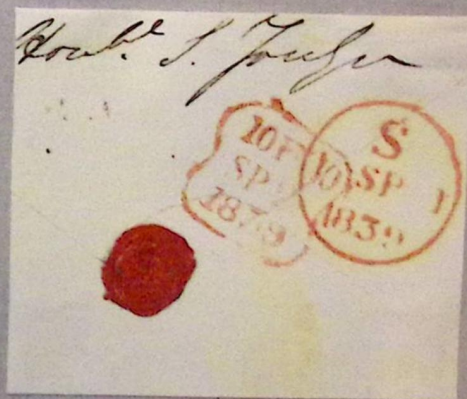
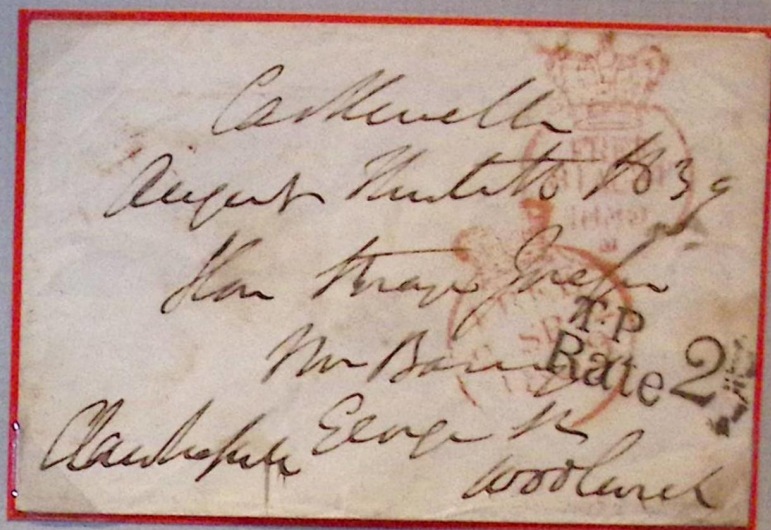
UNPAID

STRAIGHT LINE

PAID

- 29 MAY 1838 from Bryansford. Although this village was a receiving House for Castlewellan there is no sign of an RH mark. The manuscript rate *8* eight pence is unpaid, black. Arrival red diamond of Dublin.

- 24 OCT 1834, the manuscript *8* eight pence is pre-paid, red. Straight line town mark again of CASTLEWELLAN. The rate 55 -65 miles from the Capital. Red octagonal arrival mark of Dublin.



FREE

CASTLEWELLAN 30 AUG 1839 to Woolwich. Dublin Crowned circle free (1835-40). London Crowned circle free (squat crown)(1815-40). **T P RATE 2**, stamp used on mail coming from the General Post (although free), charged 2 pence in to the local Two Penny Post area. Backstamps - **Castlewellan** twin arc; red circle, code **S** for Sunday struck at London; red indented mark of the Twopenny Post. A pleasing range of marks. Free privilege to Lord Clanbrassil, third Earl of Roden (front sig.) but signed on back by his second son, Hon S. Jocelyn, aged 16.

*Mrs. Oakeley
Tan y Bwlch
Carnarvon
N. Wales*

PENNY TO TAN Y BWLCH

1d red Plate 72, the second 'visible' plate, is cancelled by 125 in diamond of Castlewellan.
Backstamps, small circles Castlewellan and Newry. 1 JAN 1868, also Carnarvon and
Tanybwlch, 3 Jan 1867

*Rosedale Home report is
not yet out of the Printer's
hands*

SACRED CLEANING.

ANTICIPATING.

We talk of the land of the bless'd
That country so bright and so fair;
And oft are its glories confess'd—
But what must it be to be there?

We talk of its pathways of g
Its walls deck'd with jewe
Its wonders and pleasures u
But what must it be to be

We talk of its peace and its
The robes which the glor
The songs of the blessed ab
But what must it be to la

We talk of its freedom from
From sorrow, temptation
From trials without and wil

MOTTO FOR 1868.

WITH HIM.

"Father, I will that they also whom Thou hast
given me, be WITH ME where I am;" (JOHN xvii, 24.)
".....and they that were ready went in WITH HIM to
the marriage;" (MATT. xxv, 10.)

Knowing as I am known,
How shall I bless that word,

- from Priscilla, Countess Annesley, the Castle, Castlewellan. Letter contents - a list of
mission collections, religious tracts. Also a little note *Rosedale home report is not yet out of
the Printer's hands.*

PRISCILLA CECILIA ANNESLEY.

Excellent Contribution will be gratefully received by Countess Annesley, Castlewellan,
request's subscribers will look over this list, and to men of any writers continued
case with her.

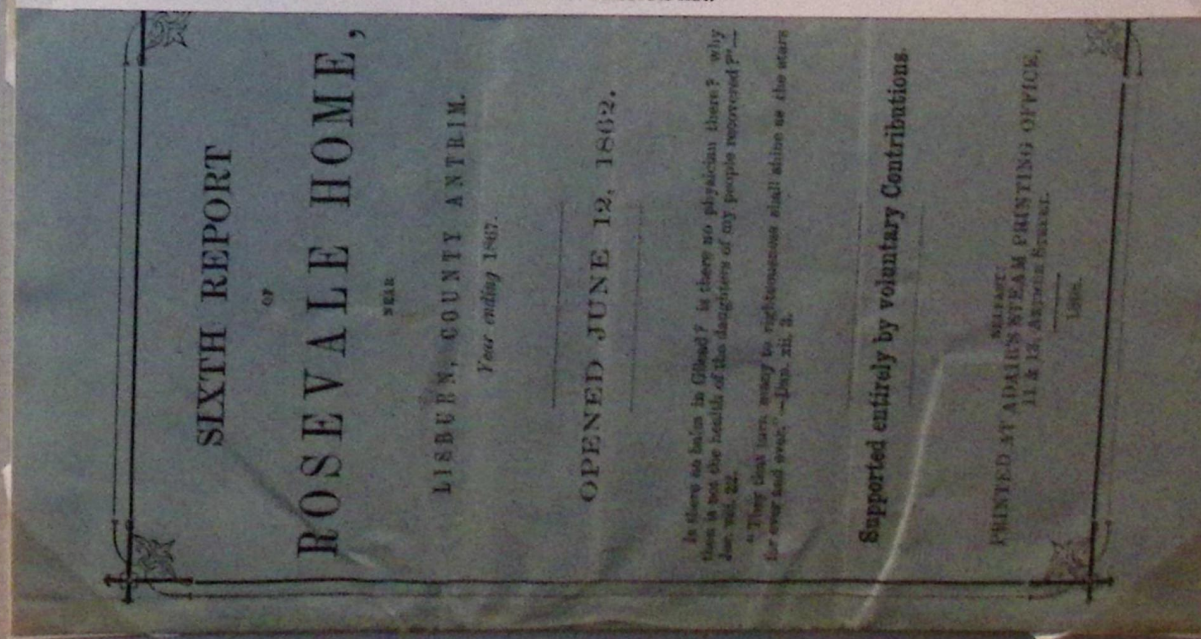
Printed at Richmond Green, Birmingham.

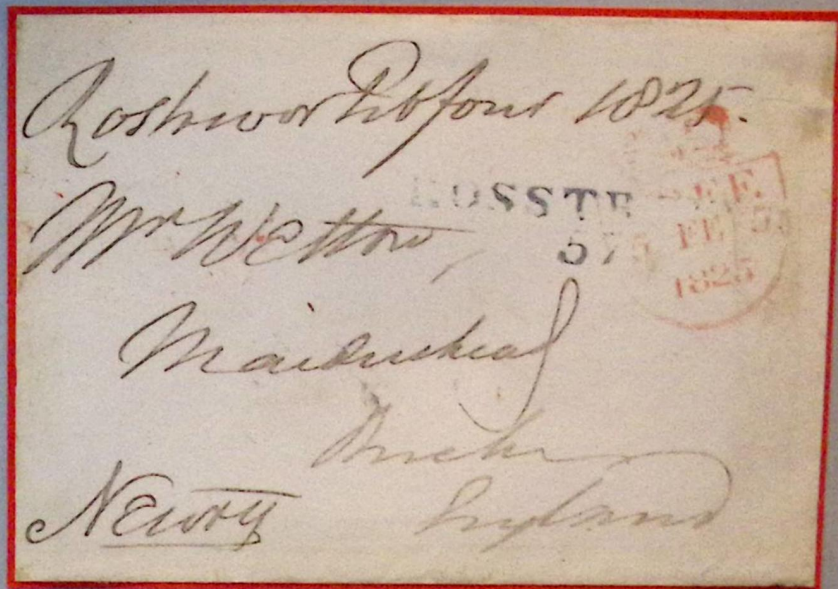


TWO PENCE TO TAN Y BWLCH

Two 1d reds, Plate 90, both cancelled by the Castlewellan 125.
Higher rate due to the weight of enclosure. Small circle Backstamps, Castlewellan, Newry,
Carnarvon (2), 21 Jan, Tanybwlch (2), 22 Jan - whose clerk had advanced his year by now.

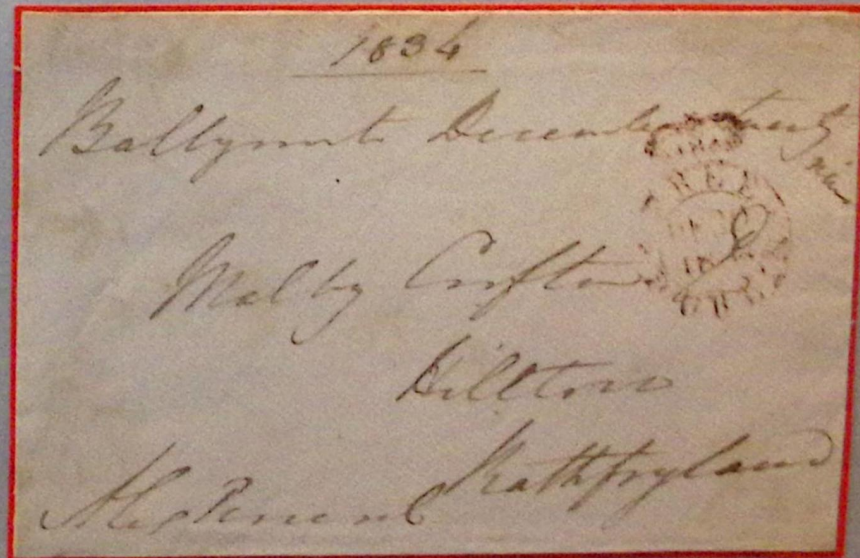
Lady Priscilla's Rosedale Home report available from the Printer's hands and heavier than
her mission list.





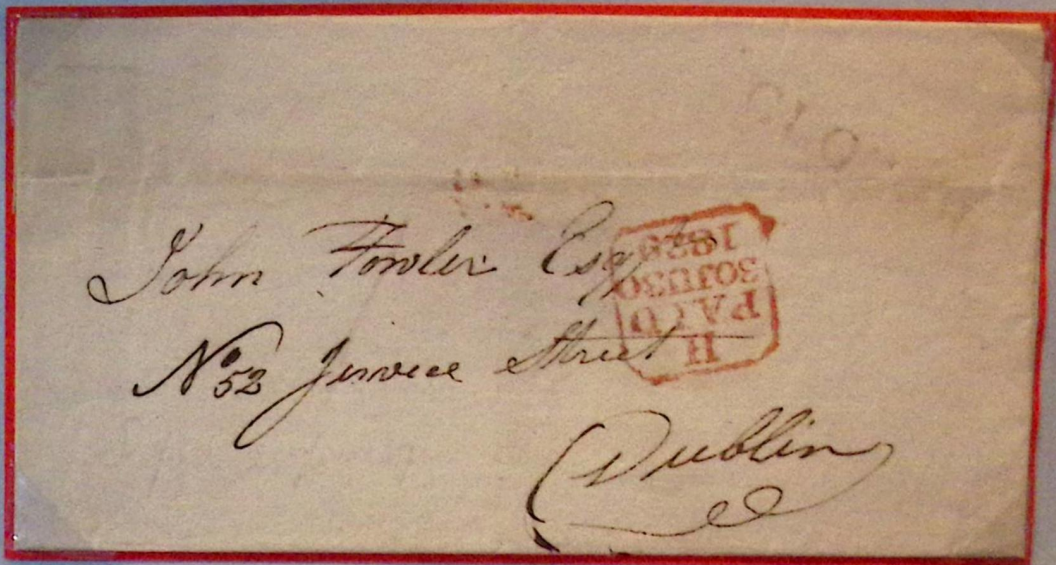
ROSTREVOR FREE

4 FEB 1825 to Maidenhead. Red free, large 'Spade' type of Dublin 1813-32. Straight line mileage ROSSTREVOR 57 in blue. Free post for Francis Needham, Viscount Newry (sig) and Morne, Earl of Kilmory. Col. 86 Regt. Titles 1819-32.



BALLYMOTE to RATHFRILAND

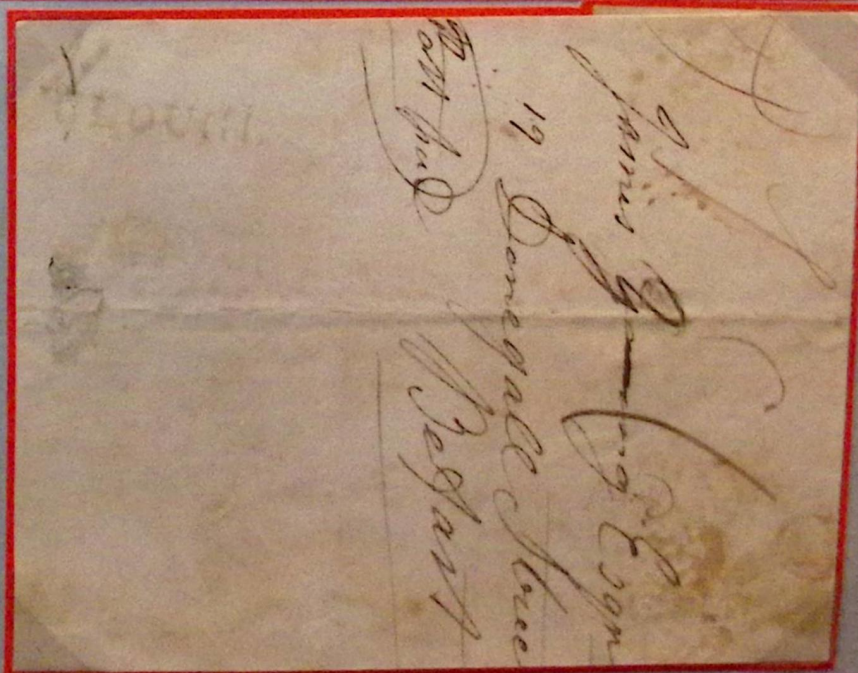
From Co. Sligo 29 DEC 1834. Crowned double circle FREE DUBLIN mark; final days of use, 1832-34
 sig. Alexander Percival, Lieut. Col. of Sligo Militia. Treasurer of Ordinance 1834-1835. M.P. for Co. Sligo 1831-41.



RED

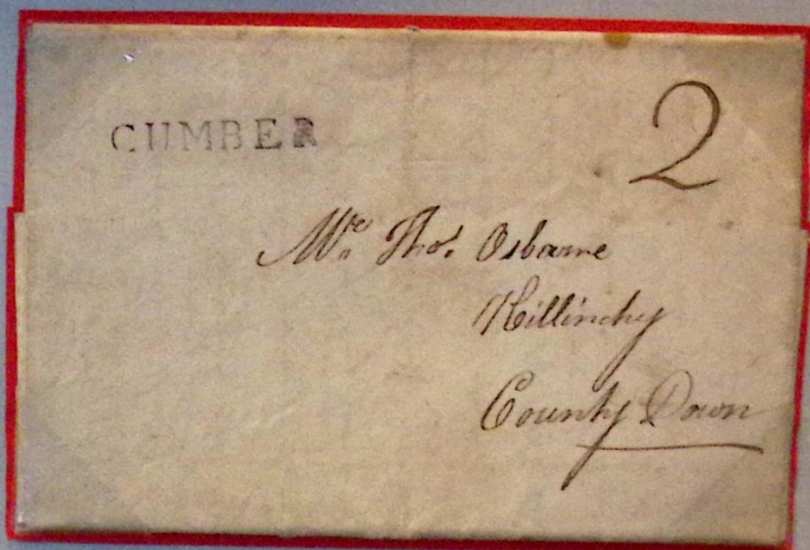
37mm **Straight Line** town mark of **CLOUGH** in red 30 JUN 1829 to Dublin. The rate at this time was 9 pence (- light ms.) for 69 miles. Arrival Dublin red octagonal **PAID**, code H (office stamp).

Masonic letter to the General Secretary, the Grand Lodge.



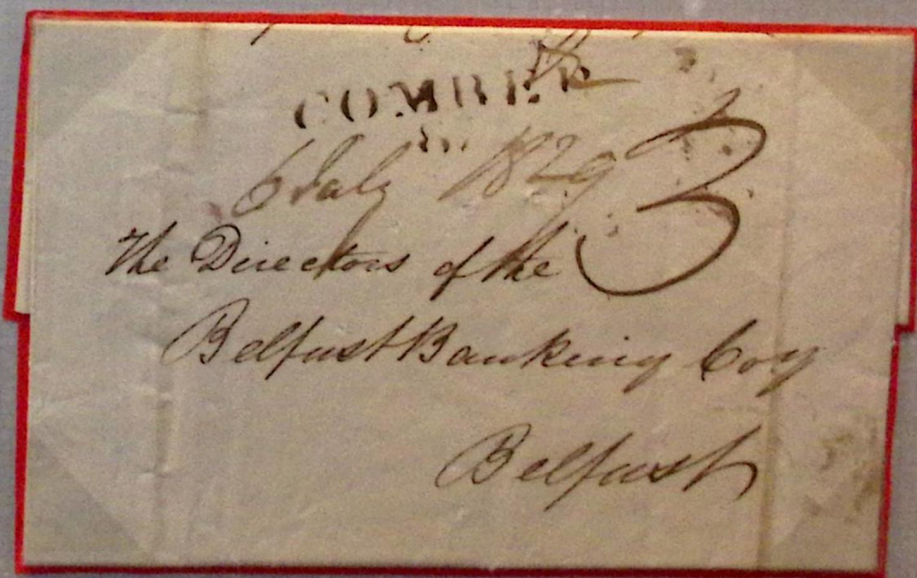
BLACK

28mm **CLOUGH** struck black, 6 MAR 1840, two months into the Uniform Penny Post. Manuscript *Post paid* and - Backstamp Belfast twin arc circle.



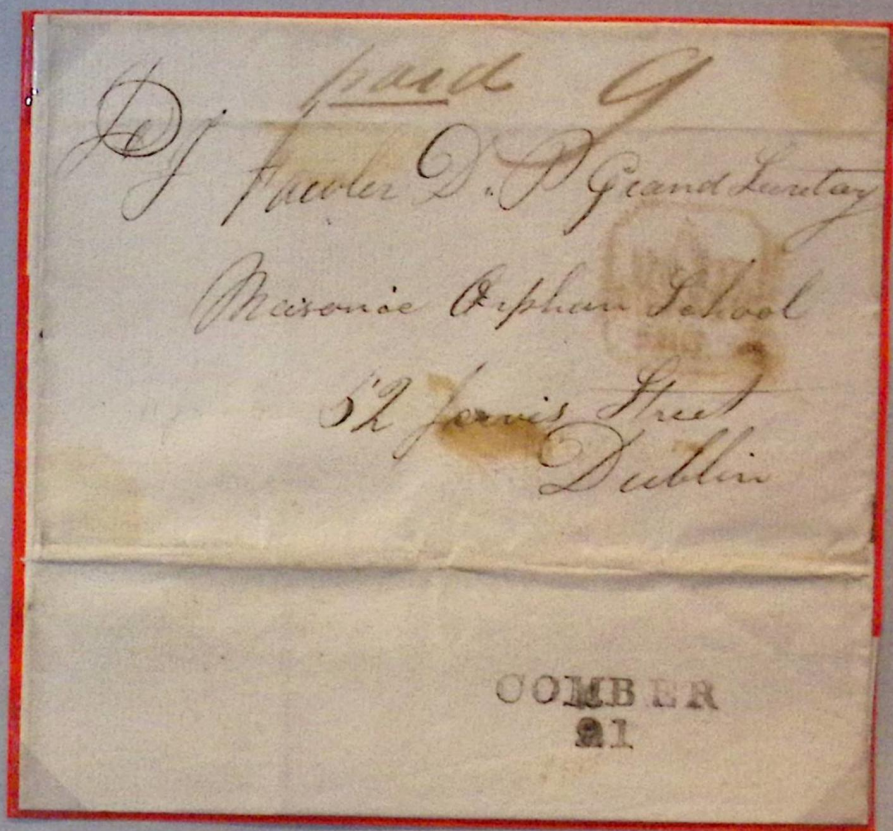
UNLISTED

CUMBER an earlier spelling for COMBER and not in the lists. 22 MAR 1815 2 pence
ms in black, unpaid local - cross Post - to Killinichy.



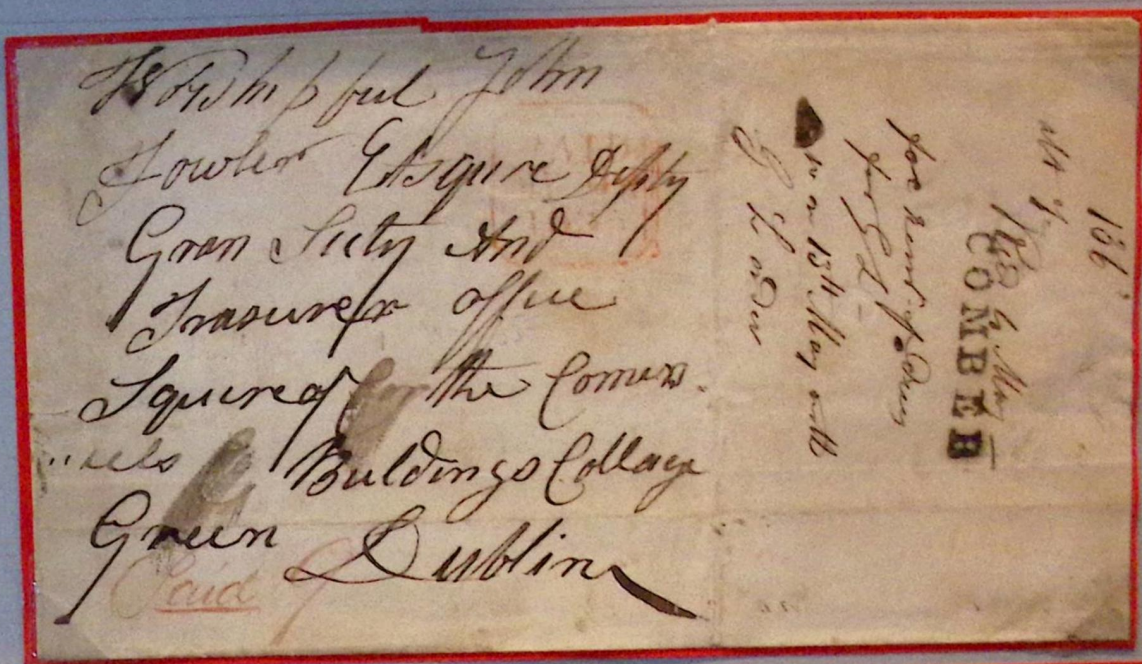
STRAIGHT LINE MILEAGE

COMBER/87 - (recorded 1823-1829) - to Belfast. 6 JULY 1829. Cross Post, fairly local
3 pence rate, ms black -- so unpaid at Comber.



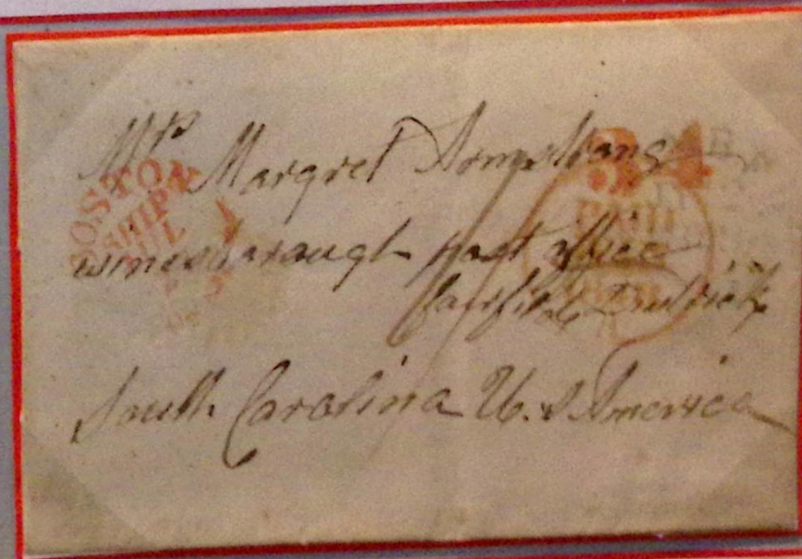
MILEAGE

15 JAN 1832, COMBER 91 - listed at 87. However variations occurred when the mileages were checked and re-assessed. The rate to Dublin nine pence paid, (ms. red) for 91 Irish miles (10 furlongs) to Dublin (the 65-95 mile rate). Arrival mark red octagonal PAID, 16 Jan., on face.

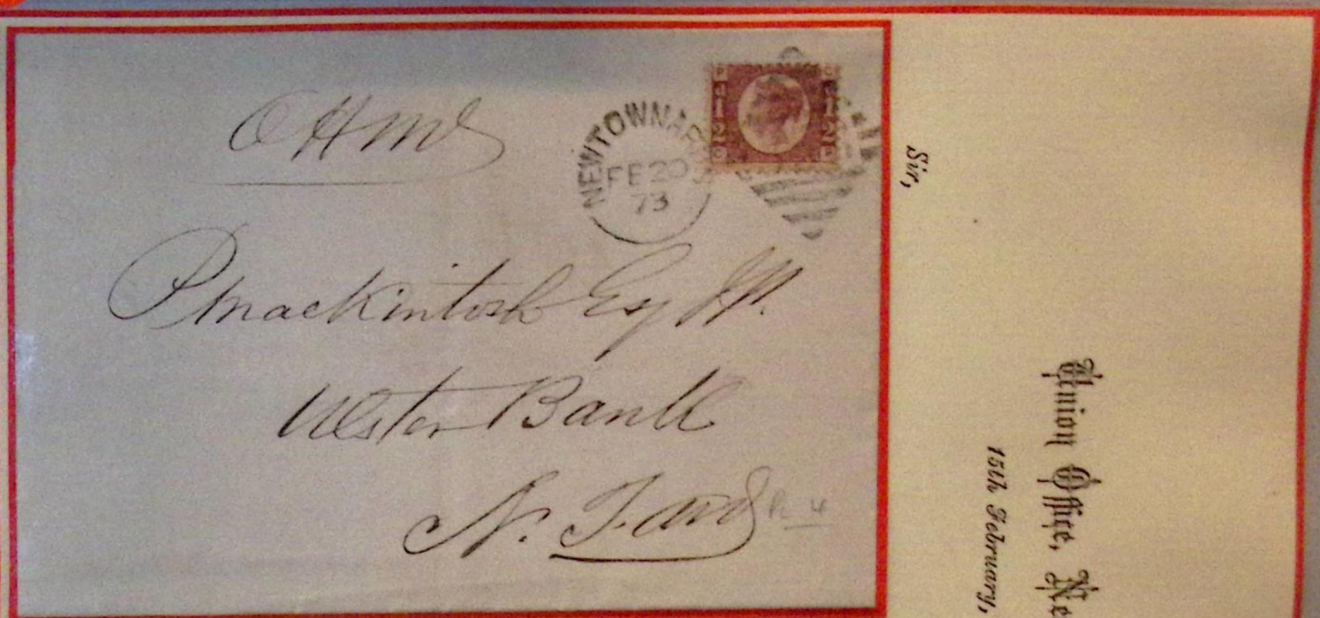


COMBER straight line town mark, shorter type 23mm. Here it is a back stamp. 1 MAY 1835. From Ballygowan to Dublin - arrival red octagonal **PAID**. Pre-paid 9 pence, ms red.

RETALIATORY RATE.. 1847-48 a dispute arose between British and U S Post Offices - **REPRISAL ACT 1847** (U S). Although postage paid one shilling, 1/-, at the British P O for the trans-atlantic Packet, once landed, postage was charged again at Boston or New York. Period of dispute June - Dec. 1848.



COMBER 12 JULY 1848 - blue twin arc circle on front, over-arruck Dublin red **PAID** circle 13 Jly., 1/- ms. Backstamp Liverpool black octagon, code A. Arrival mark **BOSTON SHIP**, 27 Jly. 34c charge = 24c plus 10c Inland post - to S. Carolina. The letter carried on Steam Packet **EUROPA**, her maiden voyage.



mention to the
 this day.
 BROWN,
 Union.
 solution of the
 ending, Doctor
 o to £100 per
 rdiens at their
 Twelve o'clock

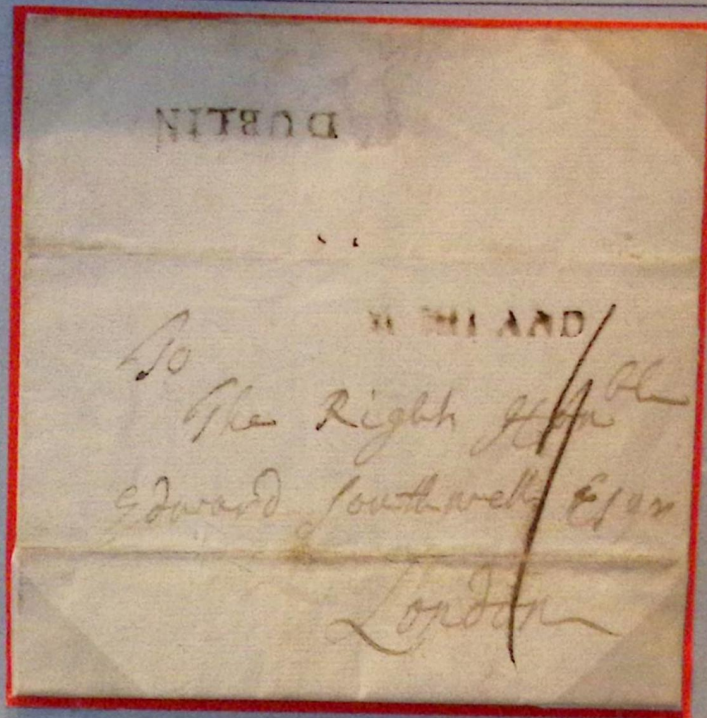
PRINTED PAPERS

NEWTOWNARDS, 'Duplex' 359 numeral cancels the Halfpenny red "Bantam", plate 4.
 Local use, 20 FEB 1873. Of the plates 1 to 22, these were not printed -- 2, 7, 16, 17, 18, 21,
 22. This halfpenny rate was for printed circulars, 1870. Any manuscript on the circular would
 make it liable for the Penny rate; here, virginal.



POSTCARD

The halfpenny rate was also for postcards, 1 Oct 1870, lasting up to the Great War when it
 became a penny. 14 SEP 1897 - here NEWTOWNARDS double ring cancels the 'Jubilee'
 halfpenny of 1887.

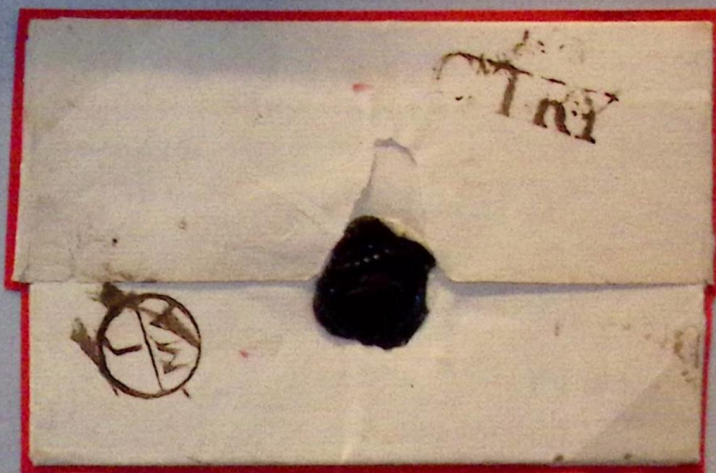


ABBREVIATED

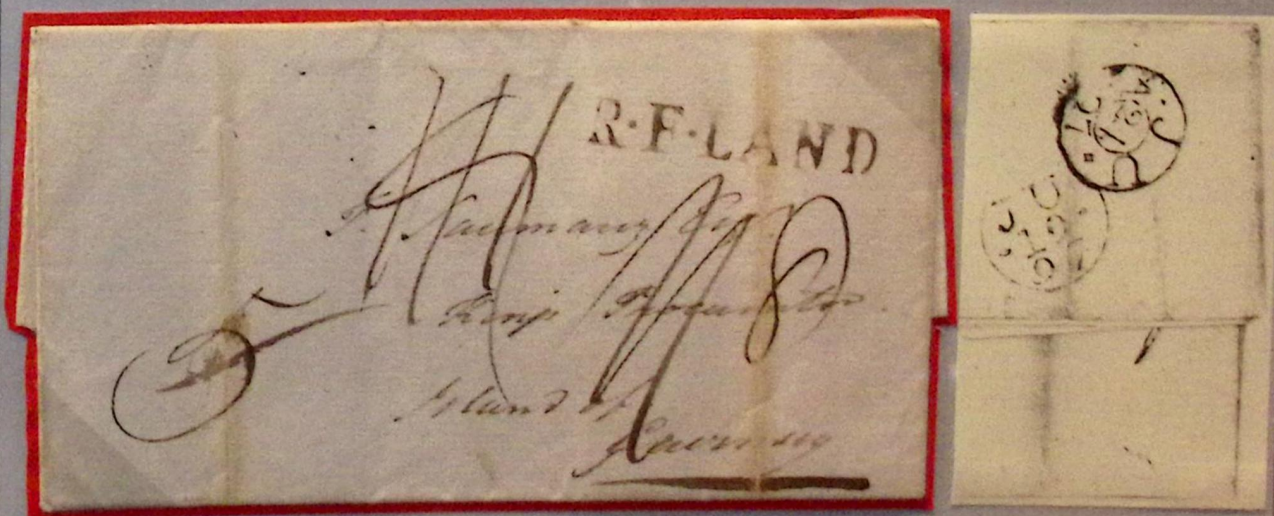
10 MAY 1721. A rare conjunction of marks - - **R F LAND** is Rathfriland straight line town mark, the Post Town. From Seaford to London. Early **DUBLIN** 27mm mark; not a town mark but struck in London on mail from Dublin. Earliest recorded in 1720. It should have gone free to Edward Southwell, Secretary of State in Ireland and M P for Kinsale, but here the charge is 6 pence, the all in rate Dublin to London.



- - of the same correspondence. Seaford via **RATHFRILAND** to London. 1 JUN 1721. **R F LAND** (1721-63) now used in conjunction with the scarce **C^yTRY**, COUNTRY, and in the first year of use (1721-41). Applied in Dublin only on mail to London.



-- of the same correspondence, **R F LAND** on face. 22 APR 1721. A charge of 10 pence was crossed out and allowed free to Edward Southwell in London. The backstamps: **C TRY**, country or provincial mail; and London 'Bishop', 1 May.



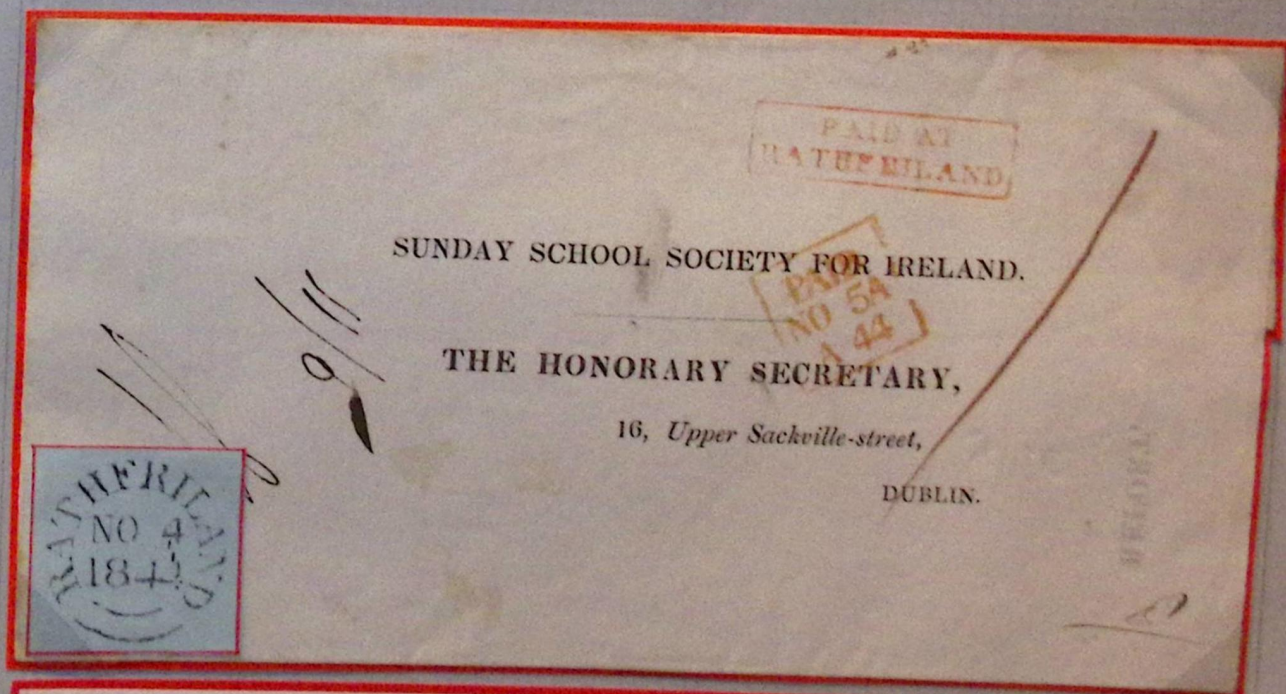
ABRV-D

The other abbreviated **RATHFRILAND** 15 JUN 1797 to Guernsey, not a common destination for a letter from a small Irish provincial town. The 5 pence rate to Dublin was re-rated **1/1** one shilling and a penny to London, and then **1/8** one shilling and eightpence to Guernsey. Backstamps -- circular year of Dublin, 17 June (the final year of use 1796-97)
-- circular year of London, 21 June (1791-99)



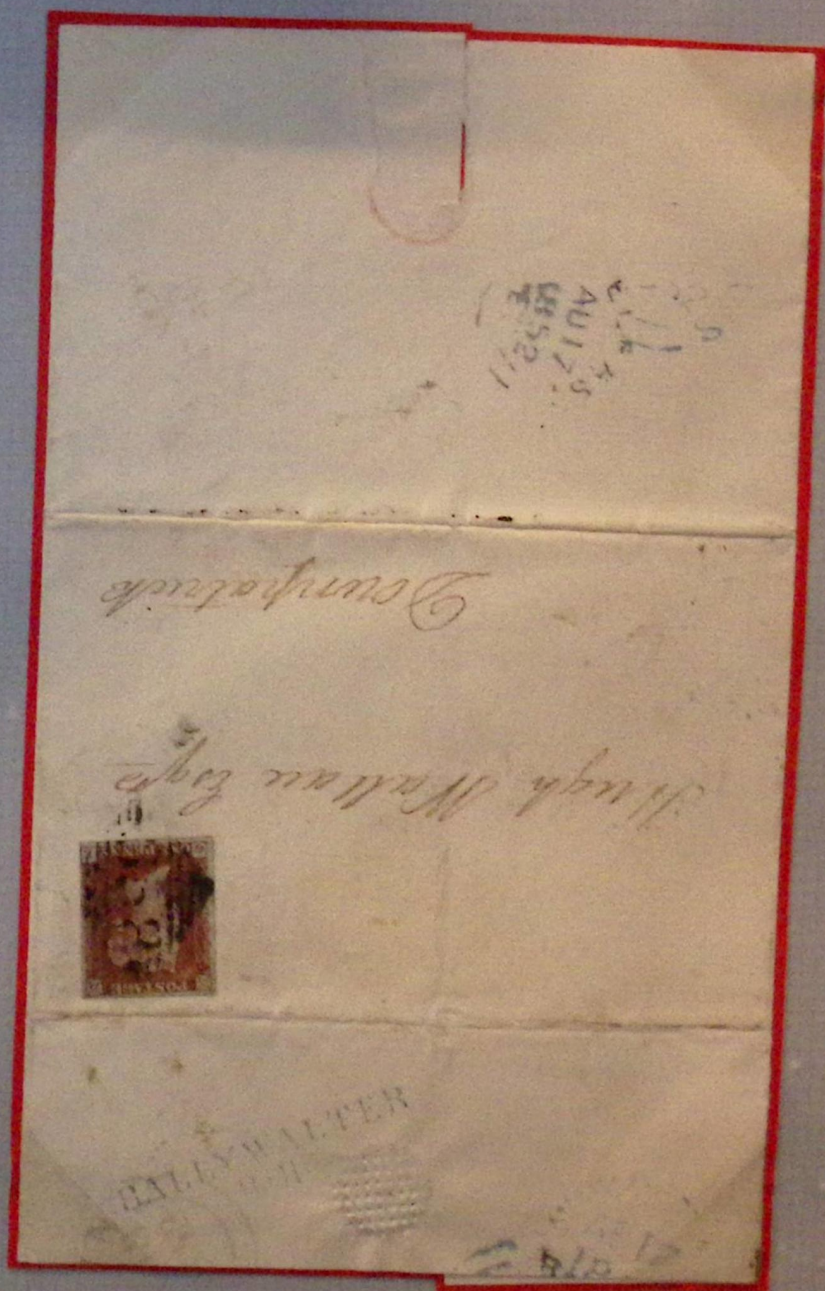
STRAIGHT

RATHFRILAND - - 28 OCT 1832 - - red town straight line. The rate, 8 pence (55-65 miles to Dublin), manuscript black, thus unpaid at Rathfriland.
Arrival red diamond at Dublin, 29 Oct.



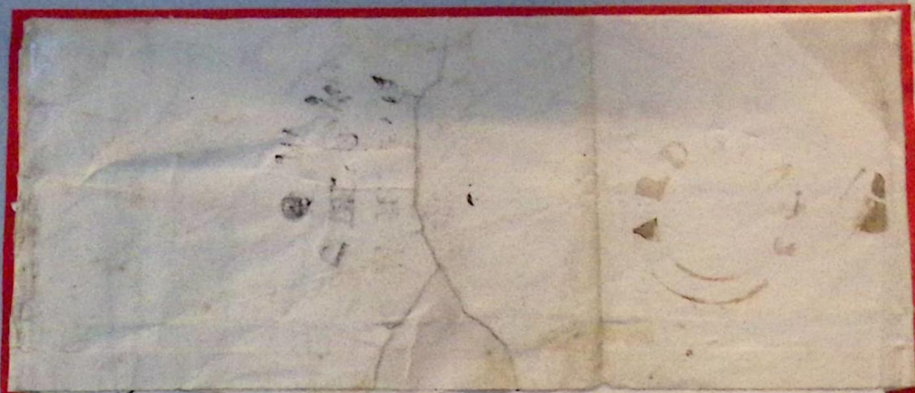
PAID AT

RATHFRILAND, boxed in red. One of the many surviving Sunday School reports. The penny / is pre-paid, 4 NOV 1844. Arrival stamp on face is Dublin red square PAID, code A, afternoon. Backstamp Rathfriland twin are in blue.



UNLISTED

Here as a backstamp **BALLYWALTER / RH.** 17 AUG 1852 to Downpatrick. This Receiving House is not in the lists; from a small coastal village, quite scarce. Also backstamps - light twin arcs; Newtownards (the Post town), Down and Belfast, code EV, evening. On face the Penny red imperf. adhesive, 1841-54, is cancelled by the Newtownards barred 358.



*Certificate of utility
of Harbour*

Ardglass December Twenty 1835
Colonel Burgoyne
Chief Engineer of the Dublin Harbour
Admiral

UNDATED

ARDGLASS - a sub office undated circle, use 1838-46. Post is free to Major Beauchlerk, M P. 20 DEC 1835. His ship had to put in to Ardglass because of a 'dreadful gale' The final type of crowned circle Dublin FREE mark. Backstamps - Ardglass and Down twin are circles.

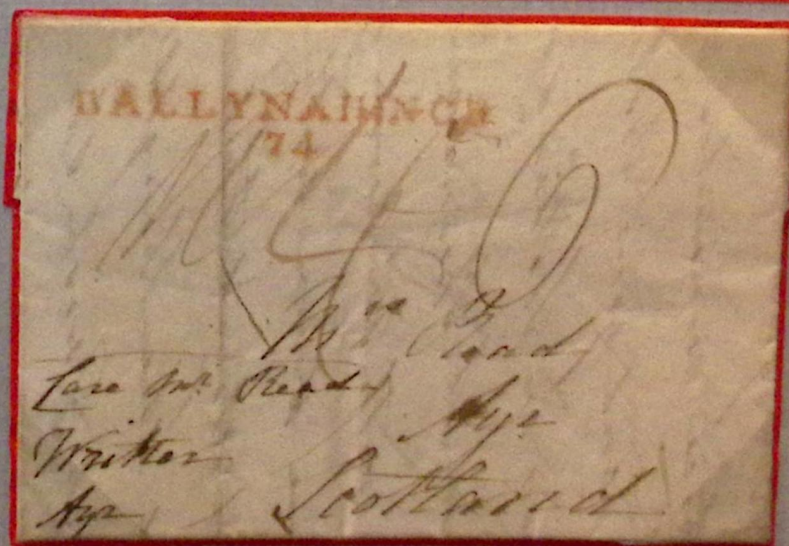
Tosser Green & Co.
High Street
Belfast.

CLAUDEBOYE
18 APR 1835
BELFAST

Although a sub office, **CLANDEBOYE** had a diamond cancel in 1874 - 134. Listed as a Money order and Telegraph office in the 1870's. 18 APR 1835 to Belfast. No 'Duplex' mark had been issued, hence, late use of the diamond. Backstamp circles Clandeboye and Belfast.



B:NAHINCH contracted for BALLYNAHINCH, town mark in red 21 MAY 1812 mourning entire to Dublin. The rate 7 pence, for 50-60 Irish miles to Dublin. On the flap - arrival mark at Dublin is the 'Mermaid' in a muddy red/brown, type 24 Kane, (1808-14).



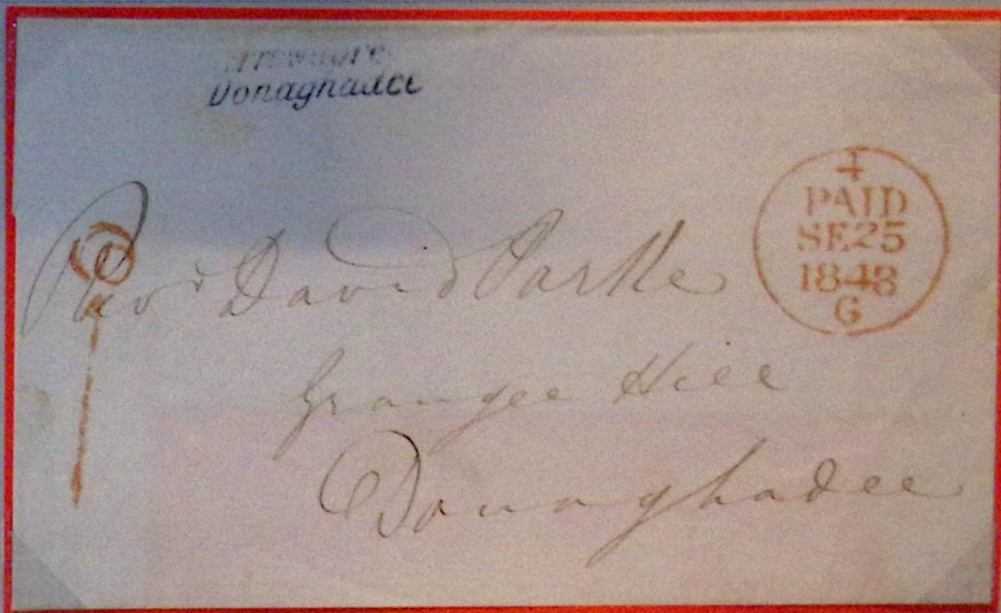
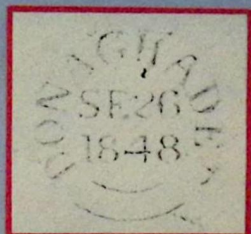
MILEAGE LISTED

BALLYNAHINCH/74 in red 3 DEC 1818 to Ayr. pence re-rated to pence, re-rated to one shilling and a penny; of which 2d was the sea crossing to Portpatrick. This is ms red - pre-paid. Mileage mark, 63mm is 8 years earlier than listed and longer, (1826, 47mm).



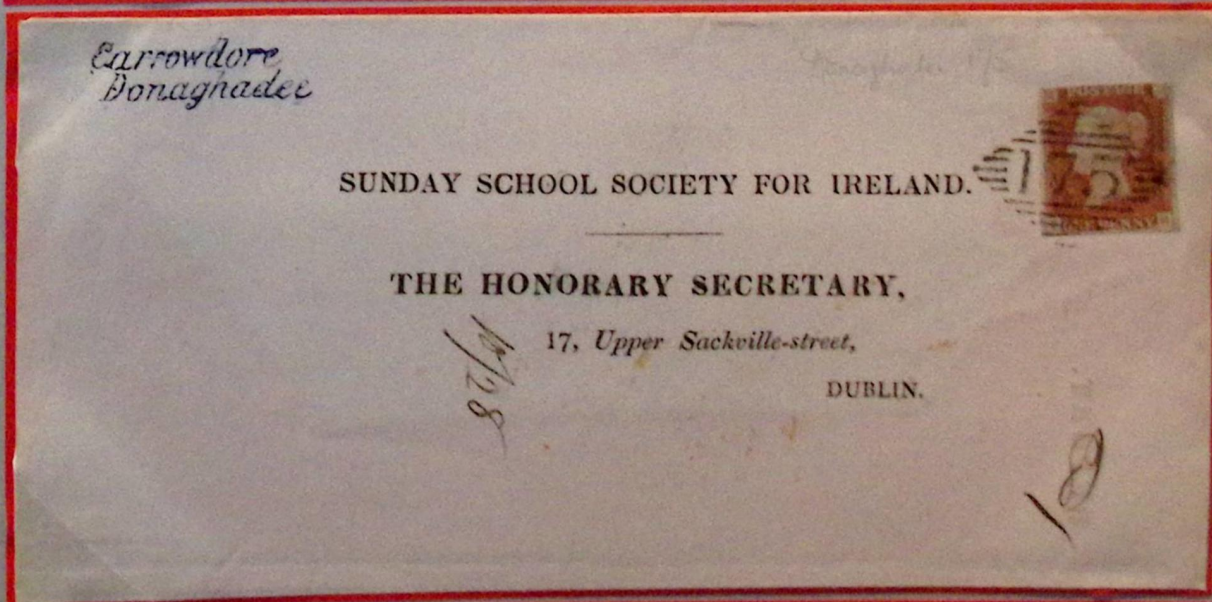
UNDATED CIRCLE

Typical of a sub office, the mark is the **Undated Circle**.
BALLINAHINCH, under Dromore. Scarce struck in blue, usually black. 3 APR 1851. From Nicholas Cranney to the India War Office, London; a claim to *Deccan Prize Money*. Expecting free postage (for Official mail), he did not pre-pay. The letter was charged two pence. His claim was approved - 9 April.



**Carrowdore
Donaghadee**

RECEIVING HOUSE, incoming. Dublin to Carrowdore, RH for Donaghadee. 26 SEP 1848.
Obverse marks, PAID red circle of Dublin and the old Dublin Penny Post but struck red, (used
black PP, 1810-40) Backstamp Donaghadee twin arc for 26 Sep. The option, paying
cash without adhesive ended 1852.



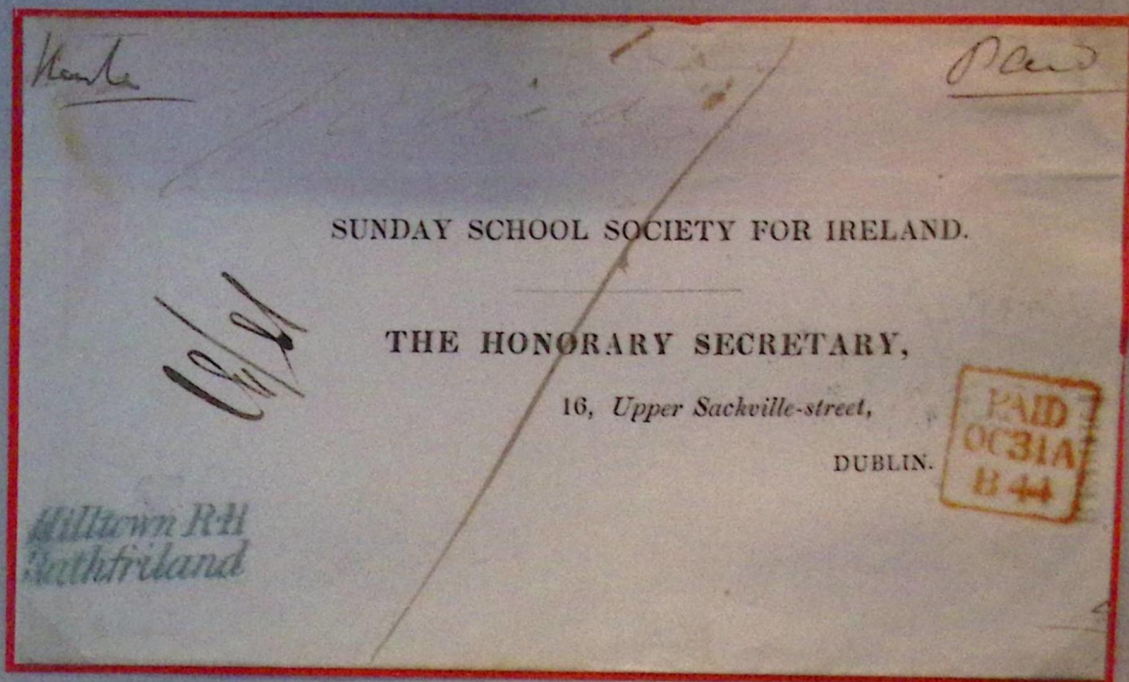
Carrowdore

RH, outgoing, Carrowdore - Donaghadee - Dublin. 27 OCT 1848. Paid here by adhesive, 1d
red imperf. (1841); cancelled by 175 in diamond, of Donaghadee.
Backstamps, Donaghadee twin arc and red Dublin circle arrival.



RH

The Receiving House, Coolsallagh, Post Town Dromore. Handed in 28 MAR 1853 and serviced at Dromore the same day, twin arc circle, code E, evening. Transit mark Banbridge and arrival mark Lurgan (Co Armagh), both twin arc, arriving the next day. All the marks, back-stamps. Penny red imperf. adhesive (1841-53) cancelled by light 181 barred diamond of Dromore.



R H

Hilltown Receiving House, Rathfriland, Post Town struck blue. 30 OCT 1844. ms *paid* and one penny. Backstamp Rathfriland blue twin arc. Face arrival mark Dublin red **PAID**, code A for afternoon, B for the stamper.

- 13 OCT 1845. The pre-paid penny pink embossed envelope is cancelled at the Post Town with Rathfriland 390 diamond, second year of use. Backstamps - red transit diamond and Kendal blue twin arc.



Letter handed in at Donacloney 3 OCT 1849, a Receiving House for Banbridge.

Donacloney RH in blue

Banbridge

The Penny red imperf. adhesive on face is cancelled by Banbridge 58 in diamond (bars) - to Liverpool with transit red circle of Dublin and twin arcs of Banbridge and L'pool.

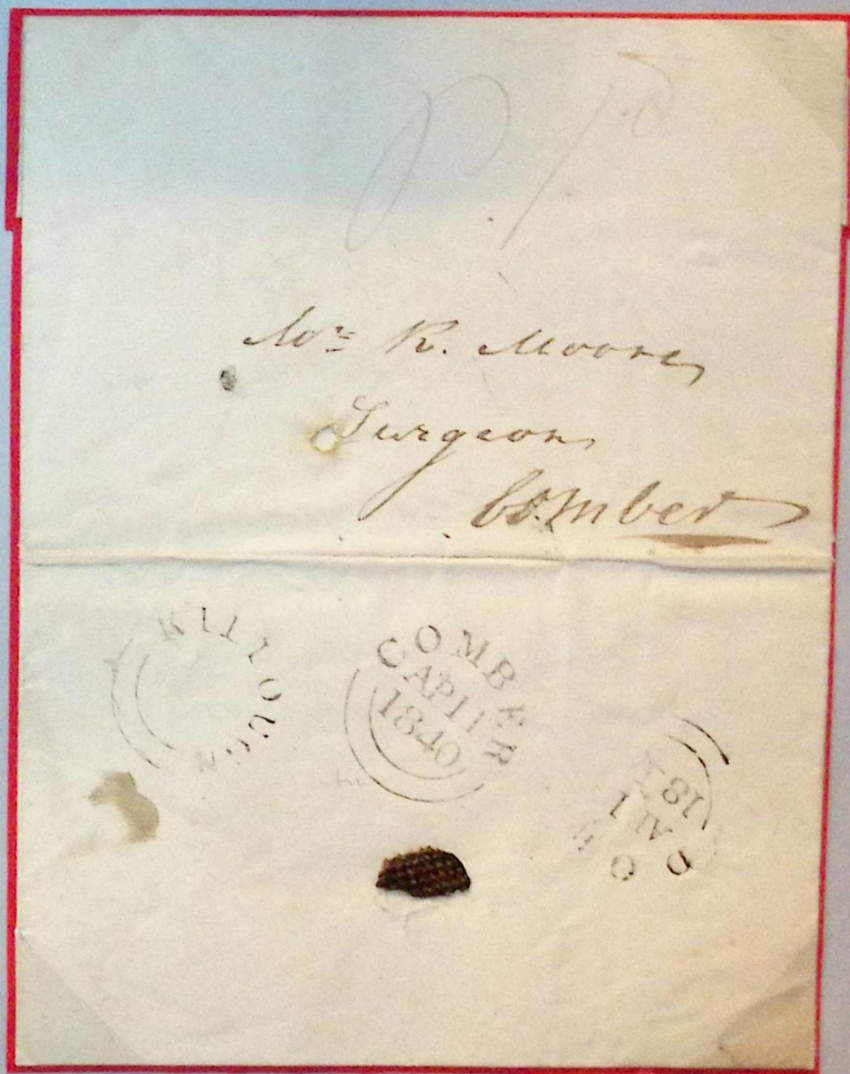


Dundrum to Dublin 26 MAY 1853. Obverse Clough cancel 143 on 1d red imperf.

Dundrum RH in blue

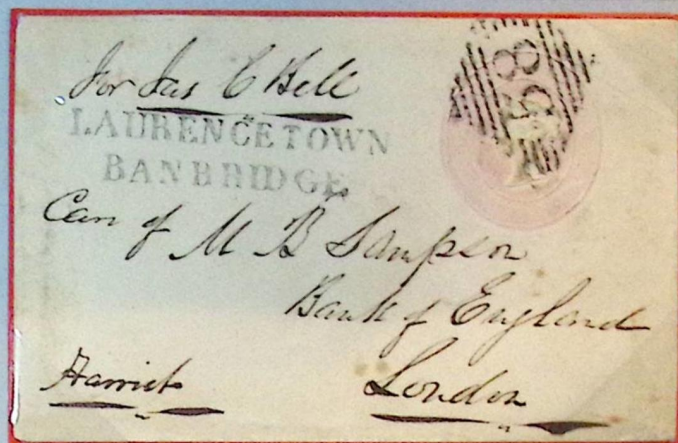
Clough

Dundrum, Receiving House for Clough. Backstamps Clough twin arc, red oxidized brown and Dublin red circle arrival.



UNDATED CIRCLE

10 APR 1840 and three months into the **Uniform Penny Post** *p/d* pre-paid one penny
Put in at Killough - undated circle backstamp, village receiving House for **Down(-patrick)**, the
Post Town, the twin arc backstamp. Twin arc backstamp - arrival at Comber.



LAURENCETOWN, Receiving House for BANBRIDGE 12 JUN 1845

LAURENCETOWN

BANBRIDGE

The Penny pink embossed envelope (1841 replacing Mulready envelope). Cancelled by Banbridge 58. Backstamps, blue twin arc Banbridge, red diamond Dublin, red circle London.



Receiving House MOYALLON for GILFORD. 15 NOV 1845, to Glasgow

MOYALLON

R H

The Penny red imperforate cancelled by 235 numeral of Gilford, the post town. MOYALLON/R H recorded 1845-54. Backstamps - Gilford, Banbridge, Belfast, twin arcs and Glasgow framed.

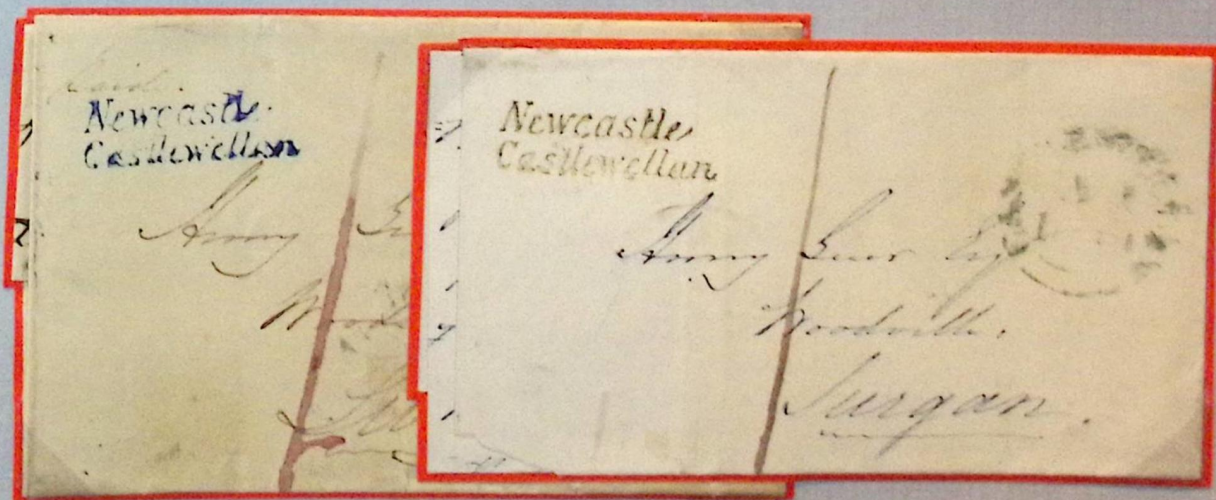


R H

4 OCT 1846 - one of Rathfriland's four receiving Houses. Also known as KEATSBRIDGE R.H. The mark applied at Katesbridge, the penny red imperf.(1841) cancelled at Rathfriland 390, diamond of bars, (use 1844-57)

*Katesbridge R.H.
Rathfriland*

Backstamps Rathfriland twin arc in blue-green and Dublin red diamond on arrival.

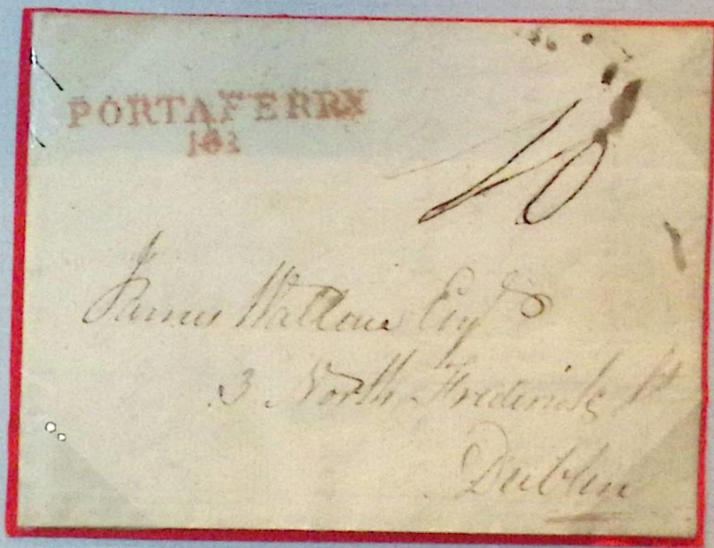


R H

21 SEP 1846 NEWCASTLE to Lurgan 1 JAN 1849

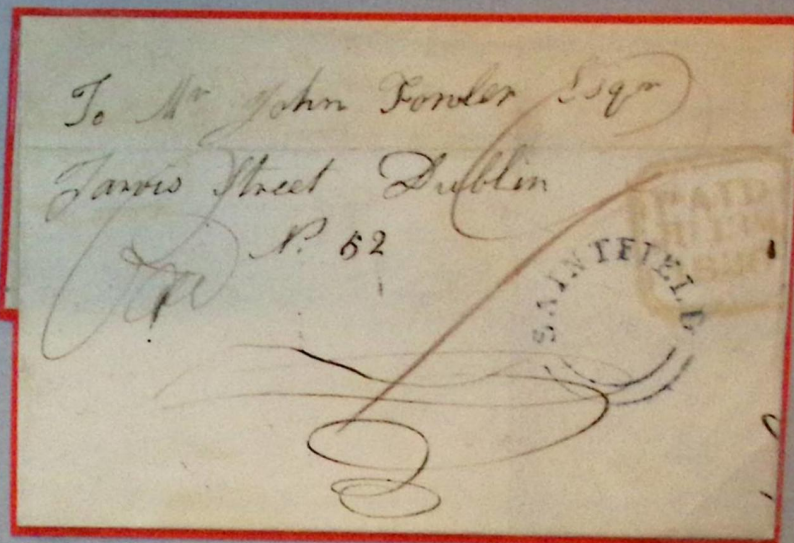
*Newcastle
Castlewella*

Newcastle, the receiving house for the Post Town, Castlewella. Listed 1848-49, so one is earlier, blue and black strikes shown and / penny paid. Backstamps, '46, twin arcs Castlewella, Banbridge, Lurgan. Then, '49, Newry, Banbridge, Lurgan.



LISTED

PORTAFERRY/101 in red. 5 FEB 1817 to Dublin. The mark listed for 1812-34 but not this size, 46.5mm. In spite of the mileage mark this was a sub-office. The rate is one shilling, ms black, unpaid at Portaferry. The backstamp is the Dublin circle within octagon, code E, evening.



No. **REGISTERED LETTER.**

Received this 29 day of Decr 1891
a Letter addressed Mr Wm Ferguson
Dromore
near Stewartstown

Printed by ALLEN, THOM & CO., 87, 88, & 89, Abbey-street.
Office Stamp { SCARVA
DE 29
51

{ Postmaster or Letter Receiver's Signature.
R Taylor

UNDATED CIRCLE

In effect a receiving house mark - **SAINTFIELD**, to Dublin 12 JUN 1836. The mark in use 1836-42. Backstamp twin arc of **Dromore** the Post Town. Pre paid 9 pence, manuscript red, the rate for 65 -95 miles to Dublin. Arrival at Dublin, red **PAID** mark, double lined - evening. Masonic mail from the local lodge to the Gen. Sec.

RECEIPT

SCARVA, sub-office 29 DEC 1891. Few survivors of the small village Registered Letter Receipt - - Postmaster signature.

H
WOODVILLE, LURGAN,
31st OCTOBER, 1850.

SIR,

You being indebted to the late
Firm of MESSRS. BOYD and WATTS, in the
Sum of £ *500* I beg
leave to inform you that the account has
been placed in my hands for collection, and
unless the amount be forthwith paid to ME,
or to MR. BOYD, I shall take legal pro-
ceedings against you.

Your most obt. servt.,

HENRY GREER.

Mr *James Wilson*
Scarva



RH

UNKNOWN

LURGAN, Co Armagh - 31 OCT 1850 - BANBRIDGE - LOUGHBRICKLAND - SCARVA.

Co Down; with associated twin arc circles in blue/green. *Scarva*, receiving House for
Loughbrickland, the Post Town. 1d red imperf. 316 cancel of Lurgan. Manuscript red on
front *No person of this name in Scarva*. Letter Content! No wonder Mr Wilson was not in
Scarva!

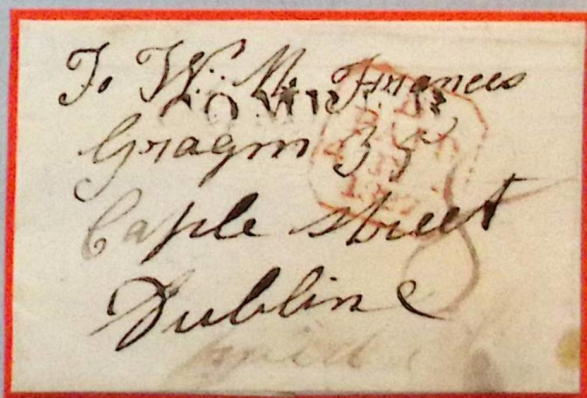
Comber

Size 15 x 12 mm.

87

In black.

1826.



STRAIGHT LINE MILEAGE

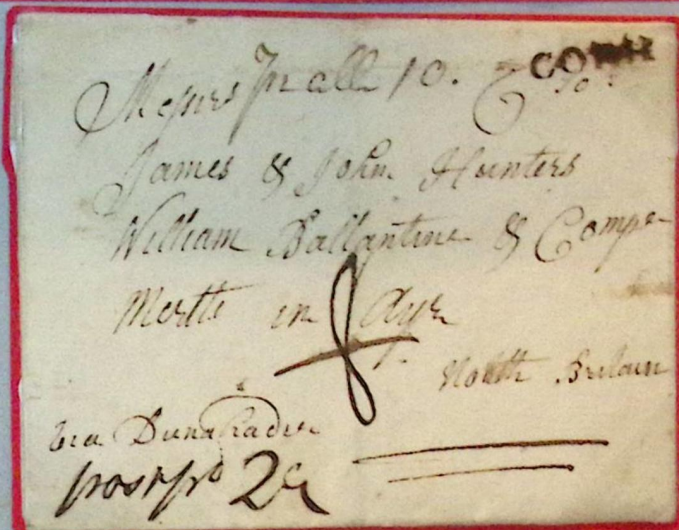
24 DEC 1826 **COMBER**, The listed mileage 87, Irish miles to Dublin. The mark in use since 1808 to calculate the post rate.

Small cover, paid ms - 8 pence (oxidised red). Arrival Dublin, Christmas Day - red octagonal PAID, code B (the stamper), use 1814 - 40.

4 JULY 1827 - tiny cover with mileage either excised or under-inked; ms red *paid* and code B octagonal.

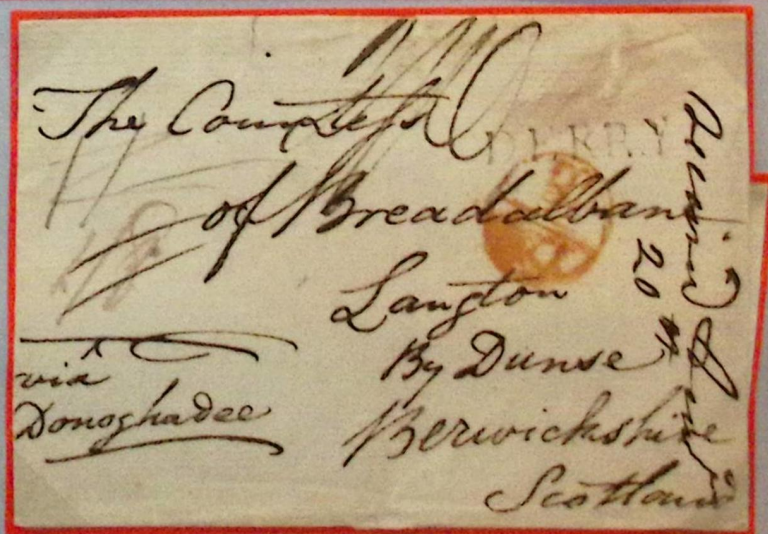
DONAGHADEE TO PORTPATRICK

This Irish Sea mailboat crossing was the shortest - 22 miles. In use 1711 to early 1860s.
300,000 letters in the year 1810. Declined in favour of Belfast and Larne ports.
These letters went the Donaghadee route.



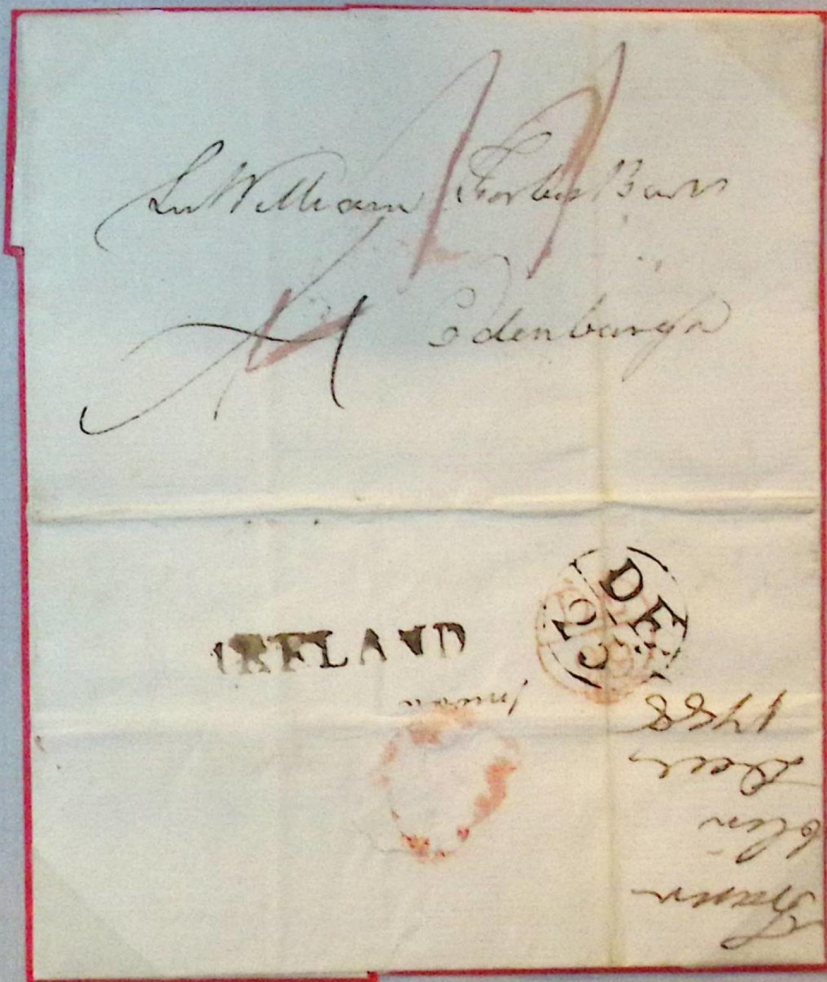
DONAGHADEE CROSSING

CORK the small early town straight line mark. 28 JAN 1735, to Ayr.
ms. *Via Dunahadee*. Re-rated 8 pence to two shillings. Scotland often called North Britain.
postpd 2s.



CROSSING

DERRY, town straight line, to Dunse, DEC c1785. ms *via Donaghadee*. Re-rated 1/- to 1/8 to 2/- (two shillings). Seems rather a small wrapper to contain two or more sheets or exceed. one ounce. Red Edinburgh 'Bishop' mark DEC



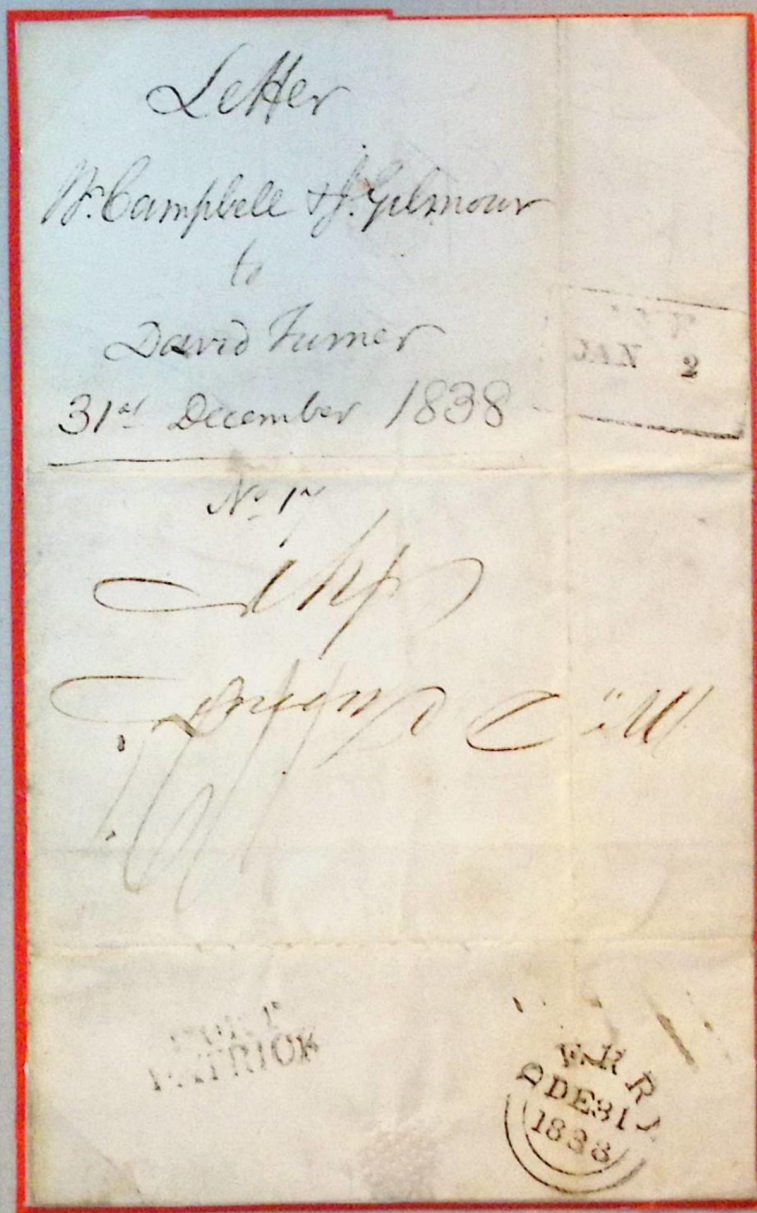
CHRISTMAS BISHOP

The **IRELAND** mark was applied on mail Dublin to London and to Edinburgh. Here the scarce 40mm mark (use 1777 - 91), applied in Dublin (because of the similarity of the 'Bishopmark' ink.) The entire went via the Donaghadee - Portpatrick crossing.

Christmas Day 25 DEC 1788.

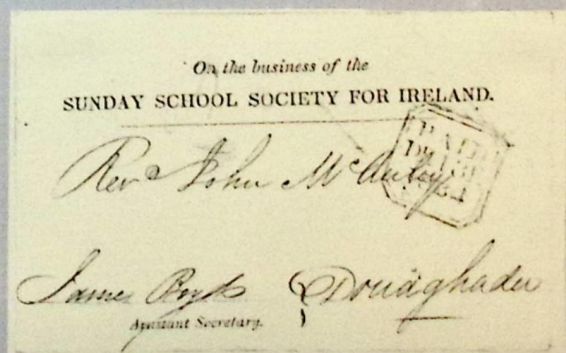
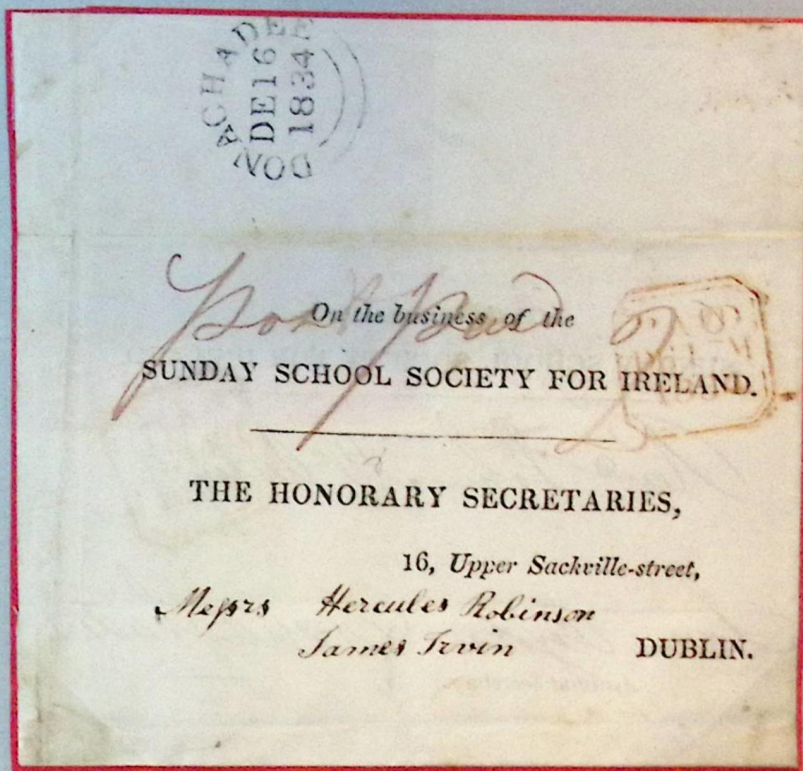
Dublin Bishopmarks were invariably struck black (1770-95 type) and here overstruck by the Edinburgh Bishop, always red, 29 DE.

The charge pre-paid in red -- 4d Dublin - Donaghadee; 2d crossing to Port Patrick; 5d P P to Edinburgh = 11 pence total.



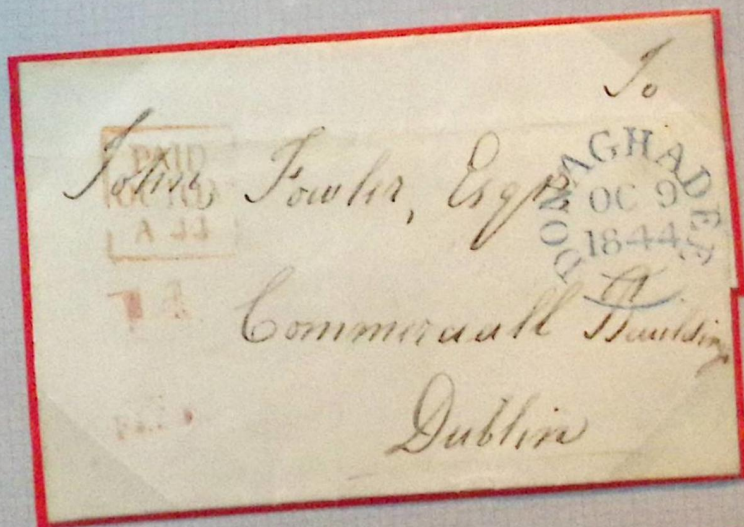
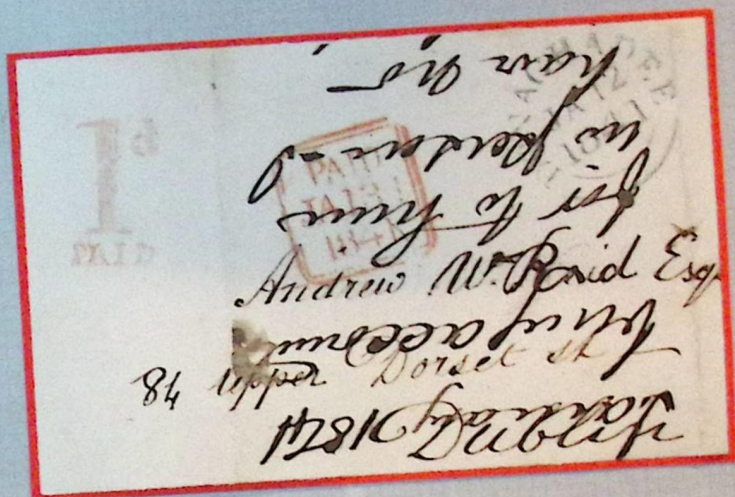
DONAGHADEE - PORTPATRICK PACKET

From DERRY to AYR, 31 DEC 1838. The charge is one shilling and two pence halfpenny - $1\frac{1}{2}$. Combined mileage charge Derry to Donaghadee plus Portpatrick to Ayr - one shilling:
Packet crossing - two pence: Edinburgh toll (wheel) tax - halfpenny.
The back-stamps, Derry twin arc. PORT/PATRICK town mark and boxed AYR arrival, 2 JA.



TURNED LETTER

DUBLIN to DONAGHADEE to Dublin - 13 DEC 1834. The red Dublin PAID octagonal is double lined, evening duty but the rate is not shown. The outer is then turned at Donaghadee, posted back to Dublin, 16 DEC. - ms red *post paid* and *2* two pence was the special charities concession rate. Backstamp, black Donaghadee twin arc.



1d PAID

DONAGHADEE - - a front 12 JAN 1841 and a cover 9 OCT 1844 to Dublin, showing all marks at best. Distinctive Uniform Penny Post **1d/PAID** - not previously listed for this town. Similar marks known only at Ballymena, Ballymoney and Carrickfergus.

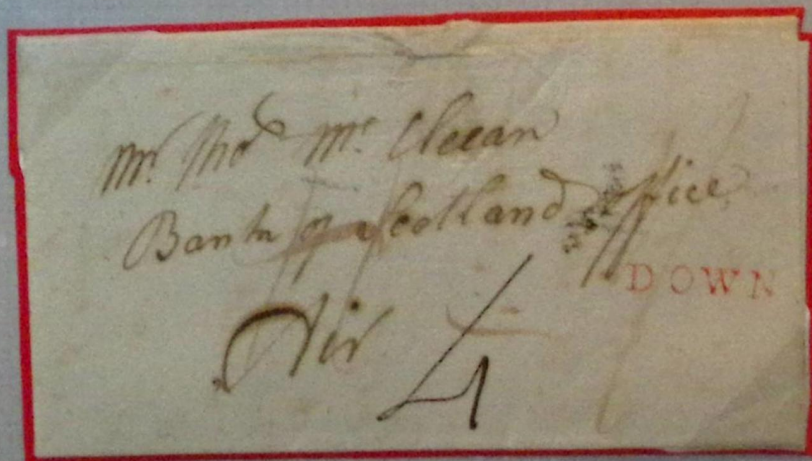
Blue twin arcs Donaghadee and red **PAID** arrivals of Dublin, double lined = evening duty.
Cover - Masonic mail to the General Sec.



COUNTRY

D PAT

From **D PAT**, Downpatrick, c1730, to 'Archibald Grant Esq Member of Parliament at his Lodgings at Mr Grants wigmaker in Berry Street near St.James London.'
 All backstamps - **D PAT** a scarce survivor. **C/TRY** applied at Dublin only on mail to London.
 The small London 'Bishop' mark 26 JAN. This is a rare combination of marks.



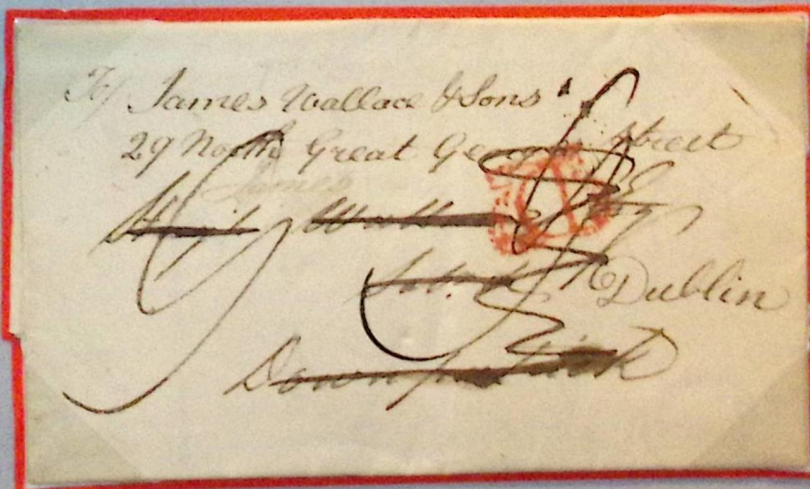
STRAIGHT LINE

DOWN straight line town mark in red 26 OCT 1803. Dateline, Killough to Ayr, Scotland, about a bill unpaid. The 4 pence has been re-rated to 11 pence which includes two pence for the Donaghadee to Portpatrick crossing.



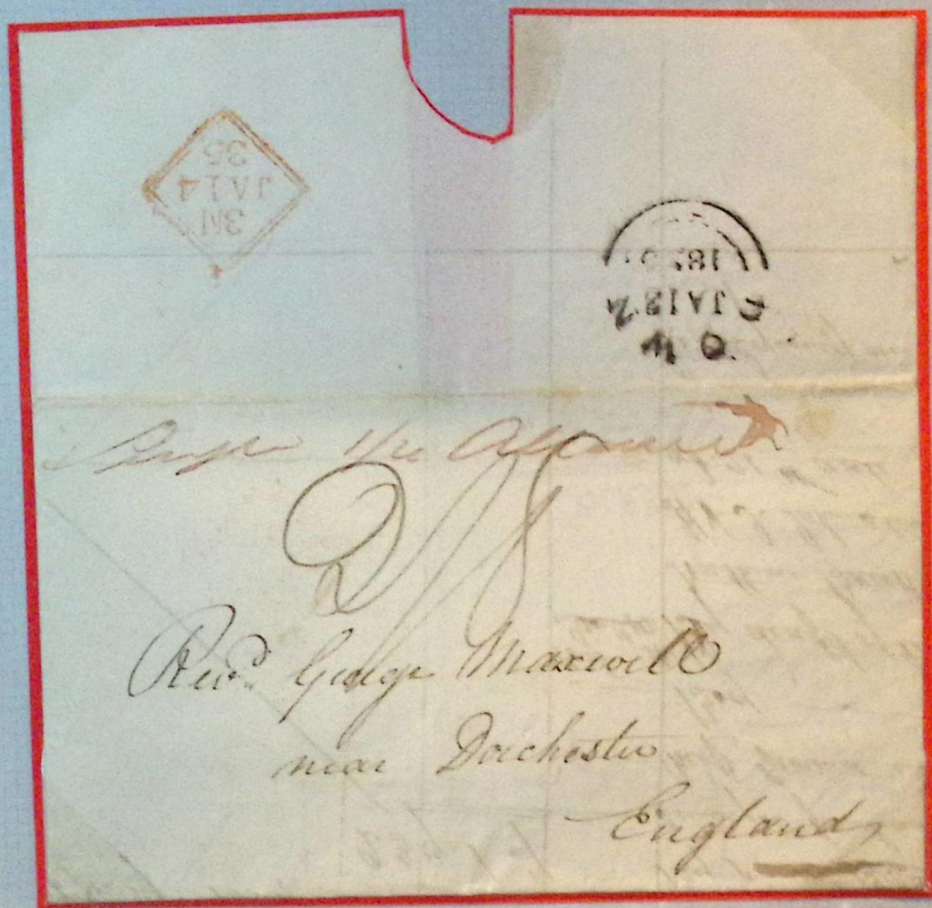
MILEAGE

- 14 DEC 1815 - **DOWN/74**, Downpatrick straight line mileage. Sent via the Donaghadee crossing to Dundee, arr. 31 Dec. Edinburgh red octagonal on face, the third type of dated stamp since 1801 (1811 - 1832). Land rate in Ireland - *5 pence*, uprated to one shilling and five and a half pence. This includes *2 pence* for the crossing and a halfpenny for the Edinburgh 'Wheel Tax' to *North Britain*

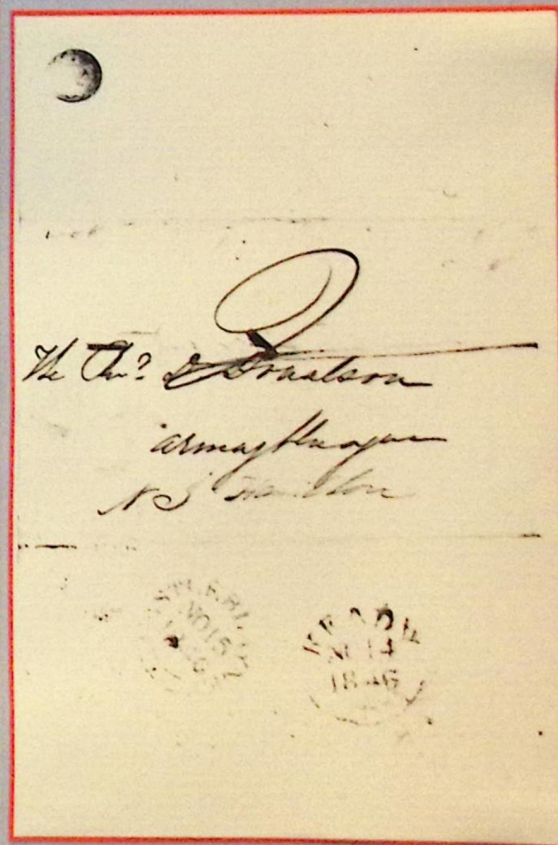
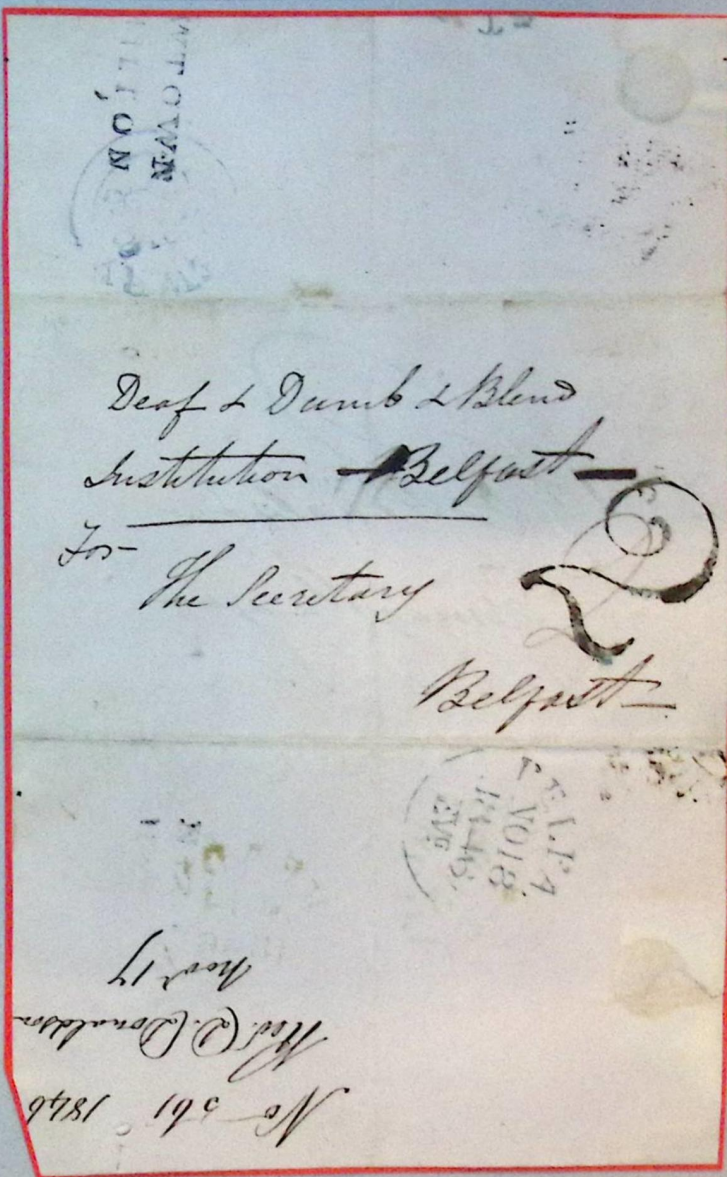


INSPECTOR

- 24 FEB 1824 - Dublin to **DOWNPATRICK**, returned Dublin. *9d* charge on the first sending. Re-directed and a further charge *9d* but then deleted and covered by the inspector's red crown, large **D** - office section codes A to H. Not a common mark. Backstamps, Dublin red octagonals of 24 and 26 Feb., also code **D**.



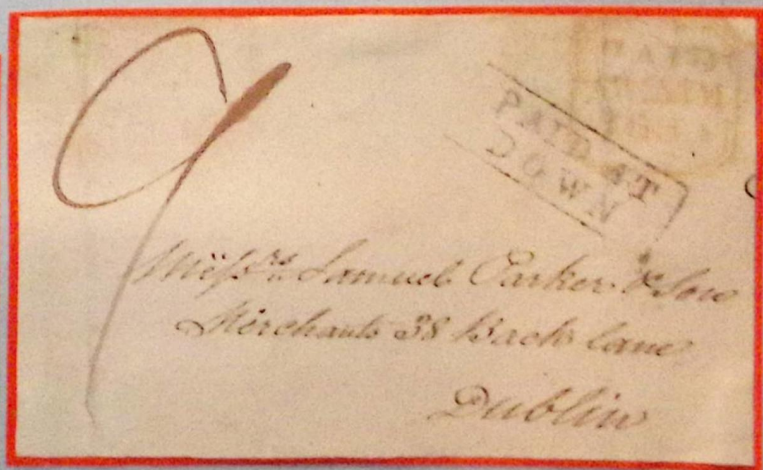
RE-RATED



A TURNED LETTER

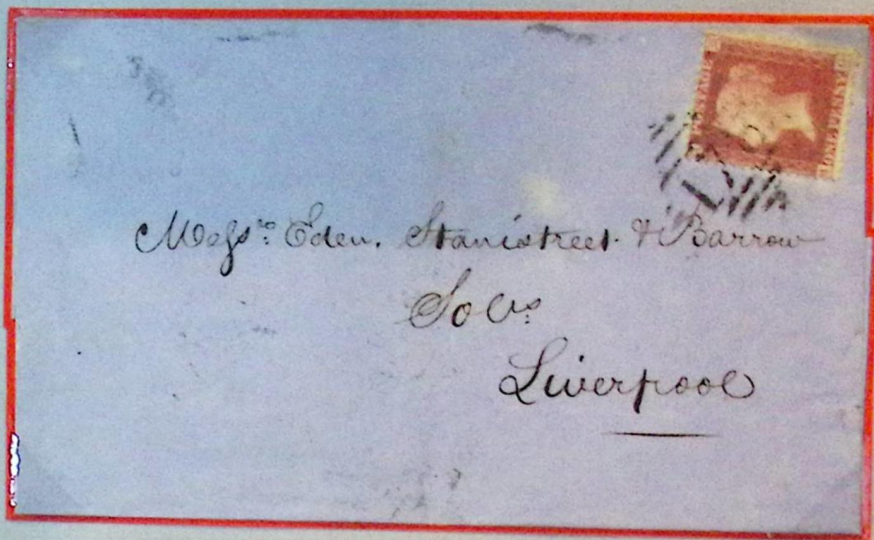
14 NOV 1846 KEADY (Co. Armagh); transit CASTLEBLAYNEY (Co. Monaghan); to NEWTOWN HAMILTON (Co. Armagh). The penny postage was not paid at source so was charged double, two pence manuscript, and collected at N T Hamilton.

The cover was then "turned", acquired the straight two line town mark NEWTOWN/HAMILTON, transit backstamps of Newry and Down. The two pence charge this time was a large black 2 handstamp. Final Belfast arrival EV^g of 18 Nov.



PAID AT

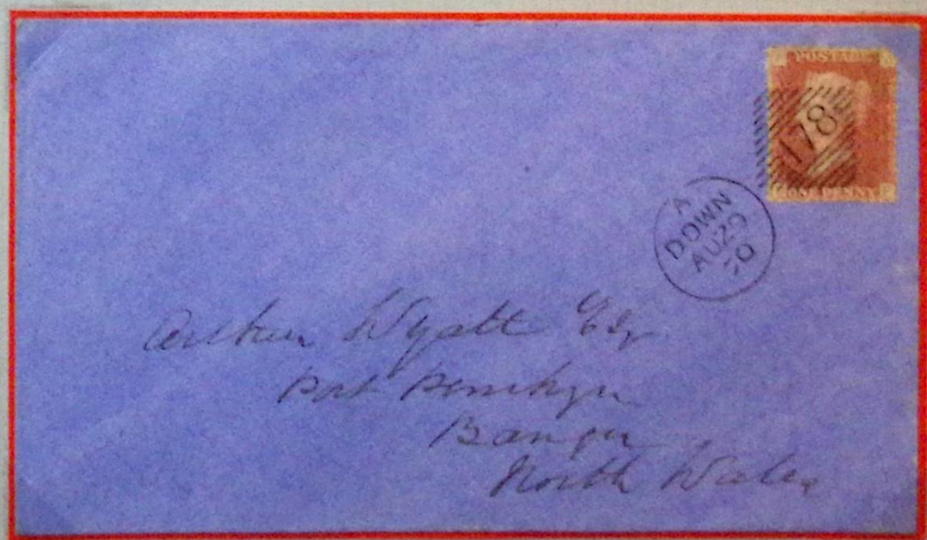
PAID AT, framed and unframed used at many Irish and British towns. The **PAID AT DOWN** 1834-51 spanned the period of Postal Reform, appropriate before the Penny Post when there was an option to pre-pay. 16 JUN 1840. Down to Cambridge with relevant twin arc circle backstamps. On face, red paid Dublin square and London circle.
PAID AT DOWN known in black, red, blue and green. Here are red, blue and black examples.



BARRED DIAMOND

DOWN, Downpatrick's allocated numeral 178, in diamond of bars cancels the 1d red 'Star' of 1854. Down to Liverpool 2 NOV 1858.

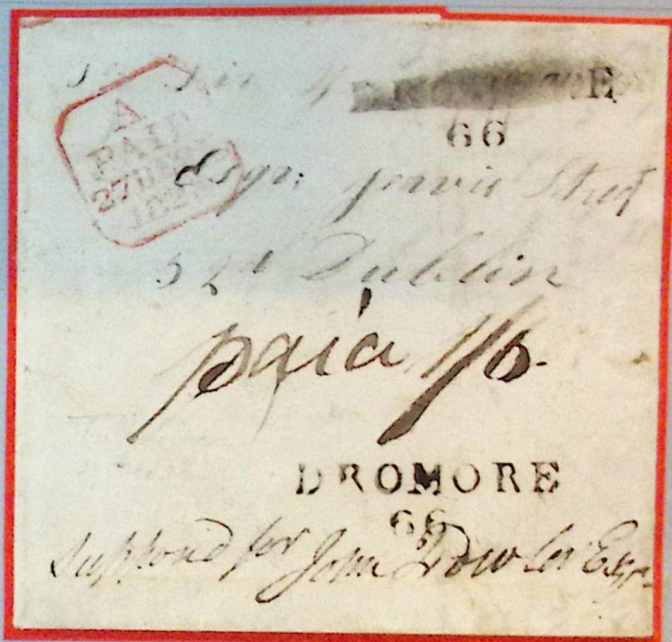
Backstamps - 'Thimble' circles of Down and Liverpool and single arc Dublin transit mark



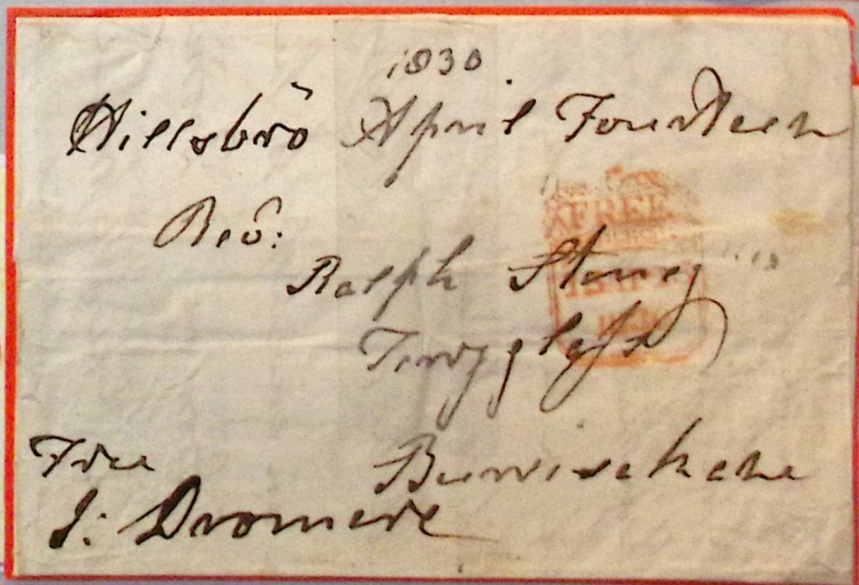
DUPLEX

Down to Bangor, N.Wales. 29 AUG 1870. The double stamp 'Duplex', 178 replaced the single diamond, here cancels the Penny red, 'visible' plate 125. Code A for the duty -- time of day.

Backstamp - Bangor Thimble circle of the next day.

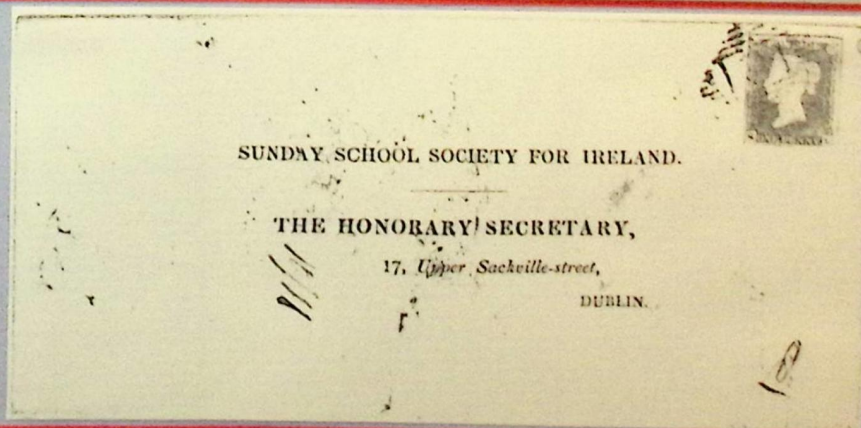


MILEAGE -- 23 DEC 1828. Having made a smudged mess of the first strike the clerk makes a second attempt - **DROMORE/66**, still using Irish miles when the new calculation was English miles. Prepaid **1/6** one shilling and sixpence for a double letter rate. The red Dublin octagonal **1/6** on face takes account of Christmas - 27 Dec.



FREE 14 APR 1830 J:Dromore, Bishop James Saurin, (1819 - 49).

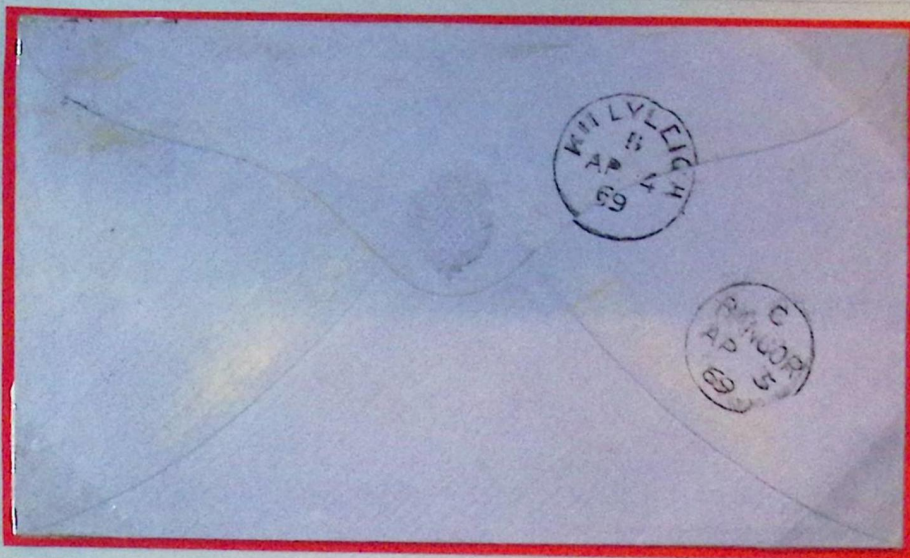
However the letter is signed internally, Robert Mant, "I write in great haste to save this frank and this post. Will you have the kindness to see if I have done it right on the one side of the inclosed which is pencilled ..." Abuse of the Free Privilege? This was rife in Ireland even in a Bishop's name! Dublin free octagonal (1813 - 32). Backstamp red Dublin octagonal.



TURNED LETTER

15 SEP 1848. DUBLIN to **DROMORE** and back again to DUBLIN.
 Red PAID circle of Dublin (1846-57), and on face in red, the old Penny Post mark of
 Dublin (1810-40 in black). Dromore twin arc back- stamp, next day, 10 OCT 1848.

10 OCT 1848 - letter turned and sent back. Dromore diamond 181 cancels the 1841 penny red
 imperforate, worn plate. Dromore twin arc backstamp.

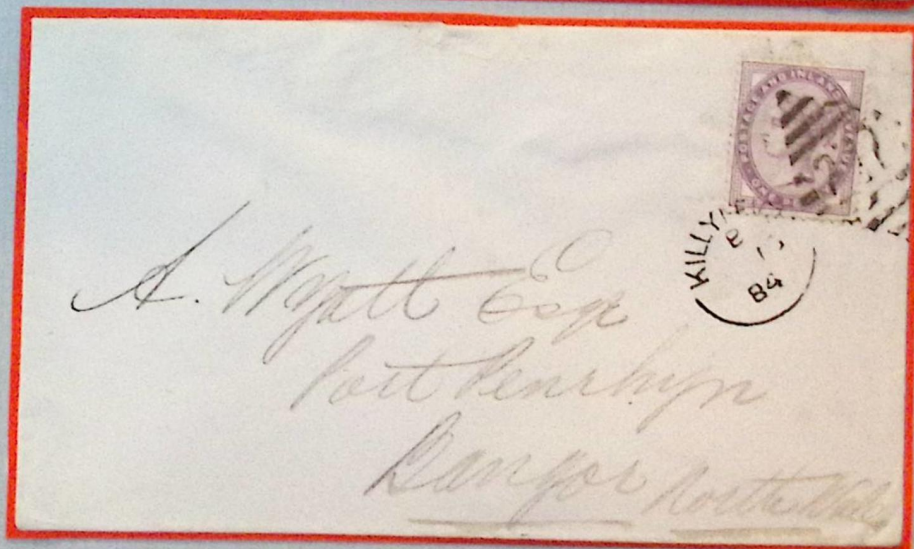
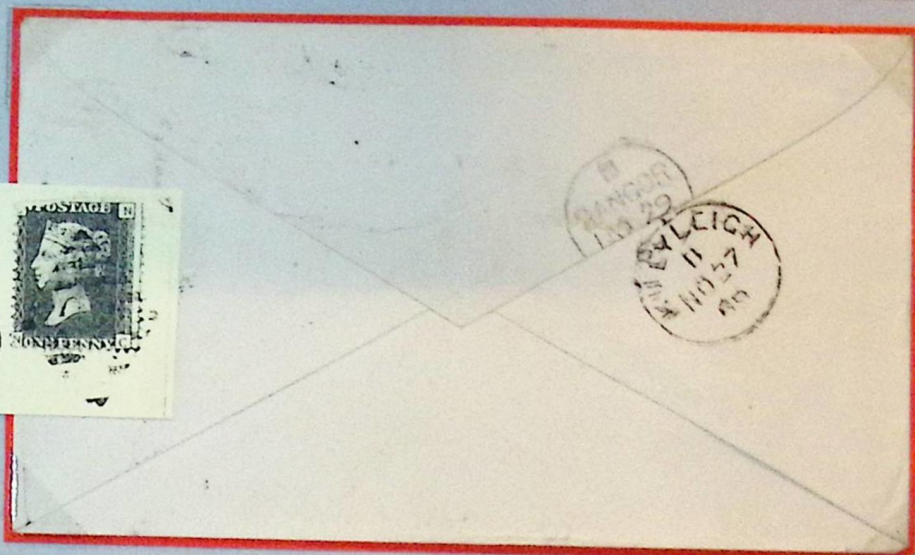


KILLYLEAGH to Bangor, N Wales. 4 APR 1869. here a circular dated backstamp and the adhesive would be expected to be cancelled at Killyleagh a Post Town; unusually it is cancelled at Belfast. - 62 'Duplex' cancels penny red, plate 112. Killyleagh had its own 'Duplex' at this time. Bangor 'Thimble' 5 AP.



MILEAGE

KILLINCHY/83, Straight line mileage, to Dublin, 83 Irish miles, for which the rate was 9d. Pre-paid postage shown manuscript red. Arrival mark 12 OCT 1815 is Dublin octagonal black, normally red; and on face, normally on back.



BACK

KILLYLEIGH to Bangor, N Wales 27 NOV 1869. The Killyleagh circle is a backstamp with Bangor (29th). Curiously, although Killyleagh was a post town, the face adhesive, Penny Red plate 122 is cancelled by a Belfast 'Duplex' on the same day, numeral 62.
What second class mail?

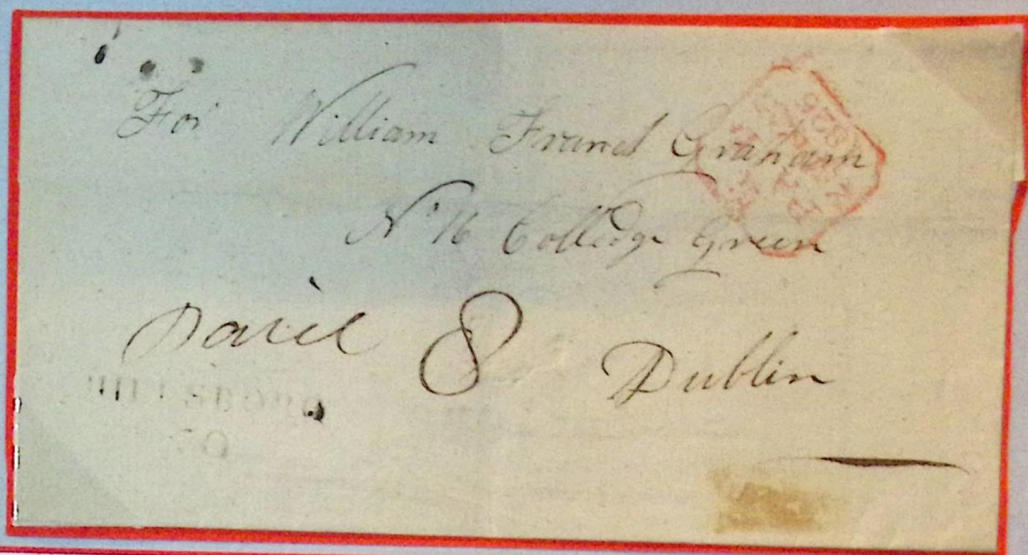
FACE

KILLYLEIGH to Bangor, N Wales 16 MAY 1884, the same correspondence in the same hand, fourteen and a half years later. Here the Penny lilac of 1881 is cancelled by the Killyleagh 'Duplex', numeral 277. Backstamp - Bangor 'thimble' circle, the next day.
What first class mail?



GILFORD CROSS

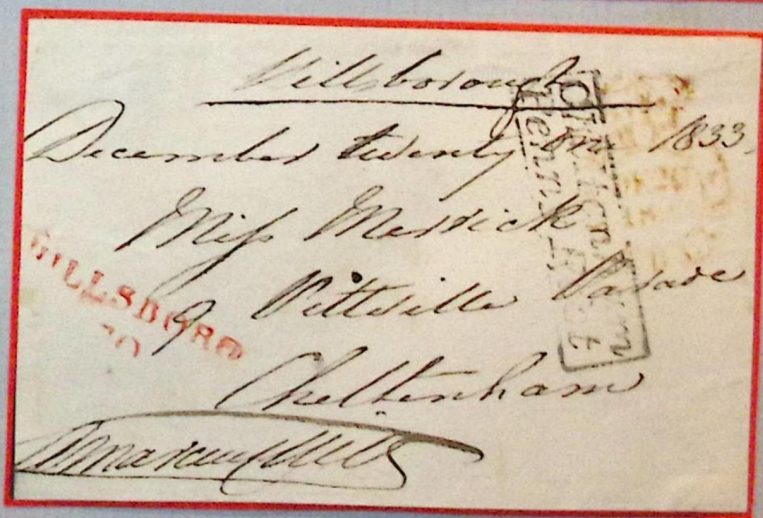
9 FEB 1844. In May of this year the "Maltese Cross" cancel was replaced by the new barred diamond marks throughout Ireland. Here the penny red imperf. is cancelled by the "Maltese" Cross of Gilford - post town. Back - Gilford, Loughbrickland and Newry transits, Arragh arrival, 10th - - all blue/green twin arcs.



BLACK

PAID

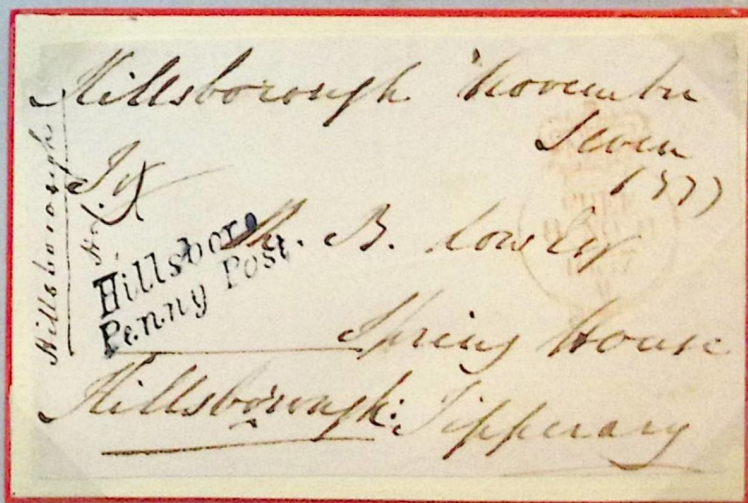
HILLSBORO/70 and the rate 8 pence ms *paid*, seventy Irish miles to Dublin. 24 DEC 1826.
Town straight line mileage on face with Dublin arrival mark - - red Dublin **PAID** octagonal,
code M morning, Christmas Day.
Always a good survival rate for post from the Peerage.



RED

FREE

HILLSBORO/70 - mileage in red, a front. 21 DEC 1833. **FREE DUBLIN** crowned double
circle in red 1832-34. (rarely in black). Also on face the boxed -
Cheltenham
Penny Post
sig. *Marcus Hill* - third Baron Sandys, the second son of the Third Marquis of Downshire,
Seat, Hillsborough Castle.



FREE

HILLSBORO/70, Straight line mileage. 5 NOV 1829. London red free crowned circle.
 Backstamps - - red circle in octagon of Dublin - - red circle S for Sunday of London.
 Sig. - 3rd. Marquis of Downshire, Arthur Blundell-Sandys-Trumbull Hill, Lord Lieut. of the
 County. Titles 1801-45. Seat Hillsborough Castle.

Hillsboro/Penny Post. 7 NOV 1837. A front with Dublin crowned circle free (1835-40)
 Sig.- Arthur the third Marquis here uses his other title, Earl of Hillsborough.

Newcastle
Castlewellan
listed 1848-49

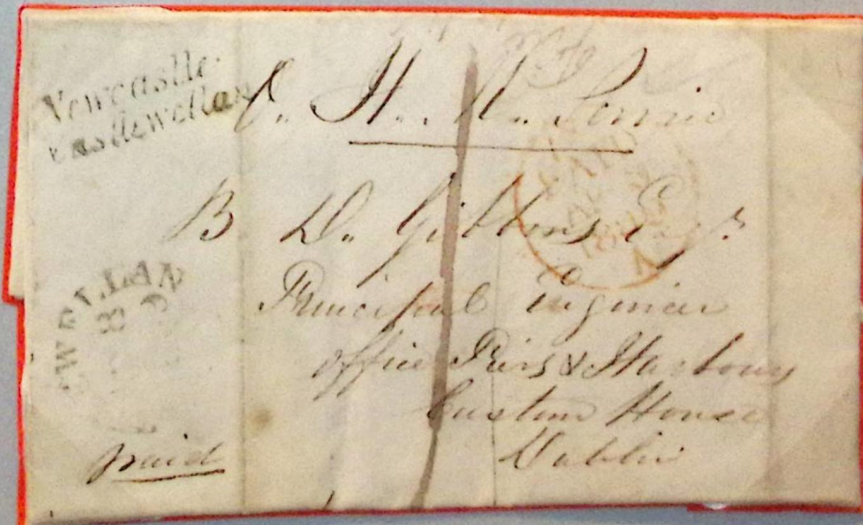
Receiving house for Newcastle.
All three / penny paid

- to London 21 SEP 1846, earlier
than listed. Backstamps - twin
arcs, Castlewellan, Banbridge,
Lurgan

- Newcastle to Lurgan 1 JAN 1849
Backstamps - twin arcs
Newry, Banbridge, Lurgan



- Newcastle to Dublin 8 APR 1849
O H M Service, ms. Obverse
stamps, twin arc Castlewellan
red Dublin PAID circle.





STRAIGHT TOWN

HOLLYWOOD to Skibbereen 9 DEC 1837. On face one shilling and two pence *W2* -- the rate for 250 - 300 miles -- ms in black, thus unpaid. The backstamp - straight line town mark, **HOLLYWOOD**, with Dublin red diamond transit mark, morning code.



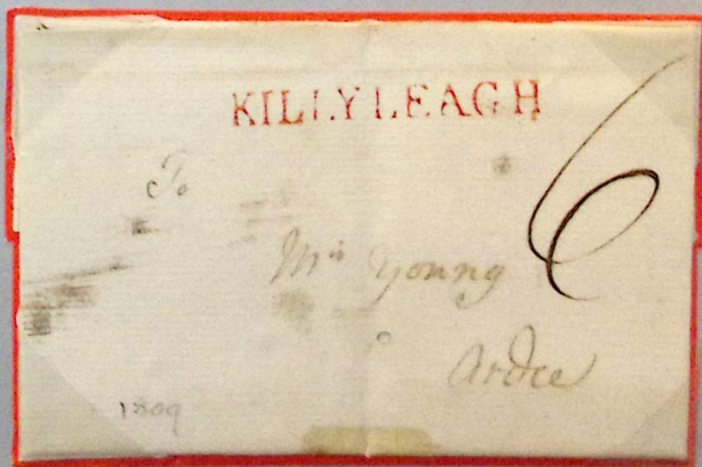
INCOMING

London to Holywood. 16 SEP 1877 The 1d red plate 176 cancelled by indistinct London barred oval, **HOLLYWOOD** arrival circle *backstamp* next day.

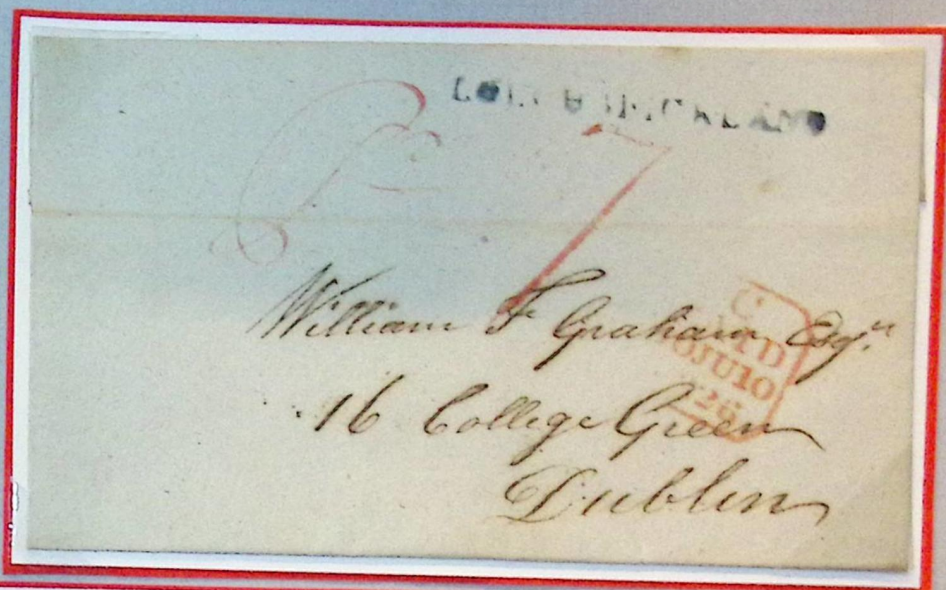


STRAIGHT LINE

Red **KILLYLEAGH** town mark to Ardee (Co Louth). Rated *110* ms one shilling, in black thus unpaid at Killyleagh for a double sheet letter. A long list of leases and payments in SEP 1799.

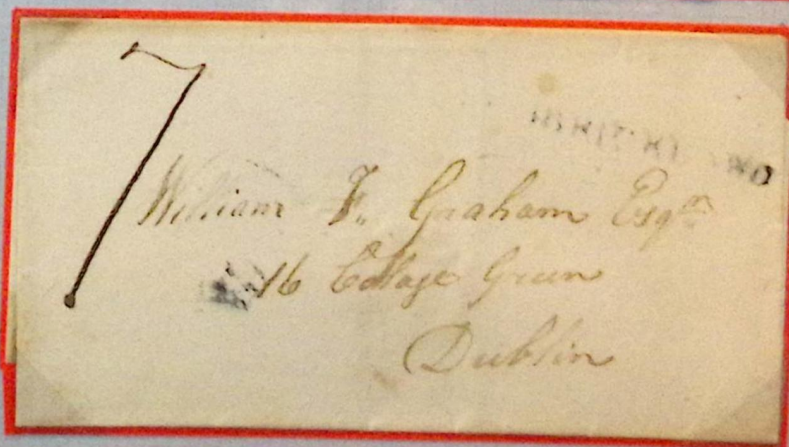


Straight line town mark (1763-1850). The letter is rated *6* sixpence for a single sheet, unpaid. 19 AUG 1809.



STRAIGHT

The town mark **LOUGHBRICKLAND** in blue 10 JUN 1826 to Dublin - arrival mark on face, red **PAID** octagonal (ident code C) (use 1814-40).
The rate is pre-paid at L'br'land, thus ms red *Pd* 7. seven pence.



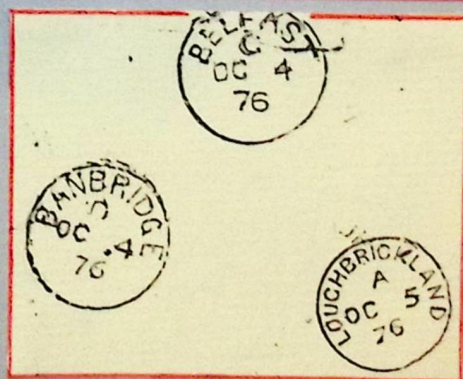
LINE

17 JLY 1826 - the same Straight Line town mark a month later. Arrival mark on back, red circle within octagon of Dublin, code C for office section (1825-31).
The rate is unpaid at L'br'land, thus ms black 7, seven pence collect at Dublin.
The rate for 45 - 55 Irish miles to Dublin.



INCOMING

Arrived at Loughbrickland - black backstamp. 6 OCT 1876. Transit stamps Banbridge and Belfast circles. The red **PAID DERRY/COL PACKET** was applied to all mail arriving from Canada, landed at Derry from the Colonial Packet ships - use 1862-75. A larger type, 1877-99; and larger again 1899-1906. Left Highland Creek, Canada, 22 Sep. Sadly the adhesive stamp has been torn away.



No. 29.

Mails for the United States and Canada by Canadian Mail Packets, via Londonderry.

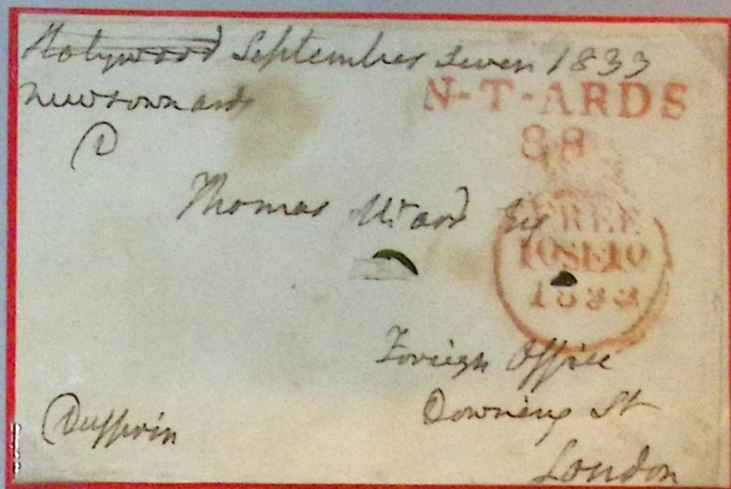
The Canadian Mail Packets, leaving Liverpool every Wednesday will, in future, call to embark and land Mails at Londonderry, instead of at Queenstown.

Supplementary Mails for Canada and the United States will continue to be made up at this Office every Wednesday Evening, containing Letters, &c., posted or arriving in London up to the usual post hour on that day, and will be forwarded to Londonderry to be put on board the Canadian Mail Packet, together with all other correspondence reaching Londonderry on Thursday Morning.

Postmasters whose Instructions require them to forward Letters for Ireland by Cross Post, will send in the same manner any Letters for Canada and the United States which may be posted at their Offices too late for transmission in the regular Mails made up in Liverpool on Wednesday Morning, but in time to fall into the Night Mail leaving London for Dublin on Wednesday, so that they may be included in the Supplementary Mails which will be dispatched from Londonderry on every Thursday.

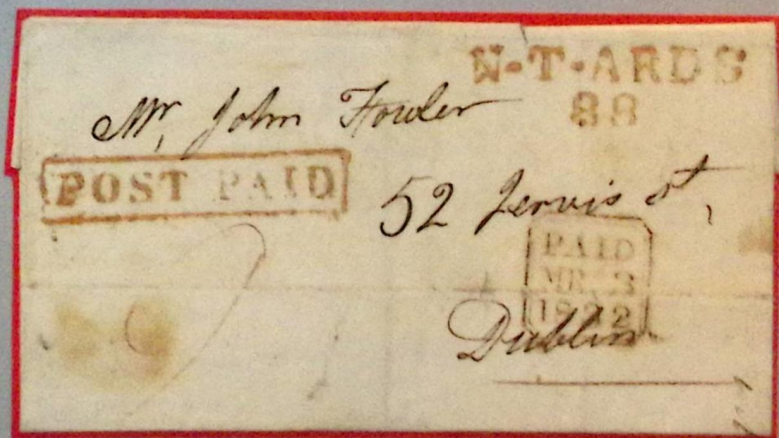
General Post Office, 28th May, 1860.

ALLAN LINE.



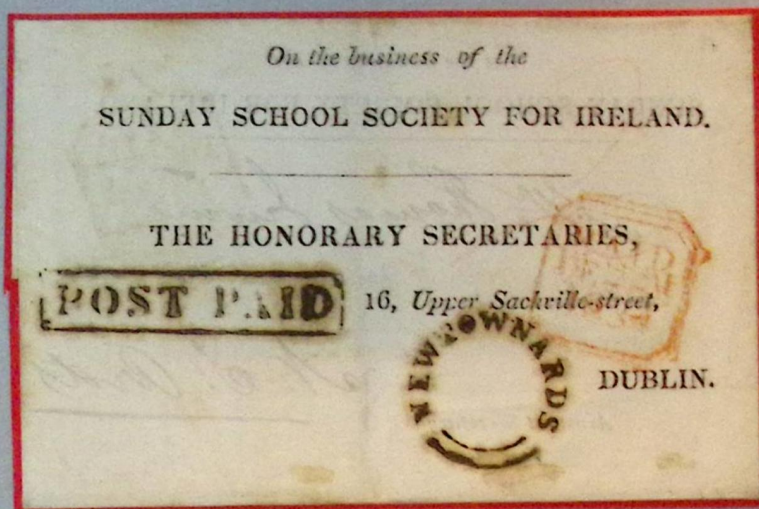
ABBREVIATED FREE

N-T-ARDS/88 (miles from Dublin) to FOREIGN OFFICE, Downing Street. 7 SEP 1833. The red Crowned circle Free of Dublin, (1833-40), is the final type Free. Postage free to the Peer, James Stevenson Blackwood, 2nd Baron Dufferin and Clandeboye. Title 1807-36. Seat, Clandeboye



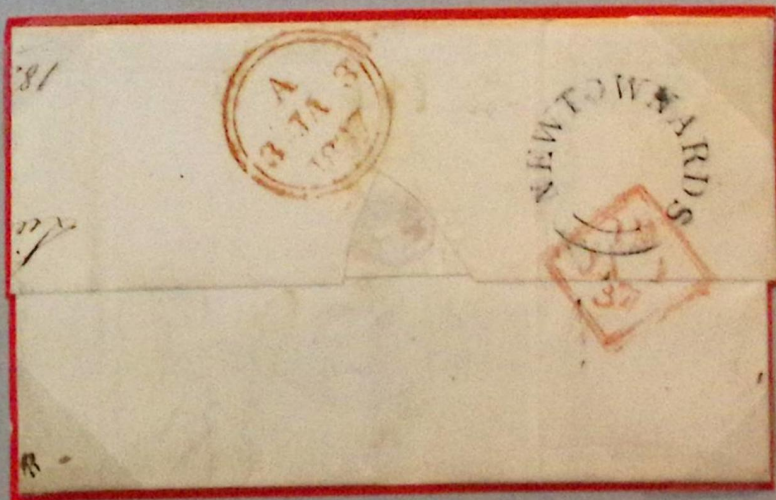
AND PAID

N-T-ARDS/88 Masonic mail to the National Secretary. 3 MAR 1832 nine pence pre paid, the rate for 88 miles. Abbreviated straight line mileage NEWTOWNARDS to Dublin with framed red **POST PAID**, applied N'ards. Also double lined (evening duty) **PAID** red - arrival Dublin.



UNDATED Although **Undated** circle stamps are usually thought of as sub-office marks, **NEWTOWNARDS** here is used in the Post Town. A face stamp on cover to Dublin. 23 DEC 1837 -- listed only for 1834. The framed **POST PAID**, 48mm, was unique to N'ards, black and red, 1833-41. Paid red mark of Dublin, double lined for evening duty.

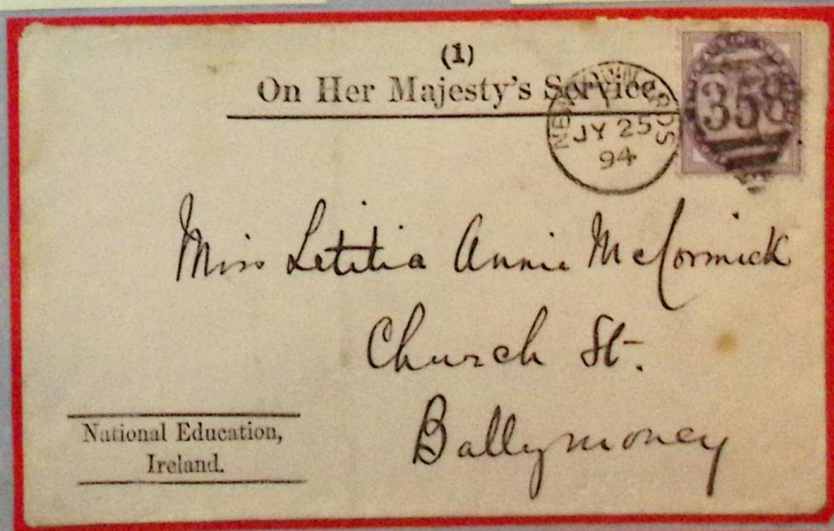
- and the undated as a backstamp. 31 DEC 1837 to London.





SIGNET RING

Armagh to Donaghadee 13 AUG 1857 - 1d red 'Star' adhesive cancelled by 8 in diamond, of Armagh. Backstamps - Armagh twin arc, transit Belfast and NEWTOWNARDS "Signet Ring", nickname given to distinctive stamps used in only four Irish towns as shown. Arrival twin arc of Donaghadee.



FINAL DUPLEX

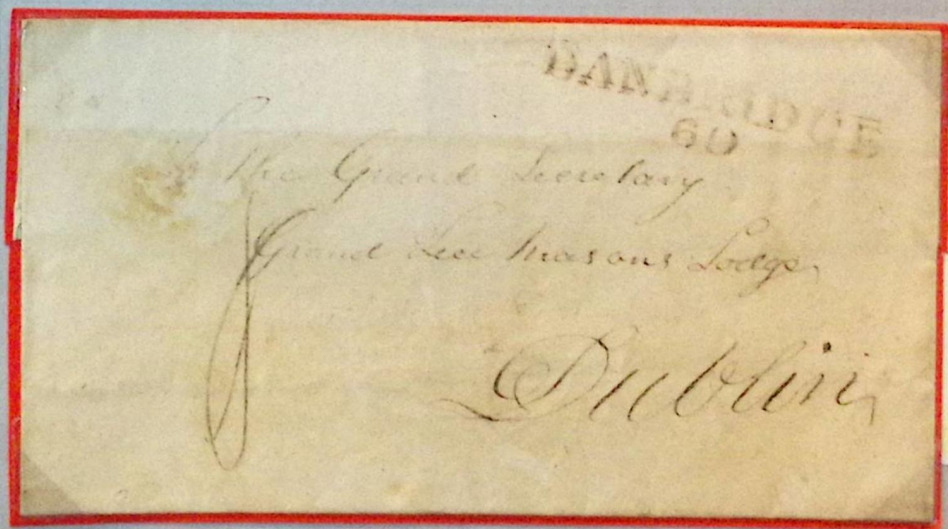
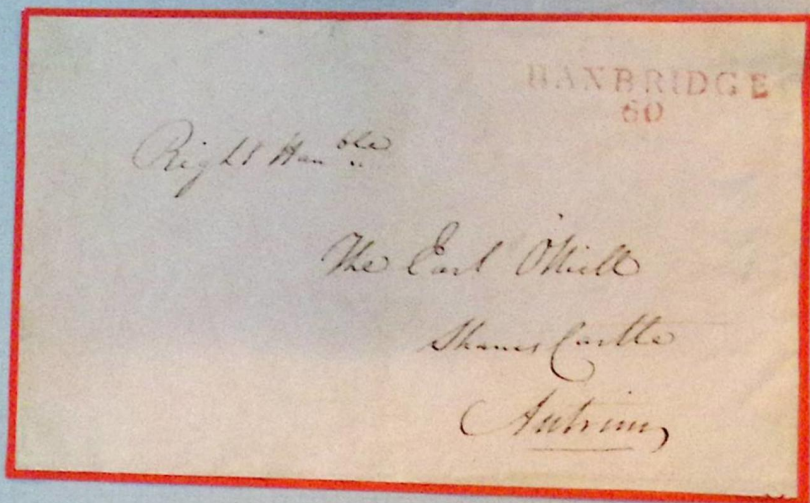
The final version of the "Duplex" cancel; 35 JULY 1894 as around this time the replacement circle daters were being introduced. This version is tall diamond of bars 358. - NEWTOWNARDS. O H M S still required a penny red adhesive. Back-stamp Ballymoney large circle.



RE-DIRECT

7 NOV 1871 Mourning cover to **HOLYWOOD**. Penny red 'Visible' plate 137 cancelled by a Drogheda 'Duplex' 179. On the flap ms red *no such place at Holywood*. Re-directed - *Try Dundonald* ms red, over-written in black - *Belmont Post Office*, and S W corner.

Face stamps - Belfast circles code 2E, time/duty, 8 Nov and code 3s, 9 Nov.
Backstamps, Belfast and Newtownards circles.



BANBRIDGE
60

- Straight line mileage. Two versions for Banbridge - 60 Irish miles from Dublin.
- 3.5 mm in red, on a front. Should have been free post to the Earl O'Neill, but not marked free, nor any other charge. c1822.
 - 4.5 mm in brown (red), letter to the Grand Lodge. 8 pence charge, not paid at Banbridge, thus manuscript black. Backstamp is a Dublin red octagon 22 FEB 1831.