

IN VINO VERITAS

"In wine there is truth"



The production of fermented alcoholic juice from grapes has been scientifically dated as far back as 8,000 years, in the form of residue found in ancient ceramic pottery. Throughout history, wine has been celebrated, revered and feared for its unique attributes and intoxicating effects. Today, it is a half-trillion dollar worldwide industry.

This exhibit looks at wine from the perspective of postal history and philately. All of the examples of mail and stamps presented here are related to the American wine industry. The items are grouped into the following general categories:

Colonial Wine Trade

Early 19th Century Wine Trade

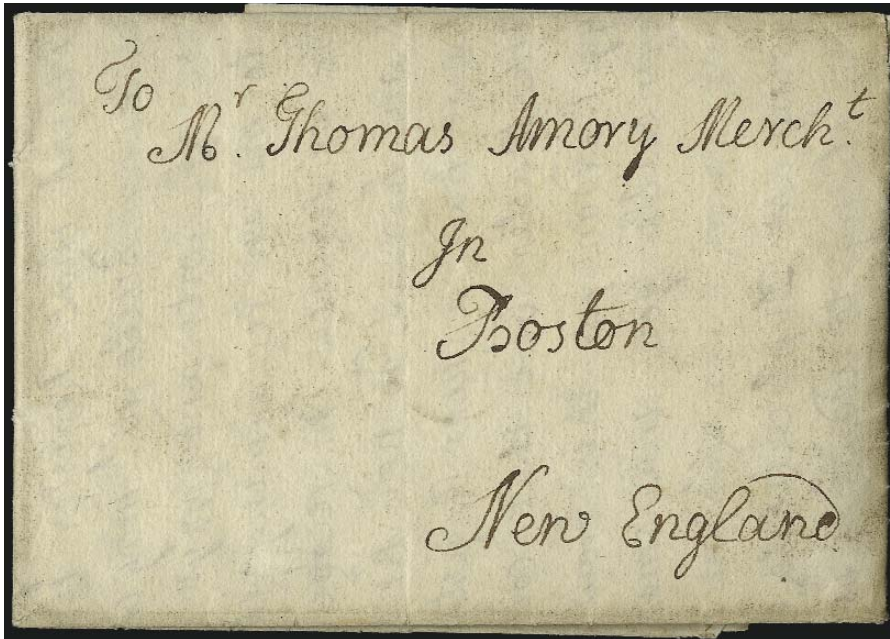
19th Century Wine Merchants

Vineyards and Nurseries

Taxation

*This exhibit experience will be enhanced
if accompanied by a glass of your favorite wine.*

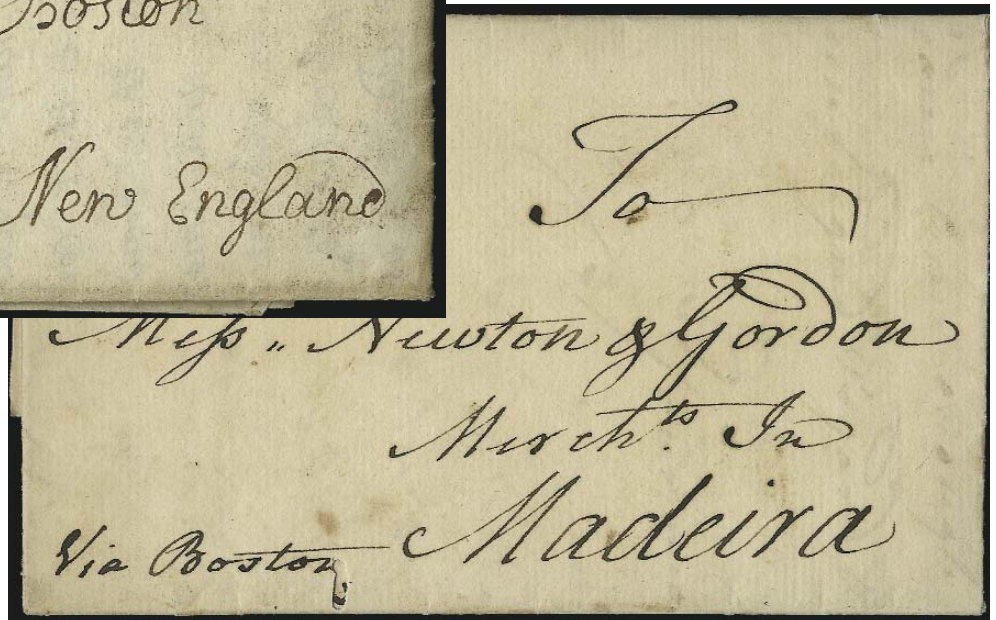
Colonial Wine Trade



**London to Boston,
September 26, 1722**

Regarding the loss of
a ship's cargo, includ-
ing "Fayal Wines"

**New York to Madeira,
September 10, 1764**
To the famous Madeira
exporters, Newton &
Gordon (still in business)



Business correspondence during the Colonial period was frequently carried by ships' captains without involving any government postal system. The two letters above are related to the Madeira trade.



Le Cap (Cap-Haitien), Haiti, to Bordeaux, France, 1772

Carried to the port of La Flotte (north coast of France) where the "COLONIES PAR LA FLOTTE" Fleurs de Lys marking was applied to indicate the letter arrived from a colony. It was charged 12 sous due.

Early 19th Century Wine Trade

President's Message to Congress.

ON Monday the 2d of December, 1816, the Congress of the United States convened at Washington. On Wednesday following, the President transmitted, by his Secretary Mr. Todd, the following

MESSAGE:

Fellow Citizens of the Senate,
and of the House of Representatives,

In reviewing the present state of our country, our attention cannot be withheld from the effect produced by peculiar seasons, which have very generally impaired the annual gifts of the earth and threatened scarcity in particular districts. Such, however, is the variety of soils, of climates, and of products, within our extensive limits, that the aggregate resources for subsistence, are more than sufficient for the aggregate wants. And, as far as an economy of consumption, more than usual, may be necessary, our thankfulness is due to Providence, for what is far more than a compensation, in the remarkable health which has distinguished the present year.

Amidst the advantages which have succeeded the peace of Europe, and that of the United States with Great-Britain, in a general invigoration of industry among us, and in the extension of our commerce, the value of which is more than sufficient for the aggregate wants, that a depression in the price of the principal branches of our manufactures, and a proportion of our manufactures, in an essential check in its own progress, and in the present extent, of our commerce. The evil, however, remedied by Congress, in the manufacturing and commercial branches, has sunk too low, or has not yet revived, after the peace, and that, in the various situations of our commerce, dependence on foreign supplies, and the various embarrassments of our commerce.

colonies, subject, as before, to the respective regulations of the parties. The British government, enforcing, now, regulations which prohibit a trade between its colonies and the United States, in American vessels, whilst they permit a trade in British vessels, the American navigation loses accordingly; and the loss is augmented by the advantage which is given to the British competition over the American, in the navigation between our ports and British ports in Europe, by the circuitous voyages, enjoyed by the one, and not enjoyed by the other.

The reasonableness of the rule of reciprocity, applied to one branch of the commercial intercourse, has been pressed on our part, as equally applicable to both branches: but it is ascertained, that the British Cabinet declines all negotiation on the subject, with a disavowal, however, of any disposition to view, in an unfriendly light, whatever countervailing regulations the United States may oppose to the regulations of which they complain. The wisdom of the Legislature will decide on the course, which, under these circumstances, is prescribed by a joint regard to the amicable relations between the two nations, and to the just interests of the United States.

I have the satisfaction to state, generally, that we remain in amity with foreign powers.

An occurrence has, indeed, taken place in the Gulf of Mexico, which, if sanctioned by the Spanish government, may make an exception as to that power. According to the report of our naval commander on that station, one of our public armed vessels was attacked by an overpowering force, under a Spanish commander, and the American flag, with the officers and crew insulted, in a manner calling for prompt reparation. This has been demanded. In the meantime, a frigate and smaller vessel of war have been ordered into that Gulf, for the protection of our commerce. It would be improper to omit, that the representative of his Catholic Majesty, in the United States, lost no time in giving the strongest assu-

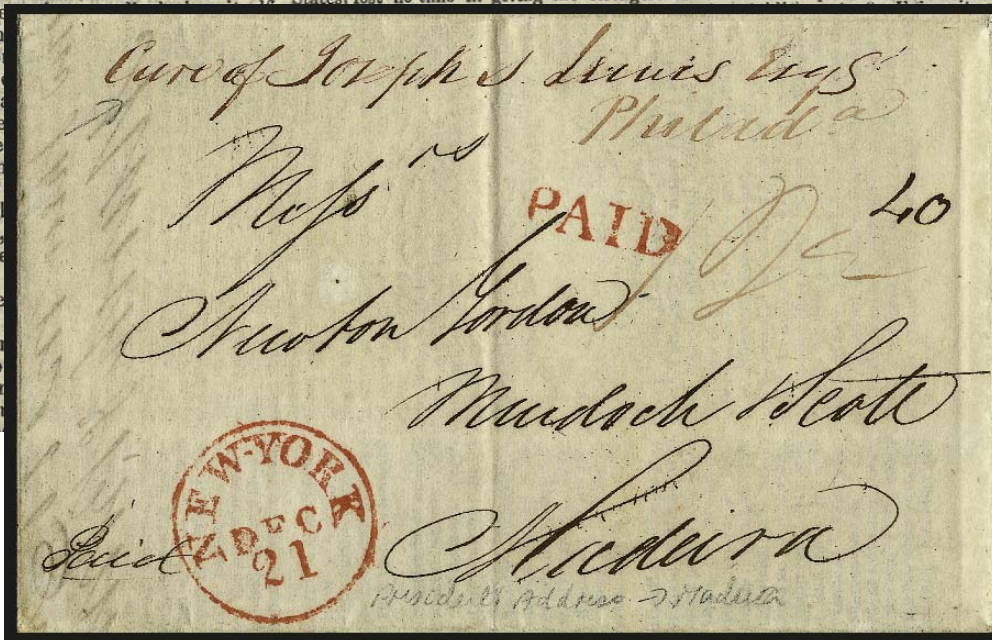
population, will favor the resumption of the work of civilization, which had made an encouraging progress among some tribes; and that the facility is increasing for extending that divided and individual ownership, which exists now in moveable property only, to the soil itself; and of thus establishing in the culture and improvement of it, the true foundation for a transit from the habits of the savage, to the arts and comforts of social life.

As a subject of the highest importance to the national welfare, I must, again, earnestly recommend to the consideration of Congress, a re-organization of the militia, on a plan which will form it into classes, according to the periods of life more and less adapted to military services. An efficient militia is authorized and contemplated by the constitution, and required by the spirit and safety of free government. The present organization of our militia is universally regarded as less efficient than it ought to be made; and no organization can be better calculated to give to it its due force, than a classification which will assign the foremost place in the defence of the country, to that portion of its citizens, whose activity and animation best enable them to rally to its standard. Besides the consideration that a time of peace is the time when a change can be made, with most convenience and equity, it will now be aided by the experience of a recent war, in which the militia bore so interesting a part.

Congress will call to mind, that no adequate provision has yet been made for the uniformity of weights and measures, also contemplated by the constitution. The great utility of a standard, fixed in its nature, and founded on the easy rule of decimal proportion, is sufficiently obvious. It led the government, at an early stage, to preparatory steps for introducing it; and a completion of the work will be a just title to the public gratitude.

The importance which I have attached to the recommendation of Congress: And attention to the existing powers, and to the prescribed mode to effectuate a canal, such as more closely to be by promoting industry by increasing the stock of national

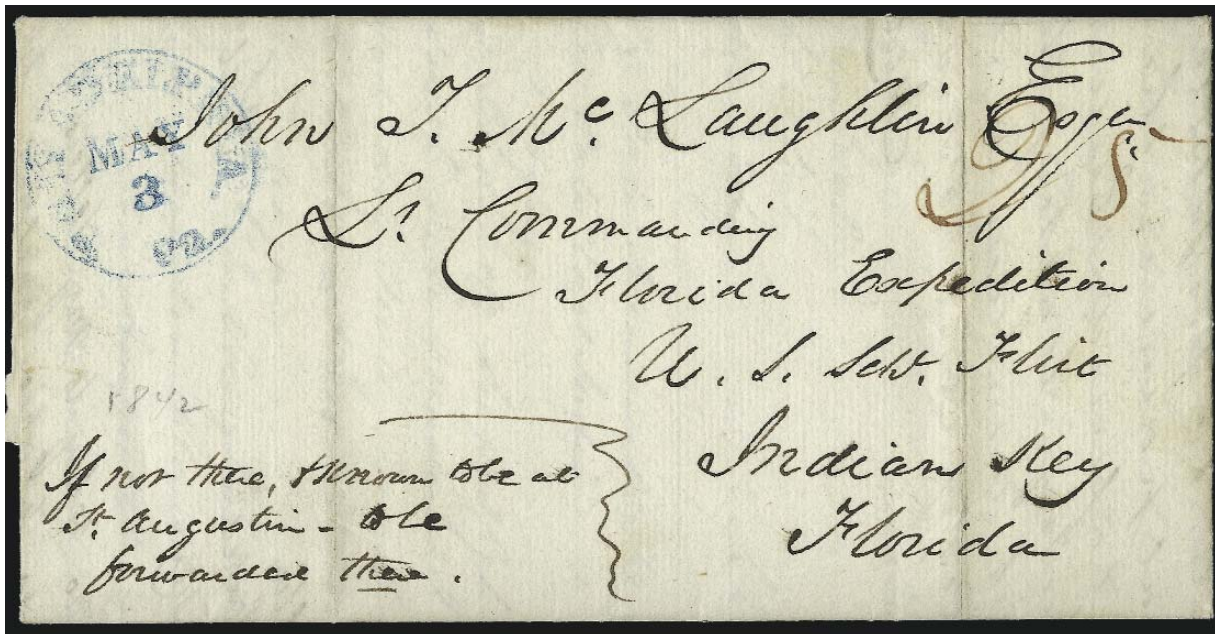
which shew that dispensation of criticism both to places of cognizance of the law, the earliest attention on a reasonable occasion, active interposition in imposing penalties for violation in the sta-



New York to Madeira, December 21, 1816

This folded sheet is a printed copy of the "President's Message to Congress", the complete presidential address given by James Madison to the U.S. Congress on December 2, 1816, following the peace treaty which ended the War of 1812 between the U.S. and Great Britain. It is addressed to Newton & Gordon, the Madeira wine exporters (who still exist today). The sender used the regular mails to send it to Philadelphia, where it was forwarded outside the government mails to Madeira.

Early 19th Century Wine Trade



Philadelphia to Indian Key, Florida, May 3, 1842
Addressed to Lt. John T. McLaughlin, Commander of the U.S. Schooner Fleet
(Florida Expedition)

The sender, Jacob Snider Jr., was a Philadelphia wine merchant and supplier to the U.S. Army. This letter dated May 2, 1842, provides copies of earlier correspondence (February 28), detailing a large shipment of wine to Florida. After receiving no payment, the merchant wrote to the commander to ask for “early remittance.”

The Florida Expedition was a response to attacks on settlers by Seminole Indians (the Second Seminole War of 1835-42). The U.S. Schooner Fleet led by Lt. McLaughlin did not face a maritime adversary, but launched attacks against Indians along the coast.

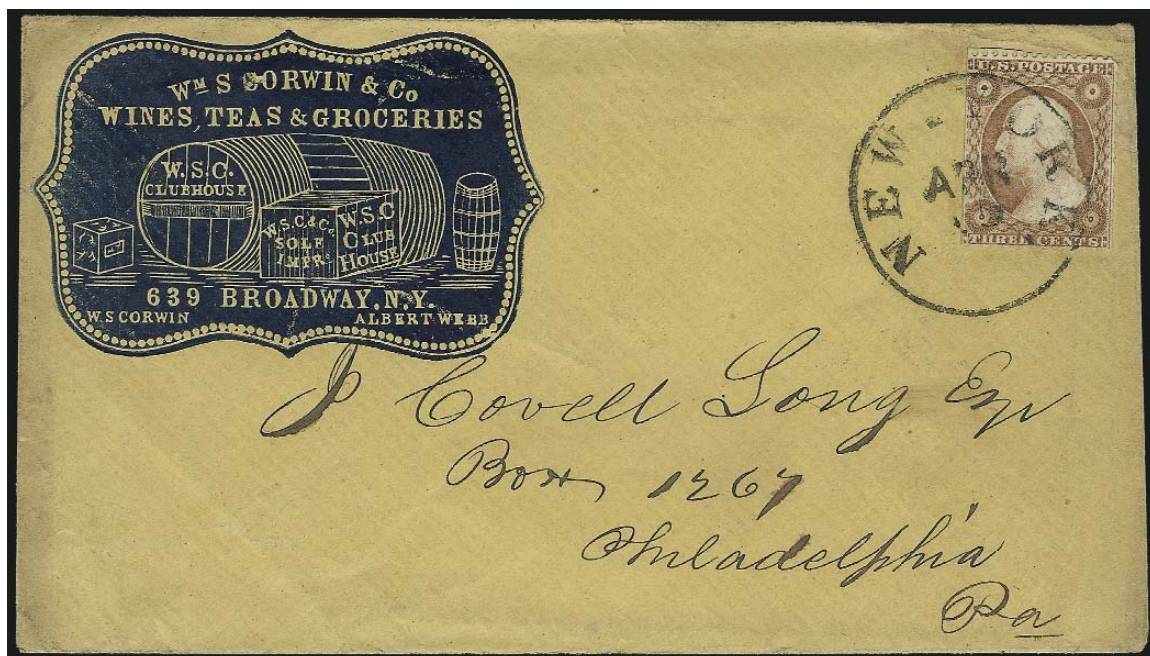


Lt. John T. McLaughlin

19th Century Wine Merchants



James Butler, Greenwich and Duane Streets, New York City, circa 1854



William S. Corwin & Co., 639 Broadway, New York City, circa 1858

19th Century Wine Merchants



Hanford & Taylor, 87 Pike Slip, New York City, circa 1854

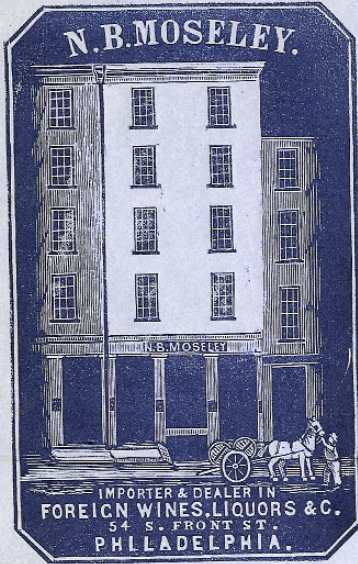
Carried to the post office by Swarts' Dispatch local post.
2¢ stamp at top center for local service.



Joseph Staples, 132 Bowery, New York City, circa 1859

Carried to the post office by government carrier. 1¢ carrier fee plus 3¢ postage.

19th Century Wine Merchants



Philadelphia January 22^d 1856
Mr Evan Evans, Minersville Pa
B^{ty} of N. B. MOSELEY,
54 SOUTH FRONT STREET.

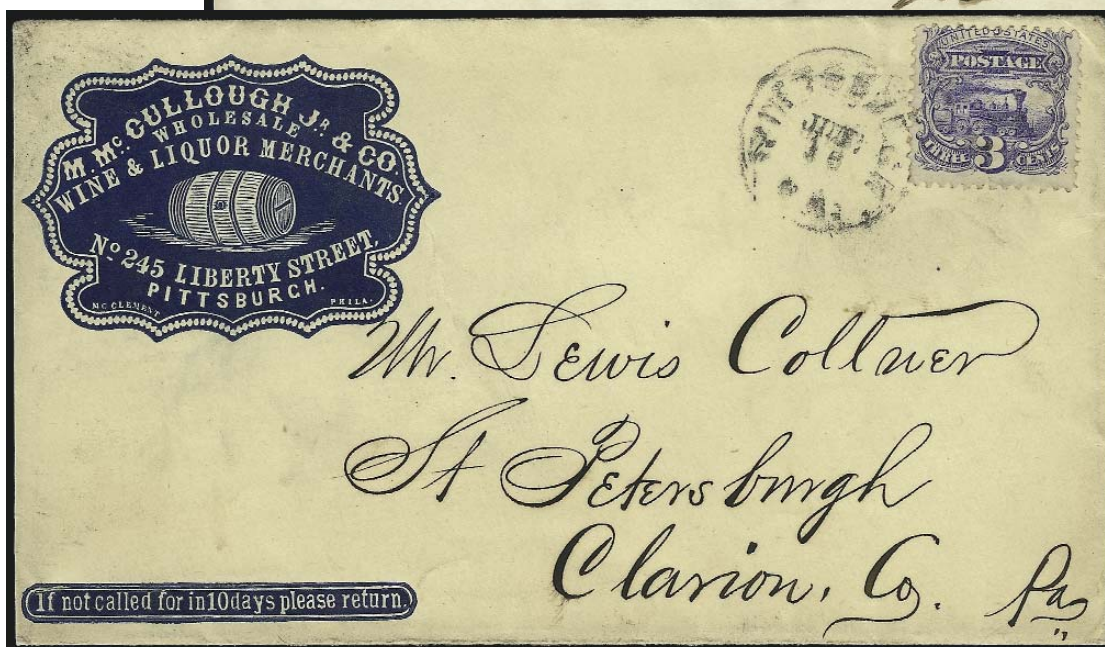
1 Bbl. Port Wine
44 Gallons @ \$1.25 .. \$ 55.00



N. B. Moseley, 54 South Front Street, Philadelphia, January 22, 1856

Cameo corner card printed on envelope and on billhead for one barrel (44 gallons) of "Port Wine"

19th Century Wine Merchants



Barrel cameo corner card designs from merchants in Norfolk, Petersburg and Pittsburgh

19th Century Wine Merchants



Corneau & Son, Catawba Wines, No. 2 Burnet House Stores, Cincinnati, June 1852

10¢ rate to Canada underpaid by three 3¢ 1851 Issue stamps.
Addressed to Supervisor of Cullers Department at Quebec.



F. Sarran & Co., 88 East 2nd Street, Cincinnati, August 1868

45¢ triple rate to France paid by 30¢ 1861 and 15¢ 1866 Issue stamps.

19th Century Wine Merchants

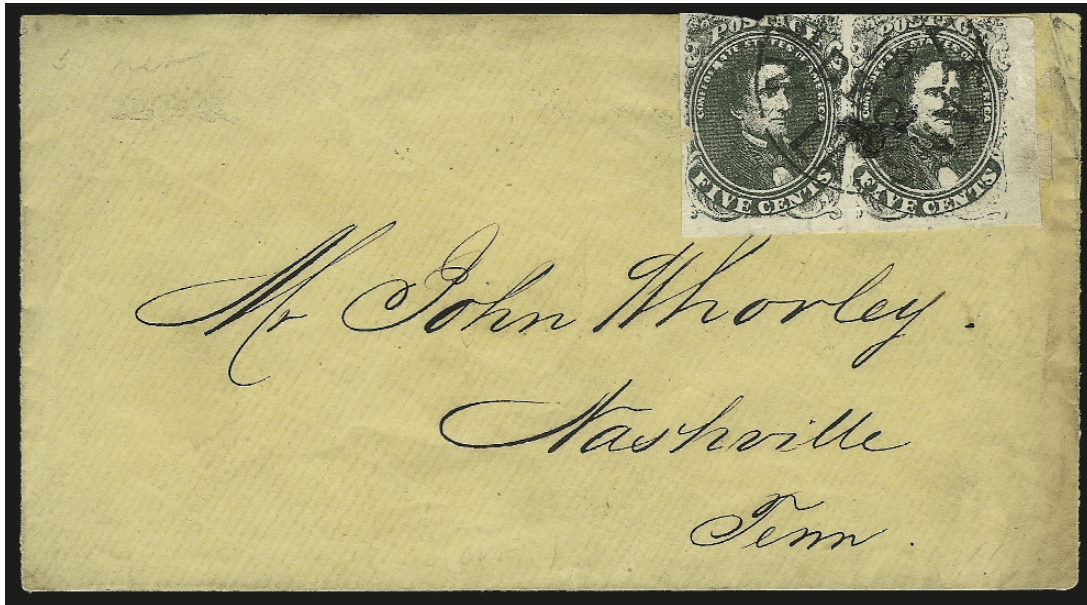


Albert Laue, 499 Greenwich St., New York City, December 8, 1872
10¢ rate to Germany paid by 10¢ 1870 Issue stamp.



J. Gundlach & Co., San Francisco, April 1889
10¢ rate to Germany plus 10¢ registry fee paid by American Bank Note Co. stamps, including two different colors of the 4¢ Jackson.

19th Century Wine Merchants



Karstendiek & Co., New Orleans, December 1861

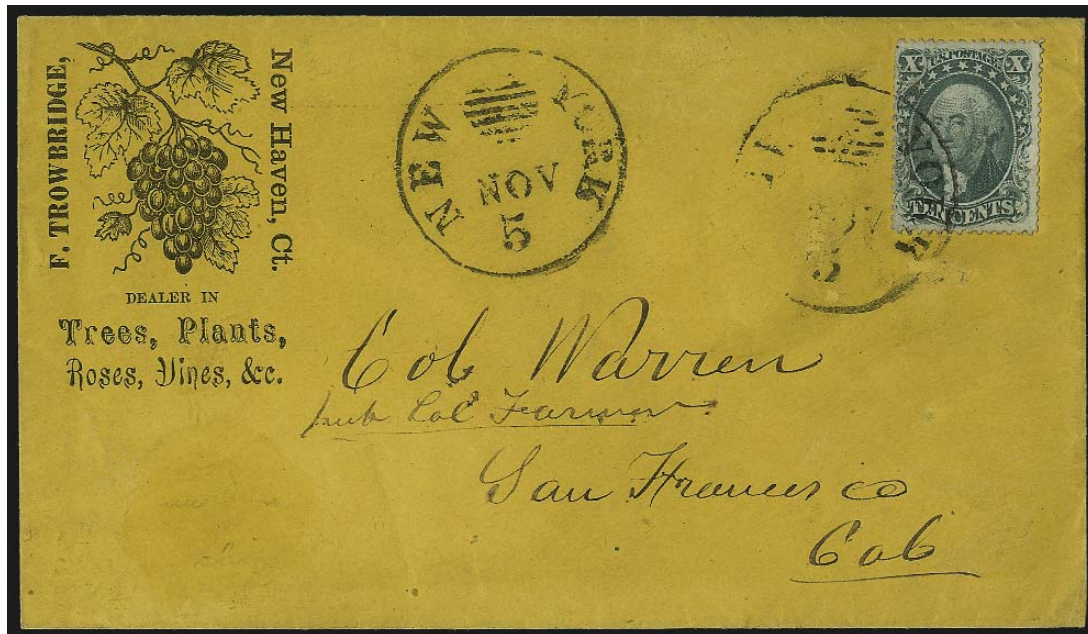
Confederate States 10¢ rate over 500 miles to Nashville, Tennessee (photo of back).

Vineyards and Nurseries



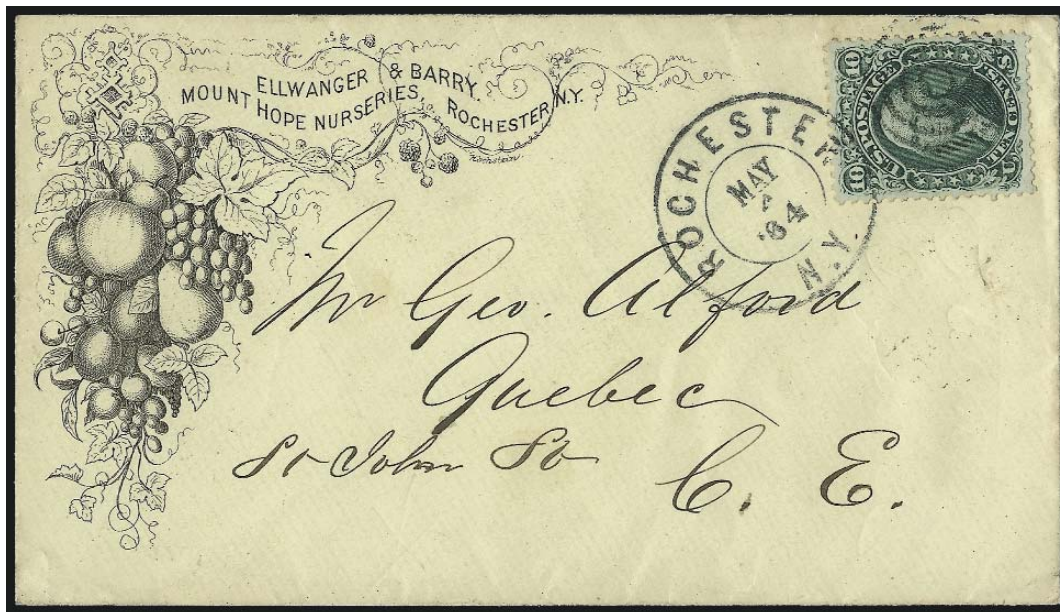
Dr. H. Schroder's Grape Vines and Wines Corner Card
Overprinted on Obsolete Seymour & Blair 1868 Presidential Campaign Design
Sent from Bloomington, Illinois, to Prussia in August 1870.
10¢ rate to Germany paid by 1869 Pictorial Issue stamp.

Vineyards and Nurseries



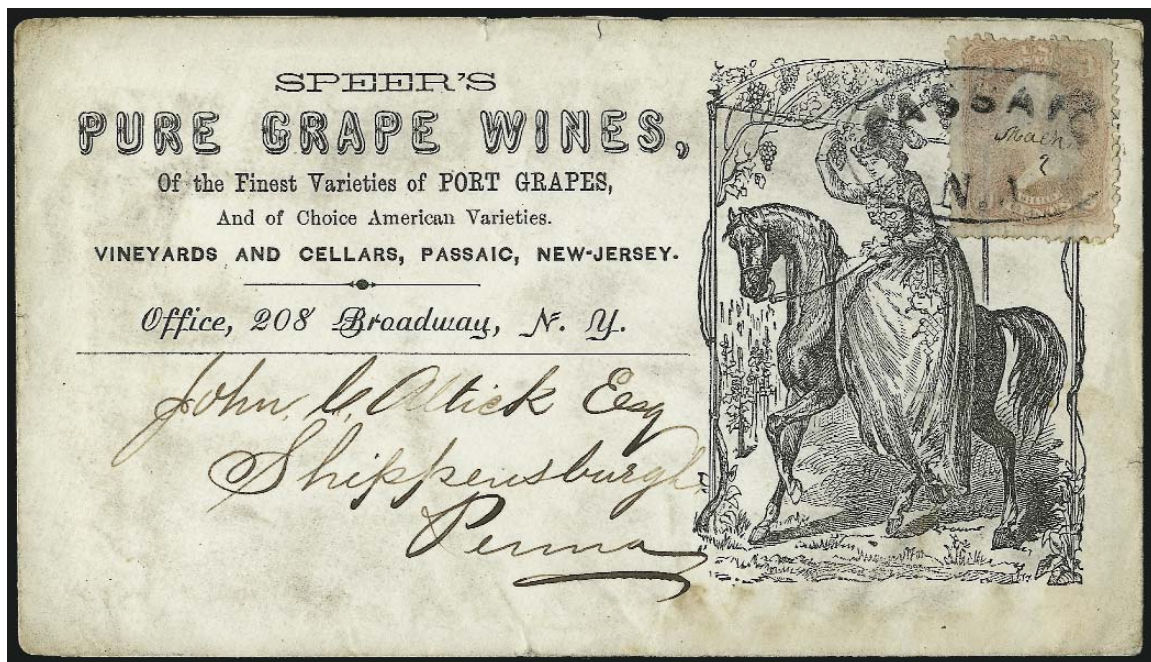
**F. Trowbridge, Dealer in Trees, Plants, Roses and Vines, New Haven, Connecticut
Circa 1860**

10¢ rate from New York City to San Francisco paid by 1857 10¢ Type III.
New York Ocean Mail datestamp with integral grid used to cancel stamp.



**Ellwanger & Barry, Mount Hope Nurseries, Rochester, N.Y., May 1864
10¢ rate to Canada paid by 1861 Issue stamp.**

Vineyards and Nurseries



Speer's Vineyards, Passaic, New Jersey
Circa 1866 (top) and 1899 (bottom)

Taxation

No. 29209

District of Massachusetts.
Port of Gloucester

I certify, that there was imported into this District on the fifth day of
Feb 1805 by Thomas Parsons
in the Sharming Nancy Woodbury—an American Vessel,
from Bordeaux— one
Cask of Claret
numbered and marked as per margin, containing
Fifty five Gallons

Nancy Woodbury
No. — 5
128 — 55
Claret
2 Stems
Gloucester
Feb 5, 1805

Counterfigined by _____ Inspector.

W. M. M. M. M. Collector.

State of Massachusetts Custom House Embossed Seal (Scott RM511), February 1805
Applied to show payment of tax on 55-gallon cask of "claret" imported from Bordeaux.

No. 200

Pleasant Valley Wine Company
HAMMONDSPORT, N.Y. August 1st 1868

At Five days sight Pay to the
Order of Cash 1st Nat Bank & Allentown Pa
Sixty Dollars
Value received and charge the same to our account
To Simon Towell Esq }
Allentown Pa } C. D. Champlin
Secretary

\$60.00

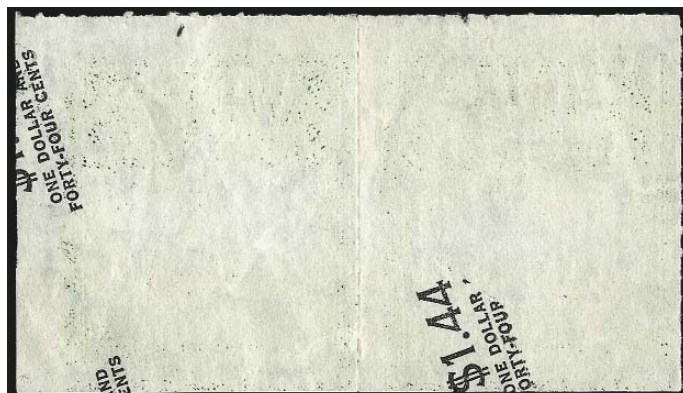
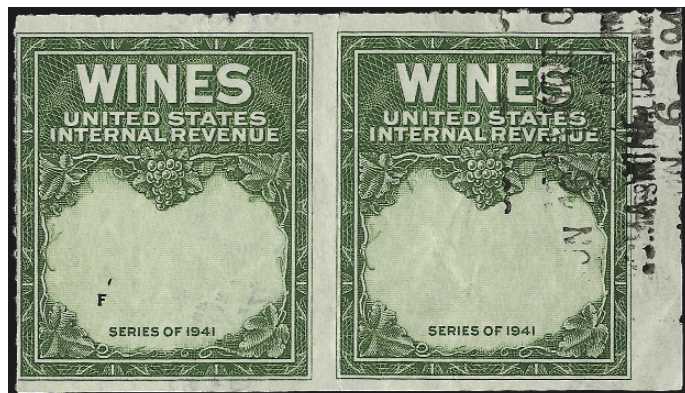
Underhill & De Wolf, Advocates Printing Parkers, East, N.Y.

5¢ Certificate Revenue (Scott R24c) on Pleasant Valley Wine Company Sight Draft, August 1868
Stamp pays 5¢ tax on a financial document, one of the many taxes enacted during the Civil War.

Taxation

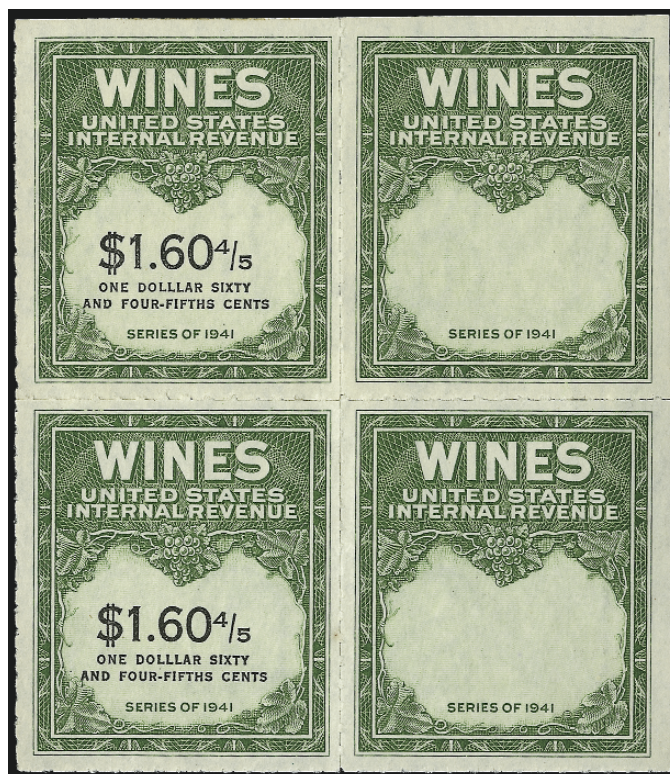


Tax Paid on Wine, Series of 1872, One-Quart (Ulysses S. Grant)



Wine Stamp, Series of 1942, \$1.44 Missing Denomination (Scott RE147a)

Used pair showing black printing on back from foldover (photo at right).



Wine Stamp, Series of 1951, \$1.60⁴/₅ Missing Denomination (Scott RE196b)

Unused block of four (rejoined horizontal pairs) from the discovery multiple.